

# Streaming - 2

Bloom Filters, Distinct Item counting, Computing moments

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  - **(2) Counting distinct elements: Flajolet-Martin**
    - Number of distinct elements in the last  $k$  elements of the stream
  - **(3) Estimating moments: AMS method**
    - Estimate std. dev. of last  $k$  elements

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- Given a list of keys  $S$
- Determine which tuples of stream are in  $S$
- **Obvious solution:** Hash table
  - But suppose we **do not have enough memory** to store all of  $S$  in a hash table
    - E.g., we might be processing millions of filters on the same stream

# Applications

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- **Publish-subscribe systems**
  - You are collecting lots of messages (news articles)
  - People express interest in certain sets of keywords
  - Determine whether each message matches user’s interest

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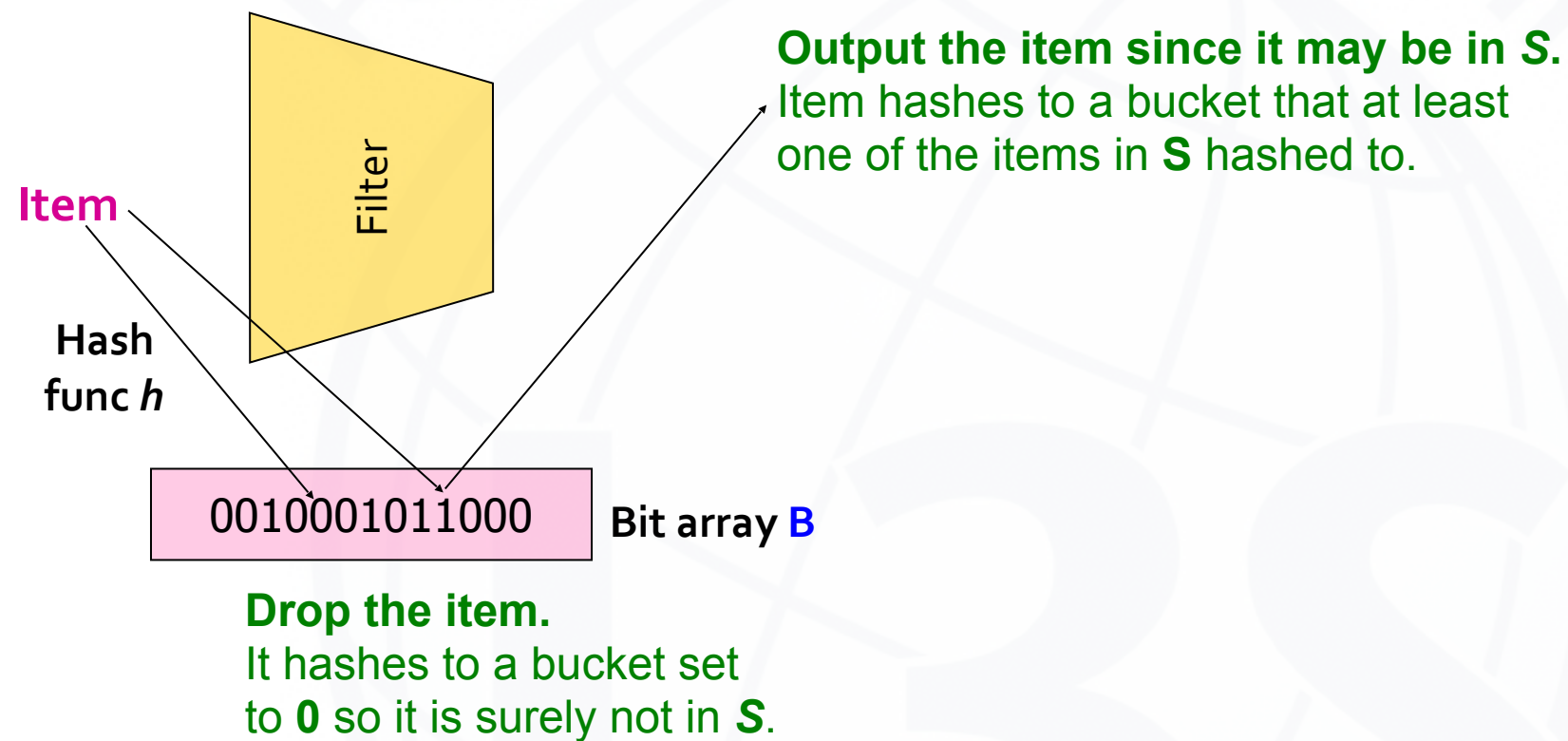
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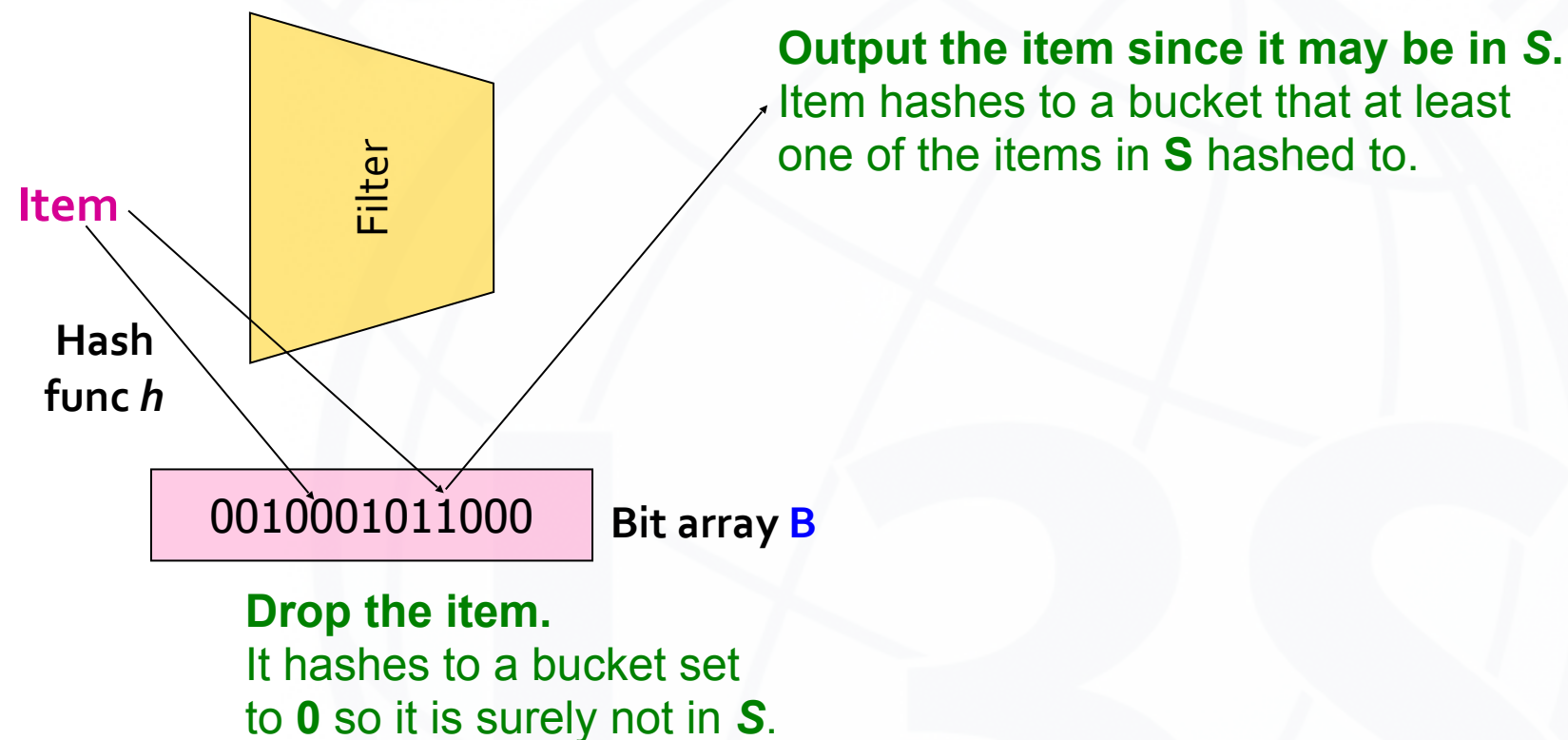
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- Hash each element  $a$  of the stream and output only those that hash to bit that was set to 1
  - Output  $a$  if  $B[h(a)] == 1$

# First Cut Solution (2)



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- **Creates false positives but no false negatives**
  - If the item is in  **$S$**  we surely output it, if not we may still output it

# First Cut Solution (3)

- $|S| = 1$  billion email addresses  
 $|B| = 1\text{GB} = 8$  billion bits
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- If the email address is in  $S$ , then it surely hashes to a bucket that has the bit set to **1**,  
so it always gets through (*no false negatives*)
- Approximately  $1/8$  of the bits are set to **1**, so about  $1/8^{\text{th}}$  of the addresses not in  $S$  get through to the output (*false positives*)
  - Actually, less than  $1/8^{\text{th}}$ , because more than one address might hash to the same bit

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- **Consider:** If we throw  $m$  balls into  $n$  equally likely bins, **what is the probability that a bin gets at least one ball?**
- **In our case:**
  - **Targets** = bits/bins
  - **balls** = hash values of items

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$$(1 - 1/n)$$

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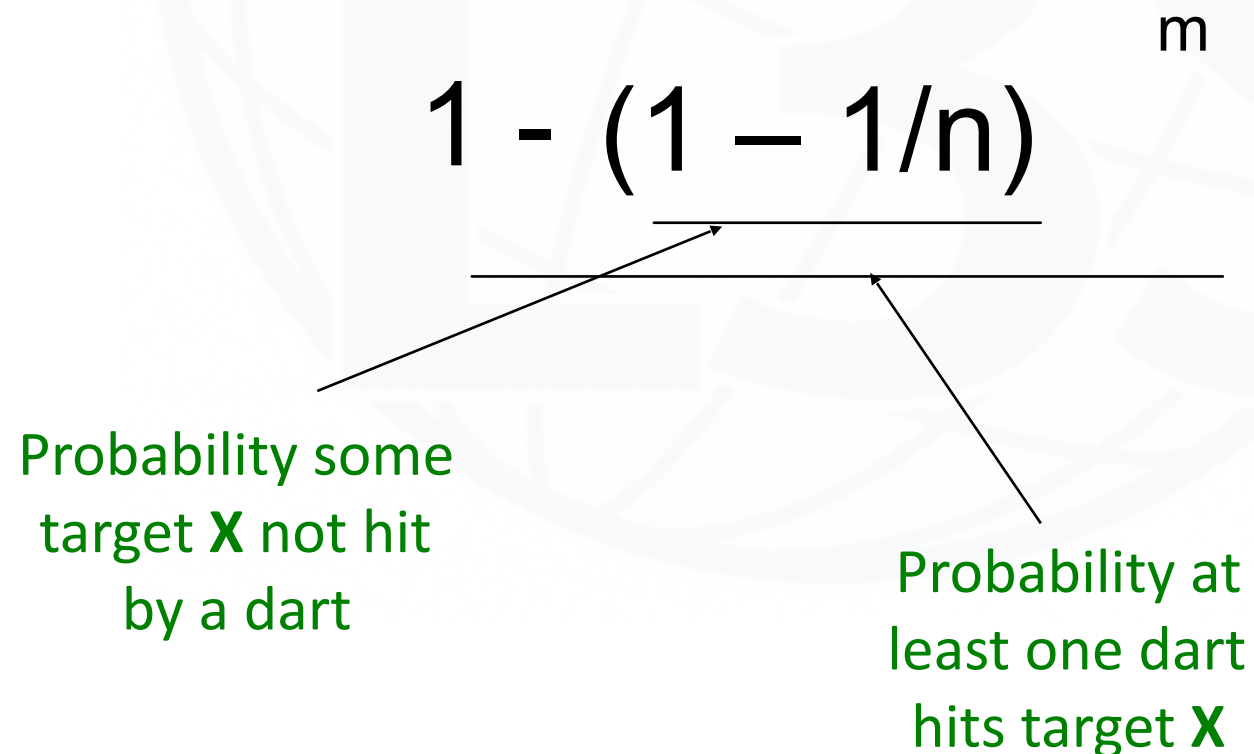
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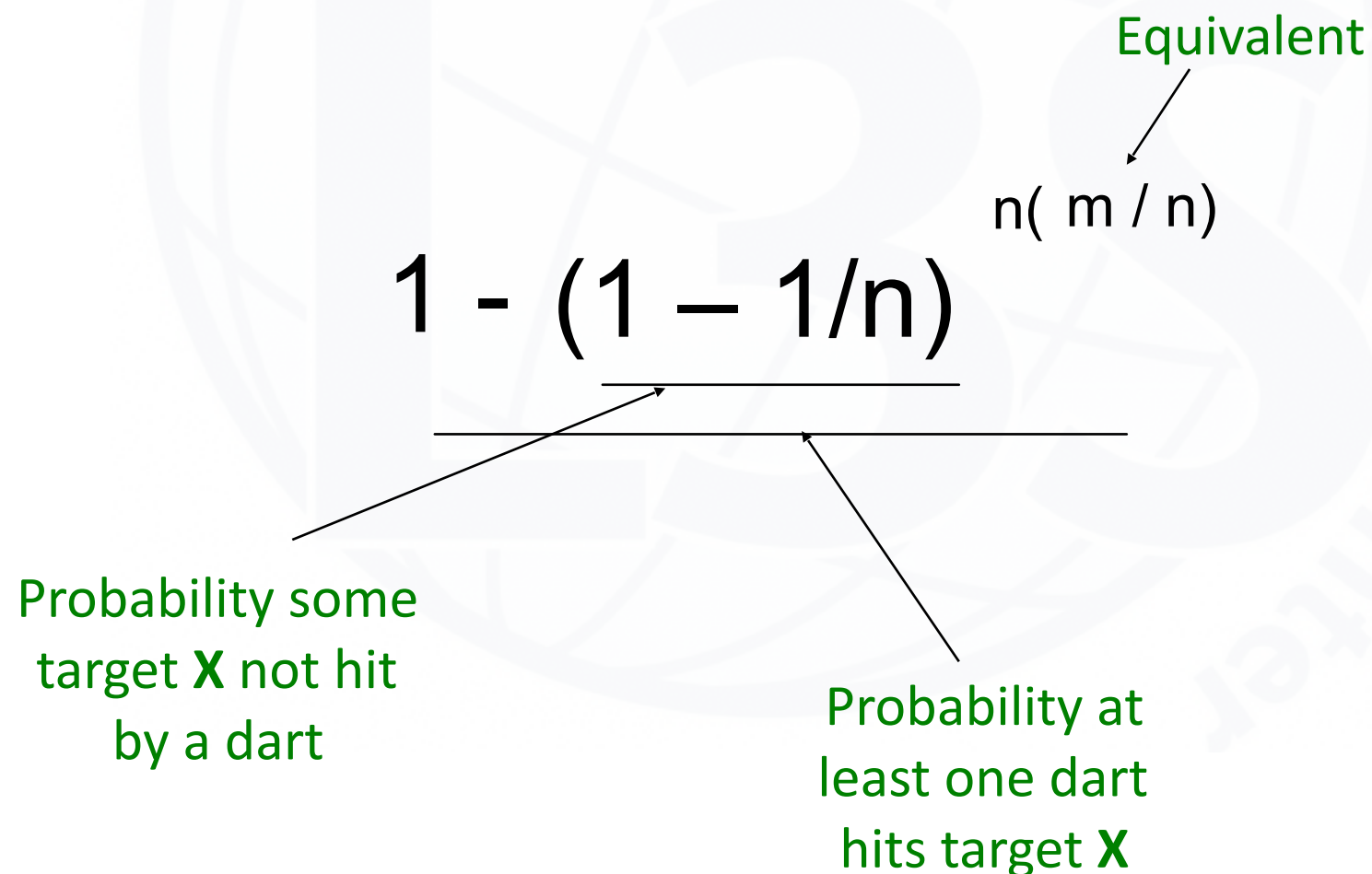
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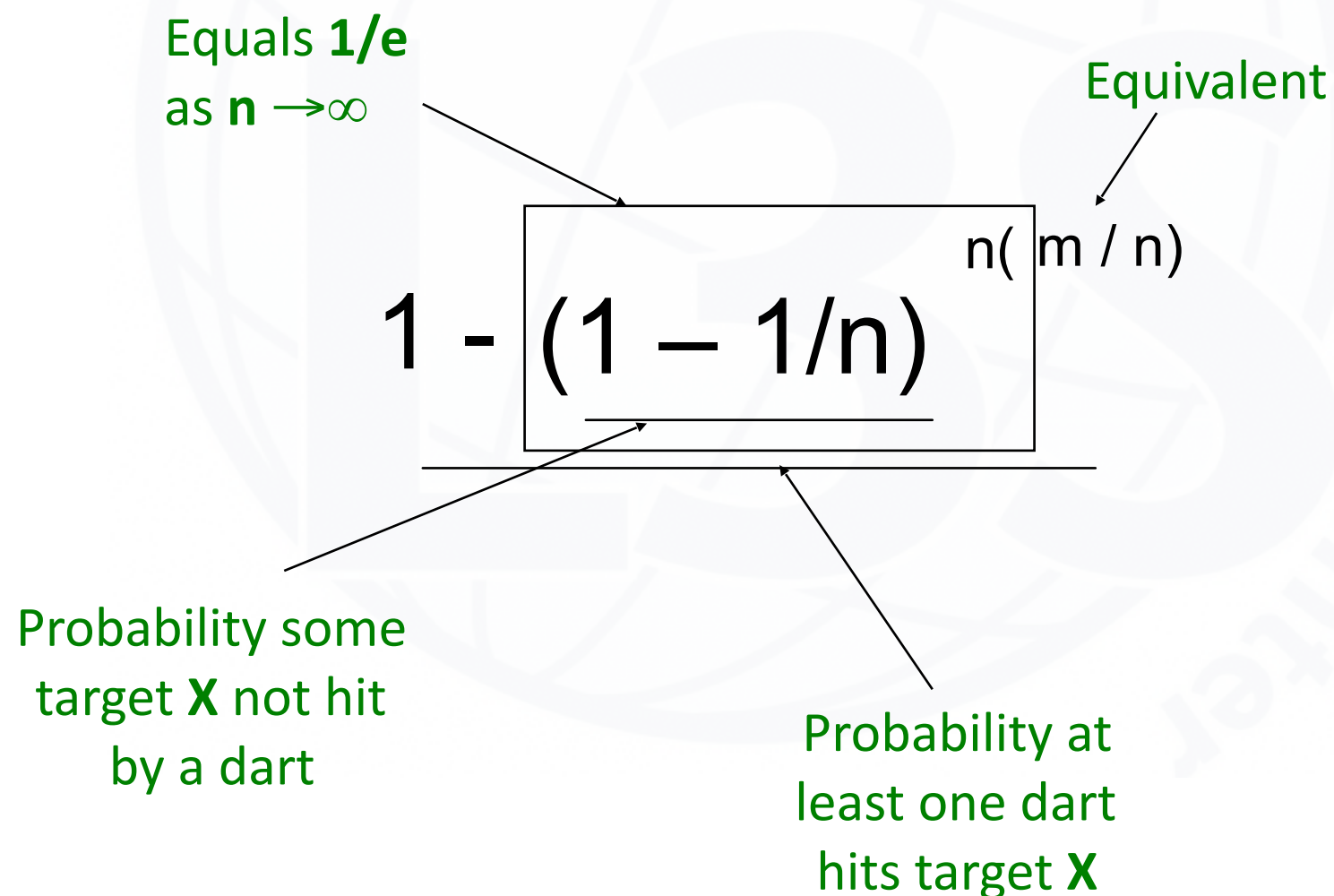
Equals  $1/e$   
as  $n \rightarrow \infty$

Equivalent

$$1 - (1 - 1/n)^{n(m/n)}$$

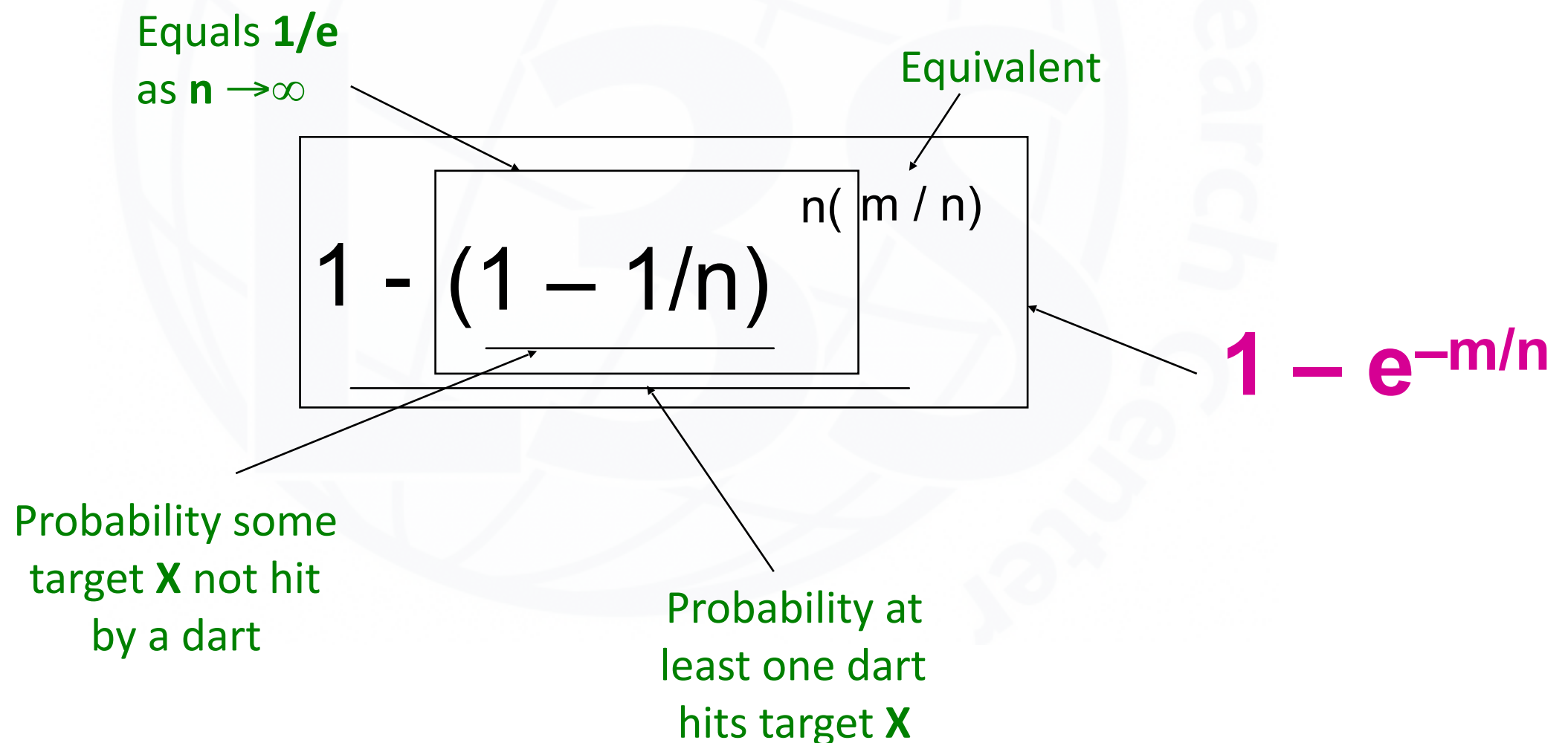
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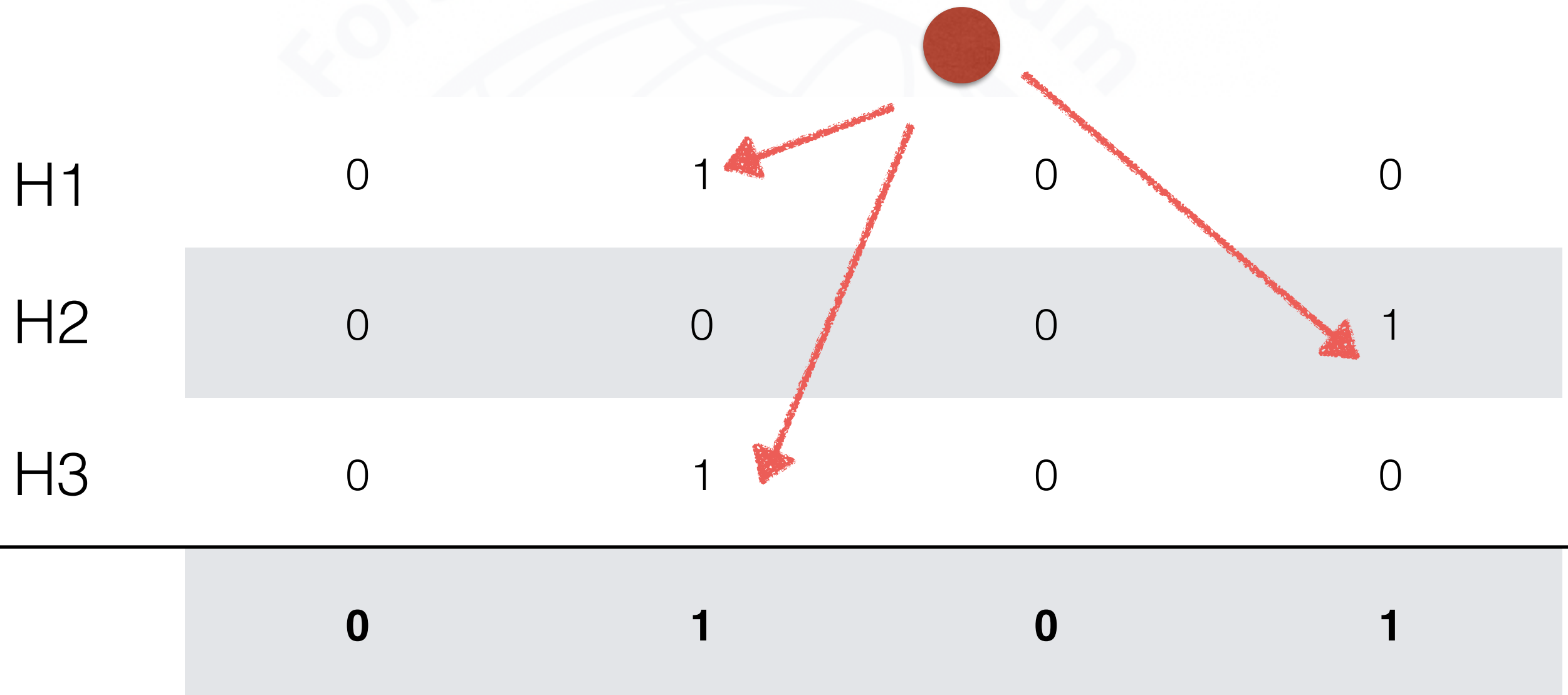
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- **Example:  $10^9$  balls,  $8 \cdot 10^9$  bins**
  - Fraction of 1s in B =  $1 - e^{-1/8} = 0.1175$
  - Compare with our earlier estimate:  $1/8 = 0.125$

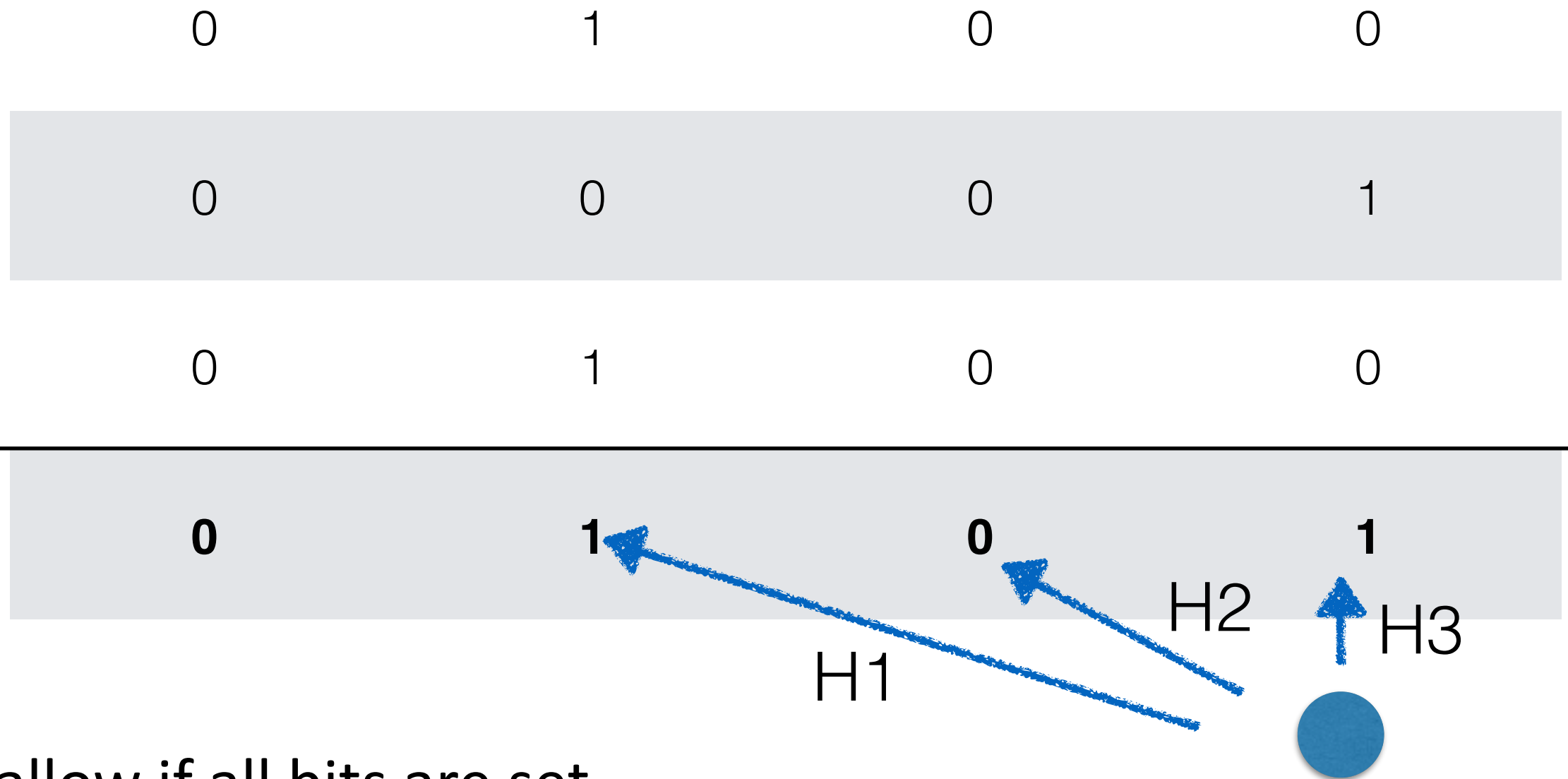


# Multiple Hash Functions



Final Array is the union of all bins

# Multiple Hash Functions



Only allow if all bits are set

# Bloom Filter

- Consider:  $|S| = m, |B| = n$
- Use  $k$  independent hash functions  $h_1, \dots, h_k$

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- **Run-time:**
  - When a stream element with key  $x$  arrives
    - If  $B[h_i(x)] = 1$  for all  $i = 1, \dots, k$  then declare that  $x$  is in  $S$ 
      - That is,  $x$  hashes to a bucket set to **1** for every hash function  $h_i(x)$
    - Otherwise discard the element  $x$

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- So, false positive probability =  $(1 - e^{-km/n})^k$

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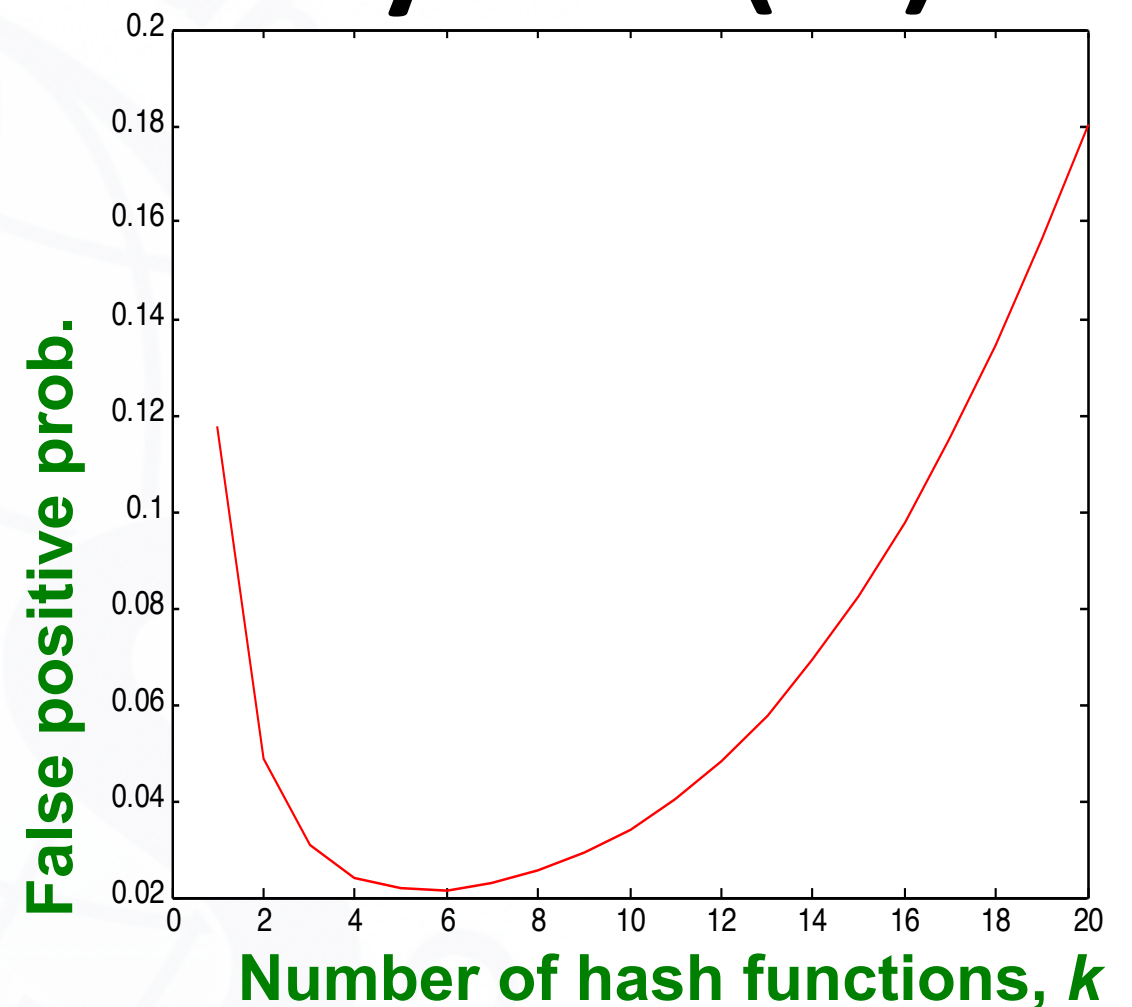
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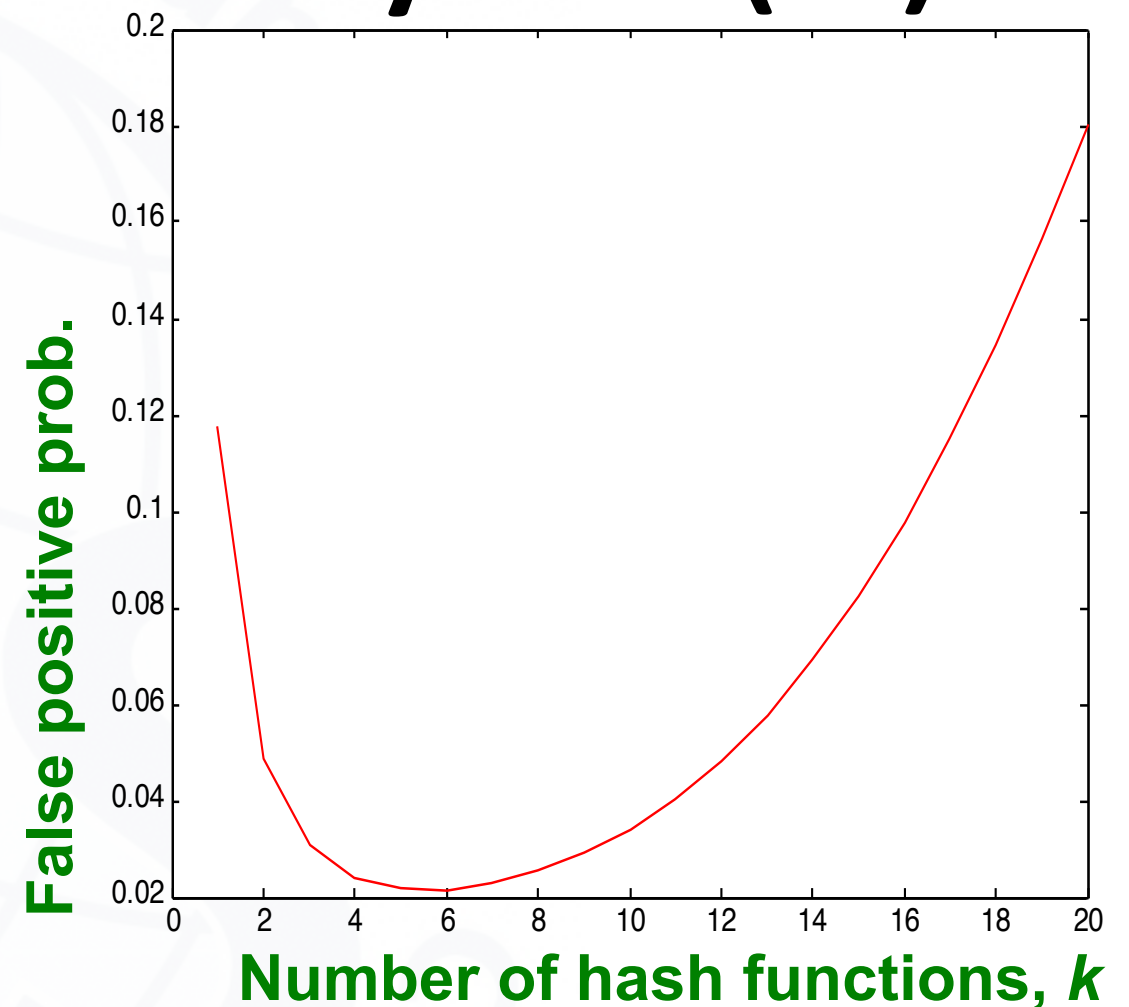
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- “Optimal” value of  **$k$** :  **$n/m \ln(2)$** 
  - **In our case:** Optimal  **$k = 8 \ln(2) = 5.54 \approx 6$** 
    - **Error at  $k = 6$ :  $(1 - e^{-1/6})^2 = 0.0235$**



# Bloom Filter: Wrap-up

- **Bloom filters guarantee no false negatives, and use limited memory**
  - Great for pre-processing before more expensive checks
- **Suitable for hardware implementation**
  - Hash function computations can be parallelized
- Is it better to have **1 big B** or **k small Bs**?
  - It is the same:  $(1 - e^{-km/n})^k$  vs.  $(1 - e^{-m/(n/k)})^k$
  - But keeping **1 big B** is simpler

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- **Obvious approach:**

Maintain the set of elements seen so far

  - That is, keep a hash table of all the distinct elements seen so far

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- **How many distinct products have we sold in the last week?**

# Using Small Storage

- Real problem: **What if we do not have space to maintain the set of elements seen so far?**
- **Estimate the count in an unbiased way**
- **Accept that the count may have a little error, but limit the probability that the error is large**

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- Estimated number of distinct elements =  $2^R$

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  - **So, it takes to hash about  $2^r$  items before we see one with zero-suffix of length  $r$**



# Why It Works: More formally

- Now we show why Flajolet-Martin works
- Formally, we will show that **probability of finding a tail of  $r$  zeros:**
  - Goes to **1** if  $m \gg 2^r$
  - Goes to **0** if  $m \ll 2^r$
- where  $m$  is the number of distinct elements seen so far in the stream
- Thus,  $2^R$  will almost always be around  $m$ !

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- What is the probability that a given  $h(a)$  ends in at least  $r$  zeros is  $2^{-r}$ 
  - $h(a)$  hashes elements uniformly at random
  - Probability that a random number ends in at least  $r$  zeros is  $2^{-r}$
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  - If  $m \gg 2^r$ , then prob. tends to **0**
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    - So, the probability of finding a tail of length  $r$  tends to **1**
- **Thus,  $2^R$  will almost always be around  $m$ !**

# Why It Doesn't Work





# Why It Doesn't Work

- **$E[2^R]$  is actually infinite**
  - Probability halves when  $R \rightarrow R+1$ , but value doubles
- **Workaround involves using many hash functions  $h_i$  and getting many samples of  $R_i$**
- **How are samples  $R_i$  combined?**
  - **Average?** What if one very large value  $2^{R_i}$ ?
  - **Median?** All estimates are a power of 2
  - **Solution:**
    - Partition your samples into small groups
    - Take the median of groups
    - Then take the average of the medians



# Generalization: Moments

- Suppose a stream has elements chosen from a set  $A$  of  $N$  values
- Let  $m_i$  be the number of times value  $i$  occurs in the stream
- The  $k^{\text{th}}$  *moment* is  $\sum_{i \in A} (m_i)^k$

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- **1<sup>st</sup> moment** = count of the numbers of elements = length of the stream
  - Easy to compute

# Special Cases

$$\sum_{i \in A} (m_i)^k$$

- **0<sup>th</sup> moment** = number of distinct elements
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- **1<sup>st</sup> moment** = count of the numbers of elements = length of the stream
  - Easy to compute
- **2<sup>nd</sup> moment** = *surprise number S* = a measure of how uneven the distribution is

# Example: Surprise Number

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- **11 distinct values**



# Example: Surprise Number

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- Item counts: **10, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9** **Surprise  $S = 910$**

# Example: Surprise Number

- **Stream of length 100**
- **11 distinct values**
- Item counts: **10, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9** **Surprise  $S = 910$**
- Item counts: **90, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1** **Surprise  $S = 8,110$**

# AMS Method



# AMS Method

- AMS method works for all moments
- Gives an unbiased estimate
- We will just concentrate on the 2<sup>nd</sup> moment  $S$
- We pick and keep track of many variables  $X$ :
  - For each variable  $X$  we store  $X.el$  and  $X.val$ 
    - $X.el$  corresponds to the item  $i$
    - $X.val$  corresponds to the **count** of item  $i$
  - Note this requires a count in main memory, so number of  $X$ s is limited
- Our goal is to compute  $S = \sum_i m_i^2$

# One Random Variable (X)



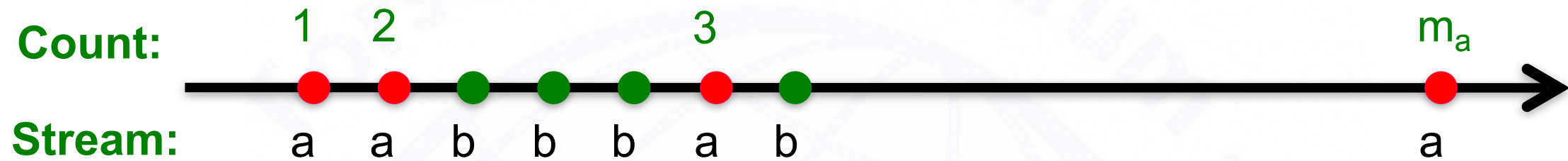


# One Random Variable ( $X$ )

- **How to set  $X.val$  and  $X.el$ ?**
  - Assume stream has length  $n$  (we relax this later)
  - Pick some random time  $t$  ( $t < n$ ) to start, so that any time is equally likely
  - Let at time  $t$  the stream have item  $i$ . **We set  $X.el = i$**
  - Then we maintain count  $c$  ( **$X.val = c$** ) of the number of  $i$ s in the stream starting from the chosen time  $t$
- **Then the estimate of the 2<sup>nd</sup> moment ( $\sum_i m_i^2$ ) is:**
$$S = f(X) = n(2 \cdot c - 1)$$
  - Note, we will keep track of multiple  $X$ s, ( $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_k$ ) and our final estimate will be  **$S = 1/k \sum_j^k f(X_j)$**

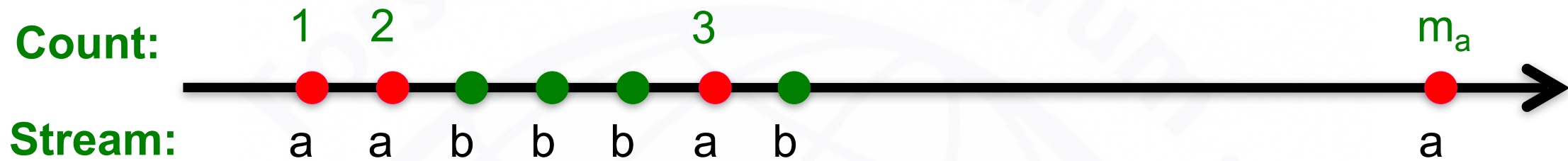


# Expectation Analysis



$m_i$  ... total count of item  $i$  in the stream (we are assuming stream has length  $n$ )

# Expectation Analysis



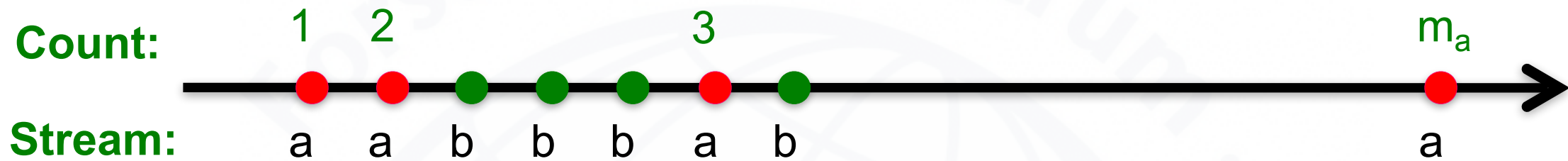
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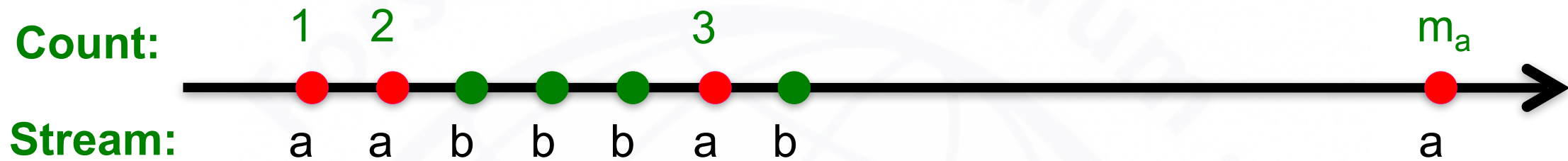
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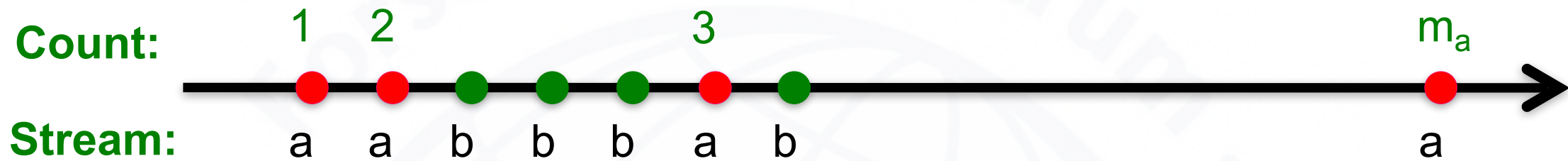
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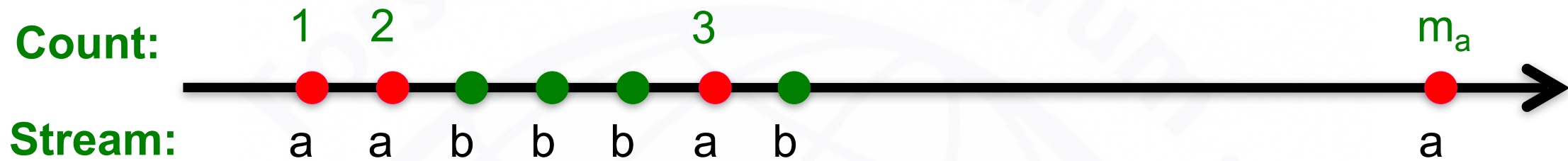
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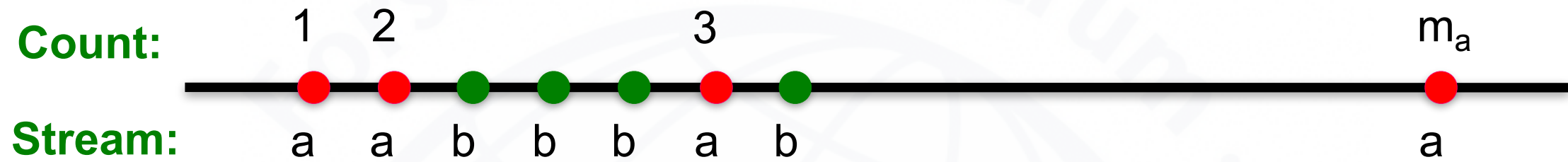
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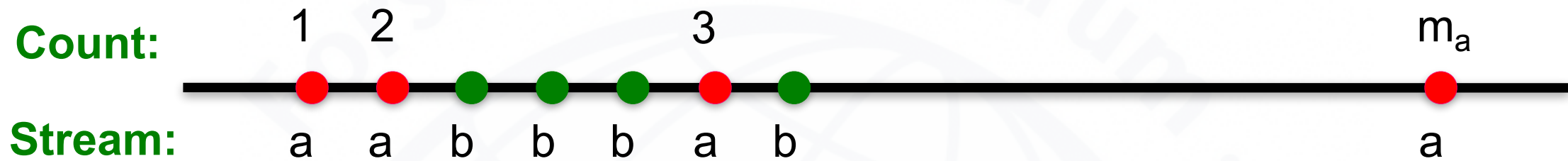
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# Expectation Analysis



# Expectation Analysis



- $E[f(X)] = \frac{1}{n} \sum_i n (1 + 3 + 5 + \dots + 2m_i - 1)$ 
  - Little side calculation:  $(1 + 3 + 5 + \dots + 2m_i - 1) = \sum_{i=1}^{m_i} (2i - 1) = 2 \frac{m_i(m_i+1)}{2} - m_i = (m_i)^2$
- Then  $E[f(X)] = \frac{1}{n} \sum_i n (m_i)^2$
- So,  $E[f(X)] = \sum_i (m_i)^2 = S$
- We have the second moment (in expectation)!

# Higher-Order Moments



# Higher-Order Moments

- For estimating  $k^{\text{th}}$  moment we essentially use the same algorithm but change the estimate:
  - For  $k=2$  we used  $n(2 \cdot c - 1)$
  - For  $k=3$  we use:  $n(3 \cdot c^2 - 3c + 1)$  (where  $c=X.\text{val}$ )
- Why?
  - For  $k=2$ : Remember we had  $(1 + 3 + 5 + \dots + 2m_i - 1)$  and we showed terms  $2c-1$  (for  $c=1, \dots, m$ ) sum to  $m^2$ 
    - $\sum_{c=1}^m 2c - 1 = \sum_{c=1}^m c^2 - \sum_{c=1}^m (c-1)^2 = m^2$
    - So:  $2c - 1 = c^2 - (c-1)^2$
  - For  $k=3$ :  $c^3 - (c-1)^3 = 3c^2 - 3c + 1$
- Generally: Estimate =  $n(c^k - (c-1)^k)$

# Combining Samples





# Combining Samples

## ■ In practice:

- Compute  $f(X) = n(2c - 1)$  for as many variables  $X$  as you can fit in memory
- Average them in groups
- Take median of averages

## ■ Problem: Streams never end

- We assumed there was a number  $n$ , the number of positions in the stream
- But real streams go on forever, so  $n$  is a variable – the number of inputs seen so far



# Streams Never End: Fixups

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We must throw some  $X$ s out as time goes on:
  - **Objective:** Each starting time  $t$  is selected with probability  $k/n$
  - **Solution: (fixed-size sampling!)**
    - Choose the first  $k$  times for  $k$  variables
    - When the  $n^{\text{th}}$  element arrives ( $n > k$ ), choose it with probability  $k/n$
    - If you choose it, throw one of the previously stored variables  $X$  out, with equal probability

Thats it !!