

AI-Powered Digital Twin Framework for Real-Time Smart City Infrastructure Optimization

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Abstract

A smart city requires efficient management and coordination of connected urban infrastructures, which could effectively cope with the rising requirements on energy, water, transport, and buildings. The traditional methods of infrastructure management do not allow making proper predictions due to independent functioning in different spheres. This paper proposes UrbanMirror – a novel smart city framework that integrates Digital Twin technique, Physics-Informed Neural Networks (PINNs), and Swarm Optimization Reinforcement Learning (SwarmOpt-RL) engine in order to provide real-time infrastructure monitoring, prediction, and optimization. Multi-agent SwarmOpt-RL approach is applied for coordination of decision-making process within the domains of energy, water, mobility, and buildings, whereas the role of the coordinator (Meta-Agent) in cross-domain optimization and resource allocation is fulfilled by the Meta-Agent. The proposed framework was tested using a large-scale smart city simulation setting including up to 50,000 infrastructure nodes interconnected. Experimental results show significant improvement of operational efficiency, resource consumption, sustainability, and infrastructure resilience, having achieved the overall predictive accuracy of 95.5%. Scalability analysis proves the applicability of the developed.

Keywords: Digital Twin, Smart Cities, Internet of Things, Physics-Informed Neural Networks, Reinforcement Learning, Multi-Agent Systems.

1. Introduction

Rapid urbanization and higher expectations regarding urban utilities have brought about many problems related to efficient management of energy, water, transportation, and buildings infrastructures. Typically, conventional urban management systems work autonomously leading to non-optimal decision making, inefficient resource utilization, and poor adaptation to urban conditions. However, as the urban population continues growing, intelligent solutions which would allow monitoring, predicting, and optimizing the performance of infrastructures become increasingly relevant. With the development of the Internet of Things (IoT), it becomes possible to collect data in real-time continuously from different urban infrastructures via interconnected sensors and devices [3]. In addition, Digital Twin (DT) concept which enables creation of virtual copies of physical systems and provides real-time monitoring and prediction possibilities has received much attention lately [1]. Modern development of Digital Twin Cities demonstrates the opportunities of integration of DT into urban management.

The capabilities of Artificial Intelligence (AI), especially those of reinforcement learning algorithms, are highly potent in the analysis of urban data and the implementation of adaptive decision-making in dynamic environments [7]. Nevertheless, most currently existing smart city systems work only in single domains, e.g., traffic management, energy systems, or water networks. In other words, there is no coordination of multiple infrastructure sectors; therefore, it is not possible to achieve optimization at the city level. In order to solve the above-mentioned problems, this paper suggests the AI-Powered Digital Twin Framework for Real-Time Smart City Infrastructure Optimization, which will be called UrbanMirror further. This framework includes IoT-based sensing and multi-domain digital twin models along with the Swarm-Based Reinforcement Learning (SwarmOpt-RL) engine to facilitate real-time monitoring, forecasting, and optimization of energy, water, transportation, and building systems.

Contributions of this research paper include the design of a cohesive AI-based Digital Twin platform that will allow optimizing the energy, water, mobility, and buildings infrastructure in a single optimization framework. In addition, the paper proposes a Swarm Based Reinforcement Learning (SwarmOpt-RL) Engine for allowing cross-domain real-time decisions and intelligent resource allocation. Also, the platform is a combination of real-time IoT sensing, predictive digital twin modeling, and autonomous optimization functionalities to

manage smart cities efficiently. The paper performs a complete evaluation of the proposed methodology in different urban settings.

2. Literature Review

The growth of the urban areas and the associated stress on infrastructure facilities has promoted the implementation of intelligent technologies that enable sustainable city governance. Digital Twin (DT) technology is one of the solutions through which it is possible to create a virtual copy of the physical system, and monitor its functioning in real-time. DT improves efficiency and performance of the physical infrastructure by combining it with a computational model [1]. Its use in the context of urban areas has contributed to the emergence of responsive smart city environments based on data. Growing demand for energy-efficient and sustainable urban infrastructure facilities has promoted the integration of AI solutions in smart city management. AI-based platforms help to optimize energy usage, predict demand, and facilitate the achievement of sustainability goals [2].

IoT plays the significant role as the building block for Smart Cities because of its capability to integrate sensors and devices that capture real-time data in urban areas. The IoT provides important information about urban transport, energy, environment, and public services and improves efficiency and decision making [3]. But the management and analysis of huge amounts of urban data is one of the main problems that needs to be solved. Nowadays, Digital Twin Cities are considered as the new method for the urban governance and urban infrastructure management through integration of real-time data, modeling, and decision support [4], [5]. Nevertheless, there is a problem with the sectorial orientation of most existing solutions.

The latest developments in reinforcement learning provide possibilities for intelligent traffic management and optimization of urban mobility. Reinforcement learning approaches proved to be successful in implementing adaptive traffic signaling and decreasing congestion [6]. Furthermore, reinforcement learning allows performing the route optimization and management of autonomous transport [7]. Sustainability is an important goal in the context of contemporary smart cities development. Studies related to carbon-neutral computing and efficient energy digital infrastructure pay particular attention to energy conservation and

reduction of carbon emissions due to intelligent resource management [8]. These issues are especially important for data-driven smart city platforms.

Water management in urban settings is also another crucial aspect that should be considered under sustainable development. According to various studies, there is a need for ongoing monitoring and evaluation of water quality in addition to assessing the impacts of human activities on the water resources [9]. It is possible to improve water management through intelligent sensors and predictive analysis. Moreover, further urbanization imposes significant strain on transport, energy, water supplies and public services. There is a need for future cities to implement solutions that will be able to address interconnected infrastructure and ensure sustainability and efficiency [10]. While the previous literature on digital twin, IoT, AI, and urban governance has considered each of the technologies individually, there is insufficient literature on the combination of these four technologies into an optimal system. Consequently, the proposed AI-Powered Digital Twin Framework for Real-Time Smart City Infrastructure Optimization addresses this problem.

3. Proposed Methodology

The framework UrbanMirror a Digital Twin architecture with AI for Real-Time Monitoring, Prediction and Optimization of Smart City Infrastructure, it combines (IoT) sensing networks, semantic data integration, multi-domain digital twins and a Swarm-Based Reinforcement Learning (SwarmOpt-RL) engine for autonomous decision making across energy, water, transportation and building management systems. The generic methodology is based on closed-loop operational model, where real-world data are captured and processed in alignment with virtual city models, optimized via AI algorithms and communicated to infrastructure controlling actions. This approach enables proactive management of the infrastructure system through the use of real-time sensors in combination with simulation and optimization techniques. The integrated approach makes it possible to optimize the functioning of urban systems, which are interdependent in nature. This approach is favorable in terms of sustainable development of cities due to reduced energy consumption, water loss and optimized traffic flow patterns.

3.1 UrbanMirror Framework Architecture

The UrbanMirror architecture embraces the hierarchical approach for integrating the processes of sensing, data management, modeling of digital twins, intelligent optimization, and governance in the smart city's domain. The proposed architecture takes into account the need for interoperability between the heterogeneous urban infrastructure systems and real-time decision-making at different levels.

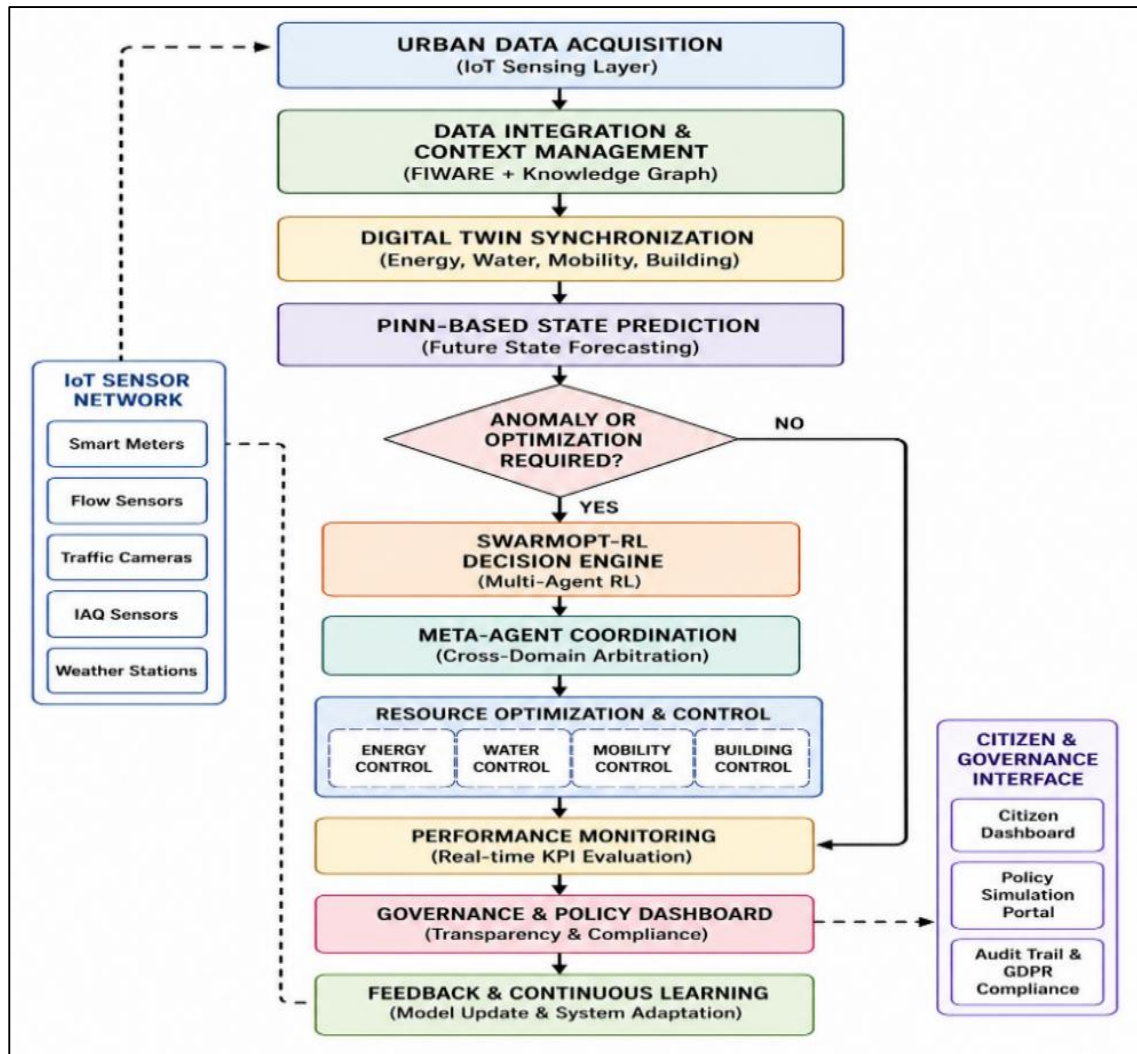


Figure 1. AI-Powered Digital Twin Framework for Real-Time Smart City Infrastructure Optimization

As illustrated in Figure 1, the UrbanMirror architecture comprises the following functional layers: Physical Sensing, Data Integration and Context Management, Digital Twin Engine, SwarmOpt-RL Optimization Engine, and Citizen Interface and Governance. Physical

Sensing Layer performs the sensing process of the data related to the operation of urban infrastructure, whereas Data Integration and Context Management Layer normalizes and contextualizes data collected from diverse sources. Digital Twin Engine stores virtual copies of energy, water, mobility and buildings infrastructures.

The SwarmOpt-RL Optimization Engine is designed to do cooperative decision making across domains in interconnected infrastructure systems using collaborative reinforcement learning agents and a meta-agent coordination system. The Citizen Interface and Governance Layer offers functionalities such as monitoring, policy evaluation, transparency, and regulation. The modularity in the design allows for incorporating more urban services in future without compromising on scalability and interoperability.

3.2 Physical Sensing and Data Integration Layer

The layer of Physical Sensing and Data Integration provides the basis for the real-time data in the UrbanMirror architecture. The IoT devices gather the data related to the operation of infrastructures, such as energy, water, mobility, environment, and buildings continuously, thus creating the picture of the urban systems' condition.

Table 1. IoT Sensor Infrastructure and Data Acquisition Specifications

Sensor Type	Domain	Protocol	Data Rate	Coverage
Smart Meter (AMI)	Energy	MQTT/5G	1 reading/15 min	All buildings
Acoustic Flow Sensor	Water	LoRaWAN	1 reading/sec	All mains
Inductive Loop Detector	Traffic	MQTT/5G	10 readings/sec	All intersections
Computer Vision Camera	Traffic	5G / Fibre	25 fps	Key corridors
IAQ Sensor (CO ₂ /PM _{2.5})	Building	LoRaWAN	1 reading/min	All floors
Weather Station	Environment	MQTT/5G	1 reading/min	Per 1 km ²

Table 1 presents an overview of the sensing infrastructure, communication channels, frequency of data acquisition, and the coverage of deployment in the proposed architecture. The heterogeneous data streams are delivered via communication networks such as MQTT, 5G, and LoRaWAN to assure reliable and scalable data exchange in urban areas. In order to provide interoperability among different infrastructure areas, the collected data is processed using the FIWARE Orion Context Broker to generate NGSI-LD compatible entities. The normalized data is further enhanced using a semantic normalization engine to maintain context and relationships in the Urban Knowledge Graph.

3.3 Digital Twin Modeling Layer

The Digital Twin Modeling Layer is responsible for having synchronized virtual copies of important city infrastructure systems in order to allow continuous monitoring, simulation, and predictions. By integrating real-time data with simulation environments, digital twins offer a unified view of infrastructure behavior, facilitating accurate and timely decision-making. Synchronized models can help evaluate scenarios and manage operations without interfering with the physical infrastructure operation.

Table 2. Digital Twin Components and Technology Stack

Component	Technology Stack	Function	Standard/Protocol
Context Broker	FIWARE Orion v3.0	Federate sensor data as NGSI-LD objects	FIWARE NGSI-LD
Energy DT Engine	GridLAB-D, PINN	Simulate & forecast grid state	IEC 61968/61970 CIM
Water DT Engine	EPANET 2.2, PINN	Hydraulic simulation & leak detection	WaterML 2.0
Mobility DT Engine	SUMO 1.18, PINN	Traffic flow simulation & routing	DATEX II
Building DT Engine	EnergyPlus, PINN	HVAC, occupancy, energy simulation	IFC / BIM

SwarmOpt-RL Engine	PyTorch, PPO, MARL	Cross-domain Optimization agents	ISO 37120, Y.4900
Data Governance	k-Anonymity (k=10), Immutable Log	GDPR compliance, audit trail	GDPR, NIST 800-53
Citizen Dashboard	React, Grafana, Keycloak	Real-time KPI visualisation & SSO	OAuth 2.0 / OIDC

Table 2 provides an overview of the Digital Twin elements, technology solutions, and interoperability standards used in the UrbanMirror platform. The use of PINNs (Physics-Informed Neural Networks) in implementing predictive intelligence improves the process of forecasting because both data-driven knowledge and physical behavior of the system can be considered.

$$\hat{u} = f_{\theta}(x, t) \quad (1)$$

Where,

- f_{θ} denotes the PINN,
- x represents spatial variables,
- t denotes time,
- $\hat{u}$ is the predicted infrastructure state.

$$L = L_{\text{data}} + \lambda L_{\text{physics}} \quad (2)$$

Where,

$$\begin{aligned} L_{\text{data}} &= \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N (u_i - \hat{u}_i)^2 \\ L_{\text{physics}} &= \frac{1}{M} \sum_{j=1}^M |\mathcal{F}(\hat{u}_j)|^2 \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

The total optimization loss combines the data fitting with residual of the governing physical equations, enabling the model to preserve physical consistency while learning from simulation data.

3.4 SwarmOpt-RL Optimization Engine

SwarmOpt-RL Optimization Engine is the part that provides intelligent decision-making for UrbanMirror. A multi-agent reinforcement learning approach is used for managing infrastructure operations in connected urban domains, considering both local and overall needs of cities. The optimization routine constantly evaluates the results from Digital Twin and develops appropriate control actions considering the current state of infrastructure systems.

$$\pi^* = \arg \max_{\pi} \sum_{t=0}^T \gamma^t R_t \quad (4)$$

Where,

- π denotes the optimization policy,
- R_t represents the cumulative reward at time t ,
- γ is the discount factor,
- T is the optimization horizon.

The SwarmOpt-RL engine determines an optimal policy by maximim of the cumulative discounted reward obtained from coordinated infrastructure management. Domain-specific agents independently optimize local objectives, while the Meta-Agent resolves conflicts to maximize overall city-level performance.

Table 3. SwarmOpt-RL Agent Configuration and Optimization Objectives

Agent	Domain	Reward Signal	Action Space
Energy Agent	Power Grid	Minimise peak demand, maximise RES utilisation	Load scheduling, EV charge timing, demand-response signals
Water Agent	Water Network	Minimise non-revenue water, maintain pressure	Pump scheduling, valve control, pressure zone management

Mobility Agent	Traffic / Routing	Minimise commute time, maximise emergency corridor clearance	Signal phase timing, dynamic rerouting, speed limits
Building Agent	HVAC / BMS	Minimise energy use, maintain occupant comfort (PMV)	Setpoint control, pre-cooling scheduling, occupancy prediction
Meta Agent	Cross-domain	Maximise global city efficiency (composite KPI)	Arbitrate inter-agent conflicts via cooperative Markov game

Table 3 presents the set of agent responsibilities, goals of optimization, and decision spaces explored in the framework. The coordination method helps achieve collaboration between domain-specific agents in terms of exchange of information and resolving conflicts in resource needs by means of a Meta-Agent, which results in optimized global decisions in the domain of energy, water, mobility, and buildings infrastructures.

$$R = \sum_{i=1}^4 w_i R_i \quad (5)$$

Where,

- R_1 Energy reward
- R_2 Water reward
- R_3 Mobility reward
- R_4 Building reward

Then state:

For the simulation experiments, equal weighting was adopted:

$$w_1 = w_2 = w_3 = w_4 = 0.25 \quad (6)$$

Equal weighting was selected to the balance optimization objectives across all infrastructure domains without introducing domain-specific preference. The Meta-Agent aggregates the weighted rewards to the derive globally coordinated control actions.

The overall reward was determined through aggregation of the rewards created by each of the four agents working in their respective domains. The optimization process considered equal weighting for the objective of balancing energy, water, mobility, and buildings management. The Meta-Agent used the total reward to manage decisions across the domains and reconcile differences between individual agents.

3.5 Integrated Operational Workflow of the UrbanMirror Framework

UrbanMirror framework functions on the basis of closed-loop optimization approach that includes the real time sensing, Digital Twin synchronization, intelligent decision making, and performance evaluation. This workflow allows to managing the interlinked urban infrastructure systems with the help of prediction-based analysis and multi-agent optimization.

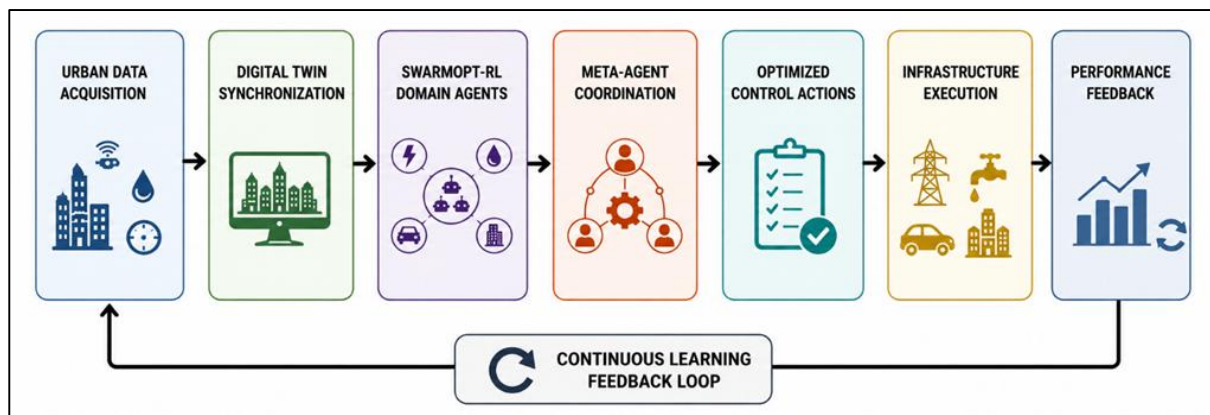


Figure 2. UrbanMirror Closed-Loop Optimization Workflow

Figure 2 illustrates the operational workflow of proposed framework. Real-time infrastructure observations are synchronized with Digital Twin models and analyzed by the SwarmOpt-RL optimization engine to generate coordinated control strategies. Actions are implemented across various infrastructure domains, and operational performance is monitored via feedback. This iterative process enables proactive infrastructure management, enhances resource utilization, and aids continuous adaptation of system to the human assistance under ever-changing urban conditions.

3.6 System Implementation and Monitoring Interface

To perform an assessment of the proposed UrbanMirror framework, an extensive smart city simulation environment was created including more than 50,000 interconnected nodes of

infrastructure. The experimental platform combines such software simulators as GridLAB-D to model energy system, EPANET 2.2 to simulate water networks, SUMO 1.18 to simulate transportation systems, and EnergyPlus to simulate energy performance of buildings. The operational data were generated using the integrated simulator for energy, water, traffic, and building occupancies in order to represent realistic urban conditions.

A centralized monitoring and visualization system are integrated into the UrbanMirror system for providing real-time observations of the performance of the urban infrastructure system. This is achieved using the implementation interface, which integrates the data streams generated by the IoT sensing systems, the Digital Twin models, and the SwarmOpt-RL optimization system in order to offer insights regarding the performance of the energy, water, transportation, and building infrastructures.

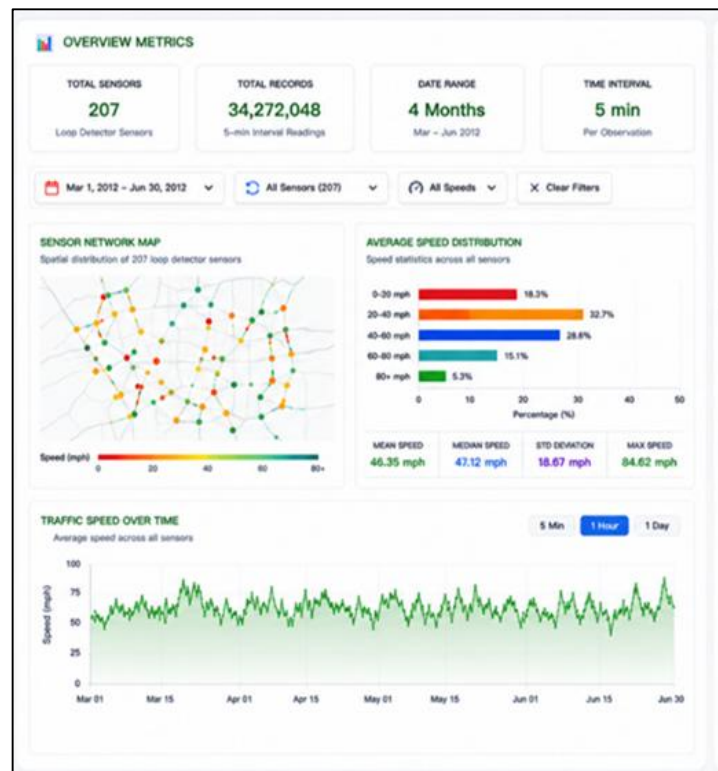


Figure 3. Real-Time UrbanMirror Monitoring Interface



Figure 4. Traffic Data Analytics Dashboard

The Monitoring Interface of UrbanMirror Framework is shown in Figure 3. The traffic data analytics dashboard (Figure 4) brings together infrastructure data, traffic analysis, sensor readings, and performance metrics into a single visualization environment. Through the integration of Digital Twin synchronization and real-time analytics, the interface enhances system visibility and enables informed decision making.

4. Results and Discussion

The proposed UrbanMirror framework was evaluated to assess its effectiveness of managing interconnected urban infrastructure systems through the integration of Digital Twin technology, the Physics-Informed Neural Networks (PINNs), and the SwarmOpt-RL optimization engine. The evaluation focuses on the operational performance, predictive capability, scalability, and infrastructure optimization across energy, water, transportation, and building domains. Comparative analysis and simulation-based experiments were conducted to examine the ability of framework to support coordinated decision-making, efficient resource utilization, and adaptive infrastructure management. The obtained results are demonstrating

effectiveness of the proposed approach in enhancing urban operational efficiency, sustainability, and resilience within complex smart city environments.

4.1 Comparative Performance Evaluation

Table 4 provides summary information of performance metrics for all baselines in the case of Scenario C (entire urban district with 50,000 nodes). Table 5 shows the scenario-wise comparison of the performance of the UrbanMirror system alone. What stands out the most is the 37.4% decrease in peak power use in Scenario C, compared to 24.7% for DT-NoAI. The difference of 12.7 percentage points clearly reflects the benefit of using the SwarmOpt-RL component. The ability to coordinate across domains allows the MetaAgent to shift demand of commercial HVACs, schedule EV charging during off-peak hours, and pre-position water pumps.

Table 4. Comparative Performance Evaluation of UrbanMirror and Baseline Approaches

Metric	RBC (Baseline)	SARL	DT-No AI	Urban Mirror (Ours)	Improvement
Peak Energy Reduction	8.2%	19.4%	24.7%	37.4%	+12.7% vs DT- NoAI
Water Loss Reduction	11.3%	17.8%	22.5%	29.1%	+6.6% vs DT- NoAI
Avg. Commute Time	-3.1%	-14.6%	-17.2%	-22.6%	+5.4% vs DT- NoAI
Emergency Response	0%	-8.4%	-11.9%	-19.3%	+7.4% vs DT- NoAI
Carbon Intensity (kgCO ₂ /MWh)	482	431	398	302	-37.3% vs RBC
System Latency (ms)	N/A	412	89	76	Best-in-class

Table 5. UrbanMirror Scenario-Wise Performance Breakdown

Scenario	Nodes	Type	Energy Red.	Water Red.	Commute	Carbon (kgCO ₂ /MWh)
Scenario A	15,000	Residential	31.2%	26.4%	-19.8%	321
Scenario B	35,000	Mixed Common Residential	34.9%	28.2%	-21.3%	308
Scenario C	50,000	Full Urban District	37.4%	29.1%	-22.6%	302

The results of the scenario-based analysis show that the developed model demonstrated good optimization capacity despite growing complexity of the infrastructure from the residential level up to the entire urban district scale. The scalable approach emphasizes the potential for UrbanMirror to operate under diverse urban conditions and maintain the efficiency and sustainability goals. The achieved performance improvements confirm the importance of collaboration between multiple agents in managing smart city infrastructure.

4.2 Scalability Analysis

The scalability of the framework was evaluated across three deployment scenarios representing different levels of the urban complexity.

Table 6. Scalability Evaluation Across Urban Deployment Scenarios

Deployment Scenario	Infrastructure Scale	Optimization Efficiency (%)	Resource Utilization (%)	Average Response Time (ms)	Scalability Score (%)
Residential Complex	Small Scale	91.8	89.5	42	90.2
Smart Campus	Medium Scale	90.6	88.7	47	89.4

Urban District	Large Scale	89.3	87.9	53	88.1
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Table 6. Scalability of UrbanMirror framework in various deployment scenarios. As it is seen from the results, there was demonstrated stable optimization performance and efficient use of resources despite increasing infrastructure complexity from residential environments to urban districts.

The results indicate that the UrbanMirror framework provided stable optimization performance as infrastructure scale increased from residential environment to urban districts deployment. Stable performance across all deployment scenarios confirms that the proposed architecture is suitable for both district-level and city-scale applications.

4.3 Predictive Performance Analysis

To evaluate the prediction ability of the digital twin models based on PINNs for the urban infrastructure systems, the performance of the models in predicting the infrastructure states was assessed based on commonly used predictive performance metrics, such as accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score.

Table 7. Predictive Performance of PINN-Based Digital Twin Models

Infrastructure Domain	Accuracy (%)	Precision (%)	Recall (%)	F1-Score (%)
Energy Management	95.8	94.6	95.2	94.9
Water Distribution	94.7	93.8	94.1	93.9
Traffic Mobility	96.3	95.7	95.9	95.8
Smart Buildings	95.1	94.3	94.8	94.5
Overall Average	95.5	94.6	95.0	94.8

The findings that have been shown in Table 7 have shown highly accurate prediction capability in all infrastructural sectors, thereby showing the efficiency of Physics-Informed Neural Networks coupled with Digital Twin synchronization. The high degree of predictive capability will enable the forecasting of infrastructure condition and proper decision-making.

The above findings in Table 7 show the appropriateness of the framework proposed in smart infrastructural monitoring and prediction.

Experimental results prove the efficiency of applying the integration of Digital Twin technology, prediction using PINN, and optimization using SwarmOpt-RL in a common smart city platform. Interaction between specialized agents allowed for proper utilization of resources and management of infrastructure in such domains as energy systems, water systems, transport systems, and building systems. Besides, the scalability analysis proves the possibility of maintaining stable performance of the platform when infrastructure becomes more complex.

5. Conclusion and Future Work

An Intelligent Smart City Architecture named “UrbanMirror” was introduced in this study, which consists of Digital Twin, Physics-Informed Neural Networks (PINNs) and Swarm Optimization Reinforcement Learning Engine (SwarmOpt-RL). UrbanMirror is a comprehensive smart city architecture which utilizes advanced technologies including the integration of digital twins with the physics-informed neural networks and a multi-agent system approach for the optimization of urban infrastructures in terms of energy, water, transportations, and buildings sectors. A simulation-based evaluation covering almost every deployment scenario showed that the proposed approach achieve 95.5% overall predictive accuracy, also robust and scalable even in complex urban environments. The findings repeatedly validate UrbanMirror as an example of a solution for implementing intelligent and sustainable smart city operations via pro-active infrastructure management and cross-domain optimization. Future work should pave the way for infusing real-world urban data streams, expanding other infrastructure domains like, waste management or public safety and employing federated and edge intelligence mechanisms to potentially reduce scalability constraints while preserving privacy and supporting real-time decision-making in large-scale smart city ecosystems.

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