



Social Spider Cloud Web Algorithm (SSCWA): a new Meta-Heuristic for Avoiding Premature Convergence in Cloud

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ABSTRACT: The increase in the complexity of load balancing problems has encouraged researchers to find some effective solutions. A load balancing method helps to optimally utilize the available resources, therefore reducing response time and improving the resource utilization. Nature inspired Evolutionary Meta-heuristics and Algorithms for load balancing perform better as compared to the conventional optimization algorithms. In this paper, a novel swarm intelligence based meta-heuristic named as Social Spider Cloud Web Algorithm (SSCWA) for Resource Placement in cloud environment is proposed that helps in reducing the premature convergence and local minima problem considerably. The algorithm is inspired from the foraging behavior of social spiders in their colony, which interact through the vibrations that propagate over the spider web so as to determine the position of prey. When simulated, SSCWA outperforms in comparison to the Ant Colony Optimization and its other variant algorithms and demonstrates the stability, effectiveness and efficiency of the proposed method.

KEYWORDS: Social Spider Cloud Web Algorithm, Load balancing, Swarm Intelligence, Ant Colony Optimization, Evolutionary Computation, meta-heuristic.

I. INTRODUCTION

Cloud Computing is a parallel and distributed computing system consisting of a collection of inter-connected and virtualized computers that are dynamically provisioned and presented as one or more unified computing resources through negotiation between the service provider and consumers[16]. Cloud computing facilitates its consumers by providing virtual resources via internet [18].

Most of the data centers today comprise of high capacity multi-core servers with high speed processing capabilities. These servers are not exploited fully and the resources remain underutilized. To keep the performance within acceptable limits uneven distribution of load should be avoided by distributing/redistributing the load taking care of underutilized and over utilized resources.

Load balancing distributes loads across various computing resources that focus on the optimization of the resource usage, maximization of throughput and therefore avoiding overloading of any resource. It focuses on the objectives to meet optimized solution i.e. related to the completion time of the tasks and utilization of the resources [17].

There are basically two levels of mapping wherein the first level is to schedule the jobs entered by the different customers after verification of the QoS parameters mentioned in the SLA and henceforth provision resources for the mentioned jobs accordingly. The second level is the Resource Placement that performs the job of assigning tasks to VMs. These virtual machines must be mapped to physical machines. A novel swarm intelligence based meta-heuristic named as Social Spider Algorithm (SSCWA) is proposed that is responsible for Resource Placement in the PaaS layer of cloud. Thus, the framework with the new proposed meta-heuristic will maximize profit and enlarge market share for SaaS by considering the following two factors. Firstly, the dynamic nature of the Cloud, such as service cost and quality



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Vol. 3, Issue 6, June 2015

are constantly changing as the customers have varying needs. Secondly, time and market oriented resource allocation, as any delay incurred in waiting for a resource placement is perceived as an overhead.

The layout of paper is as follows. Background focuses on the related work in section 2. A Scheduling Meta-heuristic SSCWA is proposed in section 3. Section 4 includes discussions and comparisons of ACO and its variants MACO and MACOLB. In section 5, simulation results are followed by conclusion and section 6 gives the future scope.

II. RELATED WORK

Swarm intelligence algorithms mimic nature's way to search the optimal solution. The foraging behavior and the mating technique in Social Spider algorithm is implemented for the optimization purpose in mechanical and civil engineering in [10,20]. Ant colony optimization (ACO) is considered as one of the major Swarm Intelligence Algorithm [4]. ACO is inspired from the ants foraging behavior, which aims to find a shortest path from nest to food. When an ant finds a food, it releases certain amount of pheromone along the path. Many variants of ACO algorithms i.e. Ant Colony System (ACS) [4], Max-Min Ant System (MMAS), Rank-based Ant System (RAS) [4], Fast Ant System (FANT) [9] and Elitist Ant System (EAS), MACO and MACOLB have been explored on ACO.

III. PROPOSED ALGORITHM

A. Description of the Proposed Algorithm:

We can mimic the behavior of social spider in the cloud environment also, such that artificial spiders will act as the agents carrying tasks and their fitness will denote the QoS requirements of the tasks. The prey or the food acts as the Resources of the cloud and the preys' fitness corresponds to the utilization capacity of the resources. The Spider agents carrying task with higher QoS requirements have more fitness in comparison to the other spiders and hence it vibrates more. According to the intensity of vibration, the tasks are scheduled (output of the Resource Management) which will be allocated to the corresponding resource i.e. the prey at the Resource Placement level. The task scheduling done at the Resource Management level will be discussed in the following papers to come.

Spider and Vibration

In the beginning of the Social Spider Cloud Web Algorithm (SSCWA), population of the spiders is initialized with the position, fitness (QoS requirements) and its vibration (more the number of QoS parameters increase in the vibration intensity) in the previous iteration. Vibration is a major characteristic that differentiates SSCWA from other algorithms. Here let P be the current position of the prey which is the source of vibration whose intensity is $I(P_x, P_p)$ which is sensed by any spider x at position P_x at time t . Hence the intensity of the vibration at the source position is directly proportional to the fitness function of the prey $f(P_p)$, i.e. the capacity of the resource, that can be defined as follows:

$$I_{x,p}(t) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{U_{\max} - f(P_p)} & \text{for maximum utilization(1)} \\ 1/(f(P_p) - U_{\min}) & \text{for minimum utilization} \end{cases}$$

Where U_{\max} is a constant such that the resource is being used to its fullest and U_{\min} is a constant such that the resource is in its idle state. Here the upper and the lower range of the resource utilization is marked that ensures the possible vibration intensity always be a positive value.

Intensity Attenuation

The vibration can cause confusion among other spiders to move, as a non-decaying vibration will leads to the attraction of spiders to the prey and hence the entire task set are mapped to a single VM. So it is very important that with time the vibration attenuation takes place so as to solve the problem to converge prematurely. Intensity of the vibration decreases over time and distance. This physical phenomenon is also considered for the design of SSCWA by two equations.



International Journal of Innovative Research in Computer and Communication Engineering

(An ISO 3297: 2007 Certified Organization)

Vol. 3, Issue 6, June 2015

1) Attenuation over Distance

Vibration Attenuation over distance is defined as the distance between spider x and prey P as $D_{x,p}$ which can be calculated using Euclidean distance method as follows:

$$D_{x,p} = \sqrt{||x^2|| + ||p^2|| - 2 \cdot x \cdot p} \quad (2)$$

where x and p represent two positions of the spider x and prey p at any instant of time t . So, the vibration attenuation over distance is shown below:

$$I_{x,p}(t) = I_{x,p}(t) \cdot e^{-\frac{D_{x,p}}{R}} \quad (3)$$

A user-controlled parameter $R \in (0, 1)$ which controls the intensity attenuation rate over distance such that attenuation and R are inversely proportional to each other.

2) **Attenuation over Time:** The vibration attenuation over time is calculated as:

$$I_{x,p}(t + 1) = I_{x,p} \cdot R \quad (4)$$

All the vibrations generated in the previous iteration are attenuated by the factor R . At time $t + 1$, there can be the change in the position of spider from $P_x(t)$ to $P_x(t + 1)$, but the prey position of the vibration remains at P_p .

Prey Search Pattern

For the accomplishment of the resource placement of the task, task requires a proper search pattern that may lead to the placement of the task at a particular resource for its execution. Three phases of SSCWA that are sequentially executed are as follows:

Initialization

In this phase, the objective function and its solution space is defined in the algorithm. The algorithm proceeds to create an initial population of spiders i.e. population pop of the tasks set are created. The population of the prey i.e. prey pop is also created and initialized. The client requests the CSP for the resource placement of the tasks, carried by the spider agent. The adaptive parameters are initialized. The positions are acquired by the spider in the web, in accordance to their fitness values calculated. Initially the vibration intensity on the web is zero.

Iteration

The Resource Placement technique is followed in this phase. The artificial spiders created perform the prey search i.e. the task looks for the resource to get executed. A number of iterations are performed such that in each iteration, all spiders evaluate their fitness values on the web i.e. the QoS requirement of the Task set is evaluated. Then the Prey caught in the web will generate vibrations V_{tar} using vibration equation i.e. the resource will display its capability to handle the tasks. The spider agent having the task with maximum QoS requirement will be stored in the memory as V_{best} . All the artificial spiders will sense vibrations V_{tar} in accordance to the attenuation in the intensity of the vibration due to distance and time on the web and will compare the intensity of vibration V_{tar} of the prey with the intensity of the maximum vibration V_{best} of the spiders stored in its memory. The received information from the vibration includes the source position of the vibration and its attenuated intensity.

If the intensity of V_{tar} is larger, the task having V_{best} is allocated along with other tasks otherwise another resource with the vibration more than the V_{tar} will be find from the prey pop and tasks will be allocated to it. The algorithm then manipulates x to perform a random walk towards V_{tar} . Then the spider's random walk is conducted using the following equation and the task carried by them will be allocated to the resources for execution where \odot denotes element-wise multiplication. P_{tar} is the vibration source position of the target vibration V_{tar} . S is a vector of random numbers generated from zero to one uniformly. The algorithm repeats this process for all the spiders in pop.

$$P_x(t + 1) = P_x + (P_p - P_x) \odot (1 - S \odot S) \quad (5)$$

The maximum number of iterations will be reached, when the maximum CPU time is used, that is the resource is fully placed by the task.



International Journal of Innovative Research in Computer and Communication Engineering

(An ISO 3297: 2007 Certified Organization)

Vol. 3, Issue 6, June 2015

Termination

After the iteration phase, the algorithm outputs the best solution by the resource placement of the tasks in accordance to its QoS requirement i.e. their fitness.

IV. PSEUDO CODE

Step 1: Create the population of spiders as agents carrying tasks pop and prey pop as resources and assign memory for them that contain the QoS requirements.
Step 2: while stopping criteria not met do
Step 3: for each spider x in pop do
Step 4: Evaluate the fitness value of s.
Step 5: end for
Step 6: for each Prey serving as resource in prey pop
Step 7: do generate vibration V_{tar} according to the capacity of the resource to execute task.
Step 8: for each spider x in pop do
Step 9: Compare the intensity of the target vibration V_{tar} and V_{best} .
Step 10: if the intensity of V_{best} is smaller than V_{tar}
Step 11: allocate the task on V_{tar} .
Step 12: Else find a new resource in prey pop having $V_{newtar} > V_{best}$ such that $V_{newtar} = V_{tar} + (V_{best} - V_{tar})$.
Step 13: go to step 9.
Step 14: Attenuate the intensity of V_{tar} .
Step 15: end if
Step 16: end for
Step 17: end while
Step 18: Output the best solution found.

V. SIMULATION RESULTS

The simulation studies involve the deterministic small network topology with 5 nodes as shown in Fig.1. The proposed energy efficient algorithm is implemented with MATLAB. We transmitted same size of data packets through source node 1 to destination node 5. Proposed algorithm is compared between two metrics Total Transmission Energy and Maximum Number of Hops on the basis of total number of packets transmitted, network lifetime and energy consumed by each node. We considered the simulation time as a network lifetime and network lifetime is a time when no route is available to transmit the packet. Simulation time is calculated through the CPUTIME function of MATLAB. Our results shows that the metric total transmission energy performs better than the maximum number of hops in terms of network lifetime, energy consumption and total number of packets transmitted through the network.

The network showed in Fig. 1 is able to transmit 22 packets if total transmission energy metric is used and 17 packets if used maximum number of hops metric. And the network lifetime is also more for total transmission energy. It clearly shows in Fig. 2 that the metric total transmission energy consumes less energy than maximum number of hops. As the network is MANET means nodes are mobile and they change their locations. After nodes have changed their location the new topology is shown in Fig .3 and energy consumption of each node is shown in Fig. 4. Our results shows that the metric total transmission energy performs better than the maximum number of hops in terms of network lifetime, energy consumption and total number of packets transmitted through the network. The SSCWA is simulated and is compared with the existing meta-heuristics ACO, and its variants MACO and MACOLB as shown in Fig. 1. These algorithms are simulated using CloudSim.

To evaluate the performance of our proposed algorithm SSCWA, we compared the simulation results of SSCWA by performing a parameter sweep test of the three parameters, namely R , U_{max} and U_{min} that are the control parameters with different values.

International Journal of Innovative Research in Computer and Communication Engineering

(An ISO 3297: 2007 Certified Organization)

Vol. 3, Issue 6, June 2015

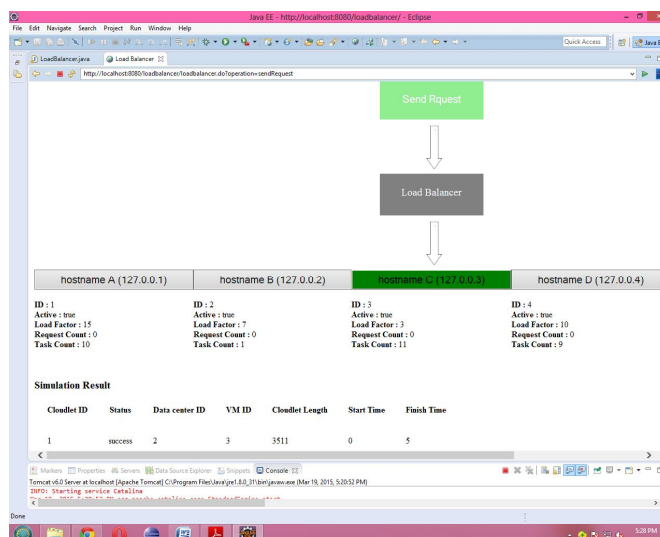


Fig. 1. Simulation of SSCWA, ACO, MACOLB and MACO in CloudSim

The experiment is performed with 5 Datacenters accommodating 10 VMs and (100-500) tasks in the simulation environment. The task length is from 1000 MI (Million Instructions) to 2000MI. The degree of imbalance (DI) can be defined as the measure of imbalance in VMs.

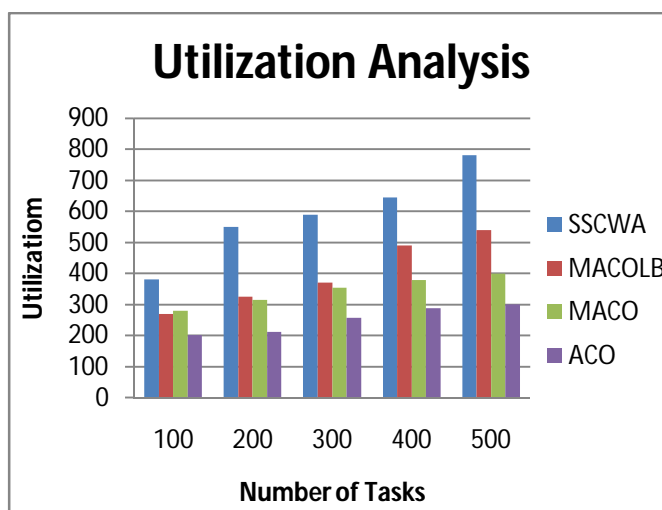


Fig. 2. Average Utilization analysis of SSCWA, ACO, MACO, and MACOLB

As seen in Fig.2 and 3, the Utilization of SSCWA is maximum in comparison to ACO, MACO and MACOLB whereas the degree of imbalance is the least in the case of SSCWA. Thereby we can say that the implementation of this proposed algorithm in cloud Resource Placement leads to improving the performance, resulting high cost effectiveness and hence less energy consumption also.

International Journal of Innovative Research in Computer and Communication Engineering

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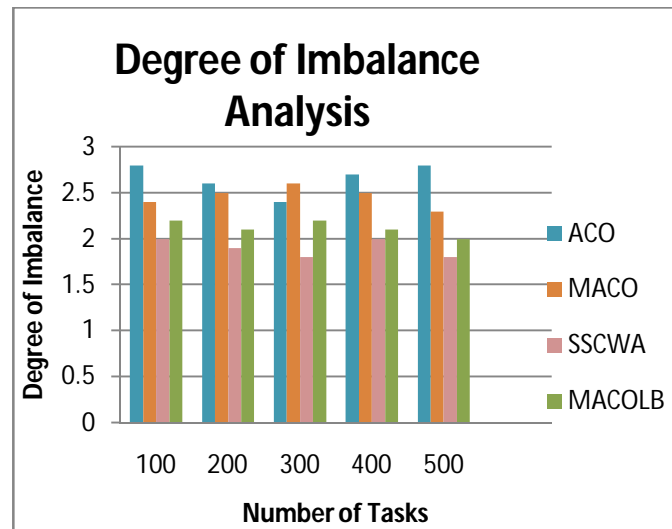


Fig. 3. Average DI analysis of SSCWA, ACO, MACO, and MACOLB

VI. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

In this paper we proposed a novel social spider algorithm to solve global optimum problem of premature convergence faced by other swarm intelligent algorithm for resource placement in the PaaS layer of the Cloud. This algorithm is based on the foraging behavior of social spiders and the information sharing foraging strategy. SSCWA is conceptually simple and relatively easy to implement. SSCWA can tackle a wide range of different continuous optimization problems and has the potential to be employed to solve these problems. The output of this algorithm shows the superior performance of SSCWA.

For future research, the proposed algorithm can be channelized for the more effective and efficient resource placement and hence improve the utilization of the Resources. Last but not least, it would be interesting to implement it on the other layers of the cloud for the real-world applications which can be addressed using SSCWA.

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