

Social robots for older adults: exploring different activities

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A qualitative design through a focus group method pointed that there are some activities in which independent-living older adults, i.e., older adults that do not depend upon anyone to carry out their activities, require a robot.

Methodology

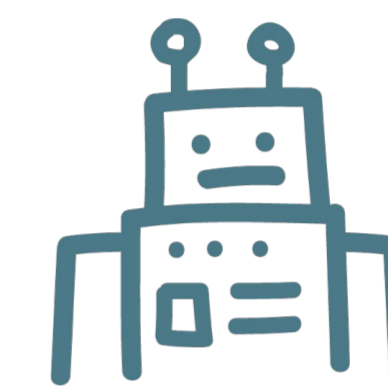
- ▶ 16 participants (12 females, 4 males; M age = 78.69, $\sigma = 12.20$) from a day-home care institution in Lisbon
- ▶ Focus group methodology with three phases:



① Information and sensitizing



② Brainstorming session



③ Choosing Robots

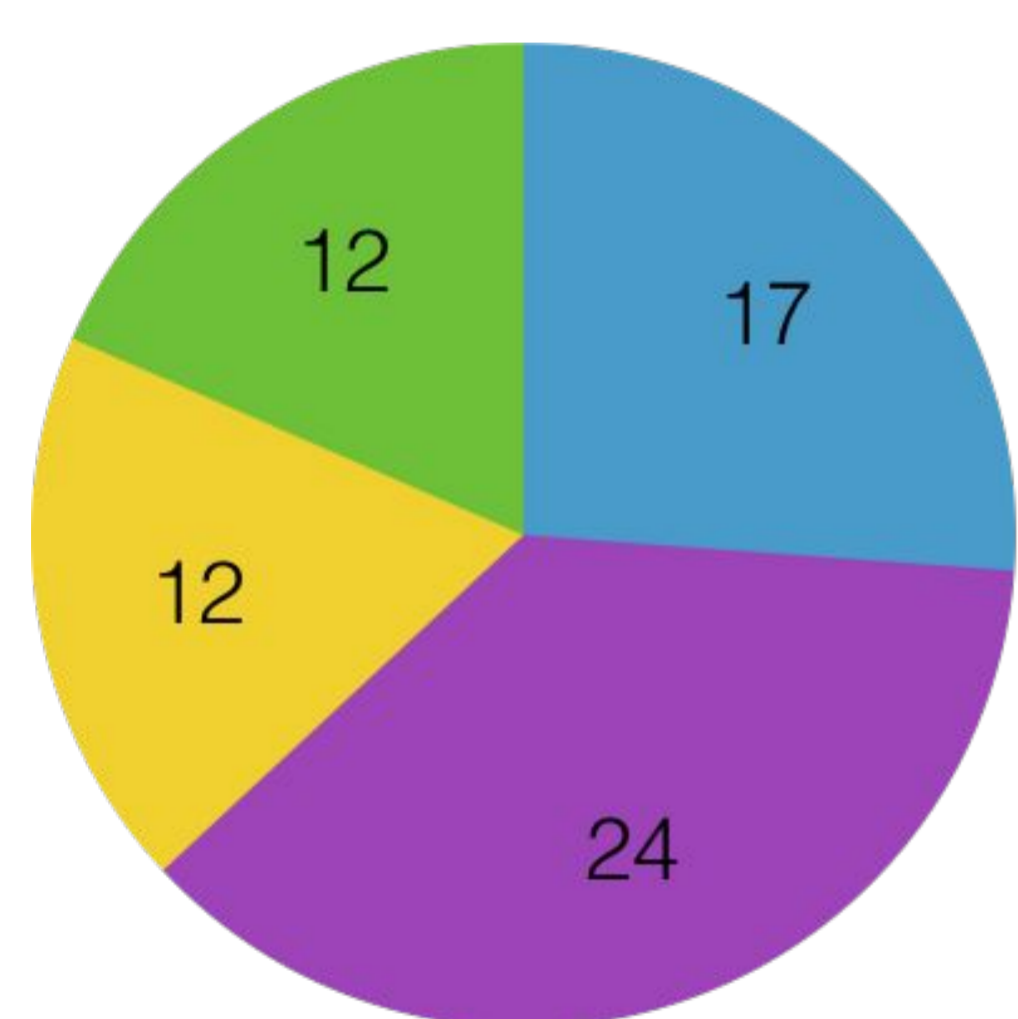
Results

Help bathing, specially washing the feet and the back. [BADL]

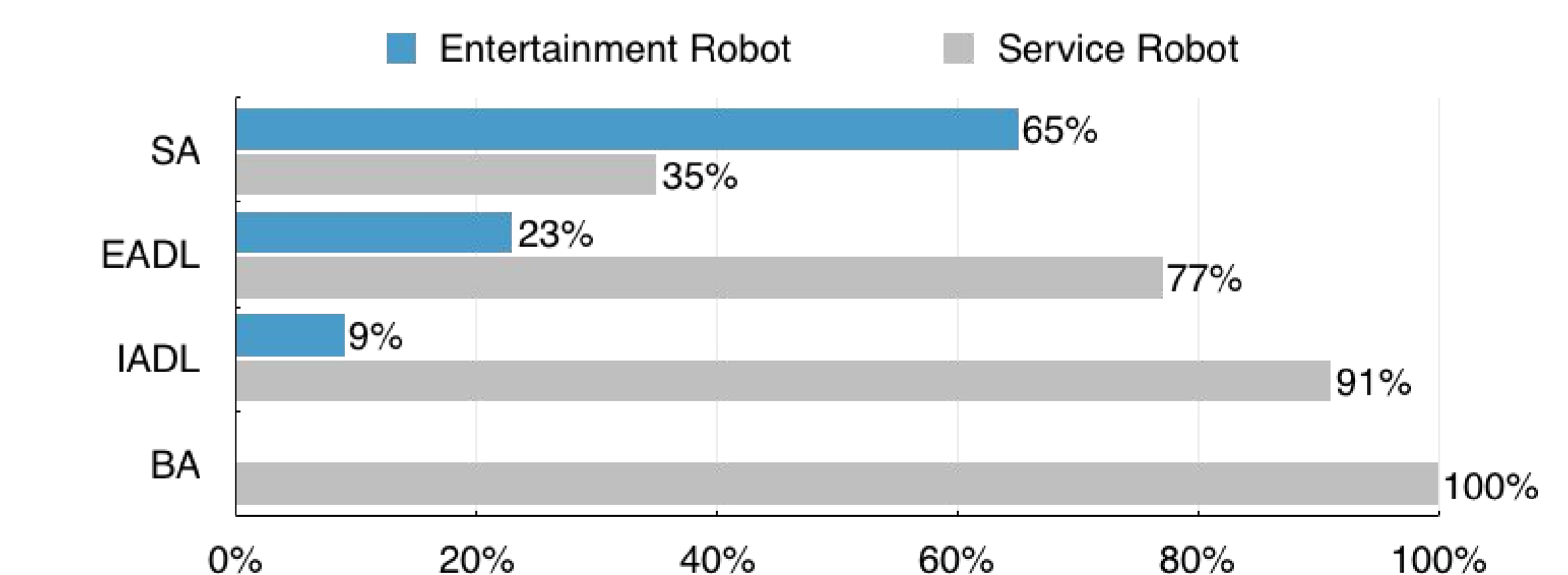
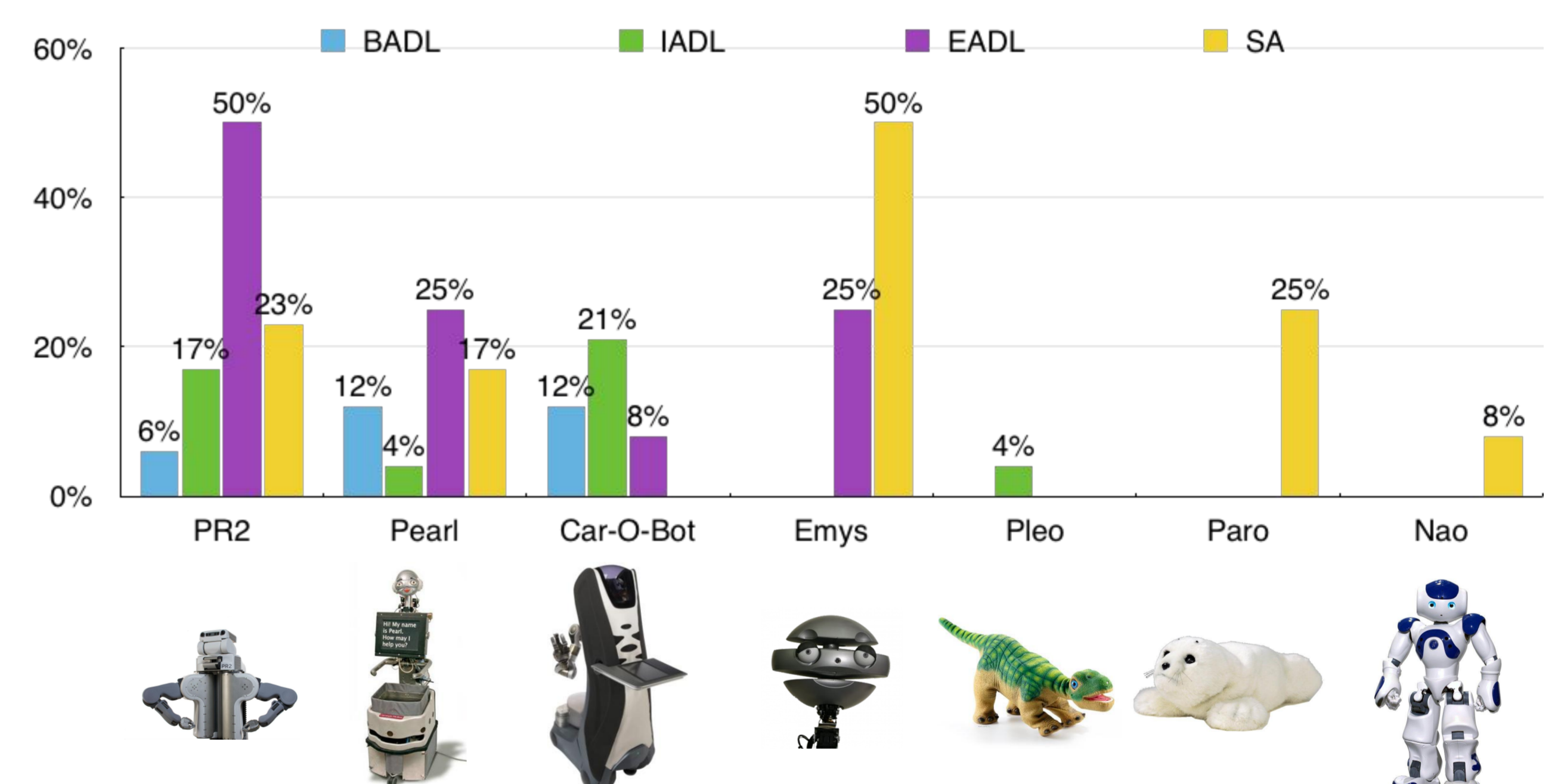
Have an informative dialogue, by providing meteorological, time and news informations. [EADL]

Memorize what I eat. I do not always remember when to eat or what I eat, so I end up having a bad diet. [IADL]

Cheer people, communicate or talk. the robot should be able to share its own ideas, even when they are different from ours. [SA]



- Basic Activities of Daily Living (BADL)
- Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADL)
- Enhanced Activities of Daily Living (EADL)
- Social Activities (SA)



Conclusions

- ▶ The majority of different activities refers to IADL, where the robot would be an extra help.
- ▶ A large number of activities concerns BADL related with personal hygiene.
- ▶ EADL and SA emerged as the activities in which older adults require the robot for communicating with the outside world.
- ▶ Service robots were chosen to perform all types of activities due to their physicality since they are perceived as able to accomplish multiple tasks.