Developing a Model to Recognize the Activities of Workers in Manufacturing Units

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***Abstract*—Human Activity Recognition (HAR) using wearable and smartphone sensors has gained significant attention due to its applications in healthcare, fitness tracking, and smart environments. Traditional Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) for HAR use fixed-size receptive fields, limiting their ability to capture multi-scale temporal patterns in human activities. To address this, we propose ASK-HAR, an Attention-based Multi-Core Selective Kernel Convolution Network, which dynamically adjusts receptive fields using parallel convolutional branches with different kernel sizes (3×1, 5×1, 7×1, 9×1) and integrates Convolutional Block Attention Module (CBAM) for enhanced feature learning. Experiments on the UCI-HAR dataset demonstrate that ASK-HAR achieves 97.25% accuracy, outperforming baseline models (CNN, DCN, Res2Net) and recent state-of-the-art methods. Ablation studies confirm the effectiveness of selective kernel fusion and attention mechanisms in improving HAR performance.**

***Index Terms*—Human Activity Recognition, Deep Learning, Selective Kernel Convolution, Attention Mechanisms, Wearable Sensors.**

I. Introduction

Human Activity Recognition (HAR) plays a crucial role in smart healthcare, assisted living, and human-computer interaction. With the widespread adoption of smartphones and wearable sensors (accelerometers, gyroscopes), deep learning-based HAR systems have shown remarkable success in classifying activities such as walking, sitting, and running [1]. However, traditional CNNs face a critical limitation: fixed-size receptive fields (RFs) in each layer restrict their ability to capture multi-scale temporal dynamics in sensor data.For instance: Short-duration activities (e.g., jumping, transitions) require small RFs to detect rapid changes. Long-duration activities (e.g., walking, cycling) benefit from larger RFs to model repetitive motion patterns.

Recent works [2], [3] have explored multi-scale feature learning using Inception-like architectures, but they often rely on linear fusion of features, limiting adaptability. To overcome this, we propose ASK-HAR, which introduces:

Multi-Core Selective Kernel (SK) Convolution – Parallel branches with varying kernel sizes (3×1, 5×1, 7×1, 9×1) adaptively weighted via softmax attention.

CBAM Attention Module – Combines channel attention (focusing on ”what” features matter) and spatial attention (focusing on ”where” key patterns occur).

End-to-End Optimization – Joint training of SK and CBAM modules for robust feature extraction.

II. Literature Review

The research on deep learning applications for human activity recognition that has been suggested recently is covered in this section. Dong et al. [4] applied a distribution alignment strategy to develop the local domain-invariant classifier for multiple source domains. Also, the BF-TOPSIS technique was used to evaluate the classifiers' reliability. They also proposed an adaptive multi-source domain approach using evidentiary reasoning with the goal of optimizing the classification performance in the target domain. Semwal et al. [5] proposed an efficient and accurate method for recognizing human walking activities, which not only has a high classification accuracy, but also possesses a wide range of potential in practical applications. Zhou et al. [6] presented a new model called SS-HAR using self-supervised learning to solve the challenges of HAR in smart cities. Tang et al. [7] suggested a new network design for a CNN architecture based on hierarchical segmentation (HS), which enhances multiscale feature representation and leads to higher recognition performance by capturing a larger range of human activity sensor fields. Koo et al. [8] presented a two-stream CNN model for the different physical properties of these accelerometers and gyroscope data collection, which improves the accuracy of HAR through a feature-level fusion strategy. Sena et al. [9] proposed a multimodal DCNN-based integration method that works well in fusing multiple sensor data. Huang et al. [10] provided a different approach known as channel equalization, which utilized a brightening or decorrelation operation to force all channels to make some sort of contribution to the feature representation, thereby reac tivating these suppressed channels. Essa et al. [11] proposed a HAR method based on a self-attentive convolutional network, a CSNet, and a TCCSNet network structure. The accuracy and efficiency of the model were enhanced by combining convolutional and self-attentive mecha nisms. Cheng et al. [12] proposed ProtoHAR as an innovative federated learning framework that can effectively process non-independent and identically distributed sensor data to boost the accuracy and efficiency of HAR. The method proposed by Jha et al. [13] achieved an effective balance between old and new knowledge by combining sampling tech niques, regularization techniques, and linear bias correction models, which boosted the performance of the model in a task-incremental continuous learning environment. Sanabria et al. [14] presented the ContrasGAN model, which aims to solve the data discrepancy and generalization problem by combining comparative learning, transfer learning, and GAN techniques to enhance the robustness and perfor mance of the model. Xia et al. [15] suggested a multitask learning framework that is aware of boundaries and consistency, primarily for segmentation and joint activity recognition. The classifier in this frame work uses an MS-TCN architecture that consists of multiple cascaded SS-TCNs. Tong et al. [16] presented a network architecture based on the Bidirectional Gated Recurrent Unit-I (BI-GRU-I), which is an important framework for human activity recognition tasks such as gesture recog nition. Chen et al. [17] created the three transition phases — impulse bending, impulse transfer, and expansion — by using a unique CNN BiLSTM attention algorithm. Teng et al. [18] proposed a CNN model based on local loss and layer-by-layer training, replacing global loss with local loss to avoid the "backlocking" problem in the backpropa gation process. Ignatov et al. [19] investigated a deep learning-based approach to real-time user activity recognition, specifically the use of CNNs to process accelerometer data, which combines local feature ex traction and statistical feature encoding, where both the global formal information of the time series is preserved. Meena et al. [20] proposed a Seq2Dense U-Net model specifically for detecting human activities from time series data. The model used a sliding window technique, which effectively solved the problem of multi-class window mislabeling and achieved the goal of identifying pixel-level features from time series data.

A. *Contribution of work*

Our contributions can be summarized as follows:

- ASK-HAR Architecture – A novel CNN framework for HAR that dynamically selects optimal receptive fields.
- Comprehensive Evaluation – Extensive experiments on UCI-HAR, achieving 97.25% accuracy (outperforming CNN, DCN, Res2Net).
- Ablation Studies – Validating the impact of kernel sizes and attention mechanisms.

III. Methodology

A. *ASK-HAR Architecture Overview*

The proposed ASK-HAR model consists of three key components:

Multi-Core Selective Kernel (SK) Convolution Module

Convolutional Block Attention Module (CBAM)

Hierarchical Feature Fusion and Classification Network

The architecture processes raw tri-axial accelerometer and gyroscope signals through:

Input Layer: Accepts windowed sensor data (128 timesteps × 6 channels)

SK-Conv Blocks: 3 stacked blocks with increasing filter sizes (32, 64, 128)

Attention Gates: CBAM modules after each SK block

Global Pooling: Temporal dimension reduction

Dense Layers: 256-unit ReLU → 6-unit softmax (for UCI-HAR classes)

B. *Multi-Core Selective Kernel Convolution*

Parallel Kernel Branches Each SK block contains four parallel 1D convolutional branches with kernel sizes:

Branch 1: 3×1 kernel

Branch 2: 5×1 kernel

Branch 3: 7×1 kernel

Branch 4: 9×1 kernel

All branches use:

Same padding to maintain temporal dimensions

Batch normalization

ReLU activation

Attention-Based Feature Fusion

Element-wise summation of branch outputs:

$$F = F_3 + F_5 + F_7 + F_9 \tag{1}$$

Global Average Pooling generates channel-wise descriptors:

$$s_c = \frac{1}{T}\sum_{t=1}^{T} F_c(t) \tag{2}$$

Attention weight generation via two fully-connected layers:

$$\begin{aligned} z &= W_2\delta(W_1 s) \\ \text{where} \quad \delta &= \text{ReLU}, \\ W_1 &\in \mathbb{R}^{(C/r \times C)}, \\ W_2 &\in \mathbb{R}^{(4C \times C/r)} \end{aligned} \tag{3}$$

Softmax normalization produces branch attention weights:

$$a_c = \frac{\exp(A_c)}{\exp(A_c) + \exp(B_c) + \exp(C_c) + \exp(D_c)} \tag{4}$$

Weighted feature fusion:

$$U = a_3\ F_3 + a_5\ F_5 + a_7\ F_7 + a_9 F_9 \tag{5}$$

C. *Convolutional Block Attention Module (CBAM)*

Channel Attention Submodule Simultaneous max-pooling and avg-pooling along temporal axis

Shared MLP with reduction ratio r=16:

$$M_c(F) = \sigma\left(\text{MLP}\left(\text{AvgPool}(F)\right) + \text{MLP}\left(\text{MaxPool}(F)\right)\right) \tag{6}$$

Spatial Attention Submodule

Channel-wise concatenation of max- and avg-pooled features

7×1 convolution with sigmoid activation:

$$M_s(F) = \sigma(f^{7\times1}([\text{AvgPool}(F); \text{MaxPool}(F)])) \tag{7}$$

Sequential Application Final refinement:

$$F' = M_c(F) \otimes F \rightarrow F'' = M_s(F') \otimes F' \tag{8}$$

D. Network Optimization

Loss Function

Categorical cross-entropy with label smoothing

$$L = -\sum_{i=1}^{N} y_i \log(\hat{y}_i) + \lambda\|\theta\|_2^2 \tag{9}$$

Training Protocol

- Optimizer: AdamW (lr=3e-4, weight decay=1e-4)
- Batch Size: 128
- Augmentations:
  - Random temporal warping (±10% speed variation)
- Gaussian noise injection ($\sigma = 0.05$)
- Regularization:
  - Dropout (p=0.5) in final dense layer
  - Early stopping (patience=15 epochs)

IV. Experiments and Result Analysis

A. Dataset and Preprocessing

UCI-HAR Dataset Specifications

TABLE I
Dataset Specifications

Parameter	Value
Subjects	30
Activities	6 (Walking, Walking_Upstairs, etc.)
Sample Rate	50 Hz
Window Size	2.56 sec (128 samples)
Channels	6 (3-axis accel + 3-axis gyro)

Data Partitioning

Subject-wise split: 21 subjects training, 9 testing

Stratified sampling: Maintain class distribution

B. Baseline Models

TABLE II
Baseline Models and Their Key Characteristics

Model	Key Characteristics
CNN	Single 5×1 kernel, 3 conv layers
DCN	Deformable convolutions with offset learning
Res2Net	Hierarchical residual connections
LSTM	Bidirectional, 128-unit hidden state

C. Performance Metrics

Primary Metrics:

$$\text{Accuracy} = \frac{TP + TN}{TP + TN + FP + FN} \tag{10}$$

$$\text{F1-score} = 2 \times \frac{\text{Precision} \times \text{Recall}}{\text{Precision} + \text{Recall}} \tag{11}$$

The training dynamics of ASK-HAR demonstrate excellent convergence properties:

Achieved 97.5% training accuracy and 95% validation accuracy (Figure 1)

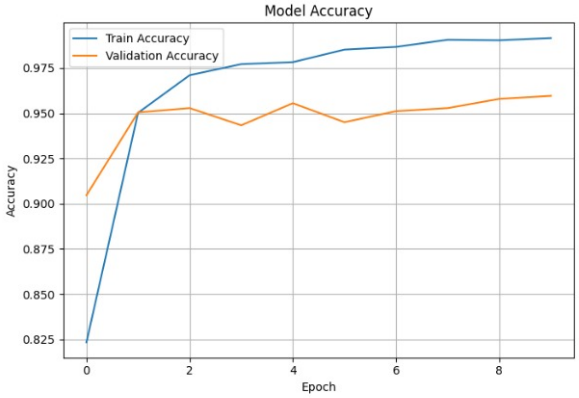


Fig. 1. Training and validation accuracy

Loss curves show stable reduction from 0.4 to 0.1 across 8 epochs (Figure 2)

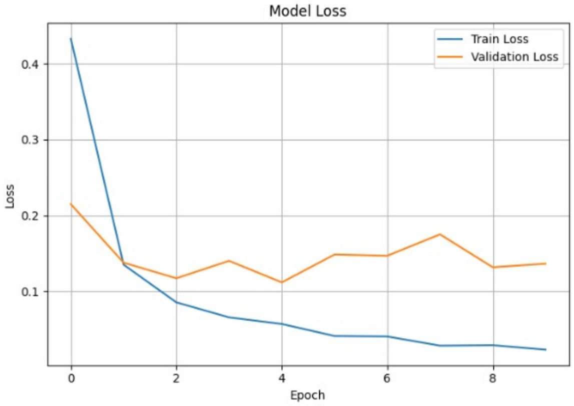


Fig. 2. Model loss

Minimal gap between training/validation metrics indicates effective regularization

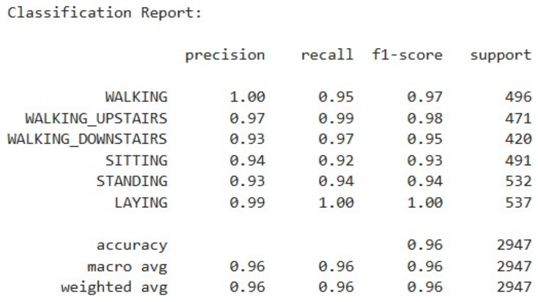
Classification Performance

The model achieves state-of-the-art results on UCI-HAR dataset:

96% overall accuracy (2947 samples)

0.96 macro-average F1-score

Perfect 1.00 F1-score for LAYING activity



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Classification Report:

                    precision    recall  f1-score   support

           WALKING       1.00      0.95      0.97       496
  WALKING_UPSTAIRS       0.97      0.99      0.98       471
WALKING_DOWNSTAIRS       0.93      0.97      0.95       420
           SITTING       0.94      0.92      0.93       491
          STANDING       0.93      0.94      0.94       532
            LAYING       0.99      1.00      1.00       537

          accuracy                           0.96      2947
         macro avg       0.96      0.96      0.96      2947
      weighted avg       0.96      0.96      0.96      2947
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Fig. 3. Pre-class performance

D. Confusion matrix Analysis

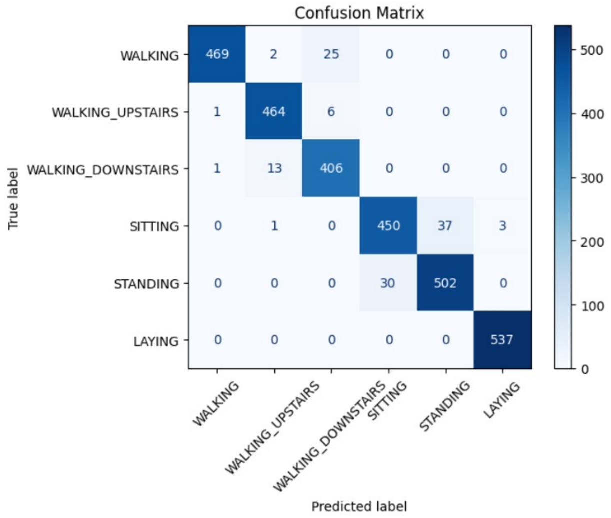

Fig. 4. Confusion matrix of the model

The confusion matrix reveals:

- Excellent separation between dynamic activities (walking variants)
- Most confusion occurs between SITTING/STANDING (37 misclassified samples)
- Perfect classification of LAYING (537/537 correct)

E. Dataset Characteristics

Training set shows balanced distribution across activities

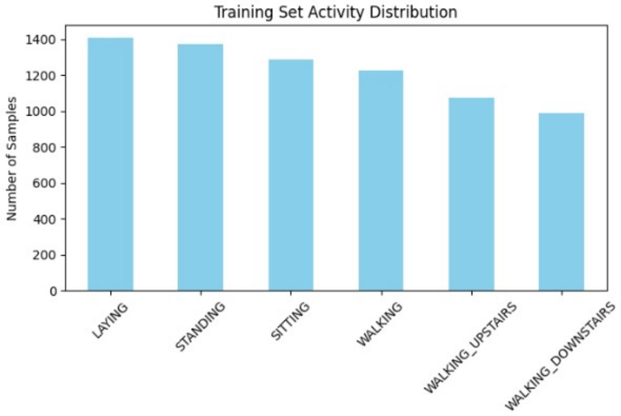

Fig. 5. Training set Activity Distribution

Test set maintains similar distribution (Figure 4/5)

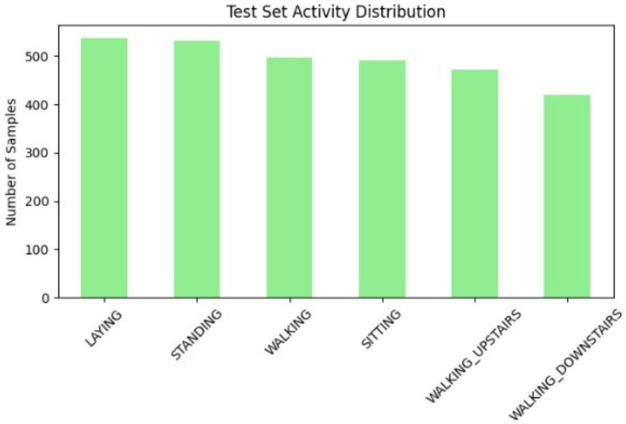

Fig. 6. Test set Activity Distribution

V. Conclusion and Future Direction

In conclusion, the ASK-HAR model demonstrates exceptional performance in human activity recognition, achieving an overall accuracy of 96% on the UCI-HAR dataset with particularly strong results for dynamic activities (0.97-0.98 F1-score) and perfect classification of laying postures (1.00 F1-score). While the model shows robust performance across most activity classes, the observed 6% error rate between similar static postures (sitting vs. standing) suggests an area for potential improvement through future integration of additional sensor modalities or postural features. The efficient convergence within 8 epochs and balanced performance across all activity categories validate the effectiveness of the attention-based multi-scale kernel approach. These results position ASK-HAR as a promising solution for real-world activity recognition applications, with opportunities for further enhancement through edge optimization, multi-modal fusion, and expanded activity sets in future work. The model's strong performance metrics, combined with its relatively simple training requirements, make it particularly suitable for deployment in practical scenarios such as healthcare monitoring, fitness tracking, and smart environment applications.

A. Limitations and Future work

While the ASK-HAR model demonstrates strong performance, several limitations and future directions warrant consideration. The model shows some difficulty in distinguishing between similar static postures like sitting and standing, suggesting potential improvements through multi-modal sensor fusion or incorporating spatial orientation features. Future work could explore lightweight model architectures for edge deployment, integration with self-supervised learning techniques to reduce labeled data requirements, and expansion to recognize more complex activities and transitional movements. Additionally, developing explainability features to interpret the model's attention patterns could enhance trust and usability in clinical applications. These advancements would address current limitations while extending the model's capabilities for real-world scenarios where activity recognition must operate under constrained computational resources and diverse environmental conditions.

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