

Prototype of Lifting Posture Monitoring System for Preventing Low Back Pain

Kodai Kitagawa^{1*}, Rintaro Isaka¹, Arthur Ducoulombier²

¹National Institute of Technology, Hachinohe College, Japan

²BUT Génie Electrique et Informatique Industrielle, Université de Lille, France

INTRODUCTION & AIM

Lifting Postures [1]

(A) Stooping

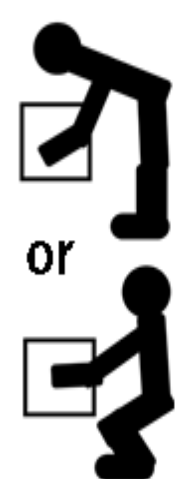
(B) Squatting



Squatting is suitable for preventing lower back pain in lifting[1].

Observation in Occupational Health

Human Observation



Limitations

- frequency
- not anyplace
- repeatability
- fatigue in observer
- ...

Monitoring systems are required.

Our previous study [2] proposed the automatic posture recognition method by using 2D images and machine learning.

The aim was to develop a prototype lifting posture monitoring system using common camera.

DEVELOPMENT

Proposed System

Proposed system recognize three postures.

- Squatting
- Stooping
- Standing (not lifting)

Prototype System

①Implementation

→HTML and JavaScript

②Machine Learning

→MobileNetV2 [3]

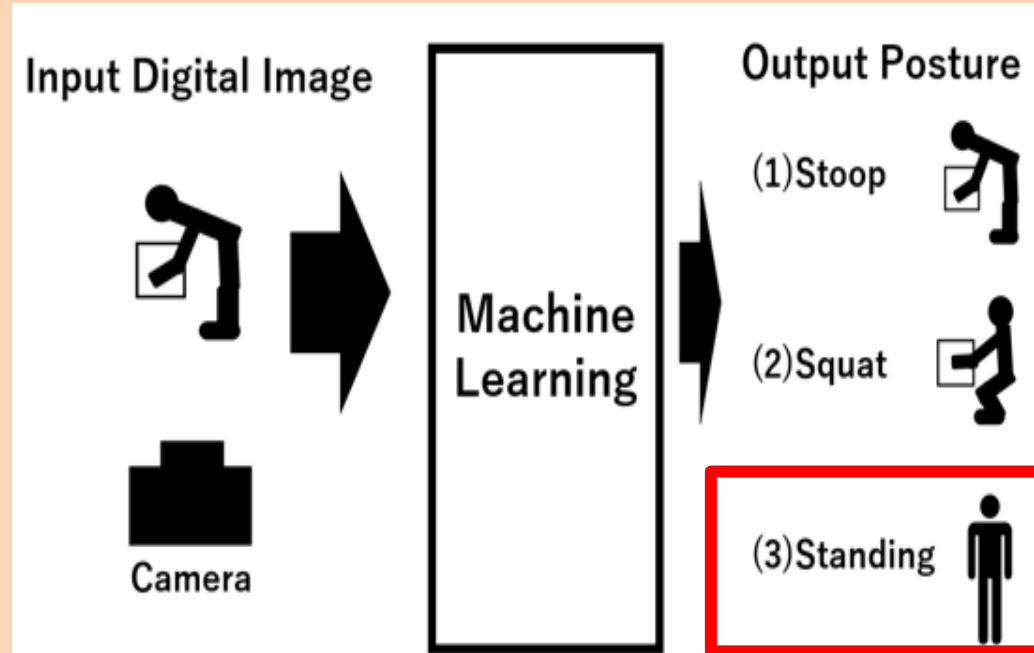
→Teachable Machine [4]

③Input

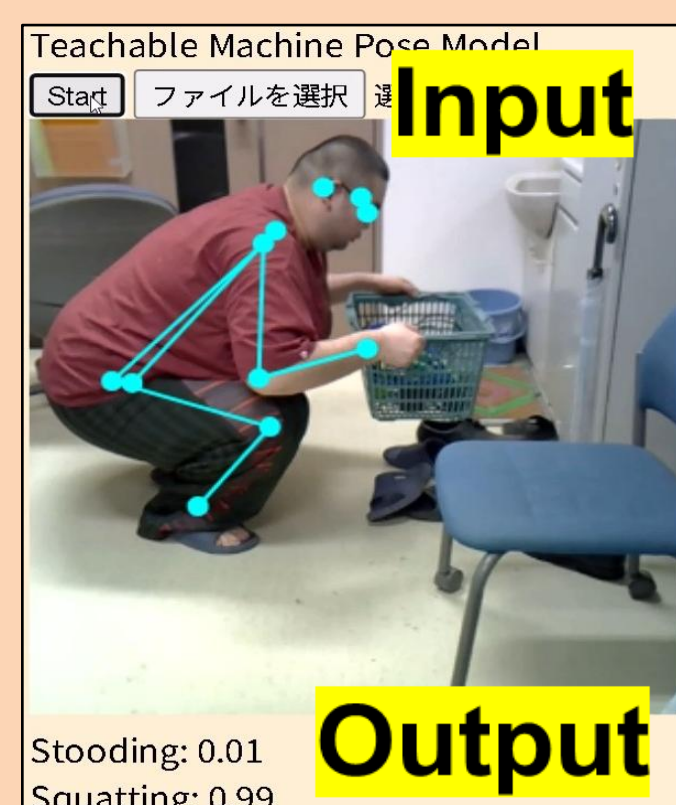
→Images or movie from camera of laptop PC

④Output

→Probability of each posture (results of recognition)



Standing posture is detected for removing unrelated images.



Conditions of Machine Learning

Epoch	200
Batch Size	16
Learning Rate	0.0001

EVALUATION

We evaluated whether machine learning could recognize **three postures**.

Posture Images

→150 images
(50 images for each posture)

Training and Testing

→5-folds Cross Validation

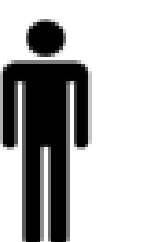
(1)Stoop



(2)Squat



(3)Standing



RESULTS & DISCUSSION

Table1 Confusion Matrix

Correct Recognition

		Actual		
		Squatting	Stooping	Standing
Recognized	Squatting	37	7	0
	Stooping	13	43	0
	Standing	0	0	50

Accuracy of Recognition: 0.867

- Accuracy was comparable to human observations [5].
- Machine learning of the prototype system can extract and recognize lifting postures.

CONCLUSION

- This study developed a prototype lifting posture monitoring system using common camera.
- The results indicate that the prototype system can extract and lifting postures to prevent low back pain.

Acknowledgments: This work was supported by JSPS KAKENHI (Grant Number: 23K17262).

Conflict of Interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

References

- [1] J.H. VanDieën, et al., Clinical biomechanics, Vol.14, No.10, pp.685–696, 1999.
- [2] K. Kitagawa, et al., International Journal of Applied Biomedical Engineering, Vol.18, No.1, pp.1-7, 2025.
- [3] A.G. Howard, et al., "Mobilenets: Efficient convolutional neural networks for mobile vision applications", arXiv preprint arXiv:1704.04861, 2017.
- [4] Google, "Teachable Machine." Accessed: August 2, 2025. [Online]. Available: <https://teachablemachine.withgoogle.com/>
- [5] C. Lins, et al., "OWAS inter-rater reliability", Applied Ergo-nomics, Vol. 93, p.103357, 2021.