

# AI-POWERED AR ACCESSIBILITY

**JON E. FROEHLICH**

Professor, Computer Science  
University of Washington

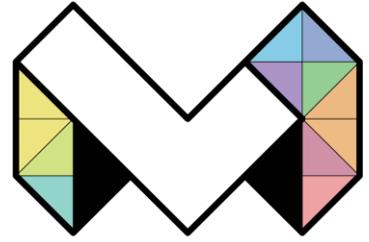
*Human-Centered ML Workshop, Apple, Aug 8, 2024*





# JON E. FROEHLICH

Professor, Allen School of CS  
Core Faculty, Urban Design  
Director, Makeability Lab  
Associate Director, CREATE  
Associate Director, PacTrans



# MAKEABILITY LAB



**Mikey Saugstad**  
Research Engineer



**Xia Su**  
PhD Student



**Daniel Campos Zamora**  
PhD Student



**Chu Li**  
PhD Student



**Jaewook Lee**  
PhD Student



**Arnavi Chheda-Kothary**  
PhD Student



**Jared Hwang**  
PhD Student



# *Our Mission*

**DESIGN, BUILD, & STUDY INTERACTIVE  
TOOLS & TECHNIQUES TO ADDRESS  
PRESSING SOCIETAL CHALLENGES**

# FOUR FOCUS AREAS



**ENVIRONMENTAL  
SUSTAINABILITY**



**HEALTH  
& WELLNESS**



**ACCESSIBILITY**



**STEM  
EDUCATION**

MAKEABILITY LAB

# FOUR FOCUS AREAS



ENVIRONMENTAL  
SUSTAINABILITY



HEALTH  
& WELLNESS



**ACCESSIBILITY**



STEM  
EDUCATION



ENVIRONMENTAL  
SUSTAINABILITY



HEALTH  
& WELLNESS



**ACCESSIBILITY**



STEM  
EDUCATION

***How to...***

make the *real world* more accessible  
for people with disabilities through AI  
and interactive technology

TRY IT!



# PROJECT SIDEWALK

<http://projectsidewalk.org>



**Mikey Saugstad**  
Research Engineer



**Chu Li**  
PhD Student



**Kotaro Hara**  
PhD Alum  
*Now Prof at SMU*

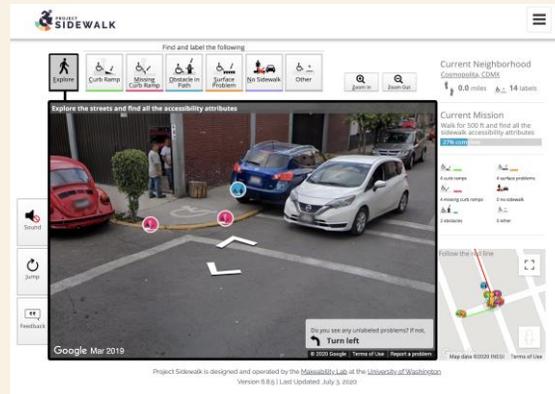


**Manaswi Saha**  
PhD Alum  
*Now at Accenture Labs*

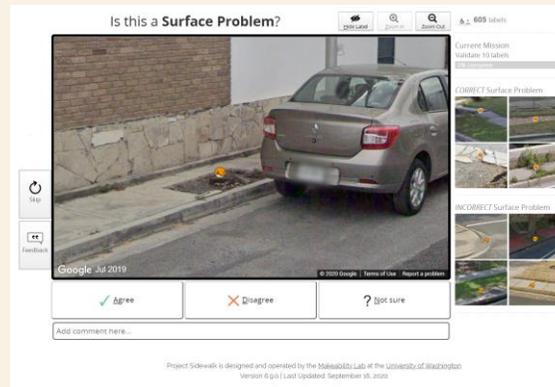
# ONLINE MAP IMAGERY



# REMOTE CROWDSOURCING INTERFACES

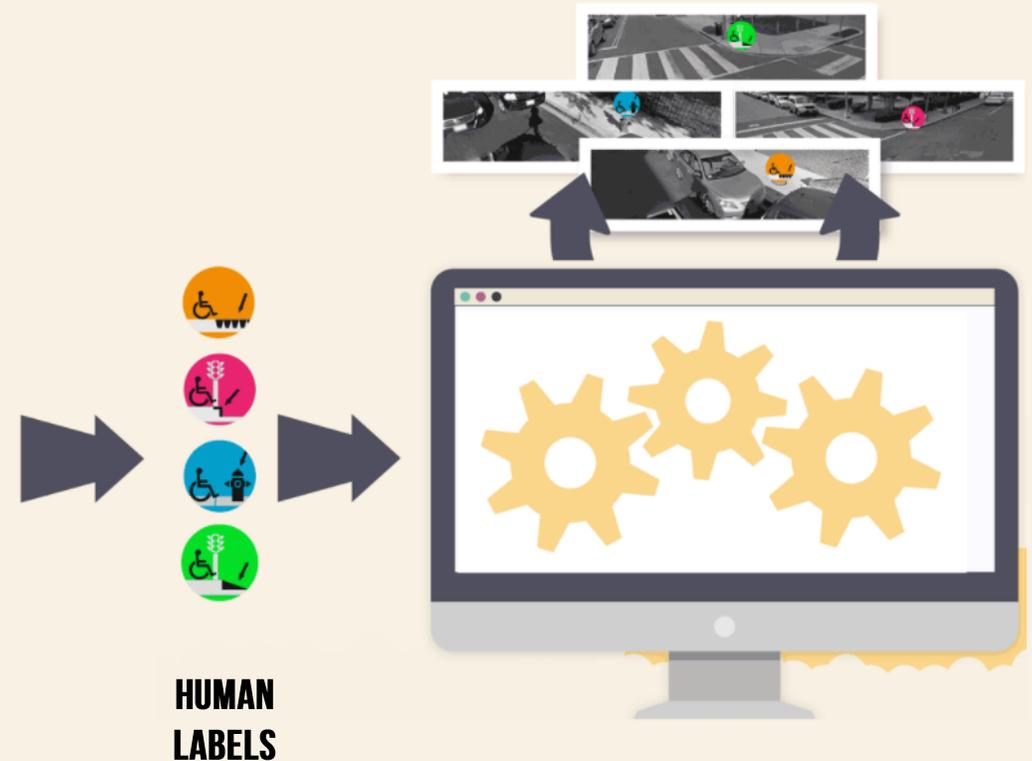


Labeling missions



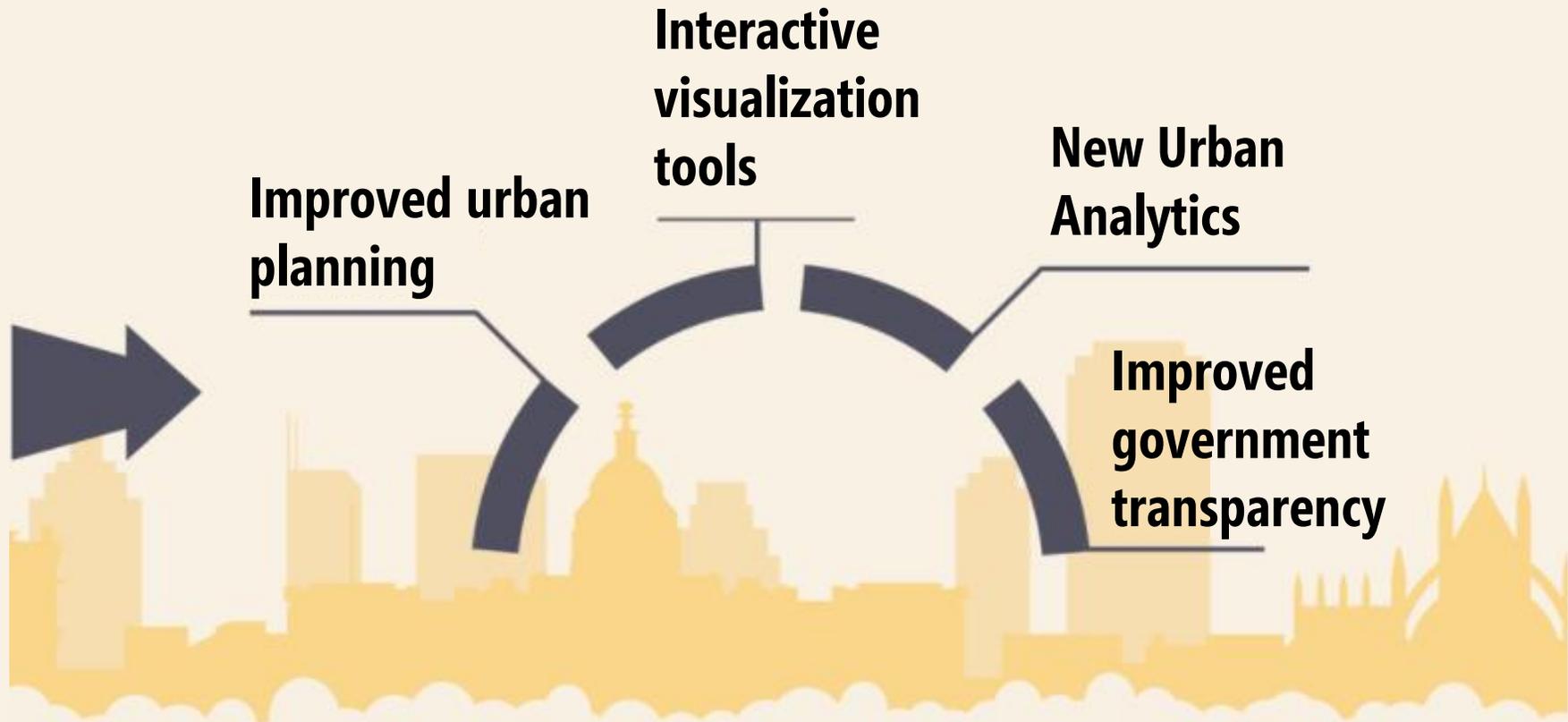
Validation missions

# MACHINE LEARNING



# OUTCOMES

**MACHINE  
LEARNING**





Explore



Curb Ramp



Missing Curb Ramp



Obstacle in Path



Surface Problem



No Sidewalk



Crosswalk



Pedestrian Signal



Other

CURB RAMP LABELS

SIDEWALK LABELS

OTHER ACCESSIBILITY LABELS

Current Neighborhood  
Central Oradell, Oradell

0.7 miles 409 labels

Current Mission

Explore 500 ft of this neighborhood

20% complete



0 curb ramp



3 surface problems



0 missing curb ramp



5 no sidewalks

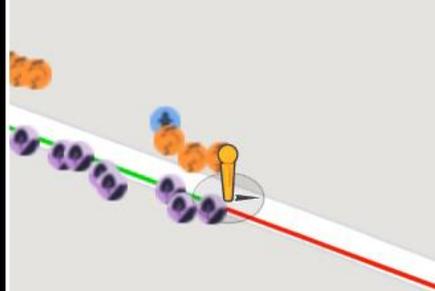


1 obstacle



0 other

Follow the red line



Do you see any unlabeled problems? If not,

Turn slightly right

Explore the streets and find all the accessibility attributes



Zoom In



Zoom Out



Sound



Jump



Stuck



Feedback

Google Jul 2019

© 2022 Google | [Terms of Use](#) | [Report a problem](#)



Map data ©2022 | [Terms of Use](#)

PROJECT SIDEWALK DEPLOYMENTS

# 4 CONTINENTS, 8 COUNTRIES, 21 CITIES



14K  
USERS



1.01M  
LABELS



691K  
VALIDATIONS



18.3K KM  
AUDITED



# E

ENFOQUE ACTIVISTA

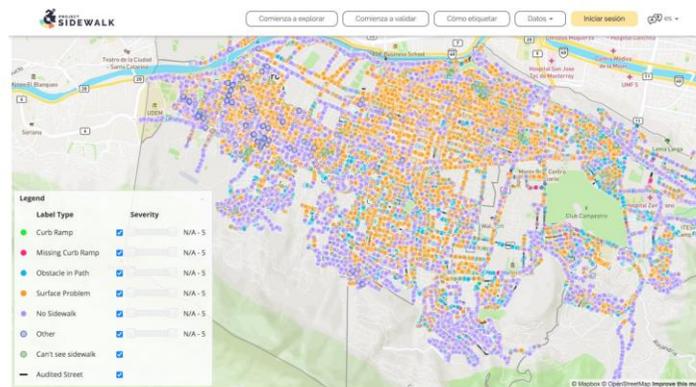
## EvaluANDO: del activismo peatonal a la colaboración comunitaria para el registro de obstáculos en las banquetas

Escrito por  
Claudina de Gyves y Ana Rodríguez

Ubicación  
San Pedro Garza García, México

Palabras clave  
activismo peatonal, movilidad sostenible, infraestructura peatonal, participación remota

Participación comunitaria en proyectos de espacio público y diseño urbano durante la pandemia COVID-19: experiencias y reflexiones de Iberoamérica y el Caribe

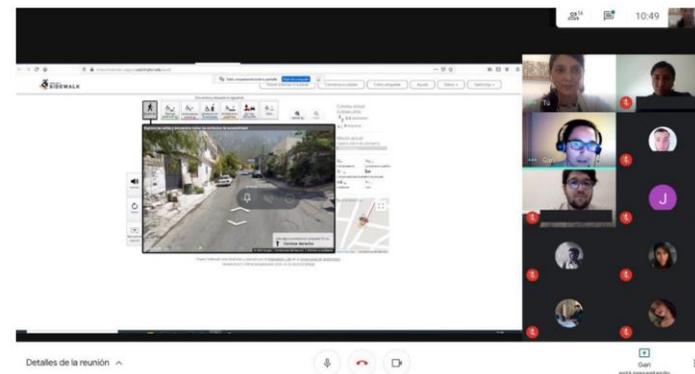


Fotografía 2. Mapa de etiquetas en Project Sidewalk  
Fuente: Liga Peatonal (2021)

La vinculación fue posible gracias a que ya había un historial de activismo peatonal en la metrópoli y el acercamiento no fue solo con la Liga Peatonal como ONG, sino de la mano de Makeability Lab, un actor técnico-académico que mostró disposición a contextualizar su plataforma a las necesidades de las calles mexicanas. Aunado a este proceso, la situación por la COVID-19 detonó una serie de intervenciones en el espacio público por parte del municipio de San Pedro Garza García, enfocadas en promover la movilidad sostenible, destacando las ciclovías emergentes y la aceleración de otros proyectos en el espacio público que estaban en puerta. Todo esto generó un escenario adecuado para la colaboración de EvaluANDO SPGG, en la que todos los actores involucrados estaban conscientes de la importancia de contar con información precisa sobre las condiciones de las calles en el municipio. Recientemente, en mayo de 2021, tras 9 meses de trabajo y con la participación de 1099 personas se lograron cubrir los 570.2 km de vialidades que tiene el municipio de SPGG y se generaron 105 177 etiquetas (Makeability Lab, 2021) en un ejercicio inédito a nivel nacional de participación ciudadana para ubicar los obstáculos de movilidad peatonal.

El caso de EvaluANDO SPGG destaca no solo por haber completado el mapeo del municipio y ser resultado de una colaboración multisectorial entre gobierno local, sociedad civil y academia, sino porque los resultados son ahora insumos valiosos del municipio para la creación de nuevos planes y proyectos. Los planes en proceso de elaboración, tanto de movilidad activa como de seguridad vial, con los resultados de EvaluANDO, ayudarán a identificar estrategias aterrizadas a la realidad y fomentar una mayor participación ciudadana, al involucrar a la población desde su diagnóstico y permitir la descarga de los datos generados en formato editable.

Participación comunitaria en proyectos de espacio público y diseño urbano durante la pandemia COVID-19: experiencias y reflexiones de Iberoamérica y el Caribe



Fotografía 4. Mapeo San Pedro Garza García  
Fuente: Liga Peatonal (2021)

En el proceso de levantamiento de información, Liga Peatonal trató de complementar el trabajo asincrónico e individual con cuatro eventos donde varias personas se conectaban de manera simultánea a probar la herramienta y resolver dudas sobre su funcionamiento. Se convocó a dos sesiones dirigidas a las personas ciudadanas del municipio, con el nombre de Mapeos, y otras dos orientadas a estudiantes universitarios, en formato de talleres en los que se les introdujo al tema de movilidad peatonal y donde se generaron propuestas para atender los problemas principales. Si bien este proceso ha permitido el involucramiento de adolescentes y jóvenes en el análisis crítico de su entorno urbano, todavía presenta oportunidades de mejora en la inclusión de personas que no tienen acceso a dispositivos de internet. Ante esta situación, sería conveniente explorar el ejercicio analógico del mapeo in situ con herramientas impresas y más con el fin de fortalecer la convivencia vecinal y promover la organización, que con la precisión del levantamiento. En estos escenarios de atención a la población en condición de vulnerabilidad, tal

vez destacan otros elementos a mapear no tan relacionados con ser un obstáculo en las banquetas, sino ya más encamadas a una ausencia de infraestructura como la misma pavimentación de las calles, las banquetas o la falta de conectividad con otros sectores. Además, en las reflexiones en torno al uso de la herramienta y las necesidades para el diagnóstico urbano incluyente, se identificó como área de oportunidad un mapeo con perspectiva de género, que pudiera incluir no solamente obstáculos en los trayectos identificados, sino también situaciones y elementos propios de la infraestructura que provocan una sensación de inseguridad, pero que no representan como tal un obstáculo, como si lo hacen los muros ciegos, la falta de luminarias, los recovecos o terrenos baldíos.



SIDEWALK REPAIR PROGRAM

## RESIDENTIAL GRANT AND LOAN APPLICATION PACKET



### **Sidewalks are for Everybody**

Sidewalks make the entire community accessible, are required under the Federal ADA regulations, and enhance your home's value and curb appeal.

City Engineer's Office: Email: [sidewalkrepairprogram@newbergoregon.gov](mailto:sidewalkrepairprogram@newbergoregon.gov) | 503.537.1273 | PO Box 970

Newberg City Hall | 414 E. First Street | Newberg, OR 97132 | (503) 538-9421 | M-F 8:30-4:30PM





# Access Score

EXPLORE

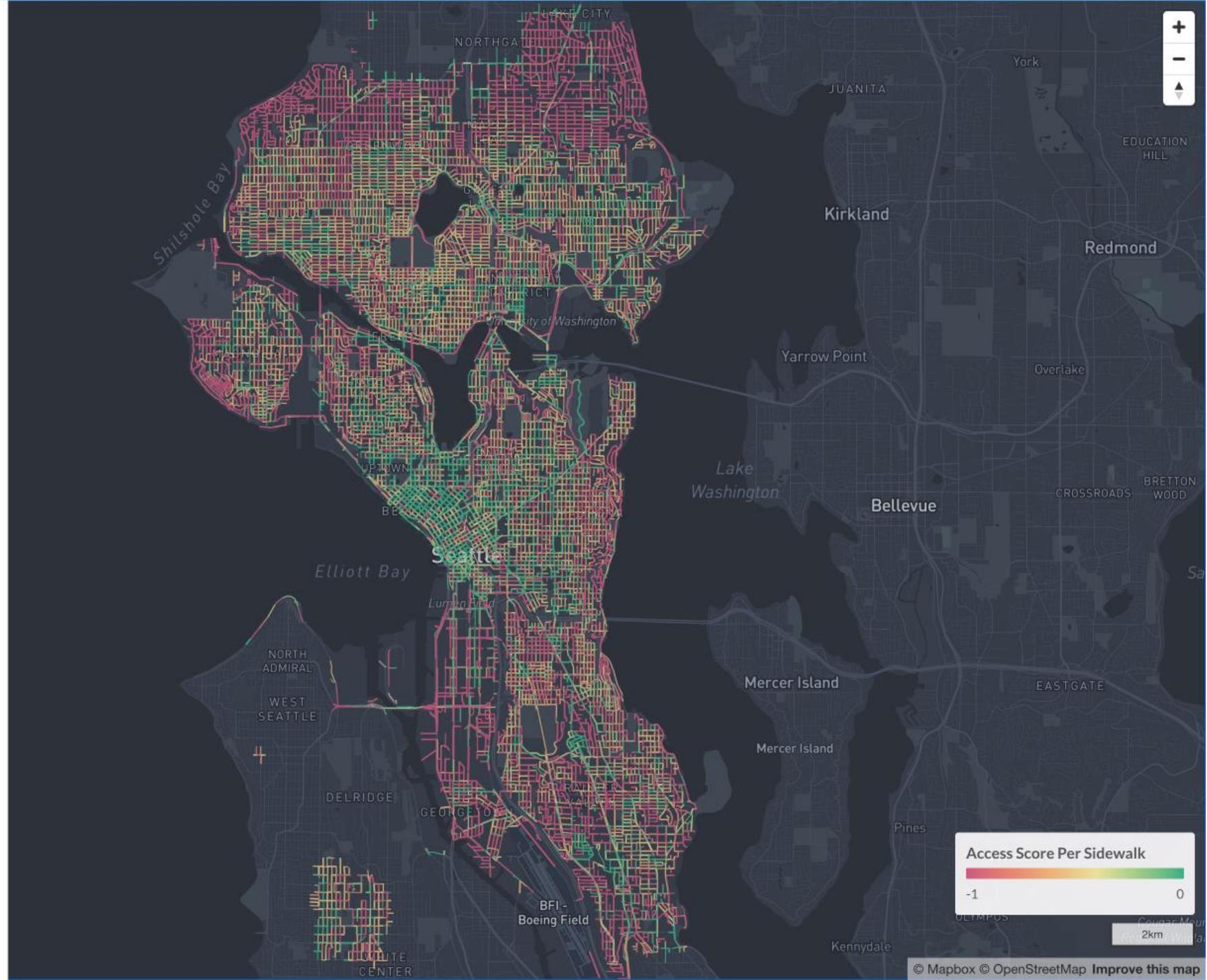
ANALYSIS

## Access Score Analysis

- Curb Ramps
- Missing Curb Ramps
- Obstacles
- Surface Problems
- Missing Sidewalks

Select geographical unit  
 Sidewalk Segments

COMPUTE ACCESS SCORE





But the focus of this talk is on **AI-powered AR accessibility**.

# AI-POWERED AR ACCESSIBILITY HISTORY

CHI'15



2016

ASSETS'17



2017

DIS'18



2018

ASSETS'18



CHI'19



2019

ASSETS'18



ASSETS'20



2020

UIST'23



2023

UIST'23



CHI'24



2024

UIST'24



UIST'24



UIST'24



In Submission



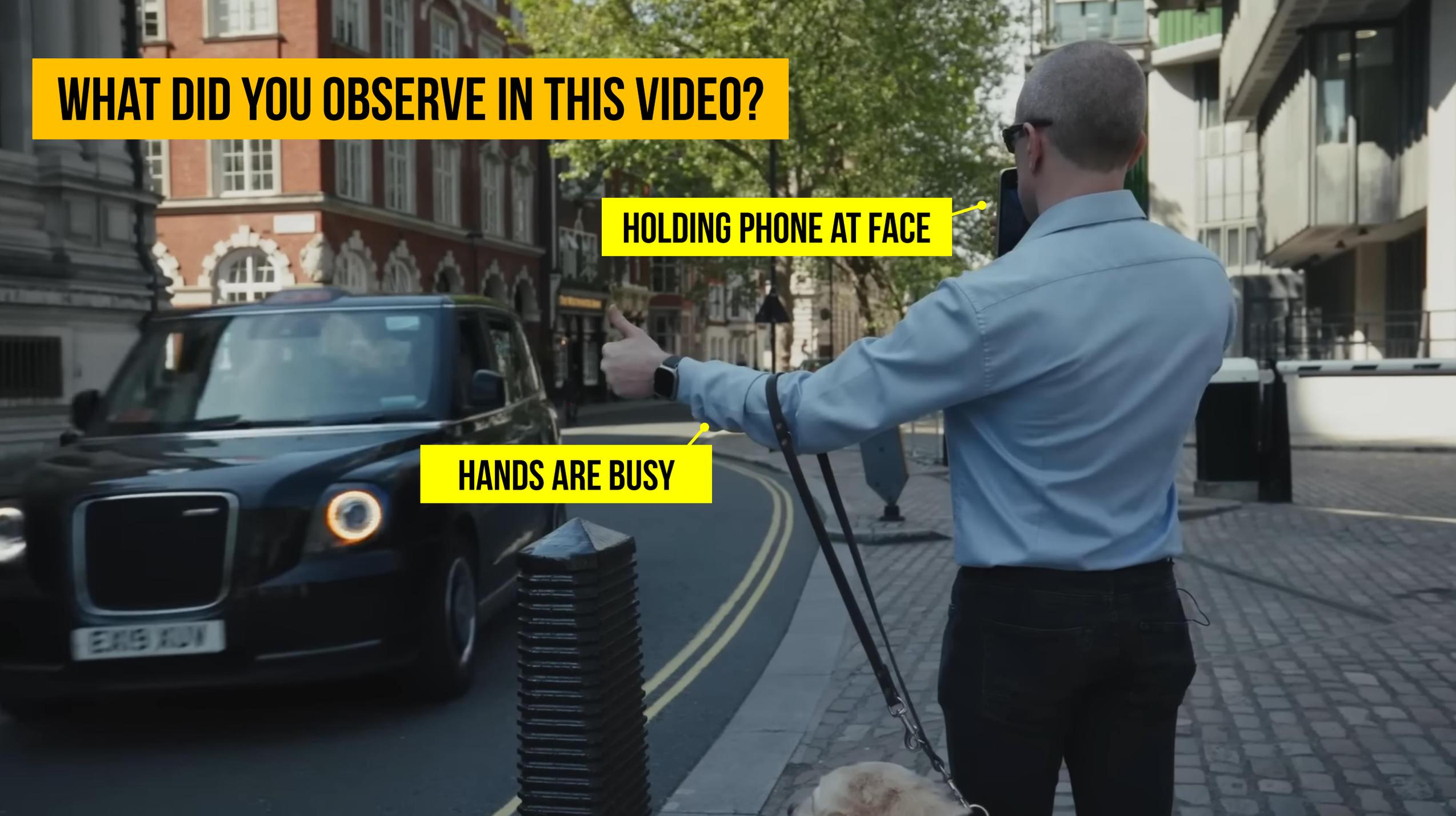
**AI foundation** models + advances in **AR hardware**



**WHAT DID YOU OBSERVE IN THIS VIDEO?**

**HOLDING PHONE AT FACE**

**HANDS ARE BUSY**

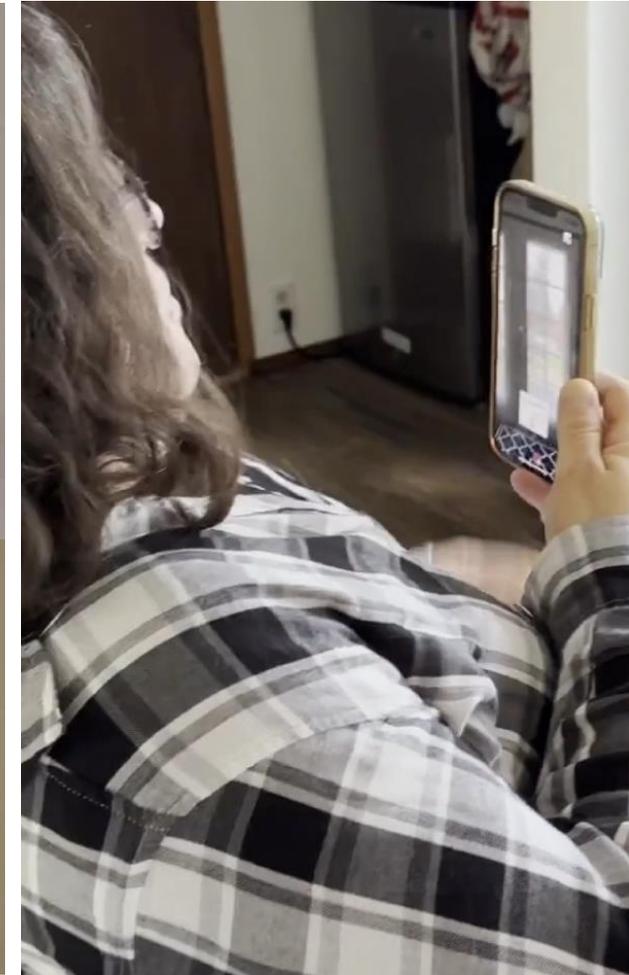
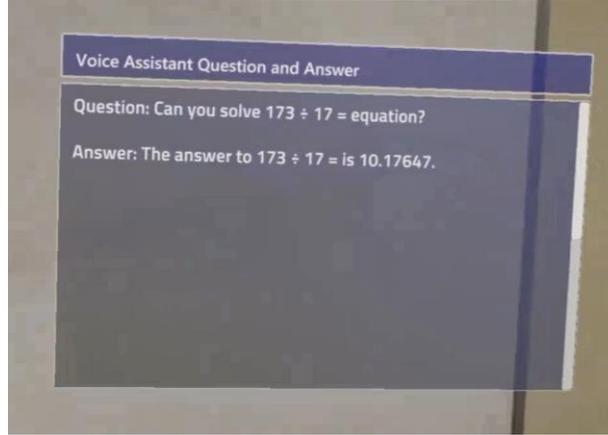
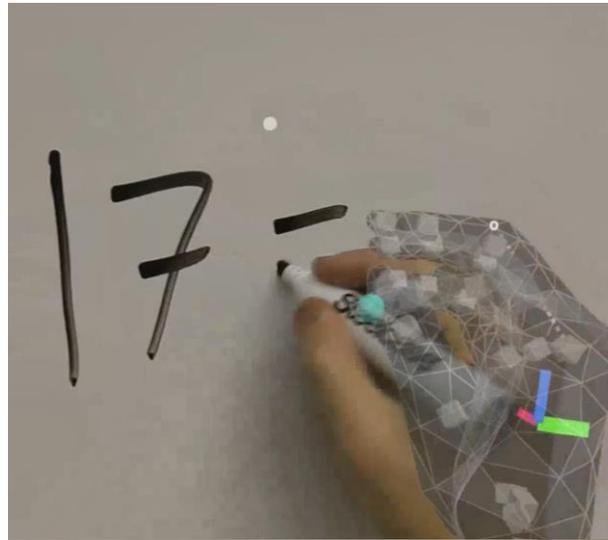
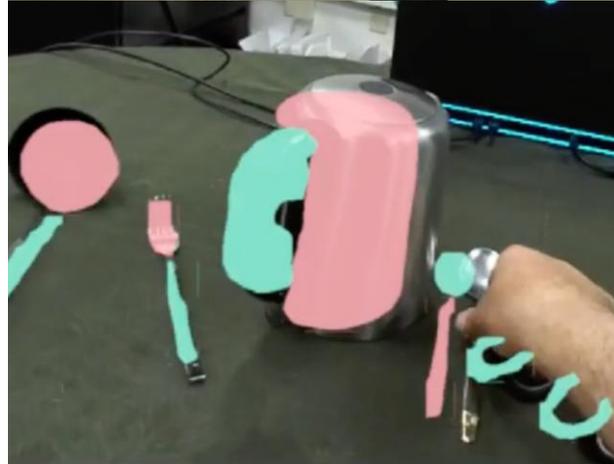
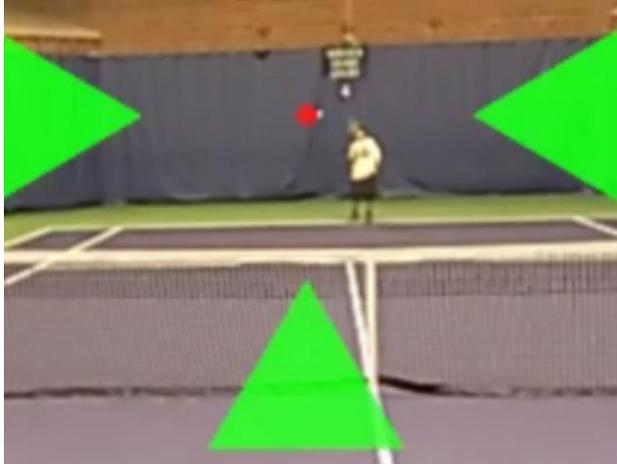




Apple Vision Pro



# AI-POWERED AR ACCESSIBILITY



## ARSports

UIST'23 Demo; *In Submission*

## CookAR

UIST'24

## GazePointAR

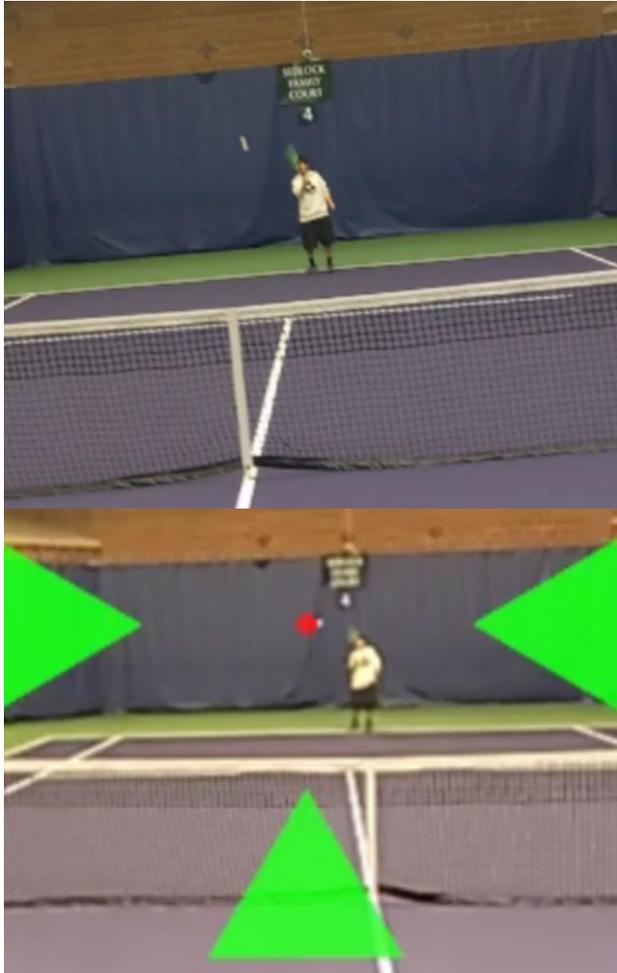
CHI'24

## RASSAR

ASSETS'23 Demo, CHI'24



**Jaewook Lee**  
PhD Student



*How can we...*

use real-time computer vision & visual augmentations to **support people with low-vision** in **playing sports**?

**ARSports**

UIST'23 Demo; *In Submission*

**LOW-VISION PARTICIPANT  
WITH AR GLASSES**



HUSKIES COURT 4  
GUEST

EDLOCK  
FAMILY  
COURT

4





**GROUNDSTROKE**  
424 X 240 @ 25 FPS

31.459 FPS

HUSKIES  
GUEST

HUSKIES	COURT 1	HUSKIES	COURT 3	HUSKIES	COURT 5
GUEST		GUEST		GUEST	
HUSKIES	COURT 4	HUSKIES	COURT 6	HUSKIES	COURT 8
GUEST		GUEST		GUEST	
HUSKIES	COURT 2				
GUEST					

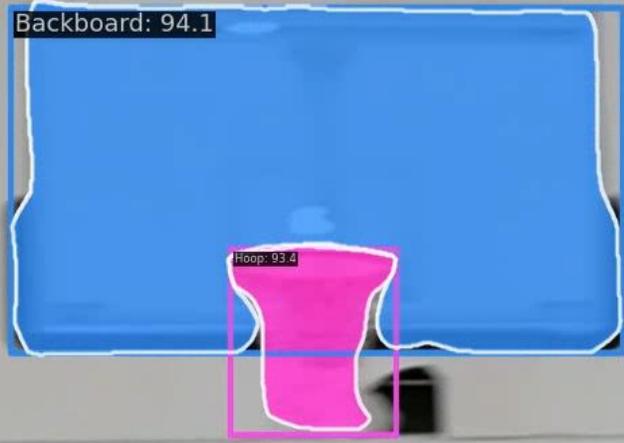
**GO HUSKIES!**



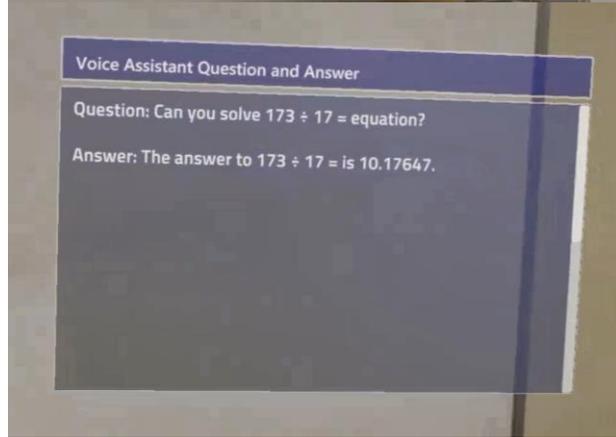
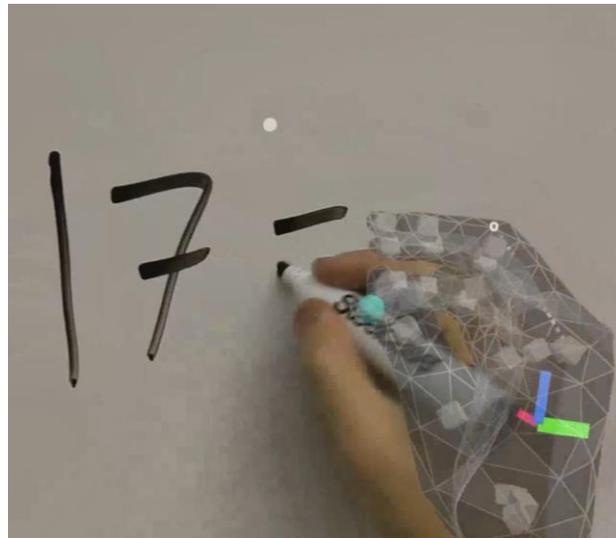
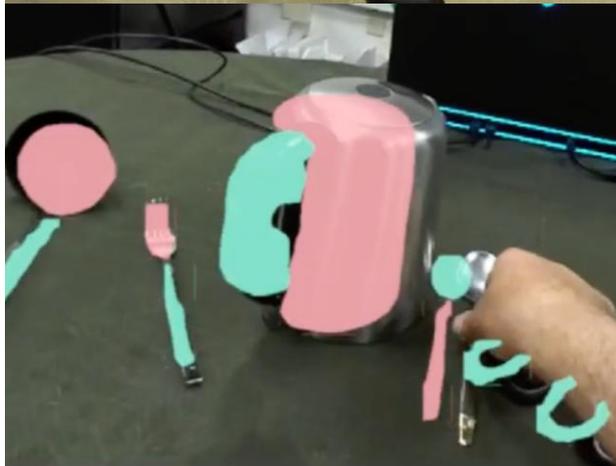
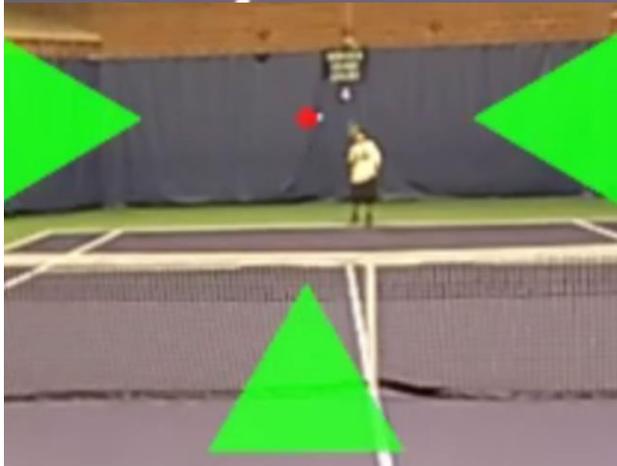
Rackets: 38.2  
Person: 80.1

Net: 96.8

35.076 FPS



# AI-POWERED AR ACCESSIBILITY



## ARSports

UIST'23 Demo; *In Submission*

## CookAR

UIST'24

## GazePointAR

CHI'24

## RASSAR

ASSETS'23 Demo, CHI'24

MAKEABILITY LAB  
**COOKAR**



**CookAR**

UIST'24



**Jaewook Lee**  
PhD Student



**Yapeng Tian**  
Assistant Professor  
UT Dallas



**Yuhang Zhao**  
Assistant Professor  
UWisc

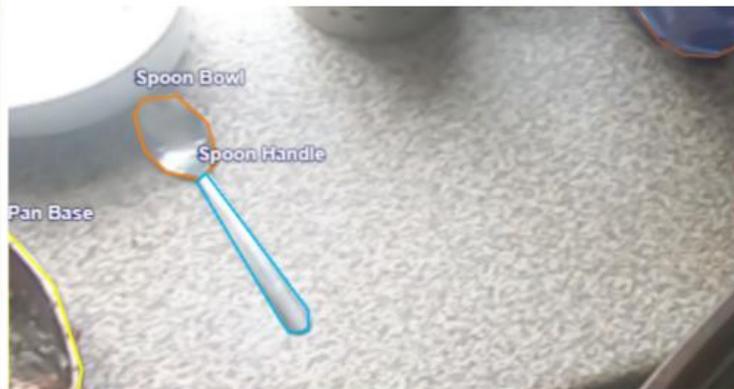
*How can we...*

support **low-vision cooking** through  
real-time object affordance  
augmentations?

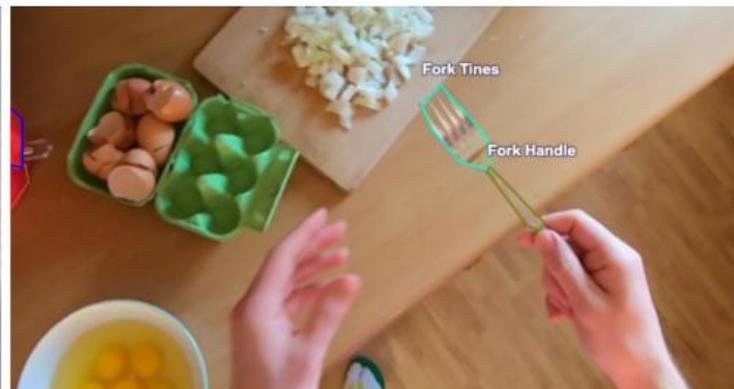




**Knife Blade & Handle**



**Spoon Bowl & Handle**



**Fork Tines & Handle**



**Scissor Blade & Handle**



**Ladle Bowl & Handle**



**Spatula Head & Handle**



**Pan Base & Handle**



**Cup Base & Handle**



**Carafe Base & Handle**

20.833 FPS



wipe down counter

stretch dough

place packet of cumin seeds on shelf

stir chicken

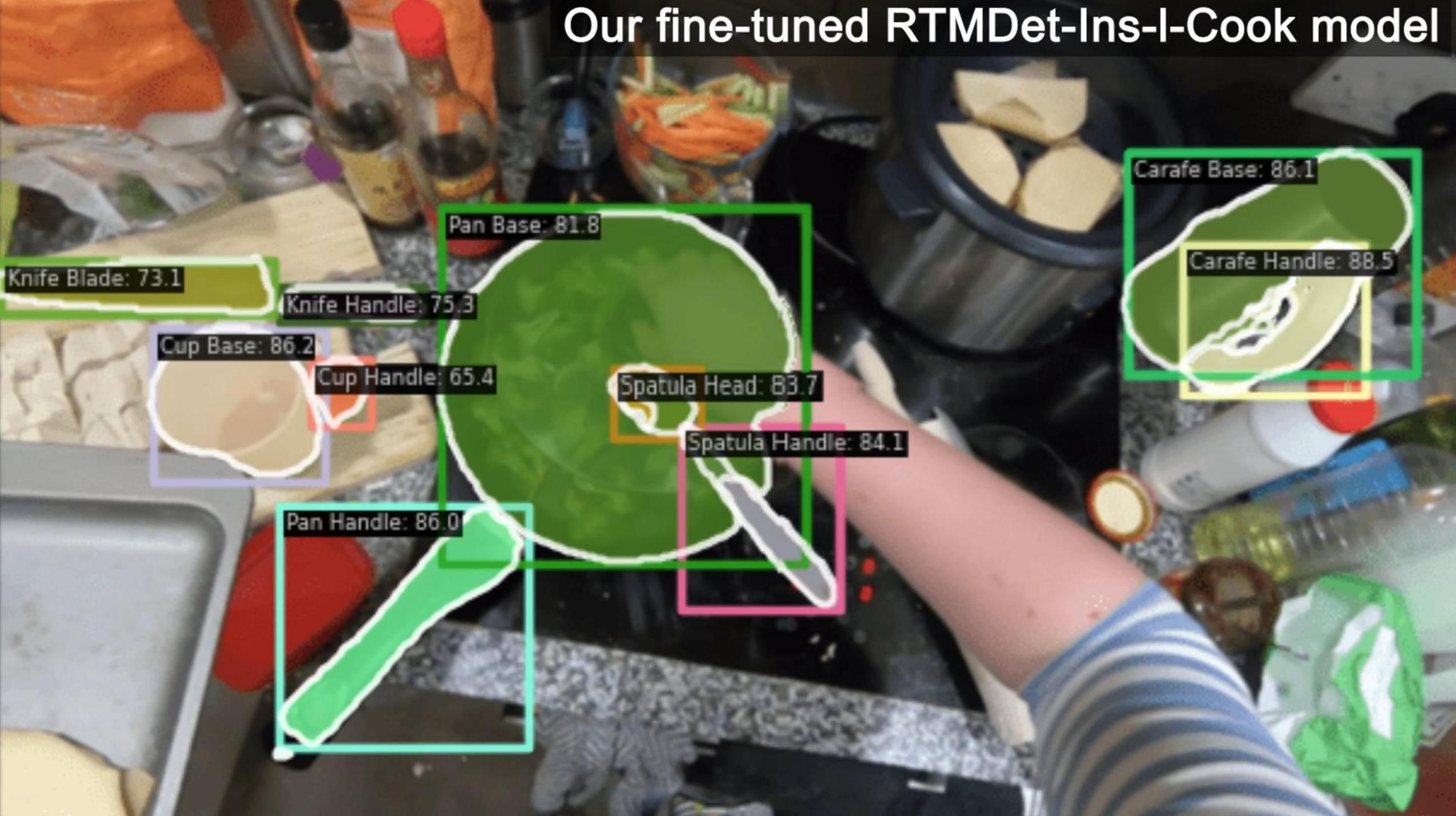
press down on aeropress

soak pan

put down sponge

put scotch egg on plate  
close box of scotch eggs

# Our fine-tuned RTMDet-Ins-I-Cook model



Knife Blade: 73.1

Knife Handle: 75.3

Cup Base: 86.2

Cup Handle: 65.4

Pan Base: 81.8

Pan Handle: 86.0

Spatula Head: 83.7

Spatula Handle: 84.1

Carafe Base: 86.1

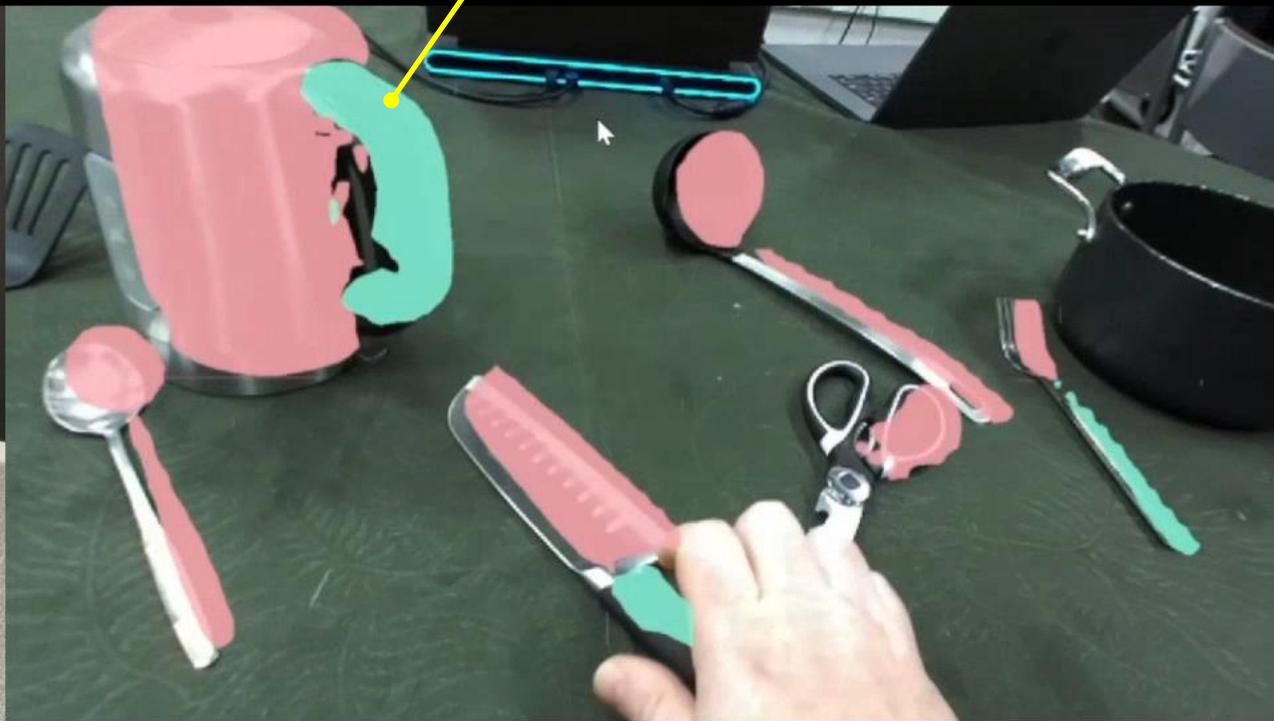
Carafe Handle: 88.5



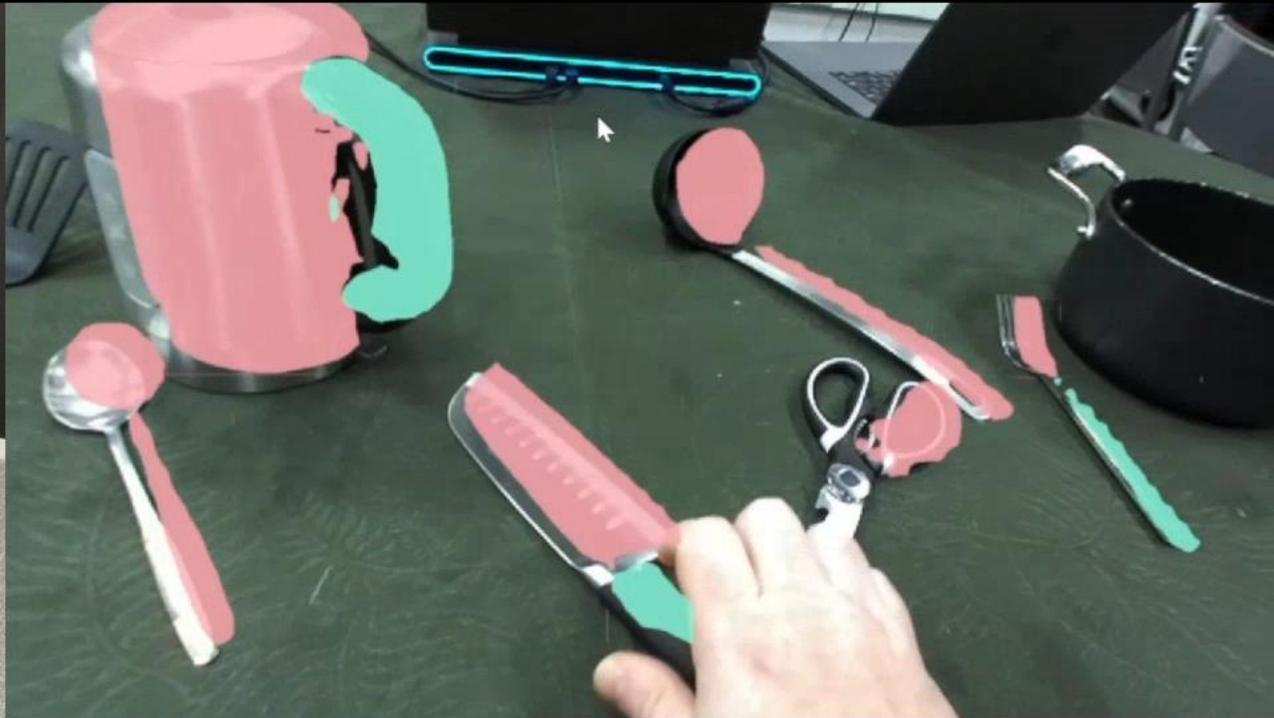
**OCULUS QUEST 2**

**ZED MINI STEREO CAMERA**

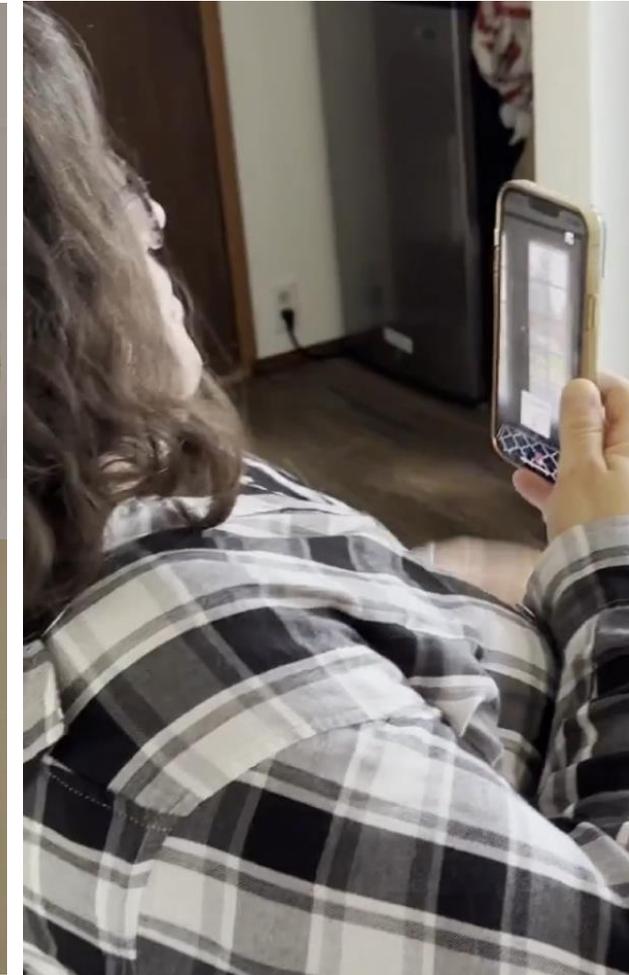
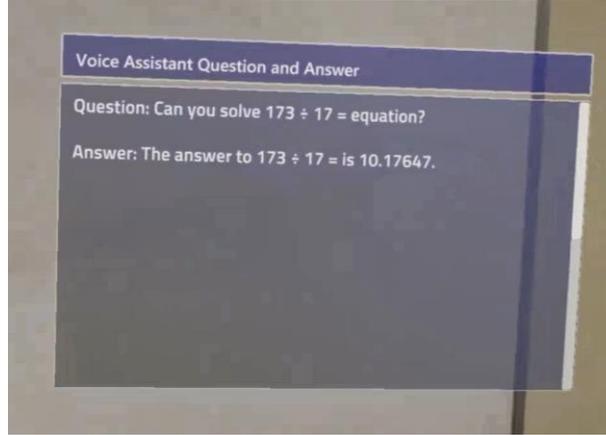
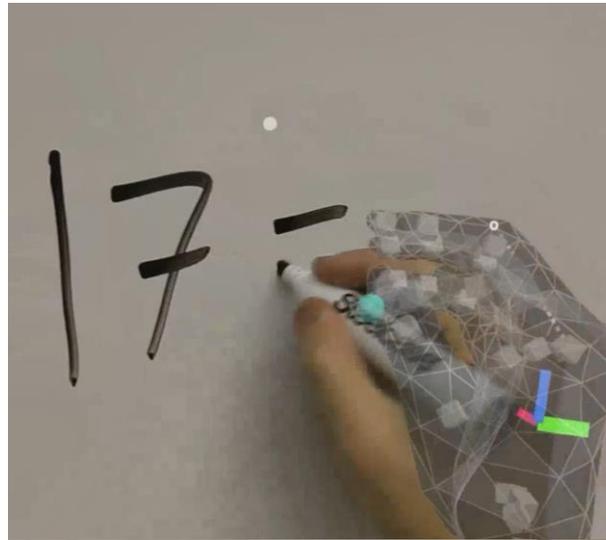
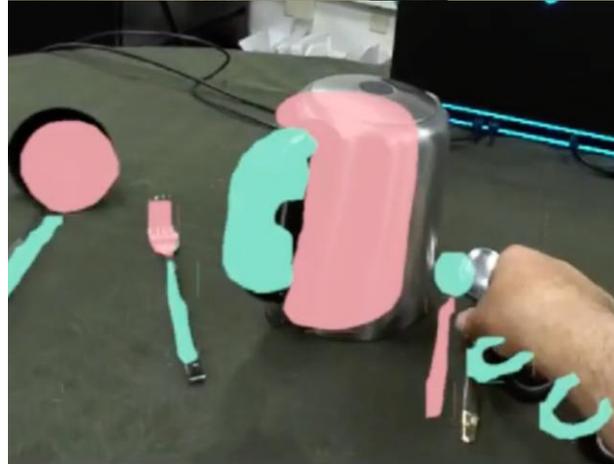
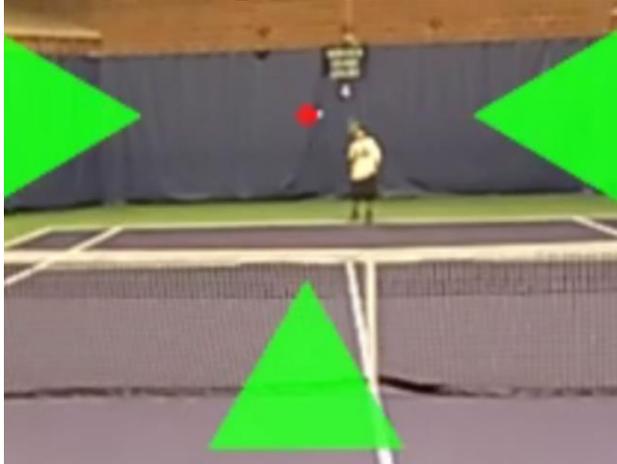
**NVIDIA 4080 MOBILE GPU LAPTOP**



**GRASPABLE AREAS IN AQUA GREEN**



# AI-POWERED AR ACCESSIBILITY



## ARSports

UIST'23 Demo; *In Submission*

## CookAR

UIST'24

## GazePointAR

CHI'24

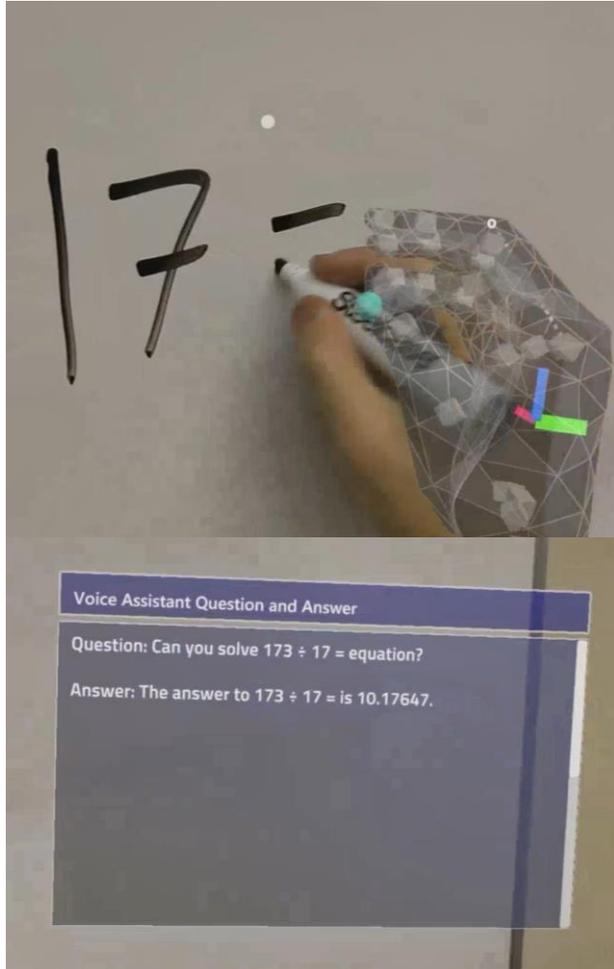
## RASSAR

ASSETS'23 Demo, CHI'24

# GAZEPOINTAR



**Jaewook Lee**  
PhD Student



*How can we...*

create an always-available, **context-aware AI agent** for AR glasses?

**GazePointAR**

CHI'24

# GazePointAR: A Context-Aware Multimodal Voice Assistant for Pronoun Disambiguation in Wearable Augmented Reality

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Jun Wang  
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Seattle, WA, USA

Elizabeth Brown  
University of Washington  
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Liam Chu  
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Sebastian S. Rodriguez  
University of Illinois at  
Urbana-Champaign  
Urbana, IL, USA

Jon E. Froehlich  
University of Washington  
Seattle, WA, USA

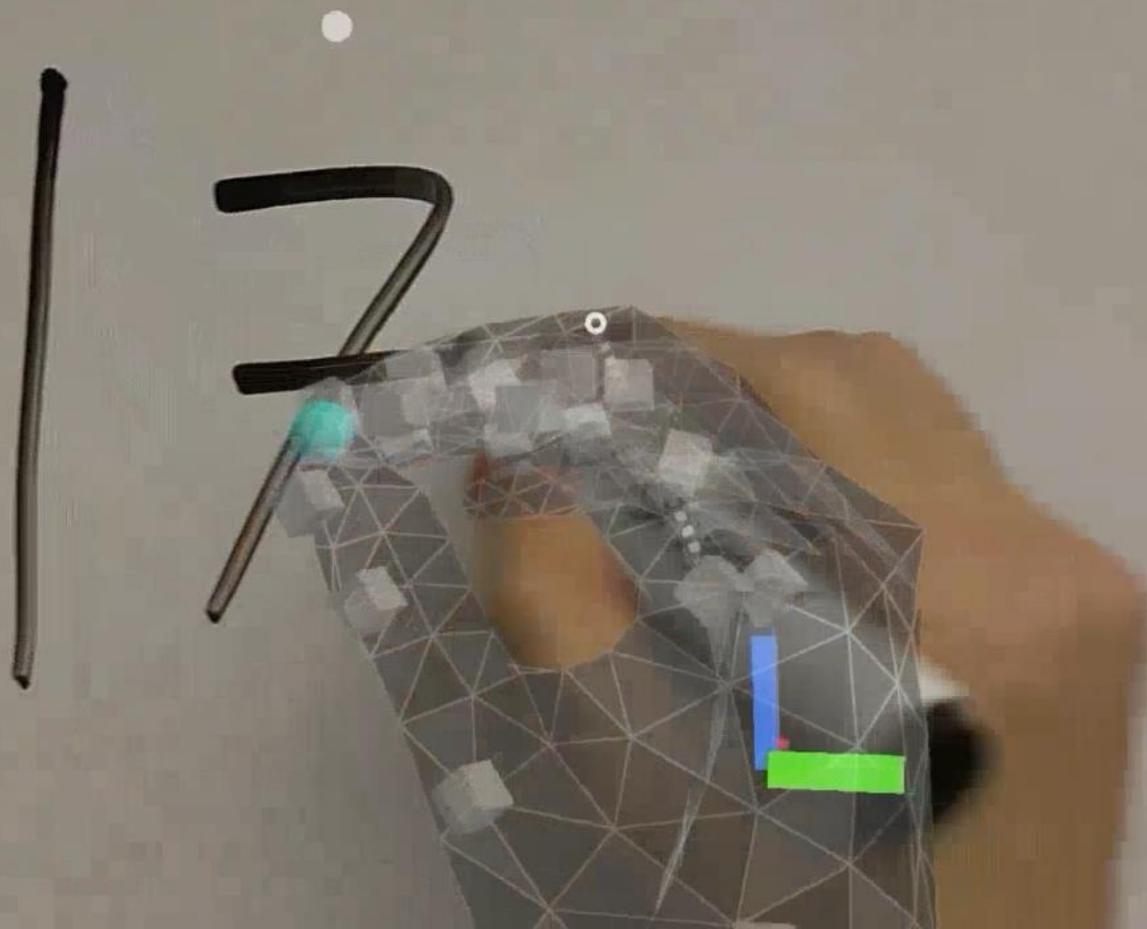


Figure 1: An example interaction with GazePointAR. The user’s query “What is *this*?” is automatically resolved by using real-time gaze tracking, pointing gesture recognition, and computer vision to replace “*this*” with “*packaged item with text that says orion pocachip original*,” which is then sent to a large language model for processing and the response read by a text-to-speech engine.

## ABSTRACT

Voice assistants (VAs) like Siri and Alexa are transforming human-computer interaction; however, they lack awareness of users’ spatiotemporal context, resulting in limited performance and unnatural interactions. We introduce GazePointAR, a fully functional context-aware

assistant that leverages the naturalness and human-like nature of pronoun-driven queries, although sometimes pronoun use was counter-intuitive. We then iterated on GazePointAR and conducted a first-person diary study examining how GazePointAR performs in-the-wild. We conclude by enumerating limitations and design considerations for future





## Water Sensor

The water sensor is a small, thin, and flexible device that can be printed on a piece of paper. It is designed to detect water through a thin layer of conductive ink.

The sensor is made of a thin layer of conductive ink on a piece of paper. It is designed to detect water through a thin layer of conductive ink.



Testing the AP-printed joint test connects the pad and the wire of the EV sensors of Rain



To facilitate hiding the electronics under the tiles, testing if the water sensor could detect water through a thin layer of conductive ink connected to the sensor.



→ Testing how the devices work when connecting the strings to the servos and the disks.



different kinds of hit different kinds of song of same kind and varied.

Was this a collage process, and it was involved? It was a melody for the first time at the White House, in an I invited Lydia Chabok friend with a dark background, who was professional in her work.



different kinds of hit different kinds of song of same kind and varied.

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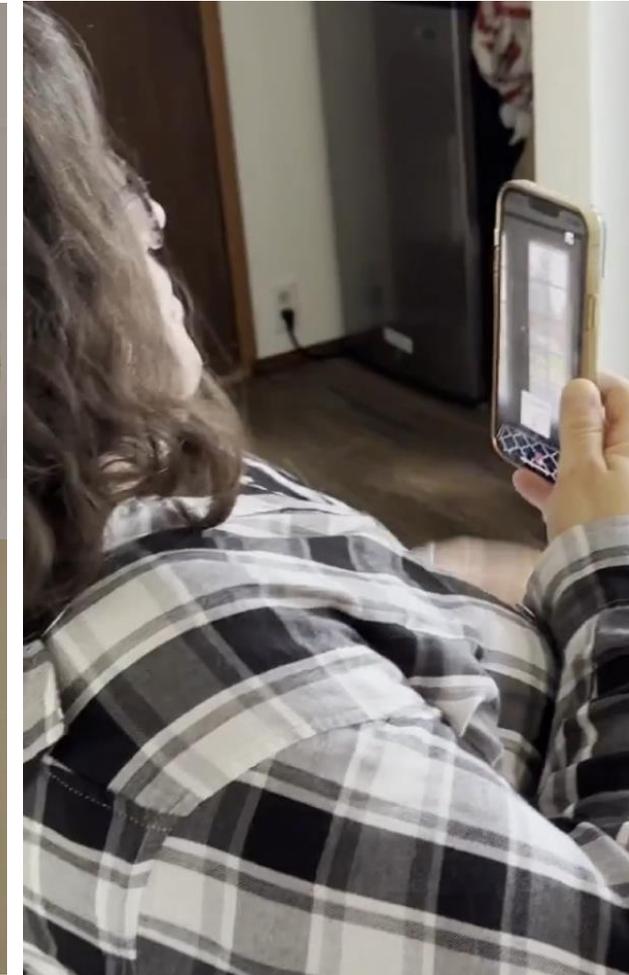
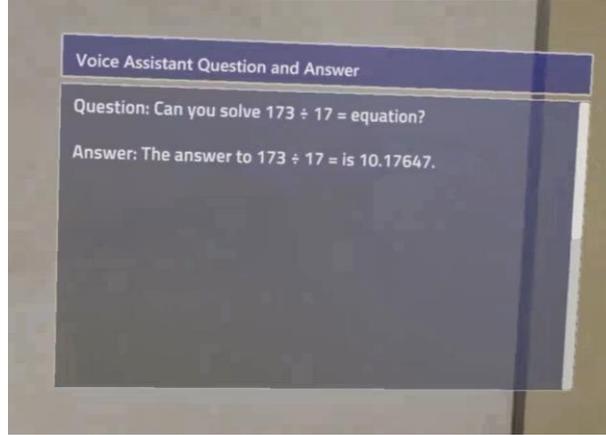
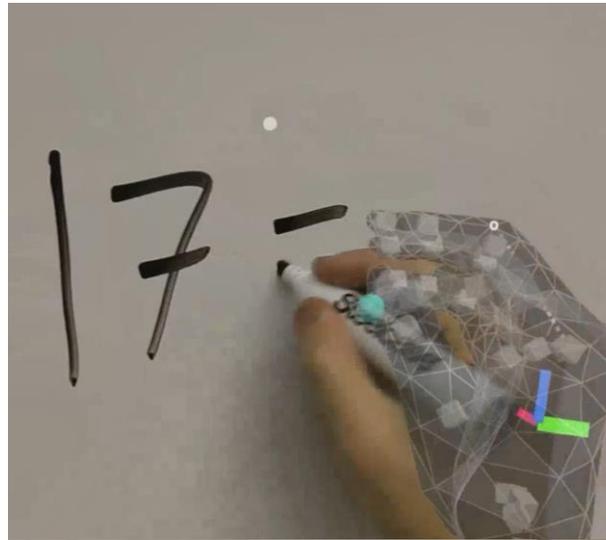
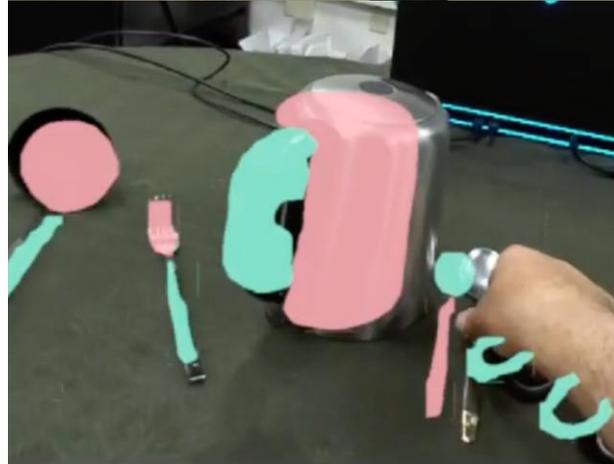
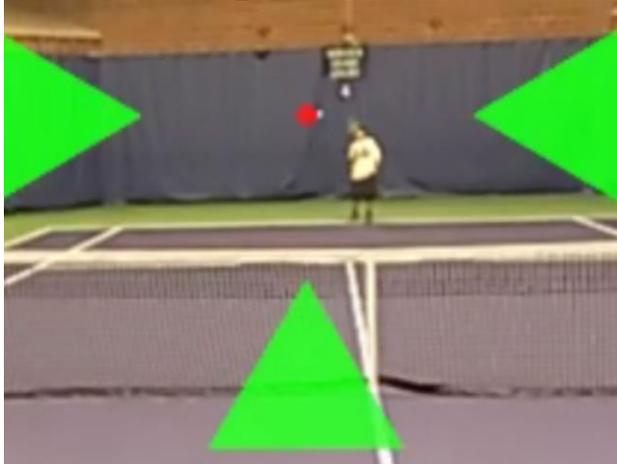
Voice Assistant Question and Answer



European Union. Hey,



# AI-POWERED AR ACCESSIBILITY



## ARSports

UIST'23 Demo; *In Submission*

## CookAR

UIST'24

## GazePointAR

CHI'24

## RASSAR

ASSETS'23 Demo, CHI'24



**RASSAR**

ASSETS'23 Demo, CHI'24

*How can we...*

create customized **indoor  
accessibility maps** using  
smartphones and drones?



**Xia Su**

PhD Student

# RASSAR: Room Accessibility and Safety Scanning in Augmented Reality

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Han Zhang  
University of Washington, USA  
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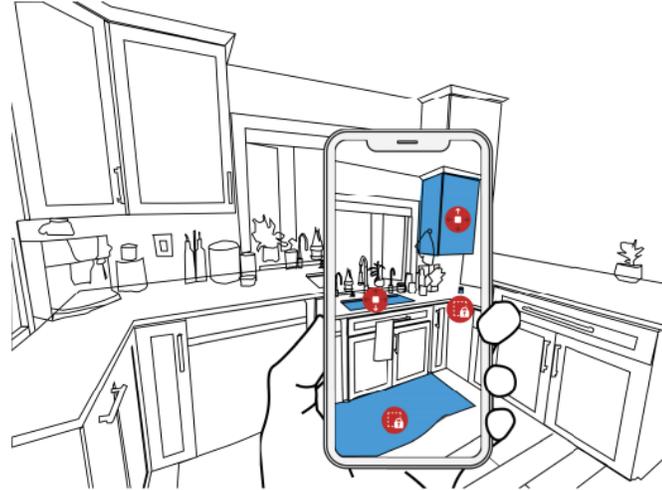
Qiaochu Liu  
Tsinghua University, China  
lqc21@mails.tsinghua.edu.cn

Kaiming Cheng  
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kaimingc@cs.washington.edu

Wyatt Olson  
University of Washington, USA  
wyatto@uw.edu

Jon E. Froehlich  
University of Washington, USA  
jonf@cs.washington.edu

## 1. Scan Home with RASSAR



## 2. Detect Accessibility and Safety Issues



## 3. Get Summary Report

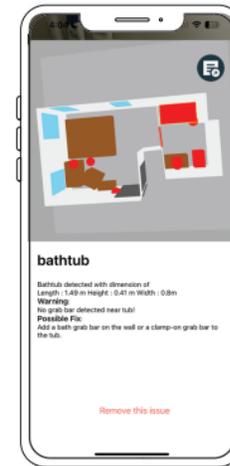


Figure 1: RASSAR is a mobile AR application for semi-automatically *identifying, localizing, and visualizing* indoor accessibility and safety issues. (1) RASSAR scans home spaces and detects potential issues in real time using LiDAR and computer vision. (2) RASSAR currently supports four classes of issues, including inaccessible *object dimensions* such as a high/low table top or the presence of risky/dangerous items such as scissors. (3) After a scan, RASSAR generates an interactive summary of identified problems with a 3D reconstructed model.

# RASSAR

Voice Assistance

## Choose

Your Communities

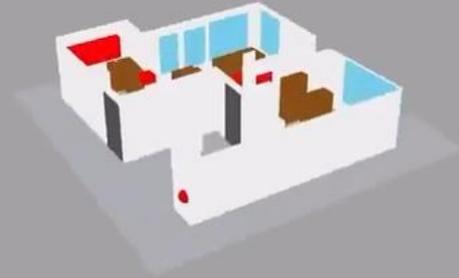
Wheelchair User 

Blind/Low Vision 

Older Adults 

Children 

Start Scanning



## Item Category

Please tap any object or issues in 3D view to see details. The information will include object category and dimension.

# DIAM: Drone-based Indoor Accessibility Mapping

Xia Su, Ruiqi Chen, Weiye Zhang, Jingwei Ma, Jon E. Froehlich  
University of Washington

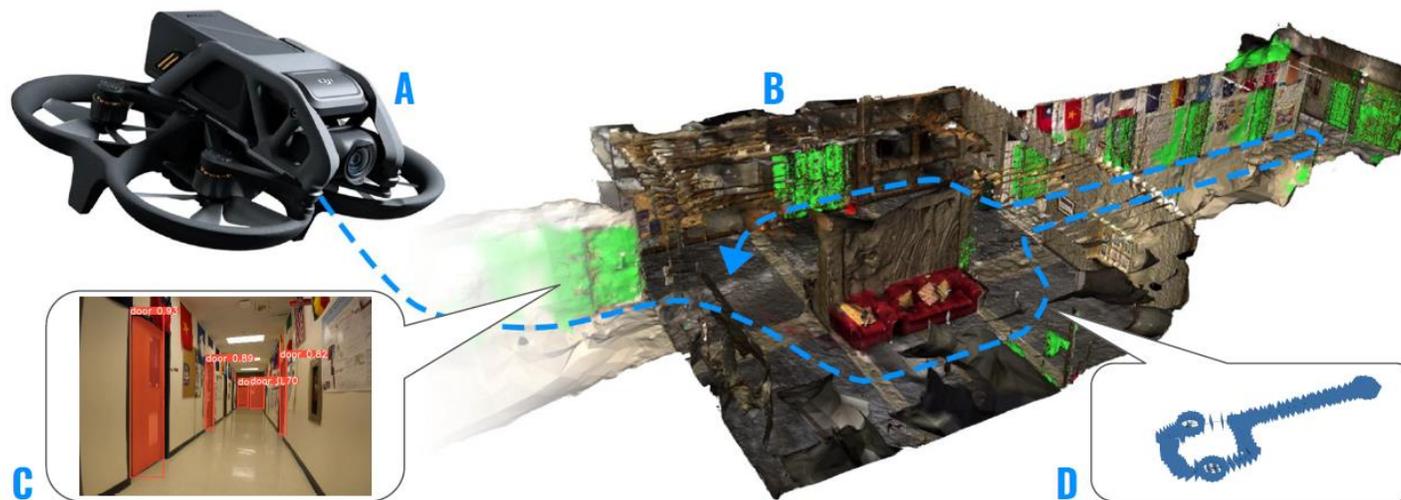


Figure 1: DIAM system overview. (A) The DJI Avata drone used to scan indoor spaces. (B) Indoor accessibility mapping result, green part shows detected doors. (C) DIAM use a few-shot fine-tuned instance segmentation model to detect accessibility related facilities. (D) DIAM also estimates camera position and fly trajectory to help locate detected facilities.

## ABSTRACT

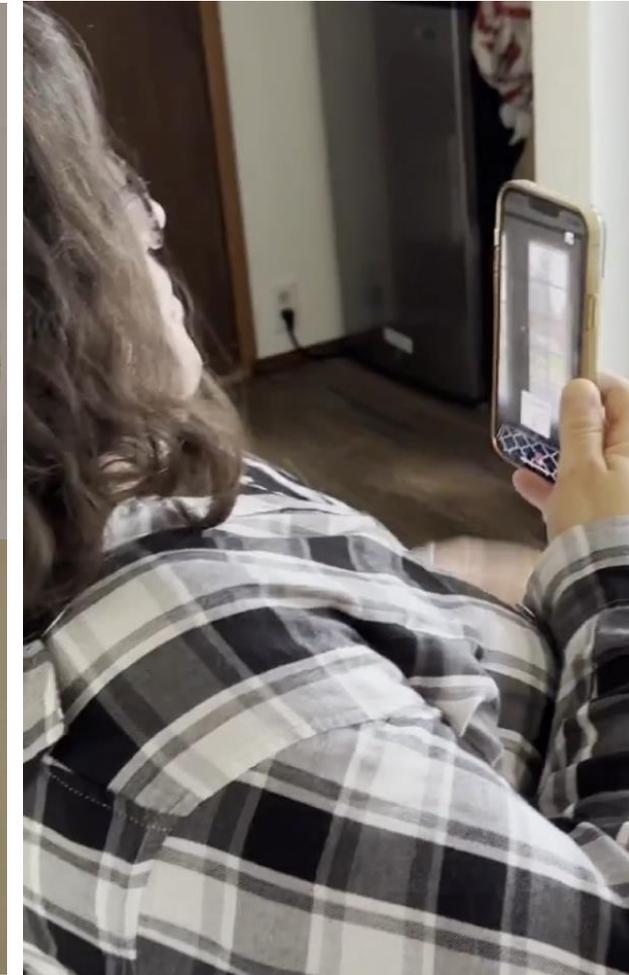
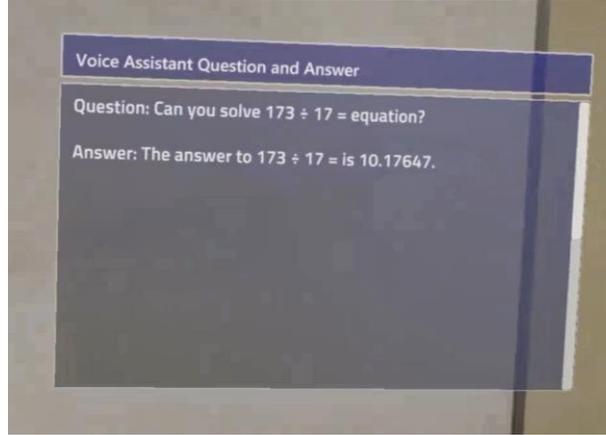
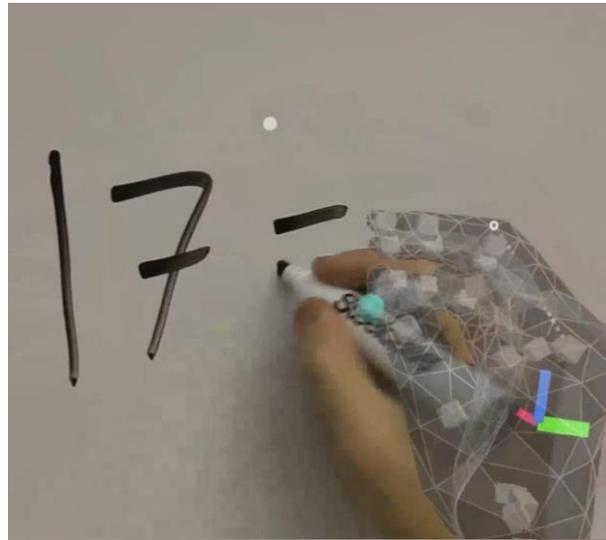
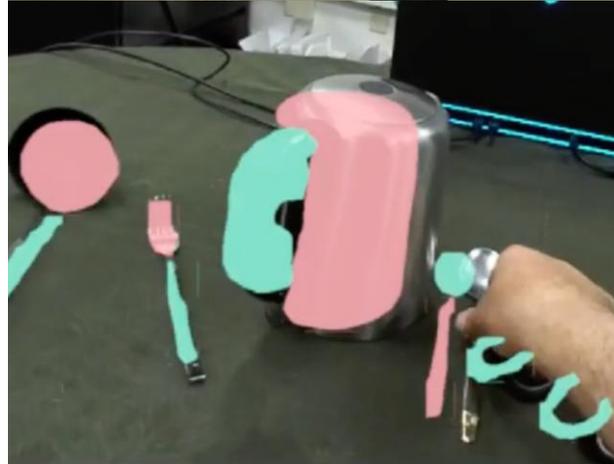
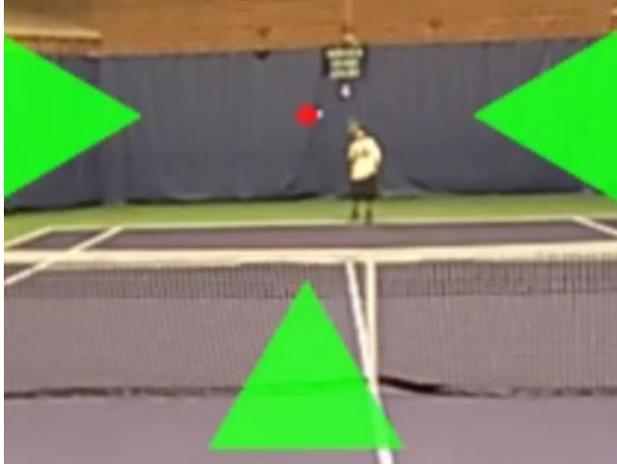
Indoor mapping data is crucial for navigation and accessibility, yet such data are widely lacking due to the high manual labor of data collection, especially for larger indoor spaces. In this demo paper, we introduce *Drone-based Indoor Accessibility Mapping* (DIAM), a drone-based indoor scanning system that efficiently produces 3D reconstructions of indoor spaces with key accessibility facilities recognized and located in the model. With DIAM, users can scan

## 1 INTRODUCTION

Indoor accessibility mapping data, which helps disabled people navigate [4] and assess [10] remote spaces, are widely lacking [2], especially in terms of data quality and accessibility information [1, 9]. Traditional indoor mapping methods are either high-cost and time-consuming [7] or lack accessibility information [1]. In this case, low-cost and efficient indoor accessibility mapping systems are widely needed.



# AI-POWERED AR ACCESSIBILITY



## ARSports

UIST'23 Demo; *In Submission*

## CookAR

UIST'24

## GazePointAR

CHI'24

## RASSAR

ASSETS'23 Demo, CHI'24

# The Makeability Lab

The Makeability Lab was founded in 2012 by Professor Jon Froehlich and students. Our lab mission is to design, build, & study interactive tools and techniques to address pressing societal challenges.

**June 25, 2024.** Chu Li Gives Invited Talk at NYU VIDA

**June 24, 2024.** Xia and Daniel off to Adobe for the Summer

**June 6, 2024.** Emma McDonnell Passes PhD Defense!

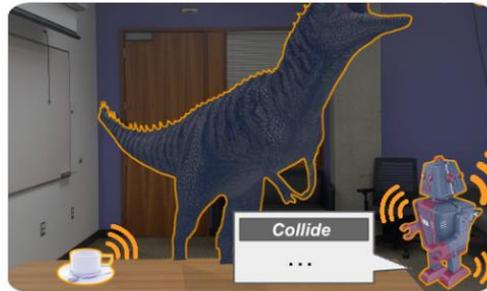
**June 5, 2024.** Venkatesh Successfully Defends his PhD

**June 3, 2024.** Prototyping Interactive Systems with AI

## RECENT PROJECTS



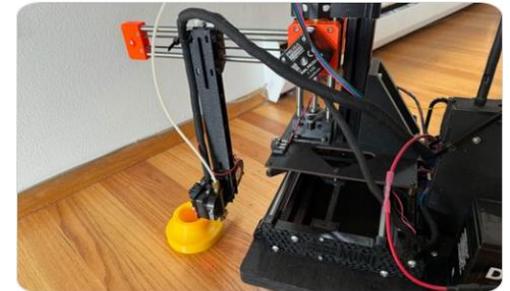
Engaging with Children's Artwork in Mixed Vi...  
2023 - Present



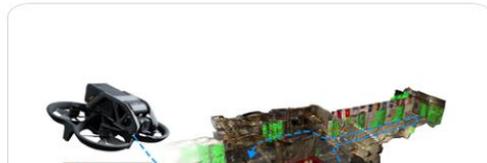
SonifyAR: Context-Aware Sound Generation ...  
2023 - Present



CookAR  
2023 - Present

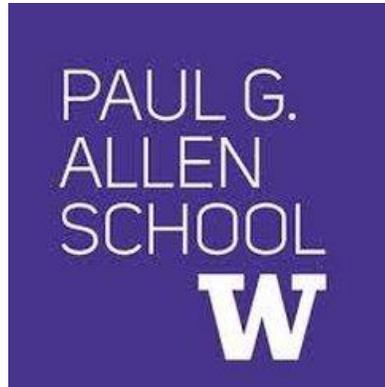


MobiPrint  
2022 - Present





National Institutes  
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# AI-POWERED AR ACCESSIBILITY

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*Human-Centered ML Workshop, Apple, Aug 8, 2024*

