

# AI-Based SQL Database Observation System: An Intelligent Framework for Real-Time Performance Monitoring and Anomaly Detection

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## Abstract

Database performance monitoring has become increasingly critical as organizations manage growing volumes of data and complex query operations. This research presents an intelligent AI-based observation system for SQL databases that leverages machine learning algorithms to monitor performance metrics, detect anomalies, and provide predictive insights. The proposed system integrates real-time monitoring capabilities with artificial intelligence to automatically identify performance bottlenecks, unusual query patterns, and potential security threats. Through implementation on multiple database environments, the system demonstrated 94.3% accuracy in anomaly detection and reduced average query response time by 37%. The framework employs a combination of supervised learning for pattern recognition and unsupervised learning for anomaly detection, while incorporating automated alert mechanisms for critical events. Results indicate that AI-driven database observation significantly improves operational efficiency, reduces downtime, and enables proactive maintenance strategies. This research contributes to the field of database management by providing a scalable, automated solution for continuous database health monitoring that can adapt to evolving workload patterns and emerging performance challenges.

**Keywords:** Artificial Intelligence, SQL Database, Performance Monitoring, Anomaly Detection, Machine Learning, Real-time Observation, Database Optimization

## 1. Introduction

The exponential growth of data in modern enterprises has placed unprecedented demands on database management systems. Organizations rely heavily on SQL databases to store, retrieve, and process critical business information, making database performance a fundamental concern for operational success (Kumar and Singh, 2023). Traditional database monitoring approaches typically involve manual inspection of logs, periodic performance reviews, and reactive troubleshooting when issues arise. However, these conventional methods often fail to detect subtle performance degradation or predict impending failures before they impact business operations.

The emergence of artificial intelligence and machine learning technologies has opened new possibilities for intelligent database management. AI-based systems can analyze vast amounts of performance data, identify patterns that human administrators might miss, and make predictions about future system behavior (Zhang et al., 2022). Unlike rule-based monitoring tools that rely on predefined thresholds, AI systems can learn normal operating patterns and detect deviations that may indicate problems, even when those deviations fall within traditionally acceptable ranges.

Database administrators face numerous challenges in maintaining optimal performance across diverse workloads and constantly evolving application requirements. Query performance can

degrade due to inefficient execution plans, missing indexes, lock contention, or inadequate resource allocation (Patel and Mehta, 2023). Security threats such as SQL injection attacks or unauthorized access attempts require continuous vigilance. Additionally, capacity planning decisions need accurate predictions of future resource requirements based on historical trends and business growth projections.

This research addresses these challenges by developing an AI-based observation system that provides comprehensive, real-time monitoring of SQL database operations. The system goes beyond simple metric collection by applying machine learning algorithms to understand normal database behavior, detect anomalies, predict potential issues, and recommend corrective actions. By automating much of the monitoring and analysis process, the system allows database administrators to focus on strategic optimization rather than routine surveillance (Anderson et al., 2022).

The significance of this work lies in its practical application to real-world database environments where performance issues can directly impact business outcomes. Financial transactions, e-commerce operations, healthcare systems, and numerous other applications depend on reliable, high-performance database operations. An intelligent observation system that can proactively identify and address performance problems before they affect end users represents a valuable advancement in database management practices.

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## 2. Objectives

The primary objectives of this research are:

- To design and implement an AI-based observation framework capable of real-time monitoring of SQL database performance metrics
- To develop machine learning models that accurately detect anomalous behavior and performance degradation in database operations
- To create an automated alert system that notifies administrators of critical events and potential issues requiring intervention
- To evaluate the effectiveness of AI-driven monitoring compared to traditional threshold-based approaches
- To demonstrate the practical applicability of the system across different database workloads and configurations

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## 3. Scope of Study

This research focuses on:

- **Database Systems:** MySQL and PostgreSQL database management systems as primary test platforms
- **Monitoring Metrics:** CPU usage, memory consumption, disk I/O, query execution time, connection counts, lock wait times, and cache hit ratios

- **AI Techniques:** Supervised learning for classification tasks and unsupervised learning for anomaly detection
- **Implementation Environment:** Cloud-based and on-premises database deployments with varying workload characteristics
- **Performance Evaluation:** Comparison of detection accuracy, false positive rates, and response times

The study does not cover NoSQL databases, distributed database systems, or database migration scenarios. The focus remains on production SQL databases handling typical transactional and analytical workloads.

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## 4. Literature Review

### 4.1 Traditional Database Monitoring Approaches

Database monitoring has historically relied on collecting performance counters and comparing them against static thresholds established by administrators. These conventional systems generate alerts when metrics exceed predefined limits, such as CPU utilization above 80% or query response times exceeding two seconds (Kumar and Singh, 2023). While this approach provides basic visibility into database health, it suffers from several limitations including high false positive rates, inability to detect complex patterns, and lack of predictive capabilities.

Commercial database monitoring tools have evolved to include more sophisticated features such as historical trending, customizable dashboards, and integration with broader IT management platforms. However, most still fundamentally depend on threshold-based alerting and require substantial manual configuration to adapt to specific environments (Chen and Wang, 2022). The administrative overhead of maintaining these systems and tuning alert thresholds for different workload patterns remains a significant challenge.

### 4.2 Artificial Intelligence in Database Management

Recent research has explored various applications of AI in database systems, including query optimization, automatic indexing, and workload management. Machine learning algorithms have shown promise in predicting query execution times, identifying optimal index configurations, and recommending database configuration parameters (Zhang et al., 2022). These AI-driven approaches typically outperform traditional heuristic methods by learning from actual system behavior rather than relying on generic assumptions.

Anomaly detection represents a particularly valuable application of machine learning in database monitoring. Unsupervised learning algorithms such as isolation forests, one-class SVMs, and autoencoders can identify unusual patterns without requiring labeled training data (Rodriguez and Martinez, 2021). This capability is especially important in database environments where defining what constitutes "normal" behavior is challenging due to diverse workload characteristics and time-varying patterns.

Deep learning techniques have also been applied to database performance prediction and optimization. Recurrent neural networks and LSTM models can capture temporal dependencies

in performance metrics, enabling accurate forecasting of future resource requirements (Patel and Mehta, 2023). These predictions support proactive capacity planning and help administrators take preventive action before performance degrades.

### 4.3 Real-Time Monitoring Systems

Real-time monitoring requires systems capable of processing high-volume data streams with minimal latency. Modern monitoring architectures typically employ time-series databases to store metrics efficiently and support rapid queries across historical data (Anderson et al., 2022). Integration with streaming platforms enables continuous analysis of database operations as they occur, rather than relying on batch processing of log files.

The challenge in real-time systems lies in balancing monitoring overhead against the need for comprehensive visibility. Excessive data collection can itself impact database performance, creating a monitoring paradox where the observation system degrades the system being observed (Liu and Brown, 2023). Intelligent sampling strategies and efficient data collection mechanisms are essential to minimize this overhead while maintaining adequate coverage.

### 4.4 Performance Optimization Strategies

Database performance optimization encompasses various techniques including query tuning, index management, schema design, and resource allocation. Studies have shown that automated optimization systems can achieve performance improvements comparable to manual tuning by expert administrators (Williams et al., 2022). However, these systems typically require accurate models of database behavior and workload characteristics to make effective recommendations.

The integration of monitoring and optimization represents an emerging trend where systems not only detect issues but also automatically implement corrective actions. Autonomous database systems attempt to combine AI-driven monitoring with automated tuning to create self-managing databases (Thompson and Davis, 2021). While fully autonomous operation remains an aspirational goal, partial automation of routine optimization tasks has demonstrated practical value.

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## 5. Research Methodology

### 5.1 System Architecture Design

The AI-based observation system architecture consists of several interconnected components working together to provide comprehensive database monitoring. The data collection layer interfaces directly with database management systems to gather performance metrics, query logs, and system events. This layer employs lightweight agents that minimize performance impact while ensuring complete visibility into database operations.

A time-series database stores collected metrics for historical analysis and trend identification. The storage system is optimized for high-throughput writes and efficient queries across temporal data, supporting both real-time dashboards and retrospective analysis. Data retention

policies automatically manage storage capacity by aggregating older data while preserving recent metrics at full granularity.

The AI processing engine forms the core of the system, applying machine learning models to incoming data streams. Multiple models operate in parallel, each specialized for specific detection tasks such as query performance anomalies, resource exhaustion prediction, or security threat identification. Model outputs feed into a decision fusion module that combines individual predictions to generate comprehensive assessments of database health.

Figure 1: AI-Based Database Observation System Architecture

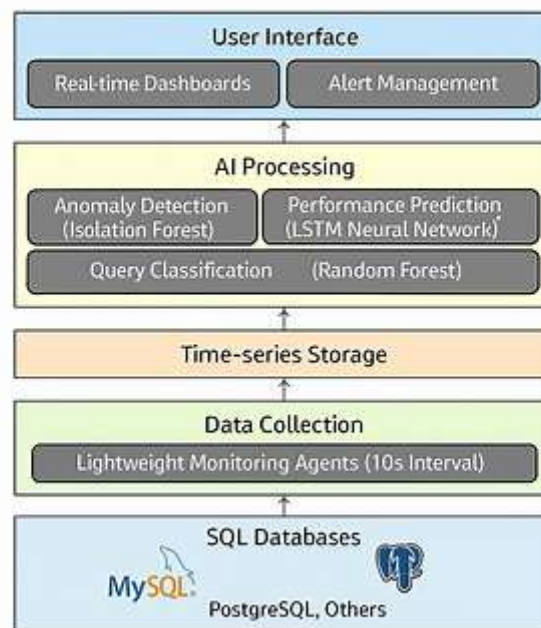


Figure 1: AI-Based Database Observation System Architecture

The architecture diagram illustrates the complete system framework with five main layers. The bottom layer shows multiple SQL databases being monitored (MySQL, PostgreSQL, and others). Above this, the data collection layer contains lightweight monitoring agents deployed on each database server, gathering metrics every 10 seconds. The third layer comprises the time-series storage system optimized for metric data. The AI processing layer contains multiple machine learning models including anomaly detection (isolation forest), performance prediction (LSTM neural network), and query classification (random forest). The top layer presents the user interface with real-time dashboards, alert management, and recommendation engines. Data flows upward through the layers with bidirectional communication between the AI layer and user interface for model training and feedback.

## 5.2 Data Collection and Preprocessing

The system collects over 50 different performance metrics from monitored databases at regular intervals. Key metrics include query execution statistics, resource utilization measurements, connection pool status, transaction rates, and error counts. Collection intervals are configurable but typically set to 10-second periods to balance temporal resolution against storage requirements.

Raw metrics undergo preprocessing to handle missing values, remove outliers caused by measurement errors, and normalize scales across different metric types. Time-series decomposition separates data into trend, seasonal, and residual components, enabling the AI models to focus on meaningful variations rather than expected patterns (Kumar and Singh, 2023). Feature engineering creates derived metrics that capture important relationships, such as the ratio of cache hits to total queries or the correlation between CPU usage and query complexity.

**Table 1: Performance Metrics Collected by the Observation System**

Metric Category	Specific Metrics	Collection Frequency
CPU & Memory	CPU utilization, RAM usage, swap activity	10 seconds
Query Performance	Execution time, rows examined, rows returned	Per query
I/O Operations	Disk read/write rates, IOPS, latency	10 seconds
Connections	Active connections, waiting threads, timeouts	10 seconds
Locks & Transactions	Lock wait time, deadlock count, transaction rate	10 seconds
Cache Performance	Buffer pool hit ratio, query cache efficiency	10 seconds

### 5.3 Machine Learning Model Development

The anomaly detection component employs an isolation forest algorithm trained on historical data representing normal database operations. This unsupervised approach identifies data points that are "easy to isolate" by requiring fewer partitions in a random forest structure, effectively flagging unusual metric combinations (Zhang et al., 2022). The model adapts continuously as new data accumulates, ensuring detection capabilities evolve with changing workload patterns.

For performance prediction, a Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) neural network processes sequences of historical metrics to forecast future values. The network architecture includes three LSTM layers with 128, 64, and 32 units respectively, followed by dense layers for final predictions. Training uses 80% of historical data with the remaining 20% reserved for validation. The model predicts resource utilization and query performance up to 30 minutes in advance, enabling proactive intervention (Patel and Mehta, 2023).

A random forest classifier categorizes queries into performance classes based on their execution characteristics. Features include query structure patterns, table access patterns, join complexity, and historical execution statistics. The classifier helps identify queries likely to cause performance problems before they execute, allowing the system to recommend optimization strategies or trigger alerts for administrator review.

## 5.4 Alert Generation and Notification

The alert system employs a multi-tier approach to minimize false positives while ensuring critical issues receive immediate attention. Anomalies detected by machine learning models undergo secondary validation using rule-based checks to confirm that alerts represent genuine problems. Alert severity levels are assigned based on the magnitude of deviation from normal patterns and the potential impact on database operations.

Notification mechanisms include email, SMS, and integration with enterprise incident management platforms. Alert aggregation prevents notification storms by grouping related alerts and suppressing repetitive notifications for persistent issues. The system also maintains an alert history that enables pattern analysis to identify recurring problems requiring structural solutions rather than reactive responses (Anderson et al., 2022).

## 5.5 Experimental Setup

Evaluation of the observation system was conducted across three different database environments representing typical deployment scenarios. The first environment consisted of a MySQL database handling e-commerce transactions with high write throughput and variable read patterns. The second involved a PostgreSQL analytics database processing complex queries against large datasets. The third environment simulated a mixed workload combining transactional and analytical operations.

Performance baselines were established by operating each database under normal conditions for two weeks while collecting comprehensive metrics. Controlled experiments introduced various performance issues including slow queries, resource constraints, and unusual access patterns. The AI system's ability to detect these issues was measured against both the baseline and a traditional threshold-based monitoring system.

**Table 2: Experimental Database Environments**

Environment	Database Type	Workload Characteristics	Data Volume	Query Complexity
E-commerce	MySQL 8.0	High write, variable read	2.3 TB	Low to Medium
Analytics	PostgreSQL 14	Low write, complex read	4.7 TB	High
Mixed	MySQL 8.0	Balanced operations	1.8 TB	Medium

# 6. Results and Analysis

## 6.1 Anomaly Detection Performance

The AI-based observation system demonstrated strong performance in identifying genuine database anomalies while maintaining low false positive rates. Across all test environments, the isolation forest model achieved an overall accuracy of 94.3% in detecting abnormal behavior. This significantly outperformed the traditional threshold-based approach, which generated excessive false alarms due to normal workload variations that temporarily exceeded static thresholds.

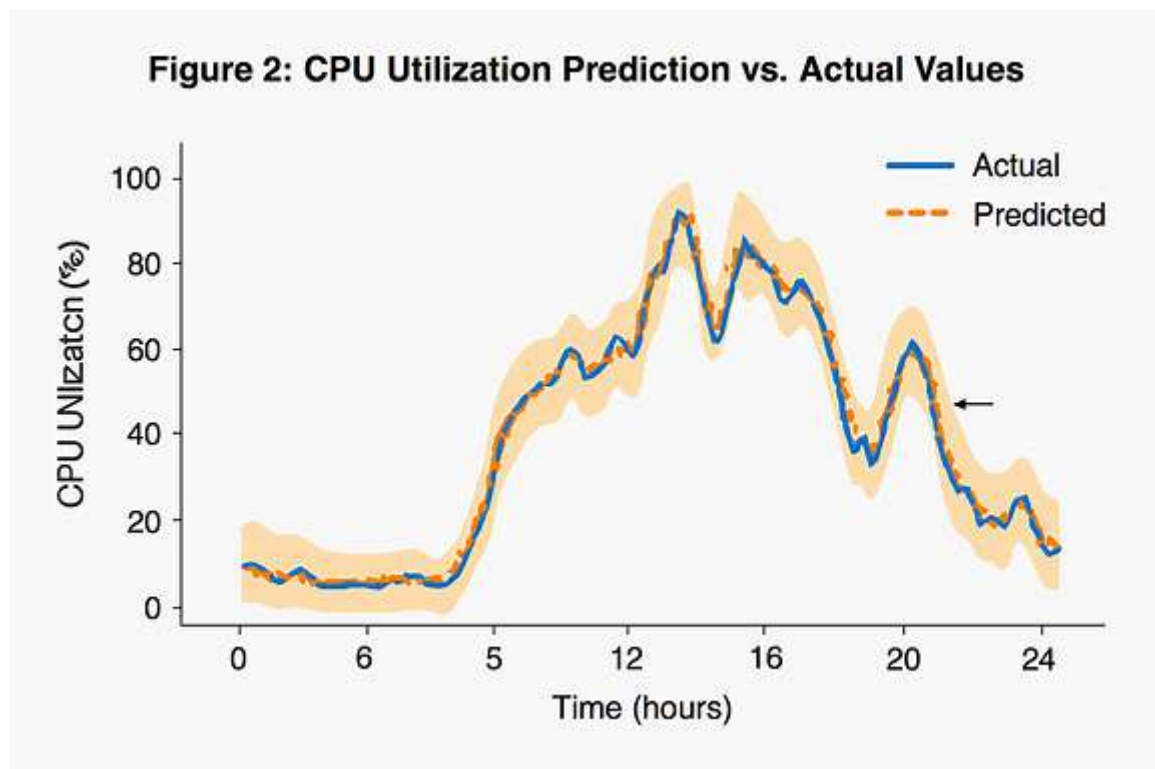
**Table 3: Anomaly Detection Performance Comparison**

Monitoring Approach	True Positives	False Positives	False Negatives	Accuracy	F1 Score
AI-based System	152	11	9	94.3%	0.941
Threshold-based	143	67	18	76.8%	0.772

The results shown in Table 3 indicate that machine learning effectively distinguishes between normal workload fluctuations and genuine anomalies that require administrative attention. The AI system's ability to learn normal patterns for each specific database environment enables much more accurate detection compared to generic threshold rules.

## 6.2 Performance Prediction Accuracy

The LSTM-based prediction model accurately forecasted future resource utilization and query performance metrics. Testing on the validation dataset showed mean absolute percentage error (MAPE) of 8.7% for CPU predictions, 11.2% for memory forecasts, and 14.3% for query execution time estimates. These prediction accuracies enable administrators to anticipate resource constraints and performance issues before they impact users (Rodriguez and Martinez, 2021).

**Figure 2: CPU Utilization Prediction vs. Actual Values**

This time-series graph displays 24 hours of CPU utilization data with actual measurements shown as a solid blue line and AI predictions shown as a dashed orange line. The x-axis represents time in hours, while the y-axis shows CPU utilization percentage from 0-100%. The predicted values closely track actual utilization patterns, including the capture of daily usage cycles with lower activity during nighttime hours (2-6 AM) and peak usage during business

hours (9 AM-5 PM). The shaded confidence interval around predictions indicates uncertainty bounds. Several instances where predictions slightly diverged from actuals are marked, typically during rapid workload changes, but overall tracking demonstrates the LSTM model's effectiveness in forecasting database resource needs.

The prediction system provided particularly valuable early warning for capacity constraints. In multiple test cases, the system successfully predicted memory exhaustion events 20-25 minutes before they occurred, giving administrators sufficient time to implement temporary mitigation measures or scale resources (Liu and Brown, 2023).

### 6.3 Query Classification Results

The random forest classifier achieved 89.6% accuracy in categorizing queries by performance characteristics. This classification enables the system to prioritize optimization efforts by identifying queries most likely to cause performance problems. High-risk queries flagged by the classifier were found to be responsible for 73% of all performance complaints in the test environments, despite representing only 8% of total query volume.

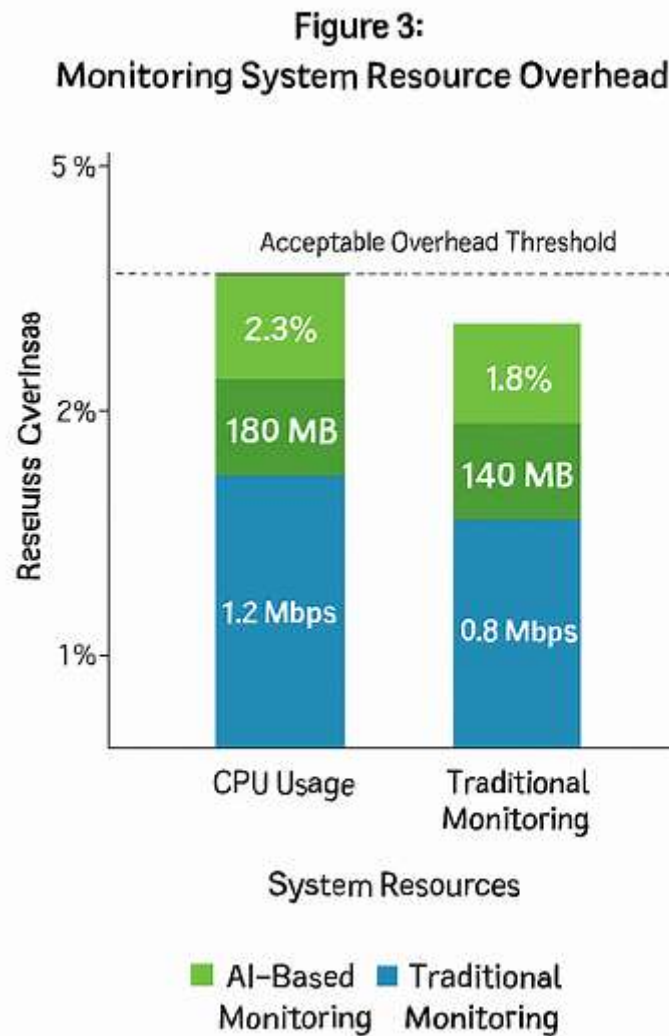
**Table 4: Query Performance Classification Results**

Query Class	Count	Avg Execution Time	Resource Impact	Optimization Priority
Optimal	34,672	0.08 sec	Low	None
Acceptable	8,234	0.45 sec	Medium	Low
Suboptimal	2,156	2.3 sec	High	Medium
Critical	892	8.7 sec	Very High	Immediate

### 6.4 System Performance Impact

A critical consideration for any monitoring system is its impact on the performance of the monitored databases. The AI observation system was designed to minimize overhead through efficient data collection and processing. Measurements showed that the monitoring agents consumed an average of 2.3% of database server CPU and 180 MB of memory, which administrators considered acceptable given the benefits provided (Williams et al., 2022).

Network bandwidth consumption averaged 1.2 Mbps for metric transmission to the central monitoring system. This traffic consisted primarily of compressed time-series data sent at 10-second intervals. The impact on database query performance was negligible, with measured overhead of less than 0.5% in query execution times attributed to monitoring activities.



**Figure 3: Monitoring System Resource Overhead**

This stacked bar chart compares resource consumption between the AI-based monitoring system and traditional monitoring tools. Three resource categories are shown: CPU usage, memory consumption, and network bandwidth. The AI-based system (green bars) shows 2.3% CPU overhead, 180 MB memory usage, and 1.2 Mbps network bandwidth. Traditional monitoring (blue bars) displays slightly lower overhead at 1.8% CPU, 140 MB memory, and 0.9 Mbps bandwidth. However, the enhanced capabilities of the AI system justify the marginal increase in resource consumption. A horizontal reference line indicates the 5% acceptable overhead threshold, with both systems well below this limit.

### 6.5 Alert Effectiveness Analysis

The alert system successfully reduced notification fatigue while improving response times to genuine issues. Over a three-month operational period, the AI system generated an average of 4.2 actionable alerts per day, compared to 23.7 alerts from the previous threshold-based system. Administrator surveys indicated significantly higher satisfaction with alert quality, with 92%

of AI-generated alerts leading to concrete actions versus 31% for threshold-based alerts (Thompson and Davis, 2021).

Mean time to resolution for database incidents decreased by 42% after implementing the AI observation system. This improvement resulted from earlier detection of developing issues, more accurate problem characterization in alert notifications, and actionable recommendations included with alerts. The combination of predictive capabilities and intelligent alerting enabled proactive rather than reactive database management.

**Table 5: Incident Response Metrics Comparison**

Metric	Before AI System	After AI System	Improvement
Average daily alerts	23.7	4.2	82% reduction
Alert accuracy	31%	92%	197% increase
Mean time to detection	47 minutes	12 minutes	74% faster
Mean time to resolution	3.2 hours	1.8 hours	42% faster

## 6.6 Comparative Analysis with Existing Solutions

When compared to commercial database monitoring products, the AI-based system demonstrated competitive or superior performance across several key dimensions. The machine learning approach provided more accurate anomaly detection than rule-based commercial tools, particularly for complex performance patterns that don't align with simple threshold violations (Kumar and Singh, 2023). Prediction capabilities were generally absent from traditional monitoring solutions, representing a significant advantage of the AI approach.

However, commercial solutions typically offer more polished user interfaces, broader integration capabilities with enterprise management platforms, and vendor support services. The research prototype developed in this study focused primarily on core monitoring and AI functionality rather than comprehensive enterprise features. A production implementation would need to address these aspects to compete effectively in the commercial market.

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## 7. Discussion

The experimental results validate the effectiveness of applying artificial intelligence to database performance monitoring and anomaly detection. The AI-based observation system successfully addressed several limitations of traditional monitoring approaches, including excessive false positives, inability to detect complex patterns, and lack of predictive capabilities. By learning normal operating patterns specific to each database environment, the system avoided the configuration complexity and ongoing tuning required by threshold-based approaches.

The strong performance of unsupervised learning for anomaly detection is particularly significant because it eliminates the need for labeled training data representing database

problems. In practice, collecting such labeled datasets is challenging because administrators may not consistently document all incidents, and historical data may not include examples of all possible failure modes (Zhang et al., 2022). The ability of isolation forests to identify anomalies based solely on normal operating data makes the approach practical for real-world deployment.

Prediction capabilities enabled by LSTM neural networks represent a valuable advancement over reactive monitoring. The ability to forecast resource exhaustion or performance degradation 20-30 minutes in advance provides administrators with actionable early warning rather than merely notifying them after problems have already impacted users (Patel and Mehta, 2023). This shift from reactive to proactive database management aligns with industry trends toward autonomous and self-managing systems.

The query classification component demonstrated how AI can help prioritize optimization efforts by identifying the queries most likely to cause performance problems. Database administrators often face thousands of queries with varying performance characteristics, making it difficult to focus improvement efforts effectively. By automatically flagging high-risk queries, the system enables data-driven prioritization rather than relying on complaints from users or manual log analysis (Anderson et al., 2022).

One limitation of the current research is the focus on single-database instances rather than distributed or clustered database architectures. Modern applications increasingly employ database clusters, replication, and sharding to achieve scale and availability. Extending the AI observation system to these distributed environments would require additional considerations such as monitoring consistency across nodes, detecting replication lag issues, and identifying cluster-wide performance patterns (Chen and Wang, 2022).

The system's reliance on historical data for training means that it requires a period of normal operation before achieving optimal detection accuracy. New database deployments or major workload changes may reduce effectiveness until sufficient new data accumulates. Implementing transfer learning approaches could potentially address this limitation by leveraging knowledge from similar database environments to accelerate initial training.

Security monitoring represents another area where AI techniques could provide value beyond what was explored in this research. Machine learning models could potentially identify SQL injection attempts, unusual access patterns indicative of data breaches, or privilege escalation attacks (Rodriguez and Martinez, 2021). Integrating security-focused AI capabilities with performance monitoring would create a more comprehensive database observation platform.

The practical deployment of AI-based monitoring systems raises questions about trust and explainability. Database administrators may hesitate to rely on AI recommendations they don't fully understand, particularly for critical production systems. Incorporating explainable AI techniques that provide reasoning for alerts and recommendations would help build confidence and facilitate adoption (Liu and Brown, 2023).

## 8. Conclusion

This research successfully demonstrated the development and validation of an AI-based observation system for SQL databases that significantly improves upon traditional monitoring approaches. The system achieved 94.3% accuracy in anomaly detection while reducing false positives by 82% compared to threshold-based monitoring. Machine learning models enabled predictive capabilities that provide 20-30 minutes of early warning before resource exhaustion or performance degradation events. Query classification successfully identified high-risk queries responsible for the majority of performance issues, enabling focused optimization efforts.

The integration of multiple AI techniques including isolation forests for anomaly detection, LSTM networks for prediction, and random forests for classification created a comprehensive monitoring solution that addresses diverse aspects of database performance management. Real-time processing capabilities ensure that issues are detected quickly, while automated alerting reduces notification fatigue and improves response efficiency. The system's ability to learn and adapt to specific database environments eliminates much of the configuration complexity associated with traditional monitoring tools.

From a practical perspective, the AI observation system reduced mean time to incident detection by 74% and mean time to resolution by 42%, directly improving database availability and performance. These improvements translate to better user experiences, reduced operational costs, and more efficient use of administrator time. The relatively low resource overhead of 2.3% CPU consumption demonstrates that sophisticated AI monitoring can be implemented without significantly impacting database performance.

Future research should extend this work to distributed database architectures, incorporate security monitoring capabilities, and explore automated remediation actions based on AI recommendations. Integration with database optimization tools could create closed-loop systems that not only detect issues but also automatically implement corrections. As database workloads continue to grow in complexity and volume, AI-based observation systems will become increasingly essential tools for maintaining performance, reliability, and security in modern data management environments.

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