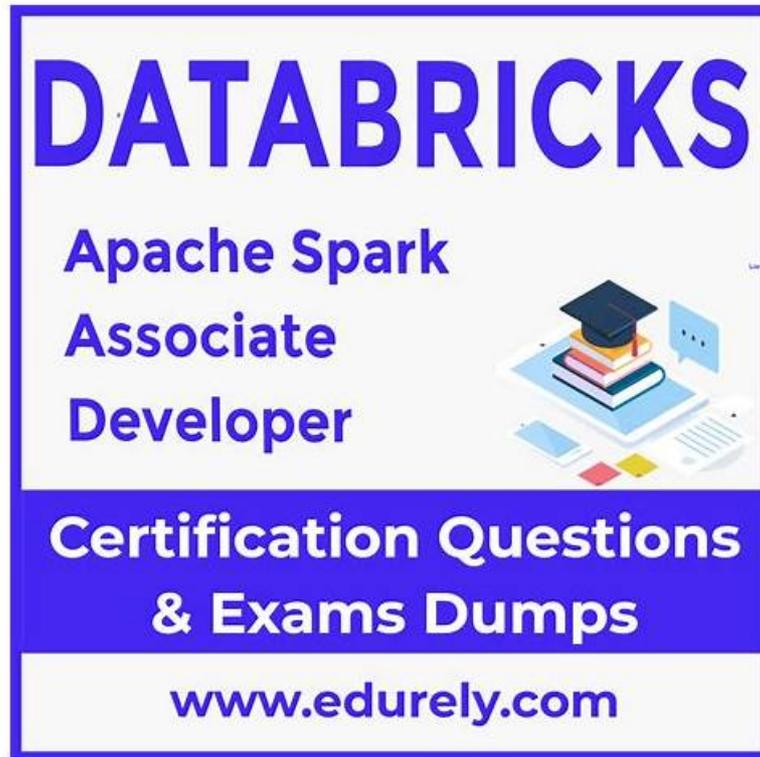


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Databricks Certified Associate Developer for Apache Spark 3.5 - Python

Sample Questions (Q110-Q115):

NEW QUESTION # 110

A developer wants to refactor some older Spark code to leverage built-in functions introduced in Spark 3.5.0. The existing code performs array manipulations manually. Which of the following code snippets utilizes new built-in functions in Spark 3.5.0 for array operations?

```
import pyspark.sql.functions as F

min_price = 110.50

result_df = prices_df
    .filter(F.col("spot_price") >= F.lit(min_price)) \
    .agg(F.count("*"))
```

- A.

```
result_df = prices_df \
    .agg(F.min("spot_price"), F.max("spot_price"))
```



```
result_df = prices_df \
    .agg(F.min("spot_price"), F.max("spot_price"))
```
- B.

```
result_df = prices_df \
    .withColumn("valid_price", F.when(F.col("spot_price") > F.lit(min_price), 1).otherwise(0))
```

```
result_df = prices_df \
    .withColumn("valid_price", F.when(F.col("spot_price") > F.lit(min_price), 1).otherwise(0))
```

- C.

```
result_df = prices_df \
    .agg(F.count("spot_price").alias("spot_price")) \
    .filter(F.col("spot_price") > F.lit("min_price"))
```

- D.

```
result_df = prices_df \
    .agg(F.count_if(F.col("spot_price") >= F.lit(min_price)))
```



```
result_df = prices_df \
    .agg(F.count_if(F.col("spot_price") >= F.lit(min_price)))
```

Answer: D

Explanation:

`count_if(condition)` counts the number of rows that meet the specified boolean condition.

In this example, it directly counts how many times `spot_price >= min_price` evaluates to true, replacing the older verbose combination of `when/otherwise` and `filtering` or `summing`.

Official Spark 3.5.0 documentation notes the addition of `count_if` to simplify this kind of logic:

"Added `count_if` aggregate function to count only the rows where a boolean condition holds (SPARK-43773)." Why other options are incorrect or outdated:

A uses a legacy-style method of adding a flag column (`when().otherwise()`), which is verbose compared to `count_if`.

C performs a simple min/max aggregation-useful but unrelated to conditional array operations or the updated functionality.

D incorrectly applies `.filter()` after `.agg()` which will cause an error, and misuses string `"min_price"` rather than the variable.

Therefore, B is the only option leveraging new functionality from Spark 3.5.0 correctly and efficiently.

Explanation:

The correct answer is B because it uses the new function `count_if`, introduced in Spark 3.5.0, which simplifies conditional counting within aggregations.

NEW QUESTION # 111

5 of 55.

What is the relationship between jobs, stages, and tasks during execution in Apache Spark?

- A. A stage contains multiple jobs, and each job contains multiple tasks.
- B. A stage contains multiple tasks, and each task contains multiple jobs.
- C. A job contains multiple tasks, and each task contains multiple stages.
- **D. A job contains multiple stages, and each stage contains multiple tasks.**

Answer: D

Explanation:

In Apache Spark's execution hierarchy, the relationships are structured as follows:

Job: Created when an action (e.g., count(), collect(), save()) is triggered on an RDD or DataFrame.

Stage: Each job is divided into one or more stages, separated by shuffle boundaries (e.g., after a reduceByKey or join).

Task: Each stage consists of multiple tasks, one per partition, executed in parallel on executors.

Execution Hierarchy:

Job → Stage(s) → Task(s)

So, a job contains multiple stages, and each stage contains multiple tasks.

Why the other options are incorrect:

A: A job does not directly contain tasks without stages.

B: A stage cannot contain multiple jobs; it belongs to a single job.

C: Tasks do not contain jobs.

Reference (Databricks Apache Spark 3.5 - Python / Study Guide):

Spark Architecture Overview - Execution Hierarchy: Jobs, Stages, and Tasks.

Databricks Exam Guide (June 2025): Section "Apache Spark Architecture and Components" - describes execution hierarchy and lazy evaluation.

NEW QUESTION # 112

A data scientist is working on a project that requires processing large amounts of structured data, performing SQL queries, and applying machine learning algorithms. The data scientist is considering using Apache Spark for this task.

Which combination of Apache Spark modules should the data scientist use in this scenario?

Options:

- A. Spark Streaming, GraphX, and Pandas API on Spark
- B. Spark SQL, Pandas API on Spark, and Structured Streaming
- **C. Spark DataFrames, Spark SQL, and MLlib**
- D. Spark DataFrames, Structured Streaming, and GraphX

Answer: C

Explanation:

Comprehensive

To cover structured data processing, SQL querying, and machine learning in Apache Spark, the correct combination of components is:

Spark DataFrames: for structured data processing

Spark SQL: to execute SQL queries over structured data

MLlib: Spark's scalable machine learning library

This trio is designed for exactly this type of use case.

Why other options are incorrect:

A: GraphX is for graph processing - not needed here.

B: Pandas API on Spark is useful, but MLlib is essential for ML, which this option omits.

C: Spark Streaming is legacy; GraphX is irrelevant here.

NEW QUESTION # 113

What is the benefit of Adaptive Query Execution (AQE)?

- A. It optimizes query execution by parallelizing tasks and does not adjust strategies based on runtime metrics like data skew.
- **B. It enables the adjustment of the query plan during runtime, handling skewed data, optimizing join strategies, and improving**

overall query performance.

- C. It allows Spark to optimize the query plan before execution but does not adapt during runtime.
- D. It automatically distributes tasks across nodes in the clusters and does not perform runtime adjustments to the query plan.

Answer: B

Explanation:

Adaptive Query Execution (AQE) is a powerful optimization framework introduced in Apache Spark 3.0 and enabled by default since Spark 3.2. It dynamically adjusts query execution plans based on runtime statistics, leading to significant performance improvements. The key benefits of AQE include:

Dynamic Join Strategy Selection: AQE can switch join strategies at runtime. For instance, it can convert a sort-merge join to a broadcast hash join if it detects that one side of the join is small enough to be broadcasted, thus optimizing the join operation.

Handling Skewed Data: AQE detects skewed partitions during join operations and splits them into smaller partitions. This approach balances the workload across tasks, preventing scenarios where certain tasks take significantly longer due to data skew.

Coalescing Post-Shuffle Partitions: AQE dynamically coalesces small shuffle partitions into larger ones based on the actual data size, reducing the overhead of managing numerous small tasks and improving overall query performance.

These runtime optimizations allow Spark to adapt to the actual data characteristics during query execution, leading to more efficient resource utilization and faster query processing times.

NEW QUESTION # 114

A data engineer is working with a large JSON dataset containing order information. The dataset is stored in a distributed file system and needs to be loaded into a Spark DataFrame for analysis. The data engineer wants to ensure that the schema is correctly defined and that the data is read efficiently.

Which approach should the data scientist use to efficiently load the JSON data into a Spark DataFrame with a predefined schema?

- A. Use `spark.read.format("json").load()` and then use `DataFrame.withColumn()` to cast each column to the desired data type.
- B. Use `spark.read.json()` with the `inferSchema` option set to `true`
- **C. Define a `StructType` schema and use `spark.read.schema(predefinedSchema).json()` to load the data.**
- D. Use `spark.read.json()` to load the data, then use `DataFrame.printSchema()` to view the inferred schema, and finally use `DataFrame.cast()` to modify column types.

Answer: C

Explanation:

The most efficient and correct approach is to define a schema using `StructType` and pass it to `spark.read.schema(...)`.

This avoids schema inference overhead and ensures proper data types are enforced during read.

Example:

```
from pyspark.sql.types import StructType, StructField, StringType, DoubleType
schema = StructType([ StructField("order_id",
StringType(), True), StructField("amount", DoubleType(), True),
])
```

```
df = spark.read.schema(schema).json("path/to/json")
```

- Source: Databricks Guide - Read JSON with predefined schema

NEW QUESTION # 115

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