

# Lecture 6: Streaming

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# Overview

- Introduction
  - Data Streaming
  - Basic Examples
  
- Main Examples
  - Heavy hitters
  - Distinct Elements
  - Weighted Heavy Hitters
  
- Acknowledgements

## Why streaming?

In today's world we have to deal with *big data*. But not all big data are created equal. Today we will study one way in which massive data can appear in our lives: *streaming*.

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  - 1 Network traffic (source/destination)
  - 2 Internet search logs
  - 3 Database transactions
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How can we deal with it/model it? What can we do if we cannot even see the whole input?

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poly log(N)

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*Goal*: minimize space complexity (in bits) and the processing time.



# Examples of Streaming Problems

## Example (Sum of elements)

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## Example (Median)

- **Input stream:**  $a_1, \dots, a_N$  be integers from the set  $[-2^b + 1, 2^b - 1]$
- **Task:** maintain the current median of elements we have seen so far

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- **Constraint:** allowed to also output *false positives* (low hitters), but not allowed to miss any heavy hitter!

# Majority Element - Algorithm

Setup: heavy hitters with  $\epsilon = 1/2$ .

- At time  $t$ , we will maintain set  $S_t$  which contains the element that has appeared at least  ~~$n/2$~~  times, if any.

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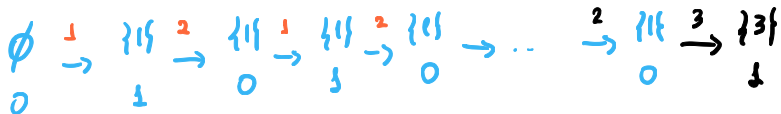
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- At end of stream, return element in  $S_N$

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- If there is no majority element, we could still output a false positive (low hitter), which is fine.

Example of outputting low hitter:

↓ 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 ... 1 2 3 no majority element.

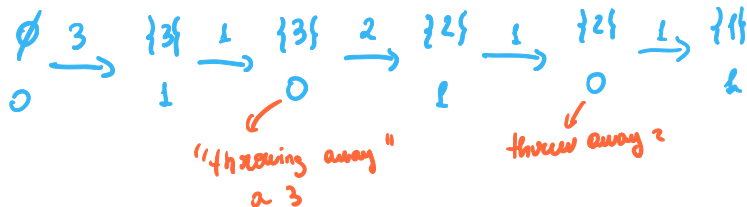


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  - Majority element appears more than half the time, so we cannot throw away all the majority elements
- Space used:  ~~$O(b)$~~  (stored set  $S_t$  which has at most one element and counter)

$$O(\underbrace{b}_{\substack{\text{one} \\ \text{element} \\ \text{of } \Sigma}} + \underbrace{\log N}_{\text{counter}})$$

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$T$  "array of heavy hitters"

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*C array of counters for each heavy-hitter*

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*if  $a_t \in T$  then increase appropriate counter*

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↑ in case we have an "empty entry"  
and  $a_t \notin T$



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array  $T$  is full and  $a_t \notin T$

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- 6 Return the array  $T$  with the counter array  $C$

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- So we drop  $k+1$  distinct stream updates, but there are  $N$  updates, so we won't increase  $est(e)$  by 1 (when we should) at most  $\frac{N}{k+1} \leq \epsilon N$  times.   
 *→ elements of  $T$  and  $e$*

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  - For an  $\epsilon$ -heavy hitter  $e$ , we have  $\text{count}(e) > \epsilon \cdot N$

*by definition of being  
 $\epsilon$ -heavy hitter*

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$$\text{count}(e) - \text{est}(e) \leq \epsilon N \quad \text{by Lemma}$$

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  - $\text{est}(e) > 0 \Rightarrow e$  is in  $T$
  - Space used is  $O(k \cdot (\underbrace{\log(\Sigma)}_{\text{elements of } \Sigma} + \underbrace{\log N}_{\text{counters}})) = O((1/\epsilon) \cdot (b + \log N))$  bits

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  - If the  $D$  hash values  $h(b_1), \dots, h(b_D)$  are *evenly distributed* in  $[0, m^3]$ , then  $t^{\text{th}}$  smallest hash value should be close to  $\frac{tm^3}{D}$ .



# Distinct Elements

## Example (Distinct elements)

- **Input stream:**  $a_1, \dots, a_N$  be integers from  $[0, 2^b - 1]$ .  $m := 2^b$
- **Task:** maintain current  $\#$  of distinct elements  $D$  we have seen so far

Use strongly 2-universal hash function!

- Take strongly 2-universal hash function  $h : [0, m - 1] \rightarrow [0, m^3]$ .
- From previous lecture, w.h.p. no collisions!
- Suppose there are  $D$  distinct elements  $b_1, \dots, b_D$ 
  - If the  $D$  hash values  $h(b_1), \dots, h(b_D)$  are *evenly distributed* in  $[0, m^3]$ , then  $t^{\text{th}}$  smallest hash value should be close to  $\frac{tm^3}{D}$ .
  - If we know that  $t^{\text{th}}$  smallest value is  $T$ , then  $T \approx \frac{tm^3}{D} \Rightarrow D \approx \frac{tm^3}{T}$

can recover  $D$

## Distinct Elements - algorithm

- Choose a random hash function  $h$  from strongly 2-universal hash family
- For each item  $a_i$  in the stream:
  - Compute  $h(a_i)$
  - update list that stores the  $t$  smallest hash values
  - After all data has read, let  $T$  be  $t^{\text{th}}$  smallest hash value in data stream.

$$\text{Return } Y = \frac{tm^3}{T}$$

# Distinct Elements Analysis

- What are our space requirements?

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$$O(\log m)$$

hash function

$$O(\underbrace{t \cdot \log m}_{t \text{ smallest values}})$$

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## Theorem

Setting  $t = O(1/\epsilon^2)$  we have that

$$(1 - \epsilon) \cdot D \leq Y \leq (1 + \epsilon) \cdot D$$

with constant probability.

Handwritten notes in red:  
true # distinct elements (with arrow pointing to  $D$ )  
our estimate from algorithm (with arrow pointing to  $Y$ )

# Distinct Elements Analysis

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Upper Bound:  $\Pr[Y > (1 + \epsilon) \cdot D]$

one bad  
event

"estimate too high"

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$$Y = \frac{tm^3}{T}$$

$$\frac{1}{1 + \epsilon} \leq 1 - \frac{\epsilon}{2}$$

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- but we assumed we have at least  $t$  such elements! Now need to show that this cannot happen with high probability

have  $t$  such elements " $\gg$ " expected # elements

## Distinct Elements Analysis

Upper Bound:  $\Pr[Y > (1 + \epsilon) \cdot D]$

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  - $\text{Var}[X] = \sum_{i=1}^D \text{Var}[X_i]$  (pairwise independence)

*because of  
strongly 2-universal  
hash function*

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  - $\text{Var}[X] = \sum_{i=1}^D \text{Var}[X_i]$  (pairwise independence)
  - $\text{Var}[X_i] = \mathbb{E}[(X_i - \mathbb{E}[X_i])^2] = \mathbb{E}[X_i^2] - \mathbb{E}[X_i]^2 \leq \mathbb{E}[X_i]$  (indicator variable)

"  $\mathbb{E}[X_i] \geq 0$

because  $X_i \sim \{0, 1\}$

## Distinct Elements Analysis

Upper Bound:  $\Pr[Y > (1 + \epsilon) \cdot D]$

- If there are  $D$  distinct elements, let  $X = \sum_{i=1}^D X_i$

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  - $\text{Var}[X] = \sum_{i=1}^D \text{Var}[X_i]$  (pairwise independence)
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  - Chebyshev's inequality:

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr[X > t] &= \Pr[X > \underbrace{t \cdot (1 - \epsilon/2)}_{\mathbb{E}[X]} + \epsilon \cdot t/2] \\ &\leq \Pr[|X - \mathbb{E}[X]| > \epsilon \cdot t/2] \stackrel{\text{Chebyshev}}{\leq} \frac{4 \cdot \text{Var}[X]}{\epsilon^2 t^2} \leq \frac{4}{\epsilon^2 t} \end{aligned}$$

$\uparrow$  because abs diff value is bigger event



## Distinct Elements Analysis

Lower Bound:  $\Pr[Y < (1 - \epsilon) \cdot D]$ .

Similar calculation as previous slide.<sup>1</sup>

Practice problem: do this part of the proof.

---

<sup>1</sup>replacing  $1 - \epsilon$  by  $1 + \epsilon$  and using Chebyshev

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- $\Pr[Y < (1 - \epsilon) \cdot D] \leq \frac{4}{\epsilon^2 t}$

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- Setting  $t = 24/\epsilon^2$  gives us

$$\Pr[(1 - \epsilon) \cdot D \leq Y \leq (1 + \epsilon) \cdot D] \geq 1 - \frac{8}{\epsilon^2 t} = 2/3$$

"

$$1 - \Pr[Y > (1 + \epsilon)D] - \Pr[Y < (1 - \epsilon)D]$$

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---

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Practice problem: how can we make the success probability much higher?

---

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## Space requirements and running time

$$\log m = b$$

- Total space used:  $O\left(\frac{1}{\epsilon^2} \log m\right)$  bits

hash function

$$O(\log m)$$

stored  $t = 24/\epsilon^2$

hash values

$$O\left(\frac{t}{\epsilon^2} \cdot \log m\right)$$

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- Running time per operation:  $O(\log(m) + 1/\epsilon^2)$  steps
  - compute hash in  $O(\log m)$  time
  - Since we keep track of  $O(1/\epsilon^2)$  elements, and need to update the list, this takes  $O(1/\epsilon^2)$  time (though there are smarter ways)



- Introduction
  - Data Streaming
  - Basic Examples
- Main Examples
  - Heavy hitters
  - Distinct Elements
  - Weighted Heavy Hitters
- Acknowledgements

# Heavy hitters with weights

## Example (Weighted heavy hitters)

- **Input stream:**  $(a_1, w_1), \dots, (a_N, w_N)$  tuples of integers from  $\Sigma = [-2^b + 1, 2^b - 1]$ , parameter  $q \in \mathbb{N}$

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- **Task:** find all elements  $e$  such that  $Q(e) \geq q$
- **Constraint:** allowed to also output *false positives* (low hitters), but not allowed to miss any heavy hitter!

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- Pick  $k$  hash functions  $h_1, \dots, h_k$  where  $h_i : \Sigma \rightarrow [0, \ell - 1]$
- Let's maintain  $k \cdot \ell$  counters  $C_{i,j}$ , where each  $C_{i,j}$  adds the weight of items that are mapped to  $j^{\text{th}}$  entry by the  $i^{\text{th}}$  hash function. Start with  $C_{i,j} = 0$  for all  $1 \leq i \leq k$  and  $1 \leq j \leq \ell$ .

## Weighted heavy hitters - algorithm

- Given  $(a_t, w_t)$ , for each  $1 \leq i \leq k$  set  $C_{i,h_i(a_t)} \leftarrow C_{i,h_i(a_t)} + w_t$ .
- At the end,<sup>2</sup> report all elements  $e$  with

$$\min_{1 \leq i \leq k} C_{i,h_i(e)} \geq q$$

- Data structure as a table:

---

<sup>2</sup>In this version need to do second pass over data. But this can be fixed. Practice problem: fix this so that we can report on the fly.

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  - $h_i$  chosen from 2-universal hash family then probability that another element  $f$  is mapped to  $h_i(e)$  is  $\leq 1/\ell$ .
  - Thus  $\mathbb{E}[Z_i] \leq Q/\ell$ . By Markov:

$$\Pr[Z_i \geq \epsilon \cdot Q] \leq \frac{\mathbb{E}[Z_i]}{\epsilon \cdot Q} \leq \frac{1}{\epsilon \ell}$$

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- Heavy hitter always reported, as all their counters are large
- Need to show now that if  $e$  is not a heavy hitter, with high probability we will have one counter  $C_{i,h_i(e)} < q$ .
- If  $Q(e) \leq q - \epsilon \cdot Q$ , what is prob.  $e$  will be reported as heavy hitter?
  - Look at counter  $C_{i,h_i(e)}$ . Since  $e$  is reported, must have  $C_{i,h_i(e)} \geq q$
  - Contribution from  $e$  is  $Q(e) \leq q - \epsilon \cdot Q$ . So other elements that map to  $h_i(e)$  must have contributed  $\geq \epsilon \cdot Q$ .
  - Let  $Z_i$  be the value of  $C_{i,h_i(e)}$  that was added by other elements
  - $h_i$  chosen from 2-universal hash family then probability that another element  $f$  is mapped to  $h_i(e)$  is  $\leq 1/\ell$ .
  - Thus  $\mathbb{E}[Z_i] \leq Q/\ell$ . By Markov:

$$\Pr[Z_i \geq \epsilon \cdot Q] \leq \frac{\mathbb{E}[Z_i]}{\epsilon \cdot Q} \leq \frac{1}{\epsilon \ell}$$

- Hash functions  $h_i$  chosen independently  $\Rightarrow$

$$\Pr \left[ \min_{1 \leq i \leq k} Z_i \geq \epsilon \cdot Q \right] \leq \left( \frac{1}{\epsilon \ell} \right)^k$$

## Weighted heavy hitters - analysis

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- Space requirement for counters  $O(1/\epsilon \cdot \log(1/\delta))$
- Space required to store all hash functions and evaluation time  $O(k \cdot \ell)$

# Acknowledgement

- Lecture based largely on Lap Chi's notes and David Woodruff's notes.
- See Lap Chi's notes at  
<https://cs.uwaterloo.ca/~lapchi/cs466/notes/L05.pdf>
- See David's notes at  
<https://www.cs.cmu.edu/~15451-s20/lectures/lec6.pdf>