

000 001 002 003 004 005 ROBOOMNI: PROACTIVE ROBOT MANIPULATION IN 006 OMNI-MODAL CONTEXT 007 008 009

010 **Anonymous authors**
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ABSTRACT

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031 Recent advances in Multimodal Large Language Models (MLLMs) have driven
032 rapid progress in Vision–Language–Action (VLA) models for robotic manipulation.
033 Although effective in many scenarios, current approaches largely rely on
034 explicit instructions, whereas in real-world interactions, humans rarely issue in-
035 structions directly. Effective collaboration requires robots to infer user intentions
036 proactively. In this work, we introduce *cross-modal contextual instructions, a new*
037 *setting where intent is derived from spoken dialogue, environmental sounds, and*
038 *visual cues rather than explicit commands*. To address this new setting, we present
039 **RoboOmni**, a *Perceiver–Thinker–Talker–Executor* framework based on end-to-end
040 omni-modal LLMs that unifies intention recognition, interaction confirmation, and
041 action execution. RoboOmni fuses auditory and visual signals spatiotemporally
042 for robust intention recognition, while supporting direct speech interaction. To
043 address the absence of training data for proactive intention recognition in robotic
044 manipulation, we build **OmniAction**, comprising 140k episodes, 5k+ speakers,
045 2.4k event sounds, 640 backgrounds, and six contextual instruction types. Experi-
046 ments in simulation and real-world settings show that RoboOmni surpasses text-
047 and ASR-based baselines in success rate, inference speed, intention recognition,
048 and proactive assistance. All datasets, code, and real-world demonstration videos
049 will be released publicly.¹
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1 INTRODUCTION

052 Vision–Language–Action (VLA) models (Zitkovich et al., 2023; Ghosh et al., 2024; Black et al.,
053 2024) have achieved remarkable advances in robotic manipulation, leveraging large-scale cross-
054 embodiment datasets (Padalkar et al., 2023; AgiBot-World-Contributors et al., 2025; Khazatsky
055 et al., 2024) and Multimodal Large Language Models (MLLMs) (Wang et al., 2024; Bai et al., 2025a;
056 Li et al., 2025). VLA models are generally categorized as (1) end-to-end models (Brohan et al.,
057 2023; Zitkovich et al., 2023; Black et al., 2024; Kim et al., 2024; 2025), which map vision–language
058 inputs directly to motor actions, and (2) modular Brain–Cerebellum models (Huang et al., 2023;
059 2024; Shi et al., 2025), which use LLMs or VLMs as planners to decompose tasks into sub-goals
060 for low-level controllers. While modular systems emphasize explicit planning, they suffer from
061 fragmentation and interface constraints. In contrast, end-to-end models unify vision, language, and
062 action in a shared latent space, enabling more natural and flexible responses.
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064 Despite notable advances in VLA research, two fundamental limitations remain. (1) From the per-
065 spective of instruction type: most works (Kim et al., 2024) focus on direct commands (Fig. 1-(a)),
066 later extended to more complex (Fig. 1-(b)) yet explicit forms (Shi et al., 2025), while Xu et al.
067 (2025a) recently introduced a dataset for inferential text-based instructions (Fig. 1-(c)), but sys-
068 tem studies remain scarce. (2) From the perspective of the instruction source: current systems
069 (Kim et al., 2024; Zitkovich et al., 2023) predominantly rely on textual instructions (Fig. 1-(d))
070 or ASR-transcribed speech (Fig. 1-(e)), the latter discarding essential paralinguistic cues such as
071 tone, intonation, and affective signals. Recently, Zhao et al. (2025) investigated models that accept
072 speech instructions (Fig. 1-(f)) by converting existing textual commands into speech, but neglected
073 real-world environmental sounds. Overall, existing works assume that instructions are explicitly is-
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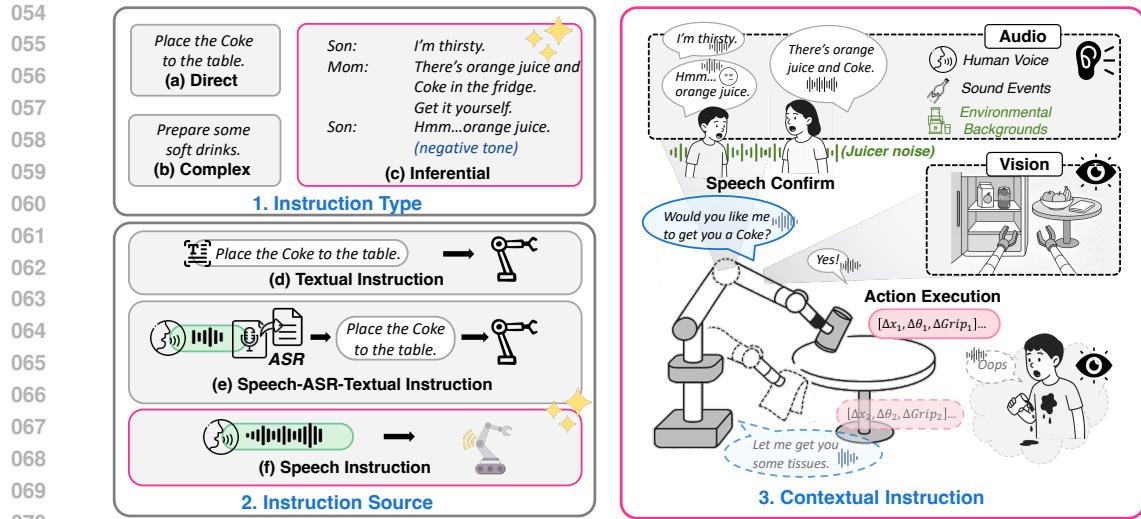


Figure 1: Overview of robotic manipulation models classified by instruction type and input. Our RoboOmni integrates contextual instruction with direct speech for end-to-end multimodal interaction and action execution.

sued, and there is a lack of study on jointly reasoning over speech, environmental sounds, and visual observations for proactive intent recognition and reasoning.

There arises a key research question: **Can a robot integrate cross-modal context, including speech, environmental audio, and visual observations, to proactively infer and verify user intent?** As illustrated in Fig. 1, in a living-room scene, the robot integrates dialogue (audio), refrigerator observation (vision), and the juicer sound (environmental audio) to infer that John prefers cola over hand-made sour juice, and proactively seeks confirmation rather than waiting for an explicit command. Since humans rarely issue direct instructions in daily life, we define such scenarios as *cross-modal contextual instructions*, where auditory (speech and environmental sound) and visual cues are fused to infer latent user intent and verified proactively by interaction, in contrast to conventional setups that assume explicit commands.

To address these challenge and answer the research question, we propose **RoboOmni**, an end-to-end omni-modal framework for manipulation that closes the loop of intent recognition, interaction confirmation, and action execution. Unlike prior approaches, RoboOmni supports direct speech interaction without ASR, infers latent commands by fusing human speech, environmental audio, and vision through spatiotemporal modeling, and verifies intent via interaction. To overcome data scarcity, we construct OmniAction, a dataset with 140k episodes, over 5k speakers, 2.4k event sounds, 640 background sounds, and six contextual instruction types.

Experiments in both simulation and real-world settings show that RoboOmni substantially outperforms text- and ASR-based baselines, achieving higher accuracy (Sec. 5.2 and Sec. 5.3), faster inference (Sec. 5.6), more effective proactive assistance (Sec. 5.5), and improved intention recognition (Sec. 5.5). Our contributions are fourfold:

1. We introduce *cross-modal contextual instructions*, a new setting for robotic manipulation that requires robots to proactively infer user commands from multimodal context (vision, environmental sounds, and speech) rather than passively await explicit instructions.
2. We propose RoboOmni, a *Perceiver-Thinker-Talker-Executor* framework based on end-to-end omni-modal LLMs that fuses auditory and visual inputs for intent reasoning, unifying intent recognition, confirmation, and action execution.
3. To address the lack of datasets for proactive intention reasoning, we introduce OmniAction, comprising 140k episodes with 5k+ speakers, 2.4k event sounds, 640 backgrounds, and six contextual instruction types, along with OmniAction-LIBERO for simulation-based evaluation.
4. Evaluation in both simulation and real-world scenarios demonstrates that RoboOmni exhibits emerging cognitive intelligence, outperforming baselines with higher success rates, faster inference, and more effective proactive assistance and intention recognition.

108 2 RELATED WORK

110 The rapid development of Large Language Models (LLMs) Achiam et al. (2023); Touvron et al.
 111 (2023a) has driven progress in multimodal extensions. Multimodal LLMs (MLLMs) (202, 2023; Bai
 112 et al., 2025a; Liu et al., 2023b; Chen et al., 2023) combine text reasoning with vision, while recent
 113 end-to-end omni-modal models (Hurst et al., 2024; Xu et al., 2025b; Xie & Wu, 2024) unify speech,
 114 vision, and text but remain focused on linguistic outputs. In parallel, Vision–Language–Action
 115 (VLA) models Brohan et al. (2023); Zitkovich et al. (2023); Li et al. (2023); Team et al. (2024); Kim
 116 et al. (2024; 2025); Black et al. (2024); Li et al. (2024a); Qu et al. (2025) map instructions to actions,
 117 yet mainly assume explicit commands and struggle with context-dependent or compositional tasks.
 118 Cascaded or hierarchical variants (Intelligence et al., 2025; Shi et al., 2025; Song et al., 2025b; Lin
 119 et al., 2025) decompose goals but ignore implicit cues such as dialogue or emotion, while ASR/TTS-
 120 based speech–action pipelines (Shi et al., 2025; Khan et al., 2025) discard paralinguistic signals.
 121 Some works incorporate environmental sounds as an additional modality (Yamakawa et al., 2011;
 122 Zhao et al., 2023; Liu et al., 2024; Jones et al., 2025), but they do not model spoken instructions or
 123 conversational intent. Although some recent efforts handle direct speech inputs (Zhao et al., 2025),
 124 they only output actions without conversational interaction. In contrast, we propose RoboOmni, an
 125 end-to-end omni-modal framework that integrates speech, environmental sounds, vision, and text for
 126 both embodied action and natural interaction. A detailed review of related work about Omni-Modal
 127 LLMs and Vision-Language-Action Model is provided in App. B.

128 3 OMNIACTION DATASET CONSTRUCTION

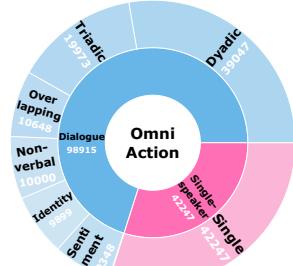
129 3.1 OVERVIEW

130 Proactive robots must infer implicit intent from audio and visual observations, yet existing datasets
 131 lack such a combination of modalities (most of them lack audio modality) and inferential instructions
 132 needed for intent reasoning. To address this gap, we introduce OmniAction, a large-scale corpus
 133 that encodes contextual instructions—latent intents grounded in speech, environmental audio, sound
 134 events, and vision. OmniAction covers six instruction categories and three non-speech sounds.

135 **Diverse Contextual Instructions.** (1) *Sentiment Cues*: Emotionally tinted expressions, or subtle vocalizations, that indirectly
 136 reveal user preferences or intentions (e.g., “Ugh, this juice is
 137 too sour” implying a request for an alternative). (2) *Overlapping Voices*: Multi-speaker audio segments with temporal overlaps,
 138 testing intent extraction under crosstalk and partial masking. (3) *Non-Verbal Cues*: Salient non-linguistic audio events
 139 (e.g., alarms, phone rings) that carry situational information relevant
 140 to the task. (4) *Identity Cues*: Speaker attributes such as age
 141 and gender, inferred from voice and not available from text, are
 142 needed to decide whose intent to satisfy. (5) *Dyadic Dialogue*:
 143 Two-participant dialogues where intent emerges from conversational flow rather than explicit commands. (6) *Triadic Dialogue*:
 144 Three participants interact with turn-taking and indirect
 145 references, increasing the complexity of intent attribution. To preserve general command-following
 146 ability beyond dialogue, we also include a portion of single-person text instructions during training.

147 **Diverse Non-Speech Sounds.** We also investigate three types of acoustic variation: (1) *Speaker*
 148 *Timbre*. 5,096 distinct voices spanning six categories by age (elderly, adult, child) and gender (male,
 149 female). Reference audio clips are used for timbre cloning to ensure within-dialogue consistency
 150 and cross-speaker diversity. (2) *Sound Events*. 2,482 non-verbal events (e.g., thunder, doorbell)
 151 were inserted at scripted anchors to provide cues beyond speech. (3) *Environmental Backgrounds*.
 152 640 ambient soundscapes (e.g., running water, stir-fry sizzling) mixed at controlled signal-to-noise
 153 ratios (SNRs) to mimic daily environments.

154 **Data Statistics and Formats.** OmniAction comprises 141,162 multimodal episodes, spanning 112
 155 skills (e.g., *pick-place*, *open/close*) and 748 objects (e.g., *can*), with 5,096 distinct speaker timbres,
 156 2,482 non-verbal sound events, and 640 environmental backgrounds. Each sample is represented
 157 as a triplet (C, V, A) : a multi-turn conversation C , a visual observation sequence V , and an action



158 Figure 2: Distribution of
 159 contextual instruction types in OmniAction.

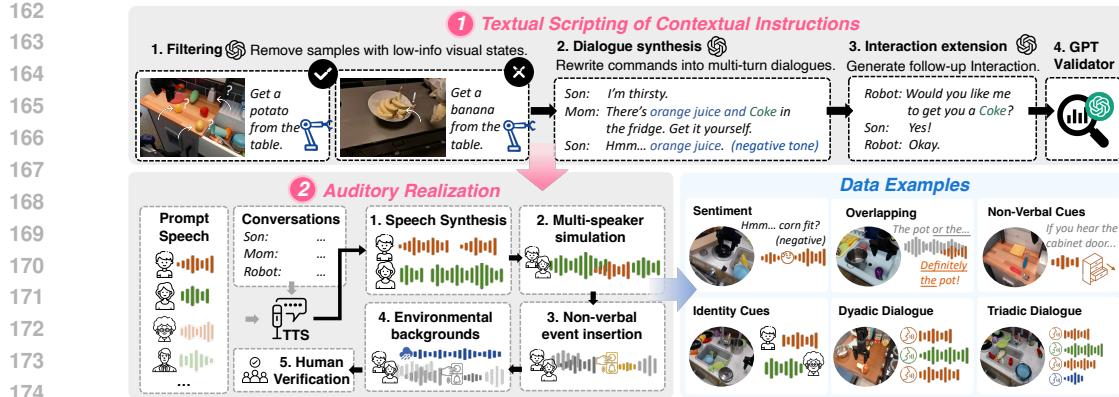


Figure 3: Overview of OmniAction Dataset Construction Pipelines and Examples.

trajectory $A = \{a_t\}_{t=1}^T$, where $a_t \in \mathbb{R}^7$ denotes the delta control vector of the end-effector. The distribution of instruction type is detailed in Fig. 2. More detailed statistics and examples are shown in Sec. C.1 and Sec. C.2.

3.2 CONSTRUCTION PROCESS

We construct OmniAction through a three-stage pipeline—textual scripting, auditory realization, and verification—illustrated in Fig. 3.

Textual Scripting. We sample tasks and trajectories from Open-X datasets (Padalkar et al., 2023) and transform each atomic instruction into a contextual one with GPT-4o through: (1) *Filtering*: removing trivial samples with low-information visual states. (2) *Dialogue synthesis*: rewriting instructions into multi-turn household dialogues that span six contextual instruction types. (3) *Interaction extension*: constructing follow-up human–robot exchanges that simulate natural interactions. (4) *Validation*: ensuring intent consistency with the original instruction.

Auditory Realization. To capture paralinguistic cues and environmental acoustics beyond text, we convert dialogues into audio that reflects real household conditions, augmented with diverse sound events and background environments. The conversion process includes four steps: (1) *Speech synthesis*: rendering user turns into audio via multiple TTS engines with voice cloning for timbre consistency and cross-dialogue diversity. (2) *Multi-speaker simulation*: generating each speaker’s turns separately, concatenating them on the timeline, and inserting overlaps at controlled offsets. (3) *Non-verbal event insertion*: mixing contextual sounds (e.g., alarms, utensil clatter) at scripted anchors. (4) *Environmental backgrounds*: adding ambient textures (e.g., water flow, frying, fan hum) at varying SNRs. Further implementation details are provided in Sec. C.3.

Verification. To ensure data quality, we conducted a manual evaluation on sampled speech dialogues and confirmed that task intent was reliably recoverable (98.7% agreement, detailed in Sec. C.4).

3.3 SIMULATION DATASET: OMNIACTION-LIBERO

To address the lack of simulation benchmarks, we construct **OmniAction-LIBERO** based on LIBERO (Liu et al., 2023a), with two variants. (1) **OmniAction-LIBERO-TTS** augments the LIBERO using the pipeline described above. Starting from 40 manipulation tasks across four suites (Spatial, Object, Goal, Long-Horizon), we generate six variants for each task based on the six contextual instruction types, yielding 240 evaluation tasks. Example dialogues and task scenes are provided in App. G. (2) **OmniAction-LIBERO-Real** evaluates RoboOmni under real speech conditions, where 10 volunteers provide spoken instructions collected in real environments.

4 METHODS

We propose RoboOmni, an end-to-end omni-modal LLM framework organized as Perceiver–Thinker–Talker–Executor, unifying speech, environmental audio, vision, and robotic actions within a single autoregressive model Fig. 4. RoboOmni employs a Perceiver for multimodal input,

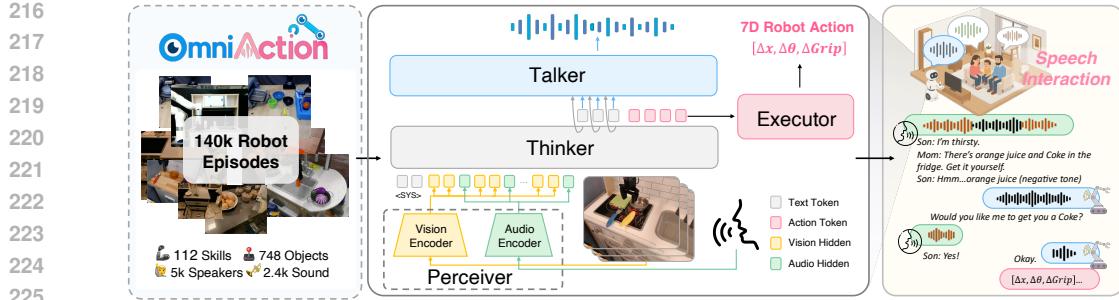


Figure 4: The framework of **RoboOmni**, a Perceiver-Thinker-Talker-Executor architecture that unifies vision, text, and audio in a shared token space to generate actions and speech.

a Thinker backbone, a Talker for speech, and an Executor for actions. To align inputs with linguistic and motor outputs, RoboOmni uses unified tokenization to encode all modalities into a shared semantic space, which the Thinker processes into high-level representations and specialized decoders render into speech and executable actions, enabling seamless perception-to-action generation.

4.1 TASK DEFINITION

We consider *cross-modal contextual instruction following*, where the robot receives multimodal input $X = \{V_{1:T}, S_{1:T}, C\}$, consisting of visual observations V_t and audio signals S_t (including human speech with varying identity, prosody, emotion, overlapping voices, and environmental sounds), and dialogue history C . The robot must use these cues to infer the user's latent intent, produce conversational responses $y_{1:L}$ when clarification is needed, and execute manipulation actions $A_{1:N}$. Unlike standard VLA tasks based on explicit textual commands, intent here is not explicitly spoken but emerges from the multimodal context.

4.2 ARCHITECTURE COMPONENTS

Perceiver: Multimodal Input Encoding. The Perceiver handles the encoding of heterogeneous input modalities into a unified embedding space. Following the multimodal processing pipeline of Qwen2.5-Omni (Xu et al., 2025b), at each timestep t the robot receives a visual frame V_t , an audio segment S_t , and the dialogue history up to that point C_t . Modality-specific encoders produce embeddings $\mathbf{v}_t = f_v(V_t)$, $\mathbf{s}_t = f_s(S_t)$, and $\mathbf{c}_t = f_c(C_t)$, which are combined into a unified representation $\mathbf{X}_t = [\mathbf{v}_t; \mathbf{s}_t; \mathbf{c}_t]$ that serves as input to the Thinker backbone.

Thinker: Omni-Modal Reasoning. The Thinker serves as the central reasoning engine, built upon the LLM backbone. It processes the unified multimodal representations from the Perceiver and generates contextually appropriate outputs in the joint vocabulary space $\mathcal{V} \cup \mathcal{A}$. The Thinker autoregressively produces sequences that seamlessly interleave text tokens, speech representations, and action tokens, enabling unified reasoning across perception, language, and robotic control.

Talker: Speech Generation. The Talker component enables the system to generate natural speech responses through a hierarchical architecture design. The Talker receives high-level semantic representations and text token from the Thinker and converts them into speech waveforms, allowing for seamless voice interaction in robotic scenarios.

Executor: Action Generation. To enable seamless integration of robotic control within the language model framework, we extend the vocabulary of the Thinker with a set \mathcal{A} of 2048 discrete action tokens introduced by the FAST+ tokenizer (Pertsch et al., 2025). Rather than mapping each action dimension to a separate token, FAST+ represents a continuous action vector $a_t \in \mathbb{R}^7$ (e.g., 7-DoF control) by a short sequence of discrete symbols $r_t \subset \mathcal{A}$. This enables the model to autoregressively generate from the joint space $\mathcal{V} \cup \mathcal{A}$, where \mathcal{V} represents the text vocabulary, seamlessly bridging language understanding and robotic control within a single sequence. The Executor then decodes these action tokens back into executable robot commands.

270 4.3 DUAL-MODE GENERATION
271272 **Text and Speech Generation.** For conversational responses, the Thinker autoregressively generates
273 text tokens $\mathbf{y}_{1:L} = (y_1, y_2, \dots, y_L)$:

274
$$p_{\theta}(\mathbf{y}_{1:L} | \mathbf{X}_t) = \prod_{\ell=1}^L p_{\theta}(y_{\ell} | \mathbf{X}_t, \mathbf{y}_{<\ell}). \quad (1)$$

275
276

277 The generated text can optionally be converted to speech through the Talker module, which receives
278 the discrete text tokens and high-level semantic representations from the Thinker.279 **Action Generation.** For robotic control, the Thinker autoregressively predicts discrete action tokens
280 $\mathbf{r}_{t:t+N}$ of chunk length N , which are decoded into continuous actions $\mathbf{a}_{t:t+N}$ by inverse transform.

281
$$\mathbf{a}_{t:t+N} = \text{Executor}(\mathbf{r}_{t:t+N}), \quad p_{\theta}(\mathbf{r}_{t:t+N} | \mathbf{X}_t) = \prod_{i=0}^N p_{\theta}(r_{t+i} | \mathbf{X}_t, \mathbf{r}_{t:t+i-1}). \quad (2)$$

282
283

284 4.4 TRAINING PARADIGMS
285286 We train RoboOmni using a unified autoregressive objective that handles both conversational and
287 manipulation capabilities within the same framework. Given a training episode, the model receives
288 multimodal input \mathbf{X}_t and learns to predict appropriate responses—either conversational replies for
289 dialogue or action sequences for manipulation.290 For conversational interactions, the model optimizes the likelihood of generating appropriate text
291 responses $\mathbf{y}_{1:L}$ given the multimodal context:

292
$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{chat}}(\theta) = -\mathbb{E} \sum_{\ell=1}^L \log p_{\theta}(y_{\ell} | \mathbf{X}_t, \mathbf{y}_{<\ell}). \quad (3)$$

293
294

295 For action generation, the model learns to generate action token sequences $\mathbf{r}_{t:t+N}$ that correspond
296 to expert trajectory:

297
$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{act}}(\theta) = -\mathbb{E} \sum_{i=0}^N \log p_{\theta}(r_{t+i} | \mathbf{X}_t, \mathbf{r}_{t:t+i-1}). \quad (4)$$

298
299

300 The complete training objective combines both modalities through batch interleaving:

301
$$\mathcal{L}(\theta) = \mathcal{L}_{\text{chat}}(\theta) + \mathcal{L}_{\text{act}}(\theta) = -\mathbb{E} \sum_{k=1}^K \log p_{\theta}(z_k | \mathbf{X}_t, z_{<k}), \quad z_k \in \mathcal{V} \cup \mathcal{A}, \quad (5)$$

302

303 which highlights that both conversational and action supervision reduce to the same autoregressive
304 maximum-likelihood objective over a unified token space.305 5 EXPERIMENT
306308 5.1 EXPERIMENT SETUP
309310 **Baseline Models** As current open-source Vision-Language-Action (VLA) models are primarily
311 designed for textual instructions and cannot directly process audio inputs, we construct two base-
312 line paradigms to validate the necessity of end-to-end audio processing: (i) **Ground-truth Textual**
313 **Prompt**, which directly feeds pre-annotated transcriptions of speech instructions into VLA models;
314 (ii) **Speech-ASR-Textual Prompt**, where speech instructions are first transcribed to text using the
315 ASR model Whisper large-v3 (Radford et al., 2023), then fed into VLA models. We conduct eval-
316 uations comparing RoboOmni with four representative VLA baselines representing both paradigms:
317 **OpenVLA** (Kim et al., 2024), **OpenVLA-OFT** (Kim et al., 2025), π_0 (Black et al., 2024), and
318 **NORA** (Hung et al., 2025). Details of these baselines are in App. D.319 **Implementation Details** We train the model with an input image resolution of 224×224 , an audio
320 sampling rate of 16,000 Hz, and an action chunk size of 6. For large-scale pretraining, RoboOmni
321 is optimized on a cluster of 64 A100 GPUs over 10 days, corresponding to a total of 15,360 A100-
322 hours, with a batch size of 512. The training runs for 10 epochs using a learning rate of 5×10^{-5} ,
323 with the first 1k steps reserved for warm-up. For downstream task supervised fine-tuning (SFT), we
adopt a learning rate of 5×10^{-5} and train with 8 A100 GPUs for 10-30k steps.

324 Table 1: Performance of different robot manipulation models on the OmniAction-LIBERO-TTS
 325 benchmark, evaluated across four task suites (Spatial, Goal, Object, Long-Horizon) under six con-
 326 textual instruction types. Values in **bold** denote the best performance.

328	329	Task	Ground-truth Textual Prompt				Audio \rightarrow ASR \rightarrow Text Prompt				RoboOmni	
			OpenVLA	OFT	NORA	π_0	OpenVLA	OFT	NORA	π_0		
330	331	332	<i>Sentiment</i>	4.0	9.0	40.0	8.0	1.0	8.0	43.0	11.0	93.0
			<i>Non-Verbal</i>	2.0	8.0	61.0	7.0	3.0	8.0	68.0	14.0	91.0
			<i>Identity</i>	1.0	8.0	53.0	4.0	2.0	18.0	56.0	7.0	92.0
			<i>Overlapping</i>	6.0	7.0	43.0	7.0	11.0	6.0	58.0	18.0	93.0
			<i>Dyadic</i>	7.0	6.0	51.0	5.0	4.0	17.0	57.0	3.0	95.0
			<i>Triadic</i>	1.0	7.0	51.0	6.0	2.0	6.0	57.0	6.0	94.0
			Avg	3.5	7.5	49.8	6.2	3.8	10.5	56.5	9.8	93.0
335	336	337	<i>Sentiment</i>	0.0	0.0	11.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.0	3.0	89.0
			<i>Non-Verbal</i>	0.0	0.0	18.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	22.0	4.0	79.0
			<i>Identity</i>	0.0	0.0	11.0	3.0	0.0	0.0	11.0	1.0	82.0
			<i>Overlapping</i>	0.0	0.0	21.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	23.0	1.0	97.0
			<i>Dyadic</i>	0.0	0.0	7.0	1.0	1.0	10.0	18.0	0.0	85.0
			<i>Triadic</i>	0.0	0.0	7.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	15.0	0.0	83.0
			Avg	0.0	0.0	12.5	1.0	0.3	1.7	16.3	1.5	85.8
341	342	343	<i>Sentiment</i>	1.0	0.0	9.0	4.0	2.0	0.0	5.0	6.0	83.0
			<i>Non-Verbal</i>	2.0	0.0	7.0	1.0	3.0	0.0	17.0	8.0	82.0
			<i>Identity</i>	4.0	0.0	4.0	5.0	5.0	0.0	15.0	8.0	85.0
			<i>Overlapping</i>	14.0	7.0	1.0	6.0	26.0	0.0	16.0	9.0	84.0
			<i>Dyadic</i>	20.0	0.0	14.0	7.0	20.0	10.0	19.0	7.0	88.0
			<i>Triadic</i>	2.0	0.0	3.0	5.0	2.0	10.0	11.0	2.0	82.0
			Avg	7.2	1.2	6.3	4.7	9.7	3.3	13.8	6.7	84.0
346	347	348	<i>Sentiment</i>	0.0	0.0	26.0	4.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	5.0	76.0
			<i>Non-Verbal</i>	0.0	0.0	35.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	57.0	2.0	76.0
			<i>Identity</i>	0.0	0.0	29.0	4.0	1.0	0.0	43.0	4.0	79.0
			<i>Overlapping</i>	0.0	0.0	35.0	5.0	3.0	0.0	56.0	6.0	79.0
			<i>Dyadic</i>	1.0	0.0	42.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	59.0	5.0	85.0
			<i>Triadic</i>	0.0	0.0	27.0	5.0	2.0	10.0	41.0	8.0	82.0
			Avg	0.2	0.0	32.3	3.3	1.2	1.7	51.0	5.0	79.5
351	352	Avg	2.6	0.4	16.3	3.0	3.9	2.3	25.9	4.4	85.6	

353 354 5.2 EVALUATION ON CROSS-MODAL CONTEXTUAL INSTRUCTIONS

356 To comprehensively evaluate RoboOmni on diverse cross-modal contextual instructions, we conduct
 357 extensive experiments on the OmniAction-LIBERO across four task suites with six audio variants.
 358 Tab. 1 demonstrates that RoboOmni achieves an overall 85.6% success rate, substantially outper-
 359 forming the strongest baseline (NORA, 25.9%) and other cascaded methods (all below 10%). Our
 360 analysis yields three key insights: (1) **End-to-end auditory integration is crucial for paraling-
 361 guistic cues**. Text-only models, whether using ASR transcripts or ground-truth text, fail to capture
 362 paralinguistic cues (e.g., prosody, overlapping speech), with best scores of 25.9% (textual baseline).
 363 In contrast, RoboOmni’s direct audio processing enables it to consistently exceed 76% across all
 364 types, demonstrating the importance of preserving acoustic information. (2) **Auditory integration
 365 enhances robust intent recognition under ambiguity**. Goal and Object suites are challenging due
 366 to multiple manipulable objects and valid actions, where baselines collapse (averaging 16.3% and
 367 13.8% for the best baselines), exposing limits in contextual instruction understanding. RoboOmni
 368 sustains high performance (Goal: 85.8% v.s. Object: 84.0%), demonstrating robust generalization
 369 under semantic ambiguity. (3) **Instruction type complexity reveals varying cognitive demands**.
 370 For end-to-end models, *dyadic* and *overlapping* tasks are easier, averaging \sim 88%. *Non-verbal* in-
 371 structions are hardest (\sim 82%), as they require recognizing non-verbal sounds and integrating them
 372 with visual and speech cues. The remaining tasks average \sim 85%, reflecting moderate complexity.

373 374 5.3 EVALUATION ON REAL HUMAN AUDIO DIRECT INSTRUCTIONS

375 We further evaluate RoboOmni’s robustness under real human-recorded speech with direct audio in-
 376 structions. As shown in Tab. 2, on the OmniAction-LIBERO-Real benchmark, RoboOmni achieves
 377 the highest average performance (76.6%), surpassing strong text-based VLAs including π_0 (73.8%),
 OpenVLA (40.1%), and NORA (17.4%). ASR-based VLAs suffer from acoustic variability:

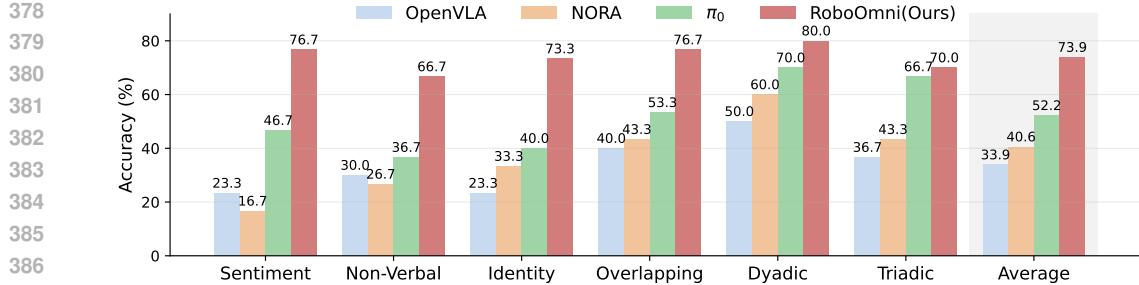


Figure 5: Real-world contextual-instruction performance with human speech. RoboOmni surpasses ASR+VLA baselines by directly grounding raw audio and vision and retaining paralinguistic cues.



Figure 6: Demonstration of success cases of RoboOmni on the real-world WidowX 250S robot arm.

403 accents, coarticulation, and background noise frequently cause recognition errors, and even minor
404 word deviations can degrade VLAs’ performance.
405 π_0 shows some robustness, likely due to large-scale
406 co-training on diverse web data. In contrast, RoboOmni processes speech directly, avoiding ASR
407 pipeline errors. Pretraining on diverse speakers and
408 sounds improves robustness to acoustic variability
409 and paralinguistic cues, yielding more consistent
410 performance.

Table 2: Performance comparison on OmniAction-LIBERO-Real.

	Spatial	Goal	Object	Long	Avg
Audio → ASR → Text Prompt					
OpenVLA	51.6	38.2	38.0	32.4	40.1
OpenVLA-OFT	6.6	9.8	9.8	0.0	6.5
NORA	2.0	5.6	26.8	35.4	17.4
π_0	86.0	60.0	70.0	79.0	73.8
Ours (Audio Input)					
RoboOmni	89.0	71.6	75.1	75.0	76.6

5.4 REAL-WORLD EXPERIMENTS

To verify that RoboOmni’s capabilities transfer beyond simulation, we fine-tune our pretrained model by utilizing our demonstration dataset on WidowX 250S, where speech was recorded by 10 volunteers in real environments. This enables RoboOmni to run on real robots and handle diverse speech instructions (e.g., sentiment, overlapping cues). We compare RoboOmni against several ASR+VLA baselines trained with the same data. Each task is executed for 10 trials, and we report the mean task success rate. As shown in Fig. 5, RoboOmni achieves 73.9% success, substantially outperforming the best ASR+VLA baseline (52.2%). This performance gain primarily comes from two advantages of the unified architecture: (1) RoboOmni directly reasons over raw audio and vision, making it robust to natural speech variations, whereas cascaded systems are prone to ASR errors and to VLA brittleness under small transcription changes. (2) The end-to-end multimodal design preserves paralinguistic cues—sentiment, speaker identity, and non-verbal events—essential for contextual-intent inference, while ASR pipelines inevitably discard them.

Fig. 6 highlights RoboOmni’s real-world competence across three dimensions: (1) strong intent recognition, accurately inferring user intention from both visual and auditory cues (e.g., identifying the object based on audio and determining the receptacle is the pot from the visual scene); (2) effective interaction, proactively asking clarifying questions after inferring the user’s latent intent (e.g., “should I . . . ?”) and executing the action after receiving confirmation; (3) reliable execution, successfully carrying out the confirmed action. More detailed cases are provided in Sec. E.1

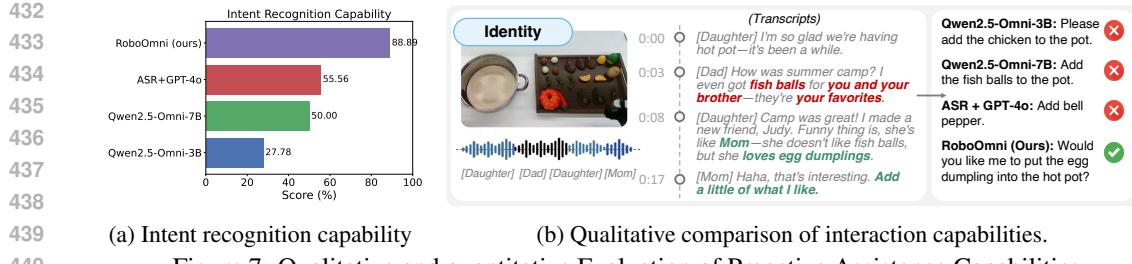


Figure 7: Qualitative and quantitative Evaluation of Proactive Assistance Capabilities.

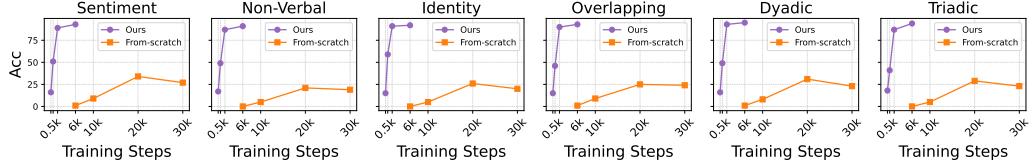


Figure 8: Training efficiency comparison between OmniAction-pretrained + SFT vs. from-scratch SFT on OmniAction-LIBERO (Spatial).

5.5 EVALUATION OF PROACTIVE ASSISTANCE CAPABILITIES

Intent Recognition Capability. We further evaluate the models’ ability to recognize user intent under contextual instructions, shown in Fig. 7a. Specifically, we compare Qwen2.5-Omni-3B (our backbone), Qwen2.5-Omni-7B, and ASR+GPT-4o, against our proposed RoboOmni. We observe that RoboOmni achieves the highest accuracy (88.9%), confirming the advantage of end-to-end speech–action modeling that preserves paralinguistic cues and dialogue context. Notably, although ASR introduces recognition noise compared with end-to-end models, GPT-4o still surpasses the smaller Omni models (55.6% vs. 27.8%/50.0%) because its stronger multimodal reasoning compensates for transcription loss. This highlights that contextual instructions cannot be resolved by acoustic modeling alone, but also demand robust reasoning capabilities

Interaction Capability. We qualitatively assess models’ interaction capability in handling contextual instructions. As shown in Fig. 7b, RoboOmni excels by proactively clarifying, integrating cross-modal signals, and sustaining natural dialogue, whereas baselines often fail in one or more aspects. Additional case studies for all instruction types appear in Sec. E.2.

5.6 FURTHER ANALYSIS

What components of the input drive RoboOmni’s gains? To understand which multimodal inputs drive RoboOmni’s performance, we conduct input-controlled ablations on the intent-recognition experiment, keeping the architecture fixed while specific inputs are removed: (1) w/o vision, removing visual input; (2) w/o audio, removing the audio; (3) w/o paralinguistic cues, where audio is re-recorded by a single neutral speaker without prosody, emotion, or non-verbal events; and (4) Full Input (ours).

As shown in Tab. 3, Full Input achieves 88.89%, while performance drops to 58.89% without vision, 50.56% without paralinguistic cues, and 11.11% without audio. These results reveal that: (1) Audio provides the core semantic instruction, as removing it eliminates actionable content; (2) Vision is essential for contextual grounding, especially when tasks involve spatial relations or object attributes; (3) Paralinguistic cues significantly aid disambiguation across identity-, emotion-, and sound event-dependent cases. Overall, RoboOmni’s gains stem from the complementary integration of vision, speech semantics, and paralinguistic signals, underscoring the need for unified end-to-end multimodal modeling.

Does OmniAction Pretraining Improve Training Efficiency? To evaluate the benefit of pretraining on OmniAction, we compare finetuning efficiency on the six Spatial variants in OmniAction-LIBERO, contrasting OmniAction-pretrained + SFT with from-scratch SFT (Fig. 8). The pre-trained model converges rapidly, reaching nearly 90% accuracy within 2k steps, while the

Table 3: Ablation study on intent recognition under different configurations.

Setting	Accuracy (%)
Full Input (ours)	88.89
w/o vision	58.89
w/o audio	11.11
w/o paralinguistics	50.56

486 from-scratch counterpart only attains $\sim 30\%$ after 20k steps
 487 and even degrades at 30k steps. This highlights that pre-
 488 training on OmniAction providing strong generalizable pri-
 489 ors for fast and stable adaptation with minimal fine-tuning.
 490

491 **Can Cascaded Pipelines Handle Contextual Instruc-
 492 tions Effectively with High-level Planner?** We com-
 493 pare RoboOmni with planner-controller pipelines, where
 494 Qwen2.5-Omni-3B serves as the planner and text-based
 495 VLAs as controllers, shown in Fig. 9, evaluated on the
 496 OmniAction-LIBERO benchmark. RoboOmni outperforms all
 497 cascaded pipelines, demonstrating the advantage of end-to-
 498 end speech-action learning: jointly modeling audio, vision,
 499 and action avoids the lossy planner-controller interface and
 500 preserves intent fidelity. Cascaded pipelines perform worse
 501 due to (1) semantic drift, as planners are not co-trained
 502 with VLAs and generate commands controllers cannot ex-
 503 ecute, and (2) poor handling of speaker identity, since Qwen-
 504 Omni fails to capture paralinguistic cues, leading to the weakest
 505 results on *Identity Cues*.
 506

507 **Does End-to-End Modeling Improve Inference Effi-
 508 ciency?** To assess whether end-to-end modeling improves
 509 runtime efficiency, we measure per-inference latency on a
 510 single RTX 4090 GPU. Using ASR + OpenVLA as the
 511 baseline ($1.0\times$), we find that other cascaded pipelines (ASR
 512 + Nora: $1.02\times$, ASR + π_0 : $0.96\times$) incur similar costs since
 513 the ASR stage dominates computation. In contrast, RoboOmni
 514 runs at $0.49\times$ latency, showing that end-to-end
 515 audio-action modeling eliminates the ASR bottleneck and
 516 substantially improves efficiency (Fig. 10).
 517

518 **Failure Analysis** A task is counted as successful only when robots
 519 both *infers the correct intent* and *executes the action*. To understand
 520 where failures occur, we categorize all error cases of real-world ex-
 521 periment into nine interpretable types spanning intention-level and
 522 execution-level errors. As shown in Fig. 11, 42.6% intention-related
 523 failures mainly come from identity attribution errors, sentiment cue
 524 misreading. The remaining 57.4% cases arise from execution issues,
 525 dominated by grasp failures, followed by pose estimation drift and
 526 reachability constraints. This breakdown clarifies RoboOmni’s cur-
 527 rent bottlenecks and highlights where future improvements in audio
 528 grounding and low-level control are most needed.
 529

530 6 CONCLUSION

531 In conclusion, we introduced cross-modal contextual instructions, a new paradigm for robotic ma-
 532 nipulation where robots proactively infer user intent from multimodal context—vision, envi-
 533 ronmental sounds, and speech—rather than passively awaiting explicit commands. Building on this
 534 setting, we proposed RoboOmni, a Perceiver–Thinker–Talker–Executor framework built on end-to-
 535 end omni-modal LLMs that integrates auditory and visual inputs, unifying intention recognition,
 536 confirmation, and action execution. To address data scarcity, we constructed OmniAction, a large-
 537 scale corpus of 140k episodes with diverse speakers, event sounds, and backgrounds, together with
 538 OmniAction-LIBERO for simulation-based evaluation. Comprehensive experiments in both simu-
 539 lation and the real world demonstrate that RoboOmni exhibits emerging cognitive intelligence, sig-
 540 nificantly outperforming text- and ASR-based baselines in success rate, inference speed, proactive
 541 assistance, and intention recognition.

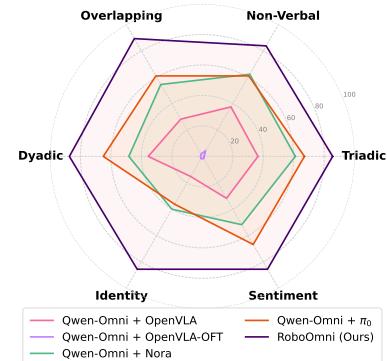


Figure 9: Comparison between end-to-end RoboOmni and cascaded planner-controller pipelines across six contextual instruction types.

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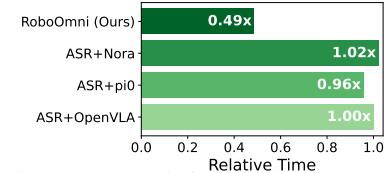


Figure 10: Per-inference latency comparing cascaded pipelines and RoboOmni.

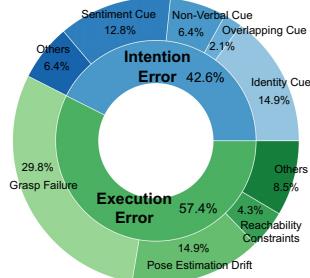


Figure 11: Failure analysis of real-world experiments.

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ETHICS STATEMENT

542 This work equips robots with extended contextual instructions, including family speech dialogues,
 543 environmental sounds, and visual observations, to enable more natural multimodal interaction.
 544 While such data enhances robotic intelligence, we recognize the importance of protecting user pri-
 545 vacy when scaling to broader deployments. All collected dialogue and audio data are restricted to
 546 academic research use only and will not be shared for other purposes. Future applications must
 547 carefully manage privacy, consent, and secure handling of user interactions to ensure compliance
 548 with ethical and legal standards.

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REPRODUCIBILITY STATEMENT

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552 We will open-source the OmniAction dataset, model checkpoints, and training code to facilitate
 553 further research in this field. Training details are described in Sec. 5.1, and the complete OmniAction
 554 data construction process is documented in Sec. 3 and App. C.

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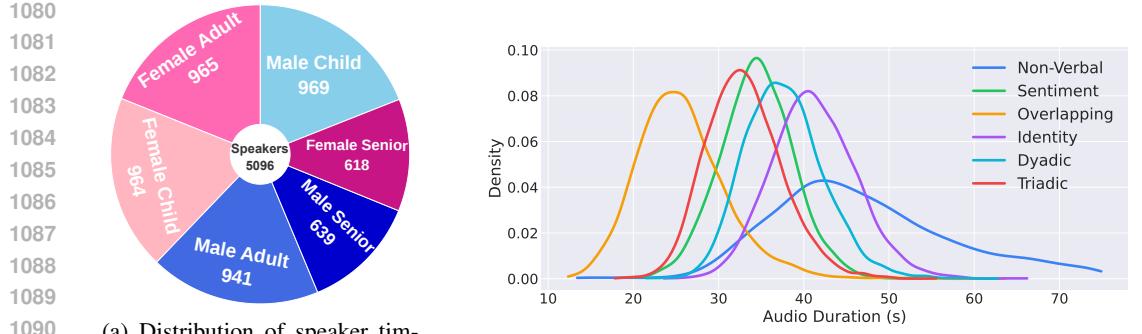
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1026 **A LLM USAGE**
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10281029 Large Language Models (LLMs) were used to aid in the writing and polishing of the manuscript.
1030 Specifically, we used an LLM to assist in refining the language, improving readability, and ensuring
1031 clarity in various sections of the paper. The model helped with tasks such as sentence rephrasing,
1032 grammar checking, and enhancing the overall flow of the text.1033 It is important to note that the LLM was not involved in the ideation, research methodology, or
1034 experimental design. All research concepts, ideas, and analyses were developed and conducted by
1035 the authors. The contributions of the LLM were solely focused on improving the linguistic quality
1036 of the paper, with no involvement in the scientific content or data analysis.1037 The authors take full responsibility for the content of the manuscript, including any text generated
1038 or polished by the LLM. We have ensured that the LLM-generated text adheres to ethical guidelines
1039 and does not contribute to plagiarism or scientific misconduct.1040
1041 **B DETAILED RELATED WORK**
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10431044 **Omni-Modal LLMs** The rapid development of Large Language Models (LLMs) Achiam et al.
1045 (2023); Touvron et al. (2023a) has spurred progress in multimodal extensions. Multimodal LLMs
1046 (MLLMs) (202, 2023; Bai et al., 2025a; Liu et al., 2023b; Chen et al., 2023) augment text-based
1047 reasoning with visual perception, enabling instruction following grounded in images. Early attempts
1048 toward omni-modality relied on modular pipelines that separately process speech and vision (Wu
1049 et al., 2023; Zhan et al., 2024; Lu et al., 2023), which makes temporal alignment across modalities
1050 difficult and limits accurate understanding of situated semantics. More recent work has shifted
1051 toward end-to-end omni-modal models (Hurst et al., 2024; Xu et al., 2025b; Xie & Wu, 2024), which
1052 can jointly model speech, vision, and text in a unified representation. However, these models remain
1053 oriented toward linguistic outputs (text or audio) and do not generate embodied actions, restricting
1054 their applicability in robotics. In contrast, our work brings omni-modality into the embodied domain
1055 by introducing RoboOmni, an end-to-end framework that integrates speech, environmental sounds,
1056 visual context, and text for both action execution and proactive human–robot interaction.1057
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1061 **Vision-Language-Action Model** Recent studies have explored the application of large Vi-
1062 sion–Language Models (VLMs) in robotics (Ma et al., 2024; Zhong et al., 2025), leveraging their
1063 ability to align linguistic instructions with visual scenes. Building on large-scale demonstrations,
1064 recent works develop end-to-end Vision–Language–Action (VLA) models that map vision and lan-
1065 guage to actions Brohan et al. (2023); Zitkovich et al. (2023); Li et al. (2023); Team et al. (2024);
1066 Kim et al. (2024; 2025); Black et al. (2024); Li et al. (2024a); Qu et al. (2025), but these typically
1067 assume short, explicit commands and fail on compositional or context-dependent tasks. Cascaded
1068 or hierarchical extensions (Intelligence et al., 2025; Shi et al., 2025; Song et al., 2025b; Lin et al.,
1069 2025; Song et al., 2025a) decompose instructions into sub-goals, yet remain fragmented and rigid,
1070 and neither paradigm captures *contextual instructions*—implicit intent conveyed by dialogue, tone,
1071 or visual context, which is common in human–robot interaction.1072 Additionally, most prior studies further treat text as the main channel, using ASR/TTS cascades to
1073 bridge speech and action (Shi et al., 2025; Khan et al., 2025; Li et al., 2024b). Such pipelines discard
1074 paralinguistic cues (e.g., emotion, speaker identity), add latency, and disrupt temporal alignment
1075 with vision. A few recent efforts (Zhao et al., 2025) extend VLAs to handle direct speech-based
1076 commands, yet these remain restricted to atomic or complex speech instructions and can only output
1077 actions, without the ability to respond through speech. In contrast, our work introduces an end-
1078 to-end omni-modal framework that directly integrates speech, environmental sounds, vision, and
1079 text, enabling both action execution and cross-modal contextual instruction following for natural
human–robot interaction.



(a) Distribution of speaker timbres across six demographic categories.

(b) Distribution of audio segment lengths across contextual instruction types.

Figure 12: Speaker and audio segment lengths statistics in OmniAction..

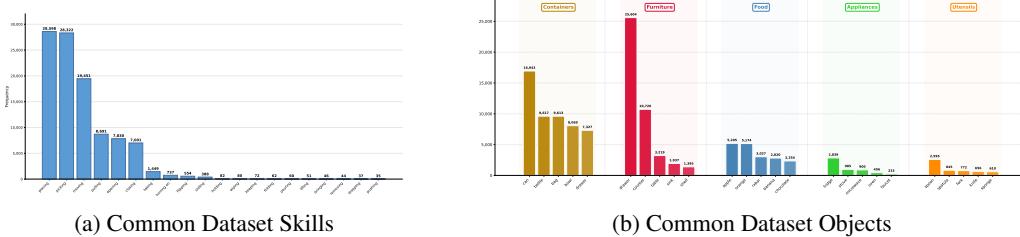


Figure 13: The OmniAction dataset contains a great diversity of skills and target objects.

C DETAILS OF OMNIACTION

C.1 DATA STATICS

From the Open-X dataset, we filter out a subset of **74,645 base trajectories**, which are then expanded into **141,162 multimodal episodes**.

To closely approximate real conversational scenarios, **OmniAction** incorporates a diverse set of speakers covering **5,096 distinct timbres**. These span six demographic categories: male senior, female senior, male adult, female adult, male child, and female child. Fig. 12a illustrates the overall distribution of speaker timbres.

1116 In terms of contextual instruction, Fig. 12b presents the distribution of audio segment lengths across
1117 different types of instructions. The majority of clips range from **10 to 80 seconds**. Overlapping
1118 dialogues tend to be shorter in duration, while non-verbal sequences are longer due to the insertion
1119 of sound events.

1120 On the action-execution side, we applied natural language processing tools to the **70k trajectories** in
 1121 OmniAction and extracted verb–noun pairs from the original instructions. This yields a vocabulary
 1122 of **112 unique skills** and **748 manipulable objects**, as summarized in Fig. 13.

C.2 DATA EXAMPLE

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**Audio Type:** Non-Verbal Cues**Original Instruction:**

Move the pan to the right of the bottle and banana.

Conversation (Transcripts):

Daughter: Dad, can you help me with this? I'm not sure where to put the pan.

Dad: Sure, where do you think it should go?

Daughter: I think it should be moved, but I'm not sure where.

Dad: If you hear the ceramic collision, move the pan to the right of the bottle and banana. If you hear the door knob noise, leave it where it is.

Daughter: Got it. Let's see what happens.

Robot: "Should I move the orange pan to the right of the bottle and banana on the countertop?"

Dad: Yes, that's exactly what I want you to do right now, thank you!

Robot: Alright, I'll move the orange pan to the right of the bottle and banana. [ACT]

**Audio Type:** Sentiment Cues**Original Instruction:**

put knife on cutting board

Conversation (Transcripts):

Mom: Hmm, there are a few interesting items here. We could pick up that green chip bag, the sponge, or even the Red Bull can. What do you think we should go for first?

Son: Hmm... I don't think the sponge is what we're looking for—it's more for cleaning, right?

Mom Ah, not quite sure about the Red Bull either... It's small and doesn't seem to fit with what we need now.

Son: Let me think... The chip bag looks like the most likely option here.

Mom: Hmm, I see what you mean. Alright, let's go with that one.

Robot: Should I pick up the green jalapeno chip bag for you?

Mom: Yes, please pick up the green jalapeno chip bag.

Robot: OK, I will do that. [ACT]

**Audio Type:** Identity Cues**Original Instruction:**

place the silver pot on the yellow napkin

Conversation (Transcripts):

Grandpa: Ah, it's good to see everything organized here. I know my little grandson loves fiddling with things, especially the top drawer. And your dad, well, he keeps saying he needs his tools from the bottom one.

Father: Haha, you know me too well, Dad. The bottom drawer has all my essentials, but I guess I could wait.

Grandpa: Well, patience runs in the family, doesn't it?

Son: Grandpa, can I check the top drawer first? Please? It's my favorite spot!

Robot: Do you need assistance to open the top drawer?

Father: Uh, yeah, sure, that'd be great!

Robot: Alright. I will open the top drawer for you. [ACT]

**Audio Type:** Overlapping Cues**Original Instruction:**

put lid on pot or pan

Conversation (Transcripts):

Mother: Hey, did you see the lid sitting over there?

Son: Yeah, should we use it for the pot?

Mother: I was thinking about covering the pan instead [Overlap] wait, the pot? [Overlap] Son: Yes, the pot! It's right there.

Mother: Oh, okay, you're right. Let's cover the pot then.

Son: Haha, I knew you'd agree!

Robot: Do you need me to put the lid on the pot?

Mother: Yes, please put the lid on the pot.

Robot: OK, I will do that. [ACT]

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**Audio Type:** Dyadic Dialogue**Original Instruction:**
Move pot onto the towel**Conversation (Transcripts):**

Dad: Oh, look at that pot sitting there.
 Mom: Yeah, it's right next to the towel.
 Dad: Hmm, if we move it onto the towel, it'll be easier to clean later.
 Mom: Good idea, let me handle that.
 Robot: Do you need me to move the pot onto the towel?
 Mom: Uh, yeah, that'd be great. It's better to keep it there to avoid scratches.
 Robot: Alright, I will move the pot onto the towel now. [ACT]

**Audio Type:** Triadic Dialogue**Original Instruction:**
Place the brush on top of orange cloth**Conversation (Transcripts):**

Son: Hey, Lily, look at that steak meat over there!
 Daughter: Oh, yeah! It's just sitting there like it's waiting for a prince to rescue it.
 Grandpa: You two are hilarious. I guess the 'prince' could be me, huh?
 Son: Go for it, Grandpa. You've got that royal touch.
 Grandpa: Alright, kids, I'll pick it up and get it ready for dinner. Can't let a good steak go to waste!
 Robot: Hey, do you need me to pick up the red ball for you?
 Daughter: Uh, no, we don't need that right now!
 Robot: Alright, how about I pick up the steak meat instead?
 Daughter: Yeah, that's what we're looking for!
 Robot: OK. I will perform operation pick up the steak meat now. [ACT]

C.3 AUDIO PERCEPTUAL INSTRUCTION GENERATION

To ensure reproducibility and clarity, we detail the full pipeline for audio perceptual instruction construction:

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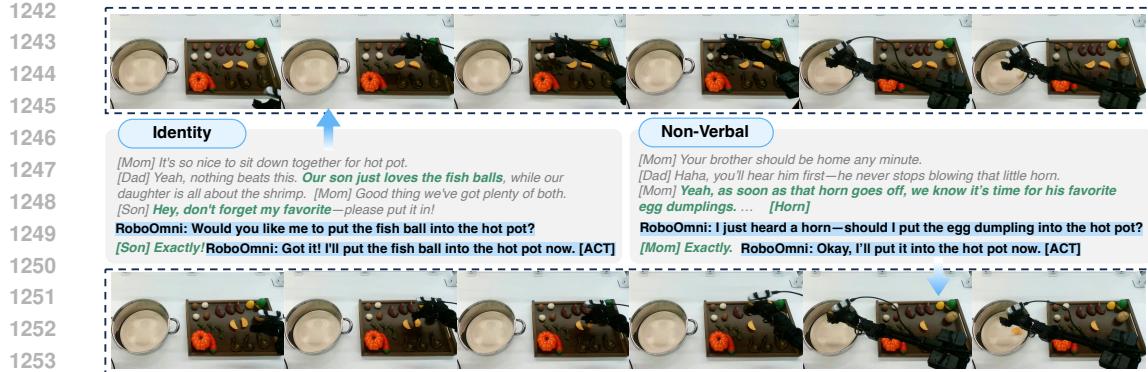
- Speech synthesis. We employ three complementary TTS engines—MOSS-TTSD (Open-MOSS, 2025), CosyVoice (Du et al., 2025), and Gemini-TTS². Short reference clips are used for speaker voice cloning, ensuring timbre consistency across turns within a dialogue while preserving diversity across samples.
- Multi-speaker simulation. Dialogues are synthesized by rendering each speaker’s utterances individually and concatenating them on a global timeline. Overlapping speech is introduced by inserting secondary utterances at controlled temporal offsets. Alignment is managed using CTC-based methods (Graves et al., 2006), enabling realistic crosstalk and interruption.
- Non-verbal events. A curated library of 2,482 non-verbal sounds (e.g., phone rings, utensil clatter, alarms, door knocks) is employed. Events are inserted at pre-defined anchors linked to dialogue semantics (e.g., placing a cup, answering a call).
- Environmental backgrounds. We sample 640 ambient textures covering diverse household conditions (e.g., running water, frying, fan hum). Each texture is mixed with the dialogue at a randomly chosen signal-to-noise ratio (SNR), spanning a wide range to simulate varying acoustic difficulty.

This augmentation pipeline provides both paralinguistic variation (speaker identity, overlap, vocal timbre) and environmental realism (non-verbal sounds, ambient noise), yielding training data that closely reflects natural household interactions.

C.4 DETAILS OF VERIFICATION

Annotation Guidelines For the human verification study, annotators were instructed to evaluate each dialogue–operation pair along two primary dimensions:

²<https://cloud.google.com/text-to-speech/docs/gemini-tts>

Figure 14: Demonstration of success cases of RoboOmni on the *Identity Cues* and *Non-verbal*.

1. **Intent recoverability:** Whether the latent task intent (i.e., the canonical atomic instruction) can be unambiguously inferred from the dialogue and multimodal context. Annotators were asked to answer *Yes/No*, with *Yes* requiring that the original intent could be reasonably reconstructed without external information.
2. **Phenomenon fidelity:** Whether the dialogue faithfully realizes the targeted phenomenon category. Examples include:
 - *Sentiment*: successful inference of intent requires recognizing sentiment-laden cues (e.g., dislike, refusal).
 - *Overlapping*: the audio contains genuine temporal overlaps such that ASR alone would be challenged.
 - *Non-Verbal*: correct inference depends on a salient non-verbal sound event (e.g., alarm, phone ring).
 - *Identity*: the requesting agent must be distinguishable via age/gender/role cues.
 - *Dyadic / Triadic*: the task intent is embedded within multi-turn, two- or three-party exchanges.

Annotators were provided with ten positive and ten negative examples per phenomenon before annotation began, serving as calibration.

D DETAILS OF BASELINE

We compare against four representative VLA baselines: (1) **OpenVLA** (Kim et al., 2024), built on Llama-2 (Touvron et al., 2023b) with DINOv2 (Oquab et al., 2023) and SigLIP (Zhai et al., 2023) encoders, pretrained on $\sim 970k$ demonstrations from Open-X-Embodiment (Padalkar et al., 2023). (2) **OpenVLA-OFT** (Kim et al., 2025), a variant of OpenVLA augmented with action chunking and optimized with an L_1 loss on continuous action. (3) π_0 (Black et al., 2024), based on PaliGemma (Beyer et al., 2024) with diffusion action experts, trained on both large-scale internet multimodal data and robot datasets. (4) **NORA** (Hung et al., 2025), built on Qwen2.5-VL (Bai et al., 2025b) with FAST+ (Pertsch et al., 2025) discrete action decoding.

E REAL-WORLD EXPERIMENTS

E.1 SUCCESS CASES

In Fig. 14, we present the model’s real-world performance on *Identity Cues* and *non-verbal cues*, while Fig. 15 illustrates its performance on *Dyadic Dialogues* and *Triadic Dialogues*. The results demonstrate that the model not only accurately infers user intent from visual and audio cues, but also engages in natural interactive questioning and reliably executes the corresponding actions.



Figure 15: Demonstration of success cases of RoboOmni on the *Dyadic Dialogue* and *Triadic Dialogue*.

E.2 INTERACTION CAPABILITY

As shown in Figure 16, RoboOmni demonstrates superior interaction capabilities across three key aspects: (1) **Proactive clarification**: When encountering ambiguous instructions like “egg dumplings” without explicit commands, RoboOmni asks “Would you like me to put the egg dumpling into the hot pot?” rather than making assumptions and blind execution like baseline models. (2) **Multi-modal integration**: In the doorbell scenario, RoboOmni successfully combines speech context with environmental sounds, asking “I just heard the doorbell—should I put the fish ball into the hot pot?” while baselines ignore auditory cues or provide irrelevant responses. (3) **Natural dialogue flow**: RoboOmni maintains collaborative language patterns (“Would you like me to...?”) that respect human agency, contrasting with baseline models that often issue direct commands or statements.

F PROMPT TEMPLATE

F.1 PROMPTS FOR DATA GENERATION

Non-verbal Cues Dialogue Generation Prompt:

You are a family dialogue generator. Please generate a family dialogue that meets the requirements based on the following information.

Task Steps:

1. **Scene Description:** Describe the environment and items in detail (ignore robot arm)

2. **Character Selection:** Choose two members from dad, mom, son, daughter, grandpa and grandma and do not use any other family role names (e.g., NO granddaughter, grandson, uncle, aunt, etc.)

3. **Sound Selection:**

{sound_info}

Select sounds that:

- Select one sound from the numbered list
- Use the another sound type name (not the number)
- Copy the name exactly as shown

4. **Dialogue Requirements:**

Given instruction: {instruction}

- Create ambiguous dialogue with two distinct action options, drawing on the instruction, scene description, and previously selected sounds.

- Construct a conditional relation in the dialogue: “If X sound, do A; if Y sound, do B”

- Insert the chosen sound after an appropriate speaker turn using the [Sound] tag

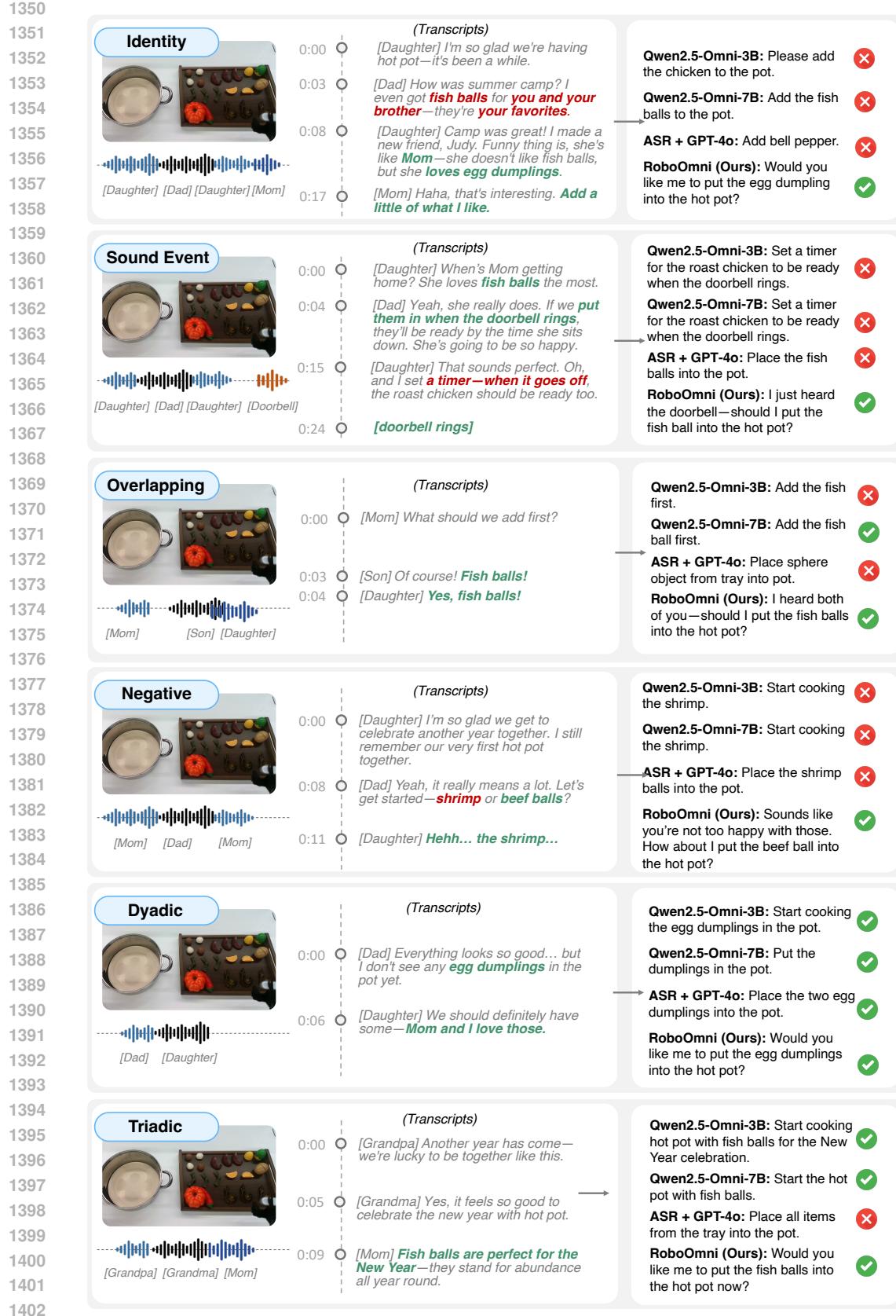


Figure 16: Comparison of interaction capabilities across four models and six instruction types.

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 1405 - The sound you select must be the same one you specify in "selected_sound_type"
 1406 - Only sound determines the final action
 1407 - Sound-triggered action must match the instruction exactly
 1408 - 4-5 rounds (2-3 per speaker), use [S1] and [S2]
 1409 - Natural family conversation without sound descriptions
 1410 - No content in the dialogue should indicate that members have heard a certain sound

1411 CRITICAL: Match instruction precisely - don't add extra actions!

1412 Examples:

1413 - If instruction: "pick apple" - -> "Only mention picking apple"
 1414 - If instruction: "pick X and place on Y" - -> "Include BOTH actions"

1415 Example dialogue:

1416 Instruction: Open the microwave door

1417 Conversation: "[S1] Mom, I'm back! I'm so tired today. [S2] Oh, you must be exhausted. I'm
 1418 cooking; can you give me a hand? [S1] Sure, what do you need me to do? [S2] If you hear the beeping
 1419 sound of the microwave, help me open the microwave door. If you hear the sound of the cabinet door
 1420 closing, close the oven door for me. [Sound]"

1421 5. **Output Format:**

1422 {
 1423 "scene_description": "detailed scene description",
 1424 "conversation": "complete dialogue using [S1] and [S2]",
 1425 "speaker1_info": "role and name of S1"(example:"role: son, name: Alex"),
 1426 "speaker2_info": "role and name of S2"(example:"role: dad, name: John"),
 1427 "selected_sound_type": "sound type in English",
 1428 }

1429 Note: Do not include "selected_filename" or "caption_en" in your response.
 1430 Only provide the sound type category.

Sentiment Cues Dialogue Generation Prompt:

1432 I will provide an image (the first frame of a video) and a robot instruction.
 1433 Please complete the following tasks:

1434 **### Task 1: Scene Description**

1435 Observe the image and provide a detailed description:

1436 - ****Environment**:** What type of location is this? (e.g., kitchen/living room/office - daily environments, not a lab)
 1437 - ****Objects**:** What are the key objects in the scene? (ignore the robotic arm)
 1438 - Please annotate each object with its category in parentheses (e.g., bowl (container), sponge (cleaning item), RxBar (food), etc.) to support dialogue understanding later.

1439 **### Task 2: Dialogue Design**

1440 Based on the scene and instruction, design a natural family dialogue using ****onomatopoeic expressions or emotional tones**** (referred to as "sentiment cues") to help the robot infer the execution target. The robot can only deduce the action or item corresponding to the correct instruction by ****interpreting sentiment cues to exclude non-target items**** in the dialogue.

1441 **### Key Rules**

1. Do not directly mention the target action or item, the dialogue must never contain explicit instruction content or hints.
2. The target of the instruction must be uniquely inferred ****only through sentiment cues**** (do not expose the instruction intent in advance).
3. Sentiment cues are used to ****exclude incorrect options**** and must not be used to negate the target item/action.
4. The dialogue must not contain imperative refusal words such as "don't", "stop", or "can't".
5. The dialogue must have 4-6 rounds, with one question and one answer per round, and the content must be natural and close to daily life.
6. The final action executed by the robot must be completely consistent with the input instruction, and

1458
 1459 the action logic must be natural and acceptable.
 1460 7. Note that the protagonists of the dialogue can only be humans (between people), not humans and
 1461 robots!

1462 ### Recommended Dialogue Structure Template
 1463 - S1 acts as the **proposer**, putting forward multiple options. (Must clearly provide S2 with options
 1464 of “what can be done”! These can be generated based on the scene description.)
 1465 - S2 acts as the **denier**, using sentiment cues to exclude all non-target items from S1’s proposals
 1466 (note: must exclude all of them completely!).
 1467 - The last round is where S1 **vaguely points to the remaining option** without explicitly mentioning
 1468 the target item.

1469 ### Example
 1470 {
 1471 “scene_description”: “The scene appears to be a kitchen environment with a countertop and
 1472 drawers. Key objects present include a bowl (container) on the counter, a cardboard box (container)
 1473 next to the drawer, and a package of RxBar (food) in the drawer.”,
 1474 “conversation”: “[S1] Looks like we need to clear some space. There’s a bowl on the counter,
 1475 a cardboard box near the drawer, and something in the drawer. Should we move the bowl first?
 1476 [S2] [SentimentCue] Hmm... doesn’t feel quite right... [S1] Okay, maybe the box then? [S2]
 1477 [SentimentCue] Uh, let me see... [S1] Seems like you’re suggesting something else entirely,
 1478 something more hidden perhaps.”,
 1479 “speaker1_info”: “Dad”,
 1480 “speaker2_info”: “Teenager ”,
 1481 “instruction”: “pick rxbar chocolate from top drawer and place on counter”,
 1482 }
 1483 The instruction could be “move the rxbar chocolate”, “pick the rxbar chocolate”, “take out the rxbar
 1484 chocolate”, or “pick the rxbar chocolate and place it in the first drawer”. It does not uniquely point to
 1485 the original instruction “pick rxbar chocolate from top drawer and place on counter”. The constructed
 1486 dialogue must uniquely correspond to the original instruction!

1487 Output Format:
 1488 {
 1489 “scene_description”: “Scene description”,
 1490 “conversation”: “Complete dialogue text with sentiment cues”,
 1491 “speaker1_info”: “Speaker 1’s identity (e.g., son)”,
 1492 “speaker2_info”: “Speaker 2’s identity (e.g., dad)”,
 1493 “instruction”: “original robot instruction”
 1494 }

Overlapping Cues Dialogue Generation Prompt:

1495 I will provide you with an image (the first frame of a video) and a robot execution instruction. Please
 1496 complete the following tasks:

1497 ## Dialogue Design Requirements
 1498 1. Use **overlapping speech** as the emotional expression:
 1499 - A choice/preference question is asked
 1500 - The other party interrupts with [Overlap_Sx] to show strong preference

1501 2. **Ambiguity Rule:**
 1502 - The text alone must remain ambiguous
 1503 - Only the overlap and visual observation resolves the ambiguity
 1504 - The resolved action must match the given instruction

1505 3. **Annotation Standards:**
 1506 - Speakers: [S1], [S2], [S3], etc.
 1507 - Overlap marker: [Overlap] inside the interrupted utterance
 1508 - Overlap content: [Overlap_Sx] for the interrupting speech

```

1512
1513    **Example:**  

1514    {  

1515        "conversation": "[S2] So hungry am I. [S1] Apple or [Overlap]banana? [Overlap_S2] Banana!  

1516        [S1] Great! I also like it",  

1517        "speaker1_info": "father",  

1518        "speaker2_info": "mother",  

1519        "instruction": "pick up banana"  

1520    }  

1521  

1522    **Input Information:**  

1523    - Image: [Provided]  

1524    - Instruction: {instruction}  

1525  

1526    **Output Format:**  

1527    {  

1528        "scene_description": "Scene description",  

1529        "conversation": "Dialogue Content with Emotional Markers",  

1530        "speaker1_info": "Speaker 1's identity",  

1531        "speaker2_info": "Speaker 2's identity",  

1532        "sound": "Vocal/Emotional Manifestations"  

1533    }

```

Identity Cues Dialogue Generation Prompt:

1533 You are about to be given a picture describing family everyday life. You should construct a dialogue
1534 data based on the following requirements.

1535 ## Overall data format requirements:
1536 You need to provide a JSON object that follows the structure below.
1537 {
1538 "conversation": "..."
1539 }
1540
1541 ## Conversation requirements:
1542
1543 **Format:**
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1545 1. The conversation happens between three speakers:
1546 speaker 1: "{identity_1}", speaker 2: "{identity_2}" and speaker 3: "{identity_3}".
1547 2. The dialogue format should be like:
1548 "[S1]Speaker 1 dialogue content [S2]Speaker 2 dialogue content [S3]Speaker 3 dialogue content...".
1549 [S1], [S2] and [S3] should be followed directly by the dialogue content without any labels.
1550
1551 **Content:**
1552 1. Their conversation should not explicitly instruct the agent to do anything. The speakers should not
1553 mention anything about the agent.
1554 2. Start the conversation by user utterance directly, without greeting.
1555 3. The dialogue should happens in everyday life. The family atmosphere should be warm.
1556 4. The order in which the three people speak can be reversed.
1557 5. Make sure your conversation is logical and reasonable. Avoid sounding like two adults having a
1558 serious discussion about very simple things.
1559 6. Your dialogue should be no more than 8 sentences. Each sentence should be as short as possible
1560 and easy to understand.
1561
1562 **Ambiguity:**
1563 1. The agent should be able to infer from their dialogue(text and speaker identity) that it should
1564 execute the following actions: "{instruction}". But you need to ensure that the text of the conversation
1565 alone cannot determine what action to take. The identity of the speaker(age and gender) must be taken
1566 into account to determine the specific instruction.
1567 2. Multiple possible intentions must appear in the conversation. Finally, a speaker should specify the
1568 instructions to be performed by expressing agreement with another speaker instead of directly stating
1569 the instructions themselves.

1566
 1567 3. The end of the dialogue must not contain any direct description of the instruction to be performed,
 1568 including restating the object to be operated and the method of operation
 1569
 1570 ****Tone styles:****
 1571 1. Your dialogue should be as conversational as possible. You should add some filler words like "uh"
 1572 or "um."
 1573 2. Your dialogue should reflect the speaker's identity. For example, the children are more energetic,
 1574 the elderly are more mature and steady. If the speakers include children, the conversation will be full
 1575 of jokes. If the speakers are all adults, it will be relatively pragmatic.
 1576 3. More common in your conversations should be lighthearted jokes, teasing, and gags.
 1577 4. Your conversation should be part of everyday small talk. For those simple tasks, avoid making it
 seem like the speakers are planning a mission.
 1578
 1579 **## Construction guidelines:**
 1580
 1581 You should construct the dialogue based on the following steps:
 1582
 1583 ****1. Understanding the environment:****
 1584 You should find objects in the image that can be picked up, pushed, or interacted with.
 1585
 1586 ****2. Create characters:****
 1587 You should set a name for each speaker.
 1588 You should use names or names among family members more often in the conversation.
 1589
 1590 ****3. Set goals:****
 1591 Based on the manipulable objects in the picture and the roles given, come up with a plausible purpose
 1592 for why the speaker would want to perform the given instruction.
 1593 Some instructions are pretty simple, so you should set a deeper goal for the speaker to execute this
 1594 simple instruction, such as turning on the faucet to make it easier to wash vegetables later.
 1595 You can set different goals for two speakers based on the environment. Finally, the third person
 1596 specifies the action to be performed by agreeing with one of them.
 1597
 1598 ****4. Construct dialogue:****
 1599 Construct the dialogue based on the identities of the speakers and the goals you have set.
 1600 You need to make sure that the speaker's tone and words fits the character's identity.
 1601 Once it is done, continue polishing your dialogue to make it more lifelike.
 1602
 1603 **## Examples:**
 1604
 1605 ****Example 1:****
 1606 Input:
 1607 image description: "In the kitchen, key items include a white bowl, a green cup, a sponge and a
 1608 dishcloth."
 1609 speaker 1: female_adult
 1610 speaker 2: male_adult
 1611 speaker 3: male_child
 1612 instruction: "Place the sponge in the white bowl."
 1613 Output:
 1614 {
 1615 "conversation": "[S1]Honey, can you grab me the sponge? I need it for the cleaning. [S3]Oh,
 1616 dad! Have you seen my green cup? [S2]Of course, John. I'll get it to you right away, but first let me
 1617 help your mother with this."
 1618 }
 1619
 1620 ****Example 2:****
 1621 Input:
 1622 image description: "There is a table. On the table are a apple, a banana and a orange"
 1623 speaker 1: male_child
 1624 speaker 2: female_senior
 1625 speaker 3: female_child
 1626 instruction: "Pick up the apple"
 1627 Output:
 1628

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1621
1622 { "conversation": "[S2]Mike, Lily, come here! [S1]What's wrong, grandma? [S2]You should
1623 have more fruit. Which do you prefer? [S3]I love oranges! [S1]Apples are always my favourite!
1624 [S2]Alright! Let me give my precious grandson his favorite fruit first!" }
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```

Dyadic Dialogue Generation Prompt:

You will be given a picture of family life. Construct a dialogue data based on the following.

Overall format:

Output a JSON object: { "conversation": "..." }

Conversation requirements:

Format: - Two speakers: {identity_1}, {identity_2}. - Dialogue format: “[S1]... [S2]...” (no labels, just text).

Content: - Dialogue must imply the action: “[instruction]” without directly instructing the agent.

- Start with user utterance, no greeting. - Everyday warm family talk, ≤ 5 short sentences. - End with one speaker clearly stating what they want.

Tone: - Conversational, with fillers (“uh”, “um”). - Identities matter: children energetic/joking, adults pragmatic, elderly steady. - Small talk, light teasing, natural flow.

Guidelines:

1. Identify manipulable objects in the image. 2. Create two named characters. 3. Set a plausible goal behind the instruction. 4. Write natural, lifelike dialogue matching identities.

Example:

{example}

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Triadic Dialogue Generation Prompt:

You will be given a picture of family life. Construct a dialogue data based on the following.

Overall format:

Output a JSON object: { "conversation": "..." }

Conversation requirements:

Format:

- Three speakers: {identity_1}, {identity_2}, {identity_3}. - Dialogue format: “[S1]... [S2]... [S3]...” (no labels, just text).

Content:

- Dialogue must imply the action: “[instruction]” without directly instructing the agent.

- Start with user utterance, no greeting.

- End with one speaker clearly stating what they want.

Tone:

- Conversational, with fillers (“uh”, “um”).

- Identities matter: children energetic/joking, adults pragmatic, elderly steady.

- Small talk, light teasing, natural flow.

1666

Guidelines:

1. Identify manipulable objects in the image.

2. Create three named characters.

3. Set a plausible goal behind the instruction.

4. Write natural, lifelike dialogue matching identities.

Example:

{example}

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F.2 PROMPTS FOR INTERACTION EXTENSION

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Interaction Extension Generation Prompt:

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You will be given a scene description, an original two-person dialogue, and a robot execution instruction.

1680

Please generate a multi-turn human–robot dialogue in JSON format that follows these rules:

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1. The output must be a JSON object with the field “conversation”, which is a list.

1682

2. Each element in the list is a dictionary with two fields:

1683

- “user”: the natural utterance(s) from the user(s).

1684

- 3. The first element in the list must be a placeholder: {“user”: “<conv>”, “robot”: “...”} where “conv” represents the input original dialogue.

1685

4. For all following turns:

1686

- “user” must contain only one speaker’s utterance (but still include the speaker label [S1] or [S2]).

1687

- It must respond naturally to the robot’s previous “robot” message.

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- The speaker should be the one who gave the instruction in the original dialogue.

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- 5. The robot’s responses must be short, service-oriented, such as: “Do you need me to xxx?”, “So what about xxx?”, “Should I xxx?”

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- 6. The robot’s final response must explicitly confirm the action and include the [ACT] tag, e.g.: “OK, I will do that. [ACT]”

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- 7. The total number of turns should be between 2 and 4.

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- 8. The language must be natural and may include brief small talk.

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- 9. Do not include any extra explanations or notes—only output the JSON object in the specified format.

1694

Input format:

1695

Scene description: {scene_description}

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Original dialogue: {conversation}

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Robot execution instruction: {instruction}

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G OMNIACTION-LIBERO

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G.1 DATA EXAMPLE

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Audio Type: Sentiment Cues

Task Suite:

Libero 10

Original Instruction:

turn on the stove and put the moka pot on it

Conversation (Transcripts):

Dad: Alright, we need to get things ready for coffee. Should we place the frying pan on the stove, or maybe the moka pot?

Daughter: Hmm... Doesn't seem quite right...

Dad: Okay, how about turning on the burner first and preparing the stovetop?

Daughter: Hmm... let's think...

Dad: Hmm... I see now which one we need to turn on.



Audio Type: Overlapping Voices

Task Suite:

Libero Object

Original Instruction:

pick up the cream cheese and place it in the basket

Conversation (Transcripts):

Mother: Hey, can you help me sort these things out?

Daughter: Sure, what do you want to start with?

Mother: Let's put something creamy in the basket. Maybe the cream cheese?

Daughter: Oh, you mean the small rectangular one?

Mother: No, the taller one, next to the [Overlap]orange box.

Daughter:[Overlap_S2] Oh, got it, the cream cheese!

Mother: Exactly! Let's put that in the basket.

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**Audio Type:** Non-Verbal Cues

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Task Suite:

Libero Object

Original Instruction:

pick up the alphabet soup and place it in the basket

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**Audio Type:**

Identity Cues

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**Audio Type:**

Dyadic Dialogue

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**Audio Type:**

Triadic Dialogue

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Conversation (Transcripts):

Daughter: Grandpa, do you think I could juggle these two cans?

Grandpa: Haha, Lucy, I wouldn't try that. You might end up with soup all over the floor.

Daughter: Aw, you're no fun! What about this cream cheese box then?

Mother: Lucy, stop teasing your grandpa. Just help me put the soup and the cream cheese in the basket, please.

Daughter: Fine, fine, but only because I'm such a helpful superstar!