



# Early Detection of Digital Dermatitis in Dairy Cattle using Computer Vision: Portable Solutions for Custom Tasks in Veterinary Medicine

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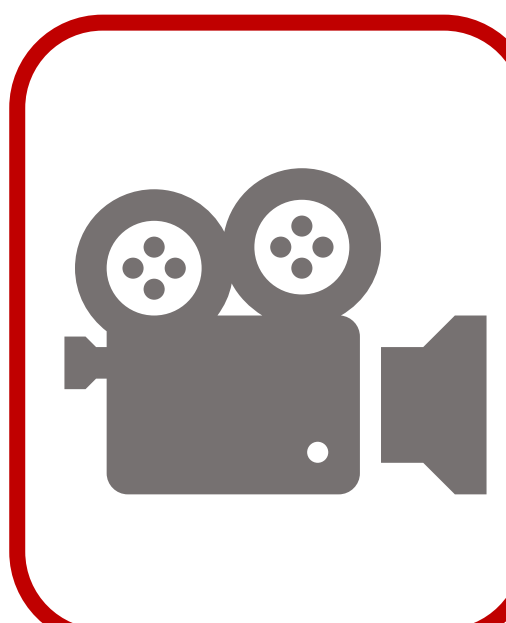
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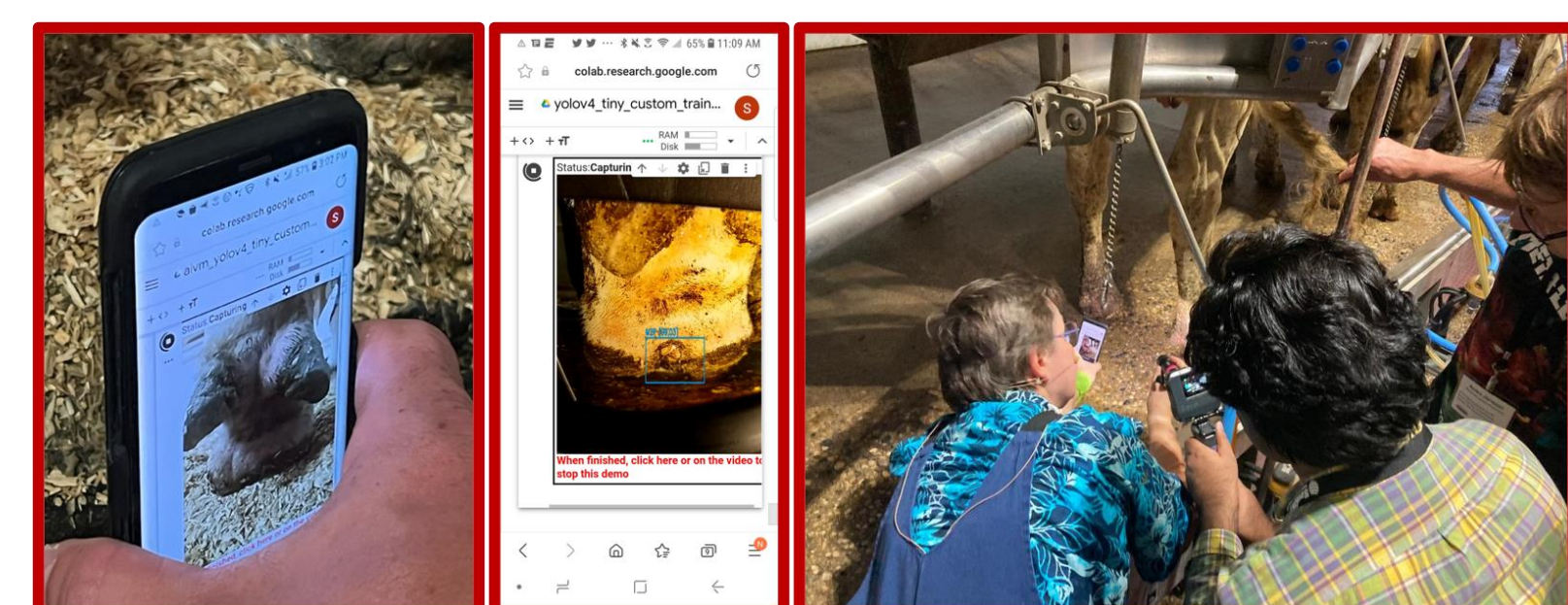
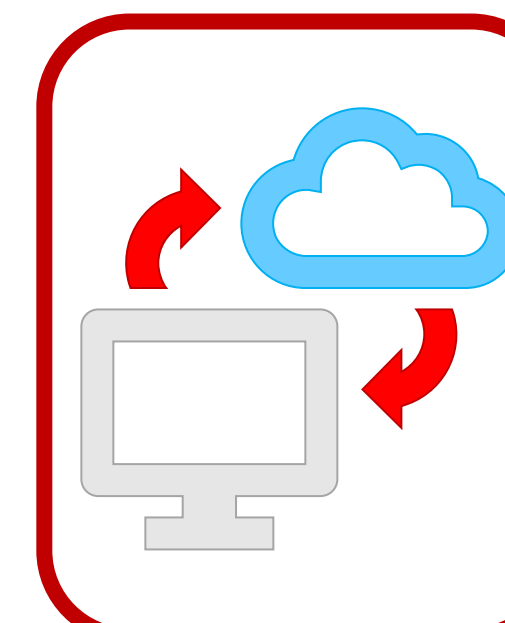
**Train** multiple CV models for DD detection and M-stage scoring and compare for speed and accuracy.



**Embed** the best CV model on portable, stand-alone edge devices and implement for real-time DD detection.



**Deploy** the best tool for use in remote, rural locations and automate for DD detection.



## Objective

### Digital dermatitis (DD)

- DD is a bovine claw disease responsible for ulcerative lesions on the coronary band of the foot. DD is associated with massive outbreaks of lameness and reduces economic wellbeing and animal welfare.
- The M-stage scoring system is a highly effective way to classify and monitor DD lesions and signs of chronicity.
- Early detection of DD can lead to prompt treatment and preventive strategies.

### Computer vision (CV)

- CV can be used to identify objects and calculate the associated class probabilities from a series of images or videos.
- Object detection can be used to precisely monitor animal health and accurately diagnose a variety of medical conditions.

### Edge devices

- Edge devices can perform onboard computations with built-in processors. Edge devices do not require internet connectivity, processes data locally, reduces latency, automates tasks, and creates better customer experiences.
- By adding cameras and CV capabilities to edge devices, systems can “see” and identify objects.

The study aims to train lightweight CV models for constrained environments, embed on portable, stand-alone edge devices, and compare performance for the real-time detection of DD in dairy cows.



**Figure 1.** Bounding box predictions of M-stages by YOLOv2: M0/M4H (healthy claw/chronically affected claw) and M2 (active ulcerative lesions).



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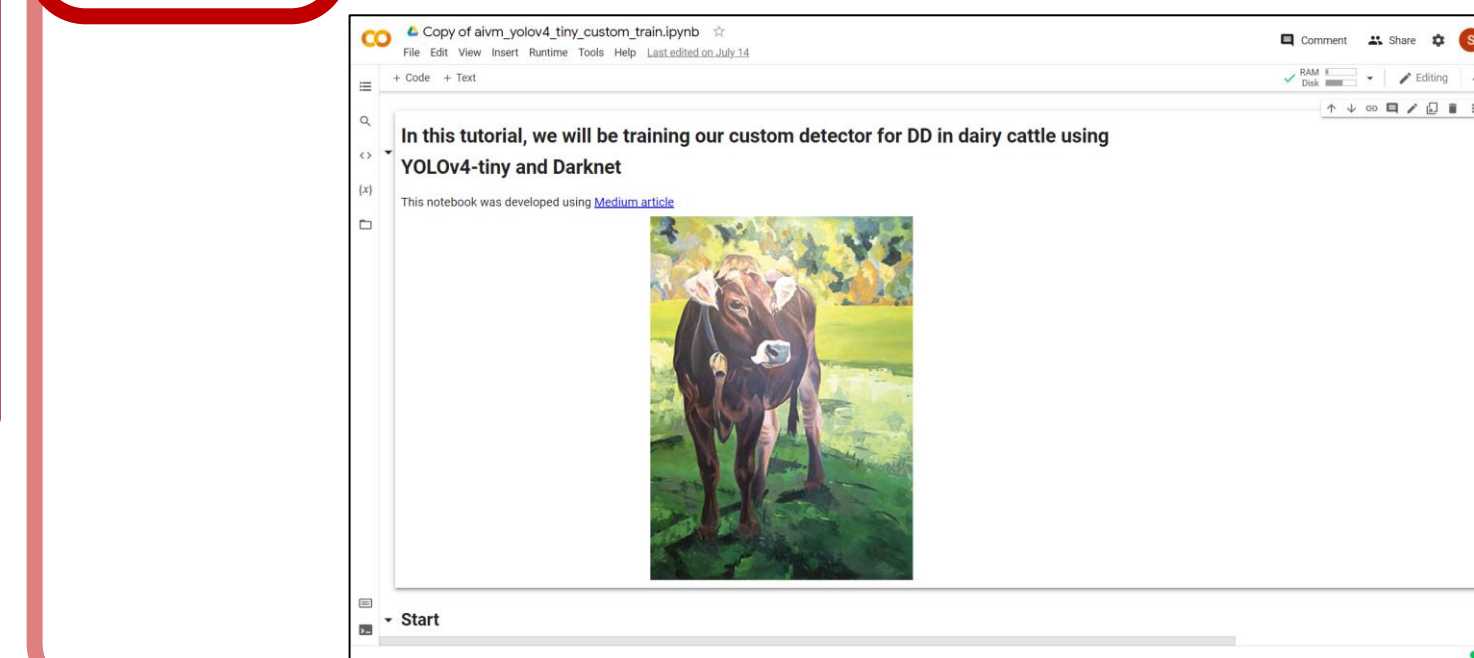
**USDA** National Institute of Food and Agriculture  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

- Dataset 1**
- 2,227 JPG images
  - 1,177 M0/M4H and 1,050 M2 class labels
  - Single foot per image
- Dataset 2**
- 409 JPG images
  - 240 M0, 17 M2, 51 M2P, 114 M4H, and 108 M4P class labels
  - Multiple feet per image

All images were labeled in Python using LabelImg.

- Object detection models (TensorFlow 1.X)**
- Faster R-CNN & Cascade R-CNN
  - SSD & SSD Lite
  - YOLOv3 & Tiny YOLOv3
  - YOLOv4 & Tiny YOLOv4

All models were trained and tested in Python using Google Colab on a 12GB NVIDIA Tesla K80 GPU.

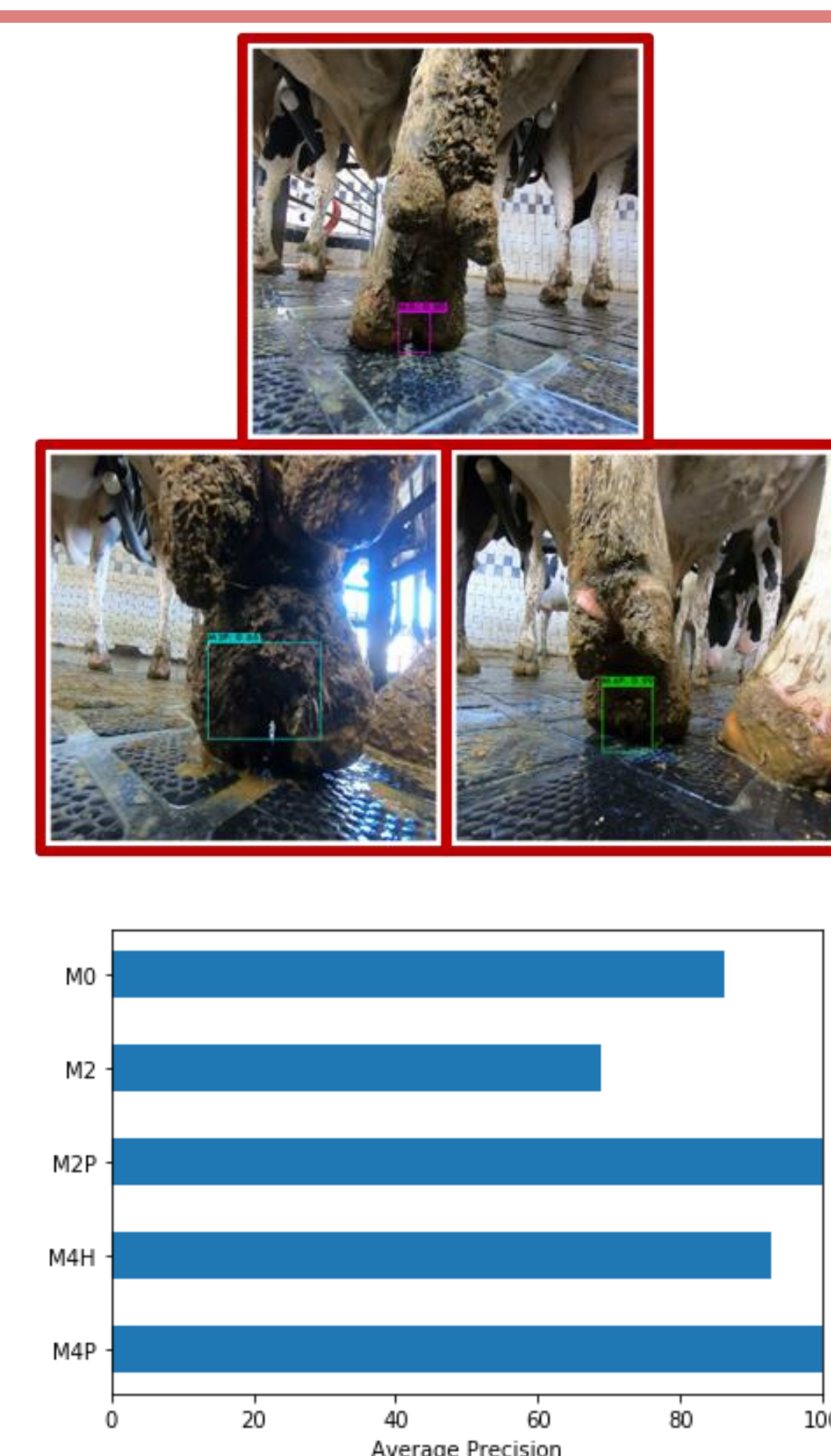


**Figure 5.** Bounding box predictions of M-stages by Tiny YOLOv4 for Dataset 2 (left panel).

Tiny YOLOv4 was able to detect all five class labels on images with an mAP of 0.895.

**Figure 6.** Average precision of the five M-stages by Tiny YOLOv4 for Dataset 2 (right panel).

Tiny YOLOv4 was able to detect M2P, M4H, and M4P lesions with a higher average precision compared to M2 lesions.

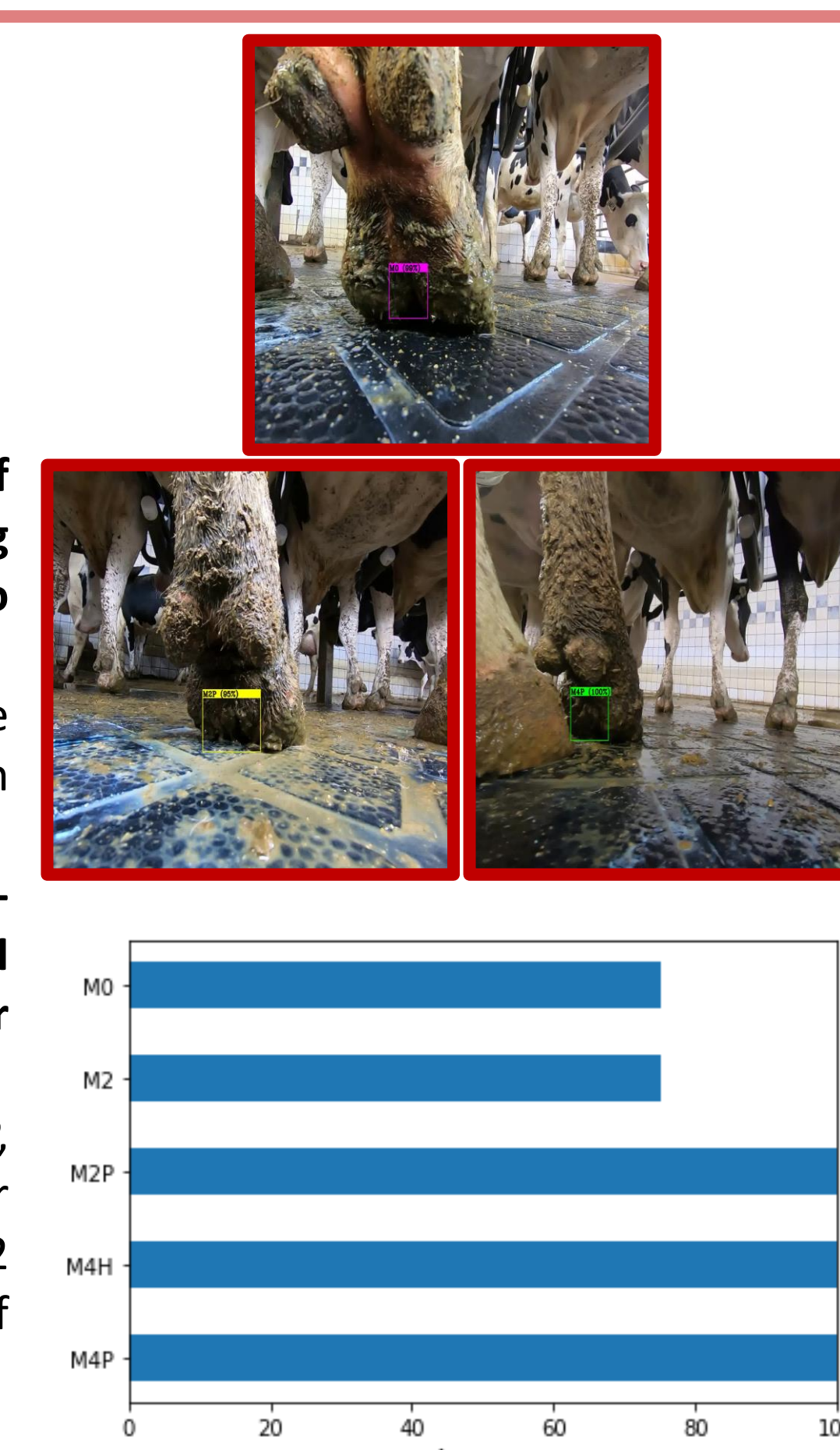


**Figure 8.** Bounding box predictions of M-stages by Tiny YOLOv4 using DepthAI on OAK-1 connected to Jetson Xavier NX (left panel).

Tiny YOLOv4 was able to detect all five class labels on video and webcam with a Cohen's kappa of 0.830.

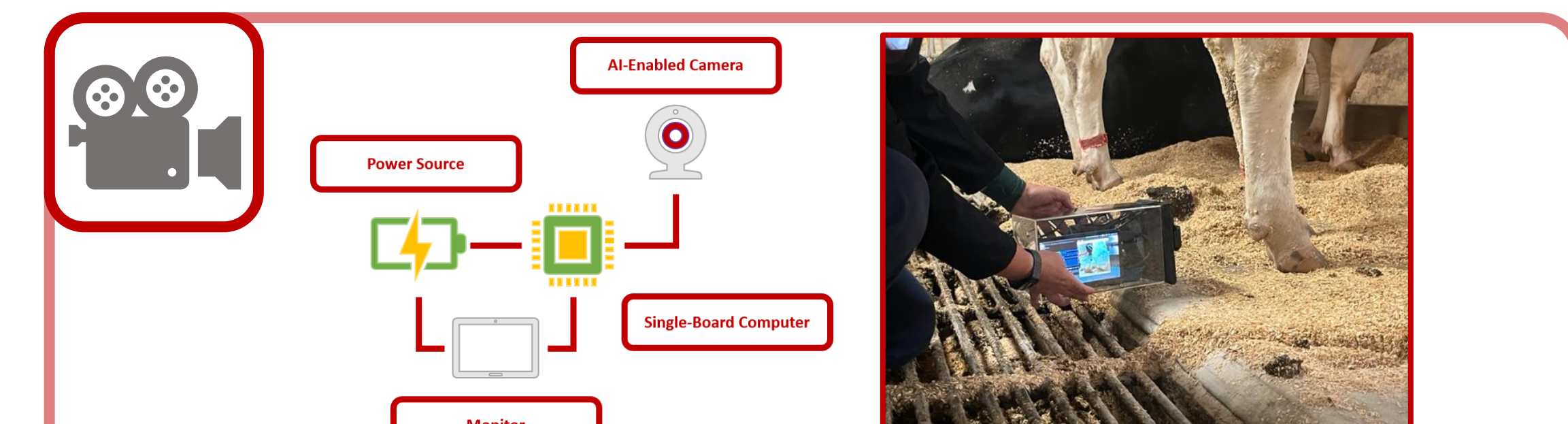
**Figure 9.** Accuracy of the five M-stages by Tiny YOLOv4 using DepthAI on OAK-1 connected to Jetson Xavier NX (right panel).

Tiny YOLOv4 was able to detect M2P, M4H, and M4P lesions with a higher accuracy compared to M0 and M2 lesions with an overall accuracy of 0.873.



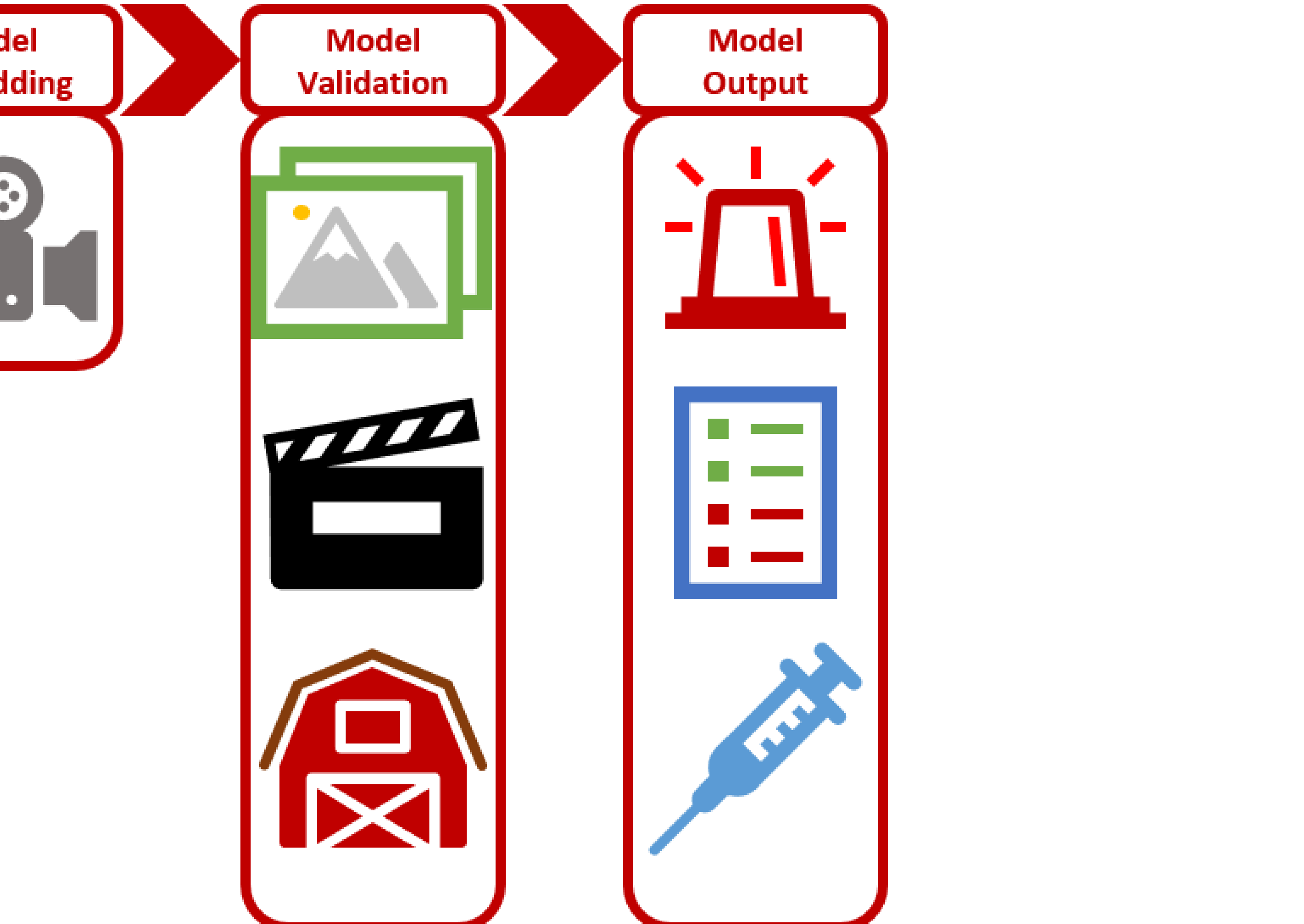
## Conclusions

- The workflow was able to accurately and speedily detect DD on edge devices.
- YOLOv4 and Tiny YOLOv4 outperformed all other models with near perfect precision, perfect recall, and a higher mAP.
- Tiny YOLOv4 outperformed all other models with respect to inference time. SSD and SSD Lite were the next closest model.
- Tiny YOLOv4 was able to detect all five M-stages of DD on images and videos.
- Tiny YOLOv4 processed images at 40 FPS on an OAK-1 or OAK-D-Lite connected to a Jetson Xavier NX or Jetson Nano.
- The study is a step towards applying CV algorithms to veterinary medicine and implementing real-time DD detection on dairy farms.



**Figure 7.** Implementation of Tiny YOLOv4 using DepthAI on OAK-1 connected to Jetson Xavier NX.

Schematic representation of edge device for deployment (left panel) and real-time detection of DD on a portable, self-contained edge device in action at 40 FPS (right panel).



**Figure 2.** Workflow for implementing an object detection model with custom data.

