





## Union and Find

- We break this problem into two operations
  - Union: Combine two sets
  - Find: Given an item, determine the "name" of the set that contains it
- Many applications
  Checking components of a
  - dynamic graph
  - Computers in a network: Can p communicate with q?
  - Minimum Spanning Trees

# Union/Find using Reverse Trees • Find



The root is the "name" of the set

- Follow links to root
- Time O(n) in the worst case
- Union
  - Link root of one tree to the root of the other
  - Time O(1) in the worst case

### An Improvement: Union by Size

- Note: Every union takes one tree and moves everything in it one step farther from the root
- Implement using arrays Initially, all items have no parent and size 1
- Idea: Make the *smaller* tree be the one that moves down



Time for union is O(1)
Time for find is O(log n)













#### Definition for $\alpha(n)$

 $\frac{\text{Definition}}{\alpha(n)} (inverse \ Ackerman's \ function)$  $\alpha(n) = \text{least } x \text{ such that } A(x,x) \ge n$ 

Note that  $\alpha(n) \le 4$  for any integer n that we are <u>ever</u> likely to encounter

#### Union/Find Analysis

- Theorem (Tarjan)

   Using weighted union and path compression, a sequence of n union/find operations takes time  $O(n \alpha(n))$
- Note that α(n) ≤ 4 for any integer n that we are *ever* likely to encounter
- Is the α(n) factor really necessary?
  - Yes: Tarjan showed a *lower* bound of Ω(n α(n)) for union/find
  - Claim: the inverse Ackerman's function is *not* just an artifact of this one problem

#### Lower Envelope of Line Segments

• Given n line segments in the plane, what is the worst-case complexity of their *lower envelope*?

 $\Theta(n \ \alpha(n))$ 





#### Two MST Algorithms (Both Greedy)

#### Kruskal's Algorithm

# Prim's Algorithm

• Choose the shortest edge e such that

· We use Union/Find to

• e is not yet processed

check this

• e does not make a cycle

- Choose the shortest edge e such that
  - e touches the tree
  - e touches a vertex not in the tree

