

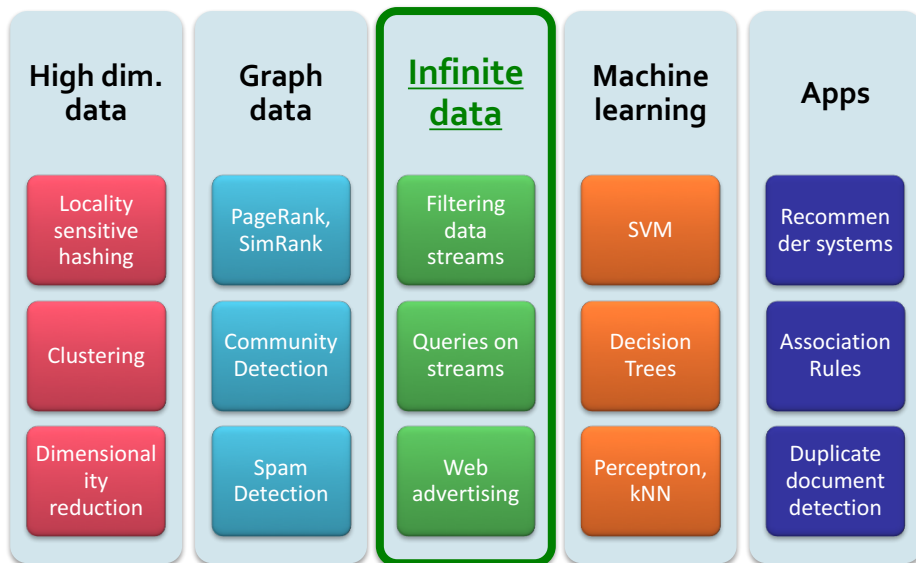
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# Mining Data Streams (Part 1)

Mining of Massive Datasets  
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 Stanford University  
<http://www.mmds.org>



## New Topic: Infinite Data



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## Data Streams

- In many data mining situations, we do not know the entire data set in advance
- **Stream Management** is important when the input rate is controlled **externally**:
  - Google queries
  - Twitter or Facebook status updates
- We can think of the **data** as **infinite** and **non-stationary** (the distribution changes over time)

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## The Stream Model

- Input **elements** enter at a rapid rate, at one or more input ports (i.e., **streams**)
  - We call elements of the stream **tuples**
- The system cannot store the entire stream accessibly
- **Q: How do you make critical calculations about the stream using a limited amount of (secondary) memory?**

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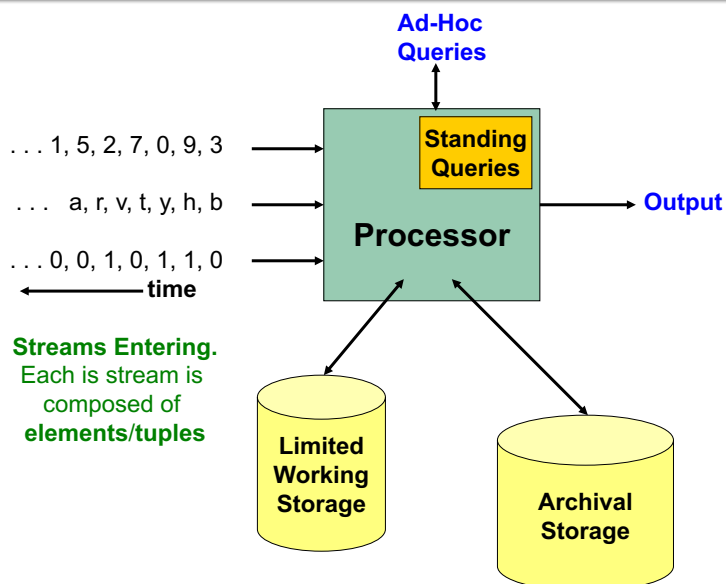
## Side note: SGD is a Streaming Alg.

- **Stochastic Gradient Descent (SGD) is an example of a stream algorithm**
- **In Machine Learning we call this: Online Learning**
  - Allows for modeling problems where we have a continuous stream of data
  - We want an algorithm to learn from it and slowly adapt to the changes in data
- **Idea: Do slow updates to the model**
  - **SGD** (SVM, Perceptron) makes small updates
  - **So:** First train the classifier on training data.
  - **Then:** For every example from the stream, we slightly update the model (using small learning rate)

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## General Stream Processing Model



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## Problems on Data Streams

- **Types of queries one wants on answer on a data stream:** (we'll do these today)
  - **Sampling data from a stream**
    - Construct a random sample
  - **Queries over sliding windows**
    - Number of items of type  $x$  in the last  $k$  elements of the stream

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## Problems on Data Streams

- **Types of queries one wants on answer on a data stream:** (we'll do these next time)
  - **Filtering a data stream**
    - Select elements with property  $x$  from the stream
  - **Counting distinct elements**
    - Number of distinct elements in the last  $k$  elements of the stream
  - **Estimating moments**
    - Estimate avg./std. dev. of last  $k$  elements
  - **Finding frequent elements**

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## Applications (1)

- **Mining query streams**
  - Google wants to know what queries are more frequent today than yesterday
- **Mining click streams**
  - Yahoo wants to know which of its pages are getting an unusual number of hits in the past hour
- **Mining social network news feeds**
  - E.g., look for trending topics on Twitter, Facebook

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## Applications (2)

- **Sensor Networks**
  - Many sensors feeding into a central controller
- **Telephone call records**
  - Data feeds into customer bills as well as settlements between telephone companies
- **IP packets monitored at a switch**
  - Gather information for optimal routing
  - Detect denial-of-service attacks

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## Sampling from a Data Stream: Sampling a fixed proportion

As the stream grows the sample  
also gets bigger

## Sampling from a Data Stream

- Since **we can not store the entire stream**, one obvious approach is to store a **sample**
- **Two different problems:**
  - **(1) Sample a fixed proportion** of elements in the stream (say 1 in 10)
  - **(2) Maintain a random sample of fixed size** over a potentially infinite stream
    - **At any “time”  $k$  we would like a random sample of  $s$  elements**
      - **What is the property of the sample we want to maintain?**  
For all time steps  $k$ , each of  $k$  elements seen so far has equal prob. of being sampled

## Sampling a Fixed Proportion

- **Problem 1: Sampling fixed proportion**
- **Scenario:** Search engine query stream
  - **Stream of tuples:** (user, query, time)
  - **Answer questions such as:** How often did a user run the same query in a single days
  - Have space to store  $1/10^{\text{th}}$  of query stream
- **Naïve solution:**
  - Generate a random integer in  $[0..9]$  for each query
  - Store the query if the integer is  $0$ , otherwise discard

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## Problem with Naïve Approach

- **Simple question:** What fraction of queries by an average search engine user are duplicates?
  - Suppose each user issues  $x$  queries once and  $d$  queries twice (total of  $x+2d$  queries)
    - **Correct answer:**  $d/(x+d)$
  - **Proposed solution: We keep 10% of the queries**
    - Sample will contain  $x/10$  of the singleton queries and  $2d/10$  of the duplicate queries at least once
    - But only  $d/100$  pairs of duplicates
      - $d/100 = 1/10 \cdot 1/10 \cdot d$
    - Of  $d$  “duplicates”  $18d/100$  appear exactly once
      - $18d/100 = ((1/10 \cdot 9/10) + (9/10 \cdot 1/10)) \cdot d$
  - **So the sample-based answer is**  $\frac{\frac{d}{100}}{\frac{x}{10} + \frac{d}{100} + \frac{18d}{100}} = \frac{d}{10x+19d}$

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## Solution: Sample Users

### Solution:

- Pick **1/10<sup>th</sup>** of **users** and take all their searches in the sample
- Use a hash function that hashes the user name or user id uniformly into 10 buckets

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## Generalized Solution

- **Stream of tuples with keys:**
  - Key is some subset of each tuple's components
    - e.g., tuple is (user, search, time); key is **user**
  - Choice of key depends on application
- **To get a sample of  $a/b$  fraction of the stream:**
  - Hash each tuple's key uniformly into  **$b$**  buckets
  - Pick the tuple if its hash value is at most  **$a$**



Hash table with  **$b$**  buckets, pick the tuple if its hash value is at most  **$a$** .

**How to generate a 30% sample?**

Hash into  $b=10$  buckets, take the tuple if it hashes to one of the first 3 buckets

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## Sampling from a Data Stream: Sampling a fixed-size sample

As the stream grows, the sample is of fixed size



## Maintaining a fixed-size sample

- **Problem 2: Fixed-size sample**
- **Suppose we need to maintain a random sample  $S$  of size exactly  $s$  tuples**
  - E.g., main memory size constraint
- **Why?** Don't know length of stream in advance
- **Suppose at time  $n$  we have seen  $n$  items**
  - **Each item is in the sample  $S$  with equal prob.  $s/n$**

**How to think about the problem: say  $s = 2$**

**Stream:** a x c y z | k q d e g...

At  $n=5$ , each of the first 5 tuples is included in the sample  $S$  with equal prob.

At  $n=7$ , each of the first 7 tuples is included in the sample  $S$  with equal prob.

**Impactical solution would be to store all the  $n$  tuples seen so far and out of them pick  $s$  at random**

## Solution: Fixed Size Sample

- **Algorithm (a.k.a. Reservoir Sampling)**

- Store all the first  $s$  elements of the stream to  $S$
- Suppose we have seen  $n-1$  elements, and now the  $n^{\text{th}}$  element arrives ( $n > s$ )
  - With probability  $s/n$ , keep the  $n^{\text{th}}$  element, else discard it
  - If we picked the  $n^{\text{th}}$  element, then it replaces one of the  $s$  elements in the sample  $S$ , picked uniformly at random

- **Claim:** This algorithm maintains a sample  $S$  with the desired property:

- After  $n$  elements, the sample contains each element seen so far with probability  $s/n$

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## Proof: By Induction

- **We prove this by induction:**

- Assume that after  $n$  elements, the sample contains each element seen so far with probability  $s/n$
- We need to show that after seeing element  $n+1$  the sample maintains the property
  - Sample contains each element seen so far with probability  $s/(n+1)$

- **Base case:**

- After we see  $n=s$  elements the sample  $S$  has the desired property
  - Each out of  $n=s$  elements is in the sample with probability  $s/s = 1$

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## Proof: By Induction

- **Inductive hypothesis:** After  $n$  elements, the sample  $S$  contains each element seen so far with prob.  $s/n$
- **Now element  $n+1$  arrives**
- **Inductive step:** For elements already in  $S$ , probability that the algorithm keeps it in  $S$  is:

$$\left(1 - \frac{s}{n+1}\right) + \left(\frac{s}{n+1}\right) \left(\frac{s-1}{s}\right) = \frac{n}{n+1}$$

Element  $n+1$  discarded
Element  $n+1$  not discarded
Element in the sample not picked

- So, at time  $n$ , tuples in  $S$  were there with prob.  $s/n$
- Time  $n \rightarrow n+1$ , tuple stayed in  $S$  with prob.  $n/(n+1)$
- So prob. tuple is in  $S$  at time  $n+1 = \frac{s}{n} \cdot \frac{n}{n+1} = \frac{s}{n+1}$

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## Queries over a (long) Sliding Window

## Sliding Windows

- A useful model of stream processing is that queries are about a *window* of length  $N$  – the  $N$  most recent elements received
- **Interesting case:**  $N$  is so large that the data cannot be stored in memory, or even on disk
  - Or, there are so many streams that windows for all cannot be stored
- **Amazon example:**
  - For every product  $X$  we keep 0/1 stream of whether that product was sold in the  $n$ -th transaction
  - We want answer queries, how many times have we sold  $X$  in the last  $k$  sales

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## Sliding Window: 1 Stream

- **Sliding window on a single stream:**  $N = 6$

q w e r t y u i o p a s d f g h j k l z x c v b n m

q w e r t y u i o p a s d f g h j k l z x c v b n m

q w e r t y u i o p a s d f g h j k l z x c v b n m

q w e r t y u i o p a s d f g h j k l z x c v b n m

← Past                      Future →

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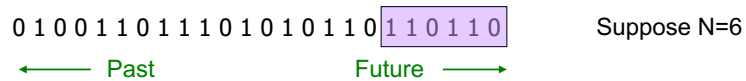
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## Counting Bits (1)

- **Problem:**
  - Given a stream of **0s** and **1s**
  - Be prepared to answer queries of the form **How many 1s are in the last  $k$  bits?** where  $k \leq N$
- **Obvious solution:**

Store the most recent  $N$  bits

  - When new bit comes in, discard the  $N+1^{\text{st}}$  bit



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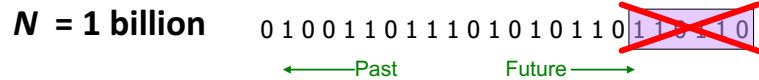
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## Counting Bits (2)

- You can not get an exact answer without storing the entire window
- **Real Problem:**

**What if we cannot afford to store  $N$  bits?**

  - E.g., we're processing 1 billion streams and  $N = 1$  billion
- **But we are happy with an approximate answer**



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## An attempt: Simple solution

- **Q: How many 1s are in the last  $N$  bits?**
- A simple solution that does not really solve our problem: **Uniformity assumption**

0 1 0 0 1 1 1 0 0 0 1 0 1 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 0 1 1 0 1 1 0 1 1 1 0 0 1 0 1 0 1 1 0 0 1 1 0 1 0

←  $N$  →  
 ← Past →      → Future →

- **Maintain 2 counters:**
  - $S$ : number of 1s from the beginning of the stream
  - $Z$ : number of 0s from the beginning of the stream
- **How many 1s are in the last  $N$  bits?**  $N \cdot \frac{S}{S+Z}$
- **But, what if stream is non-uniform?**
  - What if distribution changes over time?

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## DGIM Method

[Datar, Gionis, Indyk, Motwani]

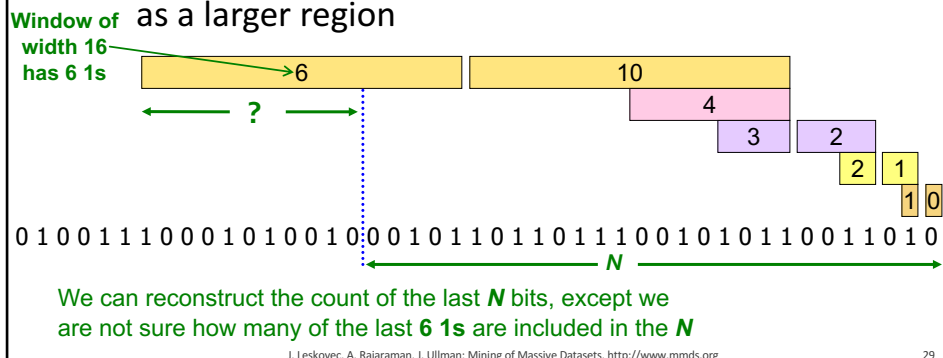
- **DGIM solution that does not assume uniformity**
- We store  $O(\log^2 N)$  bits per stream
- **Solution gives approximate answer, never off by more than 50%**
  - Error factor can be reduced to any fraction  $> 0$ , with more complicated algorithm and proportionally more stored bits

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## Idea: Exponential Windows

- **Solution that doesn't (quite) work:**
  - Summarize **exponentially increasing** regions of the stream, looking backward
  - Drop small regions if they begin at the same point as a larger region

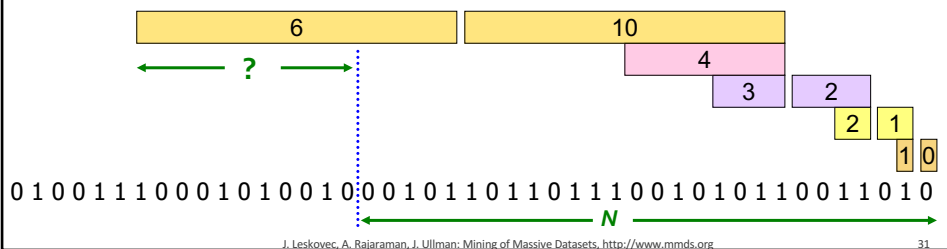


## What's Good?

- Stores only  $O(\log^2 N)$  bits
  - $O(\log N)$  counts of  $\log_2 N$  bits each
- Easy update as more bits enter
- Error in count no greater than the number of 1s in the “unknown” area

## What's Not So Good?

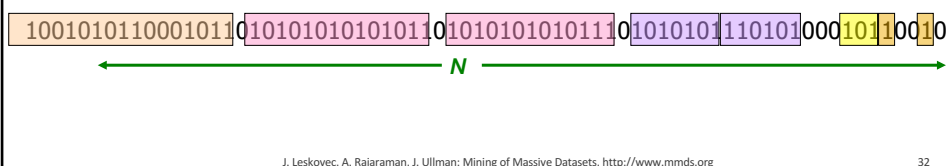
- As long as the **1s** are fairly evenly distributed, the error due to the unknown region is small – **no more than 50%**
- But it could be that all the **1s** are in the unknown area at the end
- In that case, **the error is unbounded!**



[Datar, Gionis, Indyk, Motwani]

## Fixup: DGIM method

- Idea:** Instead of summarizing fixed-length blocks, summarize blocks with specific number of **1s**:
  - Let the block **sizes** (number of **1s**) increase exponentially
- When there are few 1s in the window, block sizes stay small, so errors are small**





## DGIM: Timestamps

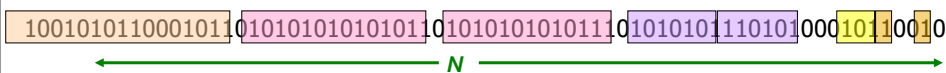
- Each bit in the stream has a *timestamp*, starting **1, 2, ...**
- Record timestamps modulo  $N$  (**the window size**), so we can represent any **relevant** timestamp in  $O(\log_2 N)$  bits

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## DGIM: Buckets

- A *bucket* in the DGIM method is a record consisting of:
  - (A) The timestamp of its end [ $O(\log N)$  bits]
  - (B) The number of 1s between its beginning and end [ $O(\log \log N)$  bits]
- Constraint on buckets:**  
Number of **1s** must be a power of **2**
  - That explains the  $O(\log \log N)$  in (B) above



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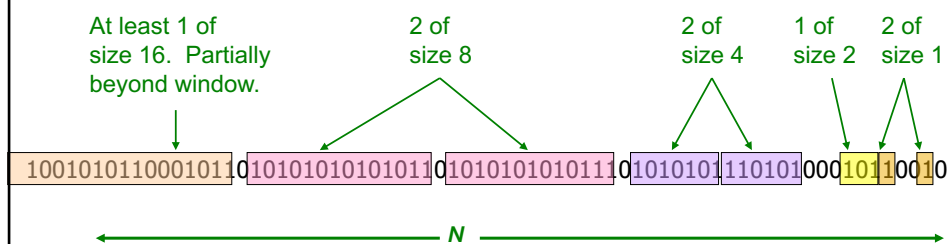
## Representing a Stream by Buckets

- Either **one** or **two** buckets with the same **power-of-2** number of **1s**
- Buckets do not overlap in timestamps
- Buckets are sorted by size
  - Earlier buckets are not smaller than later buckets
- Buckets disappear when their end-time is  $> N$  time units in the past

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## Example: Bucketized Stream



### Three properties of buckets that are maintained:

- Either **one** or **two** buckets with the same **power-of-2** number of **1s**
- Buckets do not overlap in timestamps
- Buckets are sorted by size

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## Updating Buckets (1)

- When a new bit comes in, drop the last (oldest) bucket if its end-time is prior to  $N$  time units before the current time
- **2 cases:** Current bit is **0** or **1**
- **If the current bit is 0:**  
no other changes are needed

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## Updating Buckets (2)

- **If the current bit is 1:**
  - **(1)** Create a new bucket of size **1**, for just this bit
    - End timestamp = current time
  - **(2)** If there are now **three buckets of size 1**,  
**combine the oldest two into a bucket of size 2**
  - **(3)** If there are now **three buckets of size 2**,  
**combine the oldest two into a bucket of size 4**
  - **(4)** And so on ...

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## Example: Updating Buckets

Current state of the stream:

10010101100010110 101010101010110 10101010101110 1010101110101000 10110010

Bit of value 1 arrives

0010101100010110 101010101010110 10101010101110 1010101110101000 101100101

Two orange buckets get merged into a yellow bucket

0010101100010110 101010101010110 10101010101110 1010101110101000 101100101

Next bit 1 arrives, new orange bucket is created, then 0 comes, then 1:

0101100010110 101010101010110 10101010101110 1010101110101000 101100101101

Buckets get merged...

0101100010110 101010101010110 10101010101110 1010101110101000 101100101101

State of the buckets after merging

0101100010110 10101010101011010101010101110 1010101110101000 101100101101

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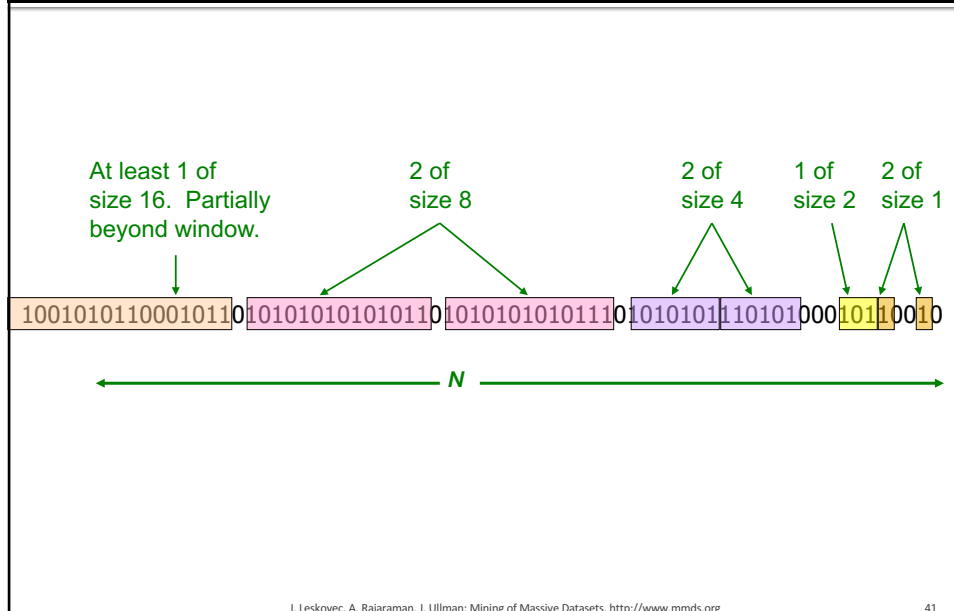
## How to Query?

- **To estimate the number of 1s in the most recent  $N$  bits:**
  1. Sum the sizes of all buckets but the last  
(note "size" means the number of 1s in the bucket)
  2. Add half the size of the last bucket
- **Remember:** We do not know how many 1s of the last bucket are still within the wanted window

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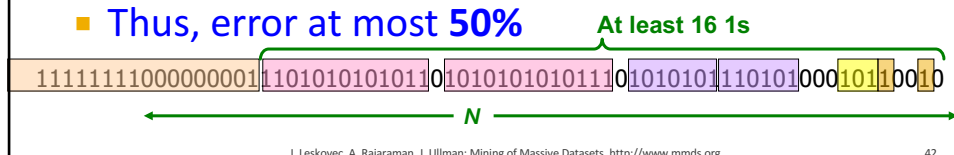
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## Example: Bucketized Stream



## Error Bound: Proof

- **Why is error 50%? Let's prove it!**
- Suppose the last bucket has size  $2^r$
- Then by assuming  $2^{r-1}$  (i.e., half) of its **1s** are still within the window, we make an error of at most  $2^{r-1}$
- Since there is at least one bucket of each of the sizes less than  $2^r$ , the true sum is at least  $1 + 2 + 4 + \dots + 2^{r-1} = 2^r - 1$
- Thus, error at most 50%



## Further Reducing the Error

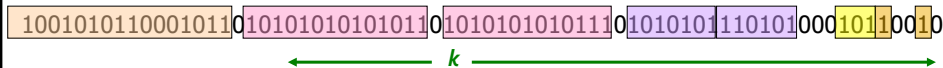
- Instead of maintaining **1** or **2** of each size bucket, we allow either  **$r-1$**  or  **$r$**  buckets ( **$r > 2$** )
  - Except for the largest size buckets; we can have any number between **1** and  **$r$**  of those
- **Error is at most  $O(1/r)$**
- By picking  **$r$**  appropriately, we can tradeoff between number of bits we store and the error

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## Extensions

- Can we use the same trick to answer queries **How many 1's in the last  $k$ ?** where  **$k < N$** ?
  - **A:** Find earliest bucket **B** that overlaps with  **$k$** . Number of **1s** is the **sum of sizes of more recent buckets +  $\frac{1}{2}$  size of B**



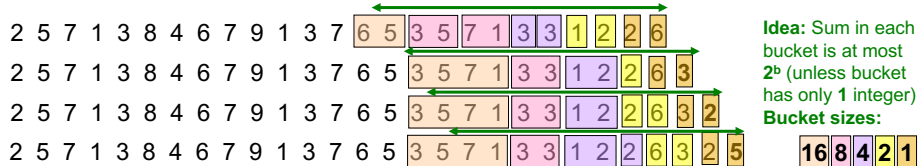
- Can we handle the case where the stream is not bits, but integers, and we want the sum of the last  **$k$**  elements?

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## Extensions

- **Stream of positive integers**
- **We want the sum of the last  $k$  elements**
  - **Amazon:** Avg. price of last  $k$  sales
- **Solution:**
  - **(1) If you know all have at most  $m$  bits**
    - Treat  $m$  bits of each integer as a separate stream
    - Use DGIM to count **1s** in each integer  $c_i$  ...estimated count for  $i$ -th bit
    - The sum is  $= \sum_{i=0}^{m-1} c_i 2^i$
  - **(2) Use buckets to keep partial sums**
    - **Sum of elements in size  $b$  bucket is at most  $2^b$**



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## Summary

- **Sampling a fixed proportion of a stream**
  - Sample size grows as the stream grows
- **Sampling a fixed-size sample**
  - Reservoir sampling
- **Counting the number of 1s in the last  $N$  elements**
  - Exponentially increasing windows
  - Extensions:
    - Number of 1s in any last  $k$  ( $k < N$ ) elements
    - Sums of integers in the last  $N$  elements

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