

MobileHCI, SIMPE Workshop:  
Speech in Mobile and Pervasive Environments  
Singapore, 9th September 2007

## **Context-Sensitive Multimodal Mobile Interfaces**

Speech and Gesture Based Information Seeking Interaction with  
Navigation Maps on Mobile Devices

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# Agenda

- SmartWeb and Multimodal HCI
- Speech and Gesture Based Navigation
- Conclusions

*Who was world champion  
in 1990 ?*



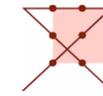
## Question Answering Functionality



- Intuitive multimodal access to a rich selection of Web-based information services.
- HCI and dialogue system goals:
  - Provide concise and correct **multimedia** answers in a **multimodal** way.
  - Show how knowledge retrieval from ontologies and Web Services can be combined with advanced dialogical interaction, e.g., **system** clarifications.
  - Provide ontology-based **integration** of verbal and non-verbal system input (fusion) and output (reaction/presentation).



# The SmartWeb Consortium



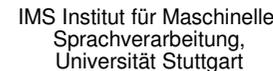
Funded by the German Government and Industry

Funding: 13.7 M €, Budget: 24 M €

Scientific Director: Wolfgang Wahlster

Project Duration: 2004-2008

More than 60 Researchers and Engineers



# Smartweb Requirements

- Multimodal dialogue with question answering functionality.
- Speech is dominant input modality for interaction.
- Multimodal recognition for speech or gestures.
- Modality interpretation and fusion, intention processing.
- Modality fission, result rendering for text, images, videos, graphics, and synthesis of speech.
- Reuse already existing components.
- Control the message flow in the system.

<sup>2</sup>[http://www.smartweb-project.de/start\\_en.html](http://www.smartweb-project.de/start_en.html)

<sup>3</sup><http://www.w3.org/TR/emma>

<sup>4</sup><http://www.w3.org/TR/speech-synthesis>

<sup>5</sup><http://www.w3.org/TR/rdf-primer>

<sup>6</sup><http://www.w3.org/Submission/OWL-S>

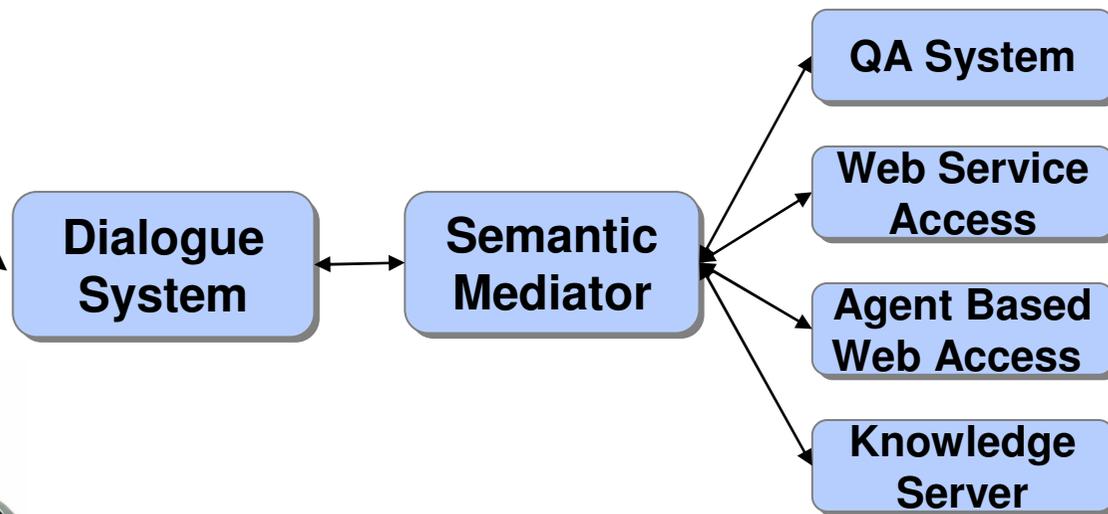
<sup>7</sup><http://www.w3.org/TR/wsdl>

<sup>8</sup><http://www.w3.org/TR/soap>

<sup>9</sup><http://www.chiariglione.org/mpeg>

# Interactive Mobile Multimodal Semantic Web Access

- 3G smartphone
- ?
- (1) Lack of computational power
  - (2) Small screen
  - (3) Exploit contextual information
  - (4) New interaction possibilities
- Challenges
- 
- Opportunities



# Application Scenarios

- Personal guide at the FIFA Worldcup 2006
- Answer football related and navigation related questions.

German Telekom Mobility  
and Navigation Scenario

*[http://smartweb.dfki.de/SmartWeb\\_FlashDemo\\_eng\\_v09.exe](http://smartweb.dfki.de/SmartWeb_FlashDemo_eng_v09.exe)*

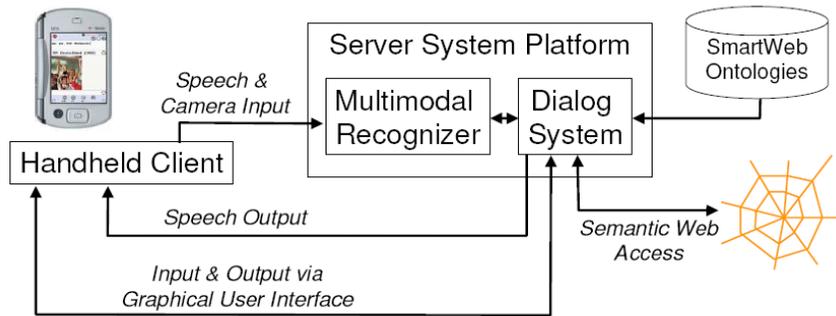
# Presentation Design Guidelines

- Produce useful reactions and give hints or examples to the user so that the use of supported terminology is not insisted, but at least directed.
- Keep acoustic messages short and simple.
- Align speech synthesis to a text fragment.
- Deal with layout as a rhetorical force.

## Natural Dialogue Based Mobile Interaction Example

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| (1) U: “When was Germany world champion?”  | Inducting & deducing enumeration questions       |
| (2) S: “In the following 4 years: 1954 (in Switzerland), 1974 (in Germany), 1990 (in Italy), 2003 (in USA)”  |  |
| (3) U: “And Brazil?”   | Ellipsis resolution & query completion           |
| (4) S: “In the following 5 years: 1958 (in Sweden), 1962 (in Chile), 1970 (in Mexico), 1994 (in USA), 2002 (in Japan)” + [ <i>team picture, MPEG-7 annotated</i> ] |  |
| (5) U: Pointing gesture on player <i>Aldair</i> + “How many goals did this player score?”  | Integration of verbal and non-verbal output      |
| (6) S: “Aldair scored none in the championship 2002.”  |  |
| (7) U: “What can I do in my spare time on Saturday?”   |  |
| (8) S: “Where?”  | System clarifications in Web Service description |
| (9) U: “In Berlin.”  |  |
| (10) S: <i>The cinema program, festivals, and concerts in Berlin are listed.</i>   |  |

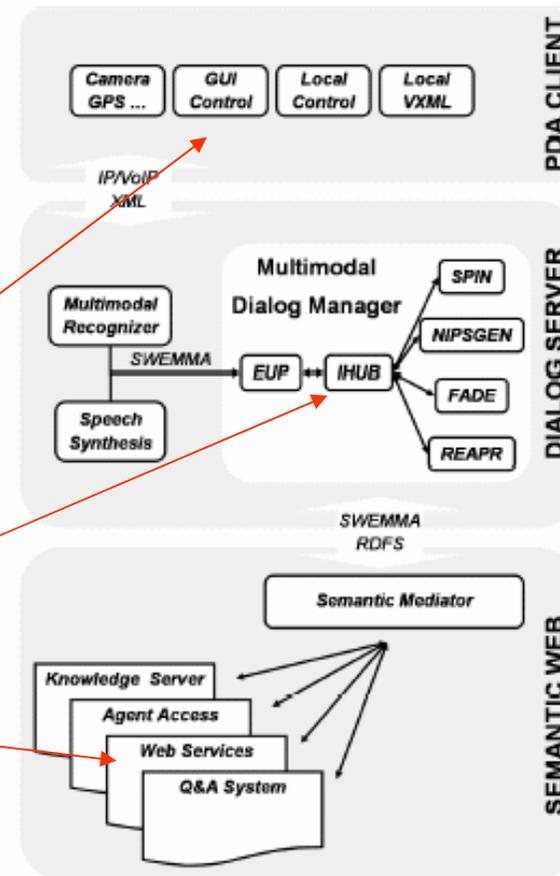
# Technical Design



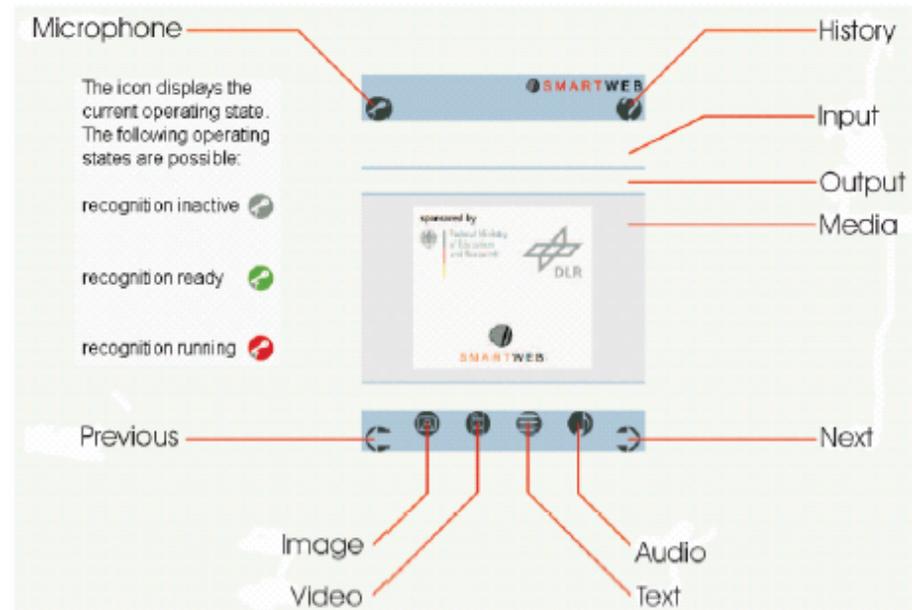
Graphical User Interface Control

Information Hub

Web Service Access



# Core User Interface



# Multimodal Interaction Guidelines

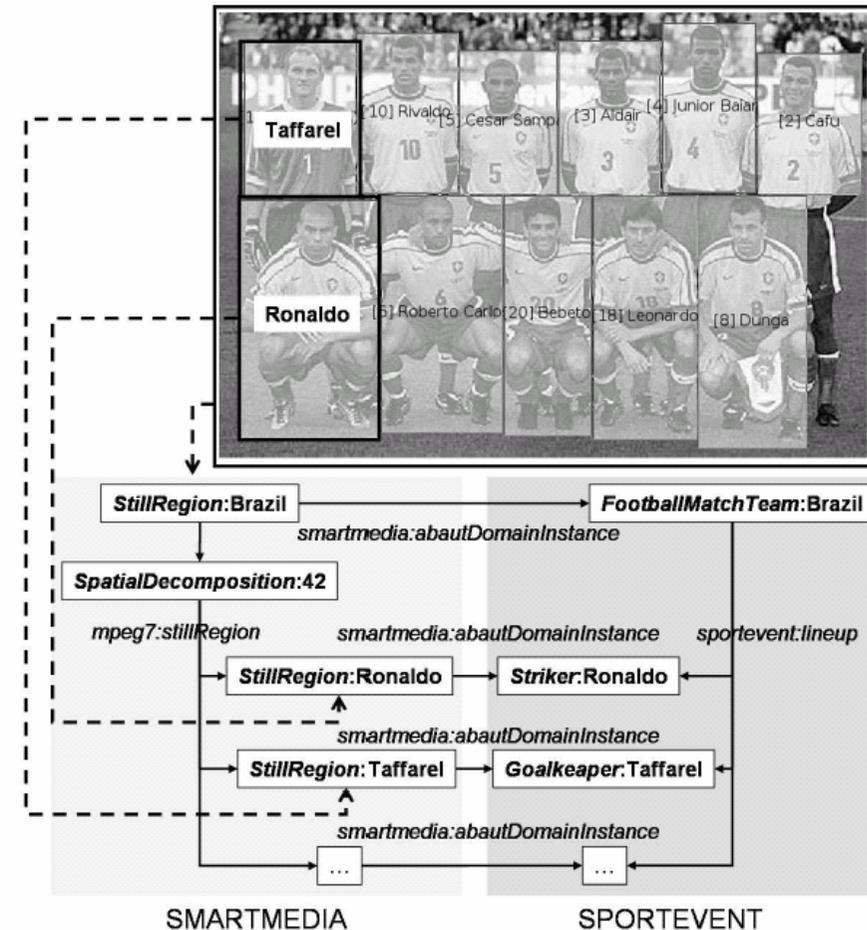
- *Multimodality*: More modalities allow for more natural communication.
- *Encapsulation*: Encapsulate user interface proper from the rest of the application.
- *Standards*: Re-use own and others resources.
- *Representation*: A common ontological knowledge base eases data flow, avoids transformations, and provide a basis for processing natural language dialogue phenomena.
  - Principles:
    - » No presentation without representation
    - » No interaction without representation

# Ontologies

- An Ontology is
  - an explicit specification of a conceptualization [Gruber 93].
  - a shared understanding of a domain of interest [Uschold/Gruninger 96].
  - a **community reference** for applications.
  - **shared understanding** of what particular information means.
  - (language) concepts and facts in relation to each other.
  
- Ontologies make domain assumptions **explicit**.
  - Separate **domain knowledge** from operational knowledge.
  - Re-use domain and operational knowledge separately.

# Ontology Representation and Multimedia

- Framework for gesture and speech fusion
- Multimedia decomposition in space, time and frequency (MPEG-7)
- Link to the Upper Model Ontology to close the *Semantic Gap*



# Pointing Gestures

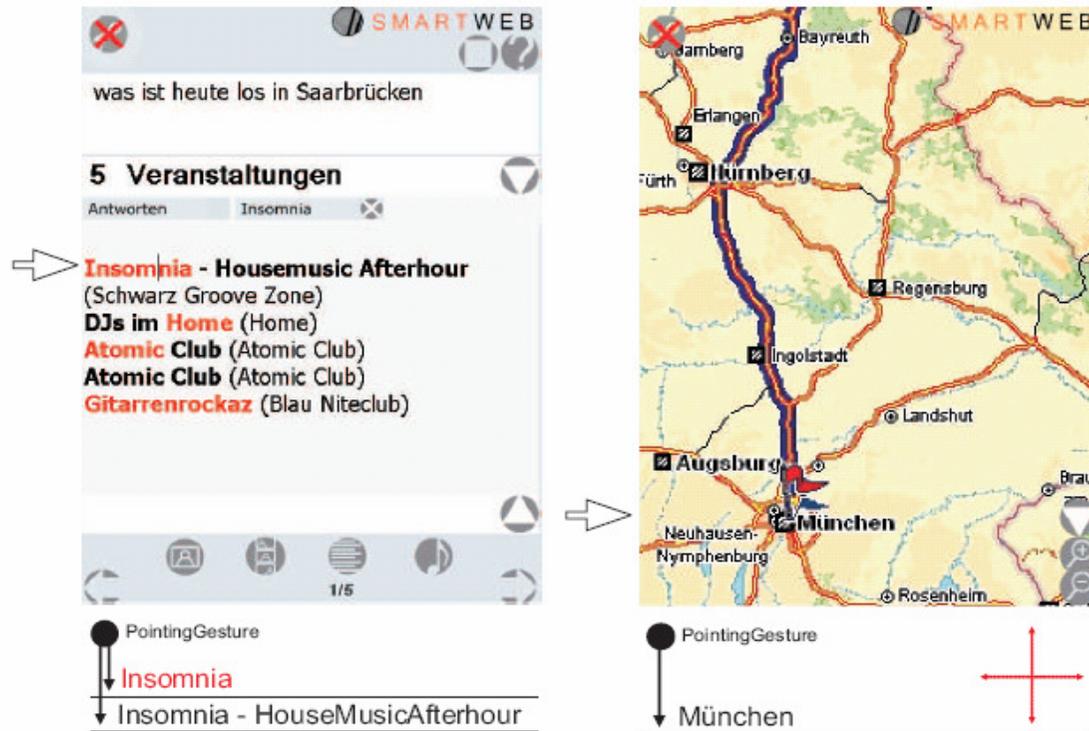


Figure 1: Pointing Gestures allow the selection of hyperlinks links, text entities, and POIs. Every pointing gesture should refer to a visual object that is transmitted to an input fusion module.

# Navigation Scenario

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**U:** *“Where can I find Italian Restaurants?”*

**S:** Shows a map with POIs and the restaurant names +  
synthesis: *“Restaurants are displayed”*

**U:** *“... and where’s an ATM?”*

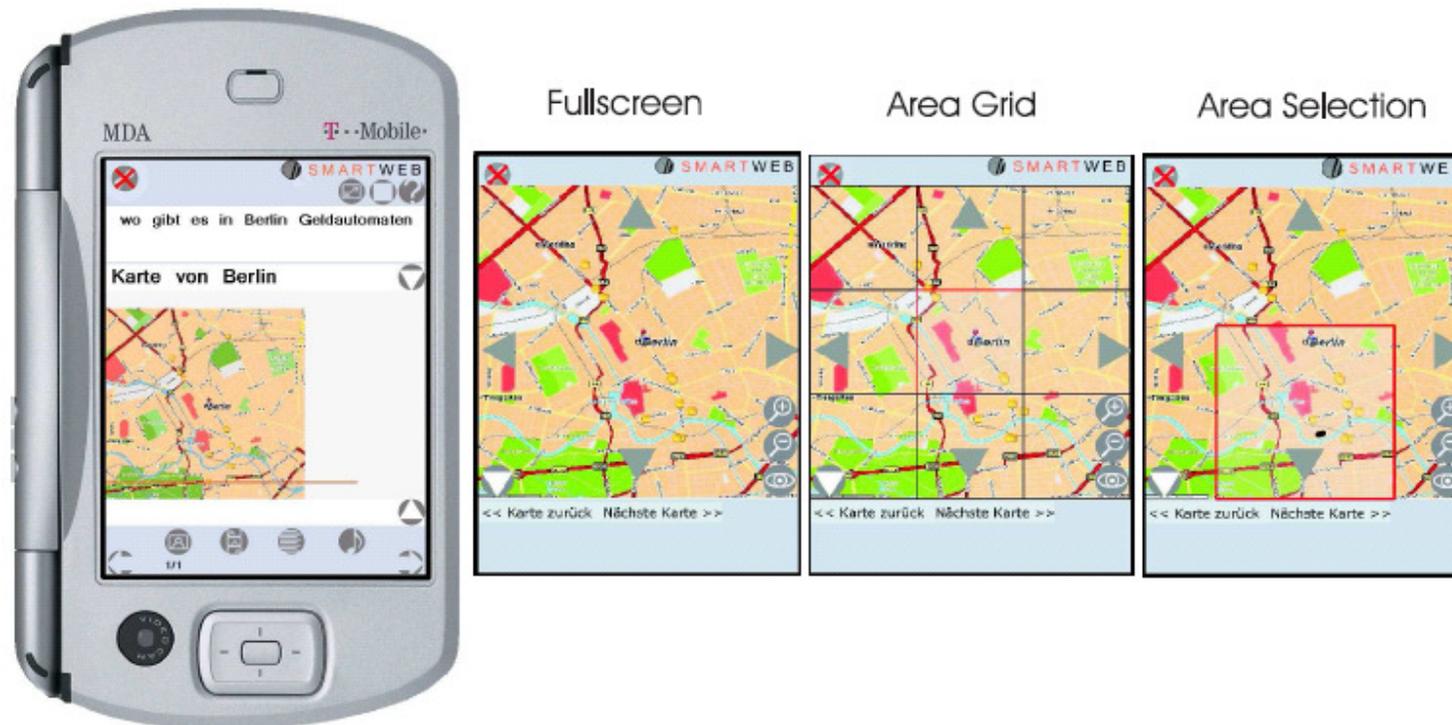
**S:** Shows a map with POIs and ATM locations nearby +  
synthesis: *“ATMs are displayed”*

**U:** Pointing gesture on a suitable ATM POI<sup>1</sup> + synthesis:  
*“How can I get there from here?”*

**S:** Zooms into the map and shows the route + synthesis:  
*“To Schiller Strasse (350 m)”*

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# Navigation Map Result Presentation



Use new graphical surface to indicate narrowed **dialogue context**.

Use graphical screen transitions as **system dialogue act**.

# Input Fusion and Semantic Query Construction

○ *Where can I find ATMs not far from here?*

```
[ Query
  text: Where can I find ATMs not far from here?
  dialogueAct: [discourse#Question]
  focus:
    [ Focus
      focusMediumType: [ mpeg7#Text]
      focusMediumType: [ mpeg7#Image]
      varContext:
        [
          contextObject: #1
        ]
      varName:X
    ]
  content:
    [ QEPattern
      patternArg:
        #1 [ [sumo#POI:
              navigation#Cashpoint
            ]
            . . .
            [sumo#Map]

      inCity: [Berlin]
              [sumo#centerAddress:
                sumo#GEOPOSITION:
                  [N52r31.19' E13r24.69' (WGS84)]
            ]
    ]

    [context#vehicleState:[Car] . . .]
  ]
```

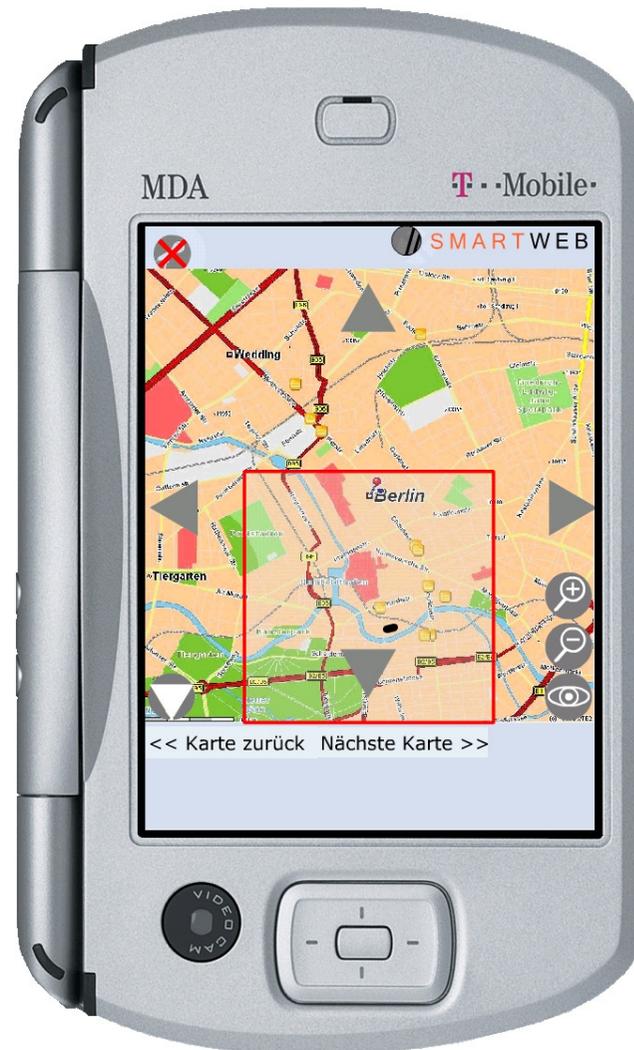
## Navigation 1/6



## Navigation 2/6

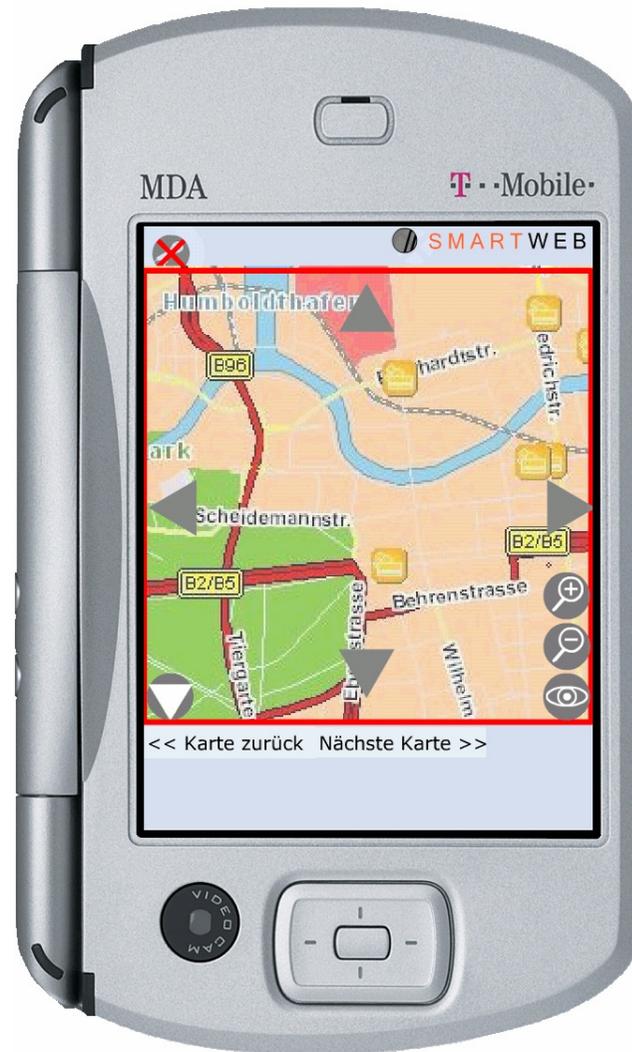


## Navigation 3/6





# Navigation 4/6



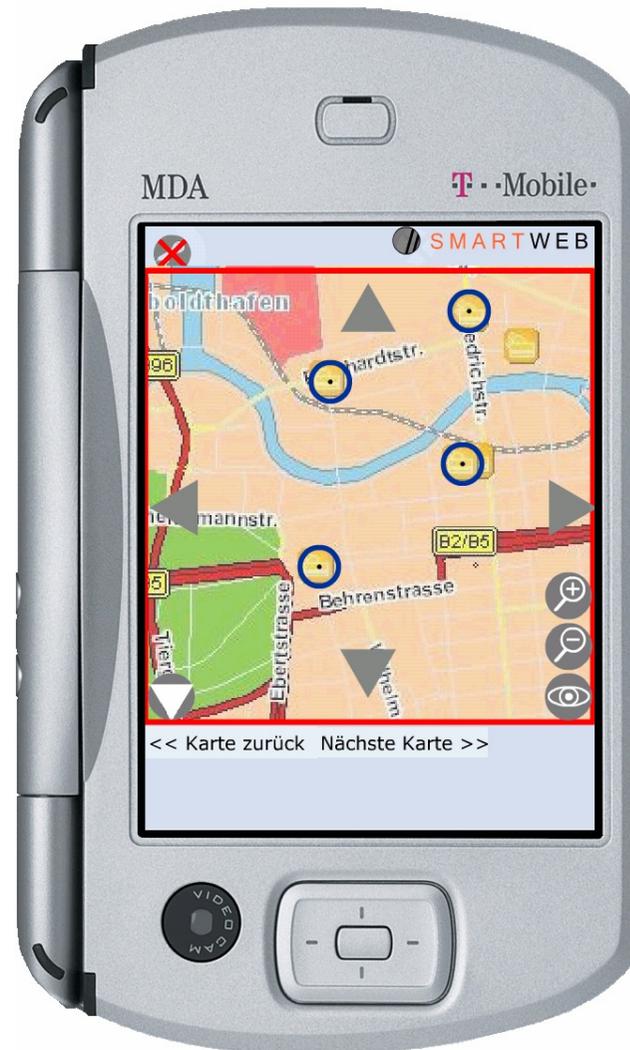


# Navigation 5/6





# Navigation 6/6



# Narrowed Dialogue and Fusion Context in Composite Multimodal Interaction

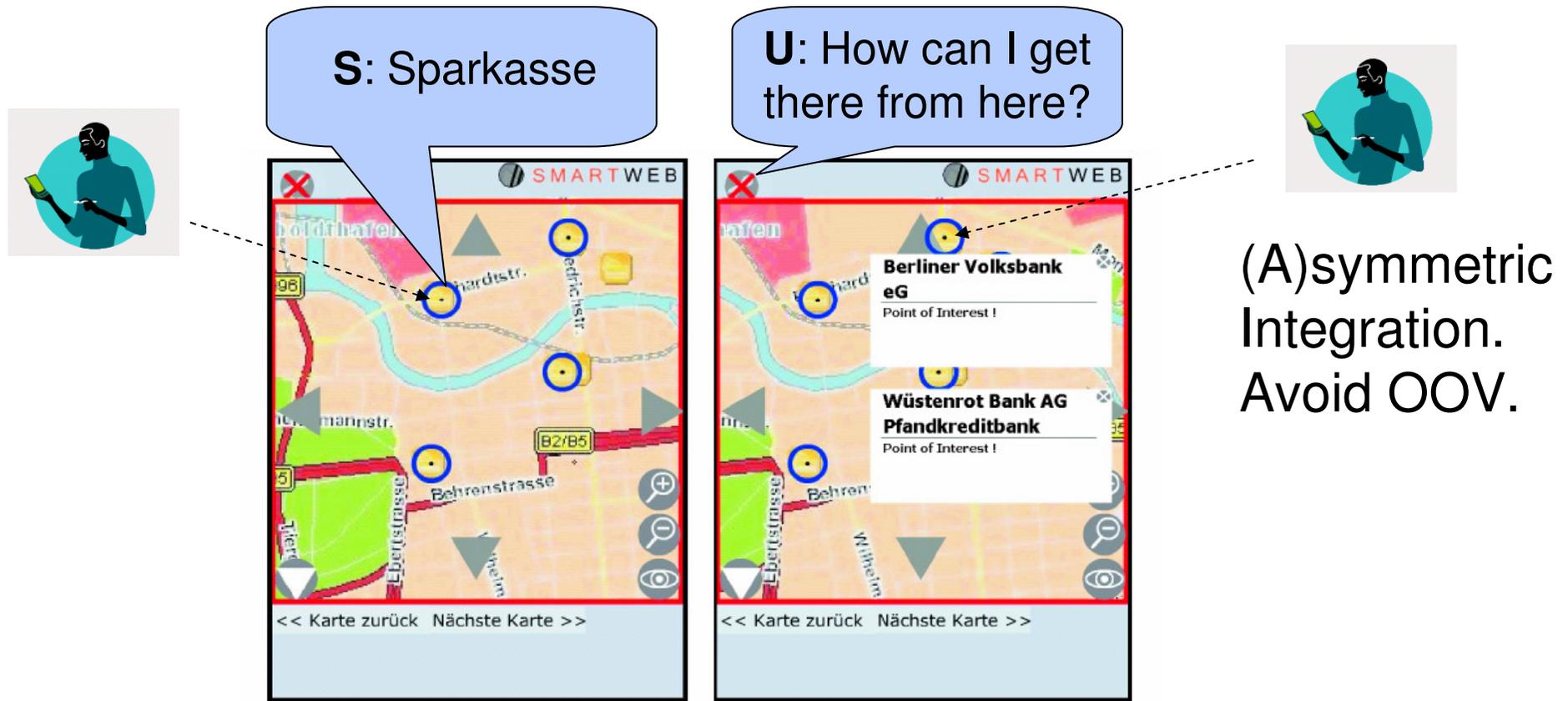


Figure 4: POI and additional textual POI info selection

# Screen Transition as Dialogue Act

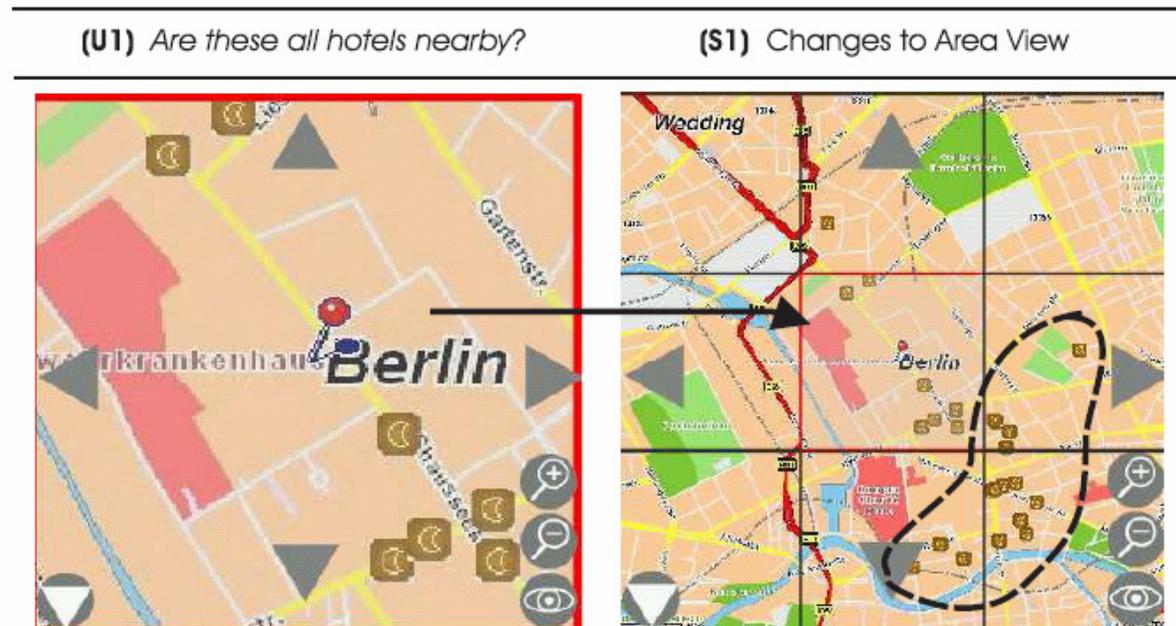
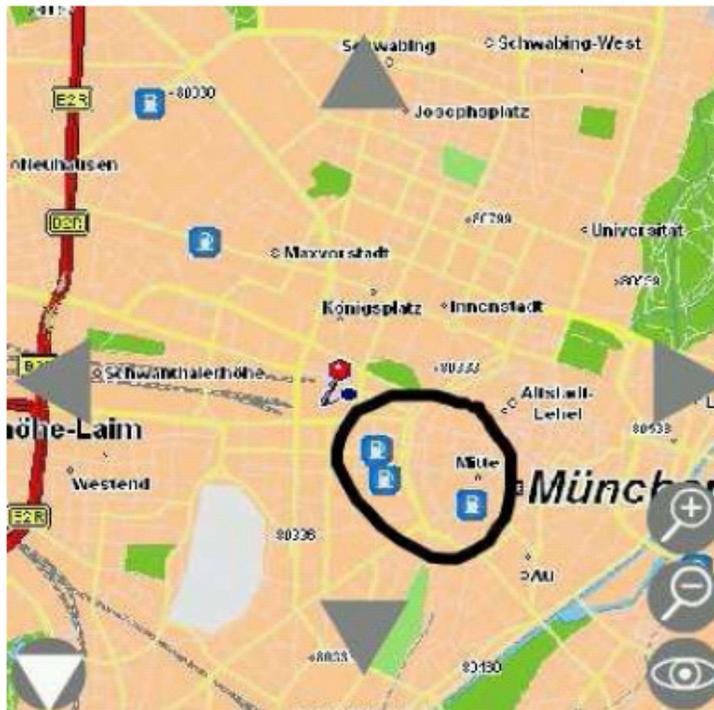


Figure 5: Multimedia presentation and transition as crucial part of a multimodal response dialogue act. The dashed line illustrates the set of additional hotels visible in Area View.

# Mobility in Munich

**(U2)** Draws a circle on the screen +  
*Where can I get the cheapest diesel fuel?*

**(S2)** Draws circles as feedback  
 and synthesizes all diesel prices.



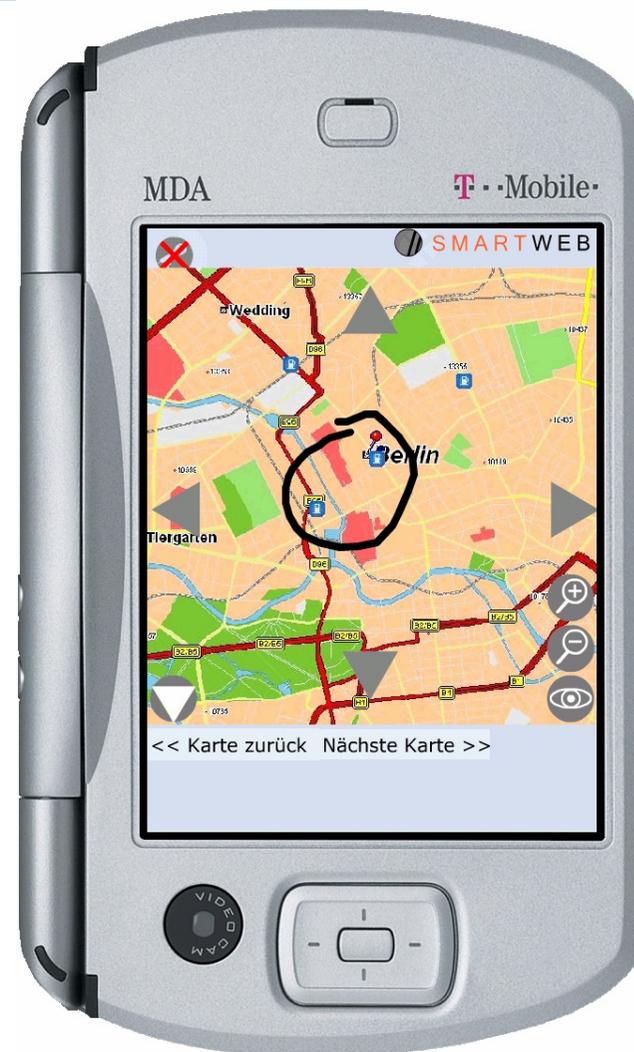
# Mobility in Munich

**(U3)** clicks on one of the circles to see the name of the gas station and the ranking,  
**(U4)** chooses a station even further away and asks: *How can I get there (by car)?*

**(S3)** synthesises: Calculated route from Bayer Strasse to Hoch Strasse, München (3.6 km).  
**(S4)** shows route in the map.



## Gesture 1/5



## Gesture 2/5



## Gesture 3/5



## Gesture 4/5



# Gesture 5/5

Micro's open. Ask!



# Conclusions

- We presented speech and gesture-based interaction with navigation maps.

- Mobile interfaces in context-sensitive information-seeking scenario
- Symmetric multimodal presentation behaviour (feedback)

User	System
Pointing gesture	Graphical display
Speech input	Result synthesis
Speech and gesture	Speech followed by graphics
Gesture and speech	Speech and concurrent graphics

- User utterances are quite predictable in map presentation context. That helps ASR and NLU.
- Extensions:
  - Explore more fine-gained co-ordination and synchronisation in multimodal/multimedia presentations.
  - Implement editing functions via concurrent pen and voice.



○ Thank You!