Tool for Mycelium Grain Spawn Production

Isaac Peterson

Advisor: Dr. **Mitchell Neilsen**

What is mycelium grain spawn?

Ok, but who cares?

Oats Prices - Historical Annual Data

Year	Average Closing Price	Year Open	Year High	Year Low	Year Close	Annual % Change
2023	$3.6943	$3.6525	$3.8820	$3.6250	$3.7630	3.07%
2022	$5.3724	$6.8075	$8.0700	$3.3300	$3.6510	-46.54%

macrotrends.net

Roll over image to zoom in

100 Grams/4 oz of Blue Oyster Mushroom Spawn Mycelium to Grow Gourmet and Medicinal Mushrooms at Home or commercially - Use to Grow on Straw or Sawdust Blocks - G1 or G2 Spawn

Brand: BetterFungi

4.4 out of 5 stars 171 ratings

Best Deal

$18.95 ($4.74 / Ounce)

prime

FREE Returns

amazon.com

Input (oats + water)

- Oats = $3.69 / bushel
- 1 Bushel oats ≈ 34 lbs.
- $3.69 / 34 ≈ $0.10 / lb.

- Water ≈ $0.01 / gallon
- Oxygen = free

Output (colonized grain spawn)

- $4.74 / oz
- 16 oz = 1 lb.
- $4.74 * 16 = $75.84 / lb.

profit margin (*minus overhead*) = 99.86% (absurdly high)

Scalability Problem #1 : *O_2 Supply*

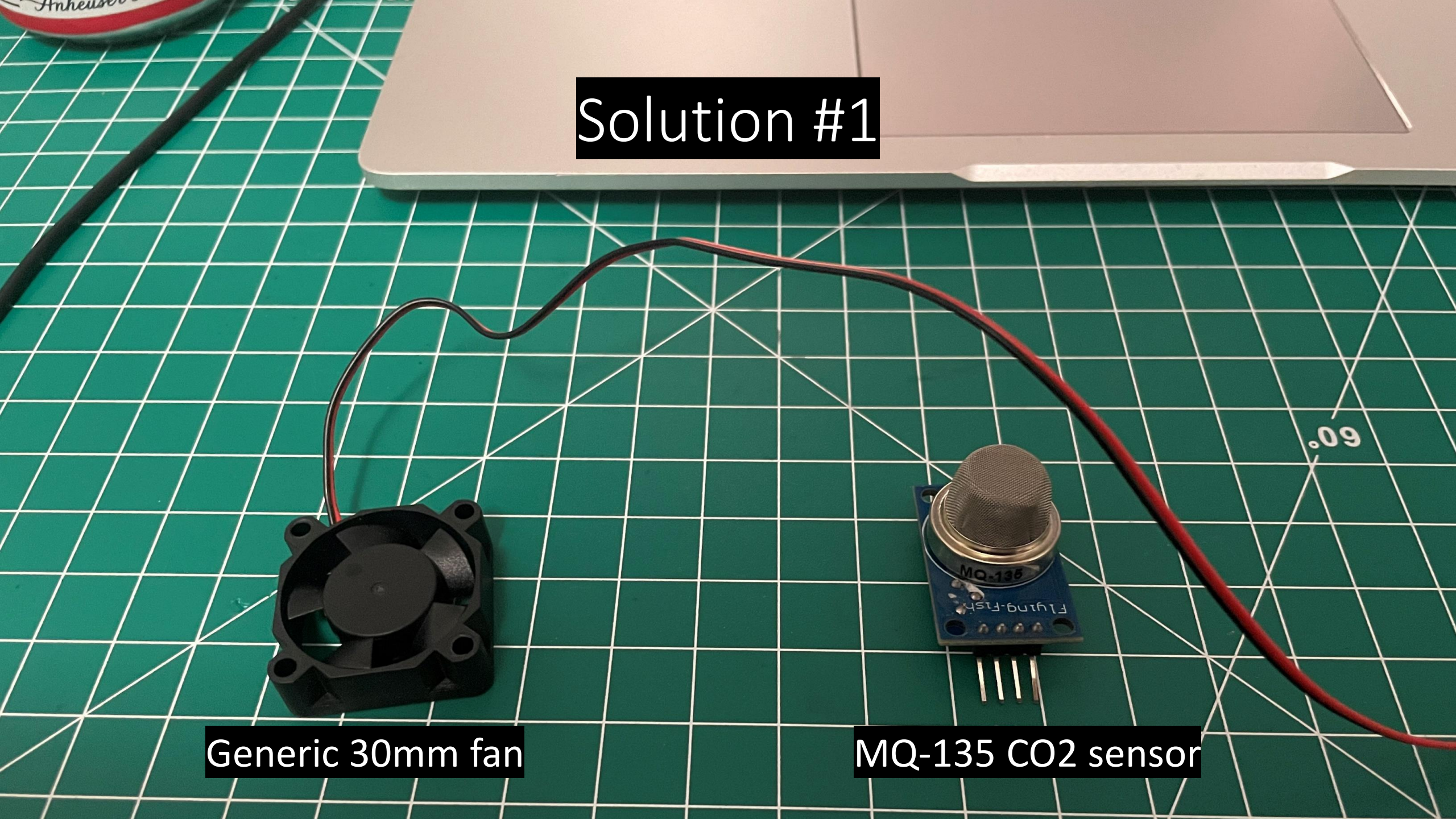
- aerobic respiration
- ≈ 29.37 L atmosphere / kg oats
- 66.6L (2.35 ft^2) for 5lb bags pictured
- Colonization rate bound by how much air happens to seep through a small hole

BOTTOM LINE:

≈ 8 weeks to colonize 5lb bags pictured

Autoclavable polypropylene grow bags with 0.2 µm filter port - northspore.com

Solution #1



Generic 30mm fan

MQ-135 CO2 sensor

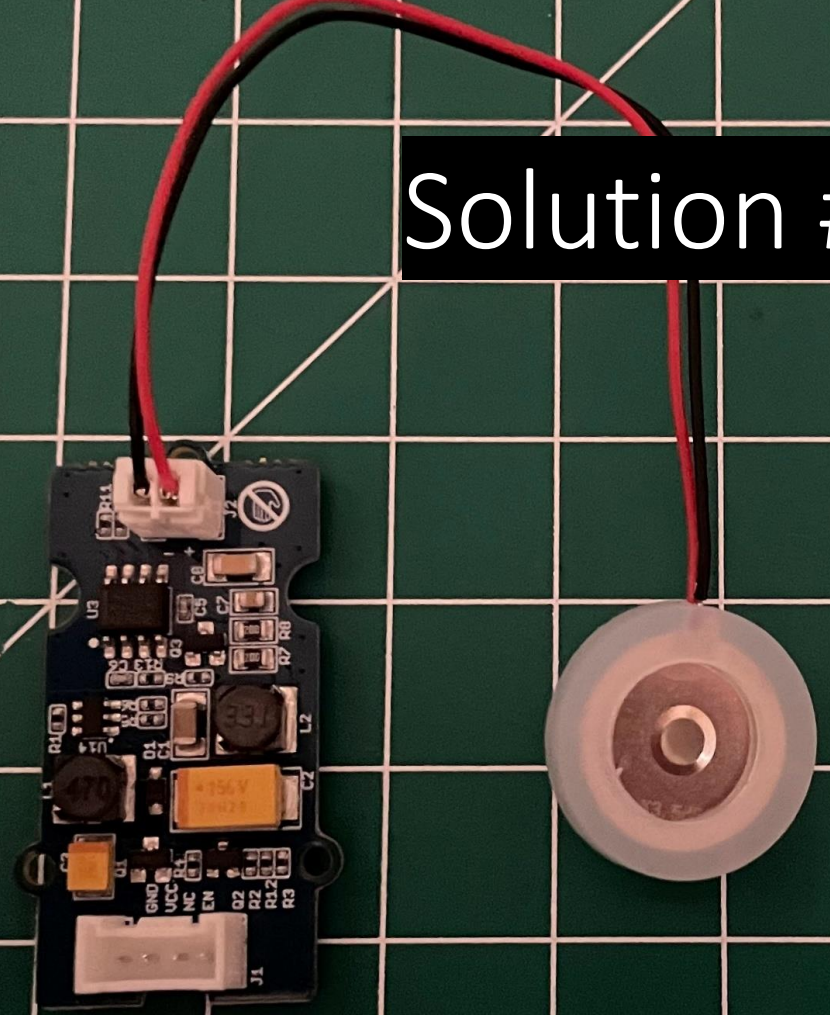
Scalability Problem #2 : *Moisture Regulation*

- Unknowable amount of moisture will be lost during sterilization process
- Unknowable amount of moisture will be lost to fresh air exchange (FAE)

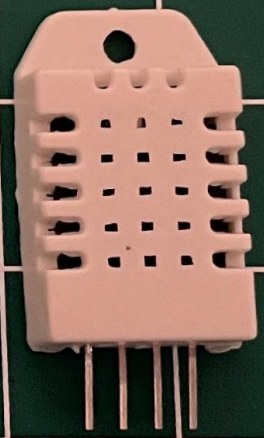
BOTTOM LINE :

Real time moisture regulation is necessary

Solution #2



Ultrasonic atomizer and driver (555 timer)



DHT22 humidity and temperature sensor

Scalability Problem #3 :
Sterilization

Autoclave

- Expensive ($18,000+)

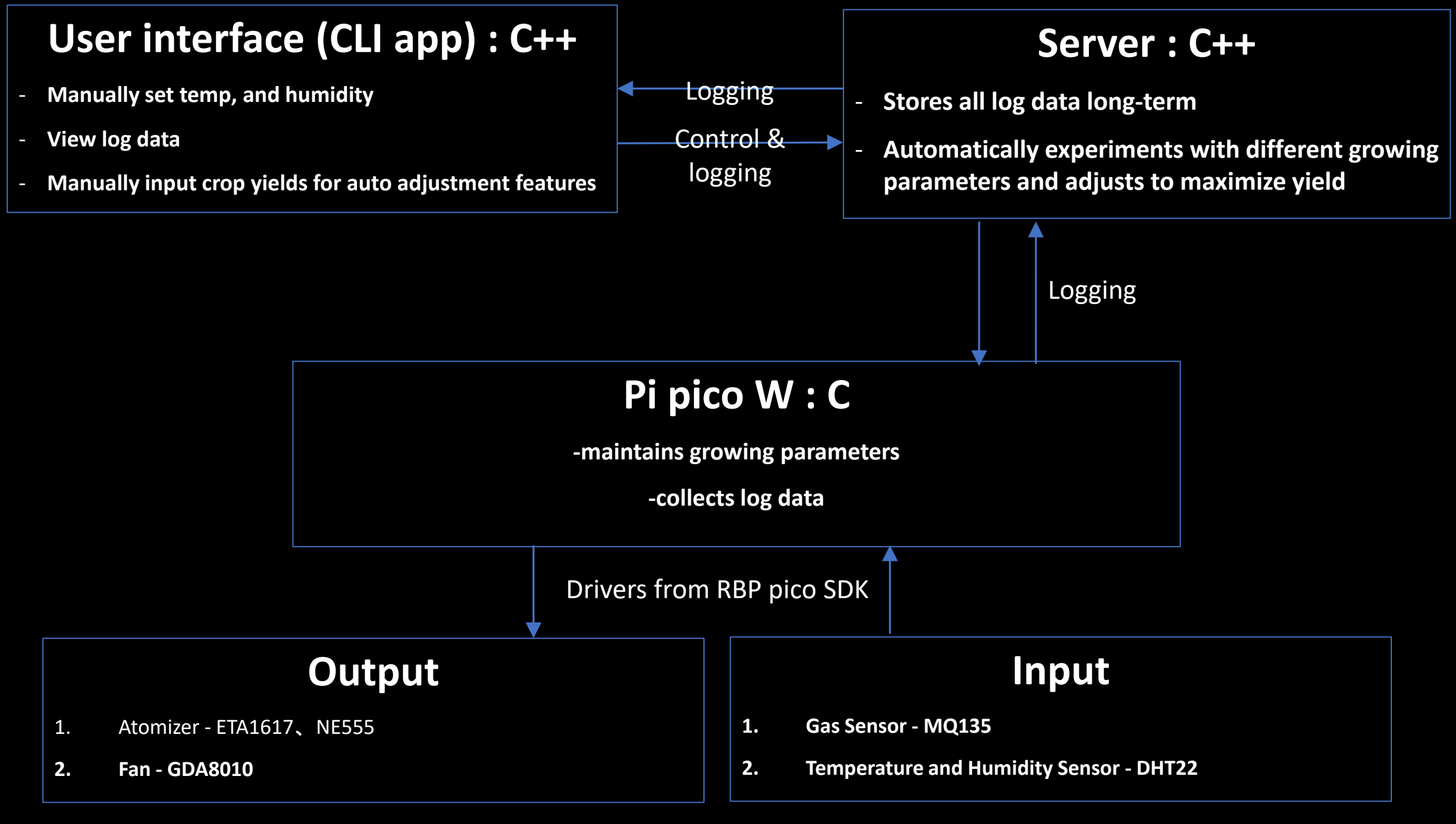
priorclave.com

Pressure Cooker

- Inefficient
- Limits size of grow container

Control system : RBP pico W

- Built-in wifi connectivity
- Extensive software libraries available
- Dual-core processor running at 133MHz
- 264kB RAM
- 2MB flash
- $10


User interface (CLI app) : C++
- Manually set temp, and humidity
- View log data
- Manually input crop yields for auto adjustment features
Logging
Control & logging
Server : C++
- Stores all log data long-term
- Automatically experiments with different growing parameters and adjusts to maximize yield
Logging
Pi pico W : C
-maintains growing parameters
-collects log data
Drivers from RBP pico SDK
Output
1. Atomizer - ETA1617、NE555
2. Fan - GDA8010
Input
1. Gas Sensor - MQ135
2. Temperature and Humidity Sensor - DHT22

Minimum Viable Product

- Working hardware prototype
- FAE control based on sensor input
- Humidity control based on sensor input
- All sensor readings logged locally on microcontroller

Version 1.0

- Software updates over Wi-Fi
- Log data sent to server and stored there
- Command line interface with server

Version 2.0

- WAN communication between sever and control systems
- Temperature control
- Influence colonies’ behavior with electrical pulses (highly experimental)
- Possible early contamination detection using mlpack

Questions?