

TITLE:

## Multi-Agent Reinforcement Learning for Cooperative Edge Cloud Computing(Abstract\_要旨)

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Multi-Agent Reinforcement Learning for Cooperative Edge Cloud Computin (協調的エッジクラウドコンピューティングのためのマルチエージェ 強化学習)			

(論文内容の要旨)

The goal of this thesis is to develop methods that enable servers to cooperatively allocate tasks in an edge cloud computing environment where server status and arriving tasks dynamically change. We consider three typical types of tasks in such a dynamic environment: highworkload tasks, tasks with dependency, and tasks distributed over decentralized servers. These different types of tasks bring different issues for edge and cloud servers to perform the task allocation. First, high-workload tasks continuously occupy server resources and hinder the efficient execution of tasks, which might result in increasing various costs including user fees. Second, tasks with dependency are liable to cause a substantial delay when many tasks have to wait for the accomplishment of their dependent tasks. Third, tasks distributed over decentralized servers are observed and managed locally, which might lead to an undesirable global solution for the overall allocation. In this thesis, we employ reinforcement learning methods to address the dynamic features of the edge cloud computing environment, and incorporate several multi-agent cooperation mechanisms to guide servers to effectively allocate the above types of tasks. This thesis consists of six chapters.

Chapter 1 outlines the thesis, including the research objective, approaches and issues.

Chapter 2 describes the background of this thesis and provides a literature review of task allocation methods in the area of edge cloud computing. There are two major limitations in the existing methods. First, most previous studies focus on a self-interested setting where each server tries to optimize its own interest, without cooperating with other servers. Second, these studies usually pursue an optimal solution for a static task allocation problem, which is difficult to be applied in a dynamic environment. The above limitations motivate us to propose new methods based on multi-agent reinforcement learning by considering the cooperation mechanisms among servers and the dynamic features of the environment.

Chapter 3 proposes coalitional Q-learning (CQL), a reinforcement learning method based on dynamic coalition formation for allocating high-workload tasks. To address the issues brought from the features of high-workload tasks in a dynamic environment, CQL incorporates a coalition formation mechanism into the reinforcement learning method; it guides edge and cloud servers to dynamically form coalitions to alleviate various costs for performing high-workload tasks. Specifically, CQL consists of two phases. First, several coalitions of edge and cloud servers are formed according to the current environment state. Then, each high-workload task is allocated to a certain coalition and is divided into several sub-tasks among the coalition members. Moreover, we extend the proposed CQL by using a deep neural network, which can handle the large state spaces in the edge cloud computing environment. An experiment of high-workload task allocation shows that our proposed method can make the servers dynamically form coalitions and significantly decrease the user fees compared with a baseline method of reinforcement learning. This result indicates that CQL can cope with the issue of high-workload tasks in a dynamic edge cloud computing environment.

Chapter 4 proposes graph convolutional reinforcement learning (GCRL), a reinforcement

learning method based on graph convolutional networks for allocating tasks with dependency. The proposed GCRL addresses the issues brought from the features of tasks with dependency in a dynamic environment by incorporating a graph convolutional network module into a reinforcement learning module; it utilizes task dependency information to dynamically allocate arriving tasks to the most appropriate servers and alleviate substantial delay costs in edge cloud systems. First, the graph convolutional network module embeds the dependency information of arriving tasks and outputs the embedding results. Then, the reinforcement learning module inputs the embedding results of dependency information and current server status, and outputs the proper servers for allocating the arriving tasks. An experiment of dependent task allocation shows that the proposed GCRL significantly decreases the delay costs compared with several baseline methods of reinforcement learning and static dependent task allocation. This result indicates that GCRL can cope with the issue of tasks with dependency in a dynamic edge cloud computing environment.

Chapter 5 proposes a reinforcement learning method based on the value decomposition network (VDN) architecture for allocating tasks distributed over decentralized servers. To address the issues brought from the features of tasks distributed over decentralized servers in a dynamic environment, the VDN-based task allocation method decomposes the overall team goal (e.g., minimizing the overall system delay and energy costs) into individual goals for decentralized servers; it uses a centralized critic to guide the decentralized servers towards cooperating with each other to achieve the team goal. Moreover, we apply the proposed VDN-based method to two scenarios: task offloading and decentralized federated learning. Experiments of distributed task allocation in both scenarios show that our proposed method significantly decreases both the delay and energy costs compared with several fully decentralized baseline methods. This result indicates that the VDN-based method can make servers cooperate well to perform tasks under a distributed setting in a dynamic edge cloud computing environment.

Chapter 6 concludes the thesis by summarizing the contributions and suggesting possible future directions.

## (論文審査の結果の要旨)

本論文は、動的エッジクラウドコンピューティング環境における、高負荷タスク、依存関係を持つタスク、分散タスクといった代表的なタスクを対象として、エッジとクラウドサーバの協調によってタスクを割り当てるためのマルチエージェント強化学習手法を提案するものであり、得られた主要な成果は以下の通りである。

- 1. 高負荷タスクを割り当てるための動的連合形成に基づく強化学習手法高負荷タスクを実行するには、サーバを長時間占有するため、エッジクラウドシステム全体の遅延が発生し、利用料金が高くなる場合が多い。従来の高負荷タスクの割り当てに関する手法は、サーバの状態が頻繁に変化する動的エッジクラウドコンピューティング環境に適用することが困難である。そこで、サーバの状態の動的変化と高負荷タスクの性質の両方を考慮し、サーバの動的連合形成に基づく強化学習手法を提案した。まず、各々のサーバの現在の状態に応じて、複数のサーバ連合を形成する。次に、高負荷タスクを最適なサーバ連合への割り当てを行い、連合内の各サーバの協調によってタスクを実行する。実験によって、既存手法に比べて高負荷タスクの実行に関する利用料金を減少できることを示した。
- 2. 依存関係を持つタスクを割り当てるためのグラフ畳み込み強化学習手法エッジクラウドコンピューティング環境においては、依存関係を持つタスクが多数存在する。依存関係を考慮せずにタスクを割り当てる場合、タスクの実行に深刻な遅延が発生する。また、サーバの状態が動的に変化するため、タスクの割り当てはさらに困難になる。そこで、タスクの依存関係とサーバの状態の動的変化に対して同時に対処できるグラフ畳み込み強化学習手法を提案した。具体的には、グラフ畳み込みネットワークのモジュールでは、タスクの依存関係に関する情報をエンコードし、強化学習のモジュールでは、エンコーディング結果とサーバの状態を入力し、タスク割り当ての結果を出力する。実験によって、既存手法に比べて依存関係を持つタスクの実行に関する遅延を改善できることを確認した。
- 3. 分散タスクを割り当てるための価値分解ネットワークに基づく強化学習手法タスクを分散化されたサーバに割り当てる場面では、各々のサーバが局所の状態しか観測できないため、エッジクラウドシステム全体のコストを最小化することが困難である。そこで、価値分解ネットワークに基づく強化学習手法を提案した。具体的には、システム全体の遅延とエネルギーの消費量を最小化する全体価値関数を各々のサーバの局所価値関数に分解し、各々のサーバが局所的にタスク割り当ての方策を学習し、システム全体の目的を達成する。また、提案手法をタスクオフローディングと分散連合学習といった応用例に適用した。実験によって、既存手法に比べてシステム全体の遅延とエネルギーの消費量を削減できることを明らかにした。

以上、本論文は、動的エッジクラウドコンピューティング環境における、高負荷タスク、依存関係を持つタスク、分散タスクといった3種類の代表的なタスクを割り当てるためのマルチエージェント強化学習手法を提案した結果をまとめたものであり、学術上、実際上寄与するところが少なくない。よって、本論文は博士(情報学)の学位論文として価値あるものと認める。また、令和4年8月26日、論文内容とそれに関連した事項について試問を行った結果、合格と認めた。また、本論文のインターネットでの全文公表についても支障がないことを確認した。

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