Checkpointing In-Memory Data Analytics Applications with Panda

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About me

PhD degree from TU Delft, advised by Dick Epema

Thesis topic on scheduling data analytics frameworks



Call for Efficiency

Large-scale data processing is now widespread







Spark Scheduling Model



In-memory parallel computation

Task to slot allocation



Resilient but Inefficient by Design

Impact of a single failure



Number of iterations



Recomputation vs. Checkpointing





With checkpointing

The Case for Checkpointing

Failure	Rate (per year)	Machines lost	Downtime
Overheating	0.5	All	1-2 days
PDU	1	500-1000	6 h
Network rewiring	1	5%	2 days
Racks	20	40-80	1-6 h
Servers	1000	-	-
HDD	1000s	-	-

TUDelft Jeff Dean, https://www.cs.cornell.edu/projects/ladis2009/talks/dean-keynote-ladis2009.pdf

Where We Want to Go



Frequency of checkpointing

Reduce the checkpointing problem to a task-selection problem



Policy Framework



Greedy Checkpointing



Task selection

- As many tasks as the budget allows
- Inflight checkpointing tasks are allowed to finish

The checkpointing budget

- Limits the checkpointing cost in each stage
- Set to a fraction of the total stage input



Size-based Checkpointing



Task selection

- Straggler tasks that run very slow
- Avoid recomputing time-consuming tasks

Identify stragglers

- Build up a history of task runtimes per job
- Tasks that run **m** times longer than the median



Greedy versus Size-based



Resource-aware Checkpointing

Task selection

Estimated benefit outweighs the checkpointing cost



Checkpoint tasks if: p (T + R) > C, p is the likelihood of failure



Estimating the Recomputation Cost





Single recovery path

Multiple recovery paths

Estimating the Checkpointing Cost

Checkpointing time depends on:

- Output size and write throughput
- Contention due to other tasks being checkpointed

Approximate method:

- Checkpoint the early waves of each stage
- Partial distribution of tasks checkpointing times



Experiment 1

How does the performance of our policies compare with periodic checkpointing?

Experiment details:

- 20-machine cluster
- BTWorld (500 GB)
- All policies



Takeaway: Greedy and Aware deliver constant job runtimes for the complete range of failures.





Experiment 2

What is the impact of the lineage length?

Experiment details:

- 5-machine cluster
- PageRank (1 GB)
- Aware policy

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Takeaway: The Aware policy performs very well irrespective of the lineage length of the application.







In-memory data analytics require checkpointing,

checkpointing is worthwhile if you do it right,

using Panda is the right way to do it!



Bogdan Ghit and Dick Epema, "Better Safe than Sorry: Grappling with Failures of In-Memory Data Analytics Frameworks", ACM HPDC 2017