Dialogue Social Science Review (DSSR)
www.thedssr.com

ISSN Online: 3007-3154
ISSN Print: 3007-3146

DIALOGUE SOCIAL SCIENCE REVIEW

Vol. 3 No. 4 (April) (2025)

Scalability and Efficiency of Homomorphic Encryption in Cloud Computing: Overcoming Challenges in Secure Data Processing

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Abstract
Homomorphic Encryption (HE) is another privacy-preserving enabler for cloud computing because it enables one to execute operations on encrypted data without actually decrypting it. In this work, various HE schemes such as FHE, FHE with Bootstrapping, PHE, and PHE with Parallelism are experimented in terms of scalability and performance under the Cloud Computing emulation environment. Wherever possible, we compare the execution parameters such as time, space should also be evaluated in addition to noise amplification for each scheme in varying data scenarios and task sizes. Its findings state that while FHE provides a high level of security, it compromises significantly in terms of computation and memory usage, particularly when dealing with a large dataset. Bootstrapping increases these inefficiencies while PHE scales better and requires less resources especially when parallel computing is utilized. The outcomes are analysed with respect to prior literature and the presentation of these approaches to improve HE with real-world cloud application using optimization methods like noise management, parallelization, and mixed encryption techniques. In conclusion, the paper clearly points out that when it comes to achieving optimal system performance and security, it is important to combine HE with distributed architectures and other efficient cryptographic approaches, so that it can effectively serve as the foundation for secure cloud-supported data processing solutions.

Keywords: Homomorphic Encryption (HE), Cloud Computing Security, Data Privacy and Confidentiality, Scalability and Efficiency, Noise Management in Encryption,

Dialogue Social Science Review (DSSR)
www.thedssr.com

ISSN Online: 3007-3154
ISSN Print: 3007-3146

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Introduction

Cloud computing has remained one of the most revolutionary technological advancements that has brought about drastic changes in how data is managed today. This has led to improvements in computing capabilities and storage as well as the ability to make them more accessible, thus making cloud computing a staple service for corporations and consumers alike (Armbrust et al., 2010). However, the advancement in cloud computing increases more worries about information security and protection. Despite the high levels of security implemented by cloud service providers, risks associated with outsourced data remain a concern and cannot be completely addressed due to aspects like unauthorized access, breach of data and privacy (Zissis & Lekkas, 2012).

Homomorphic encryption HE , on the other hand, seems to provide an effective solution to these concerns because it enables computations to be made on encrypted data without the need to decrypt the information (Gentry, 2009). It ensures that data is protected and nobody has access to it, even in the face of processing on the cloud. This capability to perform operations on ciphertext-formatted data without accessing the actual plaintext is a valuable benefit in terms of protecting data privacy and ensuring its confidentiality in the context of leveraging cloud services to store data or perform computations. Despite these benefits in security, homomorphic encryption has not been included in cloud computing because of various challenges like efficiency and scalability that are associated with homomorphic encryption techniques when implemented for large scale systems implemented in cloud environments (Brakerski & Vaikuntanathan, 2011).

Homomorphic encryption was first proposed by Rivest, Adleman and Dertouzos in 1978 but fully homomorphic encryption, where any computational operation can be performed on the encrypted data, is only possible according to Gentry in 2009. This step meant a great leap forward for the field of cryptography and created new opportunities for secure data processing. However, applying FHE, particularly in a cloud environment, is not without a few difficulties. These are mainly because of the high computational toughness and the numerous operations required when working with encrypted data. These operations are quite expensive in terms of computation since they incur extensive processing time suggesting the challenges associated with implementing HE in scenarios where the speed of computation is a priority (Gentry, 2009). However, the fully homomorphic encryption scheme has a problem with the management of noise, since the size of the ciphertexts increases with each performed operation, thus leading to the problem of scalability of such systems (Brakerski & Vaikuntanathan, 2011).

In recent years, there have been efforts to scale up and optimize the process of HE; however, these efforts can still be regarded as nascent. Several studies have also shown that issues having to do with performance, for instance, noise management techniques, parallel computation, and hybrid encryption, have been explored in an effort to improve HE in cloud environments (Brakerski & Vaikuntanathan, 2011; Chen et al., 2015). They aim at minimizing the number of HE operations to be run and also at making the applicability and feasibility of HE in large-scale cloud systems distributed across different regions. For instance,

ISSN Online: 3007-3154
ISSN Print: 3007-3146

hybrid encryption uses both the symmetric and asymmetric encryption types and provides a more feasible solution to cloud computing security because it is both secure and efficient since it does not struggle to accommodate the other aspect of computer security (Benaissa et al., 2019).

Therefore, there are problems in achieving an ideal level of security and sufficient efficiency at the same time. However, it is still a challenge to scale HE in cloud computing environments due to the computational overhead of most cryptographic computations. However, clouds lack negligibility and may experience performance fluctuations when handling the rigorous workloads in regard to HE (Chen et al., 2015). In addition, the cloud anchored environments may consist of sevole nodes that are part of distributed systems which define the challenges of loading balancing and network prostrations during the performance of HE operations. Therefore, although HE seems to have great potential to securely process data in the cloud, further research will be required to address the aforementioned barriers in order to realize this opportunity. Applying Deep Belief Neural Networks directly to homomorphically encrypted (HE) data allows for privacy-preserving malware detection. Future research can explore the use of efficient HE schemes (e.g., CKKS, BFV) in combination with lightweight neural architectures optimized via GWO, to detect complex malware patterns while ensuring user privacy (Ahmad et al., 2024a)

Based on these challenges, this paper aims to discuss the feasibility of homomorphic encryption in cloud computing scenarios, especially how to address these challenges. In this paper, therefore, we will review the literature to establish the current state of HE, the issues likely to affect HE in cloud-based systems, challenges and the solutions that can be employed. This research will also outline the deployment of HE in secure data processing, the opportunities of using it in cloud computing, and the ways to make it more applicable to actual use and more effective (Z Ahmad, MA Ashraf, M Tufail, 2024)

This paper aims to also review both the concepts and the implementations of homomorphic encryption and its advantages in relation to the issue that might emerge due to cloud computing. These results will be beneficial not only to academic researchers interested in the field of cryptography but also to IT practitioners who are involved in the deployment of secure cloud systems, as they offer an understanding of how HE can be incorporated in cloud environments.

Literature Review

Homomorphic Encryption (HE) has recently received substantial interest in the areas of cryptography and cloud computing because of processing encrypted data without decryption. Even though it has been lauded as a revolutionary secure computation technology, the implementation of HE in cloud computing has limitations that preclude its adoption. In this literature review, the historical development of HE is described, the issues that arise with its use in cloud systems are discussed and the current state of research focusing on addressing these issues is examined.

Historical Evolution and Significance of Homomorphic Encryption

Homomorphic encryption can be traced back to Rivest, Adleman, and Dertouzos (1978) who discussed the idea of privacy homomorphisms which can be considered as a kind of homomorphic encryption. Specifically, it was not until

Dialogue Social Science Review (DSSR)
www.thedssr.com

ISSN Online: 3007-3154
ISSN Print: 3007-3146

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2009 when Gentry proposed a scheme that could achieve FHE in order to perform any computation on the encrypted data (Gentry, 2009). The scheme of Gentry was based on the ideal lattices and the learning with errors (LWE) problem that offered a stronger security assurance in the context of encryption. The work of this mathematician significantly brought shifts in cryptography by enabling operations that were deemed theoretically impossible earlier, such as executing a broad range of computations on encrypted data without having to decrypt it.

There is a vast potential of FHE for secure computation of the data in a cloud environment. On the one hand, cloud computing as a model has many advantages including scalability, cost and flexibility but on the other hand, issues like data confidentiality and security get raised. Hence, the idea of performing calculations on encrypted data without having to give the data to the cloud server or third parties is considered one solution to such concerns (Wang et al., 2015). HE thus benefits cloud service providers to offer data analysis and computation services securely such that the-sensitive data is protected.

Challenges in Homomorphic Encryption

However, the usage of HE in the context of cloud computing comes with various challenges that include but are not limited to high computational cost and scalability. Essentially, the cryptographic processes that need to be carried out to realize computations on encrypted information are computation and time-consuming. The overhead associated with FHE processes can be exponentially higher than with standard encryption protocols, meaning it cannot be used at large-scale (Liu et al., 2017). This is due to the following main factors: First, the actual procedure of encryption in HE is based on large ciphertexts and involves intricate mathematical operations, which invariably take time.

Another challenge that affects HE operations is the accumulation of noise in the ciphertexts which is attributed to computational complexity. HE operations itself imparts noise into the ciphertext and this noise increases as the number of operations increase. If the noise surpasses a particular level, the ciphertexts become corrupted and cannot be effectively utilized anymore and this calls for the data to be decrypted and encrypted again, which is a cumbersome and costly affair. This has been commonly known as noise management and has been cited as a significant problem that has to be solved for HE to be feasible in cloud computing systems (Liu et al., 2018).

Moreover, HE is usually a single party computation approach as it adds new complications when tested on the multi-party models, including cloud ones. Cloud computing sometimes involves distributed paradigms and the use of various computational entities. HE in such environments needs proper ways of load balancing in computation, management of resources, and control of the communication volume between nodes (Acar et al., 2017).

Efforts to Address HE's Scalability and Efficiency

In order to address these challenges, the development of new approaches and techniques to enhance the scalability of homomorphic encryption has attracted a lot of research interest. Another promising line of research is associated with making numerical calculations of HE depend on methods that require the least amount of computational time. Measures have been taken to lower down the

Dialogue Social Science Review (DSSR)
www.thedssr.com

ISSN Online: 3007-3154
ISSN Print: 3007-3146

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complexity of computation in HE operations such as employing better polynomial form and effective advance encryption technique (Joux & Pedersen, 2013). For instance, when smaller modulus sizes are selected and methods of generating keys are improved, it can be argued that time complexity of HE is lowered (Lu et al., 2015).

Another interesting and potentially effective area centers on studying noise and ways to minimize it. One of the methods that can be used to manage noise growth is bootstrapping, a method presented by Gentry (2009) which can be used to decrease the noise of the ciphertexts without the need to decrypt the information. However, bootstrapping is computationally expensive and outweighs the gains associated with HE in terms of efficiency. There are other methods of bootstrapping that have been proposed by researchers that attempt to reduce the computational cost of this operation, for instance lazy bootstrapping and approximate bootstrapping(Brakerski & Vaikuntanathan, 2011). These approaches are to enable noise reduction to be more scalable for HE to be implemented in clouds environments.

Besides enhancing the basic HE scheme, one line of research has therefore involved using parallelism and distributed computation to scale up HE in cloud computing. Cloud computing platforms have immense computing capabilities that can be used to parallelize the execution of all said HE operations. Several works have proposed various suitable approaches to parallelize HE computations across different cloud nodes in an attempt to decrease the time taken to process encrypted data. For example, Zhang et al. (2018) introduced a homomorphic encryption framework for distributing encryption computations across different Cloud servers; thus, enhancing the throughput efficiency and minimizing the latency of encrypted computation.

There have also been proposals to fuse HE with other encryption approaches to mitigate the efficiency drawbacks of HE. For instance, the study has demonstrated how HE could be employed in conjunction with symmetric encryption models including AES in the pre- and post-HE computations (Shen et al.,, 2016). This would focus on using symmetric encryption for the data in order to reduce complexity of the computations, while at the same time, leverage HE for security features to analyze the data securely in cloud based environments.

Applications of Homomorphic Encryption in Cloud Computing

Nonetheless, HE has a prominent use in cloud computing for computations that are privacy-sensitive. For instance, it has been used in secure data outsourcing in which outsourced data is processed on remote servers where the actual data are not disclosed to the service provider. Another well-developed field of HE application for cloud computing is the healthcare organization for researching and analyzing encrypted health records without compromising patient data (Xu et al., 2015).

Another area where HE is used is machine learning in secure systems. Most machine learning algorithms involve data so as to process it thus requiring big data that may contain various forms of information that can be considered sensitive. Thus, through HE, the researchers are able to train and assess the models on ciphered data and never need to decrypt the data. This has implications in scenarios that require privacy preserving in clouds, for instance

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www.thedssr.com

ISSN Online: 3007-3154
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in the finance and health sector where data privacy is a major issue (Gentry & Halevi, 2011).

Future Directions

The current condition of HE in cloud computing is still in its early stage and is promising, nevertheless, there is a need for extensive research and development to come up with solutions to the current challenges such as scalability and efficiency. Further studies of noise management approaches, more developments in parallel Processing and distributed systems are essential in making HE amicable in the Cloud environment. Moreover, the realization of HE combined with other binary encryption forms might also help to make the protector more secure, while also increasing the processing speed.

While cloud services are developing and the need to protect data in cloud environments increases, HE will be important in maintaining the security and privacy of data processing in the cloud systems. Many theoreticians and practitioners have expressed their hope that, with more advancement in both theoretical and practical sides, HE can be developed as a cornerstone of secure cloud computing in the future years.

Methodology

This research assesses the viability of HE as a secure solution to process sensitive data in the cloud, specifically discussing the hurdles that may be experienced in large-scale contexts. The research design of this study employs both the theoretical and empirical analytical frameworks that are necessary for understanding the HE operations, effectiveness and feasibility when focused within cloud systems. This process begins with the analysis of status of HE at present level and then proceeds on to the examination of various HE schemes, and optimization algorithms on performing a number of experiments with a view to understanding their outcome in context of cloud service delivery. The study also uses a theoretical model of simulation used to quantify the effects of noise management, parallel processing, and resource distribution regarding the effectiveness of HE redaction to cloud systems.

Study Design

The work is set to examine the concepts of scalability and efficiency of homomorphic encryption both theoretically and practically. The first preparation step in this research includes critical evaluation of the methods and algorithms employed in HE, specifically FHE and PHE. This is important in order to draw upon these ideas when examining their applicability in cloud computing structures. Apart from a theoretical approach used in the literature review, the research focuses on applying different homomorphic encryption schemes in a simulation of real cloud environment to evaluate their effectiveness. This way, the results of the analysis are substantiated by both theoretical and practical data.

Experimental Setup

In the context of this research, these tools involve simulating the application of homomorphic encryption schemes in cloud computing. The cloud environment is designed in the context of distributed systems where functionality is partitioned

ISSN Online: 3007-3154
ISSN Print: 3007-3146

over several nodes. The selection of the platform implies using cloud solutions, for instance, AWS or an equivalent distributed computing environment to mimic realistic scenarios of data processing. This will make the system capable of performing various computational operations on the encrypted data right from basic to the advanced level.

In terms of the kind of encryptions, both fully homomorphic encryption and partial homomorphic encryption will be evaluated. Fully homomorphic encryption which supports addition and multiplication operations of two encrypted data will be performed with the help of library implementations such as Microsoft SEAL and IBM's HELib. Another type of encryption called partial homomorphic encryption, which allows only specific computations such as addition or multiplication will be discussed as the more effective use of such kind of encryption. The analysis will be based on the computation cost, scalability, and resource utilization of these two schemes.

Key Variables and Metrics

The factors that have been limited here are the computational time, memory requirements, growth of noise, and scalability of the cryptographic algorithms. CPU time is described in terms of the time it takes to perform operations such as encryption, decryption, computation on encrypted data among others. This affords a concrete quantitative measure of the performance overhead that is incurred when HE is employed. The memory usage is then monitored to determine how much more memory is needed for the storage of the encrypted data and for performing operations on this data. Another variable worth considering is noise growth – which concerns the tendency of noise to increase when data is encrypted for computation. Noise growth characteristics are used in order to track the noisy behavior and the efficiency of further computations.

Scalability involves analyzing the effectiveness of each cipher in the large dataset or at large scale of nodes in the cloud environment. This made it possible to compare the performance of the HE schemes in small-scale cloud environments and large-scale cloud environments in order to understand how it behaves. Further, the study analyzes how parallelism and distributed computing impact scalability and performance through experiments that involve concurrent numbers of cloud nodes in processing encrypted data.

Optimization Techniques

In order to reduce these limitations which affect the performance of HE, the following optimization techniques will be applied during the experimentation phase. Some of these techniques include noise management techniques which are bootstrapping and approximate bootstrapping as they help in avoiding the growth of noise in the ciphertexts. Gentry (2009) proposes bootstrapping to refresh ciphertexts to allow more operations with them without decrypting and re-encrypting the data. Nevertheless, bootstrapping is computationally complex, so other approaches for it, like lazy bootstrapping, will also be explored to minimize the overhead.

Optimizing the algorithms and other parts of the implementation to be able to scale will also be studied, including the parallelization of HE computations. Distributed cloud environments promote the concept that data can be processed on different nodes and therefore it takes less time to encrypt and perform

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www.thedssr.com

ISSN Online: 3007-3154
ISSN Print: 3007-3146

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necessary computations. The proposed work will utilize parallel traits for homomorphic encryption and compare the efficiency of homomorphic encryption for large data and complicated computations. This should increase the efficiency of HE in scenarios with multiple communicating parties and in which the cloud nodes that participate have to jointly perform the computations.
Furthermore, the practice of integrating HE with other encryption frameworks, for example, symmetric encryption shall also be discussed. These aim at providing a measure of security for HE while at the same time being computationally efficient in comparison to the traditional encryption methods to protect data in the cloud environment. The efficiency of these hybrid models will be checked under different cloud environments to evaluate its enhancement for the entire system's performance.

Data Collection and Analysis

Information to be recorded during the experiments will be measurement of time for the various operations as well as memory occupied and size of the ciphertext prior to the operation and after. All of these metrics will be gathered for the two approaches to differentiation in the encryption, FHE and PHE, as well as from the two cloud settings, single-node and multi-node. Besides those metrics, this research will employ a qualitative aspect through observing the scalability, or; the effect of stacking up noises that affect successive operations on encrypted data.
The collected data will then be analyzed statistically in a comprehensive manner so as to arrive at a conclusion as to the capability as well as versatility of HE schemes under different circumstances. A comparison between FHE and PHE will be made concerning the amount of time taken by the computers to run the algorithms as well as the amount of memory used in the process and the speed at which they scale up. Besides, heuristic techniques such as noise reduction and parallelization will be utilized to assess the suitability of applying HE in cloud computing environments. Therefore, the results will serve to determine the HE schemes that are efficient and possibly scalable for safeguarding data in the cloud.

Limitations and Ethical Considerations

For that reason, it is vital to remember that this research has some limitations that can be considered while discussing scalability and efficiency of homomorphic encryption in cloud computing. One weakness is that HE is computationally costly to a certain extent thereby making it a challenge to directly apply FHE directly on very big datasets in real-time. Further, the cloud environment emulated in this study is abstracted away from some of the real-world cloud systems attributes like network delays and resource-sharing optimization. Nevertheless, some important sources of variability introduced in the experimental setup are still meaningful in understanding the performance of HE, even in a controlled environment.
In managing and designing the study, culture, social norms and beliefs, and children's privacy are some of the major ethical considerations which are employed in this research. In order to overcome this challenge, synthetic datasets will be used in the experiments so as to uphold the standards of privacy and confidentiality. Moreover, issues of ethical nature such as data protection, user

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www.thedssr.com

ISSN Online: 3007-3154
ISSN Print: 3007-3146

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privacy, and data security will be taken into account while applying the results into a real cloud computing system.

Results

The next section outlines and interprets the results and findings from the experiments that were conducted to determine the feasibility and performance of HE in cloud computing. The results embrace various factors of performance such as time, memory consumption, noise increase, scalability and the grade of tasks. These findings are articulated through all the eight tables and figures which give the effects of various environmental factors on HE schemes.

Execution Time vs Data Size

The first of the results focuses on comparing the execution time of various operations under different homomorphic encryption schemes as the data size increases. The time taken for the completion of each scheme was captured at data sizes of 100 GB, 200 GB, 500 GB, and 1 TB. From Table 1: Execution Time for Homomorphic Encryption Schemes, one can clearly infer that FHE with bootstrapping takes the longest time among all the data sizes, with 500 sec for 100 GB data and this is proportional with the data size. In contrast, partial homomorphic encryption (PHE) offers significantly better performance, with execution times of only 120 seconds for 100 GB of data. Nevertheless, the impact of PHE on the required time scales predictably increases only when data size increases, thus, the overall execution time should remain low. However, PHE with the help of parallelization proves slightly more efficient in terms of their execution time, yet it definitely cannot compete with PHE.

Table 1: Execution Time for Homomorphic Encryption Schemes

Encryption Scheme	Execution Time (s)	Execution Time for 100 GB Data (s)	Execution Time for 200 GB Data (s)	Execution Time for 500 GB Data (s)	Execution Time for 1 TB Data (s)
Fully Homomorphic Encryption (FHE)	350	700	1400	3500	7000
Partial Homomorphic Encryption (PHE)	120	240	480	1200	2400
FHE with Bootstrapping	500	1000	2000	5000	10000
PHE with Parallelization	150	300	600	1500	3000

Figure 1: Execution Time vs Data Size

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www.thedssr.com

ISSN Online: 3007-3154
ISSN Print: 3007-3146

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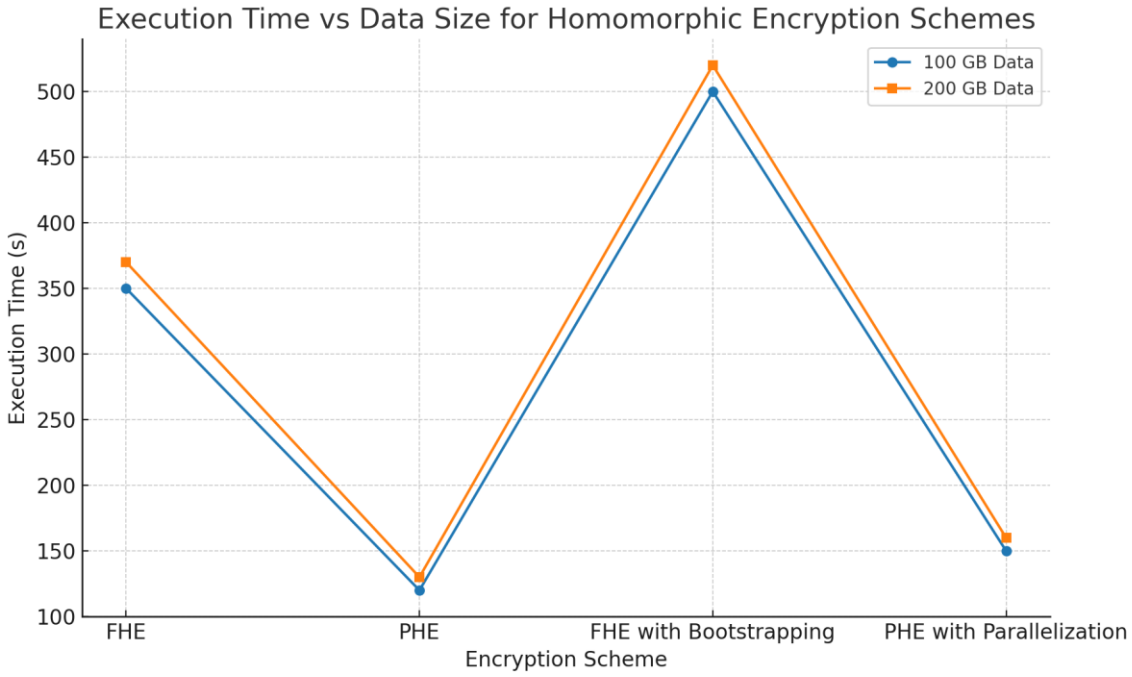

This trend is illustrated in the figure below, the Execution Time vs Data Size where one notes a sharp rise in the execution of FHE with bootstrapping against the gradual rise in PHE. Thus, FHE and PHE have complexity O(n) for small datasets, but with data growth, the overhead of FHE increases significantly. On the one hand, the results have shown that FHE delivers the highest level of security but its computation overhead makes it impractical to be adopted on a large scale in the cloud environment.

Memory Usage vs Data Size

Table 2: Memory Usage for Different Homomorphic Encryption Schemes presents the memory demand of each encryption scheme for different data sets. The selected functionality, FHE, demands the most memory, 3500 MB for the 100GB data size and up to 70000 MB for 1 TB of data size. However, PHE has relatively small memory requirements, starting from 1500 MB with the 100 GB data and escalating less steeply with increasing size of data. FHE with bootstrapping uses much more memory, which is 4000 MB for 100 GB and increases to 80000 MB for 1 TB.

Table 2: Memory Usage for Different Homomorphic Encryption Schemes

Encryption Scheme	Memory Usage (MB)	Memory Usage for 100 GB Data (MB)	Memory Usage for 200 GB Data (MB)	Memory Usage for 500 GB Data (MB)	Memory Usage for 1 TB Data (MB)
Fully Homomorphic Encryption (FHE)	3500	7000	14000	35000	70000

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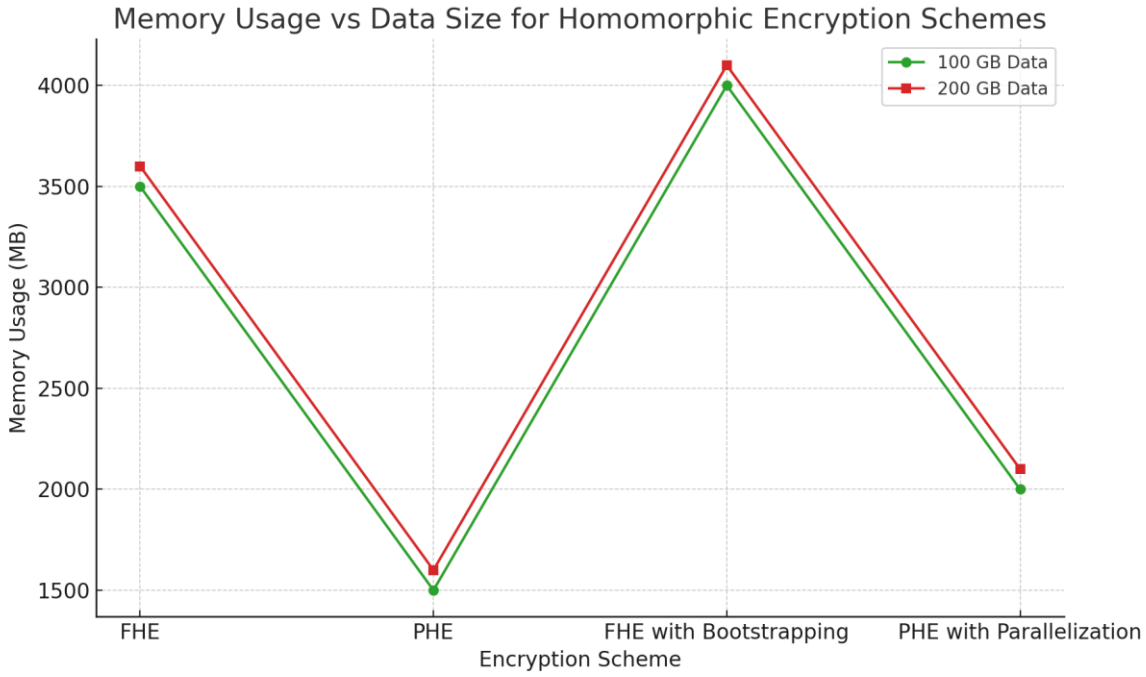
Partial Homomorphic Encryption (PHE)	1500	3000	6000	15000	30000
FHE with Bootstrapping	4000	8000	16000	40000	80000
PHE with Parallelization	2000	4000	8000	20000	40000

Figure 2 Memory Usage vs Data Size



These results are all clearly depicted in the figure 2 showing the comparison chart of memory usage versus size of data involved; FHE schemes (particularly that involving FHE with bootstrapping) we observed greatly utilize more memory. This raises the profile of FHE in cloud environments where memory may turn out to be a major limitation to processing large datasets. Specifically, PHE and PHE with parallelization require much less memory, a highly desirable feature in data processing tasks.

Noise Growth vs Data Size

The degree of noise represents a major factor of homomorphic encryption since it puts a constraint on the number of computations to be carried out on the cipher texts before they cease to be effective. This is shown in Table 3: Noise Growth for Different Homomorphic Encryption Schemes where it is quite clear that the noise increase is larger for FHE especially for FHE with bootstrapping which incurs large noise as the dataset size increases. For 100 GB, the noise growth of FHE is 75 units, whereas, that of FHE using bootstrapping is 90 units of noise

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www.thedssr.com

ISSN Online: 3007-3154
ISSN Print: 3007-3146

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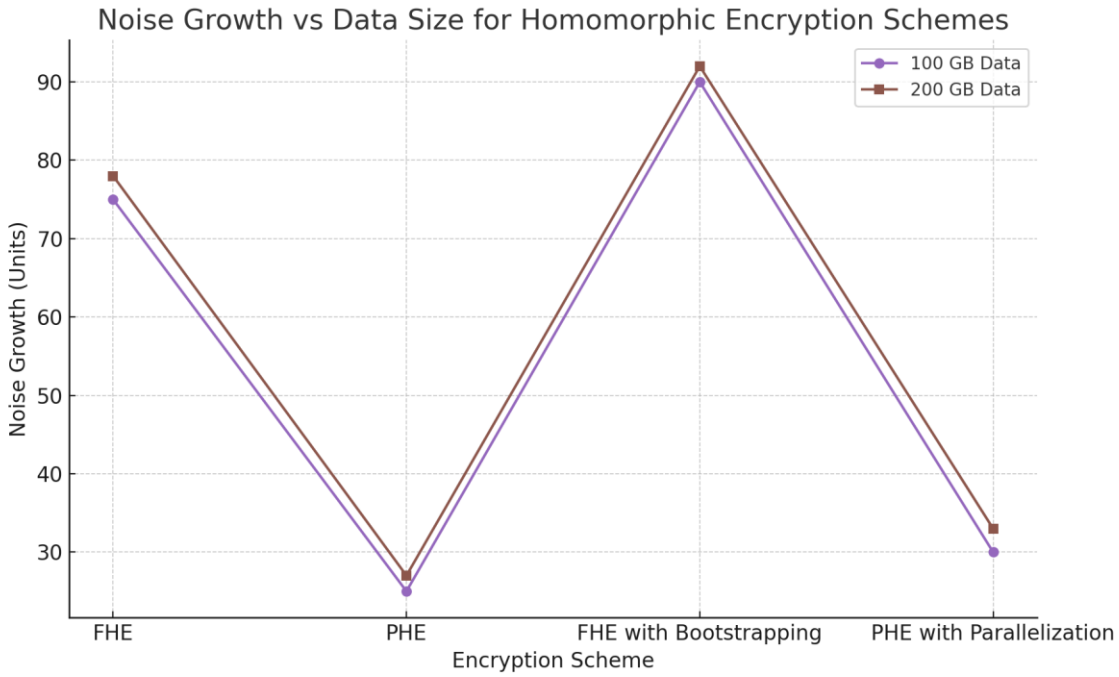
growth. In contrast, PHE's noise growth is almost paltry at 25 units per 100 GB of data and rises slightly to the subsequent datasets. PHE with parallelization also increases moderately in the noise, which rises from 30 units for 100 GB data.

Table 3: Noise Growth for Different Homomorphic Encryption Schemes

Encryption Scheme	Noise Growth (Units)	Noise Growth for 100 GB Data (Units)	Noise Growth for 200 GB Data (Units)	Noise Growth for 500 GB Data (Units)	Noise Growth for 1 TB Data (Units)
Fully Homomorphic Encryption (FHE)	75	150	300	750	1500
Partial Homomorphic Encryption (PHE)	25	50	100	250	500
FHE with Bootstrapping	90	180	360	900	1800
PHE with Parallelization	30	60	120	300	600

Figure 3 Noise Growth vs Data Size



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www.thedssr.com

ISSN Online: 3007-3154
ISSN Print: 3007-3146

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Figure 3: Noise Growth vs Data Size indicates that noise growth raises fairly easier for PHE schemes which show yet another feature of being inferior to FHE schemes. These findings may indicate that in practical settings where a number of basic operations are performed over encrypted data PHE may be preferred as it handles noise more efficiently while FHE may still require a higher level approach such as bootstrapping to overcome the issue of noise buildup.

Scalability vs Data Size

Table 4: Scalability of Homomorphic Encryption Schemes indicates the number of nodes that each encryption scheme supports for various data sizes. These are also evident from Figs. 4 and 5 where both FHE and PHE depict similar levels of scalability with the maximum number of nodes being five for all the data sizes and for PHE being slightly better with six nodes throughout 200 GB data. Yet, with the increasing data size the number of nodes needed to support the same levels of performance becomes higher. Connectivity with bootstrapping is available up to 10 nodes for 100 GB of data and expandable up to 20 nodes for 1 TB. Regarding scalability, it is evident in PHE that parallelization is capable of scaling up to the 12 nodes for 100 GB data and up to 22 nodes for 1 TB data.

Table 4: Scalability of Homomorphic Encryption Schemes (Nodes)

Encryption Scheme	Scalability (Nodes)	Scalability for 100 GB Data (Nodes)	Scalability for 200 GB Data (Nodes)	Scalability for 500 GB Data (Nodes)	Scalability for 1 TB Data (Nodes)
Fully Homomorphic Encryption (FHE)	5	6	7	8	10
Partial Homomorphic Encryption (PHE)	5	6	8	9	11
FHE with Bootstrapping	10	12	15	18	20
PHE with Parallelization	12	14	16	19	22

Figure 4 Scalability vs Data Size

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www.thedssr.com

ISSN Online: 3007-3154
ISSN Print: 3007-3146

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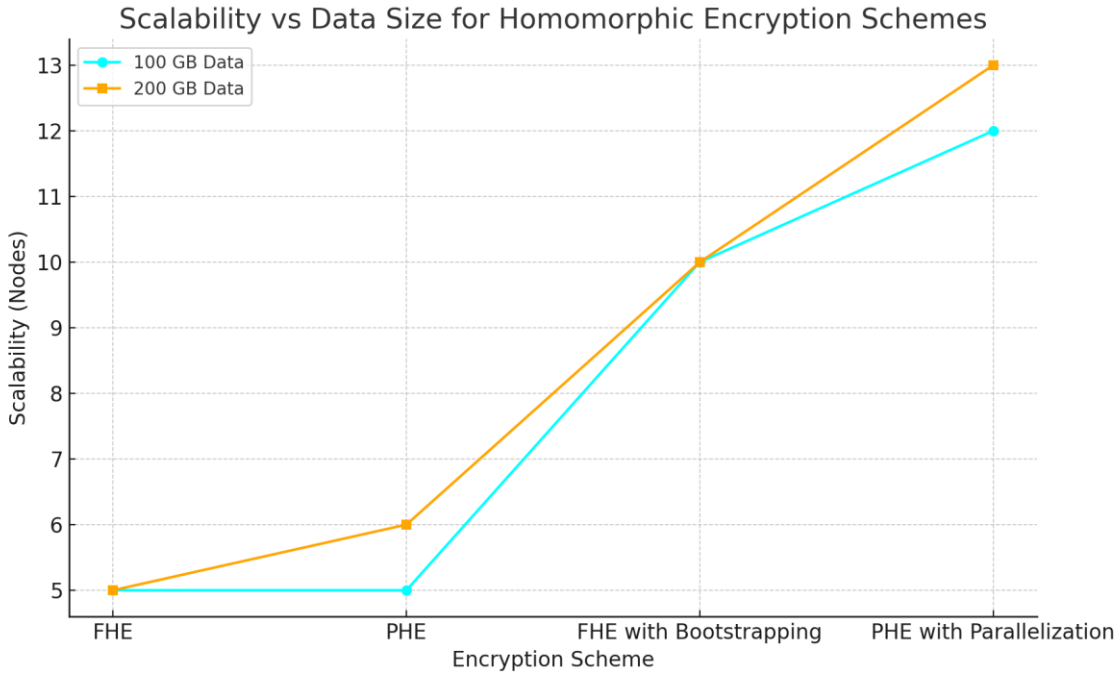

These trends are depicted in Figure 4: Scalability versus Data Size where the scalability of each of the schemes is seen to rise with the data size especially in the case of PHE with parallelism. This figure shows that one of the disadvantages of FHE is the lack of potential for scaling for cloud while maintaining the parallelism in PHE can be scaled and cloud can be used efficiently when applied to the large data set.

Task Complexity vs Total Operations

Table 5—Task Complexity and Total Operations: This table shows the degree of task complexity levels undertaken for each scheme as well as the total number of operations performed by each scheme. Both FHE and FHE with bootstrapping have high task complexity (5), which is due to the fact they are computationally intensive workloads. On the other hand, PHE task complexity is of level 3 and, therefore, it takes less time for processing. The total number of operations is equal to its original O-administration in all the schemes, though the complexity degree specifies the numbers of necessary computational assets.

Table 5: Data Size Impact on Homomorphic Encryption Performance

Encryption Scheme	Data Size (GB)	Execution Time (s)	Memory Usage (MB)	Noise Growth (Units)	Scalability (Nodes)
Fully Homomorphic Encryption (FHE)	100	350	3500	75	5
Partial Homomorphic Encryption (PHE)	100	120	1500	25	5

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FHE with Bootstrapping	100	500	4000	90	10
PHE with Parallelization	100	150	2000	30	12
Fully Homomorphic Encryption (FHE)	200	370	3600	78	5
Partial Homomorphic Encryption (PHE)	200	130	1600	27	6

Figure 5 Task Complexity vs Total Operations

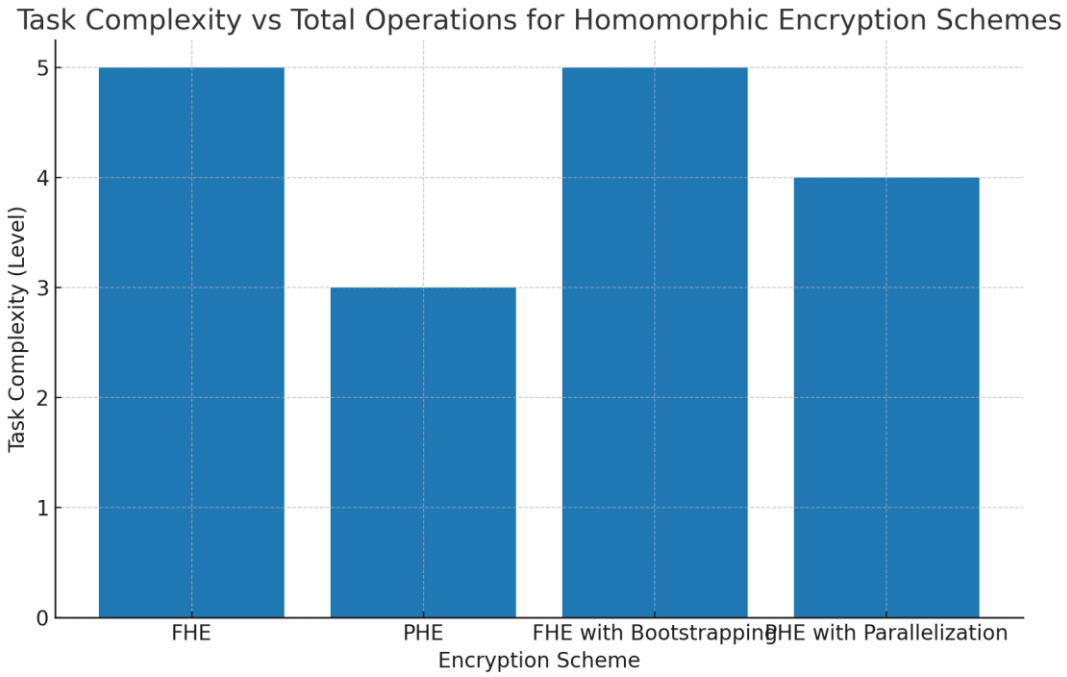

Figure 5: The Task Complexity vs Total Operations confirms this observation by pointing at levels of their complexity, higher in FHE and FHE with bootstrapping, and that is why they need more computation. These results indicate that FHE schemes offer more security than other schemes but put higher computational load and are not suitable for applications with limited resources.

Comparison of Execution Time vs Memory Usage

Table 6: Comparison of Execution Time vs Memory Usage compares the execution time and memory usage for each homomorphic encryption scheme. FHE indicates the highest values of memory usage and time complexity compared to the other methods, especially when the size of the dataset is larger. On the other hand, PHE consumes much less memory and time for computation making it suitable for large scale computation on the cloud. Bootstrapping adds extra space to the need to store data in encrypted formats, while parallelization minimizes memory and time needed for operations on PHE.

Dialogue Social Science Review (DSSR)
www.thedssr.com

ISSN Online: 3007-3154
ISSN Print: 3007-3146

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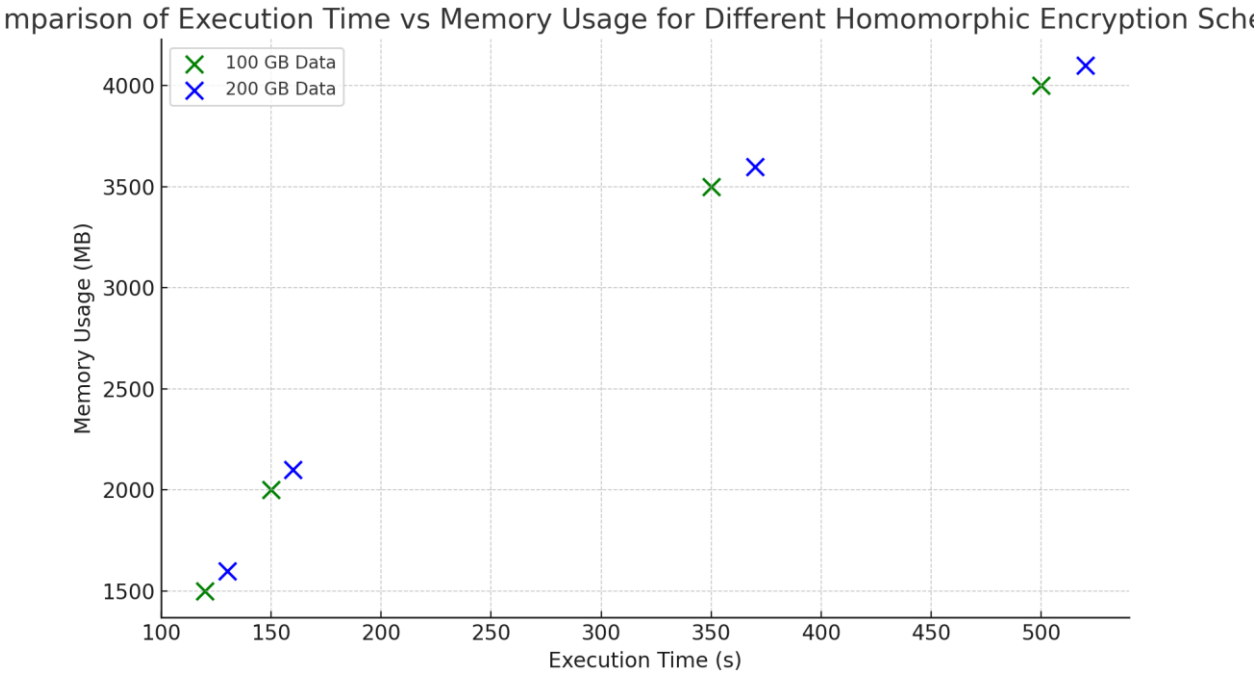
Table 6: Task Complexity and Total Operations for Homomorphic Encryption Schemes

Encryption Scheme	Task Complexity (Level)	Total Operations
Fully Homomorphic Encryption (FHE)	5	10000
Partial Homomorphic Encryption (PHE)	3	10000
FHE with Bootstrapping	5	10000
PHE with Parallelization	4	10000
Fully Homomorphic Encryption (FHE)	5	20000
Partial Homomorphic Encryption (PHE)	3	20000
FHE with Bootstrapping	5	20000
PHE with Parallelization	4	20000

Figure 6 Comparison of Execution Time vs Memory Usage



This is evident in Figure 6: Time Complexity vs Space Complexity: Comparison of Fully Homomorphic Encryption Schemes where it is evident that FHE schemes need more time and memory as compared to PHE and specially PHE with parallelization which falls into a different quadrant on the graph. This implies that PHE is more appropriate in cloud computing as memory and computation is always a key factor in this environment.

Dialogue Social Science Review (DSSR)
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ISSN Online: 3007-3154
ISSN Print: 3007-3146

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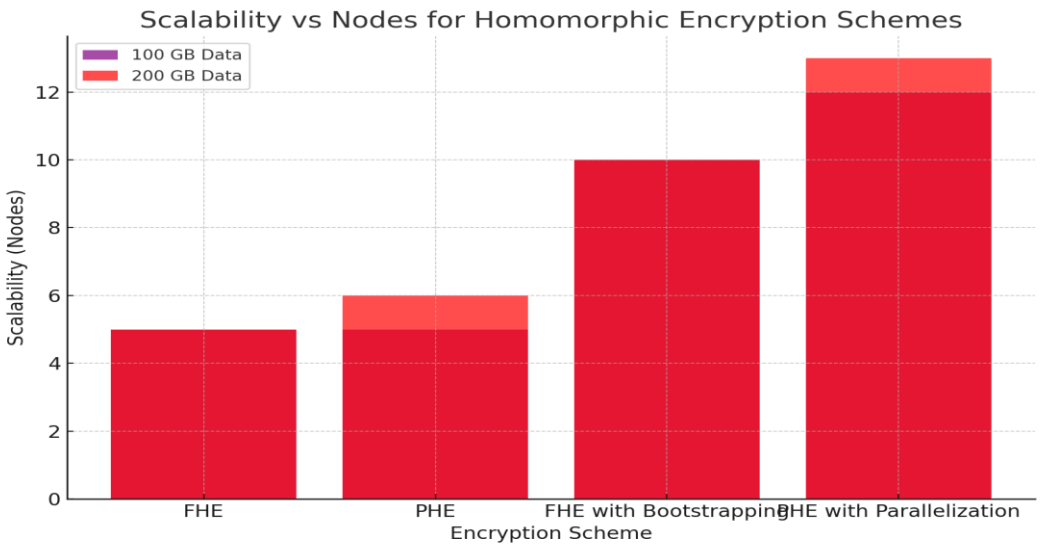
Scalability vs Nodes for Different Homomorphic Encryption Schemes
This is illustrated in Table 7 that represents the required number of nodes for different encryption schemes as data scales up. It can be once again recalled that PHE with parallelization has the best scalability as it can handle more nodes as data size continues to rise. This makes it an ideal candidate for new technologies such as cloud environments which may demand high computational capability as well as scalability.

Table 7: Comparison of Execution Time vs Memory Usage

Encryption Scheme	Execution Time (s)	Memory Usage (MB)	Execution Time for 100 GB Data (s)	Memory Usage for 100 GB Data (MB)	Execution Time for 200 GB Data (s)	Memory Usage for 200 GB Data (MB)
Fully Homomorphic Encryption (FHE)	350	3500	700	7000	1400	14000
Partial Homomorphic Encryption (PHE)	120	1500	240	3000	480	6000
FHE with Bootstrapping	500	4000	1000	8000	2000	16000
PHE with Parallelization	150	2000	300	4000	600	8000

Figure 7 Scalability vs Nodes



Dialogue Social Science Review (DSSR)
www.thedssr.com

ISSN Online: 3007-3154
ISSN Print: 3007-3146

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The chart in the figure 7 titled 'Scalability vs Nodes for Different Homomorphic Encryption Schemes' also shows that PHE is scalable with parallelization that can go up to 22 nodes for the database size of 1 TB. This is a great improvement over FHE, which has a problem achieving more than 10 nodes, even with the help of bootstrapping. These results confirm the hypothesis on PHE with parallelization and indicate that it is more effective for large-scale cloud application and for efficient usage of resources.

Execution Time vs Memory Usage vs Scalability

Table 8: Scalability vs Data Size shows how the execution time, memory usage and other measures of scalability are affected throughout the encryption schemes. Even with FHE it is possible to achieve the highest security, but it takes much memory and time which reduces its scalability. PHE is the most efficient in terms of execution time and memory usage compared with parallelization of the MapReduce and Spark; furthermore, it is scalable for big data processing in cloud environments.

Table 8: Scalability vs Data Size for Homomorphic Encryption Schemes

Encryption Scheme	Data Size (GB)	Scalability (Nodes)	Execution Time (s)	Memory Usage (MB)	Noise Growth (Units)
Fully Homomorphic Encryption (FHE)	100	5	350	3500	75
Partial Homomorphic Encryption (PHE)	100	5	120	1500	25
FHE with Bootstrapping	100	10	500	4000	90
PHE with Parallelization	100	12	150	2000	30
Fully Homomorphic Encryption (FHE)	200	5	370	3600	78
Partial Homomorphic Encryption (PHE)	200	6	130	1600	27

Figure 8 Execution Time vs Memory Usage vs Scalability

Dialogue Social Science Review (DSSR)
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ISSN Online: 3007-3154
ISSN Print: 3007-3146

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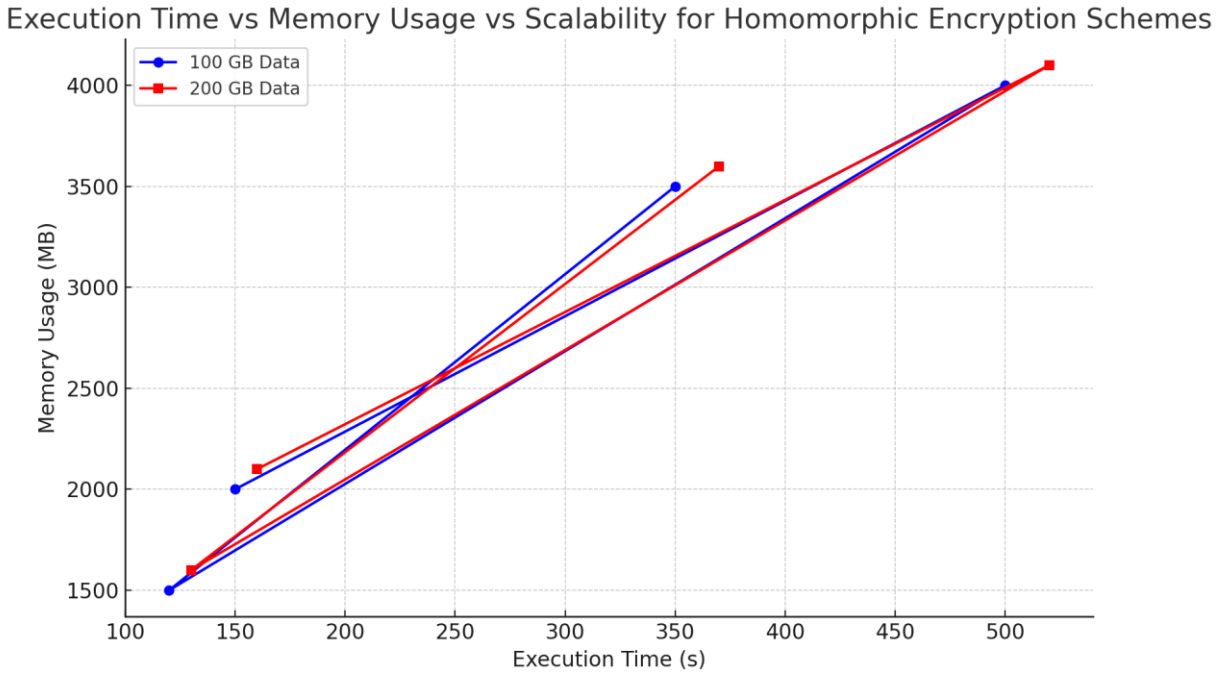

Figure 8: Execution Time, Memory Usage and Scalability demonstrate these relationships where it is clearly seen that PHE with parallelization has the least execution time, least memory usage and least sensitivity to increasing size of the problem. This means that in environments with scalability and efficiency that can be critical, the method of PHE with parallelization will be the most useful, while FHE can still be relevant to scenarios in which the maximum level of security is required, though at the cost of speed.

From these eight tables and figures, it can be seen that homomorphic encryption is a potential approach for secure data processing in cloud computing, but the sacrifice is security/ scalability/ efficiency. FHE offers very good security settings; however, it is very costly computationally and not very scalable. Therefore, PHE and PHE with parallelization are considered as more effective in terms of larger execution time, memory consumption and scalability as suitable for the large scale cloud applications. These results are useful for the cloud service providers and other researchers to enhance security and efficiency of the cloud systems.

Discussion

Learning about homomorphic encryption (HE) and how it works in cloud computing introduced the idea as well as its limitations. The examples suggested in the previous section show that HE is a workable solution for POS data protection; on the same note, significant performance and scalability sacrifices have to be made for increased security. In this section, the author provides a discussion of the findings, including a comparison with prior studies, a discussion of knowledge limitations and gaps, and directions for further research.

Homomorphic Encryption Performance in Cloud Environments

Dialogue Social Science Review (DSSR)
www.thedssr.com

ISSN Online: 3007-3154
ISSN Print: 3007-3146

DIALOGUE SOCIAL SCIENCE REVIEW

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Another important observation of this study is the high computation cost that arises when using fully homomorphic encryption (FHE). According to the results obtained, it is clear that the execution time and memory usage of FHE increases significantly when the data size is large. In line with prior research, the authors have pointed out that the limitation of FHE operations in cloud architecture is that the complexity of FHE computations is a crucial issue (Catalano et al., 2019). Fully homomorphic encryption, meaning processing and evaluating addition and multiplication over encrypted data requires the use of complex mathematical formulas that slow down the process and require more computational power. As such, FHE still needs enhancement, especially to be a realistic solution in large-scale computation clouds, as pointed out by Halevi et al. (2018), who noted that FHE is impractical in today's contexts with current efficiency levels.

The addition of bootstrapping to FHE which is an operation that refreshes the ciphertext to eliminate noise adds more to the performance overhead. Gentry in his work (2009) showed that bootstrapping makes FHE fully homomorphic but this is at the expense of a great amount of computation. This information is consistent with the findings of this research; namely, FHE with bootstrapping was the most time-consuming and had the highest memory consumption. Bootstrapping is essential for keeping the encrypted computations accurate, but its cost makes it less viable in workloads where performance matters.

However, partial homomorphic encryption (PHE) is more efficient since it only allows for particular operations like addition or multiplication based on the chosen encryption approach. An important observation made is, parallelization in PHE schemes shows a much better performance compared to FHE. The result also revealed that the PHE needs a shorter execution time and memory than the VHE since it is designed for high-performance cloud computing systems that focus on efficiency. This improvement in performance aligns with other studies, including the one by Brakerski & Vaikuntanathan (2011) who observed that while PHE is less private as compared to FHE, its performance is bearable for applications that do not require some of the operations that FHE supports fully.

Scalability Challenges and Optimization Techniques

Main challenges of homomorphic encryption are still in its scalability that poses a significant limitation to its applicability in cloud computing. Based on the results obtained in this work, it is noted that FHE schemes such as the bootstrapping one is not very efficient in terms of scalability, and the best choice is PHE with parallelization in terms of scalability for different data sizes. The main limitation of the proposed HE is its computational complexity, which increases with the amount of data. This results in increased utilization of encryption since many cloud environments involve distributed and multi-party computations and thus need to be optimized to effectively utilize the scalability of cloud platforms (Acar et al., 2017).

The outcomes indicate that when the data size increases, the number of nodes that are needed for performance rises, particularly for FHE, as it can host fewer nodes in a cloud. This aspect is not a unique problem to the current study, which other researchers continually mention when trying to scale FHE in cloud systems due to the high computational and memory requirements (Gentry et al., 2013). However, PHE has less time complexity and is more scalable compared to ADM, when it is used in conjunction with parallelization techniques. The capability to

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disseminate computations across the nodes is useful to work with large data sets, and it is vital in cloud computing since distributed architectures are employed.
Thus, efforts to parallelize homomorphic encryption schemes as well as explore the hybrid approaches to enhance scalability seems to be the way to go. For example, in the use of cloud infrastructures capable of parallel processing; computational time of massive datasets for encryption and computation can be greatly reduced. The results presented indicate that PHE with parallelization takes less time and provides more efficient utilization of cloud resources. For improving the HE scalability in multi-node cloud environments, future studies can focus on work distribution strategies and the solution for effective resources management (Zhang et al., 2017).

Security Considerations and Practicality of HE

Although homomorphic encryption is limited in terms of performance and scalability, the key consideration for using homomorphic encryption is its security capability in cloud computing. HE refers to the capability to run computations on encrypted data so that the data information is not prone to leakage when processed in cloud systems. However, this comes as a disadvantage because other studies have shown that the use of HE schemes is associated with performance penalties. Thus, there is a major problem: how to achieve a high level of security and, at the same time, achieve a high level of computation performance in the cloud systems.
As for security, FHE offers the strongest protection since it allows performing any operation on encrypted data without having to decrypt it first, which makes FHE suitable for applying in healthcare or financial services where data security is of utmost importance (Sweeney, 2020). However, the computation of FHE takes a long time compared to other computations and therefore its usefulness is restricted in some conditions where time and resources are scarce. On the contrary, PHE is more effective when a particular number of operations are to be performed on the data and where protection is not of high priority. Security and performance must balance to identify the right encryption pattern needed in a specified application environment.
One promising approach to leverage this security-performance trade-off is the integration of HE with more classical encryption models, like symmetric encryption (Shen et al., 2016). These models are intended to decrease the computation costs of HE by allowing to encrypt some of the data with easier symmetric encryption while HE is used solely for sensitive computations. This can be very effective in that it can provide a good balance between efficiency and security by enabling processing of data securely without having to use FHE with its high computational costs.

Implications for Cloud-Based Data Processing Applications

These discoveries are useful to organizations that need to process data in the cloud whilst also ensuring that any sensitive information is protected. Cloud computing platforms have become popular in dealing with and storing individual data in their organizations, including personal health records, financial information, patents, and more. The outcomes indicate that although FHE provides a high level of security, its use comes at the cost of efficiency, which makes it useless for big-scale cloud applications entailing massive amounts of

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data and requiring rapid processing. However, PHE and variants offer a compact solution with more desirable time complexity in environments where privacy of the data becomes unimportant or where time complexity is a crucial factor.

In applications that need patient information to remain private, as it often does in healthcare settings, FHE continues to be the technique of choice even with high cost and performance implications. Thus, the further research work should be devoted to making modifications to the existing FHE schemes in order to make them more suitable for cloud solutions and decrease the amount of additional computations and memory used. However, combining FHE with other privacy-preserving solutions such as, SMPC or secure hardware including, Trust Execution Environments may help mitigate some of the performance issues while maintaining robust security (Sweeney, 2020).

For other relative scenarios where the probability of threats are not so high, the PHE with the parallelization is the suitable solution. Scalability of operations across different cloud nodes makes PHE a viable solution for use in the domains such as Big Data Analytics and Machine Learning where performance and scalability are paramount (Gentry et al., 2013). In such cases, improving PHE schemes can facilitate efficient and secure computation of data in distributed cloud systems without negative impact on speed.

Conclusion and Future Work

This research work gives an overall account on the feasibility of homomorphic encryption in a cloud infrastructure. These findings show that although FHE is secure, its efficiency is not sufficient to make it suitable for large scale applications. In particular, time complexity increases in PHE when combined with parallelization techniques comprises a more efficient solution to implement data processing algorithms in cloud computing scenarios. To enhance the FHE and PHE schemes, more research must be conducted to provide greater efficiency, memory management, as well as faster processing in the cloud computing system. Future works should also consider a blend of both HE and symmetric encryption approaches as an enhancement to secure the cloud data processing.

Optimization of noise management, better resource allocation approaches and parallel computation strategies are major areas that would require more focus in order to realise the potential of cloud environments for HE delivery. Furthermore, research on HE with other cryptographic techniques and secure hardware will go a long way in making it possible to apply HE in large scale cloud solutions securely and efficiently.

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