Real-Time Communication System Powered by AI for Specially Abled

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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.

Key Word: Sign Language Recognition, Convolution Neural Network, Image Processing.

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 IMAGEPROCESSING

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.

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.

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

1.3 SIGN 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 PROBLEMSTATEMENT

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.

2. LITERATURESURVEY

2.1 INTRODUCTION:

The domain analysis that we have done for the project mainly involved understanding the neural networks

2.1.1 TensorFlow:

TensorFlow is a free and open-source software library for dataflow and differentiable programming across a range of tasks. It is a symbolic math library, and is also used for machine learning applications such as neural networks. It is used for both research and production at Google.

Features: TensorFlow provides stable Python (for version 3.7 across all platforms) and C APIs; and without API backwards compatibility guarantee: C++, Go, Java, JavaScript and Swift (early release). Third-party packages are available for C#, Haskell Julia, MATLAB,R, Scala, Rust, OCaml, and Crystal."New language support should be built on top of the C API. However, not all functionality is available in C yet." Some more functionality is provided by the Python API.

Application: Among the applications for which TensorFlow is the foundation, are automated image-captioning software, such as DeepDream

2.1.2 Opency:

OpenCV (Open Source Computer Vision Library) is a library of programming functions mainly aimed at real-time computer vision.[1] Originally developed by Intel, it was later supported by Willow Garage then Itseez (which was later acquired by Intel[2]). The library is cross-platform and free for use under the open-source BSD license.

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

Image-Processing

Image processing is a method to perform some operations on an image, in order to get an enhanced image and or to extract some useful information from it.

If we talk about the basic definition of image processing then "Image processing is the analysis and manipulation of a digitized image, especially in order to improve its quality"

2.1.3Keras:

Keras is an open-source neural-network library written in Python. It is capable of running on top of TensorFlow, Microsoft Cognitive Toolkit, R, Theano, or PlaidML. Designed to enable fast experimentation with deep neural networks, it focuses on being user-friendly, modular, and extensible. It was developed as part of the research effort of project ONEIROS (Open-ended Neuro-Electronic Intelligent Robot Operating System), and its primary author and maintainer is François Chollet, a Google engineer. Chollet also is the author of the XCeption deep neural network model.

Features: Keras contains numerous implementations of commonly used neuralnetwork building blocks such as layers, objectives, activation functions, optimizers, and a host of tools to make working with image and text data easier to simplify the coding necessary for writing deep neural network code. The code is hosted on GitHub, and community support forums include the GitHub issues page, and a Slack channel.

In addition to standard neural networks, Keras has support for convolutional and recurrent neural networks. It supports other common utility layers like dropout, batch normalization, and pooling.

Keras allows users to productize deep models on smartphones (iOS and Android), on the web, or on the Java Virtual Machine. It also allows use of distributed training of deep-learning models on clusters of Graphics processing units (GPU) and tensor processing units (TPU) principally in conjunction with CUDA.

Keras applications module is used to provide pre-trained model for deep neural networks. Keras models are used for prediction, feature extraction and fine tuning. This chapter explains about Keras applications in detail.

2.1.4 Numpy:

NumPy is a library for the Python programming language, adding support for large, multidimensional arrays and matrices, along with a large collection of high-level mathematical functions to operate on these arrays. The ancestor of NumPy, Numeric, was originally created by Jim Hugunin with contributions from several other developers. In 2005, Travis Oliphant created NumPy by incorporating features of the competing Num array into Numeric, with extensive modifications. NumPy is opensource software and has many contributors.

Features: NumPy targets the CPython reference implementation of Python, which is a non-optimizing bytecode interpreter. Mathematical algorithms written for this version of Python often run much slower than compiled equivalents. NumPy addresses the slowness problem partly by providing multidimensional arrays and functions and operators that operate efficiently on arrays, requiring rewriting some code, mostly inner loops using NumPy.

Using NumPy in Python gives functionality comparable to MATLAB since they are both interpreted, and they both allow the user to write fast programs as long as most operations work on arrays or matrices instead of scalars. In comparison, MATLAB boasts a large number of additional toolboxes, notably Simulink, whereas NumPy is intrinsically integrated with Python, a more modern and complete programming language. Moreover, complementary Python packages are available; SciPy is a library that adds more MATLAB-like functionality and Matplotlib is aplotting package that provides MATLAB-like

plotting functionality. Internally, both MATLAB and NumPy rely on BLAS and LAPACK for efficient linear algebra computations.

Python bindings of the widely used computer vision library OpenCV utilize NumPy arrays to store and operate on data. Since images with multiple channels are simply represented as three-dimensional arrays, indexing, slicing or masking with other arrays are very efficient ways to access specific pixels of an image. The NumPy array as universal data structure in OpenCV for images, extracted feature points, filter kernels and many more vastly simplifies the programming workflow and debugging.

Limitations: Inserting or appending entries to an array is not as trivially possible as it is with Python's lists. The np.pad(...) routine to extend arrays actually creates new arrays of the desired shape and padding values, copies the given array into the new one and returns it. NumPy'snp.concatenate([a1,a2]) operation does not actually link the two arrays but returns a new one, filled with the entries from both given arrays insequence. Reshaping the dimensionality of an array with np.reshape(...) is only possible as long as the number of elements in the array does not change. These circumstances originate from the fact that NumPy's arrays must be views on contiguous memory buffers. A replacement package called Blaze attempts to overcome this limitation.

Algorithms that are not expressible as a vectorized operation will typically run slowly because they must be implemented in "pure Python", while vectorization may increase memory complexity of some operations from constant to linear, because temporary arrays must be created that are as large as the inputs. Runtime compilation of numerical code has been implemented by several groups to avoid these problems; open source solutions that interoperate with NumPy include scipy.weave, numexpr and Numba. Cython and Pythran are static-compiling alternatives to these.

2.1.5 Neural Networks:

A neural network is a series of algorithms that endeavors to recognize underlying relationships in a set of data through a process that mimics the way the human brain operates. In this sense, neural networks refer to systems of neurons, either organic or artificial in nature. Neural networks can adapt to changing input; so the network generates the best possible resultwithout needing to redesign the output criteria. The concept of neural networks, which has its roots in artificial intelligence, is swiftly gaining popularity in the development of trading systems.

A neural network works similarly to the human brain's neural network. A "neuron" in a neural network is a mathematical function that collects and classifies information according to a specific architecture. The network bears a strong resemblance to statistical methods such as curve fitting and regression analysis.

A neural network contains layers of interconnected nodes. Each node is a perceptron and is similar to a multiple linear regression. The perceptron feeds the signal produced by a multiple linear regression into an activation function that may be nonlinear.

In a multi-layered perceptron (MLP), perceptrons are arranged in interconnected layers. The input layer collects input patterns. The output layer has classifications or output signals to which input patterns may map. Hidden layers fine-tune the input weightings until the neural network's margin of error is minimal. It is hypothesized that hidden layers extrapolate salient features in the input data that have predictive power regarding the outputs. This describes feature extraction, which accomplishes a utility similar to statistical techniques such as principal component analysis.

Areas of Application

Followings are some of the areas, where ANN is being used. It suggests that ANN has an interdisciplinary approach in its development and applications.

Speech Recognition

Speech occupies a prominent role in human-human interaction. Therefore, it is natural for people to expect speech interfaces with computers. In the present era, for communication with machines, humans still need sophisticated languages which are difficult to learn and use. To ease this communication barrier, a simple solution could be, communication in a spoken language that is possible for the machine to understand.

Great progress has been made in this field, however, still such kinds of systems are facing the problem of limited vocabulary or grammar along with the issue of retraining of the system for different speakers in different conditions. ANN is playing a major role in this area. Following ANNs have been used for speech recognition – Multilayer networks

Deep Learning:

Deep-learning networks are distinguished from the more commonplace single-hidden layer neural networks by their depth; that is, the number of node layers through which data must pass in a multistep process of pattern recognition.

Earlier versions of neural networks such as the first perceptrons were shallow, composed of one input and one output layer, and at most one hidden layer in between. More than three layers (including input and output) qualifies as "deep" learning. So deep is not just a buzzword to make algorithms seem like they read Sartre and listen to bands you haven't heard of yet. It is a strictly defined term that means more than one hidden layer.

In deep-learning networks, each layer of nodes trains on a distinct set of features based on the previous layer's output. The further you advance into the neural net, the more complex the features your nodes can recognize, since they aggregate and recombine features from the previous layer.

This is known as feature hierarchy, and it is a hierarchy of increasing complexity and abstraction. It makes deep-learning networks capable of handling very large, high dimensional data sets with billions of parameters that pass through nonlinear functions.

Above all, these neural nets are capable of discovering latent structures within unlabeled, unstructured data, which is the vast majority of data in the world. Another word for unstructured data is raw media; i.e. pictures, texts, video and audio recordings. Therefore, one of the problems deep learning solves best is in processing and clustering the world's raw, unlabeled media, discerning similarities and anomalies in data that no human has organized in a relational database or ever put a name to.

For example, deep learning can take a million images, and cluster them according to their similarities: cats in one corner, ice breakers in another, and in a third all the photos of your grandmother. This is the basis of so-called smart photo albums.

Deep-learning networks perform automatic feature extraction without human intervention, unlike most traditional machine-learning algorithms. Given that feature extraction is a task that can take teams of data scientists years to accomplish, deep learning is a way to circumvent the chokepoint of limited experts. It augments the powers of small data science teams, which by their nature do not scale.

When training on unlabeled data, each node layer in a deep network learns features automatically by repeatedly trying to reconstruct the input from which it draws its samples, attempting to minimize the difference between the network's guesses and the probability distribution of the input data itself. Restricted Boltzmann machines, for examples, create so-called reconstructions in this manner.

In the process, these neural networks learn to recognize correlations between certain relevant features and optimal results – they draw connections between feature signals and what those features represent, whether it be a full reconstruction, or with labeled data. A deep-learning network trained on labeled data can then be applied to unstructured data, giving it access to much more input than machine-learning nets.

Convolution neural network:

Convolutional neural networks (CNN) is a special architecture of artificial neural networks, proposed by Yann LeCun in 1988. CNN uses some features of the visual cortex. One of the most popular uses of this architecture is image classification. For example Facebook uses CNN for automatic tagging algorithms, Amazon — for generating product recommendations and Google — for search through among users' photos.

To solve this problem the computer looks for the characteristics of the baselevel. In human understanding such characteristics are for example the trunk or large ears. For the computer, these characteristics are boundaries or curvatures. And then through the groups of convolutional layers the computer constructs more abstract concepts. In more detail: the image is passed through a series of convolutional, nonlinear, pooling layers and fully connected layers, and then generates the output.

Convolutional neural networks can also be used for document analysis. This is not just useful for handwriting analysis, but also has a major stake in recognizers. For a machine to be able to scan an individual's writing, and then compare that to the wide database it has, it must execute almost a million commands a minute. It is said with the use of CNNs and newer models and algorithms, the error rate has been brought down to a minimum of 0.4% at a character level, though it's complete testing is yet to be widely seen

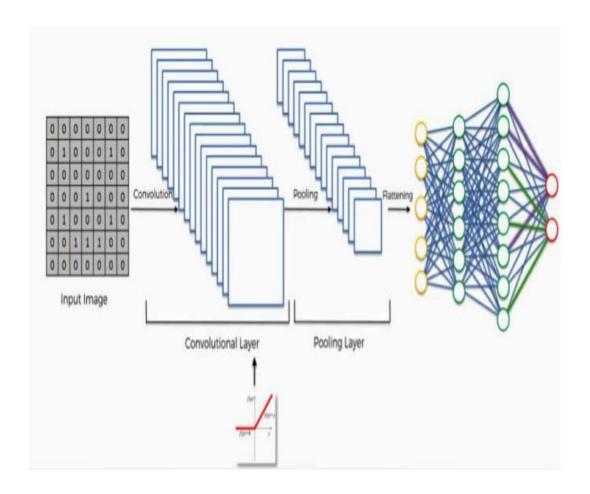
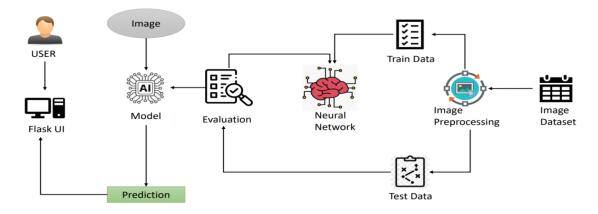


Fig2.1: Layers involved in CNN

2.3 PROPOSED SYSTEM

Our proposed system is sign language recognition system using convolution neural networks which recognizes various hand gestures by capturing video and converting it into frames. Then the hand pixels are segmented and the image it obtained and sent for comparison to the trained model. Thus our system is more robust in getting exact text labels of letters.

2.3.1 System Architecture



3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 TRAINING MODULE:

Supervised machine learning: It is one of the ways of machine learning where the model is trained by input data and expected output data. To create such model, it is necessary to go through the following phases:

- 1. model construction
- 2. model training
- 3. model testing
- 4. model evaluation

Model construction: It depends on machine learning algorithms. In this projects case, it was neural networks. Such an algorithm looks like: 1. begin with its object: model = Sequential() 2. then consist of layers with their types: model.add(type_of_layer()) 3. after adding a sufficient number of layers the model is compiled. At this moment Keras communicates with TensorFlow for construction of the model. During model compilation it is important to write a loss function and an optimizer algorithm. It looks like: model.comile(loss= 'name of loss function', optimizer= 'name of opimazer alg') The loss function shows the accuracy of each prediction made by the model.

Before model training it is important to scale data for their further use.

Model training:

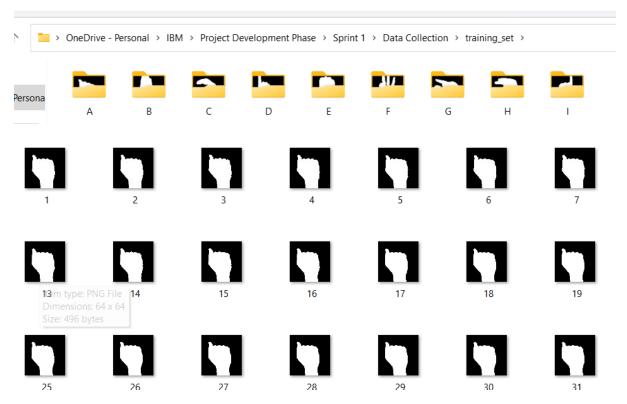
After model construction it is time for model training. In this phase, the model is trained using training data and expected output for this data. It's look this way: model.fit(training_data, expected_output). Progress is visible on the console when the script runs. At the end it will report the final accuracy of the model.

Model Testing:

During this phase a second set of data is loaded. This data set has never been seen by the model and therefore it's true accuracy will be verified. After the model training is complete, and it is understood that the model shows the right result, it can be saved by: model.save("name of file.h5"). Finally, the saved

model can be used in the real world. The name of this phase is model evaluation. This means that the model can be used to evaluate new data.

DATASETS USED FOR TRAINING



Training data given for Letter A

Convolution layer:

A convolution is the simple application of a filter to an input that results in an activation. Repeated application of the same filter to an input results in a map of activations called a feature map, indicating the locations and strength of a detected feature in an input, such as an image.

The innovation of convolutional neural networks is the ability to automatically learn a large number of filters in parallel specific to a training dataset under the constraints of a specific predictive modeling problem, such as image classification. The result is highly specific features that can be detected anywhere on input images.

Pooling Layer:

The pooling (POOL) layer reduces the height and width of the input. It helps reduce computation, as well as helps make feature detectors more invariant to its position in the input This process is what provides the convolutional neural network with the "spatial variance" capability. In addition to that, pooling serves to minimize the size of the images as well as the number of parameters which, in turn, prevents an issue of "overfitting" from coming up. Overfitting in a nutshell is when you create an excessively complex model in order to account for the idiosyncracies we just mentioned The result of using a pooling layer and creating down sampled or pooled feature maps is a summarized version of the features detected in the input. They are useful as small changes in the location of the feature in the input detected by the convolutional layer will result in a pooled feature map with the feature in the same location. This capability added by pooling is called the model's invariance to local translation.

3.2 TESTING

The purpose of testing is to discover errors. Testing is a process of trying to discover every conceivable fault or weakness in a work product. It provides a way to check the functionality of components, sub assemblies, assemblies and/or a finished product. It is the process of exercising software with the intent of ensuring that the software system meets its requirements and user expectations and does not fail in an unacceptable manner.

Software testing is an important element of the software quality assurance and represents the ultimate review of specification, design and coding. The increasing feasibility of software as a system and the cost associated with the software failures are motivated forces for well planned through testing.

4.EXPERIMENTAL ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

4.1 SYSTEM CONFIGURATION

4.1.1 Software requirements Operating System: Windows, Mac, Linux

SDK: OpenCV ,TensorFlow ,Keros ,Numpy

4.2CODE

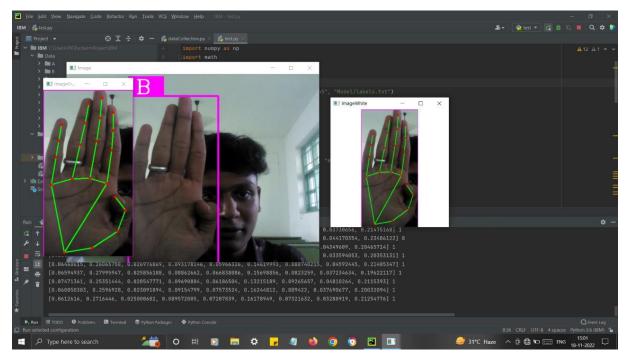
```
import cv2
from cvzone.HandTrackingModule import HandDetector
import numpy as np
import math
import time
cap = cv2.VideoCapture(0)
detector = HandDetector(maxHands=1)
offset = 20
imgSize = 300
folder = "Data/C"
counter = 0
while True:
  success, img = cap.read()
  hands, img = detector.findHands(img)
  if hands:
    hand = hands[0]
    x, y, w, h = hand['bbox']
    imgWhite = np.ones((imgSize, imgSize, 3), np.uint8) * 255
    imgCrop = img[y - offset:y + h + offset, x - offset:x + w + offset]
```

```
imgCropShape = imgCrop.shape
  aspectRatio = h / w
  if aspectRatio > 1:
    k = imgSize / h
    wCal = math.ceil(k * w)
    imgResize = cv2.resize(imgCrop, (wCal, imgSize))
    imgResizeShape = imgResize.shape
    wGap = math.ceil((imgSize - wCal) / 2)
    imgWhite[:, wGap:wCal + wGap] = imgResize
  else:
    k = imgSize / w
    hCal = math.ceil(k * h)
    imgResize = cv2.resize(imgCrop, (imgSize, hCal))
    imgResizeShape = imgResize.shape
    hGap = math.ceil((imgSize - hCal) / 2)
    imgWhite[hGap:hCal + hGap, :] = imgResize
  cv2.imshow("ImageCrop", imgCrop)
  cv2.imshow("ImageWhite", imgWhite)
cv2.imshow("Image", img)
key = cv2.waitKey(1)
if key == ord("s"):
  counter += 1
  cv2.imwrite(f'{folder}/Image_{time.time()}.jpg',imgWhite)
  print(counter)
```

```
Flask Application:
from flask import Flask, render_template, Response
from flask import Flask, Response, render_template
import cv2
from cvzone.HandTrackingModule import HandDetector
from cvzone. Classification Module import Classifier
import numpy as np
import math
cap = cv2.VideoCapture(0)
detector = HandDetector(maxHands=1)
classifier = Classifier("Model/keras_model.h5", "Model/labels.txt")
offset = 20
imgSize = 300
folder = "Data/C"
counter = 0
labels = ["A", "B", "C"]
while True:
  success, img = cap.read()
  imgOutput = img.copy()
  hands, img = detector.findHands(img)
  if hands:
    hand = hands[0]
    x, y, w, h = hand['bbox']
```

```
imgWhite = np.ones((imgSize, imgSize, 3), np.uint8) * 255
    imgCrop = img[y - offset:y + h + offset, x - offset:x + w + offset]
    imgCropShape = imgCrop.shape
    aspectRatio = h / w
    if aspectRatio > 1:
       k = imgSize / h
       wCal = math.ceil(k * w)
       imgResize = cv2.resize(imgCrop, (wCal, imgSize))
       imgResizeShape = imgResize.shape
       wGap = math.ceil((imgSize - wCal) / 2)
       imgWhite[:, wGap:wCal + wGap] = imgResize
       prediction, index = classifier.getPrediction(imgWhite, draw=False)
       print(prediction, index)
    else:
       k = imgSize / w
       hCal = math.ceil(k * h)
       imgResize = cv2.resize(imgCrop, (imgSize, hCal))
       imgResizeShape = imgResize.shape
       hGap = math.ceil((imgSize - hCal) / 2)
       imgWhite[hGap:hCal + hGap, :] = imgResize
       prediction, index = classifier.getPrediction(imgWhite, draw=False)
    cv2.rectangle(imgOutput, (x - offset, y - offset-50),
             (x - offset+90, y - offset-50+50), (255, 0, 255), cv2.FILLED)
    cv2.putText(imgOutput, labels[index], (x, y -26), cv2.FONT_HERSHEY_COMPLEX,
1.7, (255, 255, 255), 2)
```

4.3 Output



https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ef1PyawQuHcKwgBXEfllyU_qAZyJLHx5/view?usp=share_link

5. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE SCOPE

Nowadays, applications need several kinds of images as sources of information for elucidation and analysis. Several features are to be extracted so as to perform various applications. When an image is transformed from one form to another such as digitizing, scanning, and communicating, storing, etc. degradation occurs. Therefore, the output image has to undertake a process called image enhancement, which contains of a group of methods that seek to develop the visual presence of an image. Image enhancement is fundamentally enlightening the interpretability or awareness of information in images for human listeners and providing better input for other automatic image processing systems. Image then undergoes feature extraction using various methods to make the image more readable by the computer. Sign language recognition system is a powerful tool to preparae an expert knowledge, edge detect and the combination of inaccurate information from different sources. \the intend of convolution neural network is to get the appropriate classification.

Future work

The proposed sign language recognition system used to recognize sign language letters can be further extended to recognize gestures facial expressions. Instead of displaying letter labels it will be more appropriate to display sentences as more appropriate translation of language. This also increases readability. The scope of different sign languages can be increased. More training data can be added to detect the letter with more accuracy. This project can further be extended to convert the signs to speech.