Lab7: Interact with people + Chatty Robot
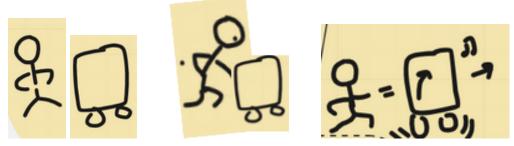
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Interaction
1. We invited six folks to try a stripped-down version of our evacuation scenario. The robot drove up, told them they needed to evacuate, and led them to the exit. Then, we interviewed them on their experiences.
    a. Initial sketch: The user touches the robot to leave.

    b.
    c. Video of the initial interaction is here. (Note: This is the same as in Lab6).
    d. Second sketch (with sound): The robot informs the user that there is a fire, and that they need to leave the building. The robot guides them to the exit, then tells them to leave without us. We decided to remove the touch-to-leave condition for this pilot study to minimize complexity.

    e.
    f. Example video here. There are five other videos and associated interviews in the GDrive folder shared below.
2. Lessons learned
    a. People take a moment to understand that the robot is talking to them. Put a 'Hello!' or other filler social noise in to get their attention
    b. When the robot goes fast, people walk closely behind, and trip over it when the robot stops
    c. When they were confused, the participants looked at us (the researchers) and not the robot. We should find a way to record and ensure safety without researchers being in line of sight.
    d. People did not understand what the robot was saying
3. Full videos and interviews are here. Contact Andrew Violette for permission to view.

Technical Details
1. The mobile Jackal base has very nice motion.
2. The mobile Jackal base presented technical difficulties for speaker setup. So, we duct taped my laptop to the top of the Jackal and played sounds via ssh.
3. We transitioned to the google assistant speech generator (link) after this pilot study– few of the participants were able to understand espeak.