Distributed Data Processing with Spark

Apache Spark

- · An engine for performing large-scale data processing
- Written in Scala
- APIs for Scala, Python, R and Java
- Large-scale means either or both
 - Memory capacity is not enough to hold data on a single machine
 - · Processing capacity is not enough to process data on a single machine
 - Should process in parallel on multiples machines

Concurrency vs. Parallelism

Concurrency

Multiples independent computations occurring simultaneously

Parallelism

- A single computation performed over multiple CPU, cores, machines...
- Split the dataset into multiple partitions over multiples nodes
- Process each partitions in parallel and produce a partial result for each
- Merge all partial results and produce a final result
- Split and merge should be extremely efficient not to destroy parallelism gains

Spark Core and RDDs

RDD

- RDD stands for Resilient Distributed Dataset
 - Somehow very large distributed collections
 - Allowing parallel processing
 - Retrying in case of processing failure

RDD Transformations and Actions

- Transformations allow to
 - Transform an RDD into another RDD (map, flatMap, filter, sortBy, reduceByKey...)
 - Combine RDDs to form an RDD (join, leftOuterJoin, cogroup...)
 - Does not perform any processing
 - Only describes a processing
- Only Actions trigger processing
 - Execute the **lineage** of RDDs every time
 - Unless explicit caching

Driver Program and RDDs

- Driver program is the main program
- Describes the computation (transformations)
- Triggers actual processing (actions)
 - Every action triggers a job
 - A job consists of multiples stages (that may execute concurrently)
 - Each stage is executed over multiples tasks in parallel each operating on a partition of the data
 - Before initial stages and between stages has to be be split into multiple partitions using a partitioner

RDD Demo

Spark SQL and Datasets

Datasets

- Distributed Datasets consisting of rows
- Every dataset has a schema
 - Names and types of columns
 - Can be hierarchical structure
- Similarly to RDDs
 - · Datasets can be transformed and combined to form other datasets
 - Only actions trigger processing
- Looks very similar to SQL except that:
 - Queries are expressed with a DSL
 - Much more composable

Schema Allows Optimization

- · Spark is aware of the structure of the data
- · Can optimize **physical execution plan** of queries with the *Catalyst* optimizer
- Can optimize in-memory storage of rows with Tungsten
- Eventually everything runs over RDDs

Execution of Queries

- · An Action on a **Dataset** will trigger a **query**
- Query is optimized by Catalyst
- · Query is executed using RDDs optimized with Tungsten
- A query execution will result in 1 or more jobs

Dataset Demo

Further with Spark

Spark and Functional Programming

- Spark applications can be organized into pure functions
 - Taking RDDs or Datasets as input
 - Returning an RDD or Dataset as output
- These functions can be unit tested

Spark over a Cluster

- In production, Spark Jobs execute over a cluster of multiples machines
- · Spark uses a cluster manager such as YARN to
 - Allocate memory and processing capacity for executors on machines in the cluster
 - Orchestrate execution of tasks on executors
 - Handle failures and retries