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Smart Glove for Sign Language Translation

Ahmad Imran Mohd Thaim[1], Norazlianie Sazali[1,2*], Kumaran Kadirgama[3], Ahmad Shahir Jamaludin[1], Faiz Mohd Turan[1], Norhaida Ab. Razak[3]

[1] Faculty of Manufacturing and Mechatronic Engineering Technology, Universiti Malaysia Pahang Al-Sultan Abdullah, 26600 Pekan, Pahang, Malaysia
[2] Centre of Excellence for Advanced Research in Fluid Flow (CARIFF), Universiti Malaysia Pahang Al-Sultan Abdullah, Lebuhraya Tun Razak, 26300, Gambang, Kuantan, Pahang, Malaysia
[3] Faculty of Mechanical and Automotive Engineering Technology, Universiti Malaysia Pahang Al-Sultan Abdullah, 26600 Pekan, Pahang, Malaysia

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ABSTRACT

Sign language is a vital mode of communication for deaf people, yet it presents a significant barrier when interacting with those who do not understand it. The advent of technology has paved the way for innovative solutions to bridge this communication gap. This abstract explores the development and implications of a smart glove designed for sign language translation (SLT). The primary aim of this study is to create a wearable device, the Smart Glove, capable of recognizing and translating sign language gestures into text or speech. Key objectives include designing a lightweight and ergonomic glove prototype, developing machine learning algorithms for sign language recognition, implementing real-time translation capabilities, evaluating the glove's accuracy and usability, and assessing the potential impact on facilitating communication for deaf people. The Smart Glove utilizes only one sensor, flex sensors, to capture hand movements and gestures. These data inputs are processed through a custom-built machine learning model trained on a comprehensive sign language dataset. Preliminary results indicate a high accuracy rate in recognizing sign language gestures, with an average recognition rate of over 90% across a diverse set of signs. While challenges such as expanding gesture recognition and refining translation algorithms remain, this technology offers a promising solution to break down communication barriers and enhance the quality of life for those who rely on sign language.

1. Introduction

Sign languages are widely used in deaf communities as a primary mode of communication [1]. They rely on hand forms, hand orientation, movement, and facial expressions to convey thoughts and messages [2]. It is important to acknowledge that only a minority of the overall population possesses proficiency in sign language [3]. Therefore, individual dependent on sign language may face considerable difficulties engaging in conversations or effectively expressing their ideas. To bridge this communication gap, several methods have been developed to aid individuals who are deaf or

* *Corresponding author.*
E-mail address: azlianie@umpsa.edu.my

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have communication impairments [4]. The methods include various types of hearing aids, such as behind-the-ear, in-the-ear, and canal devices, as well as advanced technologies that convert sign language gestures into written or spoken language [5]. While hearing aids provide valuable assistance, they can occasionally cause discomfort or introduce background noise to the user's auditory experience. Translating sign language gestures into text and speech for individuals unfamiliar with sign language shows great potential as a technological advancement. Wearable technology, such as a smart glove, can detect and translate the movements of the user's arms and fingers into an easily understandable format [6].

The objective of this project is to create a smart glove device that can translate American Sign Language (ASL) gestures into text and voice [7]. By utilizing flex sensors and advanced algorithms, this technology has the potential to facilitate communication between sign language users and speakers of different languages [8]. Preliminary studies have confirmed the efficacy of this smart glove in translating sign language motions into text and audio, thereby improving communication between sign language users and individuals who primarily use spoken language. Individuals who are unable to speak often rely on body language and sign language as their main modes of communication. Their limited knowledge of sign language hinders their communication with a wider audience. The main objective of this project is to develop a wearable smart glove system capable of accurately converting sign language gestures into comprehensible text and speech. This technology aims to facilitate inclusive communication [9].

Our current project phase is centered on the development of a wearable smart glove. The glove will utilize flex sensors to precisely capture the intricate hand and finger movements of the user [10]. Additionally, we will ensure that the glove is equipped with the necessary hardware components for efficient sensor data capture and wireless connectivity with the companion mobile application [11,12]. Our project focuses on capturing a diverse range of hand and finger movements to improve the accuracy of algorithms. We aim to achieve high precision in recognizing a specific set of sign language gestures, specifically those that correspond to the ASL alphabet, common words, and phrases [13]. Our system will utilize effective translation techniques to facilitate communication between sign language and spoken language. These processes facilitate the conversion of recognized sign language motions into coherent text, enhancing comprehension for users unfamiliar with sign language [14]. To enhance natural communication, we will integrate a robust speech synthesis engine that can generate realistic spoken language using received gestures [15].

During the forthcoming testing phase, our smart glove solution will be thoroughly evaluated with a diverse range of participants, including individuals proficient in sign language as well as those with no prior knowledge of sign language [16]. Our evaluation will cover the performance of the smart glove and mobile app, including the accuracy of gesture recognition and translation. The experiments will provide valuable insights for optimizing the system's functionality. This project has the potential to revolutionize communication for deaf communities and promote inclusivity and understanding among users of different languages.

2. Methodology

2.1 Flowchart of The Project

During the planning phase, the flowchart of the project has been constructed to ensure it will run smoothly. Figure 1 shows the flowchart for this project. The project will start with software development when the research has been completed. The process of developing software also involves GUIs and code. Because Arduino will be used in this project, C++ will be the coding language used [17]. The next stage, once software development is complete, is to test and run the code to identify any coding and GUI errors. Before moving on to the next phase, any faults must be fixed first.

Hardware development is the next phase. Hardware development involves putting together the Flex and Arduino sensors [6,9]. These two pieces of gear will assist in gathering data from tool vibration. The software component must be linked to the hardware components. The system will be tested once again to identify any faults that may have occurred after integrating the software and hardware. Before doing the experiment, any mistakes must be corrected.

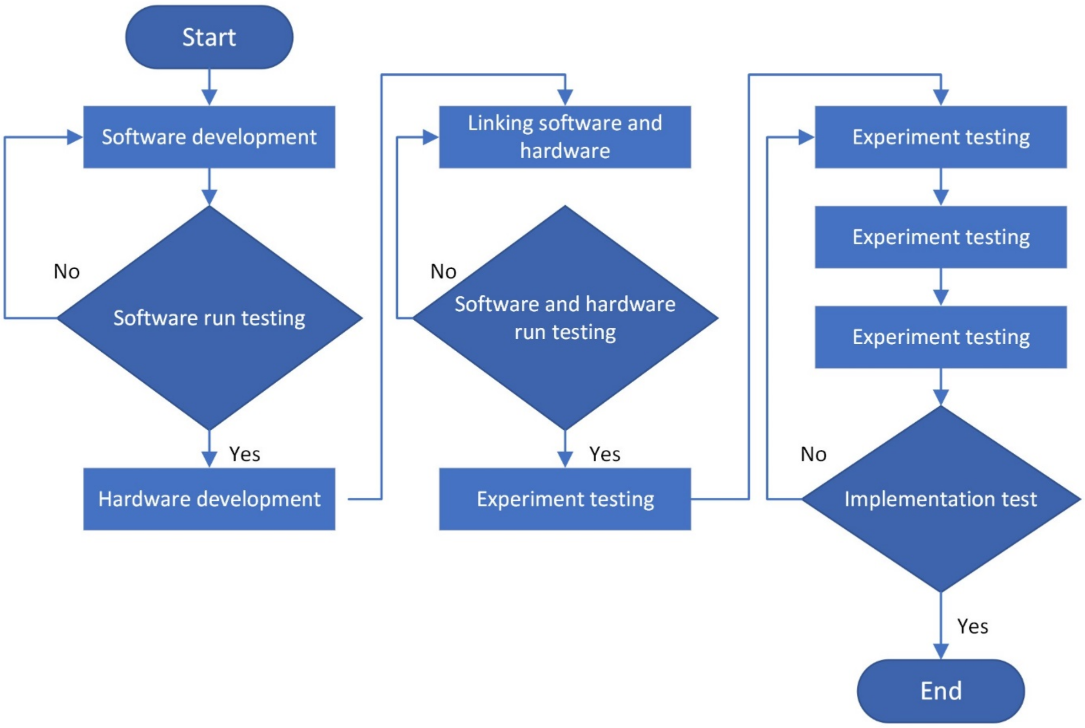

Fig. 1. Project flow chart

2.2 Experiment Equipment
2.2.1 Flex sensor

A flex sensor has been selected to collect the vibration signal from three separate axes in order to gather the vibration signal from the tool [10]. One signal-detecting axis is all that the fundamental flex sensor has. This project will have a difficult time since the sensor needs to be rotated in order to collect data on several axes. Table 1 shows all the properties of the flex sensor in this paper.

Table 1
Flex sensor's properties

Parameters	Units
Straight Resistance	25K ohms
Resistance Tolerance	±30%
Bending Resistance Change	10K ohm
Rated Power	0.5 watt
Peak Power	1 watt
Bending Life	>1 million times
Working Temperature	-35 to 80 °C
Length x Width	73.666 x 6.35mm

2.2.2 Schematic diagram

Creating a circuit diagram for five flex sensors demands a thorough knowledge of the sensor's characteristics and the electrical principles governing their operation [10]. When developing a circuit diagram for flex sensors, it is important to consider the following factors: First of all, sensor specifications The sensor specifications, such as the voltage and current requirements, the operating frequency, and the output signal, should be carefully evaluated before building the circuit schematic [18]. It is crucial to ensure that the sensor's specifications are compatible with the rest of the circuit components. Next, the manner in which the components are linked will be carefully planned to ensure that the sensors are properly connected and that the circuit operates effectively [19]. Lastly, signal conditioning Before it can be used by an amplifier or a microcontroller in the circuit, the output signal of the flex sensors may need to be first checked. To filter or amplify the signal, the circuit may need to be supplemented with a resistor or a capacitor [20].

Based on the above criteria, the flex sensor circuit design has been built as shown in Figure 2. The components of the circuit, their connections, and the direction of current flow are all shown visually in the circuit diagram. The sensor's features, such as its voltage and current needs, operating frequency, and output signal compatibility with other circuit components, were carefully taken into account when creating the circuit layout. This initial step made sure that the flex sensors were seamlessly included in the circuit [21]. The precise design of the circuit topology, which specifies how the components are linked, ensures that the sensors are positioned correctly and that the circuit functions as a whole. Additionally, signal conditioning elements were added to the design to improve signal quality, such as an integrated potentiometer coupled to the sensor [22]. In order to ensure the security and efficiency of the circuit's operation, grounding was also stressed. Enough grounding precautions were taken to guard against any electrical dangers. In order to provide adaptation for different use cases, provisions were included to link the circuit's output to either an indicator or a microcontroller, taking into account the intended application of the circuit. Rigid testing processes were used to confirm the circuit's integrity and performance. The circuit's dependability and conformity with the set parameters were validated throughout this thorough testing phase.

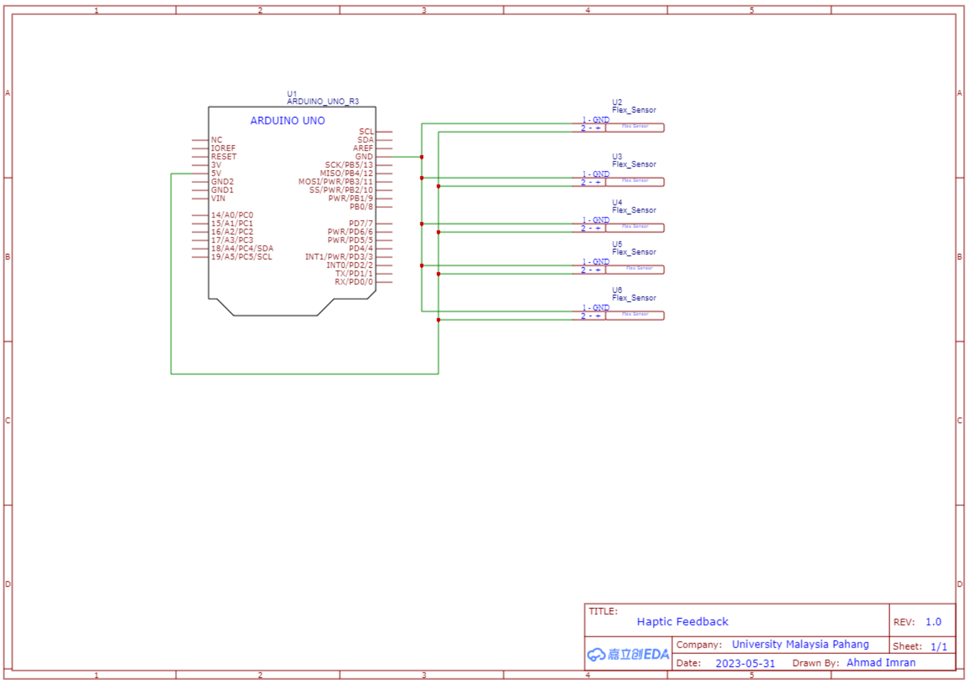

Fig. 2. Schematic circuit diagram

3. Results

3.1 Data Measurement

To properly capture the complex motions of sign language gestures for our research, exact measurement is essential. The smart glove's sensors are carefully chosen and calibrated to guarantee that they produce reliable results [23]. An important part of the measuring process is sensor calibration, which involves making changes to remove biases and guarantee that sensor outputs correspond to the actual physical movements of the hand and fingers. In order to attain the highest accuracy possible, calibration methods entail meticulously monitoring the reference motions and fine-tuning the sensor settings [24,25].

Participants expressed letters, words, and sentences in American Sign Language (ASL) using a wide variety of sign language movements. Flex sensors in the smart glove recorded complex hand and finger motions in addition to non-manual cues like head and facial gestures, which are essential for communicating grammatical complexity and context [26]. The resultant dataset is a rich supply of raw data points that can be used to train and improve our gesture recognition system. It includes sensor readings, timestamps, and other contextual data. The results of some of the American Sign Language (ASL) letters are listed in Figure 3.

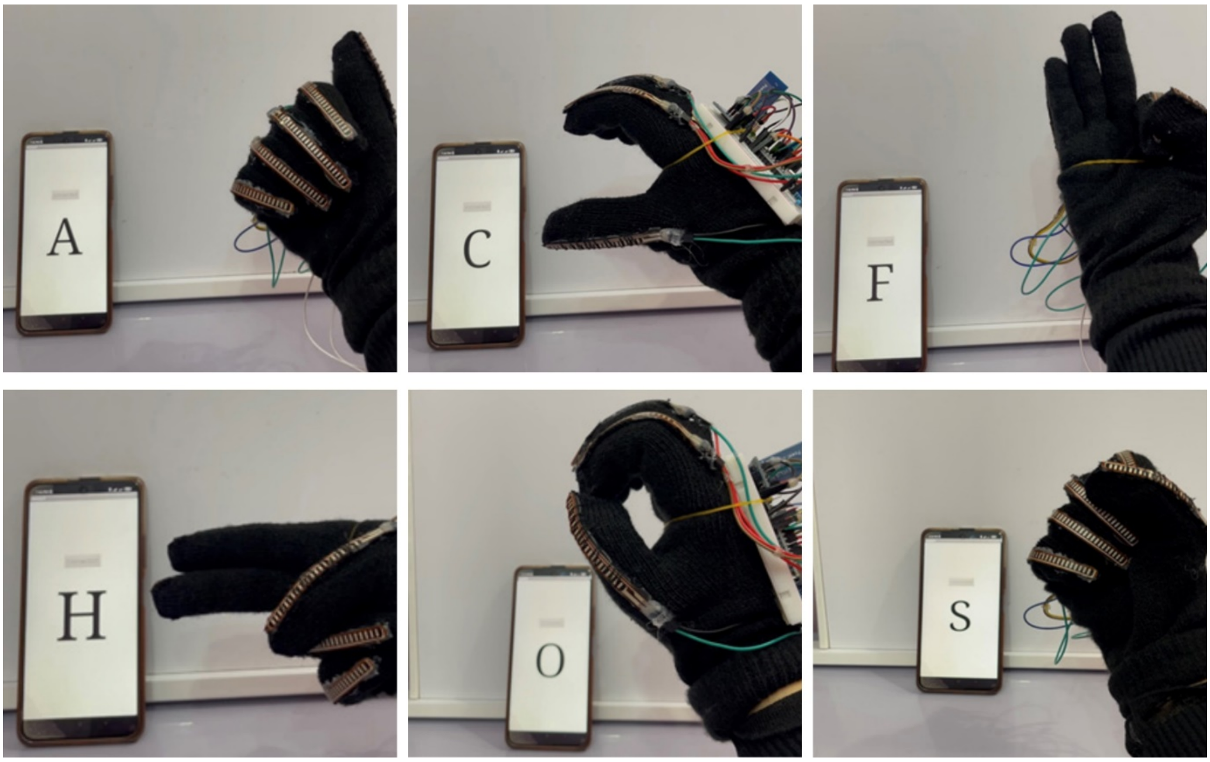

Fig. 3. The result of some of the American Sign Language (ASL) letters

3.2 Data Analysis

Complex technological hurdles must be overcome in the creation of a smart glove for sign language translation. The precision and accuracy of gesture recognition are two important challenges. It is a challenging effort to ensure that the glove can accurately discern between a large variety of sign language motions, even those with small changes [27]. Optimizing sensor location, reducing latency, and developing a smooth user experience that is practical and comfortable for regular usage are additional technical hurdles [28]. We collected a total of 10 samples of each letter to evaluate the system's accuracy. Examining each sign's reproducibility was the goal. The accuracy graph in Figure 4 allows for evaluation of the results attained. Through the aforementioned investigations, this device had a mean success rate of 94.23%. Specifically, when altering the hand signals, sensor faults are blamed for the failures.

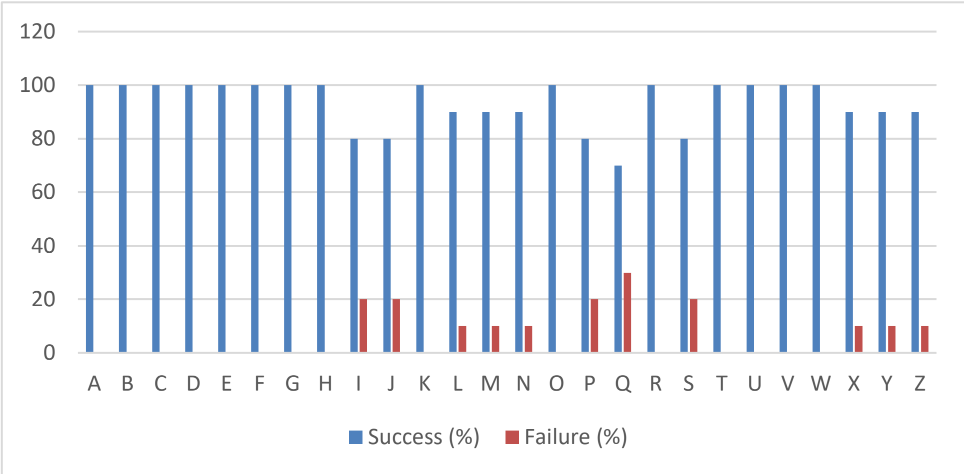

Fig. 4. Schematic circuit diagram

4. Conclusions

In conclusion, this study documents the creation of a glove-based sign language translator, a technological breakthrough in accessibility. By harnessing a single Arduino UNO and five flex sensors, this device adeptly captures the intricate movements of each finger and arm. The presented experimental results are compelling, with a remarkable success rate of 94.23% in translating finger movements into spoken and written English letters, signifying a significant leap in bridging communication barriers for the Deaf community. Beyond its technical achievements, the project aspires to be a transformative solution, poised to dramatically enhance the lives of Deaf individuals while promoting inclusivity in communication. The project's ability to surmount intricate challenges, respect the cultural and linguistic diversity inherent in sign languages, and enable Deaf individuals to communicate naturally across diverse settings is pivotal to its ultimate success. In doing so, it holds the potential to redefine the way Deaf individuals interact with the world and contribute to a more inclusive society.

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