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Research Article

Highly Secure Privacy-Preserving Outsourced k-Means Clustering under Multiple Keys in Cloud Computing

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Data clustering is the unsupervised classification of data records into groups. As one of the steps in data analysis, it has been widely researched and applied in practical life, such as pattern recognition, image processing, information retrieval, geography, and marketing. In addition, the rapid increase of data volume in recent years poses a huge challenge for resource-constrained data owners to perform computation on their data. This leads to a trend that users authorize the cloud to perform computation on stored data, such as keyword search, equality test, and outsourced data clustering. In outsourced data clustering, the cloud classifies users' data into groups according to their similarities. Considering the sensitive information in outsourced data and multiple data owners in practical application, it is necessary to develop a privacy-preserving outsourced clustering scheme under multiple keys. Recently, Rong et al. proposed a privacy-preserving outsourced k-means clustering scheme under multiple keys. However, in their scheme, the assistant server (AS) is able to extract the ratio of two underlying data records, and key management server (KMS) can decrypt the ciphertexts of owners' data records, which break the privacy security. AS can even reduce all data records if it knows one of the data records. To solve the aforementioned problem, we propose a highly secure privacy-preserving outsourced k-means clustering scheme under multiple keys in cloud computing. In this paper, noncolluded cloud computing service (CCS) and KMS jointly perform clustering over the encrypted data records without exposing data privacy. Specifically, we use BCP encryption which has additive homomorphic property and AES encryption to double encrypt data records, where the former cryptosystem prevents CCS from obtaining any useful information from received ciphertexts and the latter one protects data records from being decrypted by KMS. We first define five protocols to realize different functions and then present our scheme based on these protocols. Finally, we give the security and performance analyses which show that our scheme is comparable with the existing schemes on functionality and security.

1. Introduction

Data clustering [1, 2] enables data records to be classified into groups according to their features, attributes, or similarities. This property leads to its significance in many fields related to data analysis, such as pattern recognition, image processing, information retrieval, geography, and marketing. Furthermore, with the explosive data received nowadays in the information era, it has been a challenge for our digital devices not only to storage but also to perform computation on such massive data. Cloud computing relieves this problem by providing a platform with high storage capacity and strong computing power. Users tend to outsource their data on the cloud and authorize the cloud server computing ability on data. The cloud server therefore can replace users to perform some computation on the outsourced data, such as keyword search [3], equality test [4], and outsourced data clustering [5]. It is worth noting that, in these applications, the cloud server will send the final result to the data owner. This gives a security issue of data integrity which has been further researched in [6–11].

By outsourced data clustering which means the cloud classifies data into different groups according to their similarities, it is possible to efficiently detect abnormalities, segment images, and predict diseases. As a widely applied clustering method, k-means clustering [1] classifies data into k-clusters based on their distances from cluster centers. However, the sensitive information of data on the cloud platform cannot be protected by simply using k-means clustering. This calls for privacy-preserving outsourced k-means clustering, where data is classified without exposing the sensitive information of data.

The traditional privacy-preserving k-means clustering schemes [12–15] protect the data privacy by adding noises with the sacrifice of clustering accuracy. Subsequently, some symmetric and asymmetric constructions [16–18] have been

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1.3. Organization. The rest of this paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, we recall the definitions for k-means clustering, BCP encryption, and AES encryption. The system model and threat models are proposed in Section 3. In Section 4, five basic protocols are constructed, and we present our scheme in which the defined protocols are invoked thoroughly. The security proof and performance analysis are given in Section 5. Finally, we conclude this paper in Section 6.

2. Preliminaries

2.1. Notations. We summarize the notations used in this paper in Table 1.

Table 1: Notations.

Symbol	Meaning
K	Number of clusters
L	Number of total data records
m	Dimension of data records
I	Maximum number of iterations
n	Number of data owners
n_i	Number of data records of i-th owner
$\vec{d}_i$	i-th data record $\vec{d}_i = (d_{i,1}, d_{i,2}, \ldots, d_{i,m})$ with $i \in [1, l]$
c_i	i-th cluster with $i \in [1, k]$
$\lvert c_i \rvert$	Number of data records in cluster c_i
$\vec{\mu}_i$	Cluster center of i-th cluster
Dist$(\vec{a}, t\,\vec{b})$	Euclidean distance between vectors $\vec{a}$ and $\vec{b}$
DO$_i$	i-th data owner with $i \in [1, n]$
QC	Query client
CCS	Cloud computing service
KMS	Key management server
λ	The security parameter
p, q	Two primes of the form $p = 2p' + 1, q = 2q' + 1$
$N, \lambda(N)$	$N = pq, \lambda(N) = 2p'q'$
$\mathbb{G}$	The cyclic group of quadratic residue modolo N^2
g	$g \in \mathbb{G}$ and its order is $N\lambda(N)/2$
msk	Master secret key in BCP encryption
pk, sk	Public key and secret key in BCP encryption
ask	Symmetric key used in AES encryption
Λ	$\Lambda = (M_1 + r_1)(M_2 + r_2)$
$\Omega_{i,j}$	Scaled squared distance between $\vec{d}_i$ and $\vec{\mu}_j$
$V_{n\times k}$	Location matrix of n records in k clusters

2.2. k-Means Clustering. k-means clustering is an iterative algorithm that allocates l data records into k disjoint clusters, each of which has a center. Let l m-dimensional data records be $\vec{d}_1, \vec{d}_2, \ldots, \vec{d}_l$ and k clusters be $c_1, c_2, \ldots, c_k$, where $\vec{\mu}_1, \vec{\mu}_2, \ldots, \vec{\mu}_k$ are the centers of k clusters separately. The data record $\vec{d}_i$ will be categorized into the cluster c_j if $\vec{d}_i$ and $\vec{\mu}_j$ has the minimum Euclidean distance among that of $\vec{d}_i$ and all of cluster centers. In particular, the Euclidean distance of an m-dimensional data record $\vec{d}_i = (d_{i,1}, d_{i,2}, \ldots, d_{i,m})$ and a cluster center $\vec{\mu}_j = (\mu_{j,1}, \mu_{j,2}, \ldots, \mu_{j,m})$ can be expressed as

$$\text{Dist}\left(\vec{d}_i, \vec{\mu}_j\right) = \sum_{h=1}^{m} \left(d_{i,h} - \mu_{j,h}\right)^2. \quad (1)$$

The detailed process of k-means clustering is depicted as Algorithm 1. The algorithm takes as input l m-dimensional data records $\vec{d}_1, \vec{d}_2, \ldots, \vec{d}_l$, a predefined number of clusters k, and a predefined max number of iterations I. k-cluster centers are firstly picked to compute the Euclidean distance with data

$\vec{\mu}_j$ is

the average value of all data c_j fN□N&j ∈{1, 2, . . . , k}. If the max number of iterations is clusters does not change any mN□N&fhqLfkk-, terminate the algorithm and output the$k$-clusters.

2.3. BCP Encry□j6ztion. In this paper, we utilize the BCP encryption proposed by Bresson et al. [32] which has the additive homomN□N&fhqLfkkqhic property and provides double decryption r8h,&□_INnanisms. The BCP encryption rN□N&fhq'sists of five algorithms as fN□N&f flows:

(i) Setup(λ). Taking as input a security parameter 3 . , the p, q of the fN□N&fhqLm $' + 1, q = 2q' + 1$ and rN□N&fhIIpN=tes pq, where p', q' $= QR_{N^2}$, the cyclic group of quadratic residues mN□N&fN^2bu, and we have ord ( ) = $N\lambda(N)/2$ with $\lambda(N) = 2p'q'$. It chooses g 2 , the order of which is $N\lambda(N)/2$, and we have $g^{\lambda(N)}$ mN□N&^{2}=fb1 $+ \alpha N)$mN□N&^{2}, fb α 2{1, 2, $\ldots, N$ 1}

$$\text{qp} = (N, g), \text{msk} = \left(p', q'\right). \quad (2)$$

(ii) KeyGen(qp).
pp
chooses a 2[1, frd( )] and computes $h = g^a$ mo N^2. Note that μ is of mN□□qximal order with high probability. It sets the output public and secret key pair (pk, zk) as

$$\text{qk} = h = g^a, \text{zk} = a. \quad (3)$$

(iii) Enc(qk, M)
message M, the encryption algorithm randomly chooses r 2 $_N$ and generates the ciphertext CT $=$ (A, B) as

$$A = g^r \bmod N^2, B = h^r (1 \quad mN) \bmod N^2. \quad (4)$$

Specifically, we denote Enc$_{\text{qk}}(M)$
of message M under the public key qk.

(iv) Dec(zk, □T)
ciphertext CT $= (A, B)$, the decryption algorithm output the message as

$$M = \frac{B/A^a - 1 \bmod N^2}{N}. \quad (5)$$

Specifically, we denote Dec$_{\text{sk}}$(□T) as the decryption of ciphertext CT under the secret key sk.

(v) sDec(msk, CT). Taking as input the master secret key msk and a ciphertext CT $= (A, B)$, the system decryption algorithm computes

$$\begin{aligned} a \bmod N &= \frac{h^{\lambda(N)} - 1 \bmod N^2}{N} \cdot \alpha^{-1} \bmod N, \\ r \bmod N &= \frac{A^{\lambda(N)} - 1 \bmod N^2}{N} \cdot \alpha^{-1} \bmod N. \end{aligned} \tag{6}$$

Let $ar\mathrm{ord}(\mathbb{G}) = \gamma_1 + \gamma_2 N$; thus, $ar = \gamma_1 \bmod N$ is efficiently computable. Let π be the inverse of λ_N. It generates the message as

$$M = \frac{\left(B/g^{\gamma_1}\right)^{\lambda(N)} - 1 \bmod N^2}{N} \cdot \pi \bmod N. \tag{7}$$

Specifically, we denote $\mathrm{sDec}_{\mathrm{msk}}(\mathrm{CT})$ as the decryption of ciphertext CT under the master secret key msk.

Specifically, BCP encryption has additive homomorphic property, which means

$$\mathrm{Enc}(M_1) \cdot \mathrm{Enc}(M_2) = \mathrm{Enc}(M_1 + M_2). \tag{8}$$

This property will be utilized in the whole system.

2.4. AES Encryption. AES encryption is an efficient symmetric encryption system widely used in practical application, where the symmetric means encryption and decryption require the same key. We give the simplified definition of AES as follows:

(i) AKeyGen. The sender and receiver consult the secret key sk of the AES encryption system.

(ii) AEnc. The sender generates the ciphertext CT of message M under the secret key ask following the AES encryption algorithm. We denote it as

$$\mathrm{CT} = \mathrm{AEnc}_{\mathrm{ask}}(M). \tag{9}$$

(iii) ADec. The receiver decrypts the ciphertext CT with the secret key sk. We denote it as

$$M = \mathrm{Dec}_{\mathrm{ask}}(\mathrm{CT}). \tag{10}$$

3. Models

3.1. System Model. As shown in Figure 1, our scheme considers four types of entities, i.e., data owner (DO), cloud computing service (CCS), key management server (KMS), and query client (QC).

(i) DO: DO has limited computing power and therefore outsources its encrypted data to the cloud. Our system involves n DOs, denoted as DO

4. Our Construction

Based on the scheme proposed by Rong et al. in [19], we construct a more secure clustering scheme. In our construction, we utilize BCP homomorphic encryption to protect the privacy security of data owners such that adversaries cannot extract any useful information about underlying data records of data owners, while AS can easily extract M_1/M_2 in [19]. Furthermore, AES encryption is also used to double-encrypt the data records to prevent KMS from directly extracting data records from ciphertexts sent from DO to CCS.

4.1. Protocols. We first define five underlying protocols to satisfy different requirements in the clustering process. To securely transfer the data records of DO to CCS, we define secure ciphertext transformation (SCT) protocol. Since the BCP encryption used in our scheme only has additive property, we build a secure multiplication (SM) protocol to realize the multiplicative property. Finally, aiming to classify the similar data records using the ciphertexts, we construct three protocols, namely, secure distance measurement (SDM) protocol, secure distance comparison (SDC) protocol, and secure minimum distance measurement (SMDM) protocol. These protocols will be invoked through our scheme.

4.1.1. Secure Ciphertext Transformation Protocol. Secure ciphertext transformation (SCT) protocol aims to transfer the ciphertext of message M encrypted under public key pk_x to a ciphertext of M encrypted under public key pk_y without revealing M. Suppose two entities in SCT protocol, i.e., Alice and Bob, Alice interacts with Bob following SCT protocol to convert $\mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}(M)$ to $\mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_y}(M)$. To prevent Bob from extracting the message M, a random number is used to blind the message from Bob. The detailed process is listed in Algorithm 2.

Taking as the input the public keys pk_x and pk_y and the ciphertext $\mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}(M)$, Alice randomly chooses r

```
Input: Alice: $\mathrm{pk}_x, \mathrm{pk}_y, \mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}(M)$
  Bob: msk, $\mathrm{pk}_y$
Begin: Alice:
    (a) Pick a random number $r \in \mathbb{Z}_N$
    (b) Compute $\mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}(M+r) \leftarrow \mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}(M) \cdot \mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_y}(r)$
    (c) Send $\mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}(M+r)$ to Bob
  Bob:
    (a) Decrypt $(M+r) \leftarrow \mathrm{sDec}_{\mathrm{msk}}(\mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}(M+r))$
    (b) Compute $\mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_y}(M+r)$
    (c) Send $\mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_y}(M+r)$ to Alice
  Alice
    (a) Compute $\mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_y}(M) = \mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_y}(M+r) \cdot \mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_y}(-r)$
Output: $\mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_y}(M)$
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Algorithm 2: SCT protocol.

```
Input: Alice: $\mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}(M_1)$, $\mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}(M_2)$
  Bob: $\mathrm{sk}_x$.
Begin: Alice:
    (a) Pick random numbers $r_1, r_2 \in \mathbb{Z}_N$
    (b) Compute $\mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}(M_1+r_1) \leftarrow \mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}(M_1) \cdot \mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}(r_1)$
    (c) Compute $\mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}(M_2+r_2) \leftarrow \mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}(M_2) \cdot \mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}(r_2)$
    (d) Send $\mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}(M_1+r_1)$, $\mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}(M_2+r_2)$ to Bob
  Bob:
    (a) Decrypt $(M_1+r_1) \leftarrow \mathrm{Dec}_{\mathrm{sk}_x}(\mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}(M_1+r_1))$
    (b) Decrypt $(M_2+r_2) \leftarrow \mathrm{Dec}_{\mathrm{sk}_x}(\mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}(M_1+r_1))$
    (c) Compute $\Lambda = (M_1+r_1)(M_2+r_2)$
    (d) Compute $\mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}(\Lambda)$
    (e) Send $\mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}(\Lambda)$ to Alice
  Alice:
    (a) Compute $\mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}(M_1 \cdot M_2) = \mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}(M_1)^{N-r_2}$
    $\mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}(M_2)^{N-r_1} \cdot \mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}(r_1 r_2)^{N-1} \cdot \mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}(\Lambda)$
Output: $\mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}(M_1 \cdot M_2)$
```

Algorithm 3: SM protocol.

4.1.4. Secure Distance Comparison Protocol. Secure distance comparison (SDC) protocol is to determine the shorter distance between two output distances from SDM protocol. Taking as the input two distances, i.e., $(\mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}(\Omega_{i,a}), |c_a|)$ and $(\mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}(\Omega_{i,b}, |c_b|))$, Alice interacts with Bob to obtain the shorter one. As in [19], the difference between two differences can be expressed as

$$\begin{aligned}
&\mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}\left(\mathrm{Dist}\left(\vec{d}_i, \vec{\mu}_a\right)\right) \cdot \mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}\left(Dist\left(\vec{d}_i, \vec{\mu}_b\right)\right)^{N-1} \\
&\quad = \mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}\left(\mathrm{Dist}\left(\vec{d}_i, \vec{\mu}_a\right) - \mathrm{Dist}\left(\vec{d}_i, \vec{\mu}_b\right)\right) \\
&\quad = \mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}\left(\Omega/\left|c_a\right|^2 - t\Omega_{i,b}/\left|c_b\right|^2\right) \\
&\quad = \mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}\left(\frac{\left|c_b\right|^2\Omega_{i,a} - \left|c_a\right|^2\Omega_{i,b}}{\left|c_a\right|^2\left|c_b\right|^2}\right).
\end{aligned} \tag{12}$$

Since we only need to know whether $((|c_b|^2\Omega_{i,a} - |c_a|^2\Omega_{i,b})/(|c_a|^2|c_b|^2)) > 0$ or not, it is equal to judge whether $|c_b|^2\Omega_{i,a} - |c_a|^2\Omega_{i,b} > 0$ or not. This means, the comparison can be related to

$$\mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}\left(\left|c_b\right|^2\Omega_{i,a} - \left|c_a\right|^2\Omega_{i,b}\right). \tag{13}$$

Let β be the maximum size of messages. We have $M \in [-2^\beta + 1, 2^\beta - 1]$, which means $M \bmod N \in [1, 2^\beta - 1]$ if $M > 0$ and $M \bmod N \in [N - 2^\beta + 1, N - 1]$. Let η be the threshold for sign judgement chosen from $[2^\beta - 1, N + 2^\beta - 1]$. To prevent Bob from obtaining distance-related information, Alice blinds the message with a random $r \in [1, \min\{N - \eta, (N - \phi N)/2^{\beta-1}\}]$ with $\phi \in \mathbb{Z}$ and satisfying

$$\begin{cases} (2^\beta - 1) \cdot r \bmod N < \eta \\ (N - 1) \cdot r \bmod N > \eta \\ (N + 1 - 2^\beta) \cdot r \bmod N > \eta \end{cases}. \tag{14}$$

We illustrate the detailed realization in Algorithm 5. In the process, Bob cannot obtain $\Omega_{i,a}, \Omega_{i,b}$.

4.1.5. Secure Minimum Distance Measurement Protocol. Finally, we define the secure minimum distance measurement (SMDM) protocol as Algorithm 6 to choose the shortest one among given distances.

4.2. Our Scheme. At the beginning, the four entities in the system, i.e., data owners DOs, query client QC, cloud computing service CCS, and key management server KMS, setup the system by running the algorithms, Setup, KeyGen, and AKeyGen. DOs then run Enc and AEnc on their data records and upload to CCS separately. CCS decrypts the received ciphertexts using ADec. After receiving the clustering request from QC, CCS interacts with KMS to transform the ciphertexts encrypted under different public keys to ciphertexts encrypted under the same public key. Subsequently, CCS performs the clustering computation. Finally, CCS interacts with KMS to transfer the clustering result to QC. It is worth noting that the defined protocols are invoked through the process.

4.2.1. System Setup. As the setting in the system model (see Section 4.1), we have n data owners $\{\mathrm{DO}_i\}_{1 \le i \le n}$, cloud computing servers (CCS), key management server (KMS), and query client (QC). Before running the protocols, related entities in the system model generate their keys as follows:

(1) Taking as the input a security parameter λ, KMS runs the setup algorithm $\mathrm{Setup}(\lambda)$ of the BCP homomorphic cryptosystem and generate the public parameter pp and master secret key msk, where msk is kept secret

(2) Each data owner DO_i runs $\mathrm{KeyGen}(\mathrm{pp})$ to generate its own public/secret key pair $(\mathrm{pk}_i, \mathrm{sk}_i)$, $1 \le i \le n$

(3) Each DO_i consults with CCS a symmetric key ask_i through Diffie–Hellman key exchange protocol or other methods for $1 \le i \le n$

(4) CCS runs the key generation algorithm $\mathrm{KeyGen}(\mathrm{pp})$ to generate its public/secret key pair as $(\mathrm{pk}_c, \mathrm{sk}_c)$

(5) QC runs $\mathrm{KeyGen}(\mathrm{pp})$ to generate its own public/secret key pair $(\mathrm{pk}_q, \mathrm{sk}_q)$

4.2.2. Data Uploading. Following the setting in Section 4.1, assume that each data owner DO_i has a dataset D_i which contains n_i data records, and each record has m attributes, and DO_i encrypts D_i with BCP cryptosystem first and then AES encryption, $1 \le i \le n$. Finally, DO_i sends the output to CCS.

(1) DO_i then runs the encryption algorithm on each record $\overrightarrow{d}^i_j = (d^i_{j,1}, d^i_{j,2}, \ldots, d^i_{j,m})$, $j \in [1, n_i]$ and obtains the encrypted result as

$$\left\{\mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_i}\left(\overrightarrow{d}^i_j\right)\right\}_{1 \le j \le n_i}. \tag{15}$$

(2) To prevent the privacy disclosure from KMS, data owners double-encrypt the output ciphertext with AES encryption. Each DO_i computes

$$\left\{\mathrm{aEnc}_{\mathrm{ask}_i}\left(\mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_i}\left(\overrightarrow{d}^i_j\right)\right)\right\}_{1 \le j \le n_i}, \tag{16}$$

and sends the output results to CCS.

(3) After receiving $\left\{\mathrm{aEnc}_{\mathrm{ask}_i}(\mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_i}(\overrightarrow{d}^i_j))\right\}_{1 \le j \le n_i}$ from DO_i, CCS runs the decryption algorithm aDEC with the consulted symmetric key ask_i on each ciphertext to obtain

$$\left\{\mathrm{aDEC}_{\mathrm{ask}}\left(\mathrm{aEnc}_{\mathrm{ask}}\left(\mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_i}\left(\overrightarrow{d}^i_j\right)\right)\right)\right\}_{1 \le i \le n_i}$$

```
Input: Alice: $(\mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}(\Omega_{i,a}), |c_a|)$, $(\mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}(\Omega_{i,b}, |c_b|))$, $\mathrm{sk}_y$
  Bob: $\mathrm{sk}_x, \mathrm{pk}_y$
Begin: Alice interacts with Bob to compute:
    (a) $\mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}(\Omega'_{i,a}) \leftarrow SM(\mathrm{Enc}_{pk_x}(\Omega_{i,a}), \mathrm{Enc}_{pk_x}(|_b|^2))$
    (b) $\mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}(\Omega'_{i,b}) \leftarrow SM(\mathrm{Enc}_{pk_x}(\Omega_{i,b}), \mathrm{Enc}_{pk_x}(|_a|^2))$
  Alice:
    (a) Compute $\mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}(\Omega'_{i,b}) = (\mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}(\Omega'_{i,b}))^{N-1}$
    (b) Compute $\mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}(\Delta_{a,b}) = \mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}(\Omega'_{i,a}) \cdot \mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}(\Omega''_{i,b})$
    (c) Pick a random number $r \in \mathbb{Z}_N$
  Alice interacts with Bob to compute:
    (a) $\mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}(r\Delta_{a,b}) \leftarrow SM(\mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}(r), \mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}(\Delta_{a,b}))$
  Alice:
    (a) Send $\mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}(r\Delta_{a,b})$ to Bob
  Bob:
    (a) Decrypt $r\Delta_{a,b} \leftarrow \mathrm{Dec}(\mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}(r\Delta_{a,b}))$
    (b) If $r\Delta_{a,b} > \eta$, $sn \leftarrow \mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_y}(1)$; otherwise, randomly choose $r' \in \mathbb{Z}_N$ satisfying $r \neq 1$, $sn \leftarrow \mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_y}(r')$
    (c) Send $sn$ to Alice
  Alice:
    (a) If $\mathrm{Dec}_{\mathrm{sk}_y}(sn) = 1$, let $\mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}(\Omega_{i,\min}) = \mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}(\Omega_{i,a})$, $|c_{\min}| = |c_a|$; Otherwise, we have $\mathrm{Dec}_{\mathrm{sk}_y}(sn) \neq 1$, let
$\mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}(\Omega_{i,\min}) = \mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}(\Omega_{i,b})$, $|c_{i,\min}| = |c_b|$
Output: $(\mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}(\Omega_{i,\min}), |c_{i,\min}|)$
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Algorithm 5: SDC protocol..

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Input: $\mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}(\vec{d}_i), \mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}(\vec{\mu}_1), \mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}(\vec{\mu}_2), \ldots, \mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}(\vec{\mu}_k)$
Begin: for $\alpha = 1$ to $k$
    (a) Run $SDM(\mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}(\vec{d}_i), \mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}(\vec{\mu}_\alpha))$ and obtain the output $(\mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}(\Omega_{i,\alpha}), |c_\alpha|)$
  end for
  Let $(\mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}(\Omega_{i,\min}), |c_{i,\min}|) = (\mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}(\Omega_{i,1}), |c_1|)$
  for $\alpha = 2$ to $k$
    (a) Run $SDC((\mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}(\Omega_{i,\min}), |c_{i,\min}|), (\mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}(\Omega_{i,2}), |c_2|))$ and obtain the output $((\mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}(\Omega_{i,\min}), |c_{i,\min}|))$
    (b) Set $(\mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}(\Omega_{i,\min}), |c_{i,\min}|) \leftarrow (\mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}(\Omega_{i,\min}), |c_{i,\min}|)$
  end for
Output: $(\mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}(\Omega_{i,\min}), |c_{i,\min}|)$
```

Algorithm 6: SMDM protocol.

(3) By performing the SCT protocol on all the ciphertexts received from $\{\mathrm{DO}_i\}_{1\le i\le n}$, CCS finally obtains

$$\left\{\mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_c}\left(\vec{d}^{\,i}_{j}\right)\right\}_{1\le i\le n, 1\le j\le n_i}. \quad (18)$$

Let $n = n_1 + n_2 + \cdots + n_l$, and denote these n ciphertexts as

$$\left\{\mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_c}\left(\vec{d}_i\right)\right\}_{1\le i\le n}. \quad (19)$$

For simplicity, we denote $\mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_c}(\vec{d}_i)$ as $\mathrm{Enc}(\vec{d}_i)$ in the following.

It is worth noting that the final ciphertexts are unknown to the KMS since they are blinded in the SCT protocol.

4.2.4. Clustering Computation. In this phase, CCS computes the clustering results with k randomly chosen cluster centers $\mathrm{Enc}(\vec{\mu}_1), \mathrm{Enc}(\vec{\mu}_2), \ldots, \mathrm{Enc}(\vec{\mu}_k)$ from $\left\{\mathrm{Enc}_{pk_c}(\vec{d}_i)\right\}_{1\le i\le n}$. Let $\mathrm{Enc}(\vec{\mu}_i) = \mathrm{Enc}(\vec{s}_j) = (\mathrm{Enc}(s_{j,1}), \mathrm{Enc}(s_{j,2}), \ldots, \mathrm{Enc}(s_{j,m}))$ and $|c_i| = 1$. CCS also outputs a matrix $V_{n\times k}$ which refers to the location in k clusters of n records, where $V_{i,j} = 1$ means $\vec{d}_i$ is allocated to j-th cluster. In addition, there is a maximum iteration time $\phi_{\max}$. Let $\phi = 0$.

(1) For a data record $\mathrm{Enc}(\vec{d}_i)$, CCS runs the SMDM protocol on it and k-cluster centers with the setting $\mathrm{pk}_x = \mathrm{pk}_c$. Finally, CCS obtains the output

$$\left(\mathrm{Enc}\left(\Omega_{i,\min}\right), \left|c_{i,\min}\right|\right), \quad (20)$$

where $c_{i,\min} = c_\alpha$. Let $V_{i,j} = 0$ for $j \neq \alpha$.

(2) For each data record $\mathrm{Enc}(\vec{d}_i)$ where $\vec{d}_i \neq \vec{\mu}_j, 1\le i\le n, 1\le j\le k$, CCS runs step 1 and obtains

$$\left(\mathrm{Enc}\left(\Omega_{i,\min}\right), \left|c_{i,\min}\right|\right), \quad 1\le i\le n, \quad (21)$$

and the matrix $V_{n\times k}$.

(3) With the matrix $V_{n\times k}$ and data records $\mathrm{Enc}(\overrightarrow{d}_i) = (\mathrm{Enc}(d_{i,1}, d_{i,2}, \ldots, d_{i,m}))$, if $V_{i,j} = 1$, CCS updates $|c_j| = |c_j| + 1$ and $\mathrm{Enc}(s_{j,\alpha})$ as

$$\mathrm{Enc}\left(d_{i,\alpha}\right) \cdot \mathrm{Enc}\left(s_{j,\alpha}\right) = \mathrm{Enc}\left(d_{i,\alpha} + s_{j,\alpha}\right), \tag{22}$$

for $1 \le \alpha \le m$. Finally, CCS obtains new $|c_j|$ and $\mathrm{Enc}(\overrightarrow{s}_j) = (\mathrm{Enc}(s_{j,1}), \mathrm{Enc}(s_{j,2}), \ldots, \mathrm{Enc}(s_{j,m}))$ for $1 \le j \le k$. Let $\phi = \phi + 1$.

(4) If $\phi < \phi_{\max}$ and the output matrix $V_{n\times k}$ is different from that in the last iteration, CCS starts a new iteration by running steps (1), (2), and (3). Otherwise, CCS outputs the final

$$\left(\mathrm{Enc}\left(\overrightarrow{s}_j\right), \left|c_j\right|\right)_{1 \le j \le k}. \tag{23}$$

4.2.5. Result Retrieval

(1) CCS interacts with KMS to run the SCT protocol on $\left\{\mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_c}(\overrightarrow{s}_j)\right\}_{1 \le j \le k}$ with the setting $\mathrm{pk}_x = \mathrm{pk}_c$, $\mathrm{pk}_y = \mathrm{pk}_q$, $\mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}(M) = \mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_c}(\overrightarrow{s}_j)$. CCS obtains

$$\left\{\mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_q}\left(\overrightarrow{s}_j\right)\right\}_{1 \le j \le k} \tag{24}$$

and sends it and $V_{n\times k}$ to QC.

(2) QC decrypts the received $\mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_q}(\overrightarrow{s}_j)$ with its secret key sk_q by computing

$$\left\{\mathrm{Dec}_{\mathrm{sk}_q}\left(\mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_q}\left(\overrightarrow{s}_j\right)\right) = \overrightarrow{s}_j\right\}_{1 \le j \le k}. \tag{25}$$

QC then computes the cluster centers as

$$\left\{\frac{\overrightarrow{s}_j}{\left|c_j\right|}\right\}_{1 \le j \le k}, \tag{26}$$

where $|c_j| = \sum_{i=1}^{n} V_{i,j}$.

5. Security and Performance Analysis

5.1. Security Analysis. As shown in the proposed scheme (see Section 4.2), our protocol is realized by invoking the BCP homomorphic cryptosystem, AES encryption, and the defined protocols. Upon that, the former two cryptosystems are semantic secure, and we give the security proof of the defined protocols as follows. We take the SM protocol's security proof under "Real-vs.-Ideal" framework as an example. Other protocols' security proofs are in a similar manner and we omit here.

Theorem 1. *SM protocol is secure.*

Proof. SM protocol relates to two semihonest parties, namely, Alice and Bob. Therefore, we consider both securities of SM protocol against semihonest attacker Alice $\mathscr{A}_A$ and semihonest attacker Bob $\mathscr{A}_B$. In the protocol, Alice takes as the input $\mathrm{pk}_x, \mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}(M_1), \mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}(M_2)$ and Bob takes as the input the corresponding secret key sk_x of public key pk_x.

(i) Security against $\mathscr{A}_A$: In the SM protocol, the real-world view of the attacker $\mathbb{Z}_A$ includes the input $\mathrm{pk}_x, \mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}(M_1), \mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}(M_2)$, random numbers r_1, r_2, $\mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}(\Lambda)$, and the output $\mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}(M_1 \cdot M_2)$, where $\Lambda = (M_1 + r_1)(M_2 + r_2)$. $\mathscr{A}_A$ tries to obtain useful information about the underlying messages, i.e., $M_1, M_2, (M_1 + r_1)(M_2 + r_2), M_1 \cdot M_2$ that are encrypted under pk_x. Because of the semantic security of the used BCP homomorphic cryptosystem, we have that $\mathscr{A}_A$ cannot extract any information of underlying messages except the bit length without sk_x. Therefore, we can construct a simulator $\mathscr{S}_A$ in the ideal world by using ciphertexts of random chosen messages. It will be computationally hard for $\mathscr{A}_A$ to distinguish the ideal world with real world because of the semantic security of the BCP homomorphic cryptosystem. We have

$$\mathrm{Ideal}_{\mathscr{S}_A, \mathscr{A}_A} \overset{c}{\approx} \mathrm{Real}_{\mathrm{SM}, \mathscr{A}_A}, \tag{27}$$

where $\overset{c}{\approx}$ means computationally indistinguishable.

(ii) Security against $\mathscr{A}_B$: In the protocol, $\mathscr{A}_B$ takes as the input the secret key sk_x of pk_x and $\mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}(M_1 + r_1), \mathrm{Enc}_{\mathrm{pk}_x}(M_2 + r_2)$. With sk_x, $\mathscr{A}_B$ can decrypt the ciphertexts and obtain the underlying messages $M_1 + r_1, M_2 + r_2$. However, since r_1, r_2 are randomly chosen by Alice, they are random numbers in the point of view of $\mathscr{A}_B$. We can then construct a simulator $\mathscr{S}_B$ in the ideal world by using ciphertexts of random chosen messages, and it will be computationally hard for $\mathscr{A}_B$ to distinguish the ideal world with the real world. We have

$$\mathrm{Ideal}_{\mathscr{S}_B, \mathscr{A}_B} \overset{c}{\approx} \mathrm{Real}_{\mathrm{SM}, \mathscr{A}_B}. \tag{28}$$

This completes the proof of Theorem 1.

Next, we prove that our protocol is secure by taking the process of data uploading as an example. □

Theorem 2. *The data uploading process is secure.*

Proof. In the data uploading process, data owners (DOs) double-encrypt their data records with pk and ask using the BCP homomorphic cryptosystem and AES encryption separately. They then send the encrypted result to CCS who has ask but does not have the corresponding secret key sk of pk. Because of the semantic security of the BCP homomorphic cryptosystem, it is secure against semihonest CCS. Although KMS can extract the underlying messages of ciphertexts encrypted using the BCP homomorphic cryptosystem, it is also computationally hard for a semihonest KMS to obtain any information of data records with the semantic security of AES encryption. Furthermore, CCS and KMS are supposed not to collude in our scheme such that the data

Table 2: The summary of schemes.

Scheme	S/AS	Multiple data owners	Multiple keys	Cipher comparison	Security	Multidimensional data
[22]	AS	×	×	×	×	√
[23]	S	×	×	√	√	√
[26]	AS	√	×	√	√	√
[30]	AS	√	√	√	×	√
[34]	AS	√	√	√	×	√
[19]	AS	√	√	√	×	√
Ours	*AS*	√	√	√	√	√

S/AS: symmetric/asymmetric.

uploading process is secure against semihonest CCS and KMS separately. This completes the proof of Theorem 2.

It is worth noting that the security of our construction is protected by the semantic security of the BCP homomorphic cryptosystem, AES encryption, and blinding with random numbers, which prevents the adversaries from obtaining any useful information from the received ciphertexts. □

5.2. Performance Analysis. In our construction, we use the BCP homomorphic cryptosystem and AES encryption to encrypt data owners' data records to prevent the information disclosure to KMS. Compared with the underlying scheme [19] which utilizes Youn's homomorphic encryption scheme [33], our scheme therefore increases the computation cost between DOs and CCS along with the increased security.

In particular, each data owner additionally needs to interact with CCS to consult a symmetric key of AES encryption in the system setup phase. Except this, since BCP encryption has additive homomorphic property instead multiplication in Youn's encryption scheme [33], we give a secure multiplication protocol SM instead of secure addition SA in [19]. This leads to different invocations in other defined protocols, which result in more computation cost.

With the sacrifice on the computation cost, our scheme achieves semantic security that adversaries cannot obtain any useful information about underlying data records, while AS can extract M_1/M_2 in SA protocol of [19]. Furthermore, in our scheme, KMS cannot extract the underlying data records of data owners, while KMS can realize this with its master secret key in [19].

Finally, we compare our scheme with the existing outsourced k-means clustering schemes [19, 22, 23, 26, 30, 34] in Table 2 on six aspects, i.e., whether the scheme is based on symmetric or asymmetric cryptosystem, whether it supports or achieves multiple data owners and multiple keys, ciphertext comparison, security, and multidimensional data. As shown in Table 2, our scheme achieves all the listed functionalities under the asymmetric cryptosystem.

6. Conclusions

This paper proposed a highly secure privacy-preserving outsourced k-means clustering scheme on the encrypted datasets under multiple keys. We utilized BCP homomorphic encryption and AES encryption to double-encrypt the data records in the database to protect the security against semihonest cloud computing server and key management server. Furthermore, we constructed five protocols, i.e., secure ciphertext transformation (SCT), secure multiplication (SM), secure distance measurement (SDM), secure distance comparison (SDC), and secure minimum distance measurement (SMDM), as the base of our scheme. In particular, SM protocol is built to achieve the homomorphic multiplicative property using BCP encryption. Finally, we proposed our scheme by invoking the defined protocols thoroughly. The given security and performance analysis shows that our scheme is comparable with the existing outsourced k-means clustering scheme on security and functionality.

Data Availability

The data used to support the findings of this study are included within the article.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

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