



Session 16: INTRODUCTION TO APACHE SPARK

Assignment 16.2

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Introduction

In this assignment, we are going to see briefly about what is RDD and its operations and limitations of map reduce.

Problem Statement

1. Pen down the limitations of MapReduce.
2. What is RDD? Explain few features of RDD?
3. List down few Spark RDD operations and explain each of them.



1. Limitations of MapReduce

MapReduce is a programming model and an associated implementation for processing and generating big data sets with a parallel, distributed algorithm on a cluster.

- It's based on disk computing
- Suitable for single pass computations - not iterative computations.
- Needs a sequence of MR jobs to run iterative tasks,
- Needs integration with several other frameworks/tools to solve bigdata use cases,
 - Apache Storm for stream data processing
 - Apache Mahout for machine learning
- Hadoop Map Reduce supports batch processing only, it does not process streamed data, and hence overall performance is slower. MapReduce framework of Hadoop does not leverage the memory of the Hadoop cluster to the maximum.
- Slow Processing Speed,
- No Real-time Data Processing
- Lengthy Line of Code and
- MapReduce only ensures that data job is complete, but it's unable to guarantee when the job will be complete.

2. What is RDD? Explain few features of RDD?

RDD stands for **Resilient Distributed Datasets** are Apache Spark's data abstraction, RDD is a logical reference of a dataset which is partitioned across many server machines in the cluster. RDDs are **Immutable** and are self-recovered in case of failure. Dataset could be the data loaded externally by the user. RDDs can only be created by reading data from a stable storage such as HDFS or by transformations on existing RDDs.

Why RDD?

When it comes to iterative distributed computing, i.e. processing data over multiple jobs in computations such as Logistic Regression, K-means clustering, and Page rank algorithms, it is fairly common to reuse or share the data among multiple jobs or you may want to do multiple ad-hoc queries over a shared data set.

Few features of RDD,

In-memory computation

The data inside RDD are stored in memory for as long as you want to store. Keeping the data in-memory improves the performance by an order of magnitudes.

Lazy Evaluation

The data inside RDDs are not evaluated on the go. The changes or the computation is performed only after an action is triggered. Thus, it limits how much work it has to do.

Fault Tolerance

Upon the failure of worker node, using lineage of operations we can re-compute the lost partition of RDD from the original one. Thus, we can easily recover the lost data



Partitioning

RDD partition the records logically and distributes the data across various nodes in the cluster. The logical divisions are only for processing and internally it has no division. Thus, it provides parallelism.

3. List down few Spark RDD operations and explain each of them.

Apache Spark RDD supports two types of Operations-

1. **Transformations**
2. **Actions**

RDD Transformation

Spark Transformation is a function that produces new RDD from the existing RDDs. It takes RDD as input and produces one or more RDD as output. Each time it creates new RDD when we apply any transformation. Thus, the so input RDDs, cannot be changed since RDD are immutable in nature.

Applying transformation built an **RDD lineage**, with the entire parent RDDs of the final RDD(s). RDD lineage, also known as **RDD operator graph** or **RDD dependency graph**. It is a logical execution plan i.e., it is **Directed Acyclic Graph (DAG)** of the entire parent RDDs of RDD.

Transformations are lazy in nature i.e., they get execute when we call an action. They are not executed immediately. Two most basic type of transformations is a **map()**, **filter()**.

After the transformation, the resultant RDD is always different from its parent RDD. It can be smaller (e.g. filter, count, distinct, sample), bigger (e.g. **flatMap()**, **union()**, **Cartesian()**) or the same size (e.g. map).

There are two types of transformations:

Narrow transformation – In Narrow transformation, all the elements that are required to compute the records in single partition live in the single partition of parent RDD. A limited subset of partition is used to calculate the result. Narrow transformations are the result of **map()**, **filter()**.

Wide transformation – In wide transformation, all the elements that are required to compute the records in the single partition may live in many partitions of parent RDD. The partition may live in many partitions of parent RDD. Wide transformations are the result of **groupByKey()** and **reduceByKey()**.

RDD Action

Transformations **create RDDs** from each other, but when we want to work with the actual dataset, at that point action is performed. When the action is triggered after the result, new RDD is not formed like transformation. Thus, Actions are Spark RDD operations that give **non-RDD** values. The values of action are stored to drivers or to the external storage system. It brings laziness of RDD into motion.

An action is one of the ways of sending data from Executor to the driver. Executors are agents that are responsible for executing a task. While the driver is a JVM process that coordinates workers and execution of the task. Some of the actions of Spark are:

count(), **collect()**, **take(n)**, **top()**, **countByValue()**, **reduce()**, **fold()**, **aggregate()** and **foreach()**.