

# PySpark All Query Topics

## ✓ 1. Reading and Writing Data

### ◆ Explanation:

Spark supports reading/writing data from **CSV**, **JSON**, **Parquet**, **Delta**, etc., using `spark.read` and `df.write`.

### ◆ Code Example:

```
# Read CSV
df_csv = spark.read.option("header",
True).csv("/path/data.csv")
```

```
# Read JSON
df_json =
spark.read.json("/path/data.json")
```

```
# Read Parquet
df_parquet =
```

```
spark.read.parquet("/path/data.parquet")
```

```
# Write Parquet
```

```
df_csv.write.mode("overwrite").parquet("/output/parquet")
```

```
# Write CSV with header
```

```
df_json.write.option("header",  
True).csv("/output/csv")
```

## Why It Matters:

Efficient file handling is **core to ETL**. Use `.option()` for format control (like headers, delimiters, etc.).

## 2.Schema Handling

### ◆ Explanation:

Define schemas explicitly using `StructType` for **performance & stability** (avoids schema inference).

## ◆ Code Example:

```
from pyspark.sql.types import StructType,
StructField, StringType, IntegerType

schema = StructType([
    StructField("id", IntegerType(),
True),
    StructField("name", StringType(),
True)
])

df =
spark.read.schema(schema).csv("/path/data.
csv")
```

## 🔍 Why It Matters:

**Faster loads**

Avoids issues with **incorrect data types**

### ✓ 3.Filtering Rows ( `filter` / `where` )

#### ◆ Explanation:

`Usefilter()` or `where()` to select rows matching a condition.

#### ◆ Code Example:

```
df.filter(df["age"] > 25).show()  
df.where("salary > 50000").show()
```

#### 🔍 Why It Matters:

**Pushes filtering to the source** (predicate pushdown), improving performance.

### ✓ 4.Selecting Columns ( `select` with `Column` )

#### ◆ Explanation:

`select` picks columns.

`withColumn` adds or updates columns.

## ◆ Code Example:

```
df.select("name", "ageshow()  
").  
from pyspark.sql.functions import col  
df.withColumn("age_plus_5", col("age")+  
5).show()
```

## 🔍 Why It Matters:

Helps you **transform data** efficiently and prepare it for further processing.



## 5. Renaming & Dropping Columns



### Explanation:

withColumnRenamed: Rename columns

drop: Drop columns

## ◆ Code Example:

```
df = df.withColumnRenamed("dob",  
"date_of_birth")
```

```
df = df.drop("unwanted_column")
```

## Why It Matters:

Maintains **clean schema** especially when joining or preparing final output.

## 6. Aggregations (groupBy, agg)

### ◆ Explanation:

Use groupBy with aggregation functions like count, sum, avg, etc.

### ◆ Code Example:

```
from pyspark.sql.functions import count,  
sum, avg
```

```
df.groupBy("department").agg(  
    count("*").alias("total"),  
    sum("salary").alias("total_salary"),  
    avg("salary").alias("avg_salary")
```

```
).show()
```

### Why It Matters:

Core of **reporting, dashboarding**, and **KPI generation**.

## 7. Joins

### Explanation:

PySpark supports inner, left, right, full, semi, anti joins.

### Code Example:

```
df1.join(df2, on="id", how="inner").show()  
df1.join(df2, on="id", how="left").show()
```

### Why It Matters:

Used in **data merging, relational ETL**, and **lookups**.

## ✓ 8.Window Functions

### ◆ Explanation:

Used for **row-level operations** like rank, lead, lag, row\_number **without collapsing rows**.

### ◆ Code Example:

```
from pyspark.sql.window import Window
from pyspark.sql.functions import
row_number
windowSpec =
Window.partitionBy("department").orderBy("
salary")
df.withColumn("rank",
row_number().over(windowSpec)).show()
```

### 🔍 Why It Matters:

Crucial for **top-N queries**, **lag analysis**, **sessionization**, etc.



## ✓ 9. Sorting Data

### ◆ Explanation:

Use `orderBy` or `sort`.

### ◆ Code Example:

```
df.orderBy("age").show()  
df.orderBy(df["age"].desc()).show()
```

## ✓ 10. Null Handling

### ◆ Explanation:

Handle nulls with `fillna`, `dropna` or conditionally replace using `when/otherwise`.

### ◆ Code Example:

```
df.fillna({"salary": 0}).show()  
df.dropna().show()  
  
from pyspark.sql.functions import when  
df.withColumn("salary",
```

```
when(df.salary.isNull(),  
0).otherwise(df.salary)).show()
```

## ✓ 11. User Defined Functions (UDFs)

### ◆ Explanation:

Use when you can't express logic using existing Spark functions.

### ◆ Code Example:

```
from pyspark.sql.functions import udf  
from pyspark.sql.types import StringType  
  
def upper_case(name):  
    return name.upper()  
  
upper_udf = udf(upper_case, StringType())  
  
df.withColumn("name_upper",  
upper_udf("name")).show()
```

## Warning:

Slower than native functions – **avoid unless necessary.**

## 12. Broadcast Join

### ◆ Explanation:

Broadcast smaller DataFrames to improve performance of joins.

### Code Example:

```
from pyspark.sql.functions import  
broadcast  
df1.join(broadcast(df2), "id").show()
```

## Why It Matters:

Prevents **shuffle**, making join faster.



## 13. Caching & Persistence



### Explanation:

cache(): Stores data in memory

persist(): Stores in memory/disk (configurable)



### Code Example:

```
df.cache()
```

```
df.count() # triggers caching
```



## 14. Repartitioning & Coalescing



### Explanation:

repartition(n): Increases partitions (shuffle involved)

coalesce(n): Decreases partitions (no shuffle)

### ◆ Code Example:

```
df = df.repartition(10)  
df = df.coalesce(1)
```

## ✓ 15. Saving as Table / View

### ◆ Explanation:

Create temporary/permanent views or tables from DataFrames.

### ◆ Code Example:

```
df.createOrReplaceTempView("emp_view")  
  
# Now you can use SQL  
spark.sql("SELECT * FROM emp_view WHERE  
salary > 50000").show()
```

Great! Let's continue with **Advanced PySpark Query Topics**, following the same format:

## Advanced PySpark Query Topics



### 16. Pivot and Unpivot

#### ◆ Explanation:

- 
- pivot(): Converts **rows to columns**
- melt() (unpivoting): Not natively supported, but can be simulated using stack()

#### ◆ Code Example:

```
# Pivot example: Average salary per  
department and gender  
df.groupBy("department").pivot("gender").a  
vg("salary").show()
```

```
# Unpivot using stack()
df.selectExpr("id", "stack(2, 'math',
math_score, 'english', eng_score) as
(subject, score)").show()
```

### Why It Matters:

Useful for **reporting**, **reshaping data**, and **machine learning feature transformation**.

## 17. Exploding Arrays and Maps

### ◆ Explanation:

Use `explode()` to **flatten** nested arrays or map fields.

### ◆ Code Example:

```
from pyspark.sql.functions import explode

# Sample DataFrame
df = spark.createDataFrame([
    (1, ["apple", "banana"]),
    (2, ["orange", "grapes"])
```

```
], ["id", "fruits"])
```

```
df.select("id",  
explode("fruits").alias("fruit")).show()
```

### Why It Matters:

Used when working with **JSON**, **API data**, or **nested columns** from Kafka/NoSQL.

## 18. Handling Nested JSON

### Explanation:

Used dot notation or `from_json()` to parse deeply nested structures.

### ◆ Code Example:

```
from pyspark.sql.functions import  
from_json  
from pyspark.sql.types import StructType,  
StructField, StringType
```



```
schema = StructType([  
    StructField("name", StringType(),  
True),  
    StructField("info", StructType([  
        StructField("city", StringType(),  
True),  
        StructField("phone", StringType(),  
True)  
    ]))  
])
```

```
df = spark.read.json("/path/nested.json",  
schema=schema)  
df.select("name", "info.city",  
"info.phone").show()
```

## Why It Matters:

Important for **ingesting logs**, **Kafka streams**, **API payloads**, etc.

## ✓ 19. Working with Delta Lake

### ◆ Explanation:

Delta Lake adds **ACID transactions**, **schema evolution**, and **time travel** to Spark.

### 🔗 Code Example:

```
#Save as Delta
df.write.format("delta").mode("overwrite")
  .save("/delta/path")

# Read Delta
df =
spark.read.format("delta").load("/delta/path")

# Time Travel (e.g., load old version)
df =
spark.read.format("delta").option("version
AsOf", 2).load("/delta/path")
```

## Why It Matters:

Crucial for **data lakes**, **CDC pipelines**, **recovery**, and **data auditing**.

## 20. Performance Optimizations

### ◆ Explanation:

Speed up Spark jobs with config tuning, partitioning, broadcast joins, caching, and Catalyst-aware transformations.

### ◆ Key Techniques:

# Caching

```
df.cache()
```

# Avoid UDFs, use built-in functions

```
from pyspark.sql.functions import upper  
df.withColumn("upper_name", upper("name"))
```

# Use broadcast joins wisely

```
from pyspark.sql.functions import  
broadcast
```

```
df1.join(broadcast(df2), "id")
```

```
# Partition pruning
```

```
df.write.partitionBy("state").parquet("/partitioned")
```

## Why It Matters:

Better performance = **lower cost, faster pipelines,**  
and **happy stakeholders**

## 21. Reading from JDBC

### ◆ Explanation:

Use Spark to read from relational databases (MySQL, PostgreSQL, SQL Server, etc.)

### ◆ Code Example:

```
jdbc_url =  
"jdbc:mysql://localhost:3306/mydb"  
props = {"user": "root", "password":  
"root123"}
```

```
df = spark.read.jdbc(url=jdbc_url,  
table="employees", properties=props)
```

## ✓ 22. Writing to Hive Tables

### ◆ Explanation:

Savedata into Hive-managed or external tables.

### ◆ Code Example:

```
spark.sql("CREATE DATABASE IF NOT EXISTS  
sales")  
  
df.write.mode("overwrite").saveAsTable("sa  
les.emp_data")
```