

**44<sup>th</sup> National Systems Conference on  
Systems for Sustainable Healthcare Habitats**

**NSC-2021**

**May 22-23, 2021**



**Dayalbagh Educational Institute**  
in collaboration with  
**Systems Society of India**



**Conference Proceedings**



**Dayalbagh Educational Institute**  
**(Deemed to be University)**  
**Dayalbagh, Agra - 282005, Uttar Pradesh, India**  
**<http://www.dei.ac.in>**

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## Foreward

The Dayalbagh Educational Institute (DEI), in association with Systems Society of India (SSI), organised the 44<sup>th</sup> National Systems Conference (NSC-2021) on Systems for Sustainable Healthcare Habitats from May 22<sup>nd</sup> to May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 at Dayalbagh Educational Institute, Agra, INDIA. The conference was held online in the virtual mode with a few thousand participants in each session across the globe connected through e-cascade.

A call for papers was sent out in March 2021, there were 57 papers submitted from different institutions. After the review 30 papers for the oral presentations and 10 papers for the poster presentations were selected. The oral presentations were divided into 6 categories, namely, consciousness and biological systems, education systems, environment systems, healthcare systems, information and communication systems, and mathematical systems with 5 papers in each category. For each paper a pre-recorded video of 8-10 minutes was presented, followed by a live audio interaction with Q&A. Out of 10 papers selected in the poster category 7 papers were presented each with a pre-recorded video of 3 minutes followed by a live audio interaction. The best paper award for each category of the oral presentations and the poster session was adjudged by the two session chairs.

At the brief inaugural session a short video by Prof Erik Goodman from Michigan State University was played where he saluted Most Revered Prof P S Satsangi Sahab for His vision in founding and nurturing the SSI and he wished a great success for NSC-2021. The conference had four plenary talks by the internationally reputed systems scientists in different areas — Prof. Mo Jamshidi, University of Texas at San Antonio, USA, Prof. Evangelyn C. Alocilja, Michigan State University, USA, Prof. Laxmidhar Behera, IIT Kanpur, India, and Dr Tom Rand, ArcTern Ventures, Canada. A session on What GenNext Thinks was organised with six short invited talks by outstanding young researchers from various parts of the world giving their ideas of research. A panel discussion was moderated by Dr Anoop Srivastava with eminent panelists on the theme of the conference, i.e., Systems for Sustainable Healthcare Habitats. At the end an award ceremony was held for the SSI awards and the best papers awards followed by a short cultural programme presented by the students of DEI, which was very well appreciated.

We are extremely grateful to Most Revered Prof P S Satsangi Sahab for His guidance and direction in all our endeavours.

NSC-2021 Program and Organising Committee

**44<sup>th</sup> National Systems Conference (NSC)**  
**Systems for Sustainable Healthcare Habitats**  
**22-23 May 2021**

**Final Program**

<b>DAY – 1 (Saturday, 22 May 2021)</b>		
<b>Time</b>	<b>Session Title and Chair(s)</b>	<b>Session Details.</b>
10:00 AM – 11:00 AM	<b>Consciousness and Biological Systems</b> Chairs: Prof. PK Dantu, Prof. Sunita Malhotra.	5 oral presentations of selected contributed papers.
11:00 AM – 12:00 Noon	<b>Education Systems</b> Chairs: Dr. GSS Babu, Dr. Sonal Singh.	5 oral presentations of selected contributed papers.
12:00 Noon – 1:00 PM	<b>Environment Systems</b> Chairs: Prof. Praveen Saxena, Dr. Ranjit Kumar.	5 oral presentations of selected contributed papers.
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM	SSI AGM	Annual General Meeting of the Systems Society of India.
<b>BREAK</b>		
5:45 PM – 6:00 PM	Inauguration	Inaugural function of the 44th National Systems Conference.
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM	<b>Plenary Talk 1</b> Chair: Dr. Dayal Pyari Srivastava.	Complex System of Systems Engineering Paradigm for Smart Future Systems by <b>Prof. Mo Jamshidi</b> , University of Texas at San Antonio, USA.
7:00 PM – 8:00 PM	<b>Plenary Talk 2</b> Chair: Prof. K Soami Daya.	Systems Framework for Personalized Infectious Disease Management Using Nano-enabled Biosensors by <b>Prof. Evangelyn C. Alocilja</b> , Michigan State University, USA.
8:00 PM – 9:00 PM	Young Researchers Invited Talks: <b>What GenNext Thinks</b> Chair: Prof. K Soami Daya.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The GenNext of Science and what it will take to get there by <b>Dr. N. Apurva Ratan Murty</b>, MIT, USA.</li> <li>2. Habits and Habitats: Comparing Dayalbagh and Princeton by <b>Dr. Aarat Kalra</b>, Princeton University, USA.</li> <li>3. Invited Talk by <b>Mr. Karan Narain</b>, TCS Research and DEI, India.</li> <li>4. High-dimensional mediation using deep learning: Understanding the stimulus-pain relationship in human by <b>Dr. Tanmay Nath</b>, Johns Hopkins University, USA.</li> <li>5. Shift towards human-relevant and predictive paradigm for research and drug discovery by <b>Dr. Surat Parvatam</b>, Atal Incubation Centre-CCMB, India.</li> <li>6. Algebraic Geometry, K-Theory, and Future Outlook by <b>Mr. Anubhav Nanavaty</b>, The University of California at Irvine, USA.</li> </ol>

**DAY – 2 (Sunday, 23 May 2021)**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Session Title and Chair(s)</b>	<b>Session Details</b>
10:00 AM – 11:00 AM	<b>Healthcare Systems</b> Chairs: Prof. Swami P. Saxena, Dr. Saurabh Mani.	5 oral presentations of selected contributed papers.
11:00 AM – 12:00 Noon	<b>Information &amp; Communication Systems</b> Chairs: Dr. Sanjay Saini, Dr. Rohit Rajwanshi.	5 oral presentations of selected contributed papers.
12:00 Noon – 1:00 PM	<b>Mathematical Systems</b> Chairs: Prof. Sandeep Paul, Dr. Kumar Ratnakar.	5 oral presentations of selected contributed papers.
1:00 PM – 1:30 PM	Poster Presentations Chairs: Prof. VK Gangal, Prof. Vijay S. Caprihan.	10 poster presentations of selected contributed papers.
<b>BREAK</b>		
5:00 PM – 6:00 PM	<b>Plenary Talk 3</b> Chair: Prof. PK Kalra (IITD).	Imitation learning from human demonstration by <b>Prof. Laxmidhar Behera</b> , IIT Kanpur, India.
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM	<b>Plenary Talk 4</b> Chair: Dr. Bani Dayal Dhir.	Waking the Frog: Building a Renewed Climate Capitalism by <b>Dr. Tom Rand</b> , ArcTern Ventures, Canada.
7:00 PM – 7:30 PM	Panel Discussion: <b>Systems for Sustainable Healthcare Habitats</b>	Panelists: <b>Dr. Anoop Srivastava</b> (Moderator), Dayalbagh, India. <b>Dr. Tom Rand</b> , ArcTern Ventures, Canada. <b>Prof. Mo Jamshidi</b> , University of Texas at San Antonio, USA. <b>Prof. Laxmidhar Behera</b> , IIT Kanpur, India. <b>Prof. Satya Prakash</b> , Dayalbagh, India. <b>Mr. M. Asad Pathan</b> , SPHEEHA, India. <b>Dr Anjoo Bhatnagar</b> , Saran Ashram Hospital, India.
7:30 PM – 8:00 PM	<b>Distribution of Awards</b> Chair: Prof. D. Bhagwan Das.	Conferment of Systems Society of India Awards. Best Paper Awards for Contributed Papers (for each oral presentations category and poster presentations).
8:00 PM – 8:15 PM	Cultural Program	Cultural Program presented by students of Dayalbagh Educational Institute.

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# Modeling and validation of a stable membrane for optimizing the delivery of therapeutic molecules into the biological system

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**Abstract-** The integrity of the biological system largely depends on its membranes. The membranes are an intimate network of closely related macromolecules encompassing both cells and organelles and mostly act as a barrier to the transport of molecules larger than 500 Da or even to some ions like H<sup>+</sup> that require specialized channel systems for their transport. In this paper, we successfully modeled and simulated the lipid bilayer to study the phase transitions change from gel phase ( $L_{\beta}$ ) to fluid phase ( $L_{\alpha}$ ) within the ideal temperature range in accordance to their transition temperature ( $T_m$ ). This was based on coarse-grained molecular dynamics (CGMD) and validated by formulating vesicles and analyzed by absorbance spectra. The self-assembly process of dipalmitoylphosphatidylcholine (DPPC), dimyristoylphosphatidylcholine (DMPC), and palmitoyloleoylphosphatidylethanolamine (POPE) bilayer membranes are simulated in the MARTINI force field and the area per lipid (APL) is also analyzed. Here, we noticed a sudden drop in area per lipid peak whenever the system temperature approaches close to  $T_m$ . The observed temperatures are 323K, 288-350K, and 280-295K for DPPC, DMPC, and POPE, respectively which are in close contact with the experimentally recorded  $T_m$  values.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Biological membranes are an intimate network of closely related macromolecules encompassing both cells and organelles. These layers are for the most part made out of lipids, proteins, and sugars. Of every one of these parts, the lipid bilayers are fundamental structural blocks of the biological membranes, which are commonly known as the lipid matrix (Liu et al., 2019). These have had wide implications for the detection of cell membranes since they form the constitutive makeup of cellular organelles and act as an obstacle to the transport of organic materials into the cytoplasm. The lipids membranes may espouse three lamellar phases like gel ( $L_{\beta}$ ), ripple ( $P_{\beta}$ ) and fluid ( $L_{\alpha}$ ) depending on the composition, temperature, and pressure variables. In physiological forms, lipid bilayers are mostly present in a liquid crystalline ( $L_{\alpha}$ ) state, with a comparatively high degree of disorder and dynamical behavior, also called liquid disordered state (Lyubartsev & Rabinovich, 2016). This phase can be observed at high temperatures relying upon the lipid

content in the membrane and is differentiated by high lipid versatility and chain adaptability (Khakbaz & Klaua, 2018). Whereas the permeability of membrane molecules primarily impacted through transition temperatures ( $T_m$ ) of each component, that is the temperature at which they undergo through a transition transformation from an ordered gel phase to a disordered fluid phase. The  $T_m$  has a significant effect on the biomembrane structural properties (Chen et al., 2018).

Experimental studies of bilayer membranes become tremendously complicated at such nano-scale level as large number of various lipids united with the delicate nature and structural diversity to form aggregates. Exploring biological membranes in molecular detail has been of spacious concern as molecular simulations could yield a deep understanding of several biological processes. Moreover, these Molecular dynamics (MD) simulations are extensively used to learn different phases of lipid bilayers. Prominent advancements in this area have been made by studying model membranes of basic composition, which depicts particular relationship between lipid types (Baoukina et al., 2012). All-atom (AA) and Coarse-grained (CG) molecular dynamics (MD) simulations is an imperative method that has extensively assisted to explore the dynamic properties of lipid bilayers dependent on the degree of desirable resolution and time scale likely to comprehend the phase changes. The Martini force field (FF) has been utilized to contemplate the phase transition of lipids in CG-MD, while AMBER and CHARMM lipid force fields are commonly used in AA-MD (Wang et al., 2016).

In this article, well rational model membranes delineated as lipid bilayers were employed to study the phase transition behavior of dipalmitoylphosphatidylcholine (DPPC), dimyristoylphosphatidylcholine (DMPC), and palmitoyloleoylphosphatidylethanolamine (POPE) membranes through molecular dynamics simulations under martini FF. Simulations signifies the phase transition from the  $L_{\beta}$  phase to  $L_{\alpha}$  phase by evaluating the surface area per lipid (APL), enthalpy, potential, volume and total energy factors. Thus, the area per lipid (APL) of a bilayer confers significant details

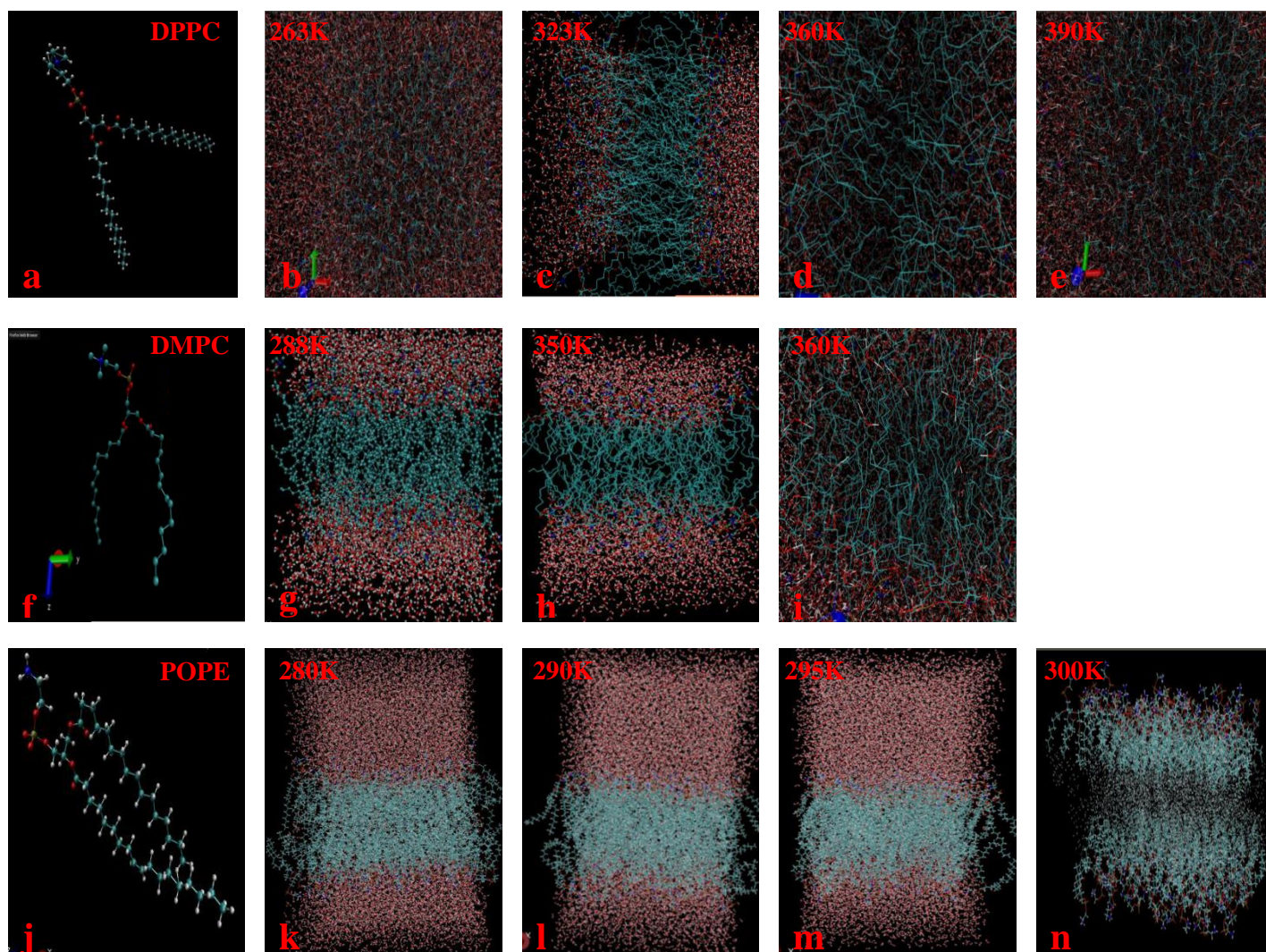


Fig.1 Atomistic bilayer models of (a) one molecule of DPPC, (b) DPPC condensed bilayer formation at 263K, (c) formation of proper DPPC bilayer at 323K, (d) distortion of DPPC bilayer at 360K, (e) complete distortion of DPPC bilayer at 390K, (f) single DMPC molecule. (g) formation of DMPC bilayer at 288K, (h) formation of DMPC bilayer at 350K where water molecules are on proximal and distal sides of lipid bilayer, (i) higher temperatures (360 K) derive the DMPC bilayer aggregations into irregular clusters, (j) single POPE molecule, (k) formation of POPE lipid bilayer at 280K, (l) formation of POPE bilayer at 290K, (m) formation of POPE bilayer at 295K, (n) distortion of POPE fatty-acyl tails at 300K. The color-coding is as cyan-Methyl, blue-Nitrogen, red-Oxygen, and brown-Phosphate.

about membrane, on account of its high sensitivity to hydrophilic attraction among polar head groups and hydrophobic repulsion among non-polar hydrocarbon tails. Although these lipids are available in cell membranes in trivial amount, but these has been utilized broadly in the literature as the foremost lipid model membranes. Hence, the presence of vast experimental and simulation data made the investigation of these systems conceivable and that's why we selected them for the current study.

## II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

### A. *In silico* Simulation Details

All simulations were executed using the MARTINI coarse-grained (CG) force field version 2.1 (Marrink et al., 2007).

The MARTINI model clusters four to six non-hydrogen atoms into one CG particle or interaction site and four water molecules into a single water bead. Constant temperature constant pressure ensemble depiction with sovereign lateral and normal weak pressure coupling scheme was employed to attain area per lipid at temperatures ranges (260-390 K).

Consequently, in each system lipid molecules were assembled by placing 1,000 lipids and 20,000 water particles arbitrarily to form symmetric bilayers in their initial configuration. Initially, the systems were energy minimized for 5,000 steps using the steepest descent method and then, MD simulations at constant pressure, temperature and number of particles (NPT ensemble) were executed for 1 nanosecond at varied temperature during which molecules self-assembled to form a lipid bilayer structure. MARTINI FF simulations employed

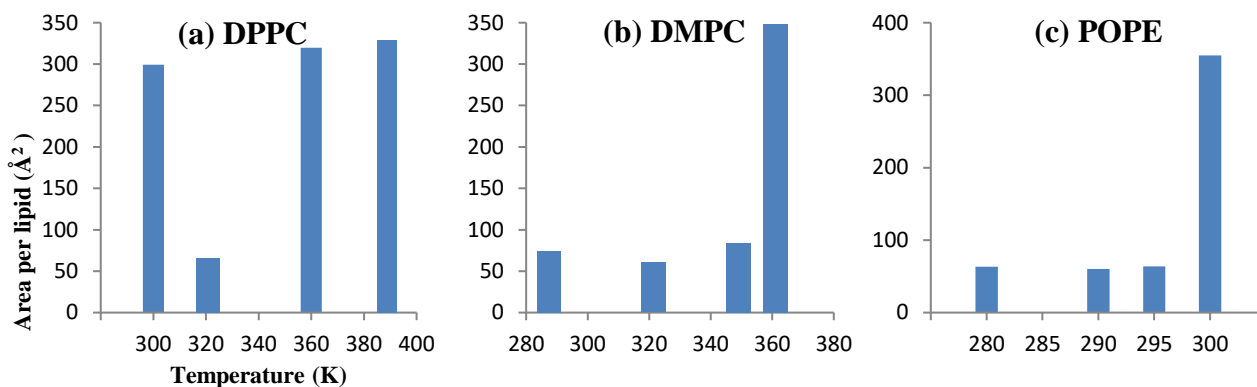


Fig. 2 Effect of Temperature on Area per lipid for (a) DPPC, (b) DMPC, and (c) POPE bilayer.

30 fs as integration time-step; berendsen thermostat and barostat to control temperature and pressure, appropriately. The relaxation times are chosen considering computational efficacy and algorithm potency, 2.0 ps for the thermostat and 4.0 ps for the barostat. The cut-off distance of 1.2 nm for Lennard-Jones potential was used and the electrostatic interactions were calculated using pairwise Coulomb potential at the partitions lesser than 1.2 nm with a shifted force amendment from 0 to 1.2 nm. MARTINI FF analytically neglects long-range electrostatic interactions as no electrostatic interactions were addressed besides this cut-off distance. MARTINI FF other experimental parameters completely described to provide accurate physical properties.

Furthermore, the trajectories were analyzed using GROMACS tools version 4.5 (Pronk et al., 2013), VMD (humphrey1996), and scripts accessed from MARTINI website and used with suitable alterations.

### B. Sample Preparation

Soybean phosphatidylcholine (SPC), Surfactants (Polysorbate 80, Polysorbate 60, Polysorbate 40, and Polysorbate 20), Culture reagents, Cell lines, buffers and all other chemicals and reagents will be of analytical grade. The stable deformable vesicles formulation was prepared using polysorbate as surfactant. The soybean phosphatidylcholine was weighed and mixed with Polysorbate in ethanolic solution. The amphipath was further vortexed till the entire lipid completely solubilizes and then the phosphate buffer was added. The solution was sonicated for 45 minutes at 200Hz. Then the suspension was delineated by spectroscopic analysis ranging from 250-400nm to obtained vesicles.

## III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### A. Temperature-dependent Structural Changes in the Simulated Membrane

All the MD simulations of DPPC, DMPC and, POPE bilayer membrane were executed using diverse temperatures to ensure the existence of lipid bilayer at specific temperature (Fig. 1).

We monitored the confluence of the simulations by plotting the area per lipid (APL) for all the systems at different temperatures. With the thermal expansion of lipids in the systems during MD simulation, the fluctuations in the APL are confirmed. Therefore, temperature-dependent structural changes were witnessed in the membrane with temperatures amendment.

#### 1) Analysis of Area Per Lipid

For each lipid type APL was calculated at a temperature range (260-390K) (Fig. 2). The selected temperature range is sufficiently high to acquire thermal expansion APL confluence within 1 ns. A sharp reformation of APL is observed in all cases with certain deviations below their transition temperature (lipid type specific) which are mainly due to insufficient sampling at gel phase temperatures. Assured deviations are also noticed at temperatures above 373 K owing to variations in the properties (density) of water beyond its typical boiling point. In this case, superheated water is present in these MD systems rather than standard liquid water.

In Fig. 2(a) the DPPC bilayer formation takes place at 323K with the average area per lipid headgroup around  $63.75 \text{ \AA}^2$ , while for DMPC the bilayer formation happens when average area per lipid headgroup at 288K and 350K is  $64.83 \text{ \AA}^2$  and  $66.57 \text{ \AA}^2$  respectively (Fig. 2b), and for POPE simulated systems the bilayer formation could be observed at 280K, 290K, 295K and average areas per lipid headgroup were  $63.40 \text{ \AA}^2$ ,  $60.40 \text{ \AA}^2$  and  $63.54 \text{ \AA}^2$  respectively (Fig. 2c). This shows that when the phospholipid molecules assemble into a bilayer the average area per lipid headgroup remains around  $60 \text{ \AA}^2$  to  $66 \text{ \AA}^2$ . During heating, lipid particles start moving more rapidly and consequently uphold a greater spatial partition. As temperature mounts, significant hops in the APL graphs are seen at temperature equivalent to the state transition at specific  $T_m$  (Fig. 2). Our results show that the APL for the pure DPPC, DMPC, and POPE system jumps from a higher value or remain stable near their  $T_m$ , demonstrating that the gel to-liquid transition happens within this temperature range, which are as per the experimentally announced  $T_m$  for pure

TABLE I. EFFECT OF TEMPERATURE ON THE VARIED PARAMETERS FOR THE DPPC, DMPC AND POPE MEMBRANES

Lipid	Area Per Headgroup (Å <sup>2</sup> )	Enthalpy (Kj/Mol)	Total Energy (Kj/Mol)	Volume (Nm <sup>3</sup> )	Potential (Kj/Mol)	Pressure (Bar)
DPPC(263K)	314.66	-2.508	-2.518	1798.27	-2.89	1
DPPC(300K)	299.35	-2.323	-2.3248	1833.43	-27638	3
DPPC(323K)	<b>63.75*</b>	-2.203	-2.2053	1848.47	-2.67	0.7
DPPC(360K)	319.75	-2.021	-2.0224	1901.6	-2.54	3
DPPC(390K)	333.21	-1.876	-1.8784	1955.73	-2.44	3
DMPC(288K)	<b>64.83*</b>	-206274	-206286	194.85	-239560	9
DMPC(323K)	<b>63.00*</b>	-2.111	-2.128	1763.02	-2.11	3
DMPC(350K)	66.57	-183493	-183534	201.19	-18349	2
DMPC(360K)	310.63	-1.938	-1.93891	1813.20	-1.93	0.88
POPE(280K)	<b>63.43*</b>	-427749	-427781	536.00	-561766	153
POPE(290K)	<b>60.40*</b>	-364706	-364738	525.84	-493682	150
POPE(295K)	<b>63.54*</b>	-408611	-408643	537.27	-549823	176.75
POPE(300K)	354.87	-4.82842	-4.8286	4445.79	-5.95	161

\*The highlighted data for DPPC, DMPC and POPE represents the appropriate area per lipid during the stable bilayer formation at expedient temperature.

DPPC in range from 311 K (Vist & Davis, 1990) to 314 K (Koynova & Caffrey, 1998), 290K-297K for DMPC (Faure et al., 1997), and 290K-300K range for POPE (Leekumjorn & Sum, 2007). This occurrence of APL boost in return to temperature enhancement through thermal expansion is frequent in lipids.

### B. Comparative Analysis of Properties of Simulated Membranes

We also performed comparative analysis of lipid bilayer constitution through other parameters like density, potential, enthalpy, and total energy which assist us to comprehend its structural conformation at varied temperatures.

#### 1) Analysis of Energy and Volume

In general, the state transition of lipid membranes is marked by some transformation in enthalpy (Cevc & Marsh, 1989), volume (Nagle & Wilkinson, 1978), and area (Nagle, 1993) which are temperature dependent parameters depicting the stable membrane structural conformations. Furthermore, in accordance with the renowned statistical thermodynamics theorem, the heat capacity is relative to enthalpy fluctuations, whereas the compressibility is comparative to volume

fluctuations (Mishin, 2015). Thus, if enthalpy and volume fluctuations are correlated, then similarly a close association also subsists between lipid area and enthalpy. The physical validity of MD simulation is witnessed by its total energy estimate that is the sum of kinetic and potential energy of all the atoms or molecules within the system. For DPPC at 323K, enthalpy, volume, potential and total energy value at -2.203 kJ/mol, 1848.47nm<sup>3</sup>, -2.67kJ/mol and -2.2053 kJ/mol. The DMPC bilayer formation takes place when enthalpy remains around 20627kJ/mol to -183493kJ/mol with around 194-201 nm<sup>3</sup> volume, -239560 to -18349 kJ/mol potential and -206286 to -183534kJ/mol energy (Fig. 2). Similarly POPE bilayer formation take place around 280-295K with parameters in range from -427749 to -364706 kJ/mol enthalpy, 525-537 nm<sup>3</sup> volume, -561766 to -493682 kJ/mol potential, and -427781 to -364738 kJ/mol energy (TABLE I).

#### 2) Analysis of Pressure

Alterations in environmental conditions, like temperature and pressure, fabricate modifications in the lateral structure and phase behavior of the membrane, which can prompt conformational changes in membrane and their distribution. Typically, pressure compresses the lipid and reduces the average distance between the atoms however the structure of

the molecules remains unaffected. As a result, their functional properties and conformations might be influenced. Upon pressurization, the pressure-induced state transition or bilayer formation takes place around 0.7bar at 323 for pure DPPC, around 9bar and 2.5bar for DMPC, and between 150bar to 178bar for POPE, which is in acceptable concurrence with literature data (Lehofer et al., 2018; Periasamy et al., 2009).

Around 1.7kbar, a high-pressure interdigitated gel phase is formed where acyl chains of the opposite leaflets intercalate. Above 3.4kbar not only interchain conformations fluctuate but intrachain conformation also changes. The formation of the gel phase starts after the pressure goes beyond 800bar till then the bilayer remains in the lipid phase. This pressure is exerted by one lipid molecule on other lipid molecules (TABLE I).

### C. Experimental Validation of Simulated Membrane

UV absorption spectra of the lipid suspension were measured by Perkin Elmer Lamda 750 UV-Vis NIR spectrophotometer at varying temperature within the range of 250-400nm against phosphate buffer used as a reference. Validation was done by making lipid bilayer using extruder and sonicator and then spectral analysis was done. The effect of varying temperature on soya phosphatidylcholine bilayer was studied. The lipid mixed with phosphate buffer and ethanol was first sonicated and then incubated for two hours at different temperatures i.e., 300K, 310K, 323K, 360K, 390K and then characterized by spectrophotometer. The formation of bilayer takes place 323K (Fig. 3). The optical absorbance spectra were recorded at wavelengths from 250nm to 400nm at different temperatures. On lowering temperature the absorption increases. But here we can see that absorption is maximum at 323K which shows the formation of stable bilayer system (TABLE II).

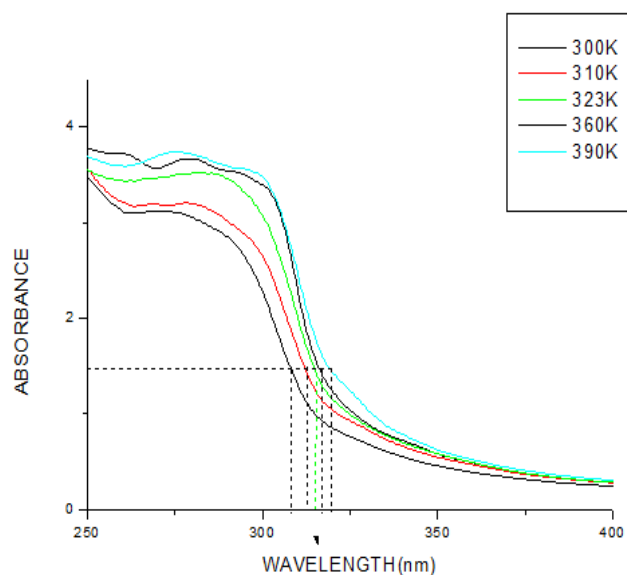


Fig. 3 Effect of temperature on formation of stable bilayer, the phospholipid molecules aggregate to form lipid bilayer at 1.6 absorbance.

TABLE II. EFFECT OF TEMPERATURE ABSORBANCE THE VESICLES WERE PREPARED AT DIFFERENT TEMPERATURE 300K, 310K, 323K, 360K, 390K INCUBATED FOR TWO HOURS AFTER SONICATION.

Temperature	Wavelength	Absorbance
300K	308nm	3.80
310K	313nm	3.6
323K	315nm	3.86
360K	317nm	3.7
390K	320nm	3.5

## IV. CONCLUSION

In this study, we have demonstrated a well-equipped computationally competent method using MARTINI force field for predicting the phase transition from an ordered gel phase ( $L_{\beta}$ ) to a disordered fluid phase ( $L_{\alpha}$ ) of pure DPPC, pure DMPC, and pure POPE bilayers within enviable temperature range comparative to prior experimental results. The yielded MD simulation results of membrane phase transition states are in acceptable range with the average area per lipid. Specifically, the area per lipid was analyzed and we discover the enhancement in area per lipid head group, with the higher increment being across the main phase transition. Consequently, the lipid volume deposited on the surface is affected by the incubation temperature, and hence also the lateral pressure in the leaflets is affected. Here, we also performed experimental validation of simulated bilayer using soya phosphatidylcholine (SPC) lipid due to its higher phosphatidylcholine group content analogous to the DPPC bilayer. The optical absorbance of SPC group shows maximum absorption at 323K which depicts stable bilayer formation. For future, mixed type of lipid bilayer can also be investigated using specialized or advanced lipid force fields.

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# Theoretical Analysis of Optogenetic Control in Step-function Opsin with Ultra-high Light Sensitivity (SOUL)-expressing Neurons

\*Note: Sub-titles are not captured in Xplore and should not be used

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**Abstract**—Desensitization of photocurrent in response to sustained light and low light-sensitivity in fast channelrhodopsins are the key challenges to elicit consistent firing, in response to prolonged pulse train with high-fidelity and negligible heating effects in optogenetics. In the present study, a detailed theoretical analysis of bi-stable optogenetic switching in a new step-function opsin with ultra-high light sensitivity (SOUL)-expressing neurons has been carried out by formulating an accurate theoretical model. The theoretical model has been validated by comparing simulations with reported experimental results. In SOUL-expressing neurons, the percentage of return to baseline ratio, under multiple ON (blue) and OFF (red-shifted) stimulations, decreases on increasing pulse width of blue-light, while it increases significantly on increasing pulse width of red-shifted light. The study is useful not only to better understand the photocurrent kinetics, but also to determine optimal values of photostimulation parameters for low-power bi-stable switching of neurons with two-color light pulses with SOUL.

**Keywords**—Step-function opsins, bi-stable optogenetic switching, Desensitization, Computational optogenetics, SOUL.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Optogenetics has emerged as a prominent technique in neuroscience research by providing subcellular spatial and sub-millisecond temporal precision in manipulating and recording neuronal activity [1, 2]. It has potential for a wide range of biomedical applications in and beyond neuroscience [3-5].

To translate optogenetics from an investigative tool to a true therapeutic avenue, the key challenges are to simultaneously achieve low-power, high-frequency, noninvasive, long-term, and large volume optogenetic excitation/inhibition of neuronal population in the brain [6-8]. To overcome these challenges, last decade has witnessed an explosive development of effective opsins, through discovery and engineering, to provide better control, larger photocurrent, improved kinetics, high-sensitivity, spectral tuning, and protein stability, along with light-delivery systems and opsin-expression strategies [9-11].

Due to the inverse relationship between light-sensitivity and kinetics, faster opsins need higher light intensities, which may cause tissue heating and can affect many physiological processes inside the brain [12, 13]. Further, to get long-term optogenetic excitation, a major limitation is that the photocurrent in fast channelrhodopsins typically desensitizes in response to sustained light, which can cause spike-failure if the photocurrent reduces to subthreshold values [12].

Step function opsins or bi-stable opsins (SFOs) are functionally different class of opsins that exhibit prolonged activation of photocurrent even after the light is turned off and have several orders higher light-sensitivity [13,14]. The photocurrent in SFOs can be precisely turned-off by illuminating red-shifted light [14]. ChR2-C128A and ChR2-C128S are the first kind of SFOs generated through single amino acid mutation at C128 position in ChR2 sequence [14]. The double mutant ChR2(C128S/D156A), also called stabilized step-function opsin (SSFO), has shown significant stability of its photocurrent for minutes [15]. Recently, mutations of SSFO namely C128S and D156A have been combined with T159C mutation, which results in significantly increased photocurrent [16]. The increased photocurrent imparts higher operational light sensitivity. Hence, this mutant named as step-function opsin with ultra-high light sensitivity (SOUL), exhibits a peak photocurrent that is almost double that in SSFO [16].

The objective of this paper is to (i) formulate an accurate theoretical model of bi-stable optogenetic control in SOUL-expressing neurons, which has not been attempted to date, (ii) compare theoretical results with reported experimental results, and (iii) study the bi-stable switching characteristics under wide range of irradiances, pulse widths and pulse frequencies to determine optimal values.

## II. THEORETICAL MODEL

All microbial opsins used in optogenetics consist of a seven-transmembrane helix motif and utilize a covalently bound all-transretinal as their light-sensing chromophore [17-20]. Illumination with photons results in isomerization of the retinal molecule from *all-trans* to *13-cis* state and subsequently triggers a photocycle with several intermediates [17]. The photocurrent through opsin channels across the cell membrane is determined as,

$$I_{opsin} = g_{opsin}(V - E_{opsin}) \quad (1)$$

where,  $g_{opsin}$  is ion channel conductance of opsin molecules,  $V$  is the membrane voltage, and  $E_{opsin}$  is the reversal potential of the opsin channel [21-23]. In general, the ion channel conductance depends on several factors that include light intensity ( $I$ ), wavelength ( $\lambda$ ), instant population density in conducting states of the photocycle, conductance of single molecule, opsin-expression density, local concentration of permeable ions, temperature, and pH

[21, 22]. We consider the conductance to be defined as,  $g = g_0 f_\varphi(\varphi, t)$ , where  $g_0$  is the maximum conductance, which accounts for conductance of single molecule and opsin-expression density, and  $f_\varphi(\varphi, t)$  is a normalized light-dependent function that accounts for light intensity (I), wavelength ( $\lambda$ ), and population density of conducting states in photocycle of opsin molecule.  $\varphi$  is the photon flux per unit area per unit time and defined as  $\lambda I/hc$ , where  $h$  is Planck's constant and  $c$  is the speed of light in vacuum [21-25]

#### A. Model of Photocurrent in Step Function Opsin

For Chr2 and its mutants, a two-cycle model of photocycle has been widely accepted to describe the spectral changes and the biphasic decay of their photocurrent [26, 27]. Thus a 4-state model consisting of two open and two closed states is able to accurately simulate the photocurrent in fast Chr2 variants [28]. However, experimental characterization of slow mutants of Chr2 with spectroscopic and electrophysiological methods led to the identification of the photoreaction of a non-conducting intermediate P390 and P390' before open-states in the functional cycle of opsin [27,14]. To model the photocurrent kinetics of SOUL, we consider a six state photocycle model that includes, (i) ground state D470 as a first closed-state( $C_1$ ), (ii) P390 as an intermediate but closed-state( $S_1$ ), (iii) P520 as a first open-state( $O_1$ ), (iv) P520' as a second open-state( $O_2$ ), (v) P390' as another intermediate but closed-state( $S_2$ ), and (vi) D480 as a second closed-state ( $C_2$ ).

Considering,  $C_1, S_1, O_1, O_2, S_2$  and  $C_2$  to denote the fraction of SFO molecules in each of the six states at any given instant of time, the transition rates for the kinetics can be described by the following set of equations,

$$\dot{C}_1 = G_{r0}C_2 + (G_{z1} + G_{d1})O_1 - G_{a1}C_1 \quad (2)$$

$$\dot{S}_1 = G_{a1}C_1 - G_{a3}S_1 + G_{b3}O_1 \quad (3)$$

$$\dot{O}_1 = G_{a3}S_1 - (G_{z1} + G_{d1} + G_{b3} + G_f)O_1 + G_bO_2 \quad (4)$$

$$\dot{O}_2 = G_{a4}S_2 - (G_{z2} + G_{d2} + G_b + G_{b4})O_2 + G_fO_1 \quad (5)$$

$$\dot{S}_2 = G_{a2}C_2 - G_{a4}S_2 + G_{b4}O_2 \quad (6)$$

$$\dot{C}_2 = (G_{d2} + G_{z2})O_2 - (G_{r0} + G_{a2})C_2 \quad (7)$$

where  $C_1 + S_1 + O_1 + O_2 + S_2 + C_2 = 1$ ,  $G_{a1}, G_{a3}, G_{b3}, G_{z1}, G_{d1}, G_f, G_b, G_{b4}, G_{a4}, G_{z2}, G_{d2}, G_{a2}$  and  $G_{r0}$  are the rate constants for transitions  $C_1 \rightarrow S_1, S_1 \rightarrow O_1, O_1 \rightarrow S_1, O_1 \rightarrow C_1, O_1 \rightarrow C_1, O_1 \rightarrow O_2, O_2 \rightarrow O_1, O_2 \rightarrow S_2, S_2 \rightarrow O_2, O_2 \rightarrow C_2, O_2 \rightarrow C_2, C_2 \rightarrow S_2$  and  $C_2 \rightarrow C_1$  respectively, determined from reported experimental results. The light-dependent rate constants are defined as,  $G_{a1} = k_{a1} \varphi_b^p / (\varphi_b^p + \varphi_{mb1}^p) + \alpha k_{a1a} \varphi_y^d / (\varphi_y^d + \varphi_{my2}^d)$ ,  $G_{a2} = k_{a2} \varphi_b^r / (\varphi_b^r + \varphi_{mb2}^r) + \alpha k_{a2a} \varphi_y^d / (\varphi_y^d + \varphi_{my2}^d)$ ,  $G_{b3} = k_{b3} \varphi_b^p / (\varphi_b^p + \varphi_{mb3}^p)$ ,  $G_{b4} = k_{b4} \varphi_b^s / (\varphi_b^s + \varphi_{mb4}^s)$ ,  $G_f = G_{f0} + k_f \varphi_b^j / (\varphi_b^j + \varphi_{mb1}^j)$ ,

$G_b = G_{b0} + k_b \varphi_b^j / (\varphi_b^j + \varphi_{mb1}^j)$ ,  $G_{z1} = \beta k_{z1} \varphi_y^q / (\varphi_y^q + \varphi_{my1}^q)$ ,  $G_{z2} = \beta k_{z2} \varphi_y^q / (\varphi_y^q + \varphi_{my1}^q)$  [21, 22], where,  $\varphi_b$  and  $\varphi_y$  are the photon flux densities at blue and red-shifted wavelengths, respectively. Since, there are two open-states,  $f_\varphi(\varphi) = O_1 + \gamma O_2$ , where,  $\gamma = g_{02}/g_{01} \cdot g_{01}$  and  $g_{02}$  are the maximum conductances of  $O_1$  and  $O_2$  states, respectively [21, 22].  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  account for the quantum efficiencies at different wavelengths. The model parameters have been determined from reported experimental results [15, 16].

#### B. Model for Optogenetic Control of SOUL-expressing Neurons

The integrated model consists of the photocurrent models of the opsin and Hemond neuron circuit model for hippocampal neurons [29]. The Hemond neuron model in addition to photo-induced current in SFOs ( $I_{SOUL}$ ) can be expressed in the form of a differential equation,

$$C_m \dot{V} = I_{DC} - I_{ionic} - I_{SOUL} \quad (8)$$

where,  $C_m$  is the membrane capacitance and  $I_{DC}$  is the constant DC bias current that controls the excitability of the neuron.  $I_{ionic}$  is a sum of naturally occurring ionic currents across the membrane that include  $I_{Na}, I_{Kdr}, I_H, I_{CaL}$ , and  $I_{KD}$ . The gating functions and parameters of the neuron circuit model have been taken from earlier publications [22, 29,30].

### III. RESULTS

Optical stimulation of SOUL results in an inward photocurrent that remains active for a very long duration. In order to better understand the effect of blue light intensity and pulse width on photocurrent turn-on kinetics, the photocurrent has been simulated under a broad range of light intensities and pulse widths (Fig. 1).

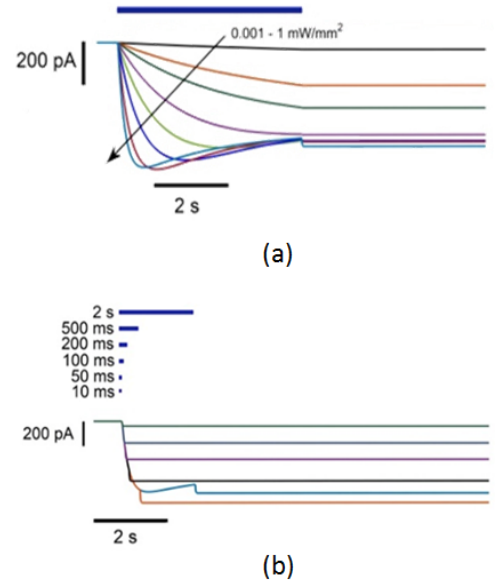


Fig. 1 Effect of blue light intensity and pulse width on photocurrent in SOUL-expressing neurons. Variation of photocurrent with time on illuminating, (a) 5 s light pulse at wavelength 470 nm and at different irradiances 0.001, 0.01, 0.02, 0.05, 0.1, 0.2, 0.5 and 1 mW/mm<sup>2</sup>, and (b) 1 mW/mm<sup>2</sup> light pulse at wavelength 470 nm and of different pulse widths 10, 50, 100, 200, 500 and 2000 ms.



The photocurrent in SOUL at 470 nm light with 1 mW/mm<sup>2</sup> irradiance is in good agreement with the reported experimental results (Fig. 1a) [16]. On increasing blue light intensity, the photocurrent amplitude and its turn-on kinetics in SFOs follow a similar trend that is generally exhibited by fast channelrhodopsins. The study shows that SOUL exhibits faster desensitization of its photocurrent at higher intensities as well under longer pulse widths (Fig. 1a). The increase of photocurrent after light-off in SOUL occurs only at irradiances around 0.1 mW/mm<sup>2</sup>. At a particular irradiance, the peak photocurrent increases on increasing the light pulse width up to a certain value. However, beyond a certain pulse width, the peak photocurrent in SOUL-expressing neurons decreases on increasing pulse width (Fig. 1b).

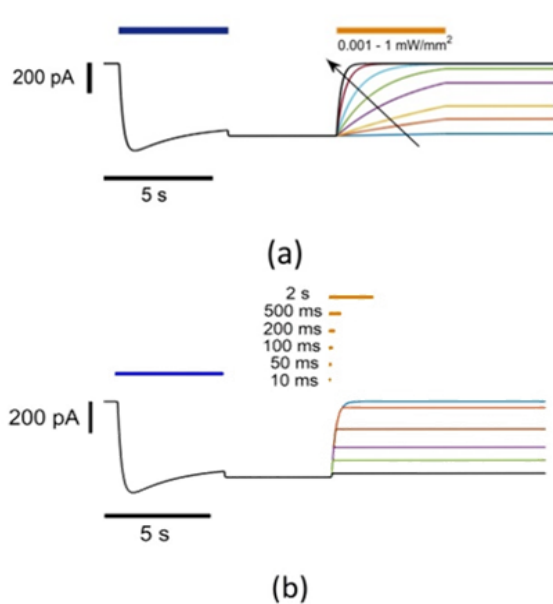


Fig. 2 Effect of orange light intensity and pulse width on turn-off of photocurrent in SOUL-expressing neurons. Photocurrent has been activated by stimulating 5 s long light pulse at wavelength 470 nm and irradiance 1 mW/mm<sup>2</sup>, and has been turned-off by stimulating red-shifted light pulse at wavelength 590 nm for SOUL at (a) different irradiances 0.001, 0.01, 0.02, 0.05, 0.1, 0.2, 0.5 and 1 mW/mm<sup>2</sup> and pulse width of 5 s, and (b) irradiance 1 mW/mm<sup>2</sup> and different pulse widths of 10, 50, 100, 200, 500 ms and 2 s.

The long-lasting photocurrent in SFOs can be switched-off by illuminating red-shifted light. It has been reported that these SFOs result in turn-off of their photocurrent on illuminating red-shifted light pulses at peak wavelength of 590 nm for SOUL, respectively [16]. It is very important to study the effect of pulse width and irradiance of red-shifted light pulse on photocurrent switching-off kinetics. The photocurrent in SOUL gets switched-on by a 5 s blue light pulse at 1 mW/mm<sup>2</sup> and switched-off by illuminating red-shifted light at different irradiances and pulse widths (Fig. 2). As is evident from Fig. 2(a), the faster switching-off kinetics can be achieved by increasing the light intensity. However, at a constant irradiance, longer pulses result in smaller stable photocurrent plateau, while the rate of photocurrent deactivation does not change with pulse width (Fig. 2b).

The photocurrent kinetics under multiple optostimulations has been shown in Fig. 3. Effect of pulse widths of blue and red-shifted light pulses on percentage of return to baseline has also been shown in Fig. 3. The analysis reveals that the

percentage of return to baseline ratio decreases on increasing blue light pulse width, while it significantly increases on increasing pulse width of red-shifted light pulses. SOUL exhibits the highest percentage of return to baseline ~ 83% in comparison to the other opsins.

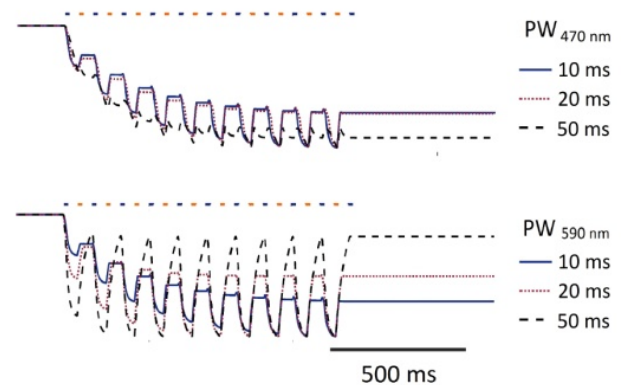


Fig. 3. Effect of pulse width of blue (upper) and red-shifted (lower) light pulses on percentage of return to baseline of photocurrent in SOUL. (Upper) Variation of photocurrent with time under alternating blue (at indicated pulse widths and 1 mW/mm<sup>2</sup>) and red-shifted (at 10 ms pulse width and 10 mW/mm<sup>2</sup>) light pulses. (Lower) Variation of photocurrent with time under alternating blue (at 10 ms and 1 mW/mm<sup>2</sup>) and red-shifted (at indicated pulse widths and 10 mW/mm<sup>2</sup>).

Effect of blue light intensity on optogenetically mediated depolarization in SOUL-expressing hippocampal neurons has been shown in Fig. 4. The depolarization increases on increasing blue light intensity (Fig. 4). At 10 ms pulse, and light irradiance of 10 mW/mm<sup>2</sup>, SOUL is not able to cross the voltage threshold to evoke action potential. However, spiking burst can be evoked using longer light pulses.

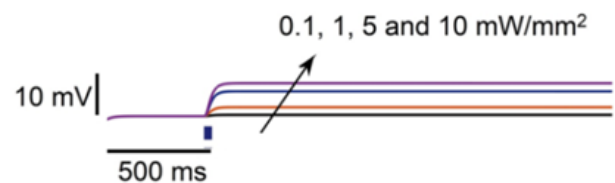


Fig. 4. Effect of blue light irradiance on optogenetically mediated depolarization in SOUL-expressing neurons. Variation of membrane potential with time upon stimulation of 10 ms light pulse at 470 nm, at indicated irradiances and opsin-expression density  $g_0 = 0.052$  mS/cm<sup>2</sup> for SOUL-expressing neurons, respectively.

Effect of red-shifted light intensity on switching-off of depolarization evoked by blue light pulse in SOUL-expressing neurons has been shown in Fig. 5. Similar to the photocurrent-off kinetics as shown in Fig. 1a, increase of intensity of red-shifted light pulse results in more decrease in depolarization towards resting potential. The decrease in depolarization at lower intensities is larger in SOUL-expressing neurons, in comparison to others due to its high-sensitivity.



Fig.5 Effect of red-shifted light irradiance on switch-off of optogenetically mediated depolarization in SOUL-expressing neurons. These neurons have been depolarized by stimulating 10 ms blue light pulse at 1 mW/mm<sup>2</sup>. Variation of membrane voltage with time in SOUL-expressing neurons, under 10 ms red-shifted light pulse at indicated irradiances and expression density  $g_0 = 0.052$  mS/cm<sup>2</sup> for SOUL-expressing neurons, respectively.

#### IV. DISCUSSION

The theoretical model of bistable optogenetic control in SOUL-expressing hippocampal neurons has been formulated for the first time. The model is accurate as the simulated results are in excellent agreement with the reported experimental results [16].

A detailed analysis of the effect of various photostimulation parameters has provided better understanding of the photoresponse of SOUL. The analysis is useful to determine optimal values of light intensity and pulse width for low-power and high-frequency control. Under multiple optostimulations, percentage of return to baseline is reported to be a crucial factor to determine high-frequency limit of optogenetic control [4]. The present study shows that the percentage of return to baseline can be enhanced by stimulating longer red-shifted pulses (Fig. 3).

Induction of prolonged depolarization in SFO-expressing neurons allows the sensitization of neurons to indigenous synaptic inputs without imposition of externally evoked spiking [13, 31]. It allows very long timescale experiments with negligible energy deposition to the tissue. SFOs exhibit the potential to slowly alter the balance between excitation and inhibition for long duration, which has been reported to be a crucial method to treat various neurological disorders including Epilepsy and Parkinson's disease [32].

To avoid invasive light delivery to the brain, opsins with high light-sensitivity and red-shifted action spectrum have long been desired [6]. It has been reported that SOUL has enabled transcranial bi-stable control of regions as deep as 5.5-6.2 mm in mice with safe light powers. The present theoretical model is important as it provides better understanding and it can also be integrated with circuit models of other cell types.

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# The Topography of Heaven and Hell: A Systems Approach to a Study of Sin, Suffering and Redemption in Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment*, Coleridge's *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* and Eastern Philosophy (Traditional And Modern Faith)

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**Abstract—** The Christian view regarding Heaven and Hell is widely accepted by theologians. Our lives on this earth determine the destination our souls deserve, once we pass from this earthly existence. Jacob Boheme believed that Heaven and Hell are everywhere and naturally coexist. The fact that man has a natural inclination towards evil, necessitates his inevitable fall, thus opening the way to salvation. One can be redeemed through great spiritual suffering. Fyodor Dostoevsky and S.T Coleridge may have belonged to two very different social milieus, but both had a common interest in the darker side of human nature. With their deep penetrating insight, they studied human frailties to show that the breach which sin makes in the soul of man, is irreparable. In the two selected masterpieces, the reader must follow the anguished protagonists into the darkest corners of their minds to see their dilemmas, the eternal struggle between faith and doubt, repentance which does not come too easily and finally redemption. When Raskolnikov and the Mariner go through spiritual anguish, the intellectual-spiritual split is healed and they are restored to faith and life. In the end, both the Mariner and the lonely, misguided young Russian break out of the abyss into which they had fallen to find peace and a second chance at life. Eastern philosophy particularly the Bhagwat Gita, emphasizes the law of Karma; every human being must bear the consequences of his actions. In Sant Mat and the Radhasoami Faith, though the polarities of higher and lower spiritual consciousness exist, all must traverse the path to redemption through the Grace and Mercy of the Sant Satguru.

**Keywords—** Sin, Suffering, Spiritual Alienation, Redemption, Karma

“...if truth were everywhere to be shown, a scarlet letter would blaze forth on many a bosom...”

Nathaniel Hawthorne, *The Scarlet Letter*

“The darker the night; the brighter the stars.”

Fyodor Dostoevsky

Most religious traditions of the world have had conflicting views regarding the problem of divine justice, free will, punishment and reward. What determines man's ultimate destiny is a question which has bewildered theologians. Multiple interpretations of the original religious texts related to Christianity, Judaism, Islam and Hinduism have further complicated the issue. For Christians however, it was Dante Alighieri's *Divine Comedy* which through its description of heaven and hell in the Sections 'Paradiso' and 'Inferno' made them real places to be coveted and feared. But even in this great poem about man's spiritual journey, the descent into Hell is a necessary and painful act before moral and spiritual recovery.

Assuming that human lives extend beyond the grave, the relatively common Christian view answers the question of the hereafter with heaven and hell which are the destinations our souls deserve, depending upon the kind of earthly lives we live. Good people go to heaven for the good that they do as wicked people go to hell for the evil which they unleash upon the world. Thus the scales of justice lie balanced. But Christian theologians regard such a view as overly simplistic.

The Christian concept of hell and heaven is related to the nature of the future that awaits us on the other side. It postulates an initial separation from God. There are three possibilities to the human condition in its relationship to God:

(1) All humans are equal objects of God's unconditional love in the sense that God, sincerely wills or desires to reconcile each one of them to himself and thus to prepare each one of them for the bliss of union with him.

(2) Almighty God will triumph in the end and successfully reconcile to himself each person whose reconciliation he sincerely wills or desires.

(3) Some humans will never be reconciled to God and will therefore remain separated from him forever.<sup>1</sup>

One of the most prominent influences regarding these views was that of Saint Augustine of Hippo who in 426 A.D published his book *City of God*. According to him hell was created not to deter sinners but to fulfill the laws of justice. He actually believed in a lake of fire where, “by a miracle of their most omnipotent creator (the damned) can burn without being consumed, and suffer without dying” [2]. Edward Fudge in his book *The Fire that Consumes* published in 1982 expressed the annihilationist view that after death, sinners simply cease to exist [3].

Despite these conflicting views, the doctrine of sin, suffering and redemption exists across all cultures, religions and nations. The Book of Genesis in the Old Testament lays the foundation for human sin in man’s first act of rebellion—eating the fruit of the tree of knowledge. To disobey God’s command, to transgress a natural or moral law is the most basic definition of sin which leads the sinner to a natural and inevitable consequence i.e., punishment. It is however possible that man may navigate a slow and painful path through suffering and repentance to redemption.

In Dostoevsky’s *Notes From the Underground*, the underground man states that Free will means having the freedom to make choices that may damage the individual and cause suffering, but suffering is the sole cause of consciousness. Dostoevsky wrote in his 1873 *Writer’s Diary* that “The principal and most basic spiritual need for people is the need for suffering”. [4]

In his seminal work *Crime and Punishment*, Dostoevsky creates the unforgettable character of Raskolnikov who represents the separation of human intellect and inner consciousness from emotional, moral and religious values. A divided soul, he is one of the few characters in world literature, who so poignantly depicts the anguish that must result from an act of sin. Dostoevsky opts for the Christian ethic which opens the way to Raskolnikov’s spiritual regeneration. The Dostoevskian character, if he achieves salvation at all, always does so by working through his crime to the repentance that lies beyond it. He never achieves salvation first and avoids committing the crime. Specific individual crime and therefore specific individual suffering is an unavoidable step towards salvation [5].

Raskolnikov is no exception to the Dostoevskian character. His utilitarian reasoning leads him to commit murder. But he finds salvation by working through his spiritual suffering, which eventually leads to acceptance of guilt and his confession. While he is still in the old woman’s room, he wishes to give himself up, “not from fear, but from simple horror and loathing of what he had done”. [6] Labelled as a sinner by a harsh society Sonia represents selfless suffering. She not only redeems herself with the power of her faith and humility but redeems Raskolnikov too. Through her willingness to share his burden and her unconditional love Raskolnikov is redeemed both intellectually and emotionally and finally spiritually, which is when, “life steps back into the place of theory”.

Rich in Christian symbolism, Coleridge’s *Rime of the Ancient Mariner* traces the Mariner’s journey which represents mankind’s fall into the abyss of sin and darkness. Divided into

seven parts, the poem has amongst other things been interpreted as an allegory of the journey of the soul as it passes through crime, punishment, repentance and finally redemption. Every section is a development in this basic plot. The killing of the Albatross may be said to represent a crime against the basic law of brotherhood which binds all living creatures. The Mariner himself symbolizes man’s inexorable propensity to fall and his chance at redemption. The killing of the Albatross is followed by punishment in the form of the Mariner’s isolation, fear, guilt and intense suffering,

‘Day after day, day after day  
We stuck, nor breath nor motion;  
As idle as a painted ship;  
Upon a painted ocean. [7]

The ship is becalmed, there is no water, and the sailors start dying one by one. All seemed cursed and finally the phantom ship appears with Death as its only crew. The Mariner undergoes intense physical and psychological suffering but does not repent. He sees fearful visions, hallucinations and cursed by the enormity of what he has done. He sees death fires upon the water and believes the end is near.

Water, water, every where,  
And all the boards did shrink,  
Water, water every where,  
Nor any drop to drink.  
The very deep did rot: O Christ!  
That ever this should be!  
Yea slimy things did crawl with legs  
Upon the slimy sea. [7]

However, in time, with suffering comes penance and repentance. The trance of the Mariner is broken as is the curse. When he sees the beauty of the water snakes, he blesses them and that is when he is moved to prayer, acknowledging the greatness and glory of God,

He prayeth well who loveth well  
Both man and bird and beast  
He prayeth well who loveth well  
All things both great and small  
For the dear God who loveth us  
He made and loveth all. [7]

The dead Albatross falls from his neck and the love he feels for all creatures finally expiates him of his sin. It is only through his sin and subsequent suffering that the mariner acquires the humility to see all creation as blessed and the process of his return to faith and love begins.

Though Fyodor Dostoevsky and Samuel Taylor Coleridge belonged to two different cultures and eras, their two great works are closely linked. Both Raskolnikov and the Mariner transgress the natural and moral law which does not permit a human being to take the life of another. In the second phase both men must suffer intensely the anguish which is the inevitable consequence of what they had done. Raskolnikov sees dreams, has fainting spells, hallucinates, suffers from fever, sleeplessness, delirium. The Mariner too suffers fear, hunger, thirst, fearful visions and hallucinations. His faith is broken and his soul is starved. In the third phase however they are able to confess and with confession, through penance and suffering they both find redemption. It is not however easy to repent. When in Siberia, Raskolnikov “wept and threw his arms round her (Sonia’s) knees”, he is redeemed through the power of love and faith. The Mariner is redeemed when ‘A spring of love gushed from my heart’ and he is once again able to pray and love all God’s creation.

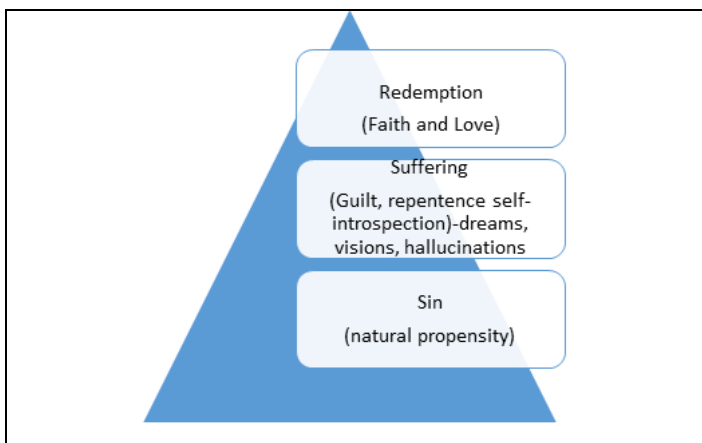


Fig. 1.

In the Eastern tradition and philosophy, the *Bhagwat Gita* is a powerful treatise in which the essence of knowledge, human action, sin, suffering, renunciation and redemption have been explained. The Gita expounds the retributive law of Karma which helps explain the anomalies of the suffering, of the innocent, God’s apparent partiality and the presence of chaos and injustice in the world. *The Gita* relates the problem of sin and suffering to passion, anger and greed. One who is a slave to his senses, performs no action or performs it driven by greed and desire is sinful. He who performs action which is without attachment, selfless and for the benefit of others walks the right path [8].

Man may very well possess both divine and demonical qualities (this can be seen in the characters of both the Mariner as well as Raskolnikov). One must perform the duty as ordained by one’s own nature so as not to incur sin. Any action that brings one closer to one’s spiritual consciousness is called dharma. Anything which takes a person away from this consciousness is called adharma, otherwise known as sin. Sins must be acknowledged and paid for in the form of karma. Ultimately everything has an end. Everything must eventually be paid for. A day must come when one has to draw a line and add it all up. The book thus establishes a close connection

between ethics and spirituality, between a life of virtue and God-realization.

Sant Mat is a universal, non-denominational path for a large number of true spiritual seekers all over the world. It involves discovering our full potential as human beings through a way of life that keeps us connected with the inner light and sound. However this is possible only through contact with one who has seen the path: a spiritual teacher.

The Radhasoami faith, considered by its adherents as the true path to achieve God-realization, is also referred to as Sant Mat or the Religion of Saints. The Faith clearly maps the path to emancipation from the cycle of birth, death and rebirth making it practical and particularly relevant in the present world of teeming millions torn by sufferings and tormented by miseries. The teachings of this faith centre upon a type of meditation practice known as Surat Shabda Yoga. Shabd refers to a sound current which can be perceived in meditation. Yoga refers to the union of our real essence (soul) through an inner listening with focused mental concentration with the inner sound (Shabd) which it is maintained emanates from Radhasoami the Supreme Being. It is therefore taught as the unchanging and primordial technique for uniting the soul with the Supreme Being through the power of Shabd. It thus lays out a path to complete spiritual revelation which helps the seeker to negotiate the difficult and hazardous journey to liberation from the cycle of birth, death and rebirth. This is possible only through

- Refuge in an Enlightened Soul or a spiritual Adept.
- Discipline
- Refined and polished judgement
- mastery over the mind
- ability to see through illusion [9]

In Sant Mat as in the Radhasoami Faith the concept of heaven and hell relate to the two extremes of the regions where different levels of spiritual consciousness exist. The highest or purely spiritual region would be the one close to what is understood as heaven—a place of everlasting bliss. On the other hand, hell would represent a place of lowest spiritual order and everlasting torment.

While revealing the original and general structure of the system of the universe in His canonical scripture *Sarbachan Nazam* (Poetry), Param Purush Puraan Dhani Soamiji Maharaj wrote of the four stages of consciousness also disclosed in the Upanishads. One of the prayers links the state of Turiya (the fourth state) to other states. The translation is as follows:

The guru in his infinite grace and mercy revealed to me,  
 The state of Turiya which is Sahadalkanwal.  
 And the stages beyond Turiyateet  
 With the help of Surat Shabd Yoga ,  
 One may pass into Trikuti,  
 From there to Sunn and Mahasunn,  
 The spirit ascends to Bhanwar Gufa,

Satlok, Alakh lok, Agam lok and finally to its original abode, Radhasoami. [10]

In describing the third grand division of creation, Param Guru Maharaj Sahab, the third Revered Leader of the Radhasoami Faith describes that below the lowest sphere of the third grand division of creation lies the nether pole. This is the pole of the nether pre-creational region. As one descends from the top orbs, the spirit current becomes coarser. The denizens of these regions have brutish and evil tendencies. This is a vast expanse of spiritual depletion full of woe and torment. The denizens of hell are possessed of the vilest propensities and are forever tormenting those who have the misfortune of being cast into this place of correction and punishment. [11]

The Satsang way of life as revealed by Param Purush Puran Dhani Huzur Soamiji Maharaj, advocates a path which is neither worldly nor unworldly but of 'better worldliness'. Thus while living in this world and fulfilling one's social obligations one can follow the path of Bhakti (devotion) of the Satguru and the practice of Surat Shabda Yoga.

'And if anyone resorts to other means or methods, it is like beating about the serpent's hole which will not kill the serpent. The proper and only effective means of catching the serpent of the mind (controlling the mind) is the Bhakti of the Satguru and the practice of Shabda. By no other means can it be subjugated'. [12] Every human life is precious because it is only in this form that the spirit entity can attempt to traverse the spiritual path. After death if one does not escape the cycle of birth- death and rebirth then one gets a better life and the process of salvation continues from where it had left off in the previous life. According to ancient Indian philosophy the law of Karma, like time and gravity operates as a self-sustaining mechanism or a natural universal law, without any need of an external entity to manage it. The world is governed by the forces of nature which have their own rules. These are fixed and unbendable. In the Radhasoami Faith, God is an Infinite source of Prime energy. The uncertainty and the arbitrariness of man's suffering, the dispensation of justice through the concept of heaven and hell become part of a process involving a gradual progression from lower to higher spiritual states in which through the Grace of the Sant Satguru as well as the efforts of the *Jiva*, the soul reaches the ultimate abode having broken the cycle of birth-death and rebirth.

True virtue or vice however consists in the exaltation of the spirit to higher regions or its descent into the lower, as the case maybe; accordingly actions or impulses which tend to exalt or lower the spirit are virtuous or sinful. As a result of virtuous or sinful actions place is accorded in the higher or lower regions.[13] In Sant Mat, all-- the righteous and the wicked must work their way to salvation through the Mercy and Grace of the Sant Satguru and intense longing to be free from the travails of life on this earth. It is the motive of the doer which makes his action good or bad. Only by performing

his duties as prescribed by a Spiritual Adept and by being in his guidance can man truly reach the highest abode.

In 'Phagunmaas' composed by Param Purush Puran Dhani Huzur Soamiji Maharaj, the month of Phagun is likened to the life on this earth—a time that must be spent with care. The spirit which is meant to be unlimited, spontaneous, absolute and harmonious soiled by the sleaze and slime of the world becomes limited, laboured and discordant. The only hope then is the Sant Satguru who in His infinite Grace and Mercy, pulls the spirit out of the cycle of the thousands of lower forms and gifts it with the human form: but one must be careful in negotiating the passage through this human life so as to make the best of this opportunity to free oneself forever from the endless cycle of birth death and rebirth.

Jyon tyon chaurasi se karha  
Nardehi mein phir la daala  
Charan pratap saran mein aayee  
Tab satguru atikar samjhayee  
Tujhko phirke phagun aayaa  
Sambhal kheleo hum samjhaya. [14]

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# Calibration of off-the-shelf low-cost wearable EEG headset for application in field studies for children

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**Abstract**— The present study introduces the idea of characterization of off-the-shelf, low-cost EEG devices to replace traditional EEG systems for application in studies with young children. Inaccessibility of EEG to developing countries and difficult usage of these systems has directed the focus on finding easier tools for application in the field of neurophysiology. This study characterizes EEG signals recorded using low-cost, headgear-like EEG device (DREEM Headband) by comparative analysis against EEG-like signals simulated using dipole simulator program of brain electrical source analysis (BESA) software. The findings suggest that the data collected by devices under study achieve appropriate level of correlation with simulated data, concluding the fact that the latest dry EEG devices are capable of replacing traditional EEG systems in field studies.

**Keywords**— *Low-cost EEG, Dreem headband, children study, BESA, simulation*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Electroencephalography (EEG) signals reflect physiological markers of cognition and awareness [1]. However, traditional EEG systems extensively used in research today are usually very expensive and sensitive, more importantly, depend upon the use of dozens of channels, and have detailed setup time, rendering their use impractical for implication in outside-lab settings [2]. In such condition, low-cost, portable EEG devices such as DREEM headband (DH) ©DREEM 2021, Neurosky mindwave mobile © 2015 NeuroSky, Emotiv epoc+ © UX Themes and OpenBCI Ultracortex Mark IV © 2021 OpenBCI could be recruited in field studies for obtaining results nearly similar to that recorded using 64 channel EEG systems [1]–[3].

The devices shown in fig 1 are advantageous over traditional EEG systems due to several reasons: 1) these are headband-like devices which can be carried easily in the field settings, 2) plugin-play i.e. easy, faster and user-friendly set-up system, 3) lesser number of channels to focus on specific brain regions depending upon the tasks displayed, and 4) can be used in studies performed on young children when cumbersome set-up of traditional EEG is difficult [4].

However, research shows that there is a limitation to cognitive activities that can be accounted for with such devices due to the limited number of channels [2], [5]. Visual and basic cognitive tasks based on variables like reaction time and basic analytical problem-solving skills are the most suitable for analysis using devices that cover frontal brain region such as DREEM headband (DH). Similar research studies performed using dry EEG devices are few, however, there's a variety of cognitive tests performed in the studies.



A brief systemic review on recent research studies based on the use of dry-EEG devices is given in table 1. All four low-

Fig 1: Accessible few-channelled devices: DREEM headband, Neurosky mindwave mobile, Emotiv epoc+ and OpenBCI. [15]

cost EEG devices are chosen on the basis of: availability and accessibility of resources, set-up time required, and minimum technical experience required to use the device. The reviewed devices are discussed briefly below:

**DREEM Headband:** The headband-like dry EEG device covers frontal and occipital regions of brain with electrodes at F7, F8, FP1, O1, O2 and Fp2 as ground. Signals are sampled at 250 Hz. Along with electrodes, it also consists of a pulse sensor to monitor heart rate and accelerometer to measure head movements and respiratory rate [3]

**Emotiv epoc+:** The device is extensively used in research in the fields of Brain-computer interface and brain state detection [6]. It consists of two electrode arms, each comprised of several sensor electrodes along with two reference electrodes covering the Frontal temporal, parietal, and occipital lobes of brain at following electrode positions- Frontal (Fp1, Fp2, F3, F4, F7, F8, FC5, FC6); Temporal (T7, T8); Parietal (P3, P4, P7, P8) and Occipital (O1, O2)

**Neurosky Mindwave mobile:** The single-channel wireless device is a low-cost, dry EEG headset, capable of transmitting EEG signals from electrodes of interest via Bluetooth [7]. The headset consists of a single electrode in Frontal lobe (Fp1) on forehead above left eye.

**OpenBCI Ultracortex Mark IV:** The OpenBCI Ultracortex Mark IV samples up to 16 EEG channels using dry EEG



sensors with set-up time of as low as 30 seconds. It is capable of recording brain electrical activity with EEG, muscle activity with EMG (electromyograph) and heart activity with ECG (electrocardiograph) [8].

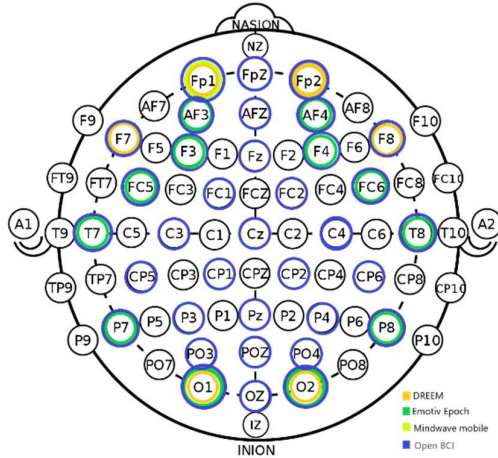


Fig 2: Electrode map for the four dry EEG devices

### A. Motivation of study

Lesser number of channels in dry-EEG devices restrict data acquisition to a few channels. According to Michel and colleagues (2004), change in brain activity at electrodes of interest produces artefactual activity at all electrodes irrespective of their position. However, activity at all electrodes cannot be recorded by single or few-channeled devices, preventing analysis of major changes in brain regions proximal to regions of interest. This demands for a possible method for characterization of such devices before their implementation in practical world.

This describes the aim of the study to characterize the quality of data collected by one such device- DREEM headband in comparison to near to ideal data, simulated using dipole simulator software of brain electrical source analysis (BESA) software © BESA® GmbH – Germany. The dipole simulator program allows dipole approximation. In simple words, the electrical potentials generated by the brain can be modelled by this software [13], [14] to simulate an ideal data produced by the activation of specific brain region

Table 1: Studies performed using dry EEG devices.

EEG Device	Electrodes	Cognitive functions	Cognitive tasks
DREEM headband	Frontal (Fp1, Fpz, F7, F8.); Occipital (O1, O2)	Executive functions; Visuospatial processing, distance and depth perception, colour determination, object and face recognition-	Stroop task, Number-letter task, Letter-memory task, Anti-saccade task, Winconson card sorting task, Tower of Hanoi [9]; Hooper Visual Organization Test (HVOT), Clock Drawing Task – CLOX (1 and 2)
Neurosky Mindwave mobile	Frontal (Fp1)	Attention-related functions	d2 test, Attentional Capacity Test (ACT), Trail-Making Test A&B
Emotiv Epoch+	Frontal (Fp1, Fp2, F3, F4, F7, F8, FC5, FC6); Temporal (T7, T8); Parietal (P3, P4, P7, P8); Occipital (O1, O2)-	Integrated visual, auditory, logical reasoning, problem-solving	Visual and Auditory Continuous Performance Test (IVA), target word search (WS task), Intelligence tests, Raven's advanced progressive matrix, Wechsler abbreviated scale of intelligence (WASI), S-A creativity tests [10]
OpenBCI Ultracortex Mark IV	Frontal (Fp1, Fp2); Central (C3, C4); Parietal (P7, P8); Occipital (O1, O2)	Reading tasks, arithmetical tasks, spatial tasks Drowsiness, fatigue	Driver fatigue test [11], attention deficit hyperactivity disorder diagnostic test [12], alertness level test [8]

### B. Contributions

The main contributions of this paper are as follows:

- To simulate cortical activity in the four brain lobes using BESA dipole simulator module to study the accuracy level of BESA source localization tool.
- To formulate a comparative study between DH data (or real data) and simulated (or artificial) cortical activity at six electrode positions corresponding to DREEM headband using BESA dipole simulator in an ideal 33 electrode system and data collected by the device (or real data) for calibration of signal quality derived from DH.

## II. MATERIALS

### A. Study device-

**DREEM headband:** The DREEM device is a wireless headband-like EEG device records electrical data during sleep without any connection with external devices. It records brain cortical activity with 5 (+1 ground) dry electrodes and provide 7 derivations (FpZ-O1, FpZ-O2, FpZ-F7, F8-F7, F7-O1, F8-O2, FpZ-F8; sampled at 250 Hz; bandpass filter kept at 0.4–35 Hz).

### B. Dipole Simulator-

**Brain electrical source analysis (BESA) software:** Dipole simulator module of BESA software allows simulation of random numbers to produce EEG-like signals.

## III. SIMULATION RESULTS

### A. Simulation of EEG data in four lobes-

To calibrate the source localization analysis tool, an inverse study was performed by simulating cortical activity for all four brain lobes by placing dipoles at major electrode positions. CLARA technique of source localization was then applied on dataset generated by each of the simulation to observe the resulting activity. Fig 4 depicts dipoles placed at different lobes along with its corresponding source localization analysis (CLARA) performed in BESA Main Research 7.1 (4a, 4b, 4c, 4d) depicting more power at locations of dipole simulation. For instance, Fig 4a shows dipole placement at frontal lobe (left) and high power at frontal region corresponding to simulated cortical activity (right).

**Design:**

*A. Data collection-*

EEG activity was recorded using DREEM headband device on one subject (with no recent neuropsychological or visual disorder history) for 10 minutes while the subject was involved in a cognitive task called Tower of London task. It involves activity located in frontal region (planning) and occipital region (visual perception). The distribution of electrodes in the two brain lobes according to 10-20 international system of electrode placement is as follows: Fp1, Fp2 (ground), F7, F8 in frontal region and O1, O2 in occipital region. Channel-wise signals opened in DREEM viewer software for an epoch of 20ms for noise and artifact identification is shown in fig 3.

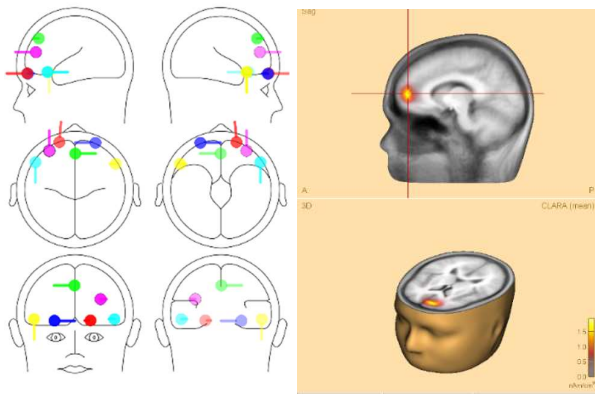


Fig 4a: Frontal lobe: dipoles (left) at Fp1, Fp2, Fpz, F3, F4, F7, F8. Activation (right) at frontal region

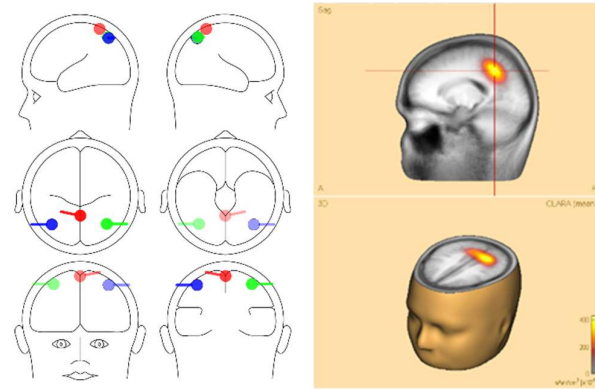


Fig 4b: Parietal lobe: dipoles (left) at Pz, P3, P4. Activation (right) at parietal/central region

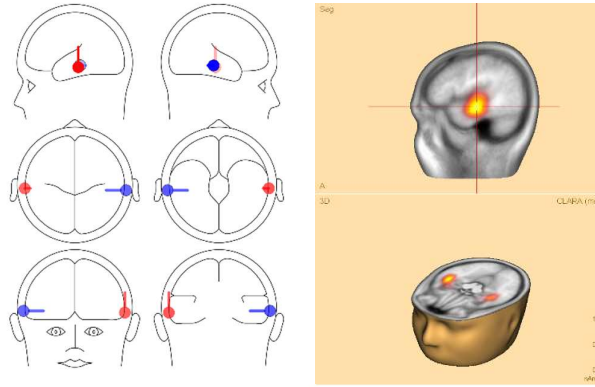


Fig 4c: Temporal lobe: dipoles (left) at T5, T6. Activation (right) at temporal region

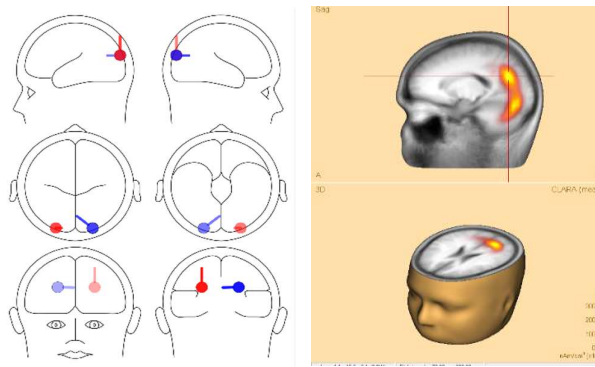


Fig 4d: Occipital lobe: dipoles (left) at O1, O2. Activation (right) at occipital region

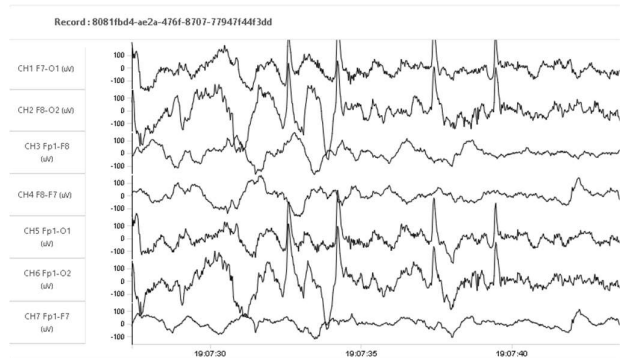


Fig 3: Data collected using DREEM headband ©DREEM 2021

*B. Simulation of artificial dataset-*

The previous section validated the inverse study with BESA simulator. Further, the six DREEM dipoles were placed in a head model as depicted in fig 4. All six dipoles in DREEM electrode positions and their corresponding source waveforms are represented by different colours: F7- pink, Fp1-red, Fp2-green, F8- blue, O1- dark blue, O2- magenta. To make the data more realistic, white noise was added to the simulated scalp data at  $0.17 \mu\text{V}$  and alpha proportion at 0.17 as can be seen in fig 5 (right).

V. RESULTS

Following data shown in fig 5 & 6 derived from the application of various topographical and analytical tools for EEG data analysis indicate that both real (data collected using DREEM headband) and artificial data (simulated using BESA) produce nearly identical results that depict the fact that dry EEG devices can produce quality data with additional noise and artifact occurring due to device design and rough handling while using in field studies, however, artifacts can be avoided using filters and artifact reduction tools of BESA or other open-source brain activity analysis software.

*A. Density spectral analysis:*

Density spectral analysis based on Fast Fourier Transform was applied on real/DREEM data and artificial/simulated data to get a quick idea about current source density or EEG voltage in different frequency ranges on both data for comparison as shown in fig 6a, b.

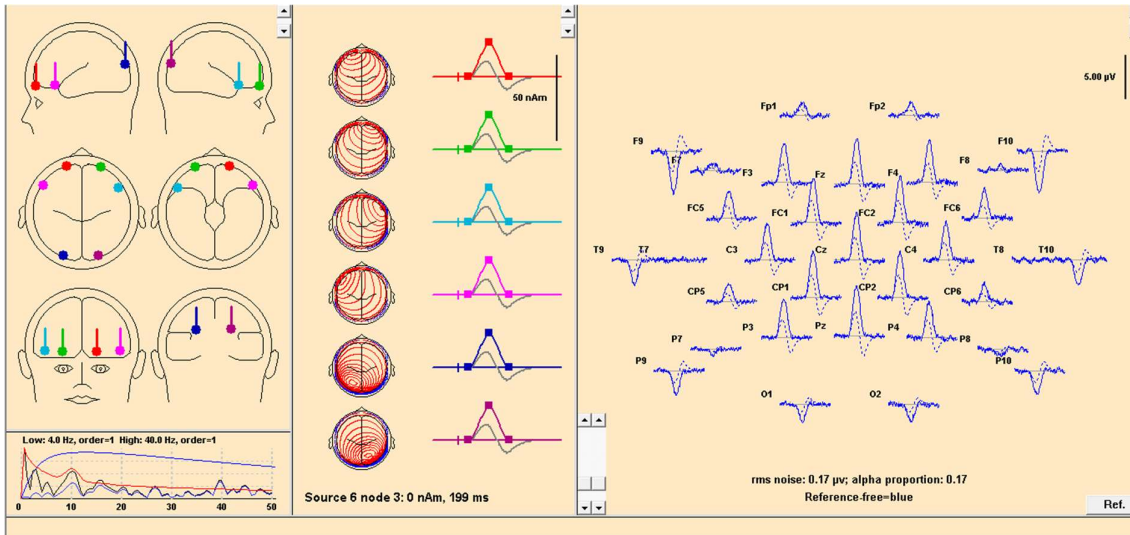


Fig 5: Artificial data for DREEM device simulated by BESA software © BESA® GmbH – Germany

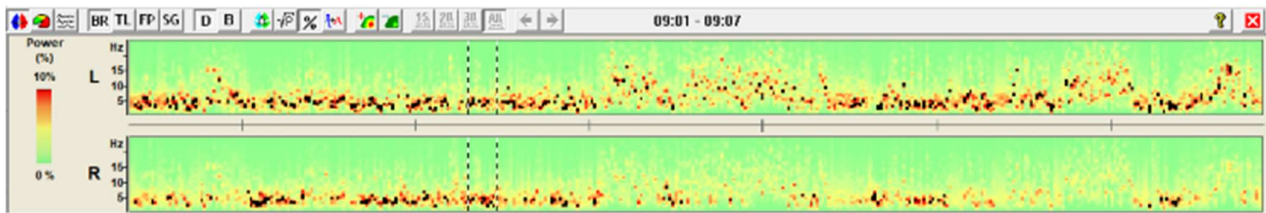


Fig 6a: Density Spectral Array for real data

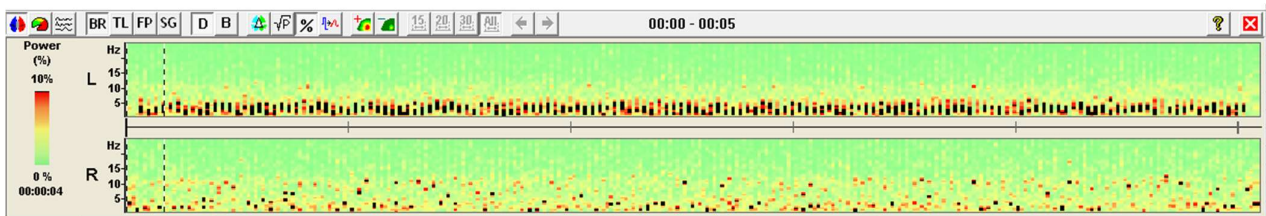


Fig 6b: Density Spectral Array for simulated data

*A. Distributed source analysis:*

Distributed source analysis via CLARA (Clustering Large Applications) technique [15] for both data was performed by BESA source localization tool of BESA Main Research 7.1. Resulting images depict high current source density or in simple terms, cortical activity in frontal and occipital regions of the brain as shown in in fig 7a, b.

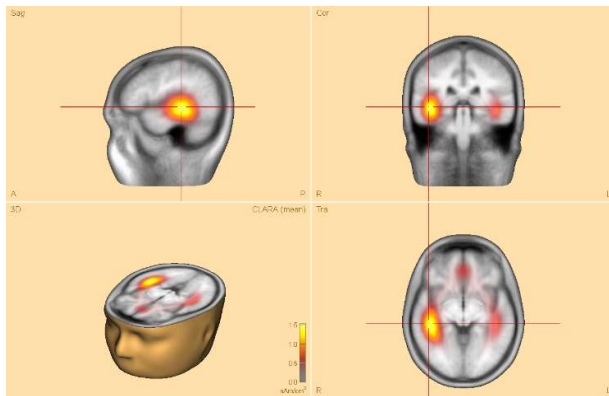


Fig 7a: Artificial data: Activation in frontal and occipital lobe depicted using CLARA technique of source localization

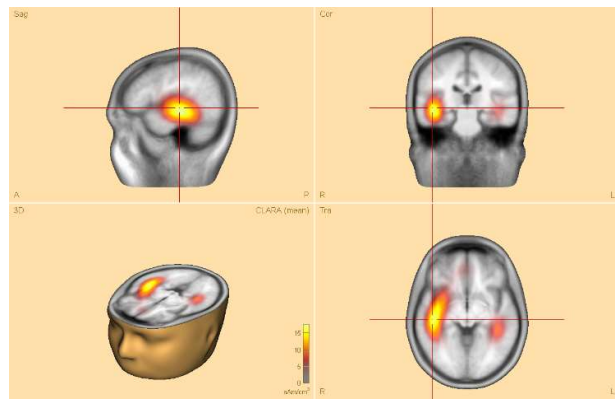


Fig 7b: Real data: Activation in frontal and occipital lobe depicted using CLARA technique of source localization

VI. CONCLUSION

Field Studies performed outside sophisticated lab environment require the use of less sensitive. Portable and low-cost neurophysiological monitoring equipment. However, data quality cannot be compromised with, the methodology adopted in this study was based on calibration of quality of data collected using DREEM headband. The

results of data analysis confirm that the device under study (DREEM headband) correlated with the ideal dataset simulated using BESA dipole simulator, hence supporting the proposed study (See Discussion section).

## VII. DISCUSSION

The study gave positive results towards application of available low-cost, portable dry EEG device in a study design based upon identifying neural correlates of early childhood language development in young children and infants of Dayalbagh, registered under Evolutionary Supermen scheme. The aim of the study would be to distinguish the supermen children from those of similar age not registered under the scheme in terms of language development. Hypothetically, the children's regular visit to fields where a multi-lingual environment is provided to them affects their language development differently. The proposed methodology involves studying physiological markers in children below three years of age in fields of Dayalbagh while performing different cognitive tasks. Before real-world implementation of the dry EEG devices on such young children, it became possible to calibrate the data collected by the device to understand and rectify the issues involved in advance.

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# Insilico analysis of differentially expressed genes in maternal placenta and cord blood samples of smokers and non-smokers: a cue from a case study for interventions of health and well being sustainability goals

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**Abstract**—Under Health and Well Being (Goal 3) of Sustainability Goals 2023 two main targets are strengthen the implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in all countries, as appropriate and by 2030, prevent deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births. This brings us to alarming public health problem that is smoking in pregnancy. Smoking increases women’s risk of abortions, still birth or infants with lifelong disabilities for poor lung functioning to learning disabilities. With increase in air pollution, the hazardous chemicals released in air while smoking are to some extent present in environment. Not only active smokers but passive smokers and non- smokers are also at risk of developing health problems. Tobacco smoke exposure is the worst case scenario as its effects on health of pregnant women and fetus are detrimental. To extend our knowledge on the molecular effects of tobacco smoke on pregnancy, we analyzed publicly available microarray datasets of pregnant women smokers and non-smokers with placental and cord blood samples available. Using system biology approach and bioinformatic softwares like GEO2R, STRING, Chilibot, KEGG regulatory genes and affected pathways will be identified. *GPATCH4*, *MEG3*, *VAV* and *TMIGD3* genes are majorly up-regulated and *PTER*, *EPB41*, *CHURCI* and *COX7B2* are majorly down-regulated among the 21 common differentially expressed genes from. The liver metabolism pathways, immune and neurobiological pathways are affected. This study highlights the transcriptome alterations, differentially expressed genes and pathways regulated in placental and umbilical cord blood cells due to smoking in pregnancy which could be compared to the fetus birth weight and development.

**Keywords**—*tobacco smoke, maternal cells, blood, fetus, differential gene expression, biological pathways, sustainability goals*

## I. INTRODUCTION

With increasing pollution and decrease in ambient air quality, the hazardous chemicals inhaled by people due to smoking are now present in air to quite an extent. Thus active smokers and those in exposure of smoking but are non-smokers i.e. passive smokers inhale this polluted air. Smoking is a major public health problem causing detrimental effects on human health. Now with the low air quality the active

smokers and passive smokers are no different. Tobacco smoke induced alterations have been implicated to cause health problems for child during neonatal period leading to even mental retardation and learning problems[1].Eradication of death and health problems in infants by maternal tobacco smoking is among the major targets of Sustainable Health and Well-being Goal of 2023 by WHO[2] Environmental tobacco exposure in pregnant women may even cause spontaneous abortions, low birth weight, stillbirth and lung function problems in infants [3]. The genotoxic effects of tobacco smoke have been analyzed by several molecular epidemiology studies. Huuskonen et al. demonstrated that chronic cigarette smoking in pregnancy may act as disrupter of placenta by increasing CYP1A1 gene expression inducing down-regulation of several steroid hormone metabolizing protein[4].

In recent years .microarray technology has been widely used for investigation of abnormalities or changes in normal to healthy cohorts. With large variety of bioinformatics tools available, the analysis of microarray data becomes easier. Publicly available microarray data of interest can be downloaded from NCBI GEO for analysis to find the key genes, differentially expressed genes, molecular pathways and protein interactions associated with gene of interest [5]. Thus systems network biology along with bioinformatics holds clue to various drug repurposing, precision medicine and genetic engineering possibilities[6].

Using this systems biology approach combined with bioinformatics, this study aims to find interlinking differentially expressed genes between passive and active smoker pregnant women. Will tobacco smoke affect placental samples of women in conditions for active, passive and not smoking? If there lies a differential gene expression it could further be understood by literature reviews if regulatory genes and their fold change is predicted? Does the effect get limited to placenta or will umbilical cord blood also show associations with differentially expressed genes in placental samples of smokers and non-smokers? If cord blood is affected then but obvious the infant might face health consequences from low birth weight to learning problems.

To answer these questions, we would analyze publicly available microarray datasets of placental and cord blood samples of active, passive and non-smokers to identify common differentially expressed genes and molecular pathways enriched in the process.

## II. MATERIALS AND METHOD

### A. Dataset Selection

The Gene Expression Omnibus (GEO) is an online NCBI repository containing public gene expression data from a variety of studies. GEO was searched for datasets matching “tobacco smoke”, “blood”, “placenta”, “umbilical cord”, “pregnancy”, “expression profiling by array”, and “Homo sapiens”. With this inclusion criteria, GSE27272 and GSE30032 were selected for this study and downloaded from GEO database [7], [8]. GSE27272 contained samples of peripheral blood (not included in this study), placenta and cord blood from pregnant active smokers (AS) and non-smokers (NS), those which do not have any significant exposure to tobacco smoke. GSE30032 contained samples of placenta and cord blood from pregnant women exposed to environmental tobacco smoke i.e. are passive smokers (PS) and also from non-smokers, those which do not have any significant exposure to tobacco smoke. Both the gene expression profiles were assayed by common platform GPL6883 Illumina HumanRef-8 v3.0 expression beadchip.

TABLE 1- Data collection and details of cohort

GSE	No. of samples		Details of cohort		
	No. of samples	No. of samples	Detail	Smoker	Non smokers
GSE30032 (Placenta)	15 PS	31 NS	Avg age BMI	31 23.4	31 22.4
GSE30032 (Cord Blood)	15 PS	22 NS	Delivery Gest. Wk Birth wt.	Vaginal 38.9 3357g	Vaginal 39.4 3391 g
GSE27272 (Placenta)	17 AS	37 NS	Avg age BMI	28 24	31 23
GSE27272 (Cord Blood)	19 AS	45 NS	Delivery Gest. Wk Birth wt.	Vaginal 39 3171 g	Vaginal 40 3542 g

### B. Differential Gene Expression Analysis

The GEO2R is a browser based software that is based on GEOquery and limma R packages from the Bioconductor project was used to identify DEGs between user defined groups of GEO Series samples. In this study, GEO2R online software was used to compare non-smoker(NS) i.e. control samples and active smoker(AS) i.e. experimental samples to screen DEGs in GSE27272 both for placenta samples and cord blood samples individually. Similarly in GSE30023, comparison was done between non-smokers i.e. control samples and passive smoker i.e. experimental samples for both placenta samples and cord blood samples individually. The t test and Benjamini and Hochberg method were used to calculate the P values and FDR, respectively []. Genes that were differentially expressed between smokers(active or passive) and non-smokers of placenta and cord blood samples were screened with the threshold value of  $P < 0.05$  and  $|\log \text{fold change}| > 0.58$  or fold change of 1.5. The probes with no gene annotation or matched multiple gene symbols were removed.

For identification of common differentially expressed genes from the list of DEGs between five groups i.e. a) smoker(active) versus non-smoker for placenta (in GSE27272 and GSE30023 respectively) b) smoker(active) versus non-smoker for cord blood (in GSE27272 and

GSE30023 respectively) c) smoker(passive) versus non-smoker for cord blood (in GSE30023) to smoker(active) versus non-smoker for placenta (in GSE27272) d) smoker(active) versus non-smoker for placenta samples (in GSE27272) to smoker(active) versus non-smoker for cord blood (in GSE27272) e) smoker(passive) versus non-smoker for placenta samples (in GSE30023) to smoker (passive) versus non-smoker for cord blood (in GSE30023). Jvenn, an online tool to create Venn diagram was used[9]. Genes present in at least two of the four groups were saved while others were removed from the list.

### C. Analysis of protein-protein interaction (PPI) network

STRING, an open source software for retrieval of interacting genes/proteins was used to construct the network of interactions[10] for the common differentially expressed genes obtained after analysis. These were mapped to the STRING database to assess potential PPI relationships with a combined score  $> 0.4$ . This was run with conditions where maximum number of interactors as no more than 50 interactions, no more than 5 interactors and only query protein input with no interactors was given. Chilibot, which queries the PubMed literature database based on specific relationships between proteins and genes [11] was used for the list of common differentially expressed genes.

### D. Functional Gene Ontology and enrichment analysis of differentially expressed genes

The Gene Ontology (GO) is a database with information regarding biological, cellular and molecular processes, components and genes that affect them. GO built in Panther tool was used to analyze the biological processes and molecular function. Panther was set to the type of annotation required like biological process, molecular function and cell component. Along with Fischer Exact test type was applied. DAVID online tool was also used for pathway enrichment with (KEGG) Kyoto Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes[12].

## III. RESULTS

### A. Identification of differentially expressed genes

A total of 2 microarray datasets (GSE27272 and GSE30023) were used in this study. Based on the criteria of  $P < .05$  and  $|\log \text{FC}| > 0.58$ , a total of 485 DEGs were identified, 377 DEGs from GSE30023 and 108 DEGs identified in GSE27272. Total 21 DEGs were obtained.

TABLE 2 – List of 21 differentially expressed genes

From	To	Species	David Gene Name
MEG3	55384	Homo sapiens	maternally expressed 3 (non-protein coding)(MEG3)
VAV3	10451	Homo sapiens	vav guanine nucleotide exchange factor 3(VAV3)
CHURC1	91612	Homo sapiens	churchill domain containing 1(CHURC1)
DNAAF2	55172	Homo sapiens	dynein axonemal assembly factor 2(DNAAF2)
EPB41	2035	Homo sapiens	erythrocyte membrane protein band 4.1(EPB41)
TXK	7294	Homo sapiens	TXK tyrosine kinase(TXK)
TACSTD2	4070	Homo sapiens	tumor-associated calcium signal transducer 2(TACSTD2)
GPATCH4	54855	Homo sapiens	G-patch domain containing 4(GPATCH4)
COX7B2	170712	Homo sapiens	cytochrome c oxidase subunit 7B2(COX7B2)
CAMKK2	10645	Homo sapiens	calcium/calmodulin dependent protein kinase kinase 2(CAMKK2)
GLE1	2733	Homo sapiens	GLE1, RNA export mediator(GLE1)
TM1GD3	57413	Homo sapiens	transmembrane and immunoglobulin domain containing 3(TM1GD3)
FAM167A	83648	Homo sapiens	family with sequence similarity 167 member A(FAM167A)
PTER	9317	Homo sapiens	phosphotriesterase related(PTER)
SCP2	6342	Homo sapiens	sterol carrier protein 2(SCP2)
NAMPT	10135	Homo sapiens	nicotinamide phosphoribosyltransferase(NAMPT)
HOXB2	3212	Homo sapiens	homeobox B2(HOXB2)
MBP	4155	Homo sapiens	myelin basic protein(MBP)
PDLIM5	10611	Homo sapiens	PDZ and LIM domain 5(PDLIM5)
NBL1	4681	Homo sapiens	neuroblastoma 1, DAN family BMP antagonist(NBL1)
TXNDC5	81567	Homo sapiens	thioredoxin domain containing 5(TXNDC5)



C. Gene Ontology and pathway analysis of differentially expressed genes

Panther tool of the Gene Ontology identified biological process, molecular function and cellular components with p value adjusted to below 0.05 and Fishers exact test as selection parameter. It also gives expected values and fold enrichment which shows degree to which a gene would be affect relative to its up-regulation or down-regulation.

TABLE 4 – GO cellular component analysis with fold enrichment above 99.49

GO cellular component	Gene list	Expected	Fold Enrichment	raw P-value
nuclear pore cytoplasmic filaments (GO:0044614)	1	0	> 100	4.45E-03
internode region of axon (GO:0033269)	1	0	> 100	5.57E-03
spectrin-associated cytoskeleton (GO:0014731)	1	0.01	99.49	1.11E-02

TABLE 5 – GO molecular function analysis with fold enrichment above 100

GO molecular function	Genes in list	Expected	Fold Enrichment	raw P-value
nicotinamide phosphoribosyltransferase activity (GO:0047280)	1	0	> 100	2.23E-03
propanoyl-CoA C-acyltransferase activity (GO:0033814)	1	0	> 100	2.23E-03
propionyl-CoA C2-trimethyltridecanoyltransferase activity (GO:0050632)	1	0	> 100	2.23E-03
oleic acid binding (GO:0070538)	1	0	> 100	3.34E-03
nicotinate-nucleotide diphosphorylase (carboxylating) activity (GO:0004514)	1	0	> 100	4.45E-03
inositol hexakisphosphate binding (GO:0000822)	1	0	> 100	4.45E-03
acetyl-CoA C-myristoyltransferase activity (GO:0050633)	1	0	> 100	4.45E-03
myristoyltransferase activity (GO:0019107)	1	0.01	> 100	6.68E-03
structural constituent of myelin sheath (GO:0019911)	2	0.01	> 100	9.22E-05
phosphatidylcholine transfer activity (GO:0120019)	1	0.01	> 100	7.78E-03
long-chain fatty acyl-CoA binding (GO:0036042)	1	0.01	> 100	8.89E-03
acetyl-CoA C-acyltransferase activity (GO:0003988)	1	0.01	> 100	8.89E-03
morphogen activity (GO:0016015)	1	0.01	> 100	8.89E-03

TABLE 6 – GO biological process analysis with fold enrichment above 100 and P value above 6.70E-03

GO biological process complete	Gene list	Expected	Fold Enrichment	raw P-value
lipid hydroperoxide transport (GO:1901373)	1	0	> 100	2.23E-03
response to D-galactose (GO:1905377)	1	0	> 100	2.23E-03
rhombomere 4 development (GO:0021570)	1	0	> 100	3.34E-03
negative regulation of branching involved in ureteric bud morphogenesis (GO:0090191)	1	0	> 100	3.34E-03
positive regulation of metalloendopeptidase activity (GO:1904685)	1	0	> 100	3.34E-03
rhombomere 3 development (GO:0021569)	1	0	> 100	4.45E-03
inositol trisphosphate biosynthetic process (GO:0032959)	1	0	> 100	4.45E-03
establishment of left/right asymmetry (GO:0061966)	1	0	> 100	4.45E-03
progesterone biosynthetic process (GO:0006701)	1	0	> 100	5.57E-03
male anatomical structure morphogenesis (GO:0090598)	1	0	> 100	5.57E-03
male genitalia morphogenesis (GO:0048808)	1	0	> 100	5.57E-03
positive regulation of intracellular cholesterol transport (GO:0032385)	1	0	> 100	5.57E-03
positive regulation of intracellular sterol transport (GO:0032382)	1	0	> 100	5.57E-03
positive regulation of intracellular lipid transport (GO:0032379)	1	0	> 100	5.57E-03
determination of dorsal identity (GO:0048263)	1	0	> 100	5.57E-03
sequestering of BMP in extracellular matrix (GO:0035582)	1	0	> 100	5.57E-03
CAMKK-AMPK signaling cascade (GO:0061762)	1	0	> 100	5.57E-03
regulation of lung blood pressure (GO:0014916)	1	0	> 100	5.57E-03
calmodulin dependent kinase signaling pathway (GO:0099004)	1	0.01	> 100	6.68E-03
determination of dorsal/ventral asymmetry (GO:0048262)	1	0.01	> 100	6.68E-03

DAVID with KEGG gave the common pathway enrichment for the common differentially expressed genes. It helps to analyze the pathways enriched for individual genes.



TABLE 7 – KEGG pathway enrichment with DAVID for 8 of common 21 differentially expressed genes

KEGG pathway enrichment analysis by DAVID	
gene	<b>TXK tyrosine kinase(TXK)</b>
KEGG_PATHWAY	Leukocyte transendothelial migration,
gene	<b>calcium/calmodulin dependent protein kinase kinase 2(CAMKK2)</b>
KEGG_PATHWAY	AMPK signaling pathway, Adipocytokine signaling pathway, Oxytocin signaling pathway, Alcoholism,
gene	<b>cytochrome c oxidase subunit 7B2(COX7B2)</b>
KEGG_PATHWAY	Oxidative phosphorylation, Metabolic pathways, Cardiac muscle contraction, Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD), Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, Huntington's disease,
gene	<b>neuroblastoma 1, DAN family BMP antagonist(NBL1)</b>
KEGG_PATHWAY	TGF-beta signaling pathway,
gene	<b>nicotinamide phosphoribosyltransferase(NAMPT)</b>
KEGG_PATHWAY	Nicotinate and nicotinamide metabolism, Metabolic pathways,
gene	<b>sterol carrier protein 2(SCP2)</b>
KEGG_PATHWAY	Primary bile acid biosynthesis, Metabolic pathways, PPAR signaling pathway, Peroxisome,
gene	<b>thioredoxin domain containing 5(TXNDC5)</b>
KEGG_PATHWAY	Protein processing in endoplasmic reticulum,
gene	<b>vav guanine nucleotide exchange factor 3(VAV3)</b>
KEGG_PATHWAY	cAMP signaling pathway, Chemokine signaling pathway, Focal adhesion, Natural killer cell mediated cytotoxicity, T cell receptor signaling pathway, B cell receptor signaling pathway, Fc epsilon RI signaling pathway, Fc gamma R-mediated phagocytosis, Leukocyte transendothelial migration, Regulation of actin cytoskeleton

#### IV. CONCLUSION

Total 484 genes were differentially expressed among which 21 were found to be common among the two datasets. It was seen that placental samples had common differentially expressed genes when active and passive smokers were compared to non-smokers respectively. This indicates that exposure to tobacco smoke induces transcriptomic alterations which have similarity to active smokers. This is alarming because with air pollution and CO<sub>2</sub>, CO, NO levels on rise and tobacco smoke exposure by cigarette smoking everyone is at a higher risk no matter where. Another important finding is that cord blood of active and passive smokers compared to non-smokers respectively finds similar identity to placental tissue differentially expressed genes. The reason may be that via placenta this may have reached the cord blood. The cord blood is transferred from mother to child thereby acting as transfer medium for all major microbiota and initial health development nutrition. Cord blood transcriptomic alterations due to exposure of pregnant women to smoking will

definitely affect the infant. This can be seen via the results of pathway analysis where cell signaling pathways, immune system pathways – chemokine, NKC, leukocyte signaling is affected. Also, dementia like diseases Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, attention deficit disorders are affected by the differentially expressed genes. Also, birth weight has been affected i.e. lowest in active smoker < passive smokers < non-smokers in the experimental studies according to literature review as seen while data collection of birth weight was done in GSE30023 and GSE27272 experiments.

Therefore investigation of such studies related to effect of tobacco smoke exposure on maternal cell and fetus would provide insight on measures with relevance to clinical and genomics aspect to prevent health deterioration. Health and Well-being 2023 goal of Sustainable Development shall be benefitted from such studies to formulate interventions of better health of mother and fetus.

Therefore in future, it is important to carry out comparative transcriptomics of effect of smoking- active, passive environmental pollution on pregnant women and infants till three years of age in various tissue samples.

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# *Technology - Based Intervention on Geometric Skills and its Effect on Verbal and Visual Memory of Preschoolers*

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**Abstract-** *Though prolific technology - based interventions are developed, several researches have been carried out on preschoolers; the impact of such interventions on verbal and visual memory remains obscure, especially in preschoolers. The purpose of the present study was to study the effect of geometrical skills on verbal and visual memory of preschoolers through a technology-based intervention. Forty preschoolers aged two to four years participated in the study. Twenty preschoolers were allotted to the experimental group and twenty to the active control group. The experimental group was subjected to four weeks of intervention. The pre and post-tests were administered to assess the verbal and visual memory. For assessment of verbal memory, the groups were compared on their ability to recall the names of various shapes and objects. The subjects were asked to recognize the shapes and other associated objects for assessment of visual memory. The results indicate the positive influence of technology-based intervention on the geometrical skills of preschoolers. There was significant improvement in verbal as well as visual memory.*

**Keywords:** *Intervention, Preschoolers, Verbal Memory, Visual Memory, Geometrical Skills*

## **BACKGROUND**

Early childhood education begins early, even before birth (Kunin, 2009). The children aged two to four years are referred to as preschoolers (Frazier, 2009). This is the period to build a strong foundation in all developmental areas. Skills such as naming colors, showing affection, etc. are the developmental milestones for 0 -3 years children. Children reach milestones in how they play, learn, speak, behave, and move (like crawling, walking, or jumping). As children grow into early childhood, their world begins to open up. They become more independent and begin to focus more on adults and children outside of the family. They want to explore and have a tendency to ask about things around them even more. The interactions with family and those around them help to shape their personality and their own ways of thinking and moving. For children to grow into strong and healthy adults, their education in the early years should meet specific developmental milestones in each of the domains. These domains are: Cognitive domain that includes skills regarding learning and thinking, asking questions, developing an

increased attention span, problem solving, visual discrimination, etc.; Physical domain which includes skills like muscle control, balance, and coordination (climbing ladders, opening doors, etc.), exercise, health, and nutrition, self-help skills (feeding, brushing teeth, dressing, and washing hands); and Socio-emotional domain that includes skills such as regulating one's own behavior and emotions, developing friendships with other children and healthy relationships with adults, creating a positive personal identity, developing a working memory, engaging in learning, etc. (Aiger, 2017). Mathematical skills are also critical to students' long term economic and social success (Jang, 2016). Even young children have the potential to learn mathematics that is complex and sophisticated (Clements, 2011). Before they start school, most children develop an understanding of addition and subtraction of small digits through everyday interactions. Children use early math skills throughout their daily routines and activities. Most of the children develop number sense through everyday interactions. For example, Thomas has two cars; Joseph wants one. After Thomas shares one, he sees that he has one car left (Bowman, Donovan, & Burns, 2001). Other math skills are introduced through daily routines shared with children like counting steps while going up or coming down. Informal activities like this give children a jumpstart on the formal math instruction that starts in school.

Early mathematical concepts and skills that first-grade mathematics curriculum builds on include understanding size, shape, and patterns; ability to count verbally (first forward, then backward); recognizing numerals; identifying more and less of a quantity; and understanding one-to-one correspondence (i.e., matching sets, or knowing which group has four and which has five) (Bowman et al., 2001, p. 76).

Children's ability to understand mathematics takes a big leap forward in the preschool years. (Geist, 2014) The strengthening ability of children to represent using symbols and signs shows many new possibilities. As early as age three, children can hold up fingers to indicate a quantity. By age four, children are learning to count. They can usually count to 5 or 10, and can tell what number comes next in a series. For example, if you counted 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 and asked what comes next, the child could say, "6!" However, at this stage, saying the words and understanding the quantity linked

to them is not a certainty (Clements & Sarama, 2004). Children can recognize and name shapes that have different sizes and orientations. They also learn and use directional words such as “up,” “down,” “over,” “under,” and many others. Measurement also takes a leap forward as children begin to compare objects by length. Three-year-olds can put two pencils next to each other and tell you which one is longer. Four-year-olds can begin to use nonstandard units to measure things; for example, they can tell you how many shoes wide the teacher’s desk is. They will need a lot of shoes to do this, because they cannot yet use one shoe repeatedly (Clements & Stephan, 2004; Clements, 2001; Clements & Bright, 2003). Early math skill is the strongest early predictor of children’s math achievement years later (Aunola, Leskinen, Lerkkanen, and Nurmi, 2004; Duncan et al., 2007; Geary, Hoard, Nugent & Bailey, 2013; Jordan, Kaplan, Ramineni, and Locuniak, 2009; Siegler et al., 2012). Some students face difficulty in solving simple arithmetic problems. The lack of diagnoses and remediation at an early age can be one of the reasons behind this. Research has been conducted to improve the mathematical ability of preschool students (Clements & Sarama, 2007; Clements, Sarama, Wolfe, & Spitler, 2013; Sarama, Clements, Wolfe, & Spitler, 2012). The interventions have been used by some researchers to assist children especially from low - income families to learn mathematical concepts (Clements & Sarama, 2011; Nguyen, Watts & Clements, 2017).

“The limits of our language” means the limits of our world (Wittgenstein, 1922). Language as a barrier in learning must be focused. The Global Monitoring Report on Education for All, 2005 underlined the fact that worldwide the choice of the language of instruction and language policy in schools is critical for effective learning (Ouane & Glanz, 2010). The same was a barrier in the previously developed interventions. Also, being in the vicinity of all, is a mandatory part of the intervention. But they are not in reach of all. In light of these concerns, the study intends to build a geometrical intervention to improve the early mathematical ability of preschool students. Additionally, verbal and visual memory is of great importance for scholastic achievement in children (Miriam, 2017). Verbal memory is one of the most consistently reported domains of neuro-cognitive decline (Dye & Mehta, 2015). There are a variety of tasks for measuring verbal memory capability, including learning of word lists, story recall (or logical memory), and learning of sequences of paired words (Tatsumi, 2009). It’s true that technology is a good enabler so that students don’t need to memorize nearly as much as they did in the past, students still need to efficiently remember (Mindprint learning, 2019). In every subject, children need to learn concepts which are unattainable without good verbal memory. Visual memory involves the ability to store and retrieve previously experienced visual sensations and perceptions when the stimuli that originally evoked them are no longer present (Plessis, 2018). Poor visual memory is significantly related to poor achievement in mathematics. Therefore, visual memory is considered to be amongst the skills that are significantly related to mathematics achievement (Kulp et. Al., 2004). Researches claim that verbal memory, visual memory and working memory have an effect on mathematics, in general (Ashkenazi, Lee, 2013; Swanson, 2015; Gilligan et. al., 2017;

Hornung, Schiltz, 2017). Is the vice-versa true? So, the study aims to analyze the effect of the intervention on geometrical skills on the verbal and visual memory of preschoolers.

## METHOD

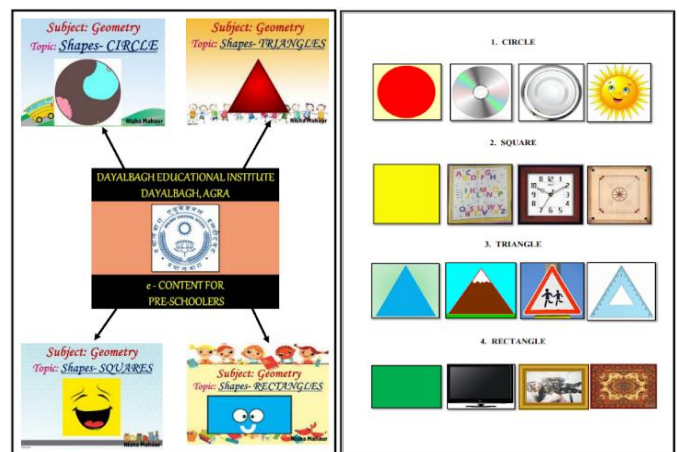
### Design

Before implementing the intervention to the subject, a pre-test was conducted to assess the verbal and visual memory of the preschoolers. The post-test was administered after 4 weeks of intervention.

### Intervention

The intervention was designed to provide the concept of geometrical shapes to help children build a strong foundation of mathematical knowledge using technology. The structure of each activity was designed in accordance to the learning needs of preschoolers like motor skills, listening skills, conflict resolution skills, social skills, etc. (Dumke, 2018). The intervention was prepared on the basis of (i) A document - The first three years by Mina Swaminathan, UNICEF (ii) Visiting crèche, Faculty of DEI and (iii) Interaction with the parents of preschoolers.

The intervention consisted of four videos one for each shape (circle, triangle, square and rectangle). The duration of each video was 8 mins. Three examples were presented in video for each shape (Fig. 1). The intervention was implemented for fifteen minutes per day for four days a week for four weeks. Every week a new geometrical shape was introduced - circle (first week), square (second week), triangles (third week) and rectangle (fourth week). The concept of shapes was related to the objects they observe in daily life. The stimuli were presented using different colors, audio and visual representations on a smart-board.



**Figure 1:** A Glimpse of Technology - based intervention for preschoolers

Before implementing the intervention and collecting the data, it was tested on two preschoolers. The feedback on intervention was sought from teacher educators with (i) specialization in early childhood education, (ii) specialization in technology, (iii) instructors at pre-school and (iv) parents

of preschoolers. Their suggestions were incorporated. Changes were made like the pace of the videos, modification in voice (intonation of the syllables was corrected) and re-recording some parts where the pronunciation wasn't clear. The modified intervention was further tested on a small group of ten preschoolers. It was observed that the stimuli presented successfully gained attention of subjects. The preschoolers also responded to the pop-up questions in the videos. As no changes were required further, the field try-out of the intervention on the experimental group of twenty preschoolers was carried out. The active control group was exposed to the content in the traditional way of teaching for four days per week for four weeks. Blackboard and other objects in their surroundings like chart paper, duster, chalk and toys were used to equip the children with the knowledge of shapes. Their responses were observed and noted. The content was presented for twenty minutes a day.

### Participants

Forty preschoolers were selected from two pre-schools of Agra. The consent was sought from parents for participation in the study. The age range of participants was 2-4 years ( $M = 2.65$  years,  $SD = 0.625$ ). The date of birth of all children was obtained to determine their age-eligibility. Children were recruited equally from both the schools for this randomized controlled trial. 20 preschoolers were allotted to an active control group and 20 to an experimental group (10 for experimental group and 10 for active control group from each school). Demographics are presented in Table 1.

**Table 1**  
*Demographic Characteristics of Participants*

	Experimental Group (N = 20)	Active Control Group (N = 20)
Age	$M = 2.65, SD = 0.625$	$M = 2.59, SD = 0.614$
Gender	08 (Boys), 12 (Girls)	09 (Boys), 11 (Girls)

### Measures

The performance tasks were designed to assess verbal and visual memory of the preschoolers on the basis on Weschler's Intelligence Scale for Children (Weschler, 2014), Working Memory Test Battery for Children (Gathercole, 2001) and Missing Scan Task (Buschke, 1963),

#### Verbal Memory

The verbal working memory can be assessed by recalling the list of certain items (Warner, 2003). Demoulin and Kolinsky (2015), in their experiment, measured the verbal memory in a free recall task in which children had to verbally recall the names of pictures. A similar task was designed in the present study. The subjects were instructed to listen to the spoken words. On each trial of the test, a sequence of shapes was spoken aloud twice in the same order with the e-flashcards appearing simultaneously as the name of the shape was being spoken at the rate of two seconds per shape. The subjects had to repeat the names of the shapes in the same order as

presented. After every correct recall, the complexity of the task increased by adding one more shape (differing from the previous shapes). In case of incorrect trial, the previous number of shapes were presented again. The last correct number of shapes recalled was recorded as score.

#### Visual Memory

The measure of visual memory was adapted from the Benton Visual Retention Test, The Brown Location Test and Kim Karad Visual Memory Test (Brown, Roth et. al., 2014; Movallali, 2016 & Talepasand, Eskandaripour & Taghinezhad, 2018). The measure used in the present study was a shape association task with the help of different objects. The participants ability of the visual association of objects with shapes was assessed. The image of a shape was presented (circle/square/rectangle/triangle) for five seconds followed by the presentation of an object (plate/clock/egg/set square/photo frame/heart) for another five seconds on the screen in a random order. Ten images (six objects and four shapes) were used in this assessment. The subject had to identify the shape of the object by matching the object to the previously displayed shape with yes/no as their response. Each correct matching was marked by a score. The total score was the total number of correct identifications of shape of objects presented.

### DATA ANALYSIS

The performance scores of participants at the pre - test and post - test are presented in Table 2. Mann-Whitney U – test was used to determine statistical significance of difference in mean scores of the experimental and active control group. A Wilcoxon Sign test was used to determine the effectiveness of the intervention. The data was analyzed using the statistical software past- paleontological statistics software package for education and data analysis. The results are presented in table 2, 3, 4 and 5.

**Table 2**  
*Pre-Test Verbal and Visual Memory Scores of Experimental Group and Active Control Group*

Groups	Experimental (N = 20)	Active Control (N = 20)	<i>p</i>
Verbal Memory <i>M (SD)</i>	1.5 (1.15)	1.65 (1.04)	0.653
Visual Memory <i>M (SD)</i>	3.05 (1.99)	3.15 (1.98)	0.960

#### Verbal Memory

The difference in the verbal memory scores of the experimental and control group at pre-test was not statistically significant ( $p = 0.653$ ). Mann - Whitney test indicated that the mean of verbal memory score of the experimental group was significantly greater at post - test ( $M = 3.10$ ) than at pre - test ( $M = 1.50$ ),  $U = 56, p = 0.000$ . This significant difference indicated an increase in the verbal

memory scores of the preschoolers after the intervention. The difference between pre-test and post-test visual memory scores of the active control group was insignificant ( $p = 0.162$ ).

**Table 3**  
*Pre-test & Post-test Verbal Memory Scores of Experimental Group and Active Control Group*

	Experimental N = 20		Active Control N = 20	
	Pre-Test	Post-Test	Pre-Test	Post-Test
<i>M (SD)</i>	1.50 (1.15)	3.10 (0.79)	1.65 (1.04)	2.05 (0.83)
<i>U</i>	56		150	
<i>p</i>	0.000		0.162	

#### Visual Memory

The difference in the visual memory scores of the experimental and control group at pre-test was not statistically significant ( $p = 0.960$ ). Mann - Whitney test indicated that the mean of visual memory scores of the experimental group was significantly greater at post - test ( $M = 4.45$ ) than at pre - test ( $M = 3.05$ ),  $U = 119.5$ ,  $p = 0.028$ . This significant difference indicated an increase in the visual memory scores of the preschoolers after the intervention. The difference between pre-test and post-test visual memory scores of the active control group was not significant ( $p = 0.510$ ).

**Table 4**  
*Pre-test & Post-test Visual Memory Scores of Experimental Group and Active Control Group*

	Experimental N = 20		Active Control N = 20	
	Pre-Test	Post-Test	Pre-Test	Post-Test
<i>M (SD)</i>	3.05 (1.99)	4.45 (1.54)	3.15 (1.98)	3.5 (1.70)
<i>U</i>	119.5		175.5	
<i>p</i>	0.028		0.510	

#### Effect of Technology-Based Intervention

The effect of the intervention was found to be positive ( $W = 7.5$ ,  $p = 0.003$  for experimental group and  $W = 47.5$ ,  $p = 0.06$  for active control group). A Cohen's  $d = 1.05$ , indicates that the mean score of subjects in the experimental group is 1.0 standard deviations above the mean score of subjects in the active control group, and that the mean score of the experimental group exceeds the scores of 84 percent of those in the active control group.

**Table 5**  
*Effect Size of the Technology – Based Intervention*

Group	N	W	p	Effect Size (d)
Experimental	20	7.5	0.003	1.05
Active Control	20	47.5	0.06	

## DISCUSSION

The current study examined the effect of geometrical skills on the verbal and visual memory of preschoolers through a technology-based intervention. Previous research has proved that exposing the children (aged 4 to 8 years) to technological intervention like tablet intervention enhances their mathematical skills (Pitchford, 2015; Outhwaite & Gulliford, 2017). To our knowledge, this study is the first to test the impact of geometrical skills on verbal and visual memory of children aged between 2 to 4 years.

Verbal memory, visual memory and working memory have an effect on mathematics, in general (Ashkenazi, Lee, 2013; Swanson, 2015; Gilligan et. al., 2017; Hornung, Schiltz, 2017). However, it is unclear whether the vice versa is true in case of preschoolers. The results of the present research indicated that geometrical intervention can improve the verbal and visual memory of preschoolers. Children's ability to understand mathematics takes a big leap forward in the preschool years (Geist, 2014). Early math skills are the strongest early predictors of children's math achievement years later (Aunola, Leskinen, Lerkkanen, and Nurmi, 2004; Duncan et al., 2007; Geary, Hoard, Nugent, and Bailey, 2013; Jordan, Kaplan, Ramineni, and Locuniak, 2009; Siegler et al., 2012). A positive effect of the intervention was observed as indicated by the effect size of the intervention ( $d=1.05$ ). The analysis of the scores showed a significant effect of the intervention on the verbal and visual memory of preschoolers. The experimental group performed better in the test of verbal and visual memory as compared to the active control group. The results indicate that the exposure to technology-based intervention can enhance the verbal and visual memory leading to the retention of the concept for a longer time. When the developed technology-based intervention of shapes was implemented on an experimental group of preschoolers they responded well and also performed well in the test of visual memory. Interventions (numbers & measurement) designed to facilitate the mathematical learning of children aged 3 to 5 years have a strong positive effect on these children's lives for many years (Clements & Julie, 2011). Different types of instructional design features, including explicit instruction, computer-assisted instruction (CAI), game playing, or the use of concrete representational-abstract levels in representations of math concepts, led to improvements in mathematics performance (Mononen & Riikka, 2014). Preschoolers learn fast through videos and images presented to them digitally as seen in the results. The children took interest in listening to the videos and also responded in between. The intervention gained the subjects' attention. Further studies can be conducted to compare the effect of technology-based

intervention with other pedagogical techniques for preschoolers.

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# Extractive Lecture Summarization System Using Evolutionary Algorithms – Optimizing Word, Sentence and Text Features

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**Abstract** - Automatic extractive text summarization on lectures has become more predominant with increase in the online learning. These systems help in collecting important information, key phrases and sentences that best represent the content. In this paper, we have proposed automatic extractive lecture summarization as a binary optimization problem, and multi-objective non-dominated sorting genetic algorithm (NSGA-II) is employed to solve this. The solutions of GA encode possible set of sentences that constitute the summary which are then evaluated based on word, sentence and text features. These features constitute the objective functions that measure different aspects of the summary and are optimized simultaneously using the search capability of GA. For the purpose of evaluation of the model, two summarization datasets DocEng'19 and CNN/Daily mail are used. The results are compared with optimization, machine learning and deep learning models using ROUGE measures. For CNN/Dailymail dataset, we have obtained 12% and 25% improvements over the existing state-of-the-art extractive lecture summarization techniques. The paper also demonstrates the effect of similarity measures and objective functions over the quality of the generated summary.

**Keywords** – lecture summarization system, multi-objective binary optimization, extractive summarization, sentence and text quality measures

## I. INTRODUCTION

Text summarization aims to create a shorter version of the document that conveys the main theme of the document [1]. Based on the extraction methodology, there are two types of summarization techniques – abstractive [2] and extractive [3]. Abstractive summarization uses vocabulary beyond the specified text, generates a summary similar to human generated summary. Though it is desirable, it requires deep learning, several GPUs to train over days or highly complex algorithms and rules with limited generalization [4]. Due to these challenges,

extractive summarization is used by lecture summarization models. Extractive summarization leverages only the content from the text. It chooses key phrases and important sentences from the text to create a summary of desired length. In education, with increase in MOOCs, video lecture transcripts are available but locating the important information from the transcript (L) can be a challenging task. In such cases, automatic extractive summarization of lectures is a powerful tool.

In the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, manual summarizations were created using multimedia applications [5]. With increase in the data, manual summarization became a tedious process and probabilistic models were used for summarization [6]. To improve the summarization performance, researches incorporated rhetorical information into the summaries [7]. In recent years, different methods like meta-heuristic based [8]–[10], unsupervised learning based [11], [12], supervised learning based [13]–[15], neural-network based [4], [16]–[19] have been used to solve the problem of extractive summarization. The deep learning techniques require huge computational resources and training data, on the contrary meta-heuristic algorithms are unsupervised and can optimize multiple features to generate good quality summary using comparatively less computational resources and training data.

There are four methods used for generating summary features [20]: (i) word scoring (ii) sentence scoring (iii) graph scoring (iv) text scoring. In this paper, we have used a combination of word, sentence and text scoring features to create five objective functions and formulated the lecture summarization problem as a multi-objective optimization problem. In order to show that the performance of model depends on the objective functions and similarity/dissimilarity function chosen, different combinations of the above have are explored. For reporting the best summary and evaluation of the



model, most of the approaches use gold standard summaries, but in real scenarios like lecture summarization, gold standard references might not be available. To overcome this, we have explored unsupervised learning techniques to choose a single best solution from the final pareto optimal front generated by NSGA-II [21].

## II. LECTURE SUMMARIZATION AS MULTI-OBJECTIVE OPTIMIZATION

Multi-objective optimization problem optimizes more than one objective function simultaneously by adhering to some constraints to solve a particular problem. It can be mathematically formulated as:

$$\max\{f_1(\vec{x}), f_2(\vec{x}), \dots, f_m(\vec{x})\}, \vec{x} \in X$$

where, X is set of decision vectors in a n-dimension space denoted as  $\{\vec{x}_1, \vec{x}_2, \dots, \vec{x}_n\}$ , m is the number of objective functions to be optimized. Genetic Algorithm (GA) is a search-based global optimization technique proposed by John Holland in 1975 [22]. There exist many variants of GA which differ in representation (binary-coded or real-coded) of the solutions and in terms of parameters. In this paper, we use a binary genetic algorithm where each solution is coded as a binary vector and is associated with five objective functions. The algorithm executes in a way similar to other optimization algorithms. It starts with a random set of solutions called population. At a given time stamp t (generation), *i*th solution is represented as

$$\vec{x}_i(t) = [x_{i,1}(t), x_{i,2}(t), \dots, x_{i,n}(t)]$$

where,  $i=1,2,\dots,|P|$ , |P| is the size of population, n is the length of solution,  $x_{i,m}$  either takes a 0 or 1, for  $m=1,2,\dots, n$ . For each solution i, the offspring  $\hat{y}$  is generated using crossover and mutation operations [23], [24] and solution is evaluated in comparison with all solutions in the population.

### A. Problem Definition

Consider a lecture transcript (L) consisting of N sentences,  $\{s_1, s_2, \dots, s_N\}$ . Our task is to find the subset of sentences (S) which cover the information in the lecture,  $S \in L$  such that

$$|S| \leq S_{max}$$

where  $S_{max}$  represents the maximum number of sentences in the summary and |S| represents the number of sentences in the generated summary.

### B. Sentence similarity/dissimilarity and quality measures

To generate a high-quality summary, five objective functions are optimized simultaneously using binary genetic algorithm and NSGA-II framework. Some of the objective functions include similarity/dissimilarity measure between sentences.

In this paper, we have analysed three such similarity/dissimilarity measures and their description follows:

#### 1) Normalized Google Distance (NGD)

It measures the dissimilarity between two sentences using the terms in the sentences [25]. It is mathematically defined as:

$$d(s_i, s_j) = \frac{\sum_{t_i \in s_i} \sum_{t_j \in s_j} NGD(t_1, t_2)}{|s_i| * |s_j|}$$

where,  $t_1$  and  $t_2$  are terms belonging to sentences  $s_i$  and  $s_j$  respectively,  $|s_i|$ ,  $|s_j|$  are number of terms in sentences  $s_i$  and  $s_j$  respectively.

$$NGD(t_1, t_2) = \frac{\max\{\log(s_{t_1}), \log(s_{t_2})\} - \log(s_{t_1, t_2})}{\log N - \min\{\log(s_{t_1}), \log(s_{t_2})\}}$$

where  $s_{t_1}$ ,  $s_{t_2}$  denotes the number of sentences in L containing the term  $t_1$  and term  $t_2$  respectively,  $s_{t_1, t_2}$  denotes the number of sentences in L containing both the terms  $t_1$  and  $t_2$ , N is the number of sentences in L.

#### 2) Word Mover Distance

This measure calculates the dissimilarity between two documents as the amount of distance that embedded words in one document need to travel to reach the embedded words of another text [26].

#### 3) Cosine Similarity

It is a similarity measure between two non-zero vectors that measures the cosine angle between them [25].

$$\cos(\theta) = \frac{\vec{s}_1 \cdot \vec{s}_2}{\|\vec{s}_1\| \|\vec{s}_2\|}$$

where  $\vec{s}_1$  and  $\vec{s}_2$  are the vectors of length n. The vectors are generated using Word2vec model [27].

### C. Objective functions – word feature, sentence feature, text feature

To obtain a good summary, selection of good objective functions is important. The set of objective functions used in this paper are: sentence score, sentence length, coverage, cohesion, readability. The first objective function is a combination of word features and motivated by the paper [20]. Text feature – sentence length and sentence features – cohesion, coverage, readability form the remaining four objective functions. All these objective functions have to be maximized simultaneously through multi-objective optimization rather than weighted sum approach. We provide a brief description of the aforementioned functions below:

#### 1) Word Feature

Word features help us decide the importance of a sentence and is a weighted combination of title word,

thematic word, keyword, proper noun, numerical and term weight.

a) *Title word*

Sentences that contain title words indicate the subject of the transcript. Score of the title words is calculated as

$$Title\_Score(w_{ij}|Title) = 5/15$$

where,  $w_{ij}$  is the word  $i$  in sentence  $j$ . The above equation indicates if the word  $i$  in sentence  $j$  is one of the title words then a score of 5/15 is assigned to it.

b) *Thematic word*

The thematic words of  $L$  are computed using latent Dirichlet allocation (LDA) algorithm [28]. The sentence that contains theme words is most likely to represent theme of the transcript.

$$Thematic\_Score(w_{ij}|Thematic\ word) = 4/15$$

where,  $w_{ij}$  is the word  $i$  in sentence  $j$ . If word  $i$  is one of the thematic words, then a score of 4/15 is assigned to it.

c) *Keyword*

The keywords are determined using tf-idf measure. Sentences having keywords are more likely to be include in the summary. The score is calculated as, if the word  $i$  of sentence  $j$  is a key word then a score of 3/15 is allocated to it.

$$Keyword\_Score(w_{ij}|Keyword) = 3/15$$

d) *Proper Noun*

The sentences in the transcript that contain more proper nouns have a higher probability to be included in the summary. If a word  $i$  in sentence  $j$  is a proper noun, then a score of 2/15 is assigned to it.

$$Propernoun\_Score(w_{ij}|Propernoun) = 2/15$$

e) *Numerical data*

Sentences containing numerical data might be significant and have a higher probability to be included in the summary. It is calculated as:

$$Numeric\_Score(w_{ij}|Numeric) = 1/15$$

where,  $w_{ij}$  word  $i$  in sentence  $j$ . If  $w_{ij}$  is a number, then a score of 1/15 is assigned to it.

f) *Term weight*

The frequency of the word occurring in the transcript can be used to compute the importance of sentence. The term weight score of a sentence can be calculated as the sum of term weight score of the words in the sentence.

$$w_{ij} = \frac{TF}{IDF} = \left( \frac{\log(1 + tf)}{\log(df)} \right)$$

$$TW\_Score(w_{ij}) = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^k W_i(s_j)}{\text{Max}(\sum_{i=1}^k W_i(s_j^N))}$$

The first objective function, sentence score of a sentence ( $s_j$ ) is calculated as the sum of the above word features.

$$S\_Score(s_j) = \sum_{i=1}^N (Title\_Score(w_{ij}) + Thematic\_Score(w_{ij}) + Keyword\_Score(w_{ij}) + Propernoun\_Score(w_{ij}) + Numeric\_Score(w_{ij}) + TW\_Score(w_{ij}))$$

where,  $w_{ij}$  is  $i$ th word in sentence  $j$ ,  $N$  is the total number of words in sentence  $j$ .

2) *Sentence Feature*

a) *Sentence Length*

Shorter sentences have less chance to appear in the summary [29]. Normalized sigmoid function [30] is used to calculate the sentence length score, this function favors the longer and doesn't rule out medium length sentences.

$$SL\_Score = \sum_{\forall s_i \in Summary} \frac{1 - \exp\left(\frac{-l(s_i) - \mu(s)}{std(s)}\right)}{1 + \exp\left(\frac{-l(s_i) - \mu(s)}{std(s)}\right)}$$

where,  $\mu(s)$  is the mean length of sentences in the summary,  $std(s)$  is the standard deviation of length of sentences in the summary,  $l(s_i)$  is the length of the sentence  $s_i$ . The next three objective functions are based on text features – cohesion, coverage and readability.

3) *Text Feature*

a) *Cohesion*

The relatedness of the sentences in the summary is measured using cohesion [31] and is defined as:

$$COH\_Score = \frac{\log(A_s * 9 + 1)}{\log(M * 9 + 1)}$$

where,

$$A_s = \frac{\sum_{\forall s_i, s_j \in Summary} sim(s_i, s_j)}{O_s}$$

$$O_s = \frac{N * (N - 1)}{2}$$

$$M = \max sim(s_i, s_j), i, j \leq N$$

where,  $A_s$  measures the average similarity of the sentences in the summary,  $sim(s_i, s_j)$  measures the similarity between sentences  $s_i$  and  $s_j$ ,  $N$  is the total number of sentences in the transcript.

b) *Coverage*

It measures the extent to which the summary provides information about the transcript [8].

$$Cov\_Score = \sum_{\forall s_i \in Summary} \sum_{\forall s_j \in L, s_i \neq s_j} \frac{sim(s_i, s_j)}{N - 1}$$

where,  $s_i$  and  $s_j$  are sentences belonging to the generated summary,  $L$  is the lecture transcript and  $N$  is the number of sentences in  $L$ ,  $sim(s_i, s_j)$  measures the similarity between sentences  $s_i$  and  $s_j$ .

c) *Readability*

The last objective function readability, measures similarity of each sentence to that of its previous sentence. Optimizing this objective function to be maximum ensures that two consecutive sentences are related to each other thereby making the generated summary readable [9].

$$R\_Score = \sum_{i=2}^{|S|} sim(s_i, s_{i-1})$$

where,  $|S|$  is the number of sentences in the predicted summary,  $s_i, s_{i-1}$  are two consecutive sentences in the predicted summary,  $sim(s_i, s_{i-1})$  is the similarity between two sentences  $s_i$  and  $s_{i-1}$ .

### III. MULTI-OBJECTIVE GENETIC ALGORITHM BASED EXTRACTIVE LECTURE SUMMARIZATION APPROACH

In this paper, we have experimented with different combinations of objective functions as well as similarity/dissimilarity functions to identify the best suitable combination. The following approach is followed for all the above experiments.

Data: Lecture transcript (L)

Result: The best solution and the corresponding generated summary

1 Initialize population size  $|P|$ , population  $P$  (including calculation of objective functions,  $max\_generation$ ,  $max\_population$ )

2  $t=1$ ;

3 while  $t < max\_generation$  do

4  $\hat{P} \leftarrow []$  //store new solutions

5 for each solution in  $P$  do

6 Generate new solutions using  $Q$ , crossover and mutation;

7 Calculate new solution's objective functional values;

8 Add new solution into  $\hat{P}$ ;

9 end

10  $P'' =$  Merge populations  $P$  and  $\hat{P}$ ;

11  $P \leftarrow$  Apply non-dominated sorting and crowding distance operator on  $P''$  to select solutions such that number of solutions  $\leq max\_generation$ ;

12  $t=t+1$ ;

13 end

14 return the best solution from the final Pareto optimal front and corresponding summary;

The algorithm starts with set of chromosomes (solutions) called as population, where  $|P|$  is the number of solutions. In this approach, we follow binary optimization, where each solution is represented in the form of a binary vector. The size of the chromosome is equal to the number of sentences in the transcript. For example, if the transcript consists of 10 sentences, then a possible chromosome can be represented as [1, 0, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0, 1, 1]. This solution indicates that first, fourth, fifth, ninth and tenth sentences of the transcript will be in the summary. The initial set of solutions is randomly generated. While generating the summary, the constraint on summary length is considered. The quality of each solution in population is measured by evaluating objective functions which are discussed in previous sections. All the objective functions are of type maximization. Each new solution is generated using genetic operators: crossover and mutation. Non-dominated sorting and crowding distance of NSGA-II are used to select new population for every generation, from existing population and newly generated chromosomes based on the evaluation of their respective objective functions. At the end of final generation, multi-objective optimization algorithm generates a set of non-dominated solutions on the final optimal Pareto front. In this paper, we have generated summaries corresponding to different solutions on the pareto optimal front and selected the solution that has highest ROUGE-1 score. In the following section, we have reported average ROUGE score values corresponding to best solutions for all the documents to help in proper comparison with the existing approaches that produce single solution.

To calculate ROUGE score, a standard reference or gold summary is used but which might not be readily available in real-life situations like summarizing a lecture transcript. In cases where the reference summary is available, supervised information can be used to select the best solution. In situations where the reference summary is not present unsupervised learning approaches like ensemble approach is used [9]. In the ensemble approach, all the sentences from all the corresponding summaries of the rank-1 solutions of final pareto front are arranged as per the frequency of occurrence. The summary is generated by adding

sentences from the pool one after the other until it reaches the desired summary length.

The proposed approach is evaluated on two datasets – CNN dataset [34] and CNN/Daily Mail [35] dataset. A brief description is as follows:

TABLE I. BRIEF DESCRIPTIONS OF DATASETS USED.

	CNN	CNN/Dailymail
#Documents	50	11,590 (Test data)
Source	DocEng'19	CNN/Daily Mail
Length of summary	10% x DocSent	3.75 sentences on average

#DocSent is the number of sentences in the document

#### IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Our proposed approach is implemented using the three similarity/dissimilarity functions discussed in the above sections to understand their impact.

TABLE II. ROUGE PRECISION SCORES OBTAINED USING DIFFERENT APPROACHES ON CNN DATASET

		ROUGE-1	ROUGE-2
Approach-1(WMD) [9]	With SOM	0.72478	<b>0.67431</b>
	Without SOM	0.45117	0.42772
Approach-2 (WMD) [9]	With SOM	0.71166	0.66146
	Without SOM	0.48357	0.46144
Our approach (WMD)		<b>0.7559</b>	0.64984
Our approach (CS)		0.64341	0.42367
Our approach (NGD)		0.62130	0.46376

From the above table it is observed that WMD similarity measure provides better results compared to the other functions on the CNN dataset. It can be concluded that using different similarity/dissimilarity measures can help in improving the performance. WMD helps in capturing semantic relationships between sentences which could be one of the reasons for an improved performance. Our approach with WMD similarity measure was implemented on CNN dataset with a combination of different objective functions and the results are as follows:

TABLE III. ROUGE SCORES OBTAINED USING OUR APPROACH WHEN THE BEST SOLUTION IS SELECTED USING ANY ONE OF THE STRATEGIES.

Strategies	ROUGE-1	ROUGE-2
S_Score	0.35234	0.09691
SL_Score	0.37225	0.11518
CoV_Score	0.41237	0.13969
R_Score	0.38343	0.13388
S_Score and SL_Score	0.58327	0.44284
S_Score and CoV_Score	0.36962	0.12040
S_Score and R_Score	0.61095	0.45969
SL_Score and CoV_Score	0.64692	0.51532

SL_Score and R_Score	0.53142	0.33365
CoV_Score and R_Score	0.4664	0.22977
SL_Score, CoV_Score, R_Score	0.64120	0.53962
All objective functions	<b>0.7559</b>	<b>0.64984</b>
Ensemble approach	0.30302	0.11611

From the above table, we can notice that optimizing word, sentence text features-based objectives simultaneously yields a better summary than other approaches. Based on Table 2 and 3, it is observed that best summary is generated using all the objective functions and WMD as similarity measure. Our approach with WMD and all objective functions is tested on CNN/Daily Mail dataset using ROUGE1 F measure and the results are as follows:

Model	ROUGE-1	ROUGE-2	ROUGE-L
PGN [32]	39.53	17.28	37.98
DCA [33]	41.69	19.47	37.92
REFRESH [34]	41.0	18.8	37.7
NEUSUM [19]	41.59	19.01	37.98
Transformer [35]	40.90	18.02	37.17
BERTSUM+ Classifier [35]	43.23	20.22	39.60
BERTSUM+ Transformer [35]	43.25	20.24	39.63
BERTSUM+LSTM [35]	43.22	20.17	39.59
Our approach	<b>54.86</b>	<b>46.12</b>	<b>50.35</b>

Even though the objective functions used in our approach – coverage and readability exhibit conflicting behaviors as coverage is an extrinsic measure and readability is an intrinsic measure, considering all the objective functions with WMD as similarity measure yielded results better than the state-of-the art models. As in case of any multi-objective optimization, though objective functions are conflicting in behaviour, using all the objective functions, we were able to capture features at word, sentence, text level and semantic relationship is captured using WMD measure.

A lecture summarization model is an effective and memory refreshing tool for university students. Researchers have attempted to solve this problem using deep learning models and have been producing good results. Although, the lecture summarization approach used in this paper has some limitations, it provided an improvement in quality when compared to other dated approaches. The model leaves scope for improvement in areas like automatically determining the length of the summary to be generated, objective functions and similarity/dissimilarity functions.

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# IFAS: A Deep Learning Model for Instant Formative Assessments

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**Abstract**— Formative assessments are the evaluation tools used for students' to guide academic progress and learning behaviors. It can be described as an evaluation method that supports both teaching and learning in the process of education. An Instant Formative Assessment System can help a teacher for quick and fast assessment of student learning which can also be used as a feedback tool. Artificial intelligence and machine learning algorithms are the key driving technological forces in the rapid expansion of almost every industrial domain such as, healthcare, business analytics and education. Such advancements are the motivation for exploration and integration of computer vision and deep learning techniques with educational pedagogy. In this paper we compare the instant formative assessment system using pre-existing models-Google Vision, ML-Kit and, a convolution neural network. The convolution neural network is trained on various optimizers Adam, RMSprop, SGD and, Adamax. It was found that the CNN yields better results with RMSprop optimizer. The results were validated on Chars74k and EMNIST dataset and, the results indicate that the EMNIST dataset gives superior performance. The proposed work also aims to address the challenges in the process of academic evaluate on techniques raised due to the covid-19 pandemic.

**Keywords**—CNN, Deep-Learning, EMNIST, Formative-Assessment, Google-Vision, ML-Kit.

## I. INTRODUCTION

This Formative assessments are a feedback tool for students used to guide learning behaviors'. The regular formative assessment are effective in helping students learn to monitor their own progress, encouraging them for further study and, increasing a student's perceived level of learning and understanding [1]. In recent times the advancement in education technology has provided a wide scope in integration of technology in education and academics. The teaching learning can be improved with formative assessment and it also encourages improving the teaching strategies that helps to generate a collaborative learning environment [2].

The automated instant formative assessment evaluation has become essential particularly with the rise of covid-19 virus when it is necessary to maintain social distance. The traditional method of formative assessment is slow in process and teachers do not get the real time feedback of the class and it also includes a physical contact between the students and the teacher. This requires the development of an efficient system for an instant evaluation of formative assessments.

The recent advances in technology has improved state of the art techniques used in computer vision and deep leaning that are being applicable in various domains like health-care [3], agriculture [4], educational data mining and learning analytics [5]. Deep learning provides a large set of computational models such as deep neural networks [6],

deep belief networks [7] and, convolution neural networks [6] that are designed to imitate the working of the human brain. Convolutional Neural Networks is used in computer vision for feature extraction from multidimensional inputs. Nowadays, computer vision also serves as a test bed for validating novel techniques and innovations in Convolution Neural Networks [4].

The main purpose of this work is to design an application for the evaluation of formative assessment that consequently aims to minimize the physical contact in the process of formative assessments. We use some of the pre-existing models such as Google vision, ML-kit and Convolution neural networks to implement the efficient pedagogical models to address the problem of minimizing physical contact in the times of covid-19 virus. This work aims to use the already existing handwritten character recognition in the field of academic evaluation particularly for formative assessment. Some of the previous work has used QR Codes [8] and plicker card [9], [10] for every individual. In this work we propose to create such system that can be applied to the traditional formative assessment methods of writing responses in paper and, the students do not need to carry any specific instrument like plicker card or QR code as described in [8], [9] and [10].

The rest of the paper is organized as follows. Section 2 describes the background and related literature survey. Section 3 explains methodology used to design the application. Section 4 describes the experimental setup and implementation of the proposed system along with the datasets used. In Section 5 experimental results are discussed followed by References.

## II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Handwritten Character and text recognition has been a trending field for many years and it plays a vital role in pattern recognition and in various fields. It has been explored by many researchers in addition to several machine learning and deep learning methods. Handwritten character and text recognition requires pre-processing and feature extraction from the input images, segmentation and classification at the character and word level. Pre-processing is performed for noise removal, image enhancement and robust analysis.

Brown [11] proposed an automated grading of handwritten numerical answers using MNIST [12] dataset by scanning the answer sheets using CNN. The CNN was used to estimate the answers and an accuracy of 95.6% was observed by the authors.

In [13], the authors proposed an automatic grading system with a computer and scanner for the correction in handwritten answer sheets. Two CNN were trained on 250 images collected by the authors and achieved an accuracy of

92.86%. The scanned images were fed to CNNs for grading by comparing each classified answer with the correct answer.

[14] proposed an automatic evaluation algorithm for English handwriting quality and used a Convolution neural network for feature extraction from raw-pixel images. The author observed that their approach was more effective than traditional machine learning approach with an accuracy of 94%.

A novel multi-objective optimization framework is proposed in [15] for identifying the most informative local regions from a character image. The work was also evaluated on isolated handwritten English characters available in MNIST [12] dataset, along with three other popular Indic scripts namely handwritten Bangala basic characters, Bangala numeral and Devanagari characters. Convolutional neural network was used for feature extraction and, the authors observed 95.96% recognition accuracy with their proposed model.

A fully convolution neural network (FCNN) was used in [16.] for IAM [17] and RIMES [18] datasets. Results were promising, and researchers achieved the character error rate (CER) and word error rate (WER) of 4.7%, 8.22%, 2.46%, 5.68% respectively. [19] proposed two different model for the classification of handwritten names of cities. One is a fully connected multilayer perceptron neural network (MLP) for word classification and, the other model uses CNN and recurrent neural network (RNN) layers to extract information from images.

In [20] a data-driven text independent deep multi-stream CNN was proposed to extract discriminative features from handwritten image patches and employed training data augmentation for performance enhancement.

In [21] the authors investigated the various design options in CNN. They also evaluated the various SGD optimization algorithms for performance enhancement of handwritten digit recognition. They also suggested the role of hyper-parameters which is essential in improving the performance of CNN architecture.

A CNN proposed in [22] combines a deep convolutional neural network with an encoder–decoder. The modeling of extracted features was done on this sequence-to-sequence architecture that encode the visual characteristics and decode the sequence of characters in the handwritten text image. They have used IAM [17] and RIMES [18] datasets for optimal parameterization of the model and achieved an error rate of 12.7% and 6.6% respectively.

In an offline text recognition images are the inputs of the CNN layers for feature extraction, the RNN layers propagate the information from CNN and performs bidirectional feature mapping and, finally the Connectionist Temporal Classification (CTC) which calculates loss value for model training and decodes into the final text for model inference [23].

### III. PROPOSED METHODOLOGY

In this section the proposed methodology is described and the tools used are also discussed. The design and development of the proposed application includes data-acquisition, pre-processing, feature-extraction and classification. A Smartphone camera was used for capturing the data. In character recognition several research and

application considers “grey or binary images since processing color images is computationally high” [24]. In our case pre-processing includes image enhancement, image size normalization and morphological processing. Some of the pre-existing models such as Google Vision, ML-kit and, Convolution neural network is considered for the purpose of feature extraction and classification.

#### A. Google Vision

The Google Cloud Vision API [25] allows the development of applications for image classification, landmark detection and optical character recognition by integrating the vision detection features. It offers powerful and pre-trained machine learning models through REST and RPC APIs, it collect acumen from the image. It allocates labels to images and quickly classifies them into millions of predefined categories.

For using Google Cloud Vision API [25] in android device we first added the Google repository in SDK tools of version 9.8.0 and then add the meta-data in AndroidManifest.xml file for using character recognition. In android we had to add permission to access the mobile camera for capturing the student answer sheet. The captured images are stored in bitmap format. Then we implemented the Google vision textRecognizer object to process the image and recognize the text embedded on the image.

#### B. ML Kit

ML Kit [26] is a mobile SDK (software development kit) that allows using machine learning abilities on the device. ML Kit provides text, face and landmarks recognition, barcode scan and, image labeling. For ML Kit to accurately recognize text, input images must contain text that is represented by sufficient pixel data [27].

Character recognition with ML-Kit [26] involves the three main steps: integration of SDK, preparation of input data that includes metadata-generation and, then implementing machine learning model. Firebase ML [28] is required for cloud based API that enables the Google’s machine learning abilities which provides high performance tools and services for the application development.

#### C. CNN

A convolution Neural Network is an efficient neural network used for feature extraction and classification. A CNN architecture uses a sequence of filters on raw pixel data to extract the image features and then performs classification using the extracted features [29]. A convolution neural network mainly consist input layers, output layers and hidden layers. The hidden layer consists of convolution layers and pooling layers that perform feature extraction. The output layer or fully-connected layer performs feature classification. The number of nodes in final fully-connected layer defines the number of classes.

Convolutional neural networks (CNNs) are an efficient deep-learning algorithm that can effectively recognize handwritten characters and words and, also provides a structured approach for automatic extraction of distinct features. So, the CNN can be described as an efficient approach to implement an automatic handwritten character recognition system.

In the proposed CNN, the input layer is followed by a convolution layer, max-pooling layer, which is further

connected to convolution layer, max-pooling layer, and a fully connected layer connected to output layer which uses softmax classifier. A dropout layer is also applied before the fully connected layer for hyper-parameter regularization. To deploy the trained CNN in android application we have used TensorFlow Lite [30]. The model is first converted to TF-lite model, and then tensorflow lite interpreter runs the model inference and then application can be deployed on emulator or on a physical device.

#### IV. EXPERIMENTS AND RESULTS

##### A. Datasets

We have used two different datasets Chars74k [31] and EMNIST [32] dataset for digit recognition and character recognition. Chars74k dataset consist 7705 characters obtained from natural images 3410 hand drawn characters using a tablet PC that contains images of all English alphabets in upper case and lower case along with the digits 0 to 9.

EMNIST is the extension of MNIST to handwritten letters and it is derived from NIST Special Database 19. EMNIST dataset consists of 28x28 pixel images of the alphabets and digits. It is available in six different splits namely ByClass, ByMerge, Balanced, Digits, Letters and MNIST. ByClass and ByMerge provide full complement of the NIST Special Database 19. Balanced split contains the characters with equal number of samples in every class. EMNIST Letters contains 145,600 characters classified in 26 balanced classes and, EMNIST Digits contains 280,000 characters classified in 10 balanced classes. MNIST split contains balanced handwritten digit datasets mapped with original MNIST dataset. We have used Letters and Digits split as we trained the CNN to recognize the question number and option for the evaluation of formative assessments answer-sheets.

##### B. Handwritten character recognition using Google Vision

We have implemented handwritten character recognition with Google Cloud Vision API for real-time text recognition. The captured images are processed with the textRecognizer object. Fig. 1 shows the results of handwritten character recognition with Google Vision.

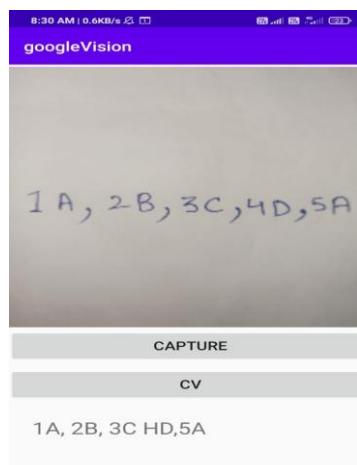


Fig. 1. Results of handwritten character recognition with Google Vision

##### C. Handwritten character recognition using ML Kit

We experimented with ML Kit for real-time handwritten character recognition. It takes images using image URI

(Uniform Resource Identifier) in jpg format. Fig. 2 shows the results for handwritten character recognition using ML kit.

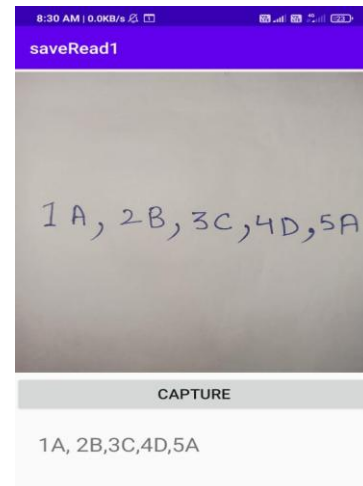


Fig. 2. Results of handwritten character recognition with ML-Kit

##### D. Handwritten character recognition with CNN.

The proposed network is trained on both Chars74k and EMNIST dataset for 50 epochs. A dropout of 0.3 is applied for EMNIST dataset whereas a dropout of 0.2 is applied in case of Chars74K dataset as the dataset is comparatively smaller in size. The network optimization is trained with stochastic gradient descent (SGD), RMSprop, adam and Adamax optimizer. The performance of CNN is compared for both the datasets while using all the four optimizers. It can be seen in the table I that the proposed network performs superior on EMNIST dataset as compared to Chars74k as the Chars74k contains small training datasets than EMNIST dataset which results in improved performance.

We have used the adam, RMSprop, SGD and, Adamax optimizers on the CNN. As it can be seen from the table I that RMSprop and Adamax optimizers performs slightly better as compared to Adam and SGD optimizers.

TABLE I. PERFORMANCE OF CNN ON CHARS74K AND EMNIST DATASETS

Training Algorithm of CNN	Dataset	
	Chars74k	EMNIST
Adam	64.44	99.2
RMSprop	66.82	99.8
SGD	41.74	97.8
Adamax	64.95	99.5

##### E. Android Application

The android application was tested for all the three approach described above. The android application is used to scan the students' answer sheet, evaluate and store the results. The application also visualises the students' performance individually and as the aggregate class. The application is connected to SQLite database [33] which is used to store the data like roll number, question number, class and, section. SQLite is a open-source SQL database that create a small, fast and reliable database in the user smart phone to store the data in text file format.

The user interface of app consists of three screens. The first screen is used to enter class details, second screen is for



entering subject and topic related details and the last screen is for scanning student answer sheet and generating report. The Report contains a graph which shows count of each option selected by the students. The application also consists of a session report and student report buttons. The session report button displays a table that represents the overall session detail that shows each question number that is asked in that session and number of student who gave correct and incorrect answer and total number of student who answered that question. A graph is also shown for the same in Fig. 3. The student report button is used for showing particular student performance this will show student roll number and the marks he secured in the entire test both in tabular and graphical format.



Fig. 3. Session report graph for each question

## V. DISCUSSION

In this paper we proposed an application for the instant evaluation of formative assessments. The formative assessments are used to analyse the in-process learning and the results of formative assessments gives insights of learning patterns of students. As a result of it the teacher can perceive and get the understanding of the students learning and based on this they can implement their teaching pedagogy more effectively. Also, the students can get a feedback of their learning's and can improve and adjust their learning's.

Although the Google vision and ML-Kit are easy-to-implement models but the recognition can be inaccurate in some conditions such as, insufficient pixel data and poor image focus. Chars74k and EMNIST datasets were used to train the convolution neural networks and recognition is superior with EMNIST dataset as compared to Chars7k. The above system can also help to prevent the spread of covid-19 virus and provides the safe and instant tool formative assessments.

The system can be further enhanced with the document-level text recognition with the improvements in convolution neural network and that can provide a framework for the evaluation of summative assessments.

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# Modulation of Neurotransmission by Educational Intervention: Impact on Cognitive System

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**Abstract**— The improvement in cognitive system in children contributes to sustainable health care habitat. Neurotransmitters mainly catecholamine's, small peptides play relevant role in cognitive processes of the body. The modulation of neurotransmission could be achieved by persistent educational interventions. The present study focuses on how educational interventions affect the alleviation in neurochemical function, here for instance Serotonin is monitored. The study was conducted on the subjects of 6-14 years who were attending medical camp (conducted under National Service Scheme) organized by DEI. Serotonin (5-HT) is a neurotransmitter which is synthesized by the biosynthesis of Tryptophan and is secreted by serotonergic neurons. Serotonin is responsible for the various behavioral responses such as happiness, anxiety, aggression and depression. Learning influences the behavior of the individual and the levels of neurotransmitter in biological fluid changes with the change in behavior. The results showed a significant difference in the salivary serotonin levels of individuals belonging to different socio-geographical background, time of exposure to the educational interventions and age.

**Keywords**—Neurotransmitters, Serotonin, Educational Interventions, Sustainable health care.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Learning is a continuous process which is found associated with the behavior of the learner. Neurotransmitters are the chemical signals produced by neurons which may act as the manifestation for state of mind. The amount of these chemicals in body fluids changes with the change in social and physiological environment, temperature, pressure & the surroundings. These chemicals regulates the basic behavioral outcome of the individuals.

Neurotransmitters like serotonin, melatonin, acetyl choline and dopamine are found to be commonly associated neurotransmitters with cognition and behavior. Serotonin (5-hydroxytryptamine) is a neurotransmitter present in CNS and gut. The physiological levels of serotonin contributes in the psychological, cognitive state of the individual and thus commonly is used as an indicator of psychiatric conditions. It is secreted by the serotonergic neurons and helps in various responses such as mood regulation, anxiety, depression, panic, obsessive compulsive disorders and other central nervous system function [14]. Serotonin is also reported to be there in blood, serum and saliva. It is produced by the biosynthesis of essential amino acid 5-Tryptophan undergoing ring hydroxylation and side chain decarboxylation. Most of the serotonin is present in gut, produced by enterochromaffin cells and some of it is

produced in CNS in cell bodies of raphe nucleus [17]. The receptors of serotonin are of many types and are majorly divided into 4 families- 5-HT1, 5-HT2, 5-HT3 and family including 5-HT4, 5-HT6, 5-HT7 [5].

TABLE I

Table Head	Serotonin Receptors		
	Receptor	Type	Location
1.	5-HT1	GPCR coupled	Near Hippocampus
2.	5-HT2	GPCR coupled	Cerebral cortex, Stomach, Hippocampus
3.	5-HT3	Ligand gated Ion channel	Brain stem
4.	5-HT4	GPCR coupled	Cortex
5.	5-HT5	GPCR coupled	Brain
6.	5-HT6	GPCR coupled	Brain (Limbic)
7.	5-HT7	GPCR coupled	Brain (Limbic)

<sup>a</sup> Different types of serotonin receptors found in Human body, their type and location.

Researches have shown that the serotonin inhibition results in negative mood, cognitive impairments, loss of working memory etc. they have also provided the evidence that the increase in the levels of tryptophan results in a positive rise in the mood and the attention and memory of the individuals increases [10].

Happiness is a factor which influences learning in children and ultimately relates their academic progress. Researches have shown that when the learner is in happy state of mind his learning is also maximum and results in long lasting memory because of his engagement in the task of learning the concept by using all his domains i.e. cognitive, affective and psychomotor [7]. Happiness develops a positive attitude in children leading to an overall positive response in his/her behavior. Hence there is the role of family, food, school and the resources provided in it.

Different neurotransmitters are studied for their association with the specific type of behavior of the subjects. Educational interventions given to the students in medical camp (organized under National Service Scheme) through various activities in a jocund and re-creative manner enhances the student's attention, interest, motivation, skills and a positive attitude towards learning and hence may be associate d with the salivary serotonin levels of the students.

## II. SEROTONIN AND EDUCATIONAL INTERVENTION: A PARADIGM DESIGN FOR ASSESSING COGNITION

### A. Serotonin levels in happy state

The brain has 3 major portions that is fore brain, mid brain and hind brain. The mid brain is also known as the emotional brain as it encompasses the hippocampus, amygdala, anterior cingulate cortex and insular cortex. These structures normally work together to process and generate emotional information and emotional behavior. In general the emotions are produced as a response of neurotransmitters in brain, genes and also the social environment in which the individual subject lives and participates. Serotonergic synapse present in the neurons secrete the serotonin neurotransmitter which is received by the receptors present on the dendritic ends of the next neuron. The excessive serotonin is been reabsorbed by the secretory serotonergic neuron itself.

Researches have realized that the neurotransmitters associated with the happiness levels are dopamine, serotonin, norepinephrine, endorphins and melatonin. Out of them the majorly studied neurotransmitters are dopamine and serotonin. [3]. Deficits in the serotonergic system can result in various pathological conditions, particularly depression, schizophrenia, mood disorders, and autism [12].

Serotonin can be obtained from the food rich in carbohydrates such as potatoes and milk. This food is usually preferred by the individuals when they are very happy or are in joy mode [20]. It is seen that the situations which are observed, learnt or heard in a happy mode leads to the formation of a long term memory which is not been forgotten easily hence results in higher cognition. The association of salivary serotonin and social sharing of happiness in the form of empathy is found to be in a negative correlation [15].

The educational interventions framed by using different modes of learning like play way method and activity learning are seen to influence the cognitive ability of the students and produce a positive impact on their long term memory [6,4], similarly when the individuals are engaged in the activities they learn new things and build new memories with addition to the previous memories and hence develop a sustainable hierarchy of information. The activation of brain serotonergic neurons facilitates the motor activities encouraging the idea of learning by doing [8].

### B. Serotonin levels in dissatisfied and unhappy state

The spectrum of psychological behaviors are influenced by serotonin such as aggression, anxiety, cardiovascular regulations, pain sensitivity, learning etc. Serotonin has an inhibitory role in aggression and depression [14]. The basic theories of depression where it is emphasized that depression is the result of underactivity of monoamines especially 5-HT called as monoamine hypothesis. Depression is also caused by the passive mode of learning where the teacher is only the active participant, students listen to the lecture note it down

and write the assignments only [9]. The effect on the limbic system of the individual leads to the upside down responses in behavior which intern effects the basic understanding of any situation of concept leading to low cognition [13].

Jenkins, T. A. (2016) associated influence of tryptophan and serotonin with poor memory and depressed mood. They have suspected that there may be an influence of gut micro biota on tryptophan and serotonin levels by regulating metabolism. The presence of micro biota in the gut show high free tryptophan levels in blood and as the number of microbes are experimentally induced in the individual the amount of free tryptophan decreases. These microbes may cause various disorders and result in anger, short temper, anxiety, mood fluctuations and reduced cognition. [18].

### C. Serotonin levels causing diseases

Patients with irritable bowel syndrome lead to weakening of the intestinal lining which leads to constipation due to loosening of intestinal wall. It leads to higher levels of serotonin in gut and lower levels in intestine intern resulting in mood fluctuations and modifications [1].

Guilt and shame relate to negative appraisal of someone and negative evaluation of self. These emotions are found associated to the psychiatric disorders. Empathy, guilt and shame are found to be associated with the plasma tryptophan levels which increase with serotonin rich diet in the mucosa of the gut and hence leads to the happy behavioral response resulting in curing the disease [18]. Serotonin reuptake inhibitors are used in the medications to treat these psychiatric disorders such as aggression, depression, irritability, frustration, schizophrenia, mood disorders, and autism [11].

### D. Alteration of serotonin levels during circadian rhythm

The circadian cycle is a natural process which is also known as the sleep-wake cycle. It roughly repeats after every 24 hours. The suprachiasmatic nucleus is the primary site for the generation of circadian rhythms and it contains one of the densest serotonergic terminal plexes. Serotonin is secreted from dorsal raphe nucleus present in the Brain stem. From median raphe nucleus suprachiasmatic nucleus receives an input of serotonin. The studies suggest the loss of serotonergic neurons at median raphe nucleus results in longer activity phase, early onset of nocturnal activity and increased sensitivity to light [16].

Serotonin and circadian systems have an effect on neuro-networking and hence the behavioral response and are related to various behavioral disorders [2]. This irregularity in circadian cycle leads to mood disorders effecting the cognitive capacity of the individual.

## III. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The subjects selected for sample collection were Pupils of 6 to 14 years from the catchment site Bahadurpur, Agra, UP and Shanti Nagar, Kamla Nagar, Agra, UP.

The Saliva samples were collected Following Salimetrics protocol with the consent filled by students. The samples were centrifuged at 5,500 rpm, 2600g and the supernatant was stored at 2° C.

A competitive or inhibitory ELISA test was performed with the supernatant. Competitive or Inhibitory ELISA is a method in which the plate is pre-coated with the antibodies which are reactive with the molecule of interest. Then the sample having the native molecule of interest and the enzyme conjugate are added. The level of native molecule vs conjugate decides the bonding of it to the antibodies. For this test the preparation of reagents and the sample was done as per the instructions given in ELISA kit.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The alterations in cognitive ability is the phenotypic manifestation preceding the release of neurotransmitters in the microenvironment of the system. Neurotransmitters including serotonin, dopamine, melatonin, remain short lived and picomolar concentrations, exert the effect, and are recycled back. Such low concentrations of neurotransmitters need to be measured to evaluate the impact of the specific neurotransmitter. We begin with the understanding for instance, that the presence of adequate concentrations of neurotransmitter is an important characteristic for the physiological regulation of the system. As an onset study, we assessed serotonin that is responsible for the positive thinking, in general, happy state. The cognitive function, therefore, too functions optimally. We correlated the presence of serotonin with increase in cognitive ability (here educational intervention targeted; ability to think, solve problems, abstract thinking, creative thinking). The subjects undergoing educational intervention paradigm have the propensity for enhancement of cognitive ability. We measured serotonin by competitive ELISA, a technique in which the native molecule of interest competes with the conjugate and its level decides the bonding of it to the antibodies.

Six standards were prepared using serial dilution method having the known concentration of serotonin with a range from 0 to 250 ng/ml. the concentrations were 0, 15.625, 31.5, 62.5, 125 & 250 ng/ml. Standards with lower concentration showed a higher absorbance value as in this case the antibodies sites were occupied with the enzyme conjugate rather than the native molecule.

TABLE II

Table Head	Reference Standards	
	Concentration (ng/ml)	Absorbance at 450 nm
1.	250	0.232
2.	125	0.367
3.	62.5	0.6565
4.	31.25	0.9105
5.	15.625	1.0155
6.	0	1.3245

<sup>b</sup> Reference standards with 6 concentrations and their absorbance value obtained by ELISA test.

A graph between the known concentration of standard working solutions and their corresponding Absorbance values was plotted using an excel sheet regression curve.

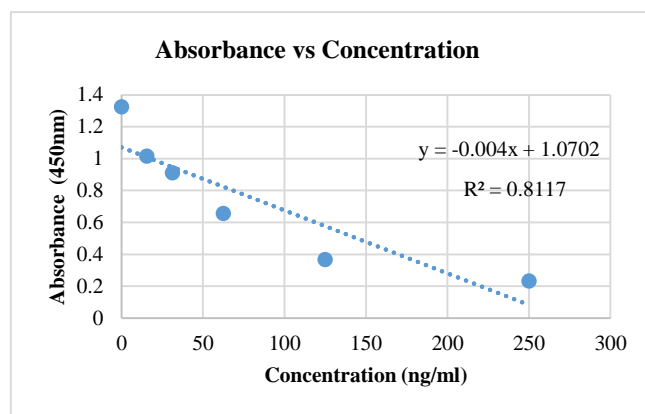


Fig. 1. Regression line for Concentration (ng/ml) of Reference standards and absorbance (450 nm) obtained by ELISA.

The concentration values ranged from negative to positive. The resulting concentrations were divided into low and higher respondents. The outliers were removed from the data and then the data was analyzed on the basis of the socio geographical background of the subjects.

The results showed that there is a significant difference of  $p < 0.05$  between the control and experimental of Low responders of Bahadurpur and Shanti Nagar and there was no much difference in the higher responders. The results demonstrated that the educational intervention resulted in elevated levels of serotonin when compared with control subjects.

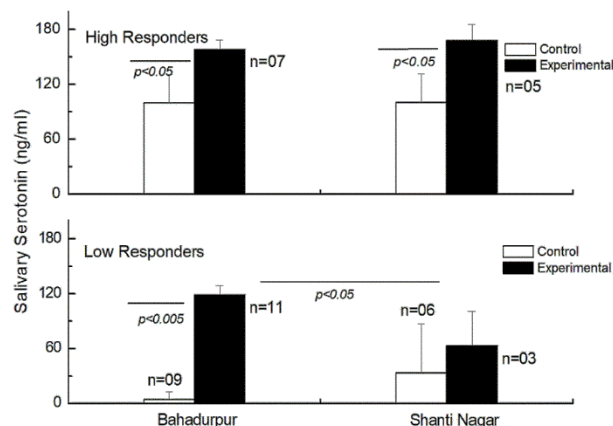


Fig. 2. Effect of different sampling sites on salivary serotonin levels. Upper graph represents high responders and lower graph represents low responders.

## CONCLUSION

The subjects of Bahadurpur site belonged to a rural area and they were not well equipped with the educational interventions hence when exposed to new interventions they responded in a positive manner and showed an increment in response with the time. Whereas the subjects from Shanti Nagar site belonged to an urban area and many of them were aware with the different interventions with the use of computers and play way methods hence they showed a comparatively lower response than the Bahadurpur population. The results showed that the control group of both the sites had no difference and showed a low serotonin

concentration whereas the experimental groups showed a higher concentration.

The experimental populations which were exposed to the interventions were able to use all higher order thinking skills such as perceiving, remembering, thinking and encompassing language whereas the control population from both the sites was not able to use them effectively.

This research shows that the salivary serotonin levels may not be solely dependent on the educational interventions and learning methods but it also depend on the specific socio-geographical area, mood of the individual while performing the task, the family background, the school environment where they study and the facilities that they have at their schools and home.

It provides a scientific insight to the need of inclusion of educational interventions for the betterment of learning outcomes as they do involve more than one domain of brain so as to enhance the latent faculties. A lot of study may be conducted in the same area by comparing the age groups, time of exposure of the interventions and also the genetic modifications occurring in long term practices.

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# Towards Creating a Thriving Environment for Women at Work - Promoting Psychosocial and Economic Interests of the Country

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## I. INTRODUCTION

Not that work has not happened towards women empowerment; there seems to be a mismatch in the needs of the population and the steps taken for their inclusion in the workforce. Not that the intention is missing in the stakeholders (government, organizations and society) in fact, the population itself has probably not recognised and worded its expectations.

In this paper we have approached two sets of populations; united by their gender, background and need for contribution but diverse in their lifestates, experiences, vision and outlook. We have used the 'coach approach' in our survey where we helped the older cohort to sit back and relook at their past- the obstacles that impeded and the environment that could have helped them navigate around the obstacles. We went to the younger cohort to understand their changing needs and value systems. Instead we came back with some astonishing insights around how this entire population, irrespective of life positions, is united by their optimism and trust in the goodness of people and by their humility; which at times works against them when it comes to seeking answers from their stakeholders to questions they are themselves not sure of.

By the 'coach approach' we have tried to cater different perspectives by helping the population ask the right questions to themselves and their stakeholders. We only hope that the government, organisations and the society look up and take note of the recommendations laid out in the paper.

## II. RESEARCH OBJECTIVE

"If Humanity must be uplifted, Women must be empowered."

This is the thought behind this paper and the objectives that this paper seeks to achieve are:

- A. Drawing attention of stakeholders (government, organizations and society) towards
- Empowerment of women and
  - Recognition of feminine values of compassion, humility, nurturing and collaboration as mainstream leadership values.

## B. Benefits at micro level

- Empowerment will result in actualization of potentials of the female population and
- Improvement of their psychological wellbeing

## C. Benefits at macro level

- As women are the reservoirs of the value-system, the Healthcare Habitat of Society will get impacted significantly.
- The government and society can then see recurring ROI on the resources spent on creation of this talent pool of highly educated individuals, which otherwise presently is not yielding the required returns.
- This population can contribute a fair share to the national GDP as increasing women's labour force participation by 10 percentage points could add \$770 billion to India's GDP by 2025.
- Bridging the gender gap where our nation fairs extremely poorly as per data below
- Increase in the Happiness Index of the country.
- Reclamation and preservation of human values otherwise facing the risk of getting extinct with the changing mindset of this female population.
- Reduction in crime rates, accidents, depression, aggression
- Other cumulative and compounding psychosocial impact which currently might be unimaginable.

## III. HYPOTHESIS

- A. There is huge potential (ability and willingness to contribute) in the target population which largely lies untapped at present (causing psychological distress).
- B. Psychological distress results from mismatch in needs and pursuits. Lower the self-actualization higher the distress.
- C. The dissatisfaction and distress of the concerned population will lead to the suppression of their innate

values of Compassion and Humility and replace them by values more acknowledged and rewarded by workplaces and the society (aggression, materialism and self-centredness) (as per secondary data).

- D. Compassion and Humility are the Leadership values of the future that can create thriving homes, workplaces, societies and nations.
- E. Supportive policies of government and institutions and motivation of the concerned population will help in tapping this latent potential

#### IV. SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of surveying the chosen population:

- A. This is the 'before and after' sample of women dropping out of the workforce
- B. They have Huge untapped potential for Leadership Roles
- C. Humble and Compassionate Leadership is the need of the hour.

#### V. POPULATION SURVEY

An orientation session was followed by addressing of questionnaire which was further followed by an interview to seek clarification on certain responses. For this survey there are two population clusters that have been chosen considering the parameters age and overall experience.

##### A. Population cluster 1 (P1)

Highly qualified urban married women with children and/or dependent parents aged 40-50 years with high intellect and talent. They represent the 69.6% post graduate female population in India; the 79.7% of the non-working female population and the grim 53% of the postgraduate non-working female population of India (as per NSS survey data 2019).

Sample size surveyed = 15.

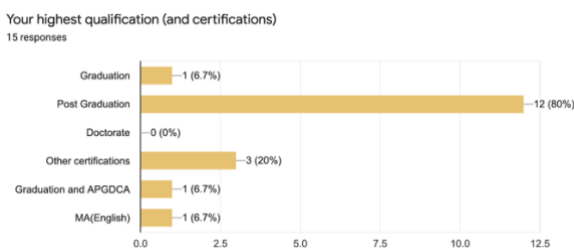


Figure 1: Highest qualification (P1)

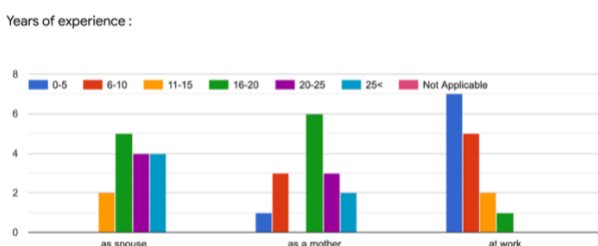


Figure 2: Years of experience (P1)

##### B. Population cluster 2 (P2)

Highly qualified urban married/unmarried women (post graduate and more) aged 25-30 years with high intellect and talent. They are presently actively contributing to the workforce of India and represent 20.3% of the female population.

Sample size surveyed = 15.

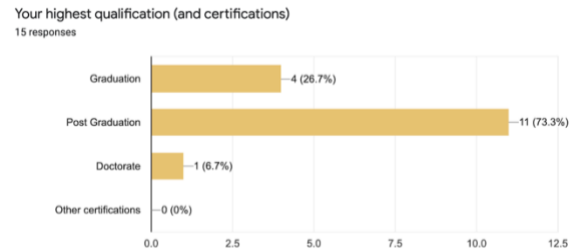


Figure 3: Highest qualification (P2)

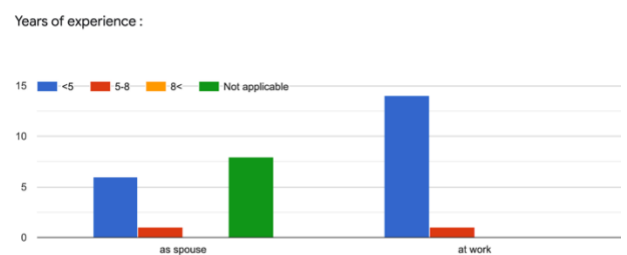


Figure 4: Years of experience (P2)

#### VI. DATA ANALYSIS

The data displayed here is analysed based on the hypothesis mentioned earlier.

##### A. Hypothesis 1 - There is huge untapped potential (ability and willingness) in P1

###### 1. Ability to Contribute

The ability to contribute is measured by the qualification and the skills this population possesses. The charts (Figure..) display that P1 rates itself high on hard work, communication and perseverance though being out of the workforce has impacted their confidence about their technical skills.

##### Q. How do you rate yourself on the following skills?

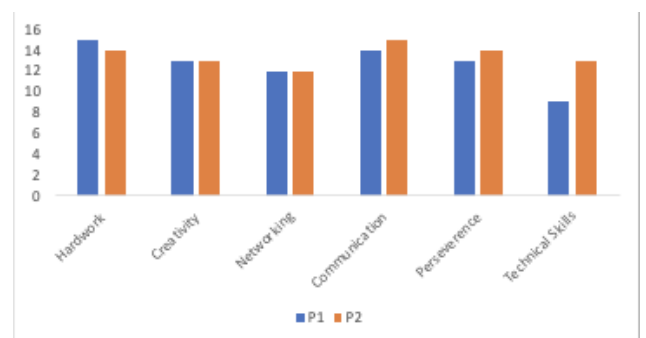


Figure 5: Skills (P1 and P2)



2. Willingness to Contribute viz a viz Actual Contribution. There is an intense desire to contribute which is unmatched at present. Their actual contribution is lower than they wish it to be. The questions asked are:

- What is your most unfulfilled need on the pyramid of Maslow?
- Which of Maslow's needs are presently taking your maximum time and energies?

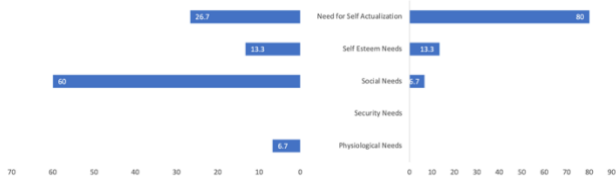


Figure 6: Maslow's Comparison Chart (P1)

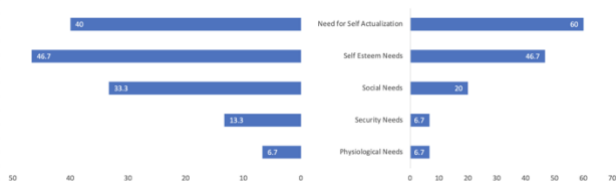


Figure 7: Maslow's Comparison Chart (P2)

Q. How self actualized do you feel?

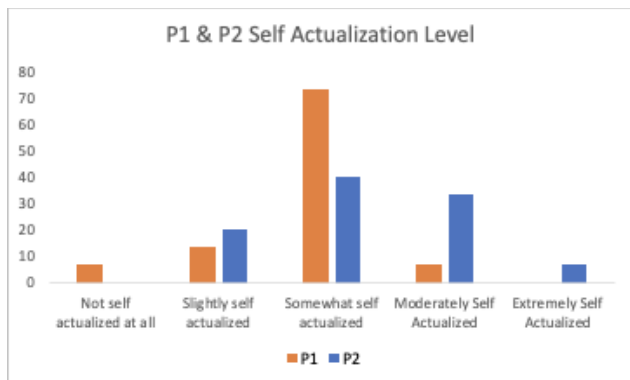


Figure 8: Self Actualization Comparison (P1 & P2)

Q. How many lives have you made a difference to?

Q. How many lives would you ideally want to touch (if there were no constraints)?

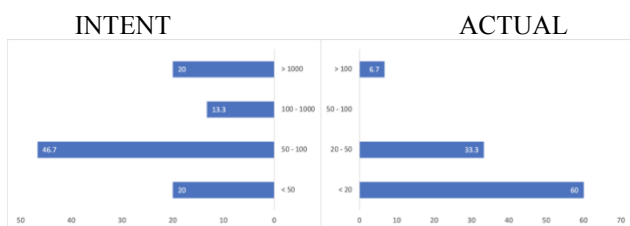


Figure 9: Intent of Impacting Lives (P1)

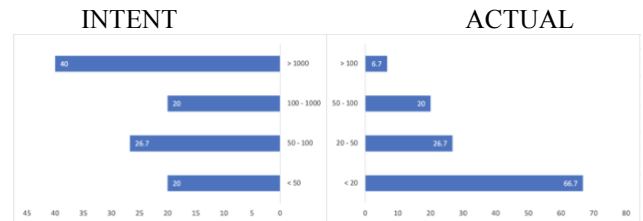


Figure 10: Intent of Impacting Lives (P2)

## B. Hypothesis 2 – Psychological Distress

- There is a clear mismatch in the needs vis-a-vis channelization of energies in P1. This mismatch is not significant in the population P2. The reason may easily be attributed to the fact that they are single and actively engaged in the workforce.
- As far as the need to impact lives is concerned, the aspirations are clearly higher in P2 while P1 despite having resigned to their circumstances still have a significant need to impact greater lives. As per research reports, the majority of women working in the industry are aged 30 years or below (our P2) and are usually single (Raghuram et al. 2017). A large proportion of women tend to exit from the industry after the first five years of employment (our P1).
- Barrett Model and Actualizing Human Potential- We are familiar with the Maslow's Need-based hierarchy model wherein an individual's needs in order of desire of fulfilment is laid out. Maslow used the terms "physiological", "safety", "belonging and love", "social needs" or "esteem", and "self-actualization" to describe the pattern through which human motivations generally move. Barrett added a new dimension to Maslow's needs. Since the rise of humanistic psychology, and further energized by the positive psychology movement, psychologists have been attempting to characterize the fullest expressions of human nature. Research on human flourishing has shown the healthiest examples of human nature to be vibrant, creative, growth-oriented, connected with others, and dedicated to making a positive contribution to something greater than themselves.
- The Barrett Model outlines a pathway to human flourishing with a three-part framework, which consists of:
  - Establishing a foundation through physical viability, secure relationships, and effective performance
  - Continuously evolving by embracing autonomy and growth, and
  - Working toward purpose fulfilment through alignment with the true self, collaboration with others in shared purpose, and contribution toward the greater good.

Standing on the shoulders of Abraham Maslow, and continuing to be supported by emerging theories in psychology with significant amounts of empirical

evidence, the Barrett Model clearly illuminates what is needed for human beings to flourish and thrive.



Figure 11: Barret Model and Human Potential

The survey responses of both P1 and P2 not only prove the intense need for self-actualization but also of the still higher needs for networking & collaboration and contribution for greater impact.

C. Hypothesis 3 – Suppression of innate values (in females) and deterioration in social values  
 Suppression of the true values of the self often results in an identity crisis and as has been beautifully stated by a visionary, “It’s absolutely important for a Leader to be at peace with oneself”. One can never achieve self-actualization through living by others’ values.

Shockingly, as we compared population P1 and P2, Compassion which is an integral feminine value seemed to have fallen significantly in P2 with respect to P1, while materialism and aggression seemed to show an uptrend. This has scope for greater research though as this could be a factor of demographics.

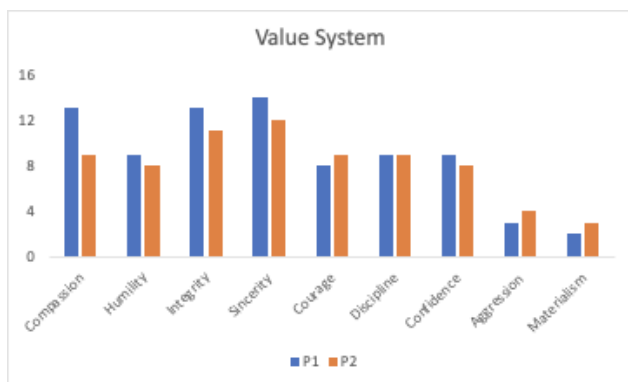


Figure 12: Value Systems

However, despite the disheartening facts above both populations show a high degree of optimism and trust in the goodness of human beings and on the power of empathy and compassion to develop this further as shown by figure 13 below. Surprisingly, 86.7% of both P1 and P2 subscribed to the statement.

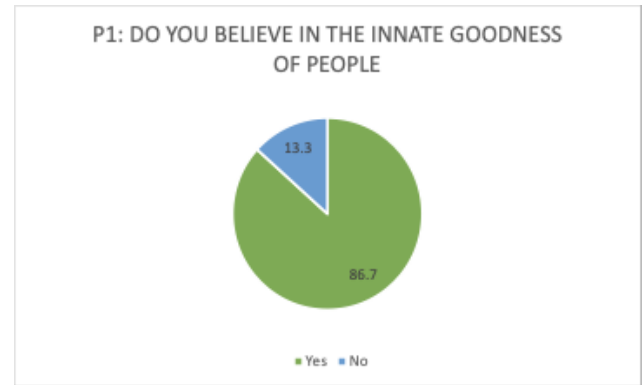


Figure 13: Belief in goodness of people

D. Hypothesis 4 – Compassion and humility are the much needed leadership values for the future

Compassion and humility along with interdependence and collaboration are the innate values of the female population as per figures above as also the responses around ‘need for self-help groups’ and ‘network of like-minded people’ as highest responses to Q15 and Q16 of the survey cited below. A global pandemic, depression-level unemployment, civil and political unrest – from New York to Barcelona to Hong Kong, it feels as if the world as we know it is faltering. Economies are unwinding; jobs are disappearing. Through it all, our spirit is being tested. Now more than ever, it’s imperative for leaders to demonstrate compassion. Now is the time when these traits which were considered a symbol of weakness need to be acknowledged and rewarded by governments and societies. On the contrary, these compassionate leaders who should have been at the forefront show a poor representation in

Leadership Roles -

- Only 3.7% of CEOs and Managing Directors of NSE-listed companies were women in 2019, a number that has increased just slightly from 3.2% in 2014.
- 8.9% of firms have women in top management positions.
- As of 2019, just 29 companies (5.8%) on the Fortune India 500 list had women in executive roles.
- Women make up only 31% of Chief Human Resources Officers (CHROs), a role overrepresented by women in other countries such as the US and South Africa.
- Women account for only 13.8% of board directors from listed companies in India.

Compassion is the quality of having positive intentions and real concern for others. Compassion in leadership creates stronger connections between people<sup>3</sup>. It improves collaboration, raises levels of trust and enhances loyalty. In addition, studies find that compassionate leaders are perceived as stronger and more competent. Humility lies at the base of ‘Level 5 Leadership’ and ‘Servant Leadership’ which are the only ways of successful Leadership in a knowledge-intensive industry.

Superior leadership in this new generation of leaders will include those who are able to access multiple sources of information simultaneously, and who also have greater awareness, who know how to access and operate in a more conscious way, who can lead their businesses to consider the triple bottom line - people, planet and profit - and, of course, who incorporate a genuine human concern in the way they lead (Hayden & Jager, 2010).

Highly visible female leaders such as Angela Merkel of Germany, Tsai Ing-Wen of Taiwan, Jacinda Ardern of New Zealand, and Mette Frederiksen of Denmark have offered strong examples of leadership during the crisis, as have Governor Gretchen Whitmer of Michigan and Mayor Lori Lightfoot of Chicago. In fact Finland, headed by the 39 year old prime minister Sanna Marin, is ranked the world's happiest country despite the pandemic.

Sadly India has been ranked 139 out of 149 countries in the list of UN World Happiness Report 2021

E. Hypothesis 5 – Supportive policies of government and organizations as well as the motivation of the concerned population will help in tapping this latent potential

Q. Supportive policies by which of these agencies would best help your larger contribution?

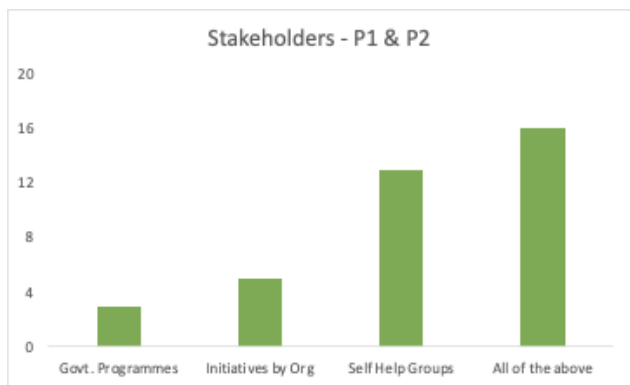


Figure 14: Supportive Policies of Stakeholder

Q. What infrastructure will / could have supported you in making your desired contribution?

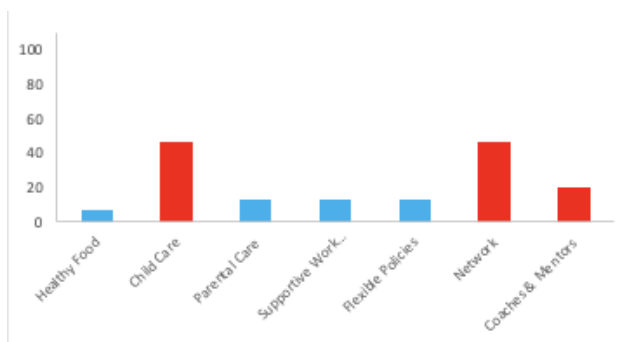


Figure 15: Supportive Infrastructure (P1)

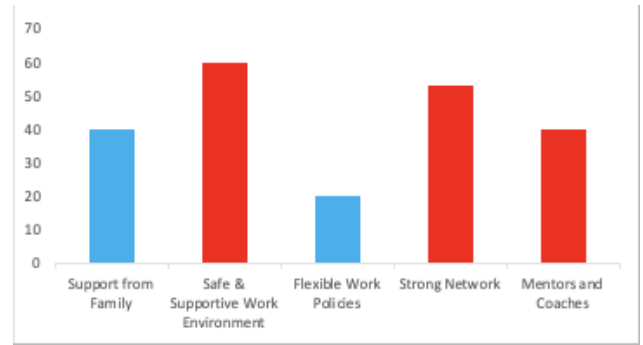


Figure 16: Supportive Infrastructure (P2)

Figure 16 helps us with deeper insights into the real requirement of this group which will actually get them back into the workforce and move towards fulfilling their higher order needs. We rest our recommendations on these insights.

## VII. ADDITIONAL DATA POINTS

These alarming data points which should further drive the stakeholders into action.

### A. Gender gap:

1. It is estimated that women in India contribute 17% of national GDP, as against the global average of 40%.
2. In just 12 months, the gender gap has increased by a generation from 99.5 years to 135.6 years.
3. India was ranked 140 out of the 156 countries analysed, falling 28 places from the previous year.
4. India also fares poorly in: Health and survival gap where it ranks at 155 and, economic participation and opportunity gap where India's rank is 151
5. Only 20.3% of women aged 15 and older participate in the labor force as of 2020 (compared to 76.0% of men).
6. India has a High Gender Pay Gap - women earn, on an average, 65.5% of what their male colleagues earn for performing the same work.

### B. Reasons for the poor representation of women in the workforce (contribution to mainstream):

1. Restrictive cultural norms regarding women's work,
2. The gender wage gap,
3. An increase in time spent for women continuing their education,
4. A lack of safety policies and flexible work offerings.
5. Women are traditionally seen as the primary caregiver in their families, with household tasks and childcare considered their primary responsibility.

6. Challenges from the family and from a society which does not readily support working women
7. Lack of basic infrastructure and childcare provision
8. great deal of gender discrimination within the private sector, which prefers to have a male workforce (maybe because of misplaced expectations from them).

Data on women participation in the Indian labour force shows that Indian women are preferring to stay at home rather than come out to work. In an excellent article, Farzana Afridi and Kanika Mahajan deep dive into the National Sample Survey 2011-12 to show that it is actually married women that show a dramatic fall in workforce participation. Instead of joining the workforce as the Indian economy grew from \$284.3 billion to \$1.8 trillion and per capita income grew from \$340 to \$1,480, women's participation in the labour force fell from 47% to 37% over a 20-year period ending 2011-12. While unmarried women in the age group of 15 to 60 saw a rise in workforce participation from 37% to 50%, the number of married women has remained stagnant for 30 years at 20%, they write. Their analysis shows that young unmarried women show an increase in workforce numbers, older unmarried women continue to work, but married women pay the "marriage penalty" on financial independence and workforce participation by dropping out.

## VIII. RECOMMENDATIONS

This paper does not crib about reclaiming territory or values of the bygone era from the opposite gender. With its present abilities and intrinsic values our concerned population can hugely contribute to national progress. This can only happen if the following support from their environment and their own realization of their innate competencies as leaders manifests in them.

### A. For Government:

1. Direct focus to alternative ways (other than GDP) of measuring wealth and wellbeing of citizens viz., Gross National Happiness Index which incorporates measurement of parameters like living standards, health, resilience, time use, psychological wellbeing, community vitality, etc.(by means of a questionnaire of 148 questions being used in Bhutan already)
2. Encourage organizations and institutions to shift focus from financial growth to creating thriving and inclusive workplaces
3. Recognise the amount of resources getting drained with these highly qualified individuals not getting enough opportunity to contribute to mainstream growth and progress of the nation
4. Support the target population by providing refresher courses in their areas of expertise, soft skills and access to coaches and mentors
5. Encourage communities of the target population by providing infrastructure to set up their kitchens and creches

6. On-board professional coaches and make them accessible to this population for guidance and alignment.

### B. For Organizations

1. Recognize this talent pool and open windows and doors of opportunities connecting the homes to the corporate corridors
2. Provide 'second innings' kind of programs to welcome back this talent pool
3. Provide refresher courses and orientation programs to this talent pool
4. Frame 'flexible-working' policies to support their journey(time for services to community kitchens, community creches and such other self-help initiatives). A case in point is of Natarajan Chandrasekara who concurs on flexible and WFH initiative Noting in a recent interview with the Financial Times "his company has long been at the forefront of working from home, with one-fifth of its massive workforce telecommuting, he now expects that up to three-quarters of Tata employees will do so as the decade unfolds. The lowered costs for employees, the diminished wear and tear caused by onerous commuting and family separation, and the savings to the company are too significant to be disregarded"
5. Acknowledge experience earned at home while caring for family needs (in form of competencies and values)

### C. For the population itself based on the survey:

1. Self-help Communities and accessibility to coaching professionals
2. Cultivate sisterhood by not being judging of others and providing safe spaces for fellow women thereby getting to be vulnerable ourselves
3. Form networks of like-minded, similar-need individuals
4. Remove stigma around cooking and caring activities and feel privileged for being compassionate and humble enough to be able to execute this utterly important task on the shoulders of which the entire humanity thrives
5. Embrace and pass on the feminine values of love, care and trust in human goodness to children
6. Form community kitchens with like-minded people
7. Form community creches with like-minded people
8. Onboard coaches and trainers for these communities

## APPENDIX

### IX. SURVEY QUESTIONS

1. What's your biggest achievement in life?
2. What are your biggest strengths?
3. Compassion/empathy/love/humility/integrity/sincerity/courage
4. What in your environment brings out the best in you?
  - a. Love and care
  - b. Pain and suffering
  - c. Old and sick
  - d. Poor and needy
5. What in your environment brings out the worst in you?
6. Do you think you have found direction in life?
7. What's your life purpose?
8. How self-actualized do you feel?
9. How many lives have you made a difference to?
10. How many lives would you ideally want to touch?
11. What comes/ came in the way?
12. What infrastructure will/could have supported you in making your mark?
  - a. Supportive work environment
  - b. Flexible work policies
  - c. Healthy food for family
  - d. Looking after of children your way

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# Self Powered and Self Sustained Energy Systems: Energy Autonomy in the Internet-of-Things Systems

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**Abstract**—To enable a wide and diverse deployment of IoT devices for a smart, resilient, and sustainable growth of the global ecosystem, an efficient energy system is vital. In this paper, we present self-powered and self-sustained IoT systems and optimization techniques for their “WHOLISTIC” development. We present a generalized system architecture of the IoT system and with a graph modelling approach, identify critical optimization points in addition to the Type-I and Type-II system optimizations. Finally, we present IoT applications where such autonomous energy systems are successfully deployed.

**Index Terms**—IoT, ultra-low power systems, SoS, energy harvesting, green computing, environment sustainability.

## I. INTRODUCTION

THE emergence of internet-of-things (IoT) promises to integrate electronics in Every-Thing and Every-Ware to potentially usher an exponential increase in demand for ultra-low power (ULP) and low-cost IoT devices [1]. Different application segments such as industrial, urban, healthcare, smart home, and wearable applications have benefited significantly from the integration of IoT technologies leading to an overall improvement in the quality of life. The pursuit of making the ecosystem more smart and connected has fostered a steep growth in the interconnection of the IoT devices as shown in Fig. 1 with an anticipated 75 billion IoT devices to be connected by the year 2025 [2].

A majority of these IoT devices derive power from batteries which has a limited life-time. One estimate indicates that an unprecedented 274 million battery replacements would be needed everyday when trillions of IoT devices are powered by batteries, even when these batteries have a 10 year life [3]. The scenario is more severe when IoT systems like remote monitoring systems and implantable medical devices (IMDs) are considered where battery replacement is not only infeasible but largely impractical leading to only limited application of the technology.

Power saving techniques such as duty-cycling the IoT device operation and low power circuit designs [4], [5] prolongs the lifetime but cannot guarantee system drop-out from the network when energy runs out. Therefore, battery based energy systems, in the context of such massively expanding IoT systems, has not only operational reliability challenges, but is also a serious threat to the environmental sustainability due to generation of huge amount of *e-waste*.

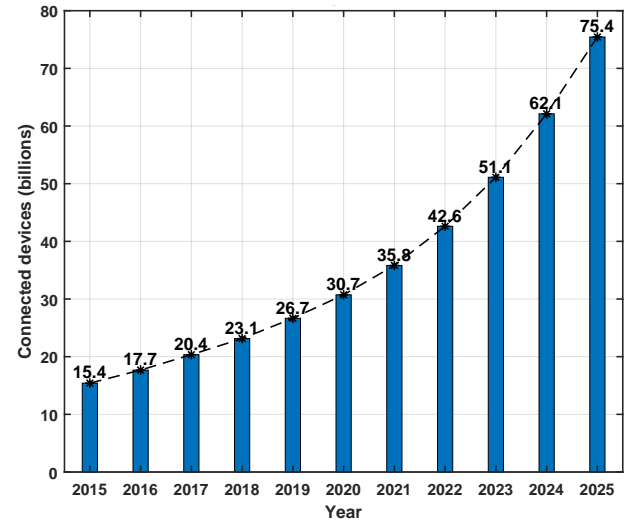


Fig. 1. Exponential growth of IoT devices

The tremendous technological innovation pace in the IoT systems leading to more power hungry devices, is not matched by considerably slow pace of increase in power density of batteries, leading to a power-performance limitations for the existing IoT systems. Hence, for a smart and performance optimal IoT system in the broader spectrum of applications, a WHOLISTIC and self-sustained energy system is not only essential but is also an urgent want.

Energy harvesting techniques, where we scavenge energy from the ambient sources or even human body, is a promising approach towards a self-sustained and a perpetual self-powered energy system for the IoT systems, fulfilling the “deploy and forget” approach from the point of view of energy systems. Although these self-sustained energy systems are being successfully deployed in the IoT realm but an optimal utilization of this harvested energy in the IoT system, with unflinching performance is still a challenge.

In this paper, we present an autonomous self-powered, self sustained energy system for the IoT system which is also a system of systems (SoS) [6]. Using the general systems principles, which have considerably enhanced the understanding and performance of wide range of systems like electrical systems [6], education systems [7] socioeconomic systems [8], transportation systems [9], and spiritual system [10] through

the mathematical abstractions and modelling, we present a generalized IoT system model. We identify critical points of optimization to significantly enhance the performance of such systems.

The paper is organized as follows. In Section II we present the architecture of an ultra-low power IoT system with a generalized system model. In Section III, we discuss the key components of the energy harvesting system as an autonomous energy system. Design techniques to improve performance of the system are discussed in Section IV. A brief discussion on the IoT systems where such autonomous energy systems are deployed is presented in Section V and Section VI concludes the paper.

## II. ULTRA LOW POWER IOT SYSTEM

IoT systems with integration of diverse systems have emerged as a heterogeneous systems, with increasing efforts to develop them as a monolithic system (single chip solution). The exponential growth of IoT systems in segments like healthcare, wireless connectivity, industrial IoT have enabled sensing and processing and communication of the information of diverse nature with ultra-low latency in a massively connected network of devices. In the systems terminology, an IoT system can be regarded as system of systems (SoS) as explained below, based on principles of SoS [11], referred to by acronym “OMGEE”.

1) *Operational and management independence*: A simplified scenario of IoT systems is visualized in Fig. 2, where synergy of different systems with their own objectives, complexities, merits and independence in operational and management aspects, enable the common goal of information sensing, processing and communication in the connected network.

2) *Geographic distribution*: The IoT systems such as smart city and healthcare systems are distributed over a wide geographical regions with a 24-hour connectivity. This connectivity “every-time, everywhere, and with everyone and everything” is ensured by leveraging different wireless technologies evaluated for different design parameters such as range, mobility management, and latency.

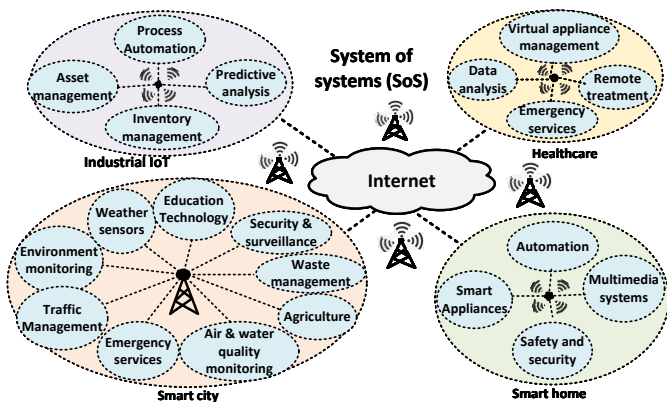


Fig. 2. A practical IoT system comprising of diverse, independent, continuously evolving, widely distributed sub-systems, is a system of systems (SoS).

3) *Emergent behaviour*: Emergence is defined as something unexpected in the collective behavior not attributed to any specific subsystem [6]. With the integration of diverse systems, IoT systems give rise to objective (ontological) and observed (epistemic) emergent properties. As will be discussed in Section IV, with the engineering optimizations, environmental sustainability is one of the “beneficial emergence” of the ULP IoT systems.

4) *Evolutionary development*: Architecting the IoT systems itself is an evolutionary process. Based on the evolving simulation models, feedback systems, constant monitoring and learning approach through supervised and unsupervised learning, evolutionary algorithms, IoT systems are continuously enhanced, updated, and evolved to maximize the robustness, beneficial emergence, and adaptability to the deployed environment which is often highly dynamic in nature.

With integration of independent and diverse systems of varying complexity, optimization techniques at the sub-system and interface level will ensure an overall system optimization. The central goal of realizing self-powered and self-sustained IoT systems, though a challenging task, can be best achieved with a comprehensive understanding of not only the system components, but also the interaction among these sub-systems. To this end, we present a generalized system architecture of a typical IoT system, specifically an ULP IoT system in Fig.3. In Fig.4, we present a generalized system graph to understand the sub-system interaction and their interoperability challenges and optimizations. We focus on the ULP IoTs given their feasibility to be realized as self-powered systems with energy autonomy.

### A. Energy systems

In a self-powered based IoT system, an energy harvesting system is generally used but battery based system (as backup) may also coexist for a higher operational reliability. The energy harvesting system must ensure a high harvesting and a higher power conversion efficiency to be used for the entire system. In Section III, we discuss the design and challenges of the various subsystems of the self-autonomous energy systems.

### B. Energy management system

To ensure that the desired performance of the IoT system is within the budget of a self-sustained energy system, an effective energy management must ensure a sustained performance at all times. We present a detailed analysis in Section IV of the sub-systems of energy management with a discussion on system components and their interconnections leading to a significant system performance improvement.

### C. Application system

The application system which covers a wide spectrum of applications in the IoT space presents varied design goals for the energy system and management. Information sensing, processing, and communicating in the network, in most general sense represent the elemental features of the application system.

### Self powered ULP-IoT system

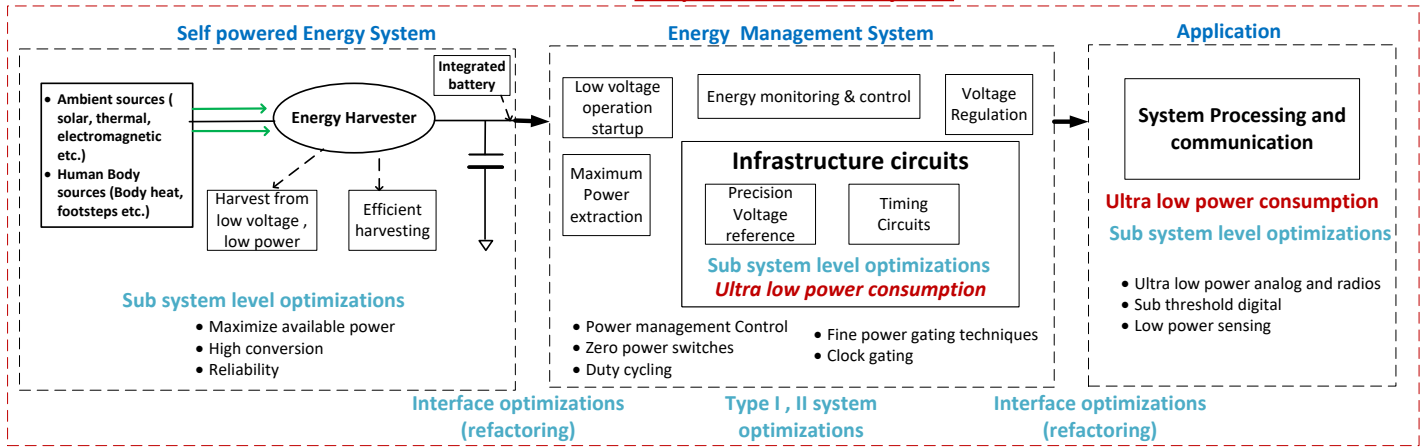


Fig. 3. Generalized architecture of ULP IoT system based on autonomous energy system with Type I and Type II optimization techniques.

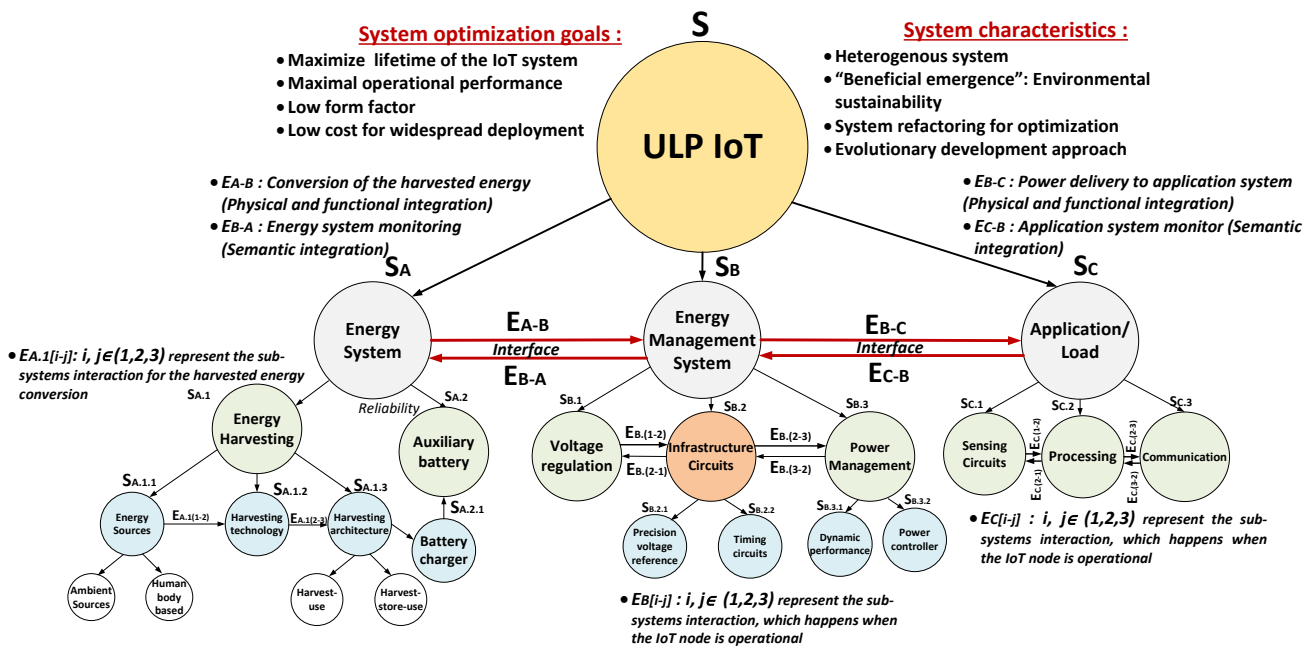


Fig. 4. Graph modelling of the different sub-systems and interconnections in the ULP-IoT system to identify and optimize the critical connections for a WHOLISTIC systemic optimization.

The abstraction of the IoT system, a micro-electronic system, enables the application of system optimization principles to achieve a WHOLISTIC performance. The system graph representation in Fig.4 enables us to understand the interactions between the sub-systems wherein we can assign appropriate optimization factors to the systems and the interconnections for the maximal performance under the well known power-performance-area constraints of the integrated microelectronic systems. With the representation of the IoT system as a generalized system graph, we discuss some of the critical interactions, as labelled in the graph, to boost the overall performance of the system with the implementation of Type I and Type II system optimization principles [12] for the self-powered, self-sustained IoT systems. For ULP IoT system, the overall "beneficial emergence" from system optimization is

immense when the scenario is scaled to the entire ecosystem as depicted in Fig. 2 leading to more disruptive technologies with environmental sustainability. With an evolutionary development at the core of IoT systems, the optimization parameters and factors at the sub-system and interconnection level are generally dynamic and are governed by the system protocols adapting to the variations with little or no performance compromise. Though a mathematical formulation of such optimization framework and modelling can be undertaken for a specific IoT system, in this paper we explore the general idea of systemic approach for a significant performance gains to enable perpetually powered IoT system, over a reductionist design methodology.



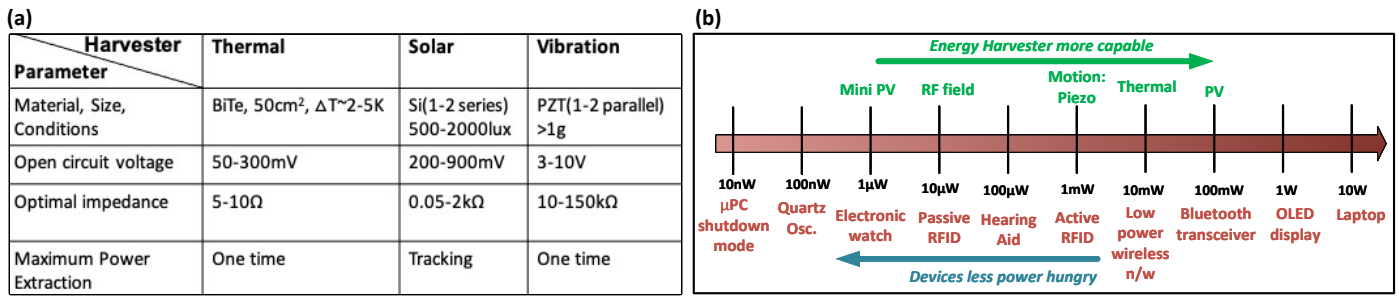


Fig. 5. (a) Commonly used energy harvesters and their properties (b) Energy harvesting along with an effective energy management is necessary to meet the increasing power demands.

### III. ENERGY HARVESTING SYSTEM

The goal of the energy harvesting system is to ideally harvest all the available energy, thus enabling a robust energy system for the operation of the IoT system. Represented as ( $S_{A.1}$ ) in the system graph, a typical energy harvesting system has three components, the energy source ( $S_{A.1.1}$ ), harvesting technology ( $S_{A.1.2}$ ) and the harvesting architecture ( $S_{A.1.3}$ ). An efficient energy harvesting system must have reliable and efficient energy sources which can be converted into usable energy with maximum possible efficiency and delivered to the load or stored as dictated by the energy management system.

#### A. Energy Harvesting Sources

The conventional methods of energy harvesting include harvesting from ambient renewable sources like solar [13], [14], thermal [15], [16], pressure [13], [14], electromagnetic [17], wind etc. IoT devices driven from the energy of the human body has also gained a significant traction over the years where energy is harvested from the human body like body heat, cerebrospinal fluid, endocochlear potential for IoT systems like IMDs and wireless body sensor networks among others. Different factors like availability of the source, reliability, energy density, controllability, and ease-of-use have to be evaluated specific to the application in question.

#### B. Energy Harvesting Technology

The diversity in the nature of energy sources has to be translated into the electrical form for the physical integration compatibility. This is accomplished by energy harvesting technology/harvester which converts the energy from these diverse sources into usable electrical energy for the system operation. Such source-specific harvesters and their properties are tabulated in Fig.5.(a). Hence these harvesters need to minimize the conversion losses represented by the edge  $E_{A1[1-2]}$  in the system graph. The characteristics of the harvester dictate the design of the interface with the energy system. An optimal impedance as mentioned in Fig. 5.(a), needs to be presented by next stage for the maximum power transfer from the harvester. This critical point of optimization, i.e. the interconnection optimization is undertaken during the design of power management circuits.

#### C. Energy Harvesting Architecture

Energy harvesting architecture can be broadly classified as Harvest-use architecture and Harvest-store-use architecture [18]

1) *Harvest-use architecture*: In this architecture, the load is directly driven by the harvesting system. Lack of controllability and frequent operational failure due to abrupt changes in the harvested energy limit the deployment of such architecture.

2) *Harvest-store-use architecture*: The harvest-store-use architecture is generally preferred with storage technology in the form of capacitors [13], [16], [17], [19], super-capacitors [14] or Li-based battery [14], [15] may be used to provide an additional energy system for critical applications, store the additional energy when the load is operationally duty cycled, or to compensate for energy system's inability to supply adequate power for a period of time. An integrated battery solution in [20] is an on-chip solution which can be further optimized using nano-scale level techniques.

#### D. Energy Harvesting System challenges

To realize energy harvesting as a reliable, feasible, self-sustained, and perpetual energy system, it is crucial to address the operational challenges at the system and the interface level. The IoT system which deploys these energy harvesting system must be equipped with systems like monitoring, efficient conversion, reliability architectures and overall efficient power management of this harvested energy. A brief discussion on these aspects is presented below:

1) *Monitoring*: In scenarios resulting from the environmental dynamics where the IoT system is deployed, the uncompromising and unflinching performance of the IoT system, may quickly deplete the harvested energy which may lead to a system black-out or brown-out. Hence a constant monitor to indicate the status/health of the energy systems is necessary to maximize the lifetime of the IoT node. The semantic integration and necessary control steps are architecturally governed.

2) *Reliability*: Even with a continuous monitoring system, enough energy may not be harvested from a single input single output based architecture (SISO). Also considering the factors like source availability, predictability, controllability, different architectures like multiple input single output (MISO), multiple input multiple output (MIMO) are deployed to increase the reliability of the energy harvesting systems leading to a robust IoT system design.

3) *Integration*: Architecting and integrating these energy systems is challenging both at the physical and functional level. System refactoring approach which includes optimizations at the interface i.e. harvesting technologies with high

conversion efficiency, low form factors at the source end, and impedance matching at the load end for maximal power transfer are implemented rather than system bridging based design methodology.

4) *Deployment*: The success of energy harvesting system for the self-powered IoT hence is not only limited to the intrinsic optimizations, the effective use and management of this energy is of paramount importance wherein we need to ensure that the system performance is uncompromising even with the occasional uncertainties in the energy harvesting based system. These architectural optimizations hence are more concurrent by nature instead of being sequential, a systemic approach over reductionist approach. Fig. 5.(b) shows that at the higher end of device spectrum, energy harvesting system may not be able to cater to the power requirements exclusively, but an efficient management system working in tandem helps to achieve the goal of self-powered IoT systems.

#### IV. IOT: ENERGY MANAGEMENT

The energy management of the system, represented as ( $S_B$ ) in the system graph (Fig. 4), plays a key role in the design of self-powered systems as it has to ensure at all times, under all dynamic conditions, the system power consumption is well within the harvested energy budget. In Fig. 6, different methods to increase the lifetime of an IoT system with energy harvesting based energy system are presented. We present different techniques at different critical points of the system graph to optimize the integration at physical, functional, and semantic level to achieve architectural resonance. To reduce the cost for a widespread deployment of the IoT systems, system refactoring is preferred over system bridging approach.

##### A. Interface with energy system

1) *Maximum power point tracking*: For the maximum power transfer at the interface ( $E_{A-B}$ ), the management systems presents an optimal impedance to the energy systems implemented with the maximum power point tracking circuits (MPPT). For harvesters like radio-frequency (RF) and solar, a continuous tracking of the optimal point is necessary with which the harvested energy can be maximized.

2) *Low startup voltage operation*: The harvested energy is stored in the capacitor/super-capacitor. The application systems driven by this harvested energy can turn on only when the voltage reaches the operational threshold voltage level. The lifetime of IoT node can be significantly increased if the operating voltage is brought down [3]. Hence the critical circuits in the management circuits ( $S_{B,[1-3]}$ ) are designed for low operational voltages which significantly boosts the system lifetime.

3) *Voltage regulation of harvested energy*: The harvested voltage needs to be regulated (based on reference voltage) to be used for the systems operation ( $S_{B,1}$ ,  $E_{B-A}$ ). The management circuit generates multiple voltages for system specific operations using voltage converters (Low dropout regulators (LDO), buck-boost converters, and switched capacitor converters, among others) [3].

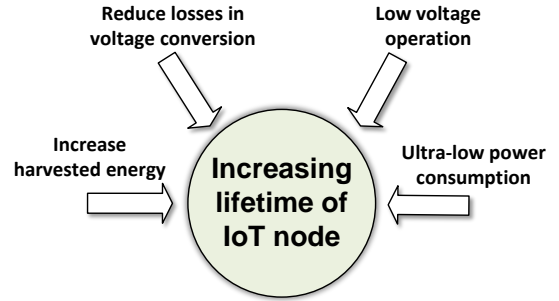


Fig. 6. The lifetime of a self-powered IoT system can be significantly improved with different techniques at the component level, sub-system level and system level.

##### B. Energy management: Infrastructure Circuits

The IoT nodes are mostly in idle mode and “wake-up” only for short bursts of activity. To check for system activity/stimulus, the occasional wake-ups are coordinated by precision timing circuits. Further, to enable a low operational voltage for the sub-systems, a precision reference voltage is required. These timing circuits, power delivery circuits, and precision voltage constitute the infrastructure circuits ( $S_{B,2}$ ). These circuits which are generally in always powered-up state are the critical circuits for system optimizations. The idle power (i.e. the leakage power) sets the lower limit of the IoT power consumption and is minimized through design techniques like fine power gating, clock gating, or through innovations in device technology. These combined benefits can provide a 4-70X improvement in the lifetime of an ULP IoT system [3].

##### C. Energy management: Architecture governance

To prevent uncoordinated changes in the energy flow, the management systems ensures an overall control on subsystems ( $S_k$ ,  $k \in (A, B, C)$ ); and interconnections ( $E_{i-j}$ ,  $i, j \in (A, B, C)$ ,  $i \neq j$ ). A closed loop approach in the energy management system provides a flexible platform for the overall system achieving WHOLISTIC performance [19].

#### V. IOT APPLICATION

The application space represented as ( $S_C$ ) in the system graph, may span a wide spectrum of applications like implant based systems, wearable and health monitors, ULP Radios as shown in Fig. 2 essentially entails the key tasks of sensing, processing and communication of information. The informational aspect hence may be application specific. For a better analysis of system performance, modelling and system simulations ranging from device level to system behavioral models are done and systems are validated with specific test-beds. To ensure interoperability of these systems in the IoT SoS without system disruption, they operate under common IoT standards and framework [21]. In Table I, we summarize the different IoT systems based on energy harvesting, making them self-powered and self-sustained.

TABLE I  
SUMMARY OF ENERGY HARVESTING SYSTEM BASED ENERGY SYSTEMS

Ref	TCASF'19 [13]	JSSC'19 [15]	JSSC'13 [19]	MTT'13 [17]	JSSC'12 [14]	JSSC'11 [16]
Energy Source	Solar, Piezo	Thermal	RF, Thermal/Solar	RF	Thermal, Solar Piezo	Thermal
Harvesting Technology	Solar Cells, Piezo-crystal	TEG array	TEG array	On-chip antenna	Solar Cells, TEG, Piezo-crystal	TEG
Harvesting architecture	MISO	SISO	MISO	SISO	MISO	SISO
Input Voltage/Power	0.55	0.18 - 10V	30mV , -10dBm	-17dBm	-	25mV
Output Voltage	1.8 - 2.5V	-	1.35V	1V	20mV - 0.16V: Thermal 0.15 - 0.75V : Solar 1.5 - 5V : Piezo	1.8V
Conversion efficiency	74.6%	86%	38%	42% (simulated)	64%: Thermal 64% : Solar 79% : Piezo	58%
Storage Technology	Capacitor	Capacitor, Battery (3.3V)	Capacitor	Capacitor	Super-capacitor, Battery (3.3V)	Capacitor
In-built power extraction	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Maximum output power/energy	35-70 $\mu W$	38 $\mu W$ – 200mW	19 $\mu W$	2.5 nJ	1.3mW : Thermal 2.5mW : Solar 200 $\mu W$ : Piezo	300 $\mu W$
Applications	Wireless sensor nodes	Body sensor network(BSN)	Biomedical monitoring	Biomedical monitoring	ULP-IoT	Implantable wireless micro-sensors

## VI. CONCLUSION

The evolution of IoT systems as self-powered and self-sustained systems will lead to even a wider global deployment of such devices ensuring connectivity for a smart and resilient ecosystem with strong beneficial emergent properties like environmental sustainability. In this paper we presented autonomous energy systems based on energy harvesting. With a generalized system architecture and graph modelling of the ULP IoT system we identify the critical optimization points in the energy flow leading to a WHOLISTIC system with higher reliability, performance robustness and significant lifetime improvement.

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# Sustainable agricultural system for field and crop monitoring using a drone and NOIR camera

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**Abstract** - Crop surveying to gather real time data has been limited to satellites and expensive multispectral cameras. As the concept of precision farming is evolving, survey of crops and fields is becoming accessible to local farmers using small drones. In the present work, a quadcopter drone was constructed from scratch. After testing for various parameters and flight stability, a normal (Go Pro) and NOIR camera were attached to it to carry out survey of crop fields at Akurli, Panvel, Raigarh, Maharashtra. The NOIR raspberry pi camera was intuitively fitted with a vintage Kodak photographic film to capture the IR light emitted by the plants. A healthy actively photosynthesizing green plant with more chlorophyll reflects more infrared light. The IR images were processed using an open software “infragram” to NDVI images. NDVI (Normalised Difference Vegetation Index) is an index that maps the health of the crop. While the Go Pro provided clear bird’s eye view, close images as well as videos of the crop (not possible with satellite imaging), the NDVI images clearly showed the healthy and green plants as red, less healthy as hues of orange and yellow and inanimate objects like soil as yellow, green and blue. The results were at par with other multispectral and NDVI imaging works. An added advantage was that the effect of cloud cover, a major drawback with satellite imaging was also overcome. It was possible to conduct the survey of a large field within 3 minutes by the drone. Hence, this is a promising sustainable system which can be developed further to help farmers to take timely and frequent surveys in an easy manner to help them gauge the condition of their crops and fields and take preventive measures beforehand.

**Index Terms** - Crop Survey, Drone, IR image, NDVI, NOIR camera

## INTRODUCTION

### *India an agricultural country*

Agriculture in India began by 9000 BCE as a result of early cultivation of plants, and domestication of crops and animals. Development of implements and techniques led to a settled life and double monsoon to two harvests in an year. Indian products soon reached the world via existing trading networks and foreign crops were introduced to India. The middle ages saw irrigation channels reach a new level of sophistication. Expansion of land and water management systems to providing uniform growth resulted in Indian crops

affecting the economies of other regions of the world. Despite some stagnation during the later modern era the independent India was able to develop a comprehensive agricultural program. India is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest producer of agricultural products in the world. Agriculture employed 50% of the Indian work force and contributed 17–18% to the country's GDP as per reports of 2018. It has the highest net cropped area followed by US and China [1]

### *Farming Methods*

Indian farmers adopt different farming methods to grow a variety of crops that India consumes and exports. “Primitive Subsistence Farming”, is carried on small areas of land, using indigenous tools like hoe, dao, digging sticks, etc. usually, by a family or the local community who use the output for their own consumption. It’s a natural method and growth of crops are dependent on environmental factors like rain, heat, fertility of soil. Once crops are harvested, farmers burn the land, move to a new patch of land for cultivation and the former gains back its fertility naturally (‘slash and burn’). If carried on larger areas of land with more labour, chemical fertilizers and different irrigation method to yield more crops and increase the produce, it is known as “Intensive Subsistence Farming”. Crops include paddy, wheat, pulses, maize, millets, sorghum, soya-beans, tubers, and vegetables. “Commercial Farming” contributes to the country’s economy the most and crops are exported across the world. Fertilizers, pesticides etc. are used extensively to enhance crop productivity. Commercial crops include wheat, rice, pulses, millets, maize, vegetables, and fruits. “Plantation farming” is a blend of agriculture and industry, practiced across a vast area of land. It is labour intensive and uses latest technological support for sustaining, cultivating and yielding. The produce is treated as raw materials for use in respective industries including tea, coffee, rubber, sugarcane, banana, coconuts etc. [2]

### *What ails and fails the Indian farmer?*

Despite of all developments, the Indian farmer is largely at the helm of all crisis whether it’s unpredictable climatic conditions or other factors. The farmer is barely empowered as a supplier. He continues to be small & marginal, inadequately resourced, ill-informed on markets and marketing, ill-equipped to manage risk, burdened with credit & debts and is dependent on traders to reach the buyers. The linkage between the producer and consumer is weak. The farmer is unable to shape the nature of his produce according to the demand, it remains the same annually and is often driven by the government's MSP program. The farmer is neither equipped with latest technology nor trained to adopt

it fast. Lack of new technology solutions keeps the farmer from gaining an equal footing globally. Policy frameworks whether they are subsistence crops or commercial crops, remain the same and do not enable any significant impact. The investment in R&D is low and less than 1% of the Agricultural GDP in India is spent on research. There is a staggering lack of infrastructure across the entire agricultural value chain. To make matters worse, a perspective on how this can be fixed also does not exist [3].

All these factors may have their respective solutions but in the present work, the focus would be on the use of technology in agriculture and technological solutions.

#### *Why Technology in Agriculture?*

The increase in agricultural production is not sufficient to meet the escalating demand. It is estimated that the aggregate agricultural consumption will increase by 69 percent till 2050, due to an increase in global population from 7 to 9 billion people during the same time frame [4]. The only feasible answer for this urgent call to increase agricultural production and overcome other challenges like climate change must come from technology. In this context, ICT-driven tools and technologies to enhance decision making through accurate, reliable and timely information have an important role to play. According to G. Sylvester (Knowledge and Information Management Officer, Food and Agriculture Organization), “*In the current milieu, use of sustainable information and communication technology in agriculture is not an option. It is a necessity*” [4]. Recently, Africa has been relying on digitalization for agriculture (D4Ag) to accelerate their agricultural productivity and transformation. Digital solutions and agriculture data provide tailored information and insights to help farmers optimise their production, gain access to appropriate products and services, and explore new linkages with markets [5]. Bhutan has a challenging environment (limited areas for agriculture, harsh geography and road conditions) to develop commercial agriculture. It has overcome these problems by using innovative ICT based solutions in eastern Bhutan, for growing Mountain Hazelnuts commercially [6].

To reduce the vulnerability of smallholder farmers engaged in rice production in Asian countries like Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam, the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) together with Sarmap, initiated a project titled “Remote Sensing Based Information and Insurance for Crops in Emerging Economies (RIICE). This rice monitoring system provides accurate and almost real time information on rice growth helps the farmers and the government to better manage domestic rice production and distribution [7].

#### *UAV's/Drones: A Technological Beacon of hope for Agriculture in India*

One of the latest technological developments in agriculture is the increase in the use of small, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), commonly known as drones. Drones are remote controlled aircraft with no human pilot on-board. The use of

drones to spray crops, plant seeds, monitor live-stock are commonly heard of in agriculture [8].

However, the most valuable use of drones is in collection of valuable data which is the basis of Precision Farming, a recent term used in agriculture [9]. Farmer's face a variety of complex factors from water access to changing climate, wind, soil quality, presence of weeds and insects, variable growing seasons, etc. They also have limited resources (seed, water, fertilizer, pesticides, human power) and it's always a matter of concern on when and where to use these resources. Agricultural drones allow farmers to access a wealth of data to help them make better decisions. They can collect data related to crop yields, irrigation, soil quality, nutrient measurements, crop health, infestation, weather analysis, rainfall etc. This can be used to accurately map any existing issues and find relevant solutions. Mostly satellites and manned aircraft were used for collecting data of fields but neither is efficient as farmers need to image their fields often, and in a scheduled way. Only UAVs can provide this data in a timely and cost-effective manner. The advantages that “an eye in the sky” provides when combined with analytic tools that can interpret the data and images to actionable information has ushered in a new revolution [10].

#### *NDVI and Crop Health*

Besides, reflecting light in the visible region, plants emit radiation in the near and mid infrared regions. The emissivity can be attributed to a range of characteristics related to water content, pigments, sugar, carbohydrate, protein content, aromatics, besides growth and vigor [11, 12]. The term “actionable intelligence” has become popular [13]. The first step is to produce crop health maps for farmers. This is achieved by measuring the amount of IR light emitted by crops using near-infrared (NIR) sensors which is directly proportional to the live green biomass or actively photosynthesizing regions or healthy regions in the crops. These vegetation levels are expressed as indices like Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI), to produce NDVI maps. These maps show crop health through colours. The colours also differentiate soil from grass or forest, detect plants under stress, differentiate between crops and crop stages etc. [14].

Usually multispectral and hyper-spectral aerial and satellite imagery is used to create these NDVI maps but they can efficiently be replaced by drones fitted with infrared, multispectral and hyper spectral sensors or IR cameras. Drone technology as a platform for image data acquisition has brought the NDVI mapping capabilities to a completely new level of accuracy making it possible to monitor the condition of not only plants, but also specific parts of plants. It has enabled early identification of plant stress, pest infestation and diseases. These precisely mapped and identified issues can be addressed with precise applications of fertilizers, pesticides or herbicides. There are strong correlations between crop yield and NDVI data measured at certain crop stages [10, 15]. Drone-enabled NDVI index values analysis combined with data such as weather forecasts

and soil maps can help to refine the final information and enable the farmer to take full advantage of the farm and maximize yields. Another advantage is that for specific farms in the Asia-Pacific region, the drones are able to access and collect data from difficult terrains like terrace rice fields or fruit plantations in mountainous regions [16].

Advanced geospatial NDVI are also being used in case of natural disasters or destruction of crops to precisely estimate the level of losses by comparing the pre-disaster state of vegetation with the damages that occurred. Companies such as Skymet provide agriculture survey services by drones to insurance companies and the state governments of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh [17].

Although drones are an eye in the sky, the real power comes from the strength of data processing and analytics that take place after the data is collected. Solutions such as Smarter Agriculture offer an integrated platform to use data from drones, sensors and other devices to automate and optimize farm management. Pix4Dag converts multispectral images into NDVI maps and uses red, green and blue (RGB) images to generate high-resolution orthomosaics.

In this context, in the present study, after building a drone from scratch, it was utilized to explore the application of crop monitoring by attaching a normal camera and an indigenous NOIR camera fitted with a vintage Kodak film filter to capture the IR images of crops and fields and convert them into NDVI images.

## METHODOLOGY

### *Building the Drone*

A quadcopter drone was built for this project. The drone built is a typical Team Black Sheep's discovery 500 with slight variations. A TBS 500 mm frame with Tbs discovery 500 plates were used along with DJI's flame wheel 450mm arms. The battery used was a Lipo Battery (5200 mah Lipo 4s (16v)). The rotors included DJI A2212 980kv motors (clones), 30amp 50 Hz Simonk Firmware ESCs, 1038 CF nylon propellers and M8 propeller mounting nuts. For the flight controller, a Naza-M-lite was used as the hardware, Naza v2 4.02 as the software (only firmware used), Ublox M8 External GPS with HMC 58831 as the GPS with a HMC 58881 Compass. The transmitter (with pilot) & receiver (on drone) (transceiver) helps to establish communication, give command and control the drone. The components used were Fly Sky FS-i6 Transmitter A and Fly Sky FS-i6 Receiver B. Figure 1 shows the complete drone.

### *Determination of Drone Parameters*

The Drone was tested for its stability, flying capabilities and certain Drone parameters were measured before carrying out experiments with the cameras.

*Flight Time:* The maximum time the drone can fly in the air. This was determined by flying the Drone continuously with its battery at full charge.

*Range:* The maximum horizontal and vertical distance the drone can cover. This was difficult and risky to measure but

it was tried to let the drone fly far from the point of take off and also high. It was even possible to actually preset the range of the drone.

*Un-laden weight:* This is the weight of the drone without any accessories. This was measured on a digital analytical balance without attaching any accessories to the drone.

*Laden weight:* This is the weight of the drone with any accessories attached. Thus the weight of the drone with the cameras attached was measured with a digital analytical balance.

*Payload:* This is the maximum weight the drone can carry. This was tested by attaching a series of 250 ml bisleri bottles filled with water to a string. Each bottle weighed 275 gm. Around 8 bottles ( 275 g X 8 = 2200 gm/2.2 kg) were attached. The Drone was made to lift the bottles and the number of bottles it lifted was its payload.

### *The Cameras*

The main objective of the project was to assess the health of the crops and the field by carrying out both normal and IR photography simultaneously in a single flight. Photography of crops and fields was carried out in Akurli, Panvel, Raigharh, Maharashtra. For normal photography, a 12 Megapixel Action camera (Gopro 3) was attached to the Drone. The photography was carried out in various modes including time lapse (2 photos/sec) and video. Both normal and wide angle view were considered.

For IR photography, an 8-megapixel, Raspberry Pi NOIR (No IR) camera connected to the Raspberry Pi board was used. A purplish-blue filter made from a **piece of old Kodak photographic film** was put on the lens of the NOIR camera (Fig.2). It is important to understand the principle of the NOIR camera and IR photography. When photograph is taken from a normal camera, the light reflected from any object passes through 3 channels of the camera viz. blue, red and green. The net effect is a mixture of these three colours to produce the original colour in a photograph. Every object also reflects IR radiation but no IR light can pass through the camera, as all cameras have an IR filter that blocks the IR light. In an NOIR camera, the IR filter is removed and thus the IR light reflected by the objects can also pass through. But to capture this IR light, it must pass through a channel. Thus a **violet - bluish filter (photographic film)** was used to block the blue light channel to allow the IR light to pass through it.

### *Image processing*

The image processing of IR photographs to convert to NDVI images was done using "Infragram.com" which is an open software by Public Labs.

### *Conducting interviews with farmers*

Interview was conducted with farmers at Panvel to understand their functioning and challenges faced by them. At that time they were growing leafy vegetables as their crop.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

## The Drone and Cameras

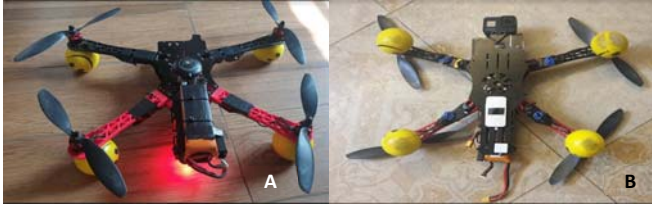


Fig.1 Drone: The finished product (A. Top view B. Bottom view showing the attached cameras)

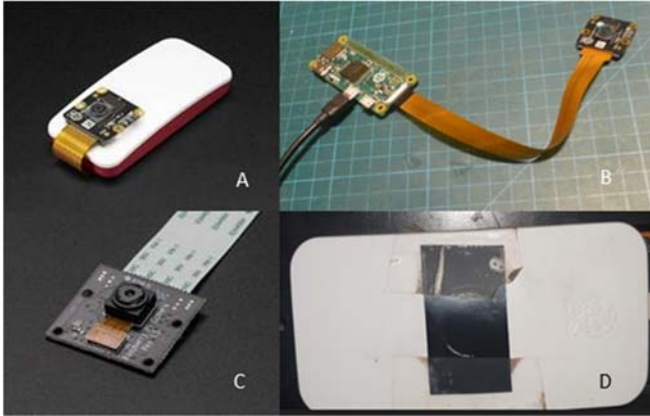


Fig.2 Raspberry Pi NOIR Camera for IR photography (A. Raspberry Pi NOIR Camera B. Camera attached to Raspberry Pi board C. The camera system in a case D. The photographic film attached to the camera)

The top and bottom view of the Drone is shown in Fig.1. Figure 2 shows the making and final view of the NOIR camera.

### Drone Parameters

The flight time noted for the present drone was 10 minutes. The drone could cover a horizontal range of 2 km in an open field and between 500 m to 1 km vertically. The un-laden weight or weight without any accessories was 1.033 kg while the laden weight or weight with the cameras attached was 1.741 kg. The payload or the maximum weight the drone could carry was 2.5 kg.

### Photography results

The drone was able to carry out operation with the two cameras attached and survey the fields under study in a short span of time (2 to 3 minutes). The normal photography by the drone of a field gives a real time instant information to the farmers of the various regions of their field & crops. Fig 3 clearly shows the details of the field. One can observe a burnt patch, dug soil, stack of hay, tree and plants. The cracks in the soil are also clearly visible. Fig 4. (A & B) show the bird's eye view as well as the close view of the plants in the field. The photographs and videos obtained by the normal action camera were clear, of high resolution and the height of the drone could be adjusted to get the bird's eye view as well as a close view.



Fig. 3. Normal Photography of a field showing different details

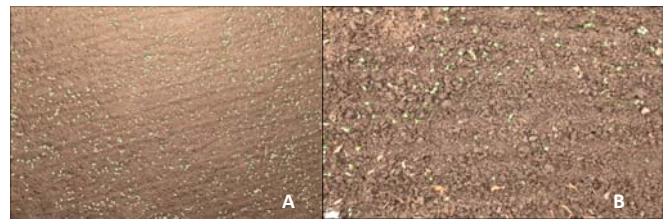


Fig. 4. Plants in field (A. Bird's eye view B. Close view)

### IR photography & NDVI images

The IR photographs taken by the Raspberry Pi-NOIR camera were converted to NDVI images. It's pertinent to understand what IR images are and what significant information do they divulge? The chlorophyll A and B in plants absorb red and blue rays from the visible light for photosynthesis. They reflect green light and hence appear green. Plants also reflect IR or Infrared light. A healthy plant which is actively photosynthesizing reflects more green and **much more IR light.** (Fig. 5)

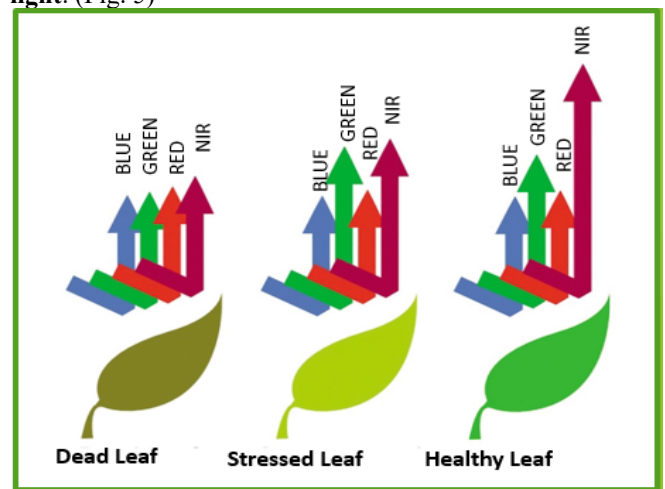


Fig 5. Emission of Blue, Green, Red and near IR light by plants

The NOIR camera captures these IR rays reflected from the plant. The NDVI images differentiate between healthy **green**

leaves and others by allotting red and orange hues respectively; the inanimate objects are shades of yellow, green and blue. NDVI values calculated for each pixel or colour give a range of -1 to 1 (Fig. 6) []

Value	Indication
< 0	Inanimate / dead material, e.g. roads, buildings, soil or dead plants
0 -> 0.33	Unhealthy plant material
0.33 -> 0.66	Healthy plant material
-> 0.66	Very healthy plant material




Fig 6. NDVI Index and plant health

This is illustrated in Fig. 7 where the healthy green plants are seen as white streaks on the purple soil. In the NDVI images, these plants get converted to red streaks, the background and inanimate soil as hues of yellow, green and blue.

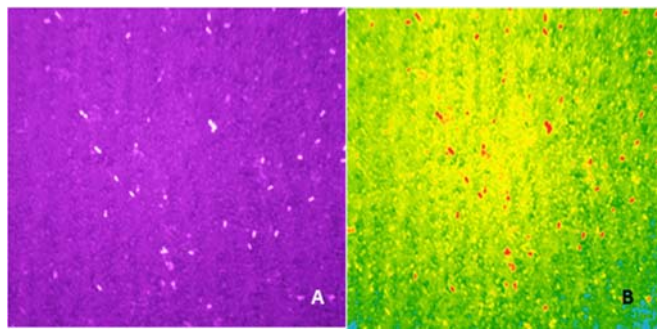


Fig. 7. IR(A) and NDVI (B) image of the field



Fig. 8. Normal (A); IR(B) and NDVI (C) image of the field

#### Comparison of Normal, IR, NDVI images of a field with very small plants

Normal, IR and NDVI images respectively are seen in Fig 8 (A, B, C). This particular photography is taken from a great height. The normal photograph shows some plantation on the left side, small plants in the vast mud field, a small part of the field in which harvesting has been done which also has a burnt patch. These are clearly visible in the IR image as well. The transformation of the IR to NDVI image indicates conversion of all green plants to red colour. The harvested soil which had few green remnants of the cut crop are a shade of orange whereas the burnt patch in the same field which does not have living plants is greenish yellow and so is the soil, which is expected for inanimate objects. TCS employs drones for precision agriculture by acquiring multispectral data for crop health monitoring, soil mapping and irrigation [18]. Our results were comparable to theirs.

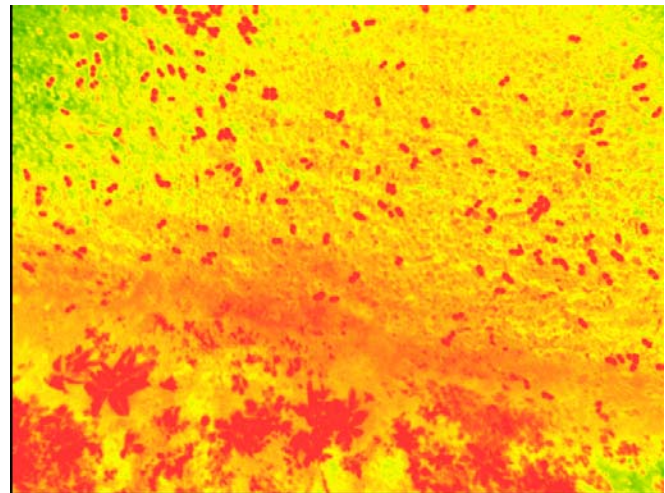


Fig 9. Close up NDVI image of the field

Figure 9 is a close up image of the same field. It is crystal clear how the green healthy plants give a striking red colour as compared to other parts and inanimate objects. Thus, the IR photography done by the Raspberry Pi NOIR camera with a photographic film attached as a filter was able to capture good images. The NDVI images produced after processing the IR images through an open software Infragram.com produced clear images with a good distinction of various colours. Though, the camera was a frugal one, it was able to yield results comparable to those by high resolution multispectral cameras.

UAVs have a number of advantages over more traditional remote-sensing methods. One is the ease and effectiveness of large-scale crop and acreage monitoring. The technology is capable of collecting very high-resolution imagery below the cloud level, with much more detail and precision than the satellite imagery. It is possible to capture photos of the fields from low as well as high heights, covering the whole expanse of the field or details of a part of the field, or crop. It's possible to not only obtain real-time footage but also time-based animation which can illuminate crop progression in real-time. They are easy to use as most drone mapping and data-collection missions are now conducted autonomously. Moreover, data processing applications are becoming less expensive and easier to use.

An interview conducted with a Panvel farmer revealed that they sprayed pesticides precautionary after 15 days irrespective whether the crop was infected or not. This can be easily overcome by using this technique, as the advantage of capturing IR images is to detect information outside the visible range and hidden from the human eye. It is known as the Third Eye or Invisible eye as it is able to detect crop stress about two weeks before the human eye can gauge it.

This method has a lot of scope and utility and needs further exploration and experimentation. Surveys on different fields and different crops need to be conducted. The photographs also need to be analysed in detail to try and interpret more relevant information from them. Future plans include using telemetry to fly the drone over the field covering the entire area in a predetermined path set by a specified pattern or map.



Photographs clicked at intervals will be saved with GPS coordinates. Using a virtual machine running DOCKER Tool box and Web Open Drone Map program, the photographs will be stitched together to create a Map or 3D model of the observed photos taken of the field. This 3D model will then be used to interpret and analyse the condition of the crops in the field.

Favourable regulations on the use of small drones for agriculture as well as access to platforms that can aggregate data from various sources to provide valuable insights would be greatly beneficial to farming communities. Supporting ecosystems can facilitate growth of innovative solutions providing agricultural intelligence using drones and other emerging technologies as a service to rural communities. The information gap can be addressed by the growth of a new breed of professionals, the agricultural infomediaries who would play a key role in providing local actionable intelligence to rural communities by combining various data sources and analytics. The next agricultural revolution will be driven by data, which will help to increase agricultural productivity with minimum damage to the environment and increased livelihoods for communities involved in agriculture.

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# Prediction of Ozone using meteorological and precursor parameters with Neural Networks

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**Abstract**— We are predicting ozone with the help of neural networks using TensorFlow and MLP regressor model with the help of its predecessors NO, CO and meteorological parameters. Apart from this doing analysis of Ozone, Nitric oxide, Carbon Monoxide that how they vary during day and night and what's the effect of seasons on Ozone gas. Data of these parameters were collected over the region Agra (27.16° N, 78.08° E)

**Keywords**—NO, CO, MLP, Predecessors, Neural Networks

## I. INTRODUCTION

Artificial Intelligence and machine learning as we have progressed has become more and more popular and is being widely used in every field. Lots of data is being produced every single second. What makes that data useful? When we analyze it and produce a conclusion from it. There have been many applications of machine learning and artificial intelligence and this has extended to the prediction of atmospheric gases. We are now capable of predicting atmospheric gas concentration and how they vary from the effects of pollutants and human anthropogenic activities. This segment has been extended to the prediction of Ozone.

Ozone does serve a very important role for the earth to sustain life however it is also a pollutant [1] to humans on the ground level as it is poisonous and has adverse effects on the human body when exposed to long exposure of Ozone or short exposure of Ozone [2]. An increase in the concentration of Ozone also results in affecting crop and forest growth [3][4][5][6].

If Ozone is being formed in the troposphere then it is considered a pollutant [1]. Ozone is formed with the help of precursors which are nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), Nitric Oxide (NO), Carbon monoxide (CO), and Ozone also depend upon meteorological factors such as Humidity, Solar radiation, Temperature, Wind speed [3]. For preventing these harsh effects of Ozone on humans at the troposphere level we can predict these by recording precursor and meteorological data and with respect to that Ozone concentration also. We can predict what future concentration would likely be and this will help the government authorities to issue a warning to people and tackle the situation.

The data was recorded in a semi-urban area which will give a good estimate of how Ozone behaves at ground level and on which factors it depends. Ozone and its precursor follow a strictly non-linear and non-stationary method so the normal statistics method cannot justify this therefore nowadays ANN (Artificial Neural Network) is in use. These models are trained and they adapt to data so that we can get higher accuracy.

For this prediction, we are going to use neural network models. The neural network model contains an input layer, a hidden layer, and an output layer. We will be using regression models as they are used to predict continuous values or we can say real numbers.

## II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Predicting ozone has always been a difficult thing however in modern times it has become much more convenient than before there have been many types of research that are based on predicting ozone, we are going to contribute to those researchers by predicting, improving and adding to those researches.

[7] Ozone was predicted using one month of data at a semi-urban site of Indo-Gangetic plain. The present study includes the prediction of next day hourly ozone concentration using four models viz. multiple linear regression (MLR), principal component regression (PCR), artificial neural network (ANN) and principal component-based artificial neural network (PCANN). The input variables used for the model's construction were hourly concentration of previous day ozone, nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), carbon monoxide (CO), temperature (T), relative humidity (RH), wind speed (WS), solar radiation (SR) and solar radiation duration (SRD). The measurement of ozone and its precursors was carried out at a semi-urban site of Dayalbagh, Agra. The models showed good agreement with observed levels of ozone.

[8] They found out how post-harvest and pre-harvest affect ozone level thus proving that ozone does depend on meteorological parameters. In the present study, surface ozone (O<sub>3</sub>), nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>), and carbon monoxide (CO) levels were measured at two sites downwind of fire active region in the Indo-Gangetic Plain (IGP): Agra (27.16° N, 78.08° E) and Delhi (28.37° N, 77.12° E) to

study the impact of post-harvest crop-residue fires. The study period was classified into two groups: Pre-harvest period and Postharvest

period. During the post-harvest period, and enhancement of 17.3 and 31.7 ppb in hourly averaged O<sub>3</sub> mixing ratios were observed at Agra and Delhi, respectively, under similar meteorological conditions. The rate of change of O<sub>3</sub> was also higher in the

post-harvest period by 56.2% in Agra and 39.5% in Delhi. Relatively higher O<sub>3</sub> episodic days were observed in the post-harvest period.

The purpose of doing prediction is to find out how well the models are working with the recorded data. This research will further explain the variation of ozone and its predecessor on the ground level.

TensorFlow will be used to predict the ozone which will also tell us how good TensorFlow will work in the prediction of Ozone. Two parameters have been combined which are precursor and Meteorological Parameter which will further give us insight that if these two combined are we able to predict Ozone Using Artificial Neural Networks. The same was tested for MLP also.

### III. 2.1 COLLECTING DATA (METEOROLOGICAL PARAMETERS AND PRECURSOR).

Meteorological Parameters contains Solar Radiation (DSWF), Relative Humidity (RH2M), Temperature(T02M), Planetary Boundary Height (PBLH), Wind Direction (WDIR), Wind Speed (WSPD). These were collected from a website where data is recorded from the satellite. It was extracted using Hysplit4 software then copied into Excel to create a Data Set file. Data was at the succession of 6 hours. Then Precursor data set contains Nitric Oxide (NO), Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), and Carbon Monoxide (CO), NO<sub>x</sub> (Which is the mixture of NO and NO<sub>2</sub>), and Ozone (O<sub>3</sub>) this data was collected from the chemistry department. Then these both files were combined to form a Single Dataset (Fig.2). Data were collected from January 2016 to March 2016 which amounts to 3 months. Precursor data was in the format of one hour, every hour data was recorded however meteorological data was in 6-hour format so both of the data were calibrated. Therefore, the final Data is in the format of 6 hours. In a day for every 6th-hour data was recorded so making it 4 observations in a day.



Fig .1 Location where data was recorded

### IV. DATA PREPROCESSING

Then comes the process of Data preprocessing. Here Basically data is filtered out before feeding it to the model for better accuracy and results and this is a very important step. The first thing was to remove the rows which contain 0 value or null value and while removing that row the adjacent rows are also removed because all the readings for that time now cannot be used as one of them is null or zero and there can never be a 0 value for a parameter. The second step was to remove negative values from the dataset as the concentration cannot be negative. Then there was a range where the values will lie, it was as follows for O<sub>3</sub>, NO, NO<sub>2</sub> the range was between 1 to 160 ppb and for CO was between 1 to 4000 ppb. Those rows were removed which didn't lie in this range.

Now the dataset obtained is perfect for feeding the model. Now the dataset was split between the Training test and

Testing Set, 80% of data was kept for training purposes and 20% for testing purposes. It was divided into 4 sets X\_train, X\_Test, y\_train, y\_test. X\_train containing 80% of data except for the Ozone column as that is our dependant variable, X\_test contains the rest 20% of data except Ozone for the same reason, y\_train contains the 80% of Ozone column only and y\_test contains the rest 20% of Ozone. The training set will be fed to the model and It will do its calculation meanwhile the testing set remains untouched. After the model has been trained on the Training Set its accuracy is tested with the Testing set by predicting the values of the test set and Comparing the values present in the test set with the values produced from the model.

After splitting the dataset now data needs to be Scalarized by this it means that now in the Dataset values vary from 1 to 3000 so it needs to Scalarized so that all the values lie in the same range. To do this we apply Standard Scalar on the training test which brings the values between -3 to 3. The same Scalar is also applied to the test set. The Data preprocessing Part is done here now.

### V. STUDY ON OZONE

When we studied the pattern of ozone for day and night and plotted that in a form of a graph it showed a unimodal pattern which means ozone was lowest at night then slowly its concentration starts increasing and reach a maximum point in the afternoon then its concentration slowly starts decreasing and again reach a minimum at night [7].

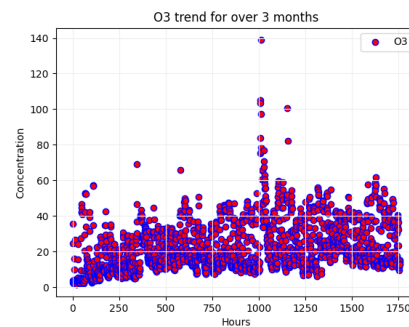


Fig.2 Ozone graph Trend

Fig.2 shows the trend of Ozone for 3 months Concentration is in ppb

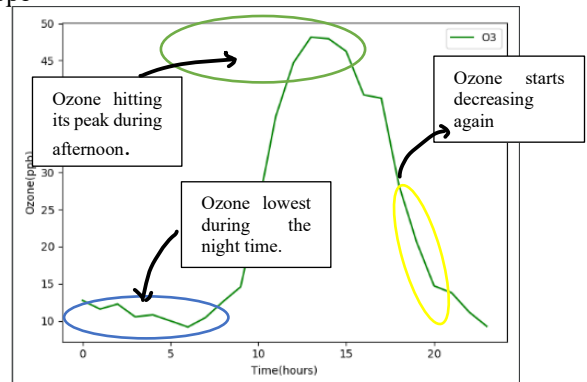


Fig.3 Ozone graph (24hours)

Fig.3 Represents the trend of Ozone during 24 hours of a day. We can see that at night the Ozone levels are very low as shown in the blue circle (Fig.3). When the temperature starts rising Ozone value is also increasing and hits its peak in the afternoon as shown in the orange circle (Fig.3) and then again starts decreasing as seen in the yellow circle (Fig.3). The average ozone was taken month by month to see how it varies throughout the whole years and specifically during seasons and to see if different seasons have a different impact on ozone. (As shown in Fig.4).

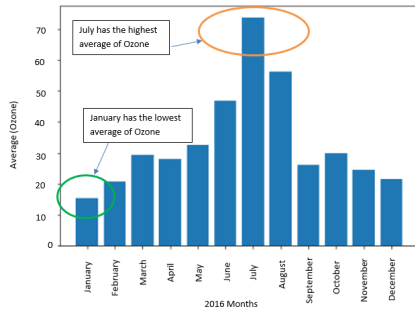


Fig.4 Average of Ozone throughout the year

In north India summer season is from April to July, the Monsoon season is from August to September and the winter is from November to February. March, April, October is moderate months means the weather is normal neither too hot nor too cold. (As shown in Fig.4)

We can see from the bar graph that Ozone averages highest in summers and lowest in winters and monsoon which gives us information that ozone favors high temperatures and low humidity conditions. (As shown in Fig.4)

For the moderate months, the values are somewhat constants means not changing much. (As shown in Fig.4)

## VI. 2.4 STUDY ON PARAMETERS

### A. OZONE

In the dataset, we had 10 independent variables and one Dependent variable. It is not always necessary that all the parameters affect the Dependent variable. In our case the Dependent variable is Ozone. Let's discuss them through the observation made. The easiest way is to decide through the Co-relation Value, this value tells us whether the given Independent variable affects the Dependent variable. Its value lies between -1 to 1. Where 0 is the worst predictor and 1 and -1 being the best.

Below is the graph of co-relation values (As shown in Figure.9) and a table of correlation values (As shown in Figure.10). These values were found between Ozone and the rest of the parameters which were NO, NOx, NO<sub>2</sub>, CO, DSWF, RH2M, T02M, PBLH, WDIR, WSPD. From the graph, we can see that DSWF and PBLH affect Ozone formation does not greatly influence the formation of Ozone. So, it can be safely said that these are the bad parameters to predict Ozone. Whereas the rest others are having decent value with CO being the best so it can be safely said the CO

is the best predictor of Ozone. In co-relation, positive value signifies that it is directly proportional which means as one value increases the other value also increases and vice versa, and on the other hand negative value signifies that it is inversely proportional which means if one value increases the other value decrease and vice versa.

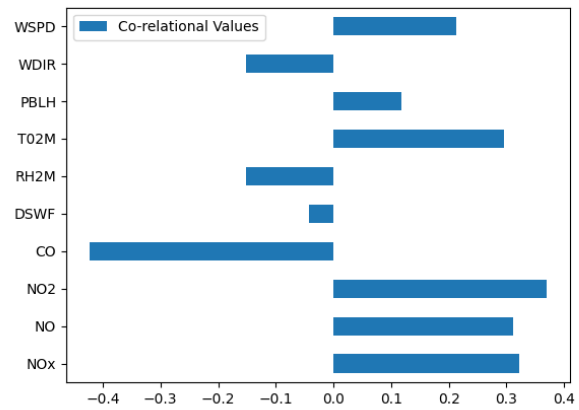


Fig.5 Correlation Value between Ozone and rest of Parameters

	PREC	PM10	PM25	SO2	DSWF	RH2M	T02M	PBLH	WDIR	WSPD	O3
NOx	1.00000	0.98938	0.76073	-0.26002	-0.02693	-0.98993	0.60985	0.21991	-0.13163	0.17814	0.32174
NO	0.98938	1.00000	0.72323	-0.26027	-0.03703	-0.57000	0.50295	0.20953	-0.13601	0.16374	0.31082
NO2	0.76073	0.72323	1.00000	-0.27089	0.05208	-0.60075	0.64775	0.26371	-0.04266	0.31111	0.37056
CO	-0.26002	-0.26027	-0.27089	1.00000	0.09650	0.23340	-0.27846	-0.11059	0.06798	-0.18042	-0.42365
DSWF	-0.02693	-0.03703	0.05208	0.09650	1.00000	-0.23374	0.32894	0.13052	0.23519	-0.06882	-0.44221
RH2M	-0.98993	-0.57000	-0.60075	0.23340	-0.23374	1.00000	-0.70225	-0.36664	-0.03247	-0.19521	-0.15113
T02M	0.60985	0.58295	0.64775	-0.27846	0.32894	-0.70225	1.00000	0.54455	-0.12341	0.24376	0.29524
PBLH	0.21991	0.20953	0.26371	-0.11059	0.13052	-0.36664	0.54455	1.00000	0.05529	0.24460	0.11799
WDIR	-0.13163	-0.13601	-0.04266	0.06798	0.23519	-0.03247	-0.12341	0.05529	1.00000	0.18624	-0.15115
WSPD	0.17814	0.16374	0.31111	-0.18042	-0.06882	-0.19521	0.24376	0.24460	0.18624	1.00000	0.21259
O3	0.32174	0.31082	0.37056	-0.42365	-0.44221	-0.15113	0.29524	0.11799	-0.15115	0.21259	1.00000

Fig.6 Correlation Value between Ozone and rest of Parameters

Now let's study all these parameters in detail that why do we need them and how do they affect the formation of Ozone.

### B. PRECURSOR PARAMETERS

These are the parameters that contain CO, NO, NO<sub>2</sub>, NOx gasses which helps in the formation of Ozone. We will see how these gases vary in 24 hours and whether they affect the formation of Ozone or not.

#### 1) CO (Carbon Monoxide)

The correlational value for CO is almost above -0.5 which indicates it is a good predictor of Ozone and it also tells us as the concentration of CO increases the concentration of Ozone decreases. CO follows a bimodal pattern. It is lowest in the morning then it starts increasing and reach its peak in the afternoon and then again starts decreasing and becomes low around evening and then again starts increasing at night and hits its peak at midnight and then again starts decreasing till morning.

#### 2) NO (Nitric Oxide)

NO is also a good predictor of Ozone. Its co-relation values lie around 0.3 which means that as NO concentration increases Ozone also increases. NO also follows a bimodal pattern. It is lowest in the morning then it starts increasing and reach its peak in the afternoon and then again starts decreasing and becomes low around evening and then again

starts increasing at night and hits its peak at midnight and then again starts decreasing till morning.

### 3) $NO_2$ (Nitrogen Dioxide)

Nitrogen Dioxide is also a good predictor of Ozone and its correlation value lies around 0.4 and it is directly proportional to Ozone.

### 4) $NO_x$

$NO_x$  is nothing but a mixture of Nitric Oxide and Nitrogen Dioxide. It is also a decent predictor of Ozone It is directly proportional to Ozone.

## C. METEOROLOGICAL PARAMETERS

### 1) $DSWF$ (Solar Radiation)

Solar Radiation means sunlight. Solar Radiation plays a small role in the prediction of Ozone as its correlation value is not high. It varies as shown in the Graph below. We can see from the graph as the sun rises it is at its highest when the sun starts setting in Solar radiation decreases.

### 2) $RH2M$ (Relative humidity)

Relative humidity means the water content in the atmosphere. It is a better predictor than  $DSWF$ . And is inversely proportional to Ozone.

### 3) $T02M$ (Temperature)

Temperature plays an important role in the formation of Ozone as it provides the necessary energy to carry out the Chemical reactions [7]. It is also a good predictor of Ozone. It is directly proportional to Ozone.

### 4) $PBLH$ (Planetary Boundary Heights)

This is the height where the earth's surface greatly affects the temperature, humidity, etc. And it lies just in the range of formation of Ozone. It is a weak predictor of Ozone and its correlational value is also less.

### 5) $WDIR$ (Wind Direction)

Wind Direction also plays a little role in the formation of Ozone. For example, we have recorded samples at Agra. Most of the precursors generated here itself but some come through air from different cities thus making them susceptible to Wind Direction. It is inversely proportional to Ozone.

### 6) $WSPD$ (Wind Speed)

Wind speed also plays a role in the formation of Ozone. It is directly proportional to Ozone.

## D. PREDICTING OZONE USING ARTIFICIAL NEURAL NETWORKS

The data was tested on two models one is TensorFlow and the other is MLP(multilayer perceptron) both are neural network models at the basic level, while TensorFlow is used mostly in Deep learning models. MLP is a basic model.

### 1) TensorFlow

Why TensorFlow, whether you're an expert or a beginner, TensorFlow is an end-to-end platform that makes it easy for you to build and deploy ML models. TensorFlow offers multiple levels of abstraction so you can choose the right one for your needs. Build and train models by using the high-level Keras API, which makes getting started with TensorFlow and machine learning easy. TensorFlow has always provided a direct path to production. Whether it's on servers, edge devices, or the web, TensorFlow lets you train and deploy your model easily, no matter what language or platform you use. Build and train state-of-the-art models without

sacrificing speed or performance. TensorFlow gives you flexibility and control with features like the Keras Functional API and Model Subclassing API for the creation of complex topologies. For easy prototyping and fast debugging, use eager execution.

TensorFlow also supports an ecosystem of powerful add-on libraries and models to experiment with, including Ragged Tensors, TensorFlow Probability, Tensor2Tensor, and BERT.

Use TensorFlow Extended (TFX) if you need a full production ML pipeline. For running inference on mobile and edge devices, use TensorFlow Lite. Train and deploy models in JavaScript environments using TensorFlow.js.

If you need more flexibility, eager execution allows for immediate iteration and intuitive debugging. For large ML training tasks, use the Distribution Strategy API for distributed training on different hardware configurations without changing the model definition.

Now the data has been Preprocessed it is ready to be inputted into the model. TensorFlow is used as a model. As all Neural Network Contains an Input layer then a hidden layer and the end Output layer. Each layer contains some user-defined nodes and an activation function that calculates the weights of each node when data passes through them. In TensorFlow, input layer nodes are decided automatically when we pass the dataset and here the total number of nodes in the input layer was 10. Then comes the hidden layer there can be more than one hidden layer containing different nodes respectively and activation function also. The total number of hidden layers used in this model were 4 with 10,100,30,100 nodes respectively and Activation function 'relu' was used. Relu is also called a Rectified linear activation function that will output the input directly if it is positive otherwise it will output 0. Then, in the end, comes the output layer as we are using the Regression model which means we are dealing with continuous values, not discrete values therefore we do not use any activation function in regression. The output layer contains the nodes equal to the number of Parameters which are to be predicted and We are only predicting ozone there the total number of nodes in the Output layer was 1. After layers, we compile the output with an optimizer and a loss (which is for accuracy). The optimizer we used is 'adam' and the loss used is 'Mean Squared Error'. For regression models Mean Squared Error is a good parameter to measure accuracy. Then fit method was applied which inputs the data into the model. The batch size was chosen 32 means it processes 32 values together and the number of epochs was 200. The loss Value started at 742.1744 and ended at 27.2140 which signifies an accurate model has been obtained. More accuracy can be obtained by introducing more data into the model and tweaking the hidden layers the result obtained above was the optimum for this dataset. For comparing results graph was plotted between the values predicted by the model and the Original value contained in the dataset. As we can see the red dots and blue dots most of them are closer which signifies the model has worked perfectly and is giving good results. (As shown in Fig.7) The red line and dots represent the Original Value of the Ozone whereas the Blue line represents the Predicted Value of the Ozone through our Model.

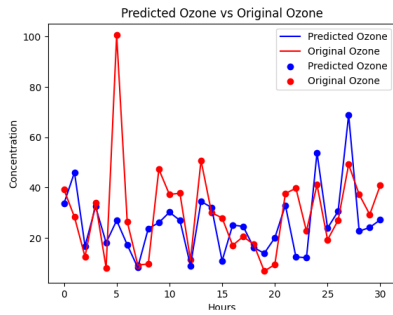


Fig.7 Predicted vs Original Ozone

5 days of data were predicted as for one day there were 4 readings and a total of 30 readings are predicted which amounts to 5 days of data.

Then using TensorFlow we found that the Ozone can be predicted by using the only Precursor (NO, NOx, NO<sub>2</sub>, CO) and also using only Meteorological Parameters (DSWF, RH2M, T02M, PBLH, WDIR, WSPD).

Below results were obtained when only precursor parameters were taken as input. (As shown in Fig.8).

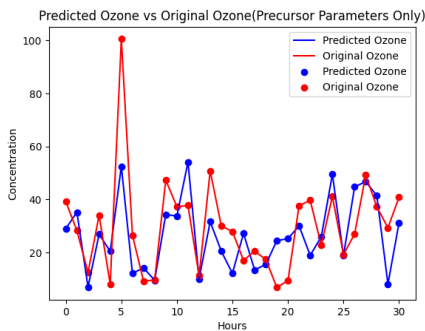


Fig.8 Predicted vs Original Ozone (Precursor Parameters only)

Below results were obtained when only meteorological parameters were taken.

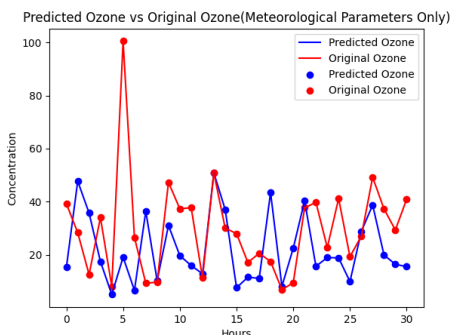


Fig.9 Predicted vs Original Ozone (Meteorological Parameters Only)

Model	Precursor and Meteorological	Precursor	Meteorological
Accuracy (Loss value MSE)	27.2140	62.0789	25.7868

Fig.10 Comparison between different models' accuracy

(Fig.9) The less the loss value is the more accurate the model is. All three are having a good loss value however when Precursor and Meteorological data was taken into the model, the model performance was much better than when Precursor data was taken only and when meteorological data was taken only this model is slightly better than Precursor and Meteorological. This indicates that Precursor and Meteorological parameters both go well together and produce accurate results.

### 2) Mlp Regressor

A multilayer perceptron (MLP) is a class of feedforward artificial neural network (ANN). The term MLP is used ambiguously, sometimes loosely to any feedforward ANN, sometimes strictly to refer to networks composed of multiple layers of perceptron's (with threshold activation); see Terminology. Multilayer perceptron's are sometimes colloquially referred to as "vanilla" neural networks, especially when they have a single hidden layer.

An MLP consists of at least three layers of nodes: an input layer, a hidden layer and an output layer. Except for the input nodes, each node is a neuron that uses a nonlinear activation function. MLP utilizes a supervised learning technique called backpropagation for training. Its multiple layers and nonlinear activation distinguish MLP from a linear perceptron. It can distinguish data that is not linearly separable.

This is also an Artificial Neural Network Model for testing whether other models also work in predicting Ozone or not this was used. This model produces slightly better results than TensorFlow. As can be seen below in the graph. The settings in this model were the same as were TensorFlow, there is nothing much difference between the model's parameter tuning settings.

Model	TensorFlow	MLP Regressor
Loss Value (MSE)	27.2140	15.9125

Fig.11 Comparison between TensorFlow and MLP Regressor models' accuracy

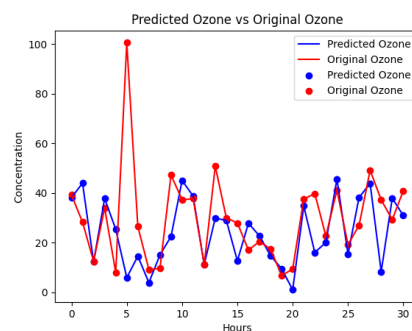


Fig.12 Predicted vs Original Ozone using MLP Regressor

In MLP regressor 2019 first 3 months of data were also tested it did not contain meteorological parameters and The data

was recorded in one hour format. Below is the table showing how the number of the hidden layer changes the accuracy. (As shown in Fig.13)

Nodes (Each node contain 200 neurons)	1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>One Month Data</b>						
Explained Variance Score	0.535234	0.715104	0.849762	0.681106	0.540796	0.395018
Mean Squared Error	0.868881	0.882354	0.924232	0.857363	0.800293	0.683253
<b>Two Month Data</b>						
Explained Variance Score	0.76622	0.7999	0.93203	0.80169	0.78432	0.77912
Mean Squared Error	0.89044	0.905689	0.96672	0.89572	0.8868	0.88374
<b>3 Month Data</b>						
Explained Variance Score	0.6289	0.69337	0.6833	0.78341	0.72137	0.68198
Mean Squared Error	0.79354	0.83463	0.82756	0.89285	0.85247	0.78098

Fig.13 Result table for MLP for different Hidden Layers and Data

### E. CONCLUSION

The first conclusion was that it is possible to predict Ozone using Meteorological Parameters and Precursors with the help of Neural Networks. The second Thing was Ozone follows a unimodal Pattern. Then after comparing average values of Ozone for a month over a year. We saw how it behaved depending upon seasons, in north India, the summer season is from April to July, the Monsoon season is from August to September and the winter is from November to February. March, April, October is moderate months means the weather is normal neither too hot nor too cold.

We can see from the bar graph that Ozone averages highest in summers and lowest in winters and monsoon which gives us information that ozone favors high temperatures and low humidity conditions.

For the moderate months, the values are somewhat constants means not changing much.

We also came to know how these parameters affect the formation of Ozone. Which model is more accurate MLP or TensorFlow? MLP performed a little better than TensorFlow. After applying the model to the refined datasets results were obtained which were pretty accurate thus solving the main problem statement.

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# Intelligent Controller based Active Harmonic Current Compensator for Information Technology Industry

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**Abstract**—This paper presents an intelligent hybrid control technique implemented for the harmonic reduction in power supply system of software industry. Software industry employs lots of computers, uninterruptible power supply and electronic devices. These nonlinear devices produce considerable current harmonics. Current harmonic components need to be compensated at the point of common coupling before propagating into the grid. Otherwise, it affects the operation of sensitive electronic and communication devices connected in the utility point. Active and adaptive technique for harmonic compensation is preferred over passive compensators technique due to its merits such as accuracy, non-resonating, and reliable nature. To perform an accurate and faster compensation, an intelligent controller is chosen with fuzzy logic. The compensating reference current is generated through continuous measurement of source current, compensator current and load current. The implementation and results are presented in this paper. It shows that the harmonics is minimized to an acceptable limit of IEEE standard.

**Keywords**— *Software Industry; Hybrid Compensator; Current Harmonic Compensation; Intelligent Controller.*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Information technology (IT) or software industry is a major part of the global industrial revolution in this decade. The growth of IT industry is overwhelmed and contributed for the economic growth of the countries. In parallel, they contribute for the power pollution and electronic pollution. Computer loads and uninterruptible power supply (UPS) systems are the major source of current harmonics due to its non-linear nature or switching components. Current harmonics produced by the non-linear load propagates into the utility grid through the point of common coupling (PCC) unless it is compensated [1,2]. Sensitive loads or devices connected to the same PCC would be affected due to the harmonic components. The effects include degrading, derating, malfunctioning and failure. To compensate the harmonic components, many techniques are being employed [3, 4]. Tuned power compensators consists of capacitors and inductors. Passive compensators could be designed for compensating specific harmonic component of specific frequency. There is a possibility for resonance with source impedance which would draw an abnormal current. Remaining harmonic components could not be compensated with this passive harmonic compensator. The size of the passive power

compensator is large when it is designed for compensating lower order harmonic components. Active power compensator (APF) is a reliable technique with adaptability for various harmonic components of various frequencies. The size and issues are less than that of passive compensators. Power circuit of active compensator is an inverter with DC side capacitor. AC side is connected to PCC through suitable reactor [3-6]. Control pulses for the APF is generated by using many control techniques or algorithms. Model based controllers require exact system equations. Conventional controllers are less sensitive for the dynamical conditions or parameter variations [7-9]. An intelligent controller is suitable for performing satisfactorily even with system parameters variation. Based on the system variables on various load conditions, an intelligent controller would be able to produce appropriate compensating current. In this work, reduced structure of APF and Fuzzy Logic Controller (FLC) based harmonic current compensator is proposed. The output of FLC is mapped with the conditions based on the acquired database. The significant contributions are:

- Design of hybrid structure of APF
- Design of FLC to enhance compensation performance.
- Implementation of FLC for harmonic current compensation.
- Analysis for varying system conditions.

The following sections present the system configuration, control methodology, implementation, and results.

## II. HYBRID ACTIVE COMPENSATOR CONFIGURATION

The arrangement of hybrid active power compensator (HAPF) with parallel active compensator and tuned LC compensator is shown in the Figure. The method of hybrid compensator is producing opposite current components to that of harmonics by measuring harmonic currents. Tuned compensator could minimize specific harmonic component for which it is meant for compensation. The active compensator is a controlled Inverter with DC link capacitor and switching devices [5]. The power compensator circuit is connected to the utility line at Point of Common Coupling (PCC). The parallel active power compensator adds or draws a equivalent current required as per the harmonic component. Harmonics are compensated and the source current is synthesized near to sinusoidal current.



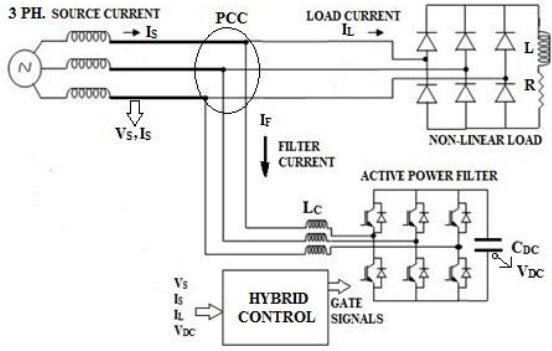


Fig.1. Hybrid Harmonic Compensator

Parallel active power compensator is the suitable device for current harmonics compensation. The equivalent current component for compensation is supplied or consumed by the storage and release of charge in the capacitors through the transistors. Active power compensator is an inverter with DC link. The AC side of the inverter is connected to the nonlinear loads through a reactor (Fig.1). The DC side of the Active power filter is connected to the terminals of capacitor. Nonlinear load is realized with a rectifier and RL load and it produces harmonic components to the supply. The control parameters are estimated by measuring supply voltages and line currents. The FLC is used for maintaining the DC link capacitor voltage of the active power compensator.

### III. INTELLIGENT CONTROL OF ACTIVE POWER COMPENSATOR

The control method of the active compensator is based on instantaneous reactive power theory (IRPT) and an intelligent control for estimating the parallel active power compensator reference compensating components. Proposed hybrid technique involves of IRPT for  $U_\alpha$ ,  $U_\beta$  and power estimation; FLC is employed for power loss component in the filter and link voltage control. The compensation reference currents and the pulses for compensator are determined using these variables and hysteresis band control. The compensator is switched for minimum losses and UPF during the compensation of harmonic current. For the design of compensator and its control, P-Q theory is utilized for the computation of reference compensation component [1]. In this theory, the supply is considered as an ideal source for the calculations. Practically, mains voltage may be unbalanced.

The power converter generates a filter reference and passed through the suitable LC reactor circuit. The link DC capacitor voltage of a inverter has to be controlled to a value more than the maximum value of the filter voltage. DC capacitor and power switches' voltage ratings can be minimized. The current ripple of the filter depends on the magnitude of voltage and coupling reactor. To achieve better performance, these values are made as small as possible in the compensator.

The reference currents for harmonic current compensation in all the lines are calculated by using IRPT and fuzzy controller. Switching pulses for the filter is produced by taking these reference components. Hysteresis current controller (HCC) is used to limit the current references for gate pulse generation.

HCC exhibits good performance in regulating the variable under dynamic conditions.

#### A. Model based control

The IRPT is used to operate the active power compensators by using conventional method of compensation reference generation. It needs estimations through simple equations. IRPT converts reference frame coordinated through Clarke conversion [6, 7].

Fig.2. shows that voltages and currents required to produce reference currents and capacitor voltage regulation. The profile of the supply current in this control method is be considered as a sine wave due to compensation.

$$i_s = i_L + i_F \quad (1)$$

Fig.2 provides the schematic of the hybrid control method of active harmonic current compensation.

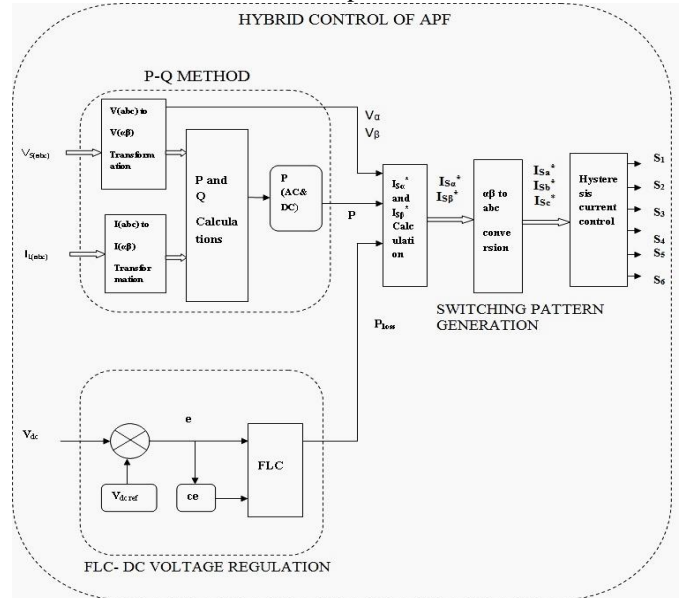


Fig.2. Hybrid control method for active power compensator

Hysteresis method is suitable for implementation in active power compensators. It provides adaptive current control and faster dynamic response.

The parallel active filter is used in a balanced three phase source and load (Fig.1). At any instant, addition of all the three phase voltages or currents becomes zero. Hence, for the compensating current estimations, measurement of any two phase voltages and currents are only required. The following equation gives the Clarke conversion of the supply voltages and currents:

$$\begin{bmatrix} U_\alpha \\ U_\beta \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \sqrt{3/2} & 0 \\ 1/\sqrt{2} & \sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} U_{sa} \\ U_{sb} \end{bmatrix} \quad (2)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} i_\alpha \\ i_\beta \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \sqrt{3/2} & 0 \\ 1/\sqrt{2} & \sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} i_{sa} \\ i_{sb} \end{bmatrix} \quad (3)$$

For performing  $\alpha$ - $\beta$  transformations simpler,  $\sqrt{2/3}$  is multiplied with eqns. (2) and (3) and Clarke conversion is performed with eqns. (4) and (5).

The computation of q, the reactive part is not required in this technique. Only instantaneous real power (p) is need to be calculated.

$$\begin{bmatrix} U_\alpha \\ U_\beta \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1/\sqrt{3} & 2/\sqrt{3} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} U_{sa} \\ U_{sb} \end{bmatrix} \quad (4)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} i_\alpha \\ i_\beta \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1/\sqrt{3} & 2/\sqrt{3} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} i_{sa} \\ i_{sb} \end{bmatrix} \quad (5)$$

Hence, is is shown that the algorithm has been made simpler in the computation of compensating components.

$$P = U_{sa}i_{sa} + U_\beta i_\beta \quad (6)$$

AC and DC components of the instantaneous real power is related as

$$P = P_{DC} + P_{AC} \quad (7)$$

Hence reactive power is approximated as zero ( $q=0$ ) and the active power ( $P_{DC}$ ) is used for the reactive power compensation and reference generation in harmonic current minimization.

### B. Fuzzy Logic Controller

The DC link capacitor of the active harmonic compensator circuit is the important component in harmonic current mitigation. The harmonic mitigation is performed through charging and discharging of the link capacitor. The capacitor voltage is regulated using an intelligent controller. The fuzzy logic controller is suitable for the capacitor voltage control (Fig.3). The actual voltage across the capacitor is measured and compared with the reference voltage. The generated error and the change in error are the input to the fuzzifier. The actual values of error and the change in error are being transformed into linguistic variable using the fuzzy rules given in the table I. The error input ranges from NB ( $\leq -100V$ ) to PB ( $\geq +100V$ ). The change in error ranges from NB ( $\leq -50V$ ) to PB ( $\geq +50V$ ).

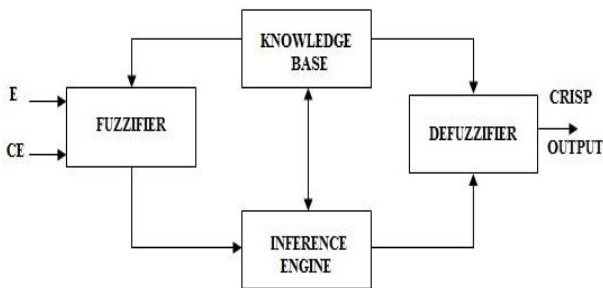


Fig.3. Fuzzy logic controller for the DC side voltage regulation.

TABLE I  
FUZZY RULE BASE

E	NB	NS	ZE	PS	PB
CE					
NB	NB	NB	NS	NS	ZE
NS	NB	NS	NS	ZE	PS
ZE	NS	NS	ZE	PS	PS
PS	NS	ZE	PS	PS	PB
PB	ZE	PS	PS	PB	PB

The FLC, shown in Fig.3, is designed with triangular membership functions, Mamdani type logic and Centroid method of defuzzification. For the switching pattern generation, the crisp output is utilized. Gate signal duty cycle or pulse width for harmonic filter is performed.

Following sequence is the control algorithm the harmonic current compensation:

1. Measure the source voltages and currents.
2. Convert these variables into  $\alpha$ - $\beta$  co-ordinates.
3. Active power component (P) is computed from equation (6)
4. The link voltage is measured and the reference is compred.
5. Voltage Error and change in error are given to FLC to determining  $P_{loss}$  and for regulating  $V_{dc}$ .
5.  $\alpha$ - $\beta$  reference currents are calculated.
6. Calculate the compensating references through inverse Clarke conversion.
7. Generate gate pulses for the APF devices though HCC.

### IV. IMPLEMENTATION AND RESULTS OF INTELLIGENT CONTROLLER

The hybrid active power compensator for harmonic mitigation is focused on computer and UPS loads in IT industry. Front end rectifier of these power supply systems is considered as the load drawing harmonic current in power supplies and battery chargers. The rectifier are connected to RC or RL loads. Input supply is connected to the rectifier with isolation.

Inputs to the control system are the load current, supply side input current, supply voltage, compensator current and capacitor voltage. Transistorized inverter circuit is employed as harmonic compensator. Filter is connected to PCC through HF reactor. Fuzzy controller is producing the required output for harmonic compensation and APF link voltage control.

#### A. Results

Proposed system is developed in MATLAB Simulink environment and the outputs have been analyzed. 230V, 50Hz source on balanced condition and unbalanced distorted voltage condition are considered for the simulation and analysis of its performance. The load is non- linear in nature and unbalanced among phases.

Result exhibits the performance of the active compensator with three phase balanced supply voltages. Without compensator, the supply current is distorted in profile.

The reference components for mitigation of harmonics are generated through intelligent hybrid control. The simulated source current profile shows nearly sinusoidal with compensator in action.

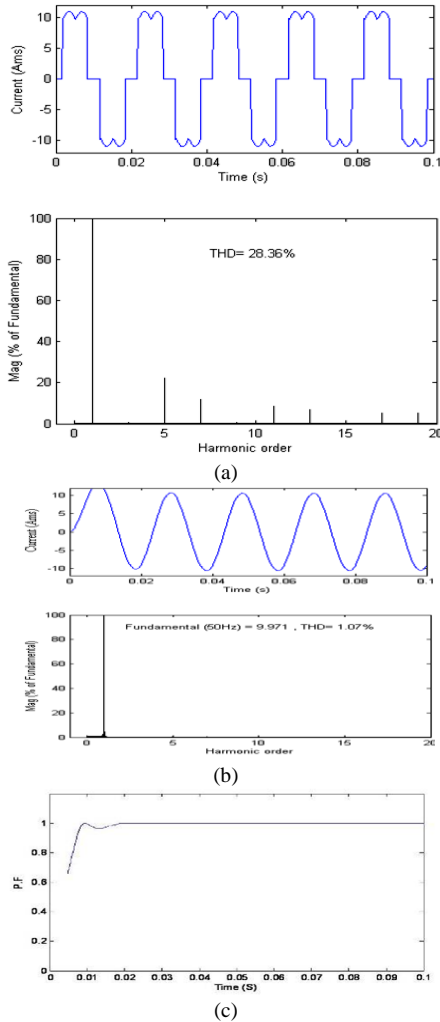


Fig. 4. Results of harmonic filter in one phase with balanced input voltages:(a) Load current profile and THD (b) Input Current profile and THD after compensation (c) Input power factor.

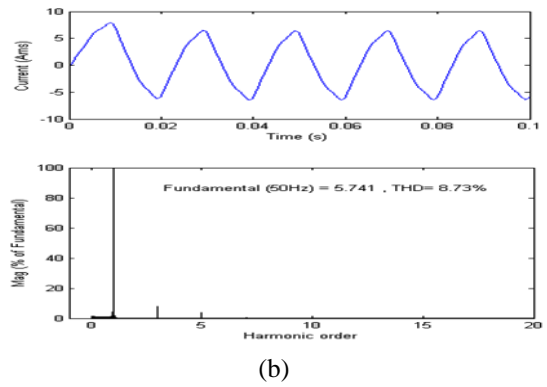
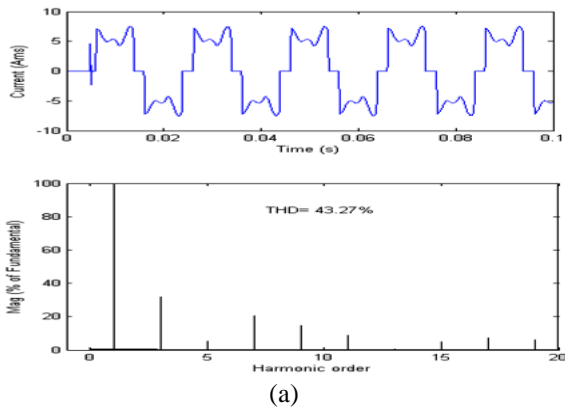


Fig. 5. Results of harmonic filter in one phase with unbalanced input voltages:(a) Load current profile and THD (b) Input Current profile and THD after compensation.

Table I reveals the consolidated results of active filter by analyzing the results before and after compensation with varying supply and load conditions.

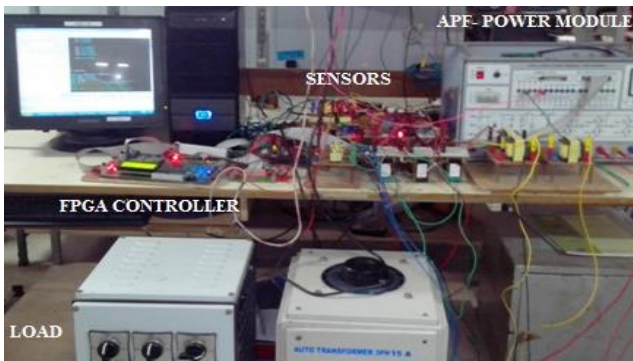
**TABLE II**  
**RESULTS OF INTELLIGENT HARMONIC COMPENSATOR**

Input Supply	THD (%)		THD (%)	
	Before compensation		With Compensator	
	Supply Voltage	Input Current	Supply Voltage	Input Current
Balanced	0.52	28.36	0.52	1.07
Unbalanced	24.94	43.27	24.94	8.73

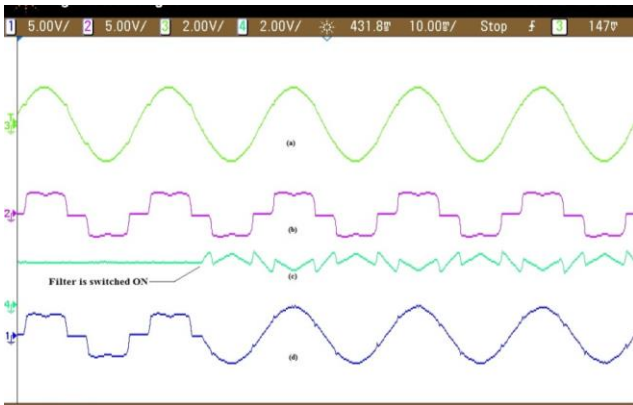
In Fig.4, compensation of harmonics with APF with balanced voltages is shown. Without filter, supply current THD is 28% and the current profile is distorted. Then, filter current is added by the compensator at PCC. The added compensator currents are opposite in to the harmonic components. The input current is the sum of load current and the compensator current. After compensation, from the result, it is clear that harmonic current THD is minimized to 1% and its profile is sinusoidal with unity PF

Compensation performance of power filter and the intelligent controller is shown in Fig. 5 for unbalanced source voltages. Without filter, THD of the input current is shown as 43% and the profile is highly distorted. Filter current is added. After harmonic mitigation, in the result, THD of supply current is minimized to 8.7% with desirable profile even when the supply voltage is unbalanced. Voltage and current are in-phase causing PF of 0.98.

To validate the proposed technique, an experimental setup has been developed with intelligent power module for power filter and FPGA 3A DSP controller. The load current, filter current and compensated source current were captured using multi- channel oscilloscope and shown in Fig.6.



(a)



(b)

Fig. 6. (a). Experimental setup, (b). Voltage and Current profiles (i) Source voltage (ii) Load current (iii) Filter current (iv) Source current.

## V. CONCLUSIONS

The intelligent hybrid control technique for harmonic compensator has been developed and implemented to enhance the compensating performance of harmonic conditioner. From Table I, it is proved that APF provides improved performance in harmonic mitigation. It is proved that the supply line current synthesized nearly sinusoidal in-phase with the supply voltage.

Hence, power factor is improved to unity. The intelligent hybrid control method for IT industry has been analyzed for dynamically varying system and external conditions. The experiment results show the performance of the controller in which the current harmonics is reduced to 3.3%. Source current THD is minimized to an acceptable value of IEEE standard in IT industries.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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# Formulating Maintenance Order Completion Strategy for Uninterrupted Supply of Potable Water using System Dynamics Approach

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**Abstract** - A holistic view of planned maintenance order creation is presented here to understand the dynamics of order backlog and schedule pressure and to gauge the reason for high mean time between failure (MTBF) and to find its feasible solutions. The primary data is captured from maintenance records and logbooks of Kanhan WTP, operated and maintained by M/s. Orange City Water Pvt Ltd, Nagpur. After simulating the initial condition, it was found that there is very high pressure on the team to complete PM orders. Half yearly and yearly PM orders can be rescheduled for the days with minimum orders, to reduce schedule pressure as high work pressure will lead to compromise with maintenance work which will further add to machine breakdowns.

**Keywords**- System Dynamics, Water Utility, Maintenance Order, Preventive Maintenance, Work Pressure

## I. INTRODUCTION

According to a study conducted in 2008 by WHO, the global disease burden could be prevented from supplying treated and safe portal water. Thus to promote healthy living safe water supply should be uninterrupted in all cities with help of the Municipality [1]. Few challenges of water utilities are the lack of adequate resources like infrastructure, shortage of manpower, pollution, etc. [2]. In the present paper a system dynamics model of maintenance work orders has been constructed to reduce maintenance order backlog and at the same time not to load the maintenance team with work pressure. This will further contribute to formulating a maintenance strategy that can lead to a reduction in maintenance expenses [3]. There is a vast amount of literature available which have applied systems dynamics in turnkey projects across nations [3], [4], [5]. System Dynamics involves identifications of all elements of a maintenance order system affecting other elements, directly or indirectly [6].

A report published by the Gujarat Institute of Development Research in 2005 highlighted poor

operation and maintenance as a major problem in water treatment and distribution systems affecting water quality and quantity. In this study, a holistic view of planned maintenance order creation is simulated to understand the dynamics of order backlog and schedule pressure and to gauge the reason for high MTBF and to find its feasible solutions.

## II. SYSTEM STRUCTURE

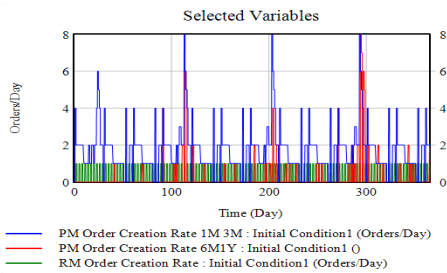
The **Definition of variables** used in the model is described below.

*Preventive Maintenance (PM)* is performed before identifying any breakdown. PM tasks consist of a set of procedures performed to prevent or delay a machine failure. This set of procedures can be based on fixed time intervals. [4]

*The maintenance order completion rate* is determined by the lesser of the potential completion rate based on the size and productivity of the workforce and the maximum completion rate based on the number of orders in the backlog and the minimum time required per order. *Desired Completion rate* is determined by Maintenance orders backlog and target delivery time desired by the organization. *The standard completion rate* represents the output the organization could achieve with the current manpower working normal hours and dedicating standard time per order. *Workday* is a standard workday of eight hours modified by an effect of schedule pressure. *Schedule pressure* is the measure of pressure to work at a greater or lesser rate than normal. *FTE Labour* is the full-time equivalent labor available net of absenteeism and time lost due because of other factors like training, meetings, etc.[8]

*Reactive Maintenance* is performed in response to reported equipment malfunction or failure [7].





The stock-flow model (created in Vensim PLE version 8.1.0) interconnecting these three subsystems simultaneously. The documentation for the units, value, equations are given in TABLE II in Appendix.

## V. SIMULATION RESULTS

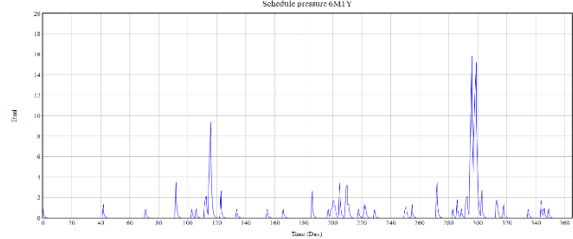
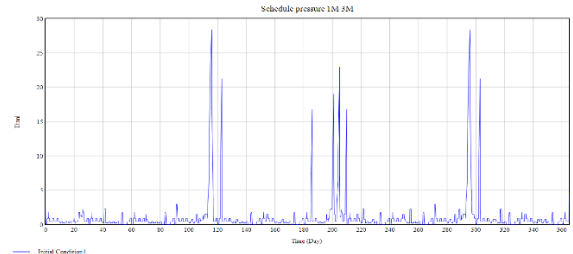
The initial simulation result of different variable is as follows:

- A. Priority is given to reactive maintenance orders in case there are any open RM orders and then subsequently 6M1Y and then 1M3M orders are processed by deploying maintenance crew. The following maintenance orders generated during one year are used in current simulation:

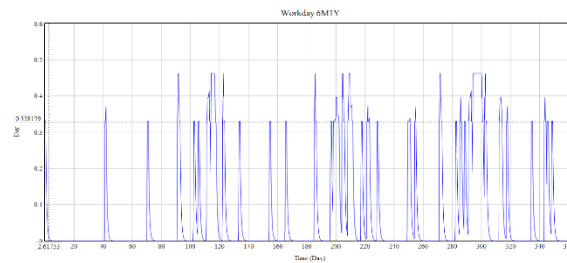
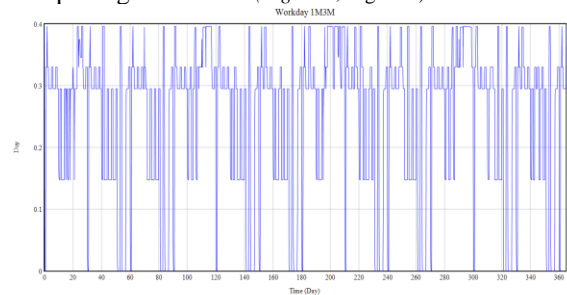
TABLE 1. ORDER TYPES

Order Type	Number of Order
RM	One order every 3 days
1Y	22
6M	82
3M	112
1M	504

- B. Schedule Pressure: In the initial simulation of 1M3M orders (*Error! Reference source not found.*) and 6M1Y orders (*Error! Reference source not found.*) extremely high schedule pressure conditions were observed. As manpower is first allocated to complete RM orders, this resulted in very low schedule pressure. Very high schedule pressure will lead to corner cutting by the maintenance workers while completing maintenance orders and this will increase the probability of machine failures.



- C. Workday: Frequent overtime was reported while completing PM orders (*Figure 5, Figure 6*)



- D. PM Order Backlogs: High backlogs of half-yearly and yearly orders (*Error! Reference source not found.*) were observed and few order backlogs were found for quarterly orders

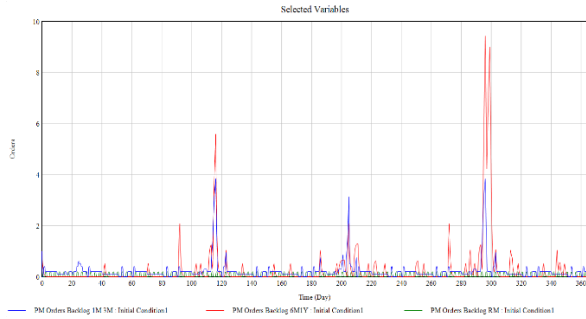


Figure 7 Initial MO Backlog

### CONCLUSION

To conclude, revising preventive maintenance plan resulted in reduction in orders backlog (Figure 10) thereby reducing schedule pressure without increasing manpower. (Figure 8, Figure 9).

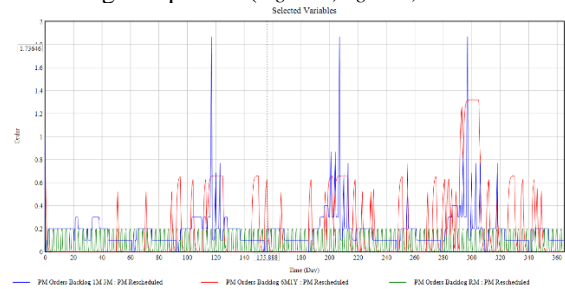


Figure 8 PM Rescheduled - MO Backlog

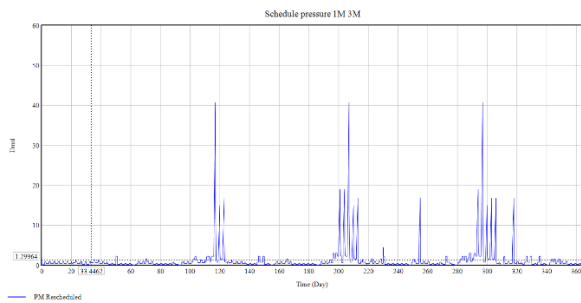


Figure 9 PM Rescheduled - Schedule pressure 1M3M

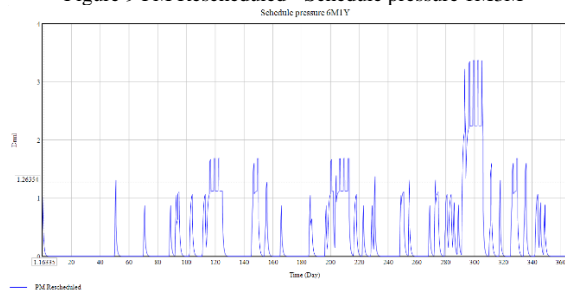


Figure 10 PM Rescheduled - Schedule pressure 6M1Y

This suggested modification of PM plan will not only be cost effective but also improve quality of maintenance work being performed. Further this will

lead to increase in mean time between failure (MTBF) ensuring high machine availability and thus providing uninterrupted supply of potable water. Future research in this area can be done for benchmarking target delivery delays, standard time per order.

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APPENDIX ON NEXT PAGE

APPENDIX

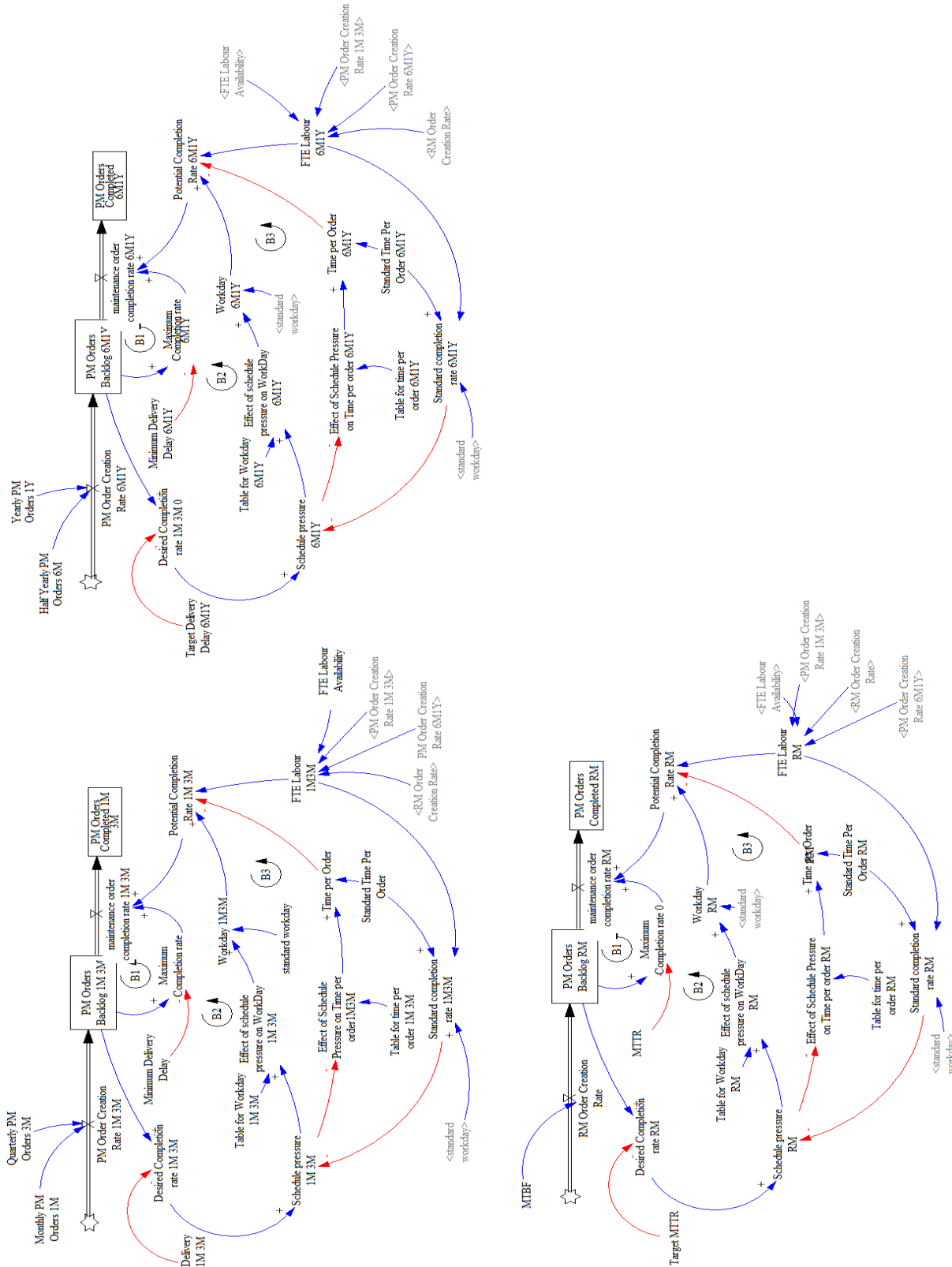


Figure 11 Stock Flow Diagram

TABLE II LIST OF EQUATIONS USED IN THE STOCK FLOW MODEL

- (01) Desired Completion rate 1M3M=  
 PM Orders Backlog 1M3M/Target Delivery Delay 1M3M  
 Units: Orders/Day
- (02) Desired Completion rate 1M3M0=  
 PM Orders Backlog 6M1Y/Target Delivery Delay 6M1Y  
 Units: Orders/Day
- (03) Desired Completion rate RM=  
 PM Orders Backlog RM/Target MTTR  
 Units: Orders/Day
- (04) Effect of Schedule Pressure on Time per order 6M1Y=  
 Table for time per order 6M1Y(Schedule pressure 6M1Y)  
 Units: Dmnl
- (05) Effect of Schedule Pressure on Time per order RM=  
 Table for time per order RM(Schedule pressure RM)  
 Units: Dmnl
- (06) Effect of Schedule Pressure on Time per order 1M3M=  
 Table for time per order 1M3M(Schedule pressure 1M3M)  
 Units: Dmnl
- (07) Effect of schedule pressure on WorkDay 1M3M=  
 Table for Workday 1M3M(Schedule pressure 1M3M)  
 Units: Dmnl
- (08) Effect of schedule pressure on WorkDay 6M1Y=  
 Table for Workday 6M1Y(Schedule pressure 6M1Y)  
 Units: Dmnl
- (09) Effect of schedule pressure on WorkDay RM=  
 Table for Workday RM(Schedule pressure RM)  
 Units: Dmnl
- (10) FINAL TIME = 365  
 Units: Day  
 The final time for the simulation.
- (11) FTE Labour 1M3M=  
 IF THEN ELSE(PM Order Creation Rate 1M3M>=1:AND:PM Order Creation Rate 6M1Y  
 >=1:AND:RM Order Creation Rate>=1, 0.1\*FTE Labour Availability , IF THEN ELSE  
 ( PM Order Creation Rate 1M3M>=1:AND:PM Order Creation Rate 6M1Y>=1:AND:RM Order Creation Rate  
 <1, 0.3\*FTE Labour Availability , IF THEN ELSE(PM Order Creation Rate 1M3M  
 >=1:AND:PM Order Creation Rate 6M1Y<1:AND:RM Order Creation Rate<1, 1\*FTE Labour Availability  
 , IF THEN ELSE(PM Order Creation Rate 1M3M>=1:AND:PM Order Creation Rate 6M1Y  
 <1:AND:RM Order Creation Rate>=1, 0.5\*FTE Labour Availability , FTE Labour Availability  
 ))))  
 Units: 1/Day  
 IF THEN ELSE(PM Order Creation Rate 1M3M<1, 0.01\*FTE Labour  
 Availability 1M3M, IF THEN ELSE(PM Order Creation Rate 1M  
 3M>=1:AND:PM Order Creation Rate 6M1Y>=1, 1\*FTE Labour  
 Availability 1M3M , IF THEN ELSE(PM Order Creation Rate 1M  
 3M>=1:OR:PM Order Creation Rate 6M1Y<1, FTE Labour Availability  
 1M3M , FTE Labour Availability 1M3M )) IF THEN ELSE(PM Order  
 Creation Rate 1M3M<1, FTE Labour Availability 1M3M , IF THEN  
 ELSE(PM Order Creation Rate 1M3M>= 1:AND:PM Order Creation Rate  
 6M1Y=0, FTE Labour Availability 1M3M + FTE Labour Availability  
 6M1Y, IF THEN ELSE(PM Order Creation Rate 1M3M >=1:AND:PM Order  
 Creation Rate 6M1Y>=1, FTE Labour Availability 1M3M , 0.01 )) )
- (12) FTE Labour 6M1Y=  
 IF THEN ELSE(PM Order Creation Rate 6M1Y>=1:AND:PM Order Creation Rate 1M3M  
 >=1:AND:RM Order Creation Rate>=1, 0.4\*FTE Labour Availability , IF THEN ELSE  
 (PM Order Creation Rate 6M1Y>=1:AND:PM Order Creation Rate 1M3M>=1:AND:RM Order Creation Rate  
 <1, 0.6\*FTE Labour Availability , IF THEN ELSE(PM Order Creation Rate 6M1Y  
 >=1:AND:PM Order Creation Rate 1M3M<1:AND:RM Order Creation Rate<1, 1\*FTE Labour Availability  
 , IF THEN ELSE(PM Order Creation Rate 6M1Y>=1:AND:PM Order Creation Rate 1M3M  
 <1:AND:RM Order Creation Rate>=1, 0.5\*FTE Labour Availability , FTE Labour Availability  
 ))))  
 Units: 1/Day  
 IF THEN ELSE(PM Order Creation Rate 6M1Y=0, 0 , IF THEN ELSE(PM  
 Order Creation Rate 6M1Y>=1:AND:PM Order Creation Rate 1M3M <1,  
 FTE Labour Availability 1M3M+FTE Labour Availability 6M1Y , IF  
 THEN ELSE(PM Order Creation Rate 6M1Y>=1:AND:PM Order Creation  
 Rate 1M3M >=1, FTE Labour Availability 6M1Y , 0.1 )) )

- (13) FTE Labour Availability =  
0.75\*3  
Units: 1/Day
- (14) FTE Labour RM=  
IF THEN ELSE(RM Order Creation Rate>=1:AND:PM Order Creation Rate 1M 3M>=  
1:AND:PM Order Creation Rate 6M1Y>=1, 0.5\*FTE Labour Availability , IF THEN ELSE  
(RM Order Creation Rate>=1:AND:PM Order Creation Rate 1M 3M>=1:AND:PM Order Creation Rate 6M1Y  
<1, 0.5\*FTE Labour Availability, IF THEN ELSE(RM Order Creation Rate>=1:AND:  
PM Order Creation Rate 1M 3M<1:AND:PM Order Creation Rate 6M1Y<1, 1\*FTE Labour Availability  
, IF THEN ELSE(RM Order Creation Rate>=1:AND:PM Order Creation Rate 1M 3M  
<1:AND:PM Order Creation Rate 6M1Y>=1, 0.5\*FTE Labour Availability , FTE Labour Availability  
)) ) )  
Units: 1/Day  
IF THEN ELSE(PM Order Creation Rate 1M 3M<1, 0.01\*FTE Labour  
Availability 1M3M, IF THEN ELSE(PM Order Creation Rate 1M  
3M>=1:AND:PM Order Creation Rate 6M1Y>=1, 1\*FTE Labour  
Availability 1M3M , IF THEN ELSE(PM Order Creation Rate 1M  
3M>=1:OR:PM Order Creation Rate 6M1Y<1, FTE Labour Availability  
1M3M , FTE Labour Availability 1M3M ) ) IF THEN ELSE(PM Order  
Creation Rate 1M 3M<1, FTE Labour Availability 1M3M , IF THEN  
ELSE(PM Order Creation Rate 1M 3M>= 1:AND:PM Order Creation Rate  
6M1Y=0, FTE Labour Availability 1M3M + FTE Labour Availability  
6M1Y, IF THEN ELSE(PM Order Creation Rate 1M 3M >=1:AND:PM Order  
Creation Rate 6M1Y>=1, FTE Labour Availability 1M3M , 0.01 ) )
- (15) Half Yearly PM Orders 6M=  
PULSE TRAIN(41,1,180,365) + PULSE TRAIN(70,1,180,365) + 4\*PULSE TRAIN(91,  
1,180,365) + PULSE TRAIN(102,1,180,365) + PULSE TRAIN(105,1,180,365) + 2\*PULSE TRAIN  
(111,2,180,365) + 6\*PULSE TRAIN(114,1,180,365) + 5\*PULSE TRAIN(115,1,180,365  
) + 2\*PULSE TRAIN(122,1,180,365) + PULSE TRAIN(133,1,180,365) + PULSE TRAIN  
(154,1,180,365) + PULSE TRAIN(165,1,180,365) + 2\*PULSE TRAIN(185,1,180,365  
) + PULSE TRAIN(196,1,180,365) + PULSE TRAIN(198,4,180,365) + 4\*PULSE TRAIN  
(204,1,180,365) + 2\*PULSE TRAIN(208,3,180,365) + PULSE TRAIN(217,1,180,365  
) + PULSE TRAIN(228,1,180,365)+ PULSE TRAIN(249,1,180,365)+ 2\*PULSE TRAIN(312  
,1,180,365)+ 2\*PULSE TRAIN(343,1,180,365)  
Units: Orders/Day
- (16) INITIAL TIME = 0  
Units: Day  
The initial time for the simulation.
- (17) maintenance order completion rate 1M 3M=  
MIN(Maximum Completion rate,Potential Completion Rate 1M 3M)  
Units: Orders/Day
- (18) maintenance order completion rate 6M1Y=  
MIN(Maximum Completion rate 6M1Y,Potential Completion Rate 6M1Y)  
Units: Orders/Day
- (19) maintenance order completion rate RM=  
MIN(Maximum Completion rate 0,Potential Completion Rate RM)  
Units: Orders/Day
- (20) Maximum Completion rate=  
PM Orders Backlog 1M 3M/Minimum Delivery Delay  
Units: Orders/Day
- (21) Maximum Completion rate 0=  
PM Orders Backlog RM/MTTR  
Units: Orders/Day
- (22) Maximum Completion rate 6M1Y=  
PM Orders Backlog 6M1Y/Minimum Delivery Delay 6M1Y  
Units: Orders/Day
- (23) Minimum Delivery Delay=  
0.1  
Units: Day  
3 Days = 0.33\*3 = 0.99 (8 hours per day = 0.33 Workday)
- (24) Minimum Delivery Delay 6M1Y=  
0.66  
Units: Day  
2 days = 0.66
- (25) Monthly PM Orders 1M=  
4\* PULSE TRAIN( 1,1,30,365 ) + 2\*PULSE TRAIN(2,8,30,365) + PULSE TRAIN(10  
,11,30,365) + 4\*PULSE TRAIN(23,1,30,365) + 2\*PULSE TRAIN(27,3,30,365)

Units: Orders/Day

(26) MTBF=  
PULSE TRAIN (2, 1, 3, 365)  
Units: Orders/Day

(27) MTTR=  
0.2  
Units: Day

(28) PM Order Creation Rate 1M 3M=  
Monthly PM Orders 1M+Quarterly PM Orders 3M  
Units: Orders/Day

(29) PM Order Creation Rate 6M1Y=  
Half Yearly PM Orders 6M+Yearly PM Orders 1Y  
Units: Orders/Day

(30) PM Orders Backlog 1M 3M= INTEG (  
PM Order Creation Rate 1M 3M-maintenance order completion rate 1M 3M,  
1)  
Units: Orders

(31) PM Orders Backlog 6M1Y= INTEG (  
PM Order Creation Rate 6M1Y-maintenance order completion rate 6M1Y,  
1)  
Units: Orders

(32) PM Orders Backlog RM= INTEG (  
RM Order Creation Rate-maintenance order completion rate RM,  
1)  
Units: Orders

(33) PM Orders Completed 1M 3M= INTEG (  
maintenance order completion rate 1M 3M,  
0)  
Units: Orders

(34) PM Orders Completed 6M1Y= INTEG (  
maintenance order completion rate 6M1Y,  
0)  
Units: Orders

(35) PM Orders Completed RM= INTEG (  
maintenance order completion rate RM,  
0)  
Units: Orders

(36) Potential Completion Rate 1M 3M=  
(FTE Labour 1M3M\*Workday 1M3M)/Time per Order  
Units: Orders/Day

(37) Potential Completion Rate 6M1Y=  
(FTE Labour 6M1Y\*Workday 6M1Y)/Time per Order 6M1Y  
Units: Orders/Day

(38) Potential Completion Rate RM=  
(FTE Labour RM\*Workday RM)/Time per Order RM  
Units: Orders/Day

(39) Quarterly PM Orders 3M=  
PULSE TRAIN(15,1,90,365) + PULSE TRAIN(18,2,90,365) + 2\*PULSE TRAIN (21,2  
,90,365) + 6\*PULSE TRAIN(24,1,90,365) + 5\*PULSE TRAIN(25,1,90,365) + 4\*PULSE TRAIN  
(26,1,90,365) + PULSE TRAIN(107,4,90,365) + 4\*PULSE TRAIN(113,1,90,365)  
Units: Orders/Day

(40) RM Order Creation Rate=  
MTBF  
Units: Orders/Day

(41) SAVEPER =  
TIME STEP  
Units: Day [0,?]  
The frequency with which output is stored.

(42) Schedule pressure 1M 3M=  
Desired Completion rate 1M 3M/Standard completion rate 1M3M  
Units: Dmnl

(43) Schedule pressure 6M1Y=

Desired Completion rate 1M 3M 0/Standard completion rate 6M1Y  
Units: Dmnl

- (44) Schedule pressure RM=  
Desired Completion rate RM/Standard completion rate RM  
Units: Dmnl
- (45) Standard completion rate 1M3M=  
(FTE Labour 1M3M\*standard workday)/Standard Time Per Order  
Units: Orders/Day
- (46) Standard completion rate 6M1Y=  
(FTE Labour 6M1Y\*standard workday)/Standard Time Per Order 6M1Y  
Units: Orders/Day
- (47) Standard completion rate RM=  
(FTE Labour RM\*standard workday)/Standard Time Per Order RM  
Units: Orders/Day
- (48) Standard Time Per Order=  
0.083  
Units: Day/Order  
0.083 = 2 hours
- (49) Standard Time Per Order 6M1Y=  
0.25  
Units: Day/Order  
1 Day = 24 hours Working hours = 8 hours 6 hours = 0.25 Day
- (50) Standard Time Per Order RM=  
0.0825  
Units: Day/Order
- (51) standard workday=  
0.33  
Units: Day  
IF THEN ELSE(Reactive Maintenance Order Creation Rate>=1,1,IF  
THEN ELSE( Standard workday RM-Workday RM<1 , 0.5,8 )
- (52) Table for time per order 1M 3M(  
[(0,0)-(11,1)],(0,0),(0,2,1),(0,4,1),(0,6,1),(0,8,1),(1,1),(1,2,0.9),(1,4  
.0.85),(1,6,0.8),(1,8,0.75),(2,0.75),(3,0.75),(4,0.75),(5,0.75),(6,0.75),(  
7,0.75),(8,0.75),(9,0.75),(10,0.75),(11,0.75))  
Units: Dmnl
- (53) Table for time per order 6M1Y(  
[(0,0)-(2,1)],(0,0),(0,2,1),(0,4,1),(0,6,1),(0,8,1),(1,1),(1,2,0.95),(1,4  
.0.9),(1,6,0.85),(1,8,0.8),(2,0.8))  
Units: Dmnl
- (54) Table for time per order RM(  
[(0,0)-(2,1)],(0,0),(0,2,1),(0,4,1),(0,6,1),(0,8,1),(1,1),(1,2,0.95),(1,4  
.0.9),(1,6,0.85),(1,8,0.8),(2,0.8))  
Units: Dmnl
- (55) Table for Workday 1M 3M(  
[(0,0)-(4,2)],(0,0),(0,5,1),(1,1),(1,5,1.2),(2,1.2),(2,5,1.2),(3,1.2),(3,5  
.1.2),(4,1.2))  
Units: Dmnl
- (56) Table for Workday 6M1Y(  
[(0,0)-(4,2)],(0,0),(0,5,1),(1,1),(1,5,1.2),(2,1.2),(2,5,1.4),(3,1.4),(3,5  
.1.4),(4,1.4))  
Units: Dmnl
- (57) Table for Workday RM(  
[(0,0)-(4,2)],(0,0),(0,5,1),(1,1),(1,5,1.2),(2,1.2),(2,5,1.4),(3,1.4),(3,5  
.1.4),(4,1.4))  
Units: Dmnl
- (58) Target Delivery Delay 1M 3M=  
0.05  
Units: Day
- (59) Target Delivery Delay 6M1Y=  
0.33  
Units: Day
- (60) Target MTTR=  
0.15

Units: Day  
2 Days

- (61) Time per Order=  
Effect of Schedule Pressure on Time per order1M3M\*Standard Time Per Order  
Units: Day/Order
- (62) Time per Order 6M1Y=  
Effect of Schedule Pressure on Time per order 6M1Y\*Standard Time Per Order 6M1Y  
Units: Day/Order
- (63) Time per Order RM=  
Effect of Schedule Pressure on Time per order RM\*Standard Time Per Order RM  
Units: Day/Order
- (64) TIME STEP = 0.03125  
Units: Day [0,?]  
The time step for the simulation.
- (65) Workday 1M3M=  
standard workday\*Effect of schedule pressure on WorkDay 1M 3M  
Units: Day
- (66) Workday 6M1Y=  
standard workday \*Effect of schedule pressure on WorkDay 6M1Y  
Units: Day
- (67) Workday RM=  
standard workday\*Effect of schedule pressure on WorkDay RM  
Units: Day
- (68) Yearly PM Orders 1Y=  
PULSE TRAIN(222,1,365,365)+ PULSE TRAIN(254,1,365,365)+ PULSE TRAIN(285,1  
.365,365)+ PULSE TRAIN(288,1,365,365) + 2\*PULSE TRAIN(294,2,365,365) + 6\*PULSE TRAIN  
(297,1,365,365)+ 5\*PULSE TRAIN(298,1,365,365)+ PULSE TRAIN(317,1,365,365)+  
PULSE TRAIN(348,1,365,365)  
Units: Orders/Day

# Efficient and Economical DenseNet for Automatic Identification of COVID-19 from X-Ray Images

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**Abstract**—Densely connected convolutional neural network (DenseNet) has been considered as one of the well known deep networks as it can efficiently handle the vanishing gradient problem. Due to the notable feature of concatenation of preceding layers information, it exhibits high performance. However, its extremely complex structure with number of tunable parameters is responsible for high computational cost of the network. Thus, improvements are required to simplify complexities associated with the network. A study has been proposed in this paper to analyse the effect of various convolutional operations on DenseNet. A simulation study has been performed on COVID-19 radiography dataset. An accuracy of 100% and 97.93% was achieved with respect to the two and three class classification problem respectively. It shows that the designed networks are efficient in handling intricacies associated with COVID-19 as compared to other reported studies. It was also observed that different convolutional operations significantly reduced the computational cost in terms of weight parameters as well as number of floating point operations. Therefore, it helps us in designing of economical networks which can be deployed in real time scenario.

**Index Terms**—DenseNet, types of convolutional operations, COVID-19, Chest X-ray images

## I. INTRODUCTION

COVID-19 is an infectious disease that was started from Wuhan, capital of Hubei Province in the People's Republic of China in November 2019. As per the report of World Health Organization (WHO), a total of 128,540,982 confirmed cases and 2,808,308 deaths have been reported globally till 31 March 2021 [1]. The main source of COVID-19 is the strain of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) virus. With the incubation period of 4.2 days and reproductive number of 5.7, the virus becomes highly contagious [2]. Few known symptoms of COVID-19 are cough, fever, headache, fatigue, and gastrointestinal [3]. When an infected person sneezes, coughs or speaks, the respiratory droplets can be easily transmitted to another person. Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) method has been widely used for diagnosis of the disease. However, the method has shown high false negative rate [4], [5]. Thus, as an alternative Chest CT scans and X-rays can be used for diagnosis procedures [6], [7]. The radiological findings such as multifocal and bilateral ground glass opacities and consolidations with peripheral and basal pre-dominance have

been observed on chest as adverse effects of the infection caused by SARS-CoV-2 virus [8].

Early diagnosis of the disease is highly important. If left untreated it may be life threatening. Figure 1 shows a series of images of an eighty year old patient who was suffering from the COVID-19. In figure 1(a) infection can be seen on left lower zone lung in the form of ground glass opacities (GGO). With progression of time, GGO spread in right lung also along with an extent of consolidation in left lung as shown in figure 1(c). Lastly, figure 1(f) shows that due to extensive consolidation with significant extent of reticulations, both the lungs have infected severely. This is the last image obtained from the patient as she died on the same day due to the illness. The example discussed above shows severity of the infection caused by COVID-19.

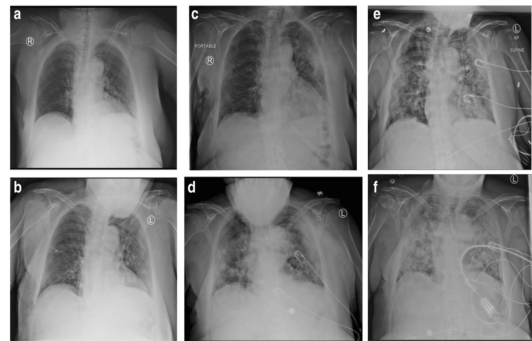


Fig. 1: Images of lungs of an eighty year old women suffering from COVID-19 on (a) 5th day (b) 7th day, (c) 11th day, (d) 14th day, (e) 17th day and (f) 18th day. The picture has been adopted from [8].

Over the past years deep neural networks have shown successful applications in medical diagnosis [9]–[12]. Deep networks have the ability of automatically disentangling intricate features. These features help in handling intricacies of a problem domain and thus, leverage medical imaging techniques toward automation of diagnosis procedures up to an extent. As per the need of current scenario of the world, deep neural network based system may play a pivotal role in fast and accurate identification of the infection caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus.



Densely connected convolutional neural network (DenseNet) is one of the well known deep networks. Due to the multiple skip connections shared by layers of dense block, the network exhibits extremely complex structure and thus, it has high computational cost. Inspired by DropConnect method, the work done in [13] introduced the concept of sparse connections among the layers of dense block which reduced computational cost of the network to an extent. Based on the domain knowledge it seems that the convolutional operation used by layers may also reduce computational cost of the network. Within a dense block of the DenseNet, all layers performed convolutional operation with filters of size  $3 \times 3$ . Based on the nature of a given input, it may be possible that the convolutional operation with filters of size  $7 \times 7$  performed well in comparison of  $3 \times 3$  filters. Thus, types of convolutional operations can be considered as a hyper-parameter of the network which may help in reducing computational cost of the network. This paper validates the above mentioned statement via application of DenseNet to identification of COVID-19 using X-ray images.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows: section II provides description of the approach used in this paper. Details of the simulation performed have been discussed in section III and results are discussed in section IV.

## II. THE PROPOSED STUDY

Densely connected convolutional neural network was introduced in [14]. It consists of multiple blocks and within each block there are several layers. Each layer implements a non linear transformation with the help of a composite function of operations like batch normalization (BN), rectified linear unit (ReLU), pooling and convolution (conv). Every layer has collective information of all previous layers. In a block with the help of sequential and skip connections, a layer combines information of all previous layers via concatenation operation.

### A. An Overview of Densely Connected Convolutional Network (DenseNet)

A typical DenseNet is build up by cascading multiple blocks of two types - dense block and transition block. In the dense block, each composite function based layer uses  $k$  filters. With respect to  $l$ th layer of the block, the composite function  $H_l$  can be defined as  $BN-ReLu-Conv3 \times 3$ , where the last term  $Conv3 \times 3$  represents the convolutional operation with filters of size  $3 \times 3$ . The transition block of the network consists of convolutional and pooling layer. The transition block executes the sequence of operation as  $BN-ReLu-Conv1 \times 1-Pool2 \times 2$ , where  $Conv1 \times 1$  defines the convolutional layer filters of size  $1 \times 1$  and  $Pool2 \times 2$  represents the pooling operation with receptive field of size  $2 \times 2$ . The  $Conv1 \times 1$  uses  $num\_input\_features \times compression\_factor$  filters where  $num\_input\_features$  represents number of input feature maps. The term  $compression\_factor$  denotes the reduction factor which is responsible for reducing the number of feature maps in the transition block. The pooling layer  $Pool2 \times 2$  uses average pooling operator with stride of 2 which

reduces the height and width of the incoming feature maps. Thus, effectively the layers of transition block help in reducing the dimensions of the incoming feature maps.

As shown in Figure 2, DenseNet consists of an initial layer  $L_0$  followed by multiple dense and transition blocks, and a pooling layer. The initial layer  $L_0$  performs a set of operations as  $Conv7 \times 7-BN-ReLu-Pool3 \times 3$ , where  $Conv7 \times 7$  defines convolutional operation with filters of size  $7 \times 7$ . The other terms  $BN$ ,  $ReLu$  and  $Pool3 \times 3$  represents the batch normalization, rectified linear unit and pooling layer with receptive field of size  $3 \times 3$  respectively. The  $Conv7 \times 7$  layer uses  $2k$  filters with stride of 2 where  $k$  defines the growth rate (the growth rate is said to regulate the amount of new information contributed by each layer to the global state). The  $Pool$  layer performs  $max$  operation with stride of 2. The feature maps thus generated are then used as input to the *dense block 1*. All layers of this block can directly access the input.

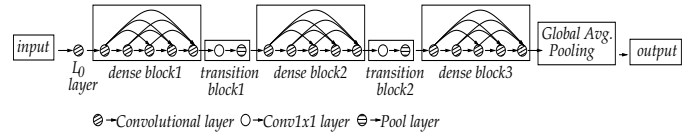


Fig. 2: A typical representation of Dense network. The initial layer  $L_0$  performs a set of operations as  $Conv7 \times 7-BN-ReLu-Pool3 \times 3$ . Each layer within the dense block is a composite function of operations  $BN-ReLu-Conv3 \times 3$ .

Each layer (comprising of the composite function operations) of dense block preserves spatial dimension i.e., height and width of incoming feature maps. Within the block, each such layer is connected to its successive layer through skip connections except the just immediate layer. With just immediate layer, it is connected by the sequential connection. The skip connections in a block allow reuse of feature maps of a layer by all of its successors. Thus, with the help of sequential and skip connections, a layer combines information of all previous layers via concatenation operation. Thus, every layer of the block has collective information of previous layers. This feature helps in propagating gradients in backward direction in an efficient manner as compared to other deep networks.

The collective information of the *dense block 1*, is then used as input to the *transition block 1*. With the help of convolutional and pooling layer, the *transition block 1* reduces spatial dimension i.e., height and width of the incoming input along with its depth i.e, number of incoming feature maps. The output feature maps generated by the *transition block 1* are then used as input to the *dense block 2* and then process continues through the other remaining blocks. At last, global pooling layer performs the average pooling operation.

In this paper, we have studied the effect of various convolutional operations used by layers of dense block of the network which help in disentangling relevant features from the given input. Details of the considered convolutional operations have been discussed in the next section II-B.

## B. Effect of Convolutional Operations on DenseNet

This section discusses about the effect of different types of convolutional operations on the network performance. As discussed in section II-A that each layer (comprising of the composite operations) of dense block of the network performs the convolutional operation with filters of size  $3 \times 3$ . However, it is not necessary. To reduce the computational overhead of the network, the layers can use different operations.

The convolution operations considered in this study can be broadly grouped on the basis of their function as factorization of large size filters, depth-wise separable convolutional operation, and dilated convolutional operation. The details of different types of convolutional operations considered in this study are as follows.

**Factorization of Large Size Filters:** In literature, there are different kind of convolutional operations which are experimented by researchers. The conventional convolutional operation with  $5 \times 5$  filters can be replaced by a stack of two convolutional layers consists of filters of size  $3 \times 3$  with stride of 1. If an input and output of a convolutional operation has  $C$  number of channels, then the operation with a filter of size  $5 \times 5 \times C$  uses a total of  $25 \cdot C^2$  weight parameters as depicted in Figure 3a. In the same manner, if an input and output of a stack of two convolutional layers with  $3 \times 3$  filters has  $C$  number of channels then the operation uses a total of  $2 \times (3^2 C^2) = 18 \cdot C^2$  weight parameters only as shown in Figure 3b. Similarly, the stack of two convolutional layers with  $3 \times 3$  filters also helps in reducing the number of multiplications. If an input has size of  $12 \times 12$  with  $C$  channels, then the feature map generated by a filter of size  $5 \times 5 \times C$  requires  $1600 \cdot C^2$  multiplications whereas a stack of two  $3 \times 3 \times C$  filters uses only  $1476 \cdot C^2$  multiplications to generate the corresponding feature map. With this, the stack of layers also introduces the non-linearity two times via activation function. Thus, factorization of filters of size  $5 \times 5$  by a stack of two convolutional layers with  $3 \times 3$  filters helps in reducing both i.e., number of parameters and number of multiplications. Similarly, convolutional operation with filters of size  $7 \times 7$  can be replaced by a stack of three convolutional layers with  $3 \times 3$  filters.

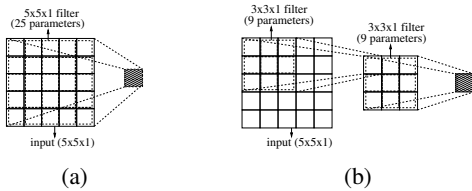


Fig. 3: A representation of convolution operation with input of size  $5 \times 5 \times 1$  by (a) 1 filter of size  $5 \times 5$  with number of channels ( $C$ ) = 1 and its equivalent operation with (b) a stack of two convolutional layers each having 1 filter of size  $3 \times 3 \times 1$ .

**Depth-wise Separable Convolutional Operations:** The depth-wise separable convolutional operation [15] can also be used instead of conventional convolutional operation. It also helps in reducing the number of multiplications as well

as number of parameters. With the help of above discussed example, the convolution of input of size  $12 \times 12 \times 3$  with 256 filters of size  $3 \times 3 \times 3$  would generate a feature map of size  $10 \times 10 \times 256$  with the help of a total of 691,200 multiplications and 6,912 weight parameters. The depth-wise separable convolutional operation splits the operation in two steps: first it performs depth-wise convolutional operation and then point-wise operation takes place. With respect to depth-wise convolutional operation, the input of size  $12 \times 12 \times 3$  convolve through 3 different filters each of size  $3 \times 3 \times 1$  with stride of 1. With the help of a total of 27 weight parameters and 2,700 multiplications, the convolutional operation produces an intermediate feature map of size  $10 \times 10 \times 3$  as shown in Figure 4a. After that, point-wise convolution operation takes place which convolve the intermediate feature map of size  $10 \times 10 \times 3$  by 256 filters of size  $1 \times 1 \times 3$  with stride of 1 and generates the feature map of size  $10 \times 10 \times 256$  as illustrated in Figure 4b. This operation uses a total of 76,800 multiplications and 768 weight parameters. In this manner, the depth-wise separable convolutional operation collectively uses a total of 795 weight parameters only in comparison of 6,912 weight parameters by the conventional convolutional operation.

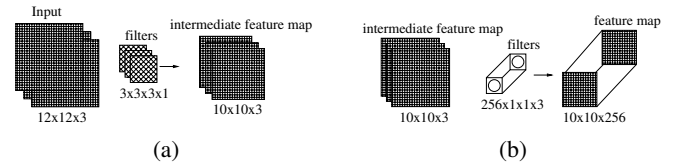


Fig. 4: (a) Depth-wise convolution, uses 3 filters of size  $3 \times 3 \times 1$  to transform an image of size  $12 \times 12 \times 3$  to feature map of size  $10 \times 10 \times 3$ , (b) Point-wise convolution with 256 filters of size  $1 \times 1 \times 3$ , resulting in an output feature map of size  $10 \times 10 \times 256$ .

**Dilated Convolutional Operations:** Besides the depth-wise separable convolutional operation, dilated convolutional operation [16] also helps in reducing the number of multiplications required for an operation. The *dilation* factor  $> 1$  helps in expanding effective size of the used filter. As a result, few number of times we need to move the filter in a sliding window manner to cover the entire input. And correspondingly a small size feature map would be generated in comparison to feature map generated with *dilation* = 1. Also, as the size of feature map decreases, the required number of multiplications also decreases. However, operations with *dilation* = 1, 2, 3 and 4 use the same the number of weight parameters as 6912.

**Bottleneck Layer: Convolutional Operation with Filters of Size  $1 \times 1$ :** Other than the above mentioned operations, the convolutional operation with filters of size  $1 \times 1$  helps in reducing the dimensionality of input feature map i.e., the depth of feature map and hence helps in reducing the total parameters of a network. This is known as the bottleneck layer.

From now onwards, we represent the conventional convolutional operation with  $3 \times 3$ ,  $5 \times 5$  and  $7 \times 7$  filters as *conv3x3*, *conv5x5*, and *conv7x7* respectively. The equivalent operation

of  $5 \times 5$  filters by a stack of two convolutional layers with  $3 \times 3$  filters is denoted as  $2\_conv3 \times 3$ . Similarly, a stack of three convolutional layers with  $3 \times 3$  filters has been represented by  $3\_conv3 \times 3$  which denotes an equivalent convolutional operation of  $7 \times 7$  filters. The depth-wise separable convolutional operation is denoted as  $depth\_sep\_conv$  which is followed by size of filters to denote the used filters size. For example  $depth\_sep\_conv3 \times 3$  denotes depth-wise separable convolutional operation with filters of size  $3 \times 3$ . Similarly, the term  $depth\_sep\_conv5 \times 5$  and  $depth\_sep\_conv7 \times 7$  represents the operation with  $5 \times 5$  and  $7 \times 7$  filters respectively. The dilated convolutional operation with *dilation* of 2 has been denoted by  $d\_conv3 \times 3$ . Some of the above discussed operations have been considered ahead in this study.

### III. SIMULATIONS

In this study, PyTorch 1.8.0 [17] was used for development of the proposed approach. All experiments were performed on Google Colab which provided K80 GPU.

The proposed study used COVID-19 Radiography Database [18], [19] to study the effect of various convolutional operations on DenseNet. It consisted of a total of 3886 images of X-ray out of which 1200 and 1345 images belonged to the class of COVID-19 and viral pneumonia respectively. The remaining 1341 images were healthy images. Thus, the problem was considered as three-class classification problem. Moreover, two-class classification problem had also been considered for differentiating i) class of COVID-19 images from viral pneumonia and ii) normal class of X-ray images from COVID-19. The dataset was divided into train and test set in the ratio of (80-20)%. Figure 5 shows sample images of the considered dataset.

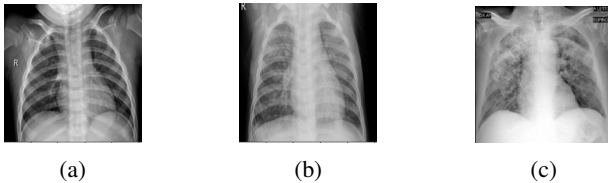


Fig. 5: COVID-19 Radiography Database: an image belonging to class of (a) normal (b) viral pneumonia and (c) COVID-19.

Extensive experiments were performed to study the effect of various convolutional operations on DenseNet with respect to COVID-19 Radiography Database. Since each layer of the dense block performed the convolutional operation through the function  $H_l$  as  $BN-ReLu-Conv1 \times 1-BN-ReLu-Conv3 \times 3$ , only last convolution operation of the composite function  $H_l$  was modified to see the effect. For example, in order to use the depth-wise separable convolutional operation with filters of size  $3 \times 3$ , the composite function  $H_l$  can be modified as  $BN-ReLu-Conv1 \times 1-BN-ReLu-depth\_Sep\_Conv3 \times 3$ , where  $depth\_Sep\_Conv3 \times 3$  denotes the depth-wise separable convolutional operation with  $3 \times 3$  filters. In this manner, different networks with various operations discussed above can be studied. Next, we discuss details of the experiments performed

to study the effect of change in the last ( $Conv3 \times 3$ ) convolution operation of the composite function for every layer in the dense block of the standard DenseNet.

A pre-defined network structure is required to study the effect of a hyper-parameter. In this study, two pre-defined networks i.e., *Net 1* and *Net 2* were considered. The details of architecture of *Net 1* are as follows: first convolutional layer of the network used filters of size  $3 \times 3$ , stride of 1 and padding of 1. Each dense block consisted of ten convolutional layers with filters of size  $3 \times 3$ , stride of 1 and padding of 1. All transition blocks used convolutional layer with filters of size  $3 \times 3$ , stride of 1, padding of 1 and average pooling layer. All convolutional layers were followed by batch normalization layer (BN) and Rectified Linear Unit (ReLU). The last layer used average pooling operation. *Net 2* used the same architecture as of *Net 1* except parameters of the convolutional layer used by transition block. In case of *Net 2*, this layer performed convolutional operation with filters of size  $3 \times 3$  with stride of 2. The training of networks was performed by ADAM algorithm with learning rate of 0.001 for 200 epochs.

Two set of experiments were performed as *Set 1* and *Set 2*. *Set 1* included the experiments which had used pre-defined structure of the *Net 1*. Similarly, the experiments which had considered pre-defined structure of the *Net 2*, were included in the *Set 2*. Table I shows the effect of the various convolutional operations on DenseNet. As it can be seen from the table that with respect to *Set 1*, the networks corresponding to conventional convolutional operation with filters of size  $7 \times 7$  i.e.,  $conv7 \times 7$  and depth-wise separable convolutional operation with  $7 \times 7$  filters (i.e.,  $depth\_sep\_conv7 \times 7$ ) had shown the highest accuracy of 97.93%. The depth-wise separable convolutional operation controls the number of parameters of a network and thus, the network with  $depth\_sep\_conv7 \times 7$  operation consisted of 2.10 times less number of weight parameters in comparison of network with  $conv7 \times 7$  operation. With respect to floating point operations (Flops), a reduction of 2.7 times was also observed in the network corresponding to  $depth\_sep\_conv7 \times 7$  operation as compared to the network with  $conv7 \times 7$  operation. Figure 6a shows the learning curve of the network corresponding to  $depth\_sep\_conv7 \times 7$  operation. For an image of class COVID-19, the class activation visualization generated by the network using the Grad-CAM approach [20] has been shown in Figure 6b. As it can be seen from the figure that the network has efficiently recognized the regions which are responsible for COVID-19.

With respect to *Set 2* the maximum accuracy of 97.67% was achieved by various networks which had used convolutional operation as  $2\_conv3 \times 3$ ,  $3\_conv3 \times 3$ ,  $conv5 \times 5$ , and  $conv7 \times 7$ . Among these networks, the network with  $conv5 \times 5$  operation used a total of 0.13 million parameters which were 1.09, 1.22, and 1.29 times less in comparison of parameters of network corresponding to  $conv7 \times 7$ ,  $2\_conv3 \times 3$ , and  $3\_conv3 \times 3$  operation respectively. Moreover, a significant reduction had also been observed in terms of Flops. As it can be seen from the Table I that the network with  $conv5 \times 5$  operation used minimum number of Flops as of 0.32G among the

TABLE I: Effect of various convolutional operations on DenseNet with respect to COVID-19 Radiography Database for three-class classification problem

Operation	Parameters	Flops (G)	Accuracy	Weighted Precision	Weighted Recall	Weighted F1-Score
<i>Set 1</i>						
<i>conv3×3</i>	152234	1.71	0.9625	0.9628	0.9625	0.9625
<i>conv5×5</i>	221463	2.94	0.9703	0.9633	0.9612	0.9613
<i>conv7×7</i>	325143	4.79	0.9793	0.9784	0.9770	0.9780
<i>depth_sep_conv3×3</i>	125703	1.26	0.9651	0.9733	0.9509	0.9510
<i>depth_sep_conv5×5</i>	221463	1.47	0.9754	0.9505	0.9702	0.9703
<i>depth_sep_conv7×7</i>	154503	1.77	0.9793	0.9772	0.9767	0.9767
<i>2_conv3×3</i>	221463	1.90	0.9741	0.9716	0.9702	0.9806
<i>3_conv3×3</i>	172503	2.08	0.9767	0.9733	0.9728	0.9727
<i>d_conv3×3</i>	152234	1.71	0.9754	0.9757	0.9754	0.9754
<i>Set 2</i>						
<i>conv3×3</i>	121274	0.27	0.9600	0.9494	0.9713	0.9601
<i>conv5×5</i>	132794	0.32	0.9767	0.9805	0.9680	0.9742
<i>conv7×7</i>	150074	0.40	0.9767	0.9730	0.9729	0.9729
<i>depth_sep_conv3×3</i>	125594	0.31	0.9600	0.9611	0.9599	0.9600
<i>depth_sep_conv5×5</i>	137114	0.36	0.9716	0.9692	0.9709	0.9698
<i>depth_sep_conv7×7</i>	154394	0.43	0.9754	0.9756	0.9754	0.9754
<i>2_conv3×3</i>	162674	0.46	0.9767	0.9806	0.9717	0.9761
<i>3_conv3×3</i>	172394	0.51	0.9767	0.9768	0.9767	0.9767
<i>d_conv3×3</i>	121274	0.27	0.9692	0.9661	0.9651	0.9652

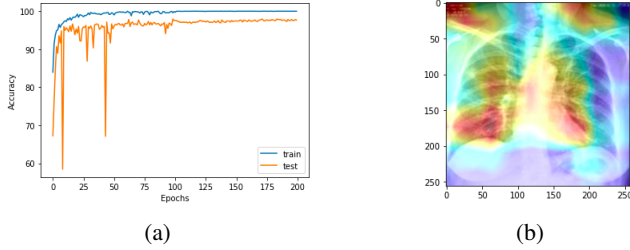


Fig. 6: Representation of (a) learning curve of network corresponding to the operation *depth\_sep\_conv7×7*; (b) class activation heatmap of the network for an image belonging to class of COVID-19 using Grad-CAM approach.

networks which had shown the highest accuracy. Based on the simulation results, it was observed that various convolutional operations highly effect the weight parameters and thus, performance and memory requirement of the network. These operations also effect the total number of Flops which further provides improvements toward the computational cost and helps in achieving economical convolutional networks. Thus, we can say that convolutional operations seem to be a crucial parameter of deep convolutional networks and an automatic scheme is required to identify the best suitable operation with respect to a given input.

The overall highest accuracy of 97.93% was achieved by the network corresponding to *depth\_sep\_conv7×7* operation which had used pre-defined structure of *Net 1*. Since the *Net 1* extracted relatively large number of features in comparison of *Net 2*, it had shown comparatively higher performance. Due to the nature of the considered dataset, performance in terms of weighted value of precision, recall, f1-score was also calculated as shown in Table I. Based on the weighted recall it was found that the network corresponding to the convolutional

operation *depth\_sep\_conv7×7* had shown the highest value as of 97.67% which implies that the network is highly sensitive for identification of infection caused by SARS-CoV-2 virus in comparison of other networks.

Since the network with *depth\_sep\_conv7×7* operation had outperformed all other networks, it was further considered for two-class classification problems. The network was highly efficient in differentiating i) class of normal images from COVID-19 and ii) class of viral pneumonia images from COVID-19 by showing 100% accuracy. Thus, based on the simulation studies we can say that the DenseNet with *depth\_sep\_conv7×7* operation has the capabilities of handling intricacies associated with X-ray images and thus, it has efficiently solved the considered two-class as well as three-class classification problem.

#### IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A comparison of the obtained results with existing approaches has been done in Table II. As it can be seen that the proposed study has performed well for both two-class and three-class classification problem. The networks mentioned in Table II have used for transfer learning approach as reported in [18]. In case of two class classification problem, an improvement of 0.30% has been observed in comparison of DenseNet-201 which has shown an accuracy of 99.70%.

In this paper, we have studied the effect of various convolutional operations on DenseNet and based on the simulation results with respect to the considered dataset it has been found that types of convolutional operations can be defined as a hyper-parameter of deep convolutional networks. It has also been observed that various convolutional operations highly effect computational cost and play a pivotal role in designing of efficient and economical convolutional networks. In future, an automatic approach can be designed to find the best suitable convolutional operation based on the nature of a given input.

TABLE II: Comparison with other existing models as reported in [18]

Network	Accuracy	Weighted Precision	Weighted Recall	Weighted F1-Score
Two Class Classification Problem: COVID19 and Normal				
SqueezeNet	0.9940	0.9940	0.9940	0.9940
MobileNetv2	0.9965	0.9965	0.9965	0.9965
ResNet18	0.9960	0.9960	0.9960	0.9960
InceptionV3	0.9940	0.9880	0.9833	0.9856
ResNet101	0.9960	0.9960	0.9960	0.9960
CheXNet	0.9969	0.9969	0.9969	0.9969
DenseNet201	0.9970	0.9970	0.9970	0.9970
<b>Proposed study</b>	<b>1.0000</b>	<b>1.0000</b>	<b>1.0000</b>	<b>1.0000</b>
Three Class Classification Problem: COVID19, Viral Pneumonia and Normal				
SqueezeNet	0.9510	0.9518	0.9510	0.9514
MobileNetv2	0.9622	0.9625	0.9622	0.9623
ResNet18	0.9644	0.9648	0.9644	0.9646
InceptionV3	0.9620	0.9700	0.9640	0.9660
CheXNet	0.9694	0.9643	0.9642	0.9642
DenseNet201	0.9794	0.9795	0.9794	0.9794
VGG19	0.9600	0.9650	0.9625	0.9638
<b>Proposed study</b>	<b>0.9793</b>	<b>0.9772</b>	<b>0.9767</b>	<b>0.9767</b>

An integration of convolutional operations with connectivity patterns among the layers of dense block can be studied to further improve design of convolutional networks.

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# Sustainable and Affordable Lower Limb Prosthetics for Health Care Systems

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**Abstract**— Every year thousands of amputees from all over the world, approach various Indian NGOs like Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti (BMVSS), Hardayal Viklang Kendra (HVK), Ratna Nidhi Charitable Trust, JYOT Charitable Trust, MUKTI India for affordable prosthetic devices. These prosthetic devices provide the amputees mobility and improved quality of life, but the manufacturing practices and the end product are not sustainable. The NGOs use traditional methods to manufacture lower limb prosthetic sockets which require expertise, are labour-intensive and produce a lot of waste. This paper aims to identify the problems with the manufacturing methods and traditionally manufactured prosthetics, thereby proposing sustainable eco-friendly healthcare solutions. We visited HVK, BMVSS and conducted a survey based on Quebec User Evaluation of Satisfaction with assistive Technology (QUEST 2.0). Based on the survey results it is observed that, although these prosthetics are affordable, provide durability with high impact resistance and tensile strength, they lack comfortability, are heavy, difficult to repair or adjust and require higher service time. To address the above limitations, we designed and tested lower limb prosthetic that is manufactured sustainably using 3D scanning and Additive manufacturing techniques which can provide quick solution to improve mobility of the amputees.

**Keywords**— Additive Manufacturing, 3D Scanning, Prosthetics, QUEST2.0

## I. INTRODUCTION

Prosthesis are the artificial devices which enables the amputee to replicate the function and/or cosmetic appearance of missing body part. Lower limb prosthesis tries to replicate the function of lower limbs of the body like Hip, Thigh, Knee, Ankle and Foot [1]. As shown in the Fig.1 the main components of the lower limb prosthesis are socket, knee joint, pylon and foot [2].



Fig. 1. Parts of Lower Limb Prosthesis

The socket is the crucial part among these parts as it forms the primary interface between the residual limb and the prosthesis. For better rehabilitation of the amputee the socket must be comfortable, stable and enable proper load transmission [3], [4]. Improper design of the socket can

cause rupture between the residual limb and the socket which leads to injuries and discomfort to the amputee [5].

Unfortunately, there is not considerable data available on the number of amputees in India. In 1981 Dr. D Mohan mentioned in his report that in India there are approximately half a million were amputees and the numbers are increasing 17000 annually [6]. According to the 2011 Census data there are 5,436,000 people with locomotor disabilities in India [7]. According to the statistics collected by National Sample Survey Office of India in 2016 it is estimated that disabled people comprises 2.2% of overall population out which 20% are suffering with movement impairment and 230,000 amputees needed prosthetic care [8]. In the latest report by World Health Organisation it is observed that approximately 10 million Indians are living with movement impairment and in overall world only 10% of the disabled people have access to assistive devices [9]. Several studies showed that access to the assistive devices is the crucial factor in improving the Quality of life (QOL) of disabled people [10]–[12].

Various Indian NGOs like Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti (BMVSS), Hardayal Viklang Kendra (HVK), Ratna Nidhi charitable trust, JYOT Charitable Trust, MUKTI India etc... provide affordable prosthetic devices to amputees with little or no cost. BMVSS is one of the oldest NGO which have multiple branches across the world. BMVSS fitted over 1.9 million amputees with limb prosthetics so far [13]. RNCT is another vastly growing NGO which provided mobility devices for 0.26 million since 2011. [14]. Even with the so many NGOs trying to make available the affordable prosthesis still large number of amputees faces problems in obtaining prosthetic devices and post fitment services. These NGOs use traditional methods to manufacture lower limb prosthetic sockets which require expertise, are labour-intensive and produce a lot of waste.

Additive manufacturing (AM) is a process in which material is added layer by layer to create a physical object by using a CAD model [15]. Similar to the disruption caused by steam powered engines, electrical machines and electronics in the first, second and third industrial revolutions AM is disrupting the traditional machining processes and it become one of the nine pillars of fourth industrial revolution (Industry 4.0) [16]. AM is continuously evolving and is projected to make deepest impact in many areas like automobiles, aerospace, medical, construction, education and so on. [17]–[19].

One of the main advantage of AM over traditional manufacturing processes is that the mechanical properties of the end product can be controlled by controlling its internal structure through infill density, Infill pattern.[20]–[22].

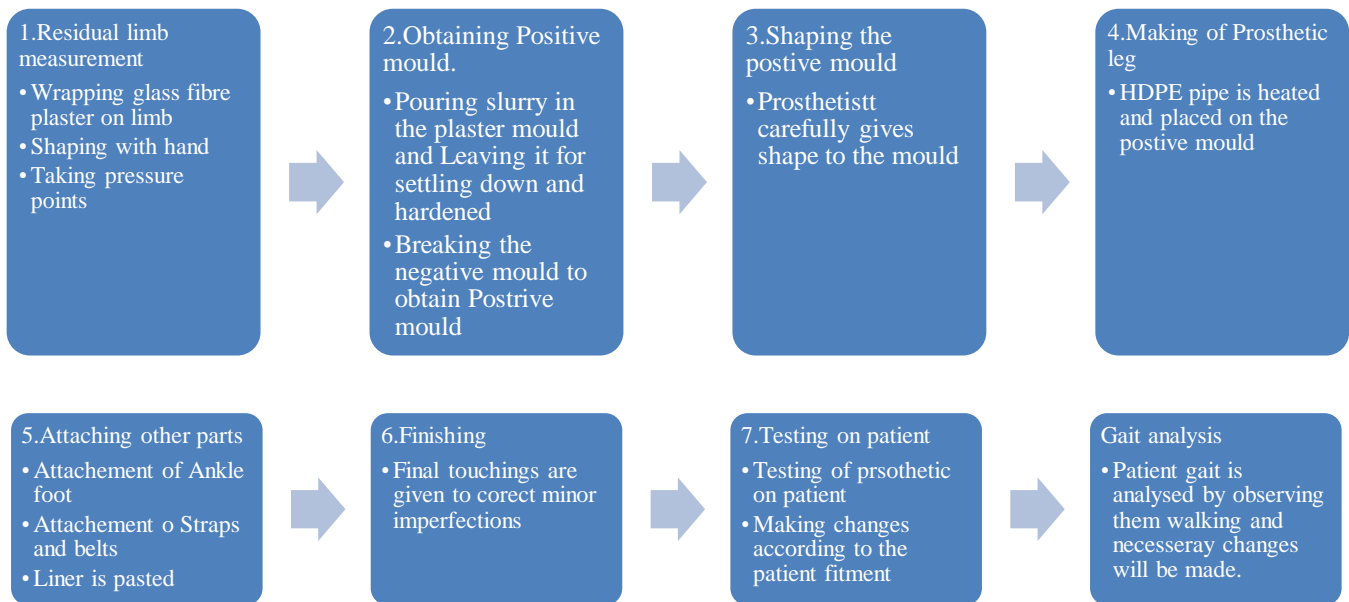


Fig. 2. Traditional manufacturing process of lower limb prosthesis

## II. TRADITIONAL MANUFACTURING METHODS

In Traditional Method, the process starts with wrapping of plaster and glass fibre on residual limb to get its shape and geometry in the form of a cast. Then the prosthetist locates pressure points and build up or remove material to make a note of the size. The plaster is removed and filled up with the slurry. After the slurry is settled, the glass fiber cast is destroyed to obtain positive mould which contains geometry of residual limb. Then high-density polyethylene (HDPE) or any other polymer tube is heated and placed over the positive mould to obtain the desired shape of the limb. Once the limb is formed the mould is removed and the prosthetic is trimmed and finished. Straps and foot ankle assembly are attached to the prosthetic formed before testing it on patient. [23].The process is shown in the Fig.2.

To understand the effectiveness and drawbacks of the traditional manufacturing method, merits and demerits of traditionally manufactured prosthesis we have conducted a survey using QUBEC QUEST 2.0 and the details are discussed in the following section.

## III. CASE STUDY AND SURVEY

We have conducted a case study to understand and analyse lower limb prosthetic manufacturing in India. To understand the current manufacturing process, we visited the HVK and BMVSS NGOs that manufacture prosthetics for amputees. We analysed their processes, discussed with the doctors and prosthetists associated with the NGO to understand the benefits and the limitations. We took an control group of 30 lower limb amputees from each NGO and used Quebec User Evaluation of Satisfaction with assistive Technology (QUEST 2.0). QUEST 2.0 analyses the amputee's satisfaction levels on 5-point scale 1 being not satisfied and 5 being fully satisfied about the prosthetic device and the services provided by the manufacturer.

As shown in the Fig 3 we have observed that the people approaching these NGOs are mainly farmers, daily wage workers and students. While discussing with these amputees we observed that most of them are unemployed because of the disability and getting a prosthetic device is

important for them to get independent and to improve their quality of life.



Fig. 3. Occupation details of the Survey Group

### A. Experience evaluation of assistive devices

The QUEST 2.0 survey uses the following 8 factors to evaluate the experience of amputee with the prosthetic device.

- The **dimensions** (size, height, length, width) of assistive device
- The **weight** of assistive device
- The **ease in adjusting** (fixing, fastening) the parts of assistive device
- The **safety and security** of assistive device
- The **durability** (endurance, resistance to wear) of assistive device
- **Ease in using** the assistive device
- **Comfort** in using the assistive device
- The **effectiveness** of the assistive device (the degree to which the device meets amputees needs)

The results of the survey about assistive device are pictographically represented in the Fig 4. We can observe

that the factors comfort and weight of the device received least average score.

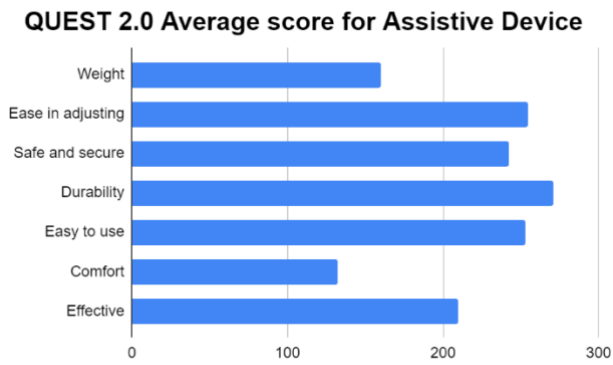


Fig. 4. QUEST 2.0 Average score for assistive device

#### B. Experince evaluation of services provided

The QUEST 2.0 survey uses the following 4 factors to evaluate the experience of amputee with the services provided by the manufacturer of the device.

- The service delivery program (procedures, length of time)
- The repairs and servicing (maintenance) provided for the assistive device
- The quality of the professional services (information, attention) received
- The follow-up services (continuing support services) received

The results of the survey about services provided are pictographically represented in the Fig 5. We can observe that the factors service delivery and repairs and servicing received least average score.

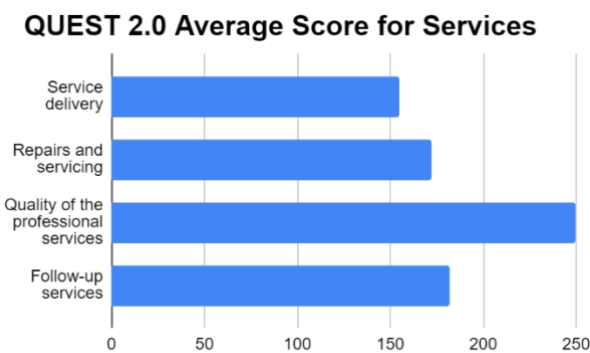


Fig. 5. QUEST 2.0 Average score for services

The reasons for the above survey results have been analysed and discussed in the following section. A sustainable process to overcome the aforesaid problems is also proposed in the next section.

#### IV. SURVEY ANALYSIS AND PROPOSALS

Following reasons are observed for receiving low average score in the comfort and weight factors during our case study.

- Traditionally manufactured lower limb prosthetics are heavy, require manual engineering to manufacture.
- Comfortless of the prosthetic is directly depend on the locating pressure tolerant and pressure sensitive areas. In traditional process because of lot manual processes involved prosthetic device needs post processing adjustments to make it comfortable.
- Any variation in the dimensions of prosthetic causes friction between the skin and the device which leads to injuries.
- Any change in the dimensions of the amputee, renders the prosthetic to be useless and requires designing of a new prosthetic.

Following reasons are observed for receiving low average score in the service delivery and repairing.

- A lot of manual processes are involved from creation of mould to the final testing phase which makes the conventional method labour intensive and increase the service delivery time
- To obtain the size of the limb, the patient's residual limb is wrapped with plaster, which may cause discomfort to them.
- The patient needs to visit the facility multiple times or to stay there for couple of days to obtain the prosthetic
- For every new prosthetic to be designed for a given patient, the whole process needs to be repeated causing discomfort to patient
- Lack of regional service centers cause higher service time and involves travelling.

Further observations about the process used are as follows.

- The glass fiber material wrapped around the residual limb and the positive mould made out the glass fibre cast can't be reused, and they create lot of waste.
- Process is dependent on well experienced technician to locate pressure points.
- The method is less precise and accurate due to involvement of multiple processes
- The prosthetic needs to be cushioned for better fitting.

Based on the above analysis we are proposing a sustainable manufacturing method for lower limb prosthetic which is efficient in terms of both production and usage.

#### V. SUSTAINABLE PROSTHEICS

In the propose approach we use 3D scanning technologies and Additive manufacturing process to manufacture lower limb prosthetics. The above technique was adopted to design and develop prosthetic for four lower limb amputees of different age groups and gender who approached Hardayl Viklang Kendra. A complete prosthetic device for one patient is developed and tested on patient to understand the limitations and advantages.



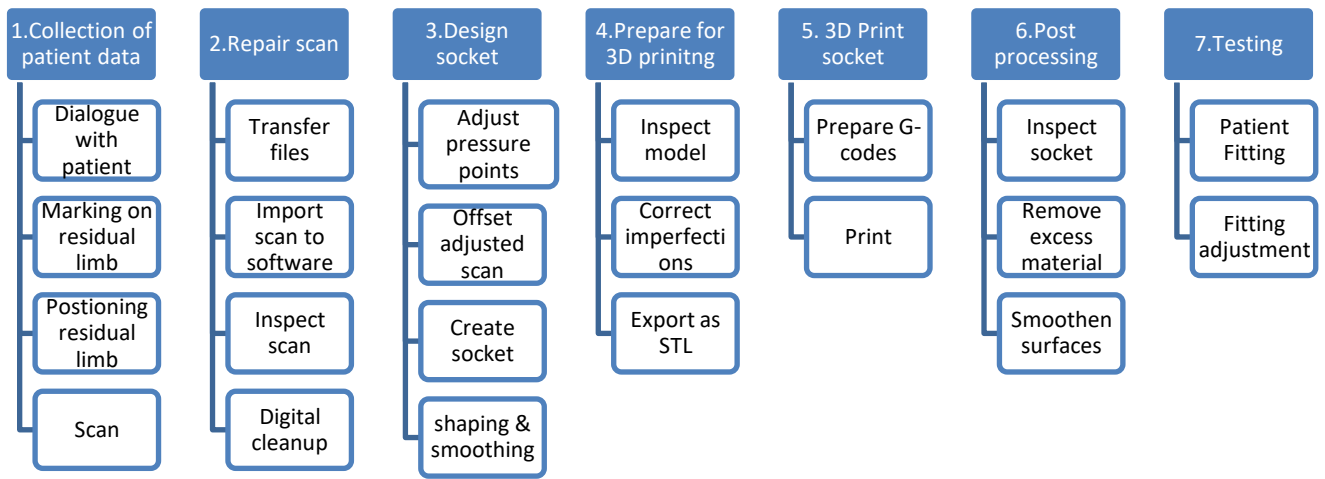


Fig. 6. Prosthetic manufacturing process using 3D scanning and Additive manufacturing

**A. Design and manufacture**

For designing customized prosthetic, we scanned the patient’s limb using a structured light 3D scanner and obtained a CAD model. The scanning process and the CAD model obtained can be seen in the Fig 7 & 8 respectively.



Fig. 9. Created Socket



Fig. 7. Scanning of Patient's Residual Limb



Fig. 8. CAD Model obtained from the 3D Scan



Fig. 10. Socket made using Additive Manufacturing

Pressure points and forces are analyzed, and socket is created which can be seen in the Fig 9.

The socket created was optimized using Finite Element Analysis and is manufactured using a Ultimaker S5 desktop Fused Filament Fabrication machine. The Additive manufactured socket can be seen in the Fig 10.

The complete step by step process is described in the Fig 6.

**B. Testing**

The printed socket was tested on the patient which can be seen in the Fig 11.



Fig. 11. Testing of Additive manufactured socket on patient

Following observation are made during the testing

- 3D scanning technique enables accurate, quicker and no contact measurement of the residual limb of the amputee compared to traditional methods.
- No need of expert prosthetist to obtain the measurement.
- Once the 3D model is obtained the process can be automated to create the socket which saves a lot time and there is no need of expert prosthetist to modify the shape of the positive mould.
- Finite element analysis can be done on 3d models to obtain accurate pressure points instead of relying on expert prosthetist.
- Once the socket is created its 3d file can be sent to the expert for final evaluation and approval.
- The weight and mechanical properties can be varied by varying infill density and pattern during additive manufacturing of the of the socket.
- Time taken to print a socket can vary between 24 hrs to 40 hrs.
- Optimization techniques like topology optimization and generative design can be explored to reduce the weight and the printing time of the socket.

## VI. CONCLUSION

3D scanning and additive manufacturing techniques enable remote measurements of residual limb and eliminate need for amputee to visit manufacturing centre. It enables automation from measurement to final socket generation thereby eliminating manual processes and need of expert prosthetists at each process. The proposed method helps in sustainably manufacturing prosthetic by reducing the waste generated to minimum. Further study is required to reduce the manufacturing time, clinical analysis is required to validate the functioning of the socket and user satisfaction over a longer period of time.

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# Low-Power and High-Frequency Optogenetic Retinal Prosthetics with ChRmine

\*Note: Sub-titles are not captured in Xplore and should not be used

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**Abstract**— Optogenetics has emerged as a promising technique in the field of retinal prostheses as new potent opsins with high light-sensitivity, red-shifted activation wavelength and large photocurrent have been discovered or engineered in the last decade. In the present study, a detailed theoretical analysis of low-power and high-frequency optogenetic excitation of retinal ganglion neurons using ChR2 and ChRmine, the newly discovered red-shifted opsin has been carried out by formulating accurate theoretical models, which are in excellent agreement with reported experimental results. Minimum pulse width required to achieve peak photocurrent in each opsin has been determined that is useful to optimize light power. The study reveals that ChRmine can evoke high-fidelity spiking upto 35 Hz, whereas ChR2 fails above 10 Hz. Also, the required power of each light pulse in ChRmine is three orders of magnitude smaller than ChR2. The present study highlights the importance of ChRmine as a potential opsin for optogenetic retinal prostheses.

**Keywords**—Neurophotonics, optogenetics, retinal prostheses, ChRmine.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Retinal degenerative diseases such as, retinitis pigmentosa and macular degeneration are often caused due to loss of light-sensitive rod and cone photoreceptors in the retina. However, the remaining retinal tissue retains functionality and connections to the brain [1, 2]. Earlier efforts have been made to directly activate the remaining retinal neurons through electrical stimulation to restore some visual perception [3, 4]. However, the use of these electrical prosthetic devices is limited due to invasiveness and low spatial resolution [1, 5, 6].

In the last decade, optogenetics has provided opportunities for a wide-range of applications in and beyond neuroscience including retinal prostheses [7-9]. In optogenetics, light-sensitive proteins are expressed transgenically in neurons to mediate light-dependent transport of ions across the membrane and to excite or inhibit neural activity by causing depolarization or hyperpolarization of the neurons, respectively [10, 11]. Since its first use to restore light responses in the blind mice by expressing Channelrhodopsin-2 (ChR2) in thalamic projecting neurons, many new opsins have been tested to enhance safety and feasibility [5, 12-16].

Recently, screening guided by crystal structure-derived knowledge of residues forming the cation-conducting ChR pore, revealed ~1000 suitable new cation-conducting ChR sequences [17]. Optimization of these sequences for mammalian expression resulted in a promising marine opsin gene, named ChRmine from *Tiarina fusus* [18]. Expression of ChRmine in cultured hippocampal neurons has been reported

to give rise to a very large inward photocurrent ~ 4 nA, with red-shifted excitable wavelength. Along with high light sensitivity, recovery from de-sensitization of ChRmine in darkness is reported to be an order of magnitude faster than for other red-shifted opsins [18].

Computational modeling of optogenetic systems has greatly contributed to not only develop a better understanding of the reaction dynamics for photocurrent generation in the opsin molecule, but also spiking in opsin-expressing neurons [19-24]. To the best of our knowledge, there is no mathematical model reported to date to study optogenetically evoked spiking in retinal neurons, a primary step to design ideal optogenetic prosthetic devices and circuits. It is extremely important to develop a theoretical framework of the biophysical mechanism of optogenetic excitation of already tested opsin, namely, ChR2 and also newly discovered potential opsin *i.e.* ChRmine.

The objective of this paper is to (i) formulate accurate theoretical models of the photocurrent in ChR2 and ChRmine, (ii) study the effect of photostimulation parameters that include irradiance, pulse width, and pulse frequency, (iii) develop integrated neuron circuit models to accurately simulate optogenetic excitation in these opsin-expressing retinal ganglion neurons, and (v) compare and determine optimized photostimulation conditions for optogenetic retinal prostheses.

## II. THEORETICAL MODEL

In presence of light, all the microbial opsins, used in optogenetics, isomerize from *all-trans* to *13-cis* conformation and initiate a series of photocycle intermediates [25-28]. Some of these intermediates are involved in transporting ions across the neuron membrane, and thus lead to change in membrane potential [29, 30].

### A. Model for Opsin Photocurrent

The photocurrent through these opsin channels ( $I_{opsin}$ ) can be expressed as,

$$I_{opsin} = g_{opsin}(V - E_{opsin}) \quad (1)$$

where,  $opsin \equiv$  ChR2/ChRmine,  $V$  is the membrane potential and,  $g_{opsin}$  and  $E_{opsin}$  are the conductance and reversal potential of each opsin [22, 23]. In general,  $g_{opsin}$  depends on time ( $t$ ), photon flux per unit area is the time ( $\phi$ ), wavelength ( $\lambda$ ), local concentration of specific ions across the membrane ( $M$ ), and temperature ( $T$ ) [22, 23]. We consider the conductance to be defined as,  $g_i = g_{oi} f(\phi, \lambda, t)$ , where,

$g_{oi}$  accounts for both the maximum conductance of single-channel and expression density and  $f(\phi, \lambda, t)$  is a normalized light-dependent function.

The biphasic decay of photocurrent in both ChR2 and ChRmine indicates that their photocycles have two conducting states with different lifetimes [12, 18]. A 4-state model consisting of two closed non-conducting and two open conducting states has been considered to model their photocurrent [21]. The photothermal transitions among these states can be described by a set of rate equations, as reported in our previous studies [21, 23]. The model parameters have been determined from reported experiments [12, 18].

### B. Model for Optogenetic Excitation in ChR2/ChRmine-expressing Retinal Ganglion Neurons

Light-evoked voltage responses of opsin-expressing neurons can be theoretically studied by integrating the photocurrent kinetics of opsin channels with biophysical circuit model of neurons [21]. The Fohlmeister and Miller circuit model has been used to simulate voltage response of retinal ganglion neurons [31]. The rate of change in membrane voltage with time in presence of opsin-mediated photocurrent can be expressed as,

$$C_m \dot{V} = -(I_{Na} + I_K + I_{KA} + I_{Ca} + I_{KCa} + I_L) + I_{Opsin} \quad (2)$$

The gating functions and parameters of the neuron model have been reported in literature [31, 32].

## III. RESULTS

The photoresponse of ChR2 and ChRmine have been studied through numerical simulations using Eq. 1. The formulated model of optogenetic control with ChR2 and ChRmine has been validated by comparing reported experimental results.

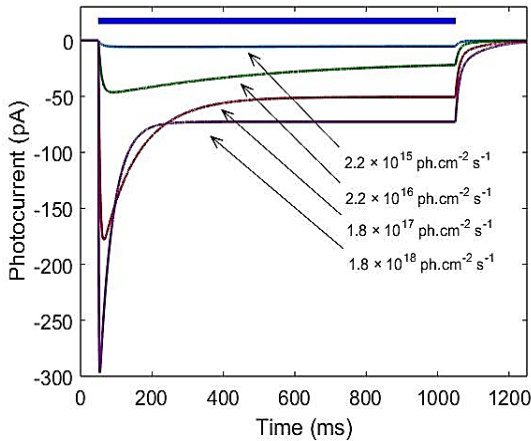


Fig. 1 Theoretically simulated photocurrent in ChR2 under 1 s light pulse at indicated photon flux at 460 nm.

The photocurrents in ChR2 and ChRmine have been shown in Figs. 1 and 2. The variation is in excellent agreement with the reported experimental results [12, 18]. It is evident from Figs. 1 and 2 that the photocurrent in ChRmine is much larger than ChR2, even at very low light-intensities.

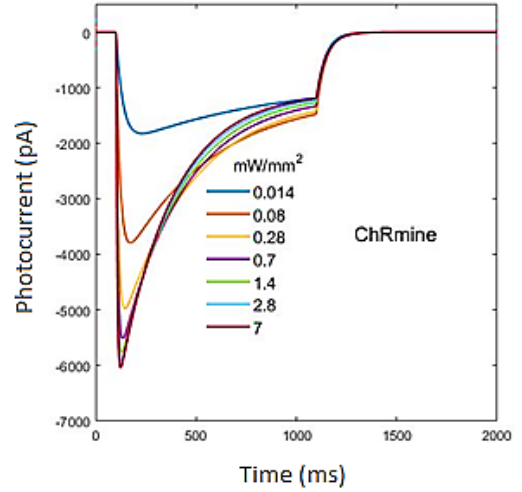


Fig. 2 Theoretically simulated photocurrent in ChRmine under 1 s light pulse at indicated light intensities at 585 nm.

To optimize light power, minimum pulse width required to achieve peak photocurrent *i.e.* saturating pulse width (SPW) has been determined (Fig. 3). The study reveals that at higher irradiance, ChRmine requires smaller pulse widths, an order of magnitude smaller in comparison to ChR2.

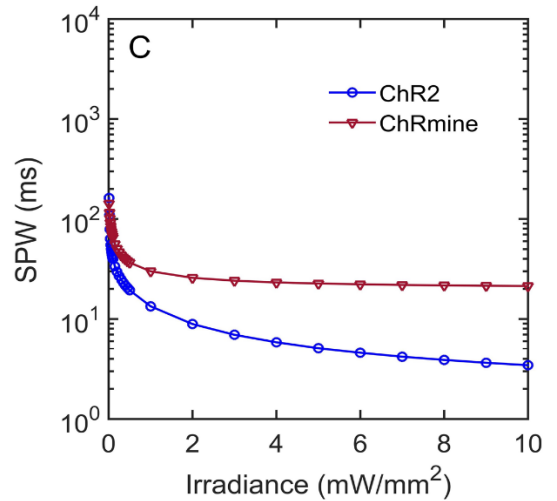


Fig. 3. Theoretically simulated variation of minimum pulse width required to achieve peak photocurrent (SPW) with irradiance in ChR2 and ChRmine at 460 nm and 590 nm wavelengths, respectively.

Optogenetically evoked spiking in each opsin-expressing retinal neurons has been studied through numerical simulations using Eqs. 1 and 2. The variation of number of spikes in ChR2-expressing retinal ganglion neurons with light intensity has been shown in Fig. 4. The variation is in excellent agreement with reported results [12].

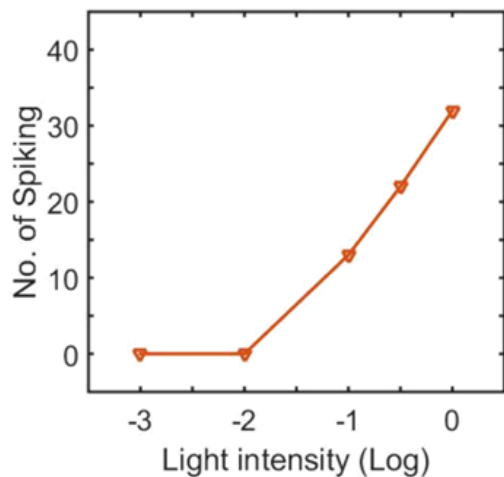


Fig. 4. Theoretically simulated variation of number of spikes in ChR2-expressing retinal neurons under 1 s light illumination at indicated photon fluxes, where  $\log I = 0$  is  $3.6 \times 10^{17}$  ph.  $\text{cm}^{-2} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$  at 460 nm.

The photostimulation parameters have been optimized to get high-frequency control. The analysis shows that ChRmine can evoke spiking upto 35 Hz with 100% fidelity, while ChR2 fails above 10 Hz. Also, the required light power of each light pulse in ChRmine is three orders of magnitude lower in comparison to ChR2 (Fig. 5). The use of red-shifted wavelength with ChRmine further enhances its utility over blue light with ChR2.

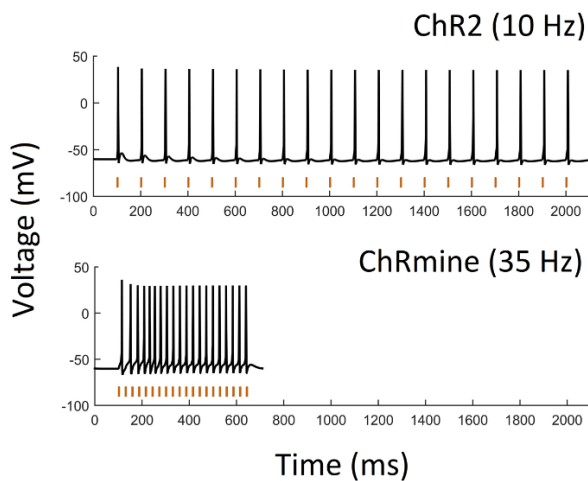


Fig. 5 High-frequency optogenetic control with high fidelity in ChR2 and ChRmine-expressing retinal ganglion neurons under 20 stimulation each of 2.5 ms at  $5 \text{ mW/mm}^2$  (460 nm) for ChR2 and 0.95 ms at  $0.013 \text{ mW/mm}^2$  (590 nm).

#### IV. DISCUSSION

The proposed theoretical models are not only able to accurately simulate reported experimental results, but also provide important insights that enable the determination of optimized conditions for low-power and high-frequency optogenetic excitation in retinal ganglion neurons. The analysis reveals that ChRmine significantly improves the intensity range for excitation along with temporal resolution at higher frequencies. In the present study, determination of SPW in both ChR2 and ChRmine is important to optimize light power [Fig. 3].

To probe phenomena related to precise spike timing and high-frequency neural events, various new opsins with faster turn-off kinetics have provided temporal precision upto sub-milliseconds [33, 34]. The high-frequency limit of ChRmine-expressing retinal neurons (35 Hz) is much larger than ChR2 (Fig. 5).

A major drawback of electrical prosthetic stimulation to restore visual activity is that it cannot selectively activate the ON/OFF visual pathways, and thus results in ambiguous encoding of visual information [35, 36]. In optogenetics, bidirectional control *i.e.* depolarization and hyperpolarization, both can be achieved by co-expressing excitatory and inhibitory opsins in a single neuron and subsequently, by just changing the wavelength of illumination light [21, 37]. In a recent study, various possible opsin-pairs have been analysed based on spectral compatibility, light-sensitivity, photocurrent amplitude and kinetics, and suitability for different applications [21]. In combination with blue-light activated anion channel namely GtACR2, the presently studied red-shifted excitatory opsin ChRmine can restore retinal ON/OFF pathway at much lower intensities.

In the present study, we have considered a 4-state model to describe photocurrent in various opsins. Although a six-state model for ChR2 has also been reported by considering transitions involved in retinal isomerization, it does not influence results under pulses longer than  $\sim \text{ms}$  [38, 39]. Also, the reported experimental results with ChRmine are inadequate to formulate such models with more number of states [18]. The proposed theoretical models of photocurrent in ChRmine can also be integrated with the circuit models of other cell types to quickly predict their behavior through simulations. Such comparative studies are useful not only for finding new opsins and interpreting complex experimental results but also to design optogenetic neuroprosthetic devices and circuits, especially for retinal prostheses.

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# Prakash Care Network: An Emerging System of Sustainable Primary Eye Care

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**Project Prakash has, over the past 15 years, pioneered a model for merging societal service with scientific discovery. Now, with the establishment of Prakash Vision Centers (PVCs), the project is attempting to develop a sustainable eye-care network that can cater to the most remote and impoverished sections of the country. The PVCs perform routine eye check-ups, increase public awareness about good eye care practices, encourage community participation and gender equity, and create job opportunities in their areas of operation. By generating their own revenue, the PVCs are also intended to achieve financial sustainability. Several such PVCs when meshed together with secondary medical centers into a ‘Prakash Care Network’ would not only serve to make quality primary eye care services accessible and affordable for the underserved and underprivileged populations but would also help in reducing the occurrence of blindness and other visual impairments in the country.**

***Index Terms - Sustainable Health Systems, Eye Care, Project Prakash, Community Eye Care***

## I. INTRODUCTION

Globally, an estimated 285 million people have visual impairment or blindness. According to WHO’s most recent estimate, 80% of all causes of visual impairment are preventable or curable [1]. The burden of eye pathologies and blindness is greater in low- and middle-income countries, and higher among women, the elderly, and disadvantaged rural communities [2]. Project Prakash [3], [4] has been working since 2005 at the very grassroots of India, in hundreds of villages, connecting them to the most sophisticated treatment available and building awareness regarding treatable and preventable blindness. Project Prakash provides sight treatment free of cost to children who are too poor to afford it or are not aware that their condition can be corrected. Simple outpatient procedures are provided by satellite clinics. Surgical treatments are conducted at Dr. Shroff’s Charity Eye Hospital in Delhi, ensuring the highest standards of care. In providing treatment to congenitally blind children, the Project gains a unique vantage point for understanding brain function, which in turn helps improve treatments. It is truly a virtuous circle, which has the potential to transform the lives of millions of children the world over and advance the frontiers of human knowledge.

India is home to over 20 percent of the world’s blind population. However, progress towards reducing the prevalence of blindness in India has been deficient. This has been due to several factors such as an increase in aging population, rapid population growth, and limited

access to medical facilities for much of the citizenry [2]. Most health services in the country are still urban-centric and remain beyond the reach of a large section of population that resides in remote rural areas. According to the National Blindness & Visual Impairment Survey 2015-19, the prevalence of blindness among the rural population aged  $\geq 50$  years was 2.14% in comparison to 1.8% for the urban population [8]. Prevalence of blindness in population aged  $\geq 50$  years was much higher among those without any schooling (3.23%) relative to those who had studied to grade 10 (0.43%) [8]. Although a basic health care and eye care network exists in the country to cater to the rural sections, in the form of primary and community health centers, its implementation has been inadequate to meet the needs of the population it is designed to serve. Reasons include difficulty in staffing such centers, poor awareness of the need for health check-ups in the population and lack of a sustainable operation model.

The extensive rural outreach we have undertaken over several years, as part of Project Prakash, has helped us understand the pressing eye-care needs of rural communities, and potential ways to address them. The most direct approach to tackling this problem is to create small facilities that can accurately test people’s sight, provide immediate care for conditions like refractive errors, and refer those needing more extensive medical attention to secondary clinics. With this motivation, we envisioned the creation of ‘Prakash Vision Centers’

(PVCs) that would serve as the first points of assessment, treatment (when possible) and referral (when necessary) embedded in the community. The provision of these services while being situated in the communities presents opportunities from many perspectives, including facilitating basic neuroscience research, providing data for epidemiological analyses, livelihood generation and, of course, public health improvement.

A vision center by definition is a permanent eye care facility in the community which acts as the first point of interface of the population with comprehensive eye care services provided by skilled eye care workers [5]. A vision center has several attributes: (i) It acts as the base of the eye care service pyramid, (ii) It is expected to serve and be accessible to a population of roughly 50,000 people (serving around 10-50 villages), (iii) It is usually networked with a secondary eye care institution that takes care of referrals, (iv) It is designed to achieve financial sustainability within 2-3 years of establishment, (v) It is run and managed by trained eye care technicians, (vi) It is linked to Non-Government Organizations and primary health care workers in the area, to increase coverage and clientele, and (vii) It utilizes local resources and promotes community participation and ownership [5]. Some of the essential functions that a vision center is expected to perform include; identification and treatment/referral of eye problems, refraction services, increasing awareness of local population on different eye conditions and the means of prevention or early detection, referral follow up, post-operative follow up, augment skills of village volunteers and provide health services to schools [5].

The following section describes the efforts undertaken by Project Prakash to establish two pilot Prakash Vision Centers, as a first step towards a larger country-wide eye care network, that we propose to develop in the coming years.

## II. REDEFINING EYE CARE THROUGH PRAKASH VISION CENTERS

In 2018, Project Prakash in collaboration with our medical partners Dr Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital (SCEH), Delhi conducted several eye-screening camps in the rural and semi urban areas of Gorakhpur district of Uttar Pradesh, India. The findings of these screening camps revealed that a significant proportion of the rural population suffers from untreated ocular conditions. It was found that apart from high prevalence of cataract, there was high prevalence of undetected Refractive Errors (RE) among the general population. Even though these eye conditions can be easily corrected with surgical intervention or with the use spectacles, due to lack of any eye hospitals or clinics or even basic spectacle shops in the near vicinity, people had to travel 40-50 Kms to

Gorakhpur city to seek medical treatment. The travel-time needed to reach Gorakhpur was impractical for the population there, who are primarily daily wage earners. Undertaking such a trip would amount to the loss of a full day's salary. As a consequence, a large section of the population does not access any eye care services, and as a result, continues to suffer from poor vision and its attendant adverse impacts on quality of life.

To address these eye care needs, Project Prakash Charitable Trust (PPCT), a non-profit charitable organization, initiated a project named *Multidisciplinary Approach to Innovative Social Enterprises* in April 2019. The goal of the project was to establish two pilot vision centers in the most underserved parts of the district evaluated. We hoped to learn what kinds of challenges are encountered in the process of setting up and running a PVC, and use this knowledge to develop a strategy for scaling up to establish many such PVCs.

The Project was implemented in two phases. The first phase included carrying out a *rapid assessment* or *stakeholders' evaluation* to prepare a business plan. During the rapid assessment, the team conducted several meetings, interviews and focused group discussions with all the stakeholders including the beneficiaries, institutions, health professionals in the area and others who might be impacted by the project. Several challenges were faced during this phase. For example, difficulty in reaching out to the stakeholders, hesitation amongst the participants to frankly discuss their needs, pre-conceived notions of the respondents, and their attitude towards NGOs, collecting demographic and medical data about the blocks, and finding suitable sites for the PVCs. The team overcame these challenges by building a good rapport with the community leaders, respondents and village panchayat members. The team also sought help from the local health providers and the district health department for collecting secondary data/information and guidance towards the selection of areas for the establishment of PVCs.

On the basis of these data, in the second phase, two blocks of Gorakhpur - Brahmapur and Pali were identified and two Prakash Vision Centers were established, one in each block. The two PVCs since then are serving the community needs by providing various patient care services such as measurement of refraction, prescription of spectacles, measurement of intra-ocular pressure, measurement of blood-sugar values, patient referrals and general health counseling. The PVCs have also been conducting community eye camps, eye screening camps at schools, door to door eye screening and surveys, and other network building activities.

## III. IMPACT OF PRAKASH VISION CENTERS



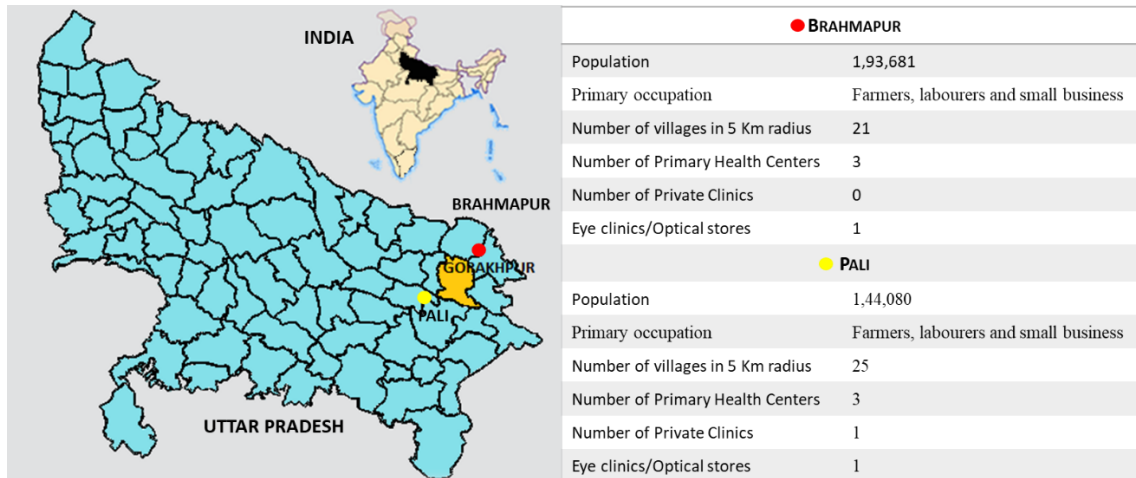


Fig. 1. Demographics of Brahmapur and Pali, the two blocks of Gorakhpur district in Uttar Pradesh, India where the Prakash Vision Centers have been established.

Since their inception, the PVCs have screened over 2500 patients and have made significant impact in the community particularly in the following aspects:

*A. Early identification of cases with avoidable blindness*

The PVCs have been engaged in screening walk-in patients at the vision centers, during community and school screening camps and house-hold surveys. Out of the over 2500 patients screened, approximately 30% were identified with refractive error (RE) and around 10% were diagnosed with cataracts. The patients who were in need of further examination or surgical treatment were referred to a secondary eye care hospital. The patients who were diagnosed with refractive errors were provided spectacles at affordable prices. Thus, early identification of patients with avoidable blindness or those needing surgical treatment has been a significant move towards reducing the prevalence of blindness in the district.

*B. Delivery of high quality and affordable eye care services*

Both of the Prakash Vision Centres are well-equipped with all the modern ophthalmic equipment and the Optometrists have undergone rigorous training at a leading eye hospital - SCEH. The PVCs have also been provided with computerized systems to collect and maintain patients' data in secure digital form. All these services at the PVCs are available at a very nominal price. Patients are only charged Rs. 30 for consultation, Rs. 30 for testing blood pressure and blood sugar and the cost of spectacle ranges between Rs. 200 to Rs. 250. These prices are further reduced if a beneficiary is needy and is not able to pay the full

cost. Thus, the PVCs have been providing quality eye care to the community people at very affordable prices.

*C. Addressing the unmet needs of the underserved and underprivileged population*

The locations for the PVCs were decided based on the findings of the rapid assessment carried out by PPCT at Brahmapur and Pali. Both these places lacked significant eye-care facilities, see Fig.1. Thus, a large section of population with unmet eye care needs is being addressed by the PVCs.

*D. Gender equity*

The PVCs are also playing a significant role in serving women. Since the PVCs have been established within the community, they are easily accessible to the community women. The time taken to visit the PVCs does not affect their daily routine. Another factor which promotes gender equity is the staff at PVCs. The PVC staff is recruited locally and is known to and belongs to the same community. As a result, women are able to trust the PVC staff and feel secure.

*E. Increasing awareness and promoting good eye health practices*

PVC teams have been generating awareness among community people and motivating them to follow good eye health practices. They have been actively conducting awareness sessions to educate people on various eye health issues and their prevention and possible treatment.

*F. Encouraging community participation*

The PVC teams hold meetings with stakeholders which mainly include community leaders, gram panchayat

members, ASHA, AWW and share with them the activities and strategies of the PVCs, thereby encouraging them to become an integral part of the PVC functioning.

#### *G. Improving health seeking behaviour*

PVCs as primary eye care units located in the community have also brought about positive changes in the health seeking behaviour of the community people. Proactive awareness building and word-of-mouth have contributed strongly to an increase in people's willingness to access healthcare options.

#### *H. Creating livelihood*

All the staff at the PVCs has been recruited locally and then trained. Thus, PVCs have played a significant role in generating jobs and creating livelihood in their operating zones.

### **IV. EFFORTS TOWARDS ENSURING SUSTAINABILITY OF PVCs**

Logical and efficient use of resources, care for patients and adaptability are some of the most critical components that make a healthcare system sustainable [7]. Apart from these, the number of people visiting the facility to seek medical aid is an important factor in ensuring sustainability [2]. For ensuring that the PVCs become financially self-sustaining within the next 2-3 years, several efforts are being undertaken. The first is to establish confidence in the quality of services provided so as to encourage people to access the offerings without fear of negative outcomes. Highly trained staff and state-of-the-art ophthalmic equipment are provided at very reasonable charges. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) have been developed for patient examination and carrying out outreach activities.



*Fig. 2. An optometrist at the PVC testing a patient during the Covid – 19 pandemic.*

These SOPs not only provide information on patient care, personal and environmental hygiene (especially required during the ongoing pandemic) but also guide the PVC teams on rational use of resources. Apart from this, training and capacity building sessions are being conducted for PVC staff on a regular basis to help them make logical and efficient use of the available resources. Community awareness sessions, eye screening camps at schools and door-door services are some of the other ways through which PVCs are reaching out to the community. These activities will help in generating awareness about, and building trust in, the PVCs that will in turn help in increasing the patient count. If more patients visit the PVCs for availing services, the revenue generated (through registration fees, blood pressure and blood sugar testing charges and sale of spectacles) would increase. By ensuring a steady inflow of 15-20 patients per day and a steady sale of spectacles, financial sustainability can be achieved in 2-3 years.

### **V. PRAKASH CARE NETWORK**

The PVCs are a small but significant step towards our ambitious vision of a 'Prakash Care Network', which will have a constellation of PVCs connected with secondary and tertiary health centers. The PVCs will provide basic eye care and also refer patients needing more extensive care to secondary health centers. The secondary health centers would comprise governmental and private medical facilities that would conduct thorough tests to arrive at a reliable diagnosis of the nature of the eye condition, and provide treatment for several of them in-house. Patients needing medical interventions beyond the capabilities of the secondary facilities will be referred to the tertiary medical center, which together with a cutting-edge research facility and an educational program, will constitute the 'Prakash Hub'. Apart from being the site for specialized medical care, and advanced scientific and educational research the 'Prakash Hub' will be the coordinating center for all of the other Prakash facilities and operations. Research results from the Hub will be shared with the broader scientific and policy-making community, and also disseminated to the secondary facilities to improve their treatment protocols and enhance their clinical capabilities. Together, these facilities will constitute the 'Prakash Care Network', providing all levels of medical care in a geographically distributed manner. 'Prakash Care Network' will link several existing hospitals across the country into a distributed, highly scalable, mesh of care. Being part of the Prakash Network would entitle an entity to benefit from the medical expertise of all of the network partners, refer patients with challenging conditions to sites that are best equipped to treat them, and be able to attract additional financial and human resources by virtue of their participation in an internationally recognized

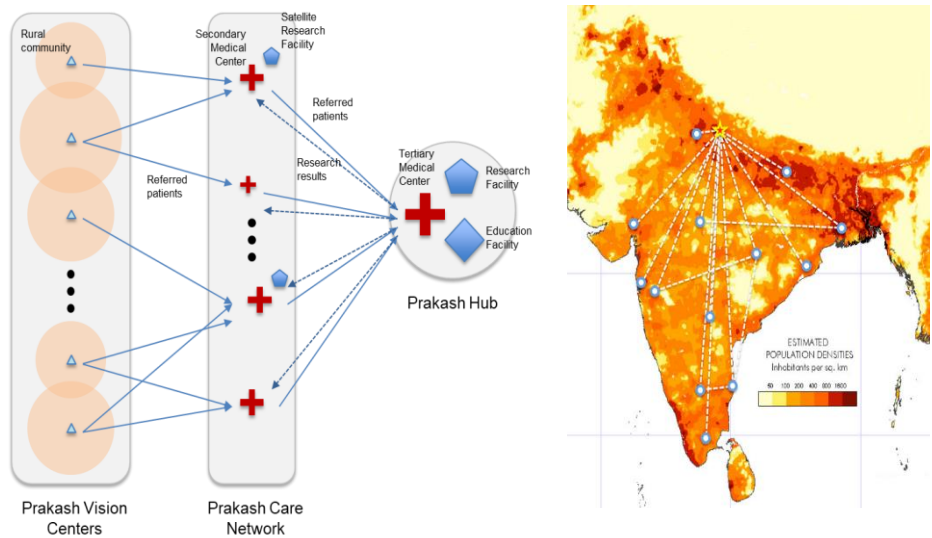


Fig. 3. Layout of the Prakash Care Network comprising of PVCs as first level entities connecting to secondary medical centers for referrals and tertiary medical center or 'Prakash Hub' for very advanced treatment and research. The vision is to have a Prakash Hub situated in the Indo-Gangetic plains, that would be connected to several other leading eye care centers all over the country.

project. There is already evidence that membership in the Prakash Network will be highly coveted. Several Indian and international hospitals have conveyed statements of interest. The 'Prakash Care Network' is intended to be financially self-sustaining. The PVCs will have financial sustainability through their own revenue generated through collection of registration fees, medical test charges and through the sale of spectacles. At the secondary centers, medical treatment will follow a revenue-sharing model where treatment fees from people who can afford them will be used for subsidizing treatments for the underprivileged. Through national, international and government collaborations and funding, Project Prakash envisions sustaining other aspects like research, education and rehabilitation of patients. The 'Prakash Care Network' will create job opportunities and will bring together professionals from diverse backgrounds, striving to achieve a common goal, thus creating an enriching and exciting working environment.



Fig. 4. Vision of a Prakash Hub that will host all facilities for Treatment of visual impairments, Research on learning and plasticity in the brain, Rehabilitation and Education of Prakash patients.

Further efforts will be made to create special roles and job positions for patients who receive treatment and education at Project Prakash thus creating an inclusive task force.

The large number of visually impaired people in India who need treatment, as well as the geographical vastness of their spread makes it imperative that the magnitude and distribution of our response be commensurately large. We are hopeful that our sustained efforts in this direction and our long-standing experience in rural outreach, medical care, scientific/clinical/educational research would help us in realizing this dream project.

## VI. CONCLUSIONS

Prakash Vision Centers (PVCs) have begun to play a significant role as primary eye care units by serving the unmet needs of the underserved and underprivileged communities in the rural and semi-urban areas of Brahmapur and Pali blocks of Gorakhpur district, UP. It is expected that in the coming couple of years, the PVCs will become sustainable to be able to serve the needs of the local population in a sustained manner over the long term. The expansion of PVCs under 'Prakash Care Network' aimed at addressing the unmet needs of rural and underprivileged population would be a significant step towards strengthening primary eye-care which will further help in achieving Universal Eye Health Coverage (UEHC)[1].

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# A Prototype of Recommender System for Cardiovascular Disorders using Electrocardiogram signals.

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**Abstract**— A Prototype of recommendation system has been proposed in this paper by using DWT of Electrocardiogram signal and soft computing techniques to predict the different Cardiovascular System problems. The input for our system is Electrocardiogram signal. An intelligent recommendation system will be simulated and developed, which uses an innovative algorithm to provide recommendations to Cardiovascular System problems. Depending on each patient's Electrocardiogram signal, the recommendation system provides the patient with personalized help as type of disease and corresponding recommendations. The system can assist medical personnel in diagnosis. This prototype can improve the efficiency and reduce the cost of healthcare in cardiac-health of heart patients.

**Keywords**—Intelligent Recommendation system Cardiovascular System failure.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Electrocardiogram (ECG) is the electrical signal of the Cardiovascular System received from electrodes placed on skin around the Cardiovascular System. During a heartbeat there is variation of depolarization state, beginning with pacemaker cells in the sino-atrial node. It expands through the atrium and passes through the atrio-ventricular node. Finally into the HIS-bundle and Purkinje-fibers, expanding to the left of heart ventricles. It is called: Electrocardiogram tracing as shown in figure-1. [1]

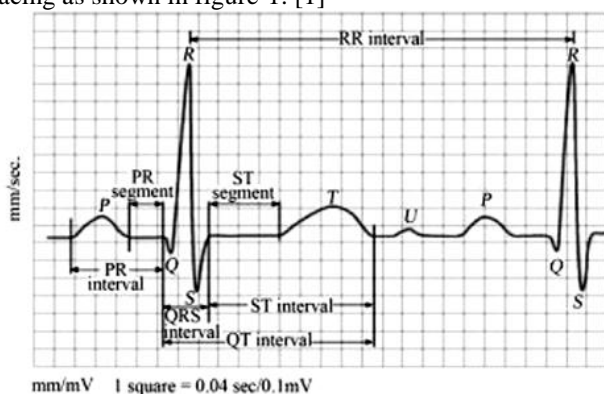


Fig.1 Electrocardiogram tracing [1]

Here a prototype of Electrocardiogram recommendation system is proposed by doing wavelet analysis as feature extraction stage and classification stage with 7 heartproblems shown in table-1.[2]

Table-1: Heart problems

Sl. No.	Heart problems with abbreviations
1	Normal Sinus Rhythm (NSR)
2	Cardiac Ischemia (CI)
3	Ventricular Tachycardia (VT)
4	Supra Ventricular Tachycardia (SVT)
5	Ventricular Fibrillation (VF)
6	Atrial Fibrillation (AF)
7	Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA)

Auto-correlation function, frequency domain features, time frequency analysis and wavelet transform are used for automatic detection of the abnormal conditions of heart are reported using Electrocardiogram signals. The major drawback of these methods is nonlinear behavior of Electrocardiogram signal dynamics. [3]

Attributes of Cardiovascular System disease are important bio-markers to detect cardiovascular diseases. Different cardiovascular System diseases are shown in table-1. [4]

Electrocardiogram waveform reflects the activity of Cardiovascular System tissues as shown in figure-2. The amplitude is less than 5 milli volt with frequency band of 0.05–100 Hz. Following are the waves in Normal Electrocardiogram: P-wave, QRS complex, T-wave and U waves. Different features of Electrocardiogram signals are mentioned in Table 2. [5]

Table-1: Different Cardiovascular System disorders for Recommender System. [4]

Heart Diseases	Indicators	Reasons	Preventive methods
Cardiovascular System Attack	Discomfort, Indigestion, Sweating, Vomiting, Irregular beats	Artery plaques attributable to calcium, fatty matter, proteins, inflammatory cells.	Narcotics (aspirin, <u>brilinta</u> , etc.) surgical procedure Angioplasty
Coronary Cardiovascular System Disease	Chest pain, Aching, Heaviness	Pulmonary embolism, <u>Cardiomyopathy</u> .	Angioplasty, Bypass surgery.
Ischemic stroke	Headache, paralysis, or Numbness.	Blocked artery hemorrhagic stroke.	Carotid endarterectomy, Angioplasty
Arrhythmia	Pracipitations, fainting, dizziness, weakness, fatigue.	Electrolyte's incorrect balance in the blood, muscle changes	Medication, Change lifestyle and surgery.
Cardiovascular System valve Disease	Swelling of the feet, ankles, or abdomen, trouble with breathing	Acquired valve disease, Congenital valve disease, Rheumatic fever	Medication, brush carefully to prevent teeth and gums infection
Enlarged Cardiovascular System - <u>Cardiomegaly</u>	Shortness of breath, weight gain, fatigue and leg swelling	Genetic and inherited conditions, infection of HIV, abnormal valve, high blood pressure.	Cardiac catheterization, Avoiding the usage of harmful alcohol substances and caffeine
Cardiovascular System Murmurs	High Blood Pressure and <u>Anemia</u>	Fever and hyperactive thyroid.	Prevention of blood clots, surgery and medicines
Cardiac Arrest	Racing heart beat, Dizziness.	Abnormal Cardiovascular System rhythms	Surgery and medication

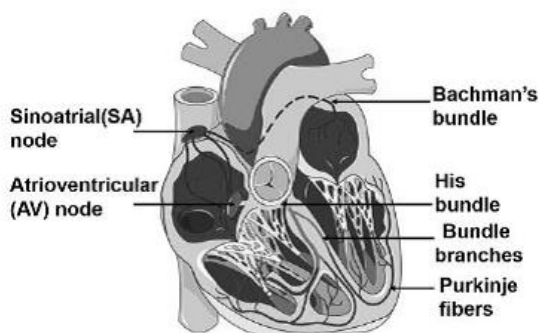


Fig.2 Cut-Section of Human Cardiovascular System. [5]

Flow chart of proposed system is shown in figure-3.

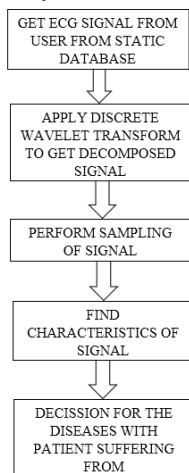


Fig.3 Block Diagram of proposed system. [7]

Table-2: ECG Wave Features for Recommender System. [5]

ECG Features	Details	Value	Timings	Heart Problems
RR interval	Time between two R peaks of QRS complex		0.6–0.12 s	Paroxysmal <u>Atrial Fibrillation</u>
P wave	<u>Atrial depolarization</u>	0.25 mV	0.08–0.11 s	<u>Atrial fibrillation</u> <u>Atrial hypertrophy</u>
P-R interval	<u>Atrial depolarization and ventricular depolarization</u>		0.12–0.2 s	Stroke
QRS complex	Ventricular depolarization	1.60 mV for R peak	0.06–0.1 s	Ventricular enlargement Acute Coronary Syndrome
ST-segment	The interval between ventricular depolarization and <u>repolarization</u>		0.05–0.155 s	Myocardial ischemia or infarction
T wave	<u>Ventricular repolarization</u>	0.1–0.8 mV	0.05–0.25 s	Myocardial infarction
U wave	The last phase of ventricular <u>repolarization</u>	NA	Unknown	Unknown
QT interval	Ventricular depolarisation and <u>repolarisation</u>		0.35–0.44 s	<u>Hypocalcemia</u> <u>ventricular arrhythmia</u>

Table-3: Electrocardiogram wave time-frequency features [6]

Class	Feature Wave	Time-Frequency Diagram
Normal		
AF		
Other Rhythm		
Noise		

Different waves in ECG plays important role in identifying various diseases as shown in table-4 and 6. [8]

Table-4: Different ECG waves

Sl.No.	ECG Wave	Corresponding
1	QRS	<u>Right bundle block</u> , <u>Dilated cardiomyopathy</u>
2	R peak	<u>Dilated cardio-myopathy</u>
3	R-R interval	<u>Arrhythmia</u> , <u>sinus tachycardia</u> , <u>sinus bradycardia</u>

In pre-processing we have to take care of various noises within frequency band [0.01-150] Hz as shown in table-5. [9]

Table-5: Various noises for ECG

Sl. No.	Noise name	Frequency band
1	Power line interference	50Hz or 60Hz
2	Baseline wandering	Bellow 0.5Hz
3	Electrodes motion artifacts	1Hz to 10Hz
4	<u>Electromyographic (EMG)</u>	25Hz to 100Hz

Different Cardiovascular System diseases for Recommender System are mentioned in Table-6 along with ECG Beats in Table-7.

Table-6: Different Cardiovascular System diseases for Recommender System. [10]

Name	Details	Possible Risks
Coronary heart disease	Disease of the vessels.	High BP, physical laziness, diabetes, age, blood coagulation disorder, smoking/tobacco use unhealthy diet etc.
Rheumatic heart disease	Injuries to heart valves and muscles.	Rheumatic fever--disease instigated by streptococcal bacteria
Congenital heart disease	Any Deformities in the heart structure from birth.	Use of alcohol by expectant mother, use of certain drugs/medicines by the expectant mother etc.
Aortic aneurysm and dissection	Dilatation and rupture of the aorta	Progressing age, congenital heart disorders, long standing high blood pressure, syphilis infectious and inflammatory disorders and Marfan syndrome.
Peripheral arterial disease	Disease of the blood vessel providing the arms and legs	Same factors that are responsible for Coronary heart disease
Deep venous thrombosis (DVT) and pulmonary embolism	Blood accumulations in the leg veins, which can displace to the heart and lungs	Obesity, cancer, previous episode of DVT, recent childbirth, use of certain drugs and hormone replacement treatment etc.
Arrhythmia	Atypical heart rhythm	Irregular heartbeats due to strong physical exercise,

Feature extraction and selection is done with the help of DWT. Attributes are described in the Table-8. Selected features were used for classification model using PCA. [11]

Table-7: Electrocardiogram Beats [12]

Beat	Details
N	A typical resulting pulse ranges from 60 to 100 BPM (Beats per Minute).
L	A postponement or blockage of electrical driving forces to left side of the heart.
R	A postponement or blockage of electrical driving forces to right side of the heart.
P	When heart rhythm is interrupted, irregular or too slow.
S	A beat that is pre-mature, narrow inn width and is different from normal patient's beat which may even lead to heart attack or heart strike. Also, called as PAC (Premature atrial contraction)
V	A beat which shows irregular heart rhythm due to premature heartbeat. It occurs due to skipped beat or stopped beat, when heart is in a fluttering condition. Also, called as PVC (Premature ventricular contraction).
F	When ventricular and supra ventricular electrical impulse coincide at the same time to produce a hybrid complex beat.

## II. STATE OF THE ART

Various methods like decision trees, naïve Bayes, neural networks, association classification and genetic algorithm are utilized for analysis of Cardiovascular System disease. Some of them show that hybrid intelligent tool have performed better in terms of accuracy. [13]

Table-8: Attributes of Cardiovascular System disease for Recommender System. [14]

X	Description	Kind	Characteristics
X 1	Age	numeric	Age >= 18.0 Age <= <80.0
X 2	Gender	numeric	Male = 0.0 Female = 1.0
X 3	Chest pain	numeric	Normal: 1.0, Soft: 2.0 Strong: 3.0, Intense: 4.0
X 4	Resting blood pressure	numeric	PA >=70.00mmhg It is measured in millimeters of mercury.
X 5	Serum cholesterol in mg / dl	numeric	CS >= 180.00 In units of mg/dl
X 6	Fasting blood sugar	numeric	GA >= 120 in units of mg/dl
X 7	Results of Electrocardiographic Rest.	numeric	Normal = 0 bad = 1 good = 2
X 8	Maximum heart rate reached	numeric	Calculated: 220- (age)
X 9	Angina induced by exercise	numeric	yes = 0.0 No = 1.0
X 10	ST depression induced by exercise relative to rest	Numeric	DST >= 0.0 entered in mm
X 11	The slope of the peak segment of the ST exercise.	Numeric	Normal: 1 Mild: 2 Altered: 3

The Cardiovascular System problems are more related with smoking and drinking addictions. [15]. Making a mobile based application would benefit masses of people to check the Cardiovascular System risks themselves. Figure-4 shows Electrocardiogram Power Spectrums plotted using PYTHON and ECG Beats Types in Figure-5. [16]

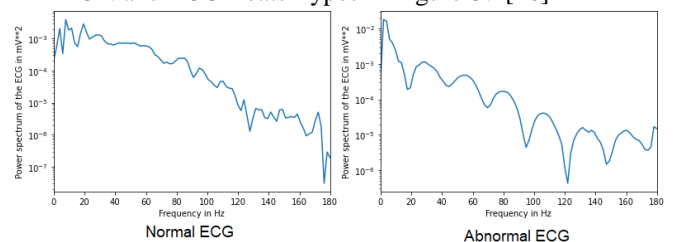


Fig.4 Electrocardiogram Power Spectrums. [17]

## III. MATERIALS AND METHODOLOGY

- A) *Dataset*- The dataset used here is MIT-BIH database, with sampling frequency of 360Hz. 4- patients of 24-35 years were volunteered for recording ECGs for 10 minutes in every recording. The proposed cardiac disorder detection system block diagram is shown in Fig. 6 [19]

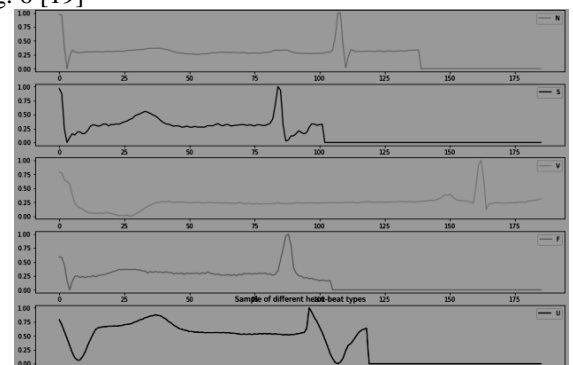


Fig.5- Electrocardiogram Beats Types

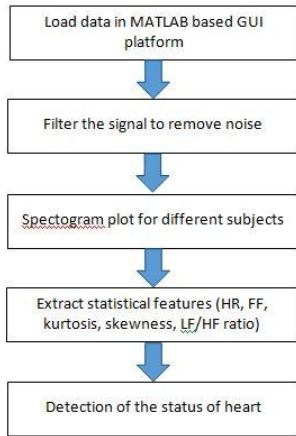


Fig.6- Flow diagram for Electrocardiogram Analysis

This prototype contains all 48 half-hour recordings. Each record have an UP-lead potential and a LOW-lead potential. Normal Cardiovascular System beats are highlighted in the UP-lead potential while the ectopic beats are highlighted in the LOW-lead potential. So two potentials are highly correlated. [20]

It is advisable to use elliptical HPF with  $\omega_C$  of 0.5 Hz for getting rid of baseline wandering from ECG. Then a  $L = 3$  wavelet with DB-2 is used for getting rid of high frequency noise of the ECG signal. Finally a Butterworth LPF with  $\omega_C$  of 40Hz is used for getting rid of power-line interference. [21] Different techniques can be used for classifying Cardiovascular disorders like wavelet transform, statistical and hidden Markov models, ANN and SVM. [22]

The paper mainly follows four steps:

- Step 1: Collecting MIT-BIH database
- Step 2: Pre-processing.
- Step 3: Feature extraction by DWT.
- Step 4: Classification. [23]

MIT-BIH Database classes as shown in table-9. [24]

Sl. No.	Class of ECG
1	Normal (N)
2	Supraventricular Premature Beat (SVPB)
3	Premature Ventricular Contraction (PVC)
4	Left Bundle Branch Block (LBBB)
5	Right Bundle Branch Block (RBBB)
6	Atrial Premature Beat (APB)
7	Aberrated Atrial Premature Beat (AAP)
8	Nodal Premature Beat (NPB)
9	Premature Atrial Contraction (PAC)
10	Atrial Escape Beat (AEB)
11	Fusion of Ventricular Beat (FVB)
12	Nodal Escape Beat (NEB)
13	Ventricular Escape Beat (VEB)
14	Fusion of Paced Beat (FPB)
15	Paced Beat (PB)

A signal has many frequency bands at different resolution, which are divided into 2 sets, called coarse approximation and detailed information in DWT. [26]

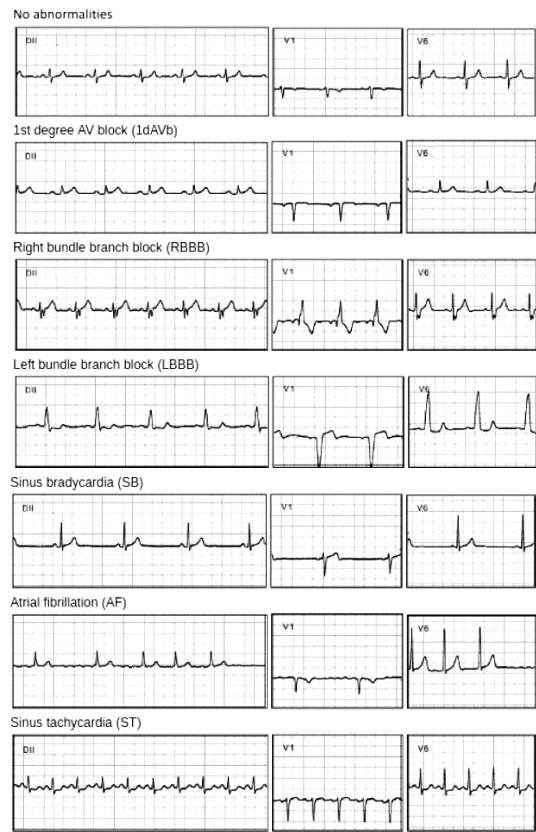


Figure 7: Electrocardiogram Abnormalities [25]

The detailed steps in this paper are as shown in figure-8.

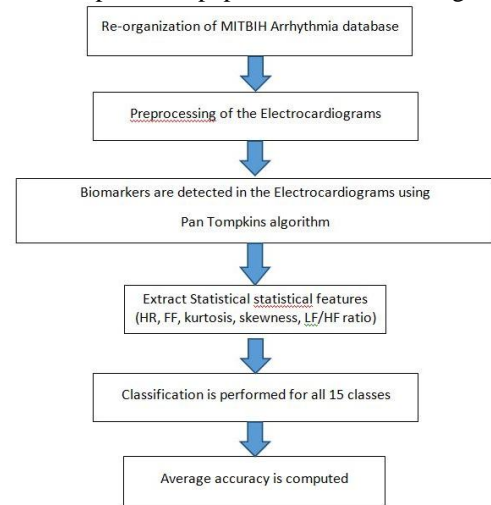


Figure 8: Detailed steps. [27]

#### A) RR span Features

Important features to define the Cardiovascular System beat, are as shown in table-10 below: [20]

Table-10: Important features to define the Cardiovascular System beat

Sl. No.	Important features	Significance
1	Previous RR interval	Interval between the given beat and the previous beat
2	Post RR interval	Interval between the given beat and the following beat.
3	Local RR interval	Average of ten RR intervals around the given beat
4	Average RR interval.	Averaging the RR intervals in 5-min interval



### B) Electrocardiogram Classification

The SVM is supervised learning model, which minimizes a misclassification. SVM divides input data into 2 classes by the decision hyper-plane:  $d(x)$ .  $X$  determines whether  $d(x) > 0$  or  $d(x) < 0$ . With the help of kernel function, we can convert 3D vectors to 2D vectors and SVM optimize the  $d(x)$ . [28]

### C) Multiclass SVM

Multiclass SVM applies One Against One method, also known as “pair-wise coupling”, “all pairs” or “round robin”, works by constructing one SVM for each pair of classes. Thus, for a problem with  $c$  classes,  $c(c-1)/2$  SVMs are trained to classify the samples of different classes by maximum voting, where each SVM votes for one class. [29]

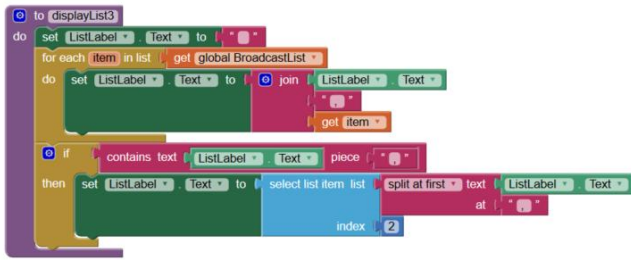


Figure8: List structure in MIT app inventor for Recommender System. [30]

## IV. CONCLUSION

A recommendation system is simulated and developed to provide suggestions to Cardiovascular System disease patients in the remote-health environment by using MIT app inventor. The system provides the patient with personalized help as type of disease and corresponding recommendations. This prototype is effective for throughput of medical staff and reduces the overall cost of cardiac-healthcare.

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# A Hybrid Evolutionary Algorithm for solving the Longest Common Subsequence Problem

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**Abstract**— For a given set of input strings, or sequences, the Longest Common Subsequence (LCS) Problem seeks the maximal length subsequence that occurs in all of the strings. The problem finds application in protein structure prediction, identifying common motifs in genes and for DNA sequence comparisons. The LCS problem is known to be NP hard for an arbitrary number of strings, but can be efficiently solved using dynamic programming for a constant number of input strings. However, as the number and size of sequences increases, the computation effort required becomes prohibitively large. This paper proposes a hybrid evolutionary algorithm (EA) that incorporates dynamic programming-based heuristic initialization and effective local search to speed up the computation for multiple sequences. The performance of the proposed hybrid EA is compared with that of a standard dynamic programming algorithm and a well-known genetic algorithm (GA) for the LCS problem on benchmark instances used widely in the literature, and shown to obtain significantly better results.

**Keywords**—Genetic Algorithm, Memetic, LCS, longest common subsequence, bioinformatics

## I. INTRODUCTION

Given a string  $S$  of length  $|S|$  drawn from an alphabet  $\Sigma$ , a subsequence of  $S$  is a sequence that obtained from  $S$  by removing zero or more elements of  $S$  without changing the order of the remaining elements in  $S$ . Consider now, a set of  $k$  such strings,  $S_1, S_2, \dots, S_k$ . The longest common subsequence of this set of strings is the subsequence of greatest length that appears in all  $k$  strings. The problem of finding the longest common subsequence of a given set of strings has many practical applications, ranging from automated paradigm detection in computational linguistics (Sorokin, 2016) to efficient merging of multiple version-controlled file collections in version control systems such as GitHub (Torvalds, 2005) and finding line-wise differences between files in the popular diff (Hunt & Szymanski, 1977) utility. Another major application of the LCS problem is for DNA sequence comparisons in biological systems (Ossman & Hussein, 2012), (Ning, Ng, & Leong, 2011). The longest common subsequence of two or more DNA strands, possibly belonging to different organisms, or even different mutant strains of the same organism, is used to quantify the degree to which the organisms/mutations are similar, or related.

The LCS problem is known to be NP-hard for an arbitrary number of strings (Maier, 1978), but it can be solved to optimality using dynamic programming in  $O(n^k)$  time when the number of strings is constant (Gusfield,

1997). Several dynamic programming approaches for the problem have been proposed in the literature, which solve the LCS problem in  $O(n^k)$  time, where 'n' is the length of the longest string and 'k' is the number of strings, c.f. (Irving & Fraser, 1992). However, dynamic programming quickly becomes computationally expensive as the value of 'k' increases.

Several heuristic approaches have been applied for the LCS problem. These include beam search-based (Blum, 2009) and large neighbourhood search heuristics (Easton, 2008), genetic algorithms (Hinkemeyer & Julstrom, 2006) and hyper-heuristic approaches (Tabataba, 2012). This paper presents a hybrid evolutionary algorithm for the LCS problem, abbreviated HyEA-LCS. The proposed algorithm seeds the initial population with good solutions obtained using a dynamic programming-based heuristic, and augments the evolutionary process with fast local search to speed up the convergence. In the course of several experiments on a standard set of test problems, the performance of the HyEA-LCS is shown to be superior to that of the best-known existing genetic algorithm for the LCS problem.

The remaining sections of this paper are organized as follows: the proposed HYEALCS algorithm is described in section II, experiments and results are presented in section III, and conclusions are made in section IV.

## II. A HYBRID EVOLUTIONARY ALGORITHM FOR THE LCS PROBLEM (HYEA-LCS)

The Hybrid Evolutionary Algorithm for the LCS Problem (HyEA-LCS) presented in this section is 1-elitist, uses binary encoding for chromosomes and applies fast variation operators in a generational framework. The main features of the algorithm are described as follows, and pseudo-code for the algorithm is provided in figure 1.

### A. Chromosome Encoding

The HyEA-LCS encodes chromosomes as binary strings. The length of a chromosome is equal to either the length of the shortest string, or, in case all strings are of equal length, the length of any arbitrary string. One may, without loss of generality, assume the latter case, i.e., that all strings  $S_i$  are of equal length, say  $L$ . Then the length of each chromosome  $ch[j]$  would also be  $L$ . The value at each index  $j$  of a chromosome is 1 if  $S_1[j]$  is in the common subsequence, and 0 otherwise. For example, consider the two short DNA strings  $S_1="GAGTC"$  and  $S_2="ATCGG"$ . In this case,  $L=5$ .

```

initialize population
store gBest
for generations=1 to EA_ITERS do:
    new_population <- NULL
    improve gBest
    if no improvement in gBest over last MAX_IMPROVE generations
        re-initialize population
    repeat
        select parents from population
        do
            Crossover or Mutation
            with equal probability
            add offsprings to new_population
        until new_population of |P| individuals is generated
    population <- |P| best solutions out of both populations
return gBest

```

Figure 2. Pseudo-code of the proposed Hybrid Evolutionary Algorithm for LCS (HyEA-LCS)

A chromosome  $ch="01010"$  represents the subsequence "AT", with the bases 'A' and 'T' occurring at indices 1 and 3 of  $S_1$  (indices are counted here starting from 0, as in C or Java arrays). The subsequence "AT" is a common subsequence (of length 2) since it occurs in both  $S_1$  and  $S_2$ .

### B. Fitness Evaluation

A reward-and-penalty scheme is used in the fitness function, wherein subsequences (chromosomes) that are longer and appear in more numbers of strings are assigned higher fitness, and subsequences that do not fit into even a single string are penalized and quickly eliminated by being assigned very low fitness scores. This fitness scheme is also used in (Hinkemeyer & Julstrom, 2006). The fitness function is shown in Fig. 2, where the fitness of an individual is stored in the variable  $v$ . The length of a chromosome is represented by  $len$ , the length of an arbitrary string (assuming all strings to be of equal length) by  $L$ ; and the number of strings that the chromosome matches is represented by  $m$ . The constant  $K$  is the total number of strings under consideration.

```

v = len + 30*m;

if (len==L)
    v = v + 50;

if (m==K)
    v = 3000*v;
else
    v = -1000*v*(K-m);

return v;

```

Figure 2. Listing of fitness function

The constant multipliers (50, 3000, -1000) indicate the strength with which the chromosome is being rewarded or penalized. For instance, a subsequence that matches multiple strings is rewarded (line 1). While a subsequence would usually not be as long as the string, such a subsequence, if it exists, is preferred/rewarded (line 2). A chromosome that matches all strings is strongly rewarded (if clause, line 3),

and chromosomes that do not match all strings are penalized in proportion to the number of non-matched strings (else clause, line 3).

### C. Initial Population

The initial population  $P$  consists of  $|P|$  randomly generated individuals. For  $K > 2$ , a small percentage of this initial population ( $\leq 3\%$  of  $|P|$ ) is comprised of chromosomes that encode the pair-wise LCS of input strings, obtained using the dynamic programming algorithm. For instance, when the input consists of three strings  $S_1$ ,  $S_2$  and  $S_3$  ( $K=3$ ), three of the initial chromosomes would represent  $LCS(S_1,S_2)$ ,  $LCS(S_2,S_3)$  and  $LCS(S_1,S_3)$ , and the rest of the population would be made up of randomly generated binary strings. In order to mitigate the  $O(n^2)$  computational overhead implied by the DP algorithm for longer strings, for  $|S|>400$ , the LCS obtained for  $|S|=400$  is extended with random bit flips up to the appropriate string size.

### D. Variation Operators

The algorithm uses a modified single-point crossover that generates two offsprings from two parents, and ensures that genes common to both parents are propagated in the offspring. Mutation flips each bit of a chromosome with a probability inversely proportional to the length of the string. Each generation of individuals is produced by application of both crossover and mutation with equal probability.

### E. Other parameters

Chromosomes are selected as parents using tournaments of size 2. The algorithm is 1-elitist, and uses a simple local search heuristic to improve the global best solution ( $gBest$ ) at the start of each generation. The local search heuristic obtains a new solution  $gBest^b$  by flipping a randomly selected index in  $gBest$ , always replacing  $gBest$  if  $gBest^b$  is fitter. This is repeated a small, constant number of times,  $LS\_TRIALS$ . The population is re-initialized if there is no further improvement in the  $gBest$  chromosome over  $MAX\_IMPROVE$  generations. The re-initialized population is generated in the same way as the initial population, except that the  $gBest$  solution is also included in the population. The algorithm runs for a fixed number of generations,  $MAXGEN$ , or until the (known) optimal solution is found, whichever event occurs first.

### III. EXPERIMENTAL WORK

The proposed HyEA-LCS algorithm and, for purposes of comparison, the GA given in (Hinkemeyer & Julstrom, 2006) and the standard  $O(n^k)$  time and space dynamic programming algorithm (DPA) were implemented in C, and tested on a set of benchmark DNA instances ( $\Sigma = \{A,T,G,C\}$ ,  $|\Sigma|=4$ ), each with  $K=3$  strings. Test instances had lengths of  $n=100, 200, 400, 800, 1600, 3200$  and  $6400$  characters respectively, with known LCS lengths equal to 10%, 50%, 90% and 100% of the strings for each size. Thus there were totally  $7 \times 4 = 28$  test instances.

All experiments were performed on a computer system with Intel i3 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation 2.4GHz CPU with 4GB DDR3 RAM running Windows 10.

A common evolutionary framework was used for the GA and HyEA-LCS implementations, so as to obtain a fair comparison of performance. Population sizes was set to 100 chromosomes, identical fitness evaluation was used, the value of MAX\_IMPROVE was set to 100 for both implementations, and crossover and mutation were assigned equal probability. The value of MAXGEN was as 20000. Additionally, the LS\_TRIALS parameter in HyEA-LCS was experimentally set to 10.

The DP algorithm was able to return results on up to  $n=400$  sized instances, but failed to run on larger problem sizes. Computation times were therefore reported only up to  $n=400$  for the DP algorithm. The GA and HyEA-LCS were run 30 times on each test instance and the best, mean and standard deviation of computation times were reported. Results obtained by the DPA, GA and HyEA-LCS on up to  $n=400$  sized instances are presented in Table 1. The computation times reported by GA and HyEA-LCS on the larger test problems (up to  $n=6400$ ) are presented in Table 2.

In both tables, the column titled ‘n’ represents the length of the test strings, ‘%’ indicates the length of LCS as a function of instance lengths, and the columns under ‘Computation time (seconds)’ provide the computation time of a single run for DPA, and the best (lowest), mean and standard deviation (sd) of computation times obtained over 30 runs for the GA and HyEA-LCS respectively.

n	%	Computation time (seconds)						
		DPA	GA			HyEA-LCS		
			best	mean	Sd	best	mean	sd
100	10	0.04	0.05	1.41	2.47	0.001	0.002	0.005
	50	0.05	-	-	-	-	-	-
	90	0.05	0.04	3.84	3.75	0.015	3.911	3.897
200	100	0.05	0.05	0.06	0.01	0.001	0.002	0.001
	50	0.40	0.20	0.23	0.02	0.005	0.005	0.000
	90	0.37	0.35	0.38	0.03	0.004	0.005	0.001
400	100	0.30	0.34	0.37	0.03	0.003	0.004	0.001
	50	0.38	0.20	0.23	0.02	0.005	0.005	0.000
	90	3.18	0.81	0.89	0.06	0.0150	0.0151	0.001
800	50	2.74	1.32	1.47	0.11	0.0140	0.0144	0.001
	90	1.89	1.50	1.69	0.14	0.0100	0.0103	0.001
	100	3.06	0.81	0.90	0.11	0.0140	0.0151	0.001

Table 1. Computation time obtained by DPA, GA and HyEA-LCS for DNA strings of length  $n=100, 200$  and  $400$

For the  $n=100$  and  $200$  sized DNA strings, it is seen that the DPA reported computation times that were comparable to the best and mean times reported by GA. Further, on one test instance of length 100 (LCS=50%), the GA and HyEA-LCS were able to quickly find a common subsequence of length

48, i.e., 4% less than from the LCS, but neither was able to find the LCS value of 50 within the set time limits, whereas the DPA returned the LCS in 0.05 seconds. On the  $n=400$  length instances, the GA always found the LCS in comparatively lesser time. The HyEA-LCS, by contrast, almost always took much lesser time than the DPA and GA. This is particularly evident for the  $n=400$  instances: comparing only the mean computation times reported for GA and HyEA-LCS on all four instances, the GA obtains an average speedup of 2.49 vis-à-vis DPA, while the HyEA-LCS obtains an average speedup of 96.2 in comparison to GA, and so is almost 196.75 times faster than DPA for these instances! For the larger test instances ( $N=800, 1600, 3200$  and  $6400$ ) in Table 2 also, the best and mean computation times reported by the HyEA-LCS are much lower than for the GA.

N	%	Computation time (seconds)					
		GA			HyEA-LCS		
		best	mean	Sd	best	mean	sd
800	10	3.26	3.49	0.17	0.11	0.13	0.01
	50	5.43	6.32	0.63	1.15	1.53	0.23
	90	6.34	6.72	0.44	1.45	1.78	0.24
	100	3.44	3.82	0.4	0.03	0.03	0.001
1600	10	13.80	14.60	0.65	0.32	0.37	0.03
	50	22.88	24.84	1.17	5.39	6.65	0.76
	90	25.94	30.06	3.38	6.61	7.96	0.78
	100	13.17	15.53	1.31	0.06	0.06	0.001
3200	10	59.20	62.67	3.23	1.91	2.22	0.11
	50	105.08	114.43	5.21	24.53	30.37	3.58
	90	120.24	128.89	5.05	29.93	34.12	2.89
	100	66.37	71.05	4.28	0.11	0.12	0.01
6400	10	195.03	214.76	5.71	9.4	10.21	0.35
	50	284.12	312.64	6.45	108.11	135.08	17.83
	90	276.89	309.47	6.84	124.05	148.15	16.94
	100	182.60	198.36	5.86	0.22	0.23	0.001

Table 2. Computation time obtained by GA and HyEA-LCS for DNA strings of length  $n=800, 1600, 3200$  and  $6400$

It is observed in Table 2 that the HyEA-LCS seems to require very low computation times for the ‘100%’ test instance of each size, where the LCS length equals the string length. This behaviour of the algorithm may be attributed to the way the test instances are structured. The ‘100%’ instances contain  $K=3$  identical strings. Hence the DP heuristic used during population initialization seeds the population with chromosomes that not only represent a fairly long subsequence, but also one that occurs in all  $K$  strings, leading to the assignment of very high fitness score. Such chromosomes could dominate the population and rapidly direct convergence towards the optimal LCS solution (represented in this particular case by all 1s).

### IV. CONCLUSIONS

This paper presents a novel hybrid evolutionary algorithm (HyEA-LCS) for finding the longest common subsequence of a given set of strings. The proposed algorithm uses a dynamic programming sub-heuristic to seed the population with good solutions, and combines a fast customized recombination operator with effective mutation and uses a local search heuristic to further improve the best solution obtained in each generation of the evolutionary search. The performance of the proposed algorithm is shown to be superior to that of a standard Dynamic Programming implementation and a well-known existing Genetic Algorithm (GA) for the LCS problem on a large set of DNA-string test instances. The HyEA-LCS also consistently

obtains significant speedups over the GA; this motivates its application to larger problem sizes than attempted hitherto. Lastly, the experimental work presented in this paper focuses on finding longest common subsequences of DNA sequences. However, the proposed algorithm may be applied for solving the LCS problem in other domains as well.

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# Deep Feature Compression Based Ensemble Model Towards Content Based Image Retrieval

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**Abstract**—Recent advances in the field of technology has led to increased availability of image dataset. This has motivated the need for an efficient content based image retrieval (CBIR) algorithm. Most of the present day algorithms make use of classical image processing based techniques for feature extraction, a major step in CBIR. In this paper, we propose a learning based ensemble algorithm for efficient feature extraction. The classical texture features and the compressed version of the parameters learnt by the latent space representation of the deep autoencoder are ensemble in the proposed algorithm. We fuse similarity distance and euclidean distance between the extracted ensemble feature of the query image and the images in the database to retrieve relevant images. We demonstrate the efficiency of the proposed algorithm on the standard ukBench dataset using different quantitative parameters. We observe the proposed algorithm to be 96.7% accurate, which is 3.2% better than the best performing state-of-the-art algorithms.

**Index Terms**—Image Retrieval, Deep Autoencoder, Discrete Cosine Transforms (DCT), Ensemble model

## I. INTRODUCTION

Today's world is fast growing. There has been increased usage of image capturing devices in the last decade. With the advent of various social networking sites, it is observed that 300 millions of photos captured are uploaded in the public domain every day [1]. This has given rise to the need for an efficient image retrieval algorithm. The process of image retrieval can be defined as an act of fetching the most relevant image from the database. The query can be in terms of text, speech or in the form of an image [2]. When an image is given as a query, the task of any image retrieval algorithm would be to fetch that image from the database, whose content is most similar to the content of the query image. This process is thus, defined as the Content Based Image Retrieval (CBIR).

Although CBIR is not a new problem (has been in the lime light since 1990's [3]), it still is an important problem that attracts attention from various scientific communities such as computer vision and multimedia due to the fact that the total data in the domain has been significantly increased. The traditional technique of listing the meta data of the image in the form of titles and tags [1] can not be used any-more because, there can be inconsistencies in the visual content and the corresponding textual content. Moreover, this introduces the problem of intention gap. Intention gap is the difficulty, a user faces in precisely expressing his intent through words. Modern

day techniques focus on extracting some texture features from the query image and try matching it with the corresponding features of the images in the database [4]. Although these techniques solve the problem of intention gap, they introduce a new problem called as the semantic gap. Semantic gap is the difficulty in describing high-level semantic concepts corresponding to the content of the image with low-level visual feature [5]. There have been various efforts put by the researchers to narrow down this gap.

Although deep autoencoders [6] are very efficient in reducing the semantic gap, it makes the system completely non-interpretable. That makes the system susceptible to adversarial attacks [7]. In order to reduce the risk of adversarial attacks, it is necessary to fuse the output of the deep autoencoders with some classical hand crafted features.

## II. RELATED WORKS

The major steps involved in CBIR are:

- 1) Feature extraction and transforming feature vectors of various sizes to a fixed-length vector.
- 2) Compute similarity between two feature vectors.

### A. Feature extraction

The early time CBIR algorithms focus upon hand crafted features. They describe image content by shape [8], structure, color and texture [9] related features. GIST feature descriptors, which offers a low computation complexity is also used by some researchers [10]. These algorithms typically find their use cases in datasets that have simple images. These images tend to fail whenever there is a background clutter in the query image [1].

The introduction of SIFT [11] changed the feature extraction techniques. Various techniques make use of sift descriptors for feature detection. Authors have also come up with improvements to SIFT keypoint detectors, such as Hessian affine detector [12], MSER [13], Harris-Hessian detector [14], and FAST [15]. People have even tried extracting the features by simply sampling the image [16].

Apart from the regular hand-crafted features, researchers have also come up with learning based features similar to that of local feature descriptors [17]. The last convolutional layer of the standard CNN based image classification architecture has

been used as a feature map by [18]. Similarly, we see papers that use the last layer of the object detection framework [19] as features. Binarized normed gradients (BING) [18] is also used as a feature by a few researchers. Some papers make use of ROI based algorithms of Region proposal network for feature extraction [20]. Recently, researchers have started using the latent space representation of the autoencoder as features [6]. Zhao et.al in their work say that an image can be transformed using wavelet transform and then extracts the features using Deep autoencoders [2].

All the proposed deep learning based approaches use the deep learning architecture as a black box and hence they are highly susceptible for adversarial attacks [7]. Also, due to lack of interpretability, these systems can not be used in any critical applications. Moreover, the architectures that make use of autoencoders have used very limited number of convolutional layers, due to which the corresponding latent space representation's receptive field has been observed to be much smaller than the size of the image. This has made the latent space representation not learn the complete content of the image.

### B. Similarity score

Researchers have proposed two types of scoring, namely Distance based scoring and Voting based scoring

The algorithms that use distance based scoring widely make use of some sort of normalized euclidean distance as shown in equation 1

$$D(I_q, I_d) = \left( \sum_{i=1}^N |q_i - d_i|^p \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \quad (1)$$

where,  $I_q$  is the query image and  $I_d$  is the image in the database. We assume the feature vector to be of length  $N$  and  $q_i, d_i$  are the corresponding elements of the feature vectors of query and database image respectively.  $p$  is the normalization factor.

Researchers in [9] make use of  $L - 1$  norm, where the value of  $p = 1$ . However, the researchers in [21] claim that the similarity measure by  $L - p$  distance is not optimal because of the neighbourhood reversibility issue which makes few images disobey the  $k$  nearest neighbourhood policy. In order to mitigate this issue, [22] comes up with a probabilistic framework for similarity measure. Some even try coming up with the learning based score [23].

In voting based methods, every element in the feature vector is considered as a vote and the similarity score is measured by the total number of matched feature points [24]. In [25], Jegou et. al came up with a scoring function as a summation of squared TF-IDF weights on shared visual words. This technique was influenced by the Bag of Features technique. Authors in [26] made a slight modification and changed the scoring operation of TF-IDF weights into mod operation.

Although the voting based techniques seem to work well, it is indeed some sort of threshold on the distance based techniques. Hence, both the techniques perform almost similarly in most of the cases. Also, it can be observed that most of

the researchers do not try fusing multiple scoring techniques to come up with a final score.

## III. CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE PAPER

The main contribution of the paper is the efficient algorithm for content based image retrieval. Towards this, we make the following contributions.

- 1) We propose an ensemble based architecture for feature extraction of images. The proposed architecture ensembles
  - a) Classical handcrafted texture features
  - b) Latent space representation of the learnt deep convolutional autoencoder
  - c) Compressed version of the latent space representation by passing it through the standard JPEG pipeline
- 2) We propose evidence based combination algorithm to come up with the similarity scores.
  - a) The Normalized Mutual Information (NMI), Mean Squared Error (MSE), and L-2 norm between the features of the query image and the image in the database act as the evidence for DSCR.
  - b) We consider the number of feature matches in each of the following as its corresponding confidences
- 3) We demonstrate the results of the proposed algorithm on the standard ukBench dataset using various quantitative analysis and show the improvement from with the other state-of-the-art algorithms.

## IV. PROPOSED SYSTEM FOR CONTENT BASED IMAGE RETRIEVAL

The proposed architecture is divided into three stages. In the first stage, we train the proposed fully convolutional autoencoder. In second stage, we generate the feature set for our database and in the third stage, we compute similarity and retrieve the most relevant images.

### A. Proposed Fully convolutional Autoencoder

The latent space representation of the given image can be obtained by training the proposed fully convolutional autoencoder. The proposed architecture for training is shown in Figure 1. The input image is initially blurred and the blurred image is used for training. This is because, the input image is being trained at full resolution which will have many edges and corners. As the initial layers of the neural network learns low level features such as edges and corners, it will be difficult for network to learn too many edges and corners, if unblurred image is learnt.

The autoencoder is kept fully convolutional so that the input of any resolution can be trained. The input image is passed through an encoder-decoder kind of a network. The encoder network consists of the convolutional and pooling layers of DeConvNet (our backbone architecture). Along with those layers we add 4 additional convolutional and pooling layers. ReLU activation function is used in the proposed architecture. The backbone architecture ensures the initial training of the



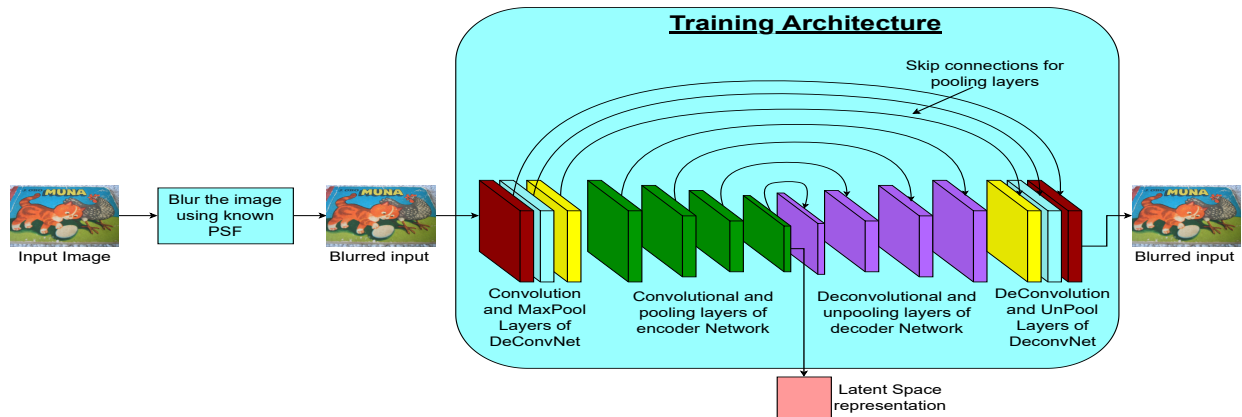


Fig. 1: Proposed architecture for training the network

network, so that we need not start with the random weights for initialization for all the layers. The addition of 4 more layers make sure that the algorithm learns high level features. The decoder network is exactly the reverse of the encoder network. It consists of 4 deconvolutional and unpooling layers. We propose to add skip connections for every max-pool layers to achieve better learn-ability. i.e. we propose to maintain the switch variables that identify the location of the maximum value during encoding (pooling) and the gradient is passed back to the same location during unpooling. This makes sure that the features are learnt better. The latent space representations learnt in this level are used as one of the features.

#### B. Feature extraction for all images in the database

The architecture to extract the features for all the images in the database is as shown in the Figure 2. The encoder part of the learnt autoencoder is used in this stage. The input image is blurred using a known PSF and passed through the backbone architecture. Later it is passed through the 4 convolutional and pooling layers to generate the latent space representation. This serves as one of the features. We then propose to compress the latent space representation using the DCT algorithm because we claim that the correlation and the frequency properties of the input images are retained in the latent space. The proof of this claim is as given in subsection IV-B1:

1) *Proof for the claim: Correlation and the Frequency properties of the input images are retained in the latent space:*

- The input image has very high correlation, because it is blurred.
- The proposed architecture contains only convolutional and pooling layers.
- Both, convolutional and pooling layers are spatial layers, and are applied patch wise. Therefore, they do not reduce the correlation and the frequency properties of the input image by significant amount.
- The number of layers in the network are limited ( $\ll \infty$ )
- Thus, we can say that the Correlation and the Frequency properties of the input images are retained in the latent space

2) *Compressed latent space:* The proof in section IV-B1 tells us that there is a correlation in the latent space. It can be reduced using the standard DCT operation. The non-correlated data is highly preferred as it contains lesser number of bits and covers all the most important features. But, this data has no image structure related information and hence, we prefer to keep both the compressed latent space and the original latent space in the proposed algorithm.

3) *Texture features:* Taking decision only on the basis of deep learning based features can be extremely dangerous as the system can be adversially attacked. In order to avoid this we propose to extract various texture features of the image, namely: Mean, Median, Standard Deviation, Energy, Entropy, Third Moment and histogram of the image. All these contribute to the final feature set.

4) *Final Feature set:* Thus the final feature set contains

- Latent space representation of the input image
- Compressed version of the latent space representation
- Texture features

#### C. Similarity scoring and image retrieval

The next stage of the architecture is to check the similarity between the feature set of the images and score them towards image retrieval. The proposed architecture is as shown in Figure 3

Query image undergoes blurring, similar to the input image. It is then passes through the same pipeline as discussed in section IV-B1 to obtain the same feature set. We propose to compute similarity score in the following way.

1) *NMI and MSE between latent space representations:*

The latent space representation contains the correlation information hence, we compute Normalized Mutual Information (NMI) and Mean Squared Error (MSE) between the two latent spaces. The NMI between the two latent spaces  $I_1, I_2$  is computed by equation 2

$$NMI(I_1, I_2) = \frac{2 \times MI(I_1, I_2)}{H(I_1) + H(I_2)} \quad (2)$$

Where,  $H(I_1)$  is the entropy of  $I_1$  and  $MI(I_1, I_2)$  represents the mutual information and is given by  $MI(I_1, I_2) = H(I_1) - H(I_1|I_2)$

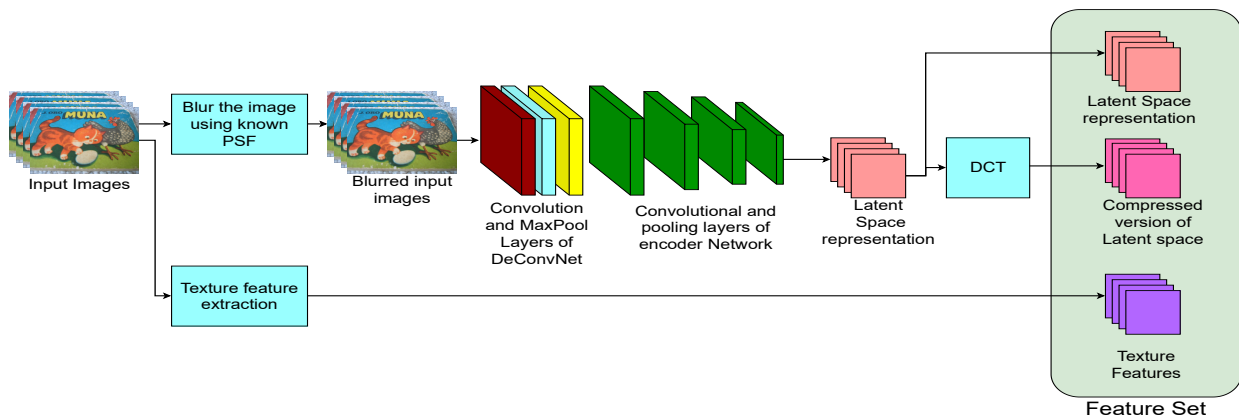


Fig. 2: Proposed architecture for feature extraction of all the images

The MSE between the two latent spaces  $I_1, I_2$  is computed by equation 3

$$MSE(I_1, I_2) = \frac{(\sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{j=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^p |I_{1(i,j,k)} - I_{2(i,j,k)}|^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}}{m \times n \times p} \quad (3)$$

Where,  $m$  and  $n$  are the dimensions of the image and  $p$  is the corresponding channel depth.

2) *L2 norm between other parameters*: The compressed version of the latent space representation and the texture features do not have any structural similarity and hence, we calculate  $L - 2$  norm between them using the equation 4

$$D(I_1, I_2) = \left( \sum_{i=1}^N |q_i - d_i|^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \quad (4)$$

Where, we assume that there are  $N$  elements in each of the features.

3) *Fusion of various similarity scores*: We now fuse the different similarity scores using the technique of weighted fusion. The weights for each of the feature is selected using the number of votes they get. i.e. percentage of elements that match with each other in query and database image. The fused value is used as the final similarity score and is used to extract the retrieved images from the database.

## V. IMPLEMENTATION DETAILS

We trained our model for 350 epochs on the ukBench dataset and fine-tuned on the same training dataset for another 350 epochs. The fine-tuning was divided into two steps, namely warm-up and final training. A batch size of 1 was chosen due to the inability of our GPU to load multiple high-resolution, multi-resolution images in a batch. For training on ukBench, a learning rate of  $1e^{-5}$ , Adam optimizer with momentum of 0.8, weight decay of  $1e^{-4}$ , and gamma value of 0.1 was used. We fine-tuned using a learning rate of  $1e^{-6}$ , weight decay as 0.0005 and momentum of 0.8. While fine-tuning, we only train the the added 4 new convolutional and pooling layers, keeping the weights of ResNet backbone frozen. All computations were carried out on High Performance Computing Cluster having 32GB V100 GPUs.

The training procedure took an average 4 sec (approx.) per iteration with a GPU memory occupancy of 31GB (approx). We used fusion of quantized cross entropy loss, Mean Squared error(MSE) loss and the Intersection Over Union (IOU) loss for final training and Mean Average Precision(MAP) loss for the warm-up-training.

## VI. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

We demonstrate the results using the standard ukBench dataset. ukBench dataset has 10200 images in sets of 4 images that are very similar to each other. The results of the proposed algorithm are evaluated using two quantitative methods, namely accuracy and PR curve

1) *Accuracy*: If an image  $I_1$  is fed as input to the system, we expect the output to be  $I_2$  or  $I_3$  or  $I_4$ . If one amongst the three is given as output, then we call it a positive retrieval else, it would be a negative retrieval. Therefore, accuracy is given by equation 5

$$Accuracy = \frac{\sum Pos\_retrieval}{\sum Neg\_retrieval + \sum Pos\_retrieval} \quad (5)$$

2) *PR curve*: PR curve stands for Precision Recall Curve. To estimate the precision and recall, we test the algorithm in a loop.  $I_1$  is fed as input and we run the algorithm in a loop as long as  $I_2, I_3$  and  $I_4$  are all retrieved, or maximum number of iterations is reached. Now, the number of detections, done so far that are not from the set  $[I_2, I_3$  and  $I_4]$  constitutes to false positive (FP). True positive (TP) is the number of correct images detected ( $< 3$ , if the execution stops at the maximum number of iterations). False negative (FN) is the number of images that are not detected amongst  $I_2, I_3$  and  $I_4$ . The values of Precision and Recall are calculated using the equations 6.

$$Precision = \frac{TP}{TP + FP} \quad Recall = \frac{TP}{TP + FN} \quad (6)$$

We compute the values of Precision and Recall at different values of maximum number of iterations and plot the PR curve, with precision on y axis and recall on x axis. Ideally a system must have a straight line parallel to x axis at unit 1. This means, we are able to achieve 100% recall for any value of precision.

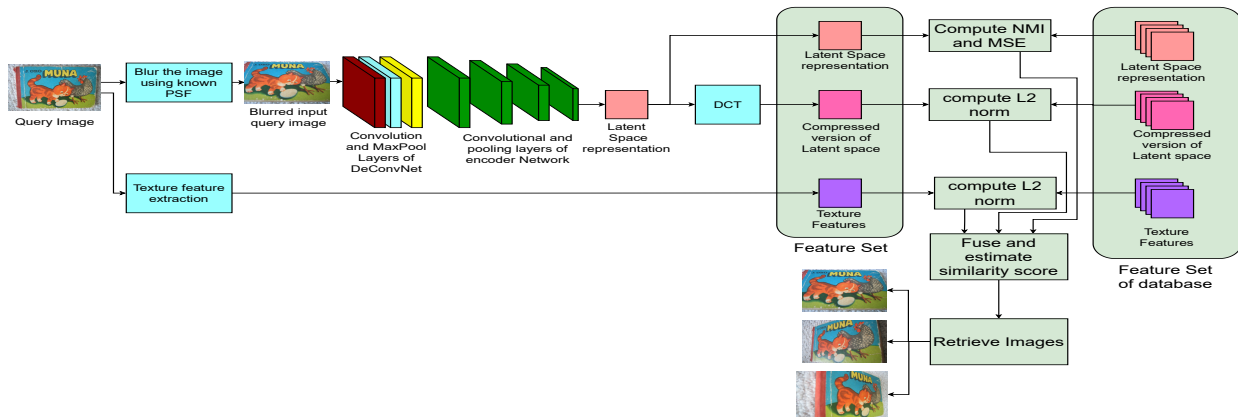


Fig. 3: Proposed architecture for image retrieval

### A. Visualization of the results of autoencoder

The Figure 4 shows the visualisation of the trained auto-encoder for some of the images of ukBench dataset. Here, (a) shows the input image (un-blurred). (b) shows the learnt latent space and (c) shows the corresponding decoder output. As we can observe in the Figure 4, the reconstruction has worked for a comparable level.

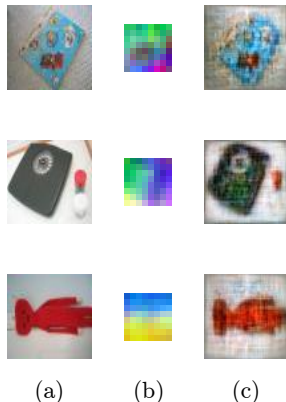


Fig. 4: Visualization of the output of the auto-encoder on some images of ukBench dataset

### B. Results on the ukBench dataset

The accuracy of the proposed algorithm is as shown in Table I. It also shows the comparative analysis with respect to the other state of the art techniques.

TABLE I: Comparative analysis of the accuracy on ukBench dataset

Method	Accuracy
VS CBIR [27]	89.53%
ALO CBIR [28]	91.25%
NC CBIR [29]	89.5%
DIR CBIR [30]	93.5%
<b>Proposed Algorithm</b>	<b>96.7%</b>

The corresponding PR curve for the same is as shown in figure 5. Thus, we observe an improvement of 3.2% from the best performing state of the art architecture.

Method	Accuracy	$T_q$
Only_DCT	92.3%	3.8 sec
Only_texture	76.7%	1.2 sec
Only_latent	92.0%	8.5 sec
<b>Proposed Algorithm</b>	<b>96.7%</b>	<b>9.0 sec</b>

TABLE II: Ablation analysis of the accuracy on ukBench dataset. Here  $T_q$  stands for the Time taken to query one image

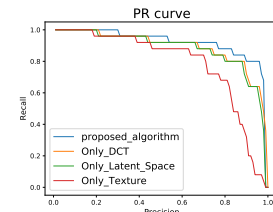


Fig. 5: PR curve for the proposed algorithm on the ukBench dataset and corresponding ablation studies

## VII. ABLATION STUDIES

To prove the need of every component used in the proposed architecture, we ablate the architecture by keeping only one component at a time and evaluate its performance. The results of the ablation study is shown in table II and Figure 5. The entries of the table, only\_DCT, only\_texture and only\_latent represents the ablated architectures when the compressed version when the latent space, texture features and latent space representation is the sole contributor respectively. Also, table II provides the information on the time taken to fetch one image from the dataset ( $T_q$ ).

The corresponding PR curve for the same is as shown in Figure 5

From the time analysis, it is evident that if we use only the compressed version of the latent space for comparison, then we will be able to get fairly good results in the short span of time.

### A. Effect of blurring the input to the autoencoder

To prove the need for blurring the input before its fed to the autoencoder, we designed a simple MSE based image retrieval algorithm as shown in [31]. We did an ablation study, of comparing the results obtained, once with the blurring activity and the other time, without the same. The time taken to train the auto-encoder and corresponding accuracy are given in table III.

As seen in the results, the addition of blur, has not changed the train time of the algorithm, but it has increased the

TABLE III: Ablation to show the need of blurring on ukBench dataset. Here  $T_T$  is the time taken to train the autoencoder

Method	Accuracy	$T_T$
With_Blur	81.8%	8.4 hours
Without_Blur	76.9%	8.38 hours

accuracy of the image retrieval system. This is because, the addition of blur in the training dataset, reduces the edge information of the training image. Thus, the deep learning network is forced to learn the structure of the object in the image rather than learning the image properties. This makes the system learn more generalized latent spaces rather than learning the image specific latent space, which helps us to get a better image retrieval system.

### VIII. CONCLUSION

In this paper we proposed a novel learning based ensemble algorithm for efficient feature extraction. The classical texture features, parameters learnt by the latent space representation of the deep autoencoder and its corresponding compressed parameters generated using the standard DCT technique were ensemble in the proposed algorithm. We fused similarity distance and euclidean distance between the extracted ensemble feature of the query image and the images in the database to retrieve relevant images. We demonstrated the efficiency of the proposed algorithm on the standard ukBench dataset using different quantitative parameters. We observed the proposed algorithm was 96.7% accurate, which was 3.2% better than the best performing state-of-the-art algorithms.

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# Downlink Throughput and SINR Analysis of a mmWave 5G MIMO System in an Urban Environment

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**Abstract**— This paper aims to encapsulate the effect of mmWave communication and analyze the performance of 5G cellular networks. We use advanced tools to simulate the Wireless Electromagnetic Propagation to capture the effect of Maximum Ratio Transmission (MRT) precoding and different combining schemes in Multiple-Input-Multiple-Output (MIMO). Urban scenario is among the five deployment scenarios that uses mmWave technology as described by 3GPP. So, the main contribution of this paper is to evaluate Signal-to-Interference-plus-Noise Ratio (SINR) and throughput for an urban environment in mmWave 5G New Radio (NR) cellular network at 28 GHz in downlink, as a case study. We show the impact of Massive MIMO and different beamforming techniques on the network performance. Our evaluations demonstrate that the MRT precoding at the Base station with Maximum Ratio Combining and Equal Gain Combining techniques at the receiver provide the highest network performance for the defined user distribution. This indicates that the utilization of the beamforming techniques in mmWave 5G MIMO system provides average data rate which is approximately 3.3 times the throughput achieved by LTE SISO network with maintaining good coverage and signal quality.

**Keywords**— 5G, mmWave, MIMO, beamforming, Maximum Ratio Transmission, Urban scenario, Maximum Ratio Combining, Equal Gain Combining

## I. INTRODUCTION

The increasing demand of applications like high-definition video streaming, real time gaming and high-quality voice needs higher throughputs. More recently, the network providers are striving hard to get 5G spectrum in FR2 range (24.25 GHz to 52.6 GHz) to meet the requirements of 5G and the unprecedented demands of next-generation wireless networks. Till now, smartphones and other electronic devices used a very narrow frequency range and electromagnetic spectrum is overcrowded with lot of dedicated services. So, increase in number of devices sharing same range will lead to slower data transmission speeds with reduced reliability. Hence, exploring unutilized bands at the mmWave range where large amount of spectrum is available, will lead to high data rates and dense connectivity [1], [2].

However, high propagation loss due to blockage, reflection and diffraction by scatterers like foliage, buildings

etc. and even atmospheric attenuation severely affects the coverage of mmWave networks. This problem can be solved by deploying MIMO technology that provides higher data rates and multi-user transmission. It also enhances reliability and improve coverage. Also, use of phased antenna array system allows signals from the antenna elements to get concentrated at the desired user that necessitates large array gains, reduces interference and increases the transmission range at GHz frequencies [3], [4].

The primary requirement to build an effective mmWave propagation system is to utilize Massive MIMO technology along with appropriate beamforming techniques at the transmitter (known as precoding scheme) and at the receiver (known as combining scheme). Signals arriving at the multiple antennas of the receiver with different amplitudes and phases exploit receive-diversity techniques to combat fading and thereby increase reliability of signal reception in wireless communication networks. Many highly efficient linear and non-linear, adaptive and switched beamforming techniques with low complexity have been proposed to provide high spectral and energy efficient networks [5].

### A. Related Work

The network performance evaluation for 5G mmWave systems has been investigated in few prior works [6], [7], [8]. M. Matalatala et al. studied the use of beamforming technology on the network coverage, capacity and power consumption of the overall system by considering a suburban case in Ghent, Belgium. M. T. Their results showed that 5G networks require around 15% more base stations and 4 times less power to provide high capacity to the users [6]. Moayyed et al. investigated the impact of (Single-Input-Single-Output) SISO and MIMO communication configuration on the performance of 5G NR systems operating at 28 GHz and compared it with LTE Technology. The authors utilized the beamforming and spatial multiplexing techniques focusing on mmWave small cells in Northeastern University in Boston, MA and examined the area coverage and bitrate performance for both 5G and LTE network [7]. Shteiman et al. in their work considered Maximum Ratio Combining and Equal Gain Combining techniques to present the robustness of Massive MIMO to inter-symbol interference [8]. Their work gives useful insights on the effect of beamforming, high directional antennas and spatial multiplexing by evaluating the performance for 5G NR mmWave systems.

Many research works have also been performed in comparing the diversity combining schemes in terms of

diversity gain, Bit Error Rate (BER) and with respect to number of transmitting antennas [9], [10]. This motivates us to study the effect of different diversity combining techniques in 5G NR mmWave systems in terms of SINR and throughput.

### B. Contributions

The main contributions of this paper are as follows:

- To better understand the effect of MIMO techniques with high gain antenna arrays and beamforming capabilities, we model an outdoor environment setup in a typical urban city in compliance with mmWave 5G NR system at 28 GHz.
- We analyze the network of the city for three scenarios: i) LTE SISO network, ii) mmWave 5G MIMO technology without beamforming and iii) MRT precoding scheme at MIMO Base station (BS) with different linear diversity combining techniques i.e., Selection Diversity (SD), Equal Gain combining (EGC) and Maximum Ratio Combining (MRC) at the receivers. We compare the downlink performance of the system for the above cases and study their effect on the performance metrics such as SINR and throughput.

## II. SYSTEM MODEL

We consider a transmitter and a receiver system model that includes a single base station (BS) and multiple receiver points (RPs) and user equipments (UEs).

### A. Virtual Model setup

In this section, we illustrate the virtual city model in an urban environment (shown in Fig. 1) using a commercial software, namely Remcom's Wireless Insite [11]. The software is efficient in applying MIMO techniques such as beamforming, spatial multiplexing and diversity in characterizing propagation and communication channel in

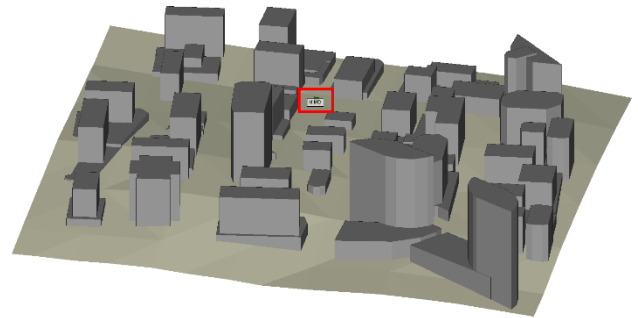


Fig. 1. depicts the outdoor environment of a typical urban city and terrain. Red colored box highlights the 8x8 MIMO Base Station at a height of 10 m.

urban and outdoor environments. The performance of wireless communication systems is significantly dependent on the wireless channel environment. In our study, we consider the typical urban environment having dense building where the material of the buildings is set as ITU recommended one-layer concrete and the terrain as wet earth [12]. For simplicity, the foliage and forestation are neglected.

Table 1 provides wireless, antenna and noise parameters of the base station and the user equipments for LTE SISO and mmWave 5G MIMO systems. According to the standards defined in [13], the carrier frequency in mmWave range is taken to be 28 GHz and 1.8 GHz for LTE (most popular 4G frequency band [18]). The channel bandwidth is set to 100 MHz and 20 MHz for mmWave 5G and LTE network respectively. The BS is mounted below rooftop levels of surrounding buildings at a height of 10 m in accordance with 3D- UMi (Urban Micro) scenario [14]. All the RPs and UEs are placed at a height of 2 m for both the cases.

### B. SINR and Throughput

In our study, we evaluate two performance metrics: SINR and Throughput which are the key indicators to represent signal quality and spectrum efficiency. According to Shannon- Hartley theorem, the theoretical upper bound on the maximum data rate transmitted by the communication system

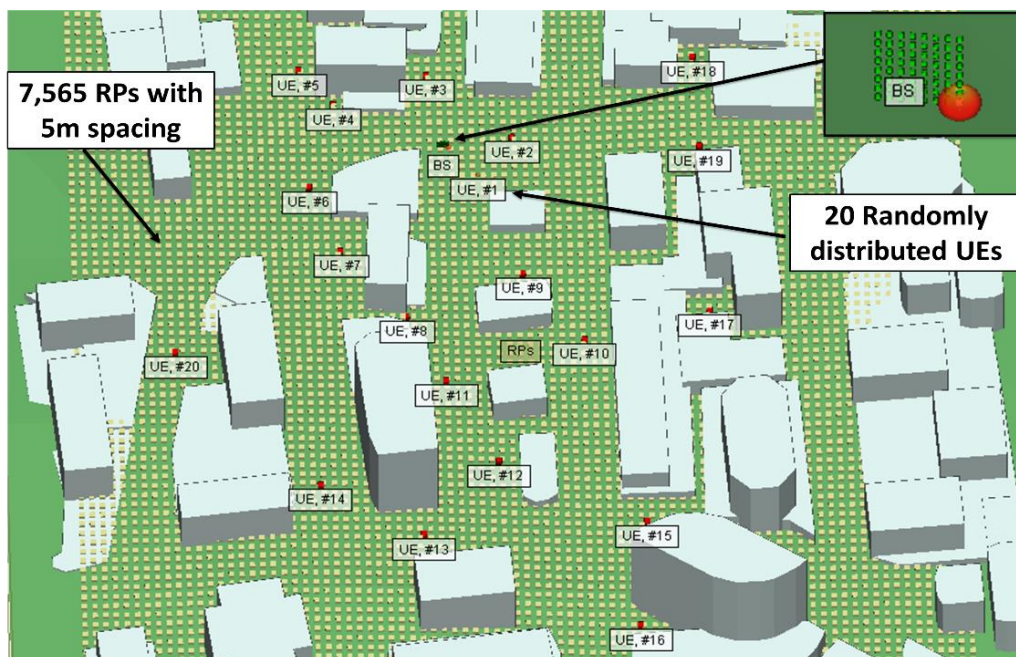


Fig. 2. shows the detailed description of the placement of the MIMO Base Station, 7,565 Receiver Points shown with yellow-colored dots and 20 randomly distributed User Equipments shown with red colored dots in the investigated city

Table I  
SIMULATION PARAMETERS

Parameters	LTE	5G
Carrier frequency	1.8 GHz	28 GHz
BS Signal bandwidth	20 MHz	100 MHz
Noise figure	5 dB	8 dB
BS antenna configuration	1 × 1	8 × 8
UE antenna configuration	1 × 1	2 × 2
Transmit power	25 dBm	25 dBm
BS antenna polarization	Vertical	Vertical
UE antenna polarization	Vertical	Vertical
BS Height	10 m	10 m
UE Height	2 m	2 m

is given by [15]:

$$C = B \log_2(1 + SINR) \quad (1)$$

where  $C$  is the channel capacity of the system and  $B$  is the channel bandwidth. For MIMO configuration, the capacity increases and is proportional to the minimum of number of transmit and receive antennas [16].

### III. METHODOLOGY

The 3D ray tracing tool of the software provides us the advantage of including the multipath effects in modeling the mmWave propagation environment [11]. It uses the Uniform Theory of Diffraction to evaluate a ray path's electric field. When the rays are launched from the transmitter to the environment, they first undergo reflection, refraction and diffraction from all the obstacles and find the paths that could be intercepted by the receiver sphere or not [17]. At each receiver location, contributions of times of arrival, angles of arrival and energy of the radiated signals from arriving ray paths are combined and evaluated to determine quantities like Channel Impulse Response (CIR), path loss, path gain and

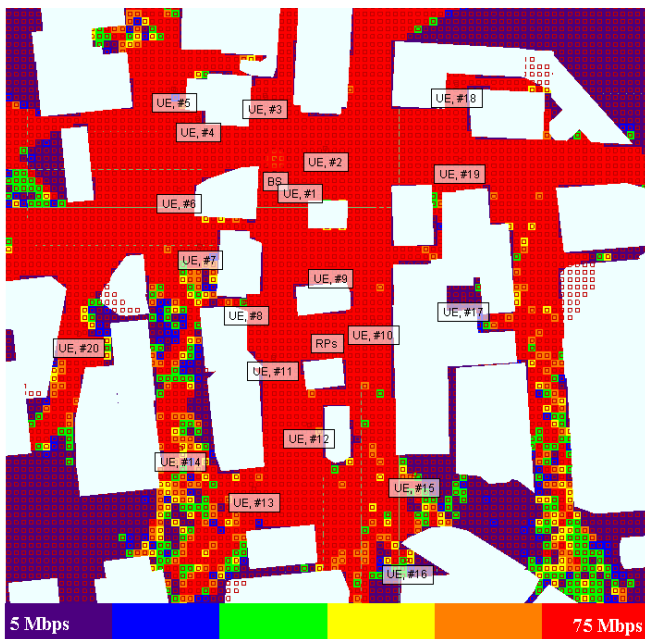


Fig. 3a. LTE SISO Throughput field map

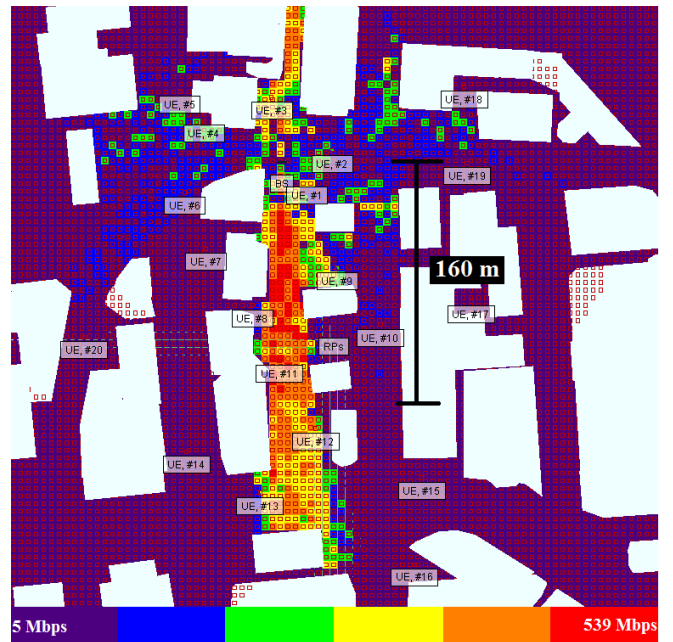


Fig. 3b. mmWave 5G NR MIMO Throughput field map without precoding

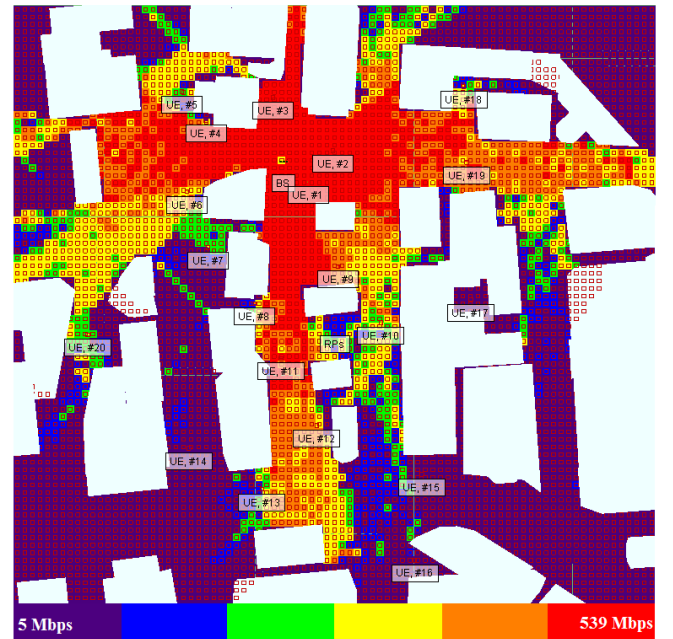


Fig. 3c. mmWave 5G NR MIMO Throughput field map using MRT at BS and MRC at UE.

complex channel i.e.,  $H$  matrix for MIMO configuration.

### IV. SIMULATION RESULTS

We consider software generated city model with simulation parameters presented in Table 1. Fig. 2 depicts the outdoor environment of a typical urban city in which building layout is shown in grey color. The transmitter consists of single BS highlighted with red colored box. A uniform grid of 7,565 RPs is taken with 5 meters spacing (shown with yellow dots) to generate SINR and throughput maps of the region. In addition, 20 dedicated UEs are placed randomly (highlighted with red colored dots) where the performance

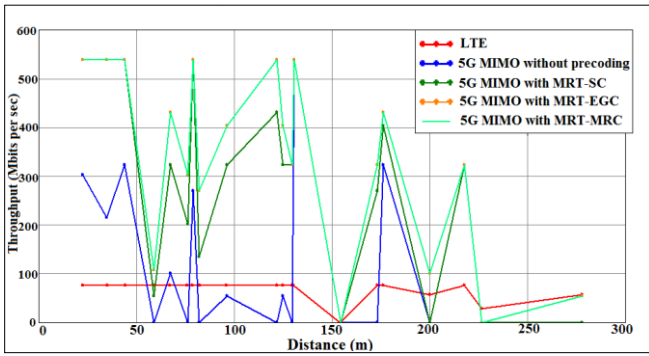


Fig. 4. Throughput vs Distance plot for 20 randomly distributed UEs.

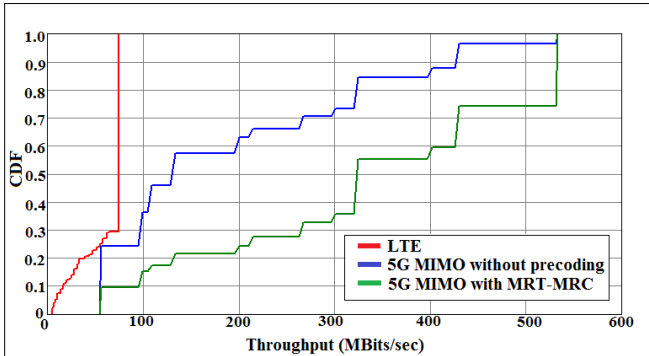


Fig. 5. CDF distribution of throughput for 7.565 RPs.

of different cases is evaluated as described in section B of the Introduction part.

We first evaluate the model for LTE network having SISO channel model at 1.8 GHz with BS, UEs and RPs equipped with single half wave dipole antenna. Next, mmWave 5G network is considered where single antenna BS is replaced with  $8 \times 8$  MIMO configuration and UEs with  $2 \times 2$  antenna array. Antenna of the receiver points is taken to be half wave dipole. Four communication systems are created in the software to analyze the effects of MIMO,

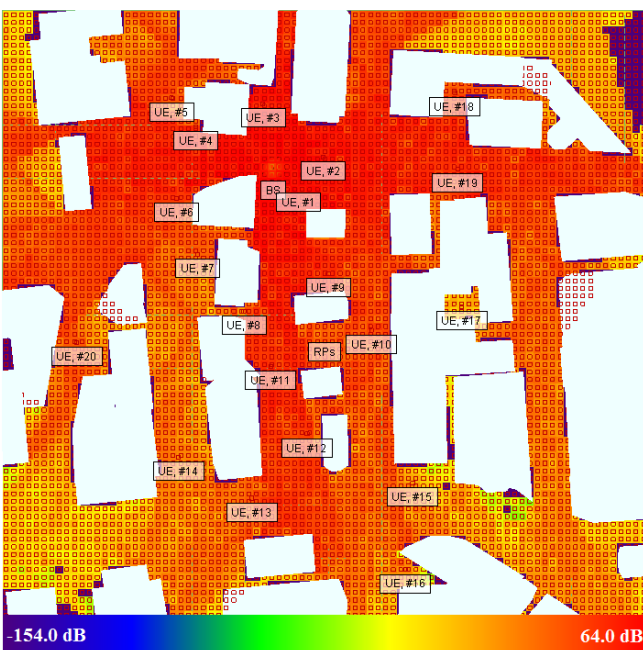


Fig. 6a. LTE SISO SINR field map

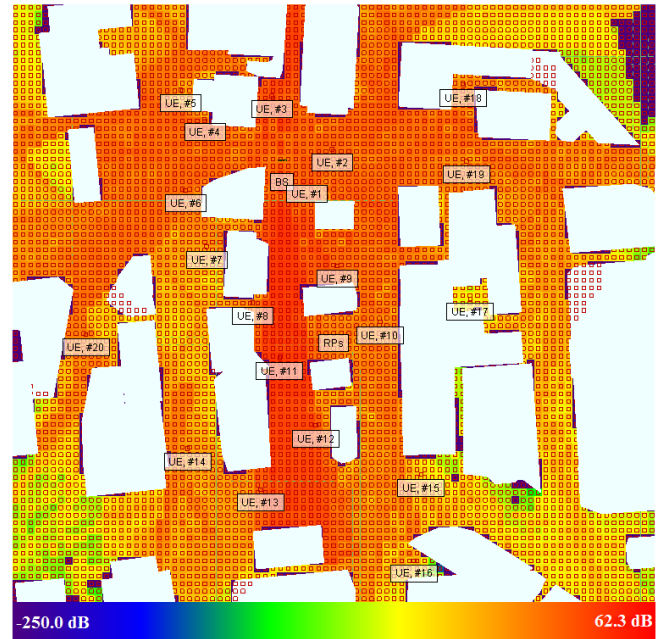


Fig. 6b. mmWave 5G NR MIMO SINR field map without precoding

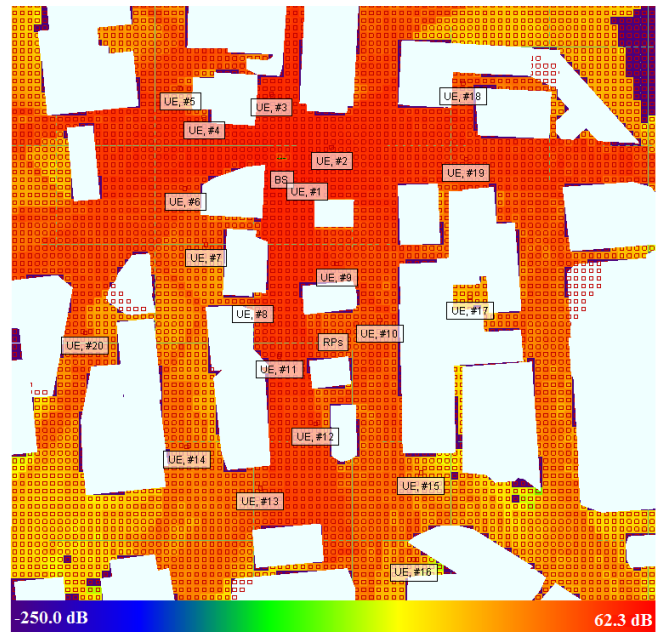


Fig. 6c. mmWave 5G NR MIMO SINR field map using MRT at BS and MRC at UE.

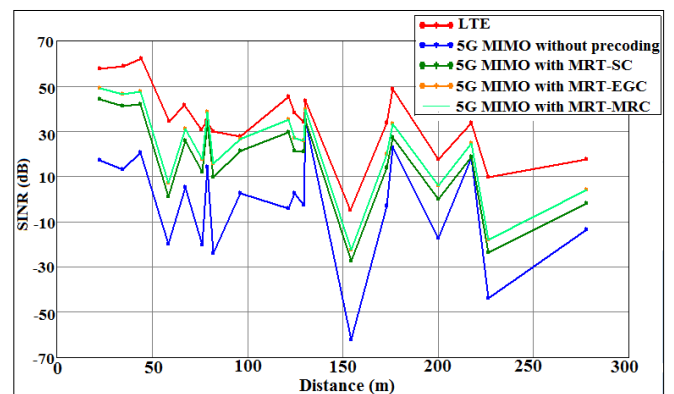


Fig. 7. SINR vs Distance plot for 20 randomly distributed UEs.



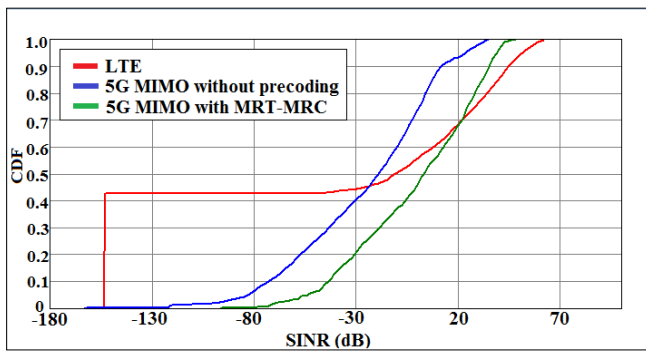


Fig. 8. CDF distribution of SINR for 7,565 RPs.

precoding and different diversity combining techniques on the system.

Fig. 3a, 3b and 3c show throughput maps for LTE, mmWave 5G MIMO without precoding and 5G MIMO with MRT precoding at BS with MRC technique at the receivers respectively for the investigated area. It can be seen from the figures that LTE SISO BS provides highest coverage for the area but with maximum data rate of only 75.4 MBits per seconds. In contrast, mmWave 5G system without precoding covers only small area of around 160 m Line of Sight (LoS) path as shown in Fig. 3b. It delivers maximum data rate of 538.7 Mbps to only one UE, #11. Fig. 3c shows that the deployment of high frequency and directional antennas at the transmitter produces high multiplexing gains. The implementation of the beamforming techniques at the BS and UEs lead to increase in data rate to a maximum of 538.7 Mbps which is approximately 6.1 times the maximum throughput achieved by LTE SISO network.

In addition to these visualizations, we report the comparison graphs between throughput and distance for the described scenarios as shown in Fig. 4. It is observed that the diversity gain achieved by MRT precoding at the BS and MRC at the UEs is maximum and EGC scheme performs equally well as that of MRC technique. Also, the gain attained by SC technique is in close proximity to the other schemes. Moreover, Non-Line of Sight (NLoS) receivers are also benefited to a large extent using the beamforming techniques.

Fig. 6a, 6b and 6c depict SINR maps for different scenarios. LTE network provides high SINR with maximum value of around 64 dB. On the other hand, the performance of SINR for mmWave 5G MIMO without precoding is relatively poor. However, large array gains provided by beamforming techniques in MIMO system improves the signal quality as shown in Fig. 7.

Furthermore, cumulative distribution function (CDF) is plotted for throughput and SINR respectively for all the RPs as shown in Fig. 5 and 8. Fig. 5 shows that LTE network covers almost 98% of the area whereas it decreases to 76% for mmWave 5G MIMO system without precoding. Besides, the coverage improves to 90% when beamforming techniques are applied. Fig. 8 shows that 44% of SINR in LTE, 26% of SINR for 5G MIMO without precoding and 54% of SINR for 5G MIMO with MRT-MRC technique has positive values.

## V. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORKS

In this paper, we analyzed the performance of the typical urban city model using Wireless Insite software. The ray tracing tool of the software provides an accurate estimation of the propagation environment. The downlink performance of

the system in terms of SINR and throughput is evaluated for three different cases i) LTE SISO network, ii) mmWave 5G MIMO technology without beamforming and iii) MRT precoding scheme at MIMO Base station (BS) with different linear diversity combining techniques i.e., SD, EGC and MRC at the receivers. We presented the color maps and the comparison plots for LTE network and mmWave 5G NR system for different scenarios. The MRC and EGC techniques are observed to deliver higher gains and throughput as compared to the other techniques. The MRT precoding technique at the BS with MRC scheme at the UEs lead to 3.3 times increase in the average data rate as compared to LTE SISO network without compromising coverage and signal quality.

Further work would include the application of microcells in the model in which more BSs will be deployed to evaluate the performance of the system and to take into account the effect of intra cell interference. We would also want to study heterogeneous network with optimum placement of microcells depending on power and throughput to improve the network coverage.

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# Interpretation of Machine Learning Models for Driver Behavior using LIME Technique

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**Abstract—** The interpretable machine learning approach explains how a black box system works. Interpretation of the black box system gives logic behind the decision. The paper addresses how interpretation is applied on various machine learning models to classify the driver behavior. Local Interpretable Model-Agnostic Explanations (LIME) is used to predict the behavior of a driver whether alert or not. The paper includes possible combinations of vehicular (V1-V11), environmental (E1-E11), and physiological (P1-P8) data while minimizing the use of the physiological feature. From many promising machine learning models like logistic regression, random forest tree, neural network, and naïve bayes, it is found that the random forest model is considered to be the highest performance in comparison to other studies with the help of environmental and vehicular features. Among these above-mentioned models, the random forest model has shown an accuracy of 99.02% with an AUC score of 0.9886. The experimental result of LIME showing the contribution of features those are highly important for identification of the behavior of driver. This gives local interpretability, and it also provides to determine which feature variations will have the largest impact on the prediction.

**Keywords—** interpretable machine learning, driver behavior classification, LIME technique.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Road safety is a priority for improvement among road users. As the population is progressing, more vehicles are moving on the road and hence rising road accidents. The aggressive behavior and anger bring the user to a bad drive. According to the NHTSA website [11], the statistics actually signify the magnitude of the problem so 3,477 deaths and 391000 injuries just because of distracted driving, and these numbers are from 2015. Road safety is essential to everyone. Hence, it is vital to aware of the drivers about driving behavior. The interpretable machine learning approach explains how a black box system works. Interpretation of the black box system gives logic behind the decision.

The work done in [9] addresses the driver-centric method of promoting road safety. The study gives the concepts of driving behavior with the driver-vehicle-environment model, modeling

matrices. This article analyzes the accuracy of the machine learning models and non-machine learning models which includes the following machine learning Techniques for driving behavior. Neural networks, support vector machine, fuzzy & neuro fuzzy-based, clustering, inductive rule-based, instance-based, decision trees, Bayesian learners, ensemble learners, evolutionary algorithms, and miscellaneous, these techniques identified the performance accuracy of 70% of the success. Artificial Neural Networks and Deep learning methods can use to improve the extension of the paper.

The operational processes, tactical processes, and strategic processes proposed in paper [10]. The article also introduces a four-layer representation to describe the behavior of drivers which includes goal-oriented action, Stimulus-driven action, cause, and attention. This paper uses novel algorithms to capture driver behaviour. By adding sensor data to improve accuracy, we need better images, temporal modelling, and training plan to reach consistent performance in driver behaviour.

The different models of explainability and interpretability are proposed in [1]. Different methods for tabular and text datasets applied to anchor, Local Interpretable Model-Agnostic Explanations (LIME), decision boundary, and a prototype model. Simulatability metrics give a quantitative measure of interpretability, capturing the idea that explanations should advance a person's knowledge of why a model provides its outputs. LIME enhances simulatability in tabular classification. The subjective user evaluations of explanation quality are not predictive of explanation effectiveness in simulation tests. Hence some methods like knowledge distillation techniques and exemplar methods can improve the expansion of this work.

The concept of taxonomy conception, taxonomy implementation, algorithmic enhancements, and educational material are discussed in the paper [2]. The paper addresses how toolkit and taxonomy collectively provide a platform. The paper added the open-source AI Explainability 360 (AIX360) toolkit, eight state-of-the-art explainability algorithms that can explain an AI model or a complex dataset. It also illustrates some methods used like knowledge distillation methods and exemplar methods. To train the models tensor flow, keras can improve this work.

The paper [7] addresses the Evaluating Rationales and Simple English Reasoning (ERASER) benchmark to advance

research on interpretable models in Natural Language Processing (NLP). NLP for interpretability work analyzes Post-hoc explanation techniques attempt to describe why a model obtained a specific prediction for a provided data. Future work on creating more interpretable NLP models for better performance, more NLP models can add to the paper.

The purpose of explanations towards building a model predictable to a human is addressed in [5]. The paper Examine an AI trained to deliver the multi-modal task of Visual Question Answering (VQA) acknowledging to free-form natural language Indicates equal contribution. VQA introduces situations where humans actively receive information from recognized data and directly give themselves to human-AI interactions. Analyze two tasks that show the degree to which a human knows their AI teammate Failure Prediction (FP) and Knowledge Prediction (KP). Improvement Developing enhanced explanation modalities that can develop human-AI teams. Co-operative human-AI games may be a natural fit for such an evaluation.

This paper presents an interpretable machine learning approach to classify the driver behavior using random forest classifier. The rest of the paper is organized as follows: section 2 gives a detailed description of the proposed approach; section 3 discusses the implementation platform details and the experiments and results are discussed in section 4; and section 5 concludes the paper.

## II. INTERPRETATION OF MACHINE LEARNING MODELS

The machine learning techniques applied to this dataset as follows:

1. naive bayes model
2. logistic regression model
3. random forest model
4. neural network

Naive Bayes model is based on bayes theorem and used for solving classification problems. It is a probabilistic classifier, which means it predicts on the basis of the probability of an object. In this each feature is independent of each other.

The Bayes theorem is as follows:

$$P(A|B) = \frac{P(B|A)P(A)}{P(B)}$$

Where,

Posterior probability  $P(A|B)$  : Probability of hypothesis A on the observed event B.

Likelihood probability  $P(B|A)$ : Probability of the evidence given that the probability of a hypothesis is true.

Prior Probability  $P(A)$  : Probability of hypothesis before observing the evidence.

Marginal Probability  $P(B)$  : Probability of Evidence.

Logistic regression is one of the Supervised Learning techniques. It is a predictive analysis technique. In this ‘‘S’’ shaped function is used which can predict maximum 2 values known as binary i.e. 0 or 1. This model is used to describe data and to explain relationship between one dependent binary

variable and one or more nominal. This algorithm provides probability and classifies new sampled data using discrete and continuous data set provided to it. It will provide the probability value between 0 & 1.

Logistic regression equation:

$$\log \left[ \frac{y}{1-y} \right] = b_0 + b_1x_1 + b_2x_2 + b_3x_3 \dots + b_nx_n$$

Where: y is the dependent variable

$x_1 \dots x_n$  is independent variable

The ratio  $y/(1-y)$  is called the odds and the log is the logarithm of the odds

b ( $b_0 \dots b_n$ ) is the regression coefficient.

The random forest model is found as one of the efficient models. This model is consists of a large number of individual decision trees. Based on the maximum vote this model gives the prediction outcome. To get more accurate results random forest algorithm builds multiple decision trees and merges them. While splitting a node random forest model searches for the best feature in the random subset of the feature instead of looking for the most important feature hence we get more accurate results.

Neural network helps to group unlabeled data according to similarities among the example inputs, and they classify data when they have a labelled dataset to train on.

LIME gives an explanation for single point or feature for any model [8]. The process of interpretable model as shown in figure 1.

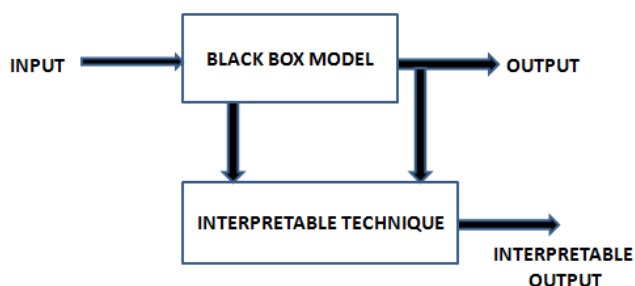


Fig1: The block diagram shows the process of interpretable model.

Mathematically, local surrogate models with interpretability can be expressed as follows:

explanation  $(x) = \arg \min_{g \in G} L(f; g; \pi x) + \Omega(g)$

The explanation model for instance ‘x’ is the model ‘g’ that reduces loss ‘L’ which estimates how nearby the explanation is to the prediction of the real model ‘f’, while the model complexity  $\Omega(g)$  is kept low. ‘G’ is the family of possible explanations. The vicinity measure ‘ $\pi x$ ’ describes how large the neighbourhood nearby instance ‘x’ is considered for the explanation.

The working of the LIME model as follows:

1. Permute the data.
2. Calculate the distance between permutations and original observations.

3. Make predictions on new data using complex model.
4. Select features best describing the complex model outcome from the permuted data.
5. Fit a simple model to the permuted data with features and similarity scores as weights.
6. Feature weights from the simple model make explanations for the complex model local behaviour.

### III. DRIVER BEHAVIOR CLASSIFIER WITH INTERPRETATION

The dataset Stay Alert! The Ford Challenge (<https://www.kaggle.com/c/stayalert>) [12] is used for this paper in which the objective is to design a classifier that will detect whether the driver is alert or not alert.

Employing any combination of vehicular, environmental and driver physiological data that are acquired while driving.

The data shows the results of a number of "trials", each one representing about 2 minutes of sequential data that are recorded every 100 ms during a driving session on the road or in a driving simulator. There are 604,329 instances of data in the training dataset and 120,840 instances of data in the test dataset. The test dataset has a matrix of  $120841 \times 33$ . Of 33 features, 30 features are measures that physical, environmental, and vehicular features. The dataset has 8 physiological, 11 environmental, and 11 vehicular features. Stared with inspecting features and removed some features those values were constant throughout the dataset.

An extensive set of experiments were performed to understand the behaviour of driver with different combinations of vehicular (V1-V11), environmental (E1-E11), and physiological (P1-P8) data while minimizing the use of the physiological feature.

With feature set which includes E6, E7, E8, E10, P7 and V1 achieved decent accuracy as shown in the comparison table1. With further examination it is found that feature set E4,E5,E6,E7,E8,E9,E10,V4,V5,V6,V8,V10,V11 and P6 gives the best accuracy as shown in the comparison table 2 for different machine learning models that are applied in this paper. After comparison of Tables 1 and 2, it has found random forest model gives the highest accuracy with the feature set E4, E5, E6, E7, E8, E9, E10, V4, V6, V10. Further considered only Vehicular features (V), only Environmental features (E), Both Vehicular and Environmental features (V&E) & All Physiological, Environmental and Vehicular features (PEV) only for random forest models due to its high accuracy as shown in the comparison table 3.

The development of the proposed approach was done using Scikit-learn and Lime libraries.

Comparison between different classifiers based on different parameters like accuracy, recall, specificity and AUC score are shown in the comparison table1 and table 2.

Comparison Table 1

model	accuracy in %	recall in %	specificity in %	AUC score
logistic regression	60.17	90.32	25.13	0.5328
naive bayes	61.74	85.48	25.02	0.5721
random forest	93.54	97	90.08	0.9354
neural network	65.96	94.31	26.21	0.6026

Comparison Table 2

MODEL	ACCURACY	RECALL	SPECIFICITY	AUC SCORE
LOGISTIC REGRESSION	61.21%	75.21%	41.96%	0.5858
NAVE BAYES	62.86%	45.28%	87.02%	0.6615
RANDOM FOREST	98.91%	98.58%	97.55%	0.9873
NEURAL NETWORK	80.76%	96.40%	59.26%	0.7783

Comparison Table 3

Parameters	PEV	EV	E	V
ACC	0.9891	0.9902	0.9878	0.9565
AUC	0.9873	0.9886	0.9865	0.9525

The Random Forest has 50 trees, A neural network with four hidden layers, each layer has 90, 70, 50, 30 neurons respectively.

Due to nature of the dataset, performance of model was evaluated in terms of accuracy, recall, specificity and the Area Under the Curve (AUC). The AUC is the measure of the ability of a classifier to discriminate between classes and is used as a summary of the ROC curve. The Receiver Operator Characteristic (ROC) curve is an evaluation metric for binary classification problems. It is a probability curve that plots the TPR against FPR at various threshold values and essentially separates the 'signal' from the 'noise'. With the help of true positive (Tp), true negative (Tn), false positive (Fp), false negative (Fn), true positive rate (TPR) and false positive rate (FPR) the above mentioned parameters can be defined as follows

$$Accuracy = \frac{(Tp + Tn)}{Tp + Tn + Fp + Fn}$$

$$Recall = \frac{Tp}{Tp + Fn}$$

$$Specificity = \frac{Tn}{Tn + Fp}$$

A 2x2 matrix is a confusion matrix, used to represent wrong and right predictions

	Prediction=0	Prediction=1
Actual=0	tn	fp
Actual=1	fn	tp

LIME is used to perform some new points around one target point and see what model predicts for these new points to examine a bunch of points around it and later fit a fairly weighted linear regression to it.

Applied LIME on the Naive Bayes model to classify the behaviour of the driver is alert or not. LIME gives an interpretation for the outcome with prediction probability and a list of explanations. For the naive Bayes model, the prediction probability for Isalert is 0.3714 and for NotAlert is 0.6286. A list of explanations shows that feature V10 is for making driver alert and V11, P6, E5, E7, E6, E8 are making driver NotAlert as shown in the figure 2. LIME is used on the logistic regression model to classify the behavior of the driver is alert or not. LIME gives an interpretation for the prediction probability for Isalert is 0.3879 and for NotAlert is 0.6121. A list of explanations shows that features E10 and V4 are responsible for making driver alert and V11, P6, E7, E8, and V10 are responsible for making driver NotAlert as shown in the figure 3.

LIME is applied to the Neural network model to classify the behavior of the driver is alert or not. LIME gives an interpretation for the prediction probability for Isalert is 0.8076 and for NotAlert is 0.1924. A list of explanations shows that features V11, P6, E6, and V10 are responsible for making driver alert and V4, V6, E7, E8, and E9 are responsible for making driver NotAlert as shown in the figure 4. LIME used the random forest model as a black box to classify the behavior of the driver is alert or not. LIME gives an interpretation for the prediction probability for Isalert is 0.9891 and for NotAlert is 0.0109. A list of explanations shows that feature V10 is responsible for making driver alert and V11, E5, E6, E7, E8, and P6 are responsible for making driver NotAlert as shown in the figure 5.

LIME is used on the random forest model to classify the behavior of the driver is alert or not while considering only environmental features. LIME gives an interpretation for the prediction probability for Isalert is 0.9878 and for NotAlert is 0.0122. A list of explanations shows that features E10 and E6 are responsible for making driver alert and E4, E5, E6, E7, E8, and E9 are responsible for making driver Not alert as shown in the figure6.

LIME is applied to the random forest model to classify the behavior of the driver is alert or not while considering only vehicular features. LIME gives an interpretation for the prediction probability for Isalert is 0.9565 and for NotAlert is 0.0435. A list of explanations shows that feature V11 is responsible for making driver alert and V10 is responsible for making driver Not alert as shown in the figure 7.

LIME used the random forest model as a black box to classify the behavior of the driver is alert or not while considering environmental and vehicular features. LIME gives an interpretation for the prediction probability for Isalert is 0.9902 and for NotAlert is 0.0098. A list of explanations shows that features V11, E10, and E9 are responsible for making driver alert, and E4, E5, V4, V6, and V10 are responsible for making driver Not alert as shown in the figure 8.

LIME is applied to the random forest model to classify the behavior of the driver is alert or not while considering all vehicular, environmental and physiological features. LIME gives an interpretation for the prediction probability for Isalert is 0.9891 and for NotAlert is 0.0109. A list of explanations shows that feature V11 is responsible for making driver alert and E4, E5, P6, V4, E7, and E8 are responsible for making driver not alert as shown in the figure 9.

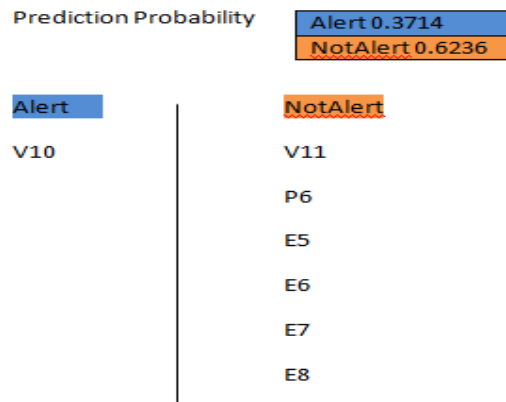


Fig2: the above result shows the probability prediction for naive bayes model.

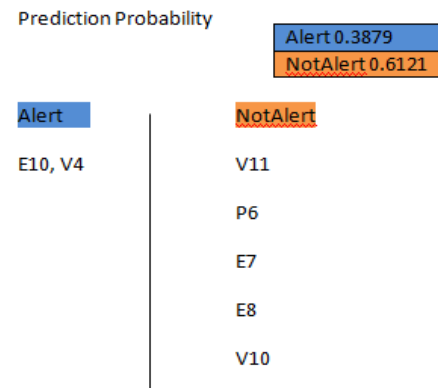


Fig3: the above result shows the probability prediction for logistic regression model.

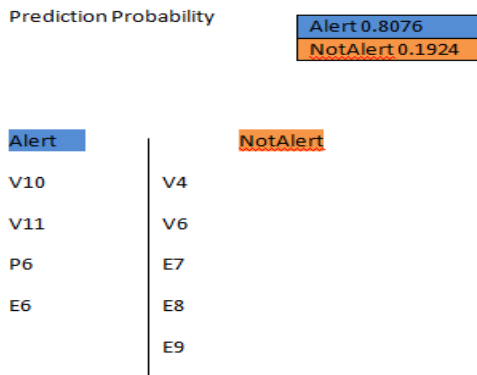


Fig4: the above result shows the probability prediction for neural network model.

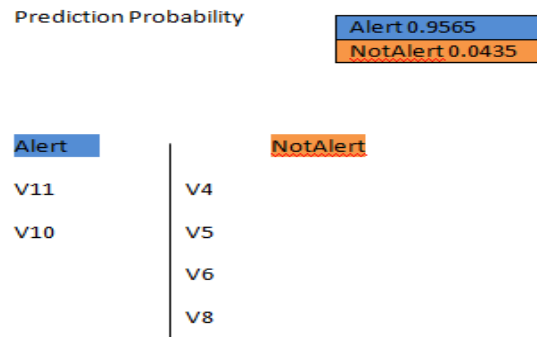


Fig7: the above result shows the probability prediction for only vehicular features for random forest.

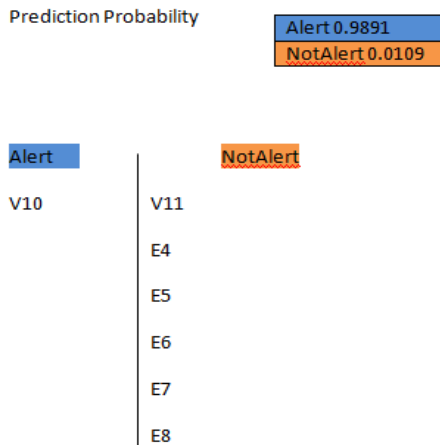


Fig5: the above result shows the probability prediction for random forest model.

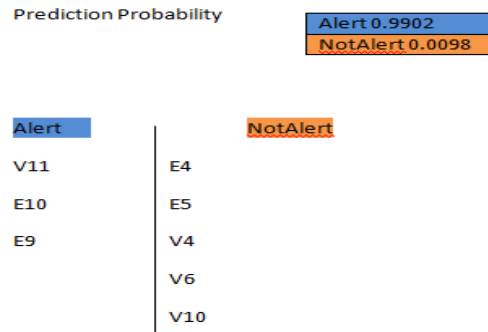


Fig8: the above result shows the probability prediction for environmental and vehicular features for random forest

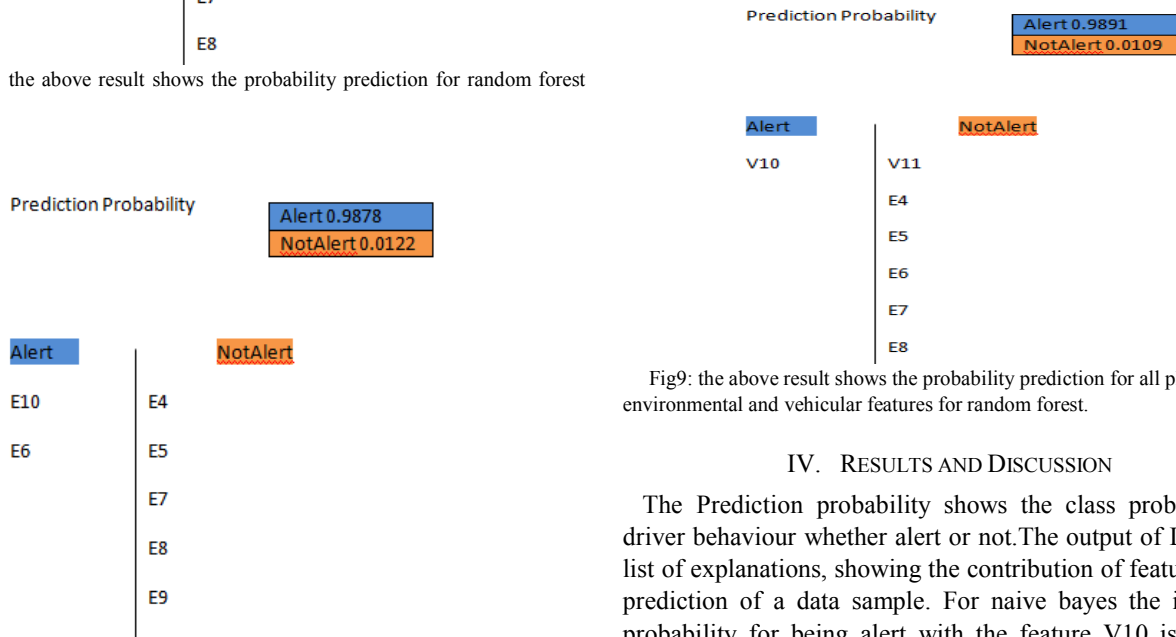


Fig9: the above result shows the probability prediction for all physiological environmental and vehicular features for random forest.

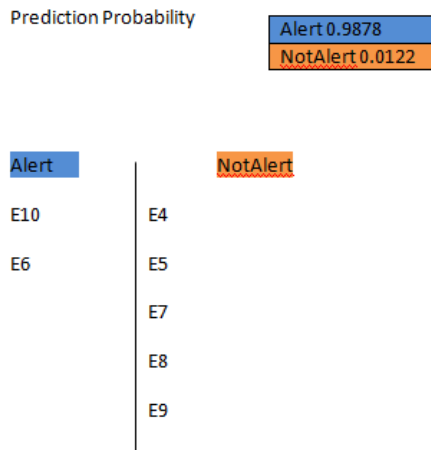


Fig6: the above result shows the probability prediction for only environmental features for random forest.

#### IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Prediction probability shows the class probability of driver behaviour whether alert or not. The output of LIME is a list of explanations, showing the contribution of features to the prediction of a data sample. For naive bayes the individual probability for being alert with the feature V10 is 0.06 for being not alert with the feature V11 0.04 for P6 0.01 for E5 0.02 for E6 0.01 for E7 is 0.01 and for E8 is 0.02. The individual probability for logistic regression for being alert with the feature V4 is 0.03 for E10 0.05 for being not alert with the feature V11 0.04 for P6 0.01 for E8 0.02 for E7 0.01 and for V10 is 0.04. The neural network model has individual probability for being alert with the feature V11 is 0.05, P6 is 0.01, E6 is 0.04, V10 is 0.05, and for not alert feature V4 is 0.02, V6 is 0.01, E7 is 0.01, E8 is 0.02, and E9 is 0.01. The

random forest approach has the individual probability for being alert with the feature V10 is 0.05 for being not alert with the feature V11 0.02 for E5 0.01 for E6 0.02 for E7 0.01 for E8 is 0.02 and for E9 is 0.01. With only environmental features for random forest model the individual probability for being alert with the feature E10 is 0.04 for E6 is 0.02 for being not alert with the feature E4 is 0.02 for E5 0.01 for E7 0.01 for E8 0.02 and for E9 is 0.01. The individual probability for random forest with only vehicular features for being alert with the feature V11 is 0.05 for V10 is 0.05 for being not alert with the feature V4 is 0.02 for V5 0.01 for V6 0.01 and for V8 is 0.02. Used environmental and vehicular features for the random forest model, the individual probability for being alert with the feature V11 is 0.05 for E10 is 0.02 and for E9 is 0.01 for being not alert with the feature E4 is 0.01 for E5 0.01 for V4 is 0.02 for V6 0.01 and for V10 is 0.02. Applied all physiological, environmental and vehicular features on the random forest model and found the individual probability for being alert with the feature V11 is 0.04 and for not alert with the feature E5 is 0.02 for V4 0.01 for P6 is 0.01 for E4 is 0.01 for E6 0.02 and for E7 is 0.01. LIME also provides which feature variations will have the largest impact on the prediction. From the results above mentioned it has been found that the features E10, V10 and V11 having important impact on classifying the behavior of a driver whether alert or not. Main effect is driver being alert based on environmental and vehicular features. This has decreased the chances of not alert significantly in random forest model with vehicular feature (V) 0.9565 accuracy was achieved, with environmental feature (E) 0.9878 accuracy was achieved, by using both Vehicular and Environmental features (V&E) 0.9902 accuracy was achieved & with all physiological, environmental and vehicular features (PEV) 0.9891 accuracy was achieved.

## V. CONCLUSION

The paper addresses the issue of black box approach of various machine learning models by using an interpretable approach called LIME. The proposed approach was demonstrated on bench mark dataset of driver behavior prediction.

Applied different models on the same dataset with the feature set E4,E5,E6,E7,E8,E9,E10,V4,V6,V10,V11 and found accuracy for the various models as shown in the comparison table 2. The random forest reached an accuracy of 98.91%. A neural network reached an accuracy of 80.76%. Naive bayes model performs an accuracy of 62.86% and logistic regression reached an accuracy of 61.21% and it is found that the best performance is achieved by random forest hence considered random forest model with only vehicular features (V1-V11) reached an accuracy of 0.9565. With only environmental features (E1-E11) reached an accuracy of 0.9878. Considered both environmental (E1-E11) and vehicular feature (V1-V11) reached an accuracy of 0.9902. Considered all features physiological (P1-P8), environmental (E1-E11) and vehicular (V1-V11) reached an accuracy of 0.9891.

It is found that with the combination of vehicular and environmental features random forest reaches the best classification accuracy of 99.02% and AUC value of 0.9886. To improve the performance of the model we can apply some of the deep learning techniques like Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN) which can be implemented for the extension of the work under the scenario.

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# A Hierarchical Multimodal Perception Framework for Intelligent Systems

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**Abstract**— The boom in AI fueled by State of the Art Machine Learning techniques is causing researchers to argue if machines will replace humans in the future. The self learning capabilities of existing Intelligent Systems are raising questions about this much awaited singularity and a discussion to control the boundaries for rules that govern these AI algorithms has started. In this paper, a “machine perception” framework is proposed, which focuses on the view-point that in order to have a safe co-existence of humans and intelligent machines, AI should be evolved as a tool for augmenting our intelligence. It takes inspiration from the ways of working of human perception and proposes a layered multimodal learning approach for machines. Experiments have been performed on benchmark datasets and results are reported illustrating an effective representation strategies and robust fusion techniques of the proposed approach.

**Keywords**—Multimodal, Encoder, Decoder, Deep Learning, Machine Perception, Intelligent Systems.

## I. INTRODUCTION

With the third boom in Artificial intelligence (AI) triggered by SOTA Machine Learning techniques, the debate if machines will replace humans has become stronger. It offers multiple views from AI researchers to Psychologist, ranging from optimism to dystopia, each giving stronger reasons to convince those on the other side. The fear is largely governed by the existence of a hypothetical agent in the future whose self-learning capability could trigger a run-away reaction such that its intelligence might far exceed the average human capacity in those times [1]. This idea is raising questions about the “Ethics in AI” since such a system would try to optimize whatever task it has been given, without taking into consideration the values and ethics that are important for mankind. This being said, a positive side to this argument is we still have time - this much awaited “singularity”, is in anticipation at least for the last four decades and is not expected to be seen for another decade or so. Therefore, necessary steps should be taken to control the boundaries for the rules that govern AI [2].

In this paper, an optimistic framework is detailed with a view-point built on the principle that AI should not be independent of Human Intelligence, but be evolved as a tool for augmenting it. It is inspired by the fact that the humans and smart machine interactions are going to go up considerably in the near future and that they will co-exist in the same environment. For a safe co-existence, they should compete against each other in a controlled environment and co-operate to improve quality of life on earth [3], [4]. Co-learning should be the focus such that the machines are able to understand human behavior and humans are able to interpret the response

of machines given a particular stimulus. The proposed framework works at the grass-root level with an aim to make this co-existence smoother, safer and beneficial for sustained habitat. It does so by promoting a multimodal learning capability for intelligent machines and proposes perceptual capabilities at the core of operations of these intelligent systems. The inspiration comes from the following: human brain is adaptable, has a physiological structure and learns through its multimodal perceptual capabilities where-as, machines are more physical/chemical and learn through a more mechanical, input-data-driven approach. They lack the adaptive ability that humans possess and fall short in the learning since the algorithms that govern their learning do not account for the same [5].

The proposed methodology in this paper, takes into consideration the top down and bottom up approach of learning in humans and machines, respectively. Functioning of Human learning can be visualized as a hierarchy of three layers: the first one being the Data – Pattern Layer which includes raw signal values like nerve signals from organs, the second is the Content layer where the multimodal perceptual capabilities interpret the concepts and the third is an external functioning Intelligence layer which is developed with time and experience gained by interacting with environment. It contains the metadata or properties of the concepts interpreted in the second layer. This is what makes us superior to machines.

In this paper, a “machine perception” framework is proposed, which focuses on the view-point that in order to have a safe co-existence of humans and intelligent machines, AI should be evolved as a tool for augmenting our intelligence. This will introduce co-learning between the two and improve the quality of life by promoting the idea of a sustainable habitat. Our contributions are as follows:

1. The proposed framework demonstrates multimodal learning capabilities in machines through novel algorithms (Task at the grass root level)
2. The proposed framework establishes a method to identify effective representation and fusion strategies at the middle -layer.
3. The layered approach helps in moving towards improving AI system’s understanding and facilitates Co-Learning.

Experiments are carried out to check the improvements by the novel algorithms that have multimodal learning capabilities and govern this framework at the grass-root level. Benchmark datasets are used for illustration of this idea. The results show that the proposed approach performs better than the existing

machine learning techniques by making it capable enough to handle multimodal data that comes directly from humans. These experimental results indicate towards improved understanding of human communication and behavior by the AI systems and also lay the foundation for future experiments for higher order task.

The paper is organized as follows: Section Two describes the perception framework at a high level. Section Three discusses the multimodal learning aspect. Section Four and Five contains experiments that have been carried out and section Six concludes the paper with a short discussion.

## II. THE PERCEPTION FRAMEWORK: HUMANS VS INTELLIGENT SYSTEMS

Machine learning and Artificial Intelligence has been making steady progress in the last decade and their adoption in mainstream has risen certain questions like: How do we interpret the learning of this AI agent? When is this agent bound to fail or what are the boundary conditions for this AI agent? What parameters govern the decision making process in these agents? How would these systems work in the natural environment which has a most of its information distributed across multiple modalities? Without having answers to such questions, the existing AI agents work with high uncertainty and therefore, this could give rise to the following problems in the near future: Increasing amount of computational resources and data growing exponentially may cause a futuristic AI agent to blindly optimize whatever task they have been given; it could design better versions of itself using the self-learning capabilities that they possess and could in turn trigger an uncontrolled run away reaction in a very short span of time [1].

In an attempt to solve the above-mentioned multimodal problem this paper proposes a framework for learning of intelligent systems. It is inspired by human perception and considers the unique approach by which humans learn in the natural environment. Our interaction with the natural environment is either active in nature – for example, when we are in discussion with our partner. It could also be passive in some scenarios – for example, when we are listening to an audio book or reading a piece of work written by another human being. We use a combination of our senses to experience the natural environment and the knowledge gained in doing so, is treated as a unitary representation in our brain [6]. So, this multimodal yet unified nature of human perception, plays a central role in building up of human intelligence [7], [8].

In addition to this, to understand its operating principles, a deep dive into the structure of human brain is necessary. Research has shown that, a surprisingly large number of neurons in our brain respond to multimodal inputs from the surrounding environment [9]–[11]. Our brain has multisensory convergence zones where the information coming from different senses is fused. The functioning of these zones is interesting because the neurons that are dedicated for processing of uni-modal senses send their information to these convergence zones, where it is processed together – in a unified way. One such closely studied convergence zone is superior colliculus [9], [12]. In this zone, the information from multiple senses converge with the help of neurons present in the zone and effectively allows them to function in harmony. This helps them to generate a combined

response and enhances the salience of the event represented by multimodal input.

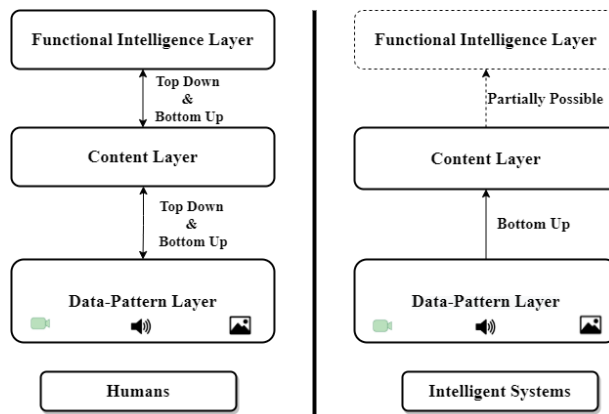


Fig 1: Comparison of Perception Framework: Human Perception vs Intelligent Systems (Proposed Framework)

The perception framework that has been briefly described in the previous section (Section I: Introduction), takes structural inspiration from the above explained natural design. An abstraction for the analysis of human learning can be drawn through a multi-layered approach, in a hierarchical manner. As mentioned earlier, our learning mechanism can be structured as an interaction between three composite layers: The Data-Pattern Layer, the Content Layer and an externally functioning layer, responsible for metadata and properties of the concepts that are being learnt from the first two. These properties of concepts are gathered over a period, while functioning in a natural environment. With a similar arrangement, the structure of the proposed framework is a reflex of our learning hierarchy. This is shown in Fig 1. The first layer, Data-Pattern Layer is responsible for capturing the raw inputs from different modalities like text, speech, video, audio etc. This is in parallel with the human learning model, where this layer consists of neurons and nerve cells that carry raw electrical signal from various sense organs to the unimodal regions of our brain. In the proposed framework, this layer can be visualized as a layer of unimodal experts whose function is to extract important features from the unimodal stimulus, input to our intelligent system. This layer can have a mixture of machine learning models like convolution neural networks for images, video-frames or a recurrent neural network for speech, text, depending on the modality from which the features have to be extracted. The second layer is The Content Layer. In the human learning model, this layer consists of the convergence zones where the unimodal signals are fused, and a unified output is generated. This is where the multimodal perceptual capabilities of human brain come into action and a concept is interpreted after unifying the unimodal signals. The focal theories of human perception play an important role in choosing which modalities to focus on while fusing and which ones to ignore. This is decided based on the multisensory enhancement theory and the principle of inverse effectiveness [9], [12]. The multisensory enhancement theory states that the response to multimodal stimuli is more than that of independent unimodal stimuli taken together. Moreover, the principle of inverse effectiveness states that, if response to each component is weak, then the enhancement opportunity is

much more and vice versa. Inspired by this mechanism, the Content Layer in the proposed framework, is responsible for combining the results from individual experts present in the first layer (individual unimodal models). The methodology of multimodal learning is explained in detail in the following section. The third and the final layer, which is more pronounced in humans than in existing intelligent system, is an external functioning Intelligence layer, responsible for metadata and properties of the concepts interpreted using the multimodal capabilities and the experts in the first two layers. The knowledge on the interpreted concepts is accumulated over time and is used by humans to complete the perceptual interpretation of the environment. This layer contributes to the common sense in humans by which they are able to solve trivial tasks which the machine learning models fail to do as of now. For example, a concept “crow”, the nerve signals at the first layer (from various organs) and the content in the second help us in interpreting it. The content here could be an image of the crow or simply a word crow written in a text book or someone pronouncing the word “crow”. The metadata that we learn with experience and associate with this concept is that the crow is black in color, it caws, it flies and will not swim etc. In addition to these, humans have the capability to use these three layers both in a multimodal top down as well as multimodal bottoms up approach. This is what makes us superior to machines, which handle the bottoms up approach with usually a unimodal learning limitation.

The next section explains our proposed methodology for overcoming the above limitation related to unimodal learning in machines. The methodology works within the proposed framework detailed in this section and provides a novel approach for combining multiple modalities so that the machine learning model can become more robust to naturally occurring problem of missing data, corrupt inputs, or noisy stimuli.

### III. MULTIMODAL LEARNING WITHIN THE PERCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

For intelligent systems to make steady progress and achieve general acceptability in the industry, it needs to be robust and accurate in interpreting the natural environment. The focus has to shift from processing unimodal signals in current machine learning setups to building models that can process and relate information from multiple modalities [13].

The advent of deep learning has proven promising for multimodal machine learning [14]–[17]. It has also proven to be very effective in making highly accurate predictions on huge and complex data from multiple sources. These predictions are generally based on the task driven and computationally intensive learning of deep neural network models on the input data. It can be argued that, while these approaches are powerful and accurate, they do not offer suitable explanation on how learning is happening. In the big data era, tons of data, usually multimodal in nature (audio, video, speech, text etc) is being generated in all kinds of industrial and scientific environment around the world. However, with the data quantity increasing, another critical issue of data ambiguity which involves noise and uncertainty emerges as a challenge to machine learning research

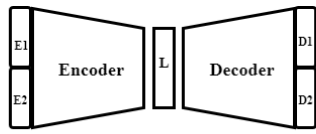
community. In addition to this, the multimodal signals that have to be processed might be show diverse characteristics. Therefore, it becomes evident that we use robust techniques and algorithms that are able to give logical explanations for the learning mechanism, and are able to capture the intermodal without ignoring the intramodal information. To handle the above mentioned challenges, the following technical cores should be taken care off [13]:

- Representation of Multimodal Data: The heterogeneity of multimodal signals makes representation of multimodal data difficult. The models have to exploit the complementary nature of the multimodal signals as well as take care of the redundancy in the data.
- Fusion of Multimodal Data: The concept of integrating information from multiple modalities with the aim of classification, prediction or regression
- Multimodal Training Data For Knowledge Transfer: A labelled multimodal datasets for training a multimodal model may not always be available since the problems these models are going to solve are fairly complex and closer to the natural world. Most of the available data present in the natural setting is unlabelled or partially labelled, at best. In addition to this, further labelling of such data is both difficult and costly. Therefore knowledge transfer from unimodal available datasets should be used. But an important question that always comes up in knowledge transfer is how effective unimodal transfer learning would be?
- Translation and Mapping of Multimodal Data across Modalities: The mapping of data from one modality to the other is difficult since the translation relationship may be subjective since it may be a real valued signal in case of 14 speeches or symbols in case of sentences. It can be understood as generating one entity in a modality given the same entity in any other modality.

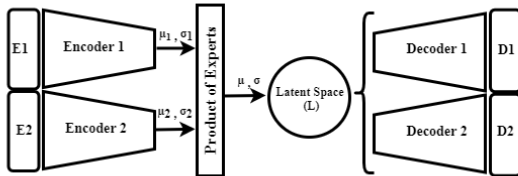
To handle multimodal data, encoder-decoder based machine learning models are proposed within the framework that was discussed in the last section. They have shown great promise for unsupervised learning via capturing rich distribution of complex data from different unimodal inputs from different modalities. The aim for these models is to extract meaningful low-level and high-level hidden attributes of the data.

There are two variants of these models: First is the Stacked Autoencoder, which is suitable for data compression or semantic feature generation from extracted multimodal features; Second is Variational Autoencoder model which is specifically optimized for any multimodal generation task. The encoder in these models can either take features from unimodal models, concatenate them and then learn a fused latent space, on which any regression or classification task may depend. Or the encoder itself could be a combination of expert feature extractors (with decoder being the mirror image of each encoder) for each modality. A high level diagram of these models is shown in Fig 2. A one to one comparison of these models with Fig 1 can be interpreted as follows: The multimodal inputs ‘E1’ and ‘E2’ are presented to the their respective encoders (or just the encoder in case of Fig 2 (a)) and then features of individual modality

distribution - the mean and variance are generated. These together form the Data-Pattern Layer of Intelligent Systems shown in Fig 1. Next, the features from different modalities or results from individual unimodal distributions are fused and the latent vectors in latent space are generated.



(a) Stacked Autoencoder



(b) Variational Autoencoder

Fig 2: Encoder-Decoder Models: (a) Stacked Autoencoder; (b) Variational Autoencoder (L is the fused space/Latent space)

This latent space corresponds to the content layer in the intelligent systems of Fig 1. The decoders are available merely for the reconstruction of the input so that the end to end training can be achieved along with a well defined loss function. In case the problem needs to generate one modality from the other (or generate a vector in another modality/domain given an input modality), the output of these decoders are considered as the generative pair for the given input. As mentioned in section I, the scope of this paper is multimodal learning at the grass root level of our models, so the interaction with the third layer is skipped here.

A major challenge related to learning in such multimodal perception models is the scarcity of labelled multimodal datasets matching their training requirements. As the need for having a long-term multimodal models grows, the requirement of a well suited dataset to train these models also comes up. Since well labelled multimodal datasets might not always be handy, a work around is to use unimodal dataset from a similar domain. But an important question that needs to be answered is, whether transfer learning will work for the presented multimodal problem or not. The two datasets (the dataset in the original domain and the dataset used for training from a similar domain) have to be measured on various parameters that may include classification complexity, number of classes, and other statistical properties. Measuring statistical properties of these multimodal datasets could be difficult due to the diverse characteristics that they might show.

This paper makes use of a statistical estimation technique to identify if the source dataset that is used for training an expert feature extractor will work for the target dataset (which is part of a larger multimodal dataset) i.e if the knowledge transfer in unimodal domain will work in the multimodal set-up as well. The next section details the experimental set-up that was followed for the same.

#### IV. TRANSFER LEARNING FOR MULTIMODAL SYSTEMS: EFFECTIVE REPRESENTATION TECHNIQUES

This section explains the datasets, experimental set-up and the results that were obtained from the multimodal knowledge transfer experiments.

The problem at hand can be formally defined as follows: Build a machine learning model to solve a complex classification task ‘ $T_T$ ’ such that, the input domain is multimodal in nature with ‘ $M_{1 \text{ to } N}$ ’ modalities. In a usual scenario, the machine learning models for each modality are trained using the labelled input data. But here, the dataset ‘ $D_T$ ’ available for training is small in size and may have missing modalities. For explanation of this problem, a single modality  $M_1$  is taken. Because of the hurdles mentioned above, a complex machine learning model trained from scratch on this modality, might not be able to generalize well on unseen data. Therefore, a pre-trained model for classification task  $T_S$  (‘ $S$ ’ is for source), trained on a dataset ‘ $D_S$ ’ is taken with the assumption that the target domain dataset ‘ $D_T$ ’ has similar properties to source domain Dataset ‘ $D_S$ ’. If this assumption holds good, the machine learning model for ‘ $T_S$ ’ can be used as a feature extractor for task ‘ $T_T$ ’ with the top layer replaced by a new layer, fine-tuned and trained for classes in ‘ $T_T$ ’. This method should facilitate knowledge transfer between the two domains and will result in better classification results than those that were trained from scratch. In case the assumptions fails, the results would not differ much from those models that are trained from scratch. This methodology can be generalized for all modalities to obtain suitable uni-modal representations in a multimodal set-up.

The target classification task (Task-1: Informative vs Non-Informative) and dataset (CrisisMMD: Multimodal Twitter Datasets from Natural Disasters) that were selected for experiments have been explained in [18]. During natural and man-made disasters, social media platforms are used to report updates about injuries, deaths, infrastructure damage etc. The humanitarian organizations can use this information to gain situational awareness and plan relief operations. Research has shown that a multimodal approach to this problem can boost the disaster response significantly. One of the challenges faced despite extensive research in this domain is the absence of labelled image data in this domain. Therefore, we choose this as a target dataset and apply the above explained methodology of knowledge transfer with a well known image classification and object recognition dataset – ImageNet [19] as the source domain dataset. This dataset is a much larger dataset with most of its classes available from the naturally occurring scenes.

The similarities of the datasets are visualized using a statistical estimation technique called t-SNE (t-distributed Stochastic Neighbor Embedding) that preserves the high dimensional structure of the dataset while mapping it to a low dimension space [20]. This makes the visualization easier to understand and interpret. In the experimental set-up, data from two datasets is assigned binary labels such that those points that fall under the source dataset are assigned a common class whereas, those under the target domain dataset

are assigned the other class. The combined data is then passed on to the t-SNE algorithm which then maps points from the same dataset with a unique color. A subsets of source dataset which matches the size of target dataset is selected for simplicity. Ten subsets with Ten classes each are randomly chosen with replacement from the ImageNet dataset such that each class in these hundred chosen classes (Ten Subsets with Ten Classes Each) has more than 1000 Images. A combined dataset is formed by selecting one of the ten subsets along with the target domain dataset. Therefore, t-SNE is run for each of those ten combinations of datasets (one subset from ImageNet combined with Target Domain Dataset). This methodology is used to capture the huge variance in the ImageNet Dataset and then compare it with the target domain dataset. The hypothesis is: A high performing machine learning model, pre-trained on such a huge natural dataset, with large variance should be able to capture produce better classification results when fine tuned on a smaller dataset with naturally occurring images. The Fig 3 shows result plots of the above mentioned comparison after running t-SNE on the combined dataset. Top 5 experimental results are reported in this paper.

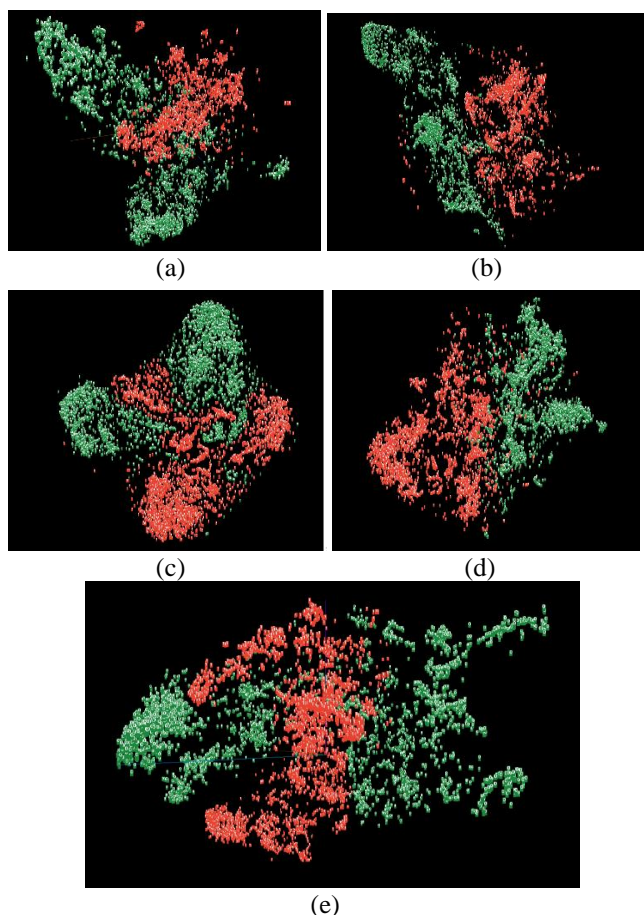


Fig 3: Comparison of Source dataset (ImageNet Subsets) and Target Dataset (CrisisMMD). Green points labelled with One belong to Source Dataset whereas, Red Points labelled with a Zero belong to Target Dataset.

The clusters are clearly visible in all the five experiments that are reported here. No or very small region of overlap can be seen in all of them. This highlights the fact that the two datasets are very different from each other. Further, to verify this claim, we conducted a few more experiments by training a Convolution Neural Network model from scratch, and

compared the results with a pre-trained DenseNet model on ImageNet weights. The CNN model that was trained from scratch was evolved using the approach proposed in [21]. The table below gives the comparison of accuracies for the above mentioned models.

TABLE I. COMPARISON OF ACCURACY FROM DIFFERENT MODELS

S.No.	Comparison of Accuracy		
	Weights Used	Model Type	Accuracy
1	Pre-trained on ImageNet	DenseNet with 121 Layers	79.8%
3	Trained from scratch	Custom CNN with 33 Layers	77%

The above table shows that the performance improvement while using a large pre-trained model (DenseNet with 121 Layers) over the much simpler Custom CNN model is not much. In the usual scenarios, when the domain dataset and target dataset are statistically comparable, this performance improvements can be much more than what we observe for this scenario [22], [23]. Thus, effective use of transfer learning can be made to obtain a good representation for multimodal models in case the target dataset is similar in characteristics to the source dataset. If the target dataset differs in characteristics from the source dataset, the proposed estimation methodology can help in identifying this difference and the use of other modalities becomes apparent.

## V. EFFECTIVE FUSION TECHNIQUES IN MULTIMODAL SYSTEMS.

The proposed Encoder-Decoder model is used to demonstrate fusion of two modalities (Image and Text). The model proposed in Fig 2(b) is used for this experiment. With a well known benchmark dataset MNIST. The hand written images in the dataset are paired with the text label such that, Image of the digit becomes the Image Modality where as its label becomes the text modality.

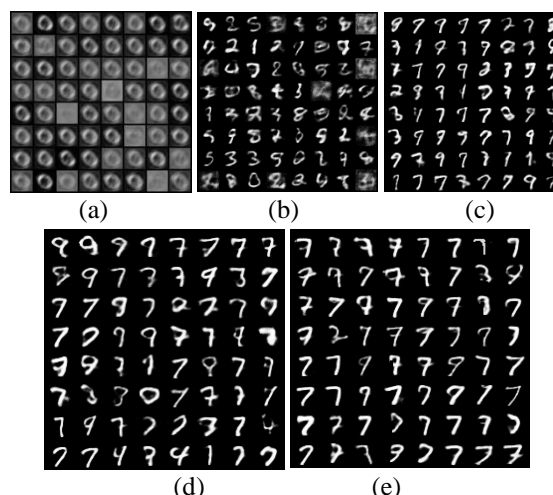


Fig 4. Samples of the images generated at the decoder given seven as input at various stages of training: (a) Epoch 1, (b) Epoch 250, (c) Epoch 500, (d) Epoch 750, (e) Epoch 1000.

The experiment is designed to verify if only one of the modality is given as input, does the multimodal model trained on the paired data generate the other modality at the output or

not. The Fig 4. shows results from this experiment where, seven is used as text labels (input) and an expected output image is generated at the decoder. A gradual learning is observed while reconstruction of the text label as an image at the output. Since these are samples that have been re-generated by the machine based on its training on the way humans write digits, the variation in re-generated images is clearly visible. Thus, the multimodal model is robust enough to reconstruct the output even if one of the modalities is missing or corrupt in the natural environment.

## VI. CONCLUSION

This paper promotes the idea that for a sustainable habitat, AI should be evolved as a tool for augmenting our intelligence and improving the quality of life. Therefore, multimodal machine perceptual capabilities are important for these intelligent systems. Focusing on this view-point, the proposed “machine perception” framework introduces a multimodal layered approach to bridge the adaptive gap between human learning and machine learning. The experiments and results provide the evidence that the proposed multimodal framework and the multimodal encoder-decoder models can be used for effective fusion strategies. It supports co-learning and is robust for naturally occurring scenario of missing modalities. In addition to this, the paper also demonstrates effective representation strategies in the multimodal set-up. It provides insights to scenarios where knowledge transfer is required from a source dataset to a target dataset. The transfer learning experiments in the multimodal framework use an efficient statistical estimation technique to verify how similar are the two datasets in consideration. If the datasets are similar, the approach will show well defined clusters having a high degree of overlap. Therefore, the source and target dataset can be used in a transfer learning set-up even for multimodal cases. If the technique shows that the two datasets (source and target) are different in characteristics, the case for the use of multiple modalities becomes much more apparent. In addition to this, the technique is especially useful in the natural set-up where, the multimodal dataset is usually small in size and it is not sufficient to train a machine learning model from scratch. Thus, the proposed multimodal machine perception framework, helps in taking necessary steps towards bridging the adaptive gap in the way machines learn.

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# Graph Theoretic analysis of Effective brain Connectivity networks in ultra-transcendental meditation

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**Abstract** — Meditation is a mystic phenomenon whose beneficial effects in preserving cognitive functioning of the brain are well established, yet it largely remains elusive to define its neural underpinnings. This experimental study explores a prospective of applying graph-based analysis, to study how ultra-transcendental meditation (uTM) or *surat sabdh yoga*, when compared to resting-state, shapes the network configuration. The brain activity of 20 participants was recorded using MEG, over a short meditation session of ten minutes. The recorded data is bandpass filtered into frequency bands and segmented into short epochs of one minute each for ease of analysis. Increased  $\gamma$  frequency-band activity often associated with focused meditators motivates us to analyze the end epoch in  $\gamma$  frequency-band, to perform connectivity analysis. Measures of node-level structural connectome were performed using magnitude coherence. The nodes or ROIs (region of interest) includes DMN (default mode network) associated with resting-state and FP (frontoparietal networks) which plays a crucial role during focused attention, respectively. The coherence measure results in a connectivity network (adjacency) matrix. Global characteristics of graph theory e.g., characteristic path length (PL) and clustering coefficient (CC) when computed on adjacency matrix show a significant decrease in PL and an increase in CC indicating similarities with small-world network.

**Keywords**— *Small-world networks, Magnitude coherence, nodes, adjacency matrix, clustering coefficient, characteristic path length.*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Meditation is a contemplative practice associated with several benefits that include enhancement of

cognitive functions and well-being [4; 7]. In contrast to these experimental studies, the practice of meditation is not concerned either for cognitive enhancement or wellbeing [20] but meditation aims to attain ‘*inner awakening*’ according to many traditions [23; 20]. So, there is a growing interest to study the phenomenon of meditation [3].

The meditation phenomenon is studied using modern neuroimaging techniques EEG, MEG, and fMRI, etc. [10]. MEG is an ideal non-invasive tool among EEG and fMRI, as it is less sensitive than EEG, offers high spatial resolution, and suitable to assess faster brain dynamics, which is not possible through fMRI [14]. Meditational Brain dynamics includes the way the brain networks during target conditions.

Research has shown that focused attention meditation alters the functional brain networks [8]. Exploring the human brain from the viewpoint of connectivity patterns reveals important information regarding the structural, functional, and effective organization of the brain. For the analysis of effective brain connectivity, methods such as magnitude coherence, imaginary coherence, and phase lagged coherence has been of interest to researchers [17; 2; 11; 5]. A seed-based resting-state MEG study has shown connectivity networks using power envelope correlations [12]. Therefore, as per literature brain dynamics play a vital role in the meditation process and hence require a detailed study.

Graph theoretical approach has proved effective to understand, characterize and quantify the complex brain dynamics corresponding networks [16; 25]. A recent graph-theoretic study examined the short-term effect of focused meditation on functional connectivity of brain networks [18]. Graph-based network analysis reveals meaningful information about the topological architecture of human brain networks, such as small-worldness, modular organization, and highly connected or centralized

hubs [6]. Small-worldness is a property of some networks in which most nodes are not neighbors of each other but can be reached from every other node by a small number of steps.

Our study is there motivated by two open questions. First, how does the connectivity network vary between ultra-transcendental meditation (uTM) practitioner and control? The second is to explore the topological organization of the connectivity network of uTM practitioners and control (performing rest). In this study, we used DMN (default mode network) nodes, FP (frontoparietal) nodes [15] as ROIs (region of interests), and magnitude *coherence* as a measure of connectivity [5].

## II. METHODOLOGY

### A. Participants

This study consists of 20 subjects divided into two groups. The first group of highly experienced in ultra-transcendental meditation (HETM) comprised of 9 subjects (with at least 15 years of experience in transcendental meditation), with mean age 49.0 y; SD 6.71; 3 females/6 males, and age ranging from 37 to 59 y. The second group or control group had eleven subjects with mean age 21; SD 2; 7 females/4males, age ranging from 19 to 24y. These were mostly students of D.E.I, who undergo a course of a comparative study of religion, where they are exposed to various meditation traditions associated with various religious traditions, which also include four chakra meditation of Radhasoami Faith [22]. Before participation in the experiment, participants were asked to sign informed consent. This study was approved by the research and ethics committee of D.E.I and was conducted following the relevant guidelines of research with human participants.

### B. Study design

The participants are required to meditate for short session of ten minutes during the meditation. For these ten minutes, the process followed by HETM group is “if the rhythm in which you repeat a mystical mantra (Radhasoami name) harmonizes with the rhythm of internal sounds or vibration frequencies produced at different referential centers, a state of resonance is produced” [24]. Participants in the control group practiced chakra meditation i.e., ‘repetition of mystical mantra at four navel centers of the human body’ [22] or any other practice that they prefer. All participants closed their eyes during the experimental session. The brain activity of participants along with heartbeat and eye-blink during meditation sessions were recorded using an advanced brain imaging technique i.e., MEG.

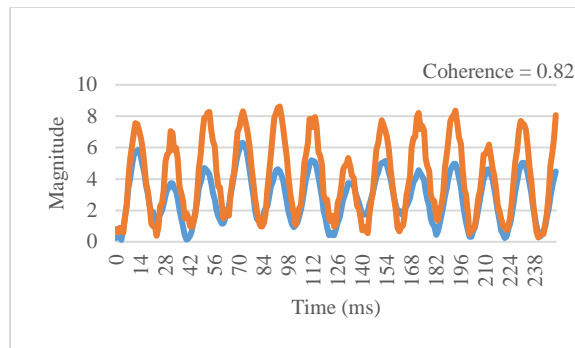


Fig. 1a: Represents the two raw source waveforms of a subject band passed between 40-45 Hz. The source waveforms are the ROI's placed as regional sources and their corresponding coherence value is 0.55.

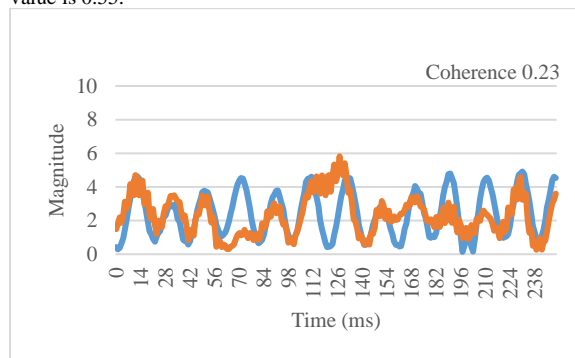


Fig. 1b: Represents the two raw source waveforms of a subject band passed between 40-45 Hz. The source waveforms are the ROI's placed as regional sources and their corresponding coherence value is 0.2.

### C. Analysis

We used BESA (Brain Electrical Source Analysis; [www.besa.de](http://www.besa.de)) [1] software to perform data analysis. Artifacts such as heartbeats, eye blinks are removed by auto-correction method. Artifact corrected data was band passed filtered between 0.5Hz-45Hz; Further data was filtered into five frequency band, delta: 0.5-4 Hz, theta: 4-8 Hz, alpha: 8-13 Hz, beta: 13-30 Hz and gamma: 30-45 Hz. In this paper we will present the result of gamma. As increased gamma activity is prevalent among focused meditators [3]. Further the corrected data was divided into ten epochs (1 epoch for each minute of a meditation session). Out of these, end epoch i.e., 9-10<sup>th</sup> min at the end of the session was analyzed further.

The connectivity was measured on specific ROI's (region of interests) includes the nodes of DMN, FP [15]. These networks are applied as the literature suggest that resting state is characterized by activation of DMN connectivity networks and the focused meditation by FP-DMN network [13].



The 28 ROI's include PCC (Posterior Cingulate Cortex), mPFC (medial prefrontal cortex), LAG(left angular gyrus), RAG(right angular gyrus), LLatTemp(left lateral temporal), RLatTemp(right lateral temporal), NoiseLOcc (left occipital), NoiseROcc (right occipital), NoiseLFr (left frontal), NoiseRFR (right frontal), NoiseMFR (medial frontal), NoiseMPar (medial parietal), LdIPFC(left dorsolateral prefrontal cortex), RdIPFC (right dorsolateral prefrontal cortex), LFront (left frontal), RFront (right frontal), LIPL (left inferior parietal lobe), RIPL(right inferior parietal lobe), LIPS (left inferior superior sulcus), RIPS (right inferior superior sulcus), NoiseLTemp (left temporal), NoiseRTemp (right temporal), NoiseFrontal, superior frontal, LrACC (left rostral anterior cingulate), RrACC (right rostral anterior cingulate), amygdala, cACC (caudal anterior cingulate cortex).

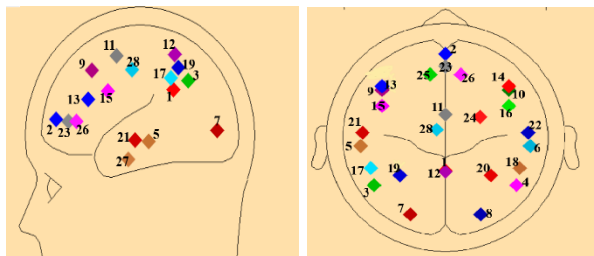


Fig. 2: Represents the 28 regional source locations placed as ROI's. The first 12 constitute DMN and later FP nodes. The left image shows sagittal view (includes left lobes), the right shows the top view includes both left and right lobes. The numbering of regional sources is according to the table 1.

S.No.	Node	S.No.	Node
1	PCC	15	LFront
2	mPFC	16	RFront
3	LAG	17	LIPL
4	RAG	18	RIPL
5	LLatTemp	19	LIPS
6	RLatTemp	20	RIPS
7	NoiseLOcc	21	NoiseLTemp
8	NoiseROcc	22	NoiseRTemp
9	NoiseLFr	23	NoiseFrontal
10	NoiseRFR	24	superior frontal
11	NoiseMFR	25	LrACC
12	NoiseMPar	26	RrACC
13	LdIPFC	27	amygdala
14	RdIPFC	28	cACC

Table 1: It shows the names of ROI's which are represented in the figure 2.

These are placed as regional sources and are fitted on the end minute data. The resulting source forms are exported with first orientation for performing connectivity analysis. To determine the degree of synchronization between source waveforms, the absolute part of coherence (magnitude coherence) was calculated [5]. Coherence is a measure of the linear relationship between the signals at specific frequency. In practice coherence is defined as normalized cross-spectrum:

$$C_{xy}(f) = \frac{\langle S_{xy}(f) \rangle}{\sqrt{\langle S_{xx}(f) \rangle \langle S_{yy}(f) \rangle}}$$

Where  $\langle \cdot \rangle$  indicates averaging over trails,  $S_{xy}$  is the cross-spectral density between the two signals, and  $S_{xx}$  and  $S_{yy}$  are the auto spectral densities for signals x and y, respectively as shown in figure 1a and 1b.

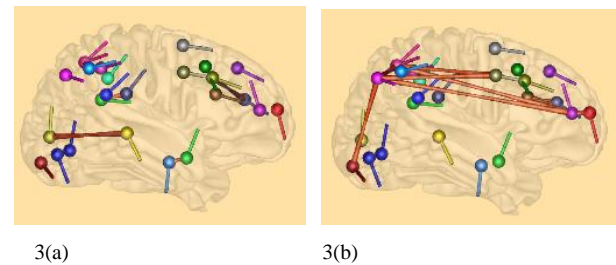


Fig. 3: Represents the 3D view of connectivity nodes at 40 Hz frequency averaged across the time with the threshold value as 0.7 for (a) control, (b) HETM groups. The regional sources are placed at ROI's, the connectivity was represented by line joining two sources (nodes).

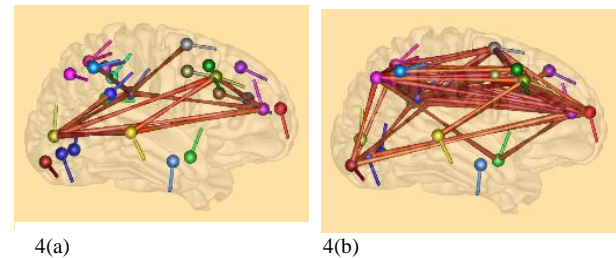


Fig. 4: Represents the 3D view of connectivity nodes at 45 Hz frequency averaged across the time with the threshold value as 0.7 for (a) control, (b) HETM groups. The regional sources are placed at ROI's; the connectivity was represented by line joining two sources (nodes).

### C.1. Functional distance and characteristic path length

The functional distance is the length of the shortest path between a pair of nodes. As a first step, the functional connectivity matrix was converted to a connection-length matrix using BCT (brain connectivity toolbox) [21]. The average shortest path of the network, termed as is the mean of functional distance matrix.

### C.2. Clustering Coefficient

The clustering coefficient identifies the neighbors of each node and determines the degree of local connectivity of the node with its neighbor. Local efficiency is also a nodal parameter directly proportional to clustering coefficient of a node which characterizes the efficiency of information transfer among the neighbors of node [17].

### III. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

Figure 3 and 4 shows the connectivity between the ROI's generated by coherence analysis in 3D view at 40 Hz and 45 Hz, respectively for HETM and control. The connectivity represented is above 0.7 thresholds. This result shows that the connectivity is high in meditators group in contrast to control group. The connectivity between the nodes gets increased for the groups at higher frequencies, ensuring that they are meditating.

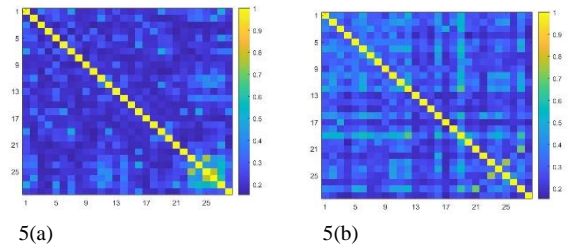


Fig. 5: Represents the weighted connectivity matrix (28X28) at 40 Hz frequency averaged across the time for (a) control, (b) HETM groups. The weights of the matrix represent the strength of coherence between the nodes. The 28 nodes are according to table 1.

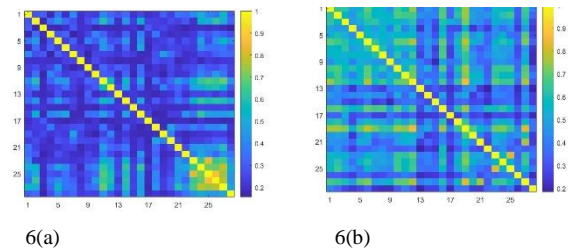


Fig. 6: Represents the weighted connectivity matrix (28X28) at 45 Hz frequency averaged across the time for (a) control, (b) HETM groups. The weights of the matrix represent the strength of coherence between the nodes. The 28 nodes are according to table 1.

Figure 5 and 6 shows the connectivity network in the form of image with nodes as ROI's and strength of coherence between the nodes in the form of weights. The diagonal entries show high coherence as it represents the connectivity between the same nodes. Simply it means the source wave form is always in coherence with itself. Further, global characteristics are calculated on the connectivity network matrix of the groups.

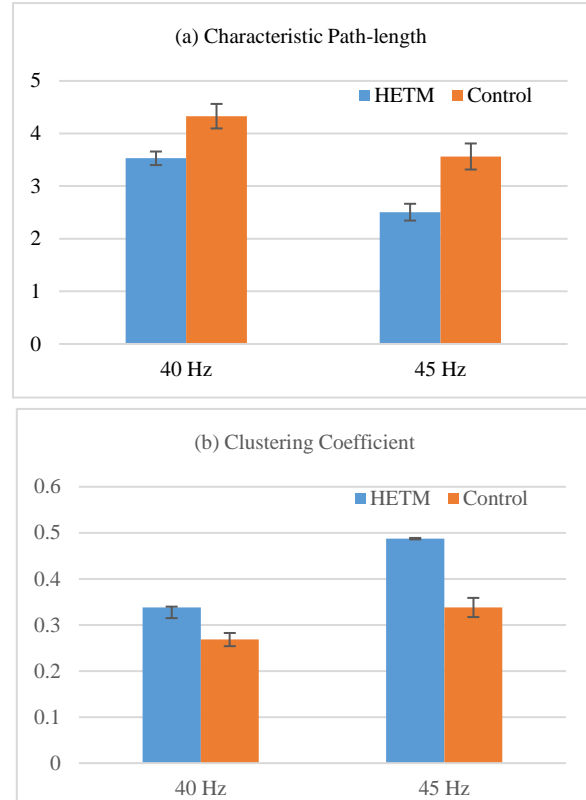


Fig. 7: Represents global characteristic parameters for ROI's connectivity analyses in HETM group (blue) and control group (red). The graph shows the mean values and bars represent the standard deviation of (a) CC, (b) PL.

Figure 7 compares the PL and CC of meditation state network of the groups. The PL of HETM group is smaller in comparison with control. The CC of HETM is larger in comparison with control. According to literature the small world networks are characterized by small characteristic path length and high clustering coefficient in comparison to a random network [19; 17]. Therefore, the meditators connectivity network seems to have a comparative topological organization of small world networks. These results therefore reveal the occurrence of small world networks in meditators.

### IV. CONCLUSION

Results of the present study on ROI's, functional connectivity analysis of the networks of meditators and controls, indicated that the group of meditators showed increased connectivity in gamma oscillations. Additionally, the calculation of network parameters showed an increase in CC and decrease in PL within HETM group in contrast to control. Overall, these comparisons led to study of small worldness topological organization of network occurrence characterizing uTM.

The hierarchical clustered networks that model the modular organization of mammalian cerebral cortex extending across several hierarchical levels have been shown to have properties like small world networks [9]. As an extension of this study, it would be interesting to analyze hierarchical clustered networks and how they best characterize connectivity networks in focused meditative state of uTM when compared to resting state.

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# Meta Game theoretic analysis of standard “real world” game theoretic problems

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**Abstract**—Meta game theory is a non-quantitative reconstruction of mathematical game theory. This paper attempts to use meta game theory for conflict analysis. A conflict is a situation where parties with opposing goals affect one another. A person without prerequisite knowledge about meta game analysis or game theory can implement this method. The paper accomplishes a metagame analysis of various standard game theoretic problems. The study first models the conflict, then a tableau is set up.

**Keywords**—meta game theory, conflict analysis, game of pure coordination

## I. INTRODUCTION

Meta game theory has been applied to analyse political conflicts, particularly water resources problems [1], the Vietnam war and arms control [2], the Arab-Israeli conflict [3] using the method of meta game analysis. The technique has been applied to environmental management [4], fall of France, an international water allocation conflict, and the Garrison Diversion Unit (GDU) irrigation project in North Dakota, U.S.A. [5]. Game of pure coordination is a standard problem which has been used to develop an understanding about the meta game analysis [5]. In particular, the game of chicken is studied [6]. In the game of matching pennies, analysis is done for many games and a structural econometric model incorporating risk aversion into a quantal response equilibrium is studied [7]. In a three-person matching pennies game, subjects play the mixed strategy Nash equilibrium [8]. The cooperation is shown as an equilibrium of the full full metagame using the method of general metagames [9]. The analysis is conducted for two different efficiency problems in the battle of sexes game. The first one is coordination and second one is maximizing the expected utility by favouring a player facing high stakes [10]. The analysis of the rules of the qualification tournament in the UEFA zone for the 2014 FIFA World Cup is conducted using game theory [11]. The study done updates optimal decision policies as the new information becomes available and also utility theory is used to capture different risk preferences of the decision makers [12]. The quantum feature of entanglement is used to quantize the prisoner’s dilemma game [13]. The quantum version of the prisoner’s dilemma game outperforms the classical version [14]. The concepts of Nash equilibrium and evolutionary stable strategy have been introduced in the study of the rock paper scissors game [15]. The theory of games describes the behaviours

in humans and other biological organisms in the rock paper scissors game [16].

## II. METHODOLOGY

Game playing couples intellectual activity with direct competition. If a person has better thinking abilities and learning skills, their chances of winning more games improve. So, a person should play games against opponents and keep evaluating the progress to test and refine his/her intellectual skills. [17]

Meta game theory is a scientific method that reconstructs classical game theory on a non-quantitative basis in order to analyse political conflicts. The method of application of meta game theory to actual conflicts is called meta game analysis or the analysis of options. [5]

### A. Conflict analysis

The following three points must be considered while carrying out the conflict analysis. (a) The conflict analysis is done for a particular point of time. (b) There are limited number of players. (c) Options per player are limited.

### B. The Cookie Conflict

A simple conflict between two children, one of whom has a cookie that the other child wants. The Conflict analysis takes into account (a) Point of time- player who wants the cookie realizes he can have it. (b) Players- child A, B (c) Options- (i) “take cookie”- player A (ii) “hit A”- player B [18]

### PREFERENCE VECTOR

For player A - Possible outcomes					
Player A “take cookie”	1	0	1	0	$2^0=1$
Player B “hit A”	0	0	1	1	$2^1=2$
	1	0	3	2	

Table 1(a): The preference vector for player A in the Cookie conflict problem

For player B - Possible outcomes					
Player A “take cookie”	0	1	1	0	$2^0=1$
Player B “hit A”	0	0	1	1	$2^1=2$
	0	1	3	2	

Table 1(b): The preference vectors for player B in the Cookie conflict problem

Decimalized Preference vector
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Player A	1	0	3	2
		1		3

Table 1(c): Decimalized preference vector for player A in the Cookie conflict problem

Player B	0	1	3	2
			1	0

Table 1(d): Decimalized preference vector for player B in the cookie conflict

### C. THE PRISONER'S DILEMMA

THE PAYOFF MATRIX			
		PLAYER 1	
		C	D
PLAYER 2	C	3, 3	1, 4
	D	4, 1	2, 2

- Tabular representation of prisoner's dilemma for player A

Preference vector for player A				
Player A				
Option C	0	1	0	1
Option D	1	0	1	0

Preference vector for player B				
Player B				
Option C	1	1	0	0
Option D	0	0	1	1

	(d, c)	(c, c)	(d, d)	(c, d)
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- Tabular representation of prisoner's dilemma for player B

Preference vector for player A [23]				
Player A				
Option C	1	1	0	0
Option D	0	0	1	1

Preference vector for player B				
Player B				
Option C	0	1	0	1
Option D	1	0	1	0

	(c, d)	(c, c)	(d, d)	(d, c)
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## III. RESULTS

### A. GAME OF PURE COORDINATION

Assume that two drivers meet on a narrow dirt road. Both have to swerve in order to avoid a head-on collision. If both execute the same swerving manoeuvre they will manage to pass each other, but if they choose differing manoeuvres they will collide. [19]

Payoff matrix		
	Left	Right
Left	1,1	0,0
Right	0,0	1,1

Table 2(a): The payoff matrix in the game of pure coordination

- Preference vector

For player A - Possible outcomes					
Player L "avoid getting hit"	1	0	1	0	$2^0=1$
Player R "avoid getting hit"	1	1	0	0	$2^1=2$
	3	2	1	0	

Table 2(b): The preference vector for player A in the game of pure coordination

For player B - Possible outcomes					
Player L "avoid getting hit"	1	1	0	0	$2^0=1$
Player R "avoid getting hit"	1	0	1	0	$2^1=2$
	3	1	2	0	

Table 2(c): The preference vector for player B in the game of pure coordination

- Decimalized Preference vector

Player A	3	2	1	0
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Table 2(d): Decimalized preference vector for player A in the game of pure coordination

Player B	3	1	2	0
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Table 2(e): Decimalized preference vector for player B in the game of pure coordination

### B. MATCHING PENNIES

- Each player has a penny and must secretly turn the penny to heads or tails. The players then reveal their choices simultaneously.
- Player 1: Even – wins – Pennies match
- Player 2: Odd – loose – do not match [18]

Payoff matrix			
	Player A		
Player B		Head	Tail
	Head	1,-1	-1,1
	Tail	-1,1	1,-1

Table 3(a): The payoff matrix for the matching pennies game

- PREFERENCE VECTOR

For player A - Possible outcomes					
Player H "avoid getting hit"	1	1	0	0	$2^0 = 1$

Player T "avoid getting hit"	0	1	0	1	$2^1 = 2$
	1	3	0	2	

Table 3(b): The preference vector for player A in matching pennies game

For player B - Possible outcomes					
Player H "avoid getting hit"	0	1	0	1	$2^0 = 1$
Player T "avoid getting hit"	1	1	0	0	$2^1 = 2$
	2	3	0	1	

Table 3(c): The preference vector for player B in the matching pennies game

- Decimalized preference vector

Player A	1	3	0	2
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Table 3(d): Decimalized preference vector for player A in the matching pennies game

Player B	2	3	0	1
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Table 3(e): Decimalized preference vector for player B in the matching pennies game

### C. PRISONER'S DILEMMA

PAYOFF MATRIX		
	Confess	Defect
Confess	3, 3	0, 5
Defect	5, 0	1, 1

Table 4(a): The payoff matrix for the Prisoner's dilemma game

#### Transforming to binary

- 1,0 – denoted by 0
- 3,5 – denoted by 1 [19]

	Confess	Defect
Confess	1, 1	0, 1
Defect	1, 0	0, 0

Table 4(b): The payoff matrix for the Prisoner's dilemma game with modified payoff values

- Preference vector

For player A - Possible outcomes					
Player A "minimize trial"	0	0	1	1	$2^0 = 1$

period"					
Player B "minimize trial period"	0	1	1	0	$2^1 = 2$
	0	2	3	1	

Table 4(c): The preference vector for player A in matching pennies game

For player B - Possible outcomes					
Player A "minimize trial period"	0	1	1	0	$2^0 = 1$
Player B "minimize trial period"	0	0	1	1	$2^1 = 2$
	0	1	3	2	

Table 4(d): The preference vector for player B in the matching pennies game

- Decimalized preference vector

	0	2	3	1
	1	3		

Table 4(e): Decimalized preference vector for player A in the matching pennies game

Player B	0	1	3	2
	2	3		

Table 4(f): Decimalized preference vector for player B in the matching pennies game

### D. BATTLE OF SEXES

Payoff Matrix		
	TV	Opera
TV	3, 2	1, 1
Opera	0, 0	2, 3

Table 5(a): The payoff matrix for the battle of sexes game

- Transforming to binary
- 1,0 – denoted by 0
- 3,2 – denoted by 1 [20]

	TV	Opera
TV	1, 1	0, 0
Opera	0, 0	1, 1

Table 5(b): The payoff matrix for the battle of sexes game with updated payoff values

- Preference Vector

For player A - Possible outcomes					
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Player A “wants opera”	1	1	0	0	$2^0 = 1$
Player B “wants TV”	1	1	0	0	$2^1 = 2$
	3	3	0	0	

Table 5(c): The preference vector for player A in battle of sexes game

For player B - Possible outcomes					
Player A “wants opera”	1	1	0	0	$2^0 = 1$
Player B “wants TV”	1	1	0	0	$2^1 = 2$
	3	3	0	0	

Table 5(d): The preference vector for player B in the battle of sexes game

• **Decimalized preference vector**

Player A	3	3	0	0
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Table 5(e): Decimalized preference vector for player A in the battle of sexes game

Player B	3	3	0	0
----------	---	---	---	---

Table 5(f): Decimalized preference vector for player B in the battle of sexes game

**E. STAG HUNT GAME**

Payoff matrix		
	Stag	Hare
Stag	9,9	0,8
Hare	8,0	7,7

Table 6(a): The payoff matrix for the stag hunt game

- Transforming to binary
- 7,0 – denoted by 0
- 8,9 – denoted by 1 [21]

	Stag	Hare
Stag	1,1	0,1
Hare	1,0	0,0

Table 6(b): The payoff matrix for the stag hunt game with updated payoff values

• **Preference Vector**

For player A - Possible outcomes					
Player H “avoid getting hit”	1	1	0	0	$2^0 = 1$
Player T “avoid getting hit”	1	0	1	0	$2^1 = 2$

getting hit”					
	3	1	2	0	

Table 6(c): The preference vector for player A the stag hunt game

For player B - Possible outcomes					
Player H “avoid getting hit”	1	0	1	0	$2^0 = 1$
Player T “avoid getting hit”	1	1	0	0	$2^1 = 2$
	3	2	1	0	

Table 6(d): The preference vector for player B the stag hunt game

• **Decimalized preference vector**

Player A	3	1	2	0
			3	1

Table 6(e): Decimalized preference vector for player A in the stag hunt game

Player B	3	2	1	0
			3	2

Table 6(f): Decimalized preference vector for player B in the stag hunt game

**F. FOOTBALL**

Payoff matrix		
	Run	Pass
Run	-5,5	5,-5
Pass	5,-5	-5,5

Table 7(a): The payoff matrix for football

- Transforming to binary
- -5 – denoted by 0
- 5 – denoted by 1 [22]

	Run	Pass
Run	0,1	1,0
Pass	1,0	0,1

Table 7(b): The payoff matrix for football with updated payoff values

• **Preference Vector**

For player A - Possible outcomes					
Player A “run-pass or pass-run”	1	1	0	0	$2^0 = 1$
Player T “avoid getting hit”	0	0	1	1	$2^1 = 2$

	1	1	2	2	
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Table 7(c): The preference vectors for player A for football

For player B - Possible outcomes					
Player H "avoid getting hit"	0	0	1	1	$2^0 = 1$
Player T "avoid getting hit"	1	1	0	0	$2^1 = 2$
	2	2	1	1	

Table 7(d): The preference vector for player B for football

- Decimalized preference vector

Player A	1	1	2	2

Table 7(e): Decimalized preference vector for player A for football

Player B	2	2	1	1

Table 7(f): Decimalized preference vector for player B for football

### G. QUANTUM PRISONER'S DILEMMA

Payoff matrix			
	Confess	Defect	Q
Confess	3, 3	0, 5	1, 1
Defect	5, 0	1, 1	0, 5
Q	1, 1	5, 0	3, 3

Table 8(a): The payoff matrix for the Quantum Prisoner's dilemma game

- Transforming to binary
- 1,0 – denoted by 0
- 3,5 – denoted by 1 [19]

	Confess	Defect	Q
Confess	1, 1	0, 1	0, 0
Defect	1, 0	0, 0	0, 1
Q	0, 0	1, 0	1, 1

Table 8(b): The payoff matrix for the Quantum Prisoner's dilemma game with updated payoff values

- Preference Vector

For player A - Possible outcomes					
Player A "run-pass or pass-run"	1	1	0	0	$2^0 = 1$
Player T	0	0	1	1	$2^1 = 2$

"avoid getting hit"					
	1	1	2	2	

Table 8(c): The preference vectors for the Quantum Prisoner's dilemma game

For player B - Possible outcomes					
Player H "avoid getting hit"	0	0	1	1	$2^0 = 1$
Player T "avoid getting hit"	1	1	0	0	$2^1 = 2$
	2	2	1	1	

Table 8(d): The preference vector for the Quantum Prisoner's dilemma game

- Decimalized preference vector

Player A	1	0	3	2
		1		3

Table 8(e): Decimalized preference vector for player A for Quantum Prisoner's dilemma game

Player B	0		1	3	2
				1	0

Table 8(f): The Decimalized preference vector for player B for Quantum Prisoner's dilemma game

### H. ROCK PAPER SCISSORS

Payoff matrix			
	Rock	Paper	Scissors
Rock	0,0	-1,1	1,-1
Paper	1,-1	0,0	-1,1
Scissors	-1,1	1,-1	0,0

Table 9(a): The payoff matrix for rock paper scissors

- Transforming to binary
- 1,0 – denoted by 0
- 1 – denoted by 1 [18]
- Preference Vector

For player A - Possible outcomes				
Player H "avoid getting hit"	1	0	-1	$2^0 = 1$
Player T "avoid getting hit"	-1	0	1	$2^1 = 2$

Table 9(b): The preference vector for player A for rock paper scissors

For player B - Possible outcomes				
Player H "avoid"	-1	0	1	$2^0 = 1$



getting hit”				
Player T “avoid getting hit”	1	0	-1	$2^1 = 2$

Table 9(c): The preference vector for rock paper scissors

We come across two cases,

(a)	-1, 0	0
	1	1

Table 9(d): The payoff transformation values for rock paper scissors

A	1	0	0	$2^0$
	0	0	1	$2^1$
	1	0	2	

Table 9(e): The Decimalized preference vector for player A rock paper scissors

B	0	0	1	$2^0$
	1	0	0	$2^1$
	2	0	1	

Table 9(f): The Decimalized preference vector for player B rock paper scissors

We come across two cases,

(b)	-1	0
	0, 1	1

Table 9(g): The payoff transformation for rock paper scissors

A	1	1	0	$2^0$
	0	1	1	$2^1$
	1	3	2	

Table 9(j): The preference vector for player A for rock paper scissors

B	0	1	1	$2^0$
	1	1	0	$2^1$
	2	3	1	

Table 9(k): The preference vector for player B for rock paper scissors

• Decimalized preference vector

Player A	1	0	3	2
		1		3

Table 9(m): Decimalized preference vector for rock paper scissors

Player B	0	1	3	2
			1	0

Table 9(n): The Decimalized preference vector for rock paper scissors

## IV. CONCLUSION

The authors attempted to do a novel analysis of standard game theoretic problems using the metagame analysis techniques. The meta game analysis has many advantages viz. it includes all the information about the conflict, easy to do by hand, can be used for hypergames and very complex conflicts. The results obtained are to authors show the stability analysis for various standard game theoretic problems.

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# Identifying Correlation dimension of non-linear time series obtained from E/MEG data

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**Abstract**—: The correlation dimension is a tool to measure fractal dimensions. In this paper, we calculate the correlation dimension of nonlinear time-series obtained from recorded Magnetoencephalography (MEG) data taken from a cognitive experiment where subjects had been asked to focus attention over a session of 10 minutes. The experiment involved three different categories of subjects viz., novice, moderate and experts and for each category, the recorded data was segmented into three parts associated with a start, mid and end of the session. The experimental data were blind coded and the correlation dimension technique was applied to decipher the code. Results demonstrate a clearly identifiable relationship between correlation dimension and category of experimental data. The technique has interesting applications in the objective measurement of subjective mental states.

Keywords— Correlation Dimension, Magnetoencephalography (MEG), Nonlinear Dynamics, Associative brain

## I. Introduction

From the past, we humans tend to associate a number with everything one sees and observes and provide an objectified computational view to everything. As Peter Ducker, an Australian management consultant, educator, and author once said, “If you can’t measure it, you can’t manage it”. One of the important aspects of this objectifying and computation is dimensional analysis [1].

While studying the time series of complex systems, nonlinear properties help in differentiate system behaviour. The time series associated with natural phenomena is known to show a self-similar behaviour, which depends on the time scale of measurements. The fractal dimension is therefore an important characteristic of such systems because it contains information about their geometrical structure at multiple scales[2]. Chaotic invariants like the fractal dimensions are therefore often used to characterize non-linear time series. When we look into fractals one can have a thought of repeating patterns in low dimensions. The question is how a measured fractal dimension can help in understanding the repeating patterns in time series apart from non-integer dimension values.

Experiments in cognitive science are often associated with quantifying a subjective mental state. The experimental observation are recorded as E/MEG data which consists of

nonlinear time series rhythms which are characterized by self-similar behavior, at various time scale of measurements. There is a need and effort to associate cognitive science with machine learning and artificial intelligence through various methods and to give objective or mathematical measurement to noisy patterns. Motivated by the application of correlation dimension in stock marketing, weather forecasting, and all other time series, we tried to use this method on E/MEG data.

The correlation dimension is calculated using the Grassberger-Procaccia Algorithm which states that the probability of two points of the set is in the same cell of size  $r$  is approximately equal to the probability that two points of the set are separated by a distance  $\Theta$  less than or equal to  $r$ [3]. Thus correlation dimension  $C(r)$  is given by:-

$$C(r) = \frac{2}{(N - n_{\min})(N - n_{\min} - 1)} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1+n_{\min}}^N \Theta(r - \|x_i - x_j\|)$$

Where  $\Theta$  is the heavyside function defined as

$$\Theta(s) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } s \geq 0 \\ 0 & \text{if } s < 0 \end{cases}$$

The dimension is then calculated by evaluation of  $C(r)$  over a range of values of  $r$  and then deduce correlation dimension  $D_2$  from the slope of the straight line which best fit in the region of a plot of  $\log(c(r))$  and  $\log(r)$ . It is written as

$$D_2 = \lim_{r \rightarrow 0} \frac{\log C(r)}{\log r}$$

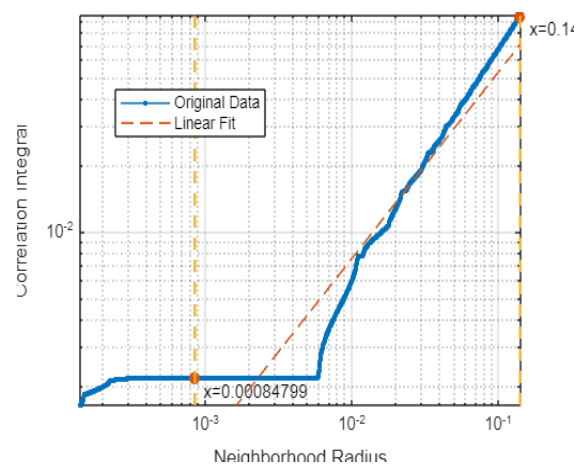


Fig 1: Correlation dimension plot for the data as generated from Matlab

We can represent this by attractors which are phase space trajectories of deterministic dynamical systems that usually evolve towards a particular set of coordinates[5]. The waveform by measuring data at two different delays and plotting them against each other on the x and y-axis. To visualize it better it can also be represented by attractors. Attractors are the multidimensional phase space that represents how a system evolves with time[4]. It is associated with E/MEG. If we take a simple harmonic pendulum when plotted against velocity and distance gives a circle. This is an example of a periodic attractor which is shown in the figure. It has a dimension of 1. In this way, the attractor of two sinusoidal functions is a Toroid and it has a dimension of 1.5. In this way, different functions and different data give different correlation dimensions D2.

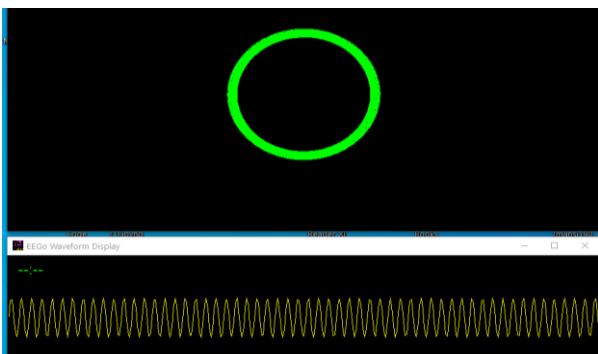


Fig 2: Above is the figure of an attractor of a simple pendulum and below is its plot of the waveform which is a periodic sinusoid. Its dimension is calculated to be 1.

## 2. Method

To check the reliability of the method, we obtained data from a cognitive science experiment using some set for E/MEG data from the cognitive science lab. Data provided to us was conducted in the past. In that experiment, different classes of subjects went to a mental state where they were asked to focus their attention. Different categories of subjects belong to novice, moderate and experienced. The recorded was segmented as associated with starting, middle and end of

the focussed attention session. These were given to us in form of blind coded data which means we were not told about the category of the subject it belongs to and were labelled as X11, X12, X13, X21, X22, X23, X31, X32, X33. We were required to decipher the code i.e., were given a task to classify it. We used matlab software to find the correlation dimension of the data using the Grassberger-Procaccia algorithm. On finding the correlation dimension, we found the dimension of data by taking the value of slope between  $C(r)$  and  $\log(r)$  and plotted its attractor, fractal dimension.

## 3. Result

Our results closely matched with the expected result, we categorized the result based on correlation dimension, which is as

*X11=subject with least experience in focusing, data taken at the start of the session.*

*X12=subject with least experience in focusing, data taken at the middle of the session.*

*X13=subject with least experience in focusing, data taken at end of the session.*

*X21=subject with some experience in focusing, data taken at the start of the session.*

*X22=subject with some experience in focusing, data taken at end of the session.*

*X23=subject with some experience in focusing, data taken at end of the session*

*X31=most experienced subjects in focusing, data taken at the start of the session.*

*X23=most experienced subjects in focusing, data taken at the middle of the session*

*X33=most experienced subjects in focusing, data taken at end of the session*

The expected result also yields to the same categorization, it was that the correlation dimension of person focusing is lowest in novice and high inexperienced and the correlation dimension would increase as we will go from starting time to end, which is what we also got. But in the result, we found two dips in the middle part at X22 and X32 and we are working on the theory of finding the reason associated with it.

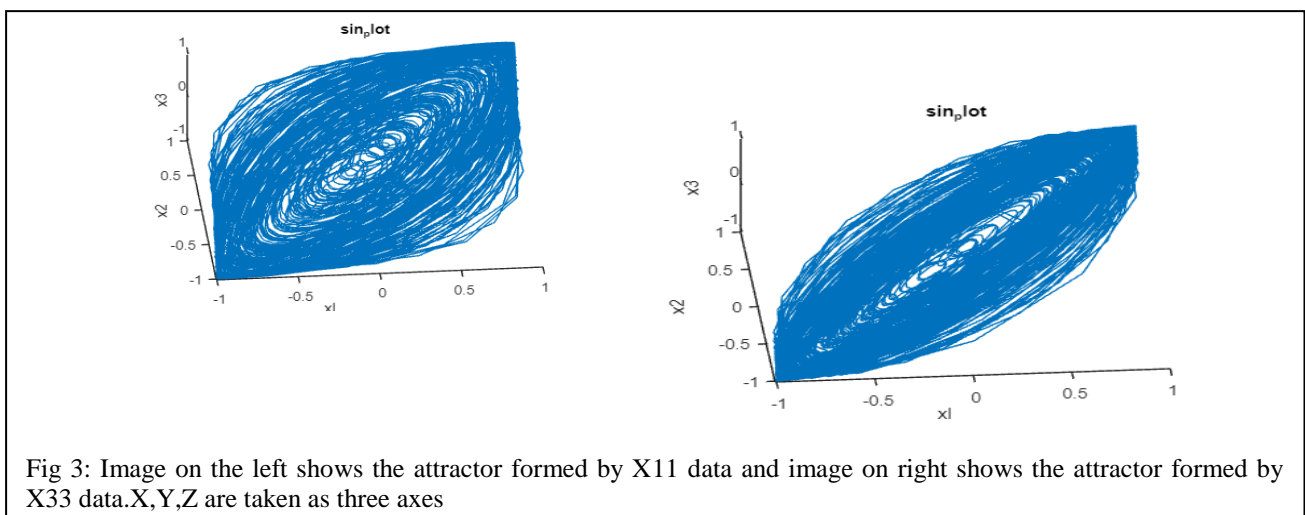
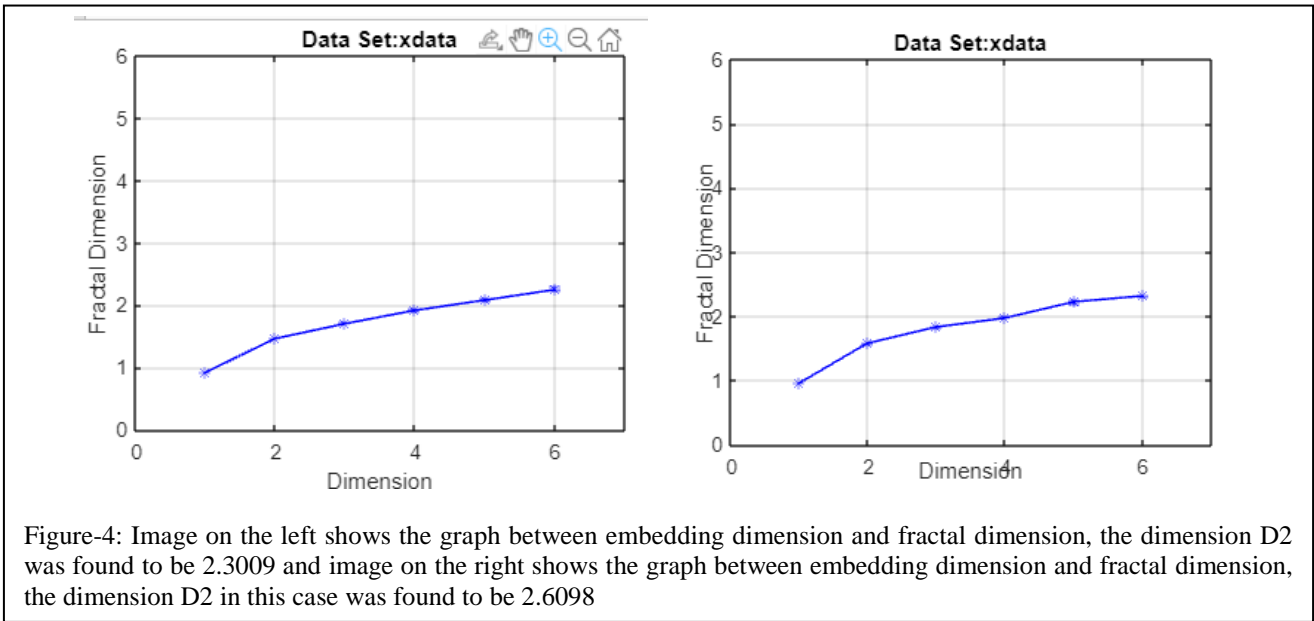


Fig 3: Image on the left shows the attractor formed by X11 data and image on right shows the attractor formed by X33 data. X, Y, Z are taken as three axes



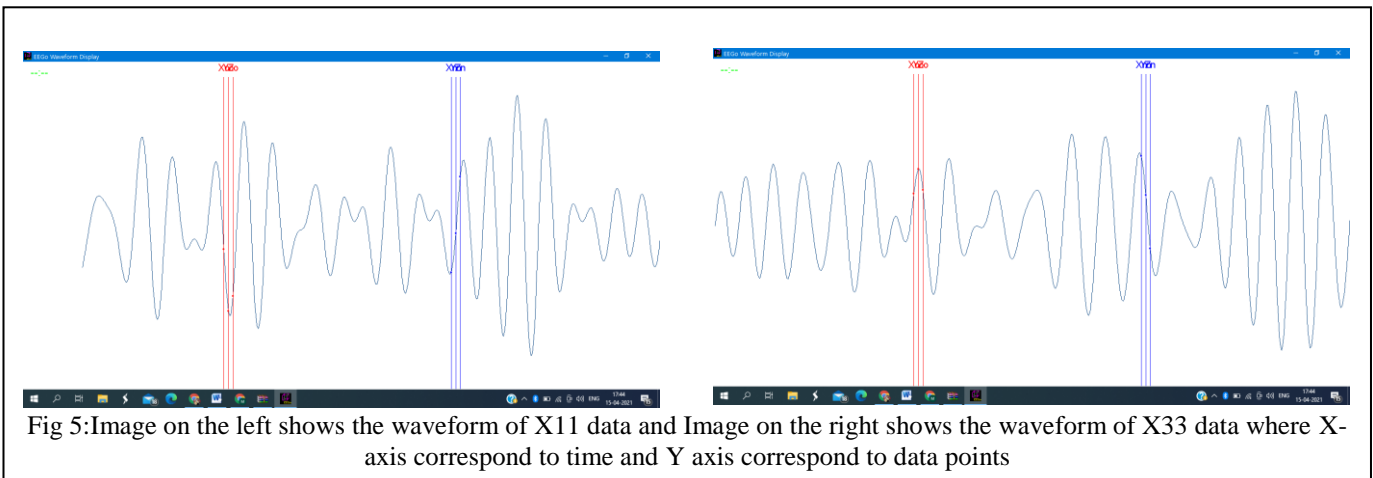
The correlation dimension curve is plotted using Grassberger-Procaccia Algorithm and the slope of the curve gave correlation dimension D2. The plot between the embedding dimension, attractor, and waveform of X11 and X33 and D2 is shown in fig 3, fig 4, fig 5. The value of the correlation dimension is taken at the point where the value saturates (fig 4).

Table 1 contains values of correlation dimension of all classes of subjects where the first row are the subjects of less experienced, the second row contains groups of some experience of focusing and the third row are the most experienced subjects in focussing

Table: Correlation Dimension of various categories

X	1	2	3
1	2.3009	2.488	2.3585
2	2.3918	2.3019	2.4847
3	2.5076	2.3795	2.6098

Table 1 contains values of correlation dimension of all classes of subjects where the first row are the subjects of less experienced, the second row contains groups of some experience of focusing and the third row are the most experienced subjects in focussing



## 4.. Discussion

The correlation dimension of a person increases with experience in focusing and concentration. As a subject enhances its capability, the correlation dimension also increases as from previous studies [4] we can see humans have the highest correlation dimension compared to other lower animals because of the larger associative brain. So this result can also be related to the associative brain i.e., subjects whose correlation dimension is found to be larger have a larger associative brain. So we expect the correlation dimension to be used as the way to quantify the dimension of associative brain

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# A Comparative Study of Causal Curves and Endless Causal Curves in Spacetime

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## Abstract

The space of causal curves provides sufficient information about the causal structure of the spacetime. Global hyperbolicity, one of the essential ingredients of singularity theorems is affiliated to the space of endless causal curves. In the present paper, a study of the space of causal curves and its subspace, viz., space of endless causal curves has been carried out and it has been obtained that some of the properties, viz.,  $T_1$ , Hausdorffness, regularity are not enjoyed in the space of causal curves whereas these are preserved in the space of endless causal curve when underlying spacetime is Minkowski space equipped with the path topology.

Keywords: Casual curve, Global Hyperbolicity, Minkowski space, Singularity

## 1. Introduction

Spacetime, a continuum of space and time, is assumed to carry a causal structure to explain cause-effect relationship among its elements. It has been studied as a causal space with a causal boundary attached to it which represents both infinity and the part of the edge of the spacetime at a finite distance, i.e. the singular points. Spacetime in both pre-relativity physics and in the theory of relativity was considered as four dimensional; one dimension for time and the remaining three are spacial dimensions. However, the causal structure differs significantly in both theories.

In Newtonian physics, time was considered as an independent entity, irrespective of frame of reference, and the spacetime was mathematically modelled as a three dimensional euclidean space at different times. All the events in space at a fixed time were treated as simultaneous events and causally related events were mathematically described as those which can be joined by a parameterized curve of events which moves forward in time and otherwise not restricted in space.

On the contrary, in the special theory of relativity, the concept of absolute time was replaced by the fact that nothing moves faster than light. Hence for each inertial observer, also known as inertial frame of reference, simultaneous events were defined using synchronisation of clocks positioned at each point in 3-D coordinate space. Thus implying that for each observer, simultaneous events are different. Mathematically, causally related events with respect to an inertial observer lie on or inside the light cone at the origin in 4-D Minkowski space, where observer is supposed to be located at the origin.

One of the necessary conditions for the mathematical structure of the spacetime is that no idealized observer can travel back into its own past. Mathematical framework for the spacetime on which the special theory of relativity was developed is a four dimensional Minkowski space. A physically significant topology defined for the Minkowski space is considered to be the one whose

homeomorphism group coincides with the group generated by Lorentz group, the group which consists of global coordinate transformation leaving spacetime interval invariant, Translations and Dilatations [2]. Since homeomorphism group of the Euclidean topology does not satisfy this condition, therefore it is not physically relevant. Zeeman proposed non-Euclidean topologies, viz., Fine topology, space topology, time topology,  $t$ - and the  $s$ -topologies on the four-dimensional Minkowski space in order to make group of homeomorphisms physically significant. These topologies were defined for the  $n$ -dimensional Minkowski space analogously and the topological study of the  $n$ -dimensional Minkowski space with respect to non-Euclidean topologies has been carried out.

General theory of relativity treats gravity not as a force field but a built-in feature of the spacetime. Gravity is invariably experienced by all objects in spacetime carrying masses and is the reason for the spacetime having the curved structure instead of flat. Mathematical model for the general theory of relativity is Hausdorff, paracompact, four dimensional smooth Lorentz manifold, equipped with Lorentz metric. Quantities associated with the Lorentz metric, for example the connection, the Riemann tensor, the Ricci tensor and others, have physical interpretations and can be used to develop physics in this setting, and make testable and tested predictions, which to date have proven consistent with the available experimental data.

Homeomorphism group of the manifold topology defined on a Lorentz manifold is huge and has no physical significance. Path topology, introduced by Hawking on a four-dimensional Lorentz manifold, is a non-manifold topology which induces manifold topology on each timelike curve and whose homeomorphism group is consistent with the causal and conformal structure of the Lorentz manifold. Various non-manifold topologies on a four dimensional Lorentz manifold were introduced including physically relevant generalizations of the Fine and time topologies which are referred to as Zeeman and geodesic topologies respectively. Path topology on the four-dimensional Minkowski space is same as the  $t$ -topology. Manifold topology is strictly coarser than the Zeeman, geodesic and the path topologies.

A spacetime singularity is a breakdown in the spacetime, either in its geometry or in some other basic physical structure. Singularities are mathematically modelled in terms of incomplete timelike geodesics and studied by Penrose, Hawking, Geroch, to quote a few. Singularity theorems provide sufficient conditions for the spacetime to be timelike or null geodesically incomplete.

A causal structure on the spacetime carries with it some essential ingredients of singularity theorems, viz., Cauchy surface, global hyperbolicity etc. In a strongly causal spacetime, upper semi continuity of the length function defined on the space of causal curves equipped with Geroch topology forms the basis of most of the singularity theorem. Global hyperbolicity of the spacetime is reflected in the topology of the space of causal curves. Furthermore, structure of the null geodesics reveals various aspects of the causal structure of the spacetime itself.

In the present paper, a comparative study of the space of causal curves and space of endless causal curves in Lorentz manifold, in particular, Minkowski space has been undertaken.

## 2. Notation and Preliminaries

Throughout this paper,  $R, N$  and  $Q$  denote the set of real, natural and rational numbers, respectively. For  $x \in R^n$  and  $\varepsilon > 0$ ,  $N_\varepsilon^E(x)$  denote the Euclidean open ball about  $x$  of radius  $\varepsilon$  given by the set  $\{y \in R^n: d_E(x, y) < \varepsilon\}$ , where  $d_E$  is the Euclidean metric. For  $n \in N$  and  $n > 1$ , the  $n$

dimensional real vector space  $R^n$  equipped with the bilinear form  $g: R^n \times R^n \rightarrow R$ , satisfying the following properties: (i) For all  $x, y \in R^n$ ,  $g(x, y) = g(y, x)$ , i.e. the bilinear form is symmetric, (ii) If for all  $y \in R^n$ ,  $g(x, y) = 0$  then  $x = 0$ , and (iii) there exists a basis  $\{e_0, e_1, \dots, e_{n-1}\}$  for  $R^n$  with

$$g(e_i, e_j) \equiv \eta_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } i = j = 0 \\ -1 & \text{if } i = j = 1, 2 \dots n-1 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

is called the  $n$  dimensional *Minkowski space*. The bilinear form  $g$  is called *Lorentz metric*. Elements of Minkowski space are called *events*. For an event,  $x = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} x_i e_i$ , the coordinate  $x_0$  is called *time coordinate* and the coordinates  $x_1, x_2 \dots x_{n-1}$  are called *spatial coordinates* of  $x$  relative to the basis  $e_1, e_2, \dots, e_{n-1}$ . Lorentz metric of two events  $x$  and  $y$  is given by:  $g(x, y) = x_0 y_0 - \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} x_i y_i$ . Space  $R^n$  together with an indefinite characteristic quadratic form  $Q$ , defined by  $Q(x) = g(x, x)$ ,  $x \in R^n$  is called *Minkowski space* denoted by  $M$ . An element  $x \in M$  is called *timelike*, *causal* or *spacelike*, accordingly if  $Q(x)$  is  $>$ ,  $\geq$  or  $< 0$ . A *timelike (causal) curve* in  $M$  is a smooth curve such that tangent vector at every point is non-zero and timelike (causal). The set  $C^T(x) = \{y \in M: y = x \text{ or } Q(y - x) > 0\}$  is called *Time Cone* at  $x$ . The group generated by all linear operators on  $M$ , leaving invariant quadratic form  $Q$  is called the *Lorentz group*.

An  $n$ -dimensional *Lorentz manifold* is an  $n$ -dimensional  $C^r$  ( $r \geq 2$ ) manifold equipped with metric tensor  $g$  of signature  $(1, n - 1)$  and is denoted by  $L$ . Tangent space  $T_p(L)$  at every point  $p \in L$ , is isomorphic to the  $n$ -dimensional Minkowski space. A tangent vector  $X_p$  at  $p$ , is called *timelike* if  $g(X_p, X_p) > 0$ , and *causal* if  $g(X_p, X_p) \geq 0$ . *Future directed timelike (causal) vector* is a timelike (casual) vector such that  $X_p^{(0)} > (\geq) 0$ . Similarly, *past directed timelike and causal vectors* are defined by reversing the sign of  $X_p^{(0)}$ .

A smooth curve in  $L$  is a map  $\gamma: F \rightarrow L$ ;  $F$  is a connected subset of  $R$  such that for any chart  $(U, \varphi)$ , the map  $\varphi \circ \gamma: F \rightarrow \varphi(U)$  is smooth. A *timelike (causal) curve* in  $L$  is a smooth curve with non-vanishing derivative such that tangent vector at every point of the image of the curve is timelike (causal). A *future (past) directed timelike (causal) curve* is defined accordingly as the tangent vector to the curve at every point is *future (past) directed timelike (casual)*. Let  $I^+(x) = \{y \in L: \exists \text{ a future directed timelike curve from } x \text{ to } y\}$ . Similarly  $I^-(x)$  is defined, replacing future with past. Clearly if  $y \in I^-(x) \Rightarrow x \in I^+(y)$ .

If a smooth curve has future directed timelike or causal tangent vector at some point then at every point the tangent vector remains future directed [13].

A causal curve  $\gamma$  has future end point  $q$  if for any open neighbourhood  $G(q)$  of  $q$ ,  $\exists T$  such that  $\gamma(t) \in G(q)$ ,  $\forall t \geq T$ . Similarly,  $\gamma$  has past end point  $r$  if for any open neighbourhood  $G(r)$  of  $r$ ,  $\exists T$  such that  $\gamma(t) \in G(r)$   $\forall t \leq T$ . A causal curve without any end points is called *endless*.

**Definition 2.1**  $t$ -topology on  $n$ - dimensional Minkowski space is defined to be the finest topology that induces euclidean topology on every timelike curve. The set  $\dot{B} = \{C^T(x) \cap N_\varepsilon^E(x): x \in M, \varepsilon > 0\}$  forms a basis for  $t$ -topology on  $M$ . Let  $M^t$  denote Minkowski space with  $t$ -topology.

**Definition 2.2** Let  $K(p, U) = (I^+(p) \cup I^-(p) \cup \{p\}) \cap U$ , where  $U = N_\varepsilon^E(p)$  for some  $\varepsilon > 0$ . Then  $V = \{K(p, U): p \in L\}$  forms a basis. The topology generated by  $V$ , is known as *path topology* on  $L$  [13]. The Space  $L$  together with the path topology is denoted by  $L^\rho$ .



For terms which are not explained, we refer to [1, 2, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13].

### 3. Space of Causal curves

Causal structure of spacetime provides useful insight into its geometry and underlying topological structure. The time-orientable spacetime carries a non-vanishing timelike vector field which classifies causal vectors at a point in the spacetime into future and past causal cones. Some of the causal properties of the spacetime have been observed to be reflected in the space of null geodesics and in the space of endless causal curves which are important subspaces of the space of causal curves in the spacetime. There are two significant topologies defined for the space of causal curves, one of them is known as *Geroch topology* [8] and the other is as defined below [11].

Let  $C_M$  and  $C_L$  denote collection of causal curves in  $M$  and  $L$  respectively. Two causal curves  $\gamma_1$  and  $\gamma_2$  are considered to be equivalent if their images are same. Topology on the set of causal curves, is given by [11]: Let  $\gamma \in C_M$ ,  $x \in \text{Im}(\gamma)$  and  $U(x)$  an open neighbourhood of  $x$  in  $M$ . Let  $B_{U(x)}^\gamma = \{\gamma \in C_M: \text{Im}(\gamma) \cap U(x) \neq \emptyset\}$ . Then  $\mathcal{B} = \{B_{U(x)}^\gamma: \gamma \in C_M, x \in \text{Im}(\gamma)\}$  forms a sub-basis. When topology on  $M$  under consideration is euclidean topology then null geodesics or curves containing a segment of null geodesics are also included in  $C_M$ , whereas, in case of  $t$ -topology these type of curves are not allowed, as  $t$ -topology induces discrete topology on null geodesics. The set  $C_M$  together with the topology generated by  $\mathcal{B}$  by using  $t$ -topology on  $M$  is denoted by  $C_M^t$ . Space  $C_L$  together with the topology defined analogously as above, by using the path topology on  $L$  is denoted by  $C_L^\rho$  and we let  $C_L^m$  to denote the set  $C_L$  together with the topology when  $L$  has manifold topology.

To show that  $C_L^\rho$  is neither  $T_1$  nor Hausdorff, let us consider  $\gamma_1, \gamma_2 \in C_L, \gamma_1 \neq \gamma_2$  such that  $\text{Im}(\gamma_1) \subseteq \text{Im}(\gamma_2)$ . Let  $G$  be an open set in  $L^\rho$ , such that  $\gamma_1 \in G$ . Then  $\exists H = \bigcap_{j=1}^n B_{U(y_j)}^{\gamma_{k_j}}$ , such that  $\gamma_1 \in H \subseteq G$ ,  $\gamma_{k_j} \in C_L$ ;  $U(y_j)$  is an open neighbourhood of  $y_j \in \text{Im}(\gamma_{k_j})$  for  $j = 1, 2 \dots n \Rightarrow \text{Im}(\gamma_1) \cap U(y_j) \neq \emptyset, \forall j = 1, 2 \dots n$ . Therefore,  $\text{Im}(\gamma_2) \cap \text{Im}(U(y_j)) \neq \emptyset$ , since  $\text{Im}(\gamma_1) \subseteq \text{Im}(\gamma_2)$ . Thus  $\gamma_2 \in H \Rightarrow \gamma_2 \in G$ . This proves that  $C_L^\rho$  is not  $T_1$ . Since every Hausdorff or  $T_2$  space is  $T_1$ , therefore  $C_L^\rho$  is not  $T_2$  either.

In general, for arbitrary pair of causal curves, there may not exist two disjoint nonempty open sets separating them. However, in certain circumstances this is possible. Let  $\gamma_1$  and  $\gamma_2$  be two distinct causal curves such that neither of their images is contained in other's image. Then we can find two points  $x_1 \in \gamma_1$  and  $x_2 \in \gamma_2$  and two respective neighbourhoods, say  $H_1$  and  $H_2$ , such that  $H_1$  does not intersect with  $\text{Im}(\gamma_2)$  and  $H_2$  with  $\text{Im}(\gamma_1)$ . Thus, two open neighbourhoods (not necessarily disjoint) exist separating the causal curves under consideration.

Moreover, if  $\gamma_1$  and  $\gamma_2$  are as mentioned above, such that they intersect a Cauchy surface in two distinct points  $x$  and  $y$ . Then one can construct two open neighbourhoods  $H_x$  and  $H_y$  respectively, such that, no causal curve intersect both  $H_x$  and  $H_y$ . Otherwise,  $x$  and  $y$  will be causally (or quite possibly timelike) related which is not admissible condition for the mathematical model for spacetime. Thus, two disjoint neighbourhoods exist separating  $\gamma_1$  and  $\gamma_2$ .

Next, we show that space of causal curves in Lorentz manifold is neither regular, and hence not completely regular nor normal.

Let  $\gamma_1, \gamma_2 \in C_L, \gamma_1 \neq \gamma_2$  such that  $\text{Im}(\gamma_1) \subseteq \text{Im}(\gamma_2)$ . Choose  $y \in \text{Im}(\gamma_2) \setminus \text{Im}(\gamma_1) \Rightarrow G(y)$  an open neighbourhood of  $y$  such that  $G(y) \cap \text{Im}(\gamma_1) = \emptyset$ . This implies that  $\gamma_1 \in \left(B_{G(y)}^{\gamma_2}\right)^c$ . Let  $H = \left(B_{G(y)}^{\gamma_2}\right)^c$ , then  $H$  is closed and  $\gamma_2 \notin H$ . Let  $G_1$  be an open set containing  $H$  and  $G_2$  contains  $\gamma_2$ . Then  $\gamma_1 \in G_1$ . Applying similar arguments used in proposition 3.1,  $\gamma_2 \in G_2 \Rightarrow G_1 \cap G_2 \neq \emptyset$ . Therefore  $\gamma_2$  and  $H$  cannot be separated by disjoint open sets. Hence  $C_L^\rho$  is not regular. Since every completely regular space is regular, this proves that  $C_L^\rho$  is not completely regular.

Let  $\gamma_0: I \rightarrow L; \gamma_0 \in C_L$ . Choose  $0 \leq t_1 < t_2 < t_3 < t_4 \leq 1$ . Define,  $\alpha = \gamma_0|_{[t_1, t_2]}, \beta = \gamma_0|_{[t_3, t_4]}$ . Let  $F_1 = \{\gamma \in C_L: \text{Im}(\gamma) \subseteq \text{Im}(\alpha)\}$  and  $F_2 = \{\gamma \in C_L: \text{Im}(\gamma) \subseteq \text{Im}(\beta)\}$ . Since  $\alpha \in F_1$  and  $\beta \in F_2$ , hence  $F_1, F_2 \neq \emptyset$ . Also,  $F_1 \cap F_2 = \emptyset$  since  $\text{Im}(\alpha) \cap \text{Im}(\beta) = \emptyset$ , as  $\gamma_0(x_1) \neq \gamma_0(x_2)$  for  $x_1 \neq x_2$ . We claim that both  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  are closed. Let  $\gamma \in F_1^c \Rightarrow \exists x \in \text{Im}(\gamma) \setminus \text{Im}(\alpha)$ . Let  $G(x)$  be an open neighbourhood of  $x$  such that  $G(x) \cap \text{Im}(\alpha) = \emptyset$ , hence for any  $\gamma' \in F_1, G(x) \cap \text{Im}(\gamma') = \emptyset \Rightarrow F_1 \cap B_{G(x)}^\gamma = \emptyset$  i.e.,  $\gamma \in B_{G(x)}^\gamma \subseteq F_1^c$ , therefore  $F_1^c$  is open. Similarly,  $F_2^c$  is open, in other words,  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  are closed. Let  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  are two open sets containing  $F_1$  and  $F_2$ , respectively. Then  $\alpha \in G_1, \beta \in G_2$ . Since  $\text{Im}(\alpha), \text{Im}(\beta) \subseteq \text{Im}(\gamma_0)$ , applying similar argument used in proposition 3.1, we obtain  $\gamma_0 \in G_1 \cap G_2$ , thus proving that there does not exist disjoint open sets containing  $F_1$  and  $F_2$ . Hence  $C_L^\rho$  is not normal.

The results proved above are valid for  $C_L^m$  and  $C_M^t$  as well.

#### 4. Space of Endless causal curves

The space of endless causal curves is a subspace of causal curves with respect to subspace topology induced. Low has derived an important result relating global hyperbolicity of the spacetime and the Hausdorffness of the space of endless causal curves, when spacetime is equipped with manifold topology and later with respect to the path topology.

In this section, space of endless causal curves in the n-dimensional Minkowski space is considered. Let  $\zeta_t$  denote space of endless causal curves together with the subspace topology induced from  $C_M^t$ . Let  $H_c$  be the  $n - 1$  dimensional plane consisting of points in  $M$  having same time coordinate, defined by  $H_c = \{y \in M: y^{(0)} = c\}$ , for some  $c \in R$ . Then  $H_c$  is a Cauchy surface in  $M$ . Since every endless causal curve intersects with every Cauchy surface exactly once therefore, if  $\gamma \in \zeta_t$  then  $\gamma$  intersects with  $H_c$ . Some of the separation axioms for  $\zeta_t$  are studied here, in particular we show that the space  $\zeta_t$  is  $T_1$ , Hausdorff and regular.

Let  $\gamma_1, \gamma_2 \in \zeta_t, \gamma_1 \neq \gamma_2$ . Then, neither  $\text{Im}(\gamma_1) \subseteq \text{Im}(\gamma_2)$ , nor  $\text{Im}(\gamma_2) \subseteq \text{Im}(\gamma_1)$ . Since both  $\gamma_1$  and  $\gamma_2$  intersect every  $H_c$ , and  $M = \bigcup_{c \in R} H_c$ , therefore,  $\exists c \in R$  such that  $x_1 \in \text{Im}(\gamma_1) \cap H_c, x_2 \in \text{Im}(\gamma_2) \cap H_c, x_1 \neq x_2$ . Let  $U(x_1), U(x_2)$  be two basic open sets in  $M^t$  such that  $C^T(x) \cap U(x_2) = \emptyset$  for  $x \in U(x_1)$  and  $C^T(y) \cap U(x_1) = \emptyset$  for  $y \in U(x_2)$ . Then, there does not exist any causal curve lying in the intersection of  $B_{U(x_1)}^{\gamma_1}$  and  $B_{U(x_2)}^{\gamma_2}$ . Clearly,  $\gamma_1 \in B_{U(x_1)}^{\gamma_1}$  and  $\gamma_2 \in B_{U(x_2)}^{\gamma_2}$  can be separated by disjoint open sets. Let  $\gamma \in \zeta_t$  and  $J$  be a closed set of  $\zeta_t$  not containing  $\gamma$ . We want to construct two disjoint open sets containing  $\gamma$  and  $J$ . Since  $\gamma$  is contained in  $J^c$ , therefore there exist a basic open set  $B$  contained in  $J^c$  which does not intersect with  $J$ , i.e. if  $\alpha \in J \Rightarrow \text{Im}(\alpha) \cap B = \emptyset$ . Therefore, one obtains a Cauchy surface  $H_c$  at some point  $p$  in  $B \cap \text{Im}(\gamma)$ , such that if  $q \in \text{Im}(\alpha) \cap H_c, \alpha \in J \Rightarrow q \neq p$ . Hence, one can construct two disjoint basic open sets  $B_{U(p)}^\gamma$  and  $B_{U(q)}^\alpha$  for every  $\alpha \in J$  and  $q \in \text{Im}(\alpha) \cap H_c$  thereby getting two disjoint open sets separating  $\gamma$  and  $J$ .

## 5. Comparative study of $C_M^t$ and $\zeta_t$

It is evident that though  $C_M^t$ , the space of causal curves in  $M^t$  is not  $T_1$ , non-Hausdorff and non-regular, its subspace, i.e.,  $\zeta_t$ , space of endless causal curves enjoys these properties. It is known that a space is globally hyperbolic if and only if the space of endless causal curves defined in the space is Hausdorff. It therefore implies that Minkowski space is an example of globally hyperbolic spacetime as  $\zeta_t$  is Hausdorff. Hence, it would serve as a good example to apply singularity theorems on Minkowski space.

## 6. Conclusion

In this paper, it has been observed that topological structure of endless causal curves which is a subspace of causal curves differs from it significantly when the underlying spacetime is Minkowski space equipped with  $t$ -topology. It thus motivates us to carry out a similar study when underlying spacetime is Lorentz manifold equipped with the path topology. Also, it would be worthwhile to explore topology of the ambient boundary of the spacetime equipped with the path topology and how the convergence of causal curves with the topology defined in this paper relates to it. Moreover, it will be interesting to see what impact does the structure of causal curves have on the upper semi continuity of the length function when spacetime has the path topology.

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# Sequential and Limit Point Compactness for $A$ -Topology

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**Abstract**—It is known that in a metrizable space or second countable Hausdorff space, limit point compactness, sequential compactness and compactness are equivalent. In the present paper, it is obtained that limit point compactness, sequential compactness and compactness are equivalent in Minkowski space with  $A$ -topology which is neither metrizable nor second countable.

**Keywords**—Topological Space, Compact Set, Sequentially Compact, Limit Point Compact, Minkowski Space,  $A$ -Topology

## I. INTRODUCTION

The Euclidean topology has no natural relation with the metric of special theory of relativity and is of no physical significance. This has motivated the introduction of non-Euclidean topologies compatible with the Lorentz metric. During the last few decades, various physically significant non-Euclidean topologies have been introduced and studied on Minkowski space: a mathematical model for spacetime of the Einstein's special theory of relativity. Some of these are fine,  $t$ ,  $s$ ,  $f$ ,  $A$ , time and space topologies [6], [10].

Compactness allows one to formulate Poincare Duality which provides insight into the geometry of spacetime. It is equivalent to limit point compactness and also to sequential compactness in a metric space or a second countable Hausdorff space. These are also obtained to be equivalent in Minkowski space with time topology [2]. The present paper explores the connection between limit point compactness, sequential compactness and compactness for physically relevant  $A$ -topology [10] which is neither a metric space nor a second countable space.

## II. $A$ -TOPOLOGY

Throughout,  $R$  and  $N$  denote the set of real and natural numbers respectively. For  $x \in R^n$  and  $\epsilon > 0$ ,  $N_\epsilon^E(x)$  denotes the Euclidean open ball given by the set  $\{y \in R^n : d_E(x, y) < \epsilon\}$ , where  $d_E(x, y)$  is the Euclidean distance between  $x$  and  $y$  and the closed ball is given by the set  $\{y \in R^n : d_E(x, y) \leq \epsilon\}$ . The  $n$ -dimensional real vector space  $R^n$  with the Lorentz inner product of index 1 is called the  $n$ -dimensional Minkowski space for  $n > 1$ , and henceforth it will be denoted by  $M$ . A vector  $x \in M$  is called timelike, lightlike or spacelike,

according as  $Q(x) > 0$ ,  $Q(x) = 0$  or  $Q(x) < 0$  where  $Q$  is an indefinite quadratic form induced from the Lorentz inner product on  $M$ . A straight line is called a *timelike straight line* or *light ray* or *spacelike straight line* according as it is parallel to a timelike or lightlike or spacelike vector. A hyperplane is called *spacelike* if each of its vector is a spacelike vector.

The  $A$ -topology on  $M$  is defined to be the finest topology on  $M$  that induces Euclidean topology on every time-like line, light-like line and space-like hyper-plane :  $M$  endowed with the  $A$ -topology is denoted by  $M^A$ . The  $n$ -dimensional Minkowski space  $M$  endowed with the Euclidean topology is denoted by  $M^E$ . Thus  $M^E$  is the Euclidean  $n$ -space. Further, the subspace  $D$  of  $M^A$  ( $M^E$ ) is denoted by  $D^A$  ( $D^E$  respectively).

As  $A$ -topology is finer than the Euclidean topology,  $M^A$  is Hausdorff and non-compact. The group of homeomorphisms on  $M^A$  is the group generated by the Lorentz group together with the translations and dilatations. The space  $M^A$  is Hausdorff, non-compact, non-regular, non-locally compact, non-first countable and non-simply connected [5]. It is known that second countable space is first countable [11]. As  $M^A$  is non-first countable, it is non-second countable. Since a non-regular space is non-metrizable,  $M^A$  is non-metrizable.

## III. COMPACT SETS

A topological space is said to be compact if every open cover has a finite subcover. A subset of a topological space is compact if it is compact with the subspace topology. The well known Heine Borel Theorem states that a nonempty set in Euclidean space is compact iff it is closed and bounded [11].

However, if a set is compact in  $M^A$ , then it is compact in the Euclidean topology and hence it is closed and bounded in  $M^A$ , in view of the fact that  $A$ -topology is finer than the Euclidean topology. But a closed and bounded set in  $M^A$  may not be compact, e.g. unit circle is not compact, although it is closed and bounded. A compact set in  $M^A$  does not contain a Zeno sequence: a sequence  $(z_n)_{n \in N}$  of distinct terms in  $M$  is called a *Zeno sequence* in  $M^A$  converging to  $z \in M$ , if  $z_n \neq z$ , for every  $n \in N$  and  $(z_n)$  converges to  $z$  in  $M^E$

but not in  $M^A$  [10]. Given below is a characterization of compact set in  $M^A$  obtained in [4]:

*Proposition 1:* A nonempty subset  $D$  of  $M^A$  is compact if and only if  $D^E$  is compact and  $D$  does not contain the image of a Zeno sequence in  $M^A$ .

#### IV. SEQUENTIALLY AND LIMIT POINT COMPACT SETS

A topological space  $X$  is said to be limit point compact if every infinite subset of  $X$  has a limit point in  $X$  and is said to be sequentially compact if every sequence in  $X$  has a subsequence that converges to a point in  $X$ . It is well known that if a set in a topological space is compact, it is limit point compact. In a first countable Hausdorff space, limit point compactness implies sequential compactness [11].

Moreover, if a topological space is metrizable or second countable, then a set is limit point compact iff it is sequentially compact iff it is compact[11]. As mentioned in the Section II,  $M^A$  is neither metrizable nor second countable. Therefore, the three notions under consideration may or may not be equivalent in this space. That these notions are indeed equivalent in  $M^A$  has been established, in the present section.

*Proposition 2:* Let  $M$  be the  $n$ -dimensional Minkowski space and  $D$  be a nonempty subset of  $M$ . Then the subspace topologies induced on  $D$  from the  $A$ -topology and the Euclidean topology are same if  $D^A$  is compact.

**Proof:** It follows from the observation that the identity map from  $D^A$  to  $D^E$  is a homeomorphism.

In general, compactness implies limit point compactness. The following proposition provides an alternate simpler proof for this result in  $M^A$ :

*Proposition 3:* Let  $M$  be the  $n$ -dimensional Minkowski space and  $C$  be a nonempty compact set in  $M^E$ . If  $C$  is compact in  $M^A$ , then  $C^A$  is limit point compact.

**Proof.** Let  $C$  be compact in  $M$  with the  $A$ -topology. Then the Euclidean topology and  $A$ -topology on  $C$  are equal by Proposition 2. Hence each infinite subset of  $C^A$  has a limit point. This implies that  $C^A$  is limit point compact. This completes the proof.

That limit point compactness implies compactness is not true, in general. However, it is true for metrizable spaces or second countable Hausdorff spaces. Since  $M^A$  is neither metrizable nor second countable, the following proposition shows that limit point compactness may imply compactness in spaces which are neither metrizable nor second countable:

*Proposition 4:* Let  $M$  be the  $n$ -dimensional Minkowski space and  $C$  be a nonempty compact set in  $M$  with the Euclidean topology. If  $C^A$  is limit point compact, then  $C^A$  is compact.

**Proof.** Let  $C$  be not compact in  $M$  with the  $A$ -topology. Then by Proposition 1, there exists a Zeno sequence  $(x_n)_{n \in N}$

such that  $\{x_n, x : n \in N\} \subseteq C$ . This implies that there exists an open set  $G \in M^A$  containing  $x$  that leaves outside infinitely many terms of  $(x_n)_{n \in N}$ , say  $x_{n_1}, x_{n_2}, x_{n_3}, \dots$ . The sequence  $(x_{n_k})_{k \in N}$  does not have a convergent subsequence and the set  $\{x_{n_1}, x_{n_2}, x_{n_3}, \dots\}$  does not have a limit point. This implies  $C^A$  is not limit point compact. This completes the proof.

In a first countable Hausdorff space, limit point compactness implies sequential compactness. Although  $M^A$  is not first countable, the following proposition obtains that this implication holds in  $M^A$ :

*Proposition 5:* Let  $M$  be the  $n$ -dimensional Minkowski space and  $C$  be a nonempty compact set in  $M^E$ . If  $C$  is limit point compact in  $M^A$ , then  $C^A$  is sequentially compact.

**Proof.** Let  $C^A$  be not sequentially compact. Then there exists a sequence  $(x_n)_{n \in N}$  such that  $\{x_n, x : n \in N\} \subseteq C$  does not have a convergent subsequence and the set  $\{x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots\}$  does not have a limit point. This implies  $C^A$  is not limit point compact. This completes the proof.

In a first countable Hausdorff space, compactness implies sequential compactness. Although  $M^A$  is not first countable, the following proposition obtains that this implication holds in  $M^A$ :

*Proposition 6:* Let  $M$  be the  $n$ -dimensional Minkowski space and  $C$  be a nonempty compact set in  $M^E$ . If  $C$  is compact in  $M^A$ , then  $C^A$  is sequentially compact.

**Proof.** Let  $C^A$  be not sequentially compact. This implies  $C^A$  is not limit point compact and hence not compact by Propositions 5 and 3 respectively. This completes the proof.

For metrizable spaces or second countable Hausdorff spaces, sequential compactness implies compactness. Since  $M^A$  is neither metrizable nor second countable, the following proposition shows that sequential compactness may imply compactness in spaces which are neither metrizable nor second countable:

*Proposition 7:* Let  $M$  be the  $n$ -dimensional Minkowski space and  $C$  be a nonempty compact set in  $M$  with the Euclidean topology. If  $C^A$  is sequentially compact, then  $C^A$  is compact.

**Proof.** Let  $C$  be not compact in  $M$  with the  $A$ -topology. Then by Proposition 1, there exists a Zeno sequence  $(x_n)_{n \in N}$  such that  $\{x_n, x : n \in N\} \subseteq C$ . This implies that there exists an open set  $G \in M^A$  containing  $x$  that leaves outside infinitely many terms of  $(x_n)_{n \in N}$ , say  $x_{n_1}, x_{n_2}, x_{n_3}, \dots$ . The sequence  $(x_{n_k})_{k \in N}$  does not have a convergent subsequence. This completes the proof.

Combining Propositions 3, 4, 6 and 7, we have the following:

*Proposition 8:* Let  $M$  be the  $n$ -dimensional Minkowski space and  $C$  be a nonempty compact set in  $M$  with the Euclidean topology. Then the following are equivalent:

- (i)  $C$  is compact in  $M$  with the  $A$ -topology.
- (ii)  $C^A$  is limit point compact.
- (iii)  $C^A$  is sequentially compact.

## V. CONCLUSION

In the present paper, it is obtained that limit point compactness, sequential compactness and compactness are all equivalent in Minkowski space with  $A$ -topology. This result is same as that for Euclidean topology. However,  $A$ -topology behaves differently with regard to the topological properties, e.g. Minkowski space with Euclidean topology is regular, normal, locally compact, first countable and second countable, while Minkowski space with  $A$ -topology is non-regular, non-normal, non-locally compact, non-first countable and non-second countable [5].

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# Optimization of Resource Allocation Problems in 5G Network Systems using Nature Inspired Algorithms -A Survey

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**Abstract** - Fifth Generation(5G) Network designed to satisfy recent technology like Internet of connected-things, billions and millions of connected-communicated devices, huge data, upcoming application support and user service support requirements. 4G network managing this generation oriented services satisfactory whereas 5G network initially operate with existing 4G network then getting to involve full-fledged standalone networks for future and upcoming network generation. The resource allocation in 5G enabled IoT is an objective to considering of maximize load balancing, maximize energy efficiency, minimize energy cost, minimize power consumption and improve Quality of Service(QoS). The research paper provides detailed survey on importance of resource allocation in 5G enabled IoT by applying optimization of recent introduced hybrid nature inspired computing algorithms to reach better optimum results.

**Keywords:** *Fifth Generation (5G), Fourth Generation(4G), Internet of Things(IoT), Resource allocation (RA),Quality of Service (QoS),*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Optimization of resource allocation(RA) in cloud computing is an important feature for 5G networks. The resource allocation is defined to manage variety of resources for a better connectivity for communication as per day-by-day increase the capacity of a network connectivity. The varied resources like power, energy, network load and spectrum, etc, are shared consistent with the user requirement for an optimized connectivity. The concept of secure and safety among resource sharing is important from the point of optimization for better utilization of resources. The security of resource allocation of 5G enabled IoT [1,2] is an important and challenging task for improved safe and secure connectivity. In the literature Survey authors focused on resource allocation methods in 5G enabled Internet of 'Things'. These introduced challenges are required to applying resource allocation methods in 5G Network by applying nature inspired computing (NIC) algorithms for solving optimization problem such as optimization of minimize energy consumption, power consumption and inter-slice resource management etc. in a 5G enable IoT network.

The contributions of this paper compared to the recent literature in the field are as follows. The survey of research

objectives that including as follows...

- A. Optimization of Energy Consumption by Resource allocation in Mobile Devices & 5G Enabled IoT Using Computational Offloading by Multitier Multi-access Edge Computing Systems
- B. Optimization of Power Consumption by RA for 5G C-RAN using Nature Inspired Algorithms
- C. Optimization of Inter-Slice Resource Management in 5G Network using Nature Inspired Algorithms.

The remain of this paper is structured as follows. In Section 2 provides the objectives of resource-allocation problems in 5G Network. In section- 3, Resource allocation at 5G authorize IoT gives detailed classification. In Section-4 provides Conclusion followed by Section 5, for References of this research paper.

## II. THE RESEARCH OBJECTIVES OF RESOURCE ALLOCATION PROBLEMS IN 5G NETWORK CLASSIFICATION

*A. Optimization of Energy Consumption by Resource allocation in Mobile Devices & 5G Enabled IoT Using Computational Offloading in Multi-Tier Multi-Access Edge Computing Systems*

For machine type communication the importance of energy efficiency is a challenging task in 5G network for saving battery life devices and also providing efficient services of end-user needful applications. These machine type communication devices are low powered battery chargeable devices and couldn't controlled maximum power consumption for heavy application processing. For that reasons these devices not support for frequently recharge as well as replace batteries for processing heavy complex computational problems. The energy-efficient resource allocation algorithms and methods are should be introduced by 5g Network to attenuate energy-efficiency for machine-type communication (MTC) devices.

The new mobile computing services/applications generate large amount of data on the telecommunication networks and also require high computing capacity.

Most mobile devices have limited computing capacity, limited battery power and limited storage space. The computation offloading task from mobile-devices to multi-access-edge-computing servers for resource allocation is a challenging task because these mobile devices having low power battery capability. This not only conserves the battery power of the mobile device and frees them from heavy computing tasks but also reduces the latency as the processing is happening in the MEC server which is close to the end user. The resource allocate limitations of MEC server, such computation offloading from MDs to MEC Servers remains a challenge.

For better utilization of computation offloading its better to maximize performance levels of offloading calculations strategies, optimization of resource, improve the MEC computing resources. In modern telecommunication networks Heterogeneous Networks (HetNets) used to address the issue of exponential increase in data traffic. HetNet comprises of a mixture of various cell types as well as various access technologies. In HetNeta homogeneous macro cell base station is overlaid with low power small cell base stations such as femto cell, pico cell and micro cell to ensure proper coverage as well as enhance data handling capacity of the network.

Recent research showing very interest in concpets of combine MED with 5G for maximize performance of network as well as minimize power cosumption in mobile devices. The comuputational offloading in 5G have also been taken for focusing for research [3].

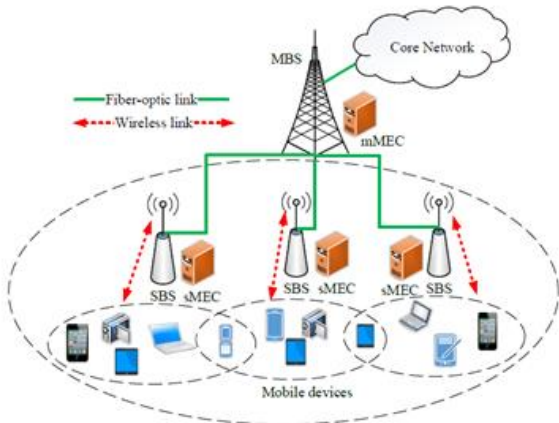


Fig1: Multi-tier computation-offloading strategy in HetNets[4]

In Fig1 – Mobile devices (MDs) having limited computational capacity and randomly deployed. These mobile devices directly connect to the small cell base stations (SBSs) to offload their computational task(s). These SMBs connected to macro-base stations (MBS) through fiber-optic links[5,6]. The small base stations and macro-base stations are integrated.

*Literature survey*

In[6] proposed a method for minimize delay process for maximize battery life in task offloading in ultra-dense network. This concept is non-deterministic polynomial-time hardness problem. This is to optimized in to sub-tasks. One is task placement sub-problem and another is resource allocation sub-problem to minimize task duration as well as energy saving.

In[7] proposed stochastic offloading scheme for optimization of mobile user and base stations for saving energy and maximize task offloading tasks. The authors proposed DARLING and Deep-SARL.

In[8] focusing of mobile devices for concept of minimize energy consumption and minimize task completion by efficient offloading tasks and provide resource allocation. By install a mobile edge computing (MEC) at the mobile base stations (MBS) can save monetary costs but increase latency. There lead to resource bottleneck at single mobile edge computing if Internet of things require more computational tasks.

In[9] proposed a method by merging the resources for offloading as well as resource allocation for better improve the system offloading tasks.

In[10] proposed a architecture for mec for optimization of completion as well as execution time for edge cloud computing.

In[11] proposed a technique for offloading tasks for mobile edge computing to reduce computational tasks and minimize cost.

In[12] proposed a artificial fish algorithm for microbase stations are combined with MEC for minimize overall energy consumption to perform computational tasks.

In[13] proposed a method for offloading for decision for dual micro-cloud unit tor reach to maximize energy efficiency.

In[14] proposed a method for vehicles for tasks of offloading costs, latency, edge nodes load balancing.

In[15] proposed a hierarchical mobile edge computing architecture for maximize network performance to MEC servers are put in order as per their processing capabilities for mobile devices communicate with MEC servers for tasks..

In [16] proposed an efficient less-complexity algorithm for MEC for HetNets to minimize energy consumption and minimize completion time for tasks.

In[17] proposed Particle Swarm optimization algorithm to minimize energy consumption, computational overhead of offloading tasks for MES in 5G HetNets providing a joint resource allocation features.

In[18] proposed a nature inspired computing algorithm for offloading of combine small base stations to optimize power and channel in cellular network. The aim of this proposed scheme is minimize whole energy of mobile devices.



Table1 -Optimization of Energy Consumption by Resource allocation in Mobile Devices & 5G Enabled IoT Using Computational Offloading in Multi-Tier Multi-Access Edge Computing Systems

Authors and Year	Algorithms approach	Application evaluation methods	Limitations
Min Chen et.al. 2018 [6]	Divide Non-linear programming in to two sub-tasks to solve optimization problem.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recue task duration</li> <li>Energy saving</li> </ul>	task offloading in more complicate deployment with users mobility.
Xianfu Chen et.al. 2018[7]	double deep Q-network (DQN) Deep-SARL algorithm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>computation offloading performance</li> <li>long-term utility performance,</li> </ul>	NIC algorithms yet to apply for optimum results
Jiao Zhang et al 2017[8]	iterative search algorithm (IPDC)	lifetime of smart mobile devices (SMDs).	Obtain approximate optimal solution should apply heuristic approach.
Tuyen X. Tran et.a. 2018 [9]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mixed Integer Non-linear Program (MINLP)</li> <li>Resource Allocation (RA) problem</li> <li>Task Offloading (TO) problem</li> </ul>	Improve offloading utility over traditional approaches.	Improve efficiency for obtaining prominent results by using new methods.
Min Chen et.al. 2018 [10]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>task placement sub-problem and resource</li> <li>allocation sub-problem</li> </ul>	task duration energy saving	Improve efficient algorithm for solve complicated problems in mobility.
Xuan-Qui Pham et.al. 7 <sup>th</sup> Jan'2019 [11]	•Mixed Integer Nonlinear Programming (MINLP)	•minimizing the total computation overhead	Extend to improve Quality of Services (QoS) of task requests.
Lichao Yang 30 <sup>th</sup> January 2018 [12]	Artificial fish swarm algorithm (AFSA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>minimize energy consumption.</li> <li>cost minimization</li> </ul>	To solve high-dimension complex optimization problem solve by using hybrid chicken swarm optimization algorithm
Abdelhamied A. Ateya 29 September 2018 [13]	Energy aware offloading algorithm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>minimize energy consumption</li> <li>heterogeneous task</li> </ul>	Providing offloading feature in between mobile device and edge servers.
Shaohua Wan et.al. 2019 [14]	COV	•minimize offloading of application delay & cost	Proposed offloading method to minimize application offload delay, cost and also reach load balance
Juyong Lee et.al. 17 July 2018 [15]	mobile edge computing (MEC) architecture for hierarchical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>server energy can be saved</li> <li>utility of resources effectively</li> <li>responsible for user requests immediately</li> </ul>	Improve efficiency for obtaining prominent results by using new methods.
Fagui Liu et.al. 4 March 2019 [16]	ECTCO algorithm	•reduce energy cost	Perform offloading tasks in real-world IoT scenario
Huynh et. al[17]	Particle Swarm Optimization	For mobile devices to minimize energy consumption as well as task completion time.	Use hybridized nature inspired computing algorithms for better optimum results.
Hong Chen et.al 28 February 2020 [18]	Chicken swarm optimization (CSO) algorithm	•achieving good energy performance	To solve high-dimension complex optimization problem solve by using hybrid chicken swarm optimization algorithm

As per given above detailed literature survey of our objective problem “Optimization of Energy Consumption by Resource allocation in Mobile Devices & 5G Enabled IoT Using Computational Offloading in Multi-Tier Multi-Access Edge Computing Systems” by study and learn the authors views and research oriented experiments, that motivate us to consider optimization of Energy consumption by resource allocation in Mobile devices 5G networks using Nature Inspired Computing techniques we consider as one of objectives of our research study.

*B. Optimization of Power Consumption by Resource Allocation for 5G Cloud Radio Access Network using Nature Inspired Computing Techniques*

To proper manage of heavy traffic of data and solving network congestion, latency, power consumption problems it is better to introduce wireless communication network. Optimization is takes place for minimize whole network cost, improve Quality of Service, Quality of Energy, to minimize

energy consumption. Many techniques applied for power consumption Many techniques applied for minimize power consumption are MIMO, multi-hop communication, heterogeneous network etc are proposed for better optimization methods. Even introducing these methods not yet solve minimize energy consumption for enhance the better utilization of overall network power in 5G network.

As per introduce the new concept of 5G should capable for more connectivity of devices, support highdata rate, maximize energy efficiency, improve power efficiency, support network any-time-any-where, provide low-latency [19-22]. Current technologies are clearly in lack for supporting such emergency requirements. Therefore, the industries and researchers need to bring some fundamental changes in future networks both in technologies and architectures.

The cellular net-works based on C-RAN recommend for 5G network systems for better efficiency. The Cloud radio access network is located in single base station (BS). And also integrate with Base band units (BBU) and Remote radio heads (RRH). Cloud radio access network (C-RAN) can minimize energy consumption by integrating with Baseband units (BBU) assigned to one or more Remote radio heads (RRH) to share resources remotely. To minimize cost, computing, minimize power consumption and maximize energy saving introducing of single cluster with mobile edge computing servers providing computational task(s) to mobile devices.

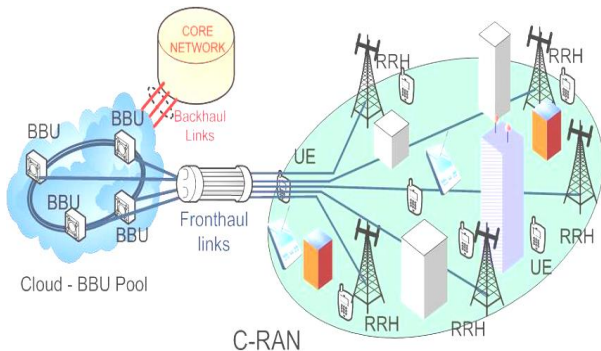


Fig2 – Cloud - Radio Access Network (C-RAN) Architecture[97]

In Fig2 shows C-RAN and the challenging issue is designing a mapping UE with RRHs and also RRHs with BBU. As per the network load status to minimize whole network costs to reach Quality of Service (QoS) and Quality of Experience (QoE). This is a two-stage resource allocation problem where the first stage is UE-RRH association and the second stage is RRH- BBU mapping.

*Literature Survey*

In.[23] proposed UE associate with RRH for Cloud Radio Access Network. In [24] proposed linear programming to optimize BBU-RRH mapping for C-RAN to minimize energy cost in overall system. In [25] proposed Genetic Algorithm for solving resource allocation problem in BBU. But simulation results shows this not reached optimization of power consumption for whole system.. In [26] proposed a heuristic method applying for solving BBU-RRH mapping to reach optimal solution. In [27] proposed resource allocation problem in 5G-CRAN formulated by a multi-objective optimization problem to reach optimal and support to quality of service (QoS) requirements. To optimization this problem divided into two sub problems. The UE-RRH mapping sub-problem solved by nature inspired computing technique i.e. Ant Bee Colony (ABC) and RRH-BBU mapping sub-problems solved by nature inspired computing techniques ie Ant Colony Optimization(ACO). The all over optimization performance proposed nature inspired computing algorithm i.e. hybridization of ABC and ACO i.e. Bee-Ant-CRAN to perform better optimization and simulation results shows the whole cost of power consumption, minimize the cost and Quality of Service features. In future work the authors want to propose a virtual Base stations (BSs) placed at Cloud edge – Radio access network(C-RAN) to provide performance by power consumption, throughput, quality of service and minimization of cost.

In [28] proposed C-RAN to minimize costs and maximize energy saving and also reach quality of service. To reach, separate base band unit from base stations and sharing base band unit in pool. In this scheme to optimize allocate BBU dynamic way and mapping them to remote radio heads to reach quality of service. To solve these problem authors proposed RCLP algorithm to solve it.

Table 2 - Optimization of Power Consumption by RA for 5G C-RAN using Nature Inspired Computing Techniques

Authors and Year	Algorithms approach	Application evaluation methods	Limitations
Taleb, Hussein, et al in 2018 [23]	User association (UA) sub-problem RRH clustering (RC) sub-problem	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>minimize network power consumption</li> <li>total transmission delay.</li> </ul>	Multiple centralized and distributed UA and RC solutions will be proposed and integrated
Yao, Jingjing et.al. 2018 [24]	integer linear programming (ILP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>minimize the system cost incurred by the energy bill</li> </ul>	Optimize with nature inspired computing algorithms for approximate optimum results.

Chien et.al. 2019 [25]	GA-based Resource Allocation Algorithm (GARAA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• achieve high resource utilization</li> <li>• reduce power consumption.</li> </ul>	improving the accuracy of throughput predictions and reducing the computational time for deep learning.
Boulos, Karen, et al 2018 [26]	Set Partitioning Problem (SPP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a minimum guarantee of Quality of Service(QoS)</li> <li>• reduce the power consumption</li> </ul>	to dynamically output a clustering scheme, adapting to dynamic load conditions and different preferences in terms of re-association and power consumption.
Ado Adamou AbbaAri et.al. 2019 [27]	Bee-Ant-CRAN Optimization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reduces the resource wastage</li> <li>• spectral efficiency well as the throughput.</li> </ul>	virtual BSs at the edge of the C-RAN in the overall performance.
Chen, Longbiao, et al 04 February 2020 [28]	Resource-Constrained Label-Propagation (RCLP) algorithm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reduce operational costs</li> <li>• service quality</li> </ul>	Optimize with nature inspired computing algorithms for approximate optimum results.

Based on the recent studies in NIC it has been observed that different variants of ABC and ACO techniques with multiple hybridization schemes of various NIC techniques have performed much better than standard ABC and ACO nature inspired computing algorithms on continuous and discrete optimization problems. This motivates us to explore the use of more recent NIC like Ant Colony Optimization(ACO), Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO), Whale Optimization algorithm (WOA), Biogeography based Optimization (BBO) and their hybrid variants for the better solution of this problem.

### C. Optimization of Inter-Slice Resource Management in 5G Network using Nature Inspired Computing Techniques.

Fifth-Generation (5G) systems and network architecture is intended to offer multiple services with diverse set of user requirements and performance specifications. Network Slicing is a process of slicing a single physical network into multiple independently and isolated logical networks. The design & development of 5G network is in progress. In 5G the importance of Network slicing is a one of the key concept of virtualization[30]. Network slicing is allowing for providing 5G network services as network as a infrastructure, network as a service with efficient requirements [29].

Network slicing is virtual network on physical network for the purpose of providing minimal network resources for minimize expenditure of 5G network [31,32,33].

Because of the importance of the network slicing in realizing the full potential of 5G systems, in this research study, we would like to explore to study and design new strategies for addressing the slicing problem in 5G network.

Network slicing in 5G network is one of the important problems to solve communication cost and QoS. The Network Slicing problem is first introduce by NGMN[34]. The network slicing is the concept of creating a virtual network on physical network to complete the every slice as a task to

complete with QoS. Network slicing design for the concept of improve the performance of mobile network operators and also to improve the business profits[35]. Network slicing concept to perform physical resources as well as virtual resources to improve computational capabilities[36] based on the requirement of the business case. The resource blocks can be homogeneous or heterogeneous (frequency bands and transmission power) in nature. In both homogeneous and heterogeneous based use cases, each slice will have different utility efficiencies. To execute tasks for mobile broadband service needs high throughput and for massive machine type communication needs maximum low traffic devices[37]. According to[38], The elastic slices provides guaranteed QoS for less payment and also provide QoS for high payment. This concept use in “Slice as a Service” (SlaaS) [39]. The Slice as a Service will be required for resource management scheme as IaaS, PaaS and SaaS all these cloud service are noted for client demanded services[40,41]. The challenging aspect of Network slicing in 5G networks is to optimize the long-term network utility in Slice as a Service (SlaaS) with a good scalability and reach Quality of Solutions (QoS).

In[42] to support high number of heterogeneity of mobile devices it is better to provide large number of slices to computational tasks. In[43], 5G network provide different slices to fulfill energy efficiency tasks of mMTC slices, low latency tasks for URLLC slices and for throughput MBB slices are utilized. The slicing concept of 5G to fulfill tasks like to manage tasks of power[44], throughput[45] and better resource usage [46].

### Literature Survey

Many researchers have proposed different models to perform network slicing problem to manage profit for business concept. In[47] proposed MOOP for solve the optimal resource allocation for profit oriented business. In [48], proposed online Genetic Algorithm based models to

address heterogeneous slices with Quality of Service (QoS) requirements in 5G networks and demonstrated the effectiveness of online Genetic Algorithm model when compared with other existing methods interns of optimum results, rate of convergence. In [49] proposed H-CRAN model was proposed considering a virtualized backhaul network to solve the resource management by applying mathematical models and heuristic techniques.

In [50] proposed cross layer controller(CLC) provides end-to-end resource allocation methods for various network segments. The results shows that better performance of CLC for 5G network. In [51] Machine Learning and Deep learning models such as Deep reinforcement learning and DeepCog models were proposed to address the challenges in Network slicing problems.

Table3-Optimization of Power Consumption by RA for 5G C-RAN Access Network using Nature Inspired Computing Techniques

Authors and Year	Algorithms approach	Application evaluation methods	Limitations
Bin Han et.al. sep' 2017 [47]	a multi-objective optimization problem (MOOP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>optimizing the business profit generated by a network slice</li> </ul>	most appropriate solutions can be implemented, to overcome the technical challenges and to realize the envisaged n/w optimization
Dario Bega et.al. 1 May 2017 [48]	adaptive algorithm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ecosystem</li> <li>revenue of he system</li> </ul>	Network optimization
Dario Bega et.al. 29 April-2 May 2019[49]	DeepCog a deep neural network structure	optimization of network	Network optimization
Sokratis Barmounakis et.al. 15 Jan'2020 [50]	Cross Layer Control framework	Virtual Network Function <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>end-to-end latency</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Based on artificial intelligence-</li> <li>Deep reinforcement learning methods</li> </ul>
David S. L. Wei et.al. 21 February 2020 [51]	Machine learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Throughput performance</li> <li>Minimize network cost</li> </ul>	Network optimization

This motivates us to consider optimization of resource allocation in 5G enable IoT networks for objectives of our research study. As per the above detailed literature survey, the author study, learn, motivate and believe that, the performance of the model can further be improved and solve by integrating popular and recent nature inspired computing algorithms to improve resource allocation techniques so as to achieve a prominent results oriented research in 5G network that support services of enabled Internet of Things (IoT) domain.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

In this paper, an effort is made to provide insight into the most demandful research oriented optimization problems in resource allocation like minimize energy consumption, minimize power consumption and inter-slice resource management etc. are in the area of 5G Network environment are introduced to be solved, This paper recommends, popular, recent and hybrid algorithms of nature inspired computing (NIC) for implementation of resource allocation optimization problems in 5G Network. Specially, authors provide a valuable information about literature survey of research objectives and methodology for solving each problem. Finally, author gives clear idea about planning to a proper way for study, learn, preparing and complete this survey paper.

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# A Schematic Of Global Consciousness System For Sustainable Future

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**Abstract**—The phrase “God’s image” has been a great source of inspiration for researchers and scholars of different knowledge streams. As indicated in the spiritual system theory framework, “As is in Macrocosm, so is in Human Microcosm,” spiritual practitioners have been using meditational techniques to activate existing apertures in one’s mind for establishing a connection with higher regions of consciousness. Historical data shows that during such yogic practices, the sense of balanced perspective is achieved, and guidance, vision, or a better glimpse of the future is perceived to develop a sustainable human society that is economically, socially, ecologically, and spiritually sound hence meeting the needs of the present without jeopardising opportunities for the future.

Most Revered Prof. Prem Saran Satsangi shared that modern scientists play a similar role as brahmins of Hindu philosophy in directing and shaping society. It gives researchers a clue that an integrated systems approach could develop a predictive solution to handle global pandemics or perils.

In this paper, the author emphasizes how unforeseen global disturbances affect the body, mind, and surroundings simultaneously and provide system scientists a challenge to develop smart, resilient & cost-effective solutions to cater to such situations. A schematic based on an integrated approach involving relevant streams of sciences with a strong background of historical data of human evolution and consciousness studies has been proposed to build a global consciousness system to achieve better worldliness and a sustainable future.

Keywords- Sustainable, Consciousness, Meditational, Integrated approach, better worldliness, Pandemics.

## I. INTRODUCTION

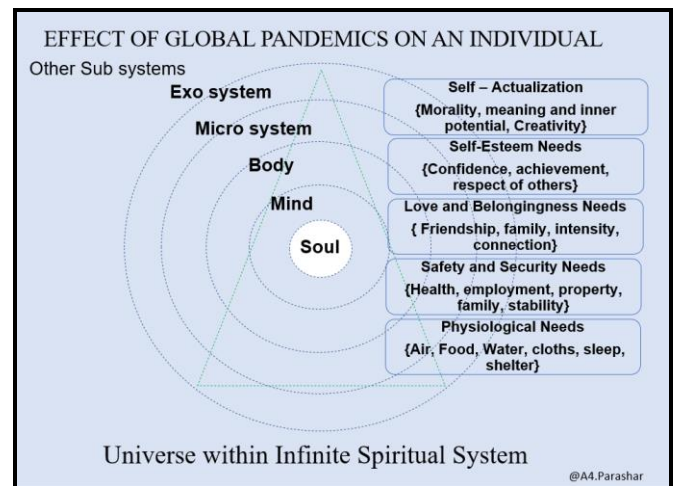
The world continues to adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic challenges. Such global disturbances affect the body, mind, and surroundings at the same time. The hour's need is to develop smart, resilient & cost-effective solutions to cater to such situations. An integrated approach involving relevant streams of sciences with a strong background of historical data of human evolution and consciousness studies gives researchers a foresightedness.

From the spiritual system theory framework "Man, a perfect Microcosm of Macrocosm," the author sees a relationship between human consciousness and universal consciousness.

The crisis faced at the global level is due to not fulfilling most the population's basic needs and the rate at which these changes are being introduced into the system.

It is complicated to keep a balanced perspective when such risky environmental and psychological conditions are putting additional stress on different age groups. Scholars have suggested that to perform a task correctly, one should use all faculties and the best available knowledge. The same approach supported by appropriate planning, analytical, and simulation tools may result in a sustainable solution.

## II. EFFECT OF GLOBAL PANDEMICS



(Figure 1)

### A. The universe within Infinite Spiritual System

The macrocosm is a closed system and broadly divided into three subsystems. The Infinite Reservoir of Spirituality represents the Primary region. The Universal Mind region is the Secondary subsystem, and the Tertiary region is the Universal Matter.

### B. Effect of Global Pandemics on an individual (Figure 1)

To understand the Global Pandemic's sudden effect, the author has superimposed three different theories, 1) Spiritual system theory, 2) Ecological system theory, and 3) Need hierarchy theory. Soul, mind, and body represent a microcosm. Triangle represents need hierarchy, and all subsystems surrounding microcosm are part of the ecological system. Due to sudden unfortunate events, most of the ecological system elements are put on hold, resulting in not meeting the basic needs of different age groups at different levels of society. Food, medical supplies, clean water, security, connection with family and friends becomes a priority.

One can imagine that different stockholders and elements affecting one's priority, decision making, and understanding in such situations. In urgent cases, physiological needs become the first propriety followed by health safety & security. Only a few percentages of the population got access to fulfilling belongingness need with virtual medial; otherwise, there is a huge gap in demand and coping up capacity.

Such sudden changes are unhealthy for the body and mind. All age groups are exposed to a lot of uncertainty, putting on hold sub-ecological systems like economic, social, religious, educational, political, legal, and governmental systems.

### III. ADVERSE EFFECT OF SURROUNDING ON DECISION MAKING AND SYSTEM SUSTAINABILITY (FIGURE II)

Figure II illustrate how religious and spiritual practitioners are finding solutions since ancient times by raising their consciousness level during meditation and getting control over sensory organs and achieving required mental balance to take the most appropriate decisions suitable for individuals, society, nature, and the spiritual system.

The different elements of human sensory organs (touch, smell, sight, hearing, and taste) and most dominating feelings (lust, greed, anger, arrogance, and endearment) and five essential elements of creation (air, water, earth, fire, and sky). Slight changes in these elements affect vision and decision-making. There are several examples that, with the help of meditational practices, one can raise consciousness and reach higher regions of spirituality and get a glimpse of future events.

Ancient literature indicates that past decisions had fewer adverse effects on ecological systems. Industrial advancement and uncontrolled progress in most of the streams are adversely affecting most of the creational elements.

For a better life, it is essential to have a healthy body and mind. Due to the significant issues indicated in figure II, the bond with nature breaks and leads researchers to find Artificial Intelligent solutions to avoid human interfaces.

### IV. A SCHEMATIC OF GLOBAL CONSCIOUSNESS SYSTEM (FIGURE III)

A Schematic of the global consciousness system is shown in figure III. When a decision is taken as an individual, one uses all mental faculties and the best available knowledge. The same approach supported by appropriate planning, analytical, and simulation tools at the global level gives us a consciousness system to determine a suitable solution for a sustainable future.

Before elaborating the proposed schematic, the author would like to define world "Conscious lead," which is the time lag between the super creational plane and physical plane.

It is evident, that scientific advancement in only one stream or finding solutions for the entire population based on one scientific explanation has affected the ecological system in the long term. Finding a solution by integrating different

scientific streams and using advanced analytical tools to decision-making would result in a sustainable solution.

#### A. Historical Data and Knowledge (Past)

Since the stone age, humans have been recording experiences and knowledge in the form of pictures, symbols & shapes, and with evolution, simple and complex languages came into existence. But still, there is no match to the valuable data stored in ancient works of literature.

In addition to historical data and literature, studies in system science, philosophy, cultural values, religion, psychology, management, and sciences give researchers a solid background.

#### B. Decision Making Involving Knowledge Streams (Present)

The middle part of the schematic represents current research and development activities in all knowledge streams. Bigger circles are knowledge areas, and smaller circles connected big circles are sub knowledge areas or specialised streams.

Mainstreams are formal sciences, applied sciences, earth & space, social sciences, life sciences, physical sciences consciousness studies, AI, and other knowledge streams, followed by sub-streams. If a time-sensitive crucial decision at a global scale is to be made, an integrated approach followed by predictive analysis will direct humanity in the right direction. If the research results are not suitable, inputs are requested and analysed until a solution with minimum effect on the population is ensured.

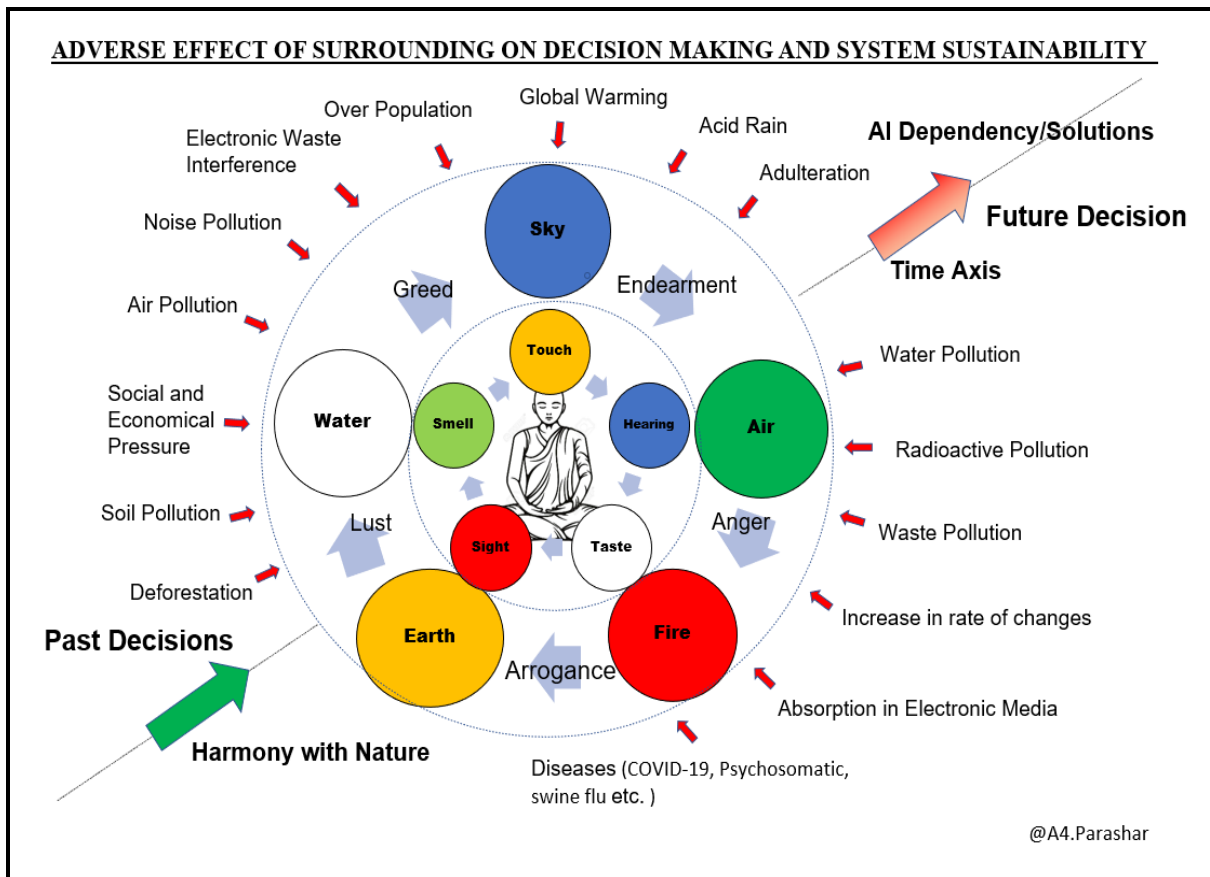
The major problem for both developed and developing countries turned out to be lack of visibility and control over complete picture and ability to influence masses from common control system on the other hand the scientific research centres are spread over different geographical locations and governed by local constraints and laws. In urgent situations, correct information in the shortest possible time, the key avoids damaging consequences.

#### C. Forecasting /Predicting - "Conscious lead" (future)

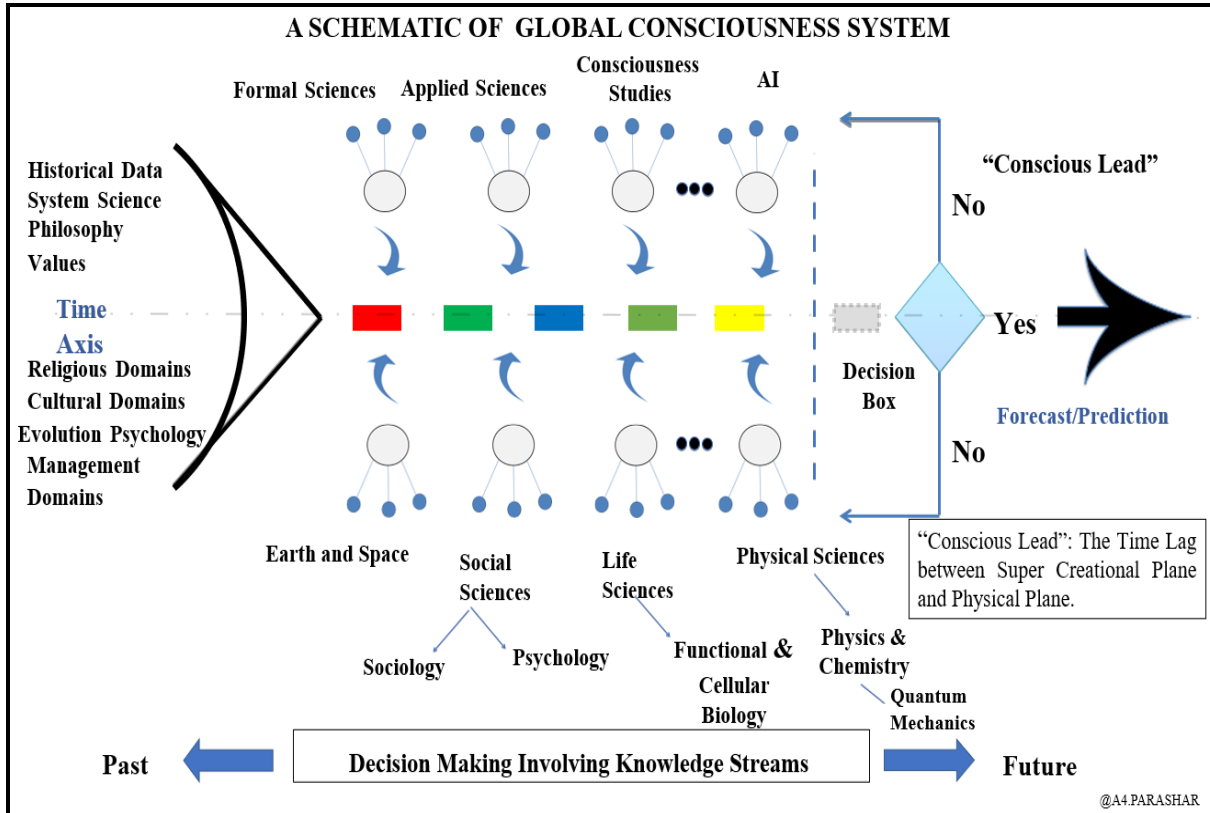
Due to global diversity getting unbiased consensus was a challenge. Since the last decade, advancements in virtual solutions, simulation, and analytical tools have made it extremely easy to gather data from several global locations within no time.

New brainstorming and decision-making tools make better decisions with virtualized priority. Virtual teams are facilitated with decision Support systems, which are an interactive computer-based system that enables several decision-makers (working together in a group) to find solutions to unstructured problems in nature.

These tools are designed to take input from multiple users interacting simultaneously with the systems to decide as a group. The most common example is an audience response system, which allows large groups of people to vote on a topic or answer a question. After a given time, the analysis of collected data ends for that problem and tabulates the results to simulate a virtual model of an emerging situation.



(Figure II)



(Figure III)



## V. CONCLUSION

A Global Consciousness system integrates inputs from all the knowledge streams of sciences and provides a glimpse of the emerging situation while drastically shortening the reaction time to handle emergencies irrespective of physical boundaries and cultural differences. The schematic also gives an impression of humanity's brotherhood standing tall to tackle any situation and suggesting smart, resilient, and cost-effective solutions for a sustainable future.

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## **Radhasoami Satsang Sabha Gaushala – A Sustainable Dairy Management System**

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### **Abstract**

Radhasoami Satsang Sabha Gaushala was established in 1926 and regarded as Asia's Finest Dairy. Today, it has 1,100 cattle comprising of High Yielding indigenous breed cows & buffalos and producing over 2,000 ltrs of milk daily, which forms an important part of the Lacto-vegetarian diet. Having a blend of Modern Technology and Ancient Wisdom in a Spiritually Charged environment and working on Scientific Techniques related to Breeding, Feeding, Health and Facilities Management, Gaushala is aligned to the Sigma Six Q-VA Model of Dayalbagh Way of Life. This paper throws light on this unique model of a self sustainable Dairy Farm Management System which is an integral part of Dayalbagh Modern Health Care Habitat and how working on systems based approach has enabled it withstand challenging pandemic times.

Keywords: #sustainabledairyfarming #healthcarehabitat #dairymanagementsystem #dayalbaghwayoflife #simasixQ-VAmode

### **Introduction**

The Dayalbagh Dairy & Radhasoami Satsang Sabha Gaushala were established in 1926. In those times the Dayalbagh Dairy was regarded as one of Asia's Finest Dairy. There were over 2-300 cows producing over 400 ltrs of milk per day. Today, Gaushala has over 1,100 cattle comprising of High Yielding Murrah Buffalos, Indian Sahiwal Breed and Holstein Freision – Sahiwal Cross Breed cows. 900 cattle belong to breedable herd and are housed at its main campus. Balance over 200 comprising of old and male cattle are housed at Cattle Rehabilitation Centre. Care of cattle is taken from Maternity till Eternity.



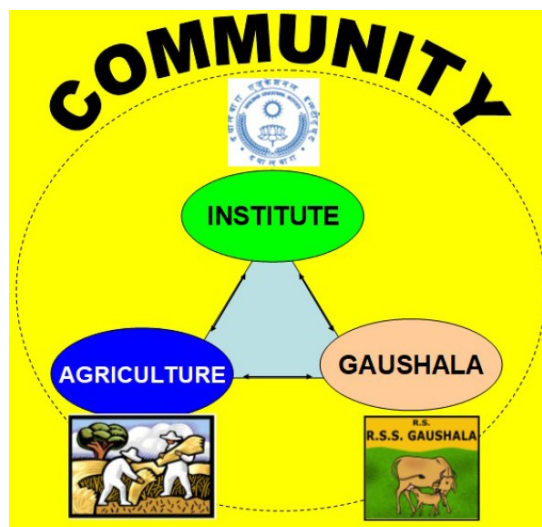
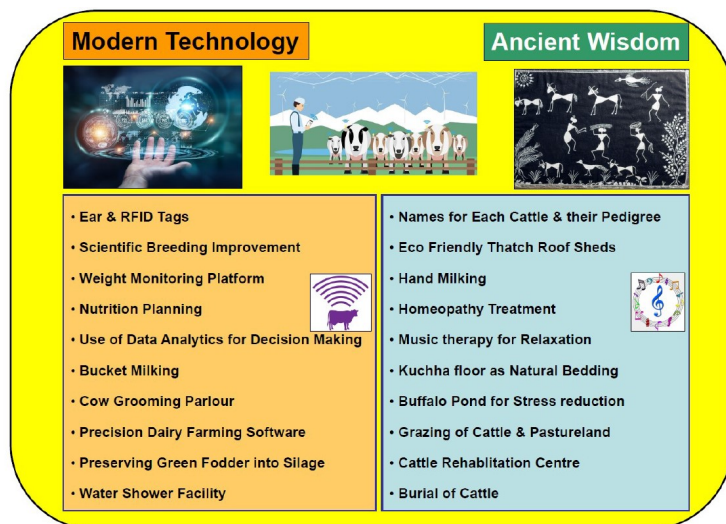
*Picture 1 – Dayalbagh Dairy*



*Picture 2 – R.S.Sabha Gaushala*

Gaushala having a blend of Modern Technology, Ancient Wisdom in a Spiritually charged environment, is working on Modern Scientific Techniques related to Breeding, Feeding, Health and Facilities Management. Cattle are daily taken for long walks and grazing which provides them exercise, improves digestion and in return enriches the lands where they graze. They are made to listen to *Shabd* path which relaxes them and spiritually elevates them. They have names and are treated as individuals. They are bathed regularly. Cattle are given homeopathy treatment along with allopathic medication. When they

get sick the holy name “Radhasoami” is recited in their ears with vibrations of the words having eternal effects elevates their spirits. These are few of the practices which are known to have been part of ancient times and rendered in a spiritually charged atmosphere.

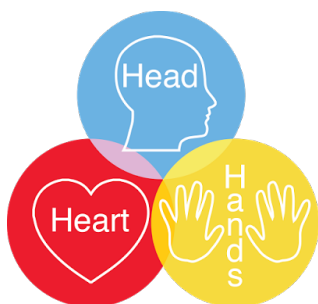


### Community Participation Model at Gaushala

Key to its working in Gaushala is the Community Participation Model. Following three key institutions form the core components of this model

- a. **Agriculture Operations**– Cultivating all kind of crops, vegetables, fruits including horticulture on lands over 1200+ acres on the banks of river Yamuna. Soil which was once nothing but sand dunes
- b. **Dayalbagh Educational Institute (Deemed University)** - DEI aims to serve as an exemplary model of education, covering the entire spectrum of knowledge and wisdom, to selflessly serve mankind by evolving a race of supermen, who possess the virtues to resolve the grave global challenges and establish a more humane and enlightened society.
- c. **R.S.Sabha Gaushala** – Abode to 1,100 cows and serving cattle from maternity till eternity. Producing over 2,000 ltrs of milk daily and providing the spiritually charged milk at affordable rates across various sections of society.

The community members of Dayalbagh are involved in all these institutions in a committed manner, equipped with 3 Hs - (H)ead, (H)earth and (H)ands.



- a. **Head** – Indicates the knowledge available to people about the tasks they render
- b. **Heart** – Indicates the passion, commitment and zeal with which people render self less service
- c. **Hands** – Indicates Dignity of Labour and presence of all four *Varnas* in the individuals.

## जिम्मेदार वॉलन्टियर के गुण

1. ड्यूटी पर समय से पहले हाज़िर होता है।
2. काम करते समय गुणवत्ता (Quality) का ध्यान रखता है।
3. काम के हर पहलू पर ध्यान देता है।
4. काम में कोई कमी ना रहे इसका ध्यान रखता है।
5. प्रत्येक काम सफ़ाई (Neatly) से करता है।
6. मित्व्ययता से काम करता है। (समय, धन, विचार, शक्ति)
7. काम को उचित क्रम (Order) में करता है।
8. काम को सरल तरीके से करता है।
9. पूर्ण ध्यान व सतर्कता के साथ काम करता है।
10. काम को समझ कर करता है।
11. काम पूरा होने पर समय से रिपोर्ट करता है।
12. विश्वसनीयता (Reliability) के साथ काम करता है।
13. सहयोग तथा संगठन के साथ काम करता है।
14. सबके साथ सदैव मीठा बोलता है।



Guided by intuitive consciousness, such a unique community participation model has enabled the Gaushala to improve year on year and serve the cattle and the community increasingly. Gaushala really works as a Ramanujan model wherein all parts of the community participation model are well connected to each other delivering and exceeding results. While the Darwins theory emphasizes that Humans evolved from monkeys, there is a strong belief in Radhasoami Satsang and in Hindu mythology that only after the living form of a cow does the spirit get to be born in the human frame. The life of a cow in such an esoteric environment elevates its consciousness and having to eat, breath and drink with the vibrations resonating from recital of the “Radhasoami” *shabd*, gets them the frame of a superior human in the next life form. With the evolution of Superman evolutionary scheme and spiritual charge the cows get during their lifetime in Gaushala, it would not be incorrect to say that superman scheme souls are prepared much in advance at Gaushala.

Gaushala staff are witness to numerous incidents when recital of the holy *Shabd* “Radhasoami” has done miracles in bringing comfort to the cows, with a cow not being able to stand up for hours after slipping getting the energy after recital of “Radhasoami” name in her ears, to a healthy calf being born and standing up on feet within minutes after recital of “Radhasoami” *Shabd* in the ears of the cow which was suffering from calving pain for hours and access to veterinary help was taking time.

## Gaushala Aligned to Dayalbagh Way of Life

Over the last few years, Gaushala has aligned itself to the Sigma Six QV-A Model of Dayalbagh way of life model. It is aligned to the Sigma Six Q-VA Model of Dayalbagh Way of Life. Gaushala contributes immensely to the eco-system where in while the milk, butter and butter milk serve as an important source of nutrition for human consumption, the cowdung & urine help cultivation of hundreds of acres of land without use of chemicals. The natural farming practices increases the bio-diversity of the soil and prevents pollution at many levels.



Picture 3 – Adopting to Dayalbagh way of Life at R.S.Sabha Gaushala

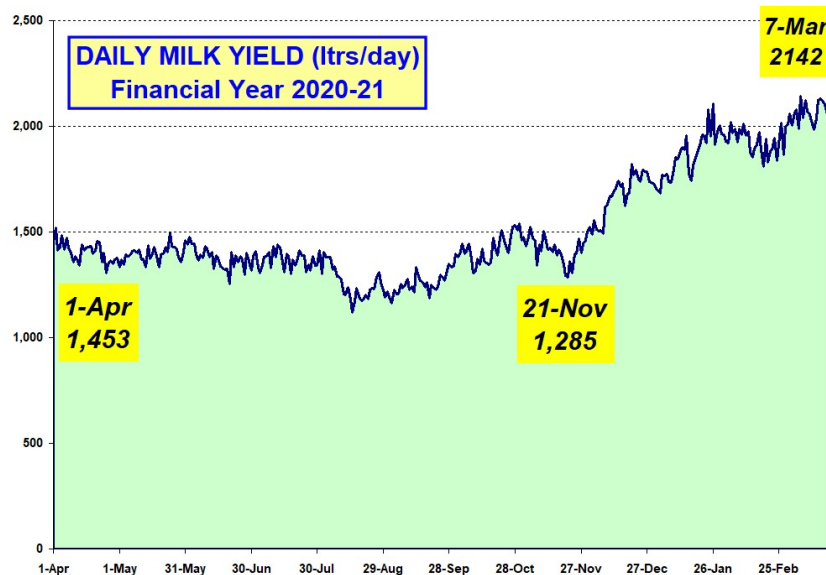
- Implementing cutting edge technologies using Precision Dairy Farming along with Frugal Innovation. Use data analytics is done extensively for herd monitoring across varied parameters.
- Contributing to Air Quality improvement by using Bio Gas generation with help of DEI and reducing emissions of Methane. This bio-gas is converted into electricity and the dependence has significantly been reduced on non-renewable sources of electricity.
- Facilitating in Water Quality improvement by providing ingredients for Natural Farming (Beejamrit, Jeevamrit, Ghanajeevamrit) using cow dung and urine of our Indian breed cows & buffalos. This has helped stop the usage of Chemicals in Farming

and enabled activation of local earthworms. Earthworms when activated make the soil porous helping re-charge the water table and improve water quality.

- d. Gaushala provides a 24 x 7 x 365 days opportunity to people to render selfless service. It provides employment to over 50+ families and selfless service opportunity to over 200+ volunteers. People rendering selfless service in Gaushala also stay fit and seldom fall ill by doing hardwork, which is devoid in today's lifestyle.
- e. Persons with Low-IQ get an opportunity to get employed in the routine day-to-day works.
- f. It is a Live Laboratory for students across all age groups encouraging research across various streams.

Working on the above has enabled the Gaushala to emerge as an integral part of the Dayalbagh Health Care Habitat. While the environment in which Gaushala operates has posed challenges of many kinds, the strong fundamentals and presence of various systems and sub-systems has enabled Gaushala to withstand those challenges with full force and emerge stronger each time.

This is evident from the below graph which depicts the milk yield production and its rise in Gaushala during the challenging Covid-19 times. Working on strong fundamentals and systems, the period of lockdown didn't slowdown the spirits and the excellent breeding undertaken during the challenging months of initial lockdown translated into a healthy calving line and increase in milk production. The Gaushala model is a self-sustainable model even on the economic front with respect to feed costs and milk pricing.



Graph depicting the movement of Daily Milk Yield during the Financial Year 2020-21

### ***Gaushala – A Self Sustainable Dairy Management System***

Radhasoami Satsang Sabha Gaushala and its working model is an example of a living Dairy Management System. Welfare of milking and non milking cattle is taken care of here. Emphasis is not on *Dhandaan* (donations), unlike many other Gaushalas, but on *Shramdaan* (selfless service). While the

cows in milking contribute to the community by providing pure and spiritually charged milk, the ones which are not in milking, their cow-dung and urine is used for making ingredients for natural farming acting as a substitute to Chemical farming. Feed & Fodder for the herd is grown on own lands by community members. Gaushala provides a source of livelihood to over 50+ families and opportunity to render selfless service to over 200+ volunteers. Milk & Butter provided by Gaushala form an integral part of the lacto-vegetarian diet which is followed by the community and in its purest form, every drop of milk consumed helps elevate the spiritual consciousness. “Amrit-Pey, the Elixir of life” is served in form of hot milk at nominal rates, to the field workers early in the morning thereby giving them the charge to render more service. The co-existence of Agriculture, Education & Dairying model completes the circle making the inter-dependence of each of them stronger.

### **Conclusion**

The Dairy industry in India is still largely in the un-organised sector. Gaushalas are existing in large numbers in the country but struggling to be self sustainable. In such conditions, R.S.Sabha Gaushala model clearly depicts how working on a systems based approach and alignment to the Sigma Six Q-VA model of Dayalbagh Way of life can help transform the Gaushala and make it a self sustainable and integral part of a health care habitat.

# Dayalbagh's Evolutionary Spiritual Consciousness Framework: An open system transforming to a hybrid system

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## INTRODUCTION

In an earlier study, keeping our scope of research in the realm of spiritual consciousness focused on the format of systems modeling – we attempted to depict the model of Dayalbagh to that of Open Systems. This unique and practical model implemented in the Radhasoami Faith as a dynamic, self-sustained community in every way (worldly and spiritual) works in an organized manner and is continuously evolving as an open system in equilibrium.

Extending this concept further, as we see it reflect characteristics of a hybrid system, is the basis of our continuing study of Dayalbagh as an evolving framework.

### What is a Hybrid System?

Hybrid systems originate when there is a balanced merge of continuous and the discrete systems. If we combine continuous and discrete inputs, outputs, states, or dynamics - we have a hybrid system.

Hybrid systems arise in embedded control, when digital controllers / computers and subsystems modeled as finite-state machines are coupled with controllers modeled by partial or ordinary differential equations or difference equations.

Thus, such systems arise whenever one mixes logical decision making with the generation of continuous-valued controllaws.

## OBJECTIVES

In this paper, we aim to explore how Dayalbagh as a systemic model and its way of life is essentially evolving into a hybrid system, as it perpetuates a purpose of serving humanity,

promoting better worldliness and spiritual progression by creating a super race of humanity i.e., Supermen.

The key to the manifestation of a successful hybrid system is to elevate logic and decision-making with continuity of switching and jumping, in a controlled manner.

Our focus here will be to bring forward the same principle that replicates itself in the vision of Dayalbagh, where the controlled environment of the Satsang way of life and values elevates the progress of a spiritual being / entity in the space of spiritual consciousness under the Divine guidance and direction of a Spiritual adept i.e., living Sant Satguru.

The continuity of the Supreme Lord's Grace via the Spiritual leader of the Radhasoami Faith and His guided switch or pivot for Seekers and Initiated alike, to an evolved standard required by the generation of humanity, as it seeks salvation, is crucial and critical.

## METHODOLOGY

Through our research, we are working towards fulfilling 2 goals -

a. Represent Dayalbagh's Consciousness Upgrade Model in the form of a stabilized, hybrid process in reference to its evolutionary programs and practices. In that process, expand this representation to the basic functional areas of Dayalbagh w.r.t. Education (Value based), Fully inclusive Healthcare (Healthcare Habitat), Entrepreneurship and their continuous and discrete inputs in the form of physical, mental, emotional, spiritual capital.

This representation would be driven via a mapping of hybrid system components of Supervisor, Process, Controllers (Continuous, Discrete)

b. Depict the Ordinary Differential equation around the various functions of Dayalbagh as a base continuous model



and then show how to add various discrete phenomena to them

## RESULTS

As can be seen below, the setup of the process of creating a Superman can be represented as hybrid system with a Supervisor & Controllers – both continuous and discrete, with its corresponding mapping as follows:

### System 1 (Maternity to Eternity)

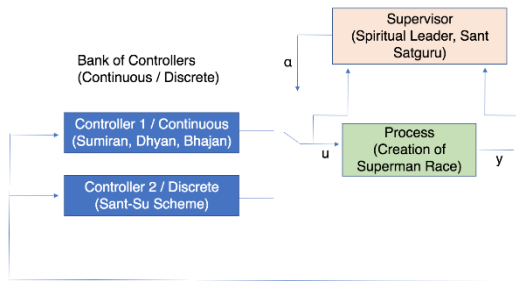
**Supervisor:** Spiritual Adept

**Process:** Creation of a race of Supermen

**Controllers:**

Continuous: Spiritual practices & Seva

Discrete: Superman Evolutionary Scheme (Sant-Su program)



**Figure 1.** Creation of Superman - a hybrid system (Evolution-based model)

### System 2 (Education)

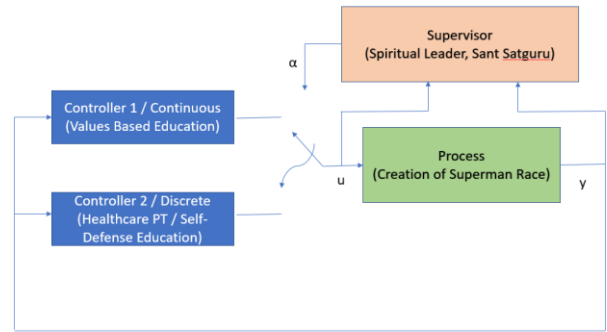
**Supervisor:** Spiritual Adept

**Process:** Creation of a race of Supermen

**Controllers:**

Continuous: Values Based Education

Discrete: Health-care PT / Self-defense Training



**Figure 2.** Creation of Superman - a hybrid system (Education based model)

### System 3 (Healthcare)

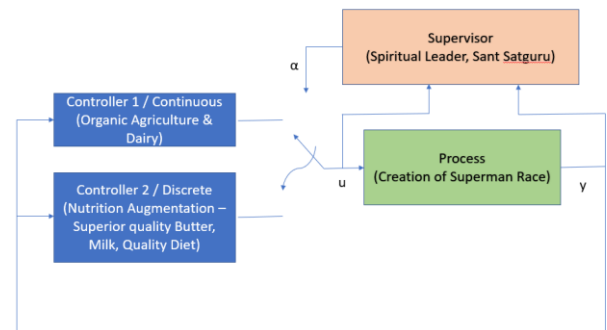
**Supervisor:** Spiritual Adept

**Process:** Creation of a race of Supermen

**Controllers:**

Continuous: Organic diet & nutrition from Community-based Agriculture & Dairy

Discrete: Nutrition Augmentation – Superior quality Butter, Milk, Quality Diet



**Figure 3.** Creation of Superman - a hybrid system (Healthcare based model)

### System 4 (Environment)

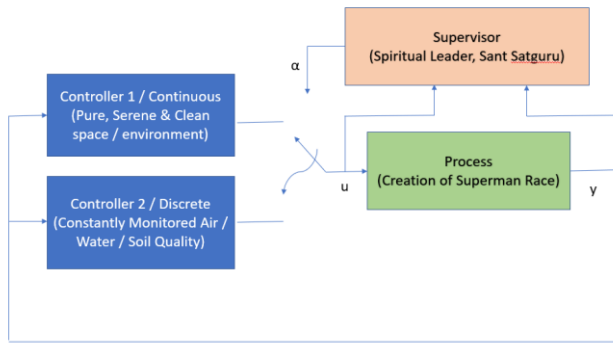
**Supervisor:** Spiritual Adept

**Process:** Creation of a race of Supermen

**Controllers:**

Continuous: Organic diet & nutrition from Community-based Agriculture & Dairy

Discrete: Nutrition Augmentation – Superior quality Butter, Milk, Quality Diet



**Figure 4.** Creation of Superman - a hybrid system (Environment-based model)

### Differential Equation

Since hybrid systems are those that involve continuous states and dynamics as well as some discrete phenomena corresponding to discrete states and dynamics - our interpretation of Dayalbagh’s processes to achieve the outcome (y) of creation of a Superman race (in ODE (Open Differential Equation) format based on the projected systems’s inputs ( $\alpha$ , u) and controllers (C1, C2) in the earlier section might be outlined as follows:

$$X^1 = A_1x + B_1u$$

$$y = C_1x$$

OR

$$X^1 = A_2x + B_2u$$

$$y = C_2x$$

Depiction of the continuous dynamics is by a differential equation -  $x(t)=\xi(t), t \geq 0$

Here, then,  $x(t)$  is considered the continuous component of the hybrid state, taking values in some subset  $R^n$ .

The vector field  $\xi(t)$  generally depends on  $x(t)$  and the aforementioned discrete phenomena.

### CONCLUSION

Most Revered Gracious Huzur Prof. Prem Saran Satsangi Sahab, the 8<sup>th</sup> revered leader of the Radhasoami Faith has, in his Gracious Words on numerous occasions, enlightened us

to the idea of the setup of Dayalbagh under the Radhasoami Faith being instrumental towards the fulfilment of the ideal of Kingdom of God being established in the world i.e., the Empire of Radhasoami Dayal.

And although the spiritual entities have arrived in this world in a set state with a set purpose, the evolution of their physical coverings i.e., body, mind and brain in the human form will give them the tools to perform a new form of devotion and attain their spiritual abode.

It is to that end, that we see Dayalbagh being the model framework of a system that embodies the principles of various systems. And as demonstrated in this paper through our research – evolving and pivoting under the Gracious Guidance of its Most Revered Spiritual Adept to a Hybrid system, which seems to be the need of the hour for the current world, to be able to produce a generation of species enabled to perform the new method of devotion.

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# *Historical perspective of Artificial Intelligence based Expert system*

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**Abstract-** Artificial Intelligence gives its valuable contribution in this technological era. One of the most important technical area of Artificial Intelligence is expert system. The expert system is a computer based decision ability of a human expert, which help in solving the complex reasoning based problem. In this brief review paper, historical glimpses of Artificial Intelligence based expert system, structure and classification of Artificial Intelligence based expert system are present.

**Keywords-** *Artificial Intelligence, Expert system, Artificial Intelligence based expert system*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Toward human progress Artificial Intelligence give its biggest involvement. Its fields are considered as machine learning, fuzzy logic, neural network, robotics, natural language processing and expert system. In this pandemic situation expert system is very helpful in hospitals, education sector, and other areas. The base of Artificial Intelligence based expert system is found in their history.

### A. *Historical Glimpses of Artificial Intelligence*

In 1945, AI comes into existences in the thought that the machine think like humans [1]. Next in the year 1950 the next footstep is taken with the “Turing Test”- a benchmark for identifying the level of intelligence inside the Artificial Intelligence based system. Turing test is defining criteria that a machine takes the caliber like human intelligence. The idea of an “imitation game” was forward by the Turing sets, in this a person and machine enquired by the enquirer. According to Turing [2], Human Intelligence is defined when the enquirer might not be discriminate between the artificial intelligence based system and person. In 1952 the first operational A.I. program “Plays a whole game of checkers at a sensible promptness” was presented [3].

In contrast to logical statement Strachey define the non-arithmetical programming theory by mathematical portion of the commands. The symbolic logical operations quickly realized through A.I based system [3]. In 1956 at Dartmouth College, conference was conducted on A.I. Here, McCarthy firstly defines the name Artificial Intelligence as- “Blend of engineering as well as science for creating specifically intelligent program and intelligent machines” [4]. Samuel clarifies difficulties in machine learning through evolution between two approaches [5]. Neural Network approach was first, persuading learned logic behavior inside the digital computer or the switching network. The approach second was for learned specific jobs by built a planned systematized network.

On evolution, the technique to implement general purpose learning A.I. system was first approach and to acquire the output was the second approach which needs reprogramming personally novel logical rules. To analyze the above two approaches the Samuel’s case was “Checker game” as it comprises learning directions and simple experiment to fulfill an intelligent process for measurement. Devol successfully achieved and patented “Unimate” the first robot of U.S. in 1961 [6]. The Unimate produced amazing outcomes and performed on a General auto-mobile assemblage line. So, we conclude that Intelligent Expert system founded on A.I was identified which was the fresh step for evolving A.I.

### B. *Historical Glimpses of Expert System*

The expert system basically is a programme of computer which has the potential of decision making like human brain by logic and reasoning. To solve people’s problem Newell et al developed the GPS means General Problem Solver [7]. GPS solves the people problem by three thinking steps these are- (1) Rough Path Development, (2) Problem and theorem part (3) implementation of problem solving plan [8]. NASA (National Aeronautics and space administration) in 1965 successfully develops the DENDRAL system.

This system automatically generates the structures of molecule which interpret spectral data and realizes that knowledge (used in inference). Then introduced MACSYMA system, which solved more than 600 kinds of mathematical matrix operations, calculus related problem and solving many different kind of equations etc. This system was designed by MIT as mathematician assistant [8].

Edward Feigenbaum- Father of Expert system, in 1965 introduced the expert system under Stanford heuristic programming project at Stanford University, California. Then, a software company of expert system was founded in 1989 at Modena, Italy [9]. This expert system was the capability of solving complex problems and decision making in AI field [10]. Before 1980 expert system design on rule based type but in late 1980's frame based expert system was introduced than some other type of expert system like fuzzy system, neural network based was introduced to solve many complex problem.

### C. Basic Structure of the Artificial Intelligence based Expert System

The basic organization of an Artificial Intelligence based expert system consists- knowledge base, human-computer interaction interface, working memory, reasoning machine and interpreter. To store Artificial Intelligence based expert system expertise, including rules and facts, Knowledge base is required. For storing the input fact, working memory is responsible. For getting the new information, reasoning machine relate the facts in the working memory. For explaining the correctness and reason of conclusion of the inference engine output, interpreter is responsible.

## II. CLASSIFICATION OF AN EXPERT SYSTEM

*Rule based expert system-* This was the first type of expert system and developed with easy method. Rule based expert system totally depends on the "Rules", integrate various area of research with pre input knowledge to solve the all kind of problem [9]. In this practical and theoretical knowledge of a subject is presented [11; 12]

The design of this type of system was developed by 3 parts- rules, production, database and control. "Conditional +result" is the statement in rule production. The rules are developed on the 2 parts- IF (antecedent or conditional or premise) and THEN (consequent or action or conclusion). The basic rule base is – IF (antecedent), THEN (consequent), it the multiple of antecedent "IF" are joint together by AND, OR combination of both.

Ex- IF Monocotyledon AND Dicotyledon

## THEN Angiosperms

In this example when the condition is matched in the rule then the responsibility of database is to record the result and conditions in the rule production system. The process of selecting of rule process to construct operations, mainly the case (that a problem constrains different conditions), focus on database matched conditions and for corresponding condition searches the rule. When the selection of rule is occurred, the result (operation) part of the rules is proceeding. The inference engine operates the controlled strategy. In inference engine process is of two types backward and forward. "Condition-outcome" statements are used which is one of the advantages of rule based expert system. In addition, the entire set of rules in the database is scanned when the system requires a rule so speed of this expert system is not dominant as compare with other type of expert systems

*Frame based Expert System-*"Frame"- encodes subject related information which was proposed by Minsky [13]. This frame includes concept name its main features, possible values, process of capturing procedural knowledge about the topic. When specific information of the topic is encountered, the appropriate eigen value entered into the frame called instance. This framework contains reasoning, logic, multi-aspect information of a topic that is used itself.

- Ex- Trees and plants have roots which are not observed but they have, because "plants and trees" labeled the "roots". Here the answer is trees have roots.
- The frame based expert system represents information of "division" and frame a subdivision is the other framework, "Man" - Sub frame - "Human".
- Frame based expert system uses semantic relationships- Class and Subclasses, like – "I am" + "Indian", "Hindustani", "Bhartiya"

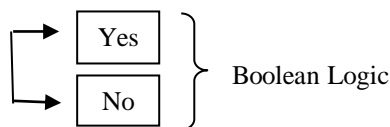
The subclass follows all the properties of parent class, but when the frame relates with various other set of frames at the same time, it secures all the characteristics of all frames. In general, the frame is developed with – Frame name, their relationships, slot values, slot values (default), slot value–range and procedural information. Facet, means giving more knowledge of a frame. It focuses on how to process the attributes and tells the inference engine.

Method and demons, Durkin defines a series of commands from simple to complex is as method and IF-THEN structure comes into demons [14]. When valid rules are considered by the system, inference engine will conclude the result but if the error found in rules the answer is not

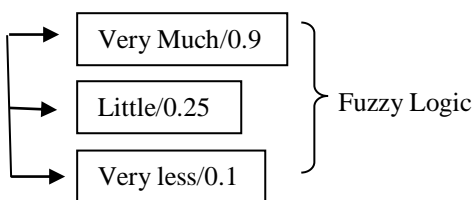
reached. Development process of frame based expert system is started with defining the problem, determine the attribute, describe instances, create displays, elaborate methods and demons, describe set of rules, expand and evaluate the expert system.

*Fuzzy Expert System-* Zadeh, American mathematician firstly design the fuzzy sets concept with the concept of mathematics [15]. Fuzziness deals with precise phenomena and defines the unclear and vague concepts- “heavily reduced”, “slightly different”, “very old”, “slightly burden” where logic is required to describe the fuzziness [11]. Chahar et al, described that fuzzy system is suitable and analyze the solution which affect IT sector [16]. Logic of fuzziness as a human model thinking abilities, which fits well in decision making automatically [17] for creating fuzzy system used MATLAB with the application package “Fuzzy set of logic toolbox”. According to Nagori and Tiwari true and false are the two values of classical logic while in fuzzy logic, numbers from interval range between 0-1 [12]. Here, an interval shows the probability of answer true or false. Ex-

Is the farmers used bio fertilizers in their crops?



Is the farmers used bio fertilizers in their crops?



These above are the two example of a simple Boolean expert system and fuzzy sets of logic. Steps of fuzzy set are- firstly fuzzification, rule evaluation, aggregation of the rule outputs, defuzificaton. In this different steps are used in developing expert system- specify the problem, determine fuzzy set, construct fuzzy rules, encode sets, create rules, their related procedure and last is evaluate whole expert system.

*Hybrid Expert system-*There are so many features in frame based expert system, rule based expert system and fuzzy systems. Rule base is based on structure of IF-THEN rules. Frame based, focuses on hierarchical knowledge representation and Fuzzy covers the imprecise information. The hybrid system is developed with the help of two advanced technologies these are Neuro fuzzy system and Neural expert system.

*Neural expert system-* Imitate the human intelligence is the common goal of expert system and neural network. A hybrid system integrates the rule based expert system and neural expert system which is also called connectionist expert system which combines the advantages like generalization, learning, parallel and robustness knowledge processing.

In neural expert system the knowledge are stored in neurons and their weights. The neural based expert system which allows action on incomplete and noisy data with approx logic reasoning ability.

At present, ART, BP model, SOM, CMAC etc. models of neural network are commonly used for particular necessities of the expert system.

*Neuro-fuzzy system-* There are natural complementary tools is present in building expert system these are fuzzy logic and neural network. Low level computational structure which deals with raw data are neural network while on the higher level, reasoning is deal by fuzzy logic. Basically neural fuzzy system provides highly powerful technique to develop expert system. The human – like knowledge representation is the part control by neural network and fuzzy logic controls their explanation part.

### III. CONCLUSION

After decades of efforts, researcher found the system’s intelligence called Artificial Intelligence. The history of Artificial Intelligence creates many branches-, machine learning, Natural language processing, Fuzzy logic, Neural network, Robotics and Expert system. Expert system one of the best examples for decision making ability like human. Its history defines its base and classification defines that how expert system works in complex situations. Classification moves from simple to complex (Rule based expert system to neural network). This complexity defines the reasoning based problem solving ability of expert system. In the future the expert system expects as more powerful on the basis of complexity.

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# A Note On Fine Topology

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**Abstract**—Fine topology is the first non-Euclidean physically relevant topology introduced on Minkowski space, a mathematical framework for the special theory of relativity. Its homeomorphism group is generated by the Lorentz group, translations and dilatations. In the present paper, a brief account of its properties is presented and it has been obtained that the 3-dimensional Minkowski space is not simply connected. This result is an extension of the known result for the 2-dimensional case, in view of the fact that different dimensional Minkowski spaces are topologically different.

**Keywords**—Lorentz Inner product, Minkowski Space, Fine Topology, Fundamental Group, Simple Connectedness

## I. INTRODUCTION

Special theory of relativity is the theory of flat spacetime whose mathematical model is the Minkowski space. Various non-Euclidean topologies have been defined on this space namely,  $t$ -topology,  $s$ -topology, time topology, space topology,  $f$ -topology, fine topology etc. All these topologies are physically significant unlike the Euclidean case. Fine topology is the first physically relevant topology defined on Minkowski space whose homeomorphism group is generated by the Lorentz group, translations and dilatations. It has been studied that the 2-dimensional Minkowski space in the context of fine topology is path connected and its fundamental group is non trivial[7]. In particular, 2-dimensional Minkowski space with respect to the fine topology is not simply connected[7]. It has also been studied that the  $m$ -dimensional Minkowski space is not homeomorphic to the  $n$ -dimensional Minkowski space for  $m \neq n$  [3].

In the present paper the result, 2-dimensional Minkowski space is not simply connected has been extended to the 3-dimensional Minkowski space with respect to the fine topology. Section wise introduction is as follows. Section 2 comprises the basic notations and introduction of Minkowski space. Section 3 contains the overview of fine topology. Under the section 4, the main result of this paper has been explored. Then the last section concludes the paper.

## II. MINKOWSKI SPACE

In this paper  $N$ ,  $Z$  and  $R$  represents the set of natural numbers, the set of integers and the set of real numbers

respectively.  $Z$  is a group structure with respect to the addition. So,  $Z$  is used to denote additive group of integers also.  $I$  denotes the closed unit interval and  $n$  stands for a natural number greater than 1.

The 3-dimensional real vector space  $R^3$  with the bilinear form  $k : R^3 \times R^3 \rightarrow R$ , satisfying the following properties: (i) for all  $x, y \in R^3$ ,  $k(x, y) = k(y, x)$ , i.e., the bilinear form is symmetric, (ii) if for all  $y \in R^3$ ,  $k(x, y) = 0$ , then  $x = 0$ , i.e., the bilinear form is nondegenerate, and (iii) there exists a basis  $\{e_0, e_1, e_2\}$  for  $R^3$  with  $k(e_i, e_j) = \eta_{ij} = 1, -1$  and 0 if  $i = j = 0, i = j = 1$  or  $2$  and  $i \neq j$  respectively, is known as the 3-dimensional Minkowski space and is denoted by  $M^3$ . The bilinear form  $k$  is called the Lorentz inner product

and the matrix  $(\eta_{ij})_{3 \times 3} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$  is known as the Minkowski metric. For  $x \in M^3$ ,  $k(x, x) = x_0^2 - x_1^2 - x_2^2$ , where  $x_0$  is called the time coordinate of  $x$ . The axis spanned by  $e_0$  is called the time axis.

For  $x \in M^3$ , the set  $C^T(x) = \{y \in M^3 : y = x \text{ or } k(y - x, y - x) > 0\}$ , the set  $C^S(x) = \{y \in M^3 : y = x \text{ or } k(y - x, y - x) < 0\}$ , and the set  $C^L(x) = \{y \in M^3 : k(y - x, y - x) = 0\}$  are called the *time cone*, *space cone* and *light cone* at  $x$  respectively. Elements of  $C^T(x)$  are called the *timelike vectors* at  $x$  and elements of  $C^S(x)$  are called the *spacelike vectors* at  $x$ . A straight line is called *timelike straight line* or *spacelike straight line* according as it is parallel to a timelike or spacelike vector. A hyperplane of  $M^3$  is called *spacelike* if each of its nonzero element is a spacelike vector. A *space axis* refers to a spacelike hyperplane or its translates.

The notions discussed in this section can be defined for the  $n$ -dimensional Minkowski space, in particular for  $n = 2$  and it is worth visualizing all the concepts for  $n = 2$ . Note that, for the 2-dimensional case, the matrix  $(\eta_{ij})_{2 \times 2}$  is given by  $(\eta_{ij})_{2 \times 2} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$ .

### III. FINE TOPOLOGY

The *fine* topology on  $M^3$  is defined to be the finest topology which induces 1-dimensional Euclidean topology on every timelike straight line and 2-dimensional Euclidean topology on every space axis and from now onwards the 3-dimensional Minkowski space with the fine topology will be denoted by  $M^3$ . Furthermore, a subset  $G$  of  $M^3$  is open if and only if  $G \cap \Omega$  is open in  $\Omega^E$ , for every  $\Omega$ , where  $\Omega$  denotes the *timelike straight line* or *space axis* and  $\Omega^E$  is  $\Omega$  with the Euclidean topology.

Minkowski space with the fine topology is Hausdorff and completely regular but not normal. Regarding the countability axioms, separability holds while first countability and hence second countability do not. Moreover, different dimensional Minkowski spaces are not homeomorphic and the corresponding homeomorphism group is generated by the Lorentz group, translations and dilatations. Connectedness axioms are dealt with in the next section. A good account of this topology can be found in [2], [7], [3], [1].

### IV. CONNECTEDNESS AXIOMS

The  $n$ -dimensional Minkowski space with the fine topology is path connected and hence connected [2]. For  $n = 2$ , it is not simply connected [7]. This result has been extended to the 3-dimensional case, in the present section. The result explored here is an extension of the known result for the 2-dimensional case, by observing the fact that different dimensional Minkowski spaces are topologically different.

We begin with some definitions relevant to the present section. Let  $x$  and  $y$  be two distinct points in a space  $X$ . Then a path joining  $x$  and  $y$ , is a continuous map  $f : [0, 1] \rightarrow X$  such that  $f(0) = x$  and  $f(1) = y$  and  $x$  and  $y$  are respectively called the initial and final points of the path. A path is called a loop if its initial and final points are same. Space  $X$  is called path connected if for every pair of points  $x$  and  $y$ , there is a path between  $x$  and  $y$ . Two paths  $f$  and  $g : [0, 1] \rightarrow X$  from  $x$  to  $y$  are said to be path homotopic if there is a continuous map  $F : [0, 1] \times [0, 1] \rightarrow X$  such that  $F(s, 0) = f(s)$  and  $F(s, 1) = g(s)$ ,  $F(0, t) = x$  and  $F(1, t) = y$ , for each  $s \in [0, 1]$  and each  $t \in [0, 1]$ . The product  $f * g$  is defined to be the path given by the join of  $f$  and  $g$ . The set of path homotopy classes of loops based at  $x \in X$ , with the operation  $*$  is called the fundamental group of  $X$  relative to the base point  $x$  and is denoted by  $\pi_1(X, x)$ . Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be two topological spaces and  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  be a continuous map. Then  $f$  induces a homomorphism  $f_* : \pi_1(X, x) \rightarrow \pi_1(Y, f(x))$ . This provides a link between algebra and topology. Many topological problems are solved by converting them into algebraic problems through the induced homomorphism. A space is said to be simply connected if it is path connected and has trivial fundamental group.

*Proposition 1:* Let  $M^3$  and  $M^2$  be the 3-dimensional and 2-dimensional Minkowski spaces with the fine topology, respectively and  $r : M^3 \rightarrow M^2 \times \{0\}$  be the map defined by  $r((y^0, y^1, y^2)) = (y^0, y^1, 0)$ , for  $y \equiv (y^0, y^1, y^2) \in M^3$ . Then  $r$  is continuous.

**Proof:** Let  $G$  be open in  $M^2$ . To prove that  $r^{-1}(G \times \{0\})$  is open in  $M^3$ , recall that a subset of  $M^3$  is open if and only if its intersection with  $\Omega$  is open in  $\Omega^E$ , where  $\Omega$  is a timelike line or a spacelike hyperplane.

Let  $\tau$  be a timelike line in  $M^3$ . Then for any point  $(x_0, x_1, x_2) \in \tau$ ,  $x_0^2 > x_1^2 + x_2^2$ . Hence  $x_0^2 > x_1^2$ . It shows that the projection  $\tau^*$  of  $\tau$  on the  $tx$ -plane is a timelike line. Since fine topology induces Euclidean topology on every timelike line, so the topology on  $\tau^*$  is Euclidean. Thus  $G \cap \tau^*$  being open in  $\tau^{*E}$ ,  $G \cap \tau^* = H \cap \tau^*$ , for some open set  $H$  of  $R^2$ . Clearly,  $r^{-1}(G \times \{0\}) \cap \tau = G \times R$  and  $(G \times R) \cap \tau = (H \times R) \cap \tau$ . Since  $H \times R$  is open in  $R^3$ . Hence  $r^{-1}(G \times \{0\}) \cap \tau$  is open in  $\tau^E$ .

Now, consider  $\sigma$  to be a spacelike hyperplane in  $M^3$ . Then  $\sigma \cap M^2$  is a spacelike line in  $M^2$ . Since fine topology induces Euclidean topology on every spacelike hyperplane, the topology on  $\sigma \cap M^2$  is Euclidean and  $G \cap (\sigma \cap M^2)$  being open in  $(\sigma \cap M^2)^E$ ,  $G \cap (\sigma \cap M^2) = H \cap (\sigma \cap M^2)$  for some open set  $H$  of  $R^2$ . If  $\sigma \equiv L \times R$ , where  $L$  is a spacelike line in  $M^2$ . Then  $(r^{-1}(G \times \{0\})) \cap \sigma = (G \times R) \cap \sigma = (G \times R) \cap (L \times R) = (H \times R) \cap (L \times R)$ . Since  $H \times R$  is open in  $R^3$ ,  $(H \times R) \cap (L \times R)$  is open in  $(L \times R)^E$ . This proves that  $r^{-1}(G \times \{0\})$  is open in  $(L \times R)^E$ . If  $\sigma \neq L \times R$ , then  $\sigma$  is homeomorphic to  $L \times R$ . Hence,  $(r^{-1}(G \times \{0\})) \cap \sigma$  is open in  $\sigma^E$ . This proves that  $r^{-1}(G \times \{0\})$  is open in  $M^3$ . ■

*Remark 1:* To consider the result of Proposition 1 for the 4-dimensional case, it will be required to prove that  $r^{-1}(G \times \{0\})$  is open in  $M^4$ . Since  $r^{-1}(G \times \{0\}) = G \times R^2$ , it cannot be proved in the same manner as for the 3-dimensional case in Proposition 1. Thus to extend the result for the 4-dimensional case, one needs to evolve a new technique.

*Proposition 2:* Let  $M^3$  and  $M^2$  be the 3-dimensional and 2-dimensional Minkowski space with the fine topology, respectively and let  $r : M^3 \rightarrow M^2 \times \{0\}$  be the map defined by  $r((y^0, y^1, y^2)) = (y^0, y^1, 0)$ , for  $y \equiv (y^0, y^1, y^2) \in M^3$ . Then the homomorphism  $r_* : \pi_1(M^3, x) \rightarrow \pi_1(M^2 \times \{0\}, r(x))$ , induced by the map  $r$ , is onto.

**Proof:** By Proposition 1,  $r$  is continuous and hence a retraction: for a subset  $A$  of a topological space  $X$ ,  $r : X \rightarrow A$  is called a retraction, if  $r$  is a continuous map such that  $r(a) = a$ , for each  $a \in A$ . This further proves that the induced homomorphism  $r_*$  on fundamental groups is onto [13]. ■

*Proposition 3:* Let  $M^3$  be the 3-dimensional Minkowski



space with the fine topology. Then  $M^3$  is not simply connected.

**Proof:** By definition, for a topological space to be simply connected it must be path connected and its fundamental group must be trivial [13]. In view of the fact that  $M^3$  is path connected, it is proved here that its fundamental group is non-trivial. It is known that the fundamental group of  $M^2$  is non-trivial [7]. As  $M^2$  is homeomorphic to  $M^2 \times \{0\}$ , the fundamental group of  $M^2 \times \{0\}$  is non-trivial. By Proposition 2, the fundamental group of  $M^3 \times \{0\}$  is non-trivial. Hence the result follows.

## V. CONCLUSION

In the present study, it has been obtained that the the fundamental group of 3-dimensional Minkowski space in the context of fine topology is non-trivial unlike the Euclidean case. The result is different from the Euclidean case but has been found to be the same as the case of various other non-Euclidean topologies such as  $t$ -topology,  $s$ -topology,  $f$ -topology, space topology and time topology. However, the technique is different.

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# Dynamics of Jet Engines: A Study of the evolution and changing nature of Jet engines

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**Abstract**—The internal components are crucial to the performance of jet engines and with technological progress the components have witnessed substantial changes. The article analyses the advancements over time to the design and materials used in Jet engines and points to the areas requiring further improvement.

**Keywords**— Types of jet engine, components of jet engine, progression in jet engines, turbine blades and their cooling methods, combustor and combustion process, emission and noise.

## I. INTRODUCTION

With passage of time the jet engines have witnessed substantial improvements in design and materials used contributing to the enhanced performance. This article examines the different types of jet engines and the nature of its components with special reference to turbine blades, turbine blade cooling process, compressor, combustor in the backdrop of literature survey.

## II. TYPES OF JET ENGINES

### *Turbojet Engines*

These are the simplest and earliest jet engines. These typically have a low frontal cross sectional (C/S) area, resulting in low area/induced drag due to these engines. The important components seen in these engine are a compressor (usually multistage axial), an ignition chamber and a turbine (which can be single or multistage). Here the compression ratio of compressed air to inlet air is usually around 3 to 12 and all of the propulsive force is due to the exhaust gases developed during combustion. These engines give high specific thrust and are efficient at sonic and supersonic speeds, but their fuel efficiency is very low. These engines are characteristically very noisy.

### *Turbofan Engines*

These engines are currently the most widely used engines, especially in civil aviation and military transports, refuelling and AWACS (Airborne Warning and Control System) aircraft. These engines usually have large frontal C/S area compared to turbojet engines, resulting in more induced drag. These offer high fuel efficiency at high subsonic and transonic speeds. These consist of a Ducted fan, a compressor (either centrifugal or multistage axial), an ignition chamber and a turbine which runs both the compressor and the fan. Most of the thrust here is due to the bypass air from the fan and the noise levels here are usually low compared to a turbojet engine. A variant of these known as Turboprop Engine, which is additionally connected to a rotor shaft and gearbox, is used for rotor craft such as helicopters

### *Turboprop Engines*

These engines are similar to turboprops, but instead of a ducted fan they have a propeller and usually a gearbox connecting the propeller with the engine shaft. These engines are designed to accelerate air (relatively small amount) to high speeds and thus provide high propulsive efficiency. These are the most efficient engines at a speed below 500 MPH.

### *Ramjet and Scramjet Engine*

Ramjets are a form of Jet engines which use the already existent forward motion of the engine to compress the intake air without the use of any compressors. These engines cannot operate and produce thrust at zero velocity, they must always rely on a secondary engine to propel them to the speeds at which they can begin to operate and produce thrust. Since a ramjet has no compressor or turbine, they can be considered as the simplest design of a jet engine with nearly no moving parts. These are useful only at supersonic speeds (between Mach 3 to Mach 6) as below these speeds they cannot sufficiently compress the air to the amount required to produce adequate thrust. The difference between Ramjets and their variant called Scramjets is that while a ramjet slows down intake air to subsonic speeds, in Scramjets the airflow throughout the whole engine continues to be supersonic (no slowing down of air). These engines are best used for supersonic and hypersonic applications.

### *Pulsejet Engines*

Unlike other engines listed above, combustion in pulsejet engines does not occur in a continuous cycle, but in pulses. Pulsejet can be made with few or no moving parts (like a ramjet) but unlike a ramjet it does not require engine to be already moving to compress air. These engines have typically low compression ratio and thus low efficiency due to low specific impulse.

## III. COMPONENTS OF JET ENGINE

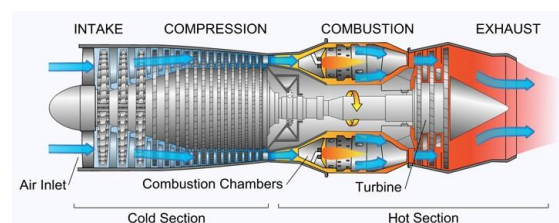


Fig. 1: Components of jet engine

Let us consider the case of a typical Turbofan engine in Fig. 1. This engine has 5 main parts—the air inlet duct, compressor, ignition/combustion chamber, turbine and an exhaust nozzle.

### A. INLET DUCT

This is the first section in the engine. The inlet valve is a diffuser that ensures optimum airflow into the engine. Here the airstream is slowed down and static pressure is increased (Bernoulli principle-used to efficiently convert kinetic energy into pressure). There are 3 main functions of the inlet duct- firstly it must always supply the required amount of air mass flow rate to the rest of the engine for thrust (this fixes the front C/S area and size of duct) and it should have minimal drag and should not disturb the smooth airflow over the engine. Secondly, it must reduce airspeed of the intake air efficiently with minimal total pressure loss, which is its main function. The lower the value of airspeed and higher the value of pressure of air in the duct, the greater the thermodynamic efficiency. Here the term Ram recovery refers to recovery of total pressure across the length of the duct. Lastly the duct should ensure that uniform airflow occurs at compressor face across its cross section. There should be minimal turbulence and distortion at beginning of the air intake The inlet duct can be either a subsonic or supersonic diffuser depending on its application.

### B. COMPRESSOR

These are devices which are used to improve the combustion efficiency of the engine by compressing the air from inlet valve before it is sent to the rest of the engine. The device operates by first imparting kinetic energy to the airflow, then decreases the airspeed to increase the static pressure of airflow. Normally, only two types of compressors are used in aviation. These are -1) Centrifugal compressors 2) Axial compressors

#### Centrifugal Compressors

A centrifugal compressor consists of 3 main parts-an impeller, diffuser and a compressor manifold (which consists of two parts-inlet and scroll casing). The airstream enters the compressor through its inlet at the central hub and enters the impeller. The impeller is made to rotate about its axis (which is concentric to axis of compressor) at high rotational speeds and imparts high value kinetic energy to the air. The air from impeller is pushed out to the diffuser by action of centrifugal force. The diffuser converts the kinetic energy of the air into high pressure (reducing velocity, in accordance with Bernoulli principle), and diverts it to the compressor manifold (specially the scroll casing). From here the air is supplied to engine at required pressure and velocity to the ignition chamber. As per in centrifugal compressors the maximum compression ratio would be 4 to 5 and efficiency of around 70 to 85% can be obtained in a single compressor stage.

#### Axial compressor

Axial compressor is a dynamic compressor which uses airfoils to progressively compress a fluid. These are used in applications where compact design (less frontal C/S area) and high mass air flow rates are desired.

The airfoils are set in radial configuration in alternating stationary and rotating wheels. The stationary airfoils are called stators and the rotating airfoils are called rotors. The rotor blades accelerate the airfoil imparting kinetic energy to the airstream while the stator blades. As the air passes over the rotor blades the static pressure also rises slightly since the air is passing over the curved rotor blades. The stator blades are used to guide airflow from rotor blades to the next rotor blade at the proper angle of attack. They also decrease

velocity and increase pressure of the air. The pressure ratio achieved is 1.2 to 1.6 per stage of compression, also called as Currently Multistage Axial compressors are more widely used in aircraft engines.

### C. IGNITION/COMBUSTION CHAMBER

After air leaves the compressor, it enters inside the ignition chamber. Fuel here is injected into the airstream in optimal manner (in form of Fine Mist) in beginning of combustion chamber (for optimal combustion). The combustible mixture of air and fuel is ignited, which is used to release exhaust gases and heat energy at constant pressure and the exhaust gases expand in the ignition chamber. The ignition chamber is used to ensure that exhaust gases are at optimum temperature profile and level before they are supplied to the turbine face. The fuel-air ratio for combustion to occur is between 0.04 and 0.15 and beyond this the burning ceases to exist. The lower value (0.04) and the upper value (0.15) are respectively called as *Lean limit of flammability* and *Rich level of flammability*. The ignition chamber is used to ensure that combustion process takes place within these limits for optimal efficiency. It is important to note that all the air supplied from the compressor is not mixed with the fuel and ignited, because the heating of the turbine blades due this may be over the permissible safety limit and may result in failure of turbine. Instead 25-40% of the air from the compressor is allowed to take part in the combustion process, while the rest of the air is later mixed with the exhaust gases from combustion in the ignition chamber to lower its temperature to the optimal value (within allowable limits) known as *turbine entry temperature (TET)*.

### B. TURBINE

After the exhaust gases are produced in ignition chamber, they next go to the turbine. The main objective of turbine is to extract some energy from the exhaust gases (having high speed, high temperature) and extract the power required to power the compressor (and in addition ducted fan/propeller, in case of a turbofan engine/turboprop engine). A turbine is similar to a compressor in that it too is coaxial to the engine shaft. Turbine has a disc, coaxially fitted to the central shaft and turbine blades are radially mounted around the circumference of the disc. When the exhaust gases pass through turbine, they generate lift on turbine blade, causing turbine blade to rotate with great speed producing torque on engine shaft and this powers the compressor. The turbine is the only component in the whole jet engine which extracts work and power from the exhaust gases, hence it can be said that turbine is the most important part of the jet engine. Here too similar to axial compressor, we see alternating stator and rotor stages with exception that here the rotor when rotating extracts power from exhaust gas (and does not supply energy to airflow, like in a compressor). Since normally axial compressors used are in twin spool configuration, the turbine too can be in a sort of twin spool design, having low pressure and high pressure turbine mounted one after the other coaxially (also coaxial to the engine shaft). The exhaust gases flow first through the low pressure turbine, then through the high pressure turbine. The low pressure turbine stage is connected to the low pressure compressor and it is similar for the high pressure turbine and compressor.

### C. EXHAUST NOZZLE

This is the final stage of the engine which the exhaust gases after having done useful work on the turbine enter into. Despite previously having done work on the turbine, at the exit of the turbine, the exhaust gas still has higher static pressure when compared to the ambient atmospheric pressure outside the engine. Thus, expansion of gas flow can be made and velocity (and consequently kinetic energy) and be increased by incorporating an exhaust nozzle at the rear of the engine. The exhaust nozzle is designed to reduce pressure drag such that static pressure of gas at exit section is the same as the ambient atmospheric pressure outside the engine (This is in accordance with equation of continuity and Bernoulli principle). The exhaust duct can be either convergent nozzle (for subsonic flight, exit velocity is subsonic or at the extreme sonic), or it can be convergent-divergent nozzle for supersonic flight. Exhaust nozzles in some aircraft (like jet fighters) have a component known as afterburner mounted on them. This component is used to inject fuel, usually in pulses to the exhaust gases from turbine. This results in significantly increased thrust and consequently very high speeds. It is generally preferred to have a variable area nozzle to change ratio of exit area to nozzle intake area so that exit pressure of gas is equal to ambient pressure of atmosphere outside engine over the entire flight airspeed range. This ensures optimum performance of the Jet engine.

### IV. LITERATURE SURVEY

Abdulkarim Jaff et. al. [1] have concluded that material development is crucial to drive further advancements in jet engine technology and that further advances in this field requires development of lightweight and strong materials. They have also concluded that equivalent ratio is a crucial parameter which affects speed of the engine (Speed is maximum when equivalence is 1). Also, when equivalent ratio increases, due to this there is increased fuel ratio in mixture burning and due to this there is increase in flame length and impact forces. They have also concluded that design of the combustion chamber and the method by which the primary and secondary air enters the engine (rotor inlet) affects the combustion process and consequently the speed of the jet engine. They have also concluded that speed of jet engine can be increased by increasing the temperature of burning of mixture and thus deriving the highest energy from combustion.

C. Mongia [2] has concluded that in the in the last 30 years there has been a fall by 50% in NO<sub>x</sub> (Oxides of Nitrogen) emission. He has also concluded that despite the 3 main OEM's (RR,P&W,GE) having used vastly different approaches in NO<sub>x</sub> emission reduction, there is similarity in level of the NO<sub>x</sub> emission of the LEC/RQL (Low Emission Combustor /Rich-Quench-Lean Combustor).He also concludes that most modern combustors exhibit a wide variation in idle emissions of HC(Hydrocarbons), CO(Carbon Monoxide) and the characteristic smoke and that there is a need to improve the fundamental understanding of a spray-flow field interaction.

Xu et. al. [3] have concluded on analysis on evolution of RR Jet turbine blades that over a long term there is a trend of the TET increasing. They also conclude that further advancements in turbine blades significantly depends on further advancements in blade cooling technology and

material science. They also conclude that Thermal Barrier Coatings as an effective and economical method of offering protection to turbine blades, needs more R&D. It is concluded by them that advanced cooling schemes for turbine blades like Dual-Wall cooling will be the direction of the future. It is also concluded that the area of Blade Tip design (which improves efficiency and minimizes over tip leakage) also needs more R&D.

L. Koff et. al. [4] has concluded that if jet engine development over the last 50 years were to be analysed, for transport aircraft there has been an increase in overall engine efficiency (both thermal and actual) by 36% for High Bypass Turbofans to 20% for Turbojets. He has also concluded that in the area of Supersonic Transports, the main problems of economics, airport noise level and NO<sub>x</sub> emissions are yet to be resolved. J Jordan et. al. [5] has concluded that in the time period of 1935-1964, there has been a significant improvement in performance of aircraft power plants (Jet engines) and says that in this time period there has been a fivefold increase in power to weight ratio and that TSFC of jet engines nearly approaches that of the best piston engines, despite offering twice the speed. He also says that during this period there the aircraft engine cruise power has increased by a factor of 20.

H. Epstein et. al. [6] has concluded that with current advancements, the growing, processing and transportation of biofuels produces less CO<sub>2</sub> than in the jet engine exhaust, and so usage of biofuels in jet engines leads to a total reduction of more than 50% in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and that advancements in biofuel supply can improve this further. Regarding advancements in jet engines, he says that since Whittle's first engine to current jet engines, there has been an increase in propulsive efficiencies from 50% to 70%, thermodynamic efficiency has improved from 10% to over 50% and overall jet engine total efficiency has improved from 10% to 40%. B.L Koff [7] has concluded that if development of jet engines from 1950s to 1990s were to be considered, it can be observed that increasing the engine bypass ratio while simultaneously decreasing the jet velocity to match with that of the aircraft flight speed has produced about 2/3rds of all improvements in performance of engines (in P&W engines) while increasing thermal efficiency of engine through usage of advanced materials and manufacturing processes, materials and creation of innovative designs has accounted for the remaining 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of performance improvements.

### V. EVOLUTION OF JET ENGINE

#### A. The Beginning

The conceptualization and creation of the modern jet engines took place during the interwar years (between WW1 and WW2) and the two countries where the most significant advancements were taking place were Germany and Great Britain. Both of these countries pursued the race of building the first viable jet engines in different ways and designs.

#### Great Britain

Frank Whittle is referred to as the creator of the first British turbojet, the W. U 1 (W. U-Whittle Unit)/W1. This engine development was conducted by Whittle at great personal determination.

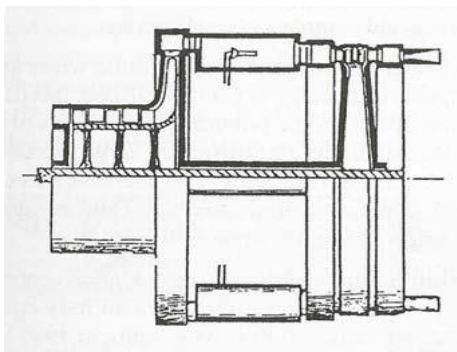


Fig. 2: Whittle Gas Turbine Drawing-British patent number 347206 [4] His engine design was patented in the year 1930. This patent shows the engine consisting of a 2 axial stage possessing compressor followed by a centrifugal stage compressor, an axial annular combustor having fuel nozzles and a two stage axial turbine. The W1 engine was tested in 1937 and was kerosene fuelled. There were major improvements done to the W1 Engine and thus the W2 engine was created. The main improvements and features in the W2 were the presence of a dual faced centrifugal compressor, axial reversed flow can combustor located behind the turbomachinery, single stage axial turbine using Nimonic material and also being water cooled, the presence of a fixed geometry nozzle and capable of producing a thrust of 1560 lb. The exhaust gas energy/specific power reached nearly 50 HP for each lb/sec of airflow intake. This engine was used for the first jet test flight in Britain in 1941

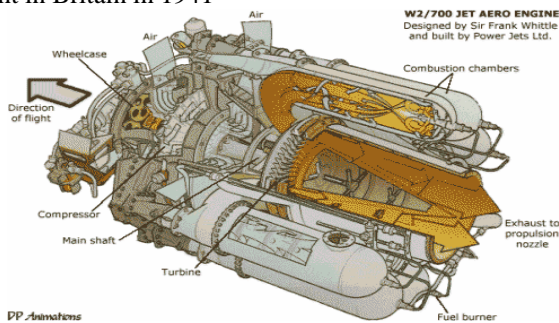


Fig. 3: Whittle W2 Engine [4]

### Germany

Here Hans von Ohain is credited with the creation of Germany's first turbojet-the HeS 1 (Technology demonstrator). Ohain has filed his first patent in April 1935. His device in the first patent is similar to a modified Nernst turbine. He had refined the concept and in the summer of 1939 finally had his engine, the HeS3 B tested in a flight test (the first in Germany). This engine consisted of a axial flow inducer ahead of a centrifugal impellor stage, a single ring reverse flow annular combustor located in front of the turbomachinery and a radial inflow turbine. Here the engine had a fixed geometry nozzle. The exhaust gas energy/specific energy was nearly 50HP for each lb/sec of inlet airflow, which can be noted to be similar to Whittle's engine.

Then during WW2, we can see the development and usage of the Jumo 004 and BMW 003 turbojets in Germany. The Jumo 004 was the world's first successful production axial compression turbojet engine in operational use, used to power aircraft like the Messerschmitt Me 262 and the early variants of the Arado Ar 234 "Blitz". This turbojet consisted of an axial compressor, straight through flow combustor and a axial turbine. This engine was usually mounted in the form of

nacelles on the wings instead of being integral to the aircraft fuselage.

The BMW 003 was an axial turbojet engine whose development had actually started before that of the Jumo 004, but due to development problems entered service much later. It was used to power some later versions of the Arado Ar 234 "Blitz".

Based on the Whittle jet engines whose technology was shared with the USA during WW2, GE was selected to build the first American jet engine. GE was able to build the GE "I-A", the first U.S Jet engine on 14<sup>th</sup> April 1942. This engine was built with close collaboration and assistance of Frank Whittle.

### B. Advancements in Technology

#### Materials

If the history of evolution of performance of jet engines were to be analysed, then it can be concluded that advancements in material have played a significant role in jet engine evolution. A chronological assessment of jet engine turbine airfoil capability over the period of the last 50 years shows us a clear improvement exceeding 500°F. This progress took place due to breakthroughs in manufacturing and production methods, material research and in development of composites.

One of the major stumbling block in case of early jet engines and their development was the Hot section materials (materials used in turbine). This was especially true in case of the German WW2 jet engine program, whose materials used in turbine section were generally inferior to that of the British, who had access to better alloys. This spurred the research and invention of better alloys. The concept of super alloys was discovered in the 1940's but the Air melting process used then produced low ductile materials with the addition of strengthening elements such as titanium and aluminium. A key breakthrough in manufacturing process of turbine blade was the advent of Vacuum Induction Melting (VIM) in 1953. This process improved alloy temperature capability by 200°F in the time period of 1955. Production of large forging for discs was enabled by Vacuum Arc Remelting (VAR) Process developed in 1958. The hot exhaust gases from combustor enter the turbine and make it necessary for the stator vanes to be air cooled in the earlier jet engines and hence X40 Castings were a standard for many years. Since the rotor blades are passing through the exhaust gases, they experience a lower average temperature and lower relative temperature. This allowed the usage of forged alloy blades with suitable mechanical properties and higher fatigue strength for more than 25 years. The introduction of air cooled castings needed complex internal passages (resulting in lower strength castings) and higher temperature capability. In the early 1970s, Hot Isostatic Pressing (HIP) was introduced to increase ductility and fatigue strength and reduce porosity. The invention of Directional Solidification (DS) and Single Crystal (SC) manufactured super alloys was a significant development providing a 200°F increase in metal temperature capability, when compared to conventional multigrain cast materials.

The second approach is the development of composite materials for usage in jet engines. Ceramic Matrix Composites (CMC) are being touted to widely replace the nickel based alloys current being used in nearly all commercial jet engines. This is due to their light weight, thermal capability and strength to weight ratio.

The CMC touted to replace Nickel based superalloys is the SiC/SiC (Silicon carbide fibre embedded in a Silicon Fibre Matrix). This CMC holds 2 major advantages over nickel based superalloys -It has significantly better operating temperatures and offers around 33% weight reduction. Currently the ability of reusing composite materials such as CMC are slim, but research indicates that this can change in the future

GE has made use of CMC in its LEAP. The LEAP Jet engine is manufactured by CFM International which is a joint venture of GE and Safran Aircraft Engine uses only one CMC in the Turbine Shroud. This component has made the LEAP engine 15% more efficient than the usage of the standard nickel based superalloy component. Currently GE is creating its next generation Engine, the GE9X which will have 5 CMC based components. These include the Turbine Shroud, and multiple nozzles along with combustor linings. It will be the quietest and most fuel efficient engine ever created, with low emissions, thanks to its usage of CMC.

### Turbine Blades Cooling

Regarding the subject of turbine blade cooling, until the 1960's there were 3 schools of thought for HP turbine blade cooling- The first group were the "completely solid turbine blade" group, advocating that putting holes in the turbine blades which were highly stressed would cause failure in the blades. The second group were the "Internal cooling passage" group who demonstrated in the late 1950s that convention cooled blades containing radial holes drilled into the core of the airfoil with a Shaped Tube Electrolytic Machine (STEM) would not compromise fatigue strength. This is because removing material using STEM process did not leave a brittle recast layer which can be subjected to re-cracking. The third group were the "Film only" group which suggested that a thin film of cool air should be used as a barrier between the hot exhaust gases and the metal of the turbine blade.

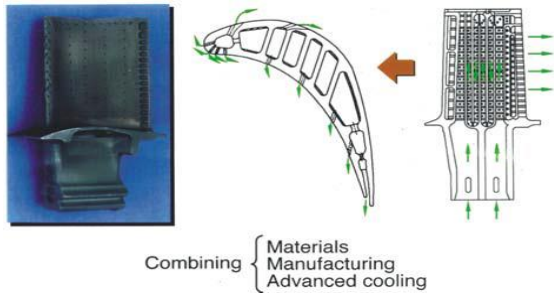


Fig. 4: Single Crystal Turbine Blade with Film and Convection Serpentine Cooling [4]

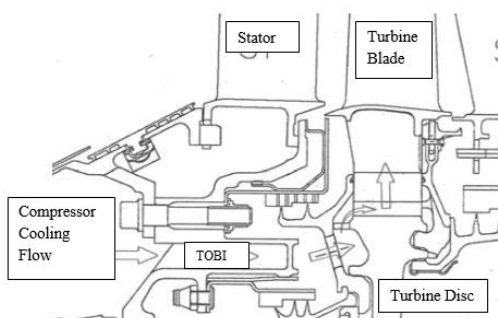


Fig. 5: PW F100-229 Turbine Rotor TOBI Cooling the Cooling Air to the Blade [4]

Jet engines have successfully used the TOBI concept for the last 25 years to improve efficiency, durability and reduce

temperature of cooling air. The turbine vanes must accommodate exhaust gases combustor hot streaks which can be 400°F higher than average gas temperature. The rotating turbine blades typically use 4% of the total compressor flow for cooling at the average gas temperature. Even though the rotating turbine blades operate at lower gas temperatures than the stationary vanes (due to their motion), due to centrifugal and vibratory stresses developed in the moving blades, the metal cooling here is necessarily higher.

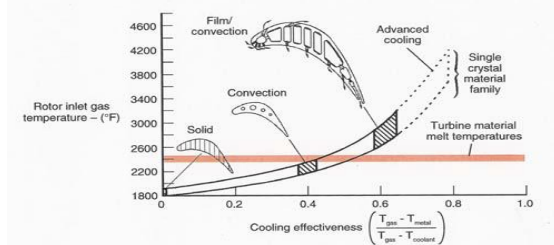


Fig. 6: Turbine Blade Cooling Technology Inlet Gas Temperature vs. Effectiveness for SC materials [4]

### Compressor Design and Configuration

The compressor is one of the most important parts of the engine and is often referred to as the heart of the engine. The pressure of air must be sufficiently raised before discharge and at high efficiency. The pressure raise should occur without encountering failures or stall instability caused by inlet airflow distortion, Reynold number effects, engine transients, acceleration back pressure and control tolerances. The normal compressor operating line and stall line (compressor limit) can be shown as a function of both pressure ratio and airflow. One important observation is that based on previous experience, it is necessary for compressor to accommodate all the factors in the safety audit that can cause a breakdown in the inlet airflow. Inlet distortion reduces the stall line.

The latest engines use low aspect ratio and low radius ratio fan blades without usage of shrouds. This improves efficiency and stall margin. Over the years the rotor configuration has varied over the years depending on aircraft manufacturer and experience and included

1. Curvic Coupling teeth which are machined into integral disk spacers with tie bolts to clamp the assembly.
2. Spacers bolted to disks using rabbets or close fitting dowel bolts.
3. Electron beam welding, TIG welding and Plasma Arc welding to attach disc spacers.
4. Development of Inertia Welding to attach disc and spacers

Over a time, span of 15 years the inherent advantages of using Inertia welding for compressor and turbine blade rotors was clearly established and implemented.

Aircraft core engine compressors have increased in pressure ratio from 2 to 20 while efficiencies have increased from 78% to 90%. As pressure ratio increased the importance of blade and vane clearance also increased. Previously Abrasive coatings were used, however in the mid-1980s Cubic Boron Nitride (CBN) blade tip coatings were created to prevent wear during light rubbing.

For the past 40 years the average compressor discharge pressure has usually been limited to nearly 1200 °F, limiting the flight speed. At this temperature, rotating discs made of nickel based alloys can encounter creep and rupture. For the

future higher temperature super alloys are needed to improve compression ratio.

### Combustion Process and Emission

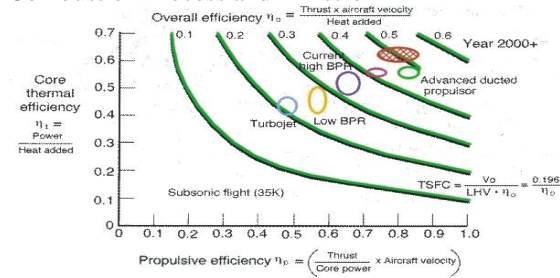


Fig. 7: Core thermal efficiency vs Propulsive efficiency [4]

The final frontier for maximum thermal efficiency is 62% with propulsive efficiency 80% and a overall efficiency of 50% for subsonic flight with turbofans. However, this overall efficiency is 32% higher than the latest turbofan engines.

In the late 1950s research was started on the methods of eliminating visible smoke particles from exhaust gases of the jet engine. In the 1970s efforts were directed to minimize emissions of unburnt hydrocarbons (HC) and carbon monoxide (CO). It can be seen that combustor efficiency at high power for jet engines was always close to 100% but during the next decade there was a dramatic improvement in combustion efficiency at or near idle power.

If we were to look over the advances in jet engine over the last 30 years we can find that there has been a fall of NOx emissions by 50%. We can also see that the three main jet engine manufacturers (GE, P&W, RR) have taken widely different approaches, but the net reduction in NOx emissions is nearly the same.

Looking at the advancements in pollution control, we can find that if we take the 1970s engines as the first generation (N1), there was 30-60% reduction in NOx emission in large rich dome engines. In the second generation (N2) the lean dome engines saw an additional improvement of 50% NOx emission reduction, while its medium size rich dome counterparts saw an improvement of 20-70% NOx emission reduction.

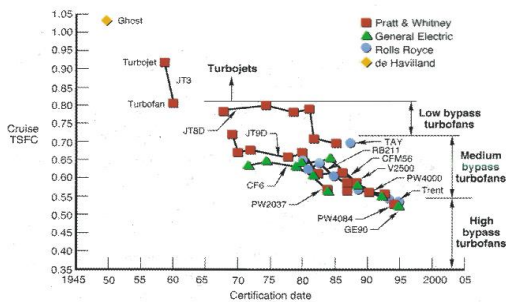


Fig. 8: The fall in TSFC of turbofan engines [4]

We can see the fall in TSFC of turbofan engines as further development of jet engines took place. This can be said as due to increase in thermal, propulsive and thus net efficiency.

### VI. CONCLUSION

Looking at the evolution of jet engines, we can conclude the following:

1. It can be concluded that advancements in cooling methods of turbine are critical to and further R&D is required here, especially in blade tip design and thermal barrier coatings.

2. Though NOx emission and sound reduction has occurred significantly in subsonic engines, further progress is necessary in case of supersonic engines.
3. Composites will play a crucial role in the future of jet engine and it can be expected that many current alloys will be phased out by composites.
4. Concepts such as Advanced Ducted Propulsor (ADP), Variable Cycle engines are the future and further research is required here.

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