

commodity. In 2008, the idea of utility compute had been around since the 1960s. The technology to achieve utility compute was clearly available, I had been running my own private version years earlier. Compute itself was suitable for such a change being widespread and well defined. Finally, there was the right sort of attitude with clear concerns and dissatisfaction with the expense of existing systems. The four conditions clearly indicated a change was possible.

Along with the four conditions, there are also weak signals that can help. In [chapter 7](#), I talked about the use of publication types to help elucidate the evolution curve. Those publication types form the basis of a weak signal. By examining the change of wording in publications then you can estimate whether we're likely to be approaching a state change or not. For example a rapid increase in publications focused on use (**point 1** in figure 95 below) and a decline in publications on operation, maintenance and feature differentiation (**point 2**) implies that we're approaching stability and a cross over into the more commodity world.

Figure 95 — weak signals and evolution