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# An Analysis of Resource Utilization in Cloud Computing using Alibaba Cluster Trace

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Abstract —Cloud computing usage is rising day by day due to their 'On Request' service. Increasing the usage of cloud computing, there is a need for better utilization and effective resource allocation. For better utilization, one needs to apply new methods, real environment or setup, or there is a need for real-time cloud datasets. Alibaba group released the dataset 'Alibaba cluster trace' in 2017, which is used in this paper. Alibaba cluster trace dataset consists of machines, online services, and offline services. Dataset has 11101 Container events(online services) and 12935 offline batch jobs located in 1300 machines over 12 hours. All services are completed in 5 minutes interval of 12 hours. The paper 'Imbalance in the cloud: An analysis of alibaba cluster trace dataset which is described in this paper and also surveyed the various methods and algorithms. Assignment of the algorithms is done in this paper for better utilization on 'alibaba cluster trace' dataset.

**Keywords**- alibaba cluster trace-2017, cloud computing, online services, batch jobs, machine utilization, resource allocation

# I. INTRODUCTION

Cloud computing plays an important role in reducing the usage of energy at global range. Cloud computing saves energy and can help the business to significantly lower its carbon footprint, which results as an asset for the better utilization.

The dataset alibaba trace data "ClusterData201708" contains 12 hours period and 1300 machines that run both online and offline services. Here is 11101 online services and 12935 offline jobs. In alibaba trace dataset, there are three types of data which consists of machines, online services and offline services. There are total 6 files in the dataset. Machine is divided into two tables: "machine event" table(Server\_event.csv) and "machine utilization" table(Server\_usage.csv). Online services are further described in two tables: "service instance event" table(Container\_event.csv) and "service instance usage" table(Container\_usage.csv). Offline batch jobs are also described in two tables: "instance" table(Batch instance.csv) and "task" table(Batch task.csv).

As per the alibaba statements or reports 3 types of works are there. Workload characterizations, New algorithm to assign workload to machines and to CPU cores, Online service and batch jobs scheduler cooperation. 1. Workload characterizations: How can we characterize Alibaba workloads in a way that we can simulate various production workload in a representative way for scheduler studies. 2. New algorithms to assign workload to machines: How we can assign workload to different machines and cpus for better resource utilization and acceptable resource contention. 3. Online services and batch jobs scheduler cooperation: How we can adjust resource allocation between online services and offline services to improve throughput of batch jobs while maintain acceptable resource contention[3].

## II. THE DATASET

## 2.1. Schema of dataset

Figure 1 represents entity relationship diagram of the dataset. Diagram describes the entity, attributes and the relation between entities. Entity represents total files of the dataset that is machine event, machine utilization, service instance event, service instance usage etc. Attribute represents the columns of each files. Relationship represents the relation between machine event and machine usage, service instance event and service instance usage, task table and instance table, this is called one to one relation. Machine usage is related with service instance event and instance table, this is called one to many relation of ER diagram.



Figure 1. Schema of database

Below describes the dataset in detail

There are three types of data in dataset (1) machine, (2) online services and (3) offline services.

#### 2.2. Machines

There are two files, machine events and machine utilization.

### 2.2.1 Machine events (server\_event.csv)

This trace includes three types of machine events: 1. Add - A machine is available to the cluster. All machines in the trace have an ADD event, and has timestamp of value 0. 2. Softerror - A machine becomes temporarily unavailable . 3. Harderror - A machine becomes unavailable due to hardware failures. This file has 7 columns as shown in figure 2

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In [29]: data

Out[29]:

	timestamp	machinelD	event type	event detail	capacity:CPU	capacity:memory	capacity:disk
0	0	1149	add	NaN	64	0.690006	1.0
1	0	1150	add	NaN	64	0.690006	1.0
2	0	1	add	NaN	64	0.689970	1.0
3	0	2	add	NaN	64	0.689970	1.0
4	0	3	add	NaN	64	0.689970	1.0
1346	74682	1075	softerror	agent_check	0	0.000000	0.0
1347	81179	930	softerror	machine_fail	0	0.000000	0.0
1348	75268	372	softerror	agent_check	0	0.000000	0.0
1349	82706	372	softerror	agent_check	0	0.000000	0.0
1350	82122	1075	softerror	agent_check	0	0.000000	0.0

1351 rows × 7 columns

#### Figure 2. Dataset summary of machine event file

#### 2.2.2 Machine utilization(server\_usage.csv)

Machine utilization has cpu utilization, memory utilization and disk utilization also has load per 1 minute, load per 5 minutes and load per 15 minutes.

data								
	timestamp	machinelD	util:CPU	util:memory	util:disk	load1	load5	load15
0	39600	265	26.36	29.540000	57.599998	17.46	18.900000	16.70
1	42600	770	49.14	60.099999	41.860001	33.20	31.220000	30.52
2	40800	776	33.24	47.520000	43.599998	21.84	22.100000	24.02
3	42900	393	45.72	58.720000	42.000000	34.10	36.239999	36.92
4	39600	610	41.70	59.220001	42.599998	29.86	29.400000	25.5
187957	81900	588	7.20	33.899999	66.400002	5.08	4.760000	2.74
187958	79800	732	14.74	33.519999	57.639999	9.56	11.420000	14.10
187959	79200	105	11.00	32.579999	41.599998	6.52	6.340000	6.5
187960	81900	486	2.30	17.380000	40.000000	1.32	2.060000	3.3
187961	80700	199	20.54	51.280001	39.900002	14.94	13.940000	16.0

187962 rows × 8 columns

Figure 3. Dataset summary of machine utilization file

This is machine utilization table. It includes utilization of cpu, memory and disk. Memory usage is 11.5 mb.

#### 2.3. Online services

Online services are described by two tables: Service instance event and Service instance usage.

# 2.3.1. Online instance event(container\_event.csv)

This table includes only two type of events : Create and Remove

Each 'create' event records the finish of an online instance creation, and each 'remove' event records the finish of an online instance removal. Online instance is given a unique cpuset allocation by online scheduler according to cpu topology and service constraints[4].

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1.00	Sec. 2	- 64.475
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Out[18]:

cpuset: assigned cpuset by online scheduler	plan_disk: normalized disk space requested	plan_mem: normalized memory requested	plan_cpu: cpu number requested	machine_id	instance_id: online instance id	event: event type includes: Create and Remove	ts: timestamp of event	
56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63	0.056809	0.084819	8	1295	1000	Create	0	0
24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	0.056809	0.084819	8	668	10001	Create	0	1
4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11	0.056809	0.084819	8	1217	10002	Create	0	2
36(37)38(39	0.034085	0.042409	4	1019	10003	Create	0	3
36 37 38 39	0.034085	0.042409	4	872	10004	Create	0	4
	1 and 1 and 1	1-11-1	10	1.000	12	A 10 mm 10		3 <b>4</b> 3
52 53 54 55	0.034085	0.042409	4	916	4597	Create	39374	11096
52 53 54 55	0.034085	0.042409	4	921	6624	Create	39495	11097
56 57 58 59	0.056809	0.042409	4	-1096	10729	Create	42454	11098
60(61)62(63	0.056809	0.042409	4	1096	3101	Create	42454	11099
0(1)2(3)4(5)6(7	0.056809	0.169637	8	66	1758	Create	79080	11100

11101 rows × 8 columns

#### Figure 4. Dataset summary of online instance event file

There are total 11101 rows and 8 columns in the service instance event table. 11100 online requests come and All the online event is created.

#### 2.3.2. Online instance usage(container\_usage.csv)

Service instance usage is the total usage of cpu, memory and disk. This table has 12 columns as shown in fig 2.1

n [5]:	data												
ut[5]:		ts: start time of measurement interval	instance_id: online instance id	cpu_util: used percent of requested cpus	mem_util: used percent of requested memory	disk_util: used percent of requested disk space	load1	load5	load15	avg_cpi, average cycles per instructions	avg_mpki: average last- level cache misses per 1000 instructions	max_cpi: maximum CPI	max_mpki: maximum MPKJ
	0	42600	107	3.30	24.000000	5.200000	0.54	0.38	0.30	0.155430	0.550153	2.211467	12.187318
	1	42300	108	3.14	25.600000	10.600000	0.08	0.14	0.20	0.199342	0.294852	2.633724	3.997216
	2	42000	109	3.82	42.000000	13.900000	0.10	0.16	0.20	0.238470	0.292426	2.203077	2.942878
	3	41700	110	5.82	24,900000	7.400000	0.74	0.62	0.60	0.136100	0.161496	1.622428	2.469633
	4	41400	111	3.92	24.000000	5.300000	0.40	0.32	0.28	0.200570	0.338131	2.758059	5.559884
	-			_	-	ex	200		1.00		er.		-
	1480900	80400	10175	4.32	34.440001	13.840000	0.12	0.18	0.20	0.174103	0.207152	2.024820	2.795278
	1480901	80100	10176	3.72	27.180000	6.200000	0.18	0.14	0.10	0.133589	0.169097	1.657425	2.404944
	1480902	79800	10177	14.90	52,060001	23.700001	0.76	0,76	0.76	0.085322	0.121745	1.207273	2.280462
	1480903	79500	10178	3.20	27.700001	13.000000	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.154083	0.199628	2.690727	4.154834
	1480904	79200	10179	25.48	64.639999	13.000000	2.58	2.66	2.98	0.169563	0.132053	1.620200	1.488545

1480905 rows × 12 columns

#### Figure 5. Dataset summary of online instance usage file

Data table has 1480905 rows and 12 columns. Total memory usage 135.6 mb.

#### 2.4. Batch workload

Batch workload is described by two tables : instance table and task table.

Users submit batch workload in the form of Job (which is not included in the trace). A job contains multiple tasks, different tasks executes different computing logic.

#### 2.4.1. Task table(batch\_task.csv)

In	[5]:	data
----	------	------

() + +	5	
out		

	create_timestamp	modify_timestamp	job_id	task_id	instance_num	status	plan_cpu	plan_mem
0	6457	6533	3	5	1	Terminated	50.0	0.004395
1	6036	6046	4	7	393	Waiting	NaN	NaN
2	6036	6046	4	6	452	Waiting	NaN	NaN
3	10719	11332	15	67	1705	Terminated	50.0	0.005736
4	10718	11164	15	66	631	Terminated	50.0	0.016007
80547	32996	33043	12935	80454	65	Terminated	50.0	0.009681
80548	32996	33061	12935	80453	69	Terminated	50.0	0.010706
80549	32996	33069	12935	80452	249	Terminated	50.0	0.007962
80550	32996	32999	12935	80457	1	Terminated	50.0	0.004059
80551	32996	33068	12935	80456	131	Terminated	50.0	0.007998

80552 rows × 8 columns

### Figure 6. Dataset summary of task table file

task table is describe the task that is event status like Ready, Waiting, Running, Terminated, Failed, Canceled. Table has 80552 rows and 8 columns. Total memory usage 4.9+ mb.

#### 2.4.2. Instance table(batch\_instance.csv)

If machine fails or network problem than batch instance may fail. Each record in instance table record one try run. The start and end timestamp can be 0 for some instance status.

In [5]: data

Out

	start_timestamp: instance start time if the instance is started	end_timestamp: instance end time if the instance ended	job_id	task_id	machineID: the host machine running the instance	status	seq_no: running trials number	total_seq_no: total number of retries	real_cpu_max: maximum cpu numbers of actual instance running	real_cpu_avg: average cpu numbers of actual instance running	real_mem_max: maximum normalized memory of actual instance running	real_mem_avg: average normalized memory of actual instance running
3	0 41561	41619	120.0	686.0	1279.0	Terminated	1	1	0.89	0.28	NaN	NaN
	1 41562	41617	120.0	686.0	828.0	Terminated	1	1	0.94	0.29	NaN	NaN
	2 41561	41617	120.0	686.0	95.0	Terminated	1	1	1.00	0.31	NaN	NaN
	<b>3</b> 41557	41610	120.0	686.0	545.0	Terminated	1	1	1.37	0.29	NaN	NaN
	4 41557	41614	120.0	686.0	258.0	Terminated	1	1	1.18	0.27	NaN	NaN
13	•				344					177		
1609465	0 73512	73514	NaN	NaN	365.0	Terminated	1	1	1.00	0.93	0.000813	0.000611
1609465	1 73512	73514	NaN	NaN	13.0	Terminated	1	1	1.00	0.35	0.001098	0.000906
1609465	2 73512	73518	NaN	NaN	421.0	Terminated	1	1	0.95	0.22	0.001512	0.000890
1609465	<b>3</b> 73512	73518	NaN	NaN	409.0	Terminated	1	1	0.93	0.25	0.001439	0.000947
1609465	4 73512	73519	NaN	NaN	815.0	Terminated	1	1	0.95	0.36	0.022245	0.021505

16094655 rows × 12 columns

Figure 7. Dataset summary of instance table file

# **III. ANALYSIS OF DATASET**

## 3.1. Outliers of data

An outliers is an observation that lies an abnormal distance from other values in a random sample from a data. This definition leaves it up to the analyst to decide what will be considered abnormal. Before abnormal observations can be singled out, it is necessary to characterize normal observation.

Below is the box plot of outliers of each column of machine event table(server\_event.csv).

```
In [7]: import seaborn as sns
sns.boxplot(x=data['timestamp'])
Out[7]: <matplotlib.axes._subplots.AxesSubplot at 0x1fe42d0c7c0>
```

Figure 8. Outliers of timestamp column

In this Figure 8. all the dots are outliers means most of the data are same describe by line so allocate the machine to the process and outliers describes that soft error or hard error in this fig which means requests not get the machine.



Figure 9. Outliers of machineID column

Figure 9 shows box plot of machineID column here is no dots means no outliers, most of machine ids are describes between 300 to 1000.



Figure 10. Outliers of capacity:CPU column

Figure 10. shows line that is capacity of cpu is same and only one dot means only one data from column is different.



Figure 11. Outliers of capacity:memory column

Figure 11. shows outliers of capacity:memory column. It is same as capacity:CPU line describes that most of data is same and 2 or 3 values is different so this 2 or 3 values are outliers.



Figure 12. Outliers of capacity:disk column

Figure 12. describe capacity of disk so the capacity of disk is 1.

## 3.2. Utilization

There is 3 types of utilization in the alibaba dataset : CPU utilization, Memory utilization and Disk utilization

## 3.2.1. CPU utilization

Avg use of 
$$CPU = Sum of used CPU per machine 144$$



Figure 13. Utilization of CPU

Figure 13 represents the average use of CPU in each machine. Here all CPU used under 50% in each machine. In figure row represents the 1300 machines and column represent used of CPU in percentage. Average CPU utilization is 26.572% is shown in Figure 14.

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1202	335	30.96	1389	539	2568.100000	17.83402779													18
1993	379	33.960001	1290	151	2468.851660	17.14480326	8												
294	1038	33.68	1291	325	3962.599996	27.65694443													
295	1113	20.46	1292	153	1950.039997	27.43083331													-6
1745	624	41.97	1293	158	4580.840004	31.81138897													1.04
1997	650	50.639999	1294	182	4701.585002	32.64711807													
1299	690	32.839999	1295	1077	4760.264995	33.0573958													
1282	736	39.18	1296	1022	5045.120005	35.03555559													
1999	1274	36.48	1297		3610.7	25.07430556													
311	875	40.6	1298	966	3041.08	27.36861111													
1932	1187	37.48	1290	405	3702.679607	25.71305553													
903	1012	28.48	1300	1194	\$418.360007	37.62750005													
314	1284	31,76	1301	227	4196.729995	29.15784719													
311	1040	40.28	1302	535	2449.66	17.01152778													
106	1067	45.139999	1308	398	4060.84	28.20027778													
817	459	22.18	1304	960	3574.060001	24.81986112													
1016	511	24.58	1305	744	4560.364995	31.66781247													
300	973	19,28	1306	269	4372.539997	29.67041665													
210	368	37.700001	1307	1263	3461.940000	24.04125001													
111	212	34,68	1308	272	4737.259997	32,89763887													
317	218	29.08	1309	715	3910.918328	27.15915506													
11.1	686	33.24	1310	1049	2388,860003	17.97819447													
31.0	698	37.96		total	4974345.748	34544.00769													
115	752	35.090001				34544.06769/1300													
122.9	17	48.440001			cpu utilization	26.5723	1												
00.7	965	40.759999																	
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# 3.2.2. Memory utilization

Memory utilization = Sum of avg use of memory in each amchine

1300

Avg use of memory = <u>Sum of used memory per machine</u>



Figure 15. Utilization of memory

Figure 15. represents the usage of memory in each machine. Here overall memory usage is under 70% only two or three machine's memory usage are up to 80%. so the memory utilization is 49.145% as shown in Figure 16.

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1292	335	67.3		1289	539	4188.66000	5 29.0879167														
1200	371	62.339999	2	1290	151	3066.05999	6 27.5420833														à
1794	1038	50.7	6	1291	325	B440.39000	58.61361112														1000
120	1113	36,599998	E.	1292	153	8460,19999	2 58.75138884														
1296	626	57.86	1	1293	158	8534.41998	59.26580547														
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1208	E90	52.88	2	1295	1077	R511.63500	59.10857644														
1295	736	57.939999	E)	1296	1022	6757,19999	60.81388885														
1300	1274	35.28	É.	1297	201	7819.82000	54.30430557														
1301	875	51.48	É.	1298	966	8208.41500	57.00288199														
1.832	1187	61.24	÷	1299	405	7883.84998	54.74895826														
1301	3012	55.D4	1	1300	1194	9204.64001	63.9211112														
1334	1264	58.43	6	1305	227	7616.7599	52.8941666														
1979	1040	57.68	Ū.	1302	535	3325.62999	23.12236109														
1300	2067	68.599999	6	1303	398	7822.9799	54.32624993														
1,937	455	28.9	6	1304	960	7284.57999	50.58736105														
1318	511	30.64	£	1305	744	8489.48157	58.95473383														
1930	973	24,459999	Č	1306	269	B180.44000	2 55.80861113														
1810	310	61.48	6	1307	1263	7626.99999	52.96527776														
1311	212	53.32	4	1308	272	8309.13999	5 56.31347219														
1312	238	51.639999	ŧ	1309	716	7912.55332	54.94828694														
3313	686	58.18	(F	1310	1049	4471.59999	31.05277777														
1314	658	57.93			10	ta)	63888.8984														
1315	752	56,00	6		m	enory utilization	63888,8984/13	98													
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Figure 16. Memory utilization in percentage

3.2.3. Disk utilization

disk utilization =  $\underline{\text{sum of avg use of disk in each amchine}}$ 1300

Avg use of disk =  $\underline{\text{Sum of used disk per machine}}$ 144

![](_page_9_Figure_1.jpeg)

Figure 17. Utilization of disk

Figure 17. represents the usage of disk in each machines. Here half of disk are used up to 40% and half of disk used up to 70%. average usage of disk is 47.26% as shown in Figure 18.

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Figure 18. Utilization of disk in percentage

#### IV. EXISTING WORK ON CURRENT DATASET

According to the authors: Yue Cheng, Zheng Chai, Ali Anwar, In 2011, Google open-sourced the first publicly available cluster trace data spanning several clusters[2]. Reiss et al. study the differently and dynamicity properties of the Google workloads. Alibaba, the largest cloud service provider in China, released their cluster trace [1] in late 2017. Different from the Google trace, the Alibaba trace contains information about the two located container and batch job workloads, facilitating better understanding of their interactions and interferences. Lu et al. perform characterization of the Alibaba trace to reveal basic workload statistics. Their study is focused on providing a unique and microscopic view about how the co-located workloads interact and impact each other[11].

According to the authors: CONGFENG JIANG 1,2, (Member, IEEE), GUANGJIE HAN 3, (Member, IEEE), JIANGBIN LIN4, GANGYONG JIA1,2, (Member, IEEE), WEISONG SHI5, (Fellow, IEEE), AND JIAN WAN1,6(Member, IEEE), To explore various characteristics of allocated online services and batch jobs from a production cluster containing 1300 servers in Alibaba Cloud. From the trace data, we find the following: 1) For batch jobs with multiple tasks and instances, 50.8% failed tasks wait and halted after a very long time interval when their first and the only one instance fails. 2) For online services jobs, they are clustered in 25 categories according to their requested CPU resources, memory resources, and disk resources. Such clustering can help the co-allocation of online services jobs with batch jobs. 3) Servers are clustered into seven groups by CPU and memory utilization and their correlations. Machines with a strong correlation between CPU and memory utilization provides an opportunity for job co-allocation and resource utilization estimation. 4) They also compare the cumulative distribution functions of jobs and servers and explain the differences and opportunities for workload assignment between them[10].

Authors:Chengzhi Lu1, Kejiang Ye1, Guoyao Xu1,2, Cheng-Zhong Xu1, Tongxin Bai1 said that, to improve resource efficiency and design intelligent scheduler for clouds, it is necessary to understand the workload characteristics and machine utilization in high-scale cloud data centers.Analysis reveals several important insights about different types of imbalance in the Alibaba cloud. Such imbalances aggravate the complexity and challenge of cloud resource management, which might incur severe wastes of resources and low cluster utilization. 1) Spatial Imbalance: different resource utilization across machines and workloads. 2) Temporal Imbalance: time-varying resource usages per workload and machine. 3) Imbalanced proportion of multi-dimensional resources (CPU and memory) utilization per workload. 4) Imbalanced resource demands and runtime statistics between online service and offline batch jobs. We argue accommodating such imbalances during resource allocation is critical to improve cluster efficiency, and will motivate the emergence of new resource managers and schedulers[1].

According to the authors: Yizhou Shan, Yutong Huang, Yilun Chen, Yiying Zhang, to improve resource utilization, elasticity, heterogeneity, and failure handling in datacenters, they believe that datacenters should break monolithic servers into disaggregated, network-attached hardware components. Despite the promising benefits of hardware resource disaggregation, no existing OSes or software systems can properly manage it[7].

#### CONCLUSION

This is a review of the ongoing research and analysis done in this field of Alibaba cloud dataset. This paper performs fundamental analysis like datatype, minimum value, maximum value, outliers of data, CPU utilization, memory utilization, and disk utilization by the formula written in this paper. From the analysis we concluded that utilization of CPU is 26.57%, utilization of memory is 49.14% and the utilization of the disk is 47.26%. At last, discussed various techniques that can apply to this dataset for better resource utilization.

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A novel approach to workload prediction using attention-based LSTM encoderdecoder network in cloud environment Yonghua Zhu1,2, Weilin Zhang1, Yihai Chen1,3 and Honghao Gao4,5\*, springer publication, publication year : Dec 2019.