

# Advanced Data Structures

Union-Find  
Analysis



Today

- Questions on setup from last time?
- Schedule has been updated -  
Let me know if you see any issues!
- Today: U-F analysis

Formally: 3 operations:

$\text{makeSet}(x)$ : take an item  $x$  & create a one element set for it

$\text{find}(x)$ : return "canonical" element of set containing  $x$

$\text{union}(x, y)$ : Assuming that  $x \neq y$ , form a new set that is the union of the 2 sets holding  $x$  &  $y$ , destroying the 2 old sets. (Also selects & returns a canonical element for new set)

How to implement?

- certainly use existing DS.

Use a table:

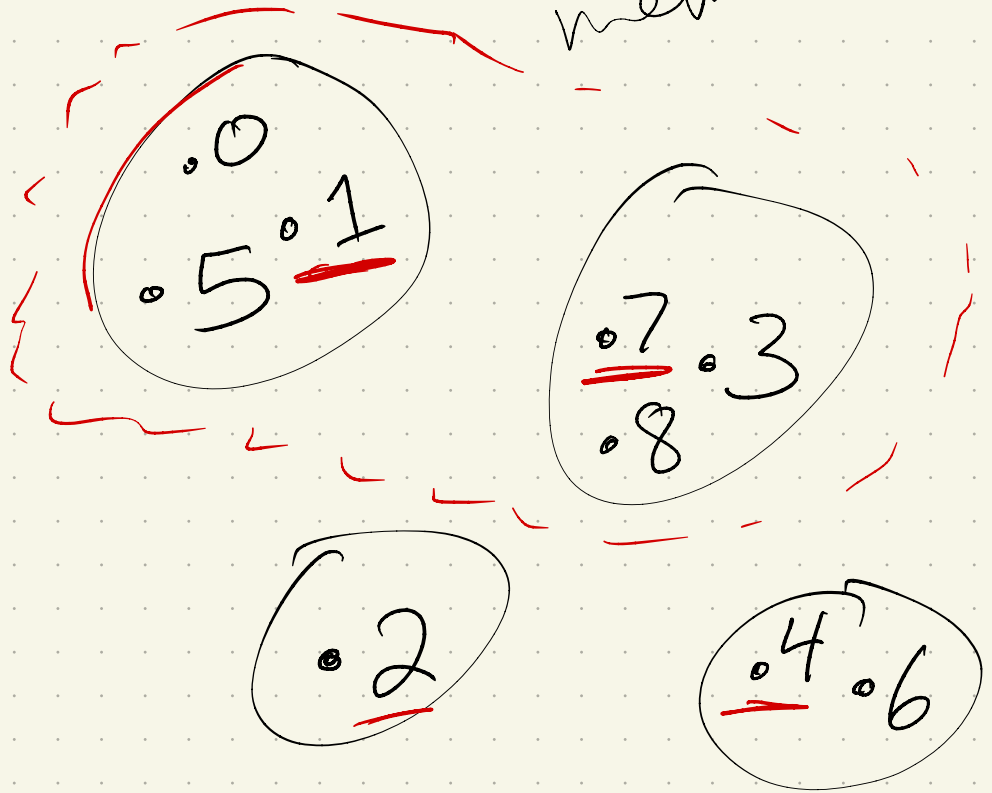
For each entry, record its set label.

Ex:

Table  
representative

0	1
1	1
2	2
3	<del>1</del>
4	4
5	1
6	4
7	<del>1</del>
8	<del>1</del>

sets + members



find  $\rightarrow$  table lookup

Then: union (5, 8):

2 finds:

find (5)

find (8)

loop to reset  
all of one type



Runtime?

makeSet :  $O(1)$

Why?

create 1 new entry

find :  $O(1)$

lookup one entry

union :  $O(n)$

linear loop

So tradeoff w/this approach:

Bad if many unions.

Better: Use trees!

(Galler + Fisher, 1964)

Each set will be a rooted tree, where elements are in the tree & the root is the canonical element.

So each element has a pointer to its parent (& root points to itself)

Ex:

make set (x) ✓

make set (y) ✓

make set (z) ✓

union (x, z) ✓

make set (a) ✓

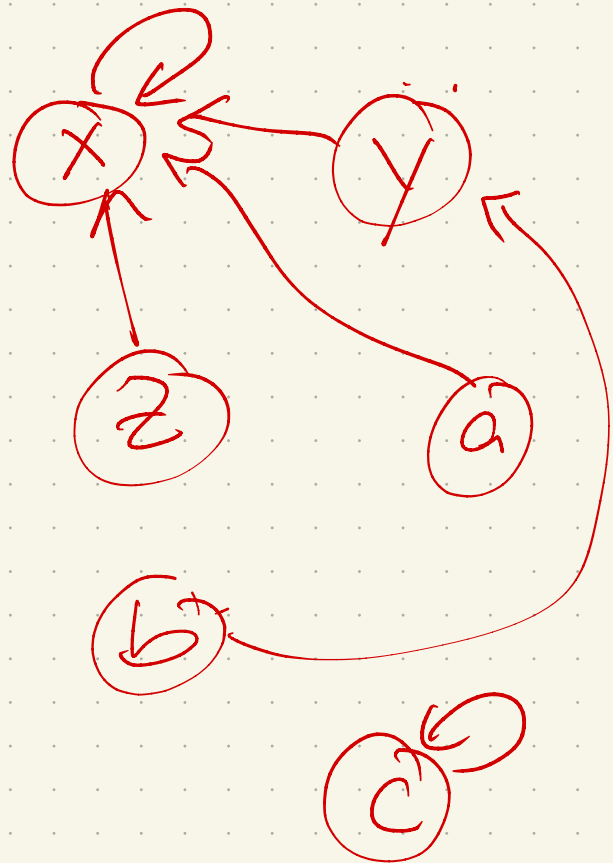
make set (b) ✓

union (a, x)

union (b, y)

make set (c)

union (z, b)



Then: makeSet(x):

create a node w/ value  $x$ ,  
+ points its pointer to  
itself

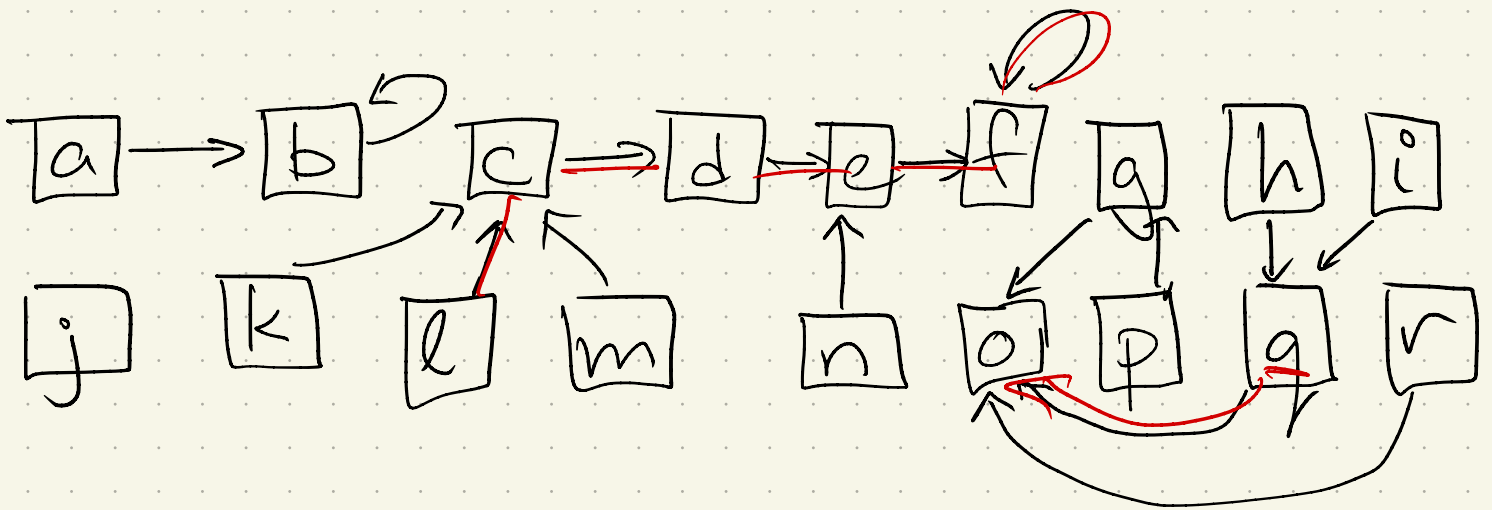
find(x):

travel up the the parent  
pointer of  $x$ , until it  
points to itself

union(x, y):

combine 2 trees into  
a single tree by  
making one of the roots  
a child of the other  
root

# Larger example



18 elements, 4 sets

$$\text{find}(g) = o$$

$$\text{find}(l) = f$$



# Implementation:

$O(n)$  Find (x) \* (while not root)

```
while (p[x] != x)
    x = p[x]
return x
```

Union (x, y):

```
x̄ = find(x) ←
ȳ = find(y) ←
if (x̄ != ȳ)
    p[x̄] = y } O(1)
```

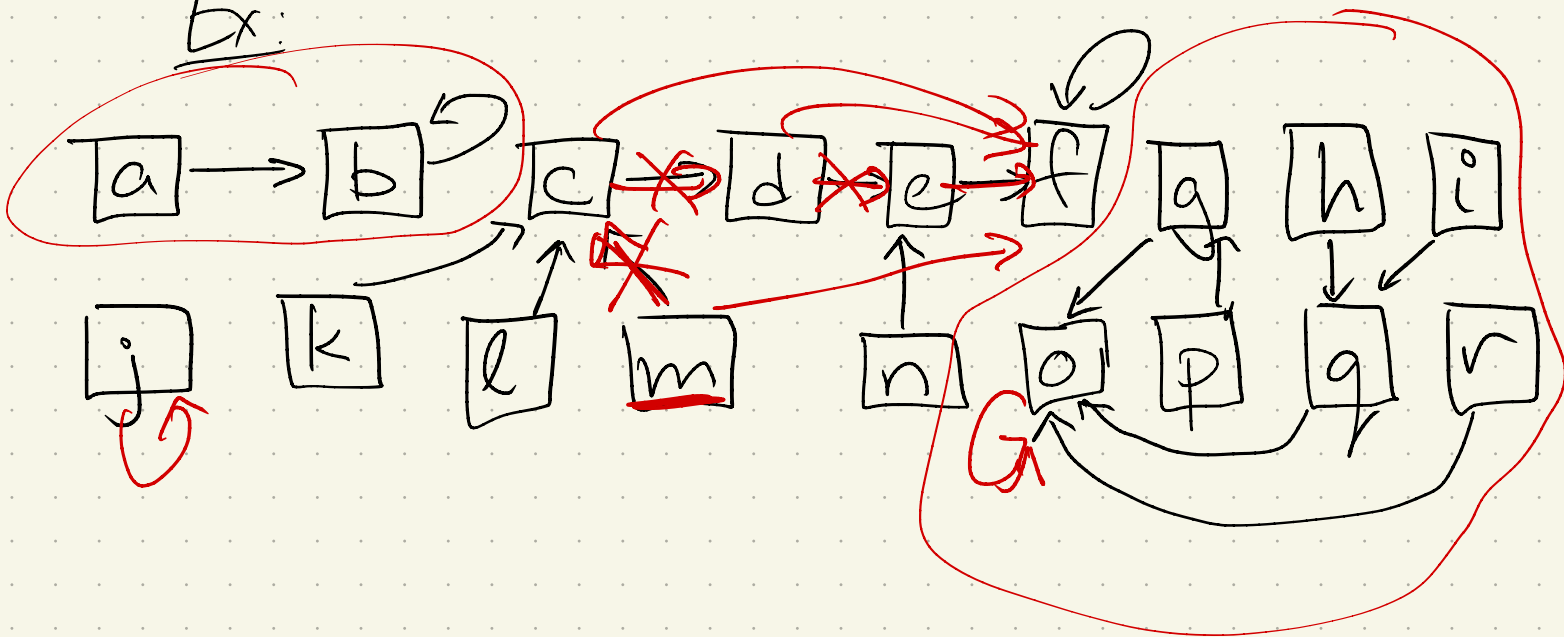
Still some flexibility:

union by rank

① Need to decide which root becomes the root of new set: ie: union(a, h)

② Can also use "path compression": try to point as many things to the root as possible, so later queries get faster. ie: find(m)

Ex:

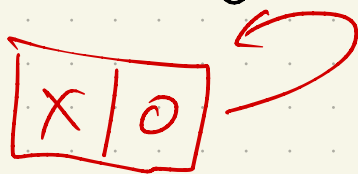


# ① Union by rank

(introduced several places)

Each time you union, make smaller tree tree's root the child of larger one.

How?



- Each node will have a "rank" field, initialized to 0.
- In a union:

If one's rank is smaller:

Smaller "points" to larger

If both are equal:

point one to other,  
+ increment new root's rank



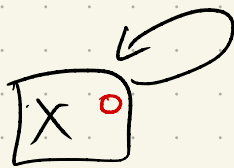
Rank only changes  
for a root.

(Once a node is not  
a root, it can never  
become one again)

Lemma:  $\text{rank}(x) \leq \text{rank}(\text{parent}(x))$   
(with equality only if  $\text{parent}(x) = x$ )

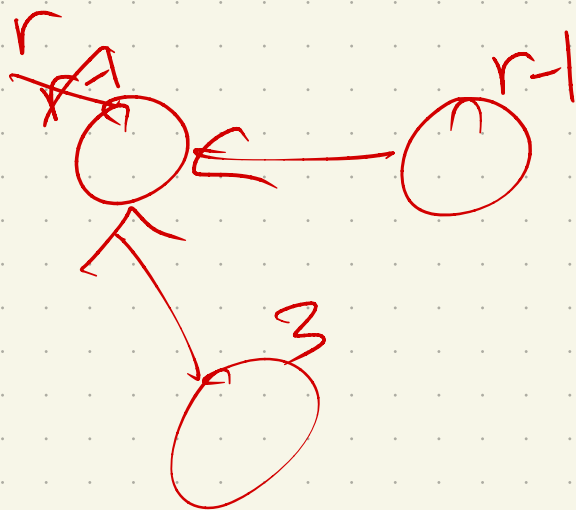
pf: induction!

True for a tree of rank 1:



if  $\text{rank } r > 1$ :

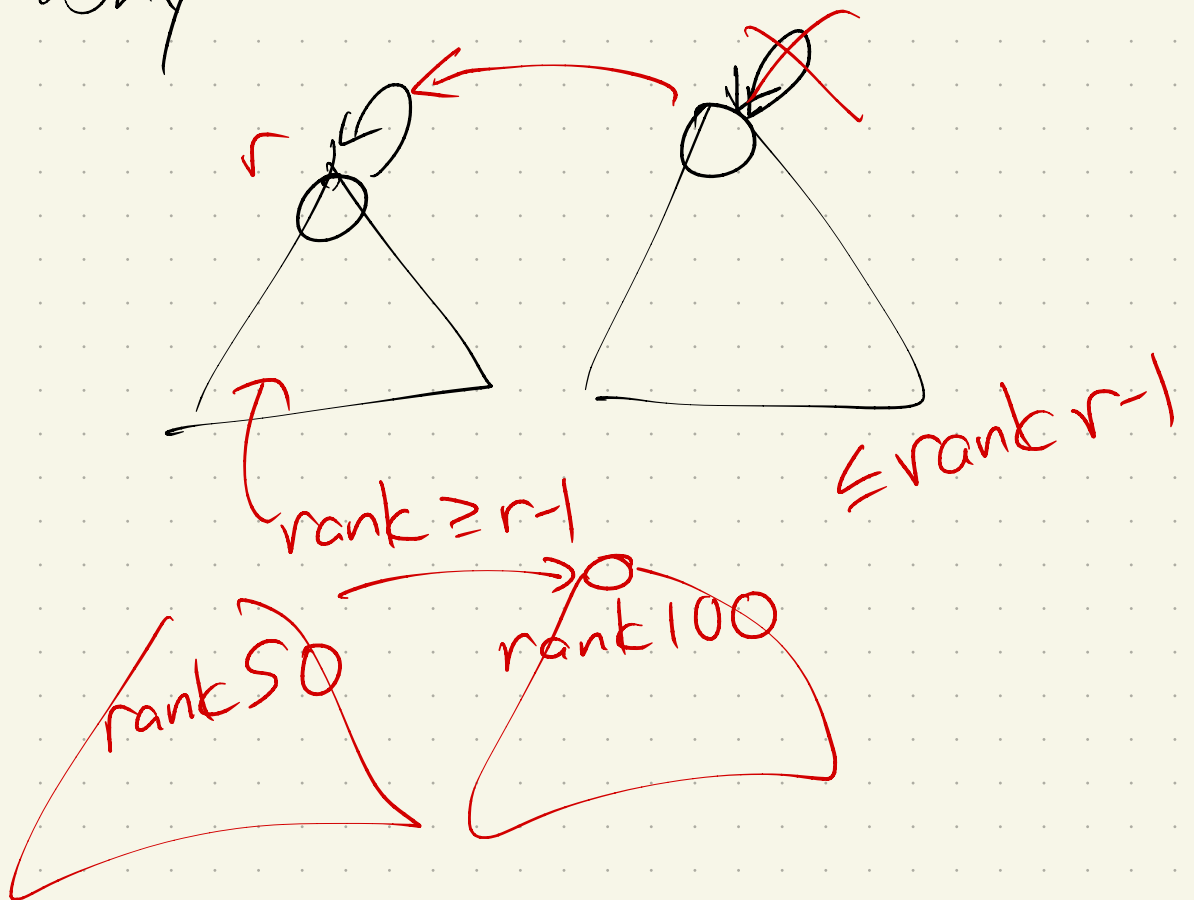
Consider when incremented  
from  $r-1$  to  $r$



Thm: height of one of these trees is  $O(\log n)$

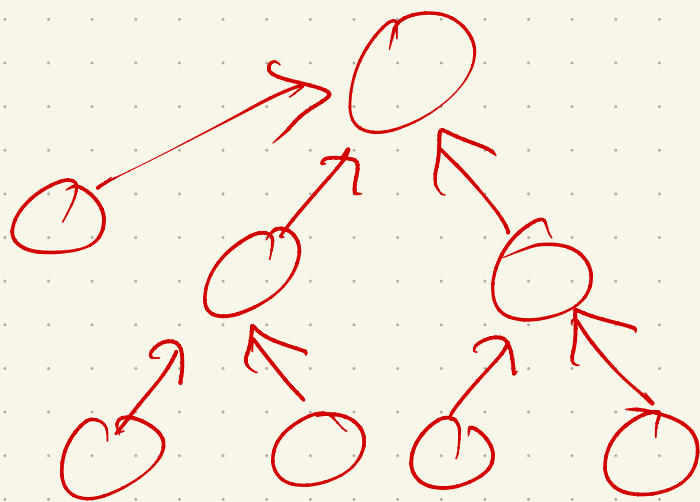
pf: Every time a node's leader has changed, the set is at least twice as big.

Why?



So: if  $n$  items in set,  
how many times could  
it have doubled?

$$\log_2 n$$



(Note: there are examples  
which are  $\Omega(\log n)$   
in height.)

Result: Runtimes are:

- makeSet:

$$O(1)$$

- find: travels a path  
to root  
 $O(\log_2 n)$

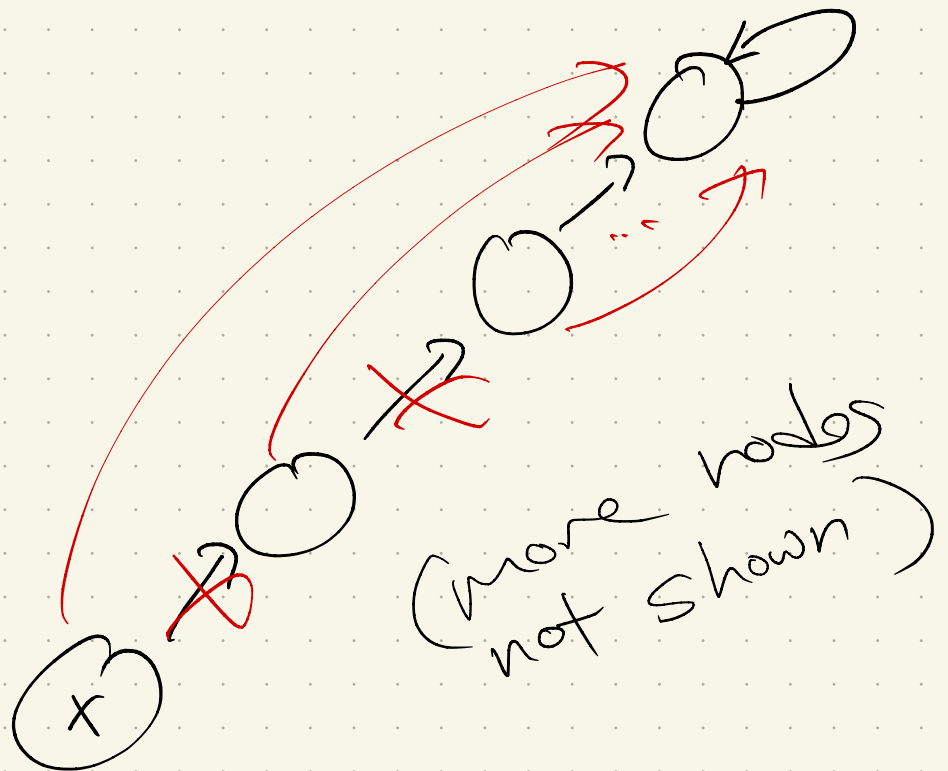
- union: 2 finds +  $O(1)$  updates

$$\Rightarrow O(\log_2 n)$$

$$O(\lg n)$$

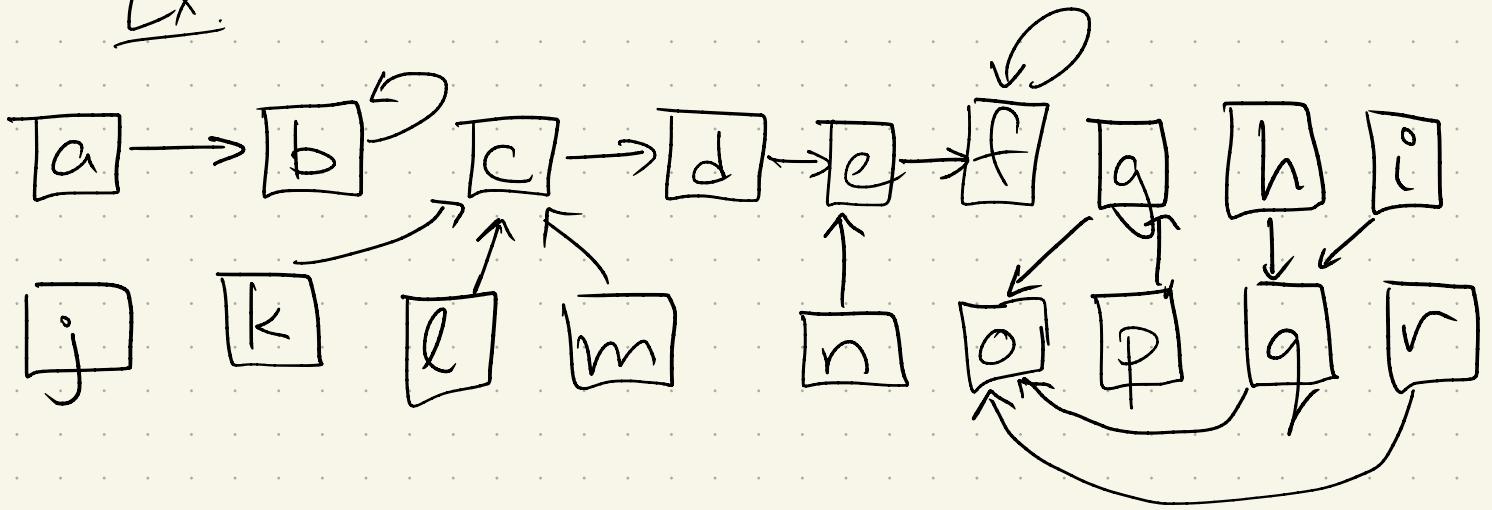
## ② Path compression :

During each  $\text{find}(x)$  make every node on the path from  $x$  to the root point to the root :



So: find(c):

Ex:



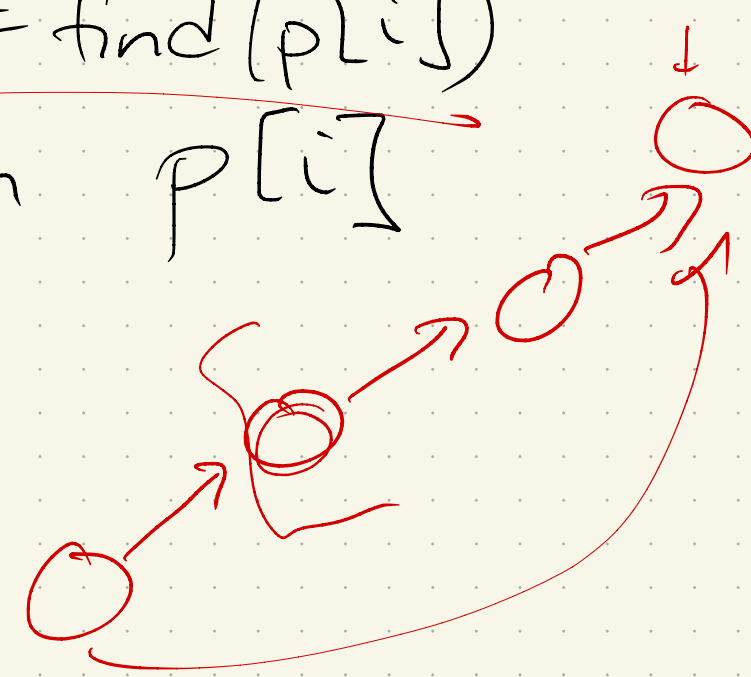
find(r):

Result: If find takes a long time, then later queries get faster!

# Implementation:

```
find(i) {  
  if p[i] == -1  
    return i  
  else  
    return find(p[i])  
}
```

→  $p[i] = \text{find}(p[i])$   
return p[i]





# Formalizing the improvement

## Amortized Analysis

Worst case here:

Still  $O(\log n)$ !

Why?

Might get  
tree of height  $\log n$

## Amortized Analysis:

However, if we do many find (or unions), things get faster.

Ex: find(x)  $\leftarrow O(\log n)$   
find(x)  $\leftarrow O(1)$

So: looking for average runtime of one operation, if doing many of them.

UF: size  $n$

$m$  finds

(Assume  $m \gg n$ )

Thm: Any  $m$  find or union operations run in time  $O((n+m) \log^* n)$ .



Amortized cost of each:

$$\underline{O(\log^* n)}$$

$$\text{Actually } O(n \alpha^{-1}(m))$$

not here!

tiny

(Next time)

$\log_2^* n$  := the number of times you apply the  $\log_2$  until the result is  $\leq 1$ .

$$= \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } n \leq 2 \\ 1 + \log_2^*(\log_2 n) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$n$	$\log_2^* n$
$(0, 1]$	0
$(1, 2]$	1
$(2, 2^2]$	2
$(4, 16] = (2^2, 2^{2^2}]$	3
$(16, 2^{16}] = (2^{2^2}, 2^{2^{2^2}}]$	4
$(2^{16}, 2^{(2^{16})}] = (2^{2^{2^2}}, 2^{2^{2^{2^2}}}]$	5
...	

$$2^{16} \approx \underline{65,000}$$

## Facts we need:

- If  $x$  is not a root,  
 $\text{rank}(x) < \text{rank}(p[x])$
- When  $p[x]$  changes, new leader's rank gets bigger
- Size of a set rooted at  $x$  is  $\geq 2^{\text{rank}(x)}$

proof:

induction!

BC: rank = 0:

IS: rank  $r > 0$ :

At creation time, had two of equal rank

Also: For any  $r$ , there are at most  $n/2^r$  objects with rank  $r$ .

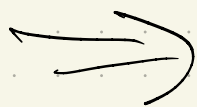
proof: Fix  $r$ .

Note, only group leaders can change rank (going up by one)

So: when set leader changes from  $r-1$  to  $r$ , mark entire set.

How many?

Leaders only increase, so each object is marked only once



Back to the  $\log_2^* n$  stuff:

Define  $Tower(i) = 2^{2^{\dots^2}}$  } height  $i$

$$\text{so } \log_2^*(Tower(i)) = i$$

Define:  $Block(i) = [Tower(i-1)+1, Tower(i)]$

$$Block(0) = [0, 1] \quad (\text{just b/c})$$

$$Block(1) = [2, 2]$$

$$Block(2) = [3, 4]$$

$$Block(3) = [5, 16]$$

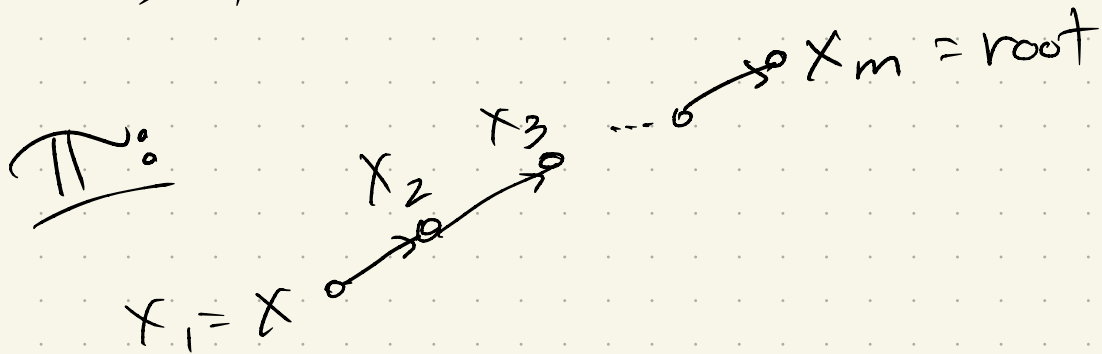
$$Block(4) = [17, 65536]$$

$$Block(5) = [65536, 2^{65536}]$$

...

Now: We know runtime  
of  $\text{find}(x) = \text{length of } x$   
to root path:

Let our path  $\Pi =$   
 $x = x_1, p(x) = x_2, p(x_2) = x_3, \dots, x_m = \text{root}$



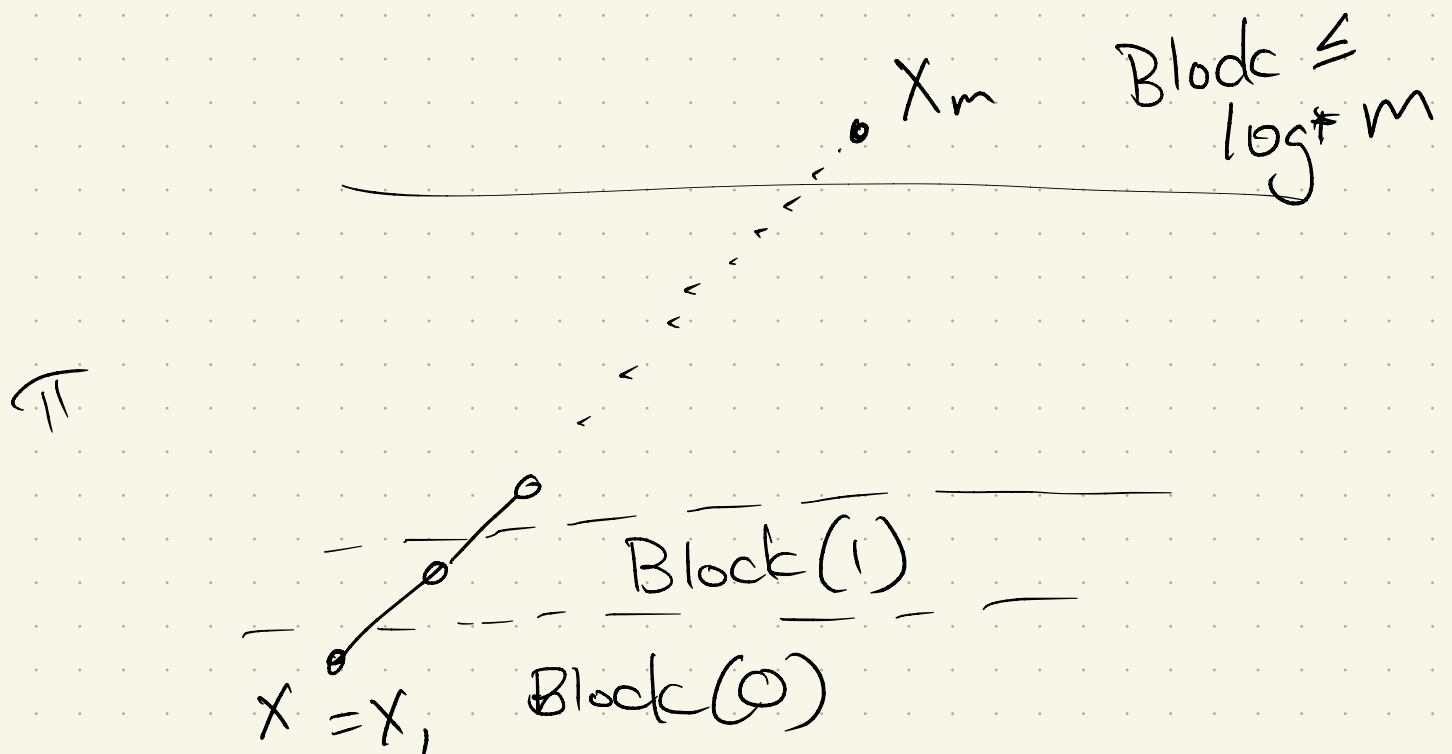
Say a node  $y$  is in  $i^{\text{th}}$  block  
if  $\text{rank}(y) \in \text{Block}(i)$

In UF, max rank of  
any node is  $\log n$ .

(So only have  $\log n$   
blocks total.)



In these blocks:



When we move  $X_k \rightarrow P(X_k)$ ,  
could stay in a block  
(an internal jump)  
or move to higher block  
(a jump between blocks)

Lemma: If  $x$  is an element  
in  $\text{Block}(i)$ , at most  
 $|\text{Block}(i)|$  finds can pass  
through it until it moves  
to  $\text{Block}(i+1)$ .

pf:

Lemma: At most  $\frac{n}{\text{Tower}(i)}$   
nodes have rank in  $\text{Block}(i)$   
over entire algorithm.

pf: For rank  $r$ , know  
 $\leq \frac{n}{2^r}$  elements  
at that rank.

$$\text{Block}(i) = [\text{Tower}(i-1)+1, \text{Tower}(i)]$$

so:

$$\sum_{k \in \text{Block}(i)} \frac{n}{2^k}$$

$$= \sum_{k=0}^{\text{Tower}(i)} \frac{n}{2^k}$$

=

Finally:

The number of internal jumps  
in  $i^{\text{th}}$  block is  $O(n)$   
(over entire set of  $m$  finds).

pf: •  $x$  in Block( $i$ ) can  
have  $|\text{Block}(i)|$  internal  
jumps

$$\bullet |\text{Block}(i)| \leq \frac{n}{\text{Tower}(i)}$$

So # internal jumps  $\leq$

Thm:  $m$  operations on  $n$  elements in U-F take  $O((m+n) \log_2 n)$  total time.

pf:

Either an operation is  $O(1)$ , or its runtime is  $\approx$  (# internal jumps) + (# jumps b/t blocks)

# internal jumps:

# jumps b/t blocks: