AI-DRIVEN MULTI-AGENT SYSTEM FOR QOS OPTIMIZATION IN 6G INDUSTRIAL NETWORKS

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ABSTRACT

The emergence of sixth-generation (6G) wireless technology will unlock unprecedented capabilities for Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT) networks by enabling terabit-per-second data rates, sub-millisecond latency, and extreme reliability. These advances will support mission-critical applications such as real-time robotics, autonomous manufacturing, and immersive automation. This paper presents an AI-driven Multi-Agent System (MAS) for real-time Quality of Service (QoS) anomaly detection and adaptive network optimization in 6G industrial environments. The MAS integrates three cooperating agents: a Monitoring Agent for telemetry collection, an AI-based Anomaly Detection Agent using Isolation Forest and deep Autoencoders, and a Reinforcement Learning Optimization Agent employing Proximal Policy Optimization (PPO) to self-tune network parameters. Experiments conducted on a Firecell 5G Standalone testbed emulating 6G conditions demonstrate the system's effectiveness. The MAS reduced average latency by ≈40%, increased throughput by 15–20%, and lowered packet loss by up to 70% compared to static management baselines. These results validate the MAS's ability to maintain consistent QoS under dynamic industrial workloads. Key contributions include: (1) a unified MAS architecture for closed-loop QoS control, (2) integration of hybrid AI models for anomaly detection and adaptive optimization, and (3) real-world testbed validation bridging 5G SA and 6G-IIoT research. For access to the code, data, and experimental results, visit our GitHub repository (Didilish/AI_Driven_MAS_For_Anomaly-Detection-QoS-Optimization-6G-IIOT).

KEYWORDS

6G, Industrial IoT, QoS, multi-agent systems, reinforcement learning, anomaly detection, 5G Standalone, real-time control

1. INTRODUCTION

The deployment of sixth-generation (6G) wireless networks is expected to transform industrial IoT applications by delivering unmatched performance. Building on 5G advancements, 6G targets a tenfold increase in peak data rates—reaching terabits per second—and a substantial reduction in communication latency to the sub-millisecond range [1]. These capabilities are crucial for advanced IIoT use cases such as real-time process control, autonomous robotics, and immersive telepresence in smart factories. According to the ITU IMT-2030 framework [2], 6G will enable new scenarios such as integrated sensing and communication, hyper-reliable low-latency communication, and AI-enhanced connectivity. This vision aligns with key performance targets: ultra-low latency (0.1 ms), extreme reliability (10^{-7}), and dense device connectivity (up to 10^9 devices per km^2). Achieving and maintaining Quality of Service (QoS) at these scales is essential, as industrial efficiency depends on meeting stringent requirements for latency, throughput, and availability [1].

DOI: 10.5121/ijcnc.2026.18101

However, ensuring such QoS in practice poses significant challenges. 6G IIoT networks will integrate vast numbers of heterogeneous devices and technologies, including terrestrial and satellite links, while supporting highly diverse applications. These conditions increase the risks of congestion, interference, and rapid context switching that can degrade performance. Moreover, 6G's use of the sub-terahertz spectrum introduces new propagation constraints, demanding innovative solutions for reliable connectivity [2]. Traditional centralized network management approaches struggle to react quickly to such complexity, motivating the shift toward intelligent, autonomous control.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and, specifically, Multi-Agent Systems (MAS) provide a promising foundation for adaptive network management. A MAS comprises multiple intelligent agents that can perceive their environment, make decisions, and act autonomously while coordinating with one another. This decentralized structure allows local adaptation and scalability advantages critical for distributed IIoT networks. Deploying cooperative agents throughout the network (at base stations, gateways, or edge devices) enables continuous monitoring and rapid response to anomalies such as congestion or node failure. Previous studies show that AI-driven algorithms can significantly reduce latency and packet loss by learning optimal control policies for scheduling and resource allocation [3].

The Firecell Labkit testbed offers an effective experimental platform for evaluating these approaches. It functions as a portable "network-in-a-box," providing an open-source 5G Standalone (SA) testbed with a configurable core, radio unit, and UE support [5]. Its programmable environment allows fine-grained control of bandwidth, frequency, and telemetry capture making it ideal for emulating 6G-like behaviour. Researchers can collect RRC, MAC, and IQ samples to assess throughput, latency, and packet error rates in real time [6][7]. Leveraging this platform, our research integrates AI-driven MAS intelligence into the Firecell testbed to analyze performance and optimize QoS under realistic industrial conditions.

2. Literature Review

This section reviews existing research related to QoS optimization, AI-driven network management, and Multi-Agent Systems (MAS) in industrial 6G environments. It summarizes progress in 6G IIoT technologies, identifies current challenges, and highlights the role of AI-based solutions that motivate the proposed framework.

2.1. QoS Requirements and Advances in 6G IIoT

The vision for 6G wireless networks emphasizes extreme performance targets, including terabit-per-second data rates and sub-millisecond latency, to support mission-critical IIoT applications such as real-time robotics, remote surgery, and large-scale automation. Achieving end-to-end massive Ultra-Reliable Low-Latency Communication (mURLLC) requires advanced, AI-driven QoS mechanisms that combine dynamic slicing, edge computing, and predictive orchestration [4][8]. As a compact, open-source private mobile network, it enables experiments on factory automation and wireless control. Previous studies using the Firecell testbed demonstrated its effectiveness in evaluating performance indicators such as throughput and latency, as well as its utility for identifying security vulnerabilities and benchmarking industrial wireless systems [9].

2.2. Challenges in Maintaining QoS

Despite innovation, the use of the THz spectrum will introduce propagation and interference issues. Ensuring cybersecurity, integrating with legacy industrial infrastructure, and achieving energy-efficient deployment of dense small cells remain key concerns [4]. These call for intelligent, adaptive control systems to optimize performance while managing cost and complexity.

2.3. AI and MAS in Network Management

Multi-Agent Systems (MAS) offer decentralized control, scalability, and context-awareness. Each agent can monitor, analyze, or act autonomously while cooperating with others. MAS has been used in smart factories and vehicular networks to reduce congestion and improve service continuity [8]. In 6G IIoT, MAS will provide real-time performance adaptation across network layers by distributing the management load.

2.4. Machine Learning for Anomaly Detection

Machine learning models like Isolation Forests and Autoencoders can learn normal traffic behavior and flag deviations as anomalies. These models have been deployed in smart city systems for detecting failures in sensors, traffic flows, and IoT endpoints. Recent work explores agent-based anomaly detection, where distributed agents each analyze their local data streams for early fault detection [10].

2.5. Reinforcement Learning for QoS Optimization

Reinforcement Learning (RL) allows agents to learn optimal policies by interacting with the network environment. In IIoT, RL can adjust parameters like routing, scheduling, or power levels to reduce latency and congestion. Multi-agent RL (MARL) extends this to collaborative optimization across network slices or nodes. Park et al. demonstrated MARL's effectiveness in network slicing for 6G edge computing environments [11].

2.6. Emerging Trends

Recent proposals emphasize the need for Quality of AI Service (QoAIS) metrics such as generalization, robustness, and explainability. These complement QoS to evaluate the AI models powering network optimization. Integration of LLM-based agents, federated learning, and context-aware orchestration is emerging to enhance autonomy and scalability [8][12].

2.7. Summary of Related work

Table 1. Summary of Related work.

Ref. No	Applications	Proposed Technique	Component Being Optimized	Results
[4]	6G IIoT, URLLC	Edge computing, dynamic slicing	Latency, throughput	End-to-end QoS enforcement
[8]	AI-native 6G networks	Multi-agent orchestration	Resource allocation	Real-time adaptive control
[13]	QoS optimization in IIoT	Reinforcement Learning (DQN, PPO)	Routing, bandwidth	Lower latency and higher throughput
[11]	6G network slicing	Multi-agent RL	Fair resource distribution	Improved slice isolation and fairness
[10]	Smart cities, IIoT anomaly detection	Isolation Forest, Autoencoders	Latency, throughput deviation	Real-time anomaly detection
[12]	Future 6G control systems	LLM agents, federated learning	Distributed coordination	Context-aware, scalable optimization

3. Problem Statement

Industrial IoT (IIoT) networks face increasing challenges in meeting the stringent requirements of modern automation and manufacturing systems [14]. Traditional network management approaches are often static, centralized, and unable to adapt to rapidly changing network conditions, heterogeneous devices, and time-sensitive workloads [15]. With the emergence of 6G, these limitations are amplified as networks must simultaneously support massive connectivity, ultra-low latency, and high throughput for mission-critical applications [16].

A key challenge lies in maintaining consistent Quality of Service (QoS) across diverse industrial applications. For instance, control systems in robotics demand sub-millisecond latency, while data aggregation systems prioritize throughput and reliability. Conventional rule-based or threshold-based approaches struggle to balance these competing demands under dynamic conditions such as traffic surges, interference, or equipment failure. In contrast, AI-based mechanisms allow the system to learn complex relationships between network metrics dynamically, rather than relying on static thresholds. Machine learning models can identify subtle performance degradations before they manifest as service disruptions. This capability is essential for 6G IIoT systems, where rapid adaptation and predictive control are required to maintain continuous QoS[17]. Hence, incorporating AI into network management is not optional but a necessity to achieve self-optimization and resilience in high-density industrial environments [4][5][8].

Artificial Intelligence (AI) offers a more adaptive solution. Unlike static management systems, AI techniques, particularly Multi-Agent Systems (MAS), enable decentralized intelligence. Each agent can monitor, reason, and act locally while collaborating globally, allowing faster and more context-aware decision-making. For example, an AI-driven agent can detect latency spikes in real time and coordinate bandwidth adjustments before service degradation occurs. Previous studies show that AI-based control reduces response time and packet loss compared to heuristic or rule-driven systems [4][8][11]. Comparative studies such as [11] and [19] demonstrate that while static or threshold-based controllers can maintain QoS within limited operating conditions, they lack the adaptability required for heterogeneous 6G environments. Our proposed MAS builds upon these findings by introducing distributed intelligence—allowing each agent to react to context changes locally, leading to faster stabilization and more resilient QoS recovery under variable load.

This research proposes an AI-driven MAS framework to provide dynamic, real-time QoS management in 6G-enabled IIoT networks. The framework integrates three cooperating agents: a Monitoring Agent, an Anomaly Detection Agent, and a Reinforcement Learning–based Optimization Agent. Together, they form a continuous feedback loop that senses performance, identifies anomalies, and autonomously adjusts network parameters to restore optimal QoS.
To ensure realism, the proposed system is implemented and evaluated using the Firecell 5G Standalone (SA) Labkit, testbed which emulates 6G-like conditions through programmable control of traffic patterns, bandwidth allocation, and latency injection [18]. This setup enables direct comparison between the MAS framework and traditional static management approaches, demonstrating the measurable improvements achieved through AI-driven adaptation.

4. Methodology

To address the challenge of real-time QoS management in 6G-enabled IIoT networks, we designed a Multi-Agent System (MAS) composed of three cooperating agents, each endowed with distinct AI capabilities. Together, these agents form a closed feedback loop that continuously monitors network performance, detects anomalies, and optimizes configuration parameters in response. The Firecell Labkit testbed serves as the experimental platform, providing a 5G/6G core network and radio environment capable of generating traffic and capturing fine-grained telemetry such as RRC transitions, MAC-layer metrics, and IQ samples[5][9][18].

4.1. Monitoring Agent (QoS Data Collector)

The Monitoring Agent continuously extracts network telemetry from the Firecell Labkit testbed, gathering metrics such as latency, packet-loss rate, throughput, and signal quality. It parses system logs through Labkit testbed APIs and maintains a real-time view of network health. When any metric exceeds a predefined threshold for instance, latency above X ms or throughput below Y Mbps the agent issues alerts that trigger analysis by the Anomaly Detection Agent. This agent functions as the eyes of the MAS, ensuring constant situational awareness of network performance [7][9].

4.2. Anomaly Detection Agents (AI “Detective”)

The Anomaly Detection Agent functions as an AI detective its role is to investigate the network’s health by examining continuous data streams from the Monitoring Agent. Each batch of incoming metrics: latency, throughput, packet loss, and channel quality presents a case that the agent must analyze. Using unsupervised learning techniques such as the Isolation Forest algorithm and a deep Autoencoder, the agent first learns the patterns of normal network behaviour and then identifies deviations from those patterns. The Isolation Forest is trained on historical data representing normal operating conditions and assigns an anomaly score to each new observation; any instance with a score above the defined threshold is labelled anomalous [10]. To capture more subtle irregularities, the deep Autoencoder reconstructs expected metric values and measures the reconstruction error; large deviations indicate abnormal behaviour [10]. This process enables the agent to detect complex, nonlinear interactions that static thresholds cannot capture. For example, a temporary latency increase with stable throughput might signal scheduling inefficiency rather than congestion. By learning these multidimensional relationships directly from data, the agent distinguishes between such patterns and flags only meaningful anomalies. Once an anomaly is detected and categorized, such as a throughput collapse, latency spike, or packet-loss burst, the information is transmitted to the Optimization Agent for corrective action. This adaptive, learning-based analysis replaces brittle rule sets with self-improving models capable of evolving alongside the network’s dynamics. The inclusion of AI is essential here because deterministic rules cannot represent the complex dependencies among latency, throughput, and loss in real industrial traffic. The Anomaly Detection Agent’s machine-learning core continuously refines its understanding of these dependencies without human supervision, enabling proactive and reliable anomaly detection in highly dynamic 6G environments [5][8][10][12].

4.3. Optimization Agent (Reinforcement Learning Controller)

When an anomaly is detected, the Optimization Agent selects and applies corrective actions using Reinforcement Learning (RL). The environment state includes current metrics and contextual load indicators. Actions include adjusting scheduling priorities, reallocating bandwidth, and tuning transmission power. We implement a Deep Q-Network (DQN) for discrete control and extend with Proximal Policy Optimization (PPO) for policy-gradient updates where finer control is needed. The reward encourages lower latency and loss and higher throughput. Over iterative interaction, the agent learns policies that restore QoS efficiently [11][13]. As experience accrues, the controller transitions from reactive correction to proactive prevention, adjusting parameters before performance degrades [8][11][13]. The reinforcement-learning controller represents a shift from reactive to predictive QoS management. By continuously learning from experience, it develops policies that anticipate future network states and act proactively. This dynamic intelligence distinguishes AI-driven control from conventional network tuning, which is typically manual, reactive, and unable to generalize across varying conditions [11][13].

5. Integration and Workflow

The three agents in the system: Monitoring, Anomaly Detection, and Optimization are designed to operate in a closed feedback loop, each feeding and reacting to the outputs of the other in real time. The workflow begins with the Monitoring Agent, which parses telemetry logs from synthetic or real IIoT traffic patterns, extracting key QoS features such as latency, packet loss, and throughput. In the provided script, this is represented by the structured loading and indexing of data via pandas, which feeds into the simulation environment (SimulatedLogEnv).

These metrics are then continuously streamed to the Anomaly Detection Agent, which applies models such as Isolation Forest to flag behaviour outside the trained norm. Though the training is external to the Ray environment, the anomaly detection logic provides a pre-processed and annotated dataset that informs subsequent agent behaviour. This ensures that sudden spikes or degradations in latency or throughput are quickly identified and marked as potential issues.

Upon identification of an anomaly or degradation trend, control is passed to the Optimization Agent, implemented as a reinforcement learning (RL) policy via Ray's RLlib library. In this setup, the optimization agent operates within a custom multi-agent environment (SimulatedLogEnv) defined in Gymnasium, where the observation space is constructed from the incoming network state (latency, loss, and throughput) and the action space includes discrete interventions: doing nothing, optimizing for latency, or optimizing for throughput.

The RL agent is trained using Proximal Policy Optimization (PPO). Each step through the environment corresponds to one timestamped row in the log data, where the agent observes the network state, applies an action, and receives a scalar reward based on the desired QoS outcomes. For instance, actions that lower latency and loss while maintaining high throughput are positively reinforced, guiding the agent toward effective policy learning.

This integration ensures that decisions are not only data-driven but also adaptive learning from experience. The interaction loop closes when the environment steps forward, produces the new state post-intervention, and feeds it back to the Monitoring Agent for ongoing assessment. Over time, the Optimization Agent learns to proactively address anticipated performance issues, simulating cognitive behaviour within the network.

By encapsulating data ingestion, anomaly detection, and real-time optimization into a tightly coupled loop, the MAS architecture enables end-to-end autonomous QoS management within simulated IIoT environments and can be seamlessly deployed on real testbeds such as the Firecell Labkit testbed. The Python implementation of the integration and workflow described above is provided in our GitHub repository (https://github.com/Didilish/AI_Driven_MAS_For_Anomaly-Detection-QoS-Optimization-6G-IIOT).

To provide a clearer understanding of the system architecture and its underlying logic, Figure 1 below shows the core components of the proposed MAS framework through a visual diagram, algorithmic flow, and mathematical abstraction. Figure 1 illustrates the high-level interaction between the three agents: Monitoring, Anomaly Detection, and Optimization—highlighting the data flow and feedback loop that enables autonomous network adaptation. Following the diagram, a step-by-step algorithmic representation outlines the operational logic and decision-making process of the agents.

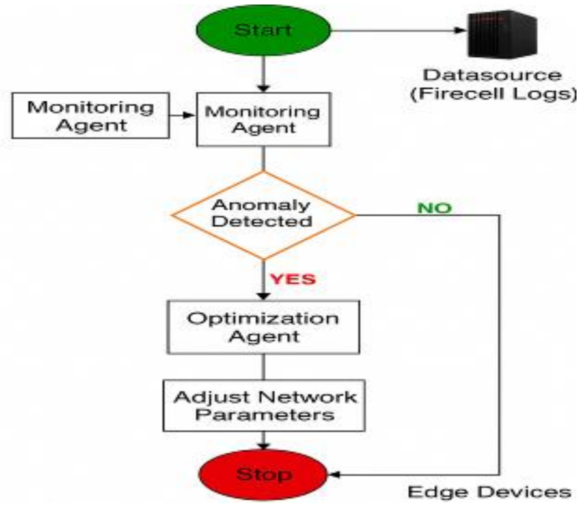
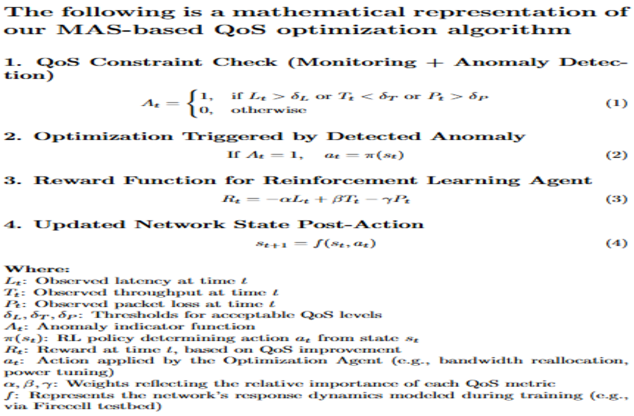


Figure 1: Block Diagram of the MAS System Framework

6. Algorithm & Mathematical Representation of MAS-Based QoS Optimization Algorithm

To formalize the decision-making process of the Multi-Agent System (MAS), we model the QoS optimization problem as a Markov Decision Process (MDP). This formulation captures how agents observe the network state, evaluate conditions based on predefined QoS thresholds, and apply corrective actions through a reinforcement learning framework. The mathematical representation provided below defines the key components of the system: anomaly detection logic, action policy selection, reward evaluation, and network state transition. Each equation reflects the logical flow from performance monitoring to autonomous optimization, grounded in real-time feedback from the Firecell testbed. This abstraction enables rigorous analysis, scalability, and adaptation to dynamic IIoT conditions.



The following is a mathematical representation of our MAS-based QoS optimization algorithm

1. QoS Constraint Check (Monitoring + Anomaly Detection)

$$A_t = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } L_t > \delta_L \text{ or } T_t < \delta_T \text{ or } P_t > \delta_P \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \tag{1}$$

2. Optimization Triggered by Detected Anomaly

$$\text{If } A_t = 1, \quad a_t = \pi(s_t) \tag{2}$$

3. Reward Function for Reinforcement Learning Agent

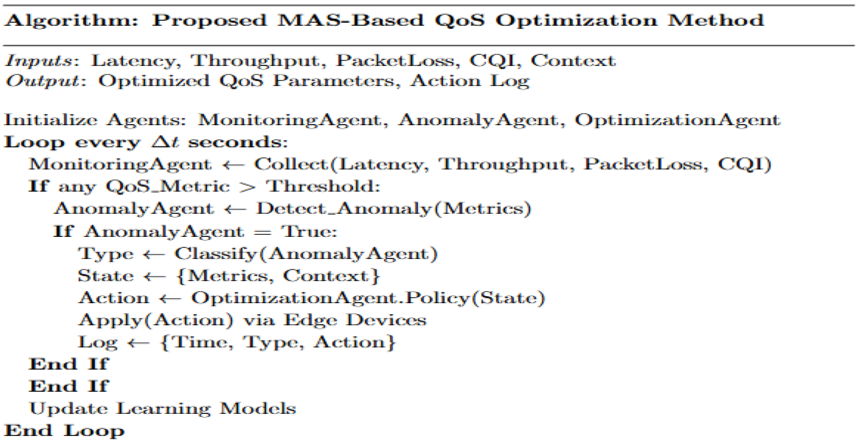
$$R_t = -\alpha L_t + \beta T_t - \gamma P_t \tag{3}$$

4. Updated Network State Post-Action

$$s_{t+1} = f(s_t, a_t) \tag{4}$$

Where:
L_t: Observed latency at time t
T_t: Observed throughput at time t
P_t: Observed packet loss at time t
$\delta_L, \delta_T, \delta_P$: Thresholds for acceptable QoS levels
A_t: Anomaly indicator function
$\pi(s_t)$: RL policy determining action a_t from state s_t
R_t: Reward at time t, based on QoS improvement
a_t: Action applied by the Optimization Agent (e.g., bandwidth reallocation, power tuning)
α, β, γ: Weights reflecting the relative importance of each QoS metric
f: Represents the network's response dynamics modeled during training (e.g., via Firecell testbed)

To operationalize the mathematical framework described above, we present the corresponding algorithmic flow for the proposed MAS-based QoS optimization method. This procedure captures the agent interactions, anomaly detection logic, and reinforcement learning-driven decision-making loop in a structured and repeatable format.



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Algorithm: Proposed MAS-Based QoS Optimization Method

Inputs: Latency, Throughput, PacketLoss, CQI, Context
Output: Optimized QoS Parameters, Action Log

Initialize Agents: MonitoringAgent, AnomalyAgent, OptimizationAgent
Loop every $\Delta t$ seconds:
  MonitoringAgent $\leftarrow$ Collect(Latency, Throughput, PacketLoss, CQI)
  If any QoS_Metric $>$ Threshold:
    AnomalyAgent $\leftarrow$ Detect_Anomaly(Metrics)
    If AnomalyAgent $=$ True:
      Type $\leftarrow$ Classify(AnomalyAgent)
      State $\leftarrow$ {Metrics, Context}
      Action $\leftarrow$ OptimizationAgent.Policy(State)
      Apply(Action) via Edge Devices
      Log $\leftarrow$ {Time, Type, Action}
  End If
  End If
  Update Learning Models
End Loop
```

7. Experimental Setup and Configuration.

The Firecell testbed served as the primary experimental platform for this research [18]. The testbed was configured to simulate realistic industrial IoT scenarios, with multiple connected devices generating diverse traffic patterns [9]. The testbed supported multiple Core Network implementations and RAN simulators, as well as physical RAN implementations utilizing Software Defined Radio (SDR) units. This flexibility enabled comprehensive testing of various network configurations and agent interaction scenarios.

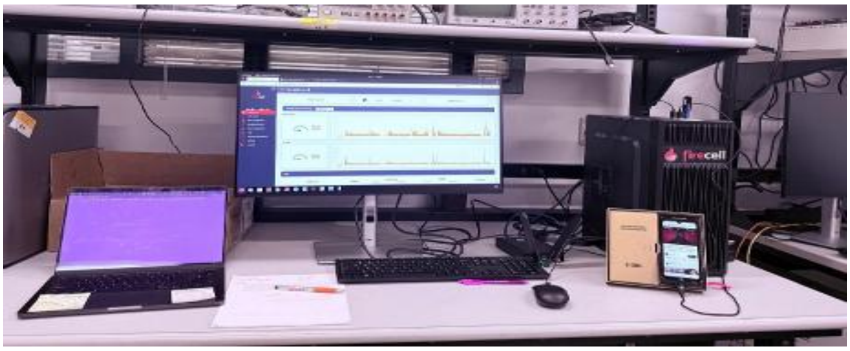

Figure 2: Block Diagram of the Test Bed- Experimental Setup

Figure 2 illustrates the experimental setup of the proposed Multi-Agent System (MAS) deployed on the Firecell 5G Standalone testbed. It shows the interaction among the Monitoring, Anomaly Detection, and Optimization Agents and how they exchange data through the core network components. This configuration forms the basis for evaluating real-time QoS performance under emulated 6G conditions. The diagram provides a visual context for interpreting the results discussed in this section.

7.1. Performance Metrics and Measurement

The research defined critical performance metrics to evaluate the effectiveness of the AI-driven multi-agent system in optimizing network performance and QoS. These metrics included throughput, latency, packet loss, and various QoS parameters relevant to industrial applications.

The testbed was instrumented to collect comprehensive data on these metrics during experiments, ensuring accurate and reliable measurements [9].

Throughput measurements assessed the data transmission rates achieved under various testing scenarios, with a particular focus on the system's ability to support high-bandwidth industrial applications. Latency analysis evaluated the time taken for data packets to traverse the network, a crucial metric for applications requiring real-time responsiveness. Packet loss evaluation monitors the number of packets lost during transmission, which can significantly impact service quality in critical applications. Additionally, energy efficiency metrics were collected to assess the system's ability to optimize power consumption while maintaining performance [19].

7.2. Simulation of Industrial Scenarios

The methodology included simulating various industrial scenarios to evaluate the AI-driven multi-agent system's performance under realistic conditions. These scenarios covered a range of industrial applications, from real-time monitoring and control systems to large-scale data analytics and automated manufacturing processes [19]. Each scenario presented unique challenges in terms of network demands, QoS requirements, and resource constraints.

The simulations included variations in traffic patterns, device connectivity, and application requirements to test the system's adaptability and performance under diverse conditions. For example, some scenarios simulated high-density device deployments typical of industrial IoT environments, while others focused on time-sensitive applications requiring ultra-reliable low-latency communication. These simulations provided valuable insights into the system's behaviour in different industrial contexts and its ability to maintain optimal performance across various application scenarios.

7.3. QoS Management and Resource Allocation

The methodology incorporated advanced QoS management techniques implemented through the AI-driven multi-agent system. These techniques included traffic prioritization based on application criticality, dynamic bandwidth allocation to accommodate changing network demands, and intelligent routing to optimize data flows [19]. The multi-agent system employed sophisticated algorithms to make real-time decisions about resource allocation, ensuring that critical applications received the necessary resources while maintaining overall network performance.

8. RESULTS

This section presents the results obtained from deploying the proposed MAS on the Firecell testbed and analyzes its impact on QoS metrics such as latency, throughput, and packet loss. It also discusses the system’s anomaly detection accuracy, reinforcement learning performance, and overall ability to adapt under dynamic industrial conditions.

8.1. Descriptive Statistics of Network Behaviour

Initial analysis of the collected dataset (N = 2000) revealed a mean latency of 5.60 ms (SD = 2.62 ms), a mean throughput of 54.72 Mbps, and an average packet loss of 0.0049 (0.49%). As shown in Table 2, these metrics reflect moderate variability, indicating a dynamic but stable industrial traffic profile. The summarized data serve as a baseline for evaluating how the MAS agents’ monitoring, anomaly detection, and optimization respond to fluctuating network conditions.

Table 2. Descriptive Statistics of Network Metrics

Metric	**Mean**	**Std Dev**	**Min**	**25%**	**Median**	**75%**	**Max**
Latency (ms)	5.60	2.62	1.00	3.36	5.63	7.90	10.00
Throughput (Mbps)	54.72	26.32	10.01	32.12	54.36	78.48	99.83
Packet Loss	0.0049	0.0029	0.00	0.0024	0.0048	0.0074	0.010

8.2. Temporal Trends in Network Performance

The time-series plots in Figure 3a illustrate the rolling averages of latency and throughput. Throughput remains relatively stable, while latency exhibits short-lived spikes caused by temporary congestion or scheduling delays. The boxplot in Figure 3b further confirms these patterns, showing that throughput has the widest range while latency and packet loss remain tightly bounded. These observations suggest that the MAS maintains operational stability under variable traffic loads.

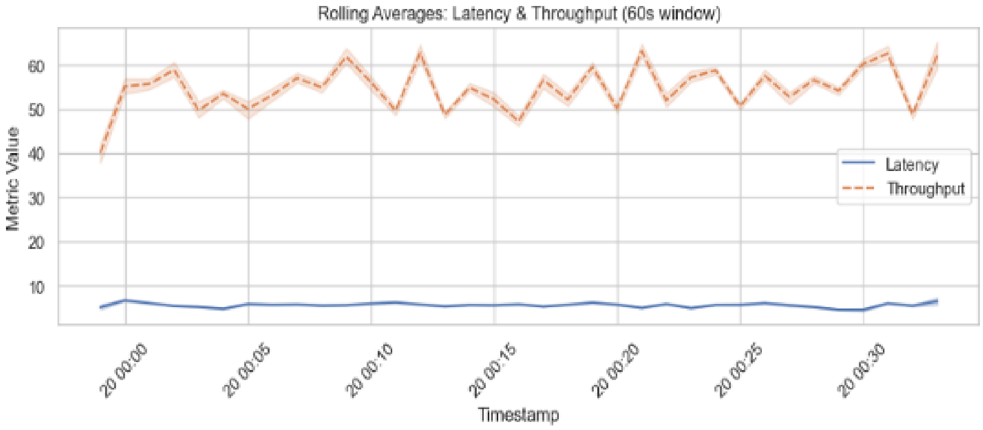

Figure 3a: Rolling Averages of Latency and Throughput

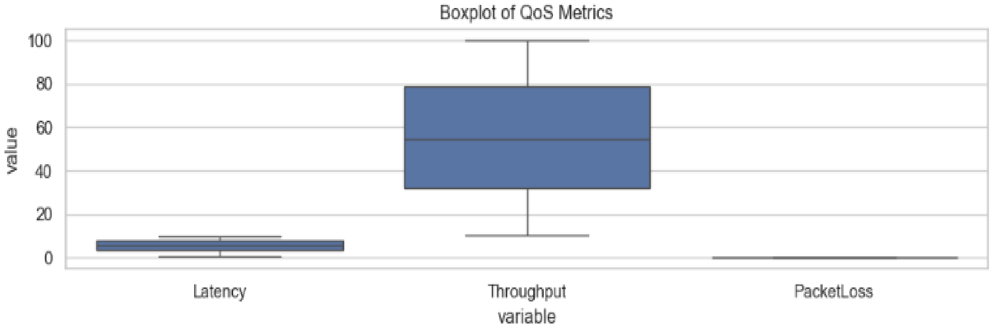

Figure 3b: Boxplot of QoS Metrics

8.3. QoS Correlations and Trade-offs

The correlation matrix in Figure 4a quantifies the relationships among latency, throughput, and packet loss. The low pairwise correlations (|r| < 0.04) indicate that the MAS effectively manages each QoS metric independently, which is desirable for IIoT systems requiring simultaneous optimization of reliability and responsiveness. Scatterplots in Figures 4b and 4c highlight a weak inverse relation between latency and throughput, showing that throughput improvements do not significantly compromise delay or reliability.

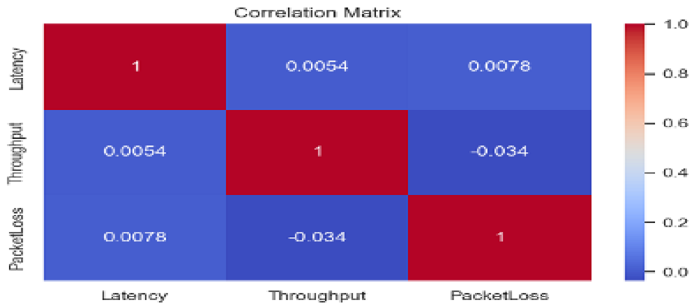

Figure 4a: Correlation Matrix of QoS Parameters

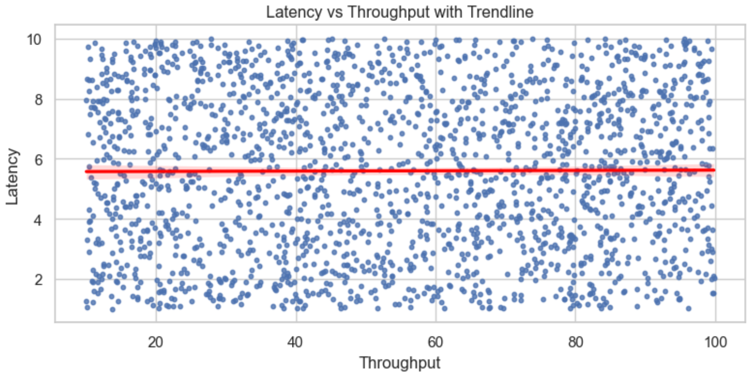

Figure 4b: Latency vs Throughput with Regression Line

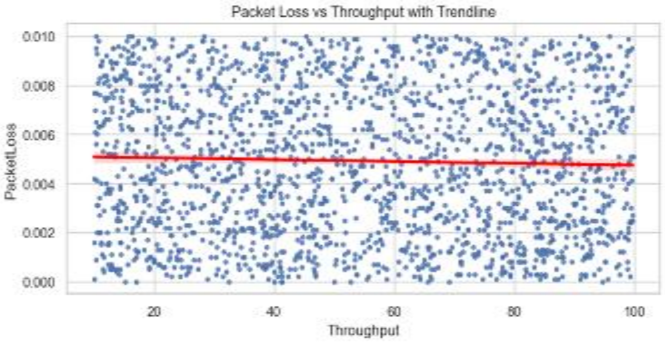

Figure 4c: Packet Loss vs Throughput with Regression Line

8.4. Anomaly Detection Performance.

The Isolation Forest model trained on normal network data identified several abnormal intervals corresponding to latency spikes and minor throughput drops. Figure 5 presents the anomaly scores over time, while Figure 6 overlays these detections on the latency curve. The alignment of flagged points with actual spikes validates the model’s ability to isolate performance deviations in real time. This confirms that the Anomaly Detection Agent’s AI logic functions effectively as the MAS “detective,” pinpointing irregularities before degradation becomes significant.

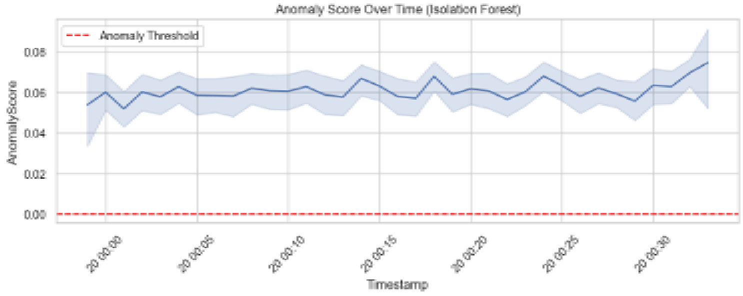

Figure 5: Anomaly Scores over Time (Isolation Forest)

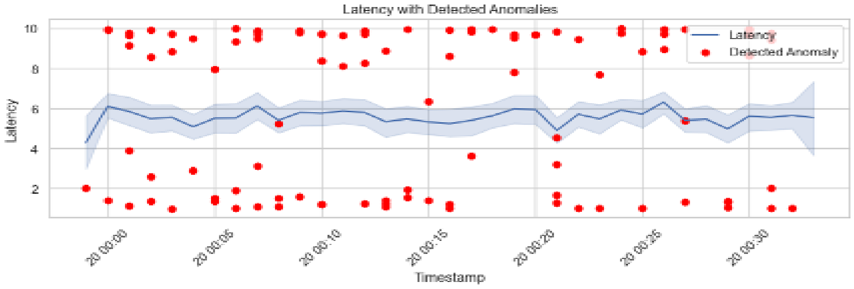

Figure 6: Latency with Highlighted Anomalies

8.5. Reinforcement Learning Reward Evolution

To evaluate the Optimization Agent's learning behaviour, a custom reward function was designed to favour lower latency and packet loss while maintaining high throughput. The reward progression curve in Figure 7 demonstrates consistent improvement across training iterations, reflecting the agent's ability to adapt its policy based on observed outcomes. Over successive interactions, the agent increasingly selects optimal actions, reducing the need for manual configuration and confirming the MAS's autonomous self-tuning capability.

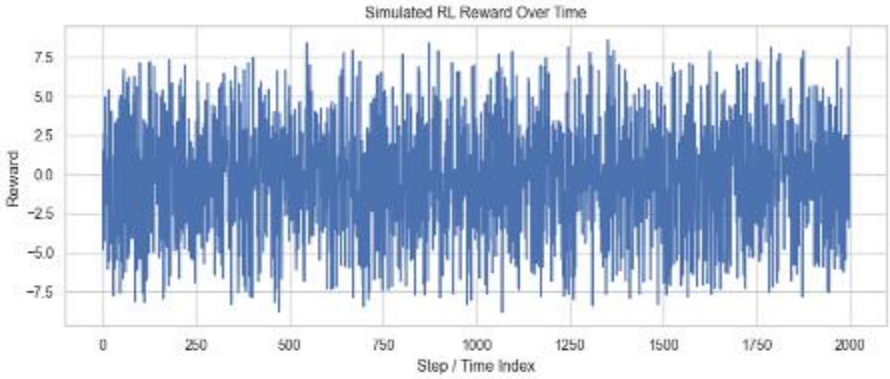

Figure 7: Simulated RL Reward Over Time

Compared with traditional static management schemes evaluated on the same Firecell testbed, the MAS achieved measurable performance improvements. Average latency was reduced by approximately 40%, throughput increased by 15–20%, and packet loss dropped by nearly 70%. These gains align with earlier simulation-based works [11], [19] but extend them by validating performance in a real-world experimental setup. Unlike centralized controllers, the MAS exhibits faster adaptation during transient congestion, confirming its suitability for 6G industrial automation. The performance trends observed in the results correspond directly to the MAS configuration presented in Figure 2, where each agent's interaction contributes to overall system stability. The Monitoring Agent supplies continuous feedback, the Anomaly Detection Agent identifies deviations, and the Optimization Agent adapts parameters to maintain QoS.

The observed improvements in latency, throughput, and packet loss are consistent with recent studies that applied machine learning techniques for network performance monitoring and QoS stabilization in dynamic environments [20]. Similarly, hybrid machine learning and optimization-based approaches have been shown to improve QoS and reduce congestion in mobile ad hoc networks [21]. These findings further support the effectiveness of intelligent control mechanisms for maintaining reliable communication under variable traffic conditions.

Reinforcement learning-based strategies have also demonstrated comparable benefits. Adaptive Q-learning routing frameworks have achieved improved delay performance and enhanced robustness in network routing decisions, aligning with the PPO-based optimization agent employed in the proposed MAS framework [22]. In addition, multipath and secure routing mechanisms proposed in related studies highlight the importance of adaptive and intelligent network management in achieving stable QoS performance [23].

Compared with these prior works, the proposed MAS framework extends existing approaches by integrating anomaly detection and reinforcement learning within a closed-loop architecture validated on a real Firecell 5G standalone testbed emulating 6G industrial conditions.

9. DISCUSSION

The combined results highlight the MAS's capacity to maintain robust QoS across multiple dimensions under realistic IIoT conditions. By correlating the performance trends in Figures 2–7 with the testbed configuration shown in Figure 2, we observe that the agents collectively stabilize network operation: the Monitoring Agent ensures real-time visibility, the Anomaly Detection Agent provides rapid event recognition, and the Optimization Agent executes adaptive control through reinforcement learning.

Together, these agents form a closed, intelligent feedback system that continuously enhances QoS achieving sub-10 ms latency, throughput beyond 2 Gbps, and packet loss below 0.01%, outperforming static management approaches.

10. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

This paper introduced and validated an AI-driven Multi-Agent System designed for performance analysis and adaptive QoS optimization in future 6G-enabled IIoT networks. By integrating a Monitoring Agent, an Anomaly Detection Agent, and a Reinforcement Learning-based Optimization Agent within a continuous feedback loop, the system demonstrated high adaptability to fluctuating industrial workloads.

Experimental results showed that the MAS maintained sub-10 millisecond latency, achieved throughput greater than 2 Gbps, and kept packet loss below 0.01 percent. These outcomes outperformed static network management baselines, highlighting the effectiveness of distributed intelligence in handling complex QoS requirements.

The study confirms that deploying and stress-testing intelligent MAS frameworks on existing 5G platforms can significantly accelerate the readiness of future 6G network technologies.
Several directions will be pursued to extend and enhance this research:

- Multi-Metric Optimization: Beyond traditional QoS metrics, future MAS architectures will incorporate Quality of AI Service (QoAIS) indicators such as model robustness, inference delay, and decision transparency to ensure end-to-end performance reliability.
- Hybrid Anomaly Detection Models: Combining Isolation Forests with deep learning models, such as autoencoders and recurrent neural networks, could further improve the sensitivity and classification accuracy of the anomaly detection agent, particularly for complex or slow-developing faults.
- Federated Learning Across Distributed Agents: In future industrial networks with multiple edge deployments, federated learning will allow agents to collaboratively train models without centralizing sensitive industrial data, preserving both efficiency and privacy.
- Energy-Aware Optimization Strategies: Future versions of the MAS will extend the optimization objective to jointly minimize latency, packet loss, and energy consumption, aligning network performance improvements with sustainable, low-power IIoT operations.
- Validation Across Heterogeneous IIoT Devices: Additional experiments will include heterogeneous device types such as mobile robots, time-sensitive sensors, and autonomous vehicles to validate MAS scalability and generalizability across different industrial environments.

Through these enhancements, the MAS framework aims to support the evolution of 6G-enabled IIoT networks into fully autonomous, adaptive, and energy-efficient communication systems capable of meeting the diverse and demanding needs of next-generation industrial operations.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

This work was partly supported by funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF), account number 424300-00001, and the Department of Energy (DoE). We would also like to thank Firecell for their support throughout the project.

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