**SIGN I-NET : A Deep Learning Based Model To Recognize Sign Language**

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**Abstract -** Among the people living in the world, of whom

97.6 million are both deaf and blind. People in the age group of 15-49 years, which happens to be age group that contributes the most to science and technology, makes about 17% of this population.To communicate with other humans, deaf-blinded people use communication techniques such as sign language, and written text. Recent advancement in AI, Computer vision has made a lot of progress in helping the hearing and speech impaired people to lead a more comfortable independent life. Several solutions have been proposed to help them in navigation and in many other day-to-day tasks. Solutions to help them access the world of knowledge are comparatively less explored. The information conveyed to general masses from person of hearing-disabilities are primarily rely upon through lip reading. As there is a need for a solution for hearing impaired individuals, we integrated a AI based sign language interpreter to overcome communication hurdles among peers for online based video and real-time conversations. Through our efforts, we hope to have moved an inch closer to bridging the gap between people with hearing ,speech impairment and the world's knowledge pool.

**1.INTRODUCTION**

Sign language is a type of communication used by persons who have hearing and speech impairments. Sign language movements are used by people to communicate their thoughts and emotions through nonverbal communication. Non-signers, on the other hand, find it exceedingly difficult to comprehend, which is why skilled sign language interpreters are required for medical and legal visits, as well as educational and training sessions. Throughout the last five years, there has been an increase in demand for interpreting services. Alternative methods, such as video remote human interpretation over high-speed Internet connections, have been established. They will therefore give an easy-to-use sign language interpreting service, which can be used but has significant restrictions.

According to the 2011 Census, there are about 1027835 persons with hearing and speech impairments among India's handicapped population of 2.68 crores (2.21% of the overall population), comprising 545179 males and 482656 females.

These group of people evolved their own language to communicate with one another, which we call Sign language. To convey one's thoughts, sign languages employ visible human body motions and gestures. Sign languages differ from one place to the next. There is American Sign Language in the United States of America, for example, and Indian Sign Language in India. Several sign languages also include a section where native language alphabets are conveyed by fingerspelling hand signals.

Over the past years, we can find many trials to develop sign language recognition (SLR) systems. Although extensive effort has been done in American sign languages across the world, it appears that considerably less study has been done in Indian dialects. On the basis of input data, there are two types of SLR architecture: glove-based [1], [2], [3] and vision-based [4], [5]. Glove-based SLR architecture use smart gloves to monitor hand position, orientation, velocity, and so on utilizing microcontrollers and sensors.Vision-based SLR techniques use cameras to detect hand gestures. Computer vision-based SLR systems often extract characteristics including edge detection, skin color segmentation, gesture identification, hand form detection, and so on. Nevertheless, most of these solutions need too much processing power to operate in real-time on low-end computation devices such as mobile phones and are thus confined to platforms with high computational capacity. Moreover, the hit and miss of hand-tracking mechanisms is almost evident in all of these approaches.

This study adds to a deep learning-powered Indian Sign Language Recognition system that focuses on identifying basic letters of the American Alphabet. The method comprises the implementation of a hand tracking solution given by Google's open-source project, MediaPipe [6]. A deep learning method is also developed on this solution to provide a quick, economical, lightweight, and simple-to-deploy system that may be utilized as the core of a comprehensive sign language recognition system.The hand landmarks detection technique is used at the heart of this work. Using MediaPipe's hand tracking model, 21 hand landmarks in each image containing Sign Language hand signals were recognised. The landmarks are then gathered as coordinate points, normalized, and recorded as dataset in a.csv file. A feedforward neural network model is then trained on these data points, and real time hand sign recognition using OpenCV is done using the trained model. Figure 1 depicts an overview of the entire project. The finished model is very efficient, precise, portable, and light. This paper goes into the full procedure for building our model, including the results and evaluation of alternatives.

# 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Ansari and Harit [7] investigated the classification of static movements in Indian sign language using photos with 3D depth data.

The photographs were obtained using Microsoft Kinect, which captures 3D depth information in addition to 2D images.The dataset included 5041 photos of static hand movements that were categorized with 140 different classifications. The model was trained using K-means clustering. In the study, they were able to achieve 90% accuracy for 13 signs and 100% accuracy for three signs, bringing the total number of alphabets recognised to 16 (A, B, D, E, F, G, H, K, P, R, T, U, W, X, Y, Z) with an average accuracy rate of 90.68%.

Pugeault and Bowden [8] used color and depth pictures to create a recognition system based on 24 static American Sign Language (ASL) alphabet signs. Gabor filters are utilised to extract features at different sizes, and a multiclass random forest classifier is employed. In the leave-one-out trial, they achieved a recognition rate of 49%. They also generated a dataset dubbed American Fingerspelling Dataset and it is the most often used benchmarked dataset in this sort of sign language study.

Lin et al. [9] created a CNN for human gesture recognition and gathered skin color, orientation, and hand position for CNN training. To train the skin color modal, the Gaussian Mixture Model is utilized. This model's average accuracy is 95.96%.

Sruthi C. J and Lijiya A [10] developed a static alphabet recognition CNN model for an ISL system. They used the binary silhouette of the signer's hand area to recognise static ISL alphabets. The created model has a 98.64% accuracy.

Rekha et al. [11] worked using the Indian Sign Language dataset's 23 static and three dynamic signals. To find hands, they employed skin color segmentation. Edge orientation and texture were employed as features to train a multiclass SVM, with an 86.3% success rate. Their method, however, was too sluggish to be used as a practical gesture recognition system.

Bhuyan et al. [12] employed a dataset of 400 photos including 8 motions from Indian Sign Language. They employed a skin color-based segmentation approach for hand identification, followed by closest neighbor classification, to reach a recognition rate of more than 90%.

Pugeault and Bowden [13] developed a real-time recognition method for alphabet recognition in American Sign Language. A dataset of 24 classes was employed, comprising 48,000 3D depth photos collected using a Kinect sensor. Gabor filters and multi-class random forests were utilized, resulting in exceptionally accurate classification rates.

Keskin et al. [14] employed object identification by components to recognise signals denoting numerals in American Sign Language. Their dataset included ten classes and 30,000 3D depth photos collected with a Kinect sensor, and they attained an accuracy rate of nearly 99%.

Halder and Tayade [15] used the MediaPipe framework to get multi-hand landmarks and used Support Vector

Machine (SVM) for Real-time detection of hand signs. The average accuracy achieved was about 99%.

Das et al. [16] investigated a deep learning-based sign language recognition system that uses processed static pictures to recognise American Sign Language motions. The collection contained 24 labels of static motions from A through Z, except J. The collection had around 100 photos per class taken on an RGB sensor. To train the model, the Inception V3 convolutional neural network model was used. After training and testing the model, the average validation accuracy rate was above 90%, with the highest validation accuracy being 98%. They determined that when given a dataset of suitably cropped photos, the relatively recent Inception V3 model might be an effective model for static sign language identification.

Sahoo [17] worked on Indian sign language identification using machine learning. This study concentrated on static hand movements in Indian sign language for numerical numbers (0-9). To create the dataset, photos of the signs were captured using a digital RGB sensor. The collection had 5000 photos in total, with 500 images for each digit from 0 to 9. To train the model, two supervised learning classifiers were used: Nave Bayes and kNearest Neighbor. In this study, the K-Nearest Neighbor approach performed marginally better than the Nave Bayes classifier, with average accuracy rates of 98.36% and 97.79%, respectively.

Ren et al. [18] segmented hands from Kinect pictures using a threshold-based method. Their dataset had ten classes and 1000 photos in total. The achieved accuracy percentage was around 93%.

# 3.DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURE

## 3.1 Generating the ASL Dataset

The data set contains a collection of photographs of alphabets from American Sign Language, organized into 29 folders that reflect the various classes. The training data set includes 87,000 200x200 pixel pictures. There are 29 classes, 26 for the letters A-Z and three for SPACE, DELETE, and NOTHING.

These three classifications are highly helpful for real-time applications and classification. This test data set is only 29 photos strong in order to encourage the use of real-world test image. we have applied data augmentation techniques to increase data sample sizes for better efficiency and analysis.

**3.2 Detection of Hand Landmarks Using**

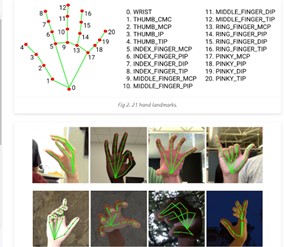
# MediaPipe

For detecting hands, we used the mediapipe library, which not only detects hands in the frame but creates 22 3D coordinates of the entire hand, giving us rich data to work with. Based on the location of the pixels in the image containing the landmark points, the MediaPipe hand landmarks model outputs the coordinates representing hand landmark points. As a result, the coordinates of two images of the same hand gesture taken at different times and with various arrangements in the frame may be thousands of kilometres away. The model's training becomes more difficult as a result. This problem was resolved by assuming that the wrist landmark point, which is represented by index 0 in the list of hand landmarks, has x and y coordinates of (0, 0), and by suitably adjusting the coordinates of all the other landmark points in relation to the wrist point.

The coordinate values were then normalized to be in the range [0,1] by dividing all of them by the biggest absolute coordinate value obtained through relative adjustment in the landmarks list. The coordinates were gathered in the.csv file after they were normalized. The coordinate normalizing process is shown in Fig.1 .

The coordinates in the.csv file were collected and then sent via a pandas library method to identify null values.

The model occasionally fails to recognise hands in hazy photos, resulting in void entries. Clearing up these vacant entries is required before training an impartial model. As a result, we used their indices to detect null entries and delete them from the file.



**Fig -1**

## 3.3 Min-Max Scaler Based Normalization

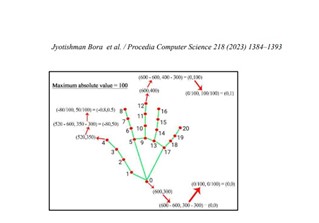
Using the minimum and maximum value of each feature, we may scale the data in a dataset using the min-max normalization approach to a particular range.The min-max scaler employs the lowest and maximum value of each column to scale the data series instead of the traditional scaling method, which scales data based on the standard normal distribution (with mean = 0 and standard deviation = 1).

## 3.4 Data Cleaning and Normalization

By dividing all of the coordinate values by the largest absolute coordinate value acquired from relative adjustment in the landmarks list, the coordinate values were then normalised to be in the range [0,1]. After being normalized, the coordinates were gathered in the.csv file. The coordinate normalising process is shown in Fig. 2.

The coordinates in the.csv file were collected and then sent via a pandas library method to identify null values.

The model occasionally fails to recognise hands in hazy photos, resulting in void entries. Clearing up these vacant entries is required before training an impartial model. As a result, we used their indices to detect null entries and delete them from the file.

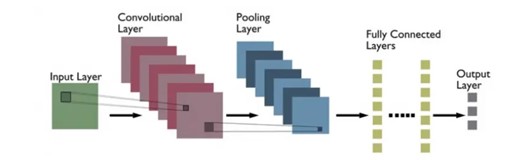


**Fig -2**

# 4.PROPOSED SYSTEM

## 4.1 Convolutional Neural Network(CNN)

The convolution concept is used in CNN, an artificial neural network that analyses data. Between the input and output levels, there are more layers in this deep neural network [26].Convolutional layers and pooling layers are used by CNN to group similar features and identify the link between object attributes. A convolutional layer (CL), which transforms a group of activation functions into differential functions, each with their own pooling layer (PL), and a fully connected layer (FCL), is at least one component of the CNN architecture [27].By down sampling and summarising a picture's attributes, the pooling layer is used to reduce it in size. Average pooling, where the summary is the dominating characteristic, and maximal pooling, where the strongest feature is summed, are the most used pooling techniques for grouping [28].Unlike traditional neural networks, which link all of the neurons in the following layer, CNN skips zero-valued parameters and makes fewer connections across layers in order to discover patterns. Non-zero parameters can be shared and used by more than one connection in the layer to reduce the number of connections. CNN is an effective method because it allows for the construction of structures with numerous dimensions that may adapt to input data with various dimensions, which can significantly affect classification and prediction outputs. Additionally, it is crucial to represent raw data because CNN was established on the idea of localization [29].The simple CNN seen in Figure employs a 1-dimensional array of data as its input layer, with each pixel vector from various pictures representing the input data. The CL then down samples the data, which is subsequently collected by the PL and resulting in the FCL.

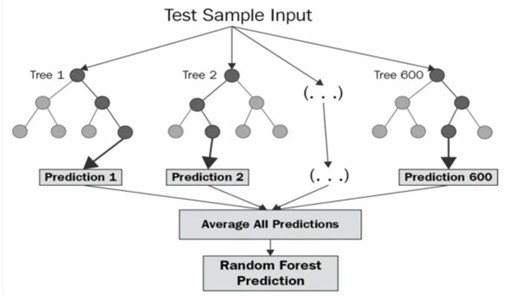


**Fig -3**: Illustration of CNN Architecture

## 4.2 Random Forest(RF)

Random forest is an ensemble technique that is formed from a large number of uncorrelated trees that have been refreshed via bootstrap aggregation or bagging. By randomly picking replacement cases from the original training set of specified feature combinations, the tagging strategy generated a training dataset [25]. Because the bagging strategy considers all predictor variables on each splitting in a tree, trees from different samples may have a similar structure, which is known as tree correlation. Random forest improves the bagging strategy by decreasing correlation and variance.

The decision tree predictors in the forest classify samples based on the most popular (high vote) class. Because the decision tree architecture necessitates attribute selection and pruning in order to maximize the options, a tree was grown to its maximum depth each time by utilizing new training data derived from a combination of characteristics. The generalization error converges with pruning as the number of trees rises. The amount of characteristics needed to construct a tree at each node, as well as the number of trees to develop, are user-defined parameters for the RF classifier [25].



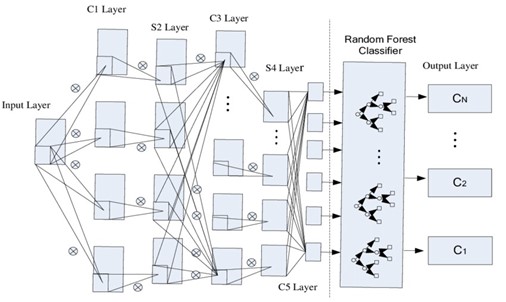
**Fig -4**: Illustration of Random Forest Classifier

Architecture

## 4.3 Proposed Method

Figure-5 depicts the combined CNN and RF (CNN-RF) architecture, which comprises of an image band-derived input layer, a convolutional layer, a pooling layer, and a fully connected layer. The output of the first completely connected layer is the result of extracted features, which are then utilized as input for the RF technique of categorization of the burnt area.

With the previously generated dataset, 6 training algorithms (Logistic Regression, Decision Tree Classifier, Random Forest Classifier, Gaussian NB, Linear Discriminant Analysis) were tried in order to obtain the highest accuracy from the testing set.



**Fig -5**: Illustration of CNN-RF Based Hybrid Architecture

# 5.RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

## 5.1 Quantitative Analysis of the Model

The test dataset underwent quantitative analysis using the scikit-learn package for Python's classification report and confusion matrix modules. A report that evaluates our model and contains matrices for accuracy, precision, recall, and F1 score is generated by the classification report package. The support matrix shows how well the model performs in real-time recognition together with them.

The accuracy matrix determines how many labels from the total dataset the model was able to accurately predict. Equation (1) illustrates the accuracy matrix's mathematical definition.

In terms of predicted positives, the precision matrix evaluates how accurate the model is. It calculates the ratio of actual positive results to projected positive results. This is a fantastic statistic to take into account when the False Positive (FP) cost is high. Equation (2) shows the mathematical expression for the precision matrix. The recall matrix records the number of correctly labelled positive predictions produced by our model. When the high cost of False Negatives (FN) is assessed, this statistic is employed. Equation (3) uses mathematics to express the recall matrix. The F1 score provides a cumulative evaluation by combining recall and accuracy. Equation (4) provides this matrix's mathematical formulation.



**Fig -6**



**Fig -7**

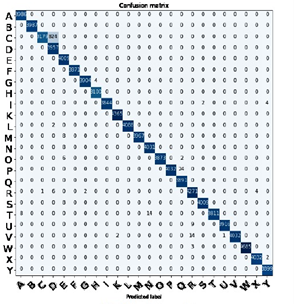
TP, TN, FP, and FN stand for True Positive, True Negative, False Positive, and False Negative in equations (1), (2), (3), and (4), respectively.

The CNN-RF model's classification report is broken down in Table -1. The research states that the model has a 99% average accuracy rate.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | precision | recall | fi-score | support |
| a | 0.97 | 0.97 | 0.97 | 95 |
| b | 0.98 | 1.00 | 0.99 | 113 |
| c | 0.95 | 1.00 | 0.97 | 97 |
| d | 0.97 | 0.93 | 0.95 | 100 |
| del | 0.95 | 0.96 | 0.96 | 106 |
| e | 1.00 | 0.99 | 0.99 | 99 |
| f | 0.99 | 0.98 | 0.98 | 96 |
| g | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 95 |
| h | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 103 |
| i | 0.98 | 1.00 | 0.99 | 90 |
| j | 1.00 | 0.97 | 0.98 | 100 |
| k | 0.98 | 1.00 | 0.99 | 93 |
| l | 0.98 | 0.96 | 0.97 | 113 |
| m | 0.86 | 0.98 | 0.92 | 98 |
| n | 0.95 | 0.91 | 0.93 | 104 |
| o | 0.96 | 0.95 | 0.96 | 103 |
| p | 1.00 | 0.98 | 0.99 | 100 |
| q | 0.97 | 0.99 | 0.98 | 94 |
| r | 0.99 | 0.98 | 0.99 | 110 |
| s | 0.97 | 0.95 | 0.96 | 93 |
| space | 0.98 | 0.97 | 0.98 | 111 |
| t | 0.99 | 0.93 | 0.96 | 101 |
| u | 0.95 | 0.93 | 0.94 | 85 |
| v | 0.95 | 0.98 | 0.97 | 106 |
| w | 0.99 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 109 |
| x | 0.97 | 0.95 | 0.96 | 92 |
| y | 0.97 | 0.98 | 0.97 | 87 |
| z | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 107 |
| accuracy |  |  | 0.97 | 2000 |
| macro  avg | 0.97 | 0.97 | 0.97 | 2000 |
| weighted avg | 0.97 | 0.97 | 0.97 | 2000 |

**Table -1:** Table Illustrates the Accuracy of the Algorithm

The confusion matrix package is used to analyse the model's real-time performance. It generates a confusion matrix that counts the number of correctly predicted labels. It also allows for the depiction of prediction deviation when the model makes incorrect predictions.



**Fig -8**: Depicts the model’s confusion matrix

## 5.2 Real-Time Recognition

Figure-9 shows snapshots from a real-time recognition system built with the OpenCV open-source library and the model. The model can distinguish live motions and form sentences through auto correct mechanism**.**



**Fig -9**: Real Time Sign Recognition on Webcam Video Stream

## 5.3 Comparative Analysis

Table-2 shows a comparison of the results obtained in this investigation with those found in the literature. The table below summarizes the work done in relation to the 2D image and vision-based method.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Sign**  **Languag e** | **Author s** | **Approach** | **Accurac y** | **Year of**  **Develo pment** |
| American Sign  Language | Das et al. [5] | CNN based  Inception  V3 model | 90% | 2018 |
| Indian  Sign  Language | Rekha  et al. [8] | Skin Color segmentat  ions with  SVM | 86.3% | 2011 |
| Indian  Sign  Language | Sahoo  [7] | k-NN and  Naive  Bayes  classifier | 98% | 2021 |
| American,  Indian,Ita lian and  Turkey Sign | Halder and  Tayade  [12] | MediaPipe with SVM | 99% | 2021 |

**Table -2:** Comparative Analysis

# 6.CONCLUSION

In regional Indian languages with different sets of alphabets, sign language recognition is a challenge that this work seeks to address visually.The solution was implemented utilising powerful technologies such as MidiaPipe employing a cutting-edge methodology.Using a CNN-RF Neural Network trained on a collection of self-generated 2D images, both real-time and static motions were attempted to be identified. According to the classification results, In comparison to other models in the literature that call for significant computational power and extended training times, our method of sign language recognition employing the MediaPipe hand tracking solution is more efficient and quick.

Additionally, the usage of MediaPipe enables accurate tracking of hand motions with different finger phalange motions and finger joint aberrations. The model becomes more robust and may be used across a range of computer devices with different processing capability without compromising speed or accuracy because to its lightweight nature.This study may be expanded to incorporate identification of more American Sign Language signals, including dynamic movements used in everyday conversation. After installing MediaPipe's hand tracking solution, several deep learning approaches may be evaluated to improve the model's accuracy and efficiency.

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