SIGN LANGUAGE RECOGNITION USING CONVOLUTIONAL NEURAL NETWORKS

ABSTRACT

Sign Language Recognition (SLR) targets on interpreting the sign language into text or speech, so as to facilitate the communication between deaf-mute people and ordinary people. This task has broad social impact, but is still very challenging due to the complexity and large variations in hand actions. Existing methods for SLR use hand-crafted features to describe sign language motion and build classification models based on those features. However, it is difficult to design reliable features to adapt to the large variations of hand gestures. To approach this problem, we propose a novel convolutional neural network (CNN) which extracts discriminative spatial-temporal features from raw video stream automatically without any prior knowledge, avoiding designing features. To boost the performance, multi-channels of video streams, including color information, depth clue, and body joint positions, are used as input to the CNN in order to integrate color, depth and trajectory information. We validate the proposed model on a real dataset collected with Microsoft Kinect and demonstrate its effectiveness over the traditional approaches based on hand-crafted features

**Existing System**

Sign language, as one of the most widely used communication means for hearing-impaired people, is expressed by variations of hand-shapes, body movement, and even facial expression. Since it is difficult to collaboratively exploit the information from hand-shapes and body movement trajectory, sign language recognition is still a very challenging task. This paper proposes an effective recognition model to translate sign language into text or speech in order to help the hearing impaired communicate with normal people through sign language.

Technically speaking, the main challenge of sign language recognition lies in developing descriptors to express hand-shapes and motion trajectory. In particular, hand-shape description involves tracking hand regions in video stream, segmenting hand-shape images from complex background in each frame and gestures recognition problems.

**Proposed System**

CNNs have been applied in video stream classification recently years. A potential concern of CNNs is time consuming. It costs several weeks or months to train a CNNs with million-scale in million videos. Fortunately, it is still possible to achieve real-time efficiency, with the help of CUDA for parallel processing. We propose to apply CNNs to extract spatial and temporal features from video stream for Sign Language Recognition (SLR). Existing methods for SLR use hand-crafted features to describe sign language motion and build classification model based on these features. In contrast, CNNs can capture motion information from raw video data automatically, avoiding designing features. We develop a CNNs taking multiple types of data as input. This architecture integrates color, depth and trajectory information by performing convolution and subsampling on adjacent video frames. Experimental results demonstrate that 3D CNNs can significantly outperform Gaussian mixture model with Hidden Markov model (GMM-HMM) baselines on some sign words recorded by ourselves.

**HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS:**

* System : MINIMUM i3.
* Hard Disk : 40 GB.
* Ram : 4 GB.

**SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS:**

* **Operating System:** Windows 8
* **Coding Language**: Python 3.7