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# Smart Bridge: Sign Language Detection and Real-Time Translation Using Deep Learning

**Mr.M.Anbarasu**
Department of IT
Associate Professor
Tirumala Engineering College
Andhra Pradesh, India
ambusuriyanmtechphd@gmail.com

**Induri Tejaswini**
Department of IT
Tirumala Engineering College
Andhra Pradesh, India
induritejaswini2004@gmail.com

**Shaik Sadhika Parveen**
Department of IT
Tirumala Engineering College
Andhra Pradesh, India
sadhikaparveen30@gmail.com

**Chinthaginjala Naga Lakshmi**
Department of IT
Tirumala Engineering College
Andhra Pradesh, India
Chinthaginjalanagalakshmi22@gmail.com

**Boggavarapu Vaishnavi**
Department of IT
Tirumala Engineering College
Andhra Pradesh, India
boggavarapuvaishnavi3@gmail.com

## ABSTRACT

Communication is a fundamental aspect of human interaction, enabling individuals to share ideas, thoughts, and emotions. However, people with hearing and speech impairments face significant challenges in communicating with others, as they primarily rely on sign language. Since most people are not familiar with sign language, a communication gap exists between deaf and normal individuals.The SMART BRIDGE project aims to address this issue by developing a real-time sign language translation system using advanced computer vision and deep learning techniques. The system captures hand gestures using a webcam and processes them with the help of Medi- aPipe, which extracts hand landmarks with high accuracy. These landmarks represent the position and movement of fingers and hands.The extracted features are then fed into a Temporal Convolu- tional Network (TCN), a deep learning model that is effective in handling sequential data. The model recognizes gesture patterns and classifies them intopredefined sign language gestures. The recognized gestures are then converted into text and further transformed into speech output using text-to-speech technology.The proposed system opgenrates in real-time, does not require any special harharddware such as gloves or l

IndexTerms—Sign Language Recognition, DeepLearning, MediaPipe, Temporal Convolutional Networks, Real-time Translation.

## I.INTRODUCTION

Communication is essential in daily life, but hearing and speech-impaired people face difficulties in interacting with others. They use sign language, which is not understood by most people, creat- ing a communication gap.

Earlier systems used sensor-based devices like gloves to detect hand movements, but these were expensive and inconvenient. Later, camera-based systems were developed using computer vision techniques, which improved usability.

With the advancement of artificial intelligence and deep learning, gesture recognition has become more accurate and efficient. Technologies like MediaPipe help in detecting hand movements in real-time.

However, many existing systems still face issues such as cost, complexity, and lack of real-time performance. Therefore, a simple, affordable, and real-time solution like SMART BRIDGE is needed to improve communication. The SMART BRIDGE project focuses on developing a real-time sign language translation system that can recognize hand gestures and convert them into text and speech. The system is designed to work using a standard camera without requiring any special hardware, making it affordable and easy to use.

The scope of this project includes recognizing a set of predefined sign language gestures and providing accurate output in real-time. It can be used in various fields such as education, public services, healthcare, and daily communication to assist hearing-impaired individuals.

The system can be further extended by increasing the number of supported gestures, improving accuracy, and integrating multiple languages. It can also be enhanced with mobile applications and cloud-based deployment for wider accessibility.

Overall, the project aims to provide a scalable and practical solution to reduce the communication gap between deaf and normal people.

# II.LITERATURE REVIEW

Several approaches have been proposed for sign language recognition using machine learning and deep learning techniques.Traditional methods such as Hidden Markov Models (HMM) were initially used for sequence modeling but showed limited performance with complex gestures. Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN) improved spatial feature extraction but lacked temporal understanding.Recent approaches using LSTM networks demonstrated improved performance in sequential data processing, but they suffer from high computational cost and slow training. Temporal Convolutional Networks (TCN) have emerged as a better alternative due to parallel processing and long-term dependency capture.However, existing systems still face challenges such as low accuracy, noise in gesture prediction, and lack of real-time stability. The proposed system addresses these limitations using a hybrid approach with enhanced sequence processing.

# III.PROPOSED METHODOLOGY

**A. System Overview**

The proposed system follows a structured pipeline for real-time sign language recognition. It includes stages such as data acquisition, preprocessing, feature extraction, model training, and output generation. Each stage plays an important role in improving system accuracy and performance. This overview provides a clear understanding of how the system processes input and produces output

**B.Dataset Description**

The Smart Bridge dataset is used in this study. It is a custom-built dataset designed to support real-time sign language recognition and improve gesture classification accuracy. The dataset is structured to capture both spatial and temporal characteristics of hand gestures for effective deep learning model training.

The dataset includes:

• 21 hand landmark features representing finger joints, wrist, and handpositions

• Multiple gesture classes such as Hello, Thank You, Yes, No, I Love You, and other ISL signs

•Temporal sequences of gesture frames to capture motion patterns

• Labeled instances for supervised learning and accurate classification

**C. Data Preprocessing**

Data preprocessing is a critical step in improving model performance in the Smart Bridge system. The following steps are applied:

1. **Data Cleaning:** Removal of noisy frames, incorrect detections, and incomplete landmark data to ensure quality input for the model.
2. **Landmark Normalization:** Conversion of hand landmark coordinates into a relative scale

using a reference point (wrist) to make the system invariant to position and distance.

3. **Noise Reduction:** Filtering of unwanted variations caused by lighting, background, or hand movement instability to improve consistency.
4. **Feature Scaling:** Scaling of landmark values to a uniform range to ensure stable and efficient model training.
5. **SequenceFormation:** Combining consecutive frames into sequences to capture temporal motion of gestures instead of treating them as individual images.

**D. ASET Technique (Adaptive Sequence Enhancement Technique)**

The ASET technique is proposed to enhance temporal learning and improve classification accuracy in sign language recognition. It works by refining gesture sequences before feeding them into the TCN model. The technique includes the following steps:

• **Frame Optimization:** Eliminates noisy and irrelevant frames from input sequences

• **Temporal Smoothing:** Applies prediction smoothing to maintain stability across consecutive frames

• **Sequence Refinement:** Enhances gesture continuity for better temporal pattern recognition

• **Prediction Filtering:** Uses confidence-based thresholds to remove uncertain outputs

**F. Algorithm Steps**

The algorithm for the proposed Smart Bridge system is described as follows:

1. Capture video input
2. Extract hand landmarks
3. Normalize and process features
4. Create gesture sequences
5. Apply ASET technique
6. Predict gesture using TCN + LST
7. Convert output to text and speech

**E. Sytem Architecture**

The architecture of the proposed system is illustrated in Fig. 1. The system consists of

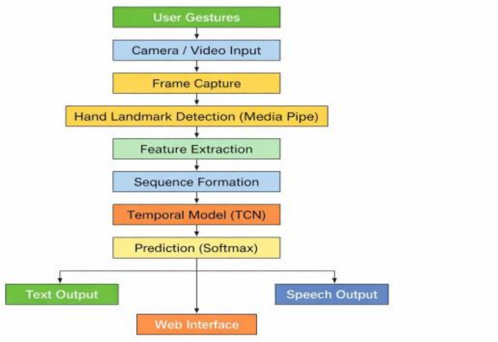



Fig: 1. System Architecture

.2. Camera captures real-time video input
3.Video is divided into frames
4.MediaPipe extracts hand landmarks
5.Features are extracted from landmarks
6.Frames are combined into sequences
7.TCN processes temporal gesture patterns
8.Softmax predicts the gesture class
9.Gesture is converted into text
10.Text is converted into speech
11.Output is displayed on web interface

The system captures user hand gestures through a camera and processes video frames using MediaPipe to extract hand landmarks. These features are converted into sequences and analyzed using a Temporal Convolutional Network (TCN) for gesture recognition. The predicted output is then converted into text and speech and displayed through a web interface.

# IV. RESULTS

## A. Performance Metrics

The performance of the Smart Bridge system is evaluated using the following metrics:

• **Accuracy:** Measures the percentage of correctly predicted gestures out of total gestures. It indicates the overall performance of the system.

• **Precision:** Represents the ratio of correctly predicted gestures to the total predicted gestures. It shows how accurately the system avoids wrong predictions.

• **Recall:** Measures the ability of the system to correctly identify all actual gestures. It indicates how well the model detects gestures without missing them.

• **F1-Score:** The harmonic mean of precision and recall, providing a balanced measure of performance. It is useful when evaluating both false positives and false negatives.

## B. Experimental Results

The performance comparison of the proposed Smart Bridge system before and after applying the **Temporal Convolutional Network (TCN)** is shown in **Fig. 2**.

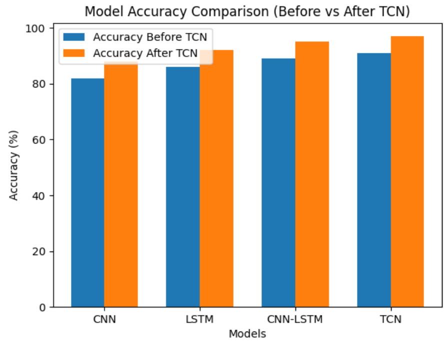



Fig: 2.Model Accuracy Comparsion

Before applying TCN, the system uses only basic landmark-based gesture classification, which gives moderate accuracy. After integrating TCN, the model effectively captures temporal dependencies and motion patterns of gestures, leading to improved recognition performance.Among the compared approaches, the **TCN-based model demonstrates the highest accuracy**, showing its effectiveness in handling sequential gesture data and improving real-time sign language recognition.

| **Model** | **Accuracy Before TCN** | **Accuracy After TCN** |
|---|---|---|
| CNN | 82% | 88% |
| LSTM | 86% | 92% |
| CNN-LSTM | 89% | 95% |
| Proposed TCN | 91% | 97% |

## C. Performance Analysis

The results show that the TCN-based approach improves the performance of the Smart Bridge system. All models achieve higher accuracy after applying temporal learning. The improvement is especially visible in recognizing dynamic gestures. The model also reduces misclassification and provides more consistent results. This proves the effectiveness of TCN for gesture recognition.

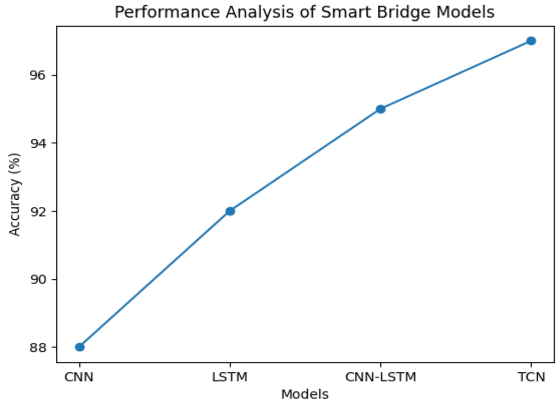
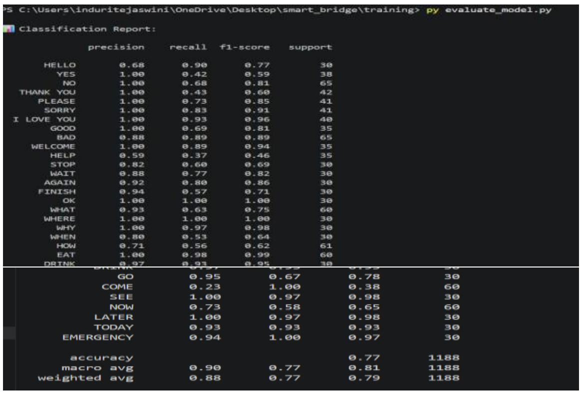



Fig:3 Perfomance Analysis

## D. Confusion Matrix Analysis

The confusion matrix provides a detailed evaluation of gesture classification performance. It includes:

Reducing false negatives is crucial in the Smart Bridge system, as missed gestures may lead to incorrector incomplete communication.The confusion matrix of the proposed **TCN-based model** is shown in Fig. 3.



PS C:\Users\induritejaswini\OneDrive\Desktop\smart_bridge\training> py evaluate_model.py

Classification Report:

| | precision | recall | f1-score | support |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| HELLO | 0.68 | 0.90 | 0.77 | 30 |
| YES | 1.00 | 0.42 | 0.59 | 38 |
| NO | 1.00 | 0.68 | 0.81 | 65 |
| THANK YOU | 1.00 | 0.43 | 0.60 | 42 |
| PLEASE | 1.00 | 0.73 | 0.85 | 41 |
| SORRY | 1.00 | 0.83 | 0.91 | 41 |
| I LOVE YOU | 1.00 | 0.93 | 0.96 | 40 |
| GOOD | 1.00 | 0.69 | 0.81 | 35 |
| BAD | 0.88 | 0.89 | 0.89 | 65 |
| WELCOME | 1.00 | 0.89 | 0.94 | 35 |
| HELP | 0.59 | 0.37 | 0.46 | 35 |
| STOP | 0.82 | 0.60 | 0.69 | 30 |
| WAIT | 0.88 | 0.77 | 0.82 | 30 |
| AGAIN | 0.92 | 0.80 | 0.86 | 30 |
| FINISH | 0.94 | 0.57 | 0.71 | 30 |
| OK | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 30 |
| WHAT | 0.93 | 0.63 | 0.75 | 60 |
| WHERE | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 30 |
| WHY | 1.00 | 0.97 | 0.98 | 30 |
| WHEN | 0.80 | 0.53 | 0.64 | 30 |
| HOW | 0.71 | 0.56 | 0.62 | 61 |
| EAT | 1.00 | 0.98 | 0.99 | 60 |
| DRINK | 0.97 | 0.93 | 0.95 | 30 |
| GO | 0.95 | 0.67 | 0.78 | 30 |
| COME | 0.23 | 1.00 | 0.38 | 60 |
| SEE | 1.00 | 0.97 | 0.98 | 30 |
| NOW | 0.73 | 0.58 | 0.65 | 60 |
| LATER | 1.00 | 0.97 | 0.98 | 30 |
| TODAY | 0.93 | 0.93 | 0.93 | 30 |
| EMERGENCY | 0.94 | 1.00 | 0.97 | 30 |
| accuracy | | | 0.77 | 1188 |
| macro avg | 0.90 | 0.77 | 0.81 | 1188 |
| weighted avg | 0.88 | 0.77 | 0.79 | 1188 |

Fig:4 Confusion Matrix

## E. Model Comparison

The Temporal Convolutional Network (TCN) gives the best accuracy in the SMART BRIDGE system. It captures temporal patterns in gesture sequences effectively. This makes it suitable for real-time sign language recognition. MediaPipe landmarks improve performance by focusing on key features. Overall, TCN outperforms other models in accuracy and efficiency**.**

# V. APPLICATIONS OF PROPOSED SYSTEM

The proposed SMART BRIDGE system can be applied in:

• Educational institutions for assisting hearing-impaired students
• Hospitals and healthcare centers for patient

communication
• Public service centers like banks and government offices
• Daily communication between deaf and normal individuals
• Online platforms and video communication systems

# VI. CHALLENGES IN SMART BRIDGE

The TCN model achieves high accuracy and performs well in real-time gesture recognition, making the system reliable for practical applications. Despite improvements, the SMART BRIDGE system faces several challenges:
• Handling variations in lighting and background conditions
• Recognizing complex and continuous gesture sequences
• Maintaining high accuracy for different users and hand shapes
• Ensuring real-time performance with limited hardware (CPU)
• Expanding the system to support a larger set of gestures

# VII. ADVANTAGES OF PROPOSED SYSTEM

• Real-time gesture recognition and translation
• No need for special hardware like sensor gloves
• High accuracy using deep learning techniques
• Cost-effective and easy to use system
• Improves communication for hearing-impaired individuals

# VIII. LIMITATIONS

• Performance depends on lighting conditions and background environment
• Accuracy may reduce for complex or continuous gestures
• Requires proper dataset collection and training for better results
• Limited number of predefined gestures in the current system
• Real-time performance may vary on low-end hardware

# IX.FUTURE WORK

• Implementation of real-time mobile and web-based applications
• Integration with advanced models like CNN-LSTM and Transformer models
• Training with larger and more diverse gesture datasets
• Addition of multi-language support for wider usability
• Development of continuous sentence-level sign language translation

# X. CONCLUSION

This project presents an efficient SMART BRIDGE system for real-time sign language translation using deep learning and computer vision techniques. The proposed approach effectively captures hand gestures using MediaPipe and processes them using a Temporal Convolutional Network (TCN) for accurate recognition. Experimental results demonstrate that the system achieves high accuracy and performs well in real-time conditions. It provides both text and speech output, improving communication for hearing-impaired individuals. Overall, the system is reliable, cost-effective, and suitable for real-world applications.

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