

# The Impala Cookbook

From Cloudera's Impala Team

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\*Currently an Apache Incubator project



# Topic Outline

- Part 1 – The Basics
  - Physical and Schema Design
  - Memory Usage in Impala
- Part 2 – The Practical Issues
  - Cluster Sizing and Hardware Recommendations
  - Benchmarking Impala
  - Multi-tenancy Best Practices
  - Query Tuning Basics
- Part 3 – Outside Impala
  - Interaction with Apache Hive, Apache Sentry, and Apache Parquet

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# Physical and Schema Design - Outline

- Schema design best practices
  - Datatypes
  - Partition design
  - Complex types
  - Common questions
- Physical design
  - File format – when to use what?
  - Block size (option)

# Physical and Schema Design - Data Types

- Use Numeric Types (not strings)
  - Avoid string types when possible
  - Strings => higher memory consumption, more storage, slower to compute (80% slower compared to numeric)
    - E.g date string “20161031” or unixtime “1479459272”, switch to bigint
- Decimal vs Float/Double
  - Decimal is easier to reason about
  - Currently can't use Decimal as partition key or in UDFs
- Use String only for:
  - HBase row key – string is the recommended type!
  - Timestamp – ok to use string, but consider using numeric as well!
- Prefer String over Char/Varchar (except for SAS)

# Partition Design: 3 Simple Rules

1. Identify access patterns from the use case or existing SQL.
2. Estimate the total number of partitions (better be <100k!).
3. (Optional) If needed, reduce the number of partitions.

# Partition Design – Identify Access Patterns

- The table columns that are commonly used in the WHERE clause are candidates for partition keys.
  - Date is almost always a common access pattern and the most common partition key.
- Can have MULTIPLE PARTITION KEYS! Examples:
  - `Select col_1 from store_sales where sold_date between '2014-01-31' and '2016-02-23';`
  - `Select count(revenue)from store_sales where store_group_id in (1,5,10);`
  - Partition keys => `sold_date, store_group_id`

# Partition Design – Estimate the #partitions

- Estimate the number of distinct values (NDV) for each partition key (for the required storage duration). Example:
  - If partitioned by date and need to store for 1 year, then NDV for date partition key is 365.
  - num store\_group will grow over time, but it will never exceed 52 (one for each state).
- Total number of partitions = NDV for part key 1 \* NDV for part key 2 \* ... \* NDV for partition key N. Example:
  - Total number of partitions = 365 (for date part) \* 52 (for store\_group)  $\approx$  19k
- Make sure #partitions  $\leq$  100k!



# Partition Design – Too Many Partitions?

- Remove some “unimportant” partition keys.
  - If a partition key isn’t as routinely used or it doesn’t impact the SLA, remove it!
- Create partition “buckets” and specify bucket id in downstream select queries.
  - Use month rather than date.
  - Create artificial `store_group` to group individual stores.
  - Technique: use prefix or hash
    - `Hash(store_id) % store_group size => hash it to store_group`
    - `Substring(store_id,0,2) => use the first 2 digits as artificial store_group`
    - e.g. `select ... from tbl where store_id = 5  
and store_group = store_id % 50; //Assume 50 store groups`

# Nested Types: Known Issues

- The maximum size of a single row fed into a join build cannot exceed 8MB (buffered-tuple-stream block size). For complex types this means:
  - Size of all materialized collections (post projection and filtering) cannot exceed 8MB for certain plan shapes (expected to be rare).
- IMPALA-2603: Incorrect plan is generated for inline view referencing complex types.
  - Inline view has several relative table refs that refer to different ancestor query blocks within the same nesting hierarchy.

# Schema Design – Common Issues

- Number of columns - 2k max
  - Not a hard limit; Impala and Parquet can handle even more, but...
  - It slows down Hive Metastore metadata update and retrieval
  - It leads to big column stats metadata, especially for incremental stats
- Timestamp/Date
  - Use timestamp for date;
  - Date as partition column: use string or int (20150413 as an integer!)
- BLOB/CLOB – use string
- String size - no definitive upper bound but 1MB seems ok
  - Larger-sized string can crash Impala!
  - Use it sparingly - the whole 1MB string will be shipped everywhere

# Physical Design – File Format

- Parquet/Snappy
  - The long-term storage format
  - Always good for reading!
  - Write is very slow (reportedly 10x slower than Avro).
- Snappy vs Gzip
  - Snappy is usually a better tradeoff between compression ratio and CPU.
  - But, run your own benchmark to confirm!
- For write-once-read-once tmp ETL tables, consider text instead because:
  - Writing is faster.
  - Impala can perform the write.

# Physical Design – Block Size

- Number of blocks defines the degree of parallelism:
  - True for both MapReduce and Impala
  - Each block is processed by a single CPU core
  - To leverage all CPU cores across the cluster, **num blocks  $\geq$  num core**
- Larger block size:
  - Better compression and IO throughput, but fewer blocks, could reduce parallelism
- Smaller block size:
  - More parallelism, but could reduce IO throughput
  - Can cause metadata bloat and create bottlenecks on HDFS NameNode(NN RPC overhead 40K-50K/s), Hive Metastore, Impala catalog service

# Physical Design – Block Size

- For Apache Parquet, ~256MB is good and no need to go above 1GB.
- Don't go below 64MB except when you need more parallelism!
- (Advanced) If you really want to confirm the block size, use the following equation:
  - $\text{Block Size} \leq p * t * c / s$ 
    - p – disk scan rate at 100MB/sec
    - t – desired response time of the query in sec
    - c – concurrency
    - s - % of column selected
- Regularly compact tables to keep the number of files per partition under control and improve scan and compression efficiency

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# Memory Usage – The Basics

- Memory is used by:
  - Hash join – RHS tables after decompression, filtering and projection
  - Group by – proportional to the #groups
  - Parquet writer buffer – 256MB per partition
  - IO buffer (shared across queries)
- Memory held and reused by later queries
  - Impala releases memory from time to time in 1.4 and later



# Catalog memory usage

- Metadata cache heap memory usage can be calculated by
  - $\text{num of tables} * 5\text{KB} + \text{num of partitions} * 2\text{KB} + \text{num of files} * 750\text{B} + \text{num of file blocks} * 300\text{B} + \text{sum}(\text{incremental col stats per table})$
  - Incremental stats
    - For each table,  $\text{num columns} * \text{num partitions} * 400\text{B}$
- Catalog-Update topic size should be no more than 2GB
  - <http://<statestore host>:25010/topics>

# Memory Usage – Estimating Memory Usage

- Use Explain Plan
  - Requires statistics! Memory estimate without stats is meaningless.
  - Reports per-host memory requirement for this cluster size.
    - Re-run if you've re-sized the cluster!

```
+-----+
| Explain String                                     |
+-----+
| Estimated Per-Host Requirements: Memory=26.51MB VCores=2 |
| 07:AGGREGATE [MERGE FINALIZE]                    |
| | output: sum(count(*))                          |
| |                                                 |
+-----+
```

# Memory Usage – Estimating Memory Usage (Cont'd)

- EXPLAIN's memory estimate issues
  - Can be way off – much higher or much lower.
  - group by's estimate can be particularly off – when there's a large number of group by columns.
    - Mem estimate = NDV of group by column 1 \* NDV of group by column 2 \* ...  
NDV of group by column n
  - Ignore EXPLAIN's estimate if it's too high!
- Do your own estimate for group by
  - GROUP BY mem usage = (total number of groups \* size of each row) + (total number of groups \* size of each row) / num node

# Memory Usage – Finding Actual Memory Usage

- Search for “Per Node Peak Memory Usage” in the profile.
- This is accurate. Use it for production capacity planning.

```
Execution Profile b8414c34981f3ec9:a52048d52a00fb1:(Total: 9s754ms, non-child: 0ns, % non-child: 0.00%)  
Per Node Peak Memory Usage: alan-OptiPlex-790:22000(11.77 MB)  
- FinalizationTimer: 0ns
```

# Memory Usage – Finding Actual Memory Usage (Cont’d)

- For complex queries, how do I know which part of my query is using too much memory or causing an Out-Of-Memory error (i.e. hitting the mem-limit)?
  - Look at the “Peak Mem” in the ExecSummary from the query profile!

ExecSummary:									
Operator	#Hosts	Avg Time	Max Time	#Rows	Est. #Rows	Peak Mem	Est. Peak Mem	Detail	
07:AGGREGATE	1	77.817ms	77.817ms	1	1	48.00 KB	-1.00 B	MERGE FINALIZE	
06:EXCHANGE	1	14.534us	14.534us	1	1	0	-1.00 B	UNPARTITIONED	
03:AGGREGATE	1	1s025ms	1s025ms	1	1	84.56 KB	10.00 MB		
02:HASH JOIN	1	8s300ms	8s300ms	366.55M	280.88M	7.48 MB	525.91 KB	INNER JOIN, PARTITIONED	
--05:EXCHANGE	1	22.500ms	22.500ms	183.59K	183.59K	0	0	HASH(s2.ss_sold_date_sk)	
01:SCAN HDFS	1	1s791ms	1s791ms	183.59K	183.59K	288.00 KB	16.00 MB	tpcds_parquet.store_sales s2	
04:EXCHANGE	1	19.189ms	19.189ms	183.59K	183.59K	0	0	HASH(s1.ss_sold_date_sk)	
00:SCAN HDFS	1	1s782ms	1s782ms	183.59K	183.59K	408.00 KB	16.00 MB	tpcds_parquet.store_sales s1	

# Memory Usage – Hitting Mem-limit

- Top causes (in order) of hitting mem-limit even when running a single query:
  1. Lack of statistics
  2. Lots of joins within a single query
  3. Big-table joining big-table
  4. Gigantic group by

# Memory Usage – Hitting Mem-limit (Cont'd)

- Lack of stats
  - Wrong join order, wrong join strategy, wrong insert strategy
  - Explain Plan tells you that!

```
+-----+
| Explain String
+-----+
| Estimated Per-Host Requirements: Memory=10.00MB VCores=2
| WARNING: The following tables are missing relevant table and/or column statistics.
| dmart.rate
+-----+
```

- Fix: Compute Stats <table>
- For huge table that compute stats takes too long to finish, you can manually set table/column stats

# Memory Usage – Hitting Mem-limit (Cont'd)

- Lots of joins within a single query
  - `select...from fact, dim1, dim2,dim3,...dimN where ...`
  - Each dim table can fit in memory, but not all of them together
  - As of CDH 5.4/Impala 2.2,
    - Impala might choose the wrong plan – BROADCAST
    - Impala sometimes require 256MB as the minimal requirement per join!
  - FIX 1: use shuffle hint
    - `Select ... from fact join [shuffle] dim1 on ... join [shuffle] dim2 ...`
  - FIX 2: pre-join the dim tables (if possible). few join=>better perf!



# Memory Usage - Hitting Mem-limit (Cont'd)

- Big-table join big-table
    - Big-table (after decompression, filtering, and projection) is a table that is bigger than total cluster memory size.
    - CDH5.4/Impala 2.0 and later will do this (via disk-based join).
    - (Advanced) For a simple query, you can try this advanced workaround – per-partition join
      - Requires the partition key be part of the join key
- ```
Select ... from BigTbl_A a join BigTbl_B b where a.part_key =  
b.part_key and a.part_key in (1,2,3)  
union all  
Select ... from BigTbl_A a join BigTbl_B b where a.part_key =  
b.part_key and a.part_key in (4,5,6)
```

# Memory Usage – Disk-based Join/Agg

- Disk-based join/agg should be your last resort to deal with hitting mem-limit.
- Rely on disk-based join/agg if there is only one join/agg operator in the query.  
For example:
  - **Good**: `select a.*, b.* from a, b where a.id=b.id`
  - **Good**: `select a.id, a.timestamp, count(*) from a group by a.id, a.timestamp`
  - **OK**: `select large_tbl.id, count(*) from large_tbl join tiny_tbl on (id) group by id`
  - **Bad**: `select t1.id, count(*) from large_tbl_1 t1, large_tbl_2 t2 where t1.id=t2.id group by t1.id`
  - **Bad**: `select a.*, b.*, c.* from a, b, c where a.id=b.id and b.col1=c.col2;`
- Always set the per-query mem-limit (2GB min) when using disk-based join/agg!

# Memory Usage - Additional Notes

- Use explain plan for estimate; use profile for accurate measurement
- Data skew can use uneven memory/CPU usage
- Review previous common issues on out-of-memory
- Even with disk-based join in Impala 2.0 and later, you'll want to review the Query Tuning steps to speed up queries and use memory more efficiently.

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# Hardware Recommendations

- 128GB (assigned to Impala) or more for best price/performance
- Spindles vs SSD
  - Spindles are more cost effective
  - Most workload is CPU bound; SSD won't make a difference at all
- 10Gb network

# Cluster Sizing – Objective and Keys

- Objective:
  - The recommended cluster size should run the desired **workload** within a given **SLA** throughout the **projected life span** of the cluster.
- Keys:
  - Workload - defines the functional requirement
  - SLA – defines the performance requirement
  - Projected life span – how will things change over time?

# Cluster Sizing - SLA

- Query Throughput
  - How many queries should this cluster process per second?
  - This is the more meaningful measurement of “computing power”
- Query Response Time
  - How fast do you need the query to run?
  - Typically, single query response time isn't too meaningful because there are always multiple queries running concurrently!
  - Some use cases require very fast response time e.g powering a web UI.
- Will more people be running queries over time? This means higher query throughput!

# Cluster Sizing - Workload

- From the workload, you'll want to know:
  - How much memory do you need?
  - How much processing power do you need? (i.e. how complex is the workload?)
  - How much IO bandwidth do you need?
- The bigger the cluster, the more total memory, CPU, and disk-IO bandwidth you have.
- But usually, the network bandwidth is fixed.



# Cluster Sizing – Memory Requirements

- How much memory do you need?
  - Any huge group by expression?
    - Per Node Mem  $\geq$  number of distinct group \* row size + (number of distinct group \* row size) / num node
    - Number of distinct group: hard to guess; just get a rough ballpark.
    - Row size: # columns involved in the query \* column width
    - Column width for int 4 byte, bigint 8 byte, etc. For string columns, take some rough guess.
    - Increasing the cluster size won't help much to reduce the per-node mem requirement.

# Cluster Sizing – Connection Requirements

- The larger the cluster, the more intra connections needed between impalads. With high concurrency and/or very complex queries, this could cause a connection storm and query failures.
  - Impala caches established connections and re-uses them. If the workload is executed again, the existing connection pool will be leveraged to satisfy each connection request.
- On a Kerberos secured cluster, each impalad needs to authenticate with every other impalad. Requires:  $N*N$  KDC tickets. This could overwhelm a single KDC server.
  - If the cluster has more than 200 nodes, consider using more KDC servers to balance load.

# Cluster Sizing – Workload Complexity (Cont'd)

- (Advanced) If you're ready to dive deep into workload analysis...
  - Typically, you can assume the following processing rate (3 columns, parquet format with snappy):
    - Scan node 8~10m rows per core
    - Join node (single join predicate) ~10m rows per sec per core
    - Agg node (single agg)~5m rows per sec per core
    - Sort node - ~17MB per sec per core
    - Parquet writer 1~5MB per sec per core
  - From a query in the workload, based on the #join/agg you can estimate #rows passing through the operator node then estimate the effect of partition pruning.
  - Using the above processing rate, you can estimate how much cpu time it took to process a query.

# Cluster Sizing – Summary

- Cluster sizing depends on SLA and workload. You need to know both!
- Memory requirement for doing big join/agg in memory:
  - Total Cluster mem  $\geq$  the 2nd largest big table in the join after decompression, filtering, and projection
  - Per Node Mem  $\geq$  number of distinct group \* row size +(number of distinct group \* row size) / num node

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# Benchmarking – Why Run One?

- Understand how Impala performs, how it scales, how it compares to the current system
  - Measures query response time as well as query throughput
- Understand how Impala utilizes resources
  - Measure CPU, disk, network and memory

# Benchmarking Impala – Preparing the Workload

- Should be relevant to (or satisfy) the business requirement.
  - Don't run `select * from big_tbl limit 10` – it's meaningless.
- Should not be dictated on the query form.
  - You should be prepared to change the query/schema to deliver a meaningful benchmark.
  - Tune the schema/query!
- Stay close to the query that you're going to run in production.
  - If the result has to be written to disk, then write to disk and DO NOT send results back to the client.
  - Don't stream all the data to the client (i.e. data extraction).
- Use a fast client: You're benchmarking the server, not the client, so don't make the client a bottleneck.

# Benchmarking – Avoiding Traps

- It's easier to start with a smaller data set and simpler query. Trying to run a complex query on a huge data set on a small cluster is not effective.
- A data set that's too small can't utilize the whole cluster. Have at least one block per disk.
- Disable Admission Control when you're doing benchmark!



# Benchmarking – Preparing the Hardware

- Should be as similar to go-live hardware as possible
- Recommended: at least 10 nodes with 128GB each
- CAUTION: If the cluster is too small (i.e. 3 nodes), it's very hard to see the effect of scalability and identify potential bottlenecks

# Benchmarking – Measuring Single-Query Response Time

- Use Impala-shell (simple, easy to use) with the -B option. This disables pretty formatting so client won't be the bottleneck.
  - `Impala-shell -B -q "<your query>"`
- To simulate the effect of buffer cache, run it a few times to warm the buffer cache before measuring the result.
- To simulate the effect without buffer cache, clear the buffer cache by running:  
`echo 1 > /proc/sys/vm/drop_caches`

# Benchmarking – Measuring Query Throughput

- Benchmark using JDBC (or use Jmeter!, make sure you set NativeQuery=1)
- Input parameter: list of hosts to connect to, workload queries, duration of the benchmark, and number of concurrent connections.
- Each connection will pick a host to connect to and keep running a query for the specified duration.
- Report QPS.
- Just keep increasing the number of connections until QPS doesn't increase – that will be the QPS of the system.

# Benchmarking – General Performance Notes

- Gather query profiles and system utilization
  - You can get all these from CM or `/var/log/impalad/profiles!`
- Performance vs Hive - Impala will ALWAYS be faster after proper tuning. If not, something is wrong with the benchmark.
- Impala vs Hive-on-Tez/Spark SQL benchmark:  
<https://blog.cloudera.com/blog/2016/02/new-sql-benchmarks-apache-impala-incubating-2-3-uniquely-delivers-analytic-database-performance/>
- See the open TPC-DS toolkit to run your own!  
<https://github.com/cloudera/impala-tpcds-kit>

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# Multi-tenancy Best Practices – Admission Control

- **Recommended:** Static partitioning a fixed memory for Impala and use Admission Control
  - See the “Memory Usage” section for determining memory usage!
- The best public resource is this new Impala RM ‘how to’ guide:  
[http://www.cloudera.com/documentation/enterprise/latest/topics/impala\\_howto\\_rm.html](http://www.cloudera.com/documentation/enterprise/latest/topics/impala_howto_rm.html)

# Multi-tenancy Best Practices – Preventing a “Runaway” Query

- “Runaway” query = user submitted a “wrong” query accidentally that consumes a significant amount of memory
  - Limit the amount of memory used by an individual query using `per_query mem-limit`:
    - Set it from Impala shell (on a per query basis):  
`set mem_limit=<per query limit>`
    - Set a default per-query mem limit:  
`-default_query_options='mem_limit=<per query limit>'`
    - On impala 2.6 and later, you can set default per-query mem limit at pool level

# Multi-tenancy Best Practices – Admission Control

- How to approach Admission Control config:
  - Workload dependent – memory bound or not?
    - “Memory bound” means that you’ve used up the memory allocated to Impala before hitting limit on cpu, disk, network.
  - Memory bound – use mem-limit
  - Non-memory bound – use number of concurrent queries



# Multi-tenancy Best Practices – Admission Control (Cont'd)

- Goals of Memory limit setting:
  - Prevents each group of users from overcommitting system memory
  - Prevents query from hitting mem-limit
  - (Secondary) Simulates priority by allocating more memory to important group

# Multi-tenancy Best Practices – Admission Control (Cont'd)

- **Step 1:** Identify sample workload from each user “group”, such as HR, Analyst etc
- **Step 2\*:** For each query in the workload, identify the accurate memory usage by running the query. This is the memory requirement for the query.
- **Step 3:** Minimal memory requirement for each group = max (mem requirement from the query set) \* 1.2 (safety factor). Also, set the per query mem-limit with this number.
- **Step 4:** You can divide the memory based on % too, but each group should have at least the min mem derived from Step 3.
- **NOTE:** sum(mem assigned to all groups) can be greater than total memory available. This is OK.

# Multi-tenancy Best Practices – Admission Control (Cont'd)

- More on step 2
  - If the memory estimate from the explain plan is inaccurate:
    - FIX: Use per-query limit to override it, but that will require you to submit query through the shell.
    - FIX: Adjust the pool mem-limit accordingly; if it's over the estimate, give it a higher mem-limit and vice versa.

# Multi-tenancy Best Practices – Admission Control (Cont'd)

- Limiting the number of concurrent queries
  - Goal:
    - Avoid over subscription to CPU, disk, network because this can lead to longer response time (without improving throughput).
  - Works best with homogeneous workload
  - With heterogeneous workload, you can still apply the same approach, but the result won't be as optimal.

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# Query Tuning Basics - Overview

- Given that your query runs, know how to make it faster and consume fewer resources.
- Always Compute Stats.
- Examine the logic of the query.
- Validate it with Explain Plan.
  - Runtime Filter
- Runtime Analysis
  - Use Query Profile to identify bottlenecks and skew
  - Codegen

# Query Tuning Basics – More on Compute Stats

- `Compute Stats` is very CPU-intensive, but on Impala 1.4 and later is much faster than previous versions.
- Speed Reference: ~40M cells per sec per node + HMS update time (1 sec per 100 partitions). ~7million cell per sec per node if codegen is disabled (If table contains timestamp, char column that don't support codegen yet)
- Total number of cells of a table = num rows \* num cols
- Only need to recompute stats with significant changes of data (30% or more)
- `Compute Stats` on tables, not view

# Query Tuning Basics – Incremental Stats Maintenance

- `Compute Stats` is slow and through 2.0, Impala does not support Incremental Stats
- Column Stats (number of distinct value, min, max) can be updated by `Compute Stats` infrequently (when 30% or more data has changed)
- When adding a new partition, run a `count(*)` query on the partition and update the partition row count stats manually via `ALTER TABLE`
- You can set column stats manually via `ALTER TABLE` as well



# Query Tuning Basics – Incremental Stats Maintenance

- Impala 2.1 or later supports “Compute Incremental Stats”, but use it only if the following conditions are met:
  - For all the tables that are using incremental stats,  $\Sigma(\text{num columns} * \text{num partitions}) < 650000$ .
  - The size of the cluster is less than 50 nodes.
  - For each table,  $\text{num columns} * \text{num partitions} * 400\text{B} < 200\text{MB}$

# Query Tuning Basics – Examining Query Logic

- Sometimes, the query can have redundant joins, distinct, group by, order by (very common during migration). Remove them!
- For common join patterns, consider pre-joining the tables.
- Use the proper join: Example:

```
select fact.col, max(dim2.col)
from fact, dim1, dim2
where fact.key = dim1.key and fact.key2 = dim2.key
```

- The join on dim1 should be a semi-join!

# Query Tuning Basics – Validating Explain Plan

- Key points:
  - Validate join order and join strategy.
  - Validate partition pruning or HBase row key lookup.
- Even with stats, at times the join order/strategy might go wrong (particularly with layers of views). Can force join order by using STRAIGHT\_JOIN hint

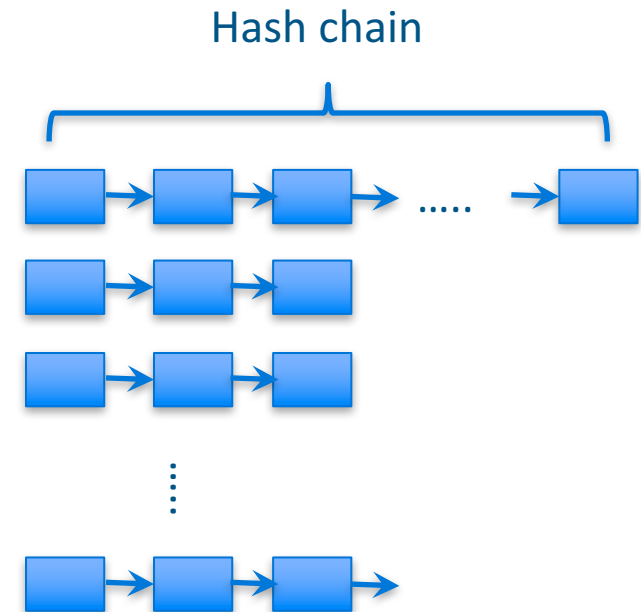
# Query Tuning Basics – Validating Join Order & Strategy

- Join Order
  - **RHS** is smaller than **LHS**
- Join Strategy - **BROADCAST**
  - **RHS** must fit in memory!

```
06:TOP-N [LIMIT=100]
11:AGGREGATE [MERGE FINALIZE]
10:EXCHANGE [PARTITION=HASH(b.int_col)]
05:AGGREGATE
04:HASH JOIN [INNER JOIN, PARTITIONED]
|-09:EXCHANGE [PARTITION=HASH(c.id)]
| 02:SCAN HDFS [functional_alltypes.c]
03:HASH JOIN [INNER JOIN, BROADCAST]
|-08:EXCHANGE [PARTITION=HASH(p.id)]
| 00:SCAN HDFS [functional_smalltbl.a]
07:EXCHANGE [PARTITION=HASH(p.id)]
01:SCAN HDFS [functional_BigTbl.b]
```

# Query Tuning Basics – Common Join Performance Issues

- Hash Table
  - Ideally, the join key should be evenly distributed; only a few rows share the same join key from the RHS.
  - Is it a true foreign key join or more like a range join?
- Wrong join order – RHS is bigger than LHS table from the plan
- Too many LHS rows



# Query Tuning Basics – Finding Bottlenecks

- Use ExecSummary from Query Profile to identify bottlenecks

ExecSummary:

| Operator            | #Hosts | Avg Time  | Max Time  | #Rows | Est. #Rows | Peak Mem  | Est. Peak Mem | Detail                  |
|---------------------|--------|-----------|-----------|-------|------------|-----------|---------------|-------------------------|
| 09:MERGING-EXCHANGE | 1      | 4.394ms   | 4.394ms   | 7.30K | 8.16K      | 0         | -1.00 B       | UNPARTITIONED           |
| 04:SORT             | 1      | 38.492ms  | 38.492ms  | 7.30K | 8.16K      | 32.02 MB  | 8.00 MB       |                         |
| 08:AGGREGATE        | 1      | 8.397ms   | 8.397ms   | 7.30K | 8.16K      | 458.25 KB | 10.00 MB      | MERGE FINALIZE          |
| 07:EXCHANGE         | 1      | 779.810us | 779.810us | 7.30K | 8.16K      | 0         | 0             | HASH(a.id)              |
| 03:AGGREGATE        | 1      | 161.736ms | 161.736ms | 7.30K | 8.16K      | 466.25 KB | 10.00 MB      |                         |
| 02:HASH JOIN        | 1      | 289.552ms | 289.552ms | 5.33M | 5.33M      | 318.25 KB | 20.91 KB      | INNER JOIN, PARTITIONED |
| 06:EXCHANGE         | 1      | 1.93ms    | 1.93ms    | 7.30K | 7.30K      | 0         | 0             | HASH(b.float_col)       |
| 01:SCAN HDFS        | 1      | 227.978ms | 227.978ms | 7.30K | 7.30K      | 193.00 KB | 160.00 MB     | functional.alltypes b   |
| 05:EXCHANGE         | 1      | 816.252us | 816.252us | 7.30K | 7.30K      | 0         | 0             | HASH(a.float_col)       |
| 00:SCAN HDFS        | 1      | 228.362ms | 228.362ms | 7.30K | 7.30K      | 193.00 KB | 160.00 MB     | functional.alltypes a   |

# Query Tuning Basics – Finding Skew

- Use ExecSummary from Query Profile to identify skew
  - Max Time is significantly more than Avg Time => Skew!

ExecSummary:

| Operator      | #Hosts | Avg Time  | Max Time  | #Rows   | Est. #Rows | Peak Mem | Est. Peak Mem | Detail  |
|---------------|--------|-----------|-----------|---------|------------|----------|---------------|---------|
| 08:EXCHANGE   | 1      | 113.775us | 113.775us | 31      | 227        | 0        | -1.00 B       | UNPART: |
| 07:AGGREGATE  | 81     | 359.985ms | 436.922ms | 31      | 227        | 3.44 MB  | 10.00 MB      | FINALI: |
| 06:EXCHANGE   | 81     | 57.25us   | 515.364us | 397     | 227        | 0        | 0             | HASH(p  |
| 03:AGGREGATE  | 81     | 561.26ms  | 1s344ms   | 397     | 227        | 3.66 MB  | 10.00 MB      |         |
| 02:HASH JOIN  | 81     | 3s730ms   | 18s695ms  | 184.02M | 2.08M      | 3.04 MB  | 13.64 KB      | INNER . |
| --05:EXCHANGE | 81     | 27.471us  | 42.597us  | 26.74K  | 25.40K     | 0        | 0             | HASH(p  |
| 01:SCAN HDFS  | 1      | 359.799ms | 359.799ms | 26.74K  | 25.40K     | 4.47 MB  | 16.00 MB      | sds.mdr |
| 04:EXCHANGE   | 81     | 130.853ms | 1s608ms   | 184.03M | 2.08M      | 0        | 0             | HASH(st |
| 00:SCAN HDFS  | 81     | 154.864ms | 553.824ms | 184.03M | 2.08M      | 11.46 MB | 88.00 MB      | sds.aci |

# Query Tuning Basics – Finding Skew (Cont'd)

- In addition to profile, always measure CPU, memory, disk IO and network IO across the cluster.
  - An uneven distribution of the load means skew!
- Cloudera Manager's charts can do that but only report at a minute interval
  - Use Colmux if your workload is short.



# Query Tuning Basics – Typical Speed

- In a typical query, we observed following processing rate:
  - scan node 8~10m rows per core
  - join node ~10m rows per sec per core
  - agg node ~5m rows per sec per core
  - sort node ~17MB per sec per core
  - Row materialization in coord should be tiny
  - Parquet writer 1~5MB per sec per core

```
Query Timeline: 1s414ms
- Start execution: 49.340us (49.340us)
- Planning finished: 59.532ms (59.483ms)
- Rows available: 987.346ms (927.813ms)
- First row fetched: 1s019ms (32.521ms)
- Unregister query: 1s412ms (392.159ms)
ImpalaServer:
- ClientFetchWaitTimer: 415.244ms
- RowMaterializationTimer: 7.795ms
```

- If your processing rate is much lower than that, it's worth a deeper look

# Query Tuning Basics – Improving Scan Node Performance

- HDFS Scan time – check out how much data is read; always do as little disk read as possible; review partition strategy.
- Column materialization time – only select necessary columns! Materializing 1k col is a lot of work.
- Complex predicates – string, regex are costly; avoid them.
- Order of predicates – Impala will try to order predicates by selectivity if stats are available. If stats are not available, you should order predicates by selectivity in your query.

# Query Tuning Basics – Aggregate Performance Tuning

- Needed when many rows going into aggregate
  - Reduce expression complexity in group by
- Complex UDA
  - No codegen for UDA yet. Try to rewrite UDA as built-in aggregate
- (Usually, not a big issue)

# Query Tuning Basics – Exchange Performance Issues

- Too much data across network:
  - Check the query on data size reduction.
  - Check join order and join strategy; wrong order/strategy can have a serious effect on network!
  - For agg, check the number of groups – affects memory too!
  - Remove unused columns.
- Keep in mind that network is at most 10GB.
- Cross-rack network slowness
- Query profile is usually not useful. Use CM or other system monitoring tools.

# Query Tuning Basics – Storage Skew

- HDFS Block Placement Skew
  - HDFS balances disk usage evenly across the whole cluster only. An individual table (or partition)'s data could be clustered in a handful of nodes.
  - If this happens, you'll see that some nodes are busier (disk read and usually cpu as well) than the others.
  - This is inherent to HDFS: more pronounced if query data volume is tiny when compared to the total storage capacity.
  - By running a mixed workload that access data of a bigger set of tables, this type of hdfs block placement skew usually even out.

# Query Tuning Basics – Data Skew

- Partitioned Join Node Performance Skew
  - Join key data skew.
  - Each join key is re-shuffled and processed by one node.
  - If a single join key value account for a huge chunk of the data, then the node that process that join key will become the bottleneck.
- Possible workaround: use broadcast join but it uses more memory

# Query Tuning Basics –Expression Evaluation

- Impala evaluates expression lazily (i.e. only when the value is needed)
- Impala deals with inline views by substituting the select-list expressions from the inline view in the parent query block.
  - Expensive expressions inside the inline views might be executed multiple times

- Example

```
select concat(coll, coll, coll)
from (select regexp_extract(ori_col, '...') as coll
from tbl) x
```

- The regexp\_extract will be evaluated 3 times by the coordinator!

# Query Tuning Basics –Expression Evaluation (Cont'd)

- To avoid redundant expression evaluation, we need to materialize the value.
- These operators materialize the expression: Order by, Union [all], Group by
- Example:

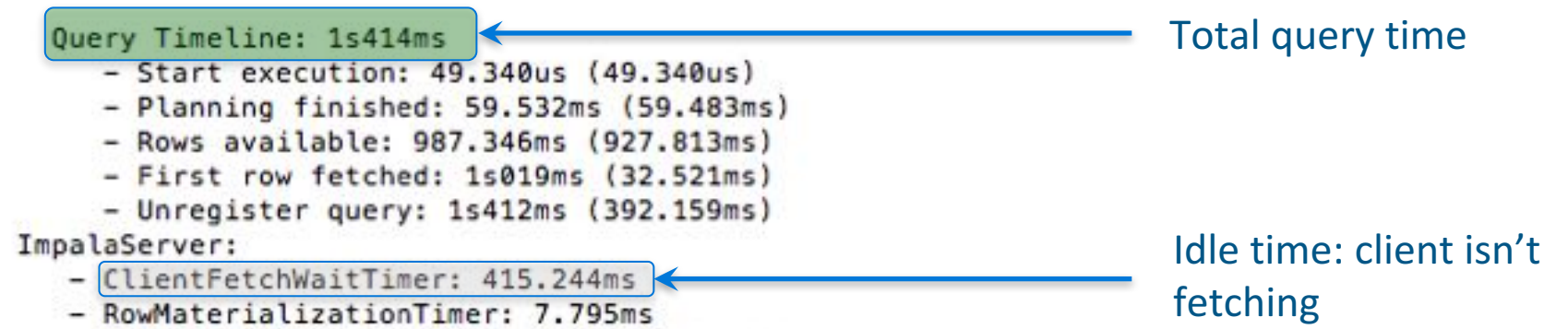
```
select concat(col1, col1, col1) from (select regexp_extract(ori_col,
'....') as col1 from tbl) x order by col1;
select concat(col1, col1, col1) from (select regexp_extract(ori_col,
'....') as col1 from tbl union all select null from one_row_tbl
where false) x;
```

- Take away: Watch out for expensive expression inside an (inline) view!
- Take away: Due to lazy evaluation, it can affect all the exec nodes as well as the coordinator!



# Query Tuning Basics – Client side Performance Issues

- Avoid large data extract.
  - It's usually not a good idea to dump lots of data out using JDBC/ODBC.
- For Impala-shell, use the `-B` option to fetch lots of data.



# Query Tuning Basics – Excessive Planning Time?

- Usually due to Metadata Loading when running the query the first time after restart (or after invalidate metadata)
  - Try running the query again. The time should be short.

```
Query Timeline: 1s414ms
- Start execution: 49.340us (49.340us)
- Planning finished: 59.532ms (59.483ms)
- Rows available: 987.346ms (927.813ms)
- First row fetched: 1s019ms (32.521ms)
- Unregister query: 1s412ms (392.159ms)
ImpalaServer:
- ClientFetchWaitTimer: 415.244ms
- RowMaterializationTimer: 7.795ms
```

Planning time



# Query Tuning Basics – Codegen

- In CDH 5.9 and before, Codegen has minimum cost (~500ms). for simple short query (< 2s), most of time could be spent on codegen prepare and optimization. Disable codegen could give more throughput.
  - This cost is reduced to 10-20% in CDH5.10+
- You can set query option to disable codegen
  - SET DISABLE\_CODEGEN=1
- Some data types are not supported (CHAR, TIMESTAMP)

# Query Tuning Basics – Runtime filter and dynamic partition pruning (CDH5.7/Impala 2.5 or higher)

- Improve query performance for very selective equi-join by reducing IO, hash join, and network traffic.
  - If join is on partition column, Impala can use runtime filters to dynamically prune partitions on probe side, skip whole files. Not only can it improve performance, it can also reduce query resource usage (both memory and CPU)
  - If join is on non-partition columns, Impala can generate bloom filters. This can greatly reduce scan output of probe side and intermediate result.

# Check how selective the join is

| Operator             | #Hosts | Avg Time  | Max Time  | #Rows   | Est. #Rows | Peak Mem  | Est. Peak Mem | Detail                      |
|----------------------|--------|-----------|-----------|---------|------------|-----------|---------------|-----------------------------|
| 30: MERGING-EXCHANGE | 1      | 211.877us | 211.877us | 52      | 5          | 0         | -1.00 B       | UNPARTITIONED               |
| 16: TOP-N            | 15     | 148.816us | 204.292us | 52      | 5          | 12.00 KB  | 130.00 B      |                             |
| 29: AGGREGATE        | 15     | 2.462ms   | 2.795ms   | 52      | 5          | 2.34 MB   | 10.00 MB      | FINALIZE                    |
| 28: EXCHANGE         | 15     | 259.949us | 650.720us | 728     | 51         | 0         | 0             | HASH(a.ca_state)            |
| 15: AGGREGATE        | 15     | 427.704ms | 575.825ms | 728     | 51         | 17.52 MB  | 10.00 MB      | STREAMING                   |
| 14: HASH JOIN        | 15     | 352.894ms | 584.100ms | 3.13M   | 1.13M      | 14.00 MB  | 314.00 B      | LEFT SEMI JOIN, BROADCAST   |
| --27: EXCHANGE       | 15     | 62.910us  | 87.360us  | 11      | 11         | 0         | 0             | BROADCAST                   |
| 26: AGGREGATE        | 1      | 8.992ms   | 8.992ms   | 11      | 11         | 10.35 MB  | 10.00 MB      | FINALIZE                    |
| 25: EXCHANGE         | 1      | 64.072us  | 64.072us  | 11      | 11         | 0         | 0             |                             |
| 08: AGGREGATE        | 1      | 31.863ms  | 31.863ms  | 11      | 11         | 1.68 MB   | 0             |                             |
| 07: SCAN HDFS        | 1      | 7.636ms   | 7.636ms   | 300.00K | 300.00K    | 5.75 MB   | 0             |                             |
| 13: HASH JOIN        | 15     | 2s311ms   | 2s419ms   | 31.36M  | 1.13M      | 8.22 MB   | 0             |                             |
| --24: EXCHANGE       | 15     | 13.602us  | 17.690us  | 1       | 1          | 0         | 0             |                             |
| 23: EXCHANGE         | 1      | 8.183us   | 8.183us   | 1       | 1          | 0         | 0             |                             |
| 22: AGGREGATE        | 1      | 1.316ms   | 1.316ms   | 1       | 1          | 2.27 MB   | 0             |                             |
| 21: EXCHANGE         | 1      | 7.680us   | 7.680us   | 1       | 100        | 0         | 0             |                             |
| 06: AGGREGATE        | 1      | 0.800ns   | 0.800ns   | 1       | 100        | 2.20 MB   | 0             |                             |
| 05: SCAN HDFS        | 1      | 12.308ms  | 12.308ms  | 31      | 100        | 1.04 MB   | 0             |                             |
| 12: HASH JOIN        | 15     | 4s724ms   | 4s798ms   | 2.69B   | 2.73B      | 6.41 MB   | 0             |                             |
| --20: EXCHANGE       | 15     | 2.346ms   | 3.762ms   | 73.05K  | 73.05K     | 0         | 0             | BROADCAST                   |
| 03: SCAN HDFS        | 1      | 5.785ms   | 5.785ms   | 73.05K  | 73.05K     | 2.09 MB   | 32.00 MB      | tpcds_1000_parquet.date_dim |
| 11: HASH JOIN        | 15     | 11s504ms  | 12s678ms  | 2.75B   | 2.73B      | 396.38 MB | 138.10 MB     | INNER JOIN, BROADCAST       |
| --19: EXCHANGE       | 15     | 445.548ms | 481.789ms | 6.00M   | 6.00M      | 0         | 0             | BROADCAST                   |
| 00: SCAN HDFS        | 13     | 19.199ms  | 24.624ms  | 6.00M   | 6.00M      | 10.39 MB  | 32.00 MB      | tpcds_1000_parquet.customer |
| 10: HASH JOIN        | 15     | 20s971ms  | 26s141ms  | 2.75B   | 2.73B      | 148.37 MB | 10.67 MB      | INNER JOIN, BROADCAST       |
| --18: EXCHANGE       | 15     | 7.430ms   | 8.579ms   | 300.00K | 300.00K    | 0         | 0             | BROADCAST                   |
| 04: SCAN HDFS        | 1      | 14.279ms  | 14.279ms  | 300.00K | 300.00K    | 10.37 MB  | 120.00 MB     | tpcds_1000_parquet.item_i   |
| 09: HASH JOIN        | 15     | 13s292ms  | 14s397ms  | 2.75B   | 2.77B      | 650.67 MB | 100.71 MB     | INNER JOIN, BROADCAST       |
| --17: EXCHANGE       | 15     | 650.933ms | 685.678ms | 12.00M  | 12.00M     | 0         | 0             | BROADCAST                   |
| 01: SCAN HDFS        | 13     | 27.050ms  | 41.040ms  | 12.00M  | 12.00M     | 20.00 MB  | 112.00 MB     | tpcds_1000_parquet.customer |
| 02: SCAN HDFS        | 15     | 865.306ms | 1s147ms   | 2.88B   | 2.88B      | 528.36 MB | 176.00 MB     | tpcds_1000_parquet.store_sa |

Large hash join output (~2.8B), the output of upstream one is much smaller (32M, reduced to only ~1%). This indicate runtime filter can be helpful.



# Why doesn't it work sometimes?

Final filter table:

| ID | Src. Node | Tgt. Node(s) | Targets | Target type | Partition filter | Pending (Expected) | First arrived | Completed | Enabled |
|----|-----------|--------------|---------|-------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------|-----------|---------|
| 5  | 9         | 2            | 15      | LOCAL       | false            | 0 (15)             | N/A           | N/A       | true    |
| 4  | 10        | 2            | 15      | LOCAL       | false            | 0 (15)             | N/A           | N/A       | true    |
| 3  | 11        | 1            | 13      | REMOTE      | false            | 0 (3)              | 3s276ms       | 3s276ms   | false   |
| 2  | 12        | 2            | 15      | LOCAL       | true             | 0 (15)             | N/A           | N/A       | true    |
| 1  | 13        | 3            | 1       | REMOTE      | false            | 0 (3)              | 1s935ms       | 1s935ms   | false   |
| 0  | 14        | 4            | 1       | REMOTE      | false            | 0 (3)              | 1s943ms       | 1s943ms   | false   |

Filter Received:

|               |    |           |           |         |         |         |          |                             |
|---------------|----|-----------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|----------|-----------------------------|
| 07:SCAN HDFS  | 1  | 0.700ms   | 0.700ms   | 300.00K | 300.00K | 3.70 MB | 00.00 MB | tpcds_1000_parquet,item i   |
| 13:HASH JOIN  | 15 | 2s327ms   | 2s439ms   | 31.36M  | 1.13M   | 3.40 MB | 5.00 B   | LEFT SEMI JOIN, BROADCAST   |
| --24:EXCHANGE | 15 | 13.272us  | 16.888us  | 1       | 1       | 0       | 0        | BROADCAST                   |
| 23:EXCHANGE   | 1  | 8.397us   | 8.397us   | 1       | 1       | 0       | -1.00 B  | UNPARTITIONED               |
| 22:AGGREGATE  | 1  | 0.342ms   | 0.342ms   | 1       | 1       | 2.27 MB | 10.00 MB | FINALIZE                    |
| 21:EXCHANGE   | 1  | 10.064us  | 10.064us  | 1       | 100     | 0       | 0        | HASH((d_month_seq))         |
| 06:AGGREGATE  | 1  | 0.000ms   | 0.000ms   | 1       | 100     | 2.20 MB | 10.00 MB | STREAMING                   |
| 05:SCAN HDFS  | 1  | 22.849ms  | 22.849ms  | 31      | 100     | 1.00 MB | 10.00 MB | tpcds_1000_parquet,date_dim |
| 12:HASH JOIN  | 15 | 4s763ms   | 5s414ms   | 2.69B   | 100     | 1.00 MB | 10.00 MB | tpcds_1000_parquet,date_dim |
| --20:EXCHANGE | 15 | 2.481ms   | 3.947ms   | 73.05K  | 100     | 1.00 MB | 10.00 MB | tpcds_1000_parquet,date_dim |
| 03:SCAN HDFS  | 1  | 972.009ms | 972.009ms | 300.00K | 300.00K | 3.70 MB | 00.00 MB | tpcds_1000_parquet,date_dim |
| 11:HASH JOIN  | 15 | 10s593ms  | 11s725ms  | 2.69B   | 100     | 1.00 MB | 10.00 MB | tpcds_1000_parquet,date_dim |
| --19:EXCHANGE | 15 | 277.472ms | 314.535ms | 6.00M   | 100     | 1.00 MB | 10.00 MB | tpcds_1000_parquet,date_dim |
| 00:SCAN HDFS  | 13 | 16.104ms  | 20.280ms  | 6.00M   | 100     | 1.00 MB | 10.00 MB | tpcds_1000_parquet,date_dim |
| 10:HASH JOIN  | 15 | 22s428ms  | 25s443ms  | 2.69B   | 100     | 1.00 MB | 10.00 MB | tpcds_1000_parquet,date_dim |
| --18:EXCHANGE | 15 | 6.842ms   | 7.392ms   | 300.00K | 100     | 1.00 MB | 10.00 MB | tpcds_1000_parquet,date_dim |
| 04:SCAN HDFS  | 1  | 978.822ms | 978.822ms | 300.00K | 100     | 1.00 MB | 10.00 MB | tpcds_1000_parquet,date_dim |
| 09:HASH JOIN  | 15 | 12s937ms  | 13s782ms  | 2.69B   | 100     | 1.00 MB | 10.00 MB | tpcds_1000_parquet,date_dim |
| --17:EXCHANGE | 15 | 416.050ms | 481.783ms | 12.00M  | 100     | 1.00 MB | 10.00 MB | tpcds_1000_parquet,date_dim |
| 01:SCAN HDFS  | 13 | 986.075ms | 993.425ms | 12.00M  | 100     | 1.00 MB | 10.00 MB | tpcds_1000_parquet,date_dim |
| 02:SCAN HDFS  | 15 | 857.578ms | 950.789ms | 2.75B   | 100     | 1.00 MB | 10.00 MB | tpcds_1000_parquet,date_dim |

Filter doesn't take effect because scan was short and finished before filter arrived.

HDFS\_SCAN\_NODE (id=3):

Filter 1 (1.00 MB):

- Rows processed: 16.38K (16383)
- Rows rejected: 0 (0)
- Rows total: 16.38K (16384)

# How to tune it?

- Increase `RUNTIME_FILTER_WAIT_TIME_MS` to 5000ms to let Scan Node 03 wait longer time for the filter.

HDFS\_SCAN\_NODE (id=3)

Filter 1 (1.00 MB)

- InactiveTotalTime: 0
- Rows processed: 73049
- **Rows rejected: 73018**
- Rows total: 73049
- TotalTime: 0

- If the cluster is relatively busy, consider increasing the wait time too so that complicated queries do not miss opportunities for optimization.



# Which file format is supported

- Partition filter
  - All file formats as long as it's a partitioned table and there are mappings for partition columns. E.g.
    - Select count(\*) from t1, t2 where **t1.partition\_col = t2.col1** and t2.col2="1234"
- Row filter
  - Only applied for parquet format
- Parquet can take most advantage of runtime filters.

# Runtime filter Gotcha

- Runtime filters require extra memory on each host and extra work on coordinator. Example: on 100-node cluster, one 16MB filter
  - Memory cost,  $16\text{MB} * 100 = 1.6\text{GB}$  for query
  - Network cost (only for GLOBAL mode),  $16\text{MB} * 100 * 2 = 3.2\text{GB}$  network traffic on coordinator, and CPU time to merge and publish filters.
  - More filters, higher cost.
- Negative impact: Coordinator becomes the bottleneck
- Resolution: reduce # of filters by setting `MAX_NUM_RUNTIME_FILTERS` to a lower number or disable row filter by set `DISABLE_ROW_RUNTIME_FILTERING=1`.

# Topic Outline

- Part 1 – The Basics
  - Physical and Schema Design
  - Memory Usage
- Part 2 – The Practical Issues
  - Cluster Sizing and Hardware Recommendations
  - Benchmarking Impala
  - Multi-tenancy Best Practices
  - Query Tuning Basics
- Part 3 – Outside Impala
  - Interaction with Apache Hive, Apache Sentry, and Apache Parquet

# Interaction with Sentry, Hive, and Parquet

- Setup: Cloudera Manager 5.x does a good job; verify the dependency parents, such as Hive Metastore, HDFS.
  - Stability in HMS might affect Impala; check HMS health.
- File-based and Apache Sentry security
  - Even with Sentry, Impala needs to read/write all dir/files. No impersonation.

# Summary

- Approach cluster sizing systematically - SLA and workload
- Benchmark running technique and measurement – QPS
- Use Admission Control for multi-tenancy
- Tune your queries - identify and attack bottlenecks
- Cloudera Manager 5.0+ provides a tool for verifying whether many best practices have been followed

# Other Resources

- Impala User Guide:  
<http://www.cloudera.com/documentation/enterprise/latest/topics/impala.html>
- Impala website (roadmap, repository, books, more) & Twitter:  
<https://impala.apache.org>, [@ApacheImpala](https://twitter.com/ApacheImpala)
- Community resources:
  - Mailing list:  
[user@impala.incubator.apache.org](mailto:user@impala.incubator.apache.org)
  - Forum:  
<http://community.cloudera.com/t5/Interactive-Short-cycle-SQL/bd-p/Impala>



**cloudera**

Thank you

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