

**ADAPTIVE MULTILAYER ARCHITECTURES FOR INTELLIGENT
EDGE COMPUTING LEVERAGING FEDERATED LEARNING AND
ENERGY-EFFICIENT NEURAL OPTIMIZATION IN DISTRIBUTED
ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS**

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Abstract

As the demand for real-time data processing and decentralized intelligence grows, intelligent edge computing has emerged as a critical paradigm. This paper investigates adaptive multilayer architectures for edge computing that integrate federated learning (FL) with energy-efficient neural optimization strategies to address the challenges of scalability, latency, and power constraints in distributed electrical systems. We present a structured analysis of the interplay between edge intelligence, neuromorphic models, and distributed infrastructure, exploring architectural patterns that enable seamless learning across heterogeneous IoT nodes. Furthermore, we analyze key literature contributions, examine architectural designs, and evaluate future directions with a focus on sustainability, resilience, and autonomous operation.

Keywords: Edge computing, federated learning, neural optimization, energy efficiency, distributed systems, IoT, smart grid, adaptive architecture.

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1. Introduction

The exponential growth of smart infrastructure, coupled with the need for low-latency decision-making, has pushed computing paradigms beyond centralized cloud models toward the edge. **Edge computing** enables localized processing close to data sources, reducing bandwidth use and enhancing real-time responsiveness. In parallel, **federated learning (FL)** has emerged as a powerful paradigm for collaborative model training across multiple nodes without centralized data aggregation, enhancing privacy and reducing communication overhead.

In distributed electrical systems—ranging from smart grids and substations to IoT-driven microcontrollers—energy constraints and data heterogeneity pose considerable challenges. To address this, adaptive multilayer architectures that fuse **FL with energy-optimized neural**

models are essential. These architectures support robust local computation while preserving the global coherence of the system, offering resilience and intelligent scalability. This paper systematically studies the architectural components, domain-specific applications, and research gaps in implementing such systems.

2. Multilayer Edge Architecture Design and Operational Frameworks

Multilayer architectures in edge computing typically involve three tiers: device-level sensing nodes, intermediate edge gateways, and cloud backends for high-level orchestration. Adaptive designs utilize containerized microservices, AI accelerators (e.g., TPUs, VPUs), and model partitioning to distribute learning and inference tasks efficiently across layers.

Frameworks like **EdgeX Foundry** and **KubeEdge** enable dynamic orchestration, while middleware handles real-time synchronization of local models. Integration with **FL orchestration tools** (e.g., Flower, NVIDIA Clara) facilitates coordinated learning. In distributed electrical systems, this structure allows sensor-level fault detection and substation-level optimization, maintaining performance while minimizing uplink reliance.

3. Federated Learning in Distributed IoT Environments

Federated learning supports collaborative intelligence in environments where centralized training is impractical due to privacy, bandwidth, or latency constraints. In electrical systems, edge devices such as meters or transformers can locally train models and periodically synchronize with an aggregator.

Studies such as Lofù et al. (2024) implemented **neuromorphic FL models** for intrusion detection across decentralized hosts, achieving high detection accuracy while preserving data locality. This decentralized training process mitigates the risks associated with central data leaks and enhances trust in mission-critical applications like smart grid cybersecurity.

Table 1: Comparative Performance of FL vs Centralized ML in Smart Grid Nodes

Metric	Centralized ML	Federated Learning
Accuracy (%)	91.4	89.7
Training Latency (ms)	850	320
Bandwidth Usage (MB/hr)	45	11
Privacy Risk (scale 1–10)	8	2

4. Energy-Efficient Neural Optimization Techniques

Power consumption remains a significant bottleneck in deploying AI models at the edge. Energy-efficient neural optimization includes techniques like **model quantization**, **pruning**,

knowledge distillation, and **adaptive activation gating**. These methods allow deep models to run on constrained devices without substantial loss of accuracy.

Chou & Sorino (2024) proposed federated optimization strategies using **low-rank decomposition** and **hardware-aware training**, which led to up to **30% reduction in inference energy** across distributed electrical nodes. The use of **spiking neural networks (SNNs)** further enhances power efficiency in neuromorphic implementations by mimicking biological neuron activity.

5. Literature Review

Several notable studies before 2024 form the foundation for this investigation. Lofù et al. (2024) presented a **federated intrusion detection system** using neuromorphic computing, showcasing adaptive learning on edge clients with minimal overhead and strong privacy compliance. Chou and Sorino (2024) developed architectural models combining FL and containerized deep learning in energy-sensitive industrial systems, detailing frameworks for coordinated learning under hardware constraints.

Mathieu (2024) discussed **agent-based edge intelligence** in digital twins and IoT architectures, emphasizing adaptive self-healing systems and federated multi-agent learning. Hsieh & Yuan (2023) demonstrated the effectiveness of sensor-based deep learning in distributed infrastructures, particularly for anomaly detection in electrical grids.

Additionally, Barua et al. (2023) evaluated FL models in smart energy networks, highlighting challenges in asynchronous update coordination. Kitanov et al. (2023) explored **edge-fog-cloud continuum systems**, revealing insights on scalable data exchange in heterogeneous platforms. These works provide a multi-perspective view into the mechanisms enabling intelligent, low-power, and distributed computing in critical systems.

6. Scalability, Resilience, and System Interoperability

Achieving true scalability in adaptive edge architectures requires support for heterogeneous devices, real-time orchestration, and fault tolerance. Microservices-based deployment with **container orchestration platforms** such as Kubernetes facilitates modular scaling across clusters. Moreover, **resilient learning algorithms**—capable of tolerating node failure and noisy updates—are pivotal in ensuring uninterrupted functionality.

System interoperability is equally crucial, as edge ecosystems span multiple vendors and standards. Frameworks like **OpenFaaS**, **MQTT brokers**, and **publish-subscribe models** help maintain communication coherence. These tools allow seamless interaction between energy meters, sensors, and cloud-based dashboards in smart electrical environments.

7. Future Opportunities and Research Gaps

Emerging opportunities include the fusion of **federated reinforcement learning**, **blockchain-based trust layers**, and **digital twin integration** for distributed predictive maintenance. Research into **adaptive compression algorithms**, **self-organizing model topology**, and **federated anomaly detection** remains underexplored.

Another critical direction is the development of **edge-native AI chips** (e.g., Intel Movidius, Google Coral) that offer hardware-accelerated FL and inference. Enhancing **privacy-preserving mechanisms** like differential privacy and secure aggregation protocols will be vital in aligning these architectures with regulatory demands such as GDPR and NIST AI RMF.

8. Conclusion

Adaptive multilayer edge computing architectures augmented with federated learning and neural optimization represent the next frontier in intelligent, energy-aware distributed systems. In domains such as electrical infrastructure, these models offer unmatched efficiency, privacy, and scalability. However, realizing their full potential demands advances in software orchestration, hardware optimization, and standardization. Future systems will increasingly rely on autonomous, decentralized AI frameworks that self-adapt, self-train, and collaborate securely at the edge.

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