

Intro to data cleaning with Apache Spark

CLEANING DATA WITH PYSPARK



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What is Data Cleaning?

Data Cleaning: Preparing raw data for use in data processing pipelines.

Possible tasks in data cleaning:

- Reformatting or replacing text
- Performing calculations
- Removing garbage or incomplete data

Why perform data cleaning with Spark?

Problems with typical data systems:

- Performance
- Organizing data flow

Advantages of Spark:

- Scalable
- Powerful framework for data handling

Data cleaning example

Raw data:

name	age (years)	city
Smith, John	37	Dallas
Wilson, A.	59	Chicago
<i>null</i>	215	

Cleaned data:

last name	first name	age (months)	state
Smith	John	444	TX
Wilson	A.	708	IL

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Spark Schemas

- Define the format of a DataFrame
- May contain various data types:
 - Strings, dates, integers, arrays
- Can filter garbage data during import
- Improves read performance

Example Spark Schema

Import schema

```
import pyspark.sql.types
peopleSchema = StructType([
    # Define the name field
    StructField('name', StringType(), True),
    # Add the age field
    StructField('age', IntegerType(), True),
    # Add the city field
    StructField('city', StringType(), True)
])
```

Read CSV file containing data

```
people_df = spark.read.format('csv').load(name='rawdata.csv', schema=peopleSchema)
```

Let's practice!

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Immutability and Lazy Processing

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Variable review

Python variables:

- Mutable
- Flexibility
- Potential for issues with concurrency
- Likely adds complexity

Immutability

Immutable variables are:

- A component of functional programming
- Defined once
- Unable to be directly modified
- Re-created if reassigned
- Able to be shared efficiently

Immutability Example

Define a new data frame:

```
voter_df = spark.read.csv('voterdata.csv')
```

Making changes:

```
voter_df = voter_df.withColumn('fullyear',  
    voter_df.year + 2000)  
voter_df = voter_df.drop(voter_df.year)
```

Lazy Processing

- Isn't this slow?
- Transformations
- Actions
- Allows efficient planning

```
voter_df = voter_df.withColumn('fullyear',  
    voter_df.year + 2000)  
voter_df = voter_df.drop(voter_df.year)  
  
voter_df.count()
```

Let's practice!

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Understanding Parquet

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Difficulties with CSV files

- No defined schema
- Nested data requires special handling
- Encoding format limited

Spark and CSV files

- Slow to parse
- Files cannot be filtered (no "predicate pushdown")
- Any intermediate use requires redefining schema

The Parquet Format

- A columnar data format
- Supported in Spark and other data processing frameworks
- Supports predicate pushdown
- Automatically stores schema information

Working with Parquet

Reading Parquet files

```
df = spark.read.format('parquet').load('filename.parquet')
```

```
df = spark.read.parquet('filename.parquet')
```

Writing Parquet files

```
df.write.format('parquet').save('filename.parquet')
```

```
df.write.parquet('filename.parquet')
```

Parquet and SQL

Parquet as backing stores for SparkSQL operations

```
flight_df = spark.read.parquet('flights.parquet')
```

```
flight_df.createOrReplaceTempView('flights')
```

```
short_flights_df = spark.sql('SELECT * FROM flights WHERE flightduration < 100')
```

Let's Practice!

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