



**UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA**

***CLASS BINARIZATION WITH SELF-ADAPTIVE ALGORITHM TO  
IMPROVE HUMAN ACTIVITY RECOGNITION***

**MUHAMMAD NOORAZLAN SHAH BIN ZAINUDIN**

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IMPROVE HUMAN ACTIVITY RECOGNITION**

By

**MUHAMMAD NOORAZLAN SHAH BIN ZAINUDIN**

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra  
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Doctor of Philosophy**

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## DEDICATION

In the name of Allah, most Gracious and Most Merciful,  
To my beloved Father and Mother,  
Your love, support and belief in me, gave me strength,  
And always being there for me,  
And being best parents ever,  
For my lovely supportive supervisors,  
For being the part of my journeys,  
For family members,  
For being the best brothers and sister, and in-laws,  
For your well wishes and prayers,  
For my lab members and colleagues,  
For your supports and guidance,  
And for everyone who has touched my life,  
I dedicate this to all of you.

Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

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**May 2018**

**Chairman : Associate Professor Md. Nasir Sulaiman, PhD**  
**Faculty : Computer Science and Information Technology**

Flourishing research in Human Activity Recognition (HAR) is essential in improving the quality of an individual's health. Low cost and privacy interest, sensing technology becomes an imperative topic in activity monitoring applications. Nevertheless, the presence of high interclass similarity from similar activities mainly involving stairs activities yields to degrade the recognition accuracy. These kind of activities highly sparsely distributed in the input space which is problematic to be distinguish using traditional classifier model. Even though deep learning becomes a recent imperative topic, model complexity is considered as a foremost drawback and impractical to be conducted. Furthermore, although better recognition of stairs activities is accomplished, recognition of stationary activities is less reported due to less sensitivity of lesser waveform. Somehow, it might occur some of extracted features are insignificant to describe the activity. Even if a ranking method is widely utilized in solving numerous of dimension reduction problems such as in bioinformatics and high spectral images, most of works are disregarding the boundary to discard the irrelevant features.

In order to improve recognition of high interclass similarity activities, One-Versus-All (OVA) binarization strategy is introduced by transforming original multi-class classification problems into a series of two-class classification problems. However, the learning complexity of classification is increased due to the expansion number of learning model. Therefore, feature selection using Relief-f with self-adaptive Differential Evolution (rsaDE) algorithm is proposed to select the most significant features. To enhance the selection of most highly ranking features, irrelevant features are 'pruned' based on determined boundary threshold. In order to estimate the quality of 'pruned' features, self-adaptive DE algorithm is proposed. Two parameters (population size and generation numbers) are adaptively adopted from number of

remaining ranking features. Also, self-adaptive scaling factor and crossover probability control parameters are introduced to diminish time of finding an optimal parameter to produce the best population. In order to investigate the correlation between features and class, generated feature subsets are rearranged according to its mutual information. In such circumstances, frequency domain features are proposed due to their less susceptible to signal quality variations and beneficial to recognize stationary activity. These features are combined with statistical features to improve the ability of classifier model in distinguishing between locomotion, stationary and complex activities.

Two publicly activity datasets are used; Wireless Sensor Data Mining (WISDM) and Physical Activity Monitoring for Aging People (PAMAP2). WISDM consists of six different types physical activity, while PAMAP2 covers eighteen activities comprising various simple and complex activities. In comparison, WISDM utilizes an accelerometer sensor embedded in Android smartphone. Meanwhile, PAMAP2 utilizes an accelerometer sensor equipped with three Inertial Measurement Unit (IMU) devices attached to three different placements. Performance of the proposed method is compared with several benchmark works. Experimental results have significantly promised an improvement of activity recognition level, mainly involving very similar activities.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Doktor Falsafah

**PEMBINARIAN KELAS DENGAN ALGORITMA PENYESUAIAN DIRI  
UNTUK MENINGKATKAN PENGECEMAN AKTIVITI MANUSIA**

Oleh

**MUHAMMAD NOORAZLAN SHAH BIN ZAINUDIN**

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Penyelidikan berleluasa di dalam Pengecaman Aktiviti Manusia (HAR) adalah penting untuk meningkatkan kualiti kesihatan individu. Kos yang rendah serta mengambil kira isu peribadi, teknologi penderian menjadi topik penting di dalam aplikasi sistem pemantauan aktiviti. Walaubagaimanapun, kehadiran persamaan yang tinggi dari aktiviti yang sama terutamanya yang melibatkan aktiviti tangga merendahkan ketepatan pengiktirafan. Aktiviti ini sangat tersebar di dalam ruangan input di mana ianya amat sukar untuk dibezakan dengan menggunakan model pengelasan tradisional. Walaupun pembelajaran mendalam telah menjadi topik penting baru-baru ini, kerumitan model dianggap sebagai kelemahan utama dan tidak praktikal untuk dijalankan dalam persekitaran masa nyata. Selain itu, walaupun pengiktirafan yang lebih baik telah dicapai bagi aktiviti tangga, pengiktirafan aktiviti pegun dilaporkan kurang. Tambahan lagi, ia mungkin berlaku beberapa ciri yang diekstrak tidak penting untuk menggambarkan aktiviti tersebut. Walaupun kaedah kedudukan telah digunakan secara meluas dalam menyelesaikan pelbagai masalah pengurangan dimensi seperti dalam bioinformatika dan imej berspektrum tinggi, sebahagian besar hasil kerja itu tidak menghiraukan nilai sempadan untuk membuang ciri-ciri yang tidak relevan.

Untuk menangani masalah membezakan aktiviti persamaan yang tinggi di antara kelas, strategi binari Satu-Lawan-Semua (OVA) diperkenalkan dengan mengubah masalah pengelasan pelbagai kelas menjadi satu siri masalah klasifikasi dua kelas. Walau bagaimanapun, kerumitan pembelajaran klasifikasi meningkat disebabkan bilangan pengembangan model pembelajaran. Sehubungan dengan itu, pemilihan ciri menggunakan Relief-f dengan algoritma Berbeza Evolusi (rsaDE) penyesuaian diri diperkenalkan untuk memilih ciri-ciri yang paling penting. Ciri-ciri yang tidak berkaitan 'dipangkas' mengikut sempadan ambang yang dipilih. Untuk

menganggarkan kualiti ciri-ciri yang 'dipangkas', algoritma DE penyesuaian diri dicadangkan. Dua parameter (saiz populasi dan bilangan generasi) disesuaikan mengikut penggunaan bilangan ciri yang kekal di senarai kedudukan. Juga, kaedah penyesuaian diri bagi faktor skala dan parameter kawalan kebarangkalian penyeberangan untuk mengurangkan masa mencari parameter optimum untuk menghasilkan populasi yang terbaik diperkenalkan. Untuk menyelidik korelasi di antara ciri-ciri dan kelas, subset ciri yang dihasilkan telah disusun semula mengikut maklumat bersama. Dalam keadaan ini, ciri-ciri pengukuran kekerapan spektrum dicadangkan kerana ia kurang terdedah untuk memberi isyarat variasi yang berkualiti dan dapat meningkatkan keupayaan model pengelas bagi mengenali aktiviti pegun. Ciri-ciri ini digabungkan dengan ciri-ciri statistik untuk membezakan di antara aktiviti pergerakan, pegun dan kompleks.

Dua set data aktiviti awam; perlombongan data penggera tanpa wayar (WISDM) dan pemantauan aktiviti fizikal bagi golongan tua (PAMAP2) telah digunakan. WISDM terdiri daripada enam jenis aktiviti fizikal yang berbeza, sementara PAMAP2 meliputi lapan belas aktiviti yang terdiri daripada pelbagai aktiviti yang mudah dan kompleks. Sebagai perbandingan, WISDM menggunakan deria pecutan yang terbenam di dalam telefon pintar Android. Sementara itu, PAMAP2 menggunakan deria pecutan yang dilengkapi dengan tiga peranti unit pengukuran inersia (IMU) yang diletakkan kepada tiga posisi yang berbeza. Prestasi kaedah yang dicadangkan dibandingkan dengan beberapa kerja ukur yang telah dihasilkan. Hasil kajian telah menjanjikan peningkatan tahap pengiktirafan aktiviti, terutamanya yang melibatkan aktiviti yang sangat serupa.



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Assalamualaikum w.b.t.

I certify that a Thesis Examination Committee has met on 30 May 2018 to conduct the final examination of Muhammad Noorazlan Shah bin Zainudin on his thesis entitled "Class Binarization with Self-Adaptive Algorithm to Improve Human Activity Recognition" in accordance with the Universities and University Colleges Act 1971 and the Constitution of the Universiti Putra Malaysia [P.U.(A) 106] 15 March 1998. The Committee recommends that the student be awarded the Doctor of Philosophy.

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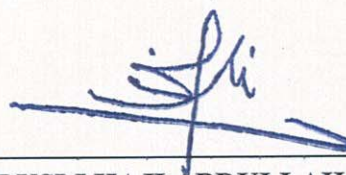
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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ADC	Analog-to-Digital Converter
AI	Artificial Intelligence
ANN	Artificial Neural Network
BDE	Binary Differential Evolution
BMI	Body Mass Index
CR	Crossover Probability
CS	Chi-Squared
DE	Differential Evolution
DFT	Discrete Fourier Transform
DNF	Desired Number of Features
EA	Evolutionary Algorithm
ELM	Extreme Learning Machine
F	Scaling factor
FFT	Fast Fourier Transform
GA	Genetic Algorithm
GFFSM	Genetic Fuzzy Finite State Machine
GPS	Geographical Positioning System
GR	Gain Ratio
HAR	Human Activity Recognition
ICC	Correlation Coefficient
ID3	Iterative Dichotomiser
IG	Information Gain
IMU	Inertial Measurement Unit
KNN	K-Nearest Neighbour
MEMs	Micro-machine Electromechanical Sensor
MLP	Multilayer Perceptron
MRMC	Maximal Relevance Maximal Complementary
MRMD	Max-Relevance-Max-Distance
NF	Number of Features
OR	One-R

OVA	One-Versus-All
OVO	One-Versus-One
PAMAP2	Physical Activity Monitoring for Aging People 2
PCA	Principle Component Analysis
PSO	Particle Swarm Optimization
RF	Random Forest
rsaDE	Relief-f ranking with self adaptive differential evolution algorithm
RSS	Reduced Scatter Search
SBE	Sequential Backward Elimination
SFS	Sequential Forward Selection
SS	Scatter Search
SU	Symmetrical Uncertainty
SVM	Support Vector Machine
TS	Tabu Search
WHO	World Health Organization
WISDM	Wireless Sensor Data Mining

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Motivation

The advancement of sensing technology in ambient assisted living nowadays has become a major topic. Plentiful of intelligent human applications have become prevalent, particularly in the area of security surveillance (Lara & Labrador, 2013), human-computer interaction (Murthy & Jadon, 2010) as well as in human healthcare application (Guiry et al., 2014). Additionally, Human Activity Recognition (HAR) research has currently emerged as an active area in sensing technology and plays a vital role in human interaction with interpersonal relations. This research provides a fascinating field to increase more exploration in smart environment by improving the current technology to be more intelligent, comfort, usable, and secure. Activity recognition utilizes the connection from various aspects such as machine learning, artificial intelligence, ubiquitous computing, human-computer interaction, psychology, and sociology (Khan, 2011).

The subjective method is primarily collected by questionnaires which may lead to biases or inaccurate data. Hence, the subjective data collection method is shown to be unreliable and it is recommended to replace it with an objective method such as activity recognition system in order to collect more reliable and valid data. The role of activity recognition is to recognize human's actions or events, by observing the object behaviour with environmental characteristics. In such situations, the projected expansion of sensing device has facilitated the process of collecting the attributes which are related to the individuals with the surroundings (Lara & Labrador, 2012). From this perspective, people may manage their daily home routine by controlling their stuff remotely. For example, residents could monitor their electrical usage and also control the home appliances through their smartphones when they were away from their home for a specified period of times. Other than that, activity recognition also offers an option to monitor the resident's regular activities. The system could remind them about everyday chores such as taking medicine, activating security alarm, and feeding their pet.

On top of that, activity recognition also allows the medical expert to investigate the diversity of healthcare applications. Moreover, the risk for non-communicable diseases such as obesity, heart failure, and diabetes is higher among the people who do not meet recommended amount of physical activity. Consequently, people are emboldened to go through a simple behaviour improvements that lead to healthy way of living. The awareness and modifications towards our lifestyle choices are essential to improve the quality of life (Dobbins et al., 2016). For instance, smartphone application will notify the carrier to use the staircase rather than using an elevator when there is no action detected for a specific period. They also might receive a

notification to walk around when they have been sitting within the duration of 30 minutes (Su et al., 2014). Today's activity recognition however is aimed at strengthening the monitoring of simple variables such as counting steps, stairs, and measuring distance. Hence, the exploration to improve activity recognition in providing overall health status is indispensable.

Furthermore, people could monitor and uphold their daily physical activities by using their body-worn device. Wearable sensor such as accelerometer utilises multivariate time-series classification problem which makes use of data streams from sensors to recognize the activity that has been carried out. In such states, additional features or attributes are required in order to describe the action and to differentiate it between stationary, locomotion and complex activity. Previous work has reported successful in stationary activity, but incapable to recognize locomotion activity. Stationary or postural activity is considered as the activity that requires less energy expenditure such as sitting, standing, and watching TV. The activities that need more intensity in movement such as running and walking on the other hand are considered as locomotion while the complex activity consists of sequence of actions to be performed. In such circumstances, this body-worn sensor device is attached to a specific placement of the human bodies in order to sense the signal. Therefore, it will result in hundreds to thousands of samples from each type of activity performed. However, to process the large number of samples is believed to be a challenge for activity recognition (Bolón-Canedo et al., 2013).

Activity recognition is not only significant to identify the activity but also the types of event performed. Besides, different kinds of activities such house cleaning may encompass sequence of actions that are regularly accomplished on a daily basis. Therefore, to recognize this activity with high accuracy will be challenging. In such circumstances, there might exist various activities that are fundamentally different in the experimental ground but produce a very similar characteristic signal pattern (Bulling et al., 2014). Hence, it becomes problematic to distinguish between these types of activities with high accuracy performance. On the other hand, selection of the most meaningful features is another challenge. More features are recommended in order to identify more precisely between stairs activity with other stride activities such as walking and running. The difficulties arise since the signals received are similar to another level of walking for each human (Capela et al., 2016). However, the selection of optimal parameter values also becomes challenges to balance the exploitation and exploration particularly in population-based algorithm. Self-adaptive parameter mechanism is introduced by automatically adjusting the parameters without relying on thorough process. Hence, this parameter mechanism will gradually control the parameter value by learning from the previous experiences in generating promising solutions (Li and Yin, 2016).



## 1.2 Problem Statement

The presence of interclass similarity of different activities is a challenge in activity recognition (Poorani et al., 2017; Zhang et al., 2017). Interclass similarity occurs when the activity are fundamentally different by classes (eg. ascending and descending walking), but show very similar characteristics in sensor signal forms (Bulling et al., 2014). The similarity exists in the sense of distinguishing between ascending and descending walking with other stride activities such as walking and running (Albert et al. , 2017; Chowdhury et al., 2017; Daghistani & Alshammari, 2016; Micucci et al., 2017; Ronao & Cho, 2016; Tian et al., 2017). Deep Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) has proven an outstanding accuracy and able to differentiate high interclass similarity activities (Alsheikh et al., 2015; Hagenbuchner et al., 2015; Ravi et al., 2016; Ronao & Cho, 2016). Unfortunately, the CNN is incapable of producing high accuracy for stationary activity due to the sensitivity of lesser waveform (Ronao & Cho, 2016).

The selection of features is another considerable challenge as some of the features are less useful and may be insignificant to portray the activity. The statistical features are broadly employed as it is less complicated and beneficial in describing stationary activity. However, the use of these features alone might not be reliable to recognize the locomotion activity (Arif et al., 2014; Arif et al., 2015). Likewise, some of the features might be redundant (Machado et al., 2015) and this matter would possibly increase the false classification rate (Martinoyić et al., 2014). Although Arif et al. (2015) had successfully produced a decent accuracy on average, the chosen number of features is still considerably large. The advantages of ranking methods which are used for selecting the features due to less complex and are able to handle large number of instances (Wang et al., 2016). However, most of the works did not define the feature boundary that discard the lower ranking features (Ghosh et al., 2013). On the other hand, population-based optimization methods have extensively been employed in solving global optimization problems (Olvera-Lopez et al., 2010). The computational cost of iteration and population re-evaluation of finding an optimal parameter have restrictively increased when dealing with ample number of features (Brown et al., 2016). Somehow, the chosen parameter that is useful for one problem may not necessarily be good for another problem. Hence, an automatical parameter mechanism could be further explored particularly in promising an outstanding performance.

### 1.3 Research Objectives

Based on the problem statements, this research has several research objectives. The primary goals of this research is to improve the recognition of high interclass similarity activities by utilizing minimal number of features. In order to achieve this objective, sub-objectives are as followed:

1. To propose feature selection using Relief-f with self-adaptive Differential Evolution algorithm (rsaDE) based on mutual information in order to select the most significant features to be classified.
2. To propose class binarization classification strategies using One-Versus-All (OVA) with the context of an ensemble-based tree classifier model to improve the recognition of high interclass similarity activities.
3. To propose features fusion from frequency domain features with statistical features to distinguish between stationary, locomotion and complex activities.

### 1.4 Research Scope

This research primarily focuses on improvement of the recognition of human activity particularly in differentiating high interclass similarity activities. Two publicly available accelerometer physical activity datasets; WISDM and PAMAP2 from two different environment conditions (laboratory controlled and free-living environment) are employed. Each dataset contains variation of activities type that are broadly covered in the daily human basis. WISDM utilizes an accelerometer sensor deeply set within the Android smartphone. Meanwhile, PAMAP2 uses an accelerometer sensor equipped with three Inertial Measurement Unit (IMU) devices which are attached to several placements of human's body. This work do not cater the problems in real-time environment conditions.

In order to make a fair comparison with several published benchmark studies, only sensor data stream from an acceleration signal is utilized. Various types of simple and complex activities are included in both data sets without relying on the transition between two or more actions. The experiment is conducted separately for each dataset and each experimental analysis is compared according to the experimental setup from the chosen work. The proposed class binarization strategies involve the use of OVA and One-Versus-One (OVO) are evaluated separately for each data set. Three benchmark works from Arif et al. (2014) and Arif et al. (2015), and Arif and Kattan (2015) are chosen and compared with our experimental result.

## 1.5 Research Contributions

As mentioned before, this research is carried out in order to recognize different human activities based on recorded data stream from an accelerometer sensor. The main contribution of this study is to improve the recognition of high interclass similarity activities by using a minimum number of features. Thus, this study produces several contributions.

1. The effectiveness of integration of several sensor placements (dominant wrist, chest, and dominant ankle) is investigated to recognize different types of simple and complex activity.
2. The correlation between statistical features and frequency domain features are explored to differentiate between stationary, locomotion and complex activities.
3. The highly ranking features are selected by using Relief-f feature ranking method and optimal threshold to define the feature boundary is introduced.
4. The effectiveness of combinational feature selection using Relief-f with self-adaptive differential evolution algorithm is analyzed and compared with traditional state-of-the-arts subset generation algorithm.
5. Two parameters (population size and generation size) are adaptively defined from input dimension of pruned ranking features.
6. Self-adaptive control parameters mechanism for scaling factor and crossover probabilities are introduced. The accuracy level has also been compared with a traditional differential evolution algorithm and several state-of-the-art subset generation methods.
7. The generated feature subsets from proposed feature selection method is rearranged based on the correlation measured by mutual information.
8. The class binarization classification strategies using One-Versus-All (OVA) is introduced to accommodate the trade-off in distinguishing between high interclass similarity activity specifically in diverges types of stride activities.
9. The effectiveness of OVA is evaluated in the aspect of ensemble decision tree classifier model by introducing self-adjusted tree parameter.

## 1.6 Structure of Thesis

The thesis is structured and organized into six chapters.

Chapter 1 gives brief introduction on the background of activity recognition from various perspectives. The current trend and challenges in activity recognition from numerous viewpoints have also been discussed. Limitation of present work, research objectives, scopes and contribution of this research are explained in this chapter.

Chapter 2 discusses the related work in the field of activity recognition, including types of sensor used in detail, previous work regarding the wearable sensor. The feature extraction and feature selection method that customarily applied in solving classification problem also been discussed.

Chapter 3 describes an overview of the conceptual research framework methodology of proposed improved activity recognition. Some compulsory stages to implement the activity recognition is carried out, including preprocessing stage, feature extraction stage, feature selection stage, and classification stage.

Chapter 4 presents the proposed extracted features and feature selection methods using Relief-f with self-adaptive differential evolution algorithm in details. The selection criteria, optimal parameter setting, as well as proposed adaptive and self-adaptive control parameter mechanism are described. The proposed binarization classification strategies using OVA and OVO to improve the difficulty of distinguishing between high interclass similarity activities are also discussed.

Chapter 5 explains the experimental setting and analysis result that are conducted for each dataset. All the experiments that are carried out in order to produce an optimal accuracy performance are analyzed. A comparison between the results and previously published work are also discussed.

Chapter 6 presents the conclusion of the entire research to ascertain that the problem highlighted is solved and is aligned with the objective stated. The recommendation based on the work for upcoming research is also presented.

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