Amortized Analysis (Continued)

Amortized analysis

An ***amortized analysis*** is any strategy for analyzing a sequence of operations to show that the average cost per operation is small, even though a single operation within the sequence might be expensive.

Even though we're taking averages, however, probability is not involved!

- An amortized analysis guarantees the average performance of each operation in the *worst case*.

Types of amortized analyses

Three common amortization arguments:

- the ***aggregate*** method,
- the ***accounting*** method,
- the ***potential*** method.

We've just seen an aggregate analysis.

The aggregate method, though simple, lacks the precision of the other two methods. In particular, the accounting and potential methods allow a specific ***amortized cost*** to be allocated to each operation.

Accounting method

- Charge i th operation a fictitious ***amortized cost*** $\hat{c}_i$, where \$1 pays for 1 unit of work (*i.e.*, time).
- This fee is consumed to perform the operation.
- Any amount not immediately consumed is stored in the ***bank*** for use by subsequent operations.
- The bank balance must not go negative! We must ensure that

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} c_i \leq \sum_{i=1}^{n} \hat{c}_i$$

  for all n.
- Thus, the total amortized costs provide an upper bound on the total true costs.

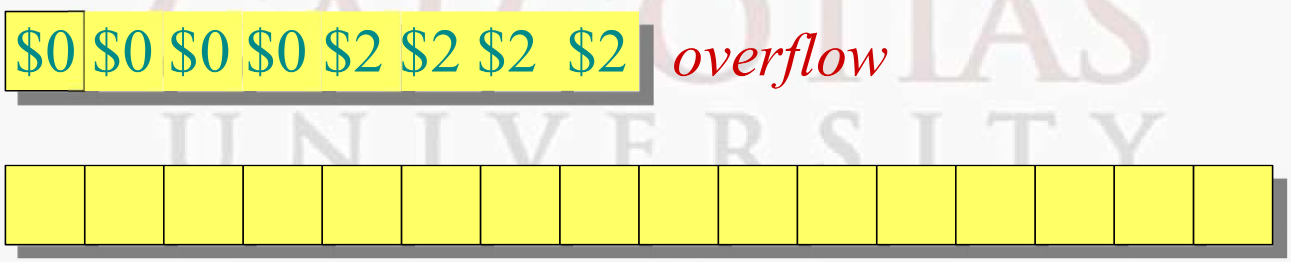
Accounting analysis of dynamic tables

Charge an amortized cost of $\hat{c}_i = \$3$ for the i th insertion.

- $1 pays for the immediate insertion.
- $2 is stored for later table doubling.

When the table doubles, $1 pays to move a recent item, and $1 pays to move an old item.

Example:



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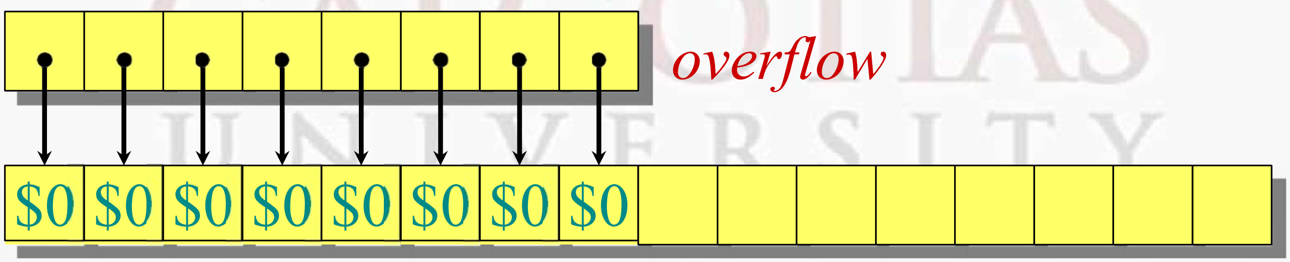

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Example:

$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$2	$2	$2					

Accounting analysis (continued)

Key invariant: Bank balance never drops below 0. Thus, the sum of the amortized costs provides an upper bound on the sum of the true costs.

i	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
$size_i$	1	2	4	4	8	8	8	8	16	16
c_i	1	2	3	1	5	1	1	1	9	1
$\hat{c}_i$	2*	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
$bank_i$	1	2	2	4	2	4	6	8	2	4

*Okay, so I lied. The first operation costs only \$2, not \$3.

Potential method

IDEA: View the bank account as the potential energy (*à la* physics) of the dynamic set.

Framework:

- Start with an initial data structure D_0.
- Operation i transforms D_{i-1} to D_i.
- The cost of operation i is c_i.
- Define a ***potential function*** $\Phi : \{D_i\} \to \mathrm{R}$, such that $\Phi(D_0) = 0$ and $\Phi(D_i) \geq 0$ for all i.
- The ***amortized cost*** $\hat{c}_i$ with respect to Φ is defined to be $\hat{c}_i = c_i + \Phi(D_i) - \Phi(D_{i-1})$.

Understanding potentials

$$\hat{c}_i = c_i + \underbrace{\Phi(D_i) - \Phi(D_{i-1})}_{\textit{potential difference } \Delta\Phi_i}$$

- If $\Delta\Phi_i > 0$, then $\hat{c}_i > c_i$. Operation i stores work in the data structure for later use.
- If $\Delta\Phi_i < 0$, then $\hat{c}_i < c_i$. The data structure delivers up stored work to help pay for operation i.

The amortized costs bound the true costs

The total amortized cost of n operations is

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} \hat{c}_i = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \left(c_i + \Phi(D_i) - \Phi(D_{i-1})\right)$$

Summing both sides.

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$$= \sum_{i=1}^{n} c_i + \Phi(D_n) - \Phi(D_0)$$

The series telescopes.

The amortized costs bound the true costs

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$$= \sum_{i=1}^{n} c_i + \Phi(D_n) - \Phi(D_0)$$

$$\geq \sum_{i=1}^{n} c_i$$

since $\Phi(D_n) \geq 0$ and $\Phi(D_0) = 0$.

Potential analysis of table doubling

Define the potential of the table after the ith insertion by $\Phi(D_i) = 2i - 2^{\lceil \lg i \rceil}$. (Assume that $2^{\lceil \lg 0 \rceil} = 0$.)

Note:

- $\Phi(D_0) = 0$,
- $\Phi(D_i) \geq 0$ for all i.

Example:

•	•	•	•	•	•		

$\Phi = 2 \cdot 6 - 2^3 = 4$

(

\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2	\$2		

accounting method)

Calculation of amortized costs

The amortized cost of the i th insertion is

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$$= \begin{Bmatrix} i & \text{if } i-1 \text{ is an exact power of } 2, \\ 1 & \text{otherwise;} \end{Bmatrix}$$

$$+ \left(2i - 2^{\lceil \lg i \rceil}\right) - \left(2(i-1) - 2^{\lceil \lg (i-1) \rceil}\right)$$

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$$+ 2 - 2^{\lceil \lg i \rceil} + 2^{\lceil \lg (i-1) \rceil}.$$

Calculation

Case 1: $i - 1$ is an exact power of 2.

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Case 2: $i - 1$ is *not* an exact power of 2.

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$$\begin{aligned}\hat{c}_i &= 1 + 2 - 2^{\lceil \lg i \rceil} + 2^{\lceil \lg (i-1) \rceil} \\ &= 3 \qquad \text{(since } 2^{\lceil \lg i \rceil} = 2^{\lceil \lg (i-1) \rceil}\text{)}\end{aligned}$$

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Therefore, n insertions cost $\Theta(n)$ in the worst case.

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Exercise: Fix the bug in this analysis to show that the amortized cost of the first insertion is only 2.

Conclusions

- Amortized costs can provide a clean abstraction of data-structure performance.
- Any of the analysis methods can be used when an amortized analysis is called for, but each method has some situations where it is arguably the simplest or most precise.
- Different schemes may work for assigning amortized costs in the accounting method, or potentials in the potential method, sometimes yielding radically different bounds.

Thank You