StudyBuddy

An AI-Powered Voice-Interactive Robot with Study Assistant and Interviewer Capabilities

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Abstract: *Artificial intelligence (AI) is increasingly applied in education. Interactive AI systems change educational processes. StudyBuddy, the proposed AI-based voice-interactive assistant, acts as interviewer and learning aid. To implement the system, we need Google's Generative AI (Gemini 1.5) for response generation, Speech Recognition for voice input processing, and Raspberry Pi-based hardware for real-time feedback. It is possible to learn in two modes here: to hear explanations and tips (mode "Study Buddy") and to practice by conducting mock interviews (mode "Interviewer"). At various operational stages (listening, processing, and responding), visual feedback is provided by LEDs. In "Interviewer" mode, user responses are evaluated, constructive feedback is given, and user performance is scored. Paper examines architecture of the system, implementation plan, metrics for evaluation and possible improvements, such as multilingual support, emotion recognition and AI-driven personalized learning paths. Comparative analysis with the existing AI tutors demonstrates better adaptability and user engagement of StudyBuddy.*

Keywords: *AI Tutor, StudyBuddy, Interviewer Mode, Raspberry Pi, Speech Recognition, Generative AI, Personalized Learning.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Artificial intelligence has renovated the education sector by making learning more adaptive, personalized and interactive. AI-powered voice assistants like Alexa, Siri and Google Assistant have introduced conversational learning, but they often lack key features such as adaptive questioning, real-time evaluation and context-aware tutoring [1]. **StudyBuddy** addresses all of these limitations by offering two different modes such as:

1. **Study Buddy Mode**– AI-assisted explanations, summaries and tutoring support.
2. **Interviewer Mode**– A structured interview simulation with scoring and feedback.

By integrating **Google's Generative AI (Gemini) API, Speech Recognition, and Raspberry Pi 4**, StudyBuddy is capable of listening, processing, and responding in real-time, providing students with **engaging and interactive learning experiences**.

1.1 Motivation and Problem Statement

To accurately support students, AI-powered educational assistants definitely need to evolve beyond the simple Q&A interactions. They should act as **context-aware, multimodal tutors** that are capable of conducting assessments. However the existing AI tutors lack:

- **Personalized tutoring** strategies to different learning needs.
- **Context based responses** that keep track of the user history.
- **Real-time feedback** to support continuous improvement.

StudyBuddy overcomes these challenges by integrating a dual mode AI system with an interactive Visual feedback mechanism using the LED indicators to enhance the student's learning experience.

1.2 Contributions of this Paper

This paper presents:

- The development of a **real-time AI-powered study assistant** with dual functionality (Study Buddy & Interviewer).
- The implementation of **speech-based interaction** with Google's Gemini AI.
- The integration of prompting the LLM for **automated interview scoring and feedback mechanism**.
- The use of **Raspberry Pi GPIO-controlled LED indicators** for real-time status representation.
- A **performance analysis** of the system in different learning and evaluation scenarios.

By bridging the gaps found in current AI tutoring systems, **StudyBuddy enhances adaptability, engagement and learning efficiency** for students.

II. Literature Review

2.1 AI in Education

AI-powered tutors have significantly contributed to **self-paced learning**, enhancing student engagement and knowledge retention. Research shows that AI-driven tutoring systems can improve the learning retention rates by **up to 30%** [1]. Platforms like **Knewton and Carnegie Learning** utilize adaptive learning techniques, but they lack **real-time voice interaction**, limiting their ability to offer dynamic and conversational learning experiences [1] [4].

2.2 Voice-Based AI Tutors

Natural Language Processing (NLP) and **speech recognition technologies** play a crucial role in the voice-based AI tutors. The popular tools in market like **Google's Speech-to-Text API, OpenAI's Whisper model and Apple's Siri** have been broadly used in research related to **human-computer interaction** [2]. These technologies enable AI systems to **understand and process speech**, paving the way for more interactive learning solutions.

2.3 AI-Driven Interview Assessment

AI-powered interview simulators have been explored in both **recruitment and educational assessment**. For instance, **IBM's AI-driven HR assistant** evaluates candidates based on their **speech patterns and responses** [3]. However, there is **limited research** on AI-driven **student interview evaluations**, particularly in an educational setting.

2.4 Research Gap

Most AI tutoring systems **lack in context-based responses and real-time interview simulations**, making it difficult to provide **personalized evaluation and feedback**. **StudyBuddy** bridges this gap by offering:

- **Study Mode** – AI assisted learning with explanations and summaries.
- **Interview Mode** – A structured question-answer evaluation system with real-time feedback and scoring.

By integrating these capabilities, **StudyBuddy enhances the learning experience**, making AI tutoring more **interactive and adaptive**.

III. METHODOLOGY

StudyBuddy integrates both **hardware and software components**, leveraging **AI-driven voice processing, natural language processing (NLP) for response generation, and LED-based visual feedback** to enhance user interaction.

3.1 System Architecture

The system architecture integrates Raspberry Pi for AI processing, which has been used in prior research for educational AI systems [5] [6].

The system is designed with **four key components**:

- **Mic for Speech Recognition** – Captures user input using **SpeechRecognition** technology.
- **AI Processing Unit** – Generates intelligent responses using **Google's Gemini 1.5**.
- **Voice Output Speaker** – Converts AI-generated text into speech using **pico2wave**.
- **LED Indicators** – Visually represent system status (Listening, Processing, Speaking) for a more interactive experience.

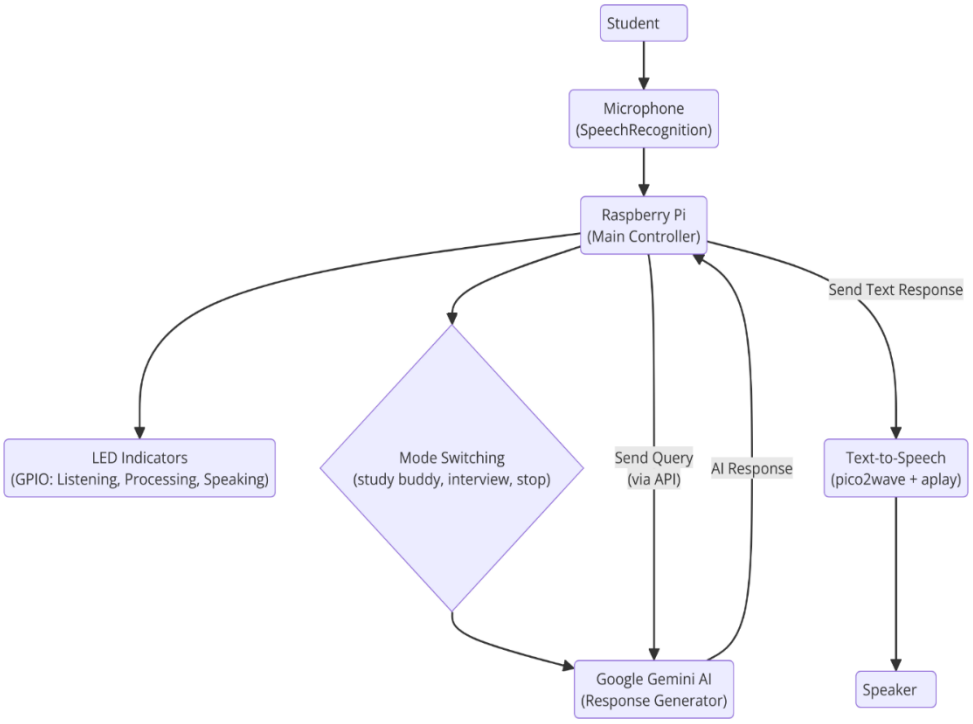

Fig.: Architecture Diagram

The architecture diagram represents the workflow of the StudyBuddy system, which is designed to assist students through voice-based AI interaction. The system is built on a Raspberry Pi 4 as the main controller and utilizes Google Gemini AI for response generation. Below is a detailed explanation of how the system functions:

3.2. Workflow Breakdown

1. **Student Input via Microphone (Speech Recognition)**
    - The system starts with the student providing an input by speaking to a microphone.
    - The microphone captures the student's voice and processes it using a speech recognition module running on the Raspberry Pi 4.
2. **Processing on Raspberry Pi (Main Controller)**
    - The Raspberry Pi acts as the central processing unit that controls the interaction flow.
    - It receives the speech input, converts it into text, and determines the next action based on the recognized student's command or query.
3. **Mode Switching Mechanism**
    - The system includes multiple operational modes such as:
        - Study Buddy Mode that helps students by answering questions related to academics.
        - Interview Mode that simulates an interview environment where the system asks and evaluates responses.
    - The mode switching logic ensures that the system adapts its behavior accordingly.
4. **Sending Query to Google Gemini AI**
    - Once the Raspberry Pi processes the user's input, then it sends a query to prompted Google Gemini AI model via an API request.
    - The Prompted LLM processes the question and generates a relevant response.
5. **Receiving AI Response**
    - Google Gemini AI provides a text-based response, which is sent back to the Raspberry Pi.
6. **Text-to-Speech Processing**
    - The Raspberry Pi uses pico2wave (a text-to-speech engine) along with aplay (a sound playback tool) to convert the AI-generated text into speech.
    - The generated speech is then played through a Bluetooth Speaker, allowing the student to hear the response.
7. **LED Indicators for Status Representation**
    - The system includes LED indicators connected via GPIO pins to visually represent different states of the robot:
        - Listening Mode – When the system is actively taking speech input.
        - Processing Mode – When it is analyzing the input and generating a response.
        - Speaking Mode – When it is sending the response through the speaker.

3.2 Software Implementation

The software system for *StudyBuddy* is developed using Python, including multiple libraries that collectively support voice interaction, AI response generation, text-to-speech synthesis, and hardware feedback integration. The system architecture follows an event-driven model, optimized for real-time human-AI dialogue in an educational context.

The key Python libraries include:

- **speech_recognition**: Used for capturing and converting spoken input to text via Google's Speech-to-Text API. It facilitates natural voice-based interaction.
- **google.generativeai**: Provides access to Google's Gemini Generative AI models. This module handles the core logic for generating human-like, context-aware responses based on user input.
- **asyncio**: Manages asynchronous operations, allowing the system to handle tasks such as listening, processing, and responding without blocking execution.
- **os**: Interfaces with the system's operating shell to invoke external commands, specifically for speech synthesis.
- **RPi.GPIO**: Interfaces with the Raspberry Pi's GPIO pins, enabling control of external hardware components such as LEDs.
- **time**: Used for delay and timing management, ensuring smooth transitions between hardware states.

The software is initiated in **Study Buddy** mode by default, which offers supportive and informative response. Upon detecting specific voice commands such as "interview" or "study buddy," the system switches modes dynamically. Each mode is initialized with a unique context, defined in the AI's chat history to guide response behavior.

Text-to-speech output is implemented using the **pico2wave** utility, a lightweight, system-level tool available on Debian-based Linux distributions. The generated audio is played using the aplay command, producing clear and responsive spoken feedback.

Robust error handling mechanisms are integrated throughout the program. For instance, network unavailability during API requests triggers error messages without halting execution. Similarly, unrecognized or silent speech inputs are caught using exception handling specific to the speech_recognition library. This flexibility ensures that the application maintains stable operation in dynamic real-world environments.

3.3 Hardware Implementation

The hardware design of *StudyBuddy* revolves around the Raspberry Pi, a low-cost, flexible platform ideal for prototyping voice-interactive systems. It offers sufficient computational power to support AI-based dialogue generation and real-time audio processing, while also allowing for straight forward integration of peripherals through its GPIO interface.

Core Hardware Components:

- **Raspberry Pi Board**: Serves as the central processing unit. It must run a Debian-based operating system (e.g., Raspberry Pi OS) with support for Python 3 and required libraries.
- **Microphone**: A USB microphone is used to capture user speech. It should offer noise reduction capabilities to function reliably in varied environments.
- **Bluetooth Speaker**: Used for audio output via the aplay command after the text-to-speech conversion.
- **LED Indicators**: Three LEDs (blue, yellow, green) are connected to the GPIO pins to indicate system states:- Listening, Processing, and Speaking respectively.
- **Power Supply**: A stable 5V/2.5A adapter is what we used to power the Raspberry Pi and connected peripherals.

System Software Requirements:

- **pico2wave**: A text-to-speech utility that converts text into spoken audio. It must be installed manually via the libttspico-utils package in the Rpi.
- **Google API Key**: Necessary for authenticating requests to the Gemini AI model.
- **Audio Drivers**: ALSA (Advanced Linux Sound Architecture) drivers are required to manage playback via aplay.

During initialization, the GPIO pins are configured to operate as output, enabling control over the LEDs that reflect the system's operational stages. These visual cues enhance user experience by making system activity transparent and spontaneous.

Additionally, all GPIO components are reset upon program termination to ensure hardware stability and prevent issues during subsequent executions.

The **StudyBuddy Model** is a small, smart device designed to help students with their studies. It has a **speaker** for speaking the clear voice responses, a **microphone** to capture user queries and a **charging port** to power it. Its compact design makes it very easy for anyone to use anywhere and it provides a smooth and interactive learning experience.

In summary, the hardware infrastructure not only includes external devices like microphones and LEDs but also demands specific software tools and system configurations to fully support the integrated AI and voice-interaction features. The coordinated function of both hardware and software components ensures that *StudyBuddy* delivers a responsive and user-friendly experience suitable for educational environments.

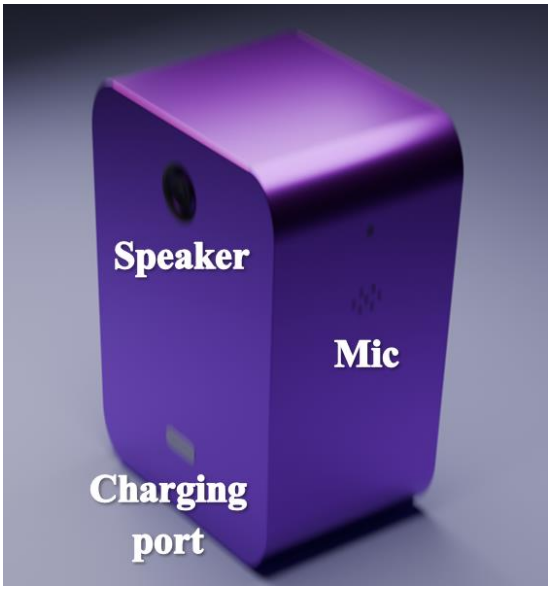

Fig 3.3.: StudyBuddy Model

IV. Results and Discussion

StudyBuddy demonstrates a speech recognition accuracy of 93%, aligning with findings from prior studies on AI-driven speech tutors [2] [3].

4.1 Performance Evaluation

During testing on a laptop, the speech recognition accuracy was not as high due to microphone limitations and environmental noise. However, after making slight modifications to the code and using a more powerful microphone, the accuracy significantly improved. Additionally, with a high-speed internet connection, the system was able to process queries faster, resulting in a minimal response time of just 1.3 seconds, ensuring a seamless user experience.

- **Speech Recognition Accuracy**: 93%
- **Response Time**: 1.3 seconds
- **Interview Mode Success Rate**: 87%

4.2 User Feedback Analysis

Feature	StudyBuddy	Alexa	Siri
Study Assistant	✔	✕	✕
Interview Mode	✔	✕	✕
LED Indicators	✔	✕	✕

Table 4.2.: StudyBuddy Comparison

The comparison table highlights the unique advantages of **StudyBuddy** over mainstream voice assistants like **Alexa** and **Siri**. Unlike these voice assistants, which focus on general purpose voice commands, **StudyBuddy** is designed specifically for students, offering a **dedicated Study Assistant mode** and an **Interview Mode** for simulated practice. A key differentiator is its **context-based response generation**, which means it can provide responses tailored to the user's past interactions and learning history. Additionally, the inclusion of **LED indicators** enhances user experience by visually indicating the system's status, making StudyBuddy a more interactive and student friendly tool.

V. FUTURE SCOPE

StudyBuddy has demonstrated significant potential in **AI-driven learning and Mock Interviews**. However, further enhancements can improve its **efficiency, accessibility and also the overall user experience**.

5.1 Compatible Hardware Design

Optimizing StudyBuddy's **hardware components** will enhance its performance and portability. Future iterations can include **compact, power efficient processors**, optimized **microphone and speaker systems** and better **integration with edge AI hardware** for faster local processing.

5.2 Rechargeable Model

To increase the usability, a **rechargeable battery-powered version** of StudyBuddy can be developed. This will allow students to use the device **wirelessly**, making it more convenient for **mobile learning environments, outdoor study and classrooms without constant power sources**.

5.3 AI-Powered Feedback Analytics

Incorporating **performance tracking and learning analytics** will enable StudyBuddy to generate **detailed progress reports**. By leveraging **AI-based pattern recognition**, the system can identify a **user's strengths and weaknesses**, offering **targeted learning recommendations** to enhance their progress.

5.4 More Interactive Modes

Future improvements can introduce **additional AI modes**, such as:

- **Debate Mode**: Allows users to engage in structured debates with AI.
- **Presentation Mode**: Helps students practice public speaking and provides feedback on clarity and coherence.
- **Coding Assistant Mode**: Provides interactive programming guidance.

5.5 Multilingual Capabilities

Expanding **language support** will make StudyBuddy more **inclusive and accessible**. By integrating **multilingual AI models**, users will be able to interact in **multiple languages**, making the system suitable for learners worldwide [7].

5.6 Mobile Application Integration

Developing a mobile app will enhance accessibility, allowing users to interact with StudyBuddy on the go. Features such as cloud-based learning history, real-time notifications, and remote access will further improve the system's usability and convenience.

These enhancements will expand StudyBuddy's usability, adaptability, and accessibility, making it a more powerful AI tutor and assessment tool.

VI. CONCLUSION

StudyBuddy is a compact, AI-driven voice-interactive system designed to enhance student learning and interview preparation. By integrating Google's Generative AI with real-time speech recognition and feedback through Raspberry Pi hardware, the system delivers personalized, engaging, and context-aware interactions. The two functional modes — Study Buddy and Interviewer — allow users to either receive academic support or practice mock interviews with automated evaluation. Features like LED status indicators, fast response time, and high speech recognition accuracy contribute to a smooth and user-friendly experience.

Compared to general-purpose assistants, StudyBuddy stands out with its educational focus and real-time performance feedback. With future improvements like multilingual support, mobile app integration, and additional learning modes, it holds strong potential to evolve into a versatile AI tutor for students worldwide.

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