

## Research Article

# Implementation of Secondary Index on Cloud Computing NoSQL Database in Big Data Environment

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Received 4 September 2014; Accepted 12 December 2014

Academic Editor: Gianluigi Greco

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This paper introduces the combination of NoSQL database HBase and enterprise search platform Solr so as to tackle the problem of the secondary index function with fast query. In order to verify the effectiveness and efficiency of the proposed approach, the assessment using Cost-Performance ratio has been done for several competitive benchmark databases and the proposed one. As a result, our proposed approach outperforms the other databases and fulfills secondary index function with fast query in NoSQL database. Moreover, according to the cross-sectional analysis, the proposed combination of HBase and Solr database is capable of performing an excellent query/response in a big data environment.

## 1. Introduction

Regarding big data storage [1, 2], the way of fast and easy data query is a concerned issue in NoSQL database. In general, NoSQL scheme [3, 4] is capable of supporting various data format to process the storage; yet it sacrifices the index searching function. HBase is of a NoSQL database as part of Hadoop ecosystem. It is known as the scheme of key value and usually stores the results coming out of MapReduce execution. HBase features high scalability and high flexibility, delivering a high IO performance of big data. Solr is of a blazing fast open source enterprise search engine that can quickly create index and proceed with powerful full-text search. In this paper, we are able to combine HBase and Solr to enhance the secondary index function for HBase. After the success of this combination, we go for a series of stress tests using several testing items and then make the performance comparison between the proposed one and the other benchmark databases. Finally, a cost effectiveness evaluation called Cost-Performance ratio (C-P ratio) [5] has been done for a variety of databases. As a result, the assessment about C-P ratio will be analyzed and discussed for all of databases

mentioned in this paper. Based on the cross-sectional data analysis [6], it will explore the performance of data access in NoSQL database in a big data environment as well.

For key-value database, it allows the application to store its data in a schema-less way. The data could be stored in a data type of a programming language or an object. There is no need for a fixed data model. Key-value storing divides many categories, like eventually consistent (always keeps the newest result if there is no update), hierarchical (can use the parent's attributes), cache in RAM (key value stored in memory, hash stored in cache, and hash used to present key-value index; time complexity is  $O(1)$ ), solid state or rotating disk (like Google Bigtable which is used in solid state disk to enhance IO access speed), and ordered (with key-value pairs which can sort keys or values). For tabular database, it is a database that is structured in a tabular form. It arranges data elements in vertical columns and horizontal rows. Each cell is formed by the intersection of a column and row. Each row and column are uniquely numbered to make it orderly and efficient. This type of database has a virtually infinite range for mass data storage. Structuring data in tabular form may be the oldest method used. It is also simple. Tabular

TABLE 1: NoSQL database benchmark on 5 criteria.

Database	Performance	Scalability	Flexibility	Complexity	Functionality
Key-value store	High	High	High	Low	Variable
Column store	High	High	Moderate	Low	Minimum
Document store	High	Variable	High	Low	Variable
Graph database	Variable	Variable	High	High	Graph theory
Relational database	Variable	Variable	Low	Moderate	Relational algebra

database has several properties. They share the same set of properties per record. This means that every row has the same set of column titles. They access records through identifiers. Each table in a tabular database contains a particular set of related information that is connected with the database subject through key fields, which describe each record (row) so that, in the event of a query, the system can quickly locate the record. There are several famous databases of this type, like Google Bigtable, Apache Accumulo, Apache HBase, and Hypertable. For column store database, it stores data tables as sections of columns of data rather than rows of data. For RDBMS, rows are commonly used; the column store database has the advantage of aggregating computed data over large numbers of similar data items. Column store is used in data warehouse and CRM system. Using column store database, the system can evaluate which columns are being accessed and retrieved only if values are requested from the specific columns. For NoSQL database, each mechanism has different uses, and a famous database can have many properties, like Google Bigtable. It owns solid state disk key-value type and tabular type. For this study, HBase is a column-store database. It has an easy method to use, and its performance as well as the scalability is better than the others. Table 1 explains the performance of each type of database over 5 criteria.

The following paragraphs of this paper are arranged as follows. In Section 2, combination of NoSQL database and enterprise search platform will be described. The way to system assessment is given in Section 3. The experimental results and discussion will be obtained in Section 4. Finally, we drew a brief conclusion in Section 5.

## 2. Combination of NoSQL Database and Enterprise Search Platform

This paper studies how the combination of HBase and Solr runs in big data environment based on cloud computing platform. All of application programs were installed in a Linux-based operating system. HBase is placed over Hadoop HDFS system. Thus, HBase can be attached to Hadoop after the core parts of Hadoop have been installed in a physical machine such as MapReduce and HDFS. Solr can operate independently without any support from any other applications. With the corporation with Solr, HBase can easily create index. On the other hand, Solr is able to provide GUI interface for user's operation. The procedure to establish the combination of two applications can be listed as follows.

- (1) Install Linux O/S on every host, connect them together via SSH, and deploy JVM to every host to achieve a Linux cluster environment.
- (2) Establish master and slave nodes and start them up. Master node shall deploy Hadoop to slave nodes. This has Hadoop done in every host in a cluster environment [7–9].
- (3) After deploying Hadoop and ZooKeeper to cluster, we need to confirm the start-up of Hadoop and ZooKeeper services. We are able to give `jps` instruction at terminal to check whether or not the services are running normally. After that, we establish HBase service [10–13] within Hadoop.
- (4) When procedure #3 has been done, web browser is used to view the start-up of Hadoop and HBase services. Key in `http://localhost:50030/`, `50040`, `50070`, and `60010` is used to check each node if operating normally.
- (5) Before we get Solr started, we need to modify the execution parameters in `solrconfig.xml`, which is a configuration file within `./solr-version/examples/solr/collection1/conf/`. We have to determine the Solr whether or not setting input word string to act as an index, content storage, and data format. Apache Solr needed http web container to get it started, for example, either Apache Tomcat or Apache Jetty. Here, we chose Jetty because of the default setting. After setting up, we key in `"java -jar start.jar"` to start up Solr in terminal. Finally, we got Solr's address, which is `http://localhost:8983/`.
- (6) Since HBase cannot support automatically generated row key, several big data files shall be modified in advance. We need to design a unique and complex rowkey which corresponds to a large number of rows (up to ten million rows). In this study, we chose the American Yellow Page as data source. Our data combination is "rowkey-category-shop name-telephone-province-address" with a total of 6 columns. These data files have to translate into CSV format, and " ," symbols are used to separate each column.
- (7) The CSV file is uploaded to Hadoop file system, and these files are imported to HBase as full-text input via the special tool, "bulk load tool" [14]. We need to check the data integrity in HBase after data importing.

```

schema.xml
by nature
1.1: multiValued attribute introduced, false by default
1.2: omitTermFreqAndPositions attribute introduced, true by default
    except for text fields.
1.3: removed optional field compress feature
1.4: autoGeneratePhraseQueries attribute introduced to drive QueryParser
    behavior when a single string produces multiple tokens. Defaults
    to off for version >= 1.4
1.5: omitNorms defaults to true for primitive field types
    (int, float, boolean, string...)
-->

<fields>
<field name="version" type="long" indexed="true" stored="true"/>
<field name="rowkey" type="text_general" indexed="true" stored="true" required="true" multiValued="false" />
<field name="address" type="text_general" indexed="false" stored="true" multiValued="true"/>
<field name="category" type="text_general" indexed="true" stored="true" multiValued="false"/>
<field name="shopname" type="text_general" indexed="true" stored="true" multiValued="false"/>
<field name="province" type="text_general" indexed="true" stored="true" multiValued="false"/>
<field name="tel" type="text_general" indexed="true" stored="true" multiValued="false"/>
</fields>

<!-- Field to use to determine and enforce document uniqueness.
    Unless this field is marked with required="false", it will be a required field
-->
<uniqueKey>rowkey</uniqueKey>
    
```

FIGURE 1: Apache Solr configuring file for indexing.

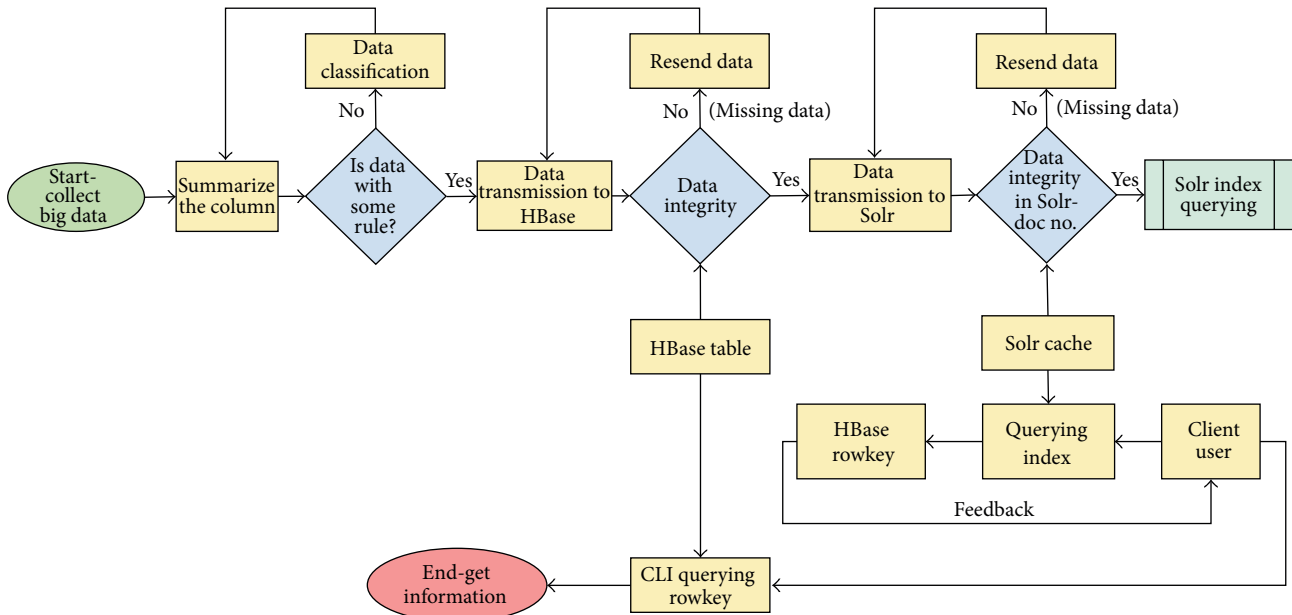


FIGURE 2: Flowchart of HBase together with Solr to implement secondary index operation.

- (8) Then, we use HBase output API and Apache HTTP API to transfer the document to Solr from HBase [15–17]. After the transmission, the indexes are created and the content is saved in memory in Solr, that is, the schema as defined and shown in Figure 1. We can use web browser to check the amount of documents in Solr. Data in a row represent a document. We can use query function to search our keyword (Secondary index or more) and reversely to search the primary index in Solr. We may be able to apply filter function to improve the precision of search results.
- (9) After finishing the setup of the proposed system, we chose some other benchmarks to compare with the proposed one in the experiment. After the experiment, we are able to give a kind of assessment on those, for instance a cost effectiveness evaluation.

In Figure 2, a flowchart represents HBase together with Solr to implement secondary index operation.

### 3. System Assessment

In terms of the performance evaluation, we have initially tested the time for data read/write to a variety of databases, such as Apache HBase, Cassandra, Huawei HBase, Solandra, and Lily Project. Next, the time for data transfer to Solr from the databases mentioned above has to be recorded. Finally, the response time for the query function performed in Solr needed to be measured as well. According to four tests on data write, data read, document transfer, and query/response to any of databases as mentioned above, first of all we have to measure a single datum access time taking a number of different data size as shown in (1), where  $t_{s_{ijk}}$  represents a single datum access time, for a single run  $t_{ijk}$  stands for

The image displays six Solr query windows arranged in a 2x3 grid. Each window contains a 'Request-Handler (qt)' section with a '/select' endpoint, a 'q' field for the query, and various filters like 'fq', 'sort', 'start, rows', 'fi', and 'df'. Below these are 'Raw Query Parameters' and a 'wt' dropdown set to 'xml'. Checkboxes for 'indent' and 'debugQuery' are visible. A blue 'Execute Query' button is at the bottom of each window.

The XML responses are shown on the right side of the interface. The first response is for a query with 'shopname:pizza' and 'rows=10', showing a list of two pizza shops with their addresses and contact information. The second response is for a query with 'shopname:Technologies' and 'rows=1000', showing a list of technology-related items with their addresses and contact information.

FIGURE 3: Latency under stress test for Solr (presenting 6 windows).





TABLE 2: Time for writing data to database (unit: sec.).

Data size	HBase + Solr	Cassandra	Huawei HBase	Solandra	Lily Project
$10^4$	23	110.4	23	120	23
$10^5$	23.2	1109.2	23	1215	24
$10^6$	123.4	11211.3	125	11253	137
$10^7$	388.5	113157.7	390	113189	412

TABLE 3: Time for reading data from database (unit: sec.).

Data size	HBase + Solr	Cassandra	Huawei HBase	Solandra	Lily Project
$10^4$	27.2	27.6	30	29	27
$10^5$	266.5	270.7	269	288.5	273
$10^6$	2572.2	2614.2	2589.7	2735	2566
$10^7$	24312	24701	24479	24988	24385

```

Already Success 1843 number data
Already Success 1844 number data
Already Success 1845 number data
Already Success 1846 number data
Already Success 1847 number data
Already Success 1848 number data
Already Success 1849 number data
Already Success 1850 number data
Already Success 1851 number data
Already Success 1852 number data
Already Success 1853 number data
Already Success 1854 number data
Already Success 1855 number data
Already Success 1856 number data
Already Success 1857 number data
Already Success 1858 number data
Already Success 1859 number data
Already Success 1860 number data
Already Success 1861 number data
Already Success 1862 number data
Already Success 1863 number data
Already Success 1864 number data
Already Success 1865 number data
Already Success 1866 number data
Already Success 1867 number data
Already Success 1868 number data
Already Success 1869 number data
Already Success 1870 number data
Already Success 1871 number data
Already Success 1872 number data
Already Success 1873 number data
Already Success 1874 number data
Already Success 1875 number data
Already Success 1876 number data
Already Success 1877 number data
Already Success 1878 number data
Nov 22, 2013 11:01:10 AM org.apache.hadoop.hbase.client.HConnectionManager$HConn
ctionImplementation.close
INFO: Closed zookeeper sessionId=6x1427d4adfe90003
Nov 22, 2013 11:01:10 AM org.apache.zookeeper.ClientCnxn$EventThread.run
INFO: EventThread shut down
Nov 22, 2013 11:01:10 AM org.apache.zookeeper.ZooKeeper.close
INFO: Session: 6x1427d4adfe90003 closed

```

FIGURE 6: Importing data to Solr from HBase.

Time for data transfer to Solr from every database has been recorded as listed in Table 4.

Speaking of data import to HBase, we adopted a bulk-load tool with MapReduce computing to transfer the original file into HBase because this tool is capable of handling a large amount of data in the way of fast and smoothly transferring. For Solr, a program with specific port at Solr and designated HBase API has activated to quickly transfer documents to Solr from HBase where a java client to access Solr called Solrj has logged into the http server, that is Solr, to respond swiftly to the connection and deliver the on-line document to http server. This also demonstrates an efficient way to realize a fast document transfer based on a client-server model for a huge amount of data. Alternatively, the other choice is that HBase coprocessor may launch a process to do the batch update frequently. However, HBase coprocessor is not stable because it is still in the developing phase.

**4.2. Querying Function and Performance Index.** Once the document transfer from HBase to Solr has been done completely, the data are available in Solr and we could check the



FIGURE 7: Presentation of Imported data in Solr using GUI.

amount of document in Solr as shown in Figure 7. In order to verify the secondary index function in the combination of HBase and Solr, we launched the query test in Solr as shown in Figure 8, where we can check the information about the related operations on the web. Solr provides normal search, filtering search, spatial search, and other more search functions. For example, we did a search using the shop-name field that included “Food” as its keyword, and 1000 results appeared filtering the province tag with “NY.” We keyed in “shopname:Food” in “q” field, inputted “province:NY” in “fq” field, and gave 1000 in rows field. Figure 8 has shown the operation of query. In Table 5, the response time for the query function performed in Solr has also been marked. Besides, average time-consuming on data read/write, document transfer, and query function is eventually obtained as listed in Table 6. After that, according to (4), we are able to evaluate the performance index for each database over a 5-year period of time as shown in Table 7.

**4.3. Assessment.** In the system assessment, we first analyze total cost of ownership (TCO) according to several items such as hardware cost, staff cost, software cost, repair cost

The screenshot shows the Solr GUI interface on the left and the resulting XML response on the right. The GUI includes fields for 'Request-Handler (qt)', 'q', 'fq', 'start, rows', 'fl', 'df', 'Raw Query Parameters', 'wt', and various checkboxes like 'indent', 'debugQuery', 'dismax', 'edismax', 'hl', 'facet', 'spatial', and 'spellcheck'. A blue 'Execute Query' button is at the bottom. The URL bar shows 'http://192.168.31.131:8983/solr/collection1/select?q=shopname'. The XML response is a standard Solr XML format containing metadata and document results.

```

http://192.168.31.131:8983/solr/collection1/select?q=shopname
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<response>
  <lst name="responseHeader">
    <int name="status">0</int>
    <int name="QTime">499</int>
    <lst name="params">
      <str name="indent">>true</str>
      <str name="q">shopname:Food</str>
      <str name="_">1395566590225</str>
      <str name="wt">xml</str>
      <str name="fq">province:NY</str>
      <str name="rows">1000</str>
    </lst>
  </lst>
  <result name="response" numFound="1123" start="0">
    <doc>
      <str name="rowkey">NY|foods|AA0261|A|A</str>
      <arr name="address">
        <str>140 W 51st St New York NY 10020-1201</str>
      </arr>
      <str name="category">foods</str>
      <str name="province">NY</str>
      <str name="shopname">Eden Food</str>
      <str name="tel">(212) 445-0010</str>
      <long name="_version_">1457298446235992064</long></doc>
    <doc>
      <str name="rowkey">NY|foods|AA0261|B|B</str>
      <arr name="address">
        <str>140 W 51st St New York NY 10020-1201</str>
      </arr>
      <str name="category">foods</str>
      <str name="province">NY</str>
      <str name="shopname">Eden Food</str>
      <str name="tel">(212) 445-0010</str>
      <long name="_version_">1457298446270595072</long></doc>
    <doc>
      <str name="rowkey">NY|foods|AA0261|C|C</str>
      <arr name="address">
    
```

FIGURE 8: Response to a query in Solr using GUI.

after warranty, downtime cost, and extra upgrade cost. A summary of TCO has been shown in Table 7. Here we estimated that hardware cost for two computers is \$2666. Then, we assumed that the maintenance bill is \$13000 every year for Hadoop together with HBase, Solr maintenance cost is approximately \$300 per year, and for Cassandra it would be \$10300 every year. Accordingly, we do the same maintenance estimation as the above-mentioned applications for Solandra and Lily Project because they are just the combination of the above applications. All of software cost is totally free due to open source. For hardware maintenance after warranty, we assumed that all the devices had the same risk of breakdown, and thus the chance of device breakdown in the 4th year

was about 25%, while in the 5th year it will be 50% chance. For the software upgrade cost, there is no charge because of open source. Regarding downtime cost, we assumed that one application will cost \$20 per year and the total cost would depend on the amount of software. Table 8 gives a summary of the total cost of ownership for this study. As for the system assessment, C-P ratio evaluation according to (6) for all of databases will yield a summary of those over a 5-year period of time as listed in Table 9.

4.4. *Stress Test and Discussion.* The issue about the stability and reliability of NoSQL database secondary index function has been concerned and hence a stress test of data retrieval

TABLE 4: Document transfer time from database to Solr (unit: sec.).

Data size	HBase + Solr	Cassandra	Huawei HBase	Solandra	Lily Project
$10^4$	109	120	115	123	115
$10^5$	1121	1130	1125	1154	1130
$10^6$	11105	11286	11173	11330	11186
$10^7$	108055	112806	112347	113105	112395

TABLE 5: Response time for querying function performed in Solr (unit: sec.).

Data size	HBase + Solr	Cassandra	Huawei HBase	Solandra	Lily Project
$10^4$	0.15	0.91	45	2	1
$10^5$	0.5	11.12	288	7	5
$10^6$	2	143.1	547	15	10
$10^7$	10	2011.13	1867	60	45

TABLE 6: Average time of a single datum access (unit: sec.).

Operation	HBase + Solr	Cassandra	Huawei HBase	Solandra	Lily Project
Data write	0.000673563	0.011164768	0.0006735	0.011680475	0.00067955
Data read	0.0025971	0.002637825	0.0026819	0.0027547	0.002608625
Document transfer	0.011005125	0.01146665	0.011289425	0.011620125	0.011306375
Query/response	0.00000575	0.000136603	0.002028425	0.00007275	0.000041125

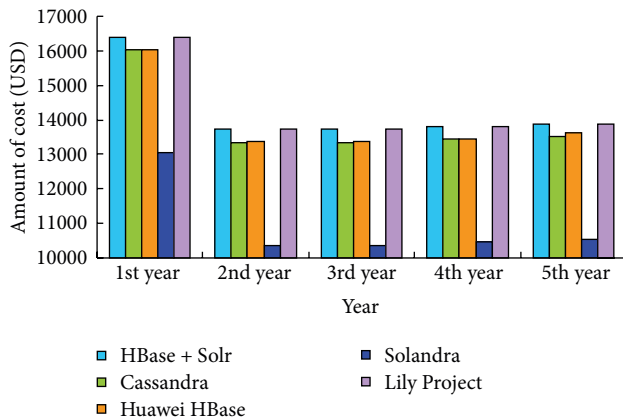


FIGURE 9: Total cost of ownership among various databases over a 5-year period.

in Solr has been taken in a big data environment. In this test, there are up to 20 threads (20 windows) used to accept the number of queries from 10 to 1000 and in the meantime the latency (time interval) has been counted. The key index in every query was different as shown in Figure 3. Table 10 has listed the summary of latency and we have examined the results afterward. In the test from the statistics point of view, the amount of opening windows obviously did not affect the length of latency occurring in the query in Solr. The stability and reliability of NoSQL database secondary index function have been verified because all of queries had responded in 5 seconds during the stress test.

It noted that performance indexes for five databases have been listed in Table 7 and they are time-invariant. In Figure 9,

TABLE 7: Performance index.

Database	Performance index
HBase + Solr	99
Cassandra	51
Huawei HBase	73
Solandra	50
Lily Project	77

TABLE 8: Total cost of ownership over a 5-year period (unit: USD).

Database	1st year	2nd year	3rd year	4th year	5th year
HBase + Solr	16393.3	13726.7	13726.7	13804.1	13877.9
Cassandra	16020	13353.3	13353.3	13430.8	13504.6
Huawei	16040	13373.3	13373.3	13450.8	13629.9
Solandra	13040	10373.3	10373.3	10450.8	10524.6
Lily Project	16393.3	13726.7	13726.7	13804.1	13877.9

TABLE 9: C-P ratio over a 5-year period.

Database	1st year	2nd year	3rd year	4th year	5th year
HBase + Solr	61.00	72.85	72.85	72.44	72.06
Cassandra	31.94	38.32	38.32	38.10	37.89
Huawei	45.92	55.07	55.07	54.76	54.04
Solandra	38.85	48.84	48.84	48.48	48.14
Lily Project	47.27	56.46	56.46	56.14	55.84

the total cost of ownership for our proposed approach has varied from year to year where it goes down dramatically and goes up slowly over a 5-year period. Accordingly, C-P ratio of the proposed approach goes up abruptly and almost



TABLE 10: Latency under stress test (unit: sec) (Win.: window).

Query	Win. #1	Win. #2	Win. #3	Win. #4	Win. #5	Win. #6	Win. #7	Win. #8	Win. #9	Win. #10
10	0.15	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.15	0.16	0.15	0.2	0.2
100	1	1	0.8	1	1	0.8	1	1	1	1
1000	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	5	4
Query	Win. #11	Win. #12	Win. #13	Win. #14	Win. #15	Win. #16	Win. #17	Win. #18	Win. #19	Win. #20
10	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.2	0.2	0.16	0.15	0.2	0.2
100	1.2	0.8	1.1	1	1.1	1	1.2	1	1.1	1.2
1000	3	4	3	4	5	4	4	4	5	5

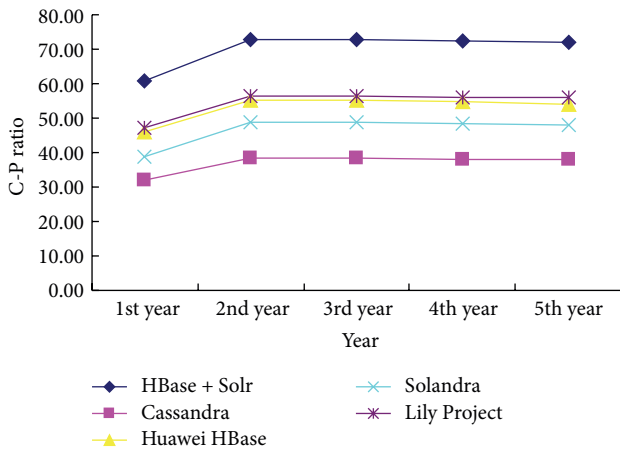


FIGURE 10: C-P ratio among various databases over a 5-year period.

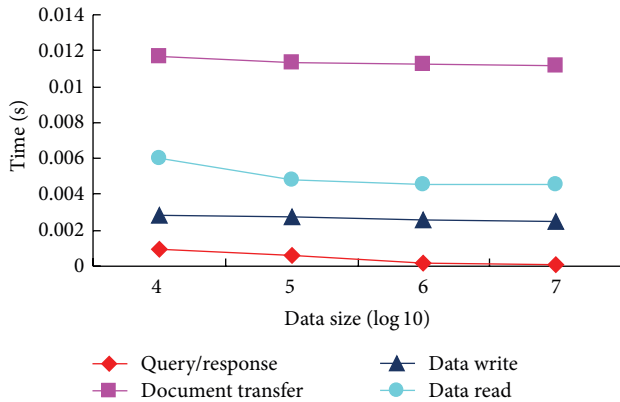


FIGURE 11: Average time of a single datum access in a certain database.

maintains the same level afterward as shown in Figure 10. Consequently, according to C-P ratio, our proposed approach outperforms the others during this period, as listed in Table 9. This has verified that our proposed approach has been realized successfully and performed significantly for a NoSQL secondary index function and fast query.

There are four tests about the function of data read, data write, document transfer, and query/response, as mentioned above in this paper to measure the average time of a single

datum access in a certain database as listed in Tables 2 to 4. What we are interested in is to figure out whether the average time of a single datum access may be varied with data size or not for these functions. As shown in Figure 11, the cross-sectional data analysis [6] gave that it takes least time on the function of query/response when comparing with the other functions. The average time reduces dramatically as data size increases because the hit rate of data retrieval goes up rapidly in memory cache and concurrently the response time shrinks sharply. This figure illustrates that NoSQL database with secondary index function can achieve an excellent performance in query/response of a certain database, especially in a big data environment.

### 5. Conclusion

This paper introduces the combination of NoSQL database HBase and enterprise search platform Solr to realize the secondary index function with fast query. In the assessment, a cost effectiveness evaluation called C-P ratio has been done among several competitive benchmark databases and the proposed one. As a result, our proposed approach outperforms the other databases and fulfills secondary index function with fast query in NoSQL database. Besides, a stress test has been taken to verify the stability and reliability of the proposed approach. Finally, according to the cross-sectional analysis, the proposed combination of HBase and Solr database is capable of performing an excellent query/response in a big data environment.

### Conflict of Interests

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interests regarding the publication of this paper.

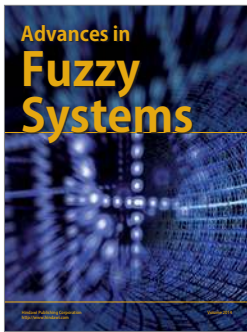
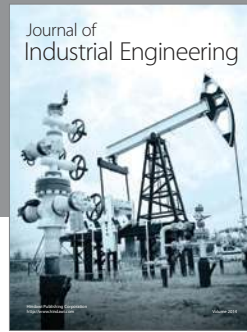
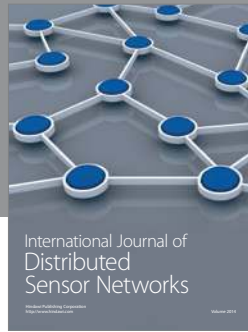
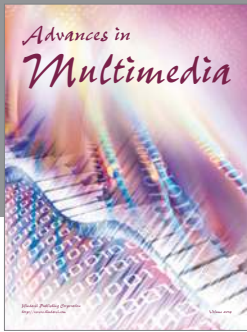
### Acknowledgment

This work is supported by the Ministry of Science and Technology, Taiwan, Republic of China, under Grant no. MOST 103-2221-E-390-011.

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