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QUESTION 1

When is the earliest point at which the reduce method of a given Reducer can be called?

- A. As soon as at least one mapper has finished processing its input split.
- B. As soon as a mapper has emitted at least one record.
- C. Not until all mappers have finished processing all records.
- D. It depends on the InputFormat used for the job.

Correct Answer: C

In a MapReduce job reducers do not start executing the reduce method until the all Map jobs have completed. Reducers start copying intermediate key-value pairs from the mappers as soon as they are available. The programmer defined reduce method is called only after all the mappers have finished.

Note: The reduce phase has 3 steps: shuffle, sort, reduce. Shuffle is where the data is collected by the reducer from each mapper. This can happen while mappers are generating data since it is only a data transfer. On the other hand, sort and reduce can only start once all the mappers are done.

Why is starting the reducers early a good thing? Because it spreads out the data transfer from the mappers to the reducers over time, which is a good thing if your network is the bottleneck.

Why is starting the reducers early a bad thing? Because they "hog up" reduce slots while only copying data. Another job that starts later that will actually use the reduce slots now can't use them.

You can customize when the reducers startup by changing the default value of `mapred.reduce.slowstart.completed.maps` in `mapred-site.xml`. A value of 1.00 will wait for all the mappers to finish before starting the reducers. A value of 0.0 will start the reducers right away. A value of 0.5 will start the reducers when half of the mappers are complete. You can also change `mapred.reduce.slowstart.completed.maps` on a job-by-job basis. Typically, keep `mapred.reduce.slowstart.completed.maps` above 0.9 if the system ever has multiple jobs running at once. This way the job doesn't hog up reducers when they aren't doing anything but copying data. If you only ever have one job running at a time, doing 0.1 would probably be appropriate.

Reference: 24 Interview Questions and Answers for Hadoop MapReduce developers, When is the reducers are started in a MapReduce job?

QUESTION 2

You need to move a file titled "weblogs" into HDFS. When you try to copy the file, you can't. You know you have ample space on your DataNodes. Which action should you take to relieve this situation and store more files in HDFS?

- A. Increase the block size on all current files in HDFS.
- B. Increase the block size on your remaining files.
- C. Decrease the block size on your remaining files.
- D. Increase the amount of memory for the NameNode.
- E. Increase the number of disks (or size) for the NameNode.

F. Decrease the block size on all current files in HDFS.

Correct Answer: D

QUESTION 3

MapReduce v2 (MRv2/YARN) splits which major functions of the JobTracker into separate daemons? Select two.

- A. Health status checks (heartbeats)
- B. Resource management
- C. Job scheduling/monitoring
- D. Job coordination between the ResourceManager and NodeManager
- E. Launching tasks
- F. Managing file system metadata
- G. MapReduce metric reporting
- H. Managing tasks

Correct Answer: BC

The fundamental idea of MRv2 is to split up the two major functionalities of the JobTracker, resource management and job scheduling/monitoring, into separate daemons. The idea is to have a global ResourceManager (RM) and per-application ApplicationMaster (AM). An application is either a single job in the classical sense of Map-Reduce jobs or a DAG of jobs.

Note:

The central goal of YARN is to clearly separate two things that are unfortunately smushed together in current Hadoop, specifically in (mainly) JobTracker:

/ Monitoring the status of the cluster with respect to which nodes have which resources available.

Under YARN, this will be global.

/ Managing the parallelization execution of any specific job. Under YARN, this will be done separately for each job.

Reference: Apache Hadoop YARN Concepts and Applications

QUESTION 4

For each input key-value pair, mappers can emit:

- A. As many intermediate key-value pairs as designed. There are no restrictions on the types of those key-value pairs (i.e., they can be heterogeneous).
- B. As many intermediate key-value pairs as designed, but they cannot be of the same type as the input key-value pair.
- C. One intermediate key-value pair, of a different type.
- D. One intermediate key-value pair, but of the same type.
- E. As many intermediate key-value pairs as designed, as long as all the keys have the same types and all the values have the same type.

Correct Answer: E

Mapper maps input key/value pairs to a set of intermediate key/value pairs.

Maps are the individual tasks that transform input records into intermediate records. The transformed intermediate records do not need to be of the same type as the input records. A given input pair may map to zero or many output pairs.

Reference: Hadoop Map-Reduce Tutorial

QUESTION 5

You have just executed a MapReduce job. Where is intermediate data written to after being emitted from the Mapper's map method?

- A. Intermediate data is streamed across the network from Mapper to the Reducer and is never written to disk.
- B. Into in-memory buffers on the TaskTracker node running the Mapper that spill over and are written into HDFS.
- C. Into in-memory buffers that spill over to the local file system of the TaskTracker node running the Mapper.
- D. Into in-memory buffers that spill over to the local file system (outside HDFS) of the TaskTracker node running the Reducer
- E. Into in-memory buffers on the TaskTracker node running the Reducer that spill over and are written into HDFS.

Correct Answer: C

The mapper output (intermediate data) is stored on the Local file system (NOT HDFS) of each individual mapper nodes. This is typically a temporary directory location which can be setup in config by the hadoop administrator. The intermediate data is cleaned up after the Hadoop Job completes.

Reference: 24 Interview Questions and Answers for Hadoop MapReduce developers, Where is the Mapper Output (intermediate key-value data) stored ?

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