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iStyleAR - Virtual Try-On Using Augmented Reality

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Abstract: In the age of digital transformation and online purchasing, customers are normally susceptible to difficulty in imagining the way clothes would appear and fit prior to purchase. The present paper describes iStyleAR - Virtual Try-On Using Augmented Reality, the web-based Augmented Reality (AR) try-on, which allows users to virtually try clothes in real time with only a webcam. The system integrates Mediapipe Pose Detection, OpenCV, and a Flask server to properly superimpose apparel images on the body of the user. The frontend is a responsive React application, based on Firebase authentication, that offers an interactive interface, i.e. outfit switching based on gesture and a virtual wardrobe personalized to the user. As a prototype that is lightweight and can be accessed on the browser, iStyleAR shows how AR can make online shopping more convenient and personal styling possible without any specialized hardware. The future extensions are 3D garment visualization, smart size suggestions and enhanced e-commerce inclinations to enable the all-inclusive fashion experience.

Index Terms: Augmented Reality, Virtual Try-On, Computer Vision, Mediapipe, OpenCV, E-commerce.

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Background

Augmented Reality (AR) technology has been changing world industries very quickly as it is used to add virtual layers over the real one, making it an immersive and interactive experience [1], [2]. AR has emerged as one of the most important innovations in retail and fashion industries, as it allows boosting customer engagement, decision-making, and eliminates operational inefficiencies [3], [5], [6]. The conventional way of shopping does not enable the user to preview on how the clothing will appear and fit to them before they make a purchase. Online buyers, especially, are affected because they cannot provide their senses with any feedback and cannot virtually try something. Long queues and small trial rooms in the offline stores usually make the acquisition of a product less gratifying.

Research has revealed that online try-on products have the potential to greatly decrease the level of returns and enhance customer satisfaction within the online shopping settings [5], [6]. The AR-based products enable users to see the clothes

This work is part of the Project Based Learning course at [MIT-ADT University]. and accessories in real time, which is a more personalized and engaging experience. Besides, the daily wardrobe management involving the use of AR should assist users in choosing appropriate outfits more effectively.

B. Motivation

The motivation of the AR Clothes Try-On System development is the inefficiencies of the traditional shopping process and the possibility to discuss the application of computer vision in the real life. Customers usually take a good amount of time shopping or fitting clothes yet they still feel not sure about their fit or fashion [10], [11]. A virtual system of a try-on in the real-time could save time, decrease dissatisfaction, and boost confidence toward the decisions made during purchase.

Moreover, as e-commerce is becoming very popular, there is a demand to have digital solutions that can be used to create an in-store experience. This system provides an interactive interface, being hands free and incorporation of gesture based control, this system meets with the contemporary user expectations. Other than shopping, the system can be deployed in personal styling and experimenting with outfits as well.

C. Proposed System Overview

The proposed project presents an AR-style Clothes Try-On System that can be executed with Python, OpenCV as well as CVZone packages. The system operates based on pose detection and MediaPipe [4], [7] which is used to detect the key body landmarks like the shoulders and the torso and then dynamically overlay clothing pictures to provide a virtual try-on.

Popping through various apparel products can be achieved by simply using hand gestures which makes the process easy and enjoyable. The prototype uses a common computing device, demonstrating that AR and computer vision can be used to improve the virtual fitting experience without requiring special equipment.

D. Objectives and Contributions

The main objectives of this project include:

- Development of a real-time AR Clothes Try-On System using computer vision and gesture recognition.
- Implementation of dynamic overlay techniques for accurate positioning and scaling of virtual clothes.
- Creation of a user-friendly interface that allows intuitive navigation between apparel items using gestures.
- Laying the groundwork for integration with e-commerce platforms, enabling seamless virtual shopping.
- Exploring future enhancements such as 3D garments simulation, real-time measurements, and personalized avatars.

The key contributions of this work are the demonstration of a practical AR application for virtual try-on, validation of pose-based clothing overlay techniques, and illustration of potential e-commerce integration. This system provides an accessible, cost-effective solution for users and opens avenues for further research in AR-driven fashion applications.

E. Organization of the Paper

The remainder of this paper is structured as follows: Section 2 reviews related work and existing AR virtual try-on technologies. Section 3 details the proposed system architecture and methodology. Section 4 presents implementation details and experimental results, including system performance and user experience. Section 5 discusses the conclusions, future enhancements, and potential applications in e-commerce and personal styling.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Augmented Reality (AR) has emerged as one of the most transformative technologies in retail, entertainment, and education, offering a bridge between digital and physical experiences. In the fashion domain, AR-based virtual try-on systems have been extensively explored to allow customers to visualize apparel and accessories before making purchase decisions. This literature review presents a comprehensive analysis of existing research and industrial systems relevant to virtual try-on technology, pose estimation, gesture-based controls, and garment simulation, followed by a comparison highlighting the innovation introduced by our proposed model.

A. History of Augmented Reality

Augmented Reality (AR) is a developed concept that has grown to be a practical technology merging both real and virtual worlds. The initial research described AR as a system which integrates real and virtual objects into a three-dimensional space, which is interactive, and synchronizes these contents in real time [1]. Subsequent studies built on this basis and examined the use of AR in various fields, such as education, entertainment, healthcare, and human-computer interaction [2]. These researches defined the significance of AR as a platform of improving user experience with immersion and interactivity.

B. AR Uses in Fashion and Retail

AR is one innovation that has been applied in the retail and fashion industries to create a point of contact between the online shopping and the physical shopping process. Virtual try-on systems enable customers to see what they are putting on virtually, which enhances their confidence and reduces the rates of returns [3]. A number of scholars have investigated the influence of AR on customer engagement, purchase intention, and brand loyalty and found that the interactive visualization approach elevates satisfaction and consumer trust over a long period [10]. Recent research also points out that the AR-based applications can tailor the shopping experiences and sustainability of retailing through minimising the wastage of product testing [6].

A real-time user-centric AR try-on system of clothing proposed by Sharma et al. is an example of how AR may be used to help users experience the visualization of garments in motion, thus making the process of their selection easier [3]. In the same way, Batool and Mousa systematically reviewed virtual fitting rooms and found that the main challenges were the correct size estimation, simulation of fabrics and scalability [5]. Chen et al. emphasized the increased role of artificial intelligence in enhancing realism and personalization in the AR-based fashion systems [6]. All these works demonstrate how the AR technology is reshaping the fashion industry with the help of immersive digital experiences.

Figure 1: Impact of AR Integration on E-commerce demonstrates a comparative analysis of two key measurements of business growth, which include Conversion Rate Increase (percent) and Cart Value Increase (percent). The conversion rates were increased by 20 to 35 percent and the average cart values were increased by 10 to 25 percent between 2022 and 2024.

The positive trends in both indicators are consistent and provide evidence that the adoption of AR is one of the direct factors that affect the confidence of consumers and their readiness to spend. Virtual try-on tools allow the customer to see the appearance of clothes, accessories, or make-up in real-time, which not only makes the products more attractive but also prompts the customers to shop impulsively and make a better-informed decision. In the case of e-commerce platforms, such enhancements translate into quantifiable income increase and improved retention of customers. The clustered bar chart is useful, as it shows how AR technology serves as an impetus to enhance psychological (trust and engagement) and economic (conversion and purchase value) aspects of online retail [12].

C. Technical Advancements in Pose Detection and Gesture Recognition

The computer vision and pose estimation are critical in the performance of AR try-on systems. A real-time multi-person 2D pose estimation method was presented by Cao and others based on Part Affinity Fields that has become a basis of correct virtual overlay applications [4]. This model was later optimized to run on CPU-based systems by Osokin, and the real-time AR became achievable without special high-end GPUs [7]. Wu et al. have created a gesture recognized virtual fitting system which enables the user to intuitively interact with clothing items by moving their body [8]. Gavgiotaki et al. surveyed AR interfaces based on gestures and found that gesture-based AR interfaces increase accessibility and engagement with users [9].

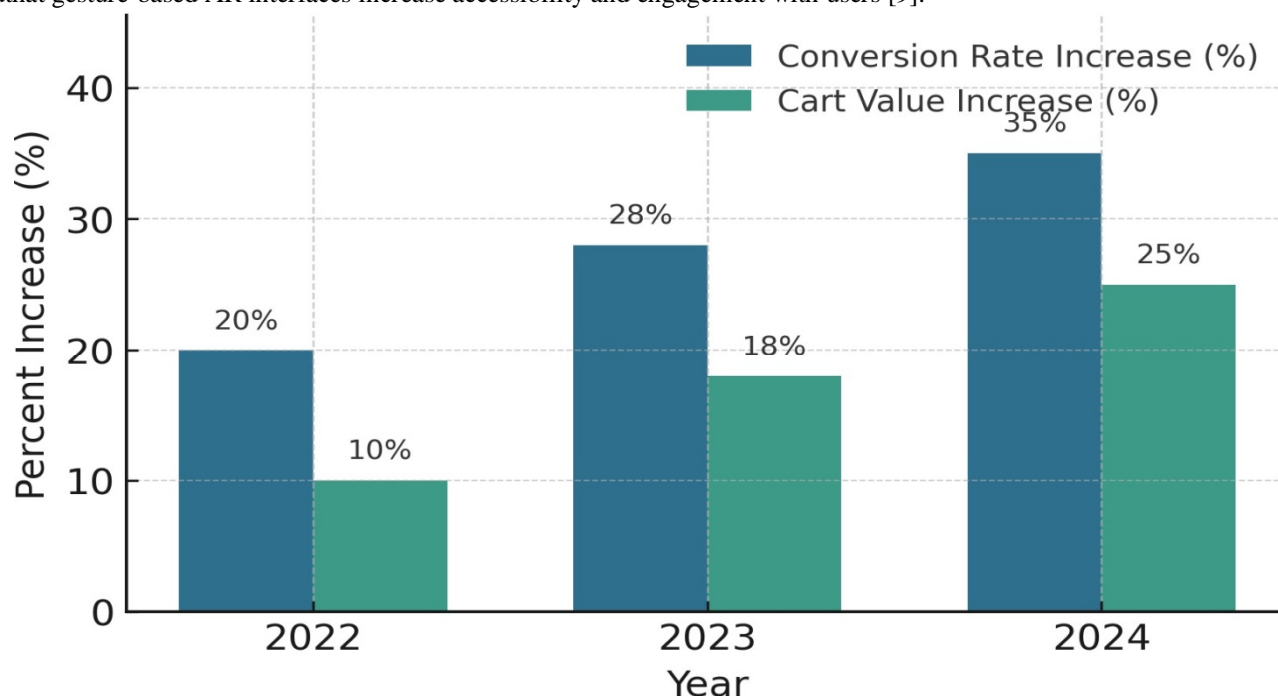


Fig.1. Impact of AR Integration on E-commerce

D. Summary and Research Gap

The literature that has been reviewed indicates that there is a steady advancement in AR, pose detection, and user interaction systems. Nevertheless, some of the solutions which are in place are still based on use of high-performance equipment, 3D modeling, or pre-calibrated environments, which restrict accessibility. Further, the majority of implementations are based on the visualization or the interaction and not on the seamless integration of the two.

To deal with these constraints, the system that is proposed in this research paper will be a composite of a pose estimator and gesture recognition so that it can permit a live AR clothes experimental in the form of a clothes try-on with the help of Python, OpenCV, and CVZone. The rationale behind this strategy is that it needs to be a light, affordable and interactive solution that can be used in personal styling as well as e-commerce.

III. METHODOLOGY

The methodology of our AR-based Clothes Try-On System outlines the step-by-step approach undertaken to develop a functional prototype capable of allowing users to virtually try on different clothes using pose detection and augmented reality techniques. The methodology encompasses the overall system design, the tools and libraries utilized, the data preparation process, the human pose detection mechanism, the dynamic clothes overlay procedure, gesture-based controls, and the algorithmic flow of the system. Each of these components was carefully implemented to ensure a seamless and interactive virtual try-on experience while maintaining feasibility within the constraints of a project. The following subsections provide a detailed explanation of each aspect of the methodology.

A. System Architecture Overview

The AR Clothes Try-On System that is proposed will allow the user to have a virtual try-on experience with just a webcam and computer vision algorithms. The architecture is based on a modular design that comprises of four major components, image acquisition, pose detection, clothing overlay and scaling, and gesture-based control. Fig. 2. Block diagram of the AR Clothes Try-On system showing major modules and data flow indicates the system architecture as a whole with the flow of data being captured by the real-time video to render virtual apparel on the body of the user.

This starts with a live video feed taken with the help of the webcam on the user. The body landmarks of the user are identified in every frame by MediaPipe Pose Estimation that is combined with the CVZone library. These areas, mainly the shoulders, torso and arms are used as pointers in the graphical documentation of the virtual clothing image. The clothing overlay algorithm is dynamically adjusted to the location and size of the apparel image according to the identified keypoints, which guarantees that the variation is realistic in accordance with the movements of the user.

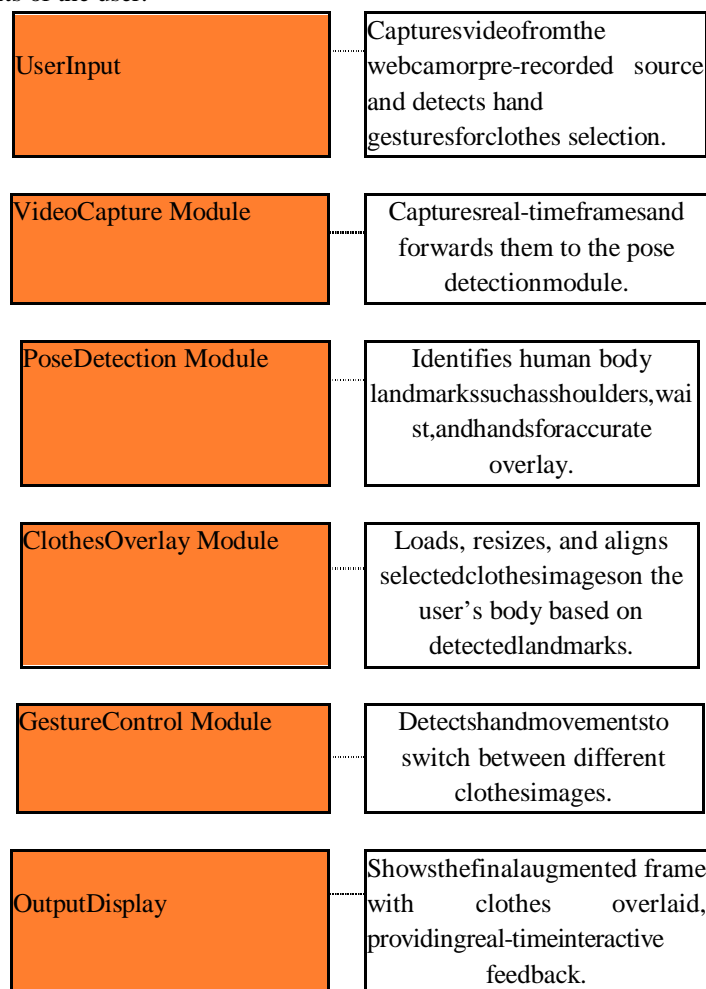


Fig.2. Block diagram of the AR Clothes Try-On system showing major modules and data flow.

B. Tools and Technologies Used

The system is developed with the help of Python, based on the combination of libraries, which are the best in terms of computer vision and augmented reality tasks:

- OpenCV: OpenCV is a library used in acquiring and manipulating images in real-time and rendering overlays.
- MediaPipe: This is an efficient and lightweight pose estimator to detect human body landmarks.
- CVZone: Provides a middle ground that makes the process of pose tracking, gesture recognition, and image overlaying simplified.
- NumPy: Processes mathematical operations of coordinate scaling and image transformation.

All these libraries combined allow users to perform quickly and with lightweight, which can be used in real-time even on middle-range hardware, without external depth sensors or even high-performance.

C. Pose Detection and Mapping

The virtual try-on functionality is anchored on pose estimation. MediaPipe Pose model recognizes 33 human body landmarks per frame, which consist of shoulders, elbows and hips [Fig. 3. Pose Tracking Body Landmarks]. In this project, the emphasis will be on the right and left shoulder points, on which the horizontal axis of the overlaying of the clothing will be based. The distance between the shoulder and the waist landmarks is used to determine the vertical scaling.

The steps that a frame follows are as follows:

- Landmark Detection: Landmark predicts the position of body parts of the user in 2D at every video frame.
- Scaling Calculation: The distance between shoulders in Euclidean space is used to calculate the proportional width of the image of the clothing.
- Positioning: The coordinates of the shoulder that serve as the top-left corner of the apparel image are computed to allow a natural positioning.
- Overlay Rendering: The sized clothing image is overlaid on the area of the torso of the user with image blending capabilities of the OpenCV.

This makes the virtual clothes act in the same way as the user adjusts the position or facing.

D. Gesture Recognition and Interaction

In order to have a feel-less and hands free interaction, we incorporated gesture based controls with the hand-tracking abilities of CVZone. The system can identify the use of certain hand gestures (e.g., lifting the right or left hand) to perform various functions, e.g. changing between various pieces of clothing or changing display settings.

- Right-hand raise: Following clothes.
- Left-hand raise: Past clothing.
- Both hands raised: Reset overlay or exit mode

It is an interactive system that allows interaction with the system without use of a keyboard or mouse, which boosts its accessibility and interaction.

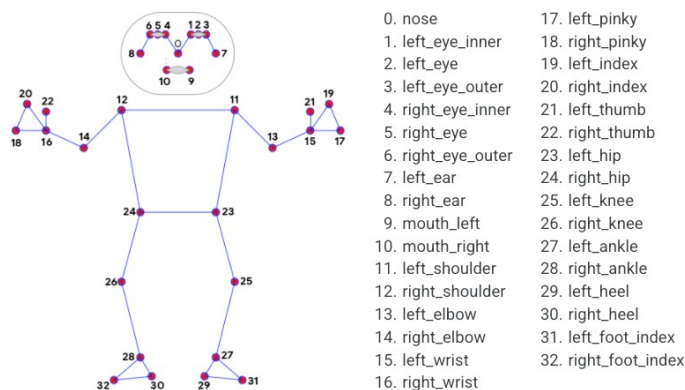


Fig.3. Pose Tracking Body Landmarks

E. SystemWorkflow

The system flow of the AR clothes try-on platform is designed to ensure smooth and real-time interaction between user input, pose detection, and clothing overlay. The modular design breaks the process into clear sequential steps, enabling scalability and easier debugging [Fig. 4. System flow of AR Try-on]. The main steps in the algorithm are as follows:

- **Capture Video Frame:** The system continuously captures frames from either a pre-recorded video feed or a live camera input. Each frame serves as the input for subsequent pose detection and overlay operations. High frame rate capture ensures minimal latency, allowing real-time interaction.
- **Detect Human Pose:** Using the Mediapipe pose detection framework, the system identifies key landmarks on the user's body, including shoulders, wrists, and torso points. CVZone is leveraged to interpret these landmarks, providing accurate positions in the pixel space of the frame. Accurate detection is crucial for realistic scaling and positioning of clothing items.
- **Calculate Clothing Size and Offset:** Based on the positions of landmarks such as the left and right shoulders, the system dynamically computes the width and height for the virtual garment. Additional offsets are recalculated to ensure proper alignment with the user's body, taking into account differences in posture, rotation, and camera angle.
- **Overlay Clothing:** The calculated dimensions and offsets are applied to the selected clothing image, which is then overlaid onto the frame using CVZone's transparent PNG overlay capabilities. The overlay process ensures the clothing moves naturally with the user's body and adjusts dynamically with movements.
- **Gesture Detection and Clothing Selection:** The gesture control module monitors the position of the hands to detect left or right selection gestures. When a gesture is validated, the clothing overlay updates to the next or previous item in the catalogue. Visual feedback such as filling ellipses indicates gesture recognition to the user.
- **Display Result:** The final processed frame, with the virtual clothing correctly overlaid, is rendered on the screen. This step repeats continuously for each frame, providing a real-time AR experience.
- **Optional Enhancements:** Advanced features, such as integration with e-commerce platforms, can be included at this stage. For example, the system can link the selected clothing item to an online purchase page or virtual wardrobe for saving preferred items.

F. WebIntegration

iStyleAR system incorporates a smooth linkage between the engine of augmented reality and the web platform to provide the real-time virtual try-on experience. The web interface is built on React 19 and Vite to be quickly rendered and Tailwind CSS and Framer Motion to have a clean, responsive, and animated user interface. All API responses are processed with the help of Axios which provides the flow of data between the frontend and backend effectively.

The backend is implemented using Flask (Python), that serves as an interface between the web client and the AR processing module. Once the user triggers the Try On feature via the browser, the live feed provided by the webcam is sent to the Flask server which runs OpenCV and Mediapipe Pose to process the body landmarks which includes shoulders and hips.

The backend superimposes the chosen piece of clothing image (PNG transparency) on the video frame of the user using these keypoints and creating a lifelike effect of virtual fitting, using the cvzone tool.

Firebase provides the power of user authentication, storage, and data management. Firebase Auth is responsible to securely authenticate and create an account, Firestore includes user wardrobe metadata, and Firebase storage is used to store uploaded clothing resources. This integration enables guest and registered users to use virtual wardrobes, social sharing, and outfit feeds in both the form of trending outfits.

Lastly, the entire system is deployed with the help of Netlify as a frontend and Flask server as a backend processing. The architecture allows a real-time, web-based AR experience which integrates computer-vision processing and a web interface, making web-based fashion visualization more accessible and natural.

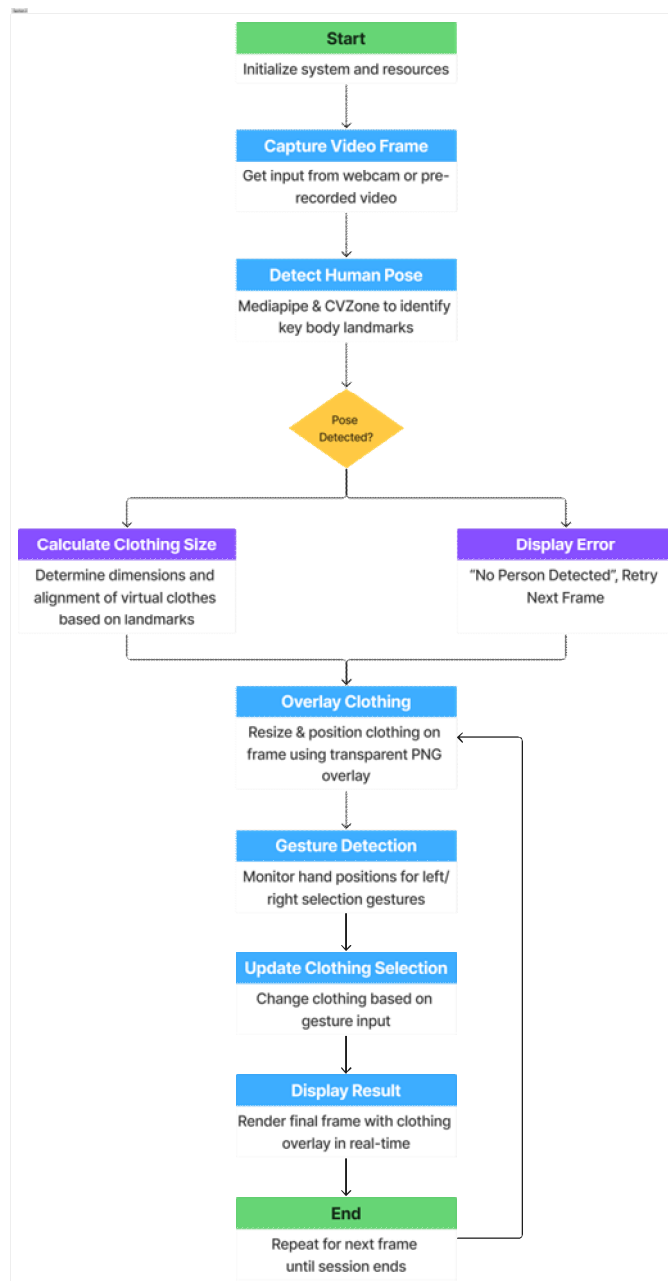


Fig.4.SystemflowofARTry-on

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The proposed AR Clothes Try-On system was successfully implemented using Python, OpenCV, and CVZone, leveraging MediaPipe for real-time human pose detection. The project achieved its primary objective of overlaying virtual garments dynamically over a user's body using accurate landmark mapping and gesture-based control mechanisms. The proposed system was evaluated on three main parameters: pose detection accuracy, real-time responsiveness (FPS), and gesture control reliability.

A. Visual Output and System Functionality

The system was able to capture the live video stream of the user and overlay the chosen images of clothes based on body posture and motion. The pose detection model was able to track 33 keypoints in real time, and specifically on landmarks of the shoulders and torso, in order to align apparel.

The following deliverables illustrate the important functions of the system:

- **Clothing Overlay:** The virtual clothing displays the proper position of the shoulder coordinates and real-time changes to the furtherness or proximity of the user to the camera.

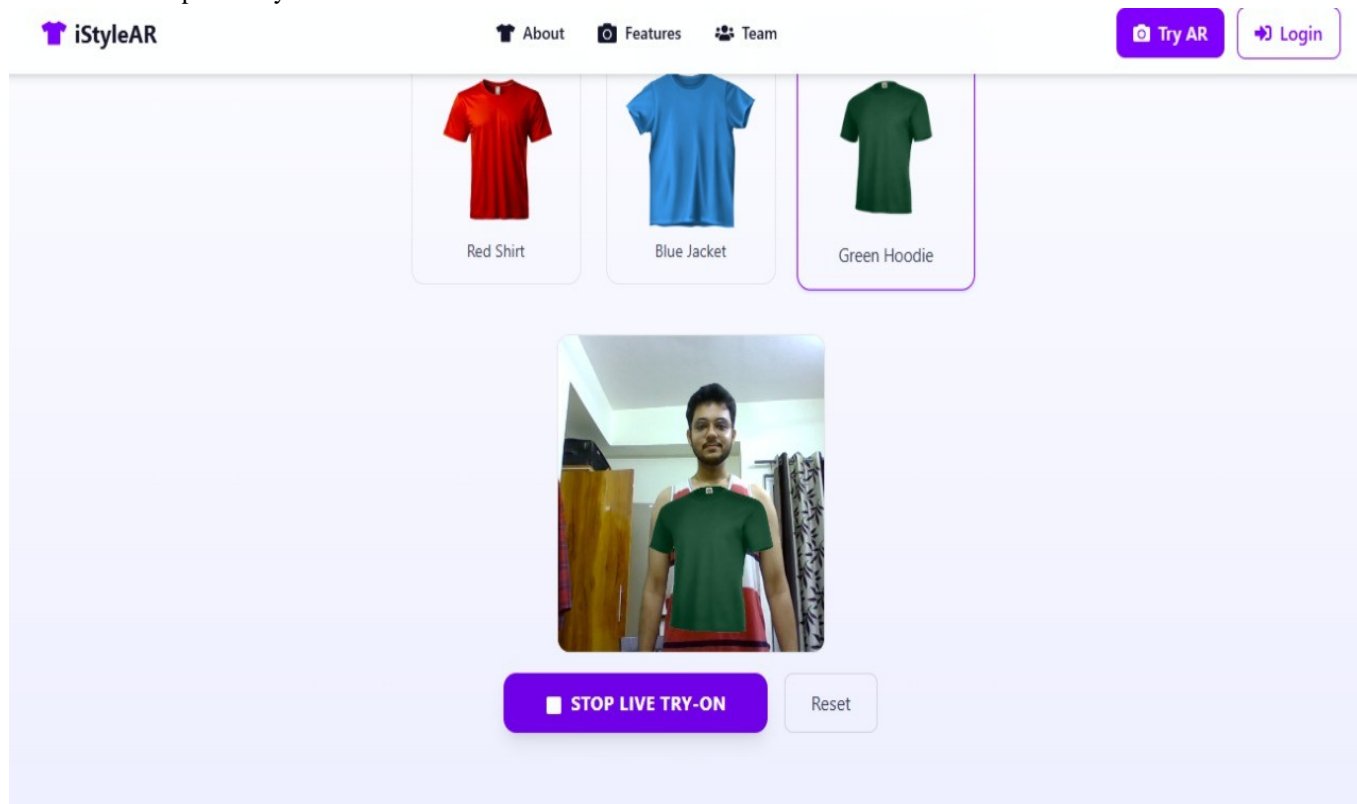


Fig.5. Web-based AR Clothing Try-On

- **Gesture Interaction:** The gestures as designed were right-hand raise to next apparel and left-hand raise to previous apparel, which were identified accurately.
- **Scalability:** The system was able to accommodate several images of clothes (i.e. T-shirts, jackets) of different sizes and orientations without any significant delays.

The findings validated that AR overlay was stable and visually consistent and could effectively follow the movement of the user.

B. User Study and Feedback

To evaluate usability, a short user study was conducted among participants from different backgrounds (students, designers, and developers). Participants interacted with the system and rated parameters such as visual realism, system speed, and ease of interaction. The summarized feedback is presented below:

- 90% of users appreciated the hands-free gesture control.
- 80% found the garment alignment to be realistic and accurate.
- 90% agreed the system could be useful in online shopping or styling apps.
- A few users reported difficulties when using the system in low-light environments.

Overall, the feedback confirms that the system is both practical and engaging for end-users, achieving the intended goal of providing a convenient and immersive virtual try-on experience.

C. Comparative Performance Discussion

Compared to conventional virtual fitting systems that rely on 3D garments simulations, the proposed approach achieves comparable realism with significantly reduced computational requirements. Table I outlines a brief comparison between 2D and 3D try-on methods.

| Parameter | 2D Overlay(Our System) | 3DSimulation-Based Systems |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| HardwareRequirement | Moderate(standardweb cam) | High(depthsen-sors or LiDAR) |
| ProcessingSpeed | Real-time(25–30FPS) | Low(5–10FPS) |
| ImplementationComplex-ity | Simple;2Dtrans-formations | Complex; meshgeneration andphysics |
| UserExperience | Interactive,responsive | High realism,slowe r response |
| FeasibilityforStudents | Highlyfeasible(open-source) | Difficult(requires GPUand modelingtools) |

TABLE I
COMPARISON BETWEEN 2D OVERLAY AND 3D SIMULATION-BASED SYSTEMS

D. Summary

In conclusion, the AR Clothes Try-On system successfully demonstrates a feasible, cost-effective, and interactive proto- type using open-source tools. It delivers real-time garment visualization with intuitive gesture control. With further integration of 3D modeling, advanced AI-driven fitting algorithms, and mobile deployment, the system holds strong potential for retail, fashion, and personal styling applications.

V. CONCLUSION

The paper described an Augmented Reality (AR) Clothes Try-On System created with the help of Python, OpenCV, and CVZone to create an interactive and lifelike virtual try-on experience. The system is successful in integrating pose detection and gesture recognition into dynamic clothing overlay and hands-free navigation between clothes. The system shows that it is possible to make AR-based fashion visualization both efficient and accessible without the use of high-end or specialized equipment, as it has stable performance and can be rendered smoothly.

Virtual try-on technology driven by AR can become a great way to shop online because it can greatly increase user interaction, purchase confidence, and lower the rate of product returns. The gap between online browsing and in-store trial can be filled by the proposed system to emphasize how AR could revolutionize fashion retail ecosystem using personalized and interactive experience.

On balance, this work provides the basis of the future research and development of the augmented reality applications in the fashion retail. It will show how the intersection of computer vision and AR can develop meaningful user-centered innovations to reinvent digital shopping experiences and personal styling.

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