**Towards a Collective Layer in the Big Data Stack**

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*Abstract*—

In this paper we present our ongoing efforts to identify and implement collective communication patterns for optimization of data communication and data reductions in iterative MapReduce applications. So far we have MapReduceMerge, AllGather, AllReduce and Scatter patterns. These patterns have the ability to improve performance while facilitating ease of use for the users. Our goal is to determine, define and implement a set of commonly agreed on set of collective communications primitives that can be used across many different MapReduce or iterative MapReduce frameworks.

We present prototype implementations of Map-AllGather and Map-AllReduce primitives for Twister4Azure and Hadoop (called H-Collectives). We achieved up to 33% improvement for KMeansClustering and up to 50% improvement with Multi-Dimensional Scaling in addition to the improved user friendliness. In some cases, collective communication operations virtually eliminated almost all the overhead of the computations.

Keywords-component; formatting; style; styling; insert (key words)

# Introduction

During the last decade three interconnected disruptions driven mainly by the industry altered the landscape of scalable parallel computing, which has long been dominated by the HPC applications. These disruptions are the emergence of data intensive computing (aka big data), the new emergence of commodity cluster-based execution & storage frameworks such as MapReduce and the utility computing model introduced by Cloud computing environments. Oftentimes MapReduce is used to process the “Big Data” in cloud or cluster environments. While these disruptions have fueled major innovations and caused massive progress in the area of scalable parallel computing, there still exist many opportunities to improve these toolsets and technologies to extract the maximum out of the computing, data and human resources. In this paper we present a set of collective communications primitives that extend the MapReduce model to improve the efficiency and usability of large-scale parallel data intensive computations on cloud computing environments as well as traditional clusters.

When performing distributed computations, oftentimes the data needs to be shared and/or consolidated among the different nodes of the computations. Collective communication primitives effectively facilitate these data communications by providing operations that involve a group of nodes simultaneously[[1](#_ENREF_1), [2](#_ENREF_2)], rather than one by one. Collective communication primitives are very popular in the HPC community and used heavily in the MPI type of HPC applications. A lot of research [[1](#_ENREF_1)] has been done to optimize the performance of these collective communication operations, as they have a large impact on the performance of HPC applications.

Our research highlights several collective communication primitives to support and optimize common computation and communication patterns in iterative MapReduce computations. We present the applicability of collective communication operations to Iterative MapReduce without sacrificing the desirable properties such as fault tolerance, scalability, familiar APIs and data model,. The addition of collective communication operations enriches the iterative MapReduce model by providing many performance and ease of use advantages. This includes providing efficient data communication operations optimized for the particular execution environment and use case, enabling programming models that fit naturally with application patterns, and allowing users to avoid overhead by skipping unnecessary steps of the execution flow.

We present these patterns as high level constructs that can be adopted by any MapReduce or iterative MapReduce runtime. We also offer proof-of-concept implementations of the primitives on Hadoop and Twister4Azure and envision a future where all the MapReduce and iterative MapReduce runtimes support a common set of collective communication primitives.

The solutions presented in this paper focus on mapping All-to-All communication type of collective communication operations, AllGather and AllReduce, to the MapReduce model as Map-AllGather and Map-AllReduce patterns. Map-AllGather gathers the outputs from all the map tasks and distributes the gathered data to all the workers after a combine operation. Map-AllReduce primitive combines the results of the Map Tasks based on a reduction operation and delivers the result to all the workers. We also present MapReduceMergeBroadcast as a canonical model representative of most of the iterative MapReduce frameworks.

# MapReduce-MergeBroadcast (MR-MB)

This section introduces MapReduce-MergeBroadcast[[3](#_ENREF_3)], called MR-MB from here onwards, as a generic programming model to represent data-intensive iterative MapReduce applications. Programming models of most of the current iterative MapReduce frameworks can be specified as MR-MB.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Pattern** | **Execution and communication flow** | **Frameworks** | **Sample applications** |
| **MapReduce** | Map->Combine->Shuffle->Sort->Reduce | Hadoop, Twister, Twister4Azure | WordCount, Grep, etc. |
| **MapReduce-MergeBroadcast** | Map->Combine->Shuffle->Sort->Reduce->Merge->Broadcast | Twister, Haloop, Twister4Azure | KMeansClustering, PageRank, |
| **Map-AllGather** | Map->AllGather Communication->AllGather Combine | H-Collectives, Twister4Azure | MDS-BCCalc |
| **Map-AllReduce** | Map->AllReduce (communication + computation) | H-Collectives, Twister4Azure | KMeansClustering, MDS-StressCalc |

## API

The MR-MB programming model extends the *map* and *reduce* functions of traditional MapReduce to include the loop variant delta values as an input parameter. MR-MB provides the loop variant data (*dynamicData*), including broadcast data, to the *Map* and *Reduce* tasks as a list of key-value pairs using this additional input parameter.

*Map(<key>, <value>, list\_of <key,value> dynamicData)*

*Reduce(<key>,list\_of<value>,list\_of<key,value> dynamicData)*

## Merge Task

*Merge[*[*3*](#_ENREF_3)*]* was defined as a new step to the MapReduce programming model to support iterative applications. It is a single task, or the convergence point, which executes after the *Reduce* step that can be used to perform summarization or aggregation of the results of a single MapReduce iteration. The *Merge* step can also serve as the “loop-test” that evaluates the loops condition in the iterative MapReduce programming model.

*Merge* Task receives all the *Reduce* outputs and the broadcast data for the current iteration as the inputs. With *merge*, the overall flow of the iterative MapReduce computation and data flow would appear as follows:

*Map →Combine→Shuffle→Sort→Reduce→Merge→Broadcast*

Following are the programming APIs of the Merge task.

*Merge(list\_of <key,list\_of<value>> reduceOutputs,*

*list\_of <key,value> dynamicData)*

## Broadcast

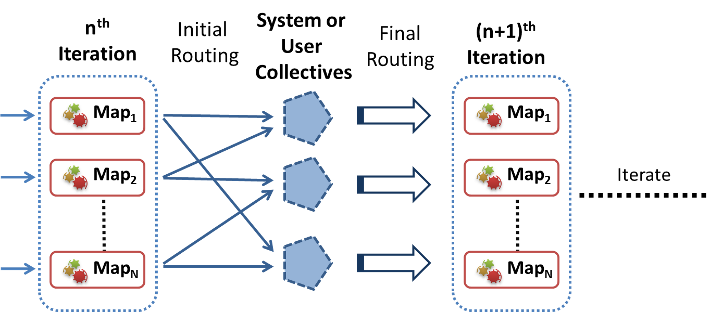
The broadcast operation transmits the loop variant data to all the tasks in an iteration. In typical data-intensive iterative computations, the loop-variant data is orders of magnitude smaller than the loop-invariant data. Broadcast operation typically broadcasts the output data of the Merge tasks to the tasks of the next iteration. For MR-MB, this can also be thought of as executing at the beginning of the iterative MapReduce computation. This would make the model Broadcast-MapReduce-Merge, which is essentially similar to the MapReduce-Merge-Broadcast when iterations are present (e.g.: …MRn-> Mergen-> Broadcastn-> MRn+1-> Merge n+1->...). Broadcast can be implemented efficiently based on the environment as well as the data sizes. Well-known algorithms for data broadcasting include flat-tree, minimum spanning tree (MST), pipeline and chaining[[4](#_ENREF_4)]. It’s possible to share broadcast data between multiple Map and/or Reduce tasks executing on the same node.

## Current iterative MapReduce Frameworks and MR-MB

Twister4Azure[[3](#_ENREF_3)] supports the MR-MB natively. In Twister, the combine step is part of the driver program and is executed after the MapReduce computation of every iteration. Twister is a MapReduce-Combine model, where the Combine step is similar to the Merge step. Twister[[5](#_ENREF_5)] MapReduce computations broadcast the loop variant data products at the beginning of each iteration, effectively making the model Broadcast-MapReduce-Combine, which is semantically similar to the MR-MB. HaLoop[[6](#_ENREF_6)] performs an additional MapReduce computation to do the fixed point evaluation for each iteration, effectively making this MapReduce computation equivalent to the Merge task. Data broadcast is achieved through a MapReduce computation to join the loop variant and loop invariant data.

# Collective Communications Primitives for Iterative MapReduce

While implementing iterative MapReduce applications using the MR-MB model, we started to notice several common execution flow patterns across the different applications. Some of these applications had very trivial Reduce and Merge tasks while other applications needed extra effort to map to the MR-MB model owing to the execution patterns being slightly different than the iterative MapReduce pattern. In order to solve such issues, we introduce Map-Collectives communications primitives to the iterative MapReduce programming model, inspired by the MPI collective communications primitives[[2](#_ENREF_2)].



1. Collective Communication primitives

These primitives support higher-level communication patterns that occur frequently in data-intensive iterative applications by substituting certain steps of the MR-MB computation. As depicted in Figure 1, these collective primitives can be thought of as a Map phase followed by a series of framework-defined communication and computation operations leading to the next iteration.

In this paper we propose two collective communication primitive implementations: Map-AllGather and Map-AllReduce. You can also identify MR-MB as another collective communication primitive as well.

## Requirements

When designing collective communication primitives for iterative MapReduce, we should make sure they fit with the MapReduce data model and the MapReduce computational model, which support multiple Map task waves, large overheads, significant execution variations and inhomogeneous tasks. Also the primitives should retain scalability while keeping the programming model simple and easy to understand. These primitives should maintain the same type of framework-managed excellent fault tolerance supported by MapReduce.

## Advantages

### Performance improvement

Introduction of collective communication primitives provides several types of performance improvements to the iterative MapReduce applications.

Collective primitives can reduce the overheads of the computations by skipping or overlapping certain steps (e.g. shuffle, reduce, merge) of the iterative MapReduce computational flow. Collective communication patterns would also fit more naturally with the application patterns, avoiding the need for unnecessary steps.

Another advantage is the ability for the frameworks to optimize these operations transparently for the users, even allowing the possibility of different optimizations (poly-algorithm) for different use cases and environments. For example, a communication algorithm that’s best for smaller data sizes may not be the best for larger ones. In such cases, the collective communication operations can opt to have multiple algorithm implementations to be used for different data sizes. These primitives also have the capability to make the applications more efficient by overlapping communication with computation. Frameworks can start the execution of collectives as soon as the first results are produced from the Map tasks. For example, in the Map-AllGather primitive we present in section 4, partial Map results are broadcasted to all the nodes as soon as they become available. It is also possible to perform some of the computations in the data transfer layer, like the hierarchical reduction in Map-AllReduce primitive, using a reduction tree.

### Ease of use

These primitive operations make it easier for the application developers by presenting them with patterns and APIs that fit more naturally with their applications. This simplifies the porting of new applications to the iterative MapReduce model. In addition, the developers can avoid manually implementing the logic of some of the operations, such as reduce and merge tasks, and can rely on optimized operations provided by the framework.

### Scheduling with iterative primitives

In addition to providing synchronization between the iterations, collective primitives also give us the ability to propagate the scheduling information for the next iteration to the worker nodes along with the collective communication data. This allows the frameworks to synchronize and schedule the tasks of a new iteration or application with minimal overheads.

For example, Twister4Azure successfully employs this strategy, together with the caching of task metadata, to schedule new iterations with minimal overhead.

## Programming model

Iterative MapReduce collective communication primitives can be specified as an outside configuration option without changing the MapReduce programming model. This permits the applications developed with Map-Collectives to be backward compatible with frameworks that don’t support them. This also makes it easy for developers who are already familiar with MapReduce programming to use collectives.

For an example, a KMeanClustering MapReduce implementation with Map, Reduce and Merge tasks can be used with Map-AllReduce or vice versa without doing any changes to the Map, Reduce or Merge implementations.

## Implementations

Map-Collectives can be add-on improvements to MR frameworks. The simplest implementation would be implementing the primitives using the current MapReduce API and communication model on the user level, then providing the implementation as a library. This will achieve ease of use for the users and help performance.

More optimized implementations can implement these primitives as part of the MapReduce framework (or as a separate library) with the ability to optimize the data transfers based on environment and use case, using collective communications across the worker nodes.

# Map-AllGather Collective

AllGather is an all-to-all collective communication operation that gathers data from all the workers and distributes the gathered data right back to them[[1](#_ENREF_1)]. We notice the AllGather pattern in data-intensive iterative MapReduce applications where the “reduce” step is a simple aggregation operation that simply aligns the outputs of the Map Tasks together in order, followed by “merge” and broadcast steps that transmit the assembled output to all the workers. An example would be a MapReduce computation that generates a matrix as the loop variant data, where each map task outputs several rows of the resultant matrix. In this computation we would use the Reduce and Merge tasks to assemble the matrix together and then broadcast the assembled matrix.

Example data-intensive iterative applications that have the AllGather pattern include MultiDimensionalScaling [[7](#_ENREF_7)],…

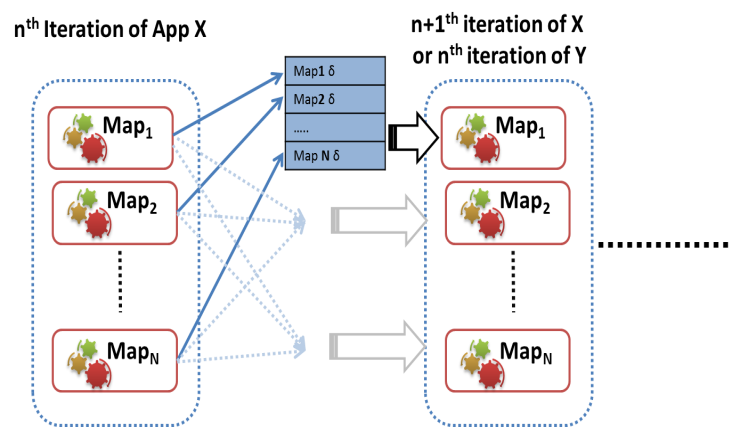
## Model

We developed a Map-AllGather iterative MapReduce primitive similar to the MPI AllGather[[1](#_ENREF_1)] collective communication primitive to support applications in a more efficient manner.

### Execution model

Map-AllGather primitive broadcasts the Map Task outputs to all computational nodes (all-to-all communication) of the current computation, and then assembles them together in the recipient nodes as depicted in Figure 2. Each Map worker will deliver its result to all other workers of the computation once the Map task is completed.

The computation and communication pattern of a Map-AllGather computation is Map phase followed by AllGather communication (all-to-all) followed by the AllGather combine phase. As shown here, this model substitutes the shuffle->sort->reduce->merge->broadcast steps of the MR-MB with all-to-all broadcast and Allgather combine.



1. Map-AllGather Collective

### Data Model

For Map-AllGather the map output key should be an integer specifying the location of the output value in the resultant gathered data product. Map output values can be vectors, sets of vectors (partial matrix) or single values. Final output value of the Map-AllGather operation is an assembled array of Map output values in the order of their corresponding keys. The result of AllGather-Combine will be provided to the Map tasks of the next iteration as the loop variant data using the APIs and mechanisms suggested in Section 2.2.1.

The final assembly of AllGather data can be performed by implementing a custom combiner or using the default combiner of AllGather-combine. Custom combiner allows the user to specify a custom assembling function. In this case, the input to the assembling function is a list of Map outputs key-value pairs, ordered by the key. This assembling function gets executed in each worker node after all the data is received.

The default combiner should work for most of the use cases, as the combining of AllGather data is oftentimes a trivial process. The default combiner expect the Map outputs to be in <int, double[]> format. The map output key represents the location of the corresponding value in the assembled value. In the above-mentioned Matrix example, the key would represent the row index of the output matrix and the value would contain the corresponding row vector. Map outputs with duplicate keys (same key for multiple output values) are not supported and therefore ignored.

Users can deploy their Mapper implementations as is with Map-AllGather primitive. They need only specify the collective operation, after which the shuffle and reduce phases of MapReduce would be substituted by the AllGather communication and computations.

### Cost Model

Using an optimized implementation of AllGather, such as a bi-directional exchange-based implementation[[1](#_ENREF_1)], we can estimate the cost of the AllGather component as follows using the Hockney model[[4](#_ENREF_4), [8](#_ENREF_8)], where α is the latency and β is the transmission time per data item (1/bandwidth)), *m* is the number of map tasks and nv is the size of AllGather data.

It’s also possible to further reduce this cost by performing local aggregation in the Map worker nodes. The variation of Map task completion times will also help to avoid network congestion in these implementations.

Map-Allgather substitutes the Map output processing (collect, spill, merge), Reduce task (shuffle, merge, execute, write), Merge task (shuffle, execute) and broadcast overheads with a less costly AllGather operation.

## Fault tolerance

All-Gather partial data product transfers from Map tasks can fail due to communication mishaps and other breakdowns. When task level fault tolerance (typical MapReduce fault tolerance) is enabled, it’s possible for the workers to read the missing map output data from the persistent storage (e.g.HDFS) to successfully perform the All-Gather computation.

The fault tolerance model and the speculative execution model of MapReduce enable duplicate execution of tasks. Duplicate data detection can be performed before the final assembly of the data at the recipient nodes.

## Benefits

Use of the AllGather primitive in an iterative MapReduce computation eliminates the need for reduce, merge and broadcasting steps in that particular computation. Additionally the smaller-sized multiple broadcasts of our Map-AllGather primitive originating from multiple servers of the cluster would be able to use the network more effectively than a single larger broadcast originating from a single server.

In typical MapReduce computations, oftentimes the Map task execution times are inhomogeneous[[9](#_ENREF_9)]. Implementations of AllGather primitive can start broadcasting the map task result values as soon as the first map task is completed. This mechanism ensures that almost all the data is broadcasted by the time the last map task completes its execution, resulting in overlap of computations with communication. This benefit will be even more significant when we have multiple waves of map tasks.

In addition to improving the performance, this primitive also enhances usability, as it eliminates the overhead of implementing reduce and/or merge functions. Map-AllGather can be used to efficiently schedule the next iteration or the next application of the computational flow as well.

# Map-AllReduce Collective

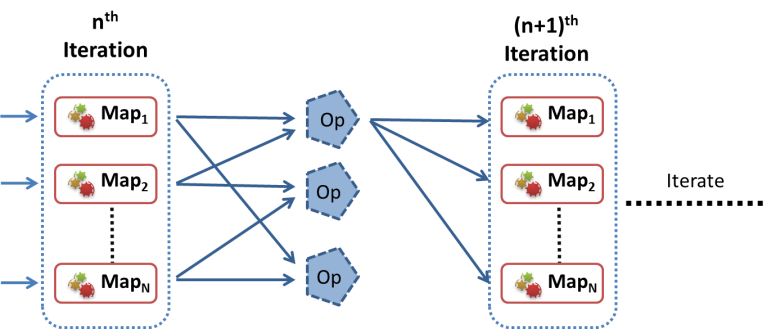
AllReduce is a collective pattern which combines a set of values emitted by all the workers based on a given operation and makes the results available to all the workers[[1](#_ENREF_1)]. This pattern can be seen in many iterative data mining and graph processing algorithms. Example data-intensive iterative applications that have the Map-AllReduce pattern include KMeansClustering, Multi-dimensional Scaling StressCalc computation and PageRank using out links matrix.

## Model

We propose Map-AllReduce iterative MapReduce primitive, similar to the MPI AllReduce[[1](#_ENREF_1)] collective communication operation, to efficiently aggregate and reduce the results of the Map Tasks.

### Execution Model

The computation and communication pattern of a Map-AllReduce computation is a Map phase followed by the AllReduce communication and computation (reduction), as depicted in Figure 3. This model allows us to substitute the shuffle->sort->reduce->merge->broadcast steps of MR-MB with AllReduce communication in the communication layer. The AllReduce phase can be implemented efficiently using algorithms such as bidirectional exchange (BDE) [[1](#_ENREF_1)] or hierarchical tree-based reduction.

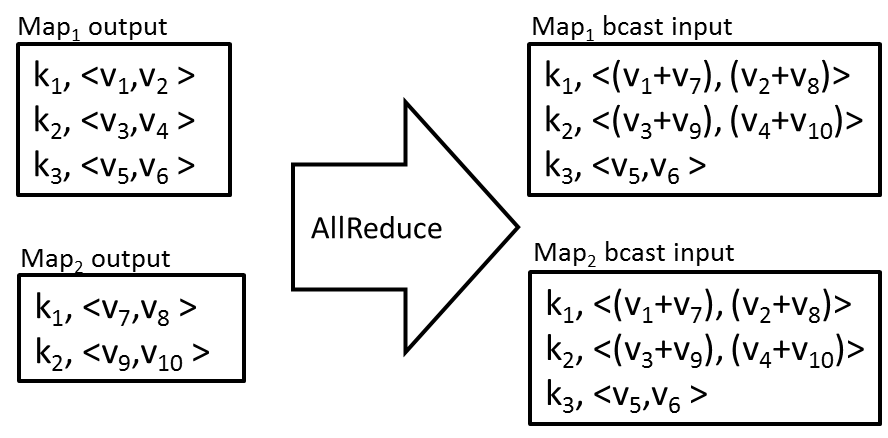


1. Map-AllReduce collective

Map-AllReduce also allows the implementations to perform local aggregation on the worker nodes across multiple map tasks and to perform hierarchical reduction of the Map Task outputs while delivering them to all the workers.

### Data Model

For Map-AllReduce, the map output values should be vectors or single values of numbers. The values belonging to each distinct map output key are processed as a separate data reduction operation. Output of the Map-AllReduce operation is a list of key/value pairs where each key corresponds to a map output key and the value is the combined value of the map output values that were associated with that map output key. As shown in Figure 4, the number of records in the Map-AllReduce output is equal to the number of unique map output keys. For example, if the Map tasks output 10 distinct keys, then the Map-AllReduce would result in 10 combined vectors or values. Map output value type should be a number. In addition to the summation, any commutative and associative operation can be performed using this primitive. Example operations include sum, max, min, count, and product operations. Operations such as average can be performed by using the Sum operation together with an additional element (dimension) to count the number of data products. Due to the associative and commutative nature of the operations, AllReduce has the ability to start combining the values as soon as at least one mapper completes the execution. It also allows the AllReduce implementations to use reduction trees or bidirectional exchanges to optimize computation and communication.



1. Example Map-AllReduce with Sum operation

It is also possible to allow users to specify a post process function that executes after the AllReduce communication. This function can be used to perform a simple operation on the AllReduce result or to check for the iteration termination condition. It would be executed in each worker node after all the AllReduce data has been received.

*list<Key, IOpRedValue> postOpRedProcess(*

*list<Key, IOpRedValue> opRedResult);*

### Cost Model

An optimized implementation of AllReduce, such as a bi-directional exchange-based implementation[[1](#_ENREF_1)], will reduce the cost of the AllReduce component to:

It’s also possible to further reduce this cost by performing local aggregation and reduction in the Map worker nodes, as the compute cost of AllReduce is very small. Map-AllReduce substitutes the Map output processing (collect, spill, merge), Reduce task (shuffle, merge, execute, write), Merge task (shuffle, execute) and broadcast overheads with a less costly AllReduce operation.

Other algorithms to implement AllReduce include ﬂat-tree/linear, pipeline, binomial tree, binary tree, and k-chain trees[[4](#_ENREF_4)].

## Fault Tolerance

If the All-Reduce communication step fails for some reason, it’s possible for the workers to read map output data from the persistent storage to perform the All-Reduce computation.

The fault tolerance model and the speculative execution model of MapReduce make it possible to have duplicate execution of tasks. Duplicate executions can result in incorrect Map-AllReduce results due to the possibility of aggregating the output of the same task twice since Map-AllReduce starts the data reduction as soon as the first Map task output is present. The most trivial fault tolerance model for AllReduce would be a best-effort mechanism, where the AllReduce implementation would fall back to using the Map output results from the persistent storage (e.g. HDFS) in case duplicate results are detected. Duplicate detection can be performed by maintaining a set of map IDs with each combined data product.

It’s possible for the frameworks to implement richer fault tolerance mechanisms, such as identifying the duplicated values in localized areas of the reduction tree.

## Benefits

This primitive will reduce the work each user has to perform in implementing Reduce and Merge tasks. It also removes the overhead of Reduce and Merge tasks from the computations and allows the framework to perform the combine operation in the communication layer itself.

Map-AllReduce semantics allow the implementations to perform hierarchical reductions, reducing the size and the number of intermediate data communications and optimizing the computation. The hierarchical reduction can be performed in as many levels as needed based on the size of the computation and the scale of the environment. For example, first level in mappers, second level in the node and nth level in rack level, etc. The mapper level would be similar to the “combine” operation of vanilla MapReduce. The local node aggregation can combine the values emitted by multiple mappers running in a single physical node. All-Reduce combine processing can be performed in real time when the data is received.

# Implementations

In this section we present two implementations of Map-AllGather and Map-AllReduce collectives on Hadoop MapReduce and Twister4Azure iterative MapReduce. These implementations are proofs of concept to show the advantages achieved by using the collective communication primitives. It’s possible to further optimize these implementation using more advanced communication algorithms based on the environment they will be executing, the scale of the computations, and the data sizes as shown in MPI collective communications literature[[1](#_ENREF_1)]. One of the main advantages of these primitives is the ability to improve primitive implementations without the need to change the user application, making it possible to optimize these implementations in the future as future work.

It is not our objective to find the most optimal implementations for each of the environments. Instead we strive to present a sufficiently optimal implementation for each of the primitives and the environments to show the performance efficiencies that can be gained through using even a modest implementation of these operations.

In the case of cloud executions, we should also note that finding most optimal implementations for cloud environments might end up being a moving target, as cloud environments evolve very rapidly. Also it is harder for outsiders due to the black box nature of cloud environments. This presents an interesting opportunity for cloud providers to develop optimized implementations of these primitives as cloud infrastructure services that can be used by the framework developers.

## H-Collectives : Collectives for Hadoop

The H-Collectives primitive library for Apache Hadoop is implemented as a drop in library. It uses the Netty NIO library, node-level data aggregations and caching to perform the collective communications and computations. Existing Hadoop Map tasks implementations can be used with these primitive with only very minimal changes.

H-Collectives speculatively schedules the tasks for the next iteration and the tasks are waiting to start as soon as all the AllGather data is received, getting rid of most of the Hadoop job startup/cleanup and task scheduling overheads. Speculative scheduling cannot be used easily with pure Hadoop MapReduce as we need to add the loop variant data (only available after the previous iteration is finished) to the Hadoop DistributedCache before scheduling the job.

A single Hadoop node may run several Map workers and many more map tasks belonging to a single computation. The H-Collectives implementation maintains a single node-level cache to store and serve the collective results to all the tasks executing in a worker node.

### H-Collectives Map-AllGather

This primitive performs simple TCP-based best effort broadcasts for each Map task output. Final aggregation of these data products are done at the destination nodes. If an AllGather data product is not received through the TCP broadcasts, then it will be fetched from the HDFS.

### H-Collectives Map-AllReduce

H-Collectives Map-AllReduce use n'ary tree-based hierarchical reductions, where Map task level and node level reductions are followed by broadcasting of the locally aggregated values to the other worker nodes. The final reduce combine operation is performed in each of the worker nodes and is done after all the Map tasks are completed and the data is transferred.

## Collectives for Twister4Azure iterative mapreduce

Twister4Azure collective communication primitives are implemented using the Windows Communication Foundation (WCF)-based Azure TCP inter-role communication mechanism, while using the Azure table storage as a persistent backup.

Twister4Azure primitive implementations maintain a worker node-level cache to store and serve the primitive result values to multiple Map workers and map tasks running on a single server. Twister4Azure also uses the primitives to perform synchronization at the end of each iteration and to paid in the decentralize scheduling of the tasks of the next iteration by using primitives to communicate the new iteration information to the workers.

### Map-AllGather

Map-AllGather performs simple TCP-based broadcasts for each Map task output, which is an all-to-all linear implementation. Workers start transmitting the data as soon as a task is completed, taking advantage of the inhomogeneous Map task completion times. The final aggregation of the date is performed in the destination nodes and is done only once per node.

More sophisticated implementations can utilize minimum spanning tree-based broadcast algorithms or a pairwise exchange-based algorithm. However, the performance of these optimized algorithms may be hindered by the fact that all data will not be available at the same time.

### Map-AllReduce

Map-AllReduce uses a hierarchical processing approach where the results are first aggregated in the local node and then final assembly is performed in the destination nodes. The iteration check happens in the destination nodes and can be specified as a custom function or as a limit on the number of iterations.

# Evaluation

All the Hadoop and H-Collectives experiments were conducted in the FutureGrid Alamo cluster, which has Dual Intel Xeon X5550 (8 total cores) per node, 12 GB RAM per node and a 1Gbps network. All the Twister4Azure tests were performed in Windows Azure cloud, using Azure extra-large instances. Azure extra-large instances provide 8 compute cores and 14 GB RAM per instance.

In the following figures, Scheduling is the per iteration (per MapReduce job) startup and task scheduling time. Cleanup is the per iteration overhead from reduce task execution completion to the iteration end. Map overhead is the start and cleanup overhead for each map task. Map variation includes the overhead due to variation of data load, compute and map overhead times. "Comm+Red+Merge" includes the time for map to reduce data shuffle, reduce execution, merge and broadcast. "Compute" and "data load" times are calculated using the average compute only and data load times across all the tasks of the computation. The common components (data load, compute) are plotted at the bottom of the graph to highlight variable components.

## Multi-Dimensional Scaling using Map-AllGather

The objective of Multi-Dimensional Scaling (MDS) is to map a dataset in high-dimensional space to a user-defined lower dimensional space, with respect to the pairwise proximity of the data points [[7](#_ENREF_7)]. In this paper, we use parallel[[10](#_ENREF_10)] Scaling by MAjorizing a COmplicated Function (SMACOF)[[11](#_ENREF_11)], an iterative majorization algorithm. The input for MDS is an N\*N matrix of pairwise proximity values. The resultant lower dimensional mapping in D dimensions, called the X values, is an N\*D matrix.

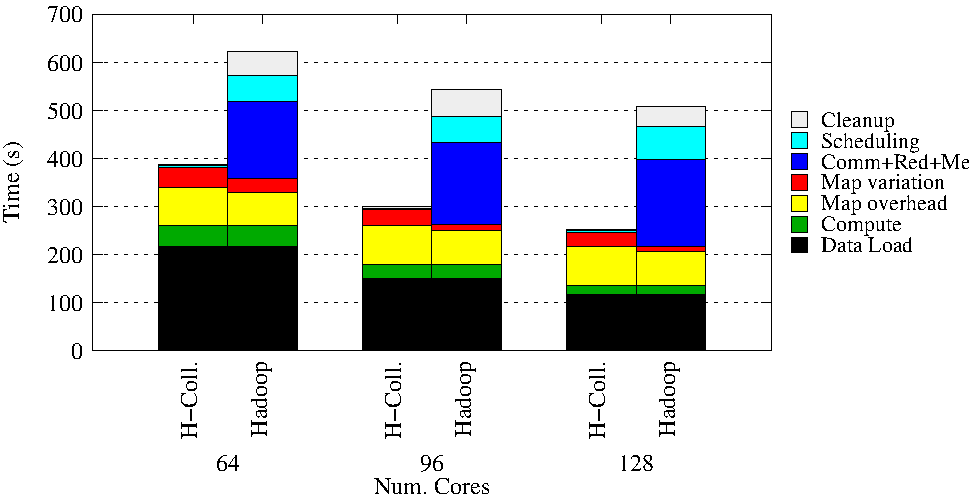
Unweighted MDS results in two MapReduce jobs per iteration, BCCalc and StressCalc. Each BCCalc Map task generates a portion of the total X matrix. The reduce step of MDS BCCalc computation is an aggregation operation, which simply assembles the outputs of the Map tasks together in order. This X value matrix is then broadcasted to be used by the StressCalc step of the current iterations, as well as in the BCCalc step of the next iteration. MDS performs relatively smaller amount of computations for a unit of input data. Hence MDS has larger data loading and memory overhead.

Usage of the Map-AllGather primitive in MDS BCCalc computation eliminates the need for reduce, merge and broadcasting steps in that particular computation.

### H-Collectives MDS Map-AllGather

We implemented the MDS for Hadoop using vanilla MapReduce and H-Collectives Map-AllGather primitive. Vanilla MapReduce implementation uses the Hadoop DistributedCache to broadcast loop variant data to the Map tasks.

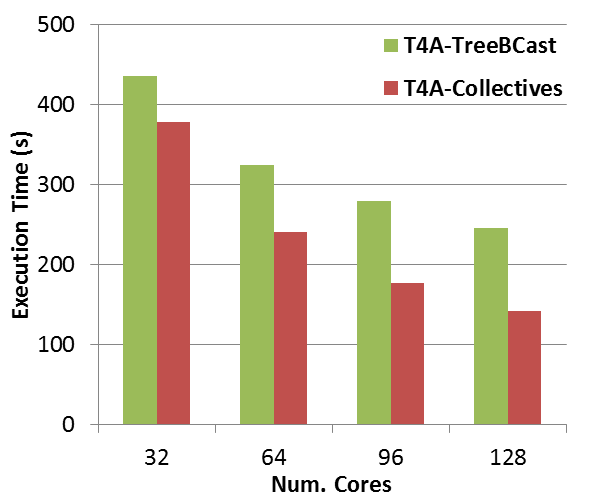
Figure 5 shows the MDS (BC calculation only) strong scaling performance results highlighting the overhead of different phases on the computation. We only used the BC Calculation step of the MDS in each iteration and skipped the stress calculation step to further highlight the AllGather component. This test case scales a 51200\*51200 matrix into a 51200\*3 matrix.



1. MDS Hadoop using only the BC Calculation MapReduce job per iteration to highlight the overhead. 20 iterations, 51200 data points

As we can see, the H-Collectives implementation gets rid of the communication, reduce, merge, task scheduling and job cleanup overhead of the vanilla MapReduce computation. However, we notice a slight increase of Map task overhead and Map variation in the case H-Collectives Map-AllReduce-based implementation. We believe these increases are due to the rapid scheduling of Map tasks across successive iterations in H-Collectives, whereas in the case of vanilla MapReduce the map tasks of successive iterations have few seconds between the scheduling.

### Twister4Azure MDS Map-AllGather



1. MDS application implemented using Twister4Azure. 20 iterations. 51200 data points (~5GB).

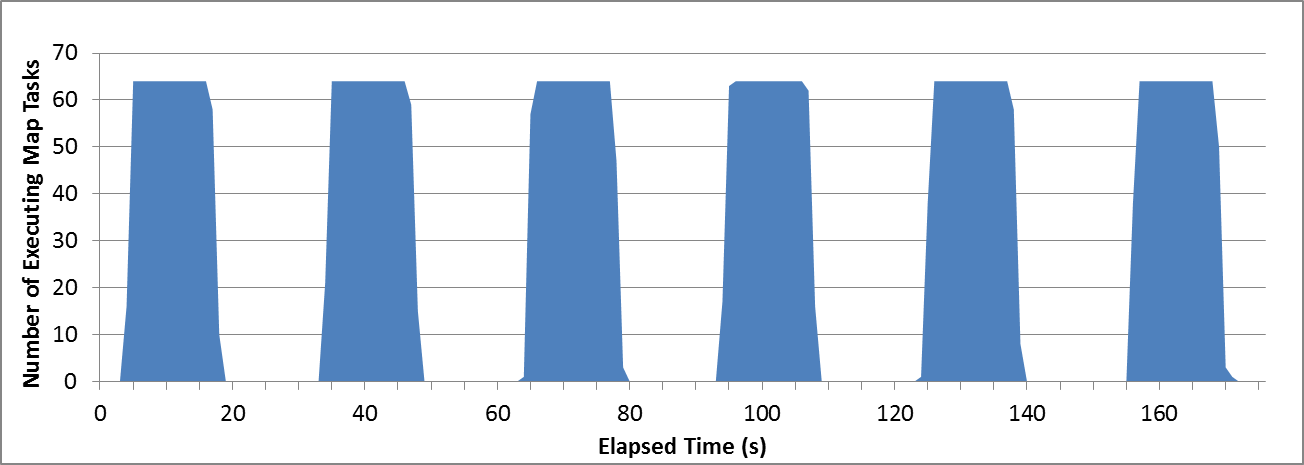
We implemented MDS for Twister4Azure using Map-AllGather primitive and MR-MB with optimized broadcasting. Twister4Azure optimized broadcast version is an improvement over vanilla MapReduce since it uses an optimized tree-based algorithm to perform TCP broadcasts of in-memory data. Figure 6 shows the MDS (with both BCCalc and StressCalc steps) strong scaling performance results comparing the Twister4Azure Map-AllGather based implementation with the MR-MB implementation. The number of map tasks per computation is equal to the number of total cores of the computation. The Map-AllGather-based implementation improves the performance of Twister4Azure MDS by 13%-42% over MapReduce with optimized broadcast in the current test cases.

### Detailed analysis of overhead

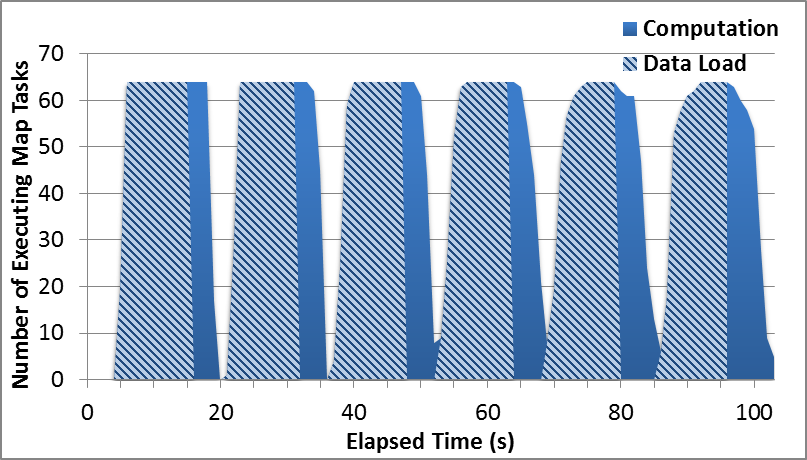
In this section we perform detailed analysis of overhead in the Hadoop MDS BCalc calculation, using a histogram of a number of executing Map Tasks. Only the BCCalc MapReduce job is used. MDS computations use 51200 \*51200 data points, 6 Iterations on 64 cores using 64 Map tasks per iteration. The total AllGather data size of this computation is 51200\*3 data points. Average data load time is 10.61 seconds per map task. Average actual MDS BCCalc compute time is 1.5 seconds per map task.

Figures 7 and 8 plot the total number of executing Map tasks at a given moment of the computation. The number of executing Map tasks approximately represents the amount of useful work done in the cluster at that given moment. The resultant graphs comprised of blue bars representing iterations of the computation. The width of each blue bar indicates the time spent by Map tasks in that particular iteration. This includes loading Map input data, Map calculation time and time to process and store Map output data. The space between the blue bars represents the overheads of the computation.

Figure 7 presents the MDS using Hadoop MapReduce. Figure 8 presents MDS using H-Collectives AllGather implementation. In H-Collectives, Hadoop driver program performs speculative (overlap) scheduling of iterations by scheduling the tasks for the next iteration while the previous iteration is still executing. The striped section on each blue bar represents the data loading time (time it takes to read input data from HDFS). Overhead in this computation includes Allgather communication and task scheduling. As can be seen, the overhead between the iterations virtually disappears with the use of the AllGather primitive.



1. Hadoop MapReduce MDS-BCCalc histogram



1. H-Collectives AllGather MDS-BCCalc histogram

### Twister4Azure vs Hadoop

Twister4Azure is already optimized for iterative MapReduce[[3](#_ENREF_3)] and contains very low scheduling, data loading and data communication overheads compared to Hadoop. Hence the overhead reduction we achieve by using collective communication is comparatively less in Twister4Azure. Also a major component of Hadoop MDS Map task cost is due to the data loading, as is evident in Figure 8. Twister4Azure avoids this cost by using data caching and cache aware scheduling.

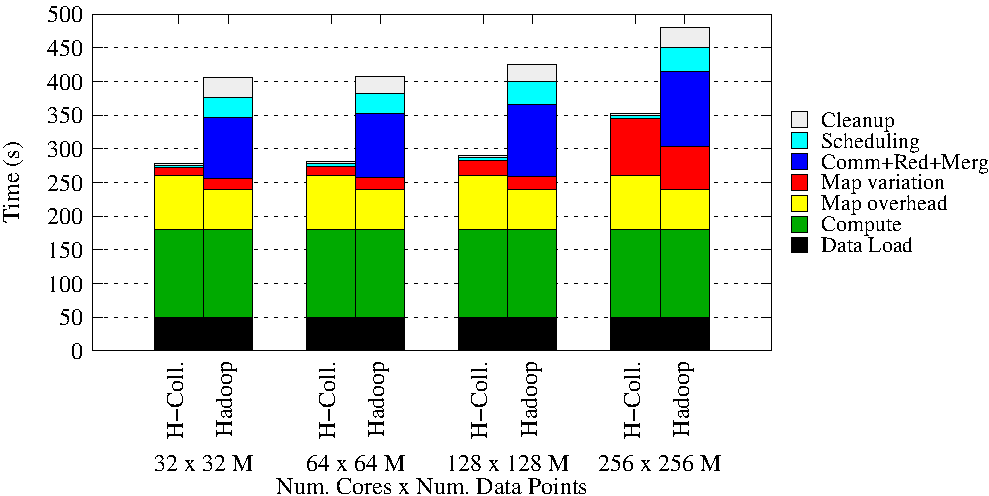
## K-means Clustering using Map-AllReduce

K-means Clustering[[12](#_ENREF_12)] is often implemented using an iterative refinement technique, where each iteration performs two main steps: the cluster assignment step and the centroids update step. In a typical MapReduce implementation, the assignment step is performed in the Map task and the update step in the Reduce task, while centroid data is broadcasted at the beginning of each iteration.

K-means Clustering centroid update step is an AllReduce computation. In this step all the values (data points assigned to a certain centroid) belonging to each key (centroid) need to be combined independently and the resultant key-value pairs (new centroids) are distributed to all the Map tasks of the next iteration. K-means Clustering has relatively smaller data loading and memory overhead vs. the number of computations compared to the MDS application discussed above.

### H-Collectives KMeansClustering-AllReduce

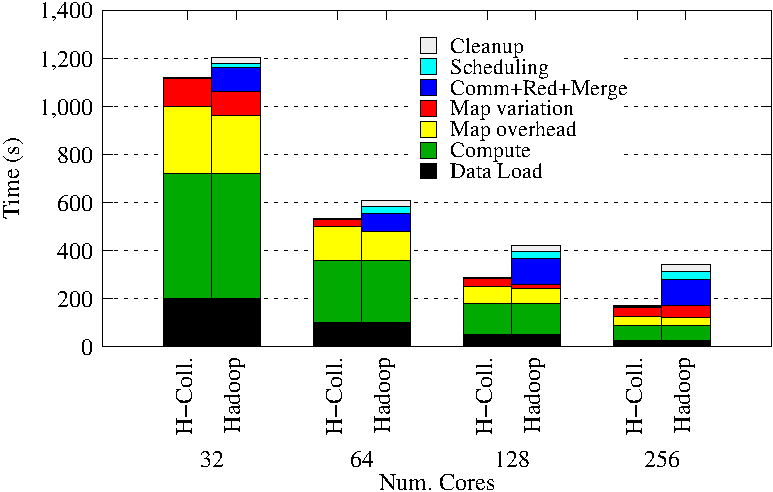
We implemented the K-means Clustering application for Hadoop using the Map-AllReduce primitive and vanilla MapReduce. The vanilla MapReduce implementation uses in-map combiners to perform aggregation of the values to minimize the size of map-to-reduce data transfers.



1. Hadoop K-means Clustering comparison with H-Collectives Map-AllReduce Weak scaling. 500 Centroids,20 Dimensions. 10 iterations.

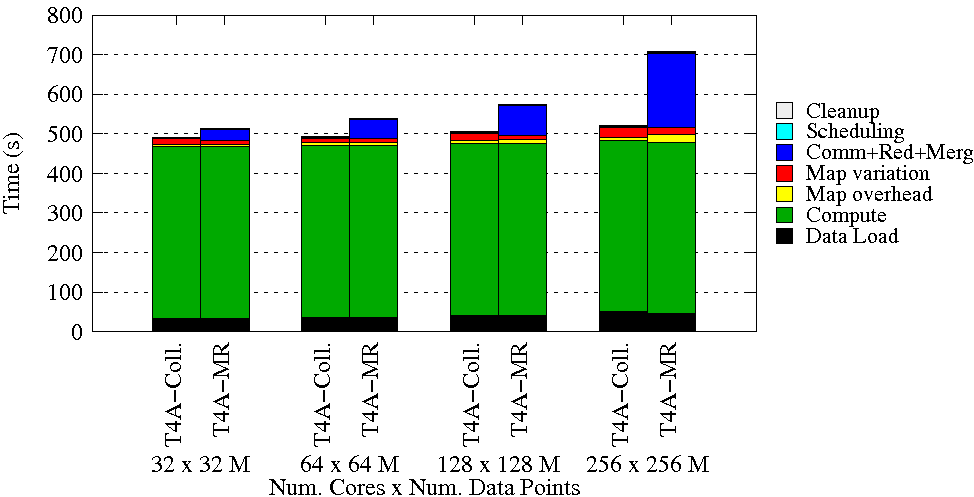
Figure 9 illustrates the Hadoop K-means Clustering weak scaling performance results in which we scale the computations while keeping the workload per core constant. Figure 10 is the Hadoop K-means Clustering strong scaling performance with the number of cores scaled while keeping the data size constant. Strong scaling test cases with smaller number of nodes use more map task waves optimizing the intermediate communication, resulting in relatively smaller overhead for the computation (HDFS replication factor of 6 was used to increase the data locality).

As we can see, the H-Collectives implementation gets rid of the communication, reduce, merge, task scheduling and job cleanup overhead of the vanilla MapReduce computation. However, we notice a slight increase of Map task overhead and Map variation in the case of H-Collectives Map-AllReduce based implementation. We believe these increases are due to the rapid scheduling of Map tasks across successive iterations in H-Collectives, whereas in the case of vanilla MapReduce the map tasks of successive iterations have few seconds between the scheduling.

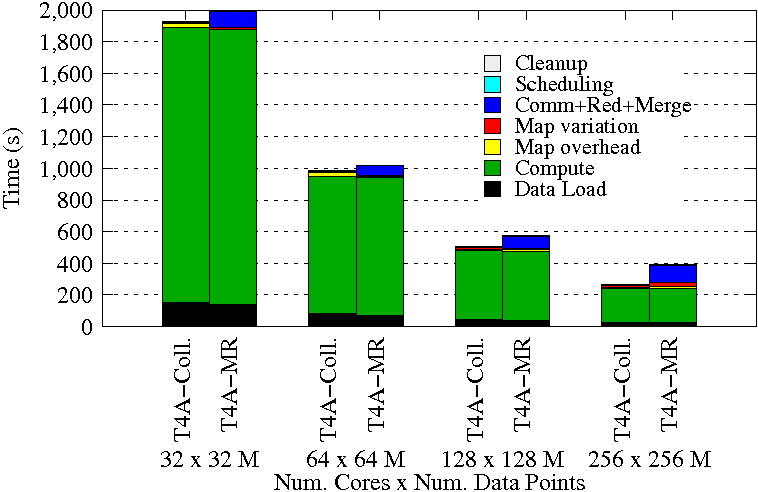


1. Hadoop MapReduce K-means Clustering & H-Collectives Map-AllReduce Strong scaling. 500 Centroids, 20 Dimensions,10 iterations.

### Twister4Azure KmeansClustering-AllReduce



1. Twister4Azure K-means weak scaling with Map-AllReduce. 500 Centroids, 20 Dimensions. 10 iterations. 32 to 256 Million data points.



1. K-means Clustering strong scaling. 500 Centroids, 20 Dimensions, 10 iterations. 128Million data points.

We implemented the K-means Clustering application for Twister4Azure using the Map-AllReduce primitive and vanilla MR-MB. The vanilla MapReduce implementation uses in-map combiners to perform local aggregation of the values to minimize the size of map-to-reduce data transfers. Figure 11 shows the K-means Clustering weak scaling performance results, where we scale the computations while keeping the workload per core constant. Figure 12 presents the K-means Clustering strong scaling performance, where we scaled the number of cores while keeping the data size constant. As we see in these figures, the Map-AllReduce implementation gets rid of the communication, reduce and merge overhead of the vanilla MapReduce computation.

# Background and Related Works

## Collective Communication Primitives

Collective communication operations[[2](#_ENREF_2)] facilitate the optimized communication and coordination between groups of nodes of a distributed computation and are used heavily in the MPI type of HPC applications. These powerful operations make it much easier and efficient to perform complex data communications inside the distributed parallel applications. Collective communication also implicitly provides some form of synchronization across the participating tasks. There exist many different implementations of HPC collective communication primitives supporting numerous algorithms and topologies suited to different environments and use cases. The best collective implementation for a given scenario depends on many factors, including message size, number of workers, topology of the system, the computational capabilities/capacity of the nodes, etc. Oftentimes collective communication implementations follow a poly-algorithm approach to automatically select the best algorithm and topology for the given scenario.

Data redistribution communication primitives can be used to distribute and share data across the worker processors. Examples of these include broadcast, scatter, gather, and allgather operations. Data consolidation communication primitives can be used to collect and consolidate data contributions from different workers. Examples of these include reduce, reduce-scatter and allreduce.

We can also categorize collective communication primitives based on the communication patterns as well.

* All-to-One: gather, reduce
* One-to-All : broadcast, scatter
* All-to-All : allgather, allreduce, reduce-scatter
* Synchronization : Barrier

The MapReduce model supports the All-to-One type communications through the Reduce step. The broadcast operation introduced in MapReduce-MergeBroadcast model (section II) serves as an alternative to the One-to-All type collective communication operations. The MapReduce model contains a barrier between the Map and Reduce phases and the iterative MapReduce model introduces a barrier between the iterations as well. Our solutions presented in this paper focus on introducing All-to-All type collective communication operations to the MapReduce model.

We can implement All-to-All communications using pairs of existing All-to-One and One-to-All type operations present in the MapReduce-MergeBroadcast model. For example, the AllGather operation can be implemented as Reduce-Merge followed by Broadcast. However, these types of implementations would be inefficient and harder to use compared to dedicated optimized implementations of All-to-All operations.

## MapReduce and Apache Hadoop

MapReduce consists of a programming model, storage architecture and an associated execution framework for distributed processing of very large datasets introduced by Google MapReduce[[13](#_ENREF_13)]. MapReduce frameworks take care of data partitioning, task parallelization, task scheduling, fault tolerance, intermediate data communication, and many other aspects of the computations for the users All this while providing an easy to use programming model, allowing users with no background or experience in distributed and parallel computing to utilize MapReduce and the distributed infrastructures to easily process large volumes of data.

MapReduce frameworks are typically not optimized for the best performance or parallel efficiency of small scale applications. The main goals of MapReduce frameworks include framework managed fault tolerance, ability to run on commodity hardware, ability to process very large amounts of data, and horizontal scalability of compute resources.

Apache Hadoop[[14](#_ENREF_14)] MapReduce, together with Hadoop distributed parallel file system(HDFS) [[15](#_ENREF_15)], provides a widely used open-source implementation of MapReduce. Hadoop supports data locality-based scheduling and reduces the data transfer overhead by overlapping data communication with computation when reduce steps are involved. Hadoop performs duplicate executions of slower tasks and handles failures by rerunning the failed tasks using different workers. MapReduce frameworks like Hadoop trade off costs such as large startup overheads, task scheduling overhead and intermediate data persistence overhead for better scalability and reliability

## Iterative MapReduce and Twister4Azure

Data-intensive iterative computations where individual iterations can be specified as MapReduce computations are a subset of distributed parallel computations suited for execution in cloud environments. Examples of such applications that are implemented using iterative MapReduce include PageRank, Multi-Dimensional Scaling[[16](#_ENREF_16), [17](#_ENREF_17)], K-means Clustering, Descendent query[[6](#_ENREF_6)], LDA, and Collaborative Filtering with ALS-WR.

These data-intensive iterative computations can be performed using traditional MapReduce frameworks like Hadoop by taking care of the iterative aspects in the job client driver, albeit in an un-optimized manner. However, many optimizations and programming model improvements are available for better performance and usability of the iterative MapReduce programs. Such optimization opportunities are highlighted by the development of many iterative MapReduce and similar frameworks such as Twister[[5](#_ENREF_5)], HaLoop[[6](#_ENREF_6)], Twister4Azure[[17](#_ENREF_17)], Daytona[[18](#_ENREF_18)], i-mapreduce, and spark[[19](#_ENREF_19)]. Current optimizations for iterative MapReduce exploited by these frameworks include caching of the loop-invariant data, cache aware scheduling of tasks, iterative aware programming models, direct memory streaming of intermediate data, iteration-level fault tolerance, caching of intermediate data (HaLoop reducer input cache), dynamic modifications to cached data (e.g. genetic algorithm), and caching of output data (in HaLoop for fixed point evaluation).

Twister4Azure is a distributed decentralized iterative MapReduce runtime for Windows Azure Cloud that was developed utilizing Azure cloud infrastructure services. Twister4Azure optimizes the iterative MapReduce computations by multi-level caching of loop invariant data, performing cache aware scheduling, optimizing intermediate data transfers, optimizing data broadcasts and many other optimizations described in Gunarathne et al [[3](#_ENREF_3)].

# Conclusions and Future Work

##### Acknowledgment

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