

Talk-a-Palooza

An AI-powered app to boost children's
language acquisition

Featuring our amazing mentors:



Bogdan



Christoph

UX

Camila



DS

Ticiane & Sonia

DL

Aljoscha



WD

Rose



The Problem

5-10% of preschool-aged children experiencing speech delays

+

Overburdened Speech Therapy Waitlists



Significant impact on a child's language progress during crucial developmental stages



The Solution

Combine the power of **machine learning**, **convolutional neural networks** and **pediatric speech acquisition research** to quickly **identify areas** where a child needs help, and create **custom language acquisition exercises and predictions**

Challenges

Balancing expectations

Working with audio data

Finding audio

We're late

Reduced team

Real Life Issues

Wins

Finding Lingualibre
database

Improved
communication

Strong
and fun team

Established clear
project scope

Progress on MVP
for all tracks

Track Contributions



UX



WD



DS



DL

Personas and research

Product backlog, sprint planning, kanban board

Understand the research that resulted in the dataset

Align with DS and clearly separate features

Design ideation

Frontend platform
(React Native with Expo Web)

Work on an Exploratory Data Analysis

Research of training models with audio data

Wireframes for dashboard, statistics, exercises, initial assessment (in progress).

Backend: system design, database setup, authentication, child assessment

Research for training models with the data. Options: Collaborative Filtering; LibRemmender

Work on first feature, recognising single word audio

Work on pre-processing data to apply to an ML model

UX



Laura and Maria

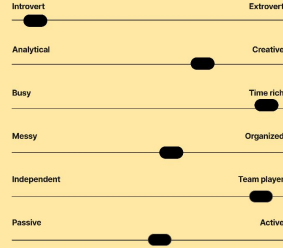
"Mother and daughter"

- 34 and 3
- Dentist
- Europe

Bio

Laura is a first time mother of a three years old child, Maria. She is about to start going to the kindergarten and the teachers in the first meeting session pointed out that Maria would need help with the language development as she is having trouble pronouncing some sounds. Laura is very involved in the wellness of her child and went automatically to the fonoaudiologist, who recommended to do also some exercises at home with the help of an app.

Maria's personality



Martin and Jim

"Father and son"

- 28 and 3
- Salesman
- Europe

Bio

Martin works full time and is doing also a lot of over hours at work every week. He doesn't have too much time to practice with Jim, who was diagnosed with speech delay. He can comprehend and nonverbally communicate but can't say many words, he can't put them into understandable phrases. Martin needs an app that help Jim with the speech development and that he can easily track. Jim should be able to use the tablet by himself.

Jim's personality



Interests



Goals



Needs and expectations



Pain points and frustrations



Interests



Goals



Pain points and frustrations





He can pronounce

● ● ● ●

○ ○ ○ ○


He can pronounce

☐ ☒ ☒ ☐

Thank you! It seems Jim is doing pretty well. He can start with lesson number 3

Lesson 3: Animals, B and P sounds

UX

[Start Exercise](#)

2.7 x 10¹

2.7 x 10⁰



3.  ☒ **Correct**



Dashboard

If a parent is unable to adequately evaluate the progress of the child's work production over time, as well as how this compares to other peers' work rate, I would have the progress of the child's intelligibility in abstract problem solving, visually, aurally, and in writing, evaluated a range of possible methods in the form of source observations, discussions, simulations, etc., etc. Alternatively, I would use a 'visual intelligibility scale' deduced from the results of exercises like a suggested one, meant to be able to judge any personal ideas (a sentence, several, pronounced).

Hello, Dad!

How much is $5+6$?

11 7 13

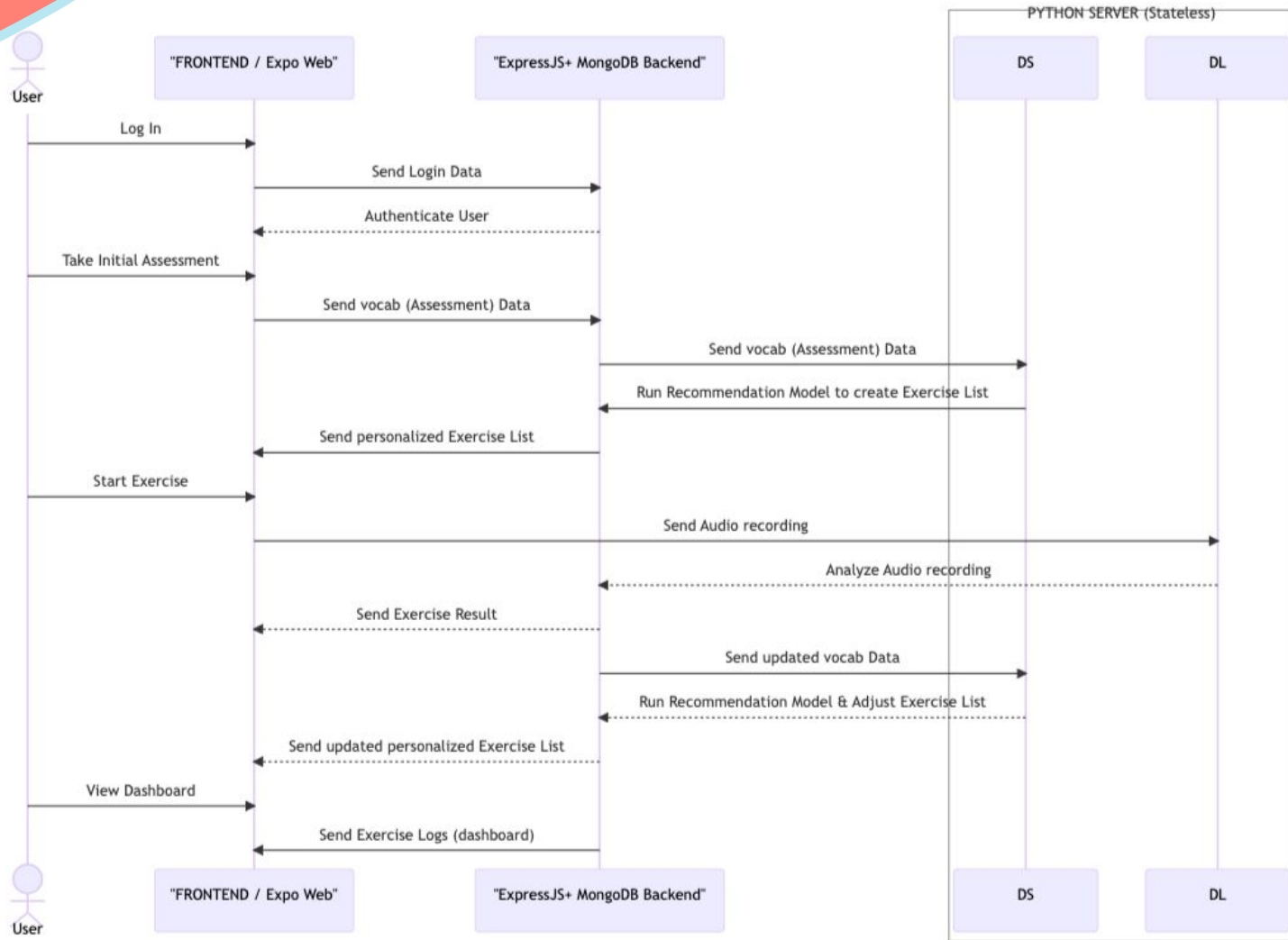
If correct, it takes the doc to the Dashboard

The screenshot shows the 'Tim' profile page. At the top, there's a navigation bar with a back arrow, a search icon, the name 'Tim', and buttons for 'Sessions', 'Reviews', and 'Notes'. Below this, there are three main sections: a circular gauge showing '24 % Improvement' with a leaf icon, a box showing '4 Sessions this week' with a thumbs up icon, and a star icon labeled 'Last words learnt'.

comparison to other learners?



WD

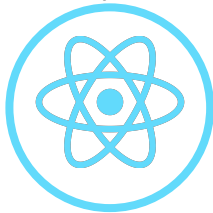


WD

Mongo Atlas DB



React Native (Web)



ex

Express



Node



Python



FastAPI



DL



Lingua Libre

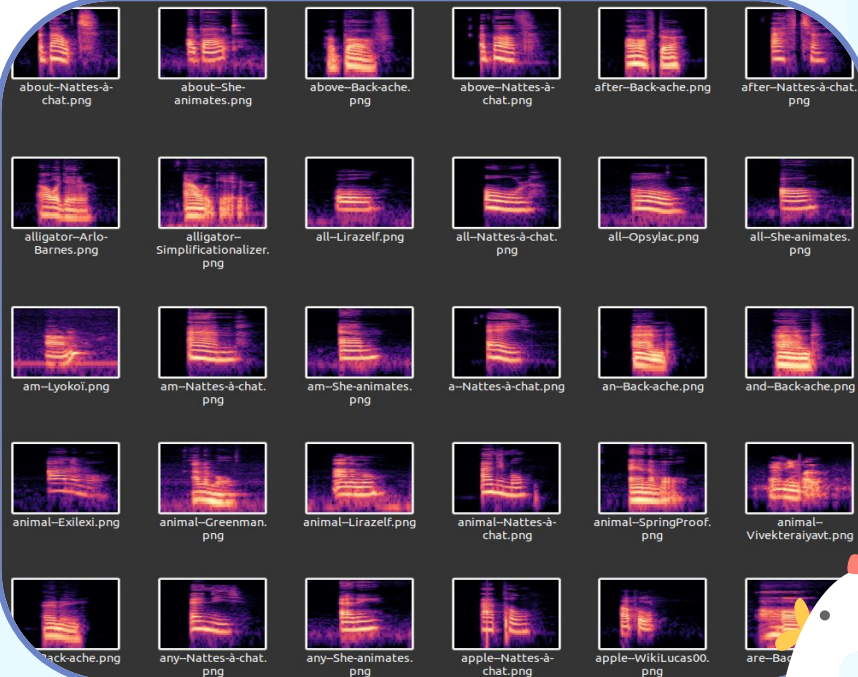


Audio dataset: LinguaLibre English dataset

Our sample: a total of 29.1k unique words totalling 33.2k recordings by 109 contributors

Focus: out of the 680 words from Wordbank, this dataset has 477 words in common

DL



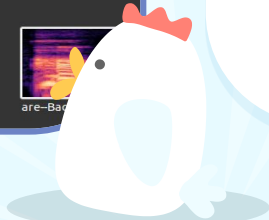
Feature: Recognize single word audio and return intelligibility score

Approach: Using FastAi and FastAudio, train models with the 1200+ recordings available for the 477 words in common with Wordbank dataset

Audio to spectrogram

Image processing (CNN)

API: Receive audio, transform to spectrogram and query trained model to see if it's a match



DL

```
Traceback (most recent call last)
Python-Input-20-90634fcc3c9e> in <cell line: 1>()
--> 1 dls.show_batch()

/usr/local/lib/python3.10/dist-packages/fastai/data/core.py in show_batch(self, b, max_n, ctxs, show, unique)
98         old_get_idxs = self.get_idxs
99         self.get_idxs = lambda: Inf.zeros
--> 100         if b is None: b = self.one_batch()
101         if not show: return self._pre_show_batch(b, max_n=max_n)
102         show_batch(*self._pre_show_batch(b, max_n=max_n), ctxs=ctxs, max_n=max_n, **kwargs)

/usr/local/lib/python3.10/dist-packages/fastai/data/load.py in one_batch(self)
135     def one_batch(self):
136         if self.n is not None and len(self)==0: raise ValueError(f'This DataLoader does not contain
ches')
--> 137         with self.fake_l.no_multiproc(): res = first(self)
138         if hasattr(self, 'it'): delattr(self, 'it')
139         return res

/usr/local/lib/python3.10/dist-packages/fastcore/basics.py in first(x, f, negate, **kwargs)
474     x = iter(x)
475     if f: x = filter_ex(x, f=f, negate=negate, gen=True, **kwargs)
--> 476     return next(x, None)
477
478 # Cell

/usr/local/lib/python3.10/dist-packages/fastai/data/load.py in __iter__(self)
99     self.before_iter()
100     self._idxs=self.get_idxs() # called in context of main process (not workers/subprocesses)
--> 101     for b in loaders[self.fake_l.num_workers==0](self.fake_l):
102         if self.device is not None: b = to_device(b, self.device)
103         yield self.after_batch(b)

/usr/local/lib/python3.10/dist-packages/torch/utils/data/dataloader.py in __init__(self, loader)
655 class _SingleProcessDataLoaderIter(_BaseDataLoaderIter):
656     def __init__(self, loader):
--> 657         super(_SingleProcessDataLoaderIter, self).__init__(loader)
658         assert self.timeout == 0
659         assert self._num_workers == 0

/usr/local/lib/python3.10/dist-packages/torch/utils/data/dataloader.py in __init__(self, loader)
583     # default behaviour is CUDA device. if pin memory device is selected
584     # and pin_memory is not set, the default behaviour false.
--> 585     if (len(loader.pin_memory_device) == 0):
586         self.pin_memory = loader.pin_memory and torch.cuda.is_available()
587         self.pin_memory_device = None

Error: 'FakeLoader' object has no attribute 'pin_memory_device'
```

- **Challenges:**

- How to approach DL with audio?
- FastAudio causes many errors, both on Colab as well as locally
 - Locked requirements erroneous/incomplete

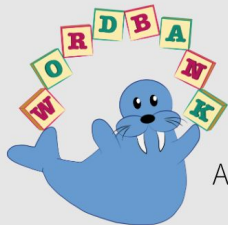
- **Lookahead:**

- Replace FastAudio with custom work (transforming to spectrograms, mainly)
- Provide API
- Continue to improve model

- **Doubts:** Some words only have a single recording, which calls the validity of testing/training into question



DS



Wordbank

An open database of children's vocabulary development



Our dataset: Wordbank

Our sample: monolingual and English (American) speakers (n = 7601)

Additional information: e.g. age of the child, sex, typically developing or not, birth order, ...



DS

Challenges:

Working with data not personally collected

Wordbank does not provide any documentation on the data

Wordbank has multiple contributors, data not completely standardized across them

Handling such a large dataset/datasets

Achievements:

Cleaning/preprocessing data

Detected quality issues/ discrepancies in the data

Performed initial statistical tests in order to guide further decisions

Models of ML

Collaborative filtering: is a recommendation algorithm that suggests items based on the preferences and behaviors of similar users.

Approaches:

- User-Based Collaborative Filtering;
- Item-Based Collaborative Filtering.

LibRecommender: is an easy-to-use recommender library focused on end-to-end recommendation process. It contains a training([libreco](#)) and serving([lib-serving](#)) module to let users quickly train and deploy different kinds of recommendation models.

- A hybrid recommender system, which allows users to use either collaborative-filtering or content-based features. New features can be added. Implements several models, like YouTubeRanking,
- Supports dynamic feature and sequence recommendation,
- Supports cold-start prediction and recommendation,
- Easy to retrain model with new users/items from new data.

Next Steps?



UX

01

Detailed Functional specifications

02

High Fidelity wireframes

03

Prototype Figma

04

User testing to gather feedback for improvements.

05



WD

Finish API implementation

Frontend components

UI design Integration

Final adjustments with DS / DL



DS

Test models

Process data to improve model performance

Work on API

Final adjustments with WD



DL

Replace FastAudio

Improve model by transforming data

Work on API

Final adjustments with WD

(All)

Final presentation,
Testing
Fine-tuning,
Documenting

Thank you!
Please feel free to ask any questions. 😊



By Talk a Palooza team, for Techlabs Berlin, SS23

CREDITS: Presentation created using **Slidesgo**, including icons by **Flaticon**, and infographics & images by **Freepik**



Bonus



Talk a Palooza

StartScreen

Get Started

