Streaming IoT sensor data with LocationTech GeoMesa, Apache Kafka, and NiFi

Apache Con 2021@Home
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LocationTech GeoMesa Overview

What is GeoMesa?

A suite of tools for **streaming**, persisting, managing, and analyzing spatio-temporal data at scale

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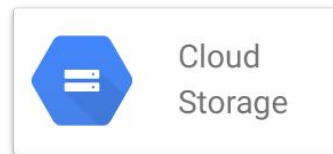
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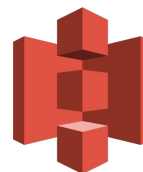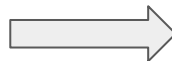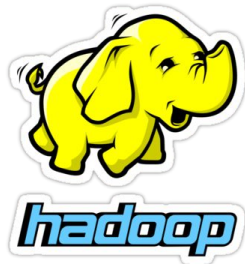
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Proposed Reference Architecture
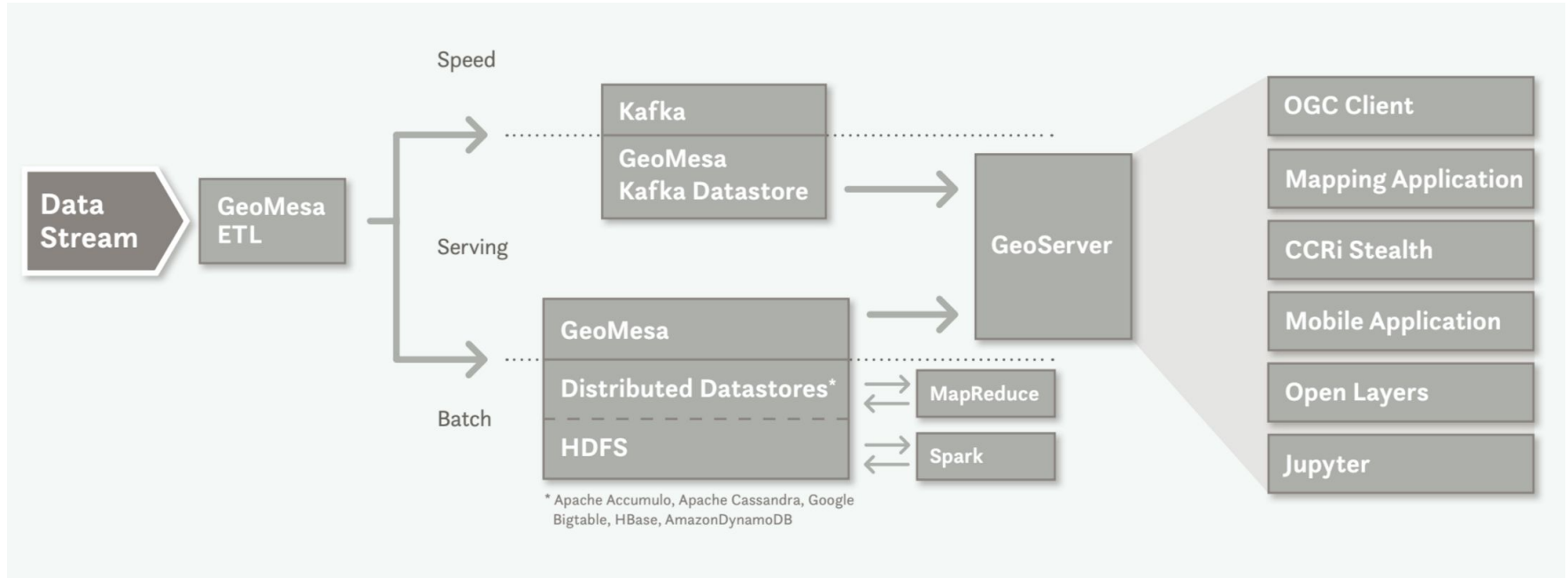
Demo!

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What did we see in the demo?

Live Data:

- Live View of all maritime vessels
- Activities layer
  - Port Arrivals / Departures
  - Status changes
  - Etc…

Historical Data:

- Track History

Contextual Data:

- Basemap
- Ports
- EEZs, etc...

What technologies enable the demo?

Live Data:

- Live View of all maritime vessels

Activities layer

- Port Arrivals / Departures
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Historical Data:

- Track History

Contextual Data:

- Basemap
- Ports, EEZs, etc...

Live Data:

- GeoMesa's Kafka DataStore

Activities:

- Siddhi / KStreams, etc

Historical / Contextual Data:

- GeoMesa HBase + NiFi

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Kafka

- Kafka as a Message Bus
- In-memory table view

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What is Kafka?

- Kafka is a distributed Write-Ahead Log.
  - WAL =>
    - Writes are fast
    - Reads can be fast since they can be batched
  - Distributed
    - Can turn up the parallelism

How do we get moving DOTM?

Producers get data from somewhere

- They create SimpleFeatures
- Write them to a Kafka topic
- … in What format?
  - Usually Kryo
  - Optionally you can switch to Avro

What do the (Kryo) messages look like?

- CreateOrUpdate(id)
- Delete(id)
- Clear()

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What are all those settings?

- Event-time lets one set Kafka expiration based on an attribute
- Log compaction reduces the size of the Kafka WAL
-

GeoMesa Kafka DataStore In-Memory Database

GeoMesa KDS clients (like GeoServer)

- Listen for updates from Kafka
- Receive and answer spatial queries

These clients need an in-memory database structure that can be updated quickly as new updates come in.

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Usually spatial data structures like R-Trees and Quad-trees would be slower to update in light of the volume of updates.

Other possibilities include trying H2's spatial support. Indexing in H2 was slow when we tried it. (Admittedly, back in 2016.)

To address this, GeoMesa has rolled its own lightweight, in-memory database.
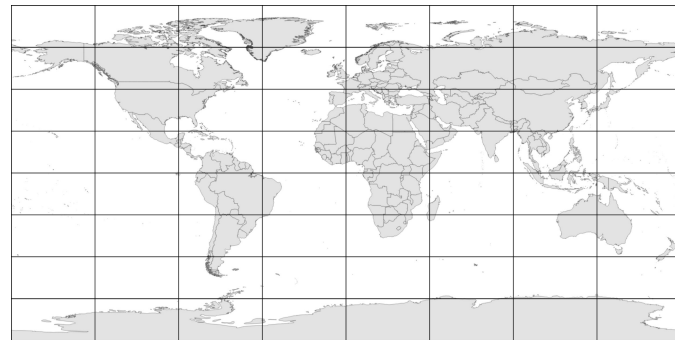
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GeoMesa Kafka DataStore In-Memory Database

For most use cases, GeoMesa uses a class which maintains two things:

1. A HashMap of Feature IDs to records
2. A bucket index of spatial grid cells containing records

Updates:

- Find the old record in the HashMap
- Remove it from the bucket index
- Add the new element

GeoMesa Kafka DataStore In-Memory Database

For situations when queries on attribute columns may be important, GeoMesa can be configured to use CQEngine!

For GeoServer use cases, it is faster than the standard KDS and H2.

- Hughes, Zimmerman, Eichelberger, and Fox. "A survey of techniques and open-source tools for processing streams of spatio-temporal events". Conference: the 7th ACM SIGSPATIAL International Workshop on GeoStreaming. October 2016. DOI: 10.1145/3003421.3003432

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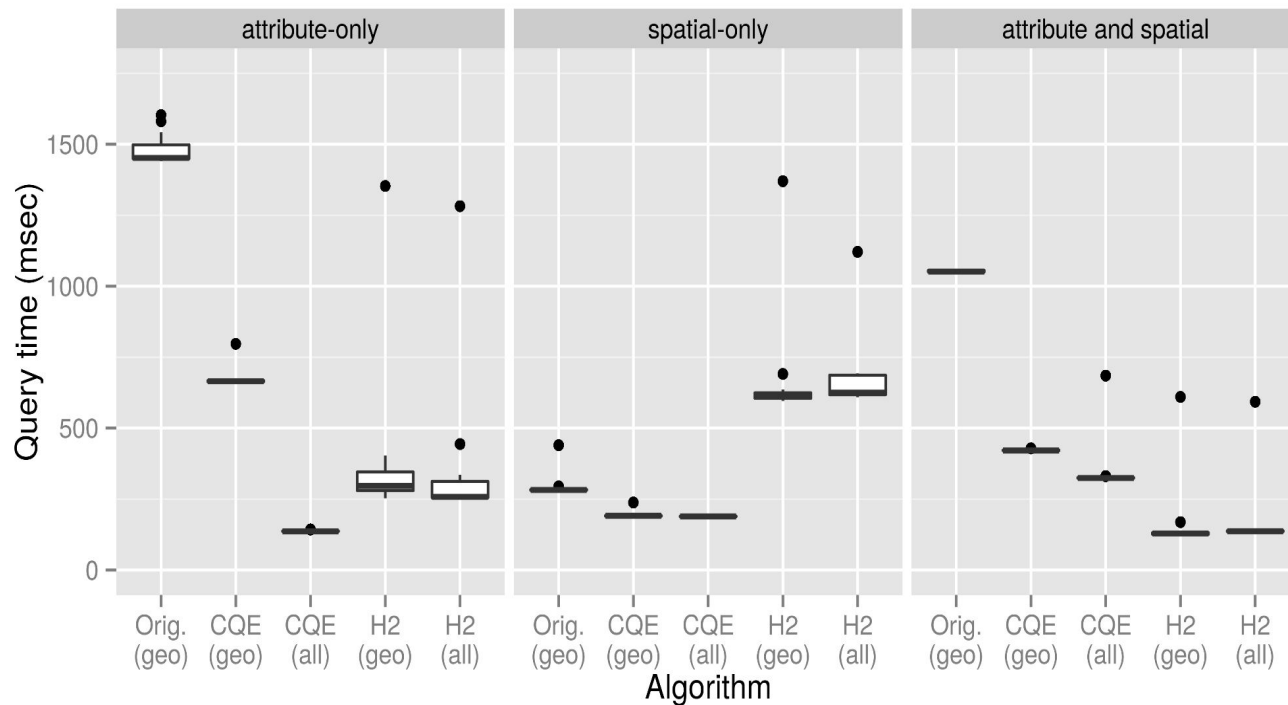
What tools are there?

Kafka has command line tools

- Manage topics
- Send messages
- listen to topics

GeoMesa Kafka has command line tools

- Manage SimpleFeatureTypes
- Send SimpleFeatures as messages
- Listen to topics

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NiFi

What is NiFi?

From https://nifi.apache.org/

Apache NiFi supports powerful and scalable directed graphs of data routing, transformation, and system mediation logic. Some of the high-level capabilities and objectives of Apache NiFi include:

- Web-based user interface
  - Seamless experience between design, control, feedback, and monitoring
- Highly configurable
  - Flow can be modified at runtime
  - Back pressure
- Data Provenance
  - Track dataflow from beginning to end
- Designed for extension
  - Build your own processors and more
  - Enables rapid development and effective testing

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- **Designed for extension**   **<- GeoMesa-NiFi Processors**
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How do we use NiFi?

We typically use NiFi for

- Managing data flows
- ETL
  - Extract
  - Transform
  - Load

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As an example, one could:

Use a **GetHTTP** or **ListenTCP** processor to extract data from a source.

A processor like **TransformRecord** or **TransformXML** can be used to *transform* data in flow files.

Processors like **PutJDBC**, **PutTCP**, or **PutS3** can *load* data into external systems

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Let's do this for SimpleFeatures and GeoMesa!

GeoMesa-NiFi

GeoMesa-NiFi is a GeoMesa community project to add NiFi processors and components to help NiFi users integrate GeoMesa into their NiFi flows.

Extract: Reads SimpleFeatures from a GeoMesa managed Kafka topic.

	GetGeoMesaKafkaRecord	
	GetGeoMesaKafkaRecord 3.2.0-SNAPSHOT	
	org.geomesa.nifi - geomesa-kafka-nar	
In	0 (0 bytes)	5 min
Read/Write	0 bytes / 0 bytes	5 min
Out	0 (0 bytes)	5 min
Tasks/Time	0 / 00:00:00.000	5 min

Transform: Applies a GeoMesa converter to create GeoAvro files.

	ConvertToGeoAvro	
	ConvertToGeoAvro 3.2.0-SNAPSHOT	
	org.geomesa.nifi - geomesa-redis-nar	
In	0 (0 bytes)	5 min
Read/Write	0 bytes / 0 bytes	5 min
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Load: Applies a GeoMesa converter and loads the results into HBase

	PutGeoMesaHBase	
	PutGeoMesaHBase 3.2.0-SNAPSHOT	
	org.geomesa.nifi - geomesa-hbase2-nar	
In	0 (0 bytes)	5 min
Read/Write	0 bytes / 0 bytes	5 min
Out	0 (0 bytes)	5 min
Tasks/Time	0 / 00:00:00.000	5 min

Load: Loads a GeoAvro file into HBase

	AvroToPutGeoMesaHBase	
	AvroToPutGeoMesaHBase 3.2.0-SNAPSHOT	
	org.geomesa.nifi - geomesa-hbase2-nar	
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GeoMesa-NiFi

In addition to processors, there are

- Configuration Services
  - To manage the configuration for connecting to datastores
- GeoAvroRecordSetWriter
  - Allows any processor which write out **NiFi RecordSets** to create GeoAvro files.

Put it all together in a GeoMesa use case

One can build a flow that:

- Reads from a source (like TCP)
- Use **ConvertToAvro** to process the raw data into SimpleFeatures and write it out as Avro
- The Avro can be saved in S3 with **PutS3**
- The Avro files can be loaded into HBase with **PutGeoMesaHBase**
- The Avro files can also be sent to Kafka with **PutGeoMesaKafka**

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Streaming Analytics

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ksqlDB Geospatial Integration

https://github.com/wlaforest/KSQLGeo

Add some spatial UDFs to ksqlDB

https://github.com/wlaforest/KafkaGeoDemo

Demo of the UDFs

Questions?

GeoMesa: https://www.geomesa.org

Gitter: https://gitter.im/locationtech/geomesa