## Holm Forests

## Outline for Today

- Recap from Last Time
- Reviewing Euler tour trees and their augmentations.
- Why Fully Dynamic Connectivity is Hard
- Seeing how this differs from the forest case.
- Localizing Edges
- And bringing in some CS161 topics in clever ways.
- "Blame It On The Little Guy"
- A very creative way to decrease runtime costs.
- The Holm Forest
- A brilliant way to solve dynamic connectivity.


## Recap from Last Time

## Dynamic Connectivity in Forests

- Consider the following special-case of the dynamic connectivity problem:
Maintain an undirected forest $F$ so that edges may be inserted an deleted and connectivity queries may be answered efficiently.
- Each deleted edge splits a tree in two; each added edge joins two trees and never closes a cycle.



## Euler Tour Trees

- The Euler tour tree data structure solves dynamic connectivity in forests with these (amortized) costs:
- are-connected: O(log n)
- link: $O(\log n)$
- cut: O(log $n$ )
- These bounds can be made worst-case efficient using different types of balanced BSTs instead of splay trees.


## Extending Euler Tour Trees

- Euler tour trees can be augmented to aggregate information about the trees in the forest. With the right augmentations, we can support the following operations in (amortized) O(log $n$ ) time each.
- size(x), which returns the number of nodes in $x$ 's tree.
- add-packet( $x, p$ ), which attaches packet $p$ to node $x$; and
- remove-packet(x), which removes and returns some packet reachable from $x$, chosen arbitrarily from all the options.


New Stuff!

## Goal: Solve dynamic connectivity on arbitrary undirected graphs.

Why is Fully-Dynamic Connectivity Hard?

## Can We Use Euler Tours?

- In the case of maintaining a forest, we represented each tree as an Euler tour.
- Can we do something like that for general graphs?
- Problem: While we can form Euler tours in the general case, the behavior during a cut depends on whether the cut disconnects the graph.

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## Can We Use Forests?

- We already have a solution for dynamic connectivity that works for forests. Can we adapt that to work for general graphs?
- Key Insight: If all we care about is connectivity, we just need to maintain a spanning forest of the graph.



## Maintaining a Forest



Every edge is either a tree edge in the forest $\mathscr{F}$ or an auxiliary edge running between two nodes in the same tree in $\mathscr{F}$.

## Maintaining a Forest



## Maintaining a Forest



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## Maintaining a Forest



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## Maintaining a Forest

Some auxiliary edges don't touch the two trees we just
 disconnected. Processing them is a waste of time.

## Maintaining a Forest



Maintaining a Forest


## Maintaining a Forest



## Maintaining a Forest



Maintaining a Forest


## The Challenges

- Goal: After disconnecting a tree $T$ into two trees $T_{1}$ and $T_{2}$, search for an edge that will reconnect it.
- Challenge 1: Avoid scanning edges that don't have endpoints in either $T_{1}$ or $T_{2}$.
- Challenge 2: Avoid rescanning edges that, based on past cuts, couldn't possibly work.


## What We Need To Do

- Suppose we cut the tree edge $x y$, splitting a tree $T$ into $T_{x}$ and $T_{y}$.
- We need to search for an auxiliary edge that could reconnect $T_{x}$ and $T_{y}$.



## What We Need To Do

- Fortunately, we've already seen a way to do this!
- Recall: Euler tour trees can be augmented so that we can
- attach packets to nodes, and
- quickly execute queries of the form "find and remove some packet in this tree."
- Replace "packet" with "auxiliary edge" and we can find an auxiliary edge with one endpoint in $T_{x}$ in amortized time $\mathbf{O}(\log \boldsymbol{n})$.
- Intuition: We can "quickly" find an edge touching $T_{x}$. This will not be our bottleneck.


Avoiding Rescans

## Avoiding Rescans



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## A Germ of an Idea

- Begin with all edges having the same color.
- When cutting a tree edge, assign edges in one of the two trees a new color.
- When an edge fails to reconnect a tree, give it the color of the tree it belongs to.
- When looking for a replacement edge, don't use edges that are the same color as the tree itself, since those can't work.


## Refining This Idea

- Idea: Assign each edge a level, initially 0.
- Initial Proposal:
- When cutting an edge at level $l$, pick one of the two resulting trees and raise all its level-l edges to level $(l+1)$.
- When looking for an edge to reconnect the tree, if an edge at level $l$ fails to reconnect, raise it to level $l+1$.
- There are a lot of details we still need to work out, but this is a reasonable guess for a starting point.


## Refining This Idea



## Refining This Idea



We have a spanning tree for our graph. Each edge has an associated level.

Notice anything about which spanning tree we picked?

## Answer at

https://pollev.com/cs166spr23

Tree Edge

- =- =- Aux Edge


## Maximum Spanning Forests

- Key Idea: Maintain the following invariant throughout all operations: The forest $\mathscr{Y}$ is a maximum spanning forest with respect to levels.
- We'll use this both to formalize the details of all the operations and to ensure correctness.
- Plus, this will help us in some tricky corner cases!


## MSF Implications



Suppose we add a new edge into the graph. What level should it get?

Answer: Give it level 0 , which ensures we still have a MSF.


## MSF Implications



Suppose we delete this edge of level 0 .

Claim: No auxiliary edge of level 1 or higher can reconnect the tree.

Proof Idea: If such an edge existed, we would have used it in the MSF.


## An Initial Idea

Invariant: $\mathscr{\mathscr { F }}$ is a maximum spanning forest.

To check are-connected $(x, y)$ :

Does this work?
How fast is it?

Return whether $x$ and $y$ are connected in $\mathscr{\mathscr { F }}$.
To link ( $x, y$ ):
If $\operatorname{are}$-connected $(x, y)$, add $x y$ as an auxiliary edge to $\mathscr{F}$.
Otherwise add $x y$ as a tree edge to $\mathscr{\mathscr { F }}$.
To $\operatorname{cut}(x, y)$, where $x y$ is a tree edge of level $l$ :
Delete $x y$ from $\mathscr{F}$.
Let $T_{x}$ and $T_{y}$ be the trees in $\mathscr{Y}$ containing $x$ and $y$.
Select one of $T_{x}$ and $T_{y}$ arbitrarily; WLOG assume it's $T_{x}$.
Increment the level of each tree edge of level $l$ in $T_{x}$.
For each auxiliary edge $u v$ in $\mathscr{F}$ touching $T_{x}$ :
If $u v$ connects $T_{x}$ and $T_{y}$, add $u v$ as a tree edge to $\mathscr{F}$. Stop.
Else increment its level.

## An Important Detail



## An Important Detail



## An Important Detail



## A Tricky Case

- Suppose we remove the indicated edge.



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- Suppose we remove the indicated edge.
- Let's follow our standard procedure:
- Increment all edges of level 4 in the left subtree.
- Try reconnecting using auxiliary edges in decreasing level order.



## A Tricky Case

- Suppose we remove the indicated edge.
- Let's follow our standard procedure:
- Increment all edges of level 4 in the left subtree.
- Try reconnecting using auxiliary edges in decreasing level order.
- Problem: The resulting tree is not a maximum spanning forest.
- What went wrong?



## A Tricky Case

- Pick an auxiliary edge of level l. Why wasn't it in the MSF?
- Adding it must close a cycle where it's (tied for) the cheapest edge.



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- Pick an auxiliary edge of level l. Why wasn't it in the MSF?
- Adding it must close a cycle where it's (tied for) the cheapest edge.
- Thus the MSF cycle containing the edge must be made of edges of levels $l$ or higher.
- If we increment the level of an auxiliary edge from level $l$ to $l+1$, this is no longer guaranteed.



## Resolving the Issue

- When we cut an edge of level $l$, we already increment the level of all edges of level $l$ in one of the new trees.
- Revised Rule: If we fail to reconnect at level l, when proceeding to level l-1, increment all edges of level l-1 before trying to reconnect.
- This preserves the MSF property. (Why?)
- This ensures that auxiliary edges, when incremented, preserve the MSF property.



## An Interesting Case

- Suppose we delete the indicated edge.
- Claim: None of the edges of level 4 in the bottom region can reconnect the trees.
- Why?
- If any of them reconnected, they would close a cycle in the original tree using an edge of weight 2.
- But then we didn't have an MSF - we should have used the edge of level 4.
- What can we do with this
 insight?


## An Interesting Case

- Idea: After cutting an edge of level $l$, don't look at the full subtrees formed. Instead just look at subtrees using edges of levels $l$ and above.
- Use the same algorithms as before, except restricted to those trees.


Level 4

## An Interesting Case

- Idea: After cutting an edge of level $l$, don't look at the full subtrees formed. Instead just look at subtrees using edges of levels $l$ and above.
- Use the same algorithms as before, except restricted to those trees.


Level 3

## An Interesting Case

- Idea: After cutting an edge of level l, don't look at the full subtrees formed. Instead just look at subtrees using edges of levels $l$ and above.
- Use the same algorithms as before, except restricted to those trees.


Level 2

## An Interesting Case

- Idea: After cutting an edge of level l, don't look at the full subtrees formed. Instead just look at subtrees using edges of levels $l$ and above.
- Use the same algorithms as before, except restricted to those trees.



## To Recap

- To maintain our MSF, we need to do the following:
- If we cut an edge at level $l$, we need to search for auxiliary edges first at level $l$, then $l-1$, then $l-2$, etc. Otherwise the edge we add might not result in an MSF.
- When searching for auxiliary edges, we only need to search the part of the tree reachable by edges of level $i$ or higher. Any other auxiliary edges in the tree can't possibly be part of the MSF.
- For each level $i$, before we search for auxiliary edges, we need to increase the level of all tree edges at level $i$ to level $i+1$.
Otherwise when an edge fails to reconnect and we boost its level, we might not get an MSF.
- Putting this all together:
- We need a mechanism to quickly find all auxiliary edges of a given level, in a subtree reachable using only edges of a given level or higher, while being able to find all tree edges of a given level quickly.


## Layered Forests

- Idea: Store multiple versions of the forest, each focusing on edges of some level or above.
- Let $\mathscr{F}_{I}$ to be the forest of all edges of level $l$ or higher.
- We maintain a series of forests $\mathscr{F}_{0} \supseteq \mathscr{F}_{1} \supseteq \mathscr{F}_{2} \supseteq \ldots$, with one forest per level.
- Each edge of level $l$ then appears in all forests of level $l$ and below.



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$\mathscr{H} 3$


## Layered Forests

- To make it faster to find auxiliary edges, each auxiliary edge of level $l$ will be stored attached only to $\mathscr{Y}_{1}$.
- After all, we only need to look for auxiliary edges of level $l$ when we're focusing on trees made of edges of level $l$ or above.



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$\mathscr{F} 2$

Invariant 1: $\mathscr{F}_{0}$ is a maximum spanning forest.

How fast is this?

To check are-connected $(x, y)$ :
Return whether $x$ and $y$ are connected in $\mathscr{F} 0$.
To link( $x, y$ ):
If are-connected $(x, y)$, add $x y$ as an auxiliary edge to $\mathscr{F}$.
Otherwise add $x y$ as a tree edge to $\mathscr{F}_{0}$.
To cut ( $x, y$ ), where $x y$ is a tree edge of level $l$ :
Delete $x y$ from $\mathscr{F}_{0}, \mathscr{F}_{1}, \ldots$, and $\mathscr{F}_{1}$.
For each level $i$ from $l$ down to 0 :
Let $T_{x}$ and $T_{y}$ be the trees in $\mathscr{F}_{i}$ containing $x$ and $y$.
Select one of $T_{x}$ and $T_{y}$ arbitrarily; WLOG assume it's $T_{x}$.
Increment the level of each tree edge of level $i$ in $T_{x}$, adding each as tree edges to $\mathscr{F}_{i+1}$.
For each auxiliary edge $u v$ in $\mathscr{F}_{i}$ touching $T_{x}$ :
If $u v$ connects $T_{x}$ and $T_{y}$, add $u v$ as a tree edge to $\mathscr{F}_{r}$ for $r \leq i$. Stop.
Else remove $u v$ as an aux edge from $\mathscr{\mathscr { F }}_{i}$, increment its level, and add it as an aux edge to $\mathscr{F}_{i+1}$.

How fast is this?

To check are-connected $(x, y)$ :
Return whether $x$ and $y$ are connected in $\mathscr{\mathscr { F }} 0$.
To link (x, y):
If are-connected ( $x, y$ ), add $x y$ a
Otherwise add $x y$ as a tree edge
To cut( $(x, y$ ), where $x y$ is a tree edge
This is an are-connected query in $\mathscr{F}$ o. It takes amortized time $\mathbf{O}(\log \boldsymbol{n})$.
Delete $x y$ from $\mathscr{T}_{0}, \mathscr{T}_{1}, \ldots$, and $\mathscr{Y}$
For each level $i$ from $l$ down to 0 :
Let $T_{x}$ and $T_{y}$ be the trees in $\mathscr{Y}_{i}$ containing $x$ and $y$.
Select one of $T_{x}$ and $T_{y}$ arbitrarily; WLOG assume it's $T_{x}$.
Increment the level of each tree edge of level $i$ in $T_{x}$,
adding each as tree edges to $\mathscr{Y}_{i+1}$.
For each auxiliary edge $u v$ in $\mathscr{F}_{i}$ touching $T_{x}$ :
If $u v$ connects $T_{x}$ and $T_{y}$, add $u v$ as a tree edge to $\mathscr{\mathscr { F }}_{r}$ for $r \leq i$. Stop.
Else remove $u v$ as an aux edge from $\mathscr{Y}_{i}$, increment its level, and add it as an aux edge to $\mathscr{\mathscr { T }}_{i+1}$.

How fast is this?

To check are-connected $(x, y)$ :
Return whether $x$ and $y$ are connected in $\mathscr{H} 0$ 。
To link ( $x, y$ ):
If are-connected $(x, y)$, add $x y$ as an auxiliary edge to $\mathscr{F}_{0}$.
Otherwise add $x y$ as a tree edge to $\mathscr{F} 0$.
To cut $(x, y)$, where $x y$ is a tree edge of level $l$ :
Delete xy from $\mathscr{F}_{0}, \mathscr{F}_{1}$,
For each level i from I do
Let $T_{x}$ and $T_{y}$ be the t.
Select one of $T_{x}$ and 7
Increment the level o adding each as tree e

This is an are-connected query in $\mathscr{\mathscr { F }}_{0}$, plus either a link in $\mathscr{\mathscr { F }}_{0}$ or an augmentation update to $\mathscr{F}_{0}$ to add $x y$ as a tree edge.

Cost: amortized $\mathbf{O}(\log \boldsymbol{n})$.
For each auxiliary ed
If $u v$ connects $T_{x}$ and $T_{y}$, add $u v$ as a tree edge to $\mathscr{F}_{r}$ for $r \leq i$. Stop.
Else remove $u v$ as an aux edge from $\mathscr{F}_{i}$, increment its level, and add it as an aux edge to $\mathscr{F}_{i+1}$.

To check are-connected $(x, y)$ :
Return whether $x$ and $y$ are connected in $\mathscr{H} 0$ 。
To link(x, y):
If are-connected $(x, y)$, add $x y$ as an auxiliary edge to $\mathscr{F} 0$.
Otherwise add $x y$ as a tree edge to $\mathscr{F}$ o.
To cut( $x, y$ ), where $x y$ is a tree edge of level $l$ :
Delete $x y$ from $\mathscr{F}_{0}, \mathscr{F}_{1}, \ldots$, and $\mathscr{F}_{1}$.
For each level $i$ from $l$ down to 0 :
Let $T_{x}$ and $T_{y}$ be the trees in $\mathscr{F}$
Select one of $T_{x}$ and $T_{y}$ arbitrar
Increment the level of each tre adding each as tree edges to $\mathscr{H}$
For each auxiliary edge uv in $\mathscr{A}$ If uv connects $T_{x}$ and $T_{y}$, ad

This is a cut operation across all the levels.

Suppose there are $L$ levels in the forest. Then this takes
(amortized) time $\mathbf{O}(\mathbf{L} \log n)$.
Else remove uv as an aux edge nom $y^{\prime}$ i, increment its ievel, dind dual il as an aux edge to $\mathscr{F}_{i+1}$.

To check are-connected $(x, y)$ :
Return whether $x$ and $y$ are connected in $\mathscr{H} 0$ 。
To link ( $x, y$ ):
If are-connected $(x, y)$, add $x y$ as an auxiliary edge to $\mathscr{F}_{0} 0$.
Otherwise add $x y$ as a tree edge to $\mathscr{F} 0$.
To cut( $x, y$ ), where $x y$ is a tree edge of level $l$ :
Delete xy from $\mathscr{F}_{0}, \mathscr{F}_{1}, \ldots$, and $\mathscr{F}_{1}$.
For each level $i$ from $l$ down to 0 :
Let $T_{x}$ and $T_{y}$ be the trees in $\mathscr{F}_{i}$ containin
Select one of $T_{x}$ and $T_{y}$ arbitrarily; WLOG Increment the level of each tree edge of adding each as tree edges to $\mathscr{F}_{i+1}$.

This is a link operation across all the levels. It takes (amortized) time O(Llog $n$ ).

For each auxiliary edge $u v$ in $\mathscr{F}_{i}$ touching
If $u v$ connects $T_{x}$ and $T_{y}$, add $u v$ as a tree edge to $\mathscr{H}_{r}$ for $r \leq i$. Stop.
Else remove $u v$ as an aux edge from $\mathscr{F}_{i}$, increment its level, and add it as an aux edge to $\mathscr{F}_{i+1}$.

Return whether $x$ and $y$ are connected in $\mathscr{\mathscr { H }} 0$ 。
To link(x, y):

If are-conne
Otherwise ac
To cutt( $x, y$ ), whe
Delete xy fro
For each leve

These steps might take a long time if there are a lot of edges to move.

## However, each individual edge's level can only be incremented $L$ times.

Idea: Amortize away this cost by "blaming" it Let $T_{x}$ an on the cost of adding the edge.
Select one of $I_{x}$ and $I_{y}$ arbitrarily; WLOG assume it's $I_{x}$.
Increment the level of each tree edge of level $i$ in $T_{x}$, adding each as tree edges to $\mathscr{F}_{i+1}$.
For each auxiliary edge $u v$ in $\mathscr{\mathscr { F }}_{i}$ touching $T_{x}$ :
If $u v$ connects $T_{x}$ and $T_{y}$, add $u v$ as a tree edge to $\mathscr{F}_{r}$ for $r \leq i$. Stop.
Else remove $u v$ as an aux edge from $\mathscr{\mathscr { F }}_{i}$, increment its level, and add it as an aux edge to $\mathscr{Y}_{i+1}$.

## The Amortized Analysis

- Suppose the forest has a maximum of $L$ levels.
- Raising the level of an individual edge takes time $O(\log n)$, so across all cut operations, we spend at most $O(L \log n)$ work on any one edge.
- With the right choice of $\Phi$, we can get these amortized costs on the operations:
- link: $\mathbf{O}(\mathbf{L} \log n)$, paying the full cost of raising the edge's level up front.
- cut: $\mathbf{O}(L \log n)$, accounting for the costs of all operations not attributable to edge raising.
- Question: How big can $L$ get?


## Bounding the Max Level

- Problem: Without further restrictions, the maximum level in a forest of $n$ nodes is $L=n-2$.
- How can that happen? How can we prevent it?



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- How can that happen? How can we prevent it?


## Bounding the Max Level

- Suppose we cut the indicated edge.



## Blame It On The Little Guy

- Claim: If we always pick the smaller tree when boosting levels, the maximum level will be $L=O(\log n)$.
- Why?
- The maximum tree size in $\mathscr{F}_{0}$ is $n$ nodes.
- The maximum tree size in $\mathscr{F}_{1}$ is $n / 2$ nodes.
- The maximum tree size in $\mathscr{F}_{2}$ is $n / 4$ nodes.
- ...
- The maximum tree size in $\mathscr{\mathscr { F }}_{\lg n}$ is 1 node.
- General Technique: "Blame it on the little guy" by repeatedly updating the smaller of two quantities, or accounting for work done on the smaller of two quantities, etc. This often converts linear bounds to logarithmic ones.

Invariant 1: $\mathscr{F}_{0}$ is a maximum spanning forest. Invariant 2: $\mathscr{F}_{0} \supseteq \mathscr{F}_{1} \supseteq \mathscr{F}_{2} \supseteq \ldots$
Invariant 3: Each tree in $\mathscr{F}_{i}$ has at most $n / 2^{i}$ nodes.
To check are-connected $(x, y)$ :
Return whether $x$ and $y$ are connected in $\mathscr{\mathscr { F }} 0$.

## This is our final structure!

To link $(x, y)$ :
If are-connected $(x, y)$, add $x y$ as an auxiliary edge to $\mathscr{F}_{0}$.
Otherwise add $x y$ as a tree edge to $\mathscr{\mathscr { F }}$.
To cut( $(x, y)$, where $x y$ is a tree edge of level $l$ :
Delete $x y$ from $\mathscr{\mathscr { F }}_{0}, \mathscr{\mathscr { F }}_{1}, \ldots$, and $\mathscr{\mathscr { F }}_{1}$.
For each level $i$ from $l$ down to 0 :
Let $T_{x}$ and $T_{y}$ be the trees in $\mathscr{F}_{i}$ containing $x$ and $y$.
Select the smaller of $T_{x}$ and $T_{y}$; WLOG assume it's $T_{x}$.
Increment the level of each tree edge of level $i$ in $T_{x}$, adding each as tree edges to $\mathscr{F}_{i+1}$.
For each auxiliary edge $u v$ in $\mathscr{F}_{i}$ touching $T_{x}$ :
If $u v$ connects $T_{x}$ and $T_{y}$, add $u v$ as a tree edge to $\mathscr{F}_{r}$ for $r \leq i$. Stop.
Else remove $u v$ as an aux edge from $\mathscr{F}_{i}$, increment its level, and add it as an aux edge to $\mathscr{F}_{i+1}$.

## The Final Scorecard

- This final data structure is called the Holm forest or layered forest. It maintains an MSF using our earlier approach while ensuring that $L=O(\log n)$.
- It supports
- link( $u, v$ ) in amortized time $\mathbf{O}\left(\log ^{2} \boldsymbol{n}\right)$,
- cut( $u, v$ ) in amortized time $\mathbf{O}\left(\log ^{2} \boldsymbol{n}\right)$, and
- are-connected $(u, v)$ in amortized time $\mathbf{O}(\log \boldsymbol{n})$.
- These bounds are substantially better than the naive approach - isn't that amazing?


## The Final-er Scorecard

- There is one further improvement we can make to the structure, and it's clever.
- All connectivity queries are done in $\mathscr{\mathscr { F }}$ o.
- Instead of representing the Euler tour tree for $\mathscr{F}_{0}$ using splay trees, represent them with B-trees of order $\log n$.
- This makes are-connected take worst-case time $\mathrm{O}\left(\frac{\log n}{\log \log n}\right)$.
- Updating $\mathscr{\mathscr { F }}$ o now takes time $\mathrm{O}\left(\frac{\log ^{2} n}{\log \log n}\right)$, but we don't notice this because the amortized cost of link and cut is still $\mathrm{O}\left(\log ^{2} n\right)$.
- This structure then supports
- link( $u, v$ ) in amortized time $\mathbf{O}\left(\log ^{2} \mathbf{n}\right)$,
- cut( $u, v$ ) in amortized time $\mathbf{O}\left(\log ^{2} \boldsymbol{n}\right)$, and
- are-connected $(u, v)$ in worst-case time $\mathbf{O}\left(\frac{\log n}{\log \log n}\right)$.


## Going Forward

- Here's some other amazing work folks have done in this space:
- In 2000, Thorup introduced randomization into the Holm forest to get expected amortized $\mathrm{O}\left(\log n(\log \log n)^{3}\right)$ costs for link and cut, with $\mathrm{O}(\log n / \log \log \log n)$ for are-connected queries.
- In 2013, Kapron et al used randomization without amortization to get $\mathrm{O}\left(\log ^{5} n\right)$ worst-case costs per link or cut and $\mathrm{O}(\log n / \log \log n)$ are-connected query times, with a high chance of success.
- Every data structure for dynamic connectivity must have link and cut run in $\Omega(\log n)$ or are-connected run in time $\Omega(\log n / \log \log n)$. Is there still a ways to go, or are these lower bounds too loose? We don't know!


## More Dynamic Problems

- Many other dynamic graph problems exist:
- Maintaining an MST; can do in $\mathrm{O}\left(\log ^{4} n\right)$ time per insertion or deletion.
- Maintaining single-source or all-pairs shortest paths.
- Maintaining reachability in a directed graph.
- All of these problems were solved in the static case 50+ years ago.
- We have somewhat decent solutions to the dynamic cases.
- This is an active area of research!


## Next Time

- Word-Level Parallelism
- Harnessing a degree of parallelism we’ve overlooked thus far.
- Sardine Trees
- Outperforming BSTs for small integers.
- MSB in O(1)
- A seemingly impossible bitwise operation.

