Advanced Topics in Communication Networks Programming Network Data Planes



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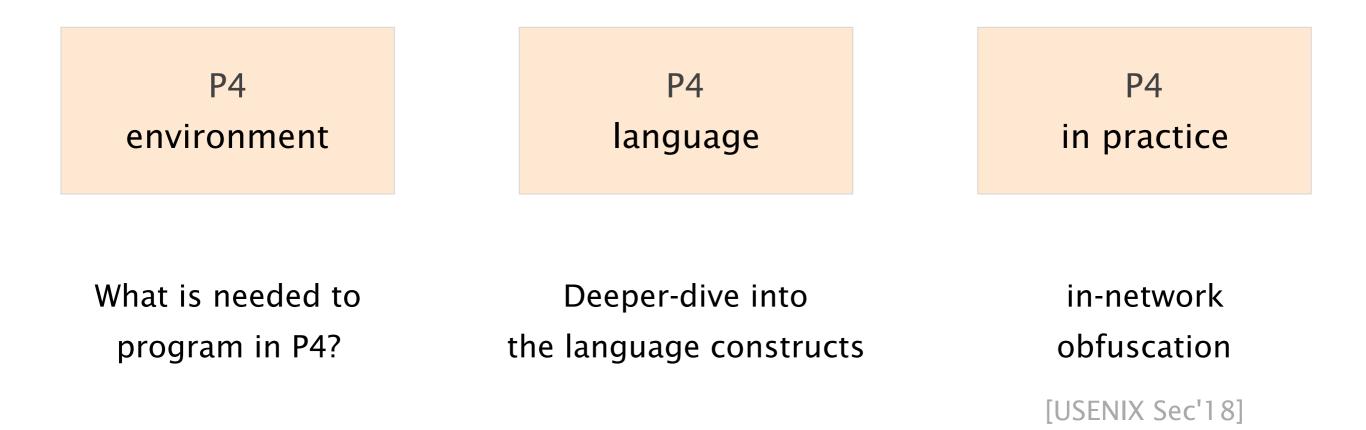
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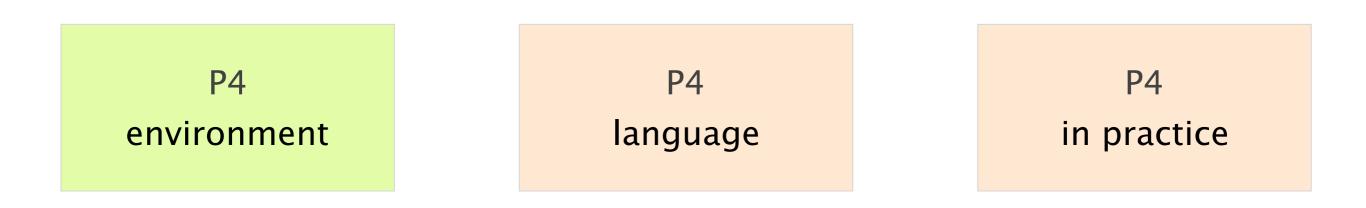
Materials inspired from p4.org

Last week on

Advanced Topics in Communication Networks

We will start diving into the P4 ecosystem and look at our first practical usage





What is needed to program in P4?

P416 introduces the concept of an *architecture*

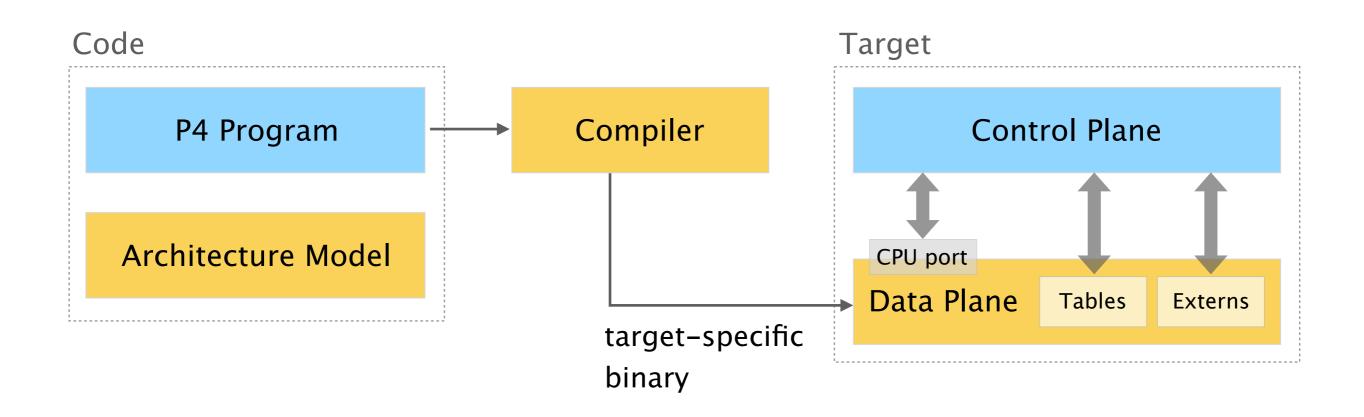
P4 Target

P4 Architecture

a model of a specific hardware implementation

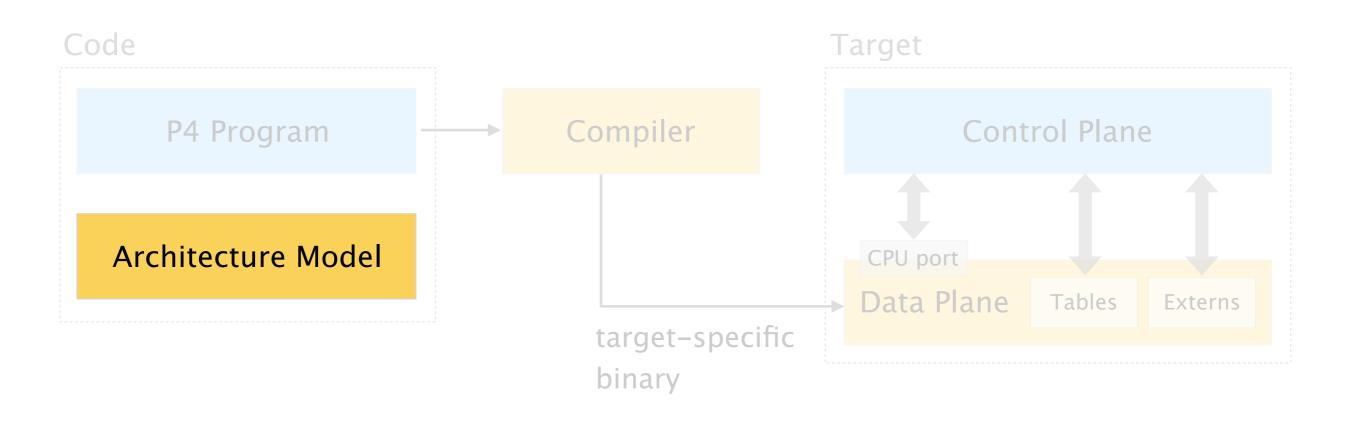
an API to program a target

Programming a P4 target involves a few key elements



User supplied

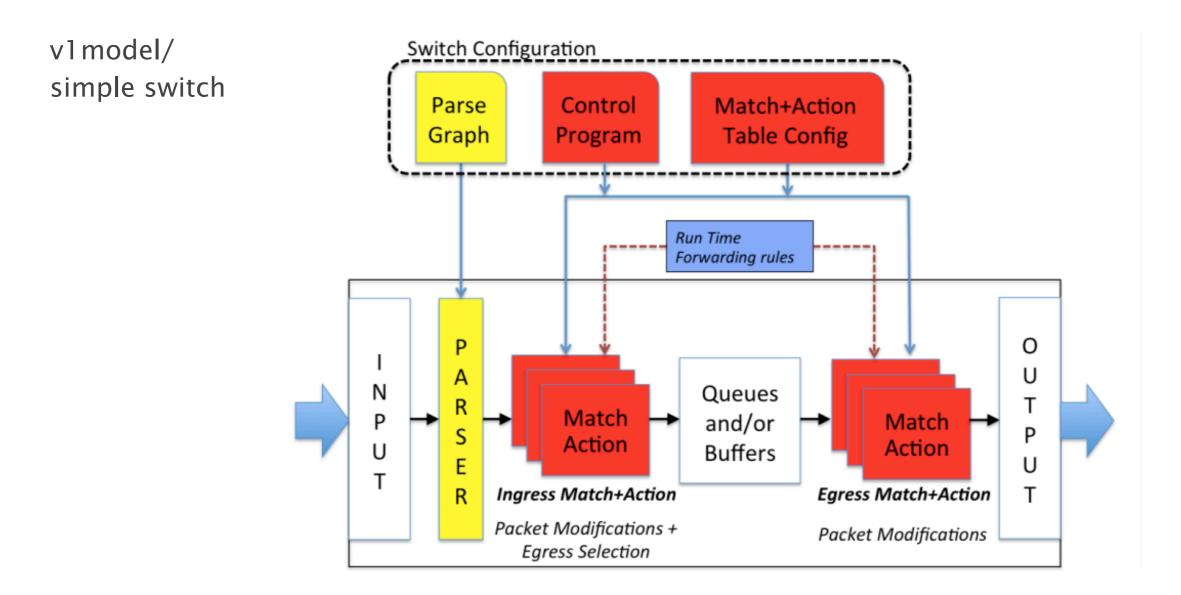
Vendor supplied



User supplied

Vendor supplied

We'll rely on a simple $P4_{16}$ switch architecture (v1model) which is roughly equivalent to "PISA"



source https://p4.org/p4-spec/p4-14/v1.0.4/tex/p4.pdf

Each architecture also defines a list of "externs", i.e. blackbox functions whose interface is known

Most targets contain specialized components

which cannot be expressed in P4 (e.g. complex computations)

At the same time, P416 should be target-independent

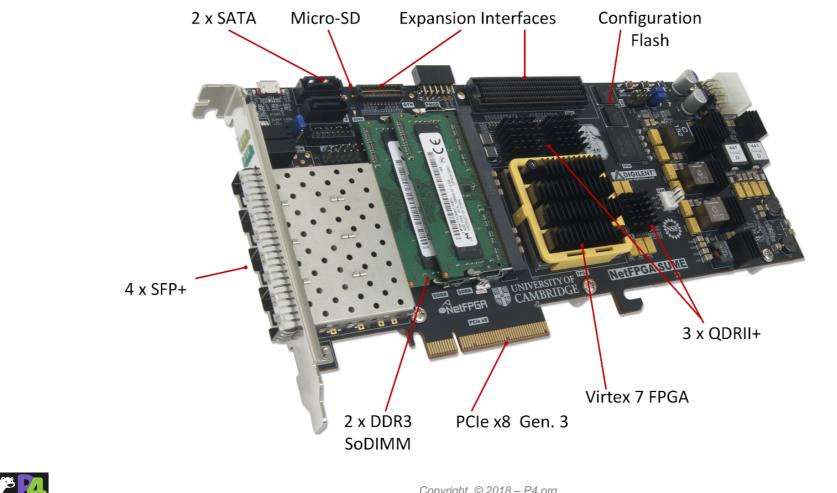
In P414 almost 1/3 of the constructs were target-dependent

Think of externs as Java interfaces

only the signature is known, not the implementation

\neq architectures \rightarrow \neq metadata & \neq externs

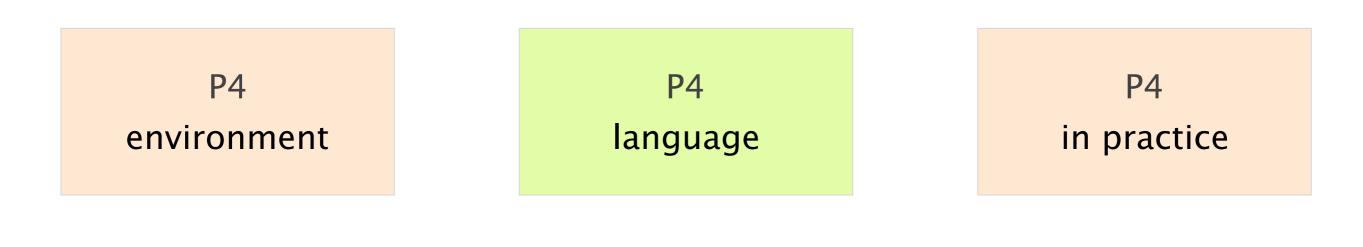
NetFPGA-SUME





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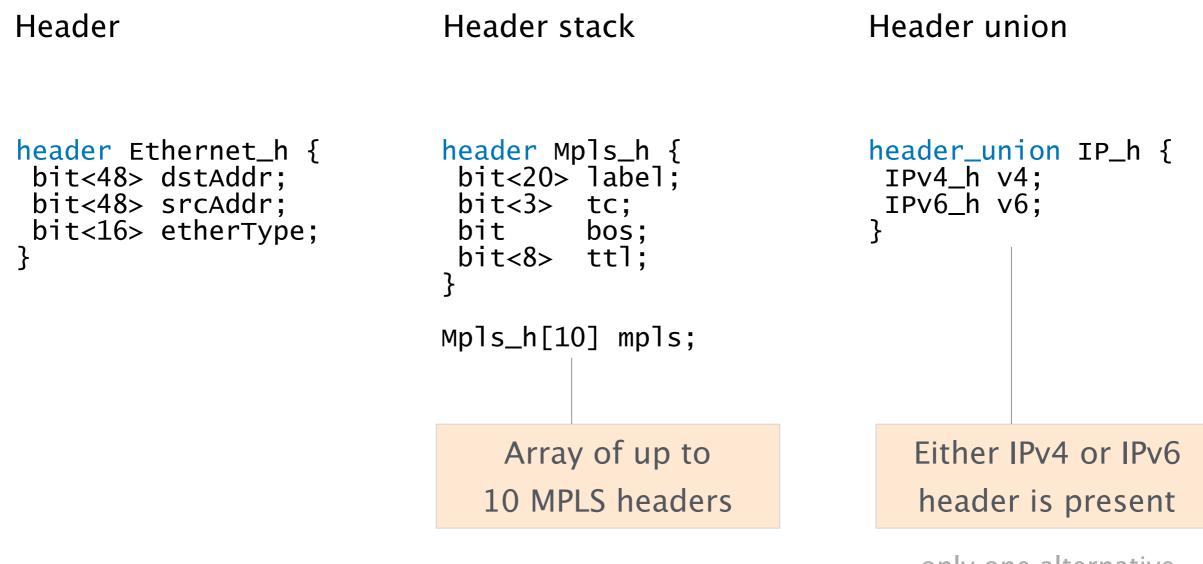
Deeper dive into the language constructs (*)

(*) full info https://p4.org/p4-spec/docs/P4-16-v1.0.0-spec.html

P4₁₆ is a statically-typed language with base types and operators to derive composed ones

bool	Boolean value	
bit <w></w>	Bit-string of width W	
int <w></w>	Signed integer of width W	
varbit <w></w>	Bit-string of dynamic length \leq W	
match_kind	describes ways to match table keys	
error	used to signal errors	
void	no values, used in few restricted circumstances	
float	not supported	
sting	not supported	

P4₁₆ is a statically-typed language with base types and operators to derive composed ones



only one alternative

P4₁₆ is a statically-typed language with base types and operators to derive composed ones

Struct

Unordered collection of named members

```
struct standard_metadata_t {
   bit<9> ingress_port;
   bit<9> egress_spec;
   bit<9> egress_port;
   ...
}
```

Tuple Unordered collection of unnamed members

tuple<bit<32>, bool> x; x = { 10, false }; P4 operations are similar to C operations and vary depending on the types (unsigned/signed ints, ...)

- arithmetic operations +, -, *
- Iogical operations ~, &, |, ^, >>, <<</p>
- non-standard operations [m:1] Bit-slicing
 - ++ Bit concatenation



no division and modulo

(can be approximated)

Variables have local scope and their values is not maintained across subsequent invocations

important

variables *cannot* be used to maintain state between different network packets

instead
to maintain state
tables
extern objects
modified by control plane & data plane

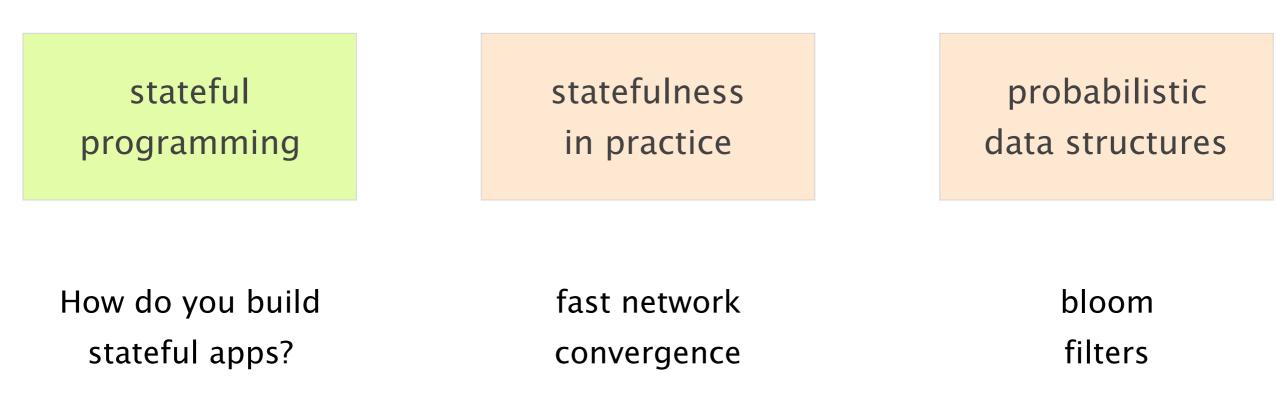
more on this next week

This week on

Advanced Topics in Communication Networks

stateful	statefulness	probabilistic
programming	in practice	data structures
How do you build	fast network	bloom
stateful apps?	convergence	filters

part 1



part 1

Stateless and stateful objects in P4

Stateless objects Reinitialized for each packet Stateful objects Keep state between packets

Variables Headers Tables Registers Counters Meters

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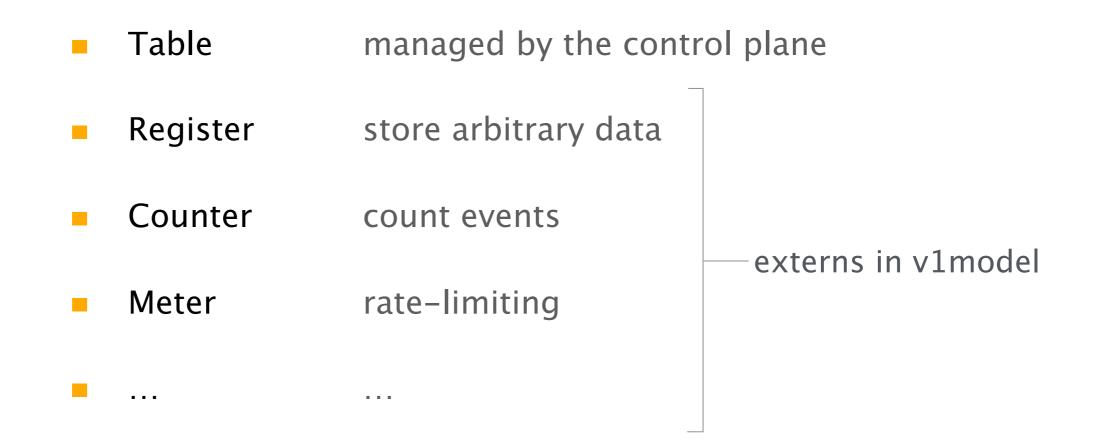
Stateless and stateful objects in P4

Stateless objects Reinitialized for each packet Stateful objects Keep state between packets

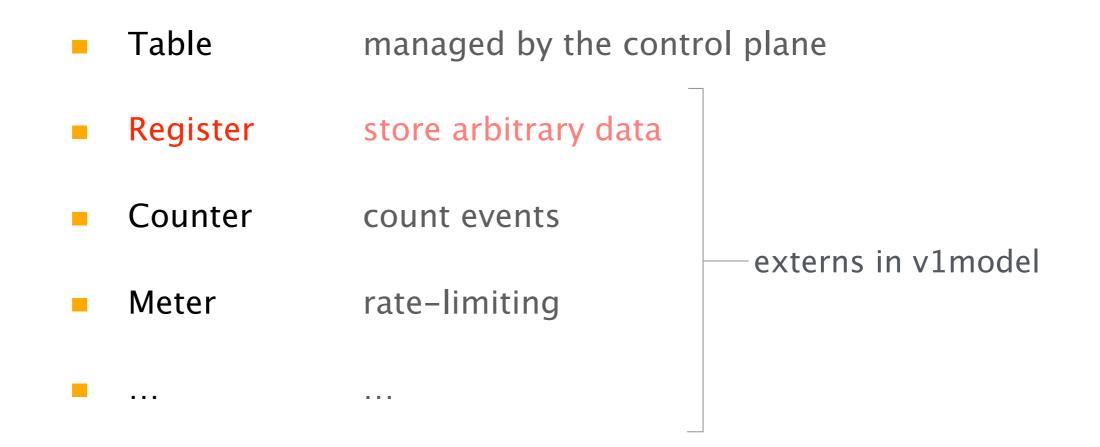
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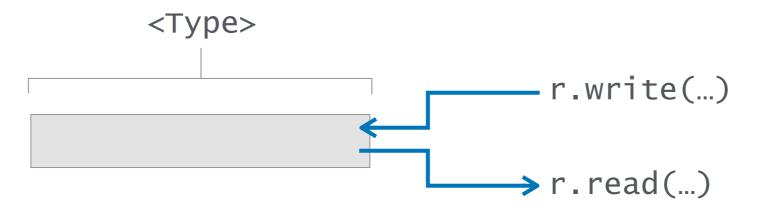
Stateful objects in P4



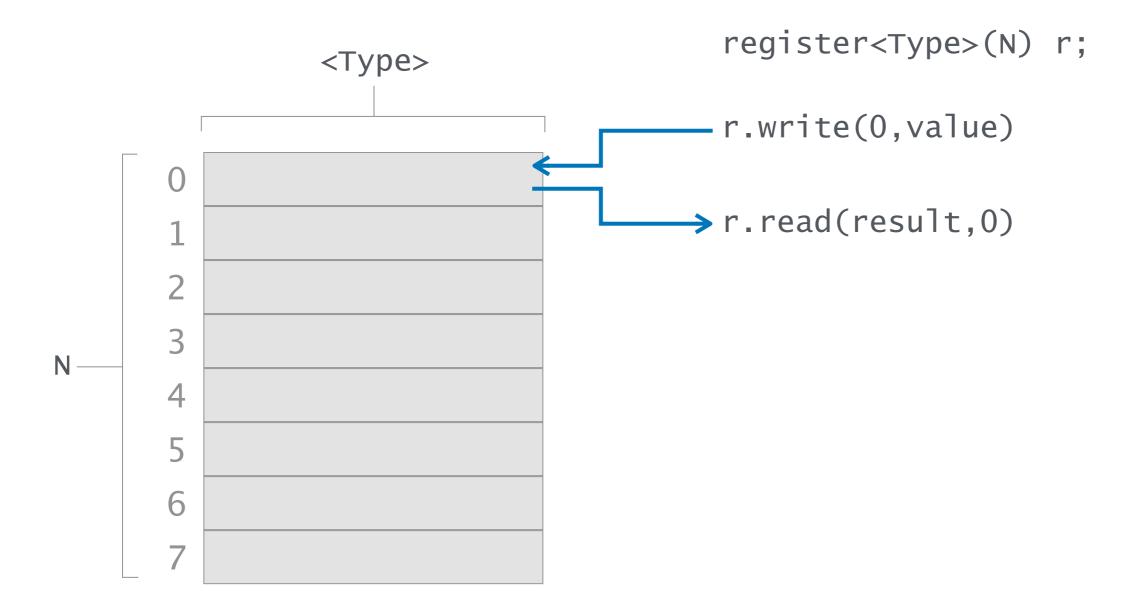
Stateful objects in P4



Registers are useful for storing (small amounts of) arbitrary data



Registers are assigned in arrays



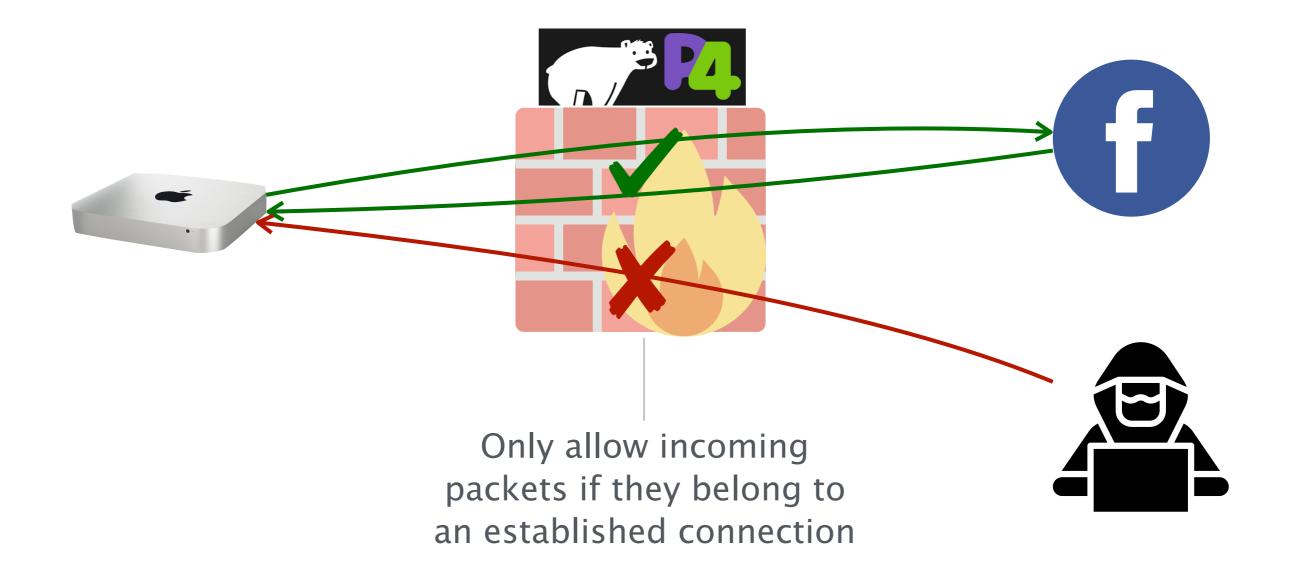
Example: Calculating inter packet gap

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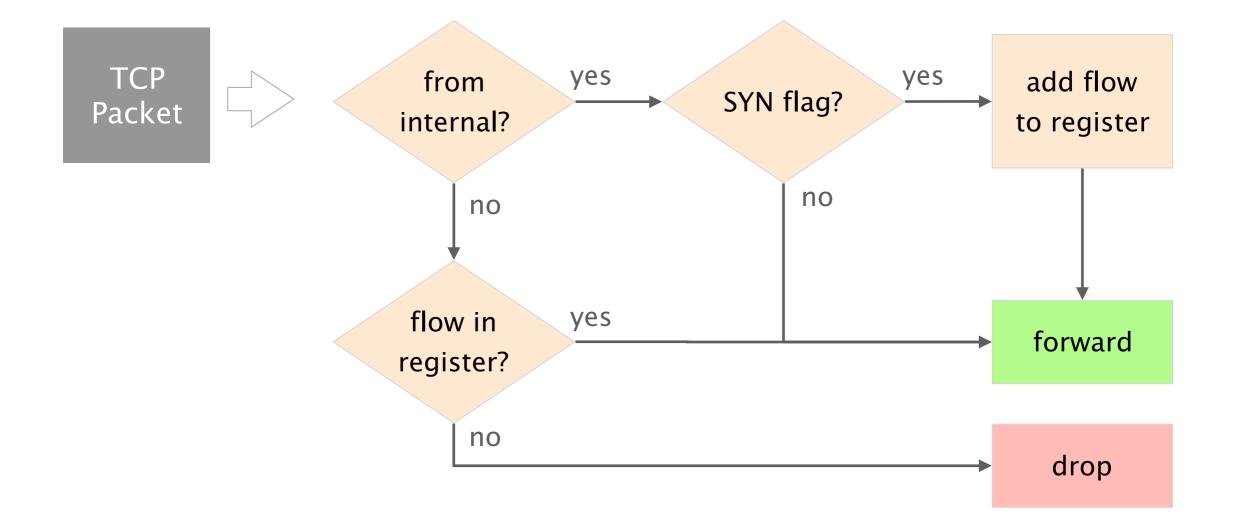
}

```
register<bit<48>>(16384) last_seen;
action get_inter_packet_gap(out bit<48> interval,bit<32> flow_id)
{
    bit<48> last_pkt_ts;
    /* Get the time the previous packet was seen */
    last_seen.read(last_pkt_ts, flow_id);
    /* Calculate the time interval */
    interval = standard_metadata.ingress_global_timestamp - last_pkt_ts;
    /* Update the register with the new timestamp */
    last_seen.write(flow_id, standard_metadata.ingress_global_timestamp);
```

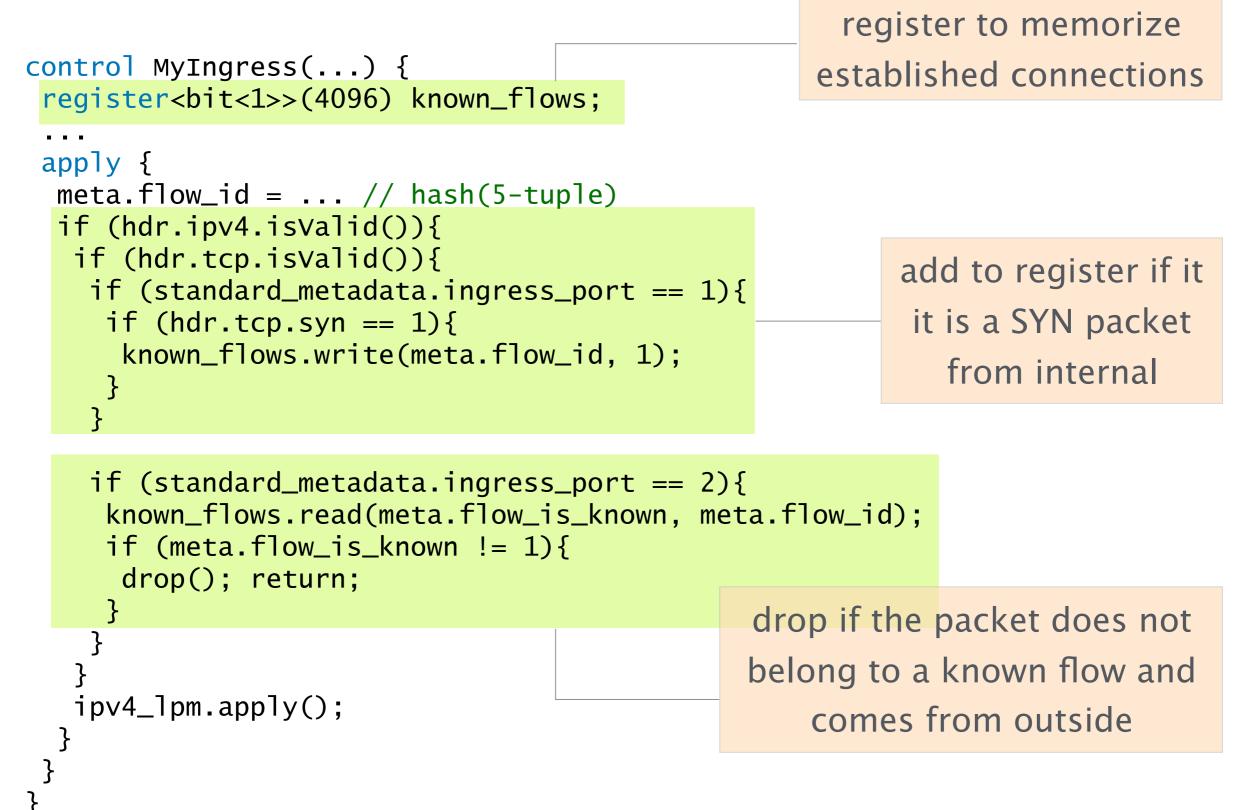
Example: Stateful firewall



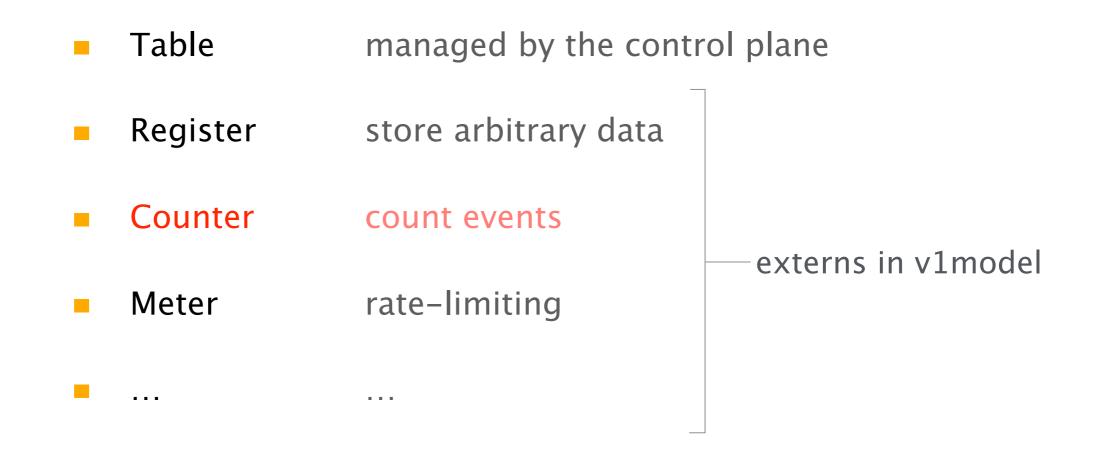
Example: Stateful firewall



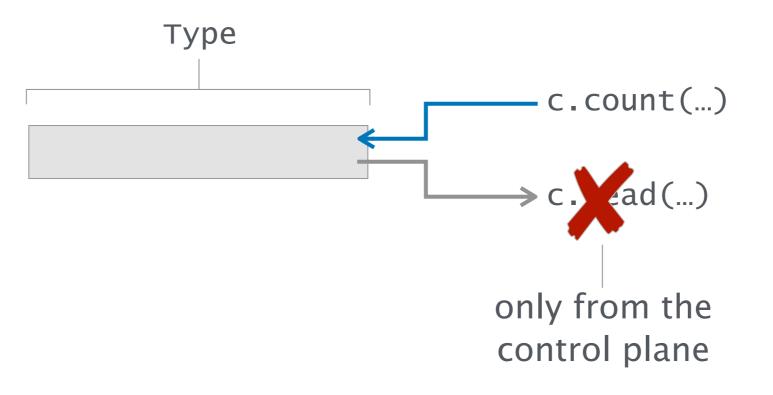
Example: Stateful firewall



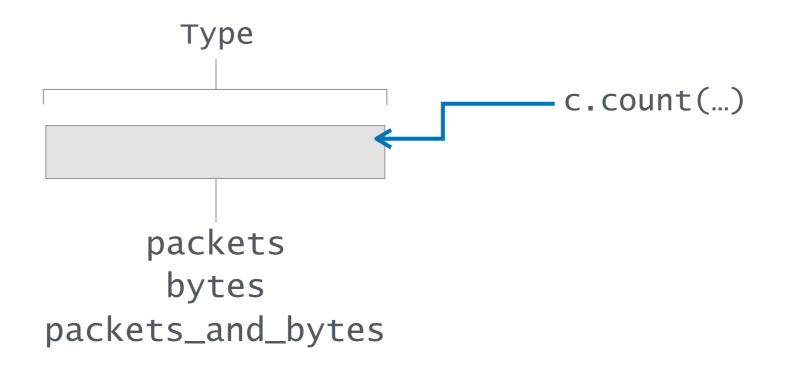
Stateful objects in P4



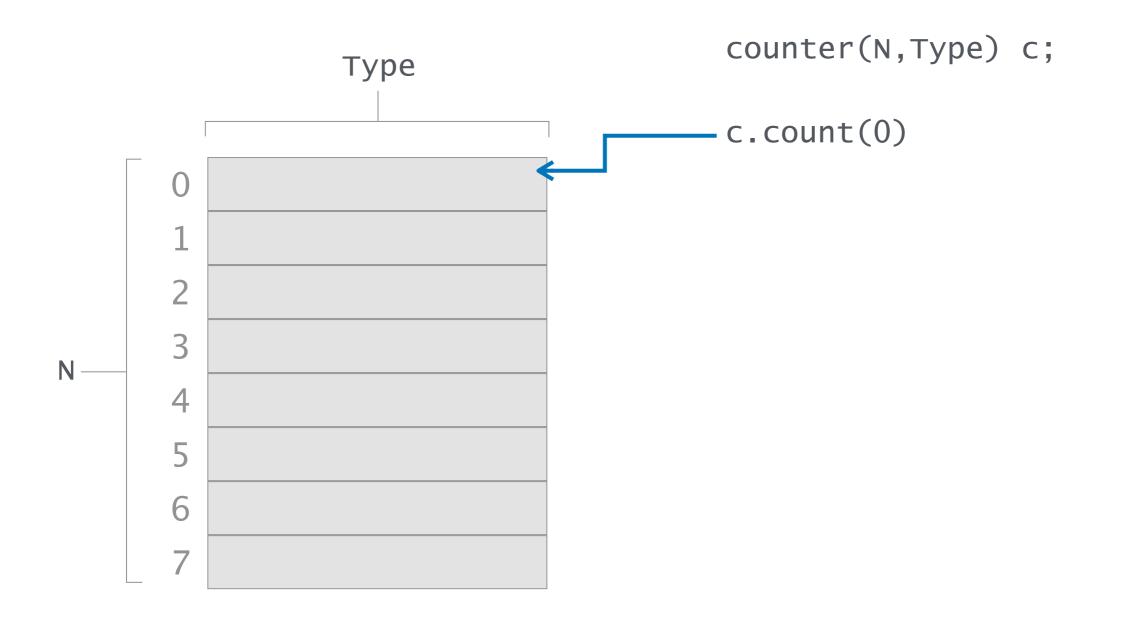
Counters are useful for... counting



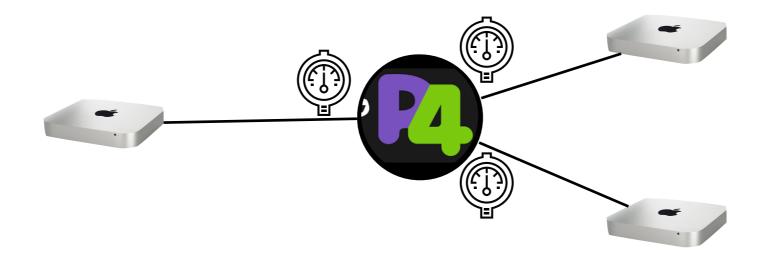
Counters can be of three different types



Like registers, counters are assigned in arrays



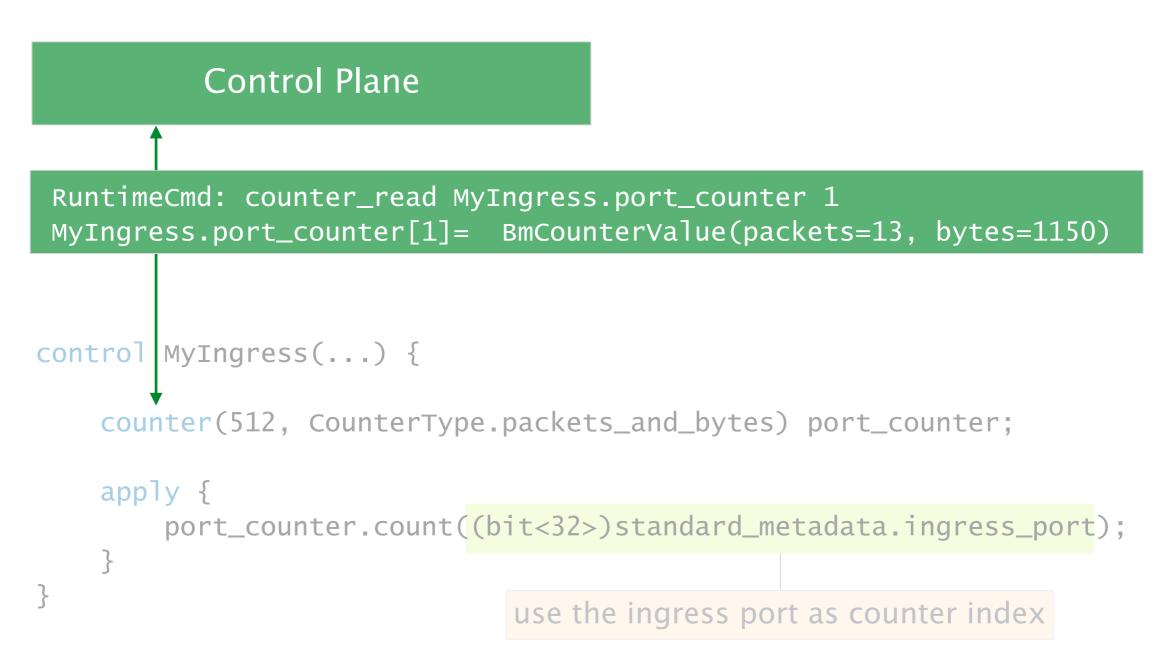
Example: Counting packets and bytes arriving at each port



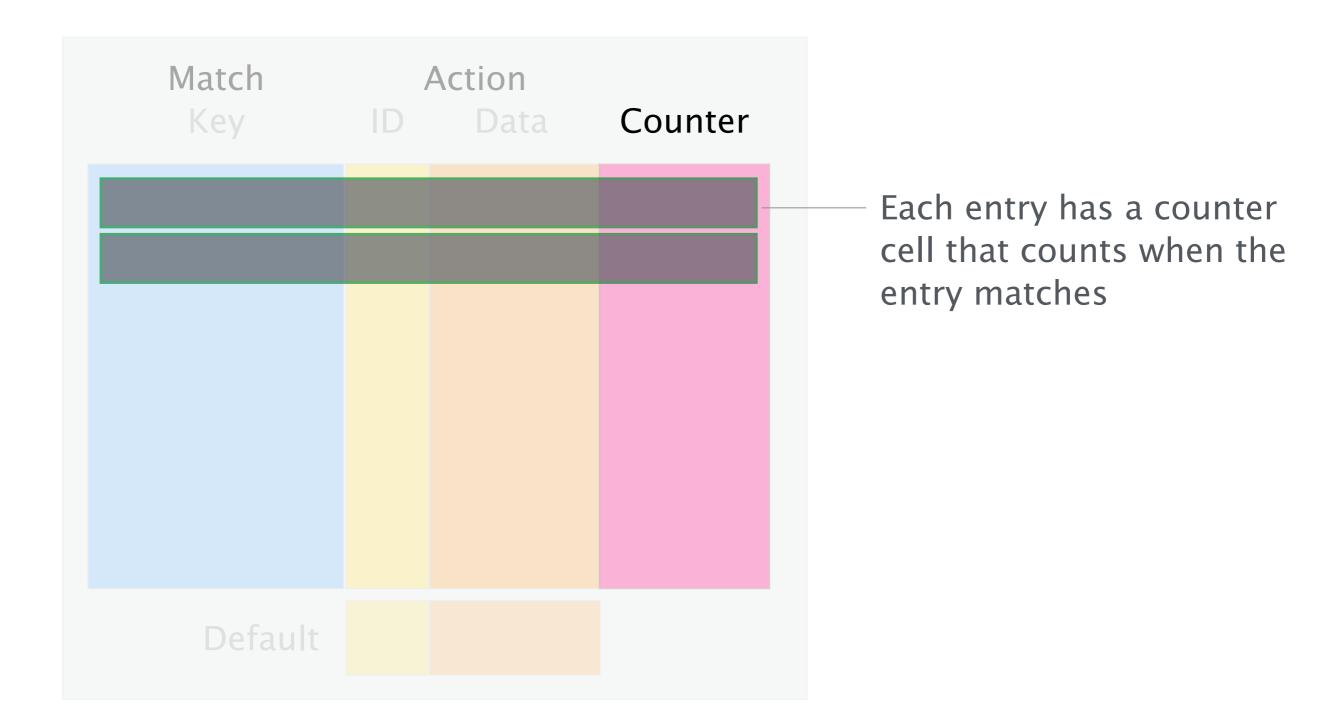
```
control MyIngress(...) {
```

```
counter(512, CounterType.packets_and_bytes) port_counter;
apply {
    port_counter.count((bit<32>)standard_metadata.ingress_port);
  }
}
use the ingress port as counter index
```

Example: Reading the counter values from the control plane



Direct counters are a special kind of counters that are attached to tables



Example: Counting packets and bytes arriving at each port *using a direct counter*

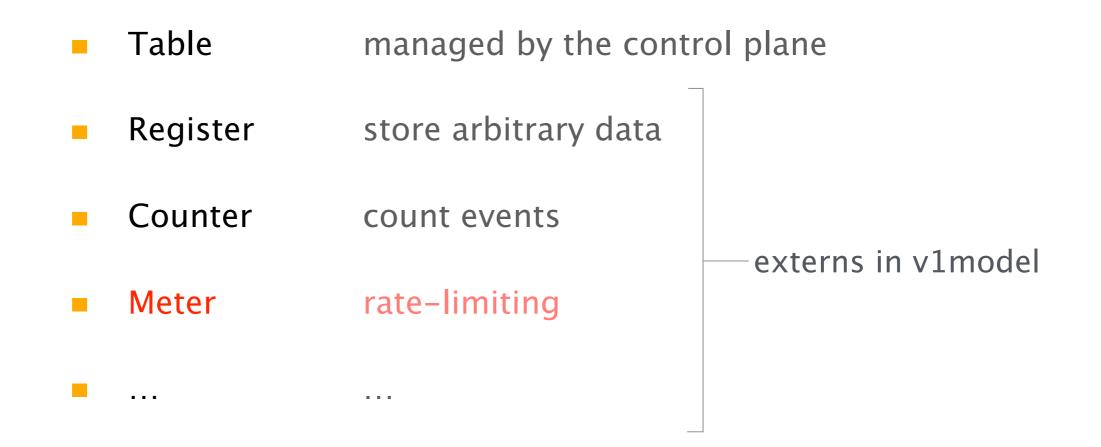
```
control MyIngress(...) {
```

}

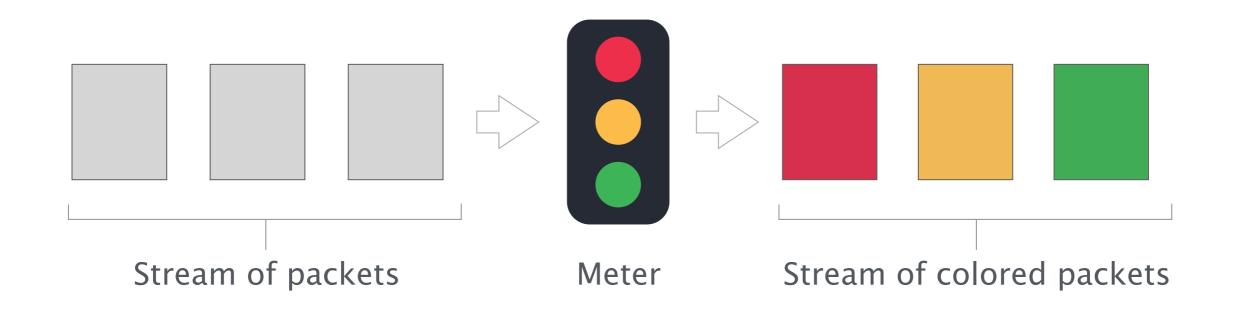
```
direct_counter(CounterType.packets_and_bytes) direct_port_counter;
```

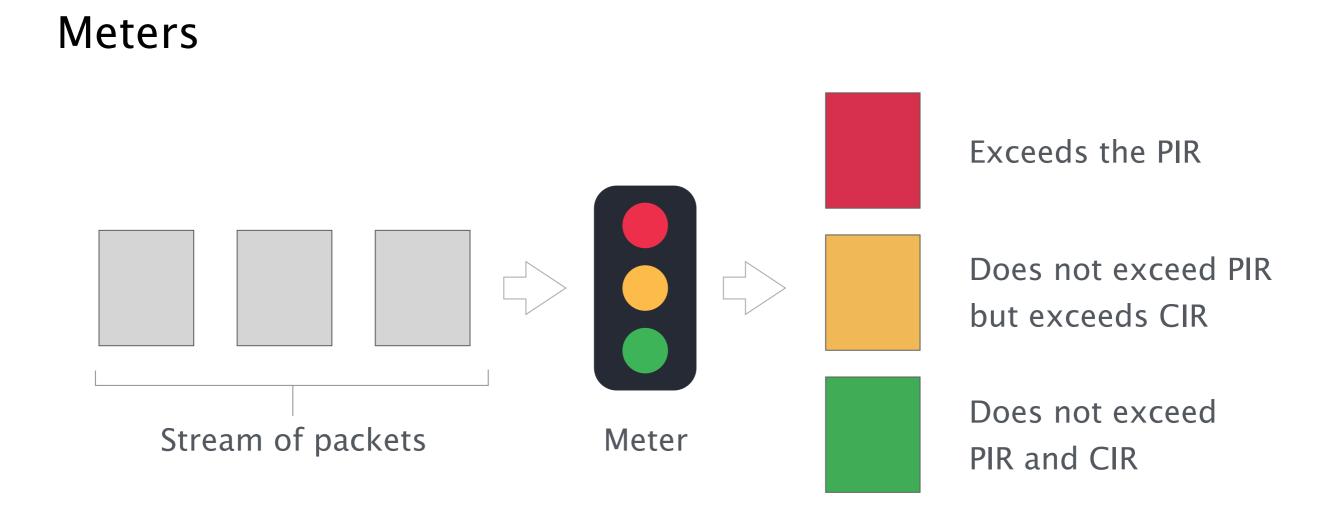
```
table count_table {
 key = \{
  standard_metadata.ingress_port: exact;
 }
 actions = {
  NoAction;
 default_action = NoAction;
                                          attach counter to table
 counters = direct_port_counter;
 size = 512;
}
apply {
count_table.apply();
}
```

Stateful objects in P4



Meters

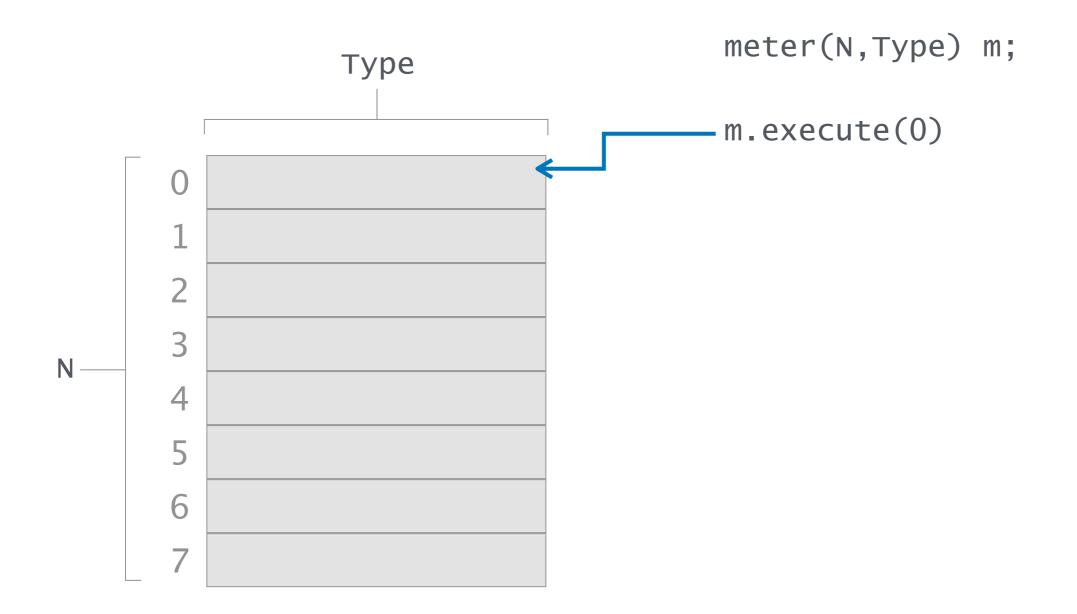


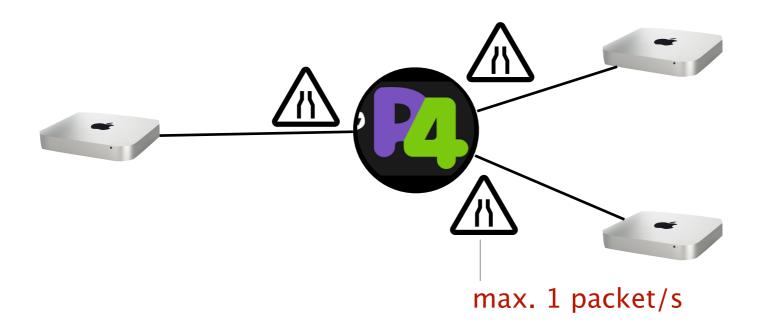


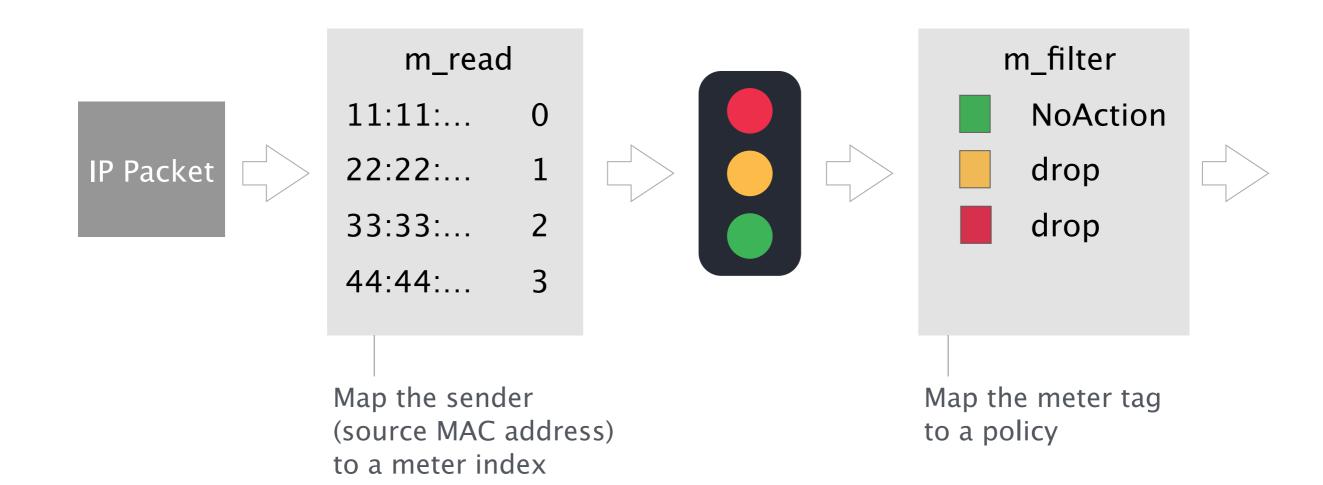
Parameters:PIRPeak Information Rate[bytes/sCIRCommitted Information Rate[bytes/s

[bytes/s] or [packets/s] [bytes/s] or [packets/s]

Like registers and counters, meters are assigned in arrays

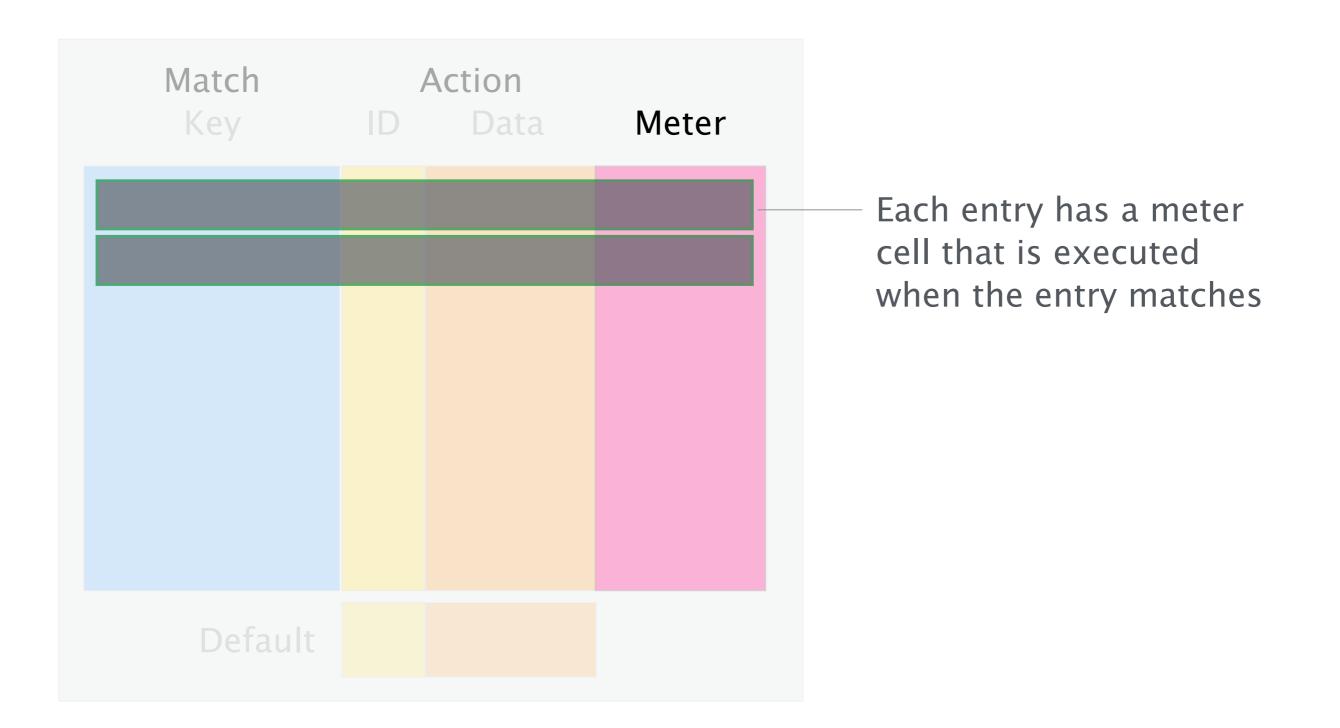






```
control MyIngress(...) {
meter(32w16384, MeterType.packets) my_meter;
                                                             packet meter
action m_action(bit<32> meter_index) {
 my_meter.execute_meter<bit<32>>(meter_index, meta.meter_tag);
                                                           execute meter
table m_read {
 key = { hdr.ethernet.srcAddr: exact; }
 actions = { m_action; NoAction; }
  . . .
                                                            handle packets
table m_filter {
 key = { meta.meter_tag: exact; }
                                                            depending on
 actions = { drop; NoAction; }
                                                              meter tag
apply {
 m_read.apply();
 m_filter.apply();
 }
```

Direct meters are a special kind of meters that are attached to tables



```
control MyIngress(...) {
 direct_meter<bit<32>>(MeterType.packets) my_meter;
                                                              direct meter
 action m_action(bit<32> meter_index) {
 my_meter.read(meta.meter_tag);
 }
                                                              read meter
table m_read {
 key = { hdr.ethernet.srcAddr: exact; }
 actions = { m_action; NoAction; }
                                                       attach meter to table
 meters = my_meter;
  . . .
table m_filter { ... }
 apply {
 m_read.apply();
 m_filter.apply();
}
```

Summary

	Data plane interface	Control plane interface
Object	read modify/write	read modify/write
Table	apply() —	yes yes
Register	<pre>read() write()</pre>	yes yes
Counter	<pre>— count()</pre>	yes reset
Meter	execute()	configuration only

Stateless and stateful objects in P4

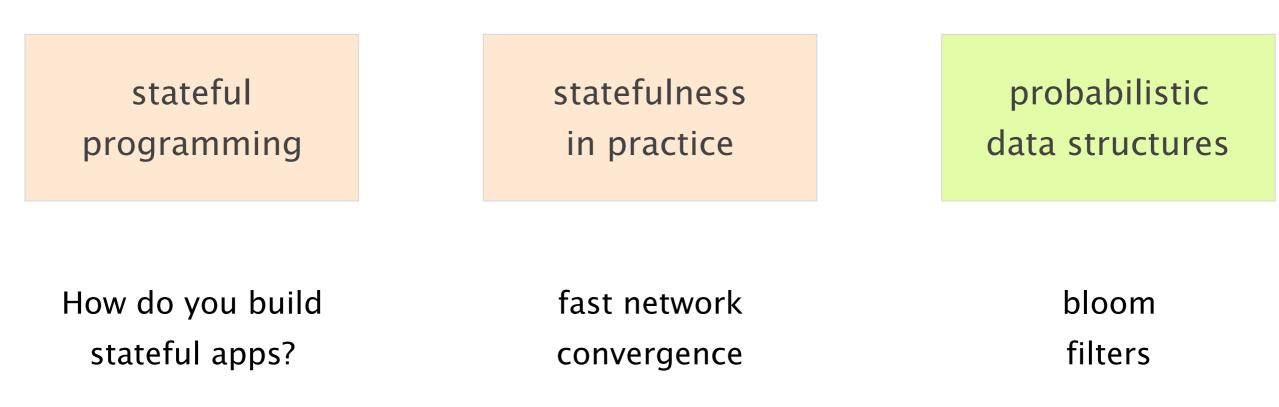
Stateless objects Reinitialized for each packet Stateful objects Keep state between packets

Variables Headers Tables Registers Counters Meters

. . .

stateful	statefulness	probabilistic
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How do you build	fast network	bloom
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part 1



part 1

Programming more advanced stateful data structures

Programming more advanced stateful data structures

We are provided with built-in stateful data structures such as arrays of registers, counters or meters

We need to deal with severe limitations such as a limited number of operations and memory

Programming more advanced stateful data structures

We are provided with built-in stateful data structures such as arrays of registers, counters or meters

We need to deal with severe limitations such as a limited number of operations and memory

Today: how can we implement a set with its usual methods i.e., add an element, membership query, delete an element, lookup, listing

There are two common strategies to implement a set

	strategy #1	strategy #2
output	Deterministic	Probabilistic
number of required operations	Probabilistic	Deterministic

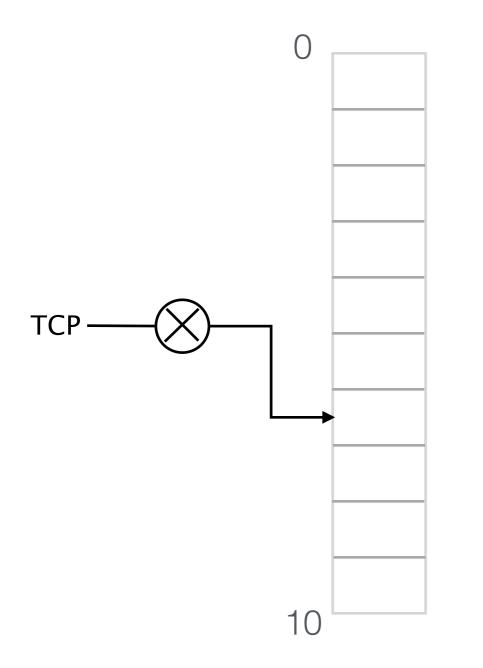
There are two common strategies to implement a set

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Intuitive implementation of a set

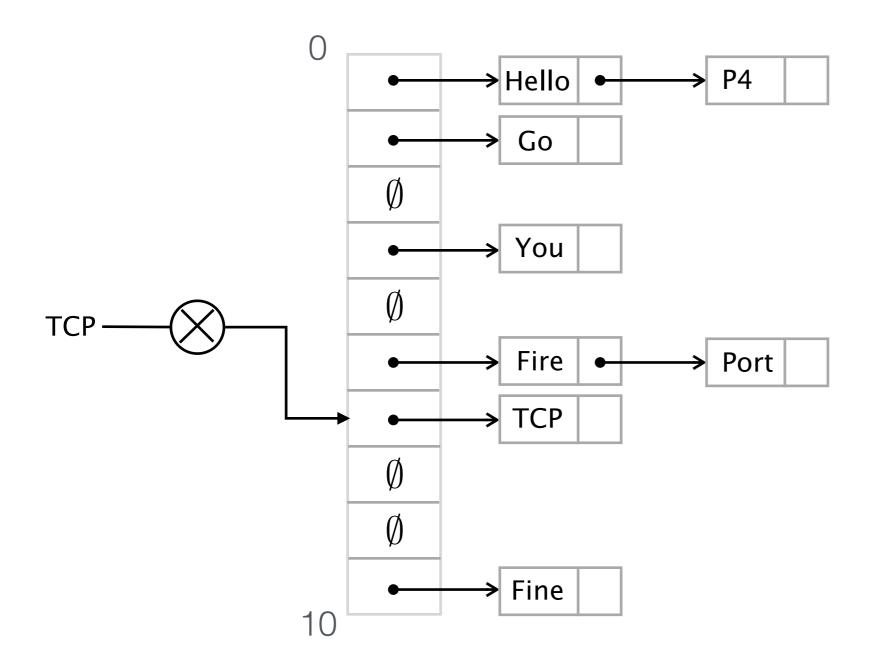
Intuitive implementation of a set

Separate-chaining



Intuitive implementation of a set

Separate-chaining



Intuitive implementation of a set Separate-chaining

N elements and M cells

	list size
average	N/M
worse-case	Ν

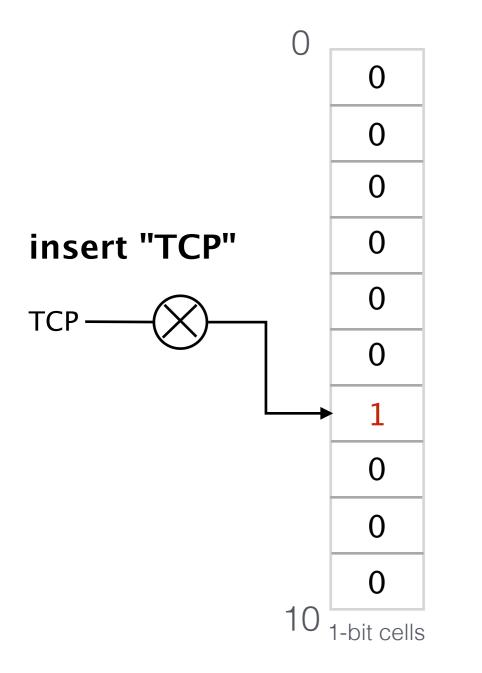
Intuitive implementation of a set Separate-chaining

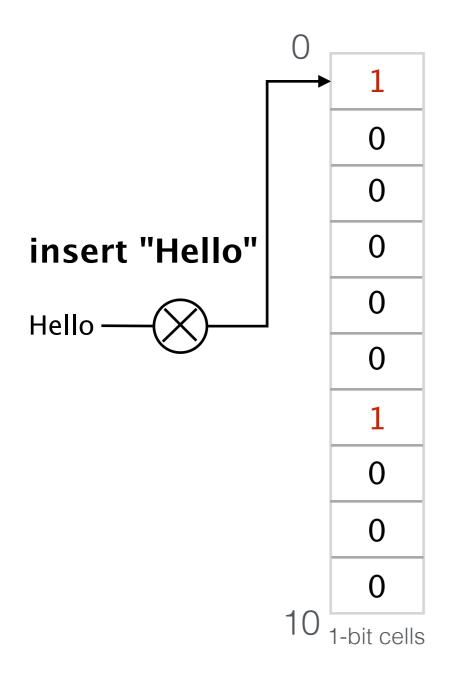
Pros: accurate and fast in the average case

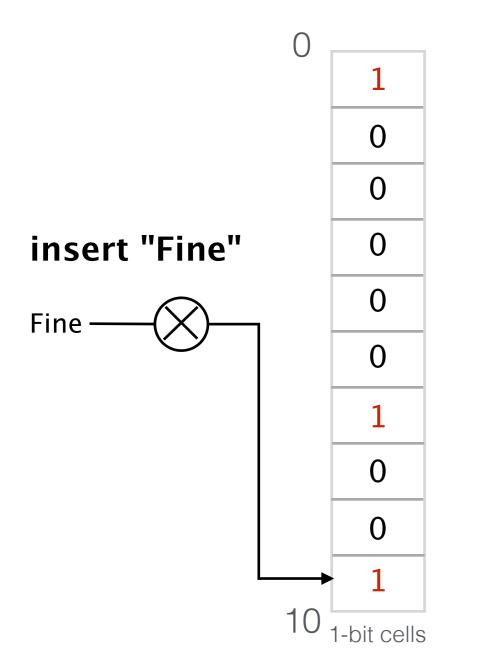
Con: only works in hardware if there is a low number of elements (e.g. < 100)

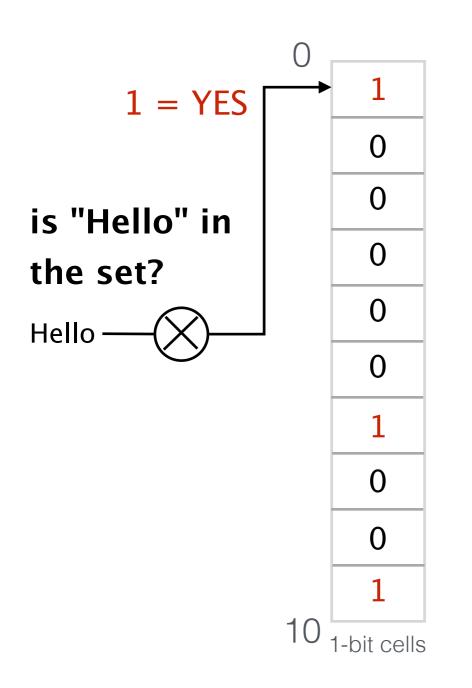
There are two common strategies to implement a set

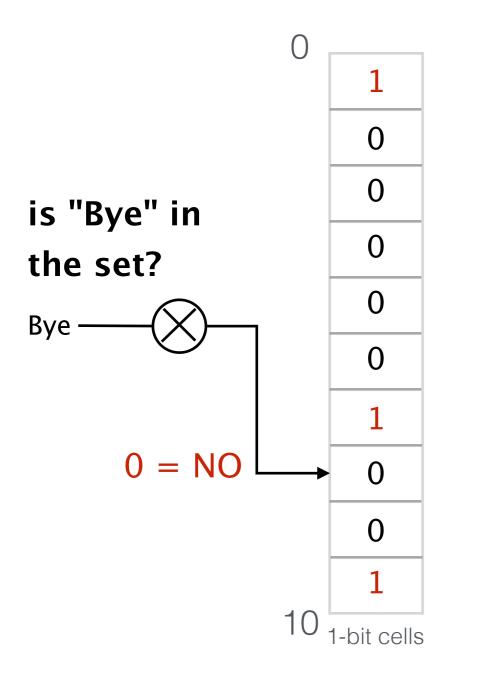
	strategy #1	strategy #2
output	Deterministic	Probabilistic
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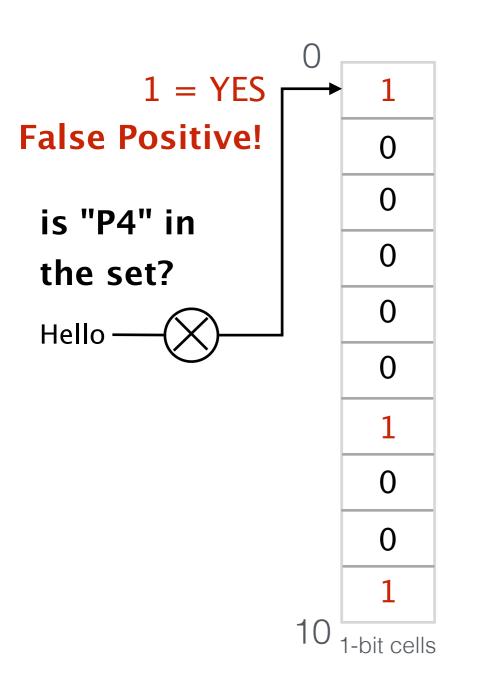












N elements and M cells

probability of an element to be mapped into a particular cell

probability of an element not to be mapped into a particular cell

probability of a cell to be 0

false positive rate (FPR)

false negative rate

$$\frac{-}{M}$$

$$1 - \frac{1}{M}$$

1

$$(1-\frac{1}{M})^N$$

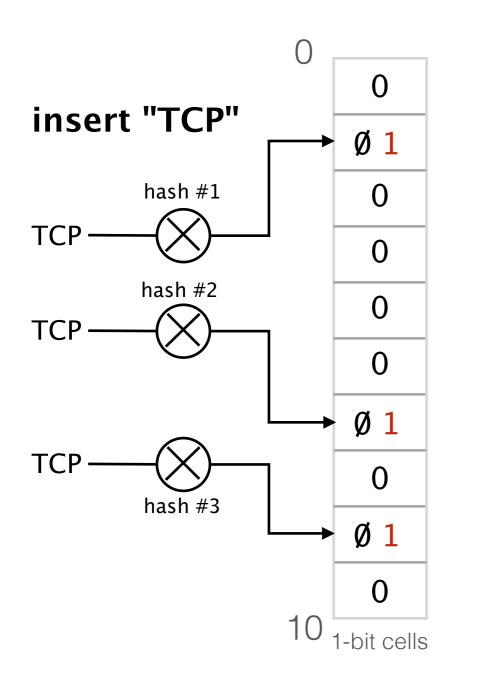
$$1 - (1 - \frac{1}{M})^N$$

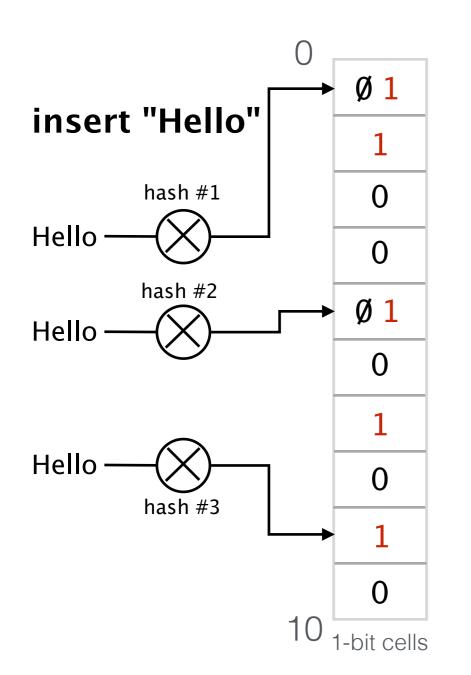
0

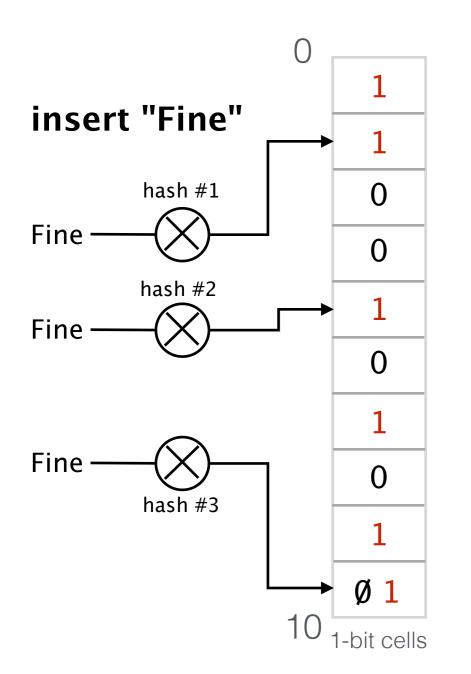
# of elements	# of cells	FPR
1000	10000	9.5%
1000	100000	1%

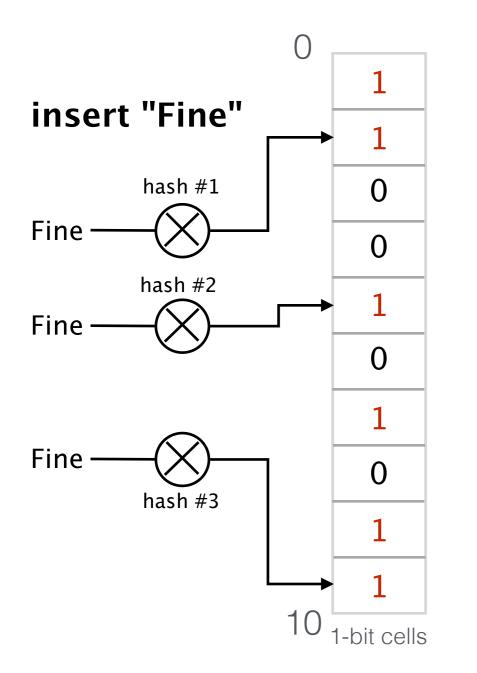
Pros: simple and only one operation per insertion or query

Con: roughly 100x more cells are required than the number of element we want to store for a 1% false positive rate Bloom Filters: a more memory-efficient approach for insertions and membership queries

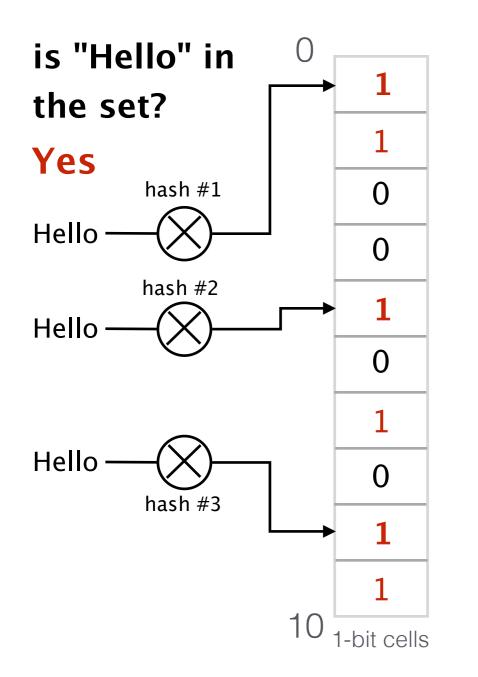




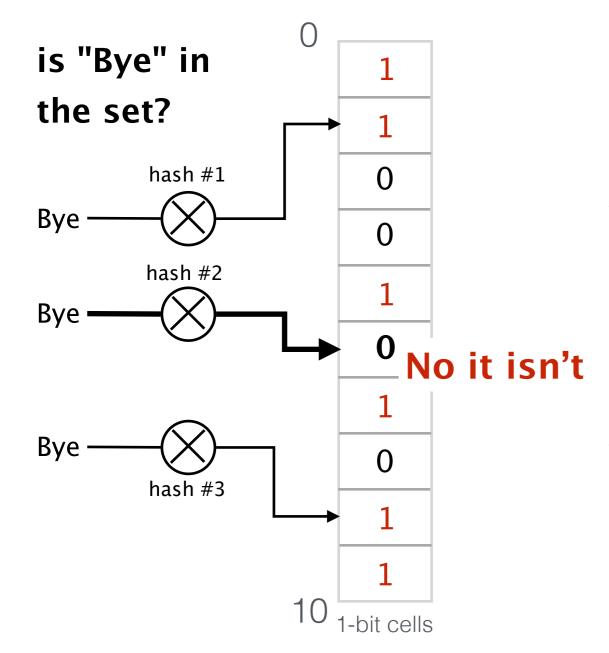




An element is considered in the set if **all** the hash values map to a cell with 1

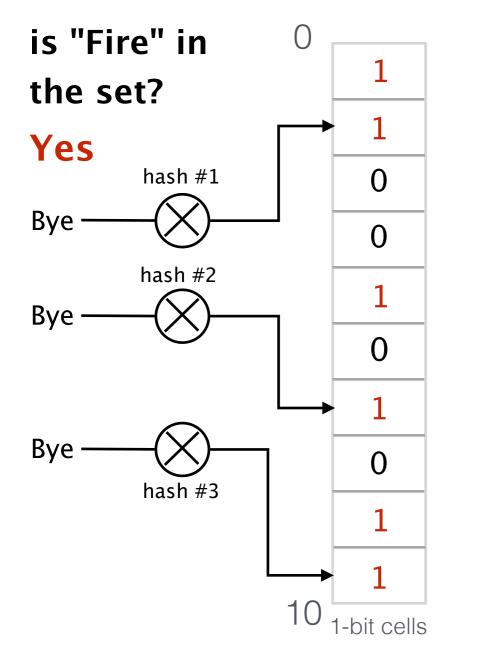


An element is considered in the set if **all** the hash values map to a cell with 1



An element is considered in the set if **all** the hash values map to a cell with 1

False Positive!



An element is considered in the set if **all** the hash values map to a cell with 1

N elements, M cells and K hash functions

probability of an element to be mapped into a particular cell probability of an element not to be mapped into a particular cell

probability of a cell to be 0

false positive rate

$$M$$

$$1 - \frac{1}{M}$$

1

$$(1 - \frac{1}{M})^{\mathbf{K}N}$$

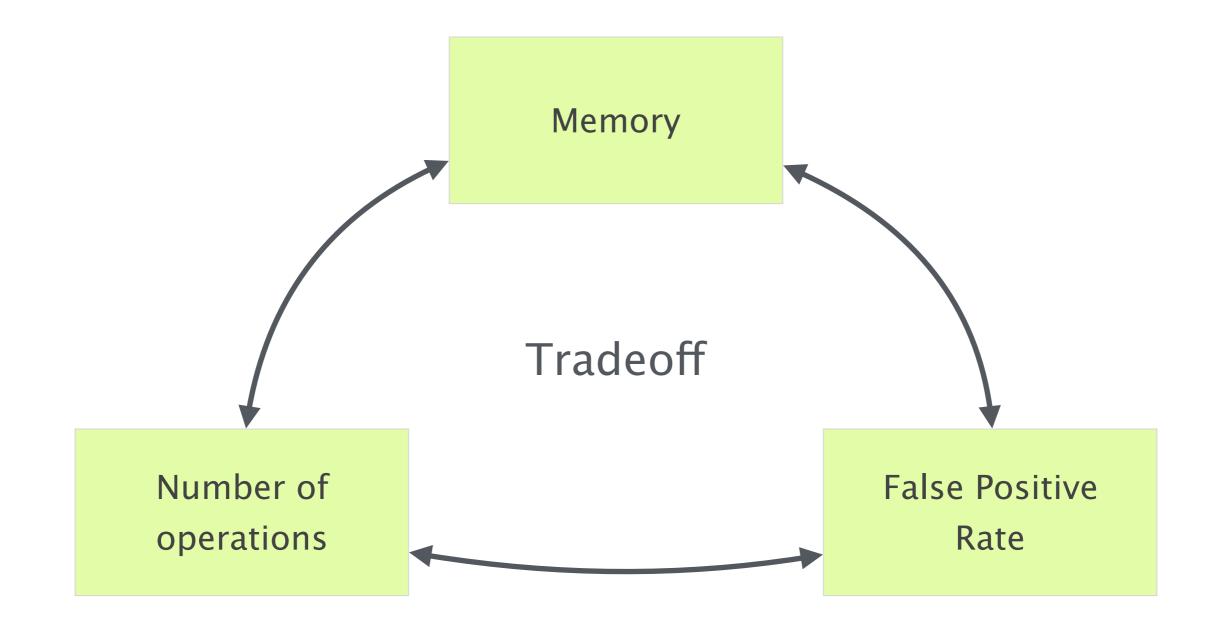
$$\left(1 - \left(1 - \frac{1}{M}\right)^{KN}\right)^{K}$$

0

# of elements	# of cells	<pre># hash functions</pre>	FPR
1000	10000	7	0.82%
1000	100000	7	pprox 0%

Pro: consumes roughly 10x less memory than the simple approach

Con: Requires slightly more operations than the simple approach (7 hashes instead of just 1)



N elements M cells K hash functions FP false positive rate

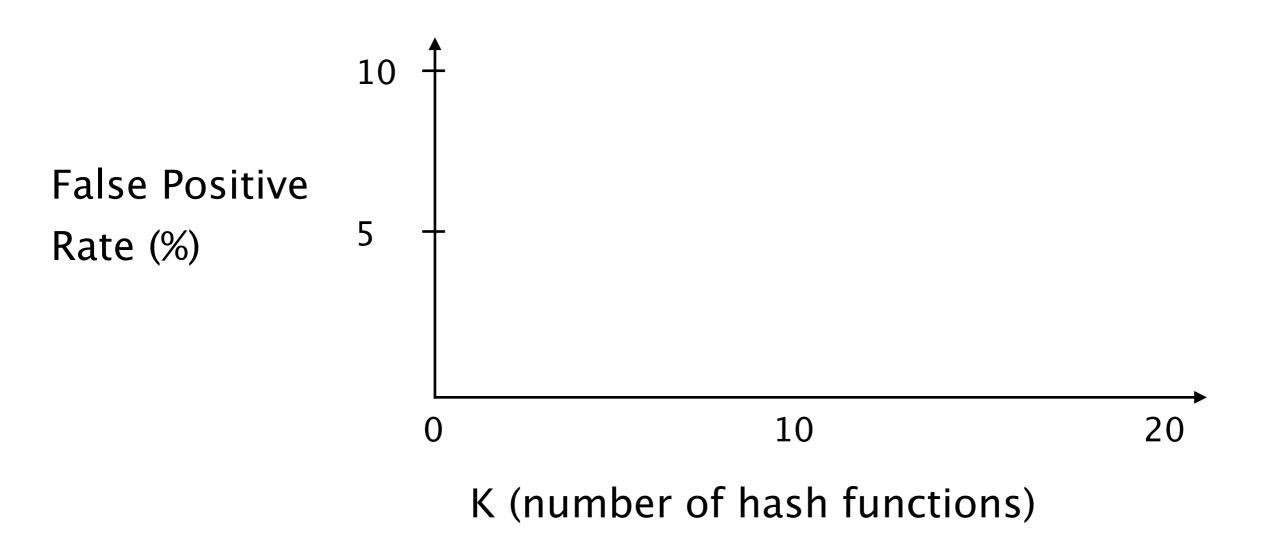
N elements M cells K hash functions FP false positive rate

asymptotic approx.

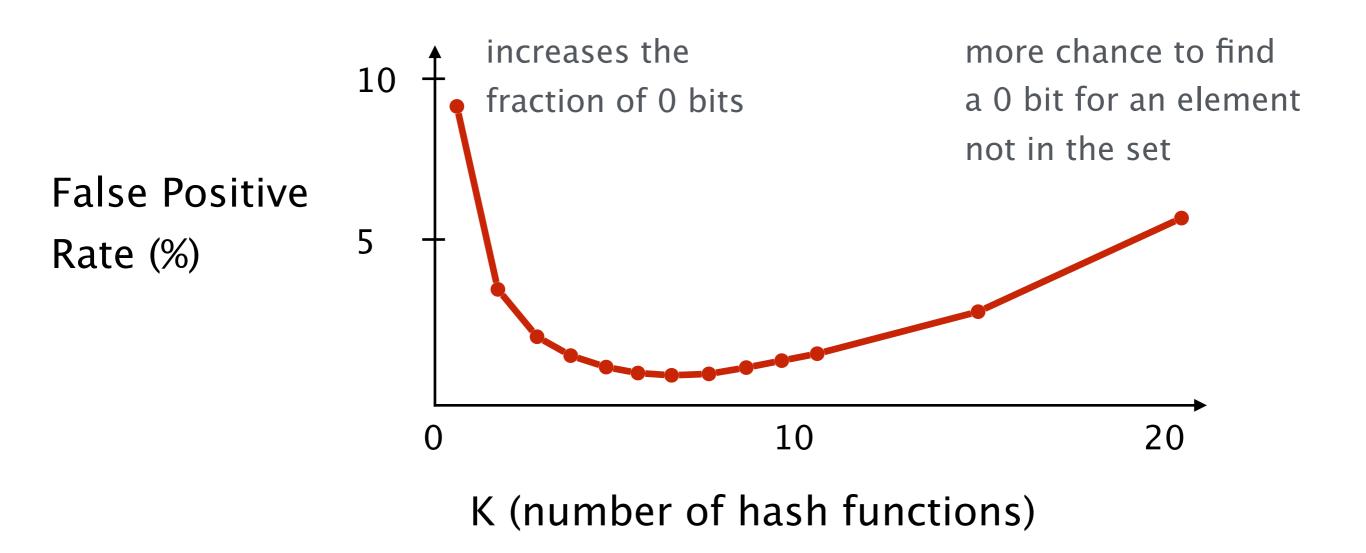
$$FP = (1 - (1 - \frac{1}{M})^{KN})^{K} \approx (1 - e^{-KN/M})^{K}$$

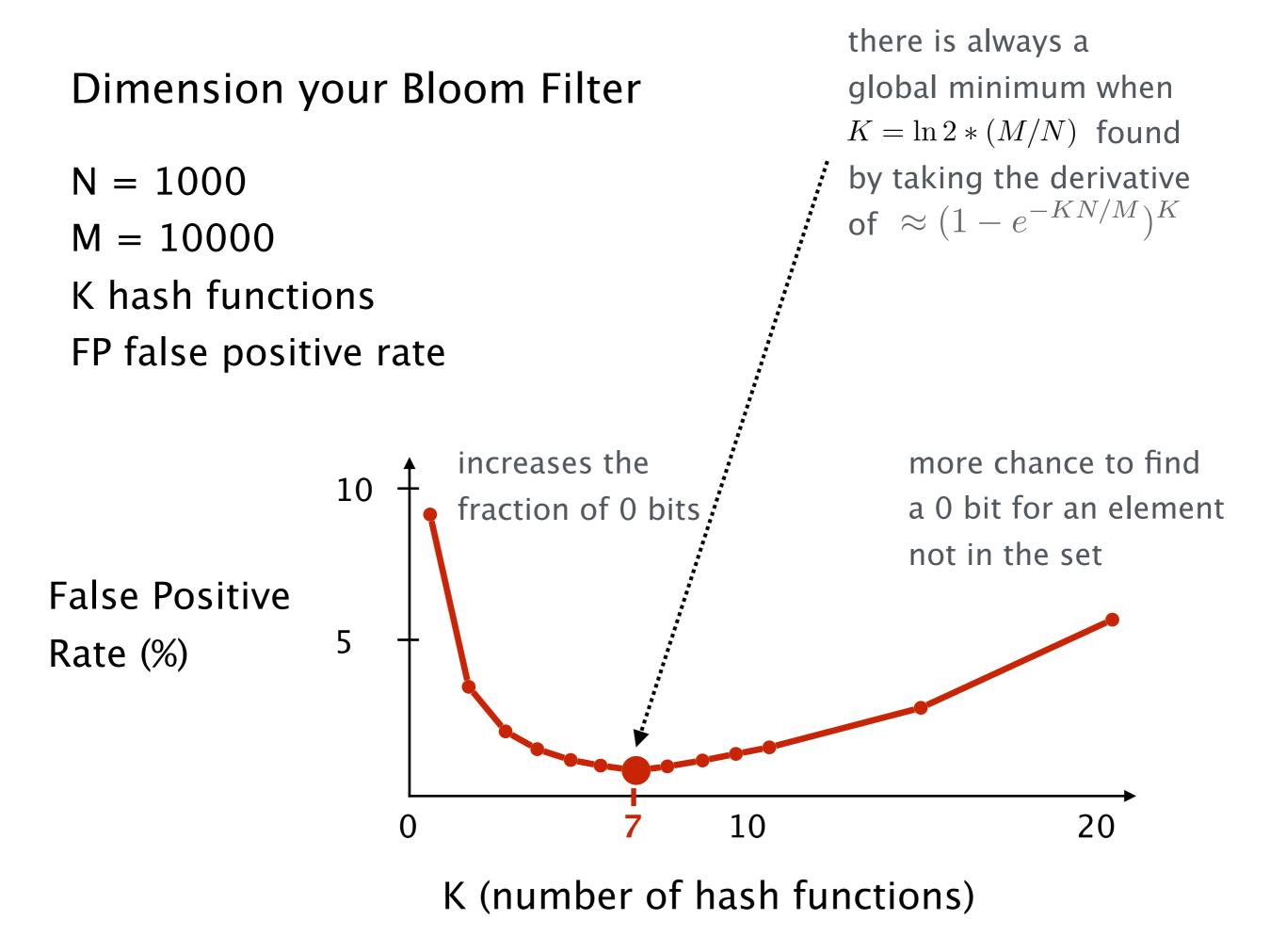
with calculus you can dimension your bloom filter

N = 1000M = 10000K hash functionsFP false positive rate



N = 1000M = 10000K hash functionsFP false positive rate





Implementation of a Bloom Filter in P416

You will have to use hash functions

v1model

enum HashAlgorithm {
 crc32,
 crc32_custom,
 crc16,
 s,
 random,
 identity,
 csum16,
 xor16
}

extern void hash<O, T, D, M>(out O result, in HashAlgorithm algo, in T base, in D data, in M max);

more info

https://github.com/p4lang/p4c/blob/master/p4include/v1model.p4

Implementation of a Bloom Filter in P416

You will have to use hash functions, as well as registers

v1model

```
extern register<T> {
```

}

```
register(bit<32> size);
```

```
void read(out T result, in bit<32> index);
void write(in bit<32> index, in T value);
```

control MyIngress(...) {

register register <bit <1>>(NB_CELLS) bloom_filter;

```
control MyIngress(...) {
  register register <bit <1>> (NB_CELLS) bloom_filter;
```

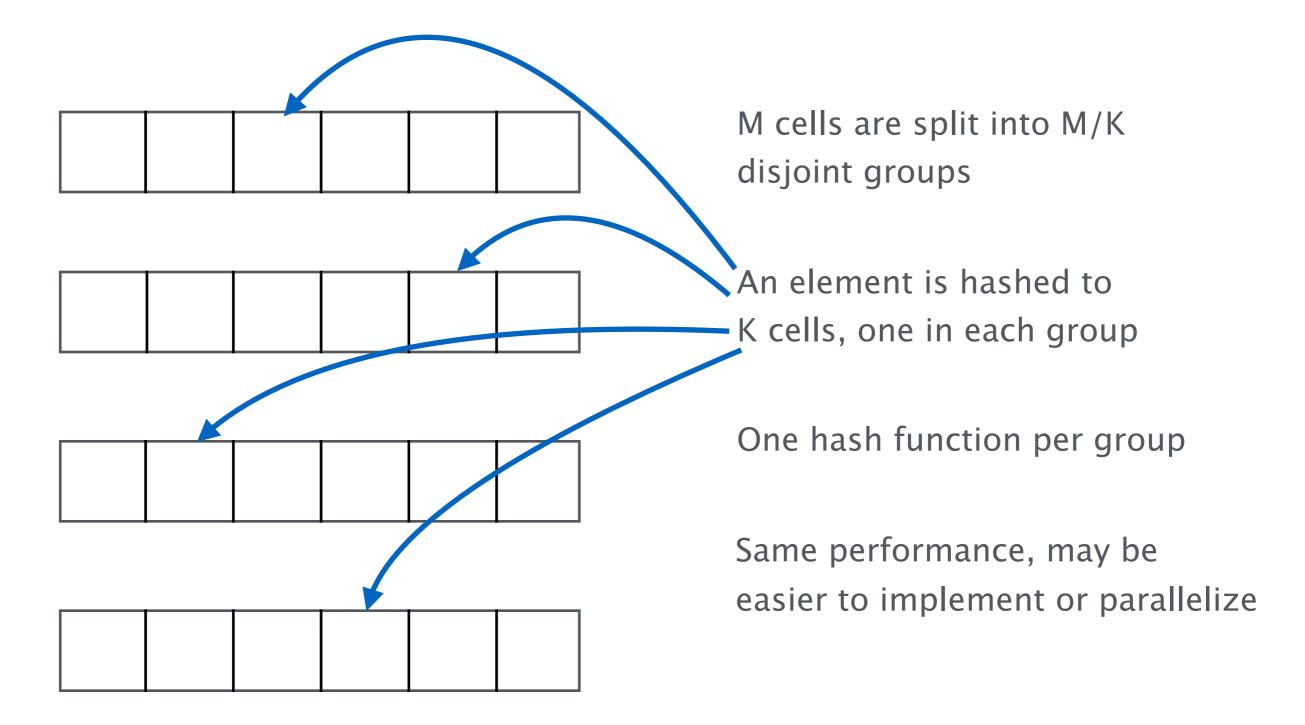
```
apply {
    hash(meta.index1, HashAlgorithm.my_hash1, 0,
    {meta.dstPrefix, packet.ip.srcIP}, NB_CELLS);
    hash(meta.index2, HashAlgorithm.my_hash2, 0,
    {meta.dstPrefix, packet.ip.srcIP}, NB_CELLS);
```

```
control MyIngress(...) {
 register register <bit <1>> (NB_CELLS) bloom_filter;
  apply {
     hash(meta.index1, HashAlgorithm.my_hash1, 0,
       {meta.dstPrefix, packet.ip.srcIP}, NB_CELLS);
     hash(meta.index2, HashAlgorithm.my_hash2, 0,
      {meta.dstPrefix, packet.ip.srcIP}, NB_CELLS);
     if (meta.to_insert == 1) {
      bloom_filter.write(meta.index1, 1);
      bloom_filter.write(meta.index2, 1);
     }
     if (meta.to_query == 1) {
      bloom_filter.read(meta.query1, meta.index1);
      bloom_filter.read(meta.query2, meta.index2);
      if (meta.query1 == 0 || meta.query2 == 0) {
        meta.is_stored = 0:
      }
      else {
        meta.is_stored = 1;
    }
 }
}
```

```
control MyIngress(...) {
 register register <bit <1>> (NB_CELLS) bloom_filter;
  apply {
     hash(meta.index1, HashAlgorithm.my_hash1, 0,
       {meta.dstPrefix, packet.ip.srcIP}, NB_CELLS);
     hash(meta.index2, HashAlgorithm.my_hash2, 0,
       {meta.dstPrefix, packet.ip.srcIP}, NB_CELLS);
     if (meta.to_insert == 1) {
       bloom_filter.write(meta.index1, 1);
       bloom_filter.write(meta.index2, 1);
     }
     if (meta.to_query == 1) {
       bloom_filter.read(meta.query1, meta.index1);
       bloom_filter.read(meta.query2, meta.index2);
       if (meta.query1 == 0 || meta.query2 == 0) {
         meta.is_stored = 0;
       }
       else {
         meta.is_stored = 1;
    }
 }
}
```

Everything in bold red must be adapted for your program

Depending on the hardware limitations, splitting the bloom filter might be required



Because deletions are not possible, the controller may need to regularly reset the bloom filters

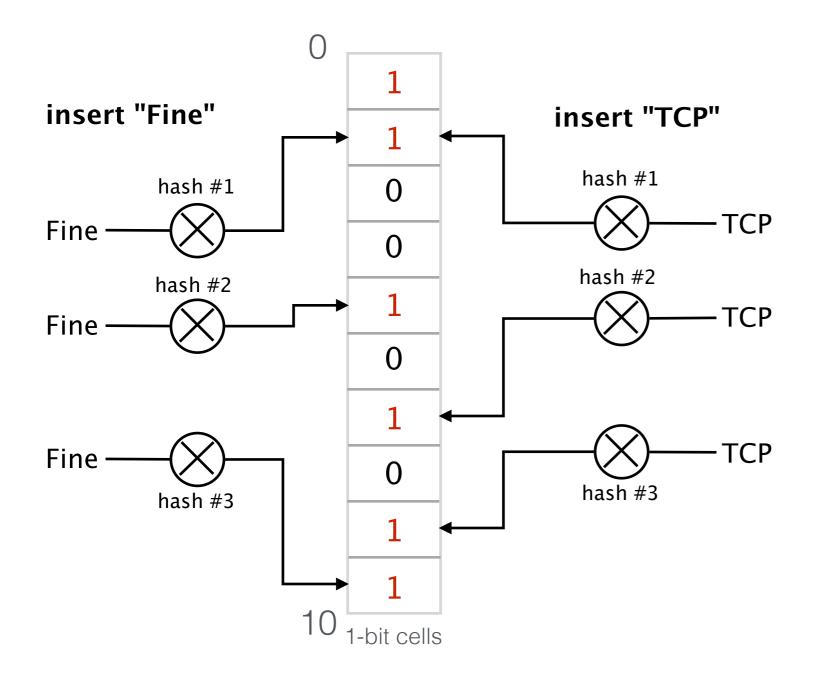
Resetting a bloom filter takes some time during which it is not usable

Common trick: use two bloom filters and use one when the controller resets the other one

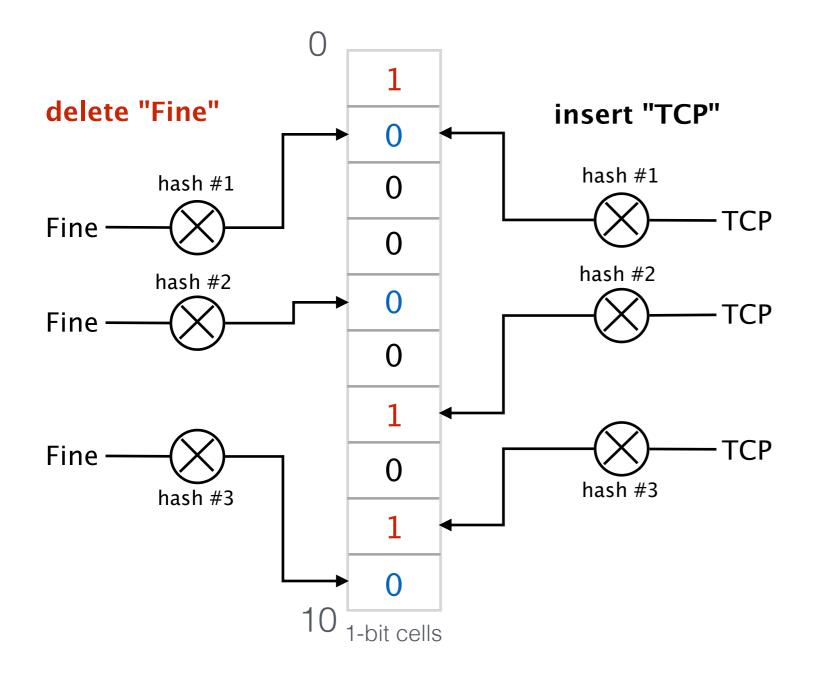
So far we have seen how to do insertions and membership queries

	strategy #1	strategy #2
output	Deterministic	Probabilistic
number of required operations	Probabilistic	Deterministic
		Bloom Filters

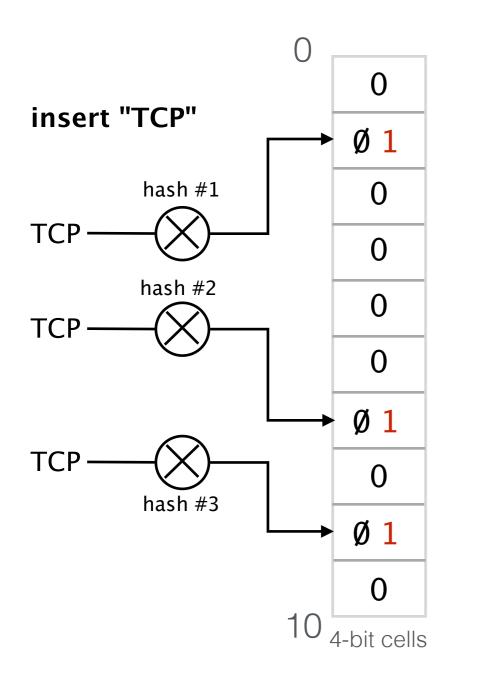
However Bloom Filters do not handle deletions



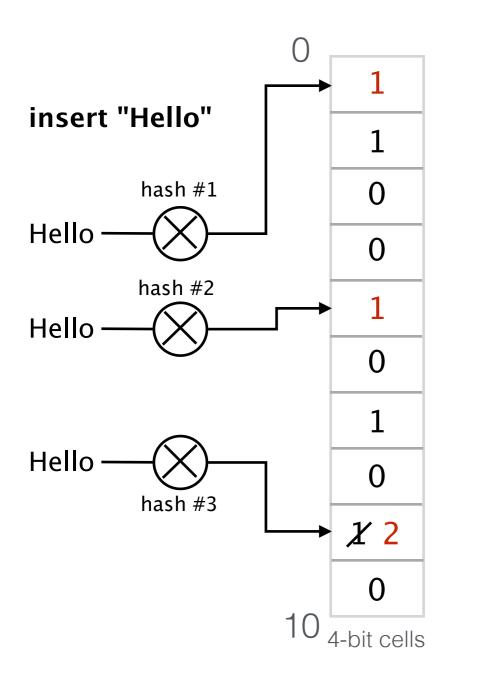
However Bloom Filters do not handle deletions



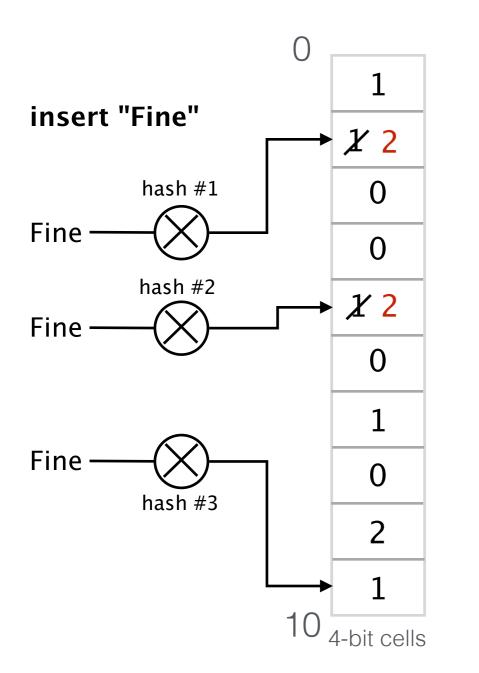
If deleting an element means resetting 1s to 0s, then deleting "Fine" also deletes "TCP"



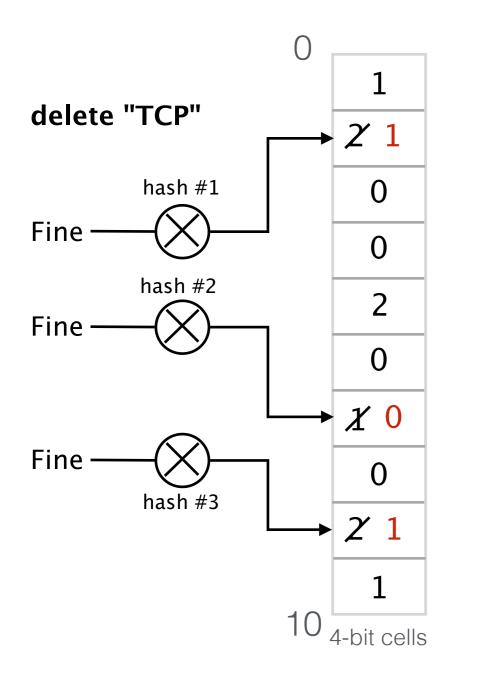
To add an element, increment the corresponding counters



To add an element, increment the corresponding counters

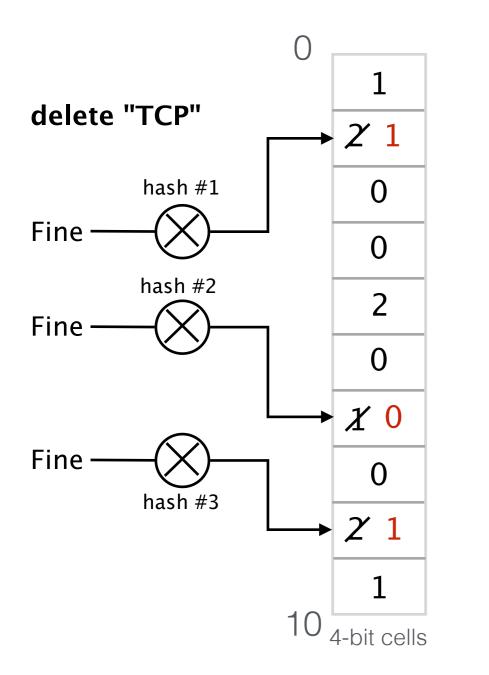


To add an element, increment the corresponding counters



To add an element, increment the corresponding counters

To delete an element, decrement the corresponding counters



To add an element, increment the corresponding counters

To delete an element, decrement the corresponding counters

All of our prior analysis for standard bloom filters applies to counting bloom filters Counting Bloom Filters do handle deletions at the price of using more memory Counting Bloom Filters do handle deletions at the price of using more memory

Counters must be large enough to avoid overflow If a counter eventually overflows, the filter may yield false negatives

Counting Bloom Filters do handle deletions at the price of using more memory

Counters must be large enough to avoid overflow If a counter eventually overflows, the filter may yield false negatives

Poisson approximation suggests 4 bits/counter The average load (i.e., $\frac{NK}{M}$) is $\ln 2$ assuming $K = \ln 2 * (M/N)$ With N=10000 and M=80000 the probability that some counter overflows if we use b-bit counters is at most $M * Pr(Poisson(\ln 2) \ge 2^b) = 1.78e-11$

Implementation of a Counting Bloom Filter in P4₁₆ with 2 hash functions

Add a new element

```
control MyIngress(...) {
  register register <bit <4>> (NB_CELLS) bloom_filter;
   apply {
      hash(meta.index1, HashAlgorithm.my_hash1, 0,
        {meta.dstPrefix, packet.ip.srcIP}, NB_CELLS);
      hash(meta.index2, HashAlgorithm.my_hash2, 0,
        {meta.dstPrefix, packet.ip.srcIP}, NB_CELLS);
      // Add a new element if not yet in the set
      bloom_filter.read(meta.query1, meta.index1);
      bloom_filter.read(meta.query2, meta.index2);
      if (meta.query1 == 0 \mid\mid meta.query2 == 0) {
       bloom_filter.write(meta.index1, meta.query1 + 1);
       bloom_filter.write(meta.index2, meta.query2 + 1);
     }
}
```

Implementation of a Counting Bloom Filter in P4₁₆ with 2 hash functions

Delete an element

```
control MyIngress(...) {
  register register <bit <32 >> (NB_CELLS) bloom_filter;
   apply {
      hash(meta.index1, HashAlgorithm.my_hash1, 0,
        {meta.dstPrefix, packet.ip.srcIP}, NB_CELLS);
      hash(meta.index2, HashAlgorithm.my_hash2, 0,
        {meta.dstPrefix, packet.ip.srcIP}, NB_CELLS);
      // Delete a element only if it is in the set
      bloom_filter.read(meta.query1, meta.index1);
      bloom_filter.read(meta.query2, meta.index2);
      if (meta.query1 > 0 && meta.query2 > 0) {
        bloom_filter.write(meta.index1, meta.query1 - 1);
bloom_filter.write(meta.index2, meta.query2 - 1);
      }
}
```

So far we have seen how to do insertions, deletions and membership queries

	strategy #1	strategy #2		
output	Deterministic	Probabilistic		
number of required operations	Probabilistic	Deterministic		
	Bloom Filters			
	(Counting Bloom Filters		

Each cell contains three fields

count which counts the number of entries mapped to this cell

keySum which is the sum of all the keys mapped to this cell

valueSum which is the sum of all the values mapped to this cell

count	: k	keySui	m v	alueS	um
0		0		0	
0		0		0	
0		0		0	
0		0		0	
0		0		0	
0		0		0	
0		0		0	
0		0		0	
0		0		0	
0		0		0	

Add a new key-value pair (assuming it is not in the set yet)

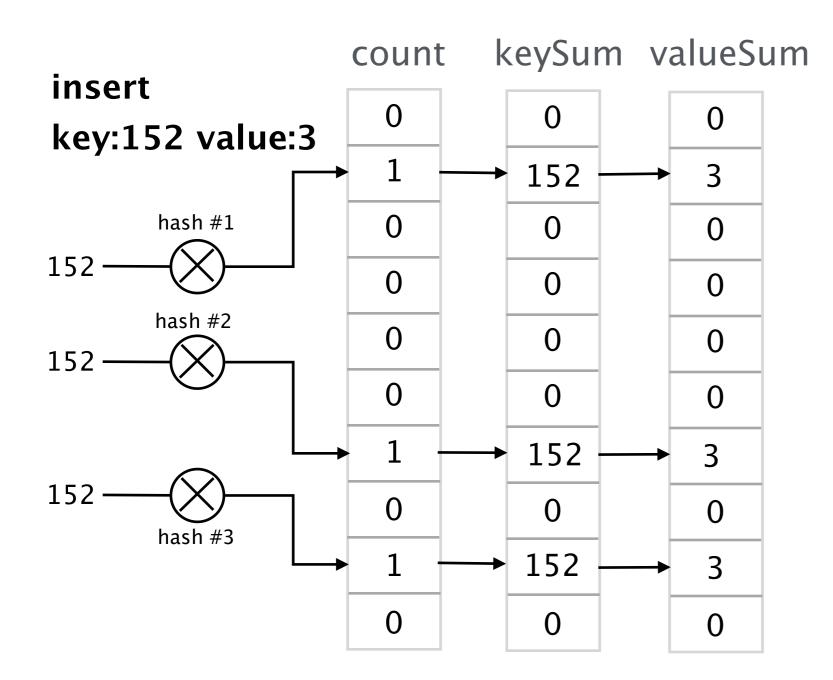
For each hash function hash the key to find the index

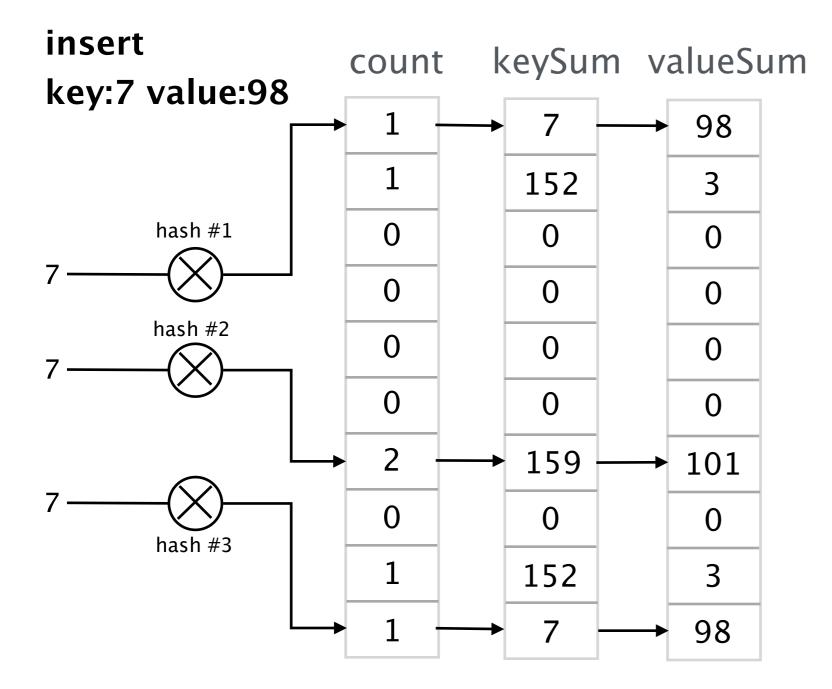
> Then at this index increment the count by one add key to keySum add value to valueSum

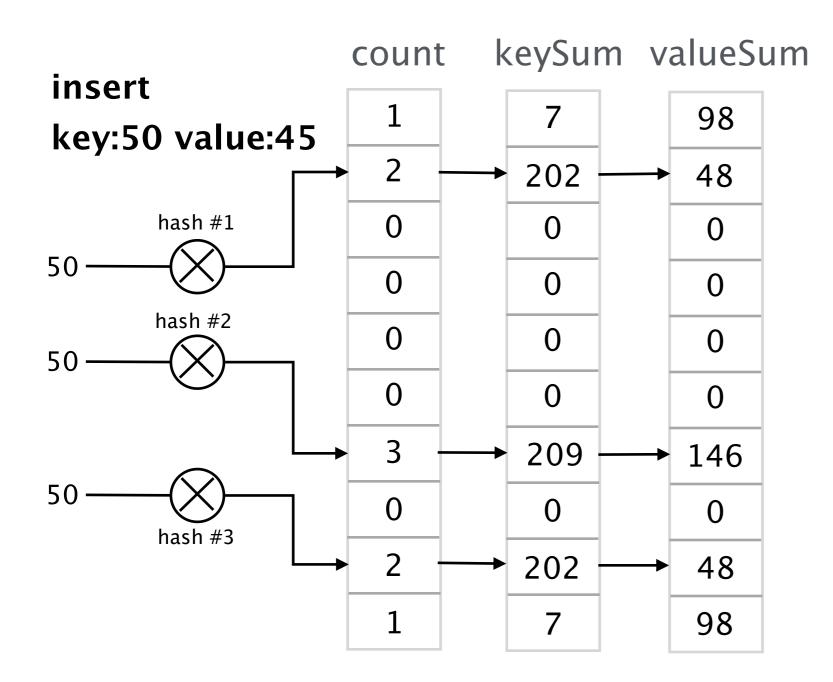
Delete a key-value pair (assuming it is in the set)

For each hash function hash the key to find the index

> Then at this index subtract one to the count subtract key to keySum subtract value to valueSum

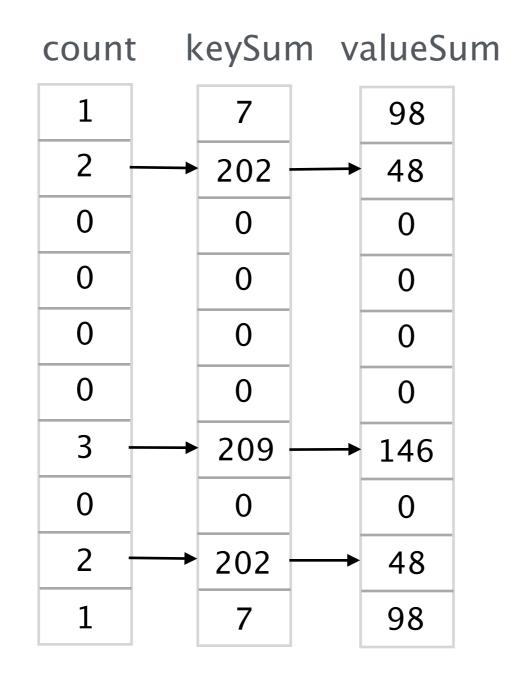


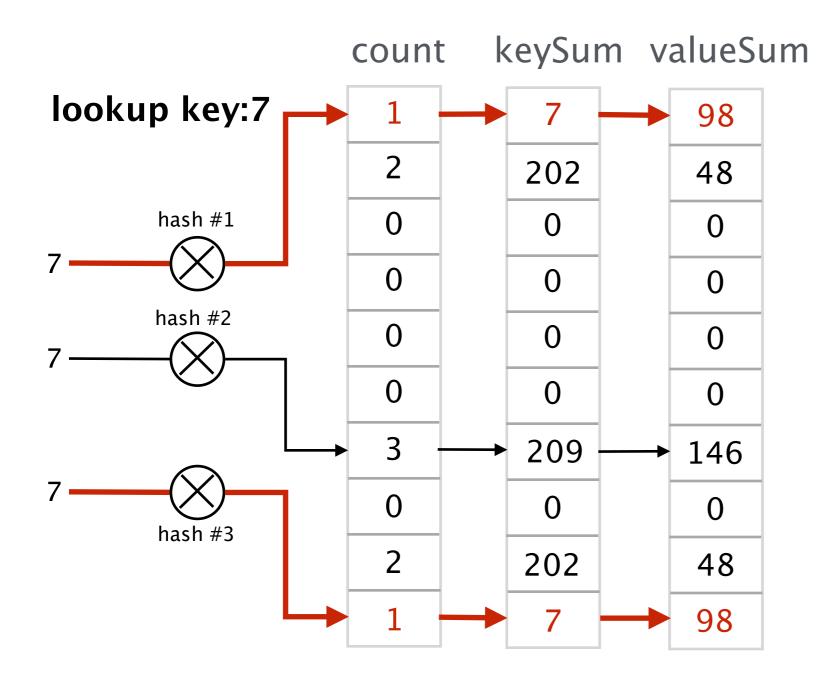




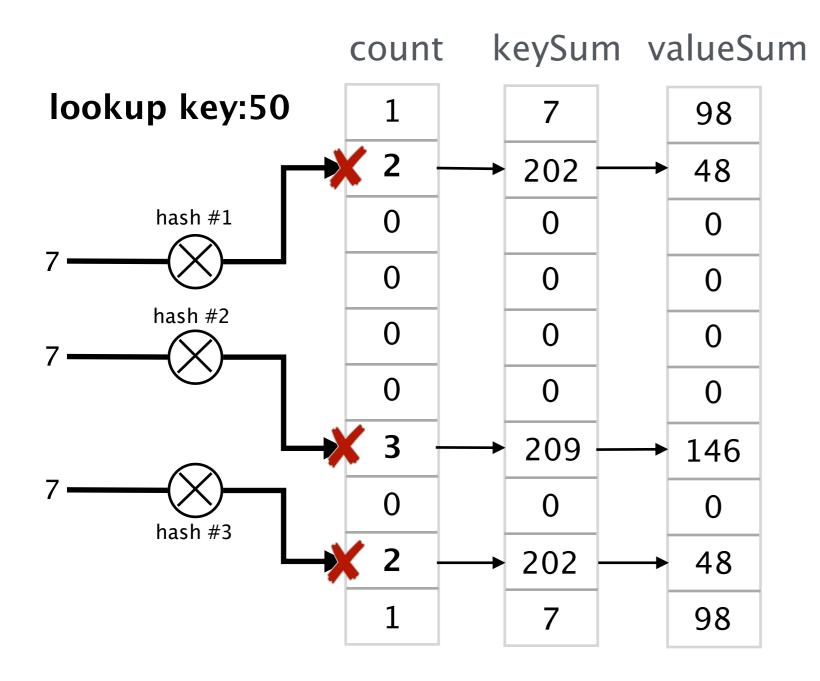
Key-value pair lookup

The value of a key can be found if the key is associated to **at least** one cell with a count = 1





Key 7 has the value 98



The value for the key 50 can't be found

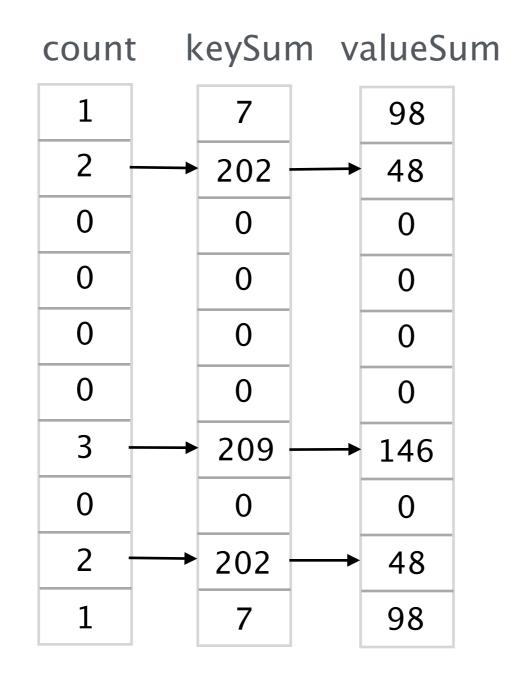
Listing the IBLT

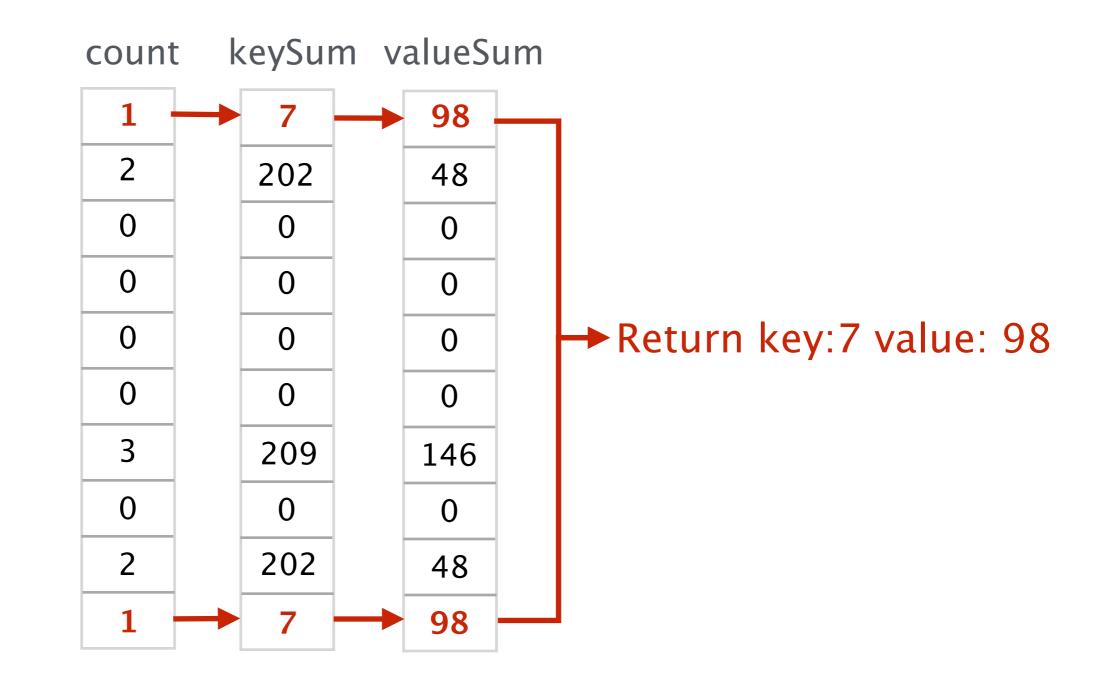
While there is an index for which count = 1
Find the corresponding key-value pair and return it
Delete the corresponding key-value pair

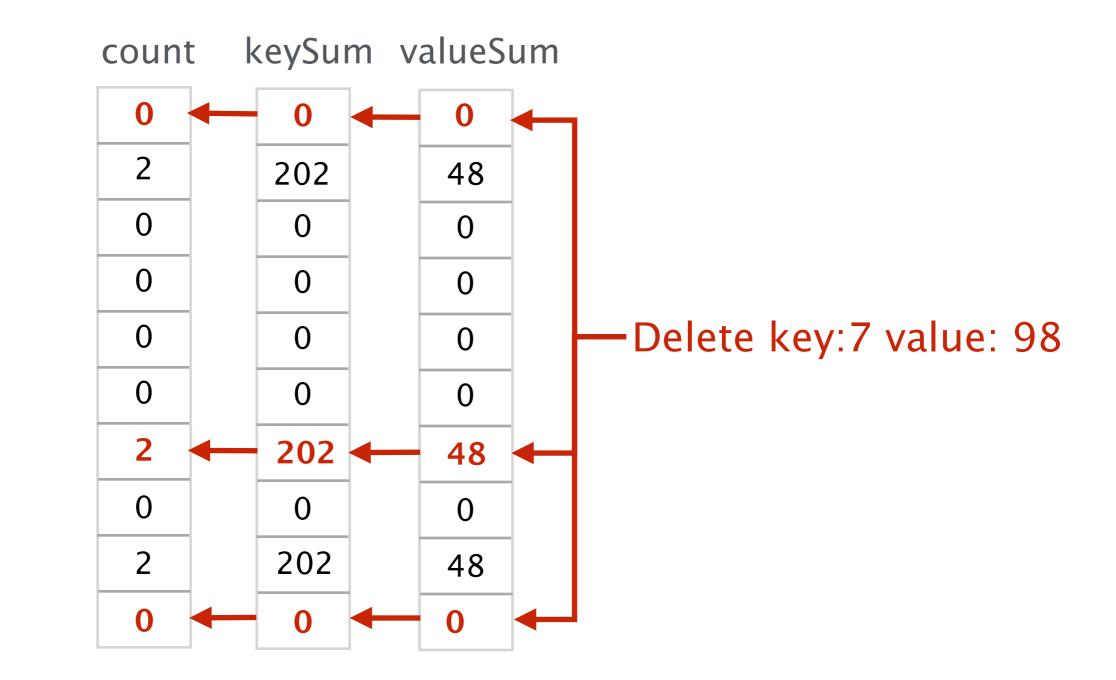
Listing the IBLT

While there is an index for which count = 1
Find the corresponding key-value pair and return it
Delete the corresponding key-value pair

Unless the number of iterations is very low, loops can't be implemented in hardware **The listing is done by the controller**

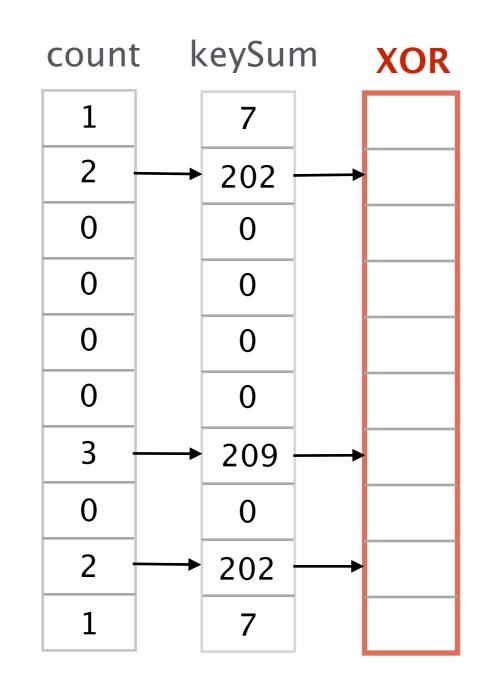






count	t k	keySui	m v	alueS	um
0		0		0	
2		202		48	
0		0		0	
0		0		0	
0		0		0	
0		0		0	
2		202		48	
0		0		0	
2		202		48	
0		0		0	

In this example, a complete listing is not possible In many settings, we can use XORs in place of sums For example to avoid overflow issues



For further information about Bloom Filters, Counting Bloom Filters and IBLT

Space/Time Trade-offs in Hash Coding with Allowable Errors. Burton H. Bloom. 1970.

Network Applications of Bloom Filters: A Survey. Andrei Broder and Michael Mitzenmacher. 2004.

Invertible Bloom Lookup Tables. Michael T. Goodrich and Michael Mitzenmacher. 2015.

FlowRadar: A Better NetFlow for Data Centers Yuliang Li et al. NSDI 2016.

Advanced Topics in Communication Networks Programming Network Data Planes



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