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In this article, I will explain how to use pivot() SQL function to transpose one or multiple rows into columns.

Pivot() is an aggregation where one of the grouping columns values transposed into individual columns with distinct data.

- Pivot Spark DataFrame
- Pivot Performance improvement in Spark 2.0
- Unpivot Spark DataFrame
- Pivot or Transpose without aggregation

Let's create a DataFrame to work with.

DataFrame 'df' consists of 3 columns Product, Amount and Country as shown below.

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++-	+	+	
Product Amount Country			
++-	+	+	
Banana	1000	USA	
Carrots	1500	USA	
Beans	1600	USA	
Orange	2000	USA	
Orange	2000	USA	
Banana	400	China	
Carrots	1200	China	
Beans	1500	China	
Orange	4000	China	
Banana	2000	Canada	
Carrots	2000	Canada	
Beans	2000	Mexico	
++-	+-	+	

Pivot Spark DataFrame

Spark SQL provides pivot() function to rotate the data from one column into multiple columns (transpose row to column). It is an aggregation where one of the grouping columns values transposed into individual columns with distinct data. From the above DataFrame, to get the total amount exported to each country of each product will do group by Product, pivot by Country, and the sum of Amount.

```
val pivotDF = df.groupBy("Produc
pivotDF.show()
```

This will transpose the countries from DataFrame rows into columns and produces below output. Where ever data is not present, it represents as null by default.

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```
+-----
|Product|Canada|China|Mexico| US
+-----
| Orange| null| 4000| null|400
 Beans | null | 1500 | 2000 | 160
 Banana | 2000 | 400 | null | 100
|Carrots| 2000| 1200| null|150
```

Pivot Performance

improvement in Spark 2.0

Spark 2.0 on-wards performance has been improved on Pivot, however, if you are using lower version; note that pivot is a very expensive operation hence, it is recommended to provide column data (if known) as an argument to function as shown below.

```
val countries = Seq("USA", "China
val pivotDF = df.groupBy("Produc
pivotDF.show()
```

Another approach is to do two-phase aggregation. Spark 2.0 uses this implementation in order to improve the performance Spark-13749 (https://issues.apache.org/jira/browse/SP ARK-13749)

```
val pivotDF = df.groupBy("Produc
      .sum("Amount")
      .groupBy("Product")
      .pivot("Country")
      .sum("sum(Amount)")
pivotDF.show()
```

Above two examples returns the same output but with better performance.

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Unpivot Spark DataFrame

Unpivot is a reverse operation, we can achieve by rotating column values into rows values. Spark SQL doesn't have unpivot function hence will use the stack() function. Below code converts column countries to row.

```
//unpivot
val unPivotDF = pivotDF.select($
expr("stack(3, 'Canada', Canada,
.where("Total is not null")
unPivotDF.show()
```

It converts pivoted column "country" to rows.

```
+----+
|Product|Country|Total|
+----+
| Orange| China| 4000|
| Beans| China| 1500|
| Beans| Mexico| 2000|
| Banana| Canada| 2000|
| Banana| China| 400|
|Carrots| Canada| 2000|
|Carrots| China| 1200|
+----+
```

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Transpose or Pivot without aggregation

Can we do Spark DataFrame transpose or pivot without aggregation?

off course you can, but unfortunately, you can't achieve using Pivot function. However, pivoting or transposing DataFrame structure without aggregation from rows to columns and columns to rows can be easily done using Spark and Scala hack. please refer to this (https://stackoverflow.com/questions/493 92683/transpose-dataframe-withoutaggregation-in-spark-with-scala) example.

Conclusion:

We have seen how to Pivot DataFrame (transpose row to column) with scala example and Unpivot it back using Spark SQL functions. And also have seen how Spark 2.0 changes improves performance by doing two-phase aggregation.

The complete code can be downloaded from GitHub

(https://github.com/sparkbyexamples/spa rk-examples/blob/master/spark-sqlexamples/src/main/scala/com/sparkbyex amples/spark/dataframe/functions/PivotE xample.scala)

Happy Learning !!

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