

Wearable Sensor-Based Human Behavior Understanding and Recognition in Daily Life for Smart Environments

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Abstract—Behavior recognition using motion sensors is getting prominence over other systems such as e-healthcare and life-log analysis systems especially in the healthcare domain for improving life expectancy and healthcare access. Accelerometers have been used in smart environments to recognize behavior since the last decade but heavy computation involved in recognizer model made them less acceptable. This paper proposed a computationally less expensive model with better recognition results for improved human behavior understanding system. Hierarchical features are used to ensure robustness as a performance attribute in the proposed system. These hierarchical features involve statistical features like signal magnitude, abrupt changes, and temporal variation among coordinates. Moreover, the extracted features are examined through the process of learning, training, and symbolization with the help of linear support vector machine. The examination of our recognition results based on feature extraction strategy show that our model excels others in terms of accuracy and computation time. The proposed system should be considered as a recommendation for systems involving human behavior recognition i.e. kindergarten, elderly at old-age houses and patients with Parkinson diseases.

Keywords— feature extractions, human behavior understanding, pattern recognition, wearable devices

I. INTRODUCTION

The most recent advancements in detector/sensor are making residential (i.e., home, apartments, etc.) and non-residential (i.e., office, hospitals, educational institutes, etc.) buildings securer in pursuit of improving human life style [1]. By and large, these innovations either in vision sensing field or even in wearable sensors have revolutionized the health-related [2] industries in specific [3, 4]. Such monitoring sensors are applicable to several practical applications such as security systems, entertainment, user authentication, 3D games, healthcare and pedestrian motion [5-9]. For the reliable video [10] and imaging data analysis of human behaviors, depth [11] camera and bumblebee cameras [12] are largely used to get more relevant information about the subject. In attempt to adapt the environment, these sensors limit the subject's movement [13] to an extent and more complex issues i.e., privacy because they can't be carried to private places such as bedrooms etc. Alongside, these vision sensors which might be used cautiously. On the other hand, wearable sensors i.e. accelerometers, gyroscopes, electrocardiogram and magnetometers [14] offer more in-depth analysis of motion primitives with less power consumption and importantly taking care of the privacy issues [15, 16]. Especially, accelerometers have got prominence in fields involving motion but its importance in the field of patient behavior

recognition, activity recognition and gait pattern detection is gaining more strength. With the ability to measure motion across three dimensions [17], it allows extraction of more complex features [18-20] which can later be classified into different behaviors.

For the enhancement of life in expectancy and medication services, researcher adopted different feature extraction and processing strategies with wearable sensor data to achieve significance in behavior recognition. H. Mizuno *et al.* [21], introduced a motion and positional feature extraction methodology for human body and applied discriminating techniques. But complex behaviors got neglected due to the complexity associated with multiple sensors data analysis. C. Zhu *et al.* [22] formulated a Bayesian network model which encompassed Laplace smoothing and likelihood estimation algorithm for the analysis of inconsistency associated with more than one body worn sensor in a smart environment. B. Bruno *et al.* [23] employed Gaussian mixture model to study accelerometer signals as a combination of gaussian components and used them in congruence with feature identity algorithm to segregate motion primitives. S. Eisa *et al.* [24] presented a comparative behavior classification system using decision trees and fuzzy logic with the help of attached sensor and recognize different behaviors.

In this paper, we have put forward a model that encompasses the human movements in the form of relevant hierarchical features extracted from an accelerometer sensor. The proposed model passes the data through three different phases i.e. elimination of unwanted signal components, hierarchical feature extraction with symbolization and classification between different behaviors. The process starts with the denoising of signal with the help of 3rd order median filter. The raw processed signals are further used to extract meaningful features to help classifier to draw a clear-cut boundary between different behaviors. Hierarchical features are employed which include signal magnitude, min/max components, mean and standard deviation. These features are then symbolized and arranged in feature vectors. Lastly, signals are classified into behaviors with linear support vector machine. To test the validity of model, two universally accepted accelerometer datasets Human Motion Primitives (HMP) and WISDM datasets are used to measure accuracy against other state-of-the-art methods.

The organization of this paper being proposed is as follows: Section II is descriptive towards overall architecture involving noise reduction, robust feature extraction and segregating classifier for the system under proposition. Section III delineates datasets and post experiment results

along with classifier description. Section IV, finally summaries the paper with a conclusion.

II. SYSTEM DESIGN

A. Proposed System Architecture

The proposed recognition model encompasses the pre-processing phase as a most significant part towards obtaining more trustable signal coordinates. The noise in the signal is dealt with the help of median filter where 3rd order median filter is used for the removal of exaggerated signal peaks [26-28]. After sanitizing the signals, we proposed features that can represent behaviors in the form of differentiated feature vectors. These features processed variation detection in both orientation and temporal form to assist the later stages of the system i.e. classification. While, symbolization algorithm defines jurisdiction for each behavior on the basis of proposed hierarchical features. Fig. 1 shows the whole structure of the proposed model.

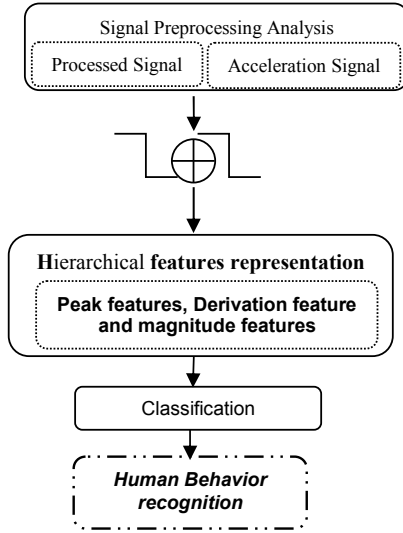


Fig. 1. Overall proposed flow for behavior recognition system using hierarchical features

B. Data processing and Noise reduction

Noise is an unwanted component of the data which may have entered the system due to transition from one state to another or may be due to the hardware issues. However, its compensation is important before data could be used for further processing. During pre-processing phase, the proposed model uses a median filter [29-31] so that the actual signal contents are retained with very minimal loss of information [32]. Fig 2. Show the plotted noisy and filtered signal for each signal component x , y , z individually.

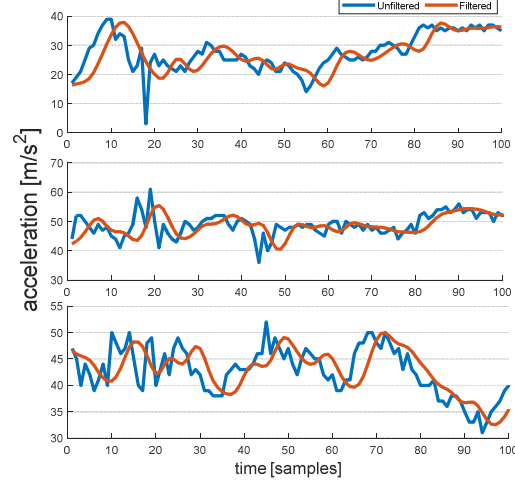


Fig. 2. A comparison of raw and sanitized signal components. (a) unfiltered and filtered x signal component (b) processed and unprocessed y signal component (c) noisy and denoised z signal component

C. Hierarchical Features Representation

Feature representation and extraction is an important phase of a system because it would later act as an input to the classifier. The more relevant and cohesive in nature the features, the lesser misclassified results would be obtained. Proposed model includes five signal coordinates features for human behavior recognition [33-35]. A diagrammatic relationship between features is shown in Fig. 3.

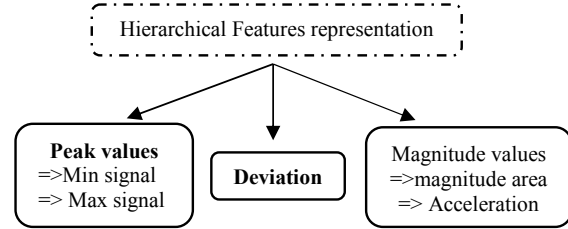


Fig. 3. Statistically dependent feature represented as hierarchical features representation

1) Magnitude signal feature

The magnitude signal feature is combined effect of each signal component at i^{th} position [36, 37] in the sample taken as;

$$Sig(mag) = \sqrt{x_i^2 + y_i^2 + z_i^2} \quad (1)$$

where $x_{(i)}$ is the actual point value of signal x , as is the same for $y_{(i)}$ and $z_{(i)}$ of each windowing signal [38-40].

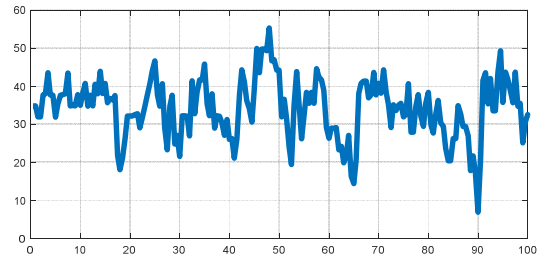


Fig. 4. The instantaneous magnitude involving x , y , and z components of accelerometer

2) Min signal feature

Behaviors involving less inter-sample variation and less energy can be filtered out with the help of min signal feature $Sig(min_e)$ as;

$$Sig(min_e) = \min(e(p < Q_s)) \quad (2)$$

where, e is the proxy for signal coordinates i.e. x , y , and z , while p accounts for the current value of the signal under consideration and Q_s provides quartile values having negative peak [41]. Fig. 5 elicits the min signal value taken from actual signal component (i.e. blue line).

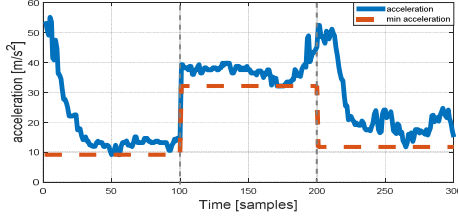


Fig 5. The 1D profile of the combined signals as actual signal acceleration and its respective min values of walk, brush teeth and Use telephone.

3) Max signal feature

Max signal feature is the indicator of the maximum energy signal in the sample under consideration. With the behavior being rigorous in nature, the peak would act as a good discriminator among other less rigorous behaviors [42, 43]. A visual depiction is shown in Fig. 6, taken from *walk*, *brush teeth* and *use telephone*.

$$Sig(max_e) = \max(e(p < Q_e)) \quad (3)$$

where Q_e is the 0.9th quartile of the signal component, having value greater than the 90% of data is considered as positive noise.

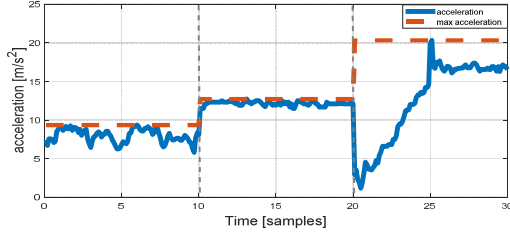


Fig 6. The 1D signal structure representing the max signal component in walk, brush teeth and use telephone different behaviors.

4) Standard deviation feature

Standard deviation (SD) feature is a measure of dispersion which helps in discovery of dispersion pattern around the mean [44, 45]. SD as a mathematical function of mean and each signal component is presented in eq (4).

$$Sig(std) = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \bar{X})^2}{n-1}} \quad (4)$$

Individual description of each parameter is as follows: X_i is the whole signal component taken one at a time with \bar{X} as mean of the whole data and n is the size of sample [46, 47].

In Fig. 7, the relative position of actual signal w.r.t to its mean is shown.

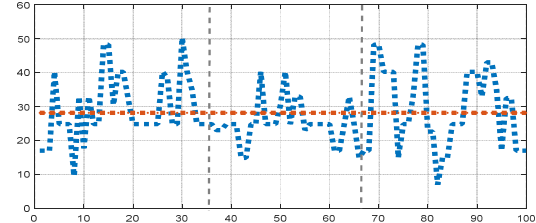


Fig. 7. The disperion of signal values around the mean using 1D plot

5) Signal Magnitude Area feature

The signal magnitude area $Area(mag)$ is a measure of the area of signal covers just like integration does for a curve. In eq. (5), the derivation involves usage of all three signal components x , y , z . It is used to measure the subject's overall impact of behavior [48, 49] and is a good measure of inactive and active phase transition between behaviors.

$$Area(mag) = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i + \sum_{i=1}^n y_i + \sum_{i=1}^n z_i \quad (5)$$

where x_i , y_i , and z_i are placeholders for x , y , and z signal components of the accelerometer, respectively.

D. Classification Among Different Behaviors

To discriminate between the data components, a mathematical model which can draw clear distinction is inevitable [50-52]. To support the above argument, we needed to have an optimal margin-based classifier with lesser complexity as linear support vector machine [53]. SVM being a binary classifier offers multi-class classifier with the combination of multiple one versus one classifier [54]. Due to the robustness of imbalanced datasets, one-versus-one svm [55, 56] has been applied for training and testing. We used decision function [57, 58] having two possible values to compare the different behavior classes [59] as;

$$Decision = \text{sign}\left(\sum_{i=1}^{\dim} w_i x_i + b\right) \quad (6)$$

where w_i defines the slope associated with the hyper plane, while x_i accounts for feature vector. The factor b is a biasing factor for proper data distribution. To achieve multiclass classification, one-versus-one strategy was used between the behaviors (see Fig. 8).

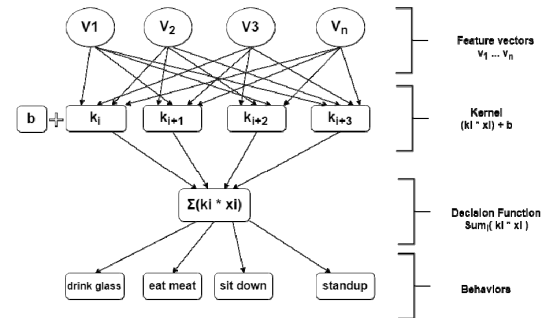


Fig 8. One-versus-one linear support vector machine structure for behavior prediction

III. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

For the validation of the proposed recognition system, two renowned publicly available datasets were used i.e. HMP recognition dataset [23] and WISDM dataset [25]. The proceeding subsection further describes the datasets and the results of applying proposed novelty on these datasets, respectively. Lastly, these results have been compared against up-to-dated recognizer models.

A. Dataset Descriptions

The **HMP dataset** [23] embodies motion data taken from acceleration measuring device i.e. accelerometer. This motion data is further symbolized in **14 different behaviors** i.e. *brush teeth, climb stairs, comb hair, descend stairs, drink glass, eat meat, eat soup, getup bed, lie-down bed, pour water, sit-down chair, standup chair, use telephone and walk*. A group of volunteers (i.e., both male and female) aging between **19-81** are used to gather different behaviors motion data via **wrist** worn accelerometer. The **accelerometer** used in this experiment had a capturing sensitivity ranging from -1.5 to 1.5. Furthermore, these raw triaxial signals are encoded ranging from 0 to 63 to make it more readable.

Second dataset being considered in this paper is **WISDM** dataset [25] having **6** behaviors including; *sitting, standing, walking, jogging, upstairs and downstairs*. The pre-installed accelerometer in mobile phone is used for gathering signal coordinates in a laboratory environment with a sampling rate of 50 Hz. Data across each row is divided as behavior type, timestamp, and accelerometer signals.

B. Experimental Evaluation of HMP Recognition dataset

The proposed system was evaluated over all 14 behaviors using extracted hierarchical features. With linear support machine as a classifier; an accuracy of 74.02% was achieved.

Moreover, a comparison of proposed method against state-of-the-art methods [23] is embodied in Table I.

TABLE I. COMPARATIVE STUDY OF STATE-OF-THE-ART METHODS AND PROPOSED STRATEGY ON ACCURACY PRODUCED USING HMP DATASET

Types of Behaviors	Mahalanobis Distance [23]	Proposed methods
CS	38.3	94.11
DG	90.91	88.23
GB	88.89	85.29
PW	93.33	100
SD	95	81.81
SU	0	82.35
W	35.71	82.35

CS = Climb stairs, DG = Drink glass, GB = Get up bed, PW = Pour water, SD = Sit down chair, SU = Standup chair, W = walk.

C. Experimental Evaluation of WISDM dataset

The same proposed model was applied over WISDM dataset and a mean accuracy of **82.77% was achieved for six different behaviors using extracted hierarchical features and linear SVM**. Table II mentioned about the comparison results with existing methods.

TABLE II. RESULTS OF APPLYING PROPOSED METHODOLY VERSUS STATE-OF-THE-ART STRATEGIES ON WISDM DATASET

Methods	Recognition Accuracy (%)
Star with out learning [62]	23.4
ISAR [63]	75.21
Star with learning [62]	77.29
Proposed hierarchical features	82.77

IV. CONCLUSION

In this paper, our proposition for accelerometer based human behavior recognition has been presented to expedite the recognition process with in an acceptable range of accuracy in indoor/outdoor environments. The system encapsulates initial data processing for the raw signals having signal magnitude computation along with hierarchical features extraction. These features produced competent results and also proved to be less costly in terms of computational expenses. With above points, we can conclude that our proposed model can work better than state-of-the-art model in terms of accuracy and efficiency.

Future effort in this domain will be focused towards bringing more relevant features to the hierarchical set of features i.e. angular displacement and environment discovery etc. Furthermore, we would have plan towards making our own annotated behavior dataset which would involve more sophisticated behaviors such as workplace, patients, sports and home routines in real environments.

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