

ECE 473/573  
Cloud Computing and Cloud Native Systems  
Lecture 26 Batch and Stream Processing I

Professor Jia Wang  
Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering  
Illinois Institute of Technology

November 17, 2025

Computing with MapReduce

Google MapReduce

# Reading Assignment

- ▶ This lecture: MapReduce: Simplified Data Processing on Large Clusters  
<https://research.google/pubs/pub62/>
- ▶ Next lecture: Resilient Distributed Datasets: A Fault-Tolerant Abstraction for In-Memory Cluster Computing  
[http://people.csail.mit.edu/matei/papers/2012/nsdi\\_spark.pdf](http://people.csail.mit.edu/matei/papers/2012/nsdi_spark.pdf)

# Outline

Computing with MapReduce

Google MapReduce

# MapReduce Model

- ▶ A model to specify parallel algorithms.
  - ▶ Consist of tasks that communicates with each other.
- ▶ A few types of tasks: input, map, combine, reduce, output.
- ▶ Communication is implicit: tasks communicate by exchanging their inputs/outputs.
  - ▶ Inputs/outputs are (key,value) pairs where key indicates the destination and value is the payload.
  - ▶ Pre-defined communication patterns: input  $\rightarrow$  map  $\rightarrow$  combine  $\rightarrow$  reduce  $\rightarrow$  output.
- ▶ Simplify parallel programming on clusters.
  - ▶ Easy to reason with pre-defined communication patterns.
  - ▶ Usually the map and the reduce tasks are specified by users.
  - ▶ Underlying implementations like Apache Hadoop provides cluster management for tasks scheduling, data movement, fault resilience, etc.

# Map Tasks

```
class Map_WordCount extends ... {  
    public void map(  
        LongWritable key, Text value,  
        OutputCollector<Text, IntWritable> output,  
        Reporter reporter) throws IOException {  
  
        String line = value.toString();  
        StringTokenizer tokenizer = new StringTokenizer(line);  
        while (tokenizer.hasMoreTokens()) {  
            output.collect(  
                new Text(tokenizer.nextToken()),  
                new IntWritable(1));  
        }  
    }  
}
```

- ▶ A map task consume what an input task generate and outputs pairs to combine tasks.
- ▶ Multiple map tasks running in parallel are able to consume and generate a lot of data.

# Reduce Tasks

```
class Reduce_WordCount extends ... {  
    public void reduce(  
        Text key, Iterator<IntWritable> values,  
        OutputCollector<Text, IntWritable> output,  
        Reporter reporter) throws IOException {  
  
        int sum = 0;  
        while (values.hasNext()) {  
            sum += values.next().get();  
        }  
        output.collect(key, new IntWritable(sum));  
    }  
}
```

- ▶ Combine tasks group output pairs from map tasks by keys, and output these groups.
- ▶ A reduce task consumes a key and the associated values, and generate pairs for output tasks.

- ▶ Good for embarrassingly parallel algorithms.
  - ▶ It was difficult to implement and deploy parallel algorithms, even if they are conceptually simple, because one also need to manage the cluster.
- ▶ Advantages
  - ▶ Theoretically deadlock free with predefined communication patterns and no other synchronization between tasks.
  - ▶ Stateless tasks are idempotent, which makes it possible to build fault resilient implementations.



# Example: Sparse Matrix Multiplication I

- ▶ Matrix multiplication:  $C = A \times B$ , or  $c_{i,j} = \sum_k a_{i,k} b_{k,j}$
- ▶ Sparse matrices: most of  $a_{i,k}$ ,  $b_{k,j}$  and thus  $c_{i,j}$  are 0.
- ▶ A lot of tasks have similar communication pattern as sparse matrix multiplication problems.
- ▶ Naive MapReduce implementation
  - ▶ For each  $a_{i,k} \neq 0$ , map emits (multiple)  $(i,j) \rightarrow a_{i,k}$  for all  $j$ .
  - ▶ For each  $b_{k,j} \neq 0$ , map emits (multiple)  $(i,j) \rightarrow b_{k,j}$  for all  $i$ .
  - ▶ One reduce task per  $(i,j)$ 
    - ▶ Receive  $a_{i,k_1}, a_{i,k_2}, \dots$ , and  $b_{k'_1,j}, b_{k'_2,j}, \dots$
    - ▶ Compute  $c(i,j)$  by summing  $a_{i,k} b_{k',j}$  for  $k = k'$ .
- ▶ Since most  $c_{i,j}$  are 0, the naive implementation is not efficient because all communications and computations at the corresponding reduce tasks are wasted.

## Example: Sparse Matrix Multiplication II

- ▶ A better implementation
  - ▶ For each  $a_{i,k} \neq 0$ , map emits  $k \rightarrow a_{i,k}$
  - ▶ For each  $b_{k,j} \neq 0$ , map emits  $k \rightarrow b_{k,j}$
  - ▶ One reduce task per  $k$ 
    - ▶ Receive  $a_{i_1,k}, a_{i_2,k}, \dots$ , and  $b_{k,j_1}, b_{k,j_2}, \dots$
    - ▶ Emit (multiple)  $(i,j) \rightarrow a_{i,k} b_{k,j}$  for each pair of  $(i,j)$  from  $\{i_1, i_2, \dots\} \times \{j_1, j_2, \dots\}$ .
  - ▶ Let another set of reduce tasks, one per each  $(i,j)$  that has any output to sum  $a_{i,k} b_{k,j}$  into  $c(i,j)$
- ▶ Most communications and computations where  $c_{i,j} = 0$  are eliminated.

## Example: Sparse Matrix Multiplication III

- ▶ Many sparse matrices have only a limited number of non-zero elements per column and per row.
  - ▶ If a single row or column can fit into a single machine, can we optimize the algorithm further?
- ▶ An optimized implementation
  - ▶ For each  $a_{i,k} \neq 0$ , map emits  $k \rightarrow a_{i,k}$
  - ▶ For each row  $k$  of  $B$ , map emits  $k \rightarrow (b_{k,j_1}, b_{k,j_2}, \dots)$ , non-zero elements only.
  - ▶ One reduce task per  $k$ 
    - ▶ Receive  $a_{i_1,k}, a_{i_2,k}, \dots$ , and  $b_{k,j_1}, b_{k,j_2}, \dots$
    - ▶ Emit (multiple)  $i \rightarrow (a_{i,k} b_{k,j_1}, a_{i,k} b_{k,j_2}, \dots)$  for each  $i$  from  $\{i_1, i_2, \dots\}$
  - ▶ Let another set of reduce tasks, one per each  $i$  that has any output to compute row  $i$  of  $C$
- ▶ Aggregate and reduce communications on rows of  $B$  and  $C$  since they can be held in memory.

# Outline

Computing with MapReduce

Google MapReduce

# Google MapReduce

- ▶ Research paper published in 2004.
  - ▶ One of the earliest work of cloud computing.
- ▶ Originated from Google's need to analyze large-scale web data efficiently, e.g.
  - ▶ Build reverse index for searching
  - ▶ Process logs to calculate URL access frequency
  - ▶ Reverse web-link graph for page ranking
- ▶ On a large cluster of commodity servers.
  - ▶ Instead of HPCs.
  - ▶ Provide scalability by adding more servers.
  - ▶ Fault resilience as servers fail, which is more likely to happen as number of servers increase.

# Cluster Hardware

(Keep in mind this was around 2004.)

- ▶ Large clusters of commodity PCs connected with Ethernet.
- ▶ Dual-processor with 2-4GB memory running Linux.
- ▶ Commodity networking hardware with 100Mb or 1Gb connections to individual machine.
  - ▶ Bottlenecks may exist if many machines need to talk with many other machines at the same time.
- ▶ Storage provided by inexpensive hard drives attached to machines locally.
- ▶ Failures are common with hundreds or thousands of machines.

# Execution Flow

- ▶ User program provides a map function and a reduce function.
  - ▶ Assume there will be  $M$  map tasks and  $R$  reduce tasks.
  - ▶  $M$  and  $R$  should be larger than available number of machines.
- ▶ The MapReduce library splits input files into  $M$  chunks and starts up copies of user program on many machines.
- ▶ A copy of the program runs as master and the rest are workers. Master assign map or reduce tasks to idle workers.
- ▶ A map worker calls user's map function to read an input chunk and outputs key/value pairs to a memory buffer.
- ▶ Pairs in memory buffer are written to local disk periodically.
  - ▶ The pairs are partitioned into  $R$  regions on the disk, one for each reduce task, according to the keys.
  - ▶ Locations of the regions are passed to master, and then forwarded to reduce workers.

## Execution Flow (cont.)

- ▶ A reduce worker receiving locations from master will request its regions from map workers via RPC.
  - ▶ There are more keys than R so the regions for a single reduce task will contain many keys.
  - ▶ The reduce worker groups pairs by their keys.
- ▶ The reduce worker calls user's reduce function multiple times, one for each group of pairs with the same key.
  - ▶ Outputs from these function calls are appended to the end of the final output file of this reduce task.
- ▶ The master notifies the user program when all map and reduce tasks complete.
  - ▶ Results are available from R final output files – usually as inputs to other MapReduce calls or distributed applications.



# Locality

- ▶ Both input files and final output files are stored in a distributed file system.
  - ▶ On local drives of the machines across the whole cluster.
  - ▶ Data are replicated to survive machine failures.
- ▶ Network bandwidth is a relatively scarce resource.
  - ▶ Whenever possible, schedule a map task to a worker where the input data is available locally.
  - ▶ If not possible, schedule it to the worker that is close to the input data to reduce overall network traffic.

# Batch Processing

- ▶ High system utilization to reduce cost of computing.
  - ▶ Leverage parallelism within large amount of data to process them in parallel.
  - ▶ Many different keys and many pairs lead to large M and R.
  - ▶ Large M and R keep all workers busy, saturating computational resources like CPU, memory, local drives, and networking.
- ▶ High latency from when inputs are available to when outputs are computed.
  - ▶ Cannot complete processing for a key before all pairs with the same key become available to the reduce worker.
  - ▶ Pairs need to be written to local storage first.
  - ▶ Pairs need to be sent across network to a different worker.
  - ▶ A single bad worker may delay the completion of the whole computation.

# Fault Tolerance

## ▶ Worker failure

- ▶ Each task has a state among idle (wait for scheduling), in-progress, and completed.
- ▶ Master discovers worker failures via liveness check.
- ▶ Completed reduce tasks on failed workers, if the final output files are available from replicas, need no further action.
- ▶ All other tasks on failed workers (completed map tasks, in-progress map and reduce tasks) are marked as idle, waiting to be scheduled again.
- ▶ Running a task multiple times won't cause issues as map and reduce functions are stateless and idempotent.

## ▶ Master failure

- ▶ Master state includes states of tasks and which workers run them if they are in-progress.
- ▶ Master may write its state to storage periodically so it could restart from a previously known state.
- ▶ Nevertheless, it is less likely master will fail so one just restart the whole process if it fails.

# Summary

- ▶ What Google MapReduce trying to achieve becomes common practice for cloud computing nowadays.