Benchmarking Spark ML using BigBench

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Motivation

Study the performance of Machine Learning use cases on *large* data warehouses in context of assessing

- Alternate approaches to connect from data warehouse to analytics engine
- Different machine learning frameworks

Data preparation and Modeling are the most time consuming phases in a ML cycle



High Speed Data Connectors for Spark

Highly **optimized** and parallel **data transfer between** dashDB and Spark

- Colocation of Spark executors and DB2 data nodes
- Optimized exchange of data

Connectors between analytics engine and database can speed up

- ETL during data preparation phase
- Reading from data store during the Model Creation phase
 - Assessing alternate models
 - Tuning the model parameters
 - During model execution
- Writing back the scoring results to the database



dashDB Spark integration Layout

Why BigBench?

Requirements for benchmarking high speed data connectors

- Representative of a realistic use case for performing ML on data warehouse
- Ability to scale to large data volumes
- Supports read and write to data source
- Invoke Machine Learning algorithms via SQL interface (Stored Procedure) or via Spark jobs (using customized RDD to connect to data source)
- Ability to execute multiple streams to test scalability and resource management in an integrated solution where Spark and database co-exist on the same cluster
- Compare efficiency and *accuracy* of Spark MLlib versus IBM ML algorithms

BigBench met most of our requirements

Collaborative Filtering using Matrix Factorization (MF)

Known for unique challenges

- Data Sparsity: Very few customers rate items
- Scalability: Computational complexity in filling the sparse user item association matrix grows quickly on large data sets



BigBench Sparsity level = 0.00025%

Alternating Least Squares in Spark MLlib

- Step 1: Initialize with random factor
- Step 2: Hold the item factor constant
 and find the best value for user
- Step 3: Hold the user factor constant and find the best value for item
- Repeat Step 2 & Step 3 for convergence

Reference: Y. Koren, R. Bell, and C. Volinsky. Matrix factorization techniques for recommender systems



Why include Matrix Factorization in BigBench?

- Unique Performance characteristics
- Trade-off between efficiency and accuracy. Accuracy improves with high number of latent factors with a corresponding drop in performance
- Facilitates creation of real time analytics scenario: Saved Matrix Factorization model can be used to predict ratings on trickling web_clickstreams data during the workload run
- Good test bench for comparing implementation and optimizations of different ML frameworks

Q05: Through the SPSS Lens

- Predict if a visitor will be interested in a given item category, based on demographics and existing users online activities (interest in items of different categories)
- Label is 1 if "Clicks in Specified category" > Average Clicks in that category
- Modeler selection & Accuracy varies depending on the specified item category
 - If CLICKS_IN column of the item category is in the input vector, models are able to predict the outcome with 100% accuracy. Models selected are Logistic Regression & models of decision tree family
 - If CLICKS_IN column of the item category is NOT in the input vector, more complex models are chosen and accuracy < 100%

Scenario #1:

- Feature Vector
 - [CLICKS_IN_1, CLICKS_IN_2, CLICKS_IN_3, CLICKS_IN_4, CLICKS_IN_5, CLICKS_IN_6, CLICKS_IN_7, COLLEGE_EDUCATION, MALE]
- Specified category = 3



Scenario #2:

Feature Vector

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- [CLICKS_IN_1, CLICKS_IN_2, CLICKS_IN_3, CLICKS_IN_4, CLICKS_IN_5, CLICKS_IN_6, CLICKS_IN_7, COLLEGE_EDUCATION, MALE]
- Specified category = 9



Scenario #3:

Feature Vector

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- [CLICKS_IN_1, CLICKS_IN_2, CLICKS_IN_3, CLICKS_IN_4, CLICKS_IN_5, CLICKS_IN_6, CLICKS_IN_7, COLLEGE_EDUCATION, MALE]
- Specified category = 3



Key Learning

- Not including the deterministic clicks in the input feature vector will exercise and stress the machine learning algorithms in a more realistic way. This clearly reflects in the tree depth
- Another benefit is the ability to introduce more complex algorithms such as Neural Networks to the BigBench ML mix

Tuning ML Pipeline

- Model Evaluation phase involves assessing alternate models or tuning the optimization parameters of an algorithm. Tuning is assessed by accuracy on test data sets using cross validation
- Example: Tuning regularization parameter for Logistic Model/ALS, Tuning "rank" for ALS
- Tuning can have interesting side effects on performance



Test Environment BigBench Scale Factor = 1TB dashDB Local cluster, CentOS7.0-64 and Spark 1.6.2

4 nodes with the following configuration:

- 24 cores (2.6GHz Intel Xeon-Haswell)
- 512 GB memory
- 10000 Mbps full duplex N/W card

Conclusion & Next Steps

- K-Means use case in BigBench has been very effective in proving the benefits of a high speed connector between data warehouse and Spark
- Our recommendations
 - Broaden the scope of BigBench to more Machine Learning algorithms since performance characteristics of ML algorithms vary
 - Achievable via addition of new use case like Recommender and tweaking existing scenarios like Q05
 - Simulate more ML usecases
 - Real time analytics for Collaborative Filtering
 - Tuning Machine Learning pipeline
- Continued work
 - Investigate ways to incorporate data transformations in the analytic engine layer in BigBench
 - Study the performance characteristics of other ML algorithms on BigBench use case Trees and Neural Network

Thank you!

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