

# Hardware Architectures for Embedded and Edge AI (from ML to HW and back)

*Prof. Manuel Roveri*

«Workshop on Widening Access to TinyML Network  
by Establishing Best Practices in Education»

# Prof. Manuel Roveri



- **Full Professor**  
Dipartimento di Elettronica, Informazione e Bioingegneria  
(DEIB), Politecnico di Milano, Italy  
**Email:** [manuel.roveri@polimi.it](mailto:manuel.roveri@polimi.it)  
Web: <http://roveri.faculty.polimi.it>
- **Research interests:** TinyML, IoT and edge computing, privacy-preserving machine and deep learning
- **Lecturer of « Computing Infrastructures» and «Hardware Architecture for Embedded and edge AI»**
- **Associate Editor** of IEEE Trans. on Artificial Intelligence, Neural Networks, IEEE Trans. on Emerging Technologies in Computational Intelligence, IEEE Trans. on Neural Networks and Learning Systems
- Chair of the IEEE CIS **Technical Activities** strategic planning committee and IEEE CIS **Neural Network** Technical Committee
- **Co-Founder of DHIRIA**, a Spin-Off of Politecnico di Milano

# AI-Tech Research Lab @ Politecnico di Milano



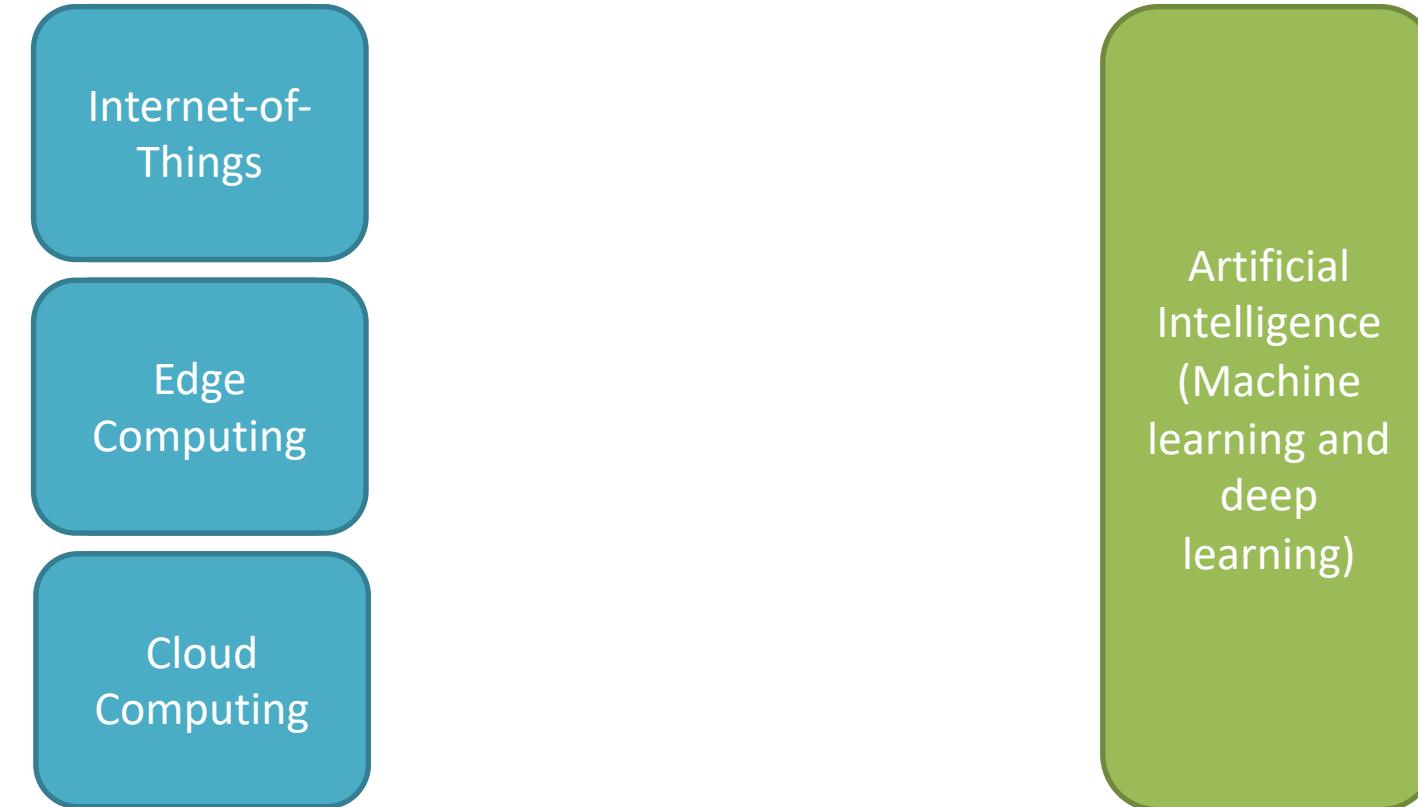
# The research activity

Cyber-  
physical  
Systems

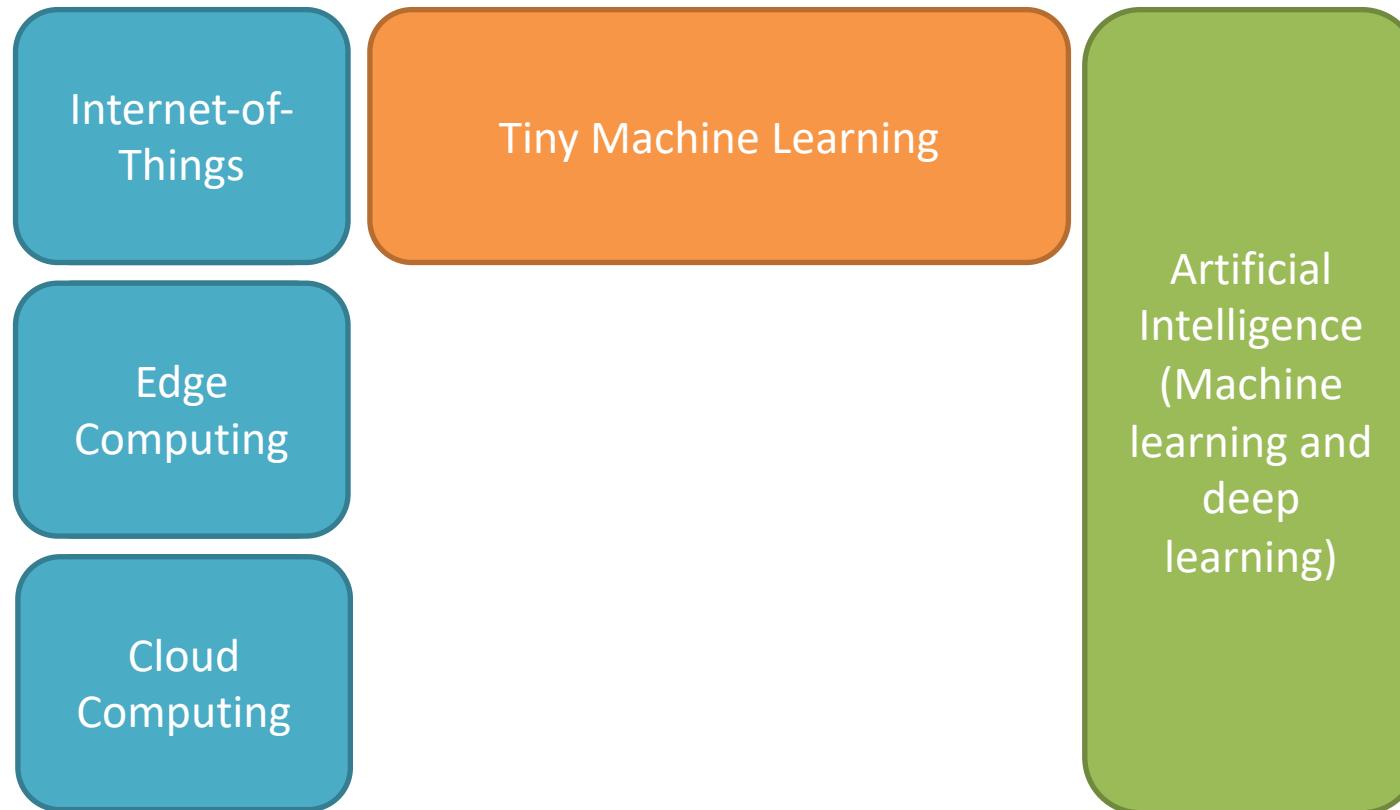
Artificial  
Intelligence  
(Machine  
learning and  
deep  
learning)



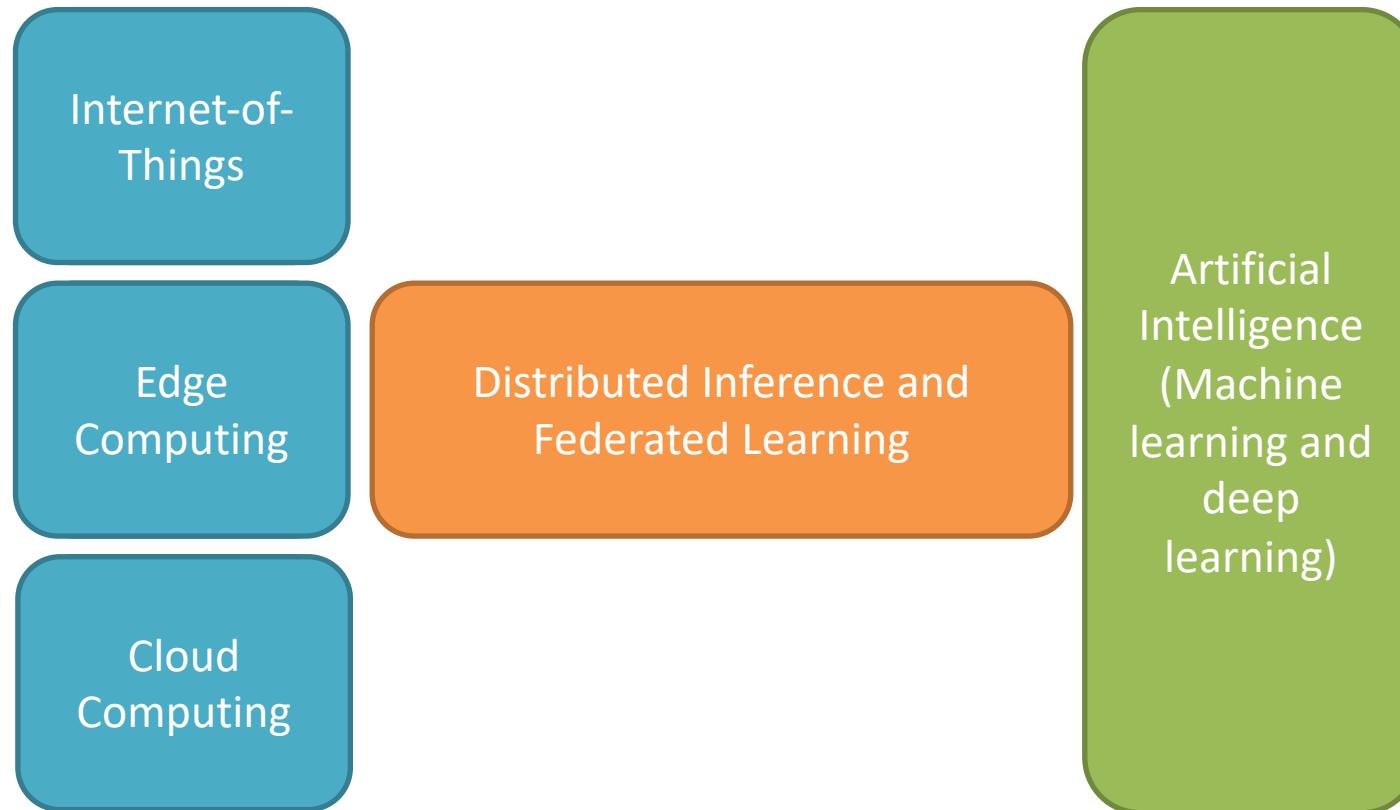
# The research activity



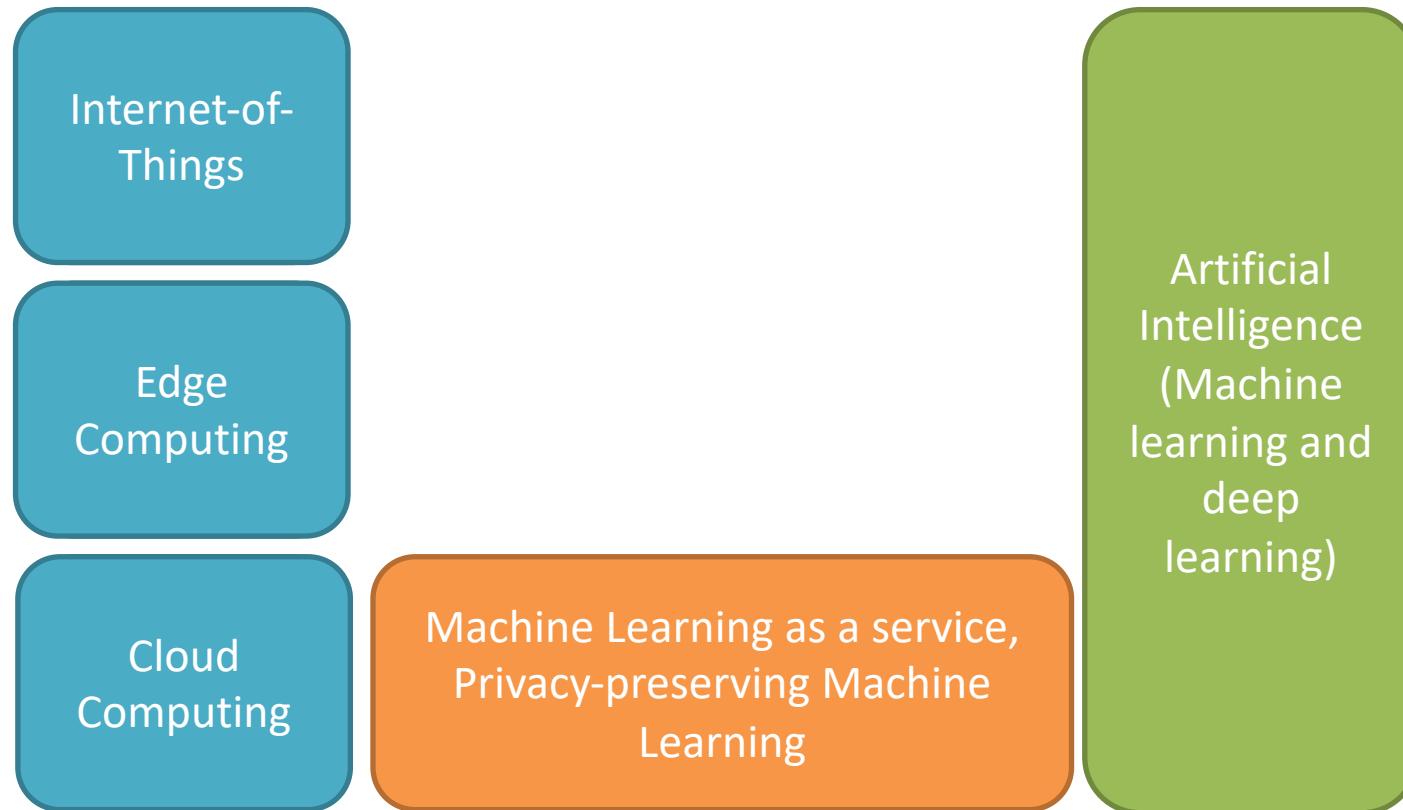
# The research activity



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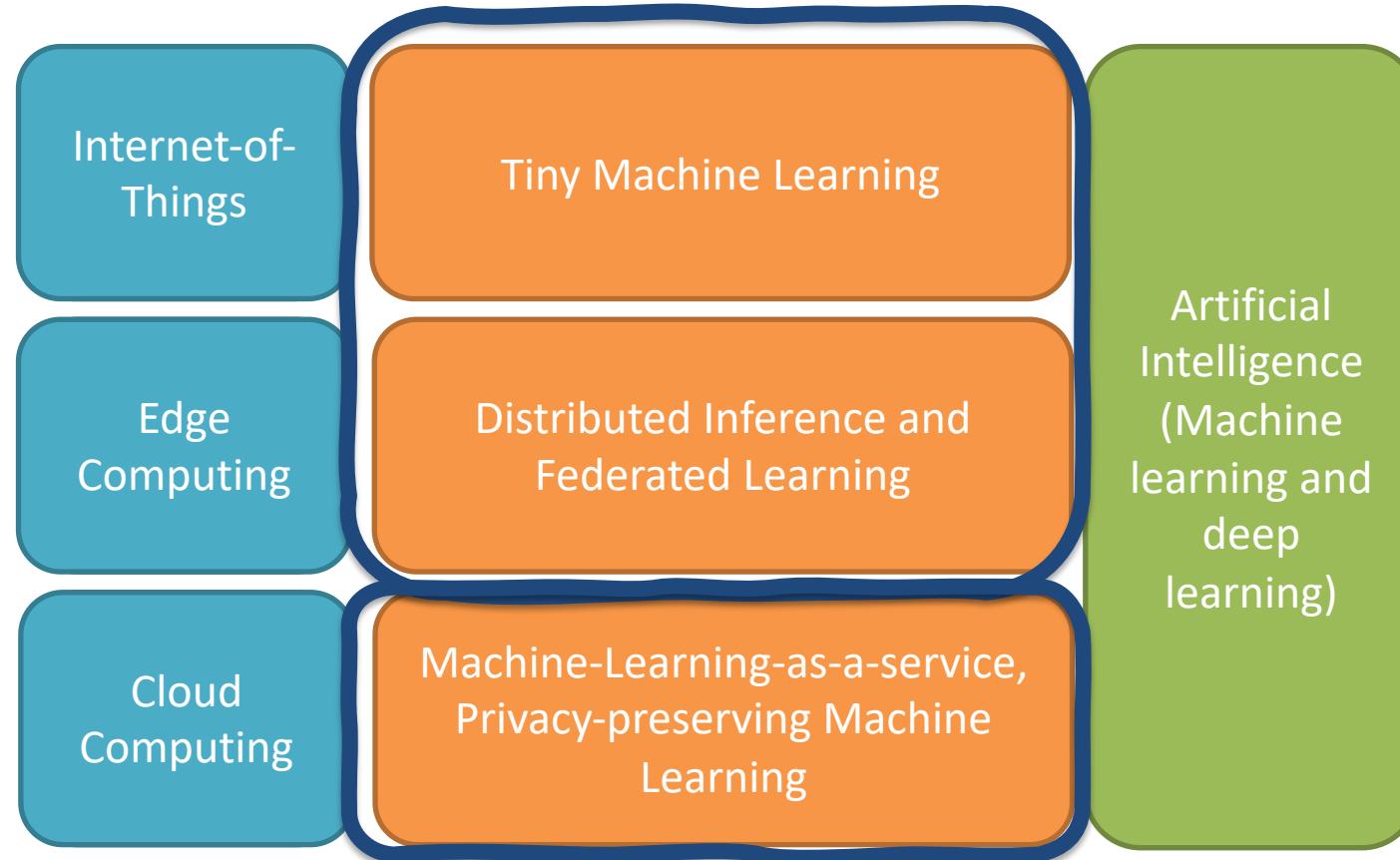


# The research activity



# The research activity

“Hardware Architectures for Embedded and Edge AI” Course



“Computing Infrastructures” Course

# “Hardware Architectures for Embedded and Edge AI”

## Information about the course

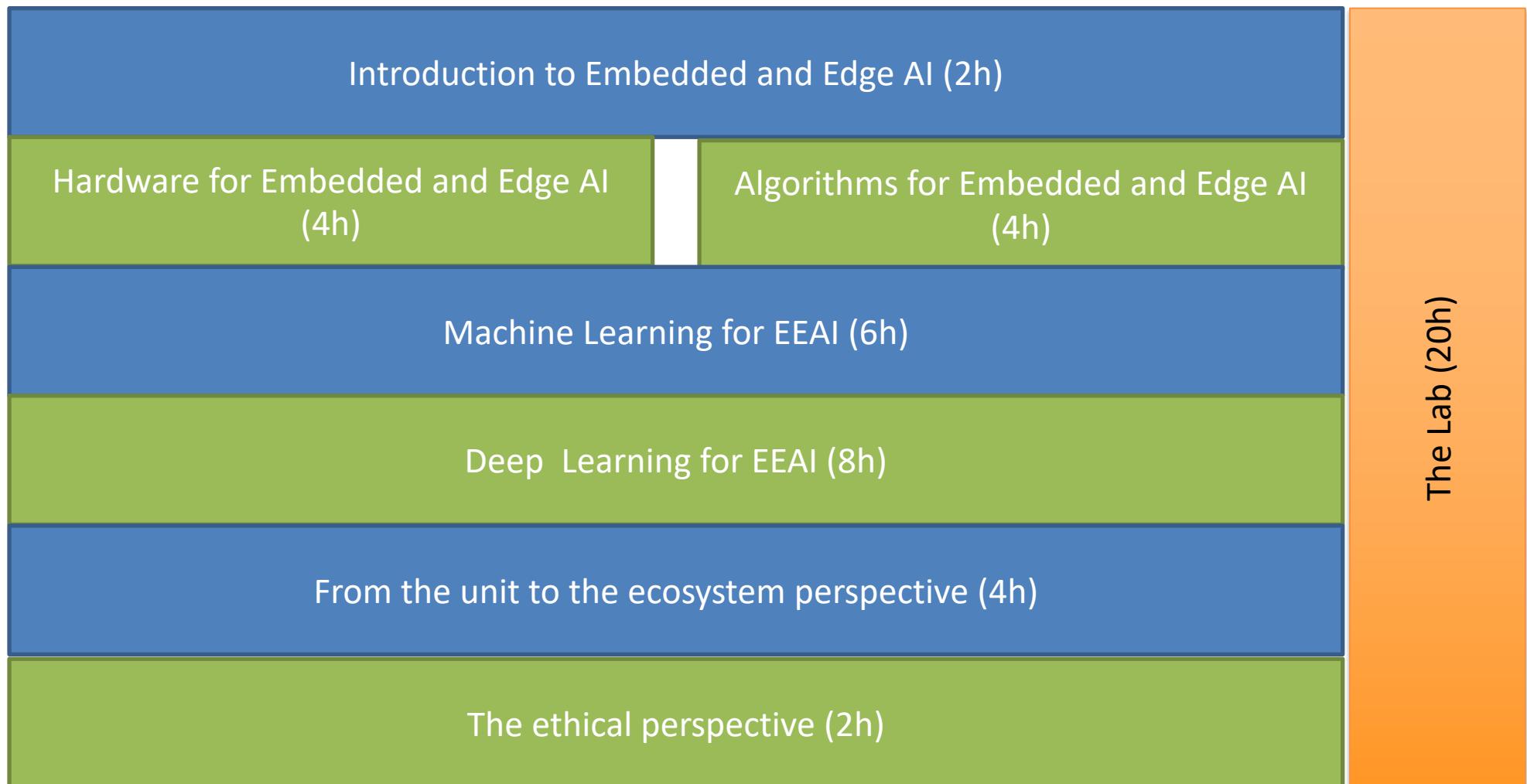


# Course Details

- Course Title: "HARDWARE ARCHITECTURES FOR EMBEDDED AND EDGE AI"
- Academic Year 2022/2023
- School of Industrial and Information Engineering
- Master of Science degree - Computer Science and Engineering
- Course Type Mono-Disciplinary Course
- Credits (CFU / ECTS) 5.0
- Course Organization: 30h lectures (M. Roveri) + 20h labs (M. Pavan)
- Number of enrolled students: 62
  - 66% Computer Science
  - 27% Electronics
  - 7% Bio – Control Theory - Telecom



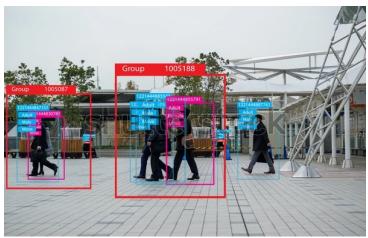
# Course Organization



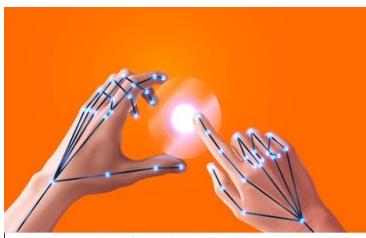
# 1) Introduction to Embedded and Edge AI (2h)



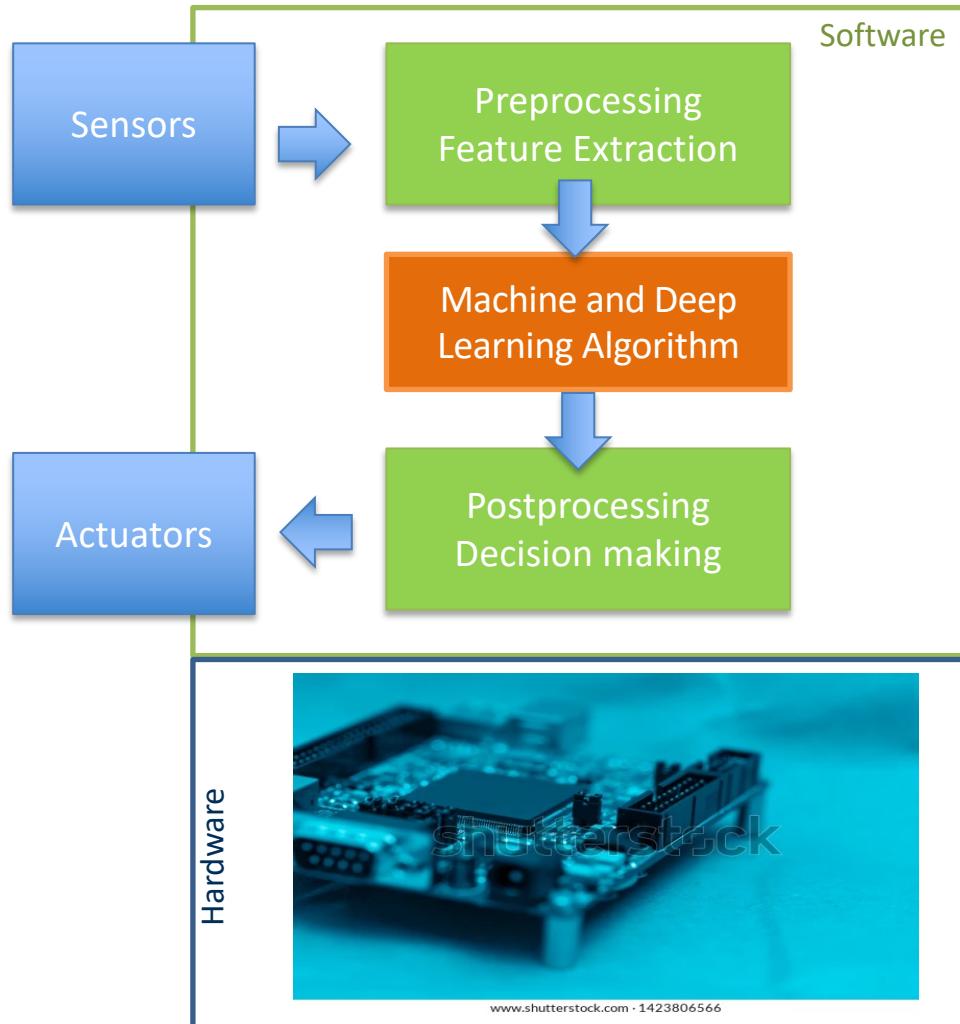
Wake-word detection



Person detection



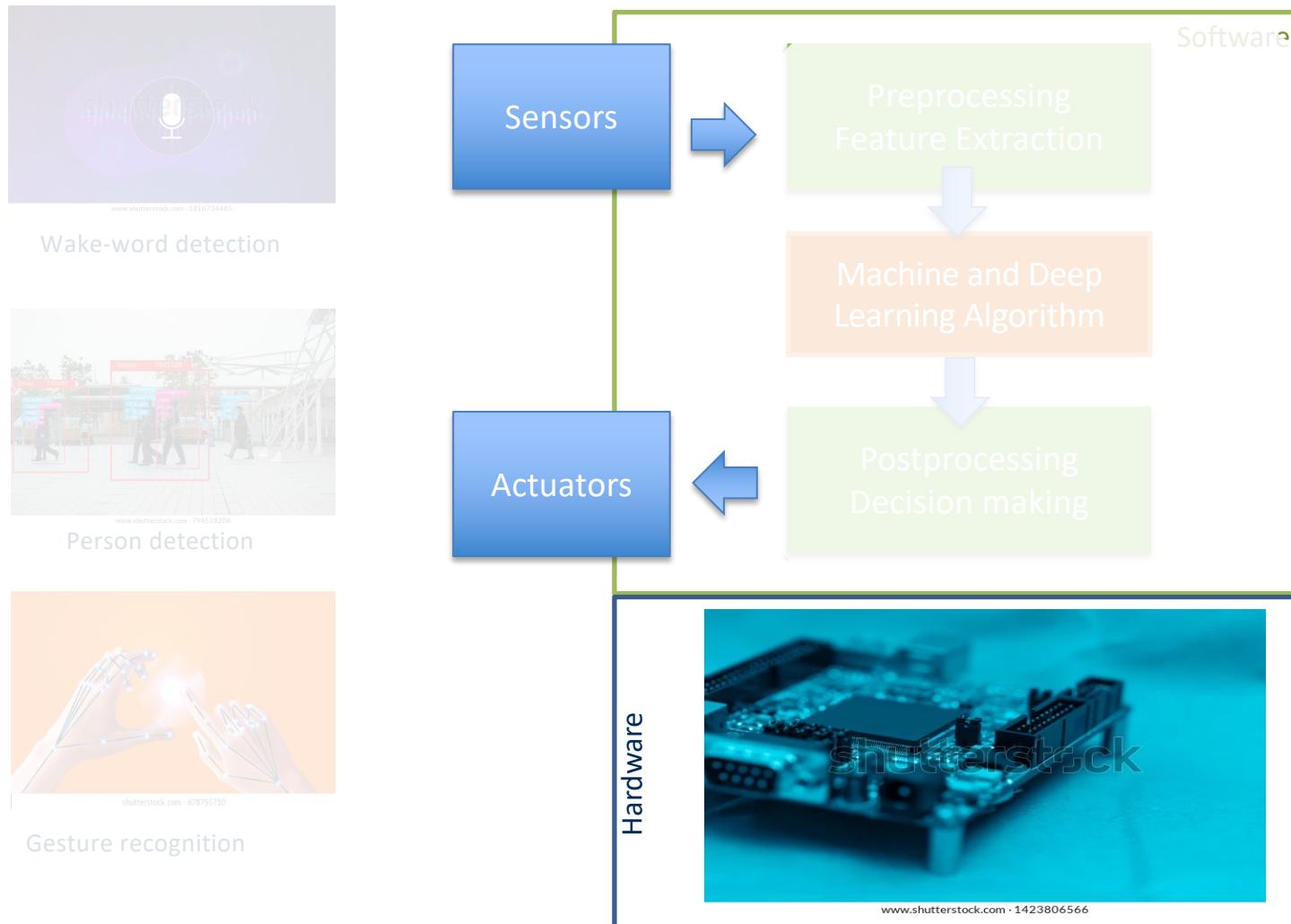
Gesture recognition



Five Ws in Embedded and Edge Ai:

- Why do we need EEAI?
- What can we do with EEAI?
- Where can we find?
- When do we need it (design)?
- Who is in charge of EEAI code?

## 2) Hardware for Embedded and Edge AI (4h)

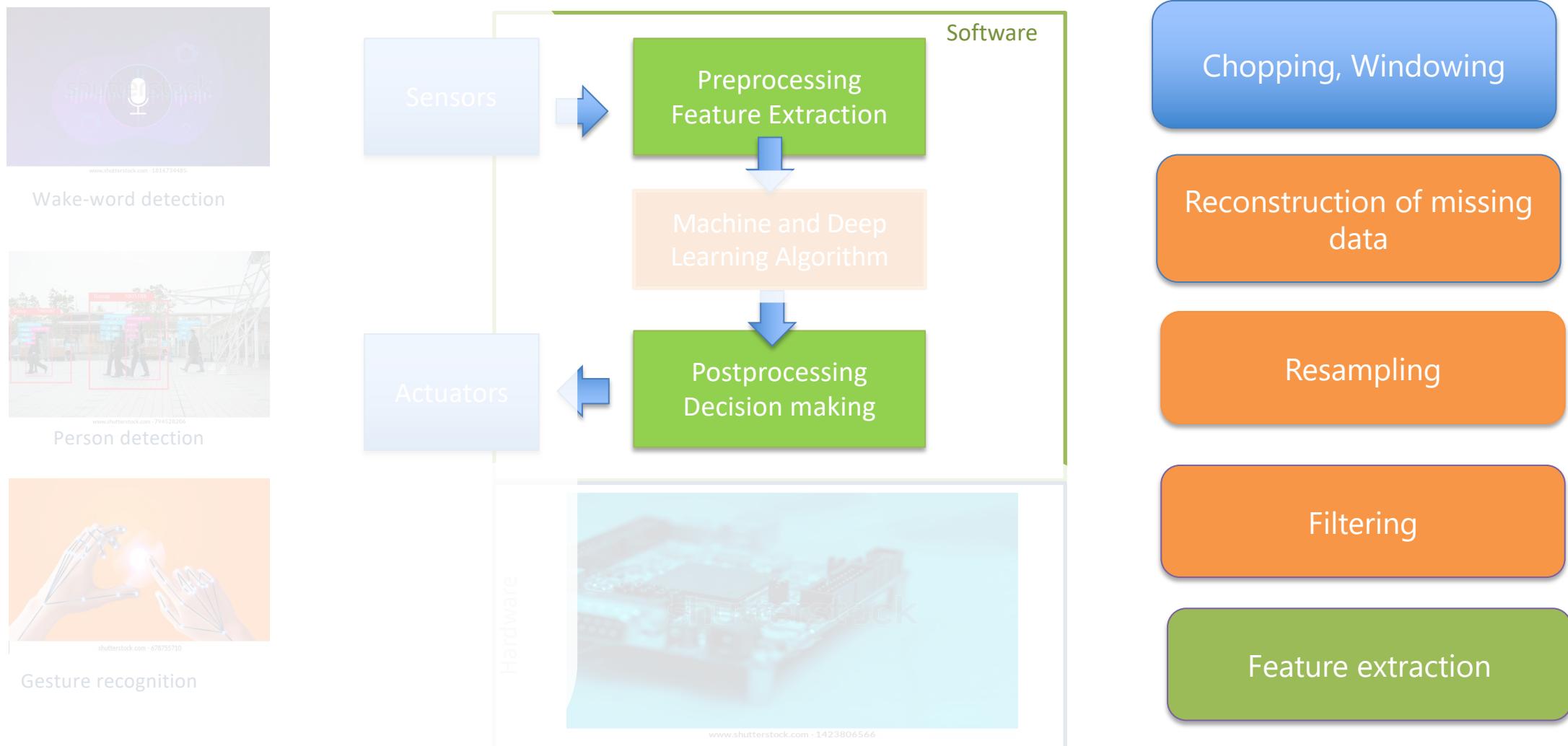


- **Sensors and signals:** the TinyML perspective (ts, audio, image, video)
- **Sensors (+ application):**
  - Acoustic and vibration
  - Visual and scene
  - Motion and position
  - Force and tactile
  - Optical and electromagnetic
  - Environmental and chemical

<b>MPUs</b>	<b>Low-end MCUs</b>
<b>High-end MCUs</b>	<b>SoCs</b>

Memory, computation, energy, cost

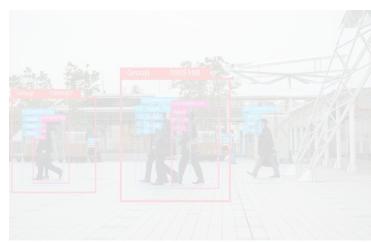
### 3) Algorithms for Embedded and Edge AI (4h)



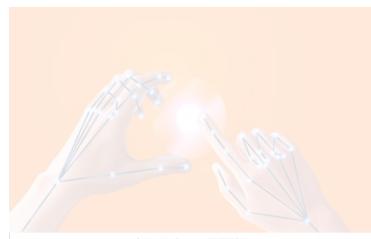
# 4) Machine Learning for Embedded and Edge AI (6h)



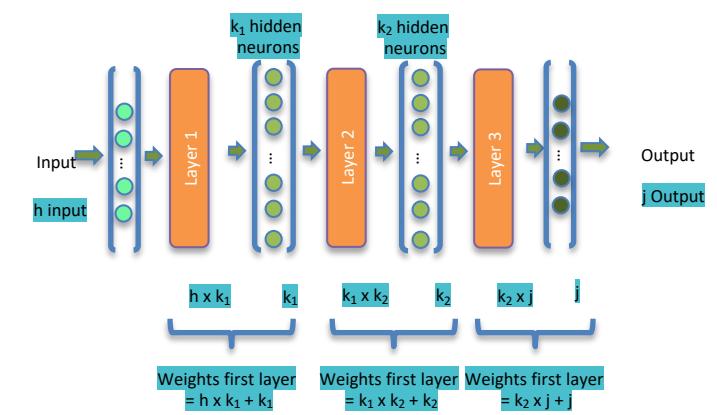
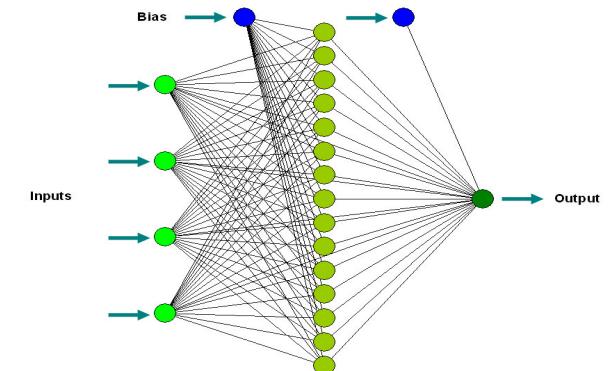
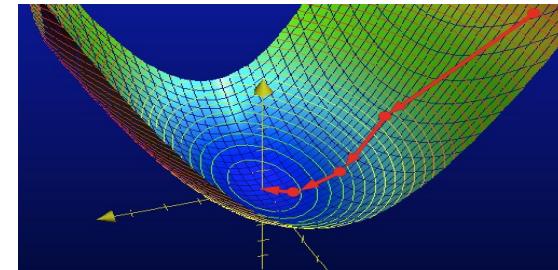
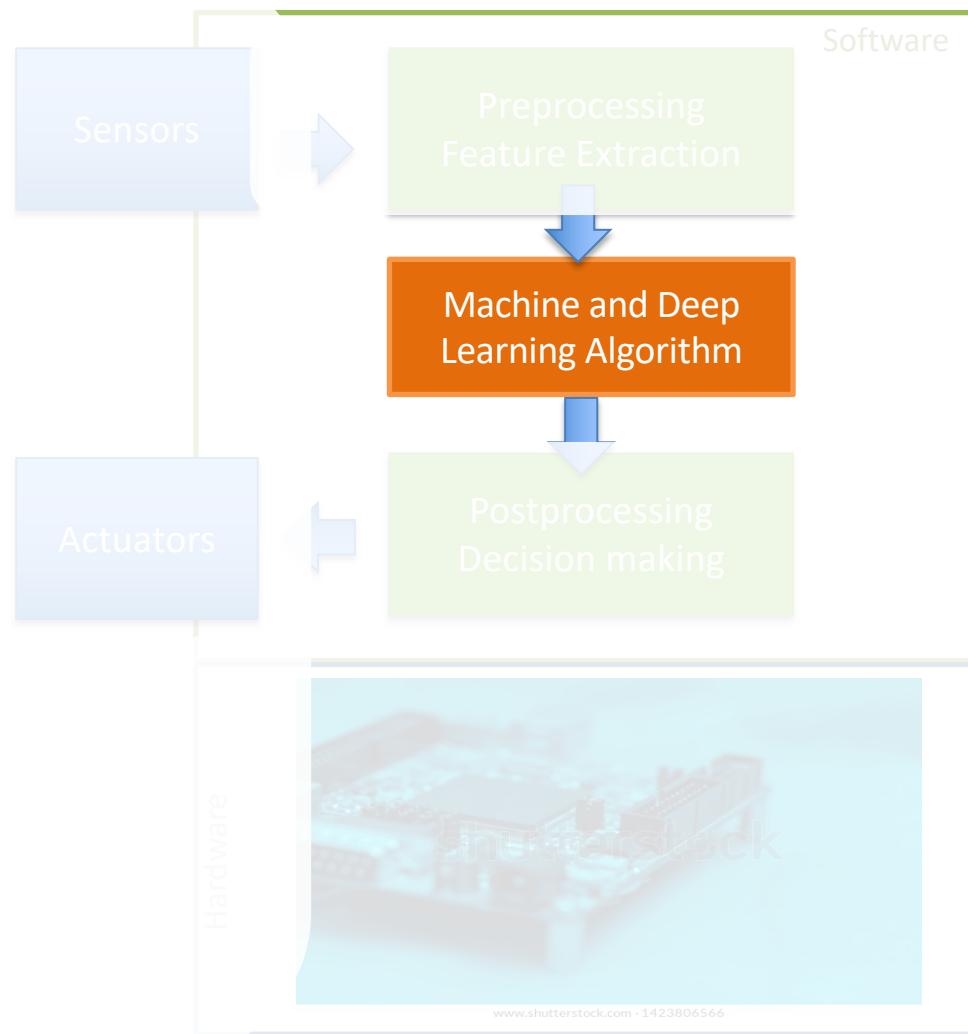
Wake-word detection



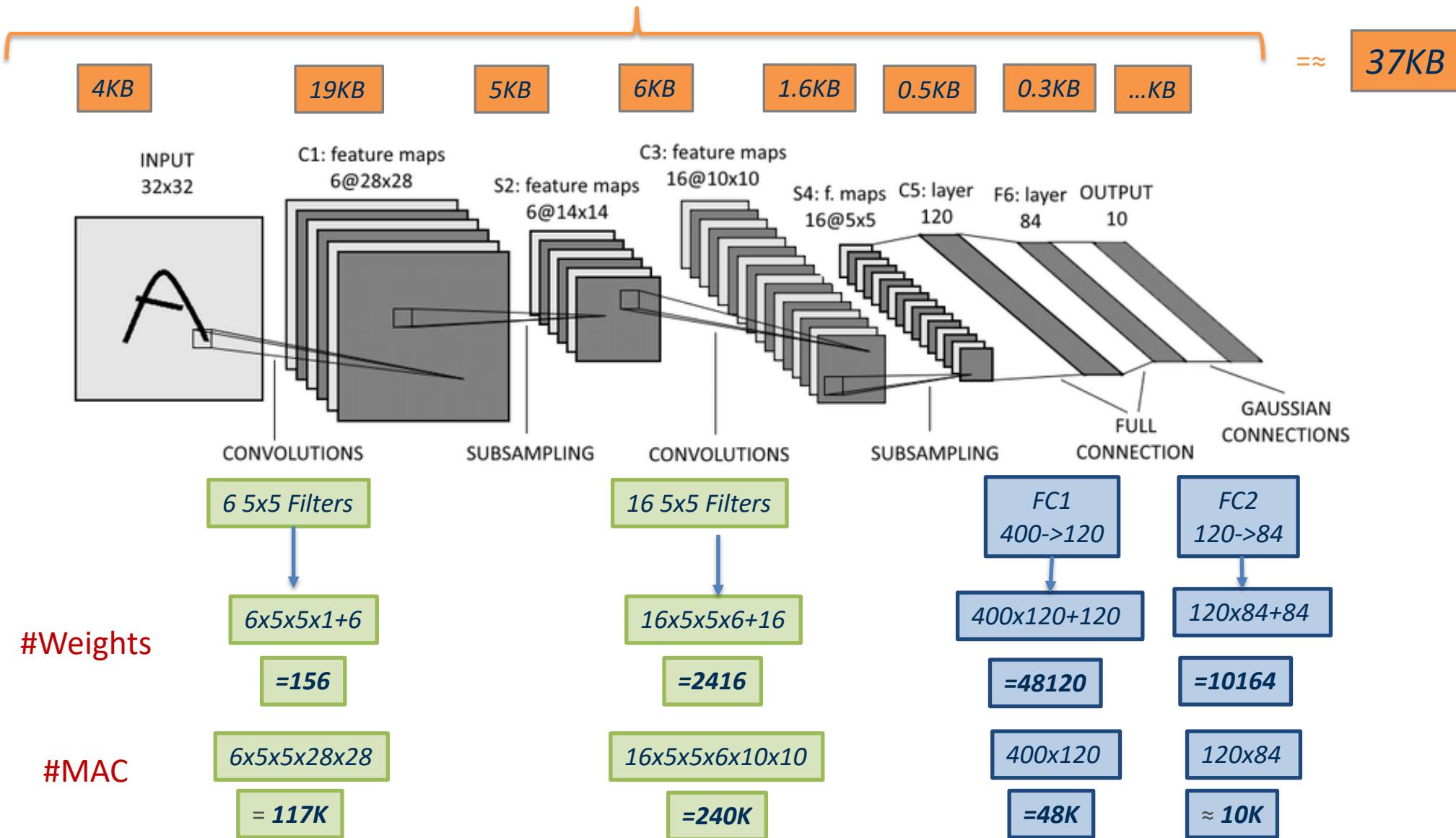
Person detection



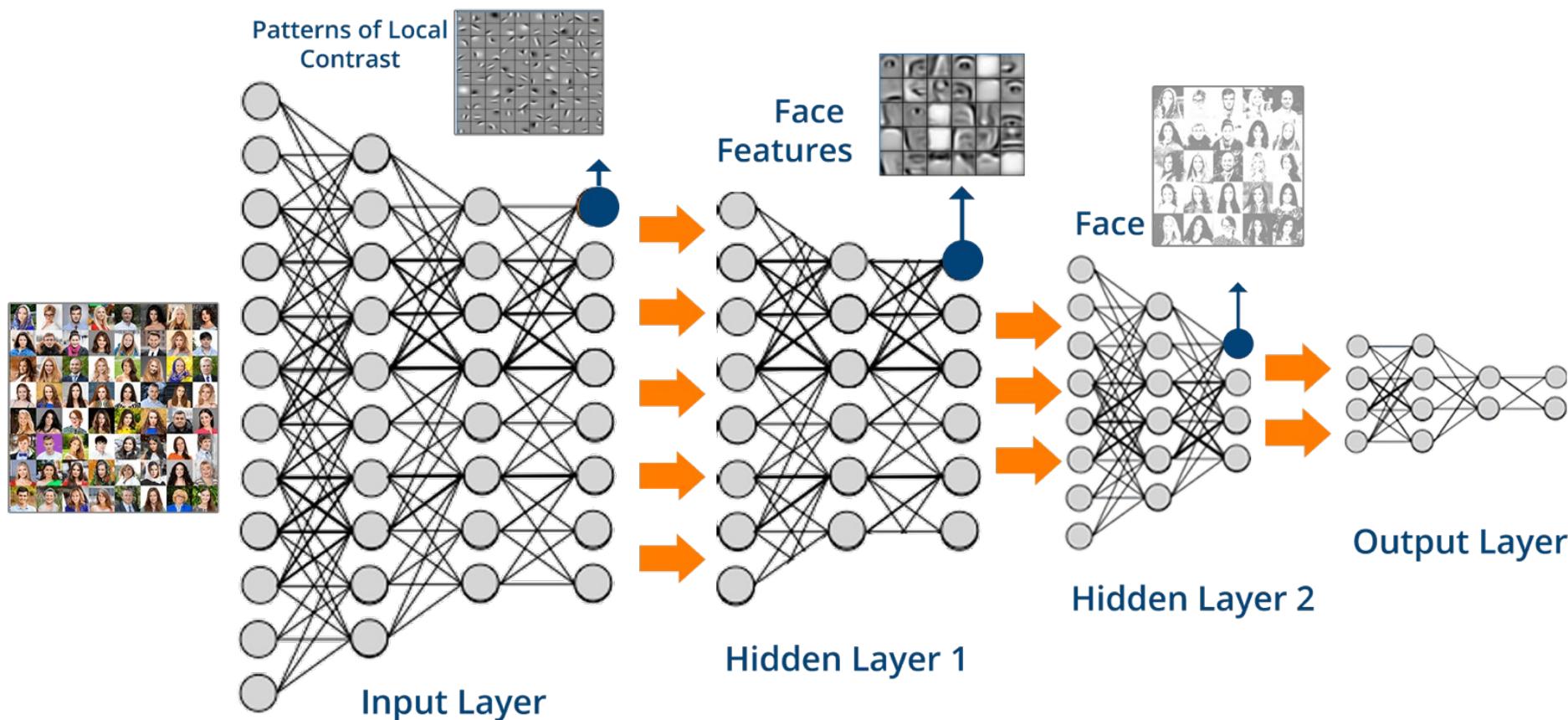
Gesture recognition



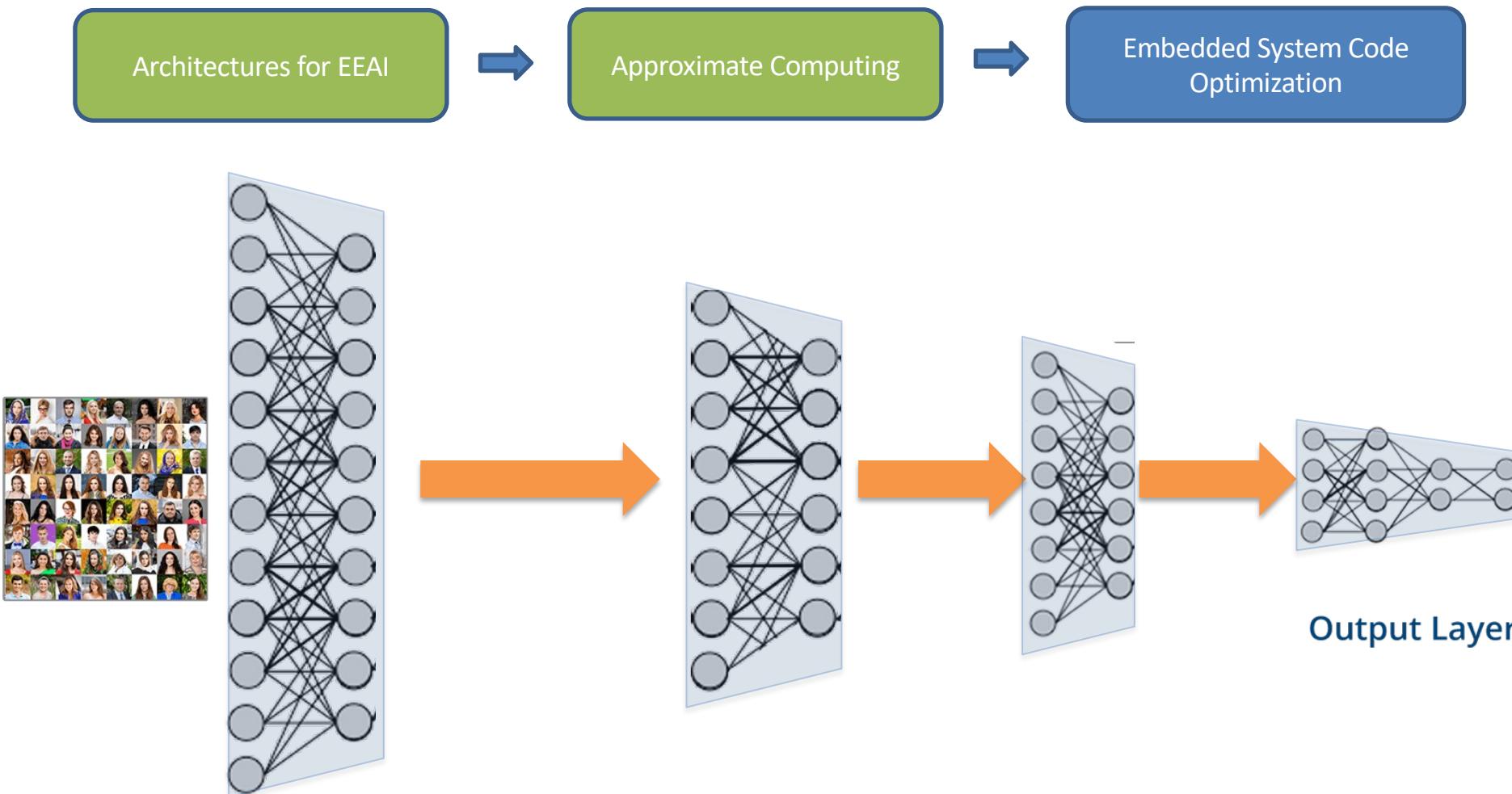
# 5) Deep Learning for Embedded and Edge AI (8h)



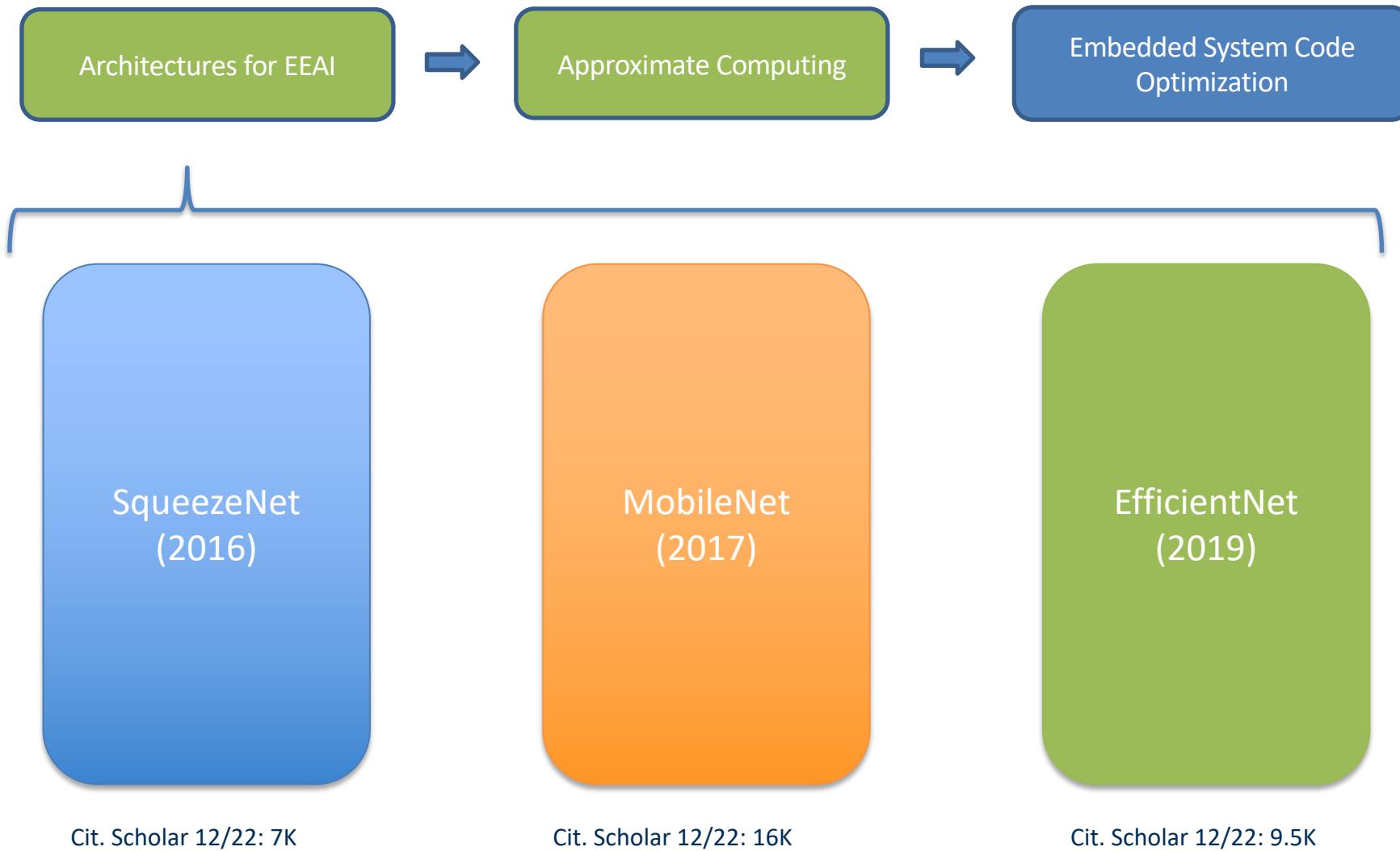
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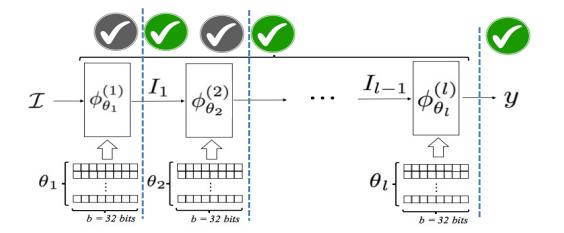
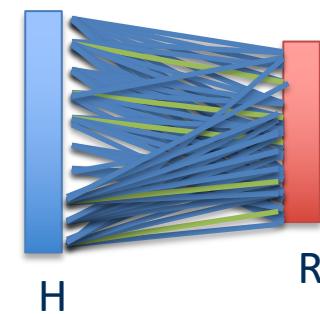
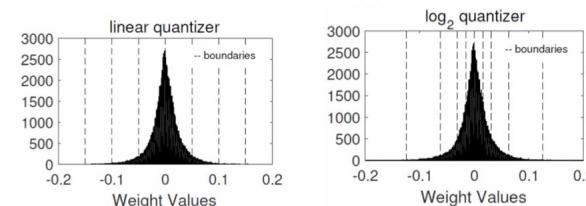
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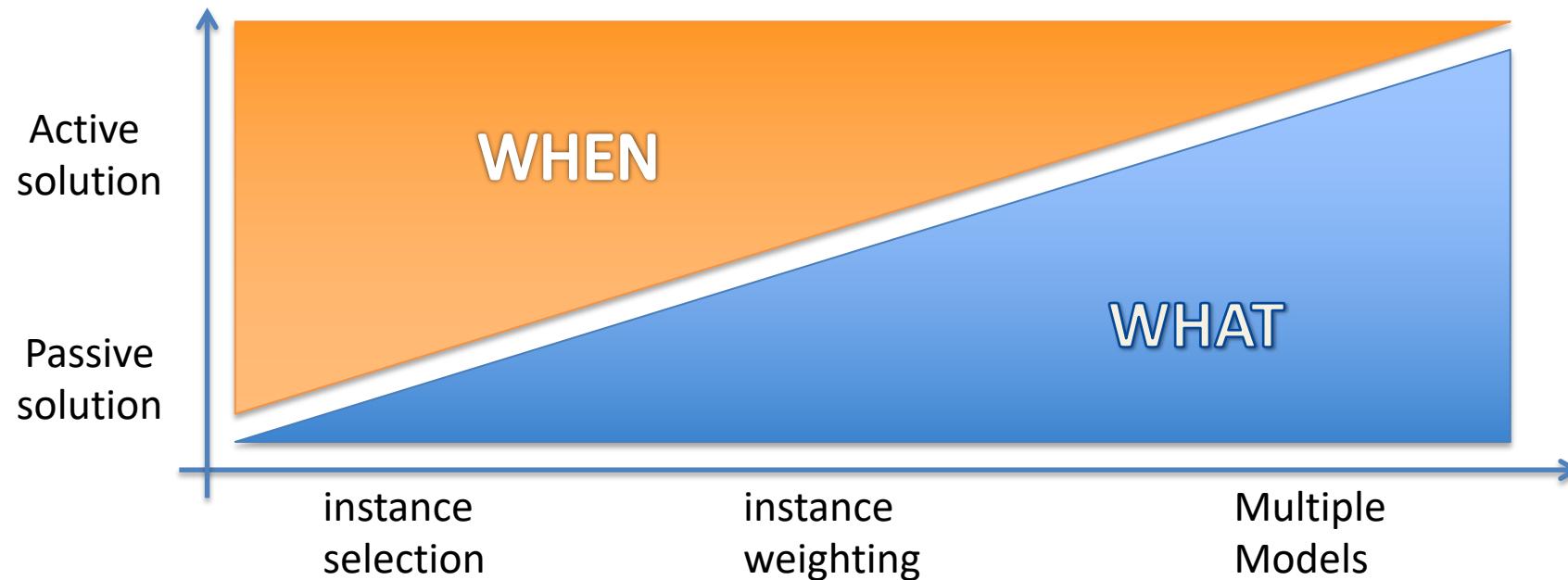


- Precision scaling:
  - ✓ **Quantization mechanisms**
  - ✓ **Implementation**
  - ✓ **Learning quantized models (PTQ, QAT)**
- Task dropping:
  - ✓ **network pruning**
  - ✓ **network architecture design**
  - ✓ **transfer learning**
  - ✓ **knowledge distillation**
- Early-exit Neural Networks:
  - ✓ **Architectures and EECs**
  - ✓ **Learning EENNs**

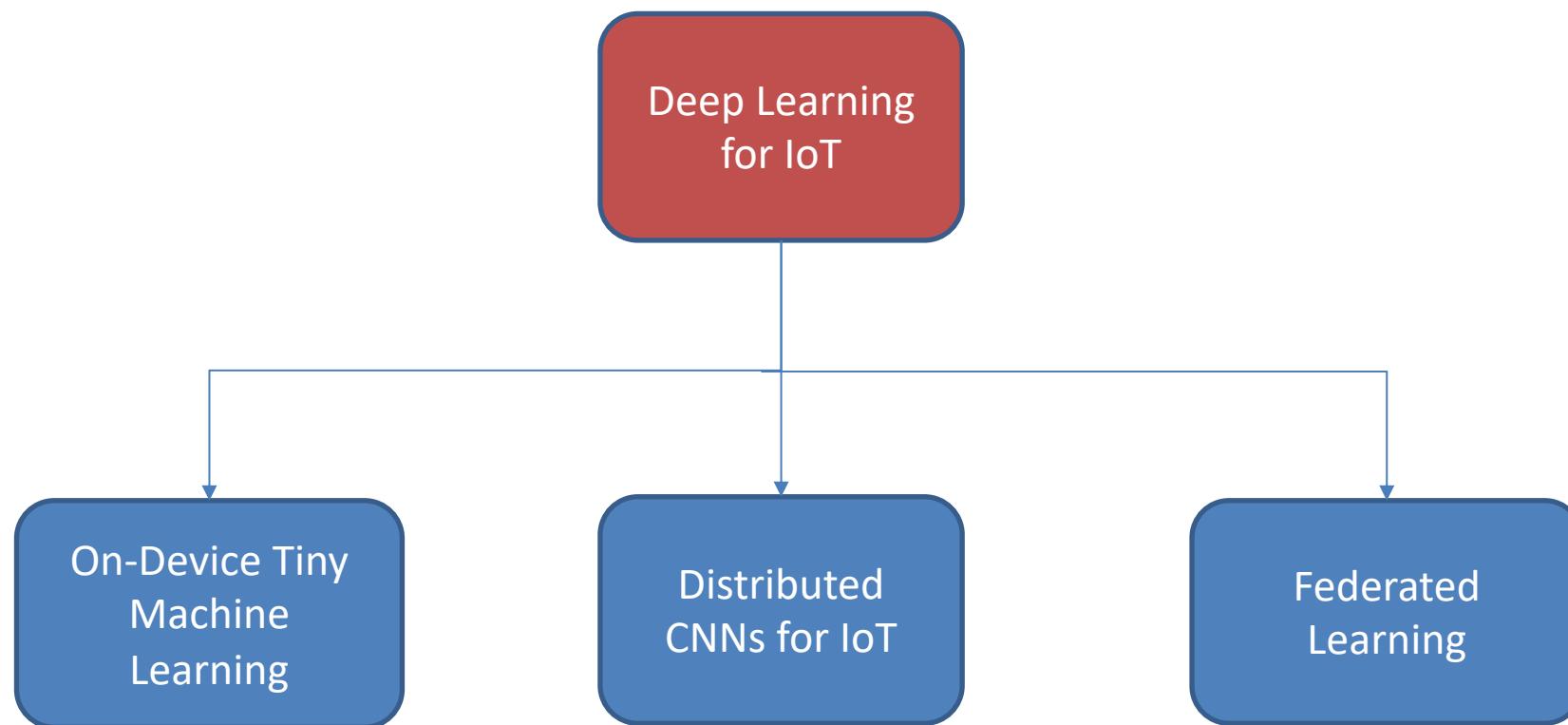


# 5) Deep Learning for Embedded and Edge AI (8h)

Adaptive mechanisms for Embedded and Edge AI



## 6) From the unit to the ecosystem perspective (4h)



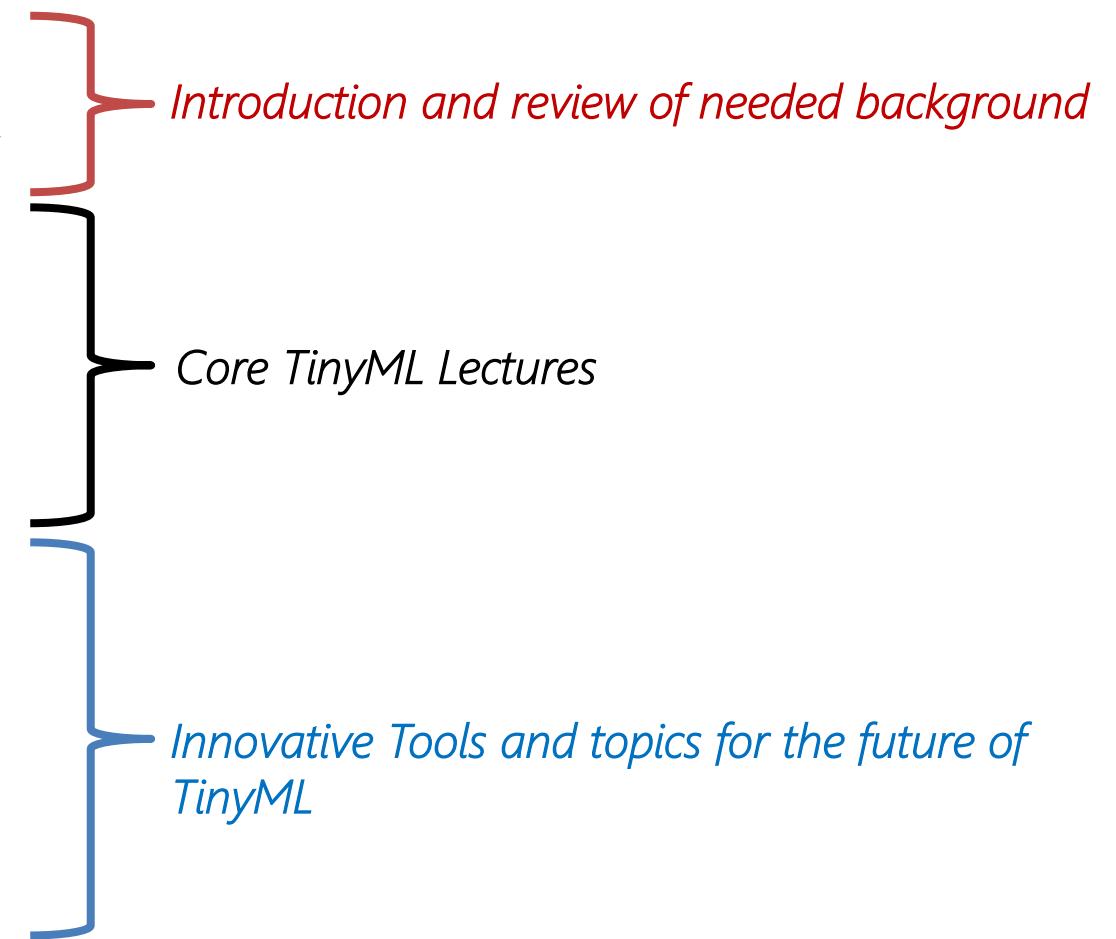
## 7) The ethical perspective (2h)



“Ethics of Design and Values: Solutions and Trade-offs in H-IoT and Beyond”  
**Prof. Viola Schiaffionati – Prof. Stefano Canali**

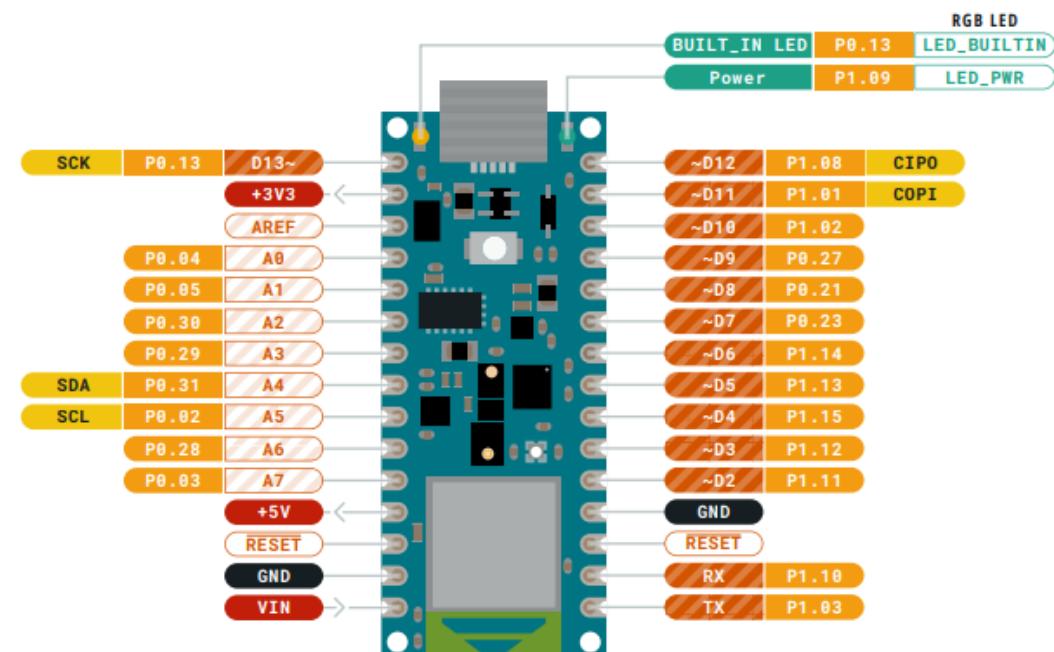
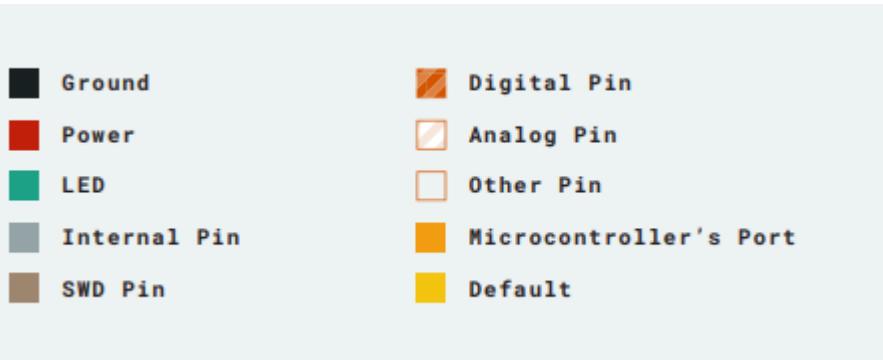
# The labs (20h)

1. Intro/review on Embedded Systems
2. Intro/review on Deep Learning with Tensorflow
3. TF lite optimizations: quantization and pruning
4. Training Keyword Spotting – Microphone
5. Deploying Keyword Spotting – Microphone
6. Training and Deploying Visual Wake Word – Camera
7. Data Collection and Engineering with Edge Impulse – Camera
8. Options for deployment: TFLM and Edge Impulse
9. Training and Deploying Anomaly detection – Accelerometer



Tools employed: Google Colab, Edge Impulse, Arduino IDE, TFLM

# TinyML kit - The Arduino Nano 33 BLE sense



# Exam

- The exam will consist in **two parts**:
  1. Written exam (16 points) comprising questions (closed/open) about the topics of the course
  2. Project (16 points):
    - Your own idea with our own hardware
    - Max 2 people
    - Delivered at the exam dates
    - Code + presentation
    - Evaluation will take into account:
      - The “market” perspective (5 points)
      - The “technological” perspective (6 points)
      - The “ethical” perspective (5 points)



# Selected projects of the course



# Challenges and opportunities

- Heterogeneity of the students backgrounds
- Fast evolution of the technology
- Keep the correct trade-off between ambition and implementability in the students' projects

- Strong connection between research activity and teaching
- The presence of a “physical” lab to carry out the projects
- Combining theory with implementation
- Strong technical aspects with ethical flavor

