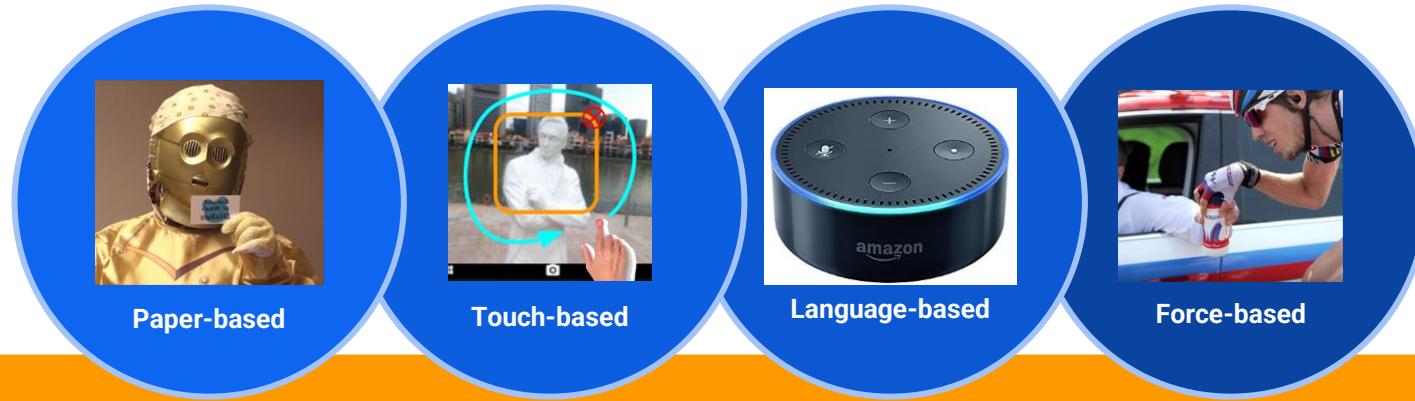




# MODULE 6: HETEROGENEOUS HUMAN ROBOT INTERACTIVE SYSTEMS

Nicholas Ho, PhD  
Institute of System Science, NUS

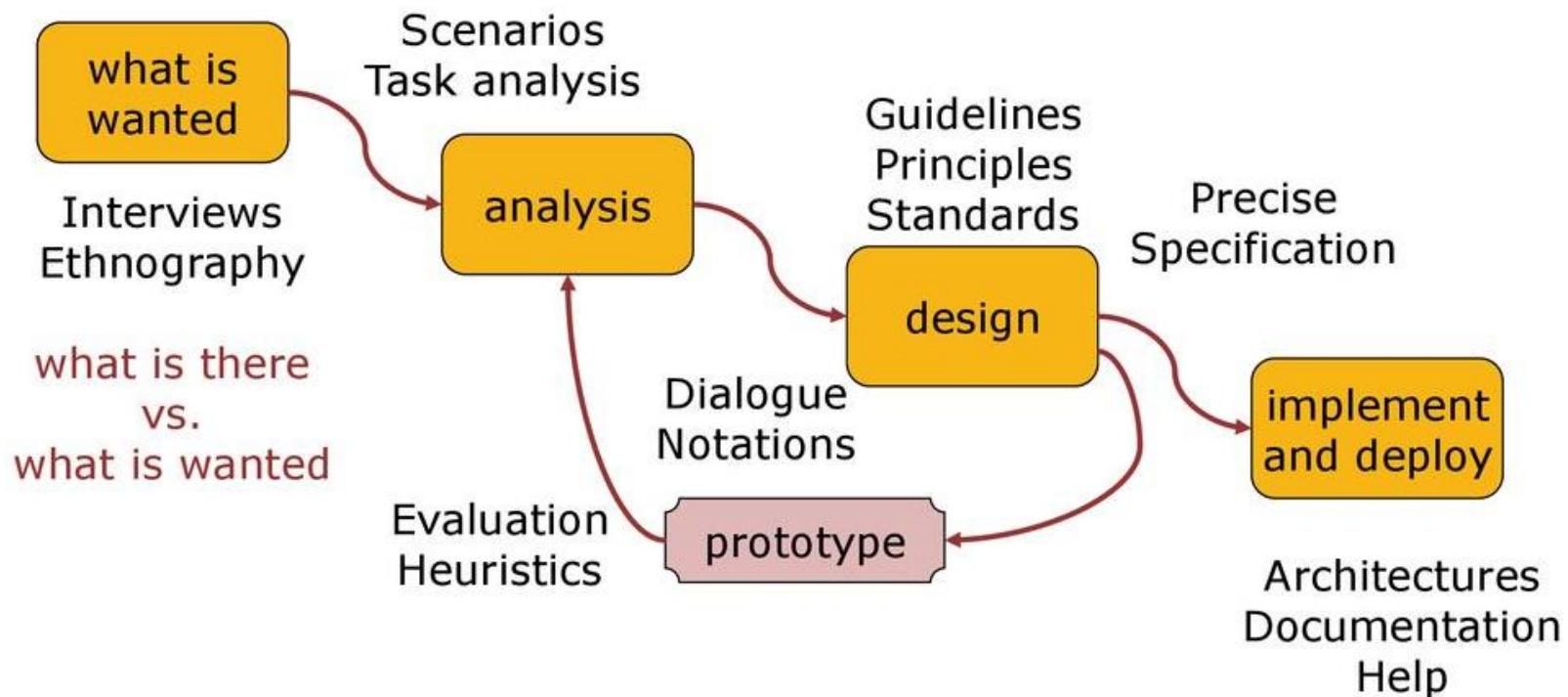


Human  
Factor

Robotics



# Ideal Process





# PAPER-BASED INTERFACE

## DOMESTIC HELPER EXAMPLE



# 1. What is Wanted

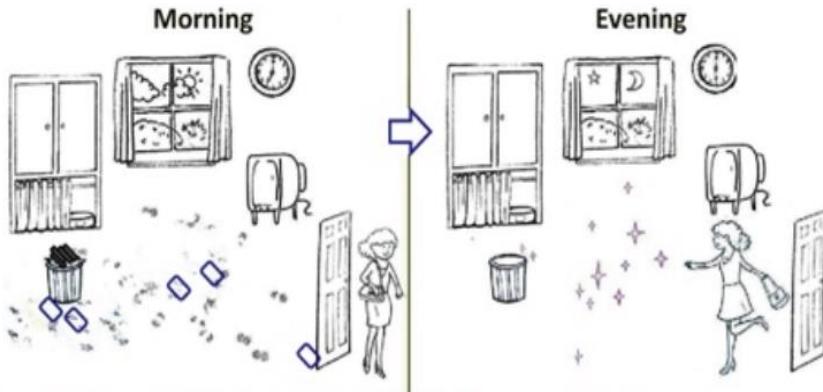
To have domestic housework  
done “magically”, with the help  
of domestic-service robots

- **What is there? What is wanted?**
- **National Survey of Families and Households, etc**
- **Semi-structured interview**
  - 6 participants (1 male, 5 females, age 21-64, 3 married, 1 with children)
  - 2 hours per session
- **Outcome**
  - Learn living conditions and habits
  - Verify initial design ideas: paper cards, asynchronous interaction, etc



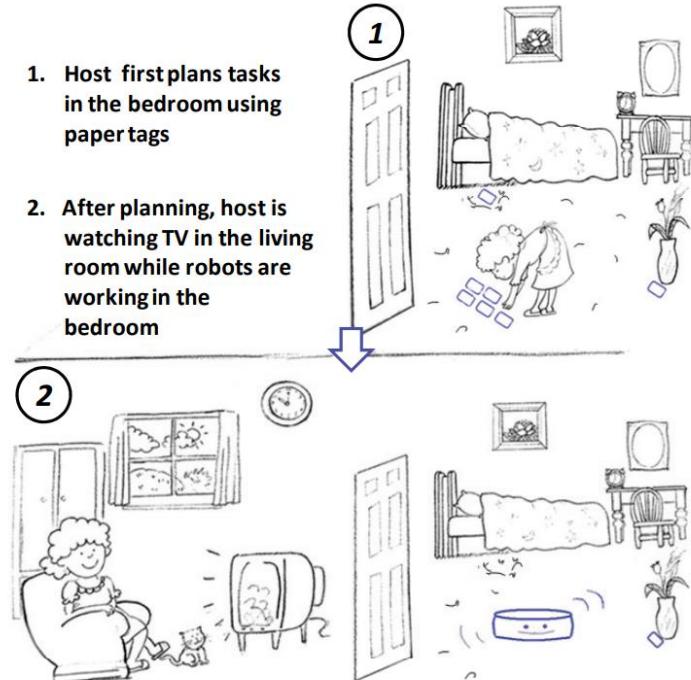


## 2. Analysis - Scenarios



- 1. In the morning, host planned tasks at home using paper tags, then is leaving for work**
- 2. In the evening, host is coming back home and the tasks were completed**

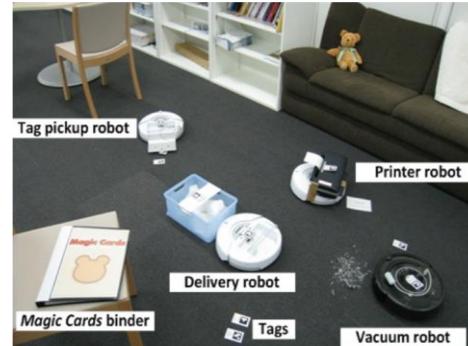
- 1. Host first plans tasks in the bedroom using paper tags**
- 2. After planning, host is watching TV in the living room while robots are working in the bedroom**





# 3. Design

Achieving *goals*  
within *constraints*



## **Goals:**

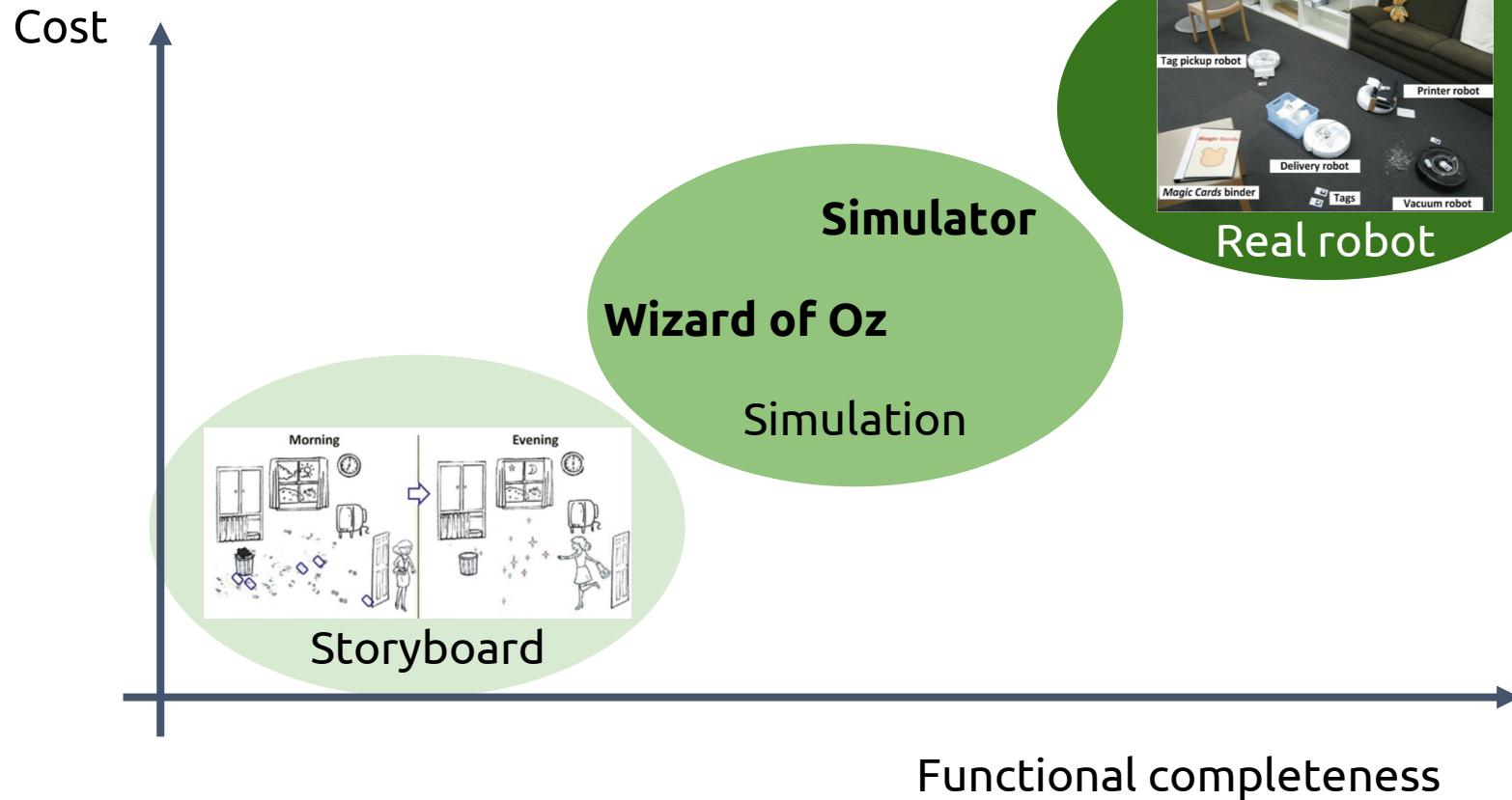
- **What** is the purpose?
  - Do domestic housework
- **Who** is the design for?
  - E.g. working couples, housewives
- **Why** do they want?
  - Save trouble & time
- ...

## **Constraints:**

- Material
  - Paper cards, cameras, robots, servers
- Cost
  - \$, \$, \$\$\$, \$\$
- Safety
  - Lost cards, broken robots, etc
- ...

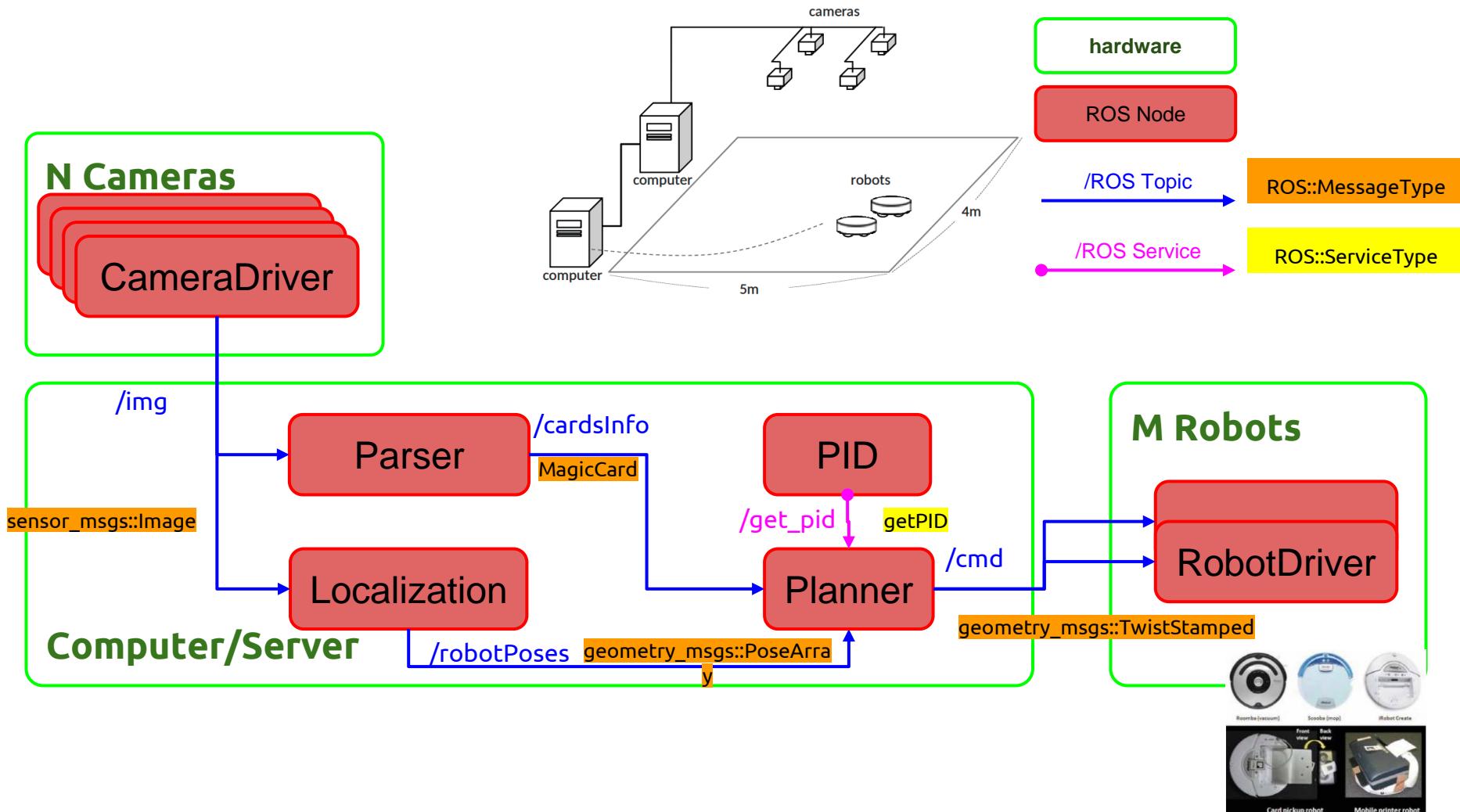


## 4. Prototypes





## 5. Implement and Deploy





# TOUCH INTERFACE DESIGN

## PHOTOGRAPHER EXAMPLE



# 1. What is Wanted?





# 1. What is Wanted?





# 1. What is Wanted?





# 1. What is Wanted?





# Flying camera interfaces





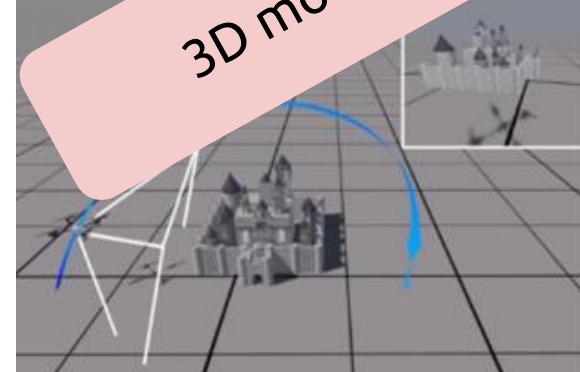
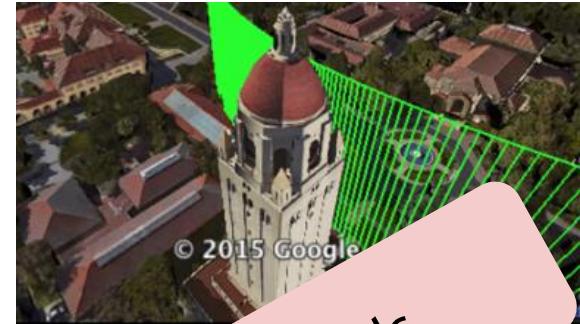
# Various Features



 Skydio



Parrot



- [1] Gebhardt, C., et al. "Airways: Optimization-based planning of quadrotor trajectories according to high-level user goals". In *CHI 2016*  
[2] Ross, S., et al. "Learning monocular reactive UAV control in cluttered natural environments." In *ICRA 2013*



# Interview study



3 professional  
photographers

5 amateur  
photographers

2 drone flyers/  
instructors

point-of-view, composition, ...

discover novel point-of-views, ...

extensive practice, tedious low-level control, ...



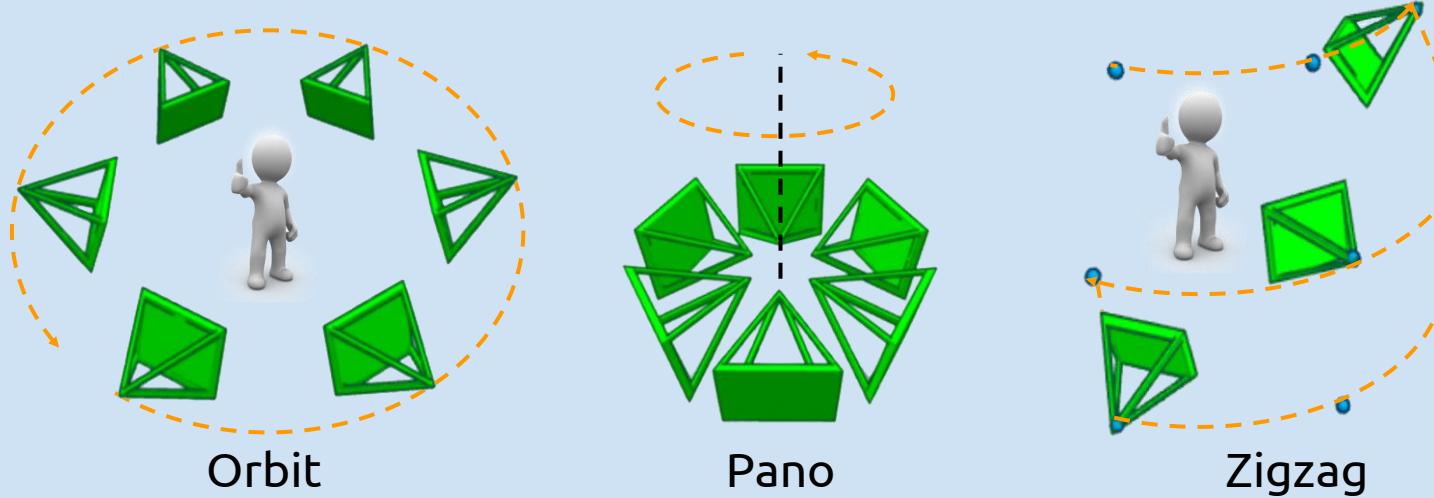
## 2. Analysis - Scenarios: Photo space



\* images from the internet

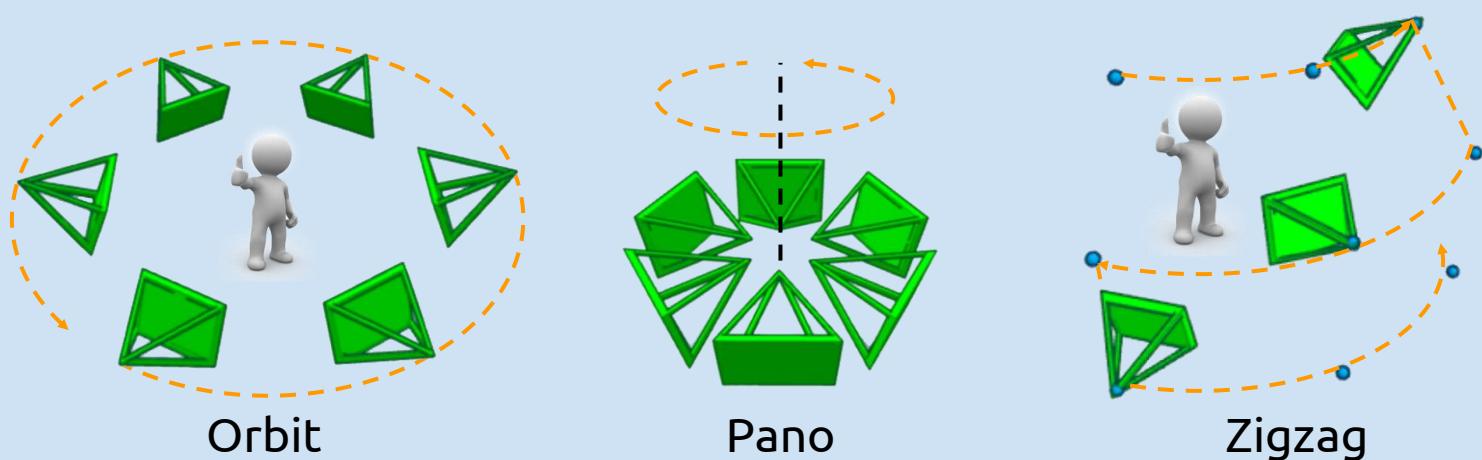


## 2. Analysis - Scenarios

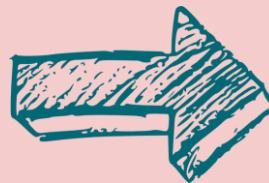
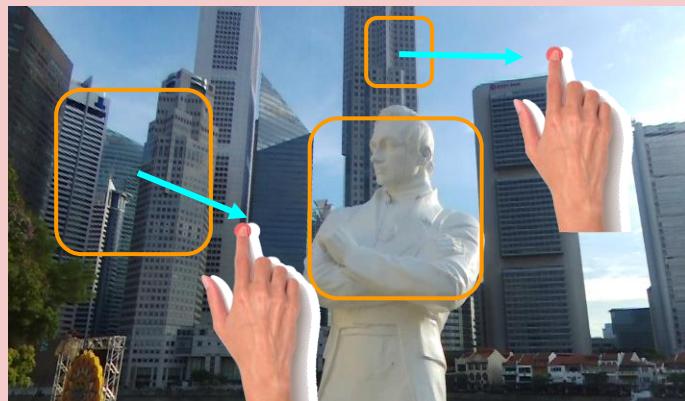




### 3. Design

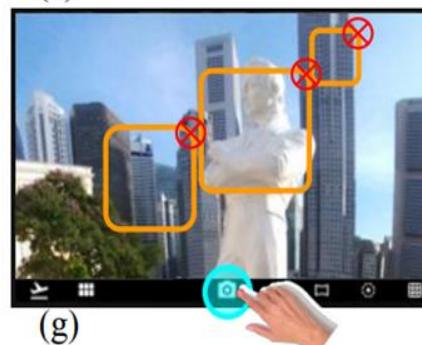
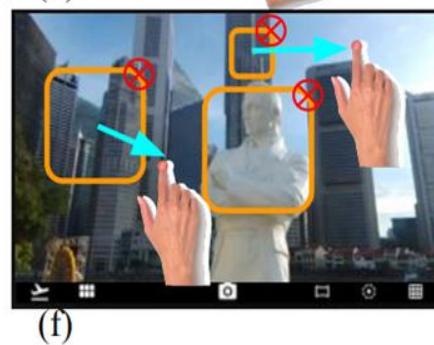
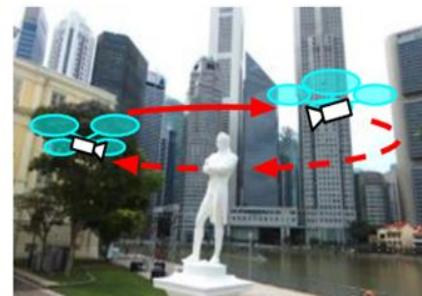
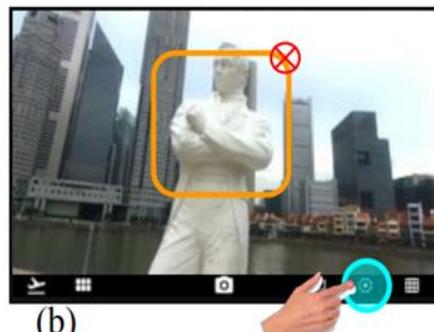
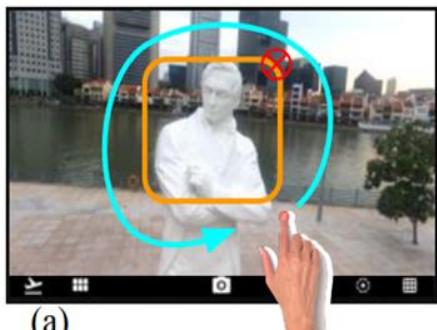


## EXPLORE-AND-COMPOSE



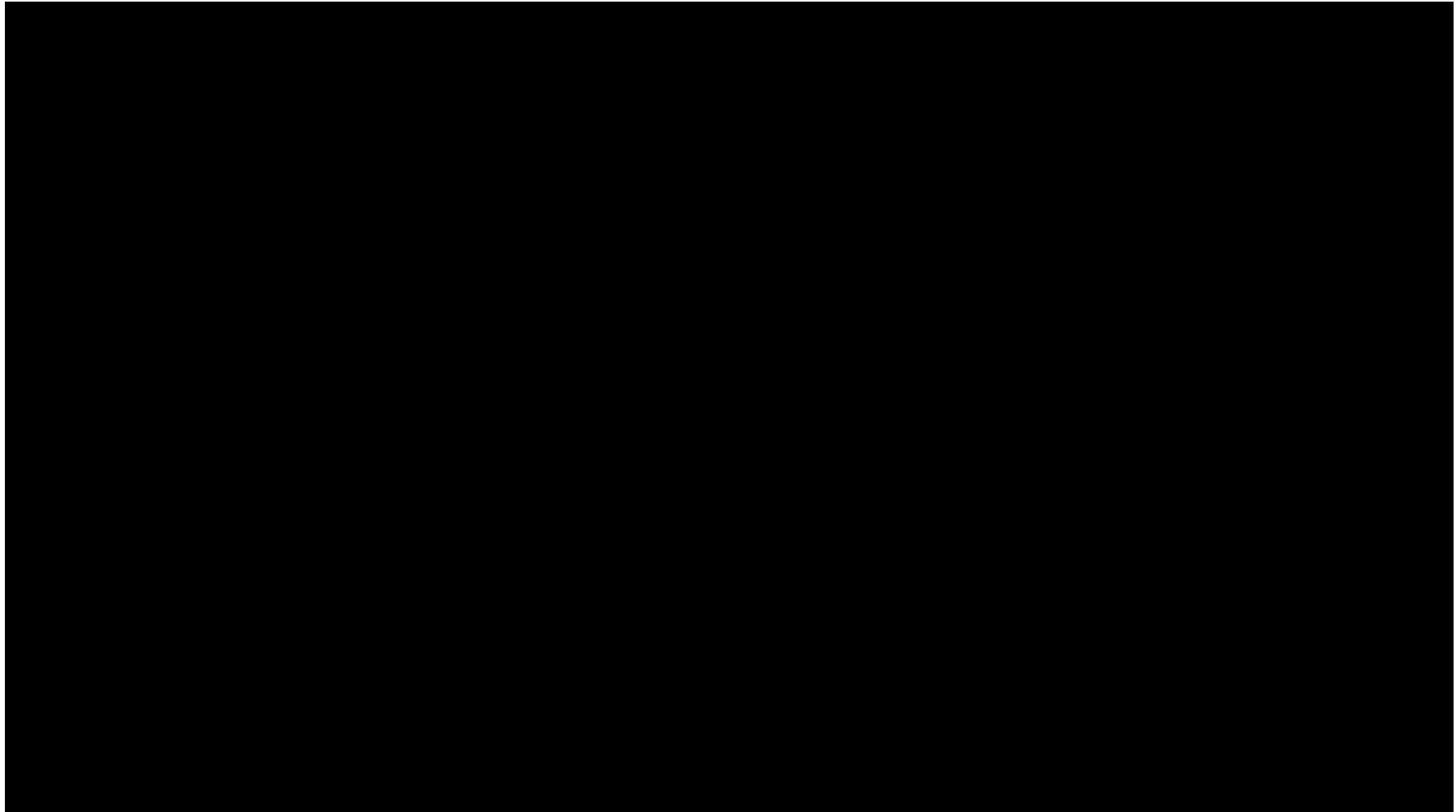


## 4. Prototypes





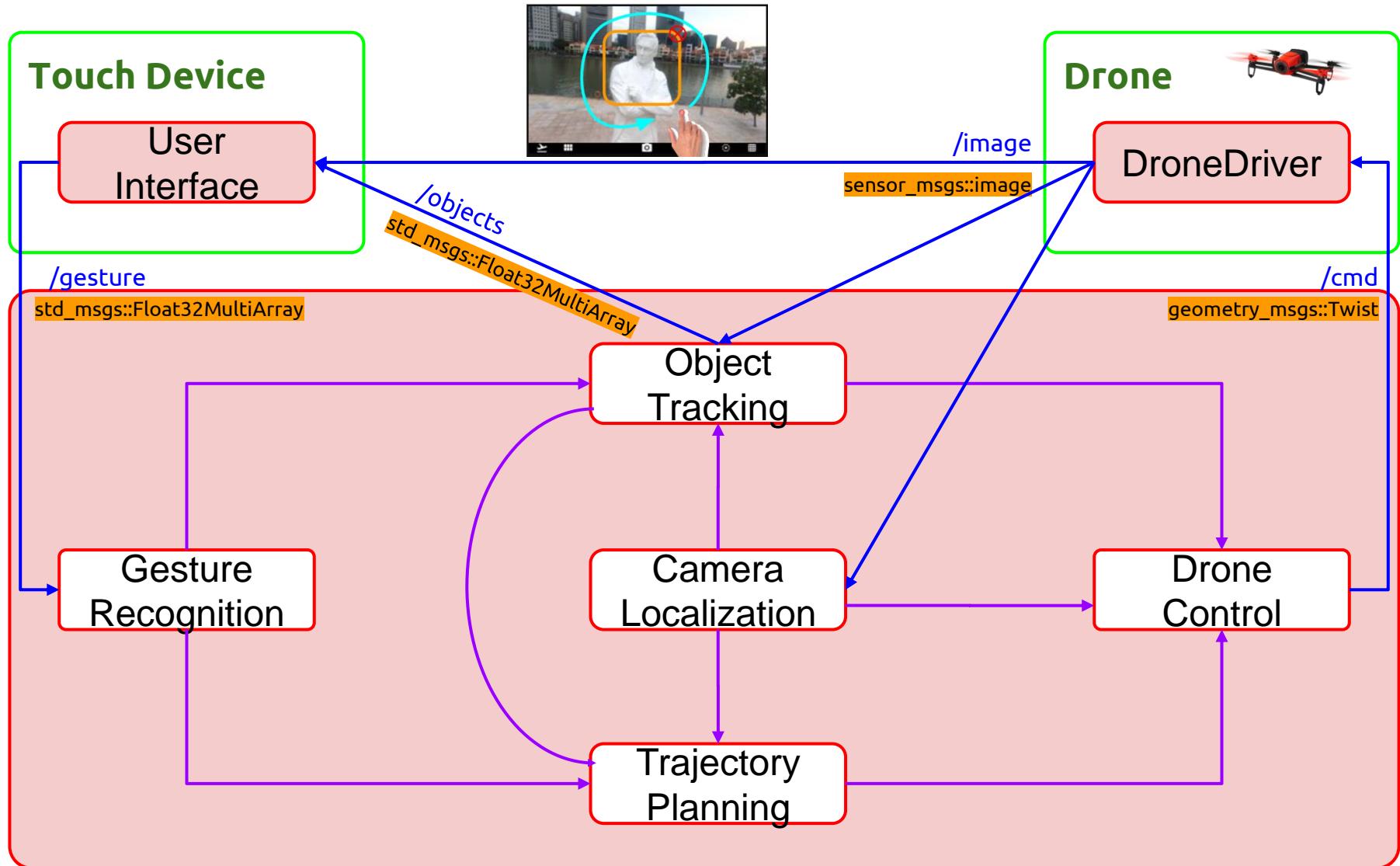
# Touch Interface Example: Xpose (cont)



Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F1hrPb1SIHo>



## 5. Implement and Deploy





# VIDEO-LANGUAGE-MODEL (VLM)-BASED INTERFACE



## BARTENDER EXAMPLE



# 1. What is Wanted???





## 2. Analysis - Scenarios



Simple  
command

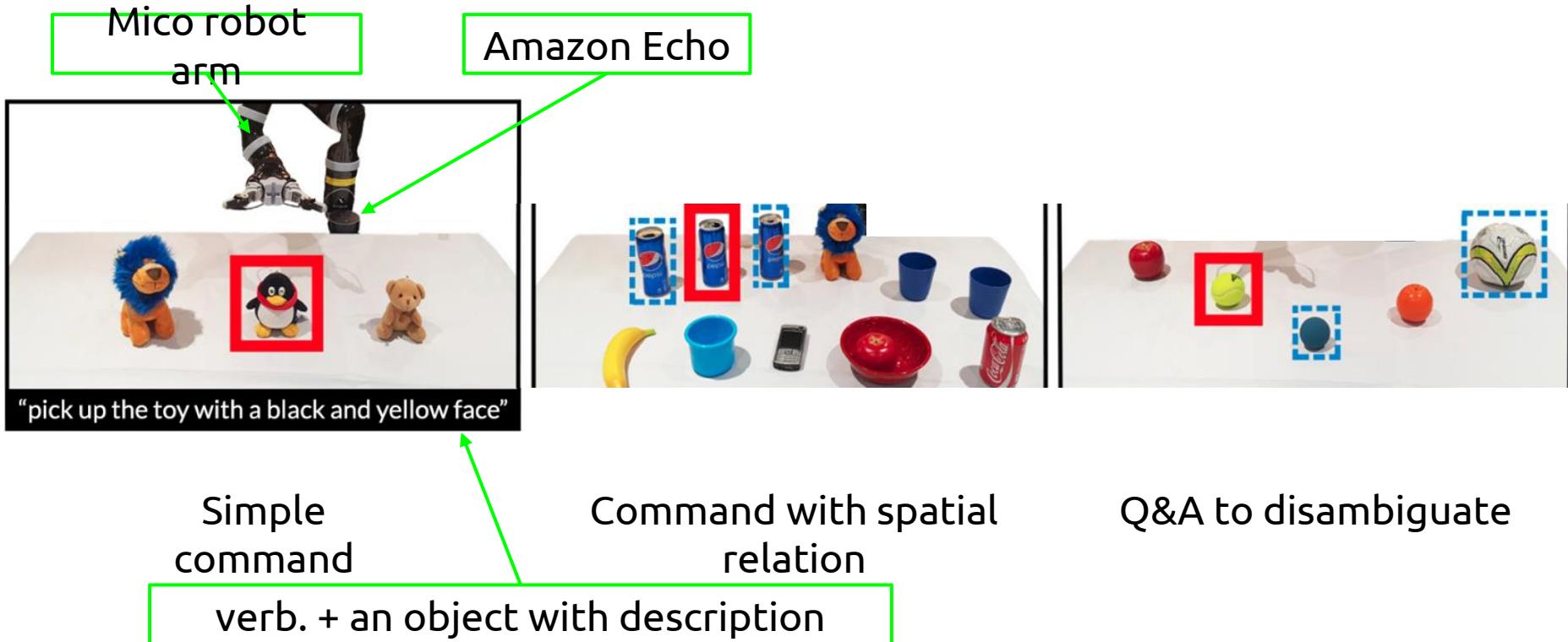
Command with spatial  
relation

Q&A to disambiguate

*Use voice to command the robot to pick up a **target object***



### 3. Design





### 3. Design

The figure consists of three panels showing a robotic arm interacting with objects on a table. A green arrow points from the top-left panel to the top-right panel, and another green arrow points from the bottom panel up towards the middle panel.

- Mico robot arm**: The first panel shows a white MICO robot arm with two black articulated arms. It is positioned above a table with three small toys: a blue lion, a penguin in a red frame, and a brown bear. A green arrow points from the text "Simple command" to this panel.
- Amazon Echo**: The second panel shows the same setup, but the penguin toy is now highlighted with a red frame. The text "pick up the toy with a black and yellow face" is displayed at the bottom. A green arrow points from the text "verb. + an object with description" to this panel.
- Q&A to disambiguate**: The third panel shows a wider view of the table with various objects: a banana, two blue cups, a mobile phone, a red bowl containing a tomato, a red Coca-Cola can, and a green apple in a red frame. The text "Command with spatial relation" is displayed at the bottom.

**Simple command**  
verb. + an object with description

**Command with spatial relation**

**Q&A to disambiguate**

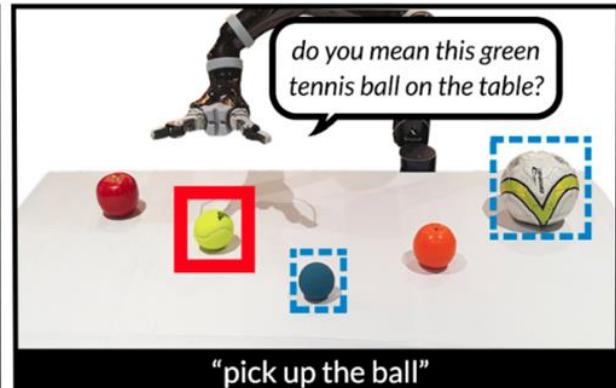
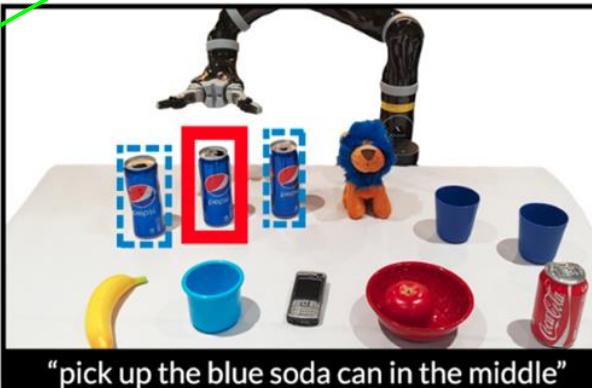


# 3. Design



Mico robot  
arm

Amazon Echo



Simple  
command

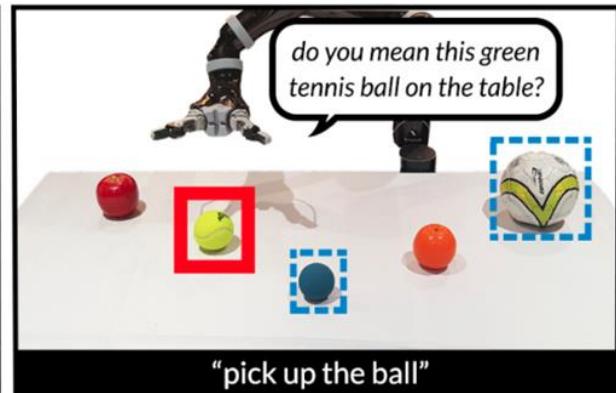
verb. + an object with description

Command with spatial  
relation

Q&A to disambiguate



## 4. Prototype - Storyboard



Simple  
command

Command with spatial  
relation

Q&A to disambiguate



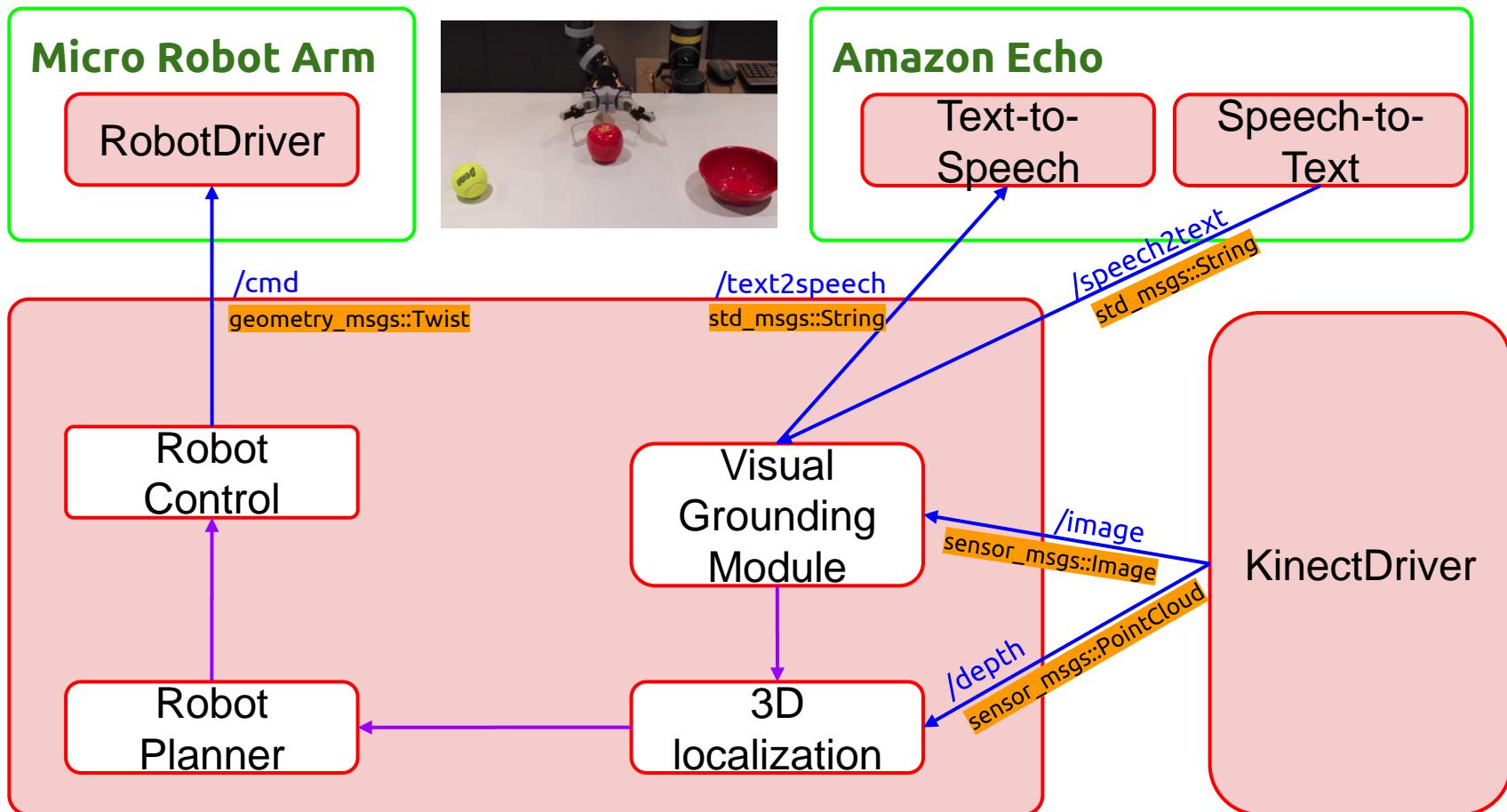
## 4. Prototype - INGRESS



Source: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/15AttCp-KCDEt8Ys5TfqXowsElm9GqAkH/view>



## 5. Implement and Deploy





# FORCE-BASED INTERFACE

## HANOVER EXAMPLE



# 1. What is Wanted



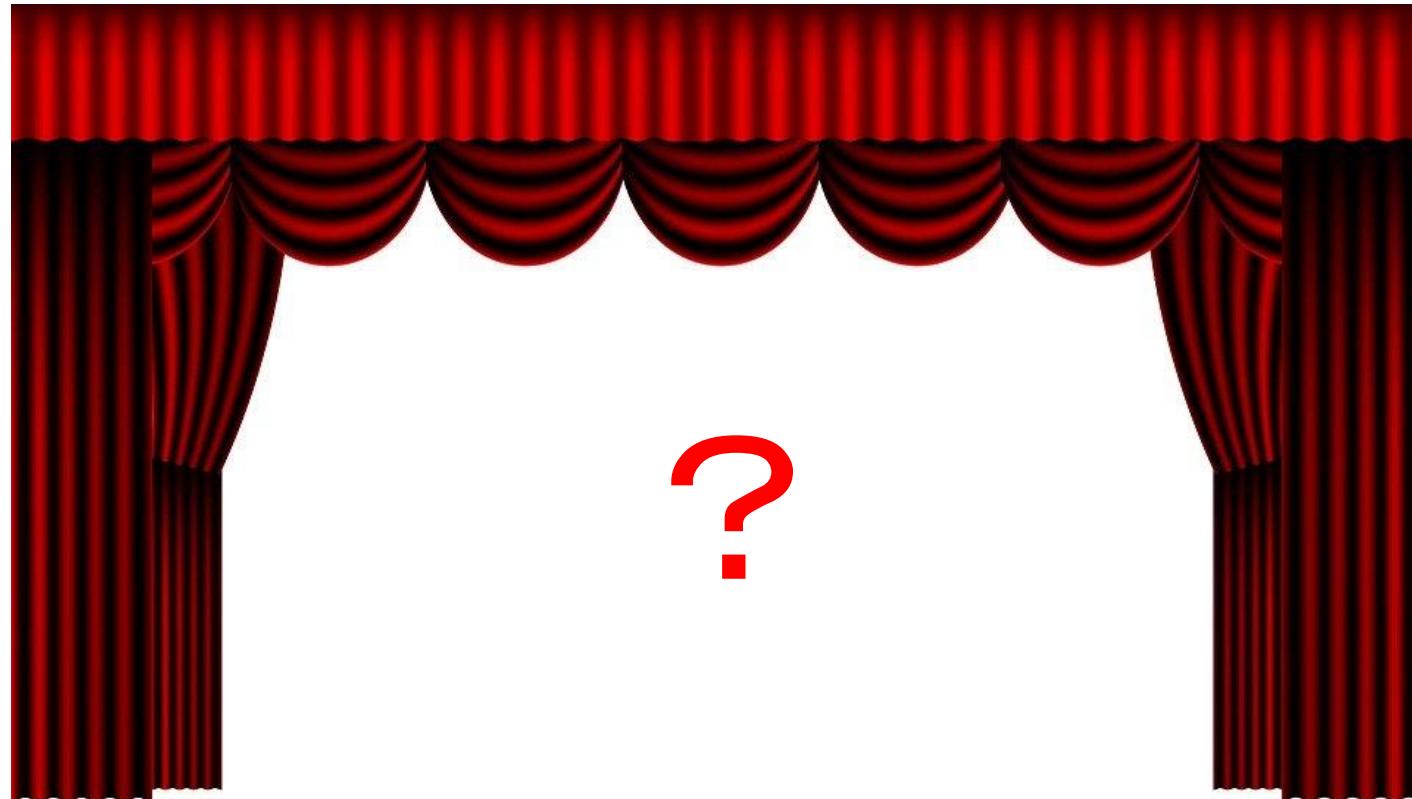
Sources:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C9fdbYgHOYM>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n53nnkV4S74>



# State-of-the-art Handover Interactive Robotic System





# State-of-the-art Handover Interactive Robotic System





## 2. Analysis – Scenarios: Handover while receiver is ...



*Standing*



*Running*



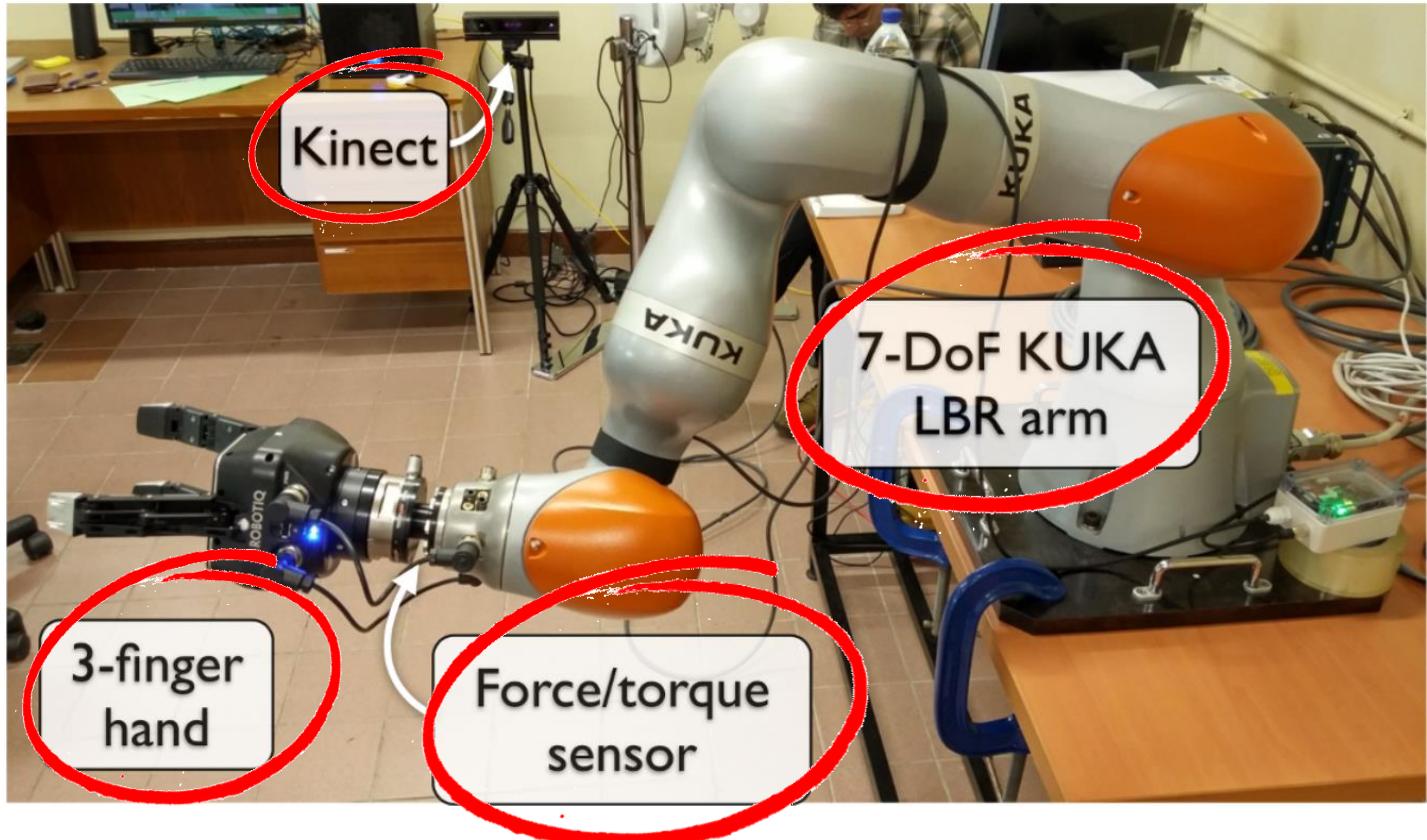
*Walking*



*Cycling*



### 3. Design





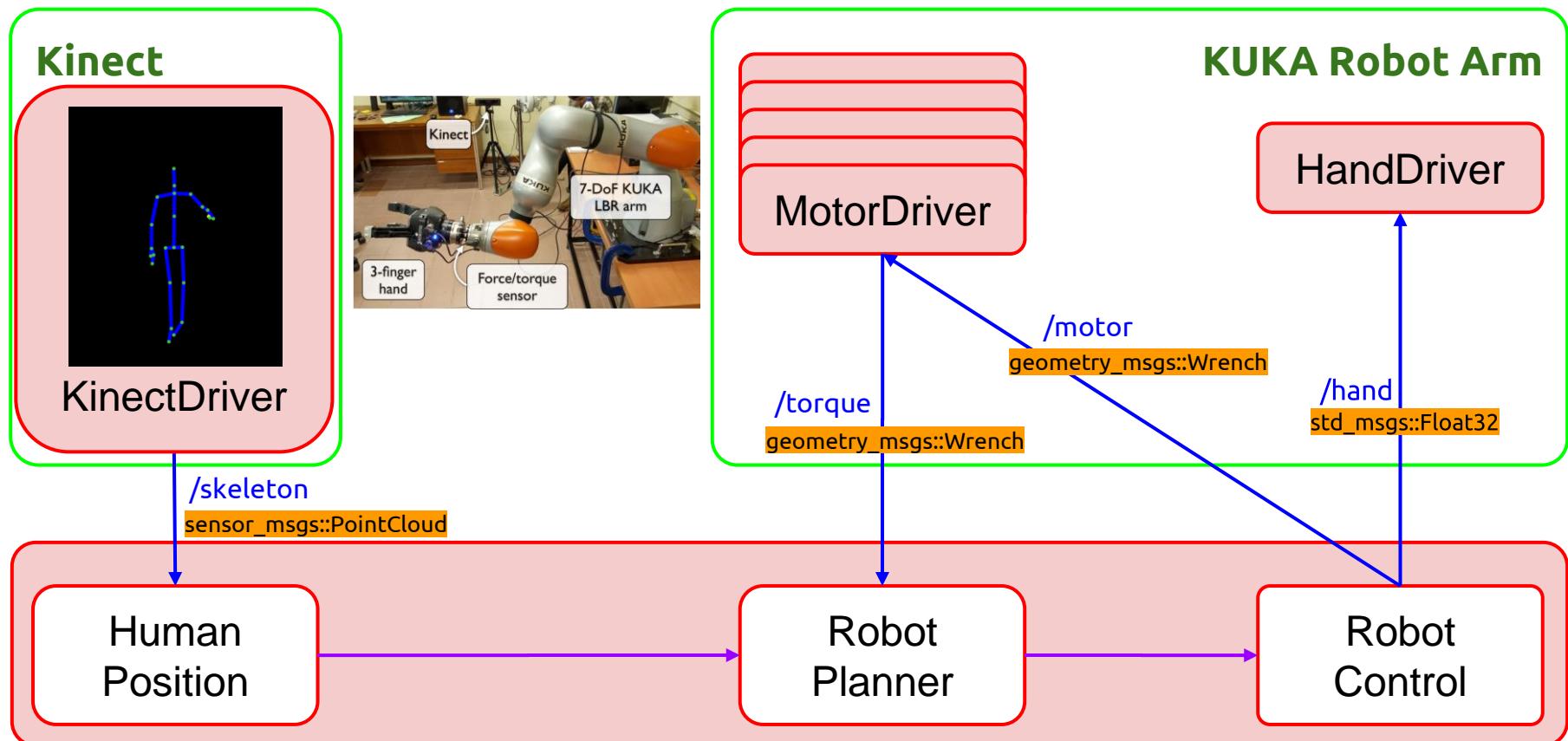
## 4. Prototypes



Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2OAnyfph3bQ>



## 5. Implement and Deploy





Paper-based



Touch-based



Language-based



Force-based



Human  
Factor

Robotics

# Others???



# Vision-Based





# Neural-Based



- Similar to MIT's neural-control robotic arm





# Body-Language-Based



Less complex  
than the Disney's  
example





# Gesture+Language-Based

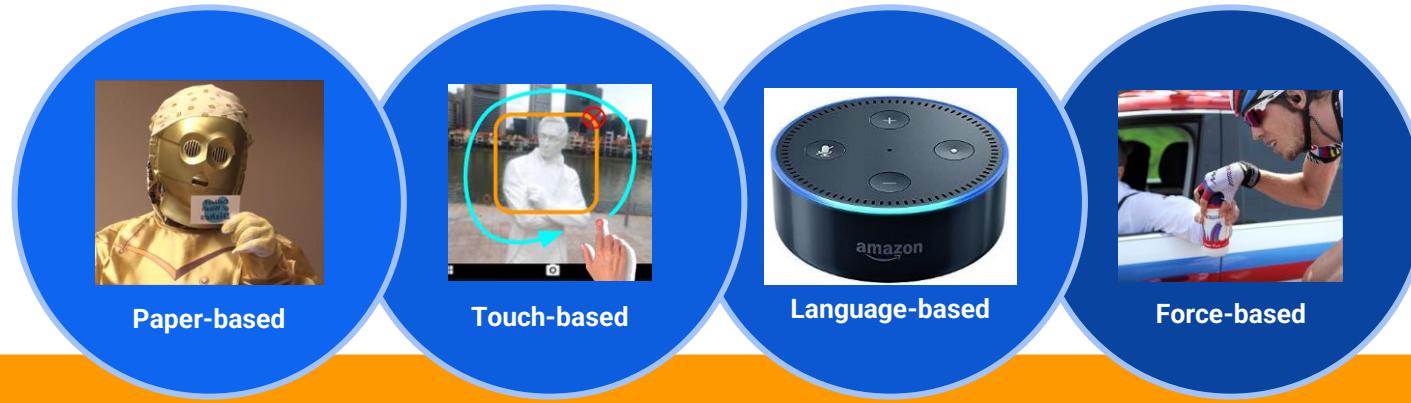


Supported by:  
Computing and Engineering

v1.9

## Collaborative Intelligent Robotics System Based on KUKA IIWA

Chen Yiwen  
[cywgoog@gmail.com](mailto:cywgoog@gmail.com)



Human  
Factor

Robotics

## Generative AI-based



# GenAI-based Robots



- 1. LLM-based Robots**
  - E.g. A virtual assistant robot generating detailed answers to complex questions in real-time over speech.
- 2. VLLM-based Robots**
  - E.g. A service robot in a retail store assisting customers by understanding visual cues (such as product images or customer gestures) and generating detailed, real-time responses over speech.
- 3. Creative Content Generation Robots**
  - E.g. A robot that paints original paintings or plays original music based on generated data.
- 4. Multimodal Generative Robots**
  - E.g. A healthcare robot that listens to a patient's verbal input, analyze their facial expressions and body language, and generate personalized care advice.



# GenAI-based Robots



## 5. Emotions-Generated Robots

- E.g. A social robot detecting sadness in a user and generates empathetic responses through dialogue and emotional cues to provide comfort or motivation.

## 6. Generative Planning and Decision-Making-based Robots

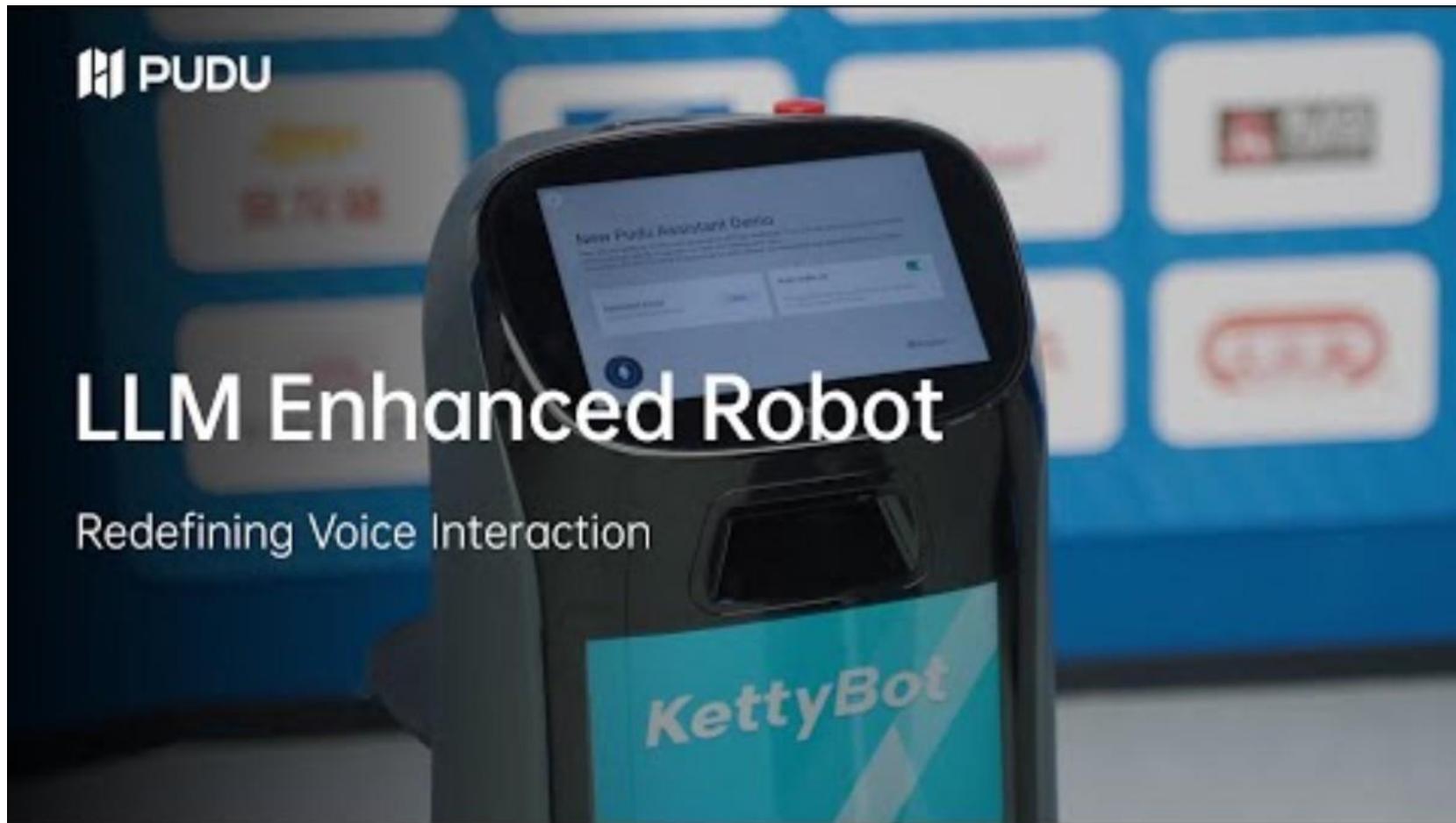
- E.g. A logistics robot generating optimized delivery routes based on current traffic and package priorities, adjusting plans dynamically.

## 7. Generative Predictive Model-based Robots

- E.g. A factory robot generating predictive maintenance models to predict equipment failures and generating preventative maintenance schedules.



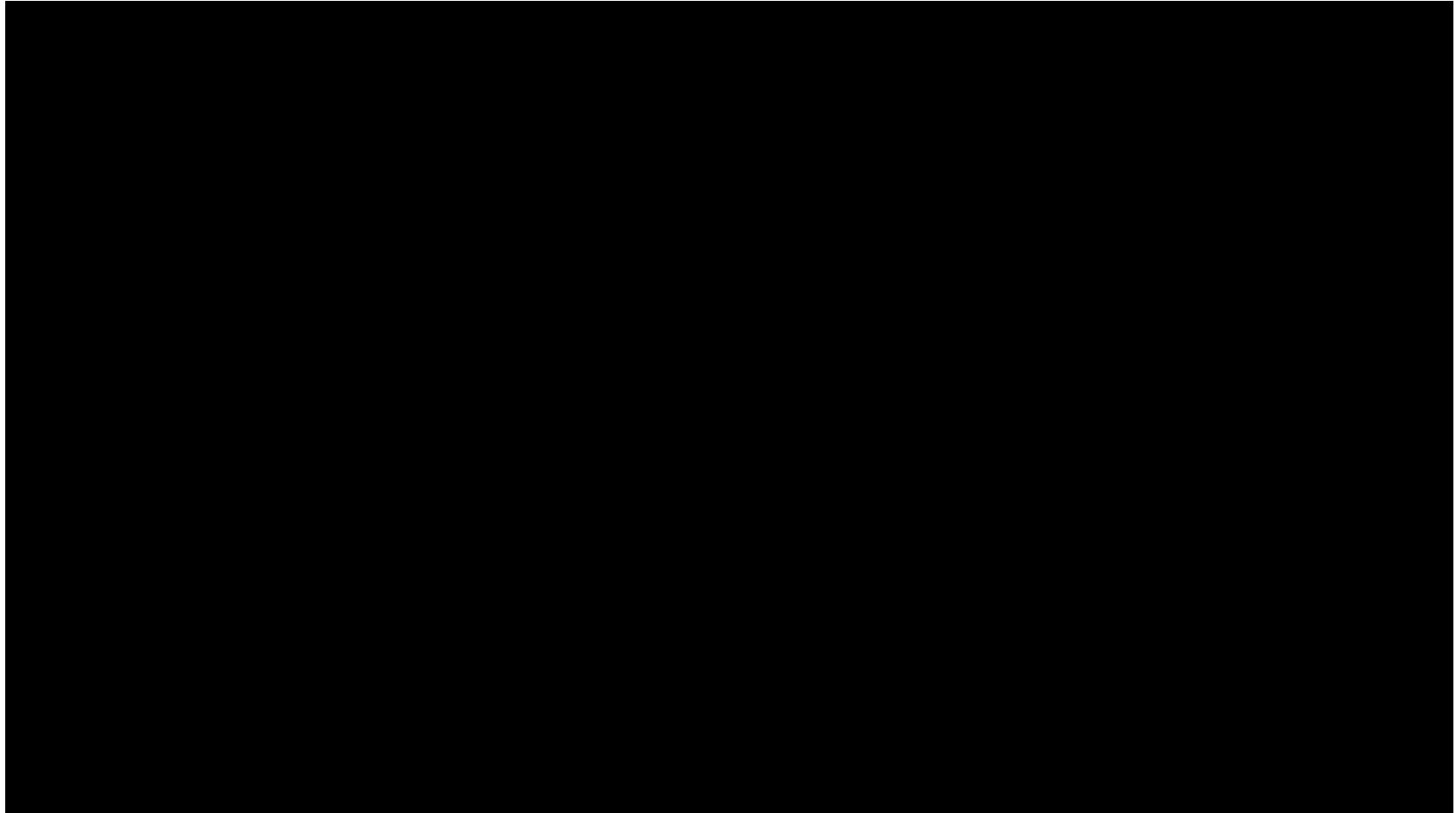
# (A) Large-Language-Models (LLM)-based robots: Pudu Robotics



Source: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sh04-QB\\_AAU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sh04-QB_AAU)



## (B) Vision-Large-Language- Models (VLLM)-based robots: “OK-Robot”



Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-zENt82QPEA>



# Another example of VLLM-based robots: “RT-2 Robot”



Internet-Scale VQA + Robot Action Data



Q: What is happening in the image?

A grey donkey walks down the street.



Q: Que puis-je faire avec ces objets?

Faire cuire un gâteau.



Q: What should the robot do to <task>?

Δ Translation = [0.1, -0.2, 0]  
Δ Rotation = [10°, 25°, -7°]

Co-Fine-Tune



Vision-Language-Action Models for Robot Control  
RT-2

Deploy

Closed-Loop Robot Control



Put the strawberry into the correct bowl



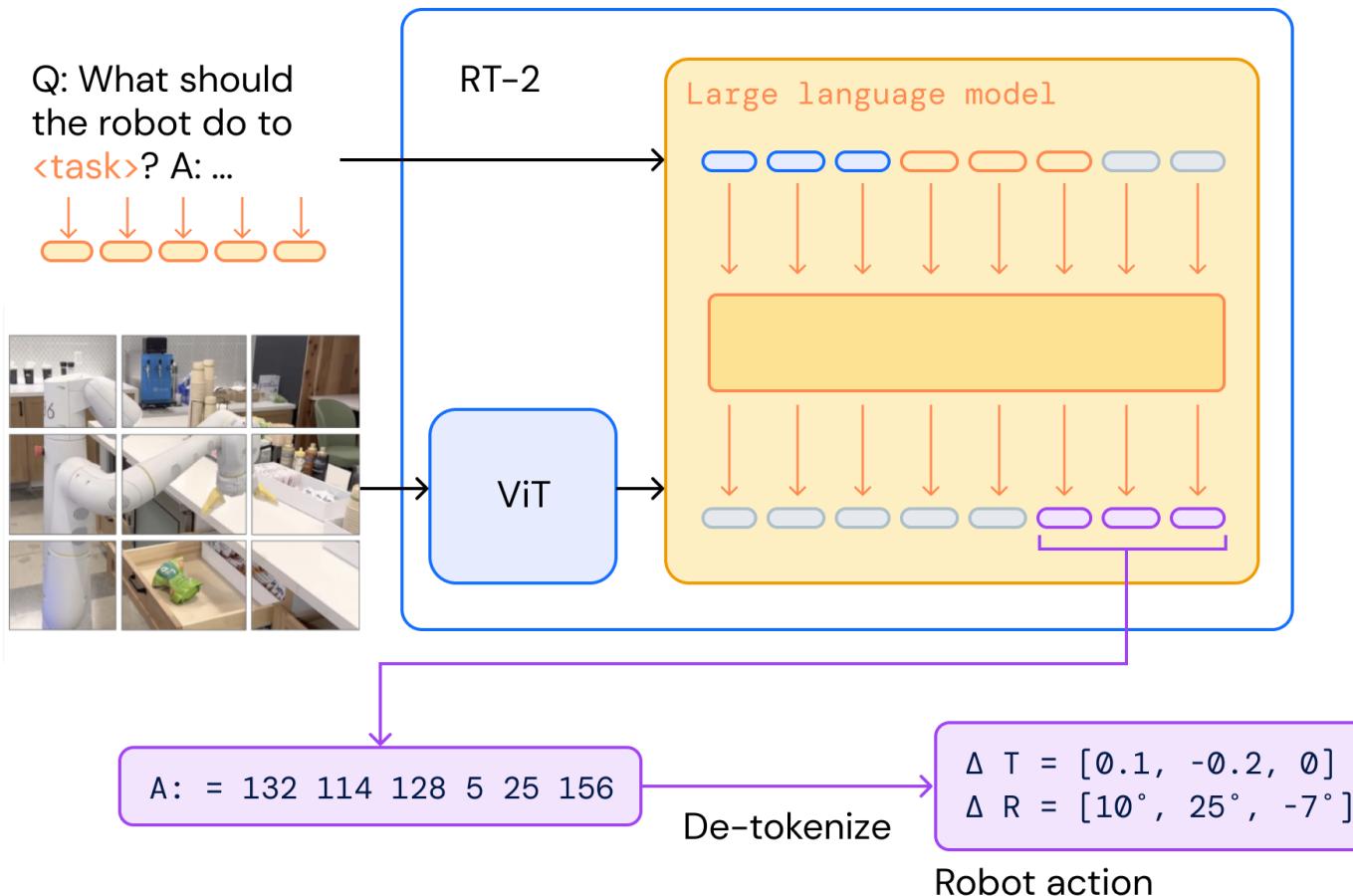
Pick the nearly falling bag



Pick object that is different



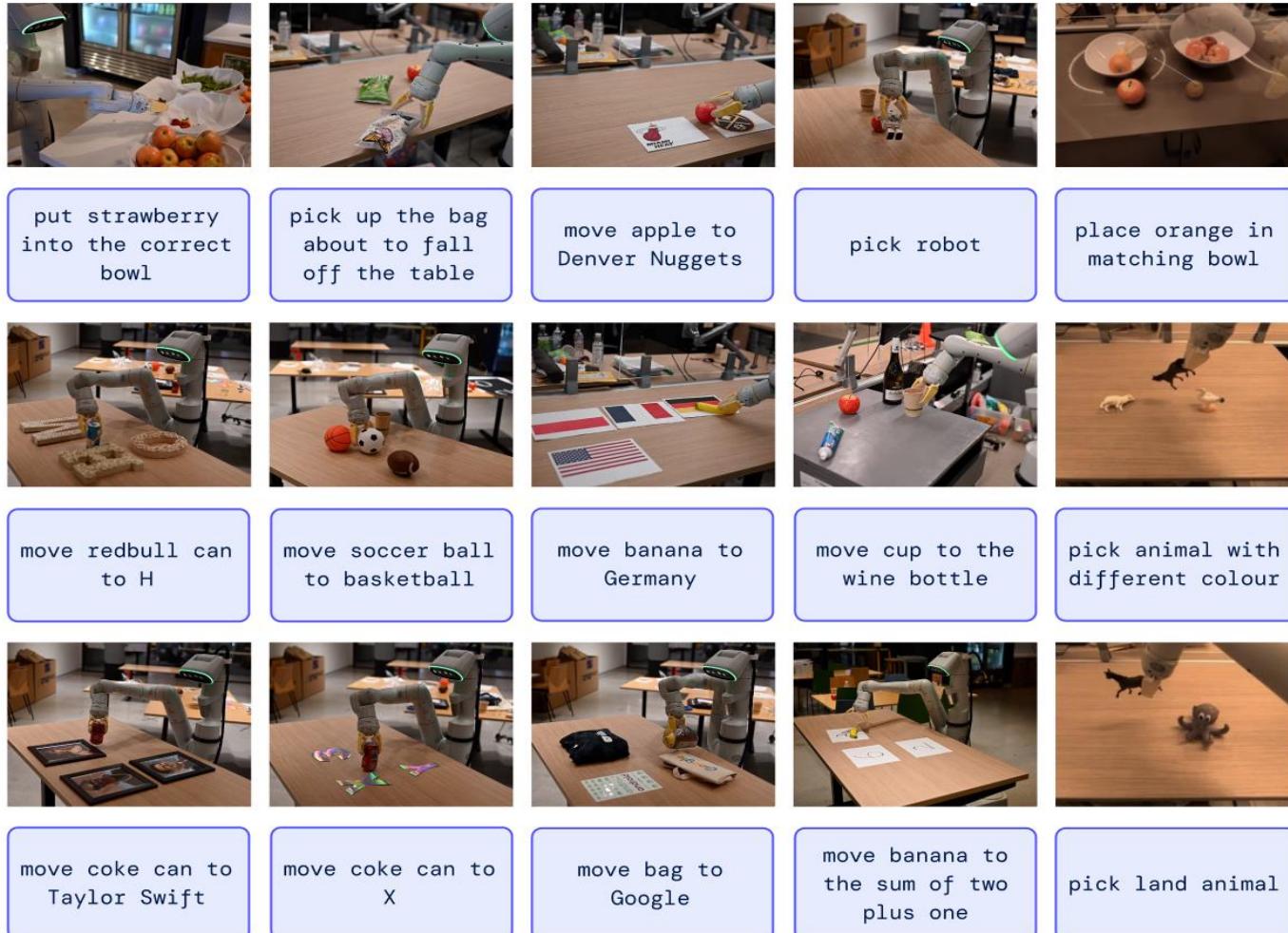
# Another example of VLLM-based robots: “RT-2 Robot”



Source: <https://robotics-transformer2.github.io/>



# Another example of VLLM-based robots: “RT-2 Robot”



Source: <https://robotics-transformer2.github.io/>



# Another example of VLLM-based robots: “RT-2 Robot”



Source: <https://robotics-transformer2.github.io/>



# (C) MultiModal Gen AI-based robots: MD Robot



## Next-Gen AI Assistant Multimodal Generative AI

Capital of Japan, in Japanese?



Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gumdtEr4bVg>



# MODULE 5 & 6 WORKSHOP: WORKSHOP DAY 3

**WORKSHOP: HANDS-ON CONSTRUCTION  
OF MDP/HRIMDP MODELS OF AUTONOMOUS  
DRIVING**



# Personal Healthcare Robot

- Personal assistant robots gain their popularity, E.g., Google Home, Amazon Echo, Xiao Mi robot vacuum, ASUS Zenbo, etc
- They are perfect candidates to become the future personal healthcare givers that monitor the elderly users at the nursing home or in the hospital. In this workshop project, we formulate this interaction between the personal healthcare robot and the human user





# Learning Objectives of Workshop Day 3



1. Create a planner program that plans and executes optimal robot movements with the presence of human
2. The HRIMDP method (covered in Workshop Day 2) will be utilized as the base to find the best policy
3. Simulation of random human actions within virtual world
4. Implementation of developed algorithms within various given virtual worlds (i.e. *world\_maze*, *world\_room*, *world\_twist*)
5. Observation of various interaction patterns between human and robot within these worlds

# **Part A: Applying HRIMDP method in Robot Path Planning**



# Things to do



1. Complete function **robot\_execute\_under\_policy** in **planner.py**
2. Test a complete run using the given human action file (i.e. **human\_a.csv**)

```
python3 human_execute.py world1.csv human_a.csv 2 3 1 human_s.csv
```

```
python3 planner.py world1.csv human_s.csv 0 0 robot_s.csv
```

```
python3 visualizer.py world1.csv human_s.csv robot_s.csv
```

3. Create 2 different variations of human action files and test the complete run using these 2 new human action files; save different trajectory files under these human action files. For example:

**human\_a1.csv → human\_s1.csv → robot\_s1.csv**

**human\_a2.csv → human\_s2.csv → robot\_s2.csv**



# Hints to complete robot\_execute\_under\_policy function

## Open up the python code: planner.py

```
def robot_execute_under_policy(gridworld, robot_init_state, policy, human_states):
    robot_states = []
##### to be completed here; XXXX are parts to be edited #####
    # print(f "policy {policy[(2, 0, 0, 1, 1)]}") #for python3.6
    # print("policy {}".format(policy[(2, 0, 0, 1, 1)]))

    rs = robot_init_state

    for hs in human_states:
        query = (XXXX, XXXX, XXXX, XXXX, XXXX) #include the robot position states, human
position states, followed by human request status; refer to hrimdp.py for clues

        #print(f'query = {query}') #for python3.6
        print("query = {}".format(query))

        current_policy = policy[XXXX]          # update policy
        current_action = robot_actions[XXXX]    # update robot actions
        next_cell = [c + a for c, a in zip(XXXX, XXXX)] # update robot position states

        if gridworld.is_wall(next_cell[0], next_cell[1]):      # robot is hitting wall
            robot_states.append((XXXX, XXXX))                  #state remains the same
        else:
            rs = next_cell          # Update rs variable with new values
            robot_states.append(rs) # Update robot position states with new values

#####
#####
```



# DEMO

playback

simulate system dynamics

visualization

# **Part B: Testing of Developed Algorithms on Various Virtual Worlds**



# Things to do



1. Only for the **world\_room map (provided)**, handcraft 2 different **human\_actions\_hand.csv** with meaningful interactions: *human\_a\_h1.csv* and *human\_a\_h2.csv*  
e.g. smart navigation using *world\_room.csv*

```
python3 human_execute.py world_room.csv human_a_hX.csv 0 0 1 human_s_hX.csv
```

```
python3 planner.py world_room.csv human_s_hX.csv 10 9 robot_s_hX.csv
```

```
python3 visualizer.py world_room.csv human_s_hX.csv robot_s_hX.csv
```

**Hint:** Open (with gedit) to view the *world\_room.csv* file. Assume that the human starts at [0,0] (i.e. the top left corner of the map), you can plan the actions by editing the *human\_a\_h0.csv* template given by “moving” the human (using the S, R, L, U, D keys) through the zeros (i.e. the empty spaces) in the map. You may include the T key (i.e. Toggle Request Key) at your preference in between the actions.



# Things to do



2. Complete function **random\_actions** in **random\_human\_actions.py**
3. For each of the 3 environments (provided; *world\_XXX*), randomly generate **TWO human\_actions\_random.csv**, e.g.

```
python3 random_human_actions.py 10 100 human_a_rX.csv
```

```
python3 human_execute.py world_XXX.csv human_a_rX.csv 0 0 1 human_sX.csv
```

```
python3 planner.py world_XXX.csv human_sX.csv 10 9 robot_sX.csv
```

```
python3 visualizer.py world_XXX.csv human_sX.csv robot_sX.csv
```

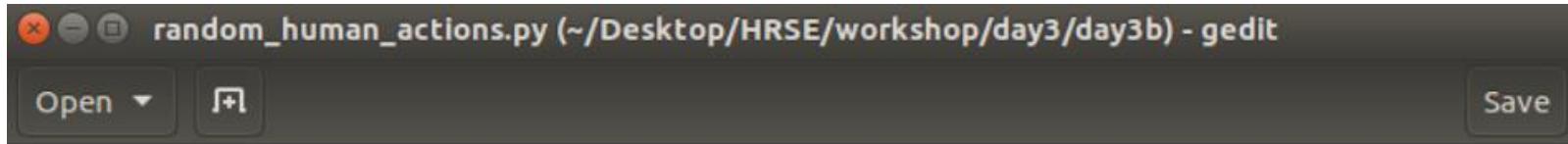
*You have to assign **X** with the correct parameters*

4. Observe the interactions between the human and robot within the various worlds as well as based on the various human action sets



# Hints to complete random\_actions() function

Open up the python code:  
**random\_human\_actions.py**



```
random_human_actions.py (~/Desktop/HRSE/workshop/day3/day3b) - gedit

Open Save

def random_actions(seed, timestamps):
    actions = []

    random.seed(seed)
    np.random.seed(seed)

##### to be completed; replace XXXX with correct terms #####
    # make sure human actions follow the probabilities set in the hrimdp model
    human_actions = [XXXX]
    human_prop = [XXXX]
    actions = np.random.choice(human_actions, timestamps, human_prop).tolist()

#####
    return actions
```



# DEMO

playback

simulate system dynamics

visualization



# Instructions



This is a group project. Each group representative submits one zip file of all your codes/files (i.e. py, CSV) into Canvas at the end of the workshop

## **HRSE\_Project3.zip**

- Download all files in the directory **/workshops/day3** for reference codes
- Refer to the README file for instructions



# Optional (If you completed early)



1. First, create 2 large (at least 20x20) gridworld environments (i.e. `world_custX.csv`)
2. For each of the 2 environments (created; `world_XXX`),
  - a. handcraft **2 human\_actions\_hand.csv** with meaningful interactions:  
e.g. smart navigation through the map
  - b. randomly generate **2 human\_actions\_random.csv** with different initial human/robot positions, e.g.

```
python3 random_human_actions.py 10 100 human_a_rX.csv
```

```
python3 human_execute.py world_XXX.csv human_a_rX.csv 0 0 1 human_sX.csv
```

```
python3 planner.py world_XXX.csv human_sX.csv 10 9 robot_sX.csv
```

```
python3 visualizer.py world_XXX.csv human_sX.csv robot_sX.csv
```

3. Observe the interactions between the human and robot within the various worlds as well as based on the various human action sets



# THANK YOU

Email: [nicholas.ho@nus.edu.sg](mailto:nicholas.ho@nus.edu.sg)