Data Privacy and Ethics

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1 Introduction

The goal of this assignment is to implement the Flajolet-Martin algorithm to estimate cardinalities of multisets of words for a variety of entries in the online encyclopedia Wikipedia; specifically count the number of unique words in a Wikipedia page.

1.1 Motivation

Counting unique elements is one of the fundamental activities in most computer applications. In their original paper [FM85] mentioned computational constraints as a reason to search for alternative ways of achieving a reasonably accurate estimate of cardinalities of multisets. This is still true today, given the increasing amounts of data that are being generated. Aside from this, today additional use cases have arisen, that make the utilization of the below introduced of *Flajolet-Martin algorithm* interesting.

As will be shown the algorithm is capable of handling stream data while estimating the cardinalities of the transmitted dataset in a single pass. This can be used in areas related to data privacy as the basis for the counting procedure can be computed in a distributed manner and only an anonymous array of bits is aggregated centrally to compute the unique number of elements in a given data stream.

2 Resources

2.1 Programming Language

For the implementation Python is chosen as programming language. Aside from its ubiquity it also offers a number of packages that can be utilized for the realization of this task. In particular the wikpedia package $[Py_Wiki]$ can be used to read arbitrary wikipedia articles as it layed out in 2.2.

2.2 Data set

The resources for which unique items (n) are to be counted are the unique words occurring in *Wikipedia* entries. Numerous options for processing this data are available that fall into these main categories:

- Scraping the website and processing the read html pages for their content
- Downloading Wikipedia as a database as described in [WikiDB]
- Utilizing a package that encapsulates the aforementioned activities and provides the data to the user

Downloading Wikipedia as database is possible but requires large storage space (~11GB) and for the most part would not be used. The second option is also a larger challenge as it requires signficant preprocessing steps before the actual activities in the assignment can be carried out. Therefore the third option of a package that provides the page content as a data object appears to be the most straight forward approach. Additional pre-processing steps were applied to the page content. The stream elements were:

modified to lowercase only

- non-word characters were exchanged with whitespace character
- all digits were exchanged with whitespace character
- multi-whitespace characters replaced with a single whitespace

To get an accurate word count the above steps appear to be sensible to avoid words that can be considered unique and may only be different because of that fact that they appear at the beginning of a sentence or not. Digits in this work are not considered words and hence removed. Removing the whitespace characters ensures a clean dataset so that situations where elements are exchanged with whitespace are not counted multiple times.

In order to have access to arbitrary Wikipedia entries a readily available python package wikipedia is utilized and implemented as class that reads and digests Wikipedia pages based on the search term provided by the class user.

3 General Solution Approach

3.1 Data Ingestion

In order to get be able to count the number of unique words in a Wikipedia entry the WikiText class is instanciated and provided a search term for which an entry is queried by the wikipedia-Python package and if found returns an object with the respective page content. In case a search term is provided that can not found or retrieved a PageError is returned to the use.

Subsequently, the pre-processing activities are carried out and the data object is ready for analysis.

3.2 Algorithm Execution

After the data from the Wikipedia page has been ingested and pre-processed a second class (Fla-joletMartin) is utilized on order to execute the counting of the number of the unique words within that article. The data stream is transferred from the wikipedia page content provided to the newly created object.

The code of these classes can be seen in refsec:class

3.3 Verification

In order to validate the veracity of the Flajolet-Martin algorithm implementation a second method for counting the unique number of words is implemented inside the *WikiText* class. It is based on the "classical" approach of creating a set after the page content has been pre-processed and reading the length of the remaining set. Hence, this approach relies soly on Python "on-board" functionality and is used for the verification of the Flajolet-Martin implementation.

4 Flajolet-Martin Algorithm

4.1 Introduction

The *Flajolet-Martin algorithm* builds on probabilities encountered in the use of hashing functions can provide reasonably accurate estimates of cardinalities in large datasets. It is built on the assumption that the records to be estimated can be hashed in a fitting pseudo-random manner.

4.2 Basic Estimation Approach

The paper by Flajolet and Martin lays out the following required elements for the estimation process: - A single word is denoted as $\mathbf{x} = (\mathbf{x}_0, x_1, \dots, x_p)$ is hashed via

$$hash \ function(x) = (M + N \sum_{j=0}^{p} ord(x_j) 128^j) \ mod \ 2^L$$
 (1)

which transforms words into integers (y) with a uniform distribution. These integers are considered in the bit form via:

$$y = \sum_{k>0} bit(y,k)2^k. \tag{2}$$

- The counting mechanism relies on p(y) which represents the position of the least significant 1-bit in the binary representation of y. The results are ranked starting from zero. The length of the bitmap vector is set as:

$$> log_2(n/nmap) + 4.$$
 (3)

It is expected that for the value at bitmap[0] is set in n/2 times, bitmap[1] approximately n/4 times Therefore, the bit in the bitmap at position i is almost certainly zero if $i \gg \log_2 n$ and 1 if i $\ll \log_2 n$. The nmap value determines the number of bitmaps calculated for each word which are combined via a bitwise 'OR' statement to treat the standard deviation of R, which is leftmost zero position in the bitmap and usually has $\sigma(R) \approx 1.12$ This dispersion results in an error roughly 1 binary order of magnitude.

4.3 Results using the basic estimation approach

With the implementation of the basic algorithm described in 4.2 and the utilization of the correction method of averaging multiple bitmaps yielded fluctuating results. The results still flucuated roughly one binary order of magnitude around the correct results despite the use of nmap = 64.

4.4 Probabilistic Counting with Stochastic Averaging

In their paper [FM85] Flajolet and Martin point out an additional approach *Probabilistics Counting* with Stochastic Averaging (PCSA) to improve the performance of the algorithmic result. In this modification the hashing function $\alpha = h(x) \mod m$ is utilized to determine which of the nmap bitmaps is updated. The corresponding information is stored at h(x) div $m \equiv \lfloor h(x)/m \rfloor$. In the final step the average between the different bitmaps is calculated using

$$A = \frac{R^{\langle 1 \rangle} + R^{\langle 2 \rangle} + \dots + R^{\langle m \rangle}}{m}.$$
 (4)

Under the assumption that the distribution of the hashed words into the different lots is even, it can be expected that n/m elements fall into each lot so that $(1/\varphi)2^A$ can be a reasonable approximation of n/m. Flajolet and Martin define $\varphi = 0.77351\cdots$.

5 Validation

5.1 Basic Setup

To validate the different aspects of the *Flajolet-Martin* algorithm, 3 categories of *Wikpedia* entries were defined according to the length of their unique words:

Name	Range
Small	0 - 1049
Medium	1050 - 2549
Large	n>2550

With this setup it is validated how the performance of the basic *Flajolet-Martin* approach compared to the *PCSA* approach differs among different ranges of n.

5.2 Wikipedia Entries

The search queries chosen are a random list of *Wikipedia* entries that fall into in 5.1 mentioned categories. The list is as follows: To validate the different aspects of the *Flajolet-Martin* algorithm, 3 categories of *Wikipedia* were defined:

Search Term	True Unique Values
List of fatal dog attacks in the United States (2010s)	54
Weisswurst	265
university of nicosia	1035
data privacy	1049
Timeline of the Israeli–Palestinian conflict 2015	1406
covid	1657
List of Crusades to Europe and the Holy Land	2464
michael jordan	2529
List of University of Pennsylvania people	2928
Donald Trump	4633
2020 Nagorno-Karabakh war	4643
List of association football families	5883

5.3 Results

For each search term the two estimation algorithms were run 1.000 teams each to retrieve a sufficient sample to analyze the behavior of each estimation method.

Low Count Wikipedia Entries

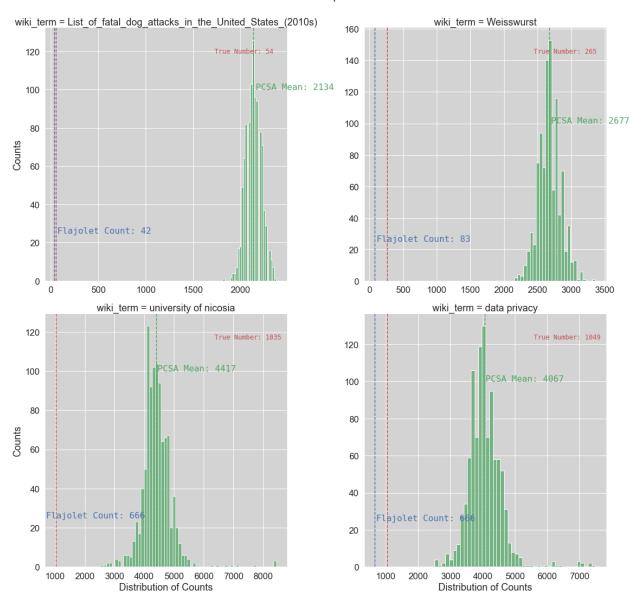


Figure 1: Low Count - Distribution of Estimations

Medium Count Wikipedia Entries

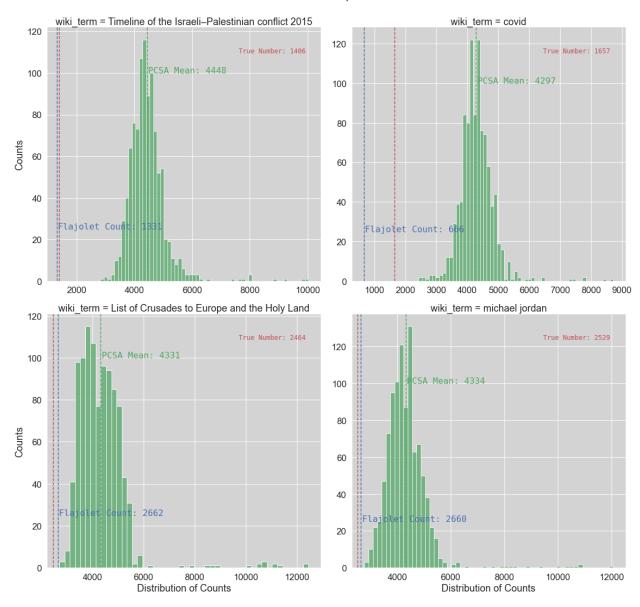


Figure 2: Medium Count - Distribuion of Estimations

Large Count Wikipedia Entries

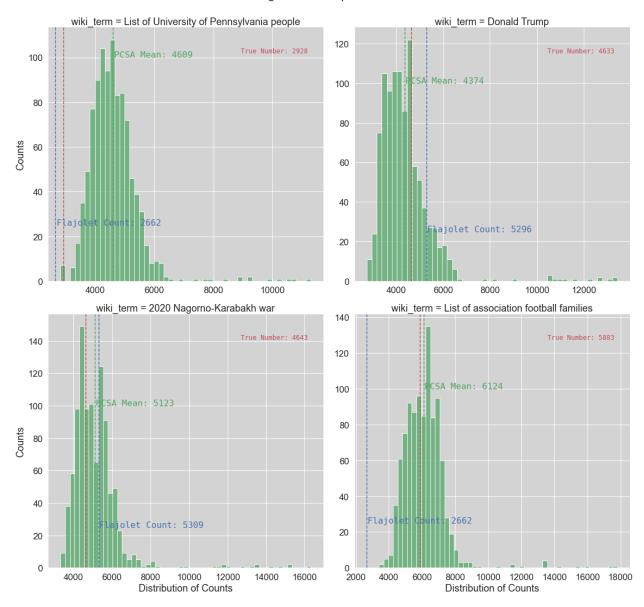


Figure 3: Medium Count - Distribuion of Estimations

5.4 Discussion

Several interesting observations can be made:

- The basic estimation method is much more stable in its behavior compared to the *PCSA* implementation. The results are very consistent and in most cases do not deviate in their results over the 1.000 executions. The only variable factor during those executions are the chosen factors for the hash function 1.
- The *PCSA* has a large distribution and tends to overestimate results in some individual cases very significantly.

- The *PCSA* method performed worst within the low count category of the Wikipedia entries. In the worst case the algorithm was off by factor of 51.
- As the number of unique entries increases the performance of the *PCSA* method improves but still lags the basic estimation method. Only in the case of the query with the largest unique entries in the sample set (List of assocation football families) the *PCSA* outperforms the basic estimation method in terms of accuracy.
- In the area of performance the *PCSA* approach is significantly more performant compared to the basic estimation method as it executes the has function per entry only 1 compared to nmap times for the basic estimation approach.
- Running the entire test scenario with 12 search terms, nmap = 64 and 1.000 executions per search term took roughly 180 minutes on a 4-core system with Hyper-Threading active and a very naive multi-threading implementation.

This implementation of the basic *Flajolet-Martin* algorithm achieves mediocre results that are generally ok but in some instances (e.g. search terms covid, university of nicosia, data privacy) show to much deviation for most real-world applications. The *PCSA* implementation performs significantly worse compared to the basic estimation. In general its performance improves as the number of unique items in the stream increases. In the range of 4500 unique items it starts to enter the range predicted by Flajolet and Martin in /citefm85. It is assumed that the result of this is so poor, due to an improper choice for the hashing function.

The area of improvement appears to be a better choice of the hash function for the *PCSA* method which does not produce reasonable results in its current state.

6 Summary

In this paper we have focused on implementing the Flajolet-Martin algorithm in two flavors, to estimate the unique in elements in a stream. In our case, unique words from *Wikipedia* entries.

The algorithm was implemented in Python and tested on 12 different search terms of varying true unique values with 1000 executions per method. The basic estimation method performed more accurately but also required significantly more compute time for a reasonable accuracy. The *PCSA* method offered much better compute performance but in its current implementation does not provide the accuracy (deviation of up to a factor of 51) described by Flajolet-Martin.

In the future, we will modify the hash function for the *PCSA* method to achieve better estimation results.

6.1 Flajolet-Martin and Wikipedia Processing

The implementation of both classes as well as the test run described above is as follows:

Listing 1: Flajolet-Martin Implementation

from typing import List, Set
import wikipedia
import re
import numpy as np

```
from typing import Union
import hashlib
import sympy
import math
import random
import pandas as pd
import time
import multiprocessing
class WikiText:
    """loads pages from wikipedia and preprocesses them"""
    def init (self, term: str) -> None:
        self.term = term
        self.wiki page: wikipedia.wikipedia.WikipediaPage = self.
           get wiki_page(
            self.term)
        \#self.content: List[str] = self.preprocess page content(self.
           wiki page)
        self.content: np.ndarray = np.array(
            self.preprocess page content(self.wiki page))
    def get wiki page (self, search term: str) -> wikipedia.wikipedia.
       WikipediaPage:
        returns wikipedia page from wiki wrapper API
        :search term: (string) search term for which page from
        wikipedia is to be returned
        returns: (WikipediaPage obj) page from wikipedia
        " " "
        try:
            return wikipedia.page(search term)
        except PageError:
            print(f'Page_for_search_term:_{search_term}_could_not_be_
               found')
    def get count distinct words(self) -> int:
        expects a list of strings to be processed and returns number of
            unique words
        assert type(self.content) = np.ndarray, 'requires_a_numpy_
           arrav'
        return len(set(self.content))
```

```
def preprocess page content (self,
                                  page: wikipedia.wikipedia.WikipediaPage
                                      ) -> List[str]:
         11 11 11
        preprocess page content (remove non-word characters)
        params:
        :content: (string) content to cleaned
        returns:
        :list of content words: (list of strings) corpus split into
        assert type(
             page) is wikipedia.wikipedia.WikipediaPage, 'requires_
                WikipediaPage_obj'
        assert len(page.content) != 0, 'requires_non-empty_corpus'
        l = page.content.lower().split("")
        for i in range(len(l)):
             l\,[\,i\,]\ =\ re\,.\,sub\,(\,\text{"}\,\backslash\! W\text{"}\,\,,\ \text{"]},\ l\,[\,i\,]\,)
             l[i] = re.sub("\d", "", l[i])
             l[i] = re.sub("\s+", "", "], l[i])
        return 1
class Flajolet Martin:
    FlajoletMartin algorithm to estimate length of passed stream
    def __init__(self , data_stream: np.ndarray ,
                  nmap: int = 1, L: int = 22,
                  optimization: str = 'reduce',
                  prime hash: bool = True) -> None:
         11 11 11
        prepares Flajolet-Martin distinct count on provided data stream
        params:
        :data stream: (numpy array) data stream for which to count
            unique elements
        :copies: (integer) number of copies of the hash function
        :L: (integer) power by which 2 will be raised to define length
            of bitmap
        assert type(
             data stream = np.ndarray, 'data_stream_must_be_numpy_
                array'
        assert data stream.shape[0] > 0, 'data_stream_must_be_set'
```

```
self.data stream = data stream
    assert type(nmap) = int, 'number_of_copies_must_be_integer'
    assert nmap > 0, 'number_of_bitmaps_must_be_larger_than_zero'
    self.nmap: int = nmap
    opt_options = ['reduce', 'mean_r']
    assert optimization in opt options, 'valid_optimization_
       strategy_must_be_chosen'
    self.optimization = optimization
    self.C: float = 1.3 \# bias \ correction \ factor
    self.phi: float = 0.77351 # correction factor
    self.L = self.get L(len(self.data stream))
    # bit vector initialized to zeros
    self.bitmaps = np.zeros((self.nmap, 2**self.L), dtype=int)
    self.vs: list = self.generate hash factors(range end=25,
                                                 number=self.nmap,
                                                 prime=prime hash)
                                                      initialize
                                                     number of v-
                                                     factors for hash
    self.ws: list = self.generate hash factors(range end=25,
                                                 number = self.nmap,
                                                 prime=prime hash) #
                                                      i\,n\,i\,t\,i\,a\,l\,i\,z\,e
                                                     number of w-
                                                     factors for hash
    # PCSA Counting
    self.m = sympy.randprime(1, self.nmap)
    self.n = sympy.randprime(1, self.nmap)
def get L(self, n: int) -> int:
    generates L based on Probabilistics Counting
    Algorithms for Data Base Applications by Philippe Flajolet
    params:
    :n: (integer) length of data stream for which unique count to
       be executed
    returns:
    :L: (integer) L
    assert type(n) = int, 'length_of_data_stream_must_be_integer'
    assert n > 0, 'length_of_data_stream_must_be_positive'
    return math. floor (math. \log 2 (n/self.nmap) + 4)
\mathbf{def} generate hash factors(self, range_end: \mathbf{int} = 10,
```

assert len(data stream.shape) = 1, 'data_stream_must_be_flat'

```
prime: bool = False,
                           number: int = 1) \rightarrow np.ndarray:
    " " "
    generates list of hash factors v, w and p based on set number
       of copies
    if prime:
        1 prime = list (sympy. sieve. primerange (1, range end))
        l prime.sort()
        while len(l prime) < number:
            1 prime.append(sympy.nextprime(1 prime[-1]))
        random.shuffle(l prime) # send random shuffle
        return l prime
    else:
        val = 0
        vals = list()
        for i in range(self.nmap):
            val = 2
            while (val \% 2 = 0):
                 val = random.randint(1, 2*self.nmap)
             vals.append(val)
        assert len(vals) = self.nmap, 'to_few_hash_values_
            generated '
        return vals
def hash val(self, word: str, v: int, w: int) -> int:
    execute\ hashing\ of\ passed\ value\ via\ function\ h(a)=((va+w)\ mod
        p)
    params:
    :a: (word) value to be hashed
    :v: (integer) multiplication factor
    :w: (integer) \ addend
    :p: (integer) modulo value (ideally prime)
    \# \ turn \ word \ into \ list \ of \ characters
    l = list (word)
    term1: int = 0
    for i in range(len(l)):
        term1 += ord(1[i])*128**i
    return int ((v*term1 + w) \% 2**self.L)
def update bitmap(self, word: str) -> None:
    hash function that hashes the given value
    params:
    :e: (int) integer values to be hashed
    returns:
```

```
: result: (int) hash result
    # calculate hash value
    for i in range (self.nmap):
        # calculate hash with current set of values
        hash val = self.hash val(word=word,
                                  v = self.vs[i],
                                  w=self.ws[i]
        # find rightmost set bit in hash value
        r = self.rightmost set bit(hash val)
        if r = None: # cases need to be ignored as element value
           is 0
            continue
        assert type(r) = int, 'r_must_be_int'
        if self.bitmaps[i, r] = 0:
            self.bitmaps[i, r] = 1
def rightmost set bit(self, v: int) -> int:
    calculates the position of the rightmost set bit
    :v: (integer) value for which to obtain rightmost set bit
    returns:
    : rightmost position set:
    # using bit operations to identify position
    # of least significant set bit
    if v = 0:
        return None
    return int (math.log2(v \& (~v + 1)))
def leftmost zero(self, bitmap: np.ndarray) -> int:
    identifies position of leftmost bit set to zero
    params:
    :b: (Numpy Array) to be searched for rightmost zero
    :leftmost zero: (integer) returns rightmost zero index position
                         counting from the right starting with index
    || || ||
    res = np. where (bitmap == 0) [0] # finds all zeros in bitmap
    return res[0]
def reduce bitmaps(self, bitmap: np.ndarray) -> np.ndarray:
    reduces the bitmaps filled by random hash functions
```

```
to single bitmap via element wise or
    returns:
    :reduced bitmap: bitmap joined by component-wise OR on all
       bitmaps
    ,, ,, ,,
    # set inital bitmap for elementwise OR
    if bitmap. shape [0] = 1:
        return bitmap [0]
    else:
        reduced bitmap = bitmap [0, :]
        for i in range(1, bitmap.shape[0]):
             assert bitmap[i, :].shape = reduced bitmap.shape
            comp bitmap = bitmap [i, :]
            reduced bitmap = np. bitwise or (reduced bitmap,
                comp bitmap)
        return reduced bitmap
\mathbf{def} \ \mathrm{fm} (\ \mathrm{self}) \rightarrow \mathbf{int} :
    applies hash function to each value in stream
    :stream: (Numpy Array) to which hash function needs to be
       applied elementwise
    returns:
    : hashed values: (Numpy Array) hashed values stream
    \# allowing for hashing of entire stream
    vbitmap update = np.vectorize(self.update bitmap)
    \# contains hashed values for each element in stream
    vbitmap update(self.data stream)
    if self.optimization == 'reduce':
        # reduce bitmap
        red bitmap = self.reduce bitmaps(self.bitmaps)
        R = self.leftmost zero (red bitmap)
        return self.C*2**R
    elif self.optimization = 'mean r':
        R = np.zeros((self.nmap,))
        for i in range (self.nmap):
            R[i] = self.leftmost zero(self.bitmaps[i, :])
        mean R = np.mean(R)
        return self.C*2**mean R
def pcsa bitmap(self, word: str) -> None:
    pcsa bitmap
    params:
    :e: (int) integer values to be hashed
```

```
: result: (int) hash result
        hashedx = self.hash val(word=word,
                                 v = self.m.
                                 w = self.n
        alpha = hashedx % self.nmap
        beta = math.floor(hashedx/self.nmap)
        assert isinstance (beta, int), "index_is_integer"
        idx = self.rightmost set bit(beta)
        self.bitmaps[alpha, idx] = 1
    def fm pcsa(self) -> int:
        # allowing for hashing of entire stream
        vbitmap update = np. vectorize (self.pcsa bitmap)
        # contains hashed values for each element in stream
        vbitmap update (self.data stream)
        S = 0
        for i in range (self.nmap):
            R = 0
            while (self.bitmaps[i, R] = 1) and (R < self.L):
                R += 1
            S += R
        return math.floor(self.nmap/self.phi*2**(S/self.nmap))
def calc sample(term: int, rounds: int, ret_wiki_term: List[str],
                ret true cnt: List[int],
                ret fm cnt: list,
                ret pcsa cnt: list) -> None:
    assert isinstance (term, str), "term_is_a_string"
    print(f'started_processing_of_{term}')
    stream = WikiText(term)
    distinct count = stream.get count distinct words()
    # lists to capture results
    wiki term = list()
    true count = list()
    fm count = list()
    fm pcsa count = list()
    for i in range (rounds):
        wiki term.append(term)
        true count.append(distinct count)
        fma = Flajolet Martin (stream.content, nmap=64)
        fm count.append(fma.fm())
        fm pcsa count.append(fma.fm pcsa())
    ret wiki term.extend(wiki term)
    ret true cnt.extend(true count)
```

returns:

```
ret fm cnt.extend(fm count)
    ret pcsa cnt.extend(fm pcsa count)
    print(f'term_{term}_attached_to_mgr_lists')
if __name__ == "__main__":
    search_terms = ['michael_jordan',
                     'covid',
                     '2020_Nagorno-Karabakh_war',
                     'List_of_association_football_families',
                     'Weisswurst',
                     'List_of_Crusades_to_Europe_and_the_Holy_Land',
                     'List of fatal dog attacks in the United States
                        (2010s)',
                     'Donald_Trump',
                     'Timeline_of_the_ I s r a e l i Palestinian _conflict_
                        2015',
                     'List_of_University_of_Pennsylvania_people',
                     'university_of_nicosia',
                     'data_privacy'
    procs = multiprocessing.cpu count() - 1 # number of processes
    rounds = 2
    jobs = []
    df all = pd.DataFrame()
    manager = multiprocessing.Manager()
    ret wiki term = manager.list()
    ret true cnt = manager.list()
    ret fm cnt = manager.list()
    ret pcsa cnt = manager.list()
    ###########
    for elm in search terms:
        p = multiprocessing.Process(target=calc sample,
                                            args = (elm,
                                                  rounds,
                                                  ret wiki term,
                                                  ret_true_cnt,
                                                  ret fm cnt,
                                                  ret pcsa cnt))
        jobs.append(p)
        p.start()
    # checking they are done
    for j in jobs:
```

6.2 Visualization Code

The visualization were done with slight variation of the following code:

Listing 2: Visualization Code

```
import pandas as pd
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import seaborn as sns
df = pd.read csv('./fm analysis 1000.csv').sort values(by='true count')
sns.set (font scale = 1.5,
       rc={ 'axes.facecolor': 'lightgrey'})
g = sns.FacetGrid(df, sharex=False, sharey=False, col='wiki term',
                 height=8, aspect=1, col_wrap=2, margin_titles=True)
g.map(sns.histplot, 'pcsa count', color='g').set(yscale='log');
def vertical mean line(x, **kwargs):
    if x.name == 'true count':
        name = "True_Value"
        c = 'r'
        plt.axvline(x.mean(), linestyle="-", color=c)
    elif x.name == 'fm count':
        name = 'Flajolet_Count'
        c = b'
        plt.axvline(x.mean(), linestyle="—", color=c)
        txkw = dict(size=16, color=c, fontfamily='monospace')
        tx = name+": \{:.0f\}". format (x.mean())
        plt.text(x.mean()+25, 25, tx, **txkw)
    else:
        c = 'g'
        name= 'PCSA_Mean'
        plt.axvline(x.mean(), linestyle="—", color=c)
        txkw = dict(size=16, color=c, fontfamily='monospace')
        tx = name + ": \{ : 0 f \} ". format(x.mean())
        plt.text(x.mean()+25, 100, tx, **txkw)
```

References

[FM85]	Flajolet M. and Martin G. N., "Probabalistic Counting for Data Base Applications", Journal of Compyter and System Sciences, 1985
[PPMM]	Kamp, Michael, et. al., "Privacy-Preserving Mobility Monitoring using Sketches of Stationary Sensor Readings", 2013
$[\mathrm{Py}_Wiki]$	Goldsmith, J. "Wikipedia", https://github.com/goldsmith/Wikipedia
[WikiDB]	Wikimedia Downloads $https://dumps.wikimedia.org,$ Wikimedia! The Wikimedia Foundation, Inc., 2021