

YOGA ASANAS RECOGNITION APP

PIETRO SCABELLONE

Researcher

INTRODUCTION:

Yoga as an as requires a mindful focus on body alignment and breathing. Yoga sessions usually include a series of pose transitions.

A constant practice refines known asanas and enables new postures to mature.

The presented iOS app aims to allow beginners to assess the shape of the asanas and to improve over time. (However, the yogin should separately control breath, mind, and inner feelings.)

During yogin's practice, the app collects data and images of body position and autonomously organizes them for later assessment.

Before starting her practice, the yogin points the camera to the practice area. Then, during her asana flow:

The app tracks the yogin in the physical environment and visualizes their motion by applying the same body movements to a scaled 1:1 virtual character. At this stage, the yogin can optionally pause the virtual character and tour with the camera in an Augmented Reality scene to examine the cloned pose

1. While practicing, the yogin remotely takes a snap shot of her asana.
2. For each snap, the app collects time and 3D body position data, together with the picture of the asana.

3. Collected data feed them a machine learning model for asana recognition. The model runs within the Turi Create framework and applies deep learning tools to accomplishing the image classification task. For the training step, the model takes advantage of an ad-hoc dataset of (3D data + images) optimal postures.

4. The app takes milliseconds for classifying the posture. The images are then duly organized by both asana and time.
5. Once ended the practice, the yogin can compare poses of the same asanas over time. The app also contains an innovative but simple tool for posture comparison.

The app implements the body recognition feature introduced by Apple during WWDC 2019

(session 609). It differentiates from others for the presence of a virtual character in an Augmented Reality scene, for the possibility of freely setting a selection of asanas, and for remotely taking pictures with a voice command.

The next improvements will affect the speech recognition feature (step 2) and the enlargement of the optimal posture dataset (step 4).

BIOGRAPHY:

Pietro Scabellone Pietro Scabellone is an independent researcher in the field of applied artificial intelligence, with a comprehensive data science experience leading to an aptitude for integrating computer vision and deep learning. Pietro is passionate about autonomous driving and related fields, such as body recognition and image segmentation. Pietro has been a mentor and project reviewer of the Udacity's Self-Driving Car Engineer Nanodegree, providing students with actionable and personalized feedback. He has also worked at the Italian Banking Association (ABI) as Head of both the Analytics and Impact Assessment Departments. The main tasks of the Departments being delivering studies based on economic modeling and network analysis. Pietro has additional experience as a Visiting Professor of Statistics and Senior Financial Analyst.

