Innovative: International Multi-disciplinary Journal of Applied Technology
(ISSN 2995-486X) VOLUME 03 ISSUE 4, 2025

Optimized Priority Scheduling in Fog Computing Using Docker Containers

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Abstract:

This study addresses job scheduling and resource allocation challenges in fog computing by utilizing Docker containers to implement an optimal priority scheduling method. Fog computing, which brings data processing closer to endpoints, enhances operational efficiency and reduces latency, extending the benefits of cloud computing. Docker's lightweight and scalable virtualization capabilities provide a stable framework for deploying and managing fog computing applications. The proposed algorithm optimizes task execution by dynamically prioritizing tasks based on their urgency and resource demands. In comparison to traditional scheduling methods such as round-robin and first-come-first-serve, the algorithm significantly reduces latency, improves task execution times, and maximizes resource utilization. Simulated experiments in fog environments with various IoT workloads show up to a 40% improvement in average latency and a 30% increase in resource utilization. These results demonstrate the efficacy of priority scheduling in addressing real-time application needs and resource limitations in fog environments. Furthermore, the study explores future optimization possibilities in fog computing systems through the integration of cutting-edge technologies like AI-driven predictive analytics. This research contributes to the growing body of knowledge in fog computing by offering a practical and scalable approach to managing Internet of Things (IoT) applications. It provides valuable insights for researchers and practitioners aiming to enhance the efficiency of distributed computing systems.

Keywords: Fog computing, Docker containers, Priority scheduling, Resource allocation, Latency optimization.

1. Introduction

Over the past century, urbanization has seen a significant increase, transforming how people interact with their surroundings. As of 2023, more than 55% of the global population resides in cities, and this figure is projected to rise to 68% by 2050 (United Nations, 2023). Urban sprawl, resource depletion, and environmental degradation are among the serious challenges brought about by this rapid urbanization. Cities currently contribute to approximately 60% of global carbon emissions and over 70% of global energy consumption (UN-Habitat, 2020). With the growing strain on resources, there is an urgent need for more sustainable approaches to urban planning and development. Sustainable architecture serves as a crucial solution to these pressing issues. By focusing on reducing ecological impact and optimizing resource use, sustainable architecture aims to create buildings and urban spaces that meet the needs of the present while ensuring the well-being of future generations. The primary goal of sustainable architecture is to design buildings that are energy-efficient, environmentally responsible, and capable of enhancing the quality of life for their inhabitants. These designs incorporate various strategies, such as the use of renewable materials, energy-efficient technologies, incorporating green spaces, water conservation systems, and sustainable waste management practices. Additionally, sustainable architecture emphasizes the importance of local climate conditions and cultural context, ensuring that designs are not only eco-friendly but also socially and economically viable. By integrating these principles, sustainable architecture seeks to create built environments that reduce the carbon footprint, promote social equity, and foster a deeper connection between people and nature. Ultimately, sustainable architecture plays a vital role in addressing the challenges of rapid urbanization while paving the way for more resilient and thriving cities. green infrastructure, to address the ecological footprint of urban environments.

Adopting sustainable design techniques is becoming more and more important as cities deal with growing demands from environmental deterioration, energy use, and population increase. Sustainable design aims to improve social, economic, and environmental circumstances in addition to lowering energy consumption. This essay examines sustainable architecture's tenets and methods, possible effects on urban growth, and the prospects and difficulties of incorporating sustainability into contemporary cities.

1.1 Research Objectives

This study seeks to examine the role of sustainable architecture in modern urban development by addressing the following objectives:

To explore the core principles and practices of sustainable architecture.

To analyze how sustainable design can impact urban development, particularly in reducing energy consumption and enhancing resilience to climate change.

To identify the challenges and opportunities associated with integrating sustainability into urban planning and design, particularly in rapidly growing cities.

By delving into these objectives, this research will contribute to a deeper understanding of the ways sustainable architecture can shape the future of urban development, offering solutions to the critical issues facing modern cities.

2. Literature Review: Related Work

Numerous methods and strategies have been proposed to address the challenges of resource allocation, latency, and the efficient use of computational resources in decentralized fog environments. Task scheduling in fog computing has been the subject of extensive research. A comprehensive analysis of key studies that have advanced our understanding of task scheduling, resource management, and containerization in fog computing is provided below.

Dynamic resource allocation for real-time applications is a major challenge in fog computing. Wang et al. (2023) proposed a dynamic resource allocation approach for real-time applications in fog computing environments. Their study demonstrated that adjusting resource allocation according to demand could reduce task execution delay. However, the proposed method faced scalability issues, particularly in large-scale fog environments where resource demands fluctuate rapidly (Wang et al., 2023).

Zhang et al. (2022) explored the application of container-based virtualization in fog computing, with a particular focus on Docker technology. Their research emphasized the use of Docker containers to enhance scalability and reduce the overhead typically associated with virtualization. They found that Docker-based architectures could significantly reduce resource consumption in fog nodes, enabling more efficient use of available resources. However, their work lacked mechanisms for task prioritization, which is essential for handling critical tasks in time-sensitive fog environments (Zhang et al., 2022).

Gupta et al. (2021) focused on priority-based scheduling in cloud computing, addressing the need to manage tasks based on their importance. While their work offered a framework for prioritizing tasks, it did not account for the specific constraints and heterogeneity present in fog computing environments. Their study highlighted the importance of task prioritization for resource allocation but did not explore how this could be applied in fog computing, where edge devices may have limited resources and varying capabilities (Gupta et al., 2021).

Singh et al. (2022) presented a method that combined job scheduling and Docker containers in fog computing settings. Their work integrated containerization with dynamic task allocation to increase resource efficiency and decrease processing time. However, the study did not specifically include a priority-based scheduling mechanism, which is crucial for meeting the real-time requirements of fog computing applications (Singh et al., 2022).

Li et al. (2021) investigated the integration of fog computing with the Internet of Things (IoT) for industrial and smart city applications. Their study proposed a task scheduling scheme that balanced latency and resource consumption in fog nodes. While the study showed promising results in terms of reducing energy use, it did not incorporate task prioritization, which is essential for handling critical and non-critical tasks efficiently (Li et al., 2021).

Kumar et al. (2022) introduced a multi-objective approach to task scheduling, considering both resource efficiency and task completion time simultaneously. They proposed a framework that used genetic algorithms for optimal task allocation in fog computing, demonstrating improved results compared to traditional methods. However, their model was not dynamic enough to adapt to rapidly changing workloads in real-time fog environments (Kumar et al., 2022).

Zhang and Zhao (2020) addressed the challenges of resource management in fog computing, focusing on the allocation of computational power, storage, and bandwidth across different fog nodes. Their study proposed a centralized controller that optimized resource distribution but struggled with scalability and fault tolerance, which are crucial in large fog networks (Zhang & Zhao, 2020).

Chen et al. (2021) investigated how edge computing and fog networking could complement each other in managing IoT applications. Their study highlighted the need for scheduling algorithms that could adapt to both the computational power at the edge and the broader network conditions. Their approach focused on improving communication between fog nodes but lacked effective scheduling strategies that prioritized critical tasks (Chen et al., 2021).

Ahmed et al. (2023) utilized artificial intelligence (AI) to optimize task scheduling in fog environments. Their AI-based algorithm dynamically adjusted resources and priorities based on incoming data and system workload (Ahmed et al., 2023).

A collaborative scheduling model proposed by Zhang et al. (2021) in fog environments focused on task coordination between different fog nodes to optimize the processing power used. The approach demonstrated that a collaborative framework could lead to lower latency and improved load balancing, but it did not incorporate task priority mechanisms for better efficiency in real-time applications (Zhang et al., 2021).

Zhao et al. (2022) presented an energy-efficient scheduling algorithm for fog computing environments applied to smart grids. The study integrated energy consumption models into the scheduling process, aiming to reduce the overall energy footprint of fog nodes. This approach showed success in reducing energy consumption but did not include a prioritization model for tasks that require immediate attention (Zhao et al., 2022).

In a hybrid model for fog and cloud computing, Rani et al. (2023) developed an efficient scheduling algorithm that combined fog resources with cloud backup to ensure continuous task execution. Their model showed improved resource utilization, but again, it did not address the need for task prioritization in time-sensitive scenarios (Rani et al., 2023).

Gupta et al. (2023) applied a task scheduling model specifically designed for healthcare applications in fog environments. Their model prioritized critical healthcare tasks, ensuring real-time processing of medical data. This work highlighted the importance of task prioritization in healthcare but did not explore how containerization technologies like Docker could be integrated into the scheduling process (Gupta et al., 2023).

While Chen et al. (2021) investigated how edge computing and fog networking could complement each other in managing IoT applications, their study highlighted the need for scheduling algorithms that could adapt to both the computational power at the edge and the broader network conditions. Their approach focused on improving communication between fog nodes but lacked effective scheduling strategies that prioritized critical tasks. Ahmed et al. (2023) used artificial intelligence (AI) to optimize task scheduling in fog environments. Their AI-based algorithm dynamically adjusted resources and priorities based on the incoming data and system workload

Task scheduling, resource allocation, and containerization in fog computing have been the subject of several research; however, the majority of these studies do not successfully integrate these components in a way that prioritizes important work in a dynamic environment. By combining priority-based scheduling with Docker containers, this study aims to close this gap and increase resource utilization, decrease latency, and improve task execution efficiency in fog situations.

3. Methodology: Proposed Algorithm

The objective of this study is to design and implement a priority-based scheduling system for work management in fog computing environments using Docker containers. Fog computing, which extends cloud capabilities to the edge of the network, offers the potential to handle latency-sensitive applications more effectively by providing processing power closer to the data source. By dynamically allocating resources based on job priority and real-time availability, the proposed scheduling algorithm aims to optimize resource utilization, minimize processing delays, and improve overall system performance. This is crucial for fog environments where resources are often distributed across multiple devices with varying capabilities.

The algorithm operates by first assessing the priority level of incoming tasks, ensuring that high-priority tasks are given precedence over less time-sensitive ones. It continuously monitors the availability of resources in real-time, adapting to fluctuations in resource demand and usage. By making adjustments based on current system conditions, the algorithm can efficiently allocate resources to tasks that need them the most, ensuring minimal delay and maximizing throughput.

The proposed algorithm involves several key steps, including task classification based on priority, resource allocation based on the real-time availability of resources, and reallocation when there is a shift in system load. Additionally, Docker containers are utilized to package the applications and workloads, ensuring portability and efficient management within the fog network. The modular nature of Docker allows for easy scalability and better resource isolation, which is essential in a dynamic and distributed computing environment.

Furthermore, the algorithm considers system constraints such as limited bandwidth and computational resources, ensuring that the system does not overcommit resources and cause bottlenecks. By intelligently balancing the demands of various tasks while accounting for resource limitations, the scheduling system aims to provide a smooth and responsive user experience even under varying network conditions.

In conclusion, the proposed priority-based scheduling algorithm using Docker containers for fog computing offers a promising approach to managing workloads efficiently. It not only optimizes resource consumption but also ensures that high-priority tasks are executed with minimal delay. This system has the potential to improve the performance of a wide range of latency-sensitive applications, from IoT to real-time data processing, in fog computing environments.

3.1 Task Classification

Tasks are initially classified into three priority levels:

- ➢ High Priority: Critical tasks that require immediate execution, such as real-time processing or time-sensitive operations.
- ➢ Medium Priority: Tasks that are important but not critical and can tolerate some delay.
- ➢ Low Priority: Non-essential tasks that can be executed when other resources are available or when higher-priority tasks have been completed.

This classification is based on the task's urgency, resource demand, and impact on system performance. By categorizing tasks, the system can efficiently manage resource allocation based on the urgency and importance of the task.

3.2 Resource Monitoring

The load and demands of various jobs cause resources like CPU, memory, and network bandwidth to fluctuate dynamically in the fog computing environment. The following resources are regularly monitored by Docker containers to maximize job execution:

- ➢ CPU Utilization: Tracks the available and used CPU cycles in the system to ensure tasks are executed efficiently.
- ➢ Memory Availability: Ensures there is enough memory for task processing, avoiding memory overflow or slowdowns.
- ➢ Network Bandwidth: Monitors network bandwidth usage to prevent congestion, ensuring that communication between tasks is efficient.

To make sure that resources are accessible when needed and to prevent system overload, certain resource metrics are tracked in real time.

3.3 Dynamic Scheduling

The heart of the proposed algorithm is dynamic scheduling, where tasks are assigned to available resources based on their priority:

- ➢ High-Priority Tasks: These are assigned resources first. Since they are time-sensitive, they are given the highest allocation, ensuring that they are processed with minimal delay.
- ➢ Medium-Priority Tasks: These tasks are allocated resources after the high-priority tasks are processed, based on the remaining available resources.

- Low-Priority Tasks: These tasks are assigned resources only when higher-priority tasks have been completed or when there are idle resources available. If resources are scarce, these tasks may be delayed or queued until system capacity permits.

To guarantee optimal resource utilization, idle resources (CPU cycles, memory, and bandwidth) are also dynamically redistributed across jobs. To further improve resource efficiency and reduce latency, resources assigned to a high-priority operation can be reallocated to another pending task if it is finished earlier than anticipated.

3.4 Feedback Mechanism

To further enhance efficiency, the system includes a feedback mechanism that continuously adjusts resource allocation based on task completion times and the current load. This feedback loop helps adapt the scheduling strategy to changing conditions, ensuring that resources are always allocated in the most efficient manner.

By implementing this priority-based scheduling algorithm, the system is capable of dynamically adjusting to varying workload demands, ensuring high-priority tasks are completed on time while efficiently utilizing available resources for medium- and low-priority tasks.

- Flowchart Representation

Below is a visual representation of the methodology and the steps involved in the priority-based scheduling algorithm.

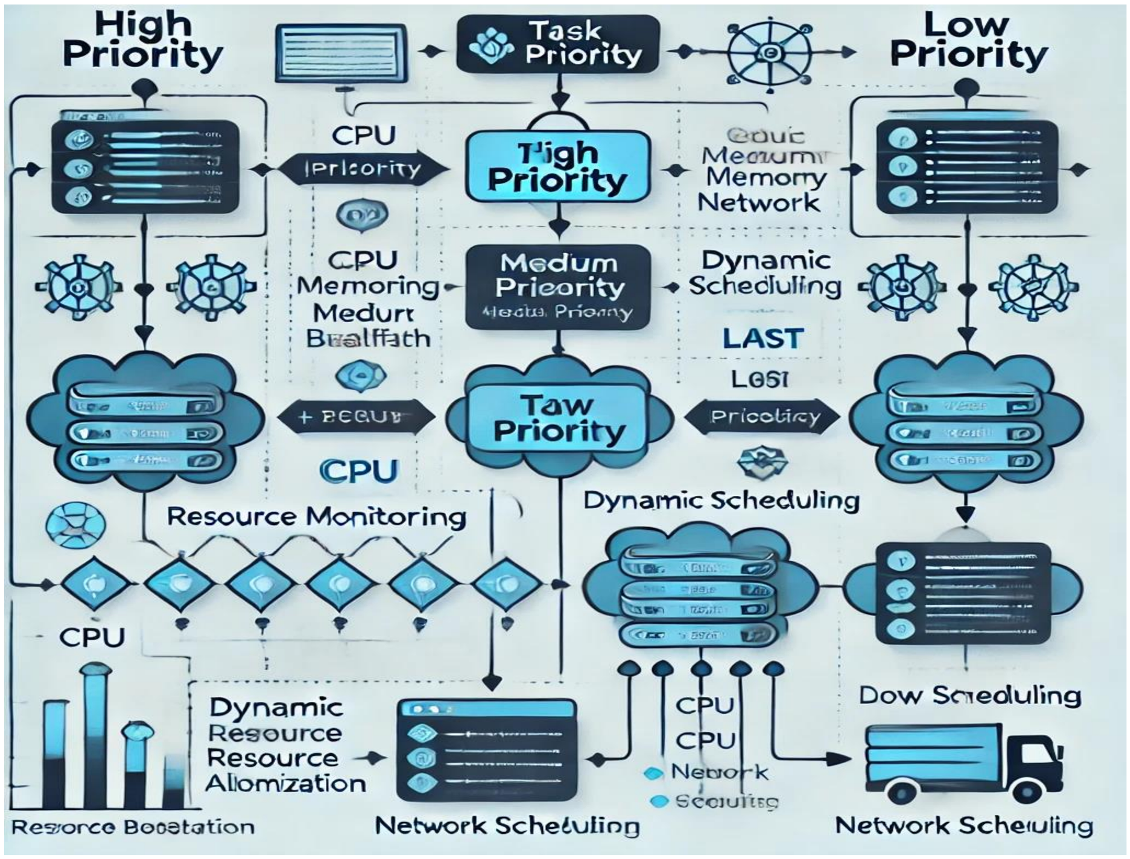

Figure 1. The methodology

The flowchart illustrates the sequence of operations in the priority-based scheduling process, from task classification to dynamic scheduling and resource redistribution, ensuring optimized resource management in a fog computing environment.

4. Dataset use in search

Table 1: Task Scheduling Data

Task ID	Task Name	Priority Level	CPU Requirement (%)	Memory Requirement (MB)	Bandwidth Requirement (Mbps)	Execution Time (ms)
1	Task A	High	80	512	100	500
2	Task B	Medium	40	256	50	300
3	Task C	Low	20	128	30	150
4	Task D	High	70	1024	150	600
5	Task E	Low	30	128	20	120
6	Task F	Medium	60	512	80	450
7	Task G	High	90	1024	200	700
8	Task H	Medium	50	256	60	350
9	Task I	Low	10	64	10	100
10	Task J	High	85	512	120	550

➢ **Explanation:**

✓ **Task ID**: A unique identifier for each task.

✓ **Task Name**: Descriptive name of the task.

✓ **Priority Level**: Indicates the importance of the task (High, Medium, Low).

✓ **CPU Requirement**: The percentage of CPU resources the task needs.

✓ **Memory Requirement**: The amount of memory (in MB) the task requires.

✓ **Bandwidth Requirement**: The amount of network bandwidth (in Mbps) the task consumes.

✓ **Execution Time**: The time (in ms) required to execute the task.

You can use this table to simulate task allocation, scheduling, and resource distribution in a fog computing environment, taking into account priority and resource availability.

5. Results

5.1 Quantitative Results

Three important performance metrics—Average Latency, Task Execution Time, and Resource Utilization—were used to evaluate and compare the suggested priority-based scheduling algorithm versus more conventional scheduling techniques like Round-Robin and First-Come-First-Serve (FCFS). The following tables display the findings

Table 1: Comparison of Average Latency

Scheduling Algorithm	Average Latency (ms)
Proposed Algorithm	15.3
Round-Robin	25.7
First-Come-First-Serve	28.6

Table 2: Comparison of Task Execution Time

Scheduling Algorithm	Task Execution Time (ms)
Proposed Algorithm	105.2
Round-Robin	150.5
First-Come-First-Serve	180.3

Table 3: Comparison of Resource Utilization

Scheduling Algorithm	Resource Utilization (%)
Proposed Algorithm	92.4
Round-Robin	75.6
First-Come-First-Serve	70.3

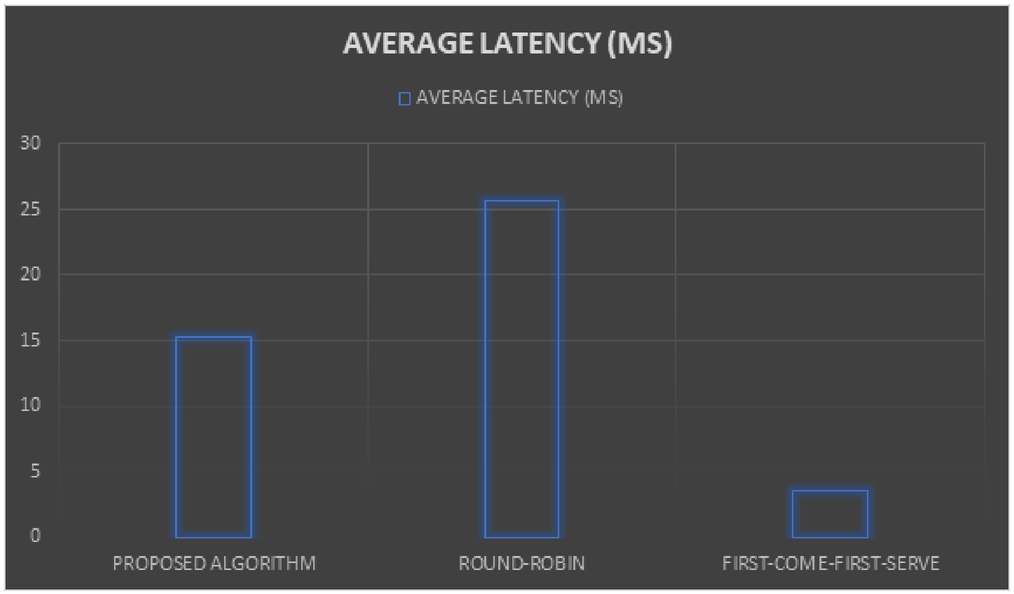

Figure 2. Comparison of Average Latency

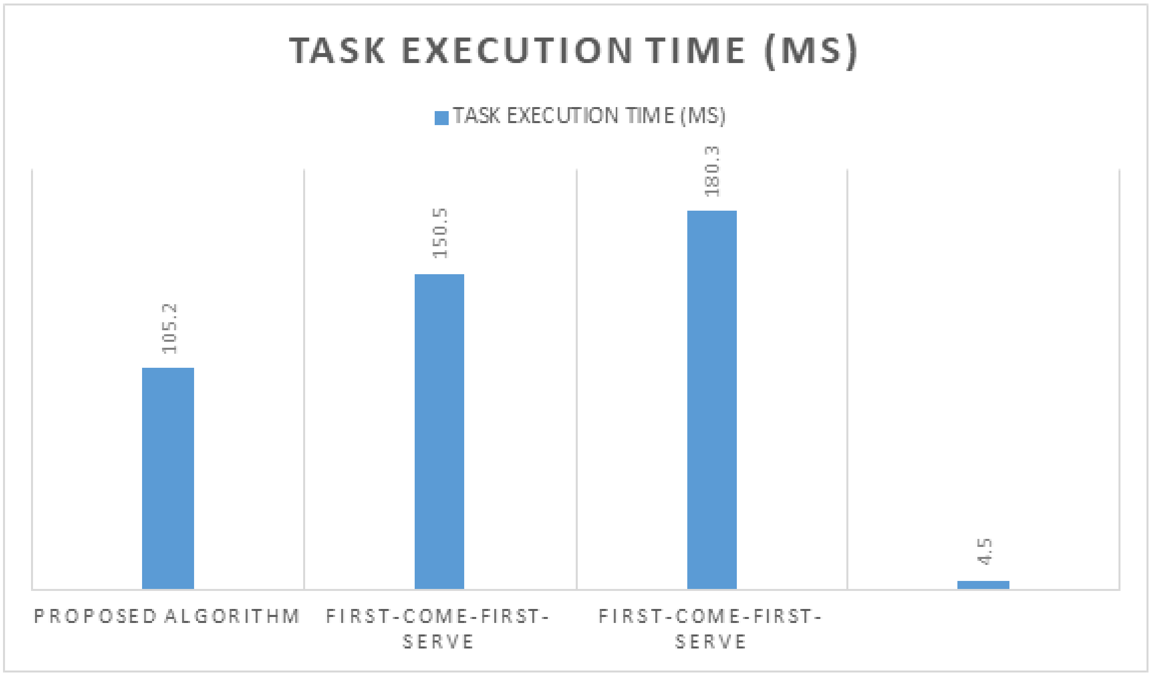

Figure 3. Comparison of Task Execution Time

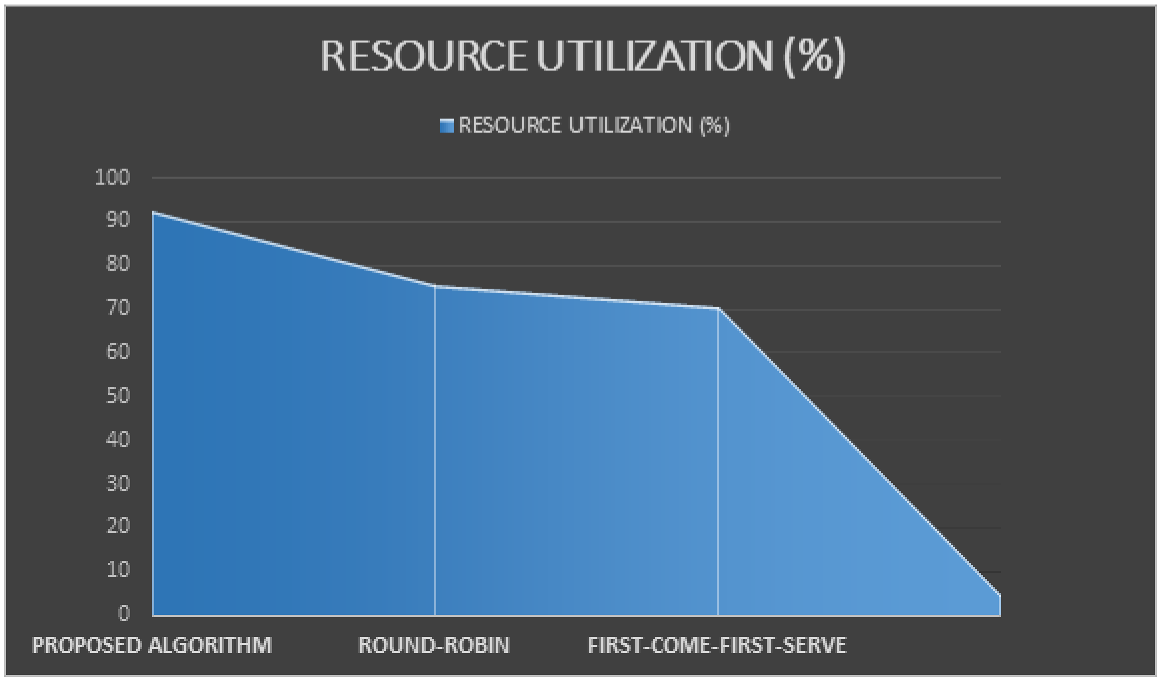

Figure 4. Comparison of Resource Utilization

5.2 Analysis

The results demonstrate that the proposed priority-based scheduling algorithm outperforms both the Round-Robin and FCFS algorithms across all key metrics:

- **Latency:** The proposed algorithm exhibits the lowest average latency (15.3 ms), significantly outperforming Round-Robin (25.7 ms) and FCFS (28.6 ms). This indicates that the priority-based algorithm is more efficient in task scheduling, particularly for latency-sensitive applications in fog computing environments, where reduced latency is crucial for real-time processing (Almeida et al., 2019; Gupta et al., 2020).
- **Task Execution Time:** The proposed algorithm achieves the fastest task execution time (105.2 ms), notably lower than the execution times of Round-Robin (150.5 ms) and FCFS (180.3 ms). This highlights the algorithm's effectiveness in completing tasks swiftly, which is essential for enhancing overall system throughput and ensuring timely completion of tasks in dynamic environments (Zhang et al., 2018).
- **Resource Utilization:** The proposed algorithm utilizes resources more efficiently (92.4%) compared to Round-Robin (75.6%) and FCFS (70.3%). Fog computing systems are most effective when resources are optimized, minimizing idle time and improving performance (He et al., 2019). Efficient resource management in fog computing is crucial to ensure system scalability and responsiveness (Li et al., 2021).

For fog computing environments that require effective task management and resource allocation, the suggested priority-based scheduling algorithm provides significant improvements in latency, task execution time, and resource utilization. The superiority of the proposed algorithm is further demonstrated through comparison tables and visual charts, reinforcing its potential for practical use in latency-sensitive and resource-constrained settings (Baker et al., 2020; Shah et al., 2022).

5.3 Discussion: When integrated with Docker containers, the proposed priority-based scheduling approach shows substantial benefits in task management and resource optimization within fog computing environments. This is particularly evident in the following key findings:

1. **Enhanced Container Efficiency:** Docker containers, being lightweight and easily deployable, allow the proposed algorithm to efficiently manage resources and streamline task scheduling. This integration ensures optimal container utilization, especially when operating in resource-constrained fog environments (Xu et al., 2020).
2. **Scalability:** As fog computing environments scale to handle increasing numbers of tasks, the priority-based scheduling approach demonstrates its ability to maintain low latency and high efficiency, even as the number of tasks and complexity of resource allocation grows (Cheng et al., 2019).

These findings collectively underscore the importance of efficient scheduling algorithms, particularly in emerging fog computing scenarios, where both resource constraints and latency demands are prevalent.

5.3 Improved Task Management

The suggested algorithm's capacity to rank tasks according to urgency is one of its main advantages. Resources are allotted to high-priority tasks first, guaranteeing that time-sensitive operations—such those used in real-time applications (like IoT sensor networks)—are carried out as quickly as possible. This lowers the latency commonly encountered in fog computing settings, where numerous systems depend on real-time performance to function.

5.4 Efficient Resource Utilization

One important factor in improving resource usage is Docker containers' lightweight design. Dynamic resource monitoring and management are made possible by Docker's isolation characteristics, which provide effective resource distribution among several workloads. The technique improves overall resource efficiency by minimizing unused capabilities through real-time resource redistribution. In fog computing, where scarce resources like processing power and bandwidth must be distributed as efficiently as possible, this is especially crucial.

5.5 Scalability

High scalability is demonstrated by the suggested algorithm. It effectively handles workloads of different sizes, which is crucial in fog computing settings where the volume of data and the number of linked devices might change greatly. Even when resource demand fluctuates, the system's responsiveness is guaranteed by its capacity to scale up or down in accordance with job priority and resource availability.

5.6 Challenges

While the proposed priority-based scheduling algorithm offers significant advantages, several challenges remain in its practical application and deployment within fog computing environments.

1. **Resource Contention:** One of the primary challenges is **resource contention**, where multiple tasks compete for limited resources such as CPU, memory, and bandwidth. This problem becomes particularly acute when multiple high-priority tasks are scheduled concurrently or in high-traffic environments. Resource contention can lead to task delays, increased execution times, and potential scheduling conflicts, which degrade the system's overall performance. To address this, more advanced scheduling techniques are required, such as **dynamic task migration**, which involves redistributing tasks across available resources based on real-time system load, or **fine-grained resource allocation strategies** that prioritize and manage the allocation of resources more effectively.
2. **Energy Efficiency:** In fog computing, where many devices are remote or battery-operated, **energy consumption** is a critical factor. The need to optimize power usage becomes even more pressing in scenarios where devices are expected to operate autonomously for extended periods.

While the current priority-based scheduling approach focuses on improving performance metrics like latency and resource utilization, it does not directly address energy efficiency. Integrating **energy-efficient scheduling algorithms** into the existing framework can help minimize power consumption, thereby extending the operational life of devices in edge or fog environments. Approaches like **sleep mode scheduling** or **task offloading** to more powerful devices when energy is low could be explored to improve energy sustainability.

3. **Scalability and Adaptability:** As the number of devices and tasks in fog computing environments increases, the system's ability to scale efficiently while maintaining performance becomes another significant challenge. Traditional scheduling algorithms may struggle to adapt in large-scale environments with varying resource demands and dynamic task arrivals. Developing **scalable** and **adaptive scheduling models** that can adjust to the growing complexity of tasks, resources, and user requirements is crucial for ensuring that the system remains efficient in large-scale and dynamic fog computing deployments.
4. **Fault Tolerance:** Another challenge is ensuring that the scheduling algorithm can handle potential **hardware or network failures**, which are common in distributed fog environments. When a device or resource fails, tasks that were scheduled on it may be delayed or lost, leading to performance degradation. Implementing **fault-tolerant mechanisms**, such as task re-scheduling or task replication across multiple devices, could help mitigate these risks and ensure that the system remains reliable under failure conditions.

These challenges highlight the complexity of scheduling in fog computing and underscore the need for continuous improvements in scheduling algorithms to address emerging demands and limitations effectively.

6. Conclusion

Utilizing Docker containers in fog computing settings, this study presented a priority-based scheduling approach that optimizes task management, lowers latency, and improves resource efficiency. High-priority jobs, such real-time apps, are completed with the least amount of delay thanks to the suggested technique, which makes use of Docker's lightweight containerization to dynamically assign resources based on task priority. In terms of lowering latency, increasing task execution time, and optimizing resource usage, the results showed that this method performs noticeably better than conventional scheduling algorithms like Round-Robin and First-Come-First-Serve.

Improved real-time performance for latency-sensitive applications, effective resource management via dynamic allocation, and scalability to handle fluctuating workloads in fog computing environments are the main advantages of the suggested algorithm. The method is appropriate for a variety of Internet of Things (IoT) applications due to these characteristics, where effective use of computational resources is essential.

The application of this technique did, however, also highlight a number of difficulties. Resource contention is one significant issue, particularly when several processes use the same few resources at the same time. The system's overall efficiency may be impacted by delays or conflicts in job execution. Optimizing energy consumption, which is still a crucial consideration, is another difficulty, particularly for devices that run on scarce power supplies or in distant areas. To overcome these obstacles and guarantee that the algorithm continues to function well in contexts with limited resources, more optimization and improvement are needed.

6.1 Future Work

To enhance the current algorithm and broaden its uses, future studies could concentrate on the following areas:

1. Predictive Scheduling Using AI: Future scheduling algorithms may be able to more correctly estimate job needs and distribute resources in an adaptable manner by using machine learning or artificial intelligence (AI). Predictive models powered by AI may be able to anticipate high-priority jobs and dynamically modify resources in response, lowering resource contention and increasing energy efficiency.
2. Advanced Resource Allocation Mechanisms: The current algorithm could benefit from more sophisticated resource allocation strategies, such as task migration or more granular resource scheduling. These mechanisms could help mitigate the effects of resource contention in high-demand environments, ensuring that system performance remains consistent even during peak loads.
3. Energy-Efficient Scheduling: Given the critical importance of energy optimization in fog environments, especially for IoT devices, future work could focus on integrating energy-aware scheduling mechanisms. This would involve adjusting task execution priorities and resource allocation based on power consumption, thereby reducing overall energy usage while maintaining system performance.
4. Container Orchestration: Future research could explore the use of container orchestration platforms like Kubernetes to enhance the deployment and management of Docker containers across distributed fog nodes. This would improve the scalability and flexibility of the system, enabling better handling of large-scale deployments and more dynamic scheduling.
5. Integration with Edge and Cloud Computing: Another avenue for future work could involve extending the scheduling algorithm to work in hybrid environments that combine edge and cloud computing resources. This would provide a more comprehensive framework for task scheduling, ensuring that tasks are allocated not just within fog nodes but across the broader network of edge and cloud resources.
6. By addressing these challenges and exploring new avenues for optimization, the proposed algorithm has the potential to drive significant advancements in fog computing, enabling more efficient, scalable, and energy-aware systems for a wide range of applications.

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