Development of Big Data framework for Cherenkov Telescope Array
The Real-Time Analysis of CTA

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Why Big Data?

- 5 V of Big Data: Velocity, Volume, Variety, Veracity and Value
- New generation of observatories leads to Big Data
- Key technologies for feature observatories like SKA and CTA

**SKA**

Raw Data: 16 TB/s  
Archive Data: 600 PB/y  
Real-time: 5 TB/s

**CTA**

Raw Data: 1000 PB/y  
Archive Data: 3 PB/y  
Real-time: 1-5 GB/s
Cherenkov Telescope Array

- More than 100 telescopes located in the northern and southern hemispheres
- Three different telescopes: LST 23m, MST 11.5m and SST ~4m
- CTA consortium with 1420 members from >200 institutes in 31 countries
- CTA will be the world’s largest and most sensitive high-energy gamma-ray observatory
CTA Real-Time Analysis requirements

- At INAF/OAS Bologna we are developing several RTA prototypes of the Real-Time Analysis (ASTRI, LST1, CTA)
- Scientific analysis in real-time during the observation.
- Data rate of 2-5 GB/s
- On-site with telescopes (limited hardware)
- Generate Science Alerts with a latency of 30s
- Run multiple analysis in parallel to manage sub-array, different time scales or different analysis tools
RTA-SCI and RTA-GUI

- RTA-SCI is currently used and developed by the AGILE team for GW automatic response.

- The RTA-SCI has different inputs and produces different scientific output: Light Curves, Counts Maps, Alerts, Detections and TS Maps.

- The RTA-SCI runs multiple analysis in parallel: for this reason it requires a framework for scalability and flexibility.

- RTA-GUI must provide fast updates for different simultaneous events.
RTA-RECO and RTA-DQ

- During the reconstruction and the data quality analysis we have high data volume and data rate (kHz/s, GB/s).
- The data output from different reconstruction steps must be stored or buffered to run data quality analysis.
- All the process should be done in-memory to reduce IO usage and improve the performance.
- The data reduction streaming process can be done in parallel in order to use more computing power.
CTA Real-Time Analysis requires Big Data technologies because the data have the 5 V of Big Data definition.

We are studying different technologies to develop a Big Data framework for data management and temporary storage.

We are testing an easy way to deploy these technologies in different contexts.
Tools and Technologies

- MySQL: Relational Database
- In-Memory non relational database
- Spark: Cluster Computing Framework
- Slurm: Cluster workload manager
- Container management
- Kafka: Handling real time data feeds
Spark - Cluster Computing Framework

Key features:

- Streaming application
- Parallel computing
- Scalability, Flexibility
- Failure management
- Python development
- Web GUI monitoring
Singularity – containers manager

- All services (MySQL, slurm, Spark, Kafka and other) and all analysis software are installed inside a singularity container.
- This container can be deployed on many different hardware machines and allow high scalability and flexibility.
- Using singularity container we are able to use a process of continuous integration with Jenkins.
We are collaborating with INAF/OAR Roma ASTRI team to develop the ASTRI RTA.
Real Time Analysis for LST1

- A collaboration with LST1 team is on going to implement the full LST1 RTA

- We tested our RTA singularity environment inside the La Palma IT cluster

- We tested and improved the cta-lstchain reconstruction performance using Spark and Kafka. More than 2000 Hz on a single machine.
Conclusions

- The need of Big Data technologies will increase with the future observatories.
- We are developing a Big Data framework for the CTA RTA using open source technologies.
- This framework can be easily deployed in different environments and contexts using singularity containers.