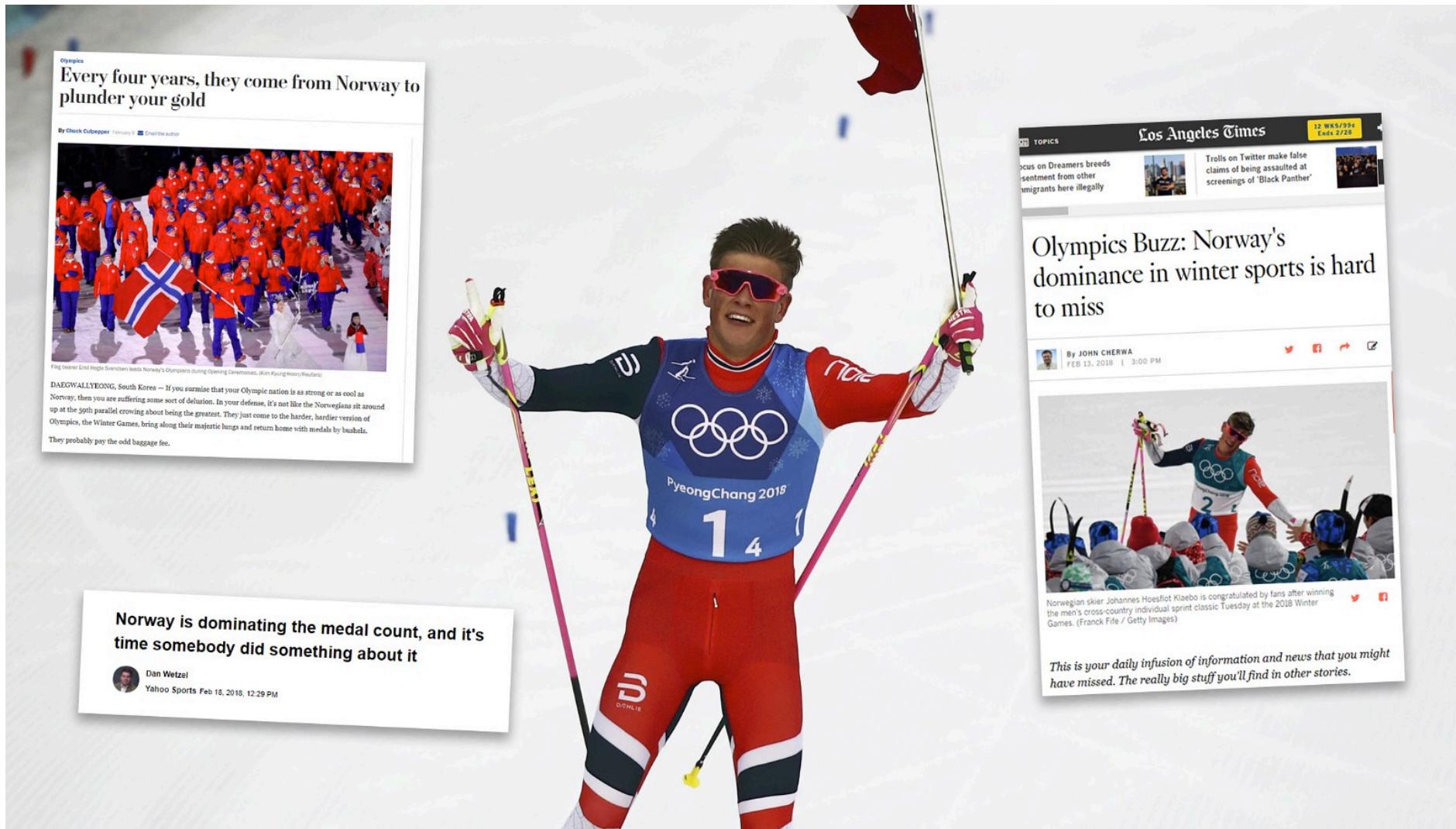


Low-Cost Programmable Air Quality Sensor Kits in Science Education

Bjørn Fjukstad, Nina Angelvik, Maria Wulff Hauglann, Joachim Sveia Knutsen,
Morten Grønnesby, Hedinn Gunhildrud, and Lars Ailo Bongo







Who I am

- PhD Student in Computer Science focusing on visualization and analysis of genomic data
- Coordinated the local coding club for over 3 years
- As a part of my position I teach coding classes to schools



Project Summary

- Students build and code sensor kits to study air quality in their local environment
- We provide an open platform to store and explore the collected data
- Pilot study in a Norwegian upper secondary school, now in 10 schools across Northern Norway
- Pedagogical resources with lectures and tutorials
- Everything is open-sourced at airbit.uit.no

Motivation

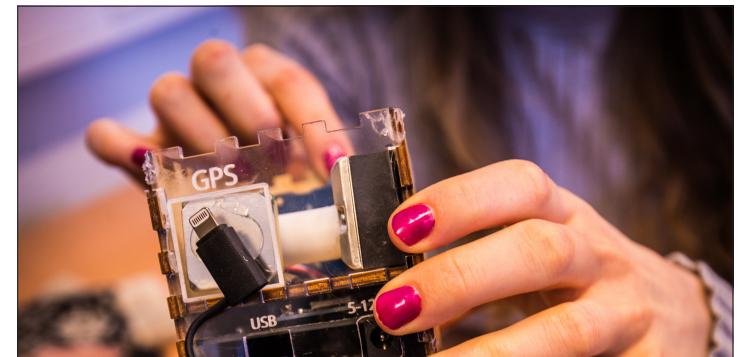
- Digital skills are poorly expressed in the different subjects throughout Norwegian education.
- Norway falling behind due to lack of courses, lack of teacher courses, teaching material.
- Norwegian students simply use technology, they don't develop any new technology
- In the upper secondary school they have a “Technology” subject with room for larger projects

Air Pollution

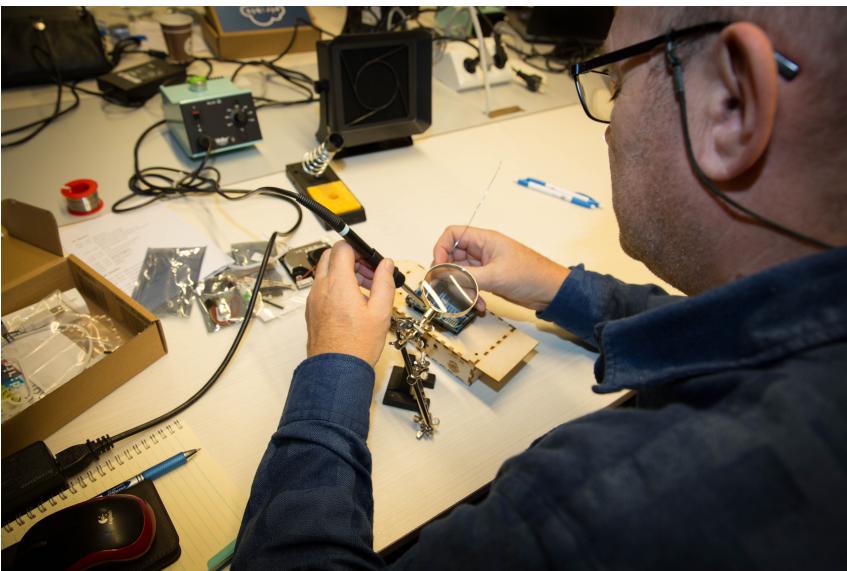
- A global health issue that reduces quality of life in polluted areas and causes diseases.
- The Norwegian government continuously monitor and create air pollution forecasts
- In Northern Norway the air quality is rapidly changing during the winter months mainly due to cars with studded winter tyres and emissions from diesel powered cars

Our Course

- Maker inspired citizen science project where students study air-quality patterns in their community
- Introduce computer-science and engineering in Norwegian upper secondary schools
- Teachers and students choose what to study and can tailor the course to fit the class



Course contents



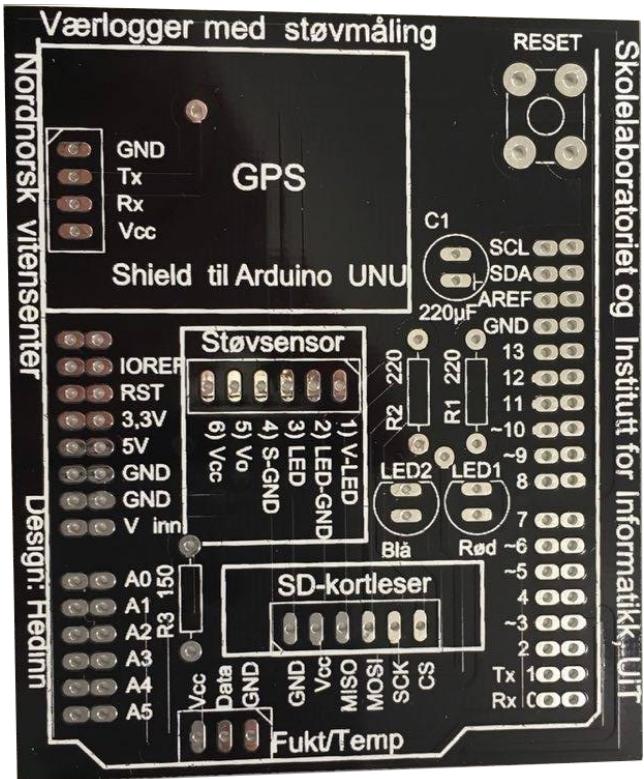
- The air:bit project spans a semester, but classes combine it with other projects
- Two-day teacher workshop
- Typical course structure
 - Introduction and inspiration
 - Kit assembly and configuration
 - Data Collection and analysis
 - Summarize findings in a report or presentation

air:bit

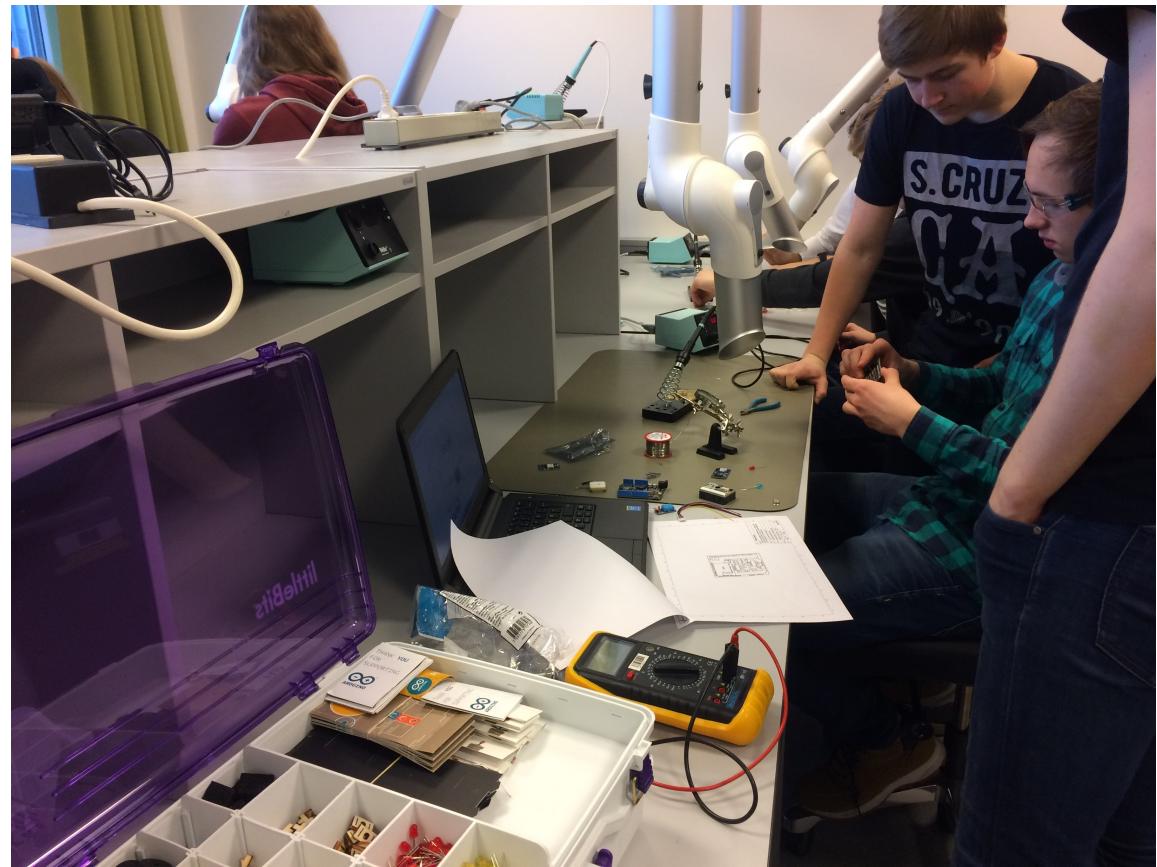
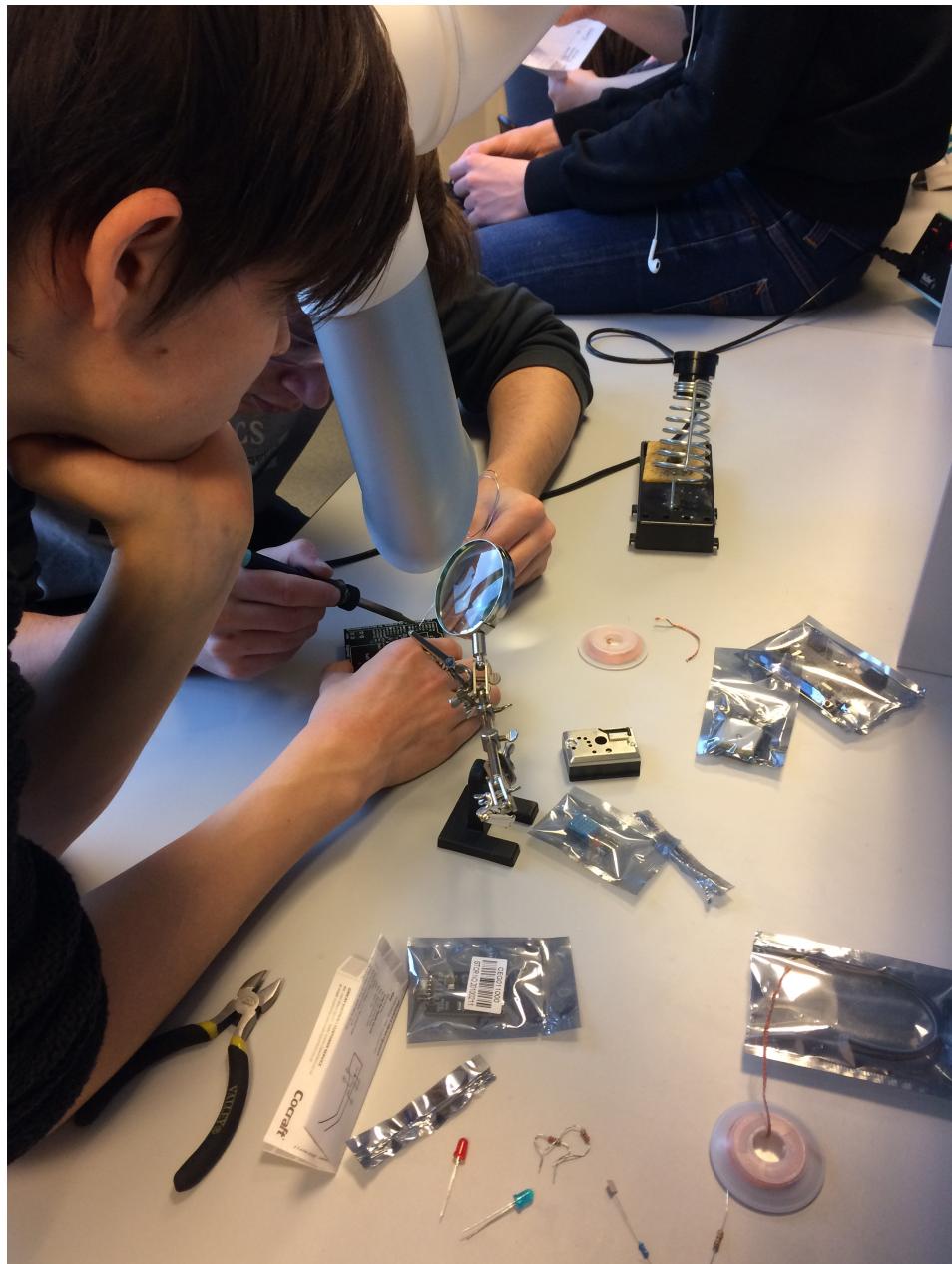
- Arduino microcontroller
- Sensors: Dust, temperature, humidity, GPS
- Storage: Memory card



air:bit details

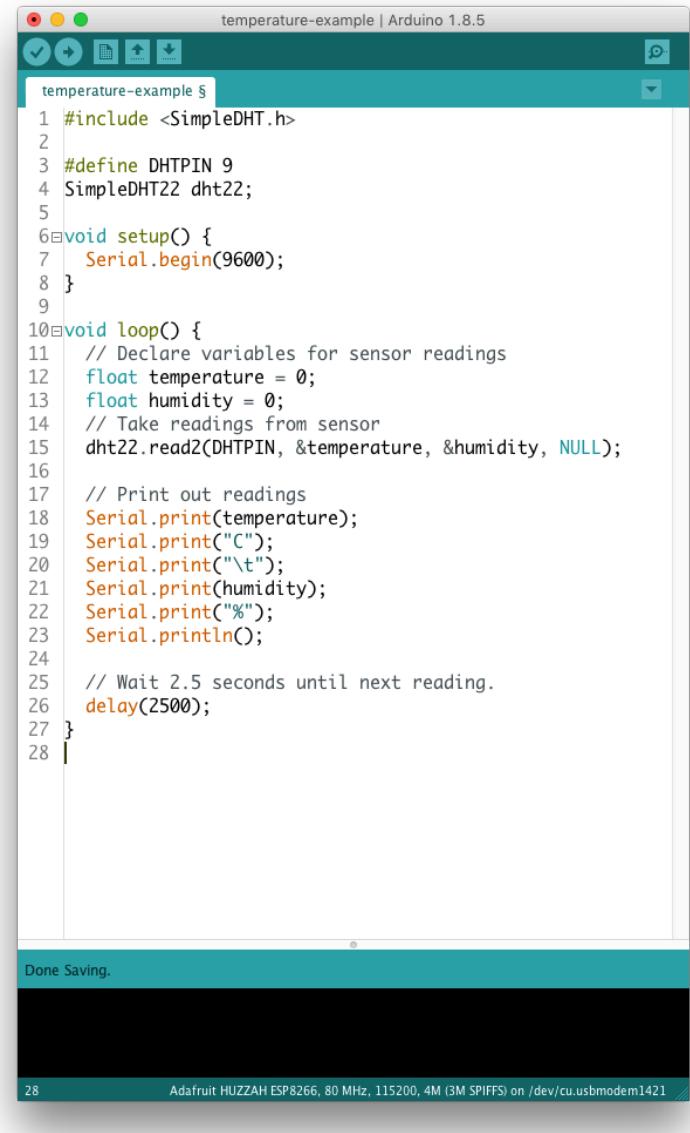


Component	Cost (USD)
Arduino Uno microcontroller	\$3.14
NEO6MV2 GPS module	\$8.19
Sharp GP2Y1010AUOF optical dust sensor	\$5.99
DHT11 temperature and humidity sensor	\$1.00
SD Card reader and 16GB memory card	\$4.74
Portable power bank	\$15.00
Two indicator leds and resistors	\$1.00
Custom PCB circuit board	\$2.00
Total:	\$41.06



Coding

- We provide example code and tutorials for each component
- Students assemble a fully working solution themselves



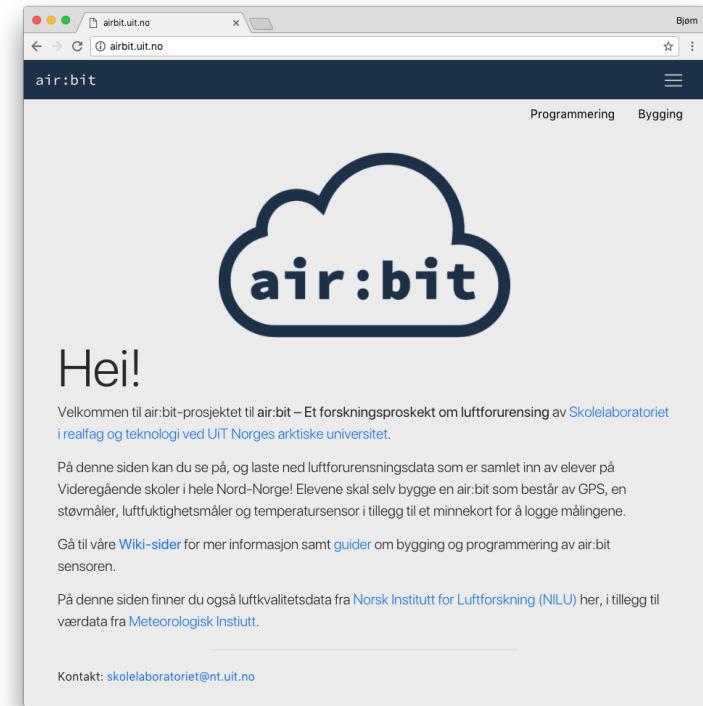
The screenshot shows the Arduino IDE interface with the title bar "temperature-example | Arduino 1.8.5". The main window displays the following C++ code:

```
temperature-example §
1 #include <SimpleDHT.h>
2
3 #define DHTPIN 9
4 SimpleDHT22 dht22;
5
6 void setup() {
7     Serial.begin(9600);
8 }
9
10 void loop() {
11     // Declare variables for sensor readings
12     float temperature = 0;
13     float humidity = 0;
14     // Take readings from sensor
15     dht22.read2(DHTPIN, &temperature, &humidity, NULL);
16
17     // Print out readings
18     Serial.print(temperature);
19     Serial.print("C");
20     Serial.print("\t");
21     Serial.print(humidity);
22     Serial.print("%");
23     Serial.println();
24
25     // Wait 2.5 seconds until next reading.
26     delay(2500);
27 }
28
```

The status bar at the bottom right indicates "Adafruit HUZZAH ESP8266, 80 MHz, 115200, 4M (3M SPIFFS) on /dev/cu.usbmodem1421".

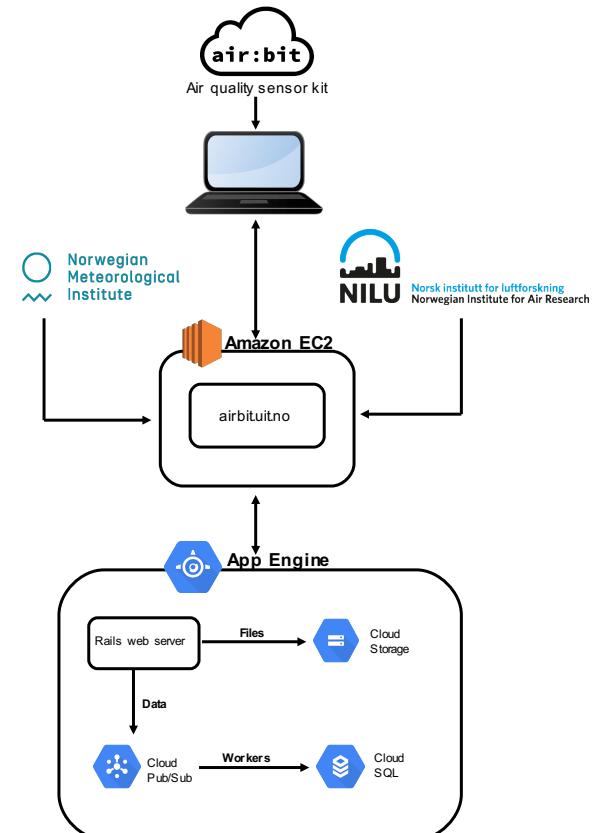
Online Resources

- Website for students and educators
- Tutorials on how to assemble the kit as well as coding examples
- Upload and explore collected air quality data
- Online at airbit.uit.no

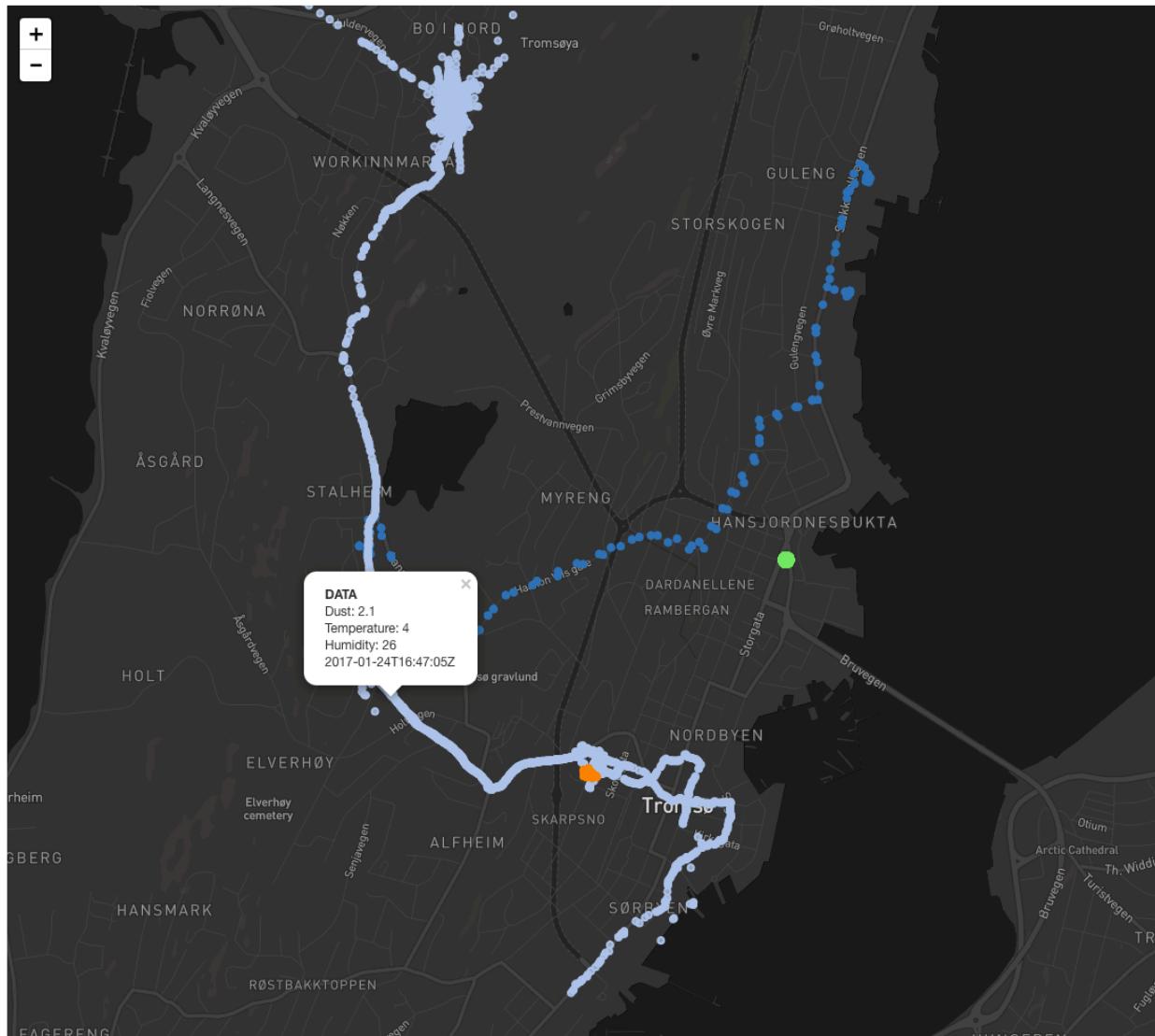


Air Pollution Data Analysis Platform

- Built by a master student, Nina Angelvik, presented as a poster here at ACM SIGCSE 2018
- We store all data in a SQL database on Google Cloud Platform





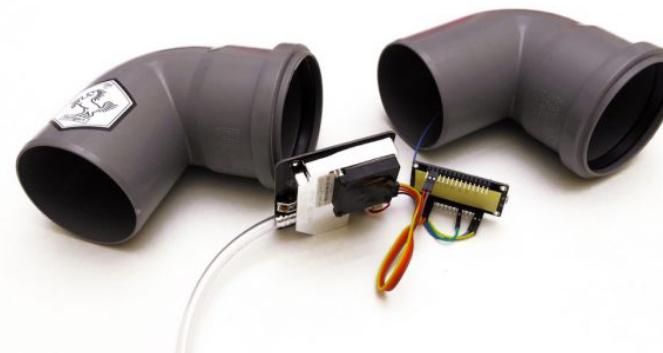
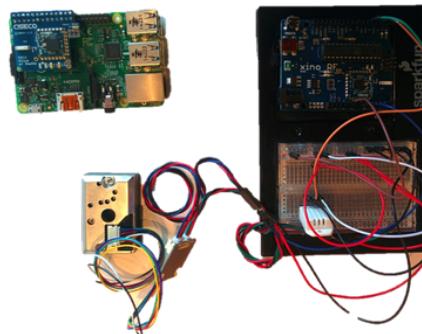


Note on Privacy

- Students are given information on how the data is used and stored
- We have consent from the participating students to share the data

Air Pollution Engagement Projects

- Friskby Bergen (friskby.no) a Norwegian project similar to ours where they use a Raspberry Pi connected by WiFi
- hackAIR (hackair.eu) is a European project to engage citizens in air pollution
- Luftdaten (luftdaten.info) is a project from Germany where they host workshops and events



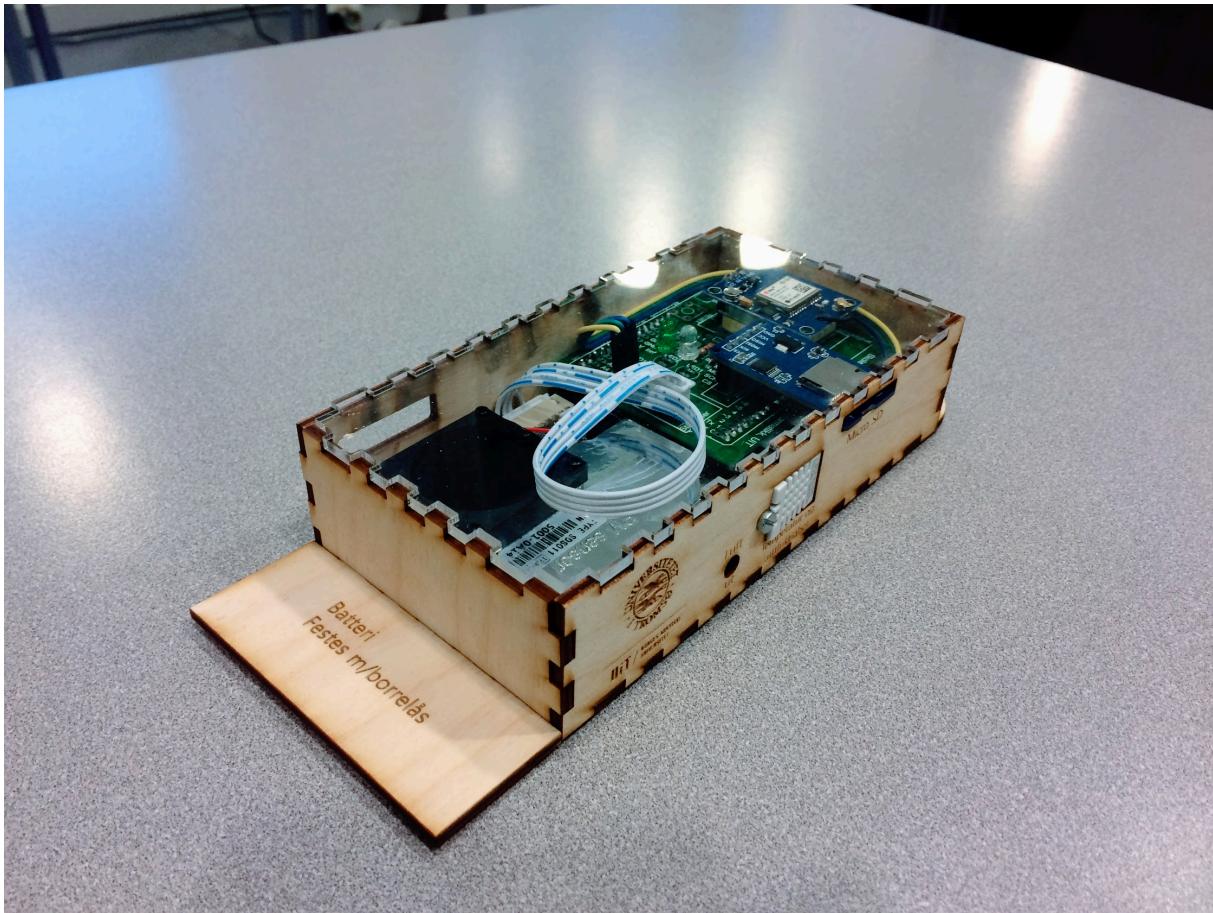
Experiences and lessons learned

- Given once in 2017 in a class of 26 students in groups of 3-4.
- Assembly and soldering without any major issues
- Coding was by far the most challenging part of the course



Future directions

New design



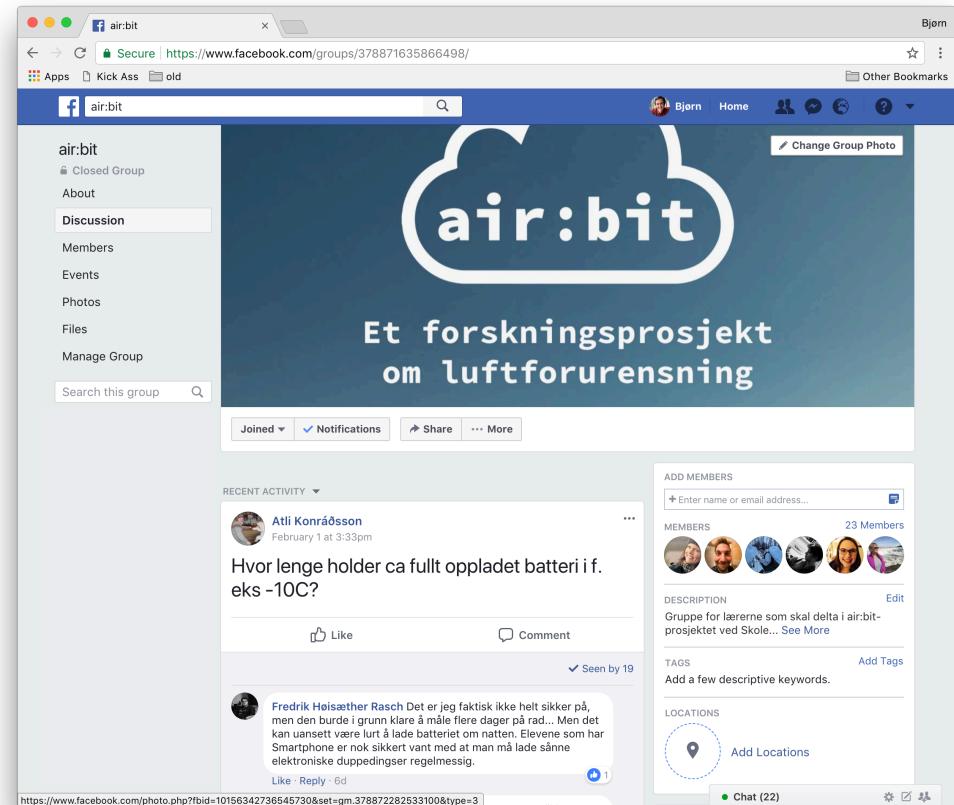
PM2.5 / PM10
-40 - 80°C ± 0.5°C
0 - 50°C ±2°C

11 schools this spring



Community

- Created an online community for participating teachers
- Q&A
- Sharing experiences and helping other teachers



Reusing the air:bit

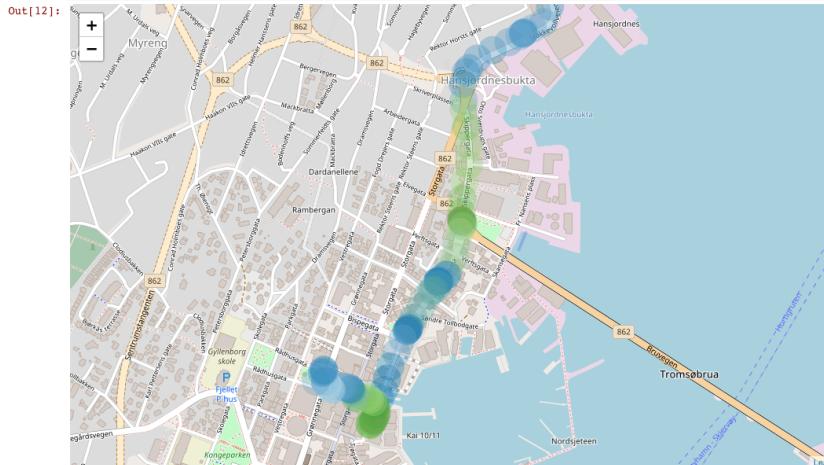
- Reuse the completed kit in lower grades
- One class will reuse the kit for a “hiking trail mapping assignment” where they will map different hiking trails using the air:bit

Data Science?

```
In [12]: # La oss se hvordan dataene ser ut på et kart. Roden  
# under plotter en sirkel for hver koordinat og fargelegger  
# den ut fra PM10-målingen.
```

```
import folium  
from numpy import interp  
import branca.colormap as cm  
  
m = folium.Map(location=[69.6492, 18.9553], zoom_start=14)  
  
for index, row in data.iterrows():  
    lat = row['Latitude']  
    lng = row['Longitude']  
    pm10 = row['PM10']  
    interp_pm10 = interp(pm10, [1,10], [0,1])  
    c = cm.linear.Paired(interp_pm10)  
    pop = "PM10: "+str(pm10)  
  
    folium.Circle(location=[lat,lng], radius = 30, stroke=False,  
                  fill=True, fill_color=c,  
                  popup=pop).add_to(m)
```

m



fjukstad.github.io / airbit.uit.no

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