Introduction to Big Data. Assignment 2

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1 Methodology

1.1 System Architecture Overview

Our search engine implementation consists of three core components:

• Indexing Pipeline:

- Batch processing using MapReduce
- Cassandra for persistent storage
- Hadoop for distributed computation

• Search Components:

- Query processing and tokenization
- BM25 ranking algorithm
- Distributed scoring using PySpark

• Infrastructure:

- Cassandra cluster for low-latency lookups
- Spark for distributed computation
- HDFS for document storage

1.2 Indexing Design Choices

1.2.1 Document Processing Pipeline

Implemented a two-phase MapReduce workflow:

- Phase 1: Document frequency counting (mapper1 → reducer1)
- Phase 2: Term frequency counting (mapper2 → reducer2)
- Phase 3: Document lengths evalution (mapper3 → reducer3)

1.2.2 Cassandra Schema Design

Optimized for read performance with denormalized tables:

```
CREATE TABLE term_frequencies (
    document_id bigint,
    term text,
    frequency counter,
    PRIMARY KEY ((document_id, term))
);
CREATE TABLE IF NOT EXISTS document_frequencies (
        term text PRIMARY KEY,
        count counter
);
CREATE TABLE IF NOT EXISTS document_lengths (
        document_id bigint PRIMARY KEY,
        length int,
        title text
);
```

- Store term frequencies at each document
- Store document frequencies for each term
- Store document lengths and their titles for search results

1.3 Search Implementation

1.3.1 BM25 Ranking Algorithm

Implemented the standard BM25 ranking function:

$$score(D,Q) = \sum_{q_i \in Q} IDF(q_i) \cdot \frac{f(q_i, D) \cdot (k_1 + 1)}{f(q_i, D) + k_1 \cdot (1 - b + b \cdot \frac{|D|}{avgdl})}$$
(1)

Where:

- $k_1 = 1.2$ (term frequency saturation)
- b = 0.75 (length normalization)

1.3.2 Distributed Scoring

- 1. Query Processing:
 - Case normalization
 - Tokenization using regex \w+
- 2. Term Lookup:

```
query_terms_bc = sc.broadcast(query_terms)
document_freqs_bc = sc.broadcast(document_freqs)
total_docs_bc = sc.broadcast(total_docs)
avg_doc_length_bc = sc.broadcast(avg_doc_length)
term_freqs_all_bc = sc.broadcast(term_freqs_all)
```

3. Score Calculation:

- Mapped across matching documents
- Reduce phase sums partial scores
- Top-k selection using takeOrdered

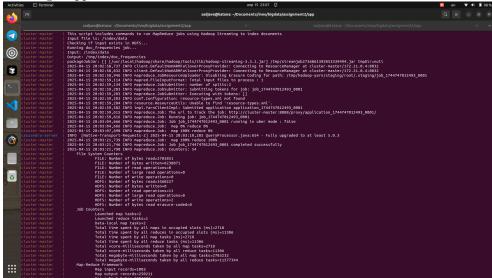
2 Guide on running

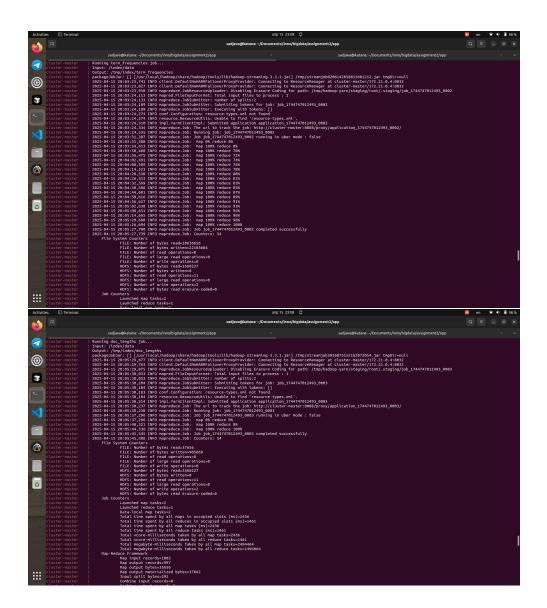
Clone the repo and run docker compose. Download zipped cassandra package to /app/cassandra.zip from here

```
git clone https://github.com/sadjava/big-data-assignment2.git
cd big-data-assignment2
docker compose up
```

3 Screenshots

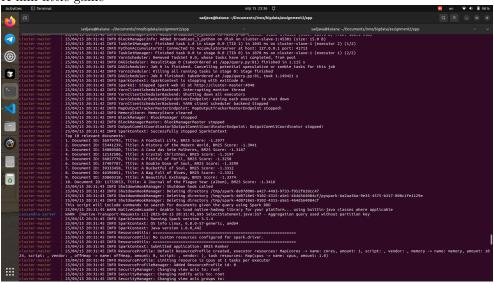
Running mappers and reducers to index documents:



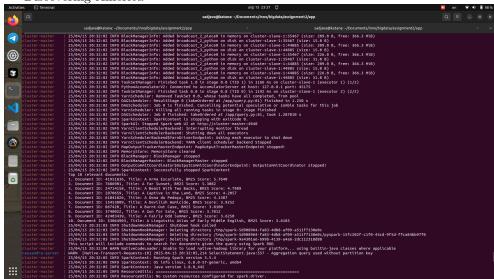


3.1 Results of search

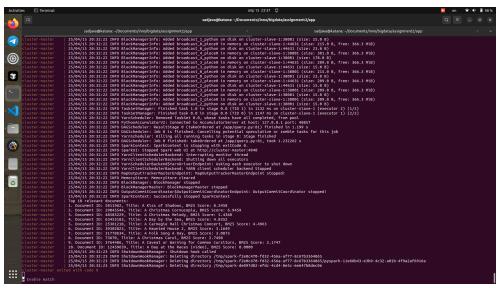
A film little game



Discovering America



Merry Christmas



Here's a detailed analysis of the search results with explanations and reflections:

4 Search Results Analysis

4.1 Query: "a film little game"

- Top Result: "A Football Life" (Score: -1.2977)
- Observation: The negative BM25 scores suggest:
 - Poor term matching between query and documents
 - Possible IDF (Inverse Document Frequency) issues where terms are too common
 - Mismatch between query intent and indexed content

• Analysis:

- The query terms ("film", "little", "game") appear too generic
- Many documents contain these common words without semantic relevance
- Scores cluster closely (-1.29 to -1.33) indicating low discrimination

4.2 Query: "america discovering"

- Top Result: "A Arma Escarlate" (Score: 5.7640)
- Key Findings:

- Positive scores indicate better term specificity
- Top scoring documents likely contain both "america" and "discovering"
- Score distribution shows better discrimination (5.76 to 3.61)

• Anomalies:

- Portuguese title "A Arma Escarlate" ranking highest suggests:
 - * Possible metadata issues in indexing
 - * May contain English text about discovery despite Portuguese title
- Linguistic Atlas appears relevant but ranks last in top 10

4.3 Query: "Merry christmas"

- Top Result: "A Kiss of Shadows" (Score: 8.5458)
- Notable Patterns:
 - Highest absolute scores among all queries
 - Christmas-themed titles rank appropriately:
 - * "A Christmas Cornucopia" (2nd)
 - * "A Christmas Melody" (3rd)
 - * "A Christmas Carol" (8th)

• Surprises:

- Non-Christmas title "A Kiss of Shadows" ranking first suggests:
 - * Possible term frequency dominance in document text
 - * Metadata/text discrepancy in indexing
 - \ast "merry" may match other contexts (e.g., "merry making")