

Enhancing Speaker Anonymization Using Disentanglement Learning

Nikita Kuzmin

Phd Student NTU/A*STAR year 3

Supervisors:

Prof. Chng Eng Siong

Dr. Sailor Hardik Bhupendra

Jan. 2025

About me

1. Name: Nikita Kuzmin

2. Status:

- a. Matriculated on 08-Aug-2022
- b. 1, 2, 3 TAC appraisal passed
- c. All school requirement fulfilled for QE (GAP hours, TA courses)

3. CGPA: 4.67

4. Publications:

- a. **N. Kuzmin**, Luong, H.-T., Yao, J., Xie, L., Lee, K.A., Chng, E.-S. (2024) NTU-NPU System for Voice Privacy 2024 Challenge. Proc. 4th Symposium on Security and Privacy in Speech Communication, 72-79, doi: 10.21437/SPSC.2024-13
- b. **N. Kuzmin***, A. Sholokhov*, K. A. Lee and E. S. Chng, "Probabilistic Back-ends for Online Speaker Recognition and Clustering," ICASSP 2023 - 2023 IEEE International Conference on Acoustics, Speech and Signal Processing (ICASSP), Rhodes Island, Greece, 2023, pp. 1-5, doi: 10.1109/ICASSP49357.2023.10097032.

Outline

1. Introduction

2. Literature Review

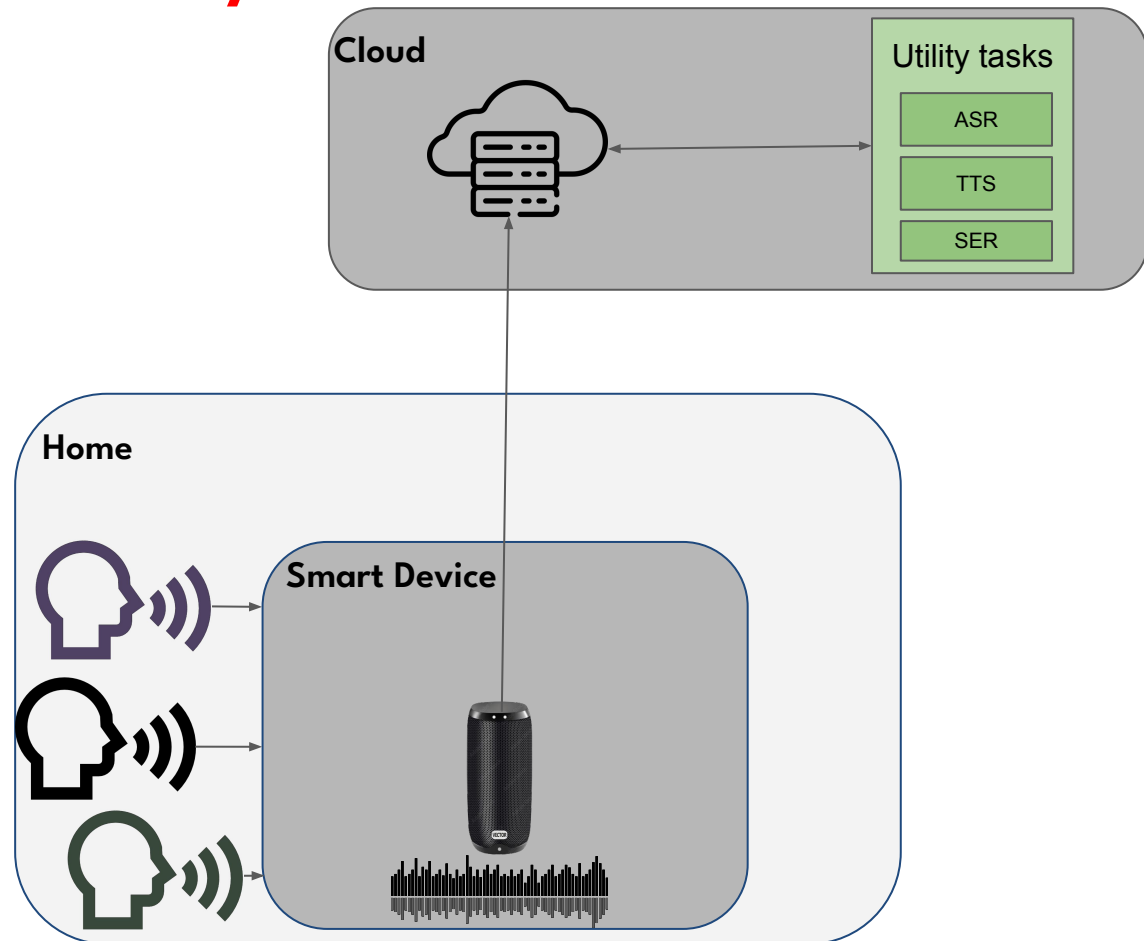
- a. Speaker Anonymization
- b. Disentanglement Learning

3. Disentanglement-based Approaches for Anonymization

- a. Problem 1: Anonymization models do not preserve emotions well
 - i. Contribution 1.1: NS3 FACodec
 - ii. Contribution 1.2: Emotion embeddings
- b. Problem 2: Identity Leakage in B5
 - i. Contribution 2: Mean-reversion + Noise

4. Conclusions and Future Work

1.1. Intro to Speaker Anonymization



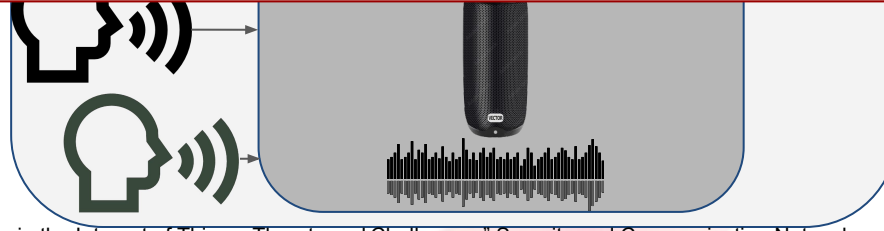
Ziegeldorf, Jan Henrik, et al. "Privacy in the Internet of Things: Threats and Challenges." *Security and Communication Networks*, vol. 7, no. 12, 10 June 2013, pp.

2728–2742, <https://doi.org/10.1002/sec.795>.

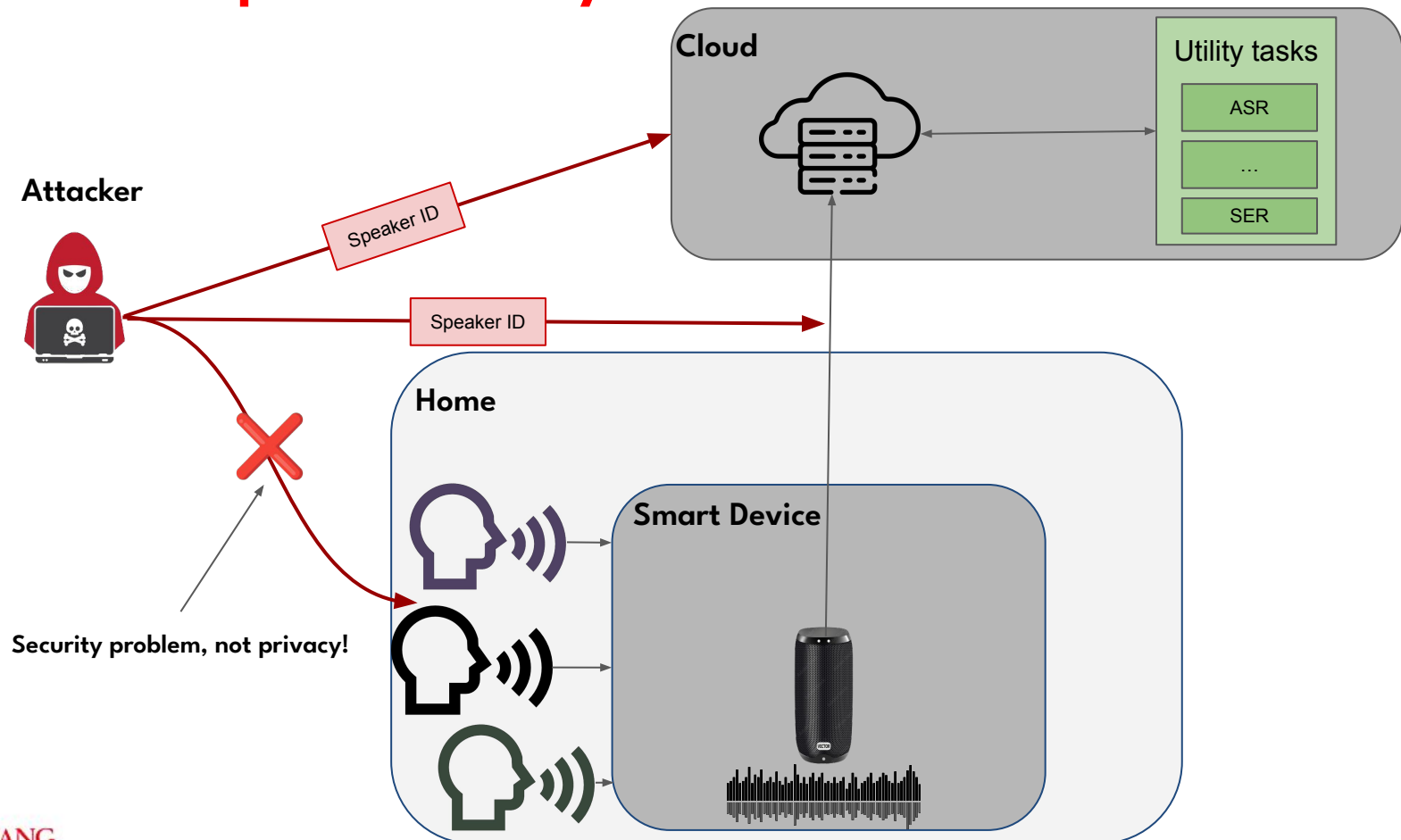
1.1. Intro to Speaker Anonymization



What are potential threats in this scenario?



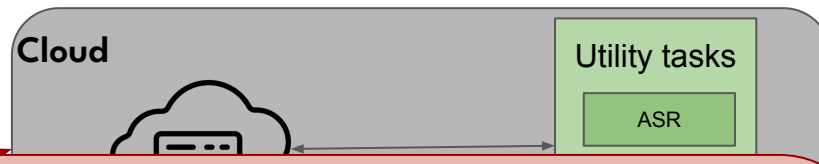
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1.1. Intro to Speaker Anonymization

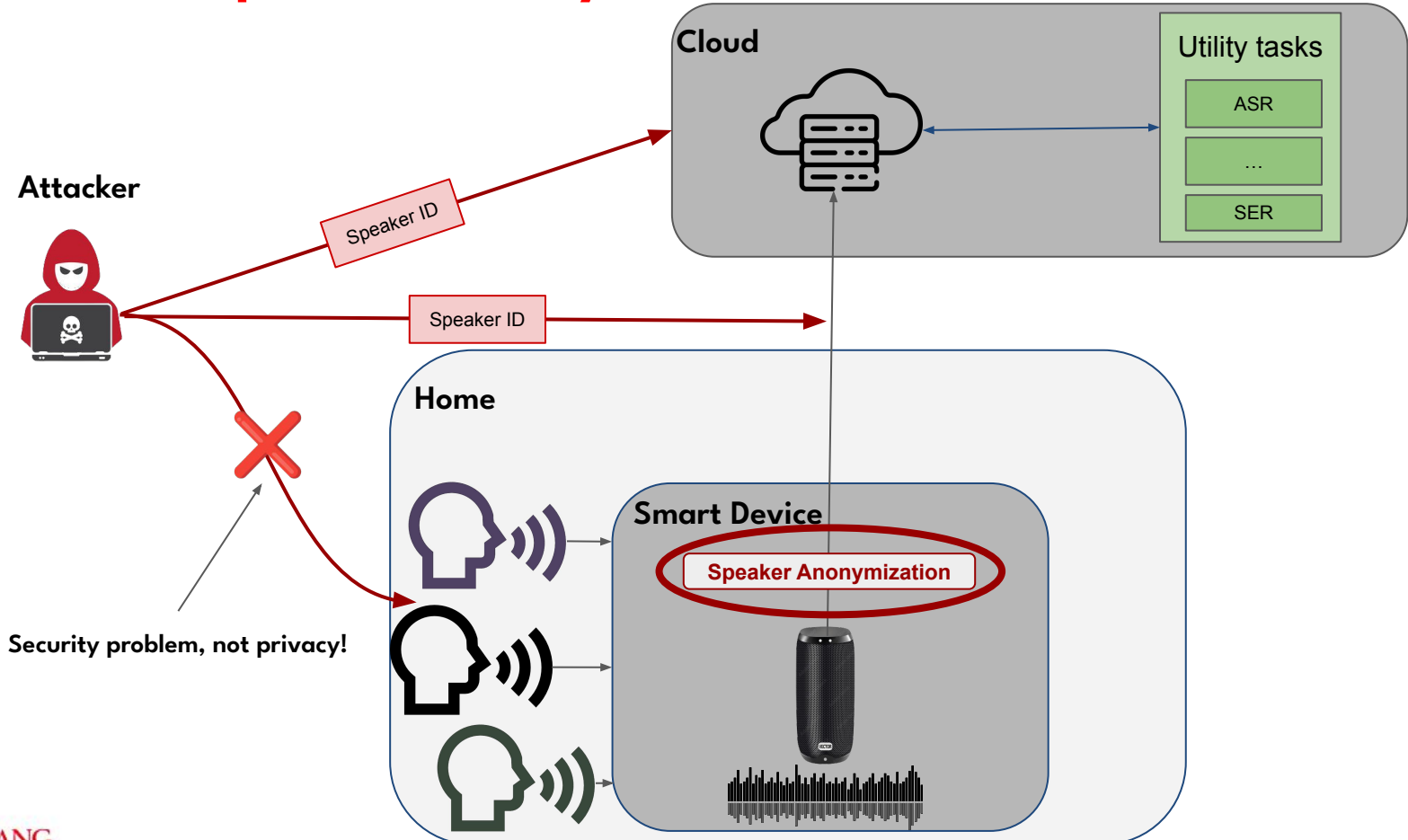


How to solve it?

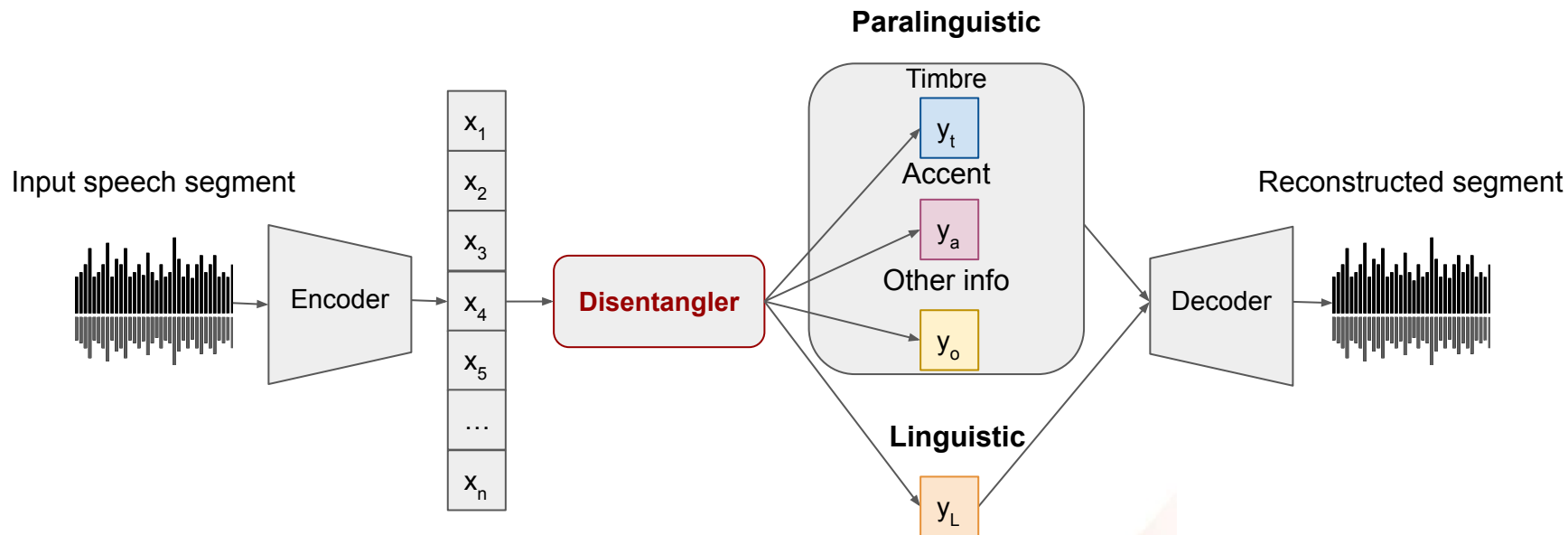
Security problem, not privacy!



1.1. Intro to Speaker Anonymization



1.2. Intro to Disentanglement Learning



1.2. Intro to Disentanglement Learning

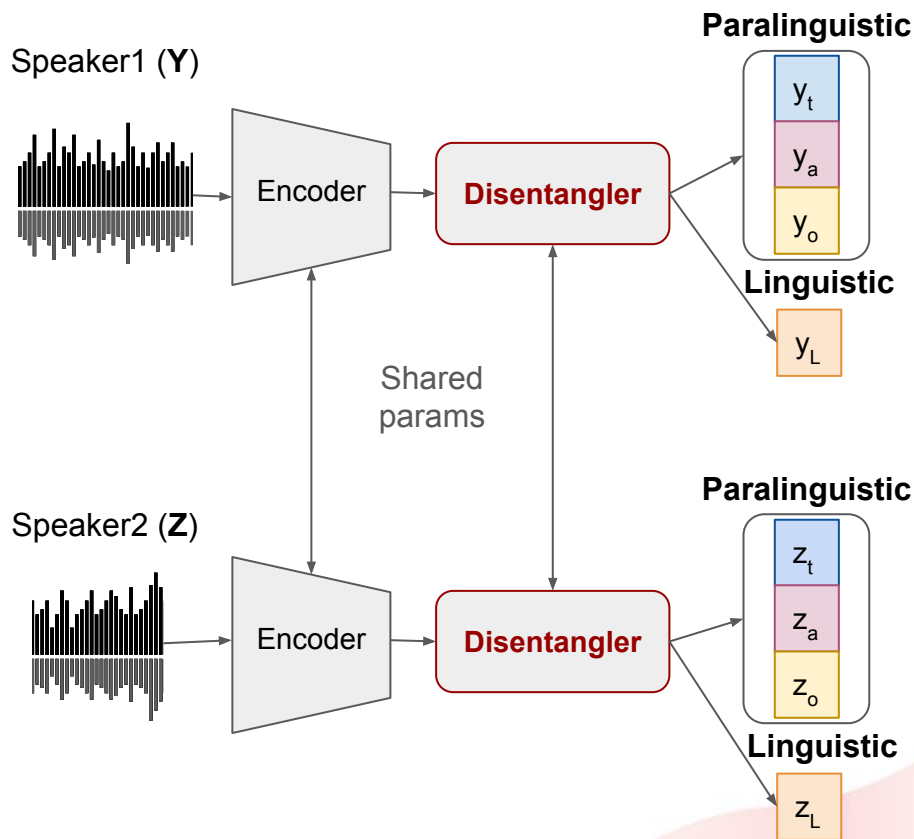
Why do we need Disentanglement?

x_n

y_L

ent

1.2. Intro to Disentanglement Learning



Speaker Verification

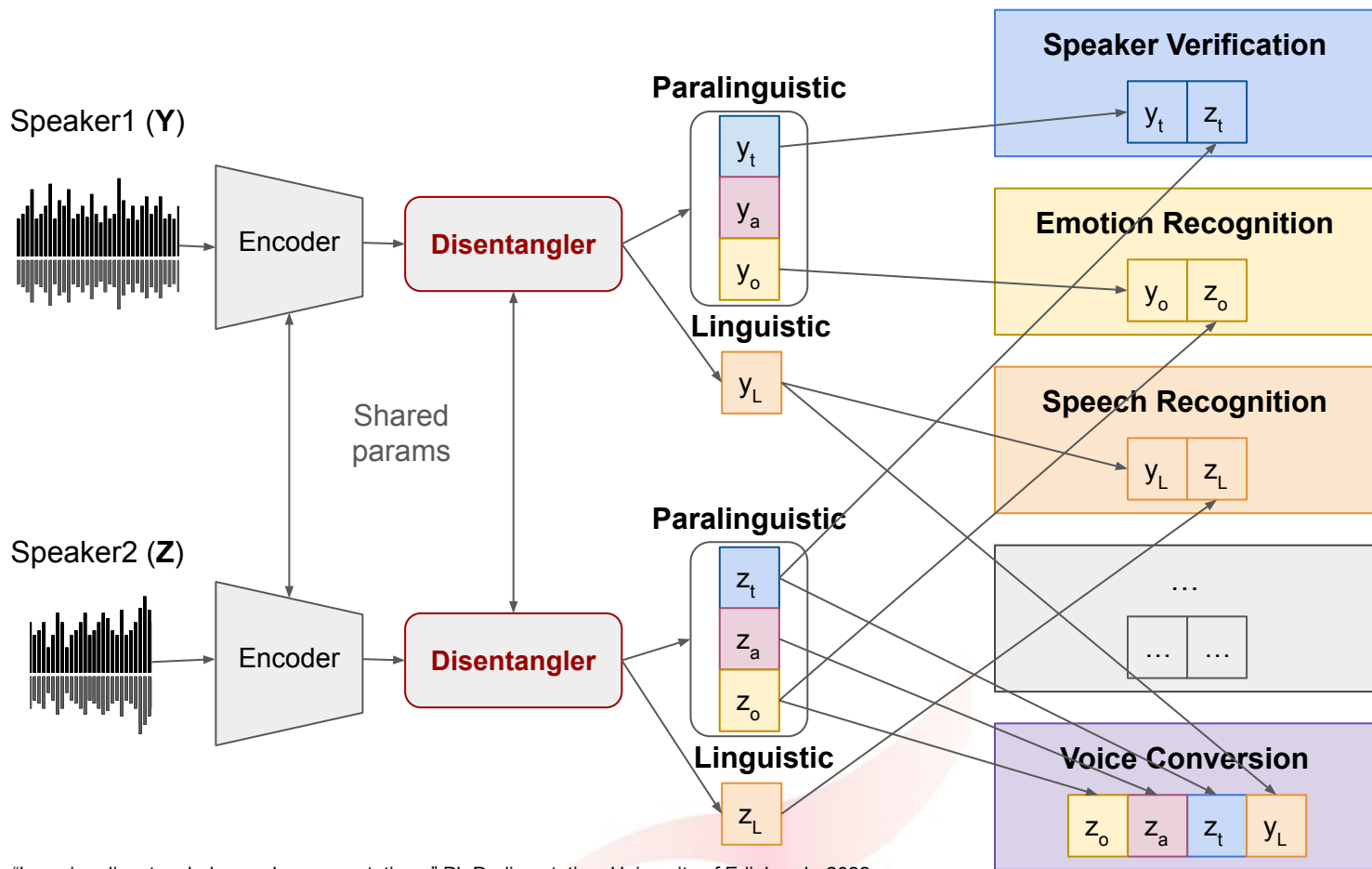
Emotion Recognition

Speech Recognition

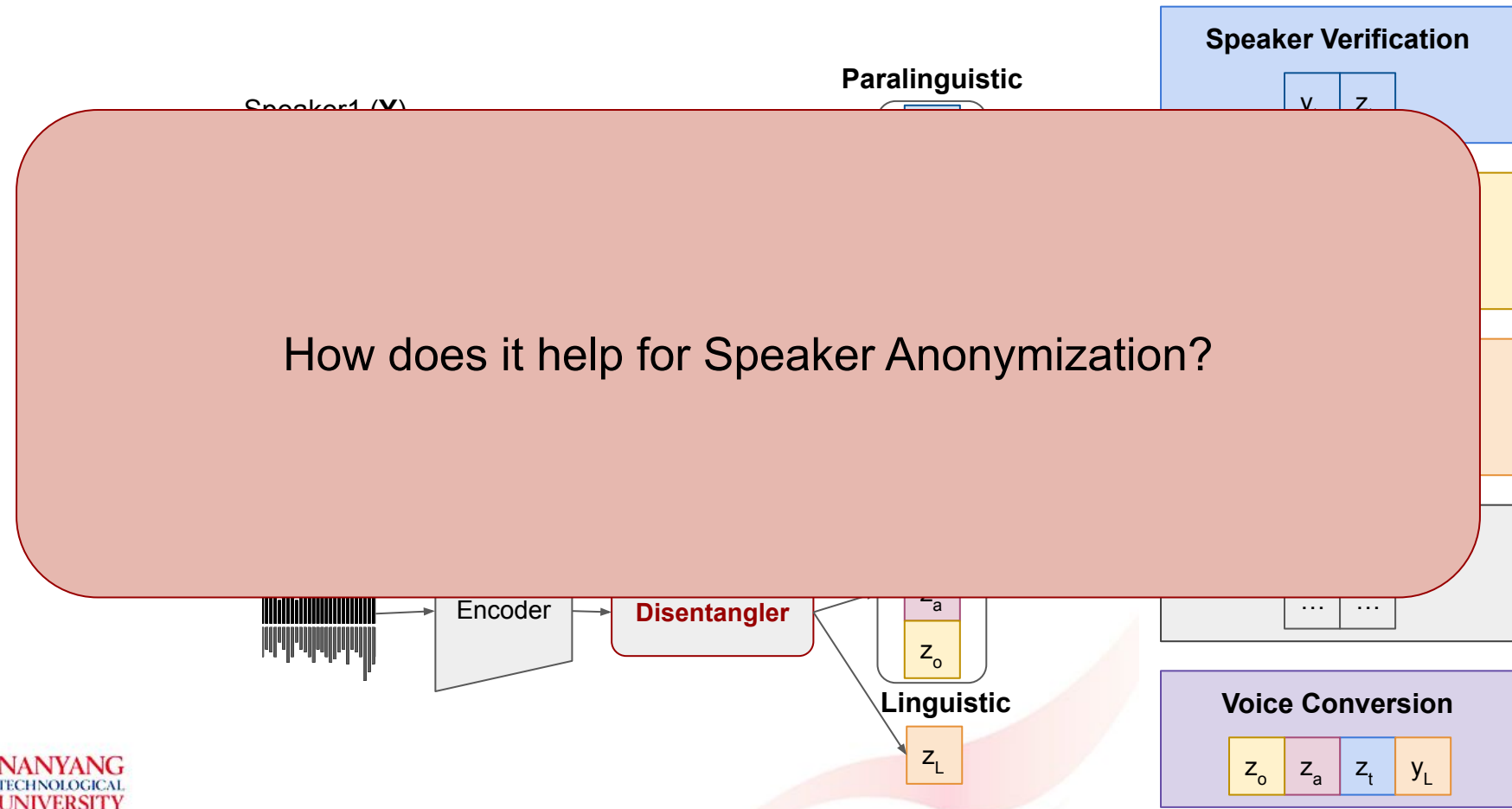
...

Voice Conversion

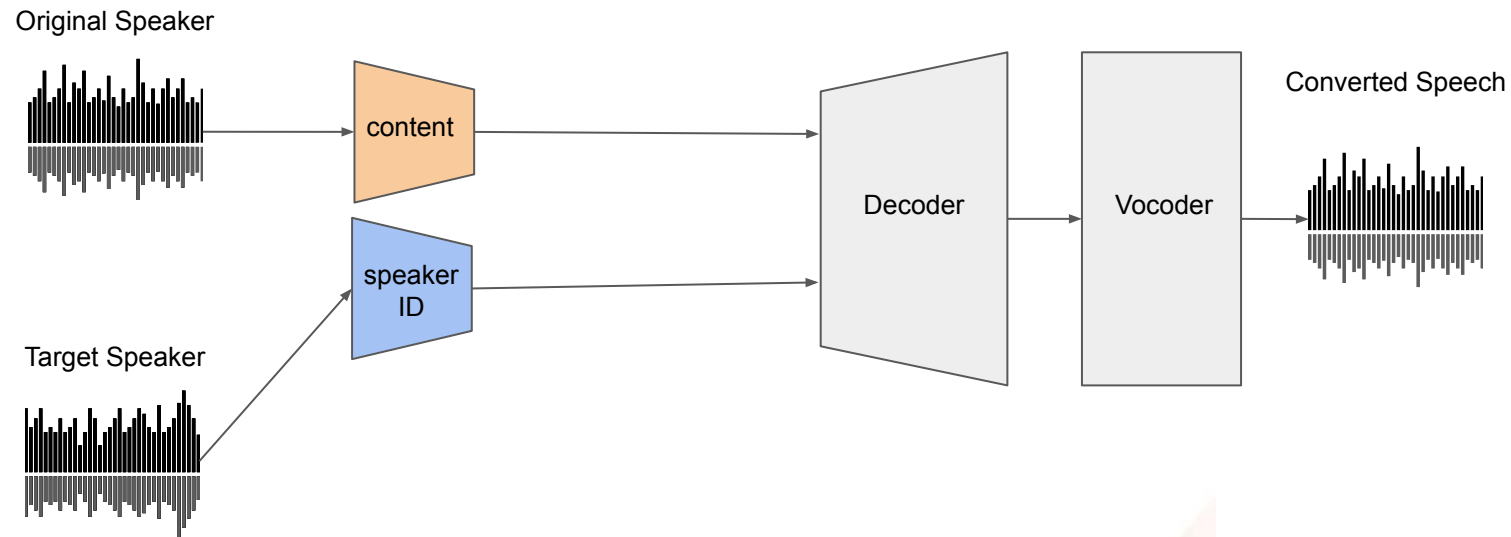
1.2. Intro to Disentanglement Learning



1.2. Intro to Disentanglement Learning

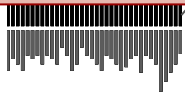


1.3. Voice Conversion

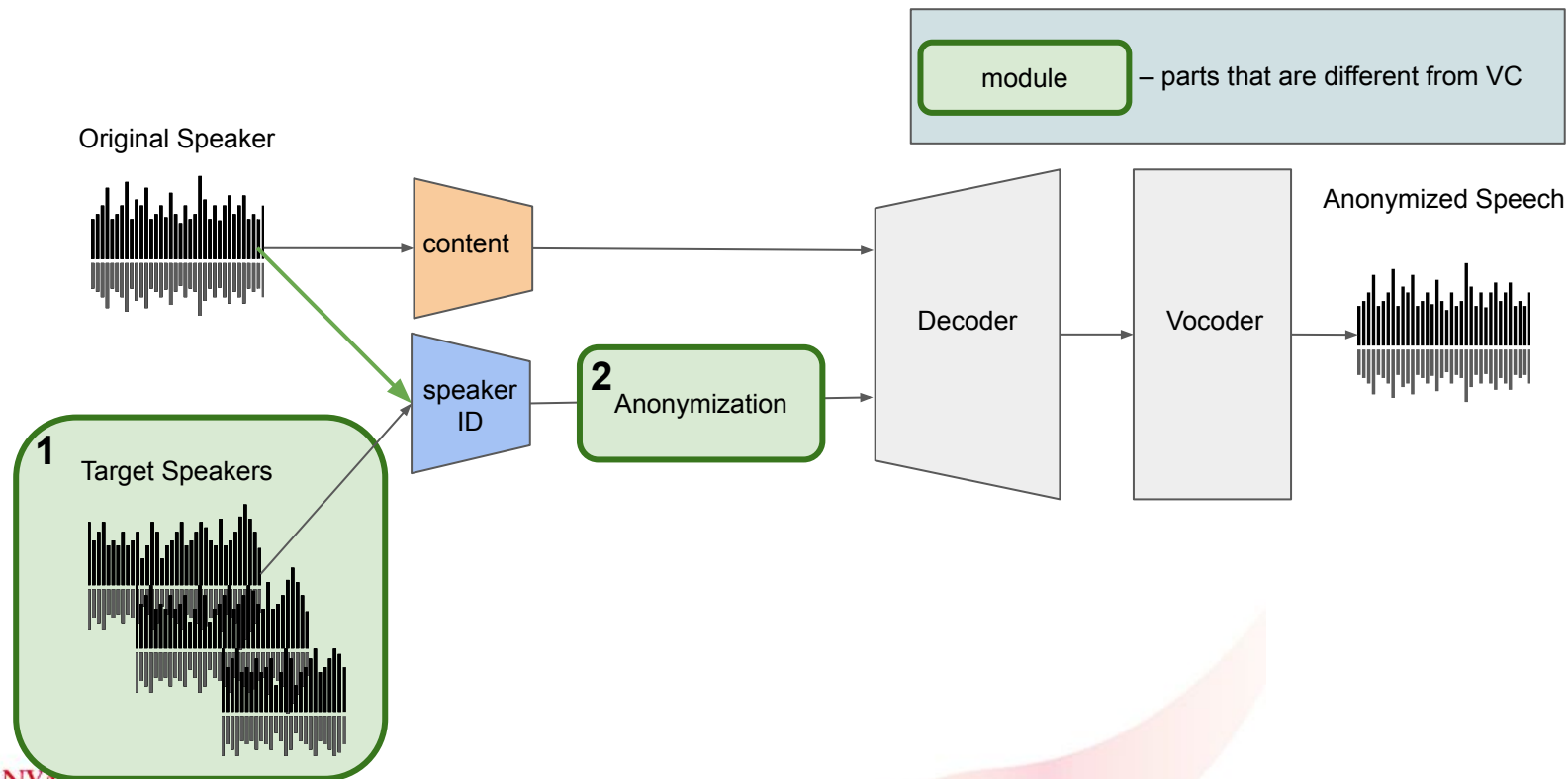


1.3. Voice Conversion vs Speaker Anonymization

What are the similarities between VC and Speaker Anonymization?



1.3. Speaker Anonymization Pipeline



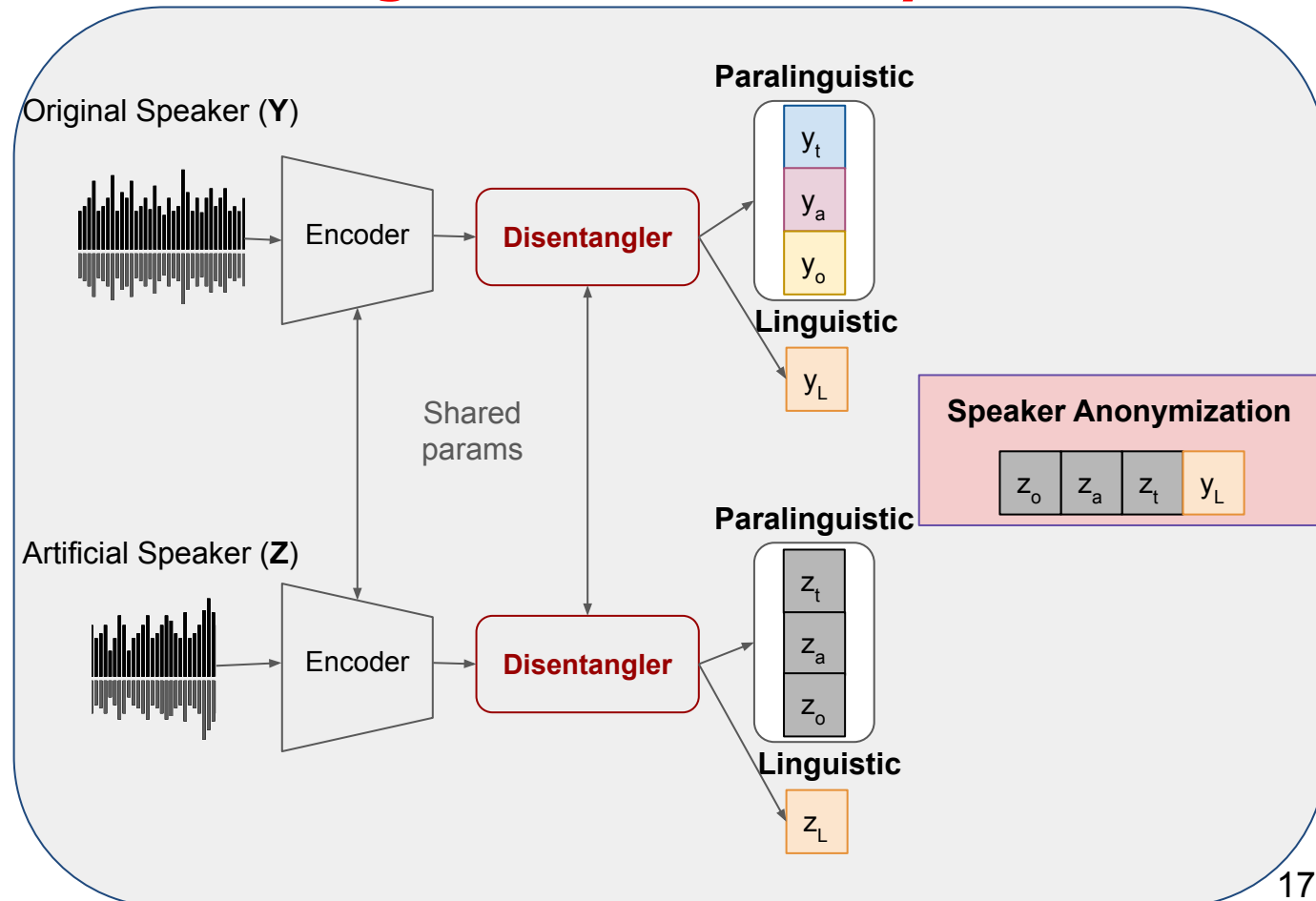
Connection between Disentanglement and Anonymization

Feature Separation:

Isolates linguistic content from speaker-specific (sensitive) attributes.

Targeted Privacy:

Enables removal of identity information while retaining speech quality. We can choose which components we want to conceal.



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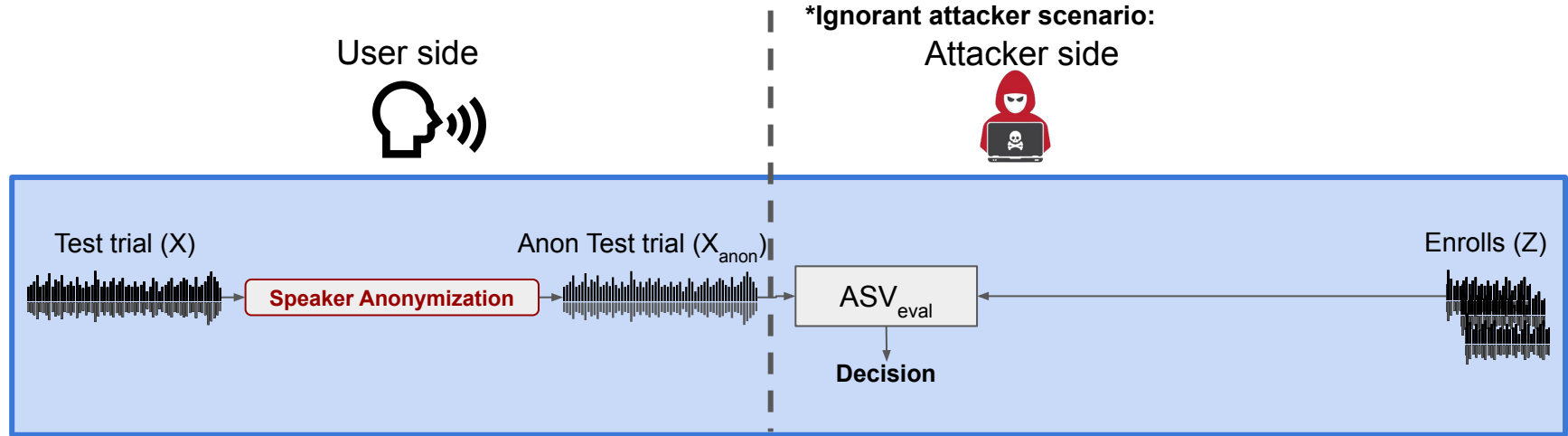
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4. Conclusions and Future Work

Speaker Anonymization: Privacy protection



Speaker Anonymization: Privacy protection

Best defence: transform each utterance to noise?

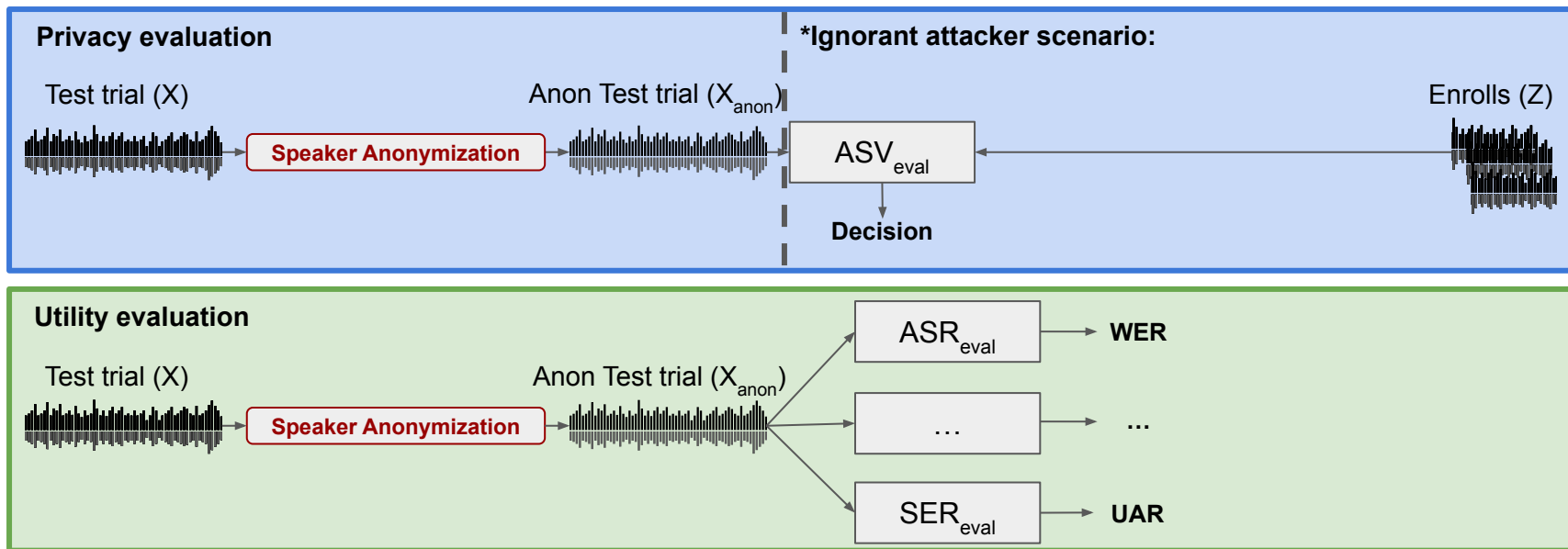
Speaker Anonymization: Privacy vs Utility



– finetuned/adapted on train data



– no finetuning/adaptation is allowed



Privacy vs Utility tradeoff: Qualitative Examples

Original
Speech

Anonymized
Speech

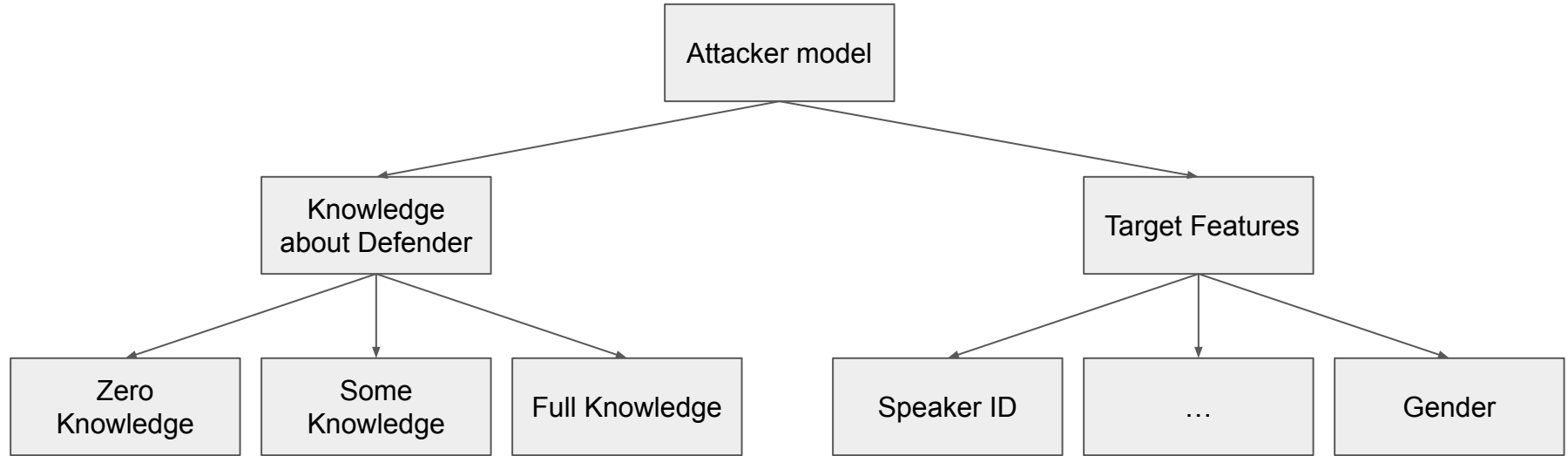
Poor content
preservation

Poor emotion
preservation

Proposed



Literature Review. Types of Attacker models



Literature Review. Types of Attacker models

So many different setups, how to compare methods?

Knowledge

Knowledge

o

r

er

Literature Review. Voice Privacy Challenge

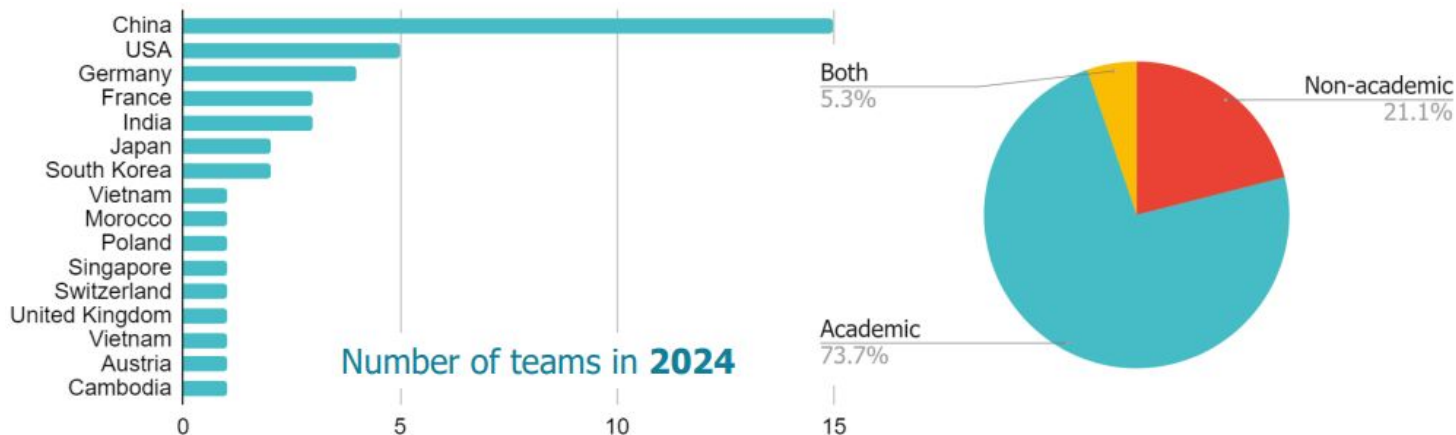
Why was the VoicePrivacy Initiative started?

- Existing privacy **methods were incomparable**, and **there was no standard way to evaluate** anonymization solutions.
- Started the **Voice Privacy Challenge (VPC)** series to provide researchers the platform to compete in building the best anonymization system.




N. Tomashenko et al., "Introducing the voiceprivacy initiative," in Interspeech 2020.
N. Tomashenko et al., "The voiceprivacy 2020 challenge evaluation plan,"
N. Tomashenko et al., The voiceprivacy 2022 challenge evaluation plan, 2022.
N. Tomashenko et al., "The VoicePrivacy 2024 challenge evaluation plan," 2024.





















VPC evolution: Participants

Statistics	VPC2020	VPC2022	VPC2024
	Registered teams: 25 Participants: 45 Countries: 13 Submitted systems: 16	Registered teams: 43 Participants: 79 Countries: 17 Submitted systems: 16	Registered teams: 40 Participants: 107 Countries: 16 Submitted systems: 36

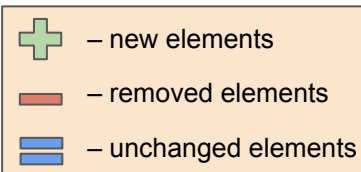


VPC evolution: Summary

	– new elements
	– removed elements
	– unchanged elements

Anon Level:	 Speaker-level	 Speaker-level	 Utterance-level  Speaker-level
Baseline systems:	 2 baseline systems: x-vector and neural waveform (2 systems in total)	 1 baseline system: x-vector with HiFi-GAN (3 systems in total)	 3 more baseline systems: NAC and ASR-BN with VQ (6 systems in total)
Attackers:	 Lazy-informed	 Semi-informed  Lazy-informed	 Semi-informed  Lazy-informed
Datasets:	 Provided common datasets: VCTK, LibriSpeech, LibriTTS, VoxCeleb	 Same datasets as in VPC2020	 Extended datasets and pretrained models
Metrics:	 Metrics: EER and WER, subjective metrics	 New metrics: GVD and pitch correlation	 New utility metric: UAR for SER
		 Metrics: EER and WER, subjective metrics	 GVD, pitch correlation and subjective metrics
	VPC2020	VPC2022	VPC2024

VPC evolution: Anonymization Levels



Anon Level:



Speaker-level

VPC2020



Speaker-level

VPC2022



Utterance-level

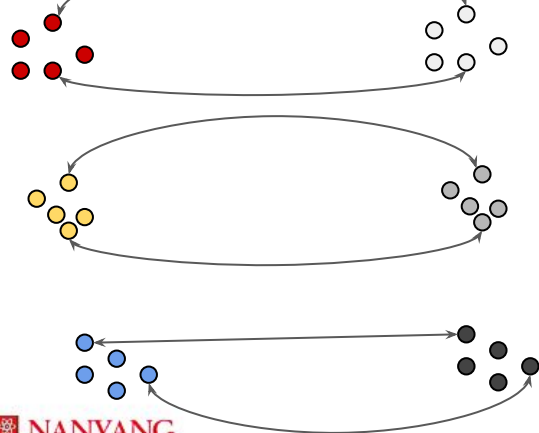


Speaker-level

VPC2024

Speaker-level anonymization

Original speech Anon speech



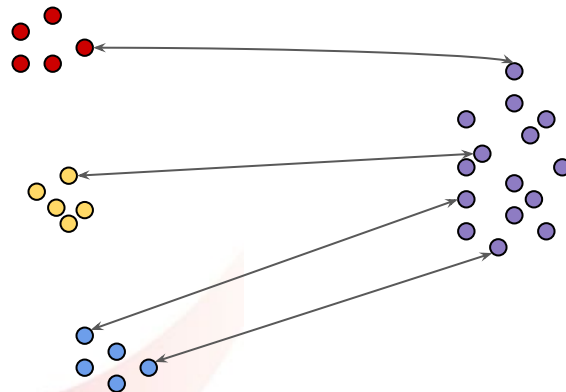
● – Speaker 1
● – Speaker 2
● – Speaker 3

○ – PseudoSpeaker 1
○ – PseudoSpeaker 2
○ – PseudoSpeaker 3

● – PseudoSpeakers

Utterance-level anonymization

Original speech Anon speech



VPC evolution: Baseline Systems

Baseline systems:



2 baseline systems: x-vector and neural waveform
(2 systems in total)

VPC2020



1 baseline system: x-vector with HiFi-GAN
(3 systems in total)

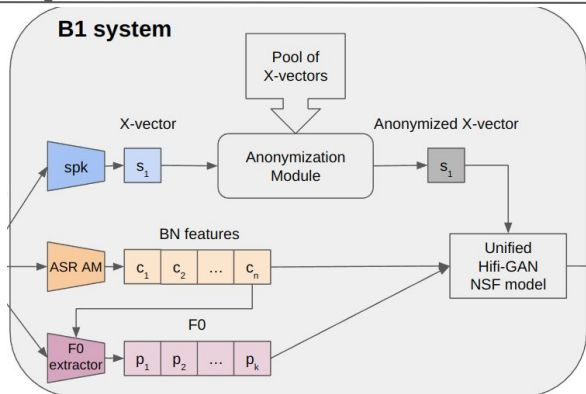
VPC2022



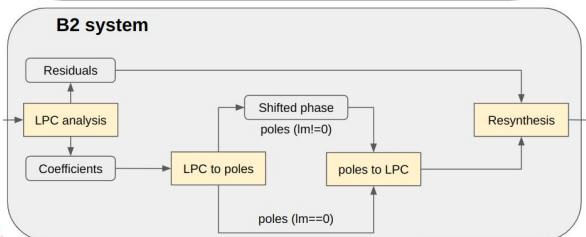
3 more baseline systems: NAC and ASR-BN with VQ
(6 systems in total)

VPC2024

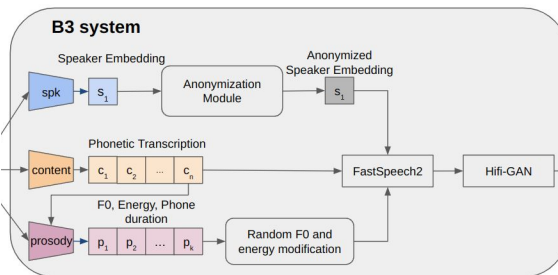
B1 system



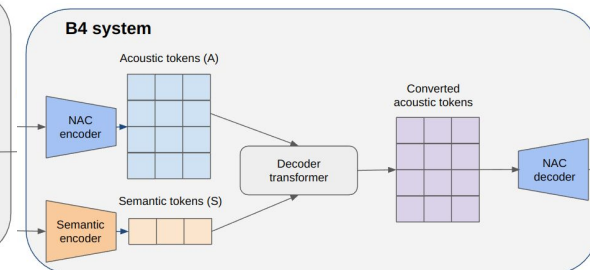
B2 system



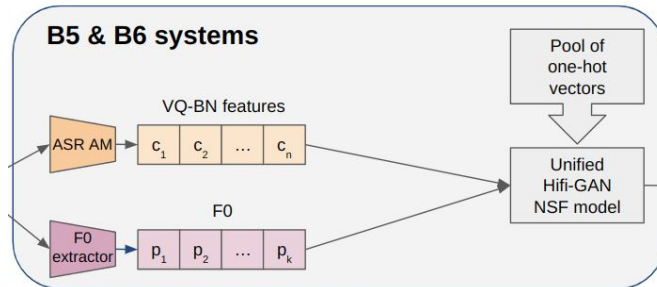
B3 system



B4 system

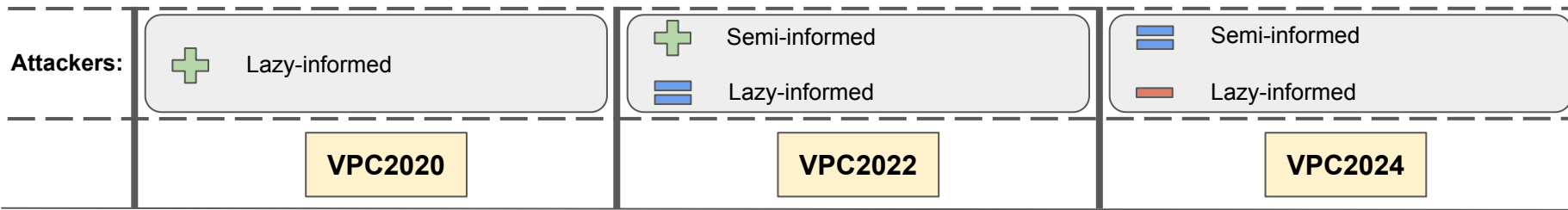
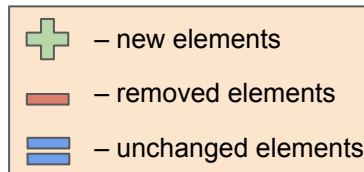


B5 & B6 systems



M. Peng et al., "Speaker Anonymization and Sing Event Speaker Anonymization Models for Speech Synthesis," in ICASSP 2024-2024 IEEE International Conference on Acoustics, Speech and Signal Processing (ICASSP), 2024, pp. 1-5.
B. Chen et al., "Anonymizing Speech: Evaluating and Designing Speaker Anonymization Techniques," in D. at Proceedings of the 2023 IEEE International Conference on Acoustics, Speech and Signal Processing (ICASSP), 2023, pp. 1-5.

VPC evolution: Attacker Types



User side



Attacker side



– finetuned/adapted on train data



– no finetuning/adaptation is allowed

***Ignorant attacker scenario:**



***Lazy-Informed attacker scenario:**






***Semi-Informed attacker scenario:**






***Fully-Informed attacker scenario:**



VPC evolution: Datasets

	– new elements
	– removed elements
	– unchanged elements

Datasets:	 Provided common datasets: VCTK, LibriSpeech, LibriTTS, VoxCeleb	 Same datasets as in VPC2020	 Extended datasets and pretrained models
	VPC2020	VPC2022	VPC2024

Privacy:	train: LibriSpeech train-clean 360 eval: LibriSpeech test-clean, VCTK test	train: *check the table on the next slide eval: LibriSpeech dev , test-clean
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Utility:	train: LibriSpeech train-clean 360 eval: LibriSpeech test-clean, VCTK test	train: *check the table on the next slide eval: LibriSpeech dev , test-clean; IEMOCAP
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V. Panayotov, G. Chen, D. Povey, and S. Khudanpur, "Librispeech: An asr corpus based on public domain audio books," 2015 IEEE International Conference on Acoustics, Speech and Signal Processing (ICASSP)

J. Yamagishi, C. Veaux, and K. MacDonald, "Cstr vctk corpus: English multispeaker corpus for cstr voice cloning toolkit (version 0.92)," 2019

C. Busso et al., "Iemocap: Interactive emotional dyadic motion capture database," Language Resources and Evaluation., 2008

N. Tomashenko et al., "The VoicePrivacy 2024 challenge evaluation plan," 2024.

VPC evolution: Main Train Datasets

Dataset	Main Purpose	Domain	Size/Hours	Description
LibriSpeech (train) [44]	ASR	Audiobooks	960 hours	Large-scale corpus of read English speech from over 2,300 speakers, used for ASR model training and anonymization evaluation.
Libri-light [73]	ASR	Audiobooks	60000 hours	A large-scale subset of LibriSpeech with unlabeled data, often used for unsupervised ASR.
CMU-MOSEI [74]	ASR	Multi-domain	23,500 videos	Multimodal dataset for emotion recognition.
VoxCeleb1 & 2 [33]	ASV	Online videos	1.2 mil utts	Speech extracted from video content, representing diverse accents and demographics for training speaker recognition.
RAVDESS [75]	SER	Emotions	24 speakers	Emotional speech and song database with calm, happy, sad, angry, fearful, surprise, and disgust expressions. Available in audio, video, and audiovisual formats.
MSP-Podcast [76]	SER	Podcasts	237 hours	A collection of podcast speech clips covering a range of emotions and natural conversational styles, used primarily for emotion recognition tasks.
VGAF [77]	SER	Emotions	120 hours	Video Gesture Analysis Framework dataset with vocal emotions
ESD [78]	SER	Emotions	175 hours	Emotional Speech Database with 350 utterances from 20 speakers in 5 emotions, enabling voice conversion research.
CREMA-D [79]	SER	Emotions	7442 utts	91 actors, 6 emotions, crowd-rated for emotion and intensity.
SAVEE [80]	SER	Emotions	480 utts	4 native English speakers with 7 emotion categories.
EMO-DB [81]	SER	Emotions	535 utts	German emotional database with 7 emotions, 10 speakers.
LibriTTS [82]	TTS	Audiobooks	585 hours	A dataset of English speech designed for text-to-speech synthesis tasks.
LJSpeech [83]	TTS	Audiobooks	24 hours	High-quality single-speaker dataset for TTS development, useful for voice conversion tasks.
VCTK [84]	VC	Read Speech	44 hours	Corpus of English speech from multiple accents, commonly used for ASR, TTS and VC.
MUSAN [85]	AUG	Misc	109 hours	Collection of music, speech, and noise samples for data augmentation.
RIR [86]	AUG	Room Impulse	900 RIRs	Room impulse response dataset for simulating reverberation.



VPC evolution: Main Eval Datasets

Automatic Speech Recognition (ASR) and Privacy Evaluation (ASV):

Subset			Female	Male	Total	#Utterances
Development	LibriSpeech dev-clean	Enrollment	15	14	29	343
		Trial	20	20	40	1,978
Evaluation	LibriSpeech test-clean	Enrollment	16	13	29	438
		Trial	20	20	40	1,496

Speech Emotion Recognition (SER):

IEMOCAP	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4	Session 5
Female	528	481	522	528	590
Male	557	542	629	503	651

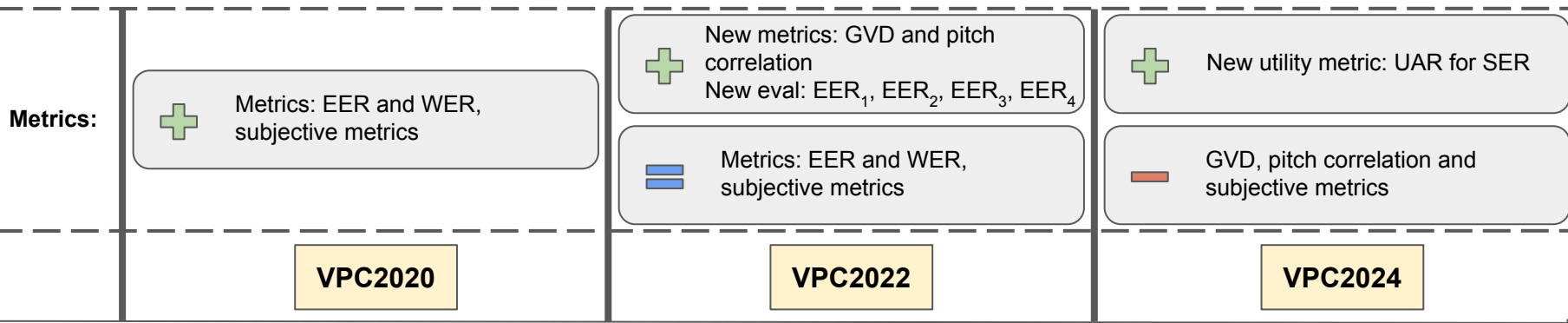
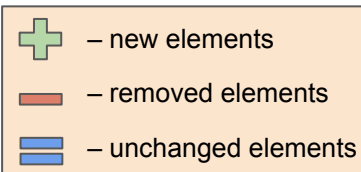
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VPC evolution: Evaluation Metrics



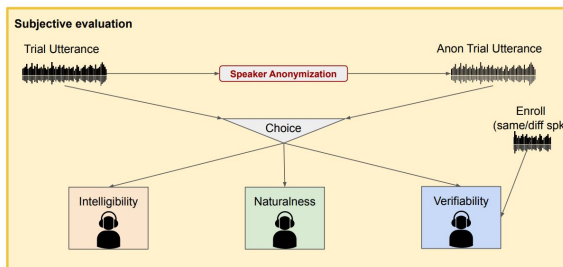
$$EER = P_{fa}(\theta_{EER}) = P_{miss}(\theta_{EER})$$

$$WER = \frac{N_{sub} + N_{del} + N_{ins}}{N_{ref}},$$

$$G_{VD} = 10 \log_{10} \frac{D_{diag}(S_{anon})}{D_{diag}(S_{orig})}$$

$$\rho_{F_0} = \frac{\sum_{t=1}^T (P_t - \bar{P})(Q_t - \bar{Q})}{\sqrt{\sum_{t=1}^T (P_t - \bar{P})^2} \sqrt{\sum_{t=1}^T (Q_t - \bar{Q})^2}},$$

$$UAR = \frac{1}{C} \sum_{i=1}^C \frac{TP_i}{TP_i + FN_i}$$



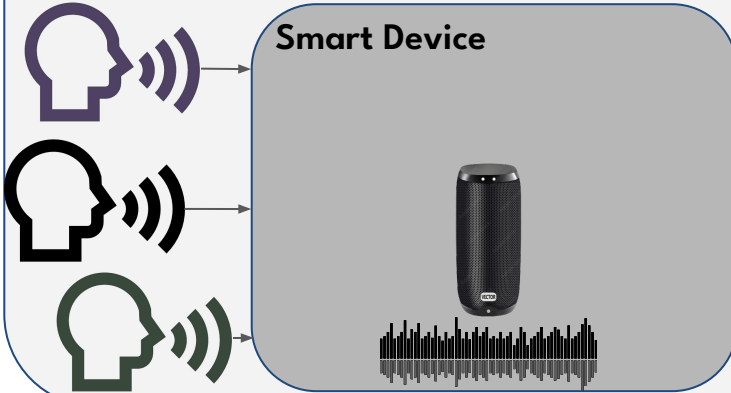
VPC evolution: Different Privacy Requirements

! High utility requirements !

Low privacy requirements

Household

Smart Device

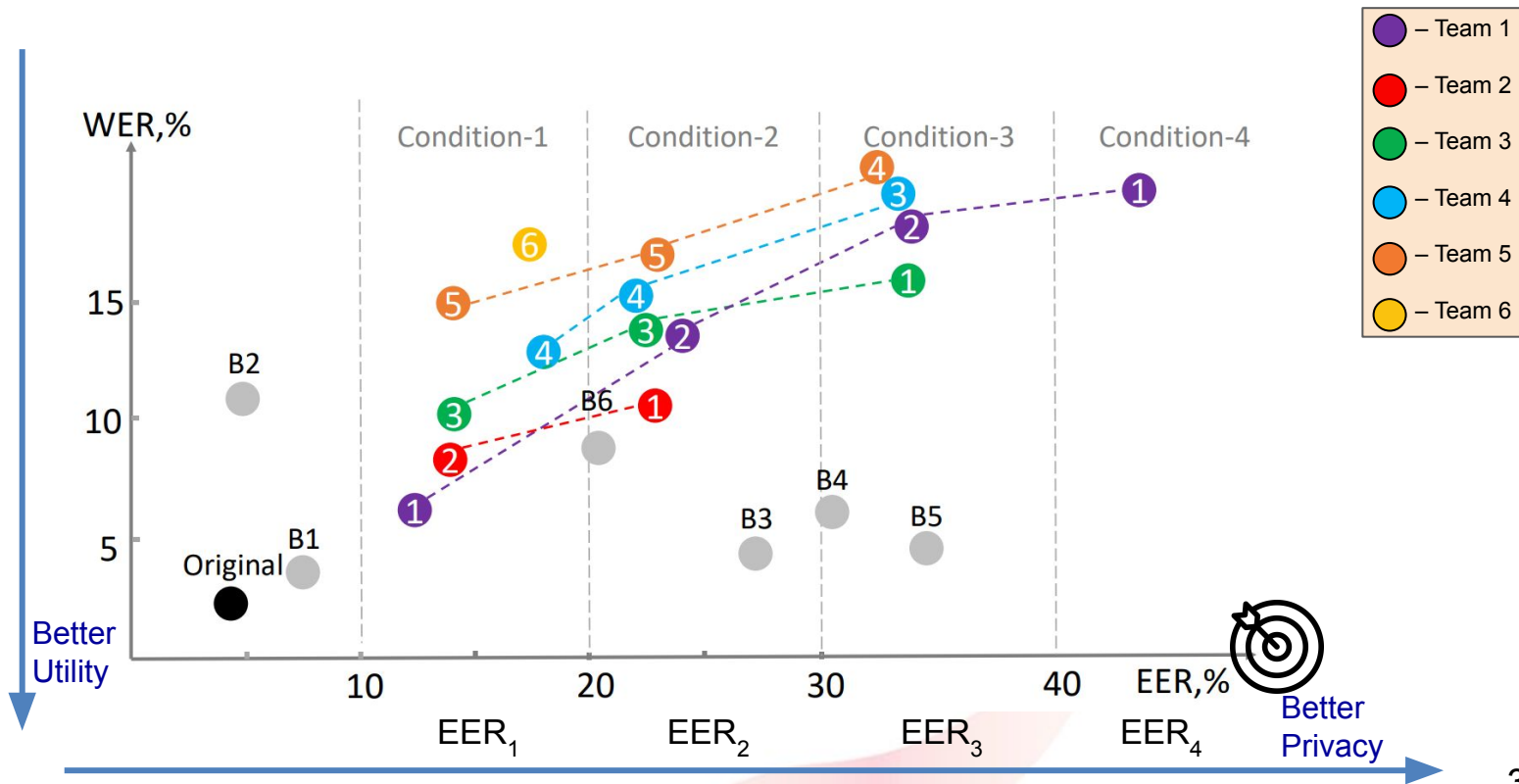


Low utility requirements

! High privacy requirements !



VPC evolution: Different Privacy Requirements



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4. Conclusions and Future Work

Motivation

What is the motivation?

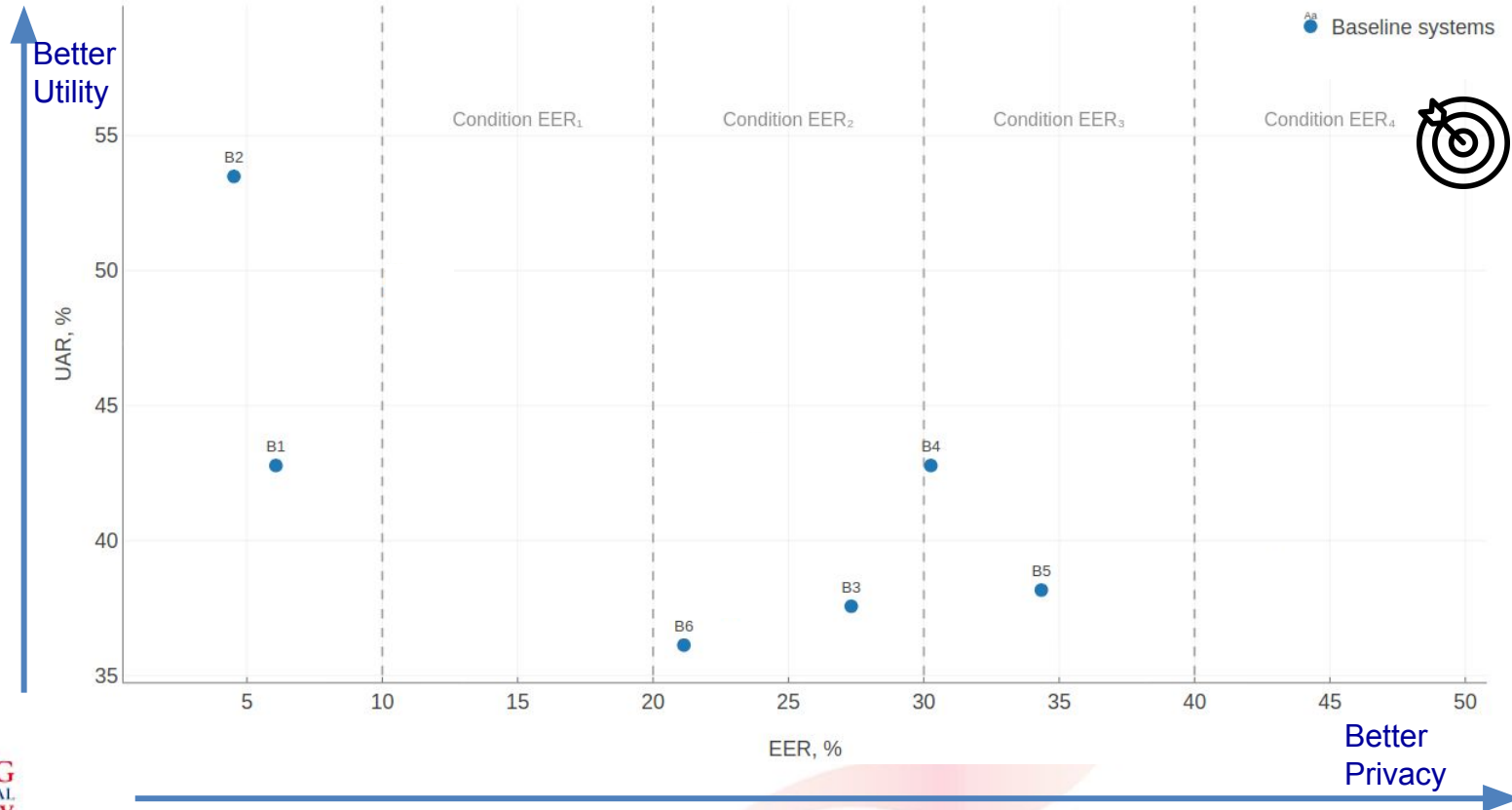
- **Problem1:** Current models do not preserve emotions
- **Problem2:** Identity Leakage in B5 system.
- Cover all Privacy conditions in VPC

How do we tackle these problems?

- Enhance multiple approaches:
 - NaturalSpeech3 FACodec for Speaker Anonymization with emotion preservation
 - Emotion Embedding to preserve emotions
 - MeanReversion + AWGN for F0 to enhance prosody protection

Problem 1: Anonymization models do not preserve emotions

Problem 1: Anonymization models do not preserve emotions



Problem 1: Qualitative Examples

Original



B3



**Proposed
(1.1)**

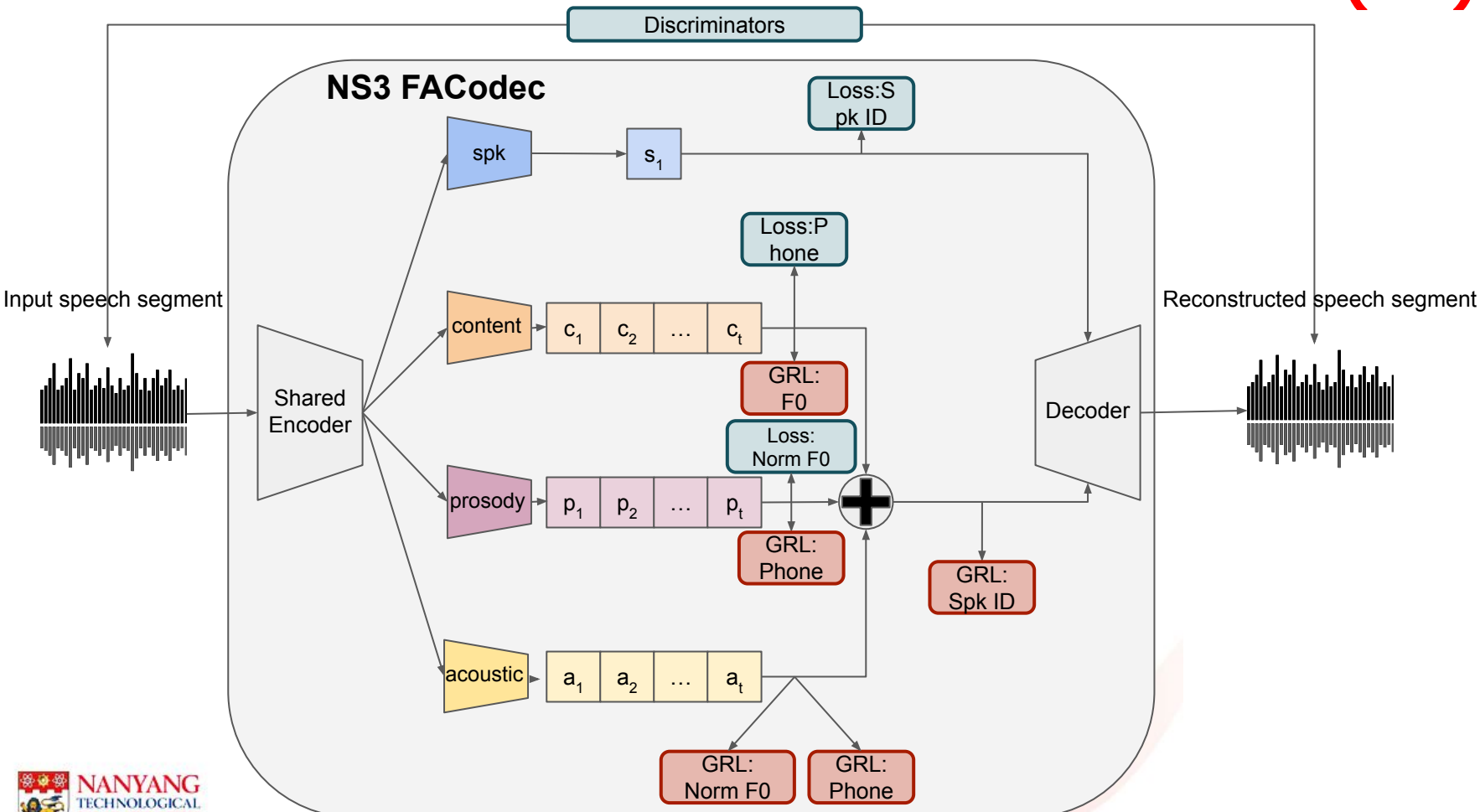


**Proposed
(1.2)**

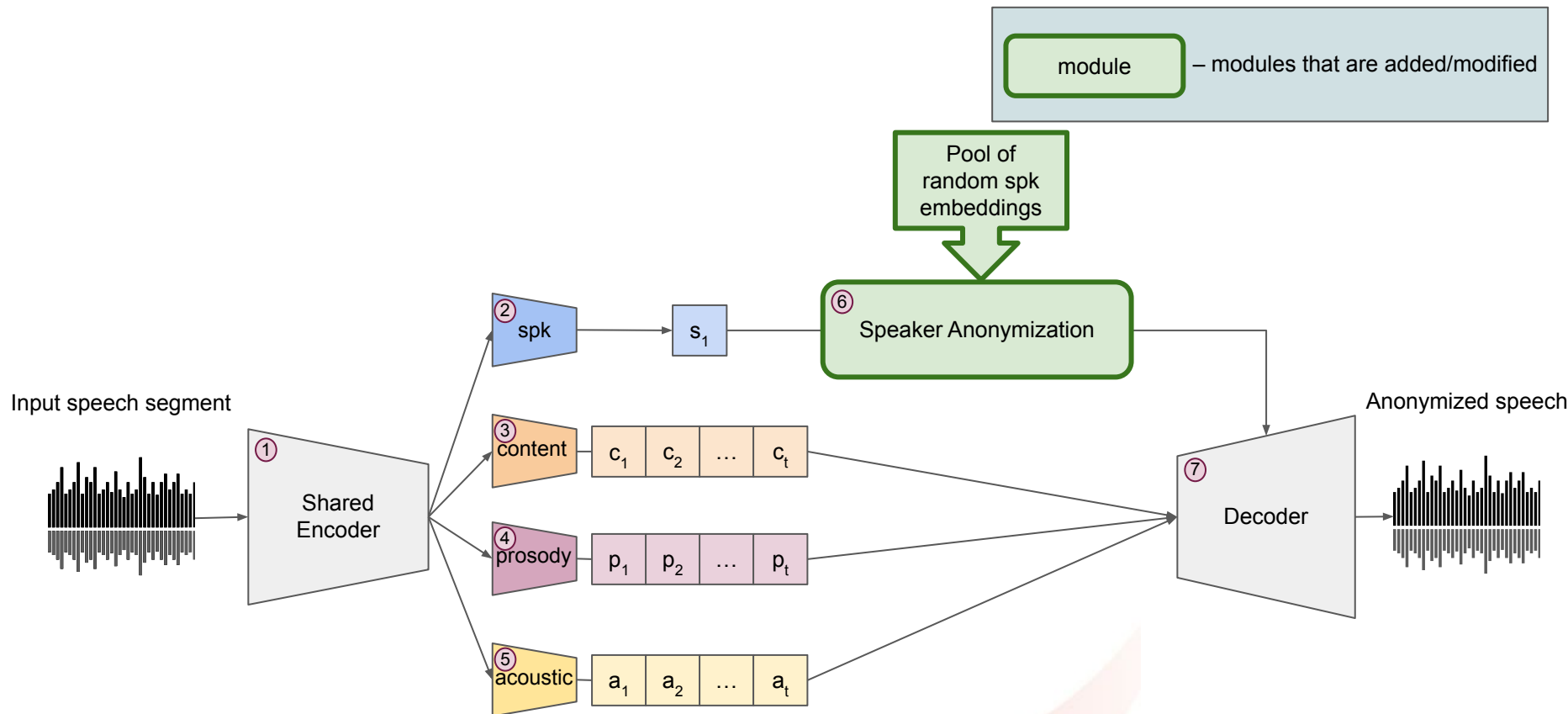


Contribution 1.1: Modified NaturalSpeech3 FACodec

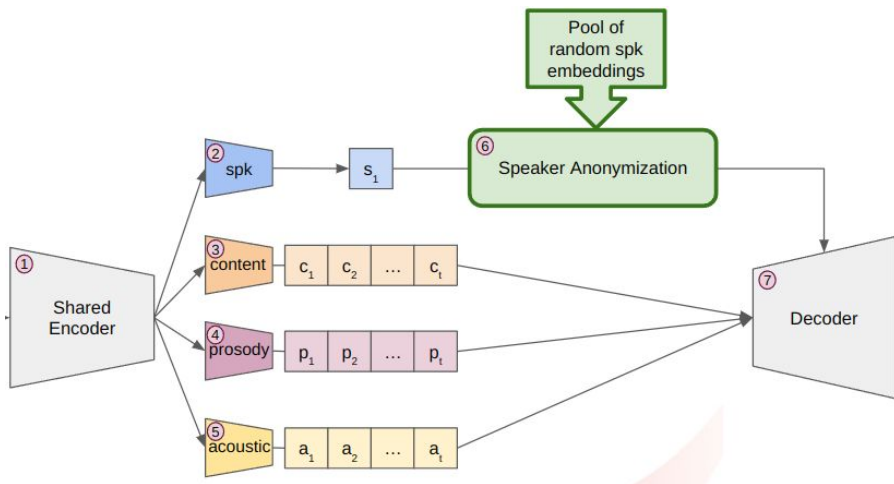
Contribution 1.1: Modified NS3 FAcCodec (1a)



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Contribution 1.1: Modified NS3 FACodec (1a)

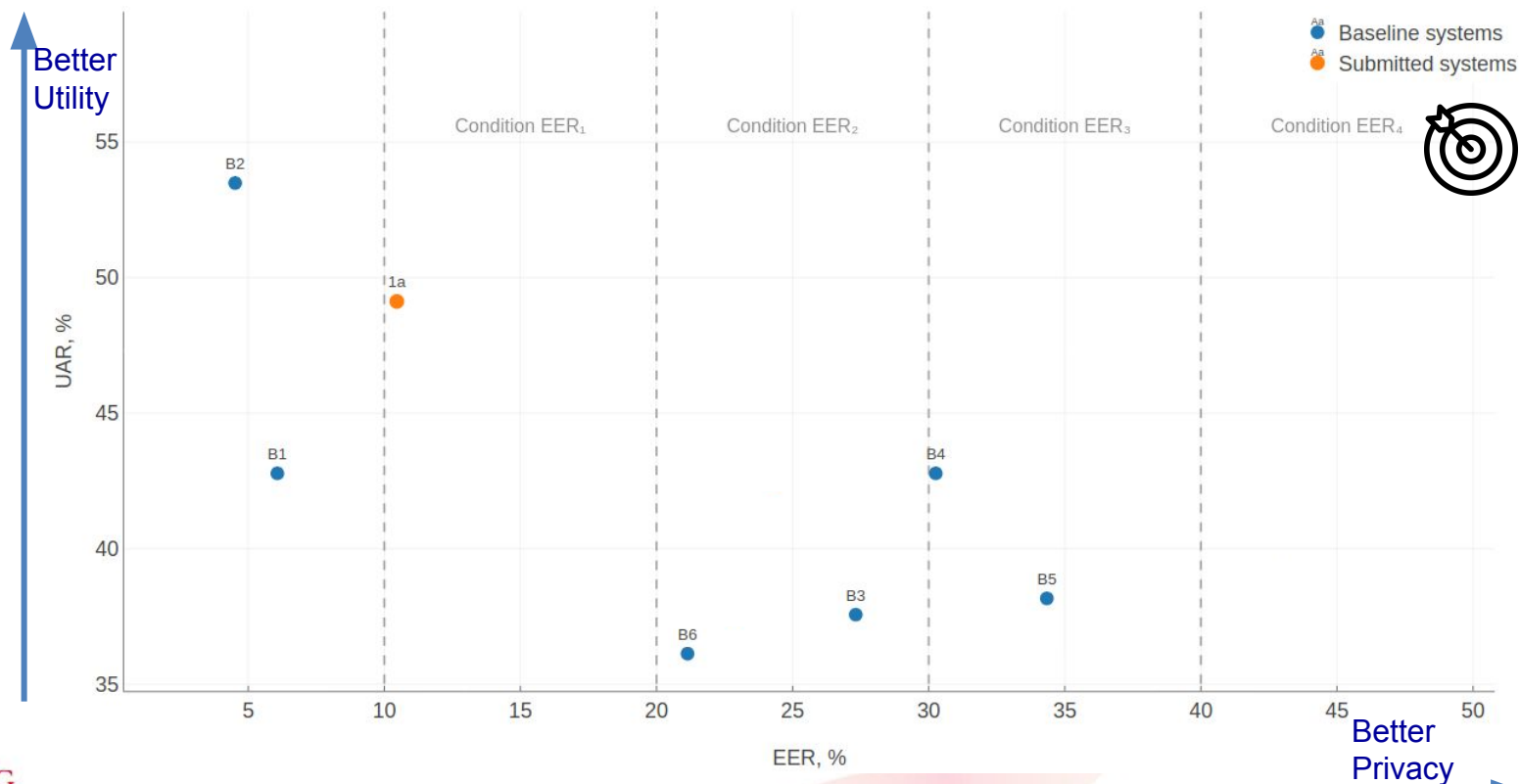


#	Module	Description	Output features	Data
①	Encoder [124]	4 Downsampling Convolution-based Layers with Snake activation function Input: speech waveform	Output vector ²⁵⁶	Librilight train [125]
②	Speaker embedding extractor	Several Conformer blocks	Speaker embedding ²⁵⁶	Librilight train
③	Content extractor	Factorized Vector Quantization with 2 quantizers, codebook size: 1024	Content vector ²⁵⁶	Librilight train
④	Prosody extractor	Factorized Vector Quantization with 1 quantizer, codebook size: 1024	Prosody vector ²⁵⁶	Librilight train
⑤	Acoustic extractor	Factorized Vector Quantization with 3 quantizers, codebook size: 1024	Acoustic vector ²⁵⁶	Librilight train
⑥	Speaker anonymization module	Averaged 100 embeddings randomly selected from a pool of 200 farthest embeddings from source by cosine scoring AWGN with scale= 0.075 Cross-gender	Anonymized speaker embedding ²⁵⁶	LibriTTS: train-clean-100
⑦	Decoder [124]	Upsampling Convolution-based Layers with Snake activation function	speech waveform	Librilight train

Experiments. NS3 + AWGN to Speaker Embedding + Cross Gender

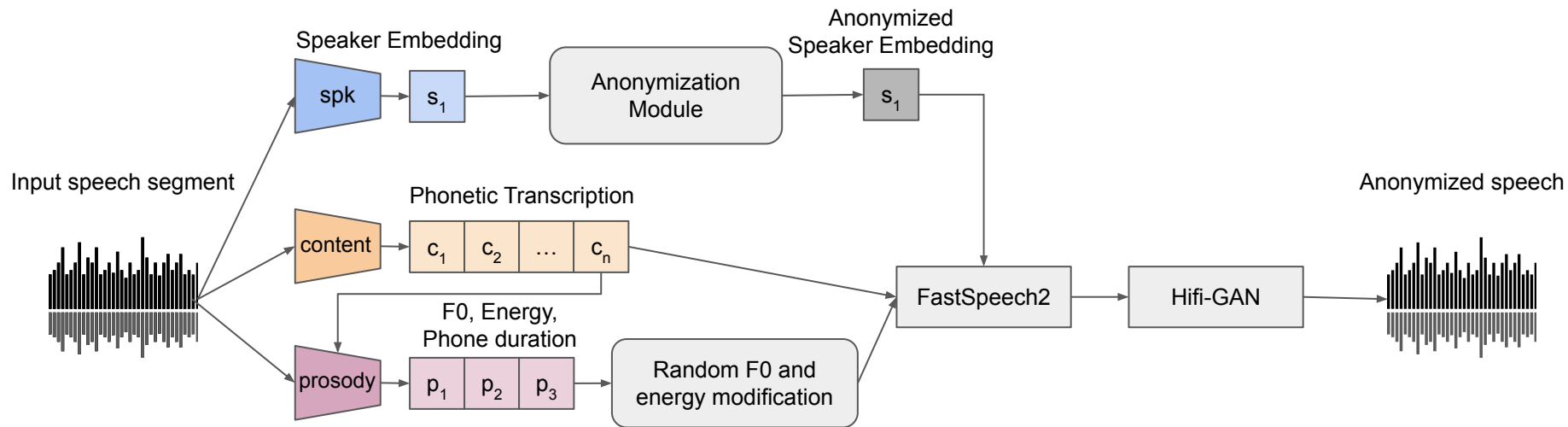
Speaker Anon	AWGN	Cross Gender	EER		UAR		WER	
			dev	test	dev	test	dev	test
–	–	–	7.40	6.25	63.36	62.46	2.69	2.51
+	–	–	9.29	8.78	51.64	52.89	2.97	2.77
+	+	–	12.25	9.14	48.00	48.09	4.66	4.63
+	+	+	12.09	10.46	49.20	49.12	4.97	4.60

Contribution 1.1: Modified NS3 FACodec (1a). SER Results.

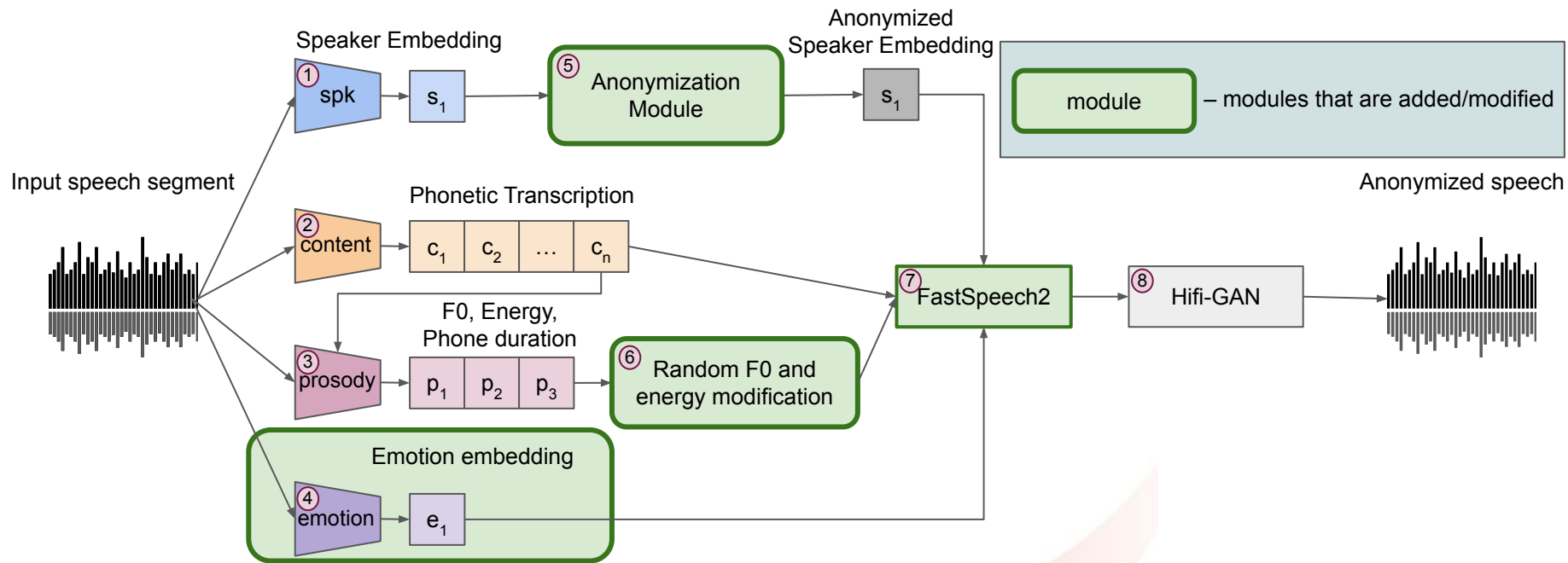


Contribution 1.2: Emotion embeddings for B3

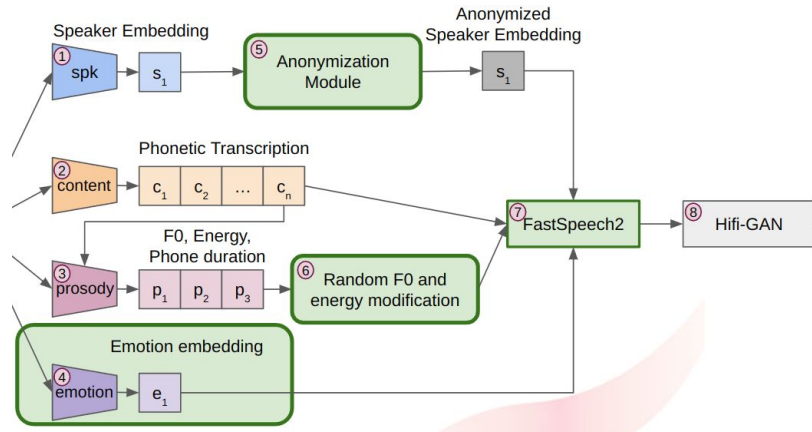
Contribution 1.2: Emotion embeddings for B3 (Sys 1b, 2a)



Contribution 1.2: Emotion embeddings for B3 (Sys 1b, 2a)



Modified B3



#	Module	Description	Output features	Data
①	Speaker embedding extractor	GST, trained jointly with SS model Input: mel spectrogram ⁸⁰ 6 hidden layers + 4-head attention	GST speaker embedding ¹²⁸	LibriTTS: train-clean-100
②	ASR	End-to-end with hybrid CTC-attention Input: log mel Fbank ⁸⁰ Encoder: Branchformer Decoder: Transformer CTC and attention criteria	phonetic transcript with pauses and punctuation	LibriTTS: train-clean-100 train-other-500
③	Prosody extractor	Phone aligner: 6-layer CNN + LSTM with CTC loss F0 estimation using Praat F0, energy, durations normalized by each vector's mean	F0 ¹ , energy ¹ phone durations ¹	LibriTTS: train-clean-100
④	Emotion embedding extractor	1b, 2a: Dimensional Speech Emotion Recognition Model based on Wav2vec 2.0 Input: Wav2vec 2.0 Large features	emotion embedding ¹⁰²⁴	MSP-Podcast (v1.7)
		2b: –	–	–
⑤	Speaker anonymization module	1b: Averaged 100 embeddings randomly selected from a pool of 200 farthest embeddings from source by cosine scoring + cross-gender 2a, 2b: Random Speaker selection per each source utterance + cross-gender	Anonymized speaker embedding ¹²⁸	LibriTTS: train-clean-100
⑥	Prosody modification module	1b, 2b: –	–	–
		2a: Value-wise multiplication of F0 and energy with random values in [0.7, 1.3)	F0 ¹ , energy ¹	LibriTTS: train-clean-100
⑦	SS model	IMS Toucan implementation of FastSpeech2 Input: F0 ¹ + energy ¹ + phone durations ¹ + phonetic transcript + GST embeddings ¹²⁸ (1b, 2a: + emotion embeddings ¹⁰²⁴) Training criterion defined in FastSpeech2	mel spectrogram ⁸⁰	LibriTTS: train-clean-100
⑧	Vocoder	HiFi-GAN vocoder Input: mel spectrogram ⁸⁰ Training criterion defined in HiFi-GAN	speech waveform	LibriTTS: train-clean-100

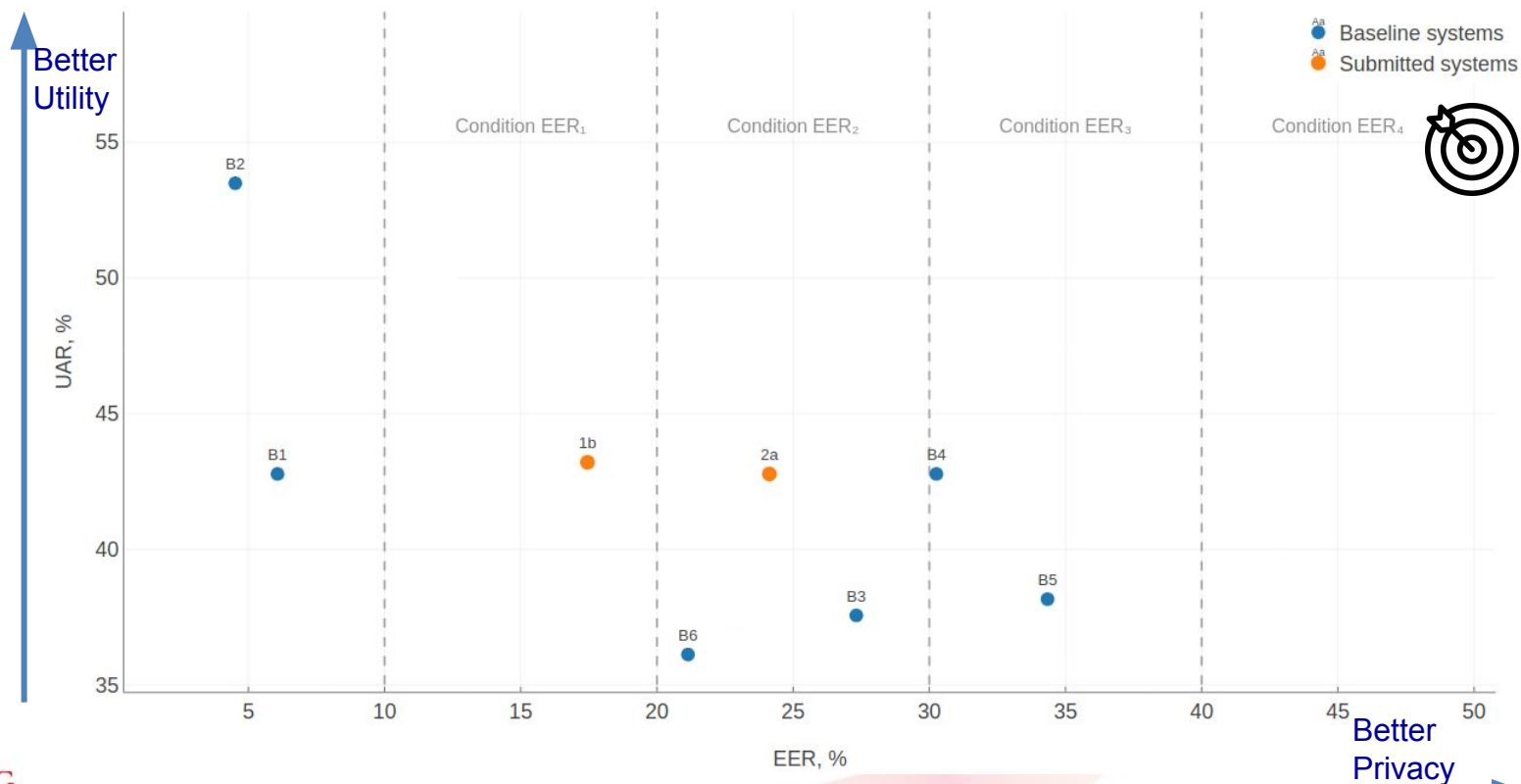
Experiments. B3 + Emotion embedding

	Speaker	Speaker	Prosody	Emotion	EER		UAR		WER	
B3	+	GST	+	–	25.76	28.42	37.97	37.39	4.33	4.33
Proposed	+	GST	+	+	22.59	24.09	42.52	41.74	4.39	4.40

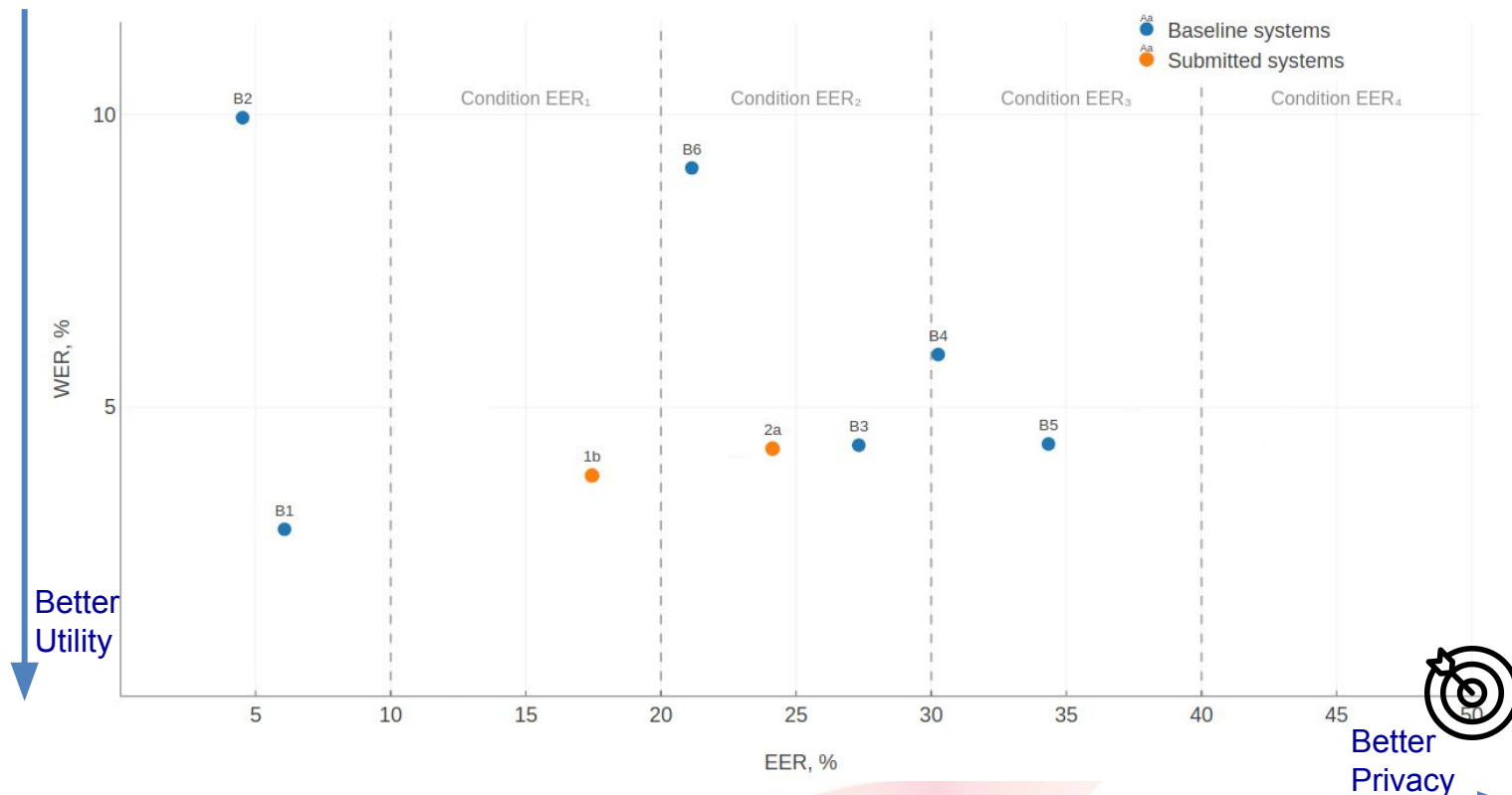
Experiments. B3 + Prosody Modification

Multiplier Range	EER		UAR		WER	
	dev	test	dev	test	dev	test
[0.6, 1.4]	25.76	28.42	37.97	37.39	4.33	4.33
[0.7, 1.3]	23.93	25.62	37.49	37.59	4.07	4.05
[0.8, 1.2]	22.70	25.92	38.01	37.96	3.89	3.91
[0.9, 1.1]	19.88	22.62	39.03	37.17	3.80	3.77
—	19.47	21.82	38.91	38.11	3.70	3.75

Contribution 1.2: SER performance (Sys 1b, 2a)



Contribution 1.2: ASR performance (Sys 1b, 2a)



Contribution: Examples

Original



B3



**Proposed
(1.1)**

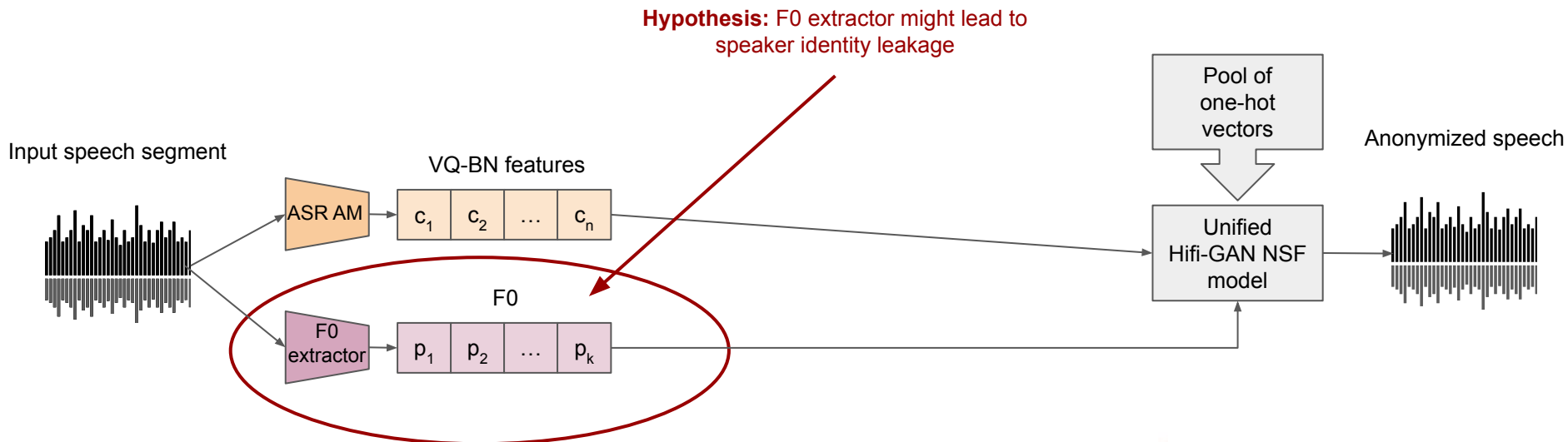


**Proposed
(1.2)**

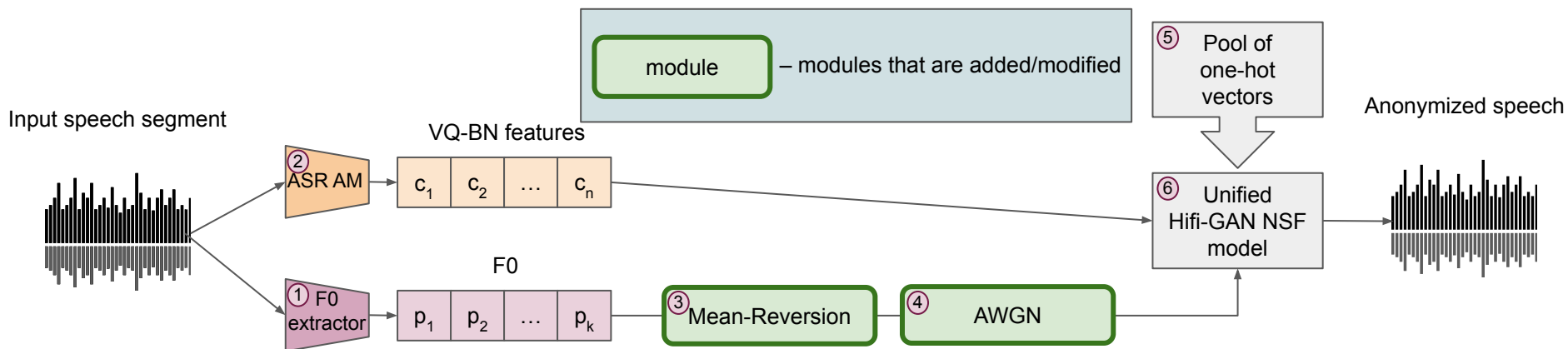


Problem2: Identity Leakage in B5 system

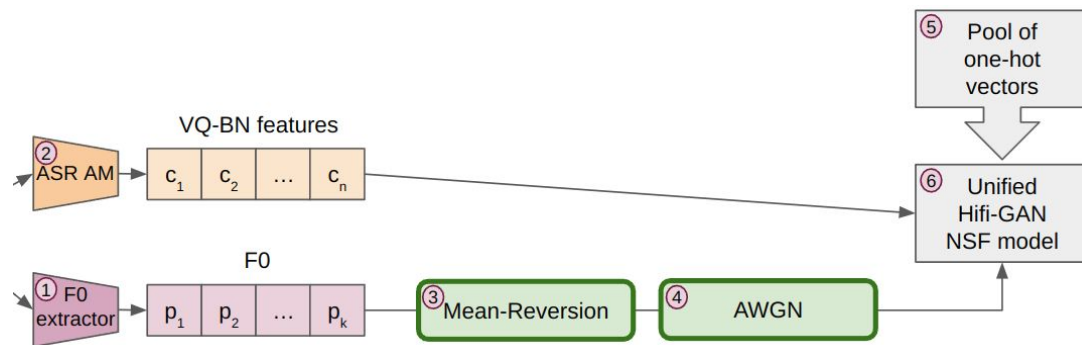
Problem2: Identity Leakage in B5 system



Contribution 2: Mean-reversion + Noise

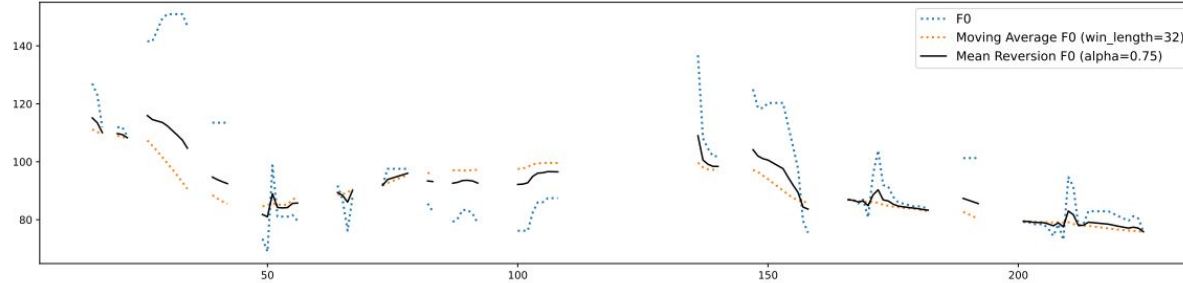


Contribution 2: Details about Modified B5

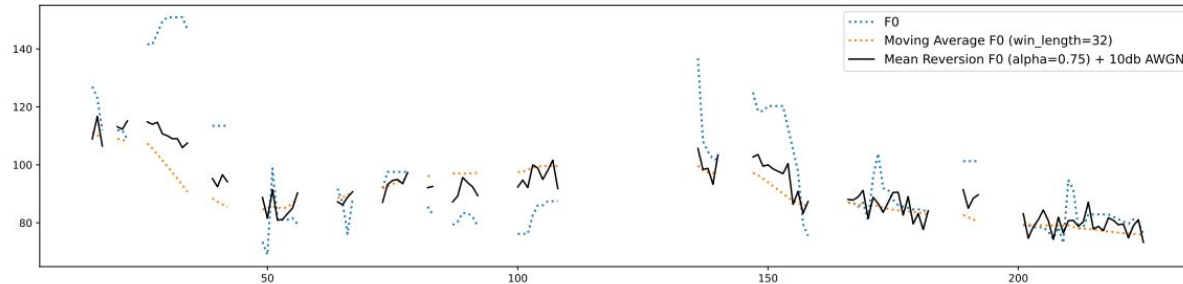


#	Module	Description	Output features	Data
①	F0 extractor	F0 extracted with s pytorch implementation of YAAPT ③ Using Mean Reversion F0 ($\alpha = 0.75$) in inference ④ Using Mean Reversion F0 ($\alpha = 0.75$) and 10-db AWGN	F0	N/A
②	ASR AM with VQ	Acoustic Model trained to identify left bi-phones and a VQ bottleneck layer	Linguistic representation	VoxPopuli Librispeech: train-clean-100
⑤	Speaker embedding	One-hot vector represented speaker in training set	Speaker embedding	LibriTTS: train-clean-100
⑥	Speech Synthesis	HiFi-GAN vocoder Input: F0 + lingusitic representation + speaker embedding	Speech waveform	LibriTTS: train-clean-100

Contribution 2: Mean Reversion + AWGN



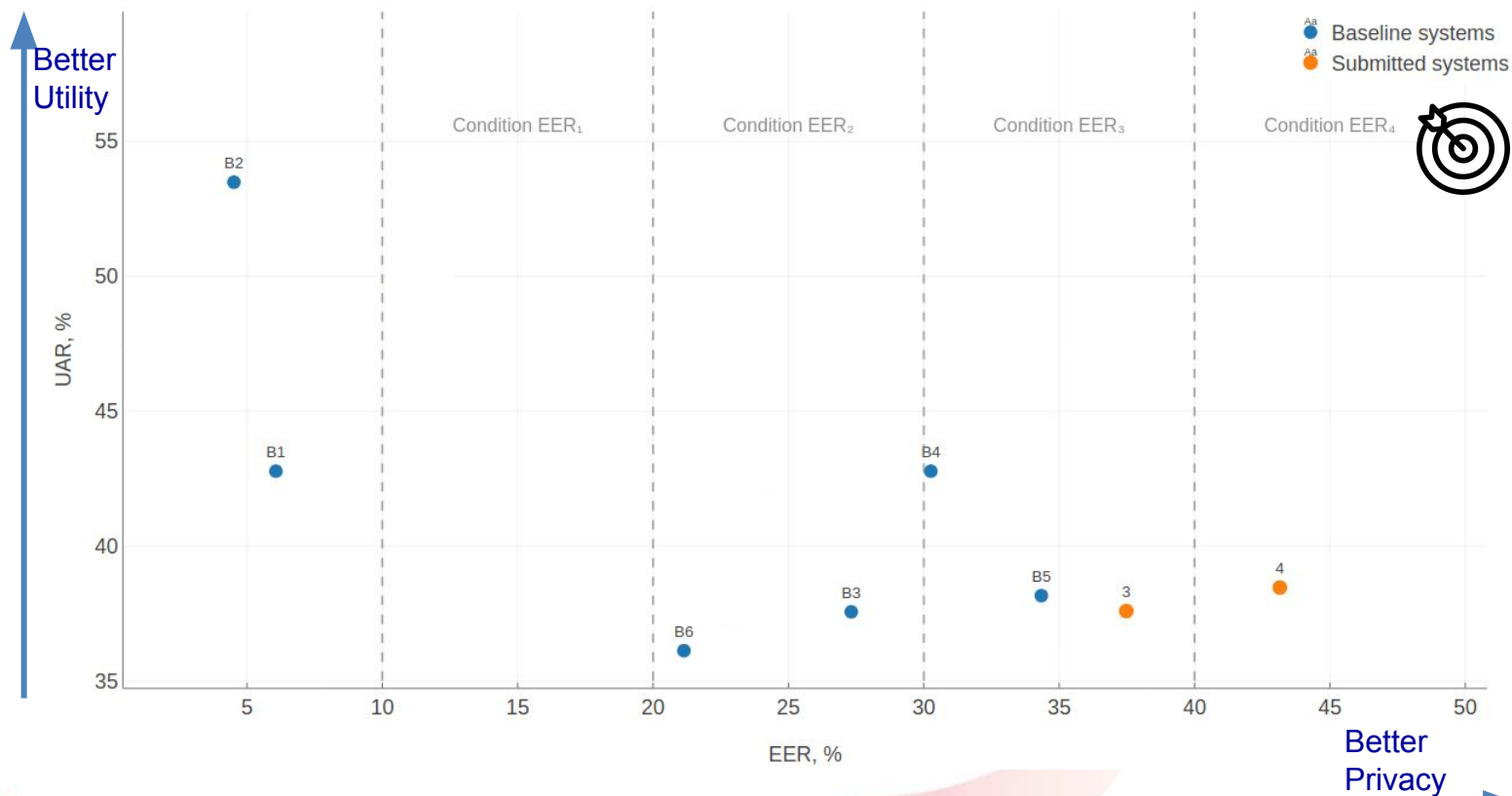
(a) Mean Reversion F0



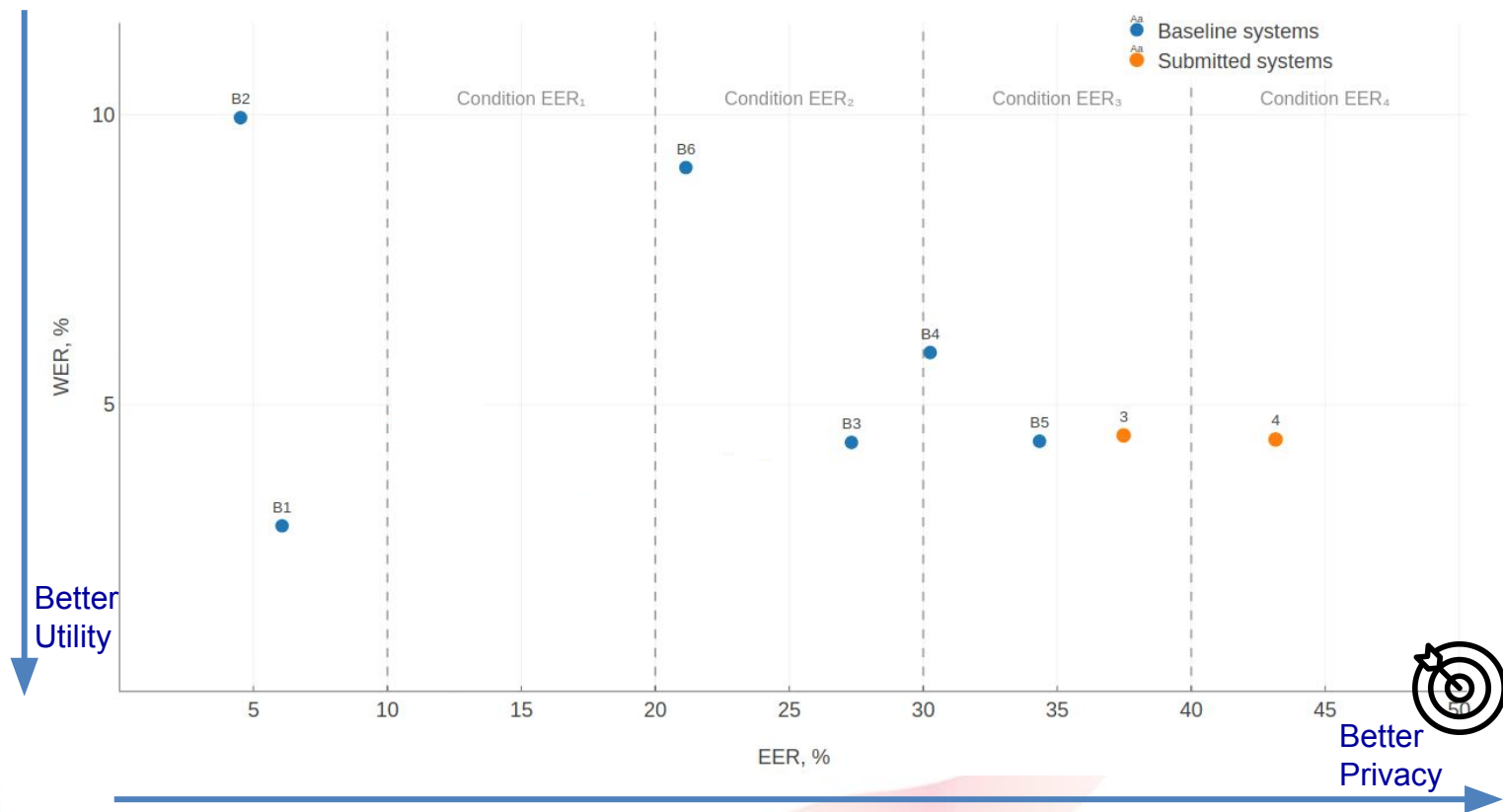
(b) Mean Reversion F0 with a 10-dB white gaussian noise

Figure 2: Examples of Mean Reversion F0 with and without additive noise

Contribution 2: SER performance (Sys 3, 4)



Contribution 2: ASR performance (Sys 3, 4)



Key Takeaways

1. We achieved **3rd place** (out of 36 submitted systems) in Privacy Protection performance on VPC2024
2. NaturalSpeech3 FACodec:
 - Promising results for ER and ASR
 - But there may be leakage of speaker identity in other branches (content/acoustic)
3. Emotion Embeddings:
 - Helps to improve ER performance
 - But leads to speaker identity leakage
4. Mean-reversion of F_0 and AWGN:
 - Improves privacy protection while keeping ASR and ER

5. Conclusion & Future work

1. Introduction

2. Literature Review

- a. Speaker Anonymization
- b. Disentanglement Learning

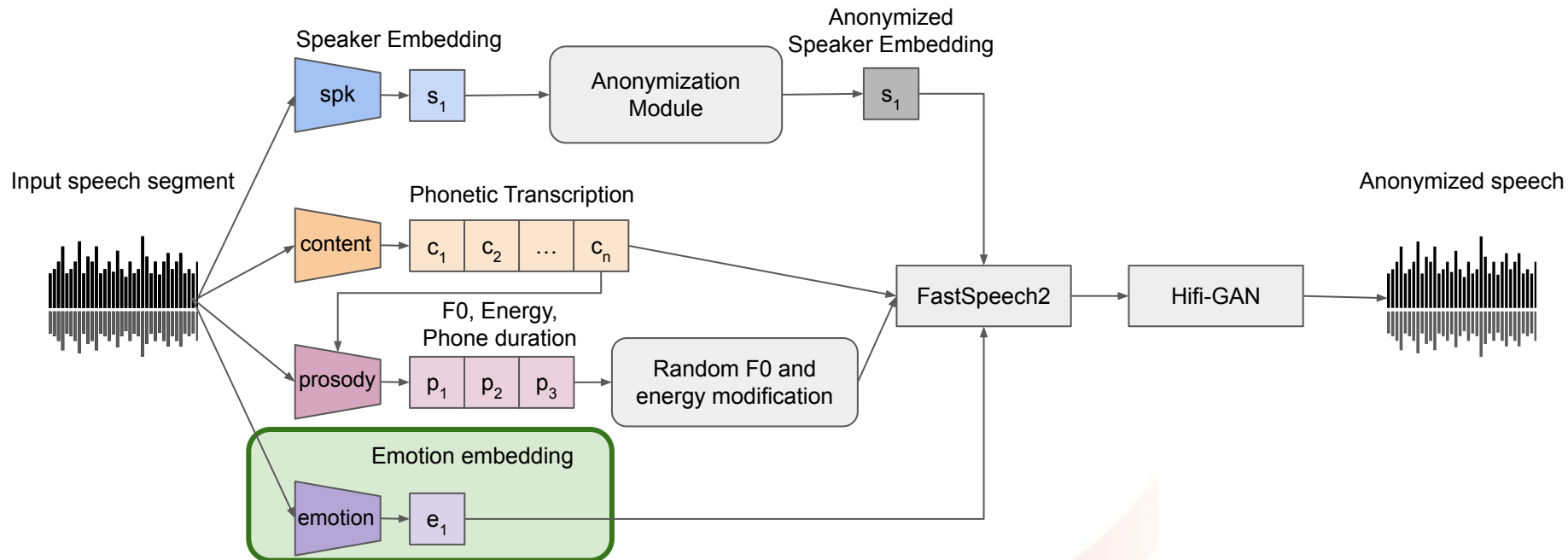
3. Disentanglement-based Approaches for Anonymization

- a. Problem1: Anonymization models do not preserve emotions
 - i. Contribution1: NS3 FACodec, Emotion embeddings
- b. Problem2: Prosody Leakage
 - i. Contribution2: Mean-reversion + Noise

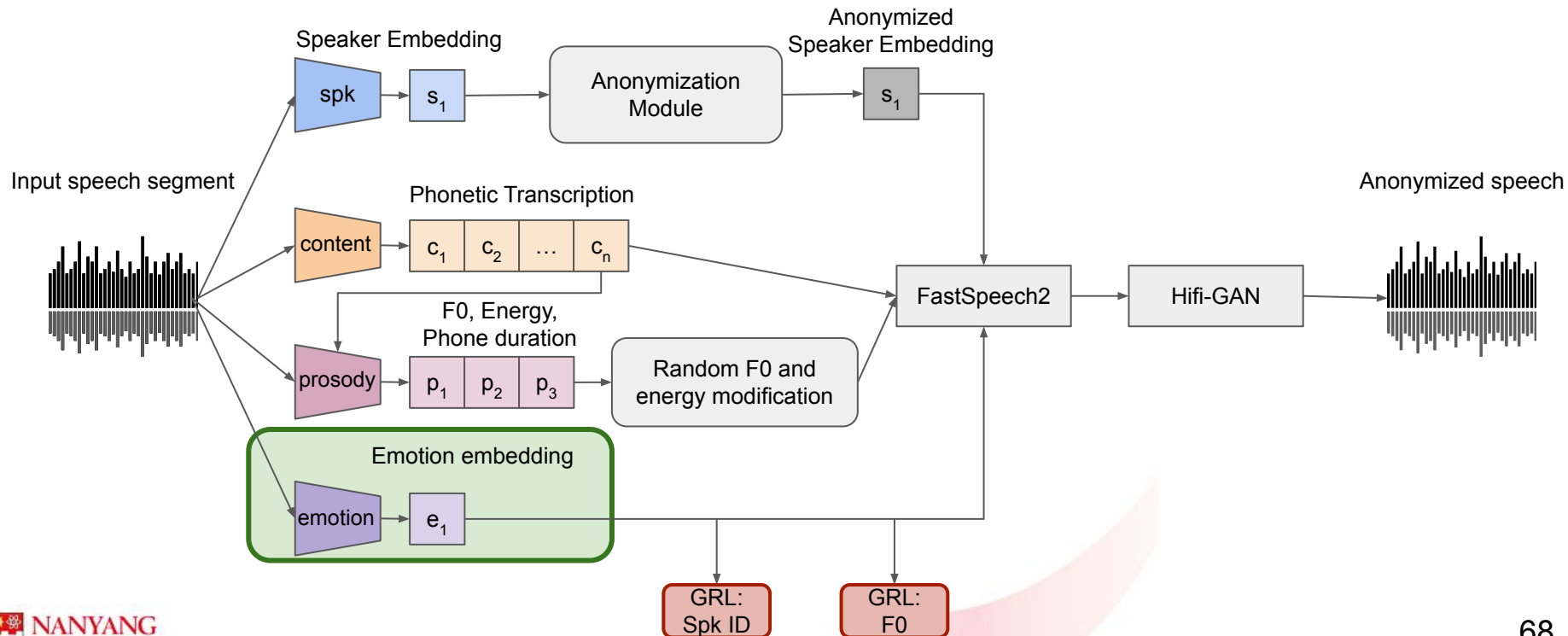
4. Future Work

a. Future Directions

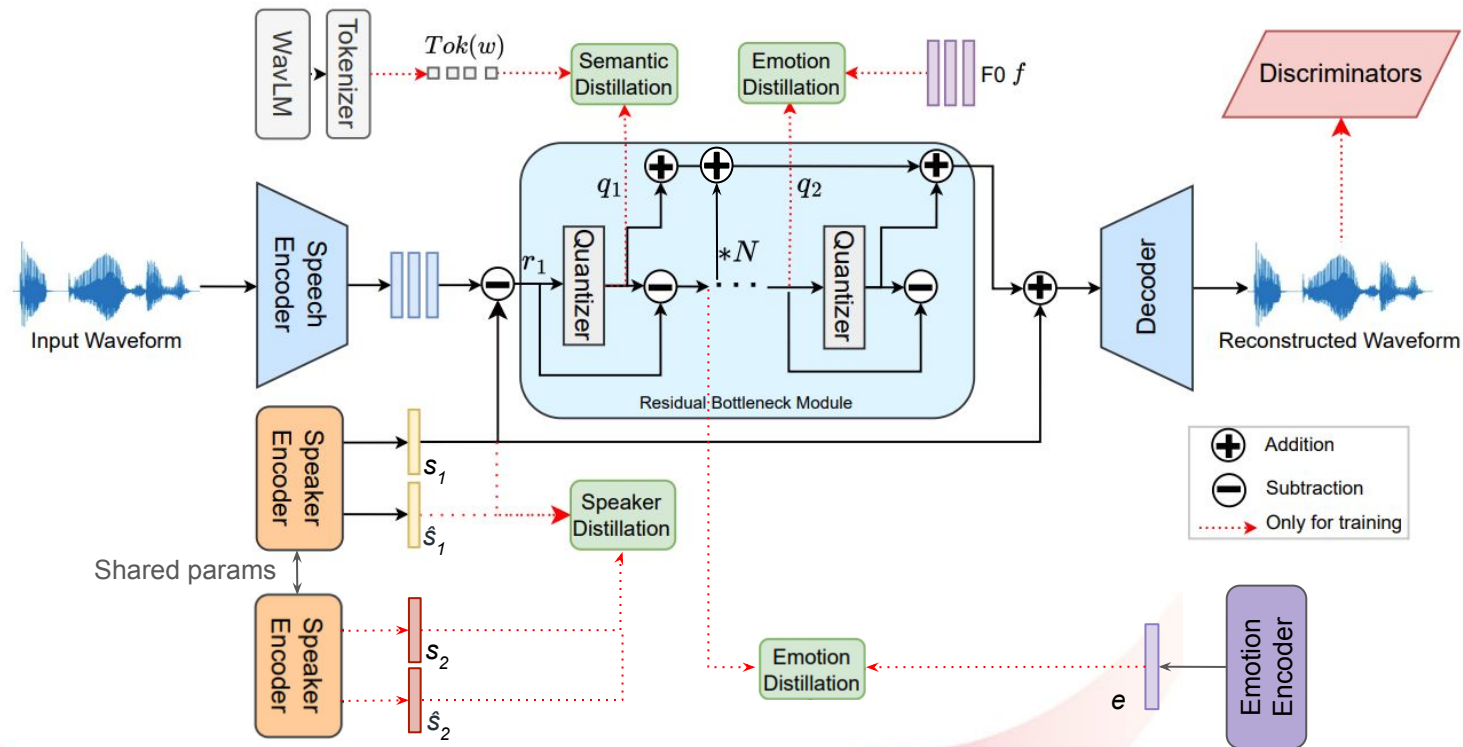
5.1. ID leakage in Emotion Embedding



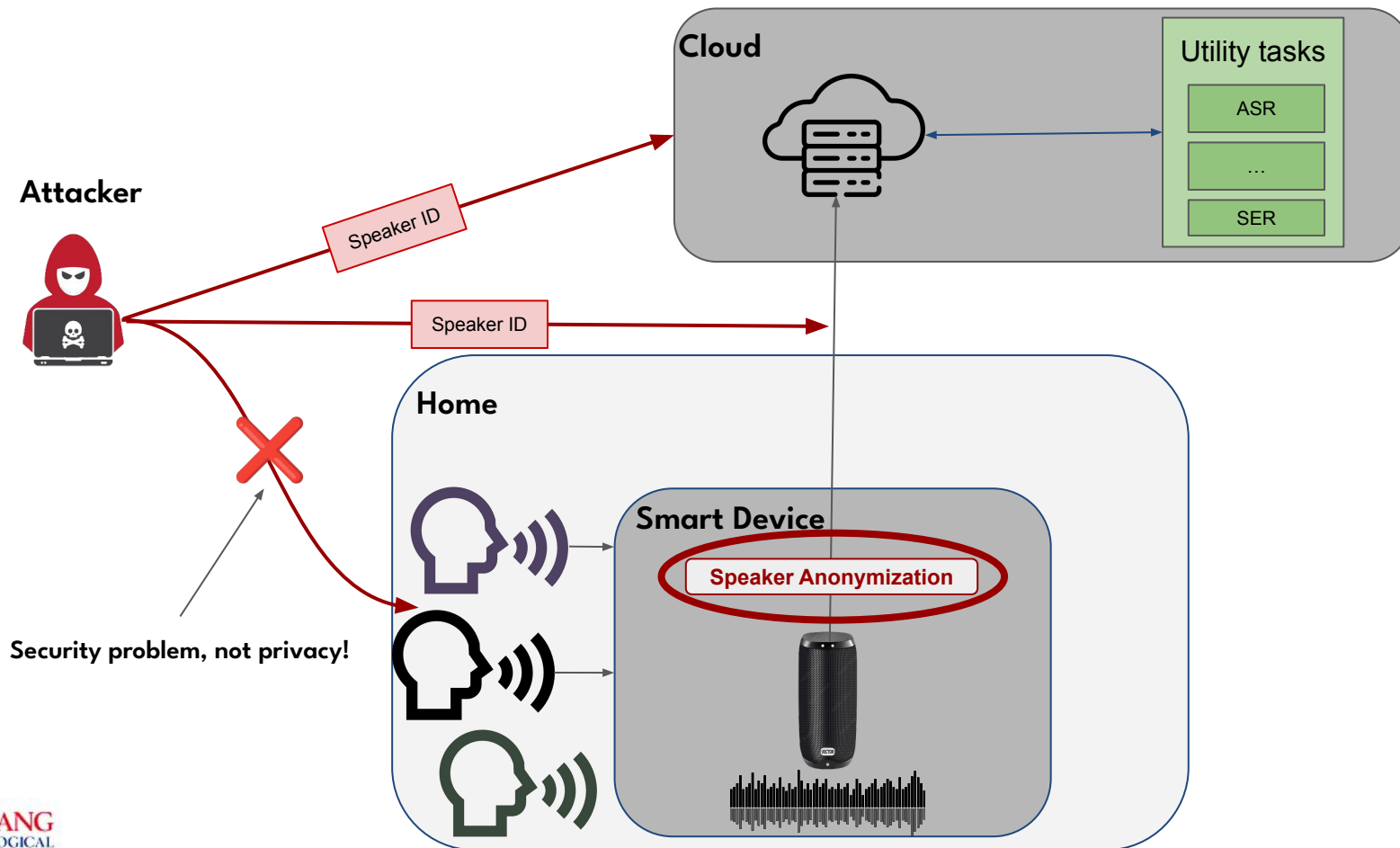
5.1. ID leakage in Emotion Embedding



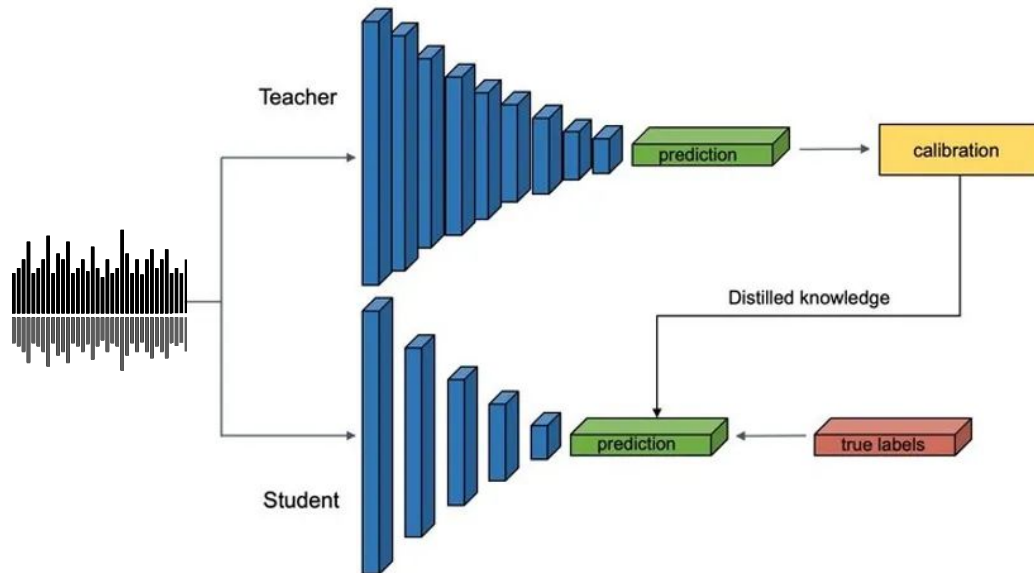
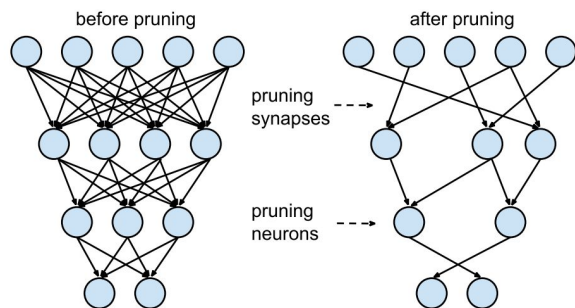
5.2. Codec models + Diffusion models



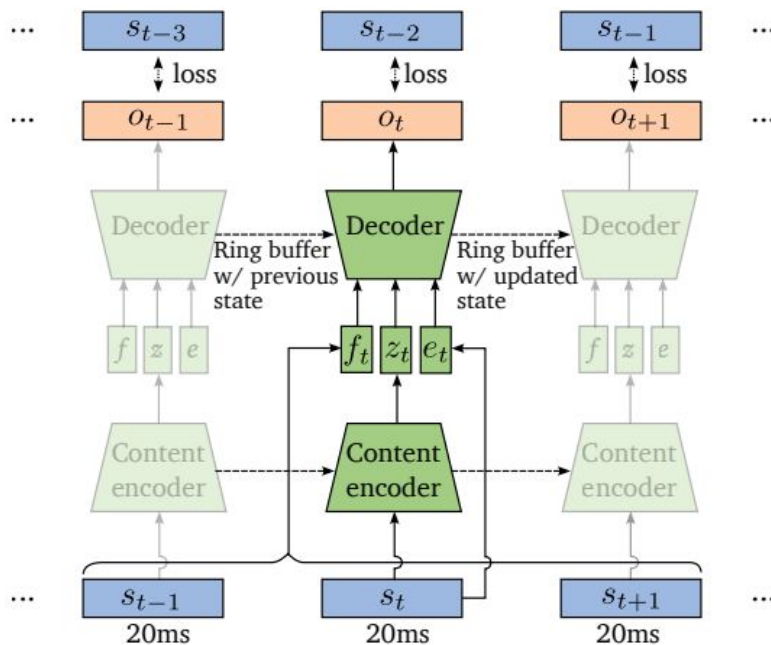
5.3. HouseHold Speaker Anonymization



Pruning and Knowledge Distillation



Streaming (online) speaker anonymization



Streaming inference.

Thank you for your attention!
Feel free to ask questions.

About me

1. Name: Nikita Kuzmin

2. Status:

- a. Matriculated on 08-Aug-2022
- b. 1, 2, 3 TAC appraisal passed
- c. All school requirement fulfilled for QE (GAP hours, TA courses)

3. CGPA: 4.67

4. Publications:

- a. **N. Kuzmin**, Luong, H.-T., Yao, J., Xie, L., Lee, K.A., Chng, E.-S. (2024) NTU-NPU System for Voice Privacy 2024 Challenge. Proc. 4th Symposium on Security and Privacy in Speech Communication, 72-79, doi: 10.21437/SPSC.2024-13
- b. **N. Kuzmin***, A. Sholokhov*, K. A. Lee and E. S. Chng, "Probabilistic Back-ends for Online Speaker Recognition and Clustering," ICASSP 2023 - 2023 IEEE International Conference on Acoustics, Speech and Signal Processing (ICASSP), Rhodes Island, Greece, 2023, pp. 1-5, doi: 10.1109/ICASSP49357.2023.10097032.
- c. Yao, J., **Kuzmin, N.**, Wang, Q., Guo, P., Ning, Z., Guo, D., Lee, K.A., Chng, E.-S., Xie, L. (2024) NPU-NTU System for Voice Privacy 2024 Challenge. Proc. 4th Symposium on Security and Privacy in Speech Communication, 67-71, doi: 10.21437/SPSC.2024-12