Build a smart garage door opener using computer vision

Present by Wing Chan

Motivation

- The global home automation market size was USD 45.8 Billion in 2017, is projected to reach USD 114 Billion by the end of 2025, exhibiting a CAGR of 12.1% during the forecast period.
- In the US, almost every household has at least one garage door opener installed which creates a huge opportunity for smart home integration
- The typical price range for a smart home garage opener is between \$200 and \$400. Some aftermarket smart home devices are even cheaper. For example, Chamberlain's myQ Smart Garage Hub is only \$30.



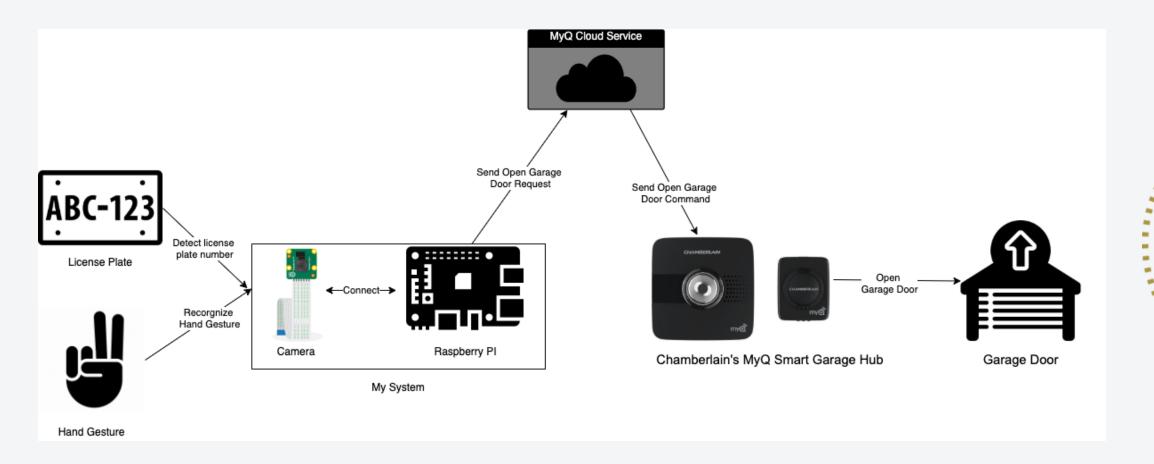
Technical Approach

- Integrate with Chamberlain's myQ Smart Garage Hub and its cloud APIs.
- Added features using computer vision
 - License plate detection
 - Hand gesture recognition
- Raspberry Pi connected with camera





High-level architecture diagram





License Plate Detection

- Automatic number-plate recognition (ANPR) perform optical character recognition (OCR) on images taken by cameras.
- Involve 3 steps:
 - 1. Plate localization detect and localize a license plate on the picture
 - 2. Character segmentation extract individual characters on the plates
 - 3. Optical character recognition (OCR) find the matching letters or numbers from character segmentation



Hand gesture recognition

- One of the most challenging problem for computer vision
- Recognizing hand gestures from real-time video streams and identifying hand region away from its background objects
- Involve 4 steps:
 - 1. Hand detection
 - 2. Fingers and palm segmentation
 - 3. Fingers recognition
 - 4. Hand gesture recognition



Implementation

- Hardware modules
 - MyQ Smart Garage Hub
 - Raspberry Pi 4
 - Raspberry Pi Camera
- Software packages
 - Pymyq python library for interacting with the Chamberlain MyQ
 API https://github.com/arraylabs/pymyq
 - License Plate Detector by Apoorva Dave detects license plate of car and recognizes its characters https://github.com/apoorva-dave/LicensePlateDetector
 - Gesture Recognition by Gogul Ilango recognizing "Hand Gestures" using OpenCV and Python. https://github.com/Gogul09/gesture-recognition

Demo

https://github.com/wingchanatibsa/LearningSessions/tree/master/SmartGarrageDoorOpener/demo

Results & Challenges

- Results
 - Good performance if it is under a strictly controlled environment
 - Many unpredictable situations that could affect the accuracy of CV result
- Challenges
 - 1. Install python 3.8 on Raspberry Pi OS for using myQ python library
 - 2. Reflective surface or chrome trim on your car affect the accuracy of license plate detection
 - 3. Hard to detect hand gesture in outdoor environment