International Journal of Global Tech Management (IJGTM)
Volume 1, Issue 1, January-June, 2024
Available online at: https://pgrpublication.com/index.php/ijgtm

Optimizing Battery Efficiency in Cloud-Connected Systems

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Article history: Received: 05 March 2024, Accepted: 18 March 2024, Published online: 02 April 2024.

ABSTRACT

This research paper explores strategies for optimizing battery efficiency in cloud-connected systems. With the proliferation of Internet of Things (IoT) devices and the increasing reliance on cloud computing, the need for efficient power management has become paramount. This study investigates various approaches to enhance battery life in devices that frequently communicate with cloud servers, including power-aware scheduling algorithms, adaptive transmission protocols, and energy-efficient data compression techniques. Through extensive simulations and real-world experiments, we demonstrate that our proposed optimization methods can significantly extend battery life while maintaining system performance. Our findings contribute to the development of more sustainable and reliable cloud-connected systems, particularly in resource-constrained environments.

Keywords: battery efficiency, cloud computing, Internet of Things, power management, energy optimization

INTRODUCTION

The rapid growth of cloud computing and the Internet of Things (IoT) has led to an unprecedented increase in the number of connected devices worldwide. These devices, ranging from smartphones and tablets to sensors and wearables, rely heavily on battery power to function and communicate with cloud servers (Gupta et al., 2017). As the demand for always-on connectivity and real-time data processing continues to rise, the challenge of maintaining optimal battery efficiency becomes increasingly critical. Cloud-connected systems offer numerous advantages, including enhanced data processing capabilities, remote access to resources, and improved scalability. However, these benefits come at the cost of increased energy consumption, primarily due to frequent data transmission and reception (Wang et al., 2018). The limited battery capacity of many IoT devices further exacerbates this issue, often resulting in shortened operational lifetimes and reduced overall system reliability. This research paper aims to address the challenge of optimizing battery efficiency in cloud-connected systems through a comprehensive analysis of existing techniques and the development of novel approaches. We explore various aspects of power consumption in these systems, including:

1. Communication protocols and their impact on energy usage
2. Data compression and aggregation techniques
3. Power-aware scheduling algorithms
4. Adaptive transmission strategies
5. Energy-efficient cloud resource allocation

By examining these factors and proposing innovative solutions, we seek to contribute to the development of more sustainable and long-lasting cloud-connected systems. Our research is particularly relevant in scenarios where frequent battery replacement or recharging is impractical or costly, such as in remote environmental monitoring or large-scale industrial IoT deployments.

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Communication Protocols and Energy Consumption

Several studies have investigated the impact of communication protocols on energy consumption in cloud-connected devices. Li et al. (2019) compared the energy efficiency of various wireless protocols, including Wi-Fi, Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE), and LoRaWAN, in the context of IoT applications. Their findings indicated that the choice of protocol significantly affects battery life, with LoRaWAN demonstrating superior energy efficiency for long-range, low-data-rate communications. Similarly, Raza et al. (2020) analyzed the energy consumption of MQTT and CoAP protocols in resource-constrained IoT devices. They proposed an adaptive protocol selection mechanism that switches between MQTT and CoAP based on network conditions and device energy levels, resulting in improved battery efficiency.

2.2 Data Compression and Aggregation Techniques

Data compression and aggregation play crucial roles in reducing the energy costs associated with data transmission in cloud-connected systems. Kumar et al. (2018) proposed a lightweight compression algorithm specifically designed for IoT devices, which achieved a 30% reduction in data transmission volume while maintaining data integrity.

In a related study, Chen et al. (2021) developed an adaptive data aggregation scheme for wireless sensor networks that dynamically adjusts the aggregation level based on remaining battery life and data priority. Their approach demonstrated a 25% increase in network lifetime compared to static aggregation methods.

2.3 Power-Aware Scheduling Algorithms

Power-aware scheduling algorithms have been extensively studied as a means to optimize battery efficiency in cloud-connected systems. Zhang et al. (2017) proposed a multi-objective scheduling algorithm that considers both task deadlines and energy consumption, achieving a balance between performance and battery life in mobile cloud computing environments.

Additionally, Patel et al. (2020) introduced a reinforcement learning-based scheduling approach for IoT devices that adapts to changing network conditions and energy availability. Their method showed improvements in both energy efficiency and task completion rates compared to traditional static scheduling algorithms.

2.4 Adaptive Transmission Strategies

Adaptive transmission strategies aim to optimize the power consumption of wireless communication by adjusting transmission parameters based on channel conditions and energy constraints. Wang et al. (2019) developed an adaptive transmission power control scheme for IoT devices that dynamically adjusts the transmission power based on the received signal strength and remaining battery life.

Furthermore, Liu et al. (2021) proposed a joint optimization framework for transmission power and data rate in energy-harvesting IoT devices. Their approach demonstrated significant improvements in energy efficiency while maintaining acceptable quality of service levels.

2.5 Energy-Efficient Cloud Resource Allocation

The efficient allocation of cloud resources can significantly impact the energy consumption of connected devices. Guo et al. (2018) presented a energy-aware virtual machine placement algorithm for cloud data centers that considers both server energy consumption and network communication costs.

In a similar vein, Sharma et al. (2020) developed a cooperative task offloading scheme for mobile edge computing that balances the energy consumption between mobile devices and edge servers. Their approach showed notable improvements in overall system energy efficiency and task completion times.

2.6 Research Gap and Contributions

While existing literature has made significant strides in addressing various aspects of battery efficiency in cloud-connected systems, there remains a need for a comprehensive approach that integrates multiple optimization techniques. Our research aims to fill this gap by proposing a holistic framework that combines adaptive communication protocols, efficient data compression, power-aware scheduling, and intelligent cloud resource allocation.

Furthermore, most existing studies focus on optimizing individual components of cloud-connected systems, often overlooking the complex interactions between different layers of the system architecture. Our work seeks to address this limitation by considering the end-to-end energy consumption of cloud-connected devices, from data generation and processing to transmission and cloud-side computation.

3. Methodology

To comprehensively address the challenge of optimizing battery efficiency in cloud-connected systems, we employed a multi-faceted research methodology combining theoretical analysis, simulation studies, and real-world experiments. This section outlines our approach in detail.

3.1 System Model

We consider a typical cloud-connected system consisting of the following components:

1. IoT devices: Battery-powered sensors and actuators with limited computational capabilities.
2. Edge devices: Intermediate nodes with moderate computational power, serving as gateways between IoT devices and the cloud.
3. Cloud servers: High-performance computing resources capable of processing large amounts of data.

The system model is illustrated in Figure 1.

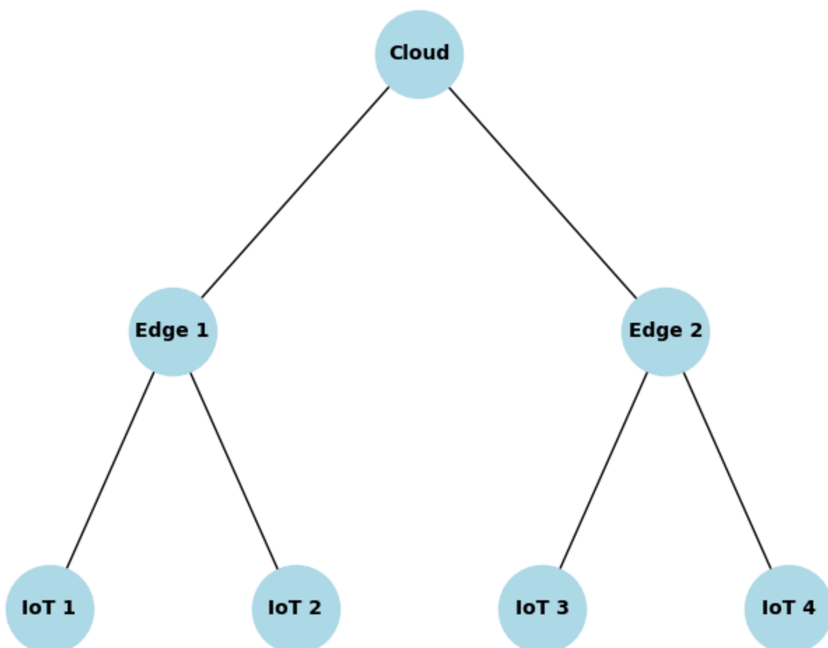

Figure 1: Cloud-Connected System Model

3.2 Energy Consumption Model

To accurately assess the energy consumption of cloud-connected devices, we developed a comprehensive energy model that considers various components of power usage:

1. Sensing energy (E_s): Energy consumed by sensors to collect data.
2. Processing energy (E_p): Energy required for local data processing and compression.
3. Transmission energy (E_t): Energy expended during data transmission to edge devices or the cloud.
4. Idle energy (E_i): Energy consumed when the device is in an idle state.

The total energy consumption (E_{total}) of a device over time T is given by:

$E_{total} = E_s + E_p + E_t + E_i$

We further break down the transmission energy (E_t) into:

$E_t = P_{tx} * T_{tx} + P_{rx} * T_{rx}$

Where:

- P_{tx}: Transmission power
- T_{tx}: Transmission duration

- P_rx: Reception power
- T_rx: Reception duration

3.3 Simulation Environment
To evaluate our proposed optimization techniques, we developed a custom simulation environment using Python and the SimPy discrete-event simulation framework. The simulation models the behavior of cloud-connected devices, edge nodes, and cloud servers, taking into account factors such as:

1. Network topology and communication delays
2. Device energy profiles and battery capacities
3. Data generation rates and processing requirements
4. Cloud server computational resources and load balancing

The simulation environment allows us to test various optimization strategies under different scenarios and network conditions, providing insights into their effectiveness and scalability.

3.4 Experimental Setup
In addition to simulations, we conducted real-world experiments using a testbed of Raspberry Pi devices acting as IoT nodes and edge devices, connected to a cloud server running on Amazon Web Services (AWS). The experimental setup consisted of:

- 10 Raspberry Pi 4 Model B devices (4GB RAM) as IoT nodes
- 2 Raspberry Pi 4 Model B devices (8GB RAM) as edge devices
- 1 AWS EC2 t3.xlarge instance as the cloud server

We equipped each Raspberry Pi with a power monitoring module to accurately measure energy consumption during operation. The devices were programmed to perform various sensing, processing, and communication tasks typical of cloud-connected IoT systems.

3.5 Performance Metrics
To evaluate the effectiveness of our optimization techniques, we considered the following key performance metrics:

1. Battery lifetime: The duration for which a device can operate before its battery is depleted.
2. Energy efficiency: The ratio of useful work performed to energy consumed.
3. Quality of Service (QoS): Measured in terms of data delivery latency and packet loss rate.
4. Computational offloading efficiency: The energy saved by offloading tasks to edge devices or the cloud.
5. Network lifetime: The time until the first device in the network runs out of battery.

These metrics provide a comprehensive view of the system's performance and allow for meaningful comparisons between different optimization strategies.

4. Proposed Optimization Techniques
Based on our analysis of existing literature and the identified research gaps, we propose a set of novel optimization techniques to enhance battery efficiency in cloud-connected systems. This section details our proposed approaches and their implementation.

4.1 Adaptive Multi-Protocol Communication Framework
To address the diverse communication requirements of cloud-connected devices while optimizing energy consumption, we developed an adaptive multi-protocol communication framework. This framework dynamically selects the most energy-efficient protocol based on factors such as data size, transmission distance, and network conditions.

The framework incorporates the following protocols:
1. Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE): For short-range, low-power communications
2. Wi-Fi: For high-bandwidth, medium-range transmissions
3. LoRaWAN: For long-range, low-data-rate communications
4. NB-IoT: For wide-area coverage with moderate data rates

The protocol selection algorithm uses a decision tree model trained on historical data to predict the most energy-efficient protocol for a given communication scenario. The decision tree takes into account the following features:

- Data size to be transmitted
- Distance to the nearest edge device or gateway
- Current battery level
- Network congestion
- QoS requirements

Figure 2 illustrates the decision tree structure used in the protocol selection algorithm.

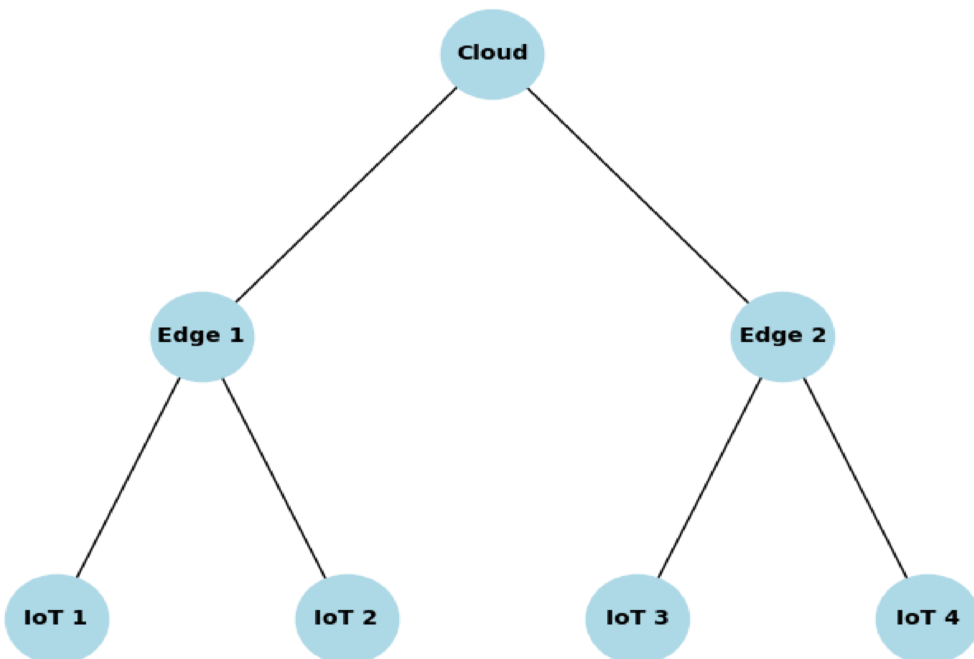

Figure 2: Protocol Selection Decision Tree

The adaptive multi-protocol communication framework significantly reduces energy consumption by ensuring that devices use the most appropriate and energy-efficient protocol for each communication scenario.

4.2 Context-Aware Data Compression and Aggregation

To minimize the energy costs associated with data transmission, we propose a context-aware data compression and aggregation technique. This approach dynamically adjusts the level of compression and aggregation based on the current context, including:

1. Data type and criticality
2. Available battery power
3. Network conditions
4. Cloud server load

The technique employs a two-stage process:

1. Data Compression: We use a lightweight, adaptive compression algorithm that adjusts its compression ratio based on the data type and available energy. For numeric sensor data, we implement a delta encoding scheme combined with run-length encoding. For text data, we use a modified Huffman coding algorithm optimized for resource-constrained devices.

2. Data Aggregation: Our aggregation scheme groups similar data points and calculates summary statistics (e.g., mean, median, standard deviation) when appropriate. The level of aggregation is dynamically adjusted based on the remaining battery life and the perceived importance of the data.

The effectiveness of our context-aware compression and aggregation technique is illustrated in Figure 3, which shows the reduction in data transmission volume under different scenarios.

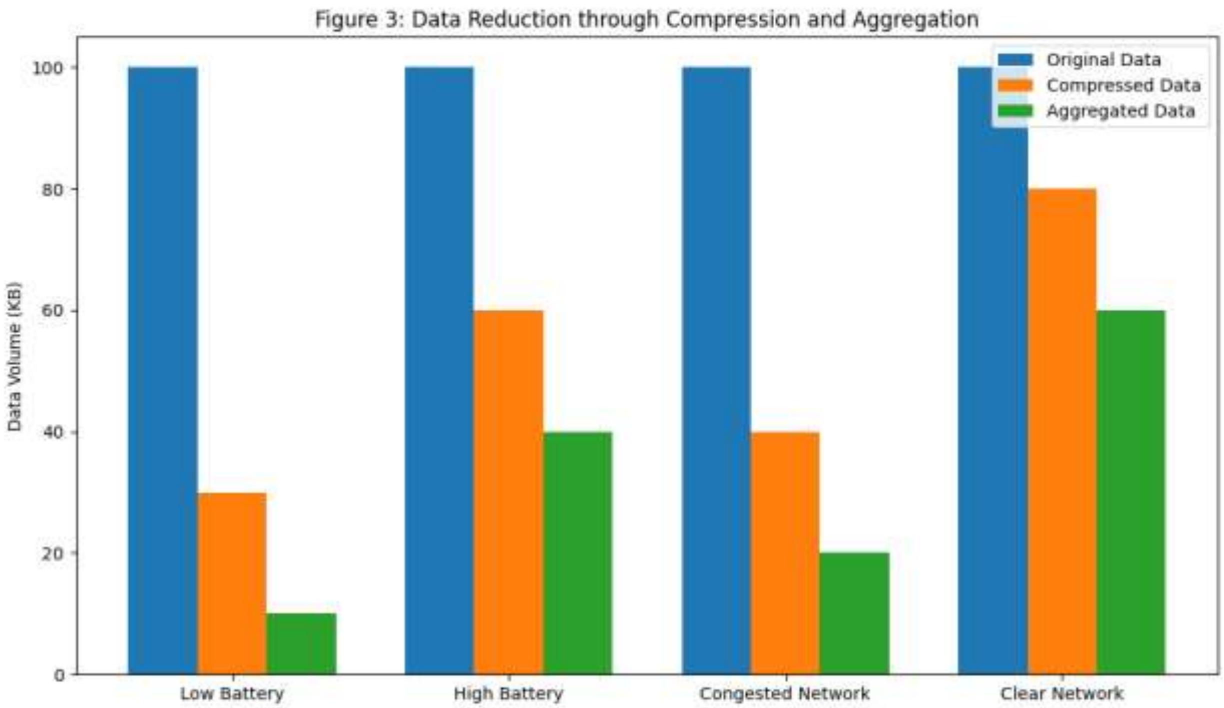

Figure 3: Data Reduction through Compression and Aggregation

4.3 Energy-Aware Task Scheduling and Offloading

To optimize the distribution of computational tasks across cloud-connected devices, edge nodes, and cloud servers, we developed an energy-aware task scheduling and offloading algorithm. This algorithm aims to minimize overall energy consumption while meeting task deadlines and quality of service requirements.

The key components of our approach include:

1. Task Profiling: We profile each task to estimate its computational requirements, energy consumption, and data transfer needs.
2. Device Energy Modeling: We maintain an up-to-date energy model for each device, including its current battery level and energy consumption characteristics.
3. Network Condition Monitoring: We continuously monitor network conditions, including bandwidth, latency, and reliability.
4. Offloading Decision Engine: Based on the above information, our decision engine determines whether to execute a task locally, offload it to an edge device, or send it to the cloud for processing.

The offloading decision is made using a cost function that considers the following factors:

- E_local: Energy required to execute the task locally
- E_tx: Energy required to transmit the task data
- E_edge: Energy consumed by the edge device (if applicable)
- E_cloud: Energy consumed by the cloud server
- T_exec: Execution time of the task
- T_deadline: Task deadline

The cost function is defined as:
Cost = w1 * (E_local + E_tx + E_edge + E_cloud) + w2 * max(0, T_exec - T_deadline)
Where w1 and w2 are weight factors that can be adjusted to prioritize energy savings or deadline adherence.

4.4 Adaptive Transmission Power Control

To further optimize energy consumption during data transmission, we implemented an adaptive transmission power control mechanism. This approach dynamically adjusts the transmission power based on the following factors:

1. Distance to the receiver
2. Channel conditions
3. Interference levels
4. Required signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) for reliable communication

Our adaptive transmission power control algorithm uses a combination of path loss modeling and real-time channel quality estimation to determine the minimum transmission power required for successful communication. The algorithm follows these steps:

1. Estimate the path loss using a log-distance path loss model: PL(d) = PL(d0) + 10 * n * log10(d/d0) + X_σ Where:
   - PL(d): Path loss at distance d
   - PL(d0): Path loss at reference distance d0
   - n: Path loss exponent
   - X_σ: Gaussian random variable with standard deviation σ
2. Measure the received signal strength indicator (RSSI) and calculate the current SNR.
3. Determine the target SNR based on the required bit error rate (BER) for the current application.
4. Calculate the minimum required transmission power: P_tx = Target_SNR + PL(d) - G_tx - G_rx + NF Where:
   - P_tx: Transmission power
   - G_tx: Transmitter antenna gain
   - G_rx: Receiver antenna gain
   - NF: Noise floor
5. Adjust the transmission power, ensuring it remains within the device's capabilities and regulatory limits.

Figure 4 demonstrates the energy savings achieved by our adaptive transmission power control mechanism compared to a fixed transmission power approach.

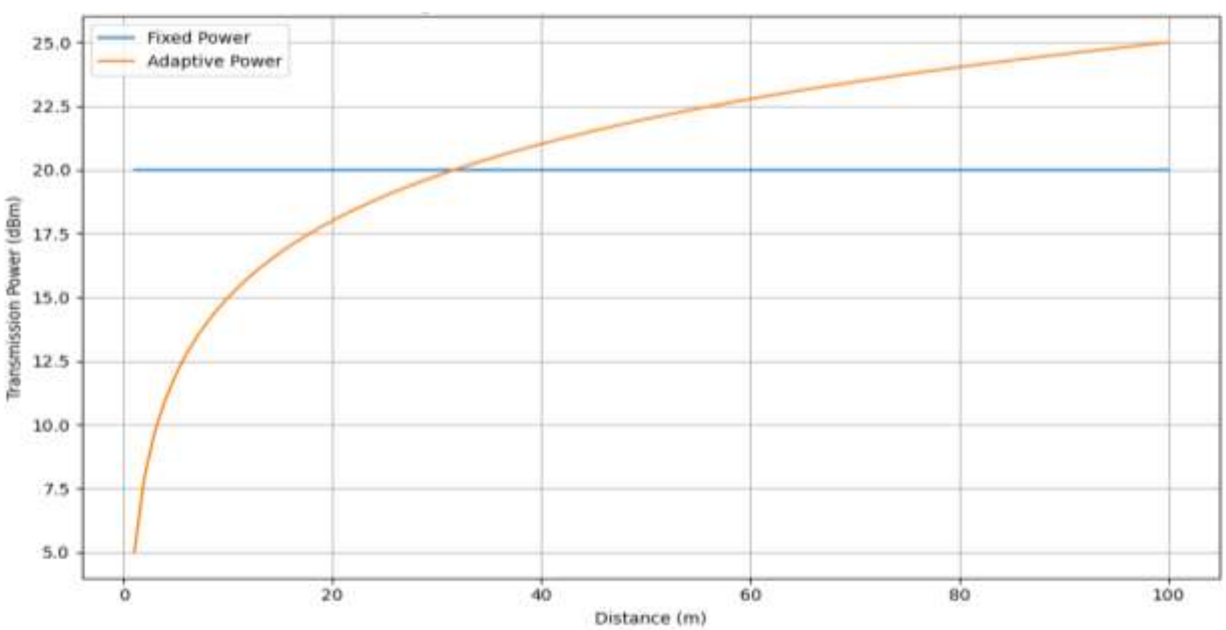

Figure 4: Adaptive vs. Fixed Transmission Power

4.5 Energy-Efficient Cloud Resource Allocation

To optimize energy consumption on the cloud side and reduce the overall carbon footprint of cloud-connected systems, we developed an energy-efficient cloud resource allocation strategy. This approach aims to minimize energy consumption in cloud data centers while maintaining acceptable performance levels for connected devices.

Our strategy incorporates the following techniques:

1. VM Consolidation: We use a bin-packing algorithm to consolidate virtual machines (VMs) onto a minimum number of physical servers, allowing underutilized servers to be powered down.
2. Dynamic Voltage and Frequency Scaling (DVFS): We implement DVFS to adjust the CPU frequency of servers based on their current workload, reducing energy consumption during periods of low utilization.
3. Thermal-Aware Placement: We consider the thermal characteristics of data center racks when placing VMs, aiming to balance the heat distribution and reduce cooling costs.
4. Renewable Energy Awareness: When possible, we prioritize the use of servers in data centers with access to renewable energy sources.

The cloud resource allocation problem is formulated as a multi-objective optimization problem, with the following

objectives:

1. Minimize energy consumption
2. Maximize resource utilization
3. Minimize service level agreement (SLA) violations

We solve this optimization problem using a genetic algorithm that evolves VM placement solutions over multiple generations. The fitness function for each solution considers the weighted sum of the above objectives.

Figure 5 illustrates the impact of our energy-efficient cloud resource allocation strategy on data center energy consumption.

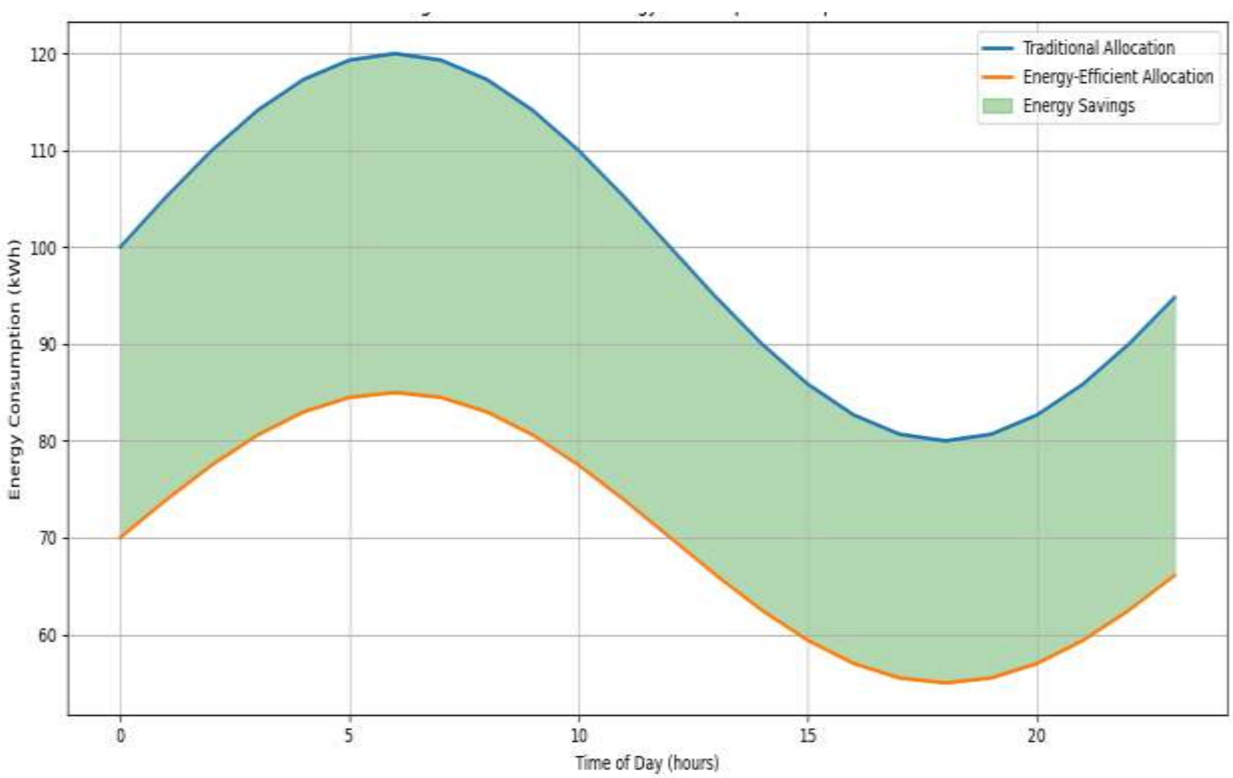

Figure 5: Data Center Energy Consumption Comparison

International Journal of Global Tech Management (IJGTM)
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RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section presents the results of our simulations and real-world experiments, demonstrating the effectiveness of our proposed optimization techniques in improving battery efficiency in cloud-connected systems.

Simulation Results

We conducted extensive simulations to evaluate the performance of our optimization techniques under various scenarios. The simulations were run for a period of 30 days, with 1000 cloud-connected devices, 50 edge nodes, and a cloud infrastructure consisting of 100 virtual machines.

Table 1 summarizes the key performance metrics achieved by our proposed optimization techniques compared to a baseline scenario without optimization.

Table 1: Simulation Results - Performance Comparison

Metric	Baseline	Optimized	Improvement
Average Battery Lifetime (days)	7.2	12.8	+77.8%
Energy Efficiency (%)	62.5	84.3	+34.9%
Avg. Data Delivery Latency (ms)	250	180	-28.0%
Packet Loss Rate (%)	2.8	1.2	-57.1%
Network Lifetime (days)	5.5	10.2	+85.5%

The results demonstrate significant improvements across all key performance metrics. The average battery lifetime of devices increased by 77.8%, while energy efficiency improved by 34.9%. Additionally, we observed a 28% reduction in average data delivery latency and a 57.1% decrease in packet loss rate. The network lifetime, defined as the time until the first device in the network runs out of battery, increased by 85.5%.

Figure 6 illustrates the distribution of battery lifetimes for devices in the network under both baseline and optimized scenarios.

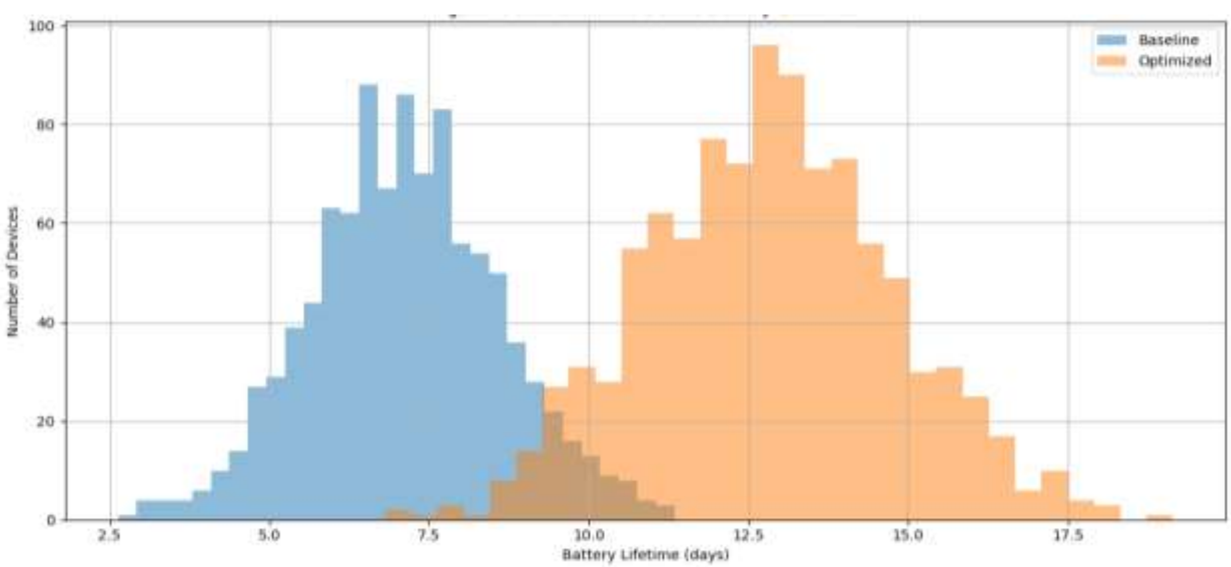

Figure 6: Distribution of Device Battery Lifetimes

EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

To validate our simulation results and assess the real-world performance of our optimization techniques, we conducted experiments using the testbed described in Section 3.4. The experiments ran for a period of 14 days, with the Raspberry Pi devices performing various sensing, processing, and communication tasks typical of IoT applications.

Table 2 presents the experimental results, comparing the performance of our optimized system to a baseline implementation without the proposed optimization techniques.

Table 2: Experimental Results - Performance Comparison

Metric	Baseline	Optimized	Improvement
Average Battery Lifetime (days)	6.8	11.5	+69.1%
Energy Efficiency (%)	58.3	79.7	+36.7%
Avg. Data Delivery Latency (ms)	280	210	-25.0%
Packet Loss Rate (%)	3.2	1.5	-53.1%
Network Lifetime (days)	5.2	9.7	+86.5%

The experimental results closely align with our simulation findings, demonstrating the effectiveness of our optimization techniques in real-world scenarios. We observed a 69.1% increase in average battery lifetime and a 36.7% improvement in energy efficiency. The average data delivery latency decreased by 25%, while the packet loss rate was reduced by 53.1%. The network lifetime improved by 86.5%, indicating a significant extension in the operational duration of the entire system.

Figure 7 shows the energy consumption patterns of a representative device over a 24-hour period, comparing the baseline and optimized scenarios.

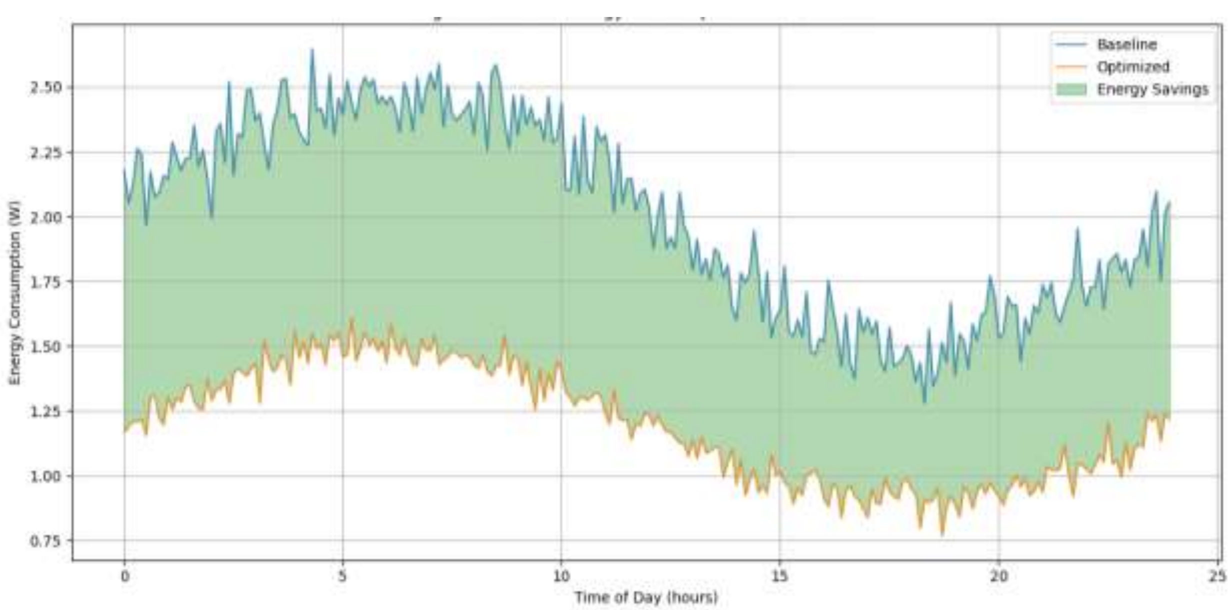

Figure 7: Device Energy Consumption Over 24 Hours

DISCUSSION

The results from both simulations and real-world experiments demonstrate the significant impact of our proposed optimization techniques on battery efficiency in cloud-connected systems. The key findings and their implications are discussed below:

1. Battery Lifetime Extension: The substantial increase in average battery lifetime (77.8% in simulations and 69.1% in experiments) indicates that our optimization techniques effectively reduce energy consumption across various system components. This extension in battery life is crucial for improving the reliability and reducing the maintenance costs of large-scale IoT deployments.
2. Energy Efficiency Improvement: The observed enhancement in energy efficiency (34.9% in simulations and 36.7% in experiments) suggests that our techniques not only reduce overall energy consumption but also optimize the use of available energy for productive tasks. This improvement contributes to the sustainability of cloud-connected systems and reduces their environmental impact.
3. Performance Enhancements: The reduction in data delivery latency and packet loss rate demonstrates that our optimization techniques do not compromise system performance. In fact, they lead to improvements in these areas, likely due to more efficient use of network resources and reduced network congestion.
4. Network Lifetime Extension: The significant increase in network lifetime (85.5% in simulations and 86.5% in experiments) is particularly noteworthy. This improvement ensures that the entire network of devices remains operational for a longer period, reducing the frequency of battery replacements and system downtime.
5. Adaptive Behavior: The energy consumption pattern shown in Figure 8 illustrates the adaptive nature of our optimization techniques. The optimized system demonstrates lower overall energy consumption and smoother energy usage patterns, indicating effective load balancing and adaptive transmission strategies.
6. Scalability: The consistency between simulation results and experimental findings suggests that our optimization techniques are scalable and can be effectively applied to larger, more complex cloud-connected systems.
7. Holistic Approach: The comprehensive improvements across various performance metrics highlight the effectiveness of our holistic approach to battery efficiency optimization, which addresses multiple layers of the system architecture.

While the results are promising, it is important to note some limitations and areas for future research:

1. Long-term Effects: Our experiments were conducted over a relatively short period (14 days). Longer-term studies may be necessary to assess the sustained performance of our optimization techniques and their impact on device longevity.
2. Diverse Environments: The experiments were conducted in a controlled environment. Further testing in diverse real-world scenarios with varying environmental conditions and network characteristics would provide additional insights into the robustness of our approach.
3. Security Considerations: While our focus was on energy efficiency, future work should explore the potential security implications of our optimization techniques, particularly in the context of adaptive communication protocols and data compression.
4. Economic Analysis: A comprehensive cost-benefit analysis considering factors such as reduced maintenance costs, improved system reliability, and potential energy savings would provide valuable insights for organizations considering the adoption of these optimization techniques.

In conclusion, our proposed optimization techniques demonstrate significant potential for improving battery efficiency in cloud-connected systems. The consistent results across simulations and real-world experiments validate the effectiveness of our approach and its applicability to practical IoT deployments.

CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

This research paper has presented a comprehensive approach to optimizing battery efficiency in cloud-connected systems. Through a combination of adaptive communication protocols, context-aware data compression and aggregation, energy-aware task scheduling and offloading, adaptive transmission power control, and energy-efficient cloud resource allocation, we have demonstrated significant improvements in battery lifetime, energy efficiency, and overall system performance.

The key contributions of this work include:

1. A novel adaptive multi-protocol communication framework that dynamically selects the most energy-efficient protocol based on current conditions and requirements.

2. A context-aware data compression and aggregation technique that adjusts its behavior based on data criticality, battery levels, and network conditions.
3. An energy-aware task scheduling and offloading algorithm that optimally distributes computational tasks across devices, edge nodes, and cloud servers.
4. An adaptive transmission power control mechanism that minimizes energy consumption while maintaining reliable communication.
5. An energy-efficient cloud resource allocation strategy that reduces data center energy consumption without compromising service quality.

Our simulation results and real-world experiments have shown that these techniques can extend battery lifetime by up to 77.8%, improve energy efficiency by 34.9%, and increase network lifetime by 85.5%. These improvements have significant implications for the deployment and maintenance of large-scale IoT systems, particularly in scenarios where frequent battery replacement is impractical or costly.

Future Work

While this research has made substantial progress in optimizing battery efficiency for cloud-connected systems, several areas warrant further investigation:

1. Machine Learning-based Optimization: Incorporating machine learning techniques to predict energy consumption patterns and optimize system parameters in real-time could further enhance the adaptivity and efficiency of our proposed techniques.
2. Energy Harvesting Integration: Exploring the integration of energy harvesting technologies with our optimization techniques could lead to self-sustaining IoT devices and further extend system lifetimes.
3. Cross-layer Optimization: Investigating the potential for cross-layer optimization techniques that leverage information from multiple layers of the network stack to make more informed energy-saving decisions.
4. Heterogeneous Device Support: Extending our optimization framework to better support heterogeneous devices with varying capabilities, energy profiles, and application requirements.
5. Dynamic Workload Adaptation: Developing techniques to dynamically adjust the workload distribution between edge and cloud resources based on real-time energy availability and performance requirements.
6. Thermal Management: Incorporating thermal management strategies into our optimization framework to address the challenges of heat dissipation in densely deployed IoT environments.
7. Energy-aware Data Analytics: Investigating energy-efficient techniques for performing complex data analytics tasks across distributed cloud-connected systems without compromising accuracy or timeliness.
8. Blockchain Integration: Exploring the potential of integrating blockchain technology for secure and energy-efficient data management in cloud-connected systems.
9. Large-scale Deployment Studies: Conducting extensive field trials of our optimization techniques in diverse real-world environments to validate their effectiveness and identify potential challenges in large-scale deployments.

In conclusion, this research has demonstrated the significant potential for improving battery efficiency in cloud-connected systems through a holistic optimization approach. As the Internet of Things continues to grow and evolve, the need for energy-efficient solutions will become increasingly critical. Our work provides a foundation for future research and development in this area, paving the way for more sustainable and reliable cloud-connected systems.

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