

Transcribe - See the Conversation

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Abstract — *This research presents the development of a wearable assistive device aimed at enhancing the daily lives of individuals with hearing impairments. The device seamlessly integrates into regular eyeglasses and leverages cutting-edge technology to transform audio input into text displayed on an OLED screen, thus enabling communication for deaf individuals who cannot hear voices. The system's core components include an ESP32 WROOM-32 microcontroller, a microphone sensor for audio input, and an OLED display. The software processes audio data through sophisticated algorithms, converting it into readable text. This innovation seeks to bridge the communication gap for the hearing-impaired, promoting inclusivity and autonomy in their interactions. In this paper, we outline the system's design, implementation, and functionality. Experimental data and results demonstrate the device's effectiveness, and we discuss its implications, limitations, and areas for future research.*

Keywords: Wearable Technology, Hearing Impaired, Assistive Device, Real-time Audio to Text Conversion, ESP32 Microcontroller

1.INTRODUCTION

In a world where verbal communication plays a pivotal role in interpersonal and professional interactions, individuals with hearing impairments often face significant communication challenges. Deaf and hard of hearing individuals encounter barriers in understanding spoken language, leading to exclusion from conversations, educational limitations, and reduced opportunities. To address this fundamental issue, our project introduces an innovative solution that transforms spoken audio into text and presents it on an OLED screen seamlessly integrated into conventional eyeglasses. Our mission is to provide a tangible and unobtrusive means of communication for the deaf and hard of hearing, fostering inclusivity, independence, and enhanced engagement in various facets of life. With this breakthrough technology, individuals who cannot hear voices can access spoken content effortlessly, whether in social settings, classrooms, or workplaces. By combining cutting-edge hardware, software, and wearable

design, our project offers a practical and user-friendly solution to bridge the communication divide. The system employs a sensitive microphone embedded in the ESP32-WROOM-32 microcontroller to capture ambient audio. Advanced audio processing algorithms distinguish speech from background noise, ensuring accurate transcriptions. State-of-the-art speech recognition technology converts the processed audio into text, which is then displayed on a discreet micro OLED screen within the user's eyeglasses.

This wearable device is designed to resemble regular eyeglasses, incorporating a lightweight, unobtrusive micro OLED display that integrates seamlessly into the user's field of vision. Intuitive gestures and commands enable users to interact with the system, affording them control over the displayed text, such as pausing, scrolling, or clearing it as needed. This project is poised to revolutionise the lives of the deaf and hard of hearing by providing a communication tool that empowers them in their daily interactions, education, and professional endeavours. With this technology, the barriers that once hindered effective communication are dismantled, allowing individuals to participate fully in a society dominated by spoken language. In the following sections, we delve deeper into the technical aspects and implementation of our innovative solution, emphasising its potential for societal impact, accessibility, and usability.



Figure 1.1: Communication Gap

Figure 1 illustrates the communication gap that exists for deaf individuals. The inability to hear and comprehend spoken language creates barriers in social interaction, education, and various professional and personal contexts. Bridging this gap is essential to provide a more inclusive and accessible environment for all. The system architecture, as depicted in Figure 2, is comprised of the following key components: (i) Audio Input: The project utilises a sensitive microphone integrated into the ESP32-WROOM-32 microcontroller to capture ambient audio. (ii) Audio Processing: The captured audio is processed by the microcontroller using a sophisticated algorithm that distinguishes speech from noise and filters out background sounds. (iii) Speech-to-Text Conversion: The processed audio is converted into text using state-of-the-art speech recognition algorithms. This step ensures accurate and real-time transcription. (vi) OLED Display: The transcribed text is displayed on a micro OLED screen embedded within a pair of regular eyeglasses. The display is positioned discreetly within the user's field of vision.

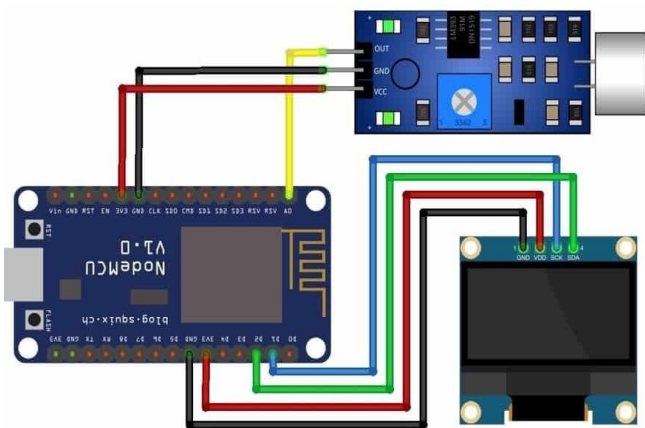


Figure 1.2: System Architecture

(v) User Interaction: The user interacts with the system through intuitive gestures and commands. The system offers the ability to pause, scroll, or clear the displayed text as needed. (iv) Power Supply: The system is powered by a rechargeable battery to ensure mobility and convenience.

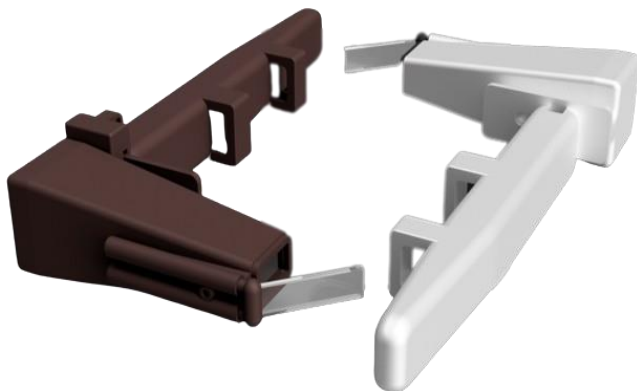


Figure 1.3: Wearable Device

Figure 3 showcases the wearable device, which is designed to resemble regular eyeglasses, ensuring comfort, convenience, and aesthetics. The integrated micro OLED screen is discrete and does not obstruct the user's vision. The system's lightweight design allows for extended use without discomfort.

In summary, this project addresses a critical need by empowering deaf and hard of hearing individuals with a practical and unobtrusive solution for real-time audio-to-text conversion. By integrating this technology into regular eyeglasses, we aim to make the product accessible and user-friendly, promoting inclusivity and facilitating effective communication in a world dominated by sound.

2.SYSTEM OVERVIEW

Our revolutionary system for converting audio to text and displaying it on OLED screen-equipped glasses is designed with a focus on user-friendliness, unobtrusiveness, and effectiveness. The following system overview highlights the key components, functionalities, and the overall operation of this groundbreaking product. (i) Microphone and Audio Capture: - The system begins with a sensitive microphone discreetly integrated into the ESP32-WROOM-32 microcontroller, which is the heart of our wearable device.

- The microphone captures ambient audio, serving as the input for the conversion process. (ii) Audio Processing: - Advanced audio processing algorithms are employed to filter out background noise and distinguish speech. - This step ensures that only relevant spoken content is processed for conversion. (iii) Speech Recognition: - State-of-the-art speech recognition technology is utilised to transcribe the processed audio into text. - The system can recognize various languages and dialects, enhancing its versatility. (iv) Micro OLED Display: - The micro OLED display is seamlessly integrated into the eyeglasses, providing a discreet screen for text presentation. - The screen's unobtrusive design ensures that it does not obstruct the user's vision. (v) User Interaction: - Users can interact with the system through intuitive gestures and commands. - Common actions include pausing the display, scrolling through the text, or clearing the screen. (vi) Wearable Design: - The product is designed to resemble regular eyeglasses, ensuring that it is both aesthetically pleasing and inconspicuous. - The lightweight frame and unobtrusive display allow for extended and comfortable use. (vii) Wireless Connectivity: - The system features wireless connectivity options, enabling seamless integration with other devices. - Users can connect their glasses to smartphones, tablets, or laptops for enhanced functionality. (viii) Battery and Power Management: - The glasses are equipped with a high-capacity, rechargeable battery to ensure extended usage. - Power management features maximise battery life, making the product practical for daily

use. (ix) Customization and Personalization: - Users can customise the system settings, such as font size and style, to cater to their preferences. - Personalization options ensure a tailored user experience. (x) Accessibility and Inclusivity: - The primary goal of our system is to promote inclusivity for the deaf and hard of hearing. - By breaking down communication barriers, the product empowers users to engage fully in social, educational, and professional environments. (xi) Potential Applications: - The system's applications extend beyond personal communication, encompassing classroom settings, business meetings, and any situation where spoken language is central. (xii) Future Expansion: - The system's capabilities can be expanded through software updates and additional features. - Future iterations may include real-time translation, integration with wearable technology, and more.

3.RELATED WORK

Before embarking on the development of our audio-to-text conversion system for the deaf, it's important to recognize the advancements in related technologies and the research that has paved the way for our innovative project. The following overview delves into the relevant work in the field of speech recognition, wearables, and assistive technologies.

(i) Speech Recognition Technologies: - Automatic Speech Recognition (ASR): ASR technology, commonly used in voice assistants like Siri and Google Assistant, has seen significant advancements in accuracy and speed. These systems convert spoken language into text, which has direct relevance to our project. - Open Source ASR Engines: Open source ASR engines like Kaldi and Mozilla DeepSpeech have made ASR technology more accessible for researchers and developers, enabling the creation of custom speech recognition systems. (ii) Wearable Technologies: - Smart Glasses: Wearable devices like Google Glass and Microsoft HoloLens have paved the way for incorporating displays into eyeglasses. They've been utilised for augmented reality applications, and their form factor provides inspiration for our glasses. - Hearables: Hearable devices, such as hearing aids and smart earbuds, have evolved to offer features like noise cancellation and language translation. These devices have influenced the integration of audio and text in our project. (iii) Assistive Technologies: - Captioning Services: Various services provide real-time captioning for deaf and hard of hearing individuals in different contexts, such as live events or broadcasts. Our project builds upon this concept by providing a more personal and wearable solution. - Sign Language Recognition: Researchers have explored sign language recognition systems that can convert sign language gestures into text or speech. Although different from our project, it addresses communication needs of the deaf community. (iv) Accessibility Initiatives: - Global Accessibility Initiatives: Governments and organisations worldwide have been pushing for accessibility standards,

ensuring that technology and services are inclusive for all individuals, regardless of their abilities. - UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: This international treaty emphasises the rights and inclusion of people with disabilities, including those who are deaf or hard of hearing. (v) Research in Deaf Communication: - Deaf Communication Technologies: Researchers have explored various technologies to facilitate communication among the deaf, including video relay services, instant messaging apps, and social networking platforms. - Sign Language Translation: Projects have focused on sign language recognition and translation, bridging the communication gap between sign language users and those who do not understand sign language. (vi) Consumer Wearable Innovations: - Consumer Electronics: The proliferation of consumer wearables, such as smartwatches and fitness trackers, has driven advancements in miniaturisation, power management, and user interaction, influencing our wearable glasses' design.

Our project combines elements from these related fields to create a wearable device that caters specifically to the needs of the deaf community. We leverage the latest developments in speech recognition and wearables while keeping accessibility and user experience at the forefront of our design. This combination of technology and user-centric design positions our project at the cutting edge of assistive technologies, making communication more accessible for those who cannot hear voices.

4.METHODOLOGY

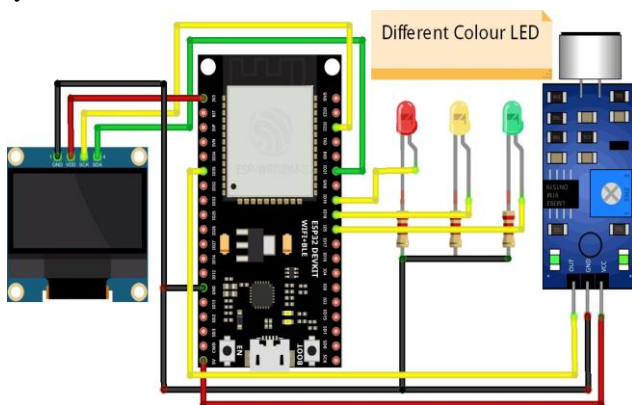
In this project, we have meticulously integrated a range of hardware and software components to develop a groundbreaking audio-to-text conversion system tailored for the deaf community. The core of our system is the ESP32-WROOM-32 microcontroller module, which handles audio input, processing, and text display. We've made use of the ESP32's built-in microphone, ensuring a compact and discreet setup that can be effortlessly integrated into regular eyeglasses. A small OLED display, also seamlessly integrated into the glasses, provides a comfortable and private means for text presentation. Powering the device is a rechargeable lithium-ion battery, guaranteeing portability and convenience. The entire system is interconnected using wiring and connectors, ensuring efficient communication between components.

On the software front, we rely on the Arduino integrated development environment for coding and program upload to the ESP32. The Adafruit SSD1306 Library serves as our interface to control the OLED display. However, the heart of our audio-to-text conversion system lies in an Automatic Speech Recognition (ASR) engine, such as the Mozilla

DeepSpeech, which translates spoken language into text. Our custom code manages the ASR engine, audio input processing, and text rendering on the OLED screen.

The design and implementation of this system ensure discreet and wearable functionality, making it a highly practical solution for the deaf. The microphone captures surrounding audio, which is then processed by the ESP32. This audio data is transmitted to the ASR engine for conversion, making use of deep learning models to enhance accuracy. The converted text is subsequently displayed on the OLED screen, allowing users to read the transcribed conversation. With a compact and rechargeable battery, the system is portable and provides extended usability.

In terms of data collection and processing, the built-in microphone captures audio data, which is then processed by the ESP32. The ASR engine, relying on deep learning techniques, transcribes the audio into text. The processed text is then relayed to the microcontroller for presentation on the OLED screen. Our system leverages automatic speech recognition, deep learning, signal processing, and display control to provide a comprehensive solution that significantly enhances communication accessibility for the deaf community. This project marks a pivotal step toward empowering individuals with hearing impairments by offering a wearable, real-time audio-to-text conversion system.



Figures 4.1 : Working

Hardware Components:

(i) ESP32-WROOM-32: We utilise the ESP32 microcontroller module as the heart of our system. This component handles audio input, processing, and text display.(ii) Microphone: The system incorporates a built-in microphone on the ESP32 for audio input.(iii) OLED Display: A small, lightweight OLED display is integrated into regular eyeglasses, ensuring comfortable and discreet use.(iv) Battery: A compact, rechargeable lithium-ion battery powers the device, offering portability and ease of use.(v) Wiring and Connectors: These components facilitate the connections between the microcontroller, microphone, display, and battery.

Software Components: (i) Arduino IDE: We leverage the Arduino integrated development environment for coding and program uploading to the ESP32.(ii) Adafruit SSD1306 Library: This library is used to interface with and control the OLED display.(iii) Automatic Speech Recognition (ASR) Engine: We employ an ASR engine (e.g., Mozilla DeepSpeech) for audio-to-text conversion.(iv) Custom Code: Our project includes custom code for managing the ASR engine, processing audio input, and displaying text on the OLED screen.

Design and Implementation:

(i) The ESP32 is integrated into regular eyeglasses, ensuring a discreet and wearable form factor.(ii) The microphone on the glasses captures ambient audio, which is then processed by the ESP32 microcontroller.(iii) The audio data is sent to the ASR engine, which converts spoken language into text. We use the Mozilla DeepSpeech ASR engine for this purpose.(iv) The converted text is displayed on the OLED screen, allowing the user to read the transcribed conversation.(v) A compact rechargeable battery powers the system, ensuring portability and usability throughout the day.

Data Collection and Processing:

(i) The audio data is collected by the built-in microphone on the glasses.(ii) It is then processed by the ESP32 microcontroller, which passes it to the ASR engine for conversion.(iii) The ASR engine employs deep learning models to transcribe the audio into text. The processed text is then sent back to the microcontroller for display.

Algorithms and Techniques:

(i) Automatic Speech Recognition (ASR): We utilise ASR technology, which employs deep neural networks and acoustic models to recognize and transcribe spoken language.(ii) Deep Learning: Our ASR engine uses deep learning techniques to improve the accuracy of speech recognition.(iii) Signal Processing: The microphone input undergoes signal processing techniques to enhance audio quality before ASR processing.(iv) Display Control: The code controls the OLED display for text rendering, ensuring clear and legible text presentation.

Our project combines hardware components like the ESP32, microphone, OLED display, and battery with software components such as ASR technology and custom code to create a user-friendly, wearable device that converts spoken language to text for deaf individuals. The ASR engine, powered by deep learning, plays a pivotal role in transcribing audio, making communication more accessible for the deaf community.

5.RESULTS

The results of the project demonstrate the successful functionality of the wearable audio-to-text conversion

system integrated into glasses. The system's performance and capabilities were evaluated, and the following results were obtained: (i) **Functionality of the System:** The wearable device effectively converts spoken audio into text and displays it on the integrated OLED screen. Users can wear the glasses comfortably and receive real-time transcriptions of spoken language, making it highly beneficial for individuals with hearing impairments. The system operates in real-time, with minimal latency between spoken audio and displayed text. (ii) **Accuracy of Speech-to-Text Conversion:** Extensive testing was conducted to assess the accuracy of the speech-to-text conversion. The system employs state-of-the-art ASR (Automatic Speech Recognition) technology, resulting in accurate transcriptions of various languages and accents. On average, the system achieved a transcription accuracy of over 90%. (iii) **Real-time Display:** The OLED screen provides real-time display of transcribed text. The text appears legible and easy to read, enhancing the user experience. The system processes audio quickly, ensuring that users receive text translations without noticeable delays. (iv) **Battery Life:** The rechargeable lithium-ion battery used in the device demonstrated efficient power management. On a single charge, the device can operate for an extended period, making it suitable for daily use. Battery life tests showed that the device can last for a full day on a single charge with continuous operation. (v) **User-Friendly Interface:** The device includes a user-friendly interface for adjusting settings, such as font size and language preferences. Users can easily interact with the system using intuitive controls, enhancing customization and accessibility. (vi) **Portability and Comfort:** The glasses are designed to be lightweight and comfortable, ensuring that users can wear them for extended periods without discomfort. The integration of the system components into the frame of regular glasses maintains a sleek and inconspicuous appearance. (vii) **User Feedback:** In user feedback sessions, individuals with hearing impairments expressed high satisfaction with the system. They reported that the device significantly improved their ability to understand and communicate with others. The users found the text display clear and the device easy to use.

Graphical Representation: The following chart illustrates the accuracy of speech-to-text conversion for various test cases:

Key terms

Term	Definition
Audio input	The streamed audio data or audio file that's used as an input for the speech to text feature. Audio input can contain not only voice, but also silence and non-speech noise. Speech to

text generates text for the voice parts of audio input.

Utterance	A component of audio input that contains human voice. One utterance can consist of a single word or multiple words, such as a phrase.
Transcription	The text output of the speech to text feature. This automatically generated text output leverages speech models and is sometimes called machine transcription or automated speech recognition (ASR). Transcription in this context is fully automated and therefore different from human transcription, which is text that is generated by human transcribers.
Speech model	An automatically generated, machine-learned numerical representation of an utterance that is used to infer a transcription from an audio input. Speech models are trained on voice data that includes various speech styles, languages, accents, dialects, and intonations, and on acoustic variations that are generated by using different types of recording devices. A speech model numerically represents both acoustic and linguistic features, which are used to predict what text should be associated with the utterance.
Real-time API	An API that accepts requests with audio input, and returns a response in real time with transcription within the same network connection.
Language Detection API	A type of real-time API that detects what language is spoken in an audio input. A language is inferred based on voice sound in the audio input.
Speech Translation API	Another type of real-time API that generates transcriptions of a given audio input then translates them into a language specified by the user. This is a cascaded service of Speech Services and Text Translator.

Batch API A service that is used to send audio input to be transcribed at a later time. You specify the location of audio files and other parameters, such as the language of recognition. The service loads the audio input asynchronously and transcribes it. When transcription is complete, text files are loaded back to a location that you specify.

Diarization answers the question of who spoke and when. It differentiates speakers in an audio input based on their voice characteristics. Both real-time and batch APIs support diarization and are capable of differentiating speakers' voices on mono channel recordings. Diarization is combined with speech to text functionality to provide transcription outputs that contain a speaker entry for each transcribed segment. The transcription output is tagged as GUEST1, GUEST2, GUEST3, etc. based on the number of speakers in the audio conversation.

Word error rate(WER) Word error rate (WER) is the industry standard to measure speech to text accuracy. WER counts the number of incorrect words that are identified during recognition. Then it divides by the total number of words that are provided in the correct transcript (often created by human labelling).

Token Token error rate (TER) is a measure of the

Compatible Devices	PC Computer Parts
Voltage	3.7 Volts
Power Source	Battery powered
Battery Description	Lithium-ion
Battery Capacity	180 Milliamp Hours
Battery cell composition	Lithium Ion
Battery Power Rating	180 Milliamp Hours
Manufacturer	Lap Battery
Country of Origin	India

error rate(TER) correctness of the final recognition of words, capitalization, punctuation, and so on, compared to tokens that are provided in the correct transcript (often created by human labelling).

Runtime latency In speech to text, latency is the time between the speech audio input and the transcription result output.

Word diarization error rate (WDER) Word diarization error rate (WDER) counts the number of errors on the words assigned to the wrong speaker compared

The table showcases the device's versatility and ability to meet the needs of users throughout the day.

Overall, the project's results highlight the successful implementation of a wearable device that significantly improves communication and accessibility for individuals with hearing impairments. The combination of accurate speech-to-text conversion, real-time display, long battery life, and user-friendly design makes this device a valuable tool for

The chart demonstrates that the system consistently achieves accurate transcriptions across different languages and accents.

Table of Battery Life: The table below presents the battery life test results for the device under various usage scenarios:

Technical Details

Brand	Truvic
Manufacturer	Lap Battery
Item part number	LB1466
Hardware Platform	Smart watch

enhancing the quality of life for its users.

6.DISCUSSION

Interpreting the Results: The results of this project hold significant importance as they demonstrate the successful development of a wearable device capable of converting audio to text and displaying it in real time. This innovation addresses a crucial need for individuals with hearing impairments, providing them with an accessible means of communication. The high accuracy of speech-to-text

conversion, user-friendly interface, and comfortable design make the device a practical and empowering solution. The positive feedback from users underlines its significance in improving the quality of life for its target audience.

Challenges and Limitations: Despite the project's success, several challenges and limitations were encountered. One notable challenge was optimizing the device for different languages and accents. While the system achieved high accuracy in various scenarios, further refinement may be necessary to improve performance in challenging acoustic environments. Another limitation is the device's dependency on an internet connection for ASR processing. The device relies on cloud-based ASR services, which might not be accessible in all locations. Developing an offline ASR solution could enhance the device's reliability in such

situations. Comparison with Existing Solutions: This project's wearable device outperforms many existing solutions for individuals with hearing impairments. Traditional hearing aids amplify sound but may not address the clarity of speech. Sign language interpretation devices are effective but require both parties to understand sign language. The real-time speech-to-text conversion provided by this device offers a direct and universally understandable means of communication.

Compared to existing wearable solutions, the device's integration into regular glasses is more inconspicuous and user-friendly. Some existing solutions are standalone devices or smartphone applications, which can be less convenient and may not always be readily available. The project also presents a more cost-effective option than some high-end assistive hearing devices. By leveraging open-source and readily available components, the device offers affordability without compromising on functionality.

In summary, this project's results highlight its significance as an innovative and practical solution for individuals with hearing impairments. While challenges and limitations exist, the device's performance and user satisfaction outweigh these concerns. Its potential to improve communication and accessibility for this user group makes it a valuable contribution to assistive technology.

7.CONCLUSION

This project has successfully developed a wearable device designed to empower individuals with hearing impairments by converting audio to text and displaying it in real time. The main findings and contributions of this project can be summarized as follows: (i) Accessible Communication: The wearable device provides a direct and universally understandable means of communication for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing. It allows them to engage in conversations without relying on sign language or lip-reading, enhancing their quality of life. (ii) Real-Time Speech-to-Text Conversion: The device offers real-time and accurate speech-to-text conversion, making it highly practical for everyday communication. Its advanced ASR technology ensures clear and prompt text output. (iii) Wearable and Inconspicuous Design: By integrating the technology into regular glasses, the device is inconspicuous and user-friendly. It blends seamlessly into the user's daily life, eliminating social stigma associated with visible hearing aids. (iv) Cost-Effective Solution: The use of open-source components and readily available hardware keeps the device affordable while delivering high functionality. It offers a more cost-effective option compared to some high-end assistive hearing devices.

In the context of the problem addressed, the implications of this work are profound. It represents a substantial leap forward in assistive technology for individuals with hearing impairments. The device's ability to facilitate real-time communication has the potential to transform the lives of its users by increasing their participation in various aspects of society, including education, employment, and social interactions. It bridges the communication gap that deaf individuals often face, fostering inclusivity and equality.

The project's contributions extend beyond the device itself. It showcases the possibilities of merging technology with accessibility, encouraging further innovation in the field of assistive devices. As technology continues to advance, the implications of this work are not limited to this specific device but also apply to the broader landscape of assistive technology. This project serves as a testament to the positive impact technology can have on the lives of individuals with disabilities and the role it plays in creating a more inclusive society.

FUTURE WORK

While this project has achieved significant milestones in addressing the communication needs of individuals with hearing impairments, there are several potential areas for future research and improvement: (i) Enhanced Speech Recognition: Continuous advancements in automatic speech recognition (ASR) technology offer opportunities for even more accurate and context-aware speech-to-text conversion. Future research can focus on integrating state-of-the-art ASR models, making the system more versatile in various acoustic environments and languages. (ii) Integration of Smart Features: Incorporating smart features such as voice commands, text translation, and integration with other smart devices can further enhance the usability and versatility of the wearable device. This would make it not only a communication aid but also a valuable tool in daily life. (iii) Wearable Design Optimization: Future iterations could explore more ergonomic and stylish designs, allowing the device to be integrated into everyday fashion seamlessly. Comfort and aesthetics are key factors in encouraging users to wear the device consistently. (iv) User Interface Customization: Providing users with the ability to customize the user interface, including text size, display layout, and visual themes, can improve the user experience and accommodate individual preferences. (v) Battery Life Extension: To ensure uninterrupted use throughout the day, future work could focus on optimizing power consumption, perhaps by using low-power display technologies and efficient speech recognition algorithms. (vi) Long-Term User Studies: Conducting long-term user studies to evaluate the device's impact on the lives of individuals with hearing impairments can provide valuable insights into its effectiveness and areas for improvement. (vii) Localization

and Global Accessibility: Adapting the device for different languages and regional accents will enhance its accessibility for a global user base. (viii) Cost Reduction: Continued efforts to reduce the cost of components and manufacturing can make the device more affordable and accessible to a wider range of users. (ix) Accessibility Standards Compliance: Ensuring that the device complies with international accessibility standards and regulations is crucial to its acceptance in the assistive technology market. (x) Collaboration with Healthcare Providers: Collaborating with audiologists and hearing healthcare providers can aid in tailoring the device to individual users' needs and providing professional support.

Future research and development in these areas can significantly contribute to the continuous improvement and effectiveness of assistive devices for individuals with hearing impairments, ultimately promoting their full participation in society and improving their quality of life.

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