Union-Find

CS 214, Fall 2019

The following slides are from Robert Sedgewick and Kevin Wayne's algorithms & data structures course at Princeton University. The original lectures may be found here.

Union-find abstractions

- Objects.
- Disjoint sets of objects.
- Find queries: are two objects in the same set?
- Union commands: replace sets containing two items by their union

Goal. Design efficient data structure for union-find.

- Find queries and union commands may be intermixed.
- Number of operations M can be huge.
- Number of objects N can be huge.

Quick-find [eager approach]

Data structure.

- Integer array `id[]` of size `N`.
- Interpretation: `p` and `q` are connected if they have the same id.

i	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
id[i]	0	1	9	9	9	6	6	7	8	9

5 and 6 are connected
2, 3, 4, and 9 are connected

Quick-find [eager approach]

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5 and 6 are connected
2, 3, 4, and 9 are connected

Find. Check if `p` and `q` have the same id.

id[3] = 9; id[6] = 6
3 and 6 not connected

Union. To merge components containing `p` and `q`, change all entries with `id[p]` to `id[q]`.

i	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
id[i]	0	1	6	6	6	6	6	7	8	6

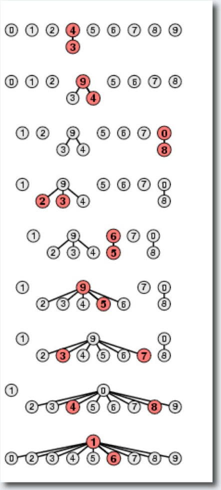
union of 3 and 6
2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 9 are connected

problem: many values can change

Quick-find example

3-4	0	1	2	4	4	5	6	7	8	9
4-9	0	1	2	9	9	5	6	7	8	9
8-0	0	1	2	9	9	5	6	7	0	9
2-3	0	1	9	9	9	5	6	7	0	9
5-6	0	1	9	9	9	6	6	7	0	9
5-9	0	1	9	9	9	9	9	7	0	9
7-3	0	1	9	9	9	9	9	9	0	9
4-8	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6-1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

problem: many values can change



Quick-find is too slow

Quick-find algorithm may take ~MN steps
to process M union commands on N objects

Rough standard (for now).
- 10^9 operations per second.
- 10^9 words of main memory.
- Touch all words in approximately 1 second.

a truism (roughly) since 1950 !

Ex. Huge problem for quick-find.
- 10^{10} edges connecting 10^9 nodes.
- Quick-find takes more than 10^{19} operations.
- 300+ years of computer time!

Paradoxically, quadratic algorithms get worse with newer equipment.
- New computer may be 10x as fast.
- But, has 10x as much memory so problem may be 10x bigger.
- With quadratic algorithm, takes 10x as long!

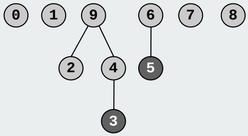
Quick-union [lazy approach]

Data structure.

- Integer array `id[]` of size `N`.
- Interpretation: `id[i]` is parent of `i`.
- Root of `i` is `id[id[id[...id[i]...]]]`.

keep going until it doesn't change

i	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
id[i]	0	1	9	4	9	6	6	7	8	9



3's root is 9; 5's root is 6

Quick-union [lazy approach]

Data structure.

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- Interpretation: `id[i]` is parent of `i`.
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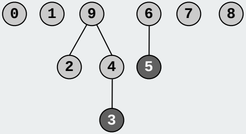


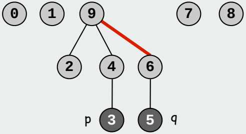
3's root is 9; 5's root is 6
3 and 5 are not connected

Find. Check if p and q have the same root.

Union. Set the id of q's root to the id of p's root.

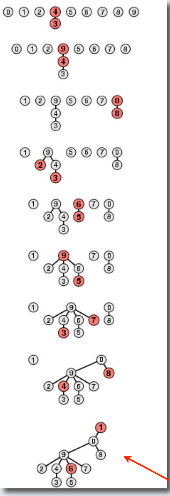
i	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
id[i]	0	1	9	4	9	6	9	7	8	9

only one value changes



Quick-union example

3-4	0 1 2 4 4 5 6 7 8 9
4-9	0 1 2 4 9 5 6 7 8 9
8-0	0 1 2 4 9 5 6 7 0 9
2-3	0 1 9 4 9 5 6 7 0 9
5-6	0 1 9 4 9 6 6 7 0 9
5-9	0 1 9 4 9 6 9 7 0 9
7-3	0 1 9 4 9 6 9 9 0 9
4-8	0 1 9 4 9 6 9 9 0 0
6-1	1 1 9 4 9 6 9 9 0 0



problem: trees can get tall

Quick-union is also too slow

Quick-find defect.

- Union too expensive (N steps).
- Trees are flat, but too expensive to keep them flat.

Quick-union defect.

- Trees can get tall.
- Find too expensive (could be N steps)
- Need to do find to do union

algorithm	union	find
Quick-find	N	1
Quick-union	N*	N ← worst case

* includes cost of find

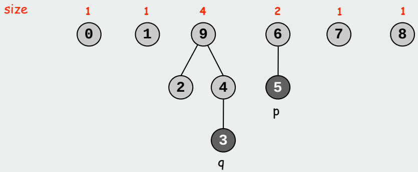
Improvement 1: Weighting

Weighted quick-union.

- Modify quick-union to avoid tall trees.
- Keep track of size of each component.
- Balance by linking small tree below large one.

Ex. Union of 5 and 3.

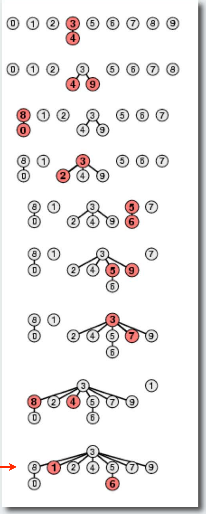
- Quick union: link 9 to 6.
- Weighted quick union: link 6 to 9.



Weighted quick-union example

3-4	0	1	2	3	3	5	6	7	8	9
4-9	0	1	2	3	3	5	6	7	8	3
8-0	8	1	2	3	3	5	6	7	8	3
2-3	8	1	3	3	3	5	6	7	8	3
5-6	8	1	3	3	3	5	5	7	8	3
5-9	8	1	3	3	3	3	5	7	8	3
7-3	8	1	3	3	3	3	5	3	8	3
4-8	8	1	3	3	3	3	5	3	3	3
6-1	8	3	3	3	3	3	5	3	3	3

no problem: trees stay flat



Weighted quick-union: Java implementation

Java implementation.

- Almost identical to quick-union.
- Maintain extra array `sz[]` to count number of elements in the tree rooted at i.

Find. Identical to quick-union.

Union. Modify quick-union to

- merge smaller tree into larger tree
- update the `sz[]` array.

```
if (sz[i] < sz[j]) { id[i] = j; sz[j] += sz[i]; }
else sz[i] < sz[j] { id[j] = i; sz[i] += sz[j]; }
```

Weighted quick-union analysis

Analysis.

- Find: takes time proportional to depth of p and q.
- Union: takes constant time, given roots.
- Fact: depth is at most lg N. [needs proof]

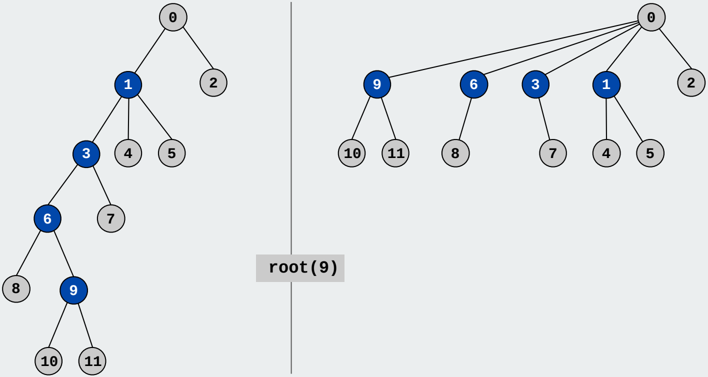
Data Structure	Union	Find
Quick-find	N	1
Quick-union	N *	N
Weighted QU	lg N *	lg N

* includes cost of find

Stop at guaranteed acceptable performance? No, easy to improve further.

Improvement 2: Path compression

Path compression. Just after computing the root of `i`, set the `id` of each examined node to `root(i)`.



Weighted quick-union with path compression

Path compression.

- Standard implementation: add second loop to `root()` to set the id of each examined node to the root.
- Simpler one-pass variant: make every other node in path point to its grandparent.

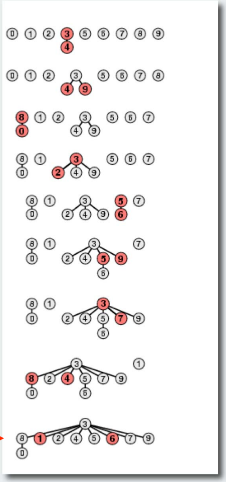
```
public int root(int i)
{
   while (i != id[i])
   {
      id[i] = id[id[i]];
      i = id[i];
   }
   return i;
}
```

only one extra line of code !

In practice. No reason not to! Keeps tree almost completely flat.

Weighted quick-union with path compression

3-4	0	1	2	3	3	5	6	7	8	9
4-9	0	1	2	3	3	5	6	7	8	3
8-0	8	1	2	3	3	5	6	7	8	3
2-3	8	1	3	3	3	5	6	7	8	3
5-6	8	1	3	3	3	5	5	7	8	3
5-9	8	1	3	3	3	3	5	7	8	3
7-3	8	1	3	3	3	3	5	3	8	3
4-8	8	1	3	3	3	3	5	3	3	3
6-1	8	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3



no problem: trees stay VERY flat

WQUPC performance

Theorem. Starting from an empty data structure, any sequence of M union and find operations on N objects takes $O(N + M \lg^* N)$ time.

- Proof is very difficult.
- But the algorithm is still simple!

number of times needed to take the lg of a number until reaching 1

Linear algorithm?

- Cost within constant factor of reading in the data.
- In theory, WQUPC is not quite linear.
- In practice, WQUPC is linear.

because lg* N is a constant in this universe

N	lg* N
1	0
2	1
4	2
16	3
65536	4
265536	5

Amazing fact:

- In theory, no linear linking strategy exists

Summary

Algorithm	Worst-case time
Quick-find	M N
Quick-union	M N
Weighted QU	N + M log N
Path compression	N + M log N
Weighted + path	(M + N) lg* N

M union-find ops on a set of N objects

Ex. Huge practical problem.

- 10^{10} edges connecting 10^9 nodes.
- WQUPC reduces time from 3,000 years to 1 minute.
- Supercomputer won't help much.
- Good algorithm makes solution possible.

WQUPC on Java cell phone beats QF on supercomputer!

Bottom line.

WQUPC makes it possible to solve problems that could not otherwise be addressed