



Foundations of streaming SQL

or: how I learned to love stream & table theory

Slides: <https://s.apache.org/streaming-sql-qcon-sf>

Tyler Akidau
Apache Beam PMC
Software Engineer at Google
@takidau

Covering ideas from across the Apache Beam, Apache Calcite, Apache Kafka, and Apache Flink communities, with thoughts and contributions from Julian Hyde, Fabian Hueske, Shaoxuan Wang, Kenn Knowles, Ben Chambers, Reuven Lax, Mingmin Xu, James Xu, Martin Kleppmann, Jay Kreps and many more, not to mention that whole database community thing...

Table of Contents

01 Stream & Table Theory

A Basics

B The Beam Model

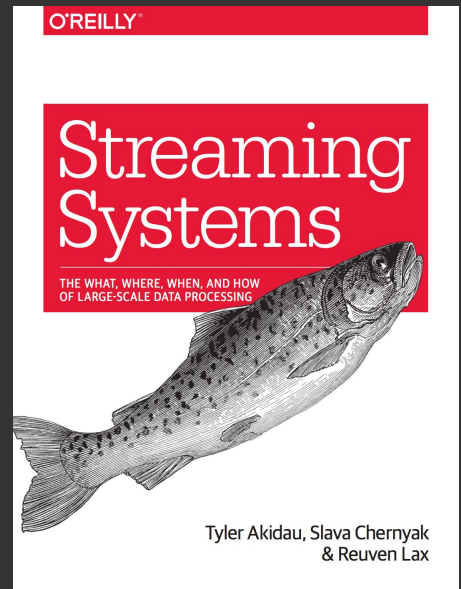
} Chapter 7

02 Streaming SQL

A Time-varying relations

B SQL language extensions

} Chapter 9





01 Stream & Table Theory


TFW you realize everything you do was invented by the database community decades ago...

A Basics

B The Beam Model

Stream & table basics

Stream processing, Event sourcing, Reactive, CEP... and making sense of it all



Martin Kleppmann
January 29, 2015

l web app.

Browser / client app


HTTP (stateless)

"Backend" (stateless)

A diagram showing a flow from a 'Browser / client app' to a '"Backend" (stateless)'. The flow is labeled 'HTTP (stateless)'. To the left of the diagram, the text 'l web app.' is written vertically.

<https://www.confluent.io/blog/making-sense-of-stream-processing/>

Introducing Kafka Streams: Stream Processing Made Simple



Jay Kreps
March 10, 2016

I'm really excited to announce a major new feature in **Apache Kafka™ v0.10: Kafka's Streams API**. The Streams API, available as a Java library that is part of the official Kafka project, is the easiest way to write mission-critical real-time applications and microservices with all the benefits of Kafka's server-side cluster technology.

Note

The latest documentation on Apache Kafka's Streams API is always available at <https://kafka.apache.org/documentation/streams/>

A stream processing application built with Kafka Streams looks like this:

```
1 import org.apache.kafka.common.serialization.Serdes;
2 import org.apache.kafka.streams.KafkaStreams;
3 import org.apache.kafka.streams.StreamsConfig;
4 import org.apache.kafka.streams.kstream.KStream;
5 import org.apache.kafka.streams.kstream.KStreamBuilder;
```

<https://www.confluent.io/blog/introducing-kafka-streams-stream-processing-made-simple/>

Special theory of stream & table relativity

streams → **tables**: The aggregation of a stream of updates over time yields a table.

tables → **streams**: The observation of changes to a table over time yields a stream.

Non-relativistic stream & table definitions

Tables are data *at rest*.

Streams are data in *motion*.



01 Stream & Table Theory

TFW you realize everything you do was invented by the database community decades ago...

A Basics

B The Beam Model

The Beam Model

What results are calculated?

Where in event time are results calculated?

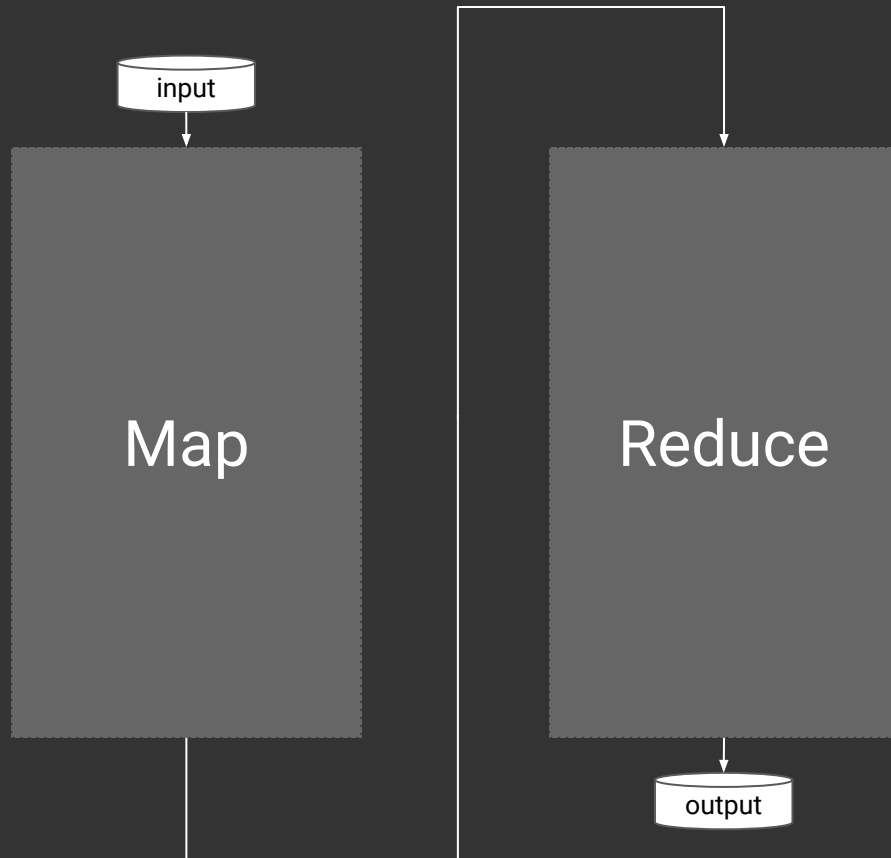
When in processing time are results materialized?

How do refinements of results relate?

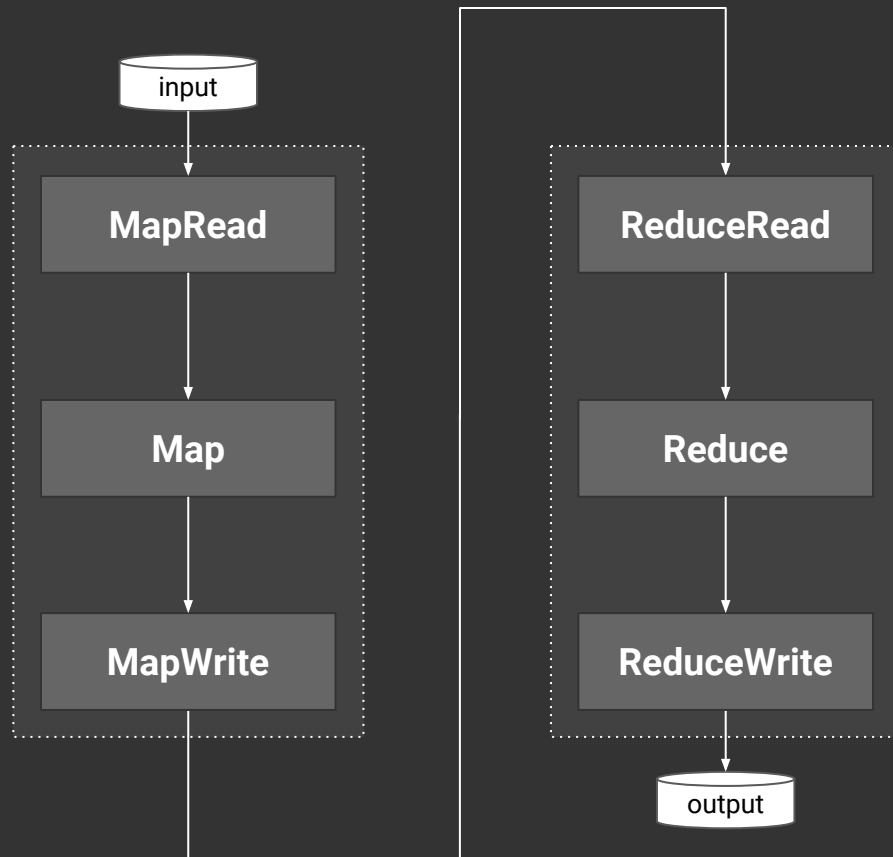
Reconciling streams & tables w/ the Beam Model

- How does batch processing fit into all of this?
- What is the relationship of streams to bounded and unbounded datasets?
- How do the four *what*, *where*, *when*, *how* questions map onto a streams/tables world?

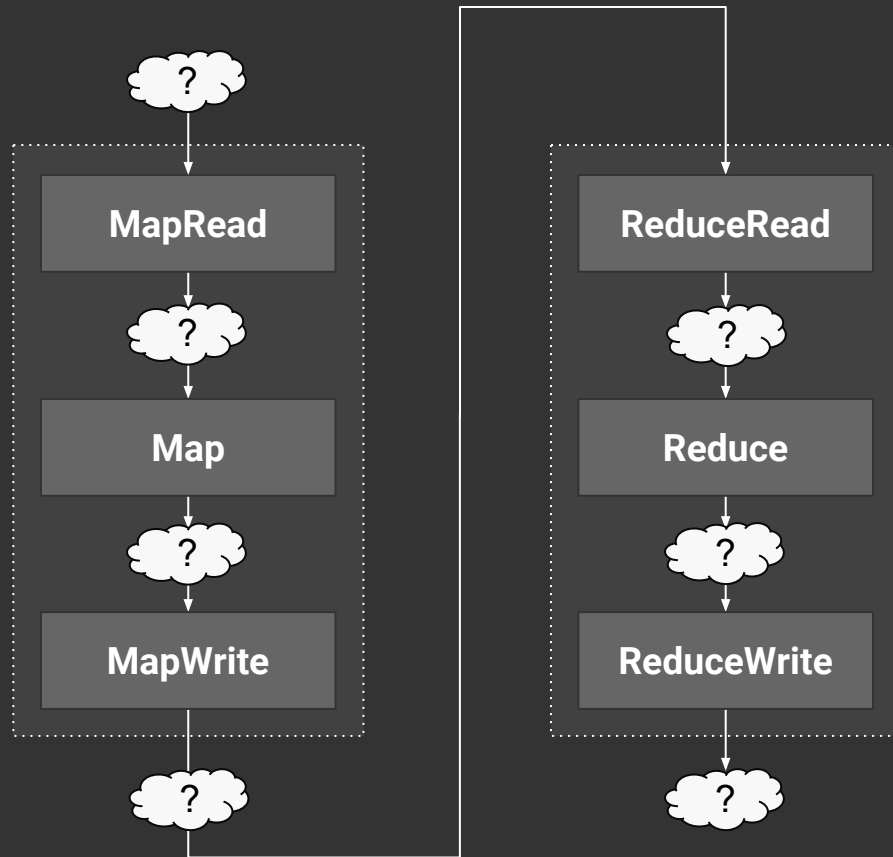
MapReduce



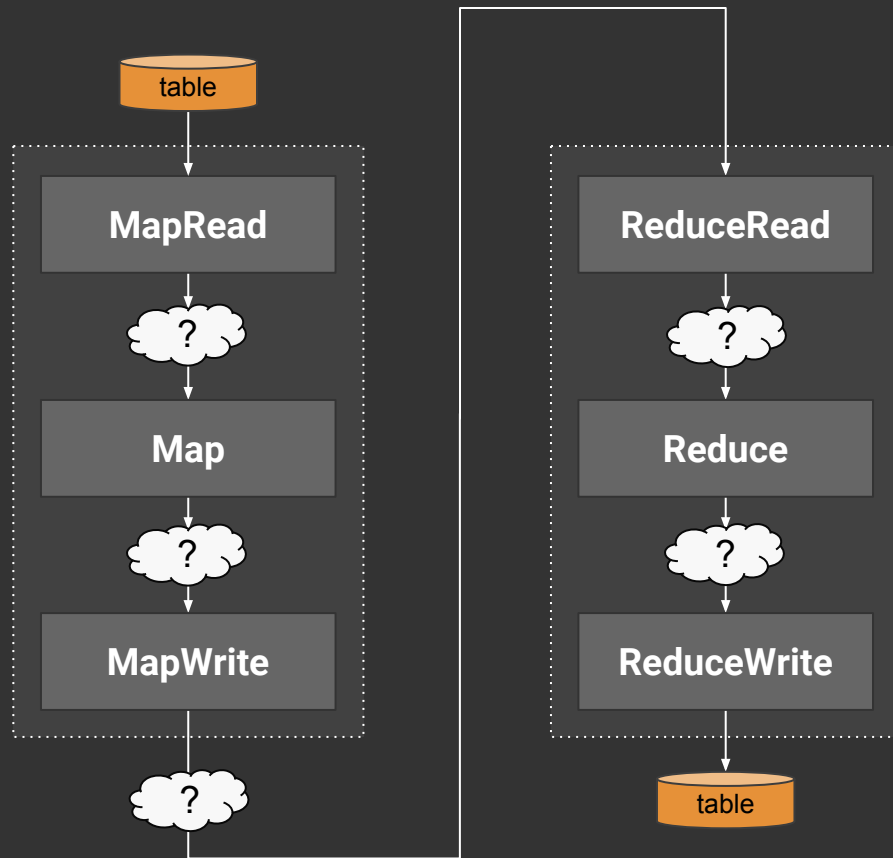
MapReduce



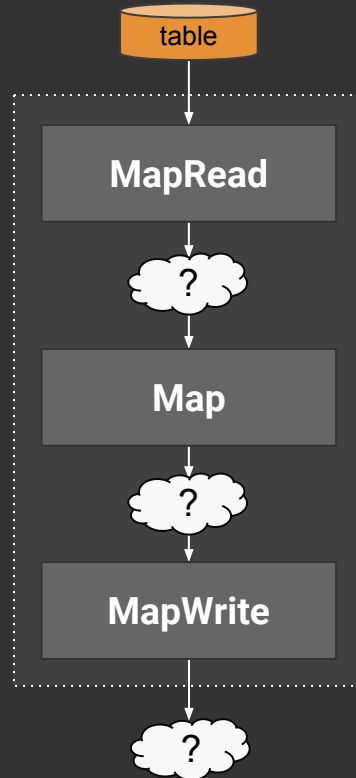
MapReduce



MapReduce



Map phase



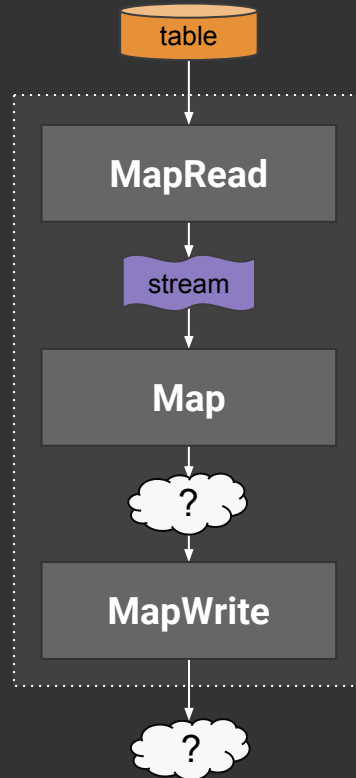
Map phase API

```
void map(K1 key, V1 value, Emit<K2, V2>);
```

Map phase API

```
void map(K1 key, V1 value, Emit<K2, V2>);
```

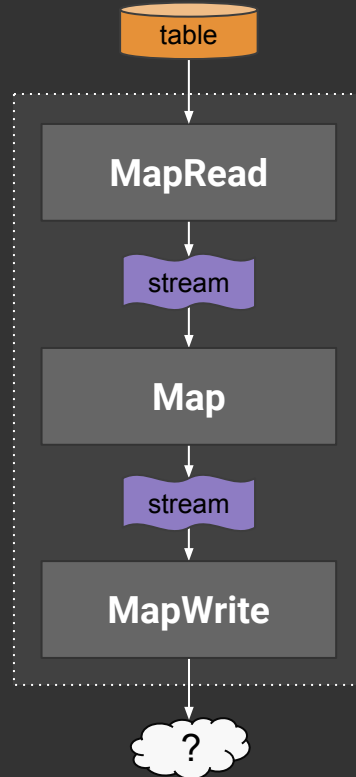

Map phase



Map phase API

```
void map(K1 key, V1 value, Emit<K2, V2>);
```

Map phase

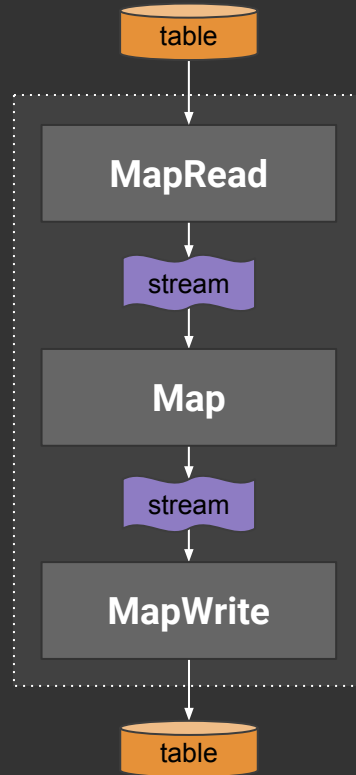


Map phase API

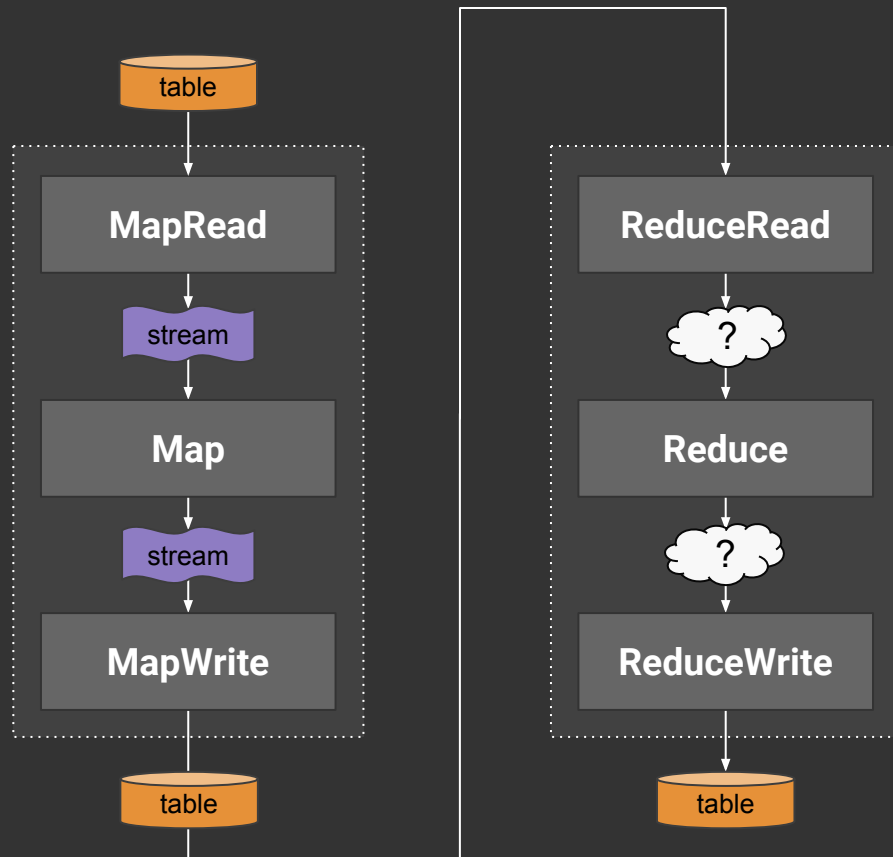
```
void map(K1 key, V1 value, Emit<K2, V2>);
```

```
void reduce(K2 key, Iterable<V2> value, Emit<V3>);
```

Map phase



MapReduce



Map phase API

```
void map(K1 key, V1 value, Emit<K2, V2>);
```

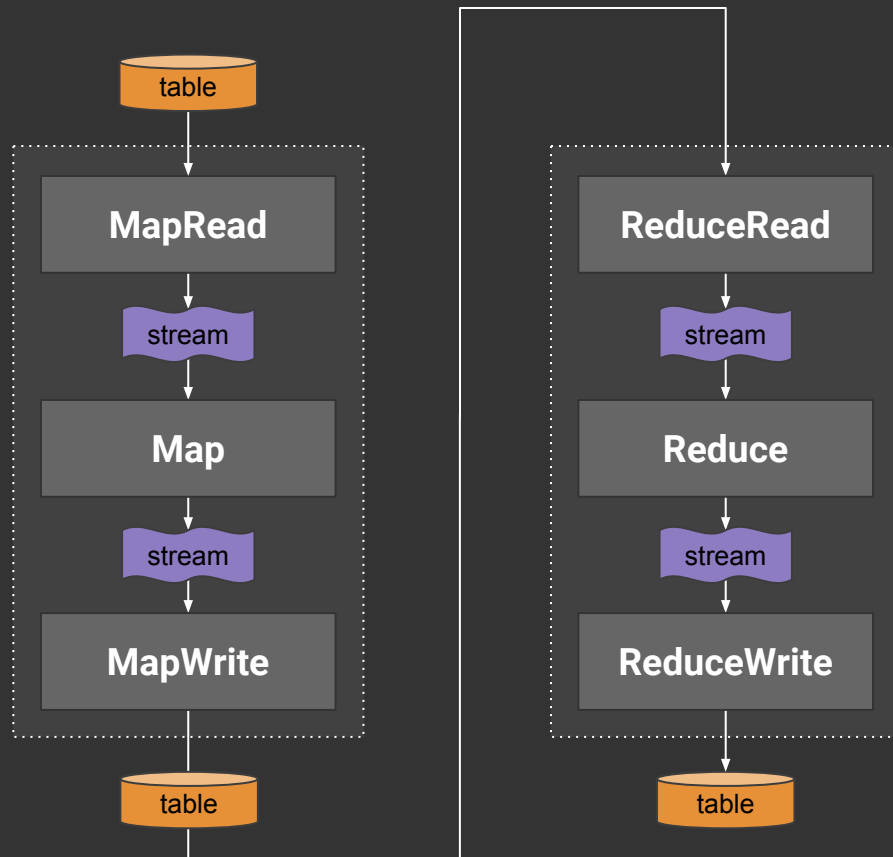
```
void reduce(K2 key, Iterable<V2> value, Emit<V3>);
```

Map phase API

```
void map(K1 key, V1 value, Emit<K2, V2>);
```

```
void reduce(K2 key, Iterable<V2> value, Emit<V3>);
```


MapReduce



Reconciling streams & tables w/ the Beam Model

- How does batch processing fit into all of this?

1. **Tables** are read into **streams**.
2. **Streams** are processed into new **streams** until a grouping operation is hit.
3. Grouping turns the **stream** into a **table**.
4. Repeat steps 1-3 until you run out of operations.

Reconciling streams & tables w/ the Beam Model

- How does batch processing fit into all of this?
- What is the relationship of streams to bounded and unbounded datasets?

Streams are the *in-motion* form of data
both bounded *and* unbounded.

Reconciling streams & tables w/ the Beam Model

- How does batch processing fit into all of this?
- What is the relationship of streams to bounded and unbounded datasets?
- How do the four *what*, *where*, *when*, *how* questions map onto a streams/tables world?

The Beam Model

What results are calculated?

Where in event time are results calculated?

When in processing time are results materialized?

How do refinements of results relate?

The Beam Model

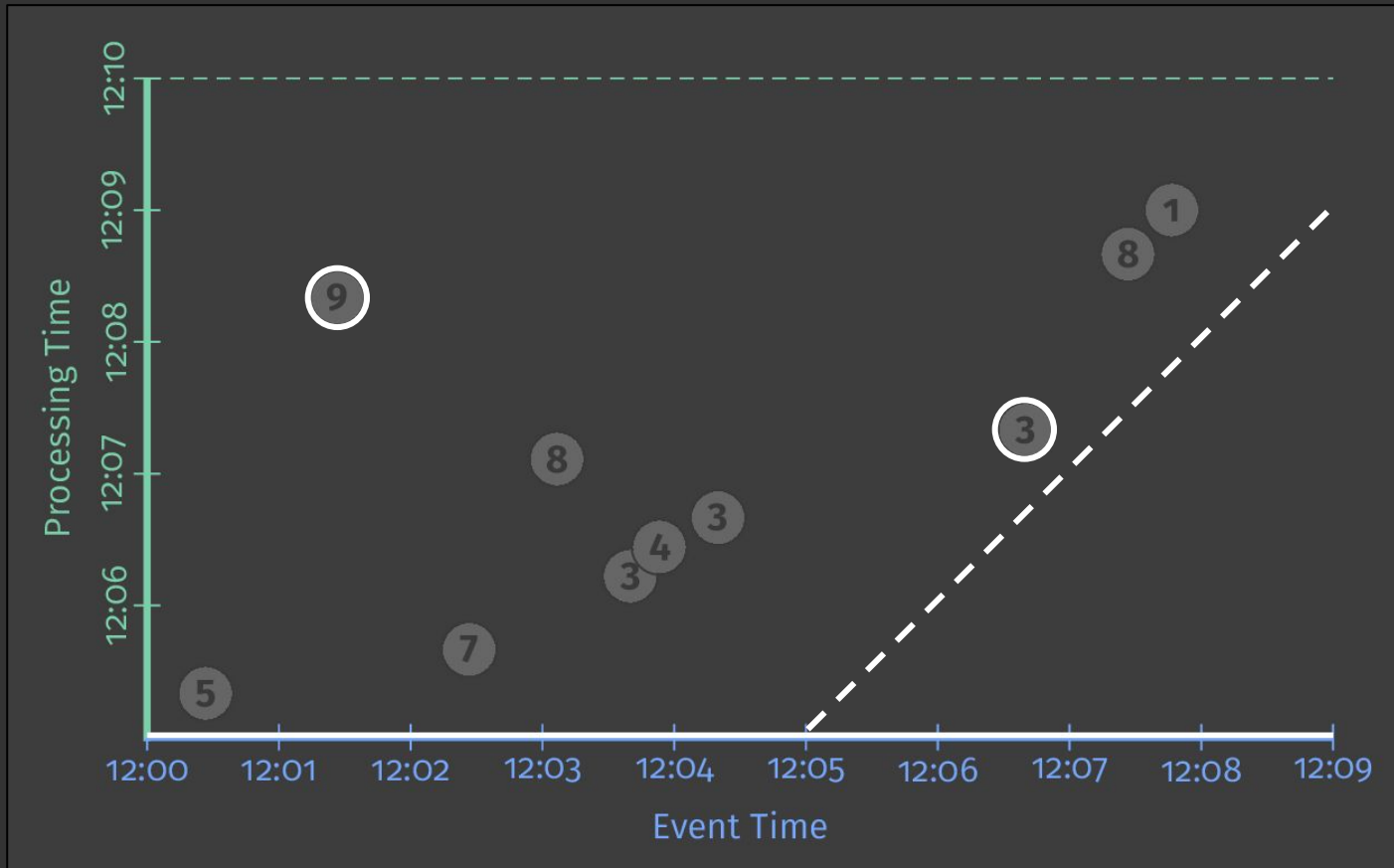
What results are calculated?

Where in event time are results calculated?

When in processing time are results materialized?

How do refinements of results relate?

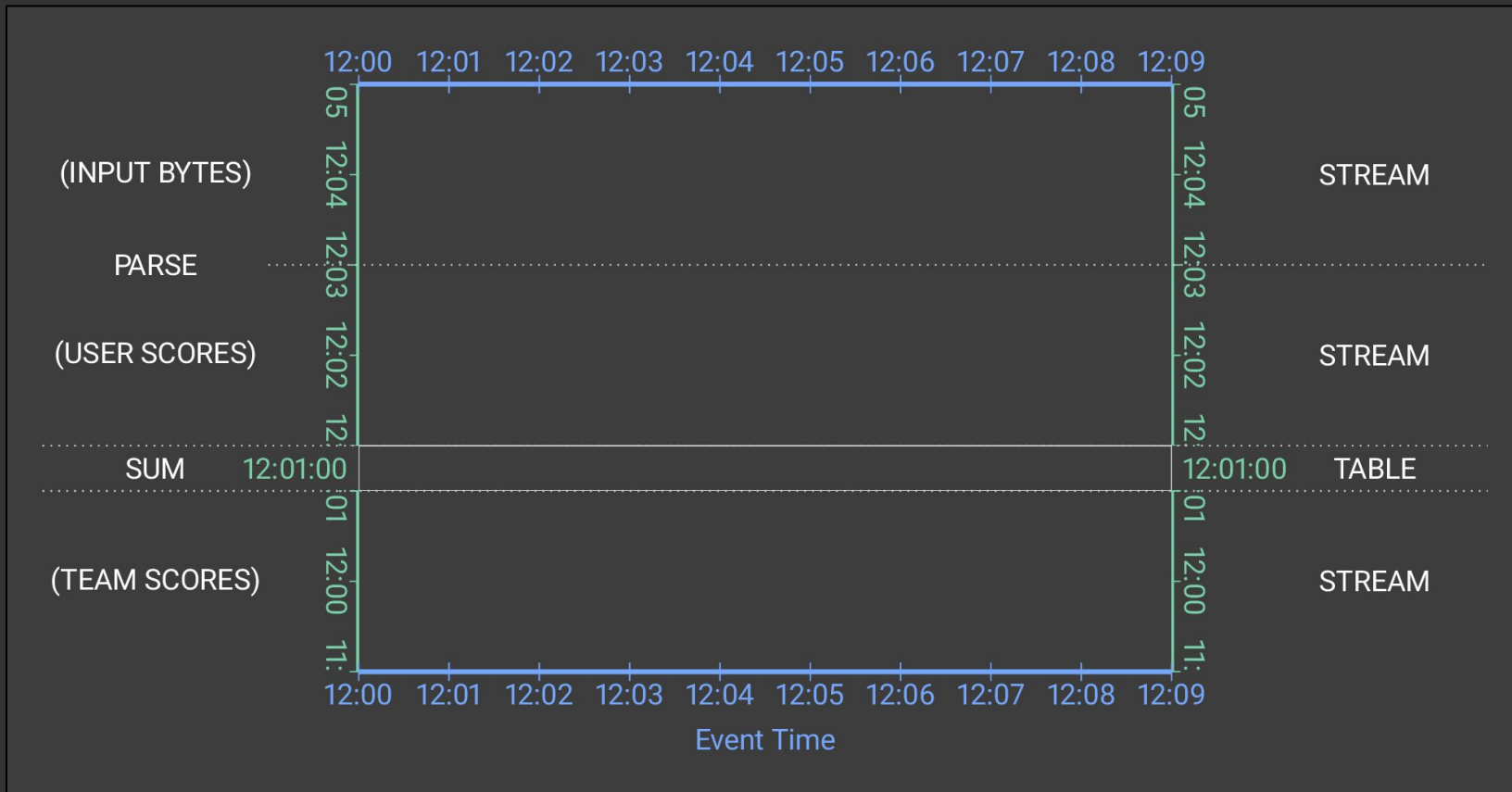
Example data: individual user scores



What is calculated?

```
PCollection<KV<Team, Score>> input = IO.read(...)  
    .apply(ParDo.of(new ParseFn()));  
    .apply(Sum.integersPerKey());
```


What is calculated?



The Beam Model

What results are calculated?

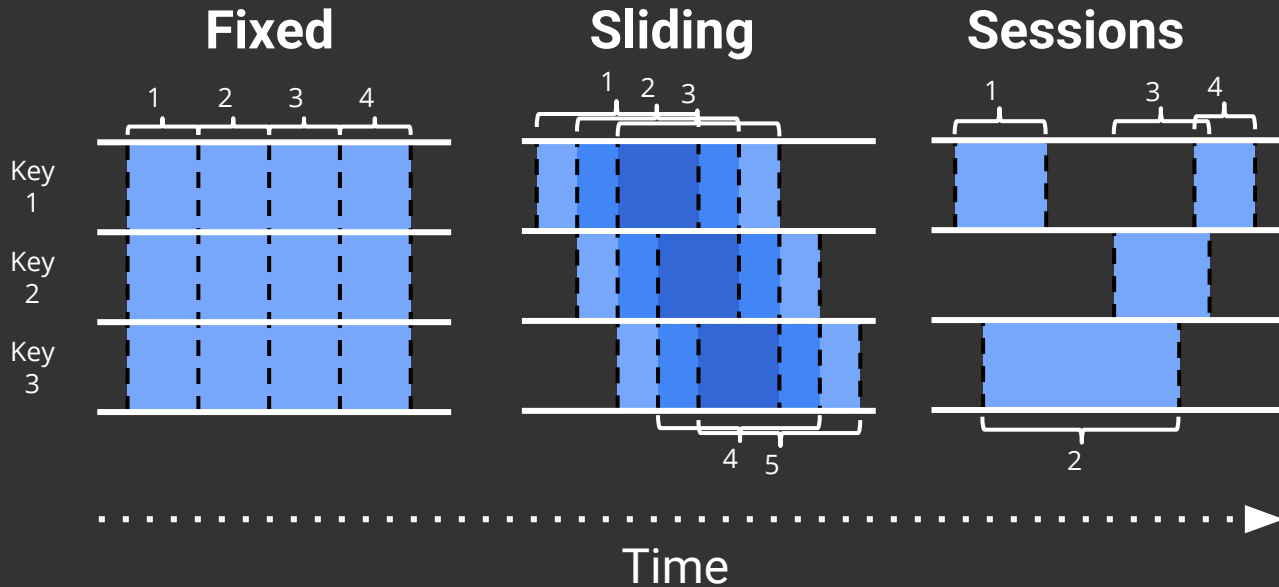
Where in event time are results calculated?

When in processing time are results materialized?

How do refinements of results relate?

Where in event time?

Windowing divides data into event-time-based finite chunks.

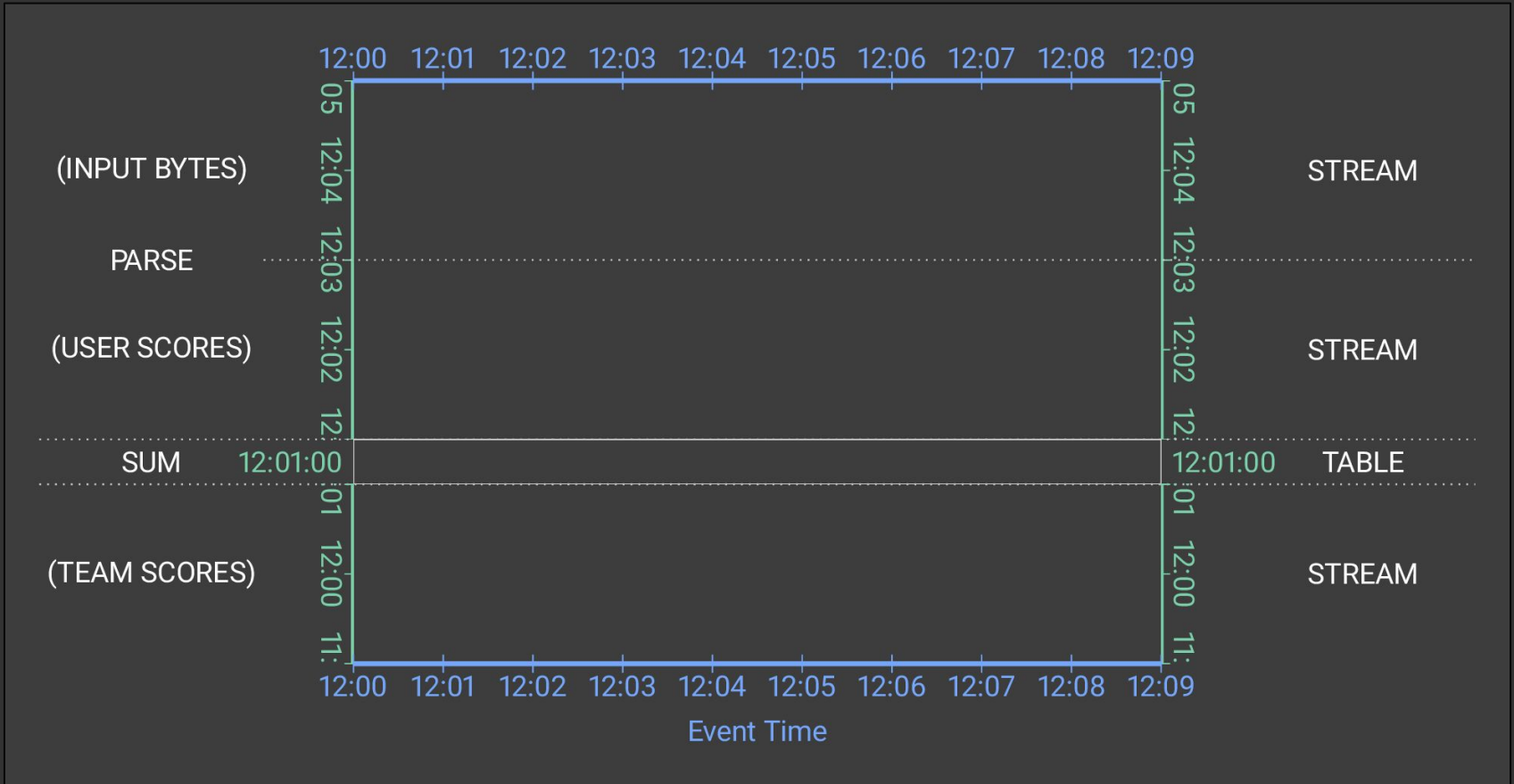


Often required when doing aggregations over unbounded data.

Where in event time?

```
PCollection<KV<User, Score>> input = IO.read(...)  
  .apply(ParDo.of(new ParseFn()));  
  .apply(Window.into(FixedWindows.of(Duration.standardMinutes(2))))  
  .apply(Sum.integersPerKey());
```

Where in event time?



The Beam Model

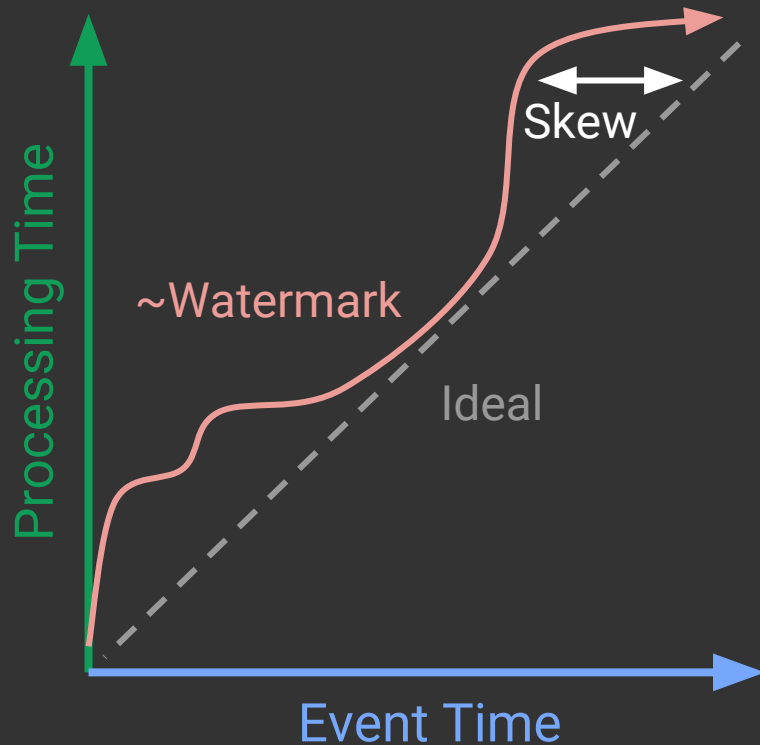
What results are calculated?

Where in event time are results calculated?

When in processing time are results materialized?

How do refinements of results relate?

When in processing time?

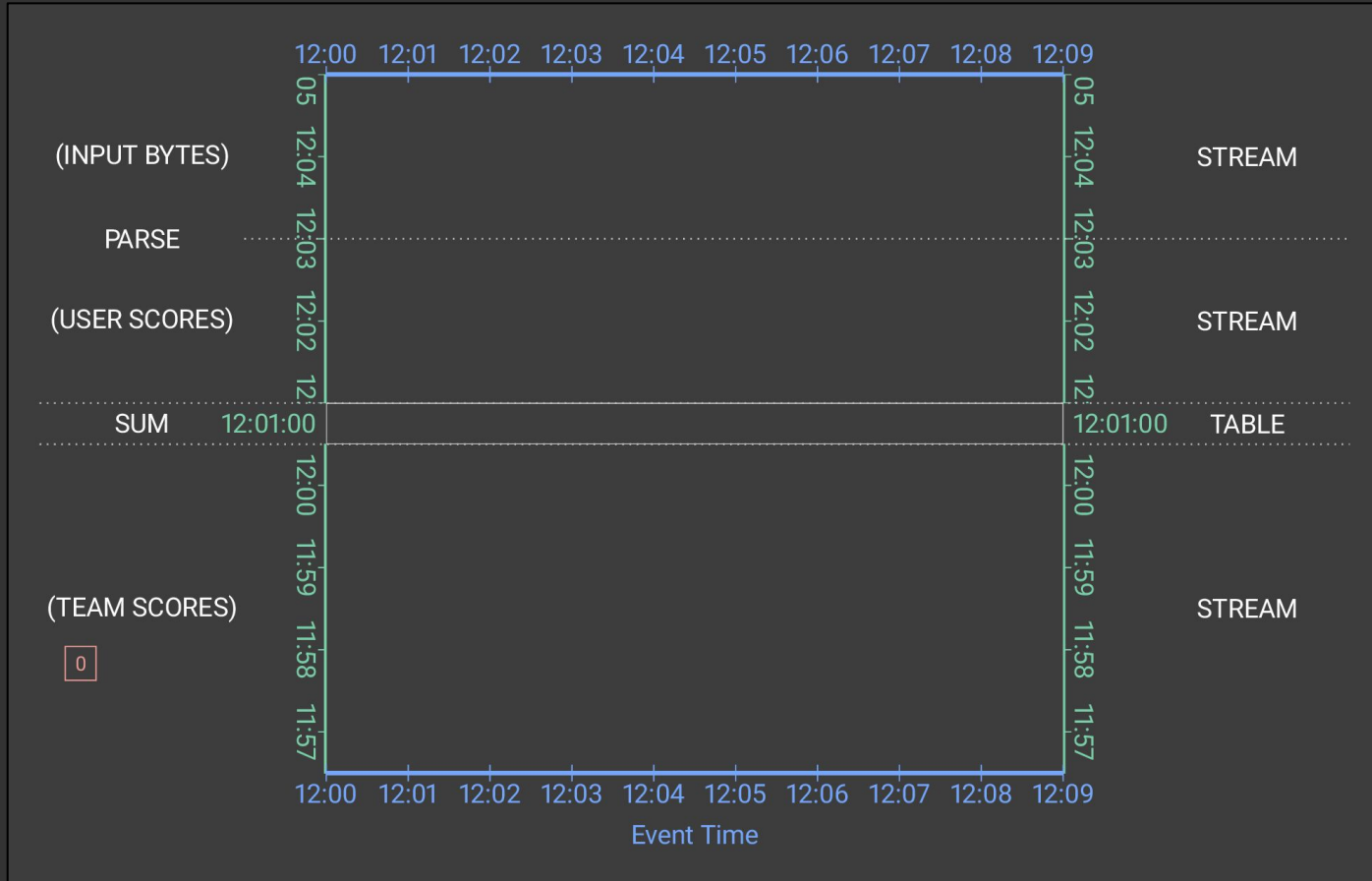


- **Triggers** control when results are emitted.
- Triggers are often relative to the **watermark**.

When in processing time?

```
PCollection<KV<User, Score>> input = IO.read(...)  
  .apply(ParDo.of(new ParseFn()));  
  .apply(Window.into(FixedWindows.of(Duration.standardMinutes(2))  
    .triggering(AtWatermark()))  
  .apply(Sum.integersPerKey());
```


When in processing time?



The Beam Model: asking the right questions

What results are calculated?

Where in event time are results calculated?

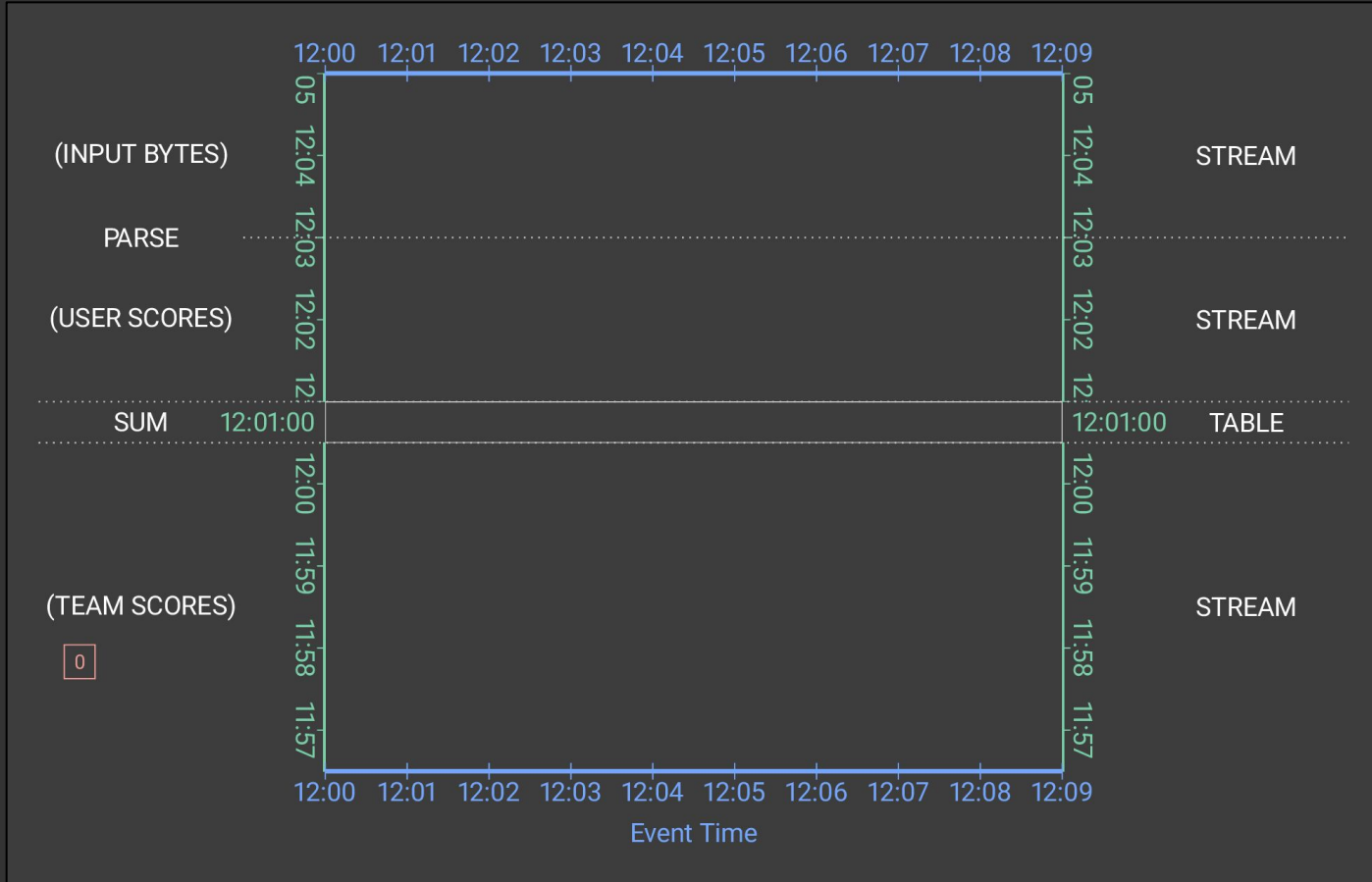
When in processing time are results materialized?

How do refinements of results relate?

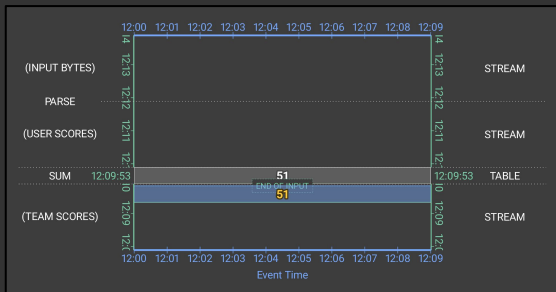
How do refinements relate?

```
PCollection<KV<User, Score>> input = IO.read(...)
  .apply(ParDo.of(new ParseFn()));
  .apply(Window.into(FixedWindows.of(Duration.standardMinutes(2))
    .triggering(AtWatermark()
      .withEarlyFirings(
        AtPeriod(Duration.standardMinutes(1)))
      .withLateFirings(AtCount(1)))
    .accumulatingFiredPanels()))
  .apply(Sum.integersPerKey());
```

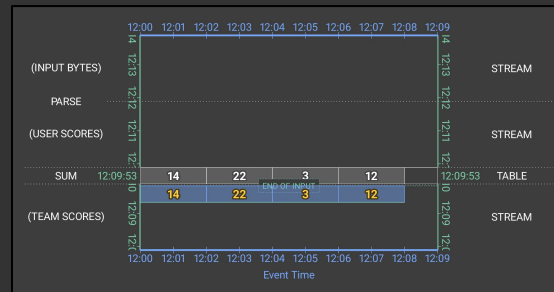
How do refinements relate?



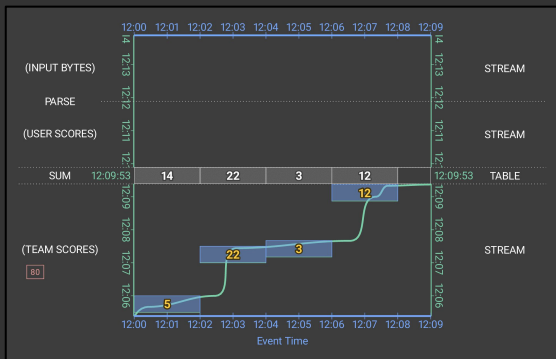
What/Where/When/How Summary



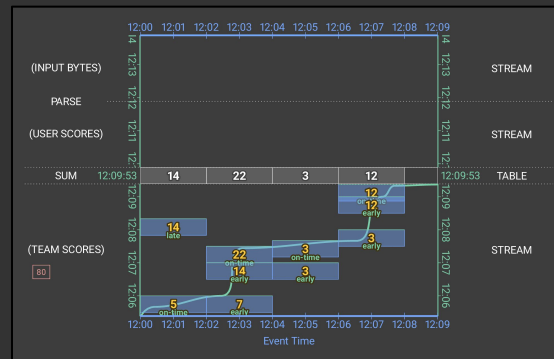
1. Classic Batch



2. Windowed Batch



3. Streaming



4. Streaming + Accumulation

Reconciling streams & tables w/ the Beam Model

- How does batch processing fit into all of this?
- What is the relationship of streams to bounded and unbounded datasets?
- How do the four *what*, *where*, *when*, *how* questions map onto a streams/tables world?

General theory of stream & table relativity

Pipelines : **tables** + **streams** + **operations**

Tables : data at rest

Streams : data in motion

Operations : (**stream** | **table**) \rightarrow (**stream** | **table**) transformations

- **stream** \rightarrow **stream**: Non-grouping (element-wise) operations
Leaves stream data in motion, yielding another stream.
- **stream** \rightarrow **table**: Grouping operations
Brings stream data to rest, yielding a table.
Windowing adds the dimension of time to grouping.
- **table** \rightarrow **stream**: Ungrouping (triggering) operations
Puts table data into motion, yielding a stream.
Accumulation dictates the nature of the stream (deltas, values, retractions).
- **table** \rightarrow **table**: (none)
Impossible to go from rest and back to rest without being put into motion.



02 Streaming SQL

Contorting relational algebra for fun and profit

- A Time-varying relations
- B SQL language extensions

Relational algebra

Relation

UserScores

User	Score	Time
Julie	7	12:01
Frank	3	12:03
Julie	1	12:03
Julie	4	12:07

Relational algebra

$\pi_{\text{Score, Time}}(\text{UserScores})$

Score	Time
7	12:01
3	12:03
1	12:03
4	12:07

SQL

```
SELECT Score, Time  
FROM UserScores;
```

```
-----  
| Score | Time |  
-----  
|      7 | 12:01 |  
|      3 | 12:03 |  
|      1 | 12:03 |  
|      4 | 12:07 |  
-----
```

Relations evolve over time

```
12:00> SELECT * FROM  
UserScores;
```

```
-----  
| Name | Score | Time |  
-----  
-----
```

```
12:01> SELECT * FROM  
UserScores;
```

```
-----  
| Name | Score | Time |  
-----  
| Julie | 7 | 12:01 |  
-----
```

```
12:03> SELECT * FROM  
UserScores;
```

```
-----  
| Name | Score | Time |  
-----  
| Julie | 7 | 12:01 |  
| Frank | 3 | 12:03 |  
| Julie | 1 | 12:03 |  
-----
```

```
12:07> SELECT * FROM  
UserScores;
```

```
-----  
| Name | Score | Time |  
-----  
| Julie | 7 | 12:01 |  
| Frank | 3 | 12:03 |  
| Julie | 1 | 12:03 |  
| Julie | 4 | 12:07 |  
-----
```

Classic SQL vs Streaming SQL

Classic SQL :: classic relations :: single point in time

Streaming SQL :: time-varying relations :: every point in time

Classic SQL vs Streaming SQL

Classic SQL :: classic relations :: single point in time

Streaming SQL :: **time-varying relations** :: every point in time

Classic relations

```
12:00> SELECT * FROM UserScores;
```

Name	Score	Time
------	-------	------

```
12:01> SELECT * FROM UserScores;
```

Name	Score	Time
Julie	7	12:01

```
12:03> SELECT * FROM UserScores;
```

Name	Score	Time
Julie	7	12:01
Frank	3	12:03
Julie	1	12:03

```
12:07> SELECT * FROM UserScores;
```

Name	Score	Time
Julie	7	12:01
Frank	3	12:03
Julie	1	12:03
Julie	4	12:07

Time-varying relation

```
12:07> SELECT * FROM UserScores;
```

[-inf, 12:01)

Name	Score	Time
------	-------	------

[12:01, 12:03)

Name	Score	Time
Julie	7	12:01

[12:03, 12:07)

Name	Score	Time
Julie	7	12:01
Frank	3	12:03
Julie	1	12:03

[12:07, now)

Name	Score	Time
Julie	7	12:01
Frank	3	12:03
Julie	1	12:03
Julie	4	12:07

Closure property of relational algebra
remains intact with time-varying relations.

Time-varying relation

```
12:07> SELECT * FROM UserScores;
```

[-inf, 12:01)				[12:01, 12:03)				[12:03, 12:07)				[12:07, now)			
Name	Score	Time		Name	Score	Time		Name	Score	Time		Name	Score	Time	
				Julie	7	12:01		Julie	7	12:01		Julie	7	12:01	
								Frank	3	12:03		Frank	3	12:03	
								Julie	1	12:03		Julie	1	12:03	
												Julie	4	12:07	

Time-varying relation: filtering

```
12:07> SELECT * FROM UserScores; WHERE Name = "Julie";
```

[-inf, 12:01)				[12:01, 12:03)				[12:03, 12:07)				[12:07, now)			
Name	Score	Time		Name	Score	Time		Name	Score	Time		Name	Score	Time	
				Julie	7	12:01		Julie	7	12:01		Julie	7	12:01	
								Frank	3	12:03		Frank	3	12:03	
								Julie	1	12:03		Julie	4	12:03	
												Julie	4	12:07	

Time-varying relation: grouping

```
12:07> SELECT Name, SUM(Score), MAX(Time) FROM USER_SCORES GROUP BY Name;
```

[-inf, 12:01)			[12:01, 12:03)			[12:03, 12:07)			[12:07, now)		
Name	Score	Time	Name	Score	Time	Name	Score	Time	Name	Score	Time
			Julie	7	12:01	Julie	8	12:03	Julie	17	12:07
						Bonnie	3	12:03	Bonnie	3	12:03
									Julie	4	12:07

How does this relate to **streams** & **tables**?

Time-varying relations: tables

```
12:07> SELECT Name, SUM(Score), MAX(Time) FROM USER_SCORES GROUP BY Name;
```

[-inf, 12:01)	[12:01, 12:03)	[12:03, 12:07)	[12:07, now)
Name Score Time	Name Score Time	Name Score Time	Name Score Time
	Julie 7 12:01	Julie 8 12:03	Julie 12 12:07
		Frank 3 12:03	Frank 3 12:03

```
12:00> SELECT TABLE Name, SUM(Score), MAX(Time) FROM UserScores GROUP BY Name;
```

Name	Score	Time

```
12:01> SELECT TABLE Name, SUM(Score), MAX(Time) FROM UserScores GROUP BY Name;
```

Name	Score	Time
Julie	7	12:01

```
12:03> SELECT TABLE Name, SUM(Score), MAX(Time) FROM UserScores GROUP BY Name;
```

Name	Score	Time
Julie	8	12:03
Frank	3	12:03

```
12:07> SELECT TABLE Name, SUM(Score), MAX(Time) FROM UserScores GROUP BY Name;
```

Name	Score	Time
Julie	12	12:07
Frank	3	12:03

Time-varying relations: tables

```
12:07> SELECT Name, SUM(Score), MAX(Time) FROM USER_SCORES GROUP BY Name;
```

[-inf, 12:01)			[12:01, 12:03)			[12:03, 12:07)			[12:07, now)		
Name	Score	Time	Name	Score	Time	Name	Score	Time	Name	Score	Time
			Julie	7	12:01	Julie	8	12:03	Julie	12	12:07
						Frank	3	12:03	Frank	3	12:03

```
12:01> SELECT TABLE Name,  
SUM(Score), MAX(Time) FROM  
UserScores GROUP BY Name;
```

Name	Score	Time
Julie	7	12:01

```
12:07> SELECT TABLE Name, SUM(Score), MAX(Time) AS OF  
SYSTEM TIME '12:01' FROM UserScores GROUP BY Name;
```

Name	Score	Time
Julie	7	12:01

Time-varying relations: tables

```
12:07> SELECT Name, SUM(Score), MAX(Time) FROM USER_SCORES GROUP BY Name;
```

[-inf, 12:01)	[12:01, 12:03)	[12:03, 12:07)	[12:07, now)
Name Score Time	Name Score Time	Name Score Time	Name Score Time
	Julie 7 12:01	Julie 8 12:03	Julie 12 12:07
		Frank 3 12:03	Frank 3 12:03

```
12:00> SELECT TABLE Name,  
SUM(Score), MAX(Time) FROM  
UserScores GROUP BY Name;
```

```
12:00> SELECT STREAM Name, SUM(Score), MAX(Time) FROM USER_SCORES GROUP BY Name;
```

Name	Score	Time

Name	Score	Time
...		



12:00

Time-varying relations: streams

```
12:07> SELECT Name, SUM(Score), MAX(Time) FROM USER_SCORES GROUP BY Name;
```

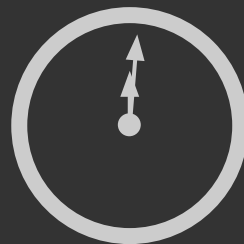
[-inf, 12:01)	[12:01, 12:03)	[12:03, 12:07)	[12:07, now)
Name Score Time	Name Score Time	Name Score Time	Name Score Time
	Julie 7 12:01	Julie 8 12:03	Julie 12 12:07
		Frank 3 12:03	Frank 3 12:03

```
12:00> SELECT TABLE Name,  
SUM(Score), MAX(Time) FROM  
UserScores GROUP BY Name;
```

Name	Score	Time

```
12:00> SELECT STREAM Name, SUM(Score), MAX(Time) FROM USER_SCORES GROUP BY Name;
```

Name	Score	Time
Julie	7	12:01
...		



12:01

Time-varying relations: streams

```
12:07> SELECT Name, SUM(Score), MAX(Time) FROM USER_SCORES GROUP BY Name;
```

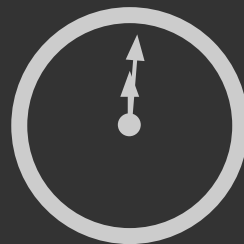
[-inf, 12:01)	[12:01, 12:03)	[12:03, 12:07)	[12:07, now)
Name Score Time	Name Score Time	Name Score Time	Name Score Time
	Julie 7 12:01	Julie 8 12:03	Julie 12 12:07
		Frank 3 12:03	Frank 3 12:03

```
12:01> SELECT TABLE Name,  
SUM(Score), MAX(Time) FROM  
UserScores GROUP BY Name;
```

Name	Score	Time
Julie	7	12:01

```
12:00> SELECT STREAM Name, SUM(Score), MAX(Time) FROM USER_SCORES GROUP BY Name;
```

Name	Score	Time
Julie	7	12:01
...		



12:01

Time-varying relations: streams

```
12:07> SELECT Name, SUM(Score), MAX(Time) FROM USER_SCORES GROUP BY Name;
```

[-inf, 12:01)	[12:01, 12:03)	[12:03, 12:07)	[12:07, now)
Name Score Time	Name Score Time	Name Score Time	Name Score Time
	Julie 7 12:01	Julie 8 12:03	Julie 12 12:07
		Frank 3 12:03	Frank 3 12:03

```
12:01> SELECT TABLE Name,  
SUM(Score), MAX(Time) FROM  
UserScores GROUP BY Name;
```

Name	Score	Time
Julie	7	12:01

```
12:00> SELECT STREAM Name, SUM(Score), MAX(Time) FROM USER_SCORES GROUP BY Name;
```

Name	Score	Time
Julie	7	12:01
Frank	3	12:03
Julie	8	12:03

...



12:03

Time-varying relations: streams

```
12:07> SELECT Name, SUM(Score), MAX(Time) FROM USER_SCORES GROUP BY Name;
```

[-inf, 12:01)	[12:01, 12:03)	[12:03, 12:07)	[12:07, now)
Name Score Time	Name Score Time	Name Score Time	Name Score Time
	Julie 7 12:01	Julie 8 12:03	Julie 12 12:07
		Frank 3 12:03	Frank 3 12:03

```
12:03> SELECT TABLE Name,  
SUM(Score), MAX(Time) FROM  
UserScores GROUP BY Name;
```

Name	Score	Time
Julie	8	12:03
Frank	3	12:03

```
12:00> SELECT STREAM Name, SUM(Score), MAX(Time) FROM USER_SCORES GROUP BY Name;
```

Name	Score	Time
Julie	7	12:01
Frank	3	12:03
Julie	8	12:03

...



12:03

Time-varying relations: streams

```
12:07> SELECT Name, SUM(Score), MAX(Time) FROM USER_SCORES GROUP BY Name;
```

[-inf, 12:01)	[12:01, 12:03)	[12:03, 12:07)	[12:07, now)
Name Score Time	Name Score Time	Name Score Time	Name Score Time
	Julie 7 12:01	Julie 8 12:03 Frank 3 12:03	Julie 12 12:07 Frank 3 12:03

```
12:03> SELECT TABLE Name,  
SUM(Score), MAX(Time) FROM  
UserScores GROUP BY Name;
```

Name	Score	Time
Julie	8	12:03
Frank	3	12:03

```
12:00> SELECT STREAM Name, SUM(Score), MAX(Time) FROM USER_SCORES GROUP BY Name;
```

Name	Score	Time
Julie	7	12:01
Frank	3	12:03
Julie	8	12:03
Julie	12	12:07

...



12:07

Time-varying relations: streams

```
12:07> SELECT Name, SUM(Score), MAX(Time) FROM USER_SCORES GROUP BY Name;
```

[-inf, 12:01)	[12:01, 12:03)	[12:03, 12:07)	[12:07, now)
Name Score Time	Name Score Time	Name Score Time	Name Score Time
	Julie 7 12:01	Julie 8 12:03	Julie 12 12:07
		Frank 3 12:03	Frank 3 12:03

```
12:07> SELECT TABLE Name,  
SUM(Score), MAX(Time) FROM  
UserScores GROUP BY Name;
```

Name	Score	Time
Julie	12	12:07
Frank	3	12:03

```
12:00> SELECT STREAM Name, SUM(Score), MAX(Time) FROM USER_SCORES GROUP BY Name;
```

Name	Score	Time
Julie	7	12:01
Frank	3	12:03
Julie	8	12:03
Julie	12	12:07

...



12:07

How does this relate to streams & tables?

Tables capture a point-in-time snapshot of a time-varying relation.

Streams capture the evolution of a time-varying relation over time.



02 Streaming SQL

Contorting relational algebra for fun and profit

- A Time-varying relations
- B SQL language extensions**

When do you need SQL extensions for streaming?

good defaults = often not needed

How is output consumed?

As a **table**: SQL extensions rarely needed.

As a **stream**: SQL extensions sometimes needed.

When do you need SQL extensions for streaming?*

Explicit **table** / **stream** selection

- SELECT **TABLE** * from X;
- SELECT **STREAM** * from X;

Timestamps and windowing

- Event-time columns
- Windowing. E.g.,

```
SELECT * FROM X GROUP BY  
SESSION(<COLUMN> INTERVAL '5'  
MINUTE);
```

 - Grouping by timestamp
 - Complex multi-row transactions inexpressible in declarative SQL (e.g., session windows)

Sane default table / stream selection

- If all inputs are **tables**, output is a **table**
- If any inputs are **streams**, output is a **stream**

Simple triggers

- Implicitly defined by characteristics of the sink
- Optionally be configured outside of query.
- Per-query, e.g.:

```
SELECT * from X EMIT <WHEN>;
```
- Focused set of use cases:
 - Periodic processing-time heartbeat

```
... EMIT AFTER <TIMEDELTA>
```
 - Watermark past timestamp

```
... EMIT WHEN WATERMARK PAST <COLUMN>
```
 - Periodic + watermark (e.g., early/on-time/late pattern)

```
... EMIT AFTER <TIMEDELTA> AND WHEN  
WATERMARK PAST <COLUMN>
```

* Most of these extensions are theoretical at this point; very few have concrete implementations.

Summary

streams \Leftrightarrow tables

streams & tables : Beam Model

time-varying relations

SQL language extensions

Thank you!

These slides: <http://s.apache.org/streaming-sql-data-day-sea>

Streaming SQL spec (WIP: Apex, Beam, Calcite, Flink): <http://s.apache.org/streaming-sql-spec>

Streaming in Calcite (Julian Hyde): <https://calcite.apache.org/docs/stream.html>

Streams, joins & temporal tables (Julian Hyde): <http://s.apache.org/streams-joins-and-temporal-tables>

Streaming 101: <http://oreilly.com/ideas/the-world-beyond-batch-streaming-101>

Streaming 102: <http://oreilly.com/ideas/the-world-beyond-batch-streaming-102>

Apache Beam: <http://beam.apache.org>

Apache Calcite: <http://calcite.apache.org>

Apache Flink: <http://flink.apache.org>

Twitter: [@takidau](https://twitter.com/takidau)

In early release now
streamingsystems.net

