

IoT for Agriculture

Mazen A. R. Saghir

Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

American University of Beirut

We are in the midst of a technological revolution!



1784: The steam engine changes everything

□ Steam ships

Railroads

Mechanical weaving looms



1859: Oil and electrification change everything

Automobiles
Electric light bulb
Telephones and telegraphs







1945: The first digital computer is built using vacuum tubes

1948: The silicon transistor changes everything

Digital computers

Data networks

□ Information and communication technologies







1965: Moore's Law
1972: The microprocessor
1982: The personal computer (PC)





Happy 30th Birthday



World Wide Web!

1989: The World Wide Web is invented
2007: The Apple iPhone is introduced
2010: We work and play on "The Cloud"

What Happens In An Internet Minute In 2019?



Rise of inexpensive hardware platforms

- 2003: Arduino becomes first open-source hardware/software platform for hobbyists and nonengineers.
- □ 2012: *Raspberry Pi* becomes first \$35 Linux-based SBC
- Open-source Arduino design leads to development of expansion module "shields" that provide sensor, actuation, and communication functionality.



Internet of Things (IoT) (c. 2010)

□ Rich sensors and actuators +

- □ Inexpensive computational platforms +
- Maturing wired/wireless communication standards (e.g. WiFi, Bluetooth/BLE, LoRA) =
- Ability to monitor and/or control everyday objects (things) over the Internet.



Parrot Flower Power

Monitor the health of your plant from your smart phone.
 Customize to the needs of your plant species.











Cyber-physical systems: IoT + AI/ML

IoT = precision agriculture + farming

Data
 Analytics + AI/ML
 Resource management
 Production + yield

Detecting disease + monitoring crops







Precise delivery of herbicides + pesticides

Autonomous Tractors Are Here

Monitoring livestock + optimizing production







Precise irrigation





Remote sensing + AI/ML





Water cycle + evapotranspiration (ET)



Calculate ET from satellite images

Use ML model to estimate ET on cloudy days, or when satellite data is missing.

Great potential for applying IoT+AI/ML to agriculture in our region.

Thank you!