mongoDB

Aggregation Introduction

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Aggregations are operations that process data records and return computed results. MongoDB provides a rich set of aggregation operations that examine and perform calculations on the data sets. Running data aggregation on the `mongod` instance simplifies application code and limits resource requirements.

Like queries, aggregation operations in MongoDB use collections of documents as an input and return results in the form of one or more documents.

Aggregation Modalities

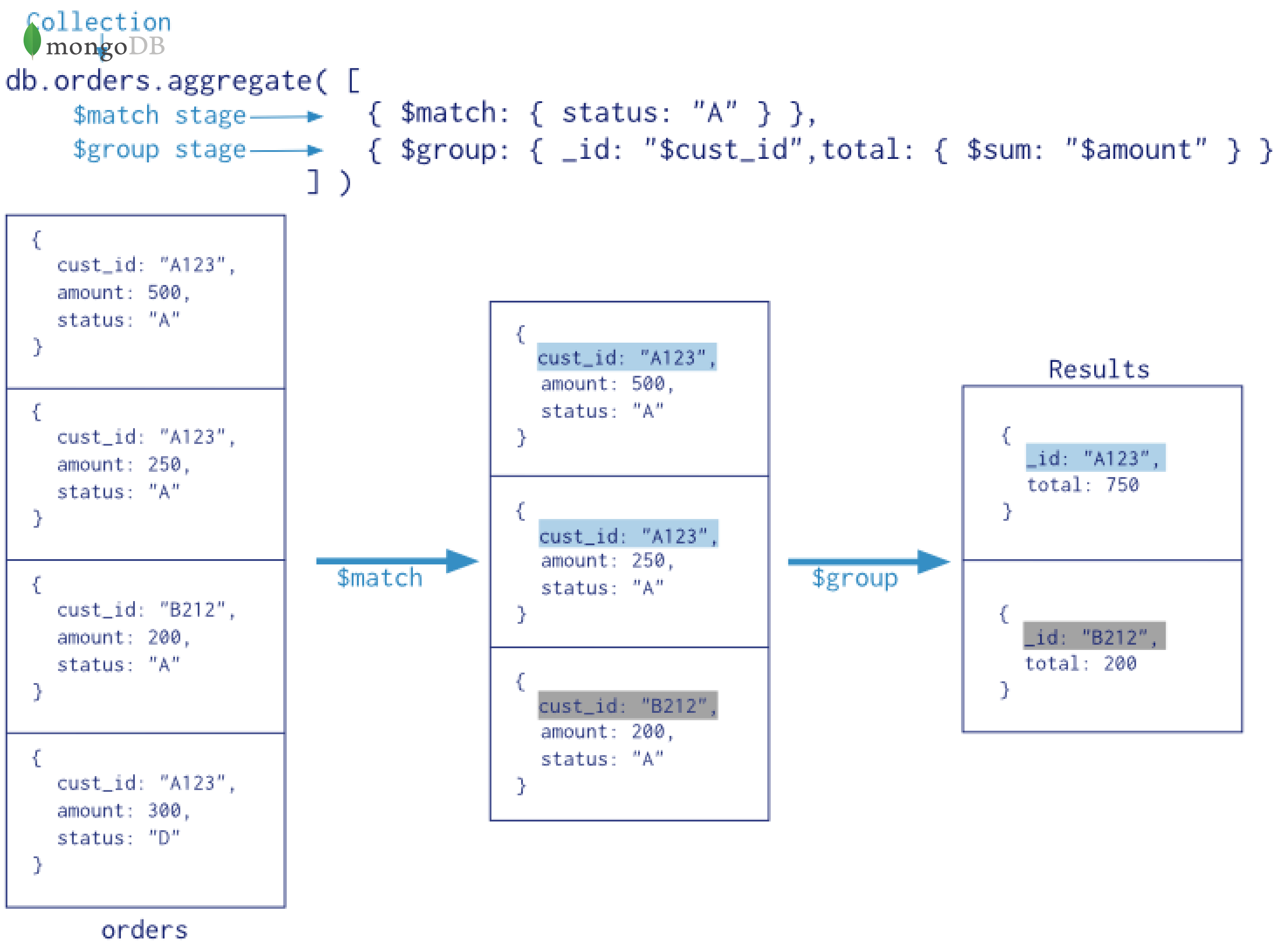
Aggregation Pipelines

MongoDB 2.2 introduced a new aggregation framework, modeled on the concept of data processing pipelines. Documents enter a multi-stage pipeline that transforms the documents into an aggregated result.

The most basic pipeline stages provide *filters* that operate like queries and *document transformations* that modify the form of the output document.

Other pipeline operations provide tools for grouping and sorting documents by specific field or fields as well as tools for aggregating the contents of arrays, including arrays of documents. In addition, pipeline stages can use operators for tasks such as calculating the average or concatenating a string.

The pipeline provides efficient data aggregation using native operations within MongoDB, and is the preferred method for data aggregation in MongoDB.


Collection
db.orders.aggregate([
$match stage
{ $match: { status: "A" } },
$group stage
{ $group: { _id: "$cust_id",total: { $sum: "$amount" } }
])
{ cust_id: "A123", amount: 500, status: "A" }
{ cust_id: "A123", amount: 250, status: "A" }
{ cust_id: "B212", amount: 200, status: "A" }
{ cust_id: "A123", amount: 300, status: "D" }
orders
$match
{ cust_id: "A123", amount: 500, status: "A" }
{ cust_id: "A123", amount: 250, status: "A" }
{ cust_id: "B212", amount: 200, status: "A" }
$group
Results
{ _id: "A123", total: 750 }
{ _id: "B212", total: 200 }

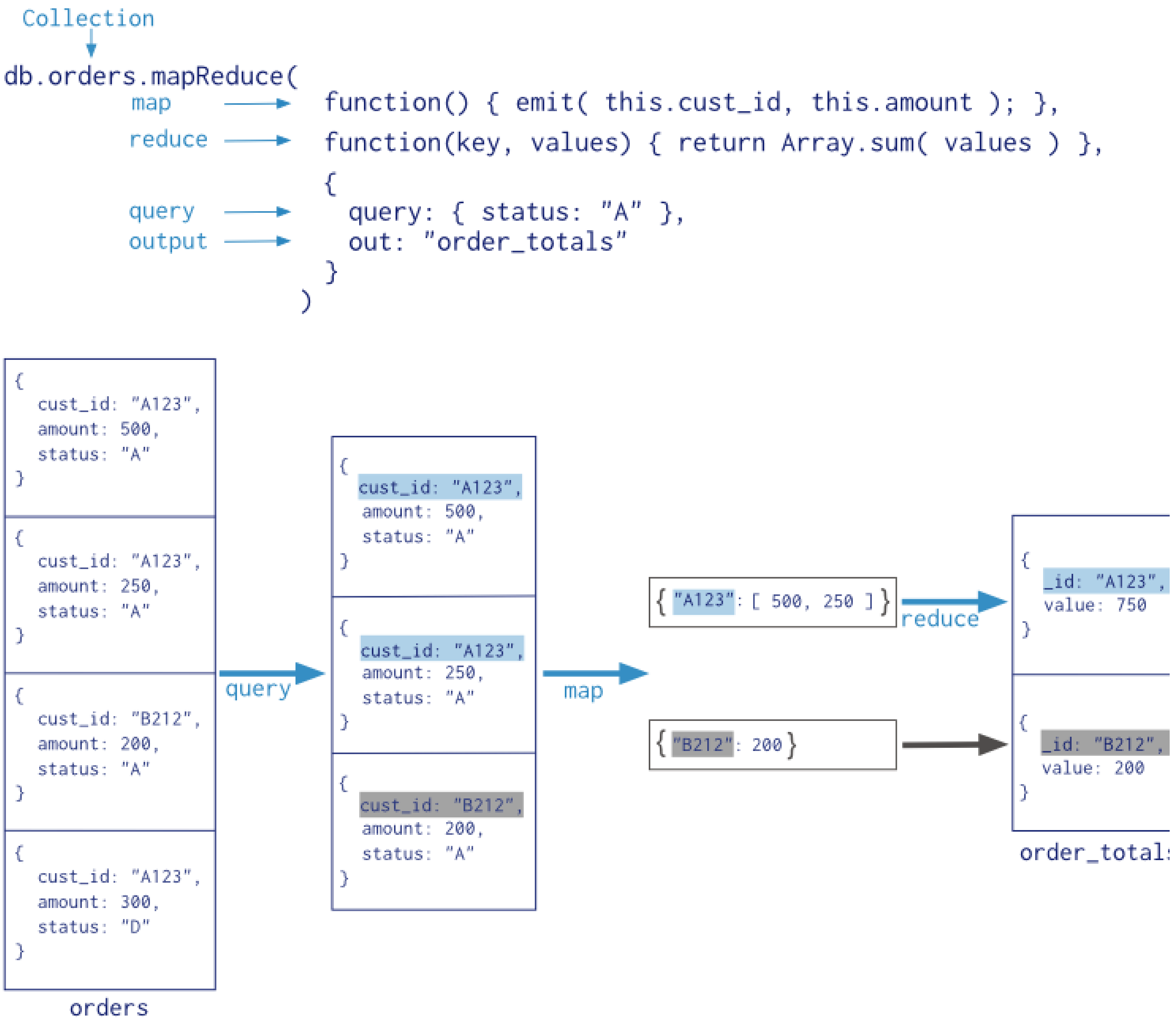
Map-Reduce

MongoDB also provides map-reduce operations to perform aggregation. In general, map-reduce operations have two phases: a *map* stage that processes each document and *emits* one or more objects for each input document, and *reduce* phase that combines the output of the map operation. Optionally, map-reduce can have a *finalize* stage to make final modifications to the result. Like other aggregation operations, map-reduce can specify a query condition to select the input documents as well as sort and limit the results.

Map-reduce uses custom JavaScript functions to perform the map and reduce operations, as well as the optional *finalize* operation. While the custom JavaScript provide great flexibility compared to the aggregation pipeline, in general, map-reduce is less efficient and more complex than the aggregation pipeline.

NOTE:

Starting in MongoDB 2.4, certain `mongo` shell functions and properties are inaccessible in map-reduce operations. MongoDB 2.4 also provides support for multiple JavaScript operations to run at the same time. Before MongoDB 2.4, JavaScript code executed in a single thread, raising concurrency issues for map-reduce.

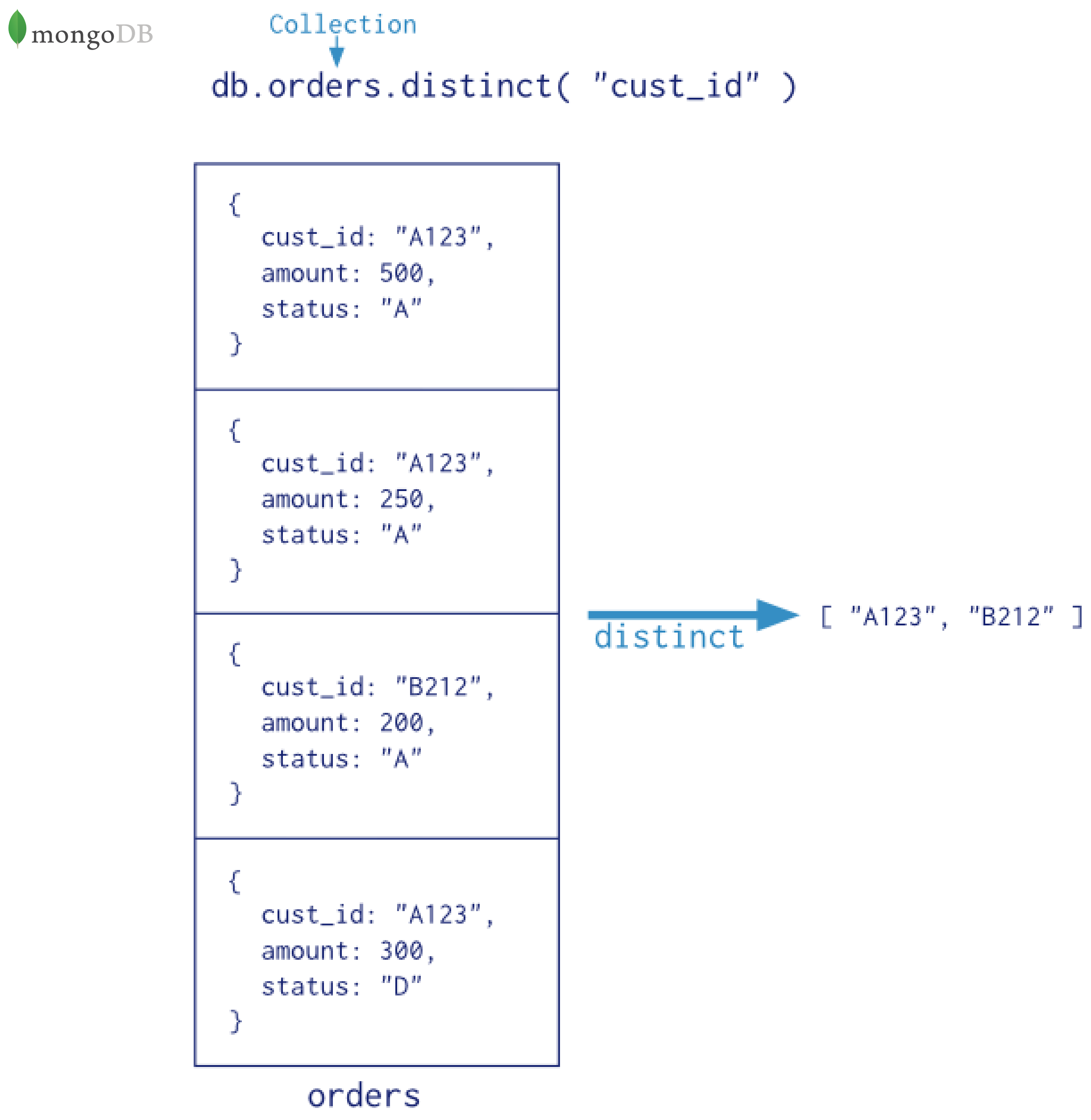


```
db.orders.mapReduce(
           function() { emit( this.cust_id, this.amount ); },
           function(key, values) { return Array.sum( values ) },
           {
             query: { status: "A" },
             out: "order_totals"
           }
)
```

Collection
map
reduce
query
output
{ cust_id: "A123", amount: 500, status: "A" }
{ cust_id: "A123", amount: 250, status: "A" }
{ cust_id: "B212", amount: 200, status: "A" }
{ cust_id: "A123", amount: 300, status: "D" }
orders
query
{ cust_id: "A123", amount: 500, status: "A" }
{ cust_id: "A123", amount: 250, status: "A" }
{ cust_id: "B212", amount: 200, status: "A" }
map
{ "A123": [500, 250] }
{ "B212": 200 }
reduce
{ _id: "A123", value: 750 }
{ _id: "B212", value: 200 }
order_total

Single Purpose Aggregation Operations

For a number of common single purpose aggregation operations, MongoDB provides special purpose database commands. These common aggregation operations are: returning a count of matching documents, returning the distinct values for a field, and grouping data based on the values of a field. All of these operations aggregate documents from a single collection. While these operations provide simple access to common aggregation processes, they lack the flexibility and capabilities of the aggregation pipeline and map-reduce.



Additional Features and Behaviors

Both the aggregation pipeline and map-reduce can operate on a sharded collection. Map-reduce operations can also output to a sharded collection. See Aggregation Pipeline and Sharded Collections and Map-Reduce and Sharded Collections for details.

The aggregation pipeline can use indexes to improve its performance during some of its stages. In addition, the aggregation pipeline has an internal optimization phase. See Pipeline Operators and Indexes and Aggregation Pipeline Optimization for details.

For a feature comparison of the aggregation pipeline, map-reduce, and the special group functionality, see Aggregation Commands Comparison.

Additional Resources

- MongoDB Analytics: Learn Aggregation by Example: Exploratory Analytics and Visualization Using Flight Data
- MongoDB for Time Series Data: Analyzing Time Series Data Using the Aggregation Framework and Hadoop
- The Aggregation Framework