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Spark In Action



Synopsis

Summary Spark in Action teaches you the theory and skills you need to effectively handle batch and streaming data using Spark. Fully updated for Spark 2.0. Purchase of the print book includes a free eBook in PDF, Kindle, and ePub formats from Manning Publications. About the Technology Big data systems distribute datasets across clusters of machines, making it a challenge to efficiently query, stream, and interpret them. Spark can help. It is a processing system designed specifically for distributed data. It provides easy-to-use interfaces, along with the performance you need for production-quality analytics and machine learning. Spark 2 also adds improved programming APIs, better performance, and countless other upgrades. About the Book Spark in Action teaches you the theory and skills you need to effectively handle batch and streaming data using Spark. You'll get comfortable with the Spark CLI as you work through a few introductory examples. Then, you'll start programming Spark using its core APIs. Along the way, you'll work with structured data using Spark SQL, process near-real-time streaming data, apply machine learning algorithms, and munge graph data using Spark GraphX. For a zero-effort startup, you can download the preconfigured virtual machine ready for you to try the book's code. What's Inside Updated for Spark 2.0 Real-life case studies Spark DevOps with Docker Examples in Scala, and online in Java and Python About the Reader Written for experienced programmers with some background in big data or machine learning. About the Authors Petar Zelevic and Marko Bonaci are seasoned developers heavily involved in the Spark community. Table of Contents PART 1 - FIRST STEPS Introduction to Apache Spark Spark fundamentals Writing Spark applications The Spark API in depth PART 2 - MEET THE SPARK FAMILY Sparkling queries with Spark SQL Ingesting data with Spark Streaming Getting smart with MLlib ML: classification and clustering Connecting the dots with GraphX PART 3 - SPARK OPS Running Spark Running on a Spark standalone cluster Running on YARN and Mesos PART 4 - BRINGING IT TOGETHER Case study: real-time dashboard Deep learning on Spark with H2O

Book Information

Paperback: 472 pages

Publisher: Manning Publications; 1 edition (November 26, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1617292605

ISBN-13: 978-1617292606

Product Dimensions: 7.3 x 0.9 x 9.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.7 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars 8 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #204,581 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #34 in [Books > Computers & Technology > Computer Science > AI & Machine Learning > Neural Networks](#) #56 in [Books > Textbooks > Computer Science > Algorithms](#) #138 in [Books > Computers & Technology > Programming > Algorithms](#)

Customer Reviews

Petar Zecevic is a CTO at SV Group. During the last 14 years he has worked on various projects as a Java developer, team leader, consultant and software specialist. He is the founder and, with Marko, organizer of popular Spark@Zg meetup group. Marko Bonaci has worked with Java for 13 years. He works Sematext as a Spark developer and consultant. Before that, he was team lead for SV Group's IBM Enterprise Content Management team.

So far it's okay but I wanted to point out a few things. On page 22 it says to see appendix B for details on installing spark but appendix B is, "Understanding MapReduce". I found the Spark installation help in Appendix A. Page 56 has the complete source code for the program that I just went through to build. The code in the step-by-step instructions differed from the final code on this page. Page 55 has us import 'sqlContext.implicits._' but page 56 changes it to 'spark.implicits_' without letting the reader know. My code wouldn't compile but then I realized the author had changed it on the next page. With all that said, I believe I have a better understanding of spark now in spite of a few frustrations along the way.

The book is great, easy to follow and not expert friendly

I've been working as a Data Scientist for the past few years, with a social science background, using R and Python, and I've been looking to up-skill myself into a sort of a Data Science Engineer role, and have learned some Scala in order to do this. The next logical step is learning the basics of Spark, and I decided to pick up this book, as I've never had a book from Manning let me down. "Spark in Action" definitely delivers the introduction that I needed. Split into 4 parts, the book takes the reader on a tour of the Spark fundamentals, explaining the RDD data model in detail, after which it dives into the main functionality of Spark: Spark SQL, Spark Streaming, MLlib, SparkML, and GraphX. Later on, it covers the operational aspects of setting up a standalone Spark cluster, as

well as running it on YARN and Mesos. Finally, a very well written case study of creating a real-time dashboard is presented, together with an explanation on how to use H2O's Deep Learning services. All the code examples in the book are written in Scala, which is ideal in my opinion, but the authors also provide matching examples in Java and Python on the book's GitHub repository. A VM with Spark already set up is also provided, so all the examples can be ran straight out of the box. The book carefully balances between the Engineering and Data Science aspects of using Spark. Whether this is good or bad, depends on a reader's needs - I needed an initial overview of "everything Spark", and got exactly what I was looking for. On the other hand, the book is not going to teach an experienced Data Engineer how to tune all the nuts and bolts of a cluster, and neither is it going to teach an experienced Data Scientist how move completely from R/Python to Spark when it comes to Machine Learning. Finally, the book is updated to cover Spark 2.0, which as far as I can see makes it unique on the market in that regard.

"Spark in Action" has the standard Manning structure: it has four parts, "First Steps", "Meet the Spark Family", "Spark Ops", (where "ops" stands for operations), and "Bringing it all Together". The first part takes you from zero to using Spark on a standalone computer. The second part goes through the tools that come with Spark: SQL, real-time Streaming, Machine Learning, and Graph operations and optimization. The third part is about running real clusters, and the fourth gives an overall example of a real-time implementation, with all components and a dashboard. The book ends with the discussion of machine learning using H2O with Spark. "In action" really means it. If you have gone through an introductory book, like "Learning Spark" by Holden Karau, then "Spark in Action" is the next step. It will make you a practical developer proficient in the real-world uses of Spark. It is completely updated with Spark 2. The book is really out of the future: I am writing this review in December 2016, but the printed book in my hands has 2017 as the date of printing. That is more of a joke, but the Spark versions are not a minor thing: Spark is going at a very fast pace, and each dot version introduces new features. Version 2 even changes the Machine Learning component; it was MLLib, and now it ML, based on DataFrames, a completely new object type. All APIs change, so this book is in tune with the times. I've seen reviews complaining about "book's explanation" but I did not find any such

problem. Books should be evaluated, I believe, on the merit of what they do have, not on what they don't have although the reviewer would like it to be there. This is a very practical book; it gives usage advice. If you want the internal architecture, you should go to Holden's book, or read the code (it's open source). But if you want to get the equivalent of practical experience, then this book is for you. Happy traveling! (PS. Once you buy the book in paper, you can get all electronic editions for free. There is an insert in the book that gives you the instructions.)

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