

CN 4.0

08 November 2025 07:39



1. Microcontroller

- A **microcontroller** is a small computer on a single chip.
 - It contains:
 - **CPU (Processor)** – processes instructions
 - **Memory** – to store data and program
 - **Input/Output pins** – to connect sensors and devices
 - Used to **control** electronic devices (like motors, LEDs, sensors).
- Example:** Arduino, ESP32, PIC, ATmega328.



2. Microprocessor

- A **microprocessor** is only the CPU — it doesn't have built-in memory or input/output ports.
 - Needs external components like RAM, ROM, and I/O devices to work.
 - Used in **computers, laptops, and Raspberry Pi**.
- Example:** Intel i7, AMD Ryzen, ARM Cortex.



Difference:

Feature	Microcontroller	Microprocessor
Components	CPU + Memory + I/O in one chip	Only CPU
Applications	Embedded systems	Computers
Cost	Cheap	Expensive
Power usage	Low	High



3. Arduino

- Arduino is an **open-source microcontroller board** used to build electronic projects easily.
 - It has input/output pins to connect sensors and actuators.
 - You write code (called **sketch**) in the **Arduino IDE** using C/C++.
- Example:** Arduino Uno, Arduino Nano.

Use case: controlling LEDs, motors, sensors, robots, etc.



4. Raspberry Pi

- Raspberry Pi is a **small computer** that can run an operating system (like Linux).

- It has USB ports, HDMI, Wi-Fi, and GPIO pins for sensors.

- Used for more complex tasks than Arduino — like web servers, AI, and IoT projects.

- Example:** Raspberry Pi 4, Raspberry Pi Zero.



Difference from Arduino:

Feature	Arduino	Raspberry Pi
Type	Microcontroller	Mini-computer
OS	No OS (runs one program)	Runs OS (Linux)
Language	C/C++	Python, etc.
Usage	Simple hardware control	Complex IoT, automation



5. ESP32

- **ESP32** is an advanced **microcontroller with built-in Wi-Fi and Bluetooth**.

- It's more powerful than Arduino and supports IoT (Internet of Things) projects.

- Use cases:** Smart home devices, sensors sending data online, etc.

6. PIR Sensor (Passive Infrared Sensor)

- Detects **motion** by sensing infrared radiation (heat) from humans or animals.

- Used in **motion detector lights, security alarms, automatic doors**, etc.

- Output:** HIGH when motion detected, LOW otherwise.

7. IR Sensor (Infrared Sensor)

- Detects **objects or distance** using infrared light.

- Two types:
 - **Active IR** – emits and detects IR light (used in obstacle sensors).
 - **Passive IR (PIR)** – detects IR radiation from living things.

- Use:** Line following robot, object detection, remote control systems.

8. Potentiometer

- A **variable resistor** — you can adjust its resistance by rotating a knob.

- Used to control **brightness, volume, or input voltage** to Arduino.

- Example:** volume knob on a radio.

9. Breadboard

- A **plastic board** used for **prototyping circuits** without soldering.

- You can easily plug in wires, sensors, and components to test a circuit.

- Useful:** for beginners to build temporary connections.

10. Tinkercad

- **Tinkercad** is a **free online simulation tool** by Autodesk.

- You can design **circuits, 3D models, and Arduino projects** virtually without hardware.

- Great for practicing Arduino coding and circuit design online.**

11. Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS)

- **CPS** are systems that integrate **computers, networks, and physical devices**.

- They sense the real world (physical), process data (cyber), and act back (control).

- Examples:**

- Self-driving cars

- Smart grids

- Smart factories

- Medical monitoring systems

In short:

CPS = Physical world + Computer control + Communication.