

# Rethinking elastic online scheduling of big data streaming applications over high velocity continuous data streams

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**Abstract.** Online scheduling plays a key role for big data streaming applications in a big data stream computing environment, as the arrival rate of high velocity continuous data stream might fluctuate over time. In this paper, an elastic online scheduling framework for big data streaming applications (E-Stream) is proposed, exhibiting the following features. (1) Profile mathematical relationships between system response time, multiple application fairness, and online features of high velocity continuous stream. (2) Scale out or scale in a data stream graph by quantifying computation and communication cost, and the vertex semantics for arrival rate of data stream, and adjust the degree of parallelism of vertices in the graph. Sub-graph is further constructed to minimize data dependencies among the sub-graphs. (3) Elastically schedule a graph by a priority based earliest finish time first online scheduling strategy, and schedule multiple graphs by a max-min fairness strategy. (4) Evaluate the low system response time and acceptable applications fairness objectives in a real-world big data stream computing environment. Experimental results conclusively demonstrate that the proposed E-Stream provides better system response time and applications fairness compared to the existing Storm framework.

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## 1 Introduction

In big data era, big data stream computing helps organizations spot opportunities and risks from real time big data. It can be employed in many different application scenarios, such as social networks, trading, emergency response, fraud detection, system monitoring, smart cities, and to name but a few. More than 30000 gigabytes of data are created every second and the rate is accelerating [1]. Big data stream has some distinctive characteristics [2]. A big data stream computing system doesn't rely on high-volume storage to achieve extremely low-latency velocities. Nearly all data in a big data environment streamed. Stream computing has appeared to solve the dilemma of big data computing by processing data online within real time constraints. It makes the research on stream computing models a new trend for high-throughput computing in big data era, with both opportunities and challenges [3] [4].

In a big data stream computing environment, each application is commonly modeled as a set of sub-tasks interconnected via data dependencies, described by a corresponding DAG [2] [5] (directed acyclic graph, data stream graph, graph, DAG, and application are interchangeably used thereafter in this paper). Each DAG is submitted to a big data stream computing platform, and is scheduled to one or many computing nodes in data center. A schedule is a process of scheduling inter-dependent sub-tasks onto available computing nodes so that a DAG is able to complete its execution within specified constraints such as throughput and deadline. All the submitted applications are running continuously on the big data stream computing platform. Each application processes one or many continuous data streams. Arrival rates of data streams fluctuate over time in an unpredictable manner.

To effectively use resources, a fundamental requirement is elasticity. The majority of state-of-the-art solutions [6] [7] do not provide a proper elastic online scheduler that knows how to coordinate the dynamical allocation and release of resources according to current data stream for multiple applications. Previous work in this area, focused mostly on the static scheduling. The reason behind this is that the volume of data stream is not so big, and the magnitude of dynamically changing data stream is not so high. Many scheduling strategies provide an efficient scheduling in static stream computing environments. However, they require permanent peak-load resource provisioning to remain low latency in face of varying and busy data stream in big data era, and may cause poor resources utilization, and instability of the system as a whole. In this sense, an elastic online scheduling is always needed to avoid wasting resources or failing in delivering correct results on time.

An elastic runtime scaling strategy should be able to determine when and how to scale and account for data stream fluctuating with time, and to schedule resources elastically according to the current arrival rate of stream. To achieve that goal, we need firstly obtain a clear picture of the changed status of a graph of streaming application and then decide how to optimize it, and which vertices of the graph needed to be online rescheduled. More importantly, to achieve the scheduling fairness

of multiple applications [8] [9]. Currently, most of the existing research works have focused on application scheduling. They have not considered requirements of multiple application scheduling and online features of high velocity continuous streams, nor have they sufficiently investigated how to minimize system response time and guarantee applications fairness, and to deal with high performance and response time trade-off efficiently and effectively [10] [11]. This creates the need for investigation on an elastic online scheduling framework over high velocity continuous data streams. To overcome this limitation, we propose an elastic online scheduling framework for big data streaming applications (E-Stream). It minimizes system response time, guarantees application fairness, and achieves high elasticity in a big data stream computing environment.

## 1.1 Observations

It is the users' responsibility to design the data stream graph in order to run a streaming application in Storm platform. However, most of the users do not possess the expertise of designing a data stream graph that reasonably reflects the performance requirement and resource consumption of the application. Key parameters such as operator parallelism and task allocation are hard to determine and optimize in an online environment where the remaining resources and rates of data stream are constantly changing over time. Besides, users have limited knowledge about the runtime behavior of the application prior to the submission, therefore, the data stream graph statically designed at compile time may eventually lead to resource over-utilization or under-utilization without delivering satisfactory performance.

However, there are few techniques available in the middleware level to optimize a submitted application. When a data stream graph is submitted, its structure is detected and optimized by the following strategies: vertex separation, fusion, and replicate. If the load calculation of a vertex is significantly higher than that of other vertices, it normally indicates that it is difficult to assign appropriate resources to this vertex. If this is the case, this vertex is separated into two or more vertices. When the traffic between two directly connected vertices is obviously greater than that of other communication links, it means that the communication delay of this line will be greater than other links, two vertices are then fused into one vertex, to eliminate communication delay of this link. In running phase, the structure of data stream graph is adjusted through vertex replication or elimination. When the input rate of data stream becomes higher, it means that latency of some critical vertices increases. One or more vertices of a group of critical vertices are replicated. When the input rate of data stream becomes lower, it means that latency of some critical vertices decreases, and some resource can be released. One or more vertices of a group of critical vertices are eliminated given those critical vertices have more than one replicas.

In an online scheduling environment, optimize the structure of data stream graph is always required. Multiple applications are sharing computing nodes in a data center so that scheduling fairness needs to be guaranteed.

## 1.2 Key contributions

Our contributions made in this paper are summarized as follows:

(1) Formal definitions of data stream graph, optimizing the structure of a data stream graph by quantifying and adjusting the degree of parallelism of vertices in the graph.

(2) Sub-graph is further constructed to minimize data dependencies among the sub-graphs.

(3) Data stream graph is scheduled with a priority based earliest finish time first elastic online scheduling strategy to minimize system response time.

(4) Multiple graphs are scheduled with a max-min fairness based multiple DAGs scheduling strategy to guarantee fairness subject to the constraint of response time.

(5) Prototype implementation and performance evaluation of the proposed E-Stream, which makes trade-off between low system response time and acceptable applications fairness objectives efficiently and effectively.

## 1.3 Paper organization

The rest of this paper is organized as follows: In section 2, the related work on workflow scheduling in distributed systems, and application scheduling on Storm platform are reviewed. Section 3 present the data stream graph model, multiple user model, data center model and multiple data stream graph scheduling model are presented. Section 4 focuses on the computation and communication cost, vertex semantics, instance of vertices, sub-graph construction, single DAG scheduling, and multiple DAG scheduling in the proposed E-Stream framework. Section 5 provides the experimental environment, parameter setup and performance evaluation of E-Stream. Finally, conclusions and future work are given in section 6.

## 2 Related Work

In this section, two broad categories of related work are presented: workflow scheduling in distributed systems, and application scheduling on Storm platform.

### 2.1 Workflow scheduling in distributed systems

Workflow scheduling problem in distributed systems is scheduling the dependent vertices of workflow on the available computing nodes of the distributed systems to satisfy the user's specified SLAs constraints such as deadline. Finding an optimal schedule for precedence constraint based directed acyclic graph is proved to be NP-hard. It has been studied extensively over the years, and will continue to be the focus of research due to its theoretical significance and practical importance.

In [12], a cloud-aware scheduling system is designed. The system has two sub-systems, a sub-system will separate a graph into multi sub-graphs, and another sub-system will allocate those sub-graphs to a cluster according to load balancing strategy.

In [13], an analytical cost model is constructed. The workflow scheduling problem is formulated as an optimization problem. A recursive critical path based work-flow scheduling is proposed, a rigorous workflow analysis is designed, and a layer oriented programming strategy is developed.

In [14], a dynamic workflow scheduling strategy is proposed. The strategy focused on scheduling resources for precedence constraints tasks to a datacenter, and the deadline is one of the major considering factors.

In [15], a budget constrained allocation approach is proposed. The approach can guarantee the cost in the specified budget, and minimizes the deadline of work-flow.

In [16], an integrated solution for workflow scheduling is proposed. The workflow scheduling problem is formulated. The integrated solution try to minimize the end-to-end delay of workflow.

To summarize, the aforementioned solutions provide a valuable insight into the challenges and potential solutions for application scheduling in big data stream computing environments. However, in big data era, novel approaches that address the particular challenges and opportunities of these technologies need to be developed, and some characteristics specific to big data stream computing environments need to be considered when developing online scheduling strategies.

## **2.2 Application scheduling on Storm platform**

In big data era, Storm is the most popular big data stream computing platform both in academia and industry. On Storm platform, the round-robin scheduling is employed. It is simplistic and un-intelligent, in which many of the basic factors are not considered, such as, throughput performance, resource availability, or resource demands and availability. Some works have been done to improve the application scheduling strategy on Storm platform.

In [1], an adaptive scheduling approach for Storm platform is proposed. The transfer rate and traffic pattern of data stream are considered in the approach. The number of required resources can be obtained by the proposed approach, and can also be adaptively refreshed.

In [7], a dynamic resource scheduling strategy for cloud based data stream system is proposed. It includes an accurate performance model, and can process application topologies.

In [8], a resource aware scheduling mechanism is proposed in Storm platform, and to maximize resource utilization while minimizing network latency. Hard constraints and soft constraints are considered in the mechanism.

In [17], a stream data computing strategy is designed for Storm platform. The traffic aware scheduling approach can minimize inter-node and inter-process traffic. The fine grained control approach can achieve improved system performance.

In [18], an online scheduling strategy for Storm platform is proposed. The topology structure is analyzed in the offline environment, and the performance monitoring is employed in the online environment, and is used in the rescheduling stage.

In [19], an elastic scheduling framework named CE-Storm is designed. The framework can scale-out and scale-in of Continuous Query operators. Data provider can also design the specifically confidentiality policies.

In [20], a GPU-enabled parallel system is proposed for Storm platform. The system exposes GPUs to Storm applications.

In [21], a set of improvements to a distributed stream computational model is provided. The extensions of Storm platform are designed.

Additionally, our past work [2] focused on masking failures of computing nodes and communication links in streaming computing environments, we proposed a fault tolerant framework for streaming computing platform to improve the system reliability. In this paper, we focus on the fairness of multiple graphs scheduling in streaming computing environments. Another past work [25] of our group focused on improving system stability in streaming computing environments, and we proposed a stable online scheduling strategy for forever online applications. In this paper, however, our primary goal is not stability but elasticity. We propose an elastic online scheduling framework for multiple online applications, which minimizes system response time, guarantees application fairness, and achieves high elasticity in big data stream computing environments.

To summarize, current application scheduling on Storm platform are limited to one or other aspects. Up to now, most of the research required permanent peak-load resource provisioning to maintain low latency in face of varying and busty data streams, which may cause not only poor resources utilization but also instability of the system as a whole. In this sense, an elastic online scheduling for big data streaming applications is always needed. It is necessary to have an elastic online scheduler, to scale out or scale in the application to avoid wasting resources or failing to deliver correct results on time.

### 3 Problem Statement

To precisely reflect elastic online scheduling problem, we present the data stream graph model, the multiple user model, the datacenter model, and the multiple data stream graph scheduling model.

#### 3.1 Data stream graph model

A big data stream application is usually described by a data stream graph  $G$ , composed of vertices set and directed edges set. It has a logical structure and specific function, and denoted as  $G=(V(G),E(G))$ , where  $V(G)=\{v_1,v_2,\dots,v_n\}$  is a finite set of  $n$  vertices.  $E(G)=\{e_{1,2},e_{1,3},\dots,e_{n-i,n}\}\subset V(G)\times V(G)$  is a finite set of directed edges. The logical structure of a data stream graph  $G$  is usually described by DAG [22] [23]. Each big data stream application has a deadline associated with it. A deadline is defined as time limit for the execution of the application [24].

The makespan  $M$  of  $G$  is the total elapsed time required to execute  $G$ . For simplicity, the makespan  $M$  can be set to a value equal to the early finish time  $EFT_{v_e}$ .

of the end vertex  $v_e$ , and is also equal to the latest finish time  $LFT_{v_e}$  of the end vertex  $v_e$ , as shown in (1), more details can be found in [25].

$$M = EFT_{v_e} = LFT_{v_e}. \quad (1)$$

### 3.2 Multiple user model

Elastic online application scheduling system typically consists of multiple users [25]. Let  $U = \{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_m\}$  be a user set composed of  $m$  users,  $G_s = \{G_{s_1}, G_{s_2}, \dots, G_{s_m}\}$  be a set of data stream graphs of the user set  $U$ . For simplicity, it is assumed that a user always has only one application (described by a data stream graph) at any time.

Multiple users share resource in a data center. For each user, the available resource with elastic strategy is always needed. For all users, fair resource allocation is always needed.

### 3.3 Datacenter model

A data center  $DC$  is usually described as an undirected graph, composed of a computing node set and undirected edge set. It has a physical structure and specific functions, as shown in Figure 1, more details of data center  $DC$  can be found in [25].

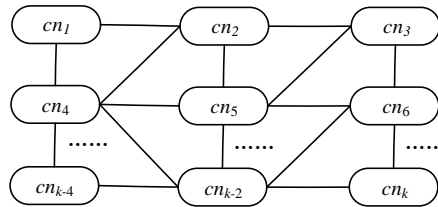


Fig. 1. A data center

### 3.4 Multiple data stream graph scheduling model

In an online scheduling environment, we focus on finding an elastic scheduling strategy to optimize the execution of multiple data stream graphs on a set of shared computing nodes, and maximize the system fair-ness with makespan guaranteed.

A fair multiple DAG scheduling strategy mean that resources allocation is the same with that in non-shared allocation environment [24] [26] [27].

For a DAG  $g_i$ , total allocated resources  $Tar_{g_i}(t_k)$  in  $[0, t_k]$  is the accumulated resources, as shown in (2).

$$Tar_{g_i}(t_k) = \int_0^{t_k} ar_{g_i}(t) dt, \quad (2)$$

where  $ar_{g_i}(t)$  is the current allocated resources for DAG  $g_i$  at time  $t$ .

The total needed allocated resources  $Tnr_{g_i}(t_k)$  in  $[0, t_k]$  is the accumulated resources, as shown in (3).

$$Tnr_{g_i}(t_k) = \int_0^{t_k} nr_{g_i}(t) dt, \quad (3)$$

where  $nr_{g_i}(t)$  is the current needed resources for DAG  $g_i$  at time  $t$ .

The fairness degree  $fd_{g_i}(t_k)$  for DAG  $g_i$  at time  $t_k$  is defined in (4).

$$fd_{g_i}(t_k) = \frac{Tar_{g_i}(t_k)}{Tnr_{g_i}(t_k)} = \frac{\int_0^{t_k} ar_{g_i}(t) dt}{\int_0^{t_k} nr_{g_i}(t) dt}, \quad (4)$$

As total actual allocated resources  $Tar_{g_i}(t_k)$  is always no more than total needed resources  $Tnr_{g_i}(t_k)$ , so  $fd_{g_i}(t_k) \in [0, 1]$ . If  $fd_{g_i}(t_k) = 1$ , it implies the absolute resource fairness for DAG  $g_i$  at time  $t_k$ , all the needed resources are allocated. If  $fd_{g_i}(t_k) = 0$ , it implies the absolute resource un-fairness for DAG  $g_i$  at time  $t_k$ , none of the needed resources is allocated. The greater the fairness degree  $fd_{g_i}(t_k)$  for DAG  $g_i$  at time  $t_k$ , the more fairness the share resources in data center.

For all  $n$  DAGs, fairness degree  $Fd_{ng}(t_k)$  for  $n$  DAGs at time  $t_k$  is the average of all  $n$  DAGs, is defined in (5).

$$Fd_{ng}(t_k) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n fd_{g_i}(t_k), fd_{g_i}(t_k) \in [0, 1], \quad (5)$$

For a good fairness strategy, it should be able to maximize  $Fd_{ng}(t_k)$ . The proposed data stream graph scheduling model is defined by Definition 1.

**Definition 1:** *Data stream graph scheduling model.* In a big data stream computing system, let the data stream graph scheduling model  $Gm$  be represented by a four-tuple  $Gm = (U, DC, Of, \Theta)$ , where  $U = \{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_m\}$  is a user set composed of  $m$  users, and each user may request services independently.  $DC = \{cn_1, cn_2, \dots, cn_n\}$  be a data center composed of  $n$  computing nodes, which are running on virtual machines or physical machines. For each data stream graph,  $Of$  is an objective function to schedule each data stream graph. It is defined according to (6), and  $\Theta$  is an



algorithm which implements optimal strategies to minimize the makespan with guaranteed system fairness.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Of}(\text{avg}(m(G)), Fd_{ng}(t_k)) &= \min(\text{avg}(m(G)) | Fd_{ng}(t_k)), \\ \text{s.t. } \text{avg}(m(G)) &\leq \delta, Fd_{ng}(t_k) \in [0,1]. \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

## 4 E-Stream Overview

In order to provide a bird's-eye view of the elastic online scheduling framework E-Stream, in this section, we discuss the overall structure of the E-Stream, which includes computation and communication cost, vertex semantics, instance of vertices, sub-graph construction, single DAG scheduling, and multiple DAG scheduling.

### 4.1 Computation and communication cost

Computation cost [28]  $c_{v_i, cn_j}$  is the time required to run vertex  $v_i$  on computing node  $cn_j$ , and is related to the instructions number  $n_{instr, v_i}$  of the tasks in vertex  $v_i$ , and processing ability  $p_{cn_j}$  of computing node  $cn_j$ .

Communication cost [29]  $c_{e_{i,j}}$  of directed edge  $e_{i,j}$  is the time required to transmit data tuple from vertex  $v_i$  to  $v_j$ , and is related to the data output  $d_{v_i}$  of vertex  $v_i$ , bandwidth  $b_{e_{i,j}}$  of the directed edge  $e_{i,j}$ . Specifically, if  $v_i$  and  $v_j$  run on the same computing node, then  $c_{e_{i,j}} = 0$ .

We refer to reference [25] for more detailed discussion on the computation and communication cost.

### 4.2 Vertex semantics

The semantic of vertex  $v_i$  [30] [31] in data stream graph  $G$  indicates relationships between input stream  $I_{v_i}$  and output stream  $O_{v_i}$  of vertex  $v_i$ , which is  $O_{v_i} = F_{v_i}(I_{v_i})$ . The semantic of vertex  $v_i$  can be further classified into 4 types, as shown in Figure 2.

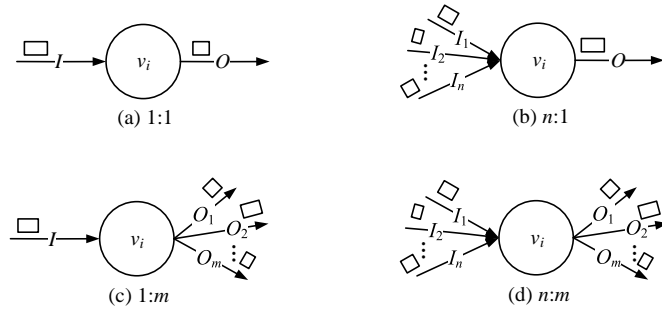
(1) 1:1 type

In the 1:1 type, as shown in Figure 2(a), there are one input stream  $I$  and one output stream  $O$  of vertex  $v_i$ ,  $ir_{v_i}$  is the rate of input stream  $I$ ,  $or_{v_i}$  is the rate of output stream  $O$ .  $ir_{v_i}$  and  $or_{v_i}$  are related with time complex degree of the tasks

in vertex  $v_i$  and processing ability  $p_{cn_j}$  of the computing node  $cn_j$ , which are constants. For simplicity, the relationship of  $ir_{v_i}$  and  $or_{v_i}$  can be described as (7).

$$or_{v_i} = \alpha_l \cdot ir_{v_i} + \beta_l, \alpha_l, \beta_l \in (0, +\infty), \quad (7)$$

where  $\alpha_l$ ,  $\beta_l$  are the scaling factors describing the scaling out or scaling in of  $ir_{v_i}$  and  $or_{v_i}$ , determined by the function of vertex  $v_i$ , and available computing power of computer node running vertex  $v_i$ .



**Fig. 2.** Vertex semantics

(2)  $n:1$  type

In the  $n:1$  type, as shown in Figure 2(b), there are  $n$  input streams  $I_{v_i,1}, I_{v_i,2}, \dots, I_{v_i,n}$ , and one output stream  $O$  of vertex  $v_i$ .  $ir_{v_i,1}, ir_{v_i,2}, \dots, ir_{v_i,n}$  are the rates of input streams  $I_{v_i,1}, I_{v_i,2}, \dots, I_{v_i,n}$ , respectively.  $or_{v_i}$  is the rate of output stream  $O$ . The relationship between  $ir_{v_i,1}, ir_{v_i,2}, \dots, ir_{v_i,n}$  and  $or_{v_i}$  can be described as (8).

$$or_{v_i} = \sum_{k=1}^n (\alpha_{I_k} \cdot ir_{v_i,k} + \beta_{I_k}), \alpha_{I_k}, \beta_{I_k} \in (0, +\infty), \quad (8)$$

where  $\alpha_{I_k}, \beta_{I_k}, k \in [1, n]$  are the scaling factors describing the scaling out or scaling in of  $ir_{v_i,k}$  and  $or_{v_i}$ .

(3)  $1:m$  type

In the  $1:m$  type, as shown in Figure 2(c), there are one input stream  $I$  and  $m$  output streams  $O_{v_i,1}, O_{v_i,2}, \dots, O_{v_i,m}$  of vertex  $v_i$ .  $ir_{v_i}$  is the rate of input stream  $I$ ,  $or_{v_i,1}, or_{v_i,2}, \dots, or_{v_i,m}$  are the rates of output streams  $O_{v_i,1}, O_{v_i,2}, \dots, O_{v_i,m}$ , respectively. The relationship between  $ir_{v_i}$  and  $or_{v_i,1}, or_{v_i,2}, \dots, or_{v_i,m}$  can be described as (9).

$$\begin{cases} or_{v_i,1} = \alpha_{I_1} \cdot ir_{v_i} + \beta_{I_1}, \alpha_{I_1}, \beta_{I_1} \in (0, +\infty), \\ or_{v_i,2} = \alpha_{I_2} \cdot ir_{v_i} + \beta_{I_2}, \alpha_{I_2}, \beta_{I_2} \in (0, +\infty), \\ \vdots \\ or_{v_i,m} = \alpha_{I_m} \cdot ir_{v_i} + \beta_{I_m}, \alpha_{I_m}, \beta_{I_m} \in (0, +\infty), \end{cases} \quad (9)$$

where  $\alpha_{I_j}, \beta_{I_j}, j \in [1, m]$  are the scaling factors describing the scaling out or scaling in of  $ir_{v_i}$  and  $or_{v_i,j}$ .

(4)  $n:m$  type

In the  $n:m$  type, as shown in Figure 2(d), there are  $n$  input streams  $I_{v_i,1}, I_{v_i,2}, \dots, I_{v_i,n}$  and  $m$  output streams  $O_{v_i,1}, O_{v_i,2}, \dots, O_{v_i,m}$  of vertex  $v_i$ .  $ir_{v_i,1}, ir_{v_i,2}, \dots, ir_{v_i,n}$  are the rates of input streams  $I_{v_i,1}, I_{v_i,2}, \dots, I_{v_i,n}$ , respectively,  $or_{v_i,1}, or_{v_i,2}, \dots, or_{v_i,m}$  are the rates of output streams  $O_{v_i,1}, O_{v_i,2}, \dots, O_{v_i,m}$ , respectively. The relationship between  $ir_{v_i,1}, ir_{v_i,2}, \dots, ir_{v_i,n}$  and  $or_{v_i,1}, or_{v_i,2}, \dots, or_{v_i,m}$  can be described as (10).

$$\begin{cases} or_{v_i,1} = \sum_{k=1}^n (\alpha_{I_{k,1}} \cdot ir_{v_i,k} + \beta_{I_{k,1}}), \alpha_{I_{k,1}}, \beta_{I_{k,1}} \in (0, +\infty), \\ or_{v_i,2} = \sum_{k=1}^n (\alpha_{I_{k,2}} \cdot ir_{v_i,k} + \beta_{I_{k,2}}), \alpha_{I_{k,2}}, \beta_{I_{k,2}} \in (0, +\infty), \\ \vdots \\ or_{v_i,m} = \sum_{k=1}^n (\alpha_{I_{k,m}} \cdot ir_{v_i,k} + \beta_{I_{k,m}}), \alpha_{I_{k,m}}, \beta_{I_{k,m}} \in (0, +\infty), \end{cases} \quad (10)$$

where  $\alpha_{I_{k,j}}, \beta_{I_{k,j}}, k \in [1, n], j \in [1, m]$  are the scaling factors describing the scaling out or scaling in of  $ir_{v_i,k}$  and  $or_{v_i,j}$ .

**Theorem 1.** In a big data stream computing environment, rate of data stream input to computing platform is  $r$ . For a vertex  $v_n$  in data stream graph  $G$ , the output data rate  $or_{v_n}$  of vertex  $v_n$  has a linear relationship with the input data rate  $r$ .

**Proof.** For a path from vertex  $v_1$  to vertex  $v_n$ ,

$$or_{v_n} = \alpha_n \cdot ir_{v_n} + \beta_n.$$

If  $ir_{v_i}$  is the input data rate of vertex  $v_i$ ,  $or_{v_{i-1}}$  is the output data rate of vertex  $v_{i-1}$  on that path from vertex  $v_1$  to vertex  $v_n$ ,  $\omega_{i,i-1}$  is weight of data stream from vertex  $v_{i-1}$  to vertex  $v_i$  on that path from vertex  $v_1$  to vertex  $v_n$ .

That is,

$$ir_{v_i} = \omega_{i,i-1} \cdot or_{v_{i-1}}$$

So,

$$\begin{aligned}
or_{v_n} &= \alpha_n \cdot ir_{v_n} + \beta_n \\
&= \alpha_n \cdot (\omega_{n-1,n} \cdot or_{v_{n-1}}) + \beta_n \\
&= \alpha_n \cdot \left( \omega_{n-1,n} \cdot \prod_{k=2}^n (\alpha_{k-1} \cdot ir_{v_{k-1}} + \beta_{k-1}) \right) + \beta_n \\
&= \prod_{k=1}^n (\alpha_k) \cdot \prod_{k=2}^n (\omega_{k-1,k}) \cdot ir_{v_1} + \sum_{h=2}^n \left( \prod_{k=h}^n (\alpha_k) \cdot \prod_{k=h}^n (\omega_{k-1,k}) \cdot \beta_{h-1} \right) + \beta_n.
\end{aligned}$$

If there are  $m$  paths from vertex  $v_1$  to vertex  $v_n$  in data stream graph  $G$ , then,

$$\begin{aligned}
or_{v_n} &= \alpha_n \cdot ir_{v_n} + \beta_n \\
&= \alpha_n \cdot \left( \sum_{k=1}^{id_{v_1}} \omega_{k,i} \cdot or_{v_k} \right) + \beta_n \\
&= \sum_{p=1}^m \left( \prod_{k=1}^n (\alpha_k) \cdot \prod_{k=2}^n (\omega_{k-1,k}) \right) \cdot ir_{v_1} + \sum_{p=1}^m \left( \sum_{h=2}^n \left( \prod_{k=h}^n (\alpha_k) \cdot \prod_{k=h}^n (\omega_{k-1,k}) \cdot \beta_{h-1} \right) + \beta_n \right).
\end{aligned}$$

If,

$$\begin{aligned}
\alpha &= \sum_{p=1}^m \left( \prod_{k=1}^n (\alpha_k) \cdot \prod_{k=2}^n (\omega_{k-1,k}) \right) \\
\beta &= \sum_{p=1}^m \left( \sum_{h=2}^n \left( \prod_{k=h}^n (\alpha_k) \cdot \prod_{k=h}^n (\omega_{k-1,k}) \cdot \beta_{h-1} \right) + \beta_n \right).
\end{aligned}$$

Then,

$$or_{v_n} = \alpha \cdot ir_{v_1} + \beta.$$

As  $ir_{v_1} = r$ , so,

$$or_{v_n} = \alpha \cdot r + \beta.$$

□

Similarly, the relationship between end vertex  $v_e$  of data stream graph  $G$  and the input data rate  $r$  is also linear.

### 4.3 Instance of vertices

Replication of vertex in a data stream graph can improve throughput. Each vertex  $v_i$  can create  $n$  different independent instances  $v_{ij}, j \in (1, 2, \dots, n)$ . Instances run on different machines, and work in parallel.

The number of instances of each vertex can be determined by the number of instructions that each vertex has. More details of our vertex instance model can be found in [25].

#### 4.4 Sub-graph construction

In a DAG, the communication cost between some vertices may be significantly longer than that of other vertices, and greatly increases the response time of the DAG. In order to reduce such kind of communication cost, a sub-graph is constructed on the related vertices. A sub-graph is defined as Definition 2.

**Definition 2:** *sub-graph*. A sub-graph  $sub-G$  of data stream graph  $G$  is the sub-graph consisting of a subset of the vertices with the edges in between. For any vertices  $v_i$  and  $v_j$  in the sub-graph  $sub-G$  and any vertex  $v$  in data stream graph  $G$ ,  $v$  must also be in the  $sub-G$  if  $v$  is on a directed path from  $v_i$  to  $v_j$ , that is  $\forall v_i, v_j \in V(sub-G), \forall v \in V(G), \text{ if } v \in V(p(v_i, v_j)), \text{ then } v \in V(p(sub-G))$ .

A sub-graph  $sub-G$  can be substituted by a logically equivalent vertex. Construction of a sub-graph can reduce the communication cost between related vertices, and reduce the response time of the DAG. A sub-graph will be treated as a “vertex” in the DAG scheduling phase.

For a directed edge  $e_{i,j}$  from vertex  $v_i$  to  $v_j$ , the communication to computation ratio  $ccr_{v_i, v_j}$  of vertex  $v_i$  and  $v_j$  can be calculated by (11).

$$ccr_{v_i, v_j} = \frac{avg(c_{e_{i,j}})}{avg(c_{v_i}) + avg(c_{v_j})}. \quad (11)$$

where  $avg(c_{v_i})$  is the average computation cost of vertex  $v_i$ , and  $avg(c_{e_{i,j}})$  is the average communication cost from vertex  $v_i$  to  $v_j$ .

If the communication to computation ratio  $ccr_{v_i, v_j}$  of vertex  $v_i$  and  $v_j$  meet condition (12), a sub-graph need to be constructed.

$$ccr_{v_i, v_j} > \delta, \quad (12)$$

where  $\delta$  is the adjust parameter, which can be set according to needs of different stream computing environments. Such as,  $\delta$  can be set as 1, which means the computation cost of vertex  $v_i$  and  $v_j$  equal to the communication cost of directed edge  $e_{i,j}$ .

#### 4.5 Single DAG scheduling

For a DAG, a priority based earliest finish time first scheduling strategy is employed [32].

In a DAG, each vertex can be set with a priority according to its location in the DAG. The priority of vertex  $v_i$  is defined by (13).

$$p(v_i) = \max_{\forall v_k \in \text{set}_{\text{children}}(v_i)} \{p(v_k) + c_{e_{i,k}}\} + \text{avg}(c_{v_i}), \quad (13)$$

where  $v_k$  is one of children of vertex  $v_i$ ,  $\text{set}_{\text{children}}(v_i)$  is children set of vertex  $v_i$ , and  $\text{avg}(c_{v_i})$  is the average computation cost of vertex  $v_i$ .

The priority of the end vertex  $v_e$  is defined by (14).

$$p(v_e) = \text{avg}(c_{v_e}) \quad (14)$$

The priority of a vertex determines the order in which the resources are allocated. The source vertex  $v_s$  always has the highest priority among all vertices in the DAG, and it is always first scheduled to a computing node. At the beginning, all vertices in the DAG are added to a non-schedule vertices set in topological order. When a vertex is scheduled to a node, the vertex is removed from the non-schedule vertices set, and added to schedule set. A vertex is always scheduled to a computing node on which the earliest completion time is guaranteed.

The earliest finish time  $EFT_{v_s, cn_j}$  of vertex  $v_i$  running on computing node  $cn_j$  is shown in (15).

$$EFT_{v_s, cn_j} = t_{v_s, cn_j}^{\text{idle}} + c_{v_s, cn_j}. \quad (15)$$

The earliest finish time  $EFT_{v_s}$  is the finish time of source vertex  $v_s$  on computing node  $cn_{pbest}$  with minimum total time of available time and computing time, as shown in (16).

$$EFT_{v_s, cn_{pbest}} = \min_{cn_j \in \text{ava}(v_s)} \{t_{v_s, cn_j}^{\text{idle}} + c_{v_s, cn_j}\}. \quad (16)$$

where  $\text{ava}(v_i)$  is the set of available computing nodes for vertex  $v_i$ .

For other vertices in  $G$ , to calculate  $EST_{v_i, cn_j}$ , all immediate predecessor vertices of  $v_i$  must have been scheduled, and added to the schedule set.

$$EST_{v_i, cn_j} = \max \left\{ t_{v_i, cn_j}^{\text{idle}}, \max_{v_{pred} \in \text{pred}(v_i)} \{EFT_{v_{pred}} + c_{e_{pred, j}}\} \right\}, \quad (17)$$

where  $t_{v_i, cn_j}^{\text{idle}}$  is the earliest time at which computing node  $cn_j$  is ready for  $v_i$  use, and  $\text{pred}(v_i)$  is the set of immediate predecessor vertices of vertex  $v_i$ .

The earliest finish time  $EFT_{v_i, cn_j}$  of vertex  $v_i$  running on computing node  $cn_j$  can be calculated by (18).

$$EFT_{v_i, cn_j} = EST_{v_i, cn_j} + c_{v_i, cn_j}. \quad (18)$$

The earliest finish time  $EFT_{v_i}$  is the finish time of vertex  $v_i$  on the computing node  $cn_{pbest}$  with minimum total time of available time and computing time, as shown in (19).

$$EFT_{v_i, cn_{pbest}} = \min_{cn_j \in ava(v_i)} \{EFT_{v_i, cn_j}\}. \quad (19)$$

where  $ava(v_i)$  is the set of available computing nodes for vertex  $v_i$ .

The following three rules are also employed in scheduling a DAG.

**Rule 1:** each instance of a vertex is scheduled to a different computing node.

If a vertex has multiple instances, each instance of the vertex is scheduled to a different computing node, to improve the efficiency of node usages. If two or more instances are schedule to the same node, it is not only unhelpful to improve the efficiency, but also increases the workload of the node.

**Rule 2:** the computing node with the maximum available computing power is always employed.

If a vertex can be scheduled to multiple nodes, given the same earliest finish time, the node with the maximum available computing power is always employed. As the available computing power of a node keeps changing, the most remaining available “powerful” node is not always the same. This rule helps achieve a fairer use of all available resources.

**Rule 3:** minimize number of vertices in the elastic online rescheduling stage.

When a DAG is scheduled on computing platform, it is running forever. If the arrival rate of data stream or the number of available computing nodes is changed, the DAG is to be rescheduled during this stage, the scheduling strategy is the same as the strategy for single DAG. However, the current allocation status is to be considered. The vertex to be scheduled on the same node will not be further rescheduled to minimize the number of vertices to be rescheduled.

#### 4.6 Multiple DAG scheduling

For a  $n$ -DAGs scheduling scenario, a max-min fairness based multiple DAGs scheduling strategy is employed [33], and described as Algorithm 1.

**Algorithm 1:** Max-min fairness based multiple DAGs scheduling algorithm.

1. **Input:** multiple DAGs, current available capacity ability matrix  $C_{v_{nom}}$  of computing nodes in data centers, input rate of data stream.
2. **Output:** Max-min fairness based multiple DAGs scheduling algorithm with makespan guaranteed.
3. **if** DAG  $G$  or computing nodes is null **then**
4.     Return null.
5. **end if**
6. Monitor the real-time rate of data stream in the input interface and response time of each DAG.
7. **while** some DAGs need more resources **do**
8.     Sort resources needed DAGs in ascending order by the number of

- 
- resources needed.
9.       **while** set of resources needed DAGs is not null **do**
  10.        Select a DAG  $g_i$  needing the least resources.
  11.        **if** available resources in data center is greater than required **then**
  12.        Allocate resources for DAG  $g_i$  by priority based earliest finish time first strategy.
  13.        Update available capacity of the affected nodes.
  14.        **end if**
  15.        Update current available capacity matrix  $C_{v_{nom}}$  of nodes in data centers.
  16.        Update the set of resources needed DAGs.
  17.        **end while**
  18.        Monitor the real-time rate of data stream in the input interface and response time of each DAG.
  19.        Update the set of resources needed DAGs
  20.        **end while**
  21.        **return** Max-min fairness based multiple DAGs scheduling sequence with makespan guarantee.
- 

The input of this algorithm is multiple DAGs, current available capacity matrix  $C_{v_{nom}}$  of computing nodes, and input rate of data stream. The output is max-min fairness based multiple DAGs scheduling sequence with makespan guaranteed. Step 7 to step 20 monitor those DAGs requiring more resources, and reschedule all those DAGs by priority based earliest finish time first strategy. The makespan is maximized with system fairness degree guaranteed.

## 5 Performance Evaluation

To evaluate the performance of the proposed E-Stream system, we created the experimental environment and conducted experiments as discussed below.

### 5.1 Experimental environment and parameter setup

Storm platform [17] [34] [35] is one of the most popular big data stream computing platforms in industry today. It is a parallel, distributed, and fault-tolerant system, designed to provide a platform that supports real-time data stream computing on clusters of horizontally scalable commodity machines.

The proposed E-Stream system is developed based on Storm 0.10.2, and installed on top of Linux Ubuntu Server 13.04. Real data experiments are performed on a computing cluster located at computer architecture laboratory in China University of Geosciences, Beijing. The computing cluster consists of 35 machines, with one designated as master node, running Storm Nimbus, two designated as Zookeeper node, and the rest 32 machines working as worker nodes. Each machine runs Linux Ubuntu Server 13.04 with dual 4-core, Intel Core (TM) i7-4790, 3.6GHz, 4 GB Memory, and 1Gbps network interface cards.



Moreover, an instance graph of TOP\_N (see Figure 3), and an instance graph of WordCount (see Figure 4), are submitted to the data center.

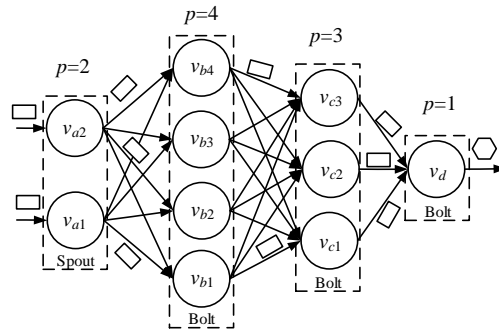


Fig. 3. Instance graph of TOP\_N in Storm.

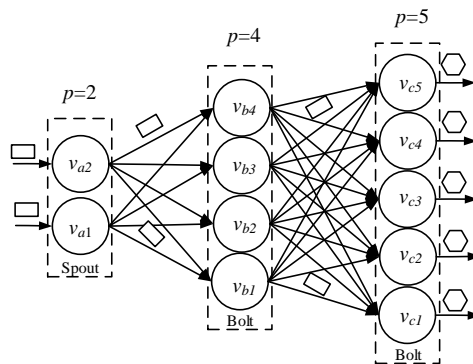
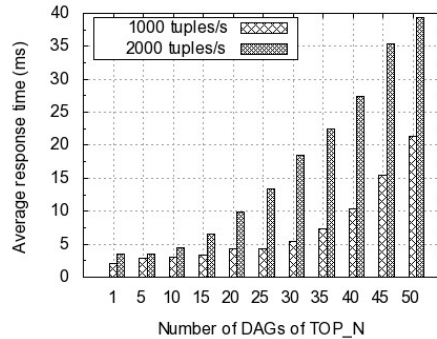


Fig. 4. Instance graph of WordCount in Storm.

## 5.2 Performance results

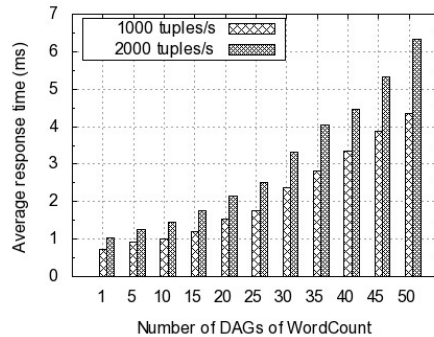
The experimental setting contains two evaluation parameters: the response time  $RT$ , and the fairness degree  $FD$ .

(1) *Response time*. The response time  $RT$  or makespan of a DAG is determined by the critical path of that DAG.  $RT$  can be calculated by  $EFT$  of the end vertex  $v_e$ . It can also be obtained from Storm UI.



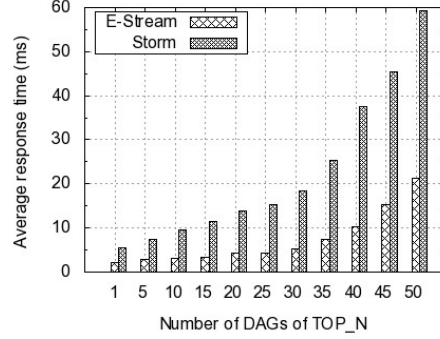
**Fig. 5.** Average response time of instance graph of TOP\_N with different number of DAGs.

Given the rate of data stream is stable, with the increase of number of DAGs, the average response time also increases. As shown in Figure 5, when the rate of data stream set at 1000 tuples/s, and 2000 tuples/s, the average response times of instance graph of TOP\_N are increasing with the number of DAGs accordingly. However, even when the number of DAGs of TOP\_N is 50, the rate of data stream set at 1000 tuples/s, and 2000 tuples/s, the average response time of instance graph of TOP\_N is 21.35 ms, and 39.32ms, respectively, which is reasonably acceptable in an online stream computing environment.



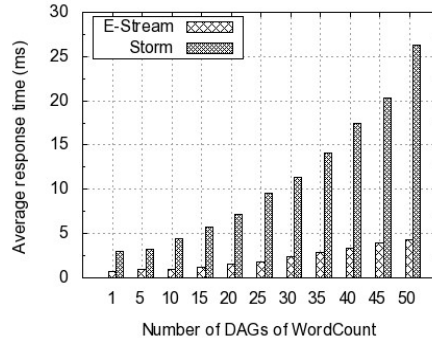
**Fig. 6.** Average response time of instance graph of WordCount with different number of DAGs.

Given the rate of data stream is stable, with the increase of number of DAGs, the response time of DAG also increases. As shown in Figure 6, when the rate of data stream set at 1000 tuples/s, and 2000 tuples/s, the average response times of instance graph of WordCount are also increasing with the number of DAGs accordingly. However, even when the number of DAGs of WordCount is 50, when the rate of data stream is 1000 tuples/s, and 2000 tuples/s, the average response time of instance graph of WordCount is 4.35 ms, and 6.32ms, respectively, which are reasonably acceptable in an online stream computing environment.



**Fig. 7.** Average response time of instance graph of TOP\_N with data rates 1000 tuples/s.

Given the rate of data stream is stable, E-Stream has a better average response time compared with the default, round-robin strategy of Storm platform. As shown in Figure 7, with the rate set at 1000 tuples/s, the average response time of instance graph of TOP\_N by E-Stream is greatly shorter than that of the default Storm strategy under the same situation. The larger number of DAGs, the higher improvement of the average response time by E-Stream.

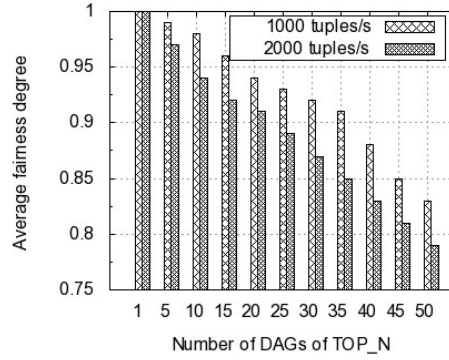


**Fig. 8.** Average response time of instance graph of WordCount with data rates 1000 tuples/s.

Given the rate of data stream is stable, E-Stream also has a better average response time, compared with the default round-robin strategy on Storm platform. As shown in Figure 8, with the rate set at 1000 tuples/s, the average response time of instance graph of WordCount by E-Stream is greatly shorter than that of the default Storm strategy under the same situation. The larger number of DAGs, the higher improvement of the average response time by E-Stream.

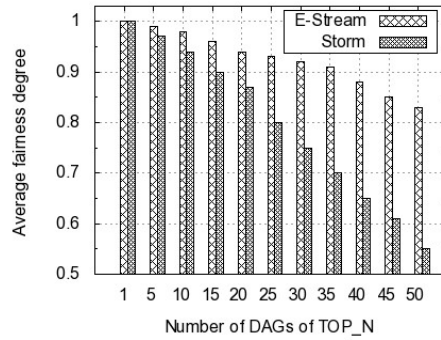
(2) *Fairness degree.* Fairness degree  $FD$  reflects fairness of all related DAGs in a data center. Fairness degree  $Fd_{ng}(t_k)$  for  $n$  DAGs at time  $t_k$  is the average of all  $n$  DAGs, as defined in (5). If  $Fd_{ng}(t_k) = 1$ , it implies the absolute resource fairness for

$n$  DAGs at time  $t_k$ . If  $fd_{g_i}(t_k)=0$ , it implies the absolute resource un-fairness for  $n$  DAGs at time  $t_k$ . The greater the fairness degree  $Fd_{ng}(t_k)$  for  $n$  DAGs at time  $t_k$ , the more fairness the sharing resources in data center.



**Fig. 9.** Average fairness degree of instance graph of TOP\_N with different number of DAGs.

Given the rate of data stream is stable, with the increase of number of DAGs, the fairness degree of all DAGs decreases. As shown in Figure 9, when the rate of data stream set at 1000 tuples/s and 2000 tuples/s, the average fairness degree of instance graph of TOP\_N is decreasing with the number of DAGs. However, even when the number of DAGs of TOP\_N is 50, the rate of data stream is 1000 tuples/s, and 2000 tuples/s,  $t_k=100s$ , the average fairness degree of instance graph of TOP\_N is 0.83, and 0.79, respectively, which are reasonably acceptable in an online stream computing environment.



**Fig. 10.** Average fairness degree of instance graph of TOP\_N with data rates 1000 tuples/s.

Given the rate of data stream is stable, E-Stream has a better average fairness degree, compared with the default round-robin strategy on Storm platform. As shown in Figure 10, with the rate set at 1000 tuples/s, the average fairness degree of instance

graph of TOP\_N by E-Stream is greatly better than that of the default strategy by Storm under the same situation. The larger number of DAGs, the higher improvement of the average fairness degree by E-Stream.

## 6 Conclusions and Future Work

Elastic online scheduling over high velocity continuous data streams is one of the major obstacles for opening up the new era of big data stream computing. In a big data stream computing environment, each DAG is submitted to a big data stream computing platform, and scheduled on one or many computing nodes in data center. All the submitted applications are running continuously. An elastic online scheduling is always needed to improve resource usage.

An elastic runtime scaling strategy is the key part of elastic online scheduling framework, which determines when and how to scale, and accounts for data stream fluctuating with time. A clear picture of the changed status of a graph of streaming application is firstly obtained. It is then decided how to optimize the graph of application, and which vertices of the graph need to be online rescheduled. More importantly, the scheduling fairness of multiple applications is achieved. It is investigated as to understand how to minimize system response time and guarantee applications fairness.

Our contributions made in this paper are summarized as follows:

(1) Formal definitions of data stream graph, optimizing the structure of a data stream graph by quantifying and adjusting the degree of parallelism of vertices in the graph.

(2) Sub-graph is further constructed to minimize data dependencies among them.

(3) Elastic scheduling of a graph by a priority based earliest finish time first strategy, and elastic scheduling of multiple graphs by a max-min fairness based strategy.

(4) Prototype implementation, experimental, and performance evaluation of the proposed E-Stream.

Our future work will be focusing on the following directions:

(1) Developing a complete elastic online scheduling framework based on E-Stream as a part of big data stream computing services to satisfy the low response time and high applications fairness objectives.

(2) Deploying the E-Stream on real big data stream computing environments.

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