

Team Members

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Batch – D2

Project Title:

Real-Time Hand Gesture Recognition for Multi-DOF Robotic Arm Control.

Aim: To design and implement a real-time system that recognizes human hand gestures using MediaPipe and machine learning, and uses the recognized gestures to control a multi-DOF robotic arm.

Objective:

- To detect and track hand gestures in real time.
- To train a machine learning model that classifies hand gestures based on extracted features.
- To interface the ML model output with a multiDOF robotic arm for motion control.

Tools & Software Required:

- **Python** – Google Colab
- **Libraries:** mediapipe , numpy, cv2, serial, flask, ngrok
- **Dataset:** hand_landmarks.csv

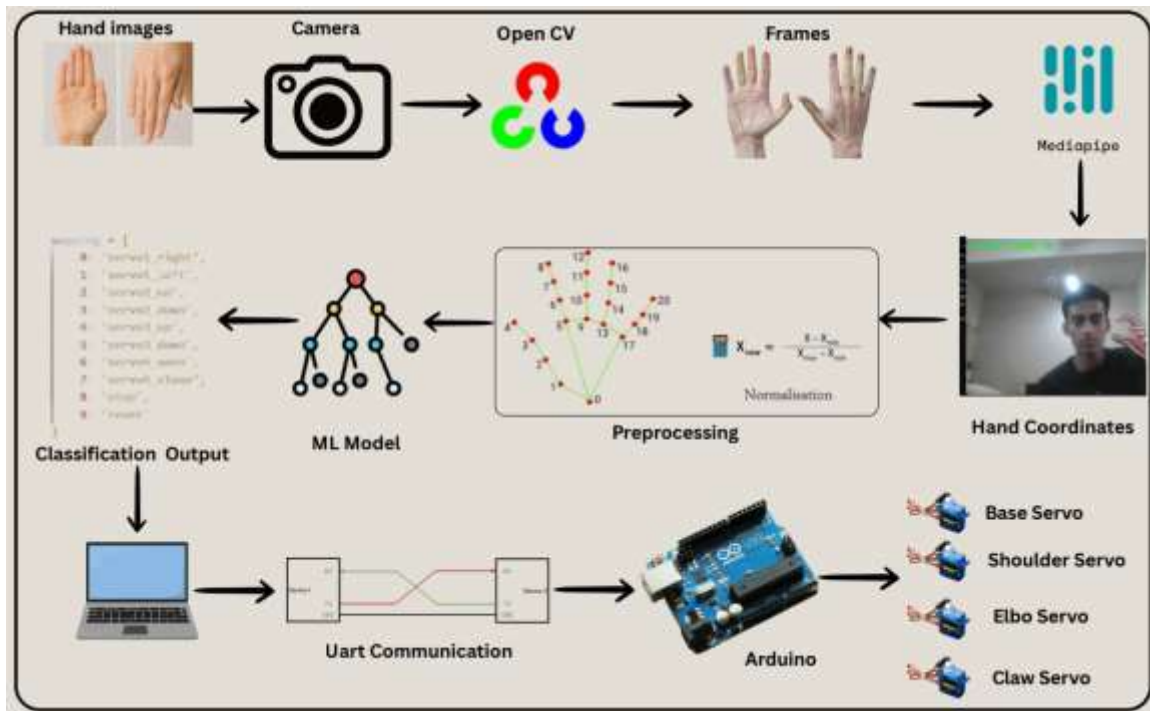
Theory :

The system is based on real-time hand-gesture recognition using MediaPipe, a computer vision framework that detects 21 key landmark points on the human hand. These landmarks capture the shape and orientation of the hand for every gesture. Since different users place their hands at different distances and angles, the raw coordinates must be normalized. Min-Max normalization is applied to scale all landmark values between 0 and 1 so that the model receives consistent and comparable input data.

Machine learning is used to classify the hand gestures from the extracted landmark features. Models such as XGBoost, Random Forest, Decision Tree, Naïve Bayes, and SVM trained on labeled gesture data. Among these, Decision Tree is preferred due to its high accuracy, fast training speed, and ability to handle complex patterns in the data. PCA is also used to reduce feature dimensionality, improve model performance, and remove redundant information. After training, each model is evaluated using accuracy scores and classification reports.

The final recognized gesture is mapped to specific actions of a multi-DOF robotic arm. When the system is running in real time, MediaPipe detects hand landmarks, the trained machine learning model predicts the gesture, and the mapped command is sent to the robotic arm via serial communication. This allows the user to control the robotic arm using simple hand movements, making the system efficient, intuitive, and suitable for applications like assistive robotics, touchless interfaces, and human-machine interaction.

Block Diagram



Hand Gestures



Data Collection

The dataset for this project was created using a real-time hand-landmark extraction pipeline built with OpenCV and MediaPipe Hands, which detects 21 key hand landmarks. The goal of data collection was to capture multiple gesture samples across different orientations, ensuring high-quality data for training a gesture-recognition model.

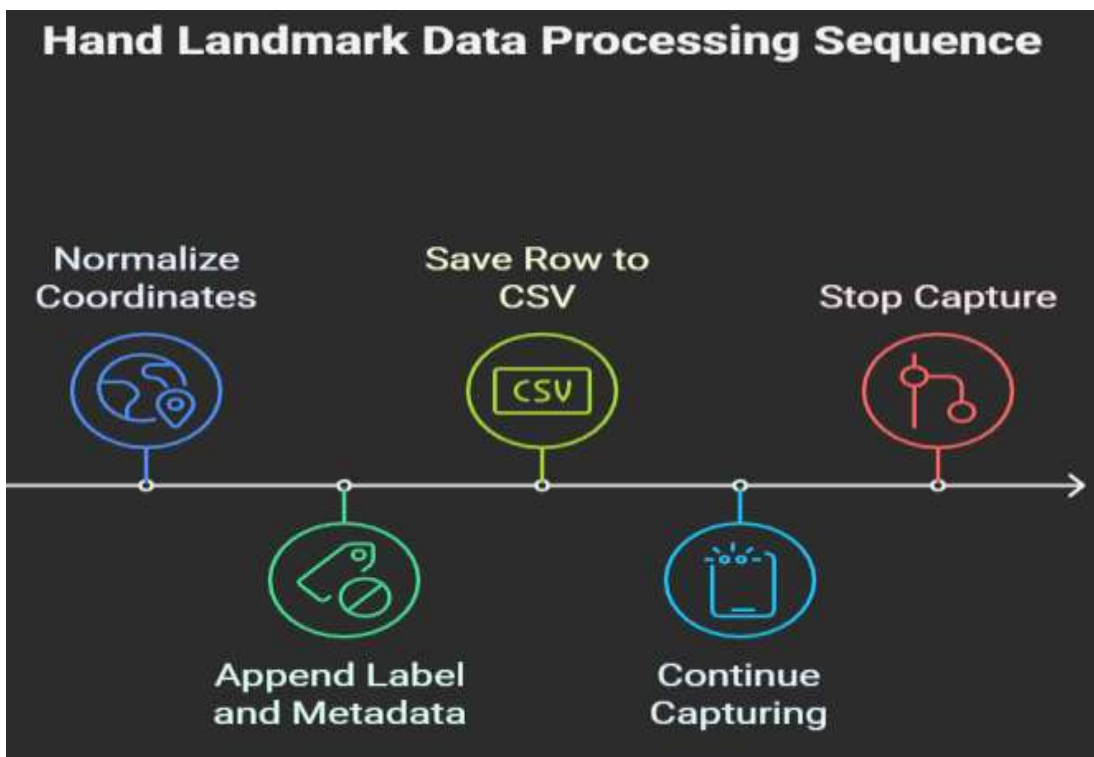
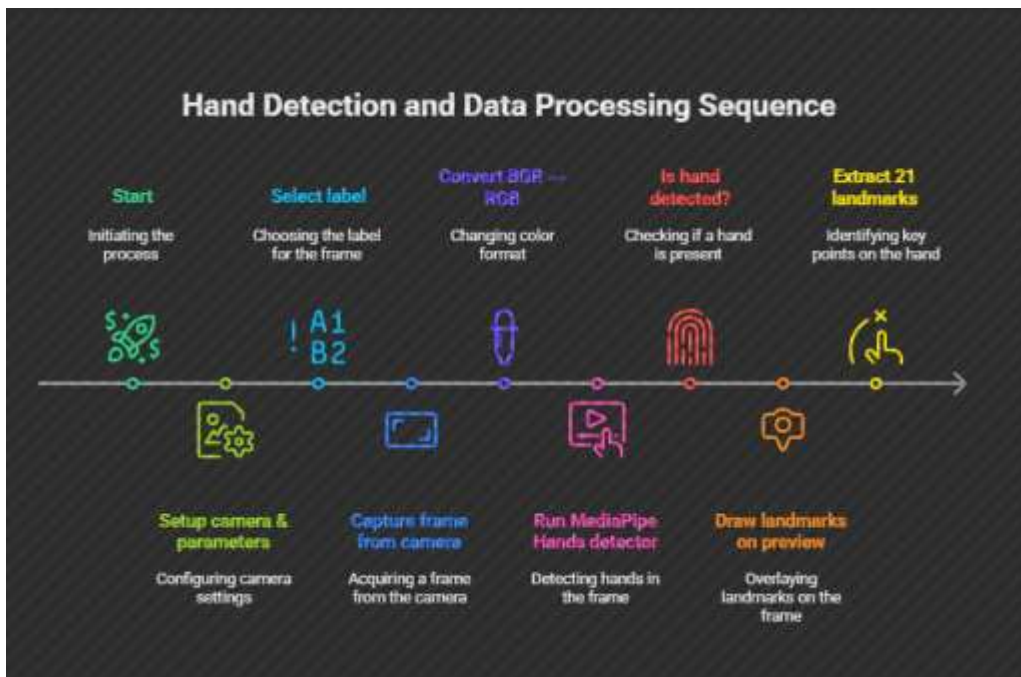
Purpose of Data Collection:

The purpose of data collection was to create a labeled dataset of hand gesture landmark coordinates. Each gesture was assigned a numerical label (0-9), and the corresponding 21 MediaPipe landmarks (x,y) were captured and saved into a CSV file for machine learning model training.

Data Collection Environment:

- The webcam (640×480 resolution) was used as the primary capture device.
- The video stream was flipped horizontally for natural user interaction.
- MediaPipe Hands was used with:
 - min_detection_confidence = 0.7
 - min_tracking_confidence = 0.7

Data Capture Process




```

Random Forest Accuracies:
Train: 0.99479618386817
Validation: 1.0
Test: 0.9889570552147239

Classification Report (Test Set):
      precision    recall  f1-score   support

0         1.00        1.00        1.00        75
1         1.00        0.99        0.99        81
2         0.98        1.00        0.99        81
3         0.99        0.98        0.98        84
4         1.00        1.00        1.00        79
5         1.00        0.99        0.99        77
6         0.97        0.97        0.97        88
7         0.98        0.99        0.98        82
8         1.00        1.00        1.00        81
9         0.99        0.99        0.99        87

 accuracy          0.99          0.99          0.99        815
 macro avg         0.99          0.99          0.99        815
 weighted avg      0.99          0.99          0.99        815

['/content/drive/Mydrive/gesture_controlled_robotic_arm/mediapipe_data/models/ten_classes/hand_gesture_all_lesson_model_rf.pkl']

```

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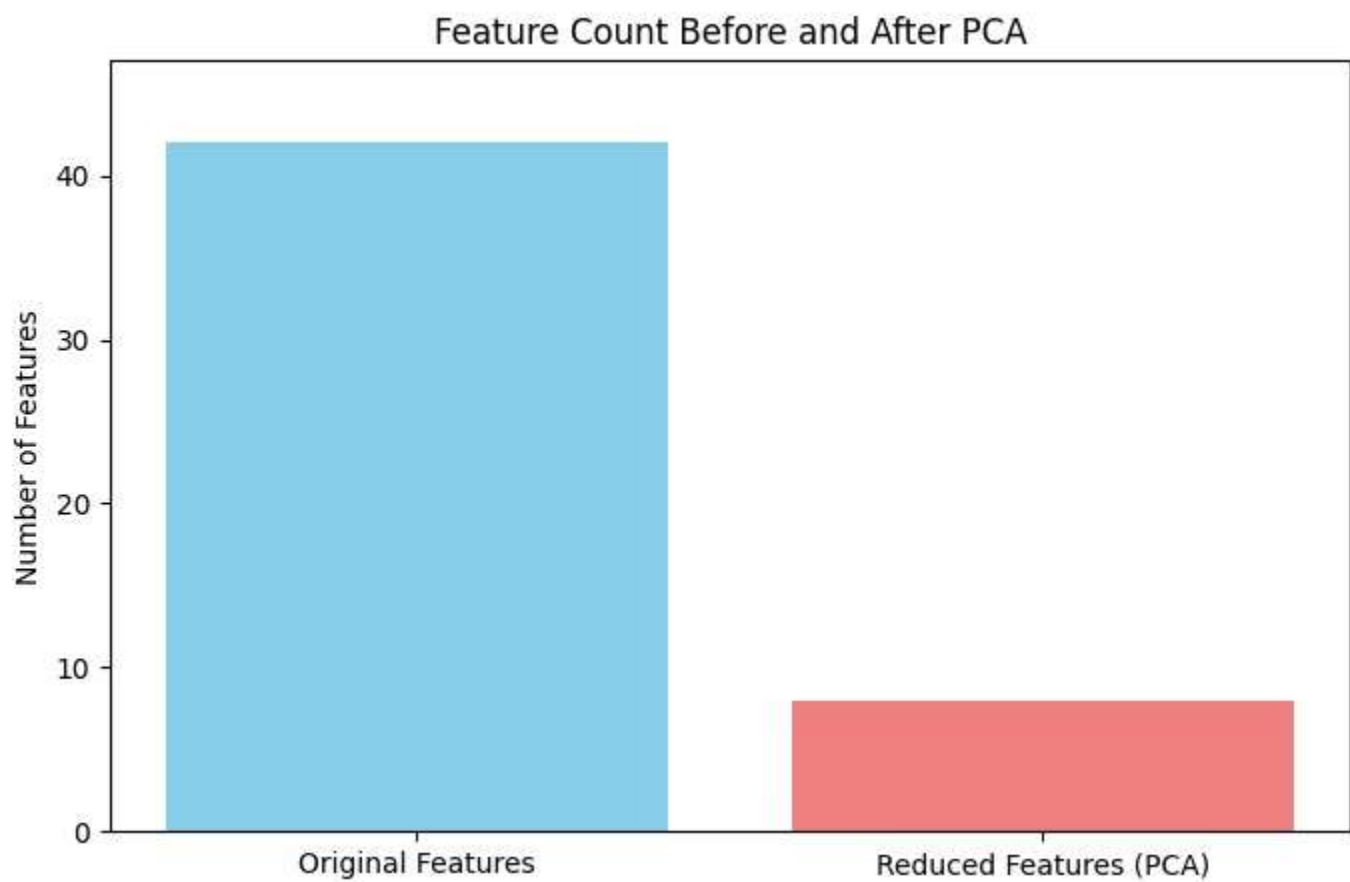
Decision Tree Accuracies:
Train: 1.0
Validation: 1.0
Test: 0.992638036809816

Classification Report (Test Set):
      precision    recall  f1-score   support

0         1.00        0.99        0.99        75
1         1.00        1.00        1.00        81
2         0.99        1.00        0.99        81
3         0.99        0.99        0.99        84
4         1.00        0.99        0.99        79
5         1.00        1.00        1.00        77
6         0.98        0.99        0.98        88
7         0.99        0.99        0.99        82
8         0.99        1.00        0.99        81
9         1.00        0.99        0.99        87

 accuracy          0.99          0.99          0.99        815
 macro avg         0.99          0.99          0.99        815
 weighted avg      0.99          0.99          0.99        815

```



```
Data splitting with PCA complete.  
X_train_pca shape: (4612, 8)  
X_test_pca shape: (815, 8)
```

XGBoost model trained on PCA data.
Random Forest model trained on PCA data.
Decision Tree model trained on PCA data.

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	1.00	1.00	1.00	75
1	1.00	1.00	1.00	81
2	1.00	1.00	1.00	81
3	1.00	1.00	1.00	84
4	1.00	1.00	1.00	79
5	1.00	1.00	1.00	77
6	1.00	1.00	1.00	88
7	1.00	1.00	1.00	82
8	1.00	1.00	1.00	81
9	1.00	1.00	1.00	87
accuracy			1.00	815
macro avg	1.00	1.00	1.00	815
weighted avg	1.00	1.00	1.00	815

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	1.00	1.00	1.00	75
1	1.00	1.00	1.00	81
2	1.00	1.00	1.00	81
3	1.00	1.00	1.00	84
4	1.00	1.00	1.00	79
5	1.00	1.00	1.00	77
6	1.00	1.00	1.00	88
7	1.00	1.00	1.00	82
8	1.00	1.00	1.00	81
9	1.00	1.00	1.00	87
accuracy			1.00	815
macro avg	1.00	1.00	1.00	815
weighted avg	1.00	1.00	1.00	815

0	1.00	1.00	1.00	75
1	1.00	1.00	1.00	81
2	0.99	1.00	0.99	81
3	1.00	1.00	1.00	84
4	1.00	1.00	1.00	79
5	1.00	1.00	1.00	77
6	0.99	0.99	0.99	88
7	1.00	0.99	0.99	82
8	1.00	1.00	1.00	81
9	1.00	1.00	1.00	87
accuracy			1.00	815
macro avg	1.00	1.00	1.00	815
weighted avg	1.00	1.00	1.00	815

```

--- Test Accuracies (Without PCA) ---
XGBoost: 0.996319018404908
Random Forest: 0.9889570552147239
Decision Tree: 0.992638036809816

--- Test Accuracies (With PCA) ---
XGBoost: 1.0
Random Forest: 1.0
Decision Tree: 0.9975460122699387

--- Comparison ---
XGBoost: Accuracy slightly improved with PCA.
Random Forest: Accuracy improved to 1.0 with PCA.
Decision Tree: Accuracy slightly improved with PCA.

```

XGBoost will be used for this project

The accuracy of the other models:

Naïve Bayes

```

Accuracy: 0.9895641497851443
array([[175,  0,  0,  0,  0,  0,  0,  0,  0,  3],
       [  0, 155,  0,  0,  0,  0,  1,  0,  0,  0],
       [  0,  0, 172,  0,  0,  0,  2,  0,  0,  0],
       [  0,  0,  0, 159,  0,  0,  0,  0,  0,  1],
       [  0,  0,  0,  0, 161,  0,  0,  3,  0,  0],
       [  0,  0,  1,  0,  0, 141,  0,  0,  0,  0],
       [  0,  0,  0,  0,  0,  0, 151,  6,  0,  0],
       [  0,  0,  0,  0,  0,  0,  0, 163,  0,  0],
       [  0,  0,  0,  0,  0,  0,  0,  0, 166,  0],
       [  0,  0,  0,  0,  0,  0,  0,  0,  0, 169]])

```

SVM Classifier

Accuracy: 0.998158379373849					
Classification Report:					
	precision	recall	f1-score	support	
0	0.99	1.00	1.00	178	
1	1.00	1.00	1.00	156	
2	1.00	0.99	1.00	174	
3	1.00	0.99	1.00	160	
4	1.00	1.00	1.00	164	
5	0.99	0.99	0.99	142	
6	1.00	1.00	1.00	157	
7	0.99	1.00	1.00	163	
8	1.00	1.00	1.00	166	
9	1.00	1.00	1.00	169	
accuracy			1.00	1629	
macro avg	1.00	1.00	1.00	1629	
weighted avg	1.00	1.00	1.00	1629	

Testing Model on Live Video









Conclusion

This experiment demonstrated that XGBoost is highly effective for classifying hand gestures using normalized MediaPipe landmarks. PCA further improved the performance by reducing feature dimensions while maintaining perfect accuracy. The strength and consistency of XGBoost make it ideal for real-time applications where fast and accurate gesture recognition is required. Based on the results, XGBoost is chosen as the final model for controlling the multi-DOF robotic arm. Therefore, the system is efficient, reliable, and well-suited for practical gesture-based robotic control.