

DECLARATION

We declare that this written submission represents our ideas in our own words and where others' ideas or words have been included, we have adequately cited and referenced the original sources. We declare that we have adhered to all principles of academic honesty and integrity and have not misrepresented or fabricated or falsified any idea/data/fact/source in our submission. We also declare that this submission is our original work and to the best of our knowledge and belief, it contains no material previously published or written by another person's nor material which has been accepted for the award of any of the degree of the Shivaji University, Kolhapur or other University.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It gives us a great sense of pleasure to present the report on the B. Tech Project undertaken during B. Tech Final Year. We owe a special debt of gratitude to **Mr. U.A. Patil** Department of Computer Science & Engineering, D. Y. Patil Technical Campus, Faculty of Engineering & Faculty of Management, Talsande for his constant support and guidance throughout the course of our work. His sincerity, thoroughness and perseverance have been a constant source of inspiration for us. It is only his cognizant efforts that our endeavors have seen the light of the day.

We also take the opportunity to acknowledge the contribution of **Mr. U. A. Patil**, Head of Department of Computer Science & Engineering, D. Y. Patil Technical Campus, Faculty of Engineering & Faculty of Management, Talsande for her full support and assistance during the development of the project.

We also do not want to miss the opportunity to acknowledge the contribution of all faculty members of the department for their kind assistance and cooperation during the development of our project. Last but not least, we acknowledge our friends for their contribution to the completion of the project.

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ABSTRACT

This work presents the first steps toward developing specific technology for voice user interfaces for geographic information systems. Despite having many general elements, such as voice recognition libraries, the current technology still lacks the ability to fully understand and process the semantics that real users apply to command geographic information systems. This paper presents the results of three connected experiments, following a mixed-methods approach. The first experiment focused on identifying the most common words used when working with maps in a web browser. The second experiment developed an understanding of the chain of commands used for map management for a specific objective. Finally, the third experiment involved the development of a prototype to validate this understanding. Using data and fieldwork, we created a minimum corpus of terms in Spanish. In addition, we identified the particularities of use and user profiles to consider in a voice user interface for geographic information systems, involving the user's proprioception concerning the world and technology. These user profiles can be considered in future designs of human-technology interaction products. All the data collected and the source code of the prototype are provided as additional material, free to use and modify.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 – MOTIVATION

In today's digital world, Voice user interfaces (VUIs) allow voice interactions between devices and people. These interfaces use speech recognition to perceive spoken commands and provide the functionality associated with those commands. Most current VUIs operate under the approach of smart, or intelligent, assistants: systems such as Siri, Cortana, Amazon Alexa, Google Home, and Bixby are novel interfaces that can access various technological devices that surround us, as predicted by Gartner [1]. All of this contributes to the new model of comprehension, utilization, and interaction within the ambient intelligence paradigm, where technology, although almost invisible, is more present than ever [2,3]. An intelligent assistant provides a whole series of technological resources designed to take what we request by voice and convert it into specific tasks. To do this, they employ powerful voice recognition capabilities, then artificial intelligence systems enable them to interpret requests and convert them into commands for our technological devices. Although these assistants cover many scenarios and much content, related advanced services are lacking in the field of geographic orientation, despite it being an environment of early technology adoption. For instance, methods of user-computer interaction underwent a revolution related to the introduction of graphical user interfaces (GUIs) and their popularization by the Apple Macintosh in the early 1980s.

1.2 - PROJECT OVERVIEW

The project, **“A Voice Enabled User Interface Geospatial Map-based Web-Applications,”** cover many scenarios and much content, related advanced services are lacking in the field of geographic orientation, despite it being an environment of early technology adoption. For instance, methods of user-computer interaction underwent a revolution related to the introduction of graphical user interfaces (GUIs) and their popularization by the Apple Macintosh in the early 1980s. Geographic information systems (GISs) adopted them at an early stage for logical reasons . Now, even Appl. Sci. 2023,13, 2083. <https://doi.org/10.3390/app13042083> <https://www.mdpi.com/journal/applsci> Appl. Sci. 2023, 13, 2083 2 of 16 with the help of the GUIs, GISs are inherently complex, and their interactions are often complicated [4]. Therefore, interest has been sustained over recent decades in creating new interaction models, including voice control . However, this has not

directly translated into practice. Appl. Sci. 2023, 13, x FOR PEER REVIEW 2 of 17
popularization by the Apple Macintosh in the early 1980s. Geographic information systems (GISs) adopted them at an early stage for logical reasons (Now, even with the help of the GUIs, GISs are inherently complex, and their interactions are often complicated. Therefore, interest has been sustained over recent decades in creating new interaction models, including voice control . However, this has not directly translated into practice.

1.3 - NEED OF PROJECT

Our research consisted of designing specialized voice user interfaces for visualizing geospatial data, primarily focusing on English-language commands. We established a discourse framework for geospatial tasks through methodological conceptualization, drawing on insights from previous GeoDialogue research. The central part of our work focused on compiling a rich corpus of voice commands. We used a survey enriched with visual content to identify user preferences for natural language commands. This survey informed us about popular terminology and the relationship between lexical choices.

An innovative approach was to use an NPL such as ChatGPT to validate, extend and test the correlation with the terms used by the users. While there was a significant overlap between the NPL model's predictions and the survey results, certain terms and phrasings highlighted the nuanced differences between a generalized NLP model and specific user behaviour in a given context. After compilation, the application was designed to harmonize with its hosting interface using state-of-the-art technologies. A subsequent usability testing session with ten users provided real feedback, completing our research process. Through these activities, we hope to have addressed some of the gaps in speech-enabled geospatial visualization, paving the way for further developments in the field.

1.4 - LITERATURE SURVEY

With the advent of technologies such as voice recognition and natural language processing (NLP), new developments are being introduced into everyday tools, impacting various fields. One such field is Cartography and Geoinformatics, where these advances are integral to the evolution of map and geospatial visualisation. Online mapping applications and open geospatial data have democratised spatial information, enabling public participation in its creation [1]. Integrating speech recognition technology into these applications can improve efficiency, user experience and accessibility while reducing the need for specialised skills and knowledge in dealing

with geospatial data [2]. Blanco [3] highlighted the lack of infrastructure and practical experience in implementing speech recognition in GIS interfaces, a challenge the present study aims to address. Integrating speech recognition and NLP in geospatial applications has been a topic of considerable interest in previous research [4]. For example, Lai and Degbelo [5] presented a webmapprototype that skilfully fuses text and speech for efficient metadata retrieval. Gilbert's [6] VocalGeo serves as a testament to the potential of speech recognition in promoting geospatial education. Similarly, Cal'1 and Condorelli [7] have highlighted the tangible benefits of incorporating NLP and speech recognition into conventional GIS through their iTour initiative. Furthermore, progress has been made in improving user GIS communication, as evidenced by Wang, Cai, and MacEachren's [8] PlanGraph and GeoDialogue.

2. PROBLEM DEFINITION & SCOPE

2.1 - PROBLEM STATEMENT

Despite significant advancements in user-computer interaction technologies, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) continue to rely heavily on complex graphical user interfaces (GUIs) that can be challenging for users to navigate efficiently. While GIS adopted GUIs early on, the inherent complexity of these systems still presents barriers, especially for non-expert users. Furthermore, despite decades of research into alternative interaction models such as voice control, practical implementation of voice-enabled interfaces in GIS remains limited. This gap in user interaction innovation creates an opportunity to explore voice-enabled solutions to enhance user experience and accessibility in GIS applications.

This project aims to develop a voice-enabled geospatial map-based web application that simplifies interaction with GIS tools, allowing users to efficiently perform tasks like map navigation and data analysis through voice commands. By integrating technologies like Leaflet and TensorFlow.js, this solution addresses the need for more intuitive and user-friendly interfaces in the geospatial domain.

2.2 – SCOPE

The scope of this project includes the development of a fully functional web-based platform that automates data extraction, processing, and visualization.

The system will be capable of:

- Implement core geospatial functions (zoom, pan, query) through voice commands.
- Integrate with popular geospatial mapping platforms and databases.
- Design an intuitive user interface with visual and auditory feedback.
- Focus on accessibility, adhering to relevant standards and guidelines.
- Provide user guides, tutorials, and ongoing support based on user feedback.

2.3 - AREA OF PROJECT

Key areas involved include:

1. **Geospatial Data Visualization:** Leveraging GIS tools for visualizing and interacting with spatial data on a map-based interface.
2. **Voice Interaction and Command Processing:** Using machine learning and natural language processing frameworks such as **TensorFlow.js** to enable real-time voice command recognition and response.
3. **Web Application Development:** Building an interactive, web-based platform with a focus on seamless user experience, utilizing **JavaScript** frameworks, **Leaflet**, and **TensorFlow.js**.

4. **Accessibility and User Experience:** Addressing the complexity of traditional GIS systems by simplifying interactions, particularly for users with limited GIS expertise or physical limitations.

2.4 - GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goals:

The primary goal of this project is to develop a **voice-enabled user interface for geospatial map-based web applications** to enhance accessibility, simplify interactions, and improve user experience with Geographic Information Systems (GIS). The system aims to demonstrate how voice commands can streamline complex GIS tasks that traditionally require sophisticated GUI navigation.

Objectives:

- **Develop a Web-Based GIS Platform:**
 - Create an interactive, web-based GIS application using **Leaflet** for geospatial data visualization.
- **Integrate Voice-Recognition Technology:**
 - Implement **voice command functionality** using **TensorFlow.js** to enable users to interact with the GIS platform through natural language.
- **Enhance User Experience:**
 - Simplify complex GIS tasks, such as zooming, panning, layer selection, and data query, by allowing users to control these actions via voice commands.
- **Improve Accessibility:**
 - Create a more inclusive system that allows individuals with physical limitations or lack of GIS expertise to easily interact with geospatial data.
- **Test and Evaluate Usability:**
 - Conduct user testing to assess the **effectiveness, usability, and accuracy** of the voice-enabled features, and gather feedback for improvements.
- **Establish Real-Time Voice Processing:**

- Enable **real-time** voice recognition and response capabilities, ensuring that the platform processes and executes user commands promptly.
- **Provide Flexibility for Future Expansion:**
 - Build the system architecture in a modular fashion, allowing for future integration of more advanced voice commands, additional map features, or other interactive components.

3. SOFTWARE REQUIREMENT SPECIFICATION

3.1 - SOFTWARE REQUIREMENT

To develop the "A Voice Enabled User Interface Geospatial Map-based Web-Applications" platform, the following software tools and technologies are required:

- **Programming Languages and Frameworks:**
 - **JavaScript:** For developing the core functionalities of the web application.
 - **Python** (optional): For backend processing (if needed).
- **Frontend Libraries and Frameworks:**
 - **Leaflet.js:** A JavaScript library for interactive map visualizations and geospatial data handling.
 - **TensorFlow.js:** For machine learning and natural language processing, enabling voice recognition on the client-side.
- **Backend Technologies:**
 - **Node.js:** A runtime environment for server-side code execution, useful for handling real-time processing of voice commands.
- **Voice Recognition and Natural Language Processing (NLP):**
 - **TensorFlow.js:** For integrating machine learning models to recognize voice commands and process natural language.
- **GIS Data Management:**
 - **GeoJSON:** For managing and displaying geospatial data in the web application.
 - **Amazon S3 or Firebase Storage** (optional): For hosting geospatial data files or application assets.
- **Development Tools and IDEs:**
 - **Visual Studio Code:** An integrated development environment (IDE) for coding and debugging.
 - **Git/GitHub:** For version control and collaboration.
- **Deployment and Hosting:**
 - **Amazon Web Services (AWS) or Microsoft Azure:** Cloud platforms for hosting the web application and managing data storage.

3.2 - HARDWARE REQUIREMENT

For smooth development, testing, and deployment of the platform, the following hardware resources are recommended:

Development Machine:

- **Processor:** A multi-core processor (e.g., Intel Core i5 or AMD Ryzen 5) or higher for handling development tasks, real-time testing, and running multiple services simultaneously.
- **RAM:** At least **8 GB of RAM** (16 GB or more recommended) to efficiently run multiple development tools, browser-based debugging, and handle memory-intensive tasks such as voice processing and GIS map rendering.
- **Storage:** Minimum **256 GB SSD** for faster file access and better performance when using large datasets (GIS layers, geospatial data, etc.).

Server/Hosting Environment (if deploying locally or for self-hosting):

- **Processor:** A multi-core server-grade processor (e.g., Intel Xeon or AMD EPYC) to handle concurrent users and real-time voice recognition.
- **RAM:** Minimum **16 GB of RAM** for running the server environment, GIS data, voice processing, and map rendering in real time.

Cloud Resources (Optional, for cloud-based deployment):

- **Cloud Instances:** Cloud services like **AWS EC2** or **Google Cloud Compute Engine** for hosting the web application, ensuring scalability and availability for a larger user base.
- **CPU and Memory:** Cloud instances with at least **2 vCPUs** and **8 GB RAM** for small to medium-scale deployment. Larger deployments may require more powerful configurations, depending on user traffic and processing needs.

3.3 - FUNCTIONAL REQUIREMENT

The functional requirements define the key features and behaviors of the system:

1. Natural Language Understanding:

The system doesn't just convert the words; it **understands the intent** behind them. For instance, a simple "Show hospitals" triggers a search for healthcare facilities on the map.

Flowchart Generation:

2. **Dynamic Map Interaction:**

Using **Leaflet.js**, the web application responds to voice commands by adjusting the map view. It can zoom in and out, pan across different regions, switch between map layers (e.g., satellite view or terrain view), and display geographic features like roads or landmarks.

3. **Voice-Activated Search:**

Users can query the system for specific data, such as “Find parks within 2 kilometers” or “Show all schools in this district.” The system fetches relevant data points and visualizes them on the map.

4. **Interactive Feedback:**

When users issue commands like “Zoom in” or “Show weather,” the system immediately updates the map, offering real-time feedback to ensure a smooth, responsive experience.

4. PROJECT PLAN

4.1 - PROJECT SCHEDULE

Phase	Tasks	Duration	Start Date	End Date
1. Requirement Gathering	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Define project objectives and scope.- Gather requirements from stakeholders (end-users, GIS experts, developers).- Identify key features (voice control, geospatial interactions, data layers).- Finalize the requirements document.	2 weeks	Day 1	Day 14
2. Design Phase	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Design system architecture (including GIS data layers, voice recognition modules).- Create database schema for geospatial data.- Design user interface (UI) mockups for map interaction.- Finalize design of voice interaction model (commands, intents).- Finalize system design documents.	4 weeks	Day 15	Day 42
3. Detailed Designing Phase	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Build core modules:- Develop voice recognition module (TensorFlow.js and Web Speech API).- Design and implement Leaflet.js map rendering module.- Integrate voice commands with map features (zoom, pan, layer control, queries).- Develop user authentication and settings module.- Build frontend wireframes and UI interactions.- Conduct internal testing for all modules.	6 weeks	Day 43	Day 84

4.2 - PROJECT COST ESTIMATION

The project's cost estimation includes software, hardware, and hosting costs. As the project involves using open-source tools and minimal hardware, the estimated cost is primarily related to cloud hosting and development tools.

Category	Details	Estimated Cost (INR)
Hardware	Development laptop (if required)	0 (assuming personal system)
Software	Open-source tools (Scrapy, PlantUML, etc.)	0 (open source)
Cloud Hosting	For deployment (monthly)	500 INR
Testing Tools	Postman, browser testing	0 (open source)
Miscellaneous	Internet charges, power usage	500 INR
Total Estimated Cost		1000 INR

4.3 – SDLC

Planning Phase

- **Objective:** Define the project scope and plan for development.
- **Activities:**
 - Identify stakeholders and gather high-level requirements.
 - Define project objectives, goals, and success criteria.
 - Create a project schedule and resource allocation plan.
 - Estimate costs and develop a budget.
 - Conduct risk assessment and develop mitigation strategies.

Requirement Analysis Phase

- **Objective:** Gather detailed requirements for the application.
- **Activities:**
 - Conduct meetings and interviews with stakeholders to gather functional and non-functional requirements.
 - Document user stories and use cases to understand user interactions.
 - Finalize the requirements document, including voice commands, geospatial interactions, and data requirements.

Design Phase

- **Objective:** Create the architecture and design for the application.
- **Activities:**

- Develop system architecture diagrams, including frontend and backend components.
- Design the database schema for storing geospatial data.
- Create user interface mockups and wireframes for the application.
- Design the voice interaction model, detailing how users will interact with the application using voice commands.

Development Phase

- **Objective:** Build the application based on the design specifications.
- **Activities:**
 - Set up the development environment and configure necessary tools (e.g., TensorFlow.js, Leaflet.js).
 - Develop the frontend interface, implementing the voice recognition and geospatial mapping functionalities.
 - Implement backend services for data handling and user authentication.
 - Integrate the voice commands with the mapping functionalities to allow users to interact with the GIS effectively.

Testing Phase

- **Objective:** Ensure the application is functioning as intended and is free of defects.
- **Activities:**
 - Conduct unit testing on individual components (e.g., voice recognition, map rendering).
 - Perform integration testing to verify that all components work together seamlessly.
 - Identify and resolve any bugs or issues discovered during testing.

Deployment Phase

- **Objective:** Launch the application for public or targeted users.
- **Activities:**
 - Deploy the application on the chosen cloud hosting service (e.g., AWS, Google Cloud).
 - Set up continuous integration and delivery (CI/CD) processes for future updates.
 - Conduct final deployment testing to ensure everything functions correctly in the live environment.

Maintenance Phase

- **Objective:** Support the application after deployment and make improvements as needed.
- **Activities:**
 - Monitor application performance and user feedback to identify areas for improvement.
 - Fix any bugs or issues that arise post-launch.

- Release periodic updates to add new features or enhance existing functionalities based on user feedback.

4.4 - FEASIBILITY STUDY

The **feasibility study** ensures that the project is viable and achievable from different perspectives:

1. **Technical Feasibility:**

- The required technology includes JS libraries(eg. Leaflet.js for mapping), HTML, CSS.
- TensorFlow.js or Web Speech API for voice command recognition.

2. **Economic Feasibility:**

- The project cost is minimal (estimated at 1000 INR), making it economically feasible for completion.

3. **Schedule Feasibility:**

- The project can be completed approximately within 6 months, including planning, development, testing, and deployment phases.
- The project timeline is feasible within the constraints of an academic schedule.

4.5 - RISK ANALYSIS AND PLANNING

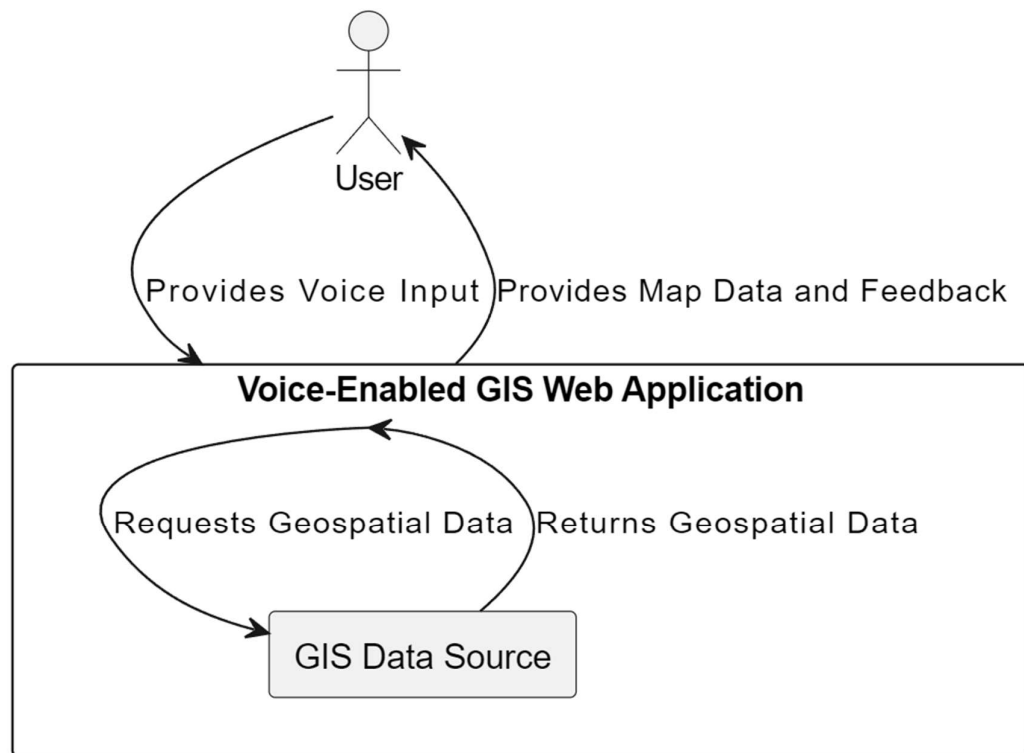
This section outlines potential risks that may arise during the development and deployment phases, along with mitigation strategies:

Risk	Impact	Likelihood	Mitigation Strategy
NLP Model Inaccuracy	Medium	Low	Use pre-trained models and continuously fine-tune them based on domain-specific data to improve accuracy.
User Interface Complexity	Medium	Low	Conduct thorough testing with user feedback to ensure the UI is intuitive and easy to navigate.
Time Overrun	High	Low	Break tasks into smaller milestones and review progress reviews to adhere to the timeline.
High Resource Consumption	Medium	Medium	Optimize data processing algorithms and resource management to reduce CPU and RAM usage.

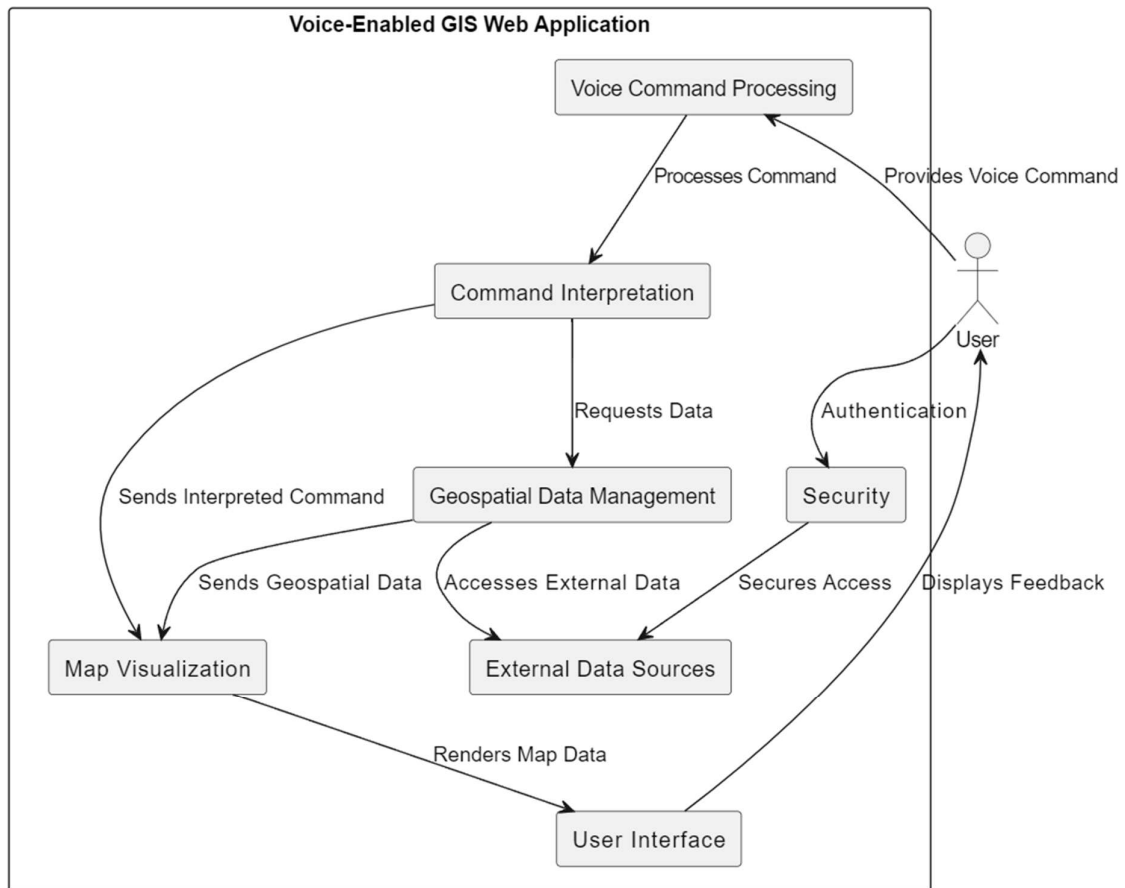
5. SOFTWARE DESIGN

5.1 - DATA FLOW DIAGRAM

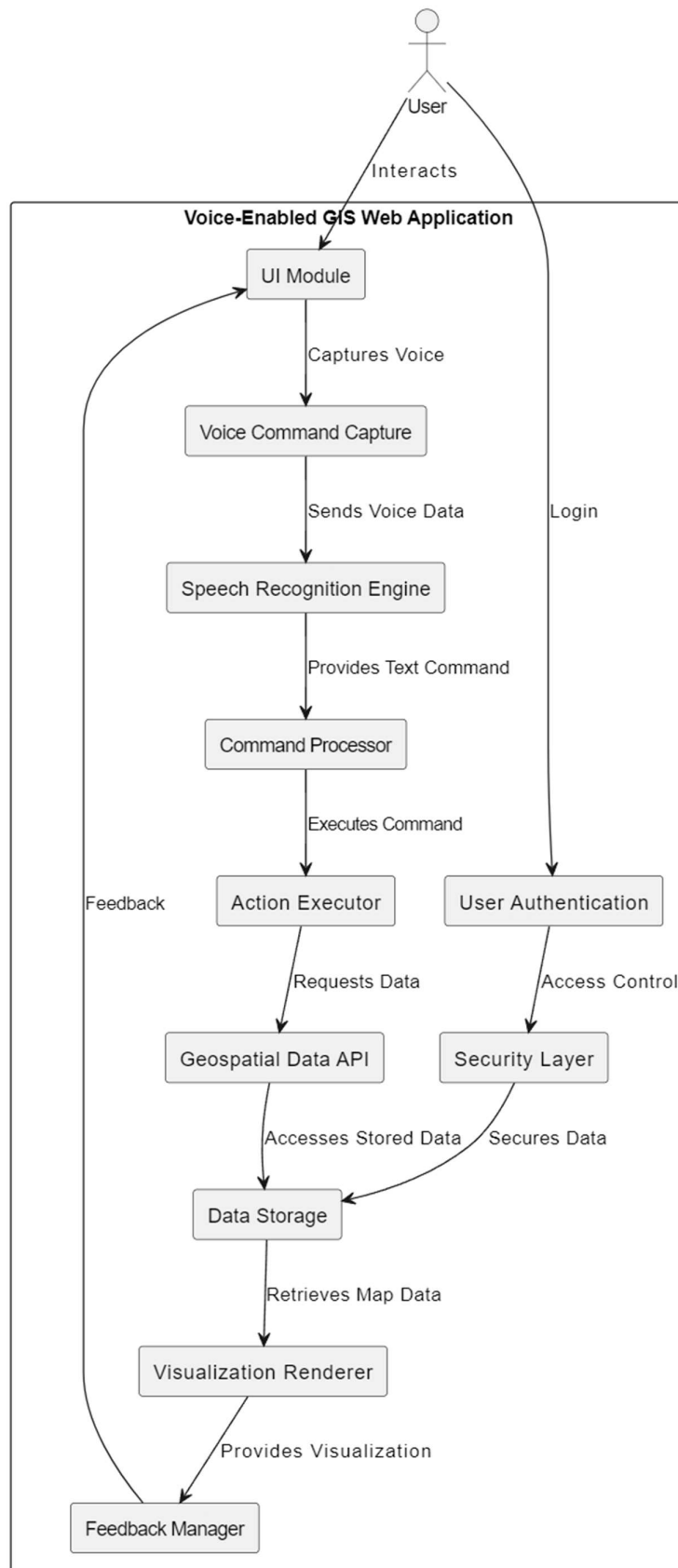
5.1.1 - LEVEL 0 DATA FLOW DIAGRAM



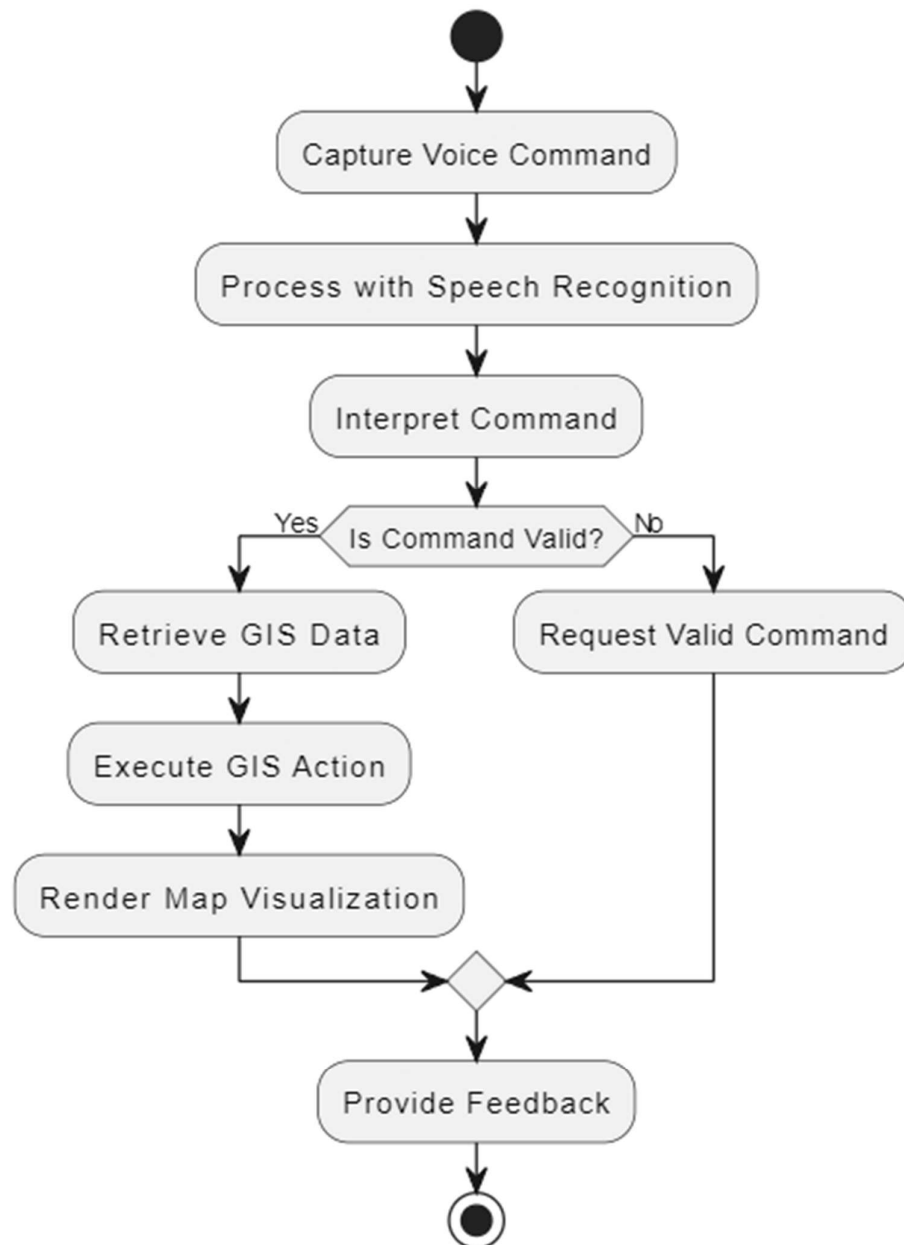
5.1.2 - LEVEL 1 DATA FLOW DIAGRAM



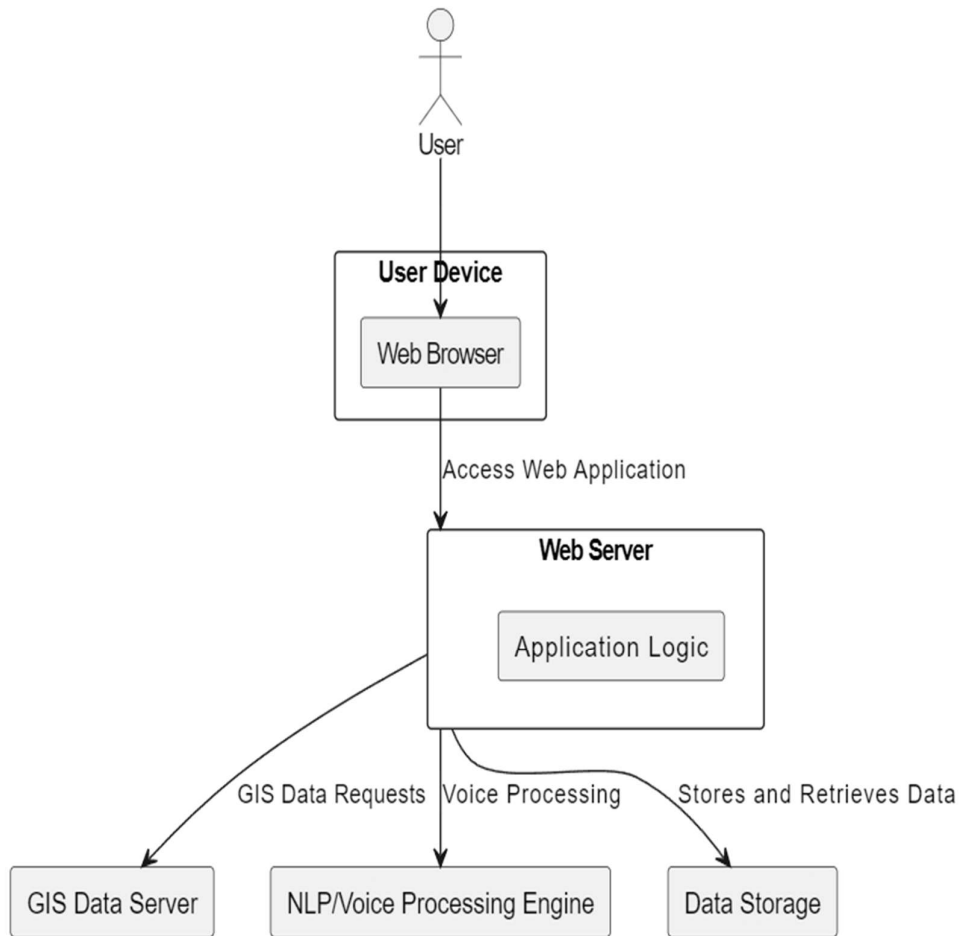
5.1.3 – LEVEL 2 DATA FLOW DIAGRAM



5.2 - FLOW CHART

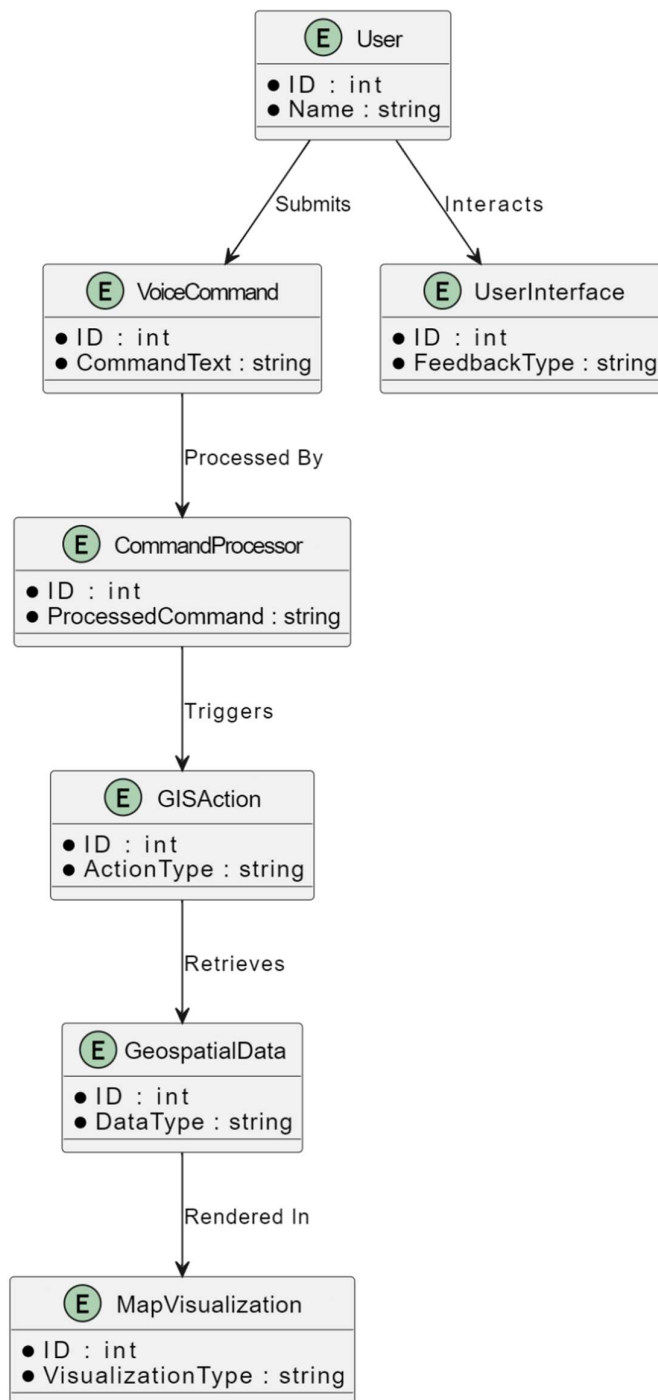


5.3 - SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE

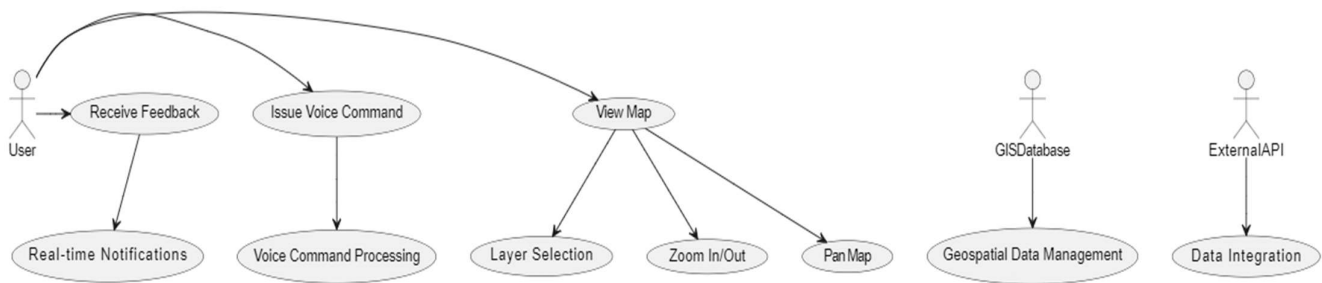


5.4 - UML DIAGRAMS

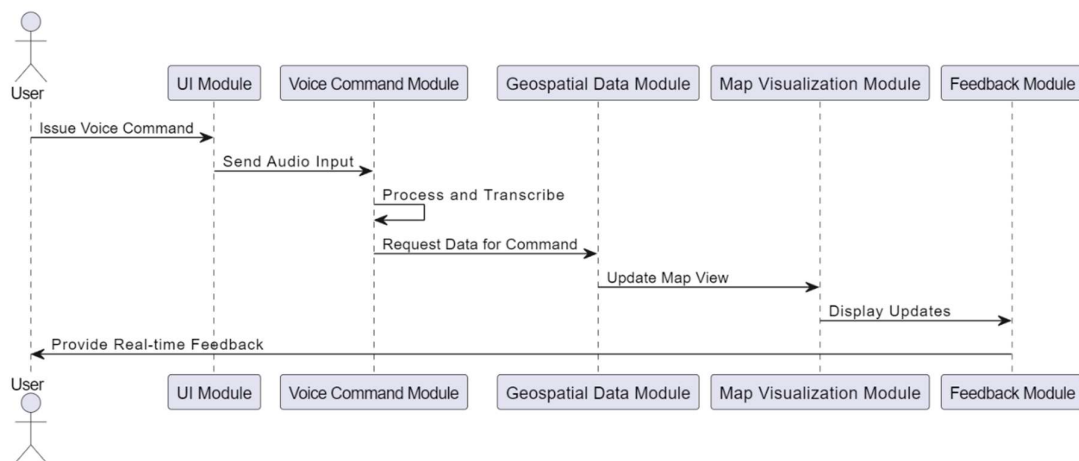
5.4.1 - ER DIAGRAM



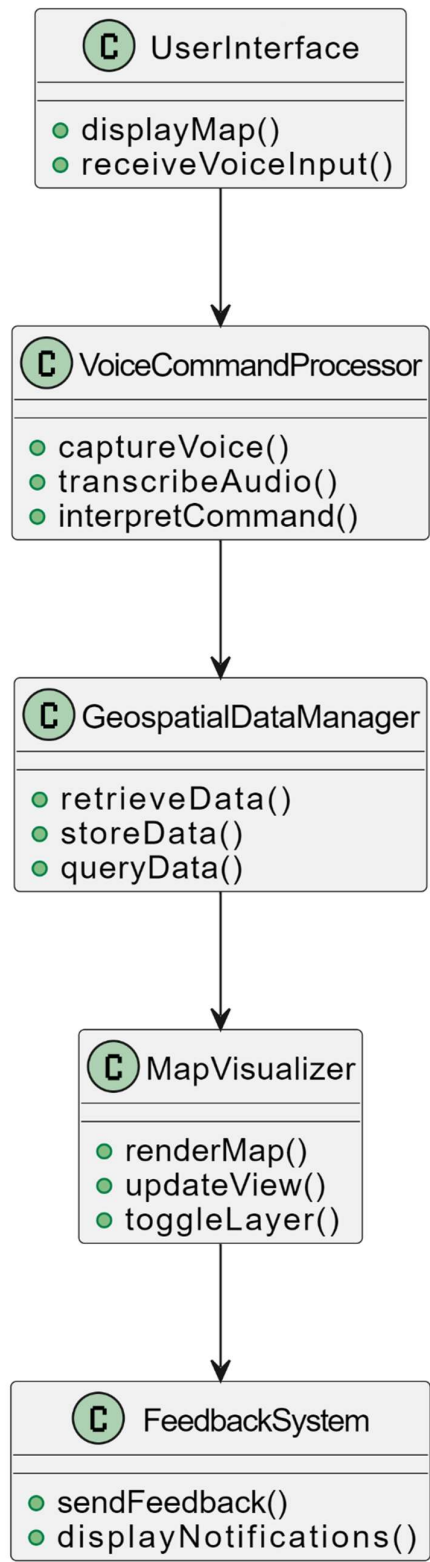
5.4.2 - USE CASE DIAGRAM



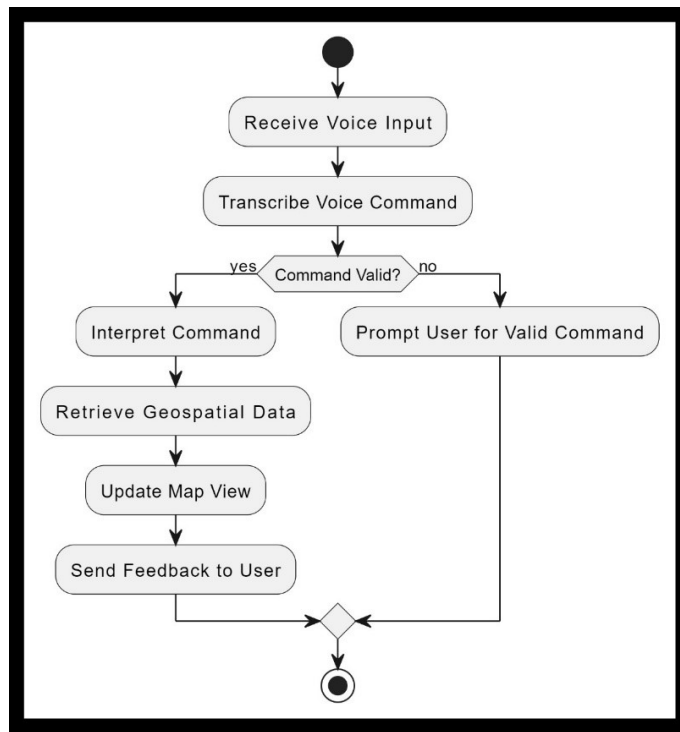
5.4.3 - SEQUENCE DIAGRAM



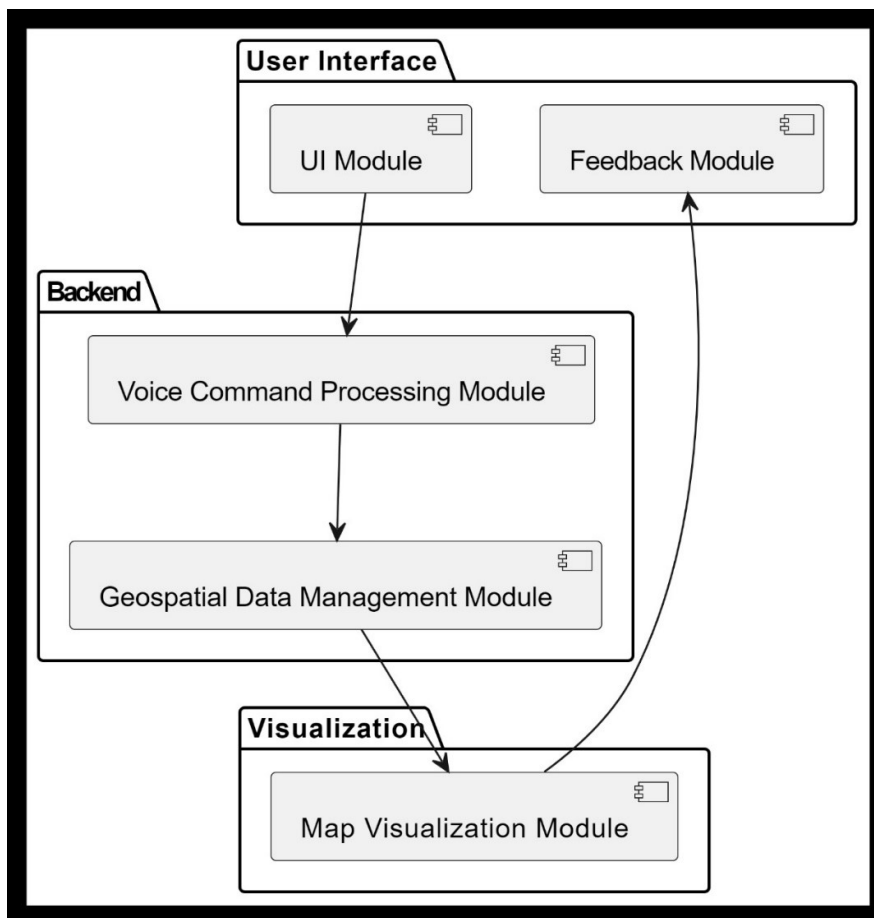
5.4.4 - CLASS DIAGRAM



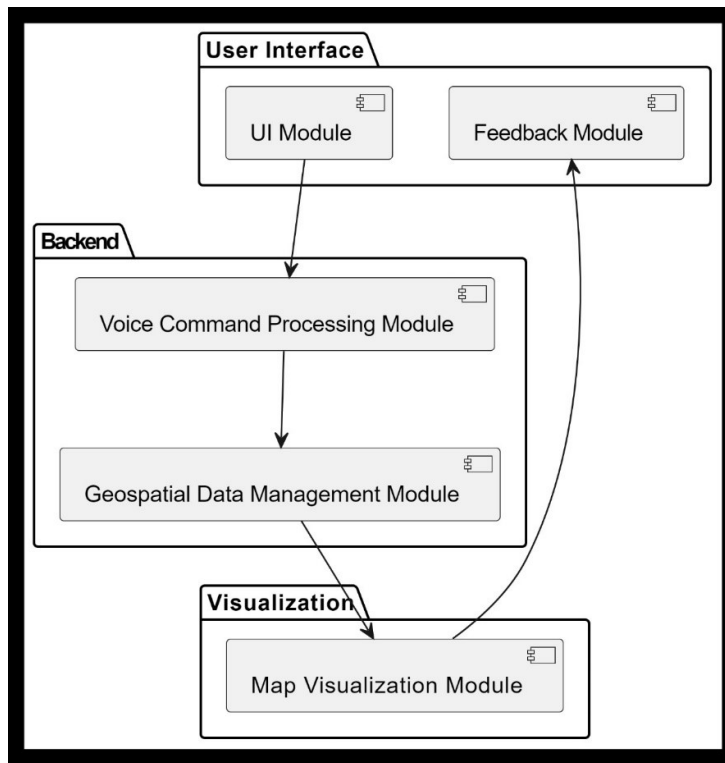
5.4.5 - ACTIVITY DIAGRAM



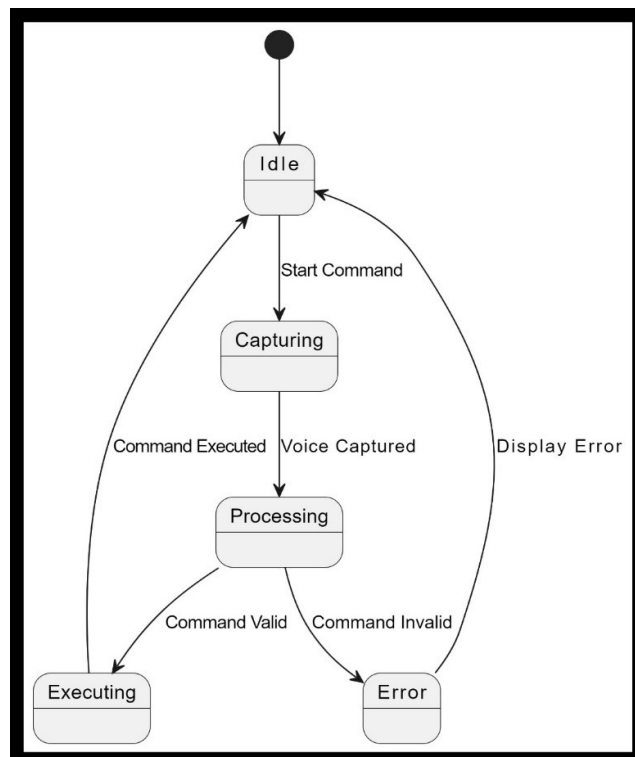
5.4.6 - COMPONENT DIAGRAM



5.4.7 – DEPLOYMENT DIAGRAM



5.4.8 - STATE CHART DIAGRAM



6. IMPLEMENTATION DETAILS

6.1 - MODULES AND THEIR FUNCTIONALITIES

The project "**A Voice Enabled User Interface geospatial map-based web-applications**" consists of several interconnected modules, each responsible for a specific functionality. Below is an overview of the key modules and their roles in the system:

1. User Interface Module

- **Functionality:**
 - Provides an intuitive and responsive design for users to interact with the application.
 - Displays maps and visualizations of geospatial data.
 - Accepts user input via voice commands and touch gestures.
 - Shows real-time feedback and notifications based on user actions.

2. Voice Command Processing Module

- **Functionality:**
 - Captures and processes user voice commands using a speech recognition engine.
 - Converts voice input into text for further processing.
 - Handles command interpretation to execute corresponding actions (e.g., zooming, panning, or querying the map).

3. Geospatial Data Management Module

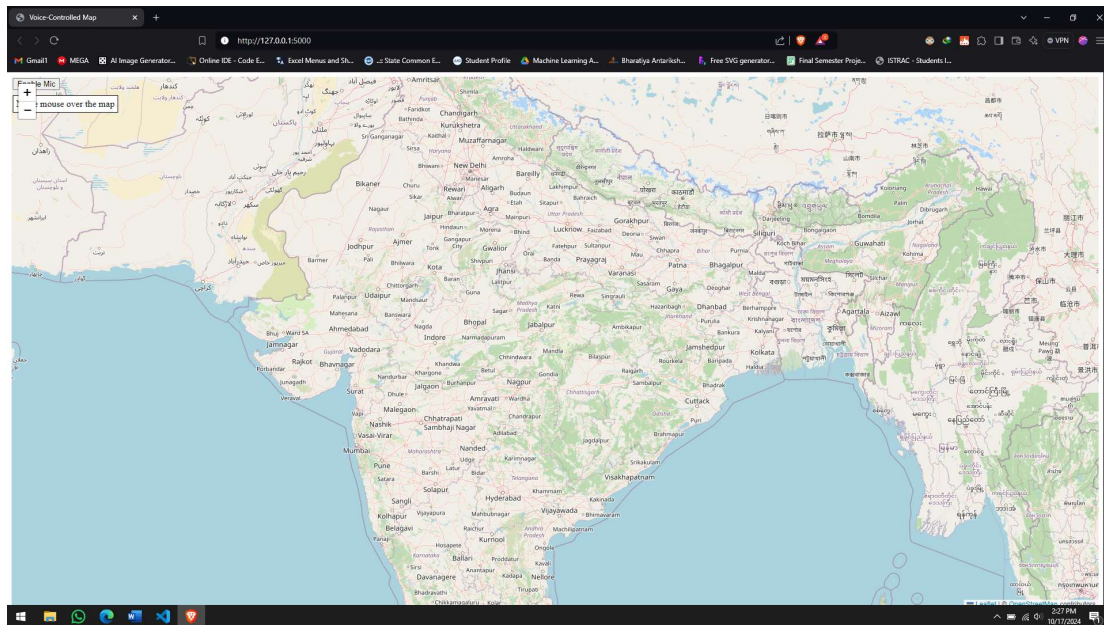
- **Functionality:**
 - Manages the retrieval and storage of geospatial data from various sources (e.g., GIS data providers, APIs).
 - Processes and formats incoming data for use within the application.
 - Provides functionalities for querying, filtering, and updating geospatial datasets.

4. Testing and Debugging Module

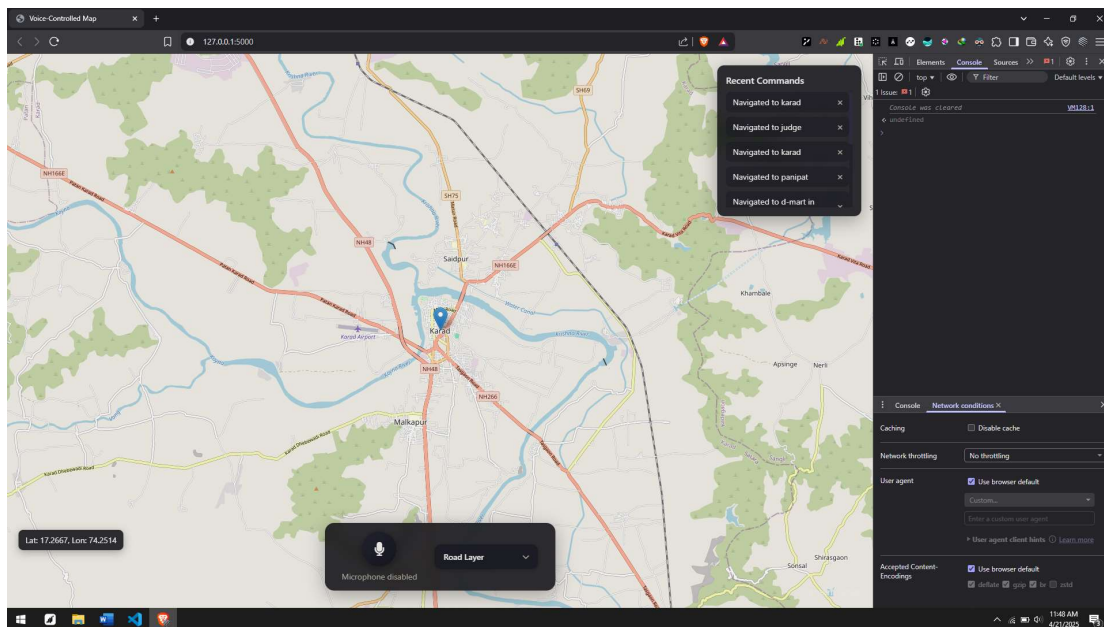
- **Functionality:**
 - Provides tools for testing the application at various stages of development.
 - Supports unit testing, integration testing, and user acceptance testing (UAT).
 - Aids in debugging issues and improving the overall reliability of the application.

7. Snapshot:

Initial:



Final:



8. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the **Voice-Enabled Geospatial Map-Based Web Application** represents a voice-based navigation approach to geospatial technology. By embracing voice interaction and modular design, the project not only addresses current challenges in GIS usability but also sets the stage for innovative solutions that can evolve with technological advancements and user needs. The successful implementation of this project has the potential to revolutionize the way users interact with geospatial information, making it more accessible, intuitive, and engaging for a diverse range of audiences.

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