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Basic idea behind the usage rules

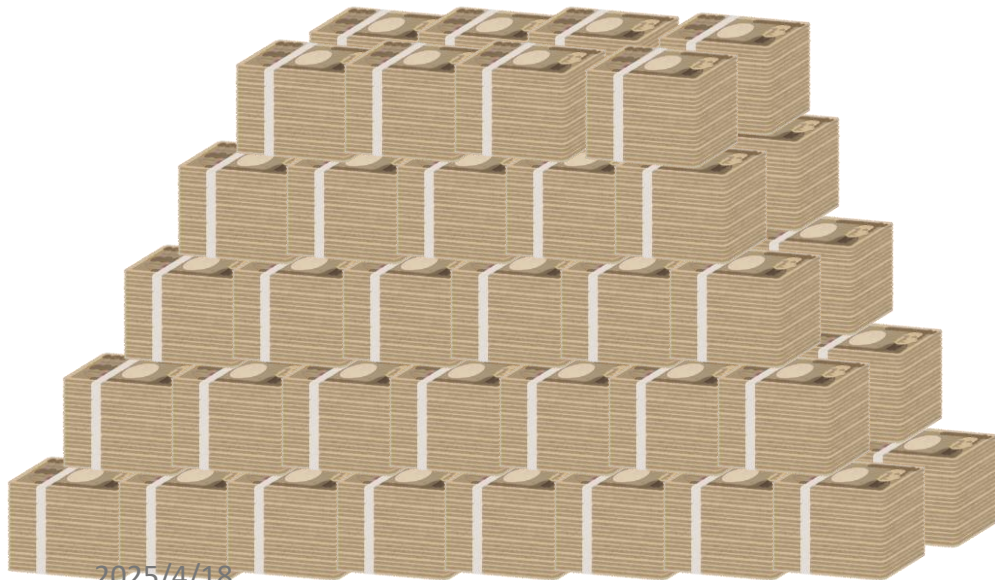
- Minimize paperwork and time lag from application to start of use
- Quickly provide resources that would cost dozens of millions yens and take months to procure
- Welcome and encourage first-time users to try
- Create a community where experts from various fields of the university can easily meet, interact, and collaborate

Possibility of charges

- The gift credits are finite (USD 10M for 5 years) $\Rightarrow$ **we can't say "you can use as much as you want for free"**
- Give everybody an opportunity to use it during the 5 year period $\Rightarrow$ **the simplistic first-come-first-serve rule is unacceptable**
- The challenge is how to fairly allocate USD 10M to users, *without knowing in advance how many will use it and how much*
- A common approach is to let users write a research proposal and run a review committee, but it tends to
 - make the entry bar higher
 - and result in unused (or wasted) resources

The basic rule

- At the beginning of each month, decide the amount of gift credits **all users can totally use for free** (“*free tier*”)
- At the end of each month, divide the free tier **fairly to subscriptions**
- If the total usage of all subscriptions $\leq$ the free tier
 $\Rightarrow$ no subscriptions are charged for the month



2025/4/18

Gift credits (initially 10M)

Usage



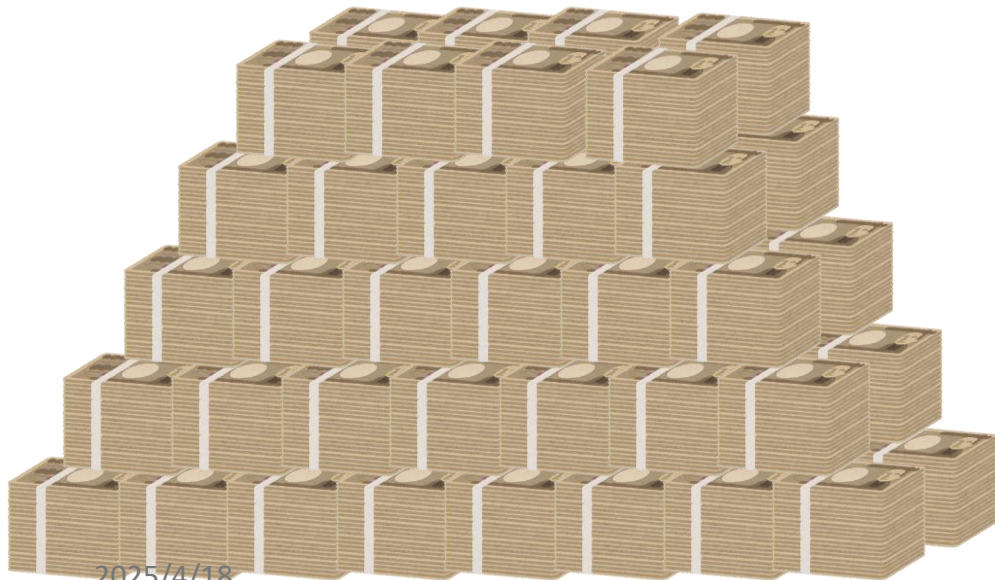
Subscriptions



Free tier

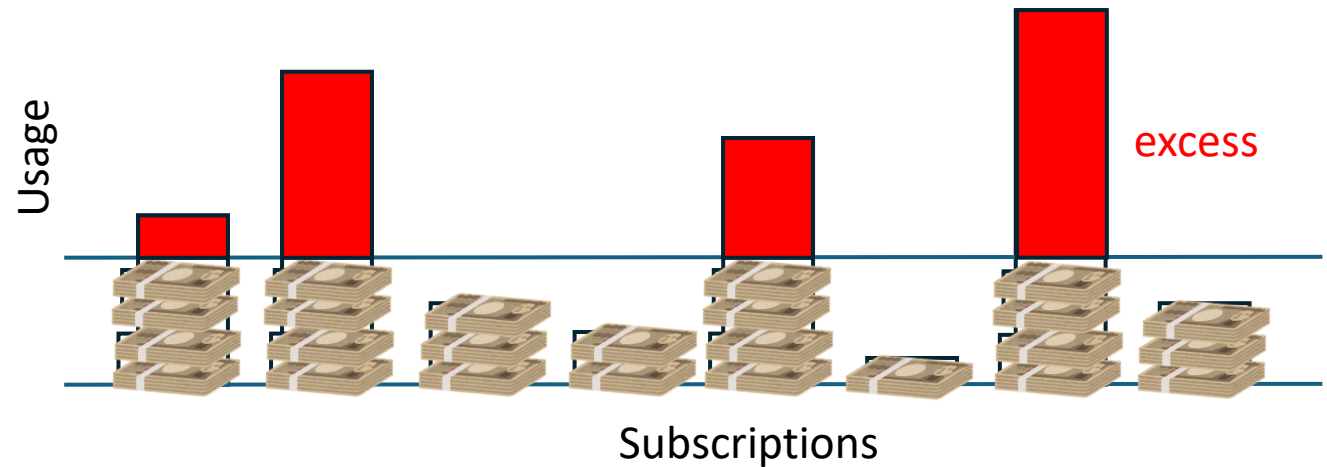
The basic rule

- Otherwise, comp up to a threshold
- Subscriptions that spend more than that are “excessive”
 - The excess may not immediately become your bill (more on that later)



2025/4/18

Gift credits (initially 10M)

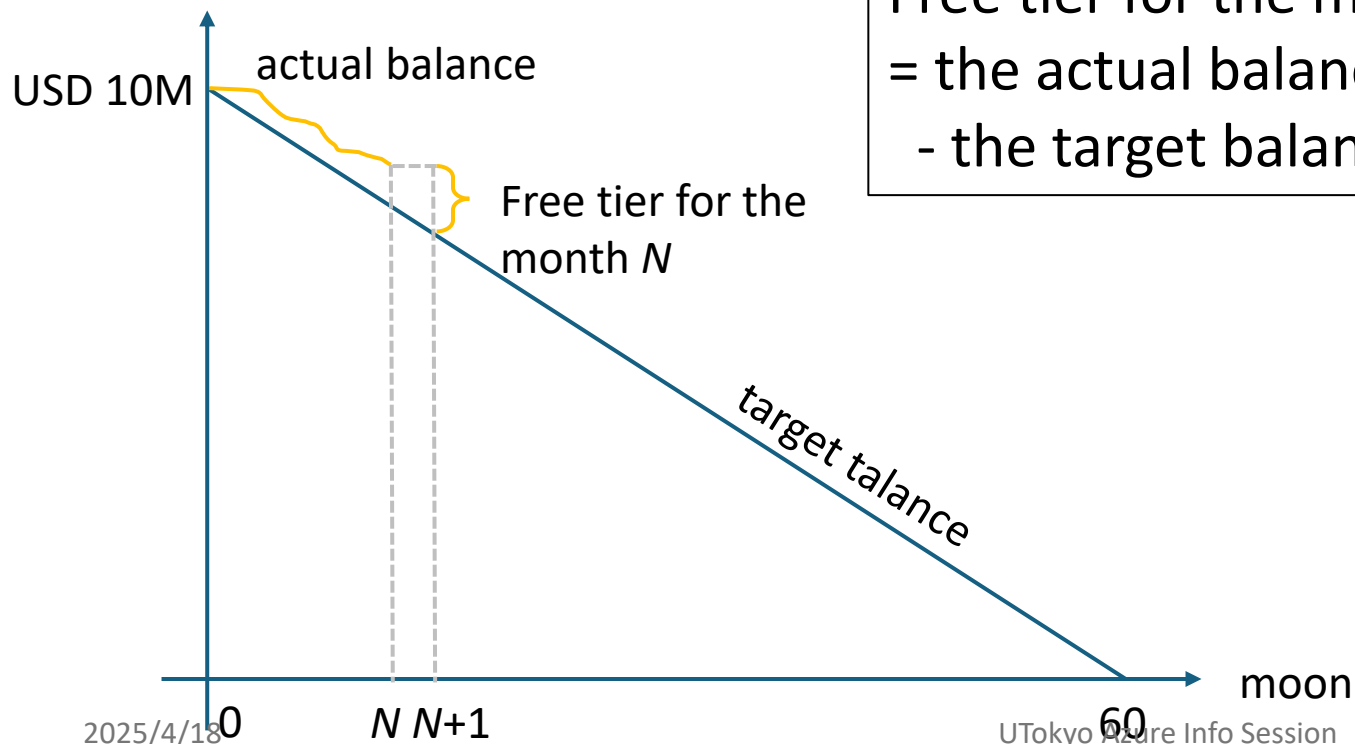


UTokyo Azure Info Session

Free tier

How to determine the free tier?

- Set the “*target balance*” of the credits that decreases in a constant pace
 - i.e., USD 10M in 5 years (60 months) $\approx$ USD 167K/month

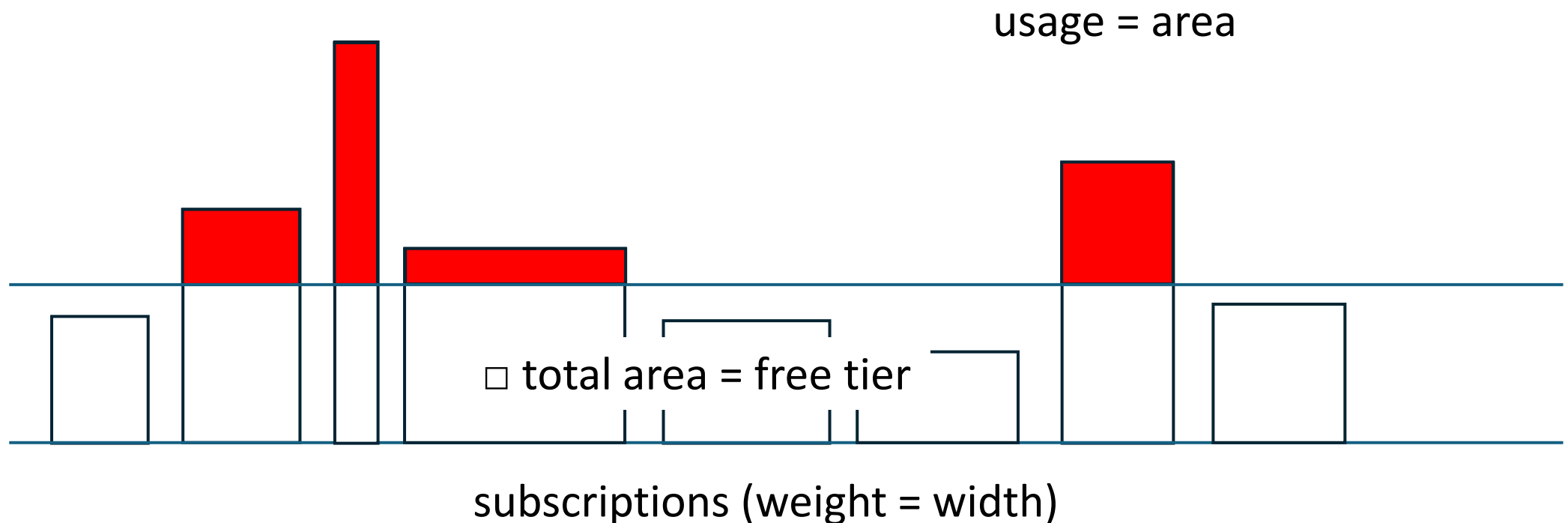


Free tier for the month N
= the actual balance at the beginning of month N
- the target balance at the beginning of the month $(N+1)$

How to divide the free tier *fairly*?

- Roughly,
 - there are 10 subscriptions $\Rightarrow$ each one gets 1/10 of the free tier,
 - except that those who use less than that get up to the amount they actually use (i.e., *no roll over*)
- In addition, we take into account the number of people (N) registered in the subscription
 - give credits proportionally to the "weights" determined as follows
 - weight of N -member subscription $= \frac{N}{1 + \log_{10} N}$
 - slightly less than " N times for N members"

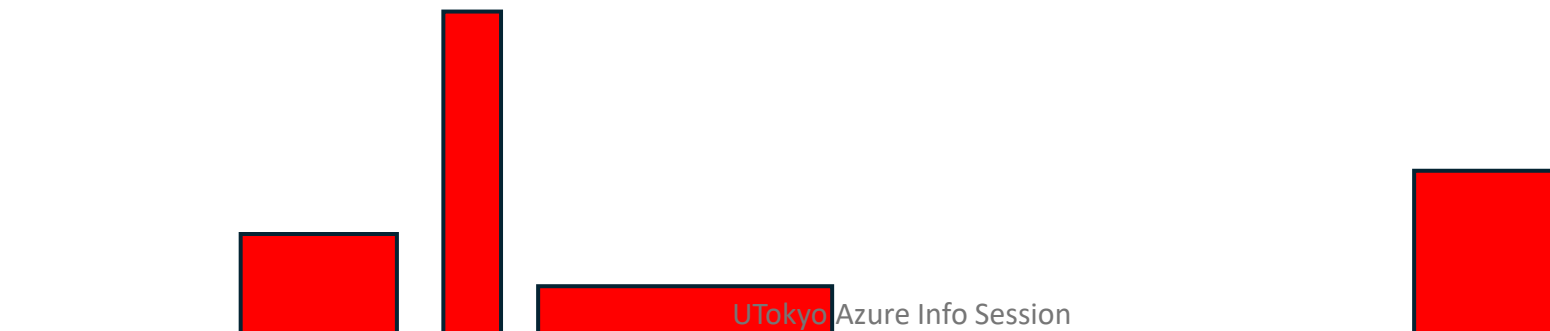
Illustration of how to divide the free tier



Exceeded usages and charges

- Usage beyond the allocated free credits = "excess"
- The excess amount will be carried over to the next month during a semester (= from that month to the next September or March)
 - excess usage may be offset by the free tier of subsequent month(s)
- The excess usage still remaining at the end of September or March becomes the actual charge on you

State at the start of the month (N+1)

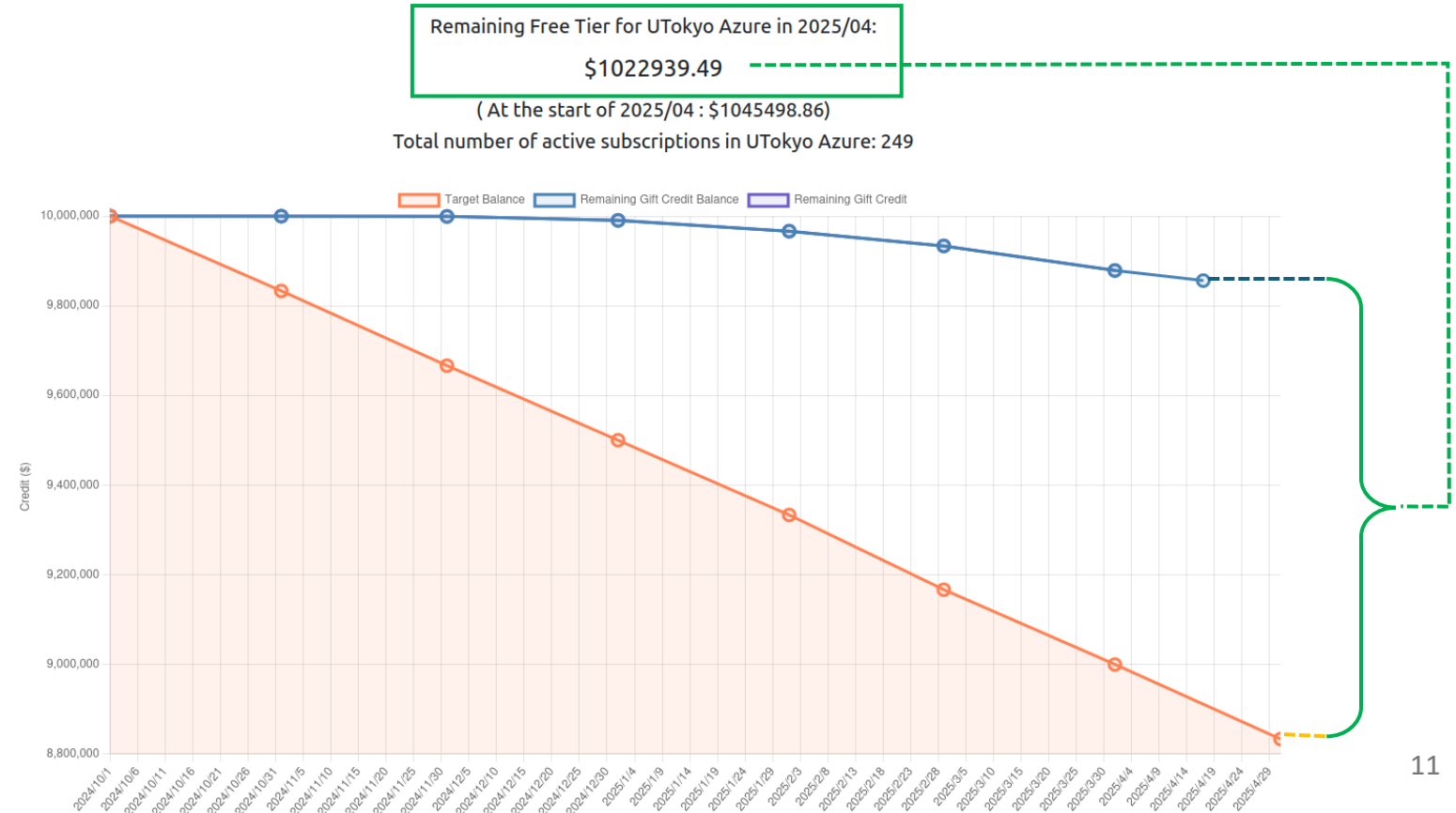


Planning your usage

- In particular, many of you will wonder "How much can I use without being charged?"
- Information you need:
 - How much is the **free tier (of the whole university)** this month?
 - How many subscriptions (weights, to be more precise) exist this month?
 - How much does it cost to use services you use (price list)?

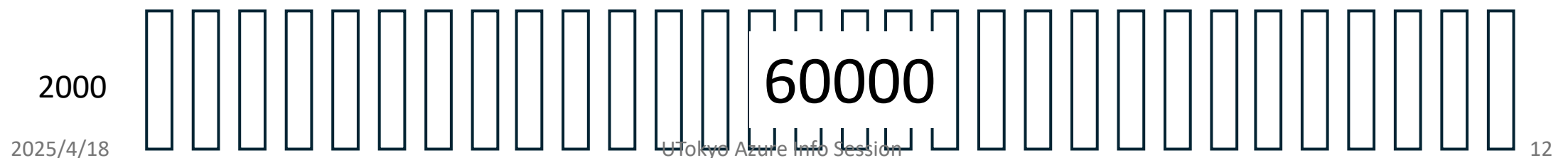
Free tier of the month

- ⇒ "UTokyo Azure Subscription Management" (on-campus access required) page
 - Remaining Free Tier for UTokyo Azure in XXXX/XX



“The guaranteed free tier” of subscription

- Let's say for example that on May 1st...
 - free tier of the month (of the whole university) = USD 60,000, and
 - there are 30 subscriptions (whose weights are all the same for simplicity)
- $\Rightarrow$ At this point, *you can deduce that each subscription can use, for free, at least $60,000/30 = \text{USD } 2,000$ in May*
- Note that this can be known at the *beginning* of a month $\Rightarrow$ we call it “the guaranteed free credit” of that subscription of that month



How much is the **guaranteed free tier** of my subscription this month?

- ⇒ ["UTokyo Azure Subscription Management"](#) (on-campus access required) page
 - Guaranteed free tier and usage of your subscription
 - notified at the beginning of each month
 - Significance of guaranteed free tier : if your usage of the month is less than this, *you won't be charged for that month, no matter how much others use*

0953139-3d10-40d3-bc10-ed11b4bdc031 201521557 180180

Guaranteed free tier for this subscription on 2025/03: \$7895.6

Number of UTokyo Accounts having roles on this subscription: 4
Weight factor for this subscription: 1.0
Weight of this subscription: 2.5

As of 2025/03/26 14:40

Period	2025/03	2025/02	2025/01	2024/12	2024/11	2024/10
Guaranteed free tier	\$7895.6	\$8152.7	\$8046.9	\$10895.5		
Usage (Carryover)	\$1911.1 (\$0.0)	\$2433.3 (\$0.0)	\$2479.1 (\$0.0)	\$1626.4 (\$0.0)		
Free Tier		\$2433.3	\$2479.1	\$1626.4		
Charge		(\$0.0)	(\$0.0)	(\$0.0)	(\$0.0)	

Alert emails

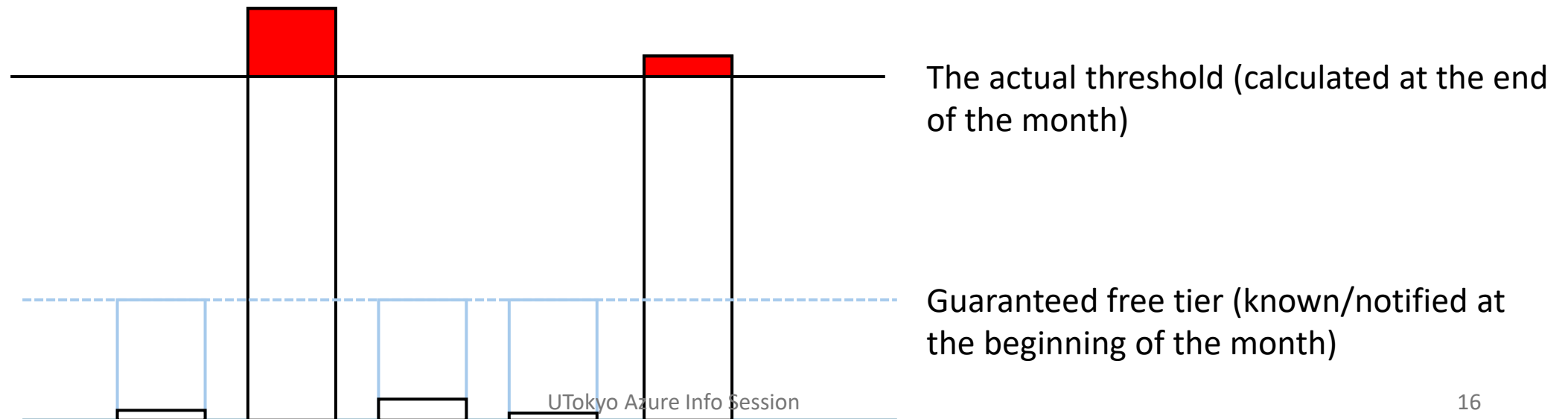
- If the usage of a subscription exceeds a certain threshold (*), an alert email will be sent to its owner
 - Subject : “Notification from UTokyo Azure: Subscription XYZ usage alert”
 - *: 50%, 75%, 90%, 100% of the guaranteed free tier

Important: automatic suspension

- By default, when a subscription uses 90% of the guaranteed free tier, *it will be automatically canceled (deleted) and all data will disappear*
 - so that you won't be charged in the default setting
- Unless you are OK with losing your work and data, please do the following (→ Part 3)
 - Register a budget to pay for it (payment method)
 - Disable the automatic suspension toggle

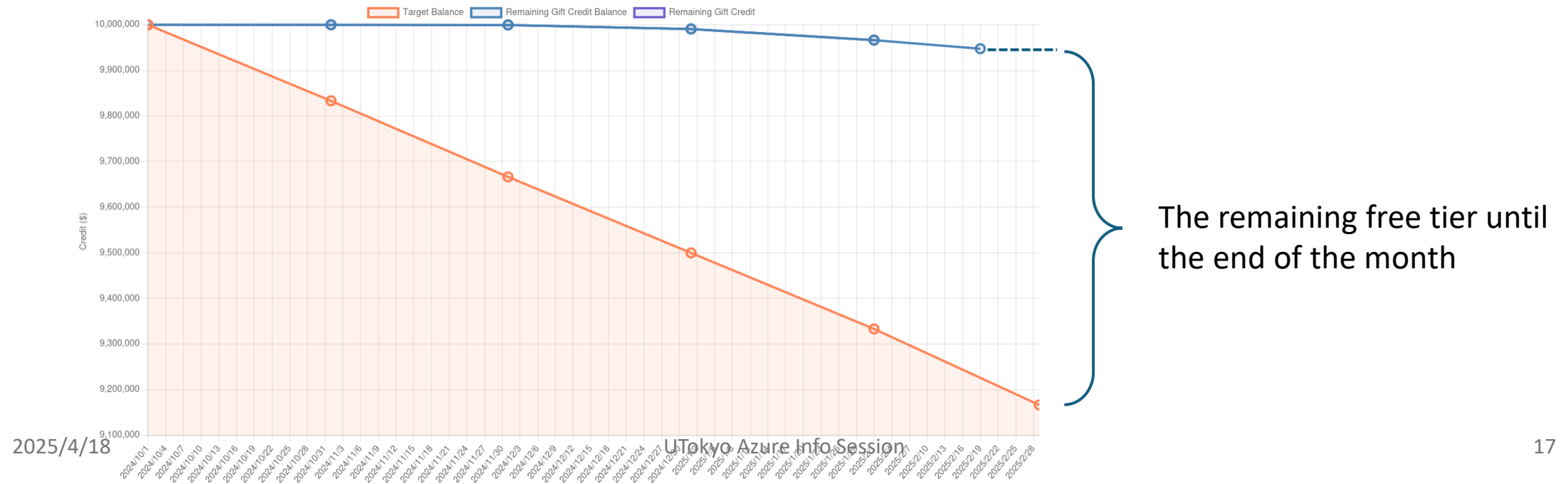
Want to use more than “guaranteed”?

- “The guaranteed free tier” is a conservative estimate, like:
 - *if you share a cake with five brothers and sisters, you can surely get 1/5*
- In practice, the remainder of underused subscriptions makes other subscriptions free, like:
 - *3 out of 5 didn't eat the cake until the expiration date → 2 can eat all*



To use more than guaranteed, ...

- [On the "UTokyo Azure Subscription Management"](#) (On-campus access required) page, watch the remaining free tier of the month (of the whole university)
- Note that if everyone thinks the same, it may cost you (ouch!)
 - Don't forget to turn off the auto suspension (register billing info)



Tools to keep costs down

- You can calculate the approximate price with Azure's [pricing calculator](#)
 - Basis for using any service
- Some services in Azure (such as AI services) have safety valves that terminate after a period of inactivity