The Visualization Analysis of Cloud Computing Research Based on Mapping Knowledge

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Abstract
This paper analyzed the current research on the field of cloud computing by adopting the bibliometric analysis and co-word network analysis based on the knowledge mapping theory and methods with software tools SPSS 19.0, Ucinet6.0 and NetDraw. In this paper, we conducted a visual analysis on the research status of cloud computing for the past five years, including the knowledge structure of cloud computing, research hot spots and trends from macro and micro perspective. The result shows that the research of cloud computing can be divided into eight knowledge groups: (a) technical research related Cloud computing; (b) cloud computing security research; (c) cloud computing performance research; (d) characteristics research of cloud computing; (e) big data processing research based on cloud computing; (f) research in the form of cloud computing services; (g) infrastructure research of cloud computing; (h) application research of cloud computing in chemistry and physics. The paper may provide valuable suggestions for better understanding on the research status of cloud computing.

Key words: Cloud computing; Mapping knowledge; Vector dynamic model; Co-word analysis; Social network analysis

INTRODUCTION
In recent years, cloud computing has become a hot research field and attracts many researchers. From January 2010 to May 2015, the literature quantity related to cloud computing has reached 52,202 (Source: WEB OF SCIENCE). In order to analyze the research status in the field of cloud computing accurately, methods of visualization analysis based on knowledge mapping are used in this paper to demonstrate the present situation of cloud computing research, including literature analysis, analysis of high-frequency words, major field analysis, research focus analysis and future trends analysis.

1. DATA RESOURCES AND SOFTWARE TOOLS

The data used in this paper was collected from the WEB OF SCIENCE database with the retrieval theme as “CLOUD COMPUTING”, time span as 2010-2015, and literature type as “Article”. Then a total of 4,479 relevant articles were retrieved.

Main software tools used in this paper include Excel, SPSS19.0, Ucinet6 and NetDraw. SPSS is used to get the hierarchical cluster analysis, with “Between Groups Linkage” as clustering method and “squared Euclidean distance” as its distance. The betweenness centrality analysis, nodes centrality degree analysis, subgroup analysis and the knowledge map were also conducted through Ucinet6 and NetDraw tools.

2. RESEARCH STATUS AND TREND ANALYSIS

2.1 Annual Distribution
Figure 1 shows the quantity of publications from January 2010 to May 2015. As it can be seen, in recent years,
the amount of papers related to cloud computing has been gradually growing since 2010 (Literature of 2015 only counted the first five months). It indicates that "cloud computing" is gradually becoming the focus of researchers in these five years.

To analyze the research status, the method of vector dynamic model (Zhao & Zhang, 2012) is adopted, in which the annual quantity of published papers, the number of journals and authors are involved. The result is shown as Figure 2 and Table 1.

### 2.2 Research Status Analysis Based on Vector Dynamic Model

To analyze the research status, the method of vector dynamic model (Zhao & Zhang, 2012) is adopted, in which the annual quantity of published papers, the number of journals and authors are involved. The result is shown as Figure 2 and Table 1.

#### Table 1
Evaluation Results of Vector Dynamic Model Method

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vector and quadrant</th>
<th>Research activity</th>
<th>The level of participation in research activities</th>
<th>Status of development</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Increase</td>
<td>Increase</td>
<td>Development stage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>Decrease / stable</td>
<td>Increase / stable</td>
<td>Increase or completion stage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>Decrease / stable</td>
<td>Decrease</td>
<td>Fully mature or declining stage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV</td>
<td>Increase</td>
<td>Decrease / stable</td>
<td>Studies or completion stage</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 2
Dynamic Vector Model of Cloud Computing Research

As can be seen from Figure 2, statistical vector sum of "quantity of papers- number of journals" and statistical vector sum of "quantity of papers-number of authors" are both in the first quadrant, showing that cloud computing research is in a stable stage of development.

### 3. Research Hot Spots and Frontiers Analysis

#### 3.1 Word Frequency Statistics and High-Frequency Keywords Analysis

Firstly, the keywords need to be standardized, for example, "Software-as-a-Service" and "Software as a Service" unified as "SaaS"; "web services" and "web service" unified as "web service". Then according to convention which suggests the threshold of high-frequency words is usually set at 30%-40% of the total amount of word frequency (Xie, Liang, & Wang, 2005; Ma, Xu, & Nan, 2010), this paper set threshold as 11, and 131 words are selected. Table 2 lists the top 40 high frequency words. Generally the high frequency words implies the hot spots in the field, and from Table 2 we can see that the hottest words includes: cloud computing, virtualization, cloud, MapReduce, security, QoS, etc..

Table 2
The High-Frequency Keywords in Cloud Computing Field (Part)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Cloud computing</td>
<td>1,569</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>SLA</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Virtualization</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Resource management</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Cloud</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Radiative transfer</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Mapreduce</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Web service</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Security</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Distributed system</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>QoS</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>Point cloud</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To be continued
Continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Grid computing</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>Fault tolerance</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Data center</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>Internet of things</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Performance</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>Access control</td>
<td>35</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Privacy</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Distributed computing</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Mobile cloud computing</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>Load balance</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>SaaS</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>Algorithm</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Energy efficiency</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>Scientific workflow</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Resource allocation</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>Parallel computing</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Design</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>Service-oriented architecture</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Scheduling</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>Cloud storage</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Virtual machine</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>Genetic algorithm</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Big data</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>Hadoop</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>HPC</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>Interoperability</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>IaaS</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>Astrochemistry</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 3.2 Construction of Co-word Matrix and Dissimilarity Matrix

131*4479 keyword article matrix of high-frequency keywords and 131*131 Co-word matrix of high-frequency keywords were produced via Matlab. As Keywords co-word matrix cannot fully express the relative strength of the co-occurrence between keywords (Ma, Xu, & Nan, 2010), Salton index is used to indicate the associated strength between keywords, calculated as follows:

\[
S = \frac{n_{ij}}{(n_i \times n_j)^{1/2}}
\]

Then the matrix of the degree of dissimilarity between keywords were conducted to indicate the co-word exponential distances (the table is omitted in the paper). And then the co-occurrence network can be generated by UCINET6.0 (Figure 3).

### 3.3 Analysis on the Importance and the Relations of Hot Spots

As can be seen from Figure 3, “cloud computing” is in the most central location on the network. Distance between “cloud computing” and other keywords shows the importance of the keyword. The shorter the distance, the higher the degree of importance. For example, “security”, “MapReduce” and “virtualization” are sub-core themes. In order to analyze the core level of high-frequency keywords accurately, the result of centrality analysis to co-word matrix is calculated and shown in Figure 4. In Figure 4, the high-centrality words may not have high frequencies, e.g., the frequency of “performance” is less than that of “cloud”, but the centrality degree of “performance” is higher. That is to say, compared to “cloud”, researchers paid more attention to “performance”. The degree of “H II regions” and “Magellanic Cloud” is the lowest, indicating that they belong to edge topics.

*Figure 3*

Co-Occurrence Network of High Frequency Words
4. ANALYSIS OF RESEARCH FIELDS OF CLOUD COMPUTING

4.1 Keywords Clustering Analysis
Based on the above dissimilarity matrix, we get clustering tree diagram of high-frequency keywords through SPSS19.0 (Figure 5), which reveals that the research of cloud computing includes 8 knowledge clusters (named by the author):

(a) Technical research related cloud computing. Relevant keywords as follows: cloud, QoS, grid computing, mobile cloud computing, resource allocation, scheduling, virtual machine, HPC, SLA, etc. In the last five years, technical research related cloud computing, whose high-frequency keywords accounts for more than half of all high-frequency keywords, is hot research topic.

(b) Cloud computing security research. Relevant keywords as follows: security, privacy, access control, cloud storage, cloud security, etc.

(c) Cloud computing performance research. Relevant keywords as follows: performance, design, algorithm, reliability, experimentation, measurement, management.

(d) Characteristics of research of cloud computing. Relevant keywords as follows: cloud computing, virtualization, data center, energy efficiency, resource management, green computing.

(e) Big data processing research based on cloud computing. Relevant keywords as follows: MapReduce, big data, Hadoop, data-intensive computing, parallel processing.

(f) Research in the form of cloud computing services. Relevant keywords as follows: SaaS, IaaS, PaaS.

(g) Infrastructure research of cloud computing. Relevant keywords as follows: GPU, CUDA.

(h) Application research of cloud computing in chemistry and physics. Relevant keywords as follows: astrochemistry, molecular processes, molecular data, scattering.
4.2 Cohesive Subgroups Analysis
Cohesive subgroup is a subset of actors (Liu, 2004, 2009). The actors in the subset have relatively strong, cohesive, direct, regular or positive relationship. Cohesive Subgroup analysis could reflect the degree of tightness inside subgroups and the connection between each subgroup.

Cohesive subgroup analysis to co-word network of high-frequency keywords in the field of cloud computing is shown in Figure 6.
As shown in Figure 6, the result of cohesive subgroup analysis is that high-frequency keywords were divided into eight subgroups and the high-frequency keywords within the same subgroup form a small group. It is similar to the result of cluster analysis. Derived from Figure 7, the density of the entire network is 0.493. The density of the second sub-group, namely cloud computing performance research (11.476), is the greatest. It indicates that the internal connection degree of high-frequency keywords within the second sub-group is the highest.

As for the connection degree between one subgroup and other subgroups, the highest is 16.221. It reveals that the keywords within subgroup 1 and the keywords within subgroup 3 contact most. Meanwhile, connection degree between subgroup 1 and subgroup 2 has reached 16.000.

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS
The paper analyzes the status of cloud computing research based on knowledge mapping method, including annual document distribution analysis, authors analysis, word frequency statistics, vector dynamic model analysis, keywords clustering analysis, social network analysis and cohesive subgroups analysis.

(a) The analysis of annual document distribution reveals that the heat of cloud computing research rises year by year for the past five years.

(b) The authors statistics show that there are some relatively active scholars in the field of cloud computing. Such as Buyya Rajkumar, Chen Jinjun, Jin Hai and Li Jin in the past five years.

(c) The result of word frequency statistics reveals that the current hotspots of cloud computing research focus on virtualization, cloud, parallel programming techniques, safety, etc..

(d) We can figure out that research in cloud computing is in a stable stage of development via vector dynamic model analysis in the past five years.

(e) Cluster analysis reveals that the research fields include eight knowledge clusters, namely: technical research related Cloud computing, cloud computing security research, cloud computing performance research, characteristics research of cloud computing, big data processing research based on cloud computing, research in the form of cloud computing services, infrastructure research of cloud computing, application research of cloud computing in chemistry and physics. This classification basically reflects the main areas and content of cloud computing research in the past five years.

(f) Social network analysis illustrates the core contents of the current study about cloud computing include virtualization, performance and security.

(g) Cohesive subgroup analysis indicates the extent of tightness inside the 8 subgroups and connectivity between different subgroups.

Overall, in the past five years, research in the field of cloud computing mainly focus on cloud computing technology. In addition, performance and safety research in cloud computing have become hot spots in recent research. However, the application research of cloud computing is relatively few and further promotions may be conducted in the future.

REFERENCES