PROJECT TITLE: FLIGHT DELAY ANALYSIS USING BIG DATA PROCESSING WITH MAPREDUCE

NAME: Tanushri Vijayakumar
COURSE NO: DS644
SECTION NO: 852
UCID: 31698861
EMAIL: tv233@njit.edu

DATASET DESCRIPTION
Dataset Name: Flight Delay and Cancellation Dataset (2019-2023)
Dataset Source:
https://www.kaggle.com/datasets/patrickzel/flight-delay-and-cancellation-dataset-2019-2023?resource=download&select=flights_sample_3m.csv

1. MapReduce Code

1.1. Code Explanation

1.1.1. OnTimePerformance.java

- Mapper class: Parses flight data, extracts AIRLINE_CODE and computes total delays from carrier, weather, NAS, security, and late aircraft delays. Emits (Airline Code, On-Time Flag 1/0) based on whether total delay less than or equal to 5 minutes.
- Reducer Class: Aggregates the total number of flights and the number of on-time flights for each airline. Computes the on-time probability rate.
- Driver Class: Configures the job setup, specifies input/output formats, mapper, reducer, and runs the MapReduce job.

1.1.2. TaxiTimeAnalysis.java

- Mapper Class: Parses flight data, extracts ORIGIN airport with TAXI_OUT time and DEST airport with TAXI_IN time, emitting (Airport, Taxi Time) pairs.
- Reducer Class: Aggregates the taxi times and number of flights per airport, computes average taxi time.
- Driver Class: Sets up the configuration, mapper, reducer, and executes the TaxiTime Analysis job.

1.2. Full Java Code

1.2.1. OnTimePerformance.java

```
import java.io.IOException;
import org.apache.hadoop.conf.Configuration;
import org.apache.hadoop.fs.Path;
import org.apache.hadoop.io.*;
import org.apache.hadoop.mapreduce.*;
import org.apache.hadoop.mapreduce.lib.input.FileInputFormat;
import org.apache.hadoop.mapreduce.lib.output.FileOutputFormat;
```

```
// Main class to perform on-time flight performance analysis
public class OnTimePerformance {

   // Mapper class: processes each line and emits (airline_code, on_time_flag)
   public static class OnTimeMapper extends Mapper<LongWritable, Text, Text,
IntWritable> {

      private boolean headerSkipped = false; // To make sure we skip the first
header line
      private Text airlineCode = new Text();  // Key: airline code
      private IntWritable onTimeFlag = new IntWritable(); // Value: 1 if on-time,
0 otherwise

      @Override
      public void map(LongWritable key, Text value, Context context)
            throws IOException, InterruptedException {
         String line = value.toString();

         // Skip the first line which is the header
         if (!headerSkipped) {
            headerSkipped = true;
            return;
         }

         // Split the CSV line into fields
         String[] fields = line.split(",", -1); // -1 to include empty fields also

         // Ignore lines with insufficient columns
         if (fields.length < 13) return;

         try {
            // Extract airline code (assuming it's in column 2)
            String carrier = fields[1].trim();
            if (carrier.isEmpty()) return; // Skip if carrier code is missing

            // Read delay columns safely (with fallback if missing or invalid)
            float delayCarrier = parseFloatSafe(fields[7]);
            float delayWeather = parseFloatSafe(fields[8]);
            float delayNAS = parseFloatSafe(fields[9]);
            float delaySecurity = parseFloatSafe(fields[10]);
            float delayLateAircraft = parseFloatSafe(fields[11]);

            // Calculate total delay
```

```
            float totalDelay = delayCarrier + delayWeather + delayNAS +
delaySecurity + delayLateAircraft;

            // Rule: Flight is "on-time" if total delay is 5 minutes or less
            int onTime = (totalDelay <= 5.0f) ? 1 : 0;

            // Emit (airlineCode, onTimeFlag)
            airlineCode.set(carrier);
            onTimeFlag.set(onTime);

            context.write(airlineCode, onTimeFlag);

        } catch (Exception e) {
            // If parsing fails, skip that record
        }
    }

    // Helper function to safely parse floats
    private float parseFloatSafe(String s) {
        if (s == null || s.trim().isEmpty()) return 0.0f;
        try {
            return Float.parseFloat(s.trim());
        } catch (NumberFormatException e) {
            return 0.0f;
        }
    }
}

// Reducer class: aggregates results for each airline
public static class OnTimeReducer extends Reducer<Text, IntWritable, Text,
Text> {

    @Override
    public void reduce(Text key, Iterable<IntWritable> values, Context context)
            throws IOException, InterruptedException {

        int totalFlights = 0;   // Total number of flights for this airline
        int onTimeFlights = 0;  // Number of on-time flights

        // Sum up total flights and on-time flights
        for (IntWritable v : values) {
            totalFlights++;
            onTimeFlights += v.get(); // Add 1 if on-time, 0 if delayed
        }
```

```
            // Calculate the on-time rate in percentage
            float onTimeRate = (totalFlights == 0) ? 0 : (onTimeFlights * 100.0f) /
totalFlights;

            // Format the output nicely
            String result = String.format("TotalFlights=%d, OnTimeFlights=%d,
OnTimeRate=%.2f%%",
                                          totalFlights, onTimeFlights, onTimeRate);

            // Emit (airlineCode, formatted result)
            context.write(key, new Text(result));
        }
    }

    // Main function to configure and run the job
    public static void main(String[] args) throws Exception {
        if (args.length != 2) {
            System.err.println("Usage: OnTimePerformance <input path> <output
path>");
            System.exit(-1); // Exit if input and output paths are not provided
        }

        Configuration conf = new Configuration();
        Job job = Job.getInstance(conf, "On-Time Performance Analysis"); // Job
name

        job.setJarByClass(OnTimePerformance.class);
        job.setMapperClass(OnTimeMapper.class);
        job.setReducerClass(OnTimeReducer.class);

        // Set output key and value types
        job.setOutputKeyClass(Text.class);
        job.setOutputValueClass(IntWritable.class);

        // Set input and output file paths
        FileInputFormat.addInputPath(job, new Path(args[0]));
        FileOutputFormat.setOutputPath(job, new Path(args[1]));

        // Wait for the job to finish and exit appropriately
        System.exit(job.waitForCompletion(true) ? 0 : 1);
    }
}
```

1.2.2. TaxiTimeAnalysis.java

```
import java.io.IOException;
import org.apache.hadoop.conf.Configuration;
import org.apache.hadoop.fs.Path;
import org.apache.hadoop.io.*;
import org.apache.hadoop.mapreduce.*;
import org.apache.hadoop.mapreduce.lib.input.FileInputFormat;
import org.apache.hadoop.mapreduce.lib.output.FileOutputFormat;

// Main class to perform average taxi time analysis at airports
public class TaxiTimeAnalysis {

   // Mapper class: emits (airport_code, taxi_time) for both taxi out and taxi in
times
   public static class TaxiMapper extends Mapper<LongWritable, Text, Text,
FloatWritable> {

      private boolean headerSkipped = false; // To ensure we skip the header line
      private Text airport = new Text();      // Key: airport code (origin or
destination)
      private FloatWritable taxiTime = new FloatWritable(); // Value: taxi time

      @Override
      public void map(LongWritable key, Text value, Context context)
            throws IOException, InterruptedException {
         String line = value.toString();

         // Skip the header line
         if (!headerSkipped) {
            headerSkipped = true;
            return;
         }

         // Split the CSV line into fields
         String[] fields = line.split(",", -1); // -1 to include empty fields as empty
strings

         // Ignore invalid lines with fewer than 13 columns
         if (fields.length < 13) return;

         try {
            // Extract important fields: origin, destination, taxi out, and taxi in
            String originAirport = fields[2].trim();  // ORIGIN column
            String destAirport = fields[3].trim();    // DEST column
```

```
            String taxiOutStr = fields[4].trim();     // TAXI_OUT column
            String taxiInStr = fields[5].trim();      // TAXI_IN column

            // Emit (origin airport, taxi out time) if data is valid
            if (!originAirport.isEmpty() && !taxiOutStr.isEmpty()) {
                float taxiOut = Float.parseFloat(taxiOutStr);
                airport.set(originAirport);
                taxiTime.set(taxiOut);
                context.write(airport, taxiTime);
            }

            // Emit (destination airport, taxi in time) if data is valid
            if (!destAirport.isEmpty() && !taxiInStr.isEmpty()) {
                float taxiIn = Float.parseFloat(taxiInStr);
                airport.set(destAirport);
                taxiTime.set(taxiIn);
                context.write(airport, taxiTime);
            }

        } catch (Exception e) {
            // If any parsing error happens, skip the current row
        }
    }
}

// Reducer class: calculates the average taxi time for each airport
public static class TaxiReducer extends Reducer<Text, FloatWritable, Text,
FloatWritable> {

    @Override
    public void reduce(Text key, Iterable<FloatWritable> values, Context
context)
            throws IOException, InterruptedException {

        float sum = 0;   // Sum of all taxi times
        int count = 0;   // Count of taxi records

        // Aggregate sum and count
        for (FloatWritable v : values) {
            sum += v.get();
            count++;
        }

        // Only write output if there were valid records
```

```
            if (count > 0) {
                float avgTaxiTime = sum / count; // Compute average
                context.write(key, new FloatWritable(avgTaxiTime)); // Emit
(airport_code, avgTaxiTime)
            }
        }
    }

    // Main method to configure and start the Hadoop job
    public static void main(String[] args) throws Exception {
        if (args.length != 2) {
            System.err.println("Usage: TaxiTimeAnalysis <input path> <output
path>");
            System.exit(-1); // Exit if incorrect number of arguments provided
        }

        Configuration conf = new Configuration();
        Job job = Job.getInstance(conf, "Taxi Time Analysis"); // Set job name

        job.setJarByClass(TaxiTimeAnalysis.class);
        job.setMapperClass(TaxiMapper.class);
        job.setReducerClass(TaxiReducer.class);

        // Define output types
        job.setOutputKeyClass(Text.class);
        job.setOutputValueClass(FloatWritable.class);

        // Set input and output file paths
        FileInputFormat.addInputPath(job, new Path(args[0]));
        FileOutputFormat.setOutputPath(job, new Path(args[1]));

        // Submit the job and exit based on success/failure
        System.exit(job.waitForCompletion(true) ? 0 : 1);
    }
}
```

1.3. Compilation and execution commands

```
#COMPILATION:
mkdir -p otp_classes
javac -classpath $(hadoop classpath) -d otp_classes OnTimePerformance.java
jar cf ontimeperf.jar -C otp_classes/ .
```

mkdir -p taxi_classes
javac -classpath $(hadoop classpath) -d taxi_classes TaxiTimeAnalysis.java
jar cf taxitime.jar -C taxi_classes/ .

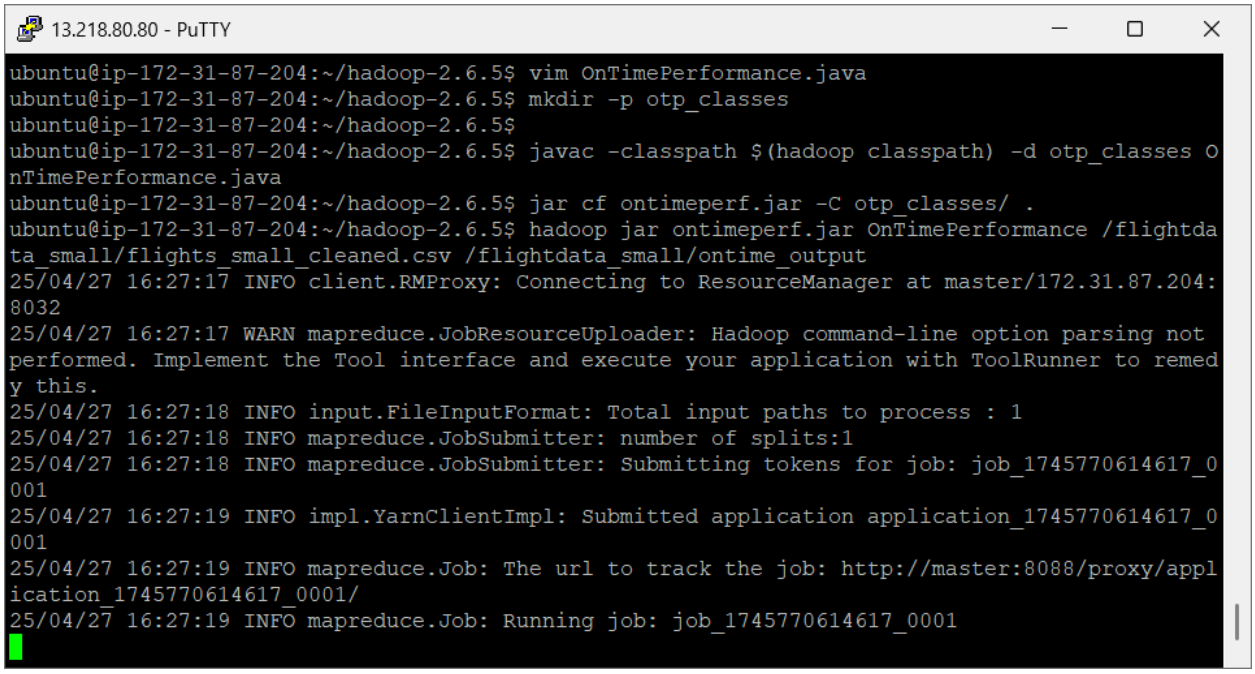
#EXECUTION:
hadoop jar ontimeperf.jar OnTimePerformance
/flightdata_small/flights_small_cleaned.csv /flightdata_small/ontime_output

hadoop jar taxitime.jar TaxiTimeAnalysis /flightdata_small/flights_small_cleaned.csv
/flightdata_small/taxitime_output

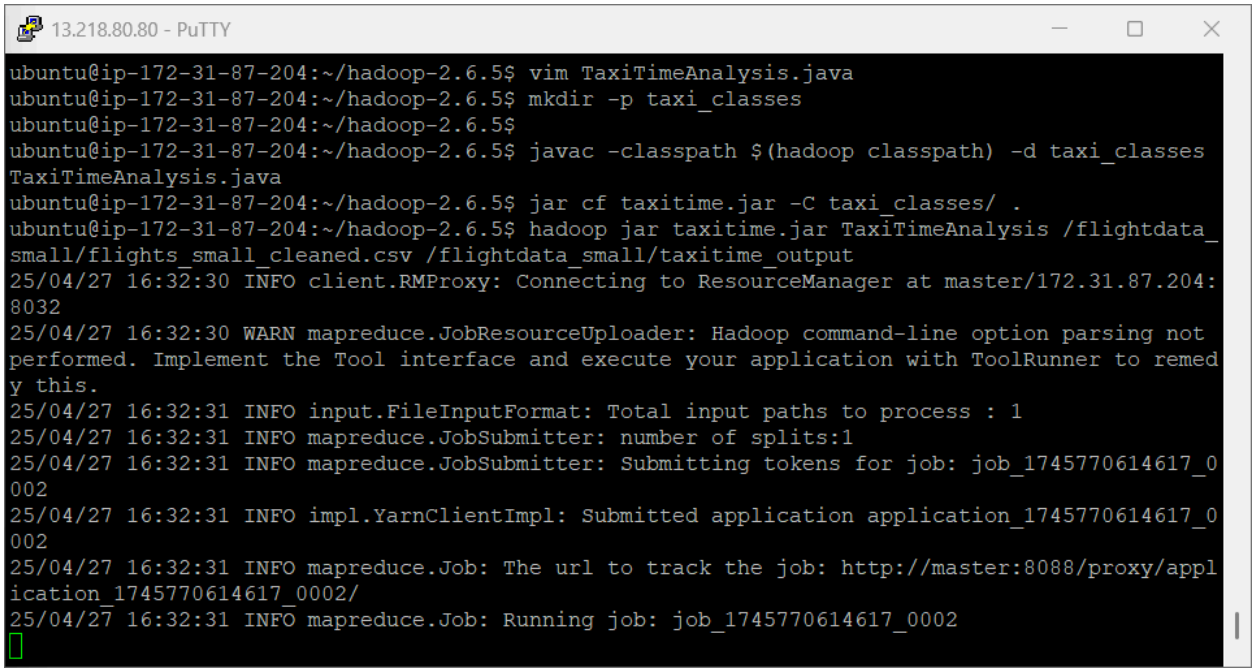
2. Code Execution and Output Interpretation

2.1. Screen of running your code command and its result

Execution for MapReduce program1:

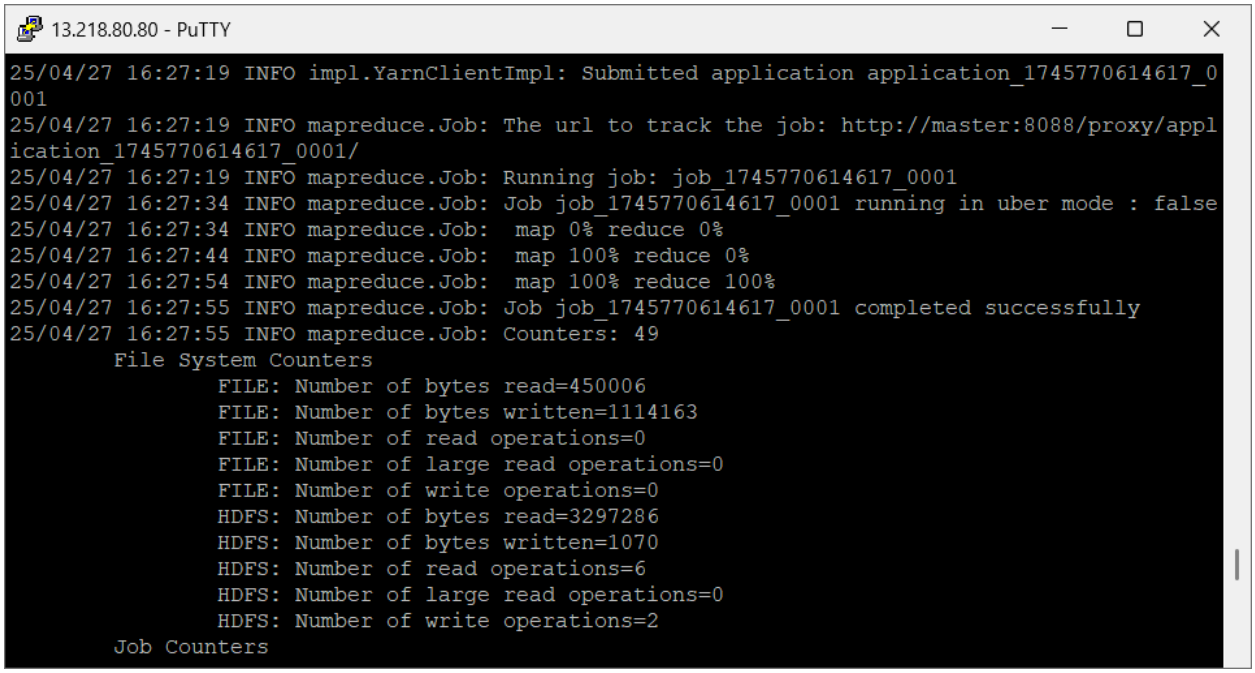


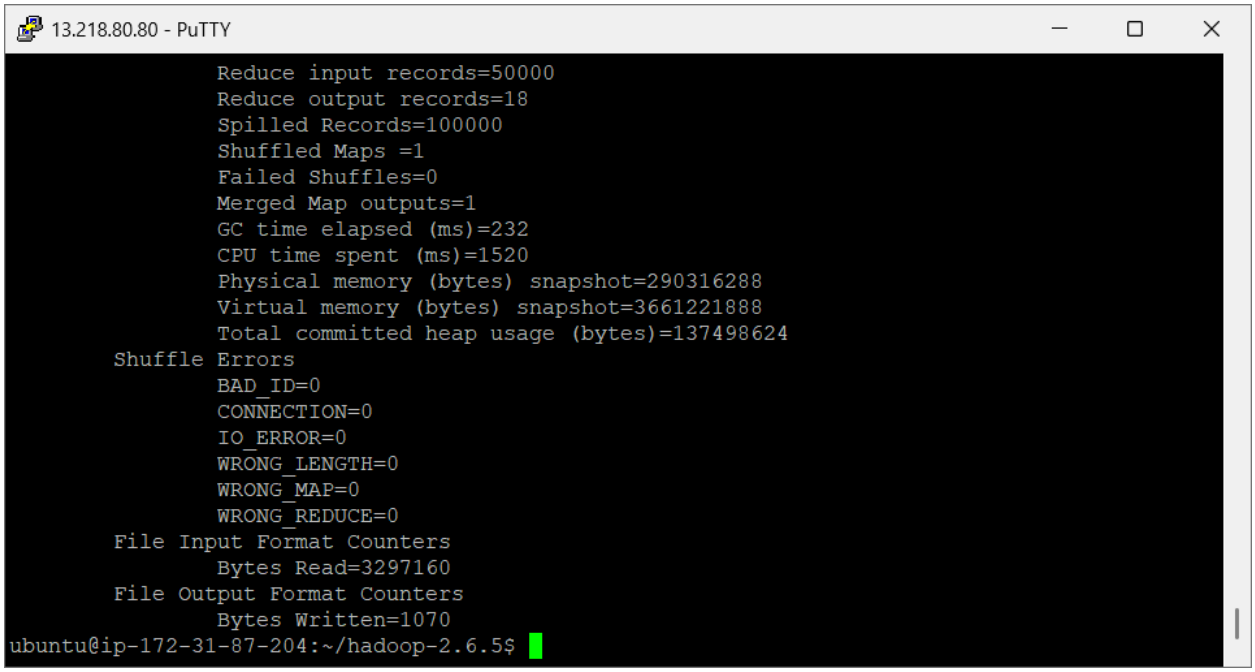
Execution for MapReduce program2:



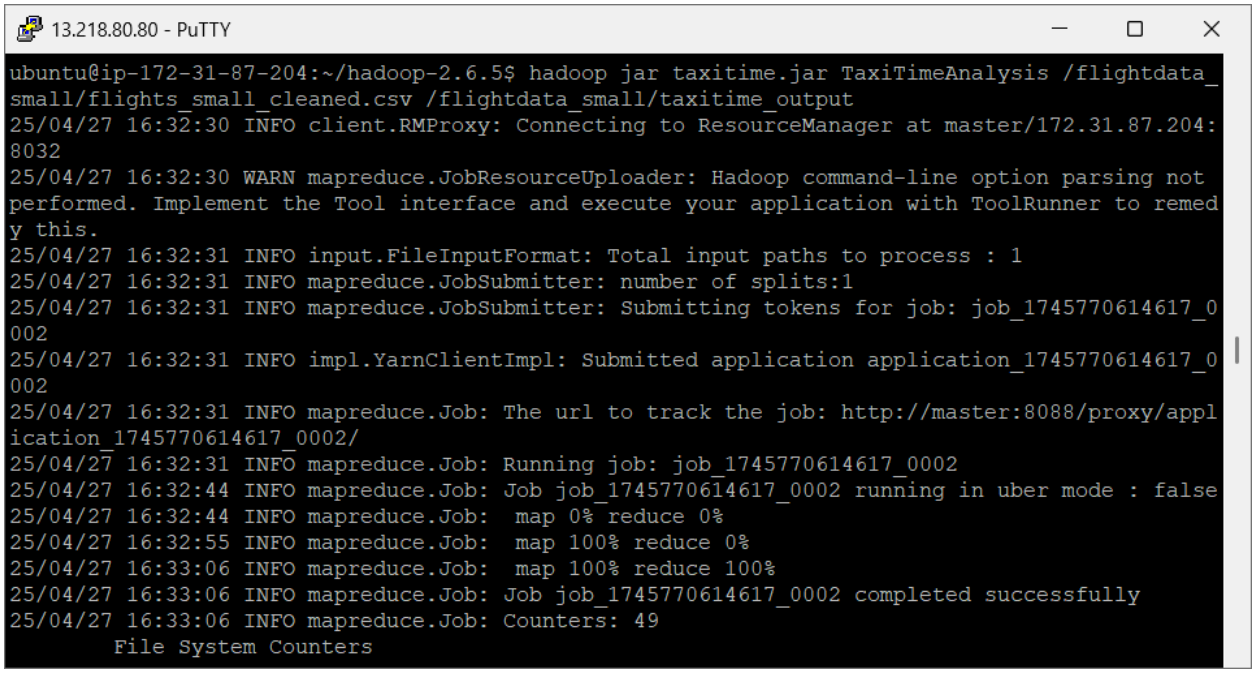
2.2. Process of MapReduce without any error until the end

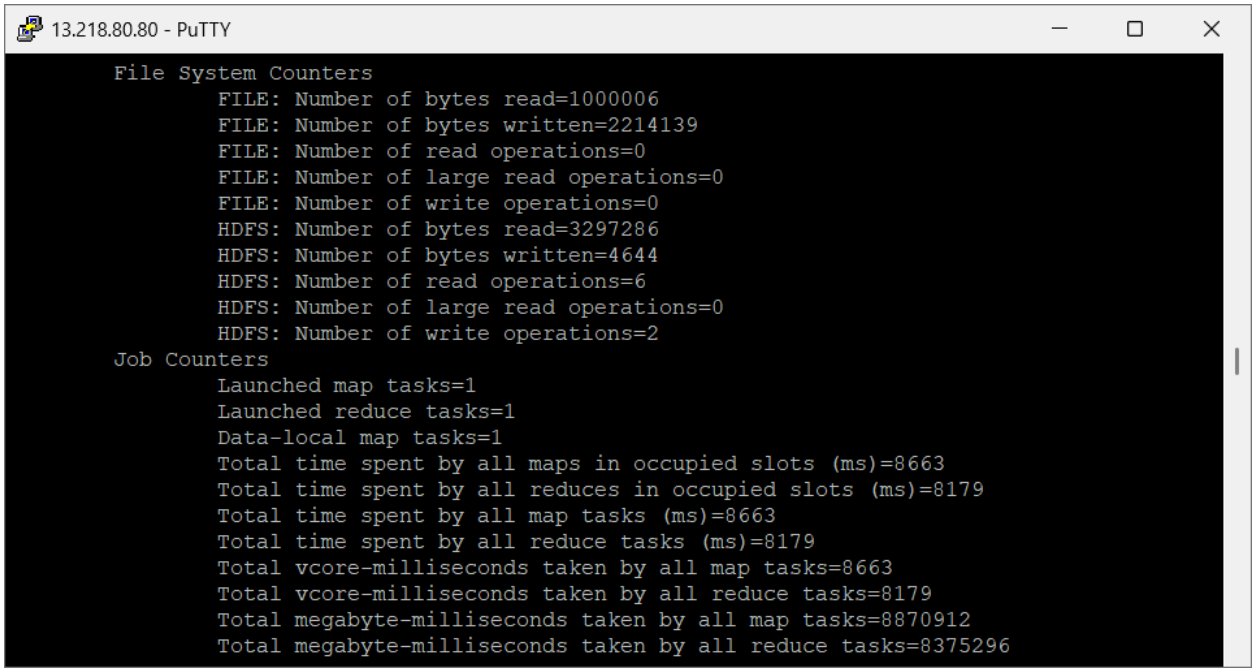
MapReduce running for program1:

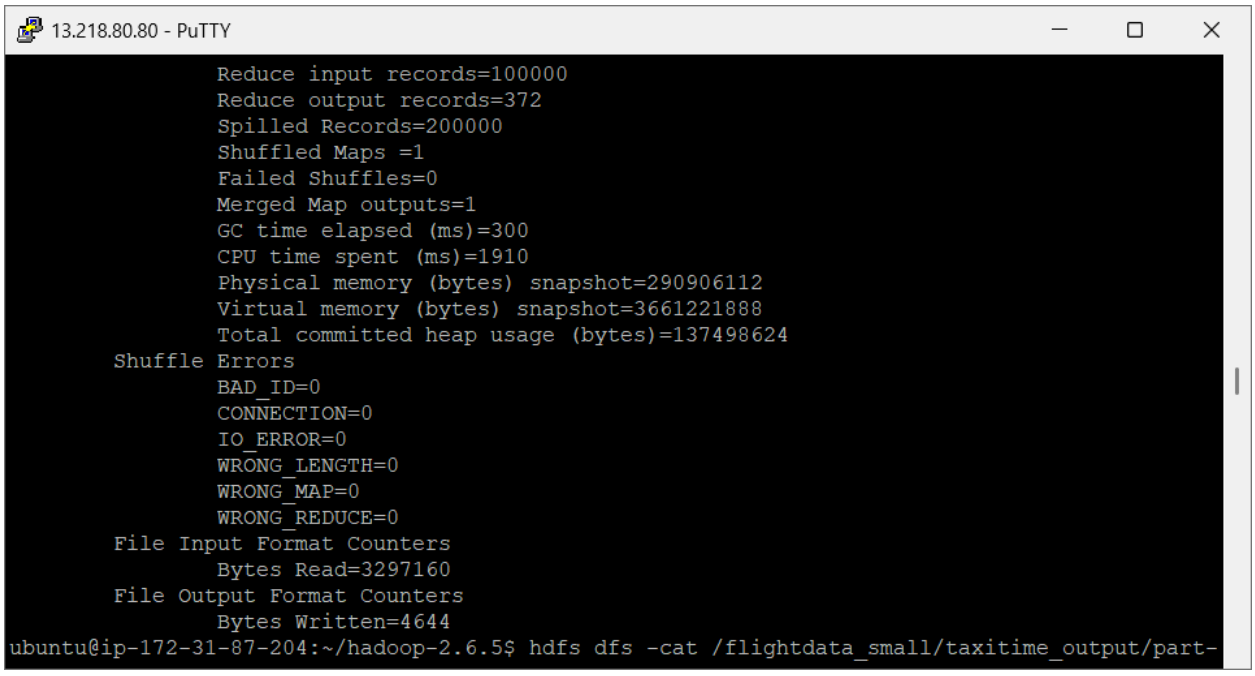




MapReduce running for program2:

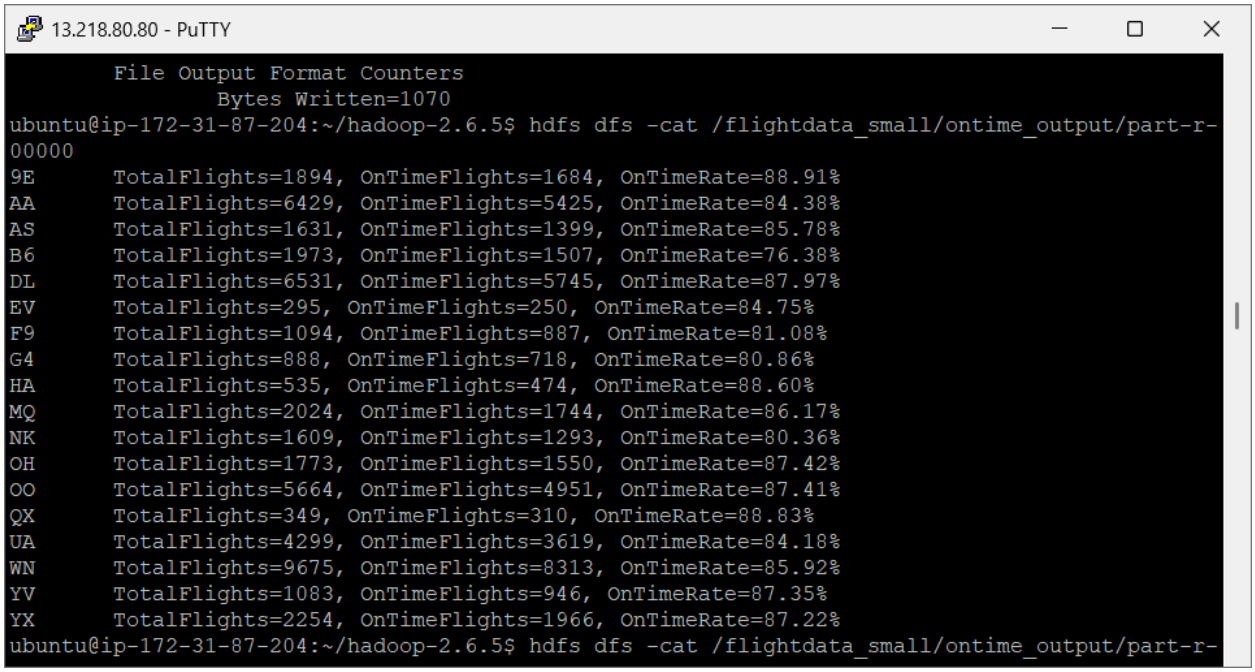




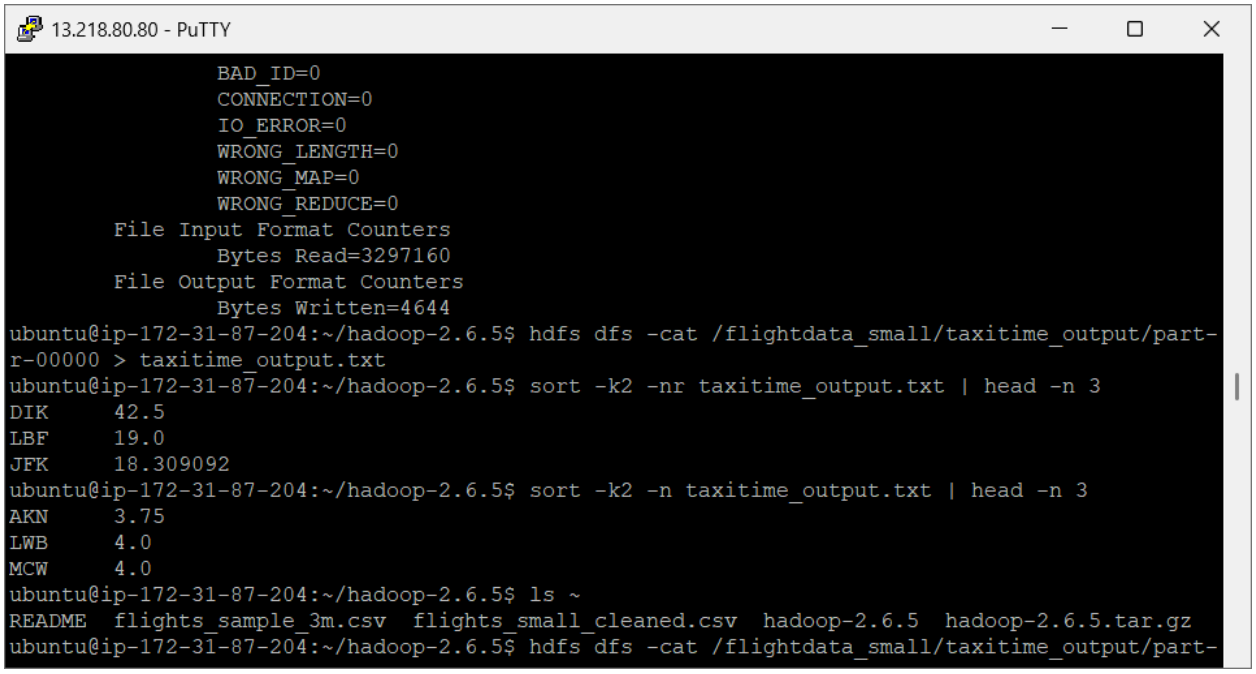


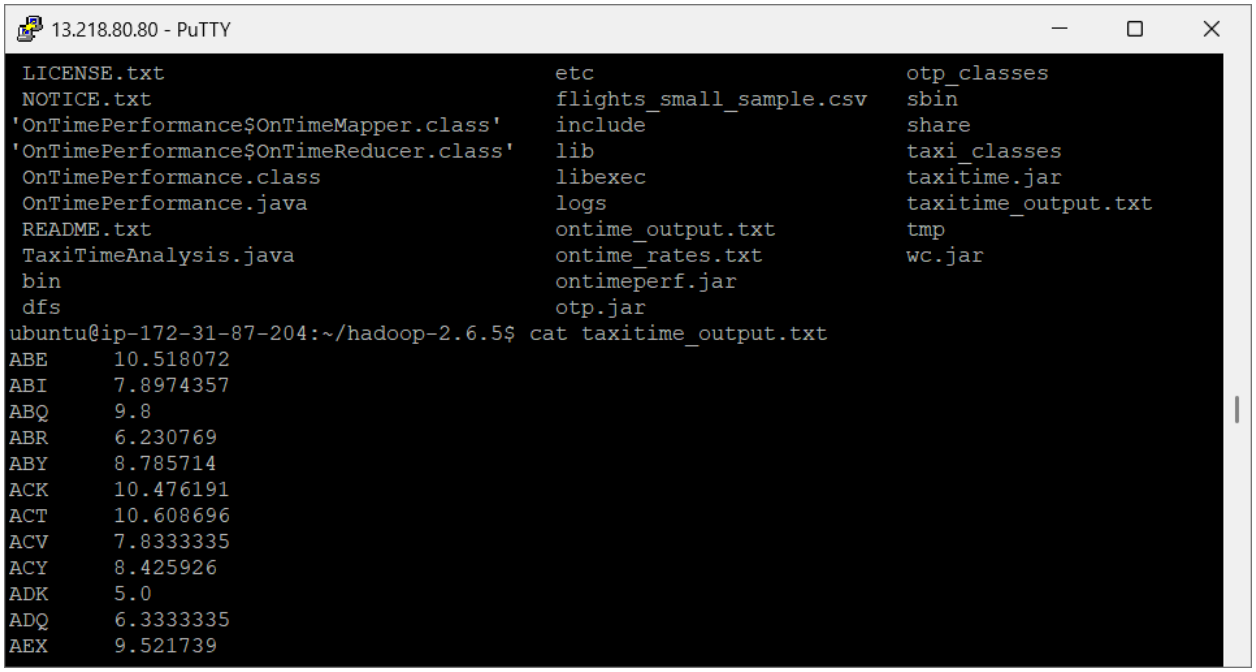
2.3. Screen of getting the output command and its result

OUTPUT FOR PROGRAM 1:



OUTPUT FOR PROGRAM 2:



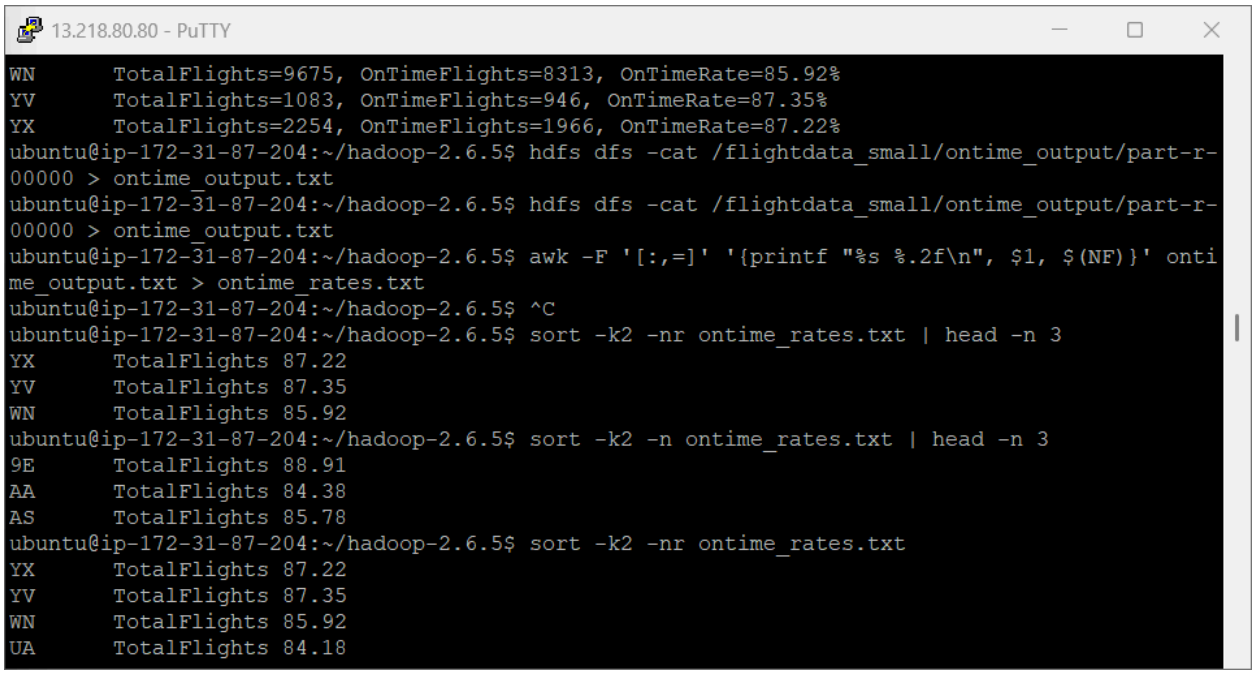


2.4. Output Interpretation

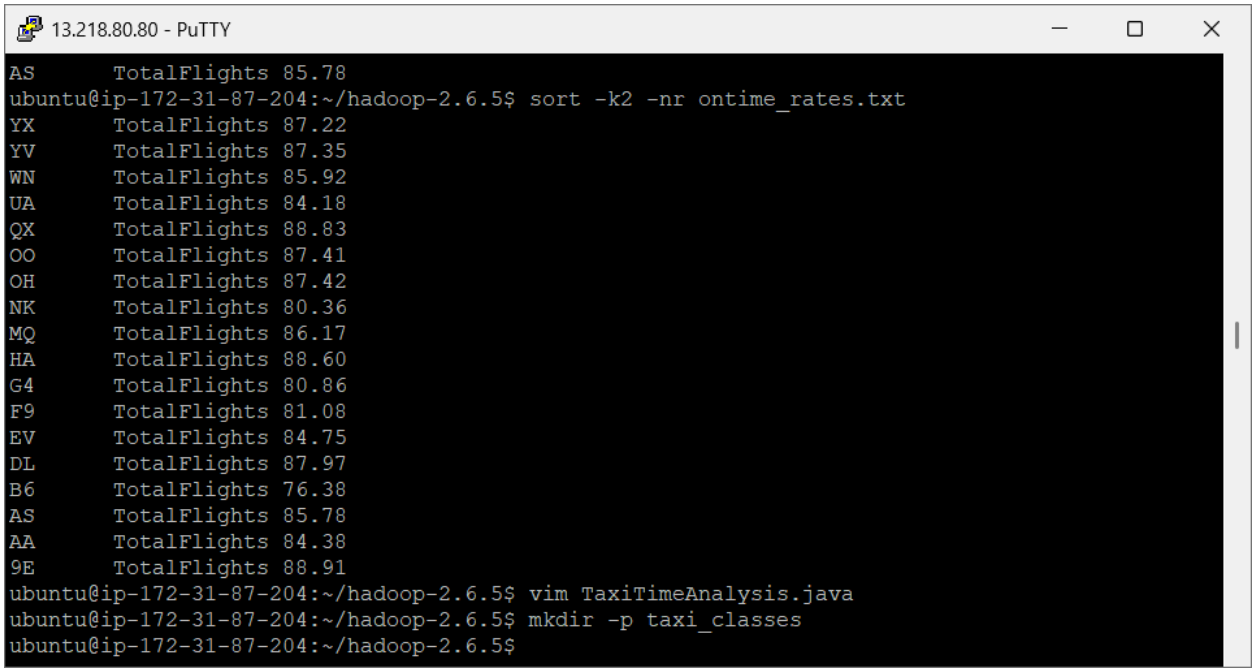
2.4.1. OnTimePerformance Output Interpretation:

Airline codes with their total flights, number of on-time flights, and on-time probability (%) are displayed.

Top 3 airlines with highest On-Time Rate and bottom 3 airlines with lowest On-Time Rate:



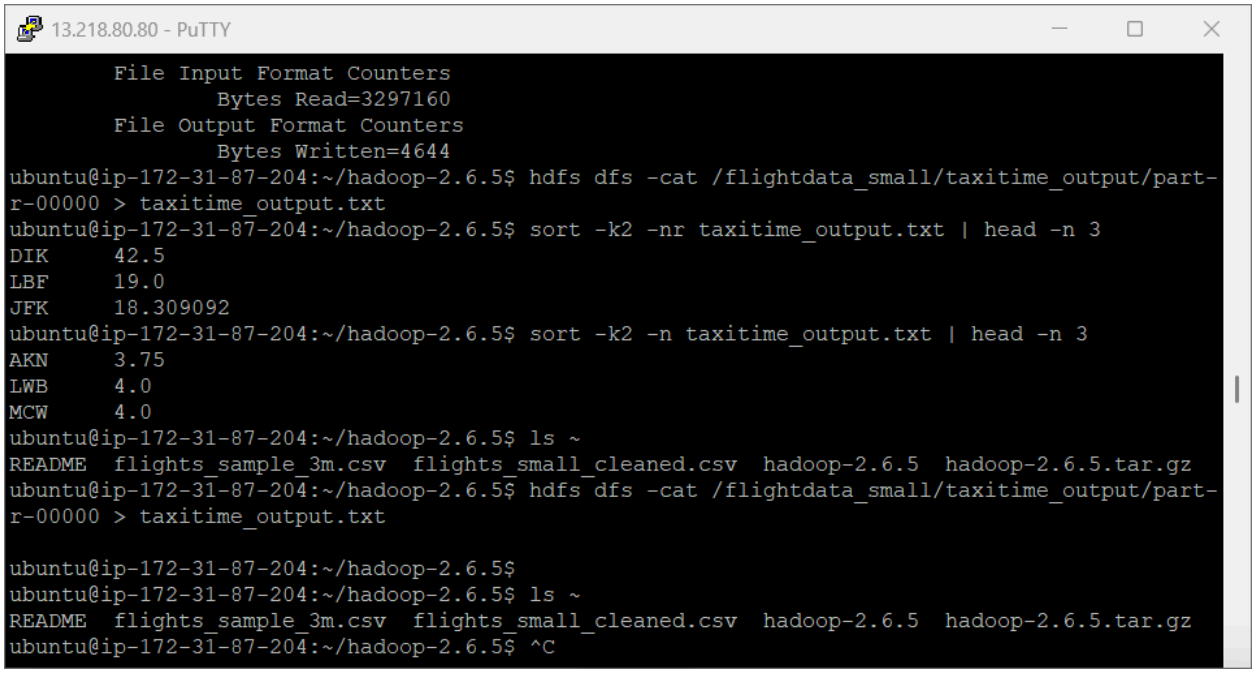
Full sorted list (not just Top 3):



2.4.2. TaxiTimeAnalysis Output Interpretation:

Airports with average taxi times are displayed.

Top 3 airports with longest average taxi time and top 3 airports with shortest average taxi time:



3. Challenges and troubleshooting

3.1. Challenges Faced

- When working with a large dataset, such as the 3 million flight records available in the original dataset, it is not always practical to process the full data using a small Hadoop cluster. Large datasets require significant memory, storage, and computing power, which small EC2 instances cannot handle easily.
- Many important columns - such as delay fields (DELAY_DUE_CARRIER, DELAY_DUE_WEATHER, etc.) and cancellation fields (CANCELLATION_CODE) - had missing values, also known as nulls. These missing values can create problems during MapReduce processing, such as errors or incorrect calculations.
- Before loading the dataset into the Hadoop Distributed File System (HDFS), it was essential to clean the data carefully. Without proper cleaning, dirty or incomplete data could cause Hadoop jobs to fail or produce wrong results.

3.2. Troubleshooting Steps

- Sampling was performed - means selecting a small random portion of the full dataset - in my case, about 50,000 rows - so that the data becomes much smaller and easier to process. This way, we could run our MapReduce jobs successfully without overloading the cluster or causing performance issues.
- The missing delay fields were filled with 0, assuming that a missing delay means no delay occurred. For cancellation fields, only considered rows where flights were actually cancelled. Handling missing values correctly ensured that the data was clean and ready for reliable analysis.
- Ensured Hadoop cluster was properly configured (namenode, datanode, YARN started). Also did data cleaning process like:
    - Keeping only the important columns needed for the project (like airline code, taxi times, delay fields).
    - Filling missing delay fields with 0 to avoid processing errors.
    - Removing rows where critical fields (like taxi times) were completely missing.
    - Checking for and removing any invalid or corrupted entries.

3.3. Performance observations

- After reducing the original large dataset to a small random sample of approximately 50,000 rows, the MapReduce jobs executed much faster and without overloading the Hadoop cluster.
- However, minor slowness was observed when attempting to rerun jobs without clearing the previous output directories.
- This was because Hadoop does not allow writing into an already existing output folder. The issue was easily resolved by manually deleting the existing output directory from HDFS before starting a new job run.
- Overall, performance was smooth and efficient after proper data preparation and careful handling of outputs.

4. Summary and Key learnings

4.1. Project Reflection

- Learned setting-up Hadoop cluster on AWS EC2.

- Gained real-world experience handling large messy datasets.
- Understood MapReduce flow - Mapper, Shuffle, Reducer.
- Understood data preparation is very critical before Hadoop processing.

4.2. Real-world Application

- Airline performance analysis is directly useful for airport operations optimization.
- Similar MapReduce models can be applied for: Logistics performance, E-commerce order delivery analysis etc.

4.3. Future Improvements

- I would like to analyze a full 3M flight dataset with bigger AWS instances.
- I would also use Spark (faster in-memory computation) instead of Hadoop MapReduce.