15-440: Lab 3

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1 Running the Framework

1.1 System Requirements

MapReduce runs on a unix cluster. The CMU unix cluster will work. Place the code in a file on AFS as we rely on that file system to share all of our code files between participants.

1.2 Set-up

The following steps must be followed for a successful set-up.

1. Run `python SETUP.py` in the `src` directory. This will compile all of the code.
2. Start participants: Connect with all machines that you wish to run participants on. Run `java participant`
   `Participant` from the `src` directory. If this does not work you may need to use the non-default port. Try running with the optional port argument `java participant/Participant <port>`. If you see the message `File server ran into trouble` then the file server is unable to run on that machine so try running the participant on anther machine. An important note is that participants must run on different machines.
3. Once you have some participants running, you will need to update the config file to point to these participants. Example config files can be found at `src/examples/wordcount/wordcoun` and `src/examples/wordoccurences/wordoccurences.config`. The key lines to modify, if you plan to run the examples, are `PARTICIPANT` and `NUM_REDUCERS`. The `PARTICIPANT` values is `<hostname>:<port>`. When you started the participants there was a message to tell you which port it is running on.
4. You are now ready to start the master. Pick a machine that does not have a participant running on it. Run `java master/Master` from the `src` directory.
5. The master is now running. You will have a number of possible commands to enter to run jobs. See the next section for details.

1.3 Manage a Job

Now that you have the master and participants running you are ready to start a job. The master provides a command line interface to type three possible commands.

- `start <path_to_config_file>` This will start a process and print results as the process goes. It will also print the process id (PID) for your use with other commands.

- `stop <pid>` Stops the specified process
- `status <pid>` Gets the status of the specified process

2 For the Application Developer

2.1 Writing Your Map-Reduce Functions

We provide two interfaces to which the application developer must adhere. The first is `MapFn` which requires a `map(String input) -> MRKeyVal(String key, int value)` method. This method takes strings which are the lines of the input file and maps them to a key-value pairs where keys are strings and values integers. If `map` returns `null` then the mapper framework will ignore the result.

The second interface is `ReduceFn` which requires a `reduce(String key, List<int> values) -> MRKeyVal(String key, int value)` method. This method takes a key and all of the values that had that key and returns a reduced result on the values in the form of a single key-value pair. If this method returns `null` then the result is ignored.

2.2 Running Provided Examples

To run the provided examples follow the above steps and use the provided config files. Make sure to modify the participants and number of participants as necessary. Take a look at the provided code for examples of how to write the map and reduce functions.

2.2.1 Word Count

Word counts takes a file of one word per line and returns the sorted words with their counts.

Using the above steps run with `src/examples/wordcount/wordcount.config`.

The provided config file takes as input a file with all of the words in *Macbeth* and outputs a word count. The only thing necessary to change in the config file is the participants and number of participants.

2.2.2 Word Occurrences

Word occurrences looks specifically for the word 'macbeth' in the text of the play *Macbeth* and returns a count of the occurrences.

Using the above steps run with `src/examples/wordoccurences/wordoccurences.config`.

The provided config file takes as input a file with all of the text of *Macbeth* and outputs a word count for the word 'macbeth'. The only thing necessary to change in the config file is the participants and number of participants.

2.3 Using Remote Files

The remote file system is abstracted away in this system. Partitions, a name for the intermediate file type used in our framework, extend the `RemoteFile`. Remote files keep track of their original machine so that when the partition reference is passed to a new machine the file itself can be brought over from the original machine. Both participants and master run a file server which serves these remote files from the '/tmp' directory. If the application developer wishes to utilize the remote file object than they can instantiate a `RemoteFile` as long as the base file lives in the '/tmp' directory.

Remote files provide a `load` method to get the file from the remote machine. This must be called before doing anything on the file.

3 Project Requirements

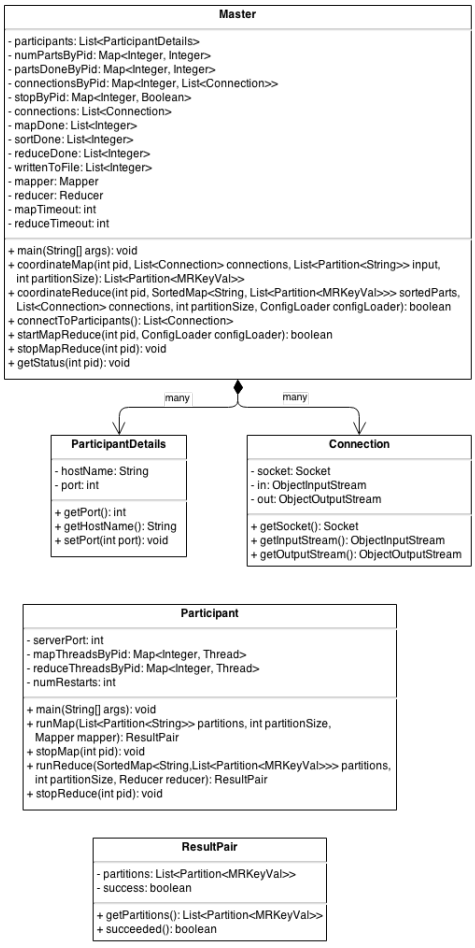
3.1 Requirements Met and Capabilities

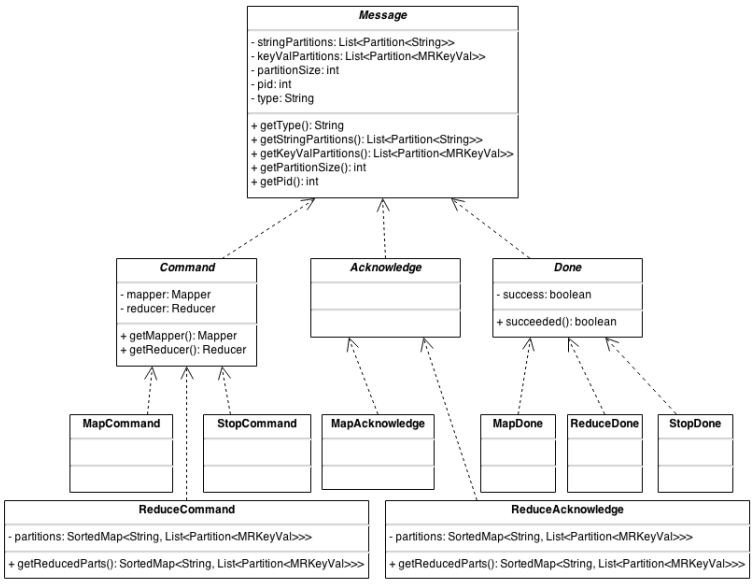
We have met all of the requirements stated in the lab handout. Our MapReduce facility successfully completes MapReduce processes by evenly partitioning map work amongst all accessible participants to get , sorting the mapped results (which are in (key, value) format) by key, evenly dividing the sorted map results amongst a specified number of participants for reducing (while maintaining the order determined by the sort function), and then writing each reducer's results to a separate file, with each such file ending in a number which identifies the proper sequence of results. All scheduling, sorting, and writing occurs on whichever server is running the Master code since we are allowed to assume that the Master server does not fail, so this allows us to ensure that the server won't crash while attempting those processes. Meanwhile, the Participant servers constantly accept commands from the Master and keep them ordered by PID in order to cleanly keep track of the different processes and easily stop any processes for a given PID if the user enters a "`stop <pid>`" command.
The user is able to run three commands on the Master server: "`start <config file>`", "`status <pid>`", and "`stop <pid>`." These commands all work properly; "start" starts a MapReduce process with the provided config file for settings (and prints out the PID for that new process), "status" prints out the status of the process corresponding to the given PID, and "stop" cleanly stops the process corresponding to the given PID if possible. The user can also specify all of the major settings (including input file, output file, number of reducers, maximum partition size, every participant's host and port, etc.) for a MapReduce process by putting that information in a config file (matching the format shown in our examples) and entering that config file with the start command.

3.1.1 UML Diagram of our MapReduce facility

This diagram outlines the `Master`, `Participant` and message hierarchy. The `Master` and `Participant` are fairly straight forward with functionality to support map and reduce message passing and the map and reduce operations themselves. In particular the master also maintains a number of vectors to keep track of the process state (which participants have responded, are alive and are complete).

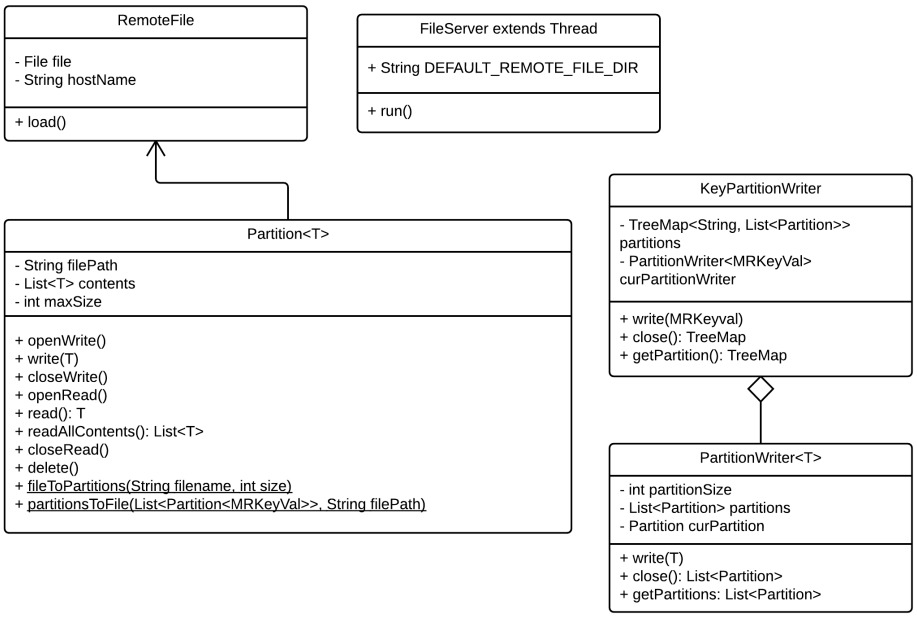
Messages are a bit more complex. Basically they break down into three main components: commands to start operations, acknowledgment from participants for these commands and done messages for participants to signal completion to the master.





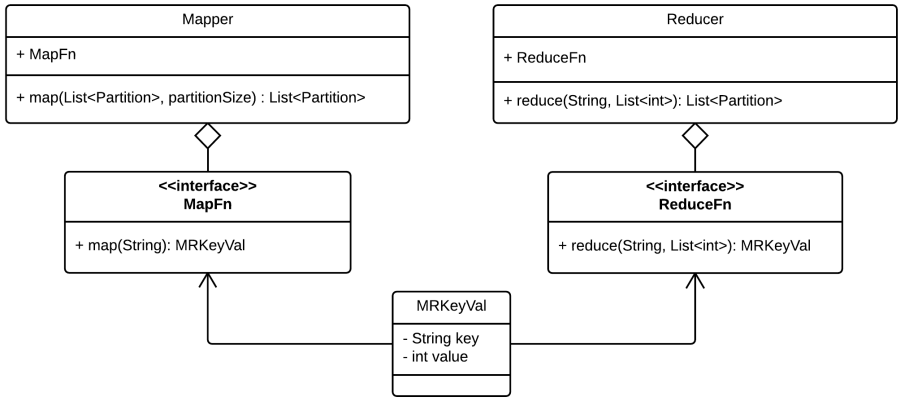
3.1.2 UML Diagram of File IO

File IO is composed of a `FileServer` that runs on all machines to serve the various map reduce partitions and `Partition`s and their associate supporting objects. The `Partition` forms the backbone of this system as it contains all of the key-value pairs in map reduce as well as serving to hold the initial input data once parsed from the input file. `RemoteFile` provides the functionality to interface with the `FileServer` and load remote files to the local machine. The `PartitionWriter` writes values to a partition until that partition reaches max size and then starts writing to a new partition. The `KeyPartitionWriter` takes this process to the next level by also storing partitions by key.

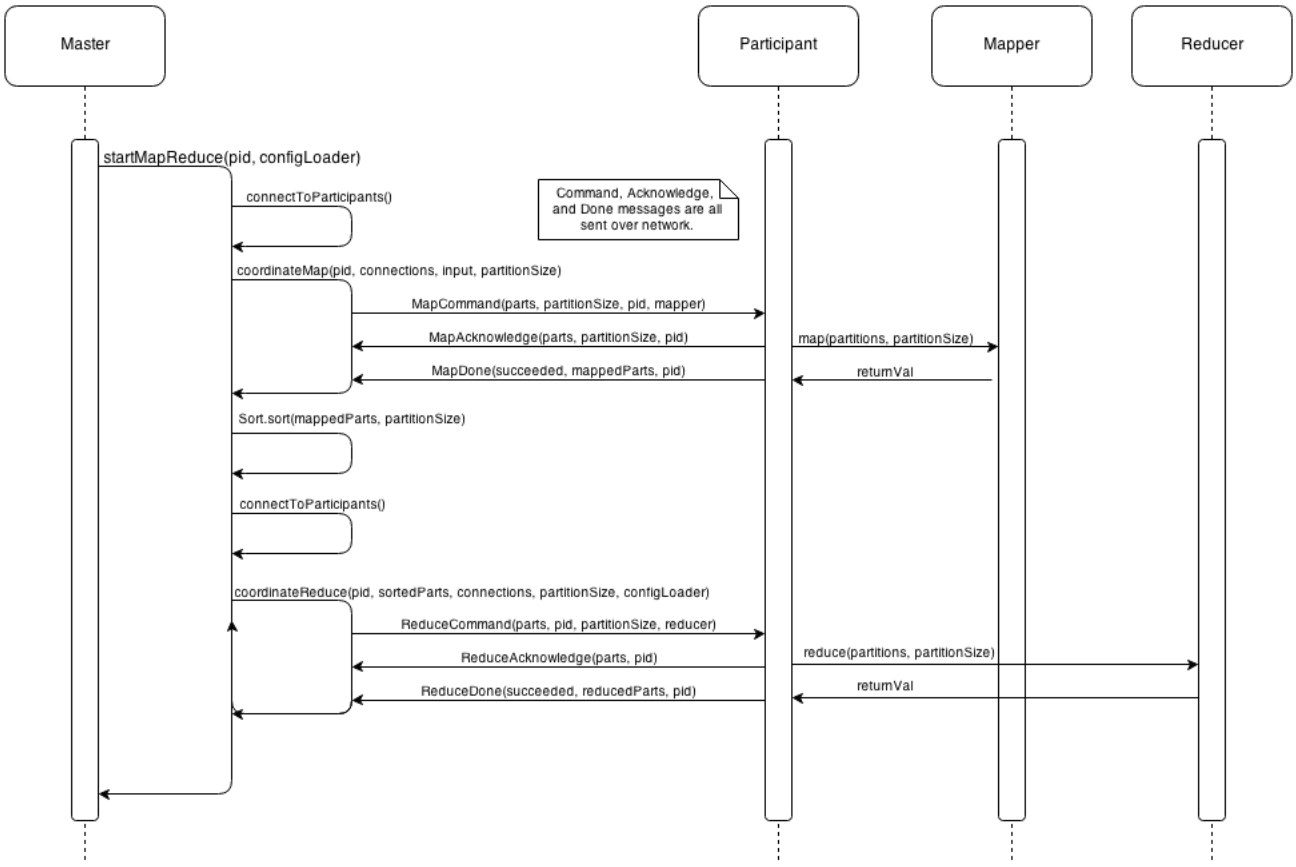


3.1.3 UML Diagram of Map and Reduce Functions

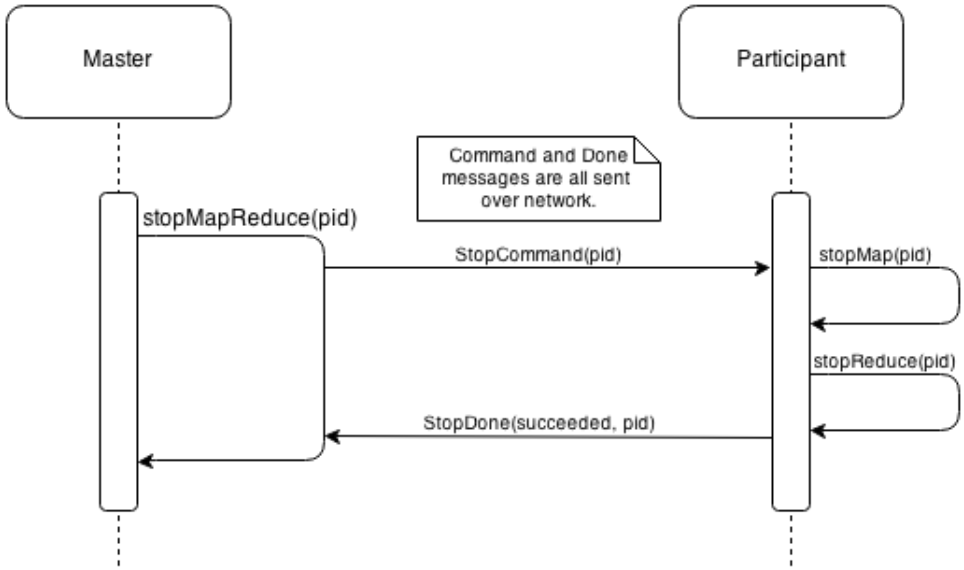
These are the objects which handle the basic map and reduce operations. `MapFn` and `ReduceFn` are the interfaces utilized by the application developer. All intermediate data in the map reduce system is stored as `MRKeyVal` which are string-integer key-value pairs.



3.1.4 Flow Diagram for user input '`start <config file>`'



3.1.5 Flow Diagram for user input '`stop <pid>`'



3.2 Requirements Not Met and Limitations

One fairly important limitation of our MapReduce facility as it currently stands is that due to the way in which we run the FileServer, our facility cannot be run on the same machine more than once at the same time. This does not mean we cannot run multiple MapReduce processes concurrently; within one Master instance (and one Participant instance on corresponding participants), running multiple processes concurrently works great. What we mean by this is that you cannot currently run the Master or Participant code in more than one separate instance on the same server without one of them refusing to connect to the FileServer and causing the Map process on the Participant to fail (since this is the first time in our code that the FileServer is used). For example, if one person logs into `unix2.andrew.cmu.edu` and runs the Master code on it, then logs into `unix6.andrew.cmu.edu` and runs the Participant code on it, then anyone else who simultaneously tries to run our facility on `unix2.andrew.cmu.edu` and/or `unix6.andrew.cmu.edu` will run into FileServer issues.

Beyond that, our MapReduce facility essentially functions as it is intended to. All standard processes work as designed. In the event of participant failure or Mapper/Reducer failure, any participants that are not working properly are disconnected and removed from the working list of participants (which defines where map/reduce partitions can be sent) and any failed partitions are retried on functional participants. Furthermore, all other unexpected failures (such as network problems, missing files, etc.) are handled in such a way that the user receives relevant, concise information about the failure and the Master and Participant code continue to run as they should (in other words, errors are handled cleanly and do not accidentally cause the entire Master or Participant code to abort).

3.3 Improvements

There is always room for improvement, and our MapReduce facility is no exception. We could potentially improve it by enabling some way for the user to specify what port to use for the FileServer instead of using one preset port (which is causing the issue mentioned in the last section).

Additionally we could provide support for map reduce key values of arbitrary types instead of just strings and integers. String-integer key pairs are enough to demonstrate the functionality of map reduce but it would be nice to allow other object types.