Towards Al-assisted Video Editing: Generating Shorts from Long Videos

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Augmenting Human Creativity with Al

Novel Generative Models for New Domains

• Multitrack music generation (AAAI 2018, ISMIR 2018, ISMIR 2020, ICASSP 2023, ISMIR 2024, AIMG 2024), text-to-symbolic music generation (ISMIR LBD 2024, ISMIR 2025)

Al-assisted Tools for Content Creation

• Violin performance synthesis (ICASSP 2022, ICASSP 2025), music instrumentation (ISMIR 2021), music arrangement (AAAI 2018), music harmonization (JNMR 2020), a capella source separation (ISMIR LBD 2025)

Multimodal Generative Models for Content Creation

Queried sound separation (ICLR 2023), text-to-audio synthesis (WSS 2023, WASPAA 2023), text-to-music generation (ISMIR LBD 2024, arXiv 2024), video-to-music generation (ISMIR 2025, ISMIR LBD 2025), long-to-short video editing (ICLR 2025, arXiv 2025)

Video Editing



Interview footage (main character)



Background footage



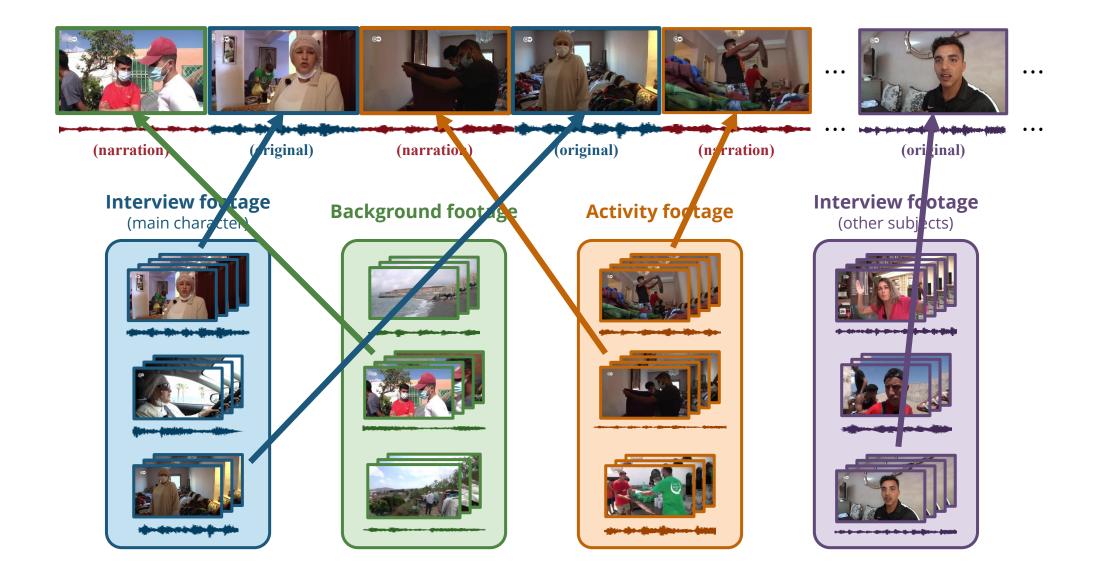
Activity footage



Interview footage (other subjects)



Video Editing



Fast-growing Short Video Platforms































Generating Shorts from Long Videos

- For content creators, help promoting long video contents
- For content consumers, help digest information in a more engaging way



TeaserGen: Generating Teasers for Long Documentaries

Weihan Xu¹ Paul Pu Liang² Haven Kim³ Julian McAuley³ Taylor Berg-Kirkpatrick³ Hao-Wen Dong⁴

¹ Duke University ² MIT ³ UC San Diego ⁴ University of Michigan





















Documentary Teaser Generation

Title: "Hatshepsut: Mysteries of the Warrior Pharaoh Queen (Full Episode) | Lost Treasures of Egypt"



youtu.be/89xTTczbv0E

Documentary Teaser Generation

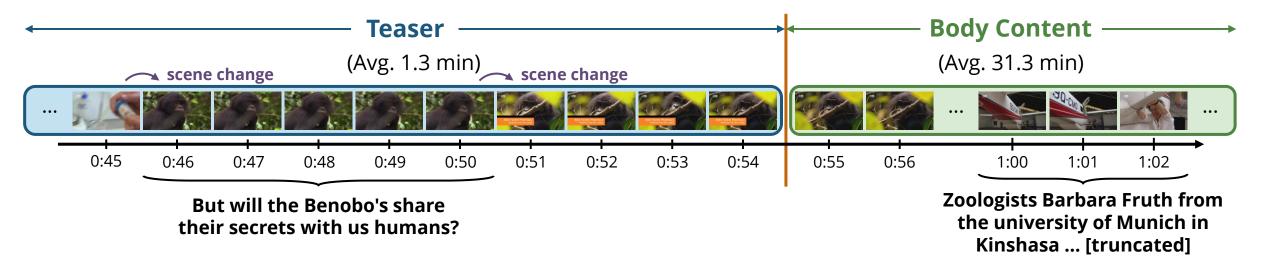
Unlike video highlight detection, a teaser needs a cohesive narrative

Unlike video summarization, a teaser needs to be interesting and engaging

Unlike a movie trailer, a documentary teaser is more narration-focused

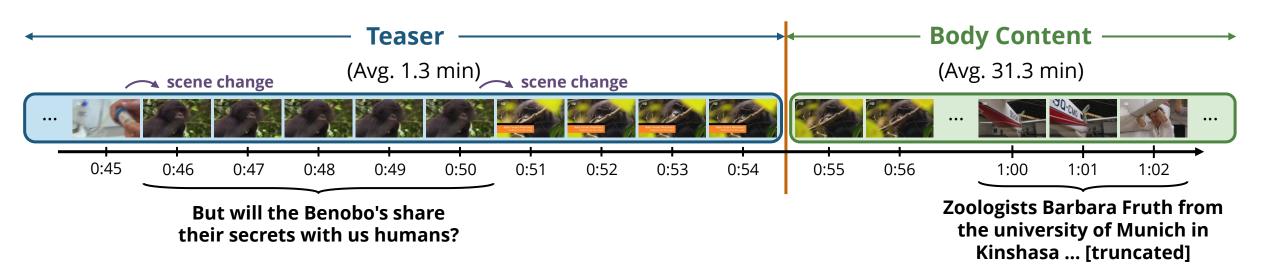
A documentary teaser needs to preserve the factual accuracy

DocumentaryNet: A New Dataset for Documentaries

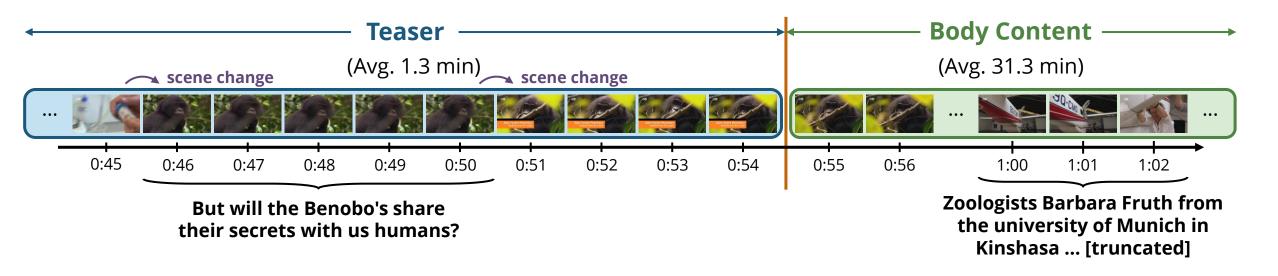


DocumentaryNet: A New Dataset for Documentaries

- 1,269 high-quality documentaries paired with teasers
- 689 hours in total
- Three reputable sources: DW, PBS, National Geographic



DocumentaryNet: A New Dataset for Documentaries



<u>Title</u>: Medicine from the jungle - Rainforest pharmacy | DW Documentary

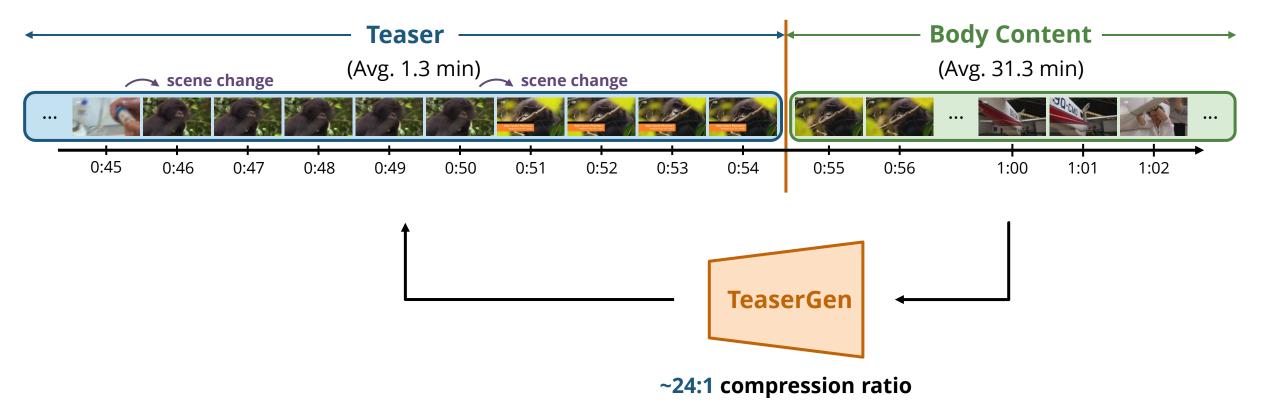
<u>User Annotated Tags</u>: Education, rainforest, medicine, psychology, apes, nature, Africa, monkey, Barbara Fruth, Democratic Republic of the Congo, natural medicine, bonobos, tropical rainforest, endangered species, animals, pharmacy, pharmaceutical, research, DW, Deutsche Welle, documentary

Narration with Timestamps: (in sec)

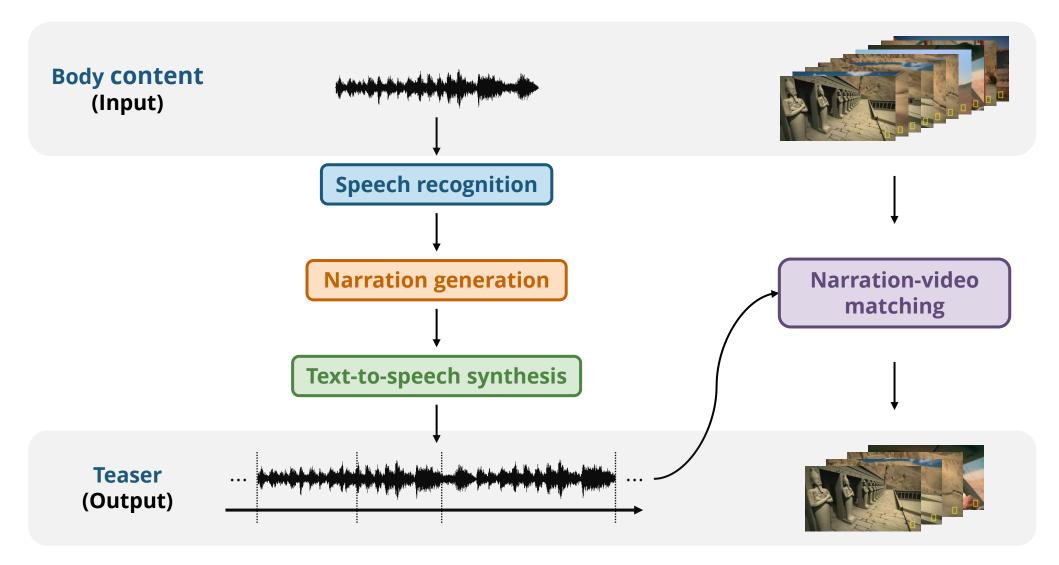
[2.6 – 15.92] Benobo Apes are among our closest living relatives, and the Benobo's here in Africa's Congo basin have a valuable treasure. They know which plants have healing properties. Maybe we can learn from them.

[17.89 – 26.59] It's always interesting when one specific individual within a group eats something different. That could turn out to be some kind of medicinal plant. ...

Generating Teasers from Long Documentaries



A Narration-Centered Approach to Teaser Generation



Leveraging LLMs for Narration Generation

- Break the full narration into 10 segments (avg. 3,900 words)
- Use GPT-40 to summarize each segment
- Rewrite the 10 summarized sentences into a cohesive paragraph
 - "Rewrite the paragraph into an engaging story opening in 10 sentences or less, keeping all names and avoiding being replaced by pronouns."

Propose an ending question

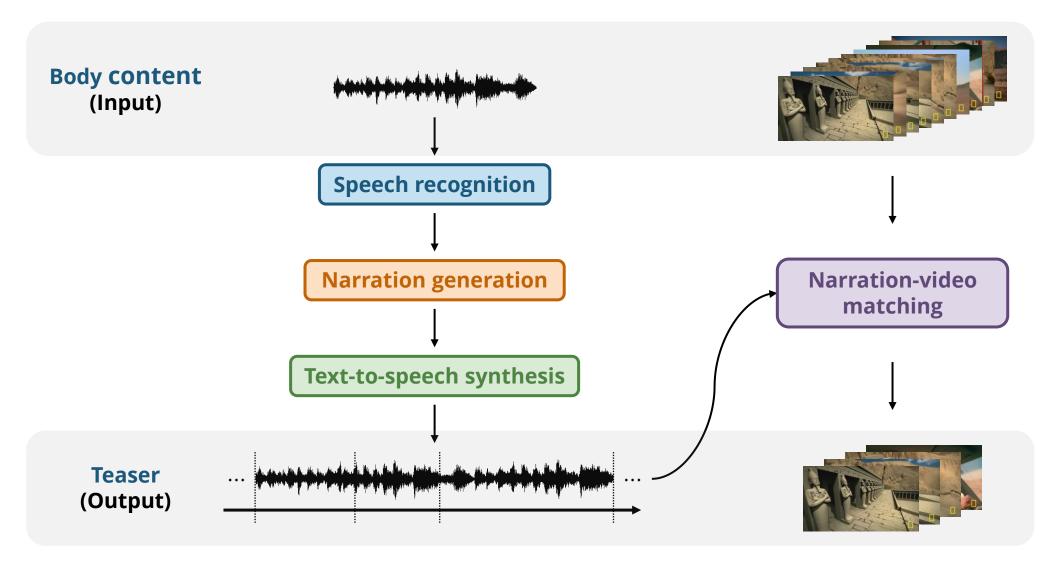
- "Given the title and the provided summary, formulate one thought-provoking and concise question that relate directly to the summary."
- For example, "But will the Benobo's share their secrets with us humans?"

Leveraging LLMs for Narration Generation

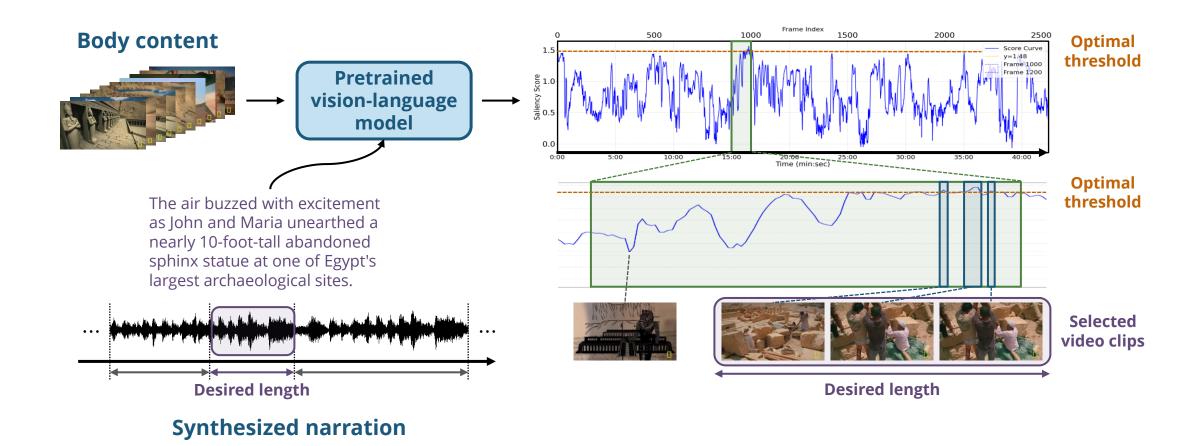
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- Rewrite the 10 summarized sentences into a cohesive paragraph
- Propose an ending question

Narration	Organization [†]	Informativeness [†]	Engagingness [†]	
Naive summarization	3.58 ± 0.57	3.72 ± 0.47	3.60 ± 0.56	
Finely-tuned scripts	$\textbf{3.88} \pm \textbf{0.44}$	$\textbf{3.82} \pm \textbf{0.54}$	$\textbf{3.70} \pm \textbf{0.46}$	

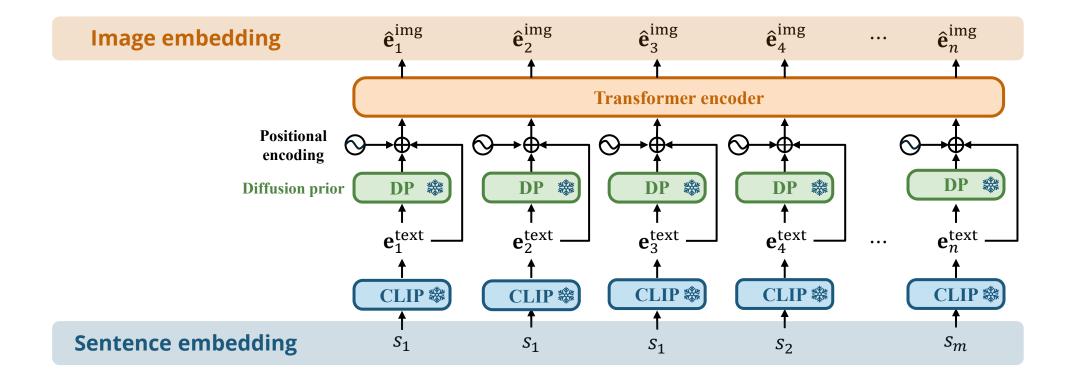
A Narration-Centered Approach to Teaser Generation



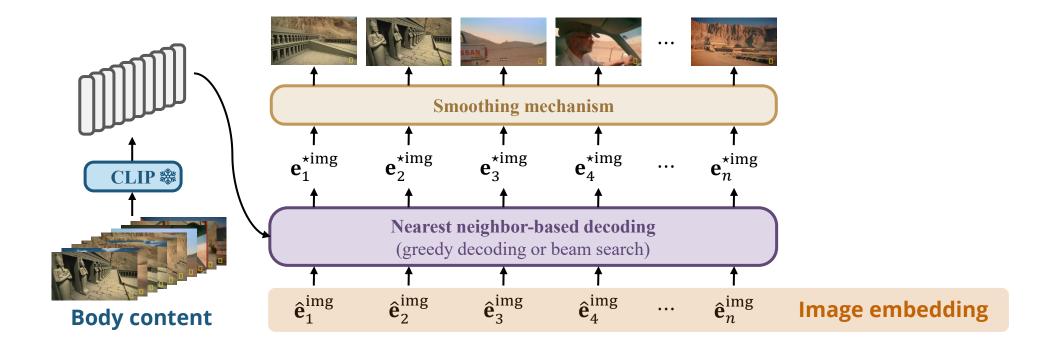
Interval-based Approach using Pretrained Models



Learning-based Approach using Deep Sequential Models



Learning-based Approach using Deep Sequential Models



Example Results

Ground truth

Beneath this desert landscape, why the Wow! You can see why a Pharaoh's chosen place for a full season of excavations

Egypt, the richest source of archaeological treasures on the planet

secrets of this ancient civilization?

our cameras have unprecedented access, follow teams on the front line of archaeology.

> I'm driving so fast because I'm excited!

It's an entrance, we can see an entrance.

I have just been told that they have found something

Revealing varied secrets.

Making discoveries, they could rewrite ancient

This time, new secrets about one of Egypt's greatest rulers the Pharaoh Queen, Hatshepsut

> Doctor Ranski discovers very treasures that her magnificent temple had reached was to be remembered for millions of years.

For my beloved daughter, not son, and John and Maria, honor a rare and intriguing statue.

TeaserGen-PT



Under the scorching Egyptian sun, Dr. Zbigniew Szybranski led a team of archaeologists in Luxor, meticulously excavating the unique temple of the revolutionary female pharaoh Hetshepsood.

The air buzzed with excitement as John and Maria unearthed a nearly 10-foot-tall abandoned sphinx statue at one of Egypt's largest archaeological sites.

Meanwhile, in Aswan, Martina Bartanova's team stumbled upon ancient human remains that could halt their exploration of an unopened tomb.

The discovery of a child's remains and a miniature sphinx added layers of mystery to their quest.

At Karnak Temple, John and Maria delved into inscriptions revealing Hetshepsood's portraval as a male pharaoh, while Yale professors used digital technology to study ancient texts.

In Dra'abu El Naga, another team meticulously organized fragmented human remains, uncovering stories of women in ancient Egyptian society.

American archaeologist Susanne Onstein explored the monumental building campaigns of Hetshepsood, whose colossal obelisks stood as testaments to her reign.

Amidst pottery fragments and evidence of temples built by Hetshepsood and her stepson Tutmose III, the archaeologists faced personal reflections and challenges.

The winds of history whispered through the sands, as each discovery brought them closer to unraveling the enigmatic legacy of Pharaoh Queen Hetshepsood.

> How do the discoveries and restoration efforts at Hatshepsut's temple and other archaeological sites in Egypt contribute to our understanding of her reign and the broader role of women in ancient Egyptian society?

TeaserGen-LR



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Example Results: TeaserGen-PT (Interval-based)

Title: "Hatshepsut: Mysteries of the Warrior Pharaoh Queen (Full Episode) | Lost Treasures of Egypt"



wx83.github.io/TeaserGen_Official/

Example Results: TeaserGen-LR (Learning-based)

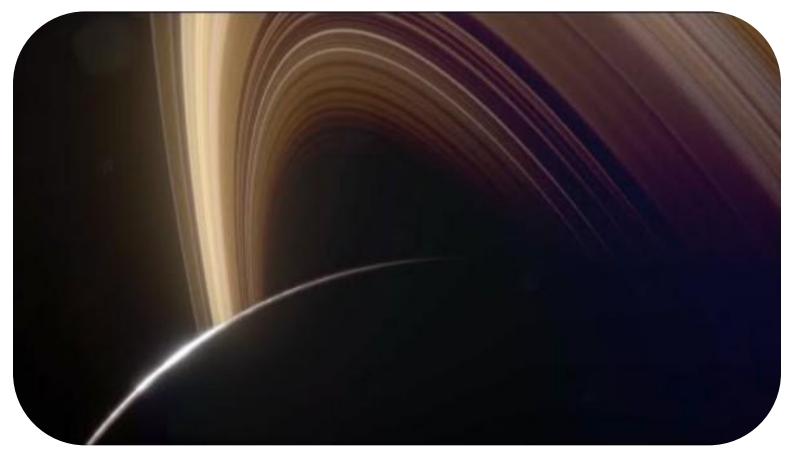
Title: "Hatshepsut: Mysteries of the Warrior Pharaoh Queen (Full Episode) | Lost Treasures of Egypt"



wx83.github.io/TeaserGen_Official/

Example: BBC Documentary on the Solar System

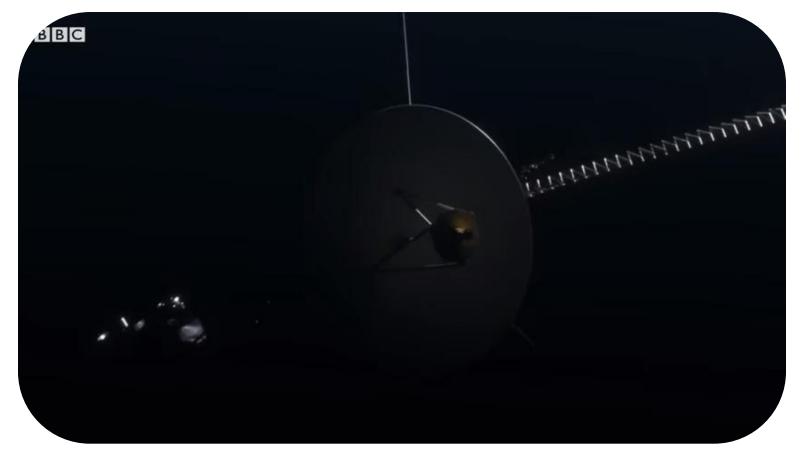
Title: "Eight Wonders Of Our Solar System | The Planets | BBC Earth Science"



youtu.be/wkQuOrsgVGY

Example Results: TeaserGen-PT (Interval-based)

Title: "Eight Wonders Of Our Solar System | The Planets | BBC Earth Science"



wx83.github.io/TeaserGen_Official/

Example Results: TeaserGen-LR (Learning-based)

Title: "Eight Wonders Of Our Solar System | The Planets | BBC Earth Science"



wx83.github.io/TeaserGen_Official/

Objective Evaluation

				Repetitiveness		correspondence		
Model	Query	Decoding	DP	F1 (%)	REP (%)	SCR (%)	CLIPScore	VTGHLS
Baseline models								
Random	Random	-	-	1.67	4.05	7.81	0.56	0.75
CLIP-NN	Narration	Greedy	×	0.11	92.73	8.29	0.69	0.79
UniVTG (2023b)	Title	Rank	-	1.82	0	89.68	0.58	1.01
CLIP-it (2021b)	Narration	Rank	×	1.24	0	99.39	0.56	0.61
Pretraining-based models								
TeaserGen-PT	Title	Thresholding	-	1.85	0	13.16	0.56	1.02
TeaserGen-PT	Narration	Thresholding	-	1.07	21.38	22.58	0.58	1.45
TeaserGen-PT-CLIP	Narration	Threshold	×	1.31	27.23	24.10	0.58	0.74
Learning-based models								
TeaserGen-LR	Narration	Greedy	×	1.56	31.97	27.18	0.58	0.74
TeaserGen-LR	Narration	Greedy	\checkmark	1.38	26.83	35.48	0.62	0.78
TeaserGen-LR	Narration	Beam search	×	1.88	24.16	41.97	0.58	0.74
TeaserGen-LR	Narration	Beam Search	\checkmark	1.88	19.39	46.56	0.63	0.77
Ground truth	-	-	-	100	>7.86	27.6	0.58	0.64

Scene change rate

Text-visual

Check out our paper for more results!

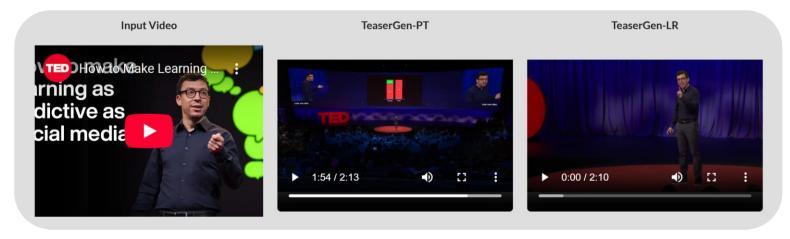
Subjective Evaluation

Model	Query	Decoding	Coherence [↑]	Alignment [†]	Engagingness [†]	Realness↑
UniVTG (2023b) CLIP-it (2021b)	Title Narration	Rank Rank		2.62 ± 0.47 2.67 ± 0.44	2.67 ± 0.57 2.57 ± 0.46	2.66 ± 0.54 2.51 ± 0.46
TeaserGen-PT TeaserGen-LR TeaserGen-LR	Title Narration Narration	Threshold Greedy Beam search		2.84 ± 0.57 2.88 ± 0.48 2.69 ± 0.51	2.81 ± 0.49 2.71 ± 0.42 2.71 ± 0.42	2.94 ± 0.50 2.71 ± 0.44 2.64 ± 0.41

TeaserGen-PT (interval-based) is more effective at identifying relevant visual content than TeaserGen-LR (learning-based)

Zero-shot Examples

TED Talks



Old movies



wx83.github.io/TeaserGen_Official/

Limitations

- Assumed that narration plays a more significant role than visuals
 - This assumption might not hold for movies and vlogs

- Cannot match interview scenes commonly seen in documentaries
 - Ongoing work to allow the model to "quote" an interview!

- Teaser generation is a one-to-many mapping, i.e., a generative process
 - The model still falls short in terms of artistic quality and creativeness



REGen: Multimodal Retrieval-Embedded Generation for Long-to-Short Video Editing

Weihan Xu¹ Yimeng Ma¹ Jingyue Huang² Yang Li¹ Weyne Ma³ Taylor Berg-Kirkpatrick² Julian McAuley² Paul Pu Liang² Hao-Wen Dong⁴

¹ Duke University ² UC San Diego ³ MBZUAI ⁴ MIT ⁵ University of Michigan





















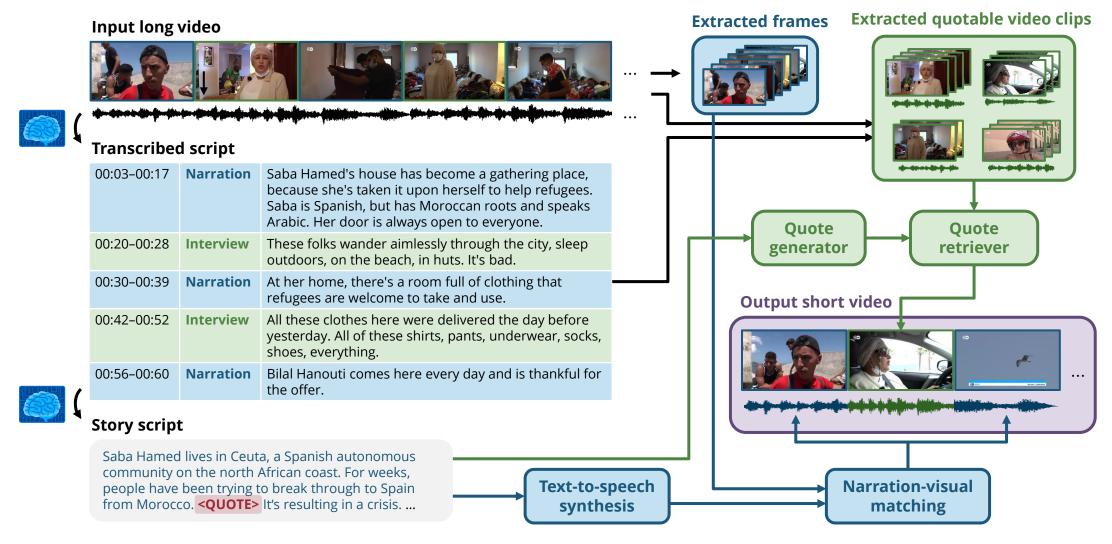








Learning to *Quote* a Video



Learning to *Quote* a Video

REGen-DQ (direct quote)

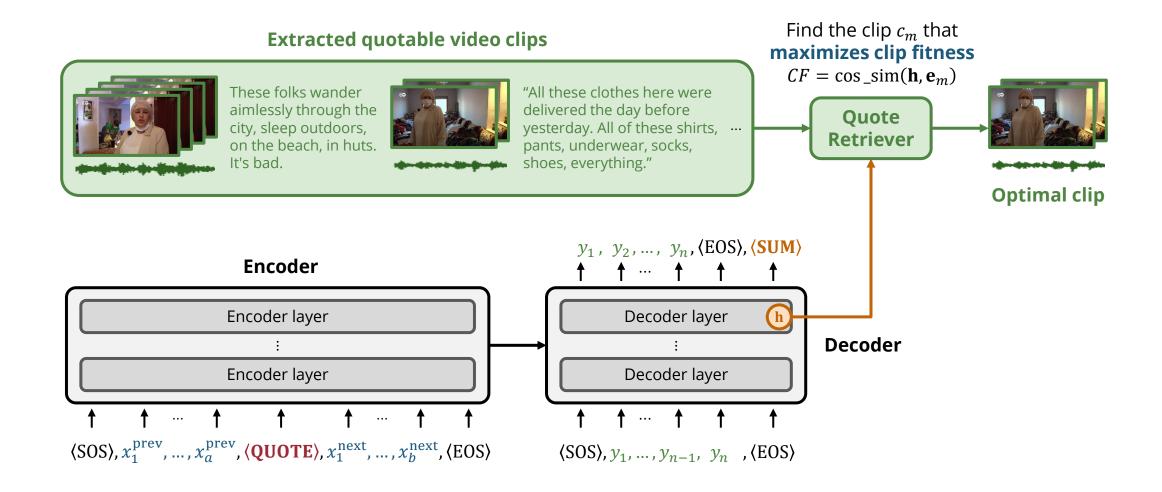
Quote
$$\uparrow$$
..., x_i , $\langle SOQ \rangle$, y_1 , ..., y_n , $\langle EOQ \rangle$, x_{i+1} , ...

REGen-IDQ (indirect quote)

...,
$$x_i$$
, $\langle \mathbf{QUOTE} \rangle$, x_{i+1} , ...

To be retrieved later!

Quote Retriever for REGen-IDQ



Measuring Clip Fitness

For a candidate clip c_m , the **clip fitness** is defined as

$$CF := \cos_{\sin}(\mathbf{h}, \mathbf{e}_m)$$

$$\mathbf{e}_m = \mathbf{e}_m^{\mathrm{text}}$$

$$\mathbf{e}_m = f\left(\operatorname{concat}\left(\mathbf{e}_m^{\operatorname{text}}, \mathbf{e}_m^{\operatorname{img}}\right)\right)$$

Learnable mapping

Comparing Quote Retrieval Methods

Retriever	Similarity measure	Recall@1	Recall@5 (%)	Recall@10 (%)	Insertion effectiveness
Random	-	0.00 ± 0.00	0.28 ± 0.48	7.22 ± 5.54 22.50 ± 1.44	3.08 ± 0.25
GPT-4o infilling	Text only	2.78 ± 0.48	13.89 ± 1.27		2.48 ± 0.31
QuoteRetriever-T	Text only	5.00	17.50	30.00 23.33	3.56 ± 0.22
QuoteRetriever-TV	Text+Visual	5.00	15.00		3.49 ± 0.26

Retrieving with only text is better than retrieving with both text and video

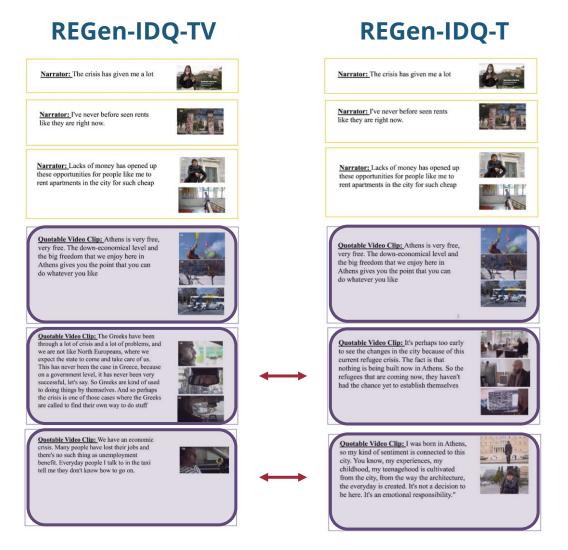
Example: DW Documentary on a Modern Art Exhibition

Title: "documenta 14 - learning from Athens | DW Documentary"



youtu.be/agij_lxGjCl

Example Results



REGen-DQ



Weihan Xu, Yimeng Ma, Jingyue Huang, Yang Li, Wenye Ma, Taylor Berg-Kirkpatrick, Julian McAuley, Paul Pu Liang, and Hao-Wen Dong, "REGen: Multimodal Retrieval-Embedded Generation for Long-to-Short Video Editing," arXiv preprint arXiv:2505.18880, 2025.

Example Results: REGen-IDQ-TV (Indirect-quote, text+video)

Title: "documenta 14 - learning from Athens | DW Documentary"



wx83.github.io/REGen/

Example Results: REGen-IDQ-T (Indirect-quote, text-only)

Title: "documenta 14 - learning from Athens | DW Documentary"



wx83.github.io/REGen/

Example Results: REGen-DQ (Direct-quote)

Title: "documenta 14 - learning from Athens | DW Documentary"



wx83.github.io/REGen/

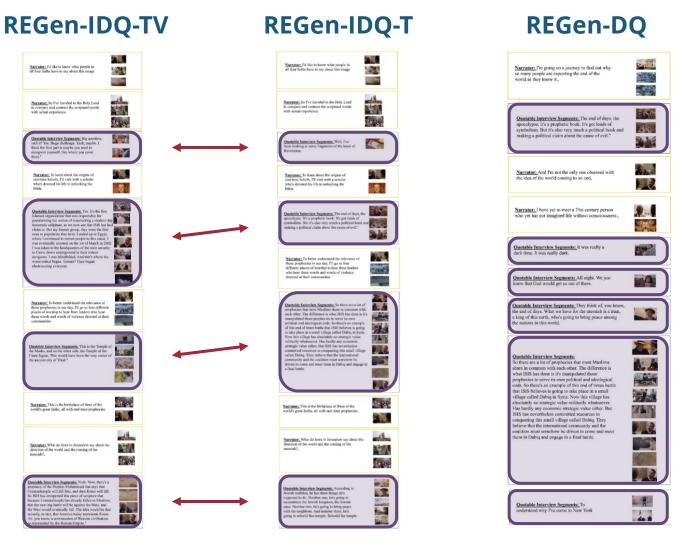
Example: National Geographic Documentary on Apocalypse

Title: "Apocalypse (Full Episode) | The Story of God with Morgan Freeman"



youtu.be/ATvKJ_HftNs

Example Results



Weihan Xu, Yimeng Ma, Jingyue Huang, Yang Li, Wenye Ma, Taylor Berg-Kirkpatrick, Julian McAuley, Paul Pu Liang, and Hao-Wen Dong, "REGen: Multimodal Retrieval-Embedded Generation for Long-to-Short Video Editing," arXiv preprint arXiv:2505.18880, 2025.

Example Results: REGen-IDQ-TV (Indirect-quote, text+video)

Title: "Apocalypse (Full Episode) | The Story of God with Morgan Freeman"



wx83.github.io/REGen/

Example Results: REGen-IDQ-T (Indirect-quote, text-only)

Title: "Apocalypse (Full Episode) | The Story of God with Morgan Freeman"



wx83.github.io/REGen/

Example Results: REGen-DQ (Direct-quote)

Title: "Apocalypse (Full Episode) | The Story of God with Morgan Freeman"



wx83.github.io/REGen/

Objective Evaluation

Repetitiveness

Model	Dur (sec)	Interview ratio (%)	F1 (%)	SCR (%)	REP (%)	VTGHLS	CLIPS-I	CLIPS-N
Random extraction	101	56 ± 20 34 ± 16 42 ± 25 $ 42 \pm 42$ 61 ± 17	1.10	20.71	0.41	0.83	0.55	0.62
ETS	142		1.92	13.65	4.49	1.06	0.64	0.60
A2Summ [4]	73		1.70	14.20	1.73	0.89	0.56	0.63
TeaserGen [11]	155		1.64	22.61	21.38	0.80	-	0.67
GPT-4o-DQ	151		1.56	16.55	20.75	1.01	0.58	0.42
GPT-4o-SP-DQ	619		2.07	12.38	18.33	1.02	0.62	0.62
REGen-DQ	95	37 ± 26	1.45	19.13	10.35	1.05	0.48	0.57
REGen-IDQ-T	77	35 ± 31	1.89	19.79	10.02	1.03	0.41	0.57
REGen-IDQ-TV	81	35 ± 31	1.90	19.86	9.70	1.02	0.39	0.57
Ground truth	76	54 ± 37	69.00*	27.60	> 7.86	<0.98	0.43	0.57

Scene change rate

Text-visual correspondence

Check out our paper for more results!

Subjective Evaluation

Model	Coherence †	Alignment [†]	Realness [†]	Interview effectiveness†
A2Summ [4] TeaserGen [11] GPT-4o-SP-DQ	2.72 ± 0.24 3.22 ± 0.23 3.08 ± 0.24	2.87 ± 0.26 2.92 ± 0.24 3.23 ± 0.25	2.67 ± 0.23 2.86 ± 0.23 2.81 ± 0.25	3.07 ± 0.24 3.32 ± 0.25
REGen-DQ REGen-IDQ-TV	2.97 ± 0.27 3.29 ± 0.24	3.03 ± 0.27 3.30 ± 0.26	2.75 ± 0.30 3.05 ± 0.25	3.33 ± 0.29 3.25 ± 0.30

REGen-IDQ-TV (indirect quote-based) outperforms REGen-DQ in most criteria

Limitations

- Assumed that narration plays a more significant role than visuals
 - This assumption might not hold for movies and vlogs

- Risks of misplacing a quote in a wrong context
 - Grounding the script generation model with information about all quotable materials
 - May also be alleviated by context-aware video embeddings

- Reliance on successful scene segmentation of the input video
 - Speaker diarization might not do the trick for lecture recordings

Towards Al-assisted Video Editing

Video Editing



Interview footage (main character)



Background footage



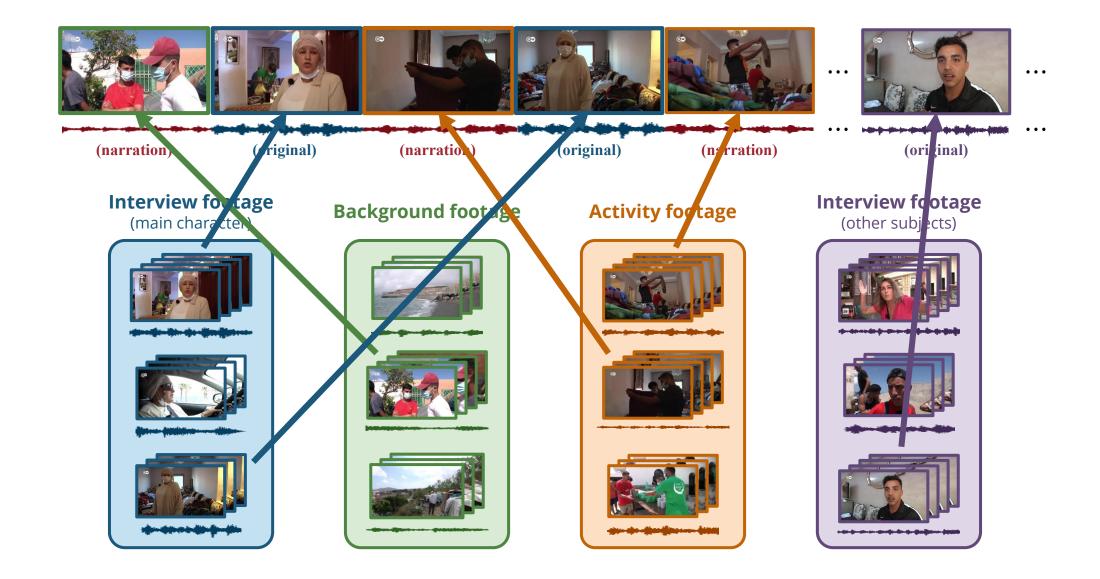
Activity footage



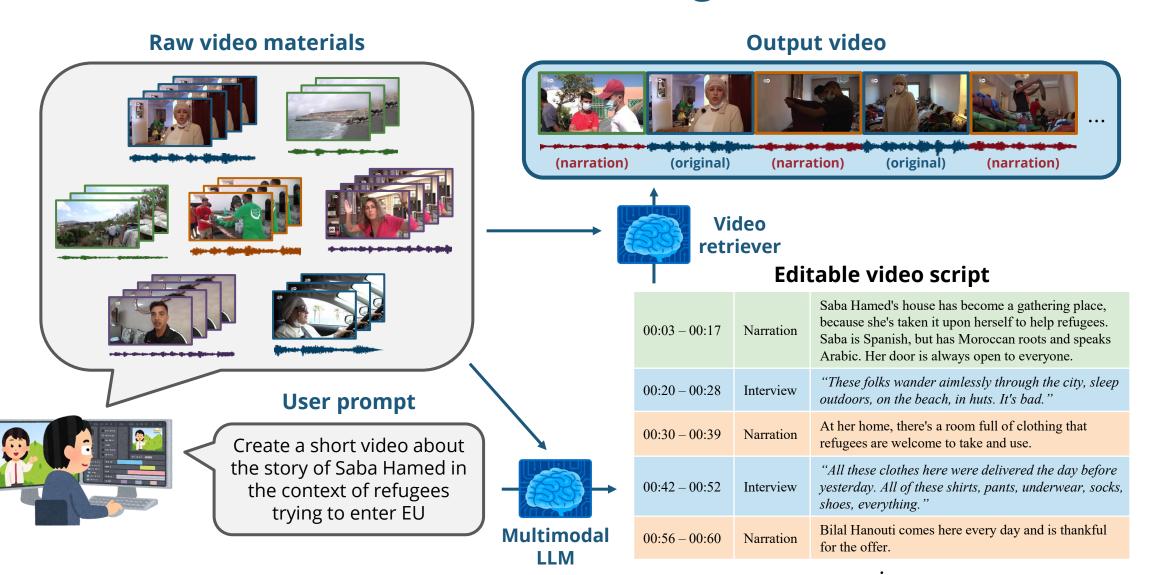
Interview footage (other subjects)



Video Editing



Multimodal RAG-based Video Editing

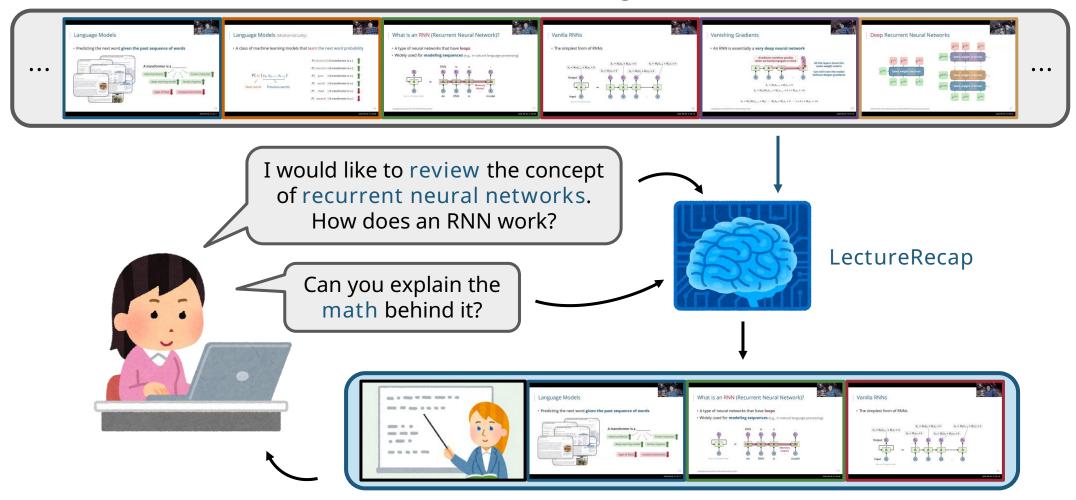


Future Work: Integration into Video Editing Software

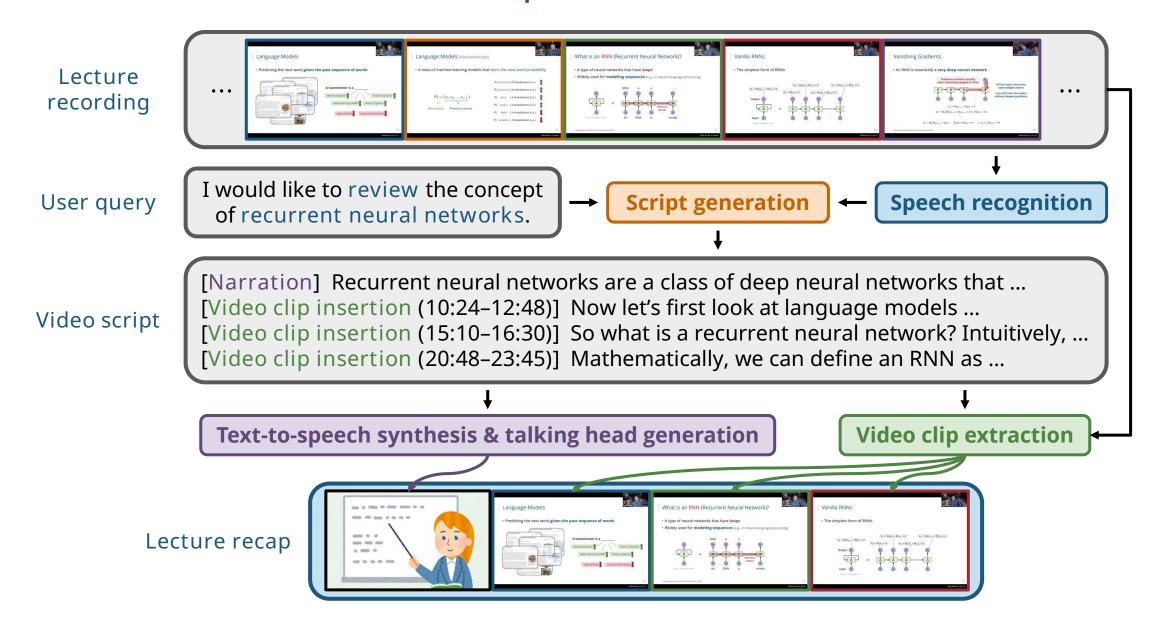
00:03 - 00:17	Narration	Saba Hamed's house has become a gathering place, because she's taken it upon herself to help refugees. Saba is Spanish, but has Moroccan roots and speaks Arabic. Her door is always open to everyone.				
00:20 - 00:28	Interview	"These folks wander aimlessly through the city, sleep outdoors, on the beach, in huts. It's bad."	Import Edit Export			
00:30 - 00:39	Narration	At her home, there's a room full of clothing that refugees are welcome to take and use.	Source - Javier BTS Coffee Shoot V Lila x Javier Import Export - Jav fix Lument Cofor Basic Correction Imput LUT None			
00:42 - 00:52	Interview	"All these clothes here were delivered the day before yesterday. All of these shirts, pants, underwear, socks, shoes, everything."	Integration into existing			
00:56 - 00:60	Narration	Bilal Hanouti comes here every day and is thankful for the offer.	Creative workflow Shruston 1000 Full 133:09 Ft 00:01:16:15 Exposure 133:09 Contrast			
		Ub x lover October O	port Export E Compared to the files on and bring A new he so the W open the new Choo And Pre_ to social m Use t			

Future Work: LectureRecap

Lecture recording



Future Work: LectureRecap



Retrieval-Augmented -> Retrieval-Embedded Generation

Can an LLM learn to quote and embed the quote properly?

- How to quote materials in other modalities?
 - Such as audio, image, videos, etc.
 - We need a retriever to identify candidate quotable materials
 - We need a multimodal LLM that understands multimodal data so that it can incorporate the retrieved materials and embed them properly

How About Music?

Integrating GenAl into the Music Creative Workflow



(Source: Avid)

avid.com/pro-tools/whats-new 59

Integrating GenAl into the Music Creative Workflow



(Source: Avid)

avid.com/pro-tools 60

Augmenting Human Creativity with Al

Novel Generative Models for New Domains

• Multitrack music generation (AAAI 2018, ISMIR 2018, ISMIR 2020, ICASSP 2023, ISMIR 2024, AIMG 2024), text-to-symbolic music generation (ISMIR LBD 2024, ISMIR 2025)

Al-assisted Tools for Content Creation

• Violin performance synthesis (ICASSP 2022, ICASSP 2025), music instrumentation (ISMIR 2021), music arrangement (AAAI 2018), music harmonization (JNMR 2020), a capella source separation (ISMIR LBD 2025)

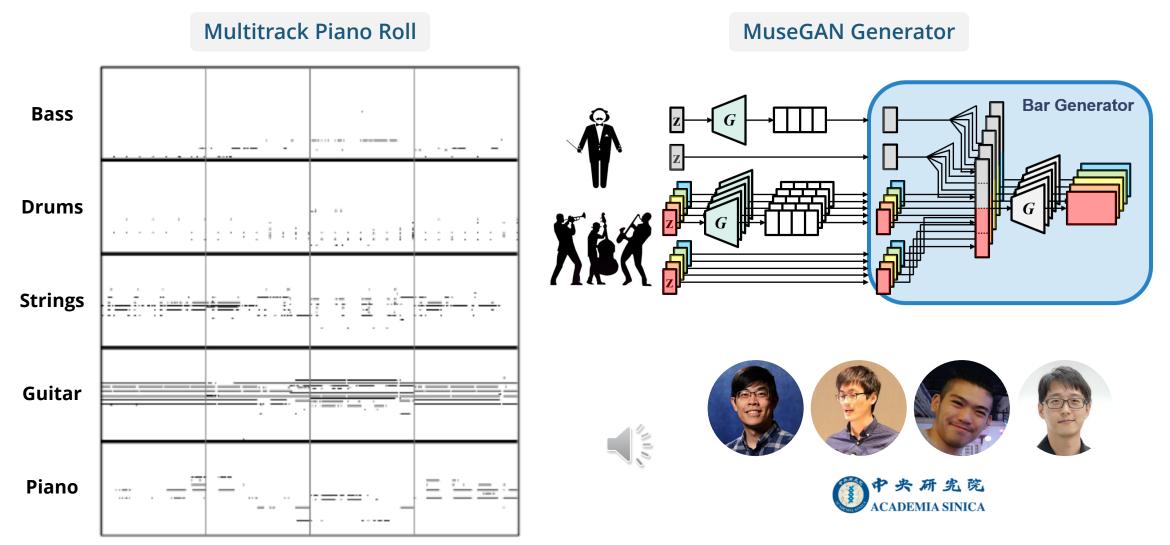
Multimodal Generative Models for Content Creation

Queried sound separation (ICLR 2023), text-to-audio synthesis (WSS 2023, WASPAA 2023), text-to-music generation (ISMIR LBD 2024, arXiv 2024), video-to-music generation (ISMIR 2025, ISMIR LBD 2025), long-to-short video editing (ICLR 2025, arXiv 2025)

My Research on Al for Music

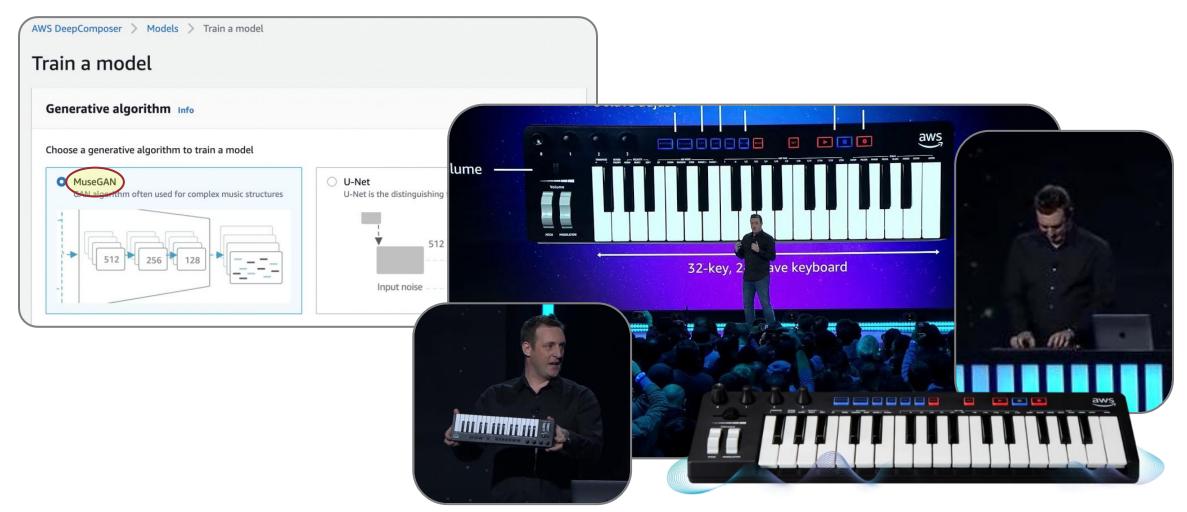
- Multitrack music generation (ISMIR 2024, ICASSP 2023, ISMIR 2020, ISMIR 2018, AAAI 2018, ISMIR LBD 2017)
- Expressive violin performance synthesis (ICASSP 2025, ICASSP 2022)
- Text-to-music generation (ISMIR 2025, AIMG 2024, ISMIR LBD 2024)
- Video-to-music generation (ISMIR 2025, ISMIR LBD 2025)
- Music arrangement (ISMIR 2021, JNMR 2020)
- Music LLM (ICASSP 2025, NLP4MusA 2024)
- Choral music separation (ISMIR LBD 2025, ISMIR 2022)
- Optical music recognition (ISMIR 2021)

Generating Multi-instrument Music using GANs (AAAI 2018)



Hao-Wen Dong, Wen-Yi Hsiao, Li-Chia Yang, and Yi-Hsuan Yang, "MuseGAN: Multi-track Sequential Generative Adversarial Networks for Symbolic Music Generation and Accompaniment," AAAI, 2018.

MuseGAN Features in AWS DeepComposer (2020)

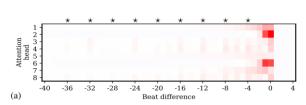


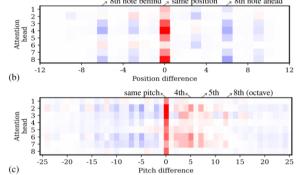
Generating Multitrack Music with Transformers (ICASSP 2023)

Multitrack Music Representation

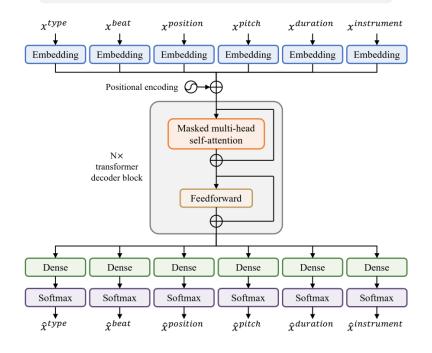
```
Start of song
               0, 15)
                        Instrument: accordion
                        Instrument: trombone
                        Instrument: brasses
                        Start of notes
(3, 1, 1, 41, 15, 36)
                       Note: beat=1, position=1, pitch=E2, duration=48, instrument=trombone
(3, 1, 1, 65, 4, 39)
                       Note: beat=1, position=1, pitch=E4, duration=12, instrument=brasses
                       Note: beat=1, position=1, pitch=E4, duration=72, instrument=accordion
(3, 1, 1, 65, 17, 15)
(3, 1, 1, 68, 4, 39)
                       Note: beat=1, position=1, pitch=G4, duration=12, instrument=brasses
(3, 1, 1, 68, 17, 15)
                       Note: beat=1, position=1, pitch=G4, duration=72, instrument=accordion
                       Note: beat=1, position=1, pitch=C5, duration=72, instrument=accordion
(3, 1, 1, 73, 17, 15)
                       Note: beat=1, position=13, pitch=G4, duration=12, instrument=brasses
(3, 1, 13, 68, 4, 39)
                       Note: beat=1, position=13, pitch=C5, duration=12, instrument=brasses
(3, 1, 13, 73, 4, 39)
                       Note: beat=2, position=1, pitch=C5, duration=36, instrument=brasses
(3, 2, 1, 73, 12, 39)
                       Note: beat=2, position=1, pitch=E5, duration=36, instrument=brasses
(3, 2, 1, 77, 12, 39)
(4, 0, 0, 0, 0) End of song
```

Musical Self-attention





Multitrack Music Transformer









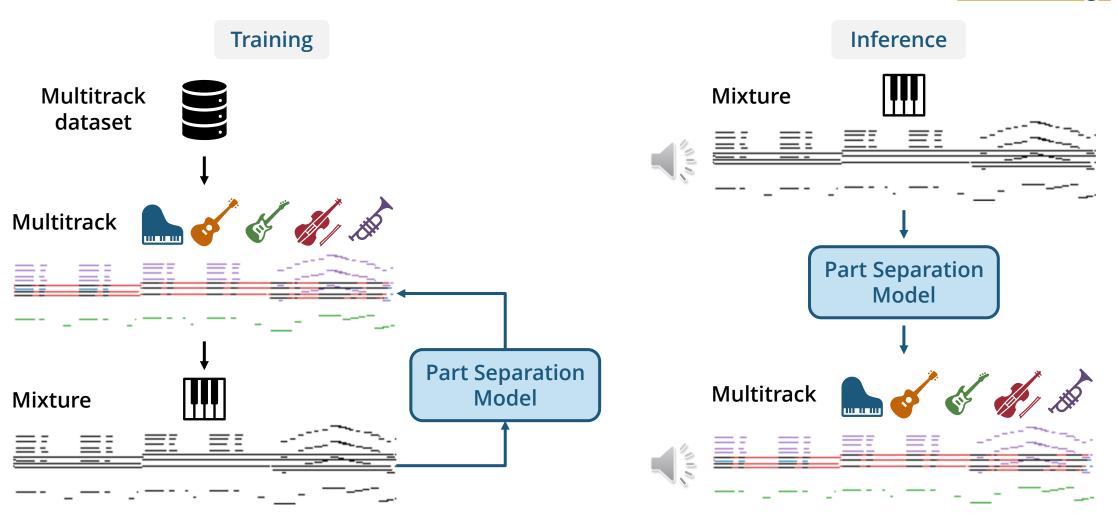




UC San Diego

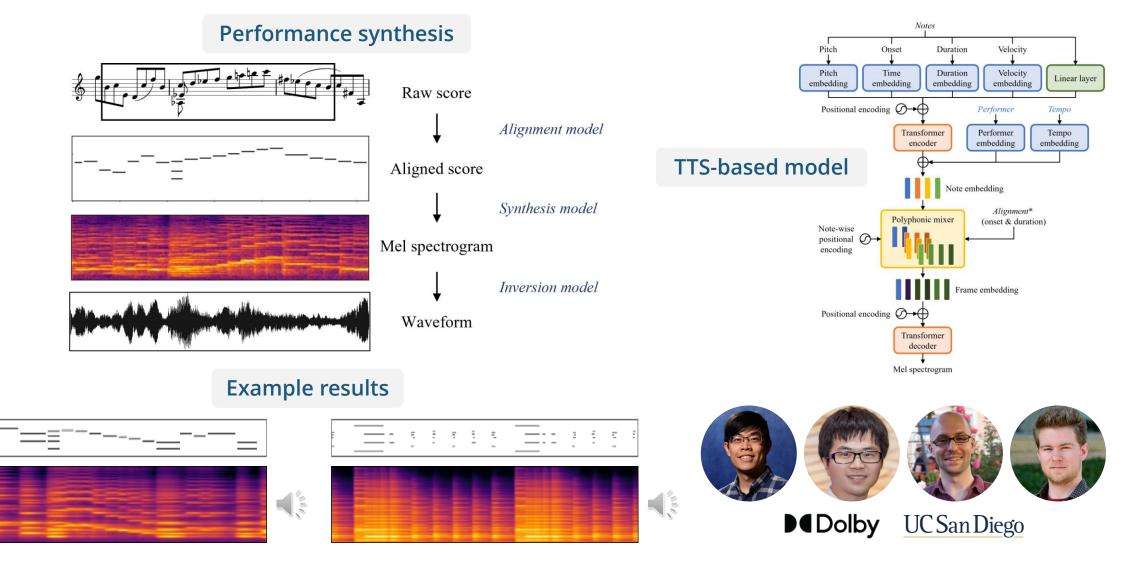
Automatic Instrumentation (ISMIR 2021)





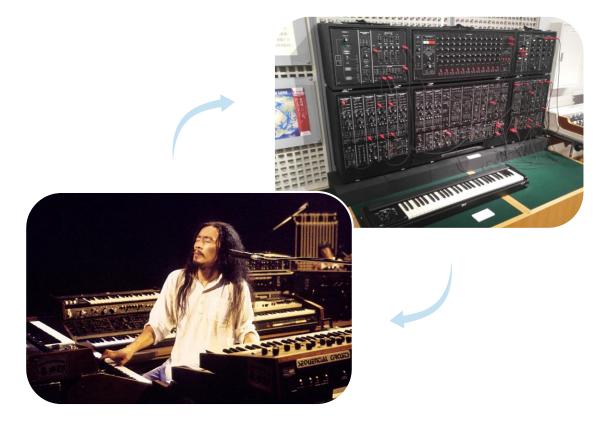
Hao-Wen Dong, Chris Donahue, Taylor Berg-Kirkpatrick and Julian McAuley, "Towards Automatic Instrumentation by Learning to Separate Parts in Symbolic Multitrack Music," ISMIR, 2021.

Synthesizing Expressive Violin Performance (ICASSP 2022)



Music & Technology Co-evolves





Art challenges Technology



Augmenting Human Creativity with Al





Augmenting Human Creativity with Al

Multimodal generative AI for content creation

Human-Al co-creative tools for music, audio and video creation

Human-like machine leaning algorithms for music, movies and arts

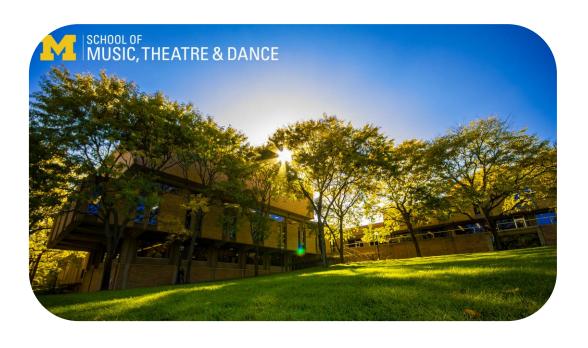
Al Music @ Michigan



Hao-Wen Dong

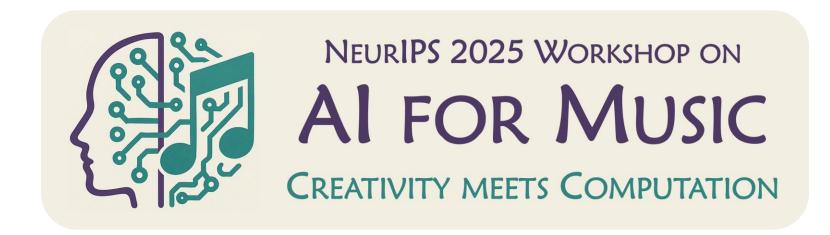


Julie Zhu





Al4Music Workshop @ NeurlPS



December 7 @ San Diego aiformusicworkshop.github.io

Towards Al-assisted Video Editing: Generating Shorts from Long Videos

Nothing would have been possible without all my fantastic collaborators!



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