Mitigating Heat Stress in Dairy Cattle using a Physiological Sensing-Behavior Analysis-Microclimate Control Loop

USDA ASSE

2025 CPS PI Meeting

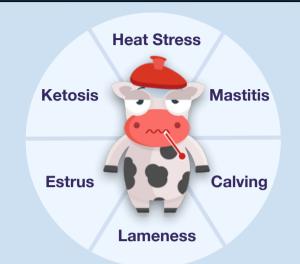
Pls: Younghyun Kim, Christopher Choi, Sabrina Brounts, and Jennifer Van Os Purdue University, University of Wisconsin–Madison

MOTIVATION

Precision livestock farming enhances productivity, animal welfare, and environmental sustainability

Multimodal and synchronized datasets are necessary for more accurate and efficient machine learning models

There is a lack of synchronized multimodal datasets for precision livestock farming



Common diseases & health issues

DATA COLLECTION

Nine synchronized modalities of MmCows



The sensor suite

1. Custom neck-mount tag:

- An ultra-wideband module (UWB) that keeps track of the location
- An inertia and magnetic measurement unit (IMMU) for measuring the head direction
- A pressure sensor that measures the elevation of the cow's neck

2. Ankle sensor:

 An accelerometer attached to the cow's leg to record its lying behavior

3. Vaginal temperature sensor:

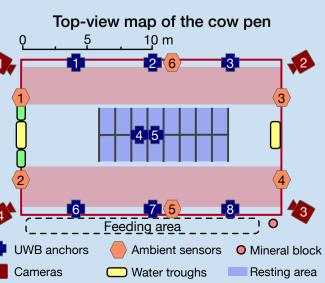
A temperature sensor to measure the core body temperature

4. Other sensors:

• Isometric-view cameras, microclimate sensors, outdoor weathers, and records

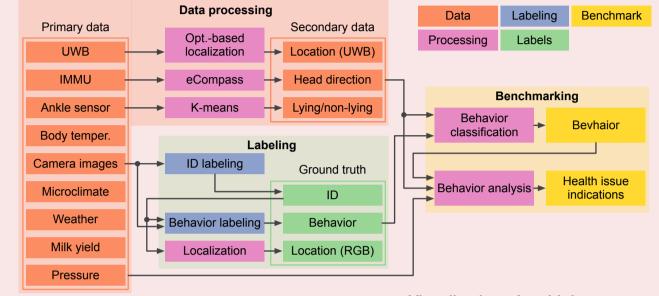
The sensor suite were deployed during 14 days at UW-Madison's Arlington Agricultural Research Station





DATA PROCESSING

Data Processing Pipeline of MmCows



Data processing:

 Extracting meaningful data: 3D neck location, 3D head direction, and lying behavior

Cow identification ground truth (gt):

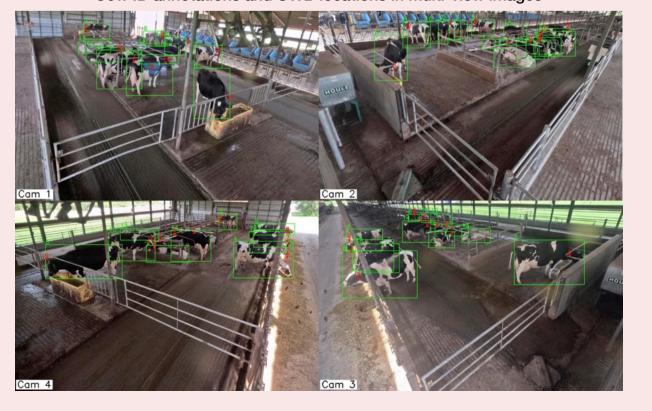
- Annotated 20,000 images from July 25th with 213,000 bounding boxes of 16 cows
- Utilized to derive 3D body location gt

Behavior ground truth:

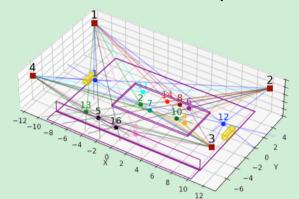
 Fine-grained interval of walking, standing, feeding head up, feeding head up/down, drinking, licking, and lying behaviors

Visualization of multiple modalities in 3D view of the pen Anchor Water trough 38.50–38.75 Camera CBT > 39.00 38.25–38.50 Cow standing 38.75–39.00 CBT < 38.25

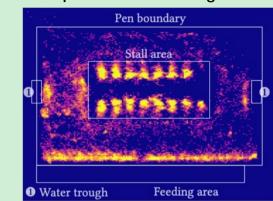
Cow ID annotations and UWB locations in multi-view images



Visual localization for multiple cows



Heat map of visual location ground truth



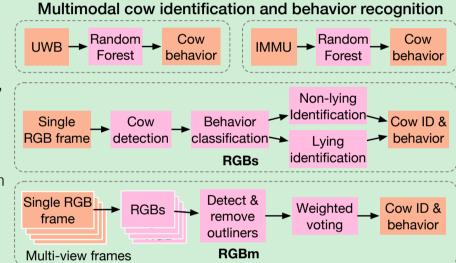
BENCHMARKS

Behavior monitoring using single modality and their combinations:

- Single modality: UWB, IMMU, RGBs
- Combinations:
 UWB+HD,
 UWB+HD+Akl, RGBm

Split settings:

 Temporal split (TS) & object-wise split (OS)



Performance comparison of behavior classification using different modalities

	Modality	Set- ting	F1 score ↑							
			Walking	Standing	Feeding↑	Feeding↓	Licking	Drinking	Lying	Average
	UWB	os	.078±.027	.855±.023	.704±.077	.834±.049	.884 ±.054	.644±.112	.953±.017	.707±.051
		TS	$\textbf{.}103 \scriptstyle{\pm .040}$	$\pmb{.860} {\pm .041}$.738 ±.026	$\pmb{.835} {\pm .029}$	$\textbf{.868} {\pm}.066$	$\textbf{.656} {\pm .059}$	$\textbf{.961} \pm .008$	$\textbf{.717} {\pm}.038$
	IMMU	OS	$\textbf{.000} {\pm}.000$	$\boldsymbol{.065} {\pm .127}$	$.067 {\scriptstyle \pm .084}$	$\pmb{.098} \pm .135$	$.000 {\pm} .000$	$\textbf{.000} {\pm}.000$	$.700 {\scriptstyle \pm .760}$	$\textbf{.}133 \pm .060$
		TS	$.000 {\pm} .000$	$.052 \pm .053$	$\textbf{.000} {\pm}.000$	$.051 {\scriptstyle \pm .048}$	$.000 {\pm} .000$	$\textbf{.000} {\pm}.000$	$\boldsymbol{.742} {\scriptstyle \pm .126}$	$\pmb{.141} \pm .038$
	RGBs	TS	.143 ±.036	$.814 \scriptstyle{\pm .048}$	$.634 \pm .063$	$.715 \scriptstyle{\pm .051}$	$\pmb{.484} {\pm .193}$.409±.116	$\textbf{.681} \scriptstyle{\pm .032}$	$\textbf{.554} {\pm .077}$
	UWB+HD	os	.032±.030	.908±.015	.731±.059	.843±.046	.812±.154	.645±.136	.980±.006	.707±.064
		TS	$.074 \pm .036$	$.917 \scriptstyle{\pm .022}$	$.766 \pm .030$	$.853 {\scriptstyle \pm .026}$	$\pmb{.863} {\pm .057}$	$\textbf{.699} {\pm .049}$	$\textbf{.986} {\pm .003}$	$.737 \scriptstyle{\pm .032}$
	UWB+HD+Akl	OS	$.048 \scriptstyle{\pm .040}$	$\textbf{.937} {\pm .014}$	$\boldsymbol{.730} {\scriptstyle \pm .057}$	$.842 \scriptstyle{\pm .044}$	$\pmb{.800} {\pm .183}$	$\pmb{.643} \pm .132$	$\pmb{.996} {\pm .001}$	$\boldsymbol{.714} {\scriptstyle \pm .067}$
		TS	$.055 {\pm} .026$.938 ±.014	.768 ±.032	$\pmb{.854} {\pm .023}$	$\textbf{.863} {\pm}.060$	$\textbf{.684} \scriptstyle{\pm .041}$	$.997 \pm .001$	$\textbf{.737} {\pm}.028$
	RGBm	TS	.127 ±.053	.815±.030	$.741 \scriptstyle \pm .044$	$\textbf{.805} {\pm .046}$	$\pmb{.578} \pm .172$.478 ±.154	$\textbf{.883} \scriptstyle{\pm .027}$	$\textbf{.632} {\pm .075}$

Single modality results:

- UWB performs the best as the location is useful
- UWB and RGBs outperform IMMU for most behaviors except walking

Combination results:

- The best model is UWB+HD+Akl
- RGBm performed better than RGBs

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