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**MATXA, the first speech open-source solution  
to support the different Catalan varieties -  
Barcelona Supercomputing Center (BSC)**

# MATXA, the first speech open-source solution to support the different Catalan varieties -BSC



**Martí Llopart Font**

*Direcció Innovació Digital*

**Barcelona Supercomputing Center (BSC)**

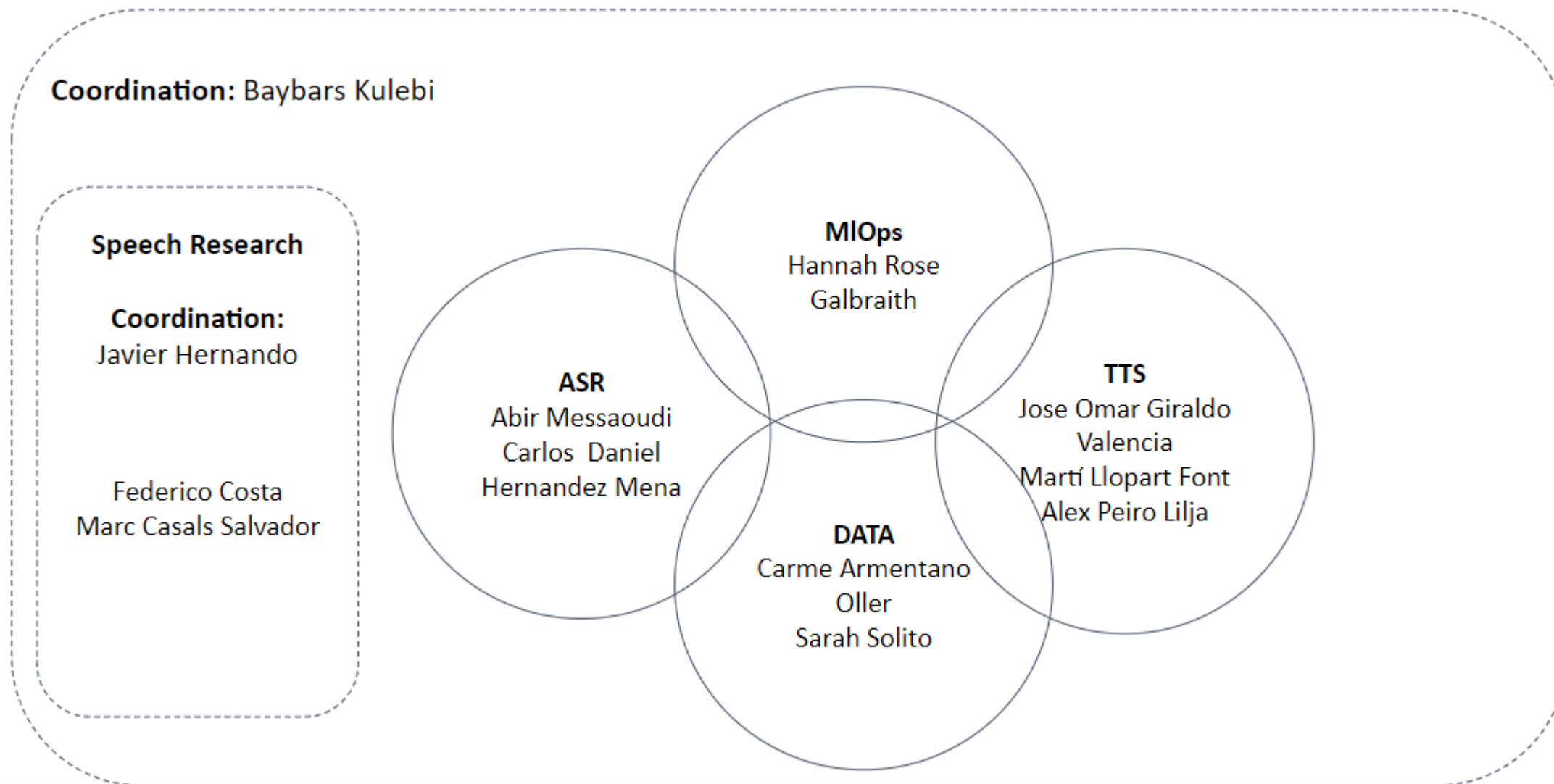
Who are we?



The project aims to enable Catalan to make a qualitative and quantitative leap in the digital ecosystem.



## Who are we?



Who am I ?

Martí Llopart, BSC - Language Technologies Unit - TTS from Speech



BEng Biomedical Engineering - First Class Honours

*Queen Mary University of London*

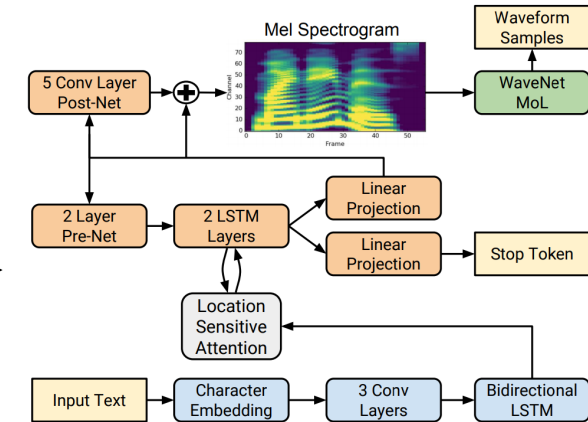
MEM Engineering Project Management

*UPC*

Published in the renowned journal of Biophysical Reviews, cited by Nature

Published by Databricks

Where do we come from?



VITS: Conditional Variational Autoencoder with  
Adversarial Learning for End-to-End Text-to-Speech

Jaehyeon Kim, Jungil Kong, and Juhee Son



## Summary



## What's Matxa?

It is the first multispeaker, multidialectal neural TTS model, and comes together with the vocoder model alVoCat to generate high quality and expressive speech efficiently in four Catalan dialects:

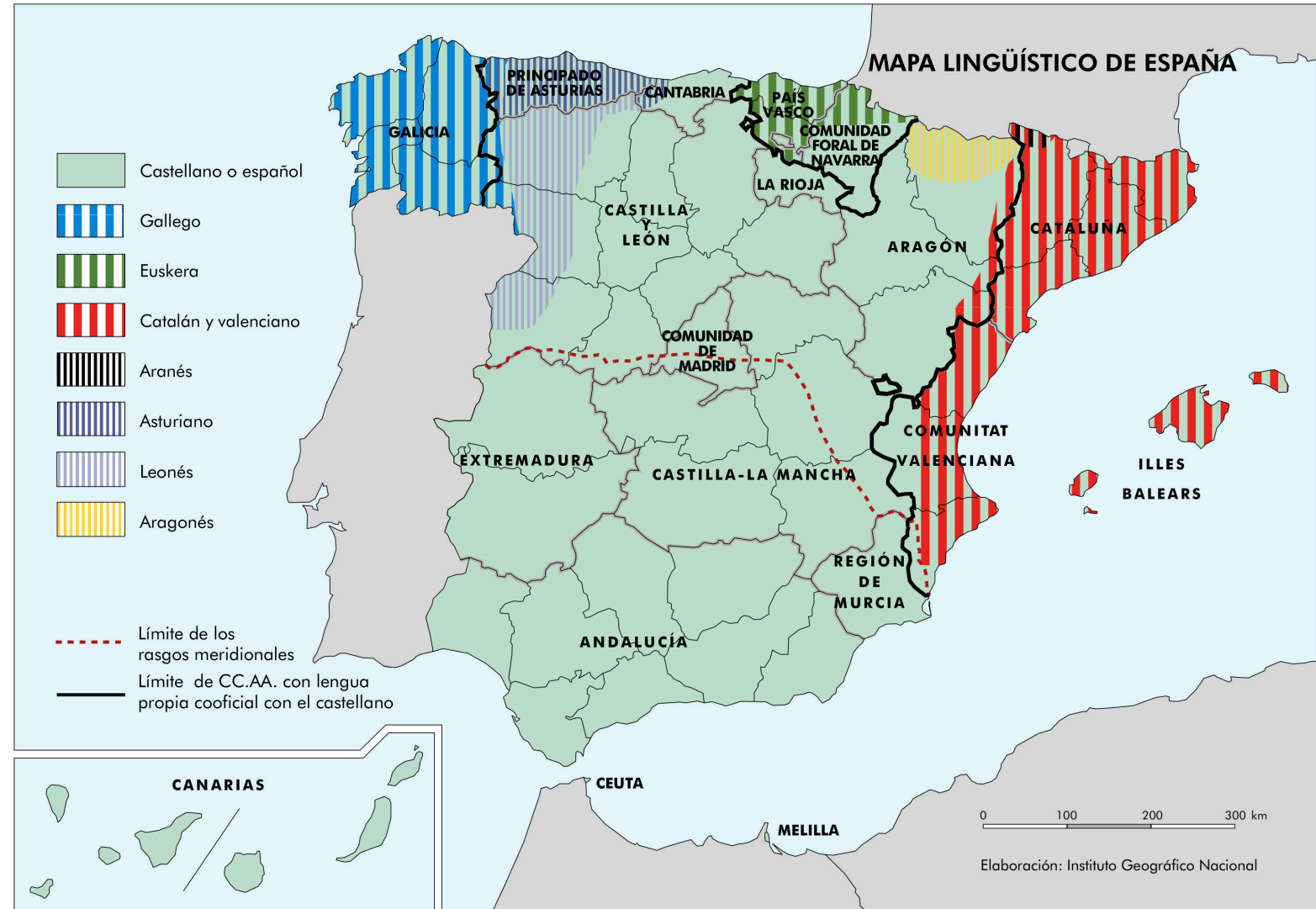
- Balear
- Central
- North-Occidental
- Valencian





## TTS in minority languages

More efforts are needed to democratise these solutions.



## What we intend to do

🗣️ Matxa is a multispeaker multidialect TTS model which uses 🗣️ alVoCat as a vocoder. They are based on Matcha-TTS and Vocos architectures.

You can synthesize test sentences below and check the technical details in the "About" tab.

Demo About Informació

**Input text**  
max 500 characters

m'ha costat molt desenvolupar una veu, i ara que la tinc no estaré en silenci

**Accent**  
Models are trained on 4 accents

balear

**Speaker id**  
Models are trained on 2 speakers. You can prompt the model using one of these speaker ids.

quim

**Temperature** 0,2  
Temperature

**Length scale** 0,89  
Controls speech pace, larger values for slower pace and smaller values for faster pace

Clear Submit

🎵 Matxa + alVoCat

🎵

# Objectives

- Developing Natural-Sounding TTS Synthesis for Catalan Dialects
- Seamless Integration with the administration for Visually Impaired Assistance
- User-Friendly Interface and Model Download



Current

**COST**

Quantity

Standardized



## What's the problem to be solved?

### MAIN TYPES OF LEARNING DISABILITIES



#### ADHD

is a condition that affects people's behaviour. People with ADHD can seem restless, may have trouble concentrating and may act on impulse.



#### Dyslexia



#### Dyscalculia



#### Dysgraphia

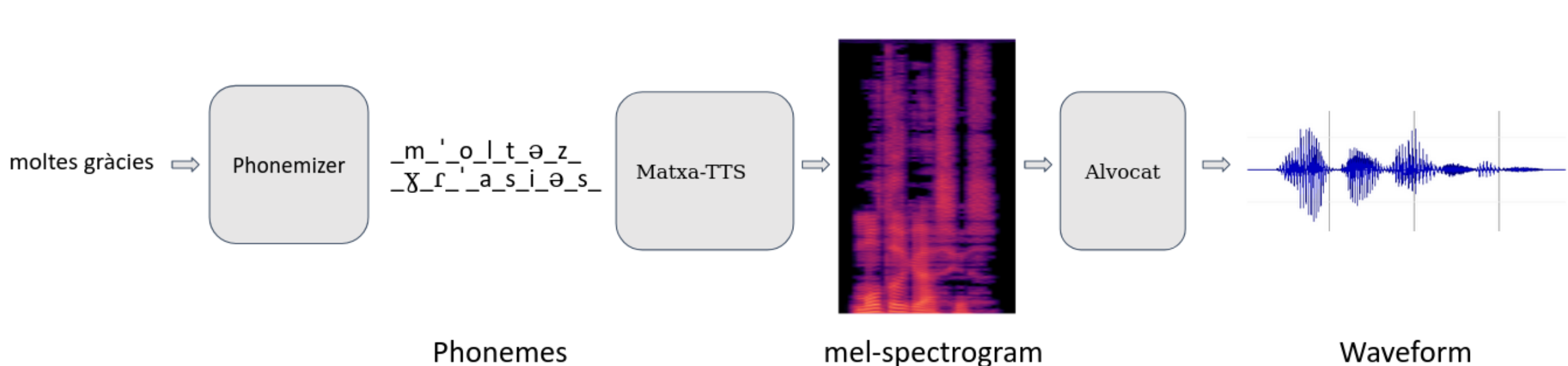


#### Auditory & Visual Processing Disorders



#### Dyspraxia

is a common disorder that affects movement and co-ordination. It affect skills such as tasks requiring balance, playing sports or learning to drive a car.



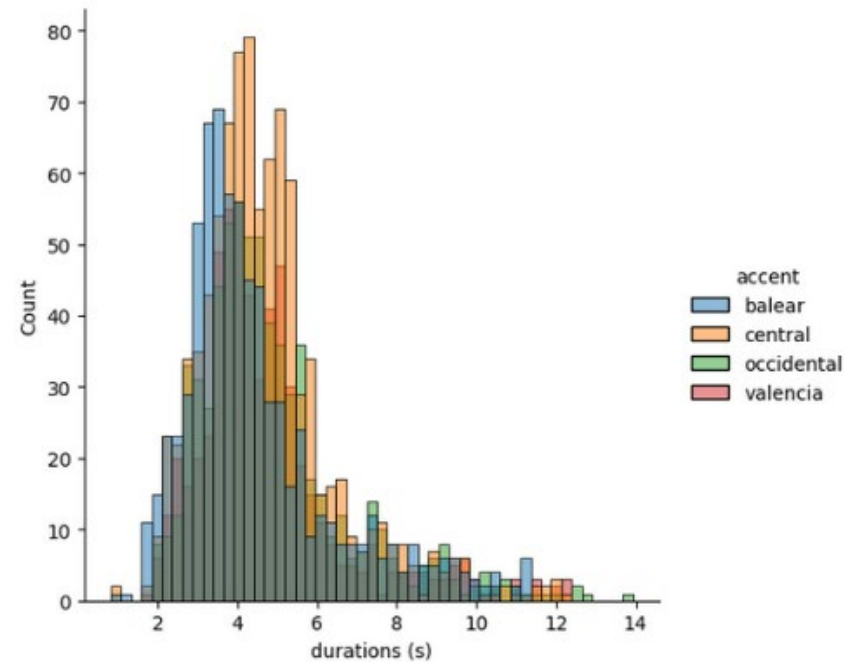
2- The matcha-TTS model converts these phonemes into a mel spectrogram, a visual representation of the spectrum of frequencies of a sound over time.

3- This spectrogram is then fed into [our adaptation of the Vocos vocoder](#), which synthesizes the speech waveform.

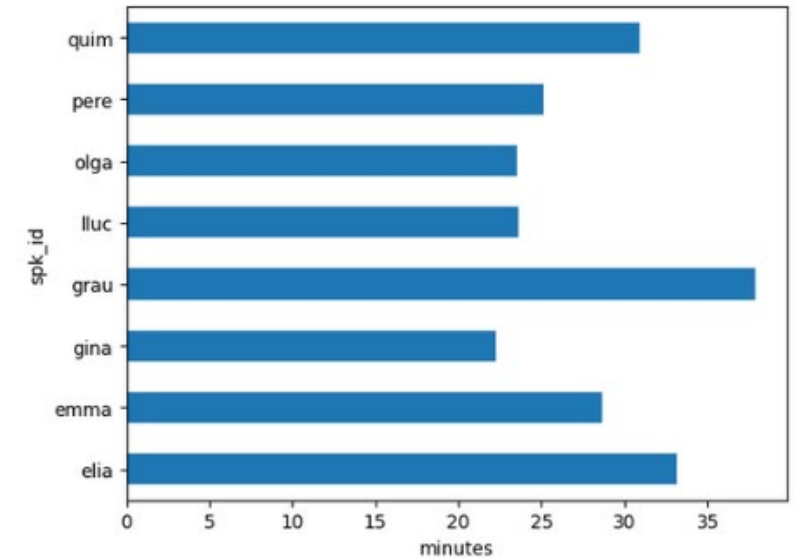


- Multi-accent data:
- 3.5h of studio recordings
- Two voices per accents (female/male)
- On average, 25 min per speaker.

Distribution of utterance durations per accent



Total durations per speaker



- Multi-accent data:

In the following example extracted from our eSpeak, clear phonetic differences can be observed:

Original sentence: “Volem sentir la teva veu perquè és molt important”

**Balearic:** vol'ɛn sɛnt'i lə t'evə v'ɛw pərk'ə 'əz m'olt import'ant

**Central:** bul'ɛm sɛnt'i lə t'eβə β'ɛw pərk'ɛ 'ez m'ol impurt'an

**North-Western:** bol'em sɛnt'i la t'ewɛ β'ew perk'e 'ez m'ol import'an

**Valencian:** vol'em sɛnt'ir la t'ewa v'ew perk'e 'ez m'olt import'ant

## Matxa

The first speech open-source solution to suport the different Catalan varieties - BSC

**Balearic:**



**Central:**



**North-Western:**



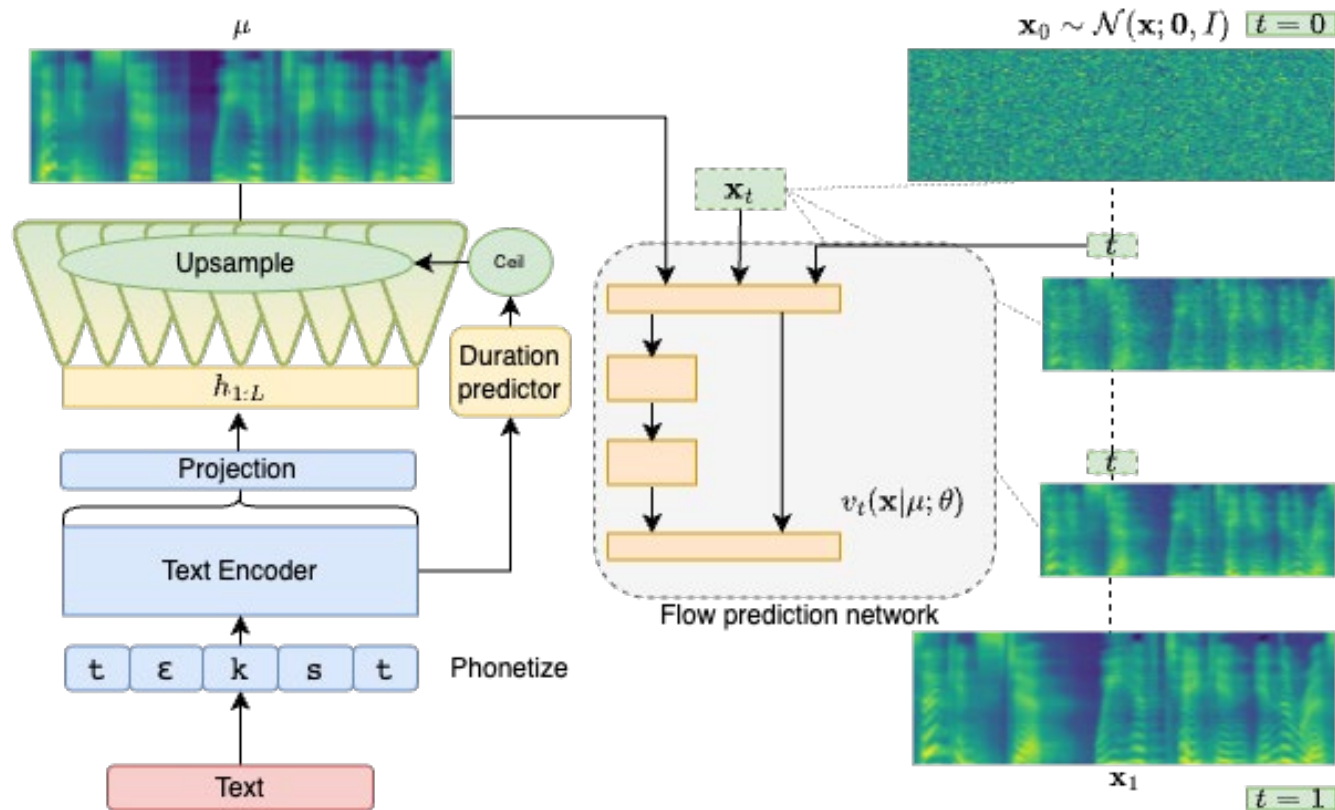
**Valencian:**





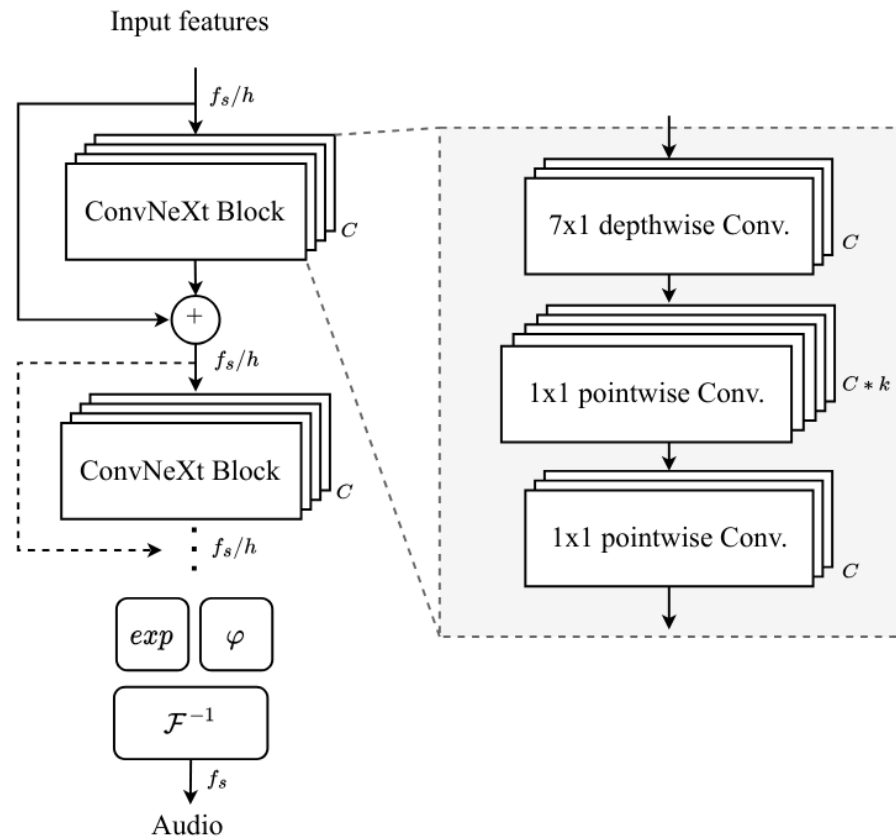
• Model architectures:

Matxa is based on Matcha-TTS[1], a non-autoregressive encoder-decoder model designed for fast acoustic modelling.

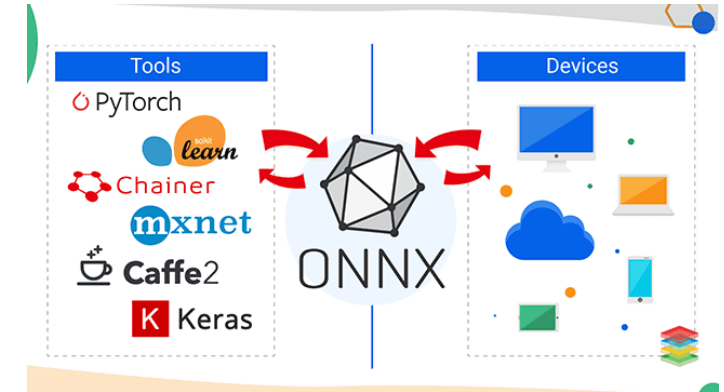
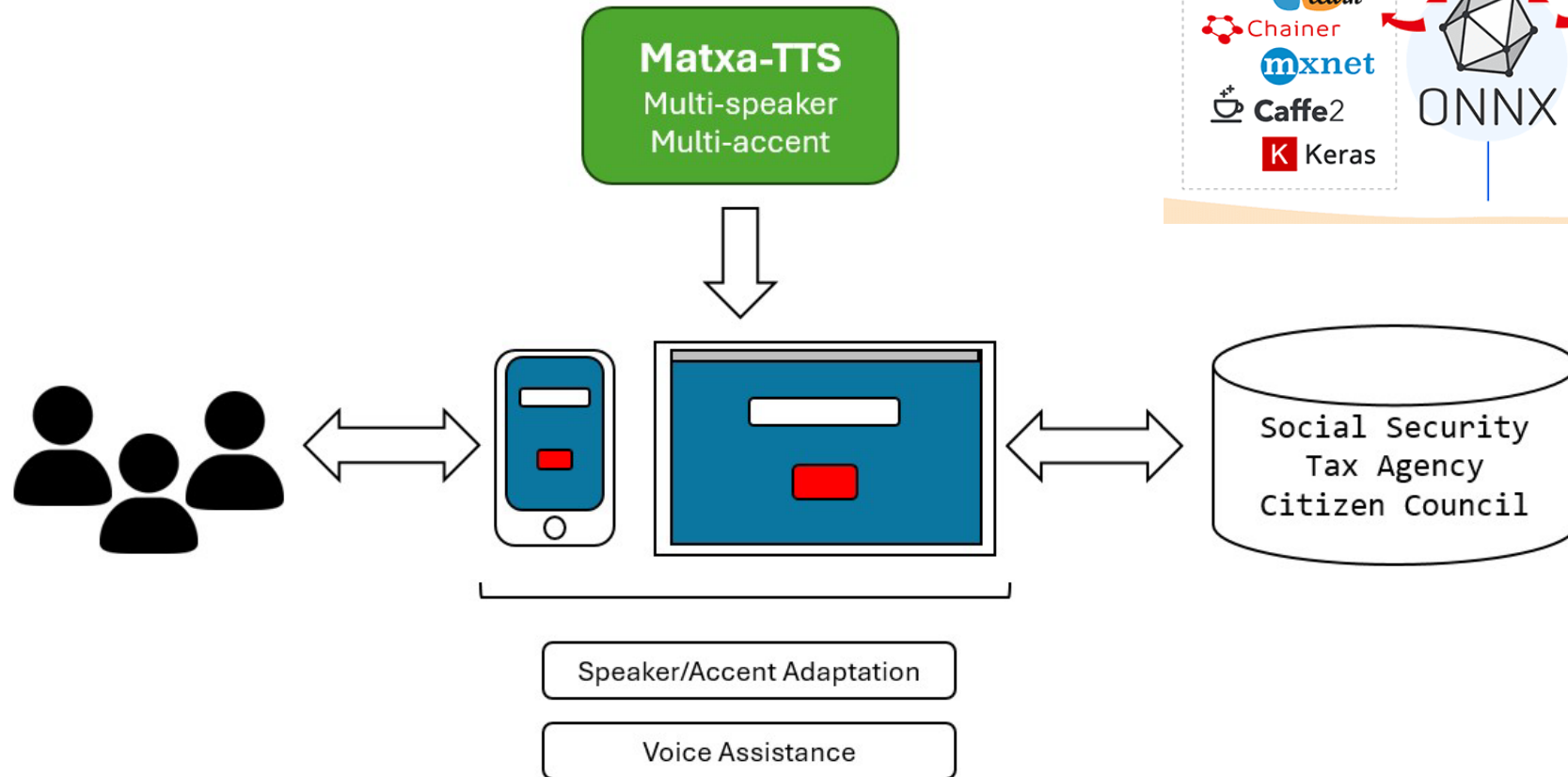


• Model architectures:

AIVoCat is an adapted version of the recently published vocoder named Vocos[3]. It is a fast neural vocoder designed to synthesise audio waveforms from acoustic features.



- Implementation

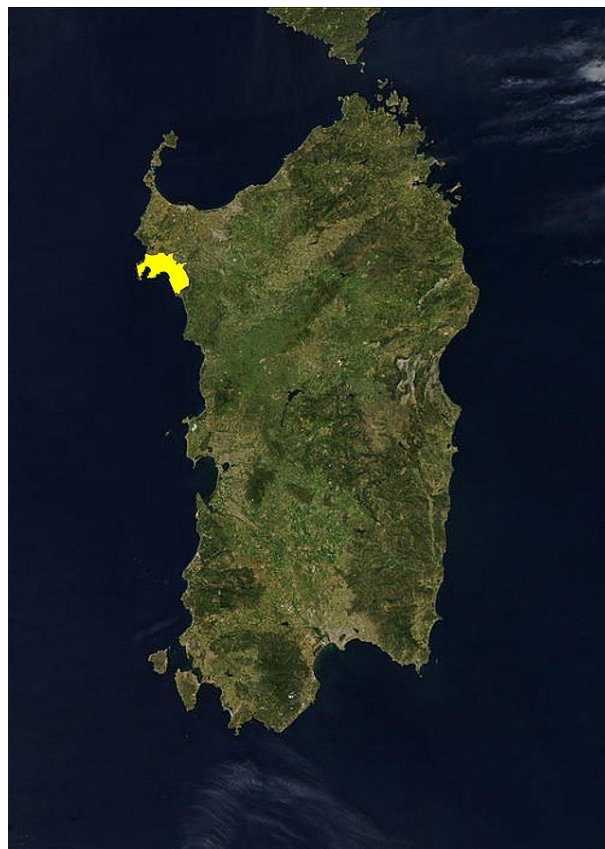


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### Impact of the solution

Septentrional +





## Impact of the solution

### TEXT\_Models

Encoders / Decoders models, foundational, pretrained or fine-tuned

## Llama-VITS: Enhancing TTS Synthesis with Semantic Awareness

Xincan Feng, Akifumi Yoshimoto

Recent advancements in Natural Language Processing (NLP) have seen Large-scale Language Models (LLMs) excel at producing high-quality text for various purposes. Notably, in Text-To-Speech (TTS) systems, the integration of BERT for semantic token generation has underscored the importance of semantic content in producing coherent speech outputs. Despite this, the specific utility of LLMs in enhancing TTS synthesis remains considerably limited. This research introduces an innovative approach, Llama-VITS, which enhances TTS synthesis by enriching the semantic content of text using LLM. Llama-VITS integrates semantic embeddings from Llama2 with the VITS model, a leading end-to-end TTS framework. By leveraging Llama2 for the primary speech synthesis process, our experiments demonstrate that Llama-VITS matches the naturalness of the original VITS (ORI-VITS) and those incorporate BERT (BERT-VITS), on the LJSpeech dataset, a substantial collection of neutral, clear speech. Moreover, our method significantly enhances emotive expressiveness on the EmoV\_DB\_bea\_sem dataset, a curated selection of emotionally consistent speech from the EmoV\_DB dataset, highlighting its potential to generate emotive speech.

## Acknowledgments

The development of LaFresCat dataset, and the neural network models Matxa and alvoCat has been possible thanks to the financing by the Government of Catalonia through the Aina project.

**Aina** IIII



El projecte Aina ha estat impulsat i finançat per la



Nota Legal

# Thank you for your



attention!

Any requests?



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