

1. Simulating Queues with Stacks

A *queue* is a first-in-first-out data structure. It supports two operations *push* and *pop*. Push adds a new item to the back of the queue, while pop removes the first item from the front of the queue. A *stack* is a last-in-first-out data structure. It also supports push and pop. As with a queue, push adds a new item to the back of the queue. However, pop removes the last item from the back of the queue (the one most recently added).

Show how you can simulate a queue by using two stacks. Any sequence of pushes and pops should run in amortized constant time.

2. Multistacks

A *multistack* consists of an infinite series of stacks S_0, S_1, S_2, \dots , where the i th stack S_i can hold up to 3^i elements. Whenever a user attempts to push an element onto any full stack S_i , we first move all the elements in S_i to stack S_{i+1} to make room. But if S_{i+1} is already full, we first move all its members to S_{i+2} , and so on. To clarify, a user can only push elements onto S_0 . All other pushes and pops happen in order to make space to push onto S_0 . Moving a single element from one stack to the next takes $O(1)$ time.

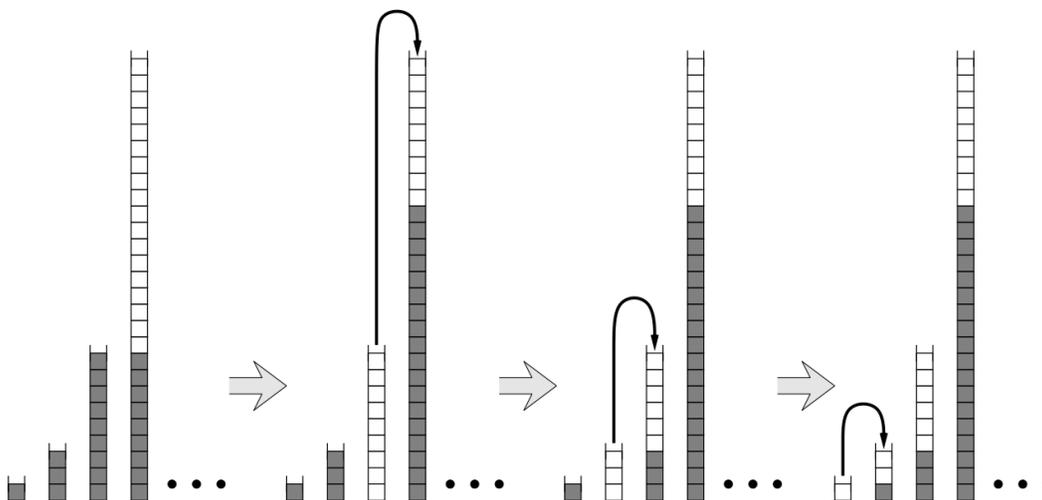


Figure 1. Making room for one new element in a multistack.

- In the worst case, how long does it take to push one more element onto a multistack containing n elements?
- Prove that the amortized cost of a push operation is $O(\log n)$, where n is the maximum number of elements in the multistack.

3. Powerhungry function costs

A sequence of n operations is performed on a data structure. The i th operation costs i if i is an exact power of 2, and 1 otherwise. Determine the amortized cost of the operation.