MapReduce

Parallelism and Functional Programming



MapReduce is a system that makes writing parallel code easier for programmers.

In CS3, we provide three functions that differ only in how they interpret data. Each takes three arguments:



The first is a mapper, a function that takes a sentence, word or letter (depending on whether it was passed to reduce-map-sent, reduce-map-word, or reduce-map-letter respectively) and outputs some value. There are no constraints of what this value can be. (A mapper is the kind of function used as an argument to map.)



Next is the reducer, which collects and combines the values returned from the mappers, into one value. (A reducer is the kind of function used as an argument to reduce.)



Finally, there's the vast body of data to be processed, encoded as a list. It's either a list of sentences, a list of words or a list of letters (depending on whether it was passed to reduce-map-sent, reduce-map-word, or reduce-map-letter respectively). If given a directory instead of a single file, MapReduce treats the input as a file composed of the concatenation of the individual files in the directory.

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