

# Accelerate Pandas Scripts with 1 Line of Code (FireDucks)

Aug 26, 2024

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# Agenda

- ◆ Pandas: Its Pros & Cons
- ◆ Migration challenges from pandas to another library
- ◆ FireDucks and Its Offerings
- ◆ Tips and Tricks of Optimizing Large-scale Data processing workload
- ◆ FireDucks Optimization Strategy
- ◆ Evaluation Benchmarks
- ◆ Resources on FireDucks
- ◆ Test Drive
- ◆ FAQs

# Quick Introduction!



## SOURAV SAHA – Research Engineer @ NEC Corporation

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Hello, I am a software professional with 11+ years of working experience across diverse areas of **HPC, Vector Supercomputing, Distributed Programming, Big Data and Machine Learning**. Currently, my team at NEC R&D Lab, Japan, is researching various data processing-related algorithms. Blending the mixture of different niche technologies related to compiler framework, high-performance computing, and multi-threaded programming, we have developed a Python library named FireDucks with highly compatible pandas APIs for DataFrame-related operations.



Mr. Kazuhisa Ishizaka  
(Primary Author)

we wanted to  
develop some library  
using compiler  
technology

we wanted to  
speed-up python

Data  
Scientists  
often face  
issues with  
slow  
performance  
of pandas



User Program

pandas API

**FireDucks**

groupby

join

dropna

filter

sort

corr

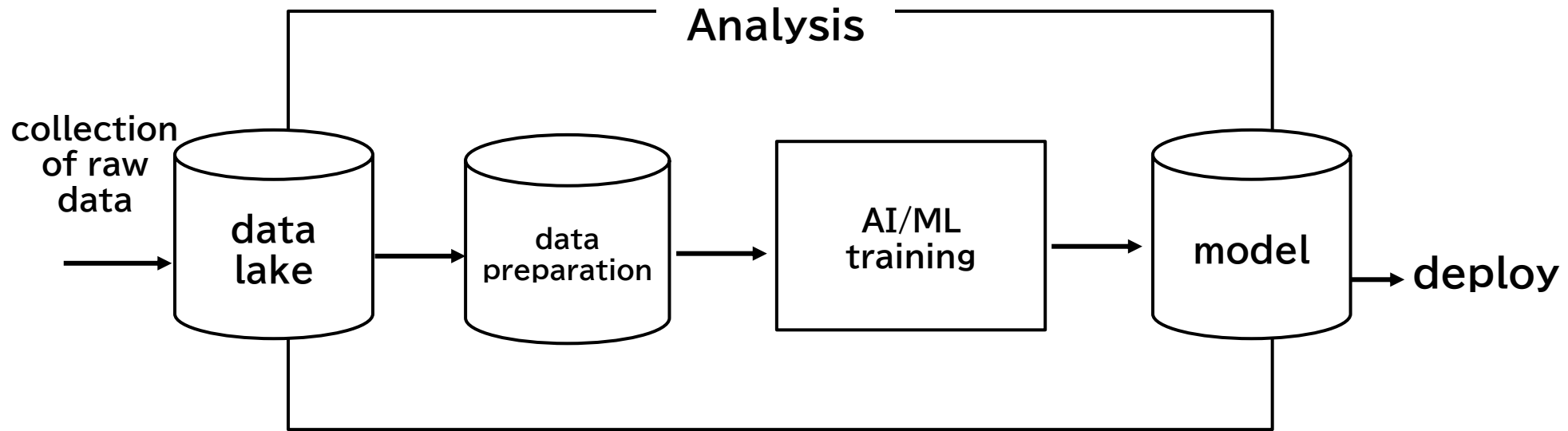
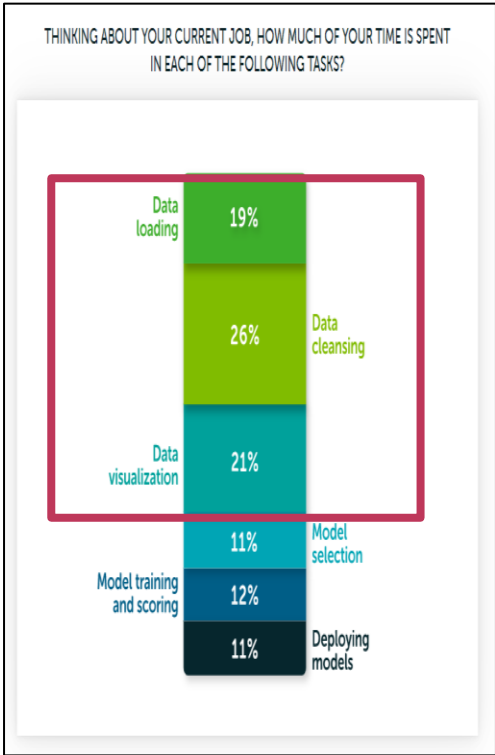
compiler  
technologies



<https://www.nec.com/en/global/solutions/hpc/sx/index.html>

# Workflow of a Data Scientist

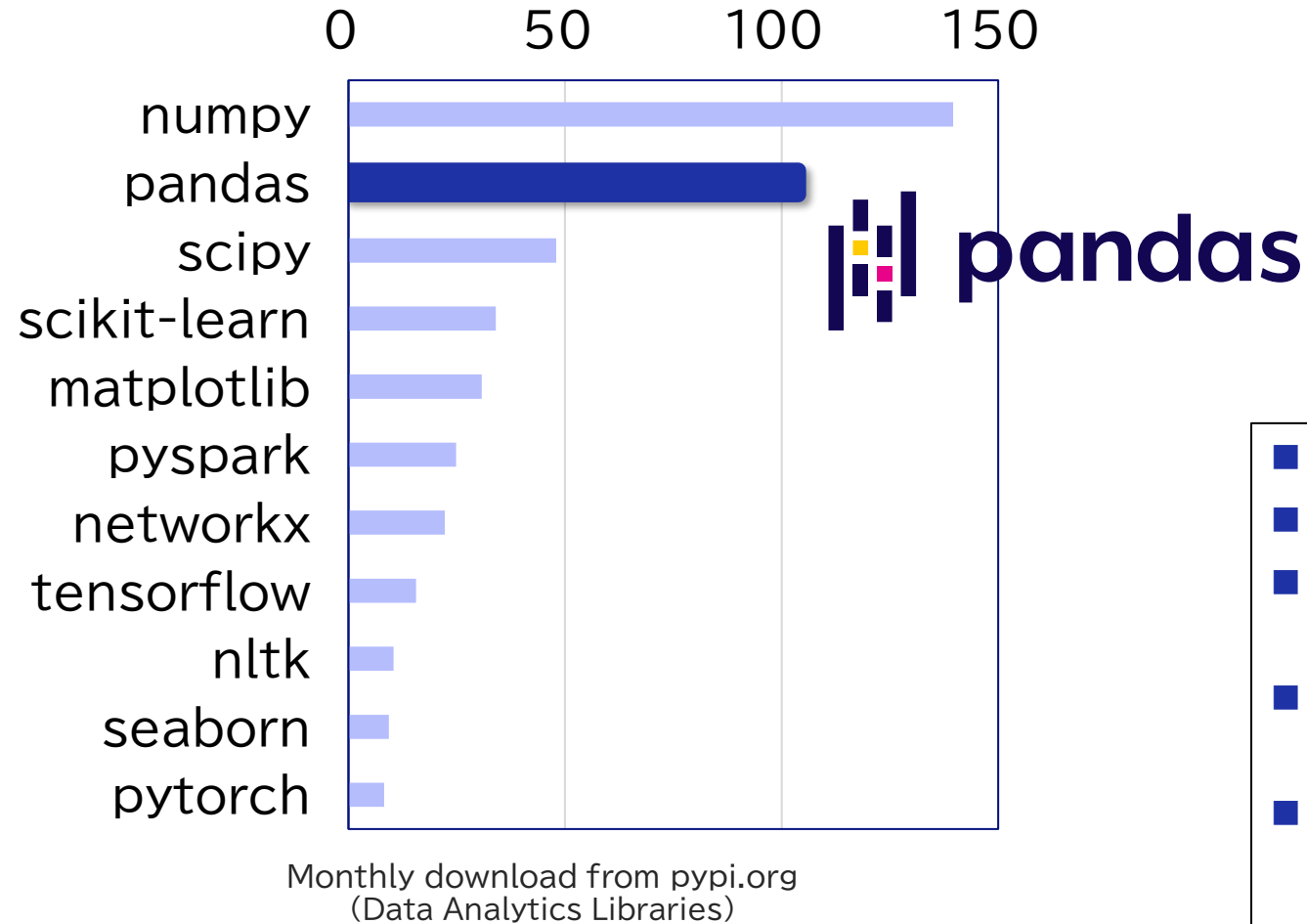
almost 70% of efforts  
of a Data Scientist



Anaconda:  
The State of Data Science 2020

# Pandas: Its Pros and Cons

## ◆ Most popular Python library for data analytics.



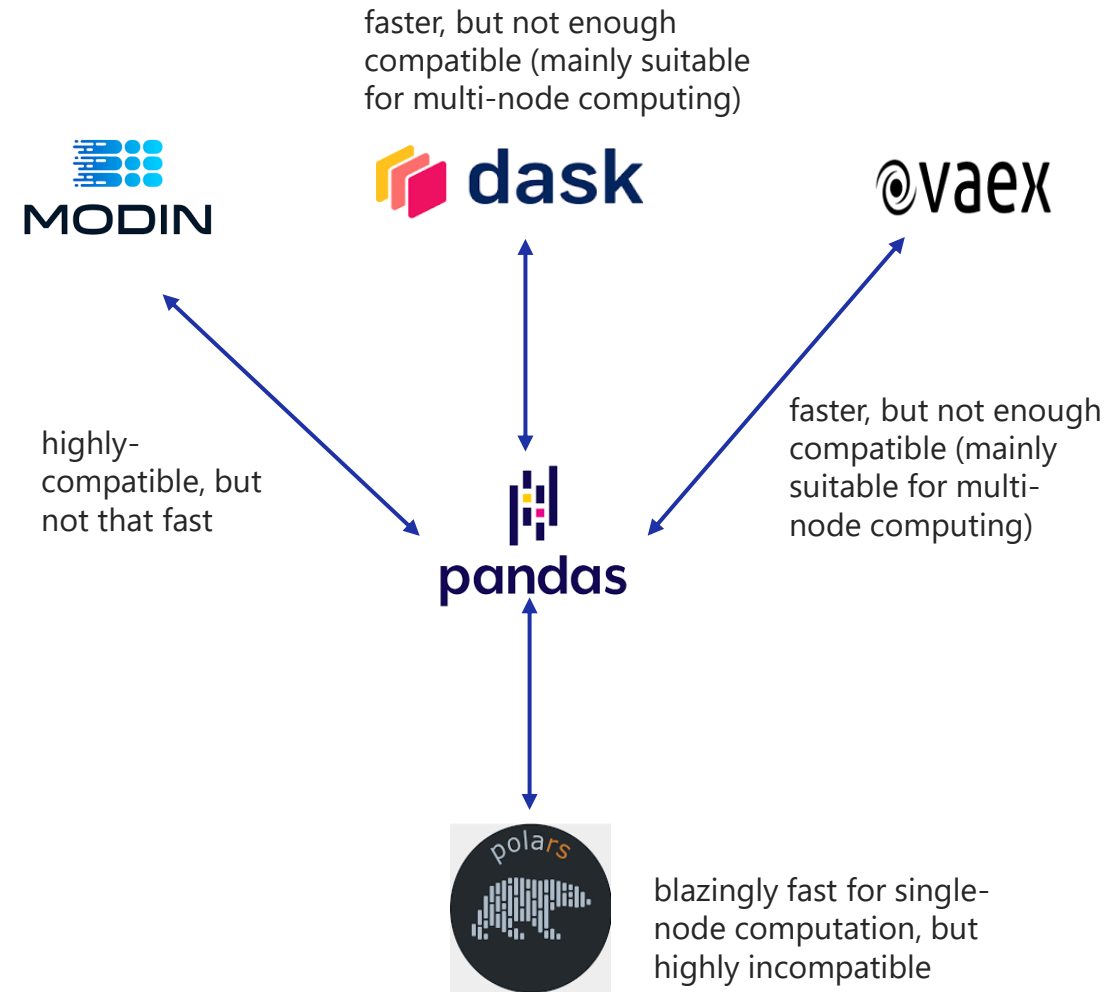
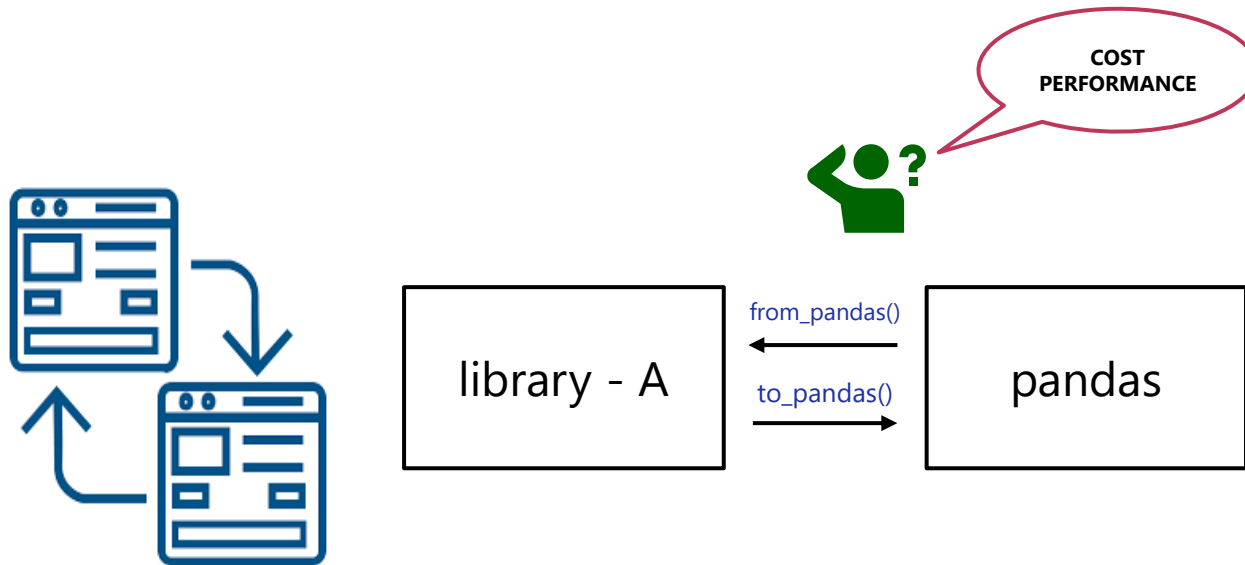
- It (mostly) doesn't support parallel computation.
- It doesn't have any auto-optimization feature.
- The choice of API heavily impacts the performance of a pandas application.
- Very slow execution reduces the efficiency of a data analyst.
- Long-running execution
  - produces higher cloud costs
  - attributes to higher CO2 emission



# Challenges in Migration from pandas

## Three most common challenges in switching from pandas:

- Needs to learn new library and their interfaces.
- Manual fallback to pandas when the target library doesn't support a method used in an existing pandas application.
- Performance can be evaluated, and results can be tested after the migration is completed.



# Introducing FireDucks

**FireDucks** (Flexible **IR** Engine for DataFrame) is a high-performance compiler-accelerated DataFrame library with highly compatible pandas APIs.

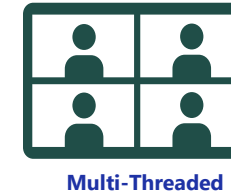
## Speed: significantly faster than pandas

- FireDucks is multithreaded to fully exploit the modern processor
- Lazy execution model with Just-In-Time optimization using a defined-by-run mechanism supported by MLIR (a subproject of LLVM).
  - supports both lazy and non-lazy execution models without modifying user programs (same API).



## Ease of use: drop-in replacement of pandas

- FireDucks is highly compatible with pandas API
  - seamless integration is possible not only for an existing pandas program but also for any external libraries (like seaborn, scikit-learn, etc.) that internally use pandas dataframes.
- No extra learning is required
- No code modification is required



# Let's Have a Quick Demo!

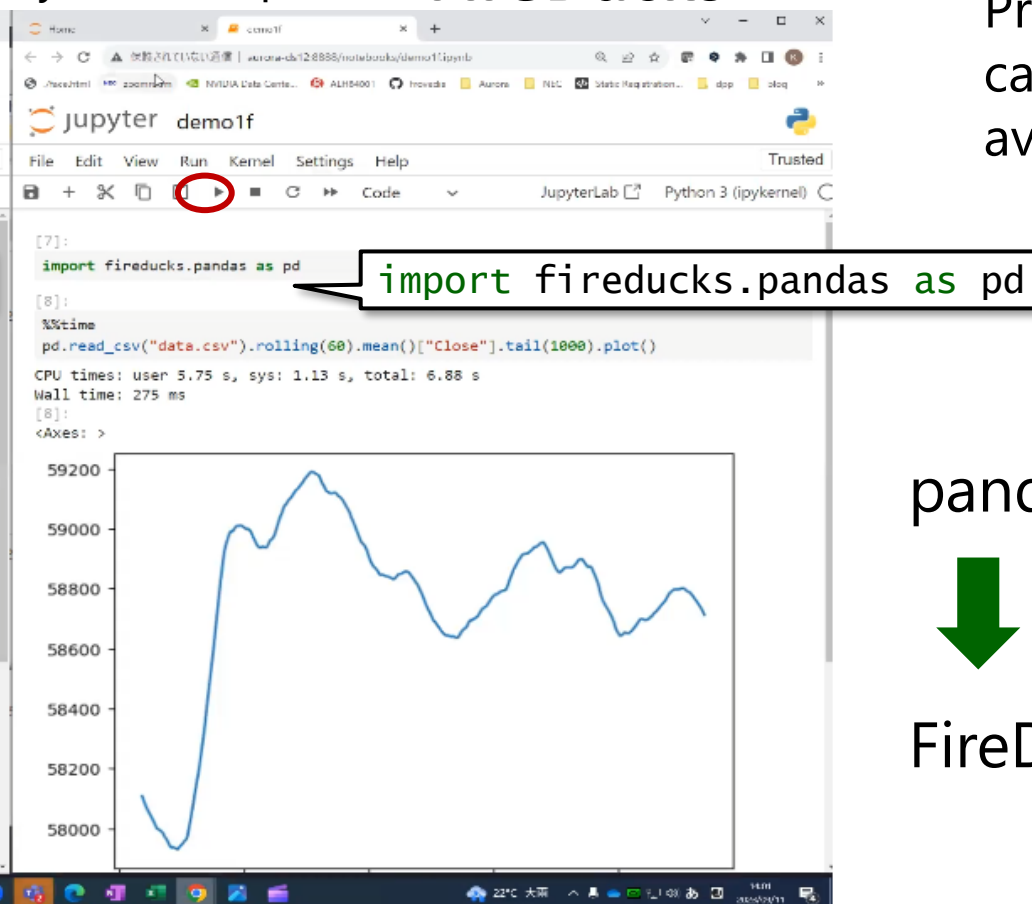
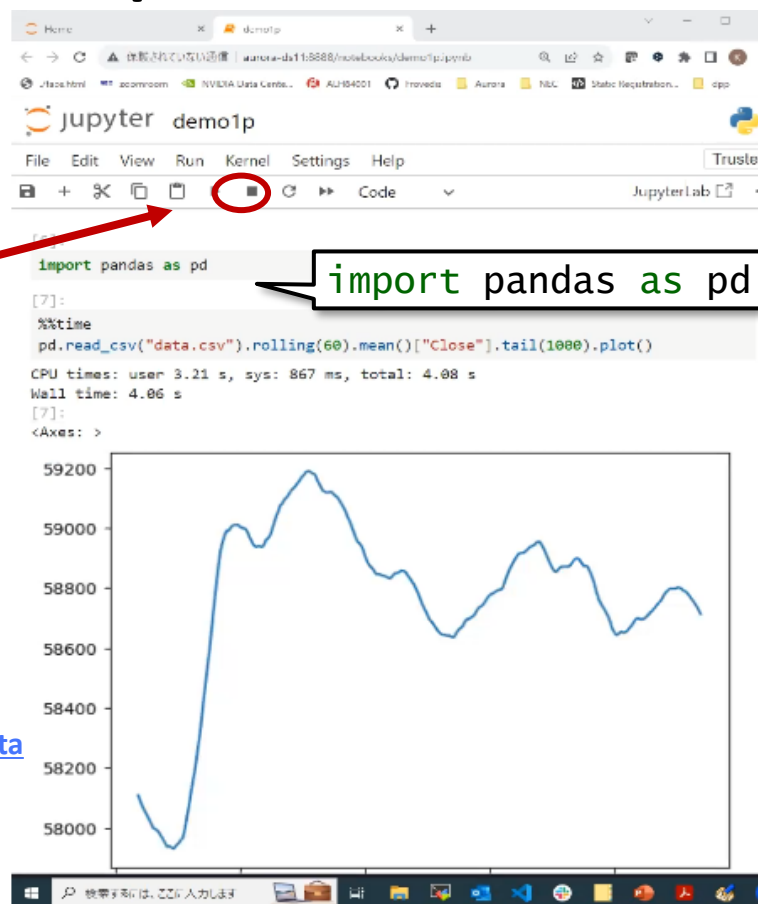
```
pd.read_csv("data.csv").rolling(60).mean()["Close"].tail(1000).plot()
```

**pandas** the difference is only in the import

**FireDucks**

Program to calculate moving average

button to start execution



pandas: 4.06s



**~15x**

FireDucks: 275ms



# Usage of FireDucks

## 1. Explicit Import

easy to import

```
# import pandas as pd
import fireducks.pandas as pd
```

simply change the import statement

## 2. Import Hook

FireDucks provides command line option to automatically replace “**pandas**” with “**fireducks.pandas**”

```
$ python -m fireducks.pandas program.py
```

zero code modification

```
import mod_A
import mod_B
import mod_C
import pandas as pd
:
```

program.py

```
import pandas as pd
:
```

mod\_A.py

```
import pandas as pd
:
```

mod\_B.py

```
import pandas as pd
:
```

mod\_C.py

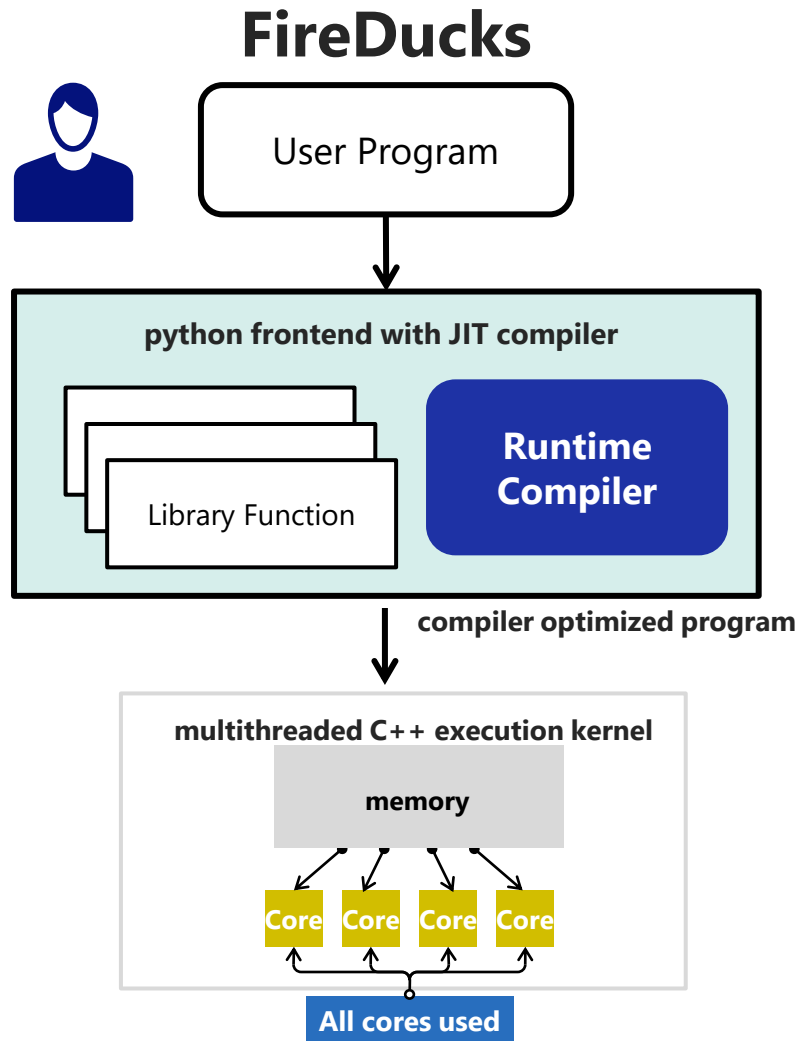
## 3. Notebook Extension

FireDucks provides simple import extension for interactive notebooks.

```
%load_ext fireducks.pandas
import pandas as pd
```

simple integration in a notebook

# Optimization Features



1. **Compiler Specific Optimizations:** Common Sub-expression Elimination, Dead-code Elimination, Constant Folding etc.
2. **Domain Specific Optimization:** Optimization at query-level: reordering instructions etc.
3. **Pandas Specific Optimization:** selection of suitable pandas APIs, selection of suitable parameter etc.

1. **Multi-threaded Computation:** Leverage all the available computational cores.
2. **Efficient Memory Management:** Data Structures backed by Apache Arrow
3. **Optimized Kernels:** Patented algorithms for Database like kernel operations: like sorting, join, filter, groupby, dropna etc. developed in C++ from scratch.

# Compiler Specific Optimizations

- **Common mistakes often found in Kaggle notebooks**
  - same operation on the same data repeatedly
  - computation without further usage

```
# Find year and month-wise average sales
df["year"] = pd.to_datetime(df["time"]).dt.year
df["month"] = pd.to_datetime(df["time"]).dt.month
r = df.groupby(["year", "month"])["sales"].mean()
```



Common Sub-expression Elimination

```
s = pd.to_datetime(df["time"])
df["year"] = s.dt.year
df["month"] = s.dt.month
r = df.groupby(["year", "month"])["sales"].mean()
```

**The in-built compiler of FireDucks can auto-detect such issues and optimize at runtime.**

```
def func(x: pd.DataFrame, y: pd.DataFrame):
    merged = x.merge(y, on="key")
    sorted = merged.sort_values(by="key")
    return merged.groupby("key").max()
```



Dead Code Elimination

```
def func(x: pd.DataFrame, y: pd.DataFrame):
    merged = x.merge(y, on="key")
    return merged.groupby("key").max()
```

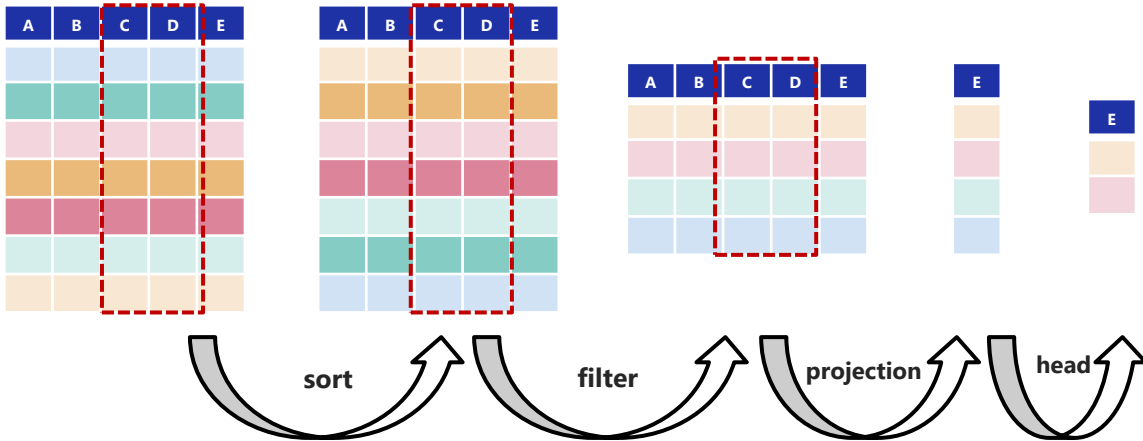


[Have you ever thought of speeding up your data analysis in pandas with a compiler?](#)

# Attention: Execution order matters to boost-up your program performance!

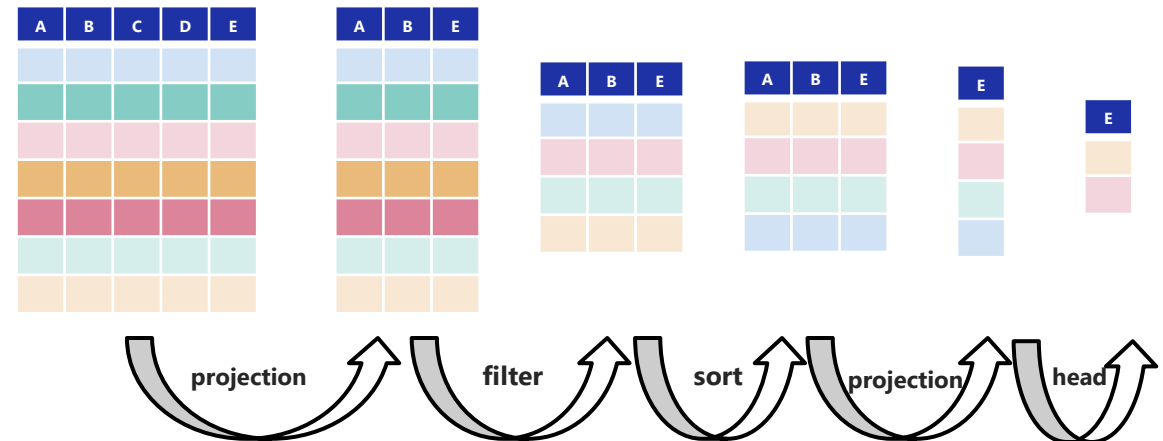
```
df.sort_values("A")  
.query("B > 1")["E"]  
.head(2)
```

※ *sort-order: yellow->red->green->blue*



**SAMPLE QUERY**

```
df.loc[:, ["A", "B", "E"]]  
.query("B > 1")  
.sort_values("A")["E"]  
.head(2)
```



reduction in the  
number of  
columns

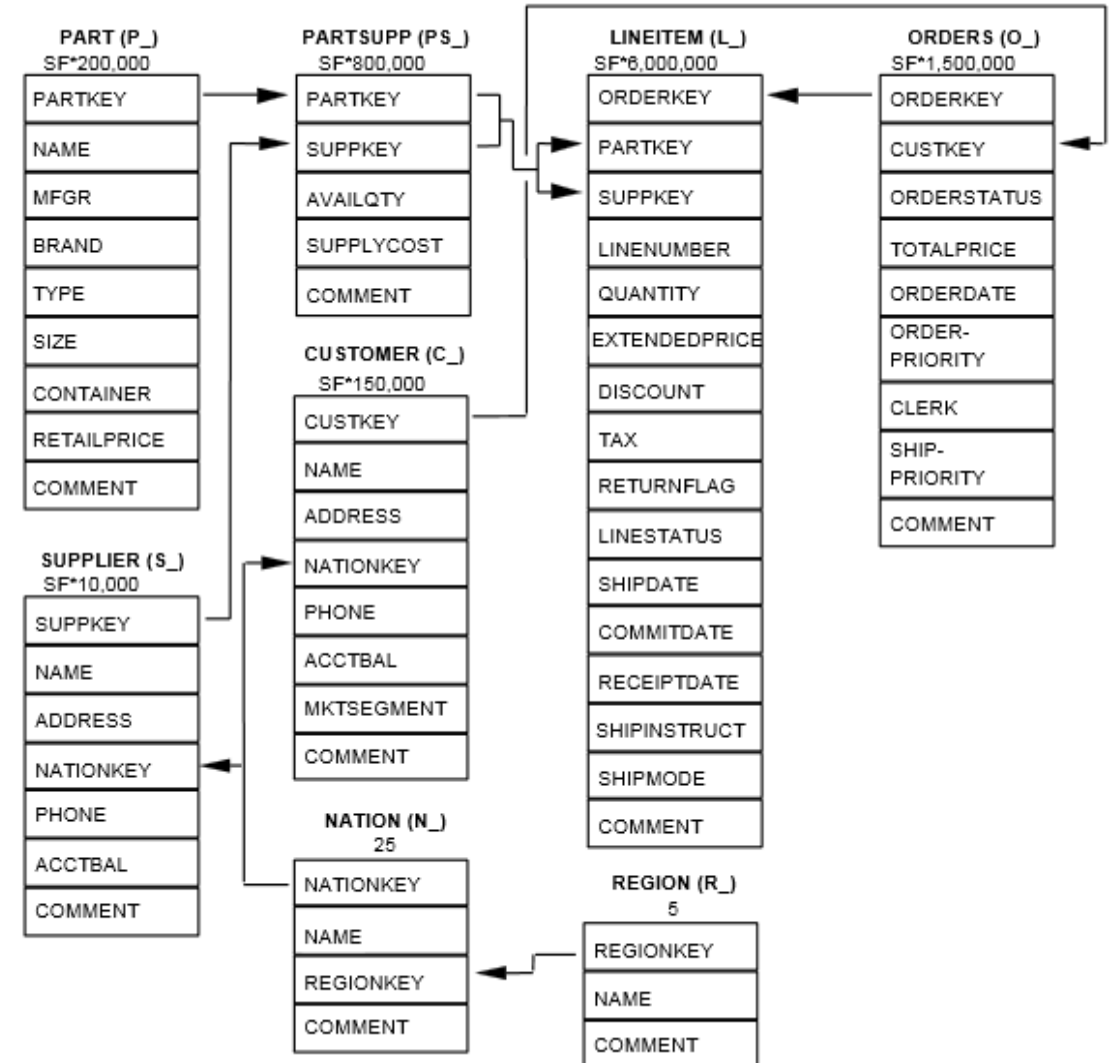
reduction in the  
number of  
rows

**OPTIMIZED QUERY**

# Hands-on: Query #3 from TPC-H Benchmark (SQL -> pandas)

```
SELECT l_orderkey,
       sum(l_extendedprice * (1 - l_discount)) as revenue,
       o_orderdate,
       o_shippriority
FROM customer, orders, lineitem
WHERE
  c_mktsegment = 'BUILDING' AND
  c_custkey = o_custkey AND
  l_orderkey = o_orderkey AND
  o_orderdate < date '1995-03-15' AND
  l_shipdate > date '1995-03-15'
GROUP BY l_orderkey, o_orderdate, o_shippriority
ORDER BY revenue desc, o_orderdate
LIMIT 20;
```

```
rescols = ["l_orderkey", "revenue", "o_orderdate", "o_shippriority"]
result = (
  customer.merge(orders, left_on="c_custkey", right_on="o_custkey")
    .merge(lineitem, left_on="o_orderkey", right_on="l_orderkey")
    .pipe(lambda df: df[df["c_mktsegment"] == "BUILDING"])
    .pipe(lambda df: df[df["o_orderdate"] < datetime(1995, 3, 15)])
    .pipe(lambda df: df[df["l_shipdate"] > datetime(1995, 3, 15)])
    .assign(revenue=lambda df: df["l_extendedprice"] * (1 - df["l_discount"]))
    .groupby(["l_orderkey", "o_orderdate", "o_shippriority"], as_index=False)
    .agg({"revenue": "sum"})[rescols]
    .sort_values(["revenue", "o_orderdate"], ascending=[False, True])
    .head(10)
)
```

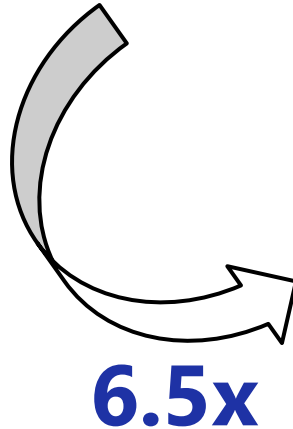


# Hands-on: Query #3 from TPC-H Benchmark (pandas -> optimized pandas)

```
rescols = ["l_orderkey", "revenue", "o_orderdate", "o_shippriority"]
result = (
    customer.merge(orders, left_on="c_custkey", right_on="o_custkey")
    .merge(lineitem, left_on="o_orderkey", right_on="l_orderkey")
    .pipe(lambda df: df[df["c_mktsegment"] == "BUILDING"])
    .pipe(lambda df: df[df["o_orderdate"] < datetime(1995, 3, 15)])
    .pipe(lambda df: df[df["l_shipdate"] > datetime(1995, 3, 15)])
    .assign(revenue=lambda df: df["l_extendedprice"] * (1 - df["l_discount"]))
    .groupby(["l_orderkey", "o_orderdate", "o_shippriority"], as_index=False)
    .agg({"revenue": "sum"})[rescols]
    .sort_values(["revenue", "o_orderdate"], ascending=[False, True])
    .head(10)
)
```

**Exec-time: 68.55 s**

**Such domain specific  
optimizations can be  
performed by FireDucks  
automatically**



```
# projection-filter: to reduce scope of "customer" table to be processed
cust = customer[["c_custkey", "c_mktsegment"]]
f_cust = cust[cust["c_mktsegment"] == "BUILDING"]
```

```
# projection-filter: to reduce scope of "orders" table to be processed
ord = orders[["o_custkey", "o_orderkey", "o_orderdate", "o_shippriority"]]
f_ord = ord[ord["o_orderdate"] < datetime(1995, 3, 15)]
```

```
# projection-filter: to reduce scope of "lineitem" table to be processed
litem = lineitem[["l_orderkey", "l_shipdate", "l_extendedprice", "l_discount"]]
f_litem = litem[litem["l_shipdate"] > datetime(1995, 3, 15)]
```

```
rescols = ["l_orderkey", "revenue", "o_orderdate", "o_shippriority"]
result = (
    f_cust.merge(f_ord, left_on="c_custkey", right_on="o_custkey")
    .merge(f_litem, left_on="o_orderkey", right_on="l_orderkey")
    .assign(revenue=lambda df: df["l_extendedprice"] * (1 - df["l_discount"]))
    .pipe(lambda df: df[rescols])
    .groupby(["l_orderkey", "o_orderdate", "o_shippriority"], as_index=False)
    .agg({"revenue": "sum"})[rescols]
    .sort_values(["revenue", "o_orderdate"], ascending=[False, True])
    .head(10)
)
```

**Exec-time: 10.33 s**

# Pandas Specific Optimization – Parameter Tuning

# department-wise average salaries sorted in descending order

## parameter tuning in pandas

```
res = (  
    employee.groupby("department")["salary"]  
        .mean()  
        .sort_values(ascending=False)  
)
```

```
res = (  
    employee.groupby("department", sort=False)["salary"]  
        .mean()  
        .sort_values(ascending=False)  
)
```

| department | salary (USD) |
|------------|--------------|
| IT         | 85,000       |
| Admin      | 60,000       |
| Finance    | 100,000      |
| IT         | 81,000       |
| Finance    | 95,000       |
| Corporate  | 78,000       |
| Sales      | 80,000       |

employee table

| department | salary (USD) |
|------------|--------------|
| IT         | 85,000       |
| IT         | 81,000       |

| department | salary (USD) |
|------------|--------------|
| Admin      | 60,000       |

| department | salary (USD) |
|------------|--------------|
| Finance    | 100,000      |
| Finance    | 95,000       |

| department | salary (USD) |
|------------|--------------|
| Corporate  | 78,000       |

| department | salary (USD) |
|------------|--------------|
| Sales      | 80,000       |

creating groups

| department | salary (USD) |
|------------|--------------|
| IT         | 83,000       |
| Admin      | 60,000       |
| Finance    | 97,500       |
| Corporate  | 78,000       |
| Sales      | 80,000       |

group-wise average-salary

| department | salary (USD) |
|------------|--------------|
| Admin      | 60,000       |
| Corporate  | 78,000       |
| Finance    | 97,500       |
| IT         | 83,000       |
| Sales      | 80,000       |

group-wise average-salary  
sorted by "department"

| department | salary (USD) |
|------------|--------------|
| Finance    | 97,500       |
| IT         | 83,000       |
| Sales      | 80,000       |
| Corporate  | 78,000       |
| Admin      | 60,000       |

group-wise average-salary  
sorted by "department"

```
df.groupby(["A", "B"])["C"]  
    .mean()  
    .sort_values(ascending=False)
```

~50 sec

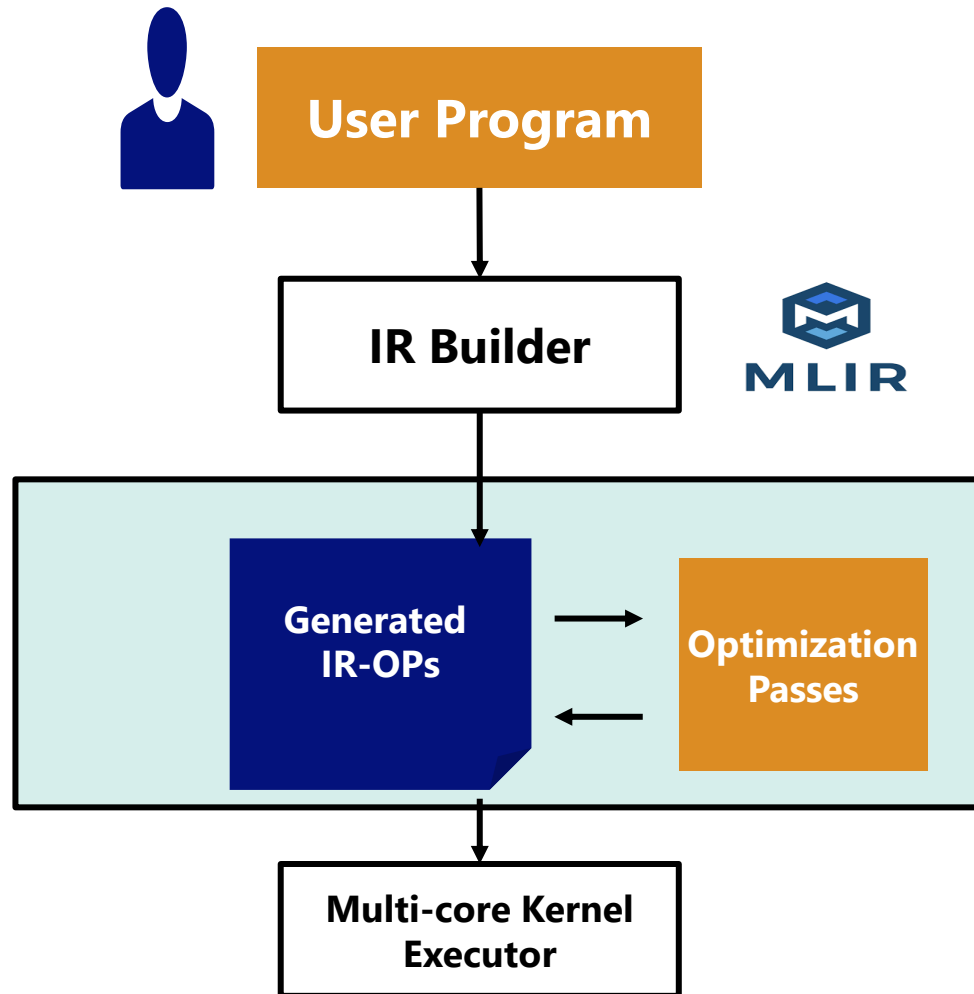
```
df.groupby(["A", "B"], sort=False)["C"]  
    .mean()  
    .sort_values(ascending=False)
```

~30 sec

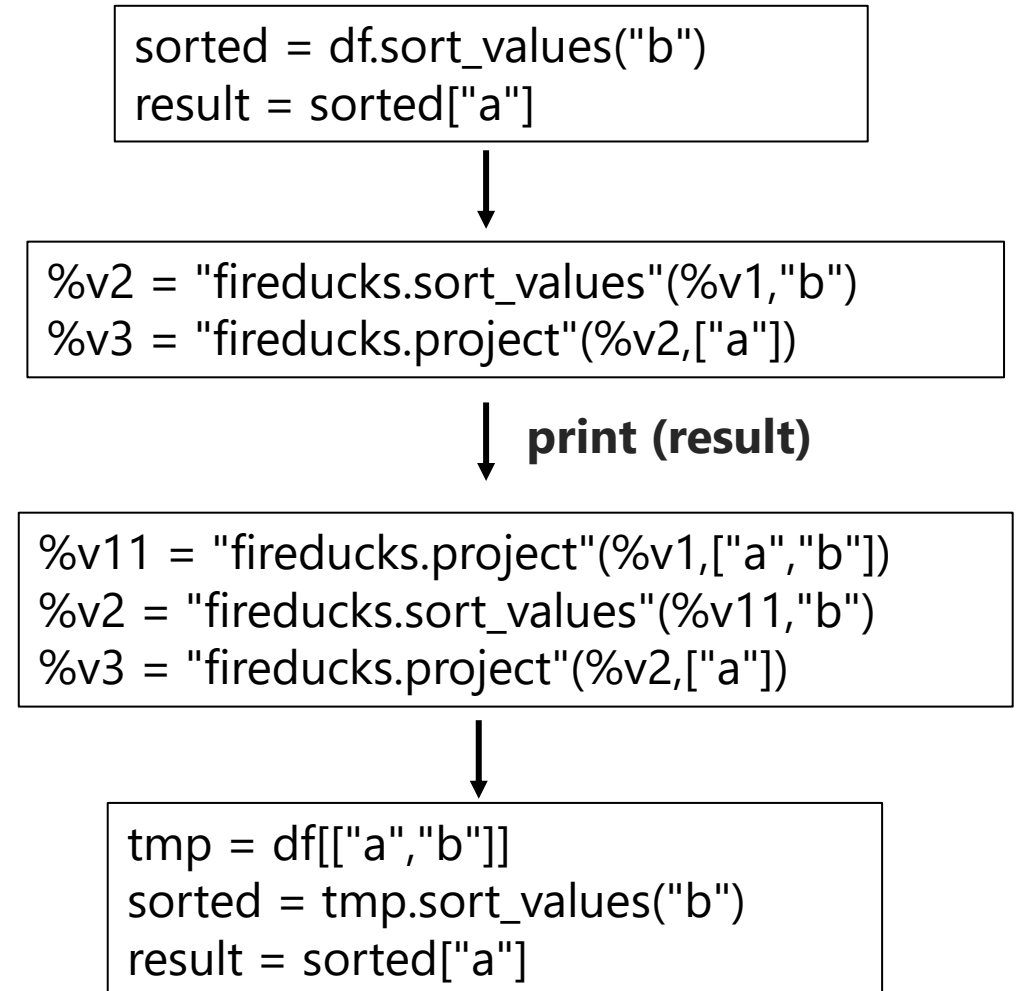
100M samples  
with high-  
cardinality

# How does FireDucks work?

※IR: Intermediate Representation



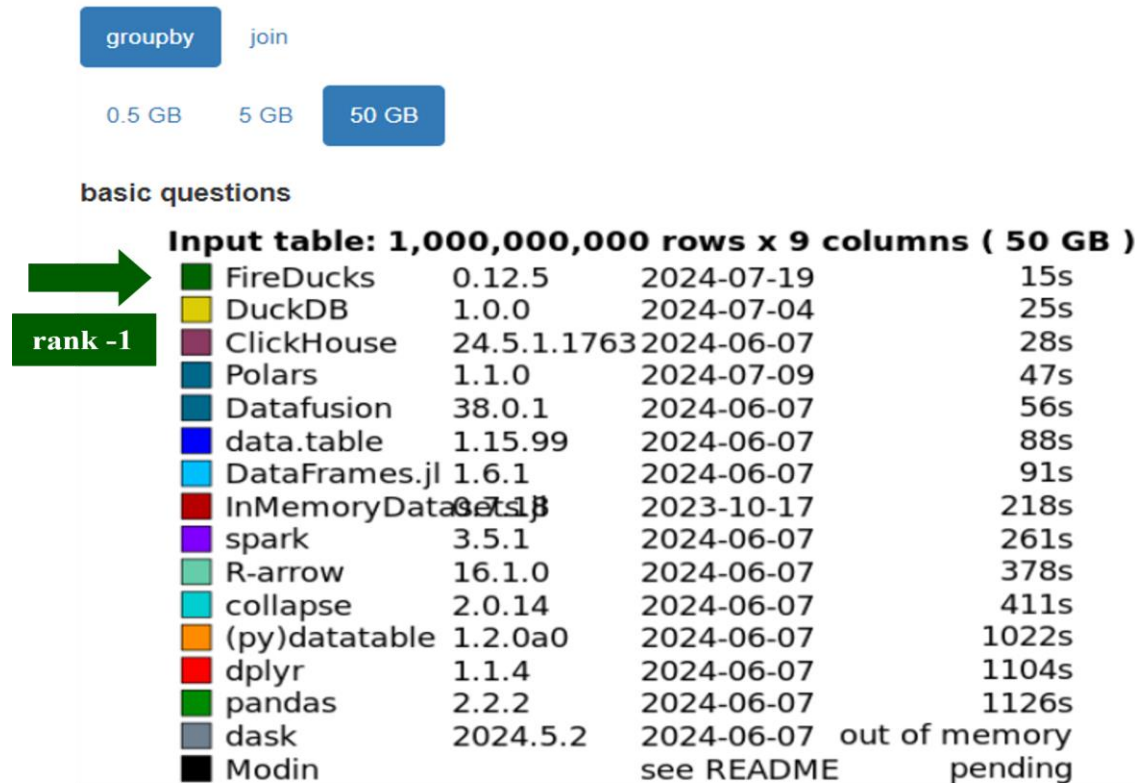
**Primary Objective: Write Once, Execute Anywhere**



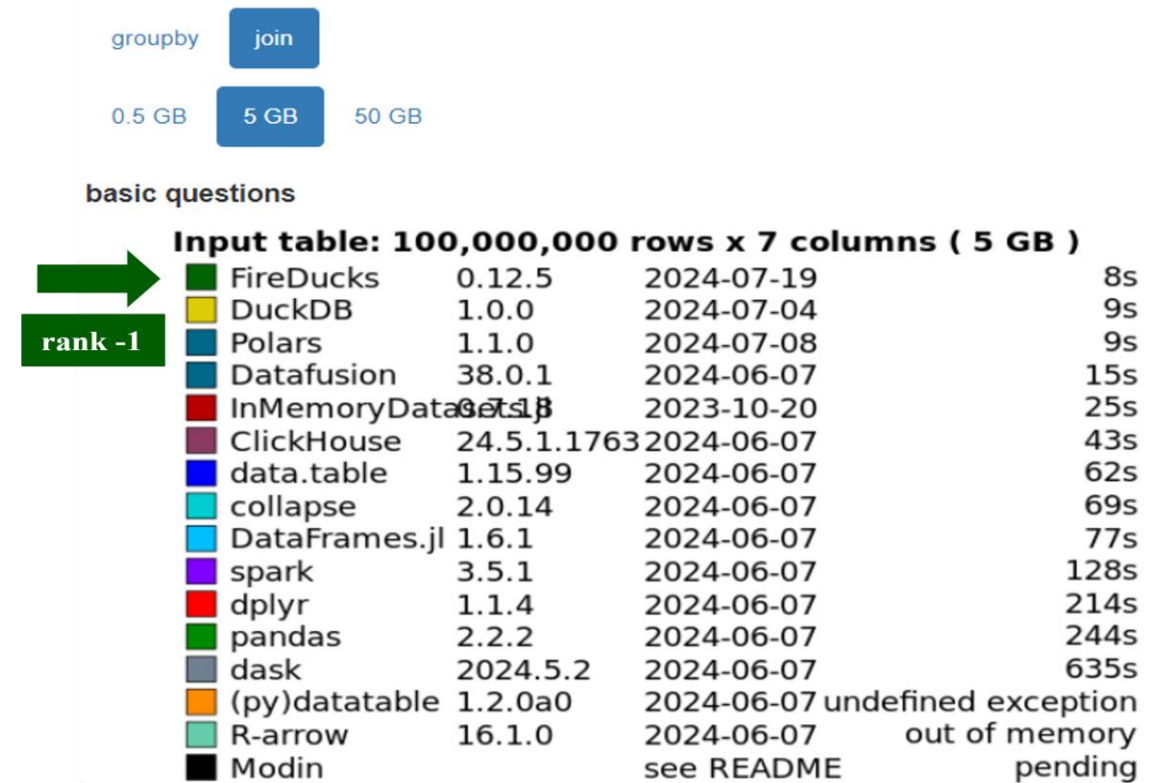


# Benchmark (1): DB-Benchmark

Database-like ops benchmark (<https://duckdblabs.github.io/db-benchmark>)

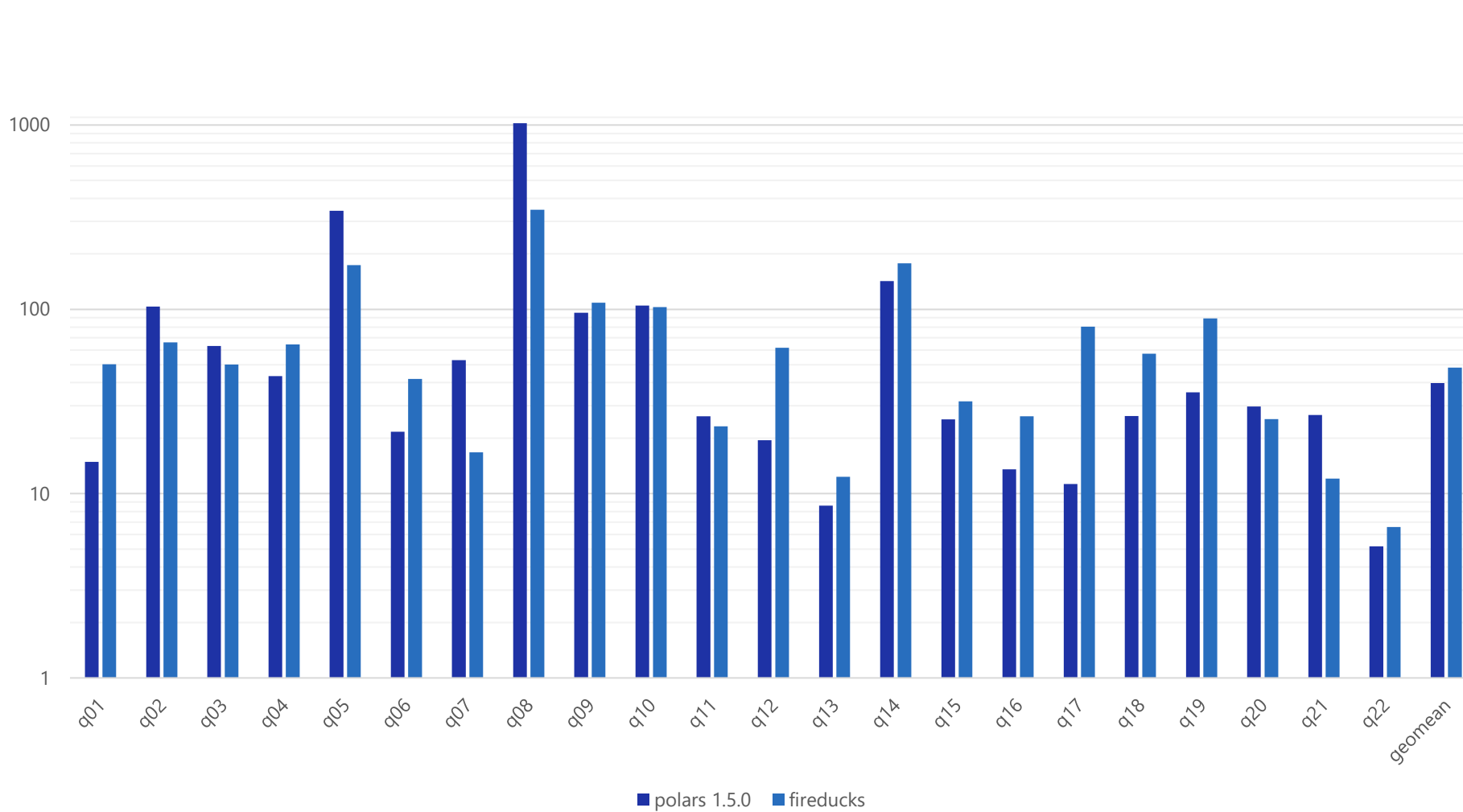


groupby



join

# Benchmark (2): Speedup from pandas in TPC-H benchmark

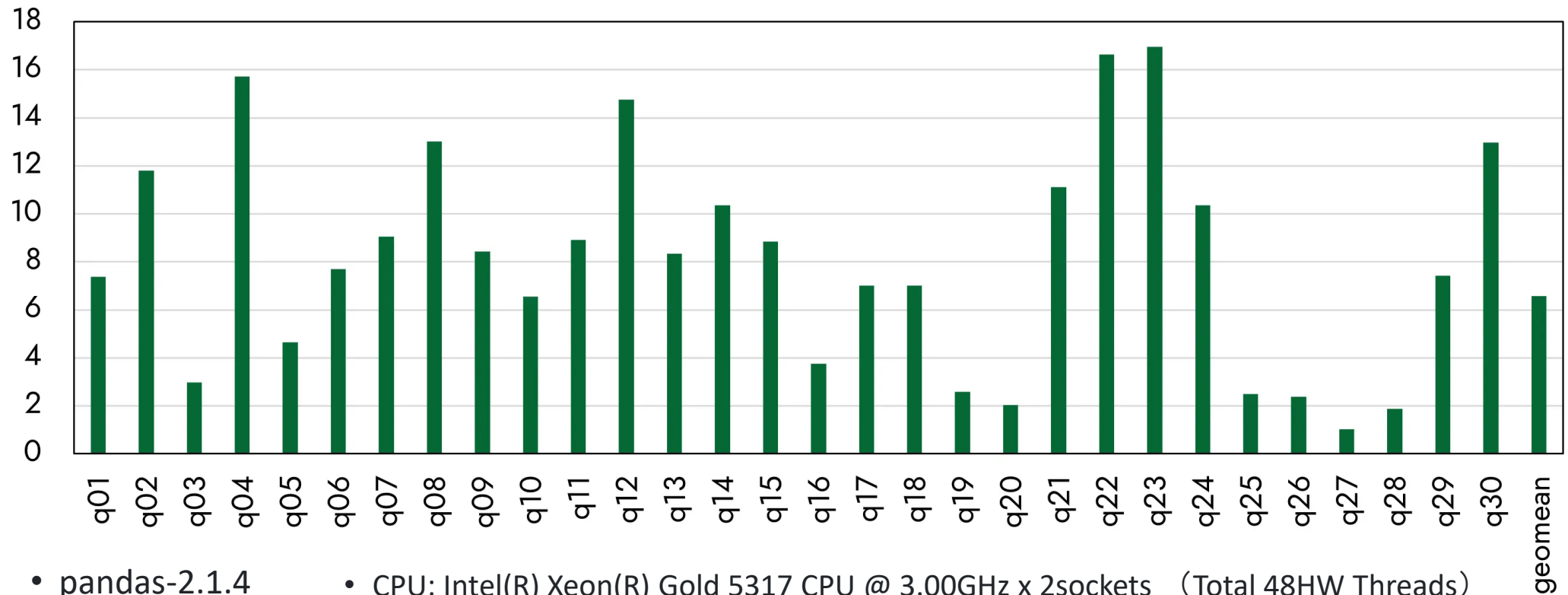


**FireDucks: 48x**  
**Polars: 40x**

# Benchmark (3): Speedup from pandas in TPCx-BB benchmark

## ETL(Extract, Transform, Load) and ML Workflow

FireDucks speedup from pandas



- pandas-2.1.4
- fireducks-0.9.3

- CPU: Intel(R) Xeon(R) Gold 5317 CPU @ 3.00GHz x 2sockets (Total 48HW Threads)
- Main memory: 256GB

# Resource on FireDucks

**Web site (User guide, benchmark, blog)**

<https://fireducks-dev.github.io/>



**X(twitter) (Release information)**

<https://x.com/fireducksdev>



**Github (Issue report)**

<https://github.com/fireducks-dev/fireducks>



**slack** Q/A, communication

[https://join.slack.com/t/fireducks/shared\\_invite/zt-2j4lucmtj-IGR7AWIXO62Lu605pnBJ2w](https://join.slack.com/t/fireducks/shared_invite/zt-2j4lucmtj-IGR7AWIXO62Lu605pnBJ2w)



## FireDucks

Compiler Accelerated DataFrame Library for Python with fully-compatible pandas API

[Get Started](#)

```
import fireducks.pandas as pd
```

News

[Release fireducks-0.12.4 \(Jul 09, 2024\)](#)

[Have you ever thought of speeding up your data analysis in pandas with a compiler?\(blog\) \(Jul 03, 2024\)](#)

[Evaluation result of Database-like ops benchmark with FireDucks is now available. \(Jun 18, 2024\)](#)



### Accelerate pandas without any manual code changes

Do you have a pandas-based program that is slow? FireDucks can speed-up your programs without any manual code changes. You can accelerate your data analysis without worrying about slow performance due to single-threaded execution in pandas.

# Let's go for a test drive!

---

<https://colab.research.google.com/drive/1qpej-X7CZsleOqKuhBg4kq-cbGuJf1Zp?usp=sharing>



# Thank You!

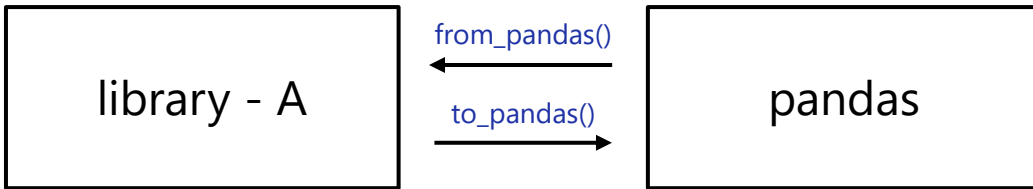
- ◆ Focus more into in-depth data exploration using “pandas”.
- ◆ Let the “FireDucks” take care of the optimization for you!



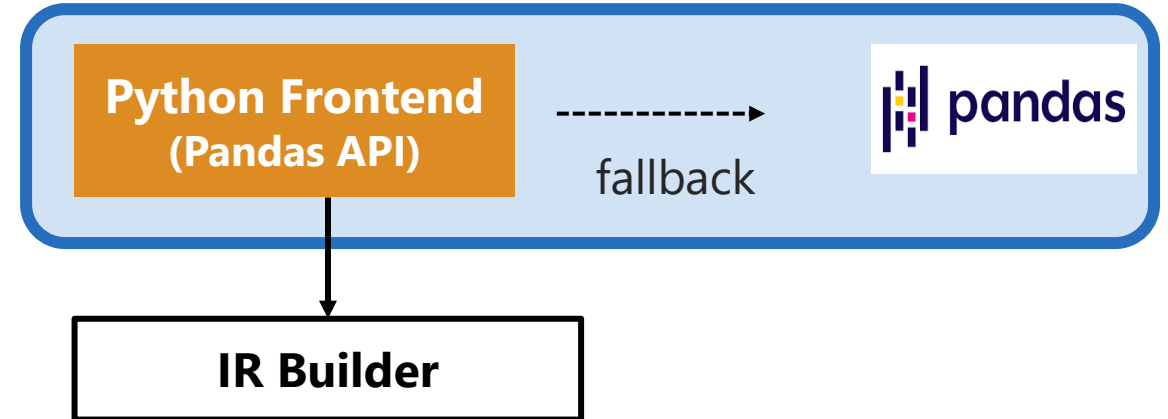
# Frequently Asked Questions

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# FAQ: Why FireDucks is highly compatible with pandas?



## FireDucks



```
%load_ext fireducks.pandas ← notebook extension for importhook
import pandas as pd
import numpy as np
```

```
%%fireducks.profile ← notebook specific profiler
df = pd.DataFrame({
    "id": np.random.choice(list("abcdef"), 10000),
    "val": np.random.choice(100, 10000)
})

r1 = (
    df.sort_values("id")
      .groupby("id")
      .head(2)
      .reset_index(drop=True)
)
pd.from_pandas(r1["val"].to_pandas().cumsum())
r1["val"] = r1["val"].cumsum()
r1.describe()
```

profiling-summary:: total: 42.4832 msec (fallback: 1.1448 msec)

|   | name                       | type     | n_calls | duration (msec) |
|---|----------------------------|----------|---------|-----------------|
| 0 | groupby_head               | kernel   | 1       | 16.696805       |
| 1 | sort_values                | kernel   | 1       | 16.684564       |
| 2 | from_pandas.frame.metadata | kernel   | 2       | 3.641694        |
| 3 | to_pandas.frame.metadata   | kernel   | 2       | 2.237987        |
| 4 | describe                   | kernel   | 1       | 2.021135        |
| 5 | DataFrame_repr_html_       | fallback | 1       | 1.021662        |
| 6 | Series.cumsum              | fallback | 1       | 0.111802        |
| 7 | setitem                    | kernel   | 1       | 0.010280        |
| 8 | get_metadata               | kernel   | 1       | 0.009650        |
| 9 | reset_index                | kernel   | 1       | 0.008050        |

When running a python script/program, you may like to set the environment variable to get fallback warning logs:  
**`FIREDUCKS_FLAGS="-Wfallback"`**

[Raise](#) feature request when you encounter some expensive fallback hindering your program performance!



Directly [communicate](#) with us over our slack channel for any performance or API related queries!





# FAQ: How to evaluate Lazy Execution?

```
def foo(employee, country):  
    stime = time.time()  
    m = employee.merge(country, on="C_Code")  
    r = m[m["Gender"] == "Male"]  
    print(f"fireducks time: {time.time() - stime} sec")  
    return r
```

**fireducks time: 0.0000123 sec**

```
def foo(employee, country):  
    employee._evaluate()  
    country._evaluate()  
    stime = time.time()  
    m = employee.merge(country, on="C_Code")  
    r = m[m["Gender"] == "Male"]  
    r._evaluate()  
    print(f"fireducks time: {time.time() - stime} sec")  
    return r
```

**fireducks time: 0.02372143 sec**



## IR Builder

```
create_data_op(...)  
merge_op(...)  
filter_op(...)
```

**FIREDUCKS\_FLAGS="--benchmark-mode"**



Use this to disable lazy-execution mode when you do not want to make any changes in your existing application during performance evaluation.

# FAQ: How to configure number of cores to be used?

## **OMP\_NUM\_THREADS=1**



Use this to stop parallel execution, or configure this with the intended number of cores to be used



Alternatively, you can use the Linux taskset command to bind your program with specific CPU cores.

The background features several thin, light blue lines that curve and intersect across the right side of the slide, creating a sense of movement and design.

## \Orchestrating a brighter world

NEC creates the social values of safety, security, fairness and efficiency to promote a more sustainable world where everyone has the chance to reach their full potential.

\Orchestrating a brighter world

**NEC**