



**UNIMORE**  
UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI  
MODENA E REGGIO EMILIA

Dipartimento di Scienze Fisiche,  
Informatiche e Matematiche

# IoT Systems

IoT Use cases

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# IoT Use cases

- The IoT can be found in many scenarios
- We will look at some of them
  - Some technologies may be new to you. We will cover them in separate lectures
  - In this lecture we are interested in having an overview of the IoT heterogeneity

# Use cases we cover

- Environmental monitoring
- Autonomous driving
- Smart home
- Smart factory
- e-Health
- Structural monitoring

# Environmental monitoring

- Task:
  - Monitor one or more phenomena in an area of interest
- Example data
  - Temperature, humidity, noise, photos
- How
  - Infrastructure based
  - Crowdsensing (Opportunistic or Participatory)

# The task in detail

- Environmental data (roads, trees, air, ...)
  - Helps to understand whether issues are arising
    - Traffic jams, too hot zones, parking spots available
- Many sensors which collect data
  - Data is processed locally or brought back to a central aggregator
  - Data analysis may raise actions to optimize the system

# Example – Singapore LTA

- Green Line Determining (GLIDE) system
- Controls traffic signals
- Adjusts the green time
- Collects data from induction loops, adjacent traffic signals
- Data is processed locally, and adjacent junctions communicate to provide motorist a “green wave”



# Example – Singapore LTA

- Traffic Message Channel (TMC)
- Delivers traffic information
- Uses citizen devices
- Data is collected by sensors
- Decisions are taken by humans



# Takeaways

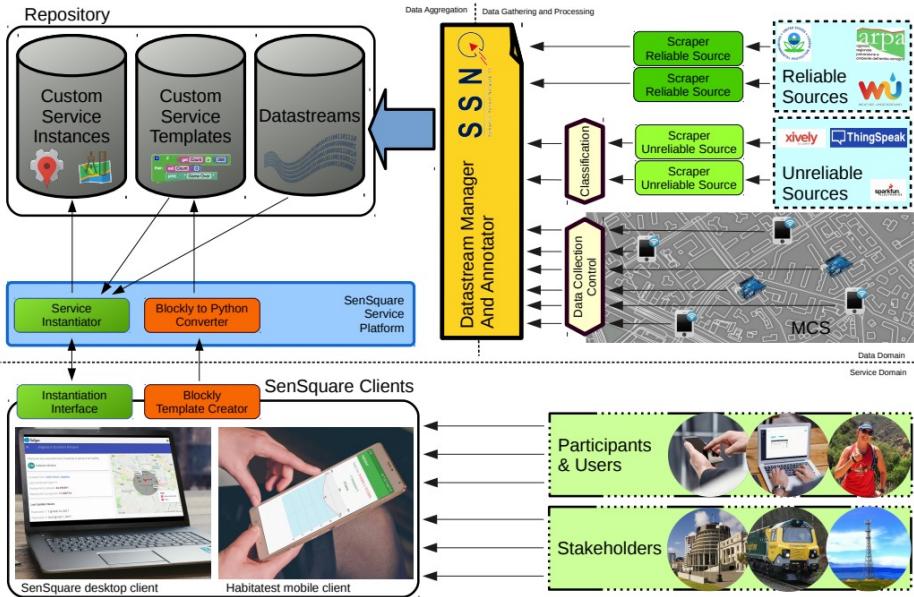
- The previous example were based on an infrastructure
  - Someone (the municipality, an industry, ...) has to design, build and deploy such infrastructure
  - Infrastructures have to be maintained
  - They are also bound to a specific task. If objectives change, the infrastructure may not be suited for the purpose
- Infrastructures have (typically) higher precision
  - It is possible to use more precise sensors
  - Installation is performed by specialized personnel, so errors are limited

# Crowdsensing

- Leverages citizen devices to collect data
- This avoids the use of an infrastructure
  - Citizens move freely with their devices
  - Data is collected and eventually reported to a central aggregator
- Advantages:
  - No infrastructure needed, can be turned on/off as needed
- Disadvantages
  - Citizens may want to be payed for that, precision and accuracy of the data is lower compared to infrastructure, noise may be higher

# SenSquare

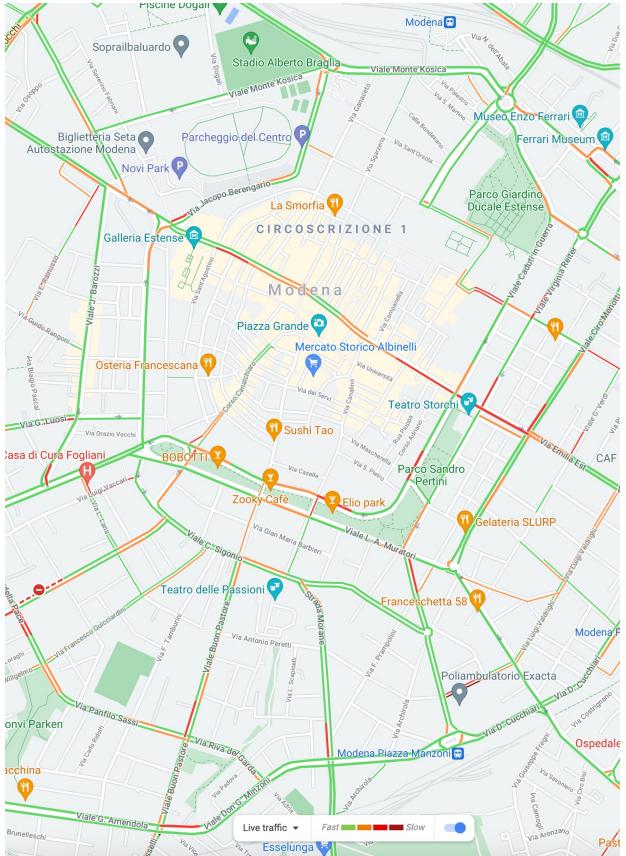
- Environmental monitoring
- Traffic status
- Public transportation conditions
- Cellular connectivity
- Noise pollution
- Leveraging MGRS for hierarchical measurements



F. Montori, L. Bedogni and L. Bononi, "A Collaborative Internet of Things Architecture for Smart Cities and Environmental Monitoring," in *IEEE Internet of Things Journal*, vol. 5, no. 2, pp. 592-605, April 2018.

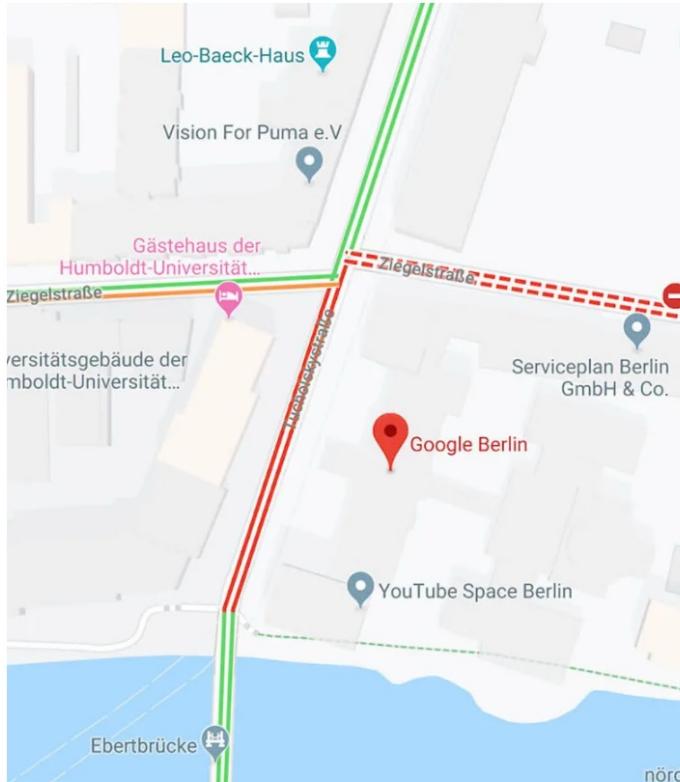
# Crowdsensing example

- Probably the most famous one, Google Traffic
- The data is sensed by the smartphones of people driving cars
- Depending on the actual speed vs. the expected speed it is possible to determine traffic conditions



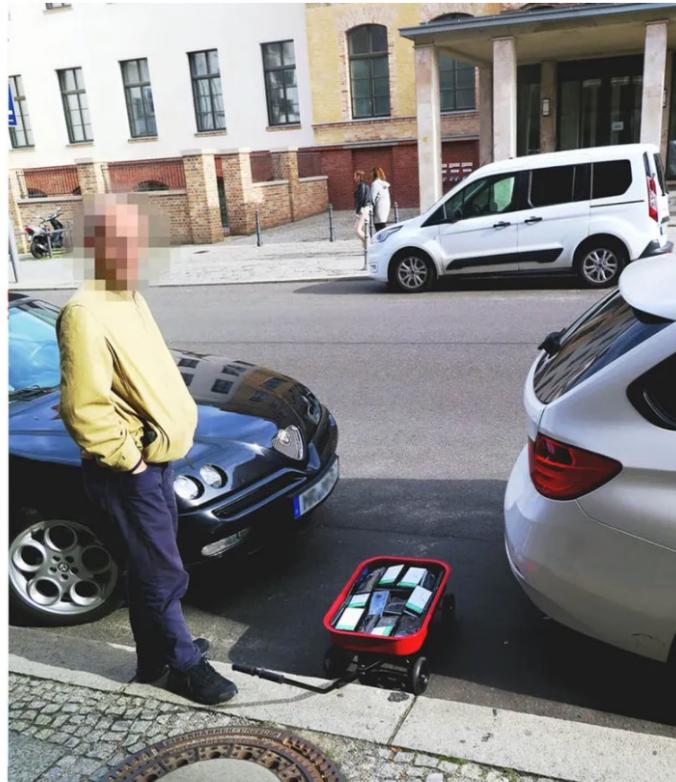
# An Artist Used 99 Phones to Fake a Google Maps Traffic Jam

With his "Google Maps Hack," artist Simon Weckert draws attention to the systems we take for granted—and how we let them shape us.



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COURTESY OF SIMON WECKERT



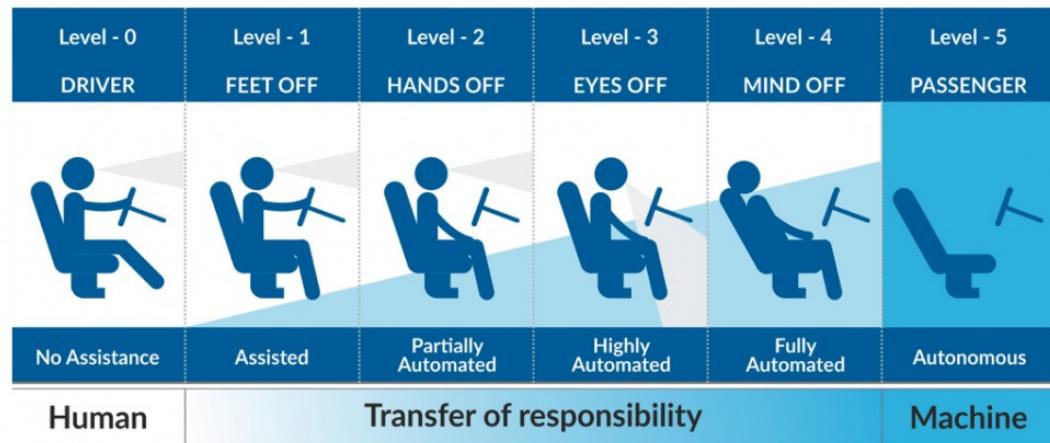
<https://www.wired.com/story/99-phones-fake-google-maps-traffic-jam/>

# Challenges in Crowdsensing

- Reward the users properly
- Data quality
- Privacy of users
- Merging crowdsensed data with other data

# Autonomous driving

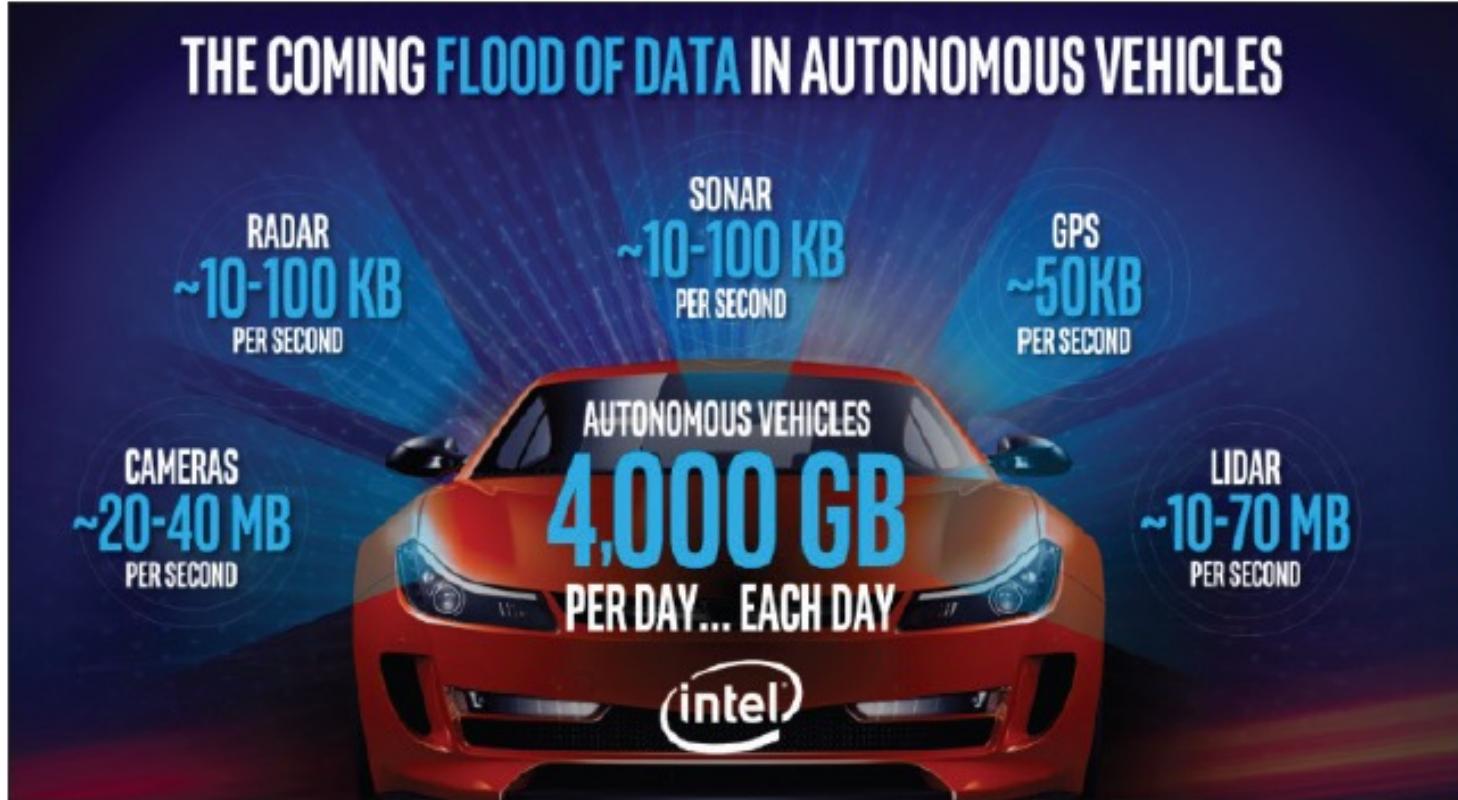
- Cars that run without (or with little) human intervention
- To do so, they are equipped with many (really, many) sensors
  - The central “brain” of the car merges them and takes actions



# Autonomous driving

- Cars may also communicate with the road infrastructure
  - To understand whether crossing lights are red or green
  - To check for traffic jams on the road ahead
  - To communicate their actions
- In this scenario, latency is key
  - Data and decision should be shared fast, otherwise actions may be taken too late, or on outdated data

# Self driving cars... How much data?

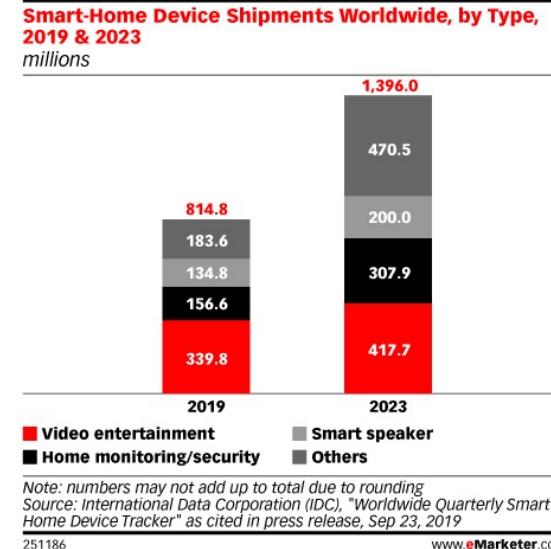


# Challenges in Autonomous driving

- Safety
- Networking
- Data sharing among different platforms
- Performance

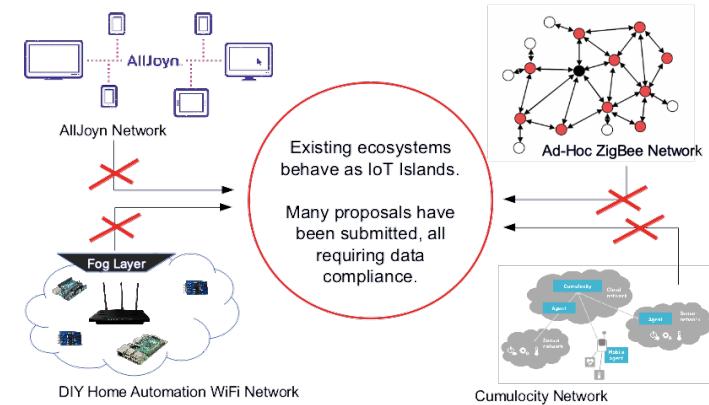
# Smart home

- Also called domotics
- Collection of devices which automate home tasks
  - Switch on the heating systems if its cold
  - Turn on the alarm if no one is at home
- Consumer side, one of the biggest markets

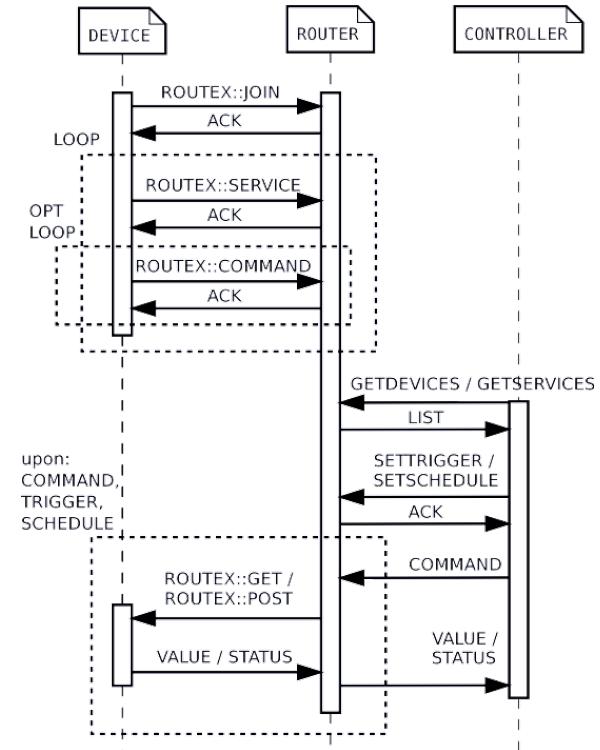
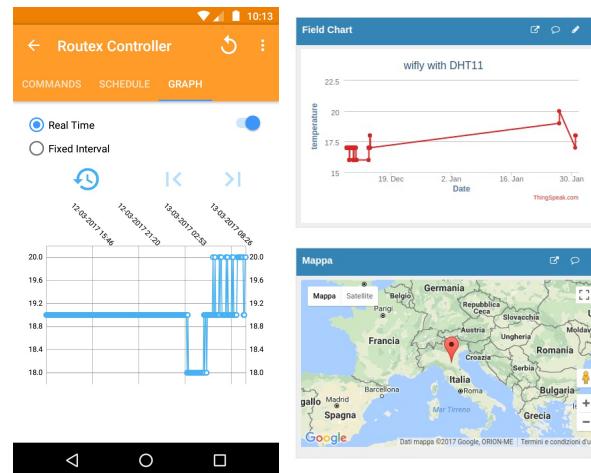
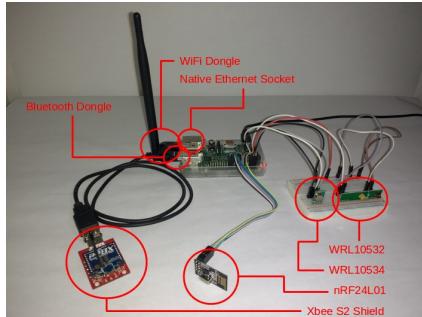
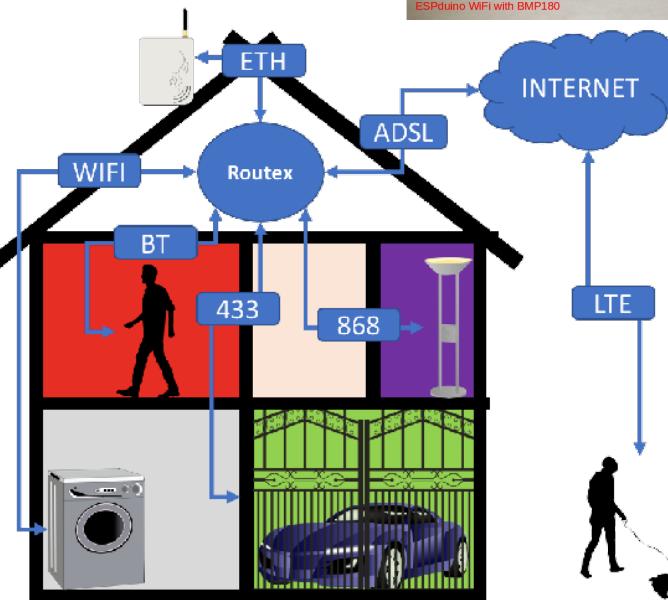


# Intranet or Islands of Things

- Problem: easy to share data among the same network, difficult to do it outside of it
- Solutions:
  - Unified multi-technology router
    - Zigbee, LoRa, BLE, WiFi, ...
  - Homogenization at the data level
    - Define a common layer through which it is possible to collect heterogeneous data
    - Provide a convenient interface to the end users
    - Something similar to SenSquare



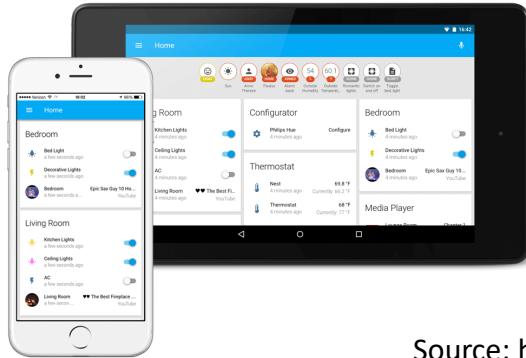
# Routex



# The Home Assistant Project



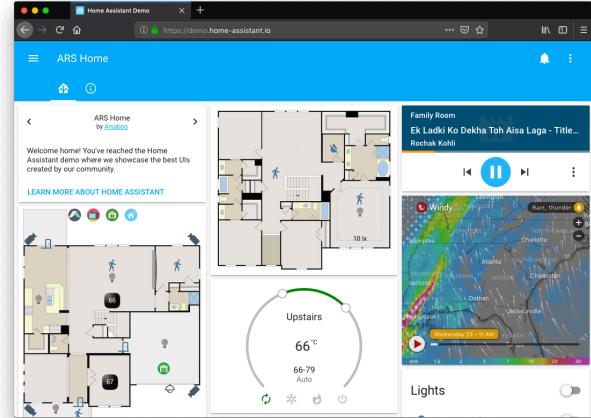
- Focuses on the smart home
- Easy to interconnect COTS devices
- Also possible to interconnect custom devices
- Central controller, many technologies, many protocols



Source: [home-assistant.io](https://home-assistant.io)

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IoT systems



# Challenges in Smart home

- Interoperability
- Costs
- Privacy

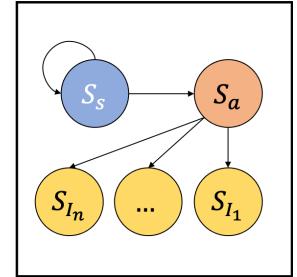
# Smart factory

- Bringing the IoT to the industry
- It encompasses many different technologies
  - IoT
  - AI
  - Robotics
  - Cyber Physical Systems
  - Big Data
  - Cloud

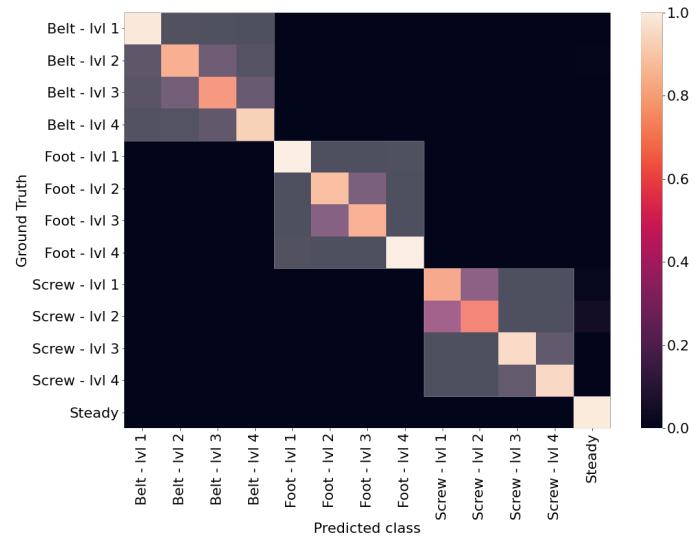
**In a nutshell:** it is the digitization of the industry, with advanced IT technologies which enable automatic decisions and monitoring of the whole production chain.

# Predictive maintenance

- Classifying issues when no training data is available
- Leveraged one class SVM to detect base state and anomalies
- Ask to the operator about the specific anomaly



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# Example

# Challenges in Smart factory

- Performance
- Latency
- Interoperability

# e-Health

- As the miniaturization of devices advances, it is possible to fit more sensors in less space
- Some illnesses require constant monitoring, such as heart issues or dementia
- Wearable devices are of paramount importance

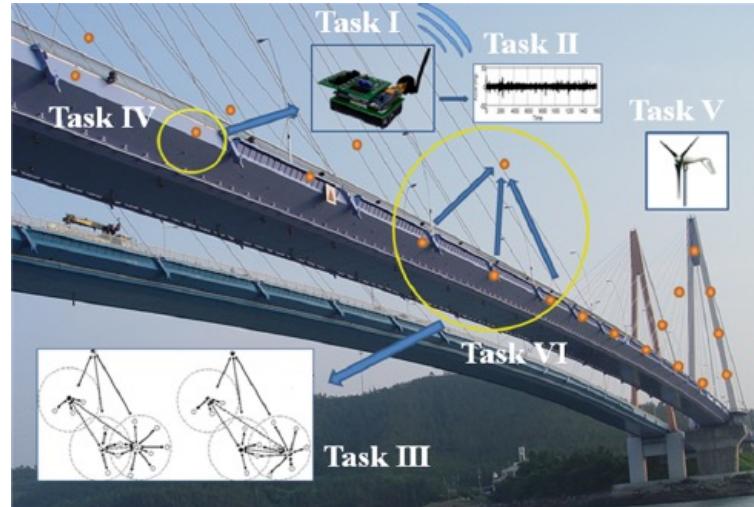


# Challenges in e-Health

- Privacy
- Battery efficiency
- Communicatoin efficiency
- Resilience and trust

# Structural monitoring

- Key to monitor long term health of buildings
- Vibrations, humidity, earthquake resilience
- May have both fixed sensors as well as mobile ones such as drones



Mechitov, Agha, "Building portable middleware services for heterogeneous cyber-physical systems"

# Challenges in structural monitoring

- Resilience and trust
- Battery efficiency
- Mobile/Static nodes interoperations