Map Reduce

CSCI 333
Williams College
Map Reduce

- The problem
  - Examples
- The model
- Fault tolerance
- The straggler problem
- Moving data vs. moving computation
When Reading a Paper

Look at authors
Look at institution
Look at past/future research
Look at publication venue

These things will give you insight into the

- motivations
- perspectives
- agendas
- resources

Think: Are there things that they are promoting? Hiding? Building towards?
Why?
What is it that Google actually does?

- Sells ads

How do they sell ads?

- NLP on your emails, harvesting Android GPS data, etc. (in general by creeping on our personal lives)

But what does the average person mean when they use “Google” as a verb?

- Search!
World-wide-web is a graph of webpages

- URI -> content (set of words)

Reverse index does the opposite

- word -> set of URIs

We can compute over an inverted index to rank pages.

How would you implement a reverse index?
The Problem

Hundreds of special-purpose computations per day that

• Consume data distributed over thousands of machines
• Can be parallelized, and must be in order to finish in a reasonable timeframe

Challenges that each computation must solve:

• Parallelization
• Fault tolerance
• Data distribution
• Load balancing

Want one computation model that can use to abstract away these concerns
Map Reduce uses a functional model

- **User-supplied map function**
  - \( \{ \text{key-value pair} \} \rightarrow \{ \text{set of key-value pairs} \} \)

- **User-supplied reduce function**
  - \( \{ \text{set of all key-value pairs with a given key} \} \rightarrow \{ \text{key-value pair} \} \)

- The system applies the map function to each key-value pair, yielding a set of intermediate key-value pairs

- The system then gathers all intermediate key-value pairs, and for each unique key, calls reduce on the set of key-value pairs with that key
Example: Word Frequency

Pseudo code (section 2.1):

```java
map(String key, String value):
    // key: document name
    // value: document contents
    for each word w in value:
        EmitIntermediate(w, "1");

reduce(String key, Iterator values):
    // key: a word
    // values: a list of counts
    int result = 0;
    for each v in values:
        result += ParseInt(v);
    Emit(AsString(result));
```

- Emits each word plus an associated "count" (1 here; duplicates possible)
- Aggregates all counts for individual words and sums the entries.
Design

Input data is distributed across multiple systems

- Input data is divided into $M$ (evenly sized) splits
- System schedules a mapper to run on each of the $M$ splits
  - No guarantees how evenly target contents are distributed among splits

Intermediate (i.e., pre-reduced) data is distributed across multiple systems

- Users provide a “partitioning” function (e.g., $\text{hash(key)} \mod R$) that is used to distribute the mapper outputs
- System schedules a reducer for each of the $R$ pieces of the intermediate outputs

Result of computation is located in $R$ output files
Input data is partitioned into $M$ splits.
Mappers are scheduled for each of the $M$ splits. (May be more splits than mappers.)
Mapper Reduce

Mappers emit intermediate data that is partitioned according to user-supplied function (e.g., hash of the key to evenly distribute data).
Map Reduce
Map Reduce
Reducers are scheduled to aggregate intermediate data into final result.
Map Reduce
Reducer output is then collected, satisfying the overall query.
Map Reduce
Map Reduce
Other Considerations

Fault Tolerance

- Functional model makes this easy:
  - If a failure occurs, schedule (sub)task again on another node!
  - Caveat: requires deterministic functions, otherwise may get different results

The “Straggler” problem

- What if you have a few slow machines?
  - When near end of the run, reschedule all remaining tasks
  - Use first version of task that returns

Tradeoff: Moving data vs. moving computation

- It is expensive to copy large amounts of data around
  - The MapReduce Scheduler tries as hard as possible to locate mappers/reducers where the data lives, avoiding data copies (if the underlying system uses replication, then there is more flexibility in scheduling)
MapReduce is a programming model, not necessarily a storage system

- But it relies on the storage system and builds on many of the themes we’ve discussed in this course
  - Locality matters
    - Moving the computation to the data, partitioning intermediate outputs, etc.
  - Abstraction and layering let us build cohesive and easy-to-reason-about systems
    - drop/replace components without altering surrounding stack

Whether or not you work in “storage”, understanding storage system designs and tradeoffs will help you build better systems.