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ABSTRACT

Sign language is the only tool of communication for the person who is not able to speak and hear anything. Sign language is a boon for the physically challenged people to express their thoughts and emotion. In this work, a novel scheme of sign language recognition has been proposed for identifying the alphabets and gestures in sign language. With the help of computer vision and neural networks we can detect the signs and give the respective text output.

KeyWord: Sign LanguageRecognition1, Convolution Neural Network2, Image Processing3, Edge Detection4, Hand Gesture Recogniton5.

1.INTRODUCTION

Speech impaired people use hand signs and gestures to communicate. Normal people face difficulty in understanding their language. Hence there is a need of a system which recognizes the different signs, gestures and conveys the information to the normal people. It bridges the gap between physically challenged people and normal people.

1.1 IMAGE PROCESSING

Image processing is a method to perform some operations on an image, in order to get an enhanced image or to extract some useful information from it. It is a type of signal processing in which input is an image and output may be image or characteristics/features associated with that image. Nowadays, image processing is among rapidly growing technologies. It forms core research area within engineering and computer science disciplines too.

Image processing basically includes the following three steps:

• Importing the image via image acquisition tools.

• Analysing and manipulating the image.

• Output in which result can be altered image or report that is based on image analysis.

There are two types of methods used for image processing namely, analogue and digital image processing. Analogue image processing can be used for the hard copies like printouts and photographs. Image analysts use various fundamentals of interpretation while using these visual techniques. Digital image processing techniques help in manipulation of the digital images by using computers. The three general phases that all types of data have to undergo while using digital technique are pre-processing, enhancement, and display, information extraction.

Digital image processing:

Digital image processing consists of the manipulation of images using digital computers. Its use has been increasing exponentially in the last decades. Its applications range from medicine to entertainment, passing by geological processing

and remote sensing. Multimedia systems, one of the pillars of the modern information society, rely heavily on digital image processing.

Digital image processing consists of the manipulation of those finite precision numbers. The processing of digital images can be divided into several classes: image enhancement, image restoration, image analysis, and image compression. In image enhancement, an image is manipulated, mostly by heuristic techniques, so that a human viewer can extract useful information from it.

Digital image processing is to process images by computer. Digital image processing can be defined as subjecting a numerical representation of an object to a series of operations in order to obtain a desired result. Digital image processing consists of the conversion of a physical image into a corresponding digital image and the extraction of significant information from the digital image by applying various algorithms.

Pattern recognition: On the basis of image processing, it is necessary to separate objects from images by pattern recognition technology, then to identify and classify these objects through technologies provided by statistical decision theory. Under the conditions that an image includes several objects, the pattern recognition consists of three phases, as shown in Fig.

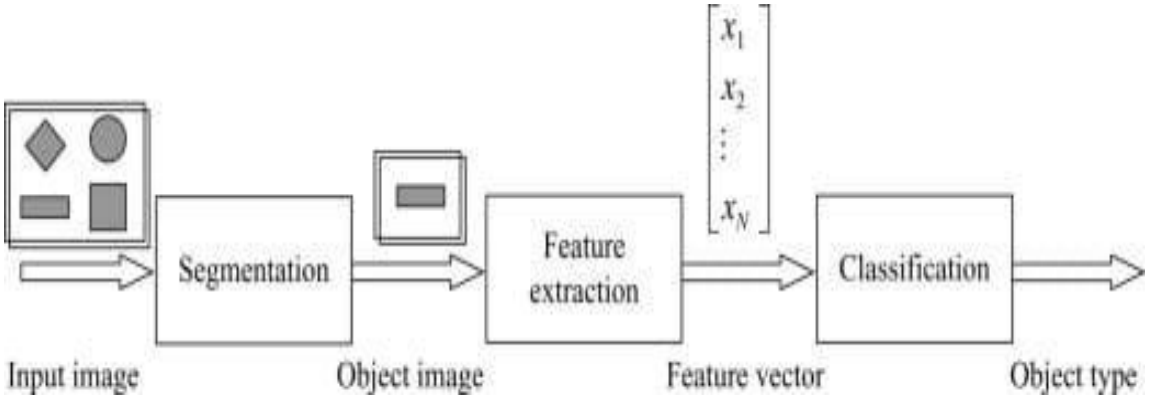

Fig1.1: Phases of pattern recognition

The first phase includes the image segmentation and object separation. In this phase, different objects are detected and separate from other background. The second phase is the feature extraction. In this phase, objects are measured. The measuring feature is to quantitatively estimate some important features of objects, and a group of the features are combined to make up a feature vector during feature extraction. The third phase is classification. In this phase, the output is just a decision to determine

which category every object belongs to. Therefore, for pattern recognition, what input are images and what output are object types and structural analysis of images. The structural analysis is a description of images in order to correctly understand and judge for the important information of images.

1.2 SIGN LANGUAGE

It is a language that includes gestures made with the hands and other body parts, including facial expressions and postures of the body.It used primarily by people who are deaf and dumb. There are many different sign languages as, British, Indian and American sign languages. British sign language (BSL) is not easily intelligible to users of American sign Language (ASL) and vice versa .

A functioning signing recognition system could provide a chance for the inattentive communicate with non-signing people without the necessity for an interpreter. It might be wont to generate speech or text making the deaf more independent. Unfortunately there has not been any system with these capabilities thus far. during this project our aim is to develop a system which may classify signing accurately.

American Sign Language (ASL) is a complete, natural language that has the same linguistic properties as spoken languages, with grammar that differs from English. ASL is expressed by movements of the hands and face. It is the primary language of many North Americans who are deaf and hard of hearing, and is used by many hearing people as well.

1.3SIGN LANGUAGE AND HAND GESTURE RECOGNITION

The process of converting the signs and gestures shown by the user into text is called sign language recognition. It bridges the communication gap between people who cannot speak and the general public. Image processing algorithms along with neural networks is used to map the gesture to appropriate text in the training data and hence raw images/videos are converted into respective text that can be read and understood.

Dumb people are usually deprived of normal communication with other people in the society. It has been observed that they find it really difficult at times to interact

with normal people with their gestures, as only a very few of those are recognized by most people. Since people with hearing impairment or deaf people cannot talk like normal people so they have to depend on some sort of visual communication in most of the time. Sign Language is the primary means of communication in the deaf and dumb community. As like any other language it has also got grammar and vocabulary but uses visual modality for exchanging information. The problem arises when dumb or deaf people try to express themselves to other people with the help of these sign language grammars. This is because normal people are usually unaware of these grammars. As a result it has been seen that communication of a dumb person are only limited within his/her family or the deaf community. The importance of sign language is emphasized by the growing public approval and funds for international project. At this age of Technology the demand for a computer based system is highly demanding for the dumb community. However, researchers have been attacking the problem for quite some time now and the results are showing some promise. Interesting technologies are being developed for speech recognition but no real commercial product for sign recognition is actually there in the current market. The idea is to make computers to understand human language and develop a user friendly human computer interfaces (HCI). Making a computer understand speech, facial expressions and human gestures are some steps towards it. Gestures are the non-verbally exchanged information. A person can perform innumerable gestures at a time. Since human gestures are perceived through vision, it is a subject of great interest forcomputer vision researchers. The project aims to determine human gestures by creating an HCI. Coding of these gestures into machine language demands a complex programming algorithm. In our project we are focusing on Image Processing and Template matching for better output generation.

1.4 MOTIVATION

The 2011 Indian census cites roughly 1.3 million people with “hearingimpairment”. In contrast to that numbers from India’s National Association of the Deaf estimates that 18 million people –roughly 1 per cent of Indian population are deaf. These statistics formed the motivation for our project. As these speech impairment and deaf people need a proper channel to communicate with normal people there is a need for a system . Not all normal people can understand sign language of impaired people. Our

project hence is aimed at converting the sign language gestures into text that is readable for normal people.

1.5 PROBLEM STATEMENT

Speech impaired people use hand signs and gestures to communicate.

Normal people face difficulty in understanding their language. Hence there is a need of a system which recognizes the different signs, gestures and conveys the information to the normal people. It bridges the gap between physically challenged people and normal people.

1.6 ORGANISATION OF THESIS

The book is organised as follows:

Part 1:The various technologies that are studied are introduced and the problem statement is stated alongwith the motivation to our project.

Part 2:The Literature survey is put forth which explains the various other works and their technologies that are used for Sign Language Recognition.

Part 3:Explains the methodologies in detail, represents the architecture and algorithms used.

Part 4:Represents the project in various designs.

Part 5:Provides the experimental analysis, the code involved and the results obtained.

Part 6:Concludes the project and provides the scope to which the project can be extended.

- 2D and 3D feature toolkits
- Egomotion estimation
- Facial recognition system
- Gesture recognition
- Human–computer interaction (HCI)
- Mobile robotics
- Motion understanding
- Object identification
- Segmentation and recognition

Stereopsis stereo vision: depth perception from 2 cameras

- Structure from motion (SFM).
- Motion tracking
- Augmented reality

To support some of the above areas, OpenCV includes a statistical machine learning library that contains:

- Boosting
- Decision tree learning
- Gradient boosting trees
- Expectation-maximization algorithm
- k-nearest neighbor algorithm
- Naive Bayes classifier
- Artificial neural networks
- Random forest
- Support vector machine (SVM)
- Deep neural networks (DNN)

AForge.NET, a computer vision library for the Common Language Runtime (.NET Framework and Mono).