Asymptotics and Disjoint Sets

Discussion 05: September 29, 2025

1 xStep

Parts of this problem were inspired by course material for Princeton's introductory data structures and algorithms course, COS226.

Analyze the following loops and determine the asymptotic runtime of each using big Theta notation with respect to N. Assume that System.out.println(...) runs in constant time.

<pre>for (int x = 7; x < N + 14; x++) { System.out.println("tidal wave"); }</pre>	<pre>for (int x = 1; x < N; x++) { for (int y = 1; y < N; y++) { System.out.println("amethyst"); } }</pre>
Runtime: $\Theta($)	Runtime: $\Theta($)
<pre>for (int x = 1; x < N; x *= 2) { for (int y = 1; y < N; y++) { System.out.println("flamewall"); } }</pre>	<pre>for (int x = 2; x < N; x += 2) { for (int y = 1; y < 1000000; y) { System.out.println("anathema"); } }</pre>
Runtime: $\Theta($)	Runtime: $\Theta($)
<pre>for (int x = 3; x < N * N * N; x *= 3) { System.out.println("nullscapes"); }</pre>	<pre>for (int x = 6; x < N; x += 6) { for (int y = x; y < N; y += 6) { System.out.println("grief"); } }</pre>
Runtime: $\Theta($)	Runtime: $\Theta($)

2 Disjoint Sets

In lecture, we discussed the Disjoint Sets ADT. Some authors call this the Union Find ADT. Today, we will use union find terminology so that you have seen both.

(a) Assume we have nine items, represented by integers 0 through 8. All items are initially unconnected to each other. Draw the union find tree, draw its array representation after the series of connect() and find() operations, and write down the result of find() operations using WeightedQuickUnion without path compression. Break ties by choosing the smaller integer to be the root.

Note: find(x) returns the root of the tree for item x.

```
connect(2, 3);
connect(1, 2);
connect(5, 7);
connect(8, 4);
connect(7, 2);
find(3);
connect(0, 6);
connect(6, 4);
connect(6, 3);
find(8);
find(6);
```

Below is an implementation of the **find** function for a Disjoint Set. Given an integer **val**, **find(val)** returns the root value of the set **val** is in. The helper method **parent(int val)** returns the direct parent of **val** in the Disjoint Set representation. Assume that this implementation only uses **QuickUnion**.

```
public int find(int val) {
    int p = parent(val);
    if (p == -1) {
        return val;
    } else {
        int root = find(p);
        return root;
    }
}
```

(b) If N is the number of nodes in the set, what is the runtime of find in the worst case? Draw out the structure of the Disjoint Set representation for this worst case.

- (c) Using a function **setParent(int val, int newParent)**, which updates the value of **val**'s parent to **newParent**, modify **find** to achieve a faster runtime using path compression. You may add at most one line to the provided implementation.
- (d) Extra Practice: Draw out the tree and array representation for the following WeightedQuickUnion with path compression that has 9 elements from 0 to 8. Break ties by choosing the smaller integer to be root.

```
connect(2, 3);
connect(1, 2);
connect(5, 7);
connect(8, 4);
connect(7, 2);
find(3);
connect(0, 6);
connect(7, 4);
connect(6, 3);
find(8);
find(6);
```

3 Algorithm Analysis

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(a) Say we have a function **findMax** that iterates through an unsorted int array one time and returns the maximum element found in that array. Give the tightest lower and upper bounds $(\Omega(\cdot))$ and $O(\cdot)$ of **findMax** in terms of N, the length of the array. Is it possible to define a $\Theta(\cdot)$ bound for **findMax**?

(b) Give the worst case and best case runtime in terms of M and N. Assume **ping** runs in $\Theta(1)$ and returns an **int**.

```
for (int i = N; i > 0; i--) {
   for (int j = 0; j <= M; j++) {
      if (ping(i, j) > 64) { break; }
   }
}
```

Worst case runtime:

Best case runtime:

(c) Below we have a function that returns **true** if every **int** has a duplicate in the array, and **false** if there is any unique int in the array. Assume **sort(array)** is in $\Theta(N \log N)$ and returns **array** sorted.

```
public static boolean noUniques(int[] array) {
    array = sort(array);
    int N = array.length;
    for (int i = 0; i < N; i += 1) {
        boolean hasDuplicate = false;
        for (int j = 0; j < N; j += 1) {
            if (i != j && array[i] == array[j]) {
                hasDuplicate = true;
            }
        }
        if (!hasDuplicate) return false;
    }
    return true;
}</pre>
```

Give the worst case and best case runtime where N = array.length.

Worst case runtime:

Best case runtime: