



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM  
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA

## LAB05: On device learning

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# Objective of the Class

**Intro:** On-Device Learning on MicroControllers

**Tasks:** Implement the C code to train a simple DNN on-device:

- Visualize tensors
- Forward, loss, backward, update: familiarize with the C code
- Implement a loss function on-device
- Train a DNN the GVSoc simulator with sample data and label

**Programming Language:** C

**Lab duration:** 3h

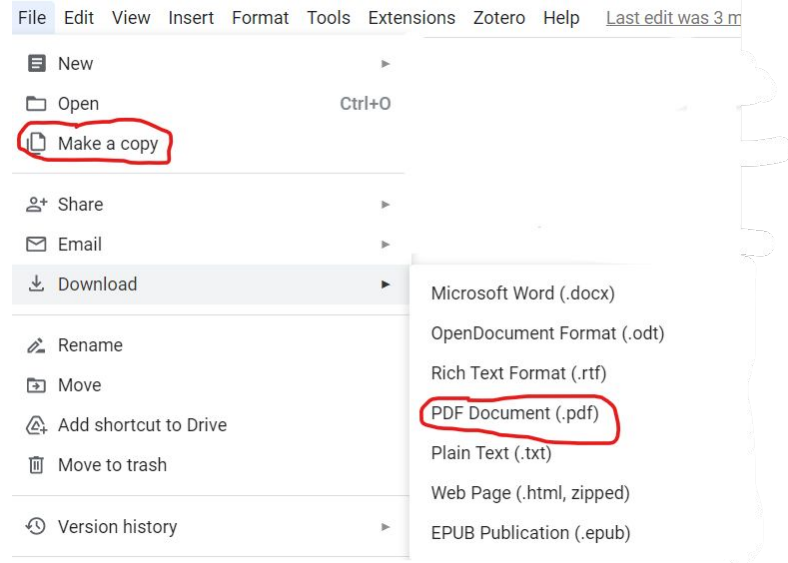
The class is meant to be interactive: coding together and on your own!



# How to deliver the Assignment

You will deliver ONLY the GDOC assignment, no code

- Copy the google doc to your drive, so that you can modify it. (File -> make a copy)
- Fill the tasks on this google doc.
- Export to pdf format.
- Rename the file to: LAB<number\_of\_the\_lesson>\_APAI\_<your\_name>.pdf
- Use Virtuale platform to load ONLY your .pdf file

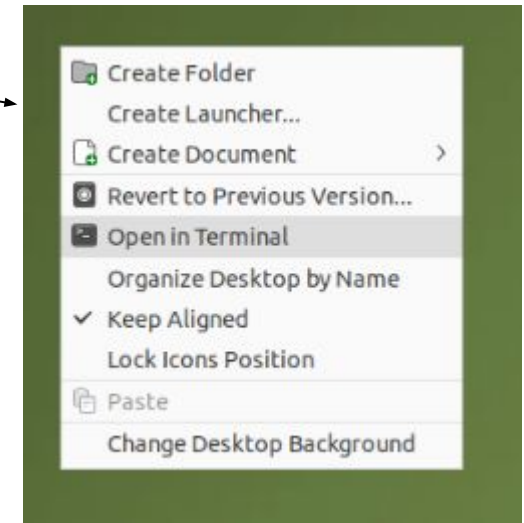


# SETUP: How to access the server

1. Open this web page: <https://compute.eees.dei.unibo.it:8443/guacamole/>  
(works only from ALMA WIFI NETWORK!)
2. Login. We distribute credentials by hand.
3. Open a terminal (right click – open a new terminal)
4. Open a text editor (For example “VSCode”): `$ code .`  
Now you can use the **integrated terminal** to run your applications!

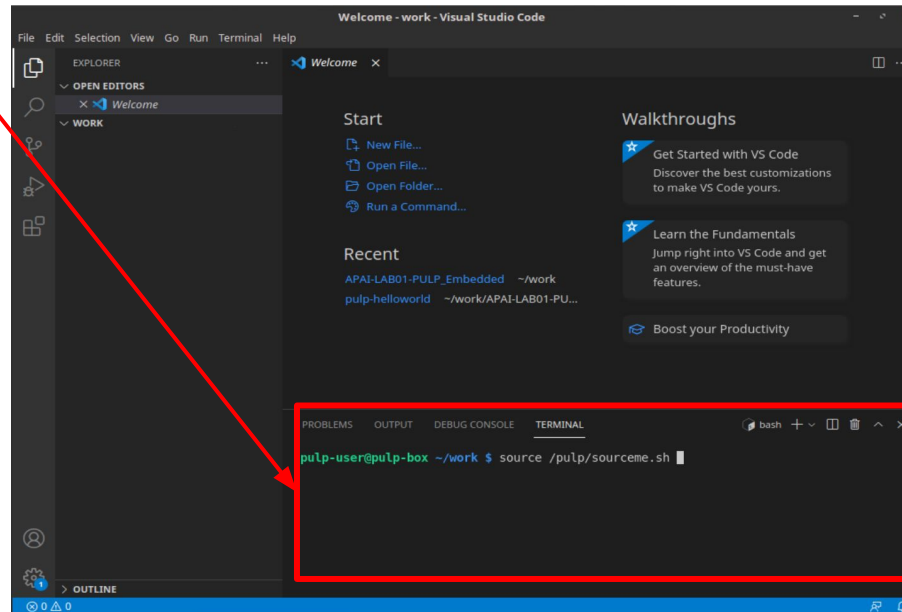


The image shows the Apache Guacamole login interface. At the top is the Apache Guacamole logo, a stylized green and black circular icon. Below it, the text "APACHE GUACAMOLE" is displayed. There are two input fields: "Username" and "Password". Below these fields is a dark grey button labeled "Entra".



**IMPORTANT:** activate the pulp-sdk module file every time a new shell is open.

```
$ module load pulp-sdk
```



# SETUP: How to access the server

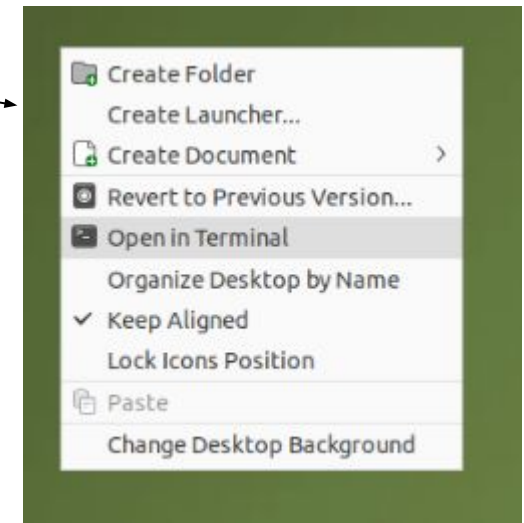
1. Open this web page: <https://compute.eees.dei.unibo.it:8443/guacamole/>  
(works only from ALMA WIFI NETWORK!)
2. Login. We distribute credentials by hand.
3. Open a terminal (right click – open a new terminal)
4. Clone:  

```
git clone https://github.com/EEESlab/<insert_here_the_right_repo!>
```
5. 

```
module load pulp-sdk
```
6. 

```
cd <insert_here_the_right_repo!>
```
7. 

```
make clean all run
```





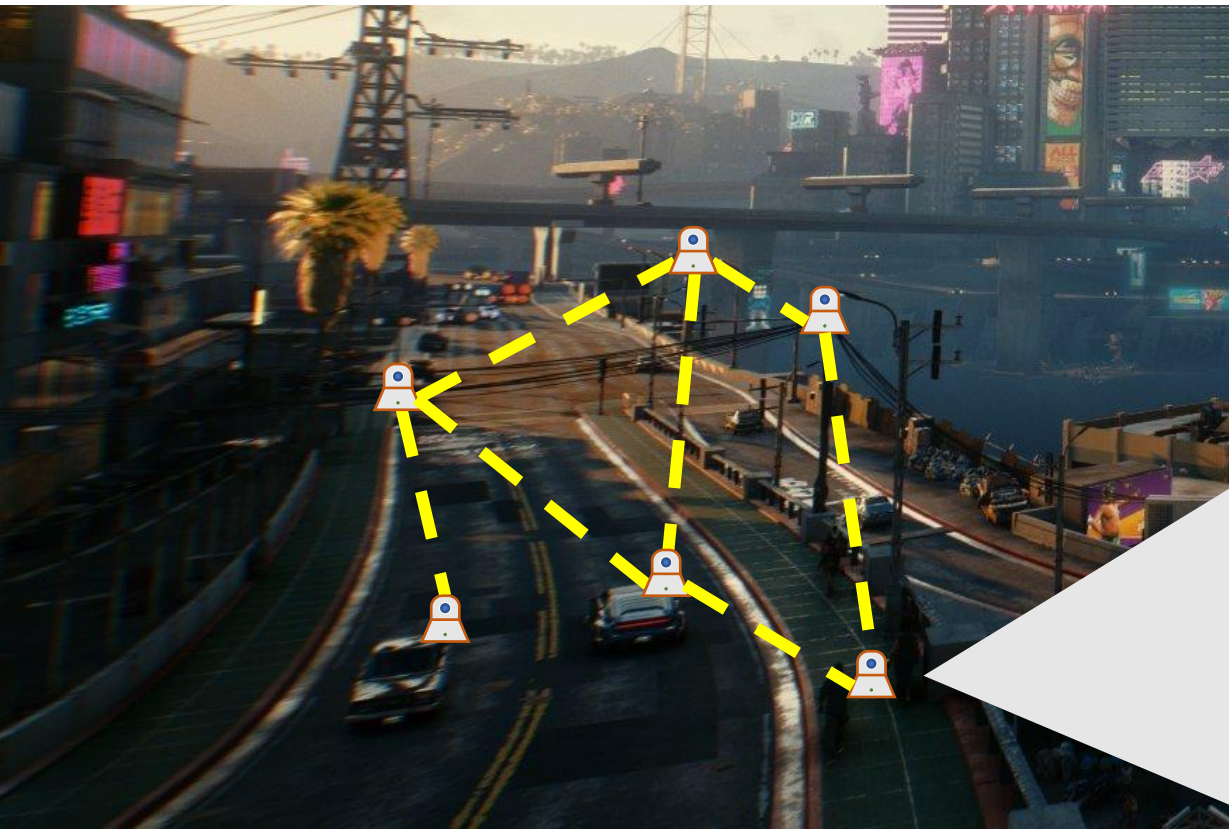
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# On-Device Learning with PULP-TrainLib

## On-Device Learning (ODL)

“The process of **locally optimizing AI models** deployed on **Edge IoT Devices**”

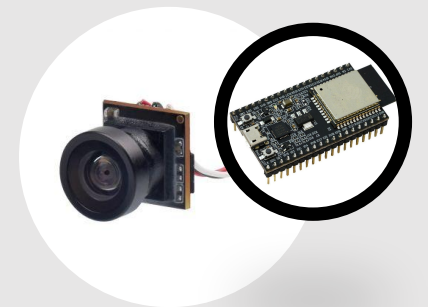
# The Internet of Things (IoT)



## IoT

“The process of connecting everyday physical objects to the internet”<sup>1</sup>

Miniaturized **low-power** and **low-cost edge** sensor nodes embedded in physical systems



<sup>1</sup><https://www.redhat.com/en/topics/internet-of-things/what-is-iot>

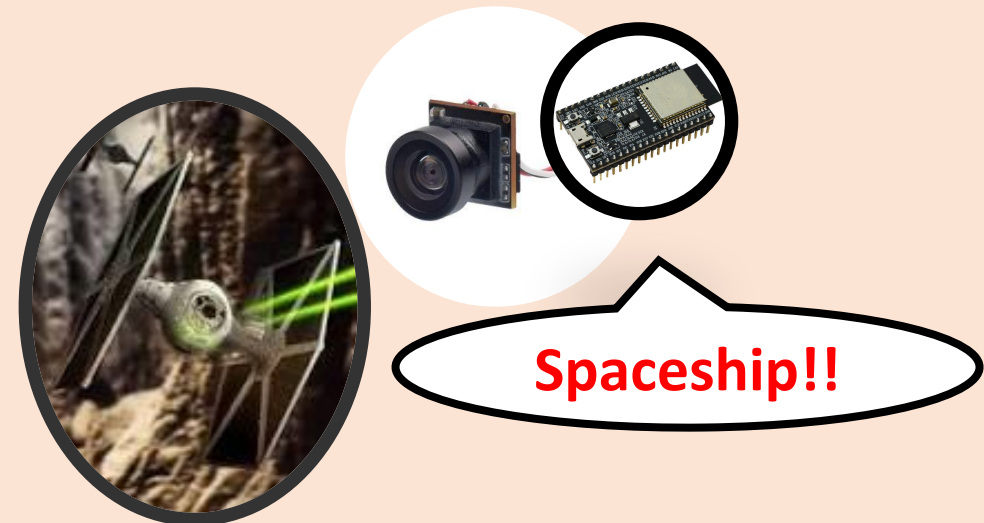


# IoT Applications – Examples



**KEYWORD SPOTTING**  
Identify & React to user's keywords

**IMAGE CLASSIFICATION**  
Detect the class of an image's content



# IoT Applications – Examples (cont'd)



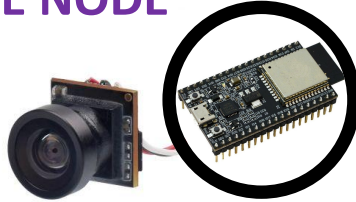
**VISUAL WAKE WORDS**  
Detect the presence of a key object

**ANOMALY DETECTION**  
Detect when a signal indicates an anomaly



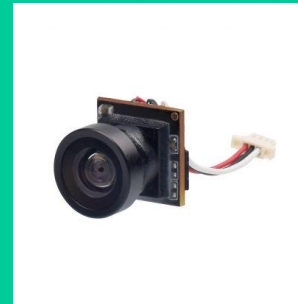
# IoT Sensor Nodes: Tiny Machine Learning

LOW-POWER EDGE NODE

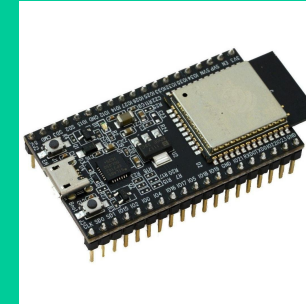


Spaceship!!

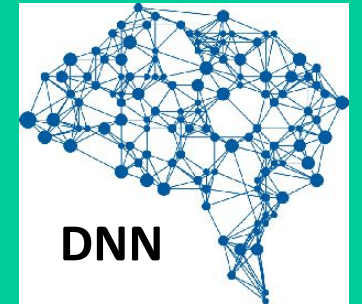
CAMERA  
&  
SENSORS



MCU  
< 1 W  
< 256 kB



A.I.



DNN

LOW-RESOLUTION CAMERAS  
AND SENSORS

ULTRA-LOW POWER

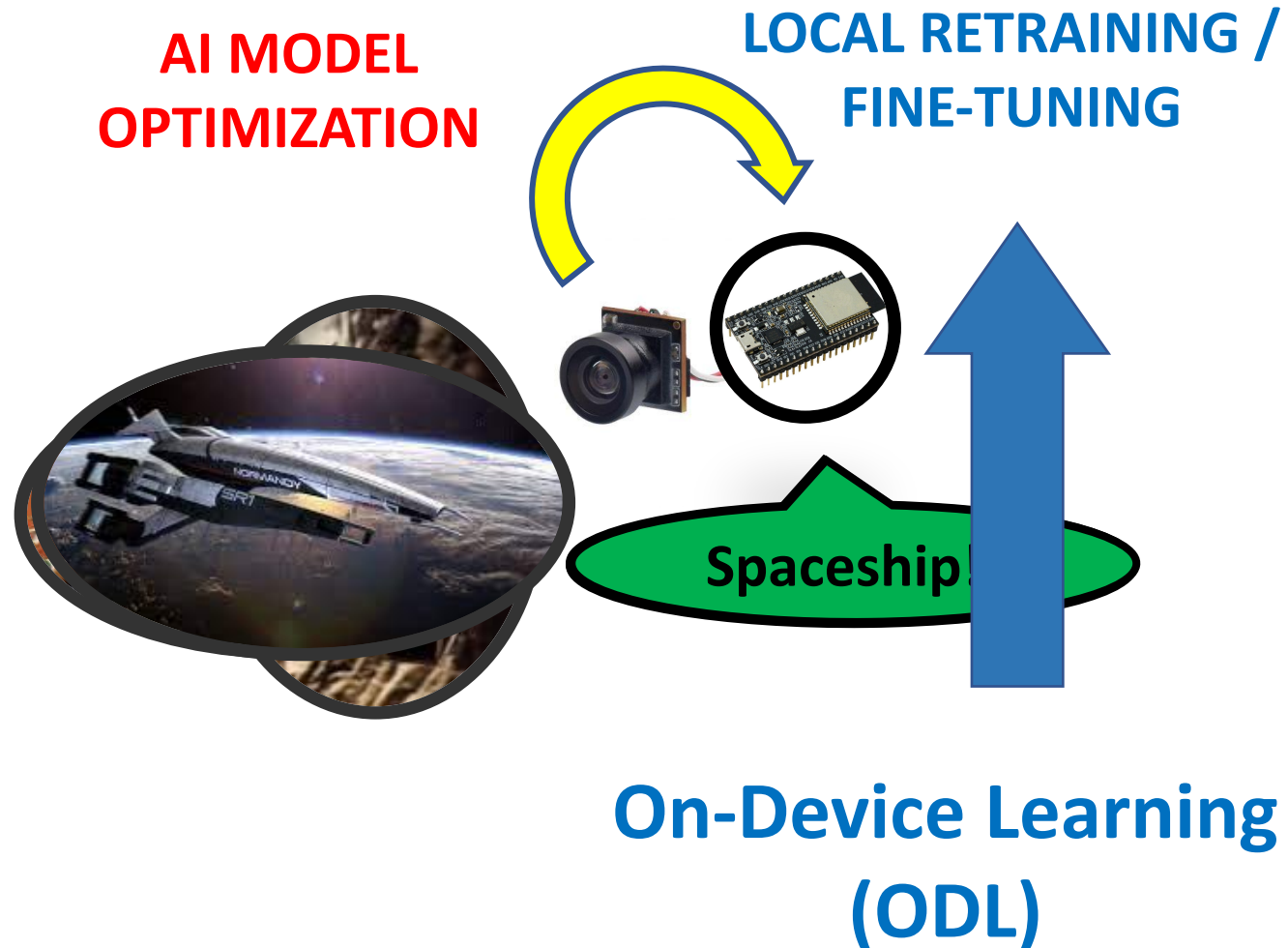
SMALL MEMORIES

LIMITED COMPUTATIONAL RESOURCES

**TINY MACHINE  
LEARNING**

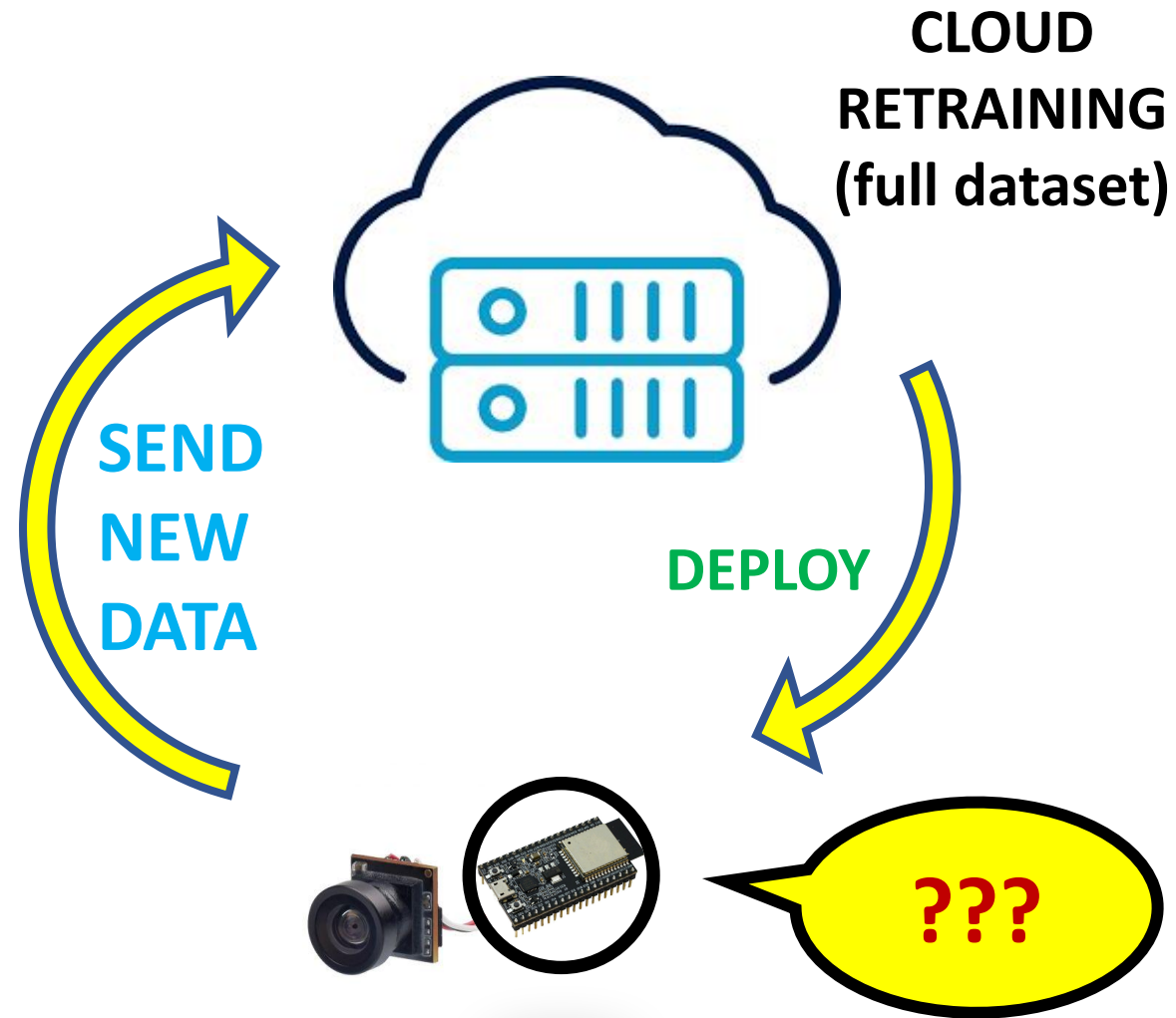
Reduce the AI  
requirements to fit tiny  
Devices

# The inference problem

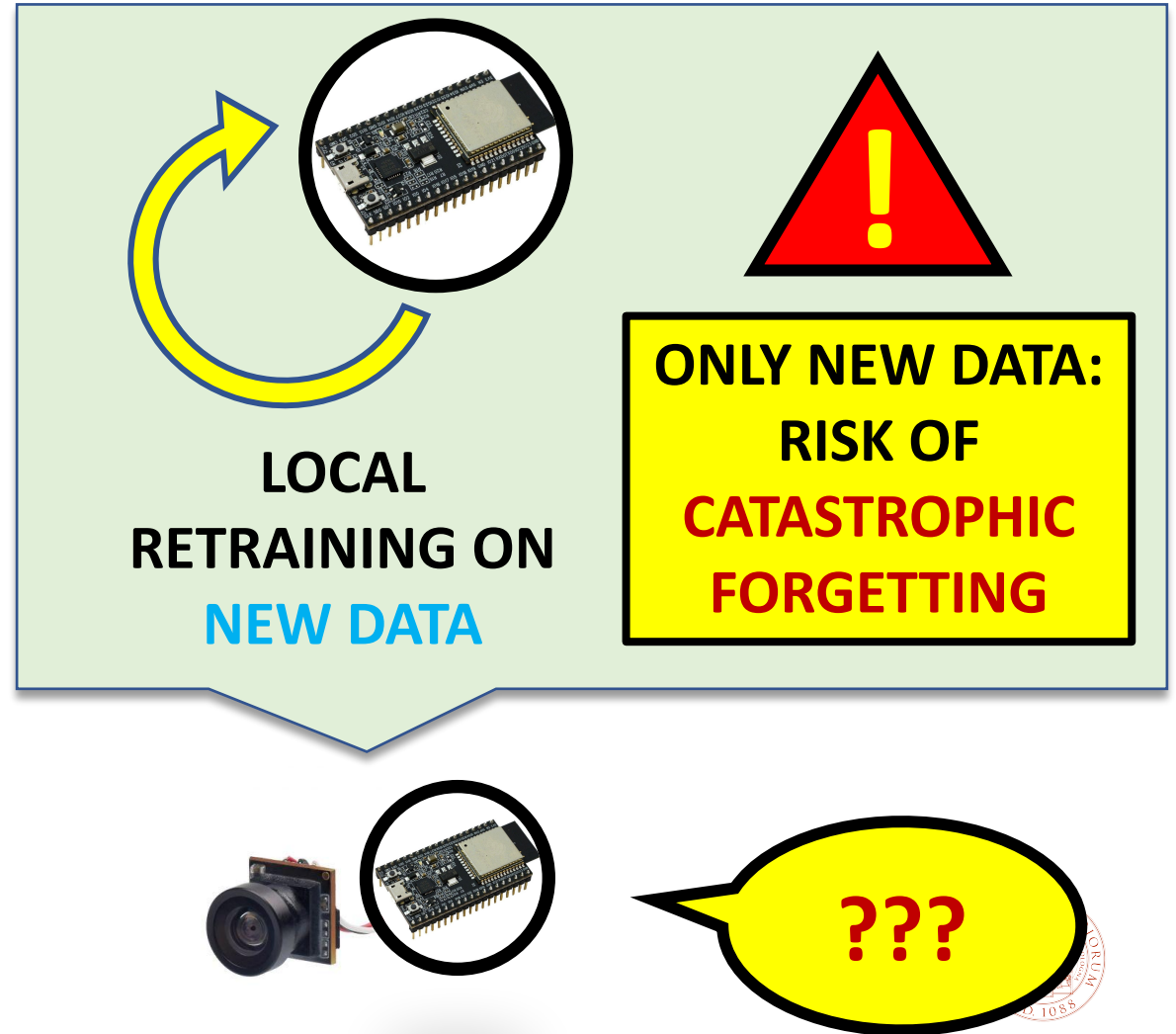


# On-Device Learning vs Training on Cloud

## TRAINING ON CLOUD



## ON DEVICE LEARNING



## ADVANTAGES OF On Device Learning



Network Scalability



User Data Privacy

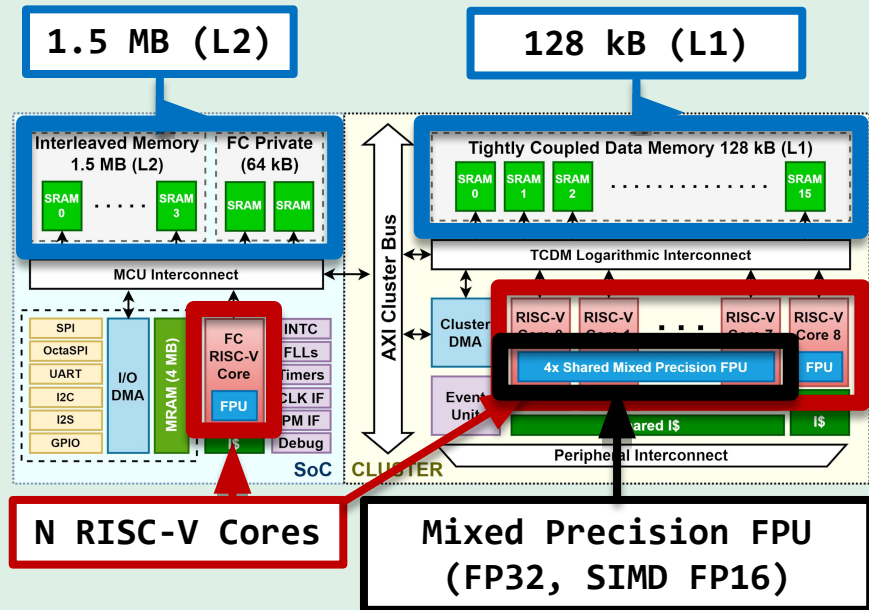


Latency of DNN Update



# On-Device Learning on PULP

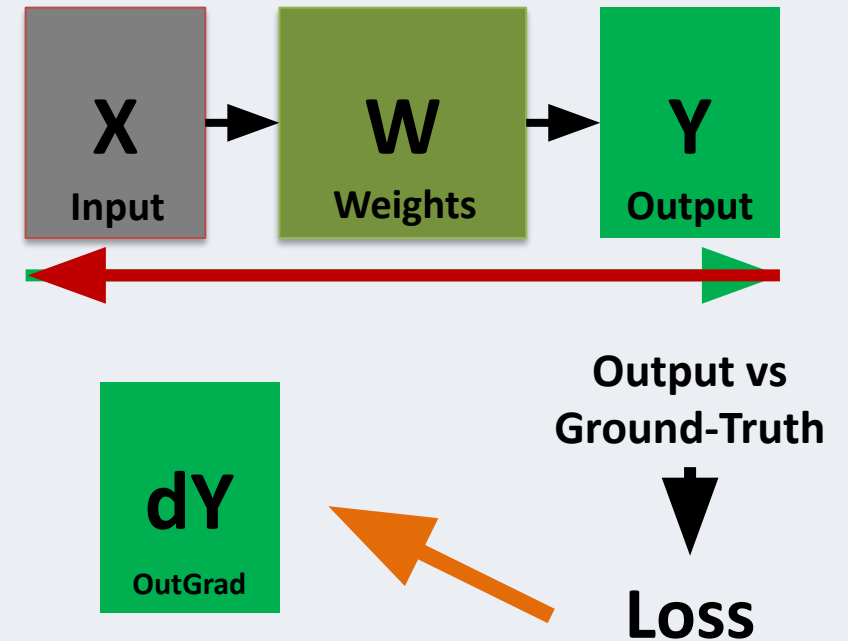
## Our target: the PULP Platform<sup>1</sup>



**PULP (Parallel Ultra-Low-Power)**  
Scalable, energy-efficient edge computing based  
on **RISC-V** cores.

## Our task: The Backpropagation Algorithm

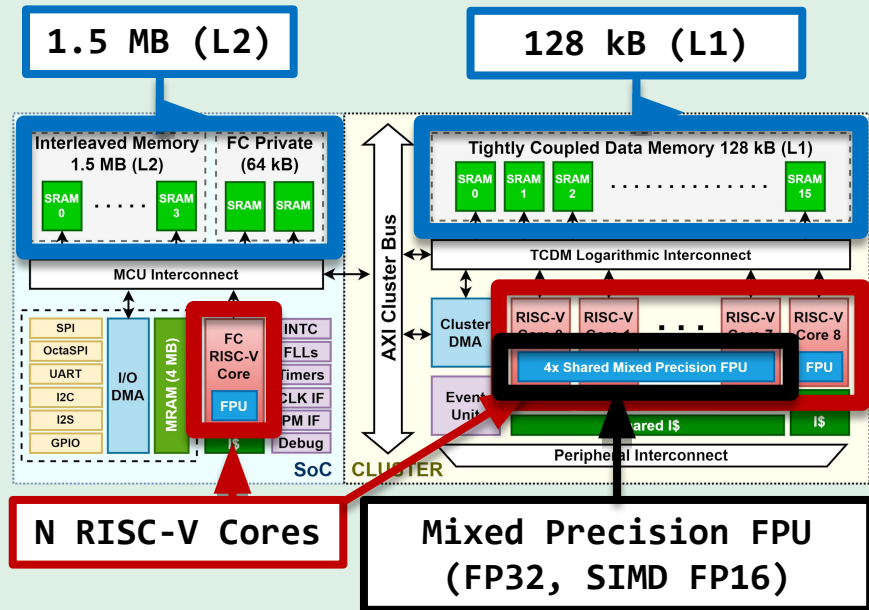
- Step 1: Forward
- Step 2: Loss
- Step 3: Out grad
- Step 4: Backward



<sup>1</sup>PULP-Platform: <https://pulp-platform.org/>

# On-Device Learning on PULP

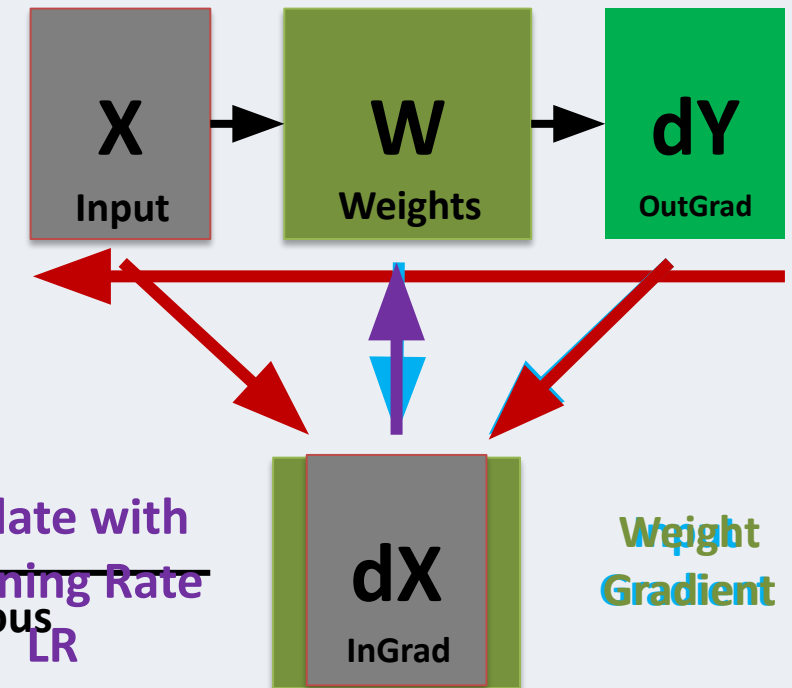
## Our target: the PULP Platform<sup>1</sup>



**PULP (Parallel Ultra-Low-Power)**  
Scalable, energy-efficient edge computing based on **RISC-V** cores.

## Our task: The Backpropagation Algorithm

- Step 1: Forward
- Step 2: Loss
- Step 3: Out grad
- Step 4: Backward
- Step 5: Weight Update



**OUR GOAL**  
Enhancing DNNs  
On-Device

<sup>1</sup>PULP-Platform: <https://pulp-platform.org/>



# PULP-TrainLib

The first **On-Device Learning** library  
for **RISC-V MultiCore MCUs (PULP)**

**FORWARD**

**BACKWARD**

**LOSSES**

**OPTIMIZERS**

<https://github.com/pulp-platform/pulp-trainlib>

## E.G: Conv2D Training

```
// Arguments
struct Conv2D_args C2D_args;
struct loss_args loss_args;
struct optim_args optim_args;

// Forward layer
pulp_conv2d_fp32_fw_cl(&C2D_args);

// Loss function
pulp_CrossEntropyLoss(&loss_args);

// Backward
pulp_conv2d_fp32_bw_input_grads_cl(&C2D_args);
pulp_conv2d_fp32_bw_param_grads_cl(&C2D_args);

// Update
pulp_gradient_descent_fp32(&optim_args);
```





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# Thank you for your attention

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