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

USDA ASSE

2025 CPS PI Meeting

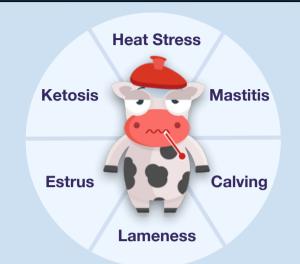
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MOTIVATION

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:

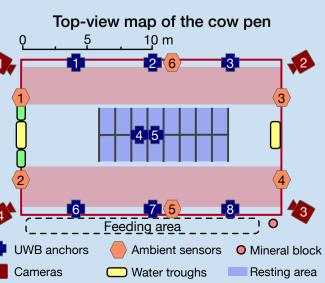
A temperature sensor to measure the core body temperature

4. Other sensors:

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

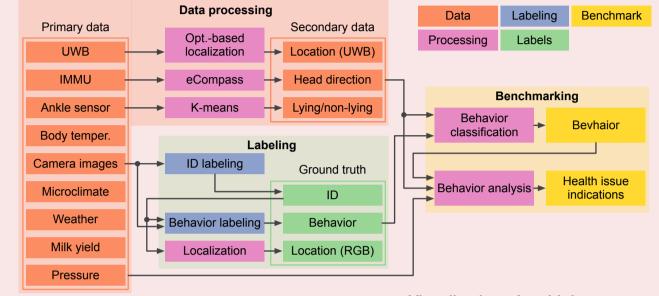
The sensor suite were deployed during 14 days at UW-Madison's Arlington Agricultural Research Station





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):

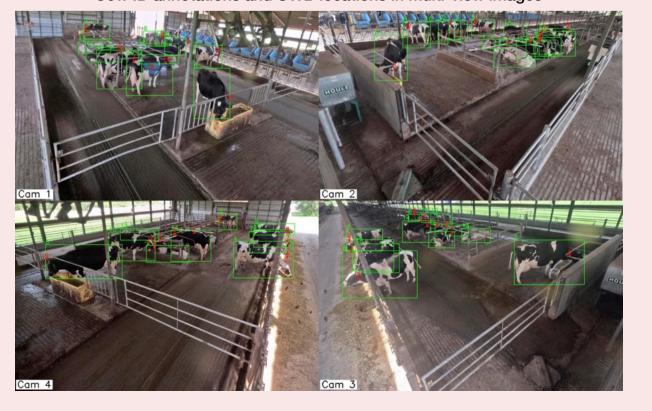
- Annotated 20,000 images from July 25th with 213,000 bounding boxes of 16 cows
- Utilized to derive 3D body location gt

Behavior ground truth:

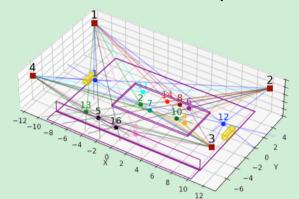
 Fine-grained interval of walking, standing, feeding head up, feeding head up/down, drinking, licking, and lying behaviors

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

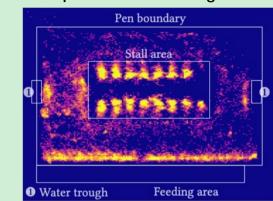
Cow ID annotations and UWB locations in multi-view images



Visual localization for multiple cows



Heat map of visual location ground truth



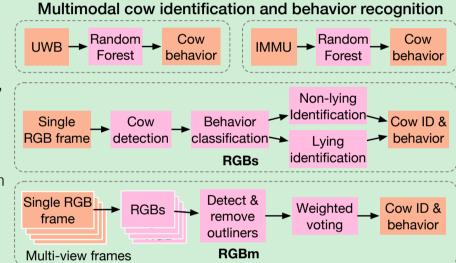
BENCHMARKS

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

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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