

## Summer 2023 Senior Design Project



# Al on Low-cost Camera for Counting and Classification of Microbes in Nature Water

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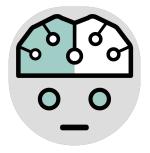
## Motivation

- Traditional methods of water monitoring and classification of water borne microbes require expensive, time-consuming, and labor intensive processes.
- This hinders the extent of discovery able to be made by scientists and water quality and health officials.
- Utilizing artificial intelligence as a tool in these efforts could pose a new approach that is convenient, efficient and reliable.



## Solution

- This project developed an artificial intelligence-based model to work in conjunction with a low-cost camera and microscope to detect and classify microbes in water samples.
- This system aims to:
  - Automatically detect and classify microbes in natural water and,
  - Produce real-time inference from data provided by the camera's live video stream.









## Approach

- We tackled the issue of algae classification under a microscope using a low-cost camera by utilising a neural network developed on the Edge Impulse and trained to identify different types of algae from water sample.
- To capture live images and video OS microbe sample, we connected an ESP-32 camera to a Nikon light microscope.
  - The camera chip sent the data to a web server that collected and formed out dataset.



## Approach, continued.

- We utilised a Convolutional Neural
  Network(CNN) to train the model. The dataset
  was used to teach the model how to
  distinguish between various algae species.
  - Edge Impulse was used to train the CNN with the provided dataset and parameters for optimal performance.
- The trained model was integrated it into a library that was later uploaded to the ESP32-CAM chip.





# Project Development: Sprint 1 & 2

- The project was developed across 5 sprint development sessions throughout the Summer 2023 term.
  - Sprint 1:
    - Finding image dataset, investigated camera options, identified suitable libraries and performed background research on skills needed.
  - Sprint 2:
    - Continued finding image dataset, reached out to biologists for potential guidance, built dataset of >2,000 photos of algae from samples of FIU ponds along with Kaggle-supplied photos, continue researching on skills needed.



# Project Development: Sprint 3 & 4

#### Sprint 3:

Built algae dataset utilising 5 individual categories, began building Keras CNN model, generated additional images for dataset, and preprocessed our images using Keras.

#### Sprint 4:

Attempted to export Keras model onto chip, troubleshooted exporting of model onto chip with no success, began building Edge Impulse model and generated more images for dataset.



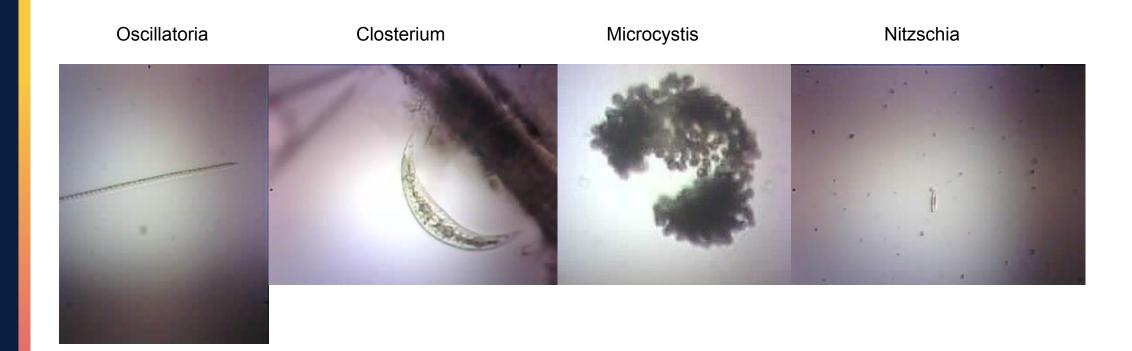
# Project Development: Sprint 5

#### Sprint 5:

Created Github repository, developed a model using Edge Impulse, troubleshooted loading of model library onto Arduino IDE, attempted to integrate camera web server and Edge Impulse model in Arduino, troubleshooted loading of model onto ESP32-CAM, successfully inferencing model on ESP32-CAM.



# Data

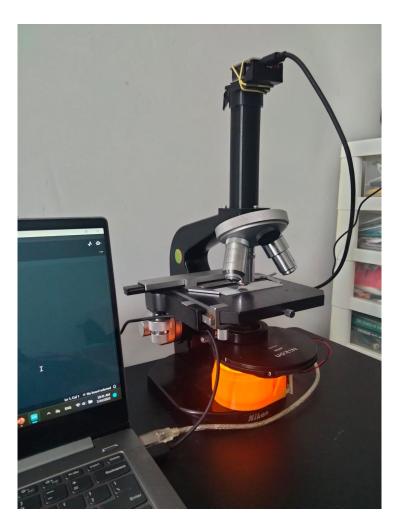




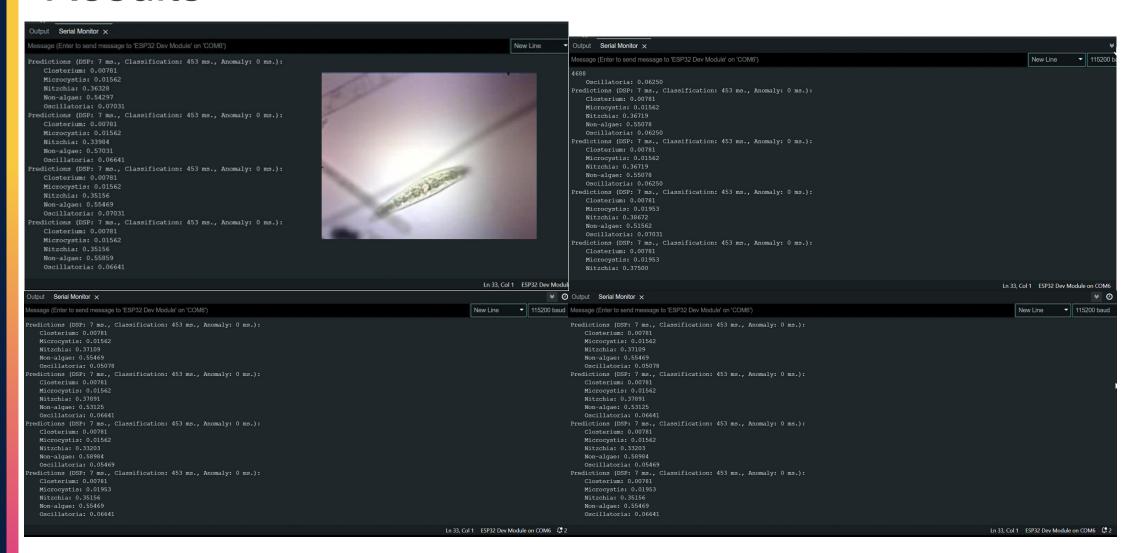
## Implementation

- The system was implemented using:
  - a windows computer with a 64-bit operating system, 256GB storage, 12GB of memory, and an Intel®
    Core™ i5- 10210U CPU at 1.60GHz.
  - The Arduino IDE as the development environment used to run the systems program
  - An ESP-32 Camera development
    board mounted onto a Nikon light
    microscope





### Results





## Conclusion

- This project utilizes Al-driven water monitoring with a low-cost camera and microscope and poses an innovative approach for new water monitoring methods.
- The Edge Impulse-trained Convolutional Neural network allows for automatic microbe detection and real-time inferences.
- This new approach could allow scientists and officials an alternative method of water monitoring that reduces cost while being efficient and reliable.

