

# **MEMORY-EFFICIENT HIGH-ACCURACY FOOD INTAKE ACTIVITY RECOGNITION WITH 3D MMWAVE RADARS**



uOttawa

Hsin-Che Chiang<sup>1</sup>, Yi-Hung Wu<sup>1</sup>, Shervin Shirmohammadi<sup>2</sup>, and Cheng-Hsin Hsu<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Computer Science, National Tsing-Hua University, Taiwan <sup>2</sup> School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, University of Ottawa, Canada MADIMa 2023





#### Task:

- Food intake activity recognition using a 3D mmWave radar Two pipelines:
  - Skeleton-based activity recognition
  - End-to-end activity recognition
- Three algorithms:
  - Skeletal Pose Estimator (SPE)





- Dynamic Point Cloud Recognizer (DPR)
- Lightweight Dynamic Point Cloud Recognizer (LDPR)







- Sensors: An RGB-D camera and a mmWave radar (RGB-D for evaluations only, not needed at runtime)
- Subjects: 24 (12 male, 12 female)
- Activities: 12 (3 eating, 3 drinking, and 6 other)

# Skeletal Pose Estimator (SPE)

### **Dynamic Point Cloud Recognizer (DPR)**

# Lightweight DPR (LDPR)







#### Motivation

- MARS<sup>2</sup>'s 2-layer CNN  $\rightarrow$  higher error
- Too many layers  $\rightarrow$  overfitting

# **Proposed Solutions**

- Test popular models (AlexNet, GoogLeNet, ResNet)
- Carefully decide the model depths

## **Evaluations**

- ResNet-34 has the highest accuracy (45.16% reduction over MARS)
- ResNet-34 outperforms its 18- and 50-layer counterparts



#### Motivation

• FIA<sup>3</sup> struggles to strike a balance between voxel size and memory consumption

# **Proposed Solutions**

- SPE's  $8\times8$  grid + CNN  $\rightarrow$  spatial features •
- LSTM  $\rightarrow$  temporal features

## **Evaluations**

- Accuracy = 99.66% (4.10% improvement over FIA)
- Memory = 2131 MiB (78.29% reduction over FIA)

### Motivation

 Combining CNN and LSTM could be computationally heavy

### **Proposed Solutions**

- Feature vectors  $\rightarrow$  LSTM
- Eliminate the CNNs

# **Evaluations – 80-20 train-test split**

- Accuracy = 99.81% (0.15% improvement over DPR)
- Memory = 1219 MiB (42.8% reduction) over DPR)

### **Evaluations – Leave-one-out**

 Accuracy = 40.77~86.97% (average) 72.74%)

- mmWave point clouds can be used for fine-grained activity recognition, offering privacy advantages
- Model structures and depths need to be chosen properly to suit different tasks (e.g., rehabilitation vs. food intake)
- MARS's preprocessing can also be used for activity recognition without skeletons
- Using feature vectors without CNNs reduces overhead





#### Mimic the situations of new subjects



- Further improving the precision of the estimated skeletons
- Enhancing model generalization to recognize activities from unseen subjects
- Adapting the proposed solutions for other applications like driver monitoring (for safety)

<sup>1</sup>Y. Wu, H. Chiang, S. Shirmohammadi, and C. Hsu. 2023. A Dataset of Food Intake Activities Using Sensors with Heterogeneous Privacy Sensitivity Levels. In Proc. of the ACM MMSys '23. 416–422. <sup>2</sup> S. An and U. Ogras. 2021. MARS: mmWave-based Assistive Rehabilitation System for Smart Healthcare. ACM Transactions on Embedded Computing Systems 20, 5s, Article 72, 1–22. <sup>3</sup> Y. Wu, Y. Chen, S. Shirmohammadi, and C. Hsu. 2022. Al-Assisted Food Intake Activity Recognition Using 3D mmWave Radars. In Proc. of the ACM MADiMa '22. 81–89.