



# Pervasive AI

**(Continual) Learning in Distributed and Heterogeneous Systems**

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# Fundamentals of Pervasive AI

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**“Predicting and  
learning continually,  
into the wild”**

# Outline

- Scenario and motivation
  - Tutorial Organization
  - Learning efficiently with streaming data
  - Applications & ongoing activities
-

# Scenario & Motivation

## An Hyper-connected world in the near future



A near future in which 5G/6G networks have been globally deployed, in which the day-to-day activities of society depends on billions of connected devices having low-latency connectivity.

Applications are accessed mostly from mobile devices that rely on a pervasive computing environment

# Pervasive computing environment as an enabler



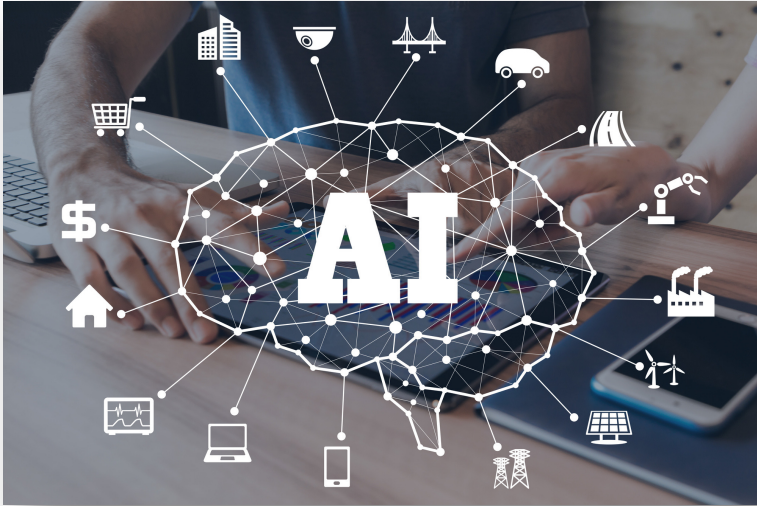
## Reverse the paradigm

- FROM: move the data to the data center
- TO: move the data center to the data

## Effects

- reduced latency
- larger bandwidth
- (potentially) more control on data

# Artificial Intelligence as a transformative phenomenon



- Enabling the delivery of advanced, personalized and automated services
- Facilitating, simplifying and speeding-up human-machine interaction
- Applications with a cyber-physical nature

But also.. AI for networks, computing and data infrastructures

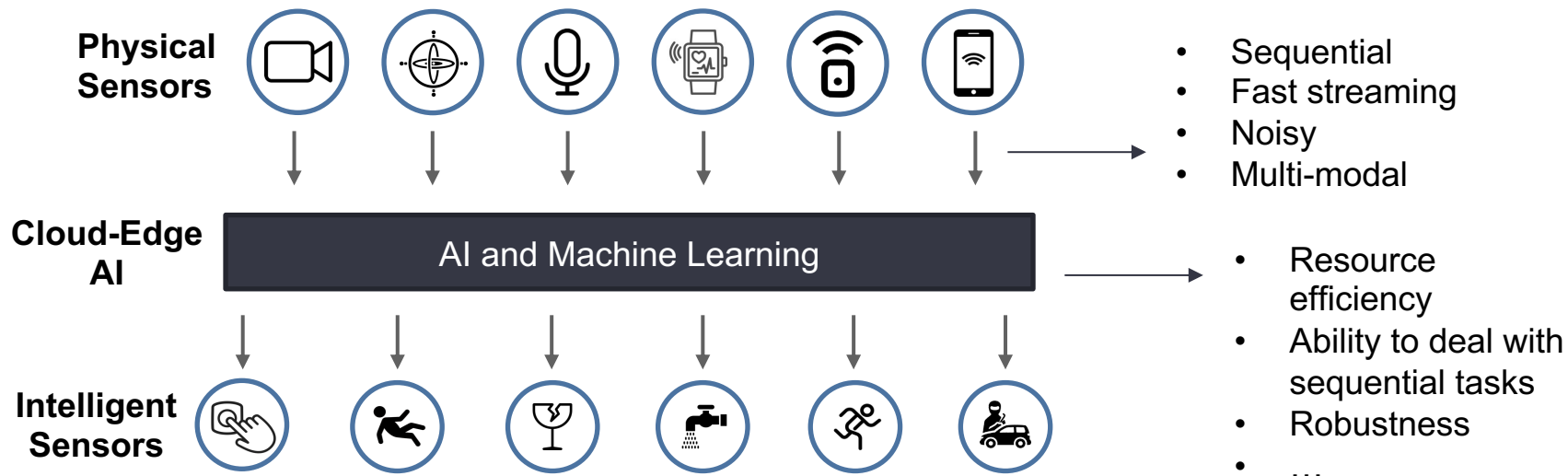


# **Pervasive Computing + Artificial Intelligence**

Calls for multi-disciplinary skills and putting  
different scientific communities in contact

# A Prototypical Pervasive AI Application

Systems integrating real and virtual AI-based sensors for monitoring of environments, vehicles, things, animals, people

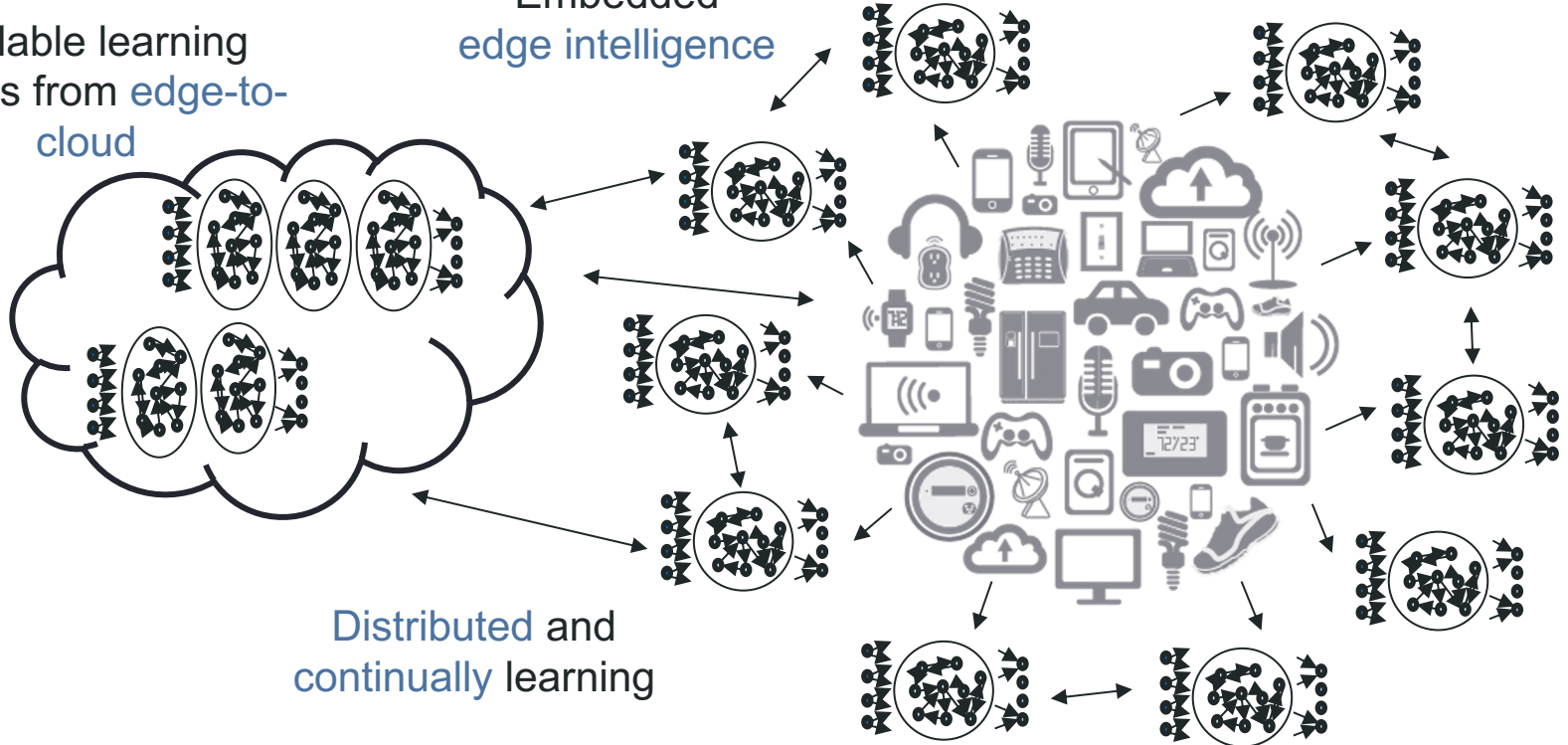


# The Pervasive AI Scenario

Scalable learning  
models from **edge-to-  
cloud**

Embedded  
**edge intelligence**

**Distributed and  
continually learning**



## Pervasive AI – Recipe for success



### Desiderata for the learning machinery

- Can handle timeseries (recurrent NNs)
- Efficient on fast-streaming data
- Allows embedding (**edge**)
  - Hardware friendly
- Can scale (**cloud**)
  - Communication friendly
- Simple to train continually
- Facilitate distributed training

**Safe, dependable, secure, private and interpretable**

# Tutorial Organization (and Organizers)

## Tutorial Outline (I)

- **Module 1 – Fundamentals (Davide Bacciu)**
  - Pervasive AI: scenario & motivations
  - Learning with streaming data
  - Reservoir computing fundamentals
- **Module 2 – Distributed and federated learning solutions and infrastructures (Patrizio Dazzi)**
  - Limits of ML on single-machine
  - Distributed, federated and fully-decentralized learning
  - Library time: FedRay

## Tutorial Outline (II)

- **Module 3 – Pervasive AI with randomized models (Claudio Gallicchio)**
  - Advanced reservoir computing architectures
  - Training reservoir computing models: online, unsupervised, federated
  - Neuromorphic computing, learning beyond backpropagation
- **Module 4 - Continual Learning (Antonio Carta)**
  - Fundamentals of continual learning
  - Continual learning for embedded systems
  - Distributed continual learning
  - Library time: Avalanche

## Tutorial Reference Page

<http://pai.di.unipi.it/tutorial-on-continual-learning-in-distributed-and-heterogeneous-systems/>





## Tutorial Organizers



**Davide Bacciu** ([davide.bacciu@unipi.it](mailto:davide.bacciu@unipi.it))

- Associate Professor: deep and generative learning, learning for graphs, continual learning, distributed and embedded learning
- Coordinator of 2 EU project on pervasive AI
- Chair on IEEE NN technical committee and VP of Italian Association for AI



**Antonio Carta** ([antonio.cart@unipi.it](mailto:antonio.cart@unipi.it))

- Assistant Professor: continual learning and recurrent NNs
- Lead maintainer of the Avalanche continual learning library

## Tutorial Organizers



### **Patrizio Dazzi** ([patrizio.dazzi@unipi.it](mailto:patrizio.dazzi@unipi.it))

- Assistant Professor: cloud computing, edge computing, federated learning
- Coordinator of 2 EU project on intelligent placement and management of cloud applications



### **Claudio Gallicchio** ([claudio.gallicchio@unipi.it](mailto:claudio.gallicchio@unipi.it))

- Assistant Professor: reservoir computing, neuromorphic computing, learning for graphs, distributed and embedded neural networks
- Founder of the IEEE task forces on Reservoir Computing and on Randomization-Based Neural Networks and Learning Systems

# PAILab – The Pervasive AI Laboratory @ Pisa, Italy



Joint initiative by Dipartimento di Informatica @ UNIPI and Istituto Scienza e Tecnologia dell'Informazione @ CNR

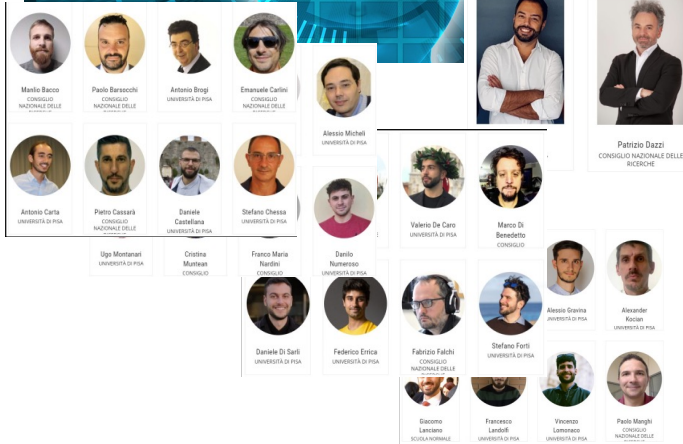
(www) [pai.di.unipi.it](http://pai.di.unipi.it) (email) [pai-info@isti.cnr.it](mailto:pai-info@isti.cnr.it)

## Features

- ~50 members
- Coordinating 3 EU Projects and 1 KA; participation in 2 H2020 projects and 3 industrial projects
- >15M Euro secured grants

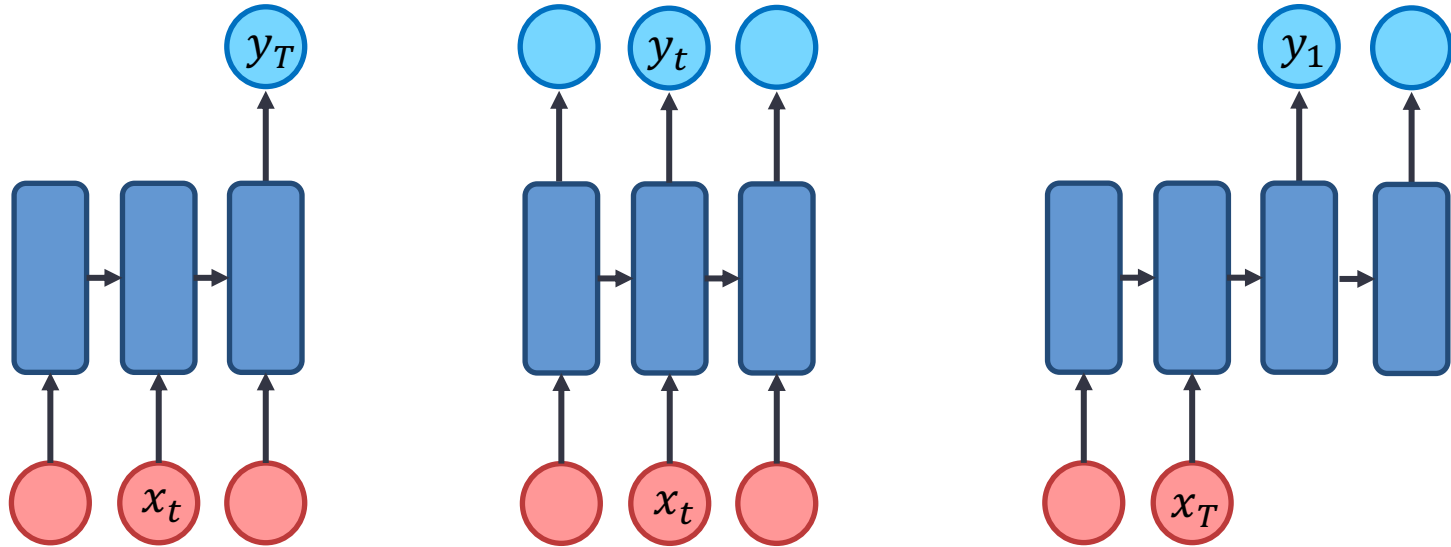
## Focus

- AI as a ubiquitous component in ICT systems
- Design communication and computing systems to support pervasive AI

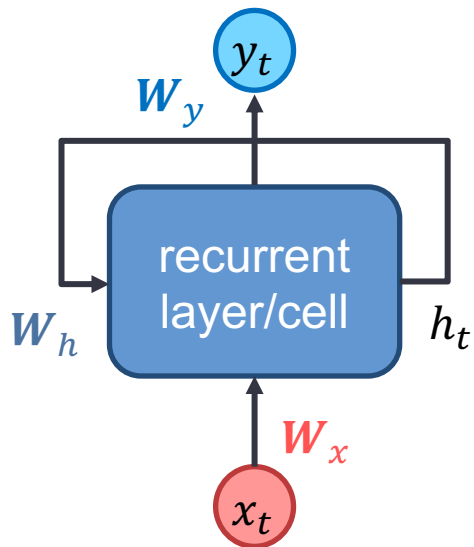


Learning (efficiently)  
with streaming data

# Pervasive AI => Sequential Data Processing



# Recurrent Neural Networks



State update:

$$h(t) = \tanh(x(t)W_x + h(t-1)W_h)$$

Annotations for the state update equation:

- $h(t)$ : state
- $x(t)$ : input
- $W_x$ : input weight matrix
- $h(t-1)$ : previous state
- $W_h$ : recurrent weight matrix

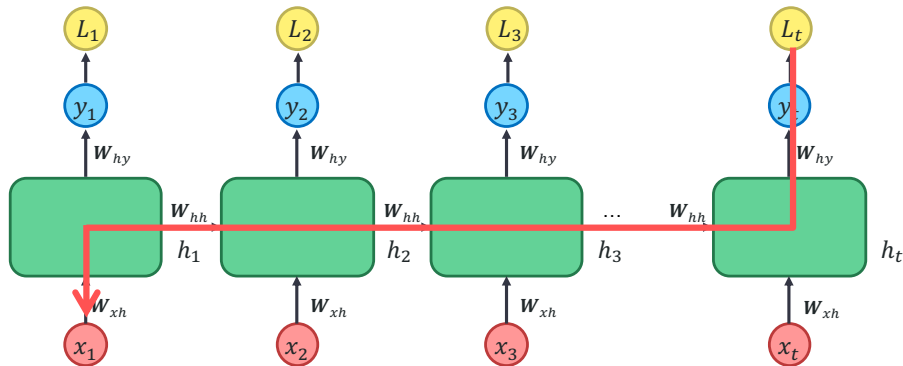
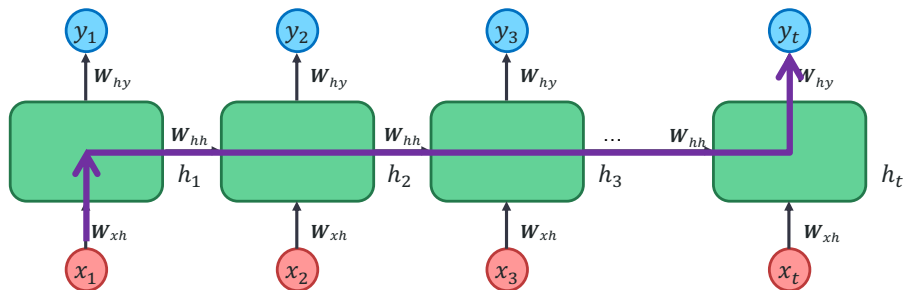
Output function:

$$y(t) = h(t)W_y$$

Annotations for the output function equation:

- $y(t)$ : output
- $h(t)$ : state
- $W_y$ : output weight matrix

# Propagation Issues



## Fading/Exploding memory

- the influence of inputs far in the past vanishes/explodes in the current state
- many (non-linear) transformations

## Gradient Propagation

- gradient might vanish/explode through many non-linear transformations
- difficult to train on long-term dependencies

# How to tackle propagation issues?

## Gated Recurrent Networks

- LSTM/GRU models achieved tremendous success over the years
- This comes at very high cost in terms of
  - Time
  - Parameters
  - Complex training strategies
  - Articulated parameter coupling (due to feedback)





“Backpropagation through time as  
a way of learning sequences is  
especially implausible”



Hinton, Geoffrey. "The forward-forward algorithm: Some preliminary investigations."

*arXiv preprint arXiv:2212.13345(2022).*

# Deep Neural Networks

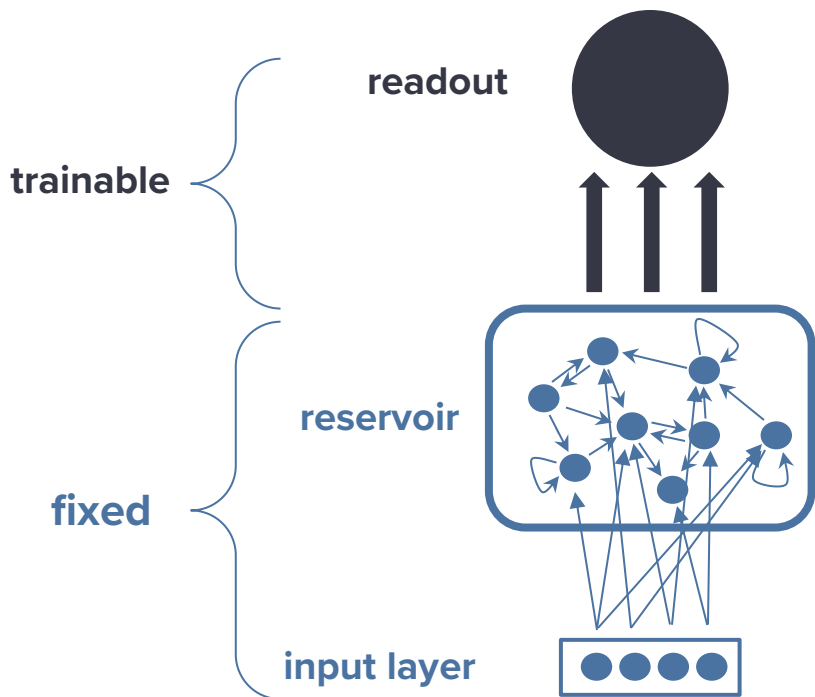
Powerful representations by applying multiple non-linear levels of transformation

Deep Learning = Architectural Biases + Learning Algorithms

## Randomization = Efficiency

- Training algorithms are cheaper and simpler
- Model transfer: do not need to transmit all the weights
- Amenable to efficient embedded and neuromorphic implementations

# Reservoir Computing: focus on the dynamical system



$$\mathbf{h}(t) = \tanh(\mathbf{x}(t)\underline{W_x} + \mathbf{h}(t-1)\underline{W_h})$$

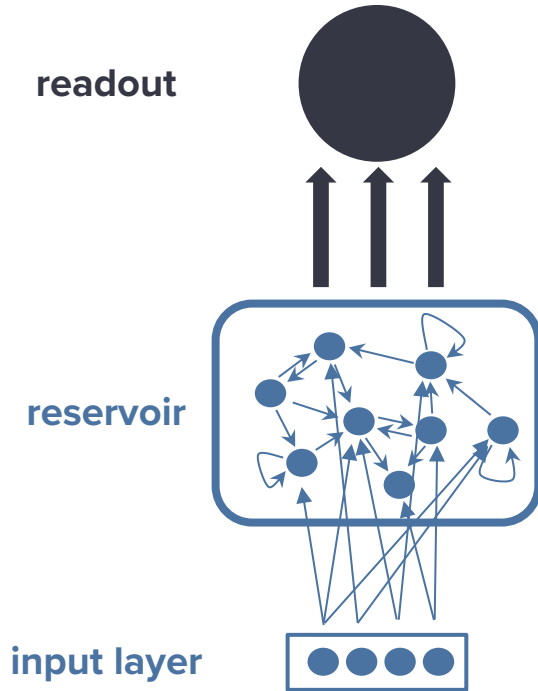
The terms  $\underline{W_x}$  and  $\underline{W_h}$  in the equation are underlined and labeled as "randomized" in blue text above the equation.

Randomly initialized under stability conditions on the dynamical system

Stable dynamics => Echo State Property

Verstraeten, David, et al. *Neural networks* 20.3 (2007).  
Lukoševičius, Mantas, and Herbert Jaeger. *Computer Science Review* 3.3 (2009).

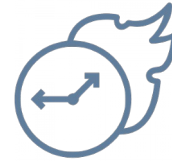
# Echo State Networks (ESNs)



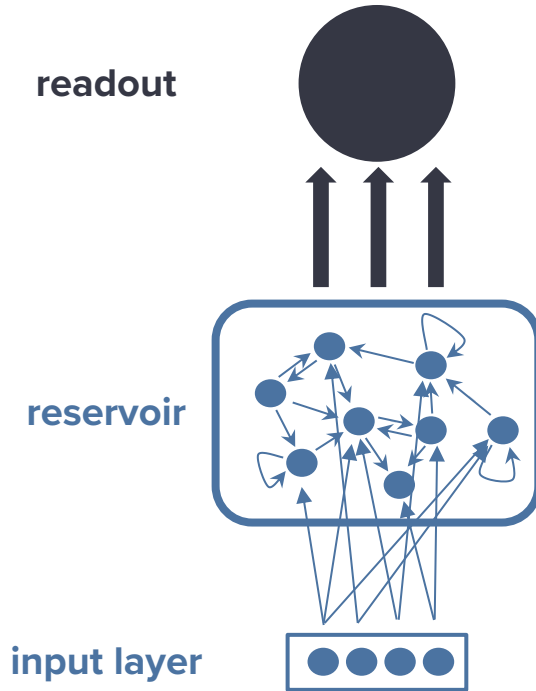
## Reservoir

$$\mathbf{h}(t) = \tanh(\mathbf{x}(t)W_x + \mathbf{h}(t-1)W_h)$$

- large layer of recurrent units
- sparsely connected
- randomly initialized (ESP)
- untrained



# Echo State Networks (ESNs)



## Readout

$$\mathbf{y}(t) = \mathbf{h}(t)\mathbf{W}_y$$

- linear combination of the reservoir state variables
- can be trained in closed form

# ESN Property – In Practice

## Initialization of $\mathbf{W}_h$ :

1. Generate a random matrix  $\mathbf{W}_r$ , whose elements are drawn e.g. from a uniform distribution on  $[-1,1]$
2. Scale by the desired **spectral radius**

$$\mathbf{W}_h \leftarrow \mathbf{W}_r \frac{\rho_{desired}}{\rho(\mathbf{W}_r)}$$

- Note that now  $\rho(\mathbf{W}_h) = \rho_{desired}$  (choose a value  $< 1$ )
- The **spectral radius** is a key hyper-parameter of the reservoir

## Training the readout (offline)

$$\mathbf{H} = \begin{bmatrix} | & & | \\ \mathbf{h}(1) & \dots & \mathbf{h}(T) \\ | & & | \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathbf{D} = \begin{bmatrix} | & & | \\ \mathbf{d}(1) & \dots & \mathbf{d}(T) \\ | & & | \end{bmatrix}$$

- Closed form solution of the least squares problem by direct methods

$$\min_{\mathbf{W}_y} \|\mathbf{W}_y \mathbf{H} - \mathbf{D}\|_2^2$$

- Moore-Penrose pseudo-inversion

$$\mathbf{W}_y = \mathbf{D} \mathbf{H}^+ = \mathbf{D} \mathbf{H}^T (\mathbf{H} \mathbf{H}^T)^{-1}$$

- Ridge-regression

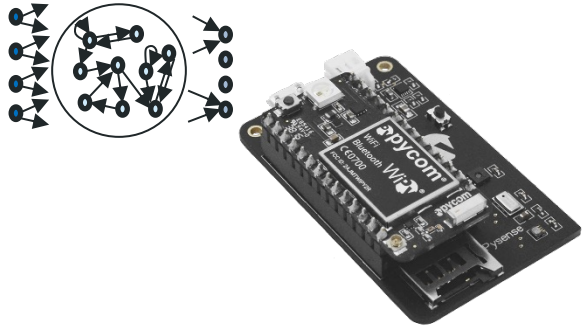
$$\mathbf{W}_y = \mathbf{D} \mathbf{H}^T (\mathbf{H} \mathbf{H}^T + \lambda \mathbf{I})^{-1}$$

**Later on, you will see more opportunities offered by the reservoir-type architecture in a pervasive context**



# Applications & Ongoing Activities

# Intelligent Sensors



Neural learning in 8Kb  
of memory +  
deployment over-the-  
air



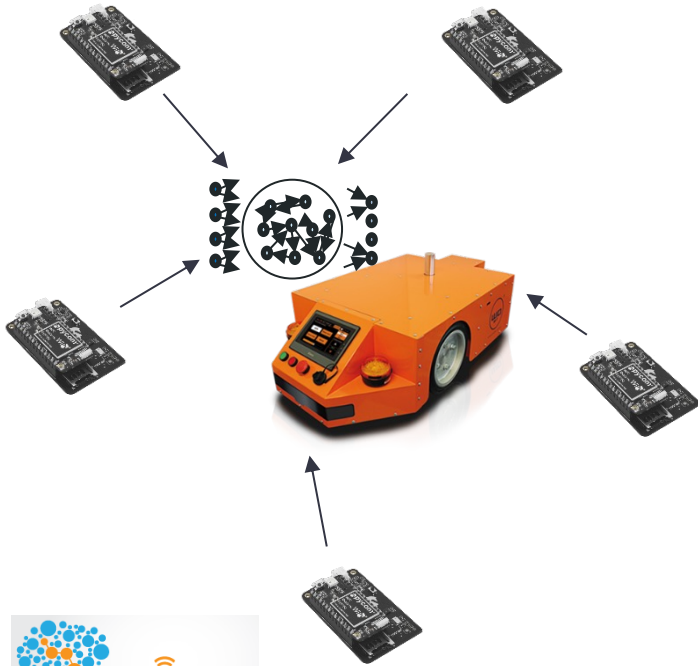
Automating diagnosis  
(from 30mins to  
10sec)

Transform device  
function through  
intelligence

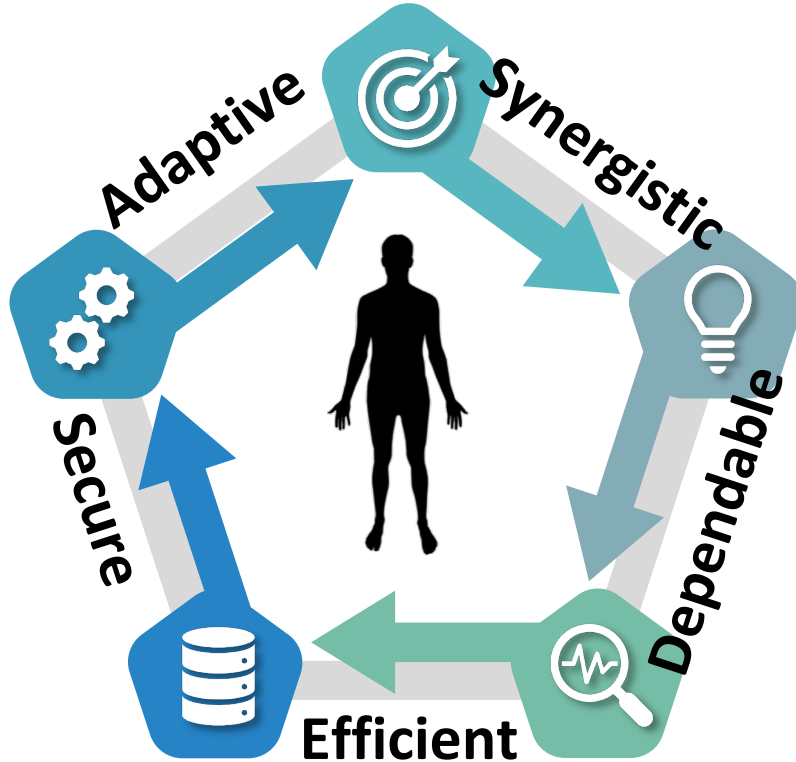


# Hybrid Sensor-Robotic Systems

Localizing a trolley robot in hospitals by wireless sensors



# Human-in-the-loop in Pervasive AI

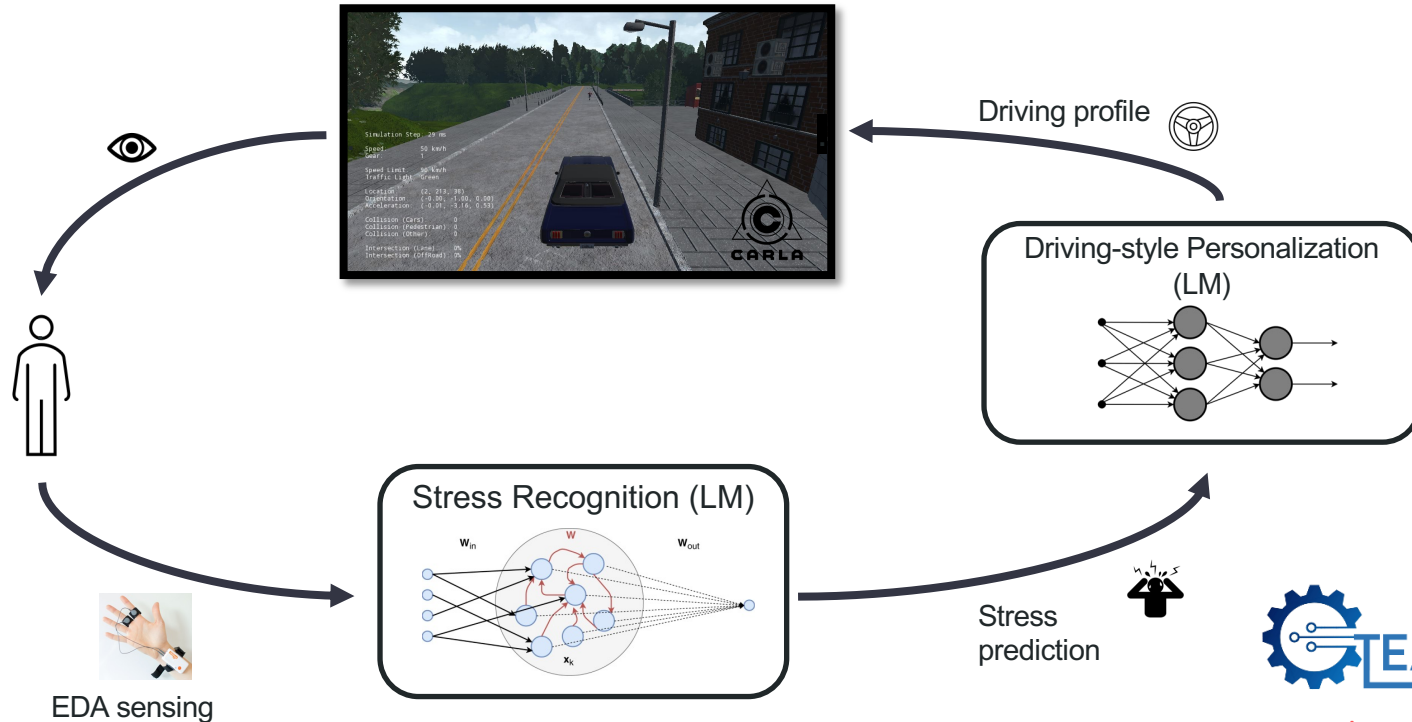


A human-centric perspective on autonomous CPSoS applications

Paradigmatic shift needing support at computing and system level



# CPSoS Applications with human-in-the-loop

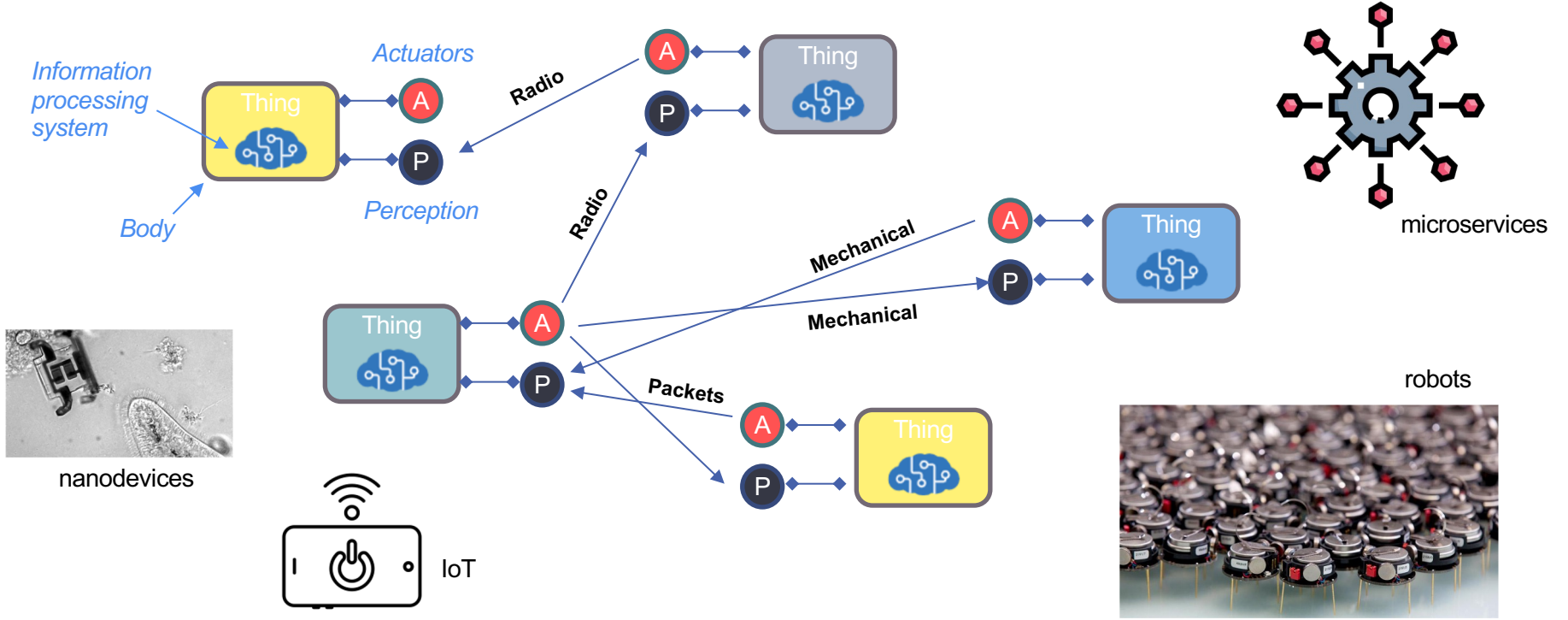


# Facilitating Human-Centric Distributed AI

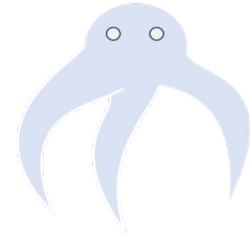
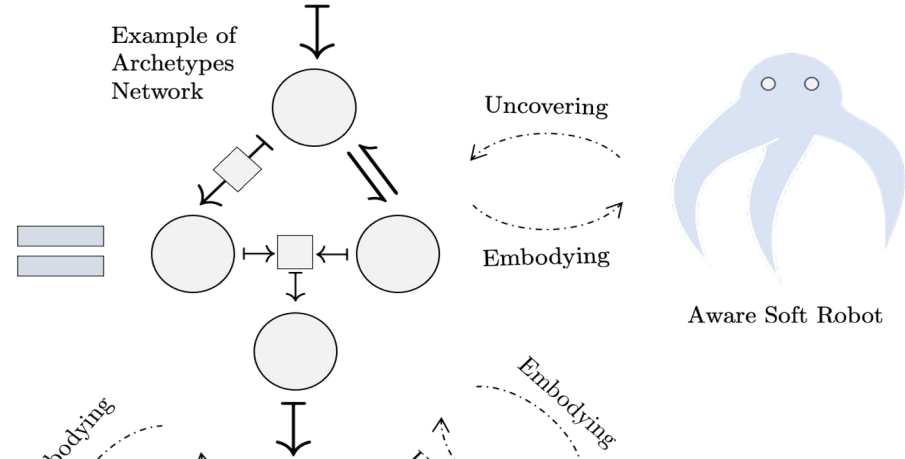
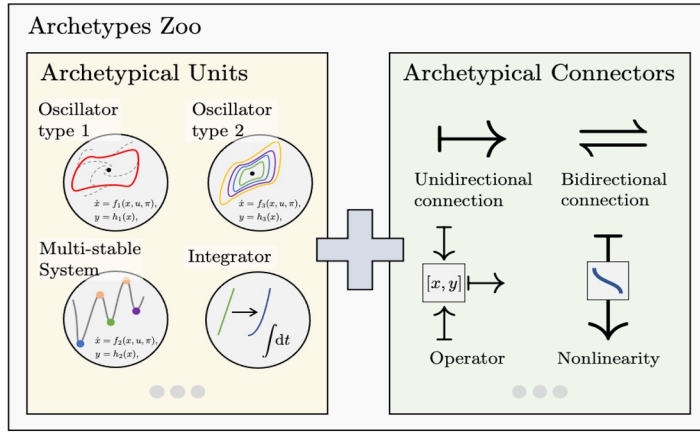
Primitives to mine human-reactions and leverage them for continual application adaptation



## EIC-EMERGE – A World of Simple Interacting Elements

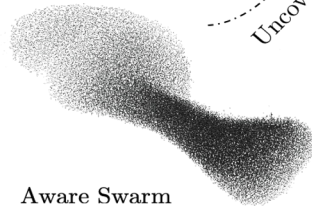
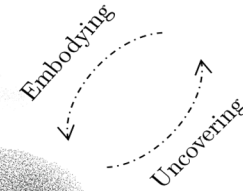


## (Neural & Physical) Computing with Dynamical Systems

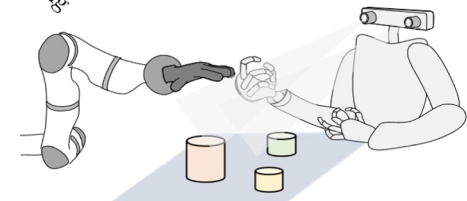
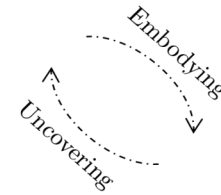


Aware Soft Robot

**Archetype Computing System** engine to run dynamical systems enriched with **lifelong and evolutionary learning**



Aware Swarm



Aware Robots



# EMERGE

Emergent awareness from  
minimal collectives



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DA VINCI LABS



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[eic-emerge.eu](http://eic-emerge.eu)



[@eic\\_emerge](https://twitter.com/eic_emerge)



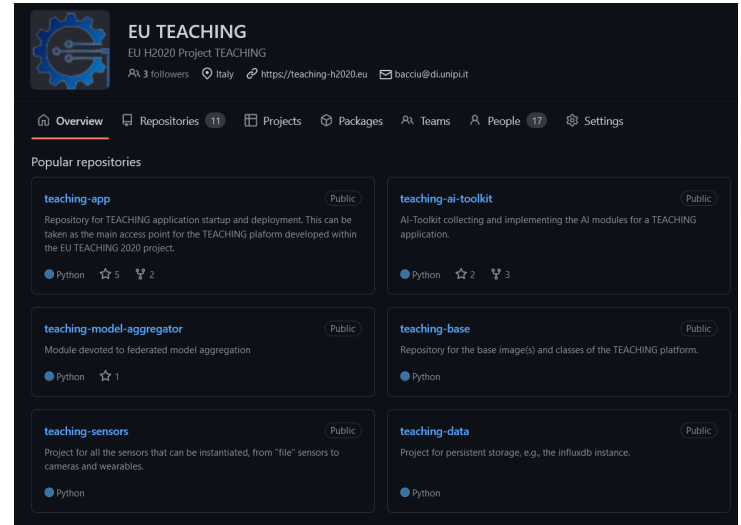
[company/eic-emerge](https://www.linkedin.com/company/eic-emerge)



[@eic\\_emerge](https://www.instagram.com/eic_emerge)

# TEACHING Toolkit for Pervasive AI

- Facilitates development and execution of distributed AI apps
- Micro-service based architecture
- Data stream acceleration (multi-core, GPU, FPGA)
- Ready-made implementation of reservoir computing models for distribution over a network of devices (cloud-edge)



<https://github.com/EU-TEACHING/>



## FedRay - An R&D-oriented framework for Federated Learning

High-level programming support for

- Building federated learning nodes
- Seamless topology-aware communication among nodes
- Instantiating federated learning processes with arbitrary topologies
- Implementations of federated reservoir computing algorithms
- Leverages Ray to ease multiprocessing and scalability on clusters

```
@fedray.remote
class IncFedClient(FedRayNode):

    def build(self, dataset, seq_length: int, batch_size: int, **kwargs) -> None:
        self.device = 'cuda'
        self.dataset = dataset
        self.loader = DataLoader(dataset)

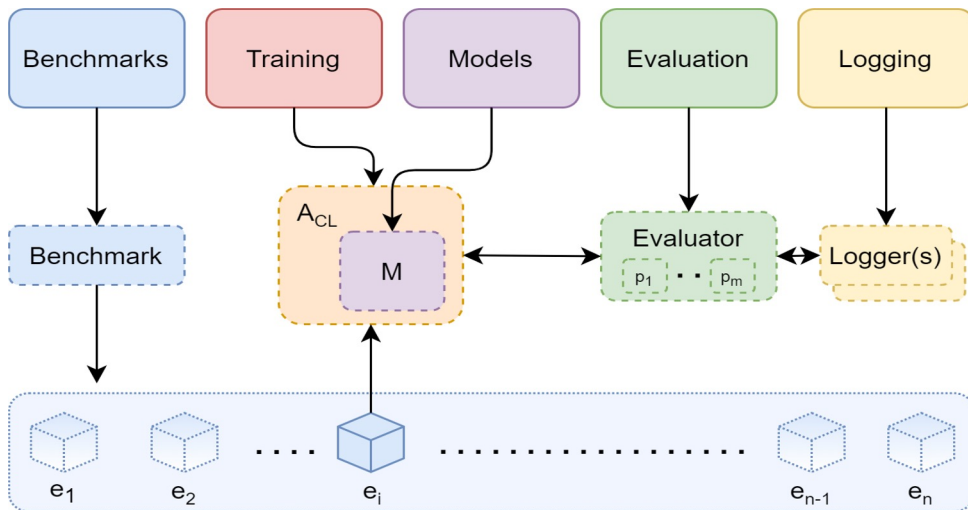
    def run(self):
        reservoir: Reservoir = self.receive().body['model']
        A, B = compute_ridge_matrices(self.loader, reservoir)
        self.send('ridge_matrices', {'A': A, 'B': B})
        readout = solve_ab_decomposition(A, B)
```

<https://github.com/vdecaro/fedray/>

# Avalanche: an End-to-End Library for Continual Learning

- Developed and supported by ContinualAI
- >1.1k stars on GitHub
- Tutorial & lectures
- Ready-made strategies and your own recipes

```
strategy = Replay(model, optimizer,
                  criterion, mem_size)
for train_exp in scenario.train_stream:
    strategy.train(train_exp)
strategy.eval(scenario.test_stream)
```



<https://avalanche.continualai.org>

# Conclusions

## Conclusions

- Pervasive computing as a blue-print for smart-X
- Artificial intelligence pervasively permeating ICT applications
- Pervasive AI needs a convergence of communities
  - Codesign of AI methods and Computing system
- Focus on social and environmental sustainability

# WHICH DIRECTIONS IN AI?



RESERVOIR  
COMPUTING AND  
LEARNING WITH  
ADAPTIVE  
DYNAMICAL  
SYSTEMS



NEUROMORPHIC  
HARDWARE



CONTINUAL/LIFELONG  
LEARNING



LEARNING FROM  
EXPERIENCES  
RATHER THAN  
FROM DATA  
ALONE

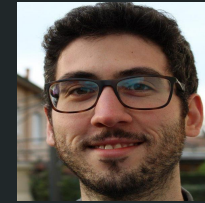


SAFE AND  
DEPENDABLE AI

# Acknowledgements



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