6.824 - Spring 2018

6.824 Lab 1: MapReduce

Due: Feb 16 at 11:59pm

Introduction

In this lab you'll build a MapReduce library as an introduction to programming in Go and to building fault tolerant distributed systems. In the first part you will write a simple MapReduce program. In the second part you will write a Master that hands out tasks to MapReduce workers, and handles failures of workers. The interface to the library and the approach to fault tolerance is similar to the one described in the original MapReduce paper.

Collaboration Policy

You must write all the code you hand in for 6.824, except for code that we give you as part of the assignment. You are not allowed to look at anyone else's solution, and you are not allowed to look at solutions from previous years. You may discuss the assignments with other students, but you may not look at or copy each others' code. The reason for this rule is that we believe you will learn the most by designing and implementing your lab solution code yourself.

Please do not publish your code or make it available to current or future 6.824 students. `github.com` repositories are public by default, so please don't put your code there unless you make the repository private. You may find it convenient to use MIT's GitHub, but be sure to create a private repository.

Software

You'll implement this lab (and all the labs) in Go. The Go web site contains lots of tutorial information which you may want to look at. We will grade your labs using Go version 1.9; you should use 1.9 too, though we don't know of any problems with other versions.

The labs are designed to run on Athena Linux machines with x86 or x86_64 architecture; `uname -a` should mention `i386 GNU/Linux` or `i686 GNU/Linux` or `x86_64 GNU/Linux`. You can log into a public Athena host with `ssh athena.dialup.mit.edu`. You may get lucky and find that the labs work in other environments, for example on some laptop Linux or OSX installations.

We supply you with parts of a MapReduce implementation that supports both distributed and non-distributed operation (just the boring bits). You'll fetch the initial lab software with git (a version control system). To learn more about git, look at the Pro Git book or the git user's manual, or, if you are already familiar with other version control systems, you may find this CS-oriented overview of git useful.

These Athena commands will give you access to git and Go:

```
athena$ add git
athena$ setup ggo_v1.9
```

The URL for the course git repository is `git://g.csail.mit.edu/6.824-golabs-2018`. To install the files in your directory, you need to *clone* the course repository, by running the commands below.

```
$ git clone git://g.csail.mit.edu/6.824-golabs-2018 6.824
$ cd 6.824
$ ls
Makefile src
```

Git allows you to keep track of the changes you make to the code. For example, if you want to checkpoint your progress, you can *commit* your changes by running:

```
$ git commit -am 'partial solution to lab 1'
```

The Map/Reduce implementation we give you has support for two modes of operation, *sequential* and *distributed*. In the former, the map and reduce tasks are executed one at a time: first, the first map task is executed to completion, then the second, then the third, etc. When all the map tasks have finished, the first reduce task is run, then the second, etc. This mode, while not very fast, is useful for debugging. The distributed mode runs many worker threads that first execute map tasks in parallel, and then reduce tasks. This is much faster, but also harder to implement and debug.

Preamble: Getting familiar with the source

The mapreduce package provides a simple Map/Reduce library (in the mapreduce directory). Applications should normally call Distributed() [located in master.go] to start a job, but may instead call Sequential() [also in master.go] to get a sequential execution for debugging.

The code executes a job as follows:

1. The application provides a number of input files, a map function, a reduce function, and the number of reduce tasks (`nReduce`).
2. A master is created with this knowledge. It starts an RPC server (see `master_rpc.go`), and waits for workers to register (using the RPC call `Register()` [defined in `master.go`]). As tasks become available (in steps 4 and 5), `schedule()` [`schedule.go`] decides how to assign those tasks to workers, and how to handle worker failures.
3. The master considers each input file to be one map task, and calls `doMap()` [`common_map.go`] at least once for each map task. It does so either directly (when using `Sequential()`) or by issuing the `DoTask` RPC to a worker [`worker.go`]. Each call to `doMap()` reads the appropriate file, calls the map function on that file's contents, and writes the resulting key/value pairs to `nReduce` intermediate files. `doMap()` hashes each key to pick the intermediate file and thus the reduce task that will process the key. There will be `nMap` x `nReduce` files after all map tasks are done. Each file name contains a prefix, the

map task number, and the reduce task number. If there are two map tasks and three reduce tasks, the map tasks will create these six intermediate files:

```
mrtmp.xxx-0-0
mrtmp.xxx-0-1
mrtmp.xxx-0-2
mrtmp.xxx-1-0
mrtmp.xxx-1-1
mrtmp.xxx-1-2
```

Each worker must be able to read files written by any other worker, as well as the input files. Real deployments use distributed storage systems such as GFS to allow this access even though workers run on different machines. In this lab you'll run all the workers on the same machine, and use the local file system.

4. The master next calls `doReduce()` [`common_reduce.go`] at least once for each reduce task. As with `doMap()`, it does so either directly or through a worker. The `doReduce()` for reduce task `r` collects the `r`'th intermediate file from each map task, and calls the reduce function for each key that appears in those files. The reduce tasks produce `nReduce` result files.
5. The master calls `mr.merge()` [`master_splitmerge.go`], which merges all the `nReduce` files produced by the previous step into a single output.
6. The master sends a Shutdown RPC to each of its workers, and then shuts down its own RPC server.

> **Note:** Over the course of the following exercises, you will have to write/modify `doMap`, `doReduce`, and `schedule` yourself. These are located in `common_map.go`, `common_reduce.go`, and `schedule.go` respectively. You will also have to write the map and reduce functions in `../main/wc.go`.

You should not need to modify any other files, but reading them might be useful in order to understand how the other methods fit into the overall architecture of the system.

Part I: Map/Reduce input and output

The Map/Reduce implementation you are given is missing some pieces. Before you can write your first Map/Reduce function pair, you will need to fix the sequential implementation. In particular, the code we give you is missing two crucial pieces: the function that divides up the output of a map task, and the function that gathers all the inputs for a reduce task. These tasks are carried out by the `doMap()` function in `common_map.go`, and the `doReduce()` function in `common_reduce.go` respectively. The comments in those files should point you in the right direction.

To help you determine if you have correctly implemented `doMap()` and `doReduce()`, we have provided you with a Go test suite that checks the correctness of your implementation. These tests are implemented in the file `test_test.go`. To run the tests for the sequential implementation that you have now fixed, run:

```
$ cd 6.824
$ export "GOPATH=$PWD"  # go needs $GOPATH to be set to the project's working directory
$ cd "$GOPATH/src/mapreduce"
$ go test -run Sequential
```

```
ok      mapreduce       2.694s
```

TASK

You receive full credit for this part if your software passes the Sequential tests (as run by the command above) when we run your software on our machines.

If the output did not show *ok* next to the tests, your implementation has a bug in it. To give more verbose output, set `debugEnabled = true` in `common.go`, and add `-v` to the test command above. You will get much more output along the lines of:

```
$ env "GOPATH=$PWD/../../" go test -v -run Sequential
=== RUN   TestSequentialSingle
master: Starting Map/Reduce task test
Merge: read mrtmp.test-res-0
master: Map/Reduce task completed
--- PASS: TestSequentialSingle (1.34s)
=== RUN   TestSequentialMany
master: Starting Map/Reduce task test
Merge: read mrtmp.test-res-0
Merge: read mrtmp.test-res-1
Merge: read mrtmp.test-res-2
master: Map/Reduce task completed
--- PASS: TestSequentialMany (1.33s)
PASS
ok      mapreduce       2.672s
```

Part II: Single-worker word count

Now you will implement word count — a simple Map/Reduce example. Look in `main/wc.go`; you'll find empty `mapF()` and `reduceF()` functions. Your job is to insert code so that `wc.go` reports the number of occurrences of each word in its input. A word is any contiguous sequence of letters, as determined by `unicode.IsLetter`.

There are some input files with pathnames of the form `pg-*.txt` in ~/6.824/src/main, downloaded from Project Gutenberg. Here's how to run `wc` with the input files:

```
$ cd 6.824
$ export "GOPATH=$PWD"
$ cd "$GOPATH/src/main"
$ go run wc.go master sequential pg-*.txt
# command-line-arguments
./wc.go:14: missing return at end of function
./wc.go:21: missing return at end of function
```

The compilation fails because `mapF()` and `reduceF()` are not complete.

Review Section 2 of the MapReduce paper. Your `mapF()` and `reduceF()` functions will differ a bit from those in the paper's Section 2.1. Your `mapF()` will be passed the name of a file, as well as that file's contents; it should split the contents into words, and return a Go slice of `mapreduce.KeyValue`. While you can choose what to put in the keys and values for the `mapF` output, for word count it only makes sense to use words as the keys. Your `reduceF()` will be

called once for each key, with a slice of all the values generated by `mapF()` for that key. It must return a string containing the total number of occurences of the key.

- **Hint:** a good read on Go strings is the Go Blog on strings.
- **Hint:** you can use `strings.FieldsFunc` to split a string into components.
- **Hint:** the strconv package (http://golang.org/pkg/strconv/) is handy to convert strings to integers etc.

You can test your solution using:

```
$ cd "$GOPATH/src/main"
$ time go run wc.go master sequential pg-*.txt
master: Starting Map/Reduce task wcseq
Merge: read mrtmp.wcseq-res-0
Merge: read mrtmp.wcseq-res-1
Merge: read mrtmp.wcseq-res-2
master: Map/Reduce task completed
2.59user 1.08system 0:02.81elapsed
```

The output will be in the file "mrtmp.wcseq". Your implementation is correct if the following command produces the output shown here:

```
$ sort -n -k2 mrtmp.wcseq | tail -10
that: 7871
it: 7987
in: 8415
was: 8578
a: 13382
of: 13536
I: 14296
to: 16079
and: 23612
the: 29748
```

You can remove the output file and all intermediate files with:

```
$ rm mrtmp.*
```

To make testing easy for you, run:

```
$ bash ./test-wc.sh
```

and it will report if your solution is correct or not.

TASK

You receive full credit for this part if your Map/Reduce word count output matches the correct output for the sequential execution above when we run your software on our machines.

Part III: Distributing MapReduce tasks

Your current implementation runs the map and reduce tasks one at a time. One of Map/Reduce's biggest selling points is that it can automatically parallelize ordinary sequential code without any extra work by the developer. In this part of the lab, you will complete a version of MapReduce that splits the work over a set of worker threads that run in parallel on multiple cores. While not distributed across multiple machines as in real Map/Reduce deployments, your implementation will use RPC to simulate distributed computation.

The code in `mapreduce/master.go` does most of the work of managing a MapReduce job. We also supply you with the complete code for a worker thread, in `mapreduce/worker.go`, as well as some code to deal with RPC in `mapreduce/common_rpc.go`.

Your job is to implement `schedule()` in `mapreduce/schedule.go`. The master calls `schedule()` twice during a MapReduce job, once for the Map phase, and once for the Reduce phase. `schedule()` 's job is to hand out tasks to the available workers. There will usually be more tasks than worker threads, so `schedule()` must give each worker a sequence of tasks, one at a time. `schedule()` should wait until all tasks have completed, and then return.

`schedule()` learns about the set of workers by reading its `registerChan` argument. That channel yields a string for each worker, containing the worker's RPC address. Some workers may exist before `schedule()` is called, and some may start while `schedule()` is running; all will appear on `registerChan`. `schedule()` should use all the workers, including ones that appear after it starts.

`schedule()` tells a worker to execute a task by sending a `Worker.DoTask` RPC to the worker. This RPC's arguments are defined by `DoTaskArgs` in `mapreduce/common_rpc.go`. The `File` element is only used by Map tasks, and is the name of the file to read; `schedule()` can find these file names in `mapFiles`.

Use the `call()` function in `mapreduce/common_rpc.go` to send an RPC to a worker. The first argument is the the worker's address, as read from `registerChan`. The second argument should be `"Worker.DoTask"`. The third argument should be the `DoTaskArgs` structure, and the last argument should be `nil`.

Your solution to Part III should only involve modifications to `schedule.go`. If you modify other files as part of debugging, please restore their original contents and then test before submitting.

Use `go test -run TestParallel` to test your solution. This will execute two tests, `TestParallelBasic` and `TestParallelCheck`; the latter verifies that your scheduler causes workers to execute tasks in parallel.

TASK

You will receive full credit for this part if your software passes `TestParallelBasic` and `TestParallelCheck` when we run your software on our machines.

- **Hint:** RPC package documents the Go RPC package.
- **Hint:** `schedule()` should send RPCs to the workers in parallel so that the workers can work on tasks concurrently. You will find the `go` statement useful for this

purpose; see Concurrency in Go.

- **Hint:** `schedule()` must wait for a worker to finish before it can give it another task. You may find Go's channels useful.
- **Hint:** You may find sync.WaitGroup useful.
- **Hint:** The easiest way to track down bugs is to insert print statements (perhaps calling `debug()` in `common.go`), collect the output in a file with `go test -run TestParallel > out`, and then think about whether the output matches your understanding of how your code should behave. The last step is the most important.
- **Hint:** To check if your code has race conditions, run Go's race detector with your test: `go test -race -run TestParallel > out`.

Note: The code we give you runs the workers as threads within a single UNIX process, and can exploit multiple cores on a single machine. Some modifications would be needed in order to run the workers on multiple machines communicating over a network. The RPCs would have to use TCP rather than UNIX-domain sockets; there would need to be a way to start worker processes on all the machines; and all the machines would have to share storage through some kind of network file system.

Part IV: Handling worker failures

In this part you will make the master handle failed workers. MapReduce makes this relatively easy because workers don't have persistent state. If a worker fails while handling an RPC from the master, the master's call() will eventually return `false` due to a timeout. In that situation, the master should re-assign the task given to the failed worker to another worker.

An RPC failure doesn't necessarily mean that the worker didn't execute the task; the worker may have executed it but the reply was lost, or the worker may still be executing but the master's RPC timed out. Thus, it may happen that two workers receive the same task, compute it, and generate output. Two invocations of a map or reduce function are required to generate the same output for a given input (i.e. the map and reduce functions are "functional"), so there won't be inconsistencies if subsequent processing sometimes reads one output and sometimes the other. In addition, the MapReduce framework ensures that map and reduce function output appears atomically: the output file will either not exist, or will contain the entire output of a single execution of the map or reduce function (the lab code doesn't actually implement this, but instead only fails workers at the end of a task, so there aren't concurrent executions of a task).

Note: You don't have to handle failures of the master. Making the master fault-tolerant is more difficult because it keeps state that would have to be recovered in order to resume operations after a master failure. Much of the later labs are devoted to this challenge.

Your implementation must pass the two remaining test cases in `test_test.go`. The first case tests the failure of one worker, while the second test case tests handling of many failures of workers. Periodically, the test cases start new workers that the master can use to make forward progress, but these workers fail after handling a few tasks. To run these tests:

```
$ go test -run Failure
```

TASK

You receive full credit for this part if your software passes the tests with worker failures (those run by the command above) when we run your software on our machines.

Your solution to Part IV should only involve modifications to `schedule.go`. If you modify other files as part of debugging, please restore their original contents and then test before submitting.

Part V: Inverted index generation (optional, does not count in grade)

CHALLENGE

For this optional no-credit exercise, you will build Map and Reduce functions for generating an *inverted index*.

Inverted indices are widely used in computer science, and are particularly useful in document searching. Broadly speaking, an inverted index is a map from interesting facts about the underlying data, to the original location of that data. For example, in the context of search, it might be a map from keywords to documents that contain those words.

We have created a second binary in `main/ii.go` that is very similar to the `wc.go` you built earlier. You should modify `mapF` and `reduceF` in `main/ii.go` so that they together produce an inverted index. Running `ii.go` should output a list of tuples, one per line, in the following format:

```
$ go run ii.go master sequential pg-*.txt
$ head -n5 mrtmp.iiseq
A: 8 pg-being_ernest.txt,pg-dorian_gray.txt,pg-frankenstein.txt,pg-grimm.txt,pg-huckleberry
ABOUT: 1 pg-tom_sawyer.txt
ACT: 1 pg-being_ernest.txt
ACTRESS: 1 pg-dorian_gray.txt
ACTUAL: 8 pg-being_ernest.txt,pg-dorian_gray.txt,pg-frankenstein.txt,pg-grimm.txt,pg-huckle
```

If it is not clear from the listing above, the format is:

```
word: #documents documents,sorted,and,separated,by,commas
```

You can see if your solution works using `bash ./test-ii.sh`, which runs:

```
$ LC_ALL=C sort -k1,1 mrtmp.iiseq | sort -snk2,2 | grep -v '16' | tail -10
www: 8 pg-being_ernest.txt,pg-dorian_gray.txt,pg-frankenstein.txt,pg-grimm.txt,pg-huckleberr
```

```
year: 8 pg-being_ernest.txt,pg-dorian_gray.txt,pg-frankenstein.txt,pg-grimm.txt,pg-huckleber
years: 8 pg-being_ernest.txt,pg-dorian_gray.txt,pg-frankenstein.txt,pg-grimm.txt,pg-huckleb
yesterday: 8 pg-being_ernest.txt,pg-dorian_gray.txt,pg-frankenstein.txt,pg-grimm.txt,pg-huc
yet: 8 pg-being_ernest.txt,pg-dorian_gray.txt,pg-frankenstein.txt,pg-grimm.txt,pg-huckleberr
you: 8 pg-being_ernest.txt,pg-dorian_gray.txt,pg-frankenstein.txt,pg-grimm.txt,pg-huckleberr
young: 8 pg-being_ernest.txt,pg-dorian_gray.txt,pg-frankenstein.txt,pg-grimm.txt,pg-huckleb
your: 8 pg-being_ernest.txt,pg-dorian_gray.txt,pg-frankenstein.txt,pg-grimm.txt,pg-huckleber
yourself: 8 pg-being_ernest.txt,pg-dorian_gray.txt,pg-frankenstein.txt,pg-grimm.txt,pg-huck
zip: 8 pg-being_ernest.txt,pg-dorian_gray.txt,pg-frankenstein.txt,pg-grimm.txt,pg-huckleberr
```

Running all tests

You can run all the tests by running the script `src/main/test-mr.sh`. With a correct solution, your output should resemble:

```
$ bash ./test-mr.sh
==> Part I
ok      mapreduce       2.053s

==> Part II
Passed test

==> Part III
ok      mapreduce       1.851s

==> Part IV
ok      mapreduce       10.650s

==> Part V (inverted index)
Passed test
```

Handin procedure

Important:

Before submitting, please run *all* the tests one final time.

```
$ bash ./test-mr.sh
```

Submit your code via the class's submission website, located at https://6824.scripts.mit.edu/2018/handin.py/.

You may use your MIT Certificate or request an API key via email to log in for the first time. Your API key (`XXX`) is displayed once you logged in, which can be used to upload lab1 from the console as follows.

```
$ cd "$GOPATH"
$ echo XXX > api.key
$ make lab1
```

Important:

Check the submission website to make sure it thinks you submitted this lab!

> **Note:** You may submit multiple times. We will use the timestamp of your **last** submission for the purpose of calculating late days.

Please post questions on Piazza.