The Human Speechome Project

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MIT Media Lab Cognitive Machines Group





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Goal: Advance our understanding of how children acquire language in natural contexts

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Approach: Longitudinal, ultra-dense, in vivo recordings + data mining and behavioral modeling

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Differentiators: Two orders of magnitude more behavioral data than previous studies, far fewer observer effects, new analysis tools

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Impact: Illuminate language acquisition, behavioral phenotyping, video search, smart homes, parenting aids, security, retail,...

Speech in the home

Speechome

DATA COLLECTION



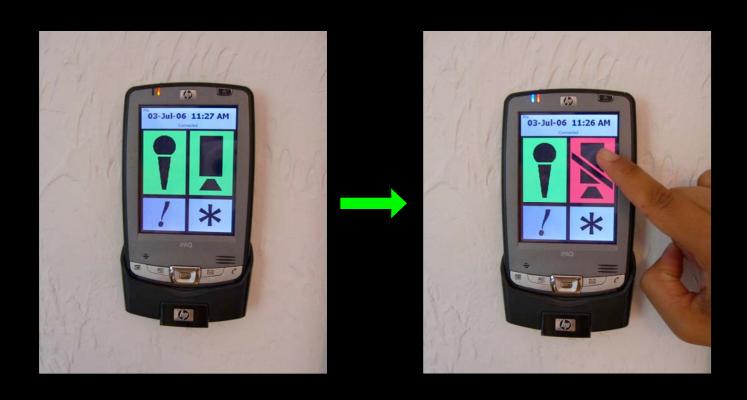


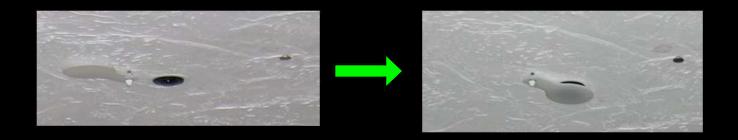
Looking up at the ceiling

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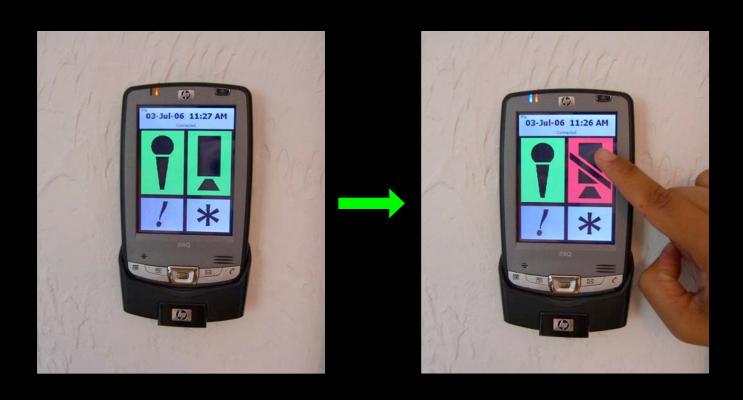


Recording control system

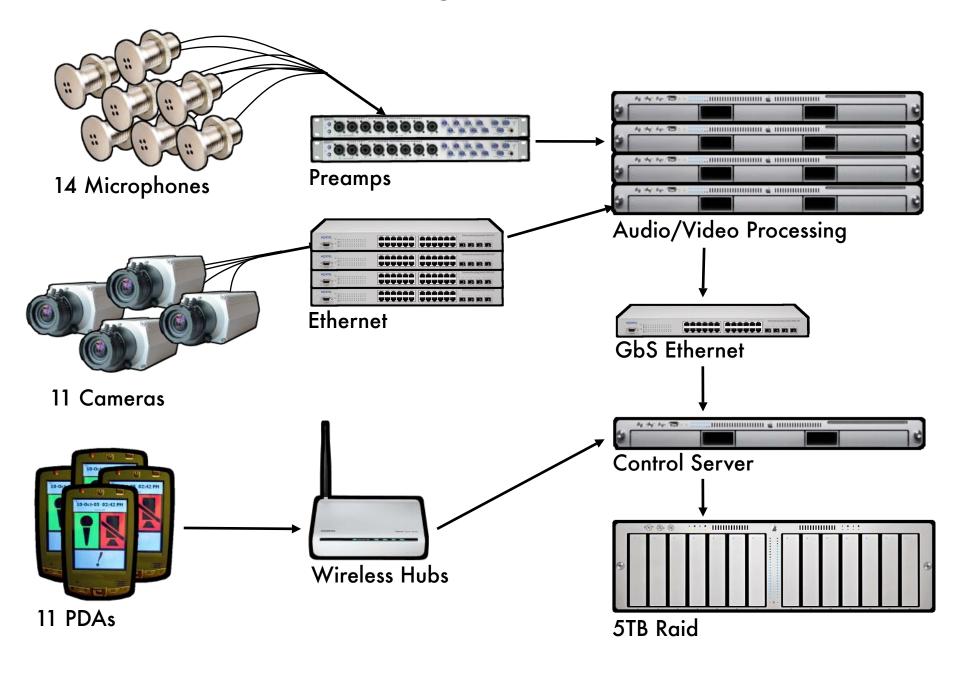




Recording control system



Recording Infrastructure



Storage at the Media Lab



250,000 GB capacity

80,000 hrs video

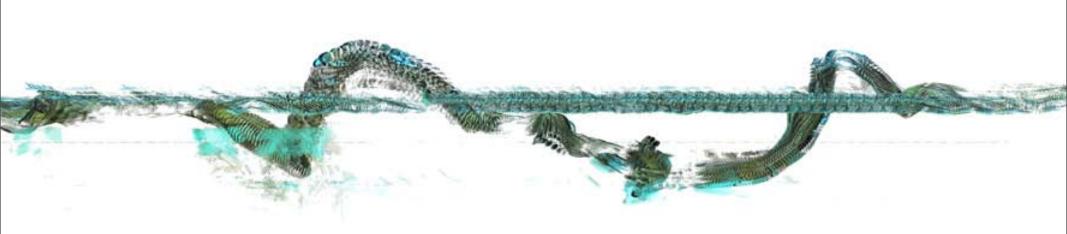
120,000 hrs audio

~2 yrs of recording



48 KHz audio, 1 MP video, ~15 fps

DATA ANALYSIS



Transcribe all speech heard and produced by child

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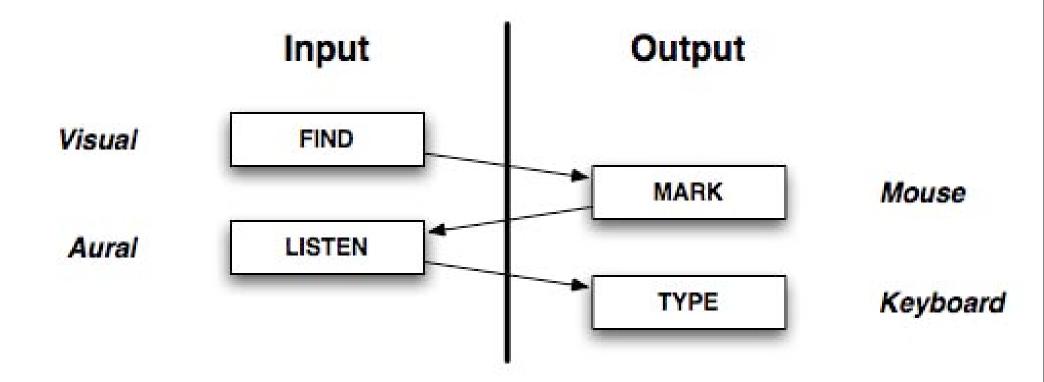
Annotate video surrounding all uses of target word

Transcribe all speech heard and produced by child

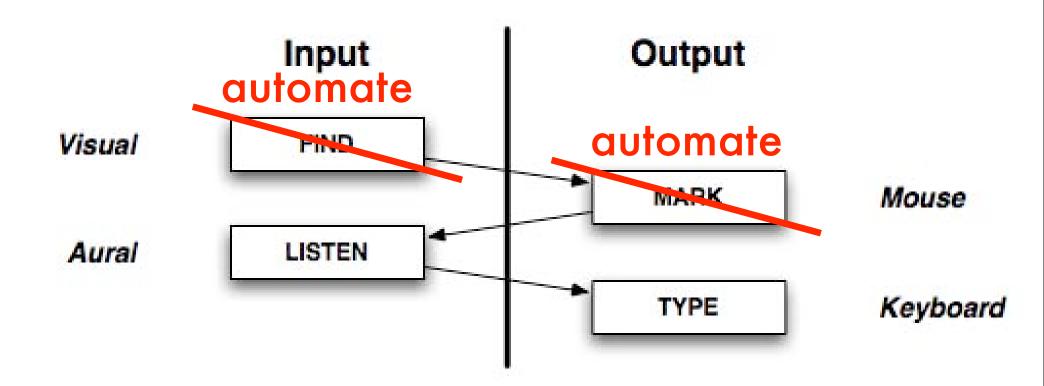
Annotate video surrounding all uses of target word

Analyze role of contextual factors in word learning

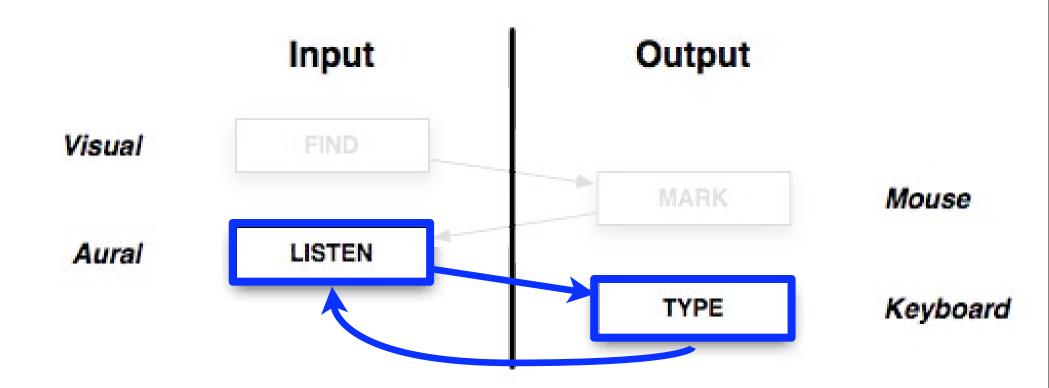
Speech Transcription



Semi-automatic speech transcription



Semi-automatic speech transcription



SpeedScribe - 01/07/2007 17:43:57:359 PM duration 4 minutes Done Help F1 F2 F3 F4 Part F4 Part F4 Part F5 F5 F5 F5 F5 F5 F5 F	Not Not Too Cut speech clear long off FS F6 F7 F8
35 blue	0000
36 ves they are blue	0000
37 🕟 ff	0.000
38 where's your head	0000
39 what's this	0000
40 🕒 II	0000
41 what's this; eye	0000
42 no this one	0000
43 🕟 ff	8888
44 D nosel	0000
45 🕟	0000
46 🕒	8888
47 🕒	0000
48 🕒	8888
49 🕒	8888
50 🕟	0000
51 🕟	0000
52 🕒	0000
53 🕒	0000
54 🕟	0000

Evolution of "water"

Tracking algorithms to follow people throughout the house

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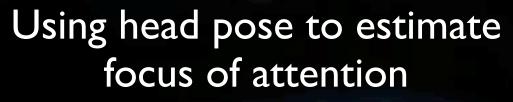
Estimate head pose to help determine focus of attention

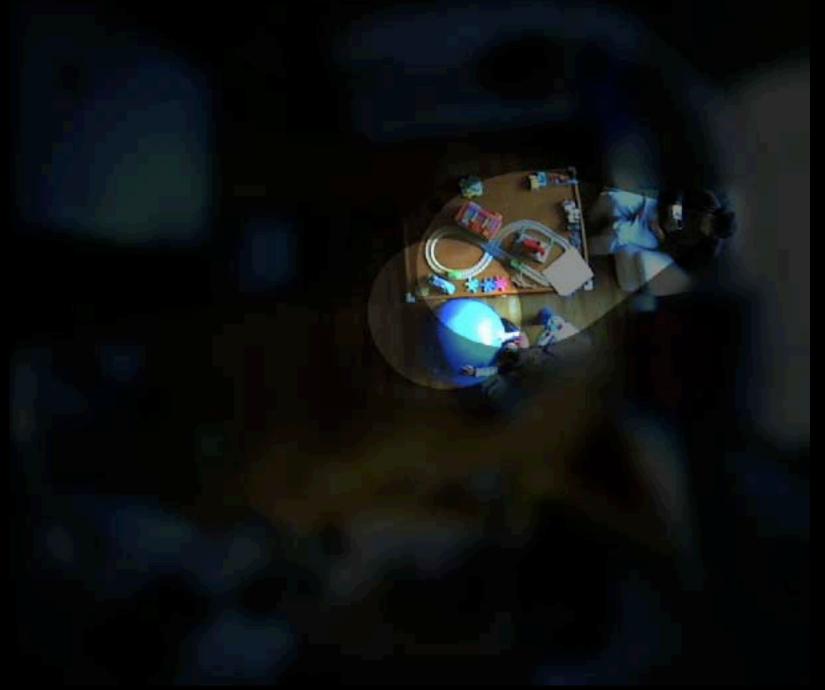
Tracking algorithms to follow people throughout the house

Estimate head pose to help determine focus of attention

Combine automatic and manual methods for tracking and head pose annotation







Build a system to make it easy to collect lots of multimodal data

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Interesting speech and language modeling challenges

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Issues of privacy management, making the system cheaper, smarter recording strategies...

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How to scale to N > 1?

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