System Engineering Aspects of End-to-End tinyML

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Latent AI
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Latent AI – Offerings

Software to optimize AI models for low power and latency, faster time to market.

Deployment workflows for various hardware.

State of the art reference models for common tasks.

Tooling throughout ML lifecycle: from design exploration to enterprise deployment management.

White paper: https://latentai.com/unlocking-the-power-of-edge-ai/
ML Lifecycle

Design & Explore → Train & Optimize → Deploy & Manage → Upgrade & Service

I want to build cool stuff!

ML Expert Evelyn
The Journey of ML Expert Evelyn

Design & Explore

Train & Optimize

Deploy & Manage

Let’s build a new application: “Find my cat!”

Awesome! Tell me more about the requirements...

Solutions Steve (Links with customer)

Expert Evelyn
The Journey of ML Expert Evelyn

Design & Explore

Train & Optimize

Deploy & Manage

What hardware fits into my power envelope?

What model fits into my hardware?

What data do I have/need?
The Journey of ML Expert Evelyn

How do I train my model on my data?

How do I optimize my model for the hardware?
The Journey of ML Expert Evelyn

- Design & Explore
- Train & Optimize
- Deploy & Manage

How do I run my model on device?

How do I integrate into a larger system?

What about enterprise reporting?
The end of the Journey?

Design & Explore → Train & Optimize → Deploy & Manage

Solutions Steve: Awesome! I’ll start integrating and selling this!

Expert Evelyn: Here is the deployable component!
“Find my cat!” is a hit!

What about dogs? Can we add RFID? Need to recognize pet identity! Can I use cheaper HW? Let’s voice-activate our app!


How do we scale this up?
Retrospective

Early opportunistic design choices instead of holistic optimization
- “Choose model due to framework support”
- “Found nice git repo with model and training”

Evelyn needs best of breed, latest available state of the art from various ecosystems.

Evelyn must develop MxN combinations of model and optimization methods.

Evelyn needs to validate performance criteria of task vs. target HW.

Evelyn must replicate her accuracy evaluation code with the vendor API and guarantee that it's the same performance as in training phase.
How to improve?

Apply Software Engineering design principles to ML Engineering

- Compositionality and Interoperability
- Separation of concerns
- Autonomous components

“System”: thin, flexible shell of loose coupling of components
Our approach – Compositional and Modular

Data and Component Model

Hierarchical configuration system

Data
<root>.data

Visualize
<root>.visualize

Model*
<root>.model

Train*
<root>.train

Evaluate
<root>.eval

Deploy
<root>.deploy

Core Features
<root>.features
Prune, Quantize, etc.

A Component is

• Self-contained, independent
• Describes itself completely via interfaces and implied semantics
• Exposes its possible interactions with other components

*Pytorch
## System Perspective

### Hierarchical configuration system

- **Data**<br>  `<root>.data`
- **Model**<br>  `<root>.model`
- **Train**<br>  `<root>.train`
- **Visualize**<br>  `<root>.visualize`
- **Evaluate**<br>  `<root>.eval`
- **Deploy**<br>  `<root>.deploy`
- **Core Features**<br>  `<root>.features`<br>  Quantize, Prune, Adapt, etc.

### Expose two types of Interfaces:

- **“What am I?”**
  - Images, Signals, Tensors
  - Metadata, Annotations

- **“How do I interact with other components?”**
  - Augmentation
  - Transparent caching

- **“What does data represent?”**
  - Annotation is something a sample may have
  - Annotations can have confidence, geometry, timestamp, …
  - Bounding box is quadrilateral spatial geometry

- **“How can data be interpreted?”**
  - Object detections can be image labels
  - Bounding box can be weak supervision for segmentation
### System Perspective

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data</th>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Train</th>
<th>Visualize</th>
<th>Evaluate</th>
<th>Deploy</th>
<th>Features</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;root&gt;.data</td>
<td>&lt;root&gt;.model</td>
<td>&lt;root&gt;.train</td>
<td>&lt;root&gt;.visualize</td>
<td>&lt;root&gt;.eval</td>
<td>&lt;root&gt;.deploy</td>
<td>&lt;root&gt;.features</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hierarchical configuration system

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resulting system is modular and compositional</th>
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</thead>
</table>

Any component can be developed on its own.  
A system is fully described by the set of its components.

Abstractions not in the way of **going deep anywhere**.
The power of compositionality: No-code system design (only YAML/CLI configuration)

Examples

Data <root>.data = Imagenet
Visualize <root>.visualize = default

Data <root>.data = Imagenet
Model <root>.model = Resnet50
Visualize <root>.visualize = default

Data <root>.data = Imagenet
Model <root>.model = Resnet50
Train <root>.train = default

Data <root>.data = MSCOCO
Model <root>.model = Yolo v5 - tiny
Train <root>.train = default
The power of compositionality: No-code system design (only YAML/CLI configuration)

- **Data**
  - root.data = MSCOCO
  - root.data = PASCAL/cat

- **Model**
  - root.model = Yolo | SSD | EffDet

- **Train**
  - root.train = default

= Combine data, train and sweep multiple object detector families

- **Data**
  - root.data = MSCOCO

- **Model**
  - root.model = Yolo v5 - tiny

- **Train**
  - root.train = default

= Train a quantized object detector for RPi, evaluate compiled artifact via mAP on host and target

- **Core Feature**
  - root.features = [quantize]

- **Evaluate**
  - root.eval = default | target

- **Deploy**
  - root.deploy = Raspberry_PI4B
How does it help Evelyn to scale?

**Faster time to market**: Can quickly design and sweep new variations and evaluate end to end (data to device).

**Simplified ML CICD**: Individual components or whole system, don’t need expert on end-to-end pipeline.

**Simplifies ML Dev**: Improve parts without needing to understand whole pipeline: Separate Data, Model, Deploy teams.

**Simplifies ML Ops**: Reproducible processes, end-to-end tracking of data and model provenance.

**Trusted results**: Guaranteed same evaluation on host and target HW (preprocessing, postprocessing, protocol)

**Best practices** built-in or interoperable: distributed, mixed precision, fault tolerance, experiment tracking, etc.
Thank You

Contact us at
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Please fill out a tinyML survey


Latent AI is conducting a short survey to better understand how engineers and developers make design choices for their tiny ML systems. We will share survey results with those that participate.