

Project: Traffic Prediction

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Sciences and Bioengineering Sciences

Big Data Processing

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1 Intro

This report will discuss an implementation for the assignment “Project: Traffic Prediction” for the course: Big Data Processing. First the implementation itself will be discussed in section §2. Following that, answers to the required questions in section §3. And lastly a small section on performance benchmarks in section §4.

2 Implementation

This section will discuss the implementation (code) for the project. Full project code can be found in the associated Apache Spark project or small snippets will be placed in the text or larger ones in the Appendix section §5.

2.1 Overview

All the code can be found in the traffic package of the bdp-traffic folder. The traffic package consists of the following files:

- Traffic.scala
- TrafficLoader.scala
- TrafficJoiner.scala
- TrafficTimeSeries.scala
- TrafficTransformer.scala
- TrafficPredictor.scala

The order of the file is in which they are structured & applied to the input. Each file also has it’s own logger variable set, which is used for logging, for this the build.sbt file was modified with an additional package. Each step/class in the pipeline receives a reference to the SparkSession by the spark variable.

2.2 Traffic.scala

This is the file that is executed when the project is ran, it executes the different steps (files) in a kind of pipeline. The complete pipeline can be seen in listing: Figure 1.

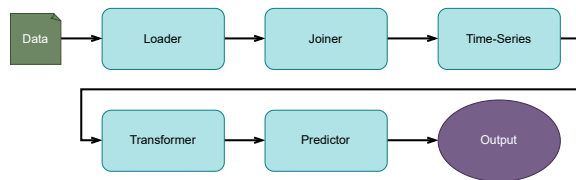


Figure 1: Execution Pipeline

2.3 Loader

The loader or `TrafficLoader.scala` file is responsible for loading the correct data set files. For this 3 different methods are created for each type of file: `loadVolume`, `loadSpeed` and `loadFeatures`. Loading the correct file is done based on the `dataset` value which is a `enum`, as shown in listing

```
object DataSet extends Enumeration {
  type DataSet = Value

  val L_Tiny, M_Tiny_Select = Value
}
```

This way, if different datasets are required to be used/ tested this can be easily extended. In the `Traffic.scala` file, each dataframe is separately loaded and stored in a dataframe.

2.4 Joiner

In this step of the pipeline the 3 dataframes are unpivotted & joined together to create one big dataframe, for application of time-series values in next step.

2.4.1 Features

This step in the pipeline is responsible for joining the different data files in one melted dataframe.

First start by adding a `id` column to the features dataframe. For this accessing the `rdd` of the dataframe. This is done using a `zipWithIndex` and a `map`, doing it this way ensures a correct assigning of `id`'s over partitions [1], [2]. After adding the `id` column, the `rdd` is transformed back into a dataframe.

2.4.2 Speed & Volume

The following operations are identical for both dataframes: `speed` & `volume`. Each dataframe is unpivotted, from a wide format to a long format. For this the `sql` method `stack` is used.

After the respective dataframe is unpivotted, the `node` column is updated to a `int` type, by removing the `node_` from the column name and casting it to an `int` value, so it is supported in a `Vector Assembler`.

2.4.3 Joining

The `speed` & `volume` dataframes are joined on the `node` & `timestamp` columns, for an inner join operation. From the features dataframe, a select list of columns is selected based on assumption of relevancy for prediction model.

Finally the selected features dataframe is joined with the earlier `speed` & `volume` dataframe on `node` column value.

2.5 Time-Series

This section will describe which time-series features were added to the dataframe.

2.5.1 Lag

For both `speed` & `volume`, the following lag features were added:

- half hour/ 30 minutes = 6 rows
- 1 hour / 60 minutes = 12 rows
- 1 day / 1440 minutes = 288 rows

The default value chosen for the lag is 0, since this value works better with the prediction models in `mllib`.

2.5.2 Window

A rolling window of half an hour and 1 hour was added for both the `speed` & `volume` metric.

At the end of the updated dataframe, the operation to replaced all `null` values with zero is applied, prevents any issues with prediction model is next steps.

2.6 Transformer

This step of the pipeline will apply the `Vector Assembler` to the selected columns to create a features column, so the model can be trained on it.

The `Vector Assembler` is first applied to a sequences of selected columns, with the output name of the column being: `features`. After the features column is generated the additional rows for each node is created.

For this first retrieve the latest timestamp from the dataframe and parse into correct Java type. Using a `map`, create a dataframe consisting of 6 rows and one column named: `timestamp`. Proceed to select the

columns node & features and apply the distinct operation.

Using `crossJoin`, with the nodes dataframe & timestamp dataframe, a dataframe with for each relation of node & feature value 6 additional timestamp rows are created. Also add the speed column with default value of 0.

From the dataframe vector, select the columns: timestamp, node, speed and features. Proceed to apply the `unionByName` operation on this dataframe and the previously generated dataframe. This concludes the steps for preparing the data for model prediction.

Return the final dataframe and largest timestamp from the original data as a tuple, will be used in the prediction step.

2.7 Predictor

The prepared data can now be split in training data and 'test' data, this is done by filter on the value of the timestamp column. All rows with an equal or lower timestamp value are training data, while larger timestamps are the prediction data, that was generated in the previous step.

The `RandomForestRegressor` model is created, with the label column: speed & features column: features. Other values are left default. The model is fitted on the training dataframe (`trainDF`). The generated model is written to file as described in the assignment.

Lastly, the model is applied to the prediction dataframe (`predictionDF`) to predict future speeds.

2.8 Output

The result of the prediction is returned to the `Traffic.scala` file. The generated prediction data (`predictions`) is passed to the `writeFile` method, which is responsible for printing and (maybe) writing output to a file.

The generated data frame is iterated and the values for each timestamp are written per line, with values being the speed for each node. If required, a boolean: file can be set to write the output to a file.

3 Discussion

3.1 Question 1

Question: Have you persisted some of your intermediate results? Why could persisting your data in memory be helpful for this pipeline?

Based on the benchmarks performed in section §4, the answer to this question, is that persisting data for this pipeline has a negative effect. Possible reasons for this is the fact, that the used dataset is quite small in comparison to the full dataset(s) available. A proper conclusion cannot be made without further testing.

3.2 Question 2

Question 2: In which parts of your implementation have you used partitioning? Did this impact performance? If so, why?

TODO

3.3 Question 3

Question 3: Which datastructure(s) does your implementation use: RDDs, DataFrames, or Datasets? Please motivate your choice.

The implementation makes mostly use of the dataframes, since these, as seen in class have the best performance optimization enabled under the hood. For reasoning on why RDD's were used in one specific section please see: §2.4.1.

3.4 Question 4

Question 4: Which predictive algorithm did you use and why?

The chosen predicate model is: `RandomForestRegressor`, since this is what was recommended in the FAQ section of the assignment. No time was available for testing other models.

4 Benchmarks

For all benchmarks, 4 runs were done, the first one was considered a dry run and proceeding 3, the average was taken.

4.1 Macbook

4.1.1 Specifications

Part	Value
CPU	M2 Pro
RAM	16GB
OS	ADD

4.1.2

4.2 Desktop

4.2.1 Specifications

Part	Value
CPU	Ryzen 9 5950X
RAM	64GB
OS	Versie 10.0.22631 Build 22631

5 Appendix

Bibliography

- [1] [Online]. Available: https://spark.apache.org/docs/latest/api/python/reference/pyspark.sql/api/pyspark.sql.functions.monotonically_increasing_id.html
- [2] [Online]. Available: <https://stackoverflow.com/questions/35705038/how-do-i-add-an-persistent-column-of-row-ids-to-spark-dataframe>