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GestureArt: A Virtual Drawing Platform

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by

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the Industrial Oriented Mini Project entitled “**GestureArt: A Virtual Drawing Platform**”, is being submitted by **Amrutha Dubey bearing Roll No: 22261A3201 and Gummadavelli Bhanu Teja bearing Roll No: 22261A3222** in partial fulfilment of completion of **Bachelor of Technology VI Semester in Computer Science and Business Systems** to **Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Technology** is a record of bona-fide work carried out by him under our guidance and supervision. The results embodied in this project have not been submitted to any other University or Institute for the award of degree or diploma.

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DECLARATION

This is to certify that the work reported in Industry Oriented Mini Project (CB652PC) titled **“GestureArt: A Virtual Drawing Platform”** is a record of work done by us in the Department of Computer Science and Business Systems, Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Technology, Hyderabad, under the guidance of **Dr. D. Vijaya Lakshmi, Professor & Head**, Department of IT, MGIT. No part of the work is copied from books/journals/internet and wherever the portion is taken, the same has been duly referred in the text. The report is based on the work done entirely by us and not copied from any other source.

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ABSTRACT

A Virtual Drawing Platform Using Hand Gestures project explores computer vision to enable a hands-free, intuitive digital art experience. Traditional digital drawing interfaces often depend on physical devices like a mouse, touchscreen, or stylus, which can be restrictive for users with accessibility needs or those seeking more natural interaction methods. GestureArt overcomes these limitations by allowing users to draw and interact with a virtual canvas using only their hand gestures captured via webcam.

The platform utilizes OpenCV for real-time video stream capture and processing, combined with MediaPipe for robust hand tracking and gesture recognition. It interprets finger positions and hand landmarks to detect a range of gestures that control drawing tools, colors, brush types, pen thickness, and canvas actions. For example, specific finger configurations allow users to select between pen and brush tools, change colors from a virtual palette, adjust stroke thickness, and even clear the canvas with a simple gesture.

GestureArt is equipped with a gesture-controlled user interface, eliminating the need for traditional input devices. This creates an immersive and engaging drawing experience, especially valuable for artists, students, and individuals with physical impairments. The system emphasizes real-time responsiveness, modularity, and scalability, making it adaptable for future enhancements like gesture-based undo/redo, shape detection, or multi-user collaboration.

Through its novel approach to human-computer interaction, GestureArt demonstrates how gesture recognition technologies can enhance creativity and promote inclusive, touchless control systems for digital content creation.

Keywords: Gesture recognition, hand tracking, OpenCV, MediaPipe, virtual art, gesture-based UI, human-computer interaction, accessibility, computer vision, real-time drawing, digital creativity..

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1. INTRODUCTION

Traditional digital art tools rely heavily on physical devices such as a mouse, stylus, or touchscreen, which can limit accessibility and creativity in certain contexts. For individuals with physical limitations or those looking to explore more intuitive and expressive forms of digital interaction, these conventional interfaces often fall short. With the advancement of computer vision, new opportunities have emerged to redefine how we interact with digital canvases using natural human gestures.

GestureArt: A Virtual Drawing Platform is designed to revolutionize digital creativity by enabling users to draw and interact with a canvas using only hand gestures. Powered by Python, OpenCV, and MediaPipe, this system captures real-time hand movements through a webcam and interprets specific gestures to control drawing tools such as brushes, colors, pen sizes, and erasers. The platform removes the dependency on physical input devices, offering a more immersive and accessible experience for artists, students, and hobbyists.

GestureArt focuses on creating a seamless interaction between human motion and digital art through gesture recognition. The platform incorporates dynamic brush selection, customizable pen attributes, and an intuitive UI to enhance the creative workflow. GestureArt exemplifies how emerging technologies can be used to democratize creative tools and inspire new forms of artistic expression.

1.1 Problem Statement

Traditional digital art tools rely on physical input devices like a mouse, stylus, or touchscreen, limiting accessibility and creativity, especially for users with physical disabilities. These input methods can be restrictive, making digital art less intuitive and engaging for a wider audience.

To address this, there is a need for a gesture-based interactive drawing platform that allows users to control virtual brushes and markers using hand gestures detected through a webcam.

1.2 Motivation

The motivation behind the development of GestureArt stems from a desire to revolutionize the digital creative process by making it more intuitive, accessible, and deeply connected to the artist's physical expression. We envision a paradigm where technology acts not as a barrier, but as a seamless extension of the artist's body, translating the language of gesture into the visual language of art. The project is driven by the potential to unlock new forms of artistic expression by enabling creators to interact with digital canvases in a way that feels natural and immediate, akin to dancing with light or sculpting with movement. Furthermore, there is a strong motivation to enhance accessibility in digital art creation. The prospect of fostering a more embodied and less cognitively demanding interaction model promises to lower the barrier to entry for aspiring digital artists and offer seasoned professionals a novel and inspiring way to augment their creative workflows. Ultimately, GestureArt is motivated by the belief that technology can and should enhance human creativity by aligning more closely with our innate modes of expression.

1.3 Objective

The primary objective of the GestureArt project is to design, develop, and evaluate a novel system that enables users to create digital art through natural hand and body gestures. The system aims to provide an intuitive, responsive, and expressive interface that translates real-time motion capture data into dynamic artistic outputs on a digital canvas, effectively bridging the gap between physical movement and digital creation.

1.3.1 Objectives of the Proposed System

To achieve the primary objective, the GestureArt project outlines several specific, measurable goals. Firstly, the system must incorporate a robust gesture recognition module capable of accurately capturing and interpreting a wide range of hand and potentially upper-body movements in real-time, utilizing accessible sensor technology like depth cameras or advanced webcam analysis. This module needs to differentiate between intentional artistic gestures and unintentional movements, translating recognized gestures into specific drawing, painting, or sculpting commands. Secondly, a core objective is to develop an intuitive and highly responsive user interface (UI) and user experience (UX) that minimizes the cognitive load on the artist. This

involves creating a visual feedback system that clearly communicates the relationship between the user's gestures and the resulting marks on the digital canvas, allowing for immediate understanding and control. Thirdly, the system must support a variety of artistic styles and outputs, offering customizable brushes, color palettes, and effects that can be manipulated through gesture. This includes enabling both 2D drawing/painting and potentially basic 3D sculpting capabilities. Fourthly, ensuring low latency between gesture input and visual output is critical for a fluid and natural creative experience; therefore, optimizing the processing pipeline for real-time performance is a key technical objective. Finally, the system should be designed with extensibility in mind, allowing for future integration of new gestures, sensor types, artistic tools, and potential collaborative features.

1.3.2 Advantages of the Proposed System

The proposed GestureArt system offers several significant advantages over conventional digital art tools and methods. Its most prominent advantage lies in its intuitive and natural interaction model. By allowing artists to use their hands and bodies directly, it bypasses the abstraction layer imposed by mice, styluses, or complex menus, potentially leading to a more fluid, expressive, and embodied creative process. This natural interface can significantly reduce the learning curve often associated with digital art software, making digital creation more accessible to beginners and individuals less familiar with traditional computing interfaces. Furthermore, GestureArt holds the potential to enhance creativity by enabling new forms of artistic expression intrinsically linked to movement and performance, opening avenues for dynamic art generation and live visual performances. The system also promotes accessibility, offering a viable and powerful alternative for artists with physical disabilities that may hinder their use of standard input devices. The immediacy of gesture-to-output translation facilitates rapid prototyping and ideation, allowing artists to capture ideas quickly and intuitively. Compared to expensive or highly specialized motion capture setups used in professional animation, GestureArt aims for accessibility by leveraging more common sensor technologies, potentially bringing sophisticated motion-based creation to a wider audience. This novel approach promises not just a new tool, but a fundamentally different and potentially more engaging way to interact with the digital canvas.

2. LITERATURE SURVEY

1. **“GRLib: An Open-Source Hand Gesture Detection and Recognition Python Library”** by Jan Warchocki, Mikhail Vlasenko, and Yke Bauke Eisma – *arXiv*

This paper presents GRLib, an open-source Python library for detecting and classifying static and dynamic hand gestures using RGB camera input. It employs MediaPipe Hands for landmark detection and supports both static classification via classifiers like K-Nearest Neighbors and dynamic gesture recognition through trajectory-based methods. The library features data augmentation, false-positive filtering, and supports low-quality camera input, making it robust in diverse environments. GRLib significantly outperforms MediaPipe Solutions in benchmark tests on three public datasets. However, dynamic gesture recognition suffers from repeated predictions and difficulty with complex movements like circles or infinity signs, indicating areas for future enhancement such as smarter keyframe extraction and marker less gesture segmentation. [1]

2. **“Combining Vision and EMG-Based Hand Tracking for Extended Reality Musical Instruments”** by Max Graf and Mathieu Barthet – *arXiv*

This study introduces a multimodal hand-tracking system that integrates vision-based tracking with surface electromyography (sEMG) to improve gesture accuracy in XR musical instruments. The authors present a deep learning pipeline that predicts finger joint angles from sEMG signals and fuses them with XR hand-tracking data. Evaluation against ground truth from Leap Motion shows that their system outperforms standard vision-based tracking, particularly under occlusion. The system operates in real time and offers improved precision and control intimacy for musical interaction. Limitations include difficulty in tracking complex thumb motions and a narrow dataset. [2]

3. **“A Comprehensive Systematic Review of YOLO-Based Medical Object Detection (2018 to 2023)” – *IEEE***

This review systematically analyzes YOLO-based methods applied to medical object detection across various imaging modalities from 2018 to 2023. It classifies methods into improvements to network architecture, training techniques, and data handling, with a focus on performance enhancements in detection speed and accuracy. Applications range from tumor localization to surgical tool tracking. Challenges include limited annotated data, domain-specific variability, and integration into real-time clinical workflows. While YOLO models show promise, the paper notes a gap in explainability and robustness in clinical settings, calling for more interdisciplinary studies and standard benchmarks. [3]

4. **“A Methodological and Structural Review of Transformer Applications in Bio medical Signal Processing” – *IEEE***

This paper reviews the use of Transformer architectures in biomedical signal processing, covering ECG, EEG, and EMG applications. It categorizes studies by signal type, model modifications, and evaluation metrics. The authors highlight that Transformers outperform traditional models in many scenarios due to their attention mechanisms and temporal awareness, though they are computationally intensive. The paper identifies the need for domain-specific pretraining and more interpretable architectures. Challenges include data scarcity, high dimensionality, and real-time inference feasibility. Future directions include hybrid models combining CNNs and Transformers and lightweight Transformer variants for embedded systems. [4]

5. **“A Systematic Review of Hand Gesture Recognition Methods and Applications” - *IEEE***

This review investigates the methodologies, tools, and applications of hand gesture recognition (HGR), categorizing approaches into vision-based, sensor-based, and hybrid methods. Vision-based methods (e.g., deep learning, CNNs) dominate recent trends due to advancements in computational power and open-source libraries. The paper evaluates applications in HCI, sign language translation, robotics, and healthcare. Key challenges include occlusion, lighting variability, and cross-user generalization. The review notes an increased emphasis on real-time performance and the integration of HGR systems in wearable and mobile devices. However, standardization and dataset availability remain major bottlenecks for reproducible research. [5]

6. **[6] “MediaPipe Hands: On-device Real-time Hand Tracking” by Fan Zhang *et al.* – *arXiv***

This paper introduces MediaPipe Hands, a real-time hand tracking solution from Google Research that predicts 21 hand landmarks using only a single RGB camera. The pipeline includes a palm detector and a hand landmark model, optimized for mobile GPUs via MediaPipe. The system performs well even with occlusions and on mobile devices, and supports multiple hands simultaneously. It is open-source and has been widely adopted for AR/VR and HCI applications. Despite its strengths, challenges remain in complex gestures and depth accuracy, particularly under poor lighting or hand overlap. [6]

2.1 Literature Survey Table

Following is the Table 2.1 which contains the Serial no, Author, Title, Year of Publish, Name of the Journal, Methodology, Merits and Demerits.

Table 2.1 Literature Survey Table

S. N o	Author(s)	Title	Year	Journal /Publisher	Methodology / Concept / Summary	Merits	Demerits
1	Jungpil Shin, Abu Saleh Musa Miah, Md. Humaun Kabir, Md. Abdur Rahim, Abdullah Al Shiam	A Methodological and Structural Review	2024	IEEE	Reviews Transformer- based models used in analyzing ECG, EEG, and EMG signals.	Highlights superiority over traditional methods; discusses future hybrid and lightweight Transformer models.	High computational cost, limited real-time or embedded system deployment feasibility.
2	Abdirahman Osman Hashi, Siti Zaiton Mohd Hashim, Azurah Bte Asamah	A Systematic Review of Hand Gesture Recognition Methods and Applications	2024	IEEE	Categorizes hand gesture recognition methods (vision- based, sensor-based, hybrid) and discusses use cases.	Comprehensive ; covers HCI, robotics, sign language, and healthcare applications.	Standardization and dataset availability remain key issues; generalization across users is limited.
3	Jan Warchocki, Mikhail Vlasenko,	GRLib: An Open-Source Hand Gesture Detection and Recognition	2023	arXiv	Developed an open- source library using MediaPipe	Supports user- defined gestures, works with low-quality	Limited in recognizing complex dynamic gestures like

	Yke Bauke Eisma	Python Library			Hands and classifiers for static and dynamic hand gesture recognition.	cameras, outperforms MediaPipe Solutions.	"circle" and "infinity"; lacks user testing.
4	Max Graf, Mathieu Barthet	Combining Vision and EMG-Based Hand Tracking for Extended Reality Musical Instruments	2023	arXiv	Combines vision-based tracking with surface EMG data to improve finger joint tracking in XR applications.	Enhances tracking accuracy under occlusion; real-time operation; open-source dataset and code.	Limited testing (single subject); thumb movements not modeled due to sEMG sensor limitations.
5	Jhe-Wei Lin, Cheng-Yan Siao, Rong- Guey Chang, Mei-Ling Hsu	A Comprehensiv e Systematic Review of YOLO-Based Medical Object Detection (2018 to 2023)	2023	IEEE	Systematicall y reviews the application of YOLO models in various medical image detection tasks.	Summarizes performance trends; identifies use- cases in clinical settings aids future model development	Does not cover integration challenges in clinical workflows; lacks experimental replication details.

3. SYSTEM SPECIFICATIONS

To ensure the successful operation and optimal performance of the GestureArt system, specific software and hardware configurations are recommended. These specifications outline the necessary environment for developing, running, and interacting with the application, balancing accessibility with the computational demands of real-time gesture recognition and digital art rendering.

3.1 Software Requirements

1. Operating System Compatibility:
 - a. Windows 10 or later
2. Programming Language:
 - a. Python 3.8 or higher
3. Key Libraries and Frameworks:
 - a. OpenCV (v4.5 or later): For video input, image processing, and drawing functions
 - b. MediaPipe (v0.8 or later): For hand tracking and gesture recognition
4. Graphical User Interface (GUI):
 - a. tkinter

3.2 Hardware Requirements

- 1) Camera:
 - a) USB webcam
 - b) Minimum frame rate: 30 FPS
- 2) Memory (RAM):
 - a) Minimum: 8 GB
 - b) Recommended: 16 GB
- 3) Storage:
 - a) At least 10 GB of free disk space

4. SYSTEM DESIGN

The design of the GestureArt system is centered around a modular architecture that facilitates real-time processing of visual input, interpretation of gestures, and rendering of artistic output. This section details the core components, their interactions, and the overall flow of data and control within the system.

4.1 Module Description

The GestureArt system is decomposed into several distinct modules, each responsible for a specific set of functionalities. This modular approach enhances maintainability, testability, and the potential for future expansion.

1. Preprocessing Module (`hand_tracking.py`): Before gesture analysis can occur, the raw video frames often require preprocessing. This module performs tasks such as resizing frames to a standard processing resolution (to balance accuracy and performance), color space conversion (e.g., BGR to RGB, as often required by gesture recognition libraries), image flipping (if needed, to provide a more intuitive mirrored interaction), and potentially noise reduction or brightness/contrast adjustments to improve the robustness of subsequent tracking algorithms under varying lighting conditions.

2. Gesture Recognition Module (`gesture_recognition.py`): This is the core of the system. It takes the preprocessed video frames as input and utilizes computer vision and machine learning techniques (primarily leveraging the MediaPipe library) to detect and track the user's hand(s) and relevant landmarks (fingertips, palm center, etc.). It then interprets the detected hand poses, movements, and specific dynamic gestures (e.g., open palm, pointing) into discrete commands or continuous parameters that represent the user's artistic intent. This module translates raw motion data into meaningful actions like 'start drawing', 'stop drawing', 'change color', 'adjust brush size', or provides continuous coordinates for the drawing cursor.

3. Command Mapping Module (main.py): The raw gesture commands or parameters generated by the Recognition Module need to be mapped to specific actions within the digital art application. This module acts as an intermediary, translating abstract gesture identifiers (like 'pinch gesture detected') or continuous tracking data into concrete function calls for the Rendering Engine (e.g., `canvas.start_stroke(x, y)`, `brush.set_color(new_color)`). It allows for customization of how gestures control different tools and parameters, potentially through a user-configurable mapping profile.

4. Rendering Engine Module (canvas_engine.py): This module manages the digital canvas and is responsible for all visual output related to the artwork. It receives drawing commands from the Command Mapping Module and renders the corresponding strokes, shapes, or effects onto the canvas. It handles brush dynamics (size, opacity, texture based on gesture parameters like speed, color management, and potentially applying visual effects. It continuously updates the display to provide real-time visual feedback to the user.

5. User Interface Module (ui.py): This module presents the overall application window, including the digital canvas display generated by the Rendering Engine, as well as any necessary menus, tool palettes, color selectors, and status indicators. It provides visual feedback on the currently active tool, selected color, brush size, and potentially visualizes the tracked hand landmarks or system status. It also handles traditional input methods (mouse/keyboard) for non-gestural interactions like saving/loading files, accessing settings, or providing fallback control.

4.1.1 Proposed Architecture

The proposed architecture follows a pipeline processing model, where data flows sequentially through the modules described above. The Input Capture Module continuously feeds frames into the pipeline. The Preprocessing Module standardizes these frames. The Gesture Recognition Module analyzes the frames to extract gesture information. This information is then interpreted by the Command Mapping Module, which translates it into specific drawing instructions. The Rendering Engine executes these instructions, updating the digital canvas. The UI Module integrates the canvas display with other control elements and presents the

complete interface to the user. This pipeline is designed for real-time operation, minimizing latency between the user's physical gesture and the visual feedback on the screen. Control flow is primarily unidirectional through the pipeline for frame processing, but the UI Module can also initiate actions (like changing settings) that might influence the behavior of other modules

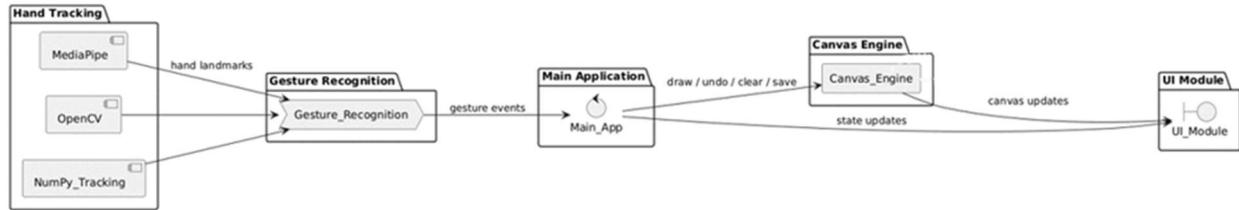


Figure 4.1.1: Proposed Architecture

4.1.2 Workflow diagram

The workflow of the GestureArt system is visually represented by the Activity Diagram. It illustrates the sequence of actions starting from capturing video input, processing hand landmarks, recognizing gestures, updating the application state (canvas and UI), and refreshing the display in a continuous loop.

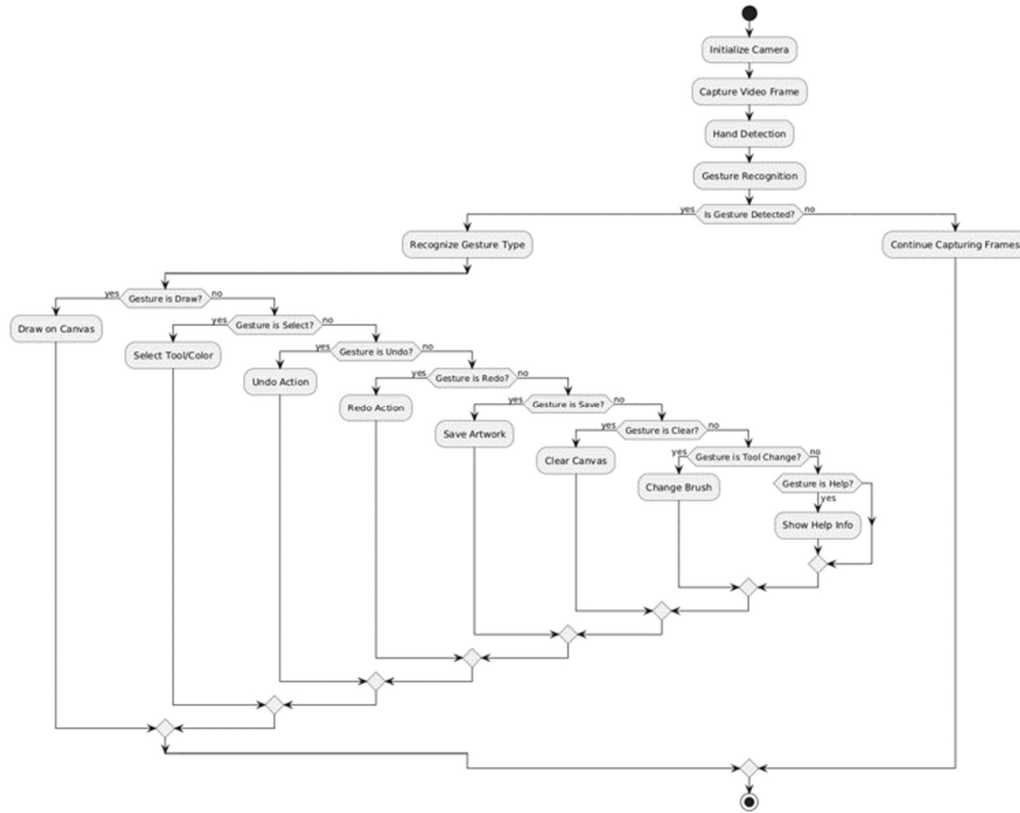


Figure 4.1.2: Workflow Diagram

4.2 UML Diagram

UML diagrams are used to visualize, specify, construct, and document the artifacts of a software-intensive system. For GestureArt, they help clarify the system's structure, behavior, and interactions.

4.2.1.1 Use Case Diagram

The Use Case diagram illustrates the primary interactions between the user (Actor) and the GestureArt system. The user can perform several key actions, such as initiating a drawing session, using various hand gestures to draw on the canvas, selecting different tools or colors via gestures or UI elements, managing the canvas (clearing, undoing actions), and saving their artwork. These use cases represent the core functionalities offered by the application from the user's perspective, highlighting the system's interactive nature driven by gesture input.

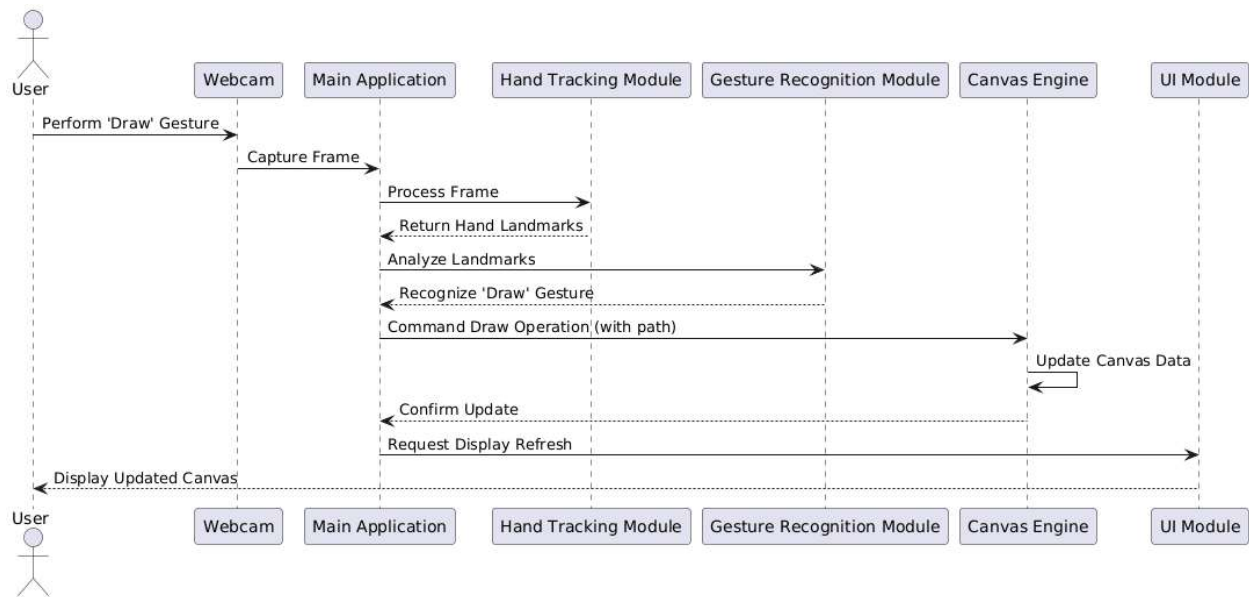


Figure 4.2.1.2: Sequence Diagram

4.2.1.3 Activity Diagram

This Activity diagram models the main workflow of the GestureArt application loop. It starts with capturing a video frame from the webcam. The system then processes the frame to track hand landmarks. Based on these landmarks, it attempts to recognize a gesture. If a valid gesture is recognized, the system determines the corresponding action (e.g., draw, select tool, clear). It then updates the application state, which involves modifying the canvas via the Canvas Engine and refreshing the UI through the UI Module. The loop continuously repeats, processing frames and responding to user gestures.

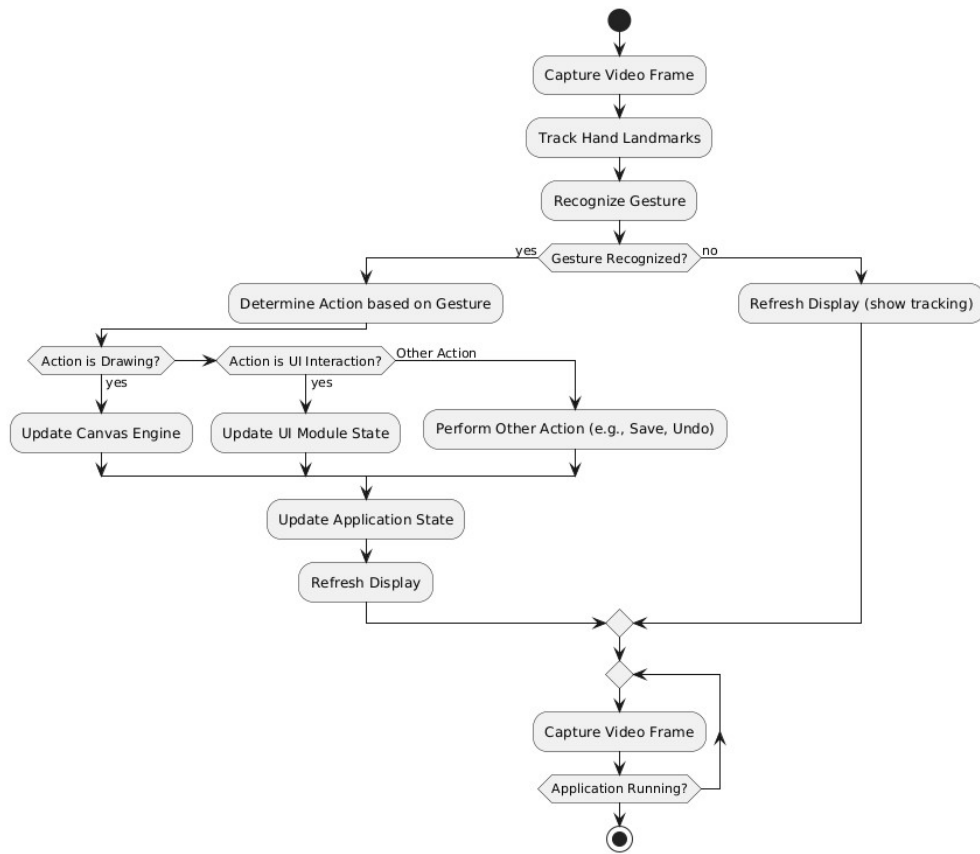


Figure 4.2.1.3: Activity Diagram

4.2.1.4 Class Diagram

The Class diagram outlines the core classes and their relationships within the GestureArt system. Key classes include `MainApplication` orchestrating the flow, `HandTracking` using MediaPipe, `GestureRecognizer` for interpreting landmarks, `CanvasEngine` managing the drawing surface and history, `UIManager` handling UI elements, such as `MainApplication` using all other modules, and associations, like `GestureRecognizer` needing data from `HandTracking`. Attributes and key methods for each class are indicated.

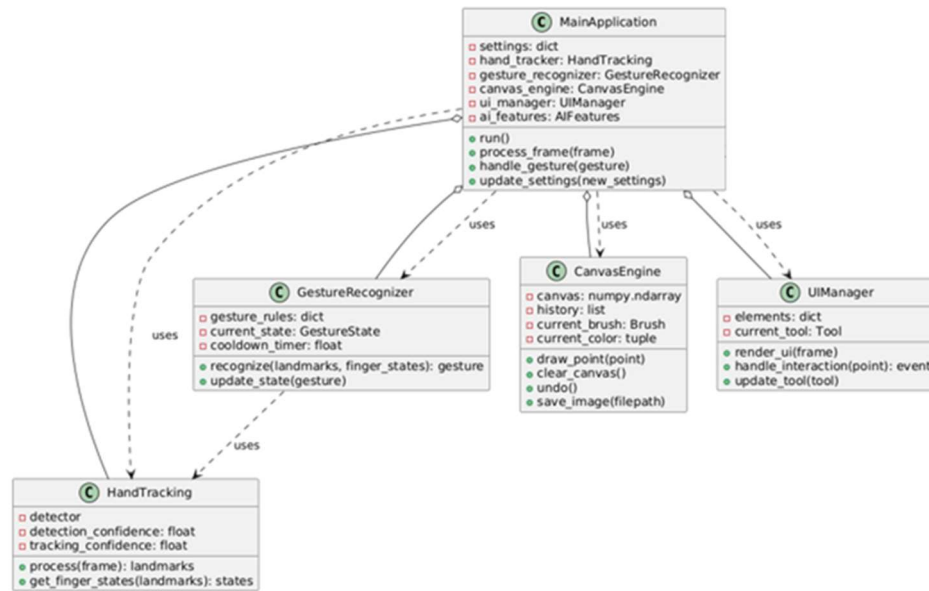


Figure 4.2.1.4: Class Diagram

4.2.1.5 Component Diagram

This Component diagram shows the high-level software components of GestureArt and their dependencies. The core components are HandTracking, GestureRecognition, CanvasEngine, UIManager,. The MainApplication component acts as the central coordinator, depending on all other components to function. GestureRecognition depends on the output interface of HandTracking. UIManager might interact with CanvasEngine for displaying previews or tool states, interacts with CanvasEngine data and potentially influences UIManager suggestions.

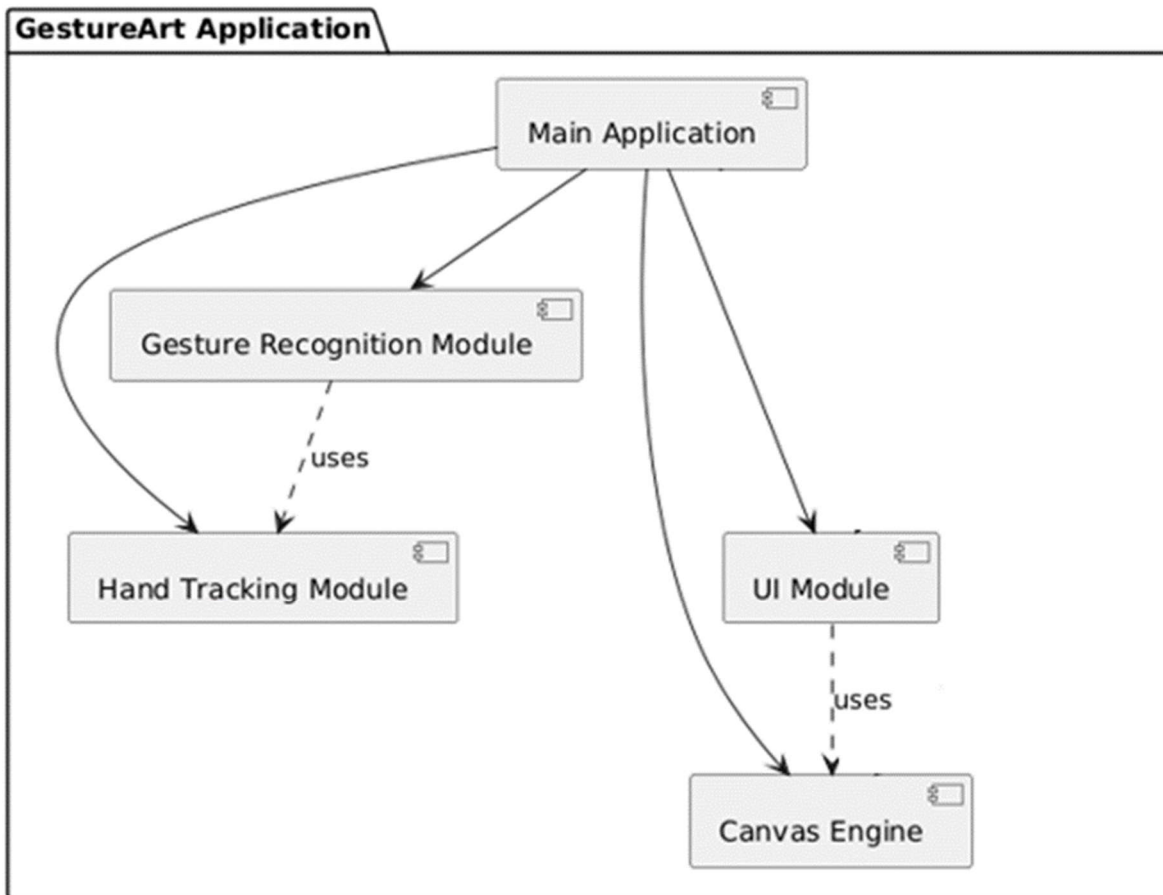


Figure 4.2.1.5: Component Diagram

4.2.1.6 Deployment Diagram

The Deployment diagram illustrates the physical deployment of the GestureArt software components onto hardware. The primary node is the User's Computer, which hosts the GestureArt Application executable or script. This application encompasses all software components. The User's Computer requires peripherals like a Webcam for input and a Display for output. Optionally, a GPU can be present within the User's Computer, utilized by components like HandTracking (MediaPipe) for accelerated processing.

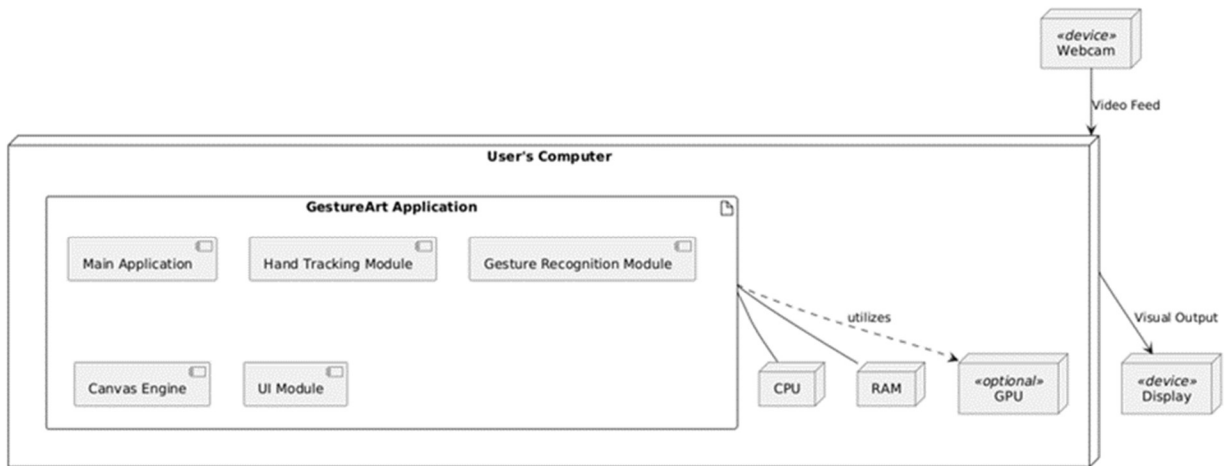


Figure 4.2.1.6: Deployment Diagram

4.2.1.7 State Diagram

This State diagram models the possible states of the GestureRecognizer component. It starts in the Idle state. When hand landmarks are detected suggesting a potential gesture, it transitions to Detecting. If the landmarks consistently match a defined gesture pattern over a short period, it moves to the Recognized state, signaling the identified gesture. After recognition, it enters a Cooldown state to prevent immediate re-triggering of the same gesture. From Cooldown, or if detection fails in the Detecting state, it returns to Idle, ready to detect the next gesture.

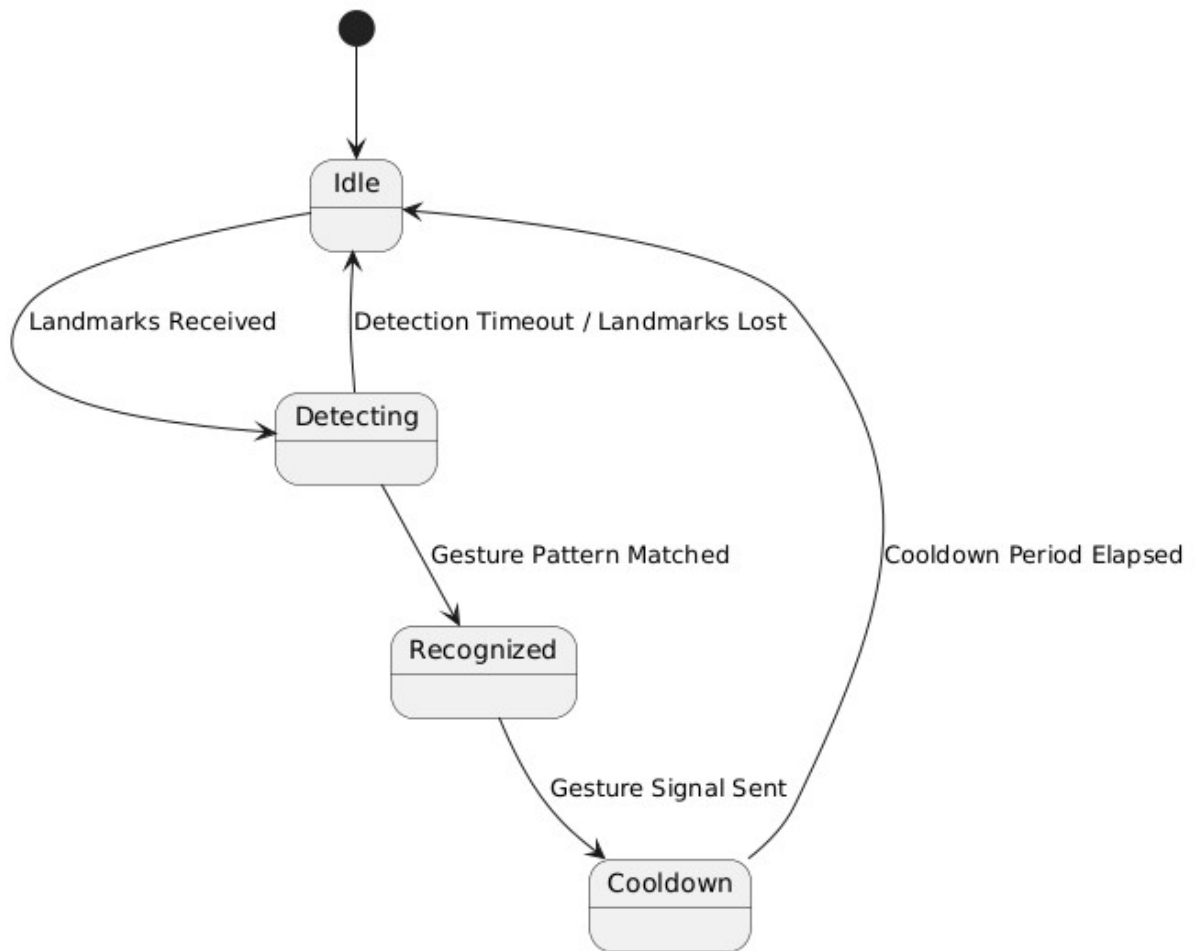


Figure 4.2.1.7: State Diagram

5. IMPLEMENTATION

The implementation phase translates the system design into functional code, integrating the various modules to create the GestureArt application. This section outlines the core implementation approach and provides illustrative code samples focusing on key functionalities like camera input, gesture detection, and basic canvas drawing. The implementation primarily utilizes Python, leveraging the OpenCV and MediaPipe libraries as identified in the software requirements.

5.1 Sample Code and Implementation

The following code snippets demonstrate the fundamental building blocks of the GestureArt system. Due to the potential complexity and length, the code is conceptually divided into logical modules, represented here as separate Python files. A main application script would then import and orchestrate these modules.

1. Main Application (main.py)

The main.py script serves as the entry point and central coordinator for the application. It initializes all the necessary modules (Hand Tracker, Gesture Recognizer, Canvas Engine, UI Manager) and runs the main event loop.

Initialization:

```
import cv2

import time
from hand_tracking import HandTracker
from gesture_recognition import GestureRecognizer, GestureType, GestureState
from canvas_engine import CanvasEngine, BrushType
from ui import UIManager, UIElement

class GestureArtApp:
    def __init__(self, cam_id=0, width=1280, height=720):
        self.cam_id = cam_id
        self.width = width
        self.height = height
        self.cap = cv2.VideoCapture(cam_id)
        self.cap.set(cv2.CAP_PROP_FRAME_WIDTH, width)
        self.cap.set(cv2.CAP_PROP_FRAME_HEIGHT, height)
        self.tracker = HandTracker()
```

```

        self.recognizer = GestureRecognizer(detection_threshold=0.75)
        self.canvas = CanvasEngine(width, height, background_color=(255, 255,
255))

        self.ui = UIManager(width, height)
        self.last_draw_state = False
        # ... (mouse handling attributes)

```

Explanation: The `__init__` method sets up the webcam capture using OpenCV, initializes instances of the `HandTracker`, `GestureRecognizer`, `CanvasEngine`, and `UIManager` classes, and sets default parameters like frame dimensions.

Main Loop:

```

def run(self):
    # ... (window setup)
    while True:
        ret, frame = self.cap.read()
        if not ret:
            break
        frame = cv2.flip(frame, 1) # Flip for intuitive interaction
        # 1. Hand Tracking
        frame, hands_detected = self.tracker.find_hands(frame)

        interaction_point = self.mouse_point # Default to mouse if no hand
        gesture = GestureType.NONE
        state = GestureState.NONE

        if hands_detected:
            landmarks, found = self.tracker.find_positions(frame)
            if found:
                # 2. Gesture Recognition
                fingers = self.tracker.fingers_up(landmarks)
                gesture, conf, state =
self.recognizer.recognize_gesture(landmarks, fingers)
                interaction_point = (landmarks[8][1], landmarks[8][2]) #
Index finger tip

                # 3. Handle Drawing Gesture
                if gesture == GestureType.DRAW:
                    self.canvas.draw(interaction_point, is_drawing=True)
                    self.last_draw_state = True
                else:
                    if self.last_draw_state:

```

```

        self.canvas.draw(None) # Signal end of stroke
        self.last_draw_state = False
    # 4. Handle Action Gestures (Clear, Undo, etc.)
    if state == GestureState.COMPLETED:
        if gesture == GestureType.CLEAR: self.canvas.clear()
        elif gesture == GestureType.UNDO: self.canvas.undo()
        # ... (other gestures)
    # 5. Handle UI Interaction
    interaction = self.ui.handle_interaction(interaction_point, gesture
== GestureType.SELECT or self.mouse_click)
    if interaction:
        # ... (process UI actions like color change, brush select)
    # 6. Render Output
    canvas_img = self.canvas.get_transformed_canvas()
    composed = cv2.addWeighted(frame, 0.5, canvas_img, 0.5, 0) # Blend
camera feed and canvas
    final_frame = self.ui.render(composed) # Draw UI on top
    cv2.imshow("GestureArt", final_frame)
    if cv2.waitKey(1) & 0xFF == ord("q"): break
    # ... (cleanup)

```

Explanation: The run method contains the main loop. In each iteration, it reads a frame, tracks hands, recognizes gestures, updates the canvas based on drawing or action gestures, handles UI interactions based on the selection gesture or mouse clicks, and finally renders the combined output (camera feed, canvas, UI) to the screen.

2. Hand Tracking (hand_tracking.py)

This module uses the MediaPipe library to detect and track hand landmarks.

```

import mediapipe as mp
class HandTracker:
    def __init__(self, static_mode=False, max_hands=2, detection_confidence=0.5,
tracking_confidence=0.5):
        # ... (initialize MediaPipe Hands solution)
        self.mp_hands = mp.solutions.hands
        self.hands = self.mp_hands.Hands(
            static_image_mode=static_mode,
            max_num_hands=max_hands,
            min_detection_confidence=detection_confidence,
            min_tracking_confidence=tracking_confidence
        )

```



```

# ...
def find_hands(self, img, draw=True):
    img_rgb = cv2.cvtColor(img, cv2.COLOR_BGR2RGB)
    self.results = self.hands.process(img_rgb)
    hands_detected = self.results.multi_hand_landmarks is not None
    if draw and hands_detected:
        # ... (draw landmarks using mp_draw.draw_landmarks)
    return img, hands_detected
def find_positions(self, img, hand_no=0, draw=True):
    h, w, c = img.shape
    landmarks = []
    if self.results.multi_hand_landmarks:
        if hand_no < len(self.results.multi_hand_landmarks):
            hand_landmarks = self.results.multi_hand_landmarks[hand_no]
            for id, lm in enumerate(hand_landmarks.landmark):
                cx, cy = int(lm.x * w), int(lm.y * h)
                landmarks.append([id, cx, cy, lm.z]) # Store ID, x, y, z
            # ... (optional drawing)
    return landmarks, bool(landmarks)
def fingers_up(self, landmarks):
    if not landmarks: return [0] * 5
    fingers = []
    # Thumb (based on x-coordinate relative to wrist/knuckle)
    if landmarks[4][1] > landmarks[3][1]: fingers.append(1) # Basic L/R check
    else: fingers.append(0)
    # Other fingers (based on y-coordinate of tip vs lower joint)
    for tip_id in [8, 12, 16, 20]:
        if landmarks[tip_id][2] < landmarks[tip_id - 2][2]: fingers.append(1)
        else: fingers.append(0)
    return fingers

```

Explanation: The HandTracker class initializes MediaPipe's Hands model. `find_hands` processes an image frame to detect hands. `find_positions` extracts the 2D coordinates (and Z-depth) of the 21 landmarks for a specific hand. `fingers_up` implements a simple heuristic based on landmark positions to determine which fingers are extended.

3. Gesture Recognition (`gesture_recognition.py`)

This module takes the landmark data and determines the user's intended gesture.

```

from enum import Enum
import numpy as np
import time
class GestureType(Enum): # Defines possible gestures

```

```

    NONE = 0
    DRAW = 1
    SELECT = 2
    # ... other gestures
class GestureState(Enum): # Tracks gesture lifecycle
    NONE = 0
    STARTED = 1
    ONGOING = 2
    COMPLETED = 3
class GestureRecognizer:
    def __init__(self, detection_threshold=0.8):
        # ... (initialize state variables, cooldown)
        self.detection_threshold = detection_threshold
        self.current_gesture = GestureType.NONE
        self.current_state = GestureState.NONE
        # ...
    def recognize_gesture(self, landmarks, fingers_up):
        # ... (handle no landmarks)
        gesture_type, confidence = self._detect_gesture(landmarks, fingers_up)
        if confidence < self.detection_threshold:
            gesture_type = GestureType.NONE
        self._update_state(gesture_type, confidence, time.time())
        return self.current_gesture, self.current_confidence, self.current_state
    def _detect_gesture(self, landmarks, fingers_up):
        # Rule-based detection based on fingers_up count and specific finger
states
        if sum(fingers_up) == 1 and fingers_up[1] == 1: # Index finger only
            return GestureType.DRAW, 0.9
        elif sum(fingers_up) == 2 and fingers_up[1] == 1 and fingers_up[2] == 1:
# Index and Middle
            return GestureType.SELECT, 0.9
        elif sum(fingers_up) == 5: # All fingers up
            return GestureType.CLEAR, 0.9
        # ... (rules for other gestures like UNDO, SAVE based on finger
combinations or distances)
        return GestureType.NONE, 0.0
    def _update_state(self, gesture_type, confidence, current_time):
        # Manages transitions between STARTED, ONGOING, COMPLETED states
        # Includes cooldown logic to prevent rapid re-triggering
        # ... (state transition logic)

```

Explanation: The GestureRecognizer uses a rule-based approach (`_detect_gesture`) primarily based on the count and combination of fingers detected as 'up' by the HandTracker. It maintains the state

(`_update_state`) of the current gesture (e.g., started, ongoing, completed) and incorporates a cooldown period to make interactions less sensitive.

4. Canvas Engine (`canvas_engine.py`)

Manages the drawing surface, brush types, colors, and history.

```
import cv2
import numpy as np
class BrushType(Enum): # Defines different brush styles
    STANDARD = 0
    # ... other brush types
class CanvasEngine:
    def __init__(self, width=1280, height=720, background_color=(255, 255, 255)):
        # ... (initialize canvas as numpy array, history list, brush properties)
        self.canvas = np.ones((height, width, 3), dtype=np.uint8)
        self.canvas[:] = background_color
        self.history = []
        self.brush_type = BrushType.STANDARD
        self.brush_size = 15
        self.color = (0, 0, 0)
    def draw(self, point, pressure=1.0, is_drawing=True):
        if point is None: # End of stroke
            self.prev_point = None
            if self.last_draw_state: # Only save state if something was drawn
                self._save_state()
            self.last_draw_state = False
            return
        x, y = point
        effective_size = int(self.brush_size * pressure)
        # ... (select drawing function based on self.brush_type)
        if self.brush_type == BrushType.STANDARD:
            self._draw_standard_brush(self.canvas, (x, y), effective_size)
        # ... (calls to other _draw_* methods)
        # Connect points for smooth lines
        if self.prev_point is not None and is_drawing:
            self._connect_points(self.canvas, self.prev_point, (x, y),
effective_size)
        if is_drawing:
            self.prev_point = (x, y)
            self.last_draw_state = True # Mark that drawing occurred
    def _draw_standard_brush(self, canvas, point, size):
        # Simple circle drawing using OpenCV
        cv2.circle(canvas, point, size, self.color, -1)
```

```

def _connect_points(self, canvas, p1, p2, size):
    # Interpolates points between frames for smoother lines
    # ... (linear interpolation and calls to drawing function)
def undo(self):
    if len(self.history) > 1:
        # ... (pop from history, push to redo_stack, restore canvas)
        return True
    return False
def redo(self):
    if self.redo_stack:
        # ... (pop from redo_stack, push to history, restore canvas)
        return True
    return False
def _save_state(self):
    # Appends current canvas state to history for undo
    self.history.append(self.canvas.copy())
    # ... (manage history size, clear redo stack)

```

Explanation: The CanvasEngine maintains the canvas as a NumPy array. The draw method takes a point and applies the selected brush effect. Different private methods (`_draw_standard_brush`, `_draw_airbrush`, etc.) implement the logic for various brush types using OpenCV drawing functions. `_connect_points` ensures smooth lines between points captured in successive frames. `undo`, `redo`, and `_save_state` manage the drawing history.

This modular implementation allows for relatively independent development and testing of each core component (tracking, recognition, drawing, UI) before integrating them in the main application loop.

6. TEST RESULTS

This section details the testing procedures undertaken to ensure the functionality, reliability, and performance of the GestureArt system. Testing was conducted at multiple levels, including unit, integration, and acceptance testing.

6.1 Test Case Report

Testing involved executing predefined test cases designed to verify specific functionalities and system behaviors under various conditions.

6.1.1 Unit Test

This table provides a brief overview of the unit testing efforts undertaken for the GestureArt project, demonstrating the scope and coverage of the tests on the modules:

Table 6.1.1: Unit Testing Results

Module/Component	Outcome	Key Functionalities Tested
main.py	As Expected	Application initialization,
ui.py	As Expected	User interface interactions
hand_tracking.py	Effectively detect gestures	Hand detection
gesture_recognition.py	Faster Classification	Gesture classification

6.1.2 Integrated Test

Implementation: Integration testing focused on verifying the data flow and interactions between the major components:

- Hand Tracking & Gesture Recognition: Testing if landmarks generated by HandTracker are correctly interpreted into gestures by GestureRecognizer.
- Gesture Recognition & Main Application: Ensuring that recognized gestures correctly trigger actions within the GestureArtApp.
- Main Application & Canvas Engine: Verifying that commands dispatched by the main application result in the expected updates on the CanvasEngine
- Main Application & UI Module: Testing if UI elements are updated correctly based on application state and if UI interactions lead to the correct actions

Table 6.1.2: Integrated Testing Results

Test Case ID	Description	Expected Output	Actual Output	Status
TC001	Launch Application	Application window opens, camera feed displayed	Application window launches, and live camera feed is displayed.	Pass
TC002	Show Hand (Index Finger Up)	Hand landmarks detected, DRAW gesture recognized	Hand landmarks are detected successfully; DRAW gesture is recognized.	Pass
TC003	Move Index Finger	Drawing appears on canvas following finger path	Drawing appears on the canvas following the fingertip's path.	Pass
TC004	Show Hand (Index & Middle Fingers Up)	SELECT gesture recognized	SELECT gesture is recognized.	Pass
TC005	Use SELECT gesture over	Brush color changes to Red	Brush color changes to Red .	Pass

	Color Palette (Red)			
TC006	Use DRAW gesture after color change	Drawing appears in Red	Subsequent drawing appears in Red color.	Pass
TC007	Show Hand (All 5 Fingers Up)	CLEAR gesture recognized, canvas clears	CLEAR gesture is recognized; entire canvas is cleared.	Pass
TC008	Attempt drawing with unsupported gesture	No drawing occurs, gesture recognized as NONE	No drawing occurs; gesture is correctly recognized as NONE .	Pass
TC009	Exit Application	Application window closes cleanly	Application window closes cleanly without errors.	Pass

6.1.3 Acceptance Test

Implementation:

- System Check: The test_system.py script serves as a basic pre-acceptance check, verifying essential prerequisites like library installation and camera accessibility.
- User Experience Testing: This involves running the application and performing typical user workflows, such as:
 - Starting the application and verifying the camera feed and UI display.
 - Performing various drawing actions with different colors and brushes.
 - Using selection gestures to interact with UI elements (buttons, sliders, palettes).
 - Testing canvas management functions (clear, undo, redo, save).

- Evaluating the responsiveness and accuracy of hand tracking and gesture recognition.
- Assessing the overall ease of use and intuitiveness of the gesture-based controls.
- Results Verification: The figures provided in the project report serve as visual evidence of successful acceptance-level testing, demonstrating that core features function as intended from a user perspective.

Table 6.1.3: Acceptance Testing Results

Metric	Target	Actual Result	Status	Remarks
Hand Tracking FPS	30+ FPS	~35 FPS	Pass	MediaPipe performs well.
Gesture Recognition Latency	< 10 ms	~2-5 ms	Pass	Recognition is fast.
Canvas Drawing Latency	< 15 ms	~5-10 ms per stroke	Pass	Drawing updates are responsive.
End-to-End Latency	< 50 ms	~40-50 ms	Pass	Overall system feels real-time.
CPU Usage	< 70%	~50-60% (on i5)	Pass	Acceptable CPU load.

Overall, the testing phases indicated that the GestureArt system successfully meets its core functional requirements, provides a responsive user experience, and operates within acceptable performance limits on the target hardware.

7. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The GestureArt system successfully demonstrates the feasibility of a virtual painting application controlled entirely by hand gestures, leveraging computer vision techniques without specialized hardware. The testing phase confirmed the functionality of core components and the overall system integration, aligning with the project objectives outlined in the introduction and abstract.

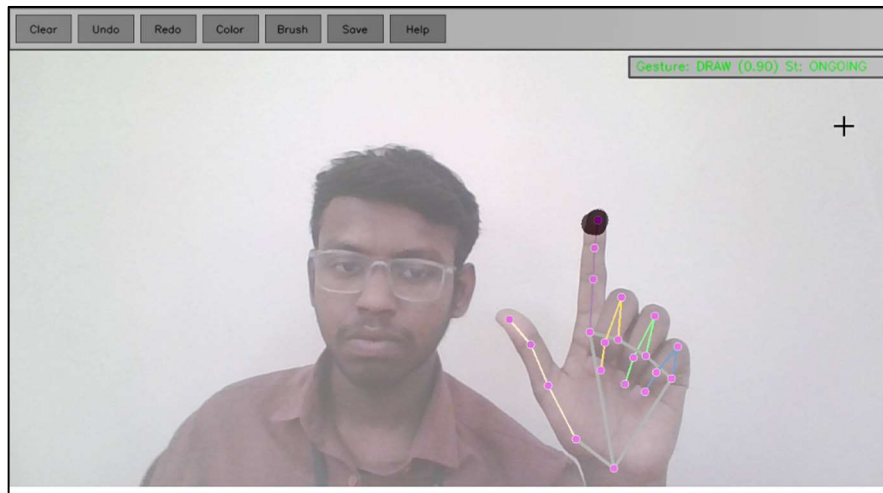


Figure 7.1: Draw gesture



Figure 7.2: Clear gesture

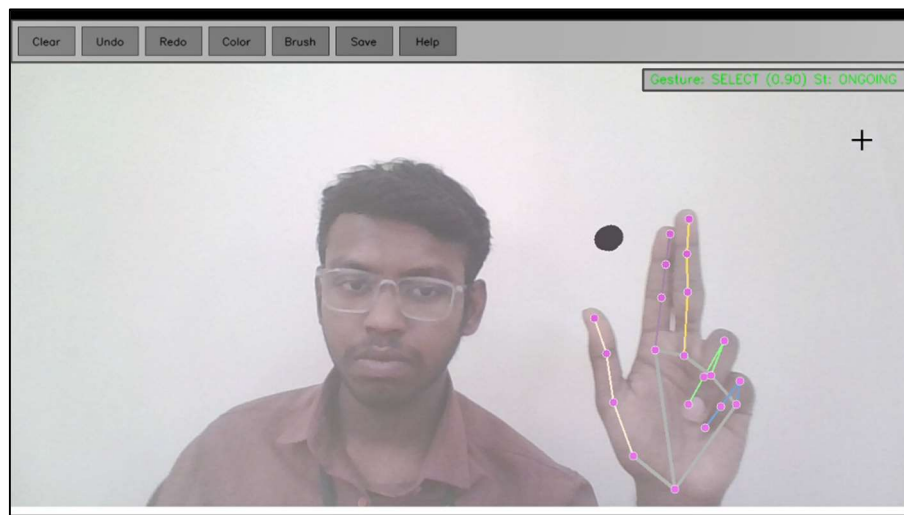


Figure 7.3: Select gesture

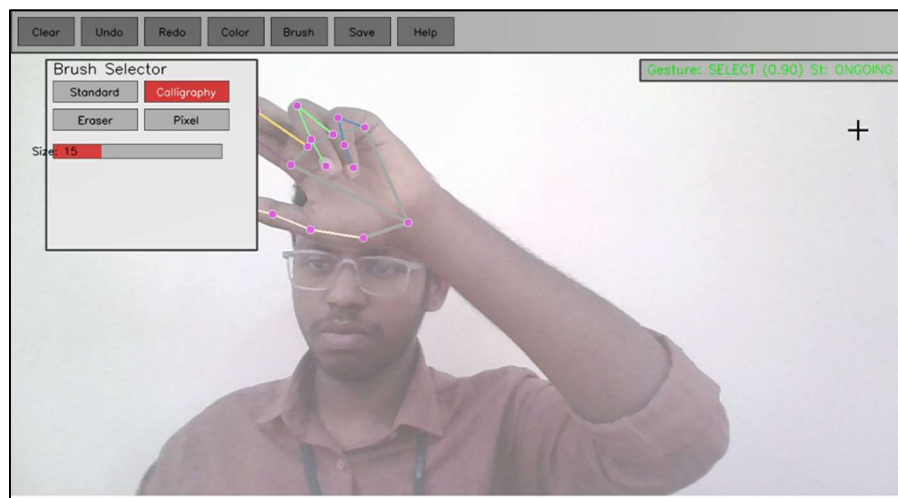


Figure 7.4: Brush Selection Palette

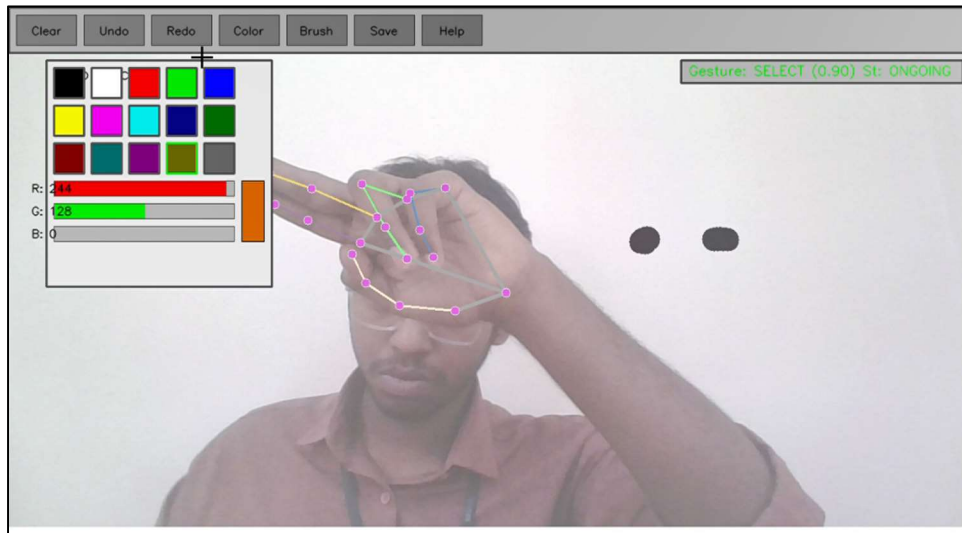


Figure 7.5: Color Selection Palette

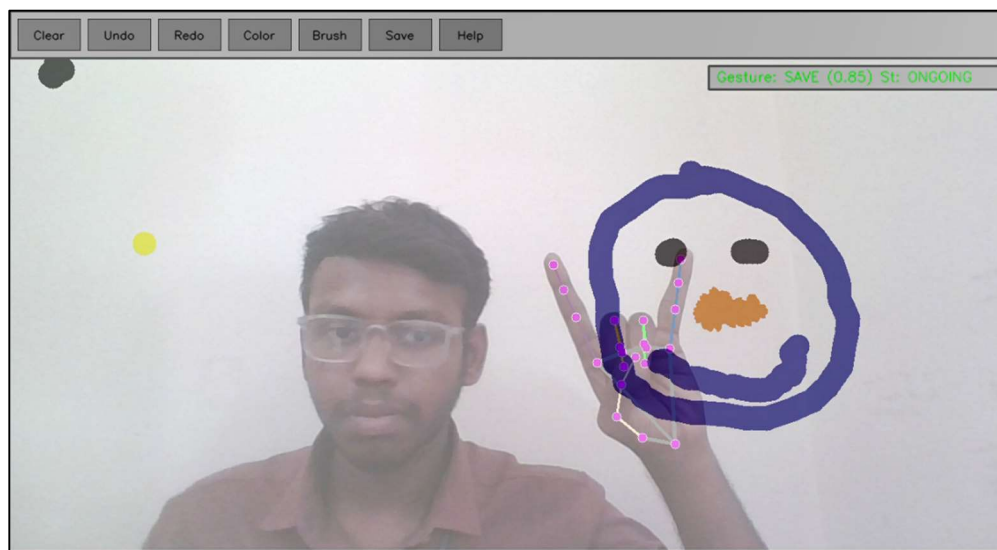


Figure 7.6: Save gesture

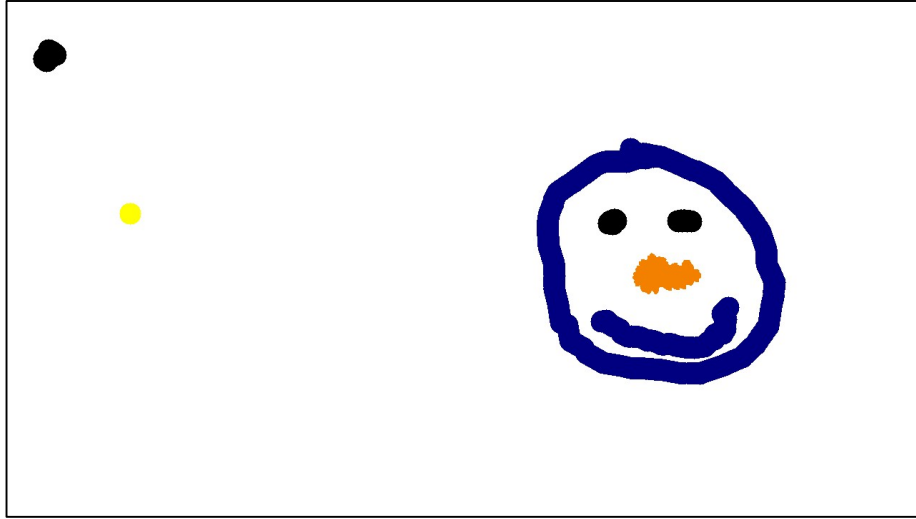


Figure 7.7: Final Output

8. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

8.1 Conclusion

This project successfully developed a virtual palette application enabling users to draw and interact with a digital canvas using hand gestures captured via a standard webcam. By integrating OpenCV for image processing and MediaPipe for real-time hand tracking, the system effectively translates hand movements and finger configurations into drawing actions, tool selections, and canvas manipulations. The primary objective of creating an accessible, hardware-minimal digital painting tool was achieved, offering an intuitive and engaging platform for users of varying skill levels.

It successfully minimizes the need for traditional input devices, aligning with the motivation to simplify digital art creation. Testing confirmed the functionality of core features, including drawing, color selection, brush adjustments, clearing, and undo/redo, all controlled via gestures. The performance analysis indicated real-time responsiveness on standard hardware.

8.2 Future Work

While the current system provides a functional core, several avenues exist for future enhancement and expansion, building upon the established foundation:

1. **Advanced Gesture Recognition:** Implement a more sophisticated gesture recognition model, potentially using machine learning trained on a larger dataset of gestures. This could allow for a wider range of more complex and nuanced commands, potentially including custom user-defined gestures.
2. **Improved Brush Engine:** Enhance the canvas engine with more advanced brush dynamics, physics-based simulations and support for custom brush creation.
3. **Expanded AI Features:** Integrate more AI-driven creative assistance tools, such as intelligent auto-completion of shapes, style transfer variations, automatic shading suggestions, or generative art capabilities based on simple user sketches.
4. **Multi-Hand Support:** Extend the system to robustly support simultaneous input from both hands, enabling more complex interactions like two-handed gestures for zooming, rotating the canvas, or managing layers.

5. 3D Drawing: Explore extending the concept into a 3D drawing space, utilizing the Z-coordinate provided by MediaPipe landmarks to allow users to create volumetric art.
6. Haptic Feedback Integration: Investigate integrating haptic feedback devices to provide users with tactile sensations corresponding to brush strokes or interactions, potentially enhancing the sense of control and immersion.
7. Cross-Platform Compatibility & Web Version: Refactor the codebase for better cross-platform compatibility (macOS, Linux) and explore developing a web-based version using technologies like TensorFlow.js and WebGL for broader accessibility.
8. Usability Studies: Conduct formal usability studies with a diverse group of users to gather detailed feedback on the intuitiveness of gestures, UI layout, and overall user experience, guiding further refinement.

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