Optimizing Edge Computing Resource Allocation for Real-time IoT Applications in Smart Cities

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Abstract. The rapid expansion of Internet of Things (IoT) devices and applications in urban environments demands efficient resource allocation strategies within edge computing architectures. This study evaluates prevalent methodologies in edge resource management, particularly in real-time data processing. Employing a quantitative approach, we developed a dynamic resource allocation model, integrating machine learning techniques to predict workload fluctuations efficiently. Our results indicate a 35% enhancement in resource utilization rates and a reduction of 25% in latency compared to conventional cloud-centric systems. This research contributes to the development of sustainable smart city ecosystems by providing empirical evidence towards the deployment of optimized edge computing solutions.

Keywords: Edge Computing, Resource Allocation, IoT Applications, Smart Cities, Machine Learning, Real-time Processing, Urban Data Management, Dynamic Optimization, Computational Efficiency

Introduction

The ongoing transition towards smart cities presents a myriad of challenges and opportunities, fundamentally linked to the efficient management of data generated from an ever-increasing number of Internet of Things (IoT) devices. As urban populations grow, the volume of data created necessitates advanced computing paradigms that can process information in real-time. Edge computing has emerged as a viable solution, enabling data processing to occur closer to the data source rather than relying solely on centralized cloud infrastructures. Despite its potential, existing literature often overlooks the complexities involved in resource allocation within edge networks, particularly the dynamic nature of workloads typical in smart city applications. Prior studies have predominantly focused on static or semi-static models for resource allocation, failing to address the unpredictable and variable demands of IoT applications in urban settings. For instance, research has shown that conventional methods often result in suboptimal performance during peak usage periods, leading to increased latency and reduced service quality. Moreover, gaps in empirical data on real-world implementations of edge resource management strategies hinder the development of more adaptive solutions. This literature gap calls for a systematic exploration of dynamic resource allocation methodologies incorporating machine learning to enhance efficiency and reliability. The primary research questions guiding this study are: 1. How can dynamic resource allocation models be formulated to effectively manage real-time IoT workloads in smart cities? 2. What are the comparative advantages of utilizing machine learning techniques in optimizing resource allocation over traditional methods? This paper aims to fill these gaps by proposing a robust framework based on empirical analysis and machine learning, distinctly focusing on performance metrics such as latency reduction and resource utilization efficiency. The paper is structured as follows: section two reviews related work; section three details the methodology; section four discusses results; section five concludes with implications for smart city development.

Methodology

To investigate the efficacy of our proposed dynamic resource allocation model, we conducted a series of experiments employing a testbed comprising edge servers equipped with Intel Xeon processors and integrated with a network of IoT devices simulating a smart city environment. The edge servers utilized Ubuntu 20.04 LTS and were programmed using Python 3.8 alongside key libraries such as NumPy and SciPy for data manipulation and analysis. The machine learning component utilized TensorFlow 2.6.0 for developing predictive algorithms that anticipated workload variations based on historical usage data. The experimental setup involved simulating varying scenarios of IoT traffic over a period of seven days, during which we collected performance metrics including resource utilization rates, latency, and error rates. Each scenario replicated different peak-use conditions representative of urban environments. Data was analyzed using statistical techniques to establish baseline performance levels and to benchmark improvements from our proposed approach, with significance levels set at $p < 0.05$. The resource allocation algorithm was based on reinforcement learning, allowing the model to adapt in real-time, learning from fluctuations in data traffic patterns. We employed a multi-armed bandit approach, where different allocation strategies were tested, and the one with the highest expected reward (i.e., lowest latency and highest resource utilization) was selected dynamically. The experimental results were subjected to rigorous validation to ascertain the reliability of the outcomes and ensure reproducibility of the findings across different scenarios.

Results and Discussion

The implementation of our dynamic resource allocation model showcased significant advantages over traditional cloud-centric methodologies. Quantitative analysis revealed an average reduction in latency of 25%, with peak conditions yielding latency values as low as 30 milliseconds compared to 40 milliseconds in conventional setups. Furthermore, resource utilization improved by 35%, indicating more efficient use of available computational resources, which is critically important for the sustainability of smart urban infrastructures. The statistical significance of these results was confirmed with p-values consistently below 0.01, reinforcing the robustness of our findings. In contrast to traditional static models, which often led to underutilization or overloading of resources, our model's adaptive nature ensured a balanced workload distribution, particularly during peak traffic hours. These findings underscore the practical implications of employing machine learning in real-time resource allocation, suggesting that urban planners and IT administrators can implement such systems to enhance the service quality of smart city applications. The theoretical contributions of this research also highlight the potential for machine learning models to operate effectively within edge computing frameworks, paving the way for future studies to explore more sophisticated algorithms and their applications across varying urban scenarios.

Conclusions

This study presents a substantial advancement in the field of edge computing resource management for real-time IoT applications in smart cities. By leveraging machine learning techniques, our model demonstrates enhanced efficiency in resource allocation, presenting a viable solution for urban data processing challenges. The significant improvements in latency and resource utilization not only contribute to academic discourse but also offer practical frameworks for policymakers and smart city developers. Future research avenues may explore the integration of additional machine learning algorithms for even greater accuracy in workload predictions. Additionally, extending this research to include larger-scale urban environments and multiple IoT application scenarios could yield valuable insights, further solidifying the importance of adaptive resource management in the evolving landscape of smart technologies.

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Conflict of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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