

# COMPSCI 514: Algorithms for Data Science

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University of Massachusetts Amherst. Fall 2023.

Lecture 4

- Problem Set 1 due next Friday 9/22, at 11:59pm.
- Second quiz will be released today after class, due Monday 8:00pm.
- Change to challenge problem grading.

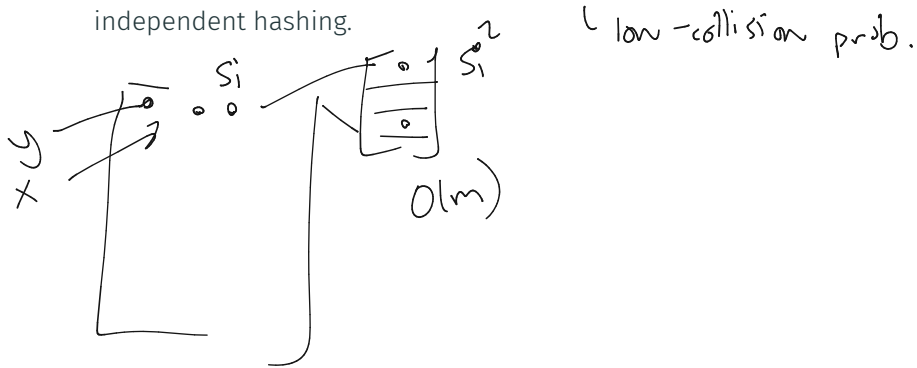
$$\checkmark+ = 3 \quad \checkmark = 2 \quad \checkmark- = 1$$

Full score: 15 points

# Last Time

## Last Class:

- 2-level hashing and its analysis via linearity of expectation.  
Gives optimal  $O(1)$  query time and  $O(m)$  expected space usage.
- Practical random hash functions: 2-universal and pairwise independent hashing.



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## This Time:

- Hashing for load balancing in distributed systems. Motivating:
- Stronger concentration inequalities: Chebyshev's inequality, exponential tail bounds, and their connections to the law of large numbers and central limit theorem.
- The union bound to bound the probability that one of multiple possible correlated events happens.

Some of the pset questions use Chebyshev's inequality. After today you will know enough to solve everything on the pset.

# Efficiently Computable Hash Functions

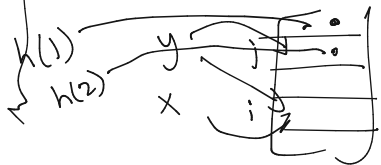
**2-Universal Hash Function** (low collision probability). A random hash function from  $h : U \rightarrow [n]$  is two universal if:

$$\Pr[h(x) = h(y)] \leq \frac{1}{n}.$$

**Pairwise Independent Hash Function.** A random hash function from  $h : U \rightarrow [n]$  is pairwise independent if for all  $i, j \in [n]$ :

$$x \neq y$$

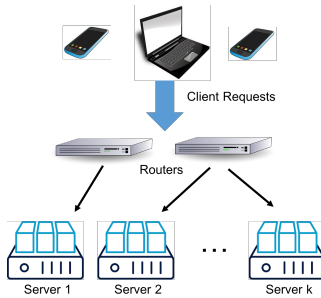
$$\Pr[h(x) = i \cap h(y) = j] = \frac{1}{n^2}.$$



$$\begin{aligned} h(1) &= \text{rand}(n) \\ h(2) &= h(1) + 1 \pmod n \\ \underline{h(x)} &= \text{rand}(n) \end{aligned}$$

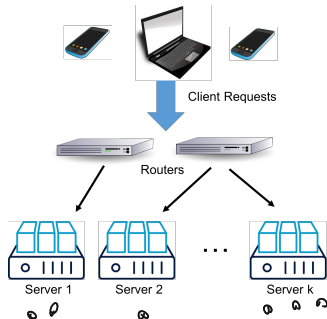
# Another Application

## Randomized Load Balancing:



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## Randomized Load Balancing:



**Simple Model:**  $n$  requests randomly assigned to  $k$  servers. How many requests must each server handle?

- Often assignment is done via a random hash function. Why?
- what if servers go down consistently
- more secure.

## Weakness of Markov's

$$R_i = \# \text{ request assigned to server } i.$$
$$E[R_i] = \frac{C}{K}$$

$n$ : total number of requests,  $k$ : number of servers randomly assigned requests,  
 $R_i$ : number of requests assigned to server  $i$ .



## Weakness of Markov's

$$\mathbb{E}[\underline{R}_i] = \sum_{j=1}^n \mathbb{E}[\mathbb{I}_{\text{request } j \text{ assigned to } i}] = \sum_{j=1}^n \underbrace{\Pr[j \text{ assigned to } i]}_{\frac{1}{k}} = \frac{n}{k}.$$

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If we provision each server be able to handle **twice the expected load**, what is the probability that a server is overloaded?

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Applying Markov's Inequality

$$\Pr[R_i \geq 2\mathbb{E}[R_i]] \leq \frac{\mathbb{E}[R_i]}{2\mathbb{E}[R_i]} = \frac{1}{2}.$$

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If we provision each server be able to handle **twice the expected load**, what is the probability that a server is overloaded?

### Applying Markov's Inequality

$$\Pr[R_i \geq 2\mathbb{E}[R_i]] \leq \frac{\mathbb{E}[R_i]}{2\mathbb{E}[R_i]} = \frac{1}{2}.$$

Not great...half the servers may be overloaded.

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## Chebyshev's inequality

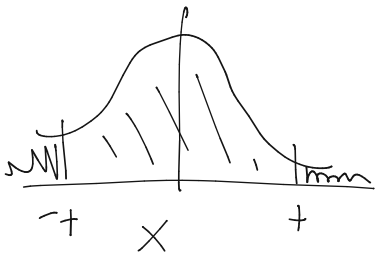
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# Chebyshev's inequality

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For any random variable  $X$  and any value  $t > 0$ :

$$\underline{\Pr(|X| \geq t) = \Pr(X^2 \geq t^2)}.$$



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Chebyshev's inequality:  $Y = X - \mathbb{E}X$

$$\Pr(|X| \geq t) = \Pr(X^2 \geq t^2) \leq \frac{\mathbb{E}[X^2]}{t^2}.$$

$$\Pr(|X - \mathbb{E}X| \geq t) \leq \frac{\mathbb{E}[(X - \mathbb{E}X)^2]}{t^2} \leq \frac{\text{Var}(X)}{t^2}$$

# Chebyshev's inequality

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For any random variable  $X$  and any value  $t > 0$ :

$$\Pr(|X| \geq t) = \Pr(\underbrace{X^2 \geq t^2}).$$

$$\begin{aligned} |a| < b \\ \underline{a^2} < b^2 \end{aligned}$$

$X^2$  is a nonnegative random variable. So can apply Markov's inequality:

**Chebyshev's inequality:**

$$\Pr(\underbrace{|X - \mathbb{E}[X]| \geq t}) \leq \frac{\text{Var}[X]}{t^2}.$$

(by plugging in the random variable  $X - \mathbb{E}[X]$ )

# Chebyshev's inequality

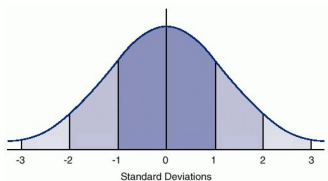
$$\Pr(|X - \mathbb{E}[X]| \geq t) \leq \frac{\text{Var}[X]}{t^2}$$

X: any random variable, t, s: any fixed numbers.

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What is the probability that  $X$  falls  $s$  standard deviations from its mean?

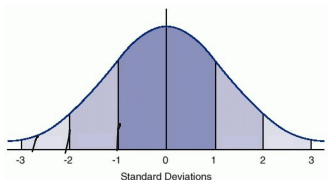


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What is the probability that  $X$  falls  $s$  standard deviations from its mean?



$$\Pr(|X - \mathbb{E}[X]| \geq s \cdot \sqrt{\text{Var}[X]}) \leq \frac{\text{Var}[X]}{s^2 \cdot \text{Var}[X]} = \frac{1}{s^2}.$$

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# Law of Large Numbers

Consider drawing independent identically distributed (i.i.d.) random variables  $X_1, \dots, X_n$  with mean  $\mu$  and variance  $\sigma^2$ .

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How well does the sample average  $S = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i$  approximate the true mean  $\mu$ ?

$$\mathbb{E}[S] = \mu = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{E}X_i = \frac{1}{n} \cdot n \cdot \mu = \mu$$

$$\Pr(|S - \mu| > t) = \Pr(|S - \mathbb{E}S| > t)$$

$$\text{Var}(S)$$



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$$\begin{aligned}\text{Var}[S] &= \text{Var} \left[ \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{n^2} \sum_{i=1}^n \text{Var}(X_i) \\ &= \frac{1}{n^2} \sum_{i=1}^n \sigma^2 \\ &= \frac{\sigma^2}{n}\end{aligned}$$

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**By Chebyshev's Inequality:** for any fixed value  $\epsilon > 0$ ,

$$\Pr(|S - \mathbb{E}[S]| \geq \epsilon) \leq \frac{\text{Var}[S]}{\epsilon^2} = \frac{\sigma^2}{n\epsilon^2}.$$

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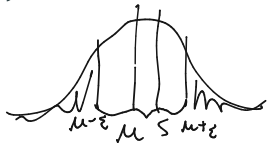
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By Chebyshev's Inequality: for any fixed value  $\epsilon > 0$ ,

$$b=1 \\ \epsilon = .01$$

$$\Pr(|S - \mu| \geq \epsilon) \leq \frac{\text{Var}[S]}{\epsilon^2} = \frac{\sigma^2}{n\epsilon^2} \stackrel{=.01^2}{=} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{b^2}{\epsilon n} = 0$$

**Law of Large Numbers:** with enough samples  $n$ , the sample average will always concentrate to the mean.



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**Law of Large Numbers:** with enough samples  $n$ , the sample average will always concentrate to the mean.

- Cannot show from vanilla Markov's inequality.



# Load Balancing Variance

We can write the number of requests assigned to server  $i$ ,  $R_i$  as:

$$R_i = \sum_{j=1}^n R_{i,j}$$

$$\mathbb{E}R_i = \frac{n}{k}$$

where  $R_{i,j}$  is 1 if request  $j$  is assigned to server  $i$  and 0 otherwise.

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where  $R_{i,j}$  is 1 if request  $j$  is assigned to server  $i$  and 0 otherwise.

$$\mathbb{E}[R_{i,j}] = \frac{1}{k} \quad \mathbb{E}[R_{i,j}^2] = \mathbb{E}[R_{i,j}] = \frac{1}{k}$$

$$= 1 \text{ w.p. } \frac{1}{k}$$
$$0 \text{ o.w.}$$

$$\text{Var}(R_{i,j}) = \mathbb{E}[R_{i,j}^2] - (\mathbb{E}[R_{i,j}])^2$$
$$= \frac{1}{k} - \frac{1}{k^2} \approx \frac{1}{k}$$

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$$\text{Var}[R_{i,j}] = \mathbb{E} \left[ \underbrace{(R_{i,j} - \mathbb{E}[R_{i,j}])^2}_{\text{variance of } R_{i,j}} \right]$$

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## Bounding the Load via Chebyshevs

Letting  $R_i$  be the number of requests sent to server  $i$ ,  $\mathbb{E}[R_i] = \frac{n}{k}$  and  $\text{Var}[R_i] \leq \frac{n}{k}$ .

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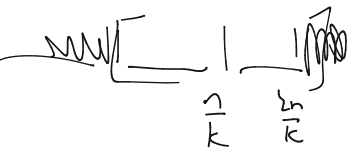
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Applying Chebyshev's:

$$\Pr\left(R_i \geq \frac{2n}{k}\right) \leq \Pr\left(|R_i - \mathbb{E}[R_i]| \geq \frac{n}{k}\right)$$

$\frac{1}{2}$



$$\mathbb{E}[R_i] = \frac{n}{k}$$

if  $R_i \geq \frac{2n}{k}$  then

$$|R_i - \mathbb{E}[R_i]| \geq \frac{n}{k}$$

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## Bounding the Load via Chebyshev's

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Applying Chebyshev's:

$$\Pr\left(R_i \geq \frac{2n}{k}\right) \leq \Pr\left(|R_i - \mathbb{E}[R_i]| \geq \frac{n}{k}\right) \leq \frac{\text{Var}(R_i)}{\left(\frac{n}{k}\right)^2} \leq \frac{n/k}{n^2/k^2} = \frac{k}{n}$$

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## Bounding the Load via Chebyshev's

Letting  $R_i$  be the number of requests sent to server  $i$ ,  $\mathbb{E}[R_i] = \frac{n}{k}$  and  $\text{Var}[R_i] \leq \frac{n}{k}$ .

Applying Chebyshev's:

$$\Pr\left(R_i \geq \frac{2n}{k}\right) \leq \Pr\left(|R_i - \mathbb{E}[R_i]| \geq \frac{n}{k}\right) \leq \frac{n/k}{n^2/k^2} = \frac{k}{n}.$$

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- Overload probability is extremely small when  $k \ll n$ !

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$$\mathbb{E} R_i = n$$

$$k = n$$

Applying Chebyshev's:

$$\Pr\left(R_i \geq \frac{2n}{k}\right) \leq \Pr\left(|R_i - \mathbb{E}[R_i]| \geq \frac{n}{k}\right) \leq \frac{n/k}{n^2/k^2} = \frac{k}{n}$$

- Overload probability is extremely small when  $k \ll n!$
- Might seem counterintuitive – bound gets worse as  $k$  grows.
- When  $k$  is large, the number of requests each server sees in expectation is very small so the law of large numbers doesn't 'kick in'.

$n$ : total number of requests,  $k$ : number of servers randomly assigned requests,  $R_i$ : number of requests assigned to server  $i$ .

# Maximum Server Load

What is the probability that the **maximum server load** exceeds  $2 \cdot \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{R}_i] = \frac{2n}{k}$ . I.e., that some server is overloaded if we give each  $\frac{2n}{k}$  capacity?

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$$\Pr \left( \max_{i=1, \dots, k} (\mathbf{R}_i) \geq \frac{2n}{k} \right)$$

$n$ : total number of requests,  $k$ : number of servers randomly assigned requests,  
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$$\Pr \left( \max_i (\mathbf{R}_i) \geq \frac{2n}{k} \right) = \Pr \left( \left[ \mathbf{R}_1 \geq \frac{2n}{k} \right] \cup \left[ \mathbf{R}_2 \geq \frac{2n}{k} \right] \cup \dots \cup \left[ \mathbf{R}_k \geq \frac{2n}{k} \right] \right)$$

$n$ : total number of requests,  $k$ : number of servers randomly assigned requests,  
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$$\Pr \left( \max_i (\mathbf{R}_i) \geq \frac{2n}{k} \right) = \Pr \left( \left[ \mathbf{R}_1 \geq \frac{2n}{k} \right] \text{ or } \left[ \mathbf{R}_2 \geq \frac{2n}{k} \right] \text{ or } \dots \text{ or } \left[ \mathbf{R}_k \geq \frac{2n}{k} \right] \right)$$

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$$\Pr\left(\max_i(\mathbf{R}_i) \geq \frac{2n}{k}\right) = \Pr\left(\bigcup_{i=1}^k \left[\mathbf{R}_i \geq \frac{2n}{k}\right]\right)$$

We want to show that  $\Pr\left(\bigcup_{i=1}^k \left[\mathbf{R}_i \geq \frac{2n}{k}\right]\right)$  is small.

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What is the probability that the **maximum server load** exceeds  $2 \cdot \mathbb{E}[R_i] = \frac{2n}{k}$ . I.e., that some server is overloaded if we give each  $\frac{2n}{k}$  capacity?

$$\Pr\left(\max_i R_i \geq \frac{2n}{k}\right) = \Pr\left(\bigcup_{i=1}^k \left[R_i \geq \frac{2n}{k}\right]\right)$$

$$P(A \cap B) \\ = P(A)P(B)$$

We want to show that  $\Pr\left(\bigcup_{i=1}^k \left[R_i \geq \frac{2n}{k}\right]\right)$  is small.

How do we do this? Note that  $R_1, \dots, R_k$  are correlated in a somewhat complex way.

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## The Union Bound

**Union Bound:** For any random events  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_k$ ,

$$\Pr(A_1 \cup A_2 \cup \dots \cup A_k) \leq \Pr(A_1) + \Pr(A_2) + \dots + \Pr(A_k).$$

# The Union Bound

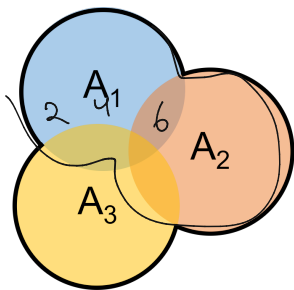
**Union Bound:** For any random events  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_k$ ,

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3 dice

$A_1$  = dice hits 6

$A_2$  = dice hits 6  
:



$A_1 = \{2, 4, 6\}$

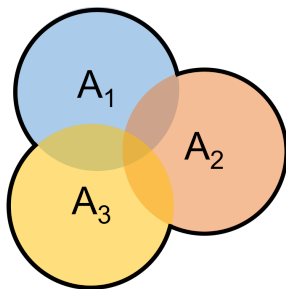
$A_2 = \{6\}$

$$P(A_1 \cup A_2 \cup A_3) = \Pr(\text{at least one hits 6})$$
$$\leq \frac{1}{2}$$

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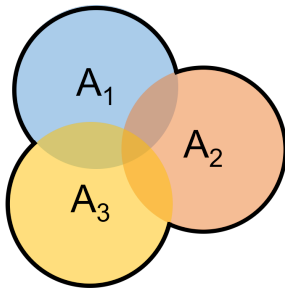


When is the union bound tight?

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When is the union bound tight? When  $A_1, \dots, A_k$  are all disjoint.

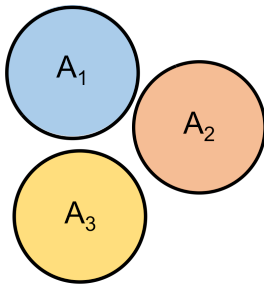
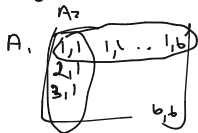


# The Union Bound

**Union Bound:** For any random events  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_k$ ,

$$\Pr(A_1 \cup A_2 \cup \dots \cup A_k) \leq \Pr(A_1) + \Pr(A_2) + \dots + \Pr(A_k).$$

$$\Pr(\text{roll 1 or roll 2}) \\ = \frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{6} = \frac{1}{3}$$



2 dice

$A_1 = \text{dice 1 rolls 1}$   
 $A_2 = \text{dice 2 rolls 1}$

36 outcomes

When is the union bound tight? When  $A_1, \dots, A_k$  are all disjoint.

## Applying the Union Bound

What is the probability that the **maximum server load** exceeds  $2 \cdot \mathbb{E}[R_i] = \frac{2n}{k}$ . I.e., that some server is overloaded if we give each  $\frac{2n}{k}$  capacity?

$$\Pr\left(\max_i(R_i) \geq \frac{2n}{k}\right) = \Pr\left(\bigcup_{i=1}^k \left[R_i \geq \frac{2n}{k}\right]\right)$$

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$$\Pr\left(\max_i(R_i) \geq \frac{2n}{k}\right) = \Pr\left(\bigcup_{i=1}^k \left[R_i \geq \frac{2n}{k}\right]\right) \\ \leq \sum_{i=1}^k \Pr\left(\left[R_i \geq \frac{2n}{k}\right]\right) \quad \text{(Union Bound)}$$

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$$\begin{aligned} \Pr\left(\max_i(R_i) \geq \frac{2n}{k}\right) &= \Pr\left(\bigcup_{i=1}^k \left[R_i \geq \frac{2n}{k}\right]\right) \\ &\leq \sum_{i=1}^k \Pr\left(\left[R_i \geq \frac{2n}{k}\right]\right) && \text{(Union Bound)} \\ &\leq \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{k}{n} && \text{(Bound from Chebyshev's)} \end{aligned}$$

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As long as  $k \leq O(\sqrt{n})$ , with good probability, the maximum server load will be small (compared to the expected load).

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