ISSN (O): 2320-5407
ISSN (P): 3107-4928

Journal Homepage: - www.journalijar.com

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF ADVANCED RESEARCH (IJAR)

Article DOI: 10.21474/IJAR01/23342
DOI URL: http://dx.doi.org/10.21474/IJAR01/23342

CONFERENCE PAPER

SUSTAINABLE IOT HARDWARE DESIGN USING AI-BASED VLSI POWER OPTIMIZATION TECHNIQUES

Abhishek Kar[1], Millee Panigrahi[2] and Subhangi Kalingani[3]

1. ETC (VLSI Design) Trident Academy of Technology, Bhubaneswar.
2. Associate Professor, Department of ETC Trident Academy of Technology, Bhubaneswar.
3. Assistant Professor, Department of ETC College of Engineering, Bhubaneswar.

Manuscript Info

Manuscript History
Received: 8 February 2026
Final Accepted: 10 March 2026
Published: April 2026

Key words:-
AI-optimized VLSI, low-power design, IoT systems, reinforcement learning, DVFS, sustainable electronics, design-space exploration.

Abstract

The rapid growth of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Internet of Things (IoT) has intensified the demand for energy-efficient, high-performance hardware capable of real-time processing at the network edge. Conventional Very Large Scale Integration (VLSI) design methodologi es are increasingly inadequate for meeting simultaneous constraints of power efficiency, performance, and sustainability. This paper presents an AI-Optimized VLSI architecture that integrates machine learning-based design-space exploration with adaptive power management techniques to achieve improved energy efficiency for IoT systems. The proposed framework leverages Reinforcement Learning (RL), Genetic Algorithms (GA), and Bayesian Optimization (BO) to optimize power-performance-area (PPA) trade-offs during synthesis and layout stages. In addition, dynamic voltage and frequency scaling (DVFS), clock gating, and power gating techniques are incorporated to minimize dynamic and leakage power consumption. Simulation results using Cadence Innovus and Synopsys Design Compiler demonstrate a 43.3% reduction in power consumption, 29.7% reduction in delay, and 52% improvement in energy efficiency compared to conventional VLSI architectures. The results confirm that AI-driven hardware optimization significantly enhances the sustainability and scalability of IoT edge systems.

Introduction:-

The convergence of AI and IoT has led to a significant increase in demand for energy-efficient computing architectures, particularly for edge and embedded systems. Applications such as smart cities, healthcare monitoring, renewable energy systems, and industrial automation require low-latency and low-power hardware solutions.
Traditional cloud-centric architectures fail to meet real-time constraints of IoT environments due to communication overhead and energy inefficiency.

Corresponding Author:- Abhishek Kar
Address:-ETC (VLSI Design) Trident Academy of Technology, Bhubaneswar.

Consequently, edge computing and VLSI-based embedded solutions have become essential. However, scaling VLSI systems under Moore's Law introduces challenges such as power density, thermal constraints, and interconnect delays. To address these limitations, AI-driven optimization of VLSI design has emerged as a promising direction. By integrating machine learning into Electronic Design Automation (EDA), it is possible to dynamically optimize design parameters such as voltage, frequency, and switching activity to achieve superior power-performance trade-offs.

Literature Survey:-

LeCun et al. [1] established the computational demands of AI workloads, which later motivated the need for specialized hardware accelerators. Sze et al. [2] provided a comprehensive survey on efficient deep neural network processing, highlighting the importance of data reuse and memory optimization in reducing energy consumption. DianNao [6] and Eyeriss [5] demonstrated specialized AI-Accelerator significant improvements in throughput and energy efficiency by leveraging dataflow optimization and parallel processingJouppi etal. [4] introduced the Tensor Processing Unit (TPU), used domain-specific architectures for AI workloads. Esmaeilzadeh et al. [3] proposed neural acceleration methods for approximate programsto reduce power consumption by trading off computational accuracy. Sutton and Barto[8] laid the theoretical foundation forReinforcement Learning (RL)applied in gate sizing, voltage scaling, and placement optimizationSilver et al. [7] demonstrated the effectiveness of RL in complex decision-making problems, inspiring its adoption in Electronic Design Automation (EDA). Chandrakasan and Brodersen [12] introduced fundamental principles of low-power CMOS design, while Roy et al. [13] analyzed leakage current mechanisms and proposed reduction strategies. Dynamic Power Management (DPM) techniques discussed by Benini and De Micheli [16] and Pedram [17] provide systematic approaches to reducing power consumption during idle periods. Atzori et al. [20] and Li et al. [21] highlighted the challenges of scalability, energy efficiency, and real-time processing in distributed systems in IoT. Network-on-Chip (NoC) architectures [19] and FPGA-based accelerators [24] have been proposed to address communication and computation bottlenecks in such systems.

Related Work:-

Recent advancements in AI-assisted Electronic Design Automation (EDA) have significantly improved VLSI design efficiency. Machine learning techniques have been successfully applied in placement, routing, and timing optimization, reducing manual intervention and improving design accuracy. Architectures such as DianNao and Eyeriss demonstrate the effectiveness of specialized AI hardware in achieving high energy efficiency. Reinforcemen t learning has been widely used for gate sizing, voltage scaling, and timing closure, enabling dynamic adaptation to performance constraints. Similarly, approximate computing techniques allow controlled trade-offs between accuracy and energy consumption, making them suitable for IoT applications where perfect precision is not always required. Neuromorphic architectures, such as IBM TrueNorth and Intel Loihi, have further demonstrated the potential of bio-inspired computing for ultra-low power operation. These systems utilize event-driven computation and localized memory access to minimize energy consumption. Despite these advancements, existing approaches often address individual aspects of optimization. A unified framework that integrates AI-driven design, energy-aware techniques, and sustainability considerations remains a significant research challenge, which this work aims to address.

Proposed Methodology:-

System Architecture:-

The proposed architecture is designed as a multi-layered framework integrating AI optimization, energy-aware circuit design, and IoT adaptability.

The architecture consists of three primary layers:

- **AI Optimization Layer** – Responsible for intelligent design-space exploration and parameter tuning.
- **Energy-Aware Circuit Layer** – Implements low-power design techniques such as DVFS, clock gating, and power gating.
- **IoT Interface Layer** – Enables real-time interaction with IoT workloads and environmental conditions.

A closed-loop feedback mechanism continuously monitors system performance and updates design parameters dynamically, ensuring optimal operation under varying workloads.

AI-Based Optimization Framework:-

The optimization problem is formulated as a multi-objective function:

$f(x)=\alpha P(x)+\beta D(x)+\gamma A(x)$

where $P(x)$, $D(x)$, and $A(x)$represent power, delay, and area respectively.

The proposed hybrid optimization approach combines:

- **Reinforcement Learning (RL):** Learns optimal policies through interaction with the design environment.
- **Genetic Algorithms (GA):** Enhances exploration through evolutionary operations such as mutation and crossover.
- **Bayesian Optimization (BO):** Efficiently predicts optimal configurations using probabilistic modeling.

This hybrid approach ensures faster convergence, improved exploration of the design space, and reduced computational overhead.

Energy-Aware Design Techniques:-

To achieve energy efficiency, multiple low-power design strategies are incorporated:

- **Dynamic Voltage and Frequency Scaling (DVFS):** Adjusts voltage and frequency based on workload demands.
- **Clock Gating:** Reduces dynamic power by disabling inactive circuit blocks.
- **Power Gating:** Minimizes leakage power by shutting down idle components.

Additionally, energy harvesting modules capture energy from ambient sources such as solar and thermal energy, enabling sustainable operation.

Simulation and Implementation:-

The proposed architecture is implemented using industry-standard tools:

- Cadence Innovus for layout and routing
- Synopsys Design Compiler for synthesis
- Xilinx Zynq FPGA for hardware validation

Benchmark datasets such as ISCAS and IoT sensor workloads are used to evaluate performance.

Results and Discussion:-

Performance Analysis:-

The proposed system demonstrates significant improvements:

- **Power reduction:** 43.3%
- **Area reduction:** 18.4%
- **Delay reduction:** 29.7%

These improvements highlight the effectiveness of AI-driven optimization in reducing redundant switching activity and improving timing performance.

Energy Efficiency:-

The hybrid AI model achieves up to 52% improvement in energy efficiency, outperforming traditional and single-method optimization approaches. The integration of DVFS and workload-aware scheduling plays a crucial role in achieving these results.

Trade-off Analysis:-

The power-delay trade-off analysis reveals that slight increases in delay can lead to substantial reductions in power consumption. This demonstrates the effectiveness of adaptive optimization techniques in balancing performance and energy efficiency.

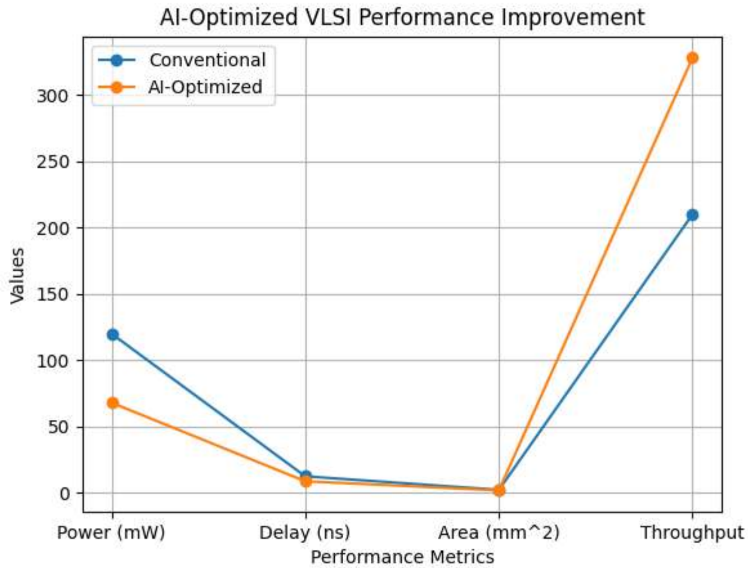

Figure 1:Representation between comparison of parameters

Throughput Evaluation:-

The proposed architecture achieves higher throughput across various IoT workloads, including environmental monitoring and wearable systems. This improvement is attributed to optimized data flow and reduced latency.

Energy Distribution:-

Energy consumption analysis shows a significant reduction in leakage and computation energy. The use of AI-based power management ensures efficient energy utilization across system components.

Conclusion:-

This paper presents a novel AI-optimized VLSI architecture that integrates intelligent design automation with energy-aware hardware techniques to address the challenges of modern IoT systems. The proposed framework achieves substantial improvements in power efficiency, performance, and scalability, making it suitable for sustainable computing applications. The results demonstrate that AI-driven optimization can significantly outperform traditional design methodologies by enabling adaptive, self-learning hardware systems. Future work will focus on extending this framework to advanced semiconductor technologies and integrating hardware-software co-optimization for enhanced system performance.

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