



# Creating Proactive Environments for Healthy Living

Research and Technology for Aging, Disability and Independence  
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Architecture:



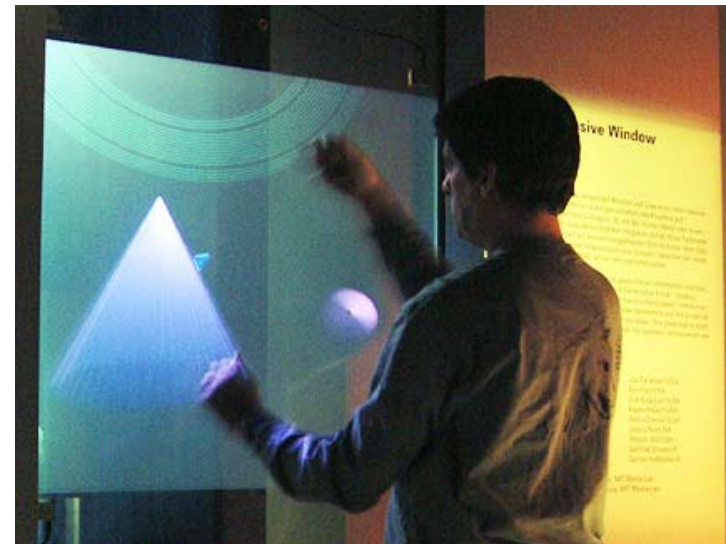
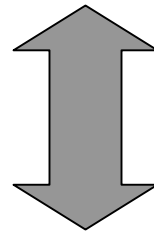
Media Lab / AI Lab:



Architecture:



Media Lab / AI Lab:



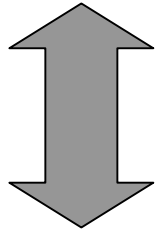
Buildings:  
Permanent



Life & Technology:  
Change



Buildings:  
**Permanent**



Life & Technology:  
**Change**





## The MIT Open Source Building Alliance (OSBA)

Toward standards for  
creating

low cost  
high performance  
responsive  
agile  
buildings



**Grants:**

NSF (2)

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

AARP Andrus Foundation

Center for the Integration of Medicine  
and Innovative Technologies (2)

IBM Research

GE Global Research (DOD sub)

**Consortium Sponsors:**

Motorola

British Telecom

Intel

Hewlet Packard

Samsung

State Farm Insurance

Salt River Project

**Health-related Partners:**

Harvard School of Public Health

Boston U. Medical



1

What is Proactive Health?

2

Recognizing activities of daily living:  
the portable environmental sensor kit

3

Scenario:  
One possible proactive health service

4

PlaceLab: a “microscope” to study  
technologies and interventions in the context  
of life.





# 1

## What is Proactive Health?



## What is Proactive Health?

Environments, technologies, and services that help people stay:

- **Autonomous**
- **Comfortable**
- **Engaged in Life**
- **Healthy**



Three levels of health at home (in increasing order of difficulty and importance):

1. Responding to crisis (requires a few good sensors)



Three levels of health at home (in increasing order of difficulty and importance):

1. Responding to crisis  
(requires a few good sensors)



2. Early warning of emerging problems  
(requires ubiquitous sensors)



Three levels of health at home (in increasing order of difficulty and importance):

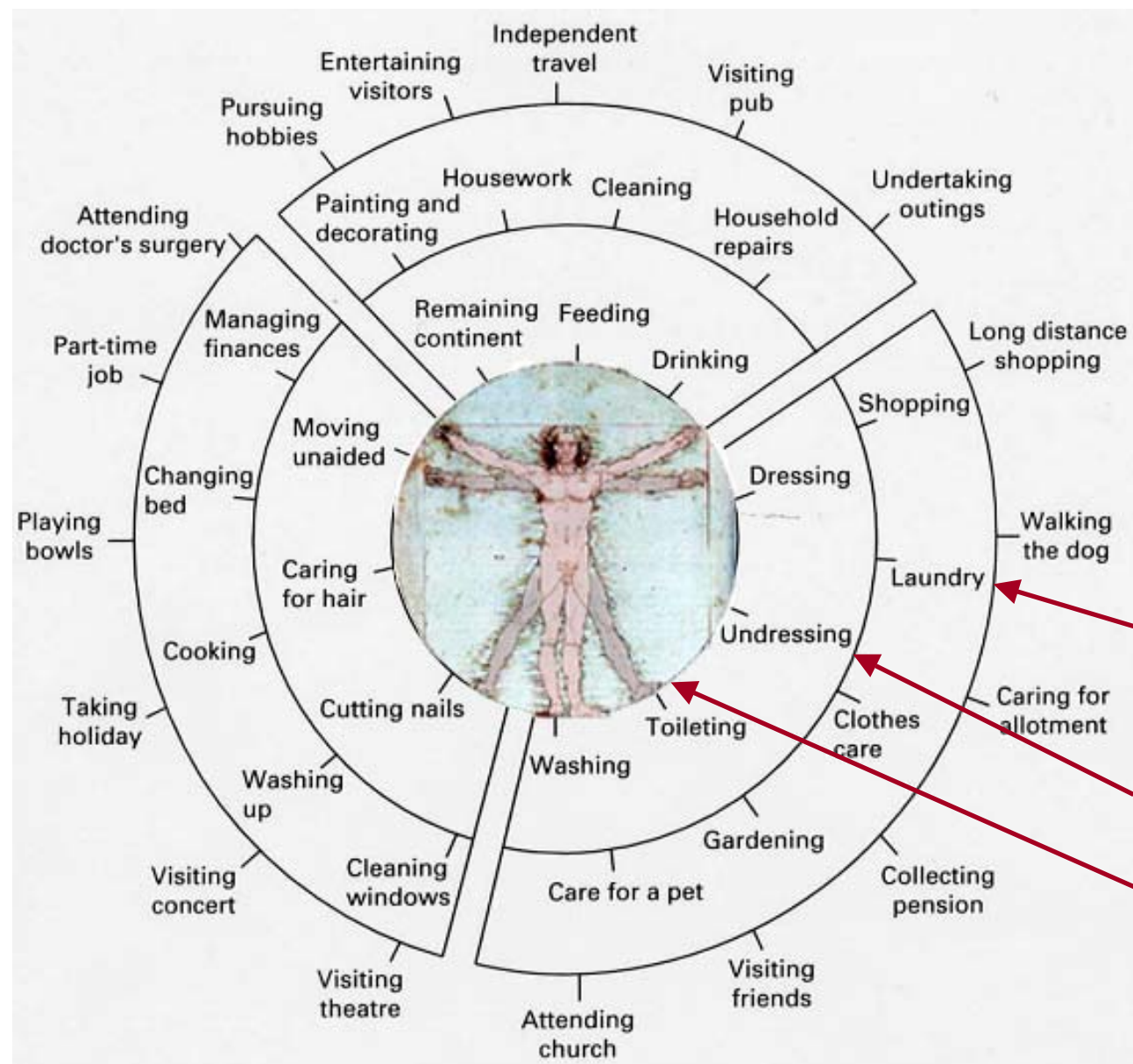
1. Responding to crisis  
(requires a few good sensors)



2. Early warning of emerging problems  
(requires ubiquitous sensors)



**3. Proactively keeping people healthy**  
(requires ubiquitous sensors and communication media)



## What is Proactive Health?

Proactive health involves maintaining the three rings of social performance

Activity in the community

Activity in the household

Activity related to body

The problem involves more than the health of the body alone.

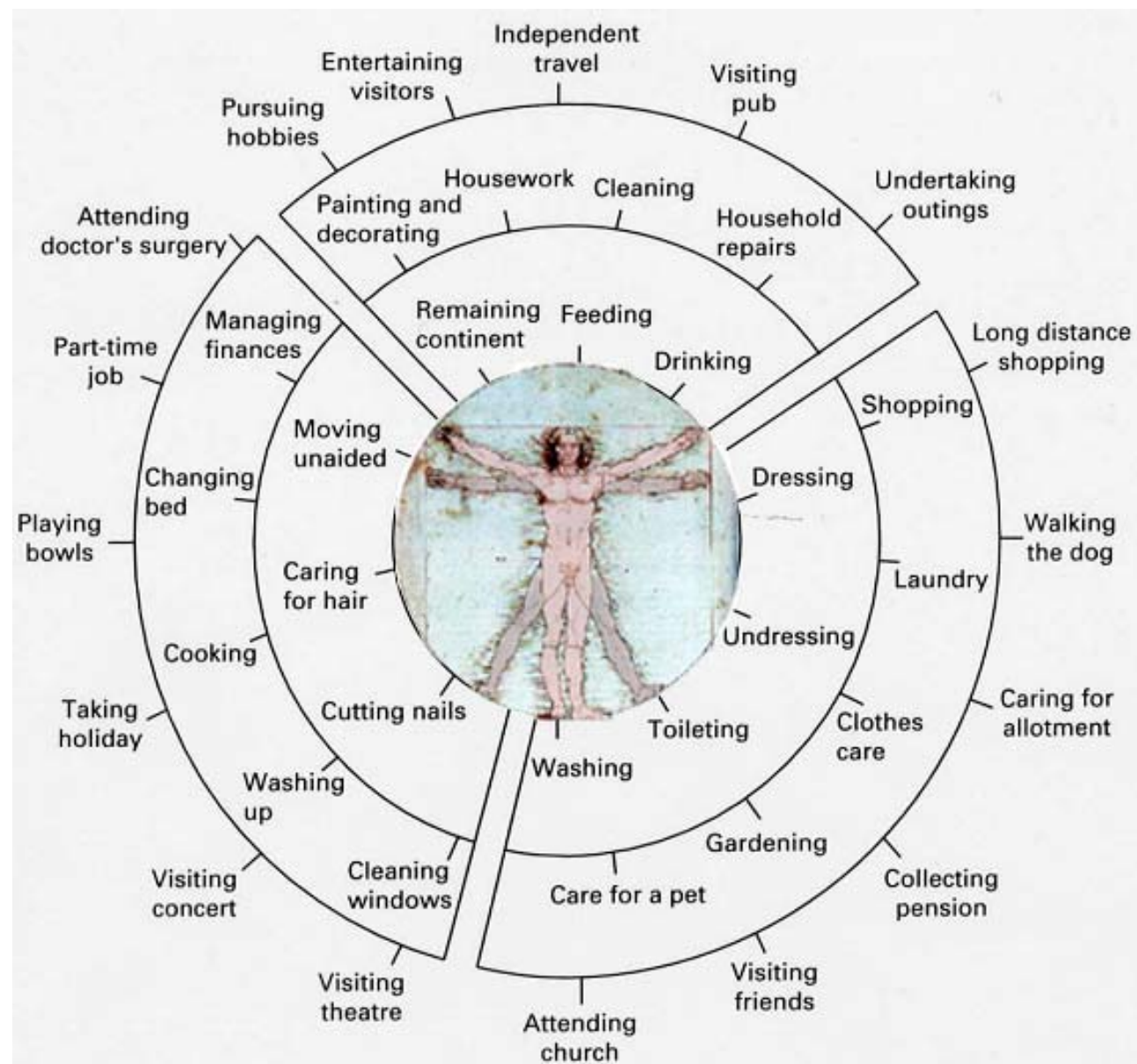
**Figure 106-1** A model of social performance levels in older people. (From Williams EI: A Model to Describe Social Performance Levels in Elderly People. Br J Pract; 36:422-3.)

## Proactive Health

Proactively encouraging healthy behaviors:

diet  
exercise  
medication adherence  
stress reduction  
smoking cessation  
social contacts

could have a profoundly positive societal effect.



**Figure 106-1** A model of social performance levels in older people. (From Williams EI: A Model to Describe Social Performance Levels in Elderly People. Br J Pract; 36:422-3.)



## Proactive Health

Encouraging healthy behavior

Intervention at the point of decision can have a dramatic and positive effect:

**Result = 3x use of stair over escalator**

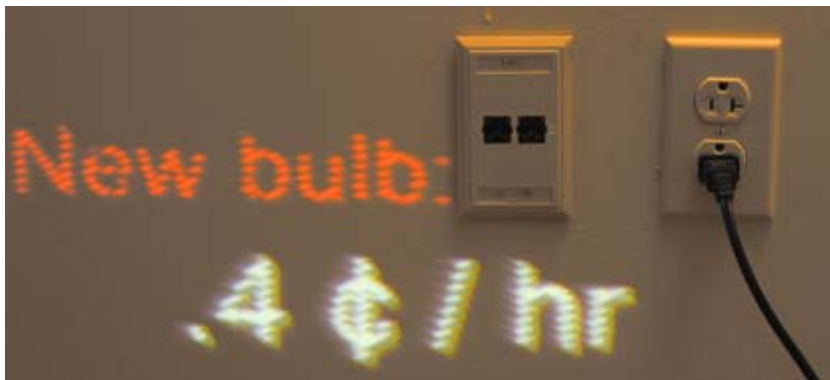
Now installed at 3 Boston subway stations



## Empower with information

Information at the point of decision can have many applications

(such as energy conservation)



## Current proactive health research at MIT

### Switch/bend sensors

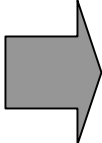
1. Doors
2. Cabinets
3. Drawers
4. Thresholds
5. Appliances
6. Objects

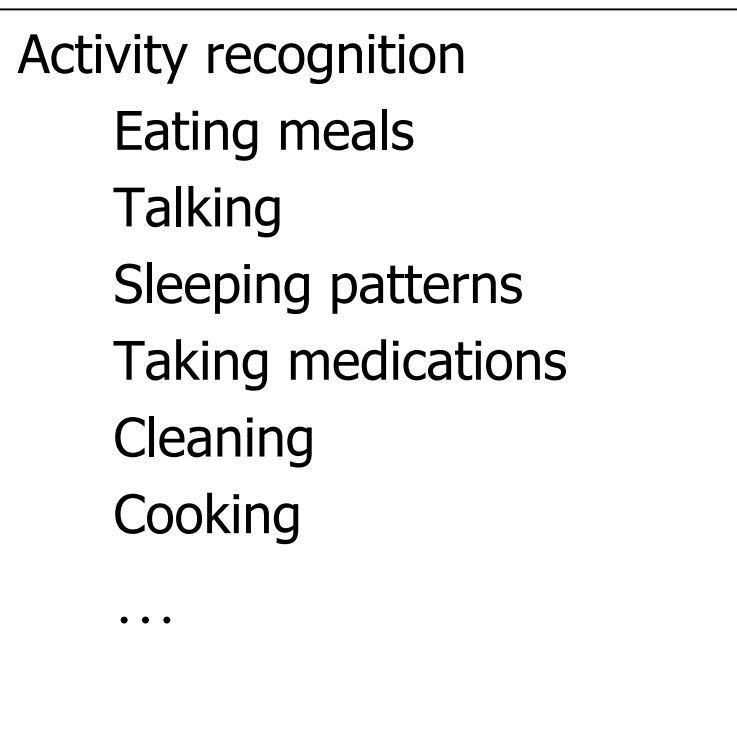
### Wearable sensors

1. Accelerometers
2. Heart rate monitor
3. Self report

### Multi-purpose sensors

1. People-locator tags
2. Auditory sensors
3. Optical sensors

  
**new  
algorithms**



  
**health  
applications**

1. Detect **change** in activity
2. Motivate behavior **changes**

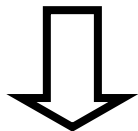
Best bet: link advice with activity

Simple messages:

Right time ← Requires computational sensing

Right place ← Requires “pixels where you are”

Non-disruptive ← Requires attention to UI design



Big impact

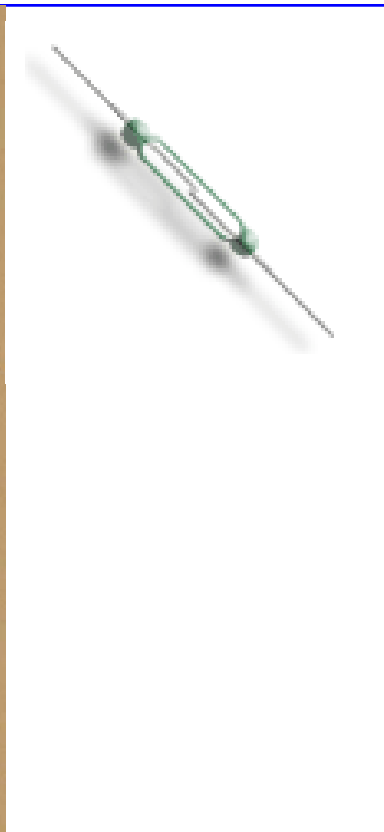
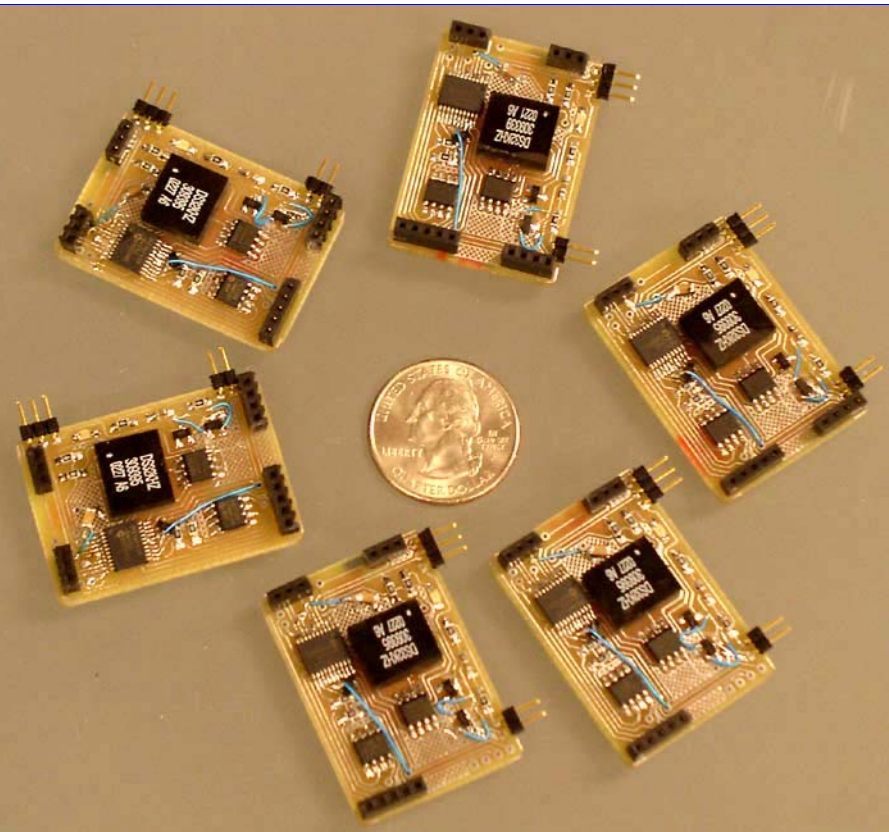
1.20% shown for energy

2. Substantial gains for preventative medicine



## 2

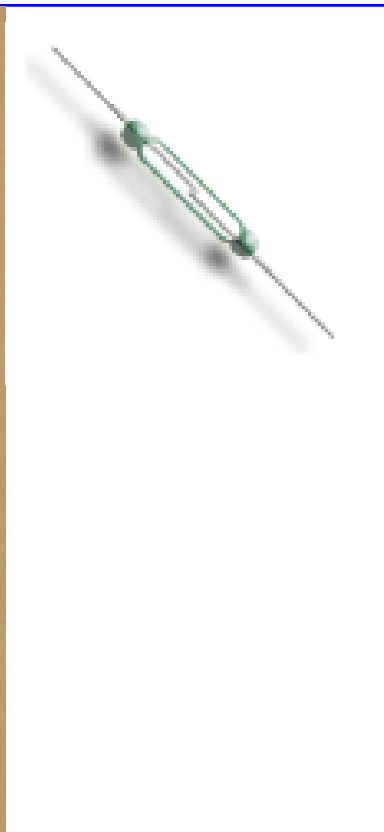
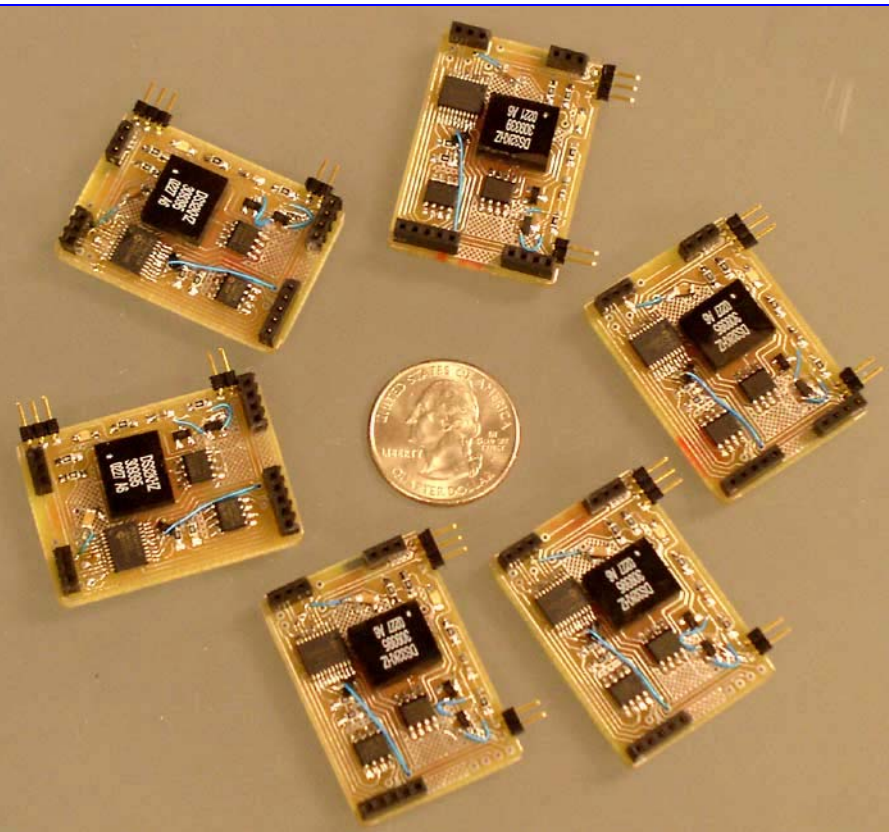
Recognizing activities of daily living:  
portable environmental sensor kit



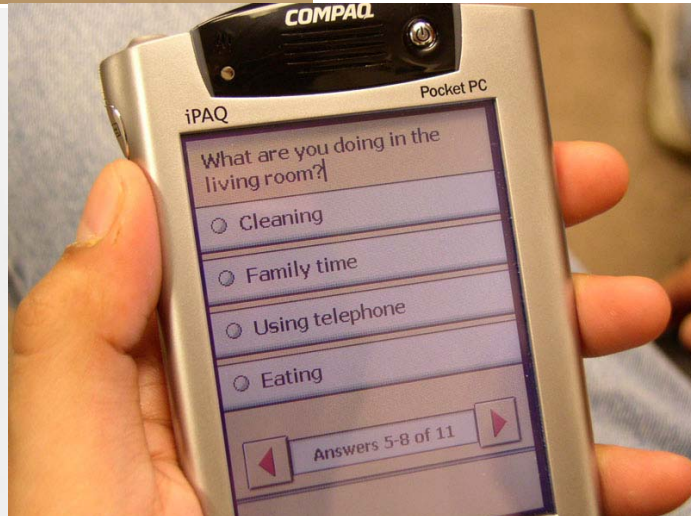
Data collection board with swappable sensors  
(2 weeks time stamped data)



On | Off  
Open | Closed  
Identity of People  
Position of People  
Self labeled data



Sensors to study  
behavior in context



Being used to develop  
algorithms to detect  
activities of daily living

Studies complete in four  
homes of non-  
researchers



## One subject's home

3 hours with small team  
Install: tape-on

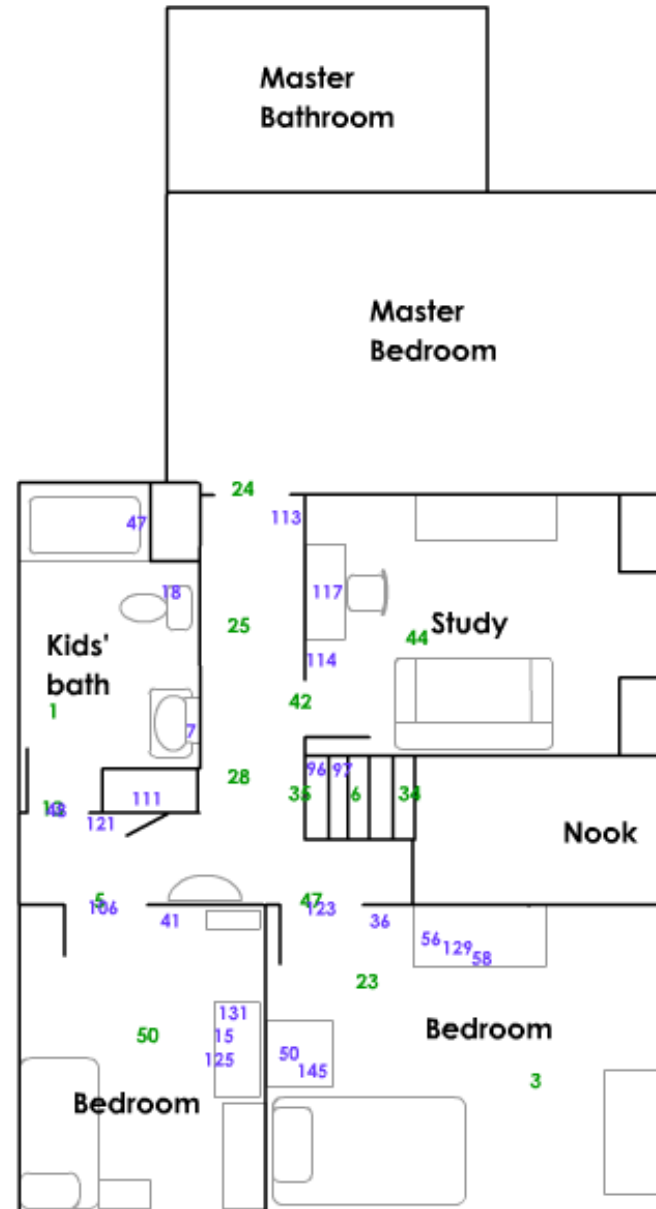
150 sensors in 4<sup>th</sup>  
subject's home  
(family of four)

On | Off

Open | Closed

Position | Identity

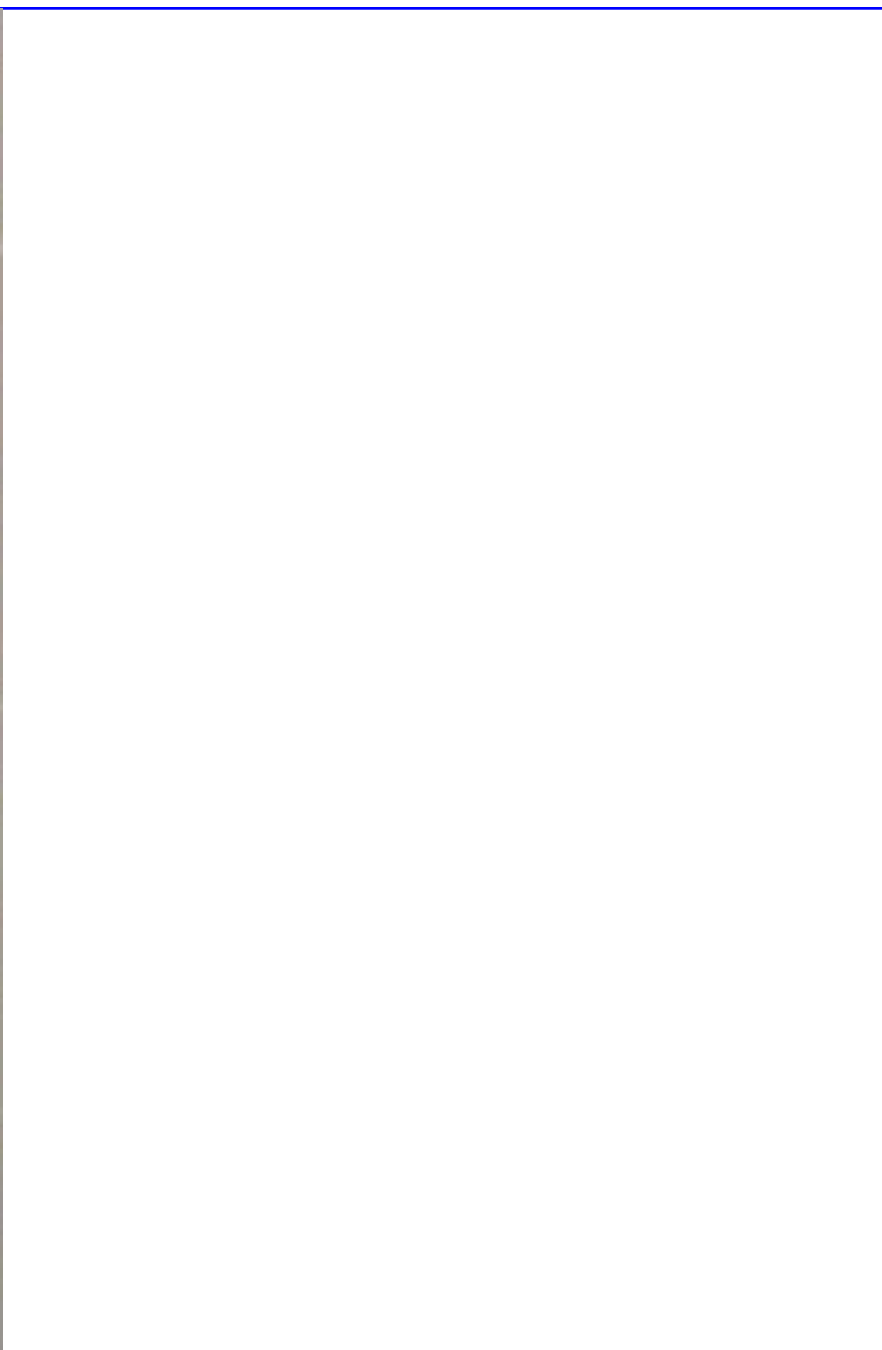
One subject's home



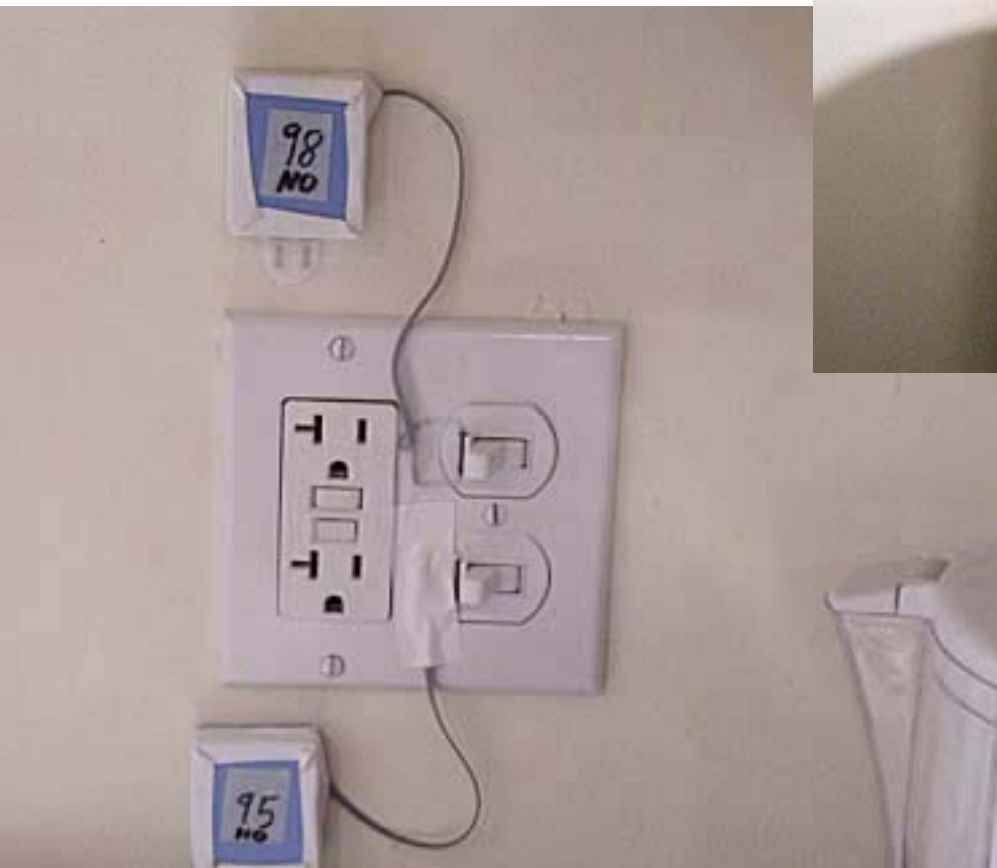


















Fixed interval queries –  
PDA experience  
sampling



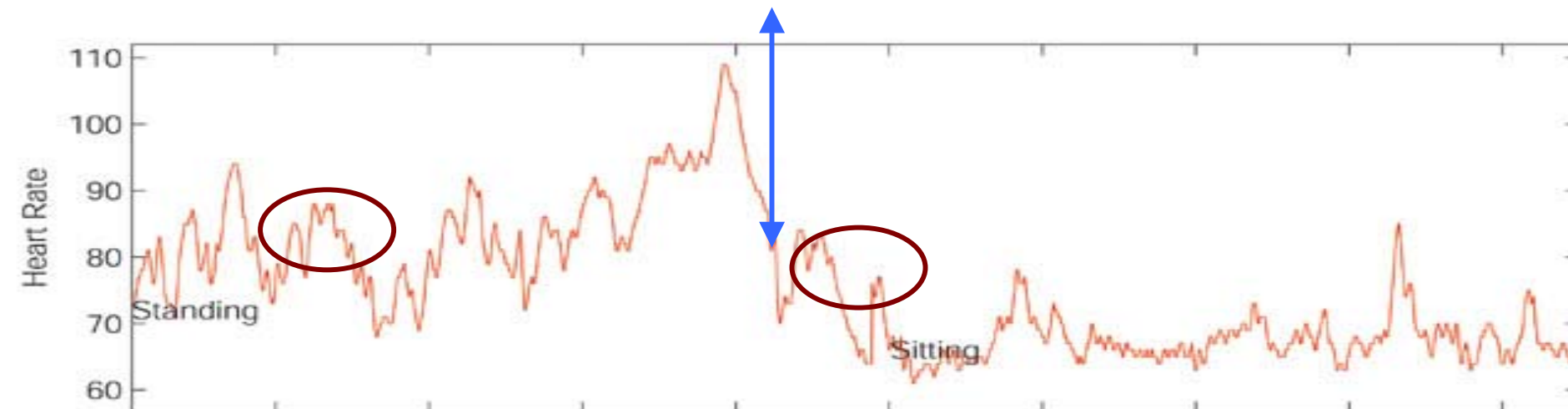
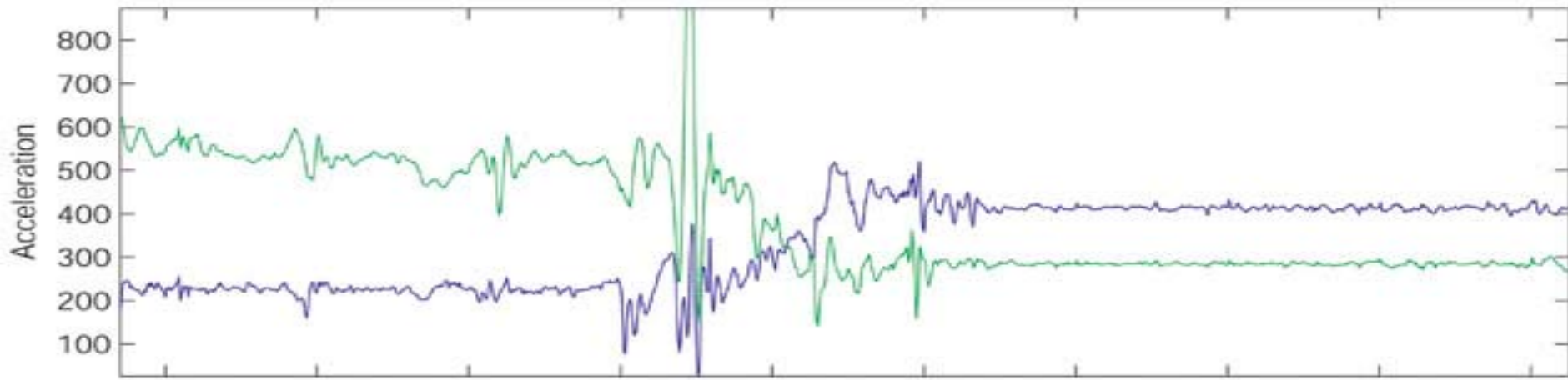


## Image-based experience sampling



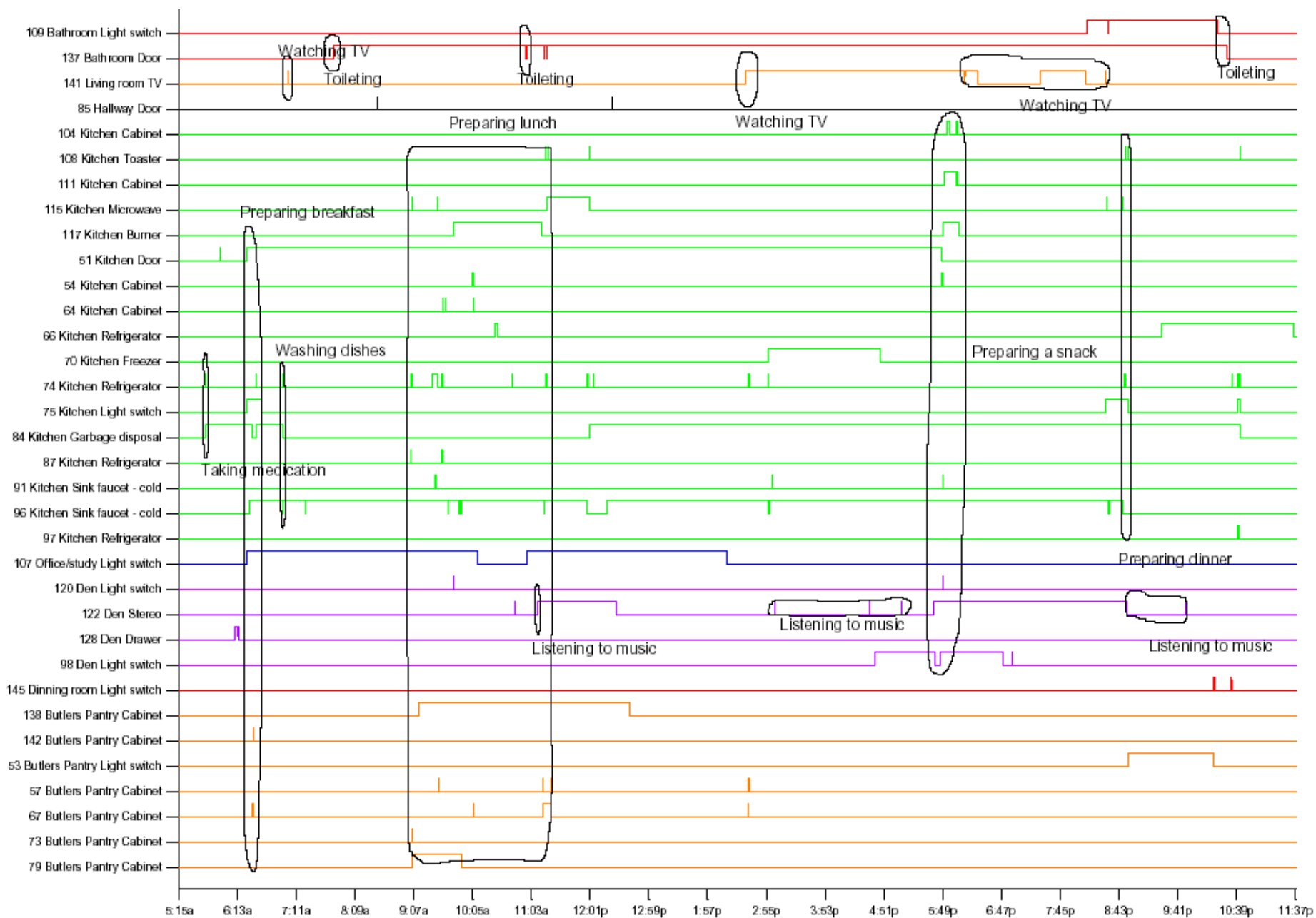
Position-base context-aware experience sampling

Heart rate/  
accelerometer-based  
context-aware  
experience sampling

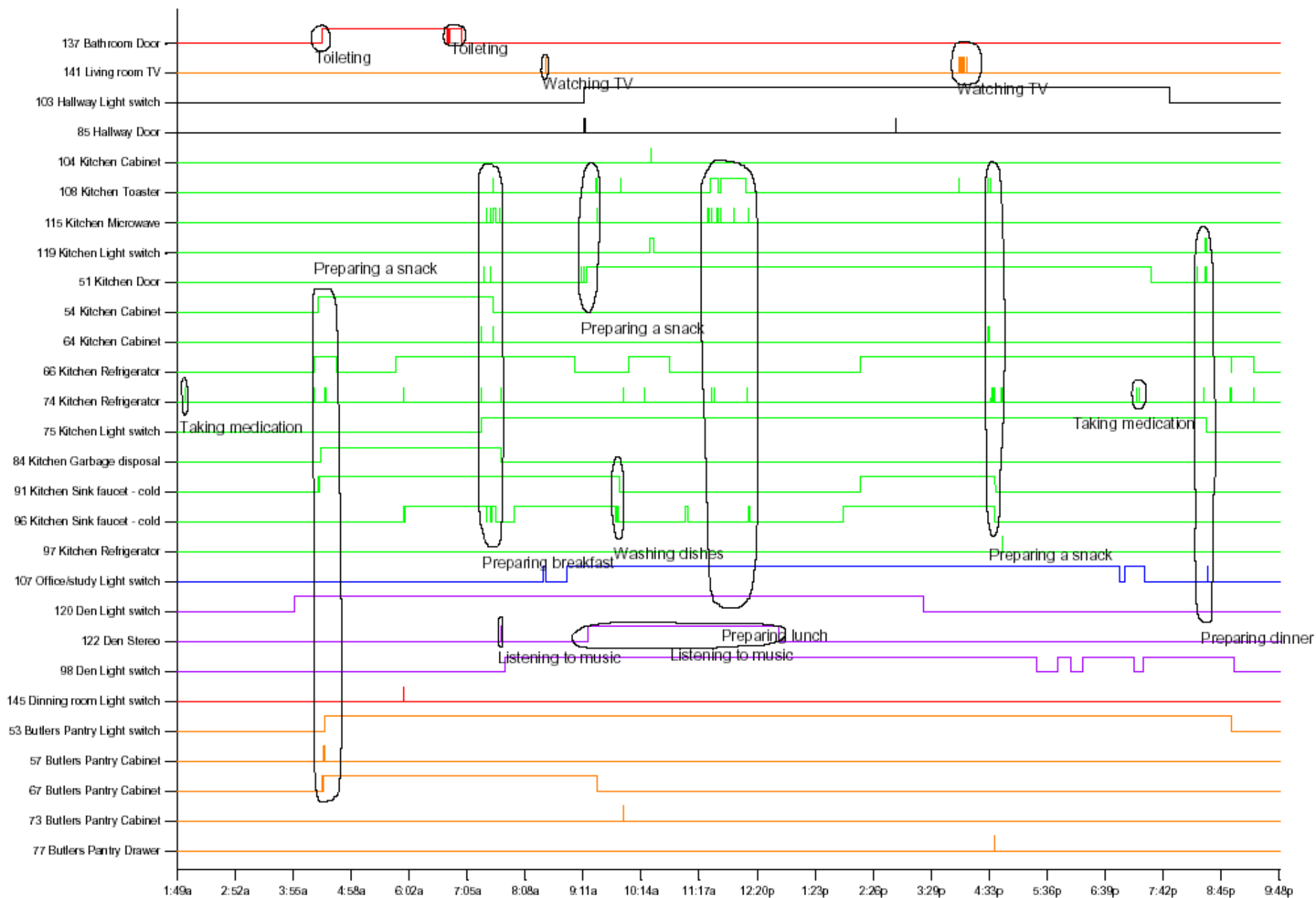


# MIT Changing Places Consortium

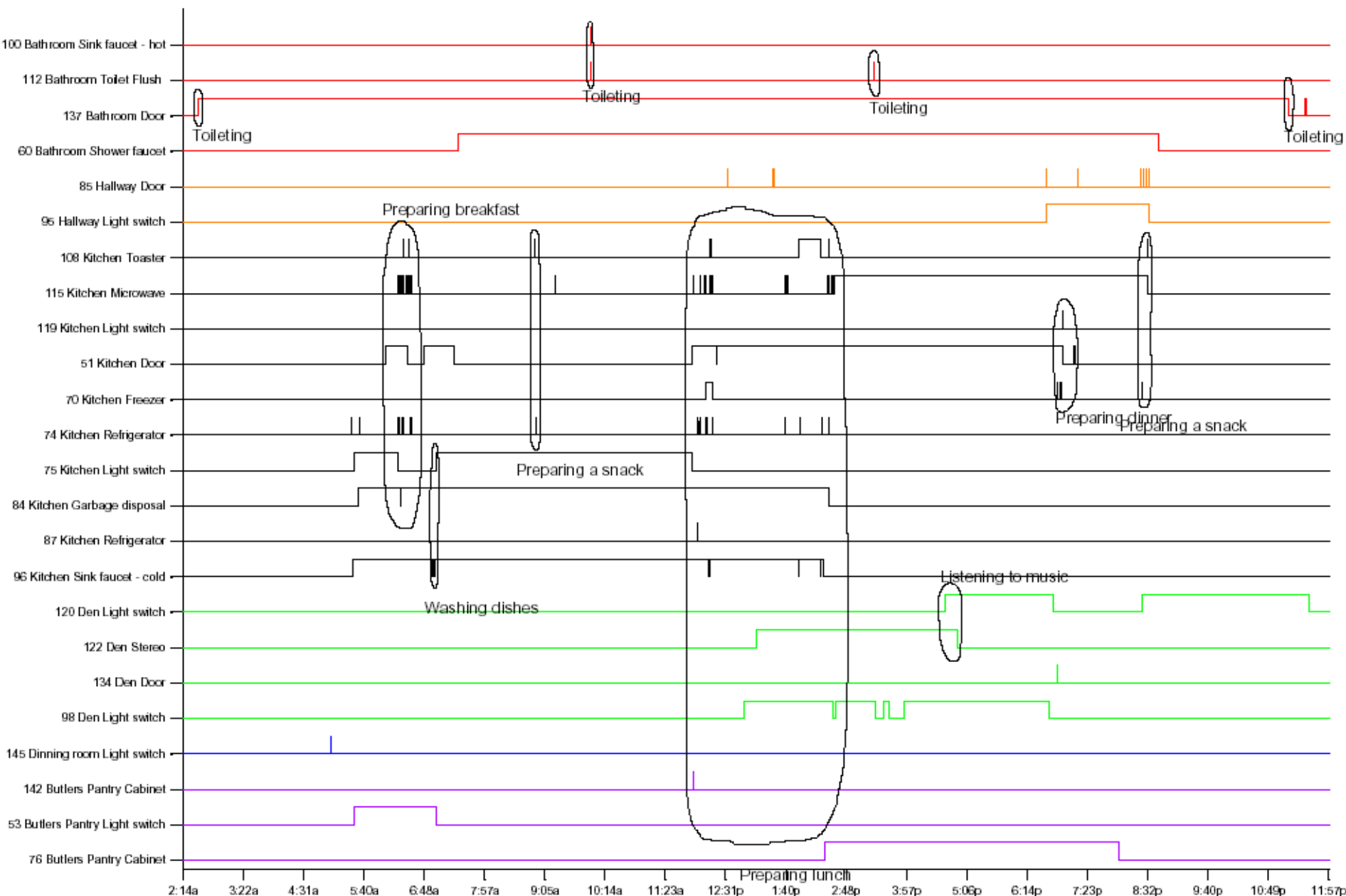
Thursday, 4/24/2003



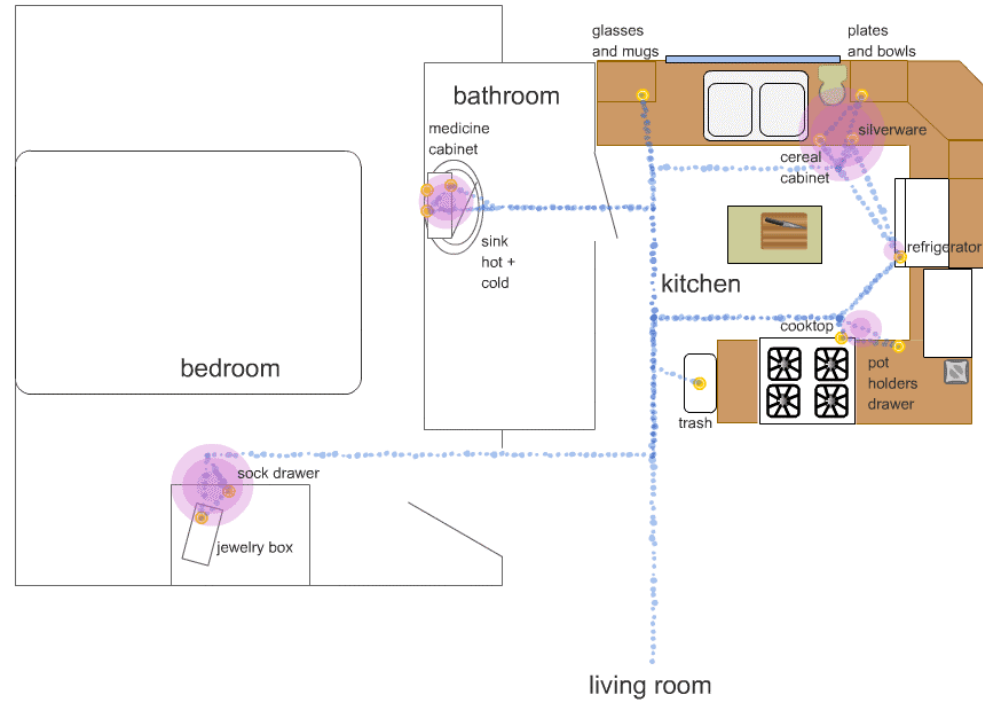
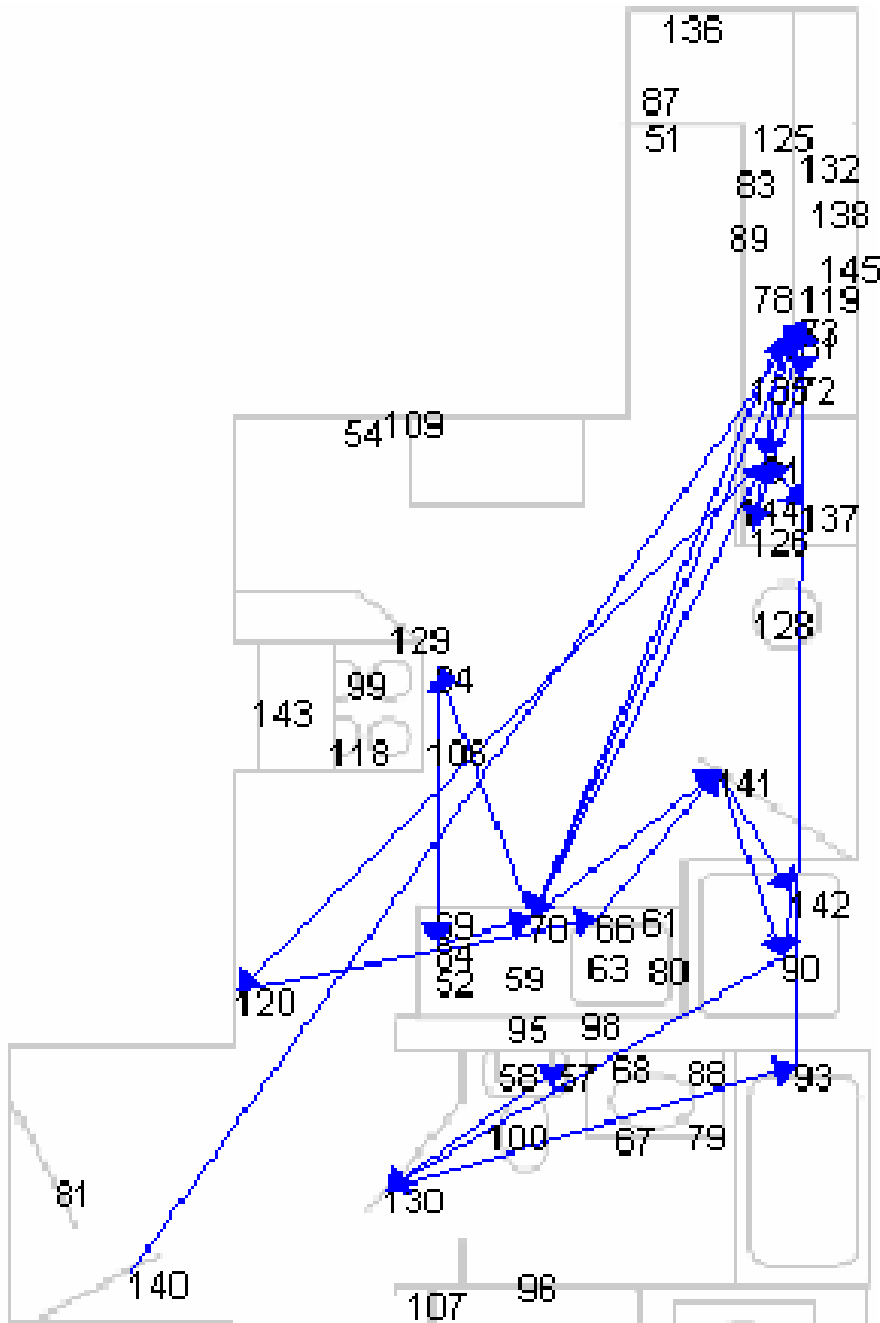
Friday, 4/25/2003



Saturday, 4/26/2003



## Patterns of movement

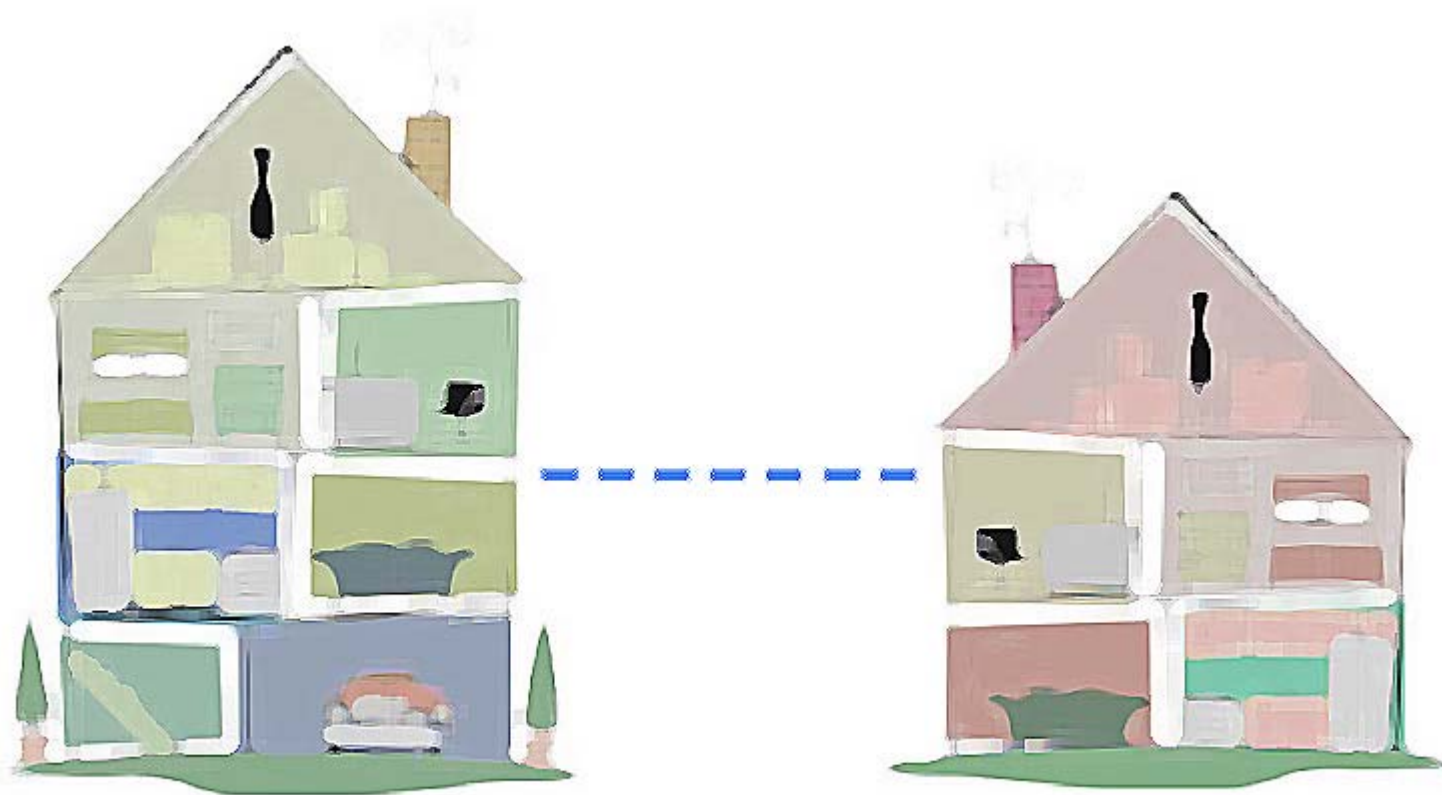


# 3

Scenario: One possible  
proactive health service



**ActivityLink:**  
Providing peace of mind  
communication



The family: adult  
children and kids



## The single aging parent



## First a broken ring

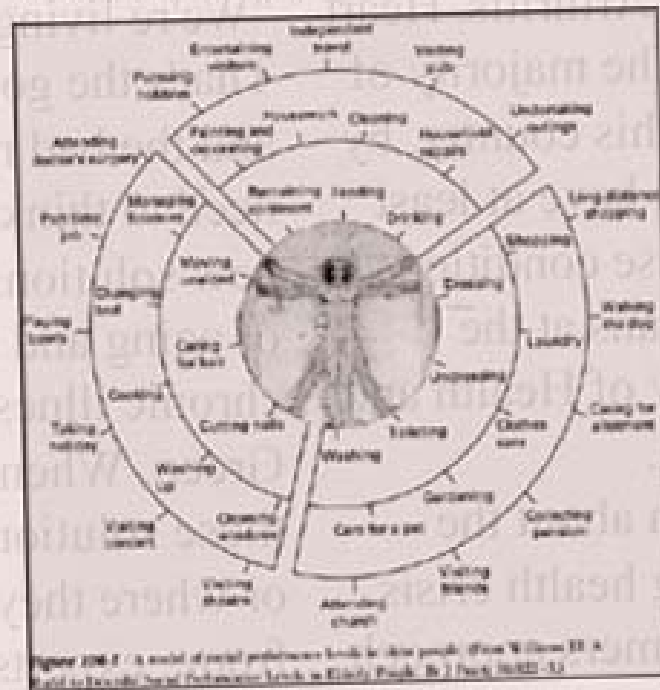
# LESS INVOLVEMENT SIGNALS HEALTH DOWNTURN IN OLDER ADULTS

Early detection permits better interventions

By Megan Carrigan

When her mother stopped attending church every Sunday, Linda knew that something was wrong. "Her commitment

Experts talk about 3-rings that describe an individual's healthy life activities.



In the outer ring, are activities

Neighbor tells adult son that she hasn't noticed his mother gardening lately, and son sees that garden is untended

... and then neighbor concerns



Lots of gadgets to pick from???????????



## WATCHING OUT FOR EACH OTHER

### NEW PRODUCT GIVES SANDWICH GENERATION PEACE OF MIND

By: Anna Crawford, AP Reuters

Most adults see themselves living out their lives in their own homes, but for the children that care for and worry about them, independent living may seem too difficult to achieve.

The sandwich generation, adults who are caring for both their children and their parents, are having face tough decisions: the stress of moving in together, the heartbreak of assisted living, or the danger of accidents and depression that comes with older adults living alone.

A new product now available, ActivityLink, has its roots in research conducted at the MIT PlaceLab. Unlike other products which are stigmatizing and fragile, ActivityLink benefits from a thoughtful approach to issues such as privacy, flexibility, and personal control.

ActivityLink consists of a kit of simple sensors that are easily installed on furniture, appliances, and household fixtures



*These sensors only record open and close events, but*  
*cont. on pg. 213*

Dignified piece of mind:  
a standout

ActivityLink available at  
home stores







Hundreds of sensors: a  
kit of parts

Cost: Just a few hundred dollars  
and \$20 a month

## Installation elder's home



Stick-ems easy, wireless  
... everyone helps.



Sensors installed in  
home of adult children



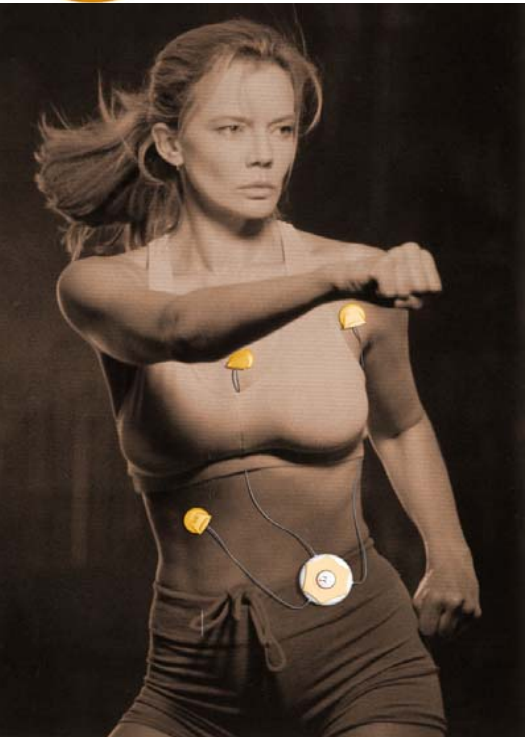


Devices are invisible

Install in just a few hours



Wearable devices for all in the family are also available



## System models overall activity

Thursday, 3/27/2003

Kitchen Freezer

Kitchen Refrigerator

Kitchen Cabinet

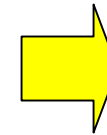
Kitchen Cabinet

Kitchen Drawer

Kitchen Cabinet

Kitchen Cabinet

Kitchen Dishwasher



Software detects  
"important"  
(3-ring) changes

1.1 hour



Change detected

“Something’s changed ... you might give her a call”





## System lifestyle benefits

Conversations don't  
always start with...

“Are you still getting  
exercise?”

Not stigmatizing

Both households use  
system



Infrastructure enables  
other applications

Fun

Communication

New proactive  
applications for  
keeping people:

1. Active

2. Mindful

3. Empowered

# 4

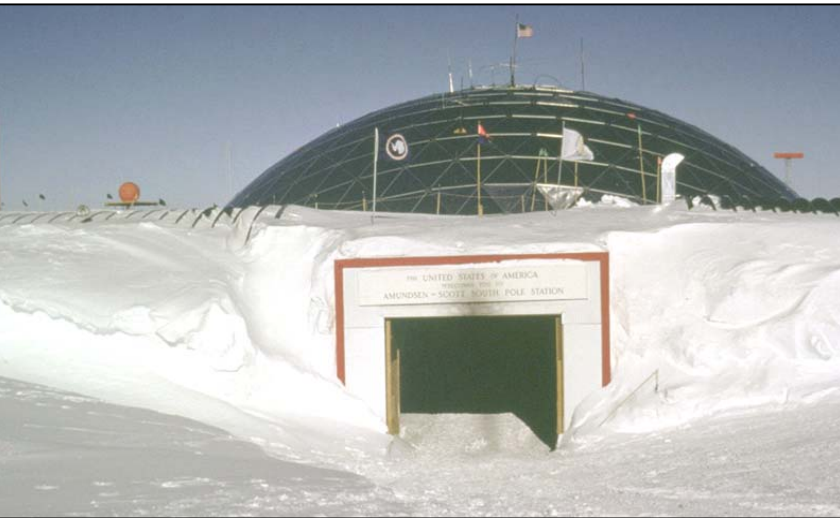
## PlaceLab

Technology development is the “easy part.”

Big Question: How can we develop effective strategies that people will accept into their lives.

Needed: A shared research facility to study people and their use of technology in natural environments

## Shared Research Facilities



Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station



Fermilab Accelerator



"Get Away Special" Payload Program

PlaceLab ← → PlaceLab



### Testing of Infrastructure

“Plug and Play” Architecture

Digital Infrastructure

Fine grained sensing of people, objects,  
and activity

Ubiquitous displays



### Testing with People

Proactive Health.

Interface (Single Mental Model)

Models of Behavior

Technology in Context

Just-In-Time Information



**Not** a prototype  
**Not** a demonstration



The **PlaceLab** is a  
“microscope” to study  
people and their  
relationship to:  
**new technologies**  
and  
**new approaches to  
design**

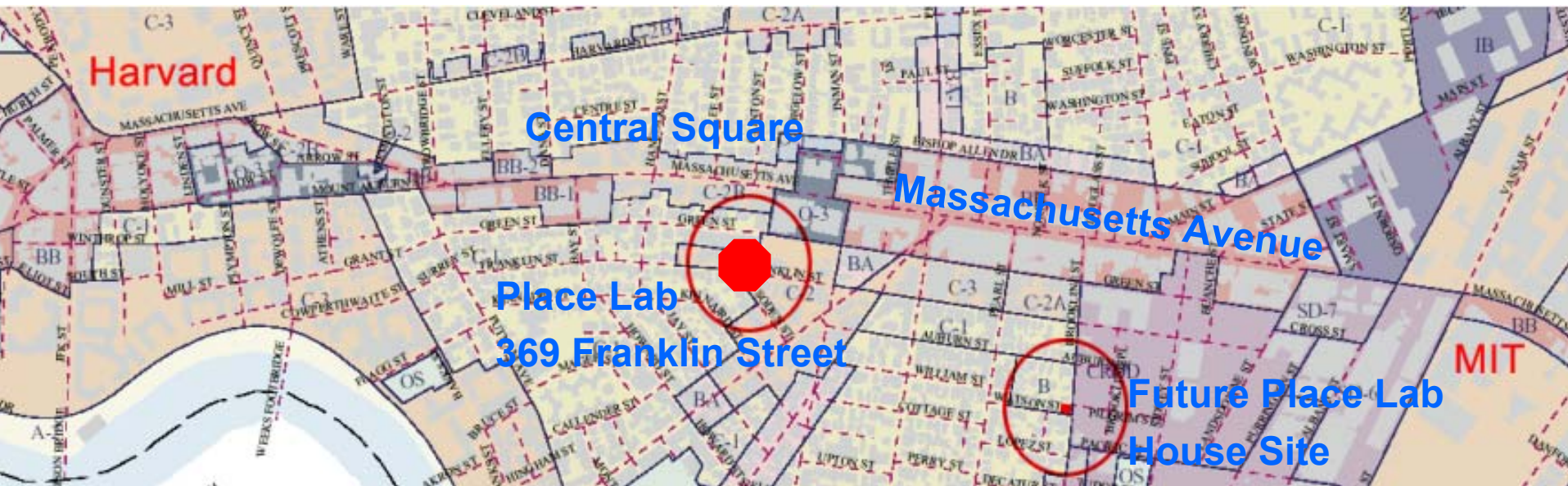


*in natural settings . . .  
with occupants going  
about their real life  
activities*



## Location

The **PlaceLab** is at 369 Franklin Street in Cambridgeport, Cambridge (between Harvard and MIT)





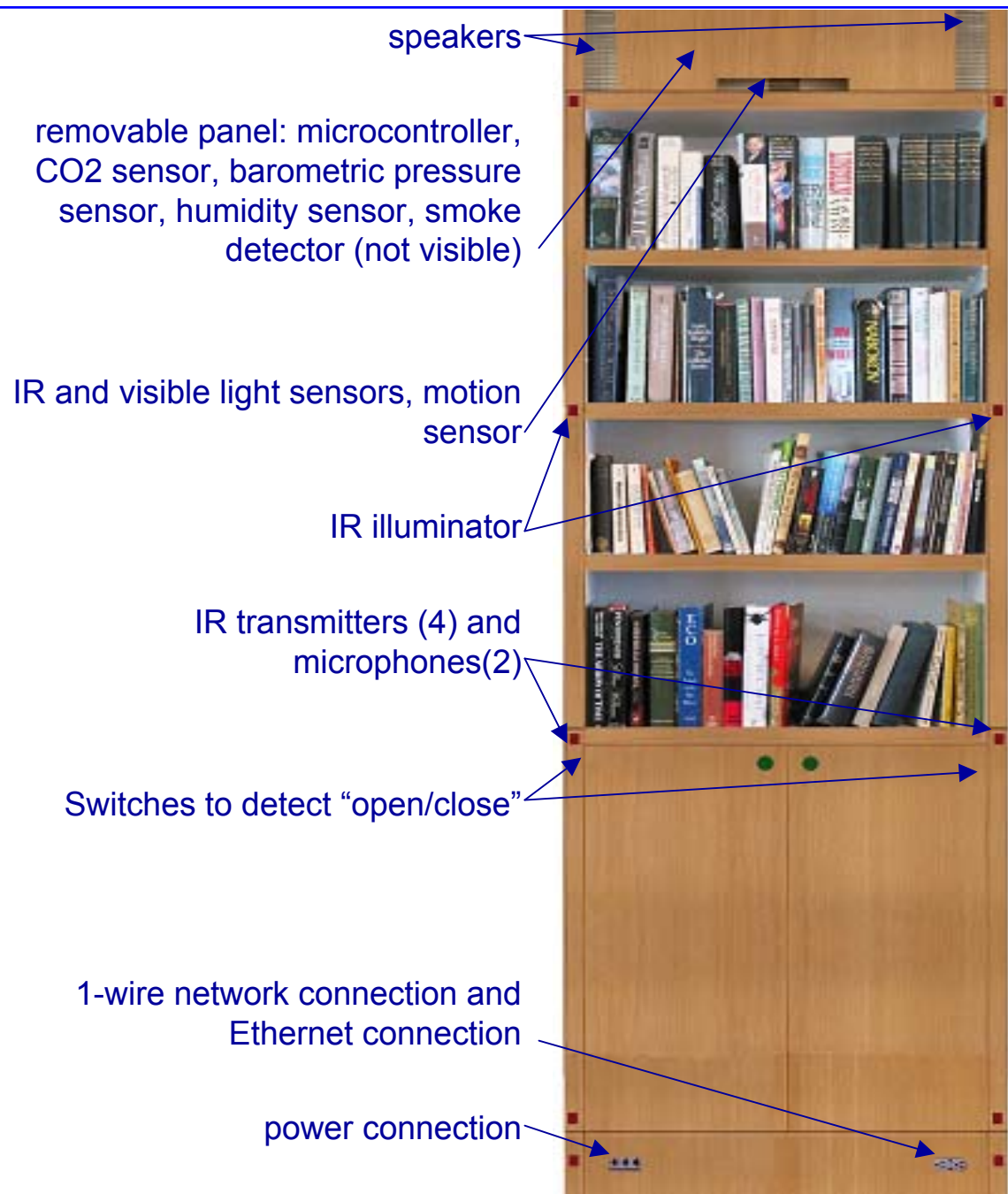
## Location

A lower floor unit of full-service condominium building, now under construction.

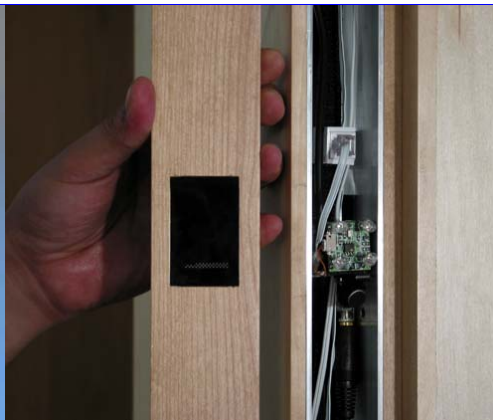
The apartment can be entered both from the lobby and from the side yard.



PlaceLab



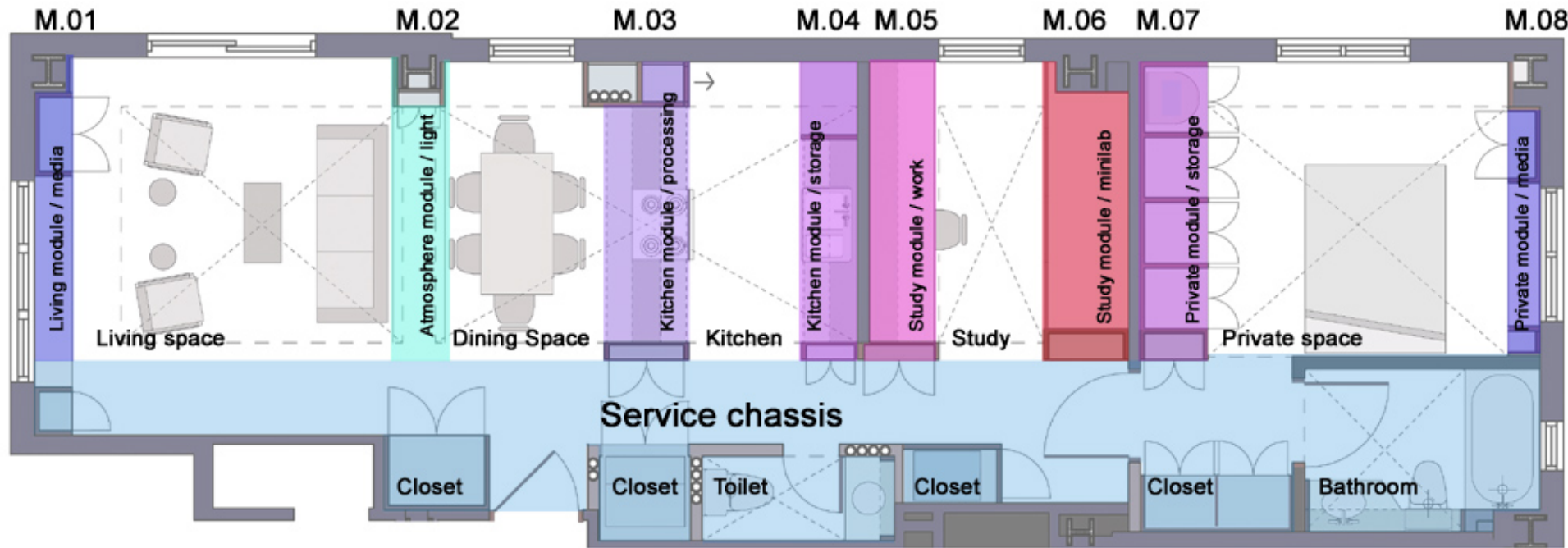
**PlaceLab Infrastructure:**  
Modular interior  
cabinetry with  
embedded technologies



**PlaceLab Infrastructure:**  
Modular interior  
cabinetry with  
embedded technologies



## PlaceLab Infrastructure: Interior cabinetry with embedded technologies





## PlaceLab

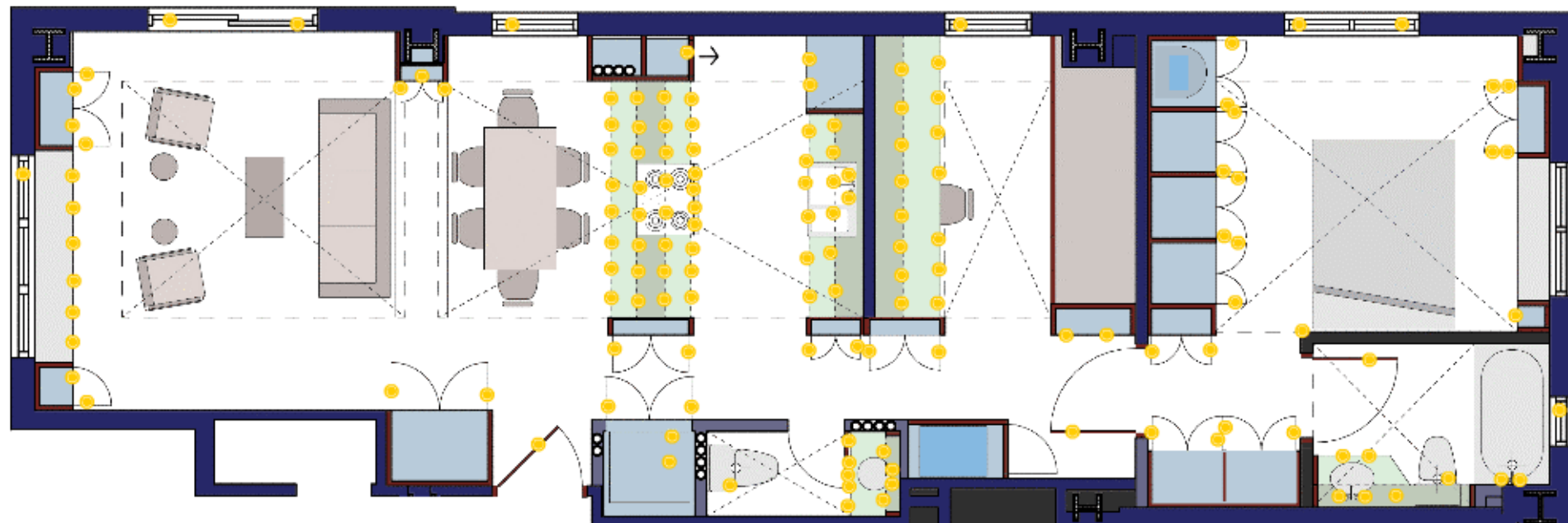
Agile facility to develop and test – in a natural environment – tools for:

- identity of people
- location of people
- what they are doing
- their physiological state
- their psychological state

and

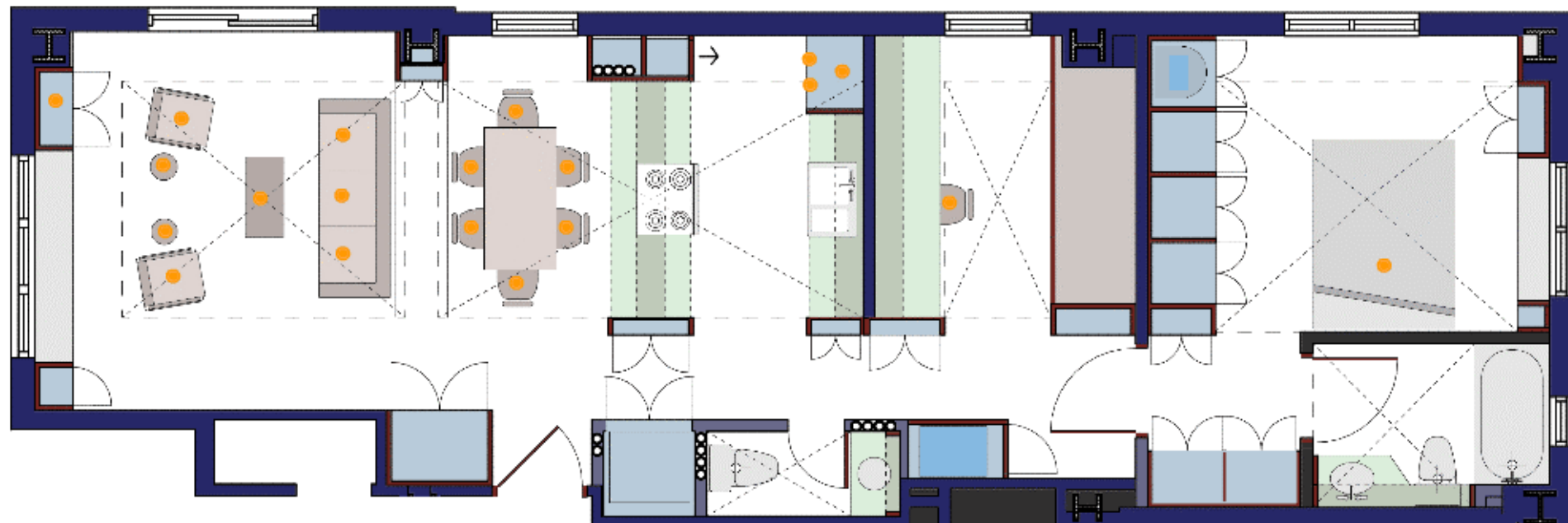
- A suite of tools to test communication - in **non-irritating** and **effective** ways - at just the right time.

## PlaceLab Infrastructure: State of fixed things



Switch sensors in  
cabinets and appliances

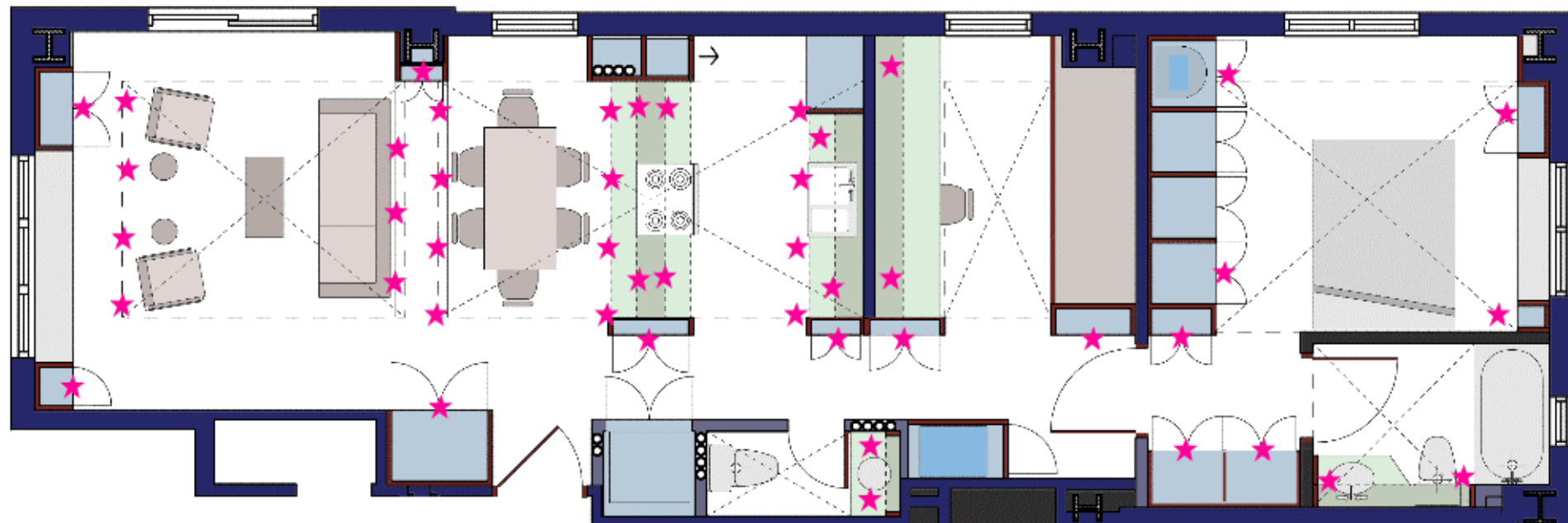
## PlaceLab Infrastructure: State of movable things



Wireless sensors in  
movable furniture

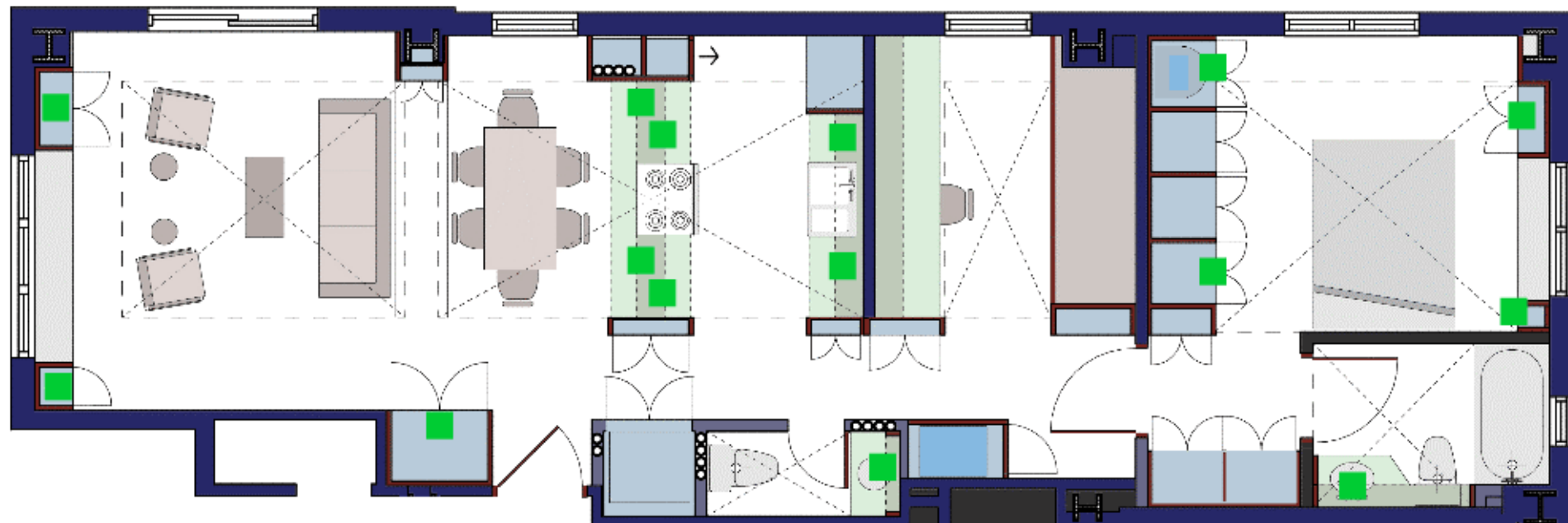


## PlaceLab Infrastructure: Location/identity of People



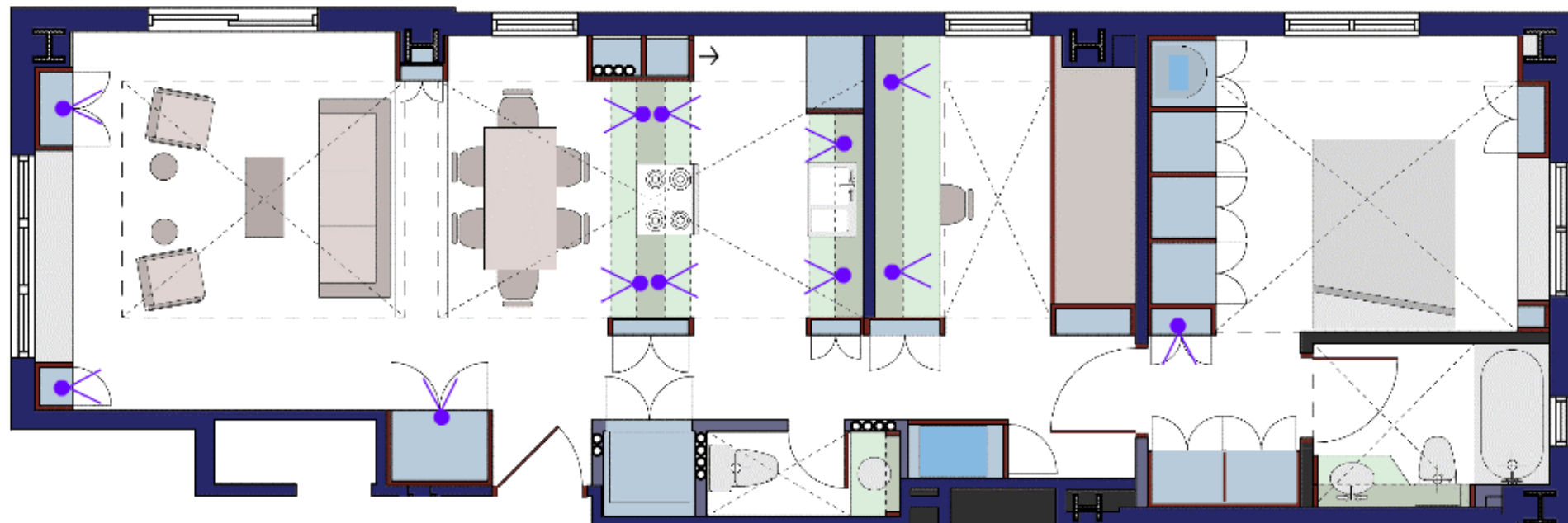
IR transmitters

## PlaceLab Infrastructure: Environmental conditions



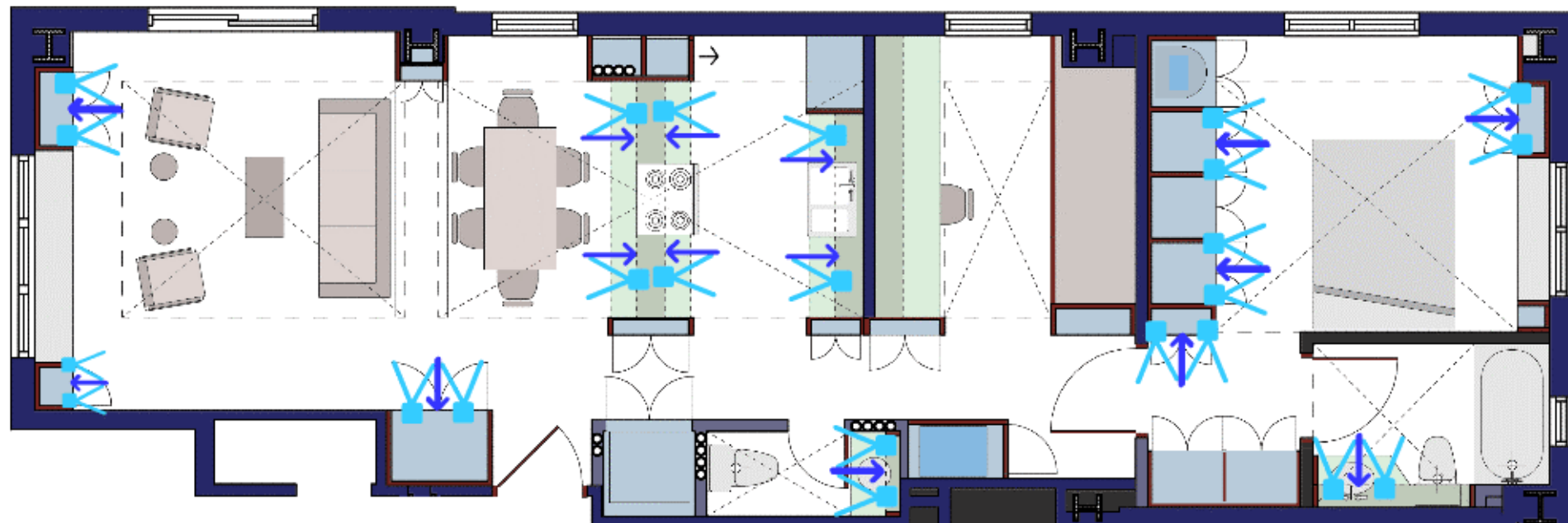
Locations of temperature, humidity, CO, CO<sub>2</sub>, and smoke sensors

**PlaceLab Infrastructure:**  
Optical sensors (IR and  
visible light)



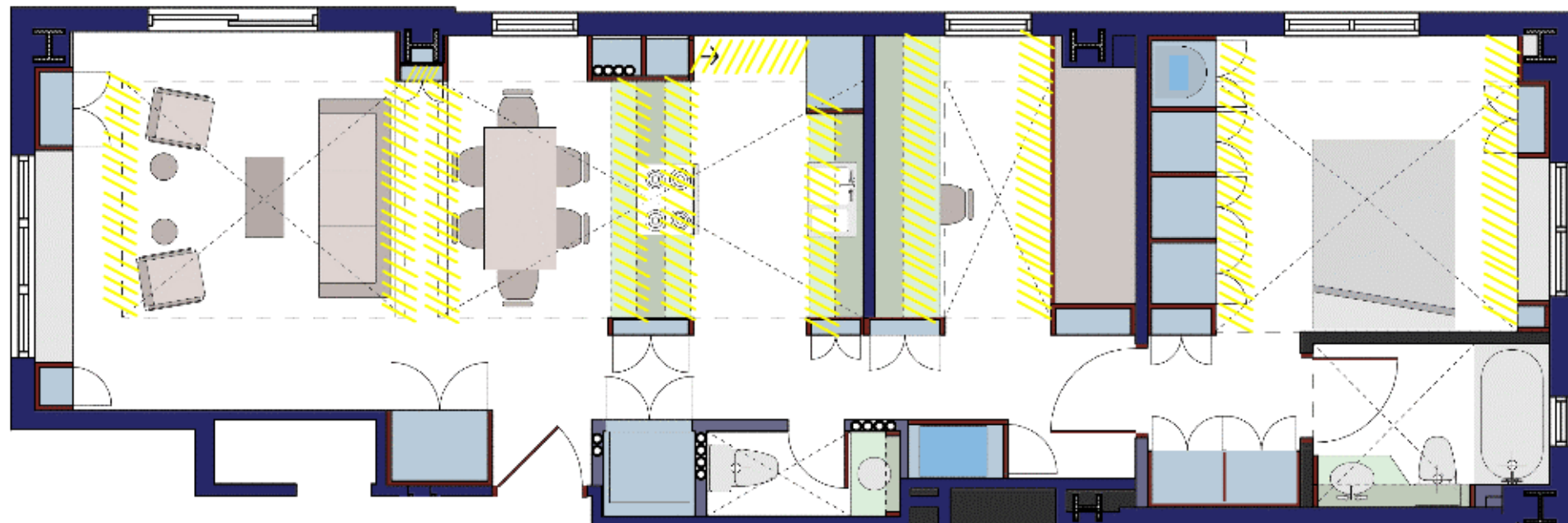
IR and visible light  
sensors

## PlaceLab Infrastructure: Communicating with directed audio



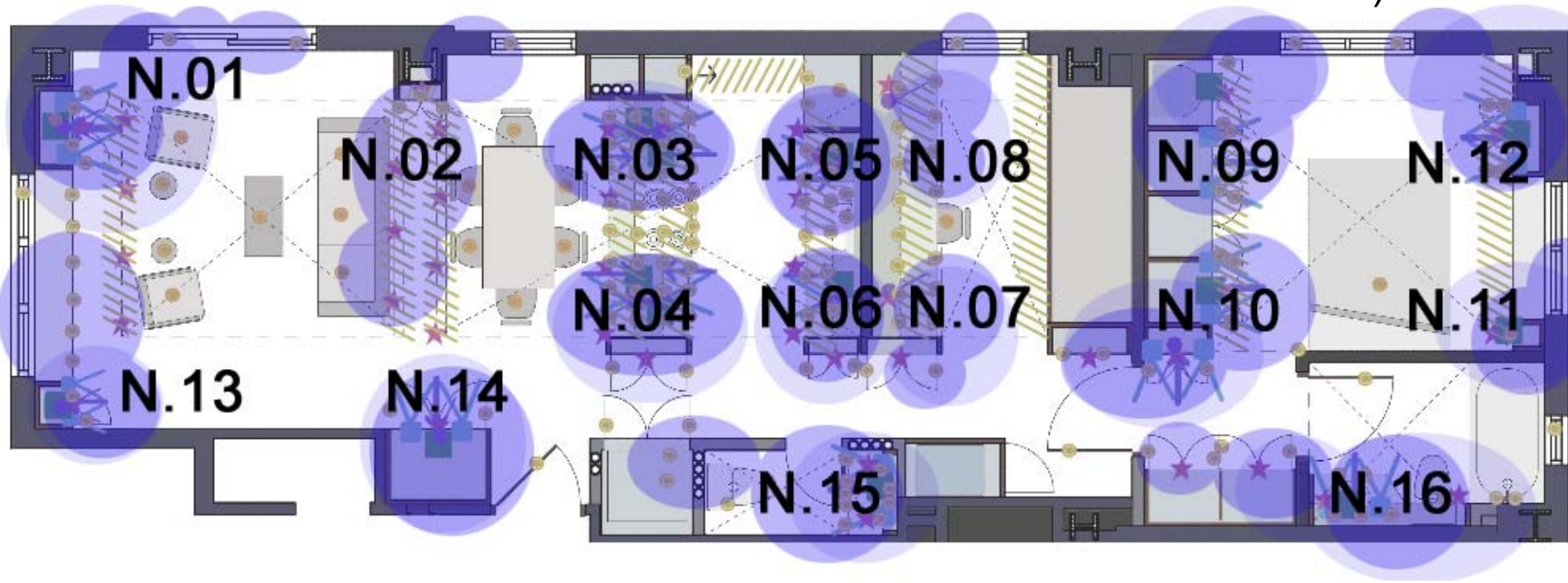
Speakers and  
microphones

**PlaceLab Infrastructure:**  
Communicating with  
ambient light, pixels



Addressable LED 24bit  
lighting

**PlaceLab Infrastructure:**  
Local sensor networks  
(also for communication  
with wearables)



Sensor networks located  
in prefabricated cabinetry



PlaceLab Infrastructure:  
Pixels everywhere  
(initially lab demo only)





## PlaceLab Attributes

### 1) Common Infrastructure

Sensing, communication, and recording infrastructure used by all researchers

### 2) Smart occupants (not smart homes).

Give people information and control rather than automate

### 3) Context of Life

Evaluate technologies in natural settings (not lab)

### 4) Agile

Allow for change

### 5) Shared Research Facility

Any sponsor or academic researcher may apply





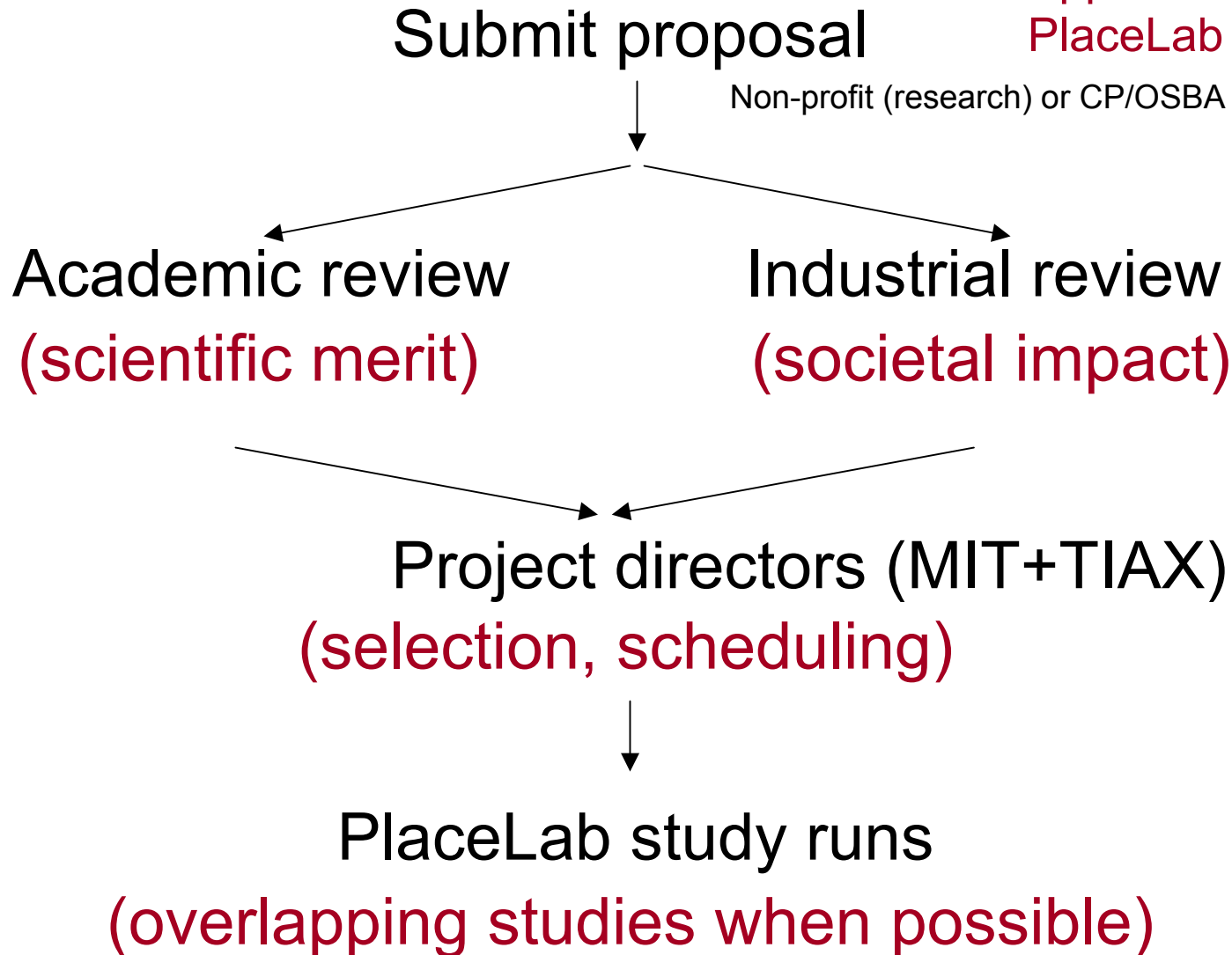
## PlaceLab research possibilities (a few)

- 1) Techniques to encourage healthy behaviors
- 2) Viability and acceptance of wearable systems
- 3) Novel sensors and low-cost sensor networks
- 4) Activity recognition
- 5) Lighting and energy management
- 6) Privacy and trust
- 7) Learning at home
- 8) Indoor air quality



# 8

## Application Process: PlaceLab Studies





# PlaceLab

A Shared Research Facility

Opening Fall 2003

Research Proposals Now Being Accepted

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