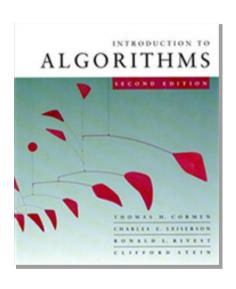
# Introduction to Algorithms 6.046J/18.401J



#### LECTURE 13

### **Amortized Analysis**

- Dynamic tables
- Aggregate method
- Accounting method
- Potential method

#### Prof. Charles E. Leiserson



### How large should a hash table be? 洲洲社员

Goal: Make the table as small as possible, but large enough so that it won't overflow (or otherwise become inefficient).

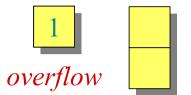
**Problem:** What if we don't know the proper size in advance?

Solution: Dynamic tables.

**IDEA:** Whenever the table overflows, "grow" it by allocating (via malloc or new) a new, larger table. Move all items from the old table into the new one, and free the storage for the old table.

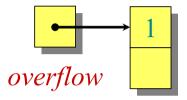


- 1. Insert
- 2. Insert





- 1. Insert
- 2. Insert





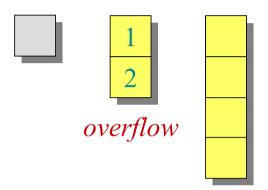
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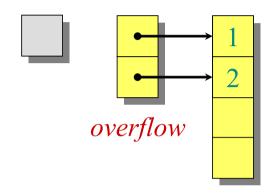


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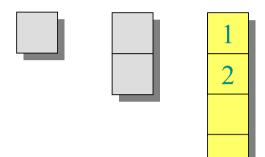


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- 4. Insert



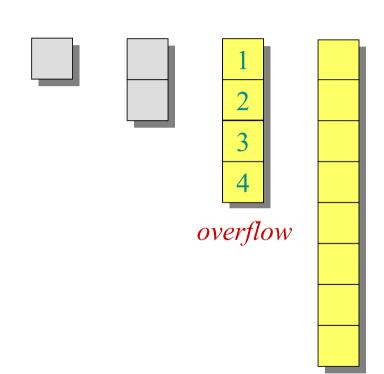




- 3
- 4

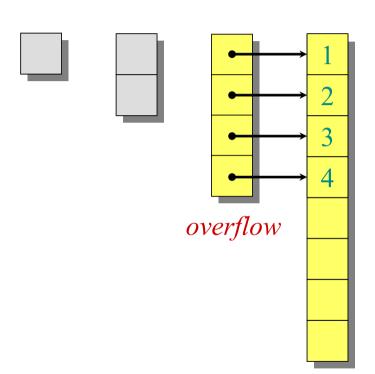


- 1. Insert
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- 3. Insert
- 4. INSERT
- 5. Insert





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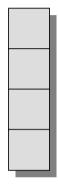




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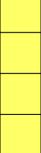






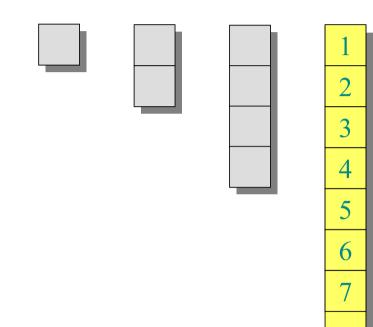








- 1. Insert
- 2. Insert
- 3. Insert
- 4. Insert
- 5. Insert
- 6. Insert
- 7. Insert





## Worst-case analysis

Consider a sequence of n insertions. The worst-case time to execute one insertion is  $\Theta(n)$ . Therefore, the worst-case time for n insertions is  $n \cdot \Theta(n) = \Theta(n^2)$ .

**WRONG!** In fact, the worst-case cost for n insertions is only  $\Theta(n) \ll \Theta(n^2)$ .

Let's see why.



## Tighter analysis

Let  $c_i$  = the cost of the *i*th insertion =  $\begin{cases} i & \text{if } i-1 \text{ is an exact power of 2,} \\ 1 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$ 

i	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
size <sub>i</sub>	1	2	4	4	8	8	8	8	16	16
$c_i$	1	2	3	1	5	1	1	1	9	1



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	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
$c_i$		1	2		4				8	



# Tighter analysis (continued)

Cost of *n* insertions = 
$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} c_{i}$$

$$\leq n + \sum_{j=0}^{\lfloor \lg(n-1) \rfloor} 2^{j}$$

$$\leq 3n$$

$$= \Theta(n).$$

Thus, the average cost of each dynamic-table operation is  $\Theta(n)/n = \Theta(1)$ .



## Amortized analysis

An *amortized analysis* is any strategy for analyzing a sequence of operations to show that the average cost per operation is small, even though a single operation within the sequence might be expensive.

Even though we're taking averages, however, probability is not involved!

• An amortized analysis guarantees the average performance of each operation in the *worst case*.



# Types of amortized analyses

Three common amortization arguments:

- the *aggregate* method,
- the *accounting* method,
- the *potential* method.

We've just seen an aggregate analysis.

The aggregate method, though simple, lacks the precision of the other two methods. In particular, the accounting and potential methods allow a specific amortized cost to be allocated to each operation.

October 31, 2005



# Accounting method

- Charge *i* th operation a fictitious *amortized cost*  $\hat{c}_i$ , where \$1 pays for 1 unit of work (*i.e.*, time).
- This fee is consumed to perform the operation.
- Any amount not immediately consumed is stored in the *bank* for use by subsequent operations.
- The bank balance must not go negative! We must ensure that

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} c_i \le \sum_{i=1}^{n} \hat{c}_i$$

for all n.

• Thus, the total amortized costs provide an upper bound on the total true costs.



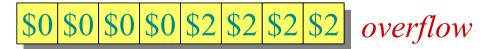
# Accounting analysis of dynamic tables

Charge an amortized cost of  $\hat{c}_i = \$3$  for the *i*th insertion.

- \$1 pays for the immediate insertion.
- \$2 is stored for later table doubling.

When the table doubles, \$1 pays to move a recent item, and \$1 pays to move an old item.

### **Example:**





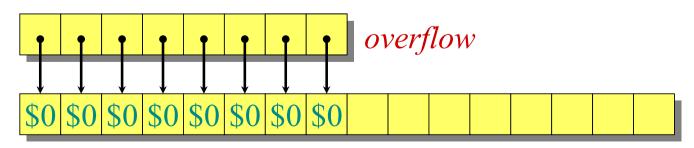
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#### **Example:**







# Accounting analysis (continued)

**Key invariant:** Bank balance never drops below 0. Thus, the sum of the amortized costs provides an upper bound on the sum of the true costs.

i	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
size <sub>i</sub>	1	2	4	4	8	8	8	8	16	16
$c_i$	1	2	3	1	5	1	1	1	9	1
$\hat{c}_i$	2*	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
$i$ $size_i$ $c_i$ $\hat{c}_i$ $bank_i$	1	2	2	4	2	4	6	8	2	4

<sup>\*</sup>Okay, so I lied. The first operation costs only \$2, not \$3.



## Potential method

**IDEA:** View the bank account as the potential energy (à la physics) of the dynamic set.

#### Framework:

- Start with an initial data structure  $D_0$ .
- Operation *i* transforms  $D_{i-1}$  to  $D_i$ .
- The cost of operation i is  $c_i$ .
- Define a *potential function*  $\Phi : \{D_i\} \to \mathbb{R}$ , such that  $\Phi(D_0) = 0$  and  $\Phi(D_i) \ge 0$  for all i.
- The *amortized cost*  $\hat{c}_i$  with respect to  $\Phi$  is defined to be  $\hat{c}_i = c_i + \Phi(D_i) \Phi(D_{i-1})$ .



## Understanding potentials

$$\hat{c}_{i} = c_{i} + \Phi(D_{i}) - \Phi(D_{i-1})$$
potential difference  $\Delta \Phi_{i}$ 

- If  $\Delta \Phi_i > 0$ , then  $\hat{c}_i > c_i$ . Operation *i* stores work in the data structure for later use.
- If  $\Delta\Phi_i < 0$ , then  $\hat{c}_i < c_i$ . The data structure delivers up stored work to help pay for operation i.



## The amortized costs bound the true costs

The total amortized cost of n operations is

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} \hat{c}_{i} = \sum_{i=1}^{n} (c_{i} + \Phi(D_{i}) - \Phi(D_{i-1}))$$

Summing both sides.



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$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} \hat{c}_{i} = \sum_{i=1}^{n} (c_{i} + \Phi(D_{i}) - \Phi(D_{i-1}))$$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^{n} c_{i} + \Phi(D_{n}) - \Phi(D_{0})$$

The series telescopes.



# The amortized costs bound the true costs

The total amortized cost of n operations is

$$\begin{split} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \hat{c}_{i} &= \sum_{i=1}^{n} \left( c_{i} + \Phi(D_{i}) - \Phi(D_{i-1}) \right) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^{n} c_{i} + \Phi(D_{n}) - \Phi(D_{0}) \\ &\geq \sum_{i=1}^{n} c_{i} \quad \text{since } \Phi(D_{n}) \geq 0 \text{ and } \\ &\Phi(D_{0}) = 0. \end{split}$$



# Potential analysis of table doubling

Define the potential of the table after the ith insertion by  $\Phi(D_i) = 2i - 2^{\lceil \lg i \rceil}$ . (Assume that  $2^{\lceil \lg 0 \rceil} = 0$ .)

#### Note:

- $\Phi(D_0) = 0$ ,
- $\Phi(D_i) \ge 0$  for all i.

### **Example:**

$$\Phi = 2 \cdot 6 - 2^3 = 4$$

accounting method)



## Calculation of amortized costs

The amortized cost of the *i*th insertion is

$$\hat{c}_i = c_i + \Phi(D_i) - \Phi(D_{i-1})$$



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$$+ 2 - 2^{\lceil \lg i \rceil} + 2^{\lceil \lg (i-1) \rceil}.$$



Case 1: i - 1 is an exact power of 2.

$$\hat{c}_i = i + 2 - 2^{\lceil \lg i \rceil} + 2^{\lceil \lg (i-1) \rceil}$$



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=  $i + 2 - 2(i-1) + (i-1)$ 



Case 1: i-1 is an exact power of 2.

$$\hat{c}_i = i + 2 - 2^{\lceil \lg i \rceil} + 2^{\lceil \lg (i-1) \rceil}$$

$$= i + 2 - 2(i-1) + (i-1)$$

$$= i + 2 - 2i + 2 + i - 1$$



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Case 2: i - 1 is *not* an exact power of 2.

$$\hat{c}_i = 1 + 2 - 2^{\lceil \lg i \rceil} + 2^{\lceil \lg (i-1) \rceil}$$



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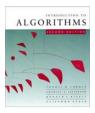
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Case 2: i - 1 is *not* an exact power of 2.

$$\hat{c}_i = 1 + 2 - 2^{\lceil \lg i \rceil} + 2^{\lceil \lg (i-1) \rceil}$$

$$= 3 \qquad (\text{since } 2^{\lceil \lg i \rceil} = 2^{\lceil \lg (i-1) \rceil})$$



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Therefore, *n* insertions cost  $\Theta(n)$  in the worst case.



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Therefore, *n* insertions cost  $\Theta(n)$  in the worst case.

**Exercise:** Fix the bug in this analysis to show that the amortized cost of the first insertion is only 2.



### **Conclusions**

- Amortized costs can provide a clean abstraction of data-structure performance.
- Any of the analysis methods can be used when an amortized analysis is called for, but each method has some situations where it is arguably the simplest or most precise.
- Different schemes may work for assigning amortized costs in the accounting method, or potentials in the potential method, sometimes yielding radically different bounds.