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

Jaewook Lee¹, Jun Wang¹, Elizabeth Brown¹, Liam Chu¹, Sebastian S. Rodriguez², and Jon E. Froehlich¹ University of Washington¹, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign²













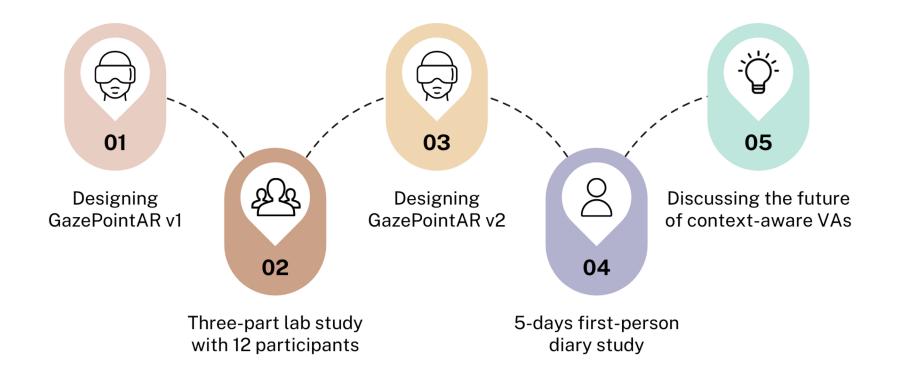


But voice assistants don't understand **"this"**





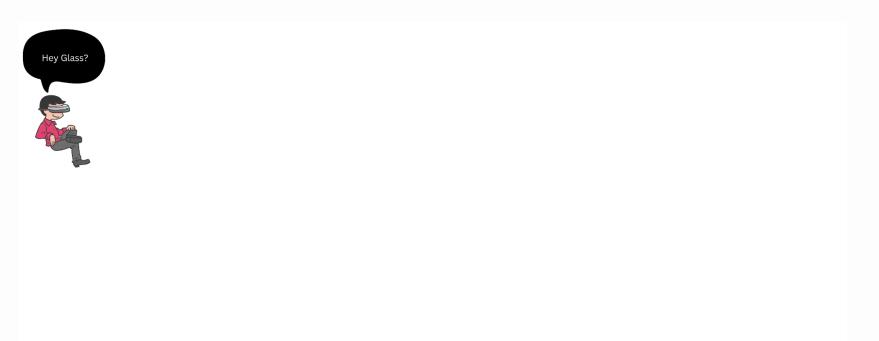
GazePointAR Timeline



GazePointAR Timeline



Designing GazePointAR v1



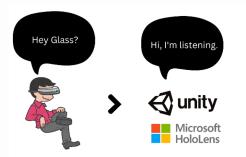






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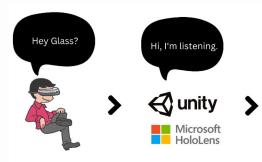




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Object Recognition Eye Gaze OCR Pointing Gesture Celebrity Recognition Chat History



Computer Vision: 3.75s ± 0.23

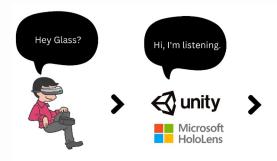




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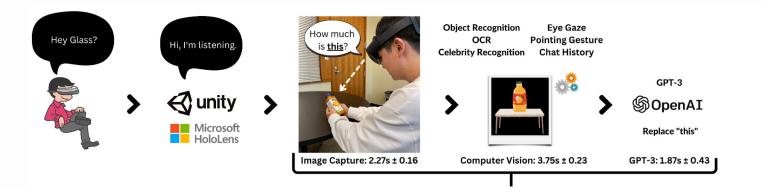
 Object Recognition
 Eye Gaze

 OCR
 Pointing Gesture

 Celebrity Recognition
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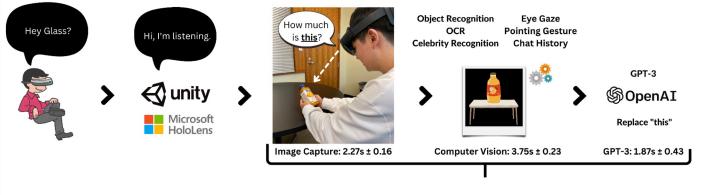




How much is <u>this</u>?



User's Field of View



>





User's Field of View



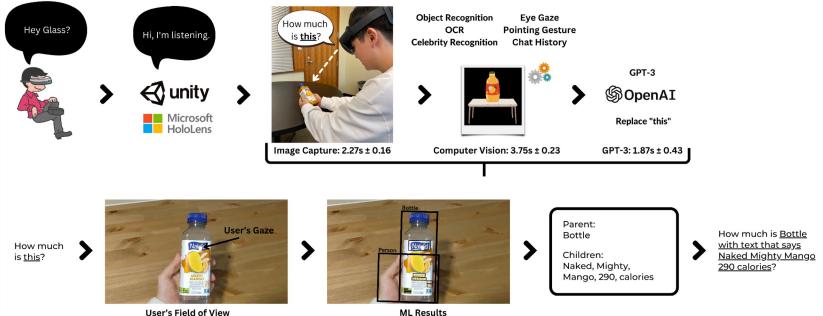
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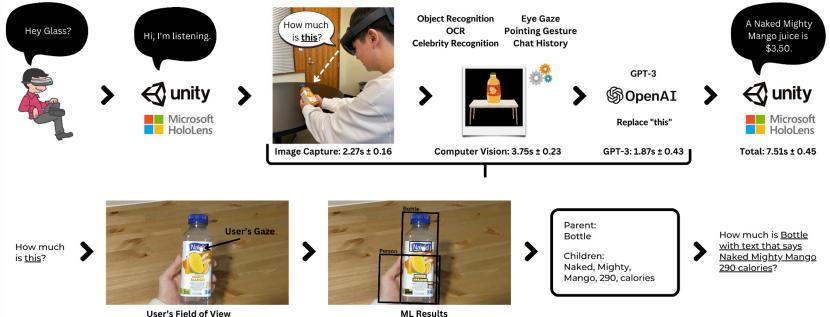
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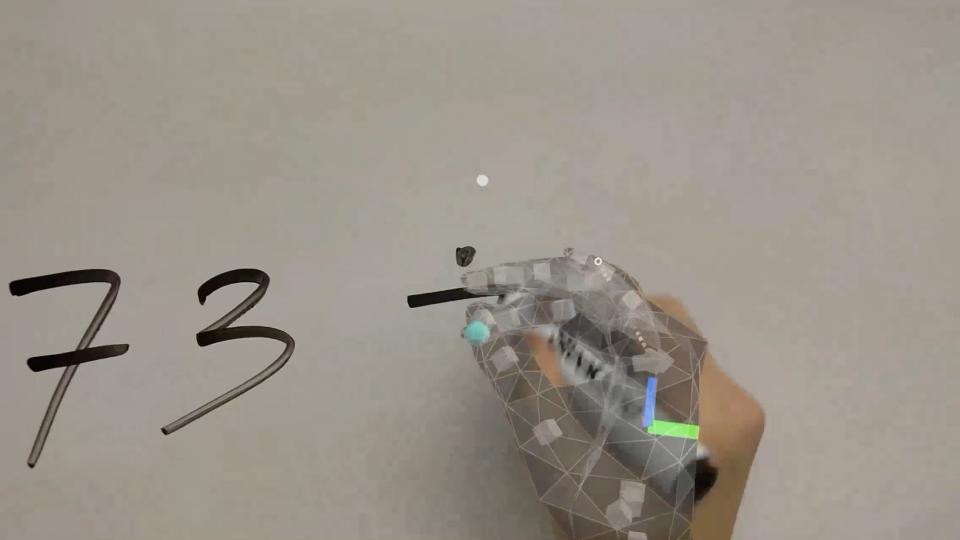
Bottle

ML Results



User's Field of View







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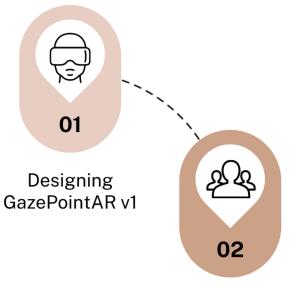
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GazePointAR Timeline



Three-part lab study with 12 participants

Part 1 - Comparing VAs

In Part 1, participants used Google VA, Google Lens, and GazePointAR to find a recipe that uses a specific pasta sauce.



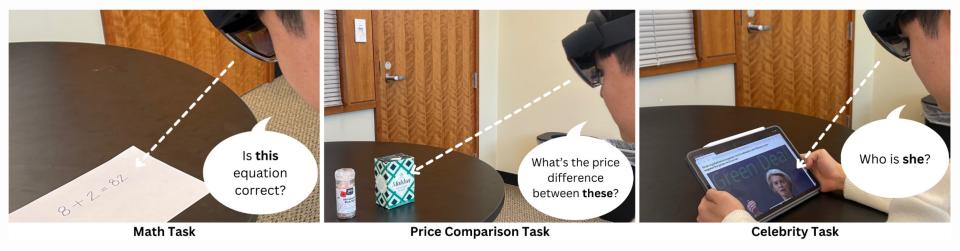
Google VA

Google Lens

GazePointAR

Part 2 - Ambiguous Queries with GazePointAR

In Part 2, participants interacted with GazePointAR to complete three additional query tasks: math, price comparison, and celebrity search.



Part 3 - Design Probe & Co-Design

In Part 3, participants first watched five design probe videos, then brainstormed and tried their own context-sensitive queries.



Key Findings

- GazePointAR is simple, fast, natural, and human-like.
- Participants preferred to speak pronouns, but not always.
- Pronouns are often for difficult-to-pronounce, long, or unknown object names.
- Gaze-only is preferred to keep interactions hands-free.

Answerable Queries



A: A Sprite can goes into recycling.

A: 명동순두부 sells sundubu jjigae...

A: There are people around trees...

Unanswerable Queries



A: I didn't understand your question.

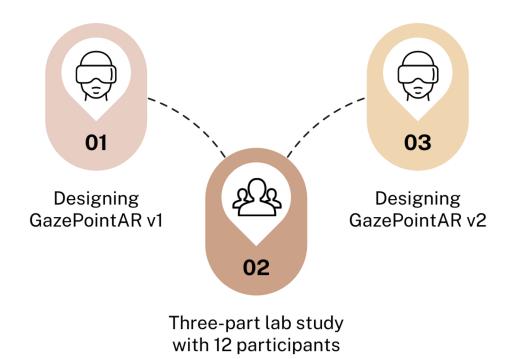
A: This is a tree...

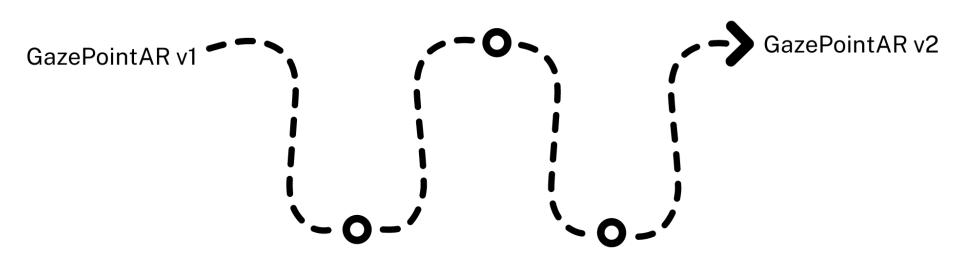
A: That depends on the car...

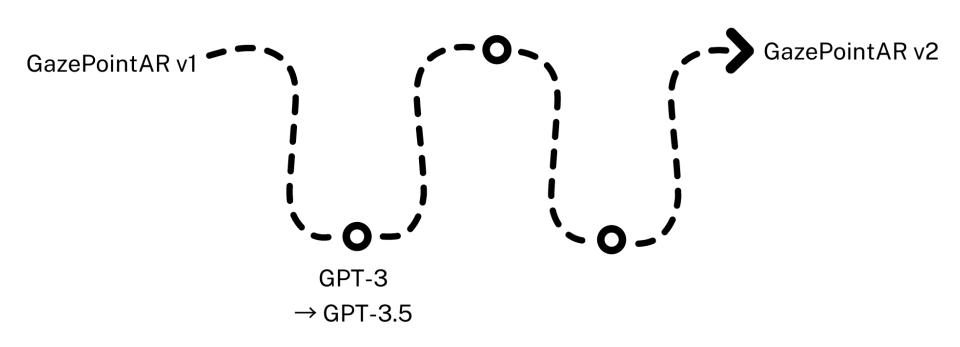
Key Limitations

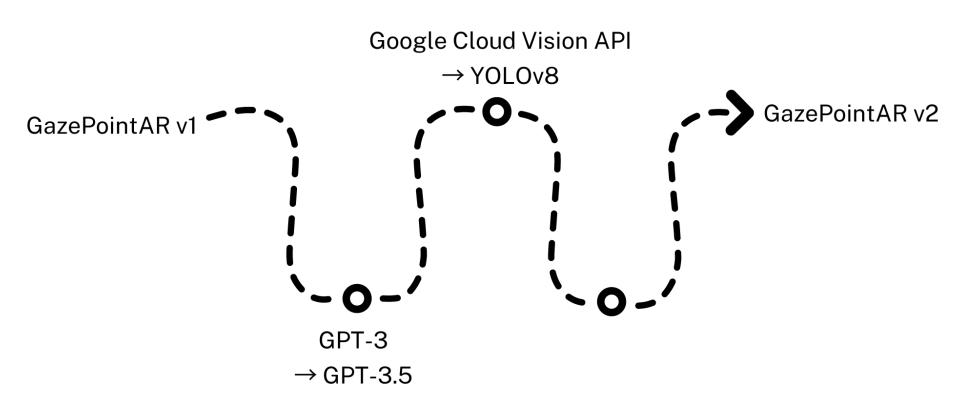
- Support multiple pronouns (e.g., "Which is healthier, this or that?").
- Support queries with no pronoun (e.g., "What would be good for dinner?").
- Provide explanations to its answers.
- Reduce having to dwell.

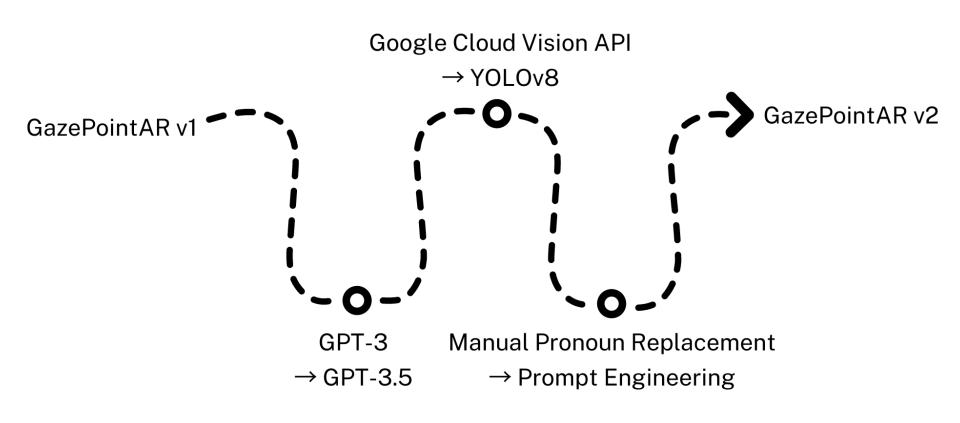
GazePointAR Timeline











GazePointAR v2's Prompt Method

Prompt

The user asked, "<user-spoken query>"

To help you answer this question, here is what the user looked at: <gaze data>

The user also pointed at the following objects: <pointing data>

Finally, here are all other objects in the user's view: <all objects not gazed or pointed at>

Use the information above when answering the user's question, "<user-spoken query>". You should answer this question in one sentence. As part of your answer, include a short explanation. Even If you do not have enough information or an exact answer is unknown, you should do your best to provide an estimate or a range of possible answers.

Explanations

Insert original user-spoken query

Gaze data is still formatted as "<object or person name> with text that says <text 1> <text 2> <text 3> ..." However, child layer is no longer limited to 5 largest bounding box.

This line is included only if the user pointed at something. Pointing data is formatted the same as gaze data.

Insert semi-colon separated list of phrases describing objects not gazed or pointed at.

Output formatting to return a result that is exactly one sentence long with brief explanation.

Prompt

The user asked, "<user-spoken query>"

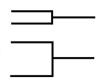
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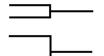
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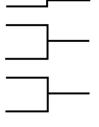
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Explanations

Insert original user-spoken query

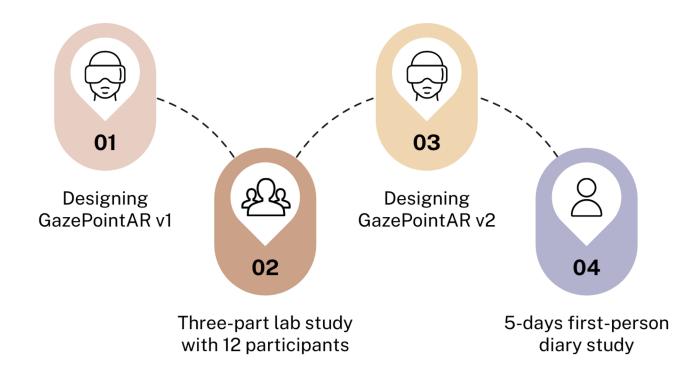
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Output formatting to return a result that is exactly one sentence long with brief explanation.

GazePointAR Timeline



Study 2 - First-Person Diary Study

With GazePointAR v2, the first author used GazePointAR in their day-to-day activities for five days, recording their observations.



A: ...you may consider brand like Hugo Boss, Brooks Brothers, or J.Crew, which offer quality the cappuccino, so I would recommend you to men's cloth at relatively lower costs.

A: Based on your gaze, you are interested in try the cappuccino.

A: ... The Brave New World Revisited by Aldous Huxley, as it is written by the same author and is often considered a companion piece.

A: ...consider making stuffed zucchini boats, as they are a delicious and healthy way to use both zucchini and peppers.



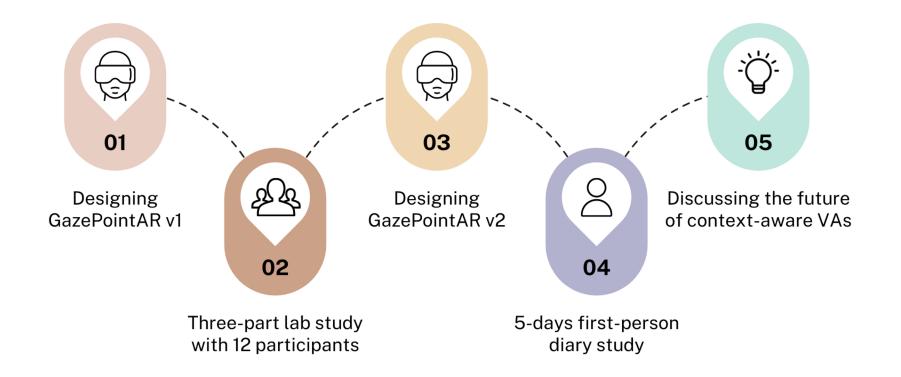




Study 2 Findings

- GazePointAR is natural and companion-like.
- GazePointAR still has several limitations:
 - Referents in the past require gaze history (e.g., "Where did I leave my keys?").
 - Multiple referents require gaze shift (e.g., "Which is the healthier, this or that?").
 - Pointing is impractical in public.
 - Extended dwelling causes eye fatigue.

GazePointAR Timeline



So, What's Next?



- GazePointAR is simple, natural, and human-like to speak to.
- Future context-aware VAs should leverage longitudinal natural eye gaze input.
 - Future research should further study LLM-driven query disambiguation.

"I want to say queries with and without pronouns, because whichever comes to mind first, that's the one I want to say. GazePointAR should adapt to me and my natural eye gaze" [P12].



Thanks for listening! Let's Connect!

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