



GenAI for Sound Design

April 24th, 2025

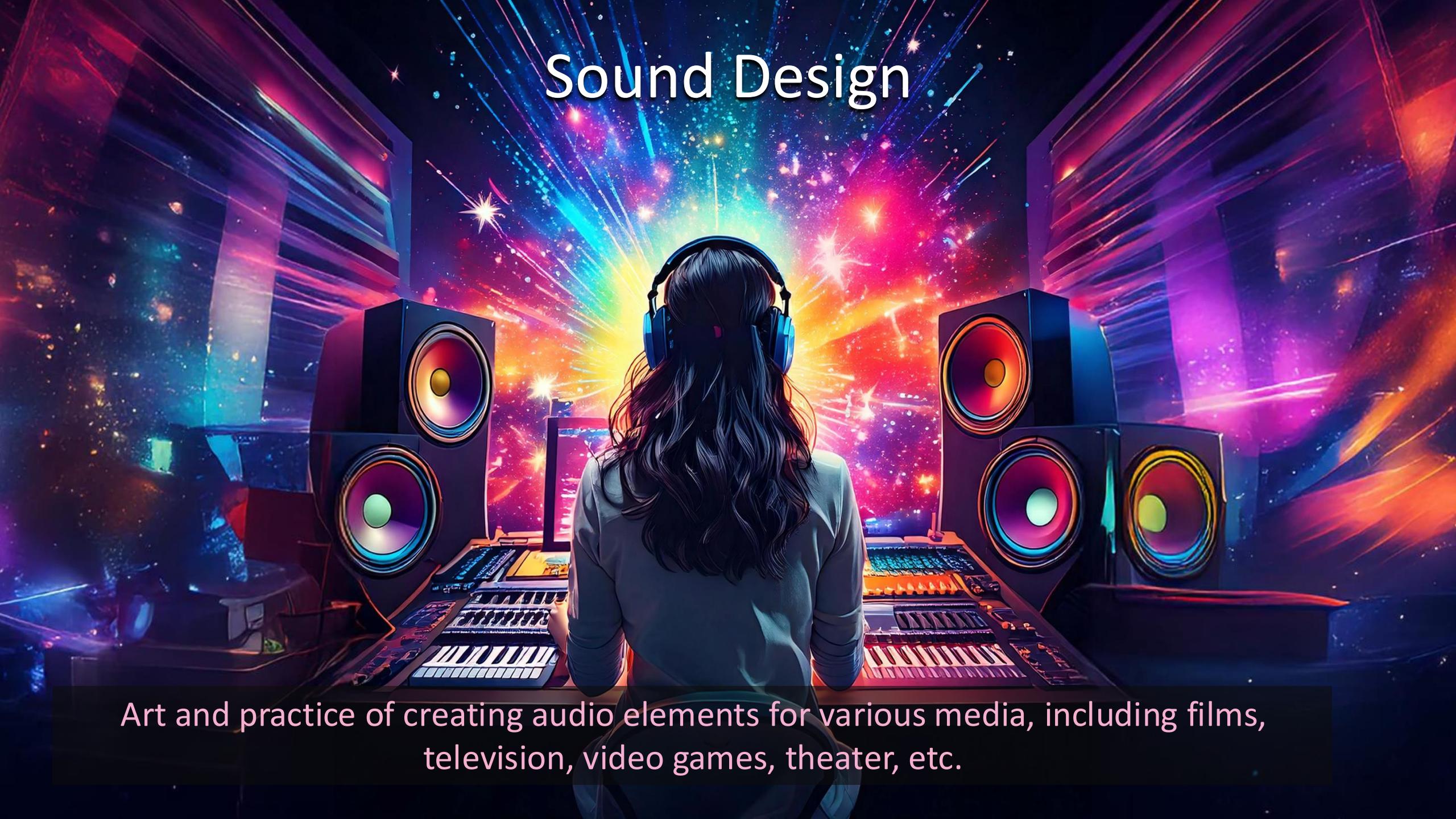
Oriol (Uri) Nieto (he/they)

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Artwork by [Daniel Mercadante](#)

Sound Design



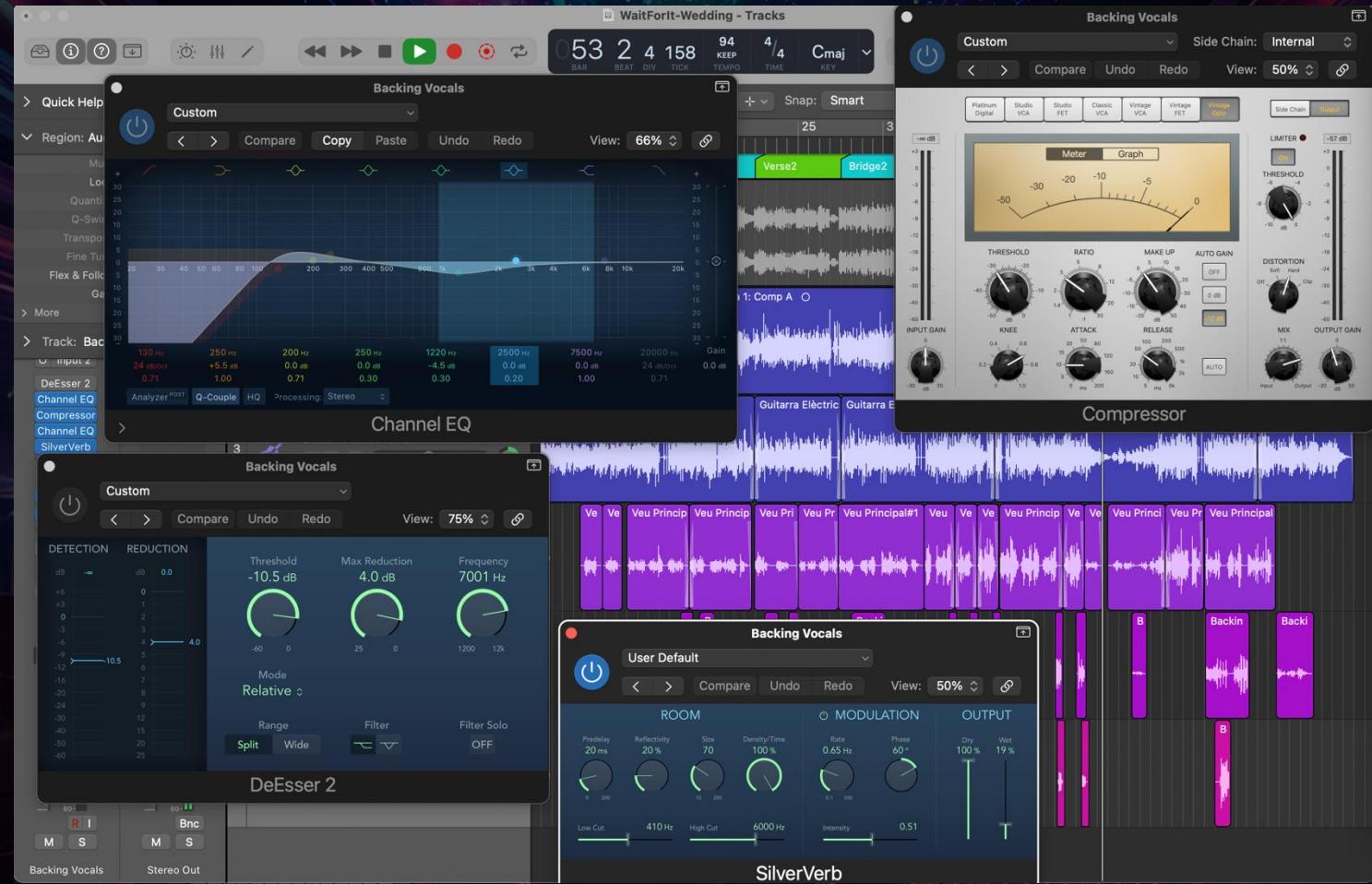
Art and practice of creating audio elements for various media, including films, television, video games, theater, etc.

Sound Design



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Sound Design AI Group (SODA)



The SODA Team



Justin Salamon



Prem Seetharaman



Oriol Nieto

Generative Extend in Premiere Pro



Outline

Diffusion Models for Audio Generation



SILA



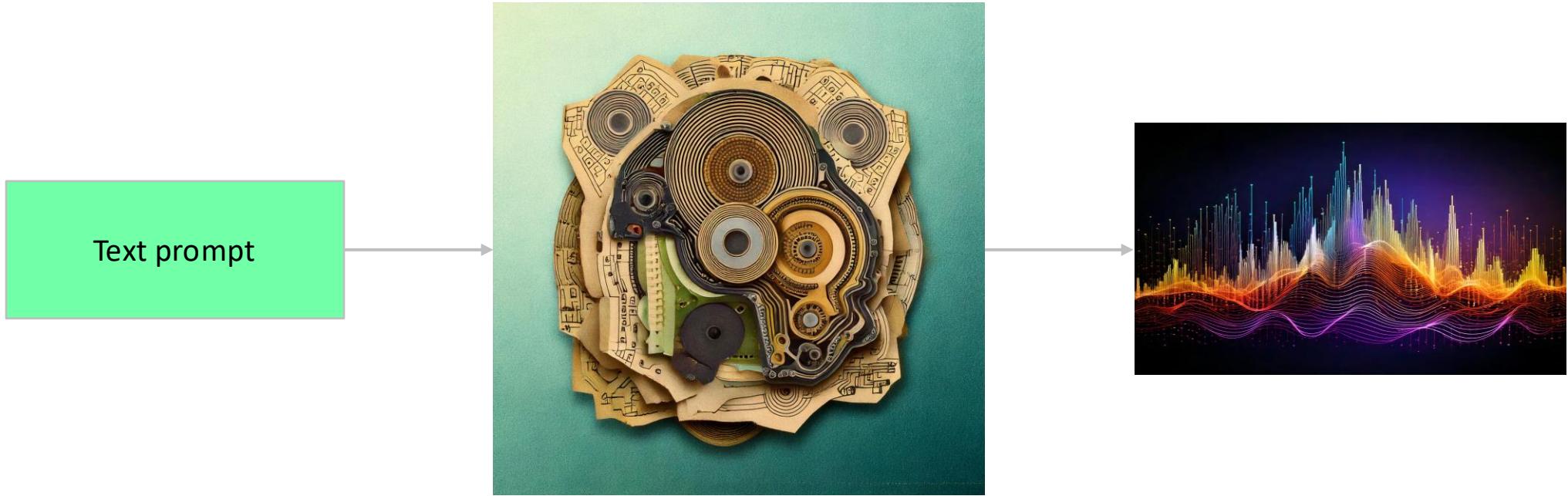
Sketch2Sound



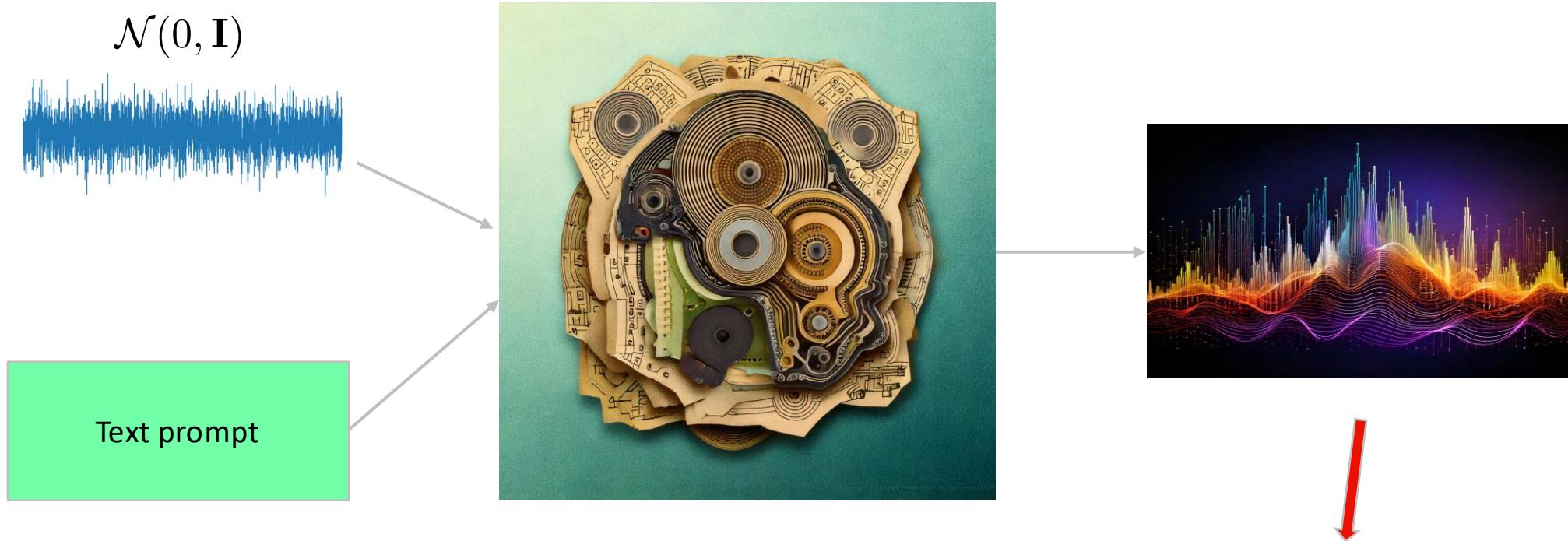
MultiFoley



Diffusion Models for Audio Generation

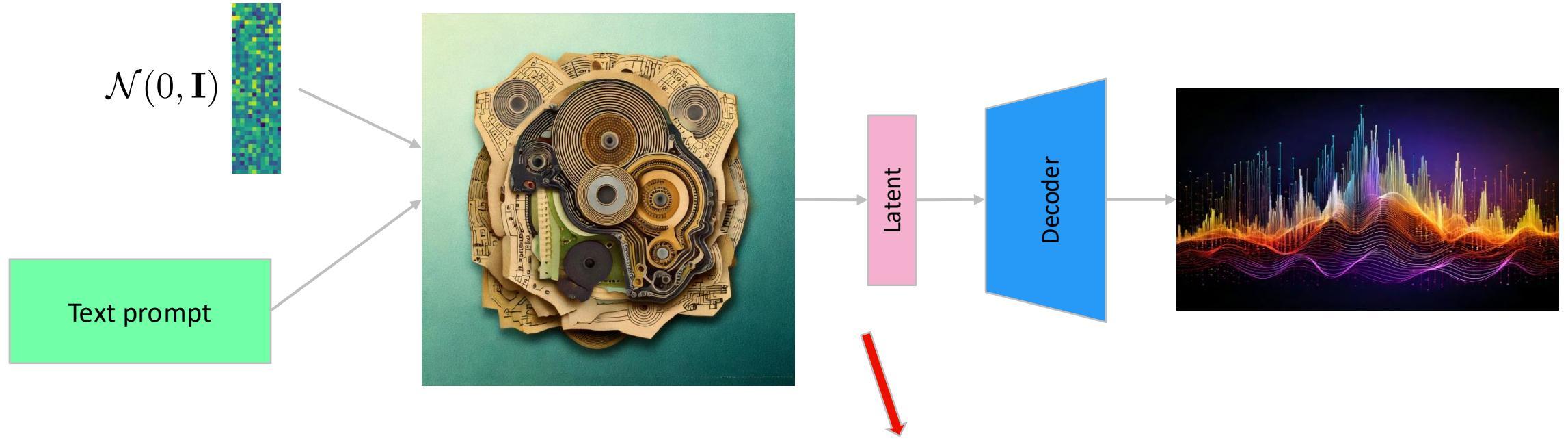


Diffusion Models for Audio Generation



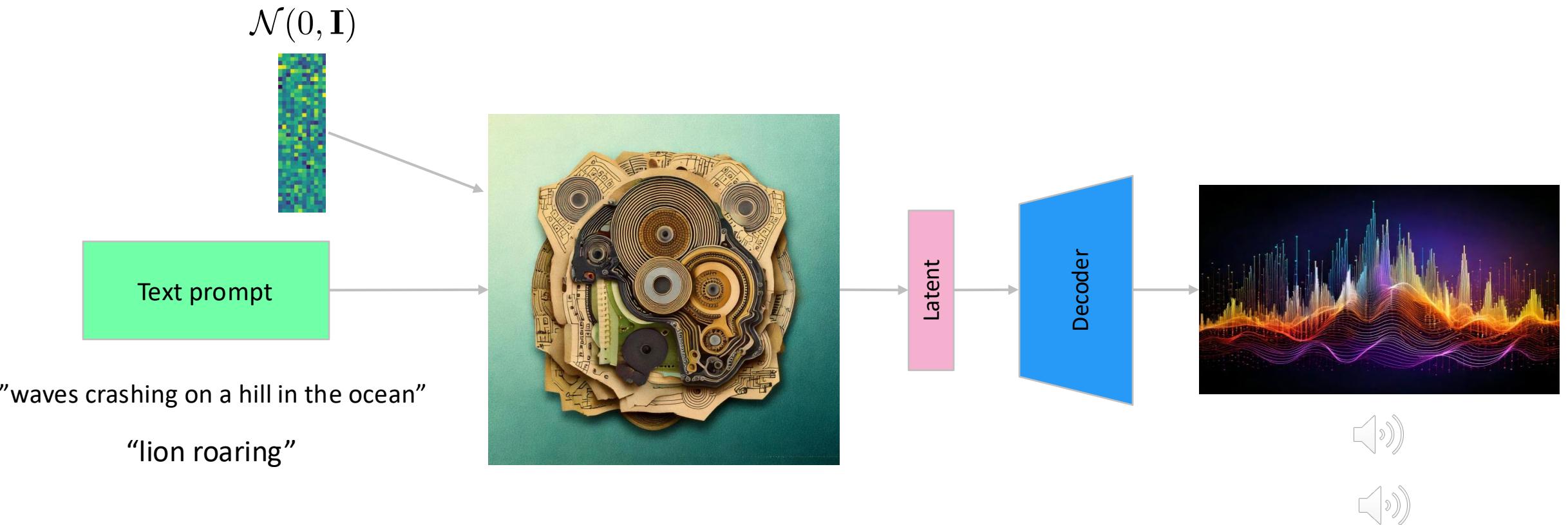
High quality audio is very high dimensional (~48kHz!)

Latent Diffusion Models for Audio Generation



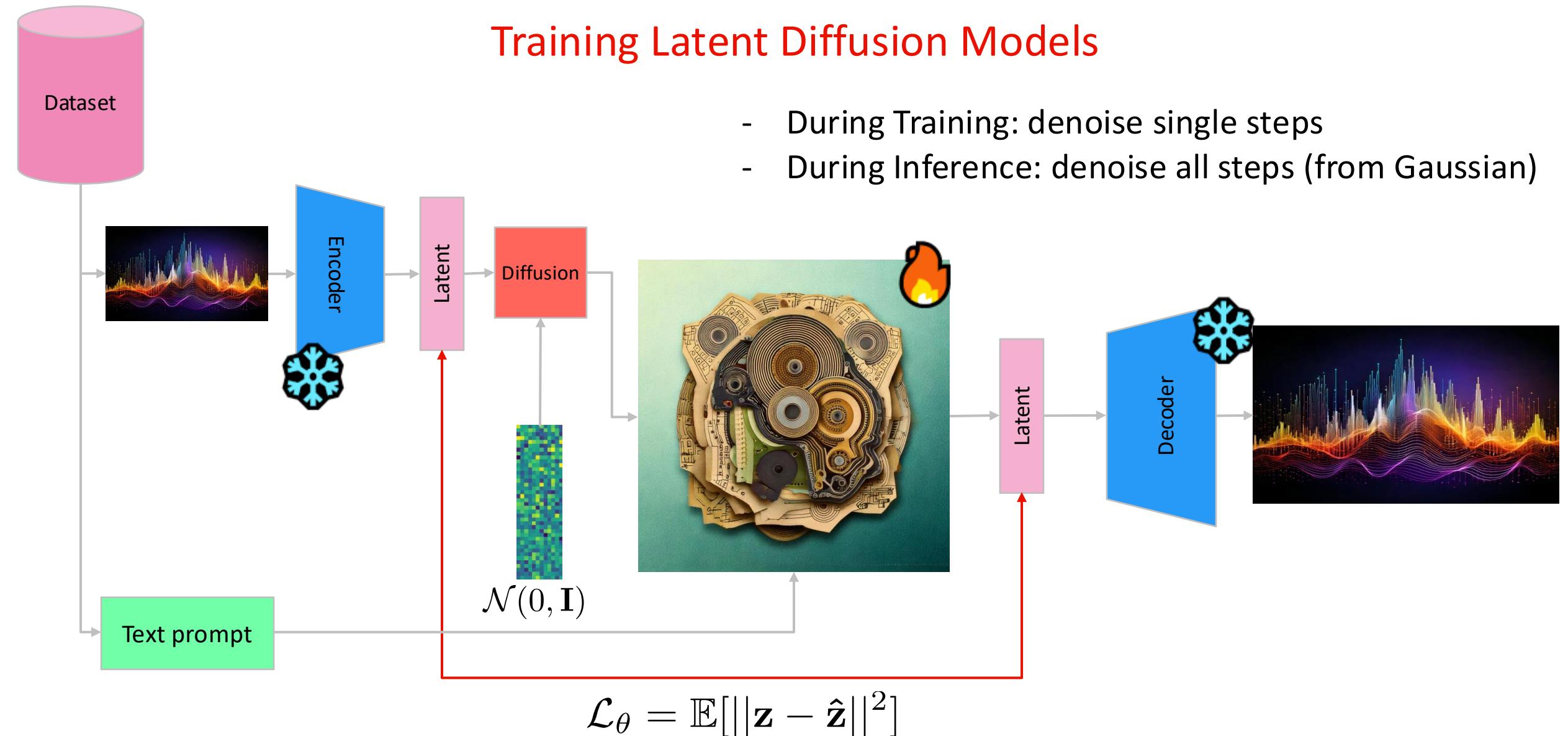
- Audio **latent** space is much more compact ($\sim 40\text{Hz}$)
- E.g., VAEs [1], RVQ [2], DAC [3]

Examples of Latent Diffusion Models for Audio Gen



Training Latent Diffusion Models

- During Training: denoise single steps
- During Inference: denoise all steps (from Gaussian)



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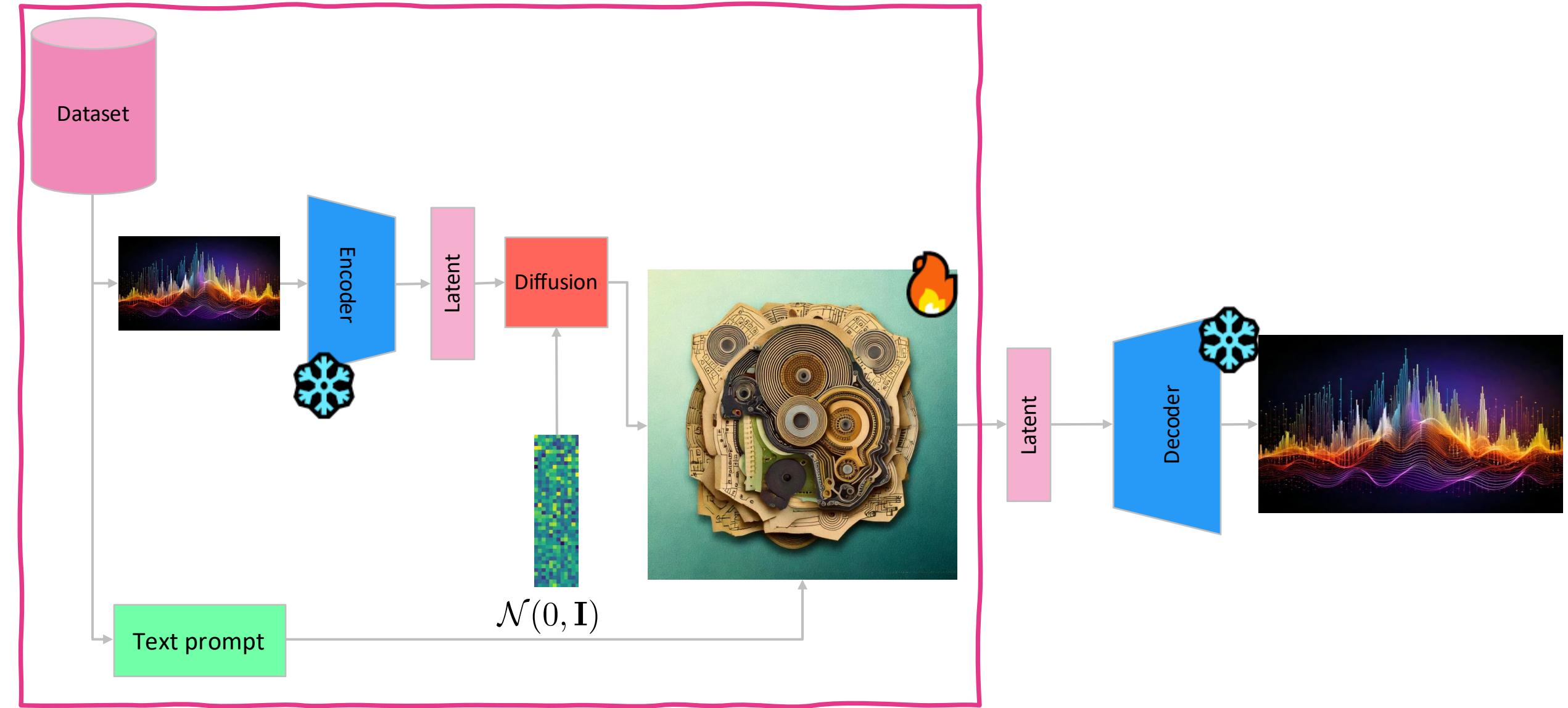
SILA: Signal-to-Language Augmentation for Enhanced Control in Text-to-Audio Generation

- Text-based models have limited control
- Hard to obtain desired results with a single text prompt
- Can we add control with minimal impact in architecture/performance?

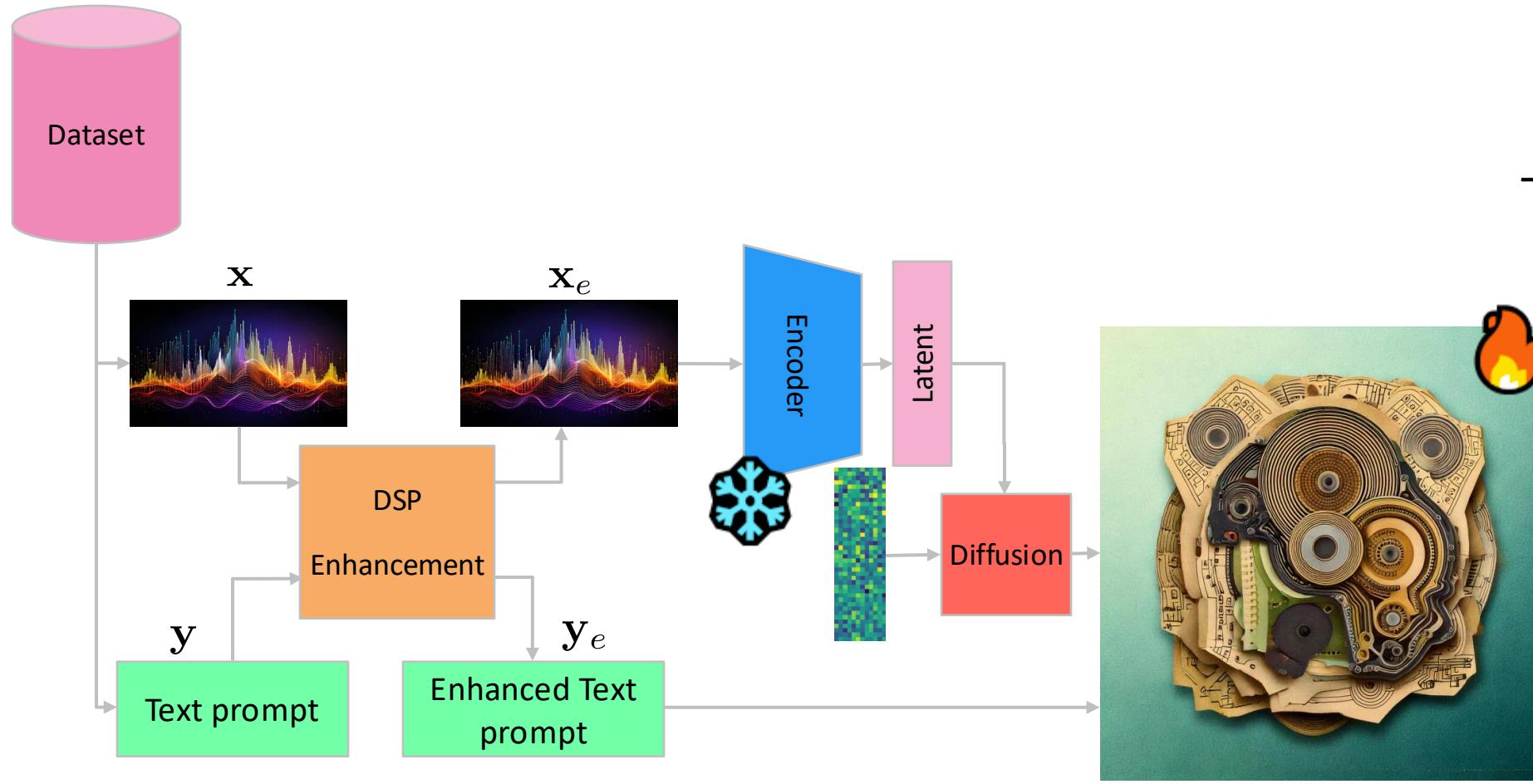


Kumar, S., Seetharaman, P., Salamon, J., Manocha, D., Nieto, O., SILA: Signal-to-Language Augmentation for Enhanced Control in Text-to-Audio Generation. Submitted to IEEE Signal Processing Letters, 2025

SILA: Signal-to-Language Augmentation for Enhanced Control in Text-to-Audio Generation



SILA: Signal-to-Language Augmentation for Enhanced Control in Text-to-Audio Generation



- DSP Enhancement:
 - Loudness
 - Pitch
 - Reverb
 - Noise
 - Brightness
 - Fade
 - Duration

SILA: Signal-to-Language Augmentation for Enhanced Control in Text-to-Audio Generation

- Signal



- Volume (LKFS): -10
- Brightness (SC): 65
- Reverb: Add a lot
- ...

- Signal output



- Language

- Original prompt:
 - “A thunder echoes through the sky”
 - + “, & loudness: very loud”
 - + “, & brightness: bright”
 - + “, & reverb: very wet”
 - ...
- SILA prompt:
 - “A thunder echoes through the sky, & loudness: very loud, & brightness: bright, & reverb: very wet, ...”

SILA: Signal-to-Language Augmentation for Enhanced Control in Text-to-Audio Generation

- Perceptual Evaluation Results (22 subjects)

Model	Loudness	Pitch	Reverb	Noise	Fade	Duration	All
Stable Audio Open	0.17	0.23	0.09	0.20	0.18	0.26	0.12
AudioGen	0.10	0.17	0.13	0.19	0.21	0.22	0.11
Tango 2	0.03	0.10	0.07	0.14	0.10	0.16	0.05
SILA	0.70	0.50	0.71	0.47	0.51	0.36	0.72

SILA: Signal-to-Language Augmentation for Enhanced Control in Text-to-Audio Generation

Examples

"The deep rumble of the storm echoes through the sky, & loudness: soft"



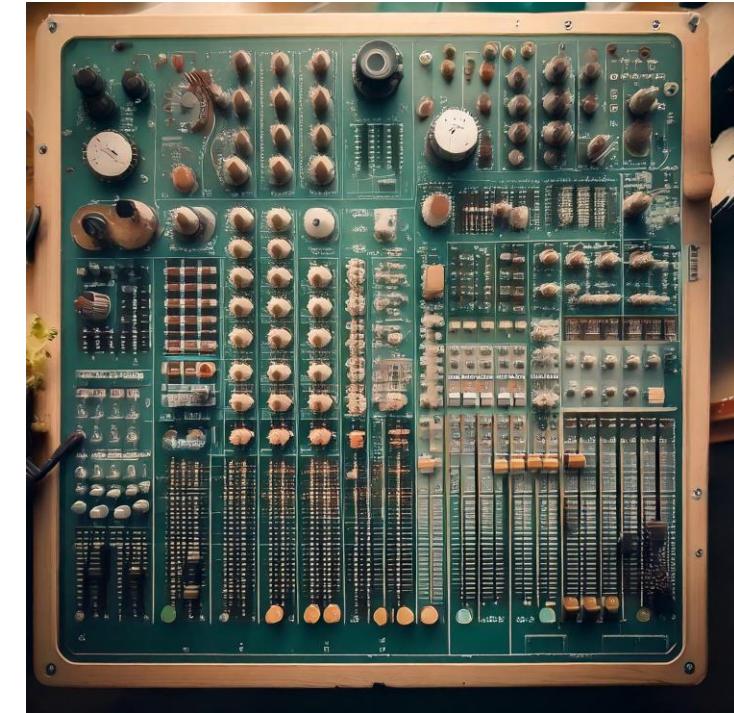
"The deep rumble of the storm echoes through the sky, & loudness: very loud"



"A dog barking nearby, & reverb: dry"



"A dog barking nearby, & reverb: wet"



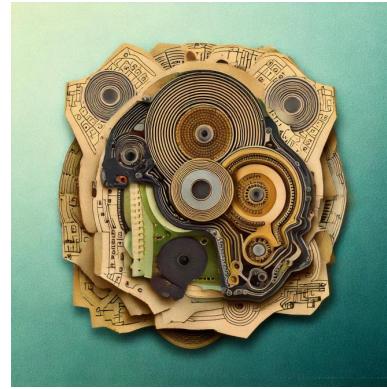
SILA: Signal-to-Language Augmentation for Enhanced Control in Text-to-Audio Generation

- Added control across several acoustic features
- Highly efficient
 - No added computation during inference
- Model agnostic



Outline

Diffusion Models for Audio Generation



SILA



Sketch2Sound



MultiFoley





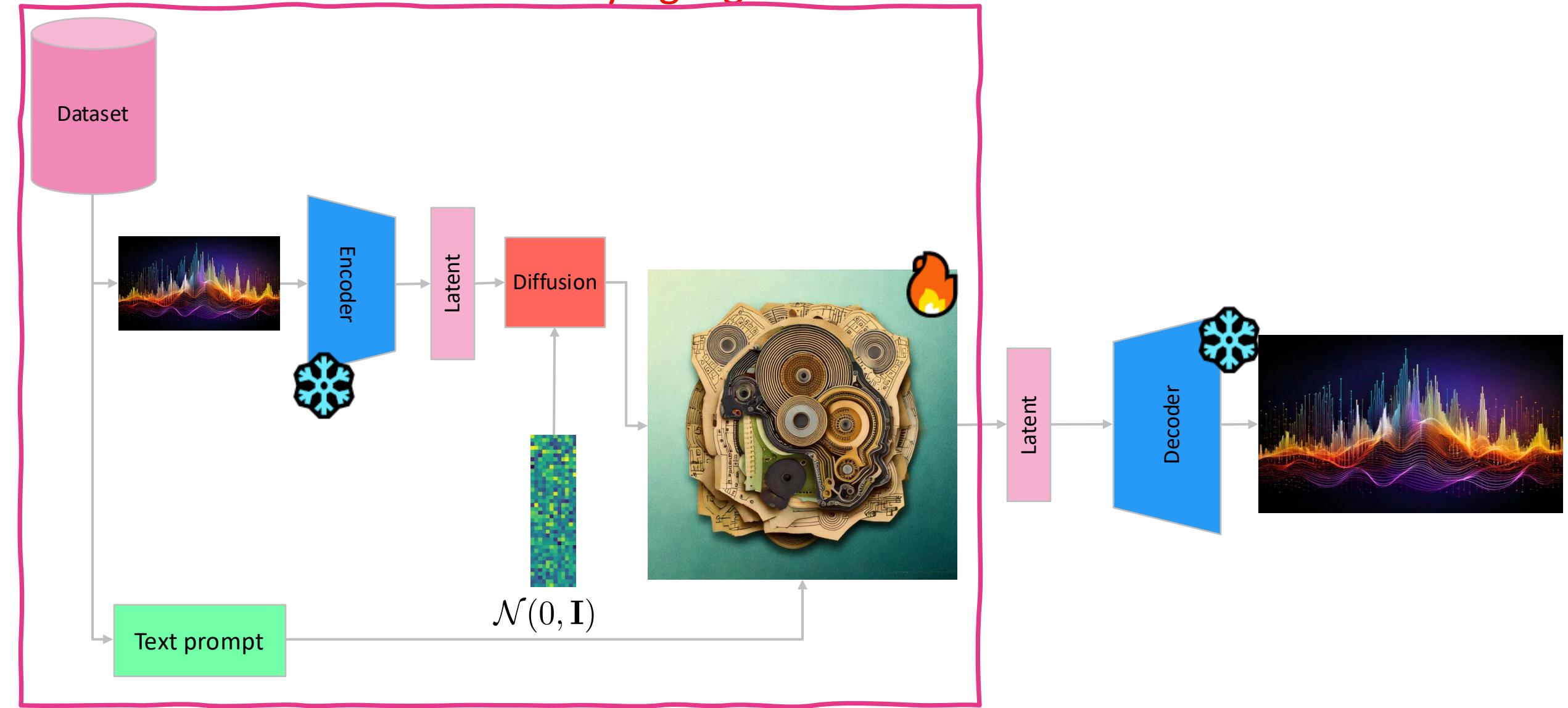
Sketch2Sound: Controllable Audio Generation via Time-Varying Signals and Sonic Imitations

- Text prompts can be quite limiting
 - (Even with SILA alone!)
- Lack of fine-grained control/expression
- Can we control the generation via *audio*?

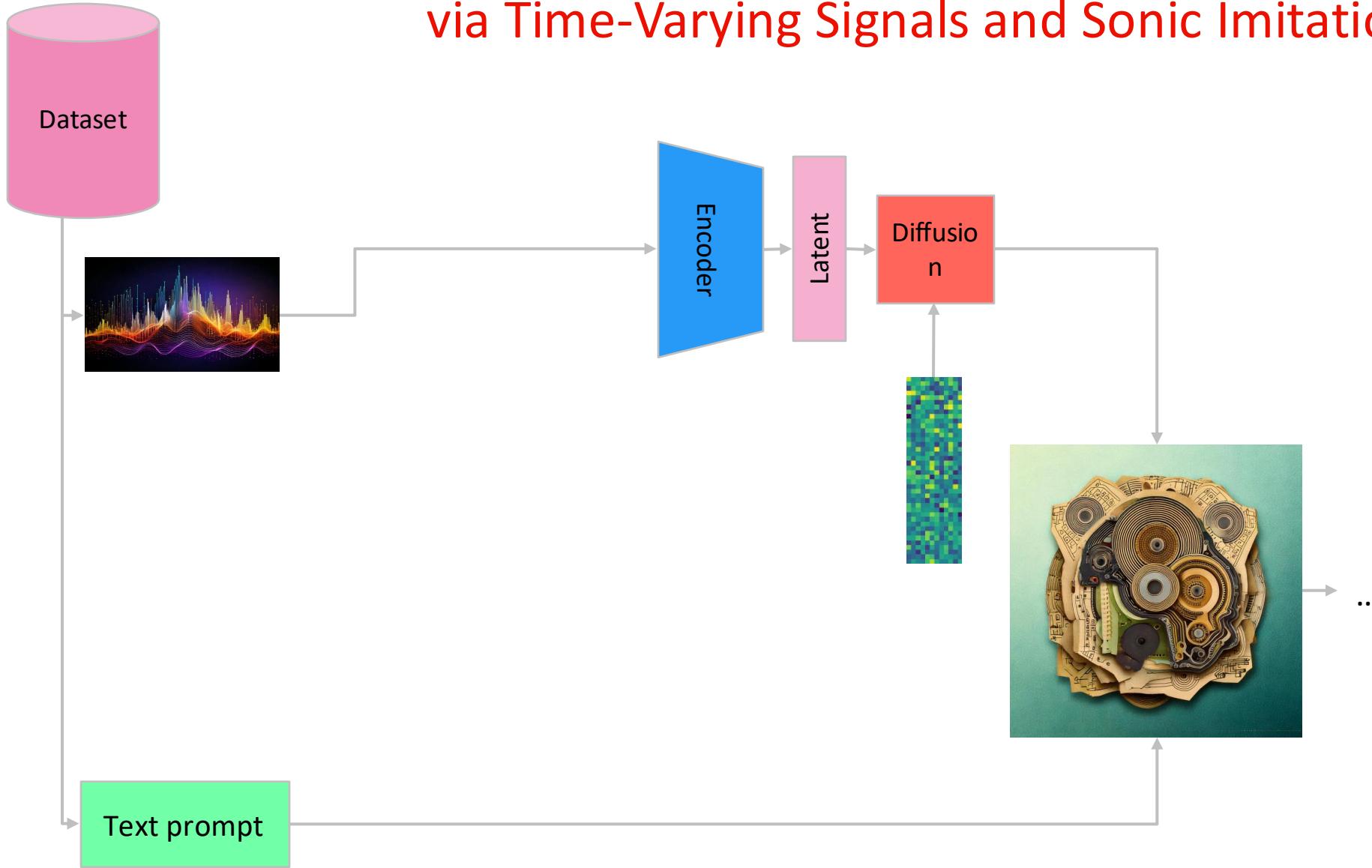


Flores García, H., Nieto, O., Salamon, J., Pardo, B., Seetharaman, P., Sketch2Sound: Controllable Audio Generation via Time-Varying Signals and Sonic Imitations, In Proc. of the 50th International Conference on Acoustics, Speech, and Signal Processing (ICASSP), Hyderabad, India, 2025

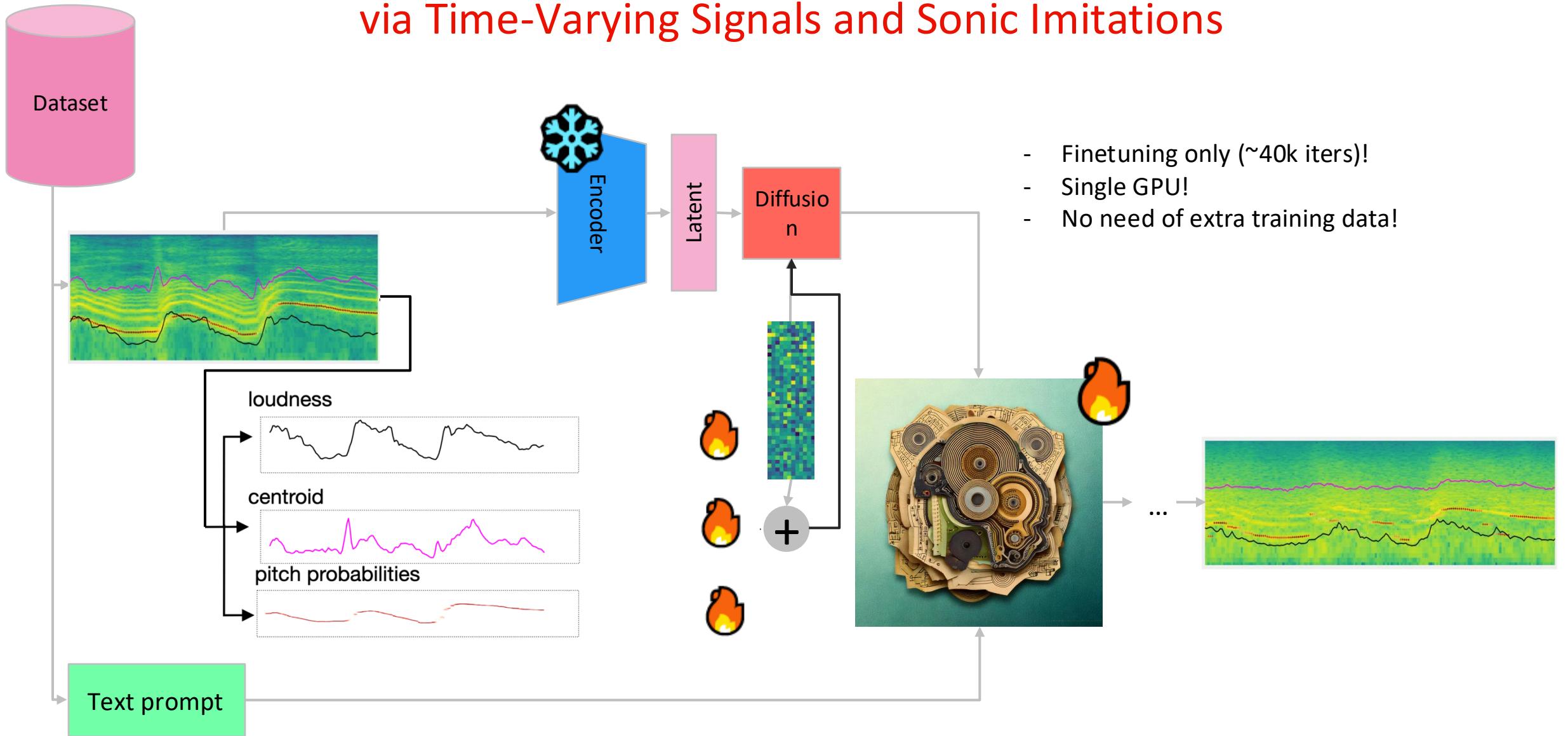
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Sketch2Sound: Controllable Audio Generation via Time-Varying Signals and Sonic Imitations

- Video examples:



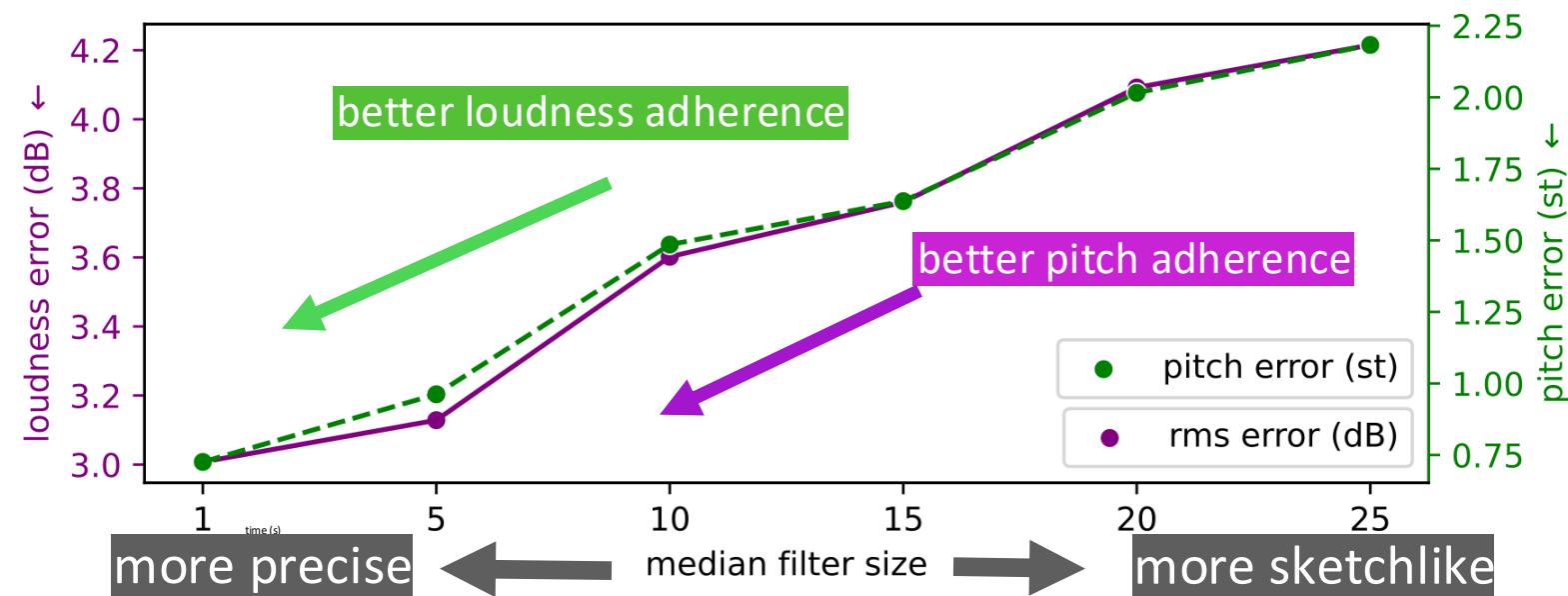
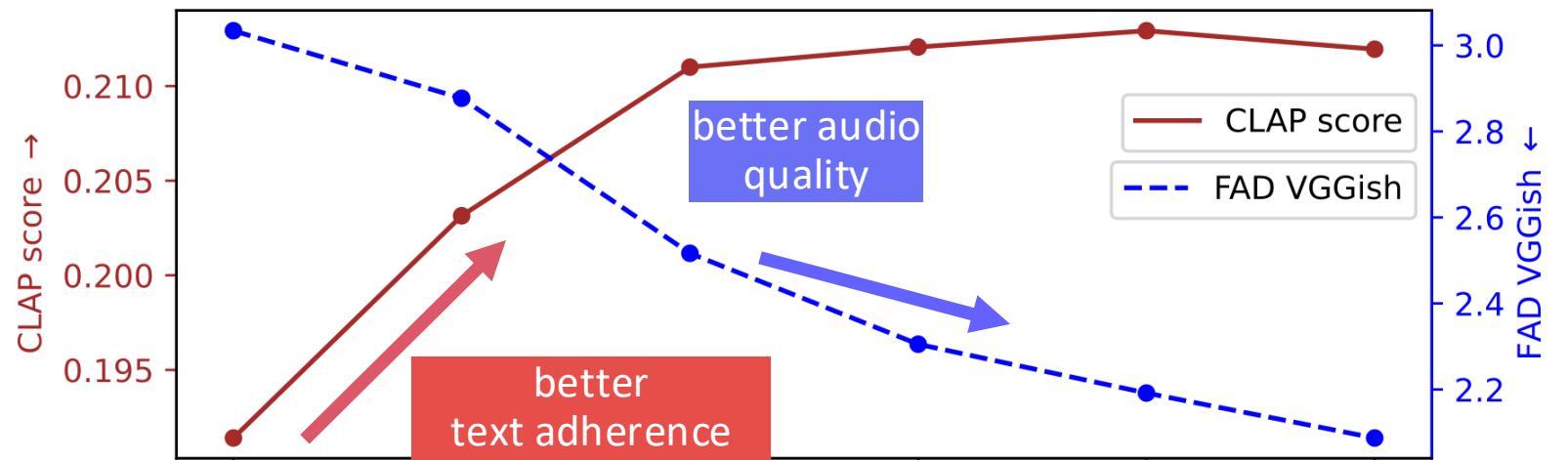
Sketch2Sound: Controllable Audio Generation via Time-Varying Signals and Sonic Imitations

- Video examples:



sketch types

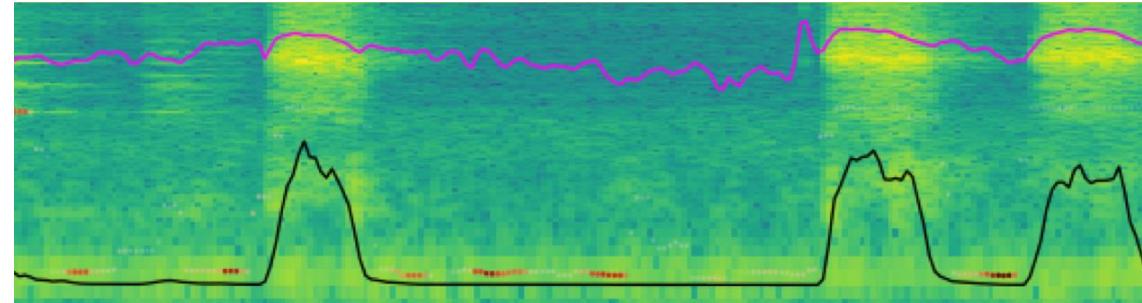
median filter size randomized during training!



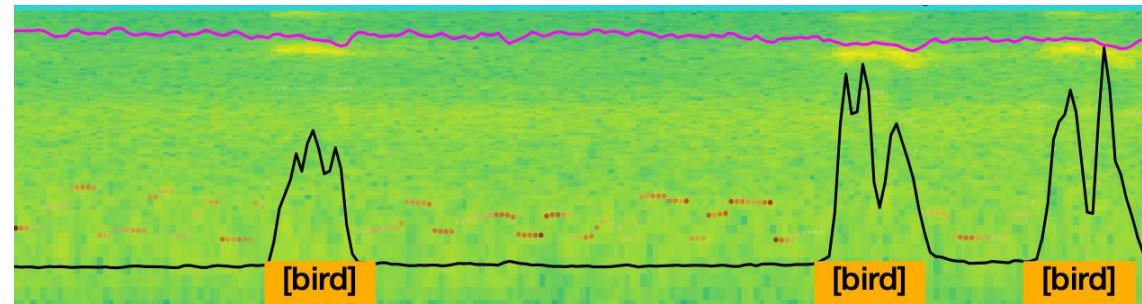
the semantics of control curves are implicitly modeled



input (sonic imitation)

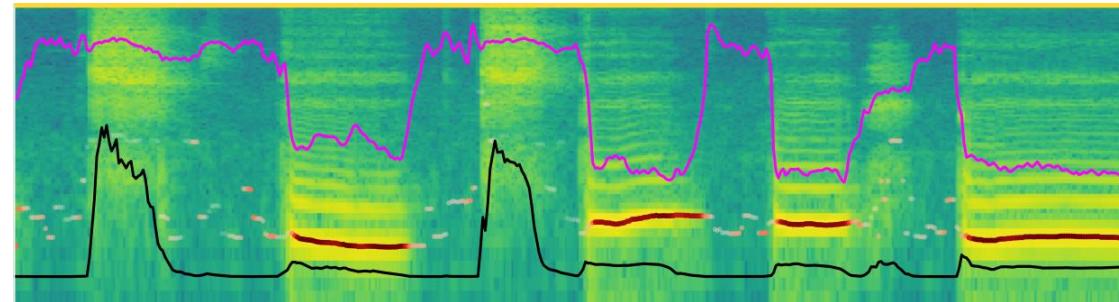


prompt: "forest ambience"

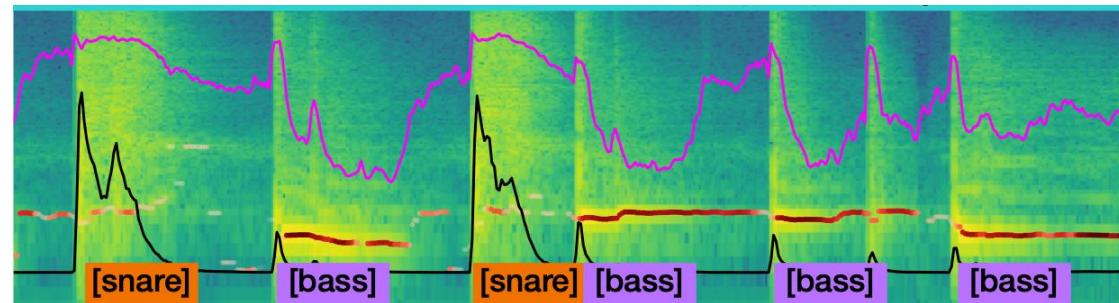


the semantics of control curves are implicitly modeled

input (sonic imitation)



prompt: "bass drum, snare drum"



Sketch2Sound: Controllable Audio Generation via Time-Varying Signals and Sonic Imitations

- Control generation with *audio*
 - Fine-grained control
- Keep human in the loop!
 - Expressive vocal input
 - Tunable sketch types (median filter)!
- Efficient method
 - Model agnostic!



Outline

Diffusion Models for Audio Generation



SILA



Sketch2Sound



MultiFoley





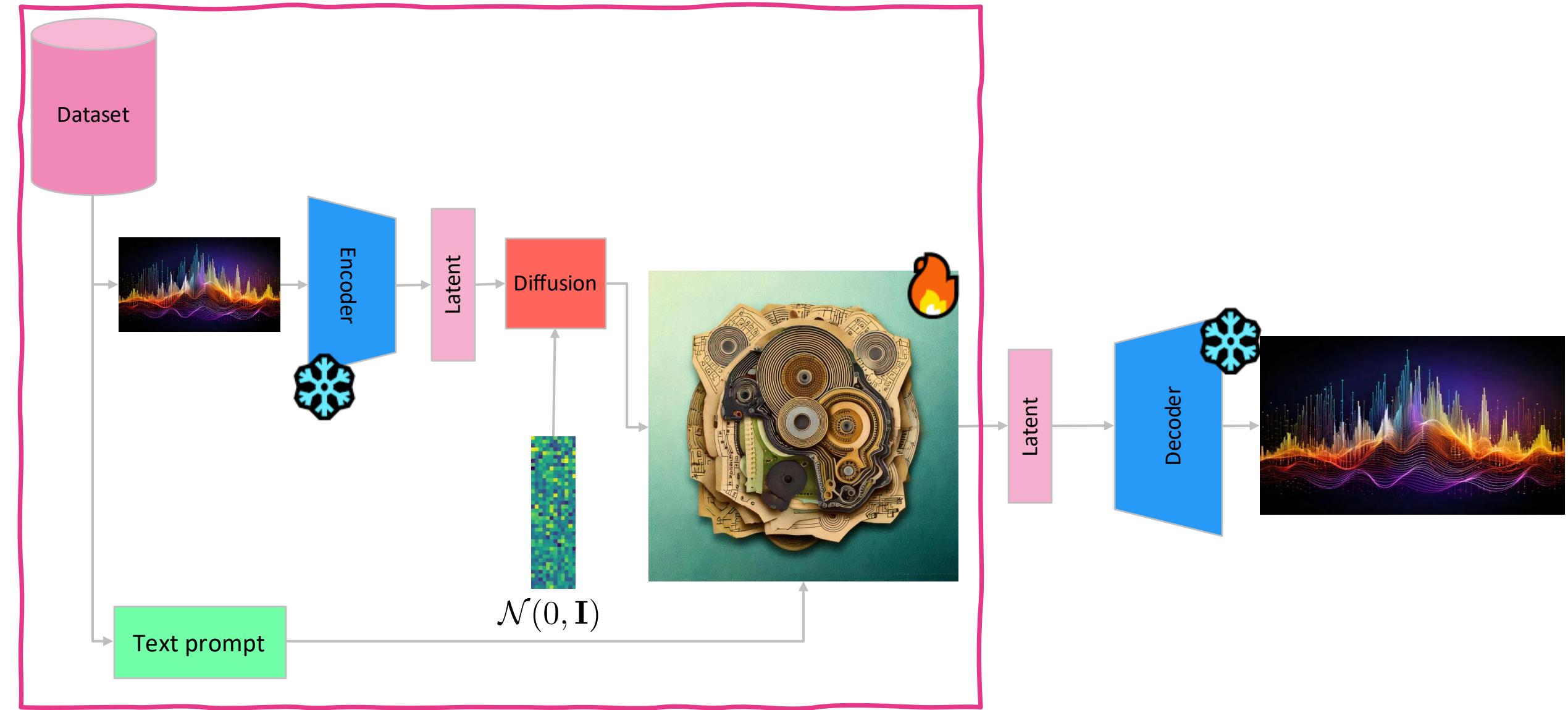
MultiFoley: Video-Guided Foley Sound Generation with Multimodal Controls

- Perfect synchronization with video can be tedious
- Can we use videos as an additional condition for the generation?
- How about a combination of **text, audio, and video** as conditions?

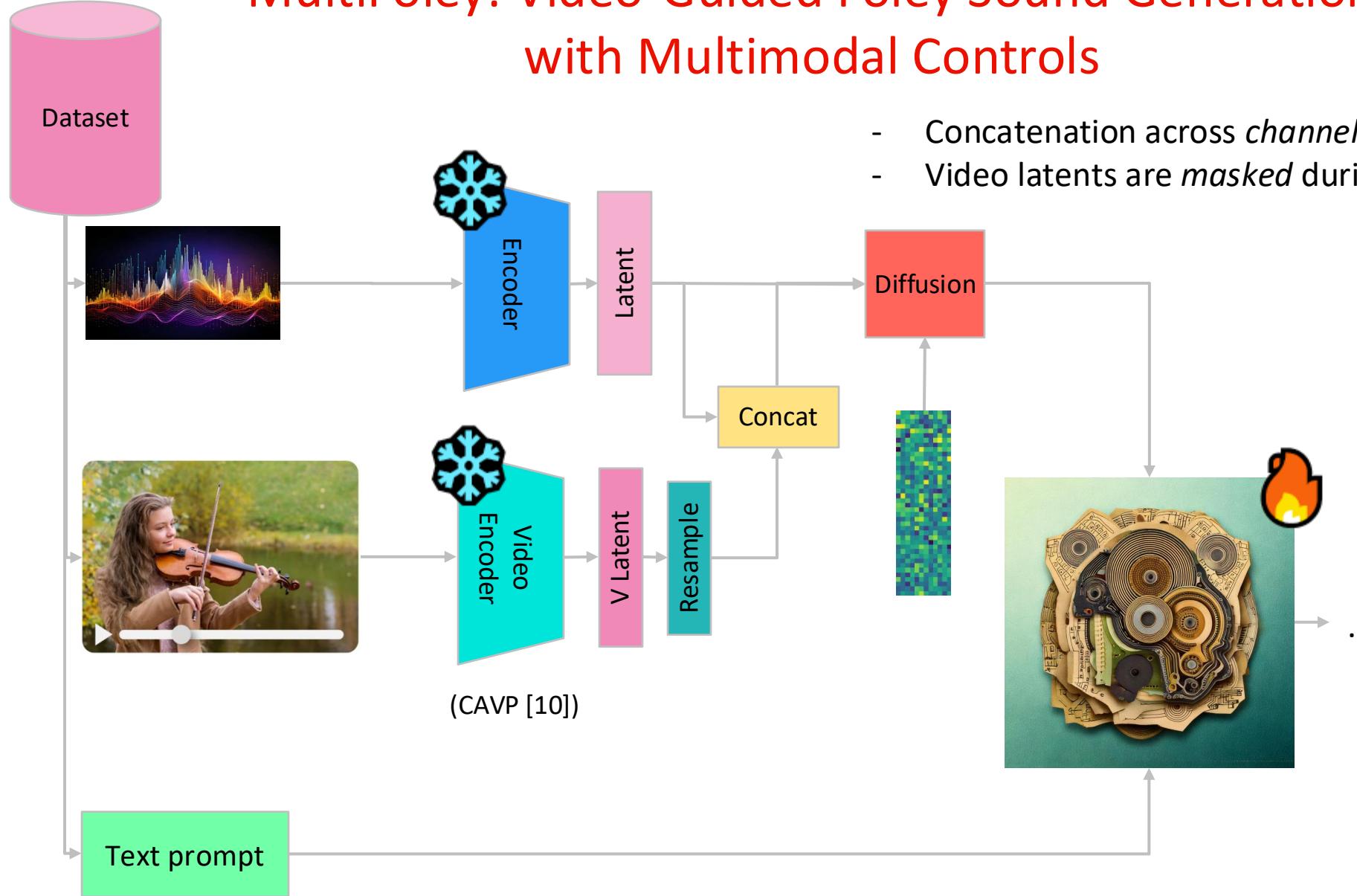


Chen, Z., Seetharaman, P., Russell, B., Nieto, O., Bourgin, D., Owens, A., Salamon, J., Video-Guided Foley Sound Generation with Multimodal Controls, Submitted to IEEE / CVF Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition Conference (CVPR), 2025

MultiFoley: Video-Guided Foley Sound Generation with Multimodal Controls



MultiFoley: Video-Guided Foley Sound Generation with Multimodal Controls



- Concatenation across *channels* dim
- Video latents are *masked* during diff (ie, no video gen)

MultiFoley: Video-Guided Foley Sound Generation with Multimodal Controls



“Bird Chirping”

MultiFoley: Video-Guided Foley Sound Generation with Multimodal Controls



“Rooster Crowing”

MultiFoley: Video-Guided Foley Sound Generation with Multimodal Controls



“Male Speaking”

MultiFoley: Video-Guided Foley Sound Generation with Multimodal Controls



“Sheep Bleating”

MultiFoley: Video-Guided Foley Sound Generation with Multimodal Controls



“Typewriter”

MultiFoley: Video-Guided Foley Sound Generation with Multimodal Controls



“Piano”

MultiFoley: Video-Guided Foley Sound Generation with Multimodal Controls



“Keyboard”

MultiFoley: Video-Guided Foley Sound Generation with Multimodal Controls



“Cello”

MultiFoley: Video-Guided Foley Sound Generation with Multimodal Controls



“Erhu”

MultiFoley: Video-Guided Foley Sound Generation with Multimodal Controls



“Chainsaw”

MultiFoley: Video-Guided Foley Sound Generation with Multimodal Controls

Given this reference dog bark audio



We generate sound for this silent video



MultiFoley: Video-Guided Foley Sound Generation with Multimodal Controls

- Method to generate audio from video
- Multimodal control: audio, video, and text!
- High quality output even when trained on low-quality video dataset (VGGSound)



Closing Remarks

SILA
(enhanced text control)



Sketch2Sound
(voice control)



MultiFoley
(video, text, and audio control)



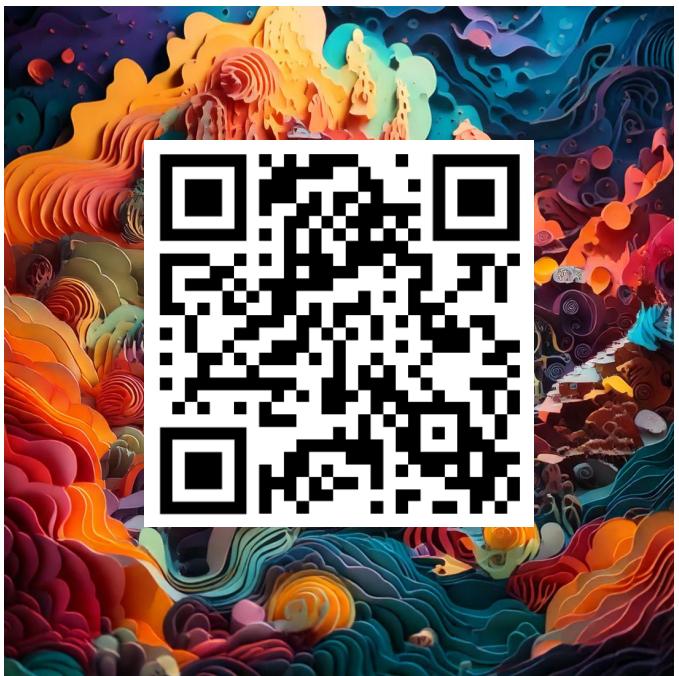


References

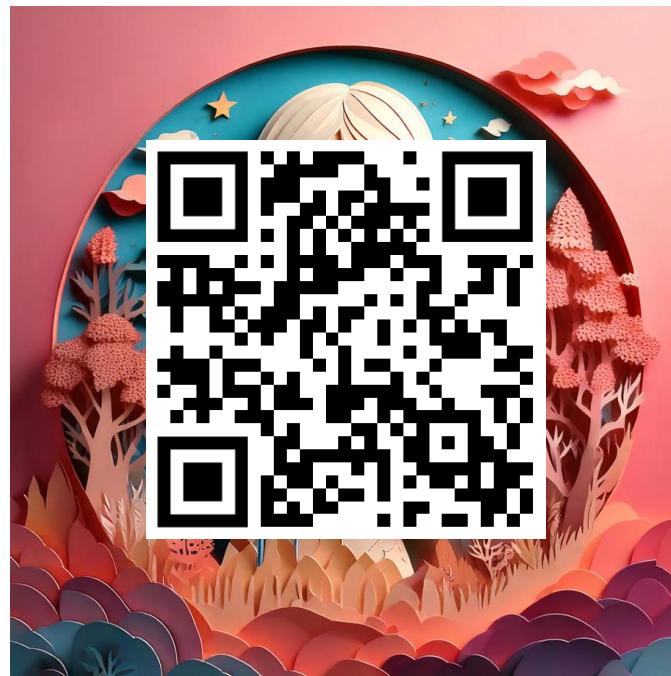
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- [2] van den Oord, A., Vinyals, O., Kavukcuoglu, K., Neural Discrete Representation Learning, In Proc. of Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS), 2017
- [3] Kumar, R., Seetharaman, P., Luebs, A., Kumar, I., Kumar, K., High-Fidelity Audio Compression with Improved RVQGAN, In Proc. of Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS), 2023
- [4] Kumar, S., Seetharaman, P., Salamon, J., Manocha, D., Nieto, O., SILA: Signal-to-Language Augmentation for Enhanced Control in Text-to-Audio Generation. Submitted to IEEE Signal Processing Letters, 2025
- [5] Flores García, H., Nieto, O., Salamon, J., Pardo, B., Seetharaman, P., Sketch2Sound: Controllable Audio Generation via Time-Varying Signals and Sonic Imitations, In Proc. of the 50th International Conference on Acoustics, Speech, and Signal Processing (ICASSP), Hyderabad, India, 2025
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Thank you!

SILA
(enhanced text control)



Sketch2Sound
(voice control)



MultiFoley
(video control)



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