DataStream API

State & Failure Recovery



Apache Flink® Training



Flink v1.2.0 – 13.03.2017

Checkpoints

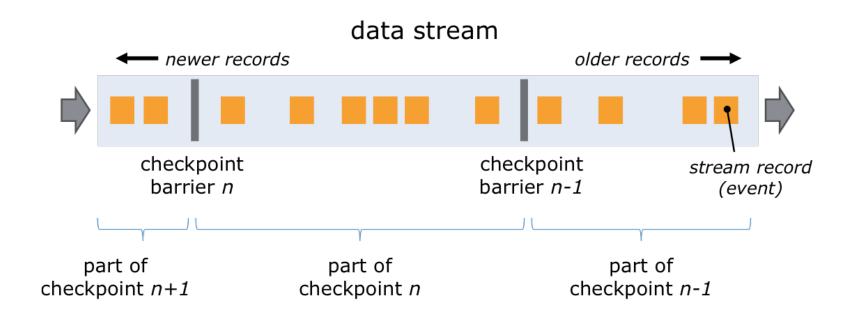
Checkpointing in Flink



- Asynchronous Barrier Snapshotting
 - checkpoint barriers are inserted into the stream and flow through the graph along with the data
 - this avoids a "global pause" during checkpointing
- Checkpoint barriers cause ...
 - replayable sources to checkpoint their offsets
 - operators to checkpoint their state
 - sinks to commit open transactions
- The program is rolled back to the latest completed checkpoint in case of a failure.

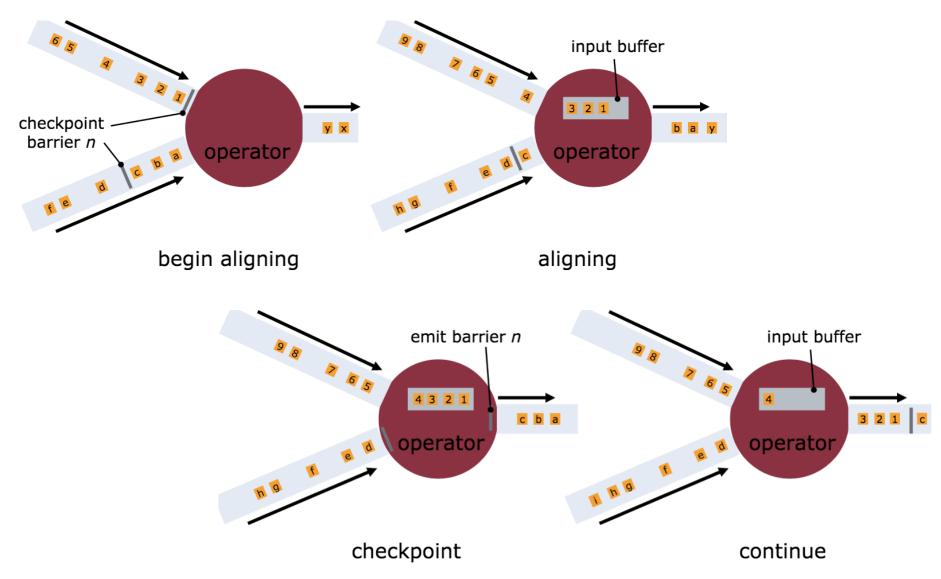
Checkpoint Barriers





Asynchronous Barrier Snapshotting





Enabling Checkpointing



- Checkpointing is disabled by default.
- Enable checkpointing with exactly once consistency:

```
// checkpoint every 5 seconds env.enableCheckpointing(5000)
```

Configure at least once consistency (for lower latency):

```
env.getCheckpointConfig()
    .setCheckpointingMode(CheckpointingMode.AT_LEAST_ONCE);
```

 Most applications perform well with a few seconds checkpointing interval.

Restart Strategies



- How often and fast does a job try to restart?
- Available strategies
 - No restart (default)
 - Fixed delay
 - Failure rate

```
// Fixed Delay restart strategy
env.setRestartStrategy(
RestartStrategies.fixedDelayRestart(
3, // no of restart attempts
Time.of(10, TimeUnit.SECONDS) // restart interval
));
```

See the docs for details

https://ci.apache.org/projects/flink/flink-docs-release-1.2/setup/fault_tolerance.html#restart-strategies

Working with State

Stateful Functions



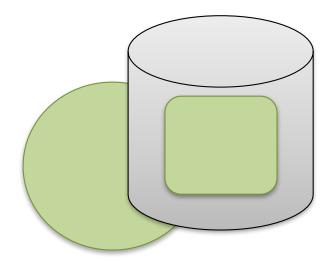
- All DataStream functions can be stateful
 - Flink manages state so that it can be redistributed/rescaled
 - State is checkpointed and restored in case of a failure (if checkpointing is enabled)

- Flink manages two types of state:
 - Operator (non-keyed) state
 - Keyed state
- Flink supports rescaling the state it manages

Operator vs Keyed State

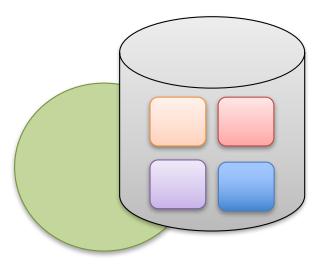


Operator (non-keyed)



- State bound only to operator
- E.g. source state

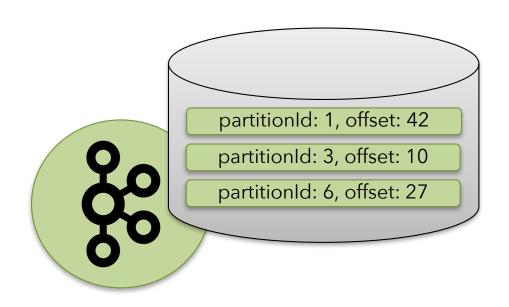
Keyed



- State bound to an operator + key
- E.g. Keyed UDF and window state
- "SELECT count(*) FROM t GROUP BY t.key"

Repartitioning Operator State

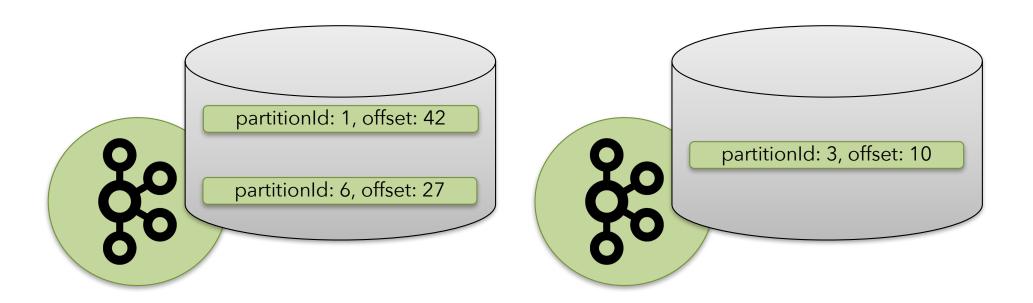




Operator state: a list of state elements which can be freely repartitioned

Scaling out



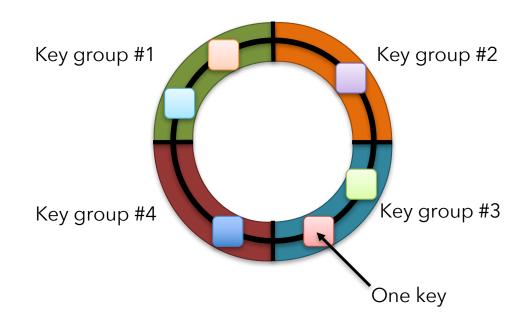


Repartitioning Keyed State



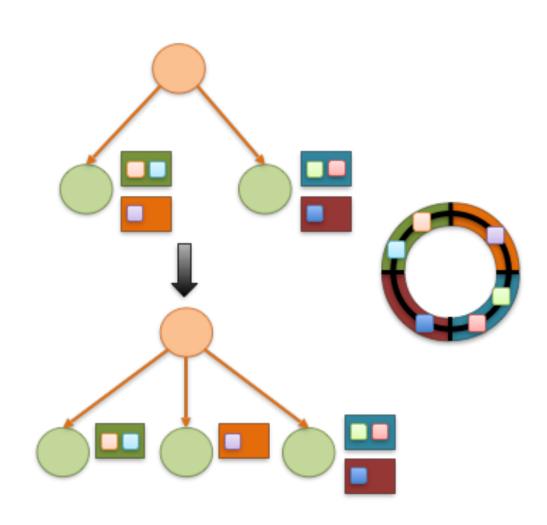
- Split key space into key groups
- Every key falls into exactly one key group
- Assign key groups to tasks
- Maximum parallelism defined by #key groups

Key space



Rescaling changes key group assignment





Types of Keyed State



- ValueState<T>
- ListState<T>
- ReducingState<T>
- FoldingState<T>
 - AggregatingState<IN, OUT>

Using Key-Partitioned State



```
DataStream<Tuple2<String, String>> strings = ...
DataStream<Long> lengths = strings
  .keyBy(0)
  .map(new MapWithCounter());
public static class MapWithCounter extends RichMapFunction<Tuple2<String, String>, Long> {
    // state object
    private ValueState<Long> totalLengthByKey;
    @Override
    public void open (Configuration conf) {
        // obtain state object
        ValueStateDescriptor<Long> descriptor = new ValueStateDescriptor<>(
            "totalLengthByKey", Long.class, OL);
        totalLengthByKey = getRuntimeContext().getState(descriptor);
    @Override
    public Long map (Tuple2<String, String> value) throws Exception {
        long length = totalLengthByKey.value(); // fetch state for current key
        long newTotalLength = length + value.f1.length();
        totalLengthByKey.update(newTotalLength); // update state of current key
        return totalLengthByKey.value();
```

State Backends

State in Flink



- There are several sources of state in Flink
 - Windows
 - User functions
 - Sources and Sinks
- State is persisted during checkpoints, if checkpointing is enabled
- Internal representation and storage location depend on the configured State Backend

State Backends



MemoryStateBackend (default)

- State is hold as objects on worker JVM heap
- Checkpoints are stored on master JVM heap
- Suitable for development and tiny state. Not highly-available

FsStateBackend

- State is hold on worker JVM heap (limited by heap size)
- Checkpoints are written to a configured filesystem URI (hdfs, s3, file)
- Suitable for jobs with large state and/or high-availability requirements

RocksDBStateBackend

- State is held in RocksDB instance on worker filesystem (limited by disk size)
- Checkpoints are written to a configured filesystem URI (hdfs, s3, file)
- Suitable for jobs with very large state and/or high-availability requirements
- Only backend that supports fully async state snapshots

State Backend Configuration



Configuration of default state backend in

```
./conf/flink-conf.yaml
```

State backend configuration in job

```
env.setStateBackend(
   new FsStateBackend(
   "hdfs://namenode:40010/flink/checkpoints"
));
```

See the docs for details

https://ci.apache.org/projects/flink/flink-docs-release-1.2/dev/state_backends.html

Savepoints

Savepoints



- A "Checkpoint" is a globally consistent point-in-time snapshot of a streaming application (point in stream, state)
- Savepoints are user-triggered, retained checkpoints
- Applications can be re-started from savepoints
- Savepoints are useful for
 - Application updates
 - Updating a Flink version
 - Maintenance & migration
 - A/B testing
 - Rescaling
- Currently, Flink can only restore to the same state backend that created the savepoint

References



Documentation

- https://ci.apache.org/projects/flink/flink-docs-release-1.2/internals/stream_checkpointing.html
- https://ci.apache.org/projects/flink/flink-docs-release-1.2/dev/stream/state.html
- https://ci.apache.org/projects/flink/flink-docs-release-1.2/setup/fault_tolerance.html
- https://ci.apache.org/projects/flink/flink-docs-release-1.2/setup/savepoints.html
- https://ci.apache.org/projects/flink/flink-docs-release-1.2/setup/cli.html

Blog posts

http://data-artisans.com/how-apache-flink-enables-new-streaming-applications/