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Enabling Ultra-low Power Machine Learning at the Edge

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Virtual Event



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tinyML Design for Environmental Sensing Applications

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June 7th 2021



Motivation: Environmental Sensing

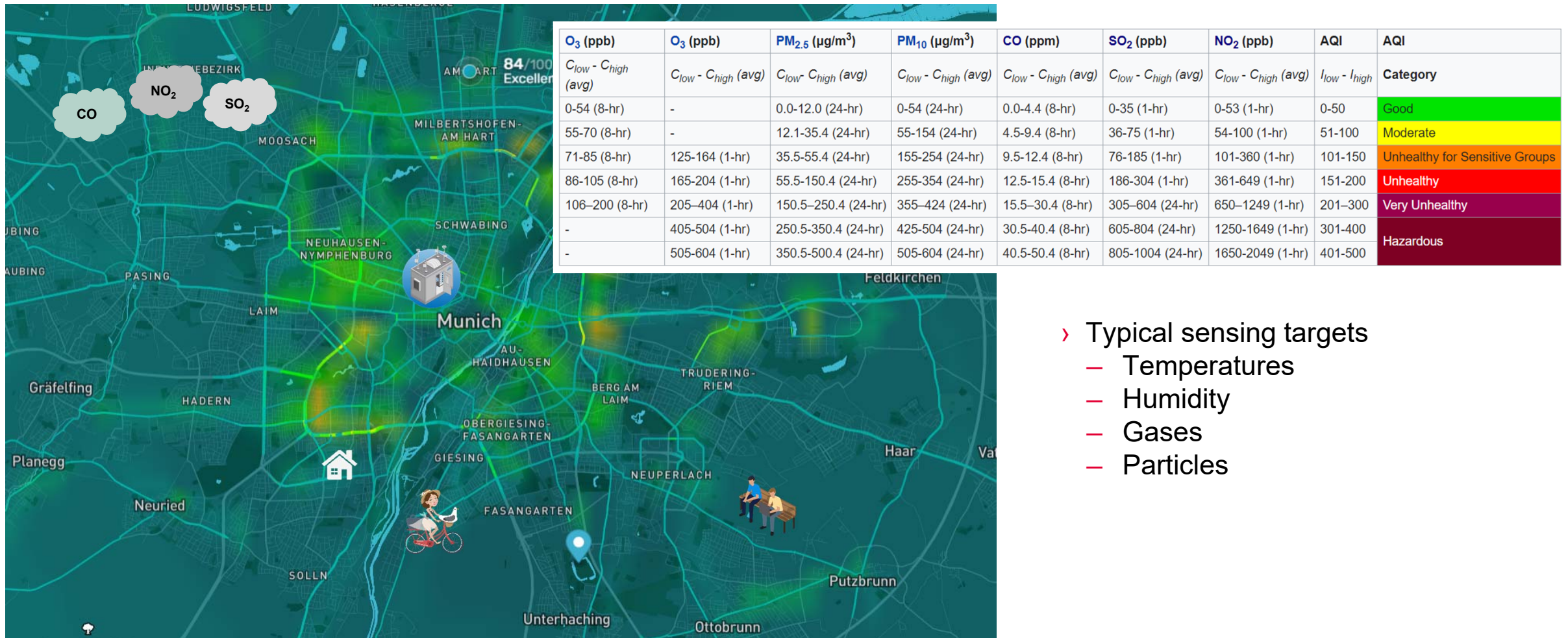


Fig 1. Air quality monitoring in everyday life [1] and the EPA (United States Environmental Protection Agency) definition of Air Quality Index(AQI) categories [2].

Low-cost Environmental Sensing Applications

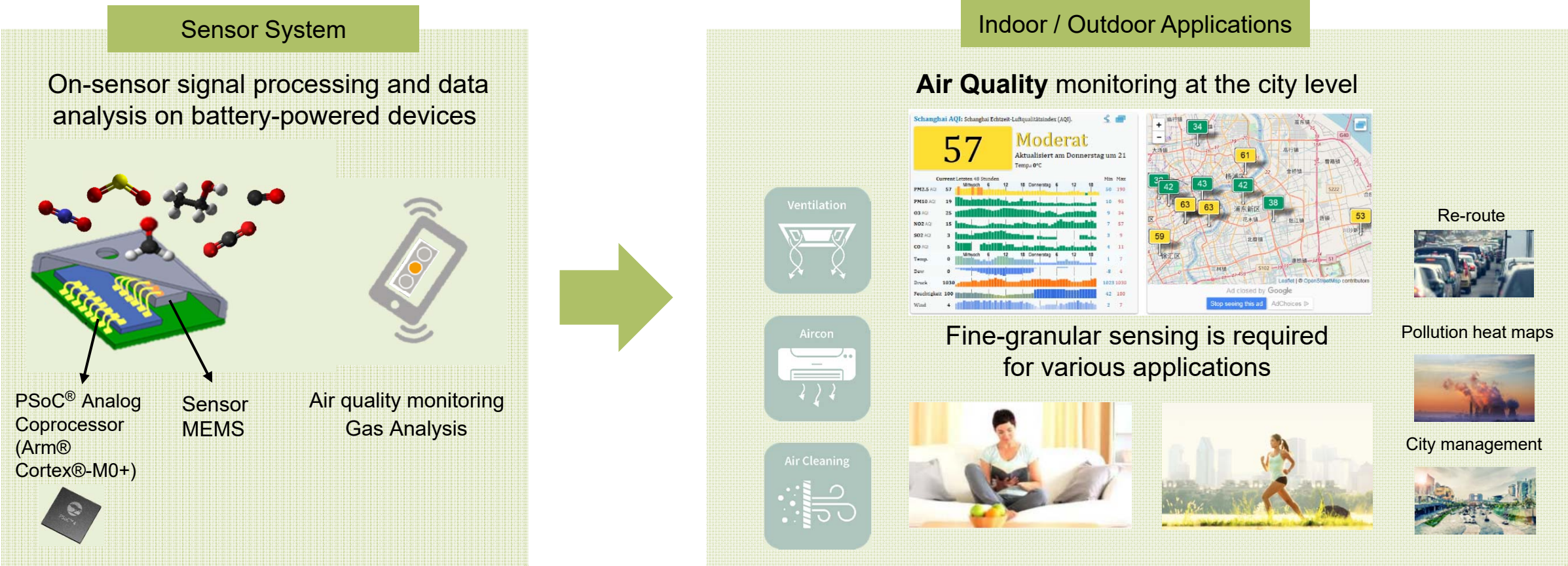
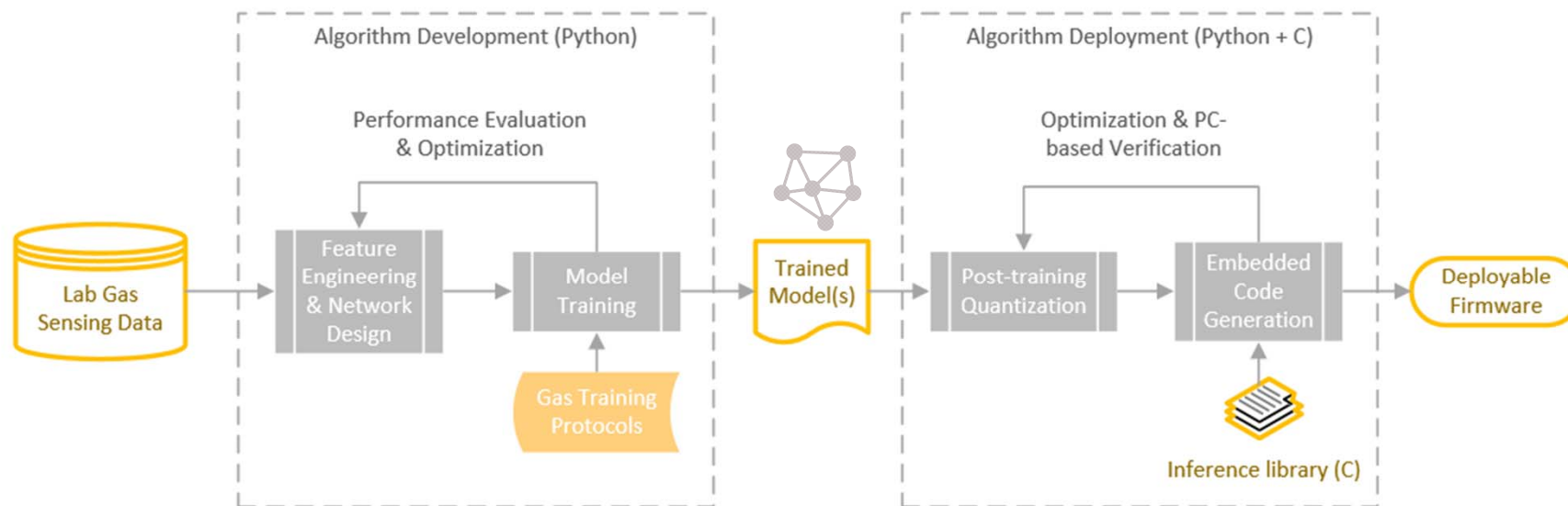


Fig 2. Low-cost sensor system does both data collection and on-sensor concentration estimation, and it can be used in various indoor and outdoor applications.

Development and Deployment of Gas Sensing Algorithms



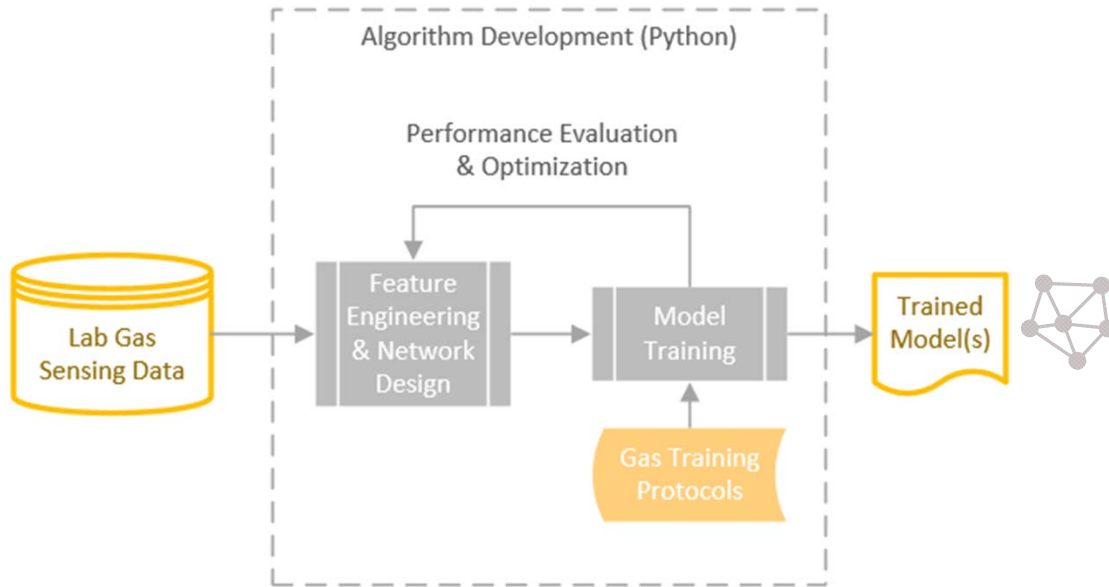
Hardware platforms:



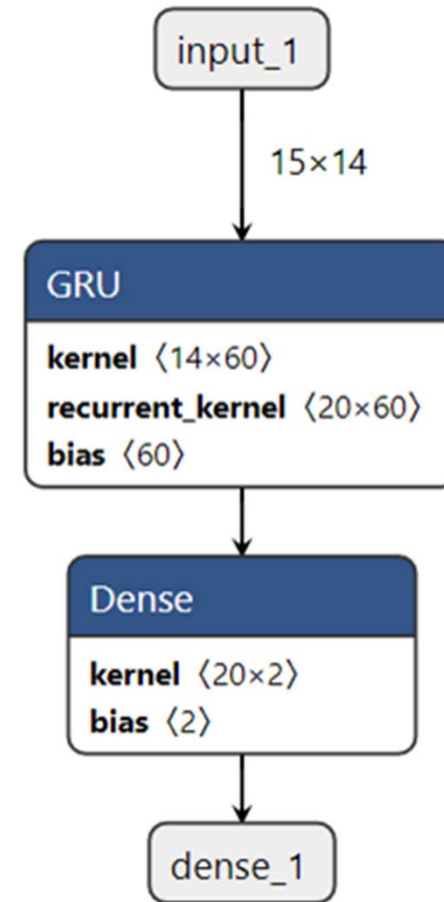
Fig 3. Development and deployment workflow of gas sensing algorithms and the corresponding hardware platforms.

Algorithm Development

Example network architecture:

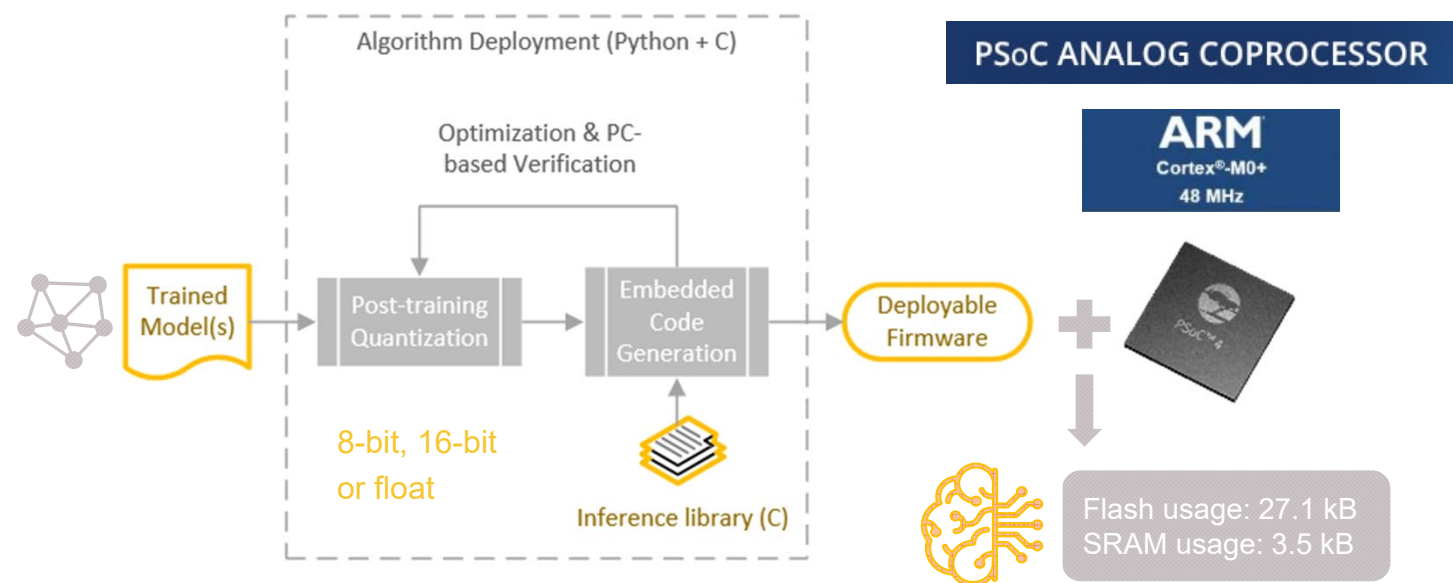


- › Data collection in the lab
 - Reason: lack of reliable reference devices in the field
 - Challenge: measurement protocol design
- › Network selection: Gated Recurrent Unit (GRU)
 - Exploits time properties while keeping the memory footprint within the budget

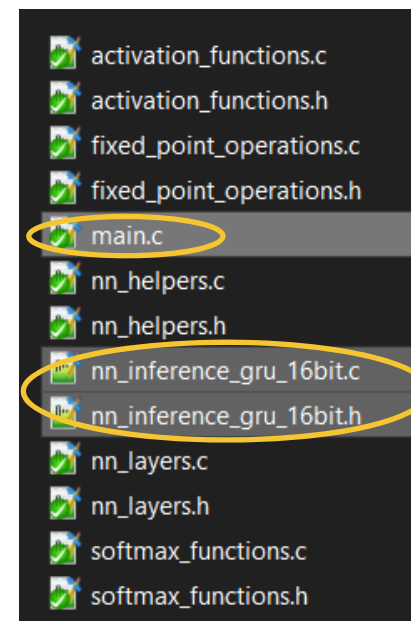


- › 14 extracted features
- › 15 time steps (5-min time series)
- › 20 hidden units
- › 2 output concentration values

Algorithm Deployment



Example Deployable Firmware:



The other files come from the inference library

Generated Files

› Deployment on an embedded device

- Cypress PSoC® analog coprocessor (ARM® Cortex®-M0+, 4 kB RAM, 32 kB flash)
 - Sensor control, signal measurement, real-time concentration estimation and communication
- Challenges
 - Extremely limited computational resource and memory footprint
 - No operation system, so the C code needs to run on bare metal

Summary

- › Low-cost and fine-granular environmental sensing devices are emerging with the rising environmental concerns worldwide
- › ML techniques allow for more accurate analysis of complex sensor behaviors
 - Specifically, a GRU can be used to analyze time series data for gas concentration estimation
- › After network quantization and code generation, we managed to deploy a gas sensing algorithm on an ARM® Cortex®-M0+ processor
- › The deployment toolchain can be reused for similar sensor applications

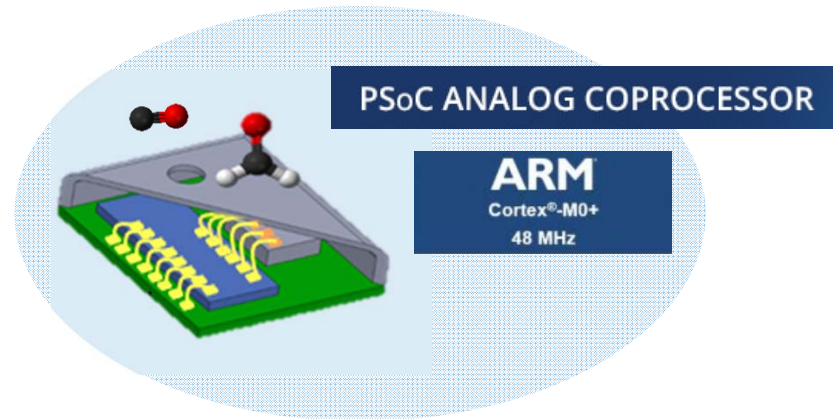


Fig 4. Example of a gas sensing system with PSoC® analog coprocessor .



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Reference

[1] The air quality heat map is taken as a screenshot from BreezoMeter website (<https://www.breezometer.com/air-quality-map/>)

[2] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Air_quality_index

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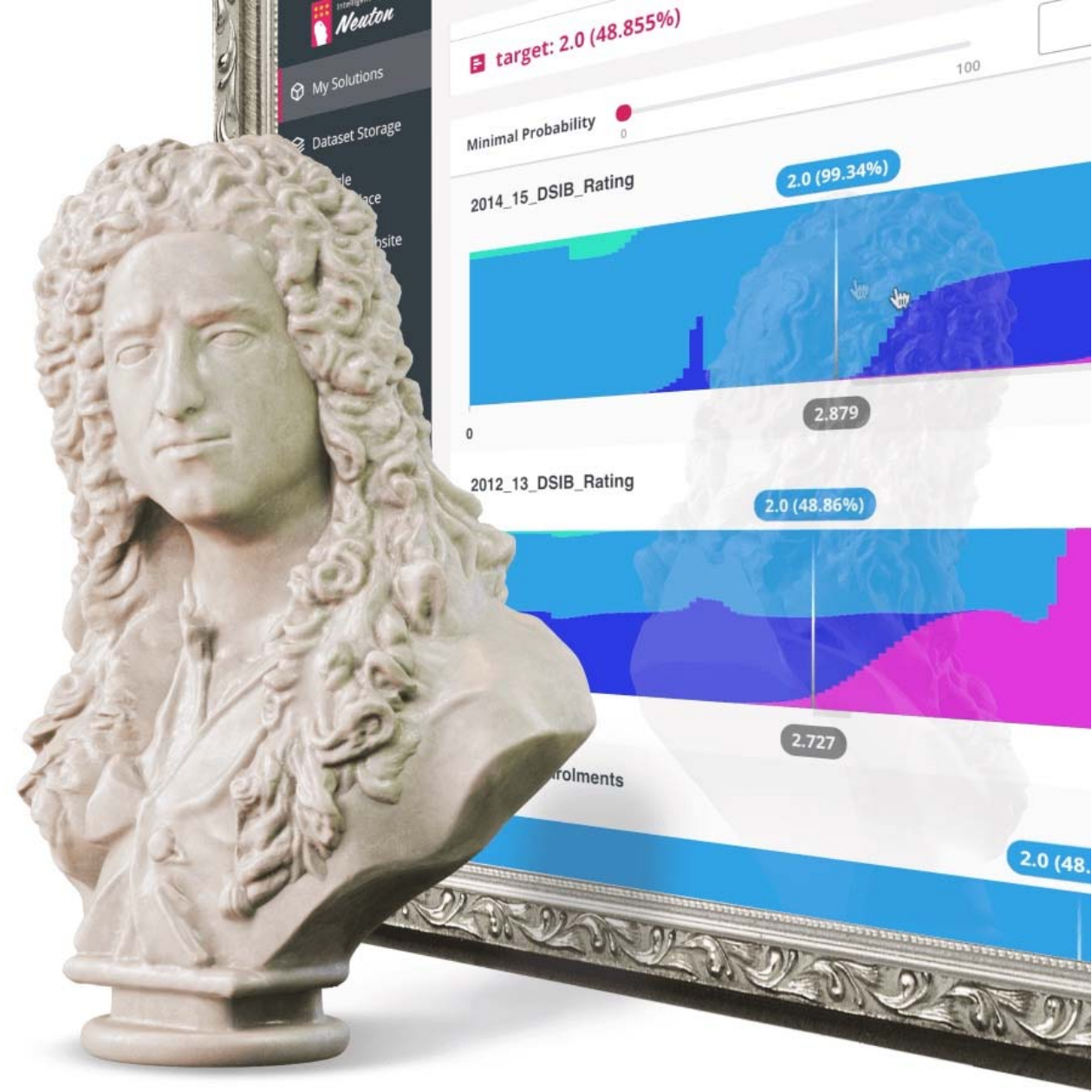
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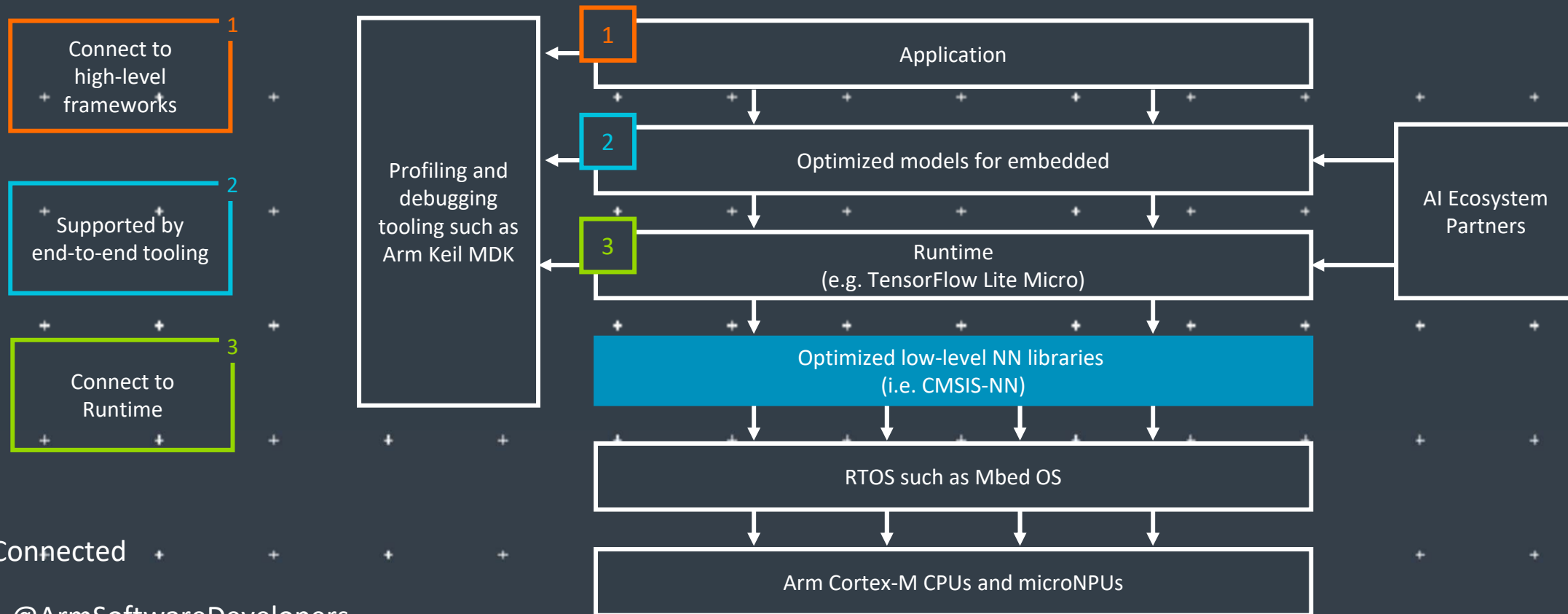
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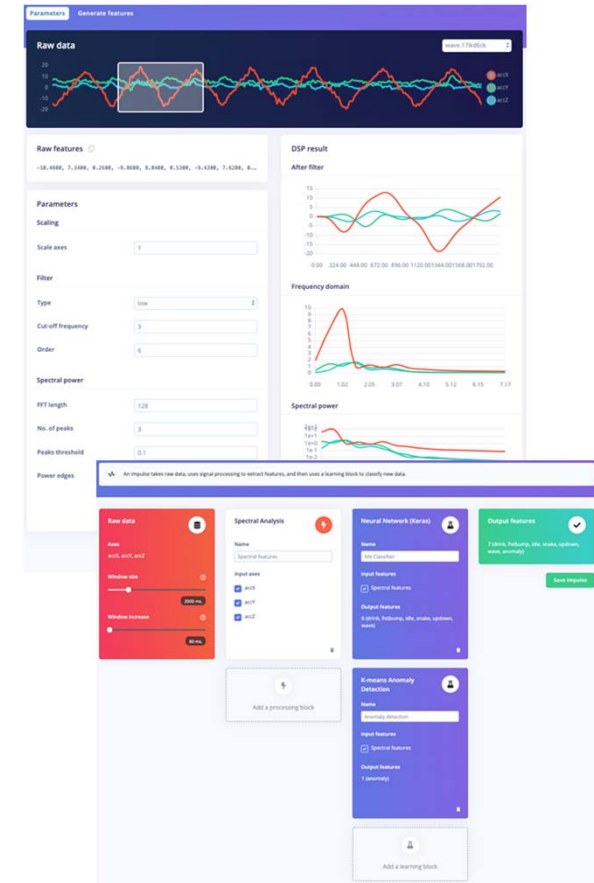
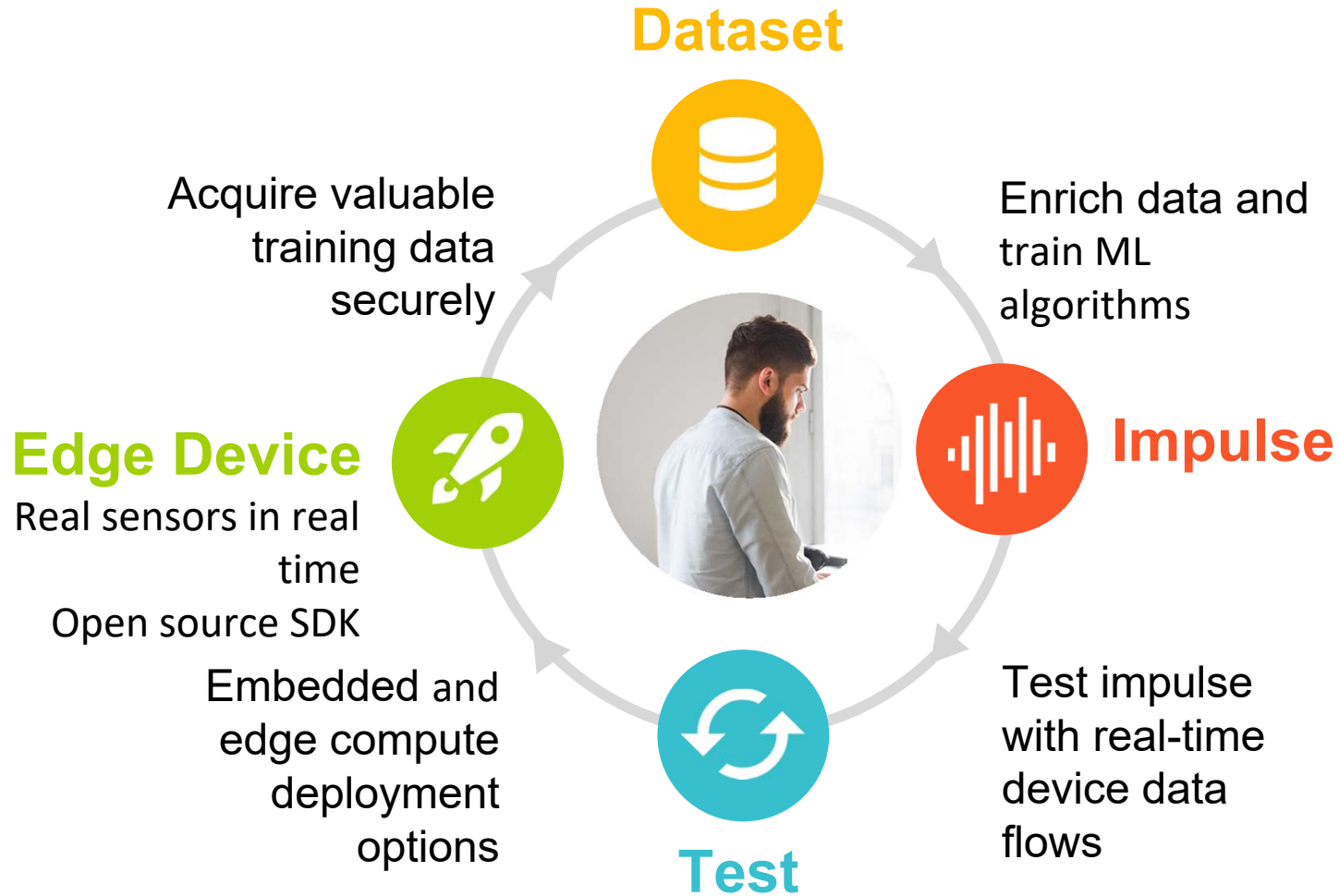
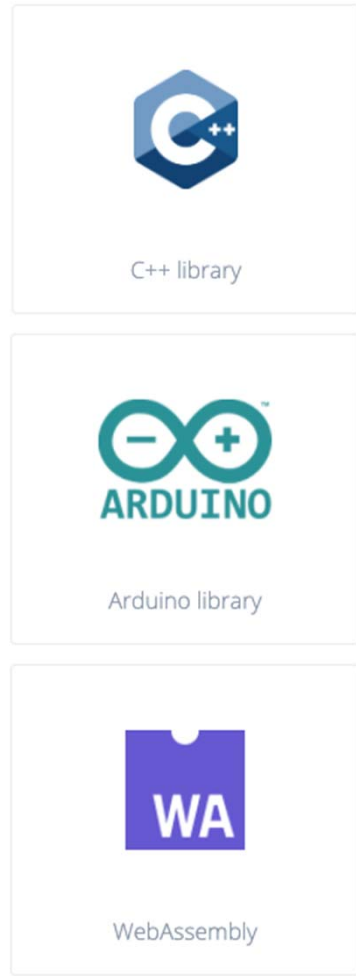
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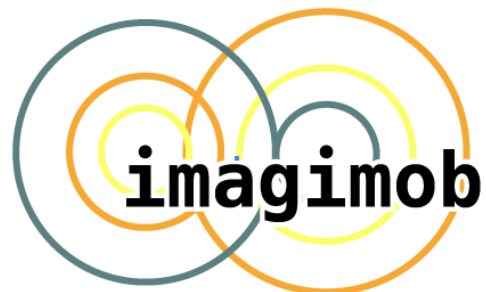
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