

NSF Research Experience  
for **TEACHERS**

**(RET)**



**Phoenix  
Coding  
Academy**

# Optimizing Feature Sets for Gesture Recognition

Minimizing Model Size for the Arduino Nano 33 BLE Sense

**Brad Voracek**

9th grade software development

Phoenix Coding Academy

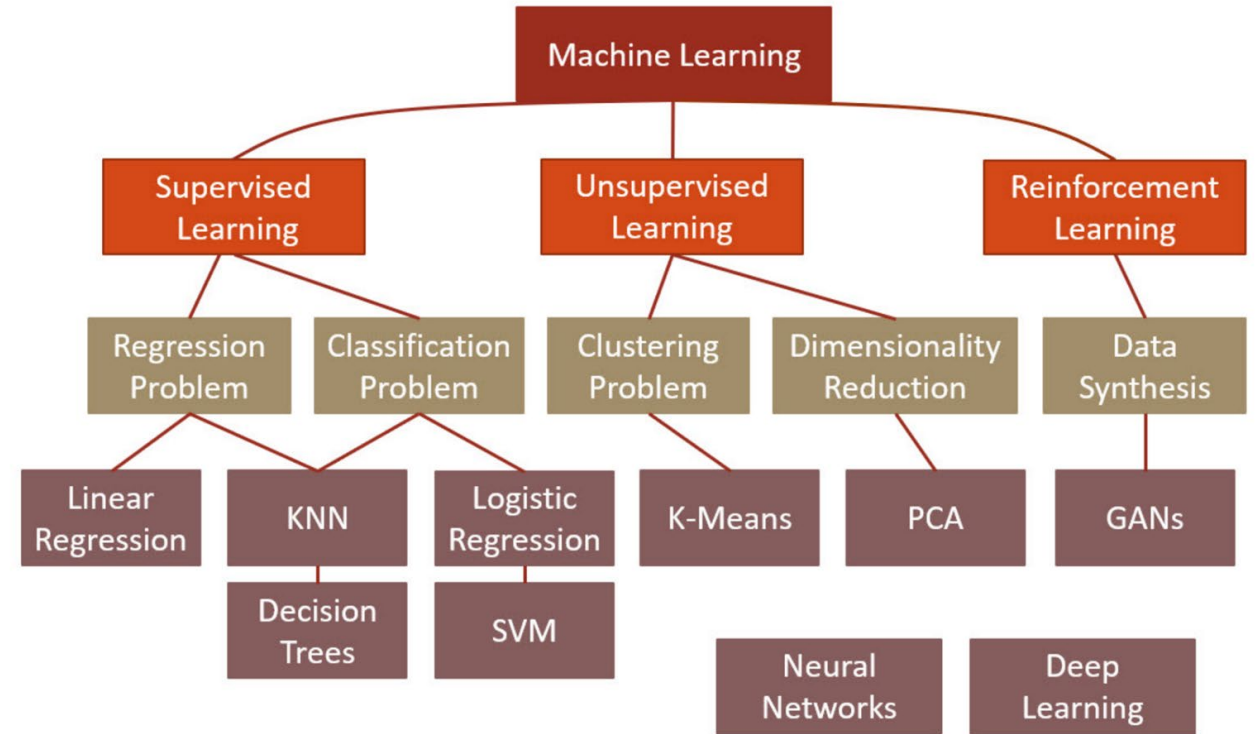
Mentors: Michael Stanley, Andreas Spanias

NSF Award 1953745

<https://sensip.engineering.asu.edu/ret/>

# Introduction

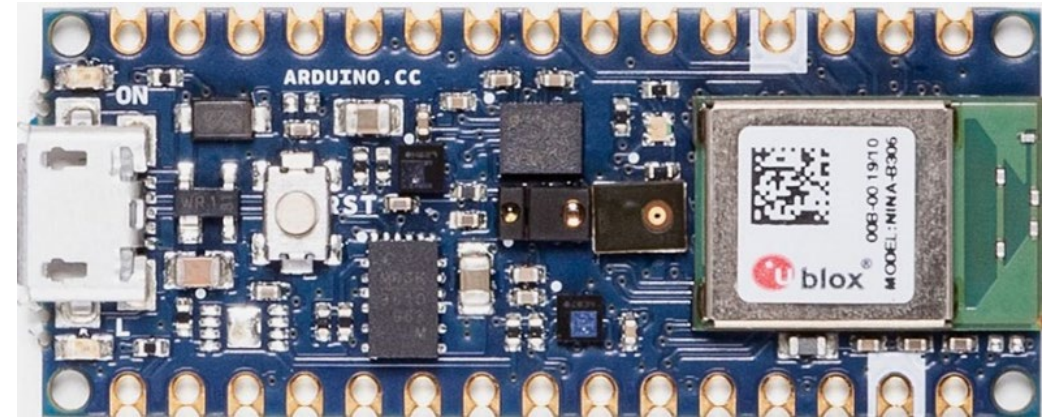
- The RET project exposed us to various machine learning techniques
- They helped us understand these techniques to apply them to a small research project
- We learned basics so that we could implement a lesson about an aspect of them in our classrooms
- The RET experience is a great way to help teachers expose students to cutting edge research and technology



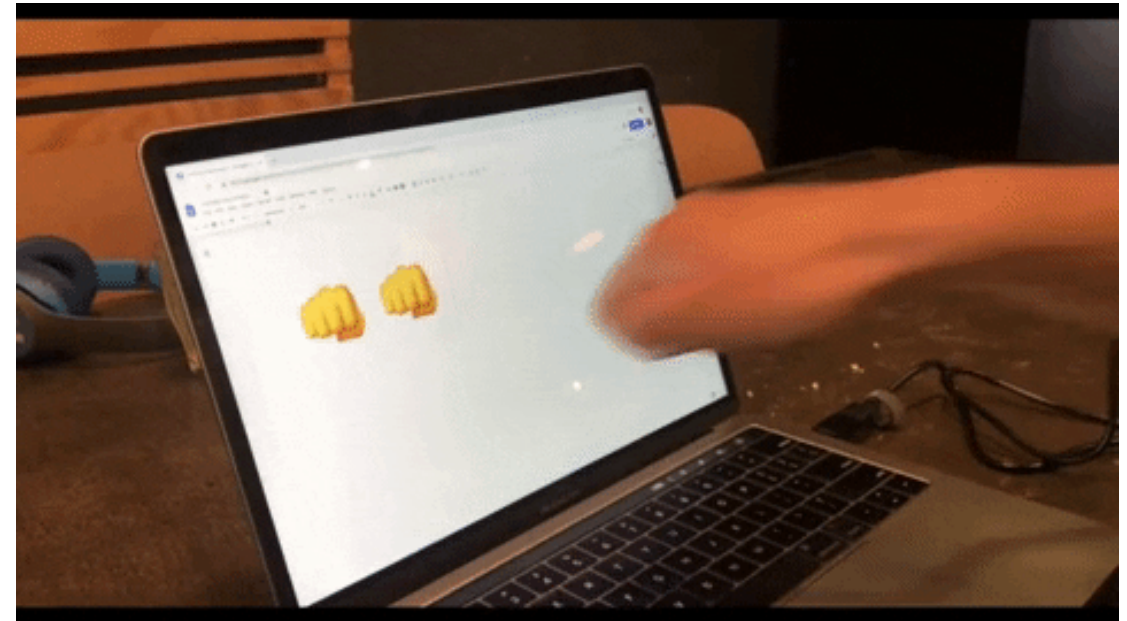
ML Overview by Kristen!

# Research Project

- I chose to use the Arduino Nano 33 BLE sense for its capabilities at running TinyML and collecting data
- Gesture recognition “magic wand” is a beginner example, and I wanted to focus my research around it
- Decided to do a feature study to try and minimize the model size while maintaining accuracy
- This led me to learn different techniques for determining the most predictive features, and gave an authentic research experience



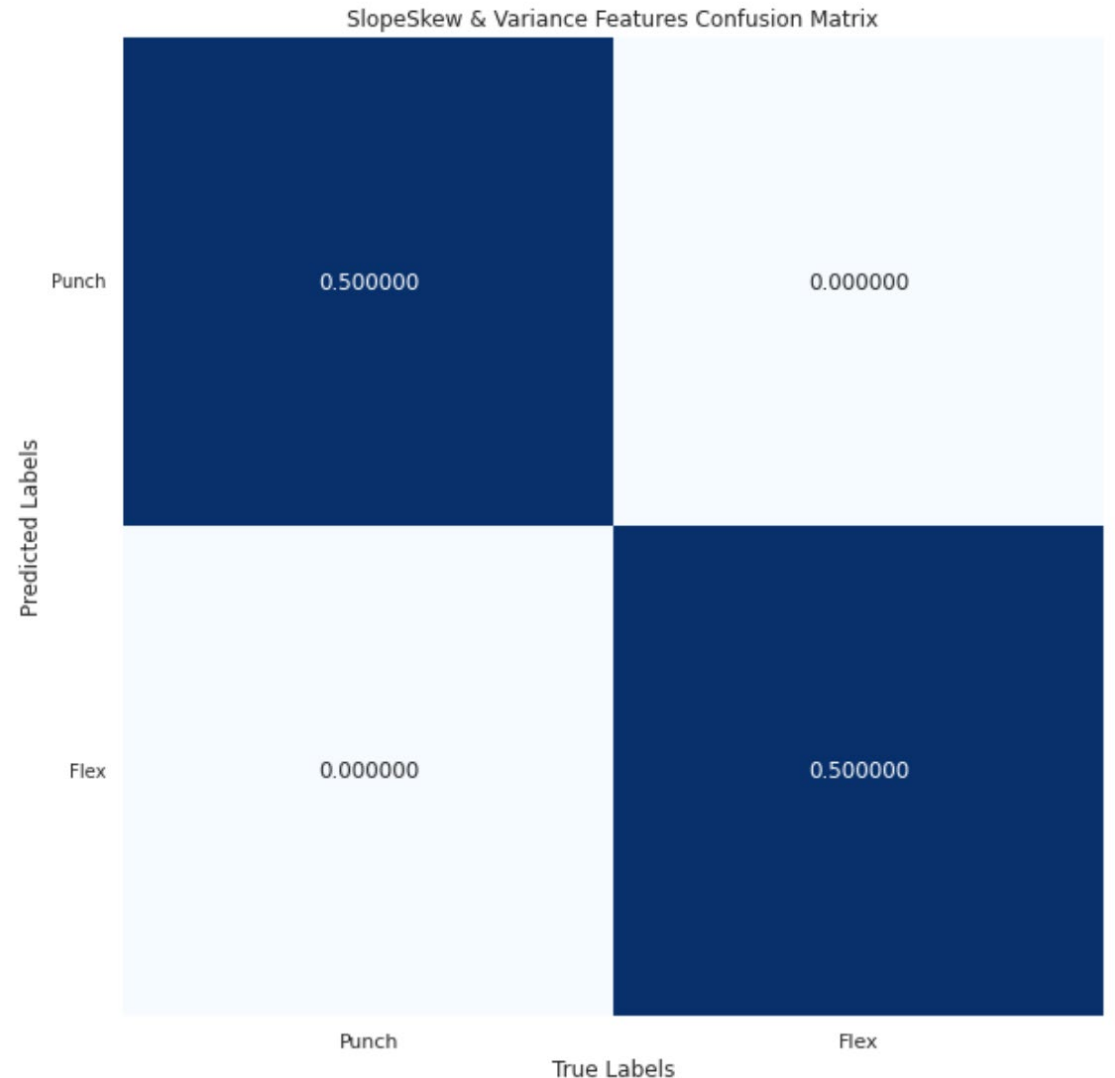
Arduino Nano 33 BLE Sense Board



Recognizing the 'punch' gesture

# Research Project

- I first collected my own samples to use for this project, 50 'punch' and 50 'flex' data points
- I chose to use the xyz accelerometer data, and the xyz gyroscope data to make predictions
- The gesture recognition example uses the keras sequential algorithm from TensorFlow
- I generated different statistical features about my data to try and minimize model size



Confusion matrix from one model

# Research Project

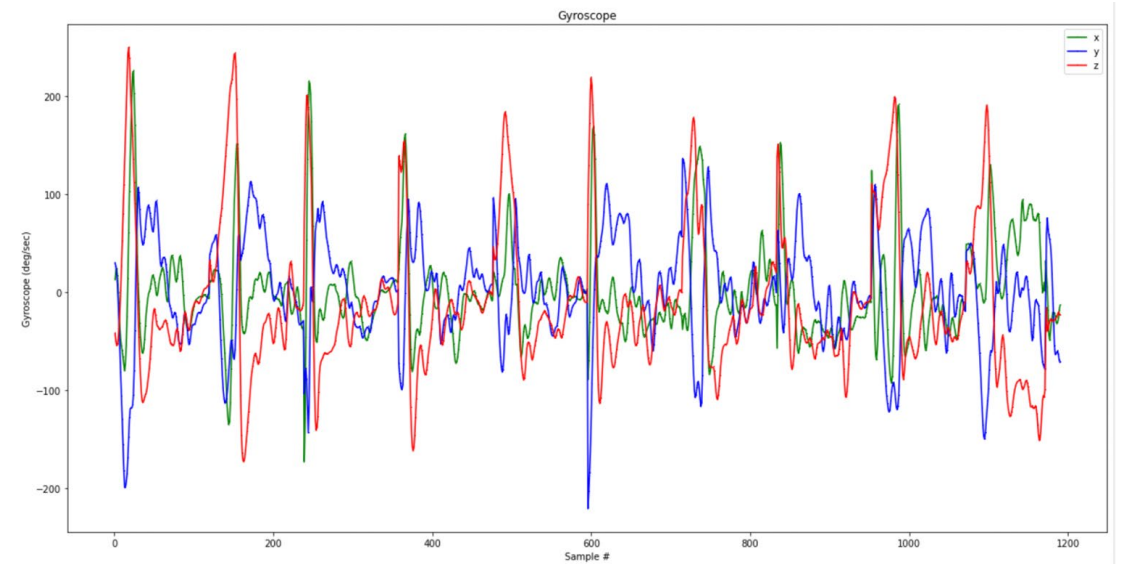
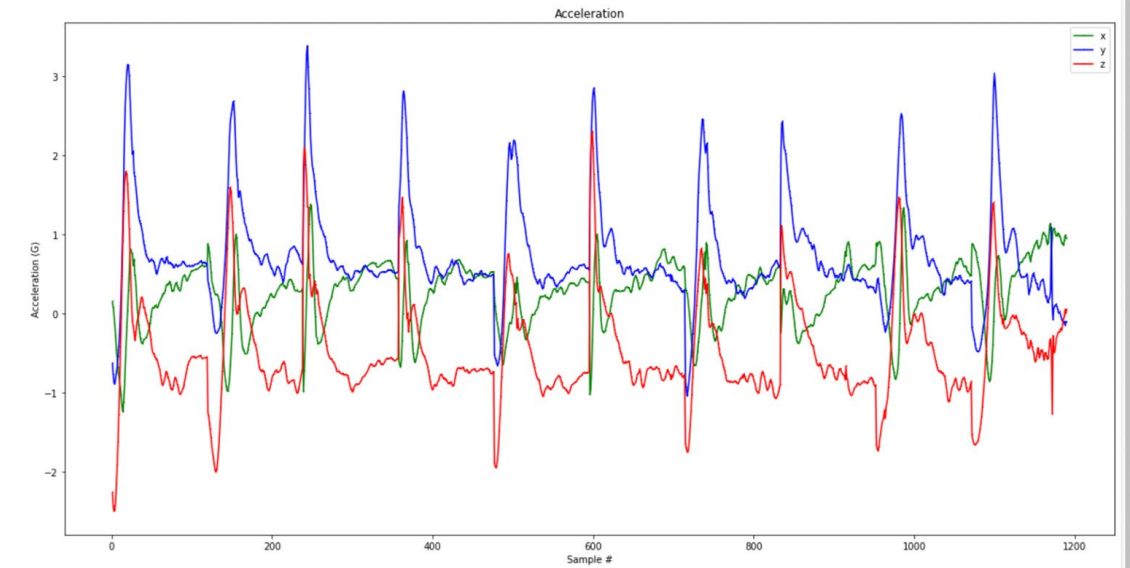
- The baseline to beat was using all 119 raw data points to make predictions, which gives a perfectly accurate model at 911kB of model size.
- Sampling 1/10 of the raw data still gave perfect accuracy with only 112kB of data
- Purely statistical features didn't add much, but I decided the slope made sense to research further, and found that the skew of slope was very predictive
- My best model was still perfect accuracy at 45kB of data using this and variance

Model Name	Model Size	Accuracy	Misclassifications
Features & Raw Data	8,249,802	1	0
Raw Data Only	911,468	1	0
Delta raw data	911,468	1	0
Delta Features	149,268	0.9	2
1/10 Raw Data	112,268	1	0
Features Only	90,068	0.95	1
42 Selected Features	82,668	0.95	1
1/20 Raw Data	75,268	0.95	1
1/20 Slope Data	75,268	1	0
Hybrid	60,468	1	0
22/42 Selected	58,002	0.9	2
Max & Var & SlopeSkew	53,068	1	0
Max & Var	45,668	0.85	3
Var & SlopeSkew	45,668	1	0
Slope Min/Max	45,446	0.9	2
Top 10 Slope Features	43,202	0.8	4
Top 3 Overall Features	34,568	0.95	1
Top 3 Skew Features	34,568	0.85	3
gYSlopeSkew	32,102	0.9	2

Summary Results

# Lesson Plan

- I teach 9th grade so the concept of machine learning being based on pattern recognition in data is where I focused my lesson.
- Students will collect sample data of their own gestures, and then this data will be randomized and distributed to teams of students
- Teams will work together to identify patterns in data, and classify which gesture each sample represents
- Students “acting as the algorithm” learn a key concept of machine learning



Data generated from 10 punches

# Conclusion

- Thanks to Kristen Jaskie, Michael Stanley, Jean Larsen, Andreas Spanias, and others I had a great summer research experience
- I believe that this experience helped demystify machine learning for myself and will help me teach it to my students
- Some feedback for the program would be to clearly define research projects before students come in, as 1 month is very little time to do authentic research
- Thank you!

