UCI

Indexing Data with MapReduce

An Example with Hadoop



1. Abstract

With the proliferation of the Internet there has come massive amounts of data that different organizations and entities store for different services. As these datatabases grow, the more cumbersome it becomes to actually find and read the data stored within. A common solution to this is to index important subdata beforehand for easier lookup. Fortunately, the nature of indexing lends itself to being processed by MapReduce very well. We explore the benefits of indexing with a example video data using MapReduce with Hadoop.

2. Introduction

If you have ever performed a fresh installation of your operating system, you may notice that your computer is sluggish for a period of time after its first launch. In the background, the operating system is indexing your files so that if you search for a specific file in the future, it can return results much more quickly than scanning every single file in the system for every search. While scanning through data takes time and CPU cycles away from other tasks, consider the storage capacity of the typical home computer versus the storage of a commercial database. It should become clear that scanning through the many terabytes of data a single server rack can contain becomes problematic for throughput.

First, let us focus on how some of this data may be stored, so that we can learn how to index it. There are many structures and patterns for storing data objects, but the benefits of indexing is apparent in a hierarchal-graphical model. Consider a data object with various attributes, as shown in Figure 1. This is a logical way to organize various kinds of data, like user accounts or product details, but for this example, the data objects are videos on a streaming service, and the attributes are tags for a video's category or genre.

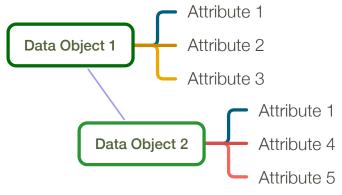


Figure 1. A Generic hierarchal-graphical database.

As new videos are uploaded to the streaming service, it is easy to add new nodes with its various attributes, and potentially even link certain nodes together for something like a playlist. But consider what would happen if a user submits a request to search for a specific video tag. Our server would have to go through the costly process of scanning every single node to

determine if it has that tag attribute before returning to the user.

A simple solution that may come to mind is to preprocess the data and organize it by attribute—which is exactly what indexing is. We can create a sibling dataset that inverts the structure of the previous hierarchal model; the attributes are the root nodes, and the branches are all the objects with that attribute, as shown in Figure 2. Now, when a request comes in for a particular tag attribute, we can immediately jump to that node and return its children.



Figure 2. Inverting the hierarchal model, i.e. indexing.

3. Methodology

The heart of this example is the MapReduce algorithm. Indexing lends itself very well to MapReduce because the action of finding videos is highly parallelizable in that it does not have any interlinked data dependencies. In other words, each mapper can work independently on a partition of video objects and not have to worry about relevant data being stored on objects the other mapper is working on. Similarly, after sorting/shuffling, the reducers can go through each tag and add video branches to them independently.

3.1 MapReduce

Let us quickly look at the input and output at each stage of the MapReduce program so we can get an idea for how it works and our reason for using it. Consider the input data below.

```
vid0 tech entertainment history
vid1 health education entertainment
```

Our mapper takes each line and prints the video and its tag for each tag.

```
tech vid0
entertainment vid0
history vid0
health vid1
education vid1
entertainment vid1
```

The shuffler/sorter organizes the data so that each type does not get split between reducers.

```
education vid1
entertainment vid0
entertainment vid1
health vid1
```

history vid0 tech vid0

The reducer collapses all the videos to a single common tag, giving us our final output.

tech vid0
education vid1
entertainment vid0 vid 1
history vid0
health vid1

3.2 Setup

While I did find a publicly available YouTube dataset with tags, it only contained 3,813 videos, which was far too small. To get the most out of MapReduce, we want the input data to be large enough that there can be at least multiple mappers and hopefully multiple reducers. To do this, I created synthetic data with 5,000,000 videos, each with three tags. I was able to get this synthetic data to 172 MB, which is important because since Hadoop 2.4, the default input block size is 128 MB; so we should expect to have two mappers working on this job. Unless otherwise specified, the default number of reduce tasks is set to 1, which we will keep because we want a single output file. However, if we deployed this job across multiple server nodes, we would likely want more reducers.

For the experiment, I used the same Python mapper and reducer programs in three different scenarios for comparison. First, I used piping for std I/0. Piping the programs is pseudoparallel, because while the programs all start at the same time, they wait for input from the previous stages. Next, I piped the mapper reducer programs again, but this time I sorted inbetween. This is not important in the final output because the single reduce program is agnostic to order, but it provides a better comparison because MapReduce inherently sorts. Finally, the Hadoop MapReduce job which used the same mapper and reducer programs as before. These were all run on my quad-core i7 Macintosh.

To get the Python programs to run with Hadoop, we must use Hadoop's Streaming API. The shell commands for both Hadoop's API and what was used for the generic shell execution are all in the Appendix, along with their various outputs. The final output is omitted because it is a 162 MB text file that my computer struggles to even open.

4. Data and Discussion

In Table 1, we can see the performance of the experiment outlined previously. Again, note that the piped programs run pseudo-parallel, so each stage has the same start time; therefore, the total time is the end time of the last stage. Additionally, while Hadoop's Streaming API does log job metrics, it does not log the exact time stages start and stop, so those have been omitted from the table as well.

Looking over the log from the Hadoop job, we had two mappers and one reducer task running, which our expectations we

outlined in our methodology. However, what is effectively just a single additonal mapping task significantly increased performance. The Hadoop MapReduce job finished 8 seconds faster, than the normal piped job, and 55 seconds faster than the piped job with sorting—keep in mind that the MapReduce job has mandatory sorting even though it does not need it for this example. Living in an age where web services try to cut down response time for their services to the milliseconds, an 8 second increase in index performance for a 200 MB input is excellent.

Table 1. Indexing 5 million videos with piping, piping with sorting, and with MapReduce. Times mark the end time for each stage; processes are parallel so they share the same start time.

	Pipe (s)	Pipe & Sort (s)	MapReduce (s)
Head	10.4	9.1	-
Mapper	10.4	9.1	-
Sort	-	65.2	-
Reducer	47.6	94.7	-
Total time	47.6	94.7	39.6

5. Conclusion

What this report has shown so far is the problem of data access in large databases, a solution in preprocessing and indexing important data beforehand, and implementing this solution in various configurations for comparison. The main configurations being a pseudo-parallel mapping and reducing execution and a true Hadoop MapReduce, multi-task execution that yielded greater results. This was performed on a consumer-grade computer, so our remaining assumption is that a database would be stored on servers with multi-node processing capability already, and because indexing is now shown to be very MapReduce friendly, the job would be even more efficient with more mapper and reducer tasks.

Appendix

Code

makedata.py

```
1
   from random import sample
2
   tags = ('sports', 'gaming', 'news', 'history', 'tech', 'finance', 'fashion', 'health', 'education', '
3
       entertainment')
4
   numVideos = 5000000
5
6
   with open("videotagssmall.txt", 'w') as file:
7
       for vidIndex in range(numVideos):
           tagIndices = sample(range(0,10), 3)
8
           file.write(' '.join(['vid', str(vidIndex), tags[tagIndices[0]], tags[tagIndices[1]], tags[tagIndices
9
               [2]], '\n']))
```

mapper.py

```
import sys

for line in sys.stdin:
    line = line.strip()
    items = line.split()

video = items.pop(0)
for tag in items:
    print( "%s\t%s" % (tag, video) )
```

reducer.py

```
1
    import sys
2
3
    tags = {}
4
    for line in sys.stdin:
5
        line = line.strip()
6
        tag, video = line.split('\t',1)
7
8
9
        if tag in tags:
10
            tags[tag].append(video)
11
        else:
            tags[tag] = [video]
12
13
14
    for key in tags:
        print(key, end='\t')
15
        for video in tags[key]:
16
            print(video, end='\t')
17
18
        print('\n', end='')
```

Shell commands

Parallel piping

The sort and its pipe can be removed if desired.

```
time head -n5000000 videotagsbig.txt | python mapper.py | sort | python reducer.py
```

Hadoop Streaming

References local python files and input/output files stored on the HDFS partition.

```
hadoop jar /usr/local/Cellar/hadoop/3.3.0/libexec/share/hadoop/tools/lib/hadoop-streaming-3.3.0.jar \
-file "mapper.py" \
-mapper "/Users/aryadaroui/miniconda3/bin/python3 mapper.py" \
-file "reducer.py" \
-reducer "/Users/aryadaroui/miniconda3/bin/python3 reducer.py" \
-input videotagsbig.txt \
-output Hadoopoutput
```

Shell screenshots

```
vid999798
                           vid9998 vid999800
                                                                    vid999819
93
                                                 vid999806
                                                                                     vid99982
        vid999821
                         vid999827
                                         vid999829
                                                          vid999831
                                                                           vid999833
                                                                                             vid9
99836
                                                                                vid999844
         vid999837
                            vid999838
                                             vid999839
                                                               vid999840
                                                                                               νi
d999846
               vid999847
                                vid999848
                                                 vid999853
                                                               vid999854
                                                                                  vid99986
                                           vid999878
        vid99987
                         vid999875
                                                          vid99988
                                                                           vid999881
                                                                                             vid9
             vid999885
99883
                                                               vid999891
                                                                                vid999896
                           vid999888
                                             vid999889
vid999905
                                vid999909
                                                                   vid999913
                                                                                 vid999916
               vid999906
                                                 vid999912
        vid999919
                         vid999921
                                           vid999922
                                                            vid999926
                                                                           vid999928
                                                                                             vid9
                              vid999938
                                                              vid99994
99930
             vid999937
                                            vid999939
                                                                                vid999940
vid999943
                 vid999949
                                vid999950
                                                 vid999955
                                                                   vid999956
                                                                                    vid999957
                                       vid999967
                                                         vid999968
                                                                          vid999969
    vid999961
                      vid999966
                                                                                         vid9999
71
         vid999974
                           vid999976
                                            vid999980
                                                          vid999982
                                                                            vid999985
                                                                                              vid
999988
              vid999995
                               vid999998
                                              vid999999
head -n5000000 videotagsbig.txt 0.47s user 0.12s system 6% cpu 9.127 total
python mapperh.py 9.00s user 0.09s system 99% cpu 9.131 total sort 58.67s user 0.95s system 91% cpu 1:05.19 total
python reducerh.py 12.18s user 1.83s system 14% cpu 1:34.67 total
~/Documents/School/Grad/EECS247/Homework/Proj1
                                                                1m 35s Py miniconda3 17:46:18
```

Figure 3. Timed output of parallel piping with sorting.

```
🔃 Proj1 — -zsh
id4999705
                  vid4999706
                                    vid4999717
                                                     vid4999728
                                                                       vid4999731
                                                                                         vid499973v
id4999741
                                    vid4999754
                                                     vid4999760
                 vid4999743
                                                                       vid4999764
                                                                                         vid499976v
id4999766
                  vid4999767
                                    vid4999768
                                                     vid4999769
                                                                       vid4999774
                                                                                         vid499977v
                  vid4999790
                                                                                         vid499980v
id4999781
                                    vid4999793
                                                     vid4999794
                                                                       vid4999799
id4999807
                  vid4999809
                                   vid4999811
                                                     vid4999812
                                                                       vid4999818
                                                                                         vid499982v
id4999822
                  vid4999827
                                   vid4999833
                                                     vid4999835
                                                                       vid4999836
                                                                                         vid499983v
id4999838
                 vid4999842
                                   vid4999847
                                                     vid4999852
                                                                       vid4999859
                                                                                         vid499986v
id4999863
                  vid4999866
                                    vid4999869
                                                     vid4999870
                                                                       vid4999871
                                                                                         vid499987v
id4999878
                  vid4999879
                                    vid4999881
                                                     vid4999884
                                                                       vid4999885
                                                                                         vid499988v
id4999889
                  vid4999896
                                   vid4999905
                                                     vid4999909
                                                                       vid4999912
                                                                                         vid499991v
id4999920
                  vid4999921
                                   vid4999922
                                                     vid4999924
                                                                       vid4999925
                                                                                         vid499993v
id4999933
                 vid4999940
                                   vid4999944
                                                     vid4999945
                                                                       vid4999947
                                                                                         vid499995v
id4999955
                  vid4999959
                                    vid4999970
                                                     vid4999971
                                                                       vid4999973
                                                                                         vid499997v
                                   vid4999995
id4999979
                  vid4999990
head -n5000000 videotagsbig.txt 0.54s user 0.22s system 7% cpu 10.442 total
python mapperh.py 10.11s user 0.17s system 98% cpu 10.447 total python reducerh.py 16.17s user 2.28s system 38% cpu 47.632 total
                                                                      48s Py miniconda3 18:11:38
~/Documents/School/Grad/EECS247/Homework/Proj1
```

Figure 4. Timed output of parallel piping withpout sorting.

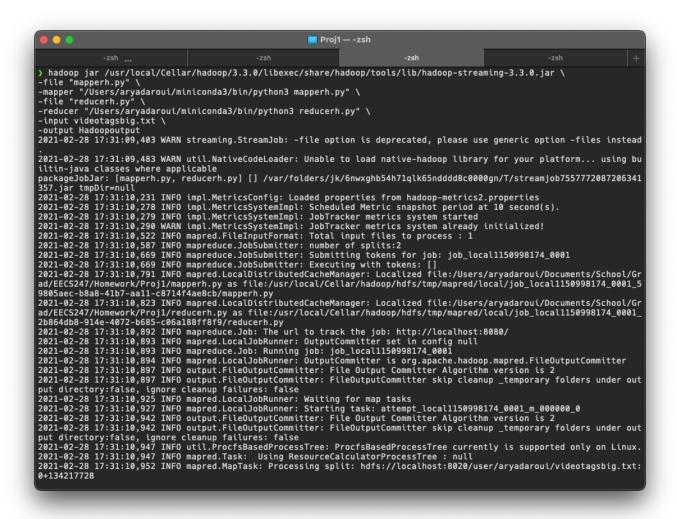


Figure 5. Start of the Hadoop streaming job's output.

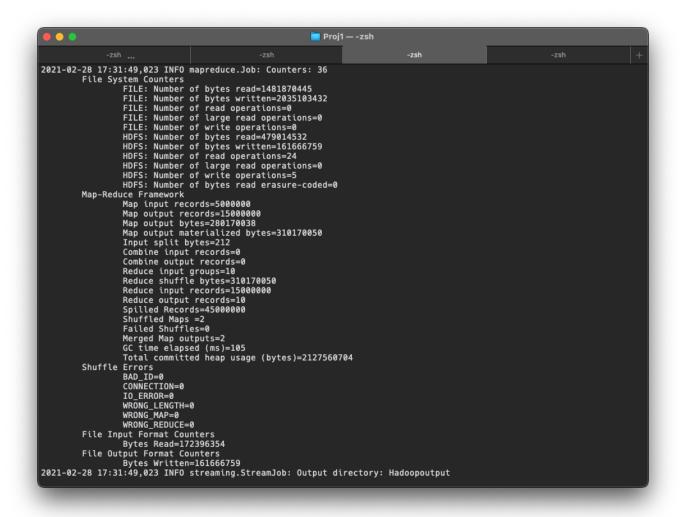


Figure 6. End of the Hadoop streaming job's output.