

Narrow focus is known to be prosodically realized in Mandarin through some acoustic cues, including a higher pitch, a wider pitch range, and a longer duration. However, it remains unclear how these cues are implemented in contemporary Mandarin text-to-speech (TTS) systems, and to what extent are their patterns similar to those observed in human speech. Hence, the present paper aims to investigate some aspects of the prosodic realization of narrow focus in Mandarin TTS. Specifically, we analyze pitch, pitch range, and duration in speech generated by a pretrained Mandarin TTS system, and make a preliminary comparison between the prosodic patterns of focus shown in the synthesized speech and human speech, which may shed some light on how narrow focus may be encoded and realized in current Mandarin TTS systems.