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Spark Merge Two DataFrames with Different Columns or Schema

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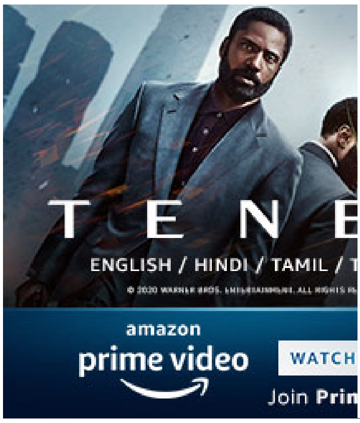
In Spark or PySpark let's see how to merge/unione two DataFrames with a different number of columns (different schema). In Spark 3.1, you can easily achieve this using unionByName() transformation by passing allowMissingColumns with the value true. In order version, this property is not available



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Spark RDD – Convert RDD to DataFrame (https://sparkbyexamples.com/

```
//Scala
merged_df = df1.unionByName(df2

#PySpark
merged_df = df1.unionByName(df2
```

The difference between `unionByName()` function and `union()` is that this function resolves columns by name (not by position). In other words, unionByName() is used to merge two DataFrame's by column names instead of by position.

In case if you are using older than Spark 3.1 version, use below approach to merge DataFrame's with different column names.

- Spark Merge DataFrames with Different Columns (Scala Example)
- PySpark Merge DataFrames with Different Columns (Python Example)

Spark Merge Two DataFrames with Different Columns

In this section I will cover Spark with Scala example of how to merge two different DataFrames, first let's create DataFrames with different number of columns. DataFrame `df1` missing column `state` and `salary` and `df2` missing column `age`.

[apache-spark-rdd/convert-spark-rdd-to-dataframe-dataset/)]

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[Spark SQL – Drop column (https://sparkbyexamples.com/spark/spark-drop-column-from-dataframe-dataset/)]

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[Spark SQL – Data Types (https://sparkbyexamples.com/spark/spark-sql-dataframe-data-types/)]

```
//Create DataFrame df1 with col
val data = Seq(("James","Sales"
              ("Robert","Sales
import spark.implicits._
val df1 = data.toDF("name","dep
df1.printSchema()

//root
// |-- name: string (nullable =
// |-- dept: string (nullable =
// |-- age: long (nullable = tr
```

Second DataFrame

```
//Create DataFrame df1 with col
val data2=Seq(("James","Sales",
             ("Jen","Finance",
val df2 = data2.toDF("name","de
df2.printSchema()

//root
// |-- name: string (nullable =
// |-- dept: string (nullable =
// |-- state: string (nullable
// |-- salary: long (nullable =
```

Now create a new DataFrames from existing after adding missing columns. newly added columns contains `null` values and we [add constant column using lit() function (https://sparkbyexamples.com/spark/using-lit-and-typedlit-to-add-a-literal-or-constant-to-spark-dataframe/)].

[Spark SQL – StructType | StructField (https://sparkbyexamples.com/spark/spark-sql-structtype-on-dataframe/)](https://sparkbyexamples.com/spark/spark-sql-structtype-on-dataframe/)

[Spark SQL – Schema (https://sparkbyexamples.com/spark/spark-schema-explained-with-examples/)](https://sparkbyexamples.com/spark/spark-schema-explained-with-examples/)

[Spark SQL – Groupby (https://sparkbyexamples.com/spark/using-groupby-on-dataframe/)](https://sparkbyexamples.com/spark/using-groupby-on-dataframe/)

[Spark SQL – Sort DataFrame (https://sparkbyexamples.com/spark/spark-how-to-sort-dataframe-column-explained/)](https://sparkbyexamples.com/spark/spark-how-to-sort-dataframe-column-explained/)

[Spark SQL – Join Types (https://sparkbyexamples.com/spark/spark-sql-dataframe-join/)](https://sparkbyexamples.com/spark/spark-sql-dataframe-join/)

[Spark SQL – Union and UnionAll (https://sparkbyexamples.com/spark/spark-dataframe-union-and-union-all/)](https://sparkbyexamples.com/spark/spark-dataframe-union-and-union-all/)

[Spark SQL – map() vs mapPartitions() (https://sparkbyexamples.com/spark/spark-map-vs-mappartitions-transformation/)](https://sparkbyexamples.com/spark/spark-map-vs-mappartitions-transformation/)

[Spark SQL – foreach() vs foreachPartition() (https://sparkbyexamples.com/spark/spark-foreachpartition-vs-foreach-explained/)](https://sparkbyexamples.com/spark/spark-foreachpartition-vs-foreach-explained/)

[Spark SQL – map() vs flatMap() (https://sparkbyexamples.com/spark/spark-map-vs-flatmap-with-examples/)](https://sparkbyexamples.com/spark/spark-map-vs-flatmap-with-examples/)

[Spark SQL – Persist and Cache (https://sparkbyexamples.com/spark/spark-dataframe-cache-and-persist-explained/)](https://sparkbyexamples.com/spark/spark-dataframe-cache-and-persist-explained/)

[Spark SQL – UDF (User Defined Functions) (https://sparkbyexamples.com/spark/spark-sql-udf/)](https://sparkbyexamples.com/spark/spark-sql-udf/)

[Spark SQL – Array (ArrayType) Column (https://sparkbyexamples.com/spark/spark-array-arraytype-dataframe-column/)](https://sparkbyexamples.com/spark/spark-array-arraytype-dataframe-column/)

```
val merged_cols = df1.columns.t
import org.apache.spark.sql.fun
def getNewColumns(column: Set[S
    merged_cols.toList.map(x =>
      case x if column.contains
      case _ => lit(null).as(x)
    })
}
val new_df1=df1.select(getNewCo
val new_df2=df2.select(getNewCo
```

Finally merge two DataFrame's by using column names

```
//Finally join two dataframe's 
val merged_df=new_df1.unionByNa
merged_df.show()

//+-------+---------+----+-----
//|   name|     dept| age|state
//+-------+---------+----+-----
//|  James|    Sales|  34| null
//|Michael|    Sales|  56| null
//| Robert|    Sales|  30| null
//|  Maria|  Finance|  24| null
//|  James|    Sales|null|   NY
//|  Maria|  Finance|null|   CA
//|    Jen|  Finance|null|   NY
//|   Jeff|Marketing|null|   CA
//+-------+---------+----+-----
```

PySpark Merge Two DataFrames with Different Columns

In PySpark to merge two DataFrames with different columns, will use the similar approach explain above and uses `unionByName()` transformation. First let's create DataFrame's with different number of columns.

[Spark SQL – Map (MapType) column (https://sparkbyexamples.com/spark/spark-dataframe-map-maptype-column/)](https://sparkbyexamples.com/spark/spark-dataframe-map-maptype-column/)

[Spark SQL – Flatten Nested Struct Column (https://sparkbyexamples.com/spark/spark-flatten-nested-struct-column/)](https://sparkbyexamples.com/spark/spark-flatten-nested-struct-column/)

[Spark SQL – Flatten Nested Array Column (https://sparkbyexamples.com/spark/spark-flatten-nested-array-column-to-single-column/)](https://sparkbyexamples.com/spark/spark-flatten-nested-array-column-to-single-column/)

[Spark SQL – Explode Array & Map Columns (https://sparkbyexamples.com/spark/explode-spark-array-and-map-dataframe-column/)](https://sparkbyexamples.com/spark/explode-spark-array-and-map-dataframe-column/)

[Spark SQL – Sampling (https://sparkbyexamples.com/spark/spark-sampling-with-examples/)](https://sparkbyexamples.com/spark/spark-sampling-with-examples/)

[Spark SQL – Partitioning (https://sparkbyexamples.com/spark/spark-partitioning-understanding/)](https://sparkbyexamples.com/spark/spark-partitioning-understanding/)

Spark SQL Functions

[Spark SQL String Functions (https://sparkbyexamples.com/spark/usage-of-spark-sql-string-functions/)](https://sparkbyexamples.com/spark/usage-of-spark-sql-string-functions/)

[Spark SQL Date and Timestamp Functions (https://sparkbyexamples.com/spark/spark-sql-date-and-time-functions/)](https://sparkbyexamples.com/spark/spark-sql-date-and-time-functions/)

[Spark SQL Array Functions (https://sparkbyexamples.com/spark/spark-sql-array-functions/)](https://sparkbyexamples.com/spark/spark-sql-array-functions/)

[Spark SQL Map Functions (https://sparkbyexamples.com/spark/spark-sql-map-functions/)](https://sparkbyexamples.com/spark/spark-sql-map-functions/)

[Spark SQL Sort Functions (https://sparkbyexamples.com/spark/spark-sql-sort-functions/)](https://sparkbyexamples.com/spark/spark-sql-sort-functions/)

[Spark SQL Aggregate Functions (https://sparkbyexamples.com/](https://sparkbyexamples.com/)

```
from pyspark.sql import SparkSe
spark = SparkSession.builder.ap

#Create DataFrame df1 with colu
data = [("James","Sales",34), (
    ("Robert","Sales",30), ("Ma
columns= ["name","dept","age"]
df1 = spark.createDataFrame(dat
df1.printSchema()

#Create DataFrame df1 with colu
data2=[("James","Sales","NY",90
    ("Jen","Finance","NY",7900)
columns2= ["name","dept","state
df2 = spark.createDataFrame(dat
df2.printSchema()
```

Now add missing columns ‘state‘ and ‘salary‘ to df1 and ‘age‘ to df2 with null values.

```
#Add missing columns 'state' &
from pyspark.sql.functions impo
for column in [column for colum
    df1 = df1.withColumn(column

#Add missing column 'age' to df
for column in [column for colum
    df2 = df2.withColumn(column
```

Now merge/union the DataFrames using `unionByName()`. The difference between `unionByName()` function and `union()` is that this function resolves columns by name (not by position). In other words, unionByName() is used to merge two DataFrame’s by column names instead of by position.

[spark/spark-sql-aggregate-functions/)](https://sparkbyexamples.com/spark/spark-sql-aggregate-functions/)

[Spark SQL Window Functions (https://sparkbyexamples.com/spark/spark-sql-window-functions/)](https://sparkbyexamples.com/spark/spark-sql-window-functions/)

[Spark SQL JSON Functions (https://sparkbyexamples.com/spark/spark-most-used-json-functions-with-examples/)](https://sparkbyexamples.com/spark/spark-most-used-json-functions-with-examples/)

Spark Data Source API

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[Spark – Read & Write Parquet file (https://sparkbyexamples.com/spark/spark-read-write-dataframe-parquet-example/)](https://sparkbyexamples.com/spark/spark-read-write-dataframe-parquet-example/)

[Spark – Read & Write XML file (https://sparkbyexamples.com/spark/spark-read-write-xml/)](https://sparkbyexamples.com/spark/spark-read-write-xml/)

[Spark – Read & Write Avro files (https://sparkbyexamples.com/spark/read-write-avro-file-spark-dataframe/)](https://sparkbyexamples.com/spark/read-write-avro-file-spark-dataframe/)

[Spark – Read & Write Avro files (Spark version 2.3.x or earlier) (https://sparkbyexamples.com/spark/using-avro-data-files-from-spark-sql-2-3-x/)](https://sparkbyexamples.com/spark/using-avro-data-files-from-spark-sql-2-3-x/)

[Spark – Read & Write HBase using "hbase-spark" Connector (https://sparkbyexamples.com/spark/spark-read-write-using-hbase-spark-connector/)](https://sparkbyexamples.com/spark/spark-read-write-using-hbase-spark-connector/)

[Spark – Read & Write from HBase using Hortonworks (https://sparkbyexamples.com/spark/create-spark-dataframe-from-hbase-using-hortonworks/)](https://sparkbyexamples.com/spark/create-spark-dataframe-from-hbase-using-hortonworks/)

[Spark – Read & Write ORC file (https://sparkbyexamples.com/spark/spark-read-orc-file-into-dataframe/)](https://sparkbyexamples.com/spark/spark-read-orc-file-into-dataframe/)

```
#Finally join two dataframe's d
merged_df=df1.unionByName(df2)
merged_df.show()
```

Conclusion

In this article, you have learned with spark & PySpark examples of how to merge two DataFrames with different columns can be done by adding missing columns to the DataFrame's and finally union them using unionByName().

Happy Learning !!

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PySpark – groupBy() (https://sparkbyexamples.com/

pyspark/pyspark-groupby-explained-with-example/)

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PySpark – flatMap() (https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark/pyspark-flatmap-transformation/)

pyspark – foreach() (https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark/pyspark-loop-iterate-through-rows-in-dataframe/#use-foreach-loop-through-dataframe)

PySpark – sample() vs sampleBy() (https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark/pyspark-sampling-example/)

PySpark – fillna() & fill() (https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark/pyspark-fillna-fill-replace-null-values/)

PySpark – pivot() (Row to Column) (https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark/pyspark-pivot-and-unpivot-dataframe/)

PySpark – partitionBy() (https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark/pyspark-partitionby-example/)

PySpark – ArrayType Column (Array) (https://sparkbyexamples.com/

pyspark/pyspark-arraytype-column-with-examples/)

PySpark – MapType (Map/Dict) (https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark/pyspark-maptype-dict-examples/)

PySpark SQL Functions

PySpark – Aggregate Functions (https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark/pyspark-aggregate-functions/)

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PySpark – Read & Write CSV File (https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark/pyspark-read-csv-file-into-dataframe/)

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PySpark Built-In Functions

PySpark – when() (https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark/pyspark-when-otherwise/)

PySpark – expr() (https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark/pyspark-sql-expr-expression-function/)

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Pyspark – substring() (https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark/pyspark-substring-from-a-column/)

PySpark – translate() (https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark/pyspark-replace-column-

values/#translate-replace-character-by-character)

PySpark – regexp_replace() (https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark/pyspark-replace-column-values/#regexp_replace-replace-string-columns)

PySpark – overlay() (https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark/pyspark-replace-column-values/#overlay-function)

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PySpark – months_between() (https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark/pyspark-difference-between-two-dates-days-months-years/#months_between())

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