A Scalable P2P Platform for the Knowledge Grid
Hai Zhuge, Senior Member, IEEE, Xiaoping Sun, Jie Liu, Erlin Yao, and Xue Chen

Abstract—The Knowledge Grid needs to operate with a scalable platform to provide large-scale intelligent services. A key function of such a platform is to efficiently support various complex queries in a dynamic large-scale network environment. This paper proposes a platform to support index-based path queries by incorporating a semantic overlay with an underlying structured P2P network that provides object location and management services. Various distributed indexing structures can be dynamically formed by publishing semantic objects as indexing nodes. Queries are forwarded along the chains of semantic object pointers to search for objects. We investigate the deployment of a scalable distributed trie index for broadcast queries on key strings, propose a decentralized load balancing method for solving the problem of uneven load distribution incurred by heterogeneity of loads and node capacities and by the distributed trie index, and give an approach for improving the availability of the semantic overlay and its trie index. Experiments demonstrate the scalability of the proposed platform.

Index Terms—Peer-to-peer, semantic overlay, knowledge grid, path query, distributed trie index, load balancing, replication.

1 INTRODUCTION

IMAGINE (Integrated Multidisciplinary Autonomous Global Innovation Networking Environment) is a scalable Knowledge Grid environment for effectively sharing and managing semantic-rich data and knowledge for geographically dispersed cooperative scientific research [39], [41]. The scalability, availability, and semantic-based operations are three major challenges of implementing the environment. Building a semantic overlay on a P2P network is a way to obtain both the semantic-based operations and scalability, but this encounters the following three main issues:

1. Provide architectural extensibility for different types of complex queries.
2. Obtain scaling performance of queries.
3. Improve the utilization and the availability of the semantic overlay.

Approaching above targets cause conflicts in many aspects of dynamic and large-scale networks. So, we need to consider a reasonable trade-off so that an acceptable scalability of the whole system can be achieved, rather than in a certain aspect.

The initial studies of P2P networks mainly focus on efficient resources locating in dynamic and large-scale environments. Unstructured P2P networks adopt flooding or random walk methods on randomly connected networks (e.g., [24]). To solve the scaling problem of flooding search, DHT (Distributed Hash Table) is used to build structured overlays of various topologies (e.g., [7], [21], and [37]), where each node is responsible for a range of IDs allocated by DHT mechanisms, and messages are routed along deterministic paths to the target nodes. Most of those P2P systems are limited to data or file sharing services. Since DHT overlays encounter difficulties in supporting complex queries, many specific P2P overlay topologies and routing methods are proposed to support particular types of query (e.g., [1], [4], and [9]). There still lacks open and synthetic architectural solutions for applications with various types of query.

This paper presents IMAGINE-P2P, a scalable platform that supports path queries (queries are forwarded along paths of an index to find the matched keys) by publishing nodes of an index on a structured P2P overlay network. The platform has an object overlay that uses the Chord DHT overlay to manage objects. Above the object overlay is a semantic overlay where objects are published with semantic relations of neighboring nodes of an index to support path queries. The platform deploys a distributed trie index on the semantic overlay to support wildcard and broadcast queries on key strings. To scale the trie index in the distributed environment, we design a compressed pruned trie that can avoid moving existing keys when inserting new keys. It can also reduce the average search hops. The trie index has a short search path that is independent of the network size and the number of keys, which make it scalable in dynamic environments. To improve the system utilization, we adopt a decentralized load-balancing method that does not rely on any global load information. Additionally, to improve the index availability, a replication method is used on the semantic overlay and on the distributed trie index. The scalability of the platform is verified by experiments.

2 RELATED WORK

Early P2P systems such as Napster (www.napster.com) used centralized directory servers for resource discovery. The second-generation P2P systems like Gnutella (www.gnutella.com) adopt flooding search methods in unstructured overlays. DHT overlays aim at providing scalable lookup functions on structured P2P networks (e.g., [27], [30], [37]). Each node maintains $O(\log N)$ or $O(1)$ neighbor nodes, and the lookup procedure can locate
remote objects in $O(\log N)$ hops [3]. Some distributed data sharing/storage systems are built on DHT overlays (e.g., [7], [21], and [27]). Hybrid P2P systems use supernodes to balance search efficiency, robustness, and safety in large-scale networks (e.g., [36]). High-level architectures and applications on P2P networks are attracting more and more attention. JXTA aims at providing a P2P platform with standardized resource lookup functions and communication protocols [22].

To improve the efficiency and availability of P2P systems, much work has been done on load-balancing and replication methods. In [24], a replication method is used to improve search efficiency on an unstructured P2P network. In [12], a decentralized information monitoring system is built on a DHT overlay, and a relaxed addressing schema is implemented to efficiently deal with the heterogeneity of the nodes. In [26], a dynamic load-balancing method is used to transfer data from highly loaded nodes to lightly loaded nodes based on global load distribution information. It is further reduced to a centralized method on DHT overlay networks in [13]. In [10], an online load-balancing method is proposed to balance the storage of range-partitioned data by adjusting ranges among neighboring nodes based on local neighboring load information as well as global load information that can be obtained through a skip graph structure. Publishing functions and topology features can be leveraged to manage copies (e.g., [7], [12], and [37]). In [21] and [27], erasure code methods are used to create copies and maintain consistency of replica. In these methods, copy placement depends on publishing functions and topologies of their overlay networks.

Many P2P systems adopt various indexing schemas to improve search efficiency and to support more complex queries. In [5], a route index is built on an unstructured P2P overlay to facilitate queries. The index is created and maintained based on data from neighbor nodes. In [35], local indices are built to help selecting the most promising neighbor to forward a query, thus improving search efficiency. In [1], [9], and [19], overlay topologies are utilized to support specific types of queries. Building an overlay network with a specific indexing topology can efficiently support certain types of queries such as range query. However, it is difficult to adapt such an indexing topology to other kinds of queries. In [11], [17], and [28], specific indexing services are deployed on P2P overlays. These systems rely on specific overlays and indexing topologies, thus, they still cannot be extended to support different query requirements. In [14], a key string is decomposed into multiple subkeys to support complex queries on existing DHT networks. In a certain sense, it is similar to the trie index with the granularity of subkeys larger than that of the trie index and search is based on a multicast method. Litwin et al. [2] introduce a scalable distributed data structure (SDDS) LH* that uses hash distributed function to allocate keys among distributed servers in a stably connected network. RP* deploys a B*-tree index in a local area network where tree indexes are replicated, and each physical node handles a range of keys [23]. It uses a broadcasting method to process data operations such as inserting or deleting keys. B-tree-based distributed indexes can efficiently balance indexing node. These indexes do not consider heterogeneity of data object load and physical node capacity. Kroell and Widmayer [20] analyze the scalability of distributed random tree (DRT) index in dynamic environment. In a DRT, replicas of subtrees are used to relieve bottleneck of entry nodes and a lazy update method is used to maintain replications. In [6], a distributed B*-tree index is built on a ring-like P2P overlay where each peer maintains a relatively independent sub-B*-tree index. A stabilization process is used to maintain consistency among local sub-B*-tree indexes. In a dynamic and large-scale environment, such a stabilization process is difficult to maintain and optimize. P-Grid uses a distributed binary prefix tree to build a structured P2P overlay [1]. Although the randomized exchange method can form a balanced binary tree, P-Grid needs to solve skewed data distribution. Ganesan et al. [10] present a P2P network that supports range queries by arranging peers on a ring network with ordered data partitions allocated for peers. And, a skip graph is used to efficiently locate peers for a range of data. Physical nodes and data objects should have comparable names or IDs when using skip graph to route queries, which limit the key types of data objects on a P2P overlay. In DHT overlays, two ID spaces are unified by hash functions and, thus, any types of keys can be applied.

Some overlay networks are built directly on the relationships among physical nodes or cluster semantically close data among those neighboring physical nodes (e.g., [4], [31], and [38]). Semantic proximity of nodes or data objects on an overlay network can help improve search efficiency and reduce network load. However, clustering physical nodes or data objects by a certain type of semantic proximity requires the adjustment of the topology or the location mapping of objects.

3 DESIGN RATIONALE

Many current DHT-based P2P overlays use ID comparison to determine message routing based on local routing indexes. Our analysis shows that route indexes of $N$ physical nodes on a comparison-based DHT overlay should connect node IDs to form a linear ordered ID space, which features the lower bound of $O(N \log_2 N)$ comparisons in construction (shown in the Appendix which can be found on the Computer Society Digital Library at http://www.computer.org/tkde/archives.htm). Thus, the deterministic mapping between data objects and physical nodes organizes the IDs of data objects in a linear-ordered space on the network. In comparison-based DHT overlays such as Chord [30], Tapestry [37], and PAST [27], one comparison denotes one hop of routing a message from one node to another so as to build route indexes by numerically comparing IDs. Although Tapestry-like overlays do not explicitly build a linear ordered ID space, the route indexes inherently follow the same feature of a linear ordered ID space for message routing because IDs are digitally compared. Many construction and maintenance processes take $O(N^2)$ comparisons since they are the same as an insert sorting process. For example, in a Chord overlay, inserting a new node will traverse the whole ID space to find its right position. Although finger tables can help locate the position at a faster speed, a stabilization process traversing the whole network is necessary to adjust finger tables after inserting new nodes.

On a linear ordered ID space formed by IDs of physical nodes, searching an ID can achieve $O(\log_2 N)$ hops by adding each node $(k - 1) \log_2 N$ indices on the IDs space. Chord uses finger tables to form a $\log_2 N$-ary indexing tree for each node. Tapestry also uses tree-like index to facilitate search. Some P2P overlays achieve $O(\log_2 N)$ lookup hops with $O(\log_2 N)$ neighbors on networks with specific topologies such as de Bruijin graph [16] and butterfly...
graph [34]. Those routing methods are not based on ID comparison (many of them use bits shift) and impose strong limits to the node number and the topology. The comparison-based structured P2P networks are preferred in dynamic environments due to their simplicity and robustness. Among them, the ring-like overlay is the most direct and easy one to build and maintain because its topology immediately reflects the inherent property of routing indexes of comparison-based DHT overlays. Chord overlay is such a kind of DHT overlay that has a ring topology with proved correctness of stabilization [30]. This is why we select it as the underlying overlay.

Path queries, such as exact queries, wild-card queries, or range queries, can be forwarded along paths in tree-like route indexes on a structured P2P overlay. However, those indexes are based on hashed IDs but not on data values. Thus, only queries on IDs can be facilitated. One can devise an indexing schema to enable path queries on data values by using data values instead of their hashed IDs to build route tables of physical nodes. There should be a deterministic mapping between data values and node physical addresses (e.g., [10] and [15]). However, different types of queries may require different index topologies. To incorporate such a heterogeneity into our design, we abstract an index as a directed labeled graph where vertexes indicate indexing nodes and directed edges denote semantic relations between two neighboring indexing nodes. We publish the directed labeled graph on the P2P overlay to form a distributed index that can effectively and efficiently support path queries. This is inevitably at the cost of search hops, messages, and storage. Our system provides methods for scaling the index with the change of the network size and key number by restraining increases in search hops, storage, and message cost.

Improving system utilization is a decisive factor in scaling the performance of the platform. On structured P2P networks, DHT functions do not consider the heterogeneity of data object load and capacities of physical nodes. Building a distributed index can generate extra load on the object overlay. Moreover, a skewed data distribution on indexing imposes heavy load on a few indexing nodes. This case is more serious in an index with fewer internal indexing nodes. So, we adopt a decentralized load-balancing method that directly acts on data objects to achieve a high utilization of physical nodes by incorporating both data object load and node capacity distributions.

The path availability of an index published on the semantic overlay is crucial for path queries. In a dynamic environment, the underlying object overlay network is not always reliable. We apply a replication method to the semantic overlay to improve the availability of semantic objects. Path information is stored on semantic objects as replica to improve the availability of index paths.

4 THE ARCHITECTURE OF IMAGINE-P2P

4.1 Overview

The scalability of a platform lies in many folds. On architecture, it indicates how well a platform can support the growth of function and service components. Providing standard interfaces and isolating logical services from physical platform are two approaches to scale out an architecture. In an IMAGINE-P2P platform, the object overlay is the underlying infrastructure that provides standard interfaces for accessing the physical P2P network. Upon it, each layer encapsulates specific services that can be used by its upper-level services (Fig. 1a). In the object overlay, an object is the entity that encapsulates both data and functions to perform certain services. IMAGINE-P2P implements the basic object that supports Chord DHT lookup functions, event-driven message processing, and net thread management (Fig. 1b). Applications can implement specific data and computing services by extending functions of the basic objects. The namespace defines the accessible domain of objects identified by their IDs and the namespace ID. Net threads are used to support coordination and consistency management of objects.

Two types of net threads, weak and strong, can run on the object overlay. In a weak net thread \( wnt \left(o_1, o_2, \ldots, o_n\right)\), each object can be concurrently involved in many threads of either type. In a strong net thread \( smnt \left(o_1, o_2, \ldots, o_n\right)\), an object cannot be invoked by any other strong thread until it is released and object \(o_1\) can be run only after \(o_1\) finishes.

To simplify the consistency maintenance, two phases are used to start a strong net thread from its initial object \(o_1\). Before it starts running, \(o_1\) sends the object list \(o_2, \ldots, o_n\) to \(o_2\). If \(o_2\) grants the access, it will pass the list to \(o_3\), etc., until to \(o_n\). Only when \(o_n\) grants the access, can the net thread start running. If any object denies the access, the net thread aborts. Exclusively continued use of an object by a strong net thread can cause deadlocks. We use an edge-chasing algorithm to detect deadlock [29]. To recover from a
deadlock, only one thread is granted the access to the object by thread priorities, lengths of net threads, and requesting object IDs. Complex concurrency control can be implemented based on weak net threads.

### 4.2 The Semantic Overlay

Semantic objects are published on the object overlay to package indexing nodes of an index. A semantic object is a triple \( SO = (a, R, b) \), where \( R \) is the directed semantic relation between neighboring indexing nodes \( a \) and \( b \). The semantic overlay consists of many such relation graphs formed by semantic objects. A semantic path

\[
sp(a_1 R_1 a_2 R_2 \ldots a_{n-1} R_{n-1} a_n)
\]

on the semantic overlay follows a series of semantic relations \( R_i (i = 1, 2, \ldots, n-1) \) from an indexing node \( a_1 \) to \( a_n \). Path queries can be forwarded along a semantic path to get the answer. Fig. 2 shows an index example on the semantic overlay. A path query on key \( A \) sending from node \( n_1 \) can reach node \( n_2 \) by following \( SO_2 \) and \( SO_1 \). It can also directly follow \( SO_3 \) to find the key. Different indexing schemas can coexist on the semantic overlay by using different namespaces. Tree-like indexing data structures can be deployed on the semantic overlay as graphs.

To publish a semantic object \( SO = (a, R, b) \) onto the object overlay, either \( a \) or \( b \), or both can be used as the keys by the DHT function. Thus, it can have two copies in the overlay and the consistency between copies should be maintained by applications. A semantic path

\[
sp(a_1 R_1 a_2 R_2 \ldots a_{n-1} R_{n-1} a_n)
\]

is decomposed into \( n - 1 \) semantic objects, \( SO_1(a_1, R_1, a_2), SO_2(a_2, R_2, a_3), \ldots, \) and \( SO_{n-1}(a_{n-1}, R_{n-1}, a_n) \). If it is to be uniquely represented by semantic objects, path keys are used to decompose \( sp(a_1 R_1 a_2 R_2 \ldots a_{n-1} R_{n-1} a_n) \) into \( SO_1(a_1, R_1, a_2), SO_2(a_2, R_2, a_3), \ldots, \) and

\[
SO_{n-1}(a_{n-1}, R_{n-1}, a_n).
\]

A path key contains a path from a starting indexing node to an ending indexing node. Removing a semantic path carries out in the same way as it is published. A strong net thread is responsible for the removal.

To locate a single object \( SO(a, R, b) \), either \( a \) or \( b \) can be used as the key by the DHT lookup function on the object overlay. A path query \( q = a_1 R_1 a_2 R_2 \ldots a_{n-1} R_{n-1} a_n \) looks for a set of semantic objects of a semantic path

\[
sp(a_1 R_1 a_2 R_2 \ldots a_{n-1} R_{n-1} a_n).
\]

It is decomposed to \( n - 1 \) subqueries that are sequentially processed, \( q_1 = a_1 R_1 a_2 \ldots a_n, q_2 = a_1 a_2 R_2 a_3 \ldots a_n, \) and

\[
q_{n-1} = a_1 a_2 a_3 \ldots R_{n-1} a_n.
\]

\( q_1 \) is first sent to the physical node that holds \( SO_1(a_1, R_1, a_2) \). If \( q_1 \) is matched, \( q_2 \) is forwarded to the next physical node for \( SO_2(a_2, R_2, a_3) \) or \( SO_2(a_1 a_2, R_2, a_3) \) when using path keys, and so on until the last subquery \( q_{n-1} \) is matched.

Accessing the first semantic object \( SO_1(a_1, R_1, a_2) \) requires \( O(\log_2 N) \) hops through the DHT function of the object overlay (\( N \) is the number of physical nodes). The rest hops can follow the cached addresses of pointers of semantic objects. Only if a cached address fails, is the DHT lookup function used to determine the new address of the object. Thus, when all the pointers of semantic objects are correct, the total hops can be \( O(\log_2 N + L) \), where \( L \) is the length of a semantic path that a query follows. In the worst case where all pointers are lost, there will be \( O(L \cdot \log_2 N) \) hops. Although the total length of hops is longer than \( O(L) \) and \( O(\log_2 N) \), we trade it against the extensibility and flexibility of the architecture to support various complex path queries.

Table 1 lists a set of basic queries on the semantic overlay. \( x \) represents any key of indexing node, \( a \) and \( b \) are specific keys of indexing nodes, \( * \) indicates any relation, \( R \) denotes a semantic path formed by a relation \( R \), \( alt \) represents all the possible semantic paths starting from \( a \) and following a relation \( R \), TTL(Time-to-Live) is a predefined search hop count, the depth is the length from the starting node along a semantic path, and \( ~a \) is a delimiter that excludes \( a \) during a search. Basic queries can be combined to support more complex queries.

### 4.3 Distributed Trie Index on the Semantic Overlay

As the first step, we deploy a trie index on the semantic overlay. A trie index is a tree-like index that supports path queries such as wildcard queries and range queries on key strings. In a trie index, a key string is a permutation of a set of \( m \) attributes \((a_1, a_2, \ldots, a_m)\) that take on values from a finite attribute set (such as English character set). Two keys that have the same \( k \) initial attributes in the same order share the \( k \) prefix. A trie can be viewed as an \( m \)-ary tree where keys are arranged on leaf nodes. Keys with the same
may first be changed by the load-balancing process since the host node can use the reservation to balance the load. By limiting the times an object may move in publishing, the final location will be determined exactly. This process is similar to the relaxed matching method of PeerCQ that moves the object only once to its direct neighbor nodes [12]. Finally, we test the load-balancing method in a 2,000-node network. As shown by large_1 and large_2 in Fig. 7f, similar convergent process can be achieved under the exponential load distribution and uniform load distribution, respectively.

Table 4 shows the cost of load balancing to achieve a balanced distribution. In most cases, when the variance is reduced by more than 90 percent, the average move times in the load-balancing process,

\[ \text{avg mov} = \frac{\text{total move times of all objects}}{\text{total number of objects}} \]

is less than 1.6. The total workload of moved objects is evaluated by \( \text{moved load} = \frac{\text{total moved workload}}{\text{total workload of objects}} \). Moving an object one time will incur one more search hop. When moving each object 1.6 times in \( a_3 \), it is about an 18 percent increase in the \( \log_2 N \) hops that are required to publish an object in a network with 200 nodes. When nodes continually depart, it requires many more movements to become balanced. In \( a_4.1 \), we limit the object movements to 1 and the total object movements are less, but with poorer final load distribution. In \( a_4.2 \), where object movement is limited to two times, the load can be well balanced with fewer object movements than \( a_4 \). In the large network with 2,000 nodes, the average objects movement is still bounded.
Chord uses virtual servers to improve the load balance, where each physical node holds more than one virtual server and data objects are mapped by DHT function to virtual servers instead of physical nodes [30]. They proposed that \( N \) virtual servers per physical node can be optimal with high probability when considering only the number of keys. Fig. 8 depicts the load distribution under different number of virtual servers per node when considering object load and physical node capacity. Under the same workload of virtual servers, i.e., the object load distribution on virtual servers is fixed, it is difficult to determine the optimal point when setting different numbers of virtual servers for physical nodes. Our load-balancing method can reduce the variance by more than 90 percent in any workload distribution.

Table 5 shows the convergent speed of the load-balancing process with different network size under the same load and capacity distribution. The simulation rounds for reducing the initial variance by 95 percent is not much sensitive to the network size. So do the average object movements \((\text{avg mv times})\) and the moved load \((\text{mv load})\). They mainly depend on the ratio of load and capacity \((l/c)\) and the initial variance \((\text{initial var})\).

### 6.3 Load Balancing on the Distributed Trie Index

In this section, we test the load-balancing effect on increase in search hops of distributed trie indexes. In a network with 200 nodes, we publish 856 data objects with papers’ names as keys by a full trie index, a pruned trie index, and a compressed pruned trie index, respectively. The data objects are stored with the semantic objects that hold the leaf trie nodes of the keys of those data objects. The load distribution of object loads and the node capacities are the same as that of \(a_4\) in Fig. 7b. The load-balancing process can move all semantic objects or can move only those semantic objects that currently hold data objects. Using trie indexes to publish data objects can obviously incur more serious load unbalance. Fig. 9 shows that the load balancing

| TABLE 4
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<td>a_2</td>
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Fig. 8. Load distribution with different numbers of virtual servers per node.

| TABLE 5
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can greatly improve the utilization. \( f_{\text{no}\_\text{so}}, p_{\text{no}\_\text{so}}, \) and \( c_{\text{no}\_\text{so}} \) indicate the load-balancing processes that only move semantic objects with data objects for the full trie, the pruned trie, and the compressed pruned trie, respectively. \( f_{\text{all}}, p_{\text{all}}, \) and \( c_{\text{all}} \) are for the load-balancing processes that move all the semantic objects. Two cases show little difference because the most semantic objects are of small storage cost compared with those holding data objects.

Table 6 shows the object movements and the increased search hops incurred by the load balancing. The average move times (avg mov in Table 6) of semantic objects are no more than 2.2 in the most seriously unbalanced situation. Thus, the extra lookup hops incurred by load balancing are still controlled. When balancing only semantic objects that hold data objects, the average search hops (avg hops) is evaluated by

\[
\text{avg hops} = \text{avg index hops} + \text{avg mov}
\]

where \( \text{avg index hops} \) is the average hops on trie indexes and \( \text{avg mov} \) is the average object move times in the load-balancing process. The result shows that the increased hops per query is minor. When balancing all semantic objects, the average search hops is evaluated by

\[
\text{avg hops} = (\text{avg index hops} \times \text{avg mov}) + \text{avg index hops}
\]

Balancing all semantic objects can incur much more extra search hops for the full trie and the compressed trie.

### 6.4 Query Delays under the Load Balancing

If each extra hop incurred by the load balancing does not significantly delay a query, the average query latency under load balancing can be reduced when only considering storage consumption of objects. For simplicity, one unit load indicates one storage unit. The time to transfer an object is equal to the load of the object. Assume that a FIFO queue is used to cache the queries for objects in each physical node, then the query’s latency on one physical node is its waiting time in the queue, namely, the total processing time of those queries before it. If the sought object is in the queried physical node, the processing time of a query is equal to the time for transferring the object to the requester. If the sought object is moved to a successor by the load-balancing procedure, the query is forwarded to the next node with its waiting time increased by a certain amount of unit load. Then, the total delay of a query on the network is evaluated by the total process time in all the nodes that processed the query. Fig. 10 shows the average latency of queries accessing all the objects at different query issuing rates. Two query distributions are tested and the load balancing can reduce the average query latency.

Fig. 11 indicates the percent of the reduced average query latency by load balancing for four load distributions tested in Fig. 7b. Queries are issued in a uniform distribution on data objects. The average object load in \( a_1 \) and \( a_4 \) is 7.55 unit loads, and 8.05 in \( a_2 \) and \( a_3 \). In general, the higher the initial variance of load distribution, the lower the reduced latency. As the latency of one hop increases, the reduced average query latency is worsened.

### 6.5 Availability of the Distributed Trie Index

Finally, we test the availability of trie indexes published on the network with 200 nodes and 2,000 keys by generating one query for each key. The availability is evaluated by the successful rate of all generated queries. When some physical nodes are disabled, the proportion of failed queries depends on the replication strategy. Fig. 12a shows that in a full trie index, the path key replication is good enough (f\_path\_replication) and it is quite close to using both the path key and semantic object replication (f\_so\_path\_replication). But, the full trie has poor availability if only taking the semantic object replication (f\_so\_replication). Fig. 12b shows

![Fig. 9. Load balancing on distributed trie indexes.](attachment:image)

**TABLE 6**

Cost of Load Balancing for Reducing the Variance by 90 Percent for Distributed Trie Indexes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>( f_{\text{no}_\text{so}} )</th>
<th>( f_{\text{all}} )</th>
<th>( p_{\text{no}_\text{so}} )</th>
<th>( p_{\text{all}} )</th>
<th>( c_{\text{no}_\text{so}} )</th>
<th>( c_{\text{all}} )</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>initial var</td>
<td>8.80</td>
<td>8.92</td>
<td>10.93</td>
<td>10.96</td>
<td>14.33</td>
<td>14.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>final var</td>
<td>0.016</td>
<td>0.25</td>
<td>0.031</td>
<td>0.039</td>
<td>0.024</td>
<td>0.027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>avg mov</td>
<td>1.27</td>
<td>0.13</td>
<td>1.34</td>
<td>1.35</td>
<td>1.35</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>moved load</td>
<td>1.13</td>
<td>0.86</td>
<td>1.21</td>
<td>1.04</td>
<td>1.28</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>avg index hops</td>
<td>61.42</td>
<td>61.42</td>
<td>8.57</td>
<td>8.57</td>
<td>4.25</td>
<td>4.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>avg hops</td>
<td>62.69</td>
<td>69.40</td>
<td>9.91</td>
<td>20.14</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>13.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
that, in a pruned trie index, using both path keys and semantic object replication has similar availability to only the path key replication or only the semantic object replication. The availability of the full trie with the replication is better than that of the pruned trie because the pruned trie has much shorter path length and there are fewer copies in path key replication. The pruned trie, however, has better availability without replication because it has much shorter search paths, i.e., it is less probably broken under the same failure distribution.

6.6 Summary of Experiments
The trie index is easier to be constructed and maintained than the B-tree when frequently inserting/deleting keys, while the B-tree index with large bucket size can achieve higher search efficiency. Search hops in the B-tree are determined by the bucket size and the number of keys. When deploying the B-tree, the bucket size and key movement should be carefully designed. In the trie index, search hops is only sensitive to the key string distribution, i.e., the distribution of string attributes and key string lengths. The pruned trie index is even insensitive to the key string length. The key string distribution is generally considered much steady in practice compared with the network size and the key number. Easy maintenance and steady search hops enable the trie index to scale in a large-scale and dynamic environment. Although publishing the
trie index on the semantic overlay increases the whole query hops on the network, a broadcast query using the compressed pruned trie can achieve efficient query hops with a controlled number of messages.

The load-balancing method can relieve uneven load distribution in bounded rounds and incur a minor increased query hops. The convergent speed and the average movements of objects are almost independent of the network size. When the index paths become longer, the availability is improved by the replication method. In summary, the platform provides applications with various choices among the search hops, the storage utilization, and the availability of indexes to meet specific requirements.

7 Conclusion

To provide various types of query for intelligent applications on the Knowledge Grid, this paper presents a scalable platform IMAGINE-P2P that uses a semantic overlay to support distributed indexing services on a structured DHT P2P overlay. We demonstrate how a distributed trie index can be deployed to support path queries on key strings. It can scale well with the change of the size of network and the number of key. The load-balancing method can relieve uneven load distribution. It can efficiently improve the system utilization and reduce the query latency without using any global load information. The load-balancing method is independent of index structures and the network size. The replication method ensures longer indexing paths with higher availability. Experiments show that the platform is capable of making trade-offs among search hops, message cost, storage utilization, and index availability and, thus, scaling well in dynamic, large-scale environments.

Ongoing work includes studies of relieving query hotspots of trie index and deploying other tree-like index structures on the semantic overlay. Further, based on IMAGINE-P2P, we are developing indexes with richer semantics to support intelligent clustering of resources within the Knowledge Grid [40].

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References

Hai Zhuge is the chief scientist of the China Semantic Grid project funded by the National Basic Research Program of China. He is a professor and the director of the Key Lab of Intelligent Information Processing at the Institute of Computing Technology in Chinese Academy of Sciences. He is the founder and the chief scientist of the China Knowledge Grid Research Group at the Institute of Computing Technology at the Chinese Academy of Sciences. He is the cochair of the First International Conference on Semantics, Knowledge, and Grid. His research interests include future interconnection techniques. He has published more than 30 papers in international conferences. He was the cochair of the Second International Workshop on Knowledge Grid and Grid Intelligence, the program cochair of the Fourth International Conference on Grid and Cooperative Computing, and the chair of the First International Conference on Semantics, Knowledge, and Grid. He organized several journal special issues on knowledge grid and semantic grid. He is serving as the area editor of the Journal of Systems and Software, the associate editor of Future Generation Computer Systems, the area editor of the Journal of Computer Science and Technology, and the editorial board member of the Information and Management and the Electronic Commerce Research and Applications. His major research interests include grid computing, semantic web, and semantic grid. He has published more than 100 papers in international conferences and journals.

Xiaoping Sun is a PhD student in the China Knowledge Grid Research Group at the Institute of Computing Technology at the Chinese Academy of Sciences. His research interests include peer-to-peer computing, grid computing, and future networking techniques. He has published three papers in international journals.

Jie Liu is a PhD student in the China Knowledge Grid Research Group at the Institute of Computing Technology at the Chinese Academy of Sciences. Her research interests include the theory and formalization on the knowledge grid. She has published 14 papers in international journals and conferences.

Erlin Yao is a PhD student in the China Knowledge Grid Research Group at the Institute of Computing Technology at the Chinese Academy of Sciences. His current research interests include the theory and formalization on the knowledge grid. He has published three papers in international journals.

Xue Chen is a PhD student in the China Knowledge Grid Research Group at the Institute of Computing Technology at the Chinese Academy of Sciences. Her research interests include peer-to-peer systems and self-organized networks. She has published three papers in international journals.

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Appendix: Analysis of Constructing Comparison-Based Structured P2P Overlays

Definition 1. Assume that for a given finite key set $S = \{k_1, k_2, \ldots, k_n\}$, all the keys in the set $S$ are unique, $\pi$ is a linear ordering relation defined on $S$. For a permutation $V = \{k_{p1}, k_{p2}, \ldots, k_{pn}\}$, $k_{pi} \in S$, if for every pair of $k_{pi}$ and $k_{pi+1}$, $k_{pi} \pi k_{pi+1}$, then $V$ is a sorted permutation of the set $S$ under the linear ordering relation $\pi$.

Reference [18] gives the lower bound of the sorting in terms of the comparison times, where one comparison can determine the partial order of two keys.

Theorem 1 [18]. In the worst case, to achieve a sorted permutation $V$ of a finite set $S$ by comparison of keys, the lower bound of comparisons among keys is $O(n \log_2 n)$, $n = |S|$.

$I$ is a predefined ID set. In a P2P network $N = \{id_1, id_2, \ldots, id_n\}$, each node is uniquely identified by an $id_i \in I$ and maintains a non-null set of neighbor nodes $H_i = \{id_{p1}, id_{p2}, \ldots, id_{pk}\}$, $id_{pi} \in N$. The relationship between the IDs of a node and its neighbors is represented as $R_h$. Note that the inverse relation $\sim R_h$ also exists in the overlay. Then, an abstracted definition of a P2P overlay network is given as follows.

Definition 2. A P2P overlay network $P$ is a tuple $<N, R_h>$, where $N = \{id_1, id_2, \ldots, id_n\}$ is the set of IDs of nodes in the network and $R_h$ is a binary relation that defines the relation between the IDs of a node and its neighbors, that is, if $id_j$ is a neighbor of $id_i$, then $id_i R_h id_j$. However $id_i R_h id_j$ does not necessarily mean that $id_i$ must have $id_j$ as a neighbor.

Definition 2 makes several assumptions: First, all the nodes have the same $R_h$ to form a neighbor node set. Second, all the nodes are connected through neighbors, though if the graph is disconnected, we can view the separate parts as different networks. And third, a
node can communicate directly only with its neighbors. The definition implies that $R_h$ determines the route on the overlay. In an overlay network without a central directory, the messages between nodes have to be sent along a path called a route.

**Definition 3.** A route path on an overlay network $P = <N, R_h>$ is a finite path, either $id_{p1}, id_{p2}, \ldots, id_{pn}$ from $id_{p1}$ to $id_{pn}$ such that $id_{pi} R_h id_{pi+1}$ and $\forall i, j, id_{pi} \neq id_{pj}$, or $id_{p1}, id_{p2}, \ldots, id_{pn}$ from $id_{p1}$ to $id_{pn}$ such that $id_{pi} \sim R_h id_{pi+1}$, $\forall i, j, id_{pi} \neq id_{pj}$.

**Definition 4.** A well-structured P2P overlay network $P = <N, R_h>$ is an overlay such that for any two $id_i$ and $id_j$ ($i \neq j$), there must be a deterministic and unique route from $id_i$ to $id_j$ and vice versa through $R_h$. Otherwise, it is an ill-structured overlay since unless the route is unique, routing will be uncertain.

**Theorem 2.** In a well-structured overlay $P = <N, R_h>$, $R_h$ should be reflexive and asymmetric if there is to be a deterministic and unique route between any two nodes.

**Proof.** Clearly, for all $id_i$, we have $id_i R_h id_i$. If $id_i R_h id_j$ and $id_j R_h id_i$, $i \neq j$, there is always a looped routing path that ends up with the starting node, which breaks the uniqueness and incurs uncertainty to a routing path, that is, $P$ is an ill-structured overlay. Thus in a well-structured P2P overlay, if $id_i R_h id_j$ and $id_j R_h id_i$, $id_i = id_j$. So $R_h$ is asymmetric.

Since no node will be able to reach a node with a smaller ID according to the partial relation $R_h$, either use the inverse relation $\sim R_h$ or add a short cut from the largest ID to the smallest ID. This does not affect the linear ordering relation requirement. This model shows that to build a structured P2P overlay, the neighbor relationship should be reflexive and asymmetric. Now we give a definition of mapping a data object to a node by the key and the node identification.
**Definition 5.** For each \( k_i \in K \) there must be a unique \( id_j \in N \) that corresponds to each \( k_i \). The tuple \((k_i, id_j)\) is called the location relation \( R_d \). If \( D = K \cup N \), \( R_d \) is a relation on \( D \).

**Definition 6.** Deterministically mapping a \( k_i \in K \) to an \( id_j \in N \) is to find such an \( id_j \) that \( k_i R_d id_j \) and there is no \( id_m \) that follows \( k_j R_d id_m \) and \( id_m R_h id_j \).

Definition 6 ensures that a \( k_i \) is uniquely mapped to an \( id_j \). For simplicity, we assume that each data object \( d_i \) has one unique key \( k_i \in K \). This definition shows that \( k_i \) and \( id_i \) are selected from the same domain so that they can be compared with each other and that \( k_i \) can equal to \( id_j \).

**Lemma 1.** If a comparison \( R \) is to determine that which one is larger than or equal to the other for two elements, then according to the definition of the linear ordering relation, if \( R \) can distinguish every two elements of a set \( S \), \( R \) must be a linear ordering relation on the finite set \( S \).

**Theorem 3.** \( R_d \) must be a linear ordering relation on the set \( D \).

**Proof.** From Definition 5 the only way to determine the unique location is the comparison. From Lemma 1, if \( R_d \) is not a linear ordering relation on \( D \), then there must be a \( k_i \) and an \( id_i \) that cannot be determined by the relation \( R_d \), which means that the location of \( k_i \) cannot be determined. Thus \( R_d \) must be a linear ordering relation.

**Corollary 1.** To build a well structured P2P overlay \( P = <N, R_h> \), where each key can be deterministically mapped onto a unique node, \( R_h \) must be a linear ordering relation on the set \( N \).

**Proof.** Since \( R_d \) is a linear ordering relation on \( D \) and \( N \subseteq D \), it is also a linear ordering relation on \( N \), i.e. \( R_d \) is a reflexive and asymmetric relation on \( N \). From Theorem 2, \( R_d \) can be used to form a well-structured overlay network, i.e. \( R_d \) can be an \( R_h \). If \( R_h \) is the only
relation used to construct \(<N, R_h>\) and \(R_h\) is also used to define the deterministic map between keys and nodes, according to Theorem 3, \(R_h\) must be a linear ordering relation on \(N\), that is \(R_h = R_d\).

**Theorem 4.** To build a well-structured P2P overlay \(P = <N, R_h>\), where each key can be deterministically mapped onto a node, in the worst case, at least \(O(n \log_2 n)\) comparisons are needed, \(n = |N|\).

**Proof.** From Corollary 1, to build such a \(P\), \(R_h\) must be a linear ordering relation on \(N\). Then, the whole ids will form a sequence \(L\) satisfying \(id_{p1} R_h id_{p2} R_h id_{p3} \ldots R_h id_{pn}\). Assume that there are only two adjacent nodes \(v_i\) and \(v_j\) that break the rule \(id_i R_h id_j\). Since \(R_h\) is asymmetric and transitive, in the sequence \(L\), if \(id_i R_h id_j\) does not hold, the only possible permutation of \(id_i\) and \(id_j\) is that \(id_i\) is in the position right to the \(id_j\). However, according to Definition 2, since \(id_i\) has the neighbor \(id_j\), then \(id_i R_h id_j\) must hold. Thus, if two adjacent nodes cannot follow \(id_i R_h id_j\), then \(R_h\) cannot be a linear ordering relation and adjustment is required. Now considering a well-structured \(P = <N, R_h>\) and \(R_h\) is a linear order relation on the set \(N\), that is, it already has a right sequence \(L\), if a new node \(id_k\) is to join the overlay, then \(<N, R_h>\) become \(<N', R_h'>\), and \(R_h'\) may not be a linear ordering relation on \(N'\). In this case, \(id_k\) has to be compared to the IDs in \(N'\) to find its right location in \(R_h\) to make \(R_h'\) a linear ordering relation on \(N'\). This process is exactly the same as the sorting process on \(N'\). Thus, whatever method used, it takes the lower bound of \(O(\log_2 n)\) comparisons in the worst case as in Theorem 1 for each new node, and for all \(n\) new nodes, it will be \(O(n \log_2 n)\).