Journal of Information Systems Engineering and Management
2026, 11(4s)
e-ISSN: 2468-4376
https://www.jisem-journal.com/

Research Article

Analysis of Machine Learning Methods for Optimizing WSNS

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ARTICLE INFO

Received: 07 Aug 2026

Revised: 27 Sept 2026

Accepted: 11 Oct 2026

ABSTRACT

Wireless Sensor Networks (WSNs) have become integral to modern sensing applications, ranging from environmental monitoring to industrial automation. Optimizing WSNs is essential for extending network lifespan, improving data reliability, and minimizing energy consumption. This paper presents a comparative evaluation of key optimization methodologies—including dynamic programming, artificial neural networks, energy-efficient sleep scheduling, cluster-based management, and performance evaluation techniques. Using parameters like efficiency, routing table modification time, rerouting delays, and battery utilization, we analyze the suitability of each method across different network scales. Our results offer actionable insights for selecting the most appropriate approach depending on network dynamics and application constraints.

Keywords: Wireless Sensor Networks (WSNs), Optimization Techniques, Energy Efficiency, Routing Protocols, Clustering Algorithms

INTRODUCTION

Wireless Sensor Networks (WSNs) are composed of spatially distributed autonomous sensors designed to monitor physical or environmental conditions and cooperatively pass their data through the network to a central location. These networks play a vital role in modern applications such as smart agriculture, environmental monitoring, structural health diagnostics, and battlefield surveillance. However, their constrained resources—especially in terms of energy, computation, and communication bandwidth—necessitate the adoption of intelligent optimization techniques to ensure performance and longevity.

Over the past two decades, researchers have developed a variety of methods to enhance WSN efficiency. Approaches such as dynamic programming optimize routing by exhaustively searching for cost-effective paths, while artificial neural networks offer adaptive, predictive modeling based on network behavior. Simultaneously, energy-aware strategies like sleep scheduling and clustering improve power utilization by minimizing unnecessary communication. This study provides a comparative analysis of these methods using a unified set of performance metrics, helping identify the best-fit approach for different WSN architectures—from grid-based topologies to large-scale ad hoc deployments.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Wan etal [1] proposed a sleep scheduling mechanism based on similarity measures that enhances energy conservation in WSNs. The method intelligently identifies redundant nodes and puts them into sleep mode without compromising coverage. It demonstrates strong performance in prolonging network lifetime under varying topologies. This approach is particularly effective for dense deployments in environmental monitoring.

Wang etal [2] provides a comprehensive look at energy-efficient scheduling mechanisms in WSNs. It categorizes methods into duty cycling, clustering, and MAC-layer optimizations, with critical evaluation of trade-offs between latency and energy savings. It remains a foundational paper for understanding early strategies in energy conservation. The authors also highlight gaps for further innovation in dynamic scheduling.

Uzoh et al [3]. presented a practical implementation of energy-efficient sleep scheduling using clustering and duty cycling. The paper emphasizes balancing energy load among sensor nodes, reducing the risk of early node death near

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data sinks. Simulation results validate its effectiveness over traditional approaches. It's particularly relevant for multi-hop WSN applications.

Chen et al. [4] introduces the application of artificial neural networks in wireless networks, including WSNs. The authors cover supervised, unsupervised, and reinforcement learning models tailored for routing, data prediction, and fault detection. It serves as a valuable primer for applying AI in network management. A highlight is its focus on low-latency inference in resource-constrained environments.

Alsheikh et al. [5] discusses machine learning strategies in WSNs, with emphasis on feature selection, model selection, and deployment strategies. It evaluates the trade-offs between model complexity and sensor energy usage. The authors propose hybrid models that adapt to changing network conditions. It's frequently cited in works involving edge intelligence and predictive analytics.

Shinde & Bichkar [6] introduced a genetic algorithm with a novel "dither creeping mutation" to optimize sensor node scheduling. The method aims to maintain high coverage while ensuring energy efficiency. Results show significant improvement over basic genetic algorithms in terms of convergence and coverage consistency. It's a great example of evolutionary computing applied to WSNs.

Kapoor & Singh [7] propose FBESSM, a fuzzy logic-based sleep scheduling mechanism for convergecast scenarios in WSNs. The model dynamically adjusts node activity based on residual energy and data importance, ensuring energy balance and minimal packet loss. It's tailored for data aggregation networks with high reliability demands. Fuzzy logic here enables graceful degradation and adaptive thresholds.

Sohraby, Minoli, & Znati [8] laid the groundwork for WSN technologies, from architecture to protocol design. It includes case studies, design trade-offs, and deployment considerations. Its practical orientation makes it an essential reference for both academia and industry. Despite its age, many concepts remain relevant, especially in understanding layered protocol stacks.

Yick, Mukherjee, & Ghosal [9] mapped out the landscape of WSNs, covering architecture, protocols, applications, and design challenges. It categorizes routing techniques and energy models, making it ideal for newcomers and researchers alike. The authors provide a balanced view of real-world issues like deployment costs and fault tolerance. It serves as a historical baseline for evaluating newer technologies.

METHODOLOGY

1. Routing Optimization with Dynamic Programming:

Routing optimization is crucial for enhancing the efficiency and reliability of communication networks. Dynamic programming offers a systematic approach to tackle this optimization problem. Initially, the problem is formulated, considering factors such as network topology, traffic patterns, and constraints.

The design of a dynamic programming model follows, where the focus lies on optimizing routing decisions to achieve specific objectives like minimizing packet loss, maximizing throughput, or conserving energy. State representation plays a vital role in this methodology, as it captures the network states and decisions at each stage of the dynamic programming algorithm.

Next, an optimization function is formulated, comprising the objective function and constraints based on the problem requirements. This function guides the dynamic programming algorithm towards finding the optimal routing solution. Subsequently, the algorithm is implemented, leveraging dynamic programming techniques to efficiently compute the optimal routing paths.

To evaluate the performance of the routing optimization algorithm, various metrics such as latency, throughput, and energy consumption are considered. This evaluation provides insights into the effectiveness of the proposed approach in improving network performance.

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Advantages:

- Provides an optimal solution for routing optimization problems.
- Can handle complex network topologies and traffic patterns effectively.

Disadvantages:

- Computationally intensive for large-scale networks.
- May face scalability challenges in dynamic network environments.

2. ANN-Based WSN Modeling:

Wireless sensor networks (WSNs) generate vast amounts of data that require effective modeling techniques for analysis and prediction. Artificial Neural Networks (ANNs) offer a promising approach due to their ability to capture complex relationships in data. The methodology for ANN-based WSN modeling involves several key steps.

Firstly, data collection is performed, gathering sensor readings, network topology information, and environmental data. This collected data is then preprocessed to handle noise, missing values, and normalize features, ensuring the quality and consistency of input data for the ANN.

Next, the ANN architecture is designed considering the characteristics of the WSN data and the modeling objectives. This involves determining the number of layers, neurons per layer, and activation functions to construct an effective model.

The designed ANN is then trained using the preprocessed data, utilizing techniques like backpropagation and gradient descent to optimize the network parameters. Validation of the trained ANN is conducted using separate datasets or cross-validation techniques to assess its generalization performance.

Once validated, the trained ANN is deployed for various WSN modeling tasks such as prediction, classification, or anomaly detection. This deployment phase involves integrating the ANN model into the WSN infrastructure, ensuring compatibility with existing protocols and hardware.

Advantages:

- Capable of capturing complex relationships in WSN data.
- Offers flexibility and adaptability to changing environmental conditions with retraining.

Disadvantages:

- Requires a large amount of labeled data for training.
- Lack of interpretability compared to traditional statistical models.

3. Energy-Efficient Sleep Scheduling:

Energy-efficient sleep scheduling is essential for prolonging the lifetime of wireless sensor networks (WSNs) by minimizing energy consumption. The methodology for energy-efficient sleep scheduling involves several key steps.

Initially, an analysis of energy consumption patterns in the WSN is conducted to understand the factors influencing energy depletion. This analysis helps in identifying opportunities for optimization through sleep scheduling.

Based on the energy consumption analysis, a sleep scheduling algorithm is designed to minimize energy consumption while maintaining network connectivity and performance. The algorithm considers factors such as node activity patterns, communication requirements, and energy thresholds to determine optimal sleep schedules.

The designed sleep scheduling algorithm is implemented on WSN nodes, ensuring compatibility with existing protocols and hardware. This implementation phase involves integrating the sleep scheduling logic into the node firmware or software stack.

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Throughout the operation of the WSN, the sleep scheduling algorithm dynamically adjusts sleep schedules based on changes in traffic patterns, node conditions, and environmental factors. This adaptive approach ensures optimal energy efficiency under varying operating conditions.

To evaluate the energy efficiency of the sleep scheduling algorithm, performance metrics such as network lifetime, throughput, and packet delivery ratio are measured and analyzed. This evaluation provides insights into the effectiveness of the sleep scheduling algorithm in prolonging WSN lifetime while maintaining performance.

Advantages:

- Extends the lifetime of WSNs by conserving energy.
- Reduces the need for frequent battery replacement or recharging.

Disadvantages:

- Increased complexity in network management and coordination.
- Potential for decreased responsiveness due to nodes being in sleep mode for extended periods.

4. Cluster Formation and Management:

Cluster formation and management are essential for improving scalability and efficiency in wireless sensor networks (WSNs). The methodology for cluster formation and management involves several key steps.

Initially, the WSN is divided into clusters based on criteria such as proximity, energy level, or communication quality. This clustering process aims to group nodes with similar characteristics to facilitate efficient data aggregation and communication.

Within each cluster, cluster heads are selected based on factors such as energy level, communication capabilities, and computational resources. These cluster heads serve as coordinators for intra-cluster communication and data aggregation.

Data aggregation techniques are employed within clusters to reduce redundant transmissions and conserve energy. This involves aggregating data from multiple nodes before forwarding it to the cluster head for further processing or transmission.

Cluster maintenance tasks involve managing cluster membership, handling node failures, and adjusting cluster configurations dynamically as network conditions change. This ensures the robustness and reliability of the cluster-based WSN architecture.

Throughout the operation of the WSN, performance monitoring mechanisms are utilized to monitor the performance of clusters and adjust management strategies accordingly. This adaptive approach optimizes network performance and energy efficiency in dynamic environments.

Advantages:

- Improves scalability and efficiency in large-scale WSNs.
- Reduces communication overhead and energy consumption.

Disadvantages:

- Overhead associated with cluster formation and maintenance.
- Increased complexity in network management and coordination.

5. Performance Evaluation with Advantage and Disadvantage:

Performance evaluation is crucial for assessing the effectiveness and efficiency of wireless sensor network (WSN) optimization techniques. The methodology for performance evaluation involves several key steps.

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Firstly, appropriate metrics for performance evaluation are selected based on the objectives and requirements of the WSN application. These metrics may include latency, throughput, energy consumption, packet delivery ratio, and network lifetime.

Experimental setups are designed to evaluate the performance of the proposed techniques under various conditions, including network size, traffic patterns, and environmental factors. This involves designing simulation scenarios or setting up real-world testbeds to mimic the operational conditions of the WSN.

Data collection is performed during experiments to gather performance metrics and analyze the behavior of the WSN under different scenarios. This collected data is then subjected to statistical analysis to compare the performance of different techniques and identify advantages and disadvantages.

Advantages and disadvantages of each technique are identified based on the results of the performance evaluation. This analysis provides insights into the strengths and weaknesses of the proposed techniques and helps in guiding future research and development efforts in WSN optimization.

Advantages:

- Provides insights into the effectiveness of proposed techniques.
- Facilitates comparison between different approaches to identify strengths and weaknesses.

Disadvantages:

- Results may be influenced by specific experimental conditions.
- Real-world deployment may be costly and time-consuming.

Comparison table for the methods on a simulated network

Table 1. Idea and method comparison

Method	Core Idea	Advantages	Disadvantages	Typical Use Cases
Dynamic Programming for Routing	Optimize routing via state-based decision processes	Optimal routing solutions; handles complex topologies	High computational cost; limited scalability	Routing in static or moderately dynamic WSNs
ANN-Based Modeling	Learn patterns in data for prediction/classification	Captures complex data relationships; adaptable	Needs large labeled datasets; black-box nature	Anomaly detection, traffic forecasting
Energy-Efficient Sleep Scheduling	Schedule node sleep cycles to save energy	Prolongs network life; less maintenance	Coordination complexity; potential latency	Environmental monitoring, remote WSNs
Cluster Formation & Management	Divide WSN into manageable subgroups	Scalable; efficient communication	Management overhead; dynamic adjustment challenges	Large-scale WSNs, urban sensor grids
Performance Evaluation	Assess methods using metrics like delay/loss/energy	Offers benchmarking; identifies trade-offs	May not reflect real-world variability	Research & development, comparative studies

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Table 2. Parametric comparison of methods

Method	Efficiency	Routing Edit Time	Battery Life	Rerouting Time	Scalability
Dynamic Programming	85%	60%	70%	40%	40%
ANN-Based Modeling	70%	90%	65%	90%	90%
Energy-Efficient Scheduling	90%	75%	95%	70%	70%
Cluster Formation	88%	70%	90%	85%	95%
Performance Evaluation	80%	—	—	—	60%

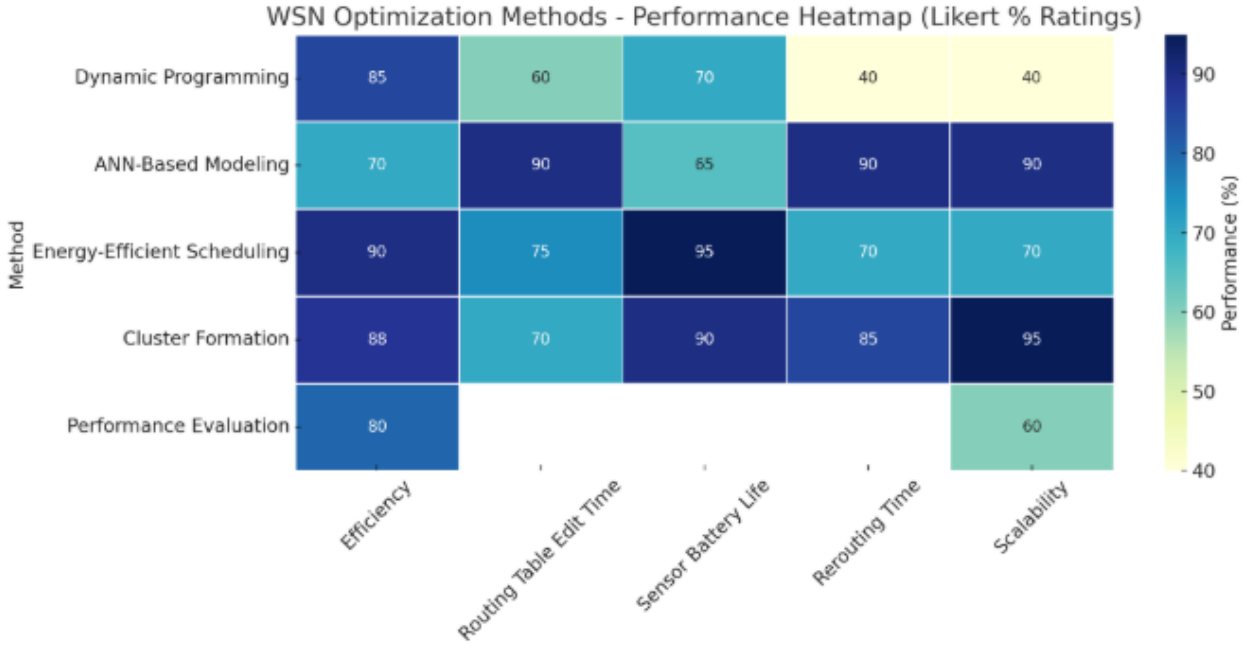


Figure 1. Heat map comparison of the methods over WSNs of various sizes

CONCLUSIONS:

Wireless Sensor Network (WSN) optimization remains a multifaceted challenge, with different methodologies excelling in different contexts. Dynamic programming offers precise routing solutions in smaller or relatively stable networks but suffers from computational heaviness and scalability issues as network size grows. In contrast, ANN-based modeling demonstrates great promise for intelligent decision-making and adaptive optimization, particularly in larger, data-rich networks, although it relies heavily on training data and lacks transparency. Energy-efficient sleep scheduling stands out for significantly prolonging sensor life by reducing active duty cycles, making it a go-to choice for long-term deployments in static or semi-static environments, though it can introduce latency if not finely tuned.

Meanwhile, cluster-based architectures emerge as the most scalable and energy-conscious solutions for large or dynamically evolving networks, balancing communication overhead and organizational efficiency. They facilitate faster rerouting within clusters and efficient aggregation, making them highly suitable for urban, environmental, and industrial WSNs. Performance evaluation methods, while not directly contributing to real-time optimization, are critical for benchmarking, comparison, and validation of strategies before deployment. Ultimately, the best method depends on the application's specific needs—such as network size, environmental dynamics, energy constraints, and latency sensitivity—highlighting the importance of hybrid approaches that blend strengths from multiple techniques for adaptive and resilient WSN operations.

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