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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Smart Healthcare Hand Gesture Recognition Using CNN-Based Detector and Deep Belief Network

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ABSTRACT Gesture recognition in dynamic images is challenging in computer vision, automation and medical field. Hand gesture tracking and recognition between both human and computer must have symmetry in real world. With advances in sensor technology, numerous researchers have recently proposed RGB gesture recognition techniques. In our research paper, we introduce a reliable hand gesture tracking and recognition model that is accurate despite any complex environment, it can track and recognise RGB dynamic gestures. Firstly, videos are converted into frames. After images light intensity adjustment and noise removal, images are passed through CNN for hand gesture extraction. Then from the extracted hand, features are extracted from full hand. Neural gas and locomotion thermal mapping are extracted to make the feature vector. The feature vector are then passed through the fuzzy optimiser to reduce the uncertainties and the fuzziness. The optimised features are then passed to the classifier Deep Belief Network (DBW) for the classification of the gestures. Egogesture and Jester datasets are used for the validation of proposed systems. The experimental results over Egogesture and Jester datasets demonstrate overall accuracies of 90.73% and 89.33% respectively. The experiments proves our system readability and suitability of our proposed model with the other state of the arts model.

INDEX TERMS Convolution neural network, neural gas, thermal locomotion mapping, fuzzy logic, deep belief network, hand detection and tracking.

I. INTRODUCTION

In our daily routine, human and computer interaction is now an essential part which helps us in multiple ways. With the advancement in the computer technology and hardware, Human Computer Interaction (HCI) serves with its

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best techniques [\[1\]. H](#page-9-0)and gesture recognition is one of the most important and on-demand area for researchers now, as it provides a simple way to interact with computers. The interaction between human and computer is intuitive and user friendly. Humans used joysticks, remote controls and special devices for interaction but users should be trained for such devices. Hand gesture interface are more user friendly and flexible systems for human computer interaction. Humans

and computer interaction can be helpful in different domains such as home appliances, robotics, medical, virtual environment, and in communication [\[2\],](#page-9-1) [\[3\],](#page-9-2) [\[4\],](#page-9-3) [\[5\]. Th](#page-9-4)e detection of hand gesture is a crucial point to cater in research area. As in different circumstances, hand gesture recognition rate varies. Complex background and luminosity affects its recognition rate. In field like medical errors lead to loss of life, researchers are figuring error-free error free recognition in every situation. For such problems a lot of different models have been proposed which works efficiently, but to improvise all issues regarding recognition is a difficult task to achieve [\[6\].](#page-9-5)

In hand gesture recognition some generic steps are used such as data acquisition, hand detection, feature extraction and then the hand is classified. The data is collected using sensors and cameras, also depth sensors, such devices collect static and dynamic gestures [\[7\],](#page-9-6) [\[8\],](#page-9-7) [\[9\]. M](#page-9-8)any researcher have proposed techniques for detecting gestures including machine learning and deep learning methods. Now in research, people have tried to overcome the limitations. In our research work we have proposed a solution to improve the finding in research. The proposed work efficiently in medical and home automation area [\[10\]. I](#page-9-9)t also serves as a communication tool for humans and computers.

The main contributions of the paper are:

- Hand gestures are recognised with deep learning algorithm such as deep belief network to get better accuracy, and to detect on large scale with complex background.
- Features of the hand such as neural gas and locomotive thermal mapping are novel features used to identify gestures for classification.
- Features fuzziness is removed for making the feature vectors to extract the gesture with accuracy.
- A comparative study is performed to check the system reliability and to compare our model with the other state of the art algorithms.

In Section [II](#page-1-0) Related work is given. Section [III](#page-2-0) includes the methodology to get the accurate results. In Section [IV](#page-5-0) Experimentation has done, to validate our system. Finally, Section [V](#page-8-0) presents the conclusion and future work.

II. RELATED WORK

Researchers have conducted various studies to implement hand gesture recognition in medical field to assist the medical staff. This section includes the recent methods and techniques to understand the importance of gestures in medical field. The litrature review is divided into two main data acquisition techniques i.e. hand gesture detection using RGB sensors and via marker sensors.

A. MEDICAL GESTURES ACQUISITION VIA MARKER **SENSORS**

In [\[11\]](#page-9-10) inspected patient gesture using series learning through remote monitoring. Intermediate and structured features are extracted in their model for dependable gesture recognition (DGR). The proposed system provided 94.92% accuracy with reduction time 4.97 s and 4.93s for DGR. Bargellesi et al. [\[12\]](#page-9-11) presented a model which used wearable motion capture sensor to recognize hand gesture via random forest. The hand movements are analyzed for features extraction at different time intervals. They have used different gestures dataset to perform experimental evaluation. Cho et al. [\[13\]](#page-9-12) proposed gesture recognition in operating room using a personalized classifier which improved gesture recognition. They took 5 gestures namely: hover, grab, click, one peak, and two peaks and extracted thirty features for classification, those features were passed to support vector machine (SVM) and Naïve Bayes (NB) classifiers to recognize computer-aided surgical procedure. There model gave $99.58\% \pm 0.06$, and 98.74%±3.64 accuracy using SVM and NB respectively. In [\[14\]](#page-9-13) Tavakoli et al. improvised a wearable sensor with double surface EMG. The used 4 gestures for classification via 2 EMGs channels on flexors and extensors. The gestures were fed to SVM and 95% accuracy was obtained with less fault tolerance. In [\[15\]](#page-9-14) Zhang et al. acquired hand gesture key points using a convolutional pose machine (CPM) and for hand gesture recognition they used Fuzzy Gaussian mixture models (FGMM). The FGMM also eliminated the non-gesture classes and used vital points for classifying gestures. In [\[16\]](#page-9-15) Kopuklu et al. proposed a system to diagnose online dynamic hand gesture which enhanced gesture analysis efficiency. For gesture classification they used two-level hierarchy structure via CNN. There proposed method was workable on gestures with no start and complete point, the reorganized gesture can only be identified at a single time, and gesture recognition equipment should be under budget and space provided.

B. MEDICAL GESTURES ACQUISITION VIA VIDEO **SENSORS**

In [\[17\]](#page-9-16) Hamed et al. presented recovery room monitering system in which videos were converted into frames. The frames helped in extracting color seperation based approach for feature selection. The features were trained through hidden markov model to classify the gesture. The system succesfully attained 91.36% accuracy. In [\[18\]](#page-9-17) Van den Berg et al. proposed a method which detected 6 gestures such as: one open-hand,punching, pointing up, L-shaped motion, pointing to the camera, and two open-handed collected via cameras. They succesfully detected complex 3D gestures from background and recongnized gestures. In [\[19\]](#page-9-18) Ameur et al. recognise 11 hand gestures using various classifiers: SVM, nearest neighbor (NN), decision tree (DT), random forest (RF), AdaBoost, linear discriminant analysis and the multi-layer perceptron. The best classification results were achieved via SVM and multi-layer perceptron attaining the accuracy of 91.73% and 89.91% respectively. In [\[20\]](#page-9-19) Ameur et al. evaluated there work on RIT dataset extracting spatial, frequential and spatio-frequential features. Those features were collected from the fingertips and the palm center. The feature vector was then fed into SVM for classification. They

FIGURE 1. The system architecture of the proposed.

achieved 93% accuracy over their own dataset. Li et al. [\[21\]](#page-9-20) proposed a model for rehabilitation after stroke. 17 people performed 7 different gestures named as: extension-flexion of wrist, close and spread fingers, fingertip tap, radialulnar deviation, fingertip touch, palm rotation and finger mass extension-flexion. These gestures were evaluated using k-fold cross validation method. The SVM and KNN provided 97.29% and 97.71% respectively. In [\[22\]](#page-9-21) Dutta et al. proposed a method for gesture operated system which localized hand by bounding box and class labels was assigned. They detected keypoints on hand for support drawing and path traversal. They produced 89.6% accuracy for OUHANDS dataset. There system proved the gestures were affective for rehabilitation.

III. PROPOSED SYSTEM METHODOLOGY

In this paper, we proposed a novel approach for hand gesture recognition that recognizes and label them in videos. Initially, videos are taken and images frames are extracted. These frames are passed through CNN which successfully detects the hand gesture with accuracy. From the detected hand, features are computed. For features neural gas and locomotion thermal mapping are used. After that the extracted features are optimized with fuzzy logic and given to classifier DBN for recognition. Fig. [1](#page-2-1) presents overview of the proposed architecture.

A. IMAGE PRE-PROCESSING

Images contains unwanted information due to many reasons. These unwanted pixels to be removed to detect the object accurately. The images are pre-processed to remove unwanted pixels for the adjustment of luminosity and noise removal. First the image intensity is adjusted of the original images to improve contrast [\[23\]. G](#page-9-22)amma correction is used to make image brighter. It provides the best result with improving image quality. Gama correction possesses non-linear behavior and its power law definition is as follows:

$$
G_x = WL_y^{\gamma} \tag{1}
$$

where L_y is the non-negative input image which is raised to γ and is multiplied with the constant value *W*, $W = 1.G_x$ is the output received after gamma correction lies between range 0 and 1.

FIGURE 2. Some examples from Egogesture dataset: (a) original image; (b) intensity adjustment and (c) denoised image.

After gamma correction image is passed through non-local mean filter which process image to denoise. Non-local mean filter reduce loss of image quality by taking mean value of all pixels and the weight is calculated to verify the similarity between original and target pixel $[24]$. Γ is the area of the original image, *a* and *b* are the two points in the image, then the formulae will be:

$$
\mu(a) = \frac{1}{D(a)} \int_{\Gamma} \omega(b) f(a, b) \, db \tag{2}
$$

where $\mu(a)$ is the filtered value at point *a*, $\omega(b)$ presents the unfiltered value at point $b, f (a, b)$ is the weighted function which determine the closeness found in the both points *a* and *b*. Figure [2\(c\)](#page-2-2) shows the resultant denoised image and its histogram $[25]$. Figure [3](#page-3-0) presents the histogram representation of those resultant image.

B. HAND DETECTION USING CNN

Hand detection involves different methods such as skin detection, thermal, deep learning methods. Hand segmentation need accurate extraction of gesture for successful recognition. In this research, we considered CNN for hand detection as it provides promising results in any background without error. In CNN, three convolution layers, three max-pooling layer, one fully connected layer and output layer is present [\[26\].](#page-9-25) Figure [4](#page-4-0) presents the architecture of proposed CNN model for hand detection. The convolution layer CV_1 is at start which is consist of input matrix [\[27\],](#page-9-26) [\[28\],](#page-9-27) [\[29\],](#page-9-28) [\[30\]. T](#page-9-29)he convolution layer have 32 kernels, size of 1 * 13. The convolution matrix is calculated using formulae

$$
CV_i^{j-1} (m, n) = \sum_{y=1}^{x} \Omega \left(m \left(n - y + \frac{x+1}{2} \right) \right) U_i^j (y) + \alpha_i^j
$$
\n(3)

FIGURE 3. Histogram representation: (a) original image; (b) intensity adjustment and (c) denoised image.

where (m, n) are coordinates for convolution layer, Ω presents last layer map and kernel size. U_i^j $\frac{J}{i}$ presents the j th kernel for layer *i*th. α_j^j \mathbf{r}'_i presents the bias of the convolution layer. The resultant output CV_i^{j-1} (m, n) is passed through the first layer of max-pooling layer M_1 . The sum of the bian and weight between convolution layer and max pool layer is calculated using ReLU function and passed to the next layer. This layer down sample the results using sliding window of 1 * 2 size. The pooling layer result can be formulated using the equation:

$$
M_i^{j-1} (m, n) = \max \left(C V_i^j (m ((n - 1) \times (r, s))) \right) \tag{4}
$$

where $(r - 1)$ is the output layer, *s* is the kernel and (m, n) are coordinates. $1 \le r \le s$ and *i* is the size of pooling window. The first pooling layer results are then passed through the second convolution layer having 64 kernels and the whole procedure is again repeated but with 128 kernels. At last fully connected layer is obtained as

$$
Ful_{u}^{j+1} = \sum_{y=1}^{x} \Omega \left(m \left(n - y + \frac{x+1}{2} \right) \right) U_{i}^{j}(y) + \alpha_{i}^{j}
$$

$$
+ \alpha_{i}^{j} \left(\sum_{t} d_{t}^{j} U_{ju}^{j} + \alpha_{u}^{j} \right)
$$
(5)

where $d_i^j U_{ju}^j$ presents the matrix with weights. The convergence plot of CNN for egogesture dataset is given with 250 epochs. Also the detected hand is presented in Fig [5.](#page-4-1)

C. FEATURE EXTRACTION USING NEURAL GAS

Neural gas is self-organizing neural map, it is capable of determining the neighborhood data space with the help of ranking neighborhood vectors [\[31\],](#page-10-0) [\[32\],](#page-10-1) [\[33\]. I](#page-10-2)t is composed of neurons *i* has a weight vector presented as $N(v)$ which forms clusters. The position of each neuron shows abrupt movement during training. Every single neuron is associated

with feature vector randomly. From the feature vector random data *v* is selected which forms a neural gas network. From all the weight vectors, the Euclidean distance from that random data vector v is computed. With the calculated distance the centers are adjusted using that selected data vector. Every feature vector adapts itself by the following computation

$$
N_{f_i}^{T+1} = N_{f_i}^T + \varepsilon \cdot e^{-i/\lambda} \cdot \left(v - N_{f_i}^T\right), i = 0, \dots, W - 1 \quad (6)
$$

where probability distribution $N(v)$ of data vector v with finite number of sets s_f , $f = 1, \ldots, W$. A data vector *v* from probability distribution $N(v)$ is presented from each time step *T* . The distance order is determined from feature vector of the given data *v*. Suppose i_o be the index of the closed feature vector, i_1 be the second and i_{w-1} be the distant to the data vector v . ε presents adaptation step size and λ presents neighborhood range. After most of the adaptation step the data space is covered with feature vector with minimum errors [\[34\]. F](#page-10-3)ig. [6](#page-4-2) presents the structure of neural gas over egogesture dataset gesture.

D. FEATURE EXTRACTION USING LOCOMOTION THERMAL MAPPING

In locomotion thermal mapping, thermal maps are captured for hand movements of different gestures from one frame to another [\[35\]. T](#page-10-4)he hand movements speed differs comparing two altered frames, which implies that the gestures having the greater speed will be given higher heat values. The hand with greater speed are shown in yellowish color. And the areas of hand which were not involved in any movement while performing the gesture are presented in green color. The range is set between 0 to 8000 to show th eheat values of geatures in thermal mapping. The set of values involved in greater movement are extracted for classification. The thermal mapping is represented by the following equation:

$$
LTM(x) = \sum_{j=0}^{j} \ln S(j) \tag{7}
$$

where the extracted values are stored in 1D vector *x*, *j* presents index matrix values and *S* presents the values extracted from *j*. Fig. [7](#page-4-3) presents the result of locomotion thermal mapping on different gestures.

E. FUZZY LOGIC OPTIMISATION

Extracted features are passed through optimiser for feature selection and reduction. Fuzzy Optimisation (FO) solves the problem of uncertainty in parameters using membership function [\[36\]. F](#page-10-5)O allows the partial truth and partial false mathematical representation. The parameters are not represented as part of set or not but the degree of membership is allocated to each data set. Membership function defines the range allocation between the ranges 0 to 1. For the removal of fuzziness, Defuzzification method acquires output with nonfuzzy values. The formulae is given as:

$$
\Delta Fuzz = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{q} \alpha_i (q) \times o_i}{\sum_{i=1}^{p} \alpha_i (q)} \tag{8}
$$

FIGURE 4. The architecture of proposed CNN model for hand detection.

FIGURE 5. Hand detection using CNN: (a) detected hand and (b) convergence plot over egogesture and jester dataset.

FIGURE 6. Neural gas over egogesture dataset gesture classes: (a) cross index finger and (b) click with index finger.

where $\alpha_i(q)$ presents accomplishment in *i*th rule, o_i represents the height rule. The surface function can express the relation between fuzzy inputs and outputs.

FIGURE 7. LTM over egogesture dataset gesture.

F. DEEP BELIEF NETWORK

After feature extraction the DBN is used over two datasets i.e. Egogesture and Jester for gesture recognition. The DBN, a type of classifier with multiple number of restricted Boltzmann machines (RBMs), which serves as the basic unit and also BP neural network (BPNN) [\[37\]. R](#page-10-6)BMs reduces the feature dimensionality, extract and filter the features before feeding it to the BPNN. RBMs includes two layers i.e. hidden

FIGURE 8. Fuzzy optimization result over egogesture datasets.

layer and visible layer. The particular layers have no connection within the RBM units and no data interaction is seen [\[38\].](#page-10-7) Fig. [9](#page-5-1) presents the graphical representation of the RBMs and Figure [10](#page-5-2) represents the architecture of DBN. The energy function $E(x, y)$ of combined units, the hidden unit (*y*) and the trained sample (x) through probability is defined as:

$$
E(x, y) = \sum_{k=1}^{l} a_k x_k - \sum_{h=1}^{m} b_h y_h
$$

$$
-\sum_{h=1}^{m} \sum_{k=1}^{l} x_k c_{kh} y_h
$$
(9)

where *a* and *b* represents biases value of the hidden and visible layer and *c* represents the weights matrix assigned to visible and hidden units for connection [\[39\]. W](#page-10-8)hen the input unit is determined the hidden layer probability is computed as:

$$
PH(y = 1|x, \theta) = \prod_{k=0}^{l} \frac{1}{(1 + \exp(-C_k^T x - d_k))}
$$
(10)

FIGURE 9. The graphical the graphical representation of the RBMs.

After the hidden unit is determined the visible unit starts being activate, the probability computed of visibility unit is:

$$
PV(x = 1|y, \theta) = \prod_{h=0}^{l} \frac{1}{(1 + \exp(-C_h^T y - e_h))}
$$
(11)

The joint probability of both units *x* and *y* are:

$$
p(x, y) = \frac{1}{FG(\theta)} r^{-E(x, y)}
$$
(12)

$$
FG(\theta) = \sum_{x,y} r^{-E(x,y)} \tag{13}
$$

where $FG(\theta)$ presents the regulation constant. The weights between both units are updated based on positive gradient subtracted from negative gradient $x'y^{W}$ times alongwith learming rate (β) . The weight updation is computed as

$$
\Delta W = \beta x y^W - x' y'^W \tag{14}
$$

FIGURE 10. The graphical model and overview of the DBN model.

IV. EXPERIMENTAL SETTINGS AND ANALYSIS

This section includes the testing and validation performed on proposed architecture on the Egogesture and Jester dataset. On these benchmark datasets leave-one-subject-out (LOSO) cross validation test is performed to check the proposed system efficiency. From each gesture class 9 out of 10 frames were taken for training and the left out frame was taken for testing. Four experiments were performed on these two datasets for system validation. First dataset description is given and then the rest of the experiments are presented in this section with proposed system limitations, also it is compared with the other-state-of-art architectures.

A. DATASET DESCRIPTIONS

For experimentation, we used the following datasets:

1) EGOGESTURE DATASET

The egogesture [\[40\]](#page-10-9) is a multi-model large scale dataset comprised of 2081 RGB videos with 2,953,224 frames. It includes 83 different static and dynamic gestures with 50 distinct subjects. For our system training and testing we have selected fifteen dynamic gesture classes namely: scroll hand towards left, scroll hand towards right, scroll hand downward, scroll hand upward, scroll hand backward, scroll hand forward,

TABLE 1. Confusion matrix for recognition accuracy over the Egogesture dataset.

shtl = scroll hand towards left; shtr = scroll hand towards right; shd = scroll hand downward; shu = scroll hand upward; shb = scroll hand backward; shf = scroll hand forward; zift = zoom in with fists; zoft = zoom out with fists; rfc = rotate finger clockwise; z if = zoom in with finger; zof = zoom out with finger; sc = sweep circle; sd = sweep diagonal; scr = sweep cross; sch = sweep checkmark.

TABLE 2. Confusion matrix for recognition accuracy over the JESTER dataset.

stfd = sliding two finger down; sh = shaking hand; ss = stop sign; sl = swiping left; sr = swipe right; td = thumb down; tu = thumb up; the = turning hand clockwise; the e turning hand counterclockwise; zofh = zooming out with full hand; zotf = zooming out with two fingers; zifh = zoom in with full hand; zitf = zoom in with two fingers; rhf = rolling hand forward; rhb = rolling hand backward.

zoom in with fists, zoom out with fists, rotate finger clockwise, zoom in with finger, zoom out with finger, sweep circle, sweep diagonal, sweep cross, sweep checkmark. The gestures are collected from indoor and outdoor scenes. The dataset samples with different gesture and different backgrounds are presented in Fig. [11.](#page-7-0)

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FIGURE 11. Example frames with different background of egogesture dataset.

2) JESTER DATASET

Jester dataset includes 148,092 video clips, comprises of 27 gestures of pre-defined human hand gestures collected in front of cameras [\[41\]. T](#page-10-10)he video quality of gestures is set to 100px with 12fps. 15 hand gestures are selected for system training and tested named as: Sliding two finger down, shaking hand, stop sign, swiping left, swipe right, thumb down, thumb up, turning hand clockwise, turning hand counterclockwise, zooming out with full hand, zooming out with two fingers, zoom in with full hand, zoom in with two fingers, rolling hand forward and rolling hand backward. The example gestures of jester dataset is given below in Fig [12.](#page-7-1)

FIGURE 12. Example frames of jester dataset.

B. RECOGNITION ACCURACY

The first experiment includes the recognition accuracy of proposed system on two benchmark datasets to recognise the system efficiency and realiabilty.

1) EXPERIMENTAL SETUP

For the proposed system development, MATLAB and Google Colab were used for computations. The system comprised of 16GB of RAM, 2.6GHz with Intel (R) Core i7- 9750H CPU. To measure the proposed system accuracy, LOSO was used to analyze system efficiency. Table [1](#page-6-0) and Table [2](#page-6-1) demonstrates the confusion matrix with mean accuracy of Egogesture and Jester dataset respectively.

2) PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

Performance metrics are evaluated for the proposed system to demonstrate the system robustness. Precision, recall,

sensitivity of the systems are calculated for both dataset gestures presented in Table [3](#page-7-2) and [4.](#page-7-3)

TABLE 4. Evaluation metrics over JESTER dataset.

3) COMPARISON WITH OTHER-STATE-OF-THE-ART **METHODS**

In this section, a comparison analysis is conducted with other state of the art algorithms on two benchmark datasets egogesture and jester. Each gesture class accuracy is compared with the other conventional algorithms namely random forest and multi-layer preceptron. Fig. [13](#page-8-1) and [14](#page-8-2) show the accuracies rate with conventional models on eeogesture and jester dataset respectively.

FIGURE 13. Accuracies rate over egogesture dataset with conventional model compared with proposed system.

DBN RF Multi-preceptron

FIGURE 14. Accuracies rate over jester dataset with conventional model compared with proposed system.

4) COMPARISON WITH OTHER-STATE-OF-THE-ART **TECHNIQUES**

The accuracy obtained from the proposed method is compared with the other latest techniques in research area. Our

system proved the best results as compared with the other state of the art method. Table [5](#page-9-30) shows the gesture recognition accuracy over Egogesture and Jester dataset with other-state-of-the-art-methods.

TABLE 5. Comparison of gesture recognition accuracy over Egogesture and Jester dataset with other-state-of-the-art-methods.

Method	Egogesture Dataset (%)	Method	Jester Dataset $(\%)$
Y. Liu et al. [42]	72.4	F. Fkih [44]	68.4
P. Molchanov et al. [8]	78.4	J. Yang [45]	67.9
D. Tran et al. $[43]$	86.4	S. Li [46]	73.55
Proposed	90.73	Proposed	89.33

V. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

In this paper, we have proposed the model for hand gesture recognition for medical field. Our system attained the better results considering with other conventional methods, as it detected gesture from the complex background. The proposed system detected the hand and then features were extracted, after feature optimisation feature vector was fed to classifier DBN, which proves the best accuracy results. Experimentations and evaluation done on the system provided the accuracy rate of 90.73% and 89.33% over Egogesture and jester datasets respectively.

In future, we will work comprehensively to deal with the limitations of our system. Furthermore, we will work on more hand gestures classification for medical field and also hand gesture in home automation.

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