EMOVA : EMPOWERING LANGUAGE MODELS TO SEE, HEAR AND SPEAK WITH VIVID EMOTIONS

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Abstract

GPT-40, an omni-modal model that enables vocal conversations with diverse emotions and tones, marks a milestone for omni-modal foundation models. However, empowering Large Language Models to perceive and generate images, texts, and speeches end-to-end with publicly available data remains challenging in the opensource community. Existing vision-language models rely on external tools for the speech processing, while speech-language models still suffer from limited or even without vision-understanding abilities. To address this gap, we propose EMOVA (EM-otionally Omni-present Voice Assistant), to enable Large Language Models with end-to-end speech capabilities while maintaining the leading vision-language performance. With a *semantic-acoustic disentangled* speech tokenizer, we notice surprisingly that omni-modal alignment can further enhance vision-language and speech abilities compared with the corresponding bi-modal aligned counterparts. Moreover, a lightweight style module is proposed for flexible speech style controls (e.g., emotions and pitches). For the first time, EMOVA achieves state-of-the-art performance on both the vision-language and speech benchmarks, and meanwhile, supporting omni-modal emotional spoken dialogue. Demos are available in the project page: https://emova-anonymous.github.io/.

1 INTRODUCTION

OpenAI GPT-40 (OpenAI, 2024), a new milestone for omni-modal foundation models, has rekindled
people's attentions on intelligent assistants that can *see* (*i.e.*, perceiving fine-grained visual inputs), *hear* (*i.e.*, understanding vocal instructions) and *speak* (*i.e.*, generating vocal responses) simultaneously. Most existing Multi-modal Large Language Models (MLLMs) focus on two modalities only,
either vision-language (Bai et al., 2023; Li et al., 2024a) or speech-language (Chu et al., 2024; Xie &
Wu, 2024), demonstrating severe demands for omni-modal models with visual, language and speech
abilities. How to effectively empower Large Language Models (LLMs) to process omni-modal data
in an end-to-end manner remains an open question.

Existing omni-modal LLMs (Chen et al., 2024b; Fu et al., 2024b) generally build upon Vision LLMs 042 and integrate the speech modality by adopting a speech encoder like Whisper (Radford et al., 2023), 043 which extracts **continuous** features from speech, similar to how images are processed, and enables 044 speech understanding. However, these models still rely on external Text-to-Speech (TTS) tools for generating speech responses, limiting their ability to support real-time interactions. AnyGPT (Zhan 046 et al., 2024), instead, opts for a fully discretization manner, which first discretizes all data modalities 047 (*i.e.*, images, texts, and speeches), followed by omni-modal auto-regressive modeling. This enables 048 AnyGPT to handle multiple modalities with a **unified end-to-end** framework, facilitating **real-time** interactions with the help of streaming decoding. However, the discrete vision tokenizer adopted by AnyGPT struggles to capture visual details, especially for high-resolution images, making it far 051 behind its continuous counterparts on vision-language benchmarks. Moreover, none of the existing works explore speech style controls (*e.g.*, emotions and pitches) with LLMs. Therefore, our question 052 arises: How to build an end-to-end omni-modal LLM enabling spoken dialogue with vivid emotions while maintaining state-of-the-art vision-language performance?



Figure 1: Model architecture of EMOVA. The vision encoder extracts continuous visual features, which are projected into the text embedding space as visual tokens, while the input speech is encoded and quantized into discrete units. Given the omni-modal inputs, EMOVA can generate both textual and speech responses with vivid emotional control. Check Sec. 3 for more details.

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074 In this paper, we propose EMOVA (EMotionally Omni-present Voice Assistant), a novel end-to-075 end omni-modal LLM with state-of-the-art vision-language and speech capabilities while supporting 076 emotional spoken dialogue. Fig. 1 shows an overview of the model framework. A *continuous* vision 077 encoder captures the fine-grained visual details, while the discrete speech tokenizer and detokenizer 078 enable the end-to-end speech understanding and generation. Specifically, the speech-to-unit (S2U) 079 tokenizer converts the input speech waveforms into discrete speech units as LLM inputs, while the unit-to-speech (U2S) detokenizer reconstructs the speech waveforms from the LLM's output speech units. To seamlessly integrate the speech modality with LLMs, we meticulously design a semantic-081 acoustic disentangled speech tokenizer to decouple the semantic contents and acoustic styles of the input speeches (Tao et al., 2024), where 1) semantic content (i.e., what it says) captures the semantic 083 meanings of input speeches, which is finally discretized and aligned with LLMs, while 2) acoustic 084 style (i.e., how it says) captures the diverse speech styles (e.g., emotions and pitches). Utilizing the 085 semantic-acoustic disentanglement of our speech tokenizer, we further introduce a lightweight style module to support spoken dialogue with vivid emotions and pitches. As in Sec. 4.1, this innovative 087 disentanglement design better facilitates the modality alignment between texts and speeches while 880 maintaining flexibility for diverse speech style controllability and personalization.

With the end-to-end omni-modal architecture of **EMOVA**, we empirically demonstrate that publicly available bi-modal image-text and speech-text data are sufficient for omni-modal alignment, utilizing the text modality as a bridge. This eliminates the need for omni-modal data (*i.e.*, image-text-speech), which is usually scarce. Surprisingly, we find that omni-modal alignment can further improve both vision-language and speech capabilities through joint optimization, even when compared with their bi-modal aligned counterparts. Finally, only a small amount of mixed-modality samples are required to teach the model to respond in the desired format. For the first time, **EMOVA** achieves state-ofthe-art performance on both vision-language and speech benchmarks (see Table 1 for comparisons).

- The main contributions of this work contain three parts:
 - 1. We propose **EMOVA**, a novel end-to-end omni-modal LLM that can see, hear and speak. We use a continuous vision encoder and a semantic-acoustic disentangled speech tokenizer for seamless omni-modal alignment and diverse speech style controllability.
 - 2. We introduce an efficient text-centric omni-modal alignment which can further improve the vision-language and speech capabilities, even compared with the corresponding bi-modal aligned counterparts (*i.e.*, image-text only and speech-text only alignment).
- For the first time, our EMOVA achieve state-of-the-art comparable performance on both the vision-language and speech benchmarks simultaneously, while supporting flexible spoken dialogues with vivid emotions.

	Method	Visual	Text	Understand	Speech Generation	Emotional
Vision	LLaVA Intern-VL	\$ \$	<i>\</i> <i>\</i>	X X	X X	X X
Speech	Qwen-Audio Mini-Omni LLaMA-Omni	× × ×	555	\$ \$ \$	× ✓	× × ×
Omni	Intern-Omni VITA Any-GPT EMOVA (ours)	\$ \$ \$ \$ \$	\$ \$ \$ \$ \$	\$ \$ \$	× × √	× × ×

Table 1: Comparison among Multi-modal Large Language Models. Our EMOVA is the very first unified Omni-modal Large Language Model capable of emotional spoken dialogue with state-of-the-art vision-language and speech capabilities simultaneously.

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2 RELATED WORK

125 Vision Large Language Models (VLLMs) integrate vision modality into Large Language Models 126 (LLMs) (Touvron et al., 2023; Chen et al., 2023b), enabling advanced understanding and reasoning 127 over visual instructions (Liu et al., 2024b; Bai et al., 2023; Gou et al., 2023; 2024). Recent efforts in VLLMs can be broadly categorized into three directions, including 1) Vision encoders (Oquab et al., 128 2023; Chen et al., 2021b; 2023a) are enhanced and aggregated for robust representations (Lin et al., 129 2023; Li et al., 2024b; Tong et al., 2024). 2) High-resolution methods are proposed to overcome 130 the fixed resolution of pre-trained vision encoders (e.g., 336×336 for CLIP (Radford et al., 2021)), 131 empowering LLMs to perceive fine-grained visual information (Liu et al., 2024a; Dong et al., 2024; 132 Huang et al., 2024; Luo et al., 2024). 3) *High-quality instruction data* is essential for the VLLMs to 133 generate accurate and well-formed responses following instructions (Laurençon et al., 2024; Li et al., 134 2024a; Chen et al., 2024b). In this paper, besides achieving state-of-the-art vision-language perfor-135 mance, we further introduce speech understanding and generating capabilities into our EMOVA. 136

137 Speech Large Language Models (SLLMs) empower speech interaction with LLMs. Continuous 138 SLLMs (Wu et al., 2023; Chu et al., 2024) utilize the speech encoders (Radford et al., 2023) to extract 139 continuous speech embeddings for LLM, which, however, only support speech understanding, relying on external TTS modules for speech generation, and therefore, hampering real-time interaction. 140 Discrete SLLMs (Zhang et al., 2023a), instead, first discretize speech signals with speech tokenizers, 141 followed by auto-regressive modeling. Recent works (Fang et al., 2024; Xie & Wu, 2024) further 142 combine the continuous speech encoders with the discrete speech tokenizers for better performance. 143 Although effective, none of the existing works explore speech style controllability in SLLMs (e.g., 144 genders, emotions, and pitches), which is essential for real-life spoken dialogue. 145

146 Omni-modal Large Language Models support visual, text, and speech capabilities with a unified 147 architecture simultaneously. Similar to the continuous SLLMs, InternOmni (Chen et al., 2024b) and 148 VITA (Fu et al., 2024b) connect a speech encoder with VLLMs, supporting speech understanding 149 only. Instead, AnyGPT (Zhan et al., 2024) proposes a unified architecture to discretize and conduct 150 auto-regressive modeling for image, text, and audio simultaneously, which, however, suffers from 151 inevitable information loss brought by discretization, especially for the high-resolution visual inputs. 152 In this work, we propose EMOVA, the very first unified Omni-modal Large Language Models with state-of-the-art vision-language and speech performance at the same time. 153

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3 ARCHITECTURE

157 3.1 FORMULATION 158

159 Denote the Large Language Model (LLM) as $f(\cdot)$ and the text, visual and speech inputs as \mathbf{X}_T , \mathbf{X}_V 160 and \mathbf{X}_S , respectively. \mathbf{X}_T is converted to discrete tokens \mathbf{U}_T via a text tokenizer (Gage, 1994), while 161 the visual input \mathbf{X}_V is first encoded with a vision encoder $v(\cdot)$ as $\mathbf{E}_V = v(\mathbf{X}_V)$, and then projected 161 into the text embedding space with a projector $p(\cdot)$ as $\mathbf{H}_V = p(\mathbf{E}_V)$. As for the speech input \mathbf{X}_S , a

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$$\mathbb{P}(\mathbf{U}_T^o, \mathbf{U}_S^o | \mathbf{U}_T, \mathbf{U}_S, \mathbf{H}_V) = \prod_{i=1}^L \mathbb{P}(\boldsymbol{x}_i | \mathbf{U}_{T, < i}^o, \mathbf{U}_{S, < i}^o, \mathbf{U}_T, \mathbf{U}_S, \mathbf{H}_V),$$
(1)

where $x_i \in \mathbf{U}_T^o \cup \mathbf{U}_S^o$ and $L = |\mathbf{U}_T^o| + |\mathbf{U}_S^o|$. The output response units \mathbf{U}_S^o are then recovered into the output speech waveform \mathbf{Y}_S^o via a *Unit-to-Speech* (U2S) decoder $d(\cdot, \cdot)$ together with an emotion style embedding \mathbf{E}_{stule}^o to realize vivid emotional spoken dialogue controllability (Sec. 3.2).

LLM. We adopt the LLaMA-3.1-8B (Dubey et al., 2024) as our base LLM $f(\cdot)$, due to its superior performance among publicly available checkpoints, which is equipped with a tiktoken text tokenizer and a vocabulary size of 128,256, supporting both multilingual textual inputs and outputs.

Vision encoder and projector. We utilize InternViT-6B (Chen et al., 2024b) as our visual encoder $v(\cdot)$ with 448 × 448 base resolution, and C-Abstractor (Cha et al., 2024) with two ResBlocks (both before and after the pooling layer) and 4× downsample rate as vision projector $p(\cdot)$. To process the high-resolution inputs, the high-resolution image-slicing (Liu et al., 2024a) is used, where visual tokens for one image are concatenation with a low-resolution thumbnail and the origin high-resolution image with separators in each line, allowing a maximum of nine tiles during training.

- 182 3.2 Speech Tokenization
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Speech-to-unit (S2U) tokenizer. Following Tao et al. (2024), we adopt the SPIRAL (Huang et al., 2022) architecture for the speech encoder $s(\cdot)$ to capture both phonetic and tonal information, which is then discretized by the quantizer $q(\cdot)$ utilizing the finite scalar quantization (FSQ) (Mentzer et al., 2023). The size of the speech codebook is 4,096, while the sample rate is 25 tokens per second. Once discretized, the speech modality can be simply integrated into LLMs by concatenating the text vocabulary and speech codebook.

Our S2U tokenizer provides the following advantages: 1) *Data efficiency*: after pre-training on large-scale unlabeled speech data, it requires only a small amount of speech-text pair data for fine-tuning.
 Bilingual: the speech codebook is shared among different languages (*i.e.*, English and Chinese), sharing unit modeling abilities across languages. Check more training details and comparisons with other speech tokenizers (Zhang et al., 2023b) in Appendix A.1.

Semantic-acoustic disentanglement. To seamlessly align speech units with the highly semantic embedding space of LLMs, we opt for decoupling the semantic contents and acoustic styles of input speeches. Specifically, given input speechs X_S , both semantic embedding $E_{semantic}$ and style embeddings E_{style} are extracted separately, while only the $E_{semantic}$ is quantified by $q(\cdot)$ to generate speech units U_S . By changing E_{style} while maintaining the same $E_{semantic}$, we can easily control speech styles without disturbing the semantic contents of recovered speeches. Moreover, the disentanglement facilitates modality alignment among speeches and texts, as later shown in Sec. 4.1.

Unit-to-speech (U2S) detokenizer with style control. Building on VITS (Kim et al., 2021), our U2S detokenizer adopts a conditional VAE architecture (see Fig. 7). To achieve vivid style controls, we utilize the semantic-style disentanglement of our S2U tokenizer (as discussed above) and adopt a novel style embedding to control the speech styles (*e.g.*, speaker identities, emotions, and pitches). Specifically, the LLM $f(\cdot)$ is trained to generate both the output speech units \mathbf{U}_S^o and a style label. The speech units \mathbf{U}_S^o are converted to unit embeddings $\mathbf{E}_{semantic}^o$, while the style label is utilized to generate a unique style prototype \mathbf{E}_{style}^o . Both $\mathbf{E}_{semantic}^o$ and \mathbf{E}_{style}^o are taken as inputs to speech decoder $d(\cdot, \cdot)$ to synthesize the output speech waveform \mathbf{Y}_S^o . See Appendix A.2 for more details.

Our U2S detokenizer is pre-trained on LibriTTS (Zen et al., 2019) and AISHELL-1 (Bu et al., 2017) and subsequently fine-tuned on synthetic style-rich speech data. Specifically, due to the scarcity of real-life style-rich data, we utilize TTS tools (Du et al., 2024) to synthesize speech samples diverse in genders, pitches, and emotions. As for style prototypes, Emotion2Vec (Ma et al., 2023) is adopted to select the most representative samples with the highest confidence in conveying the desired style. Our empirical results reveal that even one representative style reference speech has been sufficient

to control the speech styles flexibly and precisely.



Figure 2: Comparison between omni-modal alignment paradigms. 1) Joint training achieves consistent improvements over VL and Speech, suggesting omni-modal alignment can be beneficial across modalities. 2) Joint training outperforms both VL \rightarrow Speech and Speech \rightarrow VL, revealing that joint training is more superior and efficient than sequential training. 3) Joint is superior to Joint-entangled, highlighting the effectiveness of the semantic-acoustic disentanglement.

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OMNI-MODAL ALIGNMENT AND INSTRUCTION TUNING

234 To achieve the omni-model alignment, it is ideal to utilize large-scale omni-modal image-text-speech 235 data, which, however, is either without reach due to copyright (Nagrani et al., 2022) or limited in the 236 quality (Miech et al., 2019). An alternative is to use existing image-text data with TTS-synthesized 237 speeches, which is not only computationally expensive but also hampers data diversity, as most TTS 238 tools generate speech in similar patterns. Recent works (Chen et al., 2024b; Fu et al., 2024b) choose to integrate the speech modality into a well-structured VLLM via a sequential training manner with 239 **bi-modal** alignment datasets. However, the relationships between different modalities and how to 240 effectively leverage multiple bi-modal alignment datasets remain an open question. 241

In this work, we explore omni-modal text-centric alignment by utilizing publicly available bi-modal alignment datasets, including both image-text (*e.g.*, captioning) and speech-text (*e.g.*, ASR and TTS) datasets. With the text modality as a bridge, EMOVA ultimately becomes a unified system capable of understanding and generating multiple modalities in a coherent and integrated manner. Specifically, in Sec. 4.1, we explore the following three questions:

- 1. Does the integration of the speech modality conflict with the vision-language capabilities?
- 2. How to represent speech modality to foster omni-modal alignment?
- 3. Is sequential alignment of multiple modalities optimal?

Then we introduce the omni-modal instruction tuning pipeline and the overall training paradigm of our **EMOVA** in Sec. 4.2 and Sec. 4.3, respectively.

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4.1 Omni-modal Text-Centric Alignment

255 Settings. To answer the questions above, we experimentally compare the following omni-modal 256 training paradigms: 1) VL-Speech conducts image-text alignment first followed by speech-unit-257 text alignment using the full speech data and 10% of image-text alignment data to avoid catastrophic 258 forgetting, similar to InternOmni (Chen et al., 2024b) and VITA (Fu et al., 2024b). 2) Speech-VL 259 instead performs speech-unit-text alignment first and then aligns images with texts using 10% of 260 the speech unit-text data and the full image-text data. 3) Joint aligns both modalities simultaneously. Note that unless otherwise specified, we use the S2U tokenizer introduced in Sec.3.2 to 261 extract speech units for all speech data, which effectively disentangles semantic and acoustic fea-262 tures. Joint-entangled derives speech units using HuBERT (Hsu et al., 2021), which does 263 not achieve semantic-acoustic disentanglement effectively with only Kmeans clustering. 4) VL and 264 Speech only align the vision and speech modalities with texts, respectively, serving as baselines 265 (see Appendix B.1 for more details). 266

Evaluation. For speech capabilities, we directly evaluate the aligned model's performance on
 the ASR task of LibriSpeech (Panayotov et al., 2015), while for vision-language, we fine-tune the
 model using a small amount of high-quality visual instruction data (*i.e.*, the 665K SFT data from
 ShareGPT4V (Chen et al., 2023d)) and evaluate the fine-tuned model on common vision-language



Figure 3: **Demonstration of the omni-modal instruction tuning.** 1) To empower emotional spoken dialogues, **EMOVA** is trained to explicitly select the speech style labels (*e.g.*, emotions and pitches) with output speech units. 2) For the ease of parsing, data components are arranged in JSON format.

benchmarks. Check Appendix C for evaluation details. Fig. 2 shows the comparison among different paradigms on vision-language (left and middle) and ASR (right, where we report the 1 - WER value for better readability) benchmarks, from which we can derive the following observations:

297 **Observation 1: image-text and speech-unit-text data benefit each other.** Contrary to the com-298 mon assumption that multiple modalities might compete and create conflicts, we find that intro-299 ducing additional modalities is actually beneficial. As illustrated in Fig. 2, Joint consistently outperforms both VL and Speech across vision-language and speech benchmarks. Moreover, even 300 models aligned sequentially, such as $VL \rightarrow Speech$ and $Speech \rightarrow VL$, which are typically prone 301 to catastrophic forgetting, demonstrate superior performance on most vision-language tasks. We 302 speculate that the requirement to align multiple modalities with text leads to more robust represen-303 tations, which in turn generalize better across different downstream tasks. This finding aligns with 304 the results from ImageBind (Girdhar et al., 2023), where the joint alignment of audio and depth 305 modalities with images resulted in improved downstream performance. 306

Observation 2: semantic-acoustic disentanglement benefits omni-modal alignment. We find
 1) Joint outperforms Joint-entangled on vision-language benchmarks, and 2) in the speech
 tasks, Joint maintains significant advantages over its entangled counterpart. This can be attributed
 to the semantic-acoustic disentanglement which makes speech units more analogous to languages, a
 domain LLMs are particularly specialized.

Observation 3: sequential alignment is not optimal. We notice that Joint consistently outperforms its sequential counterparts (*i.e.*, $VL \rightarrow Speech$ and $Speech \rightarrow VL$) on both vision-language and speech benchmarks, probably due to catastrophic forgetting when integrating a new modality.

In light of these observations, we have chosen to pursue the ultimate alignment strategy that simultaneously aligns image-text and speech-unit-text for EMOVA, which offers two important benefits,
 it fosters mutual enhancement between vision-language and speech capabilities, and 2) it avoids the issue of catastrophic forgetting during sequential alignment of multiple modalities.

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- 4.2 OMNI-MODAL INSTRUCTION TUNING
- After the omni-modal text-centric alignment, the model learns fundamental vision-language (*e.g.*,
 captioning) and speech capabilities (*e.g.*, ASR and TTS). However, instruction tuning is essential to better follow complicated user instructions and respond with vivid emotions.



Figure 4: Overview of the data composition for EMOVA omni-modal instruction tuning. (Left) Distribution of instruction data across categories, with the outer circle representing overall categories and the inner circle depicting subset distributions. (Right) Quantitative breakdown of data sources.

Table 2: Detailed configuration for different training stages of EMOVA. The table illustrates the vision configurations, dataset characteristics, and training hyperparameters.

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	Settings	Stage-1	Stage-2	Stage-3
Vision	Resolution # Tokens	$ \begin{array}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$	$\begin{array}{c c} 448 \times \{\{1 \times 2\}, \cdots, \{3 \times 3\}\} \\ Max \ 256 \times (1+9) \end{array}$	$ \begin{vmatrix} 448 \times \{\{1 \times 2\}, \cdots, \{3 \times 3\}\} \\ Max \ 256 \times (1+9) \end{vmatrix} $
Data	Dataset # Samples	LCS 558K	EMOVA-Alignment (Fig. 8) 7.4M	EMOVA-SFT (Fig. 4) 4.4M
Bu	Trainable Batch Size	Projector 256	Full Model (Half ViT) 256	Full Model 128
Traini	LR: $p(\cdot)$ LR: $v(\cdot)$	1×10^{-3}	2×10^{-5} 2×10^{-5}	2×10^{-5} 2×10^{-6}
	LR: $f(\cdot)$ Epoch	- 1	2×10^{-5} 1	2×10^{-5} 1

Emotion-enriched instruction data synthesis. Due to the scarcity of omni-modal instruction data (i.e., dialogues involving images, speeches, and texts simultaneously), we opt for synthesizing omni-modal instruction data from existing text and visual instruction datasets. First, we select instruction data suitable for the vocal expression by filtering out the non-vocal data (e.g., code and mathematical formulas). Second, we clean the selected data to be more vocal by removing text formatting elements (e.g., ** and n). Then, we obtain style labels for the remaining dialog contexts, including gen-ders (male, female), pitches (normal, low, high), and emotions (neutral, happy, sad, angry), resulting in 24 different speech styles. The style labels are obtained by prompting $GPT-4o^1$ to make reasonable inferences given the dialogue context. Finally, we convert the tex-tual instructions and responses into speeches using the latest TTS tools (*i.e.*, CosyVoice (Du et al., 2024) and Azure AI Speech), and the style labels are used to control the style of the synthesized speech data. To further improve the diversity of the data, each instruction is synthesized by randomly selecting one of the 39 available speakers. Ultimately, we gather 120K speech-text and 110K speech-image data pairs in total. More details can be found in Appendix B.2.

Data organization and chain of modality. The omni-modal instruction data can be represented as $D_{\text{omni}} = \{(x_V, u_S, x_T^o, c_{\text{style}}^o, u_S^o)_i\}_{i=1}^N$, where the input consists of the optional queried image x_V and the speech units of the instruction u_S , while the output consists of the textual response x_T^o , the predicted speech style labels c_{style}^o , and the output speech unit u_S^o . Note that we train **EMOVA** to explicitly select styles (e.g., emotions and pitches), which are utilized to determine the corresponding style embedding for the U2S detokenizer (Sec. 3.2). Moreover, since directly generating the speech responses is challenging, we decompose the speech response procedure into three primary steps: 1) recognizing user instructions into texts; 2) generating textual responses based on the recognized instructions; 3) generating the style labels and response speech units based on the textual responses. For ease of parsing during deployment, the target outputs are formatted as JSON, as shown in Fig. 3.

¹https://chatgpt.ust.hk

378	Table 3: Comparison on vision-language and speech benchmarks. 1) EMOVA surpasses GPT-
379	4V and Gemini Pro 1.5 on 10 of 14 vision-language benchmarks, while reaching over 95% of GPT-
380	40 performance on nearly all benchmarks. 2) Meanwhile, EMOVA achieves state-of-the-art perfor-
381	mance on the ASR task, surpassing its speech counterparts by a significant margin.

Benchmarks	EMOVA 8B	Gemini Pro 1.5	GPT- 4V	GPT- 40	LLaVA- OV-7B	Intern- VL2-8B	Mini- Omni	AnyGPT 7B	VITA 8x7B
MME	2205	-	1927	2310	1998	2215	-	-	2097
MMBench	82.8	-	75.0	83.4	80.8	81.7	-	-	71.8
SEED-Image	78.1	-	71.6	77.1	-	75.4	-	-	-
MM-Vet	55.8	-	67.7	-	57.5	54.3	-	-	41.6
RealWorldQA	64.3	68.7	61.4	75.4	66.3	-	-	-	-
TextVQA	82.0	73.5	77.4	-	-	77.4	-	-	-
ChartQA	81.8	81.3	78.5	85.7	80.0	83.3	-	-	-
DocVQA	90.4	86.5	88.4	92.8	87.5	91.6	-	-	-
InfoVQA	64.4	72.7	-	-	68.8	74.8	-	-	-
OCRBench	824	-	656	736	-	794	-	-	678
MathVista	61.1	52.1	49.9	63.8	63.2	58.3	-	-	44.9
Mathverse	27.8	-	33.6	-	26.2	-	-	-	-
ScienceQA-Img	94.0	-	75.7	-	96.0	97.1	-	-	-
AI2D	82.8	80.3	78.2	84.6	-	83.8	-	-	73.1
$Librispeech \; (\text{WER}{\downarrow})$	4.0	-	-	-	-	-	4.5	8.5	8.1

4.3 OVERALL TRAINING PARADIGM

Inspired by Chen et al. (2023d), a three-stage training paradigm is adopted for EMOVA,

- Stage-1: Vision-language pre-alignment. The purpose is to align visual features into the embedding space of LLMs. Only the vision projector $p(\cdot)$ is trained.
- Stage-2: Omni-modal text-centric alignment. This stage jointly performs the visionlanguage and speech-language alignment simultaneously. We train the LLM $f(\cdot)$, vision projector $p(\cdot)$, and the deeper half of vision encoder $v(\cdot)$ layers.
- Stage-3: Omni-modal instruction tuning. To empower EMOVA to respond accurately to omni-modal instructions, we organize different datasets with various types of instructions to enforce EMOVA to learn generalization across tasks, as detailed in Sec. 5.1.

411 5 EXPERIMENTS

413 5.1 TRAINING CONFIGURATION

Stage-1. In this stage, we only train the parameters of the vision projector $p(\cdot)$ for vision-language 415 pre-alignment with the LCS-558K dataset (Liu et al., 2024b), with the high-resolution image-slicing 416 strategy (Liu et al., 2024a) adopted.

Stage-2. We assemble a unified dataset with 7.4M samples for both the image-text and speech-text alignment, as summarized in Fig. 8. Specifically, we utilize pre-training datasets from ShareGPT4V (Chen et al., 2023d), ALLaVA (Chen et al., 2024a) (both the original English version and the Chinese version translated on our own), and ShareGPT-40 (Cui et al., 2023) for general perception, while for the OCR capabilities, we leverage SynthDog (Kim et al., 2022), MMC-Alignment (Liu et al., 2023a), K12 Printing, and UReader Text Reading subset (Ye et al., 2023). Moreover, we use the 2,000 hours of ASR and TTS data from LibriSpeech (Panayotov et al., 2015) and AISHELL-2 (Du et al., 2018) for speech-text alignment, and to preserve the language capabilities of LLMs, we further incorporate the text-only data from Magpie Pro (Xu et al., 2024).

Stage-3. We collect the EMOVA-SFT dataset consisting of 4.4M multi-task omni-modal samples (see Fig. 4). We start by gathering high-quality open-sourced visual instruction datasets, including ShareGPT4V (Chen et al., 2023d), InternVL (Chen et al., 2024b), Meteor (Lee et al., 2024), Idefics-2 (Laurençon et al., 2024), Cambrian (Tong et al., 2024), and LLaVA-Onevision (Li et al., 2024a), followed by quality checking, re-formatting all data samples to a unified template, and removing the duplicates. For speech, we include the training split of EMOVA omni-model instruction data (*c.f.*, Sec. 4.2), with 10% of speech alignment datasets to maintain ASR and TTS performance. We adopt 128 Ascend 910 Training NPUs in parallel for model training (check more details in Table 2).

Deteceto	End to and	Text re	sponse	Style Cate	gorization	Recognit	ion/Synthesis
Datasets	End-to-end	Unit In	Text In	Emotion	Pitch	WER/CER↓	TTS-WER/CER↓
Speech-Image-EN	7.21	7.43	7.75	89.01	98.30	2.45	4.60
Speech-Text-EN	6.90	7.02	8.27	87.26	90.50	6.80	6.75
Speech-Image-ZH	5.87	6.51	6.44	92.60	96.60	1.85	13.95
Speech-Text-ZH	4.70	4.88	6.00	87.19	94.40	12.60	9.70
User IIIIIII V	Vrite a poem for	this image.	EMOV	/A 🥰 🛚	IIII Emoti	ion: Sad; Pitch:	Low.
		uns inage.	In win tone. 1	ter's chill, a	sad face dra quiet, still, ar	wn, A frown of nd cold, A canva	snow, a somber is painted by the
1 %	3 /		frost's	cold. The e symbol of d	yes, two doi ecline. The s	ts, the mouth, a nowflakes danc	e, they twirl and

432	Table 4: The performance of EMOVA on Speech Dialogue tasks. By default, we evaluate on the
433	corresponding test set of the evaluated datasets.

Figure 5: EMOVA engages in emotional spoken dialogue expressing sadness.

play, A fleeting moment, soon to fade away. But in this brief sketch, a story's told, Of winter's mood, of solitude, of cold. So

let this face remind us all, In winter's chill, we find our call. To

feel the frost, to feelthe snow, To find the beauty in its woe.

5.2 COMPARISON TO THE SOTA MODELS 451

452 Experimental results are provided in Table 3. We compare a wide range of state-of-the-art VLLMs, 453 including proprietary ones like Gemini Pro 1.5 (Reid et al., 2024), GPT-4V (OpenAI, 2023), GPT-4o 454 (OpenAI, 2024), and open-sourced ones like LLaVA-OneVision-7B (Li et al., 2024a), InternVL2-455 8B (Chen et al., 2024b), together with the Speech LLM Mini-Omni (Xie & Wu, 2024) and omnimodal LLM AnyGPT (Zhan et al., 2024) and VITA-8x7B (Fu et al., 2024b). 456

457 **Comparison with SOTA VLLMs.** As an omni-modal model, **EMOVA** achieves comparable per-458 formance with state-of-the-art open-sourced VLLMs across multiple benchmarks. Specifically, our 459 EMOVA outperforms both InternVL2 and LLaVA-OV on MMBench, SEED-Image, TextVQA, and 460 OCRBench consistently, while demonstrating exceptional proficiency in solving math problems re-461 quiring precise visual content interpretation. EMOVA achieves a 2.8% improvement on MathVista 462 compared with InternVL2 and 1.6% higher score on Mathverse compared to LLaVA-OneVision.

463 Furthermore, EMOVA shows competitive performance even compared with the proprietary models. 464 EMOVA exceeds both GPT-4V and Gemini Pro 1.5 significantly on 10 out of 14 benchmarks, while 465 for GPT-40, EMOVA outperforms on both SEEDBench-Image and OCRBench, reaching over 95% 466 of GPT-4o's performance on ALL evaluated benchmarks except RealWorldQA.

467 Comparison with SOTA omni-modal LLMs. Compared with VITA-8x7B, EMOVA shows sub-468 stantial improvement on visual-language benchmarks. Specifically, EMOVA is 112 points higher 469 than VITA on MME, and surpasses VITA by 21.5% on OCRBench, underscoring the effective-470 ness of our approach and the potential to push boundaries of omni-modal abilities. What's more, 471 **EMOVA** significantly outperforms the most recent omni-modal model VITA, even surpassing its 472 SLLM counterpart Mini-Omni, showing the effectiveness of the semantic-acoustic disentanglement 473 and omni-modal mutual benefits. Qualitative results are shown in Fig. 5 and Appendix G. We also 474 report TTS results in Table 6. For the first time, our EMOVA obtains state-of-the-art performance 475 on both the vision-language and speech benchmarks simultaneously.

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5.3 EVALUATION OF EMOTION-RICH SPOKEN DIALOGUE

In this section, we evaluate the end-to-end spoken dialogue capabilities of **EMOVA**. As discussed 479 in Sec. 4.2, the model takes an input image x_V and user instructions in the form of speech units u_S , 480 and outputs text responses, style labels, and corresponding speech units. To ensure comprehensive 481 evaluation, we propose the following evaluation metrics (see Appendix D for more details): 482

- 1. End-to-end spoken dialogue score assesses the model's dialogue performance based on 483 484
 - the generated speeches, with a score ranging from 0 to 10, reporting the average.
 - 2. Unit-input-text-output score focuses on the quality of the text responses of LLM when the inputs are speech units, bypassing errors from speech synthesis.

- 3. **Text-input-text-output score** inputs the ground-truth text of the user instruction and evaluate the model's text output. This helps disentangle the impact of speech recognition errors and eliminates the influence of the JSON format.
 - 4. **ASR and TTS** evaluate how accurately **EMOVA** recognizes speech units and how effectively it generates speech units from text.
- 5. Style label classification accuracy evaluates the accuracy of the model in selecting the appropriate speech style labels (Sec. 3.2).
- 6. **Style controllability** assesses the style controllability of U2S detokenizer with the given conditional style labels via the confusion matrix between generated and recognized styles.

Due to the lack of emotionally rich spoken dialogue evaluation datasets, we split a test set from our synthesized omni-modal instruction-tuning data (see Sec. 4.1). GPT-40 are used for automated evaluation. Details are provided in Appendix D.

499 **Results** are shown in Table 4. As can be seen,

500 (i) By comparing the *end-to-end dialogue score* 501 with the unit-input-text-output score, we notice that the two scores are closely aligned, 502 with a maximum gap of only 0.22, except 503 for Speech-Image-ZH. The TTS-WER/CER is 504 generally low, revealing that EMOVA can syn-505 thesize accurate speech based on text responses. 506 However, the Speech-Image-ZH is an outlier, 507 which we attribute to its complexity. It in-508 cludes tasks such as generating poetries and an-509 swering riddles, resulting in more intricate re-510 sponses. When these answers are converted 511 to speeches and then transcribed back to texts, 512 multiple variations often arise, leading to dis-513 crepancies from the original responses.



Figure 6: Confusion matrix between the generated and recognized emotions.

514 (ii) Comparing the *unit-input-text-output* score with the *text-input-text-output* score, we observe that 515 their differences correlate with the ASR results of speech instructions. Specifically, for Speech-Text-516 EN and Speech-Text-ZH, which involve more complex instructions, EMOVA reports inferior ASR 517 performance (6.8 and 12.6, respectively) compared to other datasets (2.45 and 1.85). Consequently, 518 when we replace speech instructions with ground-truth transcriptions, EMOVA shows significant 519 improvements from unit-input to text input score. On the contrary, for datasets with accurate ASR 520 performance, the results are quite similar, suggesting EMOVA retains robust dialogue capabilities when using the JSON format. 521

(iii) Examining the *classification accuracy of style labels*, we find that EMOVA performs satisfactorily in classifying emotions and pitch during speech conversations, achieving an accuracy of
over 80%. The confusion matrix comparing the conditional and recognized emotion labels is shown
in Fig. 6. The results indicate that the four emotions are recognized with high probabilities, with
three achieving over 80% accuracy. This demonstrates that our U2S detokenizer effectively controls
common emotions, endowing the synthesized speech with vivid emotional expression.

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6 CONCLUSION

530 This work presents EMOVA, an innovative end-to-end omni-modal large language model that ef-531 fectively aligns vision, speech, and text simultaneously. We employ a continuous vision encoder to 532 capture fine-grained visual details, while a discrete, semantic-acoustic disentangled speech tokenizer 533 and detokenizer enable end-to-end speech understanding and generation. A lightweight style mod-534 ule further supports spoken dialogue with vivid emotions. By using text as a bridge, we demonstrate that omni-modal alignment is achievable without relying on scarce omni-modal image-text-speech 535 data, which not only enhances both vision-language and speech capabilities but also surpasses its 536 bi-modal counterparts through joint optimization. For the first time, EMOVA achieves state-of-the-537 art performance on both vision-language and speech benchmarks, setting a novel standard for the 538 omni-modal models for versatile and expressive omni-modal interactions.

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APPENDIX

A MORE ON SPEECH TOKENIZER

9 A.1 Speech-to-Unit (S2U) Tokenizer

Overview. To process the speech input \mathbf{X}_S , our S2U tokenizer consists of a speech encoder $s(\cdot)$ with a quantization module $q(\cdot)$. First, the speech input is passed through $s(\cdot)$, producing a continuous latent representation $\mathbf{E}_S = s(\mathbf{X}_S)$. Then, the quantization module $q(\cdot)$ converts \mathbf{E}_s into discrete units $\mathbf{U}_S = q(\mathbf{E}_s)$. The final output is an ID sequence $\mathbf{U}_S = [u_1, u_2, \cdots]$, where each u_i corresponds to a unique speech unit.

After this S2U extraction process, the speech is represented by quantized IDs instead of quantized embeddings. For example, a speech signal is represented as an ID sequence like [782, 463, 550, \cdots], which can be treated as a special form of text. As a result, to integrate speech tokens into LLM $f(\cdot)$, we only need to expand the LLM's original vocabulary V_T by adding a set of speech unit tokens V_S , similar to Zhang et al. (2023a). The expanded vocabulary is thus the union $V = V_T \cup V_S$. In this work, the same codebook is shared across multiple languages, such as English and Chinese, enabling the unit modeling abilities to be shared across languages. This design enables simply integration of the speech modality into the LLM with minimal data requirements (see experiments in Sec. 4.1).

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Training of S2U. The training of the S2U encoder involves three primary components: the speech 885 encoder, the quantization module, and the phone decoder. First, the speech encoder is trained with 886 a large amount of unlabeled speech with contrastive loss in a self-supervised learning manner (Tao 887 et al., 2024). The dataset utilized is the 10000-hour English speeches from GigaSpeech (Chen et al., 2021a) and the 10000-hour Chinese speeches from WenetSpeech (Zhang et al., 2022), both of which 889 encode large variations in speakers, styles, and acoustic environments. Subsequently, the speech 890 encoder, along with the quantization module and phone decoder, are optimized on a small amount 891 of speech-text pair data, which is derived from the train-clean-100 subset of LibriSpeech (Panayotov et al., 2015) in English and AISHELL-1 (Bu et al., 2017) in Chinese. The phone label is obtained 892 using the phone set in Charsiu (Zhu et al., 2022). During training, the speech encoder encodes input 893 speeches into continuous latent representations that are rich in both phonetic and tonal information. 894 Then, the quantization module is used to convert the continuous outputs from the speech encoder 895 into discrete units. Finally, the phone decoder converts the quantized embeddings into a sequence 896 of non-tonal/tonal phones, ensuring that the speech units capture necessary information related to 897 semantic contents in both non-tonal and tonal languages. After training, only the speech encoder 898 and the quantization module are used in EMOVA.

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Comparisons with SpeechTokenizer in AnyGPT. Our S2U tokenizer differs from the Speech-Tokenizer (Zhang et al., 2023b) used in AnyGPT (Zhan et al., 2024), in the following aspects:

903 (1) SpeechTokenizer encodes both semantic contents and acoustic details of speeches, while our
 904 S2U tokenizer focuses solely on semantic contents. This design reduces the LLMs' burden of disen 905 tangling different aspects of speech information, facilitating the modality alignment between speech
 906 and text modalities during LLM training.

907 (2) Compared with SpeechTokenizer, our S2U tokenizer offers a more concise representation and 908 helps to simplify and accelerate the generation of EMOVA. SpeechTokenizer employs tokens from 909 eight RVQ layers with a 50Hz frame rate to represent speech, thus a 10-second speech corresponds to $500 \times 8 = 4000$ tokens. However, we reduce the frame rate from 50Hz to 25Hz and utilize only 910 one token to represent each frame, and thus, a 10-second speech can be represented by only 250 911 tokens. Moreover, AnyGPT requires a two-stage generation process, involving autoregressive (AR) 912 semantic token generation followed by the non-autoregressive (NAR) acoustic token generation. 913 Instead, we only need to generate speech units capturing semantic contents in a fully AR manner. 914

(3) SpeechTokenizer lacks an explicit structure design to deal with tonal languages like Chinese, therefore, the processing ability in Chinese is not demonstrated in either SpeechTokenizer or AnyGPT. In contrast, our S2U tokenizer incorporates training constraints to better capture tone variation in phone, making it effective for both the non-tonal and tonal languages. This further en-

hances EMOVA's multilingual speech processing capabilities, enabling it to effectively handle both
 English and Chinese.

In summary, our S2U tokenizer improves the compactness and generality of speech representation, facilitates LLM training, and enhances its multilingual speech ability. Experimental results show that our model significantly outperforms AnyGPT in ASR tasks, as shown in Table 6.

A.2 UNIT-TO-SPEECH (U2S) DETOKENIZER WITH STYLE CONTROL

928 **Overview.** The LLM, along with the vision 929 encoder and speech tokenizer, is trained end-930 to-end to generate responses in the form of the speech units, given the input images and 931 speeches. Specifically, the output speech units 932 can be obtained via $\mathbf{U}_{S}^{o} = f(\mathbf{U}_{T}, \mathbf{U}_{S}, \mathbf{H}_{V}),$ 933 followed by a U2S detokenizer to convert the 934 discrete speech units \mathbf{U}_{S}^{o} into the final output 935 speech waveforms. 936

The proposed U2S detokenizer involves three 937 core modules: the speech unit encoder $e(\cdot)$, 938 the speech style encoder $q(\cdot)$, and the speech 939 decoder $d(\cdot, \cdot)$. First, the speech unit en-940 coder converts the speech units \mathbf{U}_{S}^{o} into unit 941 embeddings \mathbf{E}_{unit}^{o} . Meanwhile, the style en-942 coder $g(\cdot)$, adopting the structure of Meta-943 StyleSpeech (Min et al., 2021), is utilized to 944 extract a style embedding \mathbf{E}_{style}^{o} from the cho-945 sen reference speech. Lastly, the speech de-946 coder $d(\cdot, \cdot)$ reconstructs the speech waveform 947 \mathbf{Y}_{S}^{o} from the unit embedding \mathbf{E}_{unit}^{o} and style embedding \mathbf{E}_{stule}^{o} . 948



Figure 7: U2S detokenizer with style control.

Training of U2S. Training a U2S detokenizer with emotion controls is challenging considering the lack of labeled emotional speech data since most open-source speech data is predominantly neutral in emotion or lacks emotion labels. Due to the limited availability of emotion-rich data, we utilize TTS tools (Du et al., 2024) to generate a small set of style-rich speech samples diverse in speaker identities, genders, emotions, and pitches. Our U2S detokenizer is first pre-trained on LibriTTS (Zen et al., 2019) and AISHELL-1 (Bu et al., 2017) to acquire fundamental speech synthesis capabilities, and subsequently, the synthesized style-rich speech data is utilized to fine-tune the U2S detokenizer, enhancing its controllability over diverse speech styles.

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Style Prototypes. To better facilitate controls of genders, emotions, and pitches, inspired by Min 961 et al. (2021) that a small number of style reference speeches can effectively transfer the target styles, 962 we adopt a "store-for-usage" manner, *i.e.*, we construct a style prototype codebook in advance for 963 speech style assignation. Specifically, we synthesize K reference candidates with external TTS 964 tools for each possible combination of the following styles: two genders (male, female), seven 965 emotions (neutral, happy, sad, angry), and three pitches (normal, high, low), 966 leading to 24 unique styles and $24 \times K$ candidates. Empirically we find that genders and pitches 967 are easy to control using any of the candidate references, while the emotion intensity varies across 968 speeches. To tackle this, we adopt Emotion2Vec (Ma et al., 2023), a powerful speech emotion recognition (SER) tool, to measure the emotion intensity of each candidate reference, and rank them 969 in terms of the confidence of the desired emotion. We select the Top-1 candidate reference in each 970 combination style to be the prototype of this condition. Finally, the most representative 24 reference 971 speeches are selected from the $24 \times K$ candidates.



C MORE ON BENCHMARK EVALUATION

To thoroughly evaluate our model's vision-language abilities, 14 benchmarks covering four different aspects of real-life scenarios are utilized for a comprehensive assessment across multiple domains.
 Moreover, Automatic Speech Recognition (ASR) and Text-to-speech (TTS) are adopted to evaluate speech-language abilities.

Dataat	C	# E		Emoti	ons]	Pitches	
Dataset	Source	# Examples	Neutral	Нарру	Sad	Angry	Normal	Low	High
Speech-Image -EN(train)	ALLAVA	71,474	58,506	12,412	516	40	70,962	392	120
Speech-Image -EN(test)	ALLAVA	1,056	434	274	300	48	44	176	16
Speech-Image -ZH(train)	ALLAVA (ZH)	38,260	29,893	7,680	607	80	36,363	624	1,273
Speech-Image -ZH(test)	ALLAVA (ZH)	616	96	193	190	137	381	177	58
Speech-Text -EN(train)	ShareGPT	73,658	42,334	20,946	4,674	5,704	60,352	5,518	7,788
Speech-Text -EN(test)	ShareGPT	1,400	200	400	400	400	582	422	422
Speech-Text -ZH(train)	In-house	47,936	29,769	16,405	1,446	316	42,356	4,379	4,379
Speech-Text -ZH(test)	In-house	686	96	196	198	196	458	134	92
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Table 5: Statistics of the EMOVA speech instruction tuning datasets.

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Document/chart understanding and OCR abilities. Benchmarks including the TextVQA (Singh et al., 2019), ChartQA (Masry et al., 2022), DocVQA (Mathew et al., 2021), InfoVQA (Mathew et al., 2022), and OCRBench (Liu et al., 2023c), focus on recognition and understanding of structured data (*e.g.*, charts, documents, and characters), challenging the model to extract, comprehend, and reason with structural and textual data. We adopt the corresponding test set for evaluation.

General image perception and understanding. MME (Fu et al., 2024a), MMBench (Liu et al., 2023b), SEED-Bench-Image (Li et al., 2023a), MM-Vet (Yu et al., 2024), and RealWorldQA (xAI, 2024) evaluate models on perception and reasoning among general vision domains, providing a comprehensive measurement of models' real-world generalization abilities.

Mathematical problem solving. MathVista (testmini) (Lu et al., 2024) and MathVerse (vision mini) (Zhang et al., 2024) evaluate the model's ability to deal with diverse mathematical problems,
 including both arithmetic and complex reasoning questions across different levels of complexity.

Science understanding. ScienceQA-Img (Lu et al., 2022) and AI2D (Kembhavi et al., 2016) are utilized to assess the model's ability to deal with scientific questions and diagrams, which requires reasoning across various subjects and interpreting structured visual content.

Automatic speech recognition (ASR). We utilize the test-clean set of LibriSpeech (Panayotov et al., 2015) for English, reporting the Word Error Rate (WER) as the evaluation metric. For Chinese, evaluation is conducted on the test set of AISHELL-2 (Du et al., 2018), using the Character Error Rate (CER). Both WER and CER assess ASR performance, calculated by comparing the recognized texts with the ground-truth transcripts.

Text-to-speech (TTS). To evaluate the TTS abilities, we first prompt **EMOVA** to generate speech units, which are then converted to speech waveforms by the U2S detokenizer. Using the synthesized speech as input, we conduct ASR with Whisper-large-v3 and Paraformer-zh for English and Chinese, respectively, to obtain transcribed texts. We then compute the WER and CER between the ground truth texts and the transcribed texts as metrics for TTS. The resulting metrics are denoted as TTS-WER and TTS-CER for English and Chines.

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1074 D MORE ON EVALUATION OF SPEECH-LANGUAGE CAPABILITIES

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1076 D.1 CALCULATION OF EVALUATION METRICS

End-to-end spoken dialogue score. We prompt GPT-40 with the original question $x_T^{o^1}$, the ground-truth text answer $x_T^{o^2}$ and the transcribed text from the generated speech, to obtain a score ranging from 0 to 10 and report an average of them. The prompt can be found in Fig. 24.

1080	Table 6: Comparison	on the A	SR and TTS	bench	marks.
1081		Libris	neech (EN)	AISH	ELL-2 (ZH)
1082	Models	WER↓	TTS-WER↓	CER↓	TTS-CER↓
1083	Mini-Omni (Xie & Wu, 2024)	4.5	-	-	-
1084	AnvGPT (Zhan et al., 2024)	8.5	-	-	
1085	VITA (Fu et al., 2024b)	8.1	-	-	-
1086	EMOVA (ours)	4.0	3.4	10.3	7.9

Unit-input-text-output score. Similar to end-to-end spoken dialogue score, but we use the pre-

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1089 dicted text response $x_T^{o^2}$ as answer instead of the transcribed text from the generated speech, to 1090 obtain a score ranging from 0 to 10 and report an average of them. See the prompt in Fig. 23. 1091

Text-input-text-output score. The prompt can be found in Fig. 23. 1093

1094 Style label classification accuracy. We use GPT-40 to decide whether the style predictions 1095 $c_{\text{emo}}^{\tilde{o}}, \tilde{c_p^o}$ are correct given the transcribed instruction $\tilde{x_T^{o^1}}$ and the predicted text response $\tilde{x_T^{o^2}}$. The 1096 prompt can be found in Fig. 25. 1097

Emotion controllability of our U2S detokenizer is assessed by providing texts to LLM to generate 1099 corresponding units (*i.e.*, TTS), which, along with the given conditional emotion labels, are then fed 1100 into our U2S detokenizer to synthesize speech. We choose female voice due to its large variation of 1101 styles. We evaluate on 4 commonly-seen emotion, *i.e.*, "neutral", "happy", "sad", and "angry". We 1102 synthesize 200 speech utterances for testing, with 50 utterances per emotion. The output speeches 1103 are analyzed by a Speech Emotion Recognition (SER) model named Emotion2Vec (Ma et al., 2023), 1104 which identifies the emotion with the greatest likelihood among these four emotion.

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1106 D.2 COMPARISON WITH OTHER OMNI MODELS 1107

1108 Experimental results of ASR and TTS are reported in Table 3 and 6. EMOVA achieves significant improvements over other omni-modal models (i.e., AnyGPT and VITA), even surpassing its SLLM 1109 counterpart Mini-Omni (Xie & Wu, 2024), demonstrating the effectiveness of semantic-acoustic 1110 disentanglement and omni-modal mutual benefits. For the first time, our EMOVA obtains state-of-1111 the-art performance on both the vision-language and speech benchmarks simultaneously. 1112

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MORE ON VISION-LANGUAGE E

Table 7: Ablation on the ViT configurations and templates for vision-language alignment.

1118	ViT	ViT LR	Template	MME	MMBench	SEED-Image	TextVQA	ChartQA	DocVQA	InfoVQA	OCRBench	ScienceQA-Img	AI2D
1119	Full	2×10^{-6}	QA	1928	<u>68.8</u>	72.5	64.3	29.9	45.2	28.7	495	76.3	61.8
	Half	2×10^{-6}	QA	1838	71.3	72.8	63.3	31.4	46.0	28.5	489	76.1	63.7
1120	Frozen	2×10^{-6}	QA	1887	68.8	72.2	61.3	<u>30.2</u>	44.7	28.0	478	75.9	62.8
1121	Half	2×10^{-5}	QA	1833	68.3	73.1	62.2	27.8	42.4	27.3	461	74.7	63.4
1100	Half	2×10^{-6}	Plain	<u>1909</u>	70.1	72.0	61.5	24.5	38.9	30.1	410	77.0	63.6
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This section analyzes the pre-training configurations of the vision encoder and the prompt template 1124 during Stage 2, as shown in Table. 7. Our final selection is the colored setting. We find that train-1125 ing the ViT model with half of the deeper parameters (Chen et al., 2023d) with a learning rate of 1126 2×10^{-6} (Liu et al., 2024a) yields the best performance. Furthermore, we compare the QA template 1127 with the plain template (Liu et al., 2024b) and find that the QA template is superior for pre-training. 1128

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F LIMITATIONS

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Duplex modeling. In the current version, EMOVA can only process either visual/speech/text in-1132 puts or produce speech/text outputs at the same time. For a communication experience that mirrors 1133 human interaction, handling inputs and outputs simultaneously is crucial. Recent works like VITA (Fu et al., 2024b) and LSLM (Ma et al., 2024) have begun to explore duplex modeling. VITA focuses on recognizing speech in noisy environments during the generation process to facilitate timely responses. LSLM, on the other hand, attempts to halt speech production when it detects a command or voice. Recently, a ground-breaking work named Moshi (Défossez et al., 2024) develops a model supporting fully duplex modeling. The adeptness at simultaneously managing the information streams from both the user and the assistant allows Moshi to converse with human beings in real-time scenarios.

However, incorporating emotion into this duplex modeling presents additional challenges. Emotional states can fluctuate throughout a conversation, and how to generate appropriate responses given the user's previous and current emotional cues has not been thoroughly investigated. We will dive into this topic in the future work.

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Direct unit-to-unit generation. Although speech units have served as speech representation, they are predominantly adopted in conjunction with text-based assistance (Zhang et al., 2023a). However, the direct generation from unit to unit without text assistance is an area that has not been extensively explored. In Lee et al. (2021), speeches from the source language are directly translated into speech units of the target language for speech-to-speech translation. Similarly, Nguyen et al. (2023) builds a language model directly on speech units, enabling spoken dialogue generation from raw audio. Both works develop models in speech-only data.

In the current version of EMOVA, the text modality is integrated into the speech generation process to transfer textual knowledge to the speech modality, thereby enhancing the correctness of speech responses. In the future, we will strengthen the model's direct unit-to-unit generation capabilities to boost the speed of speech generation and augment the model's comprehension of speech modality.

Vision configurations. Currently, we only utilize a single vision encoder pre-trained via a vision-language manner, while recent works have shown effectiveness by combining vision encoders pre-trained by different manners (*e.g.*, self-supervised pre-training (Liu et al., 2022)) and architectures (*e.g.*, MoE (Zhili et al., 2023; Liu et al., 2024c)). We prioritize visual understanding in this work, while the incorporation of (controllable) visual generation (Chen et al., 2023c; Gao et al., 2023; Li et al., 2023b; Wang et al., 2024; Liu et al., 2023d; Gao et al., 2024) is also appealing to better empower EMOVA in real-life applications (Li et al., 2024c; 2022; Han et al., 2021).

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G QUALITATIVE RESULTS

Advanced Vision-language Abilities. EMOVA exhibit advanced vision-language abilities in humor understanding (Fig. 9), numerical calculations (Fig. 10), coding (Fig. 11), geometry problem solving (Fig. 15).

(Omni-modal) Emotional Spoken Dialogue. EMOVA can engage in omni-modal emotional spoken dialogue (Figs. 5, 12, 13, 17). For demonstration purposes, we present only the speech transcriptions² of the instruction and EMOVA's response. The text highlighted in blue indicates the style labels predicted by EMOVA, reflecting the emotion and pitch of the generated speech.

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Omni-modal Spoken Dialogue with Structural Data Understanding. EMOVA can perform
structural data understanding in spoken dialogue. The data types include PDF files (Fig. 14), movie
posters (Figs. 16 and 18), personal résumés (Fig. 19), charts (Fig. 20), and websites (Fig. 21).
Remarkably, EMOVA is not specifically trained on spoken dialogue involving these data types.
This suggests that our chain of modality data introduced in Sec. 4.2 effectively activates both visionlanguage abilities and speech understanding acquired during the text-centric alignment stage.

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²For speech files, please refer to our project page.





	PORK BELLY Shelf life September 1 30% J 9.80
User	First please perform reasoning, and think step by step to provide best answer to the following question: What is the original price for pork belly before discount?
EMOVA	To find the original price of pork belly before the discount, we need to use the information provided in the image. The image shows that the price after a 30% discours is \$9.80. This price represents 70% of the original price, since $100\% - 30\% = 70\%$. To find the original price, we can set up the equation:
	70% of original price = \$9.80
	To solve for the original price, we can convert the percentage to a decimal and then divide:
	0.70 * original price = \$9.80
	Now, divide both sides by 0.70 to isolate the original price:
	original price = \$9.80 / 0.70 original price = \$14

Figure 10: EMOVA exhibits advanced vision-language abilities in numerical calculations.

Con	nputers in classrooms
Teache	r Number of computers
Mr. Lim	10
Ms Roja	s 10
Mrs. Japa	son 4
Ma Caha	
MS. Cone	en 9
Mr. Mora	les 6
Mrs. Ros	si 3
Mr. Wats	on 6
Mr. Schm	iidt 8
Llear	Convort this table to mark
EMOVA	Teacher Number of co
	 Mr Lim 10
	Ms. Rojas 10
	Mrs. Jensen 4
	Ms. Cohen 9
	Mr. Morales 6
	Mrs. Rossi 3 Mr. Watson 6
	Mr. Schmidt 8
\Box	
Figure 11: EMC	VA exhibits advanced vi
-8	
notional Spoken I	Dialogue
alitic states	
er 叩唧 为即	将结婚的朋友送上忧福。

Figure 12: EMOVA engages in spoken dialogue with a cheerful tone.



Figure 14: EMOVA engages in omni-modal spoken dialogue with structural data understanding.





Figure 16: EMOVA engages in omni-modal spoken dialogue with structural data understanding (*i.e.*, poster).





Figure 18: EMOVA engages in omni-modal spoken dialogue with structural data understanding (*i.e.*, movie posters).



1619 Figure 19: EMOVA engages in omni-modal spoken dialogue with structural data understanding (i.e., résumé).







1721"user pitch": ...,1722"assistant emotion": ...,1723"assistant pitch": ...

}}

1723 1724 1725

Figure 22: Prompt used to obtain style labels of the speech instruction dataset.

Please rate th Provide an ov	e following response based on the criteria of helpfulness, relevance, accuracy, and comprehensivene erall score on a scale of 0 to 10, where a higher score indicates better overall performance.
- Helpfulness	How well does the response assist in addressing the question?
- Relevance:	How veh does the response align with the question and the ground truth?
- Accuracy: F	low correct and factual is the response compared to the ground truth?
- Comprehen	iveness: How thoroughly does the response cover the aspects of the question?
Here is the a	estion:
{ground_trut	n_question}
Here is the gr	ound truth response for your reference:
{ground_trut	1_answer }
Now, please (valuate the following response:
{predicted_ar	iswer}
Drouido vour	avaluation in ISON format as follows:
{	evaluation in JSON 101111at as 10110ws.
"reason": (str) // Explanation of the score considering the criteria with no more than 100 words
"score": (ir	t), // Overall score from 0 to 10
} O1	the in ICON formation and distance and an entropy of the
Only output t	ata in JSON format, no additional ouput required.
Please rate th	e following response based on the criteria of helpfulness, relevance, accuracy, and comprehensivene
Please rate th Provide an ov	e following response based on the criteria of helpfulness, relevance, accuracy, and comprehensivene erall score on a scale of 0 to 10, where a higher score indicates better overall performance.
Please rate th Provide an ov - Helpfulness	e following response based on the criteria of helpfulness, relevance, accuracy, and comprehensivene erall score on a scale of 0 to 10, where a higher score indicates better overall performance. : How well does the response assist in addressing the question?
Please rate th Provide an ov • Helpfulness • Relevance:	e following response based on the criteria of helpfulness, relevance, accuracy, and comprehensivene erall score on a scale of 0 to 10, where a higher score indicates better overall performance. How well does the response assist in addressing the question? How closely does the response align with the question and the ground truth?
Please rate th Provide an ov - Helpfulness - Relevance: - Accuracy: F	e following response based on the criteria of helpfulness, relevance, accuracy, and comprehensivene erall score on a scale of 0 to 10, where a higher score indicates better overall performance. How well does the response assist in addressing the question? How closely does the response align with the question and the ground truth? iow correct and factual is the response compared to the ground truth?
Please rate th Provide an ov - Helpfulness - Relevance: - Accuracy: F - Comprehen:	e following response based on the criteria of helpfulness, relevance, accuracy, and comprehensivene erall score on a scale of 0 to 10, where a higher score indicates better overall performance. How well does the response assist in addressing the question? How closely does the response align with the question and the ground truth? iow correct and factual is the response compared to the ground truth? siveness: How thoroughly does the response cover the aspects of the question?
Please rate th Provide an ov - Helpfulness - Relevance: - - Accuracy: F - Comprehen: Please note th	e following response based on the criteria of helpfulness, relevance, accuracy, and comprehensivene erall score on a scale of 0 to 10, where a higher score indicates better overall performance. How well does the response assist in addressing the question? How closely does the response align with the question and the ground truth? iow correct and factual is the response compared to the ground truth? siveness: How thoroughly does the response cover the aspects of the question? at the evaluated response does not contain punctuation, but you should NOT give lower scores beca
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Please rate th Provide an ov - Helpfulness - Relevance: - Accuracy: F - Comprehen: Please note th this, i.e., you	e following response based on the criteria of helpfulness, relevance, accuracy, and comprehensivene erall score on a scale of 0 to 10, where a higher score indicates better overall performance. How well does the response assist in addressing the question? How closely does the response align with the question and the ground truth? iow correct and factual is the response compared to the ground truth? siveness: How thoroughly does the response cover the aspects of the question? at the evaluated response does not contain punctuation, but you should NOT give lower scores beca should try to imagine there are punctuations or you could add them by yourself.
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Please rate th Provide an ov - Helpfulness - Relevance: - Accuracy: F - Comprehen: Please note th this, i.e., you Here is the qu {ground_truth	e following response based on the criteria of helpfulness, relevance, accuracy, and comprehensivene erall score on a scale of 0 to 10, where a higher score indicates better overall performance. How well does the response assist in addressing the question? How closely does the response align with the question and the ground truth? iow correct and factual is the response compared to the ground truth? siveness: How thoroughly does the response cover the aspects of the question? at the evaluated response does not contain punctuation, but you should NOT give lower scores beca should try to imagine there are punctuations or you could add them by yourself. estion: h_question} ound truth response for your reference:
Please rate th Provide an ov - Helpfulness - Relevance: - Accuracy: F - Comprehen: Please note th this, i.e., you Here is the qu {ground_trut} Here is the gr {ground_trut}	e following response based on the criteria of helpfulness, relevance, accuracy, and comprehensivene erall score on a scale of 0 to 10, where a higher score indicates better overall performance. How well does the response assist in addressing the question? How closely does the response align with the question and the ground truth? fow correct and factual is the response compared to the ground truth? siveness: How thoroughly does the response cover the aspects of the question? at the evaluated response does not contain punctuation, but you should NOT give lower scores beca should try to imagine there are punctuations or you could add them by yourself. estion: n_question} ound truth response for your reference: n_answer}
Please rate th Provide an ov - Helpfulness - Relevance: - Accuracy: F - Comprehen: Please note th this, i.e., you Here is the qu {ground_trutl Here is the gr {ground_trutl	e following response based on the criteria of helpfulness, relevance, accuracy, and comprehensivene erall score on a scale of 0 to 10, where a higher score indicates better overall performance. How well does the response assist in addressing the question? How closely does the response align with the question and the ground truth? iow correct and factual is the response compared to the ground truth? siveness: How thoroughly does the response cover the aspects of the question? at the evaluated response does not contain punctuation, but you should NOT give lower scores beca should try to imagine there are punctuations or you could add them by yourself. estion: n_question} ound truth response for your reference: n_answer}
Please rate th Provide an ov - Helpfulness - Relevance: - Accuracy: F - Comprehen: Please note th this, i.e., you Here is the qu {ground_trutl Here is the gr {ground_trutl Now, please of {predicted and predicted	e following response based on the criteria of helpfulness, relevance, accuracy, and comprehensivene erall score on a scale of 0 to 10, where a higher score indicates better overall performance. How well does the response assist in addressing the question? How closely does the response align with the question and the ground truth? iow correct and factual is the response compared to the ground truth? iveness: How thoroughly does the response cover the aspects of the question? at the evaluated response does not contain punctuation, but you should NOT give lower scores beca should try to imagine there are punctuations or you could add them by yourself. estion: n_question} ound truth response for your reference: n_answer} valuate the following response: iswer.
Please rate th Provide an ov - Helpfulness - Relevance: - Accuracy: F - Comprehen Please note th this, i.e., you Here is the qu {ground_truth Here is the gr {ground_truth Now, please e {predicted_ar	e following response based on the criteria of helpfulness, relevance, accuracy, and comprehensivene erall score on a scale of 0 to 10, where a higher score indicates better overall performance. : How well does the response assist in addressing the question? How closely does the response align with the question and the ground truth? iow correct and factual is the response compared to the ground truth? siveness: How thoroughly does the response cover the aspects of the question? at the evaluated response does not contain punctuation, but you should NOT give lower scores becar should try to imagine there are punctuations or you could add them by yourself. estion: n_question} ound truth response for your reference: n_answer} valuate the following response: iswer}
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Please rate th Provide an ov - Helpfulness - Relevance: - Accuracy: F - Comprehen Please note th this, i.e., you Here is the qu {ground_trut} Here is the gr {ground_trut} Now, please e {predicted_an Provide your {{	e following response based on the criteria of helpfulness, relevance, accuracy, and comprehensivene erall score on a scale of 0 to 10, where a higher score indicates better overall performance. How well does the response assist in addressing the question? How closely does the response align with the question and the ground truth? iow correct and factual is the response compared to the ground truth? isiveness: How thoroughly does the response cover the aspects of the question? at the evaluated response does not contain punctuation, but you should NOT give lower scores beca should try to imagine there are punctuations or you could add them by yourself. estion: 1_question} ound truth response for your reference: 1_answer} valuate the following response: iswer} evaluation in JSON format as follows:
Please rate th Provide an ov - Helpfulness - Relevance: - Accuracy: F - Comprehen Please note th this, i.e., you Here is the qu {ground_truth Here is the gr {ground_truth Here is the gr {ground_truth Now, please of {predicted_an Provide your {{	e following response based on the criteria of helpfulness, relevance, accuracy, and comprehensivene erall score on a scale of 0 to 10, where a higher score indicates better overall performance. How well does the response assist in addressing the question? How closely does the response align with the question and the ground truth? iow correct and factual is the response compared to the ground truth? iveness: How thoroughly does the response cover the aspects of the question? at the evaluated response does not contain punctuation, but you should NOT give lower scores beca should try to imagine there are punctuations or you could add them by yourself. estion: 1_question } ound truth response for your reference: 1_answer} valuate the following response: iswer } evaluation in JSON format as follows: () // Explanation of the score considering the criteria with no more than 100 words
Please rate th Provide an ov Helpfulness Relevance: Accuracy: F Comprehen Please note th his, i.e., you Here is the qu (ground_trut) Here is the gr (ground_trut) Here is the gr (ground_trut)	e following response based on the criteria of helpfulness, relevance, accuracy, and comprehensivene erall score on a scale of 0 to 10, where a higher score indicates better overall performance. How well does the response assist in addressing the question? How closely does the response align with the question and the ground truth? iow correct and factual is the response compared to the ground truth? iveness: How thoroughly does the response cover the aspects of the question? at the evaluated response does not contain punctuation, but you should NOT give lower scores beca should try to imagine there are punctuations or you could add them by yourself. estion: question} ound truth response for your reference: answer} valuate the following response: uswer} evaluation in JSON format as follows: str) // Explanation of the score considering the criteria with no more than 100 words t), // Overall score from 0 to 10

Figure 24: Prompt used to obtain End-to-end Spoken Dialogue Score.

_	
To ap as	enhance the capabilities of multimodal large models in voice-based conversations, your task is to analyze the propriate speech emotion and pitch for the assistant's response based on the text content of the user's question and sistant's reply. Additionally, you need to score the assistant's response based on the actual situation.
п	an in manta amatian
п {r	redicted question}
ι.	
H	ere is the assistant's response:
{p	redicted_response }
H	ere is the Assistant's Emotion Classification:
{p	redicted_emotion}
	and in the Analytic relation of the Classification
H({r	redicted pitch}
cr.	
Pl	ease analyze the appropriate speech emotion and pitch that best match the assistant's response based on the text
co	ntent of the user's question and the assistant's response.
**	Emotion:**
Fi	rst, analyze the assistant's response content and provide the speech emotion category and reason that you believe
m Ti	atches the assistant's response in the voice conversation.
Tł	ien analyze whether the "Assistant's Emotion Classification" is appropriate.
If	appropriate, the "Assistant's Emotion Classification Score" should be 1; otherwise, it should be 0.
**	Direct.**
Fi	rst, analyze the assistant's response content and provide the speech pitch category and reason that you believe bes
m	atches the assistant's response in the voice conversation.
Tł	e pitch options can only be selected from the following list: ['low', 'normal', 'high'].
TI If	en, analyze whether the "Assistant's Pitch Classification" is appropriate.
_	
Pr ۱۱	ovide your evaluation in JSON format as follows:
11	"Assistant's Emotion Analysis": (str), // Analyze the response, propose emotion category and give the reason.
	"Assistant's Emotion Classification Score": (int), // The score should be either 0 or 1, with 1 indicating
ap	propriateness and 0 indicating inappropriateness.
	Assistant's Fitch Analysis : (str), // Analyze the response, propose pitch category and give the reason. "Assistant's Pitch Classification Score": (int), // The score should be either 0 or 1, with 1 indicating appropriate
an	d 0 indicating inappropriateness.
}}	
O	ily output data in JSON format, no additional output required.