

# Data series monitor

The goal of this assignment is to 1) write a program that tracks a continuous stream of input values and computes some properties over them and 2) analyze/describe general performance properties over that program. Any programming language is accepted for which public documentation is available, with preference for C, C++, Java, Python, Haskell, ML, Go or Rust.

This assignment aims to exercise your ability to:

- write a program working with asynchronous input and output;
- perform simple computations on finite time series;
- reason about basic run-time behavior of your own code.

Questions are free: the event of you asking a question and which question you ask will not influence how we evaluate your work (neither positively or negatively). Feel free to ask anything.

## Specification of the program

The program must read on a continuous input stream and produce results on two continuous output streams. We will call these streams 0, 1 and 2.

Data will be delivered by an external system to stream 0 as input to the program. The input format is textual: integer numbers in base 10, each followed by a newline character.

The numbers arrive on stream 0 *irregularly over time* with unpredictable and unbounded delays.

The program must output a copy of each input from stream 0 immediately on stream 1 and, every 1 second, independently of the rate of arrival of numbers on stream 0, output the following values separated by spaces and terminated with a newline character on stream 2:

- the sliding average of the inputs received in the preceeding 10 seconds,
- the quantized time integral of the inputs received in the preceeding 10 seconds,
- the age of the oldest input value in the last 10 seconds,
- the age of the youngest input value in the last 10 seconds.

The 4 values must be computed approximately in floating point. The first two should use at least one digit of decimal precision, the last two up to 6 (microsecond precision).

Stream 1 or 2 may occasionally block. If this happens, the output due to be delivered while a stream is blocked must be abandoned. In particular the first full line of values emitted after an output stream becomes unblocked must not be outdated.

## Analysis of the program

You should provide a short explanation to estimate:

- memory usage of your program in bytes as a function of the number of input values received in a 10 seconds interval;
- the stream-to-stream latency in seconds between streams 0 and 1 (delay between the arrival of input on stream 0 and the emission of its copy on stream 1);
- the time jitter in seconds on stream 2 assuming stream 2 is not blocked.

(Your explanation can either be *analytical*, or you can propose a *methodology* about how to estimate this experimentally. When choosing the latter, you do not need to run the experiment yourself.)

## Tips

The quantized time integral of a time series:

```
t1  v1
t2  v2
t3  v3
t4  v4
...
```

is defined either as:

```
(t2 - t1) * v1 + (t3 - t2) * v2 + (t4 - t3) * v3 ...
```

or as:

```
(t2 - t1) * v2 + (t3 - t2) * v3 + (t4 - t3) * v4 ...
```

We suggest you use the 2nd form. (But we accept both)

## Example input

You can use the following program (Python) to generate a test input stream:

```
from random import random
from time import sleep
while True:
    print(int(random()*(10**(1+random()*4))))
    sleep(random()*(2**(-2+random()*3)))
```