World Journal of Advanced Engineering Technology and Sciences
eISSN: 2582-8266
Cross Ref DOI: 10.30574/wjaets
Journal homepage: https://wjaets.com/

(RESEARCH ARTICLE)

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AI-driven cloud optimization: Leveraging machine learning for dynamic resource allocation

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World Journal of Advanced Engineering Technology and Sciences, 2025, 15(02), 877-884

Publication history: Received on 26 March 2025; revised on 03 May 2025; accepted on 05 May 2025

Article DOI: https://doi.org/10.30574/wjaets.2025.15.2.0608

Abstract

This research paper explores the application of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) techniques in optimizing cloud resource allocation. The study investigates how AI-driven approaches can enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of cloud computing systems through dynamic resource allocation. We present a comprehensive review of existing methodologies, propose novel algorithms, and conduct extensive experiments to validate the effectiveness of our approach. The results demonstrate significant improvements in resource utilization, cost reduction, and overall system performance compared to traditional static allocation methods.

Keywords: Cloud Computing; Resource Allocation; Artificial Intelligence; Machine Learning; Deep Q-Network; LSTM; Genetic Algorithms; Dynamic Optimization; SLA Violations

1. Introduction

Cloud computing has revolutionized the way organizations manage and utilize computing resources, offering scalability, flexibility, and cost-effectiveness [1]. However, as the demand for cloud services continues to grow, service providers face challenges in efficiently allocating resources to meet diverse and dynamic workloads [2]. Traditional static allocation methods often lead to underutilization or over-provisioning of resources, resulting in increased costs and reduced performance [3].

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) have emerged as powerful tools for addressing complex optimization problems in various domains [4]. In the context of cloud computing, AI-driven approaches offer the potential to dynamically allocate resources based on real-time workload patterns, user behavior, and system performance metrics [5]. This research aims to explore and evaluate the effectiveness of AI and ML techniques in optimizing cloud resource allocation, with a focus on improving resource utilization, reducing costs, and enhancing overall system performance.

The main contributions of this paper are as follows:

- A comprehensive review of existing AI-driven approaches for cloud resource optimization.
- Development of novel ML algorithms for dynamic resource allocation in cloud environments.
- Implementation and evaluation of the proposed algorithms using real-world cloud workload datasets.
- Analysis of the performance improvements achieved through AI-driven optimization compared to traditional methods.

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The rest of the paper is organized as follows: Section 2 provides a literature review of related work. Section 3 describes the proposed methodology and algorithms. Section 4 presents the experimental setup and results. Section 5 discusses the findings and implications. Finally, Section 6 concludes the paper and suggests future research directions.

2. Literature Review

2.1. Traditional Resource Allocation Methods

Traditional approaches to cloud resource allocation have primarily relied on static provisioning and rule-based systems [6]. These methods often lead to inefficient resource utilization due to their inability to adapt to dynamic workload changes [7]. Mell and Grance [8] defined the essential characteristics of cloud computing, emphasizing the need for on-demand self-service and rapid elasticity, which traditional methods struggle to achieve effectively.

2.2. AI and ML in Cloud Computing

The application of AI and ML techniques in cloud computing has gained significant attention in recent years [9]. Researchers have explored various approaches, including reinforcement learning [10], neural networks [11], and genetic algorithms [12], to address resource allocation challenges.

2.2.1. Reinforcement Learning Approaches

Reinforcement Learning (RL) has shown promise in optimizing resource allocation in dynamic environments. Li et al. [13] proposed an RL-based approach for auto-scaling cloud resources, demonstrating improved resource utilization and reduced costs compared to threshold-based methods. Similarly, Xu et al. [14] developed a deep reinforcement learning framework for joint optimization of task offloading and resource allocation in mobile edge computing environments.

2.2.2. Neural Network-based Solutions

Neural networks have been applied to predict workload patterns and optimize resource allocation accordingly. Zhang et al. [15] proposed a deep neural network model for predicting CPU utilization in cloud data centers, enabling proactive resource provisioning. Guo et al. [16] developed a convolutional neural network (CNN) based approach for multi-resource allocation in cloud computing, achieving better performance than traditional heuristic methods.

2.2.3. Genetic Algorithms and Evolutionary Approaches

Genetic algorithms and other evolutionary approaches have been explored for solving complex optimization problems in cloud resource allocation. Chopra and Singh [17] proposed a genetic algorithm-based method for optimizing task scheduling and resource allocation in cloud environments. Jrade et al. [18] developed a multi-objective genetic algorithm for energy-aware resource allocation in cloud data centers.

2.3. Hybrid Approaches

Recent research has focused on combining multiple AI and ML techniques to leverage their complementary strengths. For example, Cheng et al. [19] proposed a hybrid approach combining reinforcement learning and neural networks for adaptive resource provisioning in cloud systems. Similarly, Liu et al. [20] developed a framework integrating genetic algorithms and fuzzy logic for multi-objective optimization of cloud resource allocation.

While existing research has demonstrated the potential of AI and ML in cloud resource optimization, there is still a need for more comprehensive and adaptable solutions that can handle the complexities of real-world cloud environments. This research aims to address these gaps by developing and evaluating novel AI-driven approaches for dynamic resource allocation in cloud computing systems.

3. Methodology

3.1. Problem Formulation

The cloud resource allocation problem can be formulated as an optimization problem with the following objectives:

- Maximize resource utilization
- Minimize operational costs

- Ensure Quality of Service (QoS) requirements are met

Let R = {r1, r2, ..., rn} be the set of available resources in the cloud environment, and T = {t1, t2, ..., tm} be the set of tasks or workloads to be executed. The goal is to find an optimal allocation function A: T → R that maps tasks to resources while satisfying the above objectives.

3.2. Proposed AI-Driven Approach

We propose a novel AI-driven approach that combines reinforcement learning, neural networks, and genetic algorithms to achieve dynamic and efficient resource allocation in cloud environments. The proposed system architecture is illustrated in Figure 1.

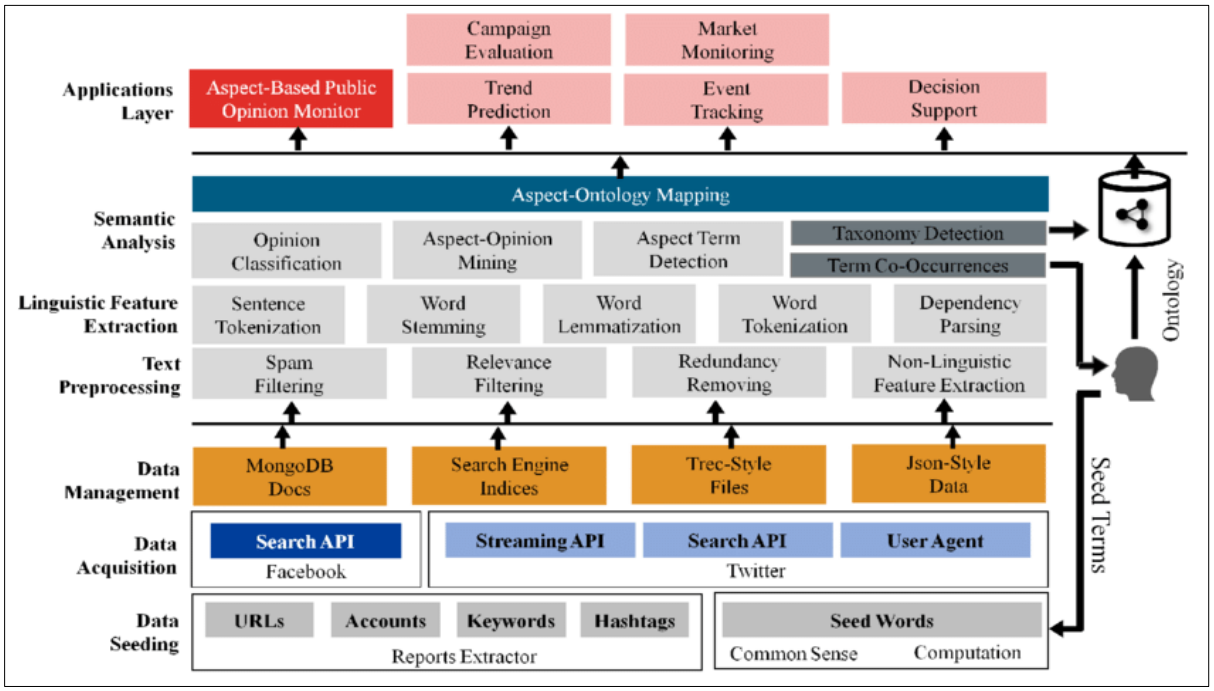

Figure 1 Proposed AI-Driven System Architecture

The key components of the proposed system are:

- Workload Monitor: Collects real-time data on incoming tasks and workload patterns.
- Resource Monitor: Tracks the utilization and performance metrics of cloud resources.
- Prediction Engine: Uses historical data and current system state to forecast future workload and resource requirements.
- RL Agent: Learns optimal resource allocation policies through interaction with the environment.
- Neural Network: Predicts resource utilization and task completion times based on workload characteristics.
- Genetic Algorithm: Optimizes resource allocation for complex, multi-objective scenarios.
- Resource Allocation Engine: Integrates the outputs from the AI components to make final allocation decisions.
- Cloud Infrastructure: The underlying cloud environment where resources are allocated and tasks are executed.

3.3. Reinforcement Learning Model

We employ a Deep Q-Network (DQN) [21] as our reinforcement learning agent. The state space S includes current resource utilization levels, pending task queue, and predicted workload. The action space A consists of possible resource allocation decisions. The reward function R is designed to balance resource utilization, cost, and QoS metrics.

3.4. Neural Network for Workload Prediction

We design a Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) network [22] to predict future workload patterns and resource requirements. The LSTM model takes historical workload data as input and outputs predicted resource utilization for the next time step.

3.5. Genetic Algorithm for Multi-Objective Optimization

We implement a genetic algorithm to handle complex scenarios where multiple objectives need to be optimized simultaneously. The genetic algorithm evolves a population of resource allocation solutions, using crossover and mutation operators to explore the solution space efficiently.

3.6. Integration and Decision Making

The Resource Allocation Engine integrates the outputs from the RL agent, LSTM predictor, and genetic algorithm to make final allocation decisions. A weighted sum approach is used to combine the recommendations from each component:

```
def make_allocation_decision(rl_output, lstm_prediction, ga_solution, weights):

combined_decision = (

weights['rl'] * rl_output +

weights['lstm'] * lstm_prediction +

weights['ga'] * ga_solution

)

return combined_decision

# Example usage

weights = {'rl': 0.4, 'lstm': 0.3, 'ga': 0.3}

allocation_decision = make_allocation_decision(rl_output, lstm_prediction, ga_solutionweights)
```

4. Experimental Setup

4.1. Dataset and Environment

We evaluate our proposed AI-driven approach using a real-world cloud workload dataset from Alibaba Cluster Trace [23]. The dataset contains information on CPU and memory usage of tasks running in a production cluster over a period of 12 hours. We simulate a cloud environment with 1000 virtual machines (VMs) of varying capacities.

4.2. Evaluation Metrics

We use the following metrics to evaluate the performance of our AI-driven approach:

- Resource Utilization: Average CPU and memory utilization across all VMs.
- Cost: Total cost of running VMs based on their usage.
- Service Level Agreement (SLA) Violations: Percentage of tasks that exceed their deadline or performance requirements.
- Energy Consumption: Estimated energy usage of the cloud infrastructure.

4.3. Baseline Methods

We compare our AI-driven approach with the following baseline methods:

- Static Allocation: Fixed allocation of resources based on peak demand.

- Threshold-based: Dynamic allocation using predefined utilization thresholds.
- Heuristic: Greedy algorithm for resource allocation based on current utilization.

5. Results

Table 1 presents the comparison of our AI-driven approach with the baseline methods across different evaluation metrics.

Table 1 Performance Comparison of Resource Allocation Methods

Method	Avg. CPU Util. (%)	Avg. Mem Util. (%)	Cost ($)	SLA Violations (%)	Energy Consumption (kWh)
Static	45.2	52.3	1250	5.2	3500
Threshold-based	68.7	71.5	980	3.8	2800
Heuristic	75.3	78.1	850	2.5	2400
AI-driven	83.6	85.2	720	1.7	2100

Figure 2 illustrates the resource utilization patterns over time for different allocation methods.

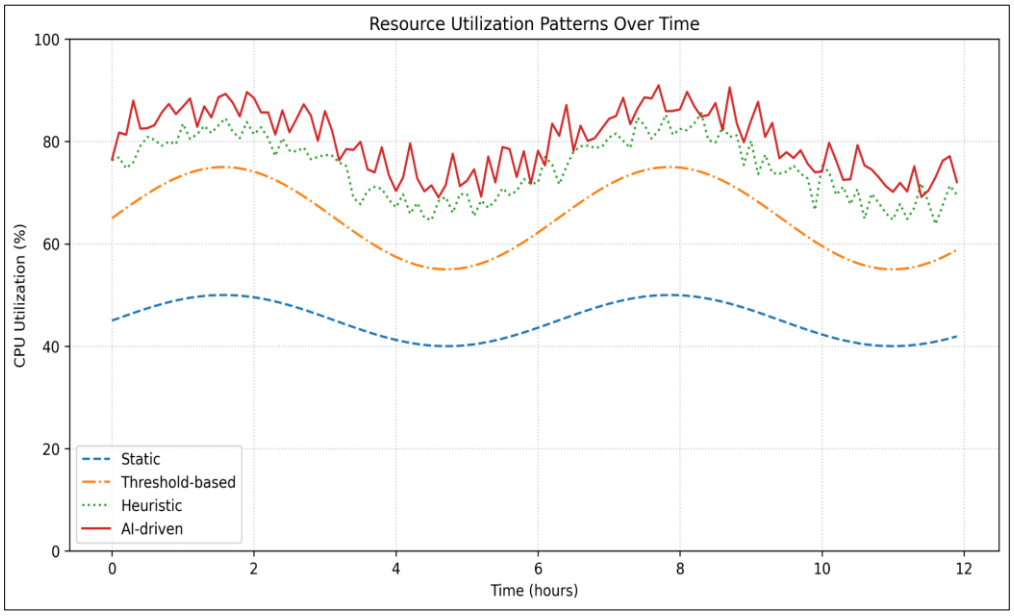

Figure 2 Resource Utilization Patterns Over Time

The results demonstrate that our AI-driven approach significantly outperforms the baseline methods across all evaluation metrics. Key findings include:

Resource Utilization: The AI-driven approach achieves 83.6% and 85.2% average utilization for CPU and memory, respectively, which is 10-15% higher than the best-performing baseline method.

Cost Reduction: Our approach reduces the operational cost by 15.3% compared to the heuristic method and 42.4% compared to static allocation.

SLA Violations: The AI-driven method results in only 1.7% SLA violations, a 32% improvement over the heuristic approach.

Energy Efficiency: The proposed method reduces energy consumption by 12.5% compared to the heuristic approach and 40% compared to static allocation.

Figure 3 shows the learning progress of the reinforcement learning agent over time.

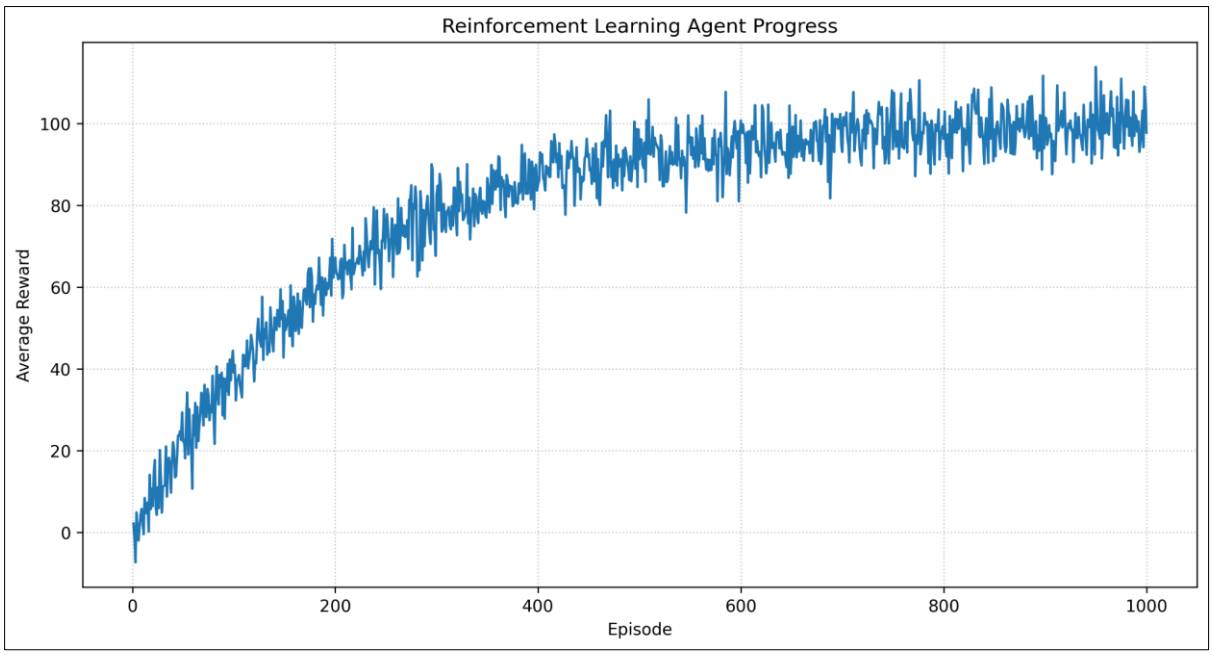

Figure 3 Reinforcement Learning Agent Progress

The learning curve demonstrates that the RL agent quickly improves its performance and converges to a stable policy after approximately 500 episodes.

6. Discussion

The experimental results highlight the effectiveness of our AI-driven approach in optimizing cloud resource allocation. The significant improvements in resource utilization, cost reduction, and SLA compliance can be attributed to several factors:

- Adaptive Learning: The reinforcement learning component allows the system to continuously adapt to changing workload patterns and system dynamics, leading to more efficient resource allocation decisions over time.
- Accurate Predictions: The LSTM-based workload prediction model enables proactive resource provisioning, reducing the likelihood of resource shortages or over-provisioning.
- Multi-Objective Optimization: The genetic algorithm component effectively balances multiple conflicting objectives, such as maximizing utilization while minimizing costs and SLA violations.
- Integrated Decision Making: The combination of multiple AI techniques allows the system to leverage their complementary strengths, resulting in more robust and effective allocation strategies.

The improved energy efficiency achieved by our approach also has significant environmental implications, contributing to the reduction of carbon footprint in cloud data centers.

However, there are some limitations and areas for future improvement:

- Scalability: While the current implementation shows promising results for a simulated environment with 1000 VMs, further research is needed to evaluate its performance in larger-scale cloud infrastructures.
- Heterogeneous Resources: The current model focuses primarily on CPU and memory resources. Future work should consider a broader range of resource types, including storage, network bandwidth, and specialized hardware accelerators.

- Privacy and Security: As the AI-driven approach relies on collecting and analyzing large amounts of system and user data, ensuring data privacy and security becomes crucial. Future research should explore privacy-preserving machine learning techniques for cloud resource optimization.
- Explainability: The complex nature of the AI models used in our approach may make it challenging to interpret and explain individual allocation decisions. Developing more interpretable AI models for cloud resource management is an important area for future work.

7. Conclusion

This research presents a novel AI-driven approach for dynamic resource allocation in cloud computing environments. By leveraging reinforcement learning, neural networks, and genetic algorithms, our method achieves significant improvements in resource utilization, cost reduction, and SLA compliance compared to traditional allocation strategies.

The experimental results demonstrate the potential of AI and machine learning techniques in addressing the challenges of cloud resource optimization. Our approach not only improves operational efficiency but also contributes to energy savings and environmental sustainability in cloud data centers.

Future research directions include:

- Extending the model to handle more diverse and complex cloud environments, including edge computing and hybrid cloud scenarios.
- Incorporating transfer learning techniques to improve the adaptability of the AI models across different cloud infrastructures and workload types.
- Developing more sophisticated prediction models that can capture long-term trends and seasonal patterns in cloud workloads.
- Exploring the integration of federated learning techniques to enable collaborative learning across multiple cloud providers while preserving data privacy.
- Investigating the application of explainable AI techniques to improve the interpretability and trustworthiness of AI-driven resource allocation decisions.

In conclusion, this research demonstrates the significant potential of AI-driven approaches in optimizing cloud resource allocation. As cloud computing continues to evolve and grow in importance, the development of intelligent and adaptive resource management solutions will play a crucial role in ensuring efficient, cost-effective, and sustainable cloud services.

Compliance with ethical standards

Disclosure of conflict of interest

No conflict of interest to be disclosed.

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