

EgoAdapt: A Joint Distillation and Policy Learning Framework for Efficient Multisensory Egocentric Perception

 Wed 22 Oct | 11:15 a.m. HST — 1:15 p.m. HST | Poster Session 3 | Exhibit Hall I #983

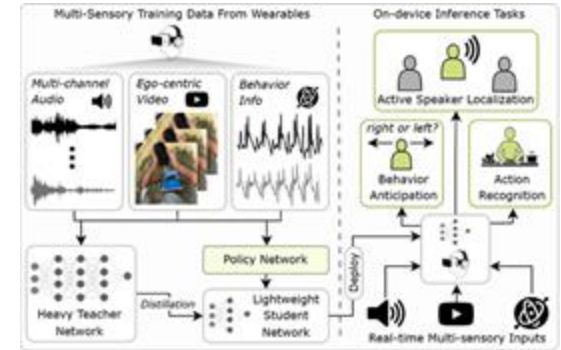
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¹University of Maryland, College Park, ²Meta, ³Worcester Polytechnic Institute, ⁴University of Toronto

Oct 19th 2025

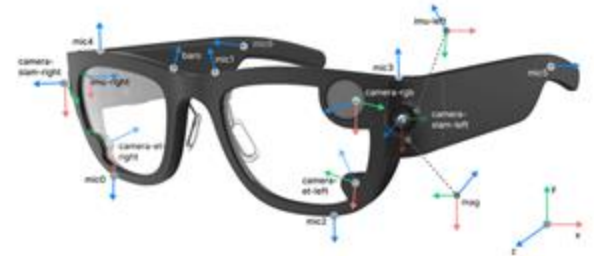
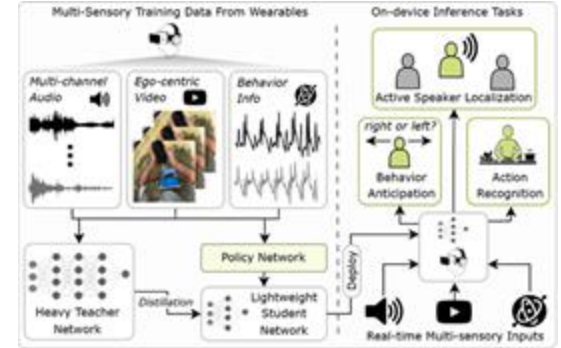
Motivation

- Egocentric multi-modal perception is challenging because:
 - Limited compute in wearable devices
 - Needs real-time processing



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 - Needs real-time processing
 - **Wait, but performance is important too!!**



Motivation

- Egocentric multi-modal perception is challenging because:
 - Limited camera FOV
 - Needs real-time processing
 - Wait, but typical 3D CNN-based egocentric baselines require >100 GMACs

Typical 3D CNN-based egocentric models (like Ego4D baselines) require >100 GMACs per second stream:
Infeasible for on-device AR headsets!



Motivation

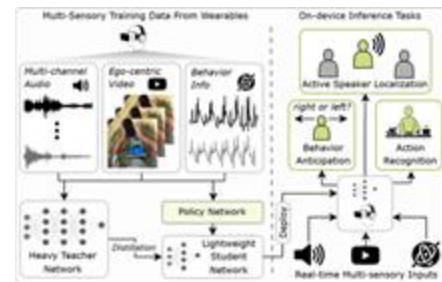
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- Limited compute in wearable devices
- Needs real-time processing
- **Wait, but performance is important too!!**

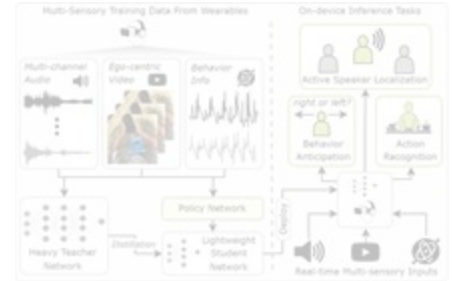


- Key Questions?

- Are all of them important at all the time?
- What all modalities do we leverage for optimal efficiency?
- What is the smartest way to switch between the modalities at our disposal?

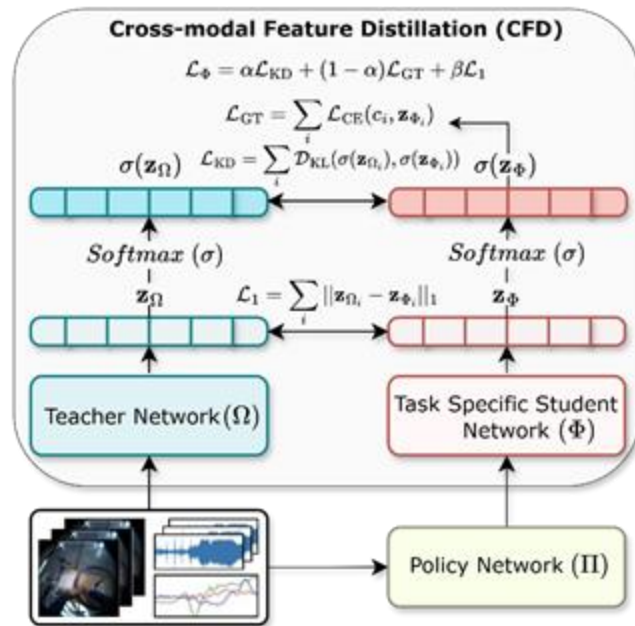


- Egocentric multi-modal perception is challenging because:
 - Limited compute in wearable devices
 - New modalities
 - Wearable devices
- Key Questions?
 - Are all of them important at all the time?
 - What all modalities do we leverage for optimal efficiency?
 - What is the smartest way to switch between the modalities at our disposal?

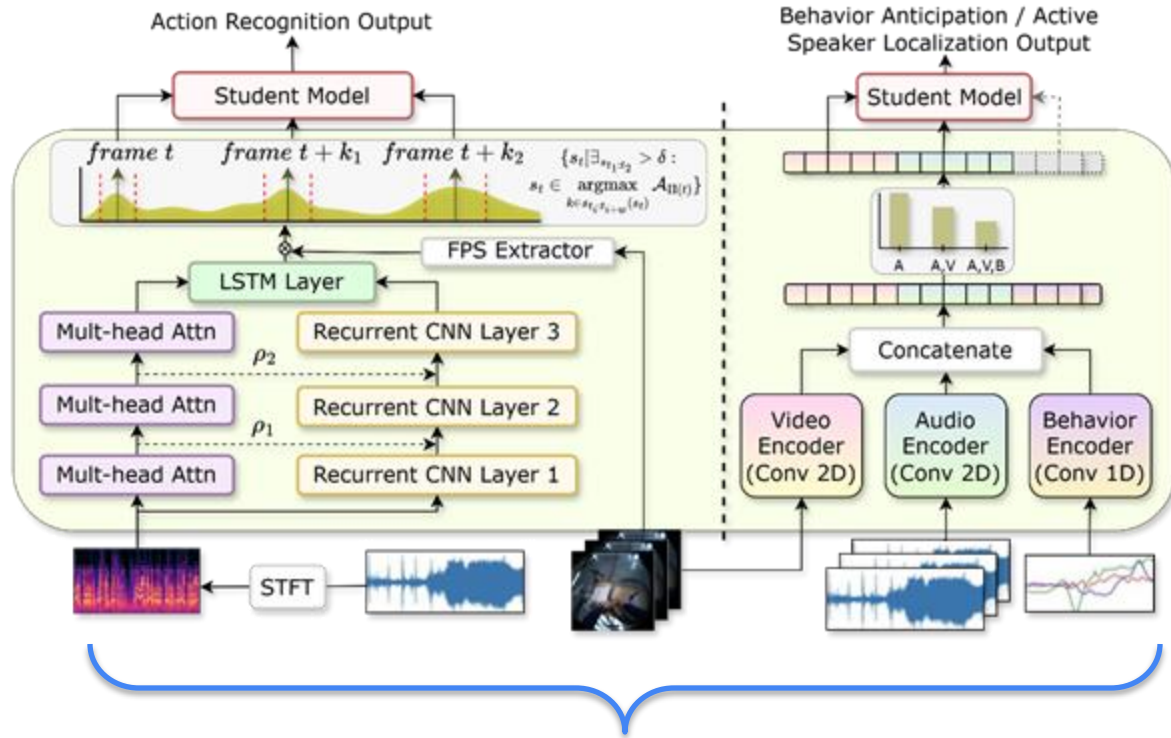


Distillation module

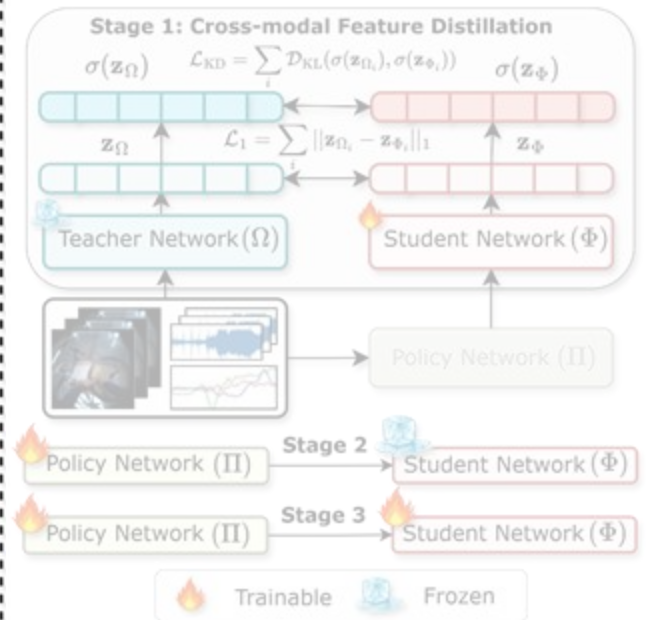
- \mathcal{L}_{KD} Aligns soft targets (semantic space)
- \mathcal{L}_1 Aligns intermediate representations (feature space)
- \mathcal{L}_{GT} Anchors final task objective (logit space).



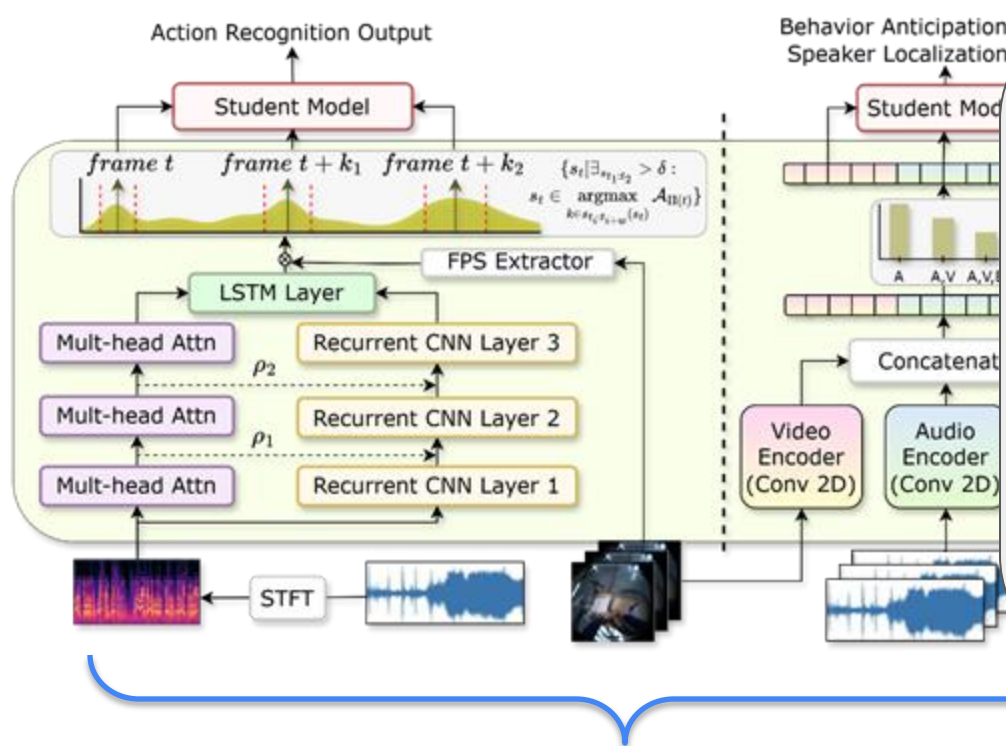
Policy module



Task-specific policy modules



Policy module

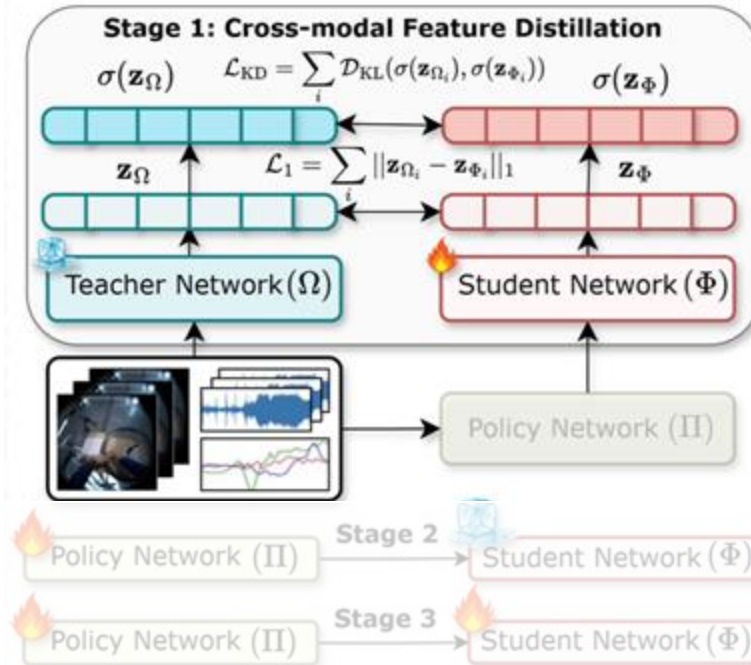


$$\mathcal{P}_k = \text{Softmax}((\log z_k + G_k) / \tau)$$

Unify continuous (distillation) and discrete (policy) learning streams via joint optimization over differentiable sampling and backpropagation through modality gates.

Task-specific policy modules

Stage 1: Distillation - stabilizes KT



Task specific student model is distilled from the heavy teacher model. The distillation objective optimizes three loss functions \mathcal{L} , \mathcal{L}_{KD} , \mathcal{L}_{GT}

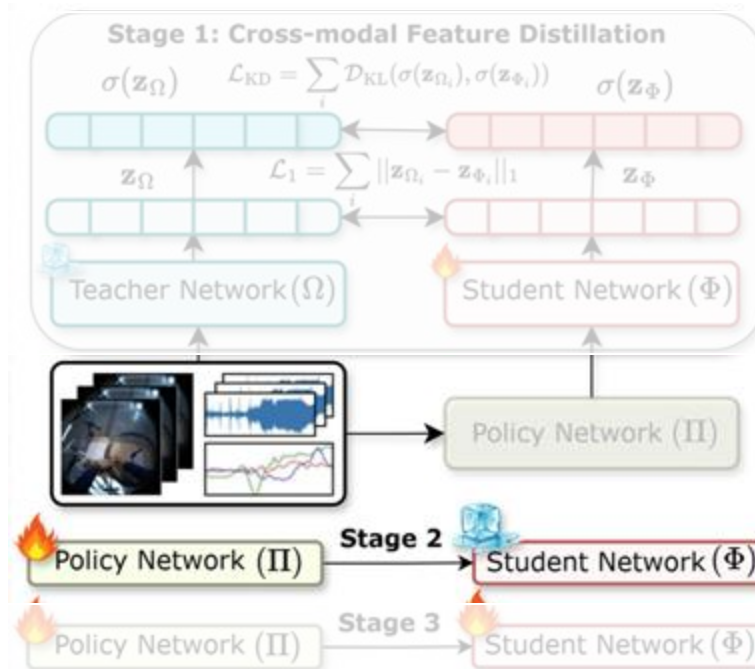


Trainable



Frozen

Stage 2: Policy learning with frozen student - isolates policy gradients, avoiding feature drift



In this stage the policy module is trained keeping the distilled student model fixed. This results in stable training and quicker convergence!

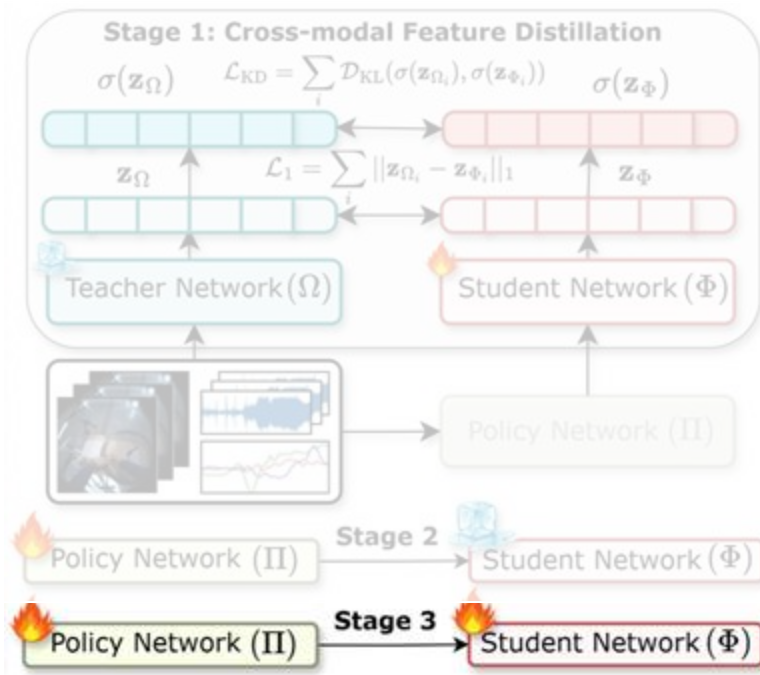


Trainable



Frozen

Stage 3: Policy and distillation update - $\mathcal{L}_{\Theta} = \eta_1 \mathcal{L}_{\Pi} + \eta_2 \mathcal{L}_{\Phi}$



In this stage both the policy module and the distilled student is trained in tandem. This is the final training stage!



Trainable



Frozen

Egocentric **Action Recognition** Results



EPIC-Kitchens 100 example

Audio Preview



A person doing kitchen chores. Opens the tap, washes dishes, cleans counter.

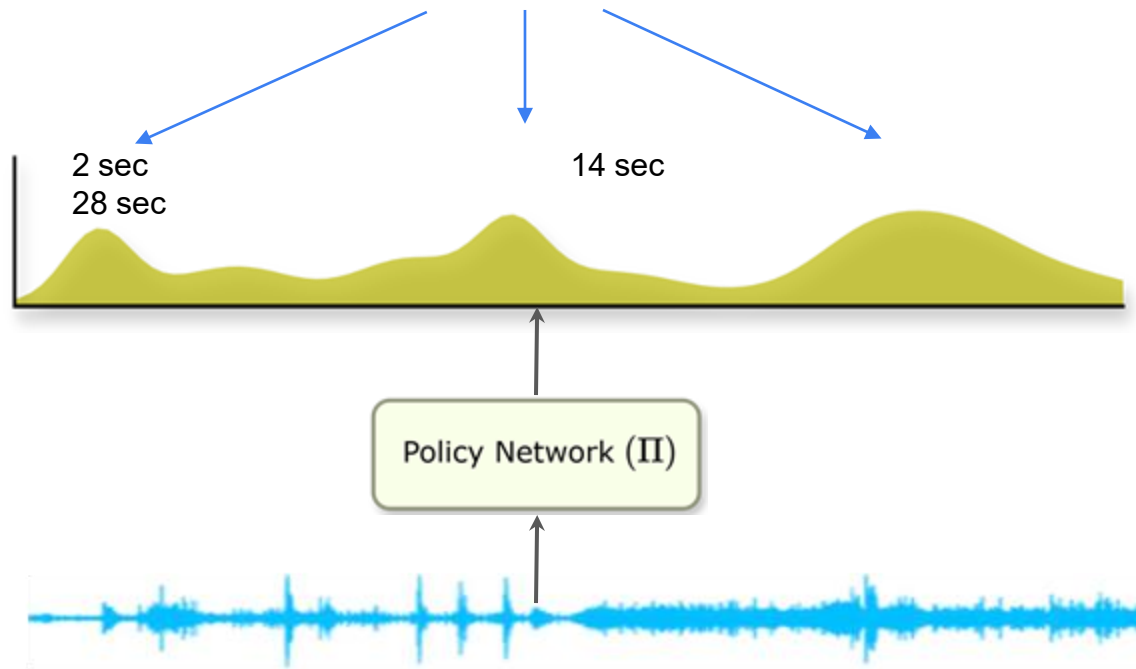


Policy Network (II)



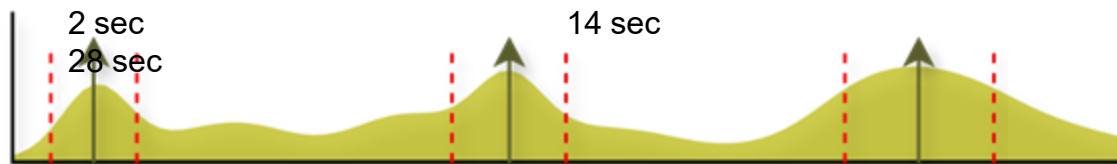
Only the audio is passed to the policy network. Which **'previews'** the audio signal to identify potentially distinct events in the video!

Distinct audio event prediction by audio previewing



Most **salient** K frames selected

$$\{s_t | \exists s_{t_1:t_2} > \delta : s_t \in \operatorname{argmax}_{k \in s_{t_i:t_i+w}(s_t)} \mathcal{A}_{\Pi(t)}\}$$



Policy Network (II)



Predicted action: *Place cup in the sink*

The *selected frames* are fed to the student model for Action Recognition

Student Model



Policy Network (II)

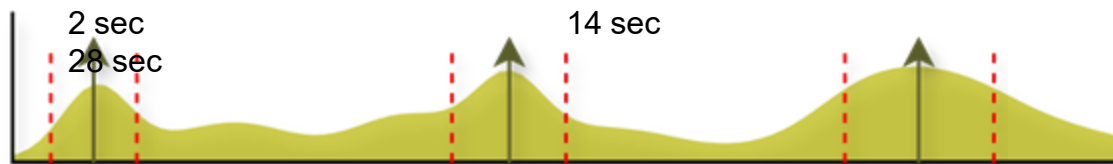


The *selected frames* are fed to the student model for Action Recognition



Predicted action: *Start tap*

Student Model



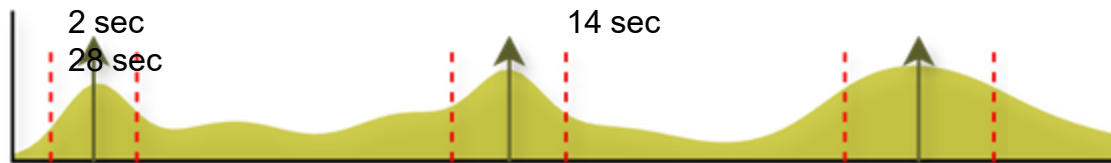
Policy Network (II)



The *selected frames* are fed to the student model for Action Recognition

Predicted action: *Wash towel*

Student Model

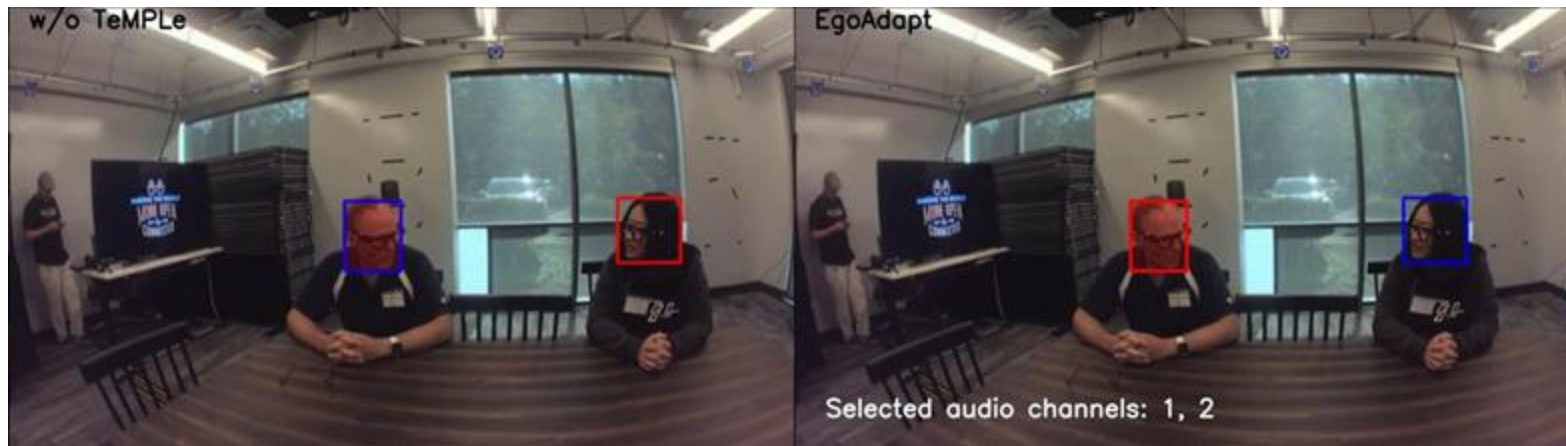


Policy Network (II)



Active Speaker Localization Results

Frame-wise Comparison Results



Non-active speaker



Active speaker



Model prediction

Results: Performance

Method	Input resolution ↓	Verb↑	Noun↑	Action↑	GMACs↓
MoViNet-A6 [37]	320 × 320	72.24	57.31	47.79	79.35
TBN [36]	224 × 224	66.03	47.24	36.72	75.73
AdaFuse [48]	224 × 224	65.52	55.75	50.16	95.84
Ego-only [68]	224 × 224	73.33	59.48	52.59	507.39
ListenToLook [18]	224 × 224	61.27	52.52	39.85	380.46
AdaMML [50]	224 × 224	64.95	55.27	41.73	277.76
VS-VIO [78]	224 × 224	61.37	52.21	38.07	106.97
TIM AV [5]	224 × 224	77.19	67.22	57.57	26.62
EGOADAPT w/o TeMPLc	224 × 224	68.34	59.02	50.88	5.79
EGOADAPT	224 × 224	76.65	66.83	56.74	7.14

Table 1. Egocentric action recognition performance of baselines and other SOTA on EPIC-Kitchens. We report the top-1 accuracy for verb, noun, and action (%).

Method	mAP↑	GMACs↓	Params (M)↓	Energy (J)↓
MAVSL ₂₄₄ [35]	86.32	6.852	16.13	0.698
LocoNet [72]	71.83	3.364	34.30	1.104
SynC-TalkNet [77]	65.86	3.788	32.91	0.985
ASD-Trans [9]	70.13	3.621	15.03	0.482
LW-ASD [42]	71.60	1.280	5.36	0.145
ListenToLook [18]	71.28	12.452	17.34	1.032
AdaMML [50]	76.90	10.681	13.61	0.913
VS-VIO [78]	72.31	7.873	5.97	0.266
MUST [80]	89.88	0.642	2.17	0.029
EGOADAPT w/o TeMPLc	78.59	0.077	0.36	0.003
EGOADAPT	89.74	0.070	0.39	0.003

Table 2. Performance of active speaker localization on EasyCom. We compare the mAPs (in %) of various baselines in the visual field of view. Most of these tests use 4-channel audio. EGOADAPT can dynamically choose optimal number of channels.

Method	Gaze			Orientation			Trajectory			Energy (J) ↓
	$T_{300\text{ ms}}$	$T_{500\text{ ms}}$	$T_{700\text{ ms}}$	$T_{300\text{ ms}}$	$T_{500\text{ ms}}$	$T_{700\text{ ms}}$	$T_{300\text{ ms}}$	$T_{500\text{ ms}}$	$T_{700\text{ ms}}$	
MultitaskGP [20]	11.42	15.59	18.40	8.70	9.28	12.27	13.75	17.86	20.02	0.056
GazeMLE [40]	10.74	14.37	18.14	4.68	9.11	12.03	14.33	16.02	18.64	1.371
GLC [39]	10.21	14.66	17.80	4.76	8.98	11.70	13.15	15.39	17.41	0.972
ListenToLook [18]	13.68	17.24	19.02	5.47	8.92	11.36	13.54	15.11	17.02	0.512
AdaMML [50]	12.16	16.70	18.31	5.41	8.76	11.24	13.27	14.10	16.28	0.296
VS-VIO [78]	14.83	19.27	20.54	8.41	12.44	13.19	15.71	16.92	18.53	0.097
MuST _{AVR} [80]	9.17	12.15	14.75	4.78	7.36	9.90	9.96	12.38	13.95	0.029
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Table 3. Comparison of behavior anticipation errors on the AEA Dataset. The energy values (in J) are reported by aggregating over three time windows ($T_{300\text{ ms}}$, $T_{500\text{ ms}}$, and $T_{700\text{ ms}}$).

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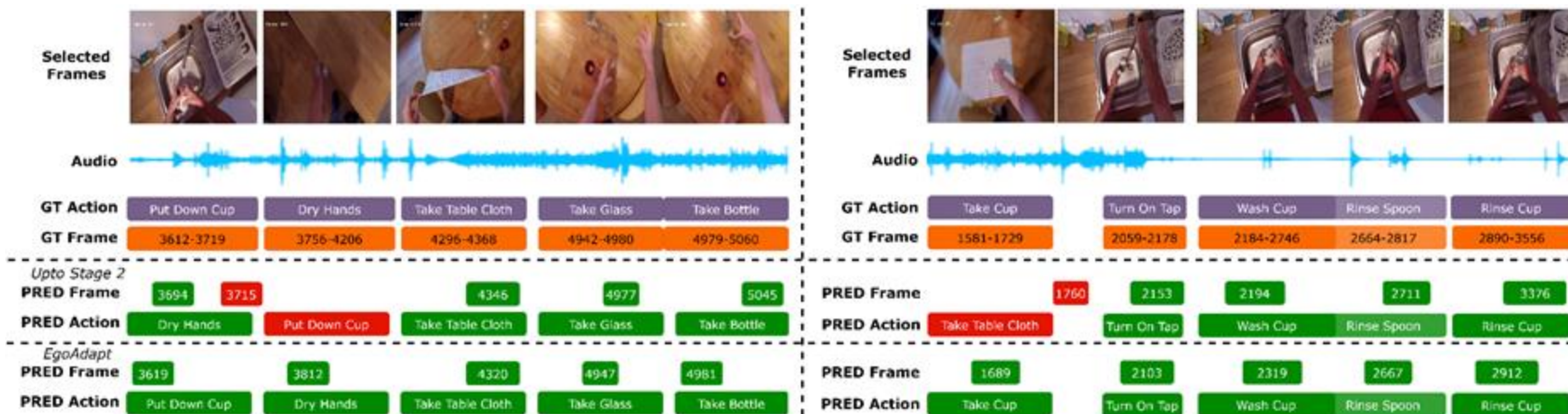
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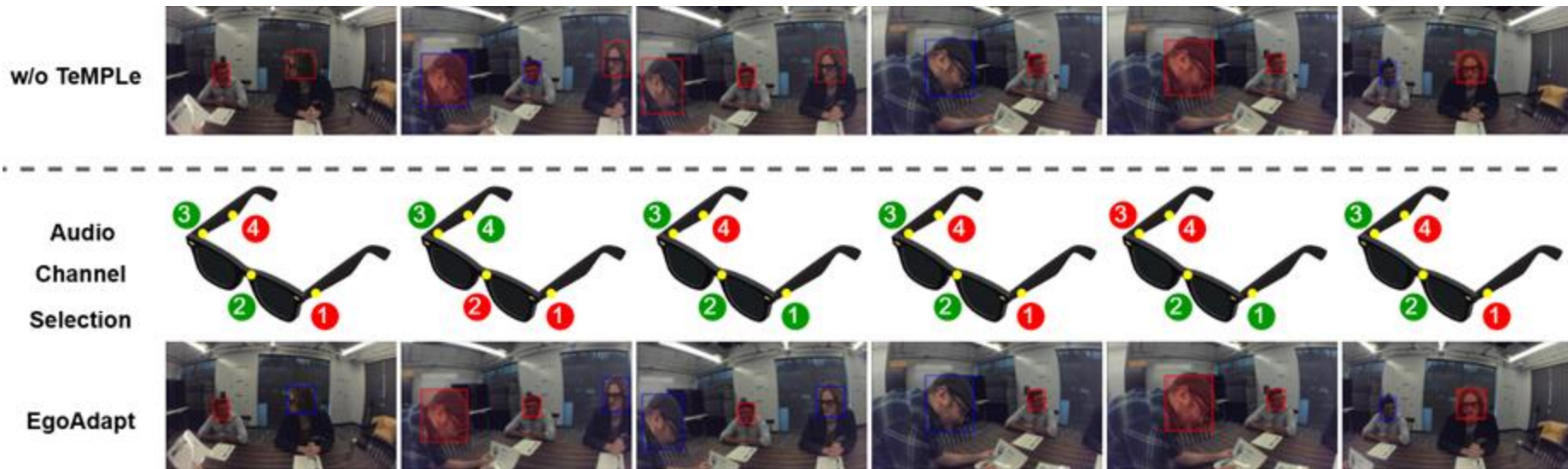
Ablation Results

Qualitative Results: Action Recognition



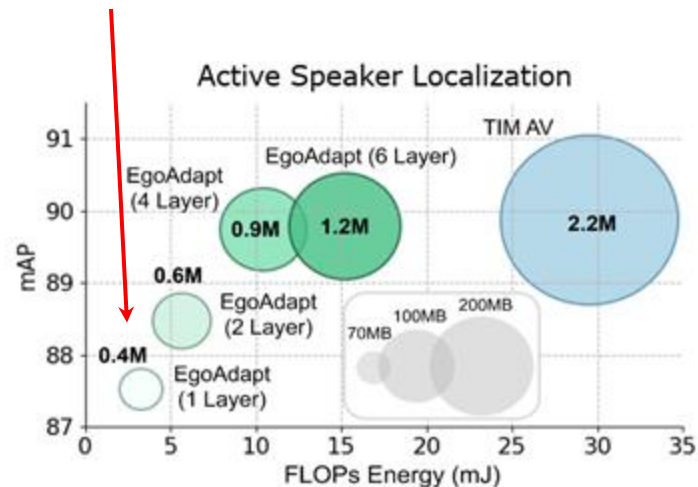
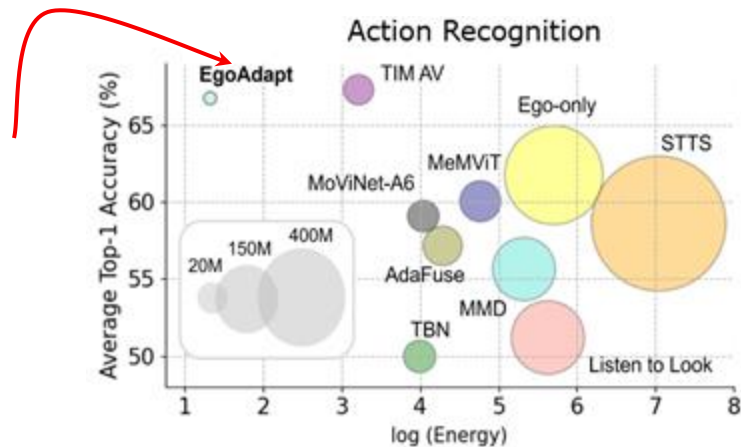
The green and red boxes represent correct and incorrect predictions, respectively. EgoAdapt picks the most informative frame to predict the 'Noun' classes, which is subsequently used to predict the action

Qualitative Results: Active Speaker Localization



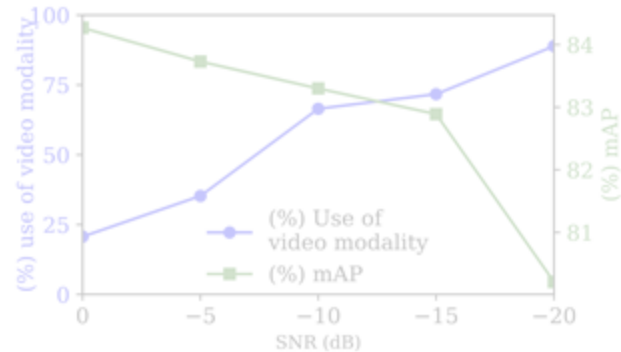
The red/blue boxes indicate active/non-active speakers, and the red heatmap indicates model prediction. EgoAdapt can make correct predictions for scenes with motion blur (col. 4), partial vision (col. 5), and multi-speakers (col. 2, 5). The red/green circles represent the discarded and selected audio channels.

Results: Efficiency

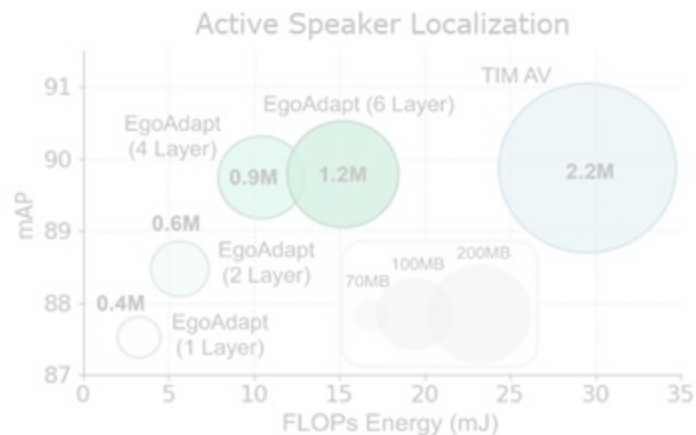
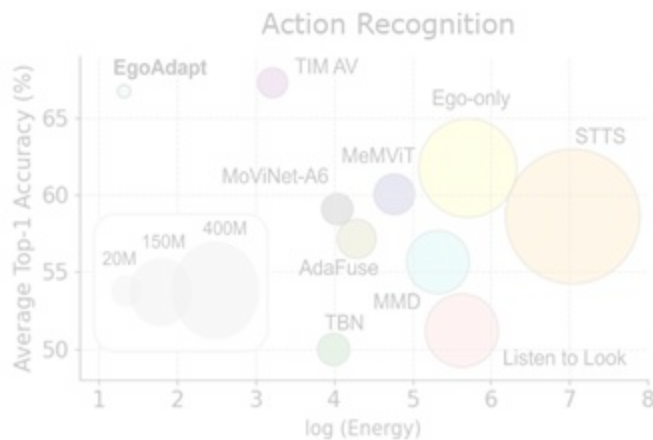


Precision Level	Modality		mAP \uparrow	Power (mW) \downarrow	Exec. Time \downarrow
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4 bit	✓	✗	77.14	7.38	0.12
	✓	✓	78.92	9.94	0.21
8 bit	✓	✗	80.56	11.37	0.33
	✓	✓	81.13	14.90	0.42
16 bit	✓	✗	84.39	19.11	0.59
	✓	✓	85.74	23.06	0.68
32 bit	✓	✗	83.22	29.71	0.89
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On device implementation

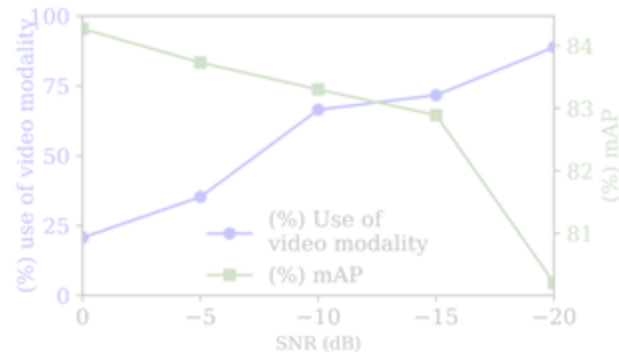


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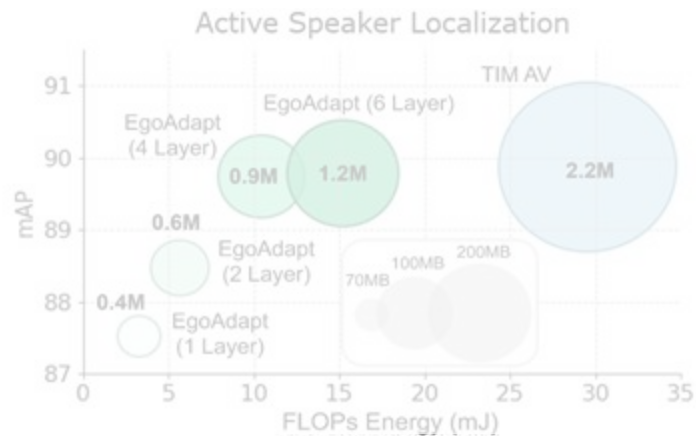
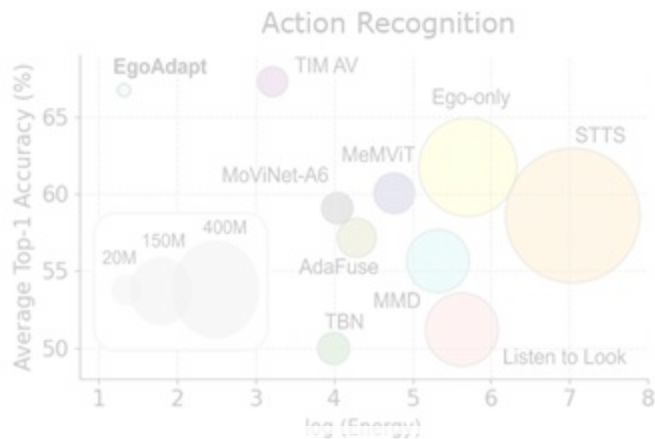


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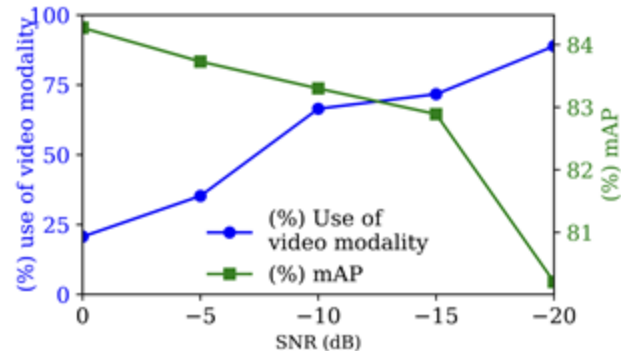


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4 bit	✓	✗	77.14	7.38	0.12
	✓	✓	78.92	9.94	0.21
8 bit	✓	✗	80.56	11.37	0.33
	✓	✓	81.13	14.90	0.42
16 bit	✓	✗	84.39	19.11	0.59
	✓	✓	85.74	23.06	0.68
32 bit	✓	✗	83.22	29.71	0.89
	✓	✓	89.74	34.39	1.00

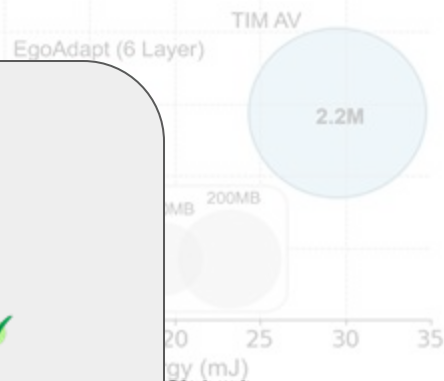
On device implementation



Results: Efficiency



Active Speaker Localization

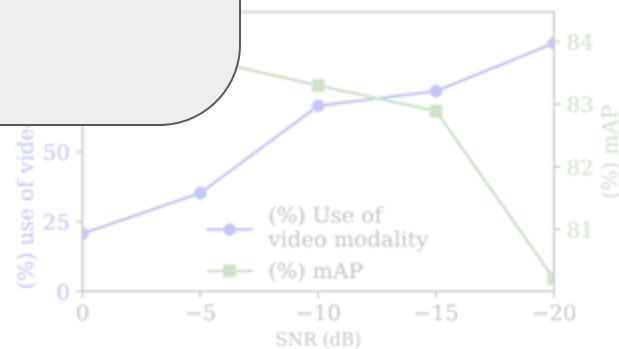


Reduction in:

- GMACs by up to 89.09% ✓
- Parameters up to 82.02% ✓
- Energy up to 9.6× ✓

Precision Level	Modality		mAP		
	A	V			
4 bit	✓	✗	77.1		
	✓	✓	78.92		
8 bit	✓	✗	80.56	11.37	0.33
	✓	✓	81.13	14.90	0.42
16 bit	✓	✗	84.39	19.11	0.59
	✓	✓	85.74	23.06	0.68
32 bit	✓	✗	83.22	29.71	0.89
	✓	✓	89.74	34.39	1.00

On device implementation





Project Page

Questions?

Thank you!