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Introduction

The past decade has seen a tremendous increase in the number of agricultural machines whose internal data communications follow the ISO 11783 (ISOBUS) standard. In many cases, the ISOBUS data never leaves the vehicle because the exporting process is commonly a painstakingly manual task with little reward. However, advancements in big data analytics have increased the value of data and created a demand for an easy and efficient way of acquiring ISOBUS messages. Recent attempts to collect ISOBUS messages for observing in-field fuel usage [1],[2] were made but the cloud integration was lacking. CANdroid, a recent redevelopment of ISOBlue [3], is a standard Android tablet enhanced by CAN peripherals that directly connect to the equipment's ISOBUS. As a result, developers can leverage preexisting cellular and WiFi connectivity and exploit app development knowledge that software engineers already have.

This poster discusses the design of CANdroid including an example Android app that utilizes the Open Ag Data Alliance [4] (OADA) API server. Additionally, we will present a reference design for processing the uploaded data using a modern, highly distributed stream processing scheme known as the Kappa architecture [5]. In particular, the log-centric database Apache Kafka [6] is used to coordinate a variety of single-purposed microservices that accomplish various processing tasks such as conversion of ISOBUS messages to raw data, creation of visualizations, such as yield maps, monitoring of equipment health, or pushing real-time alerts and data back to online consumers like CANdroid. This design paradigm allows for highly distributed, horizontally scalable processing chains that are simple to extend with little to no side effect to existing services.

Development

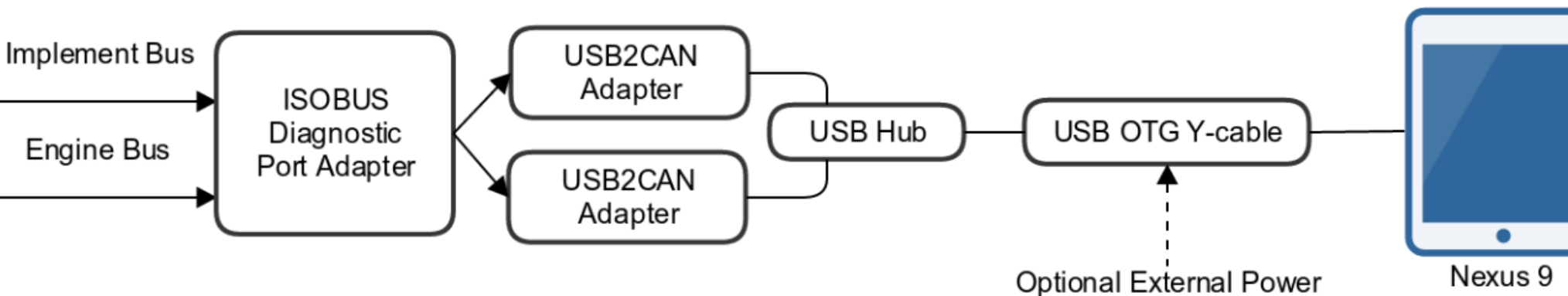


Figure 4: Overall system connection diagram for CANdroid

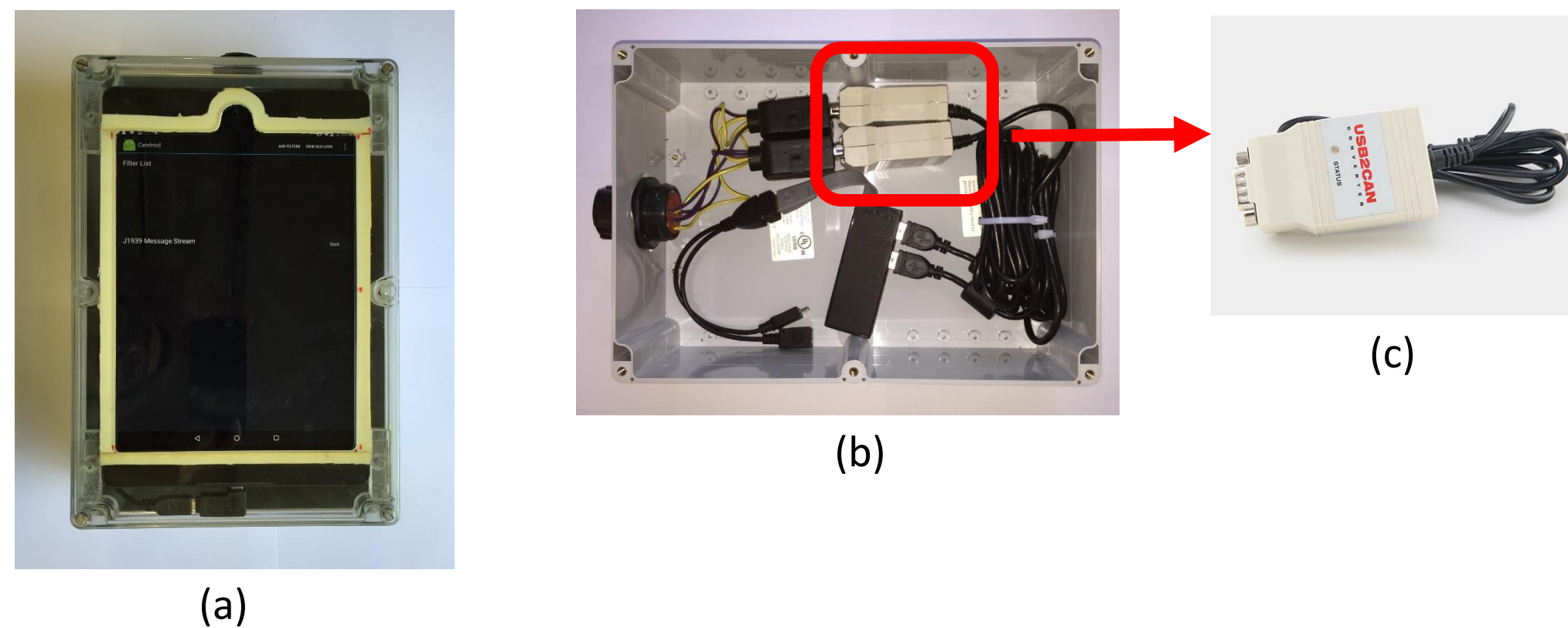


Figure 5 (a) to (c) : They represent top, side view of the CANdroid enclosure and the 8devices USB2CAN adapter respectively.

For hardware, we choose Nexus 9 as the main hardware platform for ISOBUS data collection and uploading. The tablet is built into a rigid enclosure for durability.

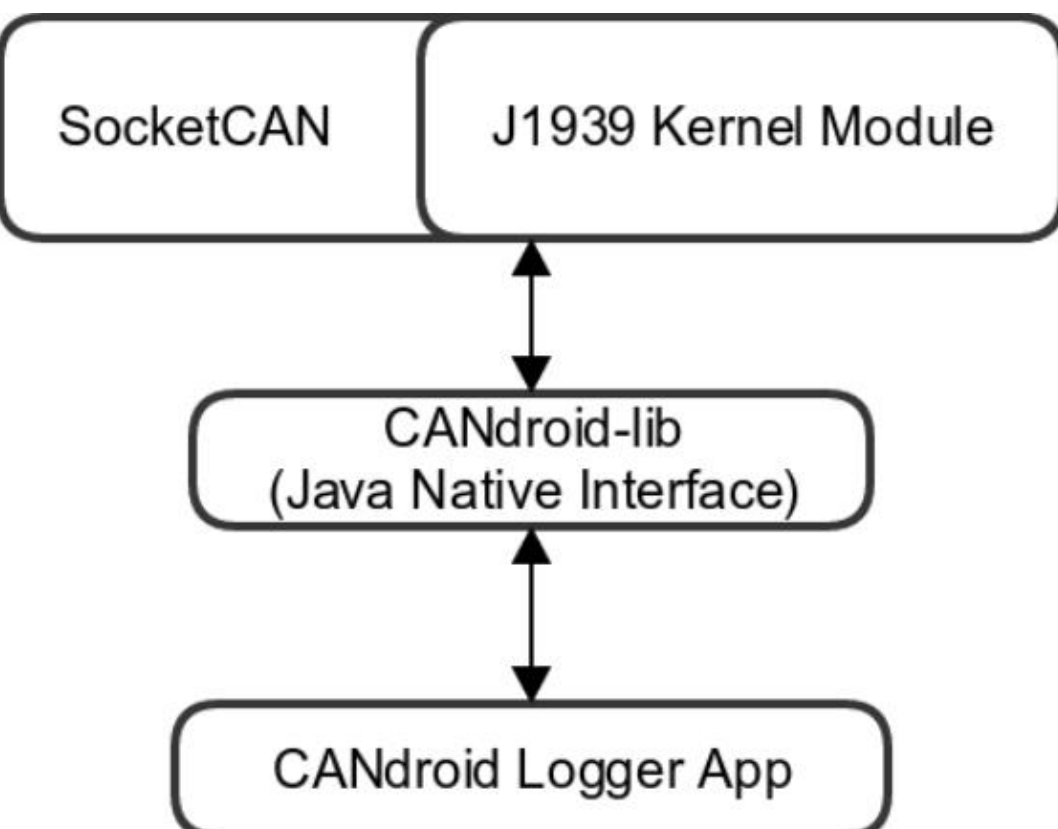


Figure 6: Software interactions for CANdroid. CANdroid-lib bridges the communication for the kernel module and the app.

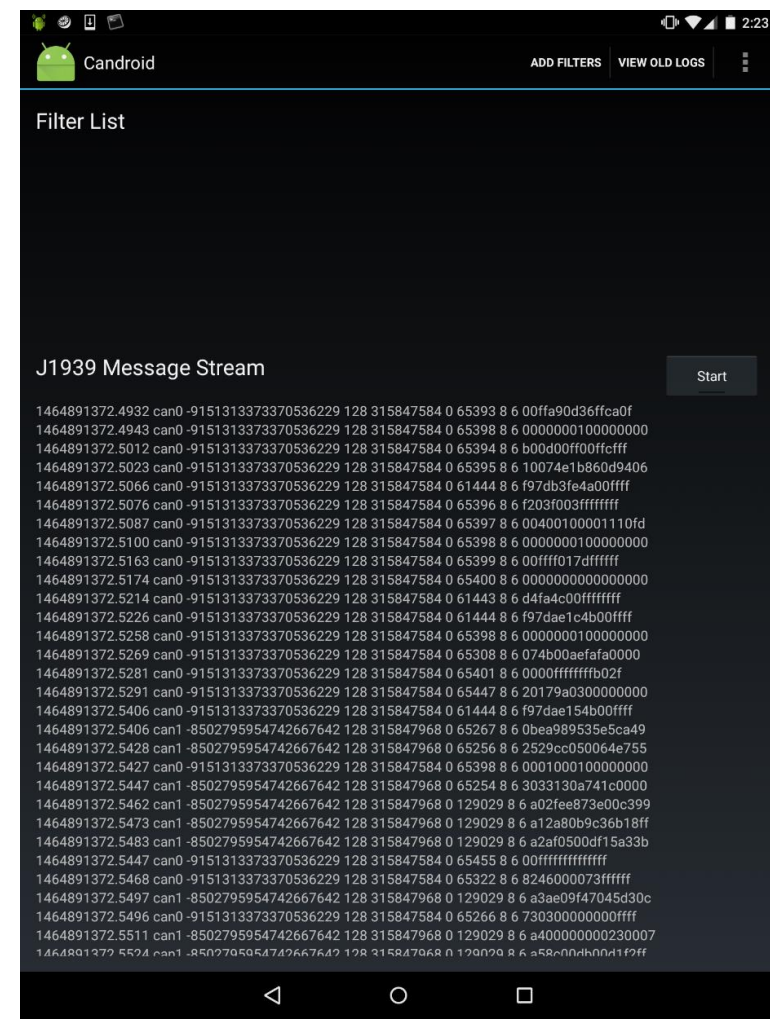


Figure 7: Screenshot of the CANdroid logger app collecting data.

For software, there are three main parts:

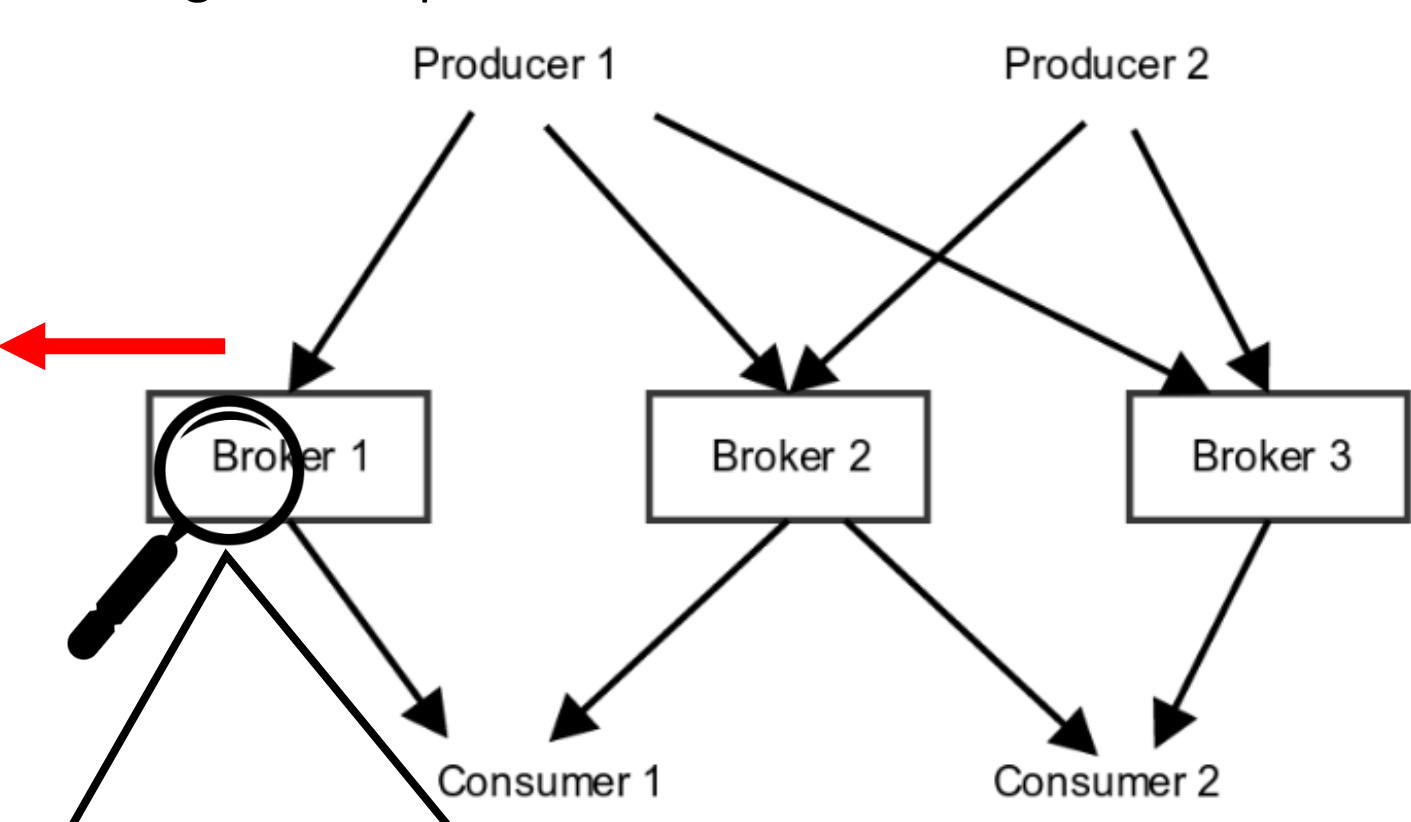
1. We have built a custom Linux image that enables the support for J1939 kernel module and USB2CAN adapter driver.
2. We have developed an open-source library called CANdroid-lib. It bridges the interactions between the kernel module and the Android app.
3. We have also developed CANdroid Logger app to collect data and upload them to the Cloud.

Kappa Architecture

The three main components of an Apache Kafka database:

- A **producer** generates message streams and sends out to a **broker**.
- A **broker** receives the messages and allocates them on different **topics** with one or more **partitions**.
- A **consumer** requests messages from one or more brokers and consumes the messages.

Figure 2: Top level overview of the Kafka database.



- CANdroid, as the producer in the Kappa architecture, collects ISOBUS messages and pushes them onto the topic Raw ISOBUS Message within the broker.
- External **microservices**, which function as both consumers and producers, parse useful data out from the raw ISOBUS message stream and pushes the parsed data back to the Kafka database on new topics.

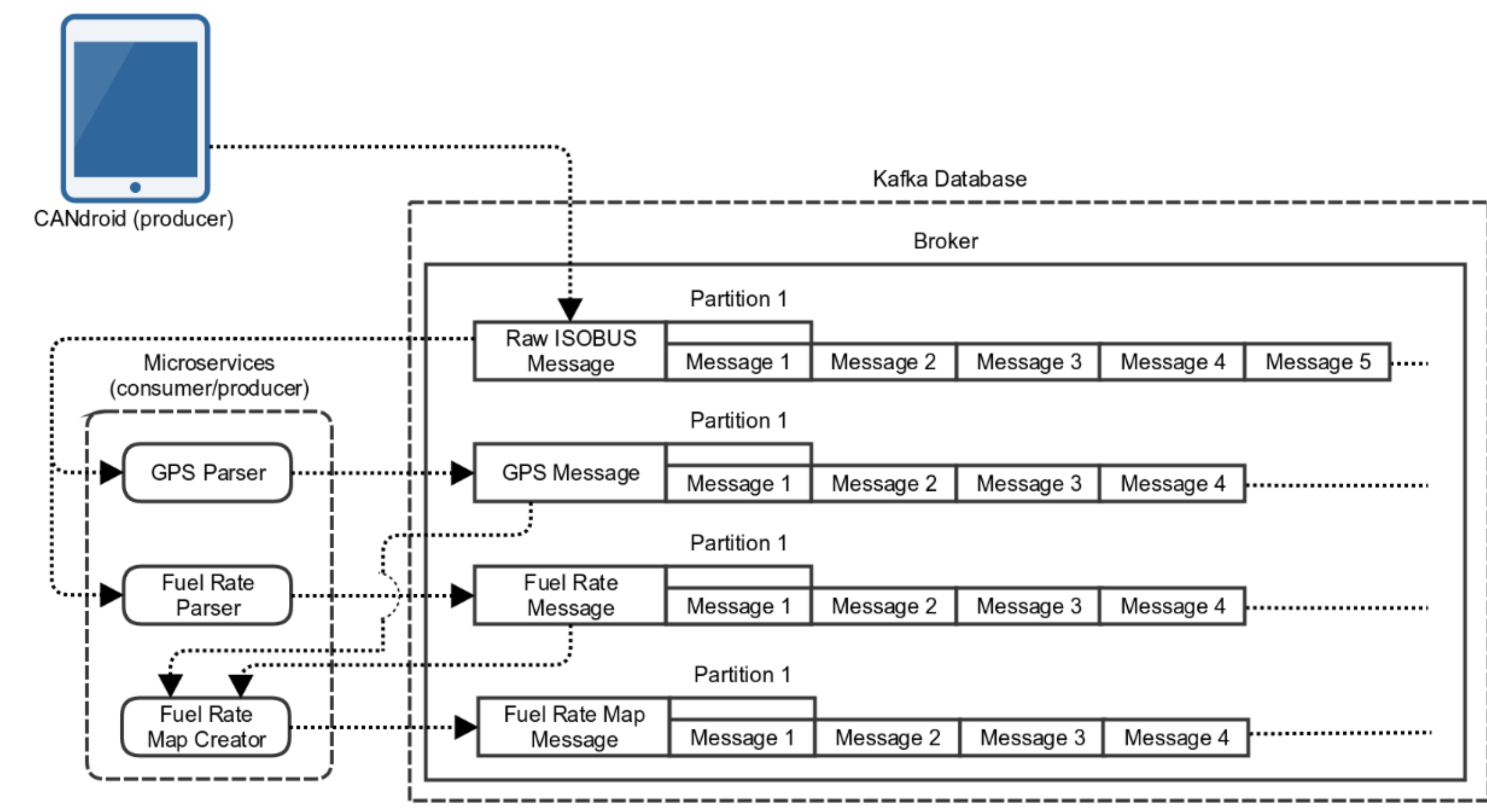
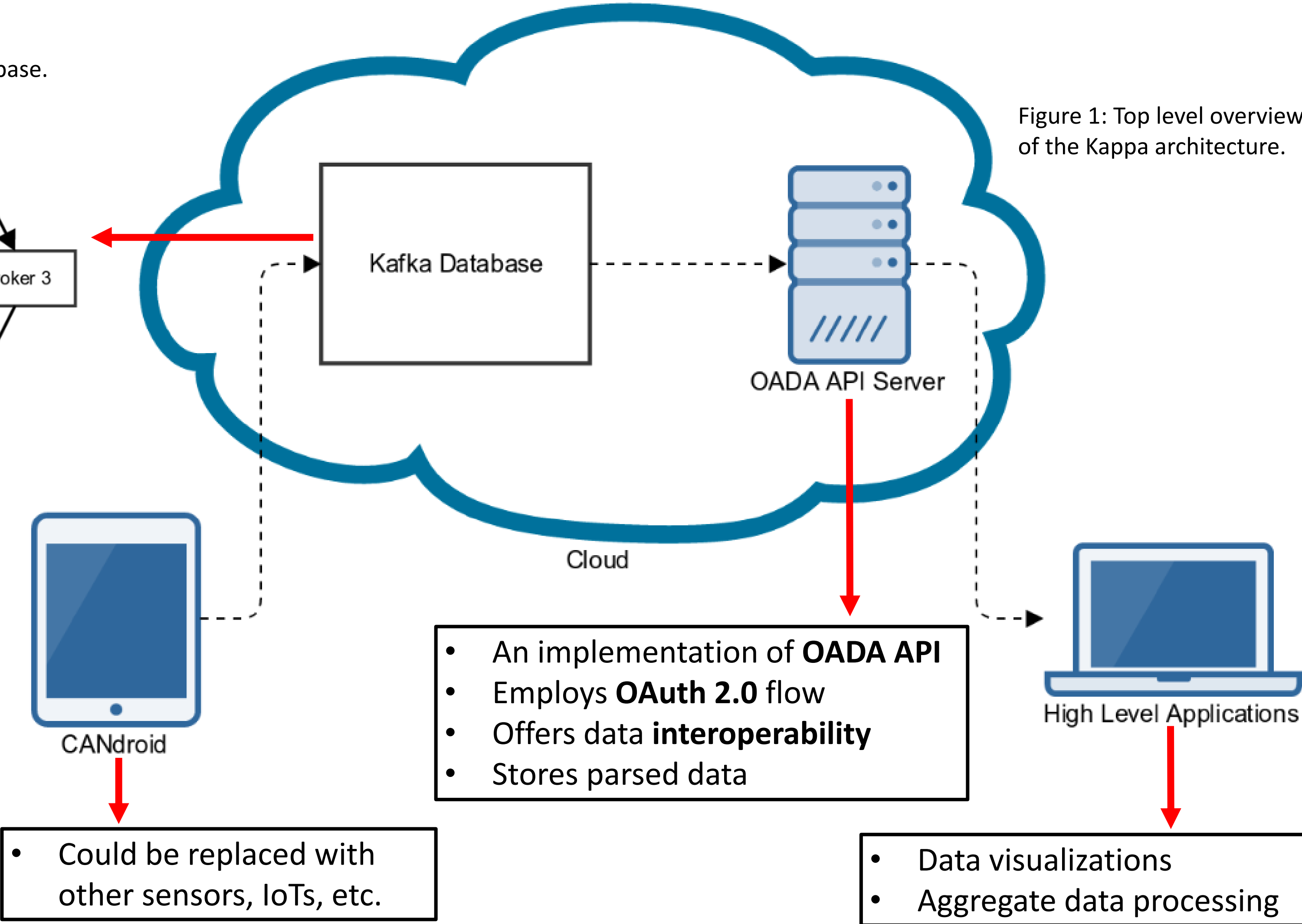
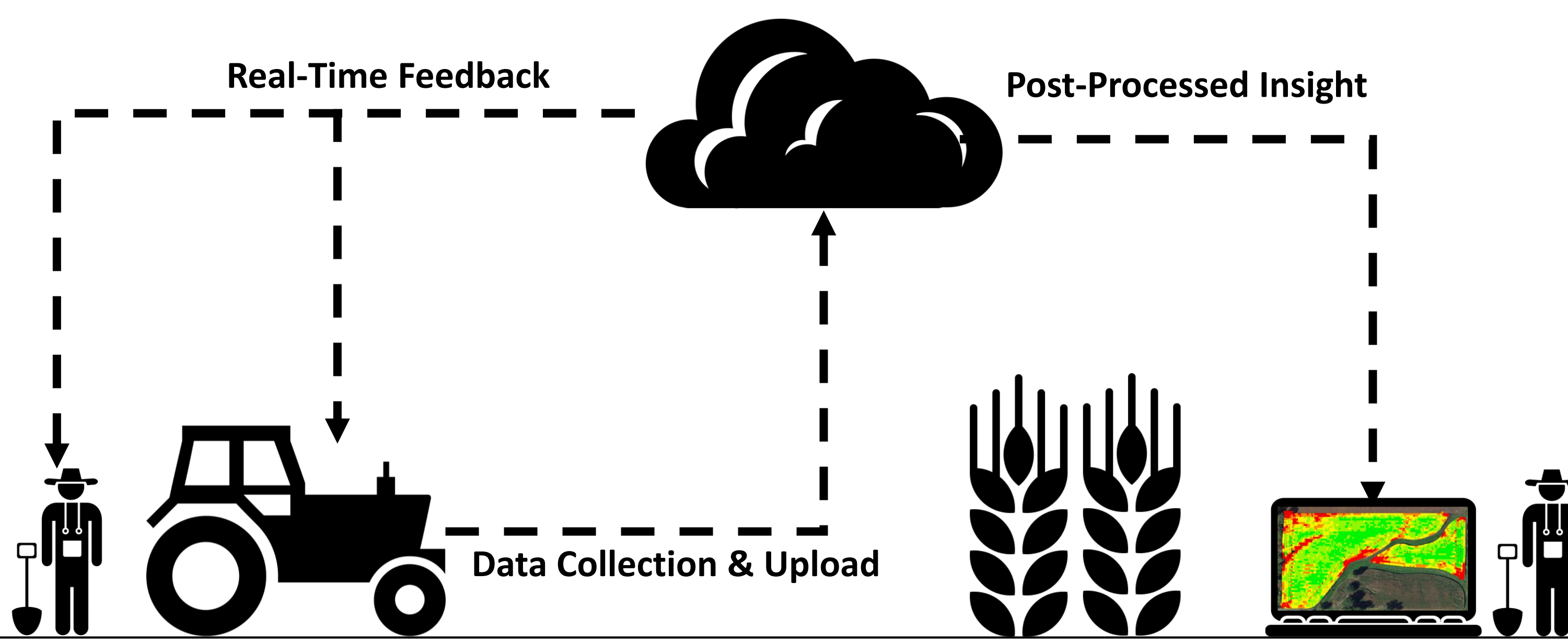


Figure 3: Detailed look into the Kafka broker.



With the Kafka database's integration into the Kappa architecture, the architecture is scalable, efficient, and stream based with low-latency. Both real-time feedback and data post-processing are realizable with this Kappa architecture. This offers a continuous flow of ag machine data which is beneficial for farmers, researchers and manufacturers.



Experiment

We utilized CANdroid to collect ISOBUS data during a 2-hour long manure spreading session. CANdroid was connected to a tractor via its ISOBUS diagnostic port. There were 6 passes of manure spreading in total. In addition, during the manure spreading session, various aspects of the tractor (speed, RPM, location, etc.) were constantly changing. We bookkept some data such as vehicle speed and PTO on paper. Our intension was to compare the data recorded on paper with the parsed data from CANdroid to validate the usefulness of data collected from CANdroid.



Figure 8: (a) Panoramic view of the cabin of the tractor to which CANdroid was connected. (b) Closer-up view of CANdroid collecting data during the manure spreading session.

Results

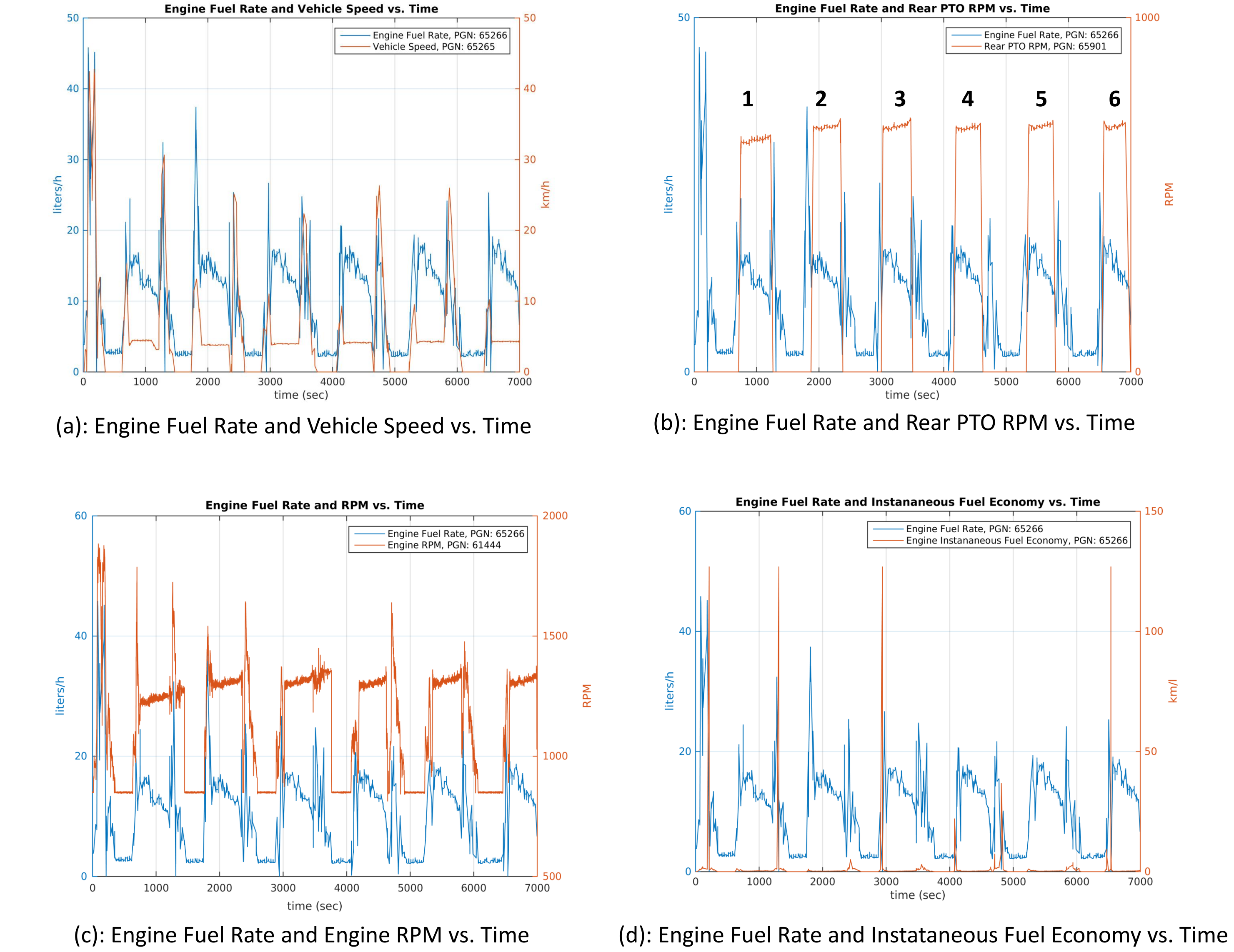


Figure 9: Engine Fuel Rate and Various Other Data vs. Time

We utilized microservices to parse out CANdroid's collected data based on some known Parameter Group Numbers (PGNs) and plotted them. It is apparent that all these plots follow the same pattern that indicates there were 6 passes in total.

[1] Pitla, Santosh K., Joe D. Luck, Jared Werner, Nannan Lin, and Scott A. Shearer. "In-field Fuel Use and Load States of Agricultural Field Machinery." Computers and Electronics in Agriculture 121 (2016): 290-300. Web.
 [2] Marx, Samuel E., Joe D. Luck, Roger M. Hoy, Santosh K. Pitla, Erin E. Blankenship, and Matthew J. Darr. "Validation of Machine CAN Bus J1939 Fuel Rate Accuracy Using Nebraska Tractor Test Laboratory Fuel Rate Data." Computers and Electronics in Agriculture 118 (2015): 179-85. Web.
 [3] <http://www.isoblue.org/>
 [4] <http://openag.io/about-us/>
 [5] <http://milinda.pathirage.org/kappa-architecture.com/>
 [6] <http://kafka.apache.org/>