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# ABSTRACT

The types of data available and the relative merits are explored allowing examination of the features which can be extracted. Classifying the manual aspects of sign (similar to gestures) is then discussed from a tracking and non-tracking viewpoint before summarizing some of

the approaches to the non-manual aspects of sign languages. Methods for combining the sign classification results into full Sign Language Recognition are given showing the progression towards speech recognition techniques and the further adaptations required for the sign specific case.

Sign Language Recognition aims to develop algorithms and methods to correctly identify a sequence of produced signs and to understand their meaning. Many approaches to SLR (Sign Language Recognition) incorrectly treat the problem as Gesture Recognition (GR). So, research has thus far focused on identifying optimal features and classification methods to correctly label a given sign from a set of possible signs. However, sign language is far more than just a collection of well specified gestures

Finally, the current frontiers are discussed in this project. This covers the task of continuous sign recognition, the work towards true signer independence, how to effectively combine the different modalities of sign, making use of the current linguistic research and adapting to larger more noisy data sets.

ii

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

**Chapters Page No**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** | | **i** |
| **ABSTRACT** | | **ii** |
| **1. INTRODUCTION** | | **1** |
| **2. LITERATURE SURVEY** | | **6** |
| **3. SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS SPECIFICATIONS** | | **8** |
| **4. SYSTEM DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY** | | **10** |
| **5. RESULTS** | | **18** |
|  | |  |
| **6. CONCLUSION** | | **21** |
| **REFERENCES** | | **22** |
|  |
|  | |  |
|  | |  |
|  | |  |