Multimodal Interaction Multimedia and Multimodality Professor Benjamin Weiss Quality and Usability Lab Technische Universitat Berlin Media versus Modality

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Welcome to the first week of this course. It is about multimedia and multimodality and the difference between the two.

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This is the outline for this week. I will start with the definition of medium and modality and then continue with characteristics of multimedia systems and multimodal systems.

I will then present two approaches to relate different modalities to each other and I will complete with characteristics of multimodal systems, in particular the different benefits we have with the multimodal systems compared to ordinary ones.

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Medium vs. modality

Medium:

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Let's start with the Medium. A medium is a technical means to store, transfer or convey information. This might be for example, the physical channel.

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So, for instance, the air for acoustics information or the light for visiual information, but also

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the medium is a representation of a message to the user.

So, consider for example, the same information which can be presented as text, as a graph or even as video clip. This will be, this would be all different moda, this would be all different media.

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Medium vs. modality

#### Medium:

 a medium is a technical means to store, transport and convey information → the physical channel
 → representation of a message to the user

#### Modality:

a modality is a human sensory channel
 → visual, auditory, olfactory (smell), haptic (e.g. touch), gustatory (taste) vestibular (balance)



and we have several of these human sensory channels, for example visual, auditory, olfactorial channel, for example the smell, the haptic channel which is for example, the touch but also temperature sensation, and even pain sensation. There is the gustatory channel which is taste, and the vestibular channel which is related to the balance perception.

As you can see, the same example does not apply here for the modality. So if we have the same kind of information presented either as a video clip or as a text or a graphic, this would be all the same modality, namely the visual channel while they are different media used.

Still,

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### Medium vs. modality

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 → representation of a message to the user

Modality:

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 → visual, auditory, olfactory (smell), haptic (e.g. touch), gustatory (taste), vestibular (balance)

Modality (alternative definition): • a modality is a user input mode to interact with a system





in human-computer interaction, we have an alternative definition of modality. I will explain a little bit later why this is so, namely modality as a user input mode to interact with the system.

So let us have a look at this table.

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On the left column you can see the different human senses like vision, hearing or touch and the appropriate assigned organ that is used to capture this information, like the eyes, ears and skin.

If we now go to the alternative definition of modality, then it is all about the capabilities of the system to mimic such human sensory channels. For example, we need a microphone to replicate hearing, or, we need a camera to replicate vision.

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Medium vs. modality

Sense	Organ	Sensory channel (Modality)	Sensor	Example Modalities
Vision	Eyes	Visual	Camera Keyboard/pen	3D gesture recognition Face recogn./lipreading Text/handwriting recogn.
Hearing	Ears	Auditory	Microphone	Speech recognition
Touch	Skin	Haptic - Tactile - Deep sensitivity - Temp. sensitivity - Pain sensitivity	Touchscreen Accel./glove Temp. sensor	2D gesture recognition Position/motion recogn.
Olfaction	Nose	Olfactory		
Taste	Tongue	Gustatory		
Balance	Equilibrium org.	Vestibular		

So, on the utmost right column you can see the different modalities that are following this alternative definition of modality. This would be for example 3D gesture recognition or face recognition which could be captured by a camera, or even speech recognition with a microphone.

For all these we need of course some classifiers. There is also position or motion tracking of 3D gesture recognition like on the touch screen.