

Development of a Model and Algorithms for Servicing Traffic in a Cloud Computing System

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Abstract—There is a serious variance in the requirements for the provided resource in cloud systems. Also it's needed to quickly process incoming requests and maintain the proper level of quality of service. All these factors cause difficulties for cloud providers. The proposed analytical model is designed to process requests for a cloud computing system in the Processor Sharing (PS) service mode. It allows us to solve mentioned problems. In this work, the flow of service requests is described by the Poisson model which is a special case of the Engset model. The proposed model and the results of its analysis can be used to evaluate the main characteristics of cloud systems performance.

I. INTRODUCTION

For cloud service providers, one of the most relevant tasks is to maintain the required quality of service (QoS) at an acceptable level for customers. This condition complicates the work of providers, since now they need not only to manage their resources, but also provide the expected level of QoS for customers. Due to all of these factors it is required to provide an accurate and well-adapted mechanism for analyzing the performance of the service provided. For the reasons stated above, the development of a model and algorithms for estimating the required resource is an urgent task. That task is significant for cloud systems performance evaluation.

Cloud computing is a model that provides convenient, on-demand network access to a shared pool of computing resources. These resources can be quickly provisioned and released with minimal operating costs. Typically, in a cloud computing environment there are always three tiers: infrastructure providers, cloud service providers and customers. However, sometimes the infrastructure provider and the cloud provider are presented by the same entity. The infrastructure provider grants access to its hardware. Three-tier cloud architecture is shown on the Figure 1.

The service provider gives resources leased from infrastructure providers and permission to use its cloud services. In real-world cloud computing platforms (such as Amazon EC2, Microsoft Azure, IBM Blue Cloud) there are many work nodes managed by the cloud scheduler. The customer sends a service request to a cloud service provider who provides on-demand services. All requests from clients are placed in the cloud scheduler queue and then distributed among different server virtual machines depending on the load level of each cluster. After that the customer receives the requested service according to SLA (Service Level Agreement) from the service provider.

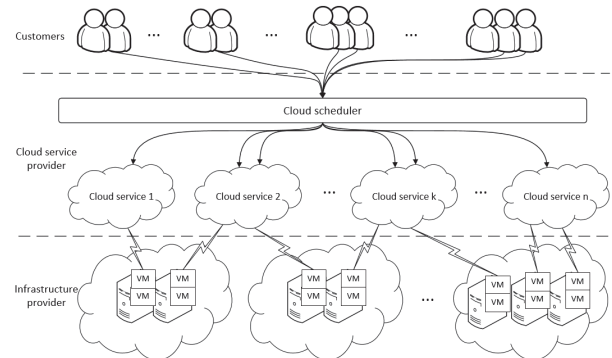


Fig. 1. Three-tier cloud architecture

There are three main types of cloud computing by access level:

- *SaaS (Software as a Service)*. In this case, the client is given access to ready-to-use applications that are deployed in the provider's cloud and are fully served by them. Examples of such systems are Salesforce.com, Google Apps and Google Mail.
- *PaaS (Platform as a Service)* allows clients to develop, launch and manage an application in the cloud development environment. Used programming languages are supported by the cloud provider. At the same time, application developers are exempted installing and maintaining an IDE (Integrated Development Environment) and can fully concentrate on application development.
- *IaaS (Infrastructure as a Service)* allows customers to control their own infrastructure without the need to physically maintain it. According to this model, the client has access to data storage, network resources, virtual servers and dedicated hardware via API (application programming interface) or control panel. IaaS is the most flexible cloud model that simplifies the management of computing resources and scaling them. Typical examples of such services are Microsoft Azure and Amazon Web Services.

In this work we will consider the IaaS type of cloud computing.

II. RELATED WORKS

In teletraffic papers [1]–[5] you can find performance analysis of multiservice models with different modes of service.

In [6] the survey of traffic models for communication networks was presented. In this survey the key performance indicators such as blocking probability and mean delay are independent of all traffic characteristics except for the traffic intensity. In particular a multi-rate model and multi-need model were described.

In [7], the authors tried to solve the common problem of resource provisioning in cloud computing. Their model is designed to allocate resources between different clients so that SLA for all types of clients is fulfilled. The cloud is presented as a $M/M/C/C$ system with different priority classes. In their analysis the main criterion of efficiency was the probability of refusal to provide services for different classes of clients, which is determined by analytical methods.

The authors of [8] have proposed a more sophisticated queuing model, consisting of two related subsystems, to evaluate the performance of heterogeneous data centers. Based on the proposed model, average response time, average latency and other key performance parameters were analyzed. Simulation experiments show that an analytic model is effective for accurate assessment of a heterogeneous data center performance.

In [9] modern cloud systems with large number of servers were analyzed. The cloud is modeled as a $M/G/m/m + r$ system, which contains a buffer of tasks of finite capacity, with the assumption that the time exponentially distributed between arrival and service. To evaluate the performance, the full probability distribution of the response time depending on the number of tasks in the system was obtained. The simulation results showed that their model provides accurate results for the average number of tasks in the system and the probabilities of blocking applications.

III. MODEL DESCRIPTION

A. General description of the model

In the presented model, the process of simultaneous processing of ordered services in the Processor Sharing mode is considered. Each customer can order one of the n cloud services, which means that the system has n flows. Let us denote by C the cloud performance (total resource amount), expressed in floating point operations ($flop/s$), and C_k is the maximum performance that can be allocated for the k th client. Cloud cluster model shown on the Figure 2.

Next, we will consider two possible tasks that will be solved in this work:

- **Task 1.** It is required to find such a C so that a resource in the amount of C_k is provided to service the k th flow with a probability more than $(1 - \epsilon_k)$, where ϵ_k is the target system performance indicator. In practical terms, this allows you to understand how much the performance of the current cloud should be increased to meet the required performance metrics ϵ_k .
- **Task 2.** For a given cloud performance, determine the quality of service indicators for requests, such as: the average number of requests being served; average service time for one request; the average cloud bandwidth

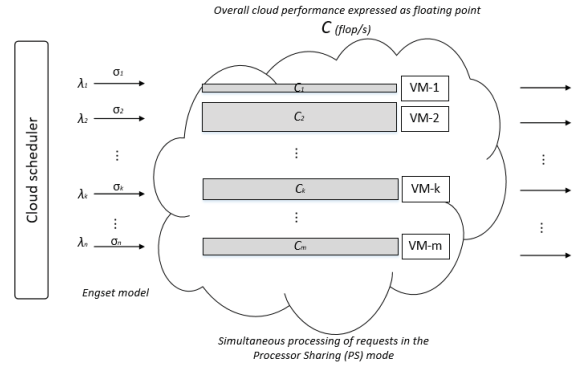


Fig. 2. Cloud cluster model

provided to serve one request; the fraction of the time the cloud is in saturation. Analyzing QoS metrics helps you determine to what extent your current cloud infrastructure can handle the load it provides and what level of load will be critical for it.

B. Model functioning

The above model can be described using Engset's model. Consider a finite number of sources for k th flow, n_k . Each source is either active, i.e., with an ongoing request, or idle. Service request durations are independent, exponentially distributed with mean $\frac{1}{\mu_k}$. Idle period durations are independent, exponentially distributed with mean $\frac{1}{\gamma_k}$. For k th flow we refer to $\alpha_k = \frac{\gamma_k}{\mu_k}$, the ratio of the mean call duration to the mean idle period duration, as the traffic intensity per idle source.

In further work, we will use a special case of the Engset model, which is the Poisson model.

We will assume that in the context client of the k th flow, the amount of work required has an exponential distribution with the average value of σ_k represented in $flop$. Requests for the k th flow arrive in the cloud according to the Poisson process with the intensity λ_k . Then $A_k = \lambda_k \sigma_k$ is the proposed arrival rate of requests from the k th flow, expressed in $flop/s$, $\alpha_k = \frac{\sigma_k}{C_k}$ is the intensity of the offered traffic per k th resource of size C_k , and $\rho_k = \frac{A_k}{C}$ is the coefficient of potential cloud load by serving the considered flow of requests. Let us introduce the total flow parameters. Let's denote by A the total intensity of the offered traffic, and by ρ the coefficient of potential cloud load. The described characteristics are given by the relations:

$$A = \sum_{k=1}^n A_k; \quad \rho = \sum_{k=1}^n \rho_k.$$

Let (i_1, i_2, \dots, i_n) is the state of the model, where i_k is the number of requests of the k th flow that are currently serviced in the cloud, $i_k \in [0, \infty)$, $k = \overline{1, n}$. For the request of the k th flow, a performance of C_k $flop/s$ is allocated, if the total amount of performance allocated to all requests, including the current one, does not exceed C . If this condition is not met, then all serviced applications share the entire common resource among themselves. Let's denote by $v(i_1, i_2, \dots, i_n)$

the cloud performance given to serve the k th flow in the state (i_1, i_2, \dots, i_n) .

$$\sum_{k=1}^n v(i_1, i_2, \dots, i_n) \leq C; \quad (1)$$

$$v(i_1, i_2, \dots, i_n) \leq i_k C_k, \quad k = \overline{1, n}.$$

C. Target service requests

The above model is described by the Markov process

$$r(t) = (i_1(t), i_2(t), \dots, i_n(t)),$$

where $i_k(t)$ is the number of serviced claims of the k th flow at the time instant t , $k = 1, 2, \dots, n$.

Let $P(i_1, i_2, \dots, i_n)$ is unnormalized probabilities of $r(t)$. Since all received requests must be serviced, for the existence of a stationary regime it is necessary that $\rho < 1$. To evaluate values of $P(i_1, i_2, \dots, i_n)$, the expression is [1]:

$$P(i_1, i_2, \dots, i_n) = P(0, 0, \dots, 0) \Phi(i_1, i_2, \dots, i_n) \prod_{k=1}^n A_k^{i_k} \quad (2)$$

Where $\Phi(i_1, i_2, \dots, i_n)$ is balance function. In this case, $\Phi(0, 0, \dots, 0) = 1$, and for negative values of the state (i_1, i_2, \dots, i_n) it is equal to zero. The resource allocation function can be obtained from the balance condition [6]. Formula (2) is equivalent to the following system:

$$P(i_1, \dots, i_n) = \begin{cases} P(0, \dots, 0) \prod_{k=1}^n \frac{\alpha_k^{i_k}}{i_k!}, & \text{for } i \leq C; \\ \sum_{k=1}^n \rho_k P(i_1, \dots, i_k - 1, \dots, i_n), & \text{for } i > C. \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

By normalizing the equation (3), the stationary probabilities of the model can be calculated. Let us express through these probabilities G the probability of congestion (the share of the cloud being in a saturation state), that is, when it is not possible to provide the maximum performance for all received requests.

$$G = \sum_{\{(i_1, \dots, i_n) | i_1 C_1 + \dots + i_n C_n > C\}} p(i_1, \dots, i_n). \quad (4)$$

Let $m_k(i)$ be the total performance flow of class k , expressed in units of peak allowable performance C_k , that is, for $m_k(i)$ it is true:

$$\begin{cases} m_k(i) = i_k, & \text{for } i \leq C; \\ \sum_{k=1}^n C_k m_k(i) = C, & \text{for } i > C. \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

Let us determine the main QoS indicators for cloud computing: T_k is the average service time for one request, L_k is the average number of serviced requests in the system, γ_k is the average throughput for servicing one applications. Assuming also that each flow gets maximum performance, we get the performance loss factor for the k th flow W_k .

$$L_k = \sum_{(i_1, \dots, i_n)} p(i_1, \dots, i_n) i_k;$$

$$T_k = \frac{L_k}{\lambda_k}; \quad \gamma_k = \frac{\sigma_k}{T_k} = \frac{A_k}{L_k}; \quad (6)$$

$$W_k = \frac{\sum_{(i_1, \dots, i_n)} p(i_1, \dots, i_n) (i_k - m_k(i)) C_k}{\sum_{(i_1, \dots, i_n)} p(i_1, \dots, i_n) i_k C_k}; \quad k = \overline{1, n}.$$

D. Recursive algorithm

Let's calculate the value $i = i_1 C_1 + \dots + i_n C_n$ for an arbitrary state of the system (i_1, i_2, \dots, i_n) . We will single out two boundary cases for i : $i \leq C$ and $i > C$. In the first case, all requests receive the maximum possible performance, but if the second inequality is true, then the value of the parameter i can be interpreted as a potential performance requirement for servicing all requests. Algorithm is based on the result [5].

Suppose that $i \leq C$ is satisfied. Let's introduce the variables $P(i)$ and $Y_k(i)$:

$$P(i) = \sum_{\{(i_1, \dots, i_n) | i_1 C_1 + \dots + i_n C_n = i\}} P(i_1, i_2, \dots, i_n); \quad (7)$$

$$Y_k(i) = \sum_{\{(i_1, \dots, i_n) | i_1 C_1 + \dots + i_n C_n = i\}} P(i_1, i_2, \dots, i_n) i_k$$

and $k = \overline{1, n}$.

From (3) and (7) we get expressions for $P(i)$ and $Y_k(i)$:

$$P(i) = \sum_{\{(i_1, \dots, i_n) | i_1 C_1 + \dots + i_n C_n = i\}} P(0) \prod_{k=1}^n \frac{\alpha_k^{i_k}}{i_k!}; \quad (8)$$

$$Y_k(i) = \sum_{\{(i_1, \dots, i_n) | i_1 C_1 + \dots + i_n C_n = i\}} P(0) \prod_{k=1}^n \frac{\alpha_k^{i_k}}{i_k!} i_k.$$

Next, we obtain a recursive formula for $P(i)$, given that $P(0) = 1$ and $P(i) = 0$ for $i < 0$:

$$\begin{aligned} P(i) &= \sum_{\{(i_1, \dots, i_n) | i_1 C_1 + \dots + i_n C_n = i\}} P(0) \prod_{k=1}^n \frac{\alpha_k^{i_k}}{i_k!} = \\ &= \sum_{\{(i_1, \dots, i_n) | i_1 C_1 + \dots + i_n C_n = i\}} \frac{i}{i} \prod_{k=1}^n \frac{\alpha_k^{i_k}}{i_k!} = \\ &= \sum_{\{(i_1, \dots, i_n) | i_1 C_1 + \dots + i_n C_n = i\}} \frac{1}{i} \alpha_k C_k \frac{\alpha_1^{i_1}}{i_1!} \dots \frac{\alpha_k^{i_k-1}}{(i_k-1)!} \dots \\ &= \frac{\alpha_n^{i_n}}{i_n!} I(i_k - 1 \geq 0) = \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{i} A_k P(i - C_k) I(i - C_k \geq 0), \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

and $i = \overline{1, C}$.

In (9) $I(\cdot)$ is an indicator function, that takes the value 1 when the inner expression is true, and 0 otherwise. The presented formula is called the Kaufman-Roberts recursion [6]. Similarly, we obtain the formula for $Y_k(i)$:

$$Y_k(i) = \sum_{\{i_1 C_1 + \dots + i_n C_n = i\}} P(0) \prod_{k=1}^n \frac{\alpha_k^{i_k}}{i_k!} I(i_k = \alpha_k) P(i - C_k). \quad (10)$$

Let us calculate the auxiliary characteristics for the case $i > C$:

$$\bar{P} = \sum_{\{i_1 C_1 + \dots + i_n C_n > C\}} P(i_1, i_2, \dots, i_n); \quad (11)$$

$$\bar{Y}_k = \sum_{\{i_1 C_1 + \dots + i_n C_n > C\}} P(i_1, i_2, \dots, i_n) i_k, \quad k = \overline{1, n}, \quad (12)$$

and for the case $i \leq C$:

$$P_k = \sum_{i=C-C_k+1}^C P(i), \quad k = \overline{1, n}; \quad (13)$$

$$Y_{k,j} = \sum_{i=C-C_j+1}^C Y_k(i), \quad j = \overline{1, n}; k = \overline{1, n}.$$

Let's transform (11) using the relation (3):

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{P} &= \sum_{i>C} P(i_1, i_2, \dots, i_n) = \\ &= \sum_{i>C} \sum_{k=1}^n \rho_k P(i_1, \dots, i_k - 1, \dots, i_n) = \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^n \rho_k (P_k + \bar{P}). \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

Finally, from (14) we get

$$\bar{P} = \frac{1}{1-\rho} \sum_{k=1}^n \rho_k P_k. \quad (15)$$

Similarly, we get the expression for (12), using the following transformations:

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{Y}_k &= \sum_{i>C} P(i_1, \dots, i_n) i_k = \\ &= \sum_{i>C} \sum_{j=1}^n \rho_j P(i_1, \dots, i_j - 1, \dots, i_n) i_k = \\ &= \rho_k (P_k + \bar{P}) + \sum_{j=1}^n \rho_j (Y_{k,j} + \bar{Y}_k). \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

The final expression will look like this:

$$\bar{Y}_k = \frac{1}{1-\rho} \cdot [\rho_k (P_k + \bar{P}) + \sum_{j=1}^n \rho_j Y_{k,j}]. \quad (17)$$

Finally, let's define a few more characteristics of the model's service quality indicators: G_k is a probability of congestion for the k th flow, that is, the share of the cloud being in a saturation state for the k th flow and ϵ_k is a target indicator of resource availability C_k , it can actually be interpreted as the probability of blocking an application if it is impossible to provide the required amount of the resource C_k .

$$G_k = \frac{\bar{Y}_k}{Y_k(0) + Y_k(2) + \dots + Y_k(n)}, \quad k = \overline{1, n}; \quad (18)$$

$$\epsilon_k = \frac{P_k}{\sum_{i=1}^C P(i)}, \quad k = \overline{1, n}. \quad (19)$$

Let us formalize a recursive algorithm to estimate the service characteristics of a model:

- 1) Let's set the initial value $P(0) = 1$. We obtain an expression for the unnormalized probabilities $P(i)$, where $i = 1, 2, \dots, C$ in terms of $P(0)$, using the relation:

$$P(i) = \frac{1}{i} \sum_{k=1}^n A_k P(i - C_k) I(i - C_k \geq 0) \quad (20)$$

derived from (9).

- 2) Find the unnormalized values of the function $g_k(i)$ for $i = C_k, C_k + 1, \dots, C$ and $k = 1, 2, \dots, n$ using the formula

$$Y_k(i) = \alpha_k P(i - C_k)$$

which follows from (10).

- 3) Referring to (13), we find auxiliary characteristics:

$$Y_{k,j} = \sum_{i=C-C_j+1}^C Y_k(i), \quad j = \overline{1, n}; \quad k = \overline{1, n}; \quad (21)$$

$$P_k = \sum_{i=C-C_k+1}^C P(i), \quad k = \overline{1, n}. \quad (22)$$

- 4) Using (14), (15), (16) and (17), we find auxiliary characteristics that determine the behavior of the model when $i > C$, as a result we get:

$$\bar{Y}_k = \frac{1}{1-\rho} \cdot \left[\rho_k (P_k + \bar{P}) + \sum_{j=1}^n \rho_j Y_{k,j} \right]; \quad (23)$$

$$\bar{P} = \frac{1}{1-\rho} \sum_{k=1}^n \rho_k P_k, \quad k = \overline{1, n} \quad (24)$$

- 5) Let us calculate the normalization constant

$$N = P(0) + P(1) + \dots + P(C) + \bar{P}.$$

- 6) Let's calculate the values of QoS indicators of requests using (6), (4) and (6):

$$G = \frac{\bar{P}}{N}; \quad G_k = \frac{\bar{Y}_k}{Y_k(0) + Y_k(2) + \dots + Y_k(n)};$$

$$L_k = \frac{1}{N} \left(\sum_{i=1}^C Y_k(i) + \bar{Y}_k \right); \quad \gamma_k = \frac{\sigma_k}{T_k} = \frac{A_k}{L_k}; \quad (25)$$

$$T_k = \frac{L_k}{\lambda_k}; \quad W_k = 1 - \frac{\gamma_k}{C_k}, \quad k = \overline{1, n}.$$

E. Algorithm for evaluating cloud performance C

To evaluate the performance of the C cloud, let's use points 1 and 3 in the above algorithm:

- 1) Let's set the initial value $f(0) = 1$. We get $f(i)$, for $i = 1, 2, \dots, C$ and $C = \max(C_1, \dots, C_n)$ using the relation (20):

$$P(i) = \frac{1}{i} \sum_{k=1}^n A_k f(i - C_k) I(i - C_k \geq 0)$$

- 2) Using (24) we find:

$$P_k = \sum_{i=C-C_k+1}^C P(i), \quad \overline{1, n}.$$

- 3) Using (19), calculate the performance targets ϵ_k for a given C and find the smallest of them:

$$\epsilon_k = \frac{P_k}{\sum_{i=1}^C P(i)}, \quad k = \overline{1, n}.$$

- 4) To stop the iterative cycle, repeat steps 1-3, iteratively increasing C , as long as the sum of difference in square between the assigned performance indicators and calculated in the previous point should tend to minimum ($\sum_{k=1}^n (\epsilon_k^{assign} - \epsilon_k)^2 \mapsto \min$).

IV. EVALUATION OF CLOUD COMPUTING PERFORMANCE

A program in the Python programming language was developed. It implements the recursive algorithms for evaluating the performance and QoS indicators described above. The source of the initial data was Amazon Web Services, in particular their computing cloud Amazon Elastic Compute Cloud (Amazon EC2). The choice of this source is due to the fact that at the moment AWS is one of the leaders among the cloud computing providers.

Let us analyze the dependence of the cloud load factor on the total traffic intensity A for different sets of ϵ_k . Consider a model with $n = 3$ service classes, with the corresponding computing power: $C_1 = 50 \text{ Gflop/s}$, $C_2 = 100 \text{ Gflop/s}$ and $C_3 = 500 \text{ Gflop/s}$, with targets performance $\epsilon_{k,1} = \{1\%, 2\%, 5\%\}$ for the first case and $\epsilon_{k,2} = \{4\%, 5\%, 8\%\}$ for the second. Let's build a graph of the dependence of ρ on A , the graph is shown in Figure 3.

The graph shows that the smaller the ϵ_k , the slower the potential load. This reflects the following logic: to provide small ϵ_k , more C is required, which means $\rho = \frac{A}{C}$ will increase at a slower rate. Note also that it is typical for all cases that for a low traffic intensity ρ grows rather quickly, however, when $A > \sum C_k$, the growth of the load factor becomes smoother. In addition, near the maximum value of the transmitted resource, the graphics begin to diverge significantly.

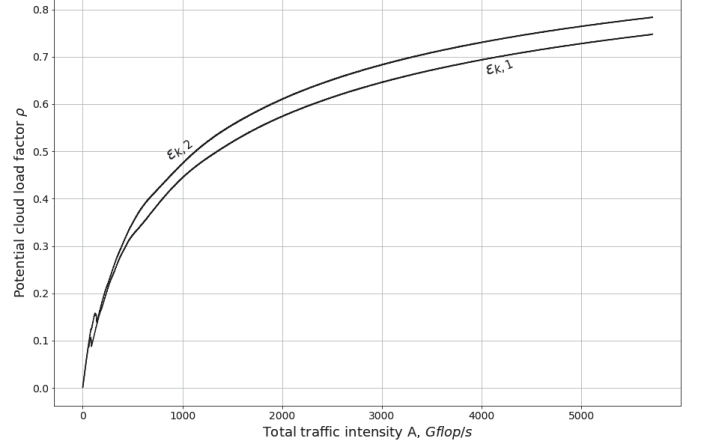


Fig. 3. Dependence of the coefficient of potential cloud load ρ on the total traffic intensity A , $Gflop/s$

A. Dependence of QoS metrics on the characteristics of the cloud computing model

Let's analyze the second problem posed earlier. In order to understand what the QoS level will be for different types of virtual machines, let's simulate a cloud node with 7 different virtual machines. As an example, take the following Amazon EC2 instances: 3 general purpose instances (M4: m4.2xlarge, m4.4xlarge, m4.10xlarge) and 4 instances optimized for computational tasks (C4: c4.8xlarge; C5: c5.9xlarge, c5.12xlarge, c5d.12xlarge). As a result, we get the following input parameters:

- We consider a cloud with a total performance value $C = 2 \text{ Tflop/s}$ and 7 Poisson streams, with intensity $\lambda_k = \frac{A_k}{\sigma}$ each;
- The amount of work required for each flow is $\sigma = 100 \text{ Tflop}$;
- It is assumed that the contribution of orders from the k th flow is exactly the same as from other flows, that is, $\rho_k = \frac{\rho}{n}$, $A_k = \rho_k C$;
- Each request has a resource of C_k available within the k th flow with a pool of values: 100 (m4.2xlarge), 200 (m4.4xlarge), 400 (m4.10xlarge), 600 (c4.8xlarge), 1000 (c5.9xlarge), 1500 (c5.12xlarge), 2000 (c5d.12xlarge, unlimited access) respectively for $k = 1, \dots, 7$.

The Figure 4 shows the relationship between the performance loss factor for the k th flow and the load factor ρ . If the value of W_k is zero, it means that the performance of C_k is fully available to the user. As you can see from the graph, the smaller the size of the required resource, the higher the level of utilization is required for there to be a loss in the provided performance. Here, again, the acceptable load level depends on the value of C_k and is determined by the value of ρ , at which W_k starts to take on a nonzero value.

The dependence of the service time of one customer on ρ is shown in the Figure 5. Similarly to the previous obtained dependence for small ρ , the service execution time is determined by C_k and reaches the values $\frac{\sigma}{C_k}$ at $\rho \rightarrow 0$,

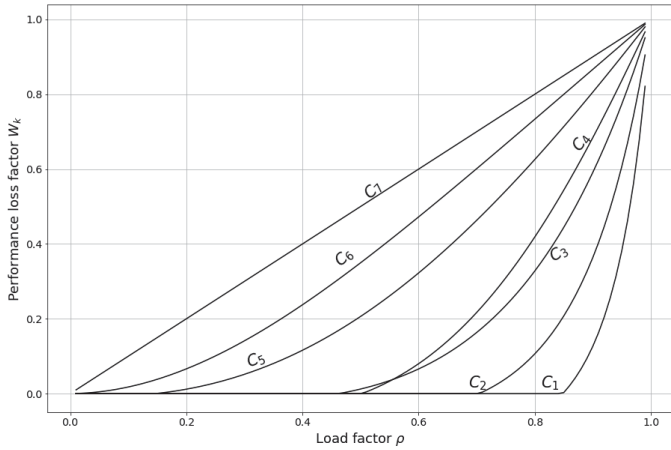


Fig. 4. Dependence of the performance loss factor for the k th flow on ρ for different C_k

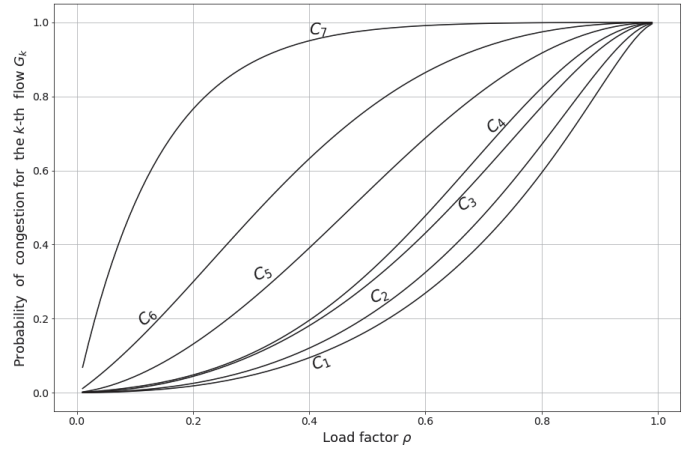


Fig. 6. Dependence of the probability of congestion for the k th flow on ρ for different C_k

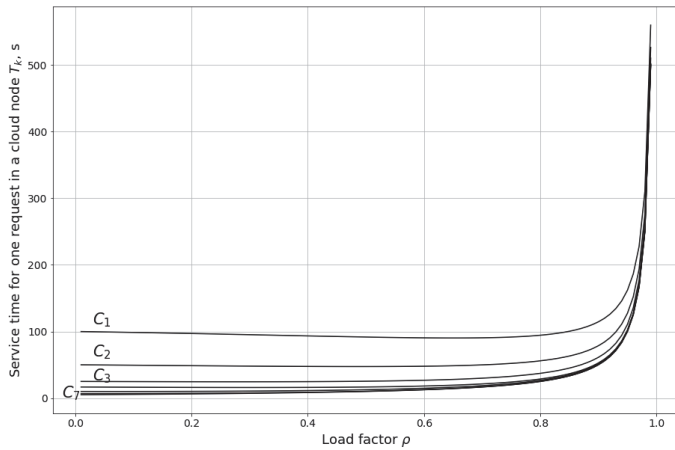


Fig. 5. Dependence of service time for one request in a cloud node on ρ for different C_k

however, as the cloud load tends to unity, the T_k tends to $T_k = \frac{1}{\lambda_k} \cdot \frac{\rho_k}{1-\rho} = \frac{\sigma}{C(1-\rho)}$ (Little's formula).

The dependence of the probability of congestion G_k on ρ is illustrated by the graph 6. Interestingly, low C_k is characterized by a smoother growth of G_k , while large C_k is characterized by a sharp change in the rate of congestion.

V. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR USING THE RESULTS

According to analysis that was made, the quality of service indicators strongly depend on the maximum value of the provided resource C_k .

The results of the work and the analysis of the tasks above can be useful for the following cases:

- To evaluate cloud performance. In order to comply with SLA, the required performance must be determined. This can be useful when planning future infrastructure or expanding the current one [10].
- To evaluate the state of the current cloud computing infrastructure and how well it handles incoming traffic.

This can be done with the help of analysis of quality of service indicators (the average number of claims in service, the average service time of one claim, the average cloud bandwidth provided to service one claim, the percentage of time the cloud is in a saturation state). In addition, it can help to identify critical load levels and bottlenecks in the system.

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