Introduction to Spark

Internal training





Contents

- I. Overview of relevant concepts
 - 1. Introduction
 - 2. Spark's core components
 - 3. Unified framework
 - 4. RDDs
 - 5. Lazy vs eager evaluation
 - 6. Wide vs narrows transformations
 - Catalyst Optimizer
 - 8. Shuffling & Partitioning
- II. Performance Evaluation
 - 1. Explore query plans
 - 2. Spark UI
 - 3. Types of joins



Introduction



What is Apache Spark?

A distributed data processing engine designed for big data and large-scale computation

Spark's key features

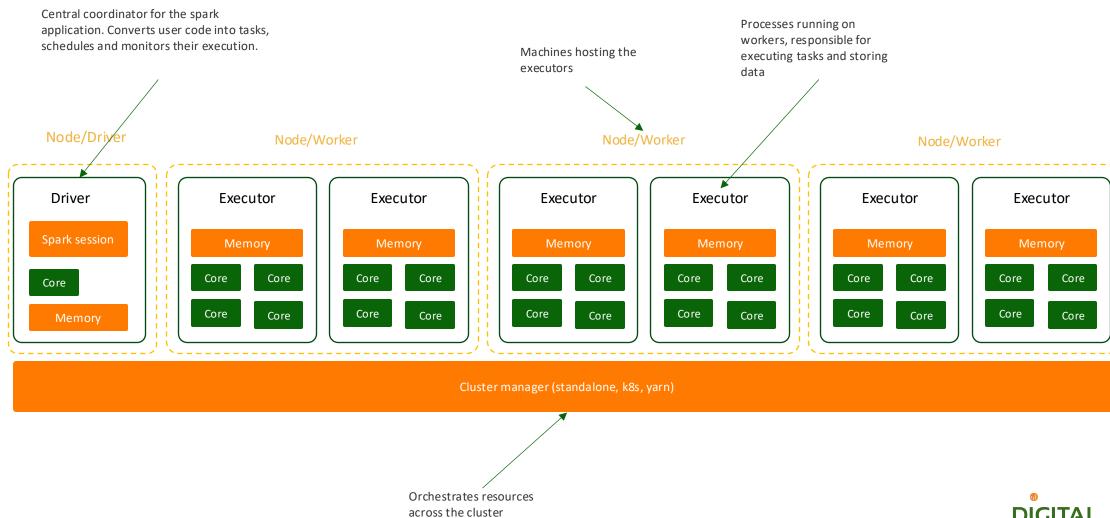
- Speed: In-memory processing for faster computation
- Scalability: Handles petabytes of data across large clusters
- Versatility: Supports multiple programming languages (API, Java, Scala, R, SQL)

Common use cases:

- ETL pipelines
- Data Analytics
- Machine Learning workflows

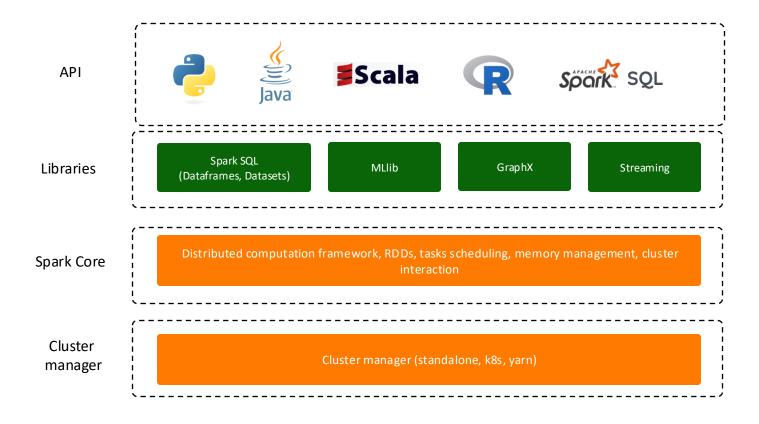


Spark's core components





Spark's unified framework



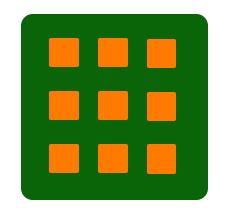


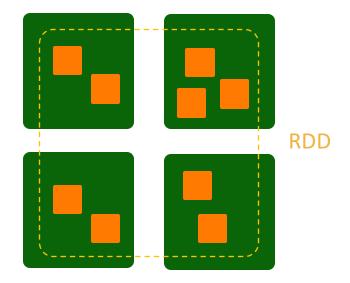
RDDs

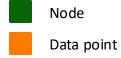
Resilient distributed dataset (RDD), is a fault-tolerant, immutable collection of elements that can be operated in parallel across a cluster of machines.













Lazy vs eager evaluation

Lazy

Evaluation of expressions is delayed until their results are needed

Eager

Evaluation of expressions occur every time a new expression is declared.

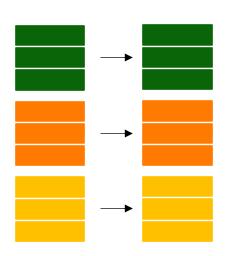
| Feature | Transformations | Actions |
|------------|--|--|
| Definition | Operations that define a computation plan | Operations that trigger an execution |
| Evaluation | Lazy – not executed until an actions runs | Eager – triggers the execution |
| Examples | <pre>map(), filter(), select(), flatMap(), withColumn(), sample(), groupBy(), join(), sortBy(), repartition(), coalesce(), etc</pre> | count(), collect(), save(), show(), take(), toPandas() |
| Returns | New RDD/Dataframe | Final result |



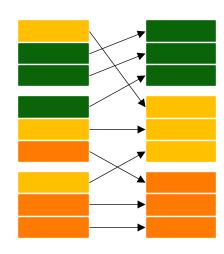
Narrow vs Wide transformations

Narrow transformations

Transformations



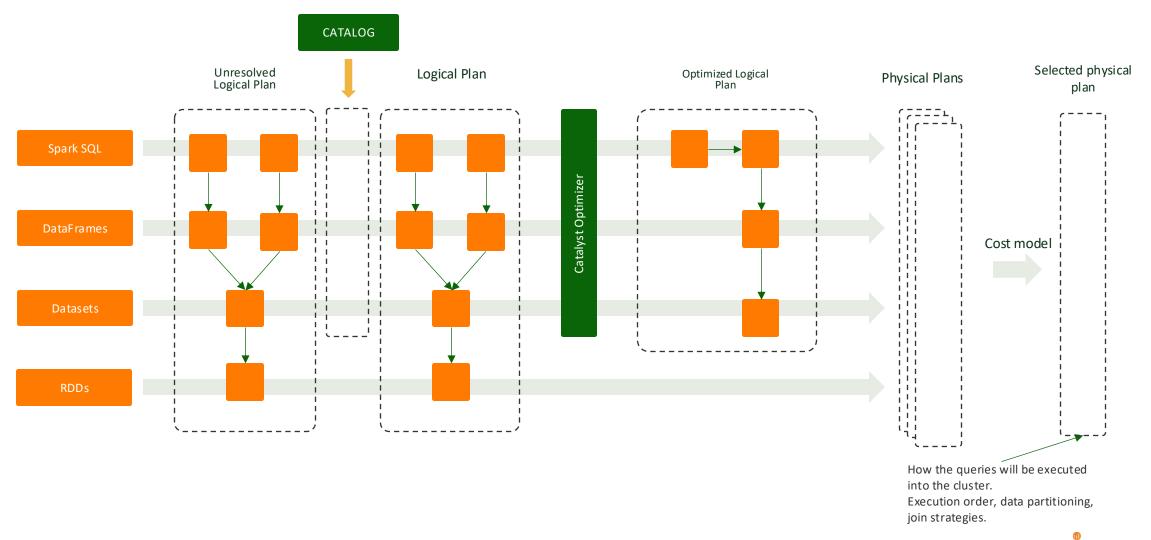
Filter FlatMap Map WithColumn Sample Wide transformations



GroupBy
Join
Distinct
Repartition
Coalesce
SortBy
Distinct



Catalyst optimiser and Tungsten engine

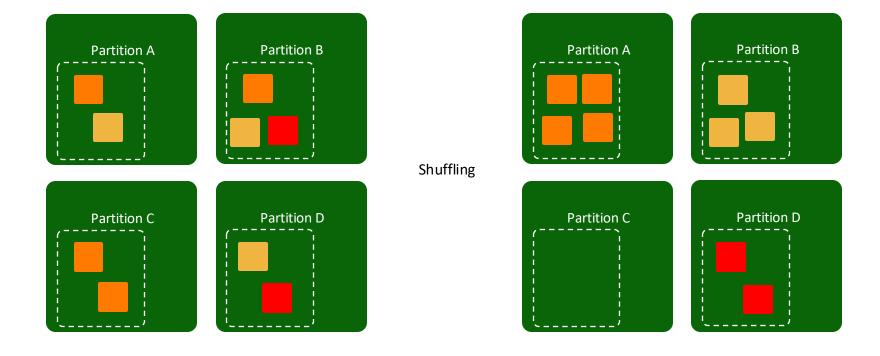


Source: Key topics in Apache Spark, Catalyst Optimizer

10-4-2025



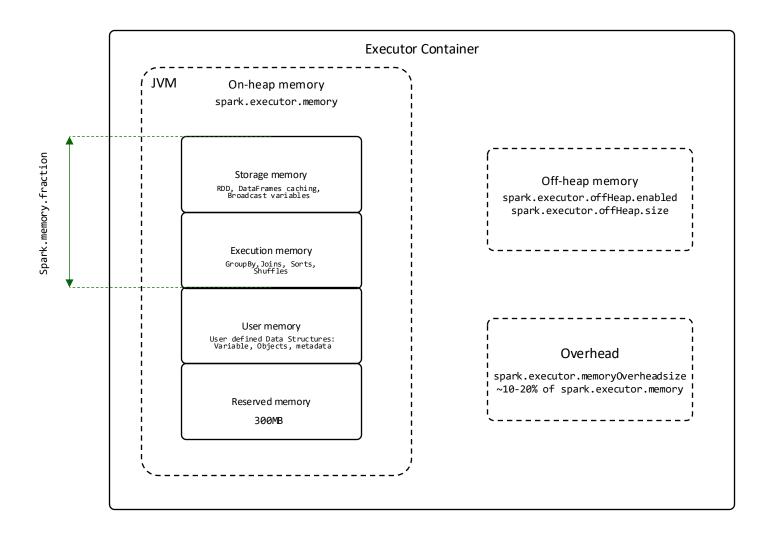
Shuffling and partitioning







Bonus: Memory management



Source: Spark's memory management overview

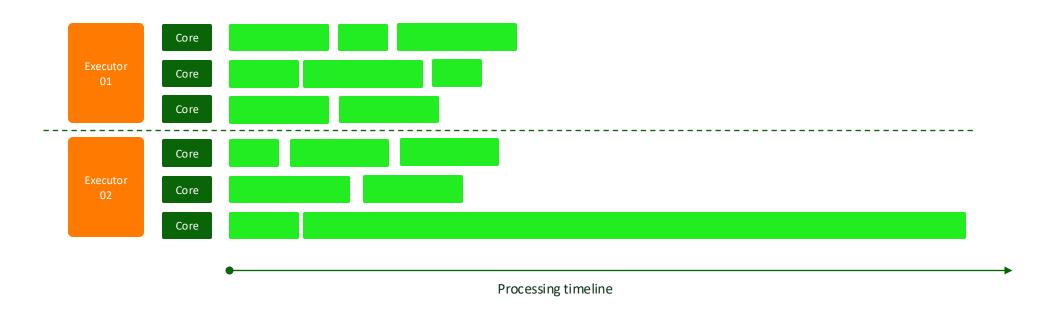
10-4-2025



11

Bonus: Data Skew

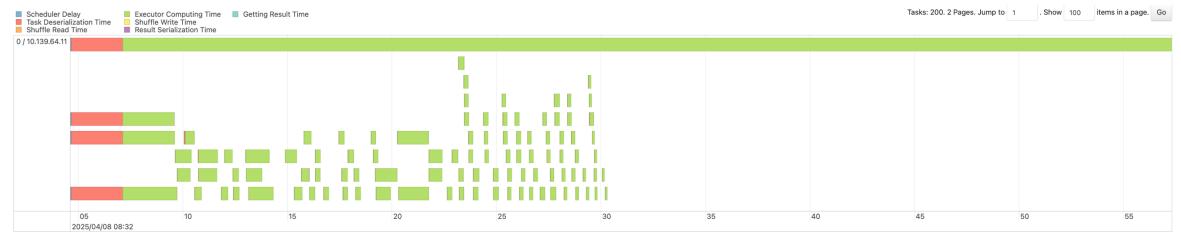
Transformations: groupBy(), join()



Worker/Executor
Core
Task



Bonus: Data Skew



Summary Metrics for 200 Completed Tasks



Overview of relevant concepts 13







Questions?

