Chapter 16
Advanced Machine Learning Innovations in Embedded Systems and Narrowband Internet of Things (NB-IoT) Devices

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ABSTRACT

This chapter explores the convergence of machine learning (ML) and embedded systems in the context of Narrowband Internet of Things (NB-IoT) devices. It highlights the latest innovations that enable real-time data processing, decision-making, and predictive analytics on resource-constrained devices. The chapter delves into key ML techniques such as federated learning, edge AI, and lightweight neural networks that are transforming the capabilities of embedded systems and NB-IoT. Additionally, it discusses the challenges of implementing ML models in low-power environments and the strategies to overcome these limitations, including model compression, hardware accelerators, and efficient algorithms. Through case studies and practical applications, the chapter demonstrates how these advancements are driving the deployment of intelligent IoT solutions across various industries, including smart cities, healthcare,

DOI: 10.4018/979-8-3693-7112-1.ch016

and industrial automation, paving the way for more autonomous, efficient, and scalable IoT ecosystems.

INTRODUCTION

The rapid advancement of the Internet of Things (IoT) has revolutionized various industries, leading to the widespread adoption of connected devices that collect, transmit, and analyze data. Among the key technologies driving this revolution are embedded systems and Narrowband Internet of Things (NB-IoT) devices. Embedded systems are specialized computing systems that are designed to perform dedicated functions, often within larger systems, with strict constraints on power consumption, processing speed, and memory. NB-IoT, on the other hand, is a low-power wide-area network (LPWAN) technology that facilitates communication between IoT devices over long distances while consuming minimal power. Together, these technologies enable the deployment of a vast array of IoT applications, from smart cities and healthcare to industrial automation and environmental monitoring (Liu et al., 2019).

The integration of machine learning (ML) into embedded systems and NB-IoT devices represents a significant milestone in the evolution of IoT. Machine learning, a subset of artificial intelligence (AI), allows systems to learn from data, identify patterns, and make decisions with minimal human intervention. Traditionally, ML models required substantial computational resources and were primarily deployed on powerful servers or cloud infrastructures. However, recent advancements in ML algorithms, hardware, and software have made it possible to bring these capabilities to the edge—directly to the embedded systems and NB-IoT devices themselves. This shift towards edge intelligence has profound implications for IoT, enabling real-time data processing, reducing latency, enhancing privacy, and improving the overall efficiency of IoT networks (Jiang, Deng, Nallanathan, et al., 2019).

One of the primary drivers of this shift is the increasing demand for real-time, autonomous decision-making in IoT applications. In smart cities, for instance, embedded systems equipped with ML algorithms can analyze data from various sensors to optimize traffic flow, reduce energy consumption, and improve public safety. Similarly, in healthcare, NB-IoT devices can monitor patients' vital signs in real-time, detect anomalies, and alert medical professionals without the need for continuous data transmission to centralized servers. These applications require the ability to process data locally, at the edge of the network, which is made possible by integrating ML into embedded systems and NB-IoT devices (Jiang, Deng, Simeone, et al., 2019).

However, implementing ML in these resource-constrained environments presents several challenges. Embedded systems and NB-IoT devices are often limited in terms of computational power, memory, and energy resources. Running complex ML models on these devices can quickly drain battery life, overwhelm processors, and exceed memory capacities. Moreover, the need for real-time processing adds another layer of complexity, as ML algorithms must be optimized for speed and efficiency without compromising accuracy. Security and privacy are also critical concerns, particularly when dealing with sensitive data in healthcare or industrial settings. Ensuring that ML models are robust, secure, and capable of operating within the constraints of embedded systems and NB-IoT devices is a major focus of current research and development efforts (Nauman et al., 2021).

To address these challenges, several innovative approaches have emerged. Techniques such as model compression, which reduces the size of ML models without significantly impacting performance, and hardware accelerators, which enhance the processing capabilities of embedded systems, are being increasingly adopted. Edge AI, which refers to the deployment of AI algorithms directly on devices at the