

Sensors and Actuators

# IoT Standards and Protocols





# INTERACT WITH THE PHYSICAL WORLD



## SENSORS

TO GATHER DATA



## ACTUATORS

TO SEND FEEDBACK



## PROJECT

BUILD A NIGHTLIGHT






# INTRODUCTION

## 2 IMPORTANT CONCEPTS






### SENSORS

- ✓  WHAT ARE SENSORS?
- ✓  USE A SENSOR
- ✓  SENSOR TYPES



### ACTUATORS

- ✓  WHAT ARE ACTUATORS?
- ✓  USE AN ACTUATOR
- ✓  ACTUATOR TYPES



# WHAT ARE SENSORS?



HARDWARE DEVICES  
THAT SENSE THE  
PHYSICAL WORLD

THEY MEASURE PHYSICAL  
PROPERTIES AND SEND  
THAT INFORMATION TO AN  
IoT DEVICE



## COMMON SENSORS

- TEMPERATURE  
HUMIDITY
- BUTTONS  
(INTERACTION)
- LIGHT SENSOR  
(LEVELS, COLORS...)
- CAMERAS
- ACCELERATORS
- MICROPHONES





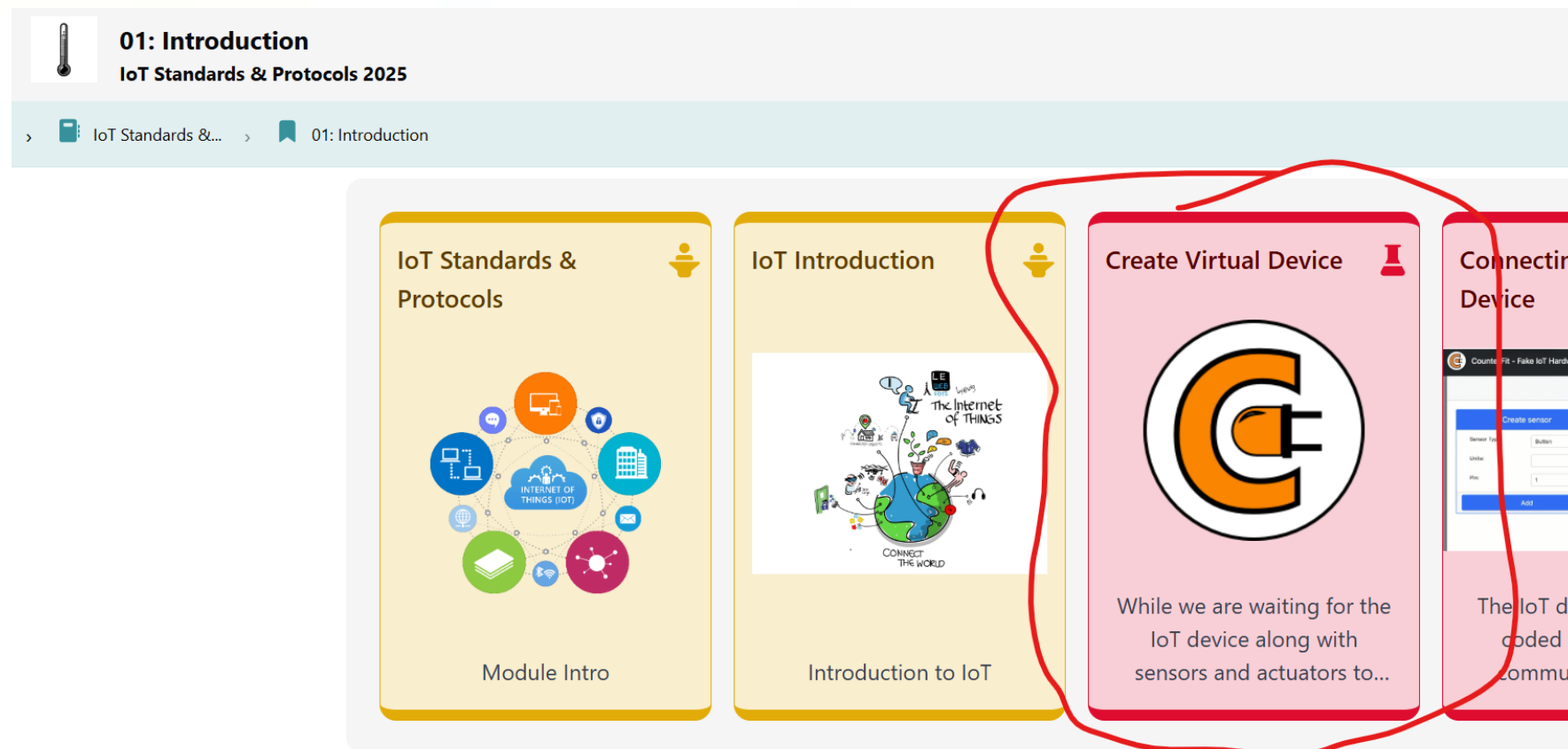
# Q

WHAT  
SENSORS  
DOES YOUR  
PHONE HAVE?



ALL SENSORS CONVERT THE  
SENSED INPUT INTO ELECTRICAL  
SIGNALS THAT IOT DEVICES  
CAN INTERPRET MEANINGFULLY

# USE A SENSOR



Counterfit - a Virtual single-board computer

**Build a nightlight - Sensor**

Build a nightlight - Actuator

## Build a nightlight - Sensor

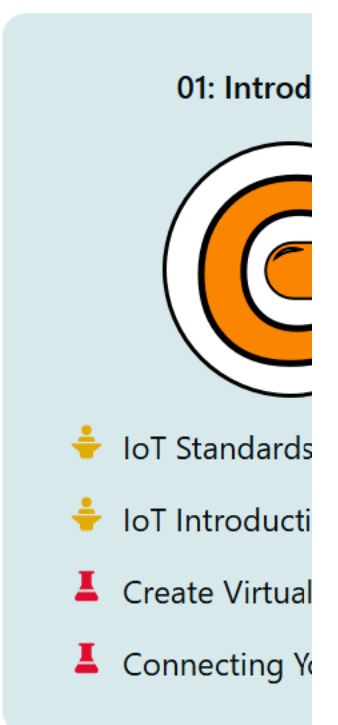
In this step, you will add a light sensor to your virtual IoT device.

### Virtual Hardware

The nightlight needs one sensor, created in the CounterFit app.

The sensor is a **light sensor**. In a physical IoT device, it would be a **photodiode** that converts light to an electrical signal. Light sensors are analog sensors that sends an integer value indicating a relative amount of light, that doesn't map to any standard unit of measurement such as lux.

Add the sensors to CounterFit



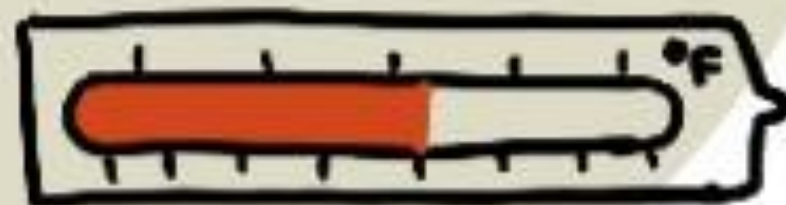


# SENSOR TYPES


## ANALOG SENSORS

PRODUCES A CONTINUOUS  
ANALOG SIGNAL PROPORTIONAL  
TO THE SENSED INPUT

▶ EXAMPLE:  
TEMP SENSOR



## 2 PRIMARY TYPES

✓  ANALOG

✓  DIGITAL

## DIGITAL SENSORS

PRODUCES DISCRETE VALUES  
(0,1 – BINARY STATES)

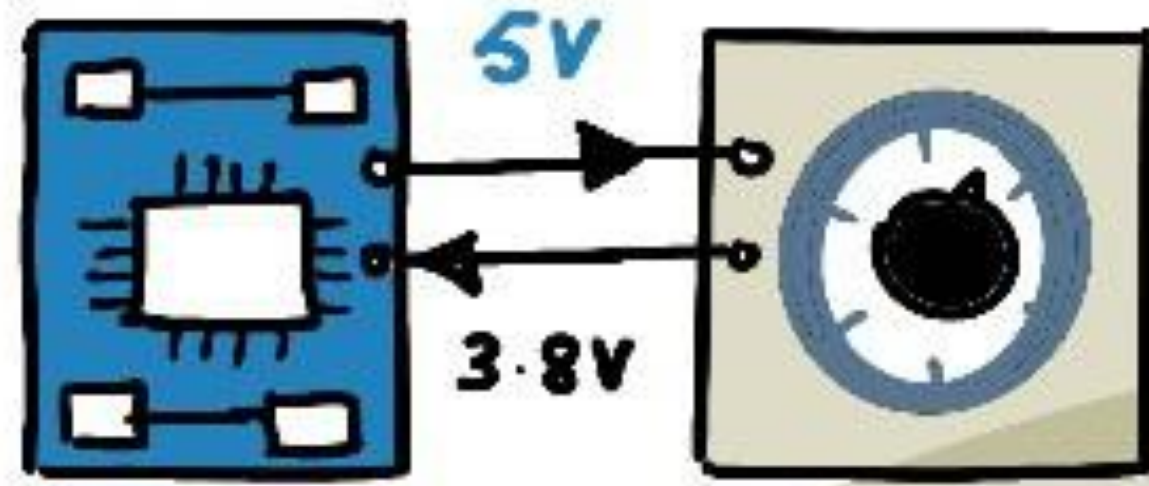
EXAMPLE:  
LIGHT SWITCH





# ANALOG SENSORS

## — HOW IT WORKS —



IOT  
DEVICE

SENSOR

SENSOR RECEIVES VOLTAGE  
FROM IOT DEVICE, ADJUSTS  
AND RETURNS IT TO REFLECT DATA

WHAT IS VOLTAGE?



IT'S A MEASURE  
OF EFFORT NEEDED  
TO PUSH ELECTRICITY  
FROM ONE POINT  
TO ANOTHER

THE IOT DEVICE CAN  
'READ' THE VOLTAGE  
COMING OUT OF THE  
SENSOR AND REACT TO  
ITS VALUE OR CHANGE

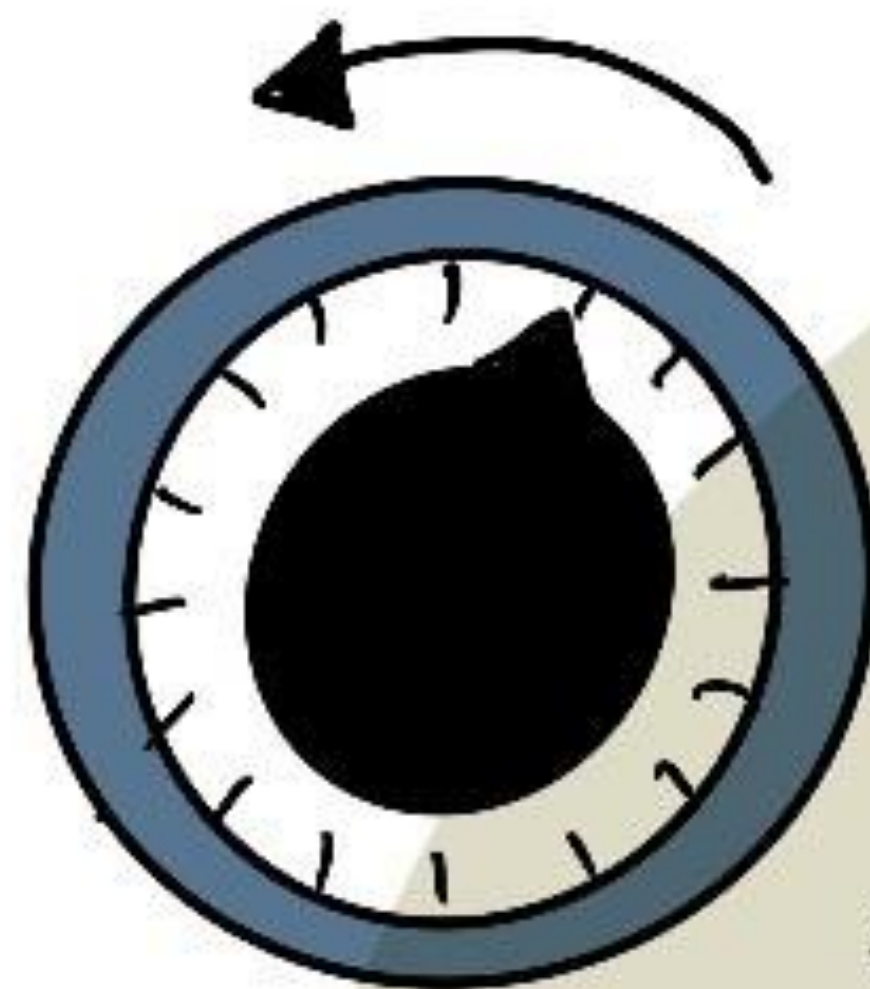
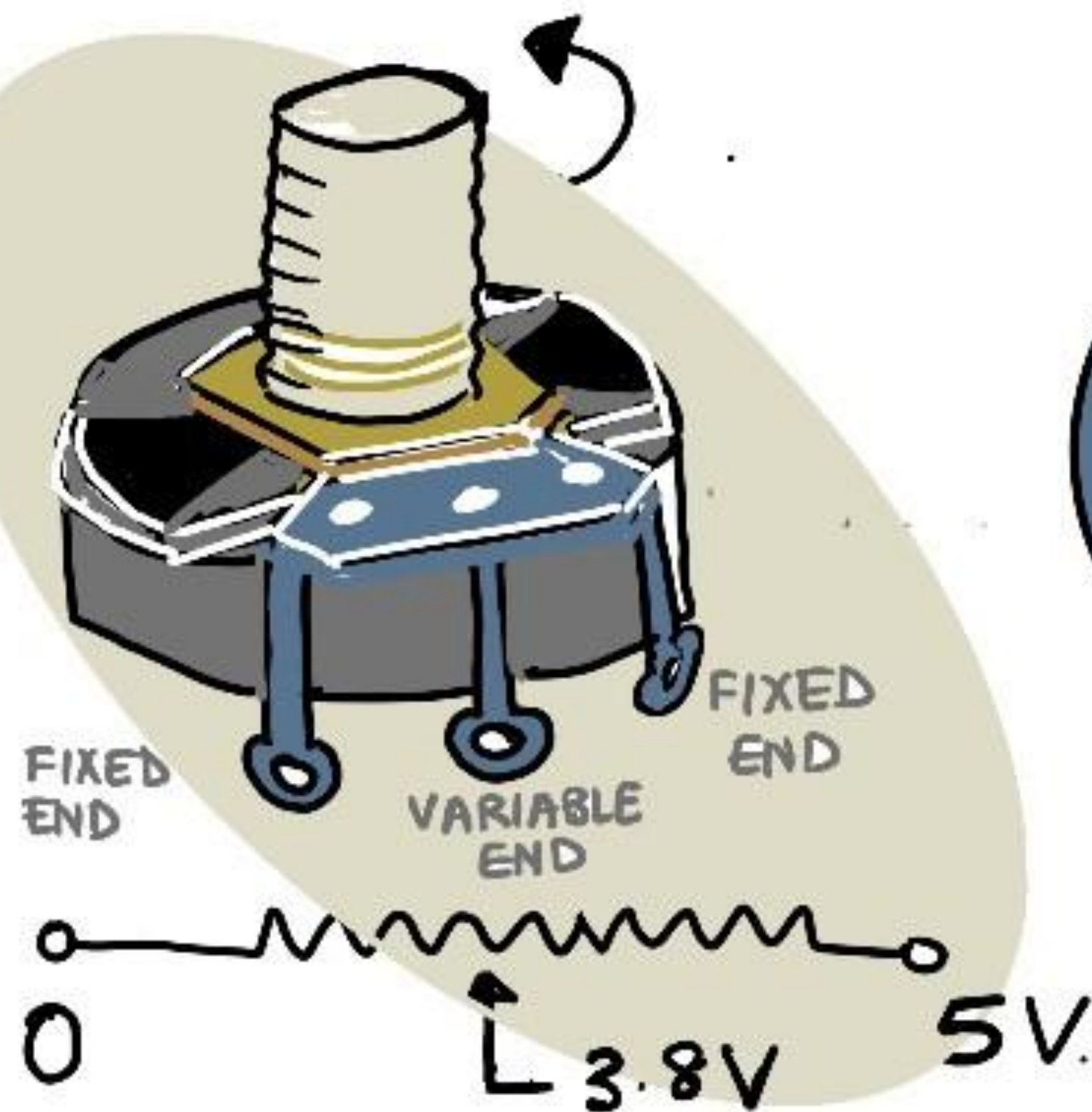
VALUE  
IS DRIPPING  
... TIME TO  
ACT ON IT!





# POTENTIOMETER

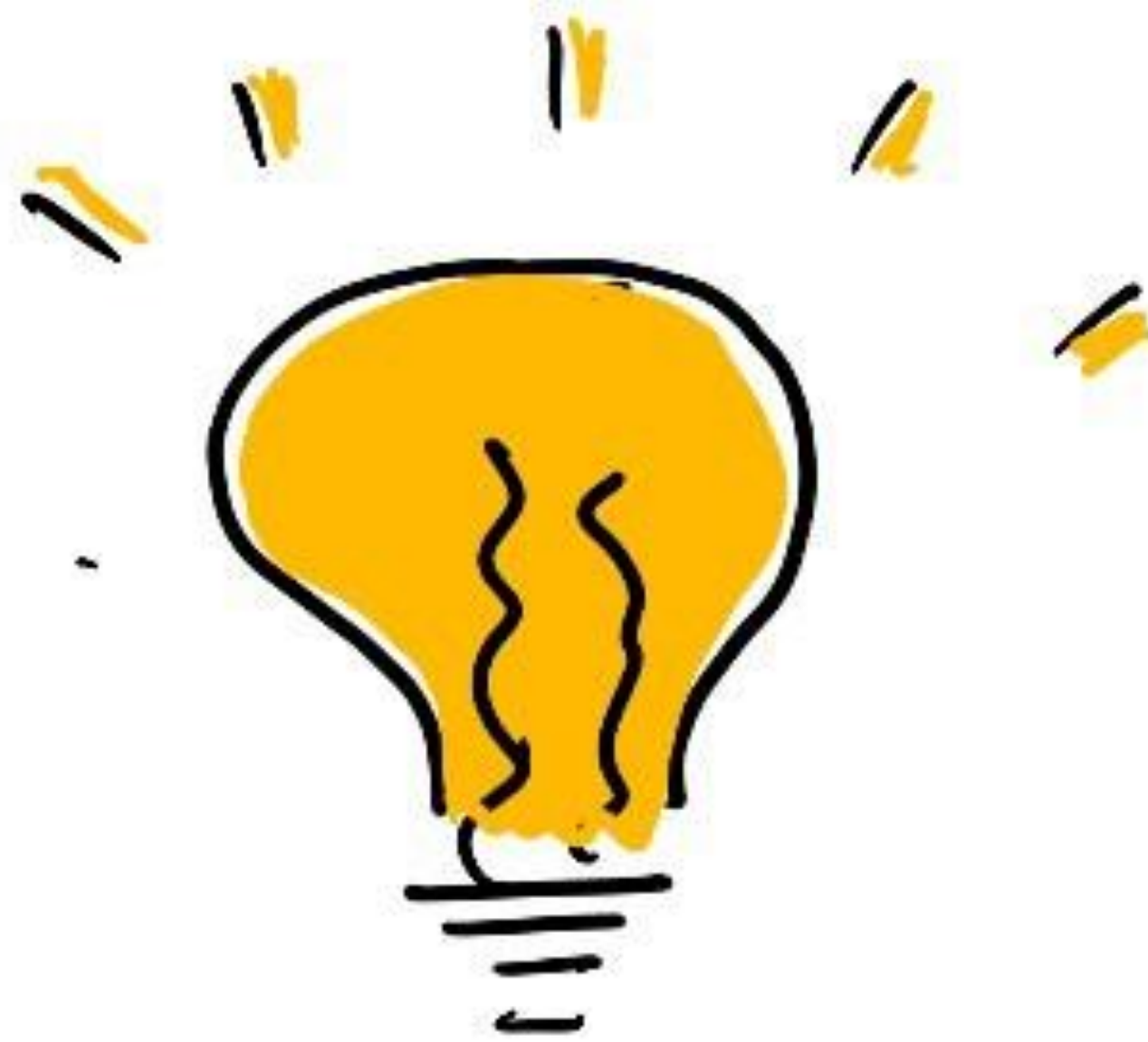
IS ONE EXAMPLE OF AN  
ANALOG SENSOR DEVICE



ROTATE THE  
DIAL BETWEEN  
TWO FIXED ENDS  
(mapped to 0V, 5V)

SENSOR MEASURES  
ROTATION BY SENDING  
REDUCED VOLTAGE  
(OR NUMERIC MAPPING)  
CORRESPONDING TO SHIFT





DO YOUR  
RESEARCH



WHAT IS A THERMISTOR?

WHAT TYPE OF SENSOR IS  
IT — AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

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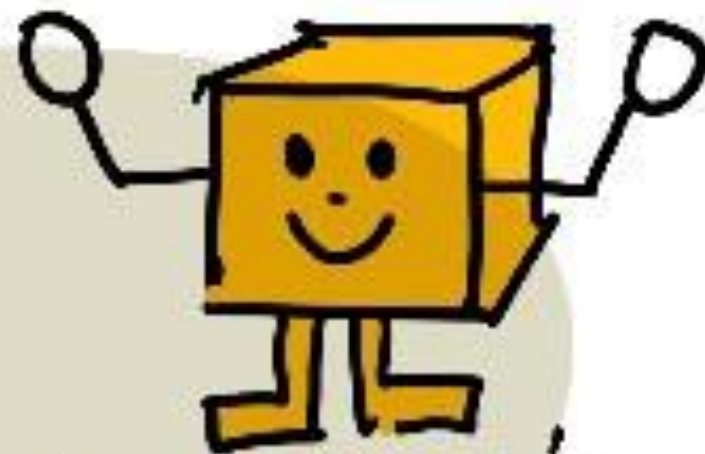
WHAT DO YOU THINK HAPPENS  
IF SENSOR SENDS OUT HIGHER  
VOLTAGE THAN IT RECEIVES?



# ANALOG-TO-DIGITAL

IOT DEVICES  
ARE DIGITAL!

ANALOG SENSORS  
NEED TO 'DIGITIZE'  
THEIR VALUES BEFORE  
IOT DEVICE CAN USE THEM



GIVE ME 0's  
AND 1's!!

WE HAVE  
OPTIONS

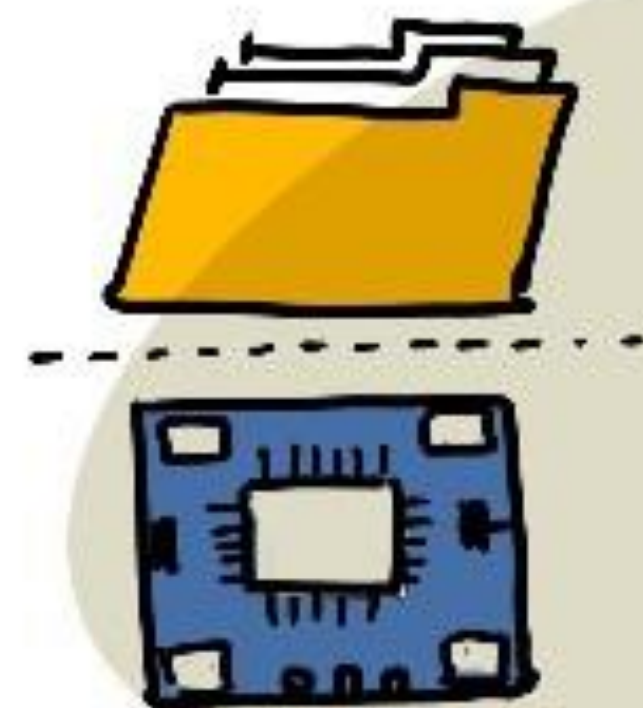
MANY IOT DEVICES  
HAVE BUILT-IN ADC

AND

MANY SENSORS CAN  
WORK WITH ADCs VIA  
A CONNECTOR BOARD!



ADC  
= ANALOG-TO-  
DIGITAL  
CONVERTER



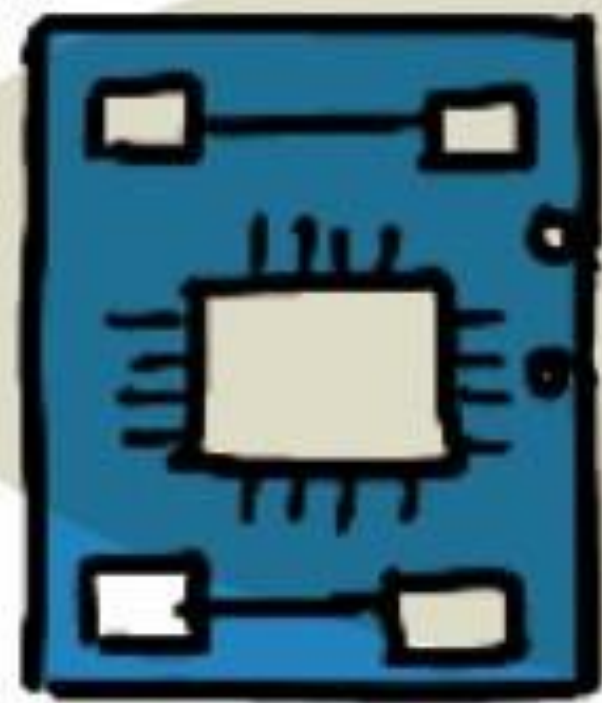
SOFTWARE  
LIBRARIES FOR  
SENSORS/DEVICES  
HANDLE MUCH OF  
THIS FOR YOU  
TRANSPARENTLY



# DIGITAL SENSORS

ALSO DETECT WORLD  
BY MEASURING ELECTRICAL  
CHANGES BUT

THEY OUTPUT DIGITAL  
SIGNALS (EITHER BY  
USING BINARY STATE  
OR BY USING AN ADC)



5V

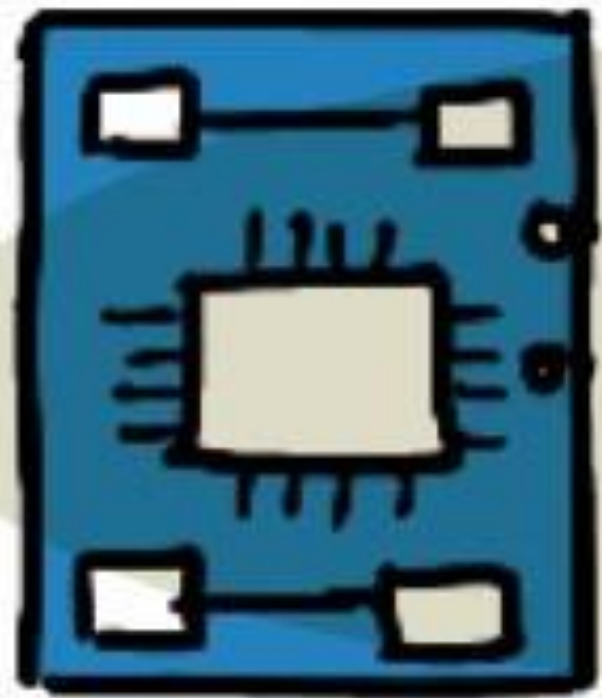


0V

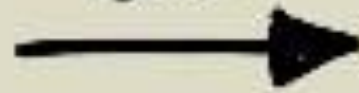
SWITCH



OFF



5V



5V



ON

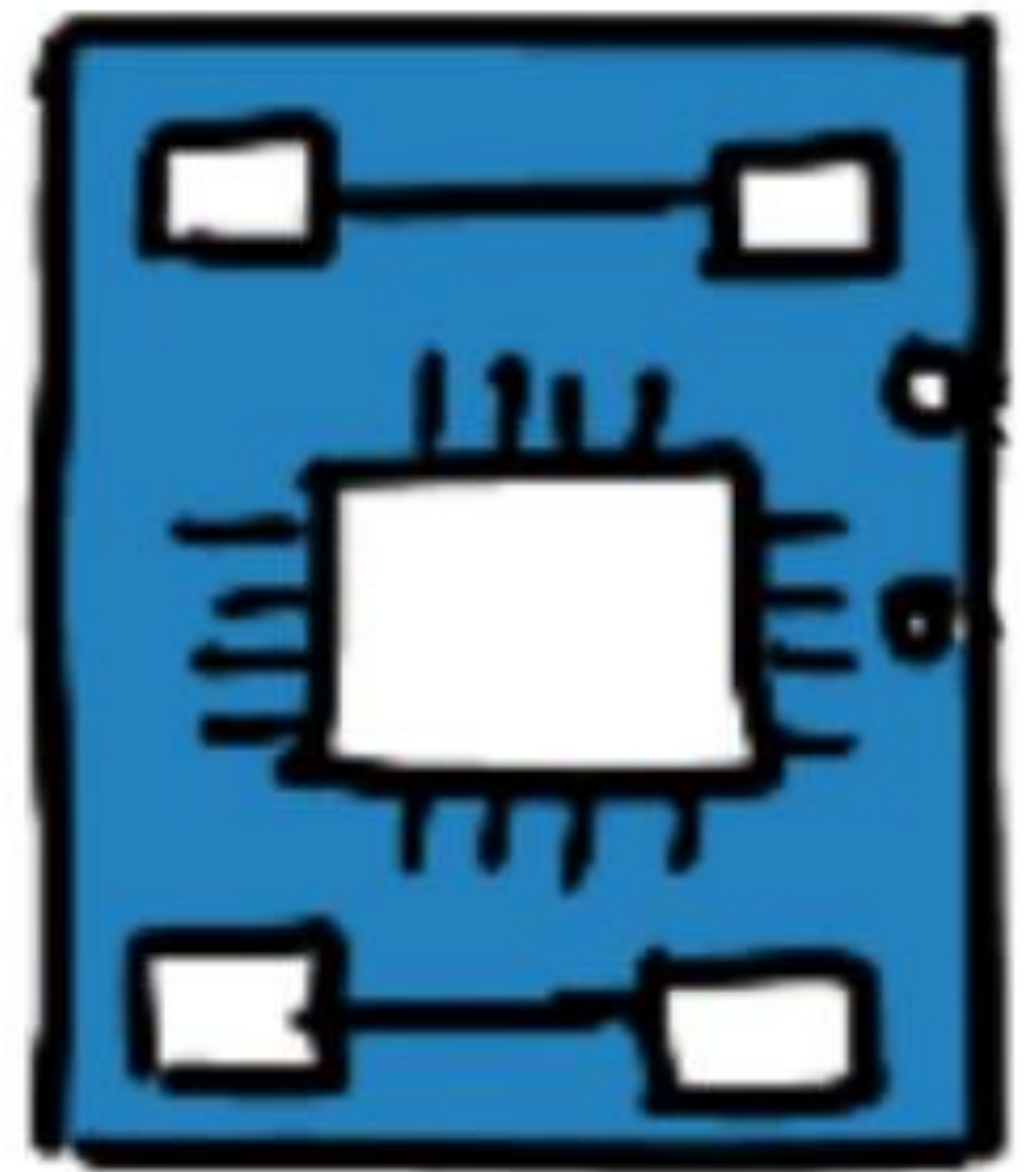
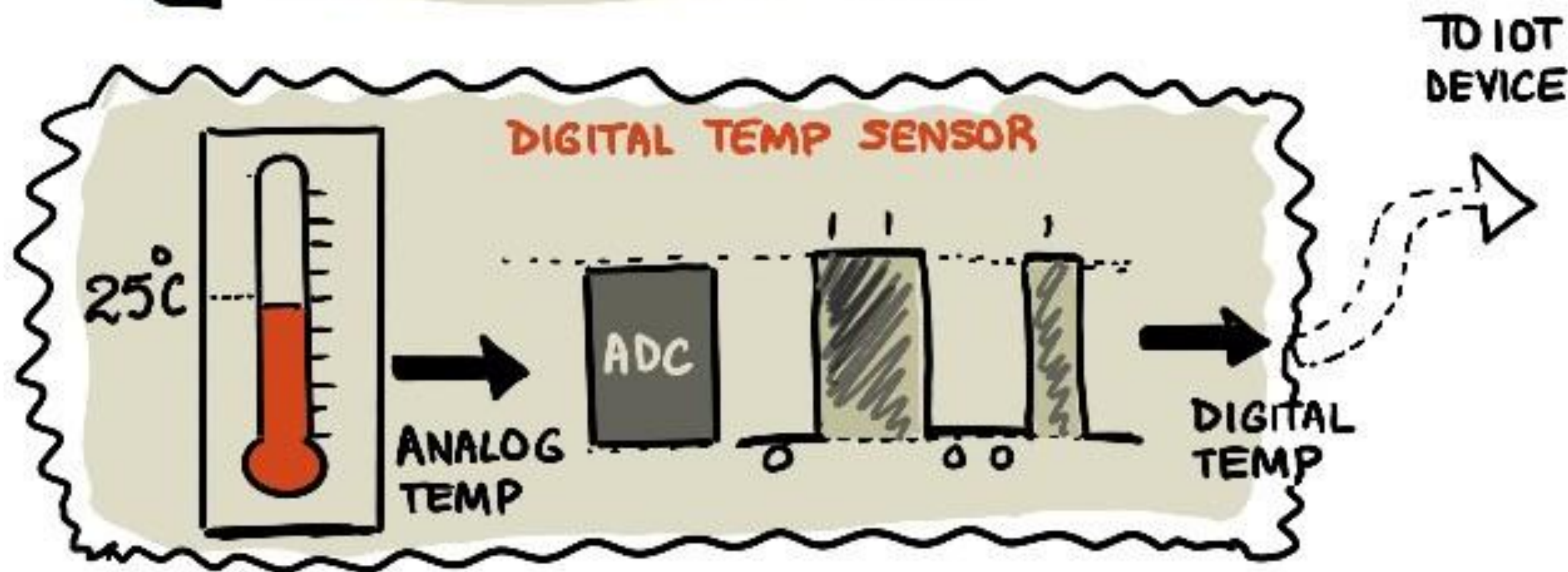
SIMPLEST EXAMPLE  
ON/OFF SWITCH



# ADVANCED DIGITAL SENSORS

- READ ANALOG SIGNALS
- CONVERT USING ON-BOARD ADC
- OUTPUT PURELY DIGITAL SIGNALS

DIGITAL INPUTS  
ARE MORE RELIABLE  
TO READ IN.



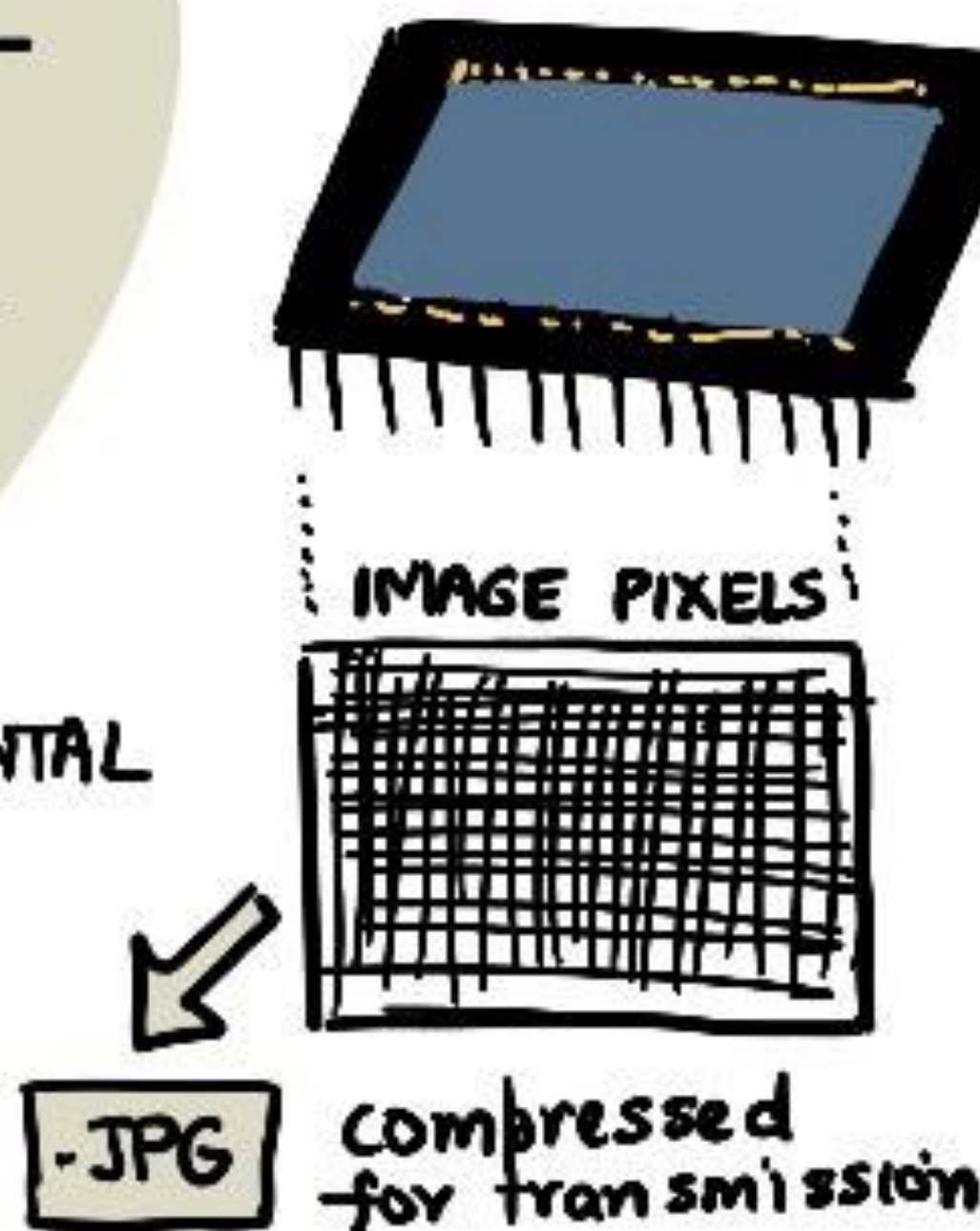


# ADVANCED DIGITAL SENSORS

## DIGITAL DATA HAS ADDED BENEFITS

- SENSORS CAN BE MORE COMPLEX, SEND DETAILED DATA
- EASIER TO ENCRYPT DATA FOR SECURE TRANSMISSION
- MORE IMMUNE TO ENVIRONMENTAL AND ELECTRONIC 'NOISE'
- MORE FLEXIBILITY IN SIGNAL PROCESSING SYSTEMS

EXAMPLE : CAMERA AS DIGITAL SENSOR



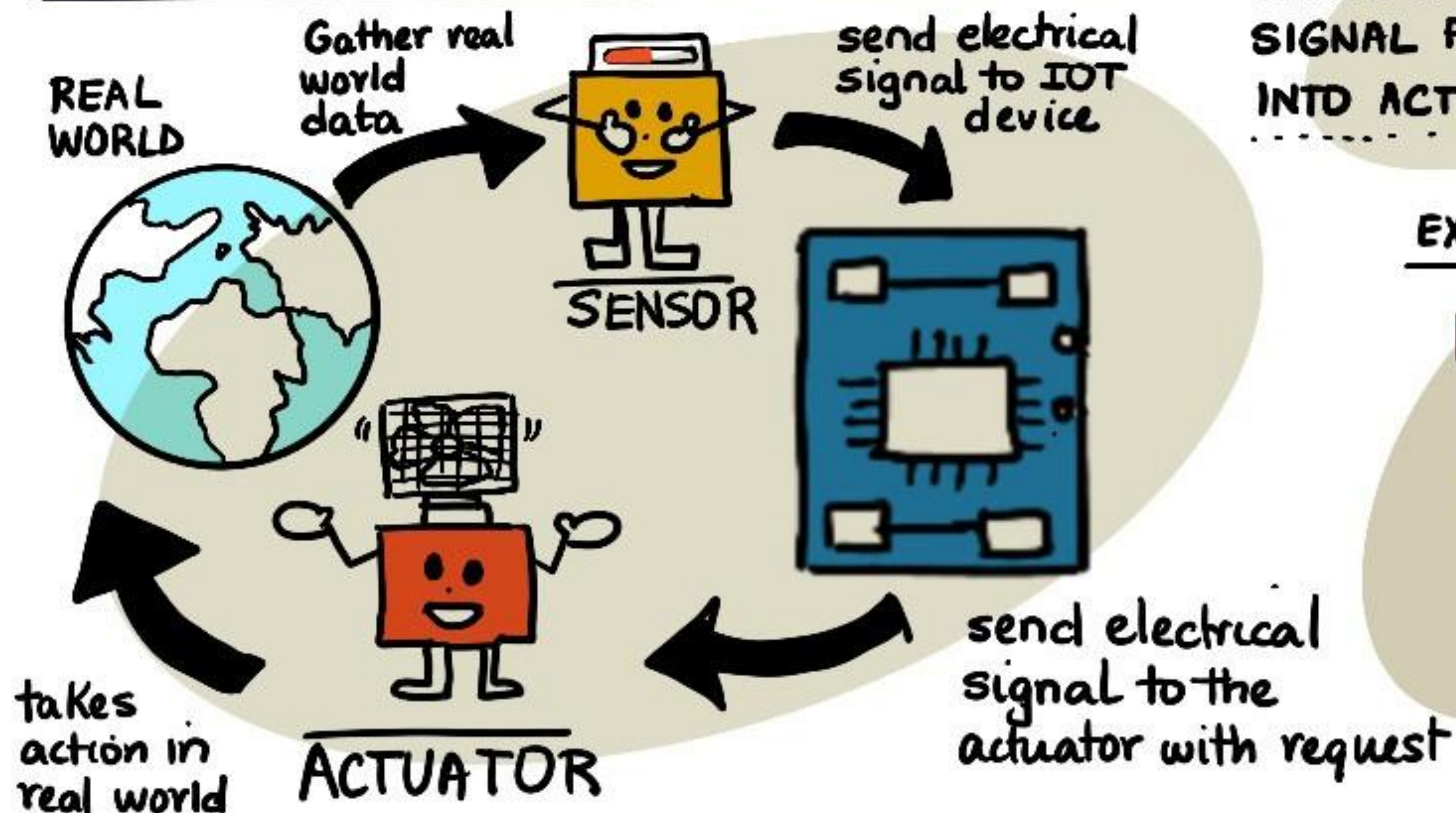
DIGITAL CAMERAS USE SENSORS LIKE THIS TO CAPTURE LIGHT FROM THE LENS AS PIXELS IN A FRAME/IMAGE



# WHAT ARE ACTUATORS?



OPPOSITE OF SENSORS  
.....  
CONVERT ELECTRICAL  
SIGNAL FROM IOT DEVICE  
INTO ACTION IN REAL WORLD  
.....



## EXAMPLES

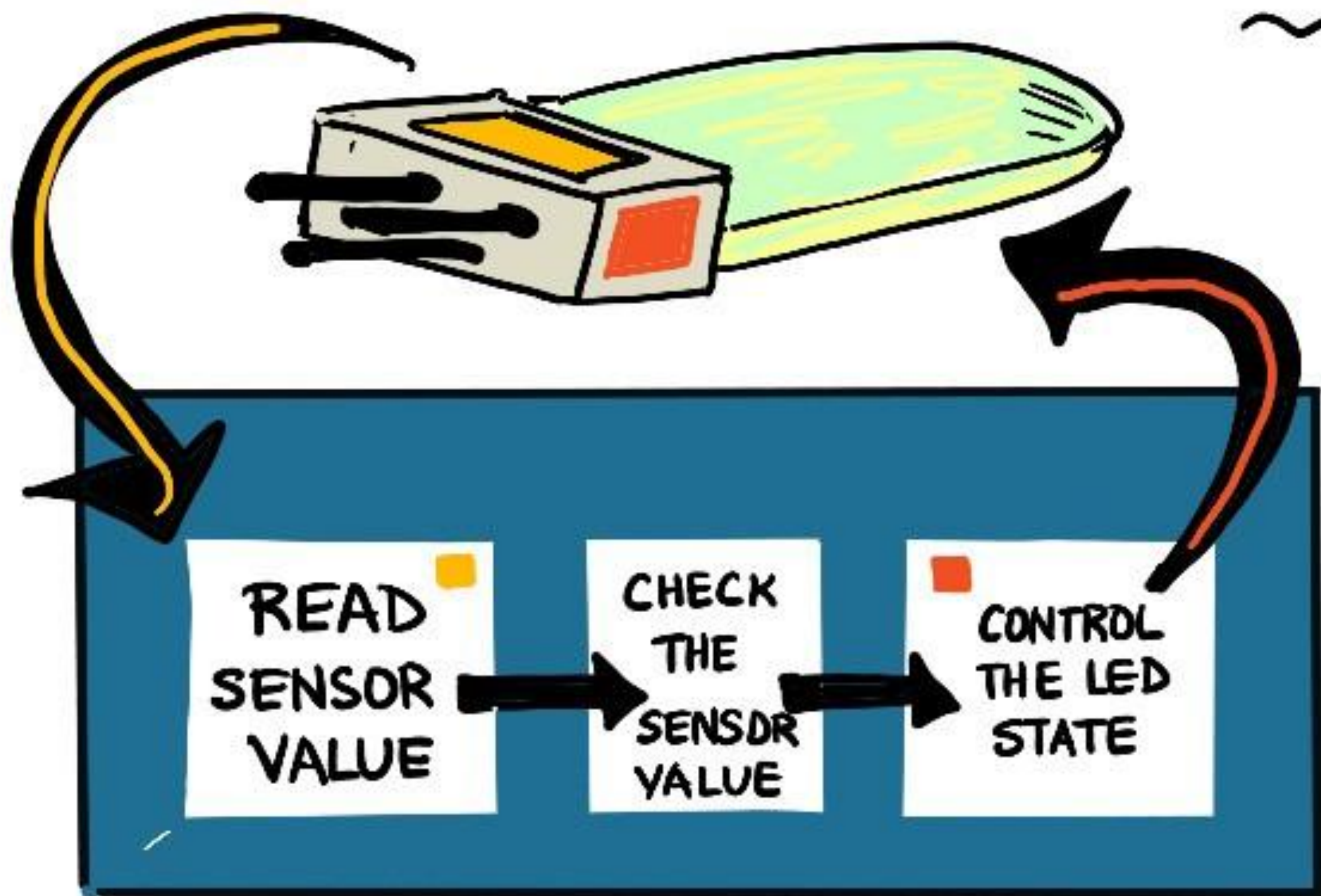
- LED
- SPEAKER
- RELAY
- SCREENS
- STEPPER MOTORS



USE AN ACTUATOR

PICK YOUR HARDWARE PATH  
ADD AN ACTUATOR (USE GUIDE)

BUILD A NIGHTLIGHT



- ARDUINO - W/ID TERMINAL
- SINGLE BOARD COMPUTER - RASPBERRY PI
- SINGLE BOARD COMPUTER - VIRTUAL DEVICE



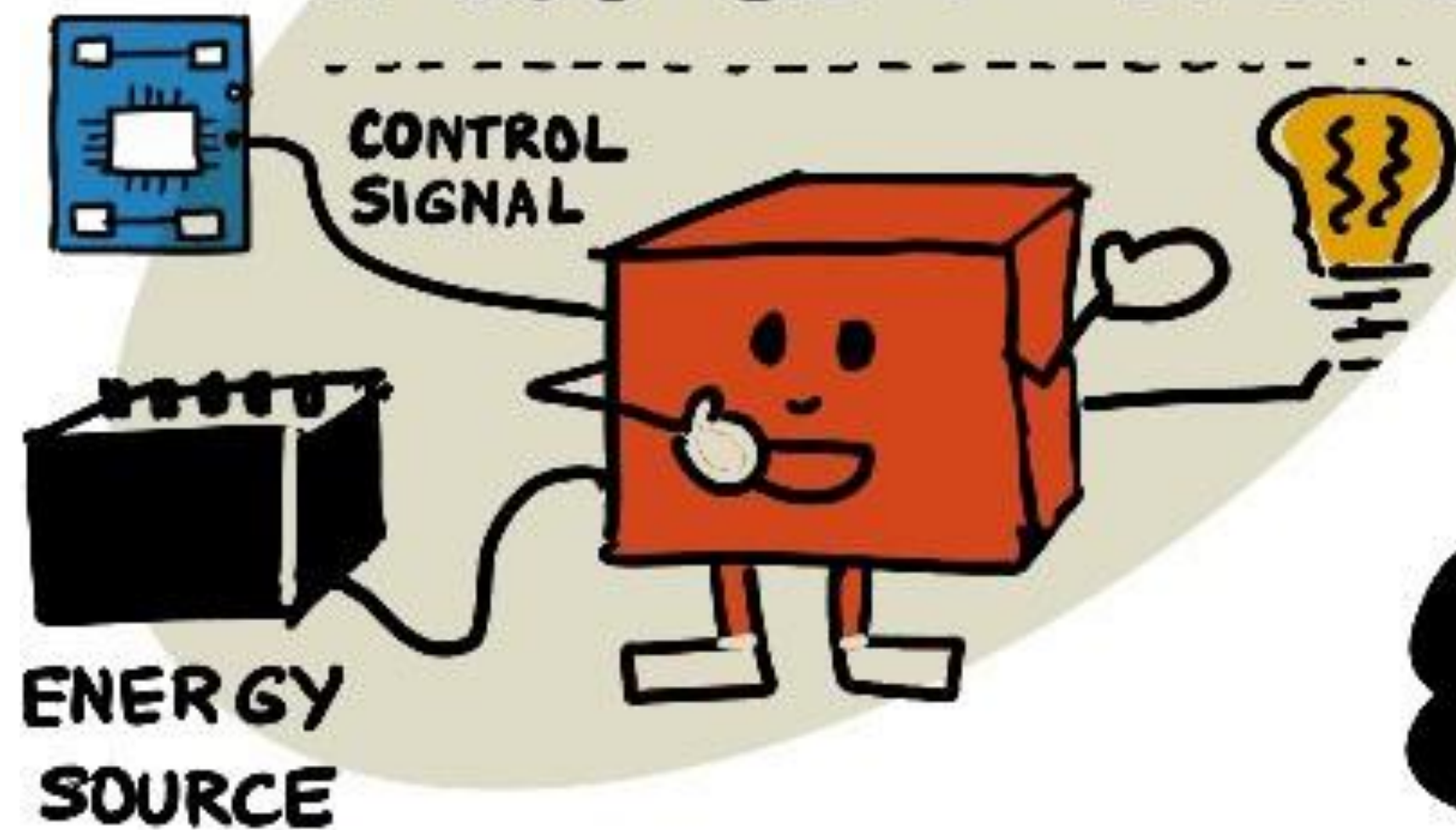
# ACTUATOR TYPES

JUST LIKE SENSORS,  
THERE ARE **2** TYPES  
OF ACTUATORS

ANALOG & DIGITAL

BASED ON SIGNAL, THEY  
CONVERT ENERGY INTO SOME  
MOTION OR INTERACTION

ACTUATORS HAVE A  
CONTROL SIGNAL AND  
A SOURCE OF ENERGY



EXAMPLE : CONTROL SIGNAL TRIGGERS  
ROTARY SWITCH TO MOVE, TURNS LIGHT  
ON IN ROOM





DO YOUR  
RESEARCH

ACTUATORS CAN BE CATEGORIZED  
BY THE FUNCTION THEY SERVE  
AND HOW THEY CONVERT ENERGY

Learn  
About

■ PNEUMATIC

■ HYDRAULIC

■ ELECTRIC

■ THERMAL

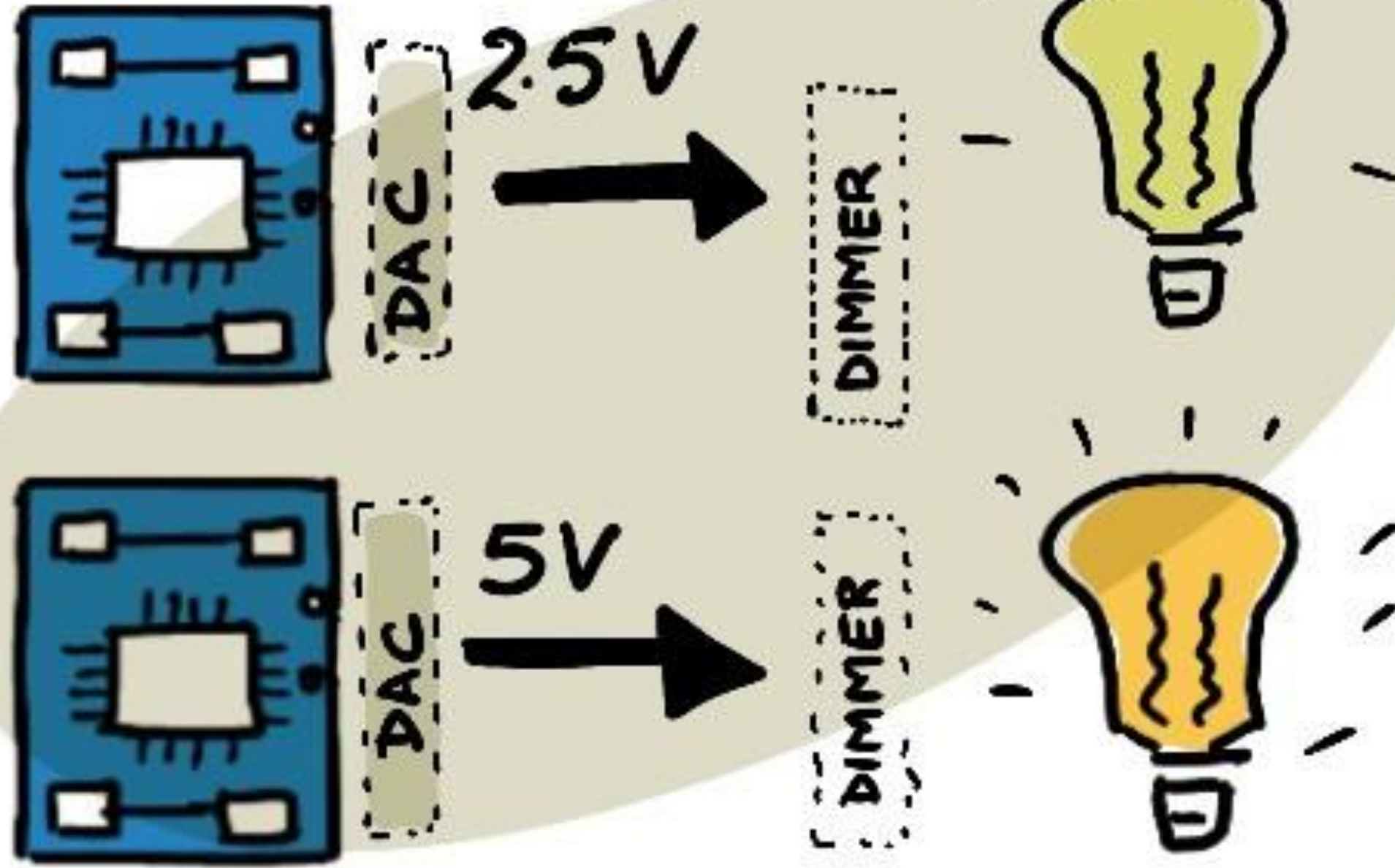
■ MAGNETIC

How do these  
actuators effect  
change?



# ANALOG ACTUATORS

Ex: DIMMABLE LIGHTS



ANALOG ACTUATOR  
CONVERTS ANALOG  
SIGNAL INTO SOME  
INTERACTION THAT IS  
PROPORTIONATE TO  
VOLTAGE SUPPLIED

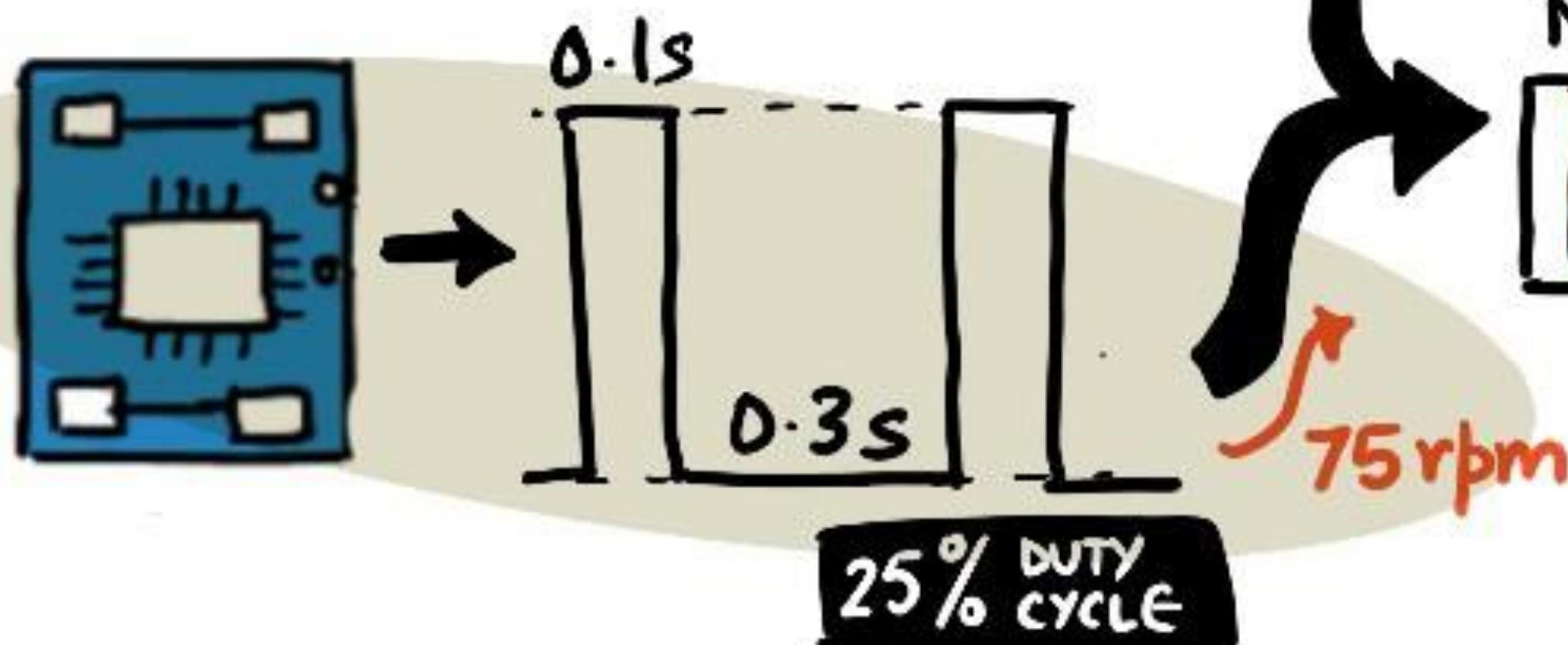
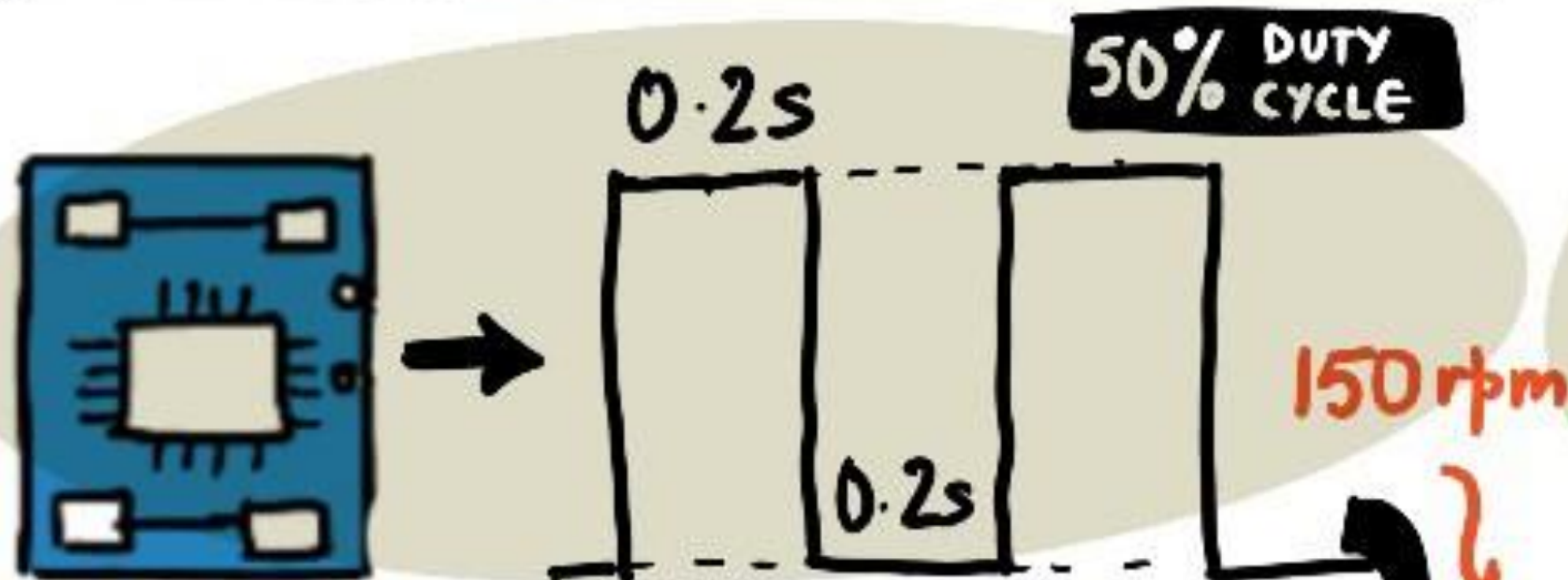
DAC = DIGITAL TO ANALOG  
CONVERTER  
REQUIRED TO CONVERT IOT  
DEVICE, DIGITAL OUTPUT (0,1)  
TO ANALOG VOLTAGE (RANGE)



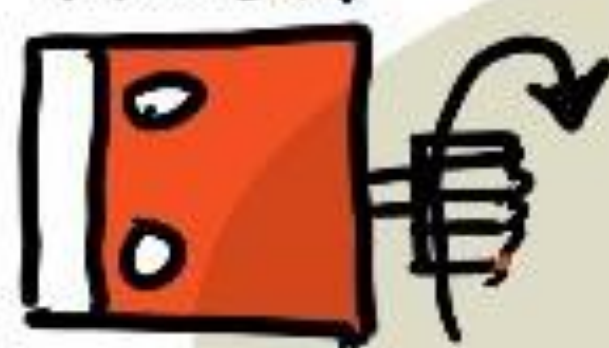
# PULSE WIDTH MODULATION

= SWITCH DIGITAL SIGNAL FROM IOT DEVICE BETWEEN TWO STATES CREATING PULSES.

VARYING THE DUTY CYCLE (ON/OFF DURATION) MODULATES PULSE WIDTH - CREATING AN OUTPUT SIGNAL THAT ACTS ANALOG



MOTOR



Control a motor's speed with a 5V digital supply

Pulse modulation varies avg rpm based on duty cycle





DO YOUR  
RESEARCH

THE DUTY CYCLE  
OF MODULATED  
PULSE

CONTROL  
SIGNAL



INFLUENCES  
THE SPEED OF  
ROTATION OF  
MOTOR

ACTUATOR  
MOTION

HOW WOULD YOU KEEP  
MOTOR ROTATION SMOOTH?

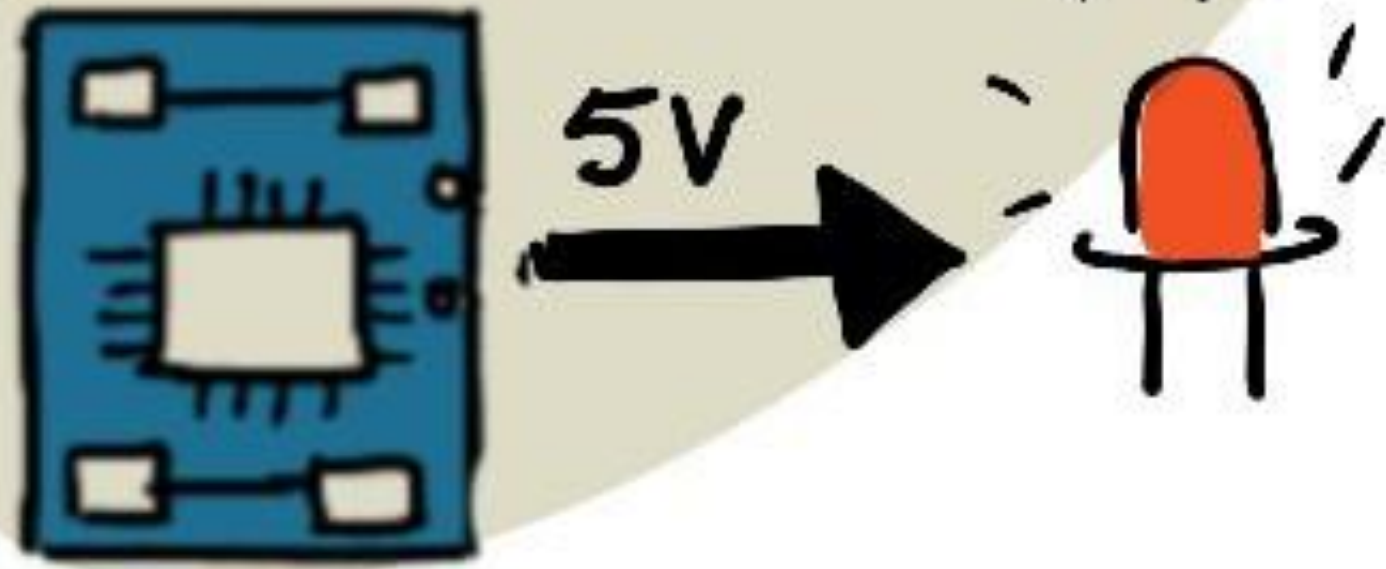
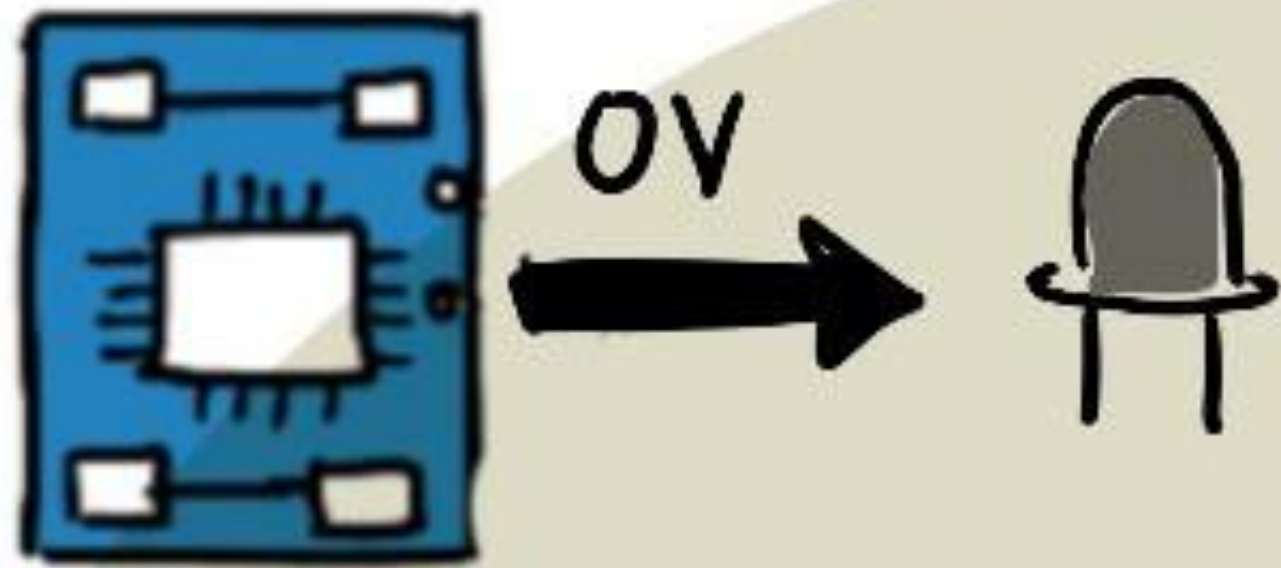


# DIGITAL ACTUATORS

① HAVE 2 STATES (CONTROLLED BY HIGH AND LOW VOLTAGE) LIKE DIGITAL SENSORS

OR

② HAVE BUILT-IN DAC THAT CONVERTS DIGITAL INPUT INTO ANALOG SIGNAL THEY CAN USE!



EXAMPLE

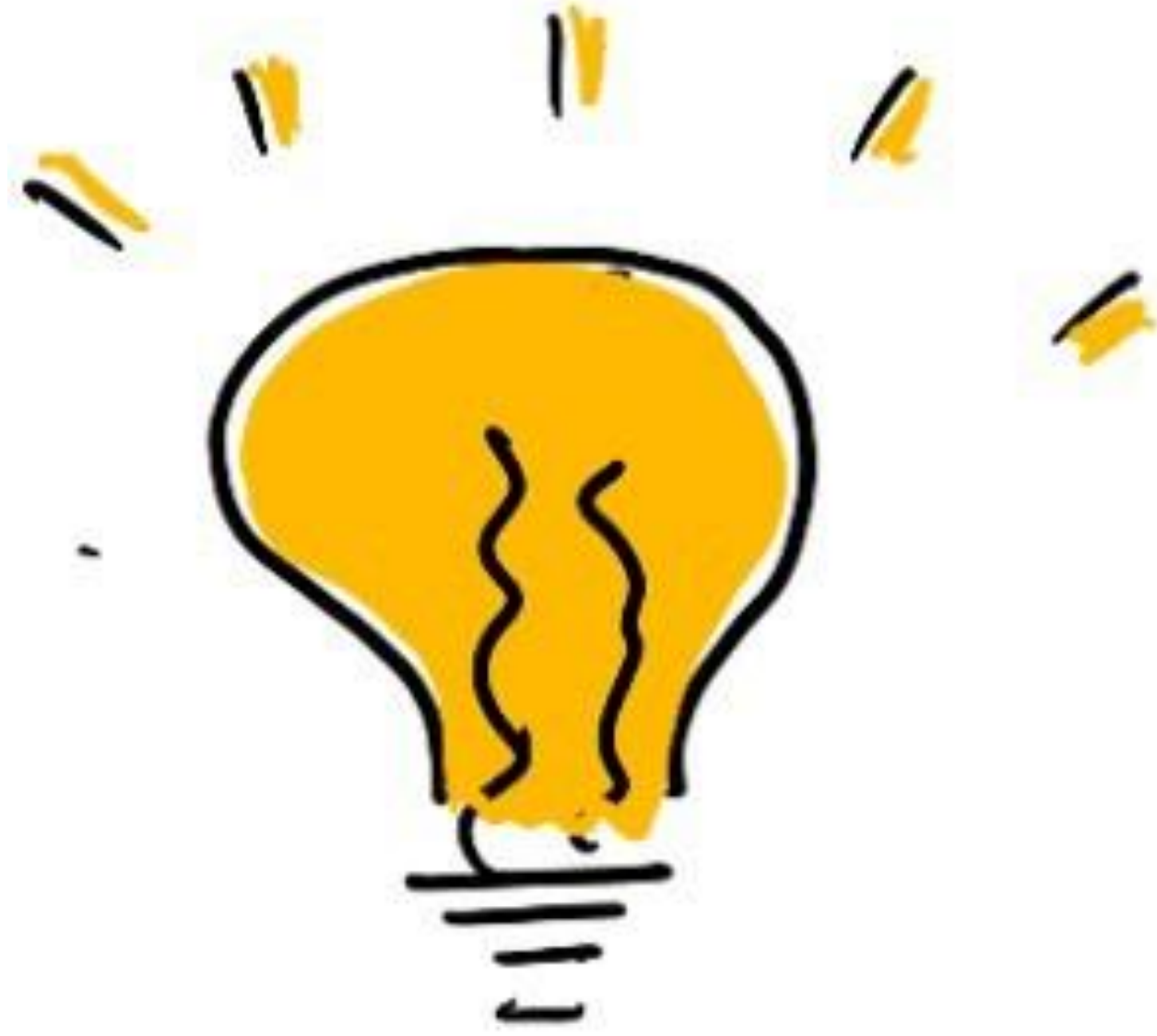
SIMPLE  
LED

2 STATES (ON/OFF)

HIGH VOLTAGE = ON

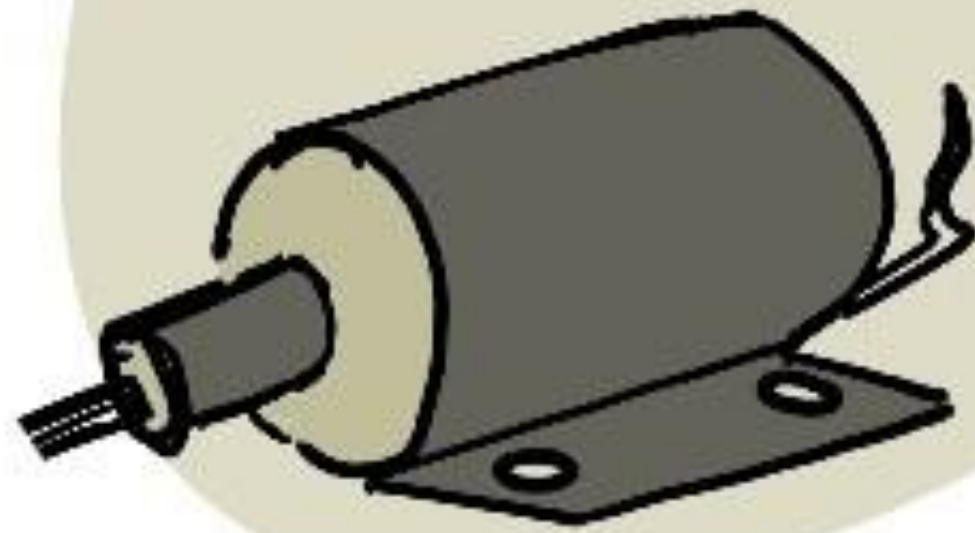
LOW VOLTAGE = OFF





DO YOUR  
RESEARCH

WHAT ARE SOME OTHER  
EXAMPLES OF  
2-STATE  
ACTUATORS ?



HOW ABOUT A  
SOLENOID?  
.....  
WHERE IS IT USED?



WHAT'S NEXT?

CONNECT

YOUR DEVICES  
TO THE INTERNET

LEARN TO

✓  SEND &  
RECEIVE  
MESSAGES

✓  CONNECT  
LIGHT TO  
MQTT BROKER

✓  CONNECT  
DEVICE TO  
INTERNET

