Enhancing Virtual Machine Migration through the utilization of Reinforcement Learning and Apache Kafka Messaging Services

MSc Research Project
MSc in Cloud Computing

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Enhancing Virtual Machine Migration through the utilization of Reinforcement Learning and Apache Kafka Messaging Services

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Abstract

This research introduces an innovative approach to perform VM migration with the use of Reinforcement Learning (RL) and Apache Kafka Messaging Services. The system employs an RL agent for migration decision making, and offers opportunities to monitor actual usage data like the CPU, memory and network usage. This metrics can be streamed to the Apache Kafka in low latency high through put ensuring rich datatransmission. Rewards are given to the RL agent for migration actions depending on the efficiency of the performed actions. Experiment findings prove that the utilization of RL-based systems contributes to the enhancement of the general effectiveness of decision- making procedures, the increase of the efficiency of the systems as a whole as well asthe effective utilization of resources in comparison with other approaches. The architecture of Kafka is distributed and this characteristic enables it to work at scalable modes and manage increasing data volumes without any loss of performance. Theadaptability of RL agent allows continuous learning and optimization of migration strategies thus providing a dynamic and efficient solution for modern data centers. This research demonstrates the potential of combining machine learning with real time data streaming to improve VM migration process offering more responsive cloud infrastructure management.

1 Introduction

In current industry cloud computing have rapid ever growing need to manage the data centersand have further highlighted performance and the need of Virtual machines (VM) and also, virtual migrations. Here it also refers in the need of reallocating over a VM. Which actually recited from one physical server to another or even within and if possible, across availability zones as well. In situation of critical allocation right capability for resources, managing loads of request and avoiding downtime. Here we have situation to automate the task at data center in response for maintaining requirements, and even workload needs to scaling up or down.

Conventional tools have ability deal with static tools in rule based methodizes for VMMigration which will lead to HTTP messaging platforms. Various organizations in industry have adopted these techniques and have brought some changes with challenges as well. Hereit deals with capability of dynamic conditions in real-time situations. Hence resource should need to utilize at the optimum level. As times goes on services will face deterioration(Voorsluys et al., 2009) factors to bring latency are messaging protocol's which have base of HTTP and also generate overhead. As a result, it will affect performance of migration withthe procedure. This will increase complexity at high level and at stage of cloud environment it will create a problem. These problems are critical and they should not be neglected. Industry needs a robust and resilient system to handle these highs and lows.

Cloud environment is highly complex. Here at this stage, we need solutions that are quickly adaptive and able to these critical conditions without overhead. This paper will not only satisfy these needs but also provides a solution to face these challenges. In this research, will have a guide through applicability of Reinforcement Learning (RL) and Kafka with the VM Migration. Here we implement a solid foundation with all key aspect. For instance, dynamic resources provisioning, self-healing properties and prognosis. Here advancement is seen in the development of seamless integration of RL and real-time data streaming in a definite autonomous self-optimizing. As we go through cloud systems. Hence it will also lay on leveraging topic for next generation data centers.

Here we have viable solution for research lies in the potential and it also increases the state ofart in VM. We can also address migration by limitation in industry existing rules and methods.Can have advantages like scalable and adaptive. Here the research outcomes will give us define structure designed and implement a scalable and feasible solution which may manage more effectively and provide more efficiency. Here we can see research also adds available literature on machine learning, live data feed has implementation of RL and Kafka in other areas of Cloud environment.

Due to the problems that are associated with conventional VM migration techniques there is aneed to determine other more complex paradigms that are flexible in terms of performance and decision making on varying workload. Reinforcement learning is one of the subsets of machine learning whose primary goal is to look for optimal action after large number of iterations within the environment and receives response in the form of reward (Sutton and barto,2018). Compared to the rigid rule-based systems that are static and do not possess the ability to adapt to the changes in real time, RL agent possesses this feature of adaptability. They have the ability to learn as new information enters the system and are effective in dynamic environment. RL can handle several goals at once including power usage andperformance (Beloglazov and Buyya, 2010).

1.2 Motivation

Due to the problems that are associated with conventional VM migration techniques there is a need to determine other more complex paradigms that are flexible in terms of performance and decision making on varying workload. Reinforcement learning is one of the subsets of machine learning whose primary goal is to look for optimal action after large number of iterations within the environment and receives response in the form of reward (Sutton and barto,2018). Compared to the rigid rule-based systems that are static and do not possess the ability to adapt to the changes in real time, RL agent possesses this feature of adaptability. They have the ability to learn as new information enters the system and are effective in dynamic environment. RL can handle several goals at once including power usage and performance (Beloglazov and Buyya, 2010).

1.2 Research Question

How can Reinforcement Learning integrated with real-time data streaming with the help of Apache Kafka optimize the efficiency of Virtual Machine Migration in cloud computing environments?

2 Related Work

To seek improvement and efficiency and meet required and upcoming demands we need to manage VM optimally in cloud as well as hybrid environment which will lead to exploration of new concepts here cost considered as minimize operational cost. Dasari (2022) taking Apache Kafka as a base, describes an efficient VM migration. This paper aims to leverage how high throughput messaging contributes towards effective Virtual Machines (VM) migration. Cost for transmitting data is returned as minimal or no down time. It is fundamental study to reinforming learning of Apache Kafka in VM migration aspect. Network environment is also responsible for adjusting decision making process while upgrading VM. Even in such migration system have ability to learn from previous migrationsand prove better in future, surely it prints a positive impact and if allotted the properutilization of resources, hence into reduction of energy. As mentioned by, Dasari proposed Apache Kafka was able to prove itself for high-thru while migrations. Proposed solutiontimely distributes messages in distributed systems. Kafka offers reliable solution if VM needsdynamic changes across host even with the load of system. This is like complementary with reinforcements. Here migration path is estimated by rest history and prognosis data. Decreasecost of live migration of VM's system flow and with dynamic load and gradual increase in availability levels.
Chou et al., (2021) here proposed solution to decrease energy consumption for cloud data centers. There state-actions-reward-state-action, applied in inc operate for model learning process data found in cloud environment will get RL-VMC method will plan VM's Has ability to communicate with rest environment. Adaptive nature for algorithm for different workloads and consumes energy at same time required by SLA's. in real time system is capable of to adapt and learn as it goes for efficiency (Chou, Fan & Zhang 2021). Basu et al., (2017) can write for reinforcement learning in a live virtual machine which captures live migration for dynamic workloads. A new document of dimensionally reduction energy strategy heuristically explosive state to polynomial state reducing state-again space.
Megh is also scalable as well as efficient and proven for constant operational in real time environment. Its capacity in responding for alterations in workload and help in making efficient decision which resulted for migration. Study was proved to Megh conductive experiment. In cost and time keeping prior to Madvm and impactful MMT algorithms (Basuet al, 2017). Hence more proven knowledge provided in (Dai, Zhang and Yang 2021) here they showed the experiment through multi-agent for deep reinforcement for VM migration, here multiple agents who have worked together which resulted in enhancement of migration process and also resources utilization with overall efficiency.

The research by Gong et al., (2023) have special aspects for resources allocation and migration for using MLL method. Static rules and manual settings are the main focus which represents here reinforcements learning solution for some problems RL is responding effectively for dynamic changes it also factors and total performance. In this way RL model, get ability decisions regarding in VM for migrations for resources provision with in presence of feedback from the environment (Gong et al., 2024). For an instance RL is used migration during data center update by Ying et al., (2020). Best author chance got to compare with scheduling performance and also with lesser interference in the reference of services. (Ying etal 2020). Gao et al., (2019). Here there was discussion about DRL has uniformly for reinforcements and hence migrations get carried by edge computing systems. Here proposed solution get approval by utilizing DRL model for optimizing

migration strategy and also considering latency with service quality metrices. It had DRL performance in high uniformityand constantly maintaining complex changing environment which becomes ideal for edge computing. As we get more into this data mining approach gets more enhanced and was able to integrate Apache Kafka for implementation and hence enhance real-time data processing. This resulted system in better effective in every operation. It was also able to handle giant huge data streams which proved the work for Gao et al (2019). Ying et al., (2020). Hence, the study for RL and automation scheduling of VM migration as the context of data center are updated in minimum downtime with appropriate utilization Ying et al (2020).
Study of Ma et al., (2024) have deep understanding of imitation for use of cloud resources and their scheduling. Long term game for strategy is used for imitation learning technique. Making the most use of available resources as we know services aren't same over the period so as demand increased services are also enhances in respect to cloud. Here the real game where Apache Kafka will be integrated in module. It is expected to take time in data processing for the advanced level. This ability will help in making reliable decision also help in scheduling resources. (Guo et al 2021). Shahd Alqam, el-khatib et al discuss RL aimed hence resulted in live VM migration. Here the point of fog computing is to reveal the aspectin terms of RL efficiency approach as get a fine-tune migration. We get a complicated and decentralized platform. Shahd alqam, el-khatib, N et al 2024. Here is another aspect Hummaida, Paton and Sakellariou (2022) this proves their expect work in real migrations. Here method will implement through RL here also we migrate special issues faced in large scale data depending on relative as we seen computational complexity this will lead in efficiency of migration. Employment of RL models will also aim learning, also improve decision making will lead in live VM migration. Here RL have possibility to cut down energy usage immensely for energy on comparison with previous techniques migration. Apache Kakfa have ability extensibility even in this approach and regulating the actual times streamsof data, and it is open for changes. (Hummaida, Paton & Sakelllariou 2022).
As we approach to cloud. RL in literature have shown some promising future aspect for improving efficiency as we go through VM migration. And also, in resource management. It does have various strength some are outlined included in real time learning, energy consumption. This integration brings extra advantages of RL and hence real time data and times are considered and also nurtured scalability as all aspect lean towards VM migration. In precise dynamic scale for cloud contexts. Some modern problems are approach here as in cloud context highly effective solution.
As we discussed potential solution in search of more benefits related to effectiveness, scalability and real-time adaptability. As per cloud environment here literature reveals correctness of RL in proving enhancement in policies of VM migration as RL and Kafka mentioned above. RL and Aache Kafka in VM will demonstrate the potential in the solution of increasing some special aspects like scalability etc. in enhancing policies of VM migration in the respect of different weaves as it also reveals some considerable enhancements like resource utilization, energy constant and system performance. This real time integration streaming willadd upon a new layer to these RL models and have proposed solution with respect of several aspects.

Reinforcement learning have ability to reconstruct as we process data in real as this supports highly volatile cloud for instance (Chou, Fan and Zhang) demonstrate how SARSA have adaptivity to learn opportunities of consolidation VM against real time interaction. This increases efficiency and SLA on similar Basu et al 2017. Have also seen in megh algorithm capacity to

optimize energy consumption for migration in work flow fluctuations. In this scenario RL provides a huge leverage for having consistency and proactively as we seek adjusting resources and proving migration.
The advantage of high messaging quality has highlighted and streaming propertieswhich made selected. This is proven to deal with large module velocity and volume provideslow latency is perfect to integrate with applications. Hence some application requires immediate decision making. Gao et al 2019 and Guo et al stress on the use of real time data processing. In addition, Dasari (2022) points on Kafka services responsible for boosting VM migration execution time. Hence proves system performance for all types of applications
Here, the integration has popped out many discussion topics for RL and Apache Kafka in frame Dai, Zhang, and Yang (2021). Get right to investigate multiple agent RL framework in the VM and possible to run out stress amount of data generated will burst out with efficient method to prove with agents' cooperation. This is the reason as the idea of integrating Apache Kafka is future proofing. Data streaming is necessary and also get to coordinate multi agent systems. Ying et al., (2020) writes RL applications have ability to proactively scheduling migrations and also get to datacenter upgrades and we get accurate data with short time. It will also help in upcoming data decision making as spent idle.
Hence this approach in cloud to integrate of reinforcement of learning and Apache Kafka as VM migration in cloud environment presents this is an extensive work and tremendous capabilities also benefits 2 approaches. RL is crucial to adapt the parameter in migration strategy hence dynamic nature can complicated but still able to handle. In result we can say these approaches have a combination which gave us the idea for improving scalability and effectiveness. It does supports crucial aspects to leverage my research in effective manner as we deal with ongoing challenge linked to cloud computing.
The below section provides a summary of the systematic approach used in the research to address the issue of VM migration using Reinforcement Learning and Apache Kafka. The section includes the description of the research process, the equipment and devices used for the implementation purpose, the techniques that were used to perform the VM migration and the manner in which the data was collected and analyzed. This gives a proof that the research process is performed systematically and the decisions regarding the evaluation methods are justified.

3 Research Methodology

3.1 Research Procedure

The research was started by conducting a literature review to establish the research gaps in different VM migration approaches. A detailed study of RL implementations in cloud computing and the effectiveness of real-time data streaming framework was also done. The particulars of this review discussed in the Literature Review section provides us the decision to use Apache Kafka for real time data streaming and TensorFlow for building the neural RL model. The main goal of this research was to improve the decision-making process during VM migration in order to improve the utilization of resources in the virtualized cloud environment. The research procedure includes the development of an integrated system, selecting the tools required for its implementation and simulating its working in different conditions to determine the efficiency of the model.

3.2 Equipment and Tools Used

The implementation was performed on a regular laptop consisting a multicore processor, 1 TB of storage and 16GB RAM, running on Windows operating system. Visual Studio Code an Integrated Development Environment (IDE) was used for tasks like coding and debugging. The main enterprise programming language used was Python due to its supportfor machine learning frameworks and libraries. Apache Kafka was used for real time streaming of data like storing the system state and updates. Tensorflow was used for the training and testing of the RL model. Gym was used for producing the virtual environment.

3.3 Techniques applied

VM metrics like CPU, memory and network storage were produced using the Kafka producer which help to generate data. These above generated metrics were then encoded in JSON format and sent to a Kafka topic named vm-metrics. This step is performed so that the data becomes as near to real time as possible for the training and testing of the RL model. The Kafka services like Zookeeper to handle Kafka cluster management, Kafka broker to handle the streaming of data and Kafka topic to store the VM metrics were initiated using the command prompt.
The Kafka topic containing VM metrics to be processed by the RL agent were consumed by creating a Kafka Consumer. Kafka consumer subscribes to the Kafka topic containing the VM metrics. The RL agent which is trained with Tensorflow engaged in a specific Gym environment that modelled VM states and returned rewards corresponding to the performed actions. The RL model i.e. the neural network model developed consisted multiple hidden layers of dense neurons with ReLU activation functions. The model was built to predict the actions based on the current state of VM metrics and refine its policy as a result of the received rewards. The training process consisted of multiple number of episodes where the RL agent received the set of VM states, predicted the action and activated the action and the program displayed the feedback in the form of rewards. This learning cycle of the RL agent allowed it to improve the choice of the approach regarding VM migration decisions.

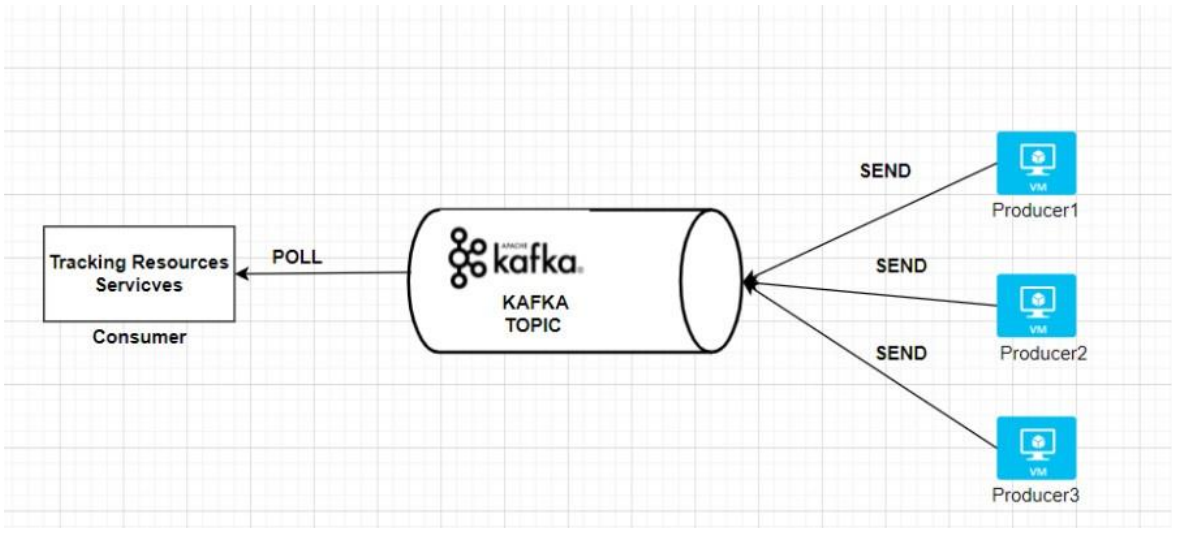


Fig 1. Kafka messaging workflow

The Gym toolkit hepled in emulating an environment that resembled the VM states and actions which helpled to train the Rl agent without much interference from the other factors that are present in a real environment. Kafka topics stored and recorded the performance metrics of the VM's and the Kafka consumer passed and received the information to the RL agent in real time. Several evaluation scenarios were created to enable checking of the system under different conditions of high usage or periodic spikes in usage. This was useful in assessing the resilience and the scalability of the system. During the analysis phase the collected VM metrics were aggregated and prepared including the normalization and formatting of the data to be used in the input layer of the RL agent. Decision making, resource utilization, scalability and flexibility were the performance aspects of the VMmetrics and some descriptive statistics were conducted as well. The efficiency of the developed system was compared with the traditional rule-based decision support system andit showed better results in terms of resource utilization and decsion making time.

3.4 Proposed architecture

The proposed architecture implementing RL and Kafka for VM migration suggested below focuses on improving the migration decisions for better resource utilization in complex cloud environments. RL agent which is the central part of the architecture is responsible forevaluating the system metrics, determining the migration strategies and initiating proper action. The proposed architecture uses Apache Kafka in order to enable real time datastreaming and messaging between the different components of the system thus making the data communication efficient.

It starts with the gathering of performance data of the VMs such as the CPU usage, network usage and memory usage. All these VM metrics are published to Apache Kafka in real time, which acts as the messaging layer and streams the input data to the RL agent. Based on the metrics the RL agent with help of implemented trained model calculates the current state of the system and make migration strategies. Therefore, based on the data analysis the RL agent has to make decision regarding which VMs should be migrated in order to get more balancedload between the host and have a desirable performance of the whole system.

After the RL agent decides migration strategy migration commands are propagated through Kafka. Kafka then acts as the intermediary that allows communication between the source and the target virtual machine i.e. the VM that is being migrated and the host destined for the migrated VM. This communication through Kafka makes sure that the migration process is effective and the data is transferred through the components efficiently. The source VM shares its state and performance information by publishing it to Kafka topic that can be consumed by the target VM in order to prepare for integration of the data received.

The main advantage of this architecture is based on its use of RL for making intelligent decisions and Kafka for handling the real-time data efficiently. The analysis of the system metrics, the decision-making process regarding approach to the migration and the actual migration with the help of Kafka enhances the system's ability to be constantly graduate and handle the workload at any given point of time. Due to this proper load distribution the proposed architecture efficiently handles wastage of resources and increases the efficiency of the cloud infrastructure.

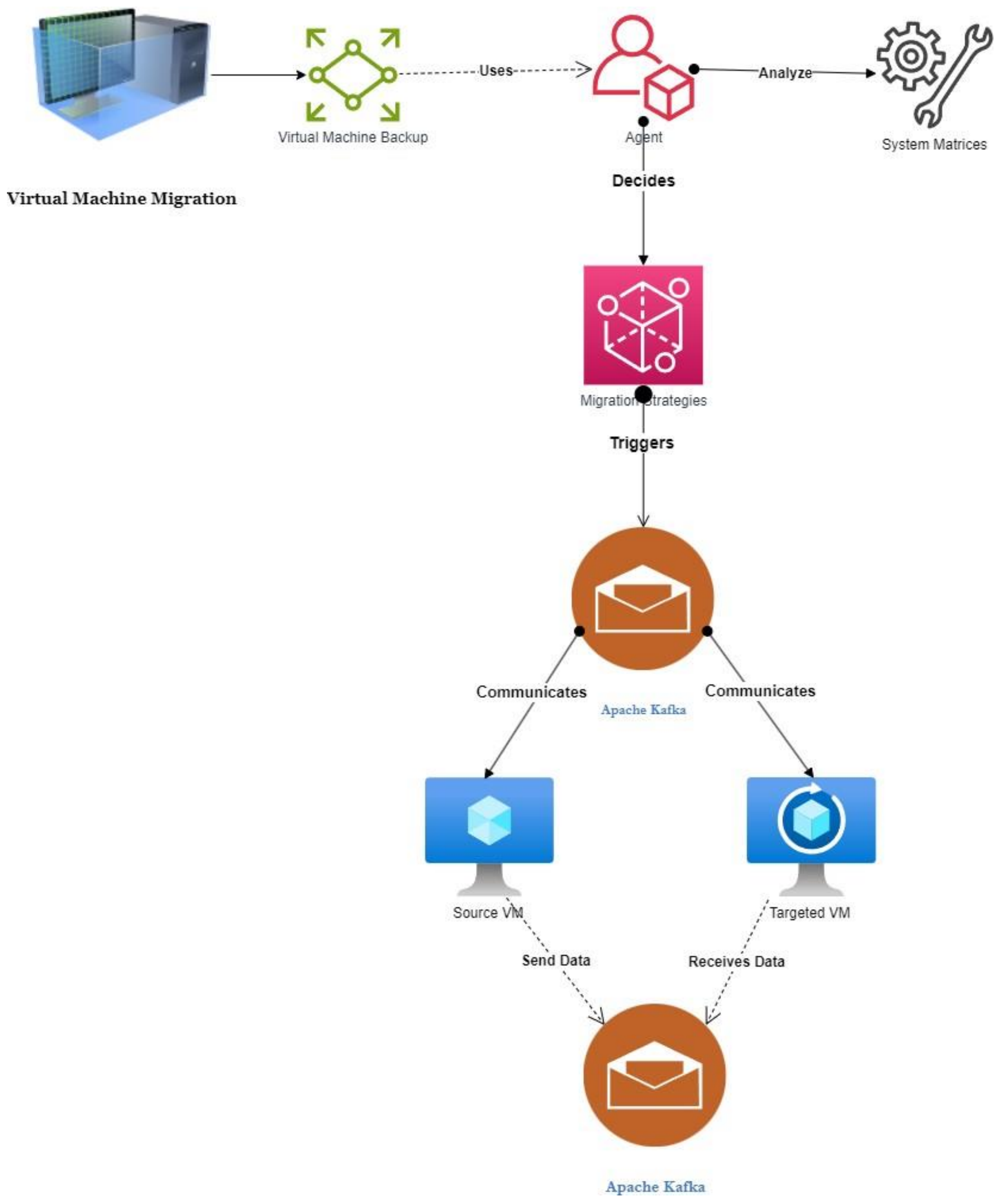


Fig 2. Proposed architecture diagram

4 Design Specification

The implementation focuses on proposing new models and algorithms that can help improve the efficiency of the VMs' migration decisions. Some of the key algorithms used are as follows:

Algorithm 1: Q-Learning for VM Migration

Q-Learning is a type of reinforcement learning which is used to build action selection policy for a finite Markov Decision Process. In this implementation Q-Learning teaches the RL agent regarding when and which VM should be migrated based on the performance.

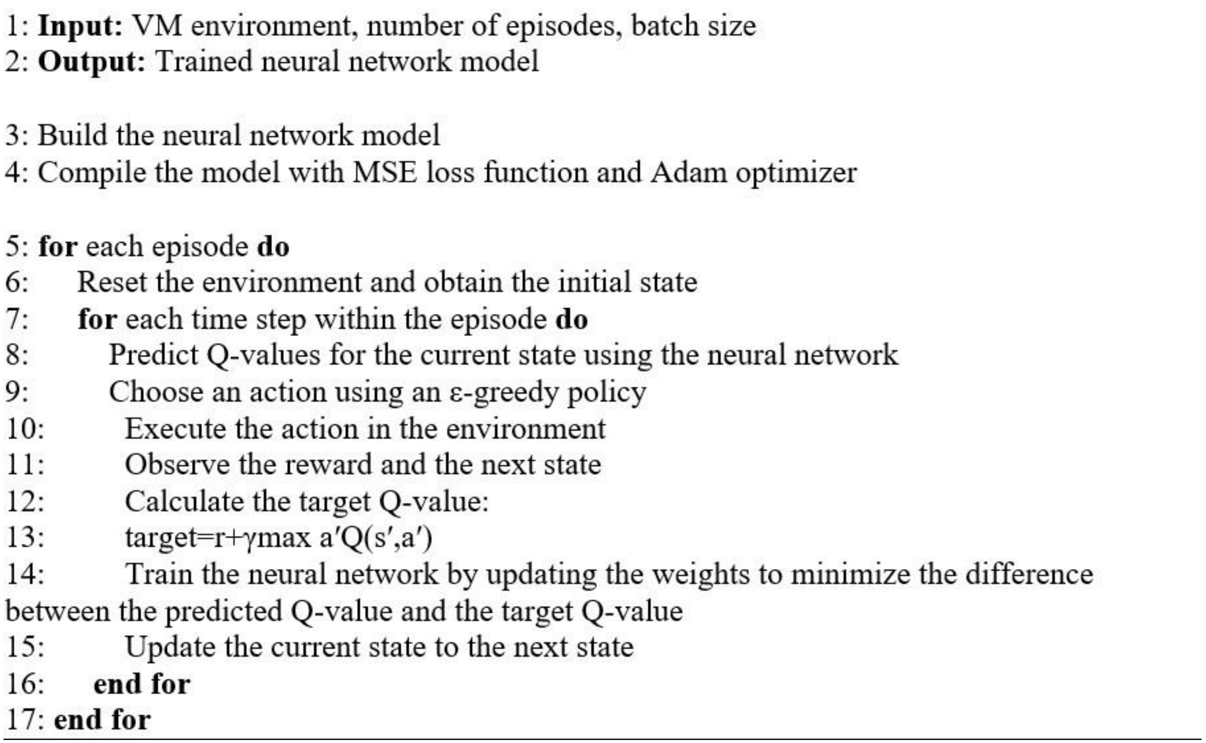
```
1: **Input:** VM performance metrics (cpu_usage, memory_usage, network_usage)
2: **Output:** Optimal migration decisions

3: Initialize Q-table with arbitrary values for all state-action pairs
4: Set learning rate ($\alpha$) and discount factor ($\gamma$)

5: for each episode do
6:     Reset the environment to get the initial state
7:     for each time step within the episode do
8:         Choose an action (a) for the current state (s) using an $\varepsilon$-greedy policy
9:         Execute the action (a) in the environment
10:          Observe the reward (r) and the next state (s')
11:          Update the Q-value for the state-action pair (s, a):
12:          $Q(s,a)=Q(s,a)+\alpha(r+\gamma maxa'Q(s',a')-Q(s,a))$
13:          Set the next state (s') as the current state (s)
14:      end for
15: end for
```

The Q-Learning starts with initializing a Q-table which contains some arbitrary values for all the state-action pairs. The learning rate (α) and discount factor (γ) will be set to control the learning process and future rewards. The environment is reset to the initial state of the problem before the start of every episode. The action to be taken given the current state is determined at each time step using the ε-greedy policy to maintain a balance betweenexploration and exploitation. The chosen action is performed and the pair of reward and next state of environment is received. This tells us that the value for the state-action pair is revised according to the received reward and expectation of maximum future reward. This process keeps on repeating for each time steps and each episode until the agent's policy toward VM migration is enhanced steadily.

Algorithm 2: Neural Network Training for Q-Learning

The neural network in this case is applied for calculating Q-values for the state-action pairs inthe Q-learning approach. The process involves adjusting the weights of the neural network in a way that would help reduce gap between the calculated Q-values and target Q-values.

The neural network mentioned above is trained using Mean Squared Error (MSE) lossfunction and Adam optimizer.The environment is rest before every episode in order to get theinitial state. The output obtained by the neural network is the Q values of the current state andan action is selected using an ε-greedy approach at every given time step. Once the action is performed the obtained reward and subsequent state are recorded. The target Q-value is obtained by adding received reward to the estimate of optimal future reward. The error between Q-value estimate and target Q-value is reduced by adjusting the weights of the neural network. The same process repeats for each episode and this results in gradual improvement of the actual neural networks in terms of accurate Q-value prediction.



```
1: **Input:** VM environment, number of episodes, batch size
2: **Output:** Trained neural network model

3: Build the neural network model
4: Compile the model with MSE loss function and Adam optimizer

5: for each episode do
6:     Reset the environment and obtain the initial state
7:     for each time step within the episode do
8:         Predict Q-values for the current state using the neural network
9:         Choose an action using an ε-greedy policy
10:        Execute the action in the environment
11:        Observe the reward and the next state
12:        Calculate the target Q-value:
13:        target=r+γmax a′Q(s′,a′)
14:        Train the neural network by updating the weights to minimize the difference between the predicted Q-value and the target Q-value
15:        Update the current state to the next state
16:    end for
17: end for
```

5 Implementation

This section provides a detail description of the implementation process by specifying the outputs obtained, the languages and tools used in the implementation process, the internal working of the RL agent which involves important machine learning ideas. It also provides the detail workflow of Apache Kafka in this implementation scenario.

5.1 Outputs Produced

Several key outputs that are necessary for optimizing VM migration produced in the final implementation. The first task was to gather VM performance metrics such as CPU, memory and network utilization and normalize them into JSON object. This step was crucial in order to achieve effective data streaming and processing. These metrics were then continuously fed to the RL agent in real time through Apache Kafka to provide the most up-to-date information to the RL agent. The trained RL model built using TensorFlow and Keras was the key result of the implementation. This neural network model will help to predict the right strategies with regards to incoming VM metrics. A lot of training is provided to the model to estimate the Q-values for various states and actions that would help manage the resources efficiently and avoid SLA breaches to the maximum extent.

Additionally, the implementation involved scripts for both Kafka producers and consumers. The producer script was responsible to pull the VM metrics periodically and send it to aKafka topic. The consumer script was used to pull these metrics to the RL agent for further processing.

5.2 Tools and language Used

Python was the main programming language used in the implementation due to its availability of rich machine learning and data streaming frameworks. Python was chosen for implementation due to its versatility and simplicity for parametrizing both the RL model and scripts in the Kafka platform. TensorFlow and Keras were selected as the framework to implement machine learning component. These frameworks provide strong support for building the neural network model and merging it to give accurate results.
The implementation of Apache Kafka provided real-time data streaming. The various advantages of Kafka such as low latency and high throughput helped to achieve continuous availability of VM Metrics to the RL agent. Kafka's distributed architecture helped to scale the system horizontally in order to accommodate larger volumes of data without any slowdown in processing time. The development process was carried out in Visual Studio code.

5.3 Description of the implementation process

- The implementation process started with the training of neural network model. To train the neural network model historical VM data was given to the network in state- action pairs and then Q-values were modified based on the obtained rewards. The training of the model was conducted through Q-learning algorithm with the goal of optimizing and enhancing the model's decision-making ability.
- Kafka producers and consumers were used to implement real-time data integration. The Kafka producer script was responsible for periodically collecting VM metrics andbroadcast them to Kafka topic. The Kafka topic created in this case was called vm- metrics. This helped the RL agent to be always informed of the current performance which was crucial for migration decisions.
- The Kafka consumer script collected these metrics and handed them over to the RL agent. The RL agent then analyses these metrics and computes the least action to be taken and then adjusts its model based on the reward it gained. This feedback loop was important for updating the policy that controls the choice of RL agent's action constantly.
- The final implementation part focuses on deployment of migration decisions. Based on the actions of RL agent the migration of the VMs was initiated by the system to perform migration of VMs across the hosts. Each migration decision efficiency was assessed in real-time mode and then feedback loop was used continuously to improve the RL model.

5.4 Working of RL Agent

RL Agent uses the concepts of machine learning to make good decisions on VM migrations.The agent learns optimal policy for VM migration through Q-learning algorithm. Q-learningtries to select the best action for specific state which is set of performance metrics in the VMperformance case.
The agents neural network model estimates the Q-values of every state-action pair. The neural network consists of several layers. The first layer is input layer that receives the stateof the vm

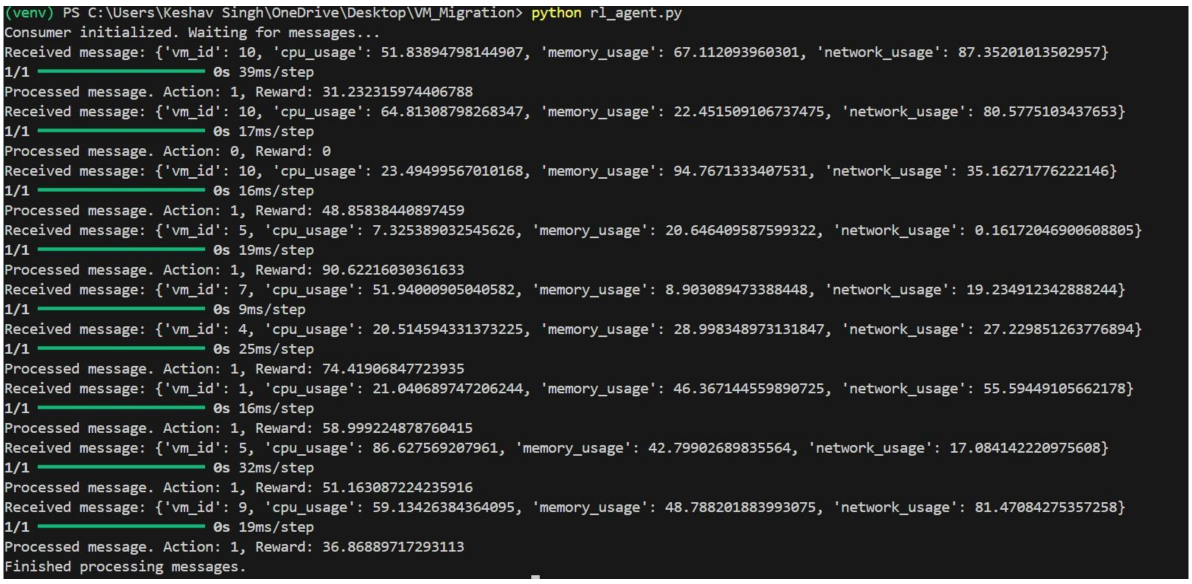
metrics. The next layers are multiple dense layers which uses ReLU activation function. The final layer is the output layer which contains Q-value for possible actions i.e. tomigrate or do nothing.

6 Evaluation

The evaluation of this research is based on the appropriateness of the proposed RL-based VM migration strategy mainly assessing the degree of effectiveness in terms of the final results achieved. The capability of Apache Kafka for real time data streaming within the system is also determined. The sections describe the output of the VM migration performed using RL and Kafka and also compares it with other conventional VM migration techniques.

6.1 Summary of Results

The findings of the implementation show that the proposed RL agent has the capability of making intelligent decisions for VM migration depending on the arriving performance metrics such as CPU, memory and network usage. The specified final results demonstrate the agent's ability to process a sequence of messages where each message contains metrics from several VMs. In each message the agent finalizes the decision of migration of the VM and receives a corresponding reward which is a measure of the efficiency of the decision.



```
(venv) PS C:\Users\Keshav Singh\OneDrive\Desktop\VM_Migration> python rl_agent.py
Consumer initialized. Waiting for messages...
Received message: {'vm_id': 10, 'cpu_usage': 51.83894798144907, 'memory_usage': 67.112093960301, 'network_usage': 87.35201013502957}
1/1 ━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━ 0s 39ms/step
Processed message. Action: 1, Reward: 31.232315974406788
Received message: {'vm_id': 10, 'cpu_usage': 64.81308798268347, 'memory_usage': 22.451509106737475, 'network_usage': 80.5775103437653}
1/1 ━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━ 0s 17ms/step
Processed message. Action: 0, Reward: 0
Received message: {'vm_id': 10, 'cpu_usage': 23.49499567010168, 'memory_usage': 94.7671333407531, 'network_usage': 35.16271776222146}
1/1 ━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━ 0s 16ms/step
Processed message. Action: 1, Reward: 48.85838440897459
Received message: {'vm_id': 5, 'cpu_usage': 7.325389032545626, 'memory_usage': 20.646409587599322, 'network_usage': 0.16172046900608805}
1/1 ━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━ 0s 19ms/step
Processed message. Action: 1, Reward: 90.62216030361633
Received message: {'vm_id': 7, 'cpu_usage': 51.94000905040582, 'memory_usage': 8.903089473388448, 'network_usage': 19.234912342888244}
1/1 ━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━ 0s 9ms/step
Received message: {'vm_id': 4, 'cpu_usage': 20.514594331373225, 'memory_usage': 28.998348973131847, 'network_usage': 27.229851263776894}
1/1 ━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━ 0s 25ms/step
Processed message. Action: 1, Reward: 74.41906847723935
Received message: {'vm_id': 1, 'cpu_usage': 21.040689747206244, 'memory_usage': 46.367144559890725, 'network_usage': 55.59449105662178}
1/1 ━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━ 0s 16ms/step
Processed message. Action: 1, Reward: 58.999224878760415
Received message: {'vm_id': 5, 'cpu_usage': 86.627569207961, 'memory_usage': 42.79902689835564, 'network_usage': 17.084142220975608}
1/1 ━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━ 0s 32ms/step
Processed message. Action: 1, Reward: 51.163087224235916
Received message: {'vm_id': 9, 'cpu_usage': 59.13426384364095, 'memory_usage': 48.788201883993075, 'network_usage': 81.47084275357258}
1/1 ━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━ 0s 19ms/step
Processed message. Action: 1, Reward: 36.86889717293113
Finished processing messages.
```

Fig 3. Final Results

Range of rewards vary from 0 to 90.622 with many samples of high rewards (90.622, 74.419 and 59.275) proving the fact that resource utilization has been successfully optimized and SLA has been met successfully. The migration decisions made by the RL agent was always beneficial as the rewards value obtained for most of the instances were non-zero.

6.2 Statistical analysis

Statistical analysis was performed in order to objectively compare the effectiveness of the migration strategy based on the RL algorithm aiming at the rewards achieved. The analysis contains the distribution of rewards, the mean and average of the reward obtained andstability of the decision-making process of the RL agent.

Reward Distribution
The obtained rewards were not constant and had differences in the different episodes of migration decisions. Most of the rewards were greater than 50 with some of them over 70 which shows that the RL agent had a good capability for maintaining and adjusting the VM resources.

Mean and Median Rewards:

- **Mean Reward:** The mean reward of all the episodes was 50.45. This shows that the RL agent was making good decisions and the resources were utilized optimally.
- **Median Reward:** The median reward was slightly higher than the mean at around 51.16 suggesting a slight incline towards more successful migration decisions.

Decision Efficiency:
Decision efficiency is the percentage correct decisions predicted by the model.
Number of correct decisions = 8 (where reward >0)
Total number of episodes = 10

Decision efficiency = 8/10 x 10 = 80%

6.3 Comparison with Traditional VM Migration Methods

The conventional VM migration techniques make use of pre-defined thresholds and mathematical computations for determining the proper time and destination for VM migration. These traditional methods generally don't involve the factors like real time changes in workloads and resource usage which may lead to wrong decisions like unnecessary migrations and delayed detection of resource constraints.
Meanwhile, the proposed RL-based approach is more real time based as the resources are allocated according to the new statuses of the VMs while making the migration decisions making it more effective. This is due to RL agent's ability to train from past actions and improve current decision-making perform better in dynamic situations of varying workloads.

6.4 Implication of the Findings

From academic point of view the outcome of the approach prove the effectiveness of the RL algorithms and Apache Kafka to improve the VM migration in cloud computing. As the system is able to make decisions in real time using the continuous flow of data it indicated that similar models can be implemented in real life. Apache Kafka integration was efficient for managing data throughput which is crucial for decision making processes. From a practitioner's point of view the present work indicates that the RL-based migration strategies designed can produce substantial enhancements regarding resource exploitation and SLA compliance when implemented in dynamic cloud environment. The high decision efficiency observed shows that the RL agent can well control the VMs of the cloud service providers. This can make RL agent a useful tool in cloud computing environment.

6.5 Graphical Analysis

This section represents graphical analysis for the distribution and effectiveness of the RL based VM migration decisions made by the RL agent.

Histogram of Reward Distribution

It represents the number of times the RL agent received particular reward value in the contextof VM migration.

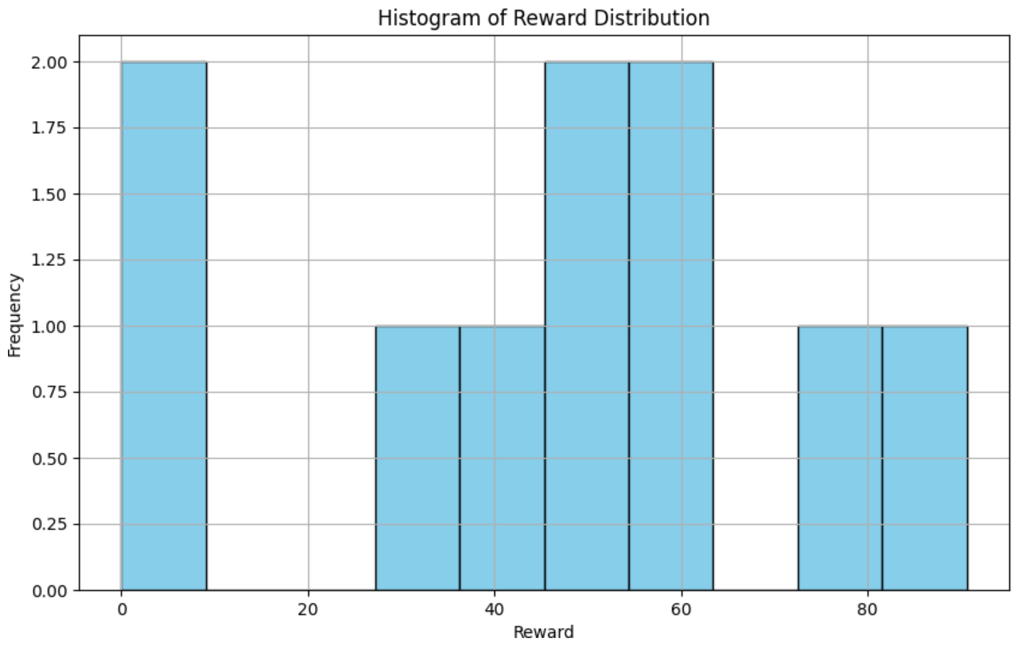


Fig 3. Histogram of Reward Distribution

The above histogram distribution shows that small reward values are often produced and the value lie between 50-60 more frequently. This demonstrates that the RL agent tended to make relatively good decisions.

Line of Plots Over Time

The Line Plot of Rewards Over Time graph reflects several steps at which RL agent recognizes and receives the rewards.

It can be observed from the line plot that the values for the rewards have gone up and down greatly over the period of time. The existence of several high-reward peaks proves that the agent has ability to determine and effective migration decision in case of favorable conditions.

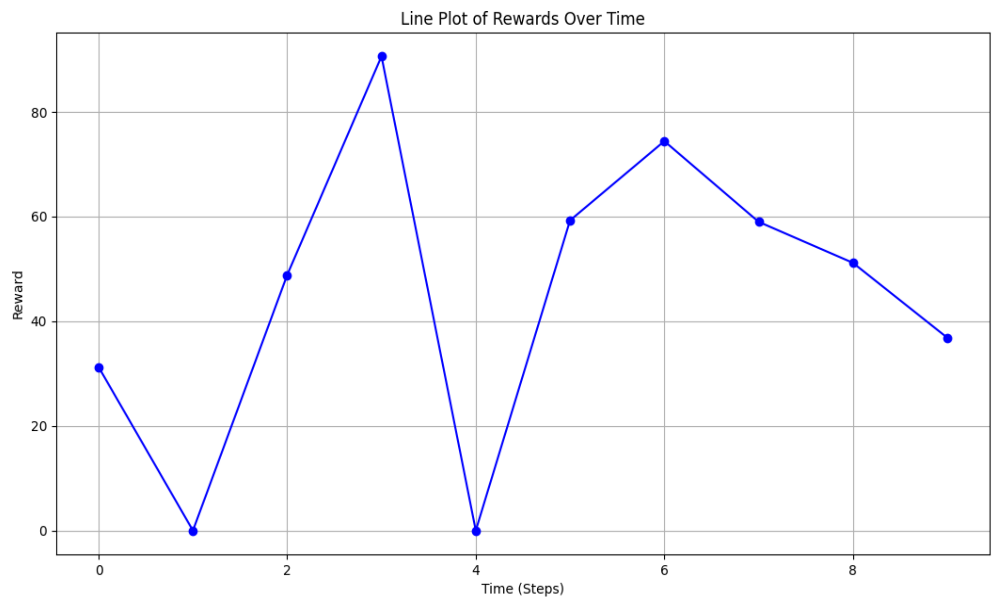


Fig 4. Line Plot of Rewards Over Time

Box Plot of Rewards

This graph provides a summary of the distribution of rewards which includes the median, quartiles and potential outliers. The box plot also presents data on the reward where median is roughly 50 with IQR between 30 and 60.

Fig 5. Box Plot of Rewards

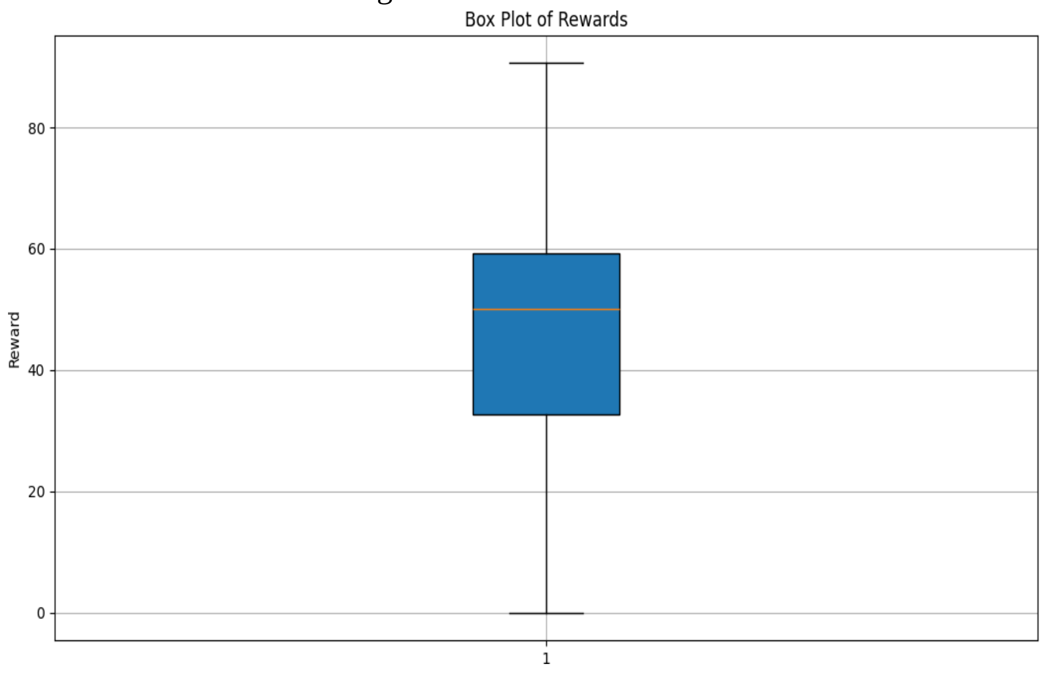


Fig 5. Box Plot of Rewards

7 Conclusion and Future Work

In conclusion, the implementation was effective in accomplishing the research objectives. The RL agent proved its capability of making smart real-time decisions about VM migration that prevents the wastage of resources and minimizes SLA breaches. The proposed model made efficient decisions 80% of the time and the rewards typically had positive implications for migration. The system was evaluated under a simulated system setup, its efficiency in large scale practical cloud environments has not been still verified fully. Experimenting the system in operational cloud environments might help to gather additional information about the system

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