

Chapter 22

Utilization of Advanced IoT and High-Performance Computing for Enhanced Agricultural Systems


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ABSTRACT

This chapter emphasizes the potential transformational role of combining advanced IoT solutions with HPC for farming in the direction of productive and sustainable agriculture. With growing demands for data-driven agriculture as well as efficient farming, tens of thousands of IoT-enabled devices in the form of sensors and drones collect real-time data about the condition of the soil, crops, or weather and resource usage. High-performance computing is used to rapidly analyze and compute data for accurate decision-making and predictive analytics in crop management, pest control, and resource optimization. HPC enables farmers to use machine learning and AI models to predict yields, detect diseases early, and automate irrigation and fertilization schedules, promoting sustainable agriculture. The chapter explores the potential of IoT and HPC in precision agriculture, highlighting their potential to reduce reliance on unhealthy, abused, or exhausted croplands, aligning with global food security goals.

DOI: 10.4018/979-8-3693-7112-1.ch022

INTRODUCTION

The agricultural industry is utilizing innovative technologies to improve precision, efficiency, and sustainability, aiming to maximize yields while minimizing environmental impacts as the global population grows. This chapter focuses on the integration of IoT solutions with HPC which intends to address these crucial challenges by deploying high-performance computational resources to facilitate a novel approach to modern-day farming—an approach that combines data-driven decision-making processes with cutting-edge computational power (Guillén et al., 2021).

This book explores IoT-based precision agriculture, focusing on smart tools that enable real-time monitoring of key metrics such as soil moisture, nutrient levels, crop health, weather patterns, and pest activity. Distributed sensors and IoT-enabled devices allow fields, or farms more broadly, to collect many data points that could not otherwise be observed feasibly by hand. After all, these sensors can be set to run continuously, monitoring variables at all hours important to optimize crop yields and reduce waste. In addition to this, drones carrying high-resolution cameras and specialized sensors provide valuable data collection related to crop health and growth pattern observations that cannot be captured from the ground. In turn, this data is transmitted through cloud-based or on-premises platforms for handling high-performance computing to process and analyze it near real-time (Perakis et al., 2020).

An integrated approach to IoT involves high-performance computing for processing and analyzing large amounts of data generated by IoT devices. Traditional computing can easily get overwhelmed with large and complex data sets where common in agricultural environments, such as climate and environmental data spread over multiple seasons or years. HPC, on the other hand, is built to crunch huge amounts of data at tremendous speeds, which easily makes algorithms and models easy to apply in predicting yield outcomes, optimum planting schedules, detection of anomalies in crop health, and forecast infestation by pests. Advanced machine learning and AI models characterized by deep learning, pattern recognition, and predictive analytics can also be deployed using its computational power (X. Zhang et al., 2020). They allow for the interpretation of historical and actual-time data that may be impossible to achieve or else with pure human analysis, allowing for proactive decision-making that may otherwise be unavailable.

IoT and HPC can significantly transform agriculture by improving resource management. In ordinary farming, the available resources such as water, fertilizer, and pesticides tend to be applied homogeneously, resulting in wasting and increased environmental pollution. IoT sensors allow farmers to identify certain spots in their fields that need more or fewer resources in relation to what was applied. This forms the basis for variable rate technology (VRT). VRT allows injecting specific amounts of water, nutrients, or pesticides exactly where it is needed and thus significantly saves waste and environmental effects (Liu et al., 2019). This approach, combined with HPC, goes even further and looks into the optimal number of times, amounts, and application methods that happen to be improving the utilization of resources and that crops get exactly what they need to thrive.

IoT and HPC also significantly help in pest and disease management— a long-standing problem for agriculture worldwide. The sooner the detection of pests and diseases occurs, the better it stands to check their impact on crop health and yield. IoT sensors capable of monitoring stress, humidity, and temperature in plants, combined with drone-based imaging, would help farmers detect some early signs of infestations due to pests or disease outbreaks. High-performance computing can analyze this data quite often combined with historical data and weather forecasts to predict likely spread and impact caused by those threats. Using predictive modeling, a farmer will introduce the right interventions before infestation

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