

# CS 473: Algorithms

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# Streaming Algorithms

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# Streaming Algorithms

A topic that is both very old, and very current!

## Dawn of CS..

Data was stored on tapes, and amount of RAM was very small.

- Too much data, too little space.
- Store only summary or sketch of data.

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## Now..

Terabytes of memory, Gigabytes of RAM.

- Data streams: Humongous amount of data (sometimes never ending)!
- Can go over it at most once, and sometimes not even that!
- Store only summary: sub-linear space-time algorithms.

# Examples

An internet router sees a stream of packets, and may want to know,

- which connection is using the most packets
- how many different connections
- median of the file sizes transferred since mid-night
- which connections are using more than 0.1% of the bandwidth.

Computing aggregative information about data streams.

# Outline

Computation with data streams.

Heavy-hitters

- Majority element (by R. Boyer and J.S. Moore)
- $\epsilon$ -heavy hitters – deterministic
- Approximate counting

Counting using hashing – Count-min Sketch  
(Cormode-Muthukrishnan'05)

- Variant of Bloom filters.

# Data Streams

A stream of data elements,  $\mathbf{S} = \mathbf{a}_1, \mathbf{a}_2, \dots$ .

Say  $\mathbf{a}_t$  arrive at time  $\mathbf{t}$ . Let us assume that  $\mathbf{a}_t$ 's are numbers for this lecture.

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Denote  $\mathbf{a}_{[1..t]} = \langle \mathbf{a}_1, \mathbf{a}_2, \dots, \mathbf{a}_t \rangle$ .

Given some function we want to compute it continually, while using limited space.

- at any time  $\mathbf{t}$  we should be able to query the function value on the stream seen so far, i.e.,  $\mathbf{a}_{[1..t]}$ .



# Examples

$S = 3, 1, 17, 4, -9, 32, 101, 3, -722, 3, 900, 4, 32, \dots$

## Computing Sum

$$F(a_{[1..t]}) = \sum_{i=1}^t a_i$$

Outputs are: 3, 4, 21, 25, 16, 48, 149, 152, -570, ...

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Keep a counter, and keep adding to it.

After **T** rounds, the number can be at most  **$T2^b$** .  **$O(b + \log T)$**  space.

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# distinct elements? also tricky!

# Streaming Algorithms: Framework

⟨Initialize summary information⟩

While stream **S** is not done

**x**  $\leftarrow$  next element in **S**

⟨Do something with **x** and update summary information⟩

⟨Output something if needed⟩

Return ⟨summary⟩



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Despite of restrictions, we can compute interesting functions  
if we can tolerate some error.

# Streaming Algorithms: One-sided Error

## No false negative

Anything that needs to be considered/counted should be counted.

## There may be false positive

We may over count. That is we may consider/count something that shouldn't have been counted.

# Part I

## Heavy Hitters

# Finding the Majority Element

Find the element that occur strictly more than half the time, if any.

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**E, D, B, D, D<sub>5</sub>, D, B, B, B, B, B<sub>11</sub>, E, E, E, E, E<sub>16</sub>**

- At time **5**, it is **D**.
- At time **11**, it is **B**
- At time **16**, none!

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Find the element that accrue strictly more than half the time, if any.

## R. Boyer and J. S. Moore Algorithm

Initialize:  $\text{mem} = \emptyset$  and  $\text{counter} = 0$

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Even if no majority element, something is returned – False positive.

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Return  $\text{mem}$ .

**E, D, B, D, D<sub>5</sub>, D, B, B, B, B, B<sub>11</sub>, E, E, E, E, E<sub>16</sub>**

$a_t$	E	D	B	D	D	D	B	B	B	B	B	...
mem	E	E	B	B	D	D	D	D	B	B	B	...
counter	1	0	1	0	1	2	1	0	1	2	3	...

# Finding a Majority Element

Correctness, if majority element

## Lemma

*If there is a majority element, the algorithm will output it.*

## Proof.

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- We do this every time  $a_t$  is different than mem, and there are less than half such  $a_t$ .
- Even if we are throwing away the majority element every time, since they are more than half all cannot be thrown away.





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In fact at any time  $t$ , mem contains majority element of sub-stream  $a_{[1..t]}$ , if any.

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## Gang war interpretation!

Every element is a gang member. When we have two members from different gangs, they shoot each other.

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Every element is a gang member. When we have two members from different gangs, they shoot each other.

If there is a gang with more than  $n/2$  members, that will be the only one whose members will survive!

# $\epsilon$ -Heavy Hitters

## Definition

Given a stream  $\mathbf{S} = \mathbf{a}_1, \mathbf{a}_2, \dots$ , define count of element  $\mathbf{e}$  at any time  $\mathbf{t}$  to be

$$\text{count}_t(\mathbf{e}) = |\{i \leq t \mid \mathbf{a}_i = \mathbf{e}\}|$$

It is called  $\epsilon$ -heavy hitter at time  $\mathbf{t}$  if  $\text{count}_t(\mathbf{e}) > \epsilon t$ .

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## Goal:

Maintain a structure containing all the  $\epsilon$ -heavy hitters so far.  
At any point there are at most  $1/\epsilon$  such elements.

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**Crucial Note:** false positive are OK, but no false negative

We are NOT allowed to miss any heavy-hitters, but we could store non-heavy-hitters.

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**1/3**-heavy hitters

- At time **5**, it is **D**.
- At time **11**, both **B** and **D**.
- At time **15**, none!
- At time **16**, it is **E**.

As time passes, the set of heavy hitters may change completely.



# $\epsilon$ -Heavy Hitters: Algorithm

If  $\epsilon = 1/2$  then the majority element!

Set  $k = \lceil 1/\epsilon \rceil - 1$ . (if  $\epsilon = 1/2$  then  $k = 1$ )

## Algorithm

Keep an array  $T[1, \dots, k]$  to hold elements

Keep an array  $C[1, \dots, k]$  to hold their counters

Initialize:  $C[j] = 0$  and  $T[j] = \emptyset$  for all  $i$ .

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Same as the *Majority algorithm* for  $\epsilon = 1/2$ .

# $\epsilon$ -Heavy Hitters

## Algorithm Analysis

At any time  $t$ , our estimates are:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{est}_t(\mathbf{e}) &= \mathbf{C}[j] && \text{if } \mathbf{e} = \mathbf{T}[j] \\ &= 0 && \text{otherwise} \end{aligned}$$

### Lemma

*Estimates satisfy:  $\text{est}_t(\mathbf{e}) \leq \text{count}_t(\mathbf{e}) \leq \text{est}_t(\mathbf{e}) + \epsilon t$*

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If  $\mathbf{e}$  is not an  $\epsilon$ -heavy hitter then  $\text{count}_t(\mathbf{e}) \leq \epsilon t$ , and hence  $\text{est}_t(\mathbf{e}) = 0$  is correct up to  $\epsilon t$  error.

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### Corollary

*For any time  $\mathbf{t}$ ,  $\mathbf{T}$  contains all the  $\epsilon$ -heavy hitters in  $\mathbf{a}_{[1..\mathbf{t}]}$ .*

### Proof.

If  $\mathbf{e}$  is a heavy hitter at time  $\mathbf{t}$  then  $\text{count}_{\mathbf{t}}(\mathbf{e}) > \epsilon \mathbf{t}$ .

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$$\text{est}_{\mathbf{t}}(\mathbf{e}) \geq \text{count}_{\mathbf{t}}(\mathbf{e}) - \epsilon \mathbf{t}$$

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Counter for  $\mathbf{e}$  increases only when we see  $\mathbf{e}$ ,  $\therefore \text{est}_t(\mathbf{e}) \leq \text{count}_t(\mathbf{e})$ .

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 $\text{count}_t(\mathbf{e}) - \text{est}_t(\mathbf{e})$  increases by one,

- when we decrease all  $k$  counters, and see an element outside  $\mathbf{T}$
- this is like discarding  $k + 1$  elements.
- up to time  $t$ , we have only  $t$  elements to discard

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Estimates satisfy:  $0 \leq \text{count}_t(\mathbf{e}) - \text{est}_t(\mathbf{e}) \leq \frac{t}{k+1} \leq \epsilon t$

### Proof.

Counter for  $\mathbf{e}$  increases only when we see  $\mathbf{e}$ ,  $\therefore \text{est}_t(\mathbf{e}) \leq \text{count}_t(\mathbf{e})$ .  
 $\text{count}_t(\mathbf{e}) - \text{est}_t(\mathbf{e})$  increases by one,

- when we decrease all  $k$  counters, and see an element outside  $\mathbf{T}$
- this is like discarding  $k + 1$  elements.
- up to time  $t$ , we have only  $t$  elements to discard

So at most  $t/(k + 1)$  such increases. □



# $\epsilon$ -Heavy Hitters: Algorithm

## Space usage

Set  $k = \lceil 1/\epsilon \rceil - 1$ . (if  $\epsilon = 1/2$  then  $k = 1$ )

## Algorithm

Keep an array  $T[1, \dots, k]$  to hold elements

Keep an array  $C[1, \dots, k]$  to hold their counters

$\vdots$

Maintains  $O(1/\epsilon)$  counters and elements.

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$O(\log t)$  for each counter.  $O(\log \Sigma)$  for each element, where  $\Sigma$  is the description of largest element.

Total:  $O(1/\epsilon(\log t + \log \Sigma))$ .

Recall: maintains counts for all elements up to  $\epsilon t$  error.

# Part II

## Use of Hash Functions

# Maintaining Counts

## Problem Statement:

At any time  $t$ , given an element  $e$ , estimate the number of times an  $e$  appeared so far.

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It takes  $O(1/\epsilon(\log t + \log \Sigma))$  space.

Can we do better?

Yes – Bloom filter like idea



# Recall: Bloom Filter

## Storage for inserts and lookups

Sample hash functions  $h_1, \dots, h_d$  independently and uniformly at random.

Insert( $e$ )

For  $i = 1 \dots d$

Set  $T_i[h_i(e)] \leftarrow 1$

Lookup( $e$ )

For  $i = 1 \dots d$

If ( $T_i[h_i(e)] == 0$ ) then return “No”

Return “Yes”

If  $e$  inserted, then Lookup( $e$ ) will always return “Yes”.

# Recall: Bloom Filter

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Return “Yes”

If  $\mathbf{e}$  inserted, then Lookup( $\mathbf{e}$ ) will always return “Yes”.

$\mathbf{e}$  not inserted, but still it can return “Yes” with very low probability.

- Due to some  $\mathbf{e'}$ 's being inserted with  $\mathbf{h_i(e') = h_i(e)}$ .
- If  $\mathbf{Pr[e \text{ not inserted and } T_i[h_i(e)] = 1] \leq \alpha}$ , then combined error probability would be at most  $\mathbf{\alpha^d}$ .

# Count Min-Sketch

By G. Cormode and S. M. Muthukrishnan'05

Keep  $d$  arrays  $C_1, \dots, C_d$ , each to hold  $m$  counters.

$\mathcal{H}$ : **2-universal family** of hash functions  $h : U \rightarrow \{0, \dots, m-1\}$ .  
Sample  $h_1, \dots, h_d$  independently and uniformly at random from  $\mathcal{H}$ .

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CMInsert( $e$ )

For  $i = 1 \dots d$

Do  $C_i[h_i(e)] ++$

CMEstimate( $e$ )

$est \leftarrow \infty$

For  $i = 1 \dots d$

$est \leftarrow \min\{est, C_i[h_i(e)]\}$

Return  $est$

As element  $a_t$  arrives at time  $t$ , call CMInsert( $a_t$ ).

To get count of  $e$  at any time  $t$ , call CMEstimate( $e$ ).

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For **i** = 1...**d**

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Return **est**

At time **t**, let  $\text{est}_t(\mathbf{e}) = \text{CMEstimate}(\mathbf{e})$ .

Observation:  $\text{est}_t(\mathbf{e}) \geq \text{count}_t(\mathbf{e})$ .

Question: How big  $(\text{est}_t(\mathbf{e}) - \text{count}_t(\mathbf{e}))$  can be?

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Recall: Any  $\mathbf{e}, \mathbf{y} \in \mathbf{U}$ , if  $\mathbf{e} \neq \mathbf{y}$  then  $\Pr[h_i(\mathbf{y}) = h_i(\mathbf{e})] = \frac{1}{m} \forall i$ .

# Count Min-Sketch: Analysis

By G. Cormode and S. M. Muthukrishnan'05

For simplicity let  $\mathbf{f}'_e = \text{est}_t(\mathbf{e})$  and  $\mathbf{f}_e = \text{count}_t(\mathbf{e})$ . Bound  $\mathbf{f}'_e - \mathbf{f}_e$ .

Observations:

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Observations:

Define indicator variable  $\mathbf{X}_{i,e,y} = [\mathbf{h}_i(y) = \mathbf{h}_i(\mathbf{e})]$ .

$$\mathbf{E}[\mathbf{X}_{i,e,y}] = \Pr[\mathbf{h}_i(y) = \mathbf{h}_i(\mathbf{e})] = 1/m$$



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Let  $\mathbf{X}_{i,e} := \sum_{y \neq \mathbf{e}} \mathbf{X}_{i,e,y} \mathbf{f}_y$  be the total over counting at  $\mathbf{C}_i[\mathbf{h}_i(\mathbf{e})]$ .

$$\mathbf{C}_i[\mathbf{h}_i(\mathbf{e})] = \mathbf{X}_{i,e} + \mathbf{f}_e$$

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and since at most  $t$  elements have arrived so far,

$$\mathbf{E}[\mathbf{X}_{i,e}] = \sum_{y \neq \mathbf{e}} \mathbf{E}[\mathbf{X}_{i,e,y}] \mathbf{f}_y = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{y \neq \mathbf{e}} \mathbf{f}_y \leq \frac{t}{m}$$

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$$C_i[h_i(e)] = X_{i,e} + f_e \text{ and } \mathbf{E}[X_{i,e}] \leq \frac{t}{m}.$$

For  $\epsilon > 0$

$$\Pr[C_i[h_i(e)] - f_e \geq \epsilon t] = \Pr[X_{i,e} \geq \epsilon t] \quad [\text{definition}]$$

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Recall:  $f'_e = \text{est}_t(e) = \min_{i=1}^d C_i[h_i(e)]$ .

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# Count Min-Sketch: Analysis

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$$\Pr[\text{est}_t(\mathbf{e}) - \text{count}_t(\mathbf{e}) \geq \epsilon t] \leq \left(\frac{1}{\epsilon m}\right)^d$$

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$$\Pr[\text{est}_t(\mathbf{e}) - \text{count}_t(\mathbf{e}) \geq \epsilon t] \leq \left( \frac{1}{\epsilon m} \right)^d$$

Set  $m = \lceil 2/\epsilon \rceil$  and  $d = \lceil \lg 1/\delta \rceil$  gives us

$$\Pr[\text{est}_t(\mathbf{e}) - \text{count}_t(\mathbf{e}) \geq \epsilon t] \leq \delta$$

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Space:  $m * d$  counters each of size  $\lg(t) = O(\frac{1}{\epsilon} \lg 1/\delta \lg t)$ .

# Count Min-Sketch: Analysis

By G. Cormode and S. M. Muthukrishnan'05

## Lemma

*Given  $\epsilon, \delta > 0$ , we can estimate  $\text{count}_t(\mathbf{e})$ , at any time  $t$  for any element  $\mathbf{e}$ , up to  $\epsilon t$  error with probability at least  $(1 - \delta)$  using  $O(\frac{1}{\epsilon} \lg 1/\delta)$  many counters.*