

Hand Gesture Alphabet Recognition for American Sign Language using Deep Learning

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ABSTRACT

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Speech impairment limits a person's capacity to speak and communicate with others, forcing them to adopt other communication methods such as sign language. Sign language is not that widely used technique by the deaf. To solve this problem, we developed a powerful hand gesture detection tool that can easily monitor both dynamic and static hand motions with ease. Gesture recognition aims to translate sign language into voice or text for individuals who have a rudimentary comprehension of that, which will be a tremendous help in communication between deaf-mute and hearing people. We describe the design and implementation of an American Sign Language (ASL) fingerspelling translator based on spatial feature identification using a convolutional neural network.

Keywords : Sign Language Recognition, Deep learning, image processing, American sign Language, Hand gesture detection.

I. INTRODUCTION

Sign language is a type of interaction used by those who have difficulty hearing and speaking. People employ nonverbal communication such as signal language gestures to express their thoughts and emotions. Non-signers, on the other hand, find it extremely difficult to comprehend, which is why trained signal language translators are sought at various stages in scientific and criminal appointments, as well as academies. Over the last five years, there is an increasing demand for decoding services. Other methods, such as video decoding from afar using high-speed internet connections, had been

introduced. As a result, they will provide an easy-to-use signal language decoding service, that can be employed, but has a major drawback regarding internet connectivity and the appropriate gadget. Signal language recognition can be accomplished in a variety of ways, including glove-based completely popularity and vision-based totally popularity. A network of sensors is utilised to capture the actions of the fingers in a glove-based manner. The proposed device employs a non-invasive vision-based fully popularity technique. The vision-primarily based entirely popularity can be carried out in two ways: static popularity or dynamic popularity with the use of CNN. Convolution Neural Network, is a powerful

learning algorithm which is utilized for cleaning and extracting capabilities from photographs.

The mouse and keyboard have played an important part in HCI for many years. Speech and gesture recognition systems garner a lot of attention. A gesture is a physical and emotional expression symbol. It consists of both hand and body motions. Gestures are a way for a computer and a person to communicate. Traditional hardware-based methods for achieving human-computer interaction are vastly different from gesture recognition. The person's intention is detected using sign language, which recognises the actions of the parts of the body. Numerous academics have competed in recent years to enhance hand motion recognition technology. Augmented reality, disabled and robot control and sign language interpreters are only a few of the uses for hand gesture detection. Gestures, like speaking, are a natural way for people to communicate with one another. They could be the most natural way of expressing yourself. This is due to the fact that infants transmit their emotions and desire to speak through hand movements.

The challenge of comprehending human motions can be solved via pattern recognition. If a computer can recognise human motion patterns, the required message may be recreated. It has been proven that static sign motions used to indicate alphabets and numerals may be detected. Here, this system has been extended to recognize alphabets and sentences in American sign language.

A number of different hand gestures have sprung significantly as a part of this. Sign language is the predominant mode of communication for the great majority of the population. Despite the existence of verbal communication, some people are not able to convey the message with majority. This group of persons can benefit from sign language. Face expressions, static hand signals, plus hand gestures have been used in sign language in order to communicate in a similar way to that of verbal communication does. Sign languages can be of many types.

II. RELATED WORK

The literature review done sheds light on the many approaches for hand gesture recognition that may be adopted and applied. It also aids in comprehending the benefits and drawbacks connected with certain approaches. The camera module in this determines which cameras and markers are available for use. The detection module is in charge of picture pre-processing and feature extraction.

Data gloves, hand belts, and cameras are some of the most prevalent techniques of collecting human input that have been seen. The gesture recognition [1] and [2] approaches employ data gloves to extract input. To read hand motions, a hand belt containing a gyroscope, accelerometer, and Bluetooth was utilized [3] [4]. To collect both color and depth information, the authors [5] utilized a Senz3D Camera. The SAD (Sum of Absolute Differences) method was used to compare the left and right pictures. The Theodorescu-Pavlidis Algorithm was used to identify the contours in [6], which visits just the border pixels. The computational expenses are reduced with this approach.

[7], [8], and [9] are cost-effective models that have been implemented. Simple web cams are used in their systems. [10] Uses both color and depth pictures, a recognition system based on 24 static American Sign Language (ASL) alphabet signs was created. Gabor filters are a type of filter used to extract characteristics at various sizes and for multiclass classification the classifier was a random forest. In the leave-one-out trial, they had a recognition rate of 49 percent. They also created the American Fingerspelling dataset. The most often used benchmarked dataset is this one. When it comes to sign language research, this is a great place to start. The hand palm contour was chosen as the largest contour in [8] [11] [13], followed by the Polygonal approximation was used to simplify the contour. Individual objects are grouped together in a classification process based on their similarity.

[12] Two unique CNN-based models that can detect 24 static ASL signals were built. They separated one dataset into colour pictures and the other into a mix of colour and depth images. They achieved 86.52 percent and 85.88 percent accuracy for each of their models, and they contrasted their results with these two sets of datasets utilising transfer learning with pretrained models such as VGG 19, VGG 16, and others. The majority of methods allow for the extraction of a hand area.

The method [14] recognizes 25 hand poses using a Euclidean distance-based classifier. In [15] and [16], the Support Vector Machine (SVM) classifier was employed. We depart from the norm alternative conventional methods for gesture recognition that do not need the use of any hand markers, such as gloves. To keep the system cost-effective, we used a webcam built into the laptop rather than purchasing extra cameras. As a result, our system has applications in everyday life.

III. PROPOSED METHODOLOGY

There are two methods for recognising sign language: glove-based recognition and vision-based recognition. This system employs a vision-based recognition mechanism that is non-invasive. There are two methods for achieving vision-based recognition. The entry point file will be manually run on any modern browser, notably the most recent updated Chrome browser classifier.

This system includes a camera unit for recording and generating, as well as training for hearing and speech challenged people's gestures. The pictures scanned from the raw videos are fed into the system with the correct environmental configuration. To ensure that all of the movies are similar in size, the picture frames are adjusted. Feature extraction and classification are done using Convolution Neural Networks. To access web camera, the programme will display a notification. We can read American sign language using camera and write the character on a screen after

allowing webcam access. Using unique hand movements, any two words can be separated by space. After you finish writing on the screen, press the convert to Audio button to convert the text to audio.

The planned work flow is broken into three parts:

1. Compiling the data
2. Use the captured dataset to train a CNN.
3. Data forecasting

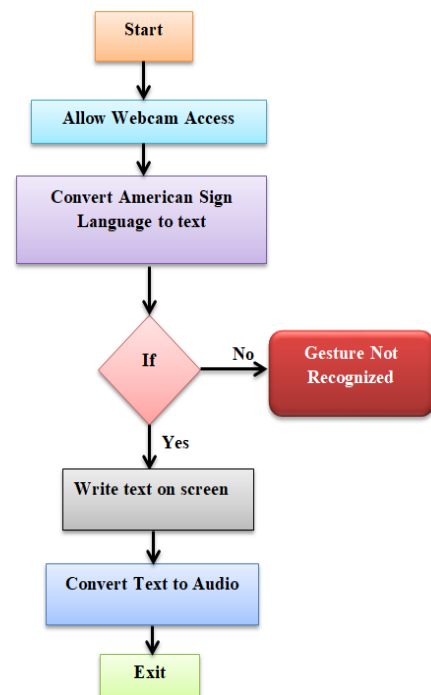


Fig. 1. Flow of Proposed Work

The working process of the model is executed by the flow given below,

Step 1: In the first step, we have to upload data.

Step 2: Data may be trained using CNN by following the steps of the CNN algorithm. A loss graph and model summary will be created when training is completed.

Step 1: set your neural network options

Step 2: initialize your neural network

Step 3: normalize data and train the model

Step 4: train the model

Step 5: use the trained model

Step 6: make a classification

Step 3: For testing upload testing data.

Step 4: Test pretrain model using testing data, testing will return confusion matrix, accuracy, precision, and recall of pretrain model. Following CNN algorithm steps will be done in the testing model.

Step 1: Load pretrained model, the weights, and the metadata.

Step 2: define a function to handle the results of your classification

Step 5: In the output model single prediction will be done. Following CNN algorithm steps will be done in the output model.

Step 1: Load pretrained model, the weights, and the metadata.

Step 2: define a function to handle the results of your classification.

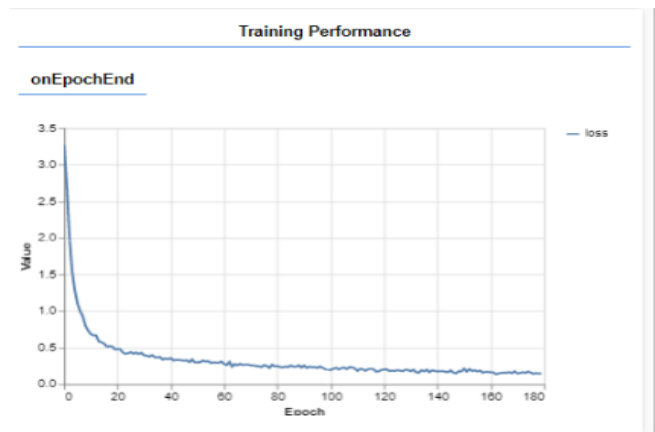
IV. RESULT

A. Result

The performance of the proposed methodology with a different number of layers and epoch has been successfully evaluated and the output for each layer is as shown below.

1. 1 Layer and 180 Epoch

- Algorithm Used: CNN
- Number of layers: 1
- Activation Function: SoftMax
- No of epoch: 180
- Graph for Loss:



- Model Summary:

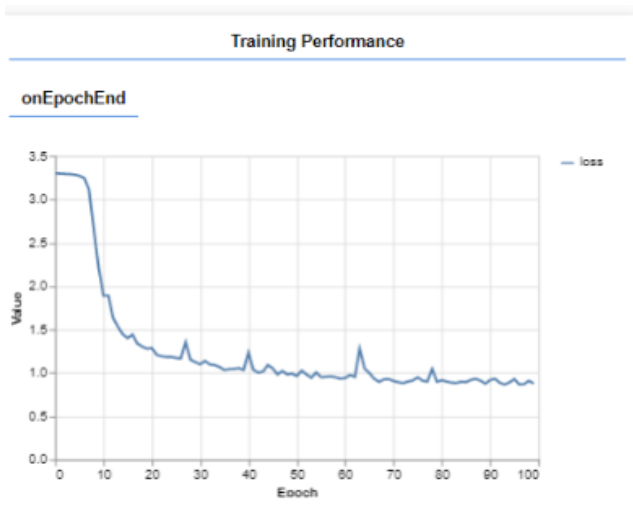
Layer Name	Output Shape	# Of Params	Trainable
conv2d_Conv2D1	[batch,60,60,8]	808	true
max_pooling2d_MaxPooling2D1	[batch,30,30,8]	0	true
flatten_Flatten1	[batch,7200]	0	true
dense_Dense1	[batch,27]	194,427	true

- Dataset Information: For testing used dataset from Kaggle
- Number of Images used for training: used a custom based dataset which will be taken with the help of video.
- Number of Images used for testing :20*27(classes)=540
- Project Accuracy: 0.96
- Precision: 0.96
- Recall: 1
- F-1 Score: 0.98
- Confusion matrix:

		Predicted Value																										Actual Value	
		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z		Space
Actual Value	A	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	B	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	C	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	D	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	E	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	G	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	J	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	K	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	L	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	N	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	O	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	P	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Q	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	R	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	S	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	T	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	U	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0
	V	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0
	W	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0
	X	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0
	Y	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0
	Z	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0
Space	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	

2. 2 Layers and 100 Epoch

- Algorithm Used: CNN
- Number of layers: 2
- Activation Function: SoftMax
- No of epoch: 100
- Graph for Loss:



- Model Summary:

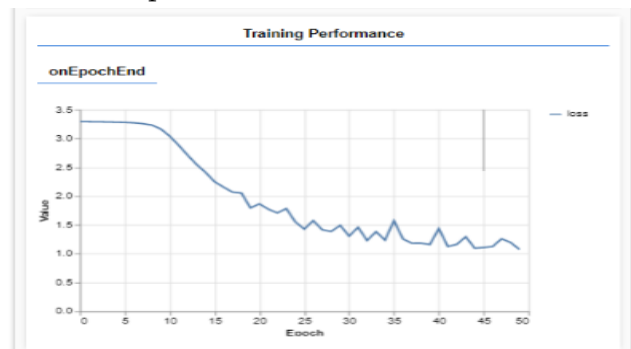
Layer Name	Output Shape	# Of Params	Trainable
conv2d_Conv2D1	[batch,60,60,8]	808	true
max_pooling2d_MaxPooling2D1	[batch,30,30,8]	0	true
conv2d_Conv2D2	[batch,26,26,8]	1,608	true
max_pooling2d_MaxPooling2D2	[batch,13,13,8]	0	true
flatten_Flatten1	[batch,1352]	0	true
dense_Dense1	[batch,27]	36,531	true

- Dataset Information: For testing used dataset from Kaggle
- Number of Images used for training: used a custom based dataset which will be taken with the help of video.
- Number of Images used for testing: 20*27(classes)=540
- Project Accuracy: 0.94
- Precision: 0.94
- Recall: 1
- F-1 Score: 0.97
- Confusion matrix:

		Predicted Value																												
		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	Space	Actual Value	
	A	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		A
	B	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		B
	C	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		C
	D	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		D
	E	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		E
	F	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		F
	G	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		G
	H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		H
	I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		I
	J	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		J
	K	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		K
	L	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		L
	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		M
	N	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		N
	O	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		O
	P	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		P
	Q	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		Q
	R	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		R
	S	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		S
	T	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		T
	U	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0		U
	V	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	18	0	0	0		V
	W	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0		W
	X	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0		X
	Y	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0		Y
	Z	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20		Z
	Space	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	Space

3. 3 Layers and 50 Epoch

- Algorithm Used: CNN
- Number of layers: 3
- Activation Function: SoftMax
- No of epoch: 50
- Graph for Loss:



- Model Summary:

Layer Name	Output Shape	# Of Params	Trainable
conv2d_Conv2D1	[batch,60,60,8]	808	true
max_pooling2d_MaxPooling2D1	[batch,30,30,8]	0	true
conv2d_Conv2D2	[batch,26,26,8]	1,608	true
max_pooling2d_MaxPooling2D2	[batch,13,13,8]	0	true
conv2d_Conv2D3	[batch,9,9,8]	1,608	true
max_pooling2d_MaxPooling2D3	[batch,4,4,8]	0	true
flatten_Flatten1	[batch,128]	0	true
dense_Dense1	[batch,27]	3,483	true

- Dataset Information: For testing used dataset from Kaggle
- Number of Images used for training: used a custom based dataset which will be taken with the help of video.
- Number of Images used for testing: 20*27(classes)=540

- Project Accuracy :0.83
- Precision:0.89
- Recall: 0.93
- F-1 Score: 0.91
- Confusion matrix:

Predicted Value																										
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	Space
20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

B. Performance Analysis

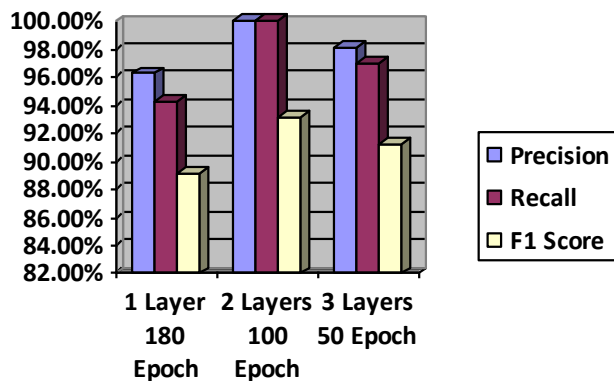


Fig. 2. Precision, Recall and F1 score for three different layers

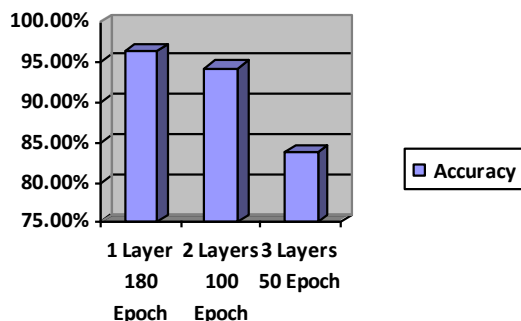


Fig. 3. Accuracy of three different layers

V. CONCLUSION

The vision-based method for the recognition of hand gestures for American sign language is presented in this paper. The characteristics retrieved from the sign picture are utilised to train a sign recognition feed forward neural network. The device can identify 27 hand gestures, including the letters A to Z and a unique symbol for space. This method is a novel approach to aiding people who have difficulty communicating due to speech or voice problems. The vision is to develop a social application which will make it simpler for deaf and mute people to communicate by utilising image processing techniques. Because it employs an image-based approach, it may be started as an application in any basic system and has a near-zero cost. Here with the help of CNN algorithm using 1 layer 180 Epoch we get highest accuracy which is 96.29%.

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