

MapReduce: an infrastructure review and research insights

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Abstract

In the current decade, doing the search on massive data to fnd "hidden" and valuable information within it is growing. This search can result in heavy processing on considerable data, leading to the development of solutions to process such huge information based on distributed and parallel processing. Among all the parallel programming models, one that gains a lot of popularity is MapReduce. The goal of this paper is to survey researches conducted on the MapReduce framework in the context of its open-source implementation, Hadoop, in order to summarize and report the wide topic area at the infrastructure level. We managed to do a systematic review based on the prevalent topics dealing with MapReduce in seven areas: (1) performance; (2) job/task scheduling; (3) load balancing; (4) resource provisioning; (5) fault tolerance in terms of availability and reliability; (6) security; and (7) energy efficiency. We run our study by doing a quantitative and qualitative evaluation of the research publications' trend which is published between January 1, 2014, and November 1, 2017. Since the MapReduce is a challenge-prone area for researchers who fall off to work and extend with, this work is a useful guideline for getting feedback and starting research.

Keywords MapReduce paradigm · Parallel and distributed programming model · Hadoop · Systematic review

1 Introduction

Over the past years, there has been a flow of data at the scale of petabytes produced by users' jobs [\[1](#page-64-0)]. Known as the Big data era, this makes it difcult for enterprises to maintain and extract valuable information for offering efficient and user-friendly services [\[2](#page-65-0)]. Due to the nature of services provided by these frms, data are available

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in diferent formats such as image, log, text, and video [[3\]](#page-65-1). They also have extensive information in diferent languages because of many users around the world. Therefore, researchers have found themselves involved in the most complex processes such as the data storage technique, instant data lookup, manipulation, and updating of the data [\[4](#page-65-2)].

As the data are extremely large and unstructured, and needs real-time analysis, it has raised a concept in many researchers' mentality that a new platform for data retention, transmission, storage, and processing is required [\[5](#page-65-3)]. The platform that is capable of processing and analyzing the large volumes of data with an acceptable velocity and reasonable cost. This necessity, from the point of data platform architecture, led to yield parallel and distributed computing on the clusters and grids. In these environments with cost-efective and high-capacity hardware, programming requires to consider data consistency and integrity, node load balancing, skew mitigation, fair resource allocation, and preemption and non-preemption of jobs. Thus, programmers constantly live in fear of these obstacles [[4\]](#page-65-2). To hide the complexities from users' view of the parallel processing system and abstract the system characteristics, numerous frameworks have been released. The goal of all of these frameworks is focusing the user on his/her production programs and delegating the complexity and controls to the framework [[6\]](#page-65-4).

Across all frameworks, MapReduce is known as a certain programming pattern. This pattern is inspired by the functional language Lisp [\[4](#page-65-2)], enabling end users to express all kinds of parallel procedures with Map and Reduce functions, without considering the messy parallelism details like fault tolerance, data distribution, and load balancing. It has major importance in handling Big data matter [[7\]](#page-65-5).

The basic architecture of the MapReduce framework has two functions called Map and Reduce wherein the former feeds the latter's input to carry out the computing. The signifcance of this pattern in serially performing batch processing on Big data is clearly visible [[6\]](#page-65-4). In this framework, parallel computing is commenced by distributing map tasks on diferent nodes and simultaneously processing disparate data partitions called split. Eventually, by aggregating map outputs and applying the reduce function, the fnal results are produced, thus accomplishing processing [[1\]](#page-64-0).

In recent years, the expansion and evolution of MapReduce especially in the context of its open-source implementation "Hadoop" has resulted in features such as energy efficiency of jobs, fault tolerance, load balancing of cluster, scheduling of jobs and tasks, security, performance, and elasticity which has generally propelled the publishing of multiple articles in journals and conferences.

Some other programming models such as Spark [[8\]](#page-65-6) and DataMPI [\[9](#page-65-7)] are competing with MapReduce. Since MapReduce is an open source with high performance which is used by many big companies for processing batch jobs [\[10](#page-65-8), [11\]](#page-65-9) and is our future research line, we chose to conduct the study on the MapReduce programming model. Table [1](#page-2-0) compares the features of MapReduce, Spark, and DataMPI.

With the help of the recent articles, considered in this research study and by using inclusion and exclusion criteria, an illustration of MapReduce topics in a systematic study template is presented, thus making the research simple and explicit for readers. The only systematic literature study [[4\]](#page-65-2) on MapReduce, which is a holistic paper, was conducted in 2014, but since then to the present time, no other systematic

and comprehensive review has been done. To the best of our knowledge, our study is the frst systematic paper from 2014 to November 2017 which is comprehensive and holistic. In this paper, we have considered prominent varied topics of MapReduce which are required to be further investigated. We extracted and analyzed data from the relevant studies of MapReduce to answer the research questions (RQs) and have presented the answers as our work's contribution.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows. Section [2](#page-4-0) consists of two parts: In part one, we introduce a brief architectural overview of MapReduce and Hadoop as its mostly regarded implementation, and in part two, we provide our research methodology. Section [3](#page-10-0) reviews the selected papers of three phases. In Sect. [4](#page-49-0), we answer the research questions and analyze the results to highlight hot and cold issues in the studies and discuss opportunities for future research. Finally, in Sect. [5](#page-64-1) we present our conclusions and the limitations of our research.

2 Background and research methodology

2.1 Background

Hadoop is an open-source Apache project [[12\]](#page-65-10) that was inspired by Google's proprietary Google File System and MapReduce framework [\[13](#page-65-11)]. Hadoop distributed fle system provides a fault-tolerant storage of large datasets [\[12](#page-65-10)[–14](#page-65-12)]. Figure [1](#page-4-1) shows the HDFS architecture. HDFS supports high-performance access to data using threereplica data block placement policy; two in-rack block replica; and one off-rack block replica [\[15](#page-65-13)]. It has two major components: one NameNode and Many DataNodes, in which the metadata are stored on NameNode and application data are kept on DataNodes. A dedicated server called Secondary NameNode is employed for fle system image recovery in the presence of failure [\[14](#page-65-12)] which provides high availability of Hadoop [[16\]](#page-65-14). The NameNode–DataNodes architecture makes the system

Fig. 1 HDFS architecture [[16\]](#page-65-14)

scalable, and all the nodes communicate through TCP protocols [\[13](#page-65-11)]. The scheduler for job assignment across the Hadoop cluster resides in the Master node [[17\]](#page-65-15).

MapReduce, the processing unit of Hadoop consists of two main components: one JobTracker and many TaskTrackers in which the JobTracker coordinates the user's job across the cluster and the TaskTrackers run the tasks and report to the Job-Tracker [[1,](#page-64-0) [14,](#page-65-12) [18](#page-65-16), [19\]](#page-65-17). Figure [2](#page-5-0) shows the MapReduce job execution fow. All the input splits key-value pairs are processed in parallel using the mappers [[14,](#page-65-12) [17](#page-65-15), [18\]](#page-65-16). The mapped out fles which are called intermediate data are partitioned based on the key, sorted in each partition, and then written on the local disk of the DataNodes [\[1](#page-64-0), [20\]](#page-65-18). Reducers fetch remotely the data related to the similar key and produce the reduce output fles which are stored on HDFS [[14,](#page-65-12) [20\]](#page-65-18).

Hadoop ecosystem consists of many projects which can be categorized as (1) NoSQL databases and their handler projects such as HBase, Sqoop, and Flume; (2) data collecting and processing projects such as Kafka, Spark, and Storm; (3) workfow and streaming data analysis projects such as Pig, Hive, Mahout, Spark's MLlib, and Drill; (4) administration projects like ZooKeeper and Ambari for providing and coordinating the services in the distributed environment of Hadoop cluster; and (5) security projects such as centralized role-based Sentry, non-role-based Ranger, and Knox [\[14](#page-65-12), [19,](#page-65-17) [21](#page-65-19), [22\]](#page-65-20). Furthermore, we can name some of Hadoop distributions such as MapR, Cloudera, Hortonworks DataPlatform, Pivotal DataSuite, and IBM InfoSphere and some Hadoop repositories including HealthData, National Climate Datacenter, and Amazon Web Services datasets [\[23](#page-65-21)].

Fig. 2 MapReduce job execution fow [\[20](#page-65-18)]

2.2 Research methodology

According to [\[24](#page-65-22)[–26](#page-65-23)], we classify and select the articles based on the following protocol:

- According to our research area, some research questions are defined.
- According to these research questions, keywords are found.
- Search strings are made based on these keywords, i.e., by logical and proximity search of keywords in the validated databases as a source to fnd the targeted papers.
- Final papers are screened based on some inclusion and exclusion criteria.

2.2.1 Research questions

Research questions are classifed into two categories: quantitative and qualitative. Hence, based on this category, we bring up the research questions:

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- **RQ1** What topics have been considered most in MapReduce field?
RO2 What are the main parameters, investigated by the studies? What are the main parameters, investigated by the studies?
- **RQ3** What are the main artifacts produced by this research?
- **RQ4** What experimental platforms have been used by the researchers for analysis and evaluation?
- **RQ5** What kind of benchmarks and dataset have been used in the experiments?
- **RQ6** What are the open challenges and future directions in Hadoop MapReduce?

2.2.2 Paper selection process

We use the following libraries as sources to direct the search process:

- IEEE Xplore ([http://www.ieee.org/web/publications/xplore/\)](http://www.ieee.org/web/publications/xplore/).
- ScienceDirect—Elsevier (<http://www.elsevier.com>).
- SpringerLink [\(http://www.springerlink.com\)](http://www.springerlink.com).
- ACM Library [\(http://dl.acm.org/\)](http://dl.acm.org/).

We organize the researches in three phases. In each phase, we defne search terms for fnding systematic mapping and literature studies, regular surveys, and primary studies, respectively.

Phase 1. Finding Systematic Studies

We applied "*" to represent zero or more alphanumeric characters for the word "study" for fnding its variants like "study" and "studies" and parentheses used if the word "systematic" is not in title but in abstract or keywords.

Phase 2. Finding Survey Studies

We frst applied search string "Title: MapReduce AND (Title: survey OR Title: review)." However, since we wanted to exclude "systematic review" from our results, we used the "NOT" operator in the search string.

Table 2 Search strings

Phase 3. Finding Primary Studies

Since the mostly regarded implementation of MapReduce is Hadoop, in order to have a holistic search, our search strings were made from the terms like "MapReduce" and "Hadoop." As the results were too many, we refned the hit list by using an advanced search option, in title, abstract, and author keywords [[27](#page-65-24)]. The three-phase search strings are shown in Table [2](#page-7-0).

To assure that only the qualifed publications are included from January 2014 up to November 2017, we applied the following inclusion criteria (Table [3\)](#page-7-1) to select the fnal papers:

Using this strategy, we found 66 papers for conducting the study in which five studies $[4, 26, 28-30]$ $[4, 26, 28-30]$ $[4, 26, 28-30]$ $[4, 26, 28-30]$ $[4, 26, 28-30]$ $[4, 26, 28-30]$ have conducted the systematic review, six studies $[2, 24]$ $[2, 24]$ $[2, 24]$ [31](#page-66-1)[–35\]](#page-66-2) have done a survey in Hadoop MapReduce, and the rest which will be reviewed in Sect. [3.2](#page-11-0) are the primary studies in MapReduce feld. Figure [3](#page-8-0) shows the adopted process of article selection in the study.

Figure [4](#page-8-1) shows the number of articles per year from January 2014 to November 2017. It is observed that the publication of papers in the feld of Hadoop MapReduce infrastructure level has an increasing trend. Figure [5](#page-8-2) shows the number of shares of each publisher to the publications.

Fig. 3 Schematic map of article selection process

Fig. 4 Annual distribution of publications, from January 2014 to November 2017

2.2.3 Studies classifcation

According to the researches, we could reach a good prospect of the main existing challenges in the MapReduce framework. We classifed the studies in seven categories according to their main research focus. Figure [6](#page-9-0) shows the taxonomy.

Fig. 6 Taxonomy of the MapReduce studies

We explain each topic category concisely from right to left direction in taxonomy.

- The studies in which the system efficiency is the main concern, indicators such as makespan (jobs completion time), network traffic in transferring data from map tasks to reduce tasks during shuffle phase and number of disks I/O, tuning system parameters, and dealing with stragglers (slow tasks) in the cluster are highly essential for consideration.
- Reliability and availability parameters are important when the studies intend to consider the fault tolerance of a MapReduce cluster. Since the master node is a single point of failure, how to design the fault-tolerant mechanisms to keep the master node available is the main concern. When a data node fails, keeping access to the requested data by tasks is another concern in the fault tolerance topic. Furthermore, considering solutions when map and reduce tasks fail during the processing is another key point.
- When some reduce tasks have more input data which cause an unbalanced load across the cluster, the data skew parameter should be considered. Moreover, considering efficient data access as the main focus, where to place data across the cluster and the replication number of each data block are the major parameters.
- Mitigating energy consumption as the major objective, the cluster characteristics and application type should be noted. How to launch a task near its data (data locality) to improve job execution time and subsequently the energy consumption is an important concern in the energy efficiency studies.
- The studies which are focused on security, data security when it is transferring (data in motion) or stored (data in rest), secure map and reduce tasks execution, and secure data fow in the presence of threats and attacks are the critical concerns of MapReduce.
- The cases in which the high workload causes a high demand for resources, researches provide solutions such as provisioning the resources in run-time, i.e., they consider elasticity parameter.
- The studies in which scheduling is the main topic, solutions like adaptive schedulers, efficient resource allocation, and data locality-aware schedulers play vital roles. The adaptive scheduler as the frst solution could be employed to schedule user jobs with various SLAs using job run-time information to improve performance metrics including job execution time, makespan, CPU utilization, etc. Resource allocation as the second solution is used to allocate resources to user jobs efficiently. Data locality-aware scheduler is another efective solution to optimize one or a set of performance metrics including data locality, energy consumption, makespan, and so on.

3 Review of studies

In this section, we review primary studies and regular surveys separately.

3.1 Regular surveys

In [\[31](#page-66-1)], the authors divided the existing defciencies in MapReduce into three categories in terms of improvement goals: (1) the native variants which are the studies done by Google as the creator of MapReduce; (2) the Apache variants studies focused on Hadoop; and (3) the third-party extensions wherein most of them have investigated the Hadoop platform improvements such as the I/O access in Hadoop platform, enhancement of database operations in Hadoop, and scheduling scheme of Hadoop map and reduce tasks. This survey also compares the parallel DBMSs with MapReduce in terms of scalability and efficiency. The authors also mention the reason for different parallel processing technologies specifcally MapReduce attracting attention. Furthermore, they reviewed some hybrid systems which integrate traditional RDBMS alongside MapReduce. However, there is no comparison between these studies' pitfalls and advantages.

Derbeko et al. [\[32](#page-66-3)] have studied the security and privacy aspects of the MapReduce framework in a cloud environment. On the one hand, there is a close relationship of the cloud and MapReduce such that the deployment of the MapReduce in public clouds enables users to process large-scale data in a cost-efective manner and provide the ease of processing and management. But, on the other hand, this deployment causes security and privacy challenges since it does not guarantee the rigorous security and privacy of computations as well as stored data. The authors also investigated the security-related projects in the context of MapReduce such as authentication of users, users' authorization, auditing–confdentiality–integrity–availability (ACIA) of both the data computation pair and verifcation of outputs. Additionally, they considered the privacy aspects besides security such as the ability of each participating party to prevent adversarial parties from observing data, codes, computations, and outputs. However, the authors did not address some security issues such as authorization frameworks and trust domains of MapReduce requiring diferent MapReduce algorithms for data encryption and privacy policies.

Hashem et al. [[2\]](#page-65-0) have reviewed the application of MapReduce, as a promising technology, in various domains such as telecommunication, manufacturing, pharmaceutical, and governmental organizations. It also considers the algorithms and solutions for improvement and reduction in its challenges between the years 2006 and 2015. This paper has conducted a basic bibliometric study using keywords, abstracts, titles, afliations, citations, countries, and authorship. Moreover, this paper has investigated the most infuential articles of Scopus platform in the MapReduce improvement domain such as declarative interfaces, data access, data processing, data transfer, iteration, resource allocation, and communication in MapReduce as well as their pros and cons.

Li et al. [[33\]](#page-66-4) have studied the basic concept of the MapReduce framework, its limitations, and the proposed optimization methods. These optimization methods are classifed into several topics such as job scheduling optimization, improvement in MapReduce programming model, real-time computation support for stream data, speeding up the hardware of the system, performance tuning like confguration parameters, energy saving as a major cost, and its security through stronger authentication and authorization mechanisms. Moreover, some open-source implementation frameworks of MapReduce are presented in Table [4](#page-12-0). Although this is a comprehensive study, it still needs more research on the mentioned aspects.

Iyer et al. [\[34](#page-66-5)] considered the data-intensive processing and its various approaches along with their advantages and disadvantages, MapReduce programming model, and the application of MapReduce in diverse felds. Some platforms which compete with Hadoop for processing large data are as follows: (1) sector and Sphere in terms of processing speed in TeraSort benchmark; (2) DryadLINQ which is a sequential programming model combined with LINQ expressions making the programming easy; (3) integration of Kepler and Hadoop for workfow applications which provide an easy-to-use architecture and impressive performance. The investigated studies have been compared in terms of scalability, efficiency, file system type, and cost. The number of comparison criteria is adequate; however, the number of considered papers is not enough.

Liu et al. [[35\]](#page-66-2) have investigated the fault tolerance aspect of MapReduce. In the distributed commodity Hadoop, due to the failure probability in each of the levels of the system such as node level, rack level, and cluster level it causes the emerging of the slow tasks (also known as straggler task), the speculative execution of these tasks is urgent. Hadoop supports this method by the execution of the copy of the slow task on another node which will process the task faster and make the Hadoop throughput better. Additionally, some other speculative methods such as LATE, MCP, Ex-MCP, and ERUL in a heterogeneous environment of Hadoop have been considered.

3.2 Primary studies

In the following sections, we thoroughly consider and analyze individually each topic, presented in Fig. [6.](#page-9-0) Our observations are summarized in a table in each subsection. The studies are compared in terms of main idea, advantages, weakness, investigated parameters, their tool and method, benchmarks, dataset and jobs

(workload), and the experimental platform to fnd whether the study contribution has been implemented, simulated, or both.

3.2.1 Energy efficiency studies

Mashayekhy et al. $[36]$ $[36]$ have proposed a framework to improve the energy efficiency of deadline-assigned MapReduce jobs. The authors have modeled the performance of individual tasks of a job as an Integer Program. To solve the problem, they have provided two heuristic scheduling algorithms which quickly fnd the nearoptimal solutions. Therefore, the schedulers are also suitable for real-time systems. The model was designed to fulfll the service-level agreement in terms of meeting the deadline of jobs. Since there are multiple jobs with diferent functionalities in a Hadoop cluster, how to model an efficient and distributed scheduler to solve the energy problem has not been considered by the authors.

Ibrahim et al. [[37\]](#page-66-7) have investigated the impact of dynamic voltage and frequency scaling (DVFS) on the performance and energy consumption of the Hadoop cluster and trade-off between performance and power. There are several modes to mitigate power usage using DVFS and Turbo including power save, conservative, and ondemand modes. However, these governors result in sub-optimal solutions even in diferent phases of Hadoop and do not refect their design goal. Furthermore, the jobs consume diferent power in these modes and have not the same execution time which impacts the performance of the entire cluster. Therefore, the authors have provided the insights for efficiently deploying and executing MapReduce jobs by determining the job type including CPU-intensive, I/O-intensive, and network-intensive, and then dynamically tuning the suitable governor according to CPU load.

Song et al. [[38\]](#page-66-8) have proposed a modulo-based mapping function in which the data blocks are mapped to the nodes of a cluster in order to mitigate the data shuffing and saving energy. The insight behind of such mapping is that by fairly distributing the data blocks across a heterogeneous cluster and by considering the data characteristics, each task can locally access its data and all the tasks can be completed simultaneously. To achieve this goal, the authors considered three factors: "fairness of size," "fairness of range," and "best adaptability." However, the proposed algorithm is deprived of considering the replacement strategy of the blocks when a node failure happens or employing a data replication method in the presence of node failure.

Cai et al. [\[39](#page-66-9)] have proposed a network traffic-aware and DVFS-enabled resource allocation scheduler. Based on job profling, the scheduler allocates the resources to deadline-assigned jobs while considering rack-level data locality. Furthermore, the authors improve energy efficiency based on the slack time in which the CPU frequency is adjusted for upcoming tasks. By considering worst-case completion time, the proposed solution achieved a better SLA than stock Hadoop. However, the study has not considered the heterogeneity of the system. The authors need to employ a modifed version of job profling technique in which the job execution is measured either on a small portion of input dataset or using an online estimation of job execution time when running on servers with diferent speeds.

Teng et al. [\[40](#page-66-10)] have proposed co-optimized energy-aware solutions including (1) Tight Recipe Packing (TRP) is employed to consolidate the reserved virtual Hadoop clusters into the physical servers to save energy and (2) online time-balancing (OTB) is used for on-demand virtual machines placement to mitigate the mode switching through balancing server performance and utilization. The study only considered the of-line and online batch jobs, while a general platform should be able to handle running various workloads with different SLAs to enhance the energy efficiency of a Hadoop-based cloud datacenter. Besides, the proposed power model should consider as well other system resources such as memory and I/O power to reach better performance.

Phan et al. [\[41](#page-66-11)] have provided two energy-aware speculative execution techniques while considering system performance. First, a hierarchical slow jobs detection technique is employed for reducing the number of killed speculative copies. Then, the hierarchical method eliminates the non-critical straggles to reduce the energy waste on unsuccessful speculative copies. Second, based on a performance–energy model, an energy-efficient speculative copy allocation mechanism is used to allocate the speculative copies. The hierarchical solution can dramatically reduce energy wasted on removed speculative copies while maintaining a good performance compared to the most recent straggler's detection mechanisms. However, rather than eliminating non-critical slow jobs, a reserved resource-based allocation approach can be applied to reach better performance.

Arjona et al. [\[42](#page-66-12)] have provided a comprehensive empirical analysis of the power and energy consumption in the heterogeneous Hadoop cluster. The authors measured the power consumed by the server resources such as CPU, network I/O, and storage under diferent confgurations to fnd the optimal operational levels. They found that the system is not energy proportional and all the server resources efficiency can be maximized if the number of active CPU cores, their frequency, and I/O block size are tuned based on the system and network load. Moreover, the authors defned that the jobs energy consumption depends on CPU load, storage, and network activity. However, the only one considered application is not representative to justify the accuracy of the energy model. In addition, the RAM energy consumption and the dynamicity of CPU load have not been considered.

Table [5](#page-15-0) shows an overview of the studies in energy efficiency topic.

3.2.2 Fault tolerance studies

In Hadoop, the minimal unit of scheduling is "task." Therefore, when a task fails, the whole task should be re-executed from scratch which results in poor performance. Wang et al. [\[20](#page-65-18)], have presented a fner-grained fault tolerance strategy in which the map tasks generate checkpoints per spill instead of a map output file. Therefore, a retrying task can start from the last spill point and saves a lot of time. The proposed fault tolerance strategy which comes with little overhead is not static, i.e., it allows the failed task resumes its execution from a checkpoint at an arbitrary point on demand. Some parameters such as task id, task attempt id, input range, host location, and size are used to implement this strategy.

Fu et al. [\[43](#page-66-13)] have conducted their work in three parts: (1) considering the issues of Hadoop speculation mechanism; (2) classifying the faults and failures in a cluster in two groups: (a) hardware failure, i.e., a node failure and (b) software failure i.e., a task failure, and simulating the hardware failure condition for small and large jobs; and (3) manipulating and adjusting the Hadoop failure timeout and testing the different scenarios. The authors have implemented their strategy in three phases: (1) they have used a central information collector which detects faults and failure in run-time; (2) in spite of the Hadoop speculator, the authors' speculator knows the corresponding nodes of each task. Therefore, when a failed node is detected, all the afected tasks are speculated in an exponential order; and (3) they used a dynamic threshold to determine whether a failure should be speculated or not. If the node has been unavailable for a time interval longer than the threshold, the tasks on that node are speculated.

Tang et al. [\[44](#page-66-14)] have investigated the node availability and network distance to overcome the node failure and low-speed network bandwidth in a large cluster. This work which is called ANRDF is a part of the authors' previous work, entitled "Bit-Dew-MapReduce." BitDew-MapReduce contains nine components as follows: (1) replicator; (2) fault-tolerant mechanism; (3) data lifetime; (4) data locality; (5) distributor; (6) BitDew core service; (7) heartbeat collector; (8) data message; and (9) ANRDF. They have predicted each node availability in a cluster using the featureweighted naïve Bayes which is more accurate than the naïve Bayes. In addition, for estimating the network distance, a bin-based strategy has been employed such that any node in a cluster which is called "application node" measures its distance from the "Landmark nodes" and partitions itself into a bin in which the nodes have the minimum latency from each other.

Encountering omission failures which are caused by straggler tasks, there are two aspects: (1) copying the slow task and (2) duplicating the resources. Memishi et al. [\[45](#page-66-15)] have presented a failure detection and solving aspect through service timeout adjustment. The authors have employed three levels of the strictness of failure detection using three diferent algorithms so that the deadline-assigned jobs have more accurate failure detector mechanism. The lenient level of detection is suitable for small workloads whose completion time is less than the default timeout of Hadoop. This level adjusts the timeout by estimating the workload completion time. The two other detectors outperform the default timeout of Hadoop under any workload type and failure injection time and they adjust the timeout dynamically based on the progress score of the user workload.

The reliability of Hadoop is entrusted to its core and is fulflled by re-executing the tasks on a failed node or by input data replication. Yildiz et al. [\[46](#page-66-16)] have presented a smart failure-aware scheduler which can act immediately when a failure recovery is needed. To mitigate the job execution time, the scheduler uses the preemption technique rather than waiting approach in which the tasks should wait an uncertain time until the resources are freed. For obtaining the required resources, one way is to kill the primitive running tasks on the other nodes and allocate their resources to the tasks on the failed machine. This method will waste both the resources on which the tasks were running and all the computations which are already done by these tasks. Therefore, the proposed scheduler benefts from a

work-conserving task preemption technique with only a little overhead. The map task preemption is done by "splitting approach" through a preemption signal. For example, upon receiving the signal by a map task, the task is split into two sub-tasks in which the frst one consists of all the processed key-value pairs up to preemption and it is reported to the JobTracker as a completed task, while the second one which consists the unprocessed key-value pairs is added to a pool to be executed later when there is available slot. The reduce task preemption is done by "pause and resume approach" in which the reduce task is paused upon receiving a preemption signal and its data are stored on the local node for being restored back upon resume. To choose a task for preemption, the tasks of the low-priority jobs are selected. Priority is based on the data locality. Namely, the scheduler selects the tasks to be preempted that belong to nodes where the input data of the failed tasks reside.

Lin et al. [\[47](#page-66-17)] proposed a method to satisfy the Hadoop reliability through intermediate data replication. The authors have measured two parameters: (1) the probability metric in which a job can be completed by the cluster and (2) the energy consumed by the cluster is measured to fnish the job under two diferent intermediate data replication policies which are employed in Hadoop. The frst policy is the Hadoop default policy in which the map outputs are stored in their host nodes and is called locally stored (LS). The second policy is imitated the reduce task in which the reduce outputs are replicated in the HDFS and is called a distributed fle system (DFS). The authors have conducted the experiments by considering two scales of jobs, i.e., small and large jobs under two levels of parallelism including: (1) full parallelization of a job, i.e., all the tasks of a job can be executed in parallel and (2) full serialization of a job, i.e., none of the tasks of a job can be executed in parallel. Therefore, the authors have considered four scenarios: (1) LS/small jobs; (2) LS/ large jobs; (3) DFS/small jobs; and (4) DFS/large jobs that can help Hadoop administrators to choose the best replication confguration for a cluster setting.

Table [6](#page-19-0) shows an overview of the fault tolerance in MapReduce cluster-related papers.

3.2.3 Job/task scheduling studies

Xu et al. [\[48](#page-66-18)] have provided a dynamic scheduler in which each TaskTracker can automatically adjust its number of tasks based on both its processing capacity and workload changes. The scheduler hinders the overloaded and under-loaded nodes using dynamic slots-to-tasks allocation strategy in preference to static slot allocation of Hadoop. The dynamic strategy is based on that in each heartbeat, the full capacity of a TaskTracker would not be at the disposal of the tasks and the TaskTracker makes the decision to accept either more tasks or not by considering its workload. Two monitoring and task executing modules are used for detecting TaskTracker load condition and for executing the accepted tasks, respectively. To achieve the desired results, the monitoring module considers the CPU load, i.e., the number of tasks in the queue of the CPU which are ready to run, CPU utilization, and memory as the load parameters.

Lim et al. [\[49](#page-66-19)] have formulated the matchmaking and scheduling problem for an open stream of multistage deadline-assigned jobs using constraint programming.

Table
Table

Each job's SLA is characterized by the earliest start time, the execution time, and the end-to-end deadline such that the jobs which miss their deadline are minimum. MRCP-RM is only applicable to jobs with two phases of execution such as MapReduce jobs. The objective of MRCP-RM is to minimize the number of jobs that miss their deadlines.

Kao et al. [[15\]](#page-65-13) have investigated the trade-off between data locality and performance for deadline-assigned real-time jobs in a homogeneous server system. Three modules are employed in each node to provide deadline guarantees: (1) dispatcher; (2) power controller; and (3) scheduler. To meet the deadline of the jobs, the authors consider the map task deadline of a job which is called "local deadline." For this purpose, two separate queues for each map and reduce tasks are considered in each data node. Then, the dispatcher frst assigns a local deadline to map tasks of a job, and according to this local deadline, the task with the shortest deadline is executed frst. Using a partition value estimation, the proposed method partitions tasks to data locality-aware nodes for less data transmission and less blocking. Furthermore, to mitigate energy consumption, some nodes are switched to the sleep state. In this work, because of the considerable penalty of data migration, the proposed framework does not consider the precedence of tasks to satisfy the data locality. Therefore, the shorter jobs are blocked by the non-preemptive execution of larger jobs which mitigates the Hadoop performance.

Sun et al. [[50\]](#page-66-20) have provided a data locality-aware scheduler in which the expected data of future launching map tasks are prefetched earlier in memory on the intended nodes. The intended nodes are determined based on current pending tasks which their remaining time is less than a threshold and greater than the data block transmission time. According to the consumer–producer model and to manage efectively the memory bufer, two prefetching bufer units each with the same size as the HDFS block are considered per each map slot. Therefore, by using the prefetching technique, the map tasks with rack locality and rack-off locality would not be delayed and consequently, jobs will be completed rather.

Tang et al. [[51\]](#page-66-21) have presented an optimized and self-adaptive scheduler to reduce tasks. The scheduler can decide dynamically and according to the job content, including the completion time of the task and the size of the map output. In fact, this method prevents the wasting of reduce slot during the copy phase by delaying the start time of the reduce task of the current job and provides idle reduce slots for other jobs. Thus, at a certain time, when some tasks of the job have completed, the scheduler schedules and assigns the reduce slots to the reduce tasks of that job. This method mitigates the completion time of the reduce task, decreases the average system response time, and utilizes the resources efficiently.

Bok et al. [\[52](#page-66-22)] have considered data locality and I/O load for deadline-assigned jobs which process multimedia and images. Plus, it minimizes job deadline, miss, using two queues, called "urgent" and "delay" queues. The paper minimizes the deadline miss ratio which is caused by I/O load using "urgent" queue and maximizes deadline hit ratio using hot block repetition. Delay queue has the same functionality as Delay scheduling [[53\]](#page-66-23) job queue in which the task whose data are located on the other nodes should currently be executed, but its data do not exist on the host node. Therefore, it will wait for a short time (D) expecting at that time a slot on the other nodes is freed and can be executed on them. If in the waiting time, there will be any slots, then after fnishing the waiting time the task will be executed on its host node and data locality will not meet. Urgent queue allocates slots to the jobs which are expected to not complete in their deadline because of no data locality or high node workload. When the client submits the job, it first is placed in the delay queue. If the diference of deadline and the predicted completion time is higher than a threshold which is specifed by the user, the job is sent to the urgent queue. In the urgent queue, the jobs are arranged to ascend according to the diference amount to execute.

Hashem et al. [[54\]](#page-67-0) have proposed a two-objective scheduler for minimizing the cost of cloud services and job completion time. The model is a two-objective model in which the cost of resources from the point of view of resource allocation and the job completion time from the point of view of scheduling is considered as the main objectives. Therefore, the proposed model improves performance when processing Big data using the MapReduce framework. The model applies the earliest fnish time algorithm in which both tasks to resources and resources to tasks mapping are done to meet the model objectives. In the algorithm, the earliest fnish time is chosen based on the number of tasks of a job which is confgured by the job owner. In addition, the service method will return a positive value if there are adequate mappers and reducers to fnish a workfow job in the specifed budget and deadline.

Nita et al. [\[55](#page-67-1)] have presented a multi-objective scheduler which considers both deadline and budget constraints from the user side. To fnd a best matching between deadline-assigned jobs and available slots, the authors defne a service function and a decision variable. The service function returns a positive value if there are enough mappers and reducers to complete a MapReduce job within budget and deadline and the decision variable represents the weight of resource usage. The best assignment between jobs and resources is selected based on the summation of each service result. In addition to the costs for a map and reduce processing time and their resource usage costs, a penalty for the transferred data have been considered due to its non-locality.

Tang et al. [[56\]](#page-67-2) have presented a scheduling algorithm for the jobs in the format of a workfow. Since the execution time of the jobs is diferent due to the job types, i.e., I/O-intensive or CPU-intensive, the algorithm comprises a job prioritizing phase in which the jobs are prioritized with respect to their types, input data size, communication time to other jobs, and type of slots. Moreover, a task assignment phase has been considered to prioritize the tasks for scheduling based on the data locality on their intended node. Therefore, the scheduling length and tasks workflow parallelization have been improved. Table [7](#page-24-0) shows an overview of the MapReduce job/task scheduling-related papers.

3.2.4 Load balancing studies

Since the imbalance of keys in a Hadoop cluster is intrinsic, Chen et al. [\[57](#page-67-3)] have presented a user-transparent partitioning method to solve data skew in the reducer side. To evenly distribute map output data between the reduce tasks, this paper benefts an integrated sampling in which a small fraction of the produced data

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during the processing of twenty percentage of map tasks is sampled. Afterward, the large keys are split by considering the servers capacity. Reducers can shuffle immediately the data which are already produced. Hence, the job execution time will be dramatically decreased.

Repartitioning intermediate data to preserve load balancing of a heterogeneous Hadoop cluster incurs high overhead. To tackle this problem, Liu et al. [[58\]](#page-67-4) have presented a run-time partitioning skew mitigation. The idea is that, rather than controlling data size by its splitting among reducers, resources are allocated dynamically. Namely, the number of allocated resources to the reducers could be increased and decreased in run-time. A resource allocator module is responsible for allocating the number of resources which is demanded by a reduce task. The required resources are allocated based on a statistical model which is constructed by the current partition size and the allocated resources of a reduce task which are enough to estimate the Reduce task execution time. This method is simple and incurs no overhead.

Chen et al. [\[59](#page-67-5)] have considered the data placement problem in terms of data locality and remote data access costs for both map and reduce sides. The authors have presented a replication strategy in the map side, in which the data access cost defned as a function of the distance of nodes and the data size to be transferred is minimized. The same way, to mitigate the data access frequency in the reduce side, the block dependencies are detected and the blocks which have strong dependency are merged as a single split for processing. Furthermore, to alleviate network traffc, the authors have defned an optimal matrix to place all data blocks based on a topology-aware replica distribution tree. Thus, the data movement during the map and reduce stages is minimized.

Li et al. [\[60](#page-67-6)] have proposed a programming model, called Map-Balance-Reduce, with an extra middle stage to efectively process the unevenly distributed data which is caused by unbalanced keys. In this model, the map outputs are estimated in the Balance stage and the balanced output of this stage is fed into the Reduce stage. This stage is like a mini-reducer stage in which the task that will cause load unbalancing problems is found in advance by preprocessing the map outputs. The stage sums the map outputs of the same key, partitions them to more splits, and feeds them into the reducer nodes. Importantly, how to defne that whether the load is unbalanced is based on the workload of reduce task nodes. If the workload of a reduce task node is less than a certain threshold, the adaptive load balancing process is applied in which the current reduce task is stopped and the keys on current reduce nodes will be partitioned and distributed to other n-1 nodes. In this way, the algorithm will mitigate job execution time.

Liroz-Gistau et al. [[61\]](#page-67-7) have presented a system which has an extra phase between map and reduces phases, denoted "intermediate reduce." The skewed map outputs take beneft of the reducers of this phase and can be processed in parallel. The intermediate reduce function is like a combiner and can be iterated adaptively based on the partition size, I/O ratio, or partition skew ratio until a given threshold. Once the map bufer verges, their spills are maintained in a table. Hereafter, they are merged as a partition, and based on the greedy or the data locality strategy, they are fed into the intermediate reducers as input splits. Exploiting the spills once they are ready makes the system fault-tolerant and faster, while it incurs master overhead in terms of keeping the spills metadata.

Myung et al. [[62\]](#page-67-8) have presented histogram information on a join key attribute method to balance a load of reducers to join jobs. In this paper, the data skew problem is relieved by mapping splits to reducers using a partitioning matrix. By a small number of input samplings, the samples from all relations make the matrix and the join operations are done based on the key range overlapping. Namely, the join candidate cells will provide better performance in the join operations. In the range-based partitioning, the most repeated samples are defned as the cause of imbalanced partitioning, i.e., the most skewed relations. Despite the range-based partitioning, the matrix considers the less skewed relations of join. Furthermore, the proposed partitioning outperforms the random-based partitioning in which the rate of input duplication increases substantially with an increase in the input size.

Liu et al. [[63\]](#page-67-9) have presented an architecture in which the workload distribution of reduce tasks is predicted by using an online partition size prediction algorithm. Therefore, in addition to map function and the number of reducers, the partition sizes are dependent on the input dataset. The algorithm uses a small set of random data to profle some characteristics of the whole input data. Based on the predicted workload, the framework can detect the tasks with a large workload using a deviation detection method without any knowledge of statistic distribution of the data in linear time. Before allocating the resources to the overloaded tasks, the framework determines the relation between task duration with two factors, i.e., partition size and resource allocation. Thereupon, the framework speeds up the job completion time by adjusting proactively the allocation of resources to the overloaded tasks.

Zhang et al. [[64\]](#page-67-10) have presented a two-objective data skew mitigation model. The model is executed in two independent phases which are called data transmission and data computation. In the data computation phase, the minimum number of nodes which participate in data processing is calculated. In data transmission phase, based on the satisfying upper bound of relative data computation time in computation phase, both the data transmission time and network usage are minimized using a greedy algorithm to fnd the best network fow. Besides, the method allows users with higher priority to configure their jobs to be processed earlier.

Table [8](#page-31-0) shows an overview of the load balancing in MapReduce cluster-related papers.

3.2.5 Performance studies

There are two constraints in MapReduce: (1) executing the Reduce tasks before map tasks for assuring the logic correctness of MapReduce and (2) running the Map tasks in map slots and reduce tasks in reduce slots. Because of the mentioned constraints, Tang et al. [[65\]](#page-67-11) have proposed a job ordering algorithm for optimizing the two performance factors including makespan and total completion time. For fnding the best ordering of jobs, the authors have defned an optimal slot confguration where jobs are ordered based on this confguration. Furthermore, the authors have considered a condition in which based on every job order, an optimal slot confguration will be found. Since there is a trade-of between makespan and total completion

time, a greedy job ordering algorithm based on a heuristic slot confguration algorithm have been proposed. Although in the second version of Hadoop, YARN is introduced which benefts "container" model, as there is no controlling of a number of reduce which can run in a container, the network bandwidth will be a bottleneck due to the reduce tasks shuffling.

Verma et al. [\[66](#page-67-12)] have presented a two-stage scheduler based on the Johnson algorithm to minimize the makespan of multi-wave batch jobs. According to Johnson algorithm, the jobs are arranged based on the map execution time in an ascending queue. If the reduce execution time is shorter than map execution, the scheduler puts the job at the tail of the queue. Although this method mitigates the makespan, in some scenarios that the number of tasks of a job is less than the available slots, local optimal would cause a problem. To tackle the problem, a heuristic method called "Balanced Pool" is employed in which the jobs are divided into two pools with approximately the same makespan. The paper has not considered a model for the jobs whose data are ready during the other jobs' execution time because the order of the algorithm is almost high due to repetitive divisions.

Since manually confguration of Hadoop is a tedious and time-consuming task, Bei et al. [[67\]](#page-67-13) have presented a random forest methodology in which the parameter settings are tuned automatically. In this method, two regression-based models are constructed to accurately predict the performance of each map and reduce stage. Subsequently, in each stage a genetic algorithm is employed which is fed by the aforementioned models outputs and the confguration space is found. The proposed method is suitable and fast for repetitive and long-running applications with large input data in a Hadoop cluster.

Although the Hadoop performance is enhanced using task scheduling or load balancing techniques, the heterogeneity of a cluster deteriorates the performance of the running jobs which are confgured homogeneously. Cheng et al. [[68\]](#page-67-14) have proposed an ant-based architecture which is model-independent and automatically obtains the optimal confguration for the large job sets with multi-wave tasks. Namely, improvement in task tuning is performed during job execution by starting from random parameter settings and with any job profling. The proposed architecture consists of two modules: (1) self-tuning optimizer and (2) task analyzer which resides in Job-Tracker. The frst round of tasks is confgured randomly by the optimizer module and the tasks are conducted to TaskTrackers to be executed. Once the frst wave is fnished, for the next round of tasks execution, the task analyzer suggests better settings to the optimizer module using a ftness function which uses task completion time.

Yu et al. [\[69](#page-67-15)] have presented an accelerator framework that benefts plug-in components to expedite data movement and merge data without any repetitive disk access. The key idea of the method is to levitate the data on the remote disk nodes until records merge time. The merge time is the time that all the map tasks are fnished, i.e., all the map out fles are produced and the construction of priority queues from segments (partitions) of map tasks is possible. This mechanism provides a full pipeline between Hadoop map, shuffle, and reduce phases and is more scalable than Hadoop-stock. Moreover, InfniBand is used as communication hardware rather than Ethernet which is very fast.

In the shufing phase, all of the data partitions are transmitted from the map side to the reduce side to be aggregated to feed into their related reducers. This yet challenging problem imposes high network traffic and makes the network bandwidth a bottleneck. Guo et al. [\[70](#page-67-16)] have proposed in-network aggregation in which the map outputs are collected and routed across the network and processed at the intermediate nodes once the transmission phase is started. To attain the idea, the authors use a tree model and a graph model to minimize each in-cast transmission, i.e., data transmission of all maps to one reducer and shufing, i.e., data transmissions of all maps to all reducers, respectively. The methodology relieves the reduce side's aggregation load by parallelizing the reducing and shuffling phases and diminishing the job completion time.

Guo et al. [\[71](#page-67-17)] have presented the shuffle phase of Hadoop as an independent service from the map and reduce phase, called "iShufe." The service acquires the intermediate data proactively, i.e., before starting to Reduce task through a "Shufe-On-Write" operation and make it ready for the reduce task. In the Shuffle-On-Write operation, after the map bufer on a node disk is verged and its data are written on the disk, the dedicated shuffler of the node gets a copy of the data. Afterward, the shuffler places data partitions to nodes where the reduce tasks will be launched according to a placement algorithm. Therefore, using the placement algorithm which is based on the partition size prediction and solving it by linear regression, the even data distribution on the reduce nodes during data transferring is guaranteed. To gain fault tolerance, the data are not sent to the intended node directly, but it is written on the node disk frst. In addition, the method uses preemptive scheduling to lessen jobs completion time. The proposed method in [[72\]](#page-67-18) is inspired by this paper; however, the placement mechanism is totally diferent. The type of jobs, CPU-intensive or data-intensive, also has been considered to balance the node workload.

Ke et al. $[73]$ $[73]$ have presented a three-layer model that alleviates network traffic by designing a data partitioning schema. The proposed model defnes a graph which has three layers: (1) mapper nodes; (2) intermediate nodes including aggregation nodes and Shadow nodes and (3) reduce nodes. The model is basically based on the default Hadoop placement technique. According to the intermediate data size, if the produced map output size related to a key partition is large, it is processed on the reduce tasks which are closed to the map task node and it is not sent to the reduce tasks which are placed on the other racks. In the second layer, the nodes are potential if it is supposed that the data to be moved to a reducer will be active. Otherwise, they are sent directly to the reducer through shadow nodes which practically do not exist. Therefore, by considering data locality levels, i.e., node locality, rack locality, and cluster locality, this method achieves data locality, while it mitigates the network traffic. The network traffic minimization is done by a distributed algorithm which is solved by a linear programming using Lagrange.

Chen et al. [\[74](#page-67-20)] have presented a speculative strategy performed in four steps: (1) detecting the stragglers; (2) predicting the original task remaining time; (3) selecting the stragglers to backup; and (4) placement of the backup tasks on the suitable nodes. First, to detect the straggler tasks, the authors use the task progress rate and the processing bandwidth in each Hadoop phase. Second, to predict process speed and task remaining time, an exponentially weighted moving average method is used. Third, to determine which task to be backed up based on a load of a cluster, a cost–beneft model has been proposed. Finally, to determine suitable nodes to host the backup tasks, data locality and data skew have been considered. The proposed strategy mitigates the job completion time and improves cluster throughput.

Load imbalance, i.e., data skew causes the emerging of straggler tasks. To overcome this problem, Guo et al. [[75\]](#page-67-21) have proposed a user-transparent speculative strategy for Hadoop in a cloud environment. When the stragglers are detected, the slots of the cloud are scaled out such that the stragglers beneft more resources to process their input data in less time. The proposed strategy balances the resource usage across the cluster using an adaptive slot number and slot memory size changer method in an online manner. Therefore, both the data skew and job completion time are mitigated in this strategy.

There are two main strategies for speculative execution: (1) cloning and (2) straggler detection-based. In the cloning, if the cost of computing of task is low and there are enough resources, additional replicas of the task are scheduled in parallel with the initial task. In the straggler detection-based, the progress of each task is controlled, and the additional versions are started when a straggler is detected. Xu et al. [\[76](#page-67-22)] have divided the cluster into lightly loaded and highly loaded. They have introduced the smart cloning algorithm (SCA) for the lightly loaded cluster and the enhanced speculative execution (ESE) algorithm for the heavily loaded cluster based on the straggler detection approach.

Jiang et al. [[77\]](#page-67-23) have presented a heuristic method for online jobs which enter into the system as time goes and an approximate method for off-line jobs to minimize the jobs makespan. Authors' contribution is to employ servers with diferent speeds. Moreover, the non-parallelizable reduce tasks assumption is another contribution which makes it more difficult to solve the makespan minimization problem. In this method, the reduce tasks are considered once preemptive and once non-preemptive. The main idea is based on the bin packing problem in which the reduce tasks are arranged according to their execution time descending and allocated to servers with higher speed, respectively. Next, the time duration that the reduce tasks will take longer on these servers is calculated and the results are arranged. Using the results, the time in which all of the servers are idle is defned and the related map task to the largest reduce task is scheduled for execution. Therefore, all the map tasks are allocated in the reduce task execution intervals. Once the total idle slots have been occupied in the interval, the rest of the map tasks are allocated after that time. Ultimately, according to MapReduce execution logic which map tasks should be executed prior to reduce tasks, the current scheduler is reversed and in case of available slots, allocation of reduce tasks continues.

Veiga et al. [\[78](#page-67-24)] have presented an event-driven architecture in which the phases of map tasks and reduce tasks are executed using the java threads which are called "operations." Rather than a container-based resource allocation in Hadoop, the proposed model integrates the map and reduces resources into a pool and allows the operations to beneft the resources when they need. The operations form the stages of a pipeline and are connected using data structures to reading and write the data. To alleviate the memory copies in each stage, the architecture uses the reference to the data rather than the data itself. Therefore, in this way, there is no need for converting the data to the writable objects. Furthermore, for executing the operations which must be done before the other operations, i.e., the map operation which should be executed before the merge, the system considers a priority method. The architecture is compatible with Hadoop MapReduce jobs, and any changes are required to the source code of the jobs.

According to Hadoop-LATE [[79\]](#page-67-25), system load, data locality, and low priority of the tasks are the major factors which should be considered as the performance model metrics. To precisely estimate the remaining execution time of the tasks, Huang et al. [\[80](#page-67-26)] have proposed a speculative strategy which is based on the linear relationship between system load and execution time of tasks. To detect the slow nodes a dynamic average threshold is defined and for efficient resource usage, an extended maximum cost performance model is proposed. Unlike [\[73](#page-67-19)], diferent slot values are considered. The strategies mitigate the running time and response time of the job.

Tian et al. [[81\]](#page-67-27) have presented a framework based on the Johnson model to minimize the makespan of off-line and online jobs. This paper has improved the paper [\[66](#page-67-12)], and the idea is that rather than dividing cluster resources into pools, only one pool, i.e., the cluster is enough, and all jobs can beneft all the available resources. In this way, better makespan would be acquired. In addition, this paper has proved that obtaining minimum makespan can be solved in linear time and it is not an NP problem. The authors have also mentioned that although the makespan of each pool is minimum, and the makespan of all jobs is not minimum.

Wang et al. [\[82](#page-68-0)] have presented a speculative execution strategy in which rather than starting the slow tasks from scratch, they start from the leveraged checkpoint of original tasks. The idea is like the checkpoints for the fault-tolerant mechanism which contributes to the granularity of fault tolerance in the spill level rather than the task level. The remaining execution time in each speculative strategy should be well estimated to select rightly the speculative tasks. Therefore, this method benefts two checkpoint types, i.e., input checkpoint an output checkpoint. The speculative task fetches its data from output checkpoint and constructs its memory states and skips the already data processed in the input checkpoint. The authors have also proposed a scheduler to select a speculative task. They have calculated the original task remaining time using the progress score, the progress rate, and the time the task has already taken. For calculating the speculative task completion time, the recovery time of partial map output and the execution time of unprocessed data are used. Based on the two calculated times and by comparing their sum to the remaining time of the original task, the "speculation gain" is calculated. The tasks with the higher gain are selected to be scheduled on the cluster.

Table [9](#page-40-0) shows an overview of the MapReduce performance-related papers.

3.2.6 Security studies

Fu et al. [\[83\]](#page-68-1) have investigated data leakage attacks in two platform layers, i.e., application and operating system layers. They have proposed a framework which is composed of an on-demand data collector and a data analyzer. The data collector collects Hadoop logs, FS-image fles, and monitors logs from every node

actively or on demand. The collected data are sent to the data analyzer in which the data are analyzed with automatic methods to fnd the stolen data, fnd the attacker, and reconstruct the crime scenario. Moreover, the authors have presented a four-dimensional algorithm with Abnormal Directory, Abnormal User, Abnormal Operation, and Block Proportion dimensions for detecting the suspicious data leakage behaviors.

Parmar et al. [\[84](#page-68-2)] have identifed Hadoop security vulnerabilities and introduced "Kuber" to remove the vulnerabilities. The proposed framework uses three levels of security: (1) secure user authentication; (2) encrypted data in transit; and (3) encrypted data at rest. In the proposed framework, the HDFS encryption zone security mechanism is totally removed and tasks can directly access data by employing encryption on each individual data block. This technique eliminates the requirement of decryption of the complete fle. Moreover, the authors beneft Salsa20 and its variant chacha20 rather than AES as a cipher suit because of their speed, safety, and easy implementation. However, the authors have not tested their framework in a distributed environment to consider the performance and scalability of the framework.

Gupta et al. [\[85](#page-68-3)] have presented a multilayer access control framework covering Hadoop ecosystem services, data, applications, and system resources to restrict unauthorized users. The authors enhanced the authorization capabilities of Hadoop by employing Apache Ranger and Knox frameworks in services such as HDFS, Hive, and HBase. Moreover, they enforced YARN security policies using a Ranger plug-in to prohibit unauthorized users from submitting jobs into the cluster. However, the authors have not investigated the fne-grained authorization between Hadoop core daemons including NameNode, DataNodes, and ApplicationMaster.

Wang et al. [[86\]](#page-68-4) have developed a compromised Hadoop cluster in which an attack is launched and a protective block-based scheme is proposed to deal with that. The authors infected a node of the cluster that delays the job execution. The toxic node cannot be detected to be decommissioned from the cluster. Therefore, the defense scheme monitors the nodes and it blocks the node in which there is any job with more killed tasks, more several slow containers, or more running tasks slower than the average task execution time. Such blocked nodes are recognized as the attacker nodes. This study only focused on the map tasks attack; however, researchers can also consider the reduce tasks attacks scenarios to better simulate toxic real systems.

There are many encrypted communications in Hadoop which leads to sensitive information leakage by means of communication patterns detection. Therefore, Ohrimenko et al. [[87\]](#page-68-5) have presented a framework in which secure implementation of jobs is considered and the data traffic between the map and reduce stages are analyzed. They implemented Melbourne shuffle, a secure framework to deals with information leakage which is caused by adversaries at system and application levels by means of interfering or observing of jobs execution.

Ulusoy et al. [\[88](#page-68-6)] introduced a fine-grained framework called, GAURDMR which enforces security mechanisms at the key-value level. The proposed framework generates dynamic authorized views of data sources using object constraint language (OCL) specifcations. Moreover, it guarantees security at the computation level using a modular reference monitor and provides built-in access control model.

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The framework provides a secure environment and does not require hard coding programming to perform policy specifcation and function assigned to the jobs.

Table [10](#page-51-0) shows an overview of the Hadoop security-related papers.

3.2.7 Resource provisioning studies

Khan et al. [[89\]](#page-68-7) have presented a job performance model to provision resources for deadline-assigned multi-waves jobs. The model is constructed based on the historical job execution records, allocated map and reduce slots, and size of the input dataset. The model estimates the job execution time using locally weighted linear regression and provisions the required amount of resources based on Langrage multiplier technique. To hinder the resource provisioning bias (over-provisioning or under-provisioning), the average of the best-case and worst-case execution of a job is considered.

Nghiem et al. [[90\]](#page-68-8) have addressed the resource provisioning problem while considering the energy consumption and performance trade-of. The authors have defned the optimal number of tasks for a set of jobs using the actual sampled runtime data of the cluster, and there is no need to rely on the rules of thumbs. The optimal number is achieved by considering the trade-of between data locality and resource utilization which is handled by tuning split size for CPU-bound and I/Obound jobs. The author's approach is based on the accuracy of optimal resource provisioning per application on a particular system. This method saves energy signifcantly up to several million dollars; however, users should establish a database which is required for jobs profiling.

Application-centric SSD caching for Hadoop applications (AC-SSD), which reduces the job completion time has been proposed by Tang et al. [[91\]](#page-68-9). This approach uses the genetic algorithm to calculate the nearly optimal weights of virtual machines for allocating SSD cache space and controlling the I/O operations per second (IOPS) based on the importance of the VMs. Furthermore, it proposes a closed-loop adaptation to face the rapidly changing workload. Considering the importance of VMs and relationships among VMs inside the application improves the performance. Table [11](#page-53-0) shows an overview of the papers.

4 Results and discussion

After synthesizing the data, we answered to our research questions RQ1 to RQ6 in this section.

Answer to Question RQ1 What topics have been considered most in MapReduce feld?

Of the 55 studies that provided MapReduce topics, the greatest number of studies $(N=16)$ could be accounted for on the topic performance. We can see that two other subjects, namely scheduling with the number of 9 (16%) articles and load balancing

with the number of eight (15%) articles, are the next most investigated research topics. Of the remaining, $7(13\%)$ articles focused on energy efficiency, $6(11\%)$ articles on security, 6 (11%) articles on fault tolerance, and 3 (5%) articles on resource provisioning. Figure [7](#page-55-0) shows the percentage of studies frequency of each topic on the corresponding slice of the pie chart.

Figure [8](#page-55-1) shows the most frequent topics, investigated by each publisher. IEEE has mostly considered performance topic, i.e., eleven articles out of sixteen (69%). Elsevier has mostly investigated fault tolerance topic i.e., four articles out of six (67%). Springer has mostly considered the energy efficiency topic, i.e., four studies out of six (67%), and ACM has mostly considered the security topic i.e., three studies out of six (50%).

Answer to Question RQ2 What are the main parameters, investigated by the studies?

According to Fig. [9](#page-56-0), of the 55 studies included in our research, 25% ($N=14$) considered job completion time and makespan as main parameters, 24% (*N*=13) of studies considered scalability and data locality parameters, and 22% (12) considered input data size parameter. Job execution time and network in terms of network traffic overhead, network I/O (transmission cost), network delay, and network stability are the next most investigated parameters, considered by 20% ($N=11$) of studies. 18% $(N=10)$ of studies considered a number of map and reduce tasks, while 16% $(N=9)$ of the studies considered the size of intermediate data produced by the map tasks. In 15% (*N*=8) of the studies, the execution time of either map or reduce task has been considered, and SLA has been considered by 9% $(N=5)$ of the studies.

Answer to Question RQ3 What are the main artifacts produced by the research?

The four main artifacts produced by the study on MapReduce are shown in Fig. [10](#page-56-1): algorithms, frameworks, architectures, and topology.

When a paper has a logical view, i.e., like a design pattern, we put it in the architecture category. When a paper implements an architecture, we put it in the framework category. Algorithm category consists of the papers which have introduced a method, an algorithm, an approach, a schema, and a strategy to enhance the MapReduce functionality. Mostly, schedulers belong to this category. Furthermore, a topology is proposed when the shufing network design is supposed to be considered.

Using this classifcation, half of the papers have contributed an algorithm to enhance the MapReduce functionality, whereas topology has been less proposed. The number of each artifact investigated by the publishers is shown in Fig. [11.](#page-57-0) Besides, we show the studies belong to each artifact in Table [12](#page-58-0).

By categorizing the papers based on the software and hardware solutions, about 93% $(N=51)$ of the studies have improved the MapReduce challenges through software solutions, i.e., algorithm. But only 7% ($N=4$) of the studies [[37](#page-66-7), [39](#page-66-9), [40,](#page-66-10) [69](#page-67-15)] have employed hardware technologies as an improvement tool. The reason is that, on the one hand, using new and high-speed hardware for facing challenges

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Fig. 7 Research topics ranked by the percentage of publications

Fig. 8 Percentage of investigated topics per publishers

imposes more costs to the developer, and on the other hand, the researchers who wish to compare their work to these studies are forced to re-extend or spend high cost (if the hardware is accessible!) to simulate the same situations. Hence, the number of citations of these papers will be impacted by this case.

Answer to Question RQ4 What experimental platforms have been used by the researchers for analysis and evaluation?

We classifed the experimental platforms into three categories: simulation, implementation using Cloud services, and implementation in the test bed. Therefore, based on these categories, in 71% $(N=39)$ of studies which evaluated the results using implementation, cloud with 7% ($N=4$), test bed with 13% ($N=7$), in-house Hadoop cluster with 51% (*N*=28) [[20](#page-65-18), [42](#page-66-12), [43,](#page-66-13) [47,](#page-66-17) [48](#page-66-18), [50–](#page-66-20)[52](#page-66-22), [54](#page-67-0), [56,](#page-67-2) [57](#page-67-3), [60](#page-67-6), [62,](#page-67-8) [67–](#page-67-13)[69,](#page-67-15) [71,](#page-67-17) [74](#page-67-20), [75](#page-67-21), [78,](#page-67-24) [80–](#page-67-26)[91](#page-68-9)] have been used. Of the test bed category, Grid'5000 is used in four studies [\[37,](#page-66-7) [41](#page-66-11), [46,](#page-66-16) [61\]](#page-67-7), SAVI test bed is used in two studies [[58](#page-67-4), [63](#page-67-9)], and MobiWay is used in one study [\[55\]](#page-67-1), respectively. 9% (*N*=5) of studies [[39](#page-66-9), [45,](#page-66-15) [64,](#page-67-10) [76](#page-67-22), [77](#page-67-23)] only used simulation to evaluate the results in which one study [[39](#page-66-9)] have used CloudSim and the rest of studies have

Fig. 9 Investigated percentage of each parameter

used stock simulator. 20% (11) of studies [[15,](#page-65-13) [36](#page-66-6), [38](#page-66-8), [40](#page-66-10), [44](#page-66-14), [49](#page-66-19), [59,](#page-67-5) [65,](#page-67-11) [66,](#page-67-12) [70,](#page-67-16) [73](#page-67-19)] have used both simulation and implementation as the experimental platform in which in terms of implementation, studies [[15](#page-65-13), [44](#page-66-14)] have been implemented in cloud and the rest of studies have been implemented in in-house Hadoop cluster. In terms of simulation, studies $[15, 44, 59]$ $[15, 44, 59]$ $[15, 44, 59]$ $[15, 44, 59]$ $[15, 44, 59]$ $[15, 44, 59]$ $[15, 44, 59]$ have used their extended simulator: TDEMR, CloudSimMR, and TopoSim and the others have used stock simulator.

The virtualized tools, used in the studies include Xen, VMWare, KVM, and VirtualBox. The statistics are shown in Fig. [12](#page-59-0).

Answer to Question RQ5 What kind of jobs, benchmarks, and dataset have been used in the experiments? And what percentage of each one has been used in the studies?

For answering this question, we have provided the job name and its functionality, job shuffle degree in terms of heavy or light shuffling, dataset, and benchmarks in Table [13](#page-60-0).

According to Table 13 , jobs are categorized as shuffle-light and shuffleheavy in terms of produced intermediate data by map tasks. Of the total number of publications included in this study, six benchmarks have been used: PUMA, HiBench, MicroBench, MRBench, TestDFSIO, and Built-in YARN, included

in 42% ($N=23$) of the studies. Among all, PUMA is used frequently by 44% $(N=10)$, HiBench is the second most used benchmark by 26% $(N=6)$, while MicroBench and MRBench are used by 13% ($N=3$) and 9% ($N=2$) of studies, respectively. TestDFSIO and built-in YARN are used in only 4% (*N*=1) of studies. The remaining studies which are 58% $(N=32)$ have used a different combination of common jobs of Table [13.](#page-60-0) Figure [13](#page-61-0) shows these statistics.

From the 55 existing articles about the MapReduce framework presented in this study, 51 papers have used the jobs which have been shown in Table [14.](#page-61-1) However, there is any information about the dataset or jobs which have been used in four studies [[47](#page-66-17), [64](#page-67-10), [83,](#page-68-1) [85\]](#page-68-3). Figure [14](#page-62-0) shows the percentage that each job has been used in the 55 articles (popularity).

Answer to Question RQ6 What are the open challenges and future directions in Hadoop MapReduce?

• Open challenges

To answer this question, some of the challenges presented in the section of reviewed papers have been considered. However, some yet challenging problems in MapReduce can be mentioned as follows:

- Hadoop MapReduce has been widely discussed to improve performance. Some researches try to improve the performance by studying the dependency of the workfow and to reach the data locality. Separating the phases as independent jobs brings better performance. However, most of the jobs have a dependency on them, so how to justify the independency of them is a yet challenging problem.
- By decoupling the phases to accelerate the computations, there would be a dilemma between speed and scalability. The MapReduce model is designed for scalability, so how to maintain the scalability in the decoupled design is another issue.

Fig. 11 Number of each artifact investigated by the publishers

Table 12 Classifcation of studies based on the artifacts

- Many production jobs are executed in the cluster of Hadoop using the MapReduce programming model. Therefore, makespan of these jobs is an important issue which should be considered as an efective metric in performance. The order in which jobs are executing has a signifcant impact on makespan.
- Systematically exploring the Hadoop parameters space and fnding a near-optimal confguration are a challenge. Some new intelligent algorithms and techniques which are based on the cluster and workload properties are required to suggest an appropriate parameter setting.
- Network overhead is another serious problem in prolonging execution of jobs. To overcome this issue, designing new algorithms and techniques are required to improve and accelerate the shuffle phase of MapReduce.
- The straggler tasks which are caused by internal and external problems such as resource competition, hardware heterogeneity, hardware failure, and data skew should be considered as the other performance metrics. How to select the straggler tasks and how to defne the proper node to host the tasks are the notable challenges in the speculative strategies. Moreover, some energy consumption models are required to prevent waste of energy on killed speculative copies.
- There are many kinds of MapReduce jobs such as production, interactive, and deadline-assigned jobs. On the one hand, we should be able to provide resources at run-time to meet jobs requirements. On the other hand, this provisioning should not cause "Bias" which influences energy efficiency and performance.
- Enterprises and IoT providers use Hadoop Lake to store and process data generated from IoT devices. In this situation, security and privacy requirements are critical challenges for the prominent technology frms and state. Providing protective schemes in terms of authentication, authorization, and data confdentiality are imperative to secure Hadoop system in the presence of attacks. To prevent and confront the attacks, Hortonworks [[92\]](#page-68-10) have divided Hadoop security vulnerabilities into three parts: (1) systemic; (2) operational; and (3) architectural. By researching and presenting new solutions on each domain, we can overcome Hadoop security problems. Table [14](#page-61-1) shows an overview of the challenges.
- Future directions

Fig. 12 Percentage of environments which have been used in the studies

Table 13 Benchmarks, dataset, job name, and its functionality, shuffling degree

Fig. 13 Percentage of most common used benchmarks in the articles

Table 14 Three-dimensional security of Hadoop cluster [\[92](#page-68-10)] Systemic

Data access and ownership Data at rest and data in motion protection Multi-tenancy Inter-node communication Client interaction Distributed nodes *Operational* Authentication and authorization Administrative data access Confguration and patch management Authentication of applications and nodes Audit and logging Monitoring, fltering, and blocking API security *Architectural* Walled garden Cluster security Data-centric security Enterprise security Embedded security

Fig. 14 Percentage that each job has appeared in the articles

Although many signs of progress have been gain, there are still several open issues in the MapReduce at the infrastructure level. Therefore, after studying related papers in MapReduce, we will discuss some unmentioned issues that can be studied and analyzed further. We enumerate some promising future directions in Hadoop MapReduce as follows:

- General platform: by integrating MapReduce and Spark, we can beneft a general platform in which the batch, streaming, iterative, and in-memory applications can be executed simultaneously in a Hadoop cluster. We can employ a dedicated pool for each application type or group of users and reach better performance and power saving.
- Artificial intelligence approaches: we can build accurate and robust performance prediction models based on historical data in each Hadoop phases and feed these models output to algorithms such as genetic, smart hill climbing, and machine learning. Using the qualifed search in the Hadoop confguration space, these methods can fnd optimal or near-optimal confguration with high probability. These methods help developers to not scramble with manually confguration of Hadoop confguration parameters.
- Combination techniques: hardware approaches such as dynamic voltage and frequency scaling, SSD-based in-storage computing, and remote-based data access controllers along with pipelining the map, sort, shuffle, and reduce phases can improve the power consumption of a MapReduce cluster.
- Software-based approaches: we can employ algorithms in which the placement of data, produced by mappers is earlier defned so that the partition, belonged to a specifed reducer would be available by and by during completion of map

Fig. 15 Challenges and opportunities in MapReduce area

phase. In such way, the heavy shuffling of the shuffle phase is divided into light shufing and accelerates the job execution time.

- MapReduce Model: by defning an appropriate execution model based on the heterogeneity of systems such as application type, data type and format, server characteristics, topology and communication medium type, and workload prediction, we can reach to higher performance.
- Cloudy MapReduce: since MapReduce programming model accelerates Big data processing, deploying MapReduce in IaaS clouds can maximize the performance of cloud infrastructure service. Furthermore, we can service MapReduce to cloud users for running their MapReduce applications in the cloud. Besides, we can beneft fne-grained cluster security using cloud-based MapReduce.
- Cluster Topology: shufing is a network-consuming stage in geo-distributed MapReduce-based datacenters. The default network topology of Hadoop is fat, i.e., "tree" [[14,](#page-65-12) [59\]](#page-67-5) which does not support scalability and causes higher data computation and communication costs. Although there are two masters (one as a backup) in a Hadoop cluster, how many nodes can deploy in a sub-cluster and how the masters of the sub-clusters should communicate with each other are already the open issues.
- Secure MapReduce: To secure Hadoop cluster, the robust and efficient algorithms are required in four aspects of security including authentication, authorization, auditing, and data access. To prevent and confront the attacks, some solutions including new user authentication protocols such as Kerberos [\[93](#page-68-11)], robust encryption algorithms for data communication between Hadoop daemons, and powerful data-at-rest access control mechanisms can be employed. Further, we can design and develop visualizations tools and intelligent algorithms to predictive models for informing the system administrator of data spillage and destructive attacks using attack patterns detection and provenance logs.

• Cost-efective MapReduce: the mentioned challenges impose costs in terms of energy consumption. To alleviate the costs, we can focus on the solutions which mitigate job execution time. Load skew handling including online solutions (quickly aggregating intermediate data and then estimating the reduce task workload), writing customized partitioners, multi-level partitioners, optimal schedulers such as run-time map task split binding or the run-time reduce task partition binding, powerful speculative mechanisms, and efficient data replication algorithms reduce the job execution time and subsequently the required energy. In this way and with this outlook, we reach "Green MapReduce" since the carbon emissions are controlled. Figure [15](#page-63-0) shows a summary of challenges and opportunities.

5 Conclusions and limitations

In this paper, we have conducted a holistic study systematically in Hadoop MapReduce. First, we had an architectural overview of Hadoop main components. After describing our research methodology, we classifed the MapReduce studies into seven areas: (1) performance; (2) job/task scheduling; (3) load balancing; (4) resource provisioning; (5) fault tolerance in terms of availability and reliability; (6) security; and (7) energy efficiency. Afterward, we extracted the main idea, discussed strengths and drawbacks and provided our observations by answering the research questions. The chronicle of studies refects the attention to the challenges of MapReduce as a Big data processing platform among the researches. The majority (16 out of 55 articles) of studies have focused on performance as the most signifcant topic in MapReduce, while scheduling, load balancing, energy efficiency, security, fault tolerance, and resource provisioning are the next most considered topics, respectively. We defned the future direction and presented several potential solutions to researchers, interested in MapReduce area.

We studied the major investigated challenges of MapReduce framework as well as the best-proposed solutions and tried hard to provide a comprehensive systematic study. But, the study might have some limitations which are our plan to address them in future studies. Searching only digital libraries using search string keywords is just one of the many channels of fnding research activity stream about a widely focused topic like MapReduce. Two search approaches for future study are as follows: (1) using other means such as Ph.D. theses, academic blogs, editorial notes, and technical reports and (2) relaxing some of the strict exclusion criteria such as considering the interdisciplinary articles, national journals, and conferences, and non-English articles, it might help us to become familiar with other worthy solutions.

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