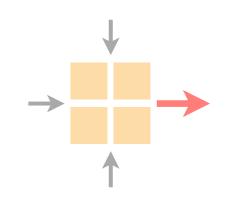
Advanced Topics in Communication Networks

Programming Network Data Planes





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Oct 8 2019

Materials inspired from p4.org

Last week on Advanced Topics in Communication Networks

P4 environment P4 language P4 in practice

What is needed to program in P4?

P4₁₆ introduces the concept of an architecture

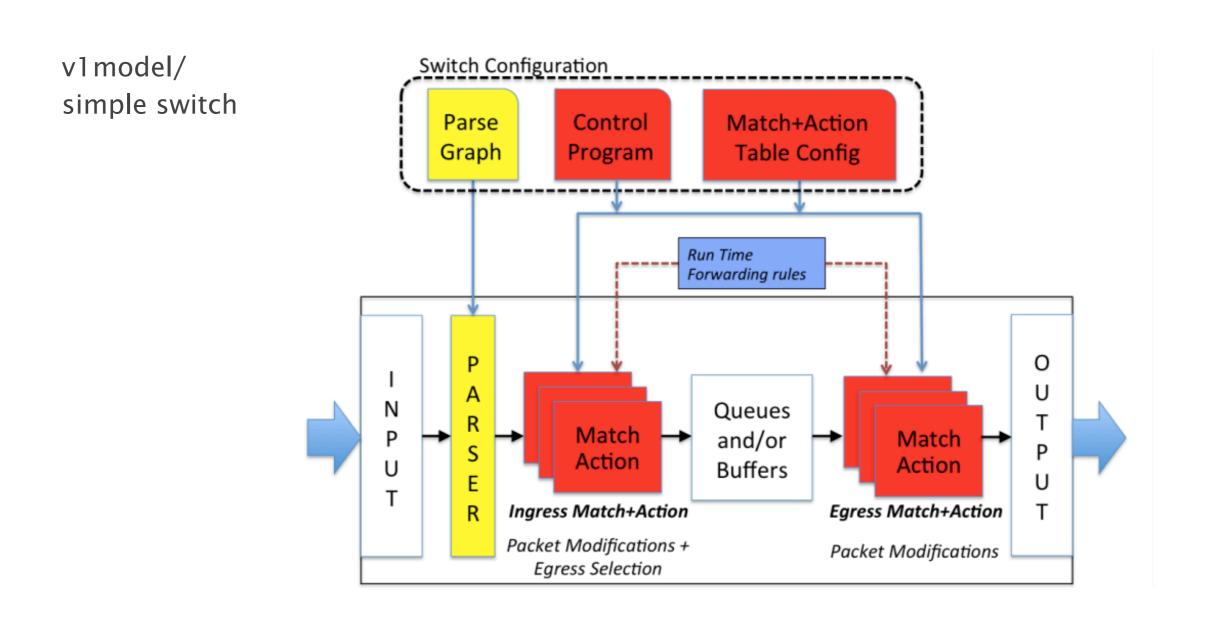
P4 Target

P4 Architecture

a model of a specific hardware implementation

an API to program a target

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



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

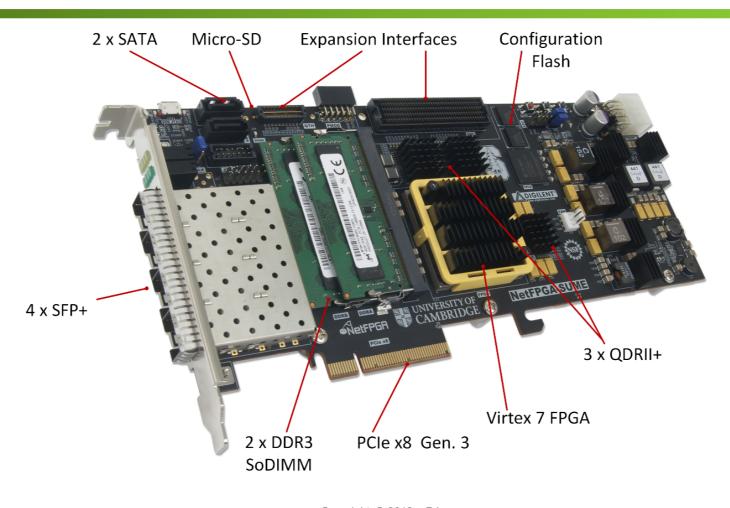
Most targets contain specialized components which cannot be expressed in P4 (e.g. complex computations)

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

≠ architectures → ≠ metadata & ≠ externs

NetFPGA-SUME



P4

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P4 environment

P4 language P4 in practice

Deeper dive into the language constructs (*)

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

bool Boolean value

bit<W> Bit-string of width W

int<W> Signed integer of width W

varbit<W> Bit-string of dynamic length ≤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

```
Header stack
Header
                                                       Header union
header Ethernet_h {
                           header Mpls_h {
                                                       header_union IP_h {
                            bit<20> label;
 bit<48> dstAddr;
                                                        IPv4_h v4;
 bit<48> srcAddr;
                                                        IPv6_h v6;
                            bit<3>
                                     tc:
 bit<16> etherType;
                            bit
                                    bos;
                            bit<8> ttl;
                           Mpls_h[10] mpls;
                               Array of up to
                                                          Either IPv4 or IPv6
                              10 MPLS headers
                                                          header is present
```

only one alternative

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

P4 operations are similar to C operations and vary depending on the types (unsigned/signed ints, ...)

- arithmetic operations
- logical 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 you can only use two stateful constructs

tables

modified by control plane

extern objects

modified by control plane & data plane

This week on

Advanced Topics in Communication Networks

stateful programming

statefulness in practice

probabilistic data structures

How do you build stateful apps?

fast network convergence

[USENIX NSDI'19]

bloom filters

part 1

stateful programming

statefulness in practice

probabilistic data structures

How do you build stateful apps?

Stateful objects in P4

Table managed by the control plane

Register store arbitrary data

Counter count events

Meter rate-limiting

externs in v1model

Stateful objects in P4

Table managed by the control plane

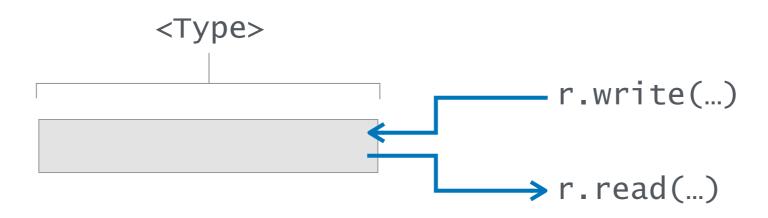
Register store arbitrary data

Counter count events

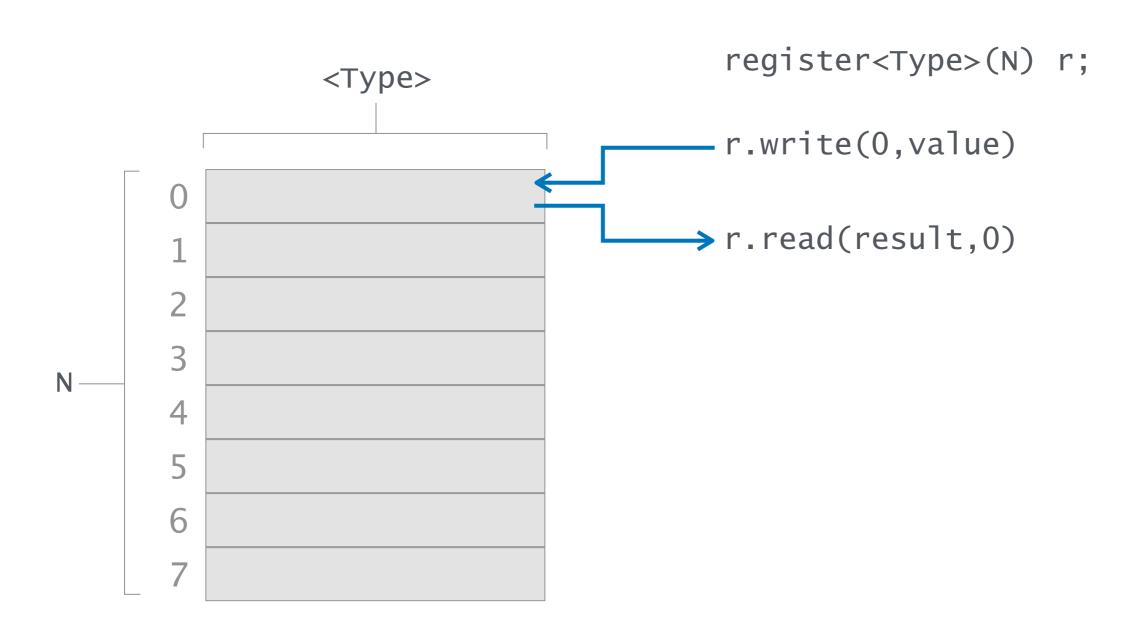
Meter rate-limiting

externs in v1model

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



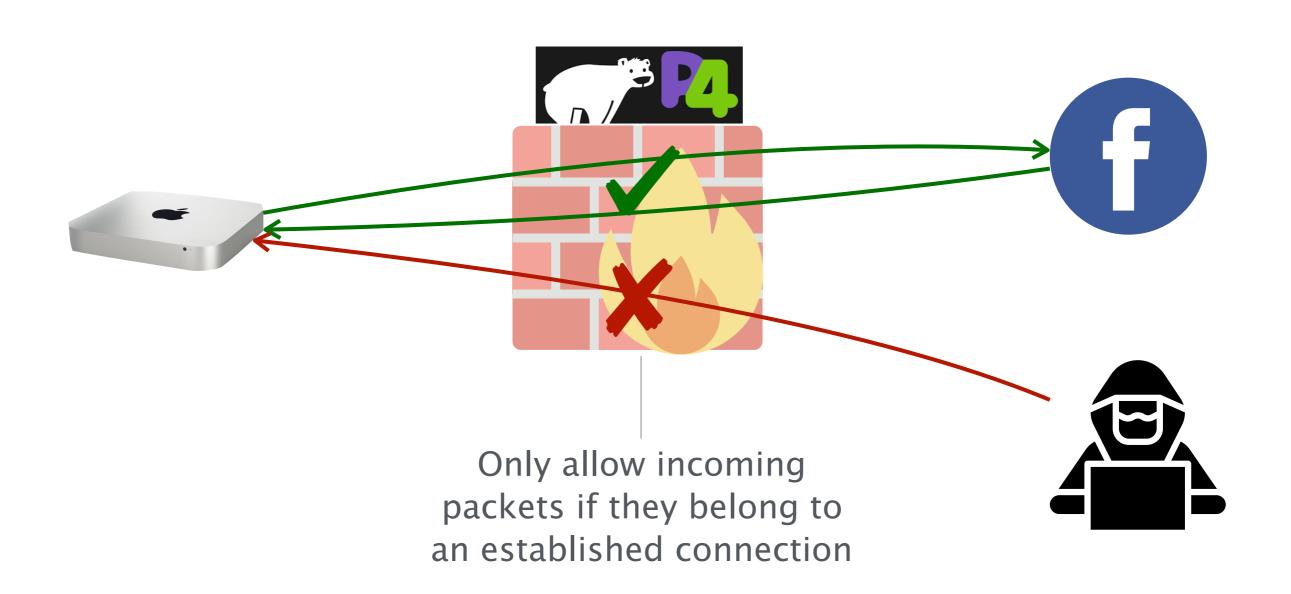
Registers are assigned in arrays



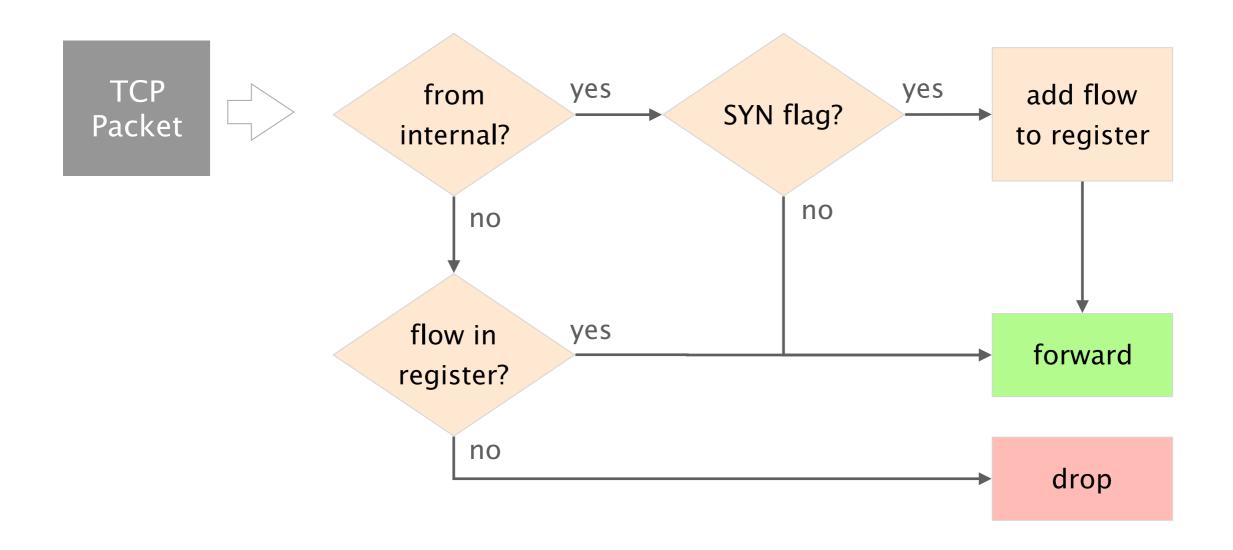
Example: Calculating inter packet gap

```
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

```
register to memorize
control MyIngress(...) {
                                                 established connections
 register<bit<1>>(4096) known_flows;
apply {
 meta.flow_id = ... // hash(5-tuple)
  if (hdr.ipv4.isValid()){
  if (hdr.tcp.isValid()){
                                                       add to register if it
   if (standard_metadata.ingress_port == 1){
                                                       it is a SYN packet
    if (hdr.tcp.syn == 1){
      known_flows.write(meta.flow_id, 1);
                                                          from internal
    if (standard_metadata.ingress_port == 2){
     known_flows.read(meta.flow_is_known, meta.flow_id);
     if (meta.flow_is_known != 1){
      drop(); return;
                                             drop if the packet does not
                                             belong to a known flow and
   ipv4_lpm.apply();
                                                 comes from outside
```

Stateful objects in P4

Table managed by the control plane

Register store arbitrary data

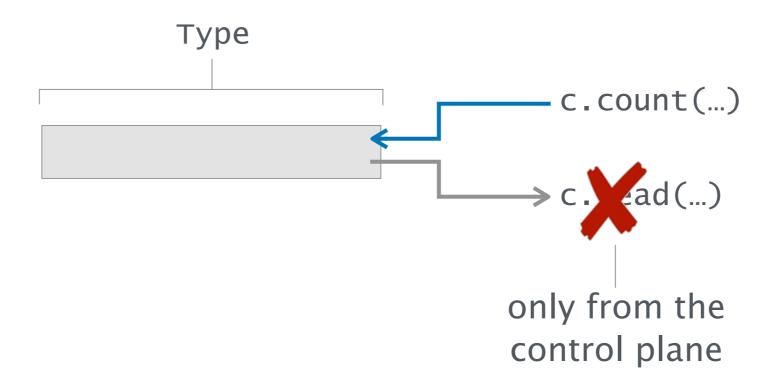
Counter count events

Meter rate-limiting

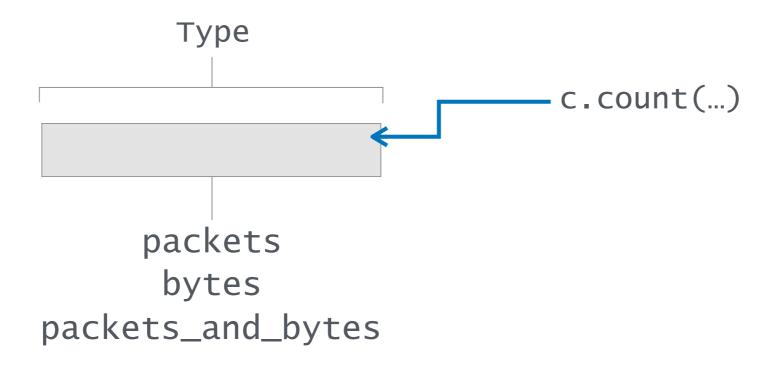
- ...

externs in v1model

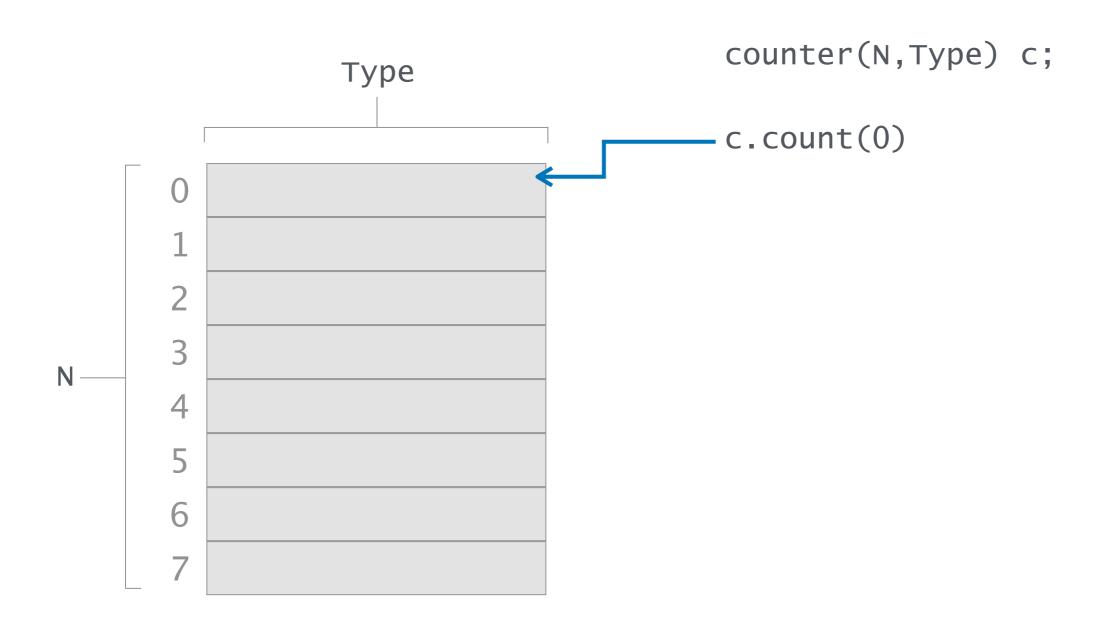
Counters are useful for... counting



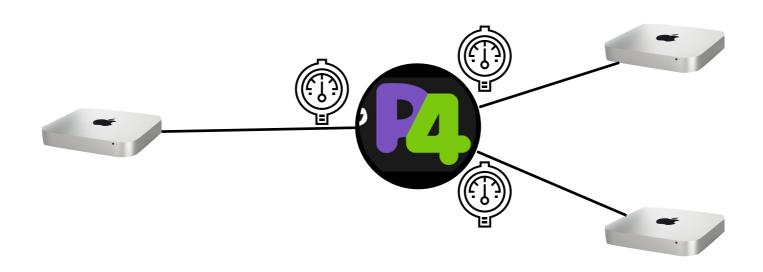
Counters can be of three different types



Like registers, counters are assigned in arrays



Example: Counting packets and bytes arriving at each port

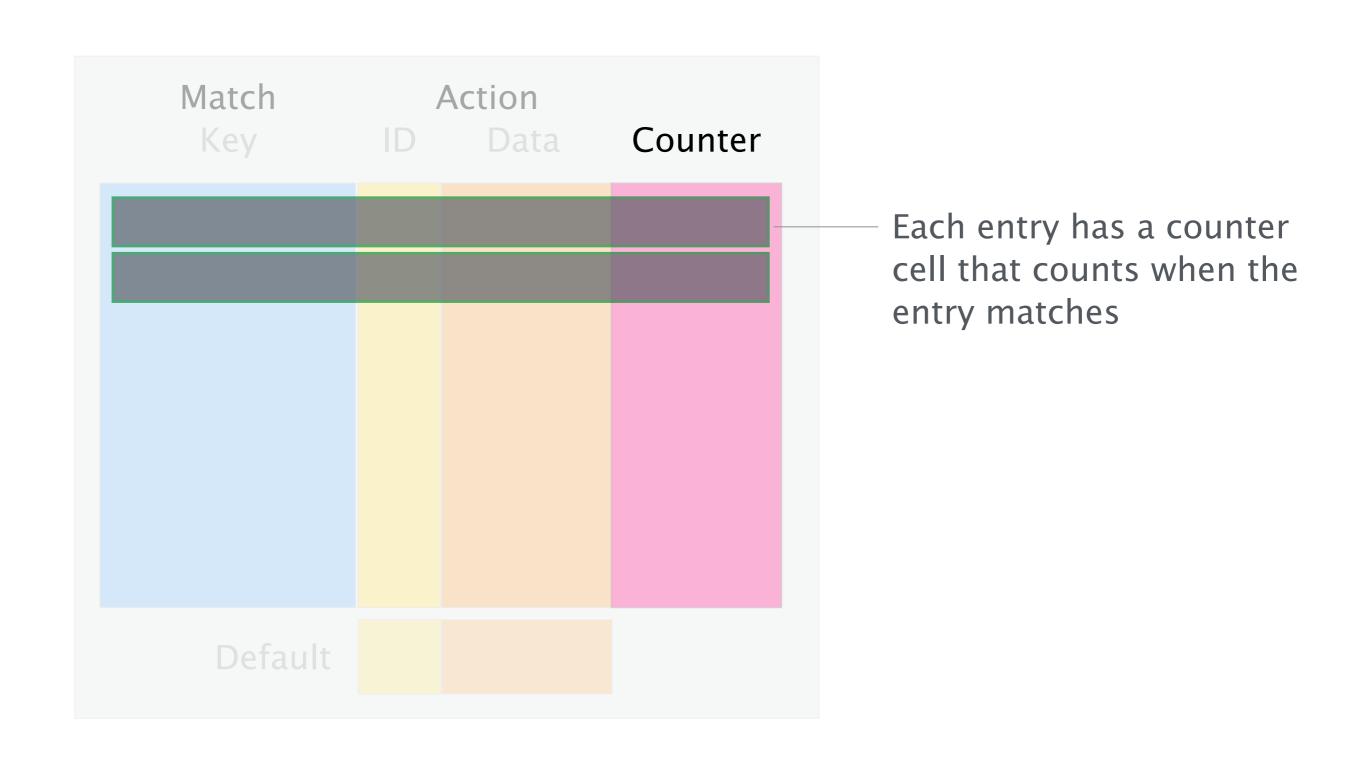


```
control MyIngress(...) {
    counter(512, CounterType.packets_and_bytes) port_counter;
    apply {
        port_counter.count((bit<32>)standard_metadata.ingress_port);
    }
}
use the ingress port as counter index
```

Example: Reading the counter values from the control plane

```
Control Plane
RuntimeCmd: counter_read MyIngress.port_counter 1
MyIngress.port_counter[1]= BmCounterValue(packets=13, bytes=1150)
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
```

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

Table managed by the control plane

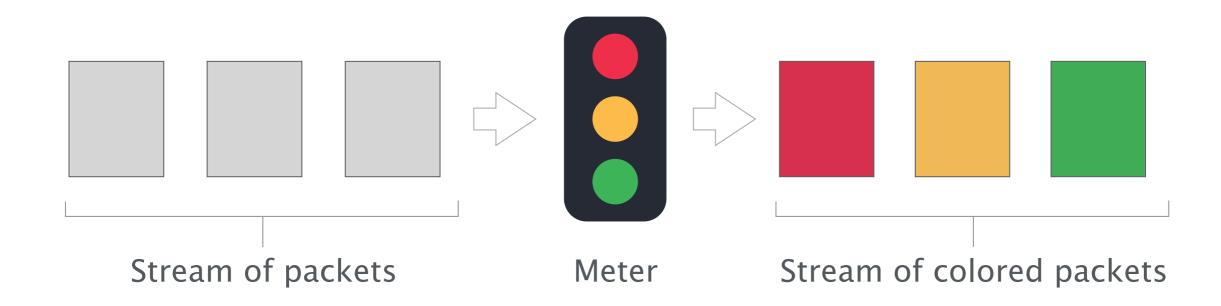
Register store arbitrary data

Counter count events

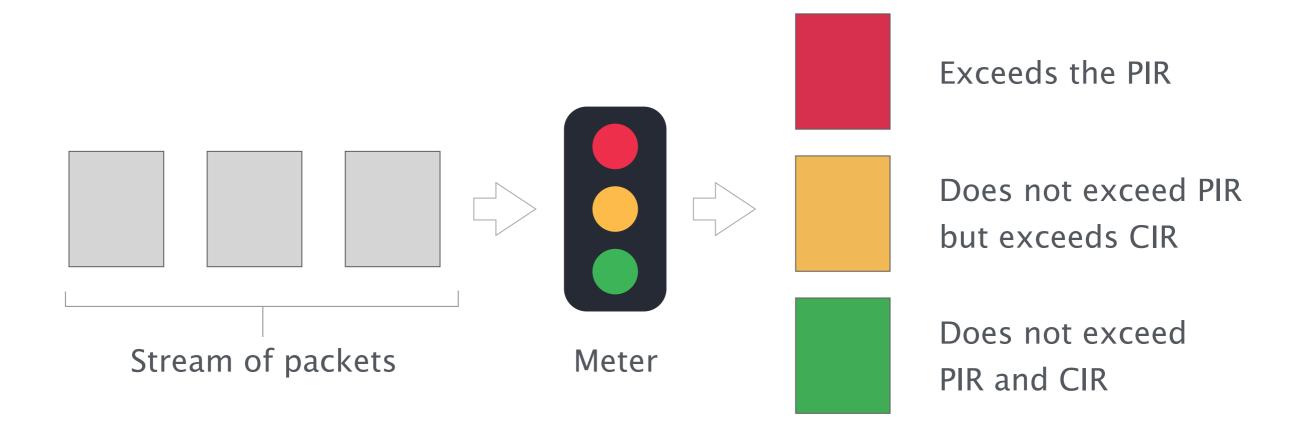
Meter rate-limiting

externs in v1model

Meters



Meters



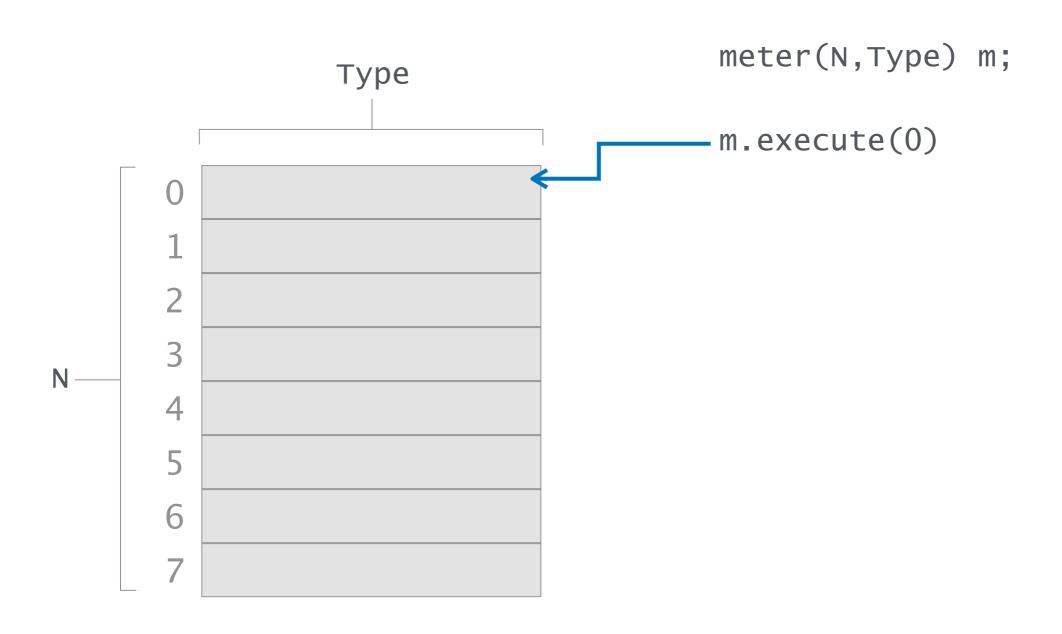
Parameters: PIR Peak Information Rate

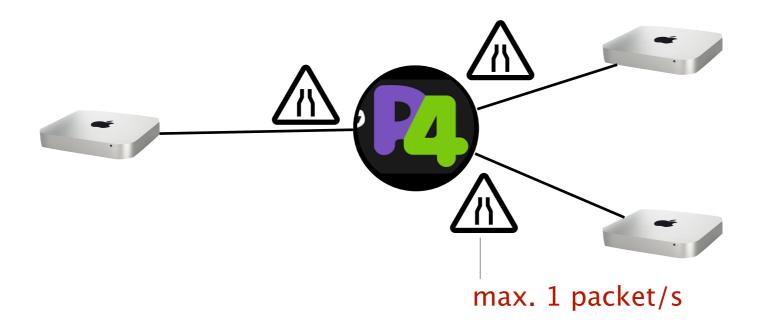
CIR Committed Information Rate

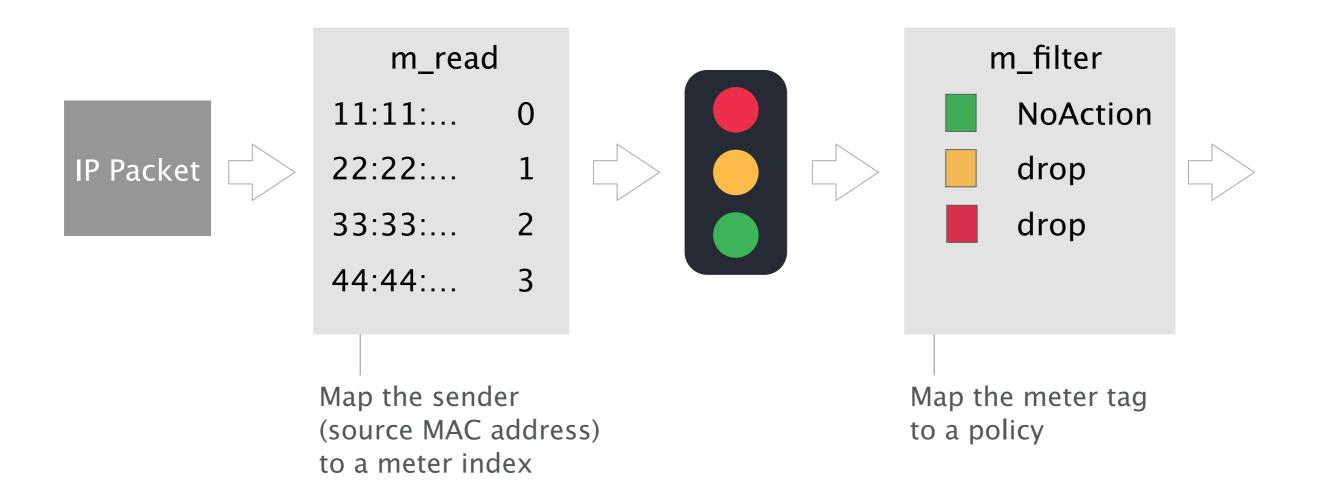
[bytes/s] or [packets/s]
[bytes/s] or [packets/s]

more info https://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc2698

Like registers and counters, meters are assigned in arrays

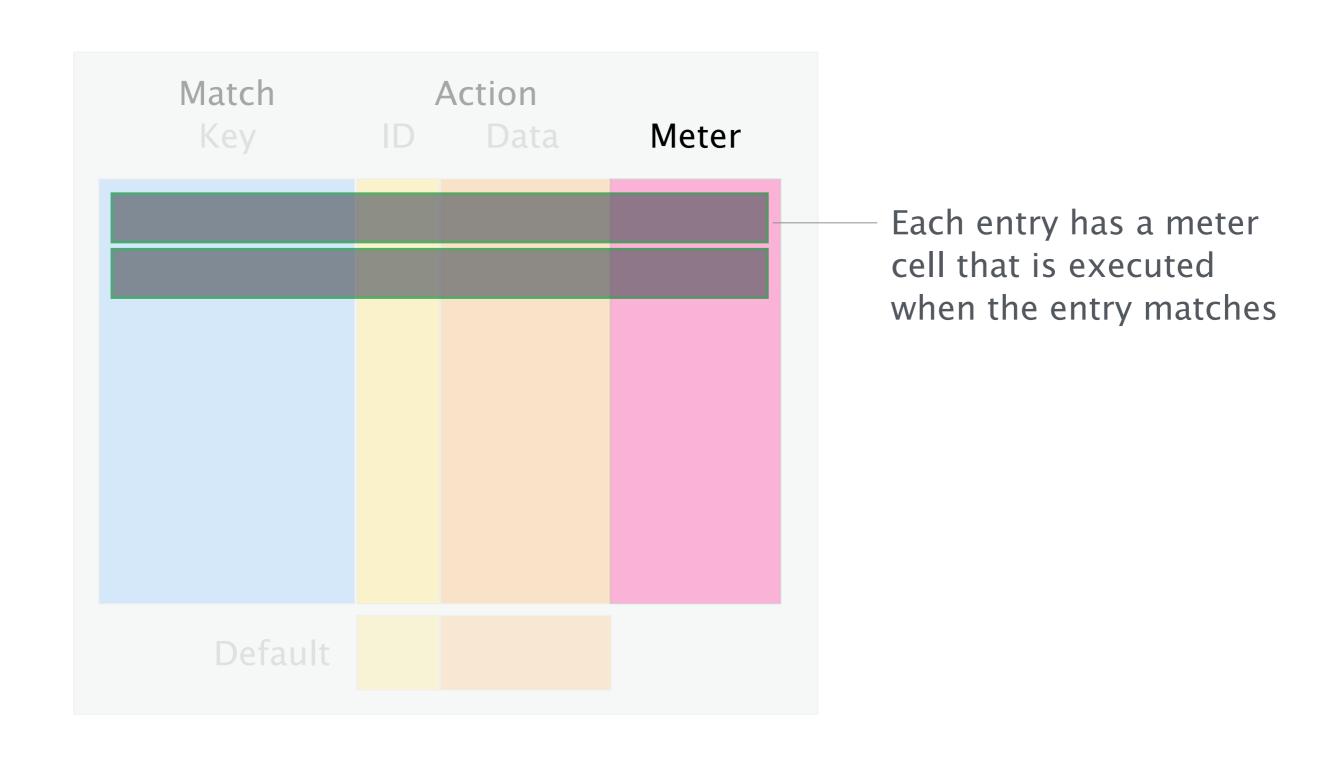






```
control MyIngress(...) {
meter(32w16384, MeterType.packets) my_meter;
                                                            packet meter
action m_action(bit<32> meter_index) {
 my_meter.execute_meter<bit<32>>(meter_index, meta.meter_tag);
                                                           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

Object

Data plane interface

read modify/write

Table apply() —

Register read() write()

Counter — count()

Meter execute()

Control plane interface

read modify/write

yes yes

yes yes

yes reset

configuration only

stateful programming

statefulness in practice

probabilistic data structures

fast network convergence

[USENIX NSDI'19]

stateful programming

statefulness in practice

probabilistic data structures

bloom filters

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

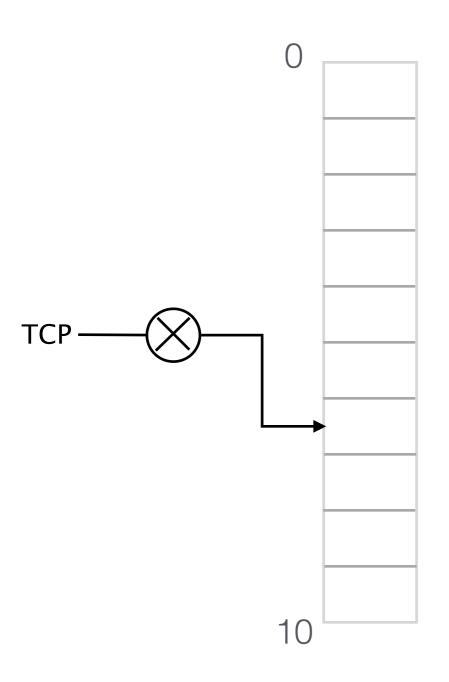
There are two common strategies to implement a set

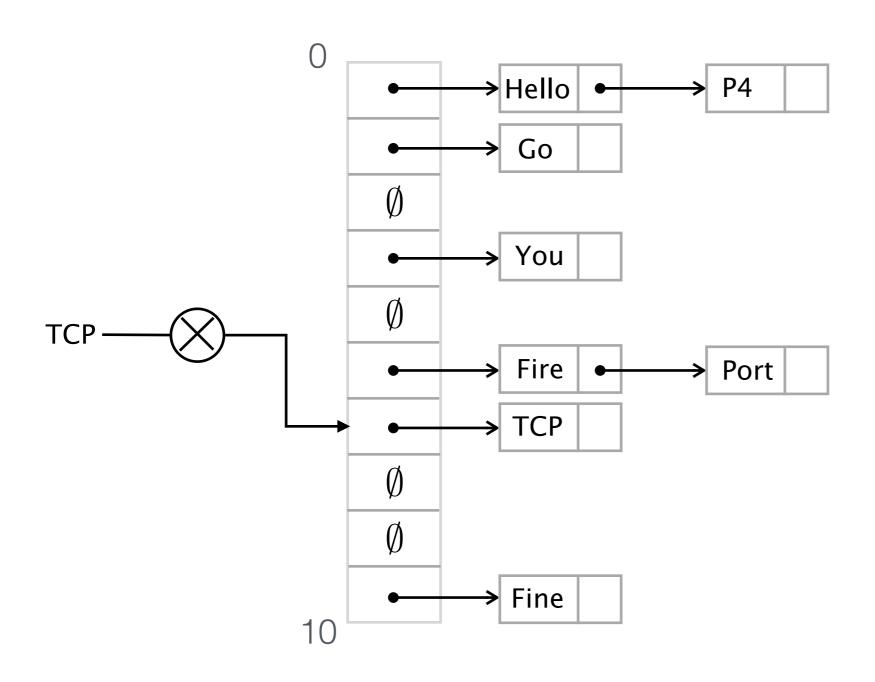
	strategy #1	strategy #2
output	Deterministic	Probabilistic
number of required operations	Probabilistic	Deterministic

There are two common strategies to implement a set

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

Intuitive implementation of a set





N elements and M cells

list size

average N/M

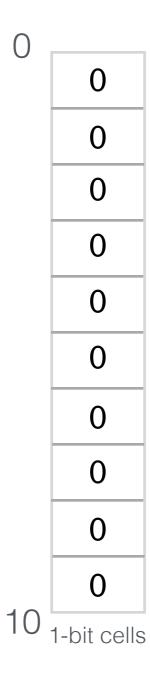
worse-case N

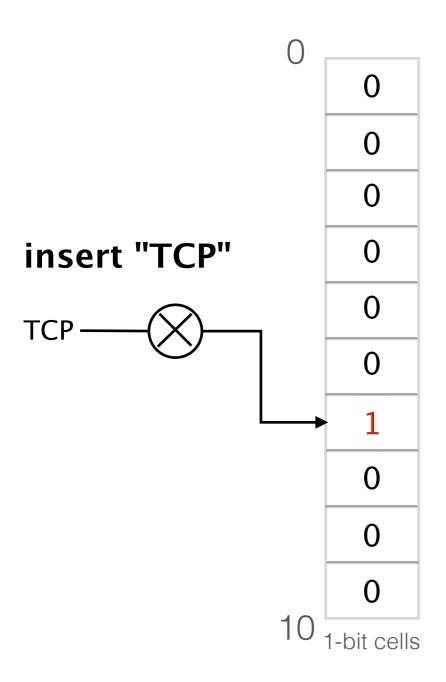
Pros: accurate and fast in the average case

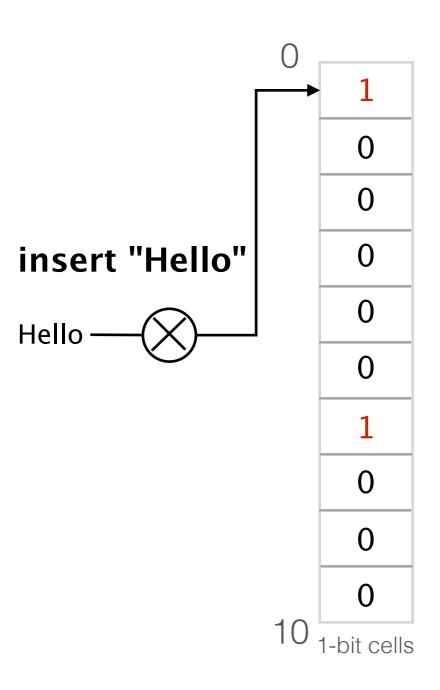
Con: only works in hardware if there is a low number of elements (e.g. < 100)

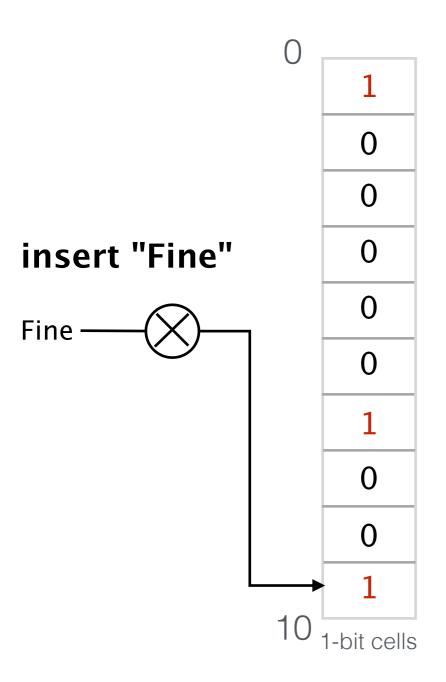
There are two common strategies to implement a set

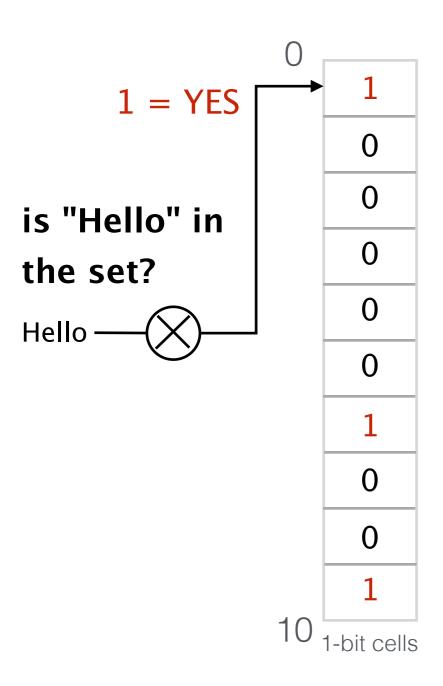
	strategy #1	strategy #2
output	Deterministic	Probabilistic
number of required operations	Probabilistic	Deterministic

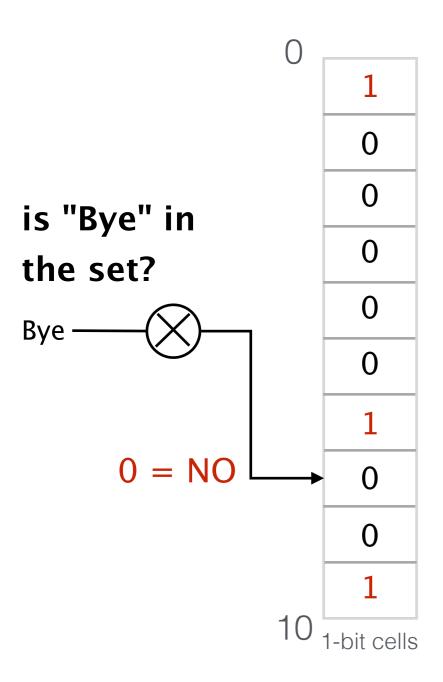


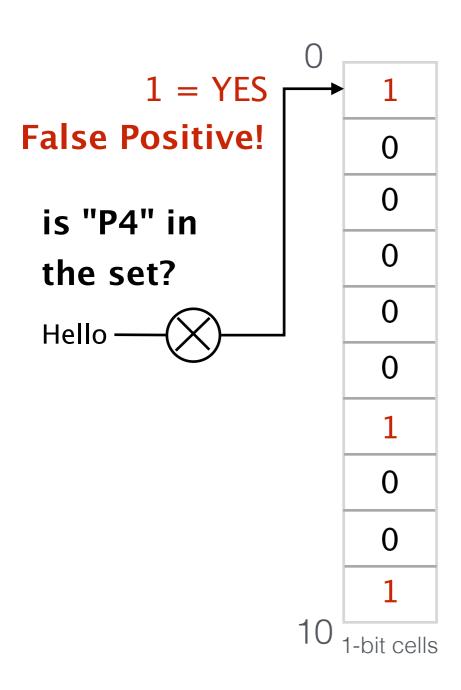












N elements and M cells

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

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

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

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

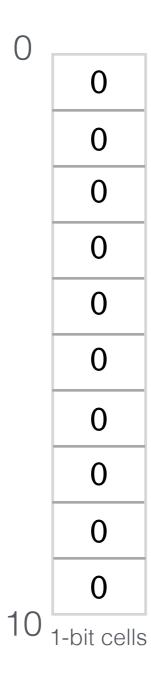
$$1 - (1 - \frac{1}{M})^N$$

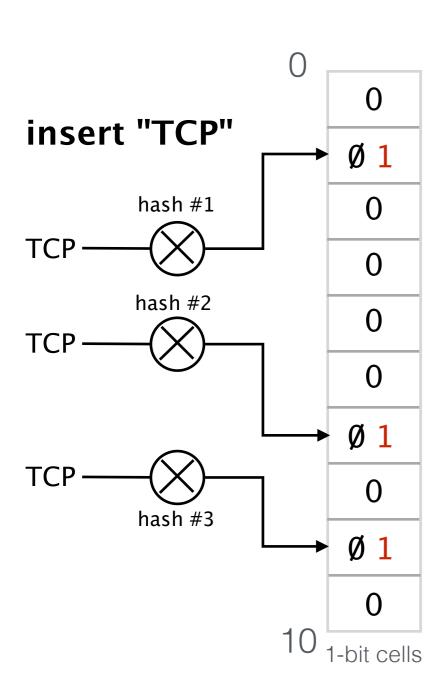
()

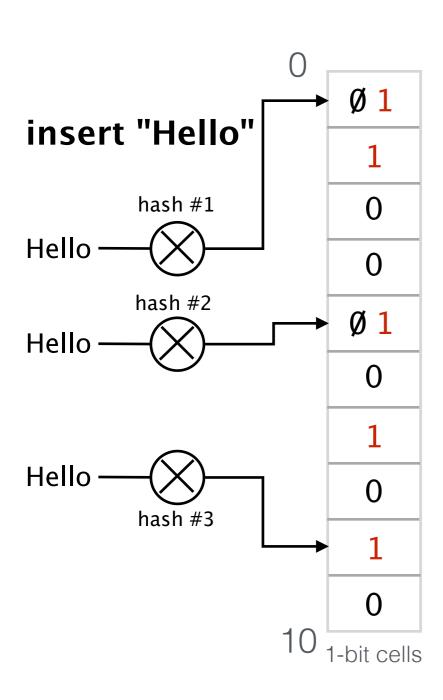
# of elements	# of cells	FPR
1000	10000	9.5%
1000	100000	1%

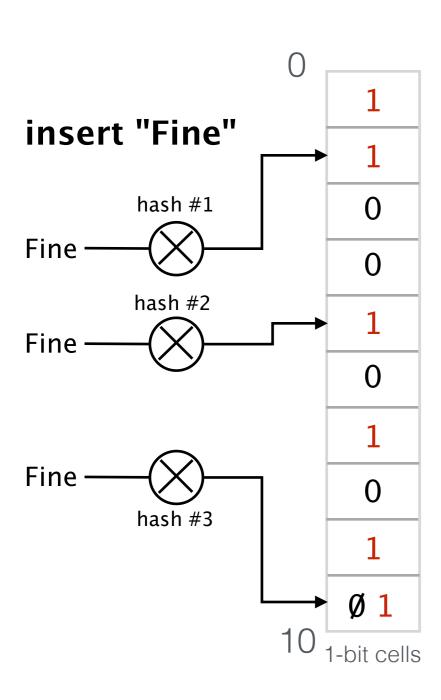
Pros: simple and only one operation per insertion or query

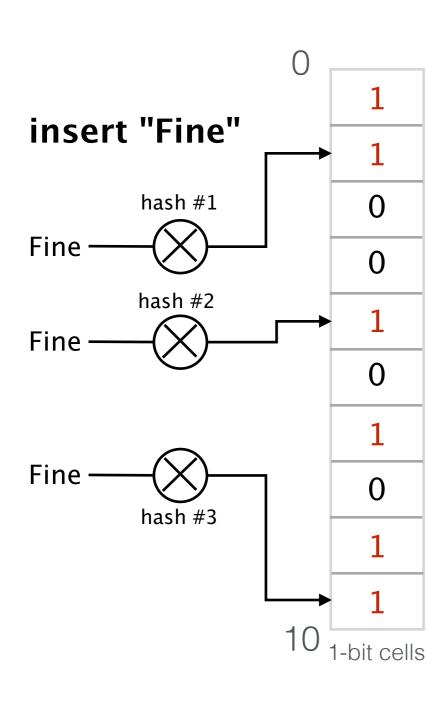
Con: roughly 100x more cells are required than the number of element we want to store for a 1% false positive rate





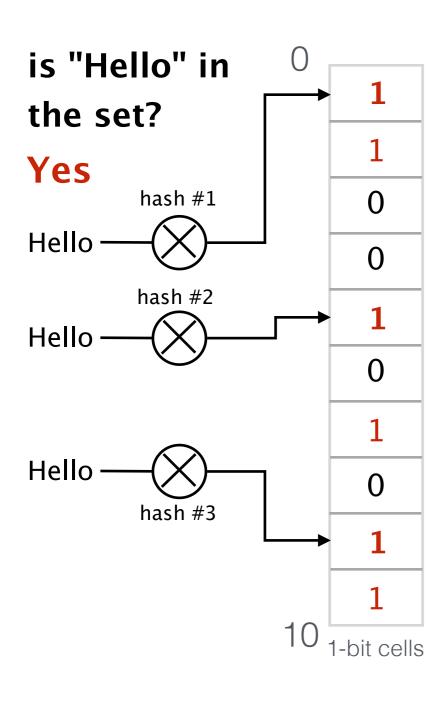






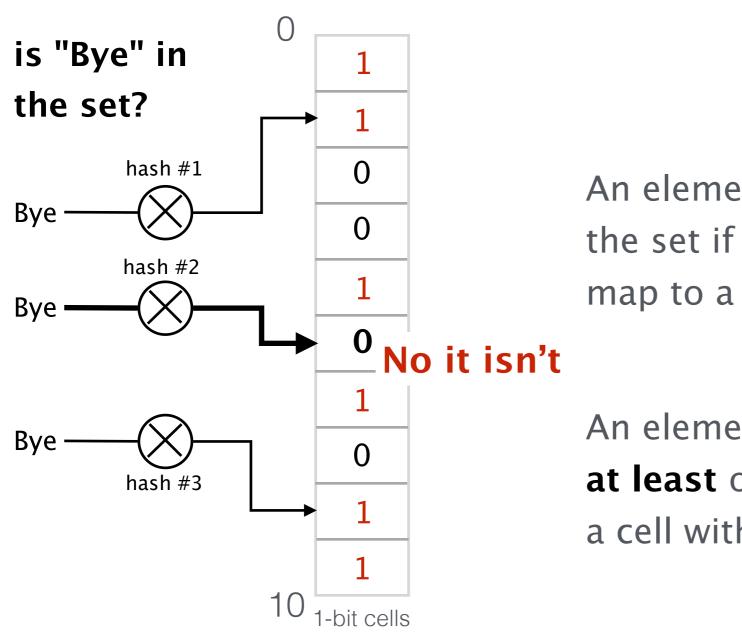
An element is considered in the set if **all** the hash values map to a cell with 1

An element is not in the set if at least one hash value maps to a cell with 0



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

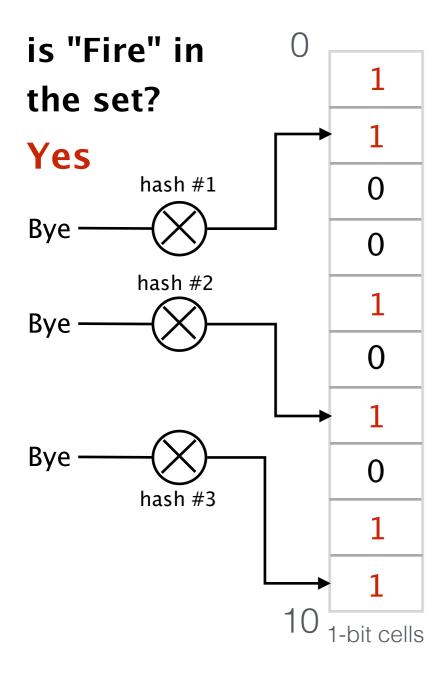
An element is not in the set if at least one hash value maps to a cell with 0



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

An element is not in the set if at least one hash value maps to a cell with 0

False Positive!



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

An element is not in the set if at least one hash value maps to a cell with 0

N elements, M cells and K hash functions

probability that one hash function returns the index of a particular cell

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

probability that one hash function does not return the index of a particular cell

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

probability of a cell to be 0

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

false positive rate

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

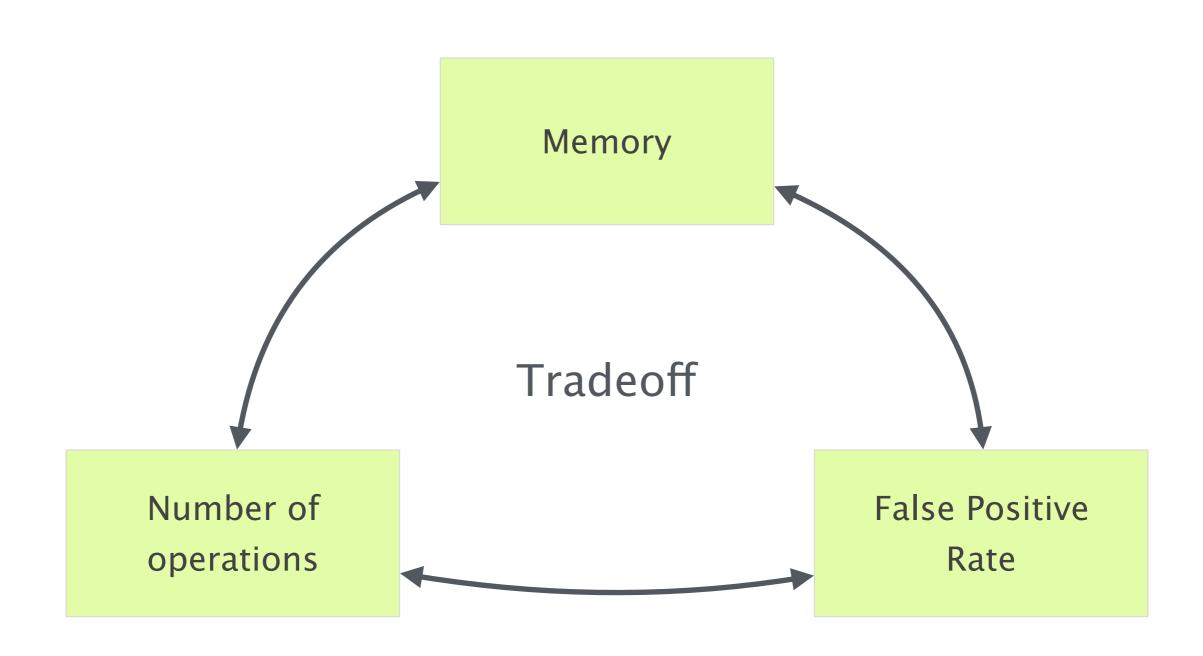
false negative rate

()

# of elements	# of cells	# hash functions	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.

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

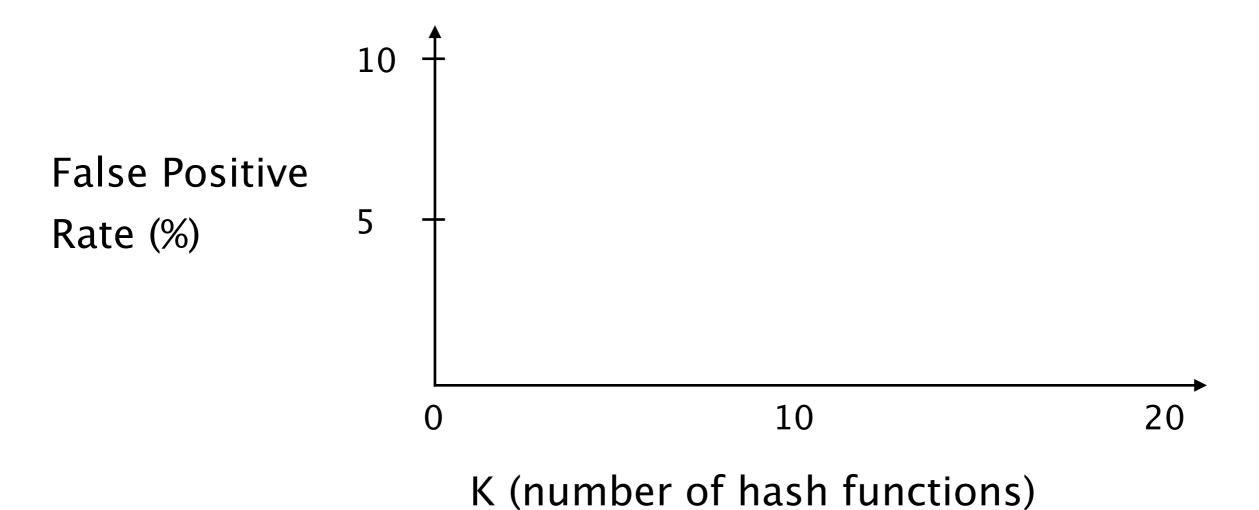
with calculus you can dimension your bloom filter

N = 1000

M = 10000

K hash functions

FP false positive rate

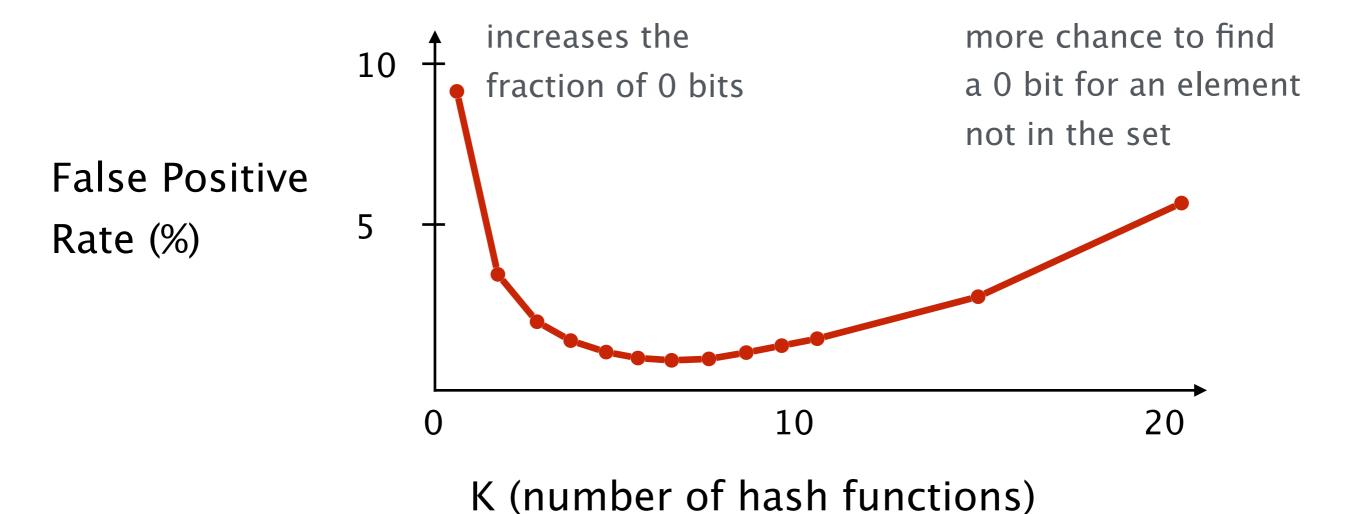


N = 1000

M = 10000

K hash functions

FP false positive rate



5

0

N = 1000

M = 10000

K hash functions

FP false positive rate

False Positive Rate (%) there is always a global minimum when $K = \ln 2*(M/N)$ found by taking the derivative of $\approx (1-e^{-KN/M})^K$

more chance to find a 0 bit for an element not in the set

20

K (number of hash functions)

10

increases the

fraction of 0 bits:

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<0, T, D, M>(out O result, in HashAlgorithm algo, in T base, in D data, in M max);

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;
```

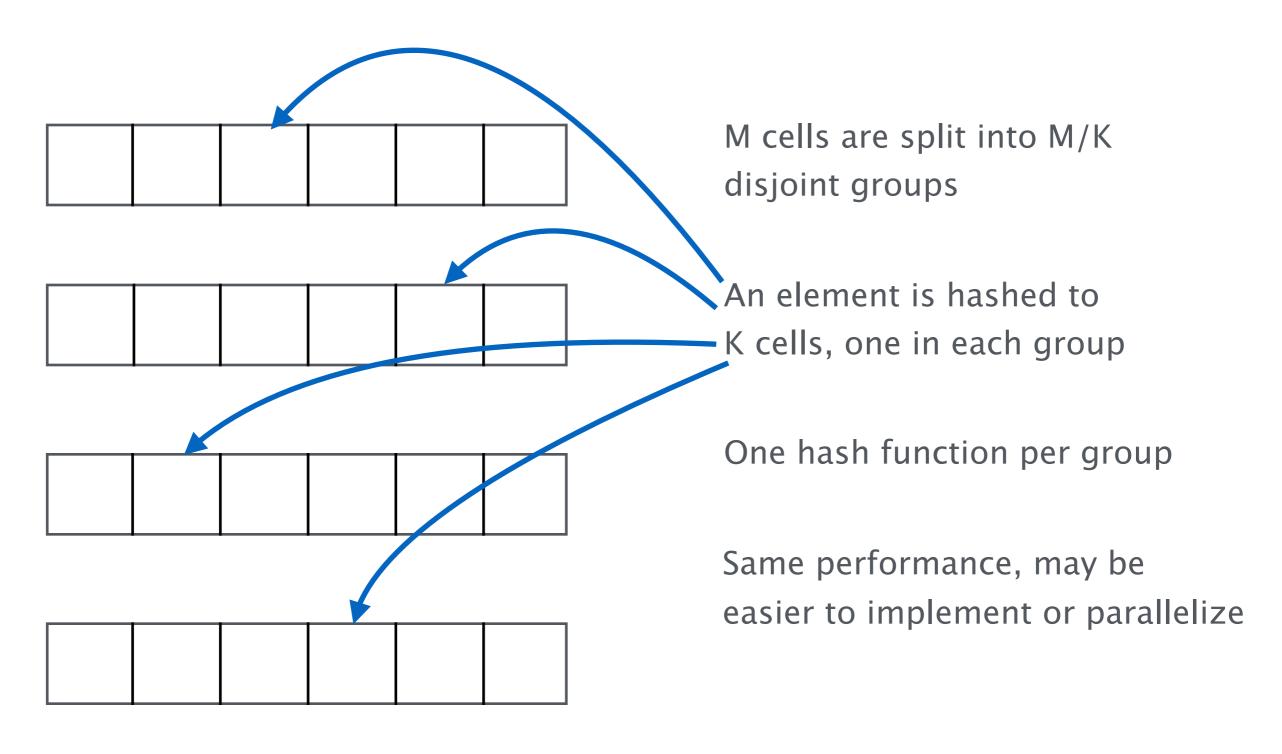
```
control MyIngress(...) {
  register register<bit<1>>(NB_CELLS) bloom_filter;
   apply {
       hash(meta.index1, HashAlgorithm.my_hash1, 0,
       {meta.dstPrefix, packet.ip.srcIP}, NB_CELLS);
hash(meta.index2, HashAlgorithm.my_hash2, 0,
    {meta.dstPrefix, packet.ip.srcIP}, NB_CELLS);
```

```
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 \mid | 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 \mid | 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

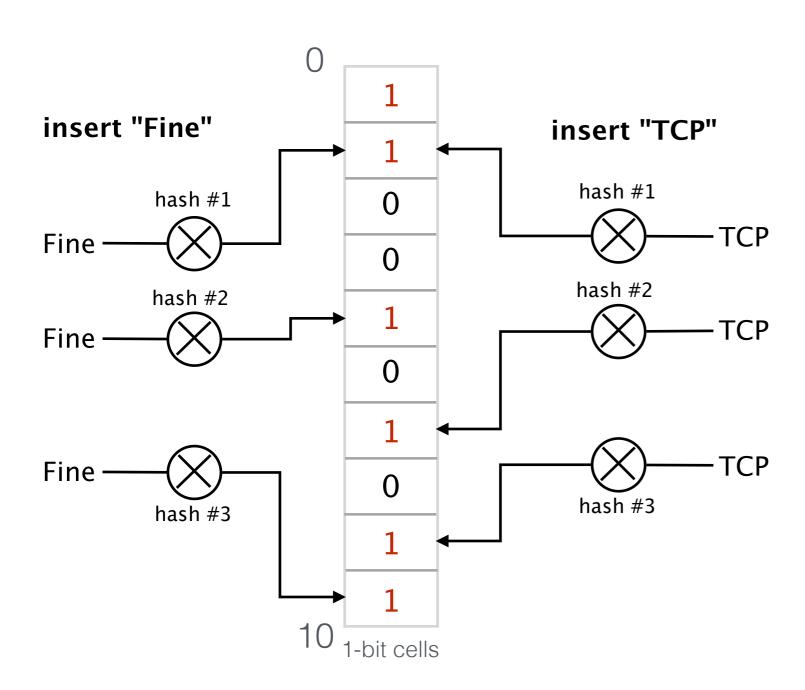
Resetting a bloom filter takes some time during which it is not usable

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

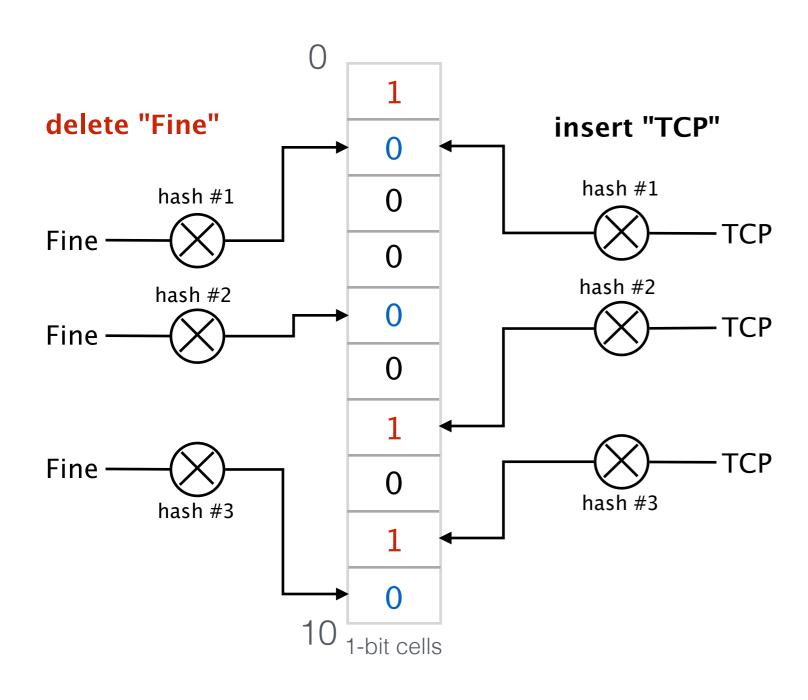
So far we have seen how to do insertions and membership queries

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

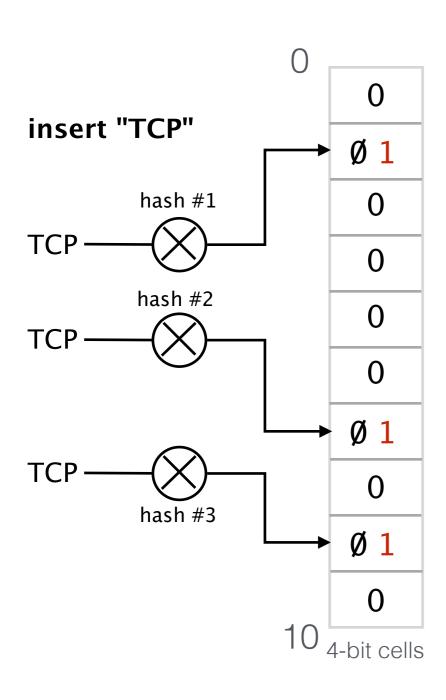
However Bloom Filters do not handle deletions



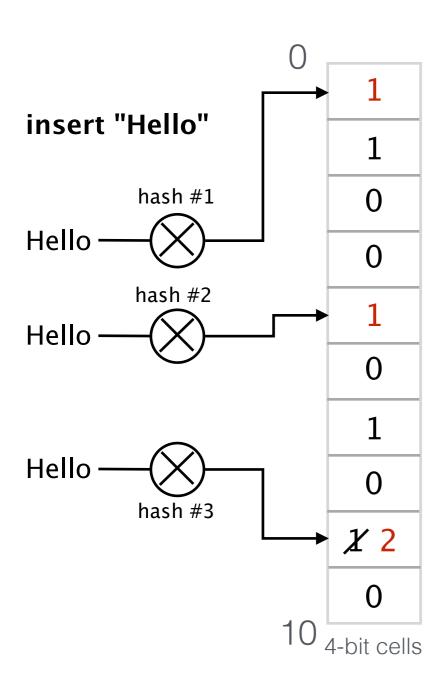
However Bloom Filters do not handle deletions



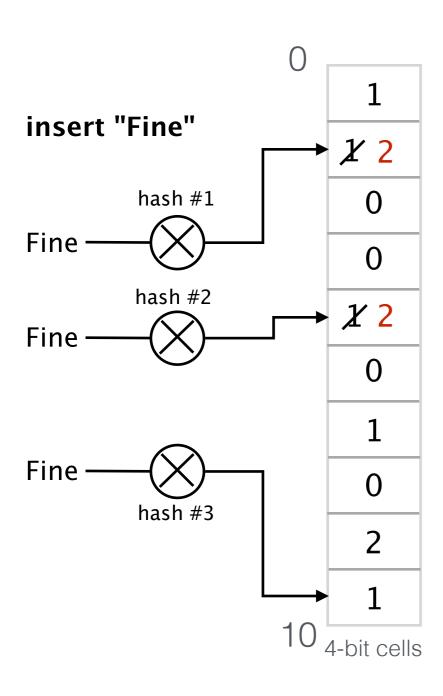
If deleting an element means resetting 1s to 0s, then deleting "Fine" also deletes "TCP"



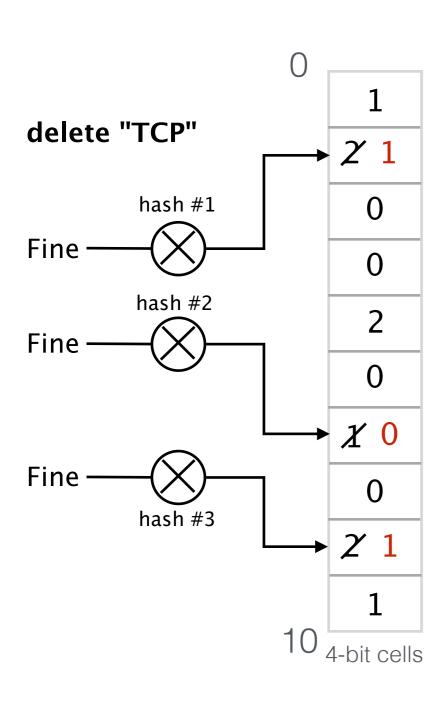
To add an element, increment the corresponding counters



To add an element, increment the corresponding counters

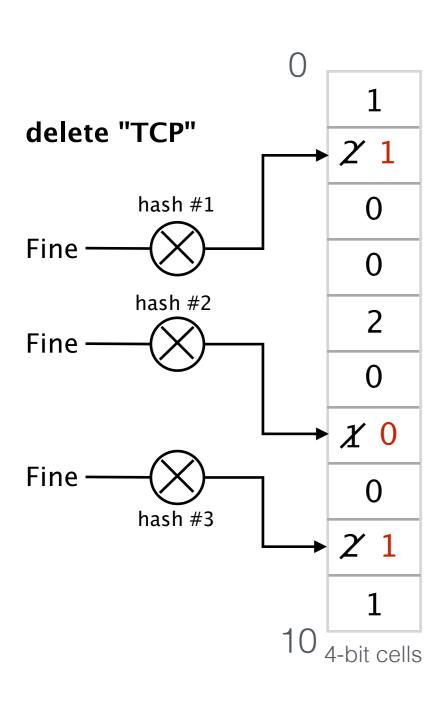


To add an element, increment the corresponding counters



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

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

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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

$$M * Pr(Poisson(\ln 2) \ge 2^b) = 1.78e-11$$

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 | meta.query2 == 0) {
       bloom_filter.write(meta.index1, meta.query1 + 1);
       bloom_filter.write(meta.index2, meta.query2 + 1);
}
```

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	

Invertible Bloom Lookup Tables (IBLT) stores key-value pairs and allows for lookups and a complete listing

Invertible Bloom Lookup Tables (IBLT) stores key-value pairs and allows for lookups and a complete listing

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 Invertible Bloom Lookup Tables (IBLT) stores key-value pairs and allows for lookups and a complete listing

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)

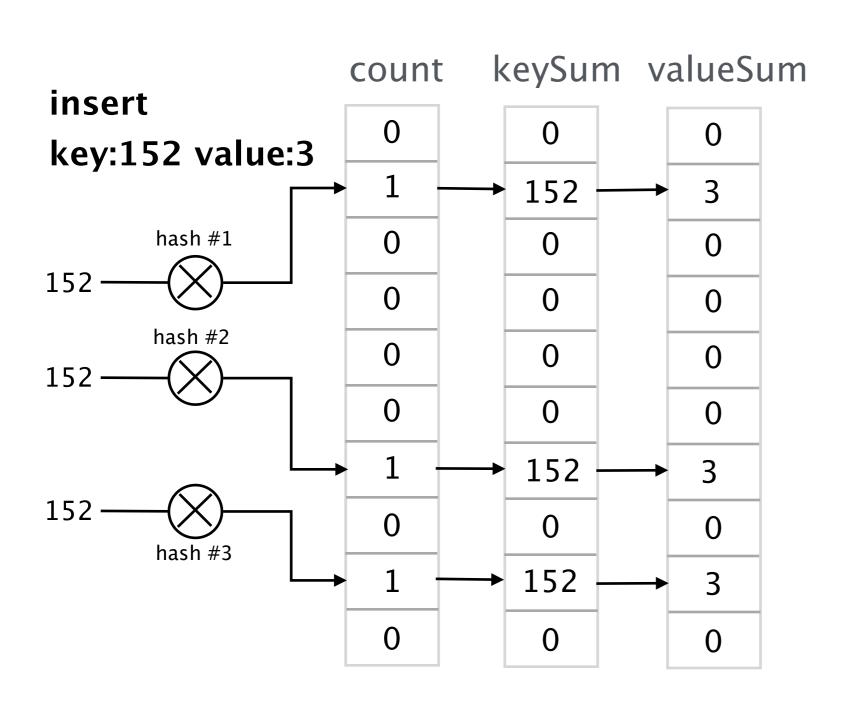
For each hash function hash the key to find the index

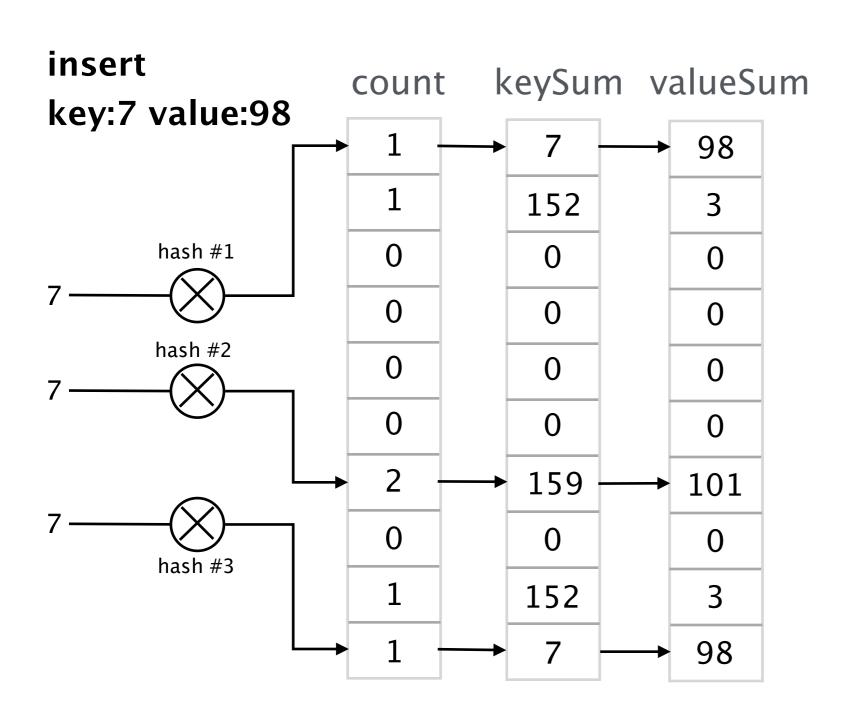
Then at this index

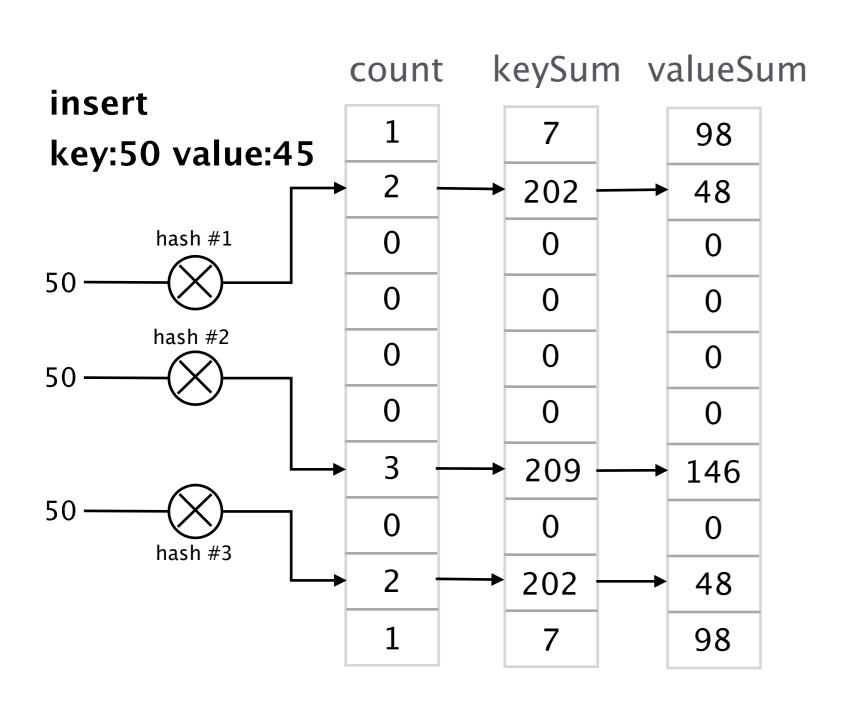
subtract one to the count

subtract key to keySum

subtract value to valueSum

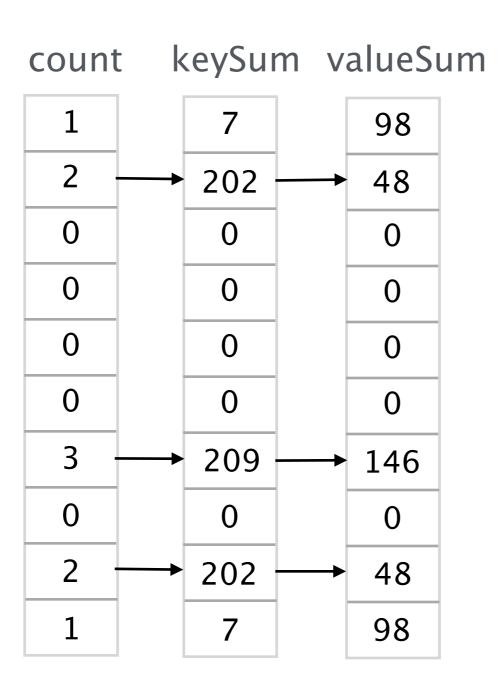


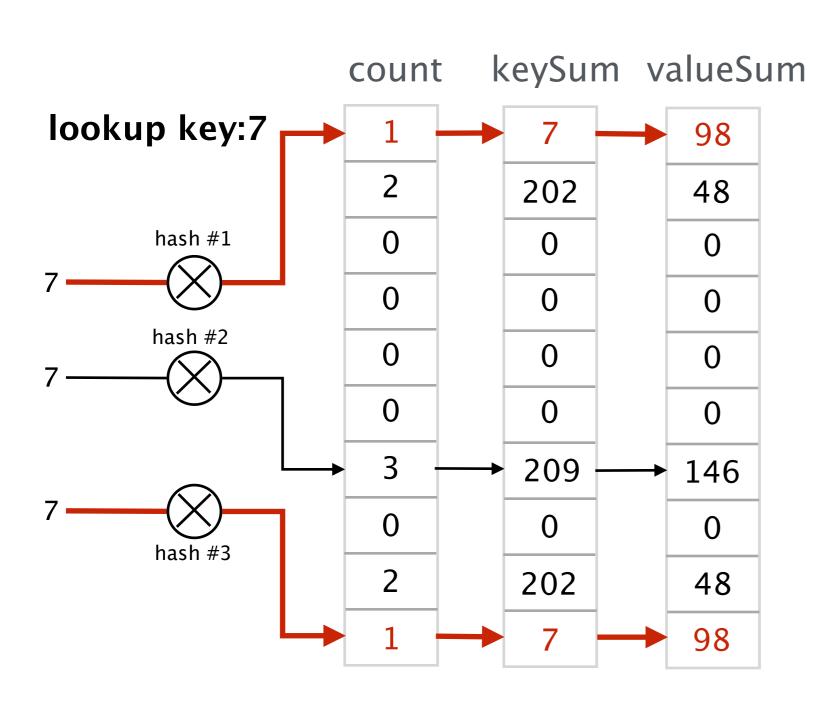




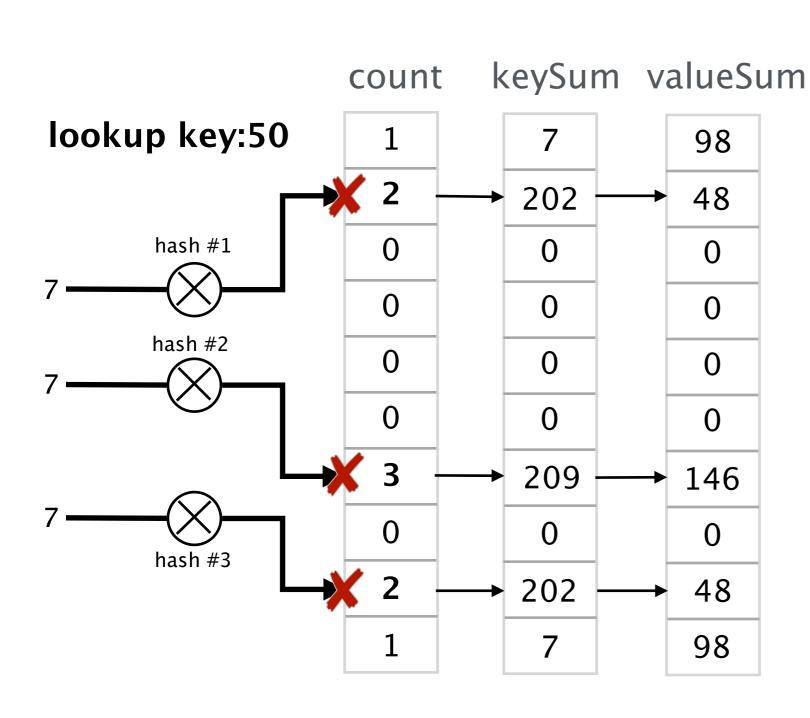
Key-value pair lookup

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

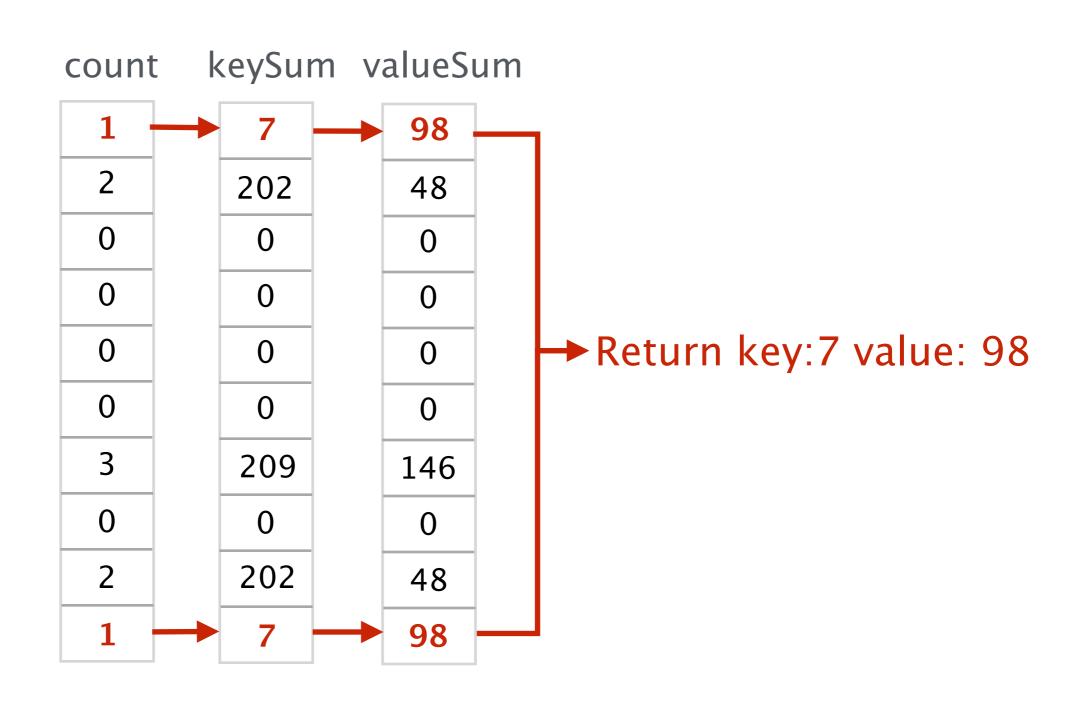
Listing the IBLT

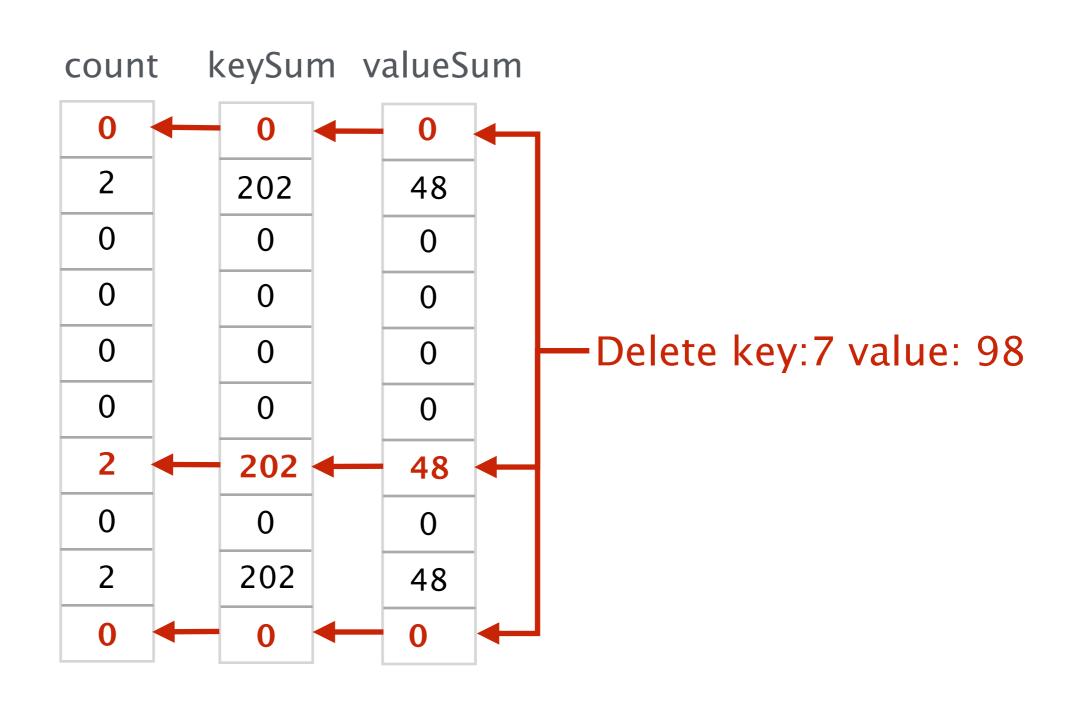
While there is an index for which count = 1
Find the corresponding key-value pair and return it
Delete the corresponding key-value pair

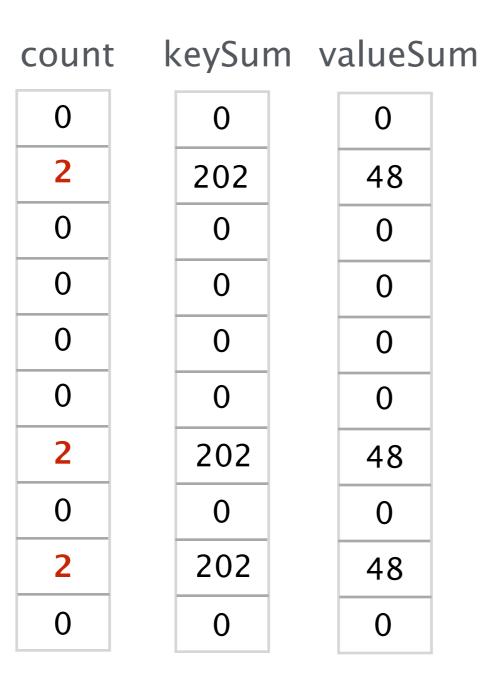
Unless the number of iterations is very low, loops can't be implemented in hardware

The listing is done by the controller

count	keySum	valueSum
1	7	98
2	202	48
0	0	0
0	0	0
0	0	0
0	0	0
3	209	146
0	0	0
2	202	48
1	7	98

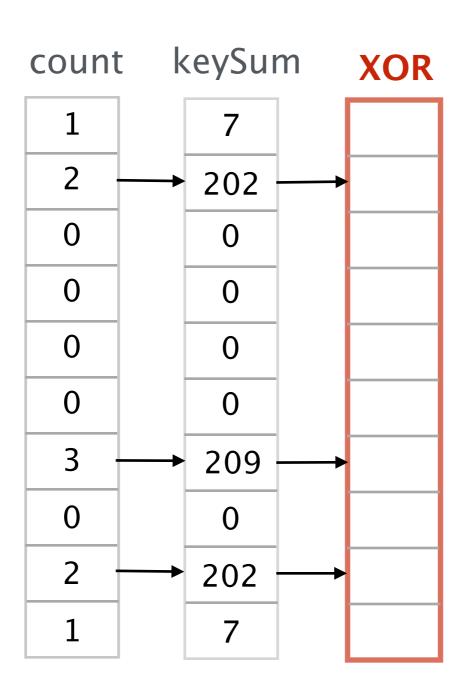






In this example, a complete listing is not possible

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.

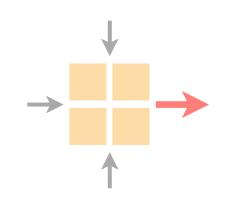
Invertible Bloom Lookup Tables.

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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