



Digital Twins and Reinforcement Learning for Carbon Footprint Minimization of Data Centers

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

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FRONTIER

Digital Twin / Carbon Optimization Architecture

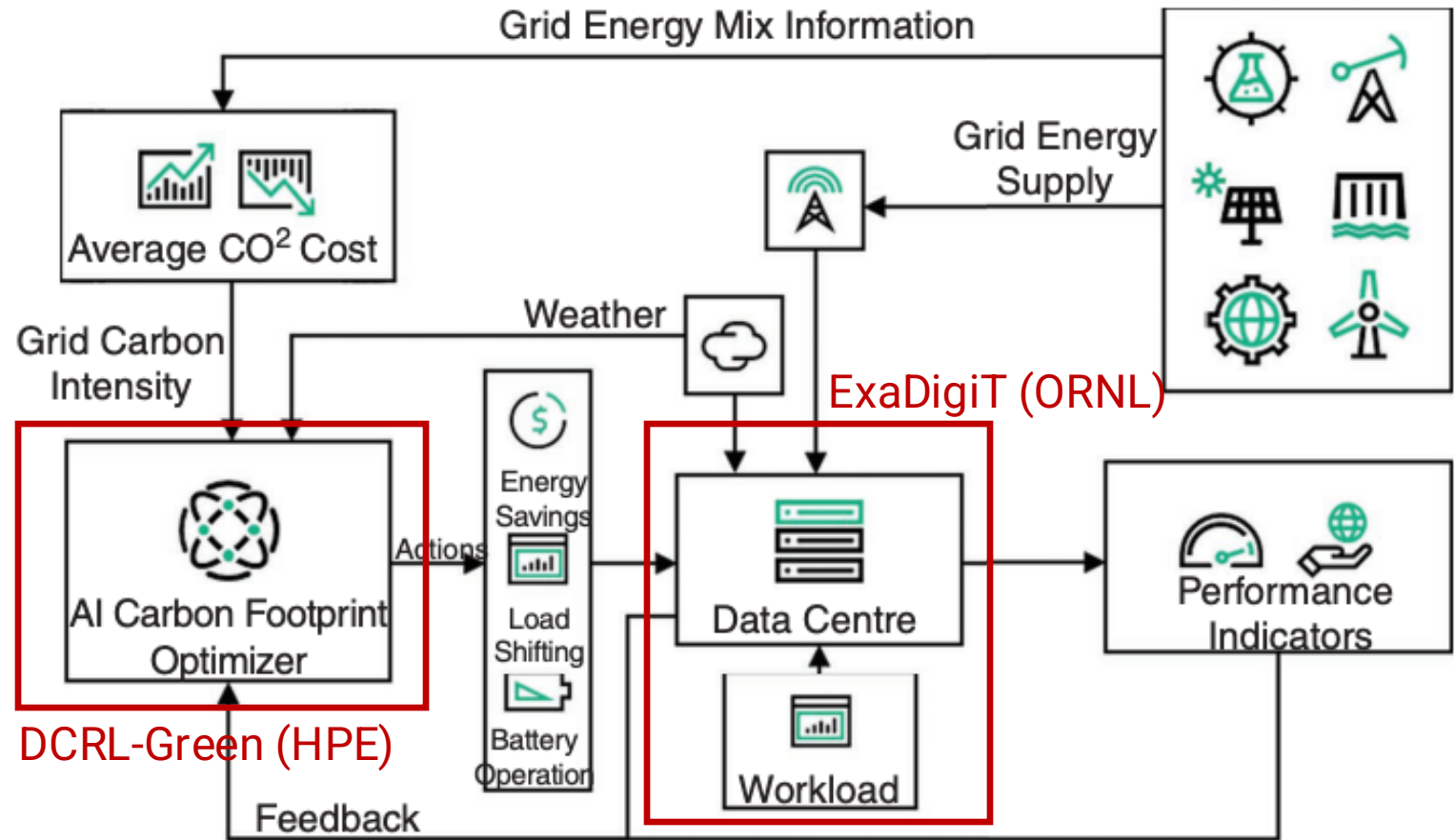
A digital twin is a set of virtual information constructs that

mimics the structure, context, and behavior of an individual/unique physical asset,

is dynamically updated with data from its physical twin throughout its lifecycle, and

informs decisions that realize value.

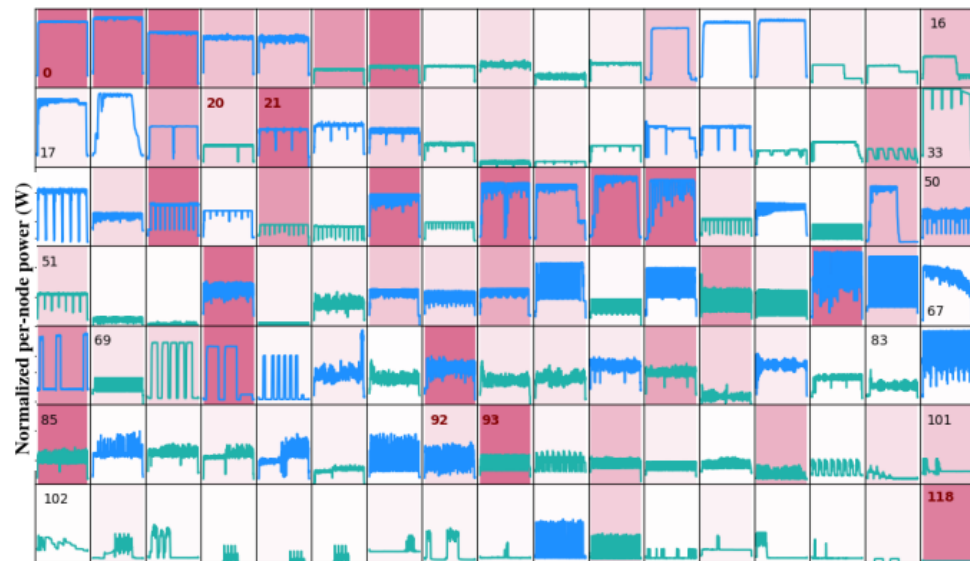
AIAA Digital Engineering Integration Committee (2020)



Athavale et al. (2024)

Workloads

Power profile landscape of workloads



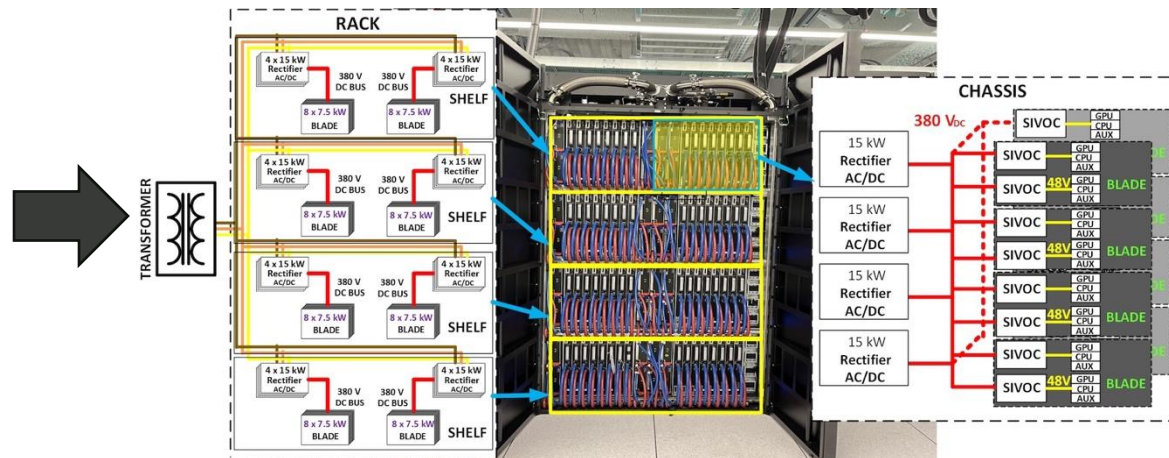
Karimi et al. (2024)



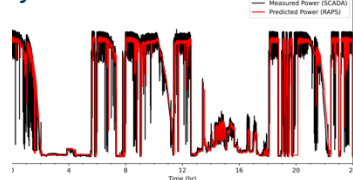
EXADIGIT

Power Model

Dynamically predicts total system power, energy conversion losses.



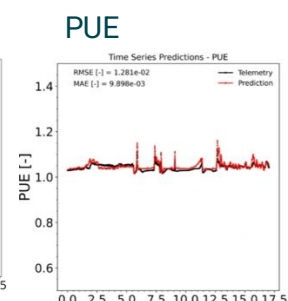
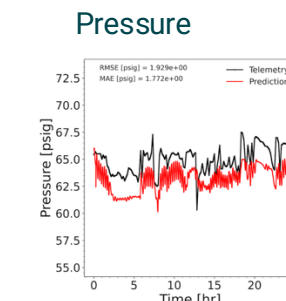
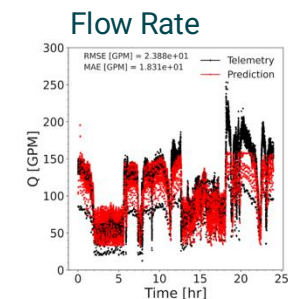
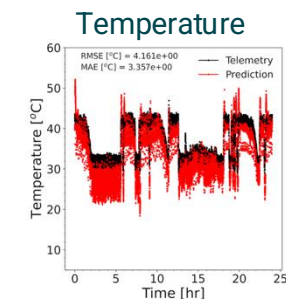
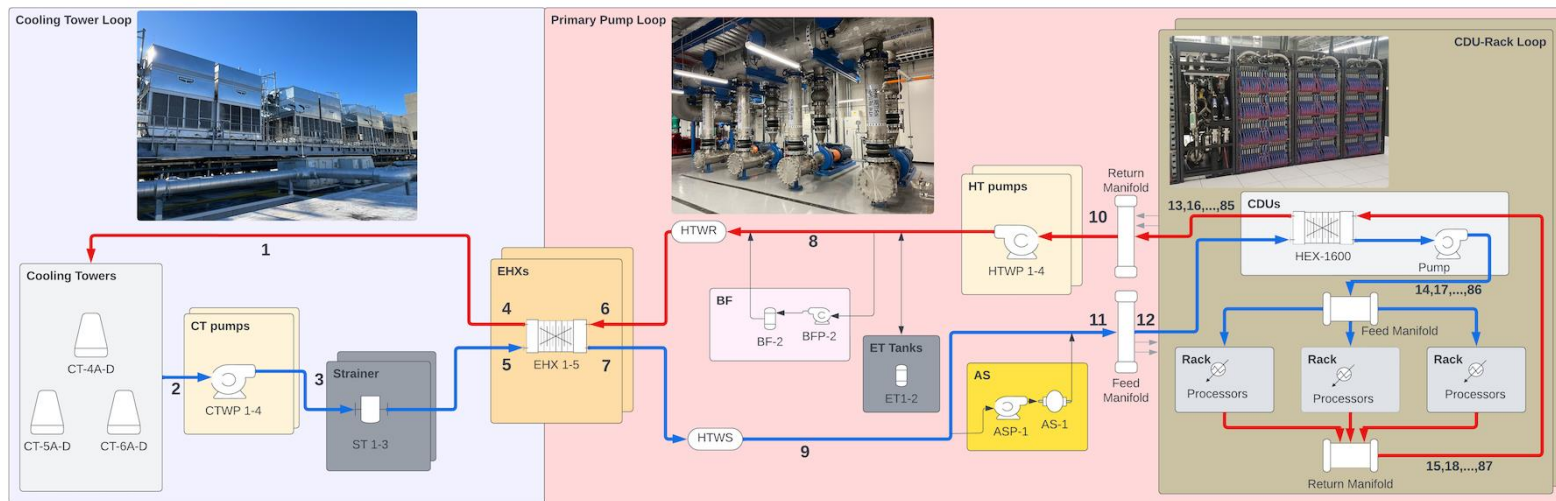
System Power



Brewer et al. (2024)

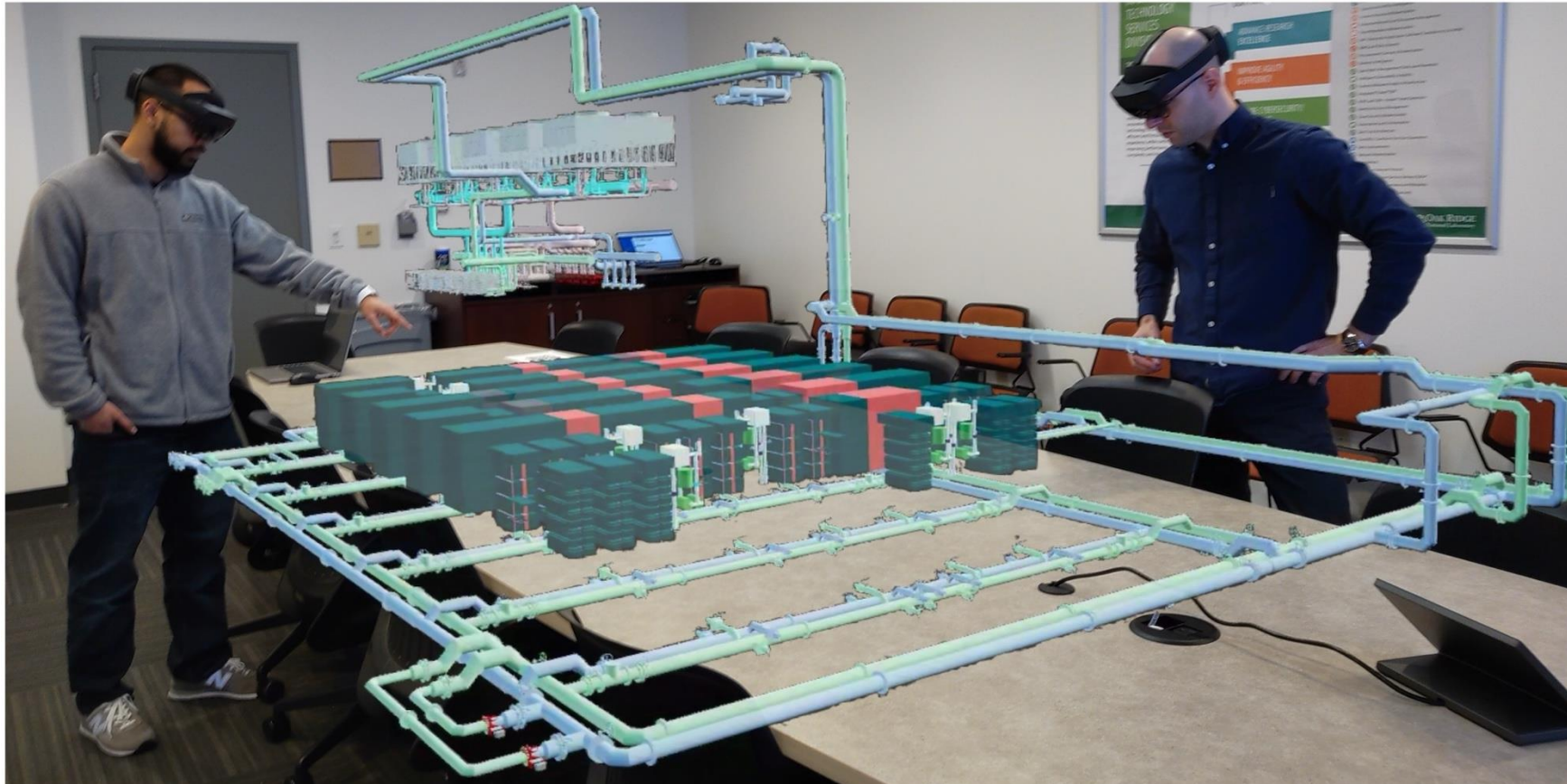
Cooling Model

Predicts pressures, temperatures, flow rates at 87 different locations...



ExaDigiT can be used to create a virtual datacenter

Augmented Reality



Console Interface

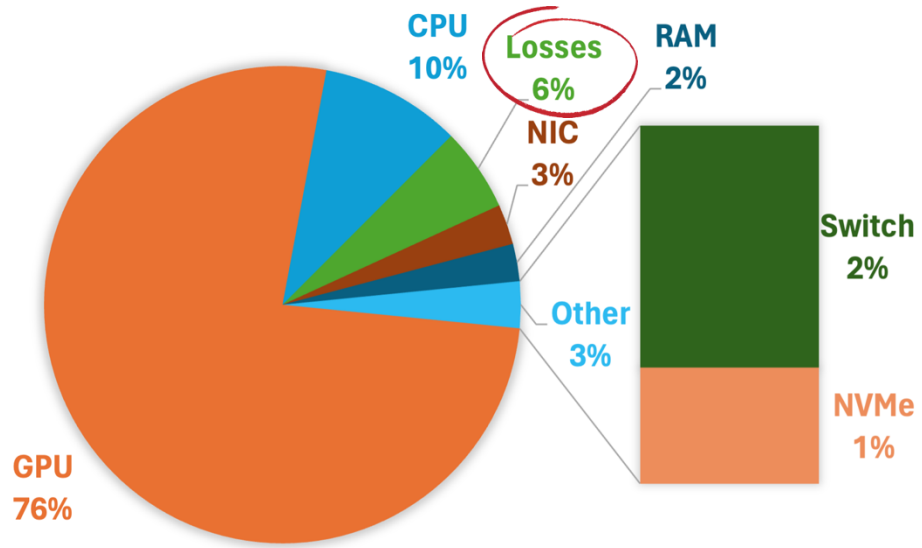


Dashboard interface

System-level insights

DAILY STATISTICS OF DT FROM TELEMETRY REPLAY OF 183 DAYS.

Parameter	Min	Avg	Max	Std
Avg Arrival Rate, $t_{avg}(s)$	17	138	2988	331
Avg Nodes per Job	39	268	5441	626
Avg Runtime (m)	17	39	101	14
Jobs Completed	32	1575	5157	1171
Throughput (jobs/hr)	1.3	66	215	49
Avg Power (MW)	10.2	16.9	23.0	2.4
Loss (MW)	0.52	1.14	1.84	0.15
Loss (%)	6.26	6.74	8.36	0.11
Total Energy Consumed (MW-hr)	129	405	553	64
Carbon Emissions (tons CO ₂)	53	168	229	26



Peak-power breakdown

~\$1M per year in losses!

Considerable **losses** are incurred during both AC-DC rectification and DC-DC voltage conversion.

Exploring energy-efficient solutions

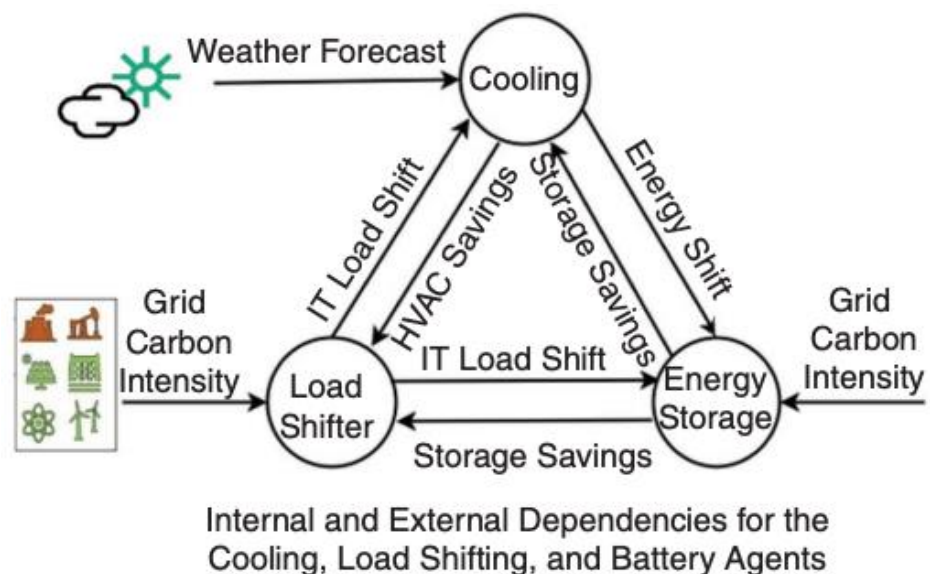
“Smart-load-sharing” rectifiers

Unnecessary rectifiers can be put in **standby mode** when compute nodes are idle, leading to **\$120k per year savings** for Frontier

DC-direct power

Providing **380V DC-direct power** increased the system efficiency from 93.3% to 97.3%, a potential **savings of \$542k per year**.

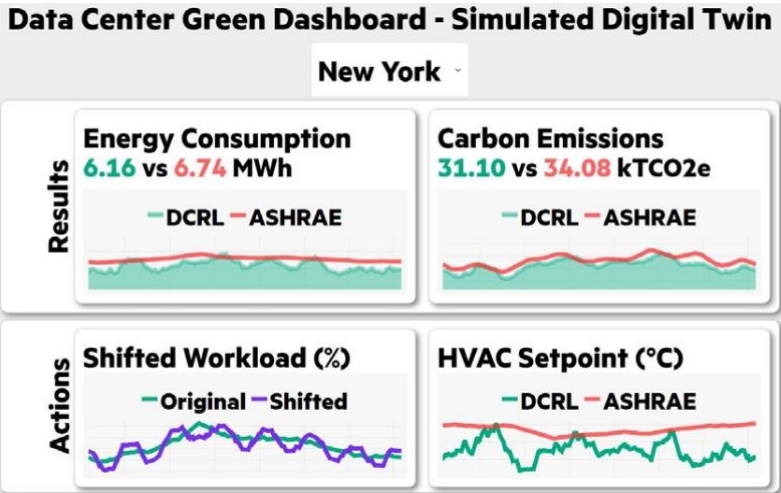
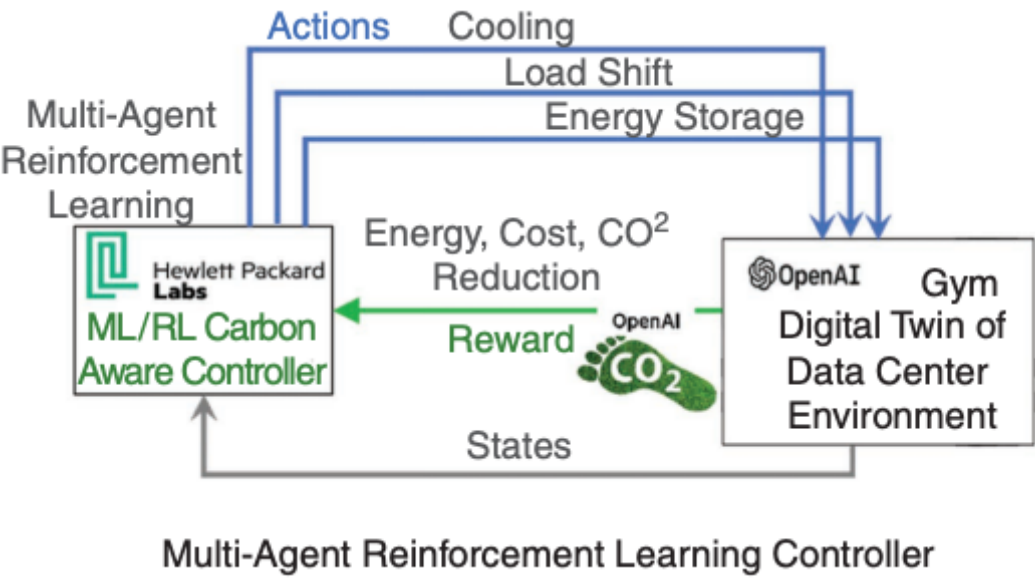
Carbon Footprint Optimization via Reinforcement Learning (RL)



RL seeks to learn a policy which maps states to actions:

$$a = \pi(s)$$

Single-agent RL on HVAC setpoint control yields a **7% reduction** in CO₂ vs. ASHRAE G36 baseline; multi-agent RL yields a **13% reduction**.



Liquid cooling offers significantly higher cooling capacity per unit volume and can reduce cooling energy and carbon footprint by up to 63%.

Khalaj and Halgamuge (2017)



- 149 members
- 42 organizations
- 10 countries



ExaDigit Member
Meetup at SC'24
BoF in Atlanta

