CS 455: INTRODUCTION TO DISTRIBUTED SYSTEMS [HADOOP/HDFS]

Shrideep Pallickara
Computer Science
Colorado State University

March 7, 2017

Frequently asked questions from the previous class survey

March 7, 2017

Topics covered in this lecture

- Combiner Functions
- Hadoop Distributed File System

March 7, 2017

API DIFFERENCES

The old and new MapReduce APIs

- The new API favors abstract classes over interfaces
  - Make things easier to evolve
- New API is in org.apache.hadoop.mapreduce package
  - Old API can be found in org.apache.hadoop.mapred
- New API makes use of context objects
  - Context unifies roles of JobConf, OutputCollector, and Reporter from the old API

March 7, 2017

The old and new MapReduce APIs

- In the new API, job control done using the Job class rather than using the JobClient
- Output files are named slightly differently
  - Old API: Both map and reduce outputs are named part-nnnn
  - New API: Map outputs are named part-m-nnnnn and reduce outputs are named part-r-nnnnn

March 7, 2017
The old and new MapReduce APIs

- The new API’s reduce() method passes values as Iterable rather than as Iterator
- Makes it easier to iterate over values using the for-each loop construct

```
    for (VALUEIN value: values) {
        }
```

Hadoop divides the input to a MapReduce job into fixed-sized pieces

- These are called input-splits or just splits
- Creates one map task per split
- Runs user-defined map function for each record in the split

Split strategy: Having many splits

- Time taken to process split is small compared to processing the whole input
- Quality of load balancing increases as splits become fine-grained
- Faster machines process proportionally more splits than slower machines
- Even if machines are identical, this feature is desirable
- Failed tasks get relaunched, and there are other jobs executing concurrently

Split strategy: If the splits are too small

- Overheads for managing splits and map task creation dominates total job execution time
- Good split size tends to be an HDFS block
  - 128 MB by default
  - This could be changed for a cluster or specified when each file is created

Scheduling map tasks

- Hadoop does its best to run a map task on the node where input data resides in HDFS
- Data locality
- What if all three nodes holding the HDFS block replicas are busy?
  - Find free map slot on node in the same rack
  - Only when this is not possible, is an off-rack node utilized
  - Inter-rack network transfer
Why the optimal split size is the same as the block size ...

- Largest size of input that can be stored on a single node
- If split size spanned two blocks?
  - Unlikely that any HDFS node has stored both blocks
  - Some of the split will have to be transferred across the network to node running the map task
    - Less efficient than operating on local data without the network movement

Why the optimal split size is the same as the block size ...

- Largest size of input that can be stored on a single node
- If split size spanned two blocks?
  - Unlikely that any HDFS node has stored both blocks
  - Some of the split will have to be transferred across the network to node running the map task
    - Less efficient than operating on local data without the network movement

Map task outputs

- Stored on the local disk
  - Not HDFS
- Once the job is complete, intermediate map
  outputs are thrown away
  - Storing in HDFS with replication is an overkill

Reduce tasks do not have the advantage of data locality

- Input to a single reduce task
  - Output from all the mappers
  - Sorted map outputs transferred over the network to node where reduce task is running
    - Merged and then passed to the reduce function
- Output of reduce task stored on HDFS
  - One replica of block is stored on local node, other replicas are stored on off-rack nodes

Number of reduce tasks

- Not governed by the size of the input
- Specified independently

When there are multiple reducers

- Maps partition their outputs
  - One partition for each reduce task
  - There can be many keys in each partition
  - Records for a given key are all in the same partition
- Partitioning controlled with a partitioning function
  - Default uses a hash function to bucket the key space
COMBINER FUNCTIONS

- Many MapReduce jobs are limited by the available network bandwidth
  - Framework has mechanisms to minimize the data transferred between map and reduce tasks
- A combiner function is run on the map output
  - Combiner output fed to the reduce task

Combiner function: Let’s look at the maximum temperature example [1/2]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Map 1</th>
<th>Map 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1950, 8)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(1950, 10)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(1959, 10)</td>
<td>(1950, 25)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combiner</td>
<td>Reduce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(1950, 25)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(1950, 10)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Combiner function: Let’s look at the maximum temperature example [2/2]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Map 1</th>
<th>Map 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1950, 8)</td>
<td>(1950, 25)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(1950, 10)</td>
<td>(1950, 15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combiner</td>
<td>Combiner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combiner</td>
<td>Reduce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(1950, 25)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A closer look at the function calls

- \( \max(0, 20, 10, 25, 15) = \max(\max(0, 20, 10), \max(25, 15)) = \max(20, 25) = 25 \)
- Functions with this property are called **commutative and associative**
  - Sometimes they are also called **distributive**
  - Commutative: Order of operands \((5+2) + 1 = 5 + (2+1)\)
  - Associative: Order of operators \(5 \times (5 \times 3) = (5 \times 5) \times 3\)

Not all functions posses the commutative and associative properties

- What if we were computing the mean temperatures?
- We cannot use mean as our combiner function:
  - \( \text{mean}(0, 20, 10, 25, 15) = 14 \)
  - But \( \text{mean}(\text{mean}(0, 20, 10), \text{mean}(25, 15)) = \text{mean}(10, 20) = 15 \)

Combiner: Summary

- The combiner does not replace the reduce function
  - Reduce is still needed to process records from different maps
- But it is useful for cutting down traffic from maps to the reducer

Specifying a combiner function

```java
public class MaxTemperatureWithCombiner {
    public static main(String[] args) throws Exception {
        Job job = Job.getInstance();
        job.setJarByClass(MaxTemperature.class);
        job.setJobName("Max temperature");
        FileInputFormat.addInputPath(job, new Path(args[0]));
        FileOutputFormat.setOutputPath(job, new Path(args[1]));
        job.setMapperClass(MaxTemperatureMapper.class);
        job.setCombinerClass(MaxTemperatureReducer.class);
        job.setReducerClass(MaxTemperatureReducer.class);
        job.setOutputKeyClass(Text.class);
        job.setOutputValueClass(IntWritable.class);
        System.exit(job.waitForCompletion(true) ? 0 : 1);
    }
}
```

Rationale

- Datasets often outgrow storage capacity of a single machine
  - Necessary to partition data across multiple machines
- File systems managing storage access across a network of machines
  - Distributed file systems
HDFS is designed for storing ...
- Very large files
  - File sizes are in the order of 100s of Gb or Tb
- With streaming data access patterns
  - Write-once, read many times pattern
  - Each analysis involves a large portion of the dataset
  - Time to read dataset is more important than latency for the first record
- On commodity hardware

What is HDFS not suitable for? [1/2]
- Low-latency data access
  - Name nodes holds file system metadata in memory
  - Each file, directory and block takes about 150 bytes
  - If there were 10^6 files each of which had 1 block
  - 300 MB of memory
  - Millions of files are feasible but not billions of files

What is HDFS not suitable for? [2/2]
- Multiple writers, arbitrary file modifications
- HDFS does not support:
  - Multiple concurrent writers
  - Modifications at arbitrary offsets

Block
- Filesystems for a single disk, deal with data in blocks
  - Integral number of the HDD block size
- Block sizes
  - Filesystem blocks are a few KB
  - Disk blocks are normally 512 bytes

HDFS Blocks
- Has a much larger size: 128 MB [default]
- Files are broken into block-sized chunks
  - Each chunk is stored as an independent unit
- If the last chunk is less than the HDFS block size?
  - No space is wasted because the blocks are themselves stored as files

Why is the block-size so big?
- Time to transfer data from disk can be made significantly larger than the time to seek first block
- If the seek time is 10 ms and transfer rate is 100 MB/sec?
  - To make seek time 1% of the transfer time, block size should be 100 MB
- Must be careful not to overdo block size increase
  - Since tasks operate on blocks, the number of tasks could reduce.
Benefits of the block abstraction in distributed file systems

- File can be larger than any single disk in the cluster
- Simplifies the storage subsystem
  - File metadata (including permissions) handled by another subsystem and not stored with the block

Blocks and replication

- Each block is replicated on a small number of physically separate machines
- If a block becomes unavailable?
  1. Copy read from another location transparently
  2. That block is also replicated from its alternative locations to other live machines
     - Bring replication factor back to the desired level

HDFS’ fsck command

- List blocks that make up each file in the filesystem
  - `% hadoop fsck / -files -blocks`

Nodes in the HDFS

- Namenode (master)
- Datanode (worker)

Namenode

- Manages filesystem namespace
- Maintains filesystem tree and metadata
  - For all files and directories in the tree
- Information stored persistently on local disk in two files
  - Namespace image and the edit log

Tracking location of blocks comprising files

- Namenode knows about datanodes on which all blocks of a file are located
- The locations of the blocks are not stored persistently
  - Information reconstructed from datanodes during start up
### Interacting with HDFS
- HDFS presents a POSIX-like file system interface
- Client code does not need to know about the namenode and datanode to function

### Datanodes
- Store and retrieve blocks
  - Initiated by the client or the namenode
  - Periodically reports back to the namenode with the list of blocks that they store

### Failure of the namenode
- Decimates the filesystem
- All files on the filesystem are lost
  - No way of knowing how to reconstitute the files from the blocks

### Guarding against namenode failures
- Backup files comprising the persistent state of the filesystem metadata
  - Hadoop can be configured so that the namenode writes its persistent state to multiple filesystems
  - Writes are synchronous and atomic
- Run a secondary namenode
  - Does not act as a namenode
  - Periodically merges namespace image with edit log

### Secondary namenode
- Runs on a separate physical machine
- Requires as much memory as the namenode to perform the merge operation
- Keeps a copy of the merged namespace image
  - Can be used if the namenode fails
- However, the secondary namenode lags the primary
  - Data loss is almost certain

### HDFS Federation (introduced in 0.23)
- On large clusters with many files, memory is a limiting factor for scaling
- HDFS federation allows scaling with the addition of namenodes
  - Each manages a portion of the filesystem namespace
    - For example, one namenode for /user and another for /share
HDFS Federation [1/2]
- Each namenode manages a namespace volume
  - Metadata for the namespace and block pool
- Namespace volumes are independent of each other
  - No communications between namenodes
  - Failure of one namenode does not affect availability of another

HDFS Federation [2/2]
- Block pool storage is not partitioned
- Datanodes register with each namenode in the cluster
  - Store blocks from multiple blockpools

Recovering from a failed namenode [1/2]
- Admin starts a new primary namenode
  - With one of the filesystem metadata replicas
  - Configure datanodes and clients to use this namenode
- New namenode unable to serve requests until:
  1. Namespace image is loaded into memory
  2. Replay of edit log is complete
  3. Received enough block reports from datanodes to leave safe mode

Recovering from a failed namenode [2/2]
- Recovery can be really long
  - On large clusters with many files and blocks this can be about 30 minutes
  - This also impacts routine maintenance

HDFS High Availability has features to cope with this
- Pair of namenodes in active standby configuration
- During failure of active namenode, standby takes over the servicing of client requests
  - In 10s of seconds

HDFS High-Availability: Additional items to get things to work
- Namenodes use a highly-available shared storage to store the edit log
- Datanodes must send block reports to both namenodes
  - Block mappings stored in memory not disk
- Clients must be configured to handle namenode failover
**HDFS HA: Dealing with ungraceful failovers**
- Slow network or a network partition can trigger failover transition
- Previously active namenode thinks it is still the active namenode
- The HDFS HA tries to avoid this situation using fencing
  - Previously active namenode should be prevented from causing corruptions

---

**Fencing mechanisms: To shutdown previously active namenode**
- Kill the namenode’s process
- Revoking access to the shared storage directory
- Disabling namenode’s network port
  - Using the remote management command
- STONITH
  - Use specialized power distribution unit to forcibly power down the host machine

---

**Basic Filesystem Operations**
- Type `hadoop fs -help` to get detailed help on commands
  - We are invoking Hadoop’s filesystem shell command `fs` which supports other subcommands
- Start copying a file from the local filesystem to HDFS
  ```
  % hadoop fs -copyFromLocal input/docs/quangle.txt /user/tome/quangle.txt
  ```

---

**Local Filesystem Operations**
- Copy file back to the local filesystem
  ```
  % hadoop fs -copyToLocal /user/tome/quangle.txt input/docs/quangle.copy.txt
  ```
- Verify if the movement of the files have changed the files in any way
  ```
  % openssl md5 quangle.txt quangle.copy.txt
  ```

---

**The contents of this slide set are based on the following references**