CS 378 – Big Data Programming

Lecture 12

User Sessions from Logs

Review

- Assignment 5 – Avro Objects

- We'll look at implementation details of:
  - Mapper
  - Combiner
    - Should we use one? Can we use one?
  - Reducer
  - Avro generated Java code

Other Issues

- Running MRUnit tests with Avro objects
  - Codehaus jackson version consistency
    - jackson-mapper-asl
    - jackson-core-asl
  - Avro serialization
- "shaded" JAR file – all dependencies included
  - Except Hadoop JAR – Why?
- Avro field definitions
  - Unions, defaults, …

Review - Design Pattern

- Structured to hierarchical design pattern

- Data sources linked by some foreign key
- Data is structured and row based
  - For example, from databases
- Data is semi-structured and event based
  - Web logs

Sessionizing Web Logs

- Create user sessions from web logs

- Represents all the actions by a user
- Allows later analysis to “replay” the user actions

- Collect measures and metrics about user behavior
  - Pages viewed, time on page, clicks
  - Path through the site, entry to the site (from a search engine?)

Sessionizing Web Logs

- To start (this or any “big data” application)
- We need to understand the data
  - Fields, values
  - Data size

- We need to define our goal
  - What do we want to end up with

Web Logs

- Let's look at some data
- Logs saved in database
  - Log entries already have structure
  - Tab separated values
  - Easily parsed (lots of work has been done for us)

Web Logs

- Our goal is to aggregate user actions into sessions, so we can better understand
  - User behavior
  - The impact changes have on user behavior

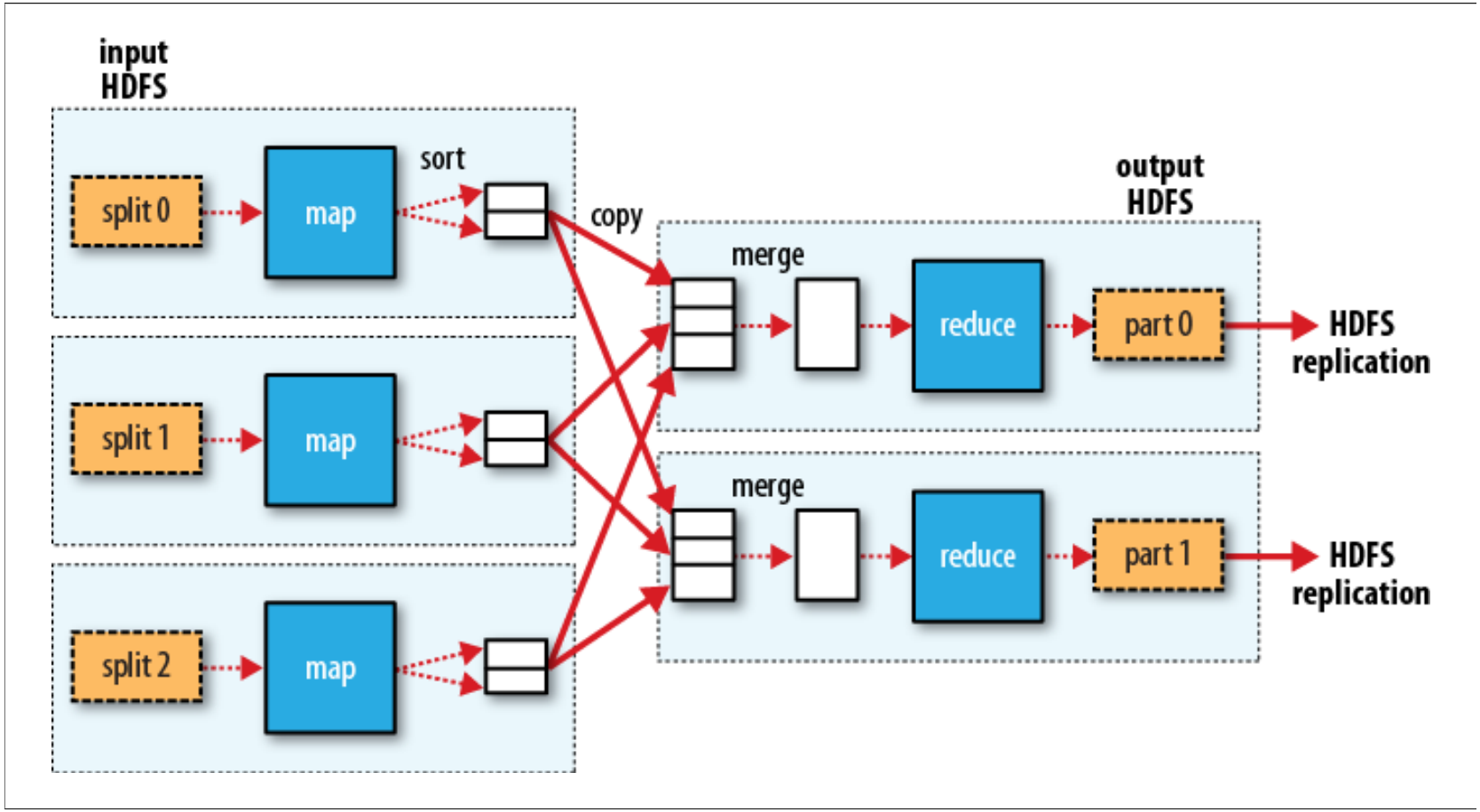
- So what should a session look like?

User Session

- Data about the session as a whole
- List of events (pages viewed, actions taken)
  - Ordered in time
- In our logs, what data is session-wide
- What data is impression/action specific

MapReduce in Hadoop

Figure 2.4, Hadoop - The Definitive Guide



Assignment 6

- Define an Avro object for user session
  - One user session for each unique userID
  - Session will include an array of events
  - Events ordered by timestamp

- Identify data associated with the session as a whole
- Identify data associated with individual events
- Include all the fields in the log entries
- Create enums where requested

Assignment 6

- Run WordCount on `dataSet6.tsv` – see what's in it
  - Modify WordCount to output values for each field:
    - `fieldname:value`
  - Ignore these fields (they have lots of values):
    - event_timestamp, image_count, initial_price, mileage, referrer, user_id, vin
- `event_type`
  - Break this into two fields in your schema:
  - Type (enum): use the first word of this field value
    - change, click, contact, edit, share, show, submit, visit
  - Subtype (enum): use remainder of the string
    - Example: ContactForm

Assignment 6
Recommendations

- Use `dataSet6Small.tsv` for development and testing

- Get your app working with just a few fields populated
  - Session with no events
  - Add events, but just a few fields first
  - Extend the schema
  - Populate the new field(s) in your schema

- Write some unit tests as you go