






Article

# Pattern Recognition Techniques for the Identification of Activities of Daily Living Using a Mobile Device Accelerometer

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**Abstract:** The application of pattern recognition techniques to data collected from accelerometers available in off-the-shelf devices, such as smartphones, allows for the automatic recognition of activities of daily living (ADLs). This data can be used later to create systems that monitor the behaviors of their users. The main contribution of this paper is to use artificial neural networks (ANN) for the recognition of ADLs with the data acquired from the sensors available in mobile devices. Firstly, before ANN training, the mobile device is used for data collection. After training, mobile devices are used to apply an ANN previously trained for the ADLs' identification on a less restrictive computational platform. The motivation is to verify whether the overfitting problem can be solved using only the accelerometer data, which also requires less computational resources and reduces the energy expenditure of the mobile device when compared with the use of multiple sensors. This paper presents a method based on ANN for the recognition of a defined set of ADLs. It provides a comparative study of different implementations of ANN to choose the most appropriate method for ADLs identification. The results show the accuracy of 85.89% using deep neural networks (DNN).

**Keywords:** accelerometer; activities of daily living; mobile devices; sensors

## 1. Introduction

The accelerometer sensor commonly available in off-the-shelf mobile devices [1,2] measures the acceleration of the movement of the mobile device, enabling the recognition of activities of daily living (ADLs) [3]. After the development and conception of a system architecture for the identification of

ADLs, it could be, for example, integrated into the creation of a personal digital life coach [4], essential for the monitoring of elderly persons and persons with impairments, or for the training of certain lifestyles. The accelerometer enables the recognition of several motion activities, including running, walking on stairs, walking, and standing. Following the previous research studies [5–8], several steps are incorporated in the recognition of ADLs, including data acquisition, data processing, data cleaning, feature extraction, data fusion, and data classification.

Several authors studied the automatic recognition of ADLs [9–14]; artificial neural networks (ANN) were widely used [15,16]. The accelerometer was used for the identification of ADLs while comparing some implementations of ANN with different frameworks, such as the multilayer perception (MLP) with Neuroph [17] and Encog [18] frameworks, and the deep neural network (DNN) method with the DeepLearning4j [19] framework. The authors aimed to find the model that achieves the best accuracy in recognition of running, walking, walking downstairs, walking upstairs, and standing. These five ADLs were selected based on the literature review, wherein different studies reported reliable results for these activities, to allow the comparison with the method implemented in this research. The use of data acquired from the accelerometer sensor fused with the data retrieved from the magnetometer and gyroscope sensors is available in the literature [20]. This paper attempts to use different datasets of features with only the accelerometer data that should be analyzed to define the best combination of features. The main objective of this paper is to explore the use of different sets of features obtained using the accelerometer with the same datasets acquired for the previous study. After the comparison performed in [20] about the use of data fusion from the data acquired from the accelerometer, magnetometer, and gyroscope sensors, we verified that one of the major problems is related to the overfitting obtained during the training phase of the ANN.

The frameworks presented in this study were used in the study [20] to verify which the best methods are for the recognition of ADLs using the sensors available in the mobile device. Despite the disadvantages of achieving poor accuracy, MLP implemented with Neuroph and Encog frameworks still have the benefit of the adaption of the low resources of the mobile devices, because these methods need less power processing and memory capabilities than the DNN method implemented with DeepLearning4j. Therefore, the primary motivation of this paper is to verify whether the overfitting problem can be solved using only the accelerometer data. Additionally, the authors aim to verify the accuracy of the proposed method using only one sensor and a smaller number of features for the training of the ANN, in order to use fewer computational resources and reduce the energy expenditure of the mobile device when compared with the use of multiple sensors.

Thus, the main contribution of this paper is to perform a comparison of three different architectures of ANN methods using only the accelerometer data to verify whether the overfitting problems are avoided. This paper presents the use of ANN for ADLs recognition with the data acquired from mobile sensors. In addition, it also presents a comparative study of different implementations to find the most accurate method.

This paper is structured as follows: Section 2 presents work related to the identification of ADLs using the accelerometer sensor. Section 3 describes the steps used for the recognition of ADLs using the accelerometer sensor. Section 4 presents the discussion and results obtained during the research. Finally, Section 5 consists of the presentation of the conclusions regarding the results obtained.

## 2. Related Work

Several methods can be used for the automatic classification of ADLs with the data acquired from the accelerometer sensor available in the off-the-shelf mobile devices [3,21]. Numerous studies in this field are presented in the literature. Therefore, it is not possible to include them all in this document. Table 1 presents an analysis of 43 studies conducted on ADLs recognition using accelerometer data. The studies were selected according to the following criteria: (1) use of smartphones for data collection; (2) the features being clearly defined; (3) the methods being clearly defined; (4) the accuracy levels being presented. These studies are available in multiple databases such as MDPI, Springer, and ACM

collected using the Google Scholar portal. Still, the vast majority have been found in the IEEE Xplore library. Following the different works analyzed, the methods that reported the best accuracies for the recognition between 1 and 8 ADLs are the different types of ANN, including MLP and DNN methods, using statistical features.

The studies presented in Table 1 reported that the most recognized ADLs with reported average accuracies high than 85% are walking, standing, walking upstairs, walking downstairs, and running. Therefore, these activities are considered in the proposed method. In total, 31 studies use smartphones located in the user's pocket. However, some studies also located the smartphone around the waist, forearm, and wrist. Moreover, some studies combine the use of smartphones with other wearable sensors.

The ADLs recognition indicates an average accuracy between 87.93% and 88.80% using different methods. In addition, the ADLs reporting better accuracies in the analyzed studies are walking, standing, walking upstairs, walking downstairs, and running. In total, 91% (N = 39) of the analyzed papers support walking recognition reporting an average accuracy of 88.80%. The standing activity is included in 29 studies which represent 67% of our literature review and provide an average accuracy of 88.65%. Walking upstairs and downstairs activities are supported by 25 (58%) and 23 (53%) studies, respectively. The first reports an average accuracy of 85.88% and the second reports an average accuracy of 85.5%. Finally, the running activity is assessed by 42% (N = 18) of the evaluated studies and reports 87.93% average accuracy.

Regarding the ADLs recognized in the analyzed studies, the mean, standard deviation, maximum, minimum, correlation, variance, and median are the most used features in the literature. In total, 86% (N = 37) of the analyzed papers use the mean feature, reporting an average accuracy of 85.74%. The standard deviation feature is included in 30, representing 70% of the evaluated papers, and provides an average accuracy of 86.70%. The maximum and minimum values are included in 19 (44%) and 17 (40%) studies, respectively. The maximum feature reports an average accuracy of 87.47%, and the minimum feature reports 88.50%. The median and correlation features are used in 10 studies (23%) each and report average accuracies of 87.44% and 91.52%, respectively. Eight studies include the variance as a feature for ADLs recognition reporting an average accuracy of 90.15%.

The implementations that reported an accuracy higher than 88% are ANN, multi-column bidirectional long short-term memory (MBLSTM), Bayesian network, and random forest methods, reporting an average accuracy between 88.65% and 91.29%. In total, 40% (N = 17) of the analyzed papers use ANN methods reporting the average accuracy of 91.29%. Eight studies propose the random forest for ADLs recognition, reporting 90.53% average accuracy. The MBLSTM method provides 89.4% average accuracy, and the Bayesian Network is used by three studies reporting an average accuracy of 88.65%.

In summary, the number of ADLs recognized with the different methods used, as well as the particular dataset, influenced the accuracies reported. The identification of a lesser amount of ADLs reported the best results in the literature. Following the ADLs and methods that reported the best results, our research is focused on the implementation of ANN for the recognition of five ADLs, including standing, walking, running, and walking upstairs and downstairs. These ADLs were selected for our implementation because they are the most recognized in the literature, reporting reliable accuracies.

**Table 1.** Summary of the studies available in the literature.

Study	Number of ADLs	ADLs Recognized	Features	Proposed Methods and Accuracy	Device Location
[22]	8	Standing; Sitting; Laying; Walking; Walking upstairs; Walking downstairs; Running; Nordic walking	Standard deviation; mean; maximum; minimum	73% (Majority Vote Naïve Bayes Nearest Neighbor algorithm (MVNBNN))	Smartphone located in trouser front pocket
[23]	3	Walking; running; walking upstairs	Mean; standard deviation; euclidean norm of mean; euclidean norm of the standard deviation; correlation values; 25th and 75th percentile values; frequency; amplitude; peak frequency; number of peak values	95% (KNN); 89% (Random Forest); 99% (SVM)	Smartphone in a pouch and located around waist
[24]	3	Slow walk; brisk walk; sitting	Mean; standard deviation; variance	90.9% (SVM)	Smartphone located in trouser front pocket
[25]	6	Standing; Sitting; Lying; Walking Upstairs; Walking Downstairs; Walking	Minimum; Maximum; Mean; Standard Deviation; SMA; Signal Vector Magnitude; Tilt Angle; Power Spectral Density (PSD); Signal Entropy; Spectral Energy	93.52% (Decision Tree); 69.72% (SVM); 87.2% (MLP)	Smartphone located in trouser pocket freely chosen by the user
[26]	4	walking downstairs; walking upstairs; walking; jogging	Mean; Variance; Standard Deviation; Maximum; Minimum; Correlation Coefficient; Mean Crossing Value; Peak; Spectral Energy; Power Spectral Density; Interquartile Range; DT-CWT	68.56% (SVM); 90.35% (Random Forest); 94.65% (MLP); 85.99% (J48 Decision Tree); 93.44% (KNN); 80.32% (Naive Bayes)	Smartphone located into the right jeans pocket
[27]	6	Sitting; standing; laying; walking; walking upstairs; walking downstairs	Mean; Standard deviation; Median absolute deviation; Maximum; Minimum; Signal magnitude area; Sum of the squares separated by the quantity of values; Interquartile range; Entropy; Autoregression coefficients; correlation coefficient; index of the frequency segment with biggest magnitude; Weighted average of the frequency segments to acquire a mean recurrence; skewness; kurtosis; Energy of a recurrence interval inside the 64 containers of the FFT of every window; Angle between two vectors	97.77% (Decision Tree); 89.99% (KNN); 95.55% (Naive Bayes); 100% (Random Forest); 95.55% (SVM)	Smartphone located on the waist

Table 1. Cont.

Study	Number of ADLs	ADLs Recognized	Features	Proposed Methods and Accuracy	Device Location
[28]	1	Walking	Maximum; Minimum; Mean; Range; RMS; Standard Deviation; Zero Crossing Rate; Kurtosis; Spectral Slope	97.80% (SVM); 97.64% (Random Forest); 97.64% (Logistic); 98.11% (MLP)	Smartphones located into users' pocket freely chosen by them
[29]	1	falling	average absolute acceleration variation; impact duration; maximum; peak duration; activity level of a window that contains the impact; average acceleration of free-fall stage; number of steps; skewness; kurtosis; interquartile range; power of the impact; standard variation of the impact; square of the highest coefficient; number of peaks	97.53% (KNN)	Not available
[30]	5	jogging; walking; sitting; laying down; standing	Mean; maximum; minimum; median; SMA; Median deviation; PCA; interquartile range	94.32% (SVM); 98.74% (MLP); 91.10% (Naive Bayes); 99% (KNN); 98.80% (Decision Tree); 99.01% (kStar)	Smartphones located into users' pocket freely chosen by them
[31]	6	walking; standing; travel by car; travel by bus; travel by train; travel by metro	Mean; Median; Maximum; Minimum; RMS; standard deviation; interquartile range; minimum average; maximum average; maximum peak height; average peak height; entropy; FFT spectral energy; Skewness; kurtosis	95.6% (J48 Decision Tree); 92.4% (SMO); 61.9% (Naïve Bayes)	Smartphone in the pocket (not specified)
[32]	1	playing tennis	Mean; Variance; correlation	98.12% (Naïve Bayes); 99.61% (MLP); 99.91% (J48 Decision Tree); 100% (SVM)	Smartphone located on forearm and in the subject front pocket
[33]	1	playing fosball	Mean; Variance; Covariance; Energy; entropy	95% (MLP)	Smartphone located on pocket and smartwatch located on wrist
[34]	7	walking; jogging; walking upstairs; walking downstairs; standing; sitting; lying down	mean and standard deviation for each axis; bin distribution; heuristic measure of wave periodicity	90% (Random Forest)	Smartphone located in front pants pocket

Table 1. Cont.

Study	Number of ADLs	ADLs Recognized	Features	Proposed Methods and Accuracy	Device Location
[35]	5	walking; standing; running; walking upstairs; walking downstairs	Mean; Variance; quartiles	80% (Sliding-Window-based Hidden Markov Model (SW-HMM))	Smartphones located on belt, right jeans pocket, right arm, and right wrist
[36]	5	running; walking; sitting; walking upstairs; walking downstairs	Mean; Variance; standard deviation; median; maximum; minimum; RMS; zero crossing rate; skewness; kurtosis; spectral entropy	80% (SVM)	4 smartphones located in the left upper arm, the shirt-pocket, the jeans front pocket, and the behind jeans pocket
[37]	6	walking; walking upstairs; walking downstairs; sitting; standing; laying	Mean; standard deviation	83.55% (Hidden Markov Model Ensemble (HMME))	Smartphone located on the waist
[38]	4	walking; running; standing; sitting	Mean; Maximum; Minimum; Median; standard deviation	99% (MLP)	Smartphone located in the user's pants pocket
[13]	4	walking; running; standing; sitting	Mean; Minimum; Maximum; standard deviation	92% (Clustered KNN)	Smartphone located in the user's jeans pocket
[39]	4	walking; running; sitting; standing	Mean; Variance; bin distribution in time and frequency domain; FFT spectral energy; correlation of the magnitude	98.69% (Decision Tree)	Smartphone located in the user's trousers pocket
[40]	5	standing; walking; walking upstairs; walking downstairs; running	Mean; standard deviation; percentiles	92% (MLP)	Smartphone located at four locations: two front trousers pockets and two back trousers pockets
[41]	6	standing; sitting; walking upstairs; walking downstairs; walking; jogging	Dual-tree complex wavelet transform (DT-CWT) statistical information and orientation	76% (Random Forest); 73.8% (Instance-based learning (IBk)); 67.4% (J48 Decision Tree); 67.4% (J-Rip)	Smartphone located in the user's trousers pocket
[42]	6	walking downstairs; jogging; sitting; standing; walking upstairs; walking	Minimum; Maximum; Mean; standard deviation; zero crossing rate for each axis; correlation between axis	92.4% (J48 Decision Tree); 91.7% (MLP); 84.3% (Likelihood Ratio (LR))	Smartphone located in their front trousers leg pocket
[43]	7	walking; running; standing; sitting; lying; walking upstairs; walking downstairs	Mean; Minimum; Maximum; standard deviation	77% (DNN)	Smartphone located in the right pant pocket

Table 1. Cont.

Study	Number of ADLs	ADLs Recognized	Features	Proposed Accuracy	Methods and	Device Location
[44]	5	running; walking; standing; sitting; laying	Mean; Median; Maximum; Minimum; Root Mean Square (RMS); standard deviation; interquartile range; energy; entropy; skewness; kurtosis	99.5% (Decision Tree)		Smartphone located in the belt or in the trousers front pocket
[45]	4	walking; running; cycling; hopping	RMS; Variance; Correlation; energy	97.69% (SVM)		Smartphone located in the pants front pocket
[46]	3	walking upstairs; walking up on an escalator; walking on a ramp	mean, standard deviation, skewness, kurtosis, average absolute deviation, and pairwise correlation of the tree axis of accelerometer; mean of the resultant acceleration	80.59% (Decision Tables); 82.97% (J48 Decision Tree); 87.49% (Naïve Bayes); 89.20% (KNN); 87.86% (MLP)		Smartphone located in the right or left palms in front of the body
[47]	4	walking; cycling; running; standing	Mean; standard deviation; correlation; power spectral density	98% (Naïve Bayes); 83% (KNN); 95% (Decision Tree); 96% (SVM)		Smartphone located along the waist in the front pocket
[48]	5	standing; walking; running; walking upstairs; walking downstairs	Mean; Median; Variance; standard deviation; maximum; minimum; range; RMS; FFT coefficients; FFT spectral energy	88.32% (Decision Tree)		Smartphone located in different positions such as in the bag, trouser pocket and hands.
[49]	5	walking; sitting; standing; walking upstairs; walking downstairs	Mean; standard deviation; variance	92.44% (KNN); 90.77% (Decision Tree); 90.4% (rule-based learner (JRip)); 92.91% (MLP)		Smartphone located in the user's trouser pocket
[50]	6	walking; jogging; walking upstairs; walking downstairs; sitting; standing	energy and variances of the coefficients of discrete wavelet transform (DWT)	79.9% (Naïve Bayes); 82.3% (MLP)		Smartphone located on the upper crevice of a user's back
[51]	3	walking; jogging; running	number of peaks; number of troughs; difference between the maximum peak and the minimum trough; sum of all peaks and troughs	93.4% (J48 Decision Tree + Decision Table + Naïve Bayes)		Smartphone positioned on the palm, front trouser pocket, backpack, and top jacket pocket
[52]	1	walking	Mean; standard deviation	98% (MLP)		Smartphone located in the user's pocket



Table 1. Cont.

Study	Number of ADLs	ADLs Recognized	Features	Proposed Methods and Accuracy	Device Location
[53]	6	walking; jogging; walking upstairs; walking downstairs; sitting; standing	Mean; standard deviation; average absolute difference; average resultant acceleration; time between peaks; binned distribution	85.1% (J48 Decision Tree); 78.1% (logistic regression); 91.7% (MLP); 37.2% (Straw Man)	Smartphone located in the user's front pants leg pocket
[54]	5	walking; standing; sitting; walking upstairs; walking downstairs	mean, standard deviation and correlation of the raw data; energy of FFT; mean and standard deviation of the FFT components in the frequency domain	95.62% (Bayesian Network); 97.81% (Naïve Bayes); 99.27% (KNN); 93.53% (JRip)	Smartphone located in the user's right trouser pocket
[55]	5	walking; sitting; standing; walking upstairs; walking downstairs	Mean; standard deviation; variance; FFT energy; FFT information entropy	91.37% (Decision Tree); 94.29% (KNN); 84.42% (SMO)	Smartphone located in the user's trouser pocket
[56]	6	travel by car; travel by bus; travel by train; walking; travel by bike; standing	average speed; average acceleration; average bus closeness; average rail closeness; average candidate bus closeness	91.6% (Naïve Bayes); 92.5% (Bayesian Network); 92.2% (Decision Trees); 93.7% (Random Forest); 83.3% (MLP)	Smartphone located in the user's waist, arm, pocket, or bag
[57]	11	sleeping; eating; personal care; working; studying; household work; socializing; sports; hobbies; mass media; travel by car	average of acceleration; Mean Absolute Difference (MAD) of the acceleration	20.76% (SVM)	Smartphone located in the user's arm
[58]	11	walking; reading; lying down; standing; rearranging books; picking up golf or tennis balls; cycling; falling down; eating; washing hands	minimum; maximum; average; median; standard deviation; troughs and peaks of acceleration	72% (Hybrid model)	Smartphone located in the user's arm
[59]	5	walking; jogging; walking upstairs; walking downstairs; standing	mean value; mean absolute value; difference between maximum and minimum value; total value of absolute differences	96% (k-NN)	Smartphone located in the user's waist



Table 1. Cont.

Study	Number of ADLs	ADLs Recognized	Features	Proposed Methods and Accuracy	Device Location
[60]	6	standing; walking; walking upstairs; walking downstairs; running; hopping	FFT; 42-dimensional time domain features	72.62% (Autoregressive (AR) Model)	Smartphone located in different locations: Pants' front pocket (left), Pants' front pocket (right), Pants' back pocket (left), Pants' back pocket (right) and Jacket's inner pocket
[61]	7	running; walking upstairs, walking downstairs; walking; standing; lying down	average; deviation; median; Standard	90.2% (IBk); 88.2% (Random Florest); 85.5% (Random Tree); 88.1% (J48); 80.3% (JRip); 85.8% (RepTree); 82.9% (MLP)	Smartphone located the user's leg and waist and wearable sensor located in the chest
[62]	6	running; walking; standing; walking upstairs; walking downstairs	standard deviation; mean; percentiles	90.85% (Naïve Bayes); 87.35% (K-NN); 81.16% (SVM)	Smartphone is located in the front-right and the back-left pockets
[63]	5	jumping; running; walking; walking downstairs; walking upstairs	average acceleration; peaks	83.8% (SVM); 83.4% (Empirical risk minimization (ERM)); 79.4% (K-NN); 86.8% (Bidirectional Long Short-Term Memory (BLSTM)); 89.4% (Multi-column Bidirectional Long Short-Term Memory (MBLSTM))	Not available

### 3. Methods

Based on the literature combined with the proposed system architecture for the recognition of ADLs in [5–7,64], the methods that should be defined for each module of the proposed system, are as follows: data acquisition, data processing, data fusion, and data classification. The data processing methods include data cleaning and feature extraction methods. Additionally, since this study only uses a single sensor, i.e., the accelerometer, the data fusion methods are not necessary.

Figure 1 represents the methodology and system architecture proposed by the authors in this paper. The data acquisition is performed using the accelerometer sensor available in commonly used, off-the-shelf mobile devices with a mobile application during running, walking, standing, and walking upstairs and walking downstairs activities. This acquired data is processed using data cleaning and feature extraction methods. After data processing, MLP and DNN methods are used for ADLs identification.

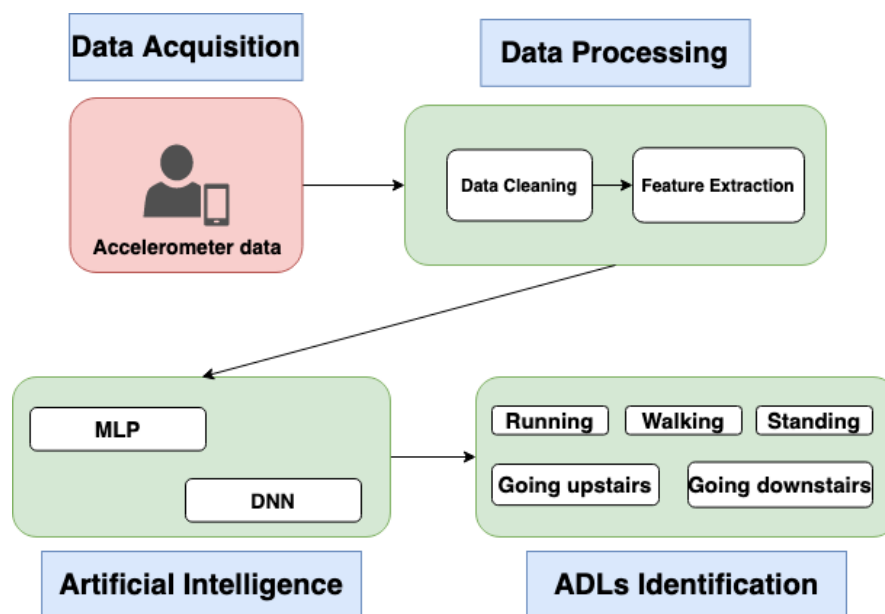


Figure 1. Methodology and system architecture for the recognition of activities of daily living (ADLs).

#### 3.1. Data Acquisition

This study was based on the data previously acquired for the study [20], which consists on the acquisition of data related to five ADLs, such as standing (Figure 2), walking (Figure 3), running (Figure 4), walking upstairs (Figure 5), and walking downstairs (Figure 6). The data used for this study are available in a public repository [65] previously used in [20]. A visual presentation of the data collected in each activity is presented in Figures 2–6.

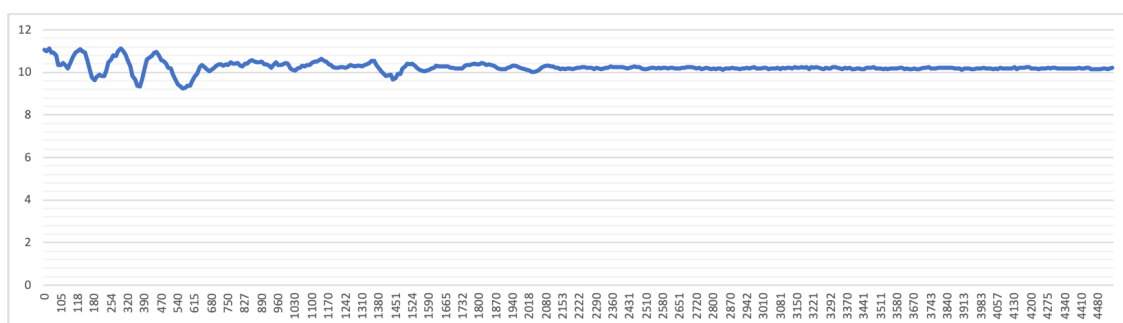
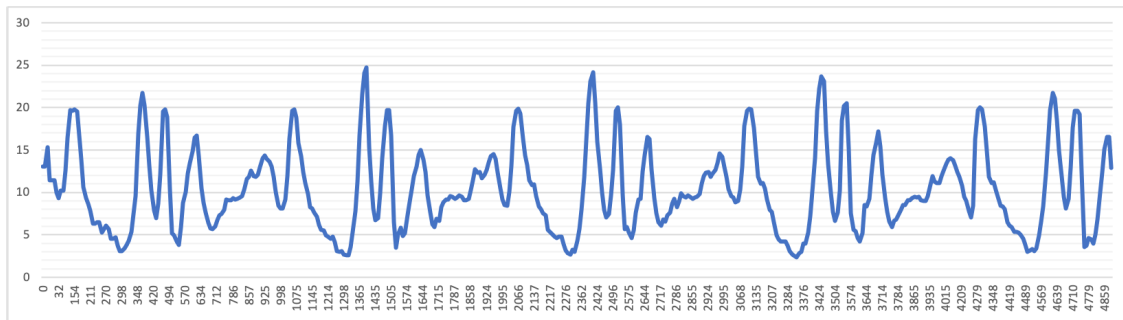
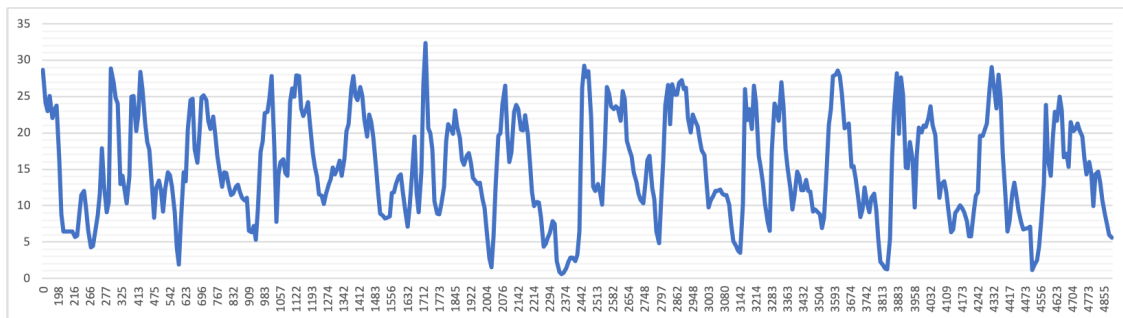


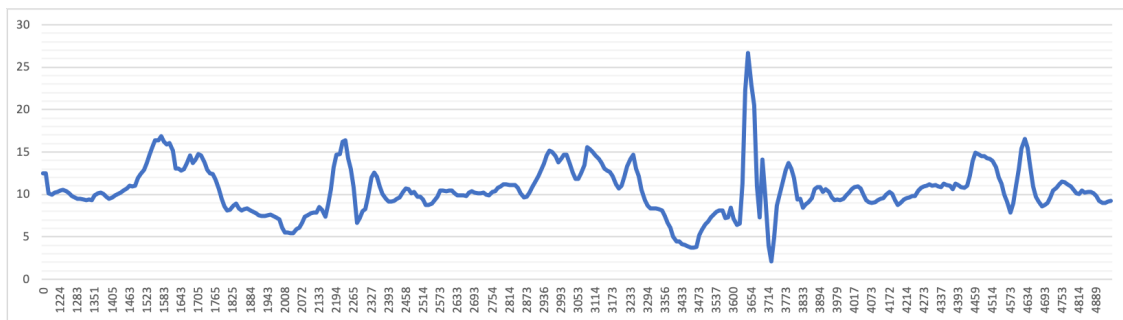
Figure 2. Acceleration ( $m/s^2$ )—five seconds of data collected during the activity of standing.



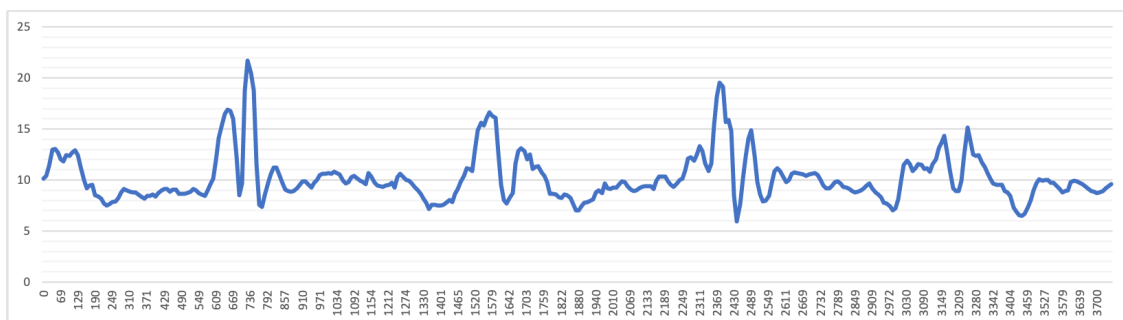
**Figure 3.** Acceleration ( $m/s^2$ )—five seconds of data collected during the activity of walking.



**Figure 4.** Acceleration ( $m/s^2$ )—five seconds of data collected during the activity of running.



**Figure 5.** Acceleration ( $m/s^2$ )—five seconds of data collected during the activity of walking upstairs.



**Figure 6.** Acceleration ( $m/s^2$ )—five seconds of data collected during the activity of walking downstairs.

The dataset comprehends more than 2000 samples with five seconds of accelerometer data for each ADL. A mobile device placed on the front pocket of the user’s pants was used for data acquisition. The data were acquired in a controlled environment, where, before the start of the data collection, the user had to select the ADLs that he/she would perform. Every five seconds of data were acquired every five minutes. When the user planned to perform another ADLs, he/she should stop the data collection and change the ADLs selected in the mobile application used.

Twenty-five individuals were selected for the experiments that always used the same mobile device; i.e., an *BQ Aquaris 5.7* smartphone [66]. These individuals were aged between 16 and 60 years

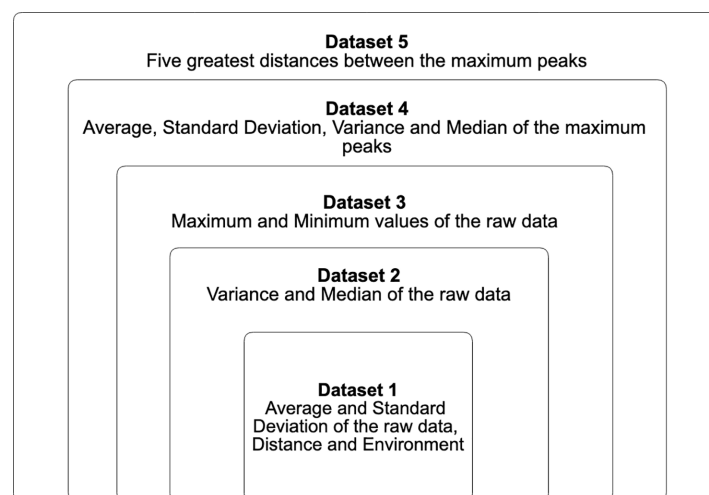
old, composed of five teenagers and five people between 40 and 60 years old, and the remaining were randomly selected. Several environmental constraints were uncontrolled during the data acquisition, but we had control of the procedures related to the labeling of the different samples and the positioning of the device. As we acquired five seconds of data every five minutes, the individuals spent around 7 h performing each ADL collected by the mobile device. In total, each individual spent around 35 h for the data acquisition.

### 3.2. Data Processing

This study comprehends the use of accelerometer data with a low-pass filter application to clean the data [67,68]. It consists of the first step of the data processing, and this module is finalized with the extraction of the different statistical features. They are the same as the ones described in [20], but only provided by the accelerometer data, including the five largest distances between the maximum peaks; the mean, standard deviation, variance, and median of the maximum peaks; and the standard deviation, mean, maximum and minimum values, variance, and median of the raw signal.

### 3.3. Data Classification

For the same purpose as [20], but only with the accelerometer data, this study aimed to recognize the five proposed ADLs being used, based on the datasets presented in Figure 7. The granularity of the features included varies between the datasets 1–5; i.e., the dataset 5 contains all inputs of datasets 1 to 5.



**Figure 7.** Datasets created for the analysis and recognition of the different ADLs.

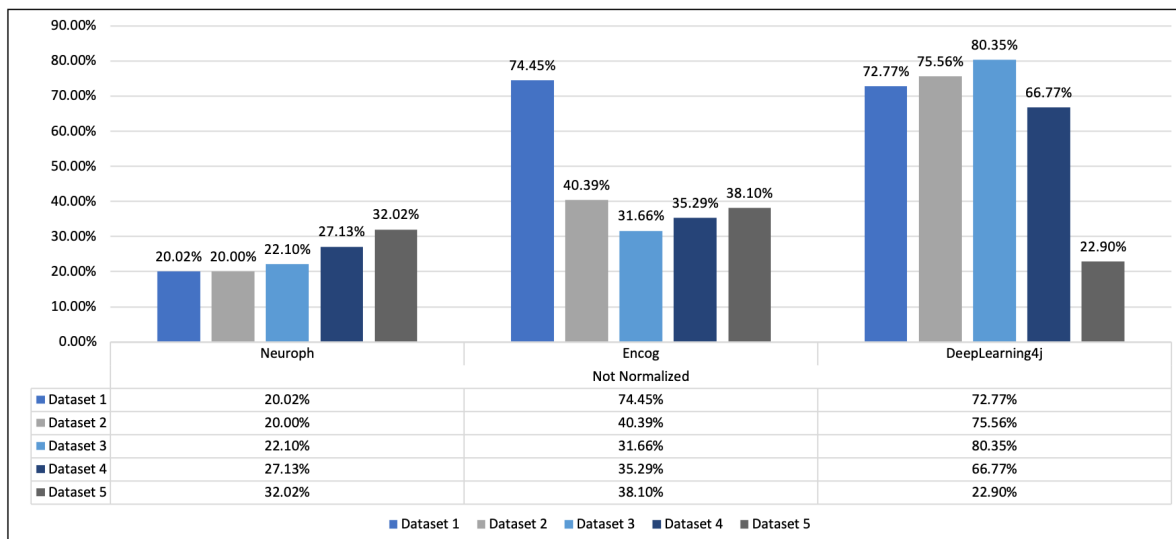
For this purpose, we used three different implementations with distinct configurations using free software available online. The application of the MLP method takes into account the same settings, but two different implementations were performed using the Neuroph [17] and Encog [18] frameworks. Additionally, we used the DeepLearning4j framework for the application of a DNN method [19]. These are Java-based frameworks that allow for the implementation of machine learning methods with the adaptation to our data. All configurations of the frameworks implemented the sigmoid function as the activation function, a maximum of  $4 \times 10^6$  iterations and backpropagation [69]. However, the learning rates applied in the MLP implementations and the DNN method are different; the value was 0.6 for MLP implementations and 0.1 for the DNN method. The MLP implementations also included the momentum value equal to 0.4. Regarding the numbers of hidden layers, the MLP methods did not include hidden layers, but the DNN method implemented three hidden layers. The DNN method also included the Xavier function [70] as a weight/initialisation function, a seed value equal to 6, and L<sub>2</sub> regularization [71]. After different tests and adjustments, we verified that these parameters

reported more consistent results with the data acquired than others, suggesting its implementation in the developed method.

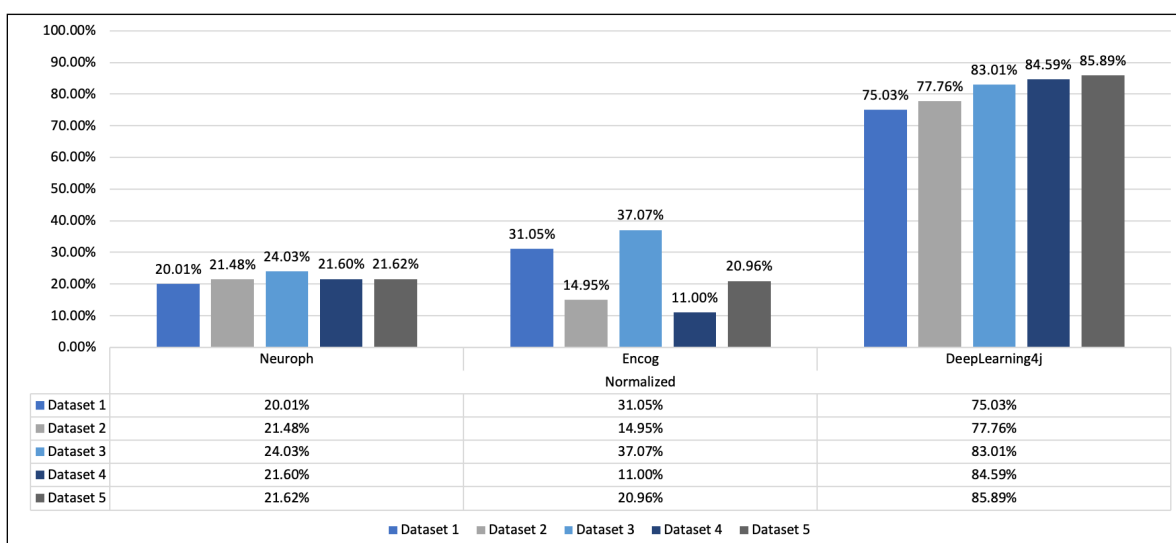
Additionally, the data classification was tested with normalized and non-normalized data, implemented the min-max normalization for the implementations of the MLP method, and the normalization with mean and standard deviation for the implementation of the DNN method.

#### 4. Results and Discussion

As the different implementations reported the existence of overfitting during the creation of the different ANNs, the early-stop training technique was implemented, stopping the training at a limit of  $4 \times 10^6$  iterations. Thus, the results reported are presented in Figures 8 and 9 for non-normalized and normalized data, respectively.



**Figure 8.** Results obtained with the MLP method implemented using non-normalized data with Neuroph and Encog frameworks, and the DNN method implemented with the DeepLearning4j framework (horizontal axis) for the different datasets (series), obtaining the accuracies in percentages (vertical axis).



**Figure 9.** Results obtained with the MLP method implemented using normalized data with Neuroph and Encog frameworks, and the DNN method implemented with the DeepLearning4j framework (horizontal axis) for the different datasets (series), obtaining the accuracies in percentages (vertical axis).

After the implementation with the Neuroph framework, the results obtained had very low accuracies with normalized (between 20% and 30%) and non-normalized (between 20% and 40%) data. Following the implementation with the Encog framework, the results obtained had a very low accuracy (between 20% and 40%) with data without normalization, wherein, as expected, the neural networks trained with the dataset 5 reported a certainty around 75%. When the data were normalized, the accuracy of the implemented method was always between 10% and 40%.

Next, for the implementation with the DeepLearning4j framework, the results obtained are higher than 70%, but, for data without normalization, the results reported with the dataset 5 have an accuracy lower than 30%, and for the normalized data, the results decrease with a reduced number of features—dataset 5 reported the best results.

There are two types of normalization implemented with the data acquired, including the one based on mean and standard deviation and the other one based on min-max. The accuracy reported for non-normalized data is better than the accuracy reported for data with min-max normalization. However, the results with all defined datasets increase with the application of  $L_2$  regularization and normalization with mean and standard deviation.

Table 2 shows the maximum accuracies obtained with the MLP method with Neuroph and Encog frameworks and the DNN method with the DeepLearning4j framework. The DeepLearning4j framework reported the best accuracy, and the results obtained by Neuroph and Encog frameworks are not satisfactory.

**Table 2.** Best accuracies obtained with the different frameworks and datasets.

	Type of ANN	Framework	Dataset	Best Accuracy Achieved (%)
Non-normalised data	MLP	Neuroph	5	32.02
		Encog	1	74.45
	DNN	DeepLearning4j	5	80.35
Normalised data	MLP	Neuroph	3	24.03
		Encog	2	37.07
	DNN	DeepLearning4j	5	85.89

Analyzing the results presented in Table 2, Neuroph framework always reported bad results with an accuracy of 32.02% using dataset 5 using non-normalized data, and an accuracy of 24.03% with dataset 3 using normalized data. Among the frameworks used in this study, the Neuroph framework reported the worst results, because its architecture is not adapted for this type of data, or because it needs a large number of samples for the training of the ANN. The Neuroph framework reported better results with a large number of inputs for the ANN.

The use of the Encog framework slightly improved the results obtained with normalized data, reporting an accuracy of 37.07% using the dataset 2. However, Encog framework reported a high accuracy with the use of non-normalized data (74.45%). In contrast with the Neuroph framework, it was verified that the best accuracies were attained by the implementations with a smaller number of inputs.

The major problem of the implementation of DeepLearning4j framework is the resource consumption, where the performance is affected. However, the performance is only bad in the training phase. The final implementation the ANN provides reliable results after being trained. DeepLearning4j always reported high accuracy in the results with a large number of inputs—the results obtained were 80.35% accurate with non-normalized data, and 85.89% with normalized data.

The results recommend the DNN method with all features extracted from the acquired data as the most reliable method for the identification of ADLs. However, before its implementation, the data should be normalized with the mean and standard deviation method, and the  $L_2$  regularization

method should be applied. Based on the tests performed with the acquired data, the results obtained are always higher than those reported other ways. The results obtained have a *precision* value of 86.21%, a *recall* value of 85.89%, and an *F1 score* value of 86.05%.

In addition to the analysis, the confusion matrixes for the different frameworks were made, and are presented in Tables 3–8. By analyzing Table 3, it is possible to verify that the number of true positive values in recognition of walking upstairs, walking downstairs, and standing, is meager, proving a high number of false negatives and true negatives using the MLP method with the Neuroph framework based on non-normalized data. Next, Table 4 shows that the number of true positive values in recognition of all ADLs is meager, verifying a high number of false negatives using the MLP method with the Neuroph framework based on normalized data.

Following the analysis of Table 5, it was verified that only running is recognized by the MLP method with the Encog framework based on non-normalized data, presenting a high number of false negative values. In contrast, based on the implementation of the MLP method with the Encog framework based on normalized data, walking is always correctly recognized with 2000 true positive values, but it has 7999 false negative values. The high number of false negative values is also verified in the other ADLs, and the true negative and false positive values are too high.

Based on the use of the DNN method with the DeepLearning4j framework based on non-normalized data, the number of true negatives is only low in recognition of standing activity, reporting a high number of false positive values. However, the standing activity also reported a high number of true positive values, while the other ADLs reported high false negative values. Finally, with the use of the DNN method with the DeepLearning4j framework based on normalized data, the true positive and true negative values are high in all ADLs recognized.

**Table 3.** Confusion matrix of the results obtained with non-normalized data by the implementation of the MLP method with the Neuroph framework.

	Walking Downstairs	Walking Upstairs	Running	Standing	Walking
<b>True Positive</b>	2	3	1471	0	2000
<b>True Negative</b>	3474	3473	2005	3476	1476
<b>False Positive</b>	1998	1997	529	2000	0
<b>False Negative</b>	4526	4527	5995	4524	6524

**Table 4.** Confusion matrix of the results obtained with normalized data by the implementation of the MLP method with the Neuroph framework.

	Walking Downstairs	Walking Upstairs	Running	Standing	Walking
<b>True Positive</b>	0	0	162	0	200
<b>True Negative</b>	2162	2162	2000	2162	162
<b>False Positive</b>	2000	2000	1838	2000	0
<b>False Negative</b>	5838	5838	6000	5838	7838

**Table 5.** Confusion matrix of the results obtained with non-normalized data by the implementation of MLP method with Encog framework.

	Walking Downstairs	Walking Upstairs	Running	Standing	Walking
<b>True Positive</b>	0	0	1001	0	0
<b>True Negative</b>	1001	1001	0	1001	1001
<b>False Positive</b>	2000	2000	999	2000	2000
<b>False Negative</b>	6999	6999	8000	6999	6999



**Table 6.** Confusion matrix of the results obtained with normalized data by the implementation of the MLP method with the Encog framework.

	Walking Downstairs	Walking Upstairs	Running	Standing	Walking
True Positive	1	0	0	0	2000
True Negative	2000	2001	2001	2001	1
False Positive	1999	2000	2000	2000	0
False Negative	6000	5999	5999	5999	7999

**Table 7.** Confusion matrix of the results obtained with non-normalized data by the implementation of the DNN method with the DeepLearning4j framework.

	Walking Downstairs	Walking Upstairs	Running	Standing	Walking
True Positive	290	0	0	2000	0
True Negative	7786	7999	8000	506	7999
False Positive	214	1	0	7494	1
False Negative	1710	2000	2000	0	2000

**Table 8.** Confusion matrix of the results obtained with normalized data by the implementation of the DNN method with the DeepLearning4j framework.

	Walking Downstairs	Walking Upstairs	Running	Standing	Walking
True Positive	1334	1639	1909	1985	1722
True Negative	7641	7317	7978	7941	7712
False Positive	359	683	22	59	288
False Negative	666	361	91	15	278

This paper highlights the results obtained with different datasets using only the accelerometer data for the creation of a part of the method for the automatic recognition of several ADLs, including running, walking, walking upstairs and downstairs, and standing. The study also compares the results obtained with different types of ANNs, requiring low processing for the correct implementation in mobile devices.

The low accuracies verified with Neuroph and Encog frameworks are related to the fact that the ANNs created are probably overfitted. The possible solutions may be the acquisition of more data, the application of  $L_2$  regularization, the implementation of dropout regularization, the early stopping of the training, the use of the batch normalization, or the use of a minor number of features in the ANN. The DNN method with  $L_2$  regularization and normalized data reported the best results. The influence of the amount of the maximum iterations is not substantial, but, in some cases, it increases the accuracy of the ANN.

During the data acquisition, several constraints may exist, collecting noised values of sensors' data. Commonly, the accelerometer is available in all mobile devices, and the implementation of the system architecture for the recognition of ADLs and its environments can be possible with all devices in the market. However, these are multitasking devices, and sometimes the data cannot be collected or is incorrectly collected, providing low accuracy on the recognition of the ADL. Another example consists of the positioning of the mobile device because the data is not correctly acquired during a call. Memory and power processing are profoundly affected by the performance of different tasks at the same time.

The main focus of this research was to explore the use of the accelerometer sensor for ADLs recognition. We found that the accuracy obtained is in line with the previous results in the literature [20]. This study reports an accuracy of 85.89% in the recognition of five ADLs. Furthermore, using the

DNN method, according to Table 2, the results obtained with the implementation of our methods are not directly comparable, because the datasets and source code of the implementation used by other authors are not publicly available. A comparison would be essential to proving the reliability of our method. Thus, considering the average of the accuracies reported by ANNs and their variants shared in the literature, the results ( $92\% \pm 6.55\%$ ) present better accuracies than those obtained in this study. However, taking into account only the average of the accuracies reported by the projects that identified more than one ADL, the results reported by other studies ( $90\% \pm 6.60\%$ ) are slightly equivalent to those published by our research. Finally, considering only the studies that recognized five or more ADLs, the results reported by these studies ( $90\% \pm 6.63\%$ ) are equivalent to the results obtained with this work.

In conclusion, the accuracy of the ADLs recognition depends on several variables, including the conditions for data acquisition, conditions for data processing, and the use of lightweight methods (local processing) or server-side processing [72]. As presented in [72], it may cause failures on the data acquisition, collect incorrect data, or claim the nonexistence of data in some instances, causing improper recognition of ADL. To avoid some effects of inaccurate data, we implemented data cleaning methods, and data imputation methods may be useful for reducing the impacts of unavailable data. The main possible problems are related to the incorrect or nonexistent recognition of ADLs performed.

The main limitations of this study are related to the use of mobile devices for data acquisition. On the one hand, there is a lack of scientific evidence and research on the definition of the best position at which the mobile device must be located. On the other hand, other constraints during the data acquisition are related to the frequency of the data acquisition because it depends on the different processes running in the mobile device. During the experimental phase, the mobile application developed for the data acquisition writes the data in text files; the latency to write in the text files also influences the data acquisition and processing. However, the use of local processing and lightweight methods reduces the lag of the connection with the network, but the different methods must always be optimized.

Taking into account the results obtained in [43], the number of ADLs recognized, the number of records for each ADL, and the features extracted are different in our study. Consequently, the accuracy obtained in our research with the DNN method is higher than the results reported by the authors of [43]. We expect that in similar conditions of study [43], we obtain the same or better results. Nevertheless, it will be impossible to test, as the authors [43] did not make their data publicly available.

## 5. Conclusions

This paper presents several approaches that use the accelerometer sensor commonly available in mobile devices for ADLs recognition. Furthermore, the main contribution of this document is to offer a comparative study of different ANN implementations to find the most appropriate method for ADLs identification using only accelerometer data. The comparative study performed in this research recommends the use of DNN for the recognition of ADLs. We proposed the implementation of the trained DNN method in the system for the identification of the ADLs using only the accelerometer sensor available in off-the-shelf mobile devices, applied with the DeepLearning4j framework. The results show the accuracy of 85.89%, a *precision* value of 86.21%, a *recall* value of 85.89%, and an *F1 score* value of 86.05% using the five largest distances between the maximum peaks; the mean, standard deviation, variance, and median of the maximum peaks; and the standard deviation, mean, maximum and minimum values, variance, and median of the raw signal as features.

Nevertheless, this study has some limitations concerning the use of mobile devices. The lack of research on the best position of the mobile device for data collection is a relevant question. Moreover, the energy expenditure concerning the processing power related to the frequency of data acquisition is also a significant challenge that the authors have addressed by using only accelerometer data. The authors verified that the overfitting problem is not avoided, but the results obtained using only accelerometer data are similar to those obtained with the use of multiple sensors. Additionally, the

authors found that using only one sensor and a smaller number of features for the train of the ANN does not significantly decrease the accuracy of the results obtained. Still, it uses less computational resources and promotes the energy consumption of the mobile device when compared with the use of multiple sensors.

As future work, other implementation settings regarding different machine learning methods will be studied. These implementations will include the design of other types of data classification methods, e.g., ensemble learning methods and decision trees, to verify the existence of different approaches with better results using our dataset. The dataset is publicly available, and other authors can use and compare it with their methods.

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