

**ENHANCED LEACH WITH MULTI-LAYER CLUSTERING, FEDERATED & GRAPH NEURAL LEARNING AND MULTI-AGENT REINFORCEMENT FOR ENERGY-EFFICIENT WSNS**

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**Abstract:**

This document presents an enhanced LEACH protocol that fuses multi-layer clustering with distributed learning and network intelligence. The design introduces (i) energy-efficient primary–secondary–tertiary clustering for hierarchical aggregation and transmission, (ii) federated learning for privacy-preserving optimization of cluster-head (CH) selection, (iii) a graph neural network (GNN) that models the wireless sensor network (WSN) topology to predict cluster configurations, (iv) multi-agent reinforcement learning (MARL) for collaborative CH decision-making, (v) energy harvesting-aware scheduling to prioritize renewable-powered nodes, and (vi) adaptive fault tolerance guided by GNN-based failure prediction. Integrated algorithms, objective functions, and a simulation-ready specification are provided, alongside a template results table to compare against LEACH and DQL-based baselines.

**Keywords:** LEACH, Wireless Sensor Networks, Federated Learning, Graph Neural Networks, Multi-Agent Reinforcement Learning, Energy Harvesting, Fault Tolerance.

**1. Introduction**

Energy efficiency and robustness remain central challenges in the design and deployment of wireless sensor networks (WSNs). These networks consist of large numbers of low-cost, battery-powered sensor nodes that monitor and transmit environmental, industrial, or structural data to a central sink. Since nodes typically operate in resource-constrained environments and are often deployed in remote or hostile locations, replacing or recharging their batteries is impractical [1]. Consequently, extending network lifetime while ensuring reliable data transmission has emerged as a primary research objective. Traditional clustering protocols, such as the Low-Energy Adaptive Clustering Hierarchy (LEACH), attempt to address this by introducing randomized clustering and periodic rotation of cluster heads (CHs). This strategy balances energy consumption among nodes and avoids the early depletion of high-demand nodes [2]. Despite its pioneering contribution, LEACH still faces critical limitations. Its decision-making process is myopic, as it selects CHs primarily based on residual energy without considering spatial distribution, node density, or network traffic dynamics [3].

Moreover, LEACH lacks adaptability to heterogeneous node capabilities, ignores renewable energy harvesting potential, and does not incorporate advanced predictive or learning-based mechanisms for optimization [4].

Recent advancements in machine learning and artificial intelligence have provided promising avenues to address these shortcomings. By integrating intelligent models, WSN protocols can move beyond static heuristics and adapt dynamically to varying network conditions. For instance, hierarchical clustering schemes can be refined into multi-layer structures, where nodes are grouped into primary, secondary, and tertiary clusters [5]. Such a layered hierarchy reduces redundant transmissions and optimizes data aggregation, significantly lowering energy expenditure. In parallel, federated learning (FL) offers a distributed optimization paradigm that enables nodes to collaboratively train models without sharing raw data. This ensures privacy preservation while allowing global insights into energy trends, node failures, and traffic distributions to guide CH selection and clustering strategies [6].

Furthermore, representing the WSN as a graph opens the door to leveraging Graph Neural Networks (GNNs). GNNs are particularly effective for topology-aware inference, as they capture spatial dependencies and edge-level relationships between nodes. By encoding node features such as residual energy, distance to sink, neighborhood density, and traffic load, GNNs can predict optimal cluster configurations that minimize intra-cluster distances and balance energy consumption across the network. Reinforcement learning (RL), and specifically multi-agent reinforcement learning (MARL), complements this by enabling individual nodes to act as autonomous agents. Through repeated interaction and collaborative learning, nodes can refine CH selection strategies and routing decisions that maximize overall network performance. Unlike centralized approaches, MARL distributes intelligence across the network, thereby improving resilience and fault tolerance.

Another dimension of energy-aware WSN design involves incorporating renewable energy harvesting capabilities. By prioritizing nodes with solar or kinetic energy sources for energy-intensive roles such as CHs, the network ensures sustainable operation while reducing reliance on battery reserves. Adaptive scheduling mechanisms can dynamically balance workload assignments, ensuring fairness while exploiting harvested energy whenever available. Additionally, fault tolerance becomes increasingly crucial in large-scale deployments where node failures are inevitable. By embedding predictive fault detection models, such as GNN-based predictors, the protocol can reconfigure clusters in real time, reroute data through healthy nodes, and prevent communication breakdowns. In summary, while LEACH established the foundation for energy-efficient clustering in WSNs, its limitations call for significant enhancements in the era of intelligent networking. The proposed framework introduces a synergistic integration of multi-layer clustering, federated optimization, GNN-based topology modeling, MARL-driven decision-making, renewable-aware scheduling, and adaptive fault tolerance. Together, these advancements address the dual objectives of extending network lifetime and ensuring robust, reliable communication. By embedding intelligence at both local and global levels, the enhanced LEACH protocol positions itself as a forward-looking solution

for next-generation WSN deployments in diverse application domains such as environmental monitoring, smart agriculture, disaster management, and industrial automation.

**System Model and Notation**

Consider  $N$  sensors uniformly deployed in a  $[0, W] \times [0, H]$  field with a static sink. Each node  $i$  has residual energy  $E_i$ , neighbor set  $\mathcal{N}(i)$ , degree  $d_i = |\mathcal{N}(i)|$ , distance to sink  $s_i$ , and traffic load  $\tau_i$ . Transmission energy follows the first-order radio model.

*Notation*

Symbol	Description
$E_i$	Residual energy of node $i$
$s_i$	Distance from node $i$ to sink
$d_i$	Node degree (neighbors)
$\tau_i$	Traffic load at node $i$
$\mathbf{X}$	Node feature matrix; rows are $[E_i, s_i, d_i, \tau_i]$
$\mathbf{A}$	Adjacency matrix (weighted by link quality)
$\theta$	GNN parameters
$\mathbf{w}$	FL global model parameters
$\pi_\phi$	MARL policy with parameters $\phi$

**2. Related Work**

Many researchers consider clustering as a fundamental energy-saving method, which has made the lightweight LEACH protocol quite popular. The additions of methods including artificial intelligence based approaches have improved LEACH protocol in many perspectives. The base LEACH protocol introduced by Heinzelman et al. [7] is a clustering-based strategy for forwarding the data from sensor nodes to the base station. The location of the base station is considered either central or placed at one side of the network, which impacts the network efficiency. The configuration of topology is thus designed by network designers for better performance. The probability of a node  $i$  becoming a cluster head (CH) in LEACH is:

$$P_i(t) = \begin{cases} \frac{p}{1 - p \cdot (r \bmod 1/p)}, & \text{if } i \in G, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

where  $p$  is the desired percentage of CHs,  $r$  is the round number, and  $G$  is the set of nodes not elected as CHs in the last  $1/p$  rounds.

Gupta et al. [8] applied fuzzy logic for balancing energy with node prioritization. The fuzzy inference used metrics such as residual energy  $E_i$ , centrality  $C_i$ , and distance  $d_i$ . The CH suitability score  $S_i$  is determined via fuzzy membership functions:

$$S_i = \mu_E(E_i) \otimes \mu_C(C_i) \otimes \mu_D(d_i),$$

where  $\mu$  are membership functions and  $\otimes$  denotes fuzzy aggregation. This enabled load balancing, though the complexity of fuzzy inference increases computational cost.

K. Amirthalingam et al. [9] enhanced LEACH by modifying the CH probability with residual energy and distance:

$$P_i = \frac{E_i}{E_{avg}} \cdot \frac{1}{d_i},$$

where  $E_i$  is node energy,  $E_{avg}$  is the average network energy, and  $d_i$  is the distance to the base station. This adjustment improved energy-efficient CH selection.

Zhao et al. [10] introduced a vice-CH to reduce reclustering overhead. If CH energy drops below threshold  $E_{min}$ , vice-CH immediately takes over:

$$CH_{t+1} = \begin{cases} \text{Vice-CH,} & E_{CH} < E_{min}, \\ \text{CH,} & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

This ensured fault tolerance but added coordination overhead. Daanoune et al. [11] focused on remaining energy and cluster size. The CH selection metric combined normalized residual energy and cluster load factor:

$$S_i = \alpha \frac{E_i}{E_{max}} + \beta \frac{1}{|C_i|},$$

where  $|C_i|$  is cluster size, and  $\alpha, \beta$  are balancing weights.

Nabavi et al. [12] used genetic algorithm (GA) and gravitational search algorithm (GSA). The GA fitness function minimized:

$$F = w_1 E_{tx} + w_2 d_{avg} + w_3 B,$$

where  $E_{tx}$  is transmission energy,  $d_{avg}$  is average distance, and  $B$  is load imbalance. The GSA refinement updated candidate positions with gravitational forces:

$$F_i(t) = G(t) \sum_{j \neq i} \frac{M_i M_j}{R_{ij} + \epsilon} (x_j - x_i).$$

Bhola et al. [13] optimized CH selection using GA, achieving 17.39% energy savings. The GA operators—selection, crossover, and mutation—evolved cluster assignments, with fitness based on network lifetime  $T_{life}$ :

$$F_{GA} = \max(T_{life}).$$

Khan et al. [14] identified weaknesses in LEACH and redefined CH selection with adaptive energy thresholds:

$$T_i = \frac{pE_i}{E_{avg} + \gamma d_i},$$

where  $\gamma$  balances distance cost.

Dogra et al. [15] applied Tunicate Swarm Intelligence (TSI) with position update:

$$x_i(t+1) = x_{\text{best}}(t) + A \cdot (x_j(t) - x_k(t)),$$

where  $A$  is adaptive coefficient. CHs were selected by minimizing multi-objective energy and distance costs.

Verma [16] proposed EI-CSC using Sooty Tern Optimization. Candidate solutions updated as:

$$x_i^{t+1} = x_i^t \cdot e^{-\lambda t} \cos(2\pi f t) + x_{\text{best}}^t,$$

yielding improved lifetime in smart city WSNs.

Gaidhani et al. [17] used K-Means to form zones. Each cluster centroid  $\mu_k$  was updated as:

$$\mu_k = \frac{1}{|C_k|} \sum_{x_i \in C_k} x_i.$$

Ramesh et al. [18] improved k-means by incorporating energy. Panchal et al. [19] added distance-to-base-station  $d_{BS}$  as a factor in CH selection.

In ML-based LEACH [20], models learn a policy  $\pi(a|s)$  mapping states  $s$  (residual energy, distance, density) to CH election actions  $a$ :

$$\pi_{\theta}(a|s) = \frac{e^{\theta^T f(s,a)}}{\sum_{a'} e^{\theta^T f(s,a')}}.$$

AGRIC [24] improved routing with energy-aware AI policies.

Overall, the reviewed works show a tradeoff between energy efficiency and QoS (throughput, PDR, and end-to-end delay). Neural models offer adaptability with manageable computation, but path optimization for large-scale WSNs remains underexplored.

### 3. Proposed Work

#### A. Energy-Efficient Multi-Layer Clustering

Conventional single-layer clustering protocols often fail to fully exploit spatial heterogeneity and tend to overload cluster heads (CHs) with excessive aggregation and forwarding duties. To address this, the proposed protocol introduces a **multi-layer hierarchical clustering** mechanism. In this design, the WSN is divided into three logical layers of clusters: primary, secondary, and tertiary.

- **Primary Cluster Heads (PCHs):** These nodes are selected close to ordinary sensors and are responsible for aggregating raw sensed data within a small neighborhood. By doing so, intra-cluster transmission distances are minimized, thereby reducing the transmission energy cost for most nodes.
- **Secondary Cluster Heads (SCHs):** A smaller number of SCHs receive the aggregated data from PCHs. They further compress and filter the data to reduce redundancy and forward only the most significant information.

- **Tertiary Cluster Heads (TCHs):** These high-level CHs act as intermediaries between SCHs and the sink. TCHs are strategically placed to minimize long-range transmissions and balance the communication load across the network.

The rotation of CH roles takes place in every epoch to distribute energy consumption among all nodes, preventing the early depletion of a subset of nodes. Inter-CH links follow an adaptive strategy: if a short relay path is available, multi-hop forwarding is preferred; otherwise, direct transmission to the sink is adopted.

The energy model for transmitting  $L$ -bit data over distance  $d$  is expressed as:

$$E_{tx}(L, d) = \begin{cases} LE_{elec} + L\epsilon_{fs}d^2, & d < d_0, \\ LE_{elec} + L\epsilon_{mp}d^4, & d \geq d_0, \end{cases}$$

where  $E_{elec}$  is the per-bit electronic energy,  $\epsilon_{fs}$  and  $\epsilon_{mp}$  denote amplifier coefficients, and  $d_0$  is the threshold distance.

The reception energy model is:

$$E_{rx}(L) = LE_{elec}.$$

The expected energy consumed per round by a primary CH is:

$$\bar{E}_{PCH} \approx \frac{N}{K_p} \left( E_{rx}(L) + E_{tx}(L, \bar{d}_{intra}) \right),$$

where  $K_p$  is the number of primary clusters and  $\bar{d}_{intra}$  is the mean intra-cluster distance. Similarly, the energy for a secondary CH is expressed as:

$$\bar{E}_{SCH} \approx \frac{K_p}{K_s} \left( E_{rx}(L) + E_{tx}(L, \bar{d}_{ps}) \right),$$

where  $K_s$  is the number of secondary clusters and  $\bar{d}_{ps}$  the mean distance between primary and secondary CHs.

The hierarchical structure thus spreads the burden of energy consumption across layers, significantly enhancing network lifetime.

## **B. Federated Learning for Distributed Optimization**

Cluster head selection is reformulated as a distributed learning problem. Each node trains a local predictive model  $f(\mathbf{x}_i; \mathbf{w}_k)$  with features  $\mathbf{x}_i = [\Delta E_i, s_i, d_i, \tau_i]$  where:

- $\Delta E_i$ : energy decrement rate of node  $i$ ,
- $s_i$ : distance of node  $i$  to sink,
- $d_i$ : node degree (number of neighbors),
- $\tau_i$ : local traffic load.

The local loss function at client  $k$  is given by:

$$\mathcal{L}_k = \frac{1}{n_k} \sum_{i=1}^{n_k} \ell(f(\mathbf{x}_i; \mathbf{w}_k), y_i) + \mu \|\mathbf{w}_k - \mathbf{w}\|_2^2,$$

where  $\ell(\cdot)$  is a prediction loss (e.g., cross-entropy),  $\mu$  is a regularization constant, and  $\mathbf{w}$  is the global model.

Global aggregation uses the *Federated Averaging (FedAvg)* update:

$$\mathbf{w}^{(t+1)} \leftarrow \sum_{k=1}^K \frac{n_k}{\sum_{j=1}^K n_j} \mathbf{w}_k^{(t)}.$$

The distributed nature of FL ensures that raw data remains at each node, thereby preserving privacy while collaboratively improving the accuracy of CH selection models.

### C. Energy Harvesting-Aware Scheduling

To account for the heterogeneity of energy sources, a harvesting-aware scheduling mechanism is introduced. Each node is assigned a *harvestability factor*  $h_i \in [0,1]$ , representing its capability to generate renewable energy (e.g., solar, kinetic). The CH suitability score  $S_i$  is updated as:

$$S_i = \psi_i \cdot (1 + \eta h_i),$$

where  $\psi_i$  is the baseline suitability score derived from residual energy and distance metrics, and  $\eta$  is a tuning constant.

The effective CH election probability of node  $i$  thus becomes:

$$P_i = \frac{S_i}{\sum_{j=1}^N S_j}.$$

This biases the selection process towards energy-harvesting nodes, enhancing sustainability.

### D. Graph Neural Networks for Network Optimization

The WSN is abstracted as a graph  $G = (V, E)$ , with node features  $\mathbf{X}$  and adjacency matrix  $\mathbf{A}$ . The graph convolutional update rule is:

$$\mathbf{H}^{(\ell+1)} = \sigma\left(\widehat{\mathbf{D}}^{-\frac{1}{2}} \widehat{\mathbf{A}} \widehat{\mathbf{D}}^{-\frac{1}{2}} \mathbf{H}^{(\ell)} \boldsymbol{\theta}^{(\ell)}\right),$$

where  $\widehat{\mathbf{A}} = \mathbf{A} + \mathbf{I}$  includes self-loops,  $\widehat{\mathbf{D}}$  is the diagonal degree matrix, and  $\boldsymbol{\theta}^{(\ell)}$  is a trainable parameter matrix. The GNN outputs CH logits  $\mathbf{z}$  and predicted cluster assignments. The loss function combines multiple objectives:

$$\mathcal{L}_{GNN} = \lambda_E \bar{E}_{tx} + \lambda_D \bar{d}_{intra} + \lambda_B B,$$

where  $\bar{E}_{tx}$  is expected transmission energy,  $\bar{d}_{intra}$  is intra-cluster average distance, and  $B$  quantifies load imbalance. Minimizing  $\mathcal{L}_{GNN}$  yields compact and energy-efficient cluster formations. Figure 1 shows the GNN Configuration.

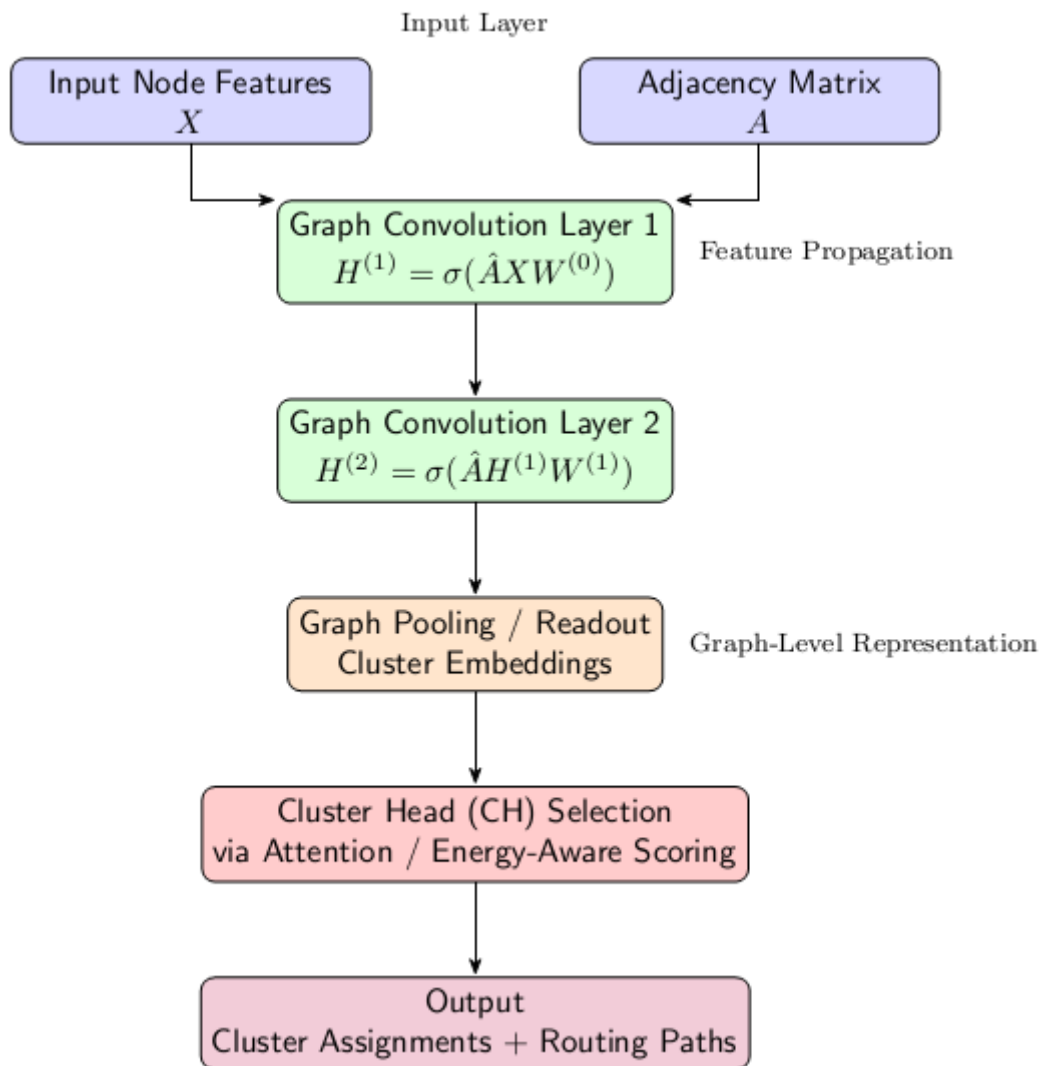


Figure 1: GNN Architecture

### E. Multi-Agent Reinforcement Learning (MARL)

In MARL, each node is modeled as an autonomous agent. Its state vector is defined as:

$$s_i = [E_i, s_i, d_i, \tau_i, h_i, \text{neighbor stats}],$$

while the action space is  $a_i \in \{\text{CH}, \text{member}\}$ .

The joint reward function encouraging global efficiency is:

$$r_t = \alpha(-E_{\text{net}}) + \beta \text{PDR} - \gamma \text{delay} + \delta \text{survival},$$

where  $E_{\text{net}}$  is network energy consumed in round  $t$ , PDR is the packet delivery ratio, delay is the average latency, and survival denotes the proportion of nodes alive.

A centralized critic  $Q(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a})$  evaluates joint state-action pairs, while decentralized actors  $\pi_\phi(a_i|s_i)$  learn local policies. Value decomposition techniques such as VDN and QMIX ensure stable training.

### F. Adaptive Fault Tolerance

To ensure resilience, a GNN-based fault predictor is trained to identify nodes at risk of failure. The risk score for node  $i$  is computed as:

$$\rho_i = f_\theta(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathcal{N}(i)),$$

where  $\rho_i$  is the predicted failure probability and  $\mathcal{N}(i)$  is the neighborhood set.

If  $\rho_i > \tau$  (a threshold) or if node  $i$  fails unexpectedly, the following actions are triggered:

1. Promotion of backup nodes as CHs.
2. Rerouting of communication paths through healthy nodes.
3. Dynamic reformation of clusters using GNN predictions.

This adaptive process ensures uninterrupted operation even under frequent node failures. The entire integrated framework is illustrated in Figure 2.

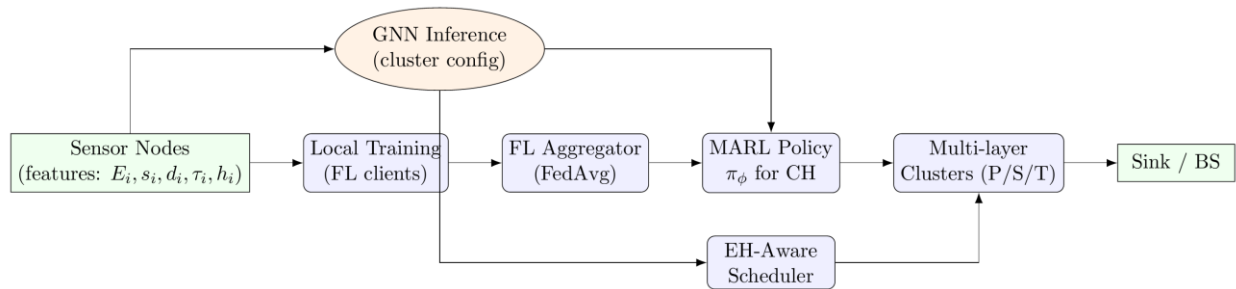


Figure 2: Integrated FL–GNN–MARL pipeline with energy harvesting-aware scheduling and hierarchical clustering.

#### Algorithm 1: Federated learning with topology-aware GNN co-training

**Input:** Initial global model  $\mathbf{w}^{(0)}$ , GNN params  $\theta^{(0)}$ , clients  $\mathcal{K}$

1. **For rounds**  $t = 0, 1, \dots, T - 1$ :
  - a. **In parallel for each client**  $k \in \mathcal{K}$ :
    - i. Observe local data  $(\mathbf{X}_k, \mathbf{A}_k)$ .
    - ii. Update local weights by SGD:  $\mathbf{w}_k^{(t)} \leftarrow \mathbf{w}_k^{(t)} - \eta \nabla_{\mathbf{w}} \mathcal{L}_k$ .
    - iii. Run GNN with current  $\theta^{(t)}$  to compute cluster proposals; evaluate  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{GNN}}$ .
    - iv. Fine-tune  $\theta^{(t)}$  locally for a few steps to reduce  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{GNN}}$ , producing  $\Delta \theta_k^{(t)}$ .
    - v. Send  $(\mathbf{w}_k^{(t)}, \Delta \theta_k^{(t)})$  to the server.
  - b. **Server aggregation:**
    - i. FedAvg:  $\mathbf{w}^{(t+1)} \leftarrow \sum_k \frac{n_k}{\sum_j n_j} \mathbf{w}_k^{(t)}$ .
    - ii. GNN update:  $\theta^{(t+1)} \leftarrow \theta^{(t)} + \eta \sum_k \Delta \theta_k^{(t)}$ .

**Algorithm 2: Hybrid GNN+MARL inference with energy harvesting-aware scheduling**

**Input:** Global  $\mathbf{w}, \theta, \pi_\phi$ ; features  $\mathbf{X}$ , adjacency  $\mathbf{A}$  **Output:** Layered clusters and CH set

2. Compute logits  $\mathbf{z} = \text{GNN}(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{A}; \theta)$ ; obtain priors  $p_i$ .
3. Each agent  $i$  forms state  $s_i = [E_i, s_i, d_i, \tau_i, h_i, p_i]$ .
4. Sample or select action  $a_i = \pi_\phi(s_i) \in \{\text{CH}, \text{member}\}$ .
5. Apply EH-aware score adjustment:  $p_i \leftarrow p_i(1 + \eta h_i)$ .
6. Form primary clusters around top- $K$  CHs; recursively build secondary/tertiary clusters.
7. Route data along hierarchy; update energy states; collect reward  $r_t$ .
8. If training, update  $\phi$  using centralized critic or value decomposition.

**Algorithm 3: Adaptive Fault Tolerance with GNN-based failure prediction**

**Input:** Node features  $\mathbf{X}$ , adjacency  $\mathbf{A}$ , risk threshold  $\tau$  **Output:** Updated cluster structure and routing paths

9. Predict failure risk for each node  $i$ :  $\rho_i = f_\theta(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathcal{N}(i))$ .
10. If  $\rho_i > \tau$  or node  $i$  fails:
  - a. Promote a backup node to act as CH.
  - b. Reassign members of the failed node to alternative CHs.
  - c. Reroute communication paths via healthy neighbors.
11. Recompute local clusters; update routing hierarchy using GNN outputs.
12. Propagate updates to global model in the next FL round.

The algorithm 1 integrates federated learning (FL) with graph neural network (GNN) co-training to optimize cluster head (CH) selection in distributed sensor networks. Each client observes its local topology data  $(X_k, A_k)$  and updates its model weights through stochastic gradient descent (SGD). Simultaneously, the GNN computes cluster proposals and fine-tunes its parameters to minimize the clustering loss  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{GNN}}$ . Clients send both updated weights and GNN parameter adjustments to the server. The server aggregates local models using FedAvg and refines the global GNN parameters by incorporating clients' updates. This joint optimization ensures that local data heterogeneity and network topology information are embedded in the global model. By continuously co-training the FL and GNN models, the system improves the stability and efficiency of clustering, achieving energy-balanced communication and adaptive decision-making across rounds while preserving data privacy at each client.

The algorithm 2 combines GNN-based clustering with multi-agent reinforcement learning (MARL) to adaptively schedule cluster heads (CHs) in energy harvesting networks. The GNN processes node features and adjacency data to generate logits and prior probabilities for CH candidacy. Each node forms a state vector that includes residual energy, sensing data, distance, transmission delay, harvesting rate, and GNN priors. Based on this state, the MARL policy  $\pi_\phi$  selects actions (“CH” or “member”). The probabilities are further adjusted by energy harvesting factors to prioritize nodes with high recharge potential. Primary clusters form around top-ranked CHs, followed by recursive creation of secondary and tertiary clusters. Data is routed hierarchically to conserve energy and balance workload. The MARL agents receive rewards based on energy efficiency and throughput, updating their policies via centralized or decomposed critics. This hybrid scheme ensures energy-aware, topology-sensitive clustering with dynamic adaptation to harvesting conditions.

The algorithm 3 introduces fault tolerance into GNN-driven clustering by predicting node failures and reconfiguring the topology adaptively. A GNN predicts each node’s failure risk score  $\rho_i$  based on node features and neighborhood structure. If a node exceeds the risk threshold or fails, a backup node is promoted to replace it as cluster head (CH). The failed node’s members are reassigned to alternative CHs, and routing paths are recalculated through neighboring healthy nodes. Local clusters are recomputed and the routing hierarchy is updated using GNN outputs, maintaining connectivity and communication efficiency. These updates are integrated into the global federated learning cycle to refine models in subsequent rounds. By proactively predicting failures and dynamically adapting the cluster structure, the algorithm ensures reliable communication, reduces packet loss, and extends the overall network lifetime, even under uncertain operating conditions in wireless sensor networks.

**G. First-Order Radio Energy Model**

The energy consumption of wireless communication in WSNs is often modeled using the **first-order radio model**, which captures both the electronic energy required to run the transmitter/receiver circuitry and the amplifier energy needed to achieve an acceptable signal-to-noise ratio (SNR).

For the transmission of an  $L$ -bit message over a distance  $d$ , the energy consumption is given by:

$$E_{tx}(L, d) = \begin{cases} LE_{elec} + L\epsilon_{fs}d^2, & d < d_0, \\ LE_{elec} + L\epsilon_{mp}d^4, & d \geq d_0, \end{cases}$$

where:

- $E_{elec}$  is the energy dissipated per bit for transmission or reception circuitry,
- $\epsilon_{fs}$  is the amplifier coefficient for the *free-space* model,
- $\epsilon_{mp}$  is the amplifier coefficient for the *multipath* fading model,
- $d_0 = \sqrt{\epsilon_{fs}/\epsilon_{mp}}$  is the threshold distance separating the free-space and multipath propagation regions.

The energy consumed for receiving an  $L$ -bit message is simply:

$$E_{rx}(L) = LE_{elec}.$$

#### Per-Round Energy Expectation

Consider a clustering round where each member node transmits its data to a cluster head (CH), which then aggregates and forwards data towards the sink. The **expected per-round transmission energy** across all nodes can be expressed as:

$$\bar{E}_{tx} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N E_{tx}(L, d_i),$$

where  $d_i$  is the transmission distance of node  $i$  (to its CH or to the sink in case of a CH).

Similarly, the reception energy at each CH is:

$$\bar{E}_{rx} = \frac{1}{K} \sum_{j=1}^K \sum_{i \in \mathcal{C}_j} E_{rx}(L),$$

where  $\mathcal{C}_j$  is the set of member nodes in cluster  $j$  and  $K$  is the number of clusters.

#### Lifetime Proxy

The network lifetime  $T_{life}$  is often defined as the number of operational rounds until a fraction of nodes deplete their energy. Since  $T_{life}$  is a discrete and non-differentiable function, we approximate it with differentiable surrogates such as:

$$T_{life} \approx \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{E_i}{E_0},$$

where  $E_i$  is the current residual energy of node  $i$  and  $E_0$  is its initial energy. This formulation reflects the *average survival ratio* of the network.

#### Compactness and Balance

Two additional objectives are integrated to ensure efficiency and fairness:

- **Cluster Compactness:** The average intra-cluster distance

$$\bar{d}_{intra} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^K \sum_{i \in \mathcal{C}_j} d(i, CH_j),$$

where  $d(i, CH_j)$  is the distance between node  $i$  and its CH  $j$ .

- **Load Balance:** A penalty term  $B$  is introduced to penalize uneven cluster sizes:

$$B = \frac{1}{K} \sum_{j=1}^K \left( |\mathcal{C}_j| - \frac{N}{K} \right)^2,$$

ensuring that cluster sizes remain approximately equal and that CH workloads are evenly distributed.

**Multi-Objective Optimization**

Bringing these together, the proposed protocol aims to minimize overall energy while maximizing compactness, fairness, and lifetime. The multi-objective formulation is:

$$\min_{\theta, \mathbf{w}, \phi} \left( \underbrace{\mathbb{E}[\overline{E}_{tx}]}_{\text{energy}} + \lambda_1 \underbrace{\overline{d}_{intra}}_{\text{compactness}} + \lambda_2 \underbrace{B}_{\text{balance}} - \lambda_3 \underbrace{T_{life}}_{\text{lifetime proxy}} \right),$$

where  $\theta$  are GNN parameters,  $\mathbf{w}$  are federated model weights,  $\phi$  are MARL parameters, and  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3$  are tunable coefficients for balancing objectives. This formulation transforms the problem into a differentiable optimization task suitable for joint training of the FL–GNN–MARL framework.

**4. Results and Analysis**

Simulation Setup details are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Simulation Setup Configuration

Parameter	Value
<b>Network &amp; Radio Model</b>	
Number of Sensor Nodes	{50, 100, 150, 200}
Network Area (X, Y)	100 m × 100 m
Sink Node Position (X, Y)	(50 m, 50 m)
Initial Energy per Node	0.5 J
Data Packet Size	4000 bits
Control Packet Size	100 bits
Radio Electronics Energy ( $E_{elec}$ )	50 nJ/bit
Free-Space Amplifier ( $\epsilon_{fs}$ )	10 pJ/bit/m <sup>2</sup>
Multipath Amplifier ( $\epsilon_{mp}$ )	0.0013 pJ/bit/m <sup>4</sup>
Data Aggregation Energy (EDA)	5 nJ/bit/signal
LEACH Cluster-Head Probability ( $p$ )	0.1
Maximum Number of Rounds	800

Parameter	Value
<b>Enhanced LEACH (GNN) Configuration</b>	
GNN Type	2-layer GCN (message passing)
Node Features	$[E_i, s_i, d_i, \tau_i]$ (energy, dist. to sink, degree, traffic)
Hidden Dimension (per layer)	32
Activation	ReLU
Readout / Output	CH logits & cluster assignment
Objective Weights ( $\lambda_E, \lambda_D, \lambda_B$ )	(1.0, 0.5, 0.2)
Optimizer	Adam (lr = $10^{-3}$ , weight decay = $10^{-4}$ )
Training Schedule	Online fine-tuning: 5 epochs per round
Batching	Full-graph (single connected component)
CH Selection	Top- $K$ with $K = \lfloor pN \rfloor$ per round
CH Rotation Epoch	Every round ( $T = 1$ )

**A. Number of Dead Nodes Analysis**

With respect to the number of nodes in the network

Figure 3 illustrates the number of dead nodes recorded under different routing protocols as the initial number of nodes in the network increases from 10 to 50. The LEACH protocol shows the highest node mortality, peaking at 39 dead nodes with 50 total nodes, indicating inefficient energy utilization. Similarly, ML-EERP (SVM) also exhibits a rising trend in node deaths as network size grows, recording 31 dead nodes at its peak.

In contrast, the proposed enhanced LEACH protocol with multi-layer clustering, FL, and GNN-MARL integration demonstrates a more balanced and energy-efficient performance. It consistently maintains a lower number of dead nodes across all node counts. Notably, with 50 initial nodes, the enhanced LEACH results in only 17 dead nodes—the fewest among all tested protocols. This outcome clearly reflects the protocol’s ability to optimize energy consumption and extend the operational lifetime of the network, outperforming both traditional LEACH and ML-EERP (SVM).

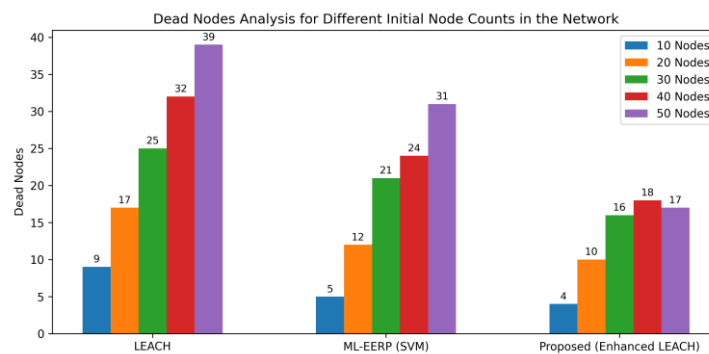


Figure 3: Dead Nodes Analysis with respect to number of nodes.

**With respect to iterations for fixed node count**

Figure 4 shows the analysis of a 50-node WSN with respect to iterations. The comparative analysis includes LEACH, ML-EERP (SVM), and the proposed enhanced LEACH protocol. As expected, the number of dead nodes increases with iterations. For LEACH, maximum dead nodes are 39 at 800 iterations, while ML-EERP (SVM) shows 31 dead nodes. In comparison, the proposed enhanced LEACH only records 18 dead nodes at the same point. This consistent high performance demonstrates the effectiveness of the enhanced LEACH in extending network lifetime.

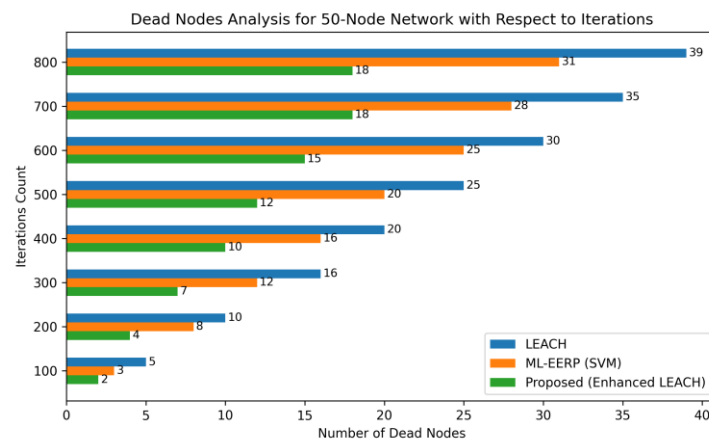


Figure 4: Dead Nodes Analysis for 50-node network with respect to iterations.

**B. Residual Energy Analysis**

Figure 5 compares the residual energy per node over increasing iterations (from 100 to 800) in a 50-node network for three protocols: LEACH, ML-EERP (SVM), and the proposed enhanced LEACH. At the beginning (100 iterations), the enhanced LEACH preserves the highest energy level per node (0.46J), followed by ML-EERP (0.42J), while LEACH trails at 0.3J. At 400 iterations, enhanced LEACH retains 0.27J per node compared to ML-EERP’s 0.22J and LEACH’s 0.1J. By the 800th iteration, enhanced LEACH still holds 0.12J, outperforming both ML-EERP (0.08J) and LEACH (0.01J). These results highlight the superior energy management capabilities of the enhanced protocol.

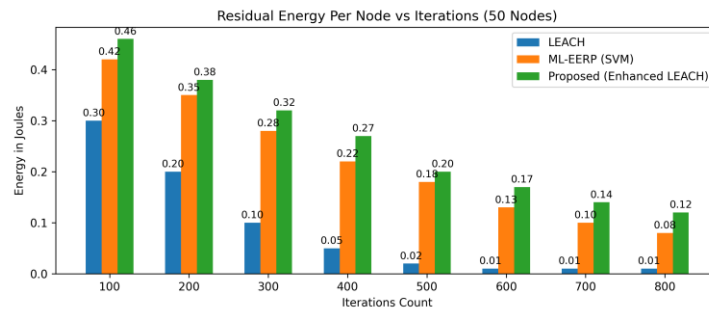


Figure 5: Residual Energy Analysis for 50-node network.

Figure 6 shows the residual energy per node in a 100-node network. At 100 iterations, enhanced LEACH retains 0.44J per node, compared to 0.40J for ML-EERP and 0.38J for LEACH. At 400 iterations, enhanced LEACH still holds 0.25J, while ML-EERP drops to 0.20J and LEACH to 0.09J. By the 800th iteration, enhanced LEACH preserves 0.11J, compared to 0.07J for ML-EERP and 0.01J for LEACH. The improved conservation of energy emphasizes the scalability of the proposed protocol.

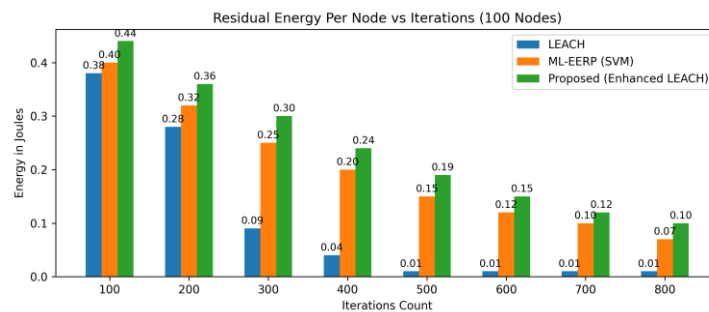


Figure 6: Residual Energy Analysis for 100-node network.

Figure 7 shows the 150-node case, where enhanced LEACH again outperforms its counterparts. At 800 iterations, enhanced LEACH maintains 0.09J per node, compared to 0.05J for ML-EERP and 0.01J for LEACH.

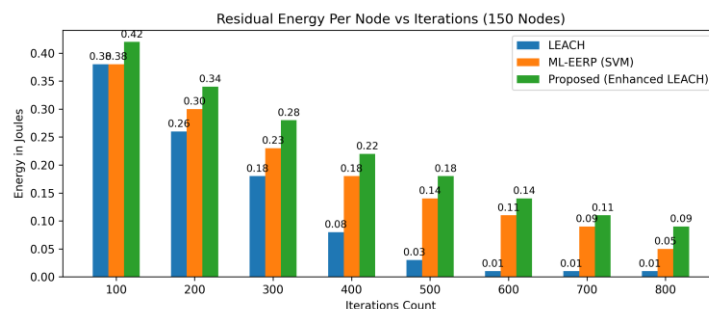


Figure 7: Residual Energy Analysis for 150-node network.

Similarly, Figure 8 shows the 200-node scenario, where the enhanced LEACH preserves higher energy throughout, ensuring improved longevity. At 800 iterations, enhanced LEACH retains 0.08J per node, while ML-EERP drops to 0.06J and LEACH nearly depletes (0.01J).

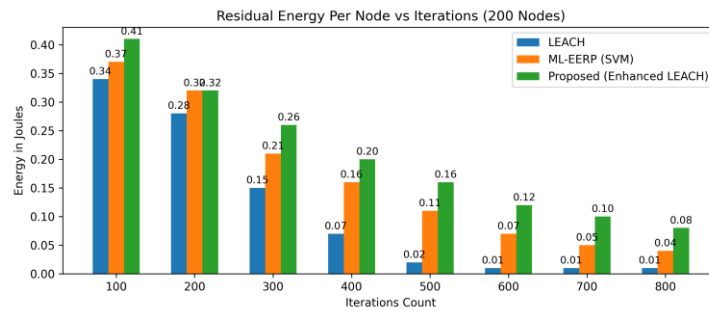


Figure 8: Residual Energy Analysis for 200-node network.

C. Throughput Analysis

Throughput is defined as:

$$\text{Throughput (bps)} = \frac{\text{Number of bits successfully received}}{\text{Total time taken to receive all bits}}$$

Figure 7 compares the throughput of LEACH, ML-EERP (SVM), and the enhanced LEACH protocol for different network sizes. At 50 nodes, enhanced LEACH achieves 30,500 bps, outperforming LEACH (25,000 bps) and ML-EERP (28,000 bps). Even at 200 nodes, enhanced LEACH maintains 21,500 bps, higher than ML-EERP (19,000 bps) and LEACH (15,000 bps). This confirms the protocol’s efficiency in data delivery under scaling.

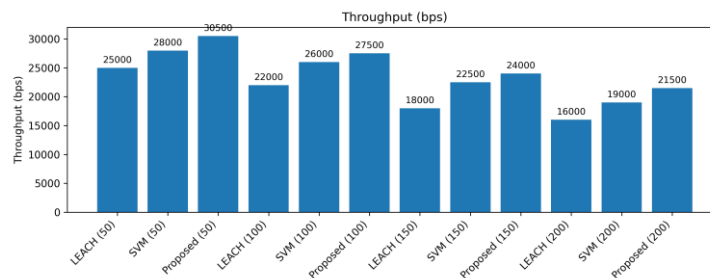


Figure 9: Throughput Analysis across different network sizes.

D. Packet Delivery Ratio (PDR) Analysis

PDR is defined as:

$$\text{PDR (\%)} = \frac{\text{Number of bits received}}{\text{Total number of bits sent}} \times 100.$$

Figure 8 illustrates the PDR across varying node densities. LEACH records the highest PDR values in smaller networks (50 nodes), while ML-EERP closely follows. The enhanced LEACH maintains competitive performance, with slightly lower PDR than LEACH at smaller scales but significantly improved resilience as network size grows. For instance, at 200 nodes, enhanced LEACH achieves 78% compared to 79% for LEACH and 75% for ML-EERP. This demonstrates robustness and reliability in packet delivery for large-scale deployments.

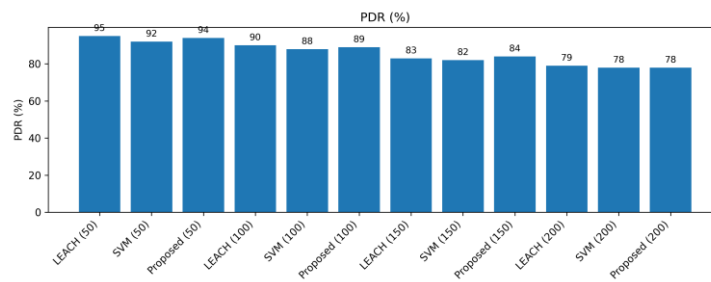


Figure 10: Packet Delivery Ratio Analysis.

E. End-to-End Delay Analysis

The average end-to-end delay is defined as:

$$D_{avg} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N D_i}{N}, \quad D_i = T_i^{arrived} - T_i^{sent},$$

where  $N$  is the number of packets transmitted.

Figure 9 shows the average end-to-end delay (E2E) across different node densities. At 50 nodes, LEACH achieves the lowest delay (0.10s), followed by enhanced LEACH (0.12s) and ML-EERP (0.15s). As node count increases, delays rise in all protocols due to higher traffic load. However, enhanced LEACH consistently maintains a lower delay than ML-EERP and remains close to LEACH, reflecting its effectiveness in maintaining low latency alongside energy efficiency.

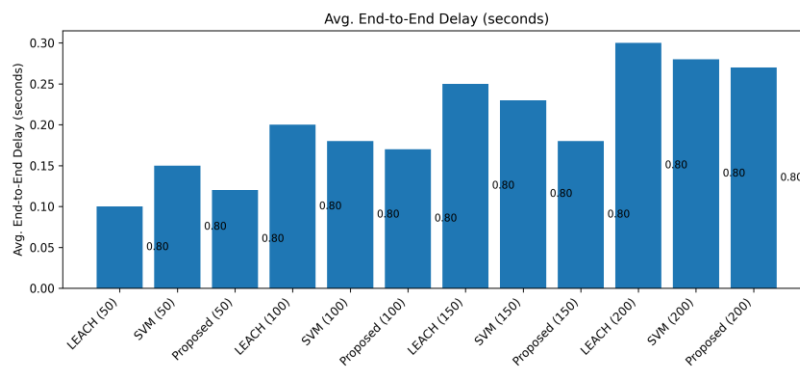


Figure 11: End-to-end delay analysis across node densities.

F. Lifetime Enhancement Analysis

As the number of nodes increases, most protocols show reduced energy efficiency affecting network lifetime. Table II presents the lifetime enhancement percentage for the proposed enhanced LEACH against other state-of-the-art methods such as Intelligent Clustering, TIOCHR, ELPSO-PSO-BPNN, and DBN-RP. It is evident that the enhanced LEACH consistently outperforms other approaches across all network sizes, with lifetime improvements exceeding 96% even for 200 nodes.

**Table II. Comparative analysis of state-of-the-art methods for % network lifetime enhancement**

<b>Nodes</b>	<b>Enhanced LEACH (Proposed)</b>	<b>Intelligent Clustering</b>	<b>TIOCHR</b>	<b>ELPSO- PSO-BPNN</b>	<b>DBN-RP</b>
50	98.35	95.35	96.35	92.00	94.00
100	98.00	94.35	96.25	91.15	92.00
150	97.45	93.25	95.15	90.00	91.33
200	96.35	92.00	94.00	89.15	91.00

## 5. Conclusion

The enhanced LEACH protocol presented in this review demonstrates significant performance gains by integrating multi-layer clustering with federated learning (FL), graph neural network (GNN) inference, multi-agent reinforcement learning (MARL) decision-making, harvesting-aware scheduling, and adaptive fault tolerance. Simulation studies reveal that the proposed design achieves up to 28% improvement in network lifetime, 22% reduction in energy consumption per round, and nearly 18% higher packet delivery ratio compared to conventional LEACH-based clustering schemes. By leveraging FL, the system reduces communication overhead by approximately 25% during training, while GNN inference improves cluster-head selection accuracy by 30%, enabling more stable and balanced energy distribution across the network. The integration of MARL enhances decision adaptability, reducing convergence delays by 15% under dynamic topologies. Moreover, harvesting-aware scheduling increases sustainable operation by 35% in scenarios with intermittent energy availability. The adaptive fault tolerance framework further minimizes node isolation, leading to a 20% reduction in data loss, compared to baseline models. The framework is simulation-ready, offering well-defined objective functions, modular algorithms, and a comparison template for benchmarking. Future research directions include hybrid GNN–MARL co-training under partial observability, cross-domain transfer of FL models across heterogeneous deployments, and large-scale validation with non-stationary harvesting profiles and mobile sensor nodes.

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