

# Dynamic Hand Gesture Recognition

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# Outline

- Hand Gesture Recognition ?
- Applications
- Input data : RGB, Depth
- Flow of Gesture Recognition
- DG-STA : Construct Dynamic Graphs for Hand Gesture Recognition via Spatial-temporal Attention
- Conclusion

# Hand Gesture Recognition (HGR)

- Goal : Classifying a set of discrete hand poses

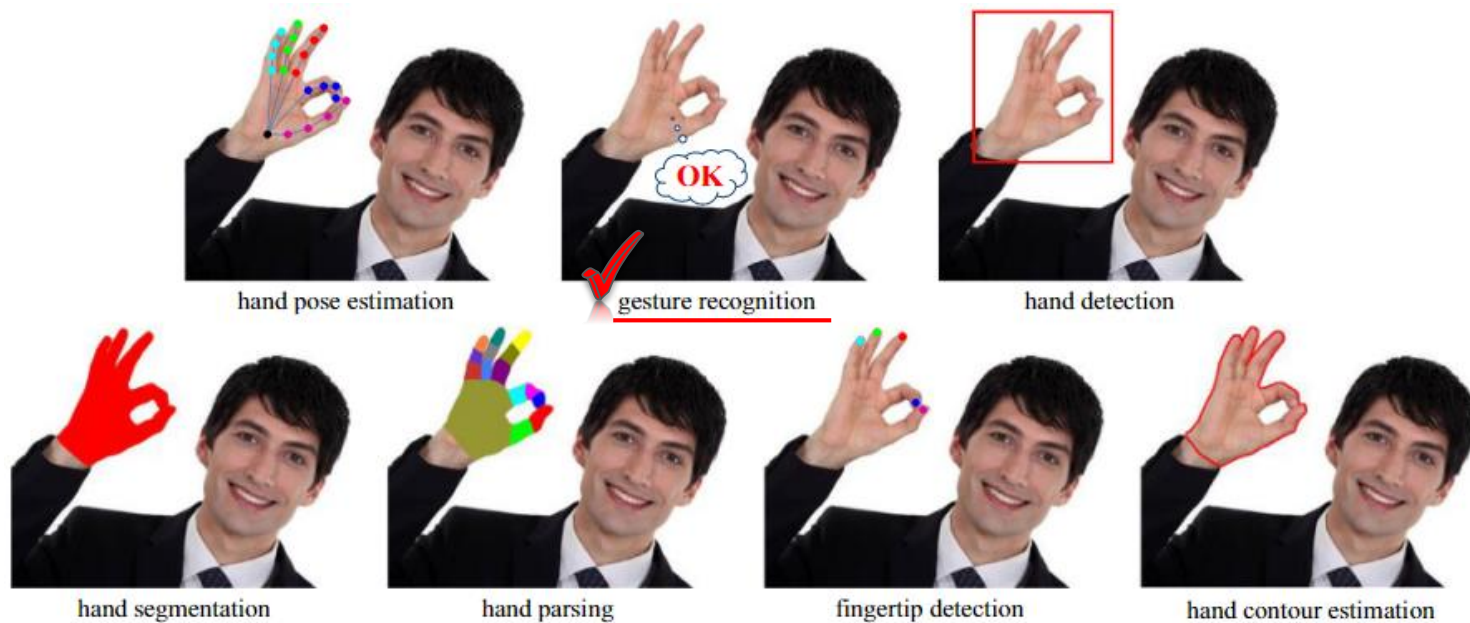
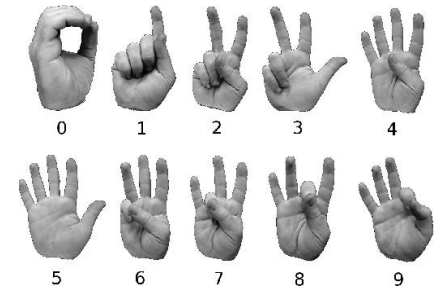


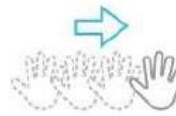
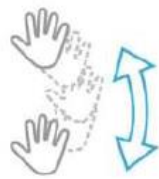
Fig. Hand Gesture Recognition and its similar 6 fields

# Hand Gesture Recognition (HGR)

- Two categories
  - ✓ **Static** : identify hand gestures from a single image
    - comparison with reference images
    - ex) ASL (American Sign Language)



- ✓ **Dynamic** : identify animated hand gestures



# Applications

- Important skill for HCI (Human Computer Interaction)



- Future



# Input data

- RGB image

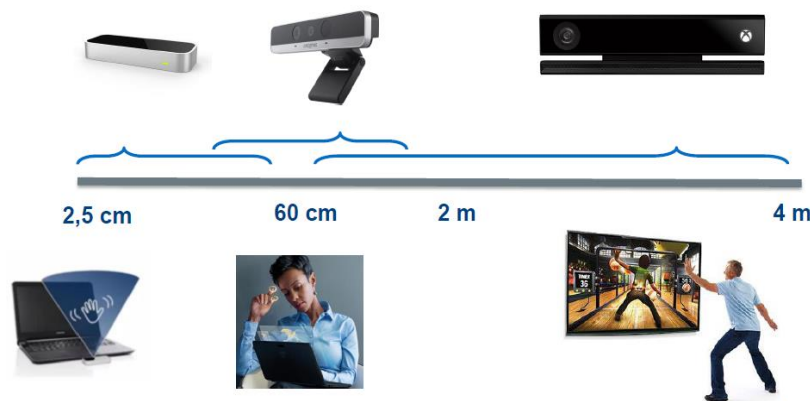
- Hand segmentation 후 optical flow나 skeleton 좌표 등을 이용하여 분류



- ✓ Depth image (depth / pose)

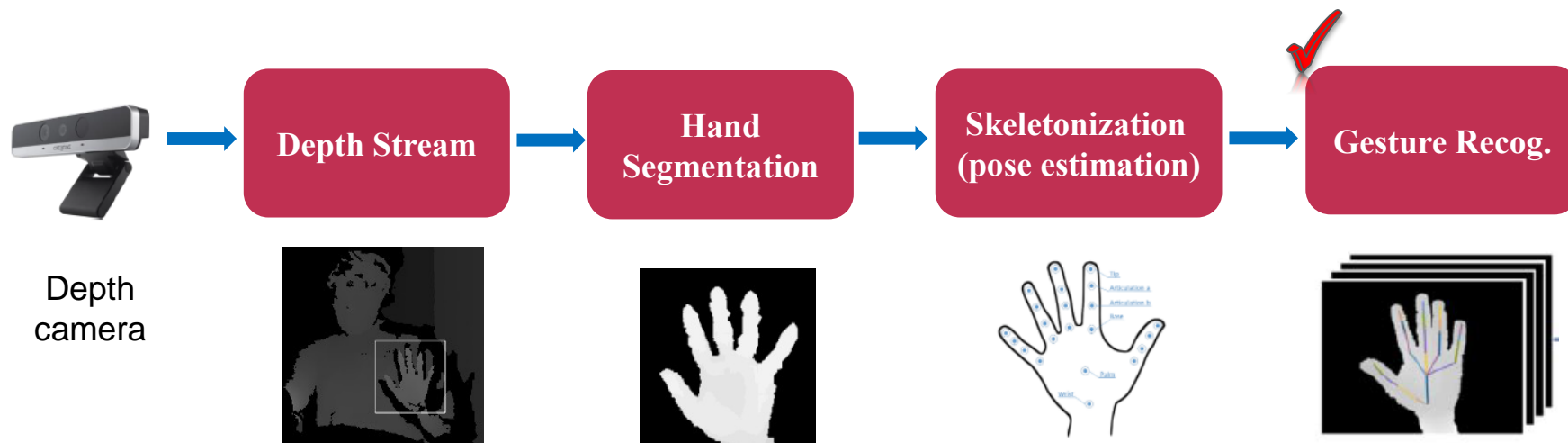
- Depth camera의 등장으로 simple segmentation 및 depth 좌표 활용 가능해짐

- Hand pose estimation 기술발전으로 실시간으로 hand skeleton sequence 생성 가능



# Flow of Gesture Recognition

- Recognition of the dynamic gestures based on the hand joint coordinate



- ✓ Assume that a **hand is nearest object** from the camera
- ✓ **Segmentation** : depth thresholding → center of mass (COM) of hand → crop
- ✓ **Hand pose estimation** : predict the 3D (x, y, z) coordinate of joints
- ✓ **Skeleton sequences** : have high semantic information and small data size

# Paper Information

- Construct Dynamic Graphs for Hand Gesture Recognition via Spatial-Temporal Attention
- Authors : Chen, Y.<sup>1</sup>, Zhao, L., Peng, X., Yuan, J., Metaxas, D.N.  
<sup>1</sup> Department of Computer Science, Rutgers University, New Jersey, USA
- [BMVC 2019](#)



# Abstract

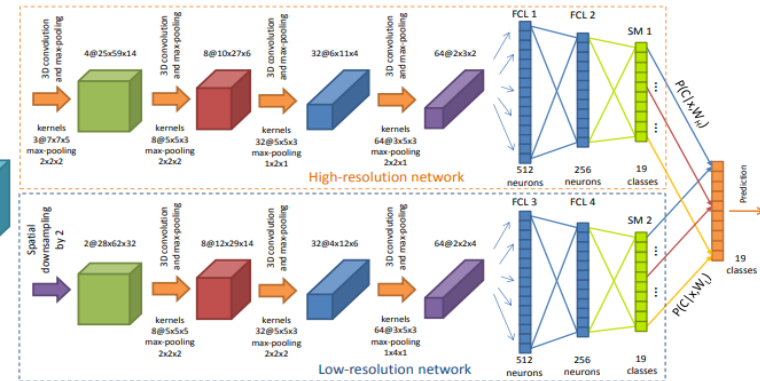
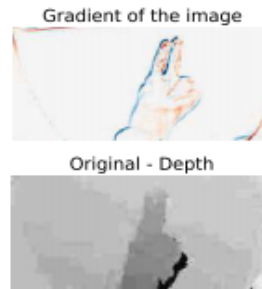
- Key Idea
  - 1) Construct a fully-connected graph from a **hand skeleton**
  - 2) Node features and edges are automatically learned via a **self-attention** mechanism
  - 3) Self-attention performs in both **spatial** and **temporal** domains
  - 4) leverage the spatial-temporal cues of joint positions
  - 5) spatial-temporal mask : significantly **cut down the computational cost by 99%**

# Previous work

- Categories based on Input data

## 1) Image-based : rely on image-level features

ex. HGR with 3D CNN [1]

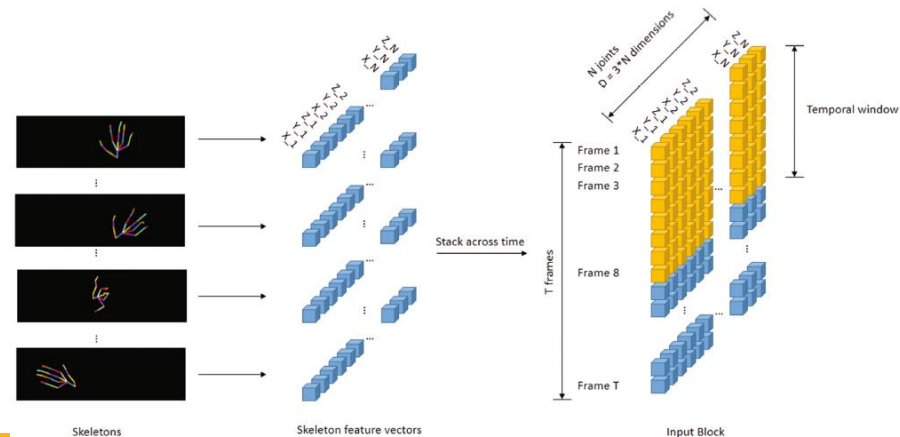


## 2) Skeleton-based : sequence of hand joints with 2D or 3D coordinates

ex. STA-Res-TCN [2]

- concatenate the joint coordinates

→ spatial structures and temporal dynamics  
 of hand skeletons are **not explicitly exploited**



# DG-STA (Dynamic Graph-Based Spatial Temporal Attention)

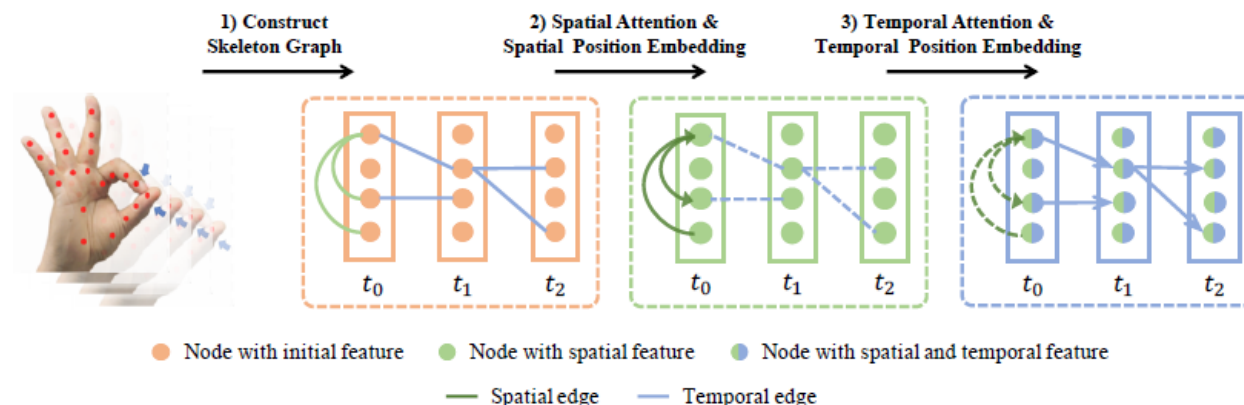


Fig 1. node는 hand joint, 점선은 끊어진 edge 의미 → edge weights와 node features 학습

## Contributions

- ✓ 서로 다른 동작을 모델링하도록 **graph 학습** (pre-defined graph 미사용)
  - 표현력이 향상된 action-specific graphs
- ✓ spatial-temporal **position embedding** : 기존 temporal position embedding 유사
  - encodes the identity and temporal order information of each node
- ✓ spatial-temporal **mask operation** : applied to the matrix of scaled dot-products among all nodes
  - improves the computational efficiency

# Related work

- Self-Attention

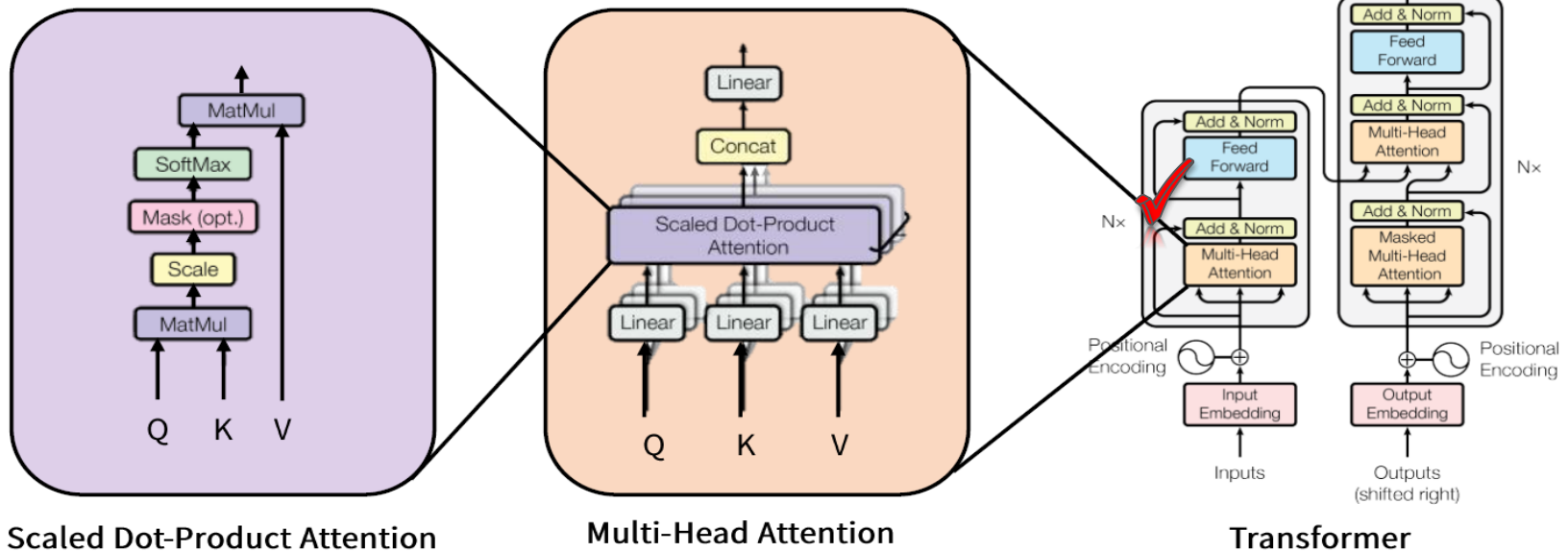
- "Attention is all you need [1]" 논문의 transformer 에서 사용
  - 기계 번역에서 문장 내 단어들 간 temporal / semantic 관계 모델링
- widely used in computer vision and natural language processing tasks
- 본 논문에서는, graph로 표현된 hand skeletons를 포함하는 spatial-temporal information을 학습하기 위해 사용

- Sequential data processing networks

- 1) RNN-based : 입력 시퀀스를 순차적으로 처리하여 병렬처리 어려움  
연산 시간, 계산 복잡도 ↑
- 2) CNN-based : local neighbor만 처리, global 연산 수행 시 반복 처리로 연산량 ↑
- 3) **Self-attention** : RNN, CNN 구조 사용 X  
Key = Query = Value , dot product 사용

# Related work

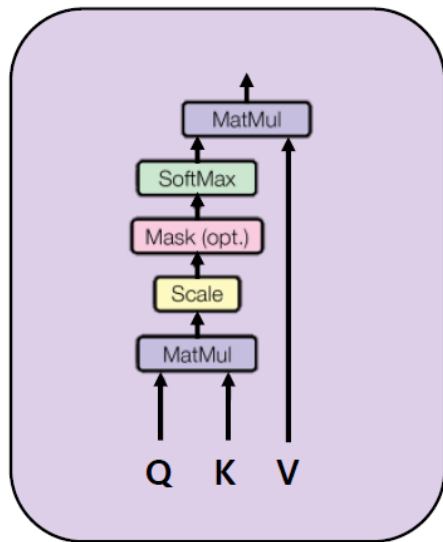
- Self-Attention
  - ✓ Computational complexity ↓
  - ✓ Be parallelized
  - ✓ Learning long-range dependencies



# Related work \_ Self-Attention

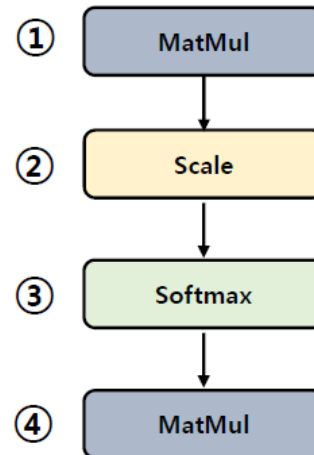
- Scale dot-product attention
  - ✓ Query = Key = Value
  - ✓ Similarity function = Dot product
  - ✓ Normalize by Softmax
  - ✓ Weight sum of Value vectors

: [Weight sum of value vectors](#)



Scaled Dot-Product Attention

Generalized  
Attention Form



$$A(q, K, V) = \sum_i \text{softmax}(f(K, q)) V$$

$$f(K, Q) = QK^T \quad (K = KW^K, Q = QW^Q, V = QW^V)$$

$$\frac{QK^T}{\sqrt{d_k}} \quad \text{: Scaled-dot product}$$

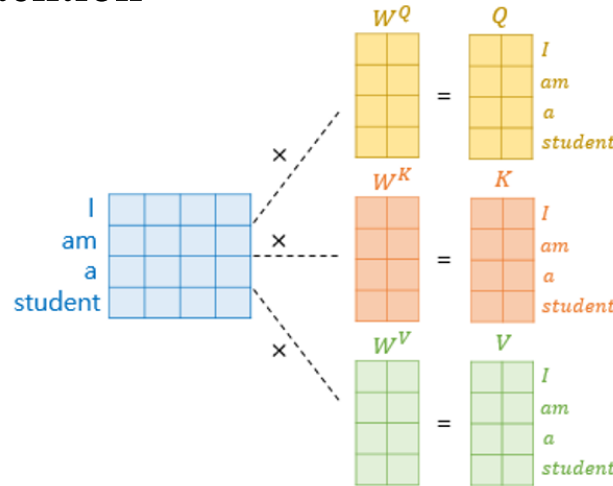
$$\text{softmax}\left(\frac{QK^T}{\sqrt{d_k}}\right)$$

$$\text{softmax}\left(\frac{QK^T}{\sqrt{d_k}}\right) V$$

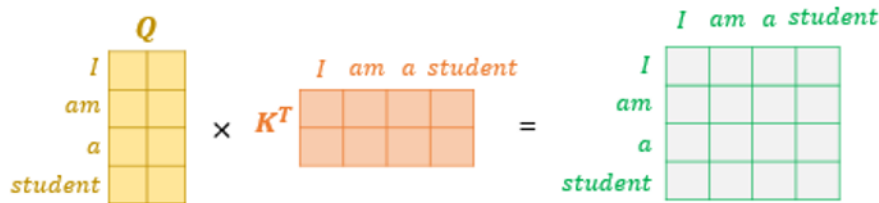
# Related work \_ Self-Attention

- Scale dot-product attention

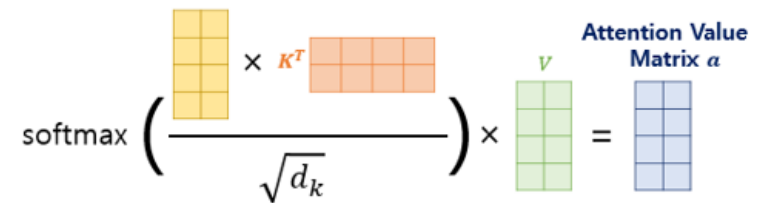
✓ MatMul



✓ Scaled dot-product



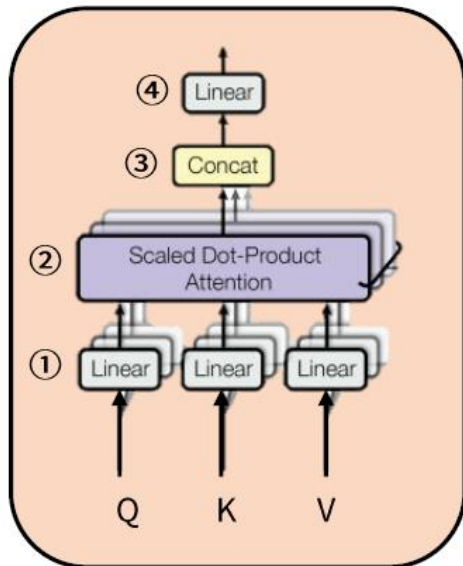
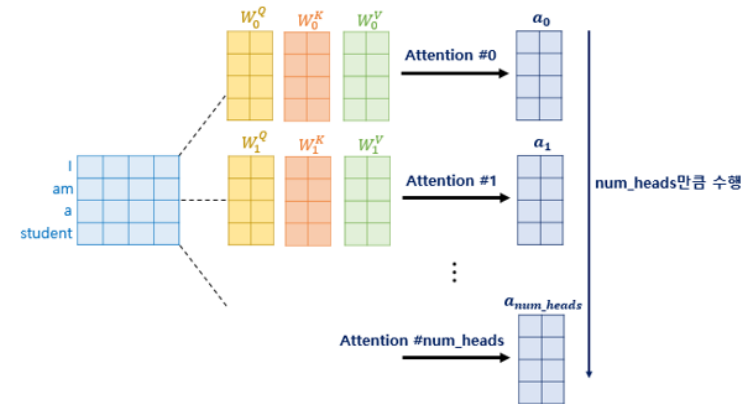
✓ MatMul (softmax)



# Related work \_ Self-Attention

- Multi-head attention

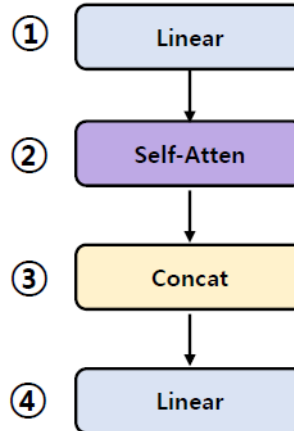
✓ Learning diverse input features (독립적으로 w 학습)



Multi-Head Attention

### Self-Attention

$$SA(q, K, V) = softmax\left(\frac{qK^T}{\sqrt{d_k}}\right)V$$



$$Q' = QW_i^Q \quad K' = KW_i^K \quad V' = VW_i^V \quad (i = 1 \dots h)$$

$$head_i = SA(Q', K', V')$$

$$[head_1, head_2, \dots, head_h]$$

$$[head_1, head_2, \dots, head_h]W^O$$

$$= MultiHead(Q, K, V) \quad : \text{concat mat. 동일 크기}$$



# Methodology

- Skeleton graph initialization

- ✓  $T$  frames video에서 hand skeleton 표현하기 위해 각 frame의  $N$ 개 hand joints 추출
- ✓ skeleton graph  $G = (V, E)$  구성,  $V = \text{node}$ ,  $E = \text{edge}$
- ✓  $\mathbf{f}_{(t,i)}$  : the feature vector of the node  $v_{(t,i)}$   $\rightarrow$  node의 3D 좌표로부터 extracted ( $3 \rightarrow 128$ )
- ✓ node의 feature vector :  $F = \{\mathbf{f}_{(t,i)} | t = 1, \dots, T, i = 1, \dots, N\}$ 
  - A spatial edge  $v_{(t,i)} \rightarrow v_{(t,j)}$  ( $i \neq j$ ) connects two different nodes at the same time step.
  - A temporal edge  $v_{(t,i)} \rightarrow v_{(k,j)}$  ( $t \neq k$ ) connects two nodes at different time steps.
  - A self-connected edge  $v_{(t,i)} \rightarrow v_{(t,i)}$  connects the node with itself.

- Dynamic graph construction via **Spatial-Temporal attention**

- ✓ Spatial attention model  $A_S$  : initial node feat.  $F$ 를 입력 받아 spatial information 업데이트
- ✓ Temporal attention model  $A_T$  : 위 features에서 temporal information 추가 업데이트
- ✓ Average pooled 된 후 classification을 위한 feature representation으로 사용
- ✓ Multi-head attention 적용

# Methodology

- Spatial-Temporal attention

- ✓ Transformer의 Self-attention과 동작이 거의 같음
- ✓ 3개의 FC layers로 Key, Query, Value vectors 생성 (h는 head 의미)

$$\mathbf{K}_{(t,i)}^h = W_K^h \mathbf{f}_{(t,i)}, \quad \mathbf{Q}_{(t,i)}^h = W_Q^h \mathbf{f}_{(t,i)}, \quad \mathbf{V}_{(t,i)}^h = W_V^h \mathbf{f}_{(t,i)}, \quad (1)$$

- ✓ scaled dot-product (query 와 key vector) → normalize by Softmax function

$$u_{(t,i) \rightarrow (t,j)}^h = \frac{\langle \mathbf{Q}_{(t,i)}^h, \mathbf{K}_{(t,j)}^h \rangle}{\sqrt{d}}, \quad \alpha_{(t,i) \rightarrow (t,j)}^h = \frac{\exp(u_{(t,i) \rightarrow (t,j)}^h)}{\sum_{n=1}^N \exp(u_{(t,i) \rightarrow (t,n)}^h)}, \quad (2)$$

$d$ : key, query, value vectors의 dimension

- ✓ weighted sum of the value vectors within the same time step

$$\bar{\mathbf{f}}_{(t,i)}^h = \sum_{j=1}^N \left( \alpha_{(t,i) \rightarrow (t,j)}^h \cdot \mathbf{V}_{(t,j)}^h \right), \quad (3)$$

- ✓ concatenates the spatial attention features learned by all heads

$$\tilde{\mathbf{f}}_{(t,i)} = \text{Concate} \left[ \bar{\mathbf{f}}_{(t,i)}^1, \bar{\mathbf{f}}_{(t,i)}^2, \dots, \bar{\mathbf{f}}_{(t,i)}^H \right], \quad (4)$$

$H$ : number of spatial attention heads

# Methodology

- Spatial-**Temporal** attention
  - ✓ temporal attention model  $A_T$  takes the output node features from the spatial attention
  - ✓ spatial과 동일한 multi-head attention mechanism in the temporal domain
    - temporal attention model output : encodes both spatial & temporal information
- Spatial-Temporal **Position Embedding**
  - ✓ Transformer 와 동일한 방법으로 진행
  - ✓ RNN, CNN 처럼 순서나 위치 정보가 없음
    - position을 알 수 있는 position embedding vector를 더해줌

$$\hat{\mathbf{f}}_{(t,i)} = A_T \left( \underline{\mathbf{p}}_{(t,i)}^T + A_S \left( \mathbf{f}_{(t,i)} + \underline{\mathbf{p}}_{(i)}^S \right) \right), \quad (5)$$

- ✓ Values are set using the sine and cosine functions of different frequencies  
(Transformer 논문 동일 방법)

# Methodology

- Efficient Implementation

- ✓ Transformer에서 사용한 mask 기능 유사 (사용하지 않는 key 값은 0으로 masking)
- ✓ propose a novel scheme to facilitate the implementation of DG-STA
  - 1) compute the matrix of the **scaled dot-products** among all nodes (Softmax 전단계)
  - 2) **apply spatial-temporal mask operation** → focus on the spatial or temporal domain
- ✓ Matrix of the scaled dot-products  $W$  (before normalization)

$$W = Q \otimes K^T$$

- ✓ Mask operation  $W$ 의 element (temporal edge 의미)는  $\eta$ (매우 큰 음수)로 변경  
→ Softmax (exponential) 함수에서 0이 됨

- ✓ Spatial mask 적용 후,

$$\bar{W}_S = \underbrace{\phi}_{\text{softmax}}(W \odot M_S + (1 - M_S) \times \eta)$$

$\odot$ : element-wise dot operation

- ✓ Temporal mask 도 유사 : temporal or self-connect edge 를 제외하고 0으로 masking

# Methodology

- Efficient Implementation

✓ Spatial-temporal mask operation을 적용하여 computation time을 99% 줄임.

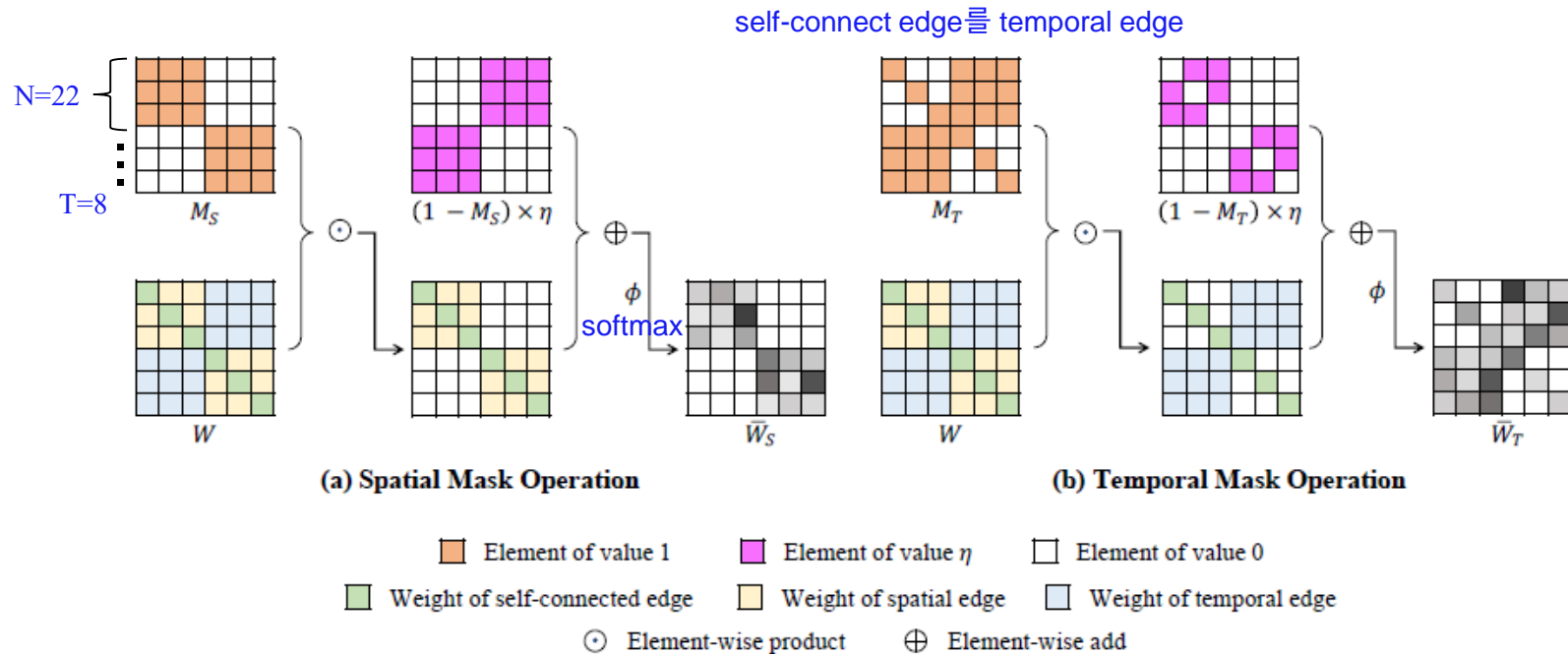


Fig 2. Illustration of the proposed spatial and temporal mask operations.

# Experiments

- Implementation details

- ✓ head number of the spatial & temporal attention = 8
- ✓ dimension of Query, Key, Value vectors = 32
- ✓ hand joint의 input 3D 좌표는 128 dim.의 initial node feature로 project됨  
:  $(N \times T, 3) \rightarrow (N \times T, 128)$
- ✓ Add the Spatial position embedding
- ✓ Spatial Attention 출력이 다시 temporal pos. embedding을 더한 후 Temporal Att. 수행
- ✓ 모든 node features를 average pooled 하여 vector로 만든 후 FC를 거쳐 classify 됨

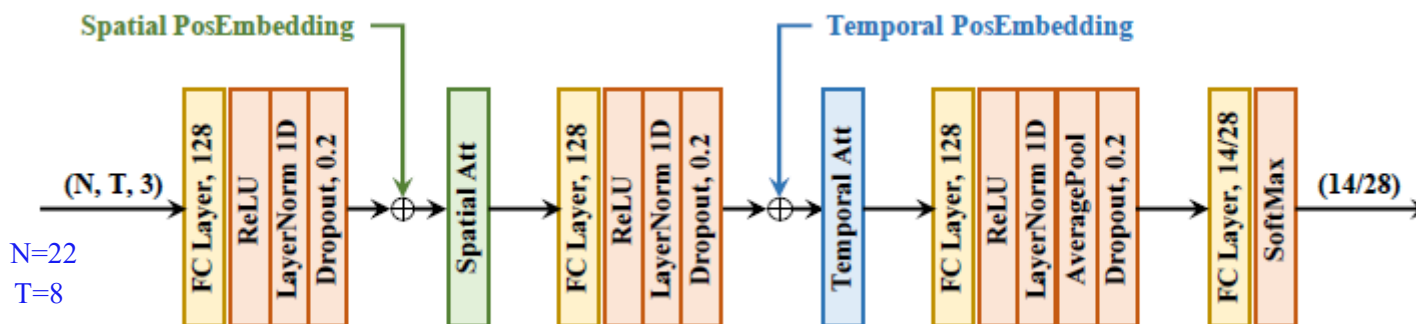


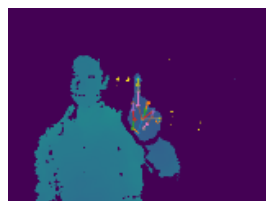
Fig 3. The network architecture of the proposed DG-STA

# Datasets

- DHG-14/28 & SHREC'17 Track (HPE의 MSRA dataset (21joints) 과 유사)
  - ✓ Intel Realsense camera / 640 x 480 해상도 / 30 fps / gesture 길이 20~ 50 frames
  - ✓ 14 개 gesture sequence / 28명 참가자 1~10회 수행 / 2800 sequences
  - ✓ 2D depth image & 3D world space 22개 joints 포함
  - ✓ Two configurations : one single finger & whole hand
  - ✓ DHG-14/28 dataset은 test dataset이 없음
    - leave-one-subject-out cross-validation strategy 사용 (20개 subjects)
  - ✓ 14 gestures (w/o single finger configuration) / 28 gestures (both configurations)



Tap



Swipe Left



# Experiments

- Ablation study

- ✓ 3 major components :

- 1) Fully-Connected skeleton graph structure (FSG) : Sparse skeleton graph structure (SSG)와 비교

- ST-GCN [1] 처럼 spatial edge를 natural hand joints connection로 정의
- temporal edges도 연속 frame들의 같은 joints 간 연결

- 2) spatial-temporal attention model (STA) : GAT [2] 로 downgrade

- spatial-temporal 구분 없이 one attention module로 전체 graph에 적용

- 3) spatial-temporal position embedding (STE) : STE 미 적용 실험

- STE로 encod되는 identity 와 temporal order informatio의 중요성을 보여줌

- ✓ proposed method (FSG+STA+STE) achieves the best performance

Setting	FSG+STA	FSG+ <u>GAT</u> +STE	<u>SSG</u> +STA+STE	DG-STA
14 Gestures (D)	84.3	90.8	89.8	91.9
28 Gestures (D)	77.3	87.8	86.6	88.0
14 Gestures (S)	88.9	92.7	91.5	94.4
28 Gestures (S)	80.1	86.2	87.7	90.7

Table 1. Ablation study of accuracy (%) on the DHG-14/28 (D) and SHREC'17 Dataset (S)



# Experiments

- Comparison with previous methods
  - ✓ hand-crafted feature / deep learning based approach / a graph-based method 등과 비교
  - ✓ hand의 dynamics와 structures 를 활용할 수 있는 제안 방법과 ST-GCN이 outperform함
  - ✓ Proposed method achieves the state-of-the-arts performance

Method	14 Gestures	28 Gestures
SoCJ+HoHD+HoWR [8]	83.1	80.0
Chen <i>et al.</i> [5]	84.7	80.3
CNN+LSTM [21]	85.6	81.1
Res-TCN [13]	86.9	83.6
STA-Res-TCN [13]	89.2	85.0
ST-GCN [39]	91.2	87.1
✓ DG-STA (Ours)	<b>91.9</b>	<b>88.0</b>

Table 2: Comparisons of accuracy (%) on DHG-14/28 Dataset.

Method	14 Gestures	28 Gestures
Oreifej <i>et al.</i> [26]	78.5	74.0
Devanne <i>et al.</i> [10]	79.4	62.0
Classify Sequence by Key Frames [9]	82.9	71.9
Ohn-Bar <i>et al.</i> [25]	83.9	76.5
SoCJ+Direction+Rotation [7]	86.9	84.2
SoCJ+HoHD+HoWR [8]	88.2	81.9
Caputo <i>et al.</i> [2]	89.5	-
Boulahia <i>et al.</i> [1]	90.5	80.5
Res-TCN [13]	91.1	87.3
STA-Res-TCN [13]	93.6	<b>90.7</b>
ST-GCN [39]	92.7	87.7
✓ DG-STA (Ours)	<b>94.4</b>	<b>90.7</b>

Table 3: Comparisons of accuracy (%) on SHREC'17 Track Dataset.

# Conclusion

- Skeleton-based hand-gesture recognition 방법
- Graph-based spatial-temporal attention method를 사용
- Fully-connected skeleton graph를 활용하여 edge weight 학습과 시공간 정보 추출
- 가장 좋은 성능을 보이며 skeleton-based human action recognition 사용 가능
- HPE(좌표 추정) + DHGR(분류): 카메라 입력으로부터 제스처 인식까지 통합 진행 중

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Thank You

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