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Hand Gesture Recognition System for Deaf and Dumb Using IOT

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ABSTRACT

Language that is used to express messages through manual contact and body language. Hand forms, orientations and movements, as well as body and facial expressions, are also included. People communicate with each other primarily by communication. Birth defects, deaths, and oral disorders have all contributed to the dramatic rise in the number of deaf and dumb people in recent years. Since deaf and dumb people are unable to communicate with others, they must rely on visual contact. Many languages are spoken and understood all over the world. People who have trouble communicating or hearing are referred to as "special people." People who are "dumb" or "deaf" find it difficult to understand what the other person is attempting to say, and the same is true for deaf people. People often misinterpret these signals, whether by sign language, lip reading, or lip sync. This project is designed to assist these individuals with special needs in participating equally in society. It exploits unique features of the visual medium through spatial grammar currently, in the United States, there are approximately one to two million signers. The sign language translator we have developed uses a glove fitted with sensors that can interpret the words predefined for certain sensor value combination based on sign Language (ASL). The glove uses flex sensors gather data on each finger's position and the hand's motion to differentiate the letters

Keywords: flex Sensor, Mobile Application, Cloud, NodeMCU, Arduino nano.

1. Introduction

It is critical to create contact or connection with Deaf - Dumb people in today's world. Hand signals or gestures are used to communicate between these individuals. Gestures are a type of physical activity that an individual use to communicate important information. Like all oral languages, sign language has developed spontaneously. A computer can be configured to translate sign language into text format, reducing the gap in comprehension between hearing people and the deaf community.

Several methods for recognizing various hand gestures have been suggested, and can be divided into two categories: vision-based and non-vision-based. We choose the glove-based, that is non-vision approach because it is increasingly effective in gesture recognition, and it requires the use of a highly structured sensor glove that produces a symbol that corresponds to the hand sign. The knowledge generated is very accurate because the smart glove's performance is not affected by light, electric, or attractive fields, or any other influences. Deaf and dumb people have a hard time communicating with normal people. This enormous challenge leaves them uneasy, and they believe they are being discriminated against in society.

2. Existing and Proposed System

Existing System

The detection of hand gesture can be done using web camera i.e. using image processing. It captures the image from the video stream, removes its background using RGB filtering and thresholding. This develops a system that can convert the hand gesture into text. The detection involves observation of hand movement. There are some drawbacks in this system, they are Image Processing can be significantly slow creating unacceptable latency. Many Gesture

Recognition system do not read motions correctly due to factors like insufficient background light etc.

Proposed System

Our proposed system is designed such a way that it reduces the communication barrier between speech impaired and normal people thus giving out a voice to their actions.

Our prototype involves nodemcu, Arduino nano as A/D converter which are interfaced with flex sensors for reading hand gestures when a specific sign is made the flex sensor makes unique values are generated those values are given to the cloud to verify with the database which has the message stored and when the sign is made it matches and gives out the speech or voice converted output.

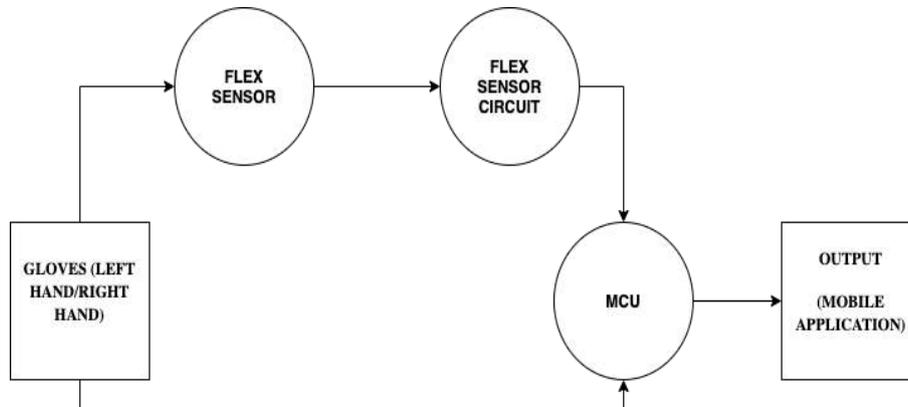


Figure 1: Block Diagram of hand gesture recognition for deaf and dumb.

Methodology

The purpose of the design phase is to plan a solution of the problem specified by the requirement document. This phase is the first step in moving from the problem domain to the solution domain. In other words, starting with what is needed; design takes us toward how to satisfy the needs. The design of a system is perhaps the most critical factor affecting the quality of the software; it has a major impact on the later phases particularly testing and maintenance.

It has two parts, one is mobile app and another is hand glove. After the hand glove is powered up, every fingers and hand movement each time will try to detect word or letter for its given pattern. If the finger or hand movement data is recognized, then it will be sent on to that app for display. If the finger or hand movement data are not recognized, then letter or word will not be shown.

3. System Design

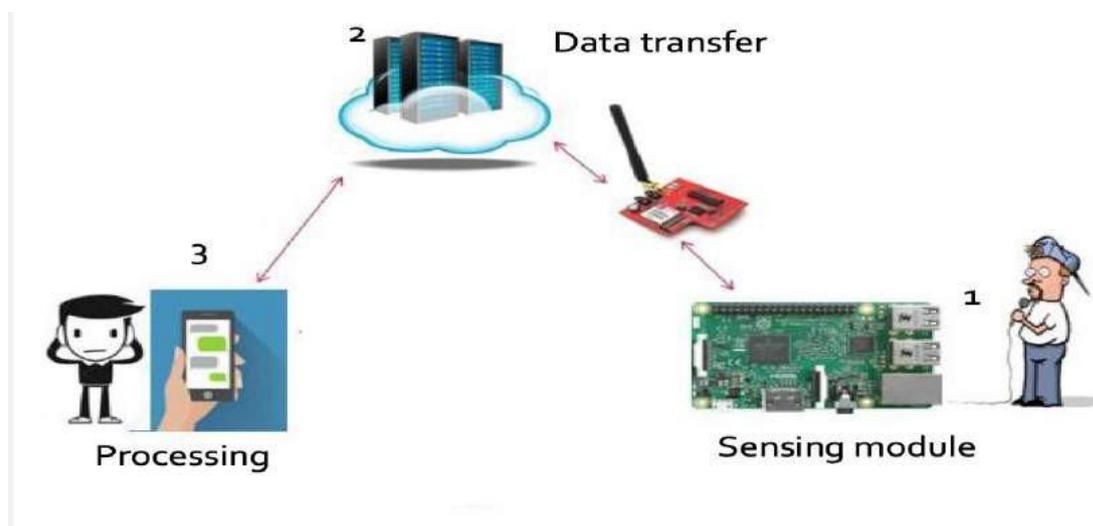


Figure 2: High level design.

The figure represents the use case diagram of Hand Gesture Recognition System which consist of three stages. They are as follows:

- **Sensing module:** Sensing stage consists of flex sensors which changes the value of resistance depending on the amount of bend on the sensors. They convert the change in bend to electrical resistance which will be passed to next stage. These values are used to identify the gestures made by the users.
- **Data transfer module:** The converted data value is sent to cloud through the Node MCU module. Here MQTT Protocol is used to send the data from sensors to the cloud as it is Instant message protocol with no delay.
- **Processing module:** The data received to the cloud is sent to the mobile application where it is compared with the stored values. If the received value matches to the predefined value, then the associated message is assigned to it which is further converted into Voice message in the mobile application.

Block Diagram:

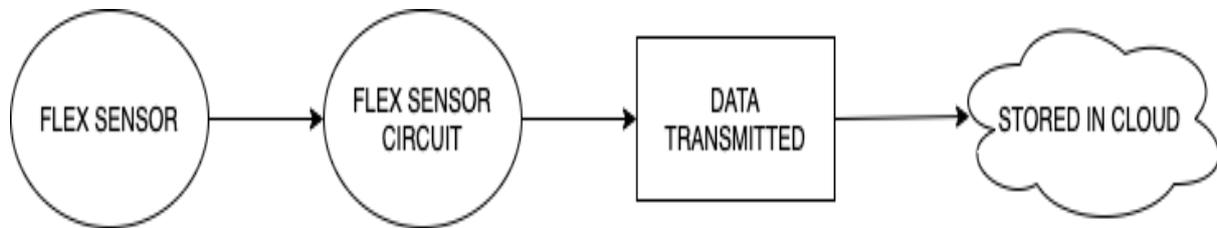


Figure Figure 3: Block diagram of hardware module

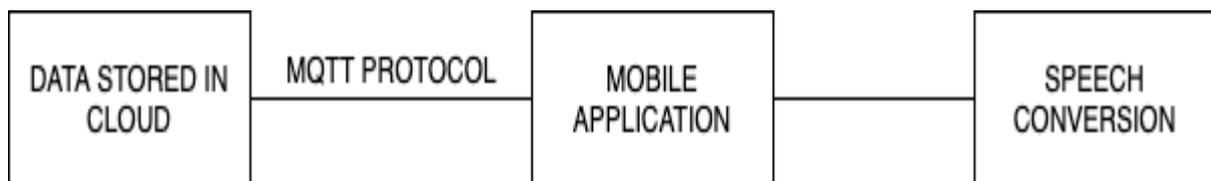


Figure 4: Block diagram of software module

4. System Implementation

Flex Sensors

Flex sensor is basically a variable resistor whose terminal resistance increases when the sensor is bent. As a variable printed resistor, the Flex Sensor achieves great form-factor on a thin flexible substrate. When the substrate is bent, the sensor produces a resistance output correlated to the bend radius—the smaller the radius, the higher the resistance value.

Flex sensor work as analog voltage dividers, inside which are carbon resistive elements within a thin substrate, that are flexible. When substrate bends, sensor generates resistance output corresponding to the bend radius. More the bend, more is the output resistance.



Figure 5: (a) Flex Sensor (b) Resistance change with bending

Working

Flex sensors are the carbon resistive elements within a thin flexible substrate when bent produces a resistance output relative to the bend. Flex sensors works in the principle of voltage divider form and the basic flex sensor circuit is shown

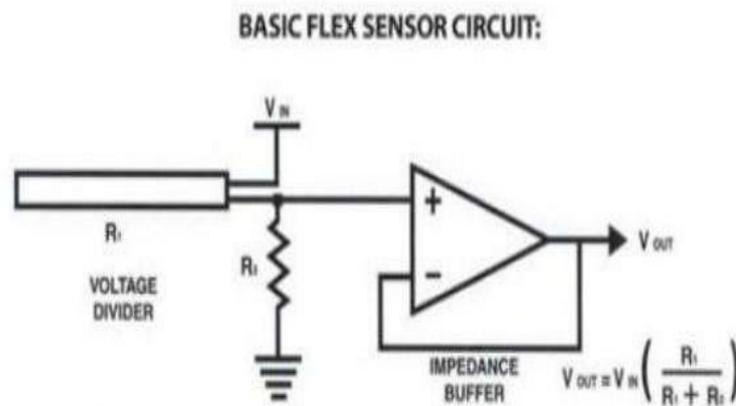


Figure 6: Basic flex sensor circuit.

The output voltage of potential divider will be,

$$V_{out} = V_{in} \left(\frac{R_2}{R_1 + R_2} \right)$$

NodeMCU

NodeMCU is an open-source LUA based firmware developed for the ESP8266 wifi chip. By exploring functionality with the ESP8266 chip, NodeMCU firmware comes with the ESP8266 Development board/kit i.e. NodeMCU Development board.

As shown in the figure 7 NodeMCU board consist of ESP8266 wifi enabled chip. The ESP8266 is a low-cost Wi-Fi chip developed by Espressif Systems with TCP/IP protocol with micro-controller capabilities.

NodeMCU has Arduino like Analog (i.e. A0) and Digital (D0-D8) pins on its board. It supports serial communication protocols i.e. UART, SPI, I2C, etc.



Figure 7: NodeMCU.

MQTT Protocol (Message Queuing Telemetry Transport):

MQTT is an extremely lightweight and publish-subscribe messaging transport protocol. The protocol runs over TCP/IP. It is a bi-directional communication protocol that allows messaging between device to cloud and vice-versa. Default Port No. Is 1883.

Characteristics of MQTT Protocol:

- It is a Machine-to-Machine protocol.
- It provides Bi-directional Communications.
- It does not require that both the client and the server establish a connection at the same time.
- It provides faster data transmission.
- Can scale to millions of connected devices.
- Security enabled.

Architecture of MQTT Protocol:

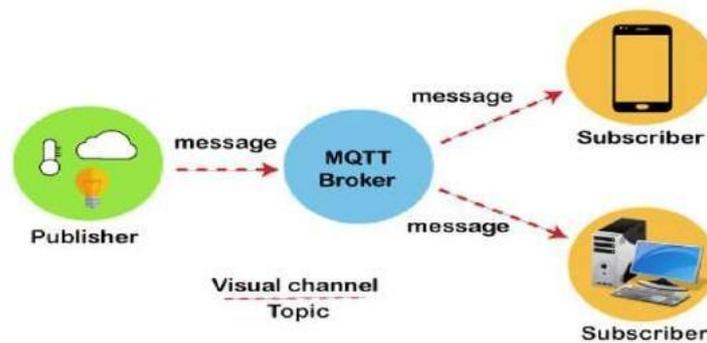


Figure 8: Architecture of MQTT Protocol.

Components of MQTT Protocol includes:

- Message.
- Client.
- Broker.
- Topic.

1. **Message:** The message is the data that is carried out by the protocol across the network for the application.
2. **Client:** MQTT client is any device that runs an MQTT library and connects to an MQTT broker over a network.
3. **Broker:** Broker is a server that receives all messages from the clients and then routes the messages to the appropriate destination clients.
4. **Topic:** The label provided to the message is checked against the subscription known by the server is known as TOPIC.

Algorithm

The gestures made by the user needs to be stored and interpreted accurately to convert those into speech.

Start

Step 1: Flex sensor generate a different resistance every time it is bent those ranges are recorded.

Step 2: Establish a connection between the hardware component and the network.

Step 3: Read the sensor values from the controller.

Step 4: Upload the values to cloud

Step 5: Compare these sensor values to the values stored in the database.

Step 6: The sensor values are sent to the application through MQTT protocol.

Step 7: a) If the data in the database matches the sensor data the assigned message is obtained Then assigned messages is converted to speech.

b) Else the data is declined and no message is given.

5 Conclusion and Future Scope

Sign language is a useful tool to ease communication between mute community and normal people. Still a communication barrier exists. In this work, the gestures made by the speech impaired people are caught by the flex sensors which produce a certain voltage these reading have a specific meaning in the procured data and would be shown. This helps in covering the communication gap between normal people and speech impaired as the message is converted to speech. The connection of these flex sensors to the gloves gives an advantage of carrying around easy and very efficient. This in turn help them to express themselves better and also make them the closer part of the society.

The gloves can be customized with respect to the user's sign language. Currently translation is being done to only one language, this can be enhanced to be translated to other different regional languages. Only flex sensors are used currently, in future other different sensors can be used for other utilities.

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