



# St. Louis Clojure

Powderkeg

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**We write Clojure at The Climate Corporation,  
and we're hiring! Come work with us!**



Especially now that Bayer is buying us!



It's a pretty cool place to work, we've even got a giant globe to play with.



Clojure is a lisp.



Clojure is Lisp on the JVM.

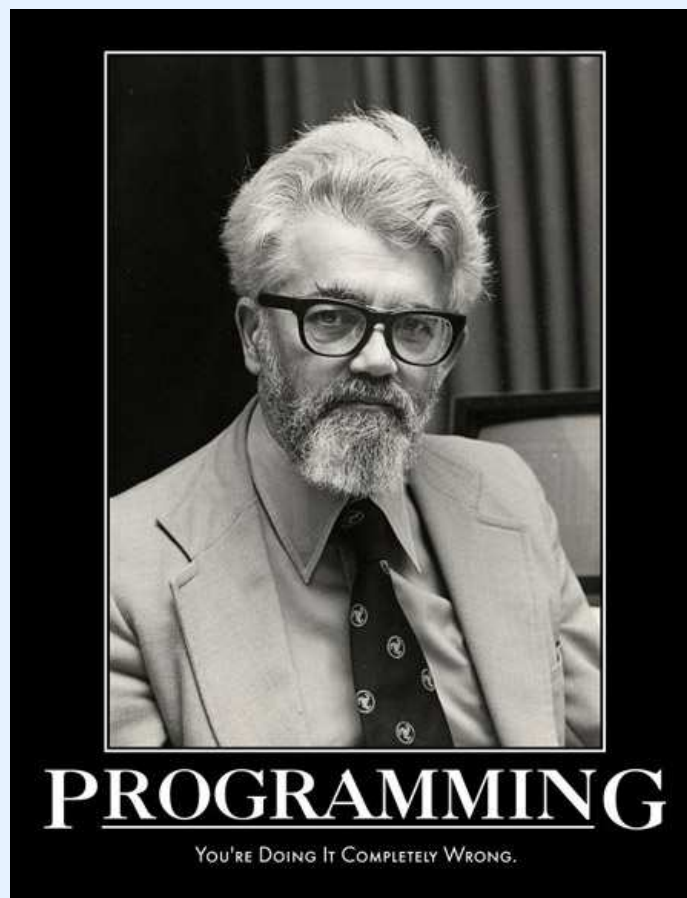


Scala is also on the JVM.





But Scala isn't a lisp.





Apache Spark is really cool, but it's in Scala.



## Apache Spark is an open source cluster computing framework.

- Based on the RDD, resilient distributed dataset.
- An RDD is basically a distributed read-only multiset.
- RDDs allow for the power of MapReduce but with a lot more flexibility.
- RDDs can be treated as shared memory.
- This allows for iterative algorithms, not just map and then reduce operations.

## What's a Clojurian to do?

- Use Scala? Nope.
- Here at Climate, we made `clj-spark` well before I came to work here, which was a good start.
- This eventually became Flambo, which is pretty good, but doesn't exactly feel like Clojure.

## Let's make another library!

- Igor Ges and Christophe Grand introduced a new library called *Powderkeg* to work with Apache Spark in Clojure.
- It looks like normal Clojure code, thanks to transducers!
- But ...it's still really early alpha.

## It looks almost like normal Clojure.

```
1 ;; 'normal' Clojure
2 (into [] (map #(* % %))
3         [1 2 3 4 5]))
4
5 ;; Flambo
6 (-> (f/parallelize sc [1 2 3 4 5])
7      (f/map (f/fn [x] (* x x)))
8      f/collect)
9
10 ;; Powderkeg
11 (into [] (keg/rdd [1 2 3 4 5]
12                  (map #(* % %)))))
```

## So what exactly do you do with a Spark cluster?

- Make a big list of stuff, and RDD.
- Map on that RDD ...
- Filter down that RDD ...
- Reduce on that RDD ...
- ...

Until you have the final result of your computation. But, all this mapping, reducing, and filtering has occurred on multiple machines, not just one machine.

## Why we care at Climate *(besides it just being cool.)*

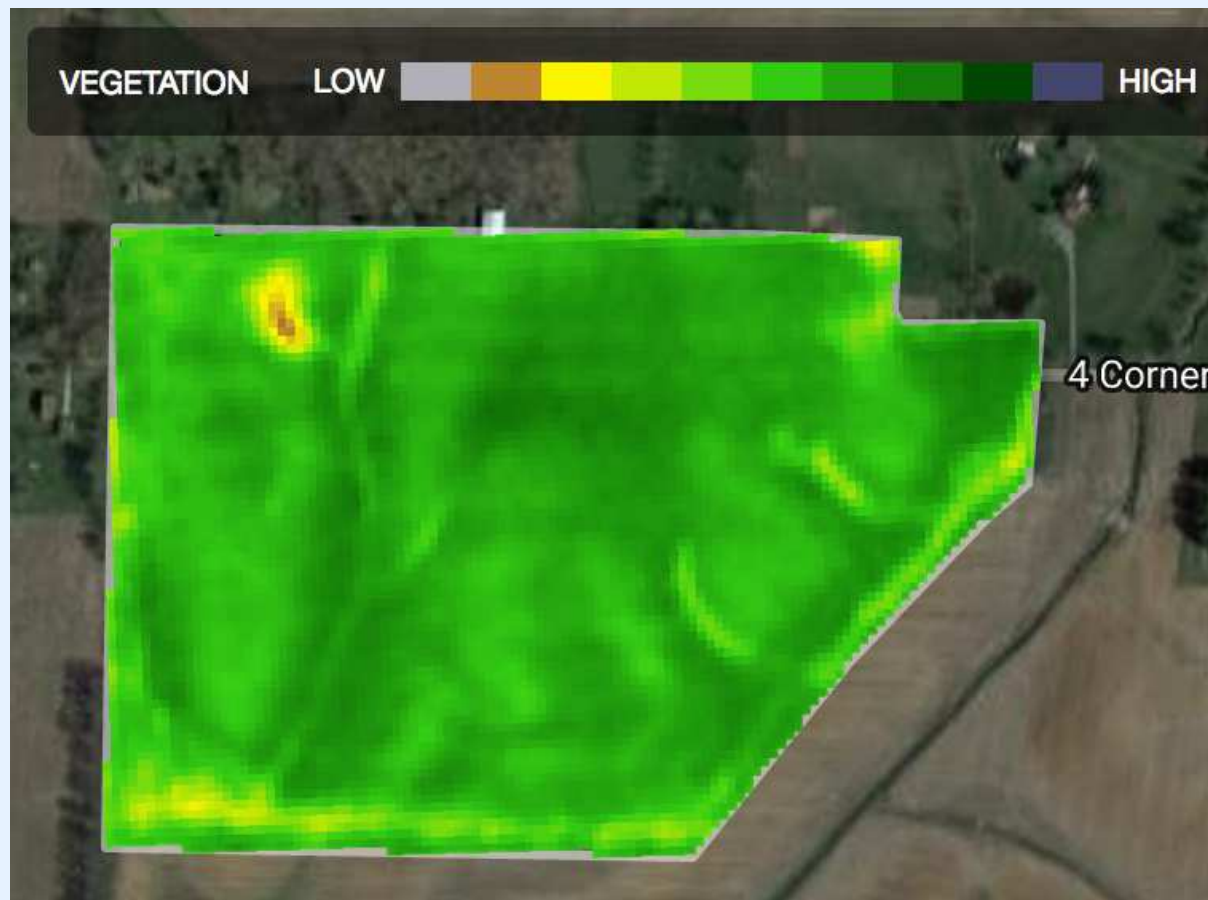
- Most of our imagery generation is quite amenable to this sort of parallelization.
- We currently have to run on somewhat large (and expensive) instances because we currently operate on a per-field basis.
- The instance type required for a 100-acre field is a lot cheaper than what we need to calculate on a 3,000-acre field.
- But if we can span across multiple instances per-field, then we can use smaller and cheaper instances, just more of them.



Why you care at *YourMegaCorp, Inc.*  
(besides it just being cool.)



## Sample Vegetation Map



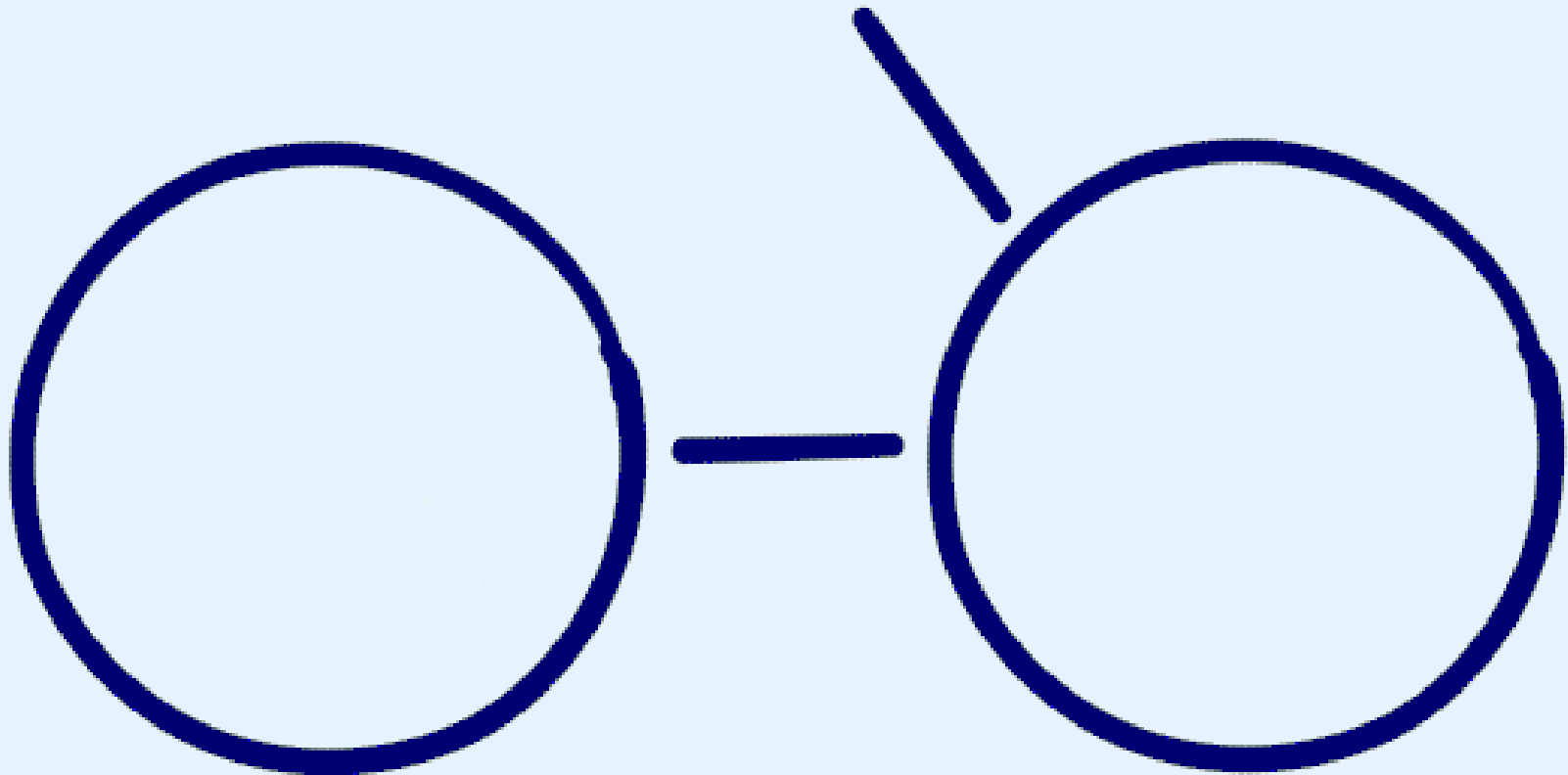
## Spark SQL – it's a work in progress.

<https://github.com/HCADatalab/powderkeg/tree/sql>

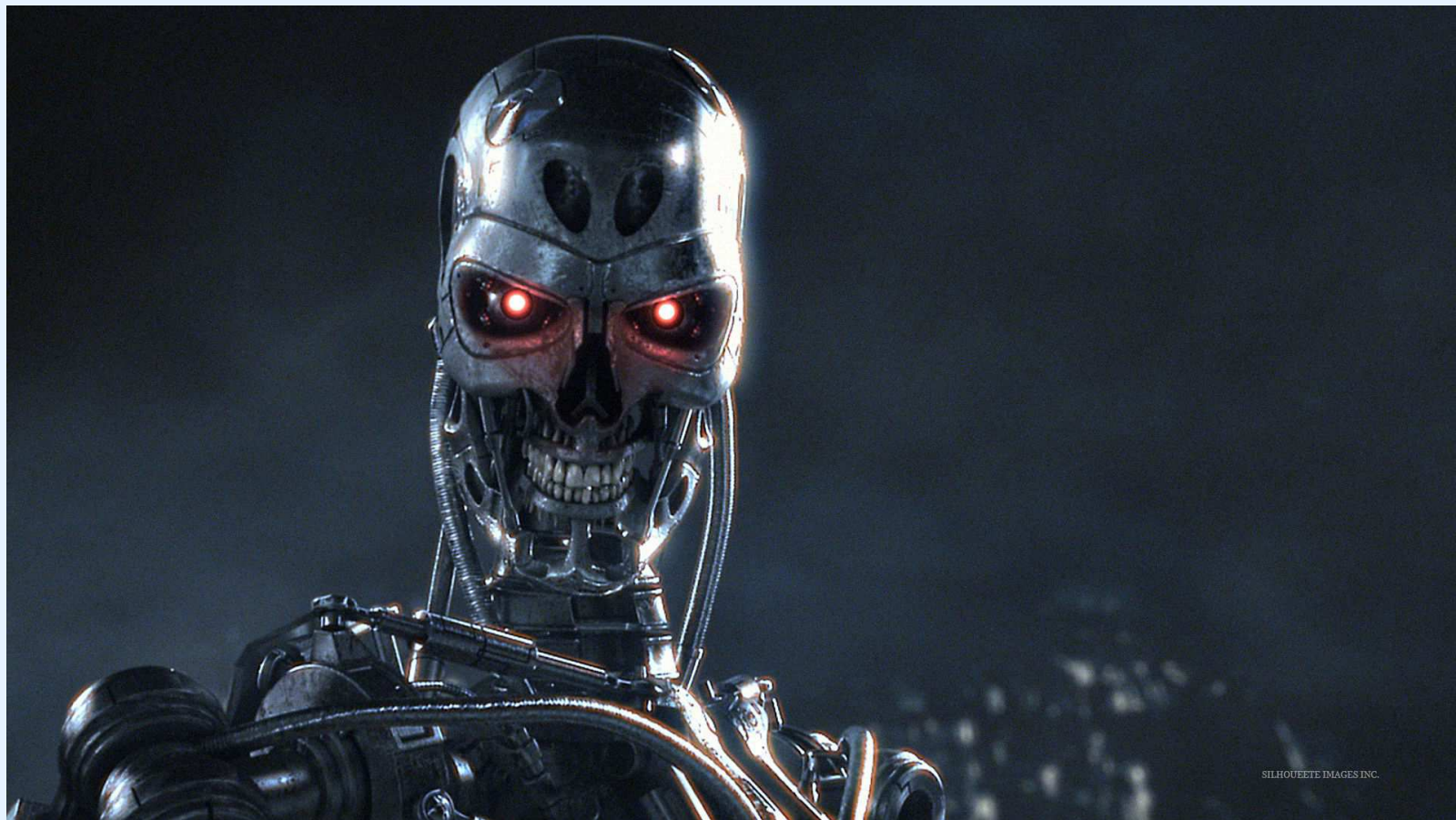
```
1 // Select customer name column
2 dfCustomers.select("name").show()
3 // Select customer name and city columns
4 dfCustomers.select("name", "city").show()
5 // Select a customer by id
6 dfCustomers.filter(
7     dfCustomers("customer_id").equalTo(500)
8 ).show()
9 // Count the customers by zip code
10 dfCustomers.groupBy("zip_code").count().show()
```

**Spark Streaming – eventually, I don't think there's any work on that yet.**

You can implement a batch-oriented lambda architecture in this, which is something that I need for Thinking Bicycle.



MLlib: Machine learning is cool, and there's a library for that on top of Spark. I really want it, so I'll probably make it.

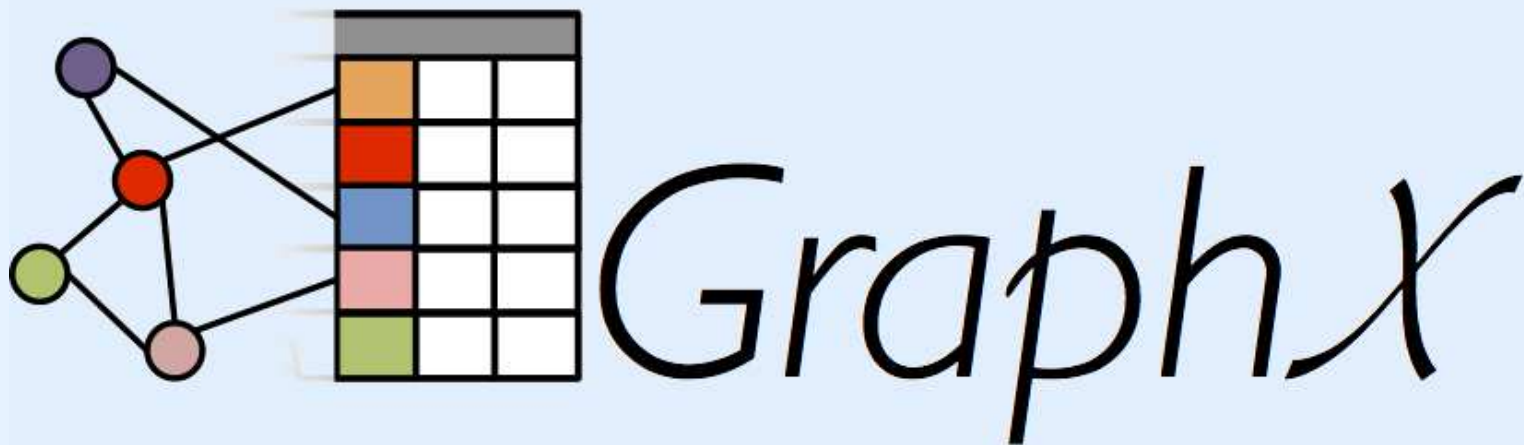




MLlib's SVMs (*support vector machines*) more specifically. Because clouds suck when you've only got civilian satellites.



GraphX, a graph processing framework on top of Apache Spark, also looks pretty interesting and useful.





*Questions?*