External Sampling

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Joint work with **Alexandr Andoni**, **Piotr Indyk**, and **Ronitt Rubinfeld**

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Various models have been developed:

 Sublinear time algorithms (for instance, random sampling)

Sublinear Algorithm



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External memory algorithms for data on disk



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External memory algorithms for data on disk

Can combine the two?

- Has to read entire block to get single sample
- Can decrease the number of block reads?

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- Sampling blocks doesn't help!



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Uniform on $\{ \bigcirc, \bigcirc, \bigcirc \}$?



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- All require $\tilde{\Theta}(\sqrt{n})$ samples for fixed ϵ
- We improve by factor $\tilde{\Theta}(\sqrt{B})$ to $\tilde{\Theta}(\sqrt{n/B})$ block reads
- Can show improvement (nearly) optimal

Distinctness

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Standard Algorithm

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- NO instance:
 - $\Omega(\epsilon n)$ disjoint pairs of identical elements
 - Birthday paradox: algorithm samples one of them with constant probability



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- **•** NO instance: $\Omega(\epsilon n)$ pairs of one of the kinds
- Matching lower bound

Testing Distributions

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- Can extend to testing identity

Other Problems

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Applications of Our Techniques

- Graph Isomorphism [Fischer-Matsliah]
 - Two graphs: known G and unknown H
 - YES: G and H isomorphic
 - NO: $\geq \epsilon n^2$ edges of *H* must be modified for isomorphism
 - Allowed queries: Is (u, v) edge of H?
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- Metric Properties of Points [O.]
 - Does set of points embed into a tree metric? an ultrametric? ℓ_2^d ? ℓ_1^2 ? ℓ_∞^2 ?
 - Searching for k-tuple
 - Standard algorithms: $\approx O(n^{1-1/k})$ samples for fixed ϵ
 - Block model: $O((n/B)^{1-1/k})$ samples

Monotonicity

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- Homework:

Check your favorite sublinear algorithm!!!