

CS3410: Computer Systems and Organization

LEC27: Parallel Programming with Maps and Reductions

Dr. Kevin Laeufer Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Credits: Garcia, Laeufer

The Map Function

- Apply a custom function to each element.
- Square each number:

```
fn square(n: i32) -> i32 { n * n }
[1, 2, 3].into_iter().map(square)
Result: [1, 4, 9]
```

Using anonymous functions:

```
[1, 2, 3].into iter().map(|n| n * n)
Result: [1, 4, 9]
```

The Map Function: Chaining

We can chain calls to map:

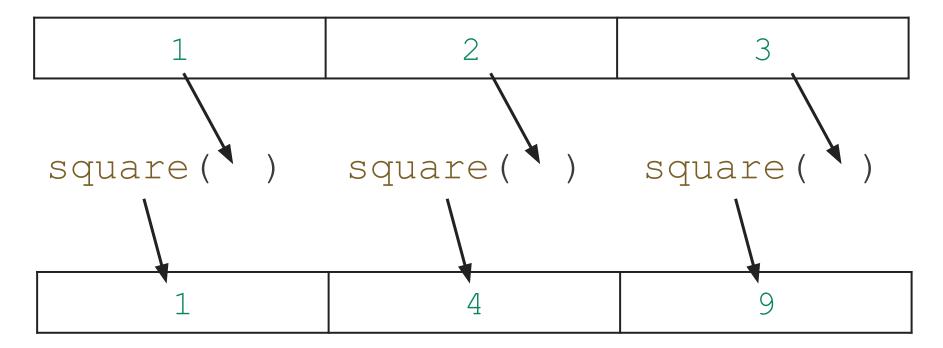
```
[1, 2, 3].into iter().map(|n| n * n).map(|n| n + 1)
Result: [2, 5, 10]
```

This is equivalent to:

```
[1, 2, 3].into_iter().map(|n| (n * n) + 1)
Result: [2, 5, 10]
```

The Map Function: Dataflow View

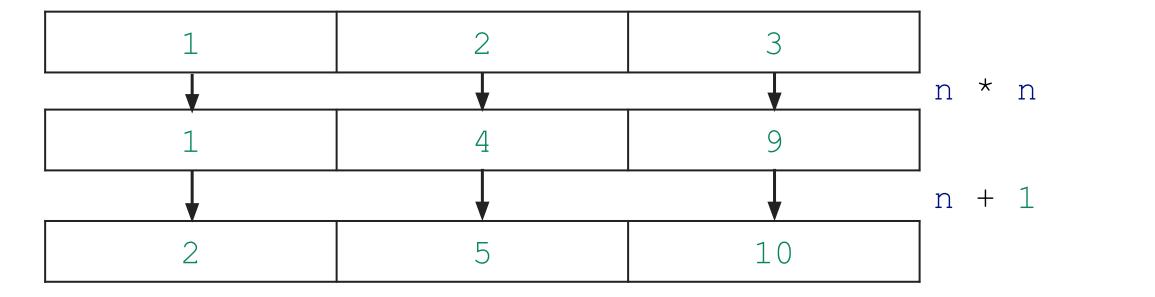
• [1, 2, 3].into_iter().map(square)



 The <u>order</u> in which we compute the individual squares does not matter.

The Map Function: Dataflow View

• $[1, 2, 3].into_iter().map(|n| n * n).map(|n| n + 1)$



 We can interleave the computation of the map calls to save memory bandwidth.

From Lectrue 25: Computing Primes

```
bool is prime(int n) {
 for (int i = 2; i < n; ++i) {
   if (n % i == 0) { return false; }
 return true;
// ...
static const int NUMBERS = 1024;
for(int i = 1; i < NUMBERS; i += 1) {</pre>
 is prime(i);
```

We can rewrite the loop using map:

Can we use map inside

```
is prime?
```

 The loop in is_prime is meant to exit early, does not fit the standard map pattern.

From Lectrue 25: Computing Primes

Calculating whether a number is prime using map:

```
(0..NUMBERS).into_iter().map(is_prime)
```

 The Rust library rayon can parallelize calls to map (and much more!). All we have to do is:

```
(0..NUMBERS).into_par_iter().map(is_prime)
```

- Demo: measure speed with hyperfine
- Note how we did not have to decide how we want to partition the work across threads. Rayon uses as many threads as CPU cores and work stealing for balance.

How can we calculate the number of primes?

• This prints: count=0

How can we calculate the number of primes?

• This prints: count=1902

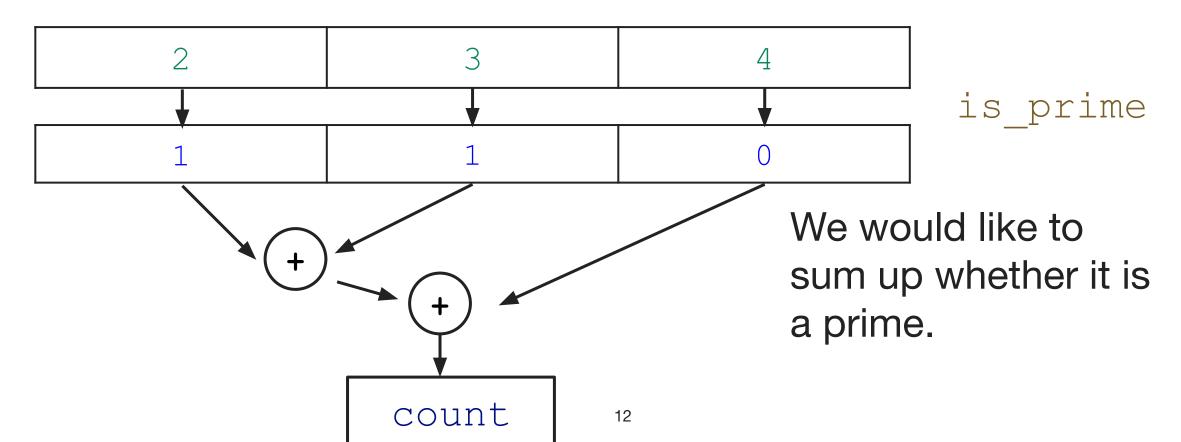
This tells Rust to actually perform the computation and *collect* the results in an array.

Now in parallel?

Does not compile! Cannot assign shared variable!

```
• [2, 3, 4].into iter()
             .map(is prime)
             .map(|p| { count += p as u32; p })
                                           is prime
                               false
   true
                 true
                                          count += p as u32; p
                                false
   true
                 true
                                              count
```

All applications of the second map read and write the same global variable!

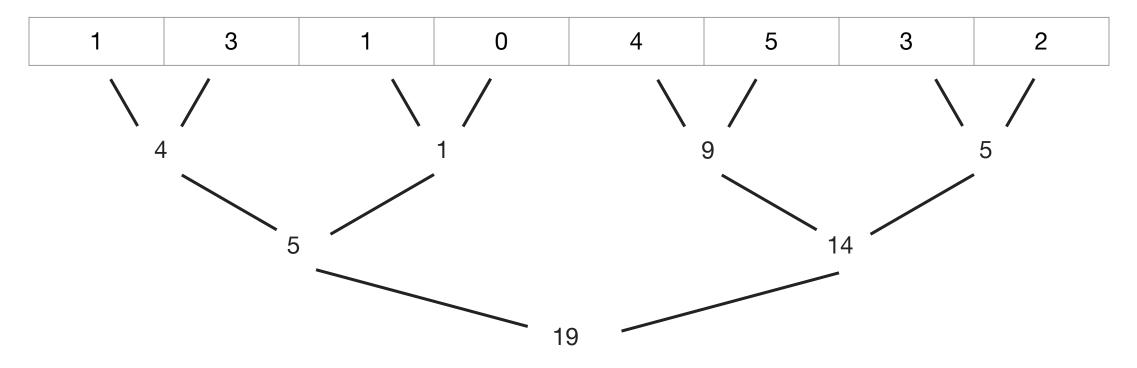


Reductions: from specialized to generic

- Three different ways to get the same result:
- .sum()
 .reduce(|a, b| a + b).unwrap()
 .fold(0, |a, b| a + b)
- And now in parallel:
- let count: u32 =
 (0..NUMBERS).into_par_iter().map(is_prime)
 .map(|p| p as u32)
 .reduce(|| 0, |a, b| a + b);

Parallel Reductions

• Tree reduction for maximum parallelism:



• Number of additions: O(n) in the serial implementation, O(n log(n)) in the tree reduction.

Recap: map and reduce for parallel execution.

- Map and reduce style computation provides a lot of freedom on how exactly the result is computed.
- The runtime can schedule small user provided functions across lots of data and many CPU cores.
- As long as we use pure functions that do not modify shared variables, the user will get the same result, no matter whether we execute in parallel or not.
- The Rayon library allows you to easily parallelize computation, as long as you can express it using map and reduce.

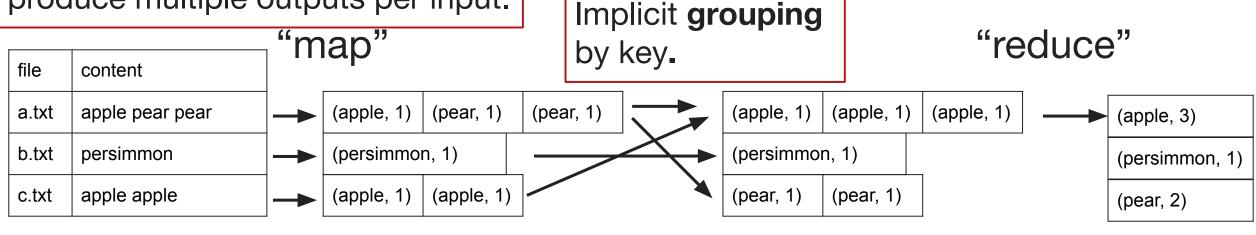
Cluster Scale MapReduce

- So far: all our data is in memory; we use standard map and reduce on a single CPU.
- Google's problems in the early 2000s:
 - TBs of data from logs, web crawling, etc.
 - Machines only have a 2 core CPU + 4GB of RAM
 - Files are distributed across machines
 - Sending data from one machine to another is slow.

Dean, Jeffrey, and Sanjay Ghemawat.
"Mapreduce: Simplified Data Processing on Large Clusters."
In OSDI 2004.

Example from the paper: Word count.

Actually a flat_map since we produce multiple outputs per input.



```
map(String key, String value):
    // key: document name
    // value: document contents
    for each word w in value:
        EmitIntermediate(w, "1");
```

```
reduce(String key, Iterator values):
    // key: a word
    // values: a list of counts
    int result = 0;
    for each v in values:
        result += ParseInt(v);
    Emit(AsString(result));
```

System Setup

- From the start, files are distributed across machines.
- Map can be computed on a machine that has the file already available.
- Grouping requires global synchronization through a coordinator machine.
- Reduction happens locally, since all values with the same key end up on the same machine.

Advantages

- Computation can be distributed across machines.
- Implicit grouping by key ensures locality!
- Tasks can be load balanced across machines.
- Failure Resistance: If a machine fails, a map or reduction task can be re-run on a different machine.

Disadvantages

- Only two operators: reduced flexibility.
- Explicit loops in reduction and map implementation cannot be parallelized by the system.
- Cannot easily chain multiple map and reduce calls without writing to disk.

(slightly more) Modern Alternative: Apache Spark

- Allows fine grained and more standard map/reduce style operations.
- Most of the work is done in-memory, and results can be reused.
- Word count in Spark:

```
val wordCounts = textFile
    .flatMap(line => line.split(" "))
    .groupByKey(identity)
    .count()
```

Takeaways

- Expressing computation in a functional style with map and reduce operators allows for **flexible compute** schedules.
- Map can safely be parallelized as long as the function we are applying does not modify shared state (like global variables).
- Reduce can be parallelized efficiently as long as the reduction function is associative.
- Map can work across CPU cores and across machines.
- Global grouping by key allows for efficient parallel "reductions" across machines.
- Spark supports more fine grained parallelism and reuse of intermediate results without going to disk.

Best of luck on the exam!

- This was my final lecture.
- Please keep exploring:
 - Compilers: CS 4120
 - Operating Systems: CS 4410
 - Floating-Point Math: CS 4210, CS 4220
 - Computer Architecture: CS 4420
 - Self-study Rust