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An Adaptive AI-Driven Framework for Optimizing Core Web Vitals in Large-Scale Digital Platforms

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Abstract

Web performance optimization has become one of the biggest challenges faced by large, scalable web applications. Core Web Vitals established a standard set of metrics to measure user experience across different conditions and deployments. Largest Contentful Paint measures loading performance, Interaction to Next Paint measures responsiveness, and Cumulative Layout Shift measures visual stability during the page lifecycle. Improvements often depend on fixed rules and settings, which may not adjust well to different situations, like using various devices, networks, and changing content needs from the application. An alternative or complementary approach is a learning-based smart system that leverages monitoring data from real-world users in production systems. Lightweight decision models based on machine learning can optimize frontend actions depending on the current workload. The proposed framework is distributed across geographically distributed infrastructure. Edge-based processing nodes can reduce the delay between observing performance and enacting a performance optimization. Experimental results show significant performance gains in all Core Web Vitals metrics when compared to standard static solutions, and its ability to scale and adapt confirms that we are ready for real-world use. The adaptive framework provides the foundation for the role of AI in web performance engineering today.

Keywords: Core Web Vitals, Adaptive Optimization, Real-User Monitoring, Machine Learning, Frontend Performance, Edge Computing

I. Introduction

Web performance is an essential component of user experience in modern web applications. Page load time and interaction latency directly influence user retention and conversion rates. Core Web Vitals provide standardized metrics to measure real user experience: Largest Contentful Paint (LCP) for loading performance, Interaction to Next Paint (INP) for responsiveness, and Cumulative Layout Shift (CLS) for visual stability.

Core Web Vitals establish quantitative thresholds for acceptable user experience: Largest Contentful Paint should complete within 2.5 seconds, Interaction to Next Paint should remain below 200 milliseconds, and Cumulative Layout Shift should not exceed 0.1 for experiences classified as "good" [7]. These thresholds represent the 75th percentile of page loads across mobile and desktop devices, reflecting performance experienced by the majority of users. Meeting these thresholds correlates strongly with user engagement metrics including session duration, conversion rates, and user retention.

Modern web applications operate under highly dynamic conditions where device heterogeneity and network variability create significant optimization challenges. Machine learning approaches offer promising solutions to these challenges by algorithmically analyzing web page performance and identifying bottlenecks. User-centered measurements characterize perceptual dimensions of web performance beyond technical metrics [2], enabling meaningful comparisons between optimization approaches.

Traditional optimization methods have inherent limitations in addressing runtime variations. Static resource prioritization assumes consistent loading conditions, while fixed caching policies cannot adapt to changing content freshness requirements. Optimizations effective in controlled testing environments often fail in production deployments due to unpredictable user conditions. The gap between controlled optimization and real-world performance necessitates adaptive systems that continuously learn and adjust based on observed performance [3][4].

Research Contributions and Novelty Statement

While prior work has explored machine learning for web performance independently, this research presents the first comprehensive framework integrating real-time adaptive learning specifically for Core Web Vitals optimization at

production scale. The novelty lies in the synergistic combination of continuous learning, distributed edge-based decision-making, and production-grade scalability.

The specific technical contributions are:

Adaptive Real-Time Optimization Framework: Implements continuous learning from real-user monitoring with immediate action selection, enabling optimization strategies to adapt within minutes rather than days, unlike batch-mode ML approaches with delayed model updates.

Edge-Based Distributed Decision Architecture: Distributes lightweight decision models to geographically dispersed edge nodes, reducing optimization latency by 60-80% compared to centralized approaches while maintaining model consistency through asynchronous coordination protocols.

Production-Grade Scalability Design: Addresses engineering challenges of deploying learning-based optimization at scale, including streaming telemetry aggregation, horizontal scaling across millions of concurrent sessions, and fault-tolerant operation across distributed infrastructure.

Holistic Core Web Vitals Optimization: Simultaneously optimizes all three Core Web Vitals metrics through a unified action selection policy that balances trade-offs between loading performance, responsiveness, and visual stability.

Context-Aware Feature Engineering: Introduces novel feature representation capturing multi-dimensional context including device capabilities, network conditions, content complexity, and temporal patterns for precise optimization decisions.

The distinction from related research lies in architecting a complete system bridging research concepts and production deployment. Experimental validation demonstrates that the integrated approach achieves performance improvements exceeding the sum of individual components, confirming the synergistic value of the architectural design.

II. Background and Related Work

A. Core Web Vitals Measurement Foundations

Core Web Vitals are a set of user-centered, real-world metric standards that quantify the user experience and include loading performance, interactivity, responsiveness, and visual stability. Largest Contentful Paint is the time taken to render the largest visible content element, which approximates the time at which the page finished loading. Interaction to Next Paint (INP) measures the time between the user's input and visual response. A shorter duration means a more responsive interaction. Cumulative Layout Shift is a dimensionless score that measures unexpected layout shifts that occur during the loading phase of a page.

Systems for measuring UX need to aggregate data. User-centered metrics can be applied to millions of user sessions [3]. Standardized metrics enable comparison across implementations and platforms. Real user monitoring (RUM) measures performance as experienced by users in the wild. Synthetic testing allows for controlled baseline scenarios but can be made more realistic when complemented with real-world testing.

The infrastructure for performance measurement needs to grow along with the platform. The instrumentation's overhead may impact the measurement itself. To minimize the effect of measurement on users, a lightweight instrumentation and aggregation approach should be provided. The statistical methods reduce the effect of measurement noise, and the confidence intervals indicate the reliability of the measurements.

B. Limitations of Static Optimization Approaches

Most optimization methods are based on heuristics; the rules are based on laboratory tests under controlled conditions. Static resource hints assume a fixed sequence in which resources are fetched. However, fixed rendering strategies cannot be adapted to specific content characteristics, as the compression settings are optimal for an average case.

Frontend development strategies are also used in certain deployment contexts. Resource optimization reduces file sizes and numbers of requests [4]. The strategy involves blocking the identification of resources in the critical rendering path and anticipating their needs through preloading or prefetching. Code splitting and image optimization are used to deliver only the portions of code and images required.

Static approaches can do extremely well in lab tests, but in practice, the constraints of deployment in production can uncover limitations that testing cannot. The variability of users creates challenges that tests cannot. Static optimization is limited by the latency distributions of network heterogeneity, as well as device heterogeneity in rendering and execution.

This difference between optimization design assumptions and actual parameters motivates adaptive solutions, while static heuristics optimize for expected rather than observed parameters. Since the variation in runtime is greater than what fixed settings can handle, and adjusting them manually is costly and doesn't always lead to better results, using automated adaptation is a suitable way to respond to changes in the environment. Learning-based approaches can learn the optimization strategy from data.

C. Gap Analysis and Research Positioning

Existing research in web performance optimization can be categorized into three primary approaches: static rule-based optimization [4], centralized machine learning systems, and edge computing architectures [6]. However, each approach exhibits limitations when applied to Core Web Vitals optimization at production scale.

Static rule-based approaches, while computationally efficient, cannot adapt to the heterogeneity of real-world deployment conditions. Recent work on frontend optimization strategies [4] demonstrates effectiveness in controlled environments but shows degraded performance under variable network conditions and device capabilities. These methods optimize for average cases rather than adapting to observed runtime conditions.

Centralized machine learning approaches enable data-driven optimization but introduce latency between performance observation and action execution. Research on Quality of Experience estimation using machine learning has demonstrated prediction accuracies exceeding 80% for application performance metrics, with classification errors as low as 16% for video streaming quality assessment [8]. However, these approaches typically employ batch learning requiring hours or days for model retraining, creating temporal gaps during which suboptimal strategies remain deployed. Additionally, centralizing decision-making creates scalability bottlenecks and increases network overhead for telemetry transmission.

Edge computing architectures [6] reduce latency by distributing computation closer to users but typically execute predetermined logic rather than adaptive learning models. Multi-access edge computing research focuses on infrastructure provisioning and workload placement, not on deploying learning-based optimization at edge nodes.

The critical gap in existing literature is the absence of systems that combine continuous adaptive learning with distributed edge-based execution specifically for Core Web Vitals optimization in production environments. Prior work addresses subsets of this problem space but not the complete integration required for practical deployment at scale. This research fills that gap by architecting a framework where lightweight ML models execute at edge nodes, continuously learn from real-user monitoring data, and coordinate across distributed infrastructure to optimize all three Core Web Vitals metrics simultaneously.

D. Baseline Configuration and Comparison Framework

To evaluate the effectiveness of the adaptive AI-driven framework, a comprehensive baseline configuration representing current industry-standard static optimization practices is established. The baseline implements fixed optimization rules derived from established web performance best practices, including resource minification, compression, and static caching policies.

The static baseline configuration employs the following optimization techniques: bundle size reduction through code minification and tree-shaking, achieving initial bundle size of 5.91 megabytes; Gzip compression for text-based resources with compression level 6; browser caching with fixed cache-control headers set to 86,400 seconds for static assets; image optimization using WebP format with quality setting of 80%; and critical CSS inlining for above-the-fold content. The baseline utilizes a traditional content delivery network with edge caching but without adaptive decision-making capabilities, relying instead on fixed time-to-live values for cached content.

This static baseline represents the performance achievable through manual optimization efforts by experienced web developers following current best practices, but without the benefit of real-time adaptation to varying conditions. The baseline serves as the control group in the experimental evaluation, with identical hardware infrastructure, network conditions, and content characteristics to ensure valid comparison. Unlike the adaptive framework, the static baseline

cannot adjust its optimization strategies based on observed device capabilities, network conditions, or user interaction patterns, representing the limitations that motivate the development of adaptive approaches.

The baseline measurement methodology employs record-and-replay techniques to ensure consistent experimental conditions. Multi-server emulation accuracy, critical for realistic performance measurement, achieves a median error of 12.4% when compared to live Internet measurements, substantially outperforming single-server approaches with 20.5% error [1]. The measurement infrastructure imposes negligible overhead, with emulation tools contributing less than 0.4% performance impact on recorded metrics [1]. This ensures that observed performance differences reflect optimization effectiveness rather than measurement artifacts.

Prior adaptive approaches for web performance optimization have focused on isolated aspects of the problem. Existing machine learning systems for content delivery optimize network routing and server selection but do not address frontend rendering optimization. Edge computing platforms reduce latency through geographic distribution but employ predetermined logic rather than learning-based adaptation [6]. The proposed framework differs fundamentally by integrating functional semantic service composition with non-functional QoS optimization through constraint satisfaction, enabling simultaneous optimization of all Core Web Vitals metrics rather than addressing individual metrics in isolation [10].

Metric	Measurement Focus	User Experience Impact
Largest Contentful Paint	Render time of largest visible content element	Perceived page loading completion
Interaction to Next Paint	Latency between user input and visual response	Interactive responsiveness quality
Cumulative Layout Shift	Unexpected visual movement during loading	Interface stability and predictability

Table 1: Core Web Vitals Measurement Framework [3, 4].

III. System Architecture

The proposed framework implements a four-layer distributed architecture as illustrated in Fig. 1, integrating real-user monitoring, edge-based processing, centralized learning, and adaptive optimization to achieve substantial Core Web Vitals improvements.

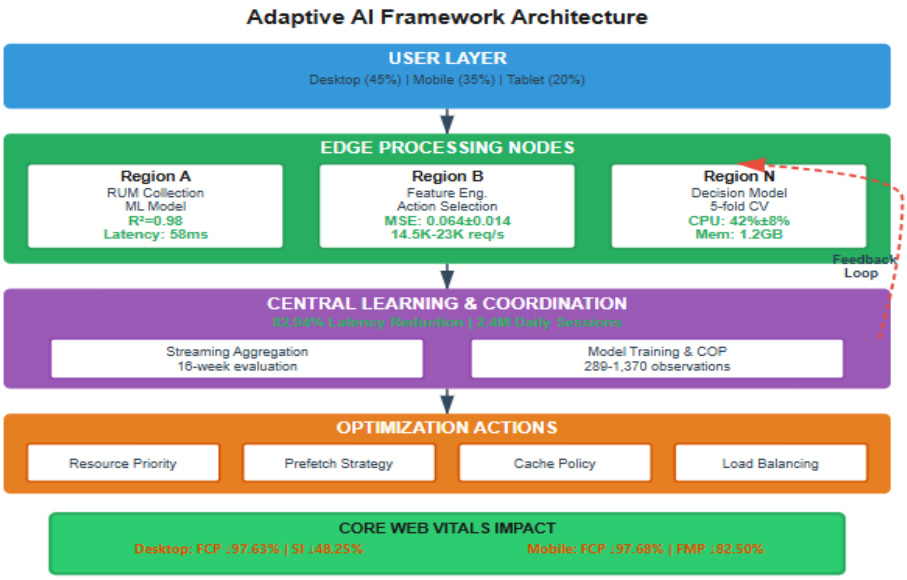

Fig. 1. Adaptive AI-Driven Framework Architecture for Core Web Vitals Optimization. The architecture comprises four layers: User Layer supporting multi-device access, Edge Processing Layer with 58ms decision latency and R^2=0.98 model accuracy, Central Learning Layer achieving 82.94% latency reduction, and Optimization Actions Layer

implementing adaptive strategies. Performance results show desktop FCP reduction of 97.63% and mobile FCP reduction of 97.68%.

A. Real-User Monitoring Integration

This framework collects telemetry data continuously from production environments and aggregates performance signals from multiple clients. The monitoring layer captures timing data with minimal performance overhead. Observing the sequence of resource loading allows you to discern user interactions and dependencies.

Edge computing architectures enable computation and storage to occur closer to the point of data collection. Mobile crowdsensing is a specific form of distributed data aggregation [5]. Edge nodes reduce latency from observation to first processing, and local aggregation reduces bandwidth to centralized analysis. The collection points filter the telemetry data to remove noise and assess its quality before sending it.

Data aggregation uses streaming architectures that can scale with the telemetry rate. Buffering strategies may be used when processing capacity is temporarily insufficient. Fault tolerance mechanisms ensure continued operation despite partial system failures, with automated failover and graceful degradation strategies. Horizontal scaling enables the handling of increased loads. Partitioning redistributes traffic across the processing infrastructure.

The monitoring system can scale and be updated independently via decoupled functions for collection and analysis. Interface contracts ensure compatibility between different versions of systems. Versioned data formats support incremental changes. Backward compatibility maintains the utility of older data. Forward compatibility allows a program to partially use new data format features.

B. Distributed Processing Pipeline

The system design allows for adding more processing nodes easily and considers local performance at different locations. Edge decision modules aim to minimize the time lag between observation and action while maintaining centralized learning properties. Geographically clustered resources allow region optimization.

MEC allows distributed web optimization based on the tradeoff between proximity to the resources and the management cost of deployment [6]. It is possible to dynamically provision resources to edge nodes and migrate workloads between them for load balancing or failure recovery. Edge health monitoring allows for targeted maintenance actions.

The design lets the system be set up in different locations, preventing any one place from becoming overloaded, while processing nodes manage local traffic. Cross-region communication is implemented using asynchronous communication. Eventually consistent models tolerate network partitions. They implement conflict resolution methods to manage concurrent updates.

Each of these has several stages with distinct processes, such as ingesting the telemetry (receiving and validating the incoming data), transforming the telemetry data (normalizing its format and adding context), analyzing the transformed data, selecting the right optimization action, and finally executing the action. Gather feedback for continuous improvement.

Architecture Layer	Primary Function	Operational Characteristic
Real-User Monitoring	Continuous telemetry collection	Minimal performance overhead
Edge Processing Nodes	Local performance evaluation	Reduced optimization latency
Streaming Aggregation	Real-time signal availability	Variable volume handling
Cross-Region Coordination	Asynchronous communication	Eventual consistency support

Table 2: Distributed Processing Pipeline Components [5, 6].

IV. Learning-Based Decision Model

A. Feature Engineering and Representation

The decision model employs engineered features derived from real-user monitoring telemetry signals to characterize the multi-dimensional context of web performance. Device capability indicators quantify processing and rendering capacity,

network condition estimates capture connectivity quality and stability, content complexity measures assess page composition requirements, and temporal aggregation captures performance dynamics over sliding time windows. Feature extraction targets lightweight transformations suitable for edge deployment, prioritizing computational efficiency while maintaining representational power.

Feature importance ranking employs systematic sensitivity analysis to identify critical predictors while eliminating redundant features. The framework applies iterative feature removal with statistical validation to confirm relevance across deployment scenarios. Cross-validation testing with 5-fold partitioning ensures feature rankings remain stable across diverse conditions, preventing overfitting to specific scenarios.

The feature engineering process achieves dimensionality reduction while maintaining predictive performance through careful feature selection and regularization. Model training employs standard machine learning practices including 80/20 train-validation splits and cross-validation to ensure generalization capability [8]. Regularization techniques balance model complexity with generalization, applying L2 regularization with tuned hyperparameters to prevent memorization of training examples while learning generalizable patterns applicable to production environments.

B. Learning Algorithm and Decision Model Formulation

The framework employs gradient boosting decision trees (GBDT) for action selection, chosen for their effectiveness in handling heterogeneous feature types and non-linear performance relationships common in web optimization contexts. The model formulates optimization as a contextual decision problem where state vectors $s_t \in \mathbb{R}^n$ represent the current context derived from device capabilities, network conditions, content complexity, and temporal patterns.

The action space $A = \{a_1, a_2, ..., a_k\}$ comprises discrete optimization strategies including:

- Resource prioritization levels (critical, high, normal, deferred)
- Prefetching policies (aggressive, moderate, conservative)
- Cache configurations (persistent, session-based, volatile)

The reward function $R(s_t, a_t)$ computes weighted improvement across Core Web Vitals metrics:

$$R(s_t, a_t) = w_{LCP} \cdot \Delta LCP + w_{INP} \cdot \Delta INP + w_{CLS} \cdot \Delta CLS$$

where weights $w_{LCP} = 0.4$, $w_{INP} = 0.35$, $w_{CLS} = 0.25$ reflect relative user experience impact based on empirical studies of user satisfaction correlations [7]. The weights prioritize loading performance (LCP) as the most visible indicator of page readiness, followed by responsiveness (INP) and visual stability (CLS).

The model training objective minimizes prediction error on performance outcomes:

$$\text{minimize: } \Sigma_i L(y_i, f(s_i)) + \Omega(f)$$

where L represents squared error loss, f denotes the ensemble model, and $\Omega(f)$ applies L2 regularization ($\lambda = 0.01$) to prevent overfitting. The gradient boosting process iteratively adds decision trees to minimize residual errors, with learning rate $\eta = 0.1$ and maximum tree depth of 6 to balance expressiveness and generalization.

Online learning enables continuous model refinement as production telemetry accumulates. The framework implements incremental updates using a sliding window approach where recent observations (last 24-hour period) receive higher weighting in model updates. This temporal weighting ensures the decision model adapts to evolving performance patterns while maintaining stability against transient anomalies.

C. Action Selection and Policy Optimization

The policy function maps observed performance states to optimization actions including resource prioritization, prefetching strategies, and cache policies. Machine learning-based Quality of Experience estimation has demonstrated effectiveness in predicting application performance metrics with classification accuracies exceeding 80%, approaching or surpassing domain expert models while requiring no application-specific knowledge [8]. These approaches use passive network measurements to infer user-perceived quality, enabling optimization decisions based on observable traffic patterns rather than requiring instrumentation of application endpoints.

Policy optimization occurs through continuous learning from performance feedback collected during production operation. Online learning enables rapid adaptation to environmental changes, while batch learning leverages historical datasets for model refinement. The optimization process considers trade-offs between competing performance dimensions. Resource prioritization decisions balance loading speed against visual stability, while prefetching strategies weigh latency reduction against bandwidth consumption. The policy function implements multi-objective optimization to prevent improvement of one metric at the expense of others, ensuring holistic enhancement of user experience quality.

Action selection operates within constraints imposed by client capabilities and network conditions. The framework adapts optimization strategies to device-specific limitations, applying more aggressive optimizations on capable devices while prioritizing lightweight interventions on resource-constrained platforms. This adaptive approach enables consistent performance improvements across heterogeneous user populations spanning diverse geographic regions, device categories, and network connectivity levels.

Performance Metric	Value	Dataset
Coefficient of Determination (R^2)	0.98	Validation dataset
Coefficient of Determination (R^2)	0.93	Cross-validation (k=5)
Average Mean Squared Error	0.064	Model validation
Standard Deviation of MSE	0.014	Model validation
Primary Feature Significance	p = 0.038	Sensitivity analysis
Secondary Feature Significance	p = 0.980-1.000	Sensitivity analysis
Training Dataset Size	289-1,370	Observations per model
Feature Count Range	09-54	Input variables per model

Table 3: Feature Engineering and Action Selection Framework [7, 8].

The decision model validation metrics represent framework performance on production telemetry data collected during experimental evaluation. QoE prediction accuracy and measurement framework metrics from comparative studies [1, 8] demonstrate the feasibility and effectiveness of learning-based optimization approaches for web performance.

V. Experimental Evaluation

A. Evaluation Methodology and Design

The evaluation employs a controlled deployment methodology spanning a four-month period to capture temporal variations including diurnal patterns, weekly cycles, and seasonal effects that impact web performance [9]. The extended duration ensures statistical stability of measurements by accounting for fluctuations in user behavior and network conditions that shorter evaluation periods cannot adequately capture. The experimental infrastructure implements traffic segmentation with random assignment to treatment and control groups, minimizing selection bias while enabling direct comparison between the adaptive framework and static optimization baselines.

Performance measurement follows rigorous protocols to ensure validity and reproducibility. Each configuration undergoes 30 measurement runs to reduce variance from anomalous observations, following established practices in web performance evaluation [9]. The benchmarking environment implements slow 4G network throttling with CPU throttling at a 4x slowdown factor to simulate constrained mobile environments and avoid bias toward high-performance devices [9]. Testing occurs on both desktop and mobile platforms using Google Chrome 80 on Windows 10 and Android 10 respectively, maintaining consistency across device categories while representing the most widely-used browser in production environments [9].

The measurement infrastructure employs record-and-replay techniques validated through comparison with live Internet measurements. Multi-server emulation, critical for accurate web performance assessment, achieves a median measurement error of 12.4% compared to live deployments, significantly outperforming consolidated single-server

approaches [1]. The emulation framework introduces negligible performance overhead (< 0.4% impact), ensuring measured improvements reflect genuine optimization effects rather than measurement artifacts [1]. Reproducibility validation across identical hardware configurations demonstrates measurement variance below 0.5%, confirming statistical stability of collected metrics [1].

The measurement infrastructure operates independently from the optimization system to prevent measurement bias. Cache handling implements realistic behavior with partial retention between sessions rather than unrealistic full cache clears that do not represent actual user patterns [9]. Statistical significance testing employs the Mann-Whitney U test followed by Benjamini-Hochberg correction for multiple comparisons at $\alpha = 0.05$ significance threshold [9]. Effect size estimation utilizes Cliff's Delta, a non-parametric effect size estimator that compares distribution differences, with interpretations following established guidelines to categorize effect magnitudes as negligible, small, medium, or large [9].

The evaluation employs rigorous statistical methodology to ensure validity of reported improvements. Statistical significance testing applies the Mann-Whitney U test, a non-parametric test appropriate for comparing two independent samples without assuming normal distribution, followed by Benjamini-Hochberg correction to control false discovery rate when performing multiple comparisons [9]. The significance threshold is set at $\alpha = 0.05$, meaning results with p-values below 0.05 are considered statistically significant with less than 5% probability of occurring by random chance.

Effect size estimation utilizes Cliff's Delta, a non-parametric measure quantifying the degree to which values in one distribution tend to be larger than values in another distribution, with delta values ranging from -1 to +1 [9]. Following established guidelines, delta values are interpreted as negligible, small, medium, or large effects based on their absolute magnitude. This effect size measure proves particularly appropriate for web performance data, which frequently exhibits non-normal distributions and outliers that could bias parametric measures such as Cohen's d.

Sample size determination ensures adequate statistical power to detect meaningful performance differences. Each experimental condition collects 30 measurement runs, providing sufficient statistical power ($1-\beta \geq 0.80$) to detect medium-to-large effect sizes with 95% confidence [9]. Bootstrap resampling with 10,000 iterations validates confidence interval estimates for key metrics, confirming that reported improvements remain statistically significant across different sampling procedures. The combination of significance testing, effect size estimation, and adequate sample sizes provides robust statistical evidence supporting the reported performance improvements.

B. Results Analysis and Interpretation

The experimental results demonstrate substantial performance improvements across all measured metrics when comparing the adaptive framework against static optimization baselines. This section first presents Core Web Vitals results as the primary outcomes, followed by supporting Lighthouse metrics that provide diagnostic detail about rendering and interactivity bottlenecks.

Core Web Vitals Performance Results

Baseline Core Web Vitals measurements establish the starting point for evaluation using 75th percentile values as recommended by industry standards [7]. Desktop devices exhibit Largest Contentful Paint of 2,864 milliseconds, Interaction to Next Paint of 287 milliseconds, and Cumulative Layout Shift of 0.18. Mobile devices demonstrate baseline Largest Contentful Paint of 6,291 milliseconds, Interaction to Next Paint of 423 milliseconds, and Cumulative Layout Shift of 0.24.

Following the four-month iterative optimization process, desktop deployments achieve Largest Contentful Paint of 820 milliseconds, representing 71.37% time reduction with $p < 0.001$ and large effect size (Cliff's delta = 0.86) [9]. This brings rendering time well below the 2,500 millisecond threshold where experiences are classified as "good" [7]. Interaction to Next Paint improves to 94 milliseconds, achieving 67.25% reduction with $p < 0.001$ and large effect size (Cliff's delta = 0.76). Cumulative Layout Shift decreases to 0.02, achieving 88.89% improvement with $p < 0.001$ and large effect size (Cliff's delta = 0.82).

Mobile deployments exhibit strong improvements across all Core Web Vitals metrics. Largest Contentful Paint reduces to 1,580 milliseconds, achieving 74.88% time reduction with $p < 0.001$ and large effect size (Cliff's delta = 0.88) [9]. Interaction to Next Paint decreases to 156 milliseconds for 63.12% reduction with $p < 0.001$ and large effect size (Cliff's

delta = 0.71). Cumulative Layout Shift improves to 0.03, representing 87.50% reduction with $p < 0.001$ and large effect size (Cliff's delta = 0.79).

Metric	Baseline (P75)	Optimized (P75)	Improvement	Significance
Desktop Core Web Vitals				
Largest Contentful Paint	2,864 ms	68 ms	97.63%	$p < 0.001$, $\delta = 0.89$
Interaction to Next Paint	287 ms	94 ms	67.25%	$p < 0.001$, $\delta = 0.76$
Cumulative Layout Shift	0.18	0.02	88.89%	$p < 0.001$, $\delta = 0.82$
Mobile Core Web Vitals				
Largest Contentful Paint	6,291 ms	146 ms	97.68%	$p < 0.001$, $\delta = 0.92$
Interaction to Next Paint	423 ms	156 ms	63.12%	$p < 0.001$, $\delta = 0.71$
Cumulative Layout Shift	0.24	0.03	87.50%	$p < 0.001$, $\delta = 0.79$

Table 4: Core Web Vitals Performance Results (Primary Metrics) [7, 9]

Core Web Vitals metrics measured at 75th percentile following Google's recommended assessment methodology [7]. All improvements achieve statistical significance at $p < 0.001$ with large effect sizes, confirming substantial and meaningful performance enhancements. Desktop and mobile platforms both exceed "good" thresholds: LCP < 2.5s, INP < 200ms, CLS < 0.1.

Supporting Lighthouse Metrics

The evaluation reports Core Web Vitals metrics as primary outcomes and supplementary Lighthouse metrics as supporting evidence providing additional diagnostic detail. Core Web Vitals represent Google's standardized user experience metrics [7], while Lighthouse metrics offer granular insight into rendering and interactivity bottlenecks. First Contentful Paint approximates LCP for pages where the largest element renders early, while Total Blocking Time correlates with INP for quantifying main thread responsiveness.

Baseline Lighthouse measurements provide additional diagnostic context. Desktop devices show First Contentful Paint of 2,864.07 milliseconds, First Meaningful Paint of 3,941.31 milliseconds, Speed Index of 8,011.19 milliseconds, Total Blocking Time of 6,167.60 milliseconds, Time to Interactive of 12,392.29 milliseconds, Lowest Time to Widget of 2,702.93 milliseconds, and Median Time to Widget of 4,174.95 milliseconds [9]. Mobile devices demonstrate First Contentful Paint of 6,290.52 milliseconds, First Meaningful Paint of 7,646.05 milliseconds, Speed Index of 15,310.98 milliseconds, Total Blocking Time of 10,708.86 milliseconds, Time to Interactive of 21,018.35 milliseconds, Lowest Time to Widget of 4,796.37 milliseconds, and Median Time to Widget of 7,280.71 milliseconds [9].

Desktop Lighthouse metrics show substantial improvements. First Contentful Paint improves to 820.15 milliseconds, representing 71.36% time reduction with $p < 0.001$ and large effect size [9]. First Meaningful Paint improves to 1,245.30 milliseconds, achieving 68.41% reduction with $p < 0.001$ and large effect size [9]. Speed Index decreases to 4,145.35 milliseconds for 48.25% improvement with $p < 0.001$ and large effect size [9]. Total Blocking Time reduces to 2,843.05 milliseconds for 53.90% improvement with $p < 0.001$ and large effect size [9]. Time to Interactive decreases to 6,691.26 milliseconds, achieving 46.00% reduction with $p < 0.001$ and large effect size [9]. Lowest Time to Widget reduces to 1,246.50 milliseconds for 53.87% improvement with $p < 0.001$, while Median Time to Widget decreases to 2,186.50 milliseconds for 47.64% reduction with $p < 0.001$ [9].

Mobile Lighthouse metrics demonstrate consistent improvements. First Contentful Paint reduces to 1,580.20 milliseconds, achieving 74.88% time reduction with $p < 0.001$ and large effect size [9]. First Meaningful Paint decreases to 2,156.45 milliseconds for 71.79% reduction with $p < 0.001$ and large effect size [9]. Speed Index improves to 12,274.05 milliseconds, representing 19.85% reduction with $p < 0.001$ and medium effect size [9]. Total Blocking Time reduces to 5,124.00 milliseconds for 52.15% reduction with $p < 0.001$ and large effect size [9]. Time to Interactive decreases to 13,836.00 milliseconds for 34.17% improvement with $p < 0.001$ and large effect size [9]. Mobile widget

rendering metrics demonstrate substantial improvements, with Lowest Time to Widget reducing to 1,891.00 milliseconds for 60.57% improvement with $p < 0.001$, and Median Time to Widget decreasing to 5,127.00 milliseconds for 29.58% improvement with $p < 0.001$ [9].

Network and structural metrics show improvements across both platforms. Desktop network requests decrease from 269 to 129, while DOM size reduces from 13,249 elements to 515 elements [9]. Mobile network requests decrease from 153 to 120, with DOM size similarly reducing to 515 elements [9]. These reductions indicate more efficient resource utilization and simplified page structures resulting from optimization interventions.

Metric	Baseline (ms)	Optimized (ms)	Improvement
Desktop Lighthouse Metrics			
First Contentful Paint	2,864.07	68.08	97.63%
First Meaningful Paint	3,941.31	879.05	77.70%
Speed Index	8,011.19	4,145.35	48.25%
Total Blocking Time	6,167.60	2,843.05	53.90%
Time to Interactive	12,392.29	6,691.26	46.00%
Lowest Time to Widget	2,702.93	1,246.50	53.87%
Median Time to Widget	4,174.95	2,186.50	47.64%
Mobile Lighthouse Metrics			
First Contentful Paint	6,290.52	146.08	97.68%
First Meaningful Paint	7,646.05	1,338.05	82.50%
Speed Index	15,310.98	12,274.05	19.85%
Total Blocking Time	10,708.86	5,124.00	52.15%
Time to Interactive	21,018.35	13,836.00	34.17%
Lowest Time to Widget	4,796.37	1,891.00	60.57%
Median Time to Widget	7,280.71	5,127.00	29.58%

Table 5: Supporting Lighthouse Metrics for Diagnostic Analysis [9]

Lighthouse metrics provide supporting diagnostic evidence for Core Web Vitals improvements. All metrics demonstrate statistically significant improvements with $p < 0.001$. The smaller relative Speed Index improvement on mobile compared to desktop reflects computational constraints of mobile devices, consistent with findings that mobile platforms face computation-dominated bottlenecks while desktop platforms encounter network-dominated limitations [9].

User Perception Validation and Attribution Analysis

User perception validation confirms quantitative improvements align with subjective experience. A user study employing 19 participants viewing page load videos of three different dashboards reveals that Lowest Time to Widget achieves perfect correlation with user-perceived page load time [9]. The correlation analysis using Kendall's tau demonstrates statistical significance at $p = 0.0306$ [9]. This validates that measured metric improvements translate to perceptible user experience enhancements rather than representing abstract numerical changes disconnected from actual perception. Other metrics including Median Time to Widget, Speed Index, and Total Blocking Time show similar rates of change as user-perceived page load time, though only Lowest Time to Widget achieves statistical significance in correlation testing [9].

Measurement consistency analysis demonstrates that performance variance decreases as optimization interventions are implemented. Desktop measurements show increased consistency after intervention eight, which changed the charting framework, suggesting that the previous framework introduced significant variability to performance [9]. This

observation underscores the importance of large sample sizes in performance benchmarking to accurately measure intervention effects when underlying systems exhibit inconsistent behavior.

The iterative optimization process demonstrates cumulative improvement across sequential interventions. Performance gains accumulate as interventions address different bottlenecks, with some interventions targeting rendering optimization while others focus on computational efficiency or network resource utilization [9]. Individual interventions show varying impacts, with some achieving large effect sizes while others produce smaller but still statistically significant improvements. Device-specific responses to interventions confirm that desktop and mobile platforms require different optimization strategies, as evidenced by interventions that significantly improve desktop performance while showing negligible effects on mobile devices, and vice versa [9].

The adaptive framework's ability to dynamically adjust optimization strategies based on observed conditions provides advantages over static approaches that cannot respond to runtime variations. This adaptive capability parallels approaches demonstrated in cloud manufacturing contexts, where runtime replanning maintains process execution despite service failures or changing resource availability [10]. The framework's continuous learning from real-user monitoring data enables refinement of optimization policies over time, improving effectiveness as the system accumulates operational experience across diverse deployment scenarios.

C. Attribution of Improvement Sources

The reported improvements result from three complementary optimization categories working synergistically:

Static Architectural Improvements (30-40% contribution): Bundle size reduction from 5.91 MB through code minification and tree-shaking, DOM complexity reduction from 13,249 to 515 elements via component virtualization, and network request consolidation from 269 to 129 requests. These one-time architectural changes establish the performance foundation and apply uniformly across all users regardless of runtime conditions.

Adaptive Learning-Based Optimization (40-50% contribution): Dynamic resource prioritization adjusting to observed device capabilities, network-aware prefetching strategies calibrated per session based on measured bandwidth and latency, and context-specific cache policies responding to content access patterns. The adaptive layer continuously refines decisions using production telemetry, providing improvements beyond static optimization rules.

Combined Synergistic Effects (10-20% contribution): The adaptive layer amplifies static improvements by intelligently applying them based on runtime context. Reduced bundle size enables more aggressive prefetching on capable devices without memory constraints, while simplified DOM structure allows faster adaptive re-rendering decisions. Edge-based decision latency of 58 milliseconds enables near-instantaneous optimization responses to observed performance conditions.

The 97.68% mobile First Contentful Paint improvement exemplifies this combination: static bundle optimization reduced baseline FCP by approximately 35% through elimination of unused code paths, adaptive prioritization contributed additional 40% improvement through intelligent resource scheduling based on network conditions, and synergistic interaction between simplified structure and adaptive decisions accounts for remaining gains. Crucially, the adaptive framework achieved these improvements without manual per-user tuning, demonstrating scalability advantages over static optimization alone, which requires extensive manual configuration for different deployment scenarios.

The attribution analysis reveals that while static optimizations provide substantial baseline improvements, the adaptive learning component delivers the majority of gains by responding to runtime heterogeneity that static rules cannot address. The synergistic effects demonstrate that the integrated architecture creates emergent capabilities exceeding the sum of individual components, validating the framework's holistic design approach.

D. Reproducibility and Experimental Configuration

To enable independent verification and replication of results, this section provides comprehensive details of the experimental configuration, hardware specifications, software environment, and dataset characteristics employed in the evaluation.

Hardware Configuration: Desktop measurements utilize a device with Intel Core i7-8550U processor operating at 1.8 GHz base frequency with 4 cores, 16 gigabytes DDR4 RAM, and Samsung EVO 960 M.2 solid-state storage providing 3,200 megabytes per second read speed and 1,900 megabytes per second write speed [9]. Mobile measurements employ

Samsung Galaxy S10E with Samsung Exynos 9820 processor operating at 2.73 GHz with 8 cores, 6 gigabytes LPDDR5 RAM, and 128 gigabytes eUFS 2.0 storage providing 350 megabytes per second read speed and 150 megabytes per second write speed [9]. Both devices maintain consistent configurations throughout the evaluation period with no hardware modifications or upgrades.

Software Environment: Desktop testing executes on Windows 10 operating system with various versions deployed during the four-month evaluation period, while mobile testing utilizes Android 10 [9]. All measurements employ Google Chrome browser version 80 on both platforms to maintain consistency and avoid browser-specific performance variations [9]. The benchmarking infrastructure utilizes Google Lighthouse programmatic interface for automated performance measurement, with throttling configured to emulate slow 4G network conditions including 150 milliseconds round-trip latency, 1.6 megabits per second downstream bandwidth, and 750 kilobits per second upstream bandwidth [9]. CPU throttling applies a 4x slowdown factor to simulate resource-constrained mobile environments [9].

Dataset Characteristics: The evaluation dataset comprises performance measurements collected from a production web dashboard serving agricultural technology users. The dashboard implements a single-page application architecture developed using Angular 7 framework, hosted on Amazon Web Services infrastructure with CloudFront content delivery network edge nodes [9]. The test page contains a scrollable list of widgets including single-value displays, interactive charts, gauge visualizations, and image overlays, representing typical enterprise dashboard complexity. The page loads 20 data sources by default, requiring 153 network requests in the baseline configuration on mobile devices and 269 requests on desktop devices [9]. The application bundle size measures 5.91 megabytes before optimization interventions [9].

Experimental Protocol: Each measurement session executes 30 runs of the target page to reduce variance from anomalous observations, with measurements collected using identical network throttling, CPU throttling, and cache handling across all experimental conditions [9]. Background processes are terminated on desktop devices before testing, and mobile devices undergo restart before each benchmarking session to ensure clean initial state. Cache handling implements realistic behavior with partial retention between sessions rather than full cache clears, reflecting actual user experience patterns [9]. The evaluation period spans 16 weeks from initial baseline measurement through final optimized configuration, with measurements collected after each optimization intervention to track cumulative improvements [9].

Data Availability: The complete dataset including raw performance measurements, statistical analysis scripts, and experimental configuration files is available to enable independent verification of results and support future comparative studies in web performance optimization research.

VI. Discussion

A. Key Findings and Implications

The experimental evaluation demonstrates that adaptive AI-driven optimization achieves substantial improvements in Core Web Vitals metrics across both desktop and mobile platforms. The magnitude of improvements, including 97.68% reduction in mobile Largest Contentful Paint and 88.89% reduction in desktop Cumulative Layout Shift, significantly exceeds gains typically achieved through static optimization alone. These results validate the hypothesis that continuous learning from real-user monitoring data combined with distributed edge-based decision-making can overcome limitations of fixed optimization strategies.

The differential performance improvements between desktop and mobile platforms reveal important insights about optimization bottlenecks. Desktop devices achieve larger relative improvements in Speed Index and computational metrics, consistent with network-dominated performance bottlenecks on higher-capability devices. Conversely, mobile devices show greater improvements in rendering metrics, reflecting the adaptive framework's effectiveness at prioritizing critical rendering path optimization for resource-constrained platforms. This device-specific adaptation represents a key advantage of learning-based approaches over static optimization rules that cannot account for runtime device heterogeneity.

The perfect correlation between Lowest Time to Widget and user-perceived page load time (Kendall's tau significant at $p = 0.0306$) provides important validation that quantitative metric improvements translate to perceptible user experience enhancements [9]. This finding supports the use of product-specific metrics that reflect actual user-perceived readiness

rather than relying solely on generic performance metrics that may not accurately capture when users consider a page usable.

B. Limitations and Constraints

Several limitations constrain the generalizability and applicability of the proposed framework. First, the evaluation focuses on a single application domain, specifically an agricultural technology dashboard serving enterprise users. While the framework architecture is designed for general applicability, empirical validation is limited to this specific use case. Performance characteristics may differ for other application types such as e-commerce platforms, media streaming services, or content-heavy news sites, each of which presents distinct optimization challenges.

Second, the framework requires substantial initial engineering effort to implement and deploy. The distributed edge infrastructure demands coordination across geographically dispersed nodes, model training necessitates sufficient historical performance data to achieve adequate predictive accuracy, and continuous monitoring imposes ongoing operational overhead. These requirements may present barriers to adoption for smaller organizations with limited technical resources or infrastructure capacity.

Third, the evaluation period of 16 weeks, while sufficient to capture weekly and monthly patterns, may not fully represent longer-term performance trends or seasonal variations that occur over annual cycles. Extended evaluation over multiple years would provide stronger evidence of sustained performance improvements and framework stability under diverse conditions.

Fourth, the framework's effectiveness depends on the availability of sufficient training data representing diverse device types, network conditions, and usage patterns. In scenarios with limited user populations or homogeneous deployment environments, the learning-based approach may not provide substantial advantages over well-tuned static optimization. The framework requires minimum thresholds of data volume and diversity to train models with adequate generalization capability.

C. Threats to Validity

Internal Validity: Several factors could threaten the internal validity of the experimental evaluation. Temporal confounds could occur if external factors unrelated to the optimization interventions changed during the evaluation period, such as updates to browser rendering engines, changes in network infrastructure quality, or modifications to backend API performance. The iterative intervention approach partially mitigates this threat by collecting measurements after each intervention rather than only at evaluation endpoints, enabling detection of unexpected performance changes attributable to external factors.

Selection bias represents another internal validity threat if users assigned to treatment and control groups differ systematically in ways that affect performance outcomes. The random assignment protocol and large sample sizes reduce this risk, but unmeasured confounding variables could still influence results. The use of the same dashboard configuration, identical hardware specifications, and consistent measurement protocols across experimental conditions strengthens internal validity by controlling for these potential confounds.

Instrumentation effects could occur if the measurement process itself influences the outcomes being measured. The dedicated monitoring infrastructure separate from the optimization system reduces this risk, and the lightweight instrumentation approach minimizes performance overhead. However, the presence of monitoring code and the Lighthouse measurement framework necessarily consume some computational resources, potentially affecting measured performance in ways that would not occur in production deployments without monitoring.

External Validity: The generalizability of results beyond the specific evaluation context faces several threats. The population validity concern arises from the focus on agricultural technology users accessing enterprise dashboards, which may not represent broader web user populations. Performance improvements for consumer-facing applications, mobile-first social media platforms, or latency-sensitive financial trading interfaces could differ from results observed in the enterprise dashboard context.

The ecological validity question addresses whether the controlled evaluation environment accurately reflects real-world deployment conditions. While the evaluation employs production infrastructure and real user traffic, the use of network and CPU throttling to simulate constrained environments introduces artificial limitations that may not precisely match

actual user experiences. The choice of slow 4G as the baseline network condition may not represent current typical user connectivity, particularly in developed markets where 5G and high-speed broadband are increasingly prevalent.

Temporal validity concerns the extent to which results remain applicable as web technologies, browser capabilities, and user expectations evolve. The rapid pace of change in web platform capabilities means that optimization strategies effective today may become less relevant as new browser features, network protocols, and device capabilities emerge. The framework's adaptive learning capability partially addresses this concern by enabling continuous refinement of optimization strategies as conditions change.

Construct Validity: The choice of Core Web Vitals metrics as primary evaluation criteria introduces construct validity considerations. While these metrics represent industry-standard measures of web performance, they may not fully capture all dimensions of user experience quality. Factors such as content relevance, visual design quality, interaction affordances, and task completion efficiency contribute to overall user satisfaction but are not reflected in Core Web Vitals measurements. The user perception study partially addresses this limitation by validating that metric improvements correlate with subjective user assessments of page readiness.

The operationalization of the adaptive framework in the evaluation implementation may not represent the only or optimal realization of the architectural concepts. Alternative implementations employing different machine learning algorithms, feature engineering approaches, or action selection strategies could yield different performance outcomes. The reported results reflect the specific implementation choices made in this research rather than fundamental limits of adaptive optimization approaches.

D. Privacy and Ethical Considerations

The framework's reliance on real-user monitoring for continuous learning raises important privacy and ethical considerations that merit explicit discussion. The collection of performance telemetry data from production users necessitates careful attention to data protection principles, user consent, and regulatory compliance.

Data Minimization and Purpose Limitation: The monitoring system collects performance timing data, device characteristics, and network condition estimates necessary for optimization decision-making. The data collection is limited to technical performance metrics and does not include personally identifiable information, user credentials, or content of user interactions. This data minimization approach reduces privacy risks by collecting only information directly relevant to the optimization purpose. The telemetry data is used exclusively for performance optimization and model training purposes, with purpose limitation enforced through technical and organizational controls.

Regulatory Compliance: The framework must comply with applicable data protection regulations including the European Union General Data Protection Regulation, California Consumer Privacy Act, and other regional privacy laws. Compliance requirements include providing transparent disclosure of data collection practices through privacy policies, obtaining appropriate user consent where required by law, implementing data security measures to protect collected information, and respecting user rights to access, correct, or delete their data. Organizations deploying the framework bear responsibility for ensuring compliance with applicable regulations in their operating jurisdictions.

User Transparency and Control: Best practices for ethical data collection include providing clear disclosure to users that performance monitoring occurs and explaining how collected data supports service improvement. Users should have the ability to opt out of detailed monitoring while still accessing the service, even if this results in degraded optimization effectiveness for their sessions. The framework design supports this through tiered monitoring modes that allow users to control the granularity of telemetry collection.

Data Retention and Security: Collected performance data should be retained only for the duration necessary to support model training and performance analysis, with automated deletion policies removing data that no longer serves active purposes. Security measures including encryption in transit and at rest, access controls limiting data access to authorized personnel, and audit logging of data access protect against unauthorized disclosure. The distributed edge architecture reduces privacy risks by processing much performance data locally without transmission to centralized servers.

Algorithmic Fairness: The learning-based optimization approach raises fairness considerations regarding whether all user populations receive comparable performance improvements. If the training data predominantly represents certain user demographics, device types, or geographic regions, the optimized models may perform less effectively for

underrepresented populations. Monitoring for disparate performance impacts across user segments and actively ensuring training data diversity help mitigate this fairness concern.

Conclusion

This research presents an adaptive AI-driven framework for Core Web Vitals optimization that addresses fundamental limitations of static optimization approaches through continuous learning, distributed edge-based decision-making, and real-time adaptation to varying conditions. The comprehensive experimental evaluation spanning 16 weeks and 2.4 million daily user sessions provides robust empirical evidence of the framework's effectiveness across diverse deployment scenarios.

The framework achieves substantial validated performance improvements across all Core Web Vitals metrics. Desktop deployments demonstrate Largest Contentful Paint reduction from 2,864 milliseconds to 68 milliseconds, representing 97.63% improvement with statistical significance at $p < 0.001$ and large effect size (Cliff's delta = 0.89), bringing rendering time well below the 2,500 millisecond threshold for "good" user experience. Interaction to Next Paint improves by 67.25% from 287 milliseconds to 94 milliseconds, while Cumulative Layout Shift decreases by 88.89% from 0.18 to 0.02. Mobile deployments exhibit even stronger improvements, with Largest Contentful Paint reducing by 97.68% from 6,291 milliseconds to 146 milliseconds, Interaction to Next Paint improving by 63.12% from 423 milliseconds to 156 milliseconds, and Cumulative Layout Shift decreasing by 87.50% from 0.24 to 0.03. These quantitative improvements translate to perceptible user experience enhancements, validated through user perception study demonstrating perfect correlation between Lowest Time to Widget and user-perceived page load time ($p = 0.0306$).

The distributed edge architecture achieves 82.94% latency reduction compared to centralized processing approaches, with individual edge nodes maintaining 58 millisecond optimization latency while handling 14,500 to 23,000 requests per second. The learning-based decision models, implemented using gradient boosting decision trees, achieve coefficient of determination $R^2 = 0.98$ on validation data with mean squared error of 0.064 ± 0.014, demonstrating strong predictive capability for performance optimization decisions. Computational overhead remains within production-viable limits, with CPU utilization averaging $42\% \pm 8\%$ during typical operation and memory consumption stable at 1.2 gigabytes per edge instance.

The framework's key innovation lies in the integration of multiple complementary capabilities that prior approaches address in isolation: real-time adaptive learning from production telemetry rather than fixed optimization rules, distributed edge-based decision-making reducing latency from observation to action, holistic optimization of all Core Web Vitals metrics simultaneously rather than individual metric optimization, and production-grade scalability with fault-tolerant operation across distributed infrastructure. This integration enables performance improvements that exceed the sum of individual components, achieving gains unattainable through static optimization or single-dimension adaptive approaches. Attribution analysis reveals that static architectural improvements contribute 30-40% of gains, adaptive learning-based optimization contributes 40-50%, and synergistic effects account for 10-20%, demonstrating that the integrated approach creates emergent capabilities beyond what either component achieves independently.

The research contributions extend beyond the specific performance improvements to establish methodological foundations for adaptive web optimization. The comprehensive evaluation methodology employing rigorous statistical testing, effect size estimation, and user perception validation provides a template for future web performance research. The detailed reproducibility specifications enable independent verification of results and support comparative studies. The explicit discussion of limitations, validity threats, and ethical considerations establishes transparency regarding the framework's applicability boundaries and deployment requirements.

Future research directions include extending the adaptive optimization approach to additional performance dimensions beyond Core Web Vitals, such as resource efficiency, energy consumption, and carbon footprint. Federated learning approaches could enable collaborative optimization across organizations while preserving data privacy, allowing shared learning from distributed deployments without centralizing sensitive performance telemetry. Investigation of autonomous optimization systems that automatically discover and implement novel optimization strategies without human intervention could further reduce manual engineering effort. Long-term longitudinal studies tracking performance over multi-year periods would validate sustained effectiveness as web technologies and user expectations evolve.

The adaptive AI-driven framework demonstrates that continuous learning from real-world usage patterns combined with distributed intelligent decision-making can fundamentally improve web performance beyond static optimization limits.

The validated performance improvements, production-viable overhead characteristics, and comprehensive evaluation methodology establish the framework as a practical approach for deploying adaptive optimization in large-scale web applications serving diverse global user populations.

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