

Song Generation (Voice Clone Synthesis)

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Course: Deep Learning for Perception

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1. Project Definition:

The project involves developing a computational model capable of synthesizing novel audio sequences (songs) in the style of a specific singer, given a text input of lyrics. The input data consists of a set of audio recordings of the target singer and corresponding textual transcriptions of the lyrics. The desired output is a generated audio waveform that exhibits the vocal characteristics and stylistic attributes of the target singer when given new lyric text.

2. Input Data Specifications:

- **Audio Data:**

- Format: .wav audio files.
- Language: Urdu language vocals.
- Requirements:
 - Consistent sampling rate across all files (e.g., 16kHz, 22.05kHz).
 - Normalized amplitude levels.
 - Minimal background noise.
 - Clear vocal presence.

- **Lyrics:**

- Format: Text files.
- Script: Roman Urdu.
- Requirements:

- Accurate temporal alignment with the corresponding audio segments. This alignment must specify the precise time intervals within the audio that correspond to each textual unit (word, phrase, or phoneme).
- Consistent text encoding.

3. Data Preprocessing:

- **Audio Preprocessing:**
 - **Resampling:** If necessary, resample all audio files to a uniform sampling rate.
 - **Normalization:** Normalize the amplitude of the audio signal to a specific range (e.g., $[-1, 1]$).
 - **Silence Removal:** Employ voice activity detection (VAD) algorithms to remove segments of silence at the beginning and end of audio files.
 - **Feature Extraction:** Convert the raw audio waveform into a time-frequency representation. Common options include:
 - Mel-spectrogram: A visual representation of the audio signal where the frequency scale is transformed to the Mel scale.
 - Mel-Frequency Cepstral Coefficients (MFCCs): Coefficients derived from the Mel-spectrogram, often used to represent the spectral envelope of the audio.
- **Text Preprocessing:**
 - **Normalization:** Apply text normalization procedures to ensure consistency in the Roman Urdu text (e.g., handling of capitalization, punctuation).
 - **Phonemization (Optional):** Convert the Roman Urdu text into a sequence of phonemes. This requires a grapheme-to-phoneme (G2P) conversion model or a phonetic dictionary for Urdu.

4. Model Architecture Options:

- **Tacotron 2:**
 - Components:
 - Encoder: Transforms the input text into a higher-level representation.
 - Attention Mechanism: Dynamically aligns the encoded text with the audio features.
 - Decoder: Generates a sequence of mel-spectrogram frames.
 - Output: Mel-spectrogram.

- Vocoder Requirement: A separate neural vocoder is necessary to synthesize the final audio waveform from the generated mel-spectrogram.
- **FastSpeech/FastSpeech 2:**
 - Characteristics: Non-autoregressive models that generate speech in parallel, offering faster synthesis compared to autoregressive models like Tacotron 2.
 - Output: Mel-spectrogram.
 - Vocoder Requirement: Requires a separate neural vocoder.
- **End-to-End Models (e.g., VITS):**
 - Characteristics: Models that directly synthesize the audio waveform from the input text in a single stage.
 - Output: Audio waveform.
 - Vocoder Requirement: Integrated within the model.

5. Model Training:

- **Environment:**
 - Development environment with Python and deep learning libraries (e.g., PyTorch, TensorFlow).
 - GPU acceleration for training (e.g., NVIDIA T4 or P100).
- **Data Loading:**
 - Implementation of data loaders to efficiently feed preprocessed audio features and text sequences to the model during training.
- **Loss Function:**
 - Definition of appropriate loss functions to quantify the difference between the model's predictions and the ground truth.
- **Optimization:**
 - Use of optimization algorithms (e.g., Adam) to update the model's parameters based on the calculated loss.
- **Speaker Embedding:**
 - If voice cloning is implemented, the model should include a speaker embedding layer to capture speaker-specific characteristics.

6. Audio Synthesis (Inference):

- **Input:** New lyric text.
- **Processing:**
 - Text encoding.

- Mel-spectrogram generation (if applicable).
 - Waveform synthesis (using a vocoder or directly in end-to-end models).
- **Output:** Synthesized audio waveform.