

SensorCAM Manual

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1. Overview

The sensorCAM is a video camera replacement for physical proximity sensors/detectors on a model railroad. It can replace up to 80 detectors and their associated power and signal wiring using artificial vision alone. It offers the flexibility of sensor placement or relocation instantly by software command with no physical layout modification. The railroad can be automated using artificial vision of train activity. Each virtual sensor can produce a logical state of 1 (occupied) or 0 (unoccupied) and is readable over an i2c cable. SensorCAM uses the ESP32-CAM module. However, the ESP32-WROVER-DEV CAM (v1.6) is an acceptable substitute if appropriate adjustments are made.

The sensorCAM takes 10 frames per second in RGB565 format at QVGA resolution of 240 x 320. Each sensor consists of a square group of 16 pixels which equates to approx. 20x20mm square with the standard lens at 1500mm. The software decodes and saves only the 80 sensor images (1280 pixels) and then compares each sensor image with a reference image prerecorded either at startup, on request, or by a “recent” automatic update. If the images do not match the references well then the sensor is “tripped” or “occupied” & status ‘1’ is produced. Good match results in ‘0’ output. The state of virtual sensors can be manually monitored on the USB monitor, or polled by microcontroller over the i2c interface cable. **N.B.** The sensorCAM is sensing *only when the Flash LED is pulsing* (for each new frame).



2PCS ESP32-CAM-MB, Aideepen ESP32-CAM W BT Board ESP32-CAM-MB Micro USB to Serial Port CH-340G with OV2640 2MP Camera Module Dual Mode
[Visit the Aideepen Store](#)
 4.1 ★★★★☆ 408 ratings | 33 answered questions
 Amazon's Choice Overall Pick

-27% \$18⁹⁹



(WROVER)

Note: While this manual primarily talks about the ESP32-CAM-MB, there is a similar tested alternative in the newer **ESP32 WROVER CAM** single board option. For some further preliminary details refer to Section 7 Wiring, Figure 6.

Dealing with video images involves complexities not normally associated with model railroading sensors. The sensorCAM is a complex device with a number of commands explicitly for setup and evaluation. In addition to these, several “output” commands can be used by a host to interrogate the “virtual sensor” output states. The initial setup can be somewhat involved and requires familiarity with most of the 25 commands discussed below.

The sensorCAM has two ***mutually exclusive modes*** of operation; the sensorCAM mode and the webCAM mode. The webCAM mode is essentially as described in the on-line tutorials. Use that mode only for education and curiosity. Invoke webCAM video mode by issuing the v1 (or v2) sensorCAM command to get a webCAM URL(e.g. 192.168.0.64)

The ESP32-CAM does not have a USB port so you will need an FTDI interface or MB. We prefer the ESP32-CAM-MB (MotherBoard) interface which plugs directly behind the CAM. Check “The Workshop” You tube videos on-line for guidance. The MB is far simpler to use (needing no jumpers or cables) than a separate FTDI used in the videos.

The ESPRESSIF guide will show how to install the Arduino-ESP32 support. BE WARNED: using an FTDI (rather than MB) that has a jumper set to 5V and connecting it to the CAM 3V3 pin will destroy the ESP32-CAM. Many have died.

Installing — Arduino-ESP32 2.0.6 documentation (readthedocs-hosted.com)

<https://espressif-docs.readthedocs-hosted.com/projects/arduino-esp32/en/latest/installing.html#installing-using-arduino-ide>

A tutorial on setting up the ESP32 on Arduino IDE is available at:

ESP32 CAM - 10 Dollar Camera for IoT Projects - YouTube

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=ESP32+CAM+-+10+Dollar+Camera+for+IoT+Projects+-+YouTube&view=detail&mid=77BF6363644D71DF685B77BF6363644D71DF685B&FORM=VIRE>

Introduction to ESP32 - Getting Started - YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xPIN_Tk3VLO

The sensorCAM software is uploaded to the ESP32-CAM using the Arduino IDE. The sensorCAM has been programmed with two modes of operation; a webCAM mode (as in the on-line tutorial) and a sensorCAM mode. The limited power of an ESP32 prevents both functioning at the same time. Consequently, to see an image of the railway while sensorCAM is operational requires a third application (Processing 4.2) to retrieve a still image from the CAM over the USB cable to a computer. The Processing 4 .pde app replaces the Arduino IDE and IDE monitor retaining the sensorCAM command set and offering a (slow) image capture capability over USB cable. Processing 4 allows virtual sensors to be placed on an image of the railway with a simple mouse click.

In addition to the FTDI interface, you will most likely need a daughter board “carrier” or prototyping board to connect to the real world (power, indicators, control wires, and i2c.) Further details are given below. However to test the sensorCAM functions, one only needs the CAM and a USB module, with power from the USB port.

To control a railway, the railway needs a microcontroller based management system. This typically could be an Arduino Mega based system running software such as the DCC-EX CommandStation and EX-RAIL automation application. Alternatively a dedicated sensorCAM microcontroller based interface could be connected to the i2c bus for output on multiple parallel sensor pins as per a more conventional low sensor count sensing device. The EX Command Station (CS) solution requires the addition of sensorCAM specific code (sketches) as detailed later.

The lens system on the cam comes in (std)66deg., 120 and 160deg. field of view. One can get longer ribbon versions and even 850nm (IR) versions to experiment with. These versions may be sourced independently of the ESP32-CAM. A wider coverage is possible with a 75-120deg (fish eye) lens, if needing to accommodate a lower ceiling height.

2. ESP32-CAM

The heart of the sensorCAM is the ESP32-CAM module containing an ov2640 camera sensor and a 32bit ESP32-S microprocessor. The sensorCAM software/sketch is loaded into the ESP32 using the Arduino IDE over a USB port with settings newline/115200 baud. Follow the above guidelines and run the camera example first, to get a demo webserver and CAM operational with a simple coloured test image. Experiment with settings to “get a feel” for the parameter effects which need optimization. The CAM has a considerable number of video related on-screen settings. Alternative ov2640 CAM Modules can be obtained with various viewing angles (66,75,120,130deg) if std. (66?) is too low. A “fish eye” lens (120deg.) will give barrel distortion, but the sensorCAM should still function acceptably.

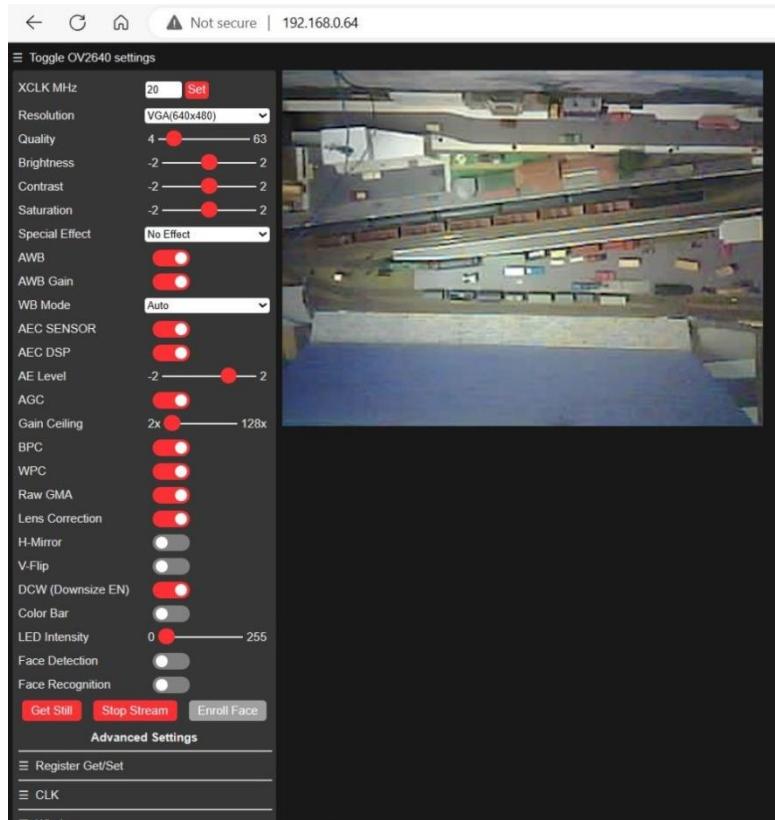


Figure 1. webCAM mode

Figure 1. is an example of the standard webCAM browser presentation. It is a very useful mode for alignment and as a training aid in investigating the effects of the many video adjustments possible, but does not allow placement of sensors as sensorCAM mode can't be simultaneously enabled.

Brightness, Contrast, Saturation, AutoWhiteBalance(AWB), AWBgain, AutomaticExposureCtl(AEC), AECdsp, AELevel, AutomaticGainCtl(AGC), AGGAINCeiling and more can be adjusted. The QVGA startup settings of sensorCAM are:

Bri=0, Con=1, Sat=2, AWB=1, AWBg=1, AEC=1, AECd=1, AEL=1, AGC=1, AGg=9; (initial settings of 'c' parameters)

These can be changed after the CAM images are stable. C++ variables *AWB9* and *AGC9* may be set to 0 after 9 seconds in code. Find them and change in the *sensorCAM.ino* file if required.

If you “Start Stream”, parameter changes will seem almost immediate. But with “stills”, after changing a variable, you may have to click “Get Still” 3 times to clear the pipeline and get a changed image. In Stream mode, close observation will reveal changing whole image brightness/colour for several seconds after image disturbance (e.g. a hand in front of CAM) as the auto adjustments “correct” the image. These types of changes can trip the sensorCAM even if the obstruction does not block the virtual sensor. Consequently after power-up, the sensorCAM may stabilize and then turn off some auto adjustments in the first 15 seconds. Changing environment lighting may result in a need to use a “recalibrate” command, for example perhaps after sunset or turning on extra lighting.

Due to the slowness of the ESP32 & wifi, the “live stream” is slow and a webCAM delay in response will be observed. This may be a little quicker for the sensorCAM sensing mode. The delay is inevitable in webCAM WiFi mode.

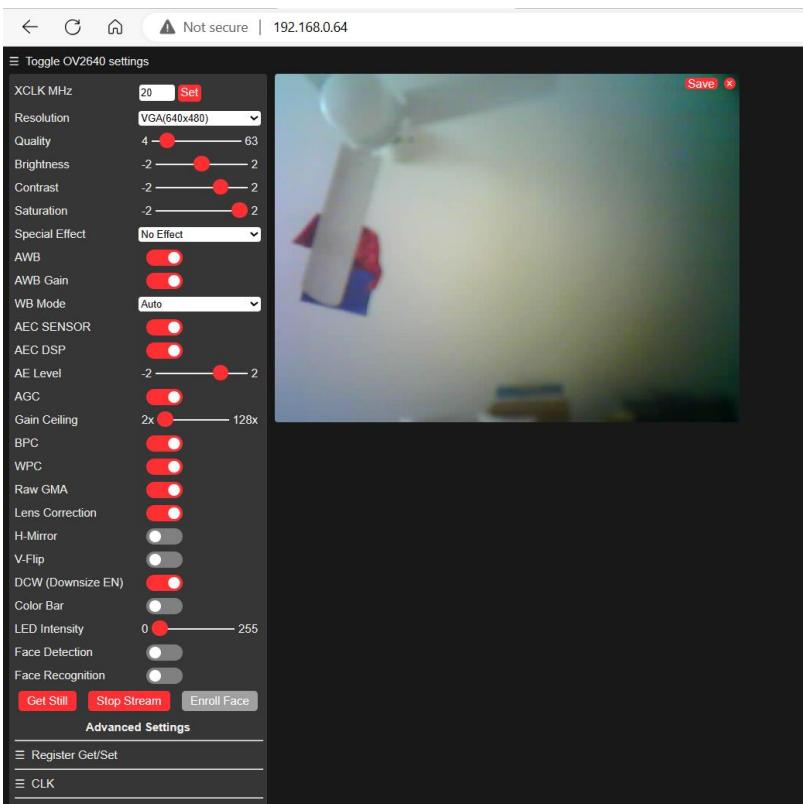


Figure 2

Initial sensorCAM settings

After the sensorCAM has booted up, it reads frames for 9 seconds before automatically doing a reference grab for all defined sensors (the **r00** command). ver320 by default sets the CAM configuration to those below. When sensorCAM is running, a user may tweak these settings via a USB monitor ‘c’ or ‘j’ commands if required.

Bri=0, Con=1, Sat=2, AWB=1, AWBg=1, AEC=1, AECd=1, AEL=1, AGC=1, AGg=9; (initial settings of 'c' parameters)

The ESP32-CAM has an Infra-Red (IR) filter to enhance colour response. The sensorCAM relies on strong colour contrast (saturation) to detect changes. Low lighting levels and poor contrast degrades performance.

To run the sensorCAM.ino, it will be necessary to configure the Arduino IDE for the ESP32 as covered in the above you-tube tutorial links. Load and run the demonstration. For the sensorCAM, you will require new files in a directory such as Arduino/sensorCAM as shown below. Create and edit configCAM.h from the example. The ESP32-CAM uses the “AI Thinker ESP32-CAM” found under Tools:Board:ESP32 (select Tools > Board: ESP32: “ESP32 Wrover Module” for WROVER-CAM). Select Partition Scheme: Huge APP. Check the correct Port is selected, compile sensorCAM.ino, and upload to the CAM before opening the Arduino monitor.

	app_httpd.cpp	45 KB	24/09/2023 3:45 PM	CPP File
	camera_index.h	149 KB	24/09/2023 3:45 PM	H File
	camera_pins.h	8 KB	24/09/2023 3:45 PM	H File
	configCAM.example.h	5 KB	29/04/2024 2:49 PM	H File
	sensorCAM.ino	146 KB	29/04/2024 2:51 PM	INO File

The ESP32-CAM can take rgb565 frames at 13/second. However it is a 3 step process; image sensing, processing and storing. It will then take further cycles to assess the state of the 80 virtual sensors in the frame (another two cycles) A total of 5 cycles places a significant limit on the sensorCAM speed of response time (up to 0.5 seconds at 10 frames/second). A fast HO loco can travel 160mm @100kph, so this latency might need to be accommodated in planning virtual sensor locations.

3. Physical Installation

For testing purposes you will need a computer with a spare USB port and the Arduino IDE software installed. The PROCESSING 4 software is also advisable as it gives a more reliable and convenient image for setup. A long powered USB cable (5m?) may be an advantage as the sensorCAM may be some distance from the PC. For a final installation the sensorCAM would be connected via a cat5/6 cable carrying power and a differential i2c bus (of up to 30m) to a microcontroller, Command Station or similar. Some different practical solutions are explored in Appendix F.

For a test hookup between a USB powered sensorCAM and a Command Station (mega) with a short existing i2c bus, provided the total length is under say 3 meters, a simple, cheap arrangement could be tried using a [PCA9515A](#) buffer and level shifter. It requires soldering 5 wires to the underside of the MB USB interface. *This improvisation is not an ideal “universal” arrangement.* The PCA9515A is mounted on 1/16" thick double-sided adhesive foam mounting tape. The CAM on i2c bus is best used theoretically with the USB computer running on battery power alone (unplugged) to absolutely avoid ground loops and associated electrical noise, but will probably function OK anyway.

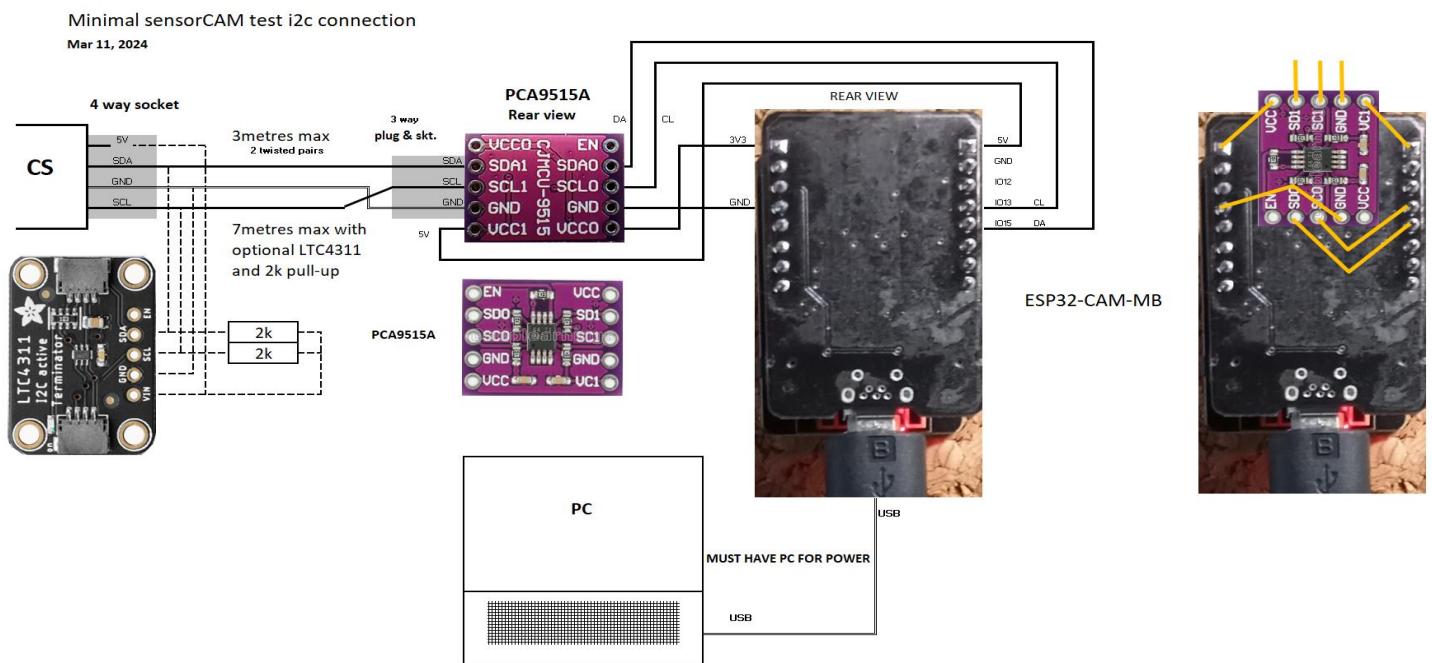


Figure 3 CAM with 3.3 to 5V i2c interface and optional LTC4311 “terminator” for greater reach

The sensorCAM is preferably placed above and square-on to a section of layout at a height of 1 to 1.8m above the surface. 1.2m gives a max. coverage of approximately 1.2 x 0.9m with the standard lens. Another arrangement with several advantages is to place the CAM near the surface so as to view the surface via some good mirror tiles placed on the ceiling, positioned to ensure coverage of the desired sensor locations. This may increase coverage, especially if multiple mirrors are at slight angles. The mirror arrangement with benchtop level mount allows for wider coverage with low ceilings, and also places the CAM in a more accessible spot for wiring and maintenance. Mirror tiles do not need to be perfectly flat, some image distortion is acceptable, but they must be stable. Oblique camera angles may also be used to advantage, but sensor location and tripping point may be compromised somewhat.

Lighting is critical for reliable operation. Theoretically, the lighting should be steady. Both LED flood and Fluorescent lighting might degrade results due to the flickering levels of illumination at 100/120 Hz. Use quality LED lights. The light fittings should not be visible in the camera’s field of view. A uniform level of lighting is the objective, with a minimum influence from fluctuating daylight, fans and cloud shadows through windows. Some experimentation may be needed to avoid local “glare”. Images may show white test panels to have several drifting horizontal dull bands produced between cycles of the mains supply (Figure 4). Bright lighting is desirable (good quality LEDs?) to enhance colour differentiation. Check for flicker by taking a “slo-mo” video on a cell phone. Fluoro’s are bad!

The mount needs to be rigid to avoid vibration which can trip sensors due to small image movements. It also needs to have a suitable route for a (cat5) cable for its own power supply and the necessary i2c communications. The length of this cable needs to be considered if the railway's i2c network is otherwise long. The prototype CAM has been fitted with i2c buffers and used on a 20m buffered 5 Volt i2c Cat5 bus, but the quick connection above (using PCA9515A) is for short lengths only (i2c under 3m). Up to 7m may be achieved using 2k pull-up resistance and one LTC4311 "terminator" to enhance signal rise time. Benchtop mounting with mirrors minimizes this length issue. A very good alternative for longer cables is the Sparkfun differential Endpoint system.

Most reliable results may be obtained with light grey coloured ballast and dark sleepers. If results are inadequate, light green (grass?) or yellow "reflectors" between the rails may relieve any problem. (recommended in fiddle yards) If lighting throws shadows beside rolling stock, the shadows can be used advantageously by good sensor placement.

For initial configuration, access to the sensorCAM's USB port is important. Loading computer code over a long USB cable is problematic, but monitoring and tweaking settings may be done with a reduced BAUD rate or a (5m?) buffered USB cable at 115200 BAUD. A benchtop mounting with mirror would help here.

With regards lighting, fluorescent or LED lighting normally flickers at twice mains frequency so it pulses at 100 or 120Hz. This is normally tolerable, but it can be seen in a sensorCAM image on a uniformly white test panel as below (Figure 5). In 100mSec there could be up to 10 bands in one image. SensorCAM tries to synchronise with the mains frequency, but if it fails the faint bands will drift across the sensors and potentially trip them in the worst case scenario. Set the threshold high enough to avoid such trips. Figure 4 shows an example of bad 100Hz banding.



Figure 4 Test image showing fluorescent or LED light banding.

4. Notation & Help commands

4.1 Notation

The notation used in the reference material uses symbols according to the following convention:

- % used to designate a digit as part of a bank/sensor designator in bsNo style. i.e. 0/2, b/s or %% or %%
- # used to designate a digit as part of a decimal number as in ### for a 3 digit decimal number.
- \$ used to designate a single alphanumeric character (0-9 or A-Z) depending on context.
- S Capital S may be used to refer to a specific sensor such as S02 for example. Designation format: S%%
- [] Square brackets may be used to indicate optional command arguments (don't include [] in command).

Sensor 'bsNo.' number consists of two digits preferably written separated by a '/' as in 1/2 but in commands this is reduced to 12 as in command i12. Command 'i' has the form i%# indicating it requires a 2-digit bsNo. As 49 is an invalid bsNo. (s range is 0-7), i49 is invalid. Some commands require a DECIMAL number and are expressed as having form t## for example. t49 is therefore a valid command. The 'm' command takes the form "m\$,##" requiring a single digit and a 2-digit decimal number. For more details on commands see APPENDIX A.

Where bsNo.'s are printed, they can take several equivalent forms depending on context. Where possible they are printed as %% e.g. 2/3. However an equivalent form is 023. Any printed sensor number starting with a '0' can be treated as equivalent to the '/' form so 023 == 2/3 == bank 2 sensor 3. The 0%# form is in fact the "OCTAL" format of bsNo. (Note: OCTAL for 8/7 is 0107 & 9/5 = 0115. Keeping usage to banks ranging from 0 to 7 avoids any confusion).

Some diagnostic output (eg 'f%%') may resort to another numbering system (i.e. HEXADECIMAL) for compactness, but for normal usage, this notation can generally be avoided. Just be aware of the context in which numbers are being used.

Where words are in *italics*, these are the actual names used in the C++ programs for sensorCAM. Consequently they may seem cryptic, but their function is hopefully clear. **NOTE:** Code may use "active" & "enabled" interchangeably.

4.2 Help commands

As the sensorCAM is still under development, the sketch still has numerous debugging options and a couple may be useful in understanding and optimizing the device. The help command has the form 'h#' where the digit # turns ON a debug output. The following h# output options might be useful, **particularly h7, i.e. a triggered wait (w):**

- h shows current settings for help, *maxSensors* and *brightSF*
- h%% sets *maxSensors* to %% for %% from 10 to 97 (**m0,%%** is better alternative)
- h- turns OFF all debug options. h-# turns off individual debug values (5-9 only).
- h0 some detailed debug values for each sensor including the algorithms colour Cratios, Xratios etc.
- h1 outputs timing measurements for parts of code
- h2 more general debug including brightness numbers
- h3 outputs i2c related info (if communicating)
- h4 produces some auto-reference refresh info
- h5 spare
- h6 Outputs a text message whenever ALL enabled sensor references are refreshed.
- h7 causes the program to suspend any new data streaming upon any trip of the bank 1 sensors, allowing inspection of sensor data by using commands like f%%, &, etc. h7,# changes default (1) to bank #.**
- h8 This causes up to 30 i2c commands from CS to be echoed to the wait screen e.g. E0E#E7E2E2E2E4E4E4E6 is not echoed because of its 50/sec frequency the pattern would be E4E6E6E6E6E4E6E6...

5. Configuration

5.1 The first step is to decide a sensor distribution strategy & numbering system. A sensorCAM has 10 banks (0-9) of eight (0-7) individual sensors available (total 80). Each bank can be tested as a whole to see if ANY sensors tripped or NO sensors tripped. Also placing a string of sensors in a row, for example along a platform, can indicate train position with the binary bank value increasing as the train approaches a signal as it crosses sensors 0 through 7. (see **Figure 5** for examples) Sensors are generally referred to with a two digit bank/sensor designation (their bsNo.) e.g Sensor 68 and 69 are therefore invalid bs numbers, 97 is valid. Use one bank for a platform (set of 8 sensors). Sensor S00 is reserved as a brightness reference sensor. Sensor S06 is also RESERVED for now. It is suggested that user's Sensors start with bank 1, i.e. S10 (vPin ..8), S11 upwards, with related sensors in their own bank. They do not need to be sequential (**Follow the installation Guide for full details**). **With the recommended definitions set up, the use does not need to remember or refer to vPins for sensorCAM sensors.**

For an EX-Command Station (CS), the 80 sensors will have vPin numbers ranging from #00 to #79 (DECIMAL) and mapped to 80 b/s id's (S00 to S97). One can use AT(CAM 0%) in EXRAIL commands where vPin ID is called for. For the technically minded, vPin = BasePin +b*8+s. For further details on adopted notation, refer to section 4.1.

5.2 Before uploading the software into CAM check that it has the appropriate WiFi definitions for your railway **WIFI_SSID** & **SHDWIFIPWD** and perhaps for your test area **ALTWIFI_SSID** & **ALTWIFI_PWD** are in your *configCAM.h*

- 5.3 a) If you want to use "larger" sensors, Place `#define SEN_SIZE 2 (1-7)` in your *configCAM.h* (ver169+)
b) If i2c address 0x11 is in use, change to 0x12 (or 0x13) i.e. `I2C_DEV_ADDR 0x11` in your *configCAM.h*
c) The first **TWOIMAGE_MAXBS** sensors use 2 consecutive image averaging to suppress noise spikes. If you want to set a different range to use this feature, change *configCAM.h* from the default(030) before upload.

5.4 Follow you-tube to pre-configure the Arduino IDE for ESP32. IF using an FTDI interface take EXTREME care not to connect 5V to the 3.3V CAM supply pin as this destroys CAMs. Using this IDE, load the software into sensorCAM with it unmounted. Then mount the CAM in a suitable place for tests. A long USB cable is problematical.

5.5 Establish a USB connected monitor (e.g. Arduino IDE monitor, or PROCESSING4 monitor, preferably at 115200 baud. The PROCESSING 4 monitor coded for the sensorCAM has the advantage of displaying the CAM's railroad image (or selected part thereof), all-be-it rather slowly!). Because of the many changeable CAM parameters, the WiFi link (webCAM) is not a reliable indicator of the sensorCAM image quality. It may be better or worse. The PC (using Arduino IDE) is only able to show images via WiFi, but because the sensorCAM runs on RGB565 format it cannot send WiFi (jpeg) images without rebooting into WiFi/jpg webCAM mode (under which it cannot read sensors!). The reboot/display/reboot cycle for WiFi webCAM is also tediously time consuming.

The sensorCAM takes some time to boot and establish sensing mode. The white flash LED starts flashing on every frame after about 10 seconds and data flows to the USB terminal. A period of averaging ensues with "good" sensing by about 30 seconds. This flow of data (and sensing!) can be suspended with the 'w' wait command. Some commands (including a blank line entry) will subsequently restart the sensing camera and sensor output. The CAM may crash if it is left waiting for input for over 30 minutes. Reference images would also be long out of date.

5.6 The CAM can be switched to WiFi video mode with the '**v1**' command. '**v2**' will select an alternate WiFi network. ('v' will give sensorCAM software version). '**v1**' (or '**v2**') will reboot and load WiFi mode connecting to the network selected, and providing a URL e.g. <http://192.168.0.xx> that can be used to connect with a browser. An image, like **Figure 1** above, should be seen with controls for experimenting with Brightness etc. This image is educational but not necessarily a good indication of the sensorCAM (sensor mode) image because of the unpredictable parameter effects. To see a more reliable image run the PROCESSING 4 *SensorCAM.pde* monitor instead of Arduino IDE monitor (refer Section 6.). To exit video mode, try the monitor command 'R' (or 'F') If this

software reset fails, try manually rebooting the sensorCAM (power OFF/ON or via the on-board black push-button using a non-metallic tool!

5.7 Proceeding with the steps below, before mounting the camera over the railroad, is advisable to learn the steps and familiarize oneself with the sensorCAM command set. The setup commands will have to be repeated accurately once the CAM is mounted in its final location.

5.8 Setting up the CAM first requires locating sensors. When deciding on sensor location, be aware that the sensor response is slow compared to conventional sensors. Allowing for 500mSec delay, which at 100kph equates to 150mm of travel (in HO), may influence sensor placement. Best performance is obtained if the sensors are not within 20 rows/columns of an image edge. Remember to save to EPROM with the ‘e’ command once satisfied. Virtual sensor location can be set up in several ways. Option D is preferred.

- A. Automatic loading from EPROM on bootup. This is only applicable after an initial sensor set has been established and command ‘e’ used to save them to EPROM.
- B. The bright LED method: Place a bright LED at the required location and reduce room lighting if needed. Issue an ‘s%’ command (e.g. s00 for an off-track reference sensor) and wait for the CAM to scan and locate the LED and setup sensor coordinates. Remove the LED, restore lighting, and perform an ‘r%’ for new reference images.
- C. Issue a ‘k%,rrr,xxx’ command to place sensor % at CAM pixel position xxx (column) and row rrr (y). This method is most useful for “tweaking” coordinates if you want to adjust the result of the LED method (the CAM has 240 rows/lines of 320 pixels each, numbered from 0). Use the ‘i%’ command for status of sensor. NOTE: Use ‘k’ to set up test sensors initially, but delay setting final positions until Processing 4 installed and enhanced ‘k’ and ‘a’ available. The alternate advanced ‘a’ command does 3 commands in one (i.e. k, a, & r).
- D. Running Processing 4, an image can be downloaded, a bsNo. nominated by typing k% (or a%) and the mouse click on the image appends coordinates to k%. Press Enter if the command is complete and correct. Similarly, the enhanced version of ‘a%’ sets position, enables, and records a reference all in one command.

5.9 Once a sensor has been located, the ‘p\$’ command can show/tabulate all defined positions up to bank \$. To enable a sensor use the ‘a%’ command. This will enable AND record a new reference image for the sensor. It will then be included in the screen “data dump”. Only “enable” sensors when UNoccupied, or do an ‘r%’ later when the sensor is empty. Also, remember to do an ‘e’ command when you want to save positions in EPROM for next time.

5.10 A *threshold* needs to be set to define the level of difference in image required to register a sensor trip or “Occupation”. This typically ranges from 40 to 60. Try ‘t45’ for starters. Some fluctuating lighting and electrical “noise” needs to be tolerated, but a higher threshold reduces sensor sensitivity for dark-on-dark contrast in particular. If there are “noise” trips, adjust the *threshold* or *min2trip* a little higher. See APPENDIX B for more.

5.11 It is desirable to set a *maxSensors* parameter (e.g. 030) to limit diagnostic printouts to a useful screen width, and especially important to set the *min2flip* parameter which helps filter out noise trips. However *min2flip* slows the response to valid trips by 100mSec per extra count (frame rate). Suggest settings of 2 (default) or 3. e.g. ‘m3,40’ say. Note: *maxSensors* (pulled from EPROM) limits the following....

- 1 the data stream for console/monitor, limited to enabled sensors below *maxSensors* (and above *minSensors*)
 - 2 histogram printout, to enabled sensors below *maxSensors* (see statistic command ‘&’)
 - 3 the boxlt() sensor boxes seen on Processing 4 images, for enabled sensors below *maxSensors*
 - 4 i2c buffer data for ‘t’ record, to *bsn*’s below *maxSensors* (and above *minSensors*) (sent to Command Station)
- The cmd ‘t’ acts as a flag to prepare a packet of i2c data that the CS can reconstitute as per the USB ASCII data stream.

5.12 If you want a LED bank occupancy indicator on the CAM, use the ‘n\$’ command to cause a bank occupied LED to show (default Bank 2). *nLED*, *min2flip*, *maxSensors* and *threshold* can be saved to EPROM, along with sensor positions and twins (see 15. below) with the ‘e’ command. *minSensors* is not currently saved in EPROM (set by ‘n’)

5.13 Although sensor enabling (a) causes an immediate reference capture, it may be necessary to occasionally do a fresh reference capture for all sensors (make sure they are unoccupied!) by using the ‘r00’ command. Individual sensor references can be refreshed using ‘r%’. The results of a refresh can be seen in the scrolling “data dumps” which show enabled sensors, their “difference scores” (32-99), and their perceived occupancy state. The sensor 00 is constantly averaged and refreshed every 6.4 seconds. Furthermore, there is an automatic refresh process that cycles through enabled sensors and regularly averages 32 consecutive sample images. If the sensor remains unoccupied, it updates the reference, compensating for *slow* lighting changes. This is SUSpended initially (after Reset) until an ‘r%’ command is issued by the user, after which “SUS” will disappear from the output data. The latest version of sensorCAM ASSUMES the sensors are all empty, and automatically ends SUSpend mode early.

5.14 The scrolling data dump displays “SUS” if auto updates are off. It also displays *threshold* (T), *min2trip* (M), the bank assigned to the on-board LED (N), S00 reference diff. score, as well as the S00 reference brightness(R) and its current actual brightness (A) and other enabled sensors. ‘A’ is the Actual latest sum of the 48 bytes of a sensor image and should be between 1200 and 2500 ideally. Following a reference refresh (r), for an unoccupied image, the “noisy” diff scores should be 32-37. If references are being updated, a note will appear at the right hand side of the data dump in the form of “Ref 0%” to indicate that a new reference for an UNOCCUPIED sensor has occurred. This dump allows for performance monitoring during commissioning. Tripped (occupied) sensors are shown by default with an “oo” & “##” but using the ‘@##’ command the character can be changed to any ASCII character (01-127). An output like :?-46-?* indicates an above threshold image potentially occupied, whereas :oo47?T* indicates suspected occupied but no confirmation from Twin (see 5.15). For recent versions of Arduino IDE monitor, ‘@’ or ‘@12’ command gives a particularly wide BOLD “spade” “occupied” character that is easy to spot (don’t use @ or @12 if it doesn’t produce the “spade” as it will misalign columns. Try @11 instead.).

5.15 If necessary, another option can be tried to address “noise” trips if all else fails. It is possible to “get a second opinion” on a sensor by assigning a “Twin” sensor (using i%%,\$\$). For example if sensor S15 is prone to noise trips, set a Twin using sensor S05 (say). Set up the Twin position to touch or slightly overlap the primary sensor (S15) with the commands ‘a05,rrr,xxx’. The primary sensor will not register “Occupied” (trip) unless the Twin agrees. The Twin should have a bsNo less than the primary sensor to avoid introducing an extra 100mSec delay to the trip time as the lowest bsNo is evaluated first. We suggest using bank 0 for twins, or a lower number in the same bank.

5.16 There are other commands that can be used to optimise the CAM performance by trial-and-error. These include Calibrate (c), Frame(f), GetCAMsettings(g), adJustCAMsettings(j), and Statistics(&). If the scene contrast is inadequate, a lighter reflector between the tracks is a cure particularly in fiddle yards (e.g. light green grass).

Explore and familiarize: Operational output commands will give the sensor states and include Individual(i), Bank(b), Diff(d), Position(p), & Query enabled(q). Other input sensor commands include Zero(o), One(l), Enable(a), Undefine(u) & the define coordinate (k) command. Zero ‘o’(oscar) and One ‘l’(lima) preset and disable sensors.

NOTE: The term “activate” has been used in the CAM program rather than “enable”. In the context of sensorCAM, activated means “enabled” rather than output “1” as typically used in EX-CS documentation. This manual has been rewritten to use the “enabled” terminology, but names and references in the actual program still use the original terminology, so interpret “activated”, in a sensorCAM context, as “enabled”. Sensor output is referred to as “tripped” (1/occupied) or “untripped” (0/unoccupied).

Test image with Fluorescent or LED lighting – note three faint dull stripes across white test panel in **Figure 5** below. Strong banding is also evident in **Figure 4**. Horizontal stripe position varies frame-to-frame as not effectively synchronized with mains yet. (**Figure 5** image was obtained using V, H & Y60 Processing4 commands)

The mains supply synchronization is currently inadequate (CAM limitation) so drifting illumination bands will add a little to the “noise” seen by the sensors. The significance of this may need evaluation by experiment.

5.17 Two additional features have been added which may resolve lingering issues. Individual thresholds can be set to override the “global” threshold set with ‘t##’. The command ‘t##,%%’ will set a *pvtThreshold* for sensor S% replacing the “global” (t##) value. It can be removed with the ‘t00,%%’ command. This way a higher threshold can be set on a “noisy” sensor. While an increased *pvtThreshold* may reduce its sensitivity, it has no effect on the other sensors. ‘t1,%%’ will cancel all *pvtThresholds* in one bank %, while ‘t1,99’ cancels ALL *pvtThresholds* in the CAM.

The second feature enables the size of the sensor to be increased. This is done by inserting spare pixels in a cross (+) through the 4x4 sensor moving 4 pixels out to each of the corners of a larger footprint. The parameter SEN_SIZE (default 0) adds from 1 to 9 rows of spare pixels. This parameter is set in configCAM.h and may, for example allow a sensor to be placed so as to register a greater variation in pixel values. A uniform 16 identical pixels is less effective than ones capturing various colours/shades. If it can include a shadow of a passing loco/wagon, then the “diff” can be stronger and a more positive trip attained. A footprint size increase affects ALL sensors.

It is desirable to place sensors where they generate a “mottled” image of pixels rather than a uniform colour which makes distinguishing grey roofs against plain grey track hard. Pixel size is therefore relevant. It is helpful if the pixels are the width of sleepers so they can be distinguished. If they can’t then try an offset sensor that sees track bed and trackside grass/shadows say. Table 1 indicates pixel/sensor sizes relative to sleepers and track gauge. It shows that sleeper detection is limited with the ov2640 QVGA (240x320) resolution. Future sensorCAM variants may do better. An angled camera could benefit from a glimpse of the side of the loco/coach/wagon.

OV2640 CAM (std lens)			50 deg view									
CAMERA DISTANCE: (mm)		pixel size QVGA (mm)	800		1000		1200		1500		1800	
SEN_SIZE:	0		2	0	2	0	2	0	2	0	2	
Sensor Size (pixels)	4 x 4	6 x 6	4 x 4	6 x 6	4 x 4	6 x 6	4 x 4	6 x 6	4 x 4	6 x 6	4 x 4	6 x 6
ratio: gauge/sensor												
scale	sleeper	std gauge										
O 1:43.5	5	32	3.7	2.4	2.9	2.0	2.4	1.6	2.0	1.3	1.6	1.1
HO 1:87	2.5	16.5	1.9	1.3	1.5	1.0	1.3	0.8	1.0	0.7	0.8	0.6
TT 1:120	1.8	12	1.4	0.9	1.1	0.7	0.9	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.4
N 1:160	1.3	9	1.0	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.3
(mm)	(mm)											

Table 1. Comparison of sensor sizes and track features: Ratio of gauge/sensor dimension

6 PROCESSING4 monitor/console

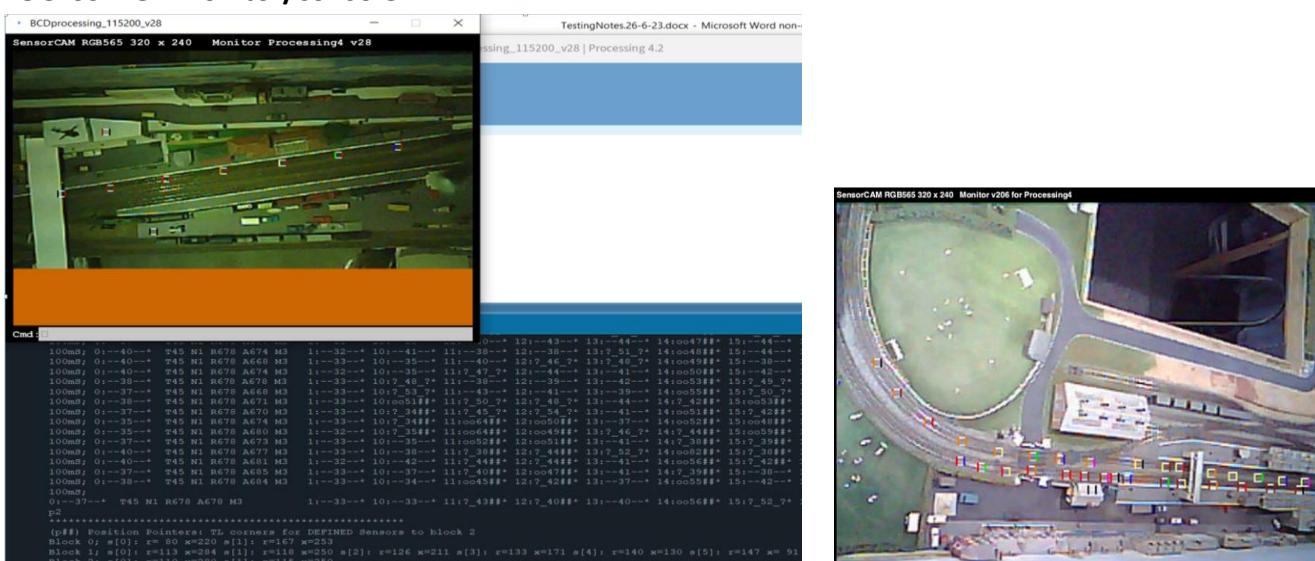


Figure 5 Processing 4 Console and image window

Note: Sub-optimum ‘c’ settings caused green tint.

The Processing application displays the image using sensorCAM settings, and also shows colour coded sensors. As previously stated, the PROCESSING4 application is a crude USB monitor that enables the user to control and configure the sensorCAM with the additional benefit of being able to invoke a display of the image. All the sensorCAM commands can be used. At 115200 baud, a full RGB565 image takes 13 seconds, but it is often convenient to reduce this by prescribing a smaller image segment of limited rows and/or columns (e.g. Y120 for half of a 240 row screen). The Processing 4 application can be downloaded from this URL: <https://processing.org>

The SensorCAM.pde code assumes the USB port for the sensorCAM is the lowest (*comNo=0;*) on the list displayed on startup. Should this not be the case, for example if another USB is being used to simultaneously run an IDE to a Command Station, then the ***comNo=0;*** code line of the *.pde* will need to be increased to, for example, ***int comNo=1;*** You may also increase the image display window size by editing the ***final int SF=2;*** line to **=3** or 4 on high res screens.

Both Processing 4.2 and 4.3 have been tested successfully.

The sensorCAM Processing 4 monitor accepts commands W, X, Y & Z which allow one to nominate a “strip” or subsection to image. e.g. `Z80, X240, Y,` will update the last quarter image (columns 240-319) of the 240x320 pixels in 4 seconds. This method enables, for example, comparison of quarter images under different lighting conditions by using different X values.. Similarly `W60, Y120,` will produce a quarter image from row 120. Each part image is pasted over previous images. Each new image appears more quickly if only a subsection is specified this way. The ***next*** image can be flipped Vertically (y) and Horizontally(x) by using V &/or H before capture. The **Figure 5** image used `V, H, Y60,` The values for V, H, W, X & Z are remembered for subsequent ‘Yrrr’ commands so need not be repeated. **NOTE: Do not flip** before creating new sensors as cursor coordinates don’t flip.

The image will have enabled (bs) sensors boxed & identified by a (resistor) colour code. Left bar is bank# & right bar is sensor#. Combined, they give the bsNo. If two sensors have the same coordinates, the colour code will be for the highest bsNo. Only sensors below maxSensors will be boxed. Note the ‘H’ command will REVERSE the coding from b/s to s/b. (The resistor code std. is 0:black 1:brown 2:orange 3:yellow 4:green 5:blue 6:violet 7:grey 8:white)

PROCESSING4 command summary:

W### will limit the image to ### rows wide/high (1-240) - default 240
X### will start the image from column ### (0-319) – default 0 – uses the sensorCAM ‘x’ command.
Y### will initiate an image download starting at row ### (0-239) – default 0 – uses the sensorCAM’s ‘y’ cmd.
Z### will limit the image to ### columns (1-320) – default 320 – uses the sensorCAM ‘z’ command.
H will flip/mirror subsequent images horizontally(x). (Note: reverses bsNo sensor colour code to s-b!)
V will flip/mirror subsequent images vertically(y). (V + H effectively rotates image 180 degrees)
R will cause a firmware reset of the sensorCAM via the DTR line of the FTDI interface. CAM will enter a wait mode for confirmation. Reset can be aborted with command ‘aw’ (Abort&Wait). **Ctrl-R** Resets CAM instantly.

NOTE:

1. The above commands ARE CASE SENSITIVE. They are recognized by Processing 4 as non-sensorCAM commands and processed in the monitor/PC. Commands X, Y, & Z in turn automatically issue related sensorCAM commands x, y, and z respectively, with appropriate parameters. The ‘y’ command is used repeatedly, once for each new image line (row). The ‘y’ command suspends sensorCAM looping, holding a single “frozen” frame until a terminating command is received. To resume normal operation at the end of command ‘Y’, the double-y command ‘yy’ is automatically sent. However, if the user enters a ‘y’ by error (rather than upper case ‘Y’), the monitor may show a binary string of data (verbose mode) and a manually entered ‘yy’ is needed to recover. Typing lower case x or z may also negate any previous X or Z settings.
2. If you use H to mirror, the colour coding for boxed sensor number (bs) has to be read right to left!
3. Ctrl-E and Ctrl-N enable/disable echo of commands, as typed, to the monitor/log file. It can replace the user’s focus on the CAM image **Cmd:** window. **Y0** helpfully toggles the verbose mode. **Y1** images from row 0.

7 Wiring Requirements

Refer to **Figure 7 & Appendix F** for alternate solutions for connecting sensorCAM to an i2c bus for remote control. For initial testing, the basic ESP32-CAM and ESP32-CAM-MB (CH340 based USB Mother Board) could be sufficient.

The recommended hardware interface to a CS is currently the Sparkfun Endpoint system which permits the i2c bus to be run over long standard Cat5 twisted pair cable, which can also carry the required raw power supply. The Sparkfun Endpoints are used in pairs and can cater for voltage shifting between 5V Command Stations (e.g. Mega) and 3.3V sensorCAM as required. For the very simplest off-the-shelf arrangement, an ESP32-WROVER-DEV CAM with a cheap ESP32 breakout board including regulator can be linked to an Endpoint with 4 Dupont wires for a working CAM system on the end of a cat5 cable of considerable length as indicated in Figure 6, needing only a remote, preferably electrically isolated (floating), 9-12Vdc 0.5A power supply and a matching endpoint on a Command Station. **Note:** The Sparkfun Endpoint may also need a jumper cut or joined for i2c bus voltage level matching to the Command Station.

The SensorCAM software has been almost exclusively tested on the ESP32-CAM-MB as seen in **Figure 7**. The original prototype was fitted with some enhancements that may not be needed for the users application, such as an external antenna and extra LED indicators. NOTE that an Antenna attachment to the ESP32-CAM requires a solder link adjustment on the CAM (refer you-tube CAM tutorials) but most wi-fi works with the on-board antenna. However, at least one “super bright” LED is recommended for convenience to visually indicate when a sensor is “tripped”, connected between 3.3V via a resistor (~470R) to GPIO14.

For testing beyond that available via a USB cable, the most basic interface to a short i2c cable to a Command Station (Mega) is based on the PCA9515 level shifter shown in **Figure 7**. This is limited in range and may require tuning of the i2c bus for best performance. See **Appendix F** for a more capable Sparkfun Endpoint configuration using a separate 5V switching regulator, at a small increase in cost and effort.

The ESP32-CAM reset button, remotely mounted, may be difficult to access. To reset the device, two options need to be available. These can be via software command, either from the attached USB monitor, or i2c connected Command Station, or via a power supply induced reboot. A switch on the (“wall-wart”) 9V supply is recommended independent of the CS supply. The USB connection is needed to set up the sensors initially and view images, but should be able to be disconnected once setup testing is complete.

The ESP32-WROVER-DEV board is an alternative to the ESP32-CAM-MB. The slightly bigger CAM will be a little more convenient with the **ESP32S 38P Expansion board**. This 38 pin expansion board with 5V regulator is described here:

[Bing Videos](#) Note: Care is needed as the WROVER CAM has 40 pins but the spare Gnd and Vcc can remain disconnected.

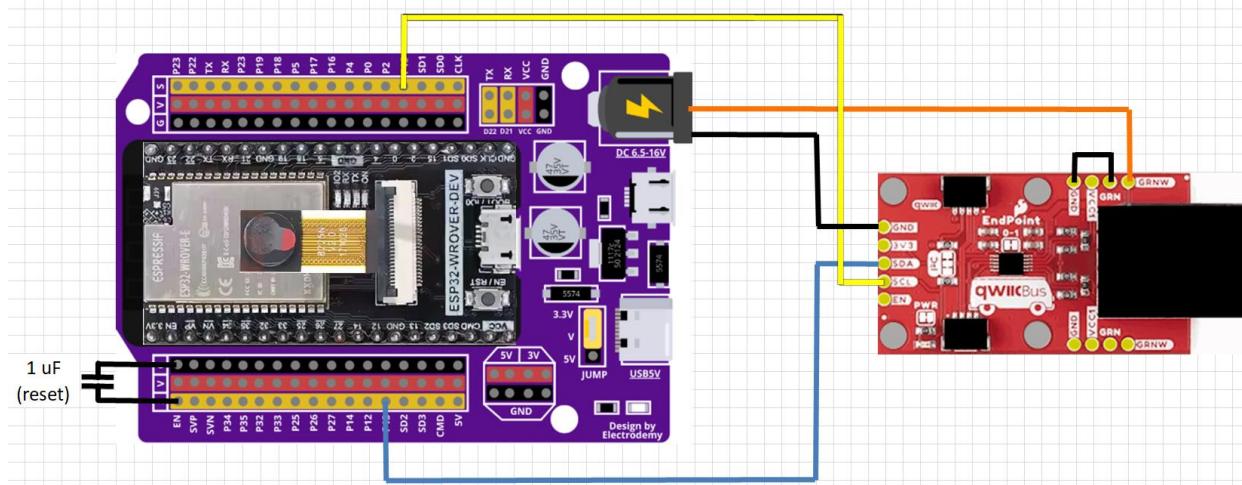


Figure 6 ESP32 WROVER-CAM & interface

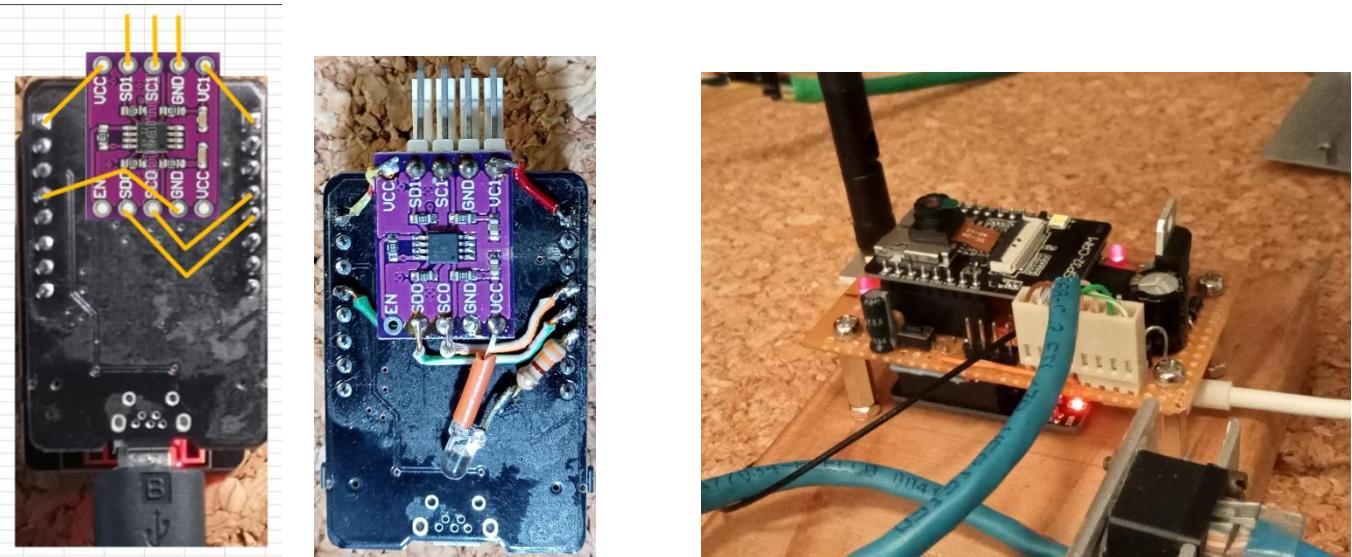


Figure 7. PCA9515A 3.3V to 5V i2c interface improvisation compared to a full feature prototype solution

8 Communication and Host Operation

8.1 Intro: The operation of the railway depends on a Control Station that polls the sensorCAM for sensor states. This might be a dedicated Arduino Mega 2560 for example. It might be a Command Station running DCC-EX and EXRAIL software, or your own personal device & code. If the sensorCAM is powered up with default settings (from EPROM), or adjusted by the user at the start, the program need only talk to sensorCAM over an i2c bus using the commands a, b, i, l & o for example, or it may be more sophisticated, providing a channel from a Control Station console to the sensorCAM to enable all configuration commands via the i2c bus.

The i2c bus is running at 100kHz on the prototype software. It has not been tested at any higher speed yet. It is running fine over a 20m long i2c bus to the master microcontroller (mpu or Mega).

8.2 DCC-EX CS: Setting up a DCC-EX Command Station, should you have one, requires configuration details placed in files *config.h* and *mySetup.h* along with a driver *IO_EXSensorCAM.h* and *myAutomation.h*. These must go in the directory containing file *CommandStation-EX.ino*. The *IO_EXSensorCAM.h* driver is based on the modified *IO_EXIOExpander.h* code. Refer to APPENDIX H for installation details. *EXSensorCAM.h* code mirrors the i, l, o, t & m commands, while the EXIODPUP command may serve as the enable function(a). *EXIOExpander.h* codes don't have the "control & setup" sensorCAM functions otherwise available from a USB console so additional functionality was added using the DCC-EX sensorCAM native command <N> (if using the newest CamParser.cpp).

8.3 Proprietary Master: If writing raw code for a Control Station, you will need details on the protocol used by sensorCAM on the i2c bus, and code to interpret the bus bytes and reconstitute text for the console. Two such prototype examples exists. V155 of sensorCAM incorporates a subset of the DCC-EX IOexpander codes so that EXRAIL can use sensorCAM without further modification. V301 & later mostly use ASCII code characters.

8.4 Gross Lighting changes will have two effects, namely cause trips of most sensors and stop automatic reference refreshes, it may be wise to include monitoring for this eventuality by detecting and setting an "alarm" state. The reference sensor (S00) is automatically re-referenced every 6.4 seconds so will indicate a fault-trip for a maximum of 6.4 seconds. All other sensors will continue to indicate a trip until the user resets the references with an r00 (having checked all unoccupied). Setting up a second "reference" sensor (say S01) that would NOT get reset automatically and would stay tripped as a more enduring fault indicator could be helpful. You could reserve entire bank 0 for this purpose or use the 'n0' command to set the programmable pLED to light up if there is any enduring trip on bank 0. By default *BLKOLED* was set to GPIO2 LED, with *BLK1LED* to *BLK3LED* all set to GPIO33 LED. *PLED* is set to GPIO14.

9. Methodology of operation

9.1 Overview: The sensorCAM monitors up to 80 small square images (virtual sensors) each consisting of 16 pixels (4x4) the coordinates of which relate to the row/column of the top left pixel. The top left pixel of the QVGA (240x320) image is an r,c coordinate of 0,0. Sensors with coordinate 0,0 are considered “undefined”. Sensors are electrically ‘noisy’, so much effort was applied to avoid noise trips.

After boot-up, every virtual sensor is imaged and a *Sensor_ref[]* recorded. This is a ONE frame grab as a first guess. All sensors should preferably be **UNoccupied at boot up**. If not, the user will have to manually take reference grabs at an appropriate time using the ‘r%’ commands. The ‘r%’ also triggers an IMMEDIATE start of a 3.2sec average Ref for S%. ‘r00’ triggers a 1 frame reference refresh for ALL sensors but also starts the auto reference process, as does r%. The latest version, at boot-up, commences regular averaged reference updates assuming all unoccupied. If an occupied state occurs during the averaging, the averaged ref. is rejected.

Every 100mSec the sensor pixels are decoded from the RGB565 QVGA image (2 byte) into RGB666 3 byte format and compared with the reference sensor image (in *Sensor_ref[]*) for changes. To allow for drifting light intensity, *Sensor_ref[]* needs to be periodically updated. The automatic updates occur for each enabled sensor (0/1 through 9/7 sequentially, each using a 32 sample average (in ~3.5seconds) and replacing the old *Sensor_ref[]* **provided** there were no “trips” of the sensor during the sample period (3.5sec.). Hence updates occur only when sensor is UNoccupied, and only once every N*3.5sec. (N being the number of enabled sensors). The brightness sensor (S00) is updated independently **every** 6.4 seconds with a 64 sample average. Each update is flagged to the monitor as it occurs (as “Ref 0%”). It is inadvisable to leave a sensor occupied for long periods if best reliability is desired. If a sensor is occupied for long periods of drifting illumination, the ref can become out-of-date to an extent that the sensor can remain PERMANENTLY “occupied”. Manual re-referencing (r%) would become necessary.

To detect a “trip” of a sensor, an algorithm evaluates a “difference” score between *Sensor666[]* and *Sensor_ref[]*. The (*bpd*) score is a brightness plus colour-diff sum. This (*bpd*) score is compared with the *threshold* ('t%') value. If it exceeds the threshold, a flag is set and if after “*min2trip*” frames it remains set, then the Sensor “trips”. It will then fall back (untrip) if *min2trip* frames go below *threshold*. *min2trip* is set to 2 by default as 3 will give an extra +100mS delayed response. The monitor data stream (scroll) includes the bsNo %%, potential for trip “?-”, the “*bpd*” score, or actual trip “oo” and “##”. If a twin (see below) inhibits trip, it indicates this with “?T”. Minimum *bpd* is 32 (identical). e.g. (with t45) **12:-38--* 13:-46-* 14:oo50##* 15:-53?T* 16:-35--*** Only S14 has tripped.

A “second opinion” may be used to maintain a quick “trip” with greater reliability. This involves setting up a second “twin” sensor adjacent to the primary sensor. The primary sensor will only trip if the secondary sensor agrees. (e.g. example for S15 above). The ‘i%,\$\$’ command nominates a twin sensor (\$\$\$) for sensor S%. The (non-00) twin should have a lower bsNo than the primary to avoid extra delay, as they are evaluated in ascending bsNo order.

As the sensor image suffers from excessive noise at low light levels, another averaging process has been included. For bsNo.s below 3/0 (parameter *TWOIMAGE_MAXBS*), two consecutive images are averaged to remove noise spikes. The effect can be observed if one watches two sensors with the same coordinates but above and below 3/0, and with a suitably low temporary threshold. This cutoff point (3/0) can be extended to higher banks as well by editing the #define statement in *sensorCAM.ino* or *configCAM.h* **#define TWOIMAGE_MAXBS 030**

The sensor size can be padded out (enlarged) with dummy pixels using **#define SEN_SIZE 2** in file *configCAM.h*

9.2 Algorithm description: The algorithm for *bpd* is weighted heavily towards colour changes rather than brightness. This reduces the sensitivity to mains frequency lighting flicker, and drifting light intensity (e.g. daylight). The algorithm for comparing colours is somewhat complex and may well be improved in later versions. The focus of detection is changing colours as opposed to changing brightness. To this end each sensor (4x4) is divided into four quadrants of rgb colour. The colour brightness factor is removed by an algorithm computing the colour ratios r/g

g/b b/r in each quadrant. These ratios are compared to that of the reference image for changes. The process in more detail is as follows:

Each sensor is split into 4 quadrants(quad), each quad has 4 pixels of 3 colours (48 x 6-bit bytes in total)

The sum of all 12 bytes($4*3$) in a quad is found as a quad brightness (4off) and the sum(4) of each colour (rgb) for each quad is found giving a total of 12 colour sums (3 colours * 4 quads) plus 4 brightness values

Within each quad, 3 colour ratios are calculated for Red/green green/blue blue/red (largest(*32) divided by smallest (any 0 changed to 1) to give 12 colour ratios, each ≥ 32 (32 if identical) (placed in array *Cratio[12]*)

Compare the values in *Cratio[12]* with the reference array (precomputed from *Sensor_ref[]*) and find the maximum “Xratio” between the two sets of 12 “Cratios” using the same formula (giving Xratios of 32 to 2016)

Set *maxDiff* to the largest ratio for a sensor from the 12 “Xratios”

A brightness score is similarly calculated between the full ref. brightness and that for the current sensor using formula $16 * \text{bright}/\text{Sen_Brightness_Ref}[bsn] - 16$. It is scaled to give a value from 0 upwards. With *brightSF*=2, a score of 2 represents about 7% brighter so is relatively insensitive. Code uses *int* so, $\leq 6\%$ difference gives a 0 score.

The “diff” score (*bpd*) comprises of (*bright * brightSF + maxDiff*) (≥ 32) and is weighted towards colour difference + small brightness component (of 2 for 7% change)

The diff (*bpd*) is compared to threshold for a decision on trip state. If greater than threshold, several additional checks are made including requiring 2 consecutive frames to exceed threshold, averaging pixels over two frames, and possibly confirmation from a twin sensor. These contribute to an additional response time delay (+100mSec). Furthermore the reference image is normally based on a 32 frame average pixel to eliminate any “noise” in the sensor reference itself.

9.3 Program Summary: Once the sensorCAM parameters and environmental conditions are set, the sensorCAM will run continuously, looping once per 100mSec. Each loop takes the following steps:

1. // ****IF IN MYWEB SERVER MODE, JUST MONITOR SERIAL PORTS FOR RESET (R or F)
2. // ****CALCULATE AND PRINT LOOP TIME - & IF CALLED FOR, UPDATE NEW CAMERA SETTINGS
3. // ****TAKE A FULL FRAME INTO fb IN RGB565 FORMAT
4. // ****DECODE RGB565 FRAME INTO COMPACT SENSOR FRAME OF RGB666 FORMAT
5. // ****SEE IF IMAGE DUMP (TO PROCESSING4) CALLED FOR & DUMP AS REQUESTED BEFORE NEW FRAME INITIATED
6. // ****BEFORE DISCARDING RGB565 fb FRAME, CHECK IF NEEDED TO PROCESS A sCAN or cALIBRATE COMMAND REQUEST
7. // ****DO A STEP TOWARDS AVERAGING Sensor[bsNo] IF COUNTER SET.
8. // ****CALCULATE ROLLING AVERAGE FOR Sensor[00] AND AVERAGE NOISE (& PEAK NOISE?)
9. // ****DELAY TO REDUCE FRAMES PER SECOND FROM one/80mS to one/100mSec FOR PSRAM 25% IDLE (DE-STRESS) TIME.
10. // ****FOR FLUORESCENT LIGHTING TRY TO SYNCHRONISE release/start image WITH 50Hz MAINS USING INTERNAL CLOCK
11. // ****IF CALLED FOR BY c####, OR STARTUP(), DO A FULL REFERENCE UPDATE FOR ALL ENABLED SENSORS
12. // ****NOW WANT TO CLEAR CAMERA PIPELINE & START NEW IMAGE CAPTURE FOR NEXT LOOP
13. // ****DO COMPARISON OF ALL SENSORS WITH THEIR REF'S, DECIDE IF OCCUPIED & IF SO SET STATUS.
14. // ****USE 2 image average for compare only if bsNo < TWOIMAGE_MAXBS as a method for improving algorithm.
15. // ****CHECK DFLAG AND OUTPUT REQUESTED INFO FOR ‘d’ cmd
16. // ****FLASH A LED ON EACH LOOP. Use FLASHLED pin
17. // ****CHECK FOR USB COMMAND INPUT - PROCESS ANY COMMAND

APPENDIX A

ESP32 sensorCAM Command Summary

rev 1SEP25

Can have 10 banks (0-9) of sensors. Each bank can have up to 8 enabled sensors (0-7). Bank/sensor (%) up to '97'. Array *Sensor[n]* holds coordinates (rx) of sensor n. Offsets are long int. Array uses 88+320 bytes (10*8*4) EEPROM. Sensors are grouped into banks (b) of individuals (s). e.g. bsNo 6/7 identifies bank 6 individual 7. (n=8*6+7=55=067) Sensors are undefined if coordinates (rx) are set to 00. They are disabled if *SensorActive[n]* is set to false.

If a sensor detects differences, then any output LED assigned to the associated Bank of sensors should turn ON.

On reset (power-up), reference grabs are taken for all defined (in EEPROM) sensors, and then enables them.

To define a sensor, use 'a' command, Processing4, or a bright LED on the desired spot and dim lighting and a "scan"(s). Save in EEPROM (e). SensorCAM uses RGB565 image format which is incompatible with JPG, so Reboots between Sensor or WiFi modes.

Commands below are received over the USB or i2c interfaces.

a[%][,rr,xx] enAble Sensor[%] & refresh Sensor_ref[%], cRatios etc. 4x4from image in latest frame. (Note 20.)

b#[,\$] Bank # sensors. Show which sensors OCCUPIED (in bits 7-0). (1=occ.) (b#\$ sets *brightSF*)

c\$\$\$\$ * reCalibrate camera CCD occasionally and grab new references for all enabled sensors (Beware of doing this while any sensors are occupied! NB. Obstructed sensors will later need an **r%** ! Check all bank LEDS are off AND check all sensors are unoccupied before recalibrate. Can set AWB AEC AGC CB through \$\$\$ e.g. c0110
Also able to change default setting for Brightness, Contrast & Saturation with extra digits e.g. c\$\$\$\$012

d%[#] *Difference score in colour & brightness between Ref & actual image. Show # grabs.

e EPROM save of any new Sensor offset positions, new twins & 5 default parameter settings.

f%* Frame buffer sample display. Print latest bytes in *Sensor_ref[%]* & *Sensor[%]* positions.

g * Get Camera Status. Displays most current settings available in webcam window. (both sensor & video mode)

h\$[,#] * Help(debug) output. h9 to set all OFF, h0 turn ON detailed USB output. 'h7,#' "Waits" scroll on bank# trip.

i%[\$\$] Info. on S%. Status (enabled/occupied), position (r,x), any twin (\$\$\$), *pvtThreshold*, & brightness.

j\$# * adjust camera setting \$ to value # and display most settings (as for 'g') 'j' alone lists the options for \$#

k%,rrr,xxx * set coordinates of Sensor S% to row: rrr & column: xxx. Follow with **r%**. Verify values with **p\$**

l% (Lima) Latch sensor % to on (1= occupied (LED lit) & also set *SensorActive[%]* false to disable sensing.

m\$[,%] *Minimum \$ (2) of sequential frames >*Threshold* to trigger/trip sensor. Shows list of parameters. (Note 14)

n#[,%] nLED bank Number assigned to the programmable status *nLED*. Optional n10,% to set minSensors.

o% (Oscar)Force sensor % off (0=UN-occupied (LED off) & also set *SensorActive[##]* false to disable updating.

p\$ * Position Pointer table info for banks 0 to \$ giving DEFINED sensor r/x positions. p% shorter.

q\$ * Query bank \$, to show which sensors ENABLED (in bits 7-0). 1=enabled. q9 gives ALL

r%[,0] Refresh Average Sensor_Ref[##] (If defined), enable & calc. cRatios etc. r%,0 refreshes block S%0 to S%

r00 Refresh Average Refs etc. for ALL defined sensors. Ignores enable[]. *Sensor[00]* reserved for brightness ref.

s% * Scan for new location for sensor % (00-97). If found, records location in *Sensor[0%]*. (Note 12)

t##[,%] Threshold level ##(31-98 only) set as default. t##,% sets the *pvtThreshold* for sensor %. (t0,% to clear)

t## Triggers ## (2-30 only) rows of scroll data (continuous scroll toggled off) **Note:** t1 alone toggles scroll on/off.

t1,% clear 1 entire bank of *pvtThresholds*. Use **t1,99** to clear ALL banks(0-9). **Note:** t99 lists all *pvtThreshold* values

u% Un-define/remove sensor % (*Sensor[%]=0* & set DISABLED) u99 for ALL. Cmd 'e' will erase from EPROM.

v[1|2] Video mode. Causes reboot as a webserver. "v2" will connect to 2nd (alt.) router ssid. (v or v0 for version)

w * Wait for new command line (\n) before resuming loop() (handy to stop display data scrolling – see t1 toggle)

x### * selects first pixel column (0-319) & **z### * selects** image width (### columns (1-320)) for imaging.

y### selects first row for image and initiates a binary data dump for that row (header + #*2 bytes) using rgb565. This command starts a process that must, after a series of 'y' commands, end with a terminator of 'yy'.

R & F * Reset commands – will Reset CAM and initiate the Sensor mode. Both will Finish the WebServer (v) mode.

\%%,#,\$ Convert bank to linear sensor starting with S%% and using r,x step sizes of #,\$ (0-31) Slope is “down-right”.
 /%%,#,\$ Convert bank to linear sensor starting with S%% as for ‘\’ but line will slope “down-left”. (-deltaX)
 & * statistics histogram on trips and potential trips since last ‘&’, then reset counters and start another sample process. The table gives number of single highs, double highs etc. and totals for No. of frames/run time
 @## * set the “occupied” symbol in the scroll to ASCII character ##. Default is 35 (#) Arduino IDE @12 is **bolder!**
 +#,,\$ * add offset (# pixels) in \$ direction to re-centre sensors after physical drift in CAM alignment. \$(0-7) for N-NW
 * These commands typically for diagnostic/setup use only. They wait for a line feed or command to resume.

Note: The value of “bs” (80 sensors 0-79dec) is printed in several formats. For data entry, bsNo format (% e.g. 47) is bank/sensor, so bsn=8*4+7=39dec.(vpin). S47 may be printed as (char) 47, 4/7, (octal) 047, (or hex 0x27) depending on context. Debug output likely uses OCT (or HEX). Note: OCT 0107 = 8/7, 0117 = 9/7.

Startup Notes:

1. Normal power up reset will initiate Sensor mode, as will the ‘R’ command, and uses EPROM data settings.
2. Sensor mode startup flashes white LED at 10Hz after ~10 seconds, and exhibits a “flicker” at ~20 seconds.
3. Requested (v1) WebServer mode reset will flash LED at ~3seconds and again (brighter) at ~8 seconds.
4. After the 8 second flash the Webserver will be operational at web address 192.168.0.xx (xx from display)
5. If the OV2640 camera or WiFi fails to initialize, the CAM resets and may restart/revert into Sensor mode!
6. If USB FTDI/MB is removed or not connected to PC, then WebServer may fail/reboot. Power issue?

I2C command Notes: (EX-CS may exhibit small variations & reduced cmd functionality depending on driver)

1. The same commands are valid from an I2C Master Arduino, but there are some variations.
2. The commands with asterisks normally pause CAM execution so the operator can read USB output on a monitor screen. The same commands from I2C DO NOT wait for a new line, with the exception of ‘w’.
3. Commands **b**, **d**, **i**, **m**, **p**, **q** & **t** can return data to the I2C master Arduino (Mega). This data is delivered if the master calls a *Wire.requestFrom(addr, #);* following the command, from the slave CAM address 17 (0x11).
4. The I2C data returned (after header byte) is in binary bytes and in a format depending on the last command.
5. Header byte[0] is the ASCII command character (b, d, i, m, p, q, or t) or an error code (0xFE) if no valid data.
6. If the error code is generated, it is followed by the last received (inappropriate) command string.
7. **b\$** cmd returns \$+1 sensor status bytes for bank \$, \$-1 etc. down to bank 0. ‘b’ defaults to ‘b9’ (all).
8. **d%** cmd returns 4 data bytes with binary values for bsn, maxDiff+bright, maxDiff & bright in that order.
9. **i%** cmd returns 2 data bytes: byte[1] = bsn and byte[2]=0 if unoccupied or 1 (true) if occupied. (+ more)
10. **p\$** cmd returns Byte[0]header + count + 3 data bytes per enabled (bank \$) sensor + parity (max 27 bytes).
11. **q\$** cmd returns \$+1 bank sensor enabled status bytes for bank \$, \$-1 etc. down to bank 0. ‘q’ defaults to ‘q1’
12. **s%** Scan looks for a bright LED on a dimmer background. The LED should be placed on the desired sensor position. *This old method of placing sensors is not recommended.* The Scan command is to be deprecated.
13. **t#[,%]** cmd. initially sends CS the old threshold value (i.e. BEFORE change in the case of **t##**). Also returns sensor scores (*bpd*) in 2-byte pairs with MSB set so: *bsn*(+0x80 if undecided) & *bpd*(+0x80 if OCCUPIED). Byte[0]header;[1]threshold;[2]S00bpd;[3]bsn;[4]bpd;[5]bsn;[6]bpd etc. Ends with *bsn*=80 (max 15 enabled)
14. **m\$,%** sets *maxSensors* to % (USB or i2c) (as can **h%** (%% < 98)). **m0,1%** sets *minSensors*. Data sent to screen is bound between min and maxSensors. Extra parameter status bytes added to i2c bus for display.
15. The ‘“‘ character is just a null cmd. Used before **R**, **d** & **t** to prevent BCD Mega itself pre-interpreting them.
16. N.B.: The ESP32-CAM uses old ESP32 which has I2C limitations. It has a “pipeline” for returning data which results in a delay in response. i.e. the first request after a command will return OLD data. A SECOND request should return the desired data described above. A third or fourth request may return updated data.
17. Some commands take time to complete, as command processing can only happen once per 100mSeconds (i.e. the frame rate of the CAM). The I2C master should allow for latency in response where necessary.
18. Data requested over i2c may have a parity byte appended, and a check byte in byte[31].
19. NOTE Automatic updating of ref image of unoccupied sensors now starts after last SUS (suspend) indicator.
20. **a%,rrr,xxx** performs extended ‘create sensor’ equivalent to **k%,rrr,xxx + a% + r%** for new sensor %
21. **Connection to DCC-EX Command Station has cmd. variations. See APPENDIX C for revised command detail.**

APPENDIX B

Check List for Optimising Sensor Response

In the situation where sensors may be tripping undesirably, there is a range of adjustments that can be made to find a satisfactory operating point. Some have disadvantages that need to be considered and compromises may be necessary.

1. First step is to refresh the sensor reference image. Try Cmd: r00, or r% for a single sensor. This may be necessary after any disturbance to the environment such as changed lighting.
2. Check the “Diff” scores on the scrolling display. After a refresh they should be in the range 32-37 for normal operation. If occasional trips occur, one remedy is to increase the *threshold* with Cmd: t46 say. Increasing the *threshold* reduces the sensitivity to low contrast objects (e.g. black over brown) If unoccupied Diff scores are consistently 32-35, reduce threshold for greater sensitivity.
3. Is the lighting adequate? Steady muted daylight is ideal. Beware of rotating fans and other moving shadows (clouds?) (Note: may need to consider extreme case of mains induced ripple from 50/60Hz LED/fluoro lighting – to be discussed later) Brighter stable lighting means reduced “noise”.
4. Sensitivity to electrical “noise” can be reduced by increasing the “*min2trip*” parameter to 3 consecutive frames using Cmd: m3 (default is 2). However this increases response time by 100ms.
5. You can create a “Twin” sensor for a “second opinion” by placing a Second Sensor \$ \$\$ on the track adjacent to the primary sensor S% (3-4 pixels away) by using the Cmd: a\$\$,123,234 selecting the position from that of the primary sensor (obtained from Cmd: i%) To avoid increasing response time, use a twin bsNo LOWER than the primary sensor (possibly in a “reserved” bank, perhaps a matching bsNo in that bank). This twin \$\$ can be assigned to the primary sensor S% with the Cmd: i%,\$\$ The primary sensor will not trip unless the twin agrees. This suppresses pixel noise spikes.
6. Check that there isn’t anything elsewhere in the field of view that is moving and could trigger the auto exposure in the camera. e.g. spectators near the edge of the field of view. (It is possible to change camera ov2640 module settings with ‘j’ and ‘c’ commands, but this can be a frustrating experience and needs considerable practice as some settings interact and can be order dependent)
7. Make sure you do a refresh/record reference (r) *after* any changes or the benefit will be obscured.
8. Is the camera steady? No vibration or movement since the last reference images (r)?
9. There is a 2-frame (experimental) averaging applied to low bank sensors (currently 0-2) This can be extended to cover all banks, if desired by increasing CAM parameter TWOIMAGE_MAXBS above 3/0
10. There has been poorer behavior observed with sensors placed near the edge of the frame. They seem to experience more electrical noise than mid-frame sensors and may need extra attention.
11. A statistics function can be obtained to see how bad spurious tripping is. The ‘&’ cmd gives a table of stats accumulated since the previous ‘&’ command. May be useful. HINT: You can compare two or more sensors with different settings on the same spot. Accumulate data with no genuine trips.
12. Consider whether a pixel may be faulty or unduly noisy. Try another nearby sensor position.
13. If necessary, enhance the brightness of the Sensor location with light colour or a small reflector.
14. It is possible to set private thresholds on individual sensors if other solutions inadequate. (t##,%%)
15. Consider adjusting *brightSF* (\$) if colour contrast is generally poor (b#\$) default 3, try 4-5.
16. In some situations, repositioning sensor slightly to include loco shadow will give extra sensitivity.
17. Last but not least, consider repositioning CAM for better oblique view angle giving more contrast for better detection, catching sides of coaches/wagons, shadows and some trackside references.

APPENDIX C

Filtered/parsed DCC EX-CS sensorCAM commands

The file *myFilter.cpp* or *CamParser.cpp* has been added to the CS specifically tailored to provide a mechanism for the CS to send commands more easily than by using the clumsy diagnostic command style <D ANOUT vpin parm1 parm2>. Native CAM command format is <N c [parm1] [parm2]> where command character 'c' can be any of those listed below. Generally, to effect changes in sensorCAM, **the CAM must be in the run mode (flashing).**

The base vpin address defaults to 700 but one can use the #define SENSORCAM_VPIN for another value (in config.h). With 2 to 4 CAM's, use <N C vpin0> when a switch is needed. The CAM # may also be placed, if defined in config.h, before the sensor bsNo. e.g.<Ni 2%> <Nr 2%> also <Nm 200> <Nf 212> <Nt 243>

User Command Example	Equivalent sensorCAM command and action (only some return data to CS)
<N C vpin> <NC 600>	Set base CAM vpin for following commands. <NC #> selects CAM # (1-3).
<N a %%> <N a 12>	a12 enAble sensor S%% (bsNo)
<N b bank#> <N b 1>	b1 Bank sensor states (all 8). (used by IFGTE() ATLT() e.g. to locate loco)
<N e> <N e>	e EPROM write any changed settings to sensorCAM EPROM.
<N f %%> <N f 12>	f12 Frame image pixel data for <i>Sensor_ref[]</i> and <i>sensor666[]</i> (RGB bytes)
<N F> <N F>	F Forced reboot , restoring sensorCAM sensor mode & EPROM defaults.
<N g> <N g>	g Get status ov2640 camera module settings (on sensorCAM monitor).
<N h %%> <N h 30>	h30 set maxSensors to limit display to below sensor S%. Also Help (0-9).
<N j \$ #> <N j B 2>	jB2 adJust ov2640 parameters(\$) (Brightness, Contrast etc) (values 0-2 only)
<N l %%> <N l 12>	l12 (lima) Set (latch) output state of sensor <i>bsNo</i> to 1 & disable.
<N o %%> <N o 12>	o12 (oscar) Zero output state of sensor <i>bsNo</i> . Reset to 0 & disable.
<N p %%> <N p 1>	p1 Positions (r,x) of all enabled sensors in bank are listed.
<N q bank#> <N q 1>	q1 Query bank# enabled states of sensors [0 indicates sensor disabled]
<N r [%]> <N r 12>	r12 Refresh Reference image for sensor S% (bsNo) (default ALL = r00).
<N s %%> <N s 12>	s12 Scan image for brightest spot and set <i>bsNo</i> to center that pixel.
<N u %%> <N u 12>	u12 Undefine & disable sensor <i>bsNo</i> (erase coordinates). <Nu 99> for All
<N v [alt]> <N v 2>	v2 Video mode (0-2) invoke webCAM with v 1, or alt webCAM with v 2.
<N w> <N w>	w Wait . Stop/start CAM imaging(flash), status sensing & streaming.
<N a %% row col>	a12,201,302 enAble & also set new coordinates for sensor <i>bsNo</i> & refresh
<N vpin row column>	a12,201,302 using vpin directly, set new coordinates for sensor <i>bsNo</i> .

<N 710 201 302> **Note:** This uses the **vpin** for a sensor, NOT id/bsNo. (ref. Appendix E).

Note: The 'i' cmd prints *bsNo(bsn)*. *bsn/vPin* offsets range from (7)00 to (7)79 (e.g. baseVpin address 700).

Additional verbose commands with sensorCAM feedback to CS console (i.e. more than ACK OK):

<N [m #00]> <N> <N m 200>	-	Lists current & alt. defined CAM baseVpins. [m %%] switches to cam#
<N Q> <NQ>	Query	to CS console, full set of bank sensor occupied states in 8 bit format
<N v[0]> <NV>	ver	Returns Version of <i>sensorCAM.ino</i> and <i>IO_ESensorCAM.h</i> driver
<N i [%]> <N i 12>	i12	CS display Information on sensor <i>bsNo</i> state, position & twin(0=None)
* <N i %[%twin]><N i 12 02>	i12,02	Info sets new twin sensor (S02) to set up "second-opinion" on S%.
* <N m \$ [%]> <N m 3 20>	m3,20	set min2trip (1-4) frames [& maxSensors] Show parameter status data
* <N n \$ [%]> <N n 1 10>	n1,10	set nLED = bank\$ [& minSensors to limit display range] <Nn v> verifies.
* <N t [newt[%]]> <N t 43>	t43	CS displays old threshold , sends new threshold, & shows sensor states and diff score on CS, similar to CAM scrolling format. [%] for a <i>pvtThreshold</i> . <Nt 0 %%> to cancel.

<N t ##> for ## <31 causes ## repeats of 't' command (scrolling data). <N t 1> toggles CAM scrolling.

* These commands **return previous(old) values** rather than changed values. Use <Nm> to confirm change.

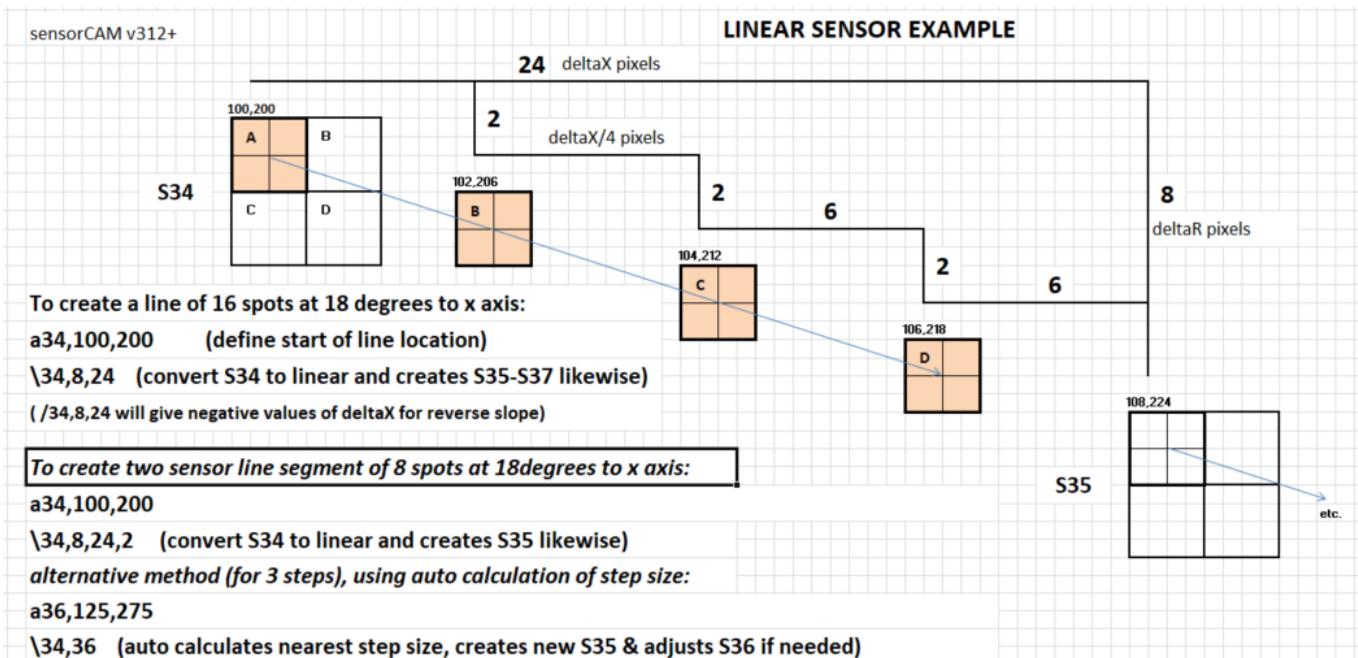
Note: Space after <N is optional, as is capitalization of command. e.g. <N t 42> = <NT 42>, <N r 00> = <NR> **Multiple CAM selections** can be achieved by *config.h* entry and use of [#] prefix on param1 e.g. <N i 212> For these to work fully, need latest *CamParser.cpp*, CS driver (*IO-ESensorCAM.h*) & *sensorCAM.ino*

APPENDIX D

Linear Sensor Commands

To enable an intrusion detection “curtain” or a linear “siding” or “spur” occupancy detector, a variation on the standard 4x4 pixel sensor was introduced with sensorCAM version 3.07. These sensors can detect the presence of any wagon/coach/loco obstructing any part of a (potentially curved) siding. Unlike conventional electrical occupancy detectors, it requires no extensive axle replacement on all rolling stock or complex IR or other style detectors and wiring.

The “linear” detector consists of a series of spot sensors utilizing multiple sensors *in one bank* and normally ending with the last sensor in the bank (i.e. S%7). The four spots of one S% are spaced at an even multiple of pixels from 0 to 15 sloping to right or left. Spacing of deltaX and deltaR are specified as integers from 0 to 63 giving a theoretical maximum length of 63 x 1.41 x 8 pixels (710pixels). The sensorCAM resolution is 240x320 only, so shorter spacing is normal and gives a better result. One may also use up fewer std. Sensors (max 8/bank) to cover the required distance.



After creating a line, a refresh (Y) of the Processing4 image should show a series of standard sensors placed on every fourth spot (e.g. S34-S37). Interpolate between top left sensor quadrants for visual line alignment. v312+ shows the (orange) spots between Sensors.

To create a “curved” intrusion curtain line, one can start at the top with a straight line and then change the slope (\) on each successive S% checking the image after each adjustment. Alternatively place up to 8 std. consecutive sensors and then convert each in turn to a joining line using \%% repeatedly.

While individual sensor segments can be read by the Command Station in the usual way, a line sensor should be read/tested as a bank. The sensorCAM (b) command shows a byte value dependent on all sensors in the bank in bits 7-0. The “value” of a bank will rise if sensors set the bits such that, for the example above, the value will exceed 16 (2^4) if any sensor in the range S34-S37 is tripped. The EX-RAIL commands, such as IFGTE(CAM 034, 16), will respond to the tripping of the line sensor.

The line sensors may require an individual *pvtThreshold* rather than *Threshold* as their sensitivity will differ. The line sensor can have a *pvtThreshold* PROVIDED it is only stored in the last sensor (e.g. S37). If a *pvtThreshold* is set (under 99) in the last sensor, it trims the line by 3 steps restoring the (S%7) sensor to a normal square (4x4). Remember to store (EPROM) the new line sensor with the (e) command.

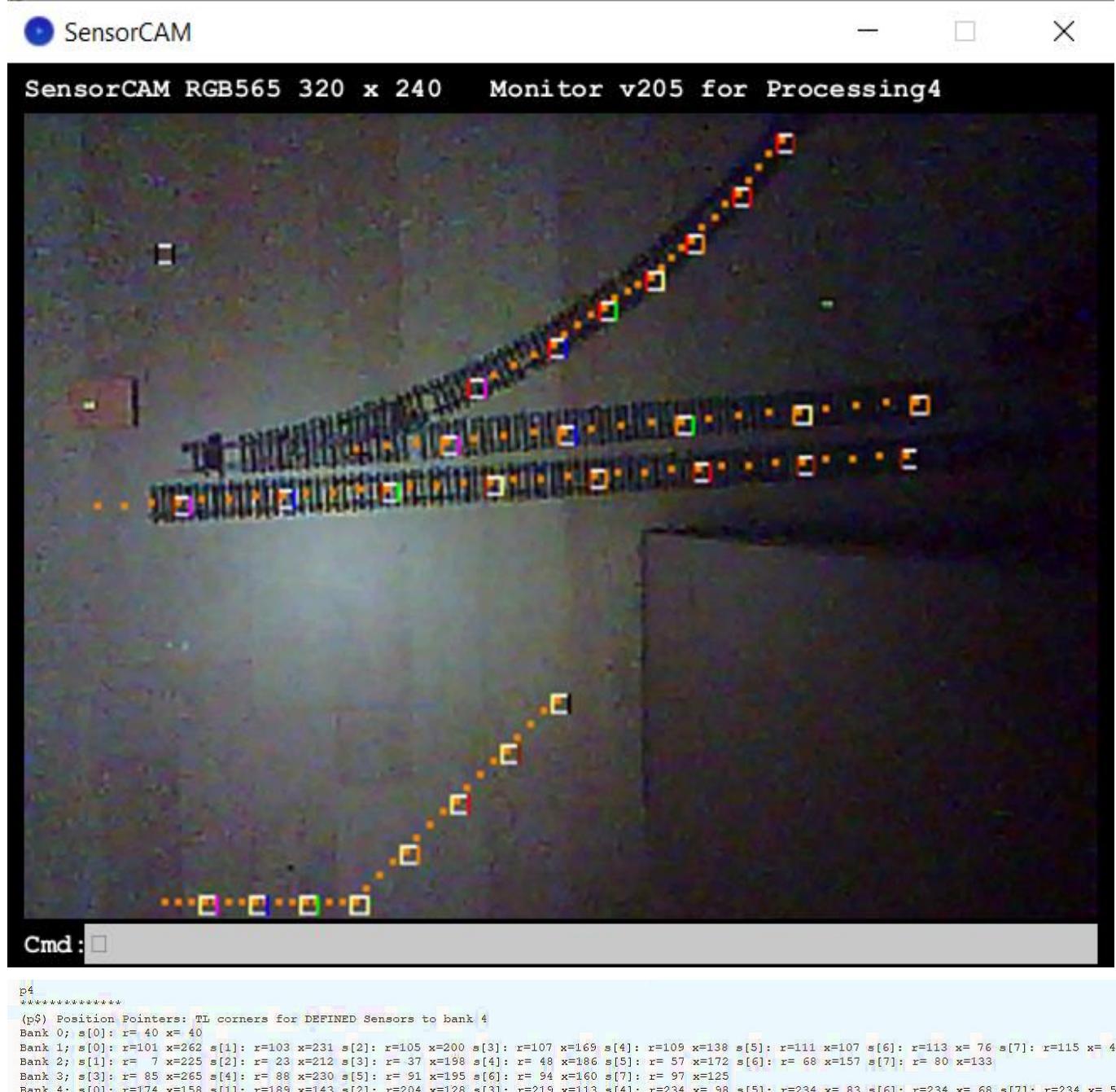
If precision less than 1deg is needed, consider a tiny CAM rotation to help fiddle yard alignments (say).

While setup without an advanced GUI is fiddly, most situations can be handled. The following examples may help visualize the requirements. Note: To get good image updates make sure the CAM has flashed before the new Y cmd. One sure way to do this is to issue the **t2** command for two new frames.

Straight line sensors (S33 to S37 & S40 to S47) were created by positioning end Sensors & using **\%%,%** End Sensors were initially placed using **a%%** followed by a click on the image & **Enter** and then issuing the **'** cmd. (e.g. **\40,47**) to automatically interpolate for the nearest straight line. *These lines can go upward*

Curved sensor banks can be constructed from a series of prepositioned standard 4x4 sensors and then converting them individually using **\%** to join two consecutive sensor positions as was done for bank 2 (S21-S27) in this example. Place the cursor fingertip exactly where you want a linear point as the point is placed in the top left corner of the Sensor box.

Line sensors, developed for visitor intrusion curtains, are currently automatically bent if needed to avoid crossing the bottom edge or placing sensors very close to the edge where they have been found to be particularly noise sensitive. In the image below, line sensor generated from **/40,15,15** has hit the edge.



APPENDIX E

Tabulation of Recommended DCC-EX-CS id's for sensorCAM

The id consists of CAM number #‐bank‐sensor or #bs. Each bank (0‐9) contains 8 sensors (0‐7)

ID is the CAM number # x 100 + bsNo skipping id's ending in 8 or 9.

vPin is the base/first vPin number (e.g. 700) + DEC (bsn)number in table below

EX-CS CAM No 1. ID	bsNo.	bsn OCT	(vPin) DEC	HEX	COLOUR CODE bank/sen.	EX-CS CAM No 1. ID	bsNo.	bsn OCT	(vPin) DEC	HEX	COLOUR CODE bank/sen.	EX-CS CAM No 1. ID	bsNo.	bsn OCT	(vPin) DEC	HEX	COLOUR CODE bank/sen.
100	0 / 0	0 0	0	0x 0	bk 0	130	3 / 0	0 30	24	0x 18	or 0	160	6 / 0	0 60	48	0x 30	bl 0
101	0 / 1	0 1	1	0x 1	bk br	131	3 / 1	0 31	25	0x 19	or br	161	6 / 1	0 61	49	0x 31	bl br
102	0 / 2	0 2	2	0x 2	bk rd	132	3 / 2	0 32	26	0x 1A	or rd	162	6 / 2	0 62	50	0x 32	bl rd
103	0 / 3	0 3	3	0x 3	bk or	133	3 / 3	0 33	27	0x 1B	or or	163	6 / 3	0 63	51	0x 33	bl or
104	0 / 4	0 4	4	0x 4	bk vw	134	3 / 4	0 34	28	0x 1C	or vw	164	6 / 4	0 64	52	0x 34	bl vw
105	0 / 5	0 5	5	0x 5	bk gn	135	3 / 5	0 35	29	0x 1D	or gn	165	6 / 5	0 65	53	0x 35	bl gn
106	0 / 6	0 6	6	0x 6	bk bl	136	3 / 6	0 36	30	0x 1E	or bl	166	6 / 6	0 66	54	0x 36	bl bl
107	0 / 7	0 7	7	0x 7	bk vi	137	3 / 7	0 37	31	0x 1F	or vi	167	6 / 7	0 67	55	0x 37	bl vi
110	1 / 0	0 10	8	0x 8	br 0	140	4 / 0	0 40	32	0x 20	vw 0	170	7 / 0	0 70	56	0x 38	vi 0
111	1 / 1	0 11	9	0x 9	br br	141	4 / 1	0 41	33	0x 21	vw br	171	7 / 1	0 71	57	0x 39	vi br
112	1 / 2	0 12	10	0x A	br rd	142	4 / 2	0 42	34	0x 22	vw rd	172	7 / 2	0 72	58	0x 3A	vi rd
113	1 / 3	0 13	11	0x B	br or	143	4 / 3	0 43	35	0x 23	vw or	173	7 / 3	0 73	59	0x 3B	vi or
114	1 / 4	0 14	12	0x C	br vw	144	4 / 4	0 44	36	0x 24	vw vw	174	7 / 4	0 74	60	0x 3C	vi vw
115	1 / 5	0 15	13	0x D	br gn	145	4 / 5	0 45	37	0x 25	vw gn	175	7 / 5	0 75	61	0x 3D	vi gn
116	1 / 6	0 16	14	0x E	br bl	146	4 / 6	0 46	38	0x 26	vw bl	176	7 / 6	0 76	62	0x 3E	vi bl
117	1 / 7	0 17	15	0x F	br vi	147	4 / 7	0 47	39	0x 27	vw vi	177	7 / 7	0 77	63	0x 3F	vi vi
120	2 / 0	0 20	16	0x 10	rd 0	150	5 / 0	0 50	40	0x 28	gn 0	180	8 / 0	01 00	64	0x 40	gr 0
121	2 / 1	0 21	17	0x 11	rd br	151	5 / 1	0 51	41	0x 29	gn br	181	8 / 1	01 01	65	0x 41	gr br
122	2 / 2	0 22	18	0x 12	rd rd	152	5 / 2	0 52	42	0x 2A	gn rd	182	8 / 2	01 02	66	0x 42	gr rd
123	2 / 3	0 23	19	0x 13	rd or	153	5 / 3	0 53	43	0x 2B	gn or	183	8 / 3	01 03	67	0x 43	gr or
124	2 / 4	0 24	20	0x 14	rd vw	154	5 / 4	0 54	44	0x 2C	gn vw	184	8 / 4	01 04	68	0x 44	gr vw
125	2 / 5	0 25	21	0x 15	rd gn	155	5 / 5	0 55	45	0x 2D	gn gn	185	8 / 5	01 05	69	0x 45	gr gn
126	2 / 6	0 26	22	0x 16	rd bl	156	5 / 6	0 56	46	0x 2E	gn bl	186	8 / 6	01 06	70	0x 46	gr bl
127	2 / 7	0 27	23	0x 17	rd vi	157	5 / 7	0 57	47	0x 2F	gn vi	187	8 / 7	01 07	71	0x 47	gr vi
												etc. to 197	9 / 0	01 10	72	0x 48	wb 0
													9 / 7	01 17	79	0x 4F	

APPENDIX F

Hardware Interface Notes. (including PCA9515A & Sparkfun Endpoints)

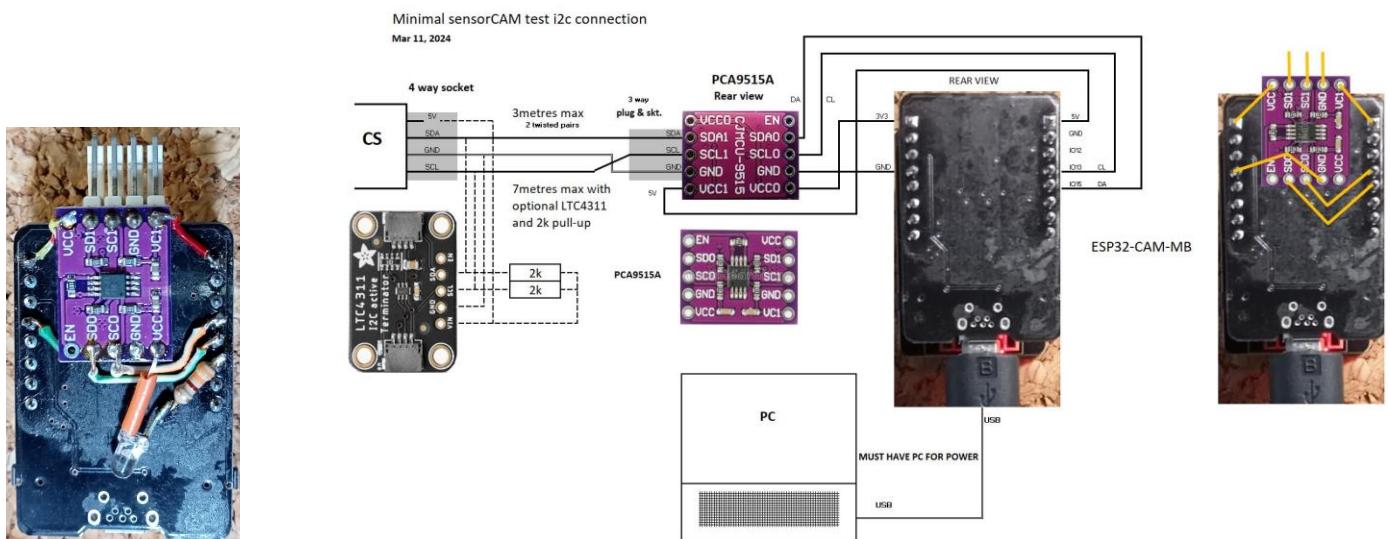
Note: This Appendix focuses on the ESP32-CAM-MB implementation, but as an alternative, consider the newer ESP32 WROVER-CAM and breakout board, as mentioned in Section 7, Figure 6 for a simpler implementation.

The CAM drives GPIO pins with 3.3V logic. This may well be incompatible with the master I2C signals at 5V. It is essential that appropriate voltage level shifting and buffering is used where necessary. Unbuffered I2C is limited in range but a cheap P82B715 bus extender gives up to 30m of I2C capability. A Sparkfun differential i2c driver/ endpoint may be used to achieve long lengths and voltage shifting (3.3v to 5v). The prototype Sensor CAM was mounted on a “perf” board that holds two bank trip LEDs, power LED, I2C buffer, a number of required pull-up resistors, capacitors and a voltage regulator so that it can operate and be powered over a single 5m CAT5 cable for greater convenience. A 3m USB connection need only be used for setup and diagnosis. The prototype board plugs into the socket of ESP32-CAM-MB USB adaptor (with 5V pin cut off) but can also use other FTDI interfaces.

The CAM prototype can be Reset remotely by software or by cycling the power supply. It can be placed in program mode by a logic signal (GPIO0) over the CAT5 cable if needed, and similarly placed in WebServer mode (GPIO14) or Sensor mode remotely independent of I2C master. The GPIO0 & 14 pins may be isolated from CAT5 cable with MOSFETS. The CAM MUST be rigidly mounted as its response to any image vibration can trip sensors. It is best not moved after sensor location programming as precise realignment could be tedious. It is, however, advisable to make guides or jig arrangement to at least be able to remove (for maintenance) and return with minimal misalignment to cover the same field of view. The LED method of placing/positioning sensors may be necessary if a long USB cable is impractical. A 5m buffered USB cable might be advantageous. Even so, programming or imaging over a long USB cable may never be satisfactory.

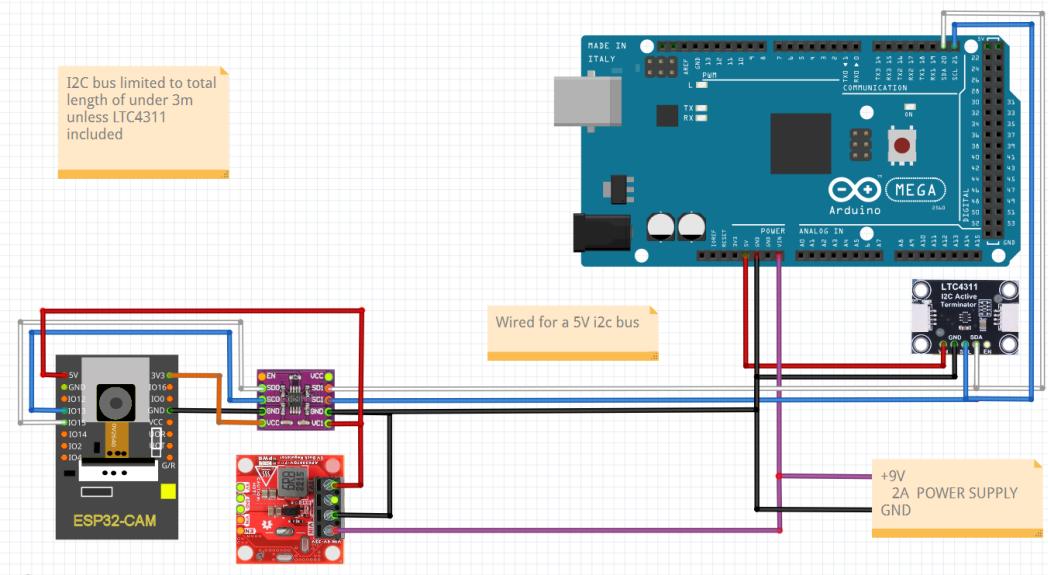
One PCA9515A based module offers a simpler, but limited, interface to an i2c bus the use of will act as a level changer (3.3V to 5V) and can connect to a SHORT i2c bus (max 3m). You may use 2mm foam adhesive tape to mount a PCA9515A on the back of an ESP32-CAM-MB and solder on the 5 jumper wires directly as shown below. If the i2c length is near or just over the limit, an optional LTC4311 extender can be attached to boost the signal. This option relies on 5V USB power so needs a dedicated (permanent) USB cable connection.

A programmable *n*LED & 330ohm resistor may be attached to the PCA9515A from 3.3V VCC to GPIO14.

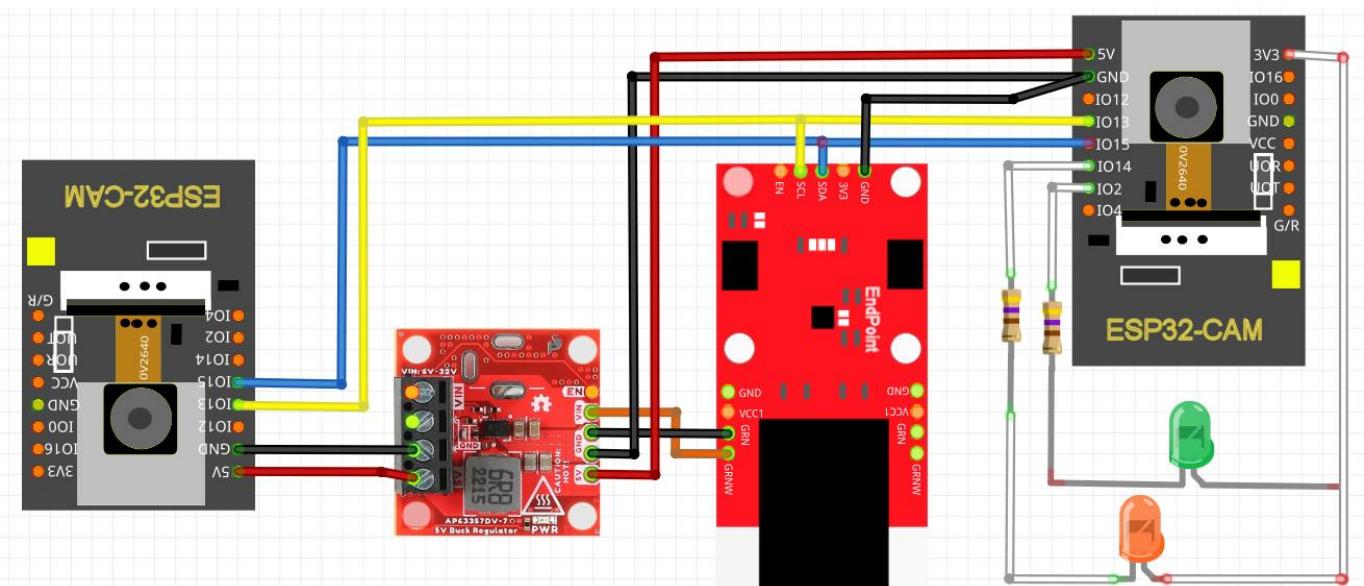
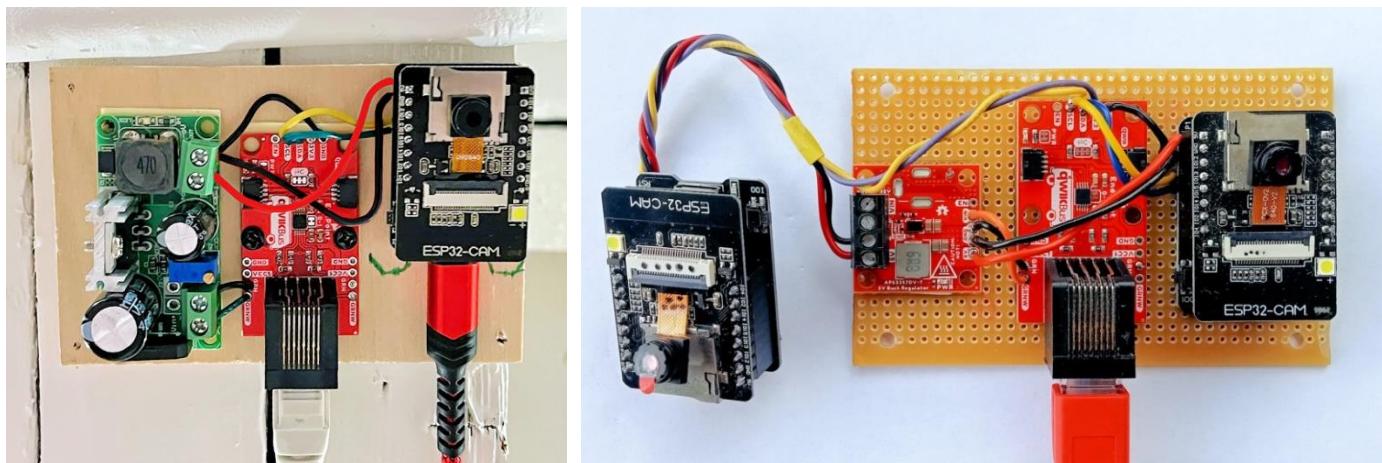


Alternatively, The Sparkfun endpoint is perhaps the best overall solution at this stage for driving one (or more) sensorCAMs. It provides greater lengths of cable without extending the Command Station i2c local bus. The endpoints are used in pairs, connected by a long (<100m) differential pair cat5 cable providing power and communications. It can provide buffering, level shifting and power, but care is needed at the CS end to avoid over-voltage damage. It is suggested, with a 5V CS, that the Endpoint pullup jumpers at the CS end be cut for safety. The sensorCAM Endpoint default pullups are needed for the 3.3V CAM i2c bus. The CS Endpoint requires 3.3V power (from the CS) and a separate (7 to 9V) DC supply for the Buck & CAM.

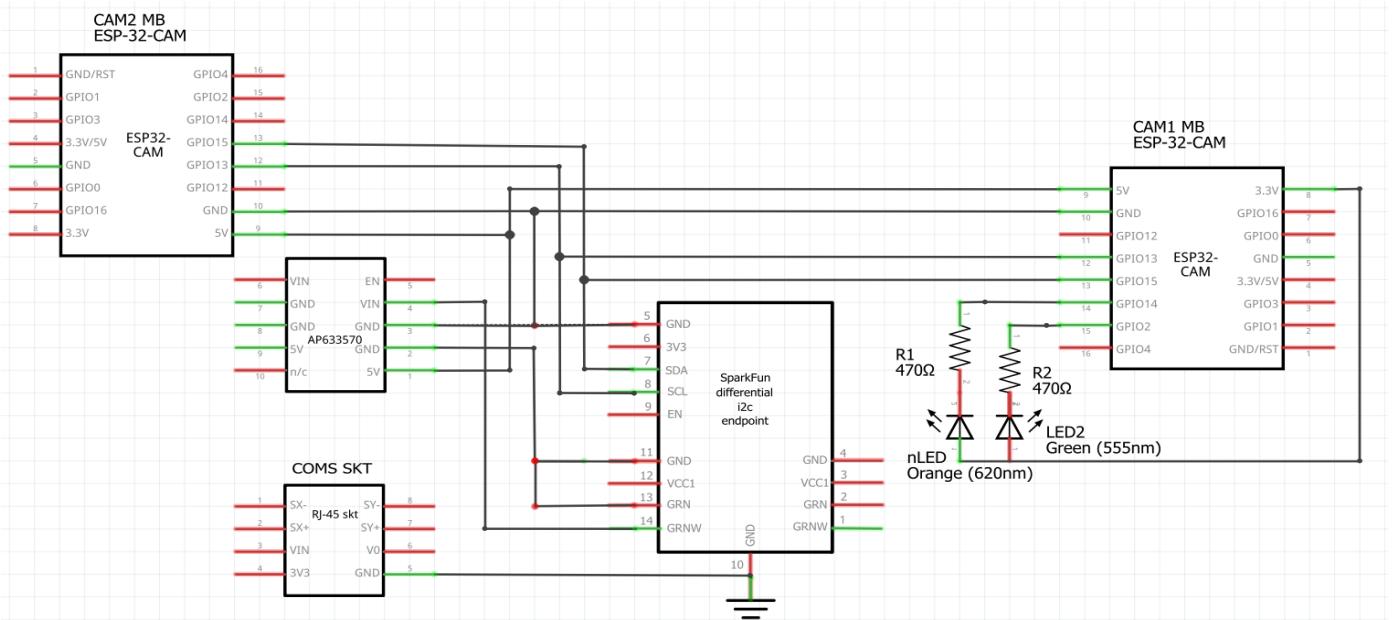
Typical device applications (with BUCK 5V inverters):



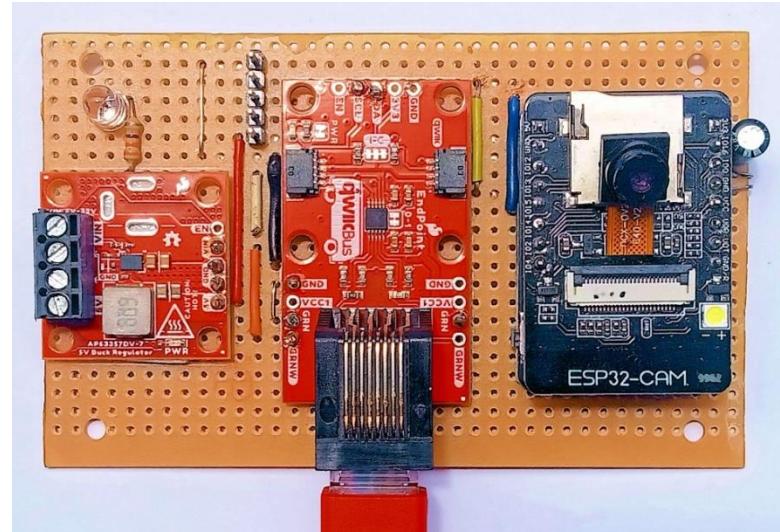
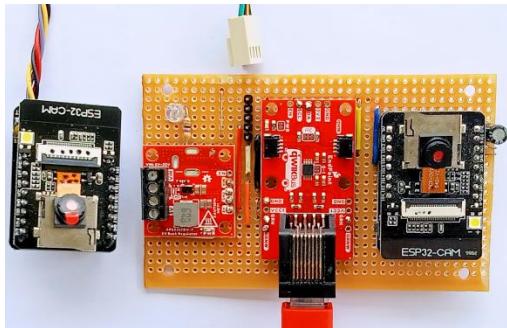
Sparkfun endpoints (requires a matching sparkfun endpoint at CS) (CS interface option B):



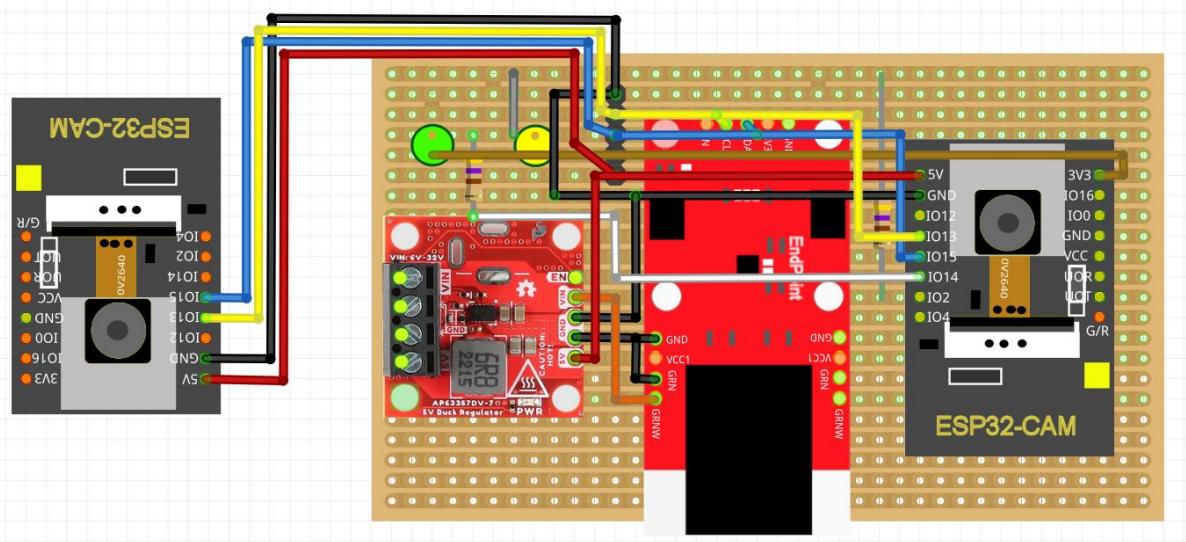
(Dual optional) CAM wiring with Endpoints & 5V Buck reg. powered over GRN-GRNW(Vin) with Vin (>7V)



With Dual CAM header:



NOTE: Take care to cut copper strips appropriately!



There are three basic variations below for connecting the Endpoints to the CS. The choice depends on the current system being extended. Options A & B apply to a 5Volt I2C bus on a 5V CS with or without existing I2C accessory connections, while Option C is the simplest connection to a 3.3Volt CS i2c bus.

The 2x Endpoints require about 10mA each. All options can be adapted for use with a mux if necessary.

The choice between A and B depends on the power supplies available. If the CS Endpoint is to be tapped into a “remote” 5V i2c bus location, a CS 3.3V supply may not be available, only a 5V I2C supply. Option B removes one 10k pullup resistor pair from the bus to avoid inappropriate pull-up voltage (3.3V).

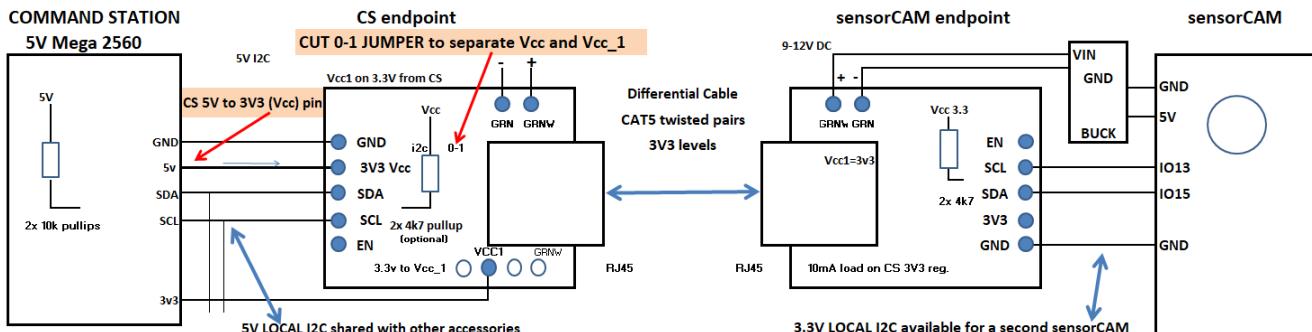
Option A: CUT CAM endpoint jumper 0-1 and supply 5V and 3.3V from the CS. Option A connections results in a 5V i2c interface to 3.3V differential cable for 5V microprocessor based CS (e.g. Mega).

Option B: may be used if the CS 3V3 regulator is more convenient. CUT two CS Endpoint I2C jumpers to disconnect the on-board I2C pullup 10k resistors and 3v3 from the bus. This adds load to the i2c bus data so may need extra pullups to 5V. This does function but is not recommended.

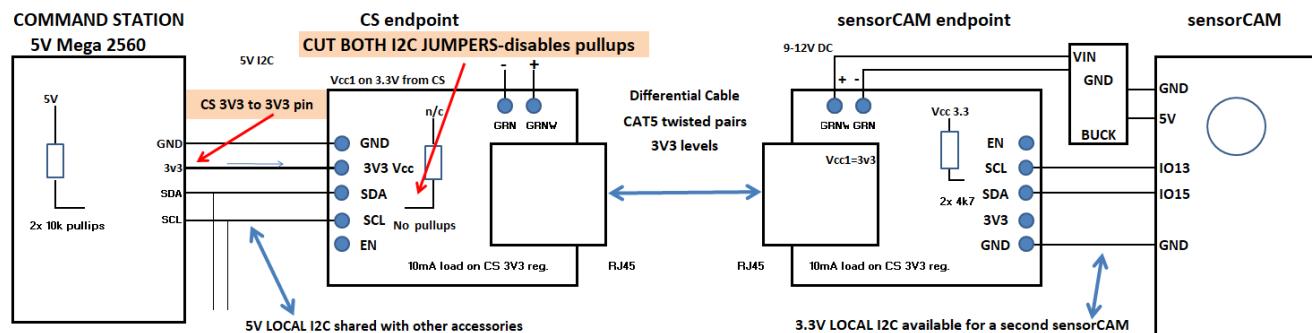
Option C: used with newer (32bit) MPU's & uses 3V3 throughout. No Endpoint jumpers need to be cut.

Whichever option is used, the user should consider if the I2C bus needs to be tuned differently. For very short extra cable length to the Endpoint and only one extra device count on an I2C bus under 1m in length, tuning may be unnecessary. In marginal conditions consider retuning as per DCC-EX recommendations.

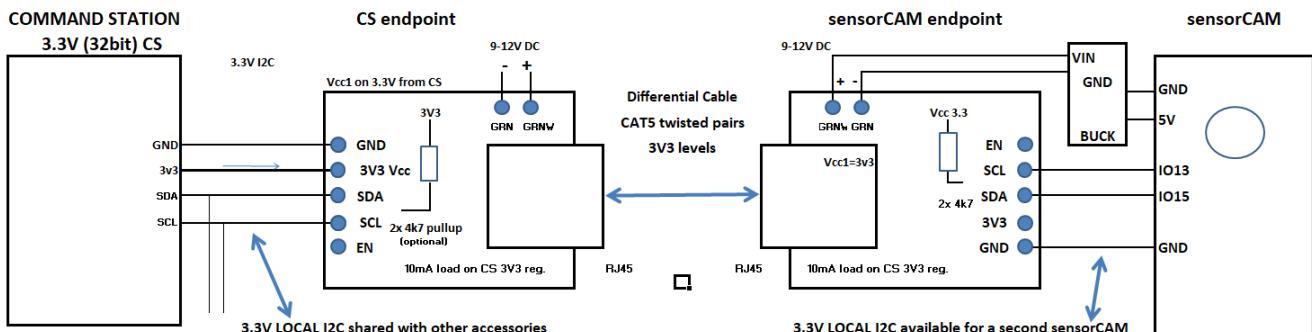
A FOR 3.3V Differential drive 5V CS I2C BUS



B FOR 3.3V Differential drive 5V CS I2C BUS



C FOR 3.3V Differential drive 3.3V CS I2C BUS



APPENDIX G

I2C sensorCAM commands & PROTOCOL.

With version 3.00 of IO_EXSensorCAM.h CS driver, commands and parameters are sent to the CAM as a short string of binary bytes to be interpreted by sensorCAM. Return data (if it is applicable) is also in compact byte format as below.

The sensorCAM sends packets of data to the i2c bus master upon request. The data sent is dependent on the **last** command received as that command prepares a packet in anticipation of a bus Request. Only nine commands can affect the return packet format. They will contain the relevant ASCII command character in the first (header) byte, followed by data. These are listed below.

1. Bank cmd 'b\$': The bank command will set the Request packet to the following \$+2 bytes

0x62 ('b') SensorBankStat[\$] SensorBankStat[\$-1] SensorBankStat[0] i2cparity

2. Difference score 'd%##' (Diff+bright): The Diff command will set the Request packet to the following 5 bytes

0x64 ('d') 0## dMaxDiff+dBright dMaxDiff dBright

3. Frame data 'f%%': Creates four packets containing 4 rows of 4 pixel values in RGB666 format of Ref and Actual pixels
Total 16x2 pixels. Each pixel has three 6bit colour bytes for a total of (3+3x4x2) 27 bytes per packet

0x66 ('f')	0%	0x00 (row)	RefPix0Red	RefPix0Green	RefPix0Blue	RefPix1Red	ActPix3Green	ActPix3Blue
0x66 ('f')	0%	0x01 (row)	RefPix4Red	RefPix4Green	RefPix4Blue	RefPix5Red	ActPix7Green	ActPix7Blue
0x66 ('f')	0%	0x02 (row)	RefPix8Red	RefPix8Green	RefPix8Blue	RefPix9Red	ActPixBGreen	ActPixBBlue
0x66 ('f')	0%	0x03 (row)	RefPixCRed	RefPixCGreen	RefPixCBlue	RefPixDRed	ActPixFGreen	ActPixFBlue

4. Individual Info. 'i%%,%%': The Info command will set the Request packet to the following 8 bytes. twin=00 for NO twin.

0x69 ('i') 0% SensorStat SensorActive columnL columnH row twin##

5. Min/max cmd 'm\$,##': (also n\$,##) Returns 7 byte Request packet data as below for additional feedback to operator.

0x70 ('m') min2flip minSensors maxSensors nLED threshold TWOIMAGE_MAXBS

6. Position Pointer 'p\$': This sends sensor coordinates for bank \$. i.e. \$/0, \$/1, to \$/7 (**only if defined**) Up to 25 bytes.

0x70 ('p') H+bsn for \$/0 \$/0 row \$/0 column H+bsn for \$/1 \$/1 row ... H+bsn for \$/7 \$/7 row \$/7column i2cparity

Note: if column (0-319) exceeds 255, a high bit H (=0x80) is added to the bsn byte for that triplet.

7. Query enabled 'q\$': This will set up the Request packet of enabled status' in the following \$+2 bytes

0x71 ('q') '\$ SensorActiveBlk[\$] SensorActiveBlk[\$-1] SensorActiveBlk[0]

8. Threshold 't##': Threshold command will set the Request packet to the following byte sequence of enabled sensors.

0x74 ('t') 0x## T+bpd data S00 2nd t+0xbsn (sensor No) 2nd T+bpd data 3rd t+0xbsn 3rd T+bpd data t+Last bsn
T+bpd byte 0x50 0x50 == 80 = end of data packet (an invalid bsn!). Maximum of 15 enabled sensors in 32 byte packet.
Data bytes contain "bpd" diff scores (0-127) for enabled sensors with MSB(T) set 1 if tripped. MSB(t) of bsn set if the
bpd > threshold. Byte[0] contains ASCII 't' and Byte[1] will contain the last (old) setting of threshold.

9. Row image 'y###': This sends up to 320 x 2byte RGB565 pixels of row ### **to USB console for image reconstruction.**

0x79 ('y') #' #' #' 0x78 ('x') 'x' 'x' 0x7A('z') 'z' 'z' 0x3A('') (x & z values in ASCII bytes. '' starts 9 byte header)
0x79 ('y') 0x## (row) 0x78 ('x') 0x##(column/2) 0x7A('z') 0x## (zlength/2) cksumL cksumH 0x3A('')
1st data byte 2nd data byte] Last data byte] (2 RGB565 bytes/pixel with no NUL characters. Even column start)

APPENDIX H

Notes on use of EX-RAIL with sensorCAM

1. Sensor/vpin Numbering

The numbering of sensors can be consecutive by vPin, which is the common practice with multi-pin peripherals (e.g. PCA9685 16-channel Servo driver and MCP23017 16-channel GPIO Expander). Sequential vPin numbers within a device is hardware enforced, but this loses some of the advantages available by a more meaningful ID notation. Such ID's are available for jmri use and so can also be used for sensorCAM. Use of IDs, as suggested below, can remove any need to program with vPin numbers.

For any peripheral device, the vPin is needed for commands (e.g. 700+5), but, if predefined (e.g. in config.h), alphanumeric names such as CAM or CAM2 or ESSEX can be used in place of the base vPin to identify the camera. Then commands for CAM pin 5 become: e.g. AT(CAM+5) or AT(ESSEX+05)

e.g. #define SENSORCAM_VPIN 700 //place in config.h or myAutomation.h or mysetup.h
 #define CAM SENSORCAM_VPIN+ //in config.h or myAutomation.h or mysetup.h

Valid EXRAIL commands: **AFTER(CAM 5)** **AT(SENSORCAM_VPIN + 7)** **IFGTE(CAM 010, 2)**

To avoid frequent "CAM" in scripts, an alias can be assigned e.g. **ALIAS(ESSEX_P1, CAM+0x10)**

With each sensorCAM having up to 80 sensors, it is desirable to test groups of (1 to 8) sensors with a single EXRAIL test using the IFGTE() or IFLE() commands. To do this, the sensors are logically arranged in "banks" of (consecutive) vpins. The logical grouping available can be written in the form "bs" or b/s where b can have bank values of 0 -9 (10 banks) and s values 0-7 (8 sensors). **IFGTE** and **IFLT** read a whole bank "value". Native CAM commands can also be issued e.g. **PARSE("<N b 4>")** for bank 4.

EXRAIL can accept "b/s" numbering (e.g. 47) if we add a leading 0. e.g. vpin = SENSORCAM_VPIN+ 047 e.g. **IFGTE(CAM 047,1)** provided values are **defined** for SENSORCAM_VPIN & CAM (as above).

(N.B. "CAM" includes the '+') *Using this method there is no need to remember assigned vPin values!*

Example 1: For the approach to a signal, several sensors may be deployed (say S13 to S17) with S17 last at the signal. As a train approaches the signal, the (bank) "value" of the tripping sensors will increase. This can be used to control the loco speed for a smooth and precise stop at a platform say. Commands **IFGTE(CAM 013,8) SPEED(40) ... IFGTE(CAM 013,16) SPEED(30)** etc. can be used to control the loco approach speed with some precision. Finally, at the signal (S17), **IFGTE(CAM 013,128) STOP**

Aliases could also be defined and used for station/bank or line sensors. e.g. **IFGTE(TRENTHAM, 0x80)**

Example 2: The CAM can have up to 10 occupation/line detectors. If two "linear" line sensors are needed, and we have bank 1 allocated (S10-S17), the following 16 vPins could be assigned to 2 banks of linear sensors. We can use (bs#) **ID** of 20 to 27 for first linear sensor (bank2) and 30-37 of bank3. The Command Station can easily handle banks of 8, using an ID based format of (CAM 020) and (CAM 030). The "bank" or b/s notation requires the leading '0' on the bs No. for automatic vpin calculation. The linear segments at S21 to S27 may also be tested individually and a common bank threshold can be set if needed. e.g. **IFGTE(CAM 020,1)...** // bank occupied, or **IFGTE(CAM 024,16)** //2nd half occupied.

Note: With '0' notation, unless you understand the issue, avoid using bank 8 & 9 as mistakes may arise. (08# must be expressed as 010# and 09# as 011# for correct outcome)

2. Multiple Cams

Multiple sensorCAMs can be easily handled if CAM2, CAM3 etc are defined along the lines of CAM above, so **IF(CAM2 012)** tests a different sensor to **IF(CAM3 012)**, provided **SENSORCAM2_VPIN** etc. are defined. Using CS native commands, e.g. **<Ni 212>** and **<Ni 312>**, can also access S12 on different CAMs. The **#define SENSORCAM_VPIN ###** is essential for cam1. Do NOT change to **SENSORCAM1_VPIN**. You may use **SENSORCAM2_VPIN** and **SENSORCAM3_VPIN** with **CAM2** and **CAM3** in **config.h**

APPENDIX I

Configuring EX-CS to connect to sensorCAM as an EXIO device.

A number of parameters and files may need to be changed or included to get the EX Command Station to respond appropriately to the sensorCAM. The (CS) modifications are to be placed in the directory containing CommandStation-EX.ino BEFORE final compilation and upload to the CS (Mega). Some further changes to vpins & addresses may be required to avoid conflicts with previously installed EX-CS devices.

Refer to the sensorCAM Installation Guide for more detail on the EX-CS installation procedure.

File edits to configure EX-CS for sensorCAM: (refer to the latest InstallationGuide for details)

```
configCAM.h      // adjust ADDR SSID & PWD if required before uploading sensorCAM.ino

#define WIFI_SSID "xxxxxxxxxx"    //insert your #1 WiFi network name here (2.5GHz)
#define WIFI_PWD "xxxxxxxxxx" // "your network password"
#define TWOIMAGE_MAXBS 030    //slower & more reliable averaging if below S30. (<097)
#define I2C_DEV_ADDR 0x11    //17==0x11 for BCD layout so can use existing Mega Master
#define SUPPLY 10    //local mains frequency dependent (currently just use 10)
#define BAUD 115200 //any slower will degrade image transfer speed
#define SEN_SIZE 0    //0 gives standard 4x4 pixels

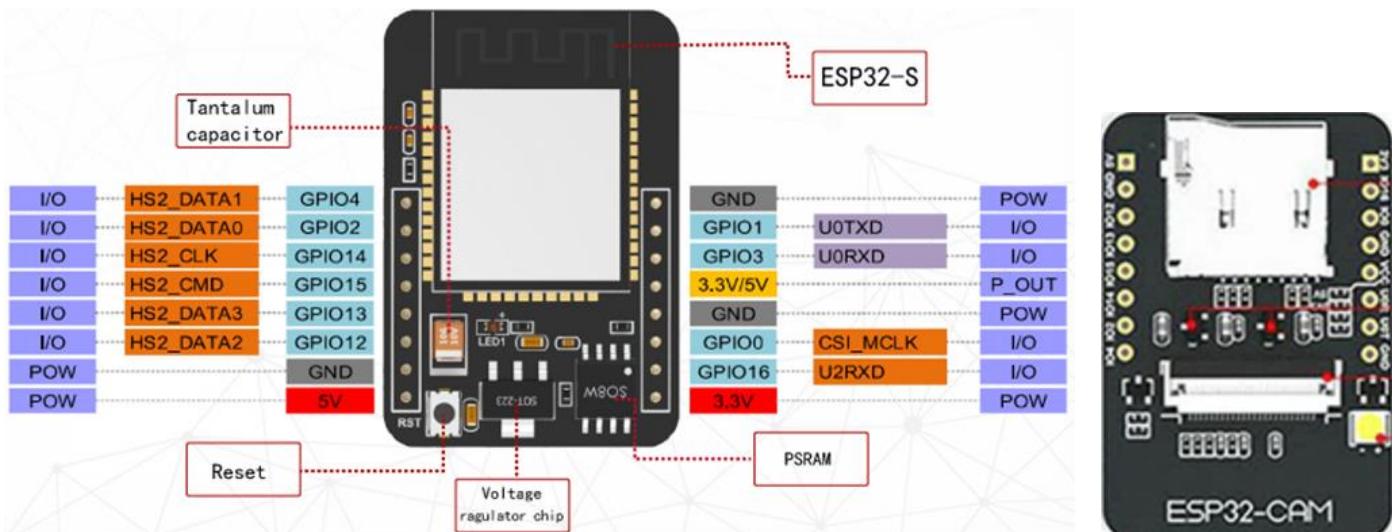
CommandStation (CS)      //following files all in CommandStation-EX.ino folder.

IO_EXSensorCAM.h          // driver for sensorCM to be used with CamParser.cpp
// CamParser.cpp and CamParser.h are included in CommandStation-EX versions 5.4.0+

config.h                  //standard should do for single CAM at Vpin 700 & address 0x11
#define SENSORCAM_VPIN 700 //defines a suitable virtual vPin for the FIRST sensorCAM
#define CAM_SENSORCAM_VPIN+ //alias to replace vpins in EXRAIL e.g. AT(CAM 021) i.e.S21
#define SENSORCAM2_VPIN 620 //only if a second CAM has been created in myHal.cpp
#define CAM2 SENSORCAM2_VPIN

myHal.cpp (preferred: use HAL() in myAutomation.h as per Installation Guide)
#include "IO_EXSensorCAM.h" // sensorCAM driver for CS
void halSetup() {
    //add in the following two lines minimum.
    EXSensorCAM::create(700, 80, 0x11); //max 80 digital (0 Analogue) Vpins to 779.
// or EXSensorCAM::create(SENSORCAM_VPIN, 80, 0x11); //define .._VPIN(s) in config.h.
//using <80 sensors (fewer banks) may save vPin & RAM use.
    EXSensorCAM::create(620, 80, 0x12); //can use multiple CAMs if needed e.g. @620

mySetup.h                // a second CAM may use vpins 620 to 699 range if no conflicts
I2CManager.setClock(100000); //to slow i2c bus clock rate (or .forceClock(100000);)
SETUP("<Z 100 700 0>"); // set as output for now (used for <D ANOUT> & <N> cmd's)
// start of up to 80 sensors numbered bsNo's 000 to 097 (0/0 to 9/7)
SETUP("<S 100 700 0>"); // first sensor (S00) at SENSORCAM_VPIN0 700 by default
SETUP("<S 101 701 0>"); //
SETUP("<S 102 702 0>"); //
// setup as many as you want. You can add later manually with CS native <S> cmd's.
SETUP("<S 107 707 0>"); //
SETUP("<S 110 708 0>"); //note recommended id is 1% (b/s) format, vpin is DEC.
// etc.
//SETUP("<S 196 778 0>"); //
//SETUP("<S 197 779 0>"); //maximum sensor id for sensorCAM number "1".
// vPin 700 also used by sensorCAM Native commands <N> (Appendix C)
//SETUP("<S 200 620 0>"); //e.g. for a second sensorCAM at SENSORCAM2_VPIN0 620
//to setup bulk sensors (e.g. 210 to 297 for a cam at vpin 620+) can include C++ code here so..
//for(uint16_t b=1; b<=9;b++) for(uint16_t s=0;s<8;s++) Sensor::create(200+b*10+s,620+b*8+s,1);
```



N.B. CAM v1.6 has 4x jumpers (cam side) near U0R/U0T pins & CAM v1.9 has 6x jumpers (including RST)

In board version v1.9, the “GND” pin adjacent GPIO1/U0T is used for RESET (GND/R) to ESP32-CAM and **MUST NOT be tied to GND** or CAM will remain in RESET mode. CHIP version shows at start of upload, e.g.

```
esptool.py v4.5.1
Serial port COM5
Connecting.....
Chip is ESP32-D0WD-V3 (revision v3.1)
Features: WiFi, BT, Dual Core, 240MHz, VRef calibration in efuse, Coding Scheme None
Crystal is 40MHz
MAC: 3c:8a:1f:ae:44:68
```

The esp32-CAM-MB obtained with extra headers uses a small CH340N IC unlike the 16 pin package used on the “regular” MB devices (micro-B). The wider MB (headers) also has an issue in that it does NOT have a reset pin because the RST/GND socket is PERMANENTLY connected to GND which will hold CAM v1.9 in permanent Reset.



Headers (for v1.6):



USB Type micro-B:

So – without butchery, can only use the v1.6 CAM’s on this board ☺, and even then will have to hold the IO0 button in (grounding it) on reset until upload is progressing. As a workaround for v1.9, it may be possible to carefully slice off this MB GND socket completely. View the Camera side of the ESP32-CAM to distinguish the CAM boards.

Identification: ESP32-CAM v1.6 has 4x jumpers beside U0R/U0T pins and v1.9 has 6x jumpers (inc. Reset).

Using v1.6 with no RTS/DTR reset, users will have to boot up holding IO0 button in to get into programming mode. MB boards are sold mostly without headers and can come with either Type-C or micro-B in either size, 1 or 2 button.

ADDENDA.

1. Note on enhanced 't' command for handling/clearing pvtThresholds (version v319+):

t0,%% will cancel a pvtThreshold on S%% as always. (edited)
t1,%% will cancel ALL pvtThresholds in bank % e.g. t1,30
t1,99 will cancel ALL pvtThresholds in the sensorCAM (i.e. S00 to S97)
t99 will list ALL pvtThresholds in the sensorCAM by bank # (10 banks) (edited)
t1 will toggle SCROLL ON/OFF as always. The 'e' command is needed to make changes "permanent"

Version v319 also accepts minSensors up to maxSensors-1 (edited)

m#,%% will set maxSensors to %. e.g. m10,30 sets maxSensors = 030 (leaving min2trip unchanged as does m0,30) (edited)
n#,%% will set minSensors to %. e.g. n10,27 sets minSensors =027 leaving nLED unchanged. n0,27 would set nLED to 0)

2. Notes on CS drivers v308 & v309)

Driver version v308 is intended for use with Prod versions 5.4.6 to 5.4.16. DCC-EX CS Prod. Versions 5.4.16+ incorporate v308 by default. v308 will not work with CS devel 5.5.15+. For CS devel versions look to v309 (default). Both these drivers MUST be used with sensorCAM version v320+ as earlier versions will not be recognized.

3. Note on i2c clock frequency

The newer drivers default to an i2c bus frequency of 100,000 Hz. With caution, this may be increased somewhat (e.g. 200000) if the i2c bus is well tuned and all attached devices can handle higher frequencies. To set a higher frequency for example, place the following in mySetup.h or myHal.cpp

```
I2Cmanager.forceClock(200000); //place after void halSetup(){}
```

4. Notes on 40-pin WROVER CAM and 38-pin breakout board

Potentially simplest commercially available hookup for 40 pin WROVER-CAM:

Software configuration: add `#define CAMERA_MODEL_WROVER_KIT` to configCAM.h

2x "Spare" (USB end) Vcc and GND pins not used with the 38 pin breakout board shown.

Adding 1.0uF capacitor to reset (EN) pin ensures more reliable power-on reset.

Add a super-bright green LED and 330R from 3.3V to GPIO14 for programmable LED indicator.

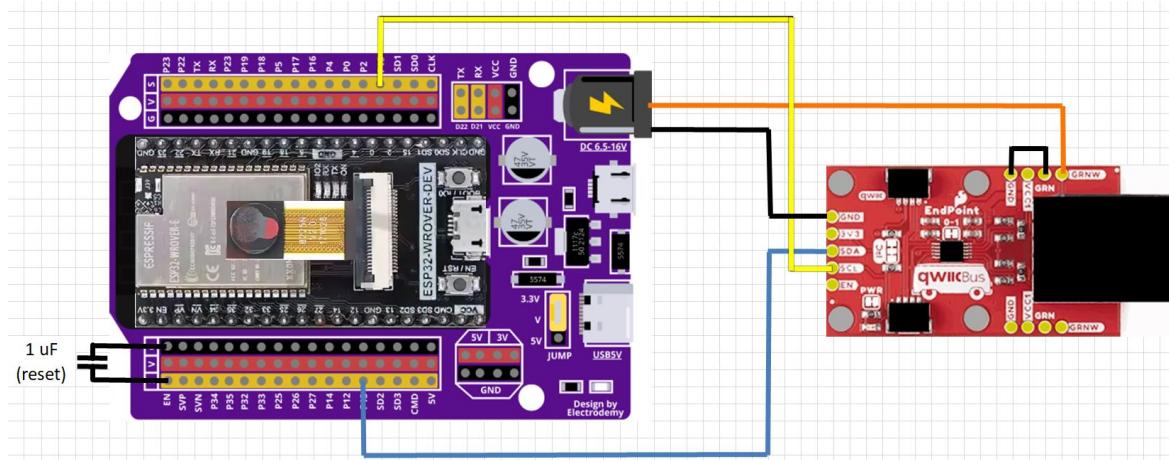
There is no white "flash" LED but, in sensorCAM mode, the on-board blue LED flashes instead.

The breakout board USB connectors are for an optional 5V power source ONLY. No comm's.

Limit Vin barrel jack to 7-10V max to avoid destruction of the 1117C 5V regulator. (Vne = 16V)

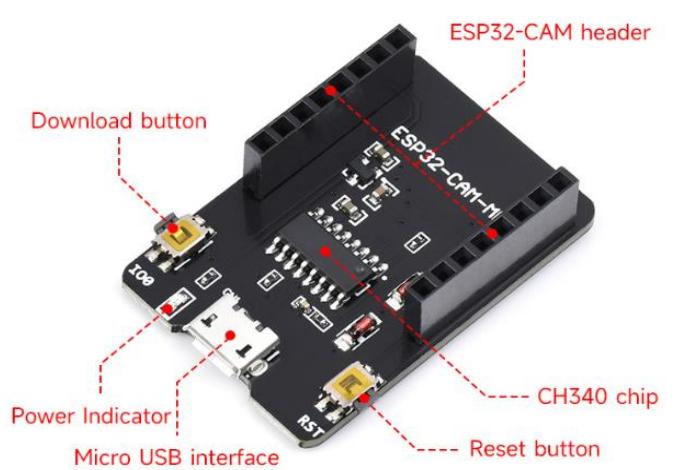
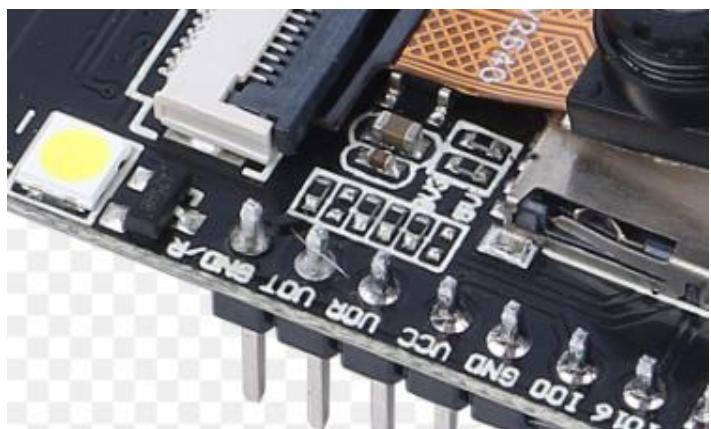
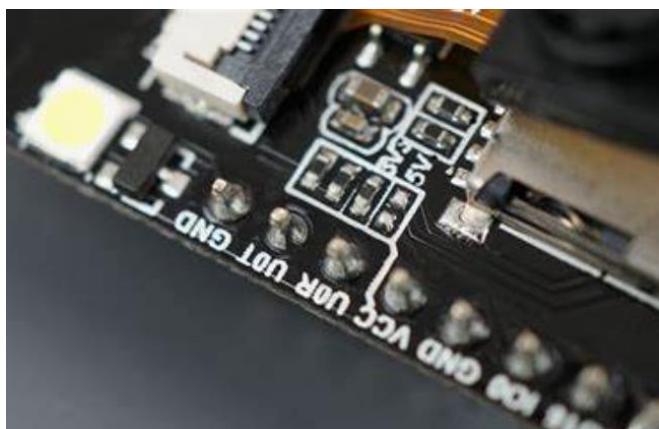
The endpoint shown should be powered with 3.3V from the CS end (NOT 5V), and 9V on GRNW/GRN

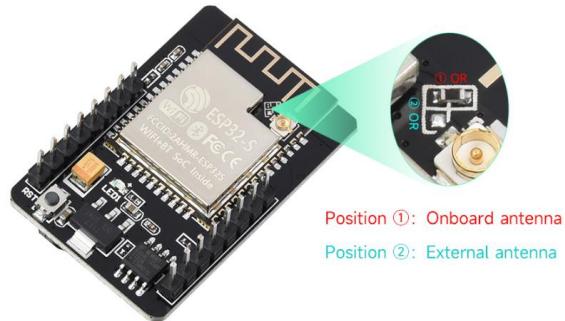
Note: WROVER-CAM does not have a fitted external antenna socket like the ESP32-CAM.



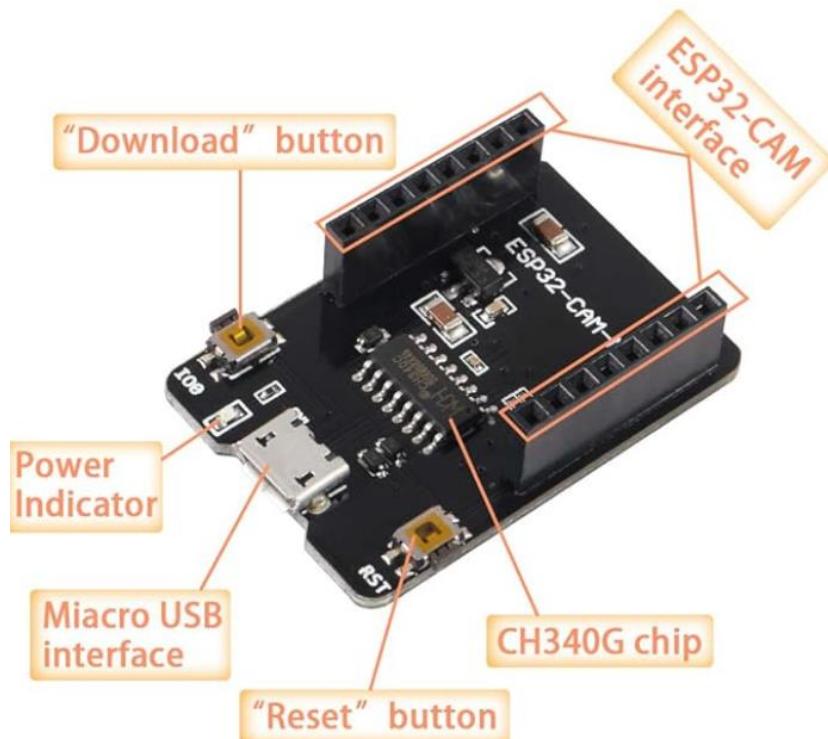
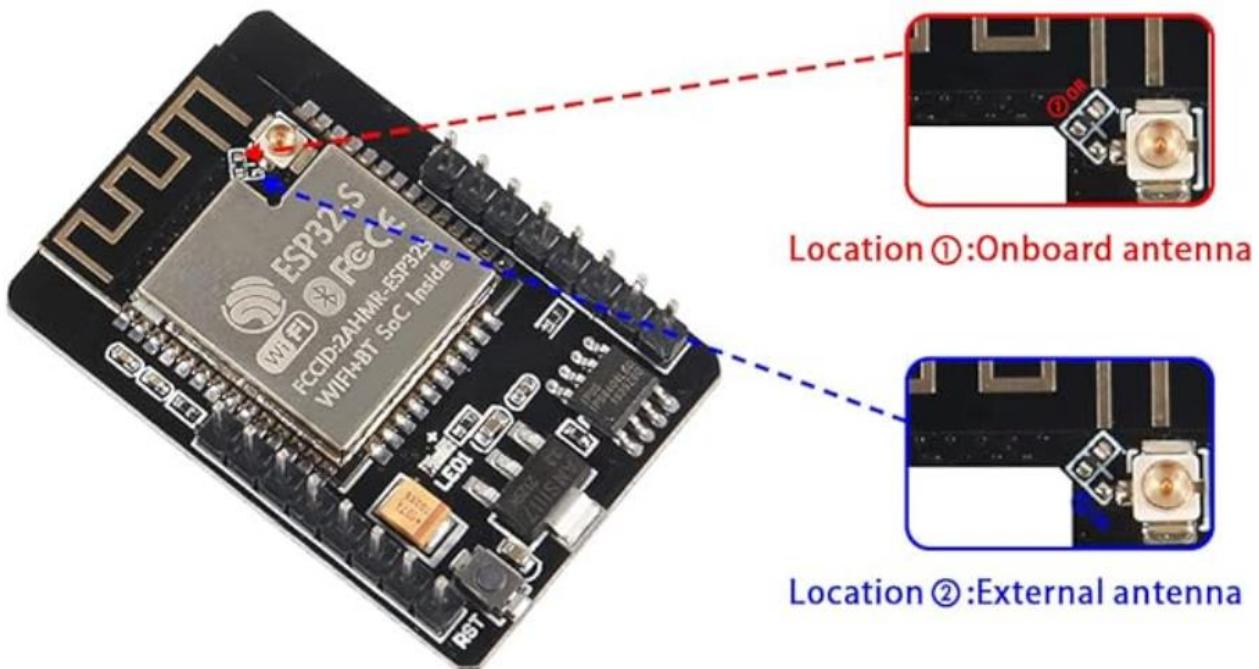
ADDITIONAL RANDOM NOTES:

ALL FOLLOWING IMAGES ARE FOR GENERAL INFORMATION ONLY & NOT PART OF THE FULL MANUAL ABOVE





Antenna solder jumper adjustment



Files

main

Go to file

- ESP32-CAM_V1.6_SCHEMATIC.jpg
- ESP32-CAM_V1.6_V1.9_ESP32-S_C...
- ESP32-CAM_V1.6_V1.9_modificati...
- ESP32-CAM_V1.6_no_reset_pin.JPG
- ESP32-CAM_V1.6_upgrade_LDOJ...
- ESP32-CAM_V1.9_MB.JPG
- ESP32-CAM_V1.9_schematic.JPG
- LICENSE
- README.md

ESP32-CAM_V1.6_V1.9_MB

- [ESP32-CAM-MB, base module design, schematic](#)
- [ESP32-CAM V1.6 modification to uses external RESET pin and the auto download](#)
- [ESP32-CAM V1.6 modification, more stable](#)
- [upgrade to ESP32-CAM V1.9](#)

looks like V1.6 is the same as V1.9, really ?

Spec sheet: Typical applications include a 22uF cap between AMS1117 3v3 reg ADJ/GND pin and Vout, not on CAM but can be added as above for “better” performance. (hopefully less noise?). Also shows 10uF on 5Vin

There is a range of ov2640 cam modules available with ESP32 or independently sold. The “IR” option would be an interesting experiment and might open up new possibilities, but monochrome IR images harder to spot intrusions. The usual ov2640 is 66°, but 120° fish-eye covers more, at the expense of detail. 120° better for low ceilings???

Web offers range of lenses including “850nm night vision” which probably is OV2640 sans IR filter?(IR >700nm)

Long(75mm) and short(21mm) ribbon ov2640, angles 66(std?),100,120,160deg lens, 650nm or 850nm (night vision), opt. antenna for marginal wifi. NONE, other than standard 66deg OV2640, are currently recommended.

AliExpress

esp32 2102

AU\$9.09

Elk AU\$6.80, ≥ 10 stuks
Getoonde prijs voor belasting Extra 2% korting
AU\$2.21 off over AU\$110.70

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