RK3588 TTS

#whoami - Martin

- 本職： C++ / HPC / Systems software
- Open source dev
- Do what people do

- C++ web framework maintainer - drogonframework/drogon
- Patches OSS for OpenBSD
- AI work at times

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Blog: https://clehaxze.tw/

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RK3588

- Rockchip’s flagship SoC
- 8 Cores (4 BIG + 4 little)
- 3 NPU cores (Neural processor)
- 3rd party Ubuntu 22.04 port
- Low power, 7W TDP

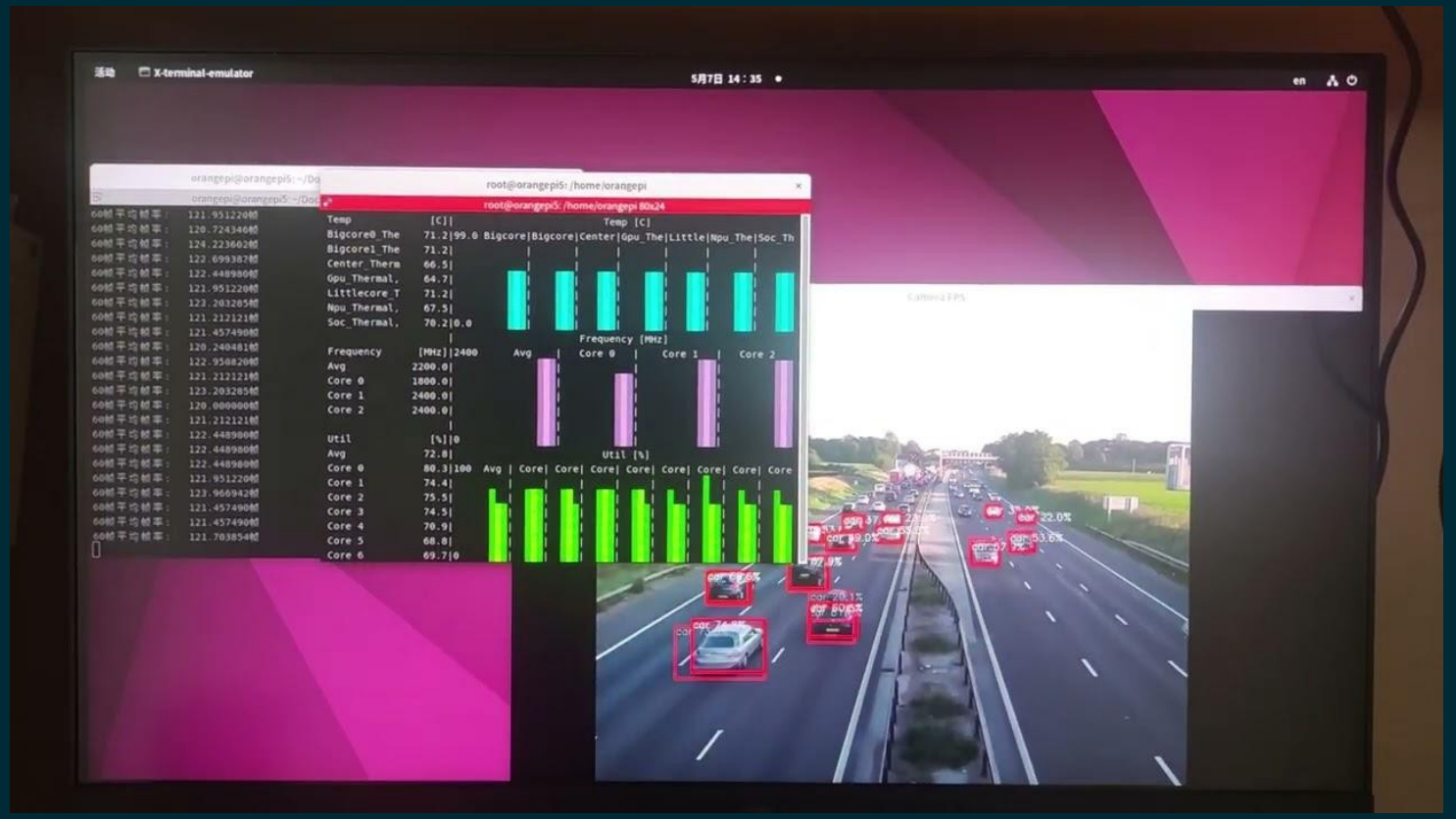
- Closed SDK :(

- Bought for porting LLM, but another story sometime

RK3588 (cont..)

- NPU Designed to run YOLO or ResNet
- Not designed for speech synthesis

Credit: 李安 under fair use. YouTube VID: wwRSP9ucbhw



Motivation

- Goal ： Component of my own digital assistant
- Issue ： GPUs are too hot.
  - I can’t handle a 300W heat source in my room in summer

Piper

- https://github.com/rhasspy/piper
- High quality, fast TTS
- CPU: ~5.5x realtime
- GPU: ~40~100x realtime

- RK3588 CPU: 1.1x realtimes

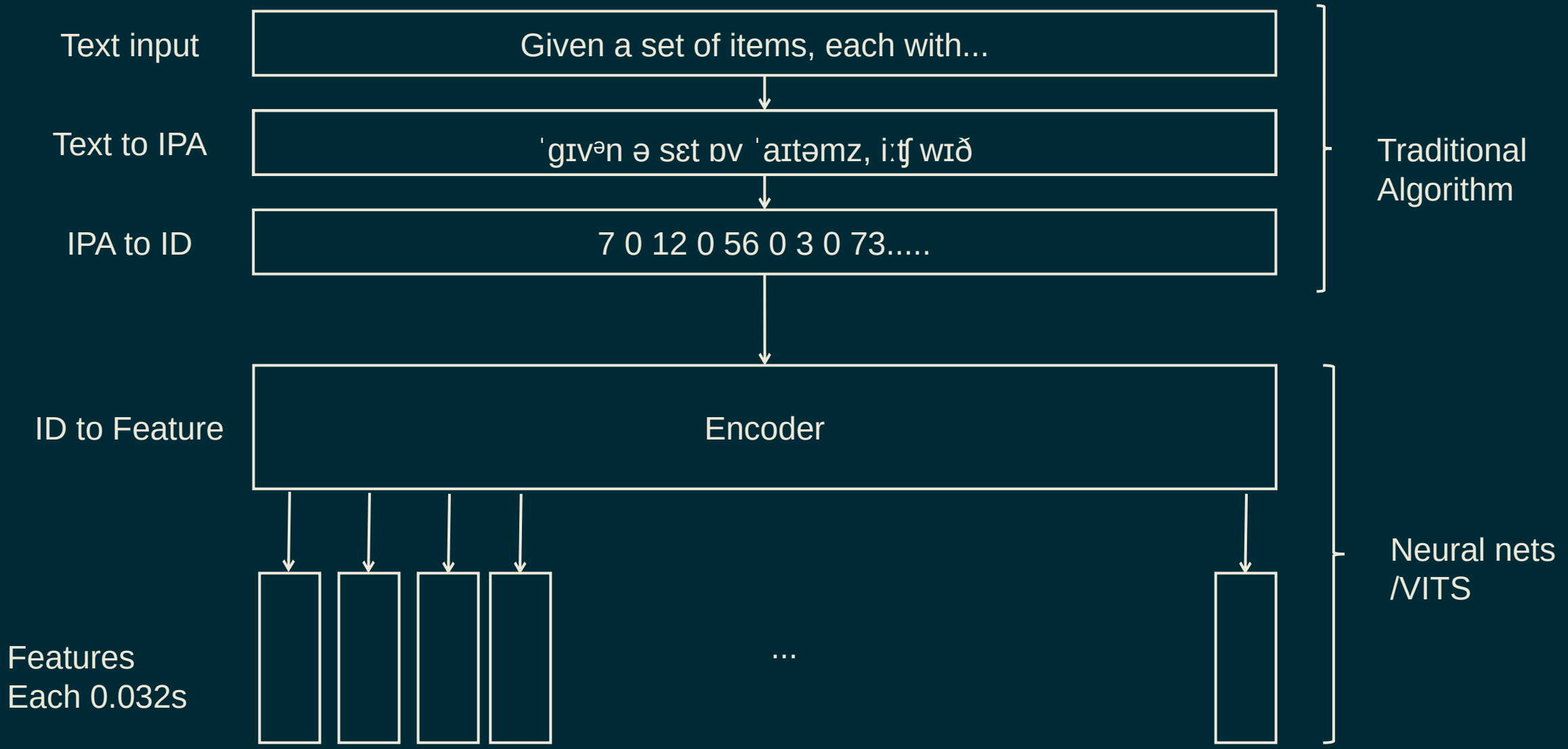
- More important ： Piper runs per-sentence. 0.9s delay on 1s sentence
- Horrible UX

Can we do better?

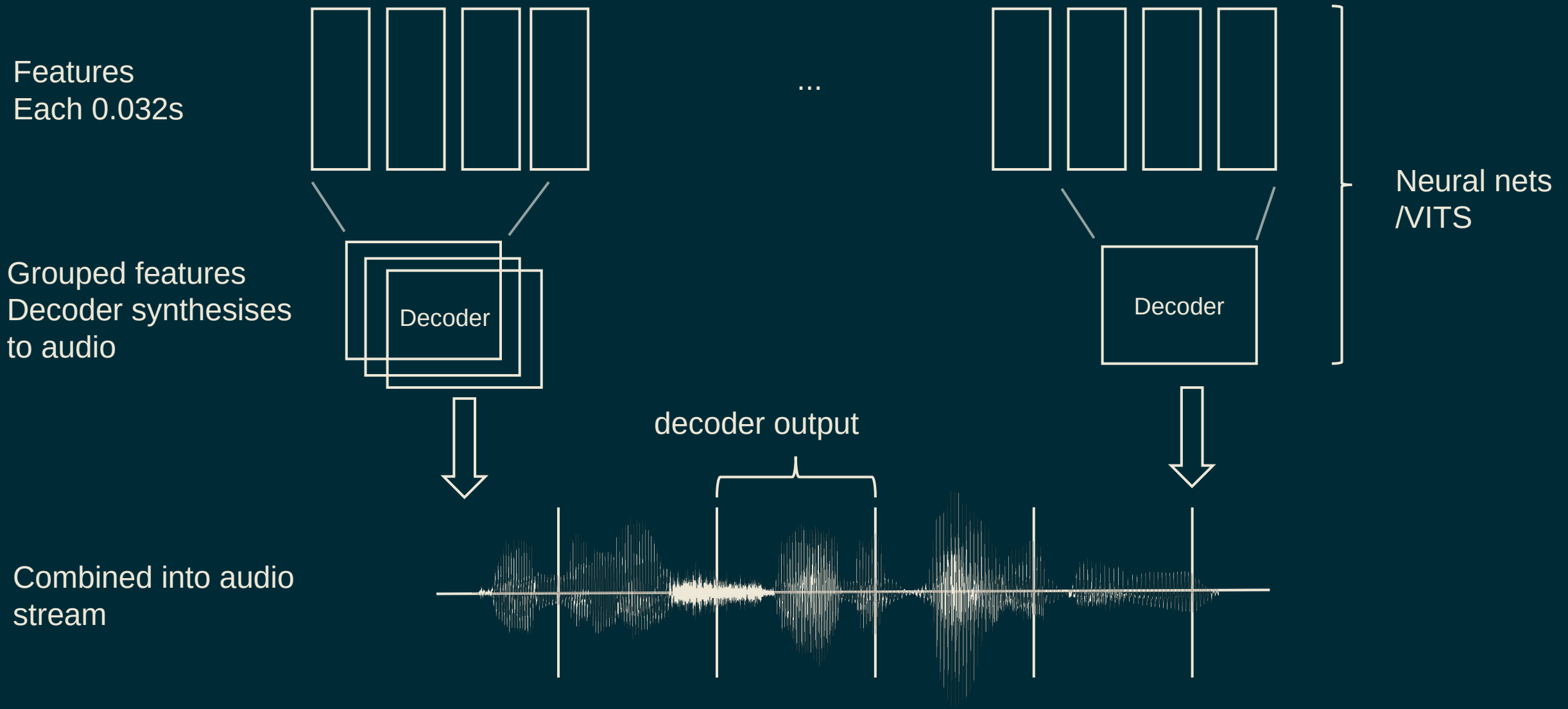
- “ONNX streaming support” - piper #255
- Disects Piper into 2 parts
- Encoder & decoder
- Encoder still can’t run on the NPU
- But.. Decoder can
- And Decoder takes the majority of time!
- Synthesises chunked at 0.032s!!

- Solves the high latency

Piper streaming archicture



Piper streaming archicture (cont.)



We can do better

- Req for acceleration
  - The thing to accelerate is slow
  - The slow stuff takes forever
- decoder looks like a vision model
  - 2D matrix input (WxH / features x N sets)
  - Output list of number(class prob / audio)
  - Mostly Convolution

- Decoder is slow
- Decoder looks like vision models

If it walks like a duck and it quacks like a duck

- Then it is a duck

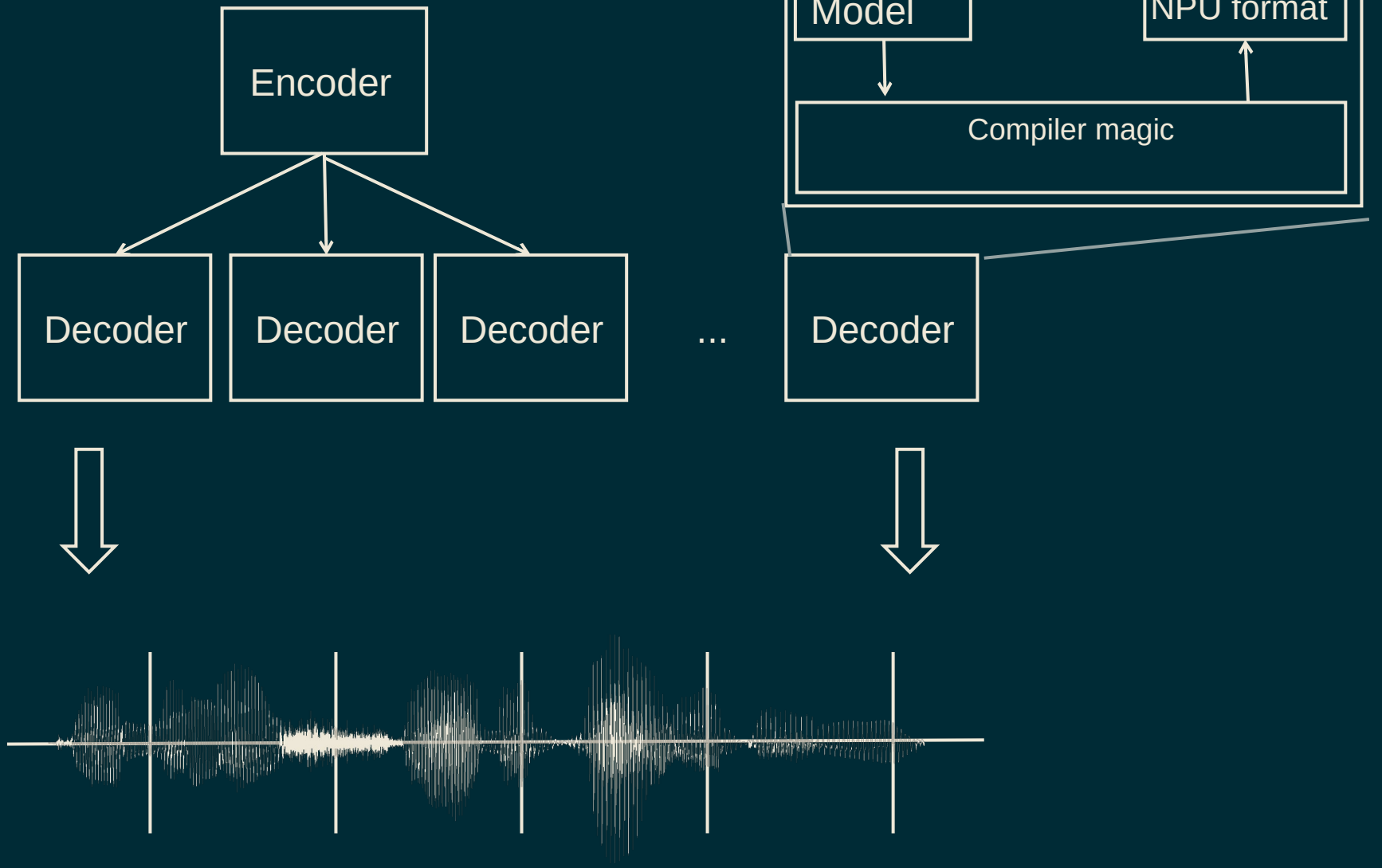
- It is close enough it’ll work
- Why not try?

Much hacking later

Can’t do.
Keep on CPU

Run them on
NPU

Same audio



Done

- https://github.com/marty1885/paroli
- NPU runs at 9x realtime
- Faster then desktop CPU!!!!

- Tech improves UX of AI applications
- Low power enables use cases prev impossible (home, etc..)
- Only works because open source

Future work

- AMD released XDNA driver today
- Intel 14th Gen has NPU

Thank you

- More to come..