MapReduce Algorithm Design

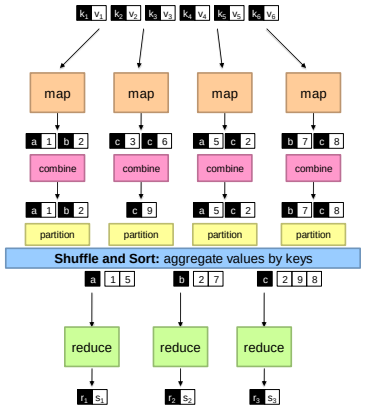
Based on Jimmy Lin's slides

MapReduce: Recap

- Programmers must specify:
  map (k, v) → <k', v'>*
  reduce (k', v') → <k', v'>*
  – All values with the same key are reduced together
- Optionally, also:
  partition (k', number of partitions) → partition for k'
  – Often a simple hash of the key, e.g., hash(k') mod n
  – Divides up key space for parallel reduce operations
  combine (k', v') → <k', v'>*
  – Mini-reducers that run in memory after the map phase
  – Used as an optimization to reduce network traffic
- The execution framework handles everything else…

"Everything Else"

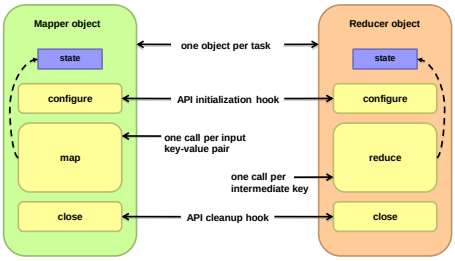
- The execution framework handles everything else…
  – Scheduling: assigns workers to map and reduce tasks
  – "Data distribution": moves processes to data
  – Synchronization: gathers, sorts, and shuffles intermediate data
  – Errors and faults: detects worker failures and restarts
- Limited control over data and execution flow
  – All algorithms must expressed in m, r, c, p
- You don't know:
  – Where mappers and reducers run
  – When a mapper or reducer begins or finishes
  – Which input a particular mapper is processing
  – Which intermediate key a particular reducer is processing



Tools for Synchronization

- Cleverly-constructed data structures
  - Bring partial results together
- Sort order of intermediate keys
  - Control order in which reducers process keys
- Partitioner
  - Control which reducer processes which keys
- Preserving state in mappers and reducers
  - Capture dependencies across multiple keys and values

Preserving State



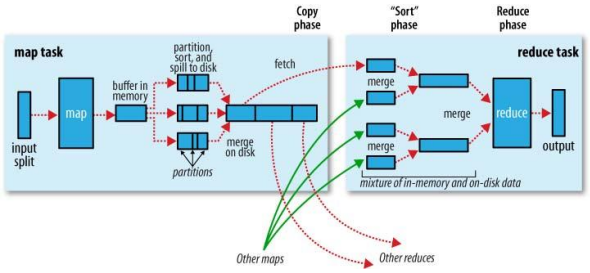
Scalable Hadoop Algorithms: Themes

- Avoid object creation
  - Inherently costly operation
  - Garbage collection
- Avoid buffering
  - Limited heap size
  - Works for small datasets, but won't scale!

Importance of Local Aggregation

- Ideal scaling characteristics:
  - Twice the data, twice the running time
  - Twice the resources, half the running time
- Why can't we achieve this?
  - Synchronization requires communication
  - Communication kills performance
- Thus… avoid communication!
  - Reduce intermediate data via local aggregation
  - Combiners can help

Shuffle and Sort



Word Count: Baseline

```
1: class Mapper
2:     method Map(docid a, doc d)
3:         for all term t ∈ doc d do
4:             Emit(term t, count 1)
1: class Reducer
2:     method Reduce(term t, counts [c1, c2, ...])
3:         sum ← 0
4:         for all count c ∈ counts [c1, c2, ...] do
5:             sum ← sum + c
6:         Emit(term t, count s)
```

What's the impact of combiners?

Word Count: Version 1

```
1: class Mapper
2:     method Map(docid a, doc d)
3:         H ← new AssociativeArray
4:         for all term t ∈ doc d do
5:             H{t} ← H{t} + 1                ▷ Tally counts for entire document
6:         for all term t ∈ H do
7:             Emit(term t, count H{t})
```

Are combiners still needed?

Word Count: Version 2

```
1: class Mapper
2:     method Initialize
3:         H ← new AssociativeArray
4:     method Map(docid a, doc d)
5:         for all term t ∈ doc d do
6:             H{t} ← H{t} + 1                ▷ Tally counts across documents
7:     method Close
8:         for all term t ∈ H do
9:             Emit(term t, count H{t})
```

Key: preserve state across input key-value pairs!

Are combiners still needed?

Design Pattern for Local Aggregation

- "In-mapper combining"
  - Fold the functionality of the combiner into the mapper by preserving state across multiple map calls
- Advantages
  - Speed
  - Why is this faster than actual combiners?
- Disadvantages
  - Explicit memory management required
  - Potential for order-dependent bugs

Combiner Design

- Combiners and reducers share same method signature
  - Sometimes, reducers can serve as combiners
  - Often, not…
- Remember: combiner are optional optimizations
  - Should not affect algorithm correctness
  - May be run 0, 1, or multiple times
- Example: find average of all integers associated with the same key

Computing the Mean: Version 1

```
1: class Mapper
2:     method Map(string t, integer r)
3:         Emit(string t, integer r)
1: class Reducer
2:     method Reduce(string t, integers [r_1, r_2, ...])
3:         sum ← 0
4:         cnt ← 0
5:         for all integer r ∈ integers [r_1, r_2, ...] do
6:             sum ← sum + r
7:             cnt ← cnt + 1
8:         r_avg ← sum/cnt
9:         Emit(string t, integer r_avg)
```

Why can't we use reducer as combiner?

Computing the Mean: Version 2

```
1: class Mapper
2:     method Map(string t, integer r)
3:         Emit(string t, integer r)
1: class Combiner
2:     method Combine(string t, integers [r_1, r_2, ...])
3:         sum ← 0
4:         cnt ← 0
5:         for all integer r ∈ integers [r_1, r_2, ...] do
6:             sum ← sum + r
7:             cnt ← cnt + 1
8:         Emit(string t, pair (sum, cnt))          ▷ Separate sum and count
1: class Reducer
2:     method Reduce(string t, pairs [(s_1, c_1), (s_2, c_2) ...])
3:         sum ← 0
4:         cnt ← 0
5:         for all pair (s, c) ∈ pairs [(s_1, c_1), (s_2, c_2) ...] do
6:             sum ← sum + s
7:             cnt ← cnt + c
8:         r_avg ← sum/cnt
9:         Emit(string t, integer r_avg)
```

Why doesn't this work?

Computing the Mean: Version 3

```
1: class Mapper
2:     method Map(string t, integer r)
3:         Emit(string t, pair (r, 1))
1: class Combiner
2:     method Combine(string t, pairs [(s_1, c_1), (s_2, c_2) ...])
3:         sum ← 0
4:         cnt ← 0
5:         for all pair (s, c) ∈ pairs [(s_1, c_1), (s_2, c_2) ...] do
6:             sum ← sum + s
7:             cnt ← cnt + c
8:         Emit(string t, pair (sum, cnt))
1: class Reducer
2:     method Reduce(string t, pairs [(s_1, c_1), (s_2, c_2) ...])
3:         sum ← 0
4:         cnt ← 0
5:         for all pair (s, c) ∈ pairs [(s_1, c_1), (s_2, c_2) ...] do
6:             sum ← sum + s
7:             cnt ← cnt + c
8:         r_avg ← sum/cnt
9:         Emit(string t, pair (r_avg, cnt))
```

Fixed?

Computing the Mean: Version 4

```
1: class Mapper
2:     method Initialize
3:         S ← new AssociativeArray
4:         C ← new AssociativeArray
5:     method Map(string t, integer r)
6:         S{t} ← S{t} + r
7:         C{t} ← C{t} + 1
8:     method Close
9:         for all term t ∈ S do
10:            Emit(term t, pair (S{t}, C{t}))
```

Are combiners still needed?

Algorithm Design: Running Example

- Term co-occurrence matrix for a text collection
  - M = N x N matrix (N = vocabulary size)
  - M_{ij}: number of times *i* and *j* co-occur in some context (for concreteness, let's say context = sentence)
- Why?
  - Distributional profiles as a way of measuring semantic distance
  - Semantic distance useful for many language processing tasks

MapReduce: Large Counting Problems

- Term co-occurrence matrix for a text collection = specific instance of a large counting problem
  - A large event space (number of terms)
  - A large number of observations (the collection itself)
  - Goal: keep track of interesting statistics about the events
- Basic approach
  - Mappers generate partial counts
  - Reducers aggregate partial counts

How do we aggregate partial counts efficiently?

First Try: "Pairs"

- Each mapper takes a sentence:
  - Generate all co-occurring term pairs
  - For all pairs, emit (a, b) → count
- Reducers sum up counts associated with these pairs
- Use combiners!

Pairs: Pseudo-Code

```
1: class Mapper
2:     method Map(docid a, doc d)
3:         for all term w ∈ doc d do
4:             for all term u ∈ Neighbors(w) do
5:                 Emit(pair (w, u), count 1)        ▷ Emit count for each co-occurrence
1: class Reducer
2:     method Reduce(pair p, counts [c1, c2, ...])
3:         s ← 0
4:         for all count c ∈ counts [c1, c2, ...] do
5:             s ← s + c                              ▷ Sum co-occurrence counts
6:         Emit(pair p, count s)
```

"Pairs" Analysis

- Advantages
  - Easy to implement, easy to understand
- Disadvantages
  - Lots of pairs to sort and shuffle around (upper bound?)
  - Not many opportunities for combiners to work

Another Try: "Stripes"

- Idea: group together pairs into an associative array

  (a, b) → 1
  (a, c) → 2
  (a, d) → 5
  (a, e) → 3
  (a, f) → 2

  a → { b: 1, c: 2, d: 5, e: 3, f: 2 }

- Each mapper takes a sentence:
  - Generate all co-occurring term pairs
  - For each term, emit a → { b: $count_b$, c: $count_c$, d: $count_d$ … }
- Reducers perform element-wise sum of associative arrays

  a → { b: 1, d: 5, e: 3 }
  \+ a → { b: 1, c: 2, d: 2, f: 2 }
  a → { b: 2, c: 2, d: 7, e: 3, f: 2 }

Key: cleverly-constructed data structure brings together partial results

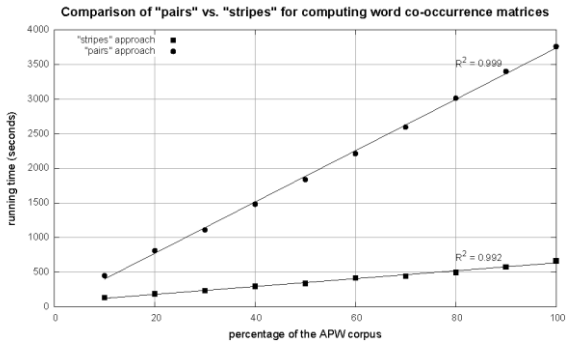
Stripes: Pseudo-Code

```
1: class Mapper
2:     method Map(docid a, doc d)
3:         for all term w ∈ doc d do
4:             H ← new AssociativeArray
5:             for all term u ∈ Neighbors(w) do
6:                 H{u} ← H{u} + 1                ▷ Tally words co-occurring with w
7:             Emit(Term w, Stripe H)

1: class Reducer
2:     method Reduce(term w, stripes [H_1, H_2, H_3, ...])
3:         H_f ← new AssociativeArray
4:         for all stripe H ∈ stripes [H_1, H_2, H_3, ...] do
5:             Sum(H_f, H)                        ▷ Element-wise sum
6:         Emit(term w, stripe H_f)
```

"Stripes" Analysis

- Advantages
  - Far less sorting and shuffling of key-value pairs
  - Can make better use of combiners
- Disadvantages
  - More difficult to implement
  - Underlying object more heavyweight
  - Fundamental limitation in terms of size of event space



Cluster size: 38 cores
Data Source: Associated Press Worldstream (APW) of the English Gigaword Corpus (v3), which contains 2.27 million documents (1.8 GB compressed, 5.7 GB uncompressed)

Relative Frequencies

- How do we estimate relative frequencies from counts?

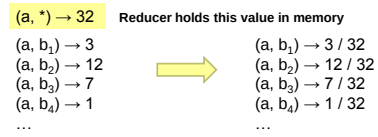
$$f(B \mid A) = \frac{\text{count}(A, B)}{\text{count}(A)} = \frac{\text{count}(A, B)}{\sum_{B'} \text{count}(A, B')}$$

- Why do we want to do this?
- How do we do this with MapReduce?

f(B|A): "Stripes"

- Easy!
  - One pass to compute (a, *)
  - Another pass to directly compute f(B|A)

f(B|A): "Pairs"



- For this to work:
  - Must emit extra (a, *) for every b_n in mapper
  - Must make sure all a's get sent to same reducer (use partitioner)
  - Must make sure (a, *) comes first (define sort order)
  - Must hold state in reducer across different key-value pairs

"Order Inversion"

- Common design pattern
  - Computing relative frequencies requires marginal counts
  - But marginal cannot be computed until you see all counts
  - Buffering is a bad idea!
  - Trick: getting the marginal counts to arrive at the reducer before the joint counts
- Optimizations
  - Apply in-memory combining pattern to accumulate marginal counts

Synchronization: Pairs vs. Stripes

- Approach 1: turn synchronization into an ordering problem
  - Sort keys into correct order of computation
  - Partition key space so that each reducer gets the appropriate set of partial results
  - Hold state in reducer across multiple key-value pairs to perform computation
  - Illustrated by the "pairs" approach
- Approach 2: construct data structures that bring partial results together
  - Each reducer receives all the data it needs to complete the computation
  - Illustrated by the "stripes" approach

Secondary Sorting

- MapReduce sorts input to reducers by key
  - Values may be arbitrarily ordered
- What if want to sort value also?
  - E.g., $k \rightarrow (v_1, r), (v_3, r), (v_4, r), (v_8, r)\ldots$

Secondary Sorting: Solutions

- Solution 1:
  - Buffer values in memory, then sort
  - Why is this a bad idea?
- Solution 2:
  - "Value-to-key conversion" design pattern: form composite intermediate key, (k, v_1)
  - Let execution framework do the sorting
  - Preserve state across multiple key-value pairs to handle processing
  - Anything else we need to do?

Recap: Tools for Synchronization

- Cleverly-constructed data structures
  - Bring data together
- Sort order of intermediate keys
  - Control order in which reducers process keys
- Partitioner
  - Control which reducer processes which keys
- Preserving state in mappers and reducers
  - Capture dependencies across multiple keys and values

Issues and Tradeoffs

- Number of key-value pairs
  - Object creation overhead
  - Time for sorting and shuffling pairs across the network
- Size of each key-value pair
  - De/serialization overhead
- Local aggregation
  - Opportunities to perform local aggregation varies
  - Combiners make a big difference
  - Combiners vs. in-mapper combining
  - RAM vs. disk vs. network