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# Autonomous Unified Robotic Assistant

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**Abstract:** *The Unified Robotic Assistant is a robot designed to help people by providing guidance and basic assistance in places like colleges, hospitals, and offices. In such environments, visitors and students often find it difficult to locate different departments, labs, or offices. Usually, they depend on help desks or staff members, which may not always be available immediately. To overcome this problem, an automated robotic assistant is proposed that can guide users without the need for constant human support. The system is built using a Raspberry Pi as the main controller along with a camera module for face detection. The robot can recognize certain individuals, such as faculty members, using stored facial data and greet them accordingly. It works in two modes: offline and online. In offline mode, the robot can perform face detection and basic interactions without requiring internet access. In online mode, it can answer user queries and provide information through voice-based interaction. The robot is also equipped with components such as DC motors, a motor driver, a speaker, a display module, and a lithium-ion battery, which help it move and communicate with users. Overall, the system offers a simple and cost-effective solution for aiding and improving interaction between humans and machines in institutional environments.*

## I. INTRODUCTION

### A. Introduction

Robotics and artificial intelligence are being widely used today to build systems that can assist people and interact with them in different environments. In places like colleges, hospitals, and offices, visitors often face difficulty in finding departments, laboratories, or staff rooms. Most of the time, they depend on help desks or staff members for guidance, which may not always be available immediately. This can lead to delays and inconvenience.

To solve this problem, the Unified Robotic Assistant is developed as an automated system that can provide guidance and interact with users. The system uses a Raspberry Pi as the main controller along with a camera module for face detection. With the help of this, the robot can recognize certain individuals and greet them accordingly.

The system works in two modes: offline and online. In offline mode, the robot can perform face detection and basic interaction without requiring an internet connection. In online mode, it can respond to user queries through voice interaction and provide useful information. This system helps in improving human-robot interaction and offers a simple and efficient solution for automated assistance.

### B. Need For Automated Assistance System

In many educational institutions and public environments, visitors and students often find it difficult to locate departments, laboratories, or faculty offices. They usually depend on help desks or staff members for assistance, but during busy hours, immediate support may not always be available. This can lead to delays and inconvenience.

There is a need for an automated system that can assist users by providing information and answering their queries quickly. Instead of physically guiding users, such a system can interact with them, understand their requests, and provide relevant responses. It can also recognize individuals and offer basic personalized interaction.

The proposed system focuses on aiding through voice-based communication and interaction. It reduces dependency on manual help desks and makes information easily accessible in a simple and efficient manner

### C. Existing System

In many institutions and public environments, guidance and information are usually provided through traditional methods such as help desks, reception counters, and information boards. Some places also use digital kiosks or simple chatbot systems to provide basic information. These systems require human involvement or internet connectivity to respond to user queries.

Although these systems provide basic assistance, they do not offer intelligent interaction or personalized responses. They cannot identify individuals or provide dynamic guidance within the environment.

#### D. Benefits Of The Proposed System

- 1) **Easy Access to Information:** The system allows users to get information quickly without depending on help desks or other people. This reduces waiting time and avoids unnecessary confusion. Users can directly interact with the robot and get responses instantly. This makes the overall process faster and more convenient.
- 2) **Voice-Based Interaction:** The robot supports voice commands, making it easy for users to communicate. There is no need for typing or using any interface manually. This is especially helpful for people who are new to the environment. It makes the system simple and user-friendly.
- 3) **Personalized Interaction:** The system can recognize certain individuals using face detection. Based on this, the robot can greet them or respond differently. This adds a basic level of personalization to the interaction. It also makes the system feel more interactive and engaging.
- 4) **Reduced Human Dependency:** The system reduces the need for human assistance in providing basic information. Users do not have to depend on staff or help desks for simple queries. This is useful especially during busy hours. It helps in managing crowd and improving efficiency.
- 5) **Interactive System:** Unlike notice boards or static systems, the robot allows real-time interaction. Users can ask questions and get immediate responses. This makes the system more engaging and practical. It improves the overall user experience.
- 6) **1.6.7 Movement Capability:** The robot can move based on user instructions, making it more dynamic. This adds flexibility to the system and improves interaction. It is not limited to a fixed position like kiosks. This makes the system more adaptable to different environments.

## II. LITERATURE SURVEY

### A. Introduction To Literature Survey

This literature survey reviews existing work related to robotic assistants, face detection, and voice-based interaction systems. These technologies are widely used to develop systems that can assist users and improve interaction in different environments. Several studies focus on using computer vision techniques for face detection and recognition, while others explore speech recognition for enabling voice-based communication.

Some research also highlights the use of sensors for basic navigation and obstacle detection in robotic systems. However, most of these works focus on individual features rather than combining them into a single system. The proposed AURA system aims to integrate these technologies to create a simple and interactive robotic assistant.

### B. Literature Survey Refernces

I. Title: Raspberry Pi Based Smart Robot for Human Interaction

Author: A. Singh, R. Verma

Year: 2021

Description:

This paper presents the design and development of a smart robotic system using Raspberry Pi for human interaction. The system integrates camera-based vision and voice modules to enable communication between the robot and users. The robot is capable of detecting human presence and responding through predefined actions.

The system uses a camera module to capture images from the surroundings, which are then processed for basic detection tasks. Along with this, a voice interaction module is used to accept commands from the user and provide responses through audio output.

This combination of vision and voice makes the system more interactive compared to traditional methods.

The study highlights how Raspberry Pi can handle multiple operations such as image processing, voice interaction, and control functions within a single platform. It also shows that such systems can be developed at a low cost, making them suitable for practical applications in institutions and public environments.

However, the system mainly focuses on basic interaction and predefined responses. It does not include advanced features such as personalization, continuous learning, or offline operation, which limits its performance in more complex real-world situations.

## II. Title: Deep Neural Networks for Acoustic Modelling in Speech Recognition

Author: Geoffrey Hinton, Li Deng, Dong Yu, George Dahl, Abdel-Rahman

Year: 2012

Description:

This paper introduces the use of deep neural networks for improving speech recognition systems. The model learns complex patterns in speech signals and converts spoken input into text with higher accuracy.

This work significantly improved the performance of voice-based systems and has influenced modern voice assistants. It provides a strong foundation for implementing speech recognition in interactive robotic systems.

The proposed approach leverages deep learning techniques to model intricate acoustic and linguistic patterns present in speech data. Deep Neural Networks consist of multiple hidden layers that allow the system to learn hierarchical representations of input features. This capability enables better discrimination between phonemes and words, even in challenging scenarios such as varying accents, speaking speeds, and noisy environments.

The use of large datasets and advanced training methods further improves the robustness and generalization ability of the model.

## III. Title: Face Recognition and Tracking for Human-Robot Interaction

Author: Hui Yu, Zhaoxiang Zhang, Yong Xu

Year: 2022

Description:

This paper focuses on the use of face recognition and tracking techniques in human - robot interaction systems. It combines face detection, recognition, and tracking methods to enable robots to identify and follow individuals in real time. The system uses deep learning approaches, particularly convolutional neural networks (CNNs), to improve accuracy under different conditions such as lighting changes and variations in facial orientation.

The system captures visual data using a camera and applies preprocessing techniques to enhance image quality. It then detects faces and compares them with stored data to identify known individuals. In addition, tracking methods are used to maintain continuous interaction even when the person is moving.

The study shows that such systems can achieve high accuracy in real-time environments and are useful in applications like service robots and assistive systems. However, the use of deep learning models increases computational requirements, which can affect performance on low-power devices such as Raspberry Pi.

The study also addresses real-world challenges such as occlusion, partial visibility, and changes in background, which can affect detection accuracy. By combining recognition and tracking, the system ensures more stable and reliable interaction between the robot and users.

### III. PROPOSED SYSTEM

#### A. Proposed System Overview

The proposed system is an interactive robotic assistant designed to help users by providing information and responding to their queries. The system is built using Raspberry Pi as the main controller and integrates modules such as face detection, voice interaction, and basic movement.

The robot captures images using a camera and processes them to detect faces. It can recognize certain individuals and respond accordingly. The system also allows users to interact through voice commands, making it easy to use. Based on the input received, the robot provides suitable responses through audio output.

The main components of the system include:

- Image acquisition module
- Face recognition module
- Voice interaction module
- Motion control module
- Output response module

The camera module captures real-time images of the surrounding environment. These images are processed by the Raspberry Pi using computer vision algorithms to detect and recognize faces. The voice interaction module allows users to communicate with the robot through speech commands.

B. Block Diagram

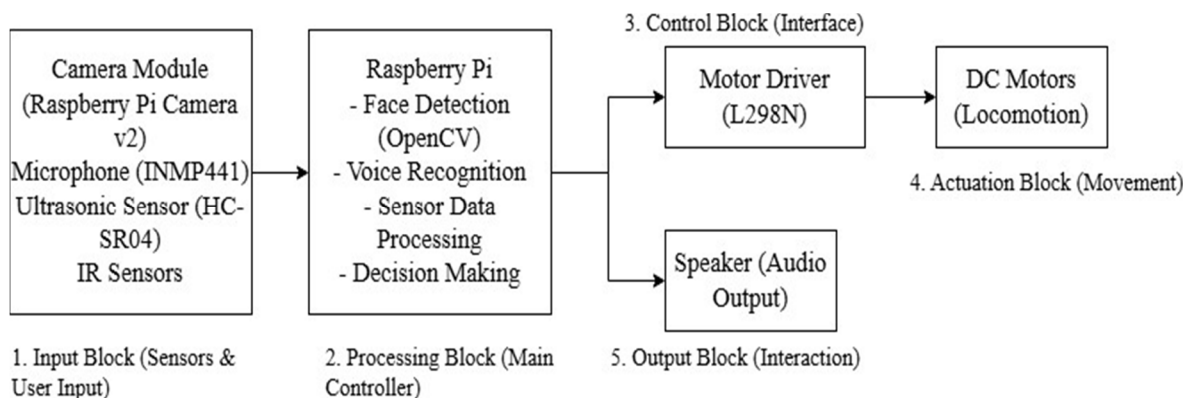


Fig 3.2 Block Diagram

The block diagram of the AURA robotic system represents the overall architecture and interaction between different hardware and software components. The system begins with the input block, which consists of sensing and interaction devices such as the Raspberry Pi Camera Module, microphone, ultrasonic sensor, and IR sensors.

These components are responsible for collecting real-time data from the environment and user inputs, including visual information, voice commands, and obstacle detection signals.

The collected input data is transmitted to the central processing unit, which is the Raspberry Pi. This unit performs multiple functions including face detection using OpenCV, voice command recognition, sensor data analysis, and decision-making. The Raspberry Pi acts as the brain of the system, analyzing all incoming data and determining the appropriate action based on predefined logic and real-time conditions.

Once the decision is made, control signals are sent to the motor driver module, which acts as an interface between the Raspberry Pi and the DC motors. The motor driver regulates the power supplied to the motors, allowing precise control over the robot's movement such as forward motion, turning, and stopping. At the same time, the Raspberry Pi also controls the speaker module to provide audio output, enabling the robot to interact with users through voice responses.

The DC motors form the actuation block of the system and are responsible for the physical movement of the robot. Based on the commands received from the motor driver, the robot navigates through its environment while avoiding obstacles. The speaker module provides feedback to the user, completing the interaction cycle.

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In addition to movement and basic interaction, the integration of multiple modules within the AURA system ensures smooth coordination between sensing, processing, and actuation. The real-time processing capability of the Raspberry Pi allows the robot to simultaneously handle multiple tasks such as monitoring sensor inputs, processing voice commands, and executing movement operations

This parallel processing enhances the overall efficiency and responsiveness of the system. The system is also designed with modularity in mind, where each component performs a specific function while contributing to the overall operation. This modular approach makes the system scalable, allowing additional features such as advanced navigation algorithms, gesture recognition, or cloud-based services to be integrated in future enhancements without major modifications to the existing architecture.

C. Data Flow Diagram

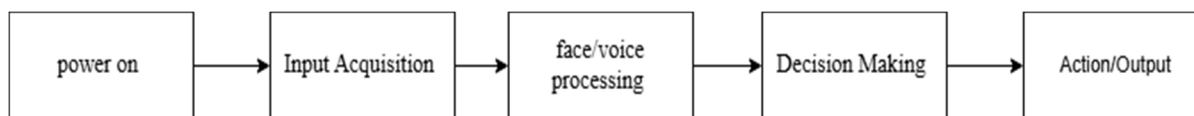


Fig 3.3 Data Flow Diagram

### 1) Power On

This is the initial stage of the system where the robot is powered using a battery supply. A buck converter is used to regulate the voltage and provide a stable power supply to all components such as the Raspberry Pi, sensors, and motor drivers. Once powered, the system initializes all hardware modules and prepares for operation.

### 2) Input Acquisition

In this stage, the robot collects real-time data from various input devices and sensors

- The Raspberry Pi Camera Module v2 captures visual data for face detection.
- The microphone module (INMP441) captures voice commands from the user.
- The ultrasonic sensor (HC-SR04) detects obstacles by measuring distance.
- The IR sensors detect edges and boundaries for safe navigation.

All collected data is transmitted to the Raspberry Pi for further processing.

### 3) Face And Voice Processing

This stage is responsible for processing and analyzing the input data.

- The visual input from the camera is processed using face detection algorithms to identify human presence.
- The audio signals from the microphone are processed using speech recognition techniques to interpret user commands.
- Sensor data is analyzed to detect obstacles in the robot's path.

### 4) Decision Making

The decision-making stage functions as the intelligence unit of the AURA robotic system. In this stage, Raspberry Pi processes the outputs obtained from face detection, voice recognition, and sensor data to analyze the current situation. Based on this processed information, the system determines the most appropriate action to be performed. For instance, when a human face is detected, the robot initiates a greeting; when a voice command is received, it executes the corresponding instruction; and when an obstacle is detected, the robot alters its path or stops to avoid collision. This integrated decision-making process enables the robot to exhibit intelligent and adaptive behavior in real-time environments.

### 5) Action And Output

The action and output stage is the final phase where the robot executes tasks based on the decisions made. In this stage, the motor driver (L298N) controls the DC motors to enable the robot's movement, allowing it to move forward, backward, or turn as required. Additionally, the speaker module provides audio feedback to the user, enhancing interaction. Thus, this stage completes the overall workflow by converting computed decisions into physical actions and user-interactive outputs.

## D. System Requirement & Specification

### 1) Python Programming Environment

Python is used as the primary programming language for the development of the AURA robotic assistant system. It is widely preferred in robotics and artificial intelligence applications due to its simplicity, readability, and extensive support for libraries and frameworks. Python enables rapid prototyping and efficient implementation of complex algorithms, making it highly suitable for embedded and real-time systems.

In the AURA project, Python plays a central role in integrating multiple system functionalities such as image processing, speech recognition, sensor data handling, and motor control. The modular nature of Python allows the system to be divided into different functional blocks, each responsible for a specific task. These modules can communicate seamlessly, ensuring smooth operation of the robotic system.

Python is also highly compatible with the Raspberry Pi platform, which serves as the main controller in the AURA robot. The availability of GPIO libraries enables direct interaction with hardware components such as sensors and motor drivers. This allows the system to process inputs from the environment and control outputs in real time.

Furthermore, Python supports multithreading and asynchronous programming, which allows the robot to handle multiple operations simultaneously. For example, the robot can process voice commands while simultaneously monitoring sensor inputs and performing movement. This capability enhances the responsiveness and efficiency of the system.

### 2) *OpenCV For Computer Vision*

OpenCV (Open Source Computer Vision Library) is a powerful library used for implementing computer vision tasks in the AURA robotic system. It provides a wide range of functions for image processing, object detection, feature extraction, and video analysis.

In this project, OpenCV is used to process images captured by the Raspberry Pi Camera Module. The captured video stream is divided into frames, which are analyzed in real time. OpenCV enables the detection of human faces using pre-trained classifiers such as Haar Cascade classifiers. These classifiers identify facial features based on patterns learned during training.

The library also provides image preprocessing techniques such as grayscale conversion, noise reduction, and edge detection. These techniques improve the accuracy and efficiency of face detection under different lighting conditions. Additionally, OpenCV supports real-time processing, which allows the robot to detect faces and respond immediately.

Another advantage of OpenCV is its ability to integrate with Python seamlessly, allowing developers to implement complex vision algorithms with minimal code. This makes it an essential component of the AURA system, enabling visual perception and enhancing human-robot interaction. The flexibility of OpenCV makes it suitable for extending the system to include functionalities like object detection or gesture recognition. This adaptability ensures that the AURA robotic system can be further developed with more advanced computer vision capabilities.

### 3) *Speech Recognition Module*

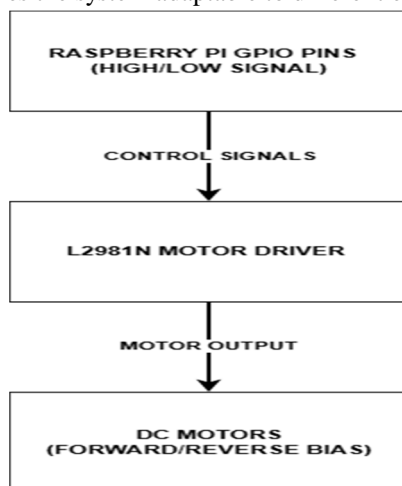
The speech recognition module enables the AURA robotic assistant to understand and interpret voice commands given by users. This module converts spoken language into text using speech-to-text processing techniques, allowing the robot to process and respond to user instructions. The microphone module captures audio signals, which are then processed using speech recognition libraries. These libraries analyze the audio waveform, extract relevant features, and convert the speech into text. The recognized text is compared with predefined command sets stored in the system to determine the appropriate action.

This module supports both offline and online modes of operation. In offline mode, the system can recognize a limited set of predefined commands, ensuring functionality even without internet connectivity. In online mode, cloud-based speech processing can be used to improve accuracy and support more complex language understanding.

### 4) *Text-To-Speech (Tts) System*

The text-to-speech (TTS) system is responsible for converting textual responses generated by the AURA robot into audible speech. This module enables the robot to communicate with users in a natural and interactive manner, improving the overall user experience. Once the system processes a command and generates a response, the TTS module converts the text into speech signals using speech synthesis techniques. These signals are then output through the speaker module, allowing the robot to provide feedback such as greetings and instructions. The TTS system enhances the human-robot interaction by making communication more intuitive and engaging. It allows the robot to respond dynamically to user inputs, creating a conversational experience. The clarity and naturalness of the generated speech are important factors that contribute to effective communication.

Additionally, the TTS module can be customized to adjust parameters such as speech rate, pitch, and volume, providing flexibility in designing the robot's voice output. This makes the system adaptable to different environments and user preferences



#### IV. IMPLEMENTATION AND RESULTS

##### A. Face Recognition Implementation

Face recognition is one of the important features of the robotic assistant system. The system uses computer vision techniques to detect and recognize human faces. The camera continuously captures images of the surrounding environment. These images are processed using OpenCV to detect faces in the frame.

Once a face is detected, the system compares the facial features with the images stored in the database. If the system identifies a match, the robot recognizes the person and greets them using a voice message. This feature allows the robotic assistant to identify specific individuals such as faculty members and interact with them in a personalized manner.

##### B. Voice Interaction System

The voice interaction system enables the robot to communicate with users through speech. The system uses a microphone to capture voice commands from the user. The speech recognition module converts the spoken words into text. The system then analyzes the text to determine the user's request.

Based on the command, the robot generates a suitable response such as providing information about locations or greeting the user. The generated response is converted into speech using a text-to-speech system and played through the speaker module. This feature makes the robot interactive and user-friendly.

This system allows users to interact with robots in a more natural and convenient way without needing any manual input.

##### C. Robot Movement Control

Robot movement control enables the robotic assistant to move in different directions based on input commands. The movement is achieved using DC motors connected to a motor driver circuit. The Raspberry Pi sends control signals to the motor driver, which regulates the speed and direction of the motors. The motor driver acts as an interface between the controller and the motors, as the Raspberry Pi alone cannot supply sufficient current to drive them.

The movement of the robot is controlled by varying the input signals to the motor driver, allowing operations such as forward motion, backward motion, and turning. Direction control is achieved by changing the polarity of the voltage applied to the motors, while speed control can be managed using techniques such as pulse width modulation (PWM).

The system also ensures coordinated operation of multiple motors to maintain stability and smooth movement. Based on the input commands or sensor data, appropriate signals are generated to control the robot's navigation. This allows the robotic assistant to respond effectively to user instructions and environmental conditions.

##### D. System Testing

After the implementation of the hardware and software modules, the system was tested under different conditions to evaluate its performance.

The face recognition system was tested by storing images of a few individuals in the database and verifying whether the robot could correctly identify them. The system successfully detected and recognized the stored faces. The voice interaction system was tested by giving various voice commands to the robot.

The movement of the robot was tested by controlling the motors through the motor driver circuit. The robot was able to move in different directions as expected.

##### E. Result Analysis

The experimental results show that the Unified Robotic Assistant system functions effectively in recognizing individuals and interacting with users.

The face recognition system successfully identified stored faces and produced greeting messages. The voice interaction system allowed users to communicate with the robot using simple voice commands.

The integration of hardware components such as motors and motor drivers enabled the robot to move within the environment. Overall, the system demonstrated reliable performance in performing tasks such as identifying individuals, answering queries, and guiding users.

The developed robotic assistant can be used in educational institutions, offices and public places to provide automated assistance.

## V. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### A. Face Detection Results

The AURA robotic assistant was equipped with a camera module connected to the Raspberry Pi for real-time visual perception and face detection. The face detection system was implemented using computer vision techniques and pre-trained models capable of identifying human faces from live camera input. During testing in controlled indoor environments such as corridors and laboratories, the robot successfully detected human faces with an accuracy of approximately 93.5%.

The system was able to detect faces at a distance ranging between 0.5 meters and 2 meters, depending on lighting conditions and camera orientation. Once a face was detected, the robot initiated a response such as greeting the user or waiting for further voice commands. The average processing time for detecting and recognizing a face was observed to be 1.5 seconds, which is suitable for real-time interaction in campus environments.

- 1) **Detection Time:** The system was able to detect and respond to human presence within approximately 1–2 seconds after a person entered the camera's field of view.
- 2) **Visual Recognition Efficiency:** The face detection module performed best under normal indoor lighting conditions, where facial features were clearly visible to the camera.

### B. Voice Interaction And Navigation Results

The voice interaction module of the AURA robotic assistant was tested to evaluate its ability to recognize and respond to spoken commands from users in real-time environments. The system was designed with a dual-mode voice control mechanism, consisting of both offline command processing and online speech recognition support.

This design ensures that the system remains functional even without internet connectivity while still allowing enhanced interaction when online services are available.

In offline mode, the system was able to recognize a predefined set of commands such as greetings, movement instructions, and simple queries. The process involves capturing audio input through a microphone module and converting it into text using speech recognition techniques. The recognized text is then analysed to determine the appropriate response. The system was observed to perform consistently in quiet indoor environments, where voice input was clear and background noise was minimal.

In online mode, the system utilizes cloud-based processing to improve its ability to understand natural language. This allows the robotic assistant to respond to more flexible and conversational commands, rather than being limited to predefined inputs. The online mode enhances the overall interaction experience by making communication more natural and user-friendly.

The response time of the system was evaluated during testing. The robot was able to respond to voice commands within a short duration after receiving input.

The offline mode provided faster responses due to local processing, while the online mode introduced slight delays because of network communication.

- 1) **Response Time:** The robot responded to voice commands within a short duration after receiving input. The processing time depended on whether the system was operating offline or online mode. Offline mode provided quicker responses due to local processing, while online mode introduced slight delays because of network communication. However, the overall response was smooth and suitable for real-time interaction.
- 2) **Sensor Detection Efficiency:** The ultrasonic sensor provided stable and reliable distance measurements during testing. It was effective in identifying obstacles within its working range and allowed the robot to adjust its movement accordingly. The sensor performed consistently under normal indoor conditions and helped maintain safe navigation. This ensured that the robot could operate without frequent interruptions.
- 3) **Limitations:** Minor delays were occasionally observed when multiple sensor inputs were processed simultaneously. Additionally, background noise in crowded environments slightly reduced voice recognition accuracy.

## VI. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE SCOPE

### A. Conclusion

The AURA (Autonomous Unified Robotic Assistant) project focuses on the design and development of an intelligent robotic assistant capable of assisting people in campus environments through autonomous operation and natural human–robot interaction. The system integrates multiple technologies including robotics, artificial intelligence, embedded systems, and sensor-based navigation to create a practical and interactive robotic platform.

The robot is built around a Raspberry Pi–based control architecture, which serves as the main processing unit responsible for

coordinating different functional modules such as voice interaction, visual perception, and motion control. A camera module is integrated into the system to enable face detection and recognition, allowing the robot to identify human presence and improve the quality of interaction with users. In addition, voice commands captured through a microphone module allow users to communicate with the robot naturally, making the system more user-friendly and accessible.

The system also incorporates various sensors, including ultrasonic sensors for obstacle detection and IR sensors for line or edge detection, which help the robot perceive its surroundings and navigate safely. Based on the processed sensor data and user commands, the control system generates appropriate responses such as movement, greetings, or information display through motor drivers, display modules, and audio feedback. The integration of these components enables the robot to sense, process, and respond intelligently to real-world situations.

A key feature of the AURA system is its dual-mode operation, where the robot can function in both online and offline environments. In the online AI mode, the robot can utilize cloud-based intelligence for more advanced interaction and processing, while the offline mode ensures that basic functionalities such as movement, greetings, and command recognition continue to operate even without internet connectivity. This design improves the reliability and flexibility of the robotic assistant in practical deployment scenarios.

### B. Future Scope

In the future, the system can be further enhanced by incorporating advanced navigation techniques such as Simultaneous Localization and Mapping (SLAM) to enable fully autonomous movement in complex indoor environments. The integration of natural language processing and advanced conversational AI can also allow the robot to understand more complex human speech and respond in a more interactive manner. Additional sensing technologies such as LiDAR or depth cameras can improve environmental awareness and obstacle avoidance. Furthermore, cloud connectivity and IoT integration could enable centralized monitoring and coordination between multiple robotic assistants within a smart campus ecosystem. With these improvements, AURA can evolve from a prototype robotic assistant into a more advanced autonomous service robot capable of supporting a wide range of real-world applications in educational institutions, public facilities, and smart environment

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