**MOTIVATION**

The system enables speech impaired individuals to communicate with individuals who are not familiar with American Sign Language (ASL).

**PRINCIPLE**

In this project, we provide an implementation to automatically recognize the static symbols of the American Sign Language (ASL). The method involves capturing a still image of the hand and applying feature extraction techniques to define feature vectors which relate to specific letters of the alphabet. The feature vectors used in this algorithm include fingertip count and certain properties of the polygon, which define the bounding box for the gesture. This algorithm is an improvisation over the existing techniques which require additional equipment such as data acquisition gloves. This implementation, to a certain extent, is independent of the subject.

**FUTURE WORK**

The system can be further augmented to interpret complex hand gestures so that it can recognize words instead of individual letters.