

## Amortized Analysis

No probability

Obtain average performance in the worst-case

No bad sequences

## Techniques for Amortized Analysis

- Aggregate analysis
- Accounting method
- Potential method.

## Average-Case Analysis

May involve prob.

Average performance

Possible bad sequences

What we did in disjoint sets was aggregate analysis.

Example: Stack with an added operation.

Push( $S, x$ ) : Push  $x$  onto stack

Pop( $S$ ) : Pop top of stack and return popped object

Multipop( $S, k$ ) : Remove  $\min(|S|, k)$  objects from top.

Multipop( $S, k$ )

while not stack-empty( $S$ ) and  $k \neq 0$

do Pop( $S$ )

$k \leftarrow k - 1$

Running time of Multipop is  $O(\min(|S|, k))$

which means in the worst-case it's  $O(n)$

Therefore, a sequence of  $n$  operations takes  $O(n^2)$  time.

## Aggregate Analysis

Get a better bound by considering the entire sequence of  $n$  operations.

Claim: Any sequence of  $n$  stack operations take  $O(n)$  time.

- Any object can be popped at most once after it's pushed.

The # times a pop is called on a non-empty stack

(including those in a multipop) is at most equal to # pushes.

- Given  $n$  operations that result in  $m$  pops from within multipop, the running time is  $O(n+m)$

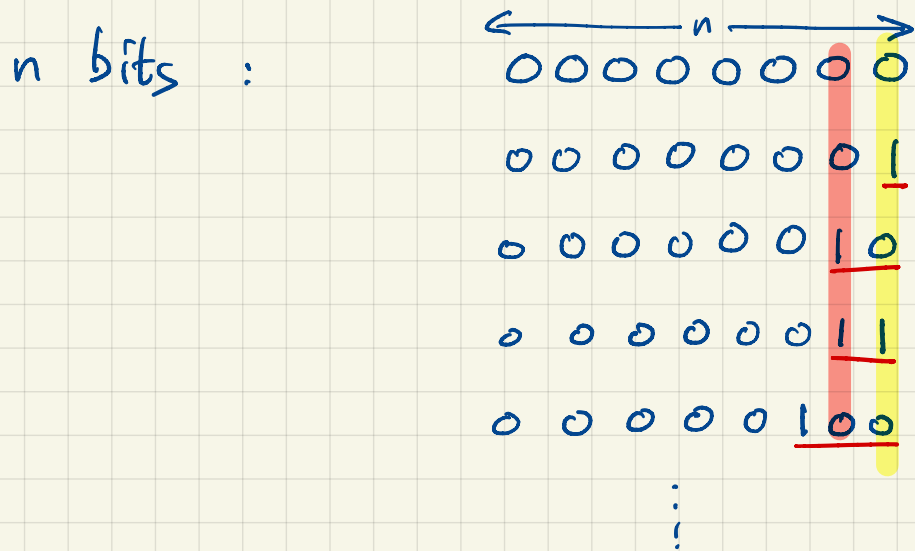
But  $m \leq n$ , so  $O(2n) = O(n)$ .

Each operation runs in  $O(1)$  amortized time

Aggregate: "Treat every operation the same way in terms of time"

Another example of aggregate analysis:

In the book: Incrementing a binary counter  $n$  times.



An increment takes  $O(n)$  time

Incrementing  $n$  times  $\Rightarrow O(n^2)$  time

A sequence of  $n$  increment operations take  $O(n)$  time.

So each operation takes  $O(1)$  amortized time.

$$\# \text{flips} : \underbrace{n}_{1^{\text{st}} \text{ bit}} + \underbrace{\frac{n}{2}}_{2^{\text{nd}} \text{ bit}} + \frac{n}{4} + \frac{n}{8} + \dots \leq 2n$$

## Accounting method (each op. has a different amortized time)

- Assign an amortized cost  $\hat{c}_i$  for operation  $i$
- Let  $c_i$  be actual cost of operation  $i$ .
- If  $\hat{c}_i > c_i$ , add  $\hat{c}_i - c_i$  to credit (store that much on some object)
- If  $\hat{c}_i < c_i$ , subtract  $c_i - \hat{c}_i$  from credit. (use that much from stored)

As long as credit is always  $\geq 0$ , we have  $\sum_i (\hat{c}_i - c_i) \geq 0$

$$\text{So } \sum_i c_i \leq \sum_i \hat{c}_i$$

credit must  
always be  
non-negative

Stack:

|                    | $\hat{c}$ | $c$            |                                  |
|--------------------|-----------|----------------|----------------------------------|
| Push( $S, x$ )     | 2         | 1              | put a credit of 1 on pushed obj. |
| Pop( $S$ )         | 0         | 1              | use credit placed on object      |
| Multipop( $S, k$ ) | 0         | $\min( S , k)$ | same as above                    |

- Given  $n$  stack operations,  $\sum_{i=1}^n \hat{c}_i \leq 2n = O(n)$
- If credit is always  $\geq 0$ , then  $\sum_{i=1}^n c_i \leq \sum_{i=1}^n \hat{c}_i = O(n)$ .
- Is it?

Total credit is always equal to # objects in stack, and that's  $\geq 0$ .

## Potential method

- Same as "credit" but associated with data structure as a whole
- Let  $D_i$  be the data structure after the  $i^{\text{th}}$  operation. (Initially  $D_0$ )
- Define a "potential function"  $\phi(D)$  such that

$$\phi(D_i) \geq 0$$

$$\phi(D_0) = 0$$

- $\phi(D)$  measures how "difficult" the data structure  $D$  is
- Let amortized cost of operation  $i$  be

$$\hat{c}_i = c_i + \phi(D_i) - \phi(D_{i-1}) \quad \Delta\phi_i$$

$$\begin{aligned} \sum \hat{c}_i &= \sum c_i + \sum \phi(D_i) - \phi(D_{i-1}) = \sum c_i + (\cancel{\phi(D_1)} - \phi(D_0) \\ &= \sum c_i + \phi(D_n) - \phi(D_0) \geq \sum c_i. \end{aligned}$$

$+ \phi(D_2) - \phi(D_1)$   
 $+ \phi(D_3) - \phi(D_2)$   
 $\vdots$ )

Idea: An operation  $i$  with high  $c_i$  might have

$$\phi(D_i) - \phi(D_{i-1}) < 0$$

which makes the structure easier for later operations.

Stack: Define  $\phi(S_i) =$  size of stack after  $i$ th operation.

Observe  $\phi(S_i) \geq 0$  and  $\phi(S_0) = 0$ .

$$\text{Push}(S, x): \hat{c}_i = c_i + \phi(S_i) - \phi(S_{i-1}) = 1 + 1 = 2$$

$$\text{Pop}(S): \hat{c}_i = c_i + \phi(S_i) - \phi(S_{i-1}) = 1 - 1 = 0$$

$$\text{MultiPop}(S, k): \hat{c}_i = c_i + \phi(S_i) - \phi(S_{i-1}) = \min(|S_{i-1}|, k) - \min(|S_{i-1}|, k) = 0$$

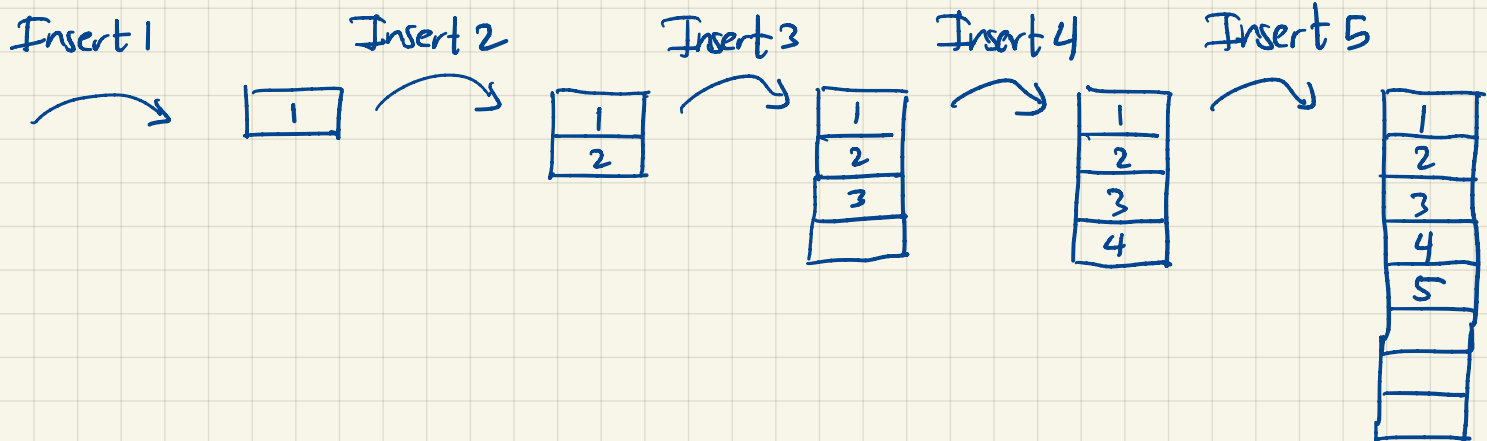
A sequence of  $n$  stack operations have amortized cost  $\leq 2n$ .



## Another example: Dynamic tables.

- Insert objects in table.
- Start with table size 0
- To insert, if  $\text{size} = 0$ , make it 1.
- When no more space, double size of table (and copy entire table)  
 $O(\text{size table})$

Example:



Naive analysis: In the worst case, each insert must copy, so quadratic time?

Aggregate analysis: In a sequence of  $n$  inserts, the  $i$ th insert causes a copy of  $(i-1)$  elements if  $(i-1)$  is a power of 2.

So  $n$  operations take

$$\sum_{i=1}^n c_i = n + \underbrace{\sum_{j=0}^{\lfloor \lg n \rfloor} 2^j}_{\text{copying}} = n + \underbrace{1+2+4+\dots+2^{\lfloor \lg n \rfloor}}_{\text{insert}} < n + 2n = 3n = O(n)$$

$< n + \frac{n}{2} + \frac{n}{4} + \dots = n(1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} + \dots)$

Accounting method: charge each operation  $i$ ,  $\hat{c}_i = 3$

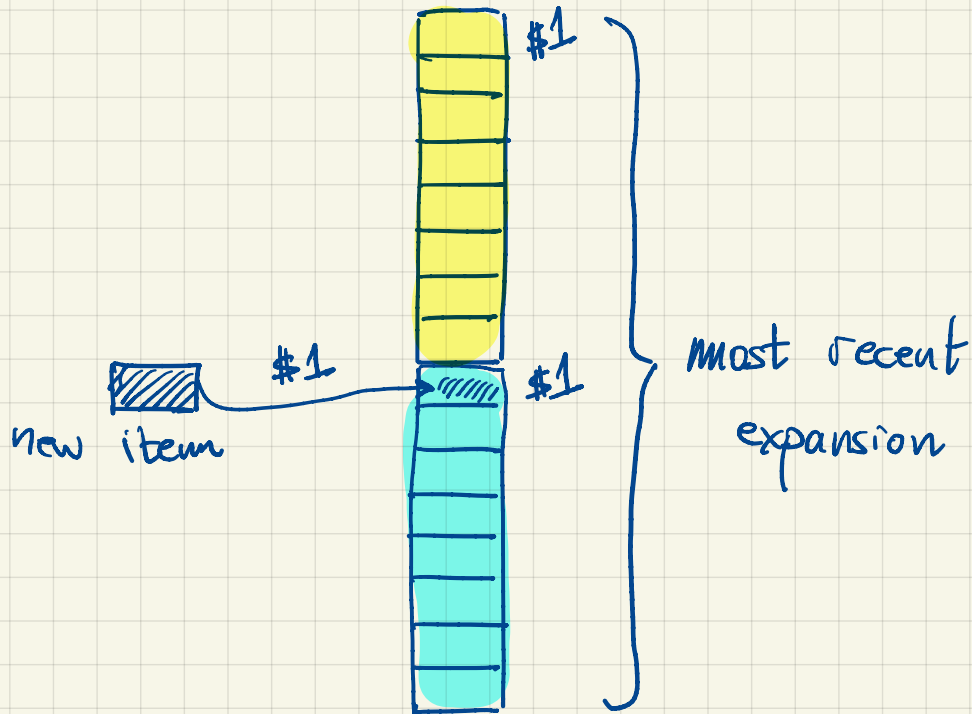
- use 1 for actual operation

- store 2 as credit on two objects

copy yourself in future

copy another object

# Illustration of accounting method



By the time table is full again, we would have already payed to move all elements.

Potential method:

Define  $\phi(T_i) = 2 \text{num}_i - \text{size}_i$

$\text{num}_i = \# \text{ elements after } i^{\text{th}} \text{ insert}$

$\text{size}_i = \text{size of table after } i^{\text{th}} \text{ insert}$

Observe:  $\phi(T_0) = 2 \times 0 - 0 = 0$

$\phi(T_i) \geq 0$  always since  $\text{num}_i \geq \frac{\text{size}_i}{2}$

(table always at least  $\frac{1}{2}$  full)

Insert (No expansion):

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{c}_i &= c_i + \phi(T_i) - \phi(T_{i-1}) = 1 + (2\text{num}_i - \text{size}_i) - (2\text{num}_{i-1} - \text{size}_{i-1}) \\ &= 1 + 2(\text{num}_i - \text{num}_{i-1}) - (\text{size}_i - \text{size}_{i-1}) \\ &= 1 + 2 \times 1 - 0 = 3\end{aligned}$$

Insert (with expansion):

$$\hat{C}_i = c_i + \phi(T_i) - \phi(T_{i-1}) = \text{num}_i + (2\text{num}_i - \text{size}_i) - (2\text{num}_{i-1} - \text{size}_{i-1})$$

↑ + # Copies

$$= \text{num}_i + 2(\text{num}_i - \text{num}_{i-1}) - (\text{size}_i - \text{size}_{i-1})$$

Expansion means:  $\text{size}_i = 2(\text{num}_{i-1})$  (Doubled)

$\text{size}_{i-1} = \text{num}_{i-1}$  (Full)

$$\hat{C}_i = \text{num}_i + 2 - \text{num}_{i-1} = 2 + \text{num}_i - \text{num}_{i-1} = 2 + 1 = 3.$$

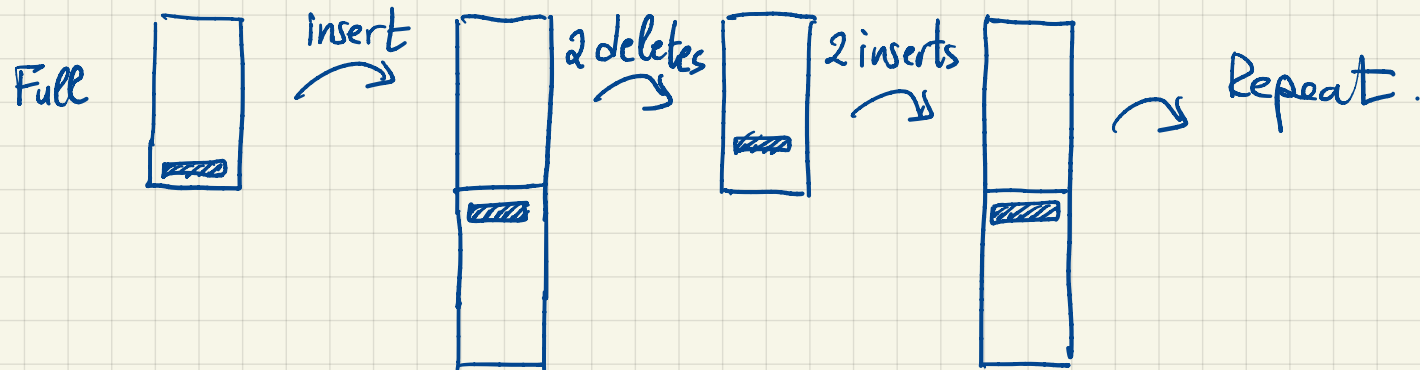
What about deletions?

Simple strategy:

table full  $\Rightarrow$  double it upon insert as before

table  $< \frac{1}{2}$  full  $\Rightarrow$  halve it after delete

Does not work:



$O(n)$  time every 2 operations on average  $\Rightarrow O(n)$  time/op.

Idea: Allow table size to drop below half full, eg. use  $\frac{1}{4}$