



**CSE 326: Data Structures**  
**Lecture #17**  
**The Dynamic (Equivalence) Duo:**  
**Weighted Union & Path Compression**

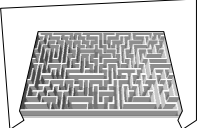
Henry Kautz  
 Winter Quarter 2002

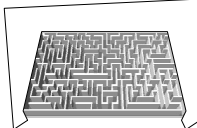
## Today's Outline

- Making a "good" maze
- Disjoint Set Union/Find ADT
- Up-trees
- Weighted Unions
- Path Compression

## What's a Good Maze?



## What's a Good Maze?



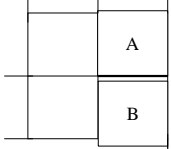
1. Connected
2. Just one path between any two rooms
3. Random

## The Maze Construction Problem

- Given:
  - collection of rooms:  $V$
  - connections between rooms (initially all closed):  $E$
- Construct a maze:
  - collection of rooms:  $V' = V$
  - designated rooms in,  $i \in V$ , and out,  $o \in V$
  - collection of connections to knock down:  $E' \subseteq E$   
 such that one unique path connects every two rooms

## The Middle of the Maze

- So far, a number of walls have been knocked down while others remain.
- Now, we consider the wall between A and B.
- Should we knock it down? When should we *not* knock it?



## Maze Construction Algorithm

While edges remain in  $\mathbf{E}$

- 1 Remove a random edge  $e = (u, v)$  from  $\mathbf{E}$   
How can we do this efficiently?

- 2 If  $u$  and  $v$  have not yet been connected
  - add  $e$  to  $\mathbf{E}'$
  - mark  $u$  and  $v$  as connected
 How to check connectedness efficiently?

## Equivalence Relations

An equivalence relation  $R$  must have three properties

- reflexive:
- symmetric:
- transitive:

Connection between rooms is an equivalence relation

- Why?

## Equivalence Relations

An equivalence relation  $R$  must have three properties

- reflexive: for any  $x$ ,  $xRx$  is true
- symmetric: for any  $x$  and  $y$ ,  $xRy$  implies  $yRx$
- transitive: for any  $x$ ,  $y$ , and  $z$ ,  $xRy$  and  $yRz$  implies  $xRz$

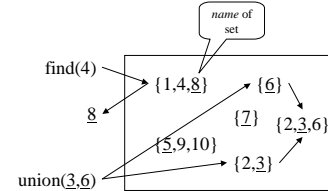
Connection between rooms is an equivalence relation

- any room is connected to itself
- if room  $a$  is connected to room  $b$ , then room  $b$  is connected to room  $a$
- if room  $a$  is connected to room  $b$  and room  $b$  is connected to room  $c$ , then room  $a$  is connected to room  $c$

## Disjoint Set Union/Find ADT

- Union/Find operations

- create
- destroy
- union
- find



- *Disjoint set partition property*: every element of a DS U/F structure belongs to *exactly one set* with a *unique name*
- *Dynamic equivalence property*:  $\text{Union}(a, b)$  creates a new set which is the union of the sets containing  $a$  and  $b$

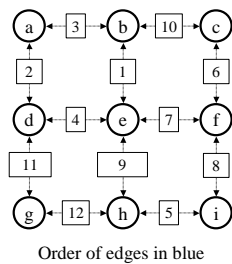
## Example

Construct the maze on the right

Initial (the name of each set is underlined):

$\{\underline{a}\} \{\underline{b}\} \{\underline{c}\} \{\underline{d}\} \{\underline{e}\} \{\underline{f}\} \{\underline{g}\} \{\underline{h}\} \{\underline{i}\}$

Randomly select edge 1



Order of edges in blue

## Example, First Step

$\{\underline{a}\} \{\underline{b,e}\} \{\underline{c}\} \{\underline{d}\} \{\underline{f}\} \{\underline{g}\} \{\underline{h}\} \{\underline{i}\}$

$\text{find}(b) \Rightarrow b$

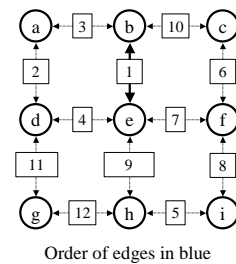
$\text{find}(e) \Rightarrow e$

$\text{find}(b) \neq \text{find}(e)$  so:

add 1 to  $\mathbf{E}'$

$\text{union}(b, e)$

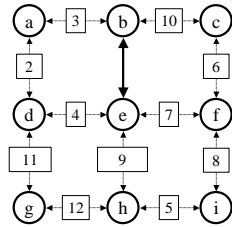
$\{\underline{a}\} \{\underline{b,e}\} \{\underline{c}\} \{\underline{d}\} \{\underline{f}\} \{\underline{g}\} \{\underline{h}\} \{\underline{i}\}$



Order of edges in blue

### Example, Continued

{a}{b,e}{c}{d}{f}{g}{h}{i}



Order of edges in blue

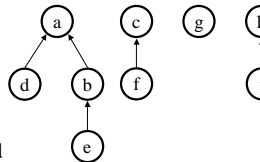
### Up-Tree Intuition

Finding the representative member of a set is somewhat like the *opposite* of finding whether a given key exists in a set.

So, instead of using trees with pointers from each node to its children; let's use trees with a pointer from each node to its parent.

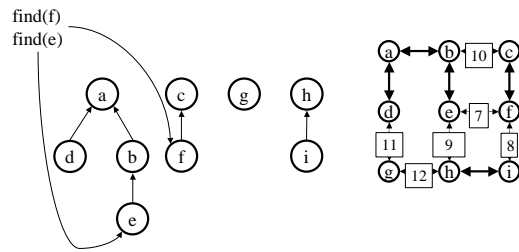
### Up-Tree Union-Find Data Structure

- Each subset is an up-tree with its root as its representative member
- All members of a given set are nodes in that set's up-tree
- Hash table maps input data to the node associated with that data



Up-trees are **not** necessarily binary!

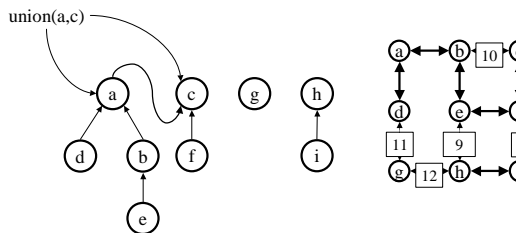
### Find



runtime:

Just traverse to the root!

### Union

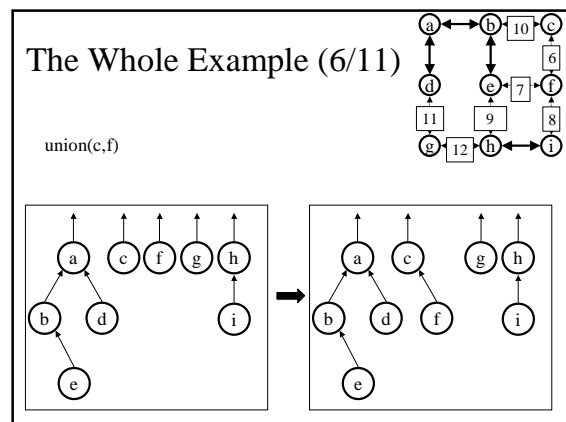
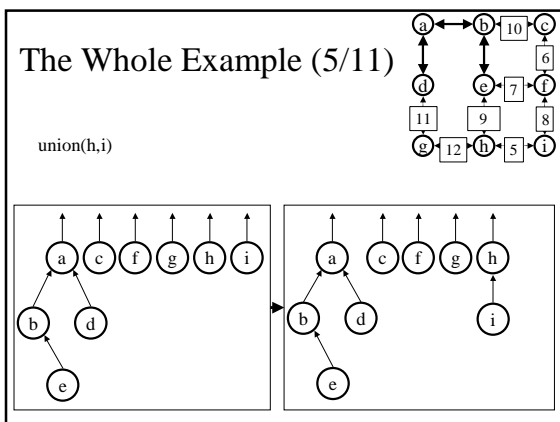
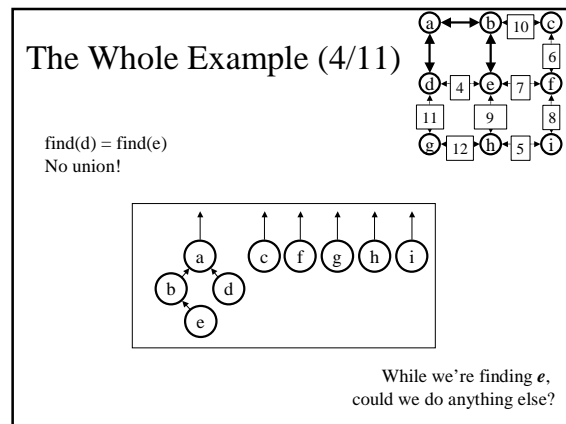
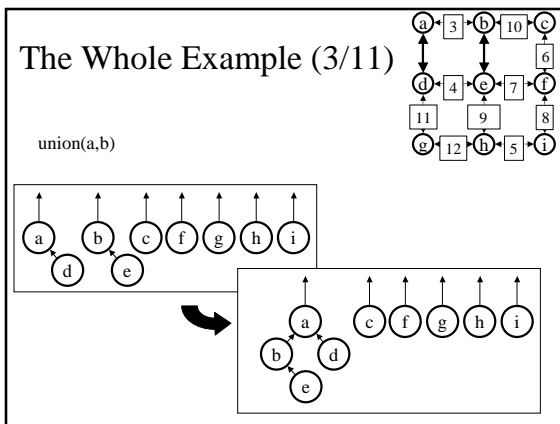
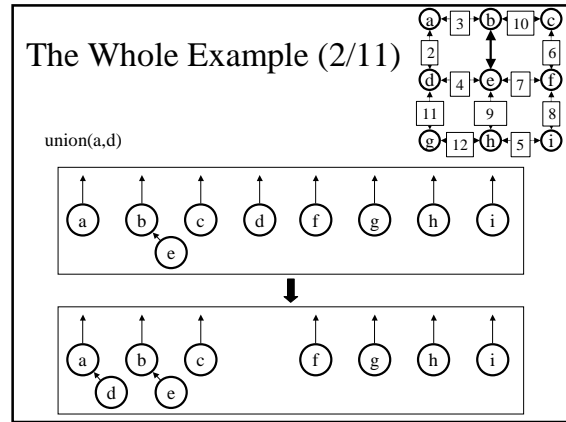
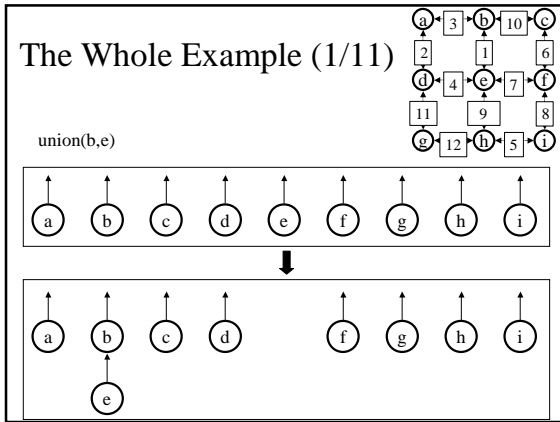


runtime:

Just hang one root from the other!

### For Your Reading Pleasure...





### The Whole Example (7/11)

find(e)  
find(f)  
union(a,c)

Could we do a better job on this union?

### The Whole Example (8/11)

find(f)  
find(i)  
union(c,h)

### The Whole Example (9/11)

find(e) = find(h) and find(b) = find(c)  
So, no unions for either of these.

### The Whole Example (10/11)

find(d)  
find(g)  
union(c,g)

### The Whole Example (11/11)

find(g) = find(h)  
So, no union.  
And, we're done!

Ooh... scary!  
Such a hard maze!

### Nifty storage trick

A forest of up-trees can easily be stored in an array.

Also, if the node names are integers or characters, we can use a very simple, perfect hash.

up-index: 

0	(a)	1	(b)	2	(c)	3	(d)	4	(e)	5	(f)	6	(g)	7	(h)	8	(i)
-1		0		-1		0		1		2		-1		-1		7	

## Implementation

```

typedef ID int;
ID up[10000];

ID union(Object x, Object y)
{
    ID rootx = find(x);
    ID rooty = find(y);
    assert(rootx != rooty);
    up[y] = x;
}

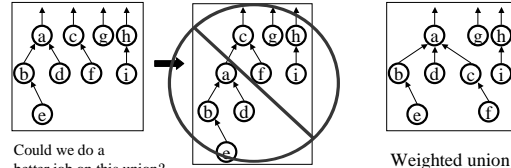
ID find(Object x)
{
    assert(HashTable.contains(x));
    ID xID = HashTable[x];
    while(up[xID] != -1) {
        xID = up[xID];
    }
    return xID;
}
    
```

runtime:  $O(\text{depth})$  or ...

runtime:  $O(1)$

## Room for Improvement: Weighted Union

- Always makes the root of the larger tree the new root
- Often cuts down on height of the new up-tree



Could we do a better job on this union?

Weighted union!

## Weighted Union Code

```

typedef ID int;

ID union(Object x, Object y) {
    rx = Find(x);
    ry = Find(y);
    assert(rx != ry);
    if (weight[rx] > weight[ry]) {
        up[ry] = rx;
        weight[rx] += weight[ry];
    }
    else {
        up[rx] = ry;
        weight[ry] += weight[rx];
    }
}
    
```

new runtime of union:

new runtime of find:

## Weighted Union Find Analysis

- Finds with weighted union are  $O(\text{max up-tree height})$
- But, an up-tree of height  $h$  with weighted union must have at least  $2^h$  nodes

Base case:  $h = 0$ , tree has  $2^0 = 1$  node  
 Induction hypothesis: assume true for  $h < h'$  and consider the sequence of unions.  
 Case 1: Union does not increase max height. Resulting tree still has  $\geq 2^h$  nodes.  
 Case 2: Union has height  $h' = 1 + h$ , where  $h =$  height of each of the input trees. By induction hypothesis each tree has  $\geq 2^{h-1}$  nodes, so the merged tree has at least  $2^h$  nodes. QED.

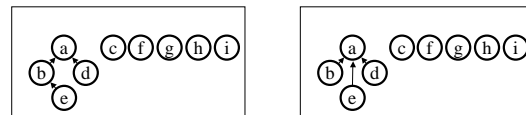
- $\therefore, 2^{\text{max height}} \leq n$  and  
 max height  $\leq \log n$
- So, find takes  $O(\log n)$

## Alternatives to Weighted Union

- Union by height
- Ranked union (cheaper approximation to union by height)
- See Weiss chapter 8.

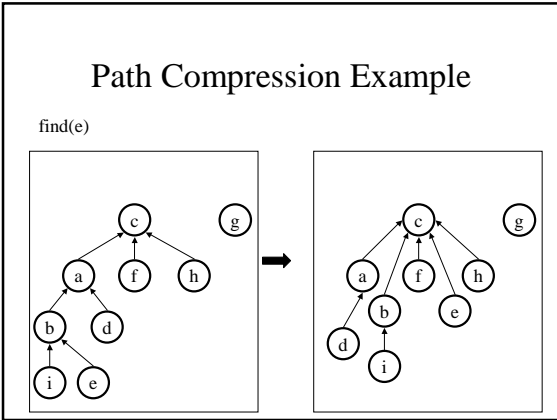
## Room for Improvement: Path Compression

- Points everything along the path of a find to the root
- Reduces the height of the entire access path to 1



While we're finding  $e$ , could we do anything else?

Path compression!



### Path Compression Code

```

ID find(Object x) {
    assert(HashTable.contains(x));
    ID xID = HashTable[x];
    ID hold = xID;

    while(up[xID] != -1) {
        xID = up[xID];
    }
    while(up[hold] != -1) {
        temp = up[hold];
        up[hold] = xID;
        hold = temp;
    }
    return xID;
}

```

runtime:

### Digression: Inverse Ackermann's

Let  $\log^{(k)} n = \underbrace{\log(\log(\log \dots (\log n)))}_{k \text{ logs}}$

Then, let  $\log^* n = \text{minimum } k \text{ such that } \log^{(k)} n \leq 1$

How fast does  $\log^* n$  grow?

- $\log^*(2) = 1$
- $\log^*(4) = 2$
- $\log^*(16) = 3$
- $\log^*(65536) = 4$
- $\log^*(2^{65536}) = 5$  (a 20,000 digit number!)
- $\log^*(2^{2^{65536}}) = 6$

### Complex Complexity of Weighted Union + Path Compression

- Tarjan (1984) proved that  $m$  weighted union and find operations with path compression on a set of  $n$  elements have worst case complexity  $O(m \cdot \log^*(n))$   
*actually even a little better!*
- For **all** practical purposes this is amortized constant time

- ### To Do
- Read Chapter 8
  - Written homework #6 – out today
    - due Wednesday, Feb 20<sup>th</sup> in class
  - Homework #6 (word counting project)
    - due Monday, Feb 25<sup>th</sup> by E-turmin midnight
- ### Coming Up
- Graph Algorithms
    - Weiss Ch 9