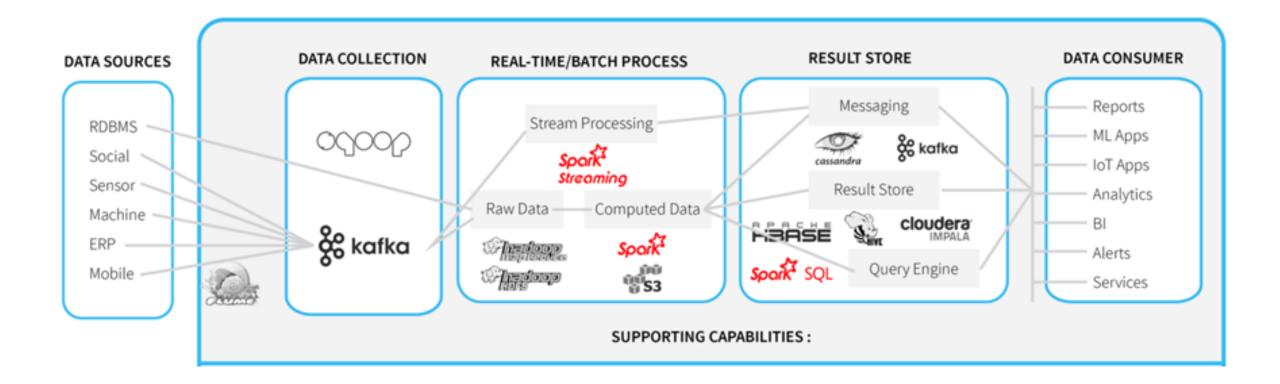
Speedup your Analytics: Automatic Parameter Tuning for Databases and Big Data Systems

Jiaheng Lu, University of Helsinki Yuxing Chen, University of Helsinki Herodotos Herodotou, Cyprus University of Technology Shivnath Babu, Duke University / Unravel Data Systems

Outline

- Motivation and Background
- **History and Classification**
- Parameter Tuning on Databases
- Parameter Tuning on Big Data Systems
- Applications of Automatic Parameter Tuning
- **Open Challenges and Discussion**

Modern applications are being built on a collection of distributed systems

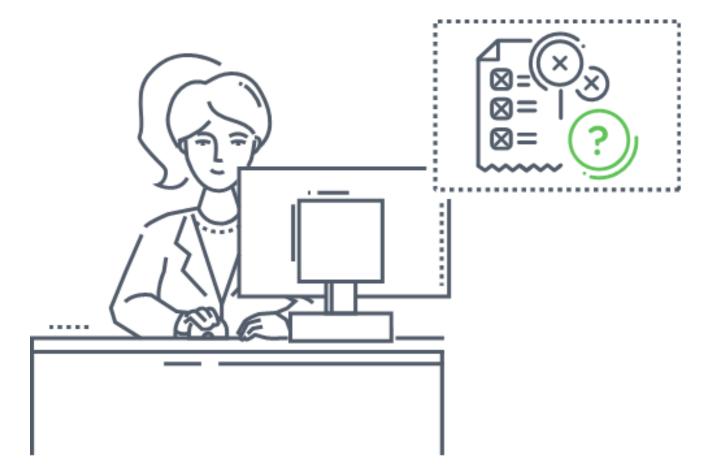


But: Running distributed applications reliably & efficiently is hard

My app failed



My data pipeline is missing SLA



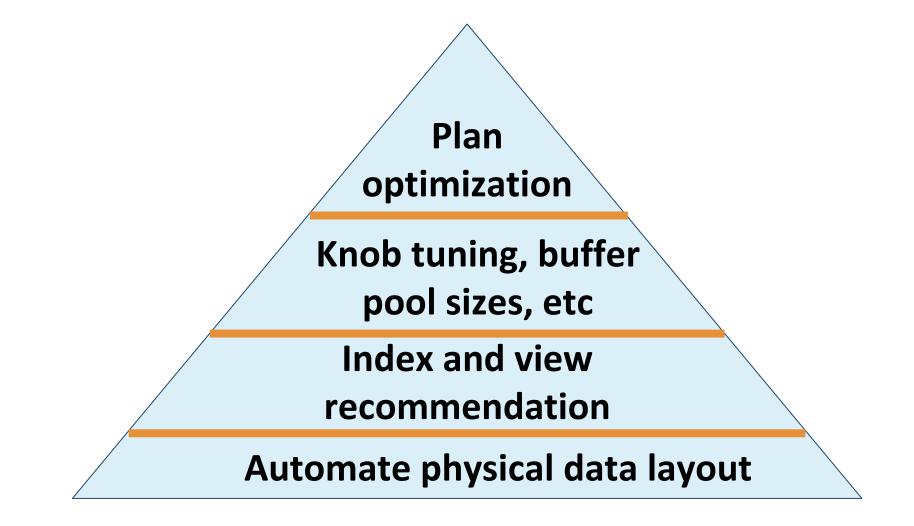
My cloud cost is out of control



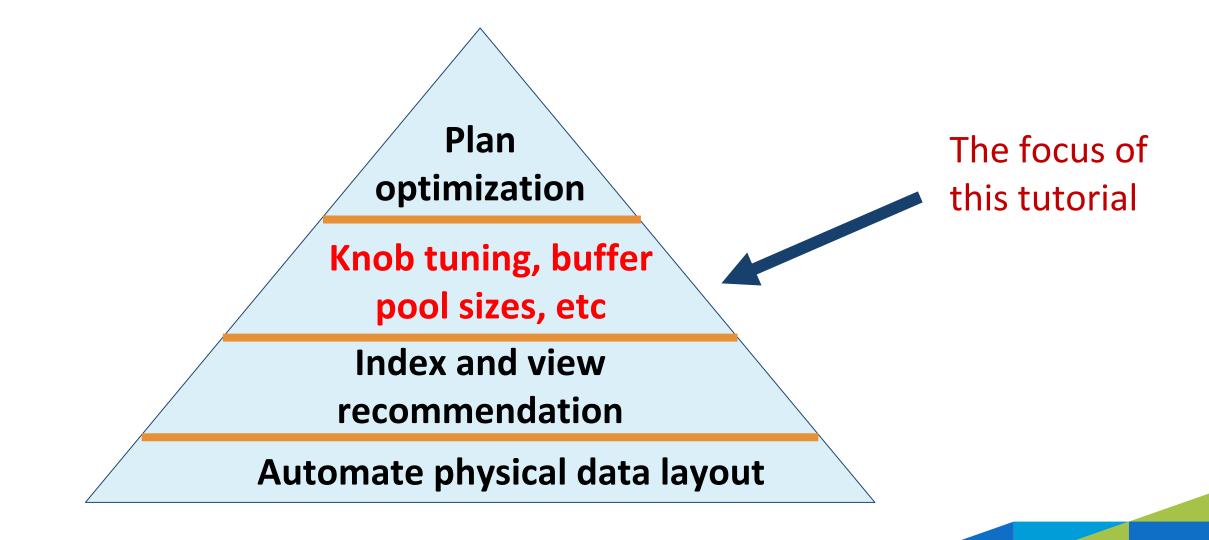
There are many challenges







Different Optimization Levels of Self-driving Systems



Effectiveness of Knob (Parameter) Tuning

	Tuned vs. Default
Running time	Often 10x
System resource utilization	Often 10x
Others	Well tuned jobs may avoid failures like OOM, out of disk, job time out, etc.



Selected Performance-aware Parameters in PostgreSQL

Parameter Name	Description	Default value
bgwriter_lru_maxpages	Max number of buffers written by the background writer	100
checkpoint_segments	Max number of log file segments between WAL checkpoints	3
checkpoint_timeout	Max time between automatic WAL checkpoints	5 min
deadlock_timeout	Waiting time on locks for checking for deadlocks	1 sec
effective_cache_size	Size of the disk cache accessible to one query	4 GB
effective_io_concurrency	Number of disk I/O operations to be executed concurrently	1 or 0
shared_buffers	Memory size for shared memory buffers	128MB

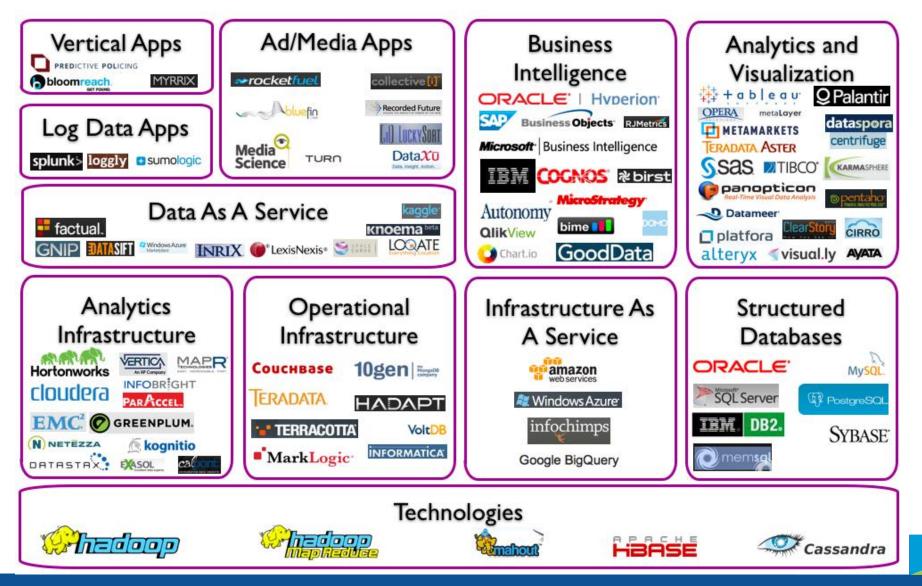
Selected Performance-aware Parameters in Hadoop

Parameter Name	Description	Default value
dfs.block.size	The default block size for files stored HDFS	128MB
mapreduce.map.tasks	Number of map tasks	2
mapreduce.reduce.tasks	Number of reduce tasks	1
mapreduce.job.reduce .slowstart.completedmaps	Min percent of map tasks completed before scheduling reduce tasks	0.05
mapreduce.map.combine .minspills	Min number of map output spill files present for using the combine function	3
mapreduce.reduce.merge.in mem.threshold	Max number of shuffled map output pairs before initiating merging during the shuffle	1000

Selected Performance-aware Parameters in Spark

Parameter Name	Description	Default value
spark.driver.cores	Number of cores used by the Spark driver process	1
spark.driver.memory	Memory size for driver process	1 GB
spark.sql.shuffle.partitions	Number of tasks	200
spark.executor.cores	The number of cores for each executor	1
spark.files.maxPartitionBytes	Max number of bytes to group into one partition during file reading	128MB
spark.memory.fraction	Fraction for execution and storage memory. It may cause frequent spills or cached data eviction if given a low fraction	0.6

Challenge 1: A Huge Number of Systems



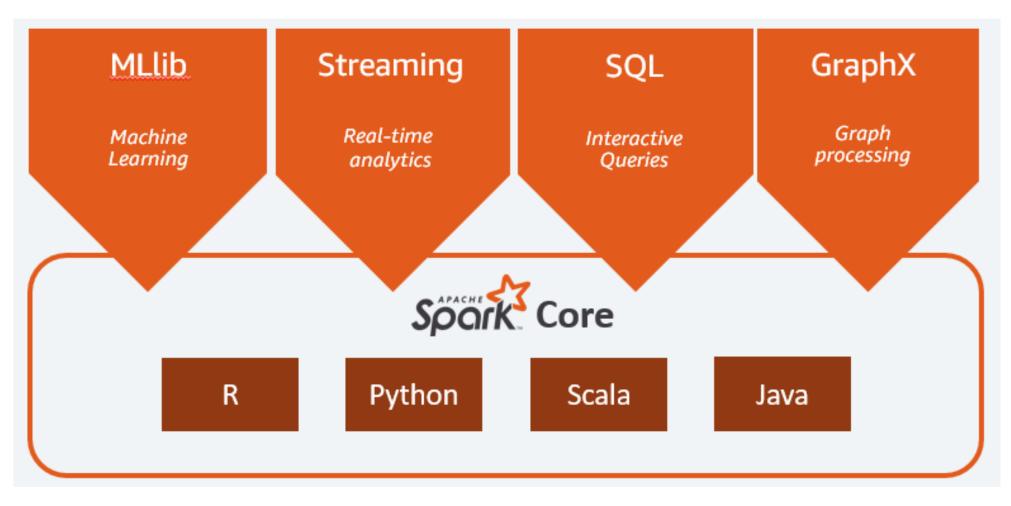
Challenge 2: Many Parameters in a Single System

Symbol	Parameter	Groups	
Nm	mapred.map.tasks	Map input split	
Nr	mapred.reduce.tasks	Reduce output	
Smin	mapred.min.split.size	Map input split	
Smax	mapred.max.split.size	Map input split	
B_m	io.sort.mb	Map output buffer	
Trec	io.sort.record.percent	Map output buffer	
c	mapred.compress.map.output	Map output compr.	
N _{copy}	<pre>mapred.reduce.parallel. copies</pre>	Reduce copy	
Naf	io.sort.factor	Reduce input	
Br	<pre>mapred.job.reduce .input.buffer.percent</pre>	Reduce input	
SOB	dfs.block.size	Reduce output	
$N_{ms}(i)$	mapred.tasktracker .map.tasks.maximum	Set by HAC	
$N_{rs}(i)$	<pre>mapred.tasktracker .reduce.tasks.maximum</pre>	Set by HAC	

There are more than **190 parameters** in Hadoop!



Challenge 3: Diverse Workloads and System Complexity



An example of Spark framework





Franco Pepe Chef:

"There is no pizza recipe. Every time the dough was made there were no scales, recipes, machinery."

There is no knob tuning recipe. Every time, we need to configure the parameters based on the bottleneck of different jobs and environment. -- VLDB 2019 tutorial

Running Examples of Parameter Tuning (Hadoop)*

Workloads

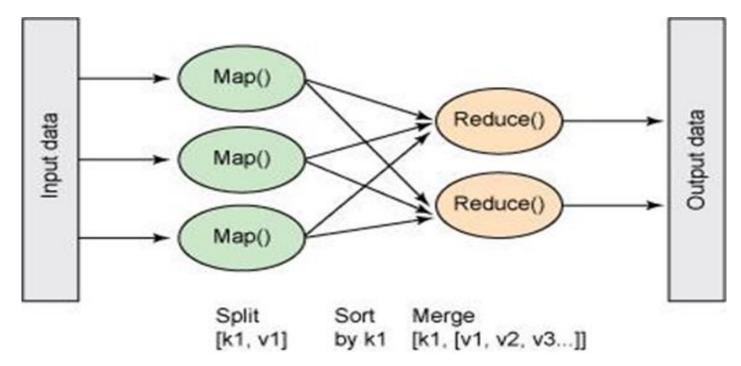
- Terasort: Sort a terabyte of data
- N-gram: Compute the inverted list of N-gram data
- PageRank: Compute pagerank of graphs

Hadoop platform with MapReduce

 * Juwei Shi, Jia Zou, Jiaheng Lu, Zhao Cao, Shiqiang Li, Chen Wang: MRTuner: A Toolkit to Enable Holistic Optimization for MapReduce Jobs. PVLDB 7(13): 1319-1330 (2014)

Running Examples of Parameter Tuning (Hadoop)

Problem: Given a MapReduce (or Spark) job with input data and running cluster, we want to find the setting of parameters that optimize the execution time of the job (i.e., minimize the job execution time)

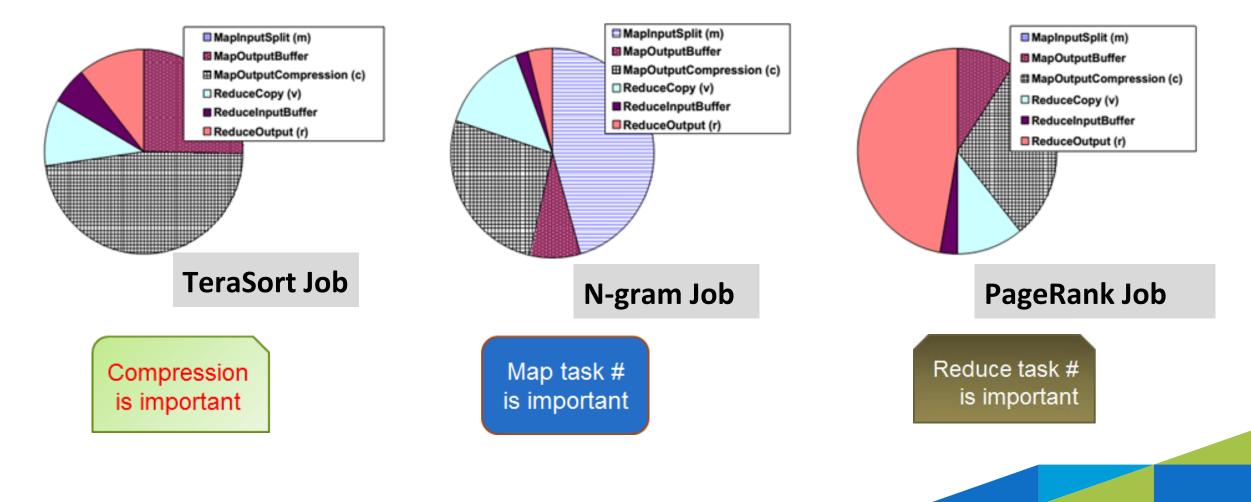


Tuned Key Parameters in Hadoop

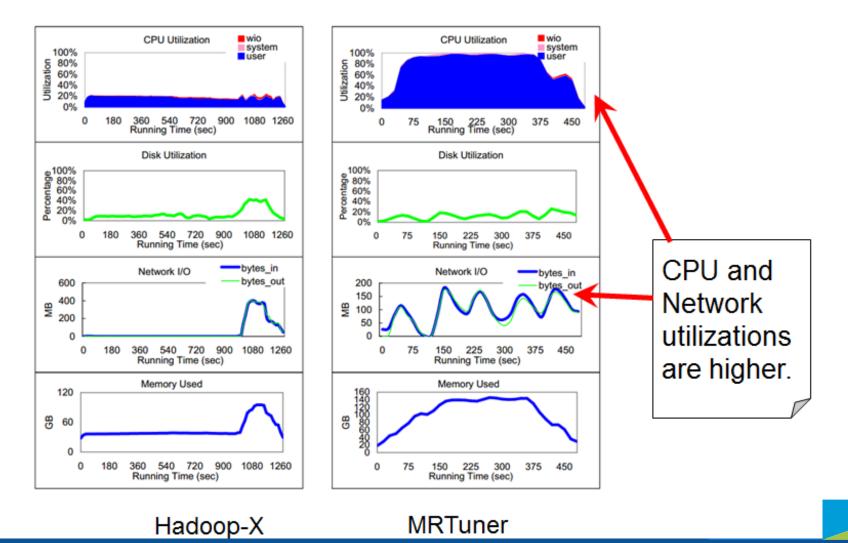
Parameter Name	Description
MapInputSplit	Split number for map jobs
MapOutputBuffer	Buffer size of map output
MapOutputCompression	Whether the map output data is compressed
ReduceCopy	Time to start the copy in Reduce phase
ReduceInputBuffer	Input buffer size of Reduce
ReduceOutput	Reduce output block size

Impact of Parameters on Selected Jobs

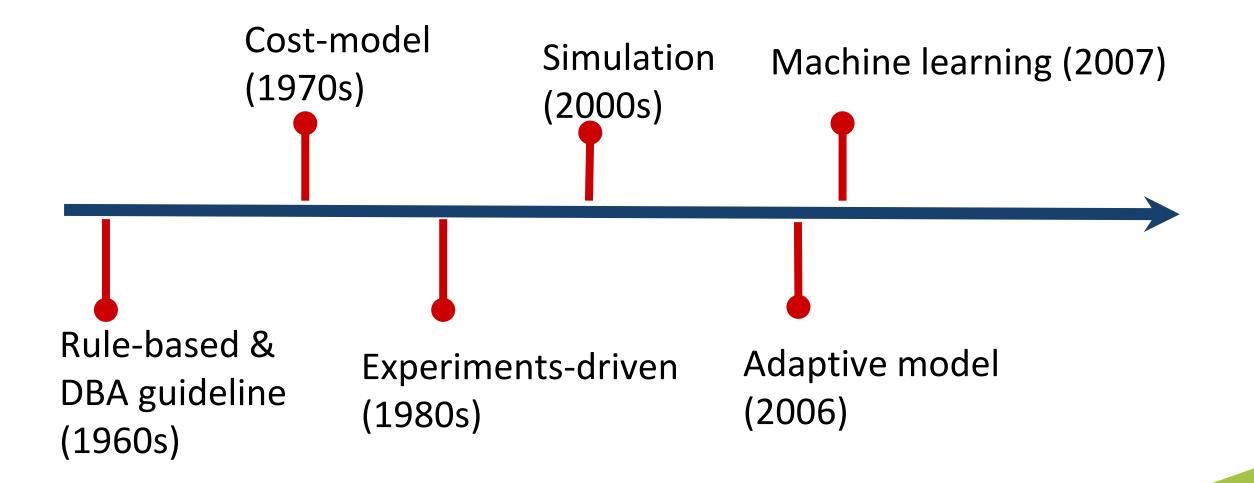




Comparison between Hadoop-X and MRTuner with Different Parameters



50 Years of Knob Tuning



Classification of Existing Approaches

Approach	Main Idea
Rule-based	Based on the experience of human experts
Cost Modeling	Using statistical cost functions
Simulation-based	Modular or complete system simulation
Experiment-driven	Execute an experiment with different parameter settings
Machine Learning	Employ machine learning methods
Adaptive	Tune configuration parameters adaptively

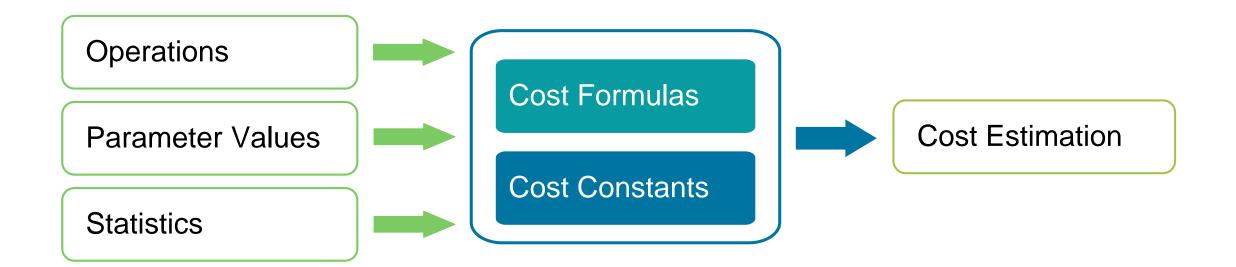
Rule-based Approach

> Assist users based on the experience of human experts

Parameter Name	Default	Description	Recommendation
dfs.replication in HDFS	3	Lower it to reduce replication cost. Higher replication can make data local to more workers, but more space overhead	IF (Running time is the critical goal and enough space) Set 5 Otherwise Set 3

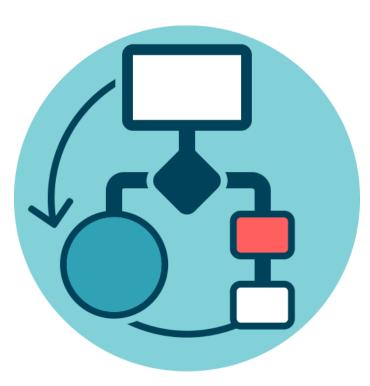
Cost Modeling Approach

> Build performance prediction models by using statistical cost functions



Simulation-based Approach

> Build performance models based on modular or complete simulation



Experiment-driven Approach

Execute the experiments repeatedly with different parameter settings, guided by a search algorithm







Exploit knobs

Machine Learning Approach

- > Establish performance models by employing machine learning methods
- Consider the complex system as a whole and assume no knowledge of system



Adaptive Approach

- Tune parameters adaptively while an application is running
- Adjust the parameter settings as the environment changes



CLOT (2006) strategy

Outline

Motivation and Background

History and Classification

Parameter Tuning on Databases

Parameter Tuning on Big Data Systems

Applications of Automatic Parameter Tuning

Open Challenges and Discussion

What and How to Tune?

- > What to configure?
 - Which parameters (knobs)?
 - Which are most important?



- Increase buffer size?
- More parallelism on writing?

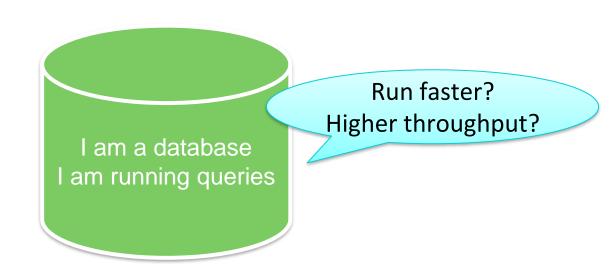




Figure. Tuning guitar knobs to right notes (frequencies)

What to Tune – Some Important Knobs for throughput

		Parameter Name	Brief Description and Use	Deafult
Threads		bgwriter_delay	Background writer's delay between activity rounds	200ms
		bgwriter_Iru_maxpages	Max number of buffers written by the background writer	100
		checkpoint_segments	Max number of log file segments between WAL checkpoints	3
Timeout		checkpoint_timeout	Max time between automatic WAL checkpoints	5min
Settings		deadlock_timeout	Waiting time on locks for checking for deadlocks	1s
		default_statistics_target	Default statistics target for table columns	100
Memory		effective_cache_size	Effective size of the disk cache accessible to one query	4GB
Cache		shared_buffers	Memory size for shared memory buffers	128MB

What are the Important Parameters and How to Choose

- Affect the performance most (manually)
 - Based on expert experiences
 - Default documentation

Parameters have strong correlation to performance are important!



Performance-sensitive parameters are important!

If you want higher throughput, better tuning memory-related parameters

What are the Important Parameters and How to Choose

- Affect the performance most
- Strongest correlation between parameters and objective function (model)
 - Linear regression model for independent parameters:
 - □ Regularized version of least squares Lasso (*OtterTune 2017*)
 - ✓ Interpretable, stable, and computationally efficient with higher dimensions
 - Deep learning model (CBDTune 2019)
 - □ The important input parameters will gain higher **weights** in training

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \dots + \beta_N X_N$$
Weights Knobs

How to Tune – Key Tuning Goals

- > Avoidance: to identify and avoid error-prone configuration settings
- > **Ranking:** to rank parameters according to the performance impact
- > **Profiling:** to classify and store useful log information from previous runs
- Prediction: to predict the database or workload performance under hypothetical resource or parameter changes
- > **Tuning:** to recommend parameter values to achieve objective goals

How to Tune – Tuning Methods

Methods	Approach	Methodology	Target Level
Rule-based	SPEX (2013)	Constraint inference	Avoidance
	Xu (2015)	Configuration navigation	Ranking
Cost-model	STMM (2006)	Cost model	Tuning
Simulation- based	Dushyanth (2005)	Trace-based simulation	Prediction
	ADDM (2005)	DAG model & simulation	Profiling, tuning
Experiment driven	SARD (2008)	P&B statistical design	Ranking
	iTuned (2009)	LHS & Guassian Process	Profiling, tuning
Machine Learning	Rodd (2016)	Neural Networks	Tuning
	OtterTune (2017)	Guassian Process	Ranking, tuning
	CDBTune (2019)	Deep RL	Tuning
Adaptive	COLT (2006)	Cost Vs. Gain analysis	Profiling, tuning

Relational Database Tuning Methods

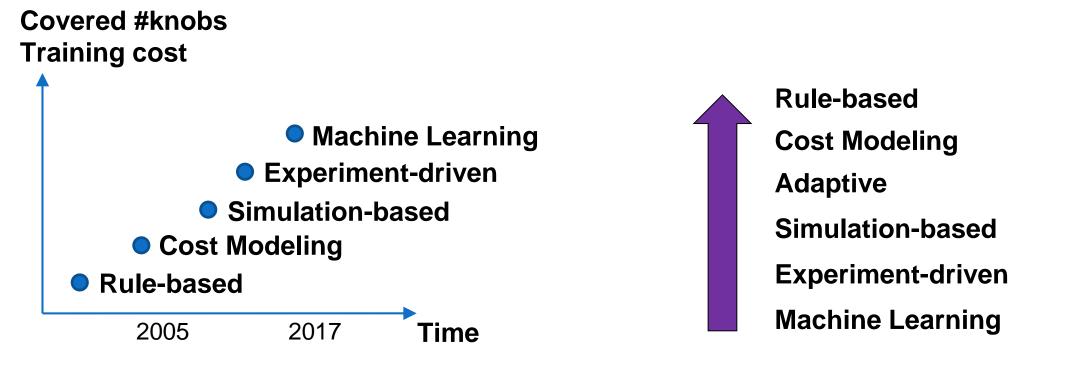
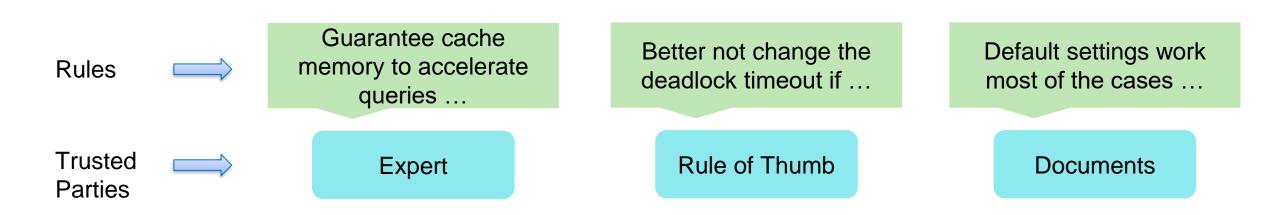


Figure. Developing trend: putting more training cost to uncover more knobs

Figure. Required expert knowledge on system

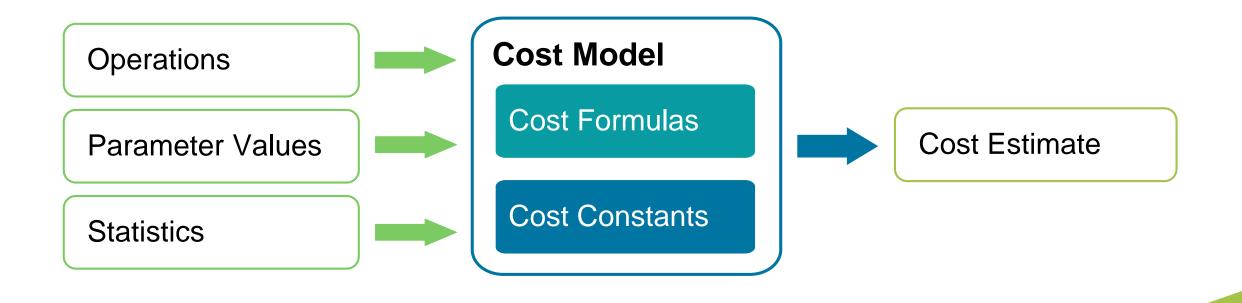
Tuning Method: Rule-based

Tuning based on rules derived from DBAs' expertise, experience, and knowledge, or Rule of Thumb default recommendation



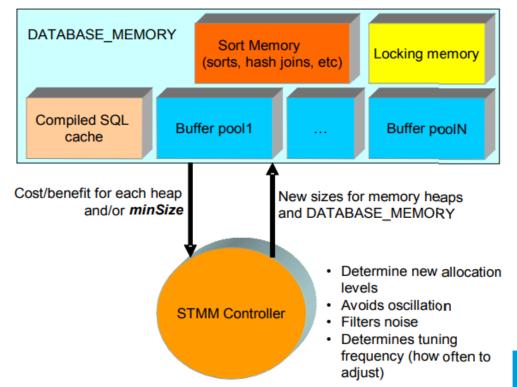
Tuning Method: Cost Modeling

A cost model establishes a performance model by cost functions based on the deep understanding of system components



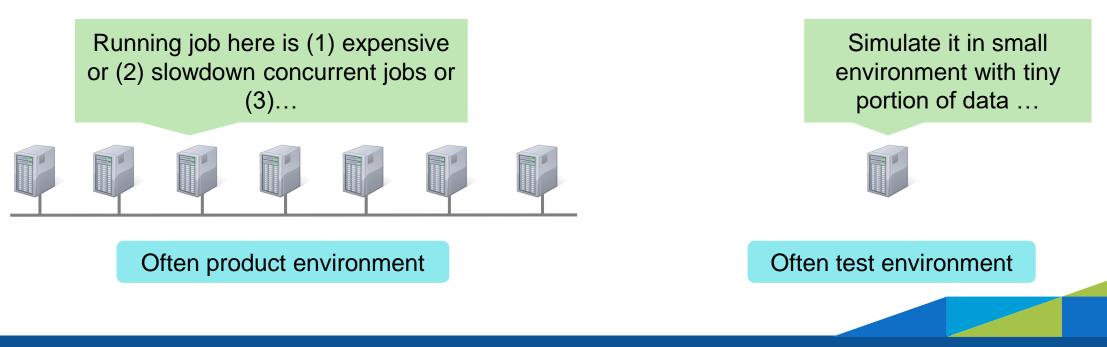
Tuning Method: Cost Modeling (STMM)

- > STMM: Adaptive Self-Tuning Memory in DB2 (2006)
 - Reallocates memory for several critical components(e.g., compiled statement cache, sort, and buffer pools)



Tuning Method: Simulation-based

A simulation-based approach simulates workloads in one environment and learns experience or builds models to predict the performance in another.



Tuning Method: Experiment-driven

An experiment-driven approach relies on repeated executions of the same workload under different configuration settings towards tuning parameter values

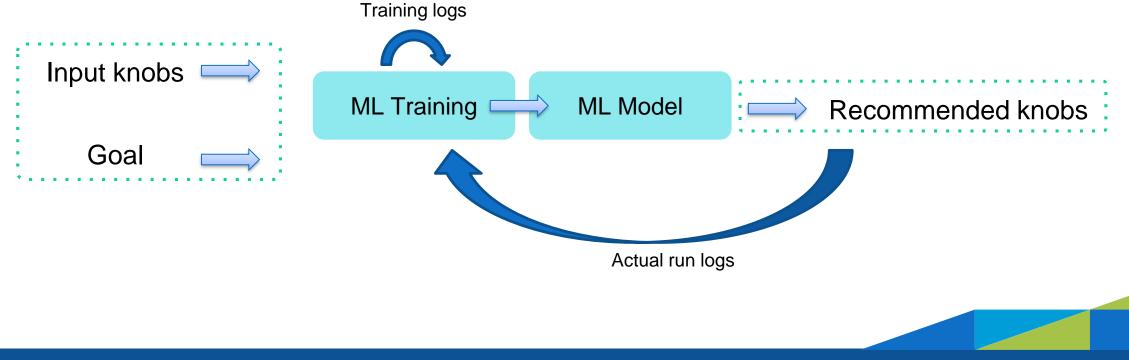


Exploit knobs

Classic paper: Tuning Database Configuration Parameters with iTuned. 2009

Tuning Method: Machine Learning

Machine Learning (ML) approaches aim to tune parameters automatically by taking advantages of ML methods.



Tuning Method: Machine Learning (OtterTune 2017)

- Factor Analysis: transform high dimension parameters to few factors
- Kmeans: Cluster distinct metrics
- Lasso: Rank parameters
- Gaussian Process: Predict and tune performance

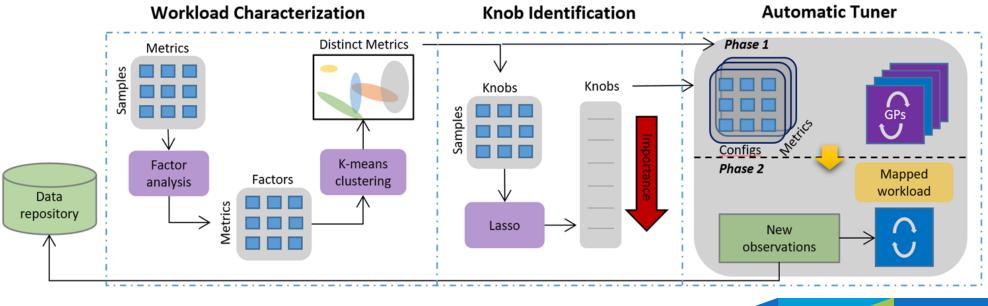


Figure. OtterTune system architecture

Tuning Method: Machine Learning (CDBTune 2019)

Reinforcement learning

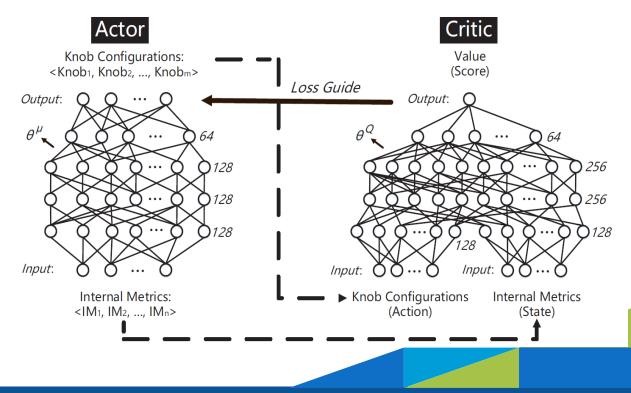
- **State:** knobs and metrics
- Reward: performance change
- Action: recommended knobs
- Policy: Deep Neural network

≽ Key idea

- Feedback: try-and-error method
 - Recommend -> good/bad
- Deep deterministic policy gradient
 - Actor critic algorithm

Reward: Throughput and latency performance change Δ from time t – 1 and the initial time to time t

Figure. CDBTune Deep deterministic policy gradient



Tuning Method: Adaptive

An adaptive approach changes parameter configurations online as the environment or query workload changes



Figure. CLOT (2006) strategy

The Differences of Tuning Database & Big Data Systems in research papers

	Relational Database	Big Data System
Parameters	More parameters on memory	More parameters on vcores
Resource	Often fixed resources	Now more varying resources
Scalability	Often single machine	Often many machines in a distributed environment
Metrics	Throughput, latency	Time, resource cost

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Outline

Motivation and Background

History and Classification

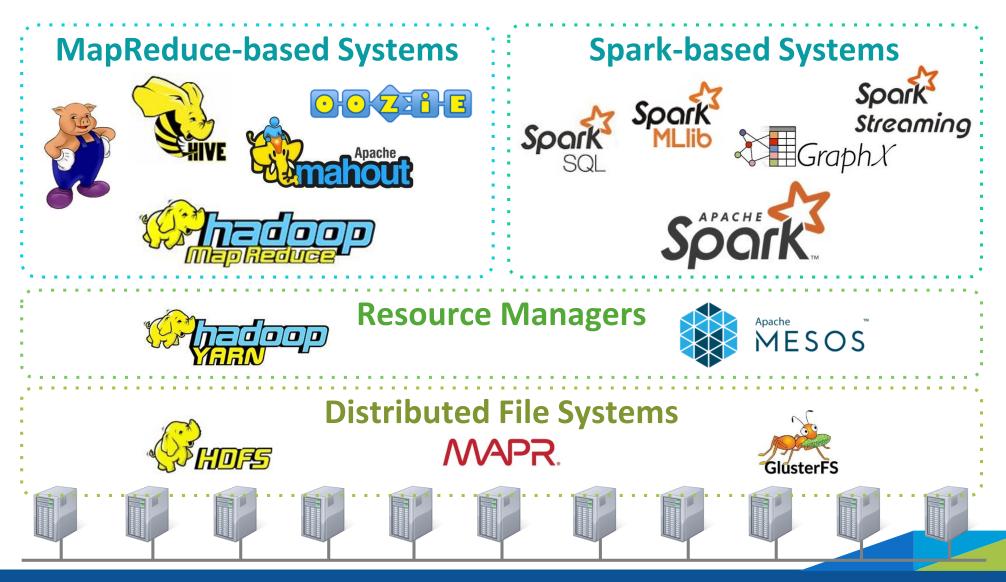
Parameter Tuning on Databases

Parameter Tuning on Big Data Systems

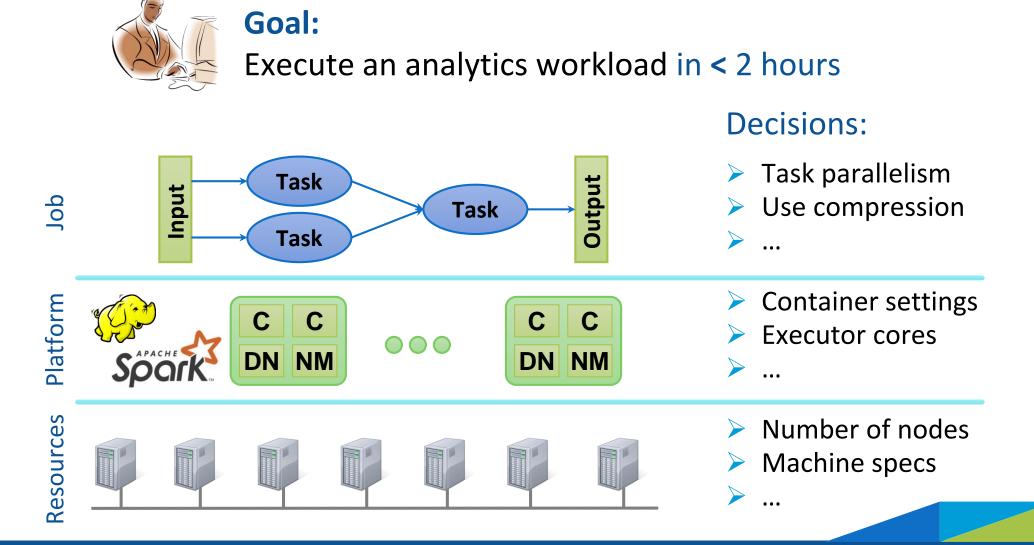
Applications of Automatic Parameter Tuning

Open Challenges and Discussion

Ecosystems for Big Data Analytics

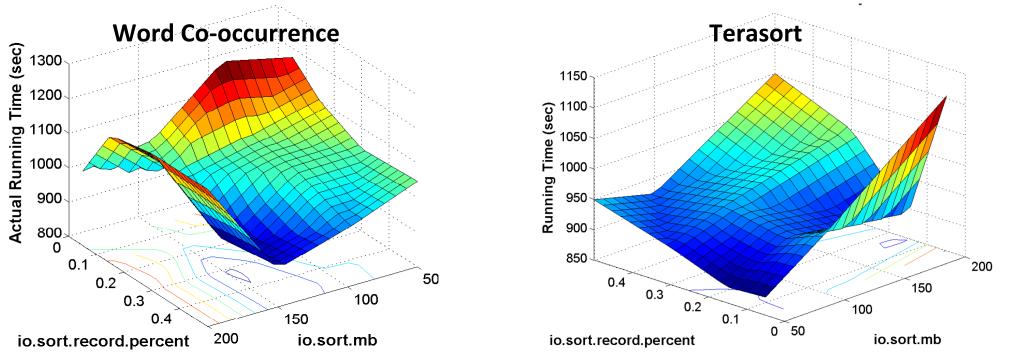


Executing Analytics Workloads



Effect of Job-level Configuration Parameters

- > 190+ parameters in Hadoop, 15-20 impact performance
- > 200+ parameters in Spark, 20-30 impact performance



Two-dimensional projections of a multi-dimensional surface

Scenario: 2 MapReduce jobs, 50GB, 16-node EC2 cluster

Tuning Challenges

- High-dimensional space of configuration parameters
- Non-linear effect of hardware/applications/parameters on performance
- Heavy use of programming languages (e.g., Java/Python)
- Lack of schema & statistics for input data residing in files
- Terabyte-scale data cycles

Applying Cost-based Optimization

➤ Goal:
$$perf = F(G_p, \{d\}, r, \{c\})$$

$$\{c_{opt}\} = \arg\min_{\{c\} \in S} F(G_p, \{d\}, r, \{c\})$$

 $\bullet \quad G_p = (P, E)$

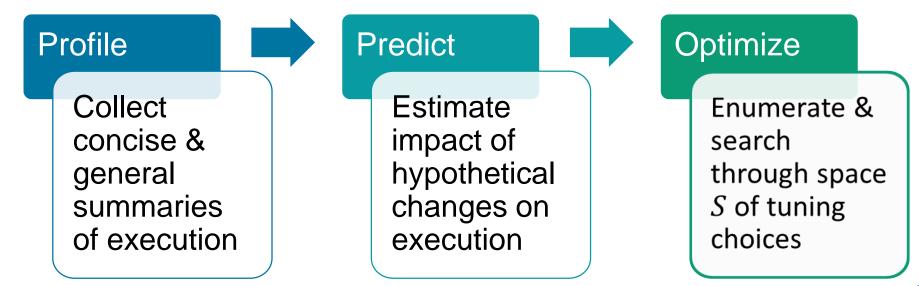
- □ *P* : set of programs to execute
- □ *E* : the program dependencies
- ♦ $\{d\}$: The data set properties
- r : The cluster resources
- ♦ $\{c\}$: The set of configuration setting for each job

Applying Cost-based Optimization

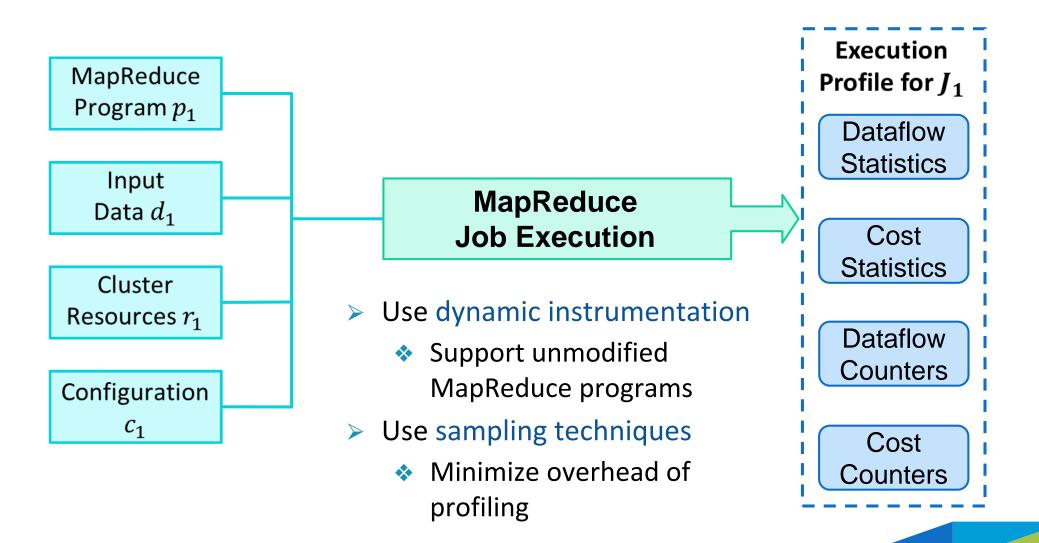
➤ Goal:
$$perf = F(G_p, \{d\}, r, \{c\})$$

$$\{c_{opt}\} = \arg\min_{\{c\} \in S} F(G_p, \{d\}, r, \{c\})$$

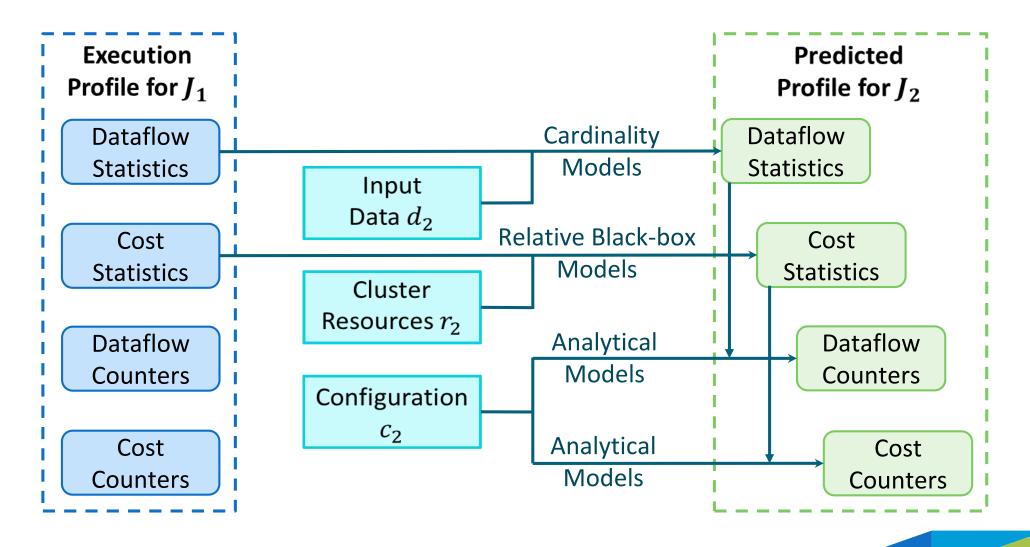
Starfish line of work [Herodotou et. al., 2011-13] pioneered cost-based optimization for Hadoop configuration parameters



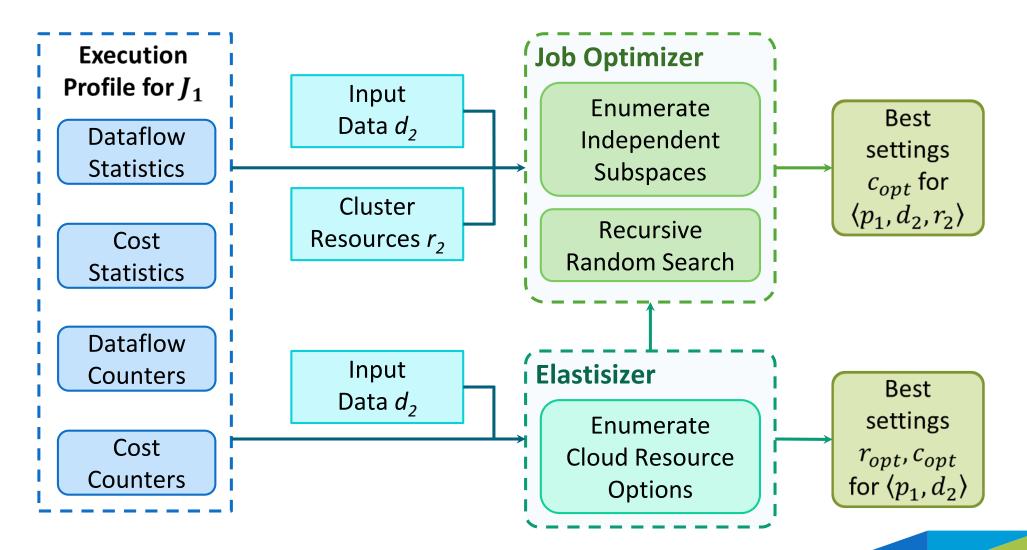
Profiling MapReduce Job Execution



Predicting Job Profiles in Starfish



Job Optimization & Resource Provisioning



MapReduce Cost Modeling Approaches

Approach	Modeling	Optimization	Target Level
Starfish (2011-13)	Analytical & relative black box models	Recursive Random Search	Job, Platform, Cloud
ARIA (2011)	Analytical models	Lagrange Multipliers	Job, Platform
HPM (2011)	Scaling models & LR	Brute-force Search	Platform
Predator (2012)	Analytical models	Grid Hill Climbing	Job
MRTuner (2014)	PTC analytical models	Grid-based search	Job, Platform
CRESP (2014)	Analytical models & LR	Brute-force Search	Platform, Cloud
MR-COF (2015)	Analytical models & MRPerf simulation	Genetic Algorithm	Job
IHPM (2016)	Scaling models & LWLR	Lagrange Multipliers	Platform, Cloud

Spark Cost Modeling Approaches





clusters, data samples



Predict performance on
large clusters, full data

Unique features:

- Ernest (2016): Focus on machine learning Spark applications
- Assurance (2017): Mixes white-box models with simulation
- DynamiConf (2017): Optimizes degree of parallelism for tasks

Cost Modeling Approach: Pros & Cons

Very efficient for predicting performance

Good accuracy in many (not complex) scenarios



Pros

Hard to capture complexity of system internals & pluggable components (e.g., schedulers)

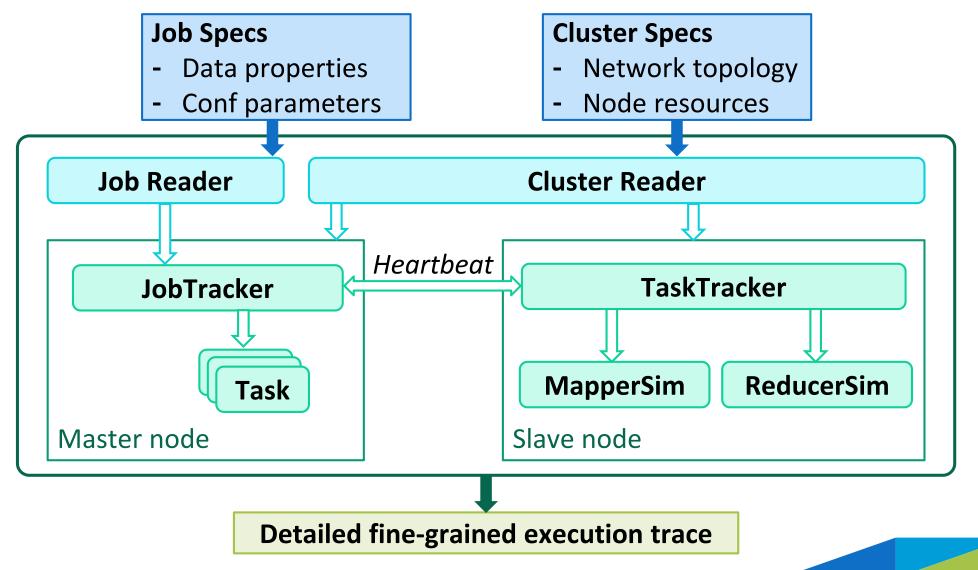
Models often based on simplified assumptions

Not effective on heterogeneous clusters

Simulation-based Approach

- Key Objective: Accurately predict MapReduce job performance at fine granularity
 - Sorry, **no** fully-fledged Spark simulator available at this point!
- Use cases:
 - Find optimal configuration settings
 - Find cluster settings based on user requirements
 - Identify performance bottlenecks
 - Test new pluggable components (e.g., schedulers)
- Common technique: discrete event simulation

HSim: Hadoop Simulator



Comparison of Hadoop Simulators

Simulator	Network Traffic	Hardware Properties	MapReduce Execution	MapReduce Scheduling	Conf Parameters
MRPerf (2009)	Yes (ns-2)	Yes	Task sub-phases	No	Only few
MRSim (2010)	Yes (GridSim)	Yes	Task sub-phases	No	Several
Mumak (2009)	No	No	Only task level	No	Only few
SimMR (2011)	No	No	Task sub-phases	FIFO, Deadline	Only few
SimMapRed (2011)	Yes (GridSim)	Yes	Task sub-phases	Several	Only few
HSim (2013)	Yes (GridSim)	Yes	Task sub-phases	FIFO, FAIR	Several

Simulation-based Approach: Pros & Cons



High accuracy in simulating dynamic system behaviors

Efficient for predicting fine-grained performance

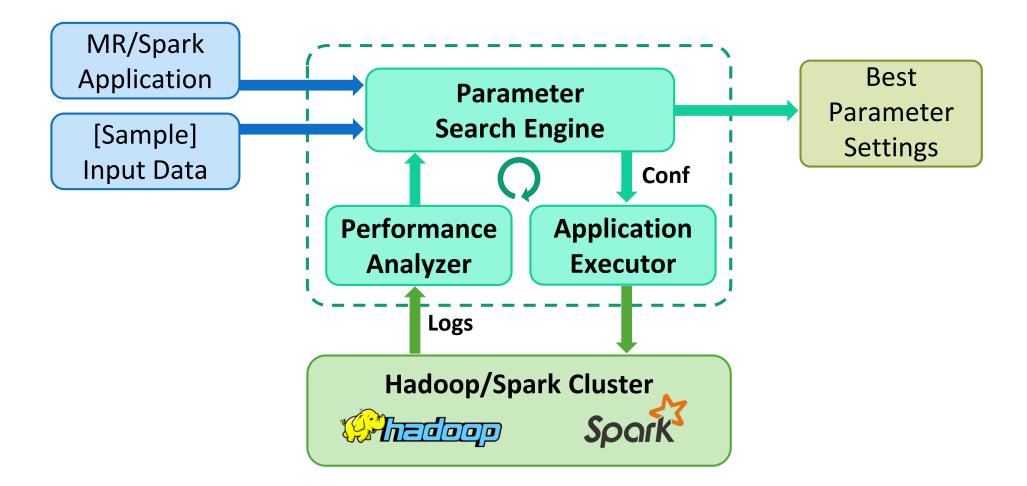


Hard to comprehensively simulate complex internal dynamics

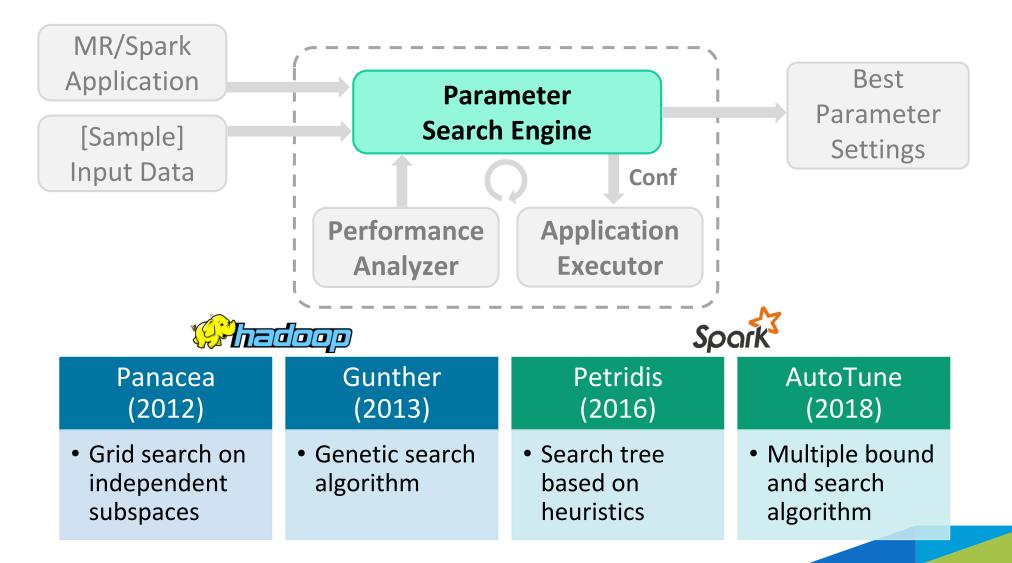
Unable to capture dynamic cluster utilization

Not very efficient for finding optimal settings

General Experiment-driven Architecture



Experiment-driven Approaches



Gounaris (2018) Exp-driven Approach

Use benchmarking applications (sort-by-key, shuffling, k-means)

Test parameter values separately and in pairs (117 runs for 15 parameters)

Create candidate configurations (9 complex parameter configurations)

Test all candidate configurations and keep best one



Application

Experiment-driven Approach: Pros & Cons



Finds good settings based on real test runs on real systems

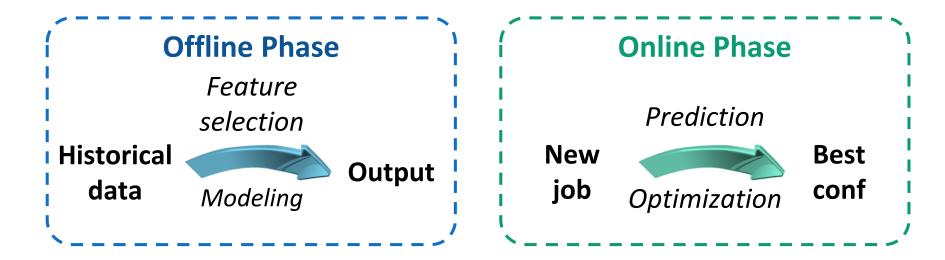
Works across different system versions and hardware



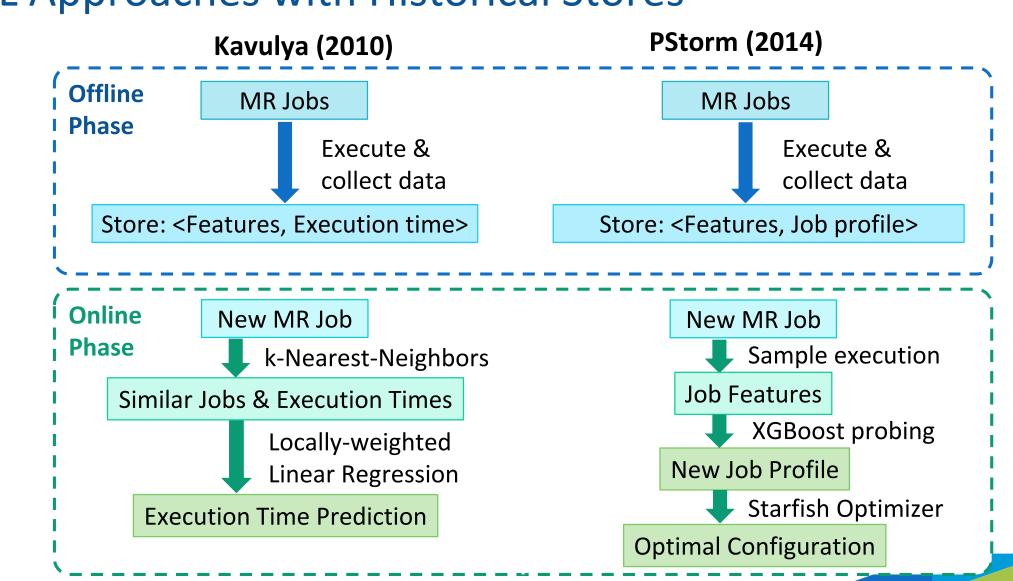
Very time consuming as it requires multiple actual runs

Not cost effective for ad-hoc analytics applications

Machine Learning (ML) Approaches

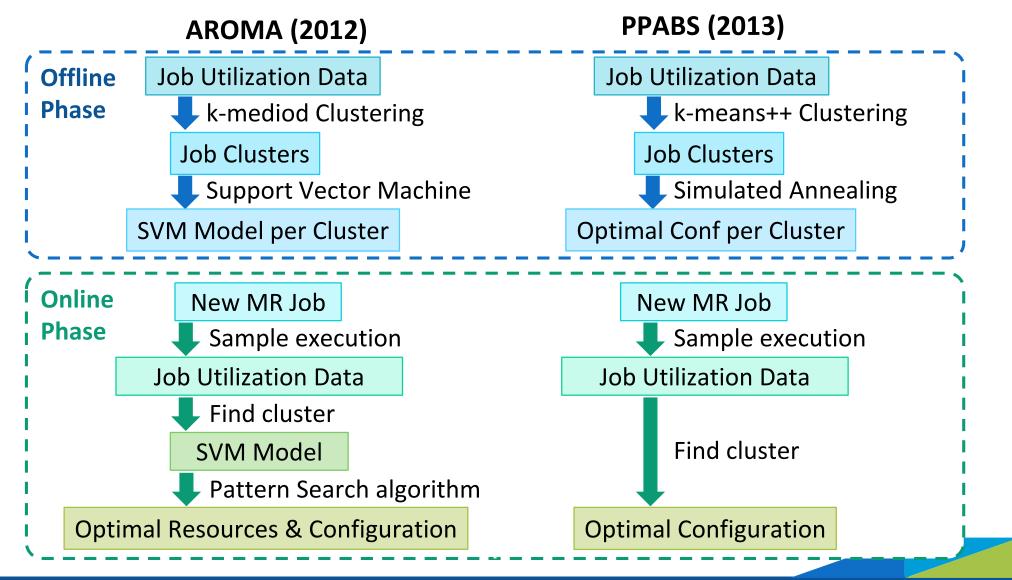


- > Three categories of ML approaches:
 - 1) Build a historical store and use similarity measures
 - 2) Perform clustering and ML modeling per cluster
 - 3) Train and utilize a ML model per application

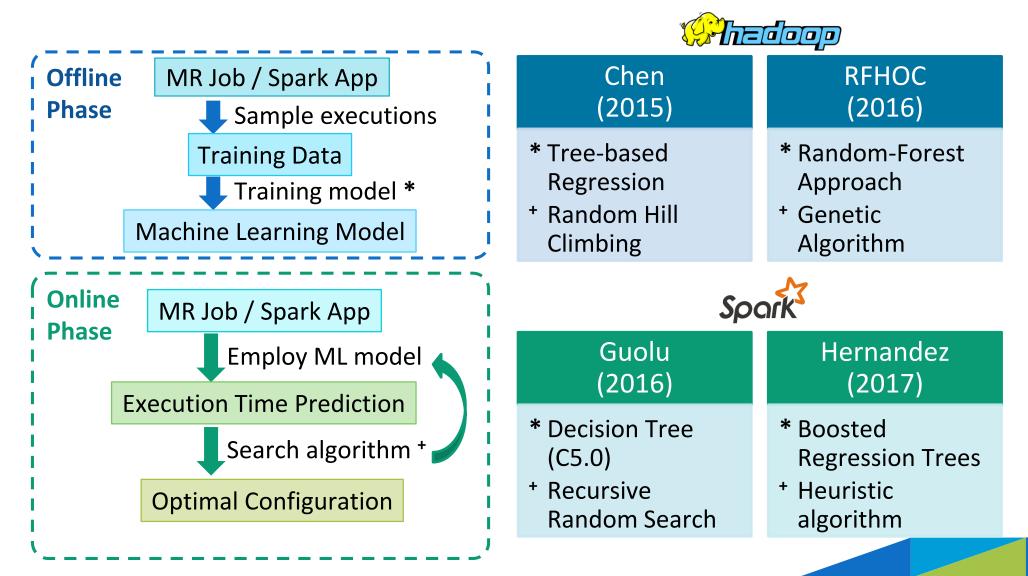


ML Approaches with Historical Stores

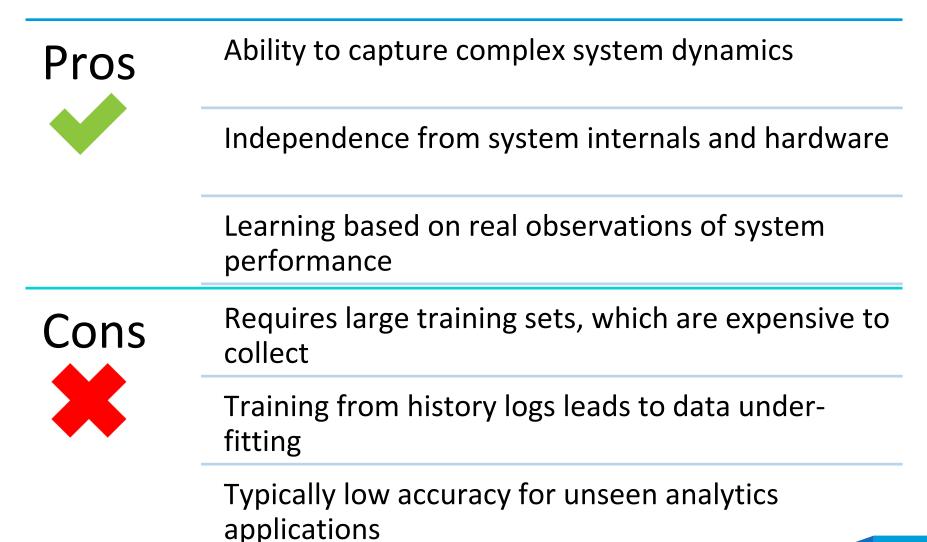
ML Approaches with Clustering



ML Approaches with App Modeling

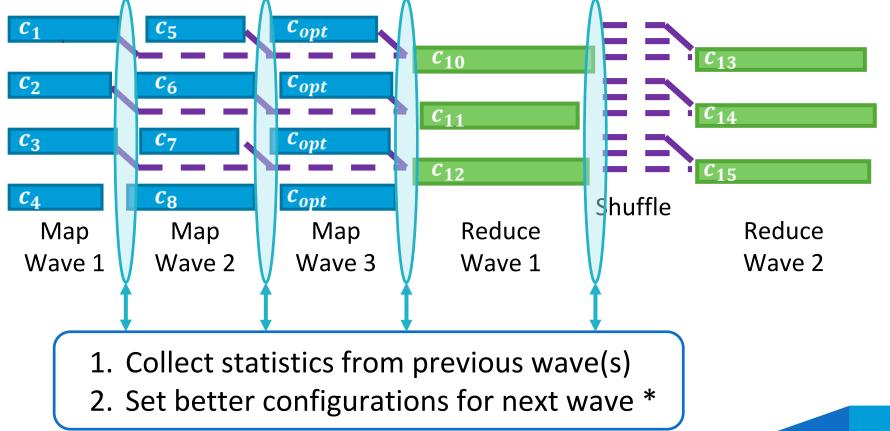


Machine Learning Approach: Pros & Cons



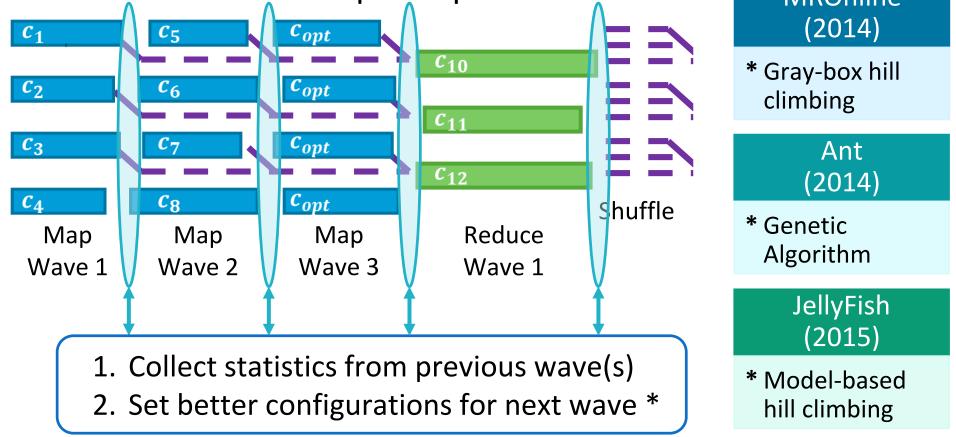
Adaptive Approach

Key idea: Track execution of a job and change its configuration in an online fashion in order to improve performance

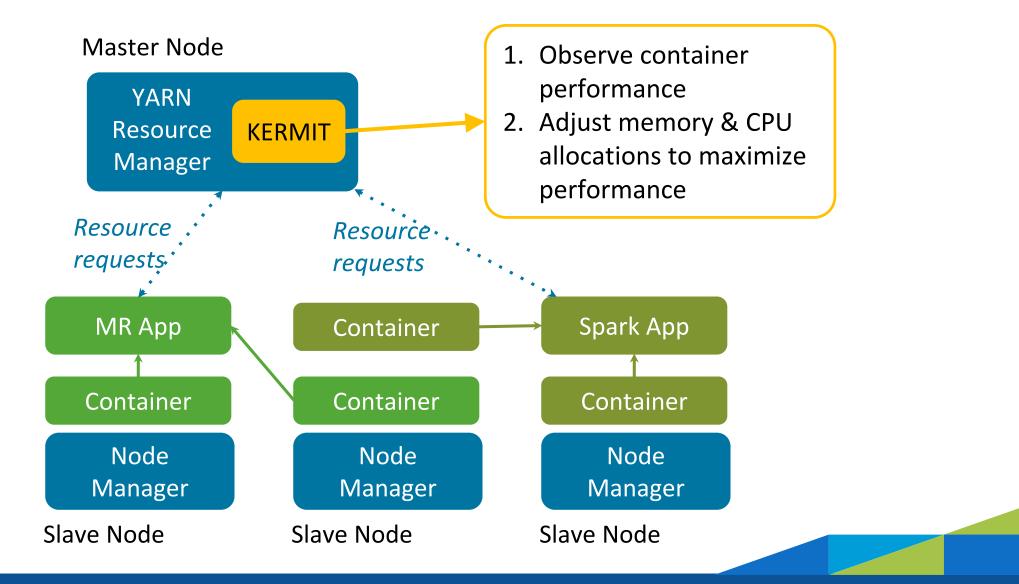


Adaptive Approach

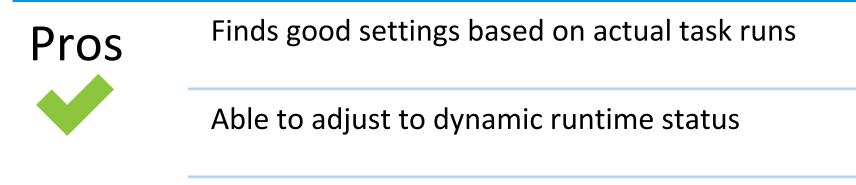
Key idea: Track execution of a job and change its configuration in an online fashion in order to improve performance
MROnline



The KERMIT (2016) Approach



Adaptive Approach: Pros & Cons



Works well for ad-hoc analytics applications

Cons

Only applies to long-running analytics applications

Inappropriate configuration can cause issues (e.g., stragglers)

Neglects efficient resource utilization in the whole system

Outline

Motivation and Background

History and Classification

Parameter Tuning on Databases

Parameter Tuning on Big Data Systems

Applications of Automatic Parameter Tuning

Open Challenges and Discussion

Auto Parameter Tuning in Database Systems

> Oracle Self-driving Database

 Automatically set various memory parameters and use of compression using machine learning

IBM DB2 Self-tuning Memory Manager

 Dynamically distributes available memory resources among buffer pools, locking memory, package cache, and sort memory

> Azure SQL Database Automatic Tuning

Memory buffer settings, index management, plan choice correction









Auto Parameter Tuning in Big Data Systems

Databricks Optimized Autoscaling

 Automatically scale number of executors in Spark up and down

Spotfire Data Science Autotuning

 Automatically set Spark parameters for number and memory size of executors

> Sparklens: Qubole's Spark Tuning Tool

Automatically set memory of Spark executors





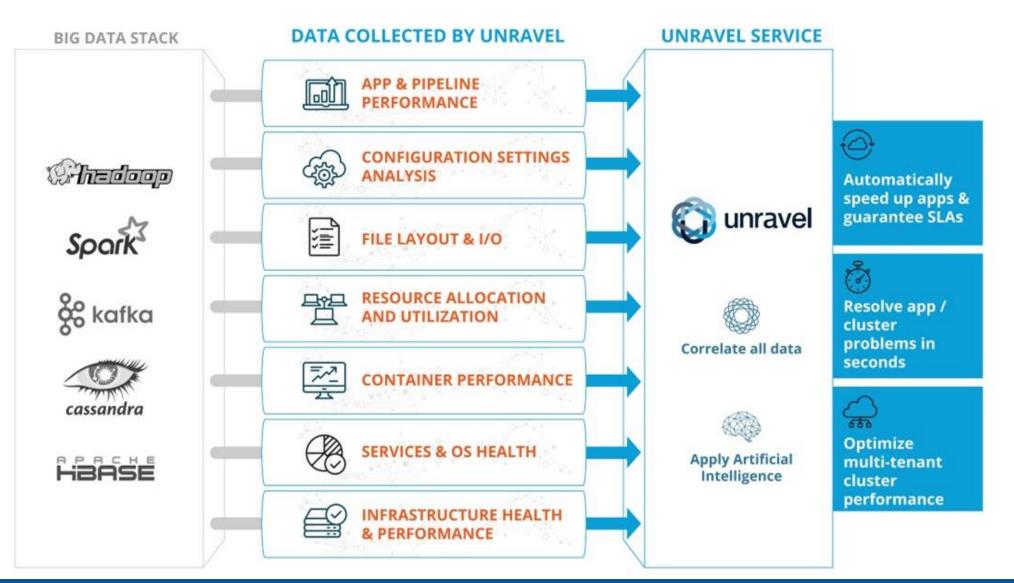
Spotfire Data Science

databricks

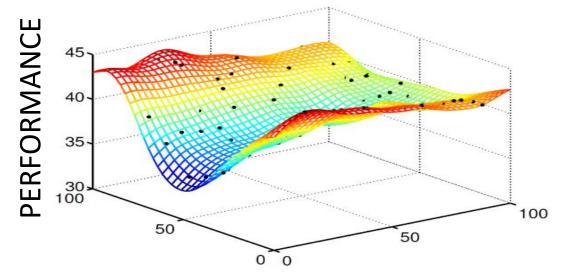


ELEMENTAL TO BIG DATA

Auto Parameter Tuning with Unravel

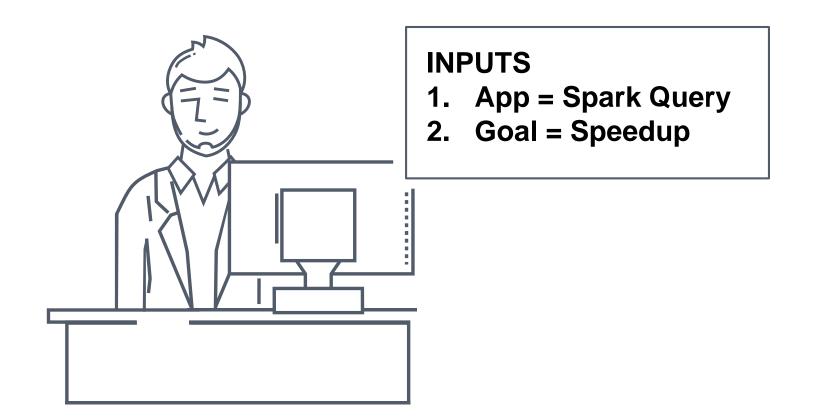


spark.driver.cores	2
spark.executor.cores	10
•••	
spark.sql.shuffle.partitions	300
spark.sql.autoBroadcastJoinThreshold	20MB
•••	
SKEW('orders', 'o_custId')	true
<pre>spark.catalog.cacheTable("orders")</pre>	true



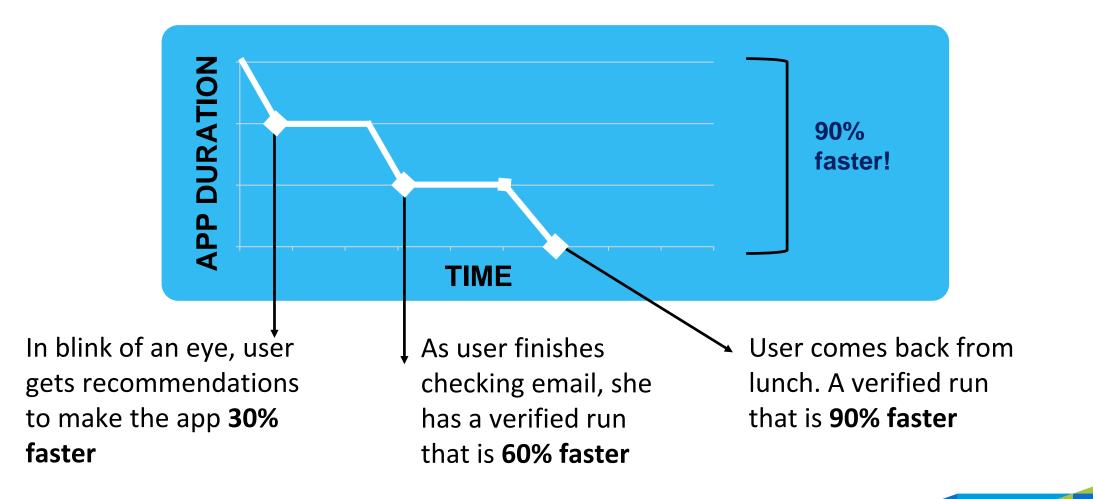
Today, tuning is often by trial-and-error

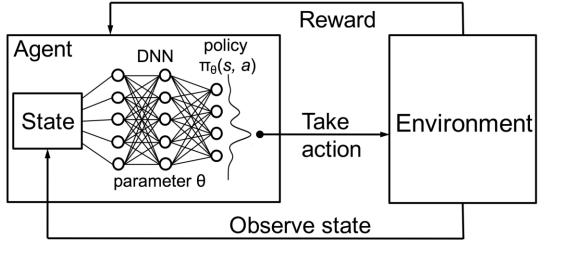
A New World



"I need to make this app faster"

A New World





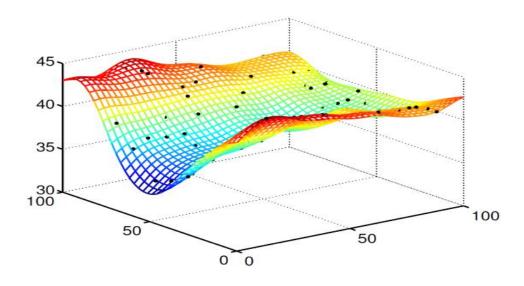
Reinforcement Learning

Tuning Database Configuration Parameters with iTuned

Songyun Duan, Vamsidhar Thummala, Shivnath Babu* Department of Computer Science Duke University Durham, North Carolina, USA {syduan,vamsi,shivnath}@cs.duke.edu

ABSTRACT

Database systems have a large number of configuration parameters that control memory distribution, I/O optimization, costing of query plans, parallelism, many aspects of logging, recovery, and Amy recalls that the database has *configuration parameters*. For lack of better understanding, she had set them to default values during installation. The parameters may need tuning, so Amy pulls out the 1000+ page database tuning manual. She finds many dozens



Response Surface Methodology

Xplus: A SQL-Tuning-Aware Query Optimizer

Herodotos Herodotou and Shivnath Babu* Department of Computer Science Duke University {hero,shivnath}@cs.duke.edu

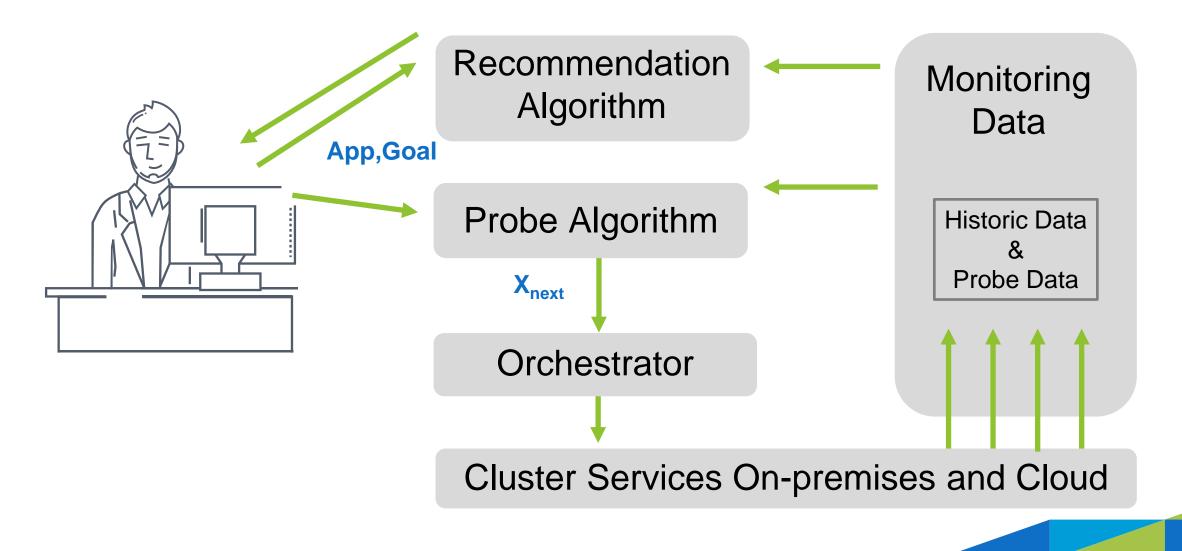
ABSTRACT

The need to improve a suboptimal execution plan picked by the query optimizer for a repeatedly run SQL query arises routinely. Complex expressions, skewed or correlated data, and changing con-

step in to lead the optimizer towards a good plan [6]. This process of improving the performance of a "problem query" is referred to in the database industry as *SQL tuning*. Tuning a problem query is critical in two settings:

Dad alan actives. Condinality (number of tunlas) estimation on

Autotuning Workflow



Outline

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Putting it all Together

Approach	Pros	Cons
Cost Modeling	Very efficient for predicting performance Good accuracy in many (not complex) scenarios Very efficient for predicting performance Good accuracy in many (not complex) scenarios	Hard to capture complexity of system internals & pluggable components (e.g., schedulers) Models often based on simplified assumptions Not effective on heterogeneous clusters
Simulation-based	High accuracy in simulating dynamic system behaviors Efficient for predicting fine-grain	ab is able to
Simulation-based High accuracy in simulating dynamic system behaviore Efficient for predicting fine-grained to behaviore No single approach is able to No single approach is able to provide good prediction accuracy provide good prediction scenarios with low overhead in most scenarios behaviore Training from history logs leads to data under-fitting		
	with low overrotions of system	Training from history logs leads to data under-fitting Typically low accuracy for unseen analytics applications
Adaptive	Finds good settings based on actual task runs Able to adjust to dynamic runtime status Works well for ad-hoc analytics applications	Only applies to long-running analytics applications Inappropriate configuration can cause issues (e.g., stragglers) Neglects efficient resource utilization in the whole system

Open Challenges

Ensuring good and robust system performance at scale poses new challenges



Clusters are becoming heterogeneous in nature, both for compute and storage



The proliferation of Cloud leads to multitenancy, overheads, perf interaction issues

Real-time analytics pushes boundaries on latency requirements and combination of systems

Thank you!



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