

## 2.1 Azure – A Global-Scale Public Cloud

**The inventory.** The global Azure inventory is arranged in a hierarchy of *regions* and availability *zones*, exposed directly to the customer. A region can have up to three zones, each in turn consisting of one or more *datacenters* (see Fig. 1). Each datacenter is divided into *clusters* and *racks*. There is no strict upper bound on the size of a zone or a datacenter. Our larger zones have over a hundred thousand machines, spread over more than a hundred clusters, with each cluster having around a thousand machines. The smaller zones have only around a thousand machines.