

Implementing K-Out-Of-N Computing For Fault Tolerant Processing In Mobile and Cloud Computing

Mr. R. Kiran Babu¹, Mr. J.Sagar Babu²

Assistant Professor Head, Department of Information Technology Princeton College of Engineering & Technology Ghatkesar Hyderabad.

Associate Professor Head, Department of Computer science & engineering Princeton College of Engineering & Technology Ghatkesar Hyderabad.

ABSTRACT

Despite the advances in hardware for hand-held mobile devices, resource-intensive applications (e.g., video and image storage and processing or map-reduce type) still remain off bounds since they require large computation and storage capabilities. Recent research has attempted to address these issues by employing remote servers, such as clouds and peer mobile devices. For mobile devices deployed in dynamic networks (i.e., with frequent topology changes because of node failure/unavailability and mobility as in a mobile cloud), however, challenges of reliability and energy efficiency remain largely unaddressed. To the best of our knowledge, we are the first to address these challenges in an integrated manner for both data storage and processing in mobile cloud, an approach we call k-out-of-n computing. In our solution, mobile devices successfully retrieve or process data, in the most energy-efficient way, as long as k out of n remote servers are accessible. Through a real system implementation we prove the feasibility of our approach. Extensive simulations demonstrate the fault tolerance and energy efficiency performance of our framework in large scale networks.

Index Terms—Mobile computing, cloud computing, mobile cloud, energy-efficient computing, fault-tolerant computing.

I. INTRODUCTION

Mobile Cloud Computing (MCC) is the combination of cloud computing, mobile computing and wireless networks to bring rich computational resources to mobile users, network operators, as well as cloud computing providers. The ultimate goal of MCC is to enable execution of rich mobile applications on a plethora of mobile devices, with a rich user experience. MCC provides business opportunities for mobile network operators as well as cloud providers. More comprehensively, MCC can be defined as "a rich mobile computing technology that leverages unified elastic resources of varied clouds and network technologies toward unrestricted functionality, storage, and mobility to serve a multitude of mobile devices anywhere, anytime through the channel of Ethernet or Internet regardless of heterogeneous environments and platforms based on the pay-as-you-use principle. MCC uses computational augmentation approaches by which resource-constrained mobile devices can utilize computational resources of varied cloud-based resources. In MCC, there are four types of cloud-based resources, namely distant immobile clouds, proximate immobile computing entities, proximate mobile computing entities, and hybrid (combination of the other three model). Giant clouds such as Amazon EC2 are in the distant immobile groups whereas cloudlet or surrogates are member of

proximate immobile computing entities. Smartphone's, tablets, handheld devices, and wearable computing devices are part of the third group of cloud-based resources which is proximate mobile computing entities.

II. CLOUD COMPUTING

Cloud computing is the delivery of computing services over the Internet. Cloud services allow individuals and businesses to use software and hardware that are managed by third parties at remote locations. Examples of cloud services include online file storage, social networking sites, webmail, and online business applications. The cloud computing model allows access to information and computer resources from anywhere that a network connection is available. Cloud computing provides a shared pool of resources, including data storage space, networks, computer processing power, and specialized corporate and user applications.

Characteristics

The characteristics of cloud computing include on-demand self service, broad network access, resource pooling, rapid elasticity and measured service. On-demand self service means that customers (usually organizations) can request and manage their own computing resources. Broad

network access allows services to be offered over the Internet or private networks. Pooled resources means that customers draw from a pool of computing resources, usually in remote data centres. Services can be scaled larger or smaller; and use of a service is measured and customers are billed accordingly. The cloud computing service models are Software as a Service (SaaS), Platform as a Service (PaaS) and Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS). In a Software as a Service model, a pre-made application, along with any required software, operating system, hardware, and network are provided. In PaaS, an operating system, hardware, and network are provided, and the customer installs or develops its own software and applications. The IaaS model provides just the hardware and network; the customer installs or develops its own operating systems, software and applications. Deployment of cloud services are the Cloud services are typically made available via a private cloud, community cloud, public cloud or hybrid cloud. Generally speaking, services provided by a public cloud are offered over the Internet and are owned and operated by a cloud provider. Some examples include services aimed at the general public, such as online photo storage services, e-mail services, or social networking sites. However, services for enterprises can also be offered in a public cloud. In a private cloud, the cloud infrastructure is operated solely for a specific organization, and is managed by the organization or a third party.

In a community cloud, the service is shared by several organizations and made available only to those groups. The infrastructure may be owned and operated by the organizations or by a cloud service provider. A hybrid cloud is a combination of different methods of resource pooling (for example, combining public and community clouds). Cloud services are popular because they can reduce the cost and complexity of owning and operating computers and networks. Since cloud users do not have to invest in information technology infrastructure, purchase hardware, or buy software licences, the benefits are low up-front costs, rapid return on investment, rapid deployment, customization, flexible use, and solutions that can make use of new innovations. In addition, cloud providers that have specialized in a particular area (such as e-mail) can bring advanced services that a single company might not be able to afford or develop. Some other benefits to users include scalability, reliability, and efficiency. Scalability means that cloud computing offers unlimited processing and storage capacity. The cloud is reliable in that it enables access to applications and documents anywhere in the world via the Internet. Cloud computing is often considered efficient because it allows organizations to free up resources to focus on innovation and product development.

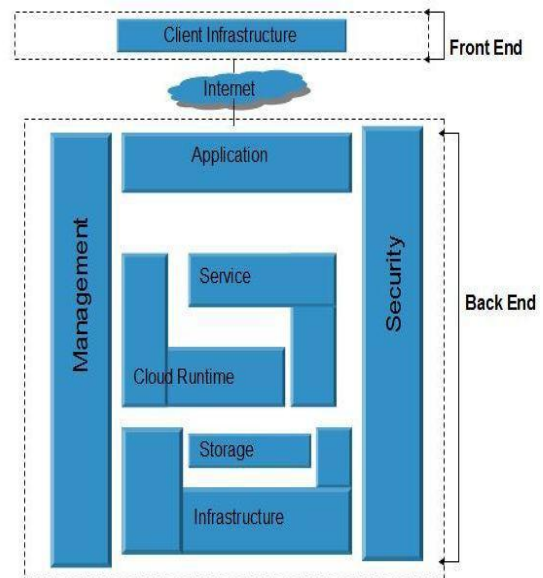


Fig 1.0 Cloud computing architecture

III. FORMULATION OF K-OUT-OF-N DATA PROCESSING PROBLEM

The objective of this problem is to find n nodes in V as processor nodes such that energy consumption for processing a job of M tasks is minimized. In addition, it ensures that the job can be completed as long as k or more processors nodes finish the assigned tasks. Before a client node starts processing a data object, assuming the correctness of erasure coding, it first needs to retrieve and decode k data fragments because nodes can only process the decoded plain data object, but not the encoded data fragment. In general, each node may have different energy cost depending on their energy sources; e.g., nodes attached to a constant energy source may have zero energy cost while nodes powered by battery may have relatively high energy cost. For simplicity, we assume the network is homogeneous and nodes consume the same amount of energy for processing the same task. As a result, only the transmission energy affects the energy efficiency of the final solution. We leave the modeling of the general case as future work.

IV. ENERGY EFFICIENT AND FAULT TOLERANT DATA ALLOCATION AND PROCESSING

This section presents the details of each component in our framework.

A Topology Discovery

Topology Discovery is executed during the network initialization phase or whenever a significant change of the network topology is detected (as detected by the Topology Monitoring component). During Topology Discovery, one delegated node

floods a request packet throughout the network. Upon receiving the request packet, nodes reply with their neighbor tables and failure probabilities. Consequently, the delegated node obtains global connectivity information and failure probabilities of all nodes. This topology information can later be queried by any node.

B Failure Probability Estimation

We assume a fault model in which faults caused only by node failures and a node is inaccessible and cannot provide any service once it fails. The failure probability of a node estimated at time t is the probability that the node fails by time $t \leq T$, where T is a time interval during which the estimated failure probability is effective. A node estimates its failure probability based on the following events/causes: energy depletion, temporary disconnection from a network (e.g., due to mobility), and application-specific factors. We assume that these events happen independently.

C Failure by Energy Depletion

Estimating the remaining energy of a battery-powered device is a well-researched problem [8]. We adopt the remaining energy estimation algorithm in [8] because of its simplicity and low overhead. The algorithm uses the history of periodic battery voltage readings to predict the battery remaining time. Considering that the error for estimating the battery remaining time follows a normal distribution [9], we find the probability that the battery remaining time is less than T by calculating the cumulative distributed function (CDF) at T .

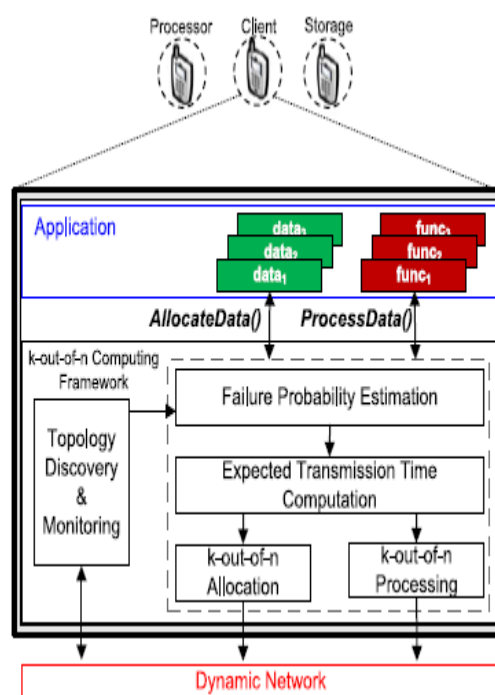


Fig 2.0 K-out of N computing

V. OUT-OF-N DATA PROCESSING

The k-out-of-n data processing problem is solved in two stages—Task Allocation and Task Scheduling. In the Task Allocation stage, n nodes are selected as processor nodes; each processor node is assigned one or more tasks; each task is replicated to $n - k + 1$ different processor nodes. An example is shown in Fig. 3a. However, not all instances of a task will be executed—once an instance of the

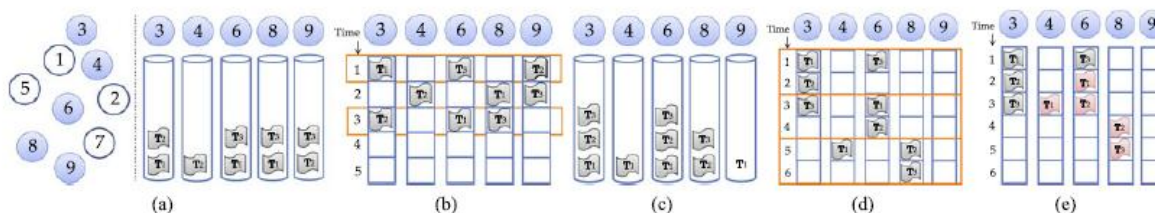


Fig 3.0 K-out-of-n data processing

task completes, all other instances will be canceled. The task allocation can be formulated as an ILP as shown in Eqs. In the formulation, R_{ij} is a $N \times M$ matrix which predefines the relationship between processor nodes and tasks; each element R_{ij} is a binary variable indicating whether task j is assigned to processor node i . X is a binary vector containing processor nodes, i.e., $X_i = 1$ indicates that v_i is a processor node. The objective function minimizes the transmission time for n processor nodes to retrieve all their tasks.

$$\overline{R}_{opt} = \underset{\overline{R}}{\operatorname{argmin}} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^M T_{ij}^r \overline{R}_{ij}$$

$$\text{Subject to: } \sum_{i=1}^N \overline{X}_i = n$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^N \overline{R}_{ij} = n - k + 1 \forall j$$

$$\overline{X}_i - \overline{R}_{ij} \geq 0 \forall i$$

$$\overline{X}_j \text{ and } \overline{R}_{ij} \in \{0, 1\} \forall i, j$$

Once processor nodes are determined, we proceed to the Task Scheduling stage. In this stage, the tasks assigned to each processor node are scheduled such that the energy and time for finishing at least M distinct tasks is minimized, meaning that we try to shorten the job completion time while minimizing the overall energy consumption. The problem is solved in three steps. First, we find the minimal energy for executing M distinct tasks in R_{ij} . Second, we find a schedule with the minimal energy that has the shortest completion time. These two steps are repeated $n-k+1$ times and M distinct tasks are scheduled upon each iteration. The third step is to shift tasks to earlier time slots. A task can be moved to an earlier time slot as long as no duplicate task is running at the same time, e.g., in Fig 3.0, task 1 on node 6 can be safely moved to time slot 2 because there is no task 1 scheduled at time slot 2.

Algorithm 1: Schedule Re-Arrangement

- 1: L $\frac{1}{4}$ last time slot in the schedule
- 2: for time $t \frac{1}{4} 2 ! L$ do
- 3: for each scheduled task J in time t do
- 4: n processor node of task J
- 5: while n is idle at $t - 1$ AND
- 6: J is NOT scheduled on any node at $t - 1$ do
- 7: Move J from t to $t - 1$
- 8: $t \frac{1}{4} t - 1$
- 9: end while
- 10: end for
- 11: end for

VI. SIMULATION RESULTS

We conducted simulations to evaluate the performance of our k-out-of-n framework (denoted by KNF) in larger scale networks. We consider a network of 400_400 m² where upto 45 mobile nodes are randomly deployed. The communication range of

a node is 130 m, which is measured on our smartphones. Two different mobility models are tested—Markovian Waypoint Model and Reference Point Group Mobility (RPGM). Markovian Waypoint is similar to Random Waypoint Model, which randomly selects the waypoint of a node, but it accounts for the current waypoint when it determines the next waypoint. RPGM is a group mobility model where a subset of leaders are selected; each leader moves based on Markovian Waypoint model and other non-leader nodes follow the closest leader.

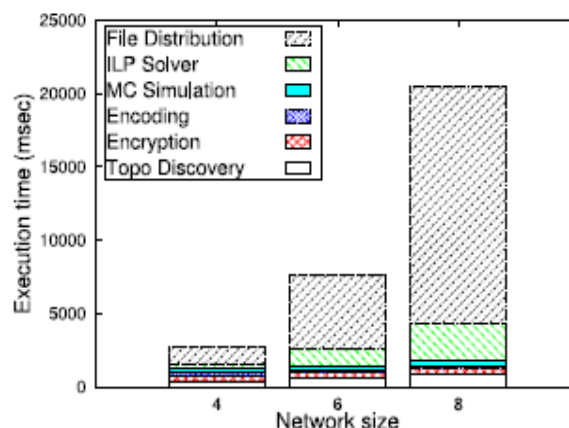
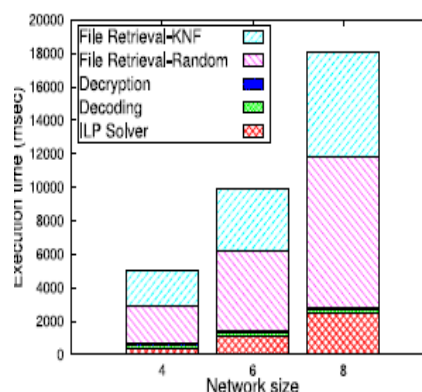


Fig 4.0 Execution time for different components



VII. CONCLUSION

We presented the first k-out-of-n framework that jointly addresses the energy-efficiency and fault-tolerance challenges. It assigns data fragments to nodes such that other nodes retrieve data reliably with minimal energy consumption. It also allows nodes to process distributed data such that the energy consumption for processing the data is minimized. Through system implementation, the feasibility of our solution on real hardware was validated. Extensive simulations in larger scale networks proved the effectiveness of our solution.

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Mr.R.KiranBabu is Asst. Professor & Head, Department of Information Technology, Princeton College of Engineering & Technology,

Ghatkesar, R.R-Dist. He has Working experience in teaching field since 2012.His qualification is B.Tech in Information Technology from Prakasam Engineering College, Kandukur, Prakasam-Dist in 2007.M.Tech in Computer Science & Engineering from Princeton College of Engineering & Technology, Ghatkesar,R.R--Dist. Completed In 2012.



Mr.J.SagarBabu is Associate Professor & Head, Department of Computer science & engineering, Princeton College of Engineering & Technology, Ghatkesar, R.R-Dist, He has Working experience in teaching field since 2008.His qualification is B.Tech in Computer Science & Engineering from Dr.Samuel George Institute of Engineering & Technology, Markapur, Prakasam-Dist in 2005.M.Tech in Computer Science & Engineering from QIS College of Engineering & Technology, Ongole,Prakasam-Dist. Completed In 2008.