

Introduction to TinyML & Its Role in IoT Systems

By- Chandramouli Haldar
(IoT & Robotics Lead GDG GNIT)



Introduction to IOT



What is Internet of Things (IoT)?

- The **Internet of Things (IoT)** refers to a network of **physical objects** or “**things**” that are embedded with **sensors, actuators, processing units, and communication technologies**, enabling them to **collect, exchange, and act on data** over the internet without continuous human intervention.
- In a traditional system, devices operate independently and require manual control or monitoring. IoT transforms this approach by allowing devices to become **smart, connected, and autonomous**, capable of sensing their environment, processing information, and making decisions either locally or through cloud-based platforms.



INTERNET OF THINGS



Any Device



Anybody



Anywhere



Any Business



Any Network



Anytime

HISTORY OF IoT

Evolution from Connected Devices to Global Network



1982

Vending Machine

World's first internet-connected appliance, a Coke machine at Carnegie Mellon University.

1990

Toaster

John Romkey's smart toaster, controlled over the internet for the first time.

1999

IoT Term Coined

Kevin Ashton first used the phrase "Internet of Things" during a presentation at Procter & Gamble.

2000

LG Smart Fridge

LG introduced the world's first internet-enabled refrigerator, the "Internet Digital DIOS".

2004

Smart Watch

Early wearable tech like the Fossil Wrist PDA, integrating personal data and connectivity.

2009

Cars

Cars became increasingly connected with systems for navigation, diagnostics, and tracking.

2011

Smart TV

Smart TVs with integrated internet capabilities, apps, and streaming services became mainstream.

2014

Amazon Echo

Launch of the Echo smart speaker with the Alexa voice assistant, popularizing smart home control.

2015

Tesla Autopilot

Introduction of Tesla Autopilot, marking a significant step towards autonomous connected vehicles.

Basic Components of IoT



01 Devices & Sensors

Physical objects embedded with sensors or actuator

02 Connectivity

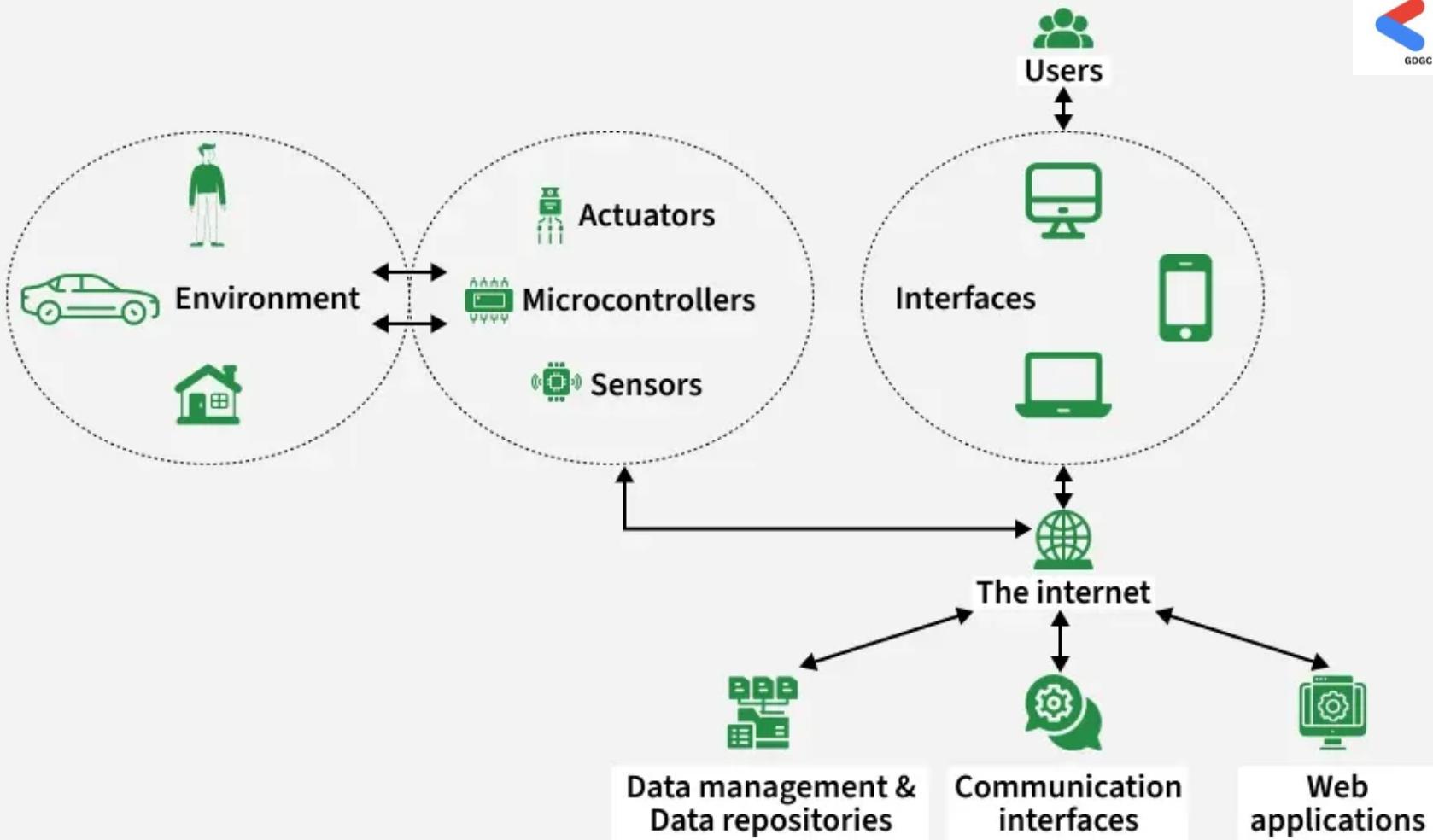
Networks such as Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, Zigbee, LoRa

03 Data Processing

Edge devices, gateways, or cloud platforms

04 User Interface (UI)

Applications, dashboards, or mobile apps



IoT Advantages and Limitations

Advantages

Minimizes the Human Work & Effort

Saves Time and Effort

Good For Personal Safety and Security

Beneficial For the Healthcare Industry

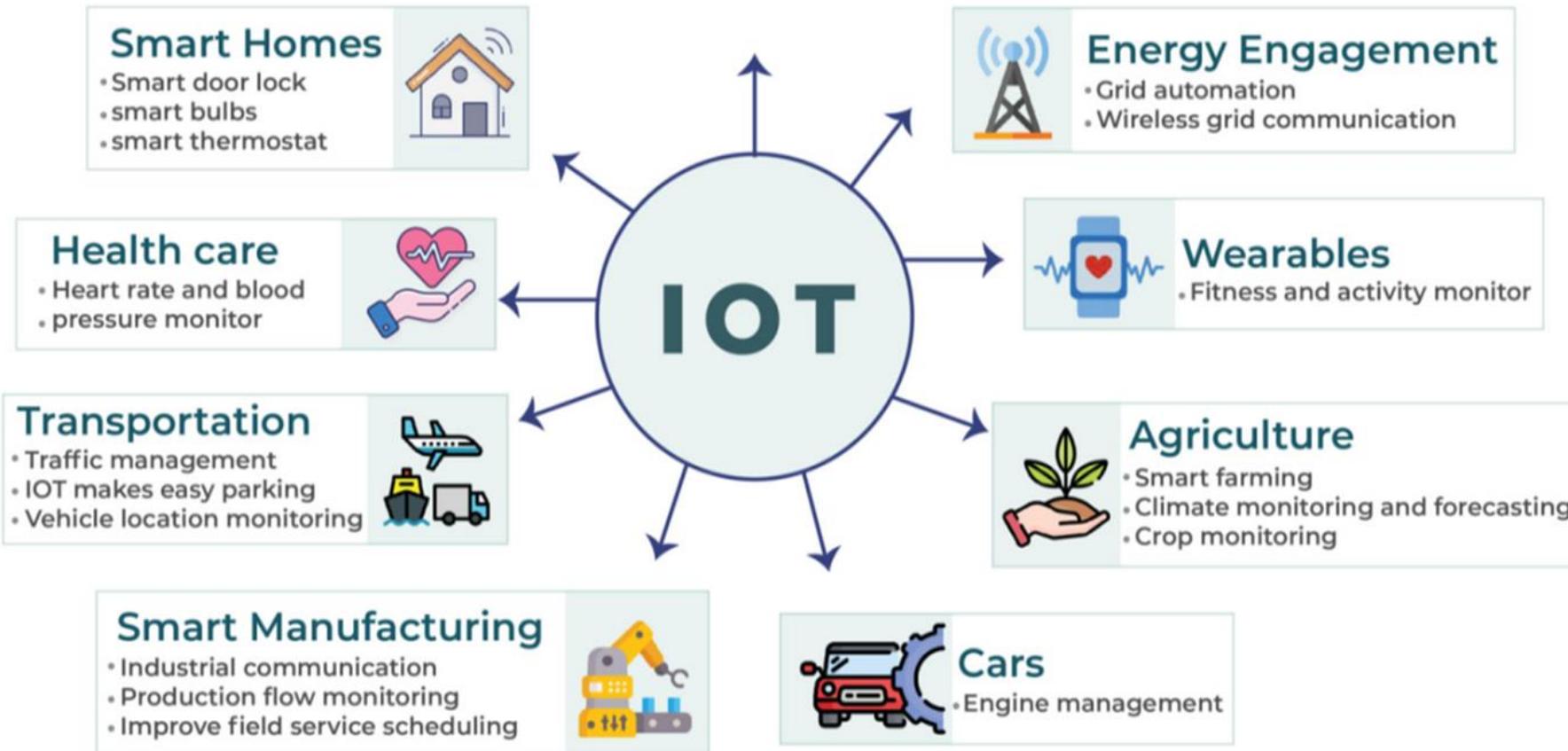
Limitations

Increased Privacy Concerns

Increased Unemployment Rates

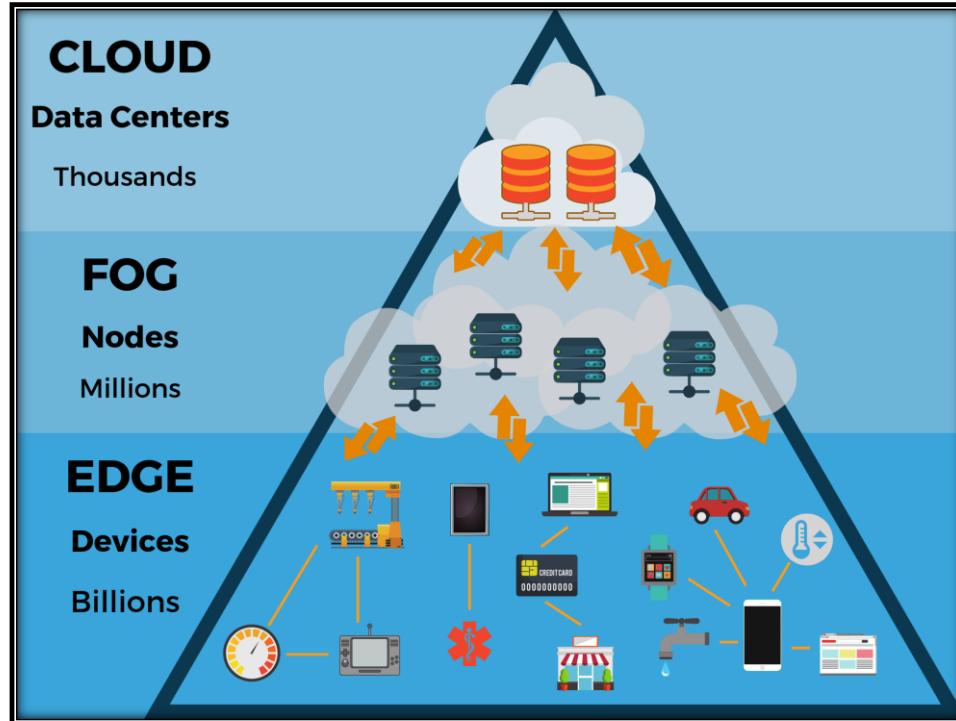
Highly Dependent on the Internet

Complex System For Maintenance





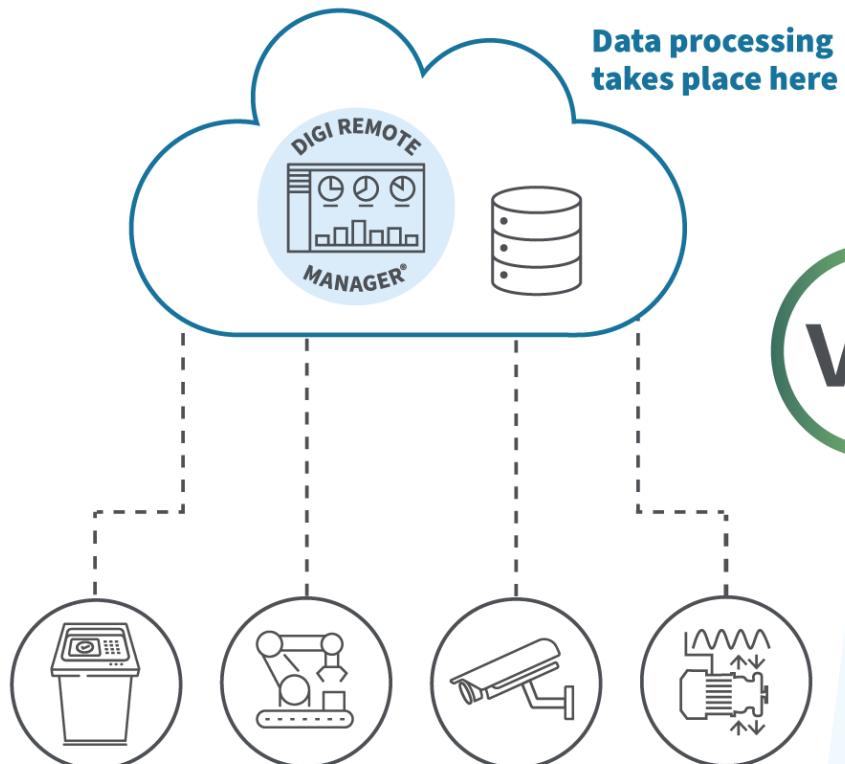
Edge Computing



It is a distributed computing model that brings computation and data storage closer to the sources of data. More broadly, it refers to any design that pushes computation physically closer to a user, so as to reduce the latency compared to when an application runs on a centralized data center.

TRADITIONAL

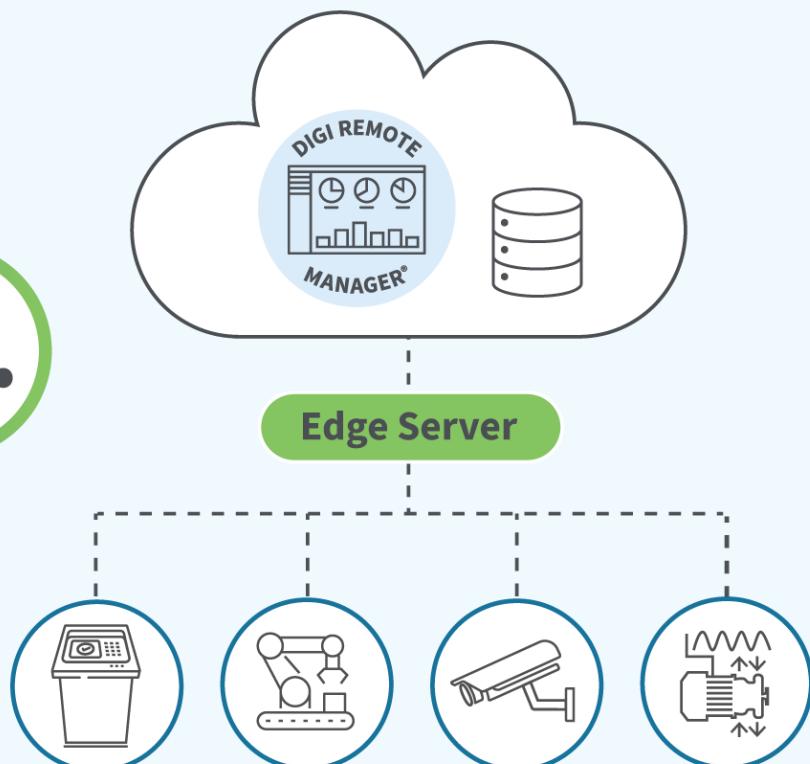
Cloud Computing



VS.

MODERN

Edge Computing



Data processing
takes place here

Pros and Cons of Edge Computing

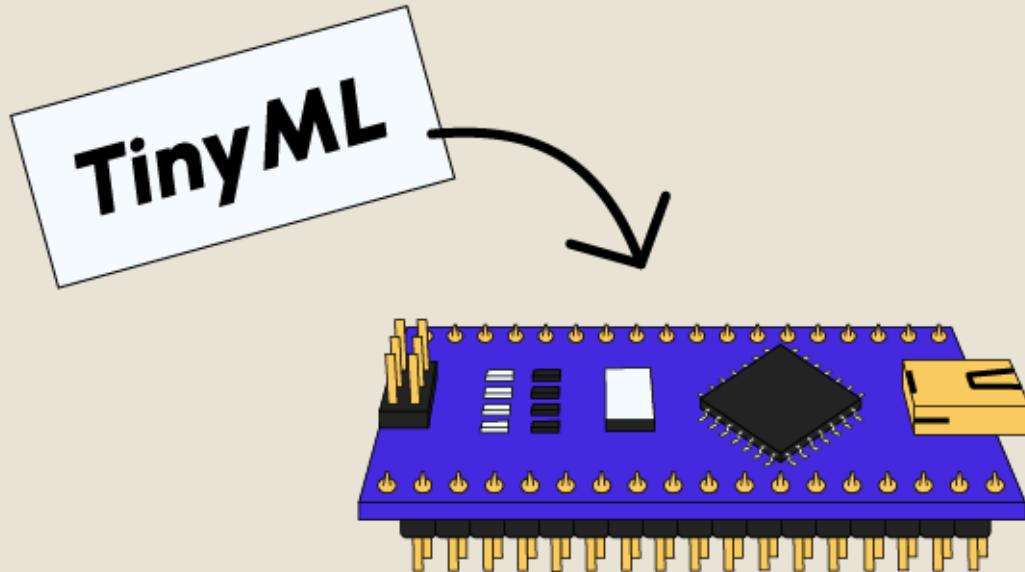
Pros

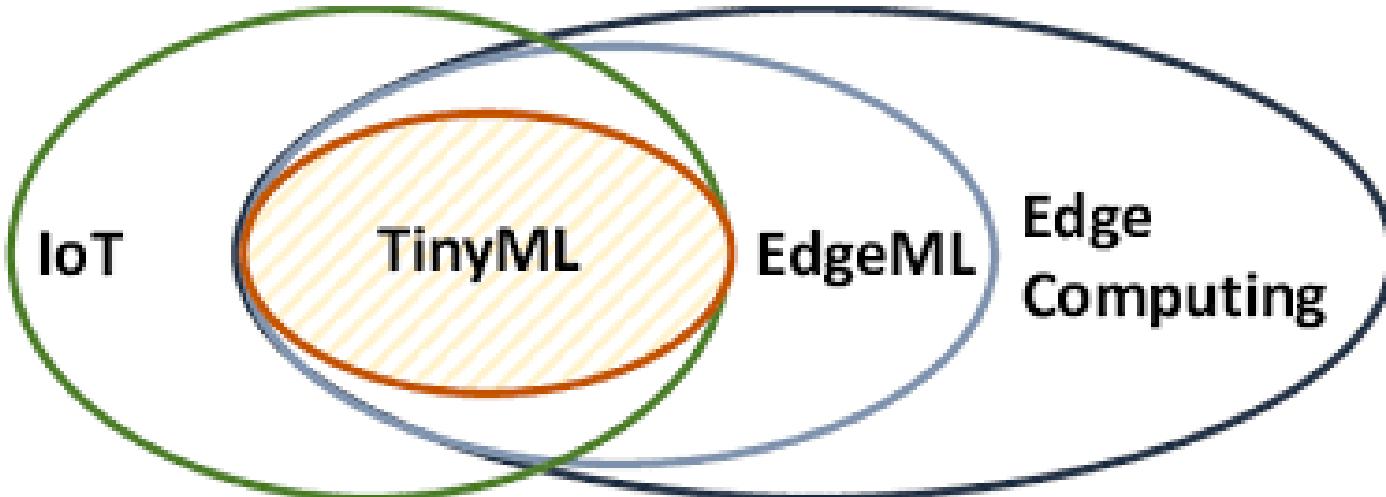
- Low latency
- Reduced bandwidth
- Improved data security and privacy
- Offline functionality
- Decentralized infrastructure



Cons

- Limited resources
- Higher upfront costs
- Security management challenges
- Software compatibility issues
- Limited scalability





What is TinyML?

- **TinyML stands for Tiny Machine Learning**
- It enables **machine learning models to run on microcontrollers** and tiny embedded devices
- Works with **very low power**, memory, and computation
- Performs **on-device inference** (no cloud or internet required)
- Ideal for **IoT and battery-powered systems**
- Used for tasks like **sensor-based detection, classification, and simple predictions**
- In short: **TinyML brings intelligence directly to small, low-power devices.**

Traditional ML Workflow

Data Collection



1

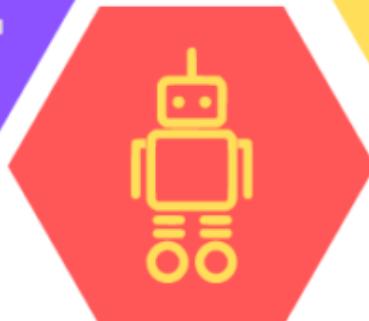
Model Building



2



3



4



Model Evaluation

6

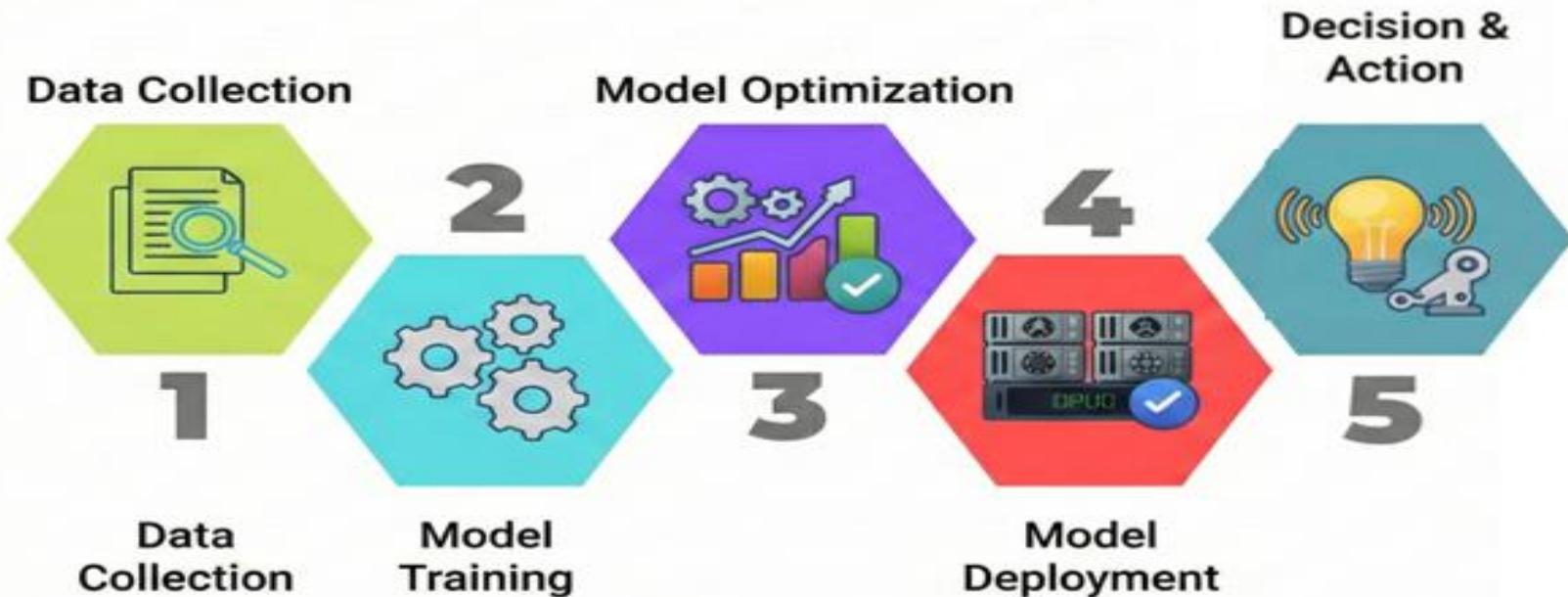


Data Preprocessing

Model Training

Model Deployment

TinyML Workflow



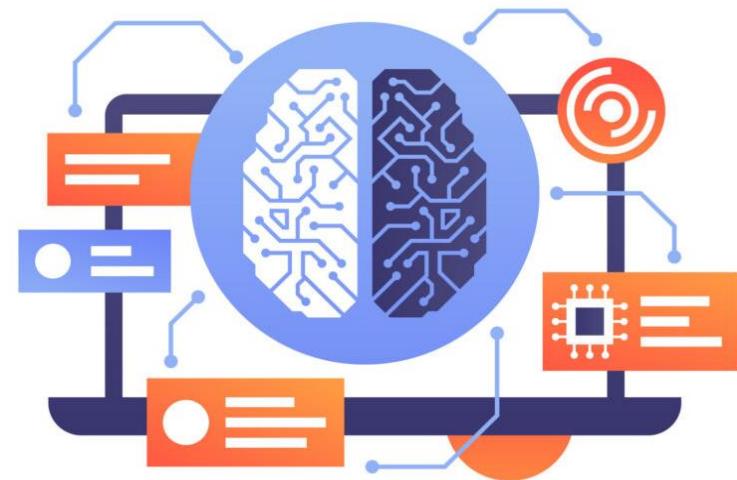
Step 1: Data Collection & Cleaning

- We collect data from the real world like sensors (Temp, Humidity, etc.)
 - Create a Dataset by combining data from multiple sources if needed.
 - Then Clean the Data by Remove duplicates, Handle missing values
 - Then Split the data into Train and Validation and Move forward to Model Training



Step 2: Model Training

- The training data is given to the computer
- We decide an algorithm to train the model such as:
 - CNN (Convolutional Neural Network)
 - KNN (K-Nearest Neighbor)
- The model learns patterns from the data
- Training is done on a PC or Cloud system
- After training, a model is created



Step 3: Model Optimization

- The trained model is too large for small devices
- So, the model is optimized to reduce size and power usage
- Optimization techniques used:
 - Quantization – reduces numerical precision
 - Pruning – removes unnecessary connections
 - Tuning – improves performance within limits
- Optimized model is ready for deployment

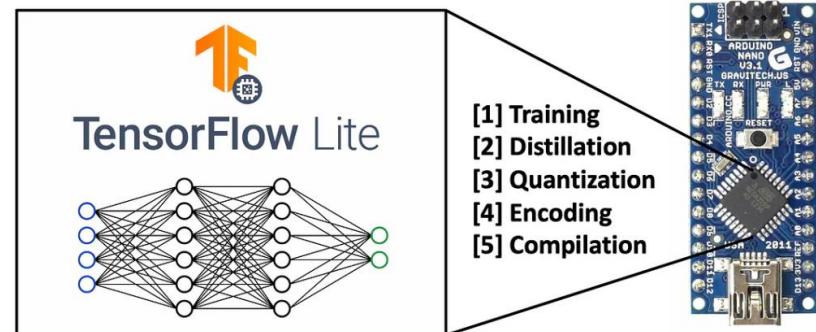


**AI Models
Optimization**



Step 4: Model Deployment

- The optimized model is transferred to the target system
- Model can be deployed on Edge devices like (Microcontroller or Microprocessor)
- The model is integrated with the application
- System is now ready to perform inference

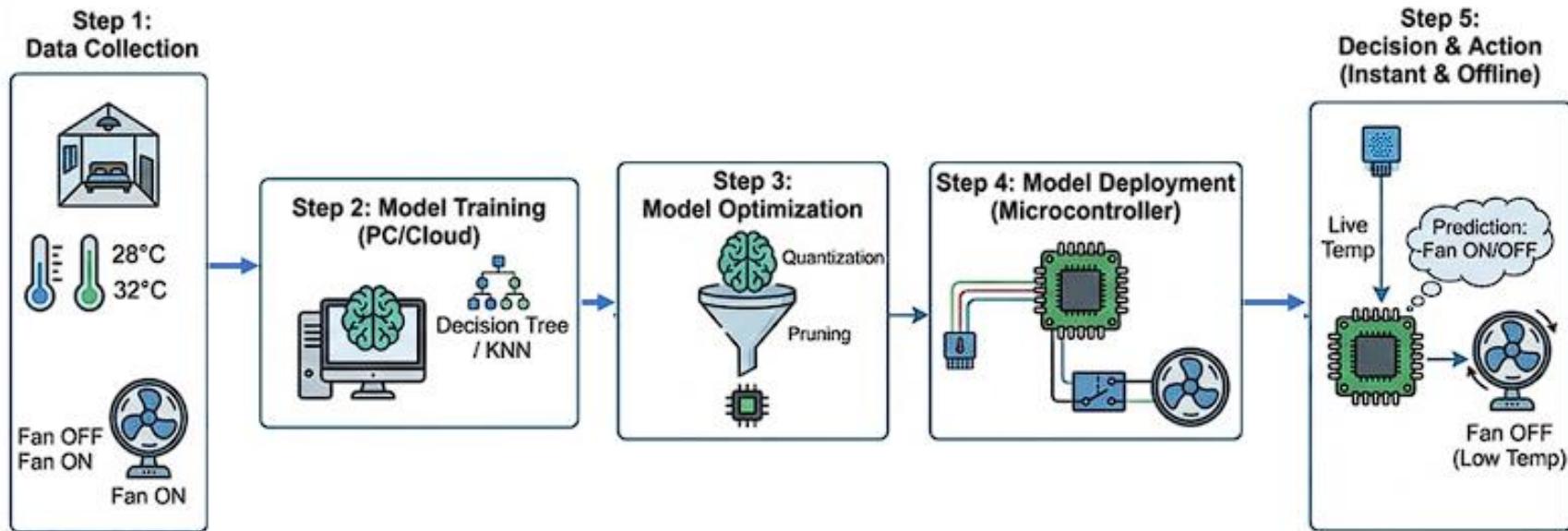


Step 5: Decision & Action

- New real-time data is given to the model
- The model predicts or classifies the input data
- Based on the output:
 - Alerts are generated
 - Devices are turned ON/OFF
 - Signals are sent to other systems
- The system takes action automatically



Example: with Home Automation



TinyML Advantages & Challenges



Advantages



Low Power & Energy Efficiency

- Runs on microcontrollers with minimal power, ideal for battery-operated or remote sensors.



Low Latency & Real-time Processing

- Processes data locally, providing instant responses crucial for industrial automation, medical monitoring, etc.



Enhanced Privacy & Security

- Sensitive data stays on the device, reducing risks from cloud transfers.



Offline Capability

- Functions without constant internet connectivity, perfect for remote areas.



Disadvantages & Challenges



Resource Constraints

- Limited memory and processing power on microcontrollers restrict model size and complexity.

Model Complexity vs. Accuracy Trade-off

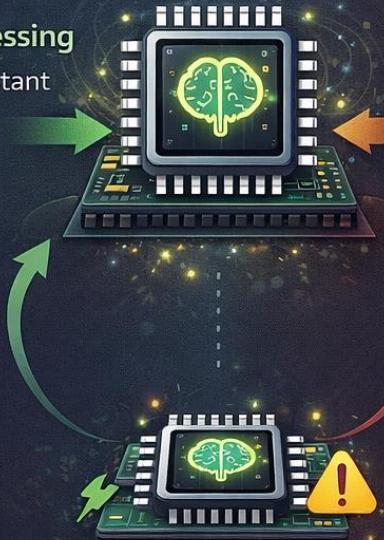
- Requires highly optimized, lightweight models (like MobileNet), which might sacrifice some accuracy.

Hardware Diversity

- Wide range of device capabilities makes consistent performance hard to achieve.

Optimization Overhead

- Requires specialized techniques (quantization, pruning) to squeeze models, adding development complexity.



Role of TinyML in IoT

Smart Decision-Making

Enables intelligent decisions at the edge.



Low Power Usage

Extends battery life of IoT devices.



Low Power Usage

Extends battery life of IoT devices.



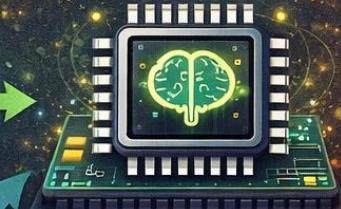
Lower Cloud Costs

Saves bandwidth and communication expenses.



Improved Data Security

Keeps sensitive data on the device.

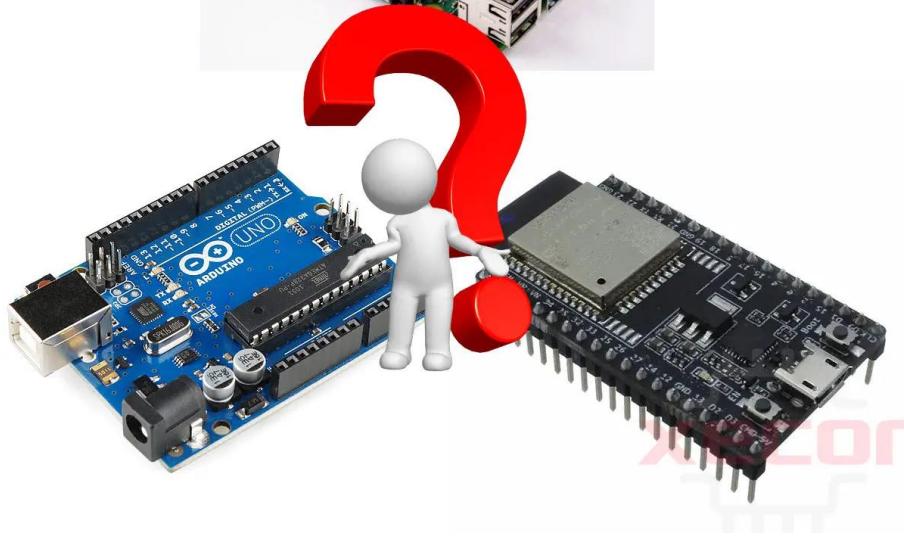


Offline Capability

Works without internet connection.

TinyML brings **intelligence directly to IoT devices**, making them **smart, efficient, and privacy-focused**.

How to Get Started with TinyML ?



Step 1: Choose the Right Hardware

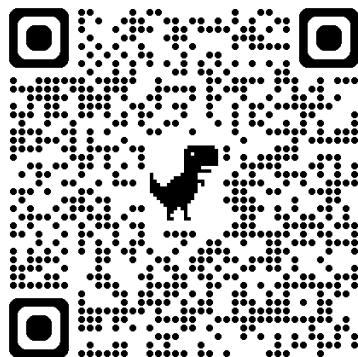
Step 2: Select the Software Tools

Step 3: Collect Sensor Data

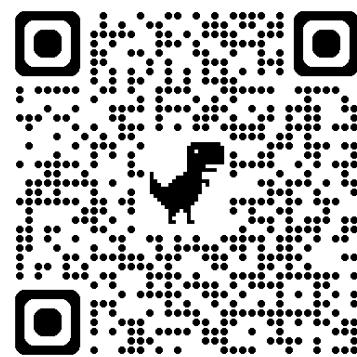
Step 4: Train the ML Model

Step 5: Deploy the Model to Device

Projects



Project 1



Project 2



Project 3



