INTRODUCTION TO SPARK

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What is spark?



"A fast and general engine for large-scale data processing"



It's fast

- "Run programs up to 100x faster than Hadoop MapReduce in memory, or 10x faster on disk."
- DAG Engine (directed acyclic graph) optimizes workflows

It's hot

- Amazon
- Ebay: log analysis and aggregation
- NASA JPL: Deep Space Network
- Groupon
- TripAdviser
- Yahoo
- Many others: https://cwiki.apache.org/confluence/display/SPARK/Powered+By+Spark

It's not that hard

- Code in Python, Java, or Scala
- Built around one main concept: the Resilient Distributed Dataset (RDD)

Components of spark





Let's Use Python

Why Python?

- It's a lot simpler, and this is just an overview.
- Don't need to compile anything, deal with JAR's, dependencies, etc
- But...
 - Spark itself is written in Scala
 - Scala's functional programming model is a good fit for distributed processing
 - Gives you fast performance (Scala compiles to Java bytecode)
 - Less code & boilerplate stuff than Java
 - Python is slow in comparison

FEAR NOT

Scala code in Spark looks a LOT like Python code.

Python code to square numbers in a data set:

nums = sc.parallelize([1, 2, 3, 4])
squared = nums.map(lambda x: x * x).collect()

Scala code to square numbers in a data set:

val nums = sc.parallelize(List(1, 2, 3, 4))
val squared = nums.map(x => x * x).collect()