

Good afternoon.

Randomized Algorithms, Lecture 11

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Today's Lecture

Streaming Algorithms

- Basic Streaming Model

- Deterministic

 - Misra-Gries

- Turnstile model

- Randomized Sketching

 - Basic Count Sketch

 - The Median Trick

 - Linear Sketch

 - Count-Min Sketch

- Summary

Basic Streaming Model

A *stream* is a sequence $\sigma = a_0, a_1, \dots, a_{n-1} \in [u]$, where n and u are *huge*, that can only be accessed on element at a time, in order.

We have very little space (ideally $\mathcal{O}(\log n + \log u)$ bits) and must answer questions about the part of the stream we have seen so far.

Easy examples:

This lecture: Frequency estimation.

Given $x \in [u]$ compute an estimate \hat{f}_x of the frequency $f_x = |\{i \in [n] \mid x_i = x\}|$.

The notes use m and n for our n and u .

For any integer s , the notes also use the notation $[s]$ to mean $\{1, \dots, s\}$ rather than $\{0, \dots, s-1\}$.

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Easy examples: Minimum/maximum element, number of elements, average element, etc.

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Given $x \in [u]$ compute an estimate \hat{f}_x of the frequency $f_x = |\{i \in [n] \mid x_i = x\}|$.

Note that we don't know beforehand which elements $x \in [u]$ we want the estimate for. If we did, we could just count them directly.

Misra-Gries: Overview

Claim: Let $k \in \mathbb{N}$. Using only $\mathcal{O}(k)$ words of $\mathcal{O}(\log n + \log u)$ bits each, we can maintain values $\hat{f}_x \geq 0$ for all $x \in [u]$ such that $f_x - \frac{n}{k} \leq \hat{f}_x \leq f_x$.

We only explicitly store \hat{f}_x when > 0 .

Implicitly initialize $\hat{f}_x \leftarrow 0$ for $x \in [u]$.

When processing $x \in \sigma$, first set $\hat{f}_x \leftarrow \hat{f}_x + 1$, then if the set $A = \{y \in [u] \mid \hat{f}_y > 0\}$ has $|A| \geq k$, set $\hat{f}_y \leftarrow \hat{f}_y - 1$ for $y \in A$.

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Misra-Gries: Pseudocode

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1: function MG-INITIALIZE()
2:    $A \leftarrow \{\}$            ▷ Implicitly set  $\hat{f}_x \leftarrow 0$  for  $x \in [u]$ 

3: function MG-PROCESS( $x$ )
4:   ▷  $\hat{f}_x \leftarrow \hat{f}_x + 1$ 
5:   if  $x \notin A$  then
6:      $A[x] \leftarrow 1$ 
7:   else
8:      $A[x] \leftarrow A[x] + 1$ 
9:   if  $|A| \geq k$  then
10:    for  $y \in A$  do
11:      ▷  $\hat{f}_y \leftarrow \hat{f}_y - 1$ 
12:      if  $A[y] = 1$  then
13:        delete  $A[y]$ 
14:      else
15:         $A[y] \leftarrow A[y] - 1$ 
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We use the Python notation here, so $\{\}$ is the empty *dictionary*, aka *associative array*.

We use the notation $x \in A$ to denote that A contains a value for x , and if $x \in A$ we use $A[x]$ to denote that value.

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Misra-Gries: Analysis

Theorem

After processing n elements, we have

$$f_x - \frac{n}{k} \leq \hat{f}_x \leq f_x \text{ for all } x \in [u].$$

Proof.

The algorithm starts with $\hat{f}_x = f_x = 0$ and only increases \hat{f}_x when f_x increases, so clearly $\hat{f}_x \leq f_x$. Each time \hat{f}_x is decreased, x is part of a set $A \subseteq [u]$ of size $\geq k$ where every $y \in A$ has $\hat{f}_y > 0$ and all are decreased at the same time. The total number of rounds of decreases is therefore at most $\frac{n}{k}$. In particular, the total number of times that \hat{f}_x is decreased is at most $\frac{n}{k}$. □

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Turnstile model

Suppose now that our stream of data consists of a sequence of n pairs $\sigma = (x_0, \Delta_0), \dots, (x_{n-1}, \Delta_{n-1}) \in [n] \times \{-u, \dots, u\}$.

For each $x \in [n]$, let $I_x := \{i \in [n] \mid x_i = x\}$ and define the frequency of x as $f_x := \sum_{i \in I_x} \Delta_i$.

This called the *turnstile* model. If $f_x \geq 0$ for all $x \in [n]$ at all times, it is called the *strict turnstile* model. If $\Delta_i > 0$ for all $i \in [n]$, it is called the *cash register model* or *insertion model*.

Given x still want to compute an estimate \hat{f}_x of f_x .

However, no deterministic algorithm can do frequency estimation in the turnstile model using $\mathcal{O}(\log n + \log u)$ bits.

Next, we'll see a randomized algorithm for frequency estimation in the turnstile model.

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Misra-Gries *can* be extended to the cash-register model, by interpreting each (x_i, Δ_i) as a sequence of Δ_i copies of x_i .

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Basic Count Sketch: Pseudocode

```
1: function BCS-INITIALIZE( $n, \varepsilon$ )
2:    $k \leftarrow \lceil \frac{3}{\varepsilon^2} \rceil$ 
3:    $C[0, \dots, k-1] \leftarrow 0$ 
4:   Pick 2-independent  $h : [n] \rightarrow [k]$ 
5:   Pick 2-independent  $s : [n] \rightarrow \{-1, +1\}$ 

6: function BCS-PROCESS( $x, \Delta$ )
7:    $C[h(x)] \leftarrow C[h(x)] + s(x) \cdot \Delta$ 

8: function BCS-QUERY( $x$ )
9:   return  $s(x) \cdot C[h(x)]$             $\triangleright$  Returns  $\hat{f}_x$ 
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```

Note that it is also important that s and h are independent of each other. This is implied in the way they are chosen.

In particular, do *not* fall for the temptation to just chose a single hash function $f : [n] \rightarrow [2k]$ and defining $h(x) = \lfloor \frac{f(x)}{2} \rfloor$ and $s(x) = 2(f(x) \bmod 2) - 1$.

With this definition, each of h, s would still be 2-independent, but they would not be independent of each other.

Basic Count Sketch: Pseudocode

```
1: function BCS-INITIALIZE( $n, \varepsilon$ )
2:    $k \leftarrow \lceil \frac{3}{\varepsilon^2} \rceil$ 
3:    $C[0, \dots, k-1] \leftarrow 0$ 
4:   Pick 2-independent  $h : [n] \rightarrow [k]$ 
5:   Pick 2-independent  $s : [n] \rightarrow \{-1, +1\}$ 

6: function BCS-PROCESS( $x, \Delta$ )
7:    $C[h(x)] \leftarrow C[h(x)] + s(x) \cdot \Delta$ 

8: function BCS-QUERY( $x$ )
9:   return  $s(x) \cdot C[h(x)]$            ▷ Returns  $\hat{f}_x$ 
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Basic Count Sketch: Analysis

Lemma

For $x \in [n]$, let $\hat{f}_x = s(x) \cdot C[h(x)]$. Then $\mathbb{E}[\hat{f}_x] = f_x$.

Thus, \hat{f}_x is an *unbiased estimator* for f_x .

Proof.

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{f}_x &= s(x) \cdot C[h(x)] \\ &= s(x) \cdot \sum_{y \in [n]} f_y s(y) B_{xy} \text{ where } B_{xy} = [h(y) = h(x)] \\ &= \sum_{y \in [n]} f_y s(x) s(y) B_{xy} = f_x + \sum_{y \neq x} f_y s(x) s(y) B_{xy} \\ \mathbb{E}[\hat{f}_x] &= f_x + \sum_{y \neq x} f_y \mathbb{E}[s(x) s(y) B_{xy}] \\ &= f_x + \sum_{y \neq x} f_y \mathbb{E}[s(x)] \mathbb{E}[s(y)] \mathbb{E}[B_{xy}] = f_x \quad \square\end{aligned}$$

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By definition,

$$\begin{aligned}C[h(x)] &= \sum_{\substack{j \in [n] \\ h(x_j) = h(x)}} s(x_j) \Delta_j \\ &= \sum_{\substack{y \in [n] \\ h(y) = h(x)}} \sum_{j \in I_y} s(y) \Delta_j \\ &= \sum_{\substack{y \in [n] \\ h(y) = h(x)}} s(y) f_y \\ &= \sum_{y \in [n]} f_y s(y) [h(y) = h(x)] \\ &= \sum_{y \in [n]} f_y s(y) B_{xy}\end{aligned}$$

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$$= \sum_{y \in [n]} f_y s(x) s(y) B_{xy} = f_x + \sum_{y \neq x} f_y s(x) s(y) B_{xy}$$

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The term for $y = x$ is special, because then $s(x) = s(y) \in \{-1, 1\}$ so $s(x)s(y) = 1$ and

$$f_y \cdot s(x) \cdot s(y) \cdot B_{xy} = f_x \cdot 1 \cdot 1 = f_x$$

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Take the expected value on both sides, and use linearity of expectation.

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Since s is 2-independent, and s and h are independent of each other, the expectation of this product is the product of the 3 expectations.

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Since $s : [n] \rightarrow \{-1, 1\}$ is 2-independent, by definition $s(x)$ is uniform in $\{-1, 1\}$. Thus, $\mathbb{E}[s(x)] = 0$.

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For an n -dimensional vector \mathbf{f} and $i \in [n]$ define \mathbf{f}_{-i} to be the $(n-1)$ -dimensional vector obtained by dropping index i . Then

$$\|\mathbf{f}_{-x}\|_2^2 = \sum_{y \neq x} f_y^2 = \|\mathbf{f}\|_2^2 - f_x^2.$$

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$$\text{Var}[\hat{f}_x] = \mathbb{E}[(\hat{f}_x - f_x)^2] = \frac{\|\mathbf{f}_{-x}\|_2^2}{k}$$

Proof.

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}[(\hat{f}_x - f_x)^2] &= \mathbb{E}\left[\left(\sum_{y \neq x} f_y s(x)s(y)B_{xy}\right)^2\right] \\ &= \sum_{y \neq x} \sum_{z \neq x} \mathbb{E}\left[f_y s(x)s(y)B_{xy} f_z s(x)s(z)B_{xz}\right] \\ &= \sum_{y \neq x} f_y^2 \mathbb{E}[B_{xy}^2] + 0 \\ &= \sum_{y \neq x} f_y^2 \cdot \frac{1}{k} = \frac{\|\mathbf{f}_{-x}\|_2^2}{k}\end{aligned}$$

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□

Any term where $y \neq z$ is 0, by the same argument as before:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}[f_y s(x)s(y)B_{xy} f_z s(x)s(z)B_{xz}] &= f_y f_z \mathbb{E}[(s(x))^2 s(y)s(z)B_{xy}B_{xz}] && \text{(Linearity of } \mathbb{E} \text{)} \\ &= f_y f_z \mathbb{E}[s(y)s(z)B_{xy}B_{xz}] && ((s(x))^2 = 1) \\ &= f_y f_z \mathbb{E}[s(y)s(z)] \mathbb{E}[B_{xy}B_{xz}] && (h, s \text{ independent)} \\ &= f_y f_z \mathbb{E}[s(y)] \mathbb{E}[s(z)] \mathbb{E}[B_{xy}B_{xz}] && (s \text{ is 2-independent)} \\ &= 0 && (\mathbb{E}[s(y)] = 0)\end{aligned}$$

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□

$$\mathbb{E}[B_{xy}^2] = \mathbb{E}[B_{xy}] = \Pr[B_{xy} = 1] = \Pr[h(x) = h(y)] = \frac{1}{k}.$$

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Basic Count Sketch: Analysis

Combining the information from the last two slides

$$\mathbb{E}[\hat{f}_x] = f_x \quad \text{Var}[\hat{f}_x] = \frac{\|\mathbf{f}_{-x}\|_2^2}{k}$$

We can apply Chebyshev to get

$$\Pr\left[|\hat{f}_x - f_x| \geq \varepsilon \cdot \|\mathbf{f}_{-x}\|_2\right] \leq \frac{\text{Var}[\hat{f}_x]}{(\varepsilon \cdot \|\mathbf{f}_{-x}\|_2)^2} = \frac{1}{k\varepsilon^2} \leq \frac{1}{3}$$

Standard form of Chebyshev says that $\Pr[|X - \mu| \geq t\sigma] \leq \frac{1}{t^2}$.

This uses a different form, which we can derive as follows: For any $B > 0$,

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr[|X - \mu| \geq B] &= \Pr[|X - \mu| \geq t\sigma] && \text{(Setting } t = \frac{B}{\sigma}\text{)} \\ &\leq \frac{1}{t^2} && \text{(By Chebyshev)} \\ &= \frac{\sigma^2}{B^2} && \text{(Using } t = \frac{B}{\sigma}\text{)} \\ &= \frac{\text{Var}[X]}{B^2} && \text{(By definition, } \text{Var}[X] = \sigma^2\text{)} \end{aligned}$$

The median trick

Define a random variable X to be *bad* if $|X - \mathbb{E}[X]| > \Delta$.

Consider random variables $X_1, \dots, X_t \in \mathbb{R}$ with $\mathbb{E}[X_1] = \dots = \mathbb{E}[X_t] = \mu$.

Let Y be the *median* of X_1, \dots, X_t . If Y is bad, then at least $\lceil \frac{t}{2} \rceil$ of the X_i are bad.

Suppose the X_i are all independent, and $\Pr[X_i \text{ bad}] \leq \frac{1}{3}$. Let $B_i = [X_i \text{ bad}]$ and $B = \sum_i B_i$. Then $\mathbb{E}[B] \leq \frac{t}{3}$, and

$$\begin{aligned}\Pr[Y \text{ bad}] &\leq \Pr[B \geq \frac{t}{2}] = \Pr[B \geq \frac{3}{2} \frac{t}{3}] \\ &\leq \left(\frac{e^{\frac{1}{2}}}{(\frac{3}{2})^{\frac{3}{2}}} \right)^{\frac{t}{3}} \leq \left(e^{-\frac{(\frac{1}{2})^2}{3}} \right)^{\frac{t}{3}} = e^{-\frac{t}{36}}\end{aligned}$$

Thus, for any $\delta > 0$, to get $\Pr[Y \text{ bad}] \leq \delta$ we want $e^{-\frac{t}{36}} \leq \delta$, or equivalently $t \geq 36 \ln \frac{1}{\delta}$.

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This is because for $0 \leq x \leq 1$ we have

$$\frac{e^x}{(1+x)^{1+x}} \leq e^{-\frac{x^2}{3}}$$

We could actually have gotten a slightly tighter result by just evaluating directly. In particular, we can easily reduce the constant from 36 to $\frac{6}{\ln \frac{27}{8e}} \approx 27.727 \dots$

However, it is nice to know simple approximations like the one above, because most of the time you don't need the tight result.

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Full Count Sketch: Pseudocode

```
1: function CS-INITIALIZE( $n, \varepsilon, \delta$ )
2:    $k \leftarrow \lceil \frac{3}{\varepsilon^2} \rceil, t \leftarrow \lceil 36 \ln \frac{1}{\delta} \rceil$ 
3:   for  $i \in [t]$  do
4:      $C_i[0, \dots, k-1] \leftarrow 0$ 
5:     pick 2-independent  $h_i : [n] \rightarrow [k]$ 
6:     pick 2-independent  $s_i : [n] \rightarrow \{-1, +1\}$ 

7: function CS-PROCESS( $x, \Delta$ )
8:   for  $i \in [t]$  do  $C_i[h_i(x)] \leftarrow C_i[h_i(x)] + s_i(x) \cdot \Delta$ 

9: function CS-QUERY( $x$ )
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Full Count Sketch: Summary

We have shown

Theorem

Given any $\varepsilon, \delta > 0$, and any $x \in [n]$, let $\hat{f}_x = \text{CS-QUERY}(x)$. Then

$$\mathbb{E}[\hat{f}_x] = f_x \quad \Pr\left[|\hat{f}_x - f_x| \geq \varepsilon \|\mathbf{f}_{-x}\|_2\right] \leq \delta$$

and the data structure uses

$\mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{\varepsilon^2} \log \frac{1}{\delta} (\log n + \log u)\right)$ bits of space.

Heavy Hitters

We can estimate f_x for any x , but how do we find the big ones as they come, i.e. the i such that $f_{x_i} > \varepsilon \|\mathbf{f}\|_2$?

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$$f_{x_i} > \varepsilon \|\mathbf{f}_{-x_i}\|_2?$$

Ask Mikkel Thorup about his “Heavy hitters via cluster-preserving clustering” paper from 2016 ;)

Linear Sketch

If we let $C(\sigma)$ denote the array C of counters after processing stream σ , then given any two streams σ_1, σ_2 we have $C(\sigma_1\sigma_2) = C(\sigma_1) + C(\sigma_2)$.

This makes the count sketch algorithm (either version) an example of a *linear sketch*.

We'll show one more linear sketch for frequency estimation in the cache register model, that is even simpler than the full count sketching.

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We'll show one more linear sketch for frequency estimation in the cach register model, that is even simpler than the full count sketching.

Count-Min Sketch: Pseudocode

We start by computing k and t (slightly different).

```
1: function CMS-INITIALIZE( $n, \varepsilon, \delta$ )
2:    $k \leftarrow \lceil \frac{2}{\varepsilon} \rceil, t \leftarrow \lceil \log_2 \frac{1}{\delta} \rceil$ 
3:   for  $i \in [t]$  do
4:      $C_i[0, \dots, k-1] \leftarrow 0$ 
5:     pick 2-independent hash function  $h_i : [n] \rightarrow [k]$ 

6: function CMS-PROCESS( $x, \Delta$ )
7:   for  $i \in [t]$  do  $C_i[h_i(x)] \leftarrow C_i[h_i(x)] + \Delta$ 

8: function CMS-QUERY( $x$ )
9:   return  $\min_{i \in [t]} C_i[h_i(x)]$  ▷ Returns  $\hat{f}_x$ 
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Count-Min Sketch: Pseudocode

Then we initialize the table and pick hash functions, but this time we don't need s .

```
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Count-Min Sketch: Pseudocode

We simply look up x using each of the t hash functions and add Δ to the running sum.

```
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Count-Min Sketch: Pseudocode

Finally, we return the *minimum* of the accumulated values rather than the median.

```
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Count-Min Sketch: Analysis

Theorem

Given any $\varepsilon, \delta > 0$, and any $x \in [n]$, let $\hat{f}_x = \text{CMS-QUERY}(x)$. Then $\hat{f}_x \geq f_x$ and

$$\Pr\left[\hat{f}_x - f_x \geq \varepsilon \|\mathbf{f}_{-x}\|_1\right] \leq \delta$$

and the data structure uses $\mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{\varepsilon} \log \frac{1}{\delta} (\log n + \log u)\right)$ bits of space.

The space is better by a factor of $\frac{1}{\varepsilon}$, but the error guarantee is in terms of $\|\mathbf{f}_{-x}\|_1$ instead of $\|\mathbf{f}_{-x}\|_2$.
What difference does that make?

Count-Min Sketch: Analysis

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Given any $\varepsilon, \delta > 0$, and any $x \in [n]$, let $\hat{f}_x = \text{CMS-QUERY}(x)$. Then $\hat{f}_x \geq f_x$ and

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and the data structure uses $\mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{\varepsilon} \log \frac{1}{\delta} (\log n + \log u)\right)$ bits of space.

The space is better by a factor of $\frac{1}{\varepsilon}$, but the error guarantee is in terms of $\|\mathbf{f}_{-x}\|_1$ instead of $\|\mathbf{f}_{-x}\|_2$.

What difference does that make?

Note that for any n -dimensional vector \mathbf{f} , and any $p \geq 1$ we define the ℓ_p norm as

$$\|\mathbf{f}\|_p = \left(\sum_{i=1}^n |f_i|^p\right)^{\frac{1}{p}}$$

In particular, the two norms we use are defined as

$$\|\mathbf{f}\|_1 = \sum_{i=1}^n |f_i| \quad (\text{Manhattan norm})$$

$$\|\mathbf{f}\|_2 = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n |f_i|^2} \quad (\text{Euclidean norm})$$

As $p \rightarrow \infty$, the ℓ_p norm approaches the following norm

$$\|\mathbf{f}\|_\infty = \max_{i=1}^n |f_i| \quad (\text{Maximum norm})$$

Count-Min Sketch: Analysis

Theorem

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$\|\mathbf{f}\|_2 \leq \|\mathbf{f}\|_1 \leq \sqrt{n} \|\mathbf{f}\|_2$, so $\|\cdot\|_2$ is always at least as good as $\|\cdot\|_1$ and sometimes much better.

Count-Min Sketch: Proof

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Then $X_i = \sum_{y \neq x} f_y B_{iy}$ and $\mathbb{E}[B_{iy}] = \frac{1}{k}$. So

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By definition,

$$\begin{aligned} C_i[h_i(x)] &= \sum_{\substack{j \in [n] \\ h_i(x_j) = h_i(x)}} \Delta_j = \sum_{j \in [n]} \Delta_j [h_i(x_j) = h_i(x)] = \sum_{j \in [n]} \Delta_j B_{ix_j} \\ &= \sum_{y \in [n]} \sum_{j \in I_y} \Delta_j B_{iy} \\ &= \sum_{y \in [n]} B_{iy} \sum_{j \in I_y} \Delta_j \\ &= \sum_{y \in [n]} B_{iy} f_y \end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned} C_i[h_i(x)] - f_x &= C_i[h_i(x)] - f_x B_{ix} && \text{(Since } B_{ix} = 1) \\ &= \left(\sum_{y \in [n]} B_{iy} f_y \right) - f_x B_{ix} && \text{(From above)} \\ &= \sum_{y \neq x} B_{iy} f_y \end{aligned}$$

Since $h_i : [n] \rightarrow [k]$ is 2-independent.

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Since all the h_i are independent, the probability of the events for all i happening is the product of the events for each of the t events happening.

By definition of $t = \lceil \log_2 \frac{1}{\delta} \rceil$

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- ▶ We have seen different streaming models: Basic, cash register, and turnstile.
- ▶ We have looked at the frequency estimation problem in each of these models.
- ▶ Misra-Gries is a good deterministic algorithm for the basic and cash-register models.
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