

Supporting Information for: Memory for television episodes preserves event content while introducing new across-event similarities

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Overview

This document provides additional details about the methods we used in the main text. We also include some additional analyses referenced in the main text.

Additional details about topic modeling methods and results

Optimizing topic model parameters

In order to create accurate video and recall models, we used an optimization method that was driven by our ability to explain hand-annotated memory performance metrics collected by Chen et al. (2017). Specifically, we used a grid search to compute the ω (video sliding window duration, in scenes), ρ (recall sliding window duration, in sentences), and K (number of topics) that satisfied

$$\operatorname{argmax}_{\omega, \rho, K} [\operatorname{corr}(\operatorname{corr}(\mu(\omega, \rho, K), \nu(\omega, \rho, K)), \theta)],$$

where $\operatorname{corr}(\mu, \nu)$ is the per-participant correlation between the upper triangles of the temporal correlation matrices of the video (μ) and recall (ν) trajectory, and θ is the per-participant hand-annotated memory performance. We searched over a grid of pre-specified values for each of these parameters; the resulting correlations are displayed in Figure S1. The optimal parameters were $\omega = 50$, $\rho = 10$, and $K = 100$.

The optimized model converged on 32 unique topics that were assigned non-zero weights over the course of the video. We provide a list of the top ten highest-weighted words from each topic in Figure S2.

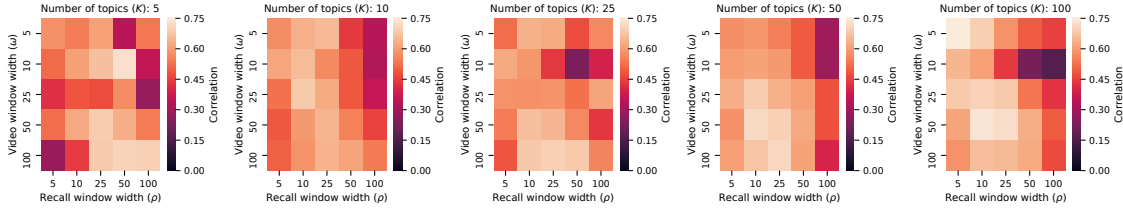


Figure S1: Optimizing topic model parameters. We performed a grid search over video sliding window length ($\omega \in \{5, 10, 25, 50, 100\}$), recall sliding window length ($\rho \in \{5, 10, 25, 50, 100\}$), and number of topics ($K \in \{5, 10, 25, 50, 100\}$). The reported correlations are between per-subject video-recall trajectory correlations and per-subject hand-annotated memory performance ratings.

Feature importance analyses

To determine the contribution of each feature to the structure of the video topic proportions, we conducted a “leave one out” analysis. Specifically, we compared the original video topic trajectory (created using all hand-annotated features from the 998 hand-annotated scenes spanning the *Sherlock* episode; see *Methods* for a full list of features) with video trajectories created using all but one type of feature. We created temporal correlation matrices for each trajectory (using the topic proportions matrices) and correlated the upper triangles of each impoverished trajectory with the original feature-complete trajectory. Observing a lower correlation between an impoverished trajectory (holding out a particular feature) and the feature-complete trajectory would suggest that the given feature played a more prominent role in shaping the temporal structure of the feature-complete trajectory. We found that hand-annotated scene locations provided the most structure to the feature-complete trajectory, whereas the name of the character(s) in focus for each shot provided the least structure (Fig. S3A).

We also carried out an analysis of which annotated features tended to shape aspects of the video topic trajectory’s structure that were preserved in participants’ recalls. Specifically, we computed the timepoint-by-timepoint correlation matrix of the video topic trajectory, and correlated its upper triangle with that of the timepoint-by-timepoint correlation matrices of each participant’s recall topic trajectory (resampled using linear interpolation to have the same number of timepoints as the video trajectory). This yielded a single correlation coefficient for each participant. We then repeated this analysis with each annotated feature held out in turn. Observing a lower correlation between the video and recall trajectories (when a given feature was held out) would indicate that participants utilize changes in that feature’s content to discriminate between sections of the video when organizing their recalls. We found that hand-annotated narrative details were the most heavily utilized type of feature, whereas changes in which character was speaking tended not to impact participants’ recall structures (Fig. S3B).

Next, we wondered how the different types of features might relate. For example, knowing which character is in focus during a given scene may also provide information about which character is speaking. We computed video topic trajectories for each feature in turn, and then compared the upper triangles of the temporal correlation matrices of all pairs of features. This provided additional confirmation that the shape of the full trajectory (including all types of features) was largely driven by narrative details. We also found that character-driven features (characters on screen, characters speaking, and characters in focus) were strongly correlated. Other details,

Topic ID	Top 10 words	Topic description
1	john, outdoor, yes, phone, road, brixton, box, medium, donovan, street	John being watched
2	sherlock, john, indoor, laboratory, hospital, st, bartholomew, medium, yes, mike	Sherlock and John meet
3	man, john, warehouse, indoor, yes, medium, shoulder, says, hand, asks	Meeting with Mycroft
4	john, mike, sherlock, medium, molly, park, russell, square, outdoor, bench	Running into an old friend
5	yes, jeffrey, sir, jimmy, indoor, aide, medium, helen, woman, gary	First and second murder
6	sherlock, floor, room, crime, scene, lauriston, indoor, gardens, john, yes	Examining the body (a)
7	sherlock, lestrade, john, indoor, gardens, lauriston, room, medium, floor, scene	Lestrade calls in Sherlock (a)
8	soldiers, singers, cartoon, background, medium, indoor, world, yes, afghanistan, lobby	Intro cartoon/War flashback
9	sherlock, john, street, baker, 221b, indoor, mrs, hudson, suite, yes	221B Baker St. (a)
10	sherlock, john, outdoor, medium, taxi, road, yes, says, phone, lauriston	Sherlock analyzes John (a)
11	sherlock, john, lestrade, lauriston, gardens, medium, anderson, donovan, indoor, yes	Who was Rachel?
12	sherlock, john, indoor, mediu, baker, street, 221b, suite, yes, phone	John texts the killer
13	donovan, lestrade, indoor, medium, aide, jimmy, press, room, conference, yes	Press conference (a)
14	john, sherlock, street, baker, medium, says, indoor, mrs, hudson, sequence	John leaves the flat
15	sherlock, john, street, suite, 221b, baker, indoor, medium, says, asks	221B Baker St. (b)
16	sherlock, lestrade, yes, room, gardens, indoor, lauriston, floor, john, scene	Examining the body (b)
17	sherlock, molly, john, bartholomew, st, hospital, medium, indoor, mike, room	John meets Sherlock Holmes
18	singers, cartoon, background, indoor, world, lobby, popcorn, yes, people, medium	Intro cartoon
19	john, donovan, gardens, lauriston, yes, street, outdoor, medium, shoulder, policeman	Unpopular with the police (a)
20	lestrade, donovan, indoor, room, press, conference, police, reporter, medium, reporters	Press conference (b)
21	john, medium, anthea, yes, indoor, street, baker, sherlock, outdoor, man	Kidnapping John
22	john, man, yes, warehouse, indoor, medium, shoulder, says, anthea, continues	Anthea brings John to Mycroft
23	sherlock, john, lestrade, lauriston, gardens, medium, indoor, yes, stairway, stairs	Lestrade calls in Sherlock (b)
24	jimmy, yes, sir, jeffrey, indoor, medium, gary, psychotherapist, helen, john	John's psychotherapist (a)
25	sherlock, john, donovan, outdoor, medium, gardens, lauriston, street, anderson, says	Unpopular with the police (b)
26	john, lestrade, mike, medium, donovan, indoor, park, room, conference, press	John takes a walk
27	john, sherlock, yes, indoor, laboratory, bartholomew, st, hospital, medium, mike	Sherlock analyzes John (b)
28	john, anthea, yes, road, man, outdoor, phone, medium, brixton, car	Anthea drives John home
29	sherlock, john, yes, taxi, outdoor, road, medium, says, phone, continues	Chasing the killer
30	john, indoor, jeffrey, sir, psychotherapist, medium, yes, room, london, helen	John's psychotherapist (b)
31	sherlock, john, lestrade, room, floor, crime, scene, gardens, lauriston, indoor	Examining the body (c)
32	john, room, indoor, medium, soldiers, psychotherapist, yes, outdoor, close, soldier	War flashback

Figure S2: Topics discovered in *Sherlock*. We applied a topic model to hand-annotated information about 1000 scenes spanning the 45 minute episode. We identified 27 unique topics with non-zero weights (we used $K = 100$ topics to fit the model). Each topic comprises a distribution of weights over all words in the vocabulary. For each topic, we show the words with the 10 largest weights, along with a suggested description of the topic.

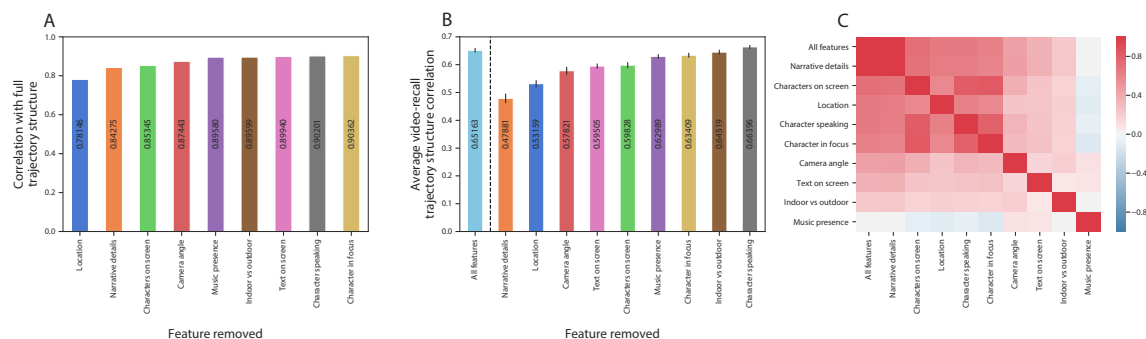


Figure S3: Feature importance analysis. **A.** Contributions of each feature type to the structure of the video trajectory. The bar heights reflect the correlation between the video trajectory computed using all features with a video trajectory computed using all features except the indicated feature. (Lower bars reflect features that contribute more substantially to the video trajectory’s shape.) **B.** Which features are preserved during recall? The bar heights reflect the (average) across-participant correlations between the video and recall trajectories. Error bars denote bootstrap-estimated standard error of the mean. **C.** Feature correlation matrix. Each entry displays the correlation between video topic trajectories created using only the indicated (row/column) features.

such as the presence or absence of music, led to very different topic trajectories (Fig. S3C).

Creating a low-dimensional embedding space

Figures 5 and 6C in the main text display two-dimensional projections of the 100-dimensional topic trajectories for the video (5A, 6C), average recall (5B), and each individual’s recall (5C, 6C). We created these embeddings using the Uniform Manifold Approximation and Projection algorithm (UMAP; McInnes et al., 2018) called from our high-dimensional visualization and text analysis software, HyperTools (Heusser et al., 2018). An advantage of the UMAP algorithm over comparable manifold learning techniques (such as *t*-SNE) is that UMAP explicitly attempts to preserve the global structure of the data (McInnes et al., 2018; Becht et al., 2019) by constructing a space where distance on the manifold is standard Euclidean distance, with respect to the global coordinate system. This was important in our use case, as we wanted to visualize both the evolving structure of the video and the spatial relationships between presented and recalled content.

UMAP achieves a balance between representing local and global structure via a subset of its hyper-parameters: `n_neighbors`, `spread`, and `min_dist`. The `n_neighbors` hyper-parameter (K) denotes the number of nearest neighbors to consider in constructing the high-dimensional fuzzy simplicial set for each datapoint. `Spread` (γ) and `min_dist` (δ) function together to create the differentiable decay curve used to approximate the injective function used to map between high- and low-dimensional fuzzy simplicial sets. In essence, `min_dist` determines the degree to which nearby points are clustered or expanded, relative to the overall `spread`.

Two other parameters ultimately affect this balance between preserving local and global structure: the seed (τ) for the (pseudo-)random number generator, and the order of the observations (i.e., trajectories) to be embedded (ϕ). As described in *Methods*, we ensured the video and recall events were projected onto the *same* low-dimensional manifold by fitting the embedding model to a stacked matrix of all video, average recall, and individuals’ recall events. After initializing the

low-dimensional simplicial set (by default, using a spectral embedding of the high-dimensional simplicial set’s fuzzy 1-skeleton), UMAP optimizes the embedding using stochastic gradient descent with cross-entropy as a cost function. During optimization, indices of the data are sampled at random, and thus local minimum reached by the optimization is dependent on both the state of the RNG and the sequence in which observations are concatenated.

We performed a grid search over pre-specified values of these hyper-parameters, and optimized the manifold space for visualization based on two criteria: First, that the 2D embedding of the video trajectory should reflect its original 100-dimensional structure as faithfully as possible. Second, that the path traversed by the video trajectory should intersect itself as few times as possible. The first criteria helps promote the ability to gain (albeit fuzzy) intuitions about similarities and differences between sections of video content based on their locations in the embedding space. The second criteria was motivated by the low off-diagonal values in the video trajectory’s temporal correlation matrix (suggesting that the same topic-space coordinates should not be revisited; see Figure 2A in the main text) and the inability to accurately describe the consistency of participants’ transitions through topic space at locations where those transitions were consistent, but occurred in multiple, orthogonal directions (see *Methods* for analysis details). We formalized this optimization as the combination of values that satisfied

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{argmax}_{\{K, \gamma, \delta, \tau, \phi \in E \mid \Phi(K, \gamma, \delta, \tau, \phi)\}} & \left[\operatorname{corr} \left(\Upsilon \left(\xi_{K, \gamma, \delta, \tau, \phi} \right), \Upsilon(\chi) \right) \right], \text{ where} \\ \Phi(K, \gamma, \delta, \tau, \phi) &= \operatorname{argmin}_{K, \gamma, \delta, \tau, \phi} \left[\Gamma \left(\xi_{K, \gamma, \delta, \tau, \phi} \right) \right], \end{aligned}$$

ξ is the video’s trajectory through the manifold space; χ is the original, 100-dimensional video trajectory; Υ is a condensed matrix of pairwise distances between event vectors (computed using correlation distance in the original topic space and Euclidean distance in the manifold space); $\operatorname{corr}(\Upsilon(\xi), \Upsilon(\chi))$ is the correlation between the sets of pairwise distances, and Γ is the number of instances in which lines drawn between consecutive video event embeddings intersect. The sets of hyper-parameter values we searched over comprised: $K \in \{10x \in \mathbb{Z} \mid 10 < x < 22\} \cup \{161\}$ (a range roughly centered on half the total number of events, 161, in order to balance representations of local and global structure); $\gamma \in \{1, 3, 5, 7, 9\}$; $\delta \in \{0.1, 0.3, 0.5, 0.7\}$; $\tau \in \{x \in \mathbb{Z} \mid 0 < x < 101\}$; and $\phi \in \binom{S}{3}$, where $S = \{\text{video events, average recall events, individual recall events}\}$. The optimal parameters (that yielded $\Phi = 0$) were $K = 170$, $\gamma = 7$, $\delta = 0.7$, $\tau = 41$, and ϕ as the sequences of average recall events, video events, and individuals’ recall events, vertically concatenated.

Participant-level figures referenced in the main text

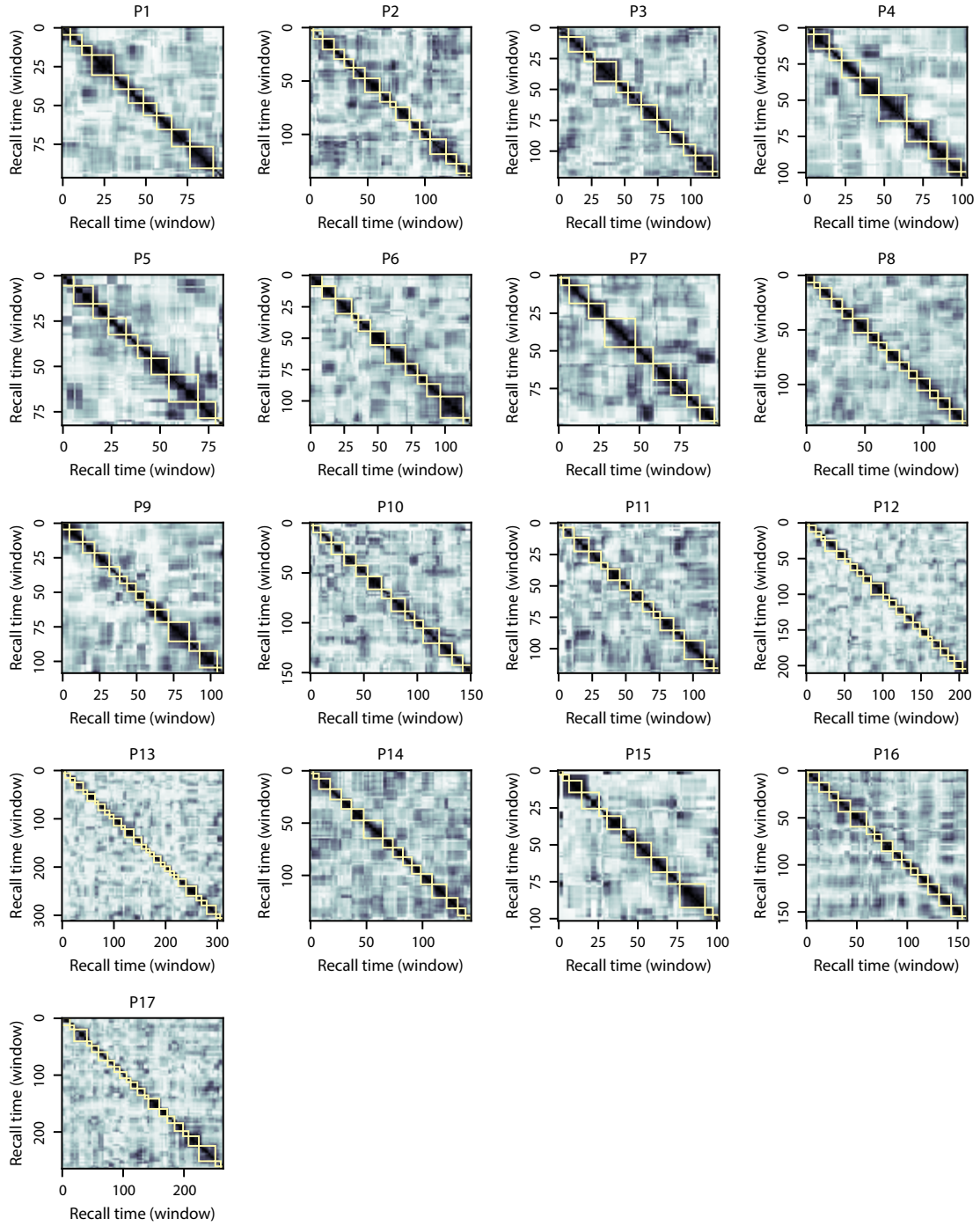


Figure S4: Recall trajectory temporal correlation matrices and event segmentation fits. Each panel is in the same format as Figure 2E in the main text. The yellow boxes indicate HMM-identified event boundaries.

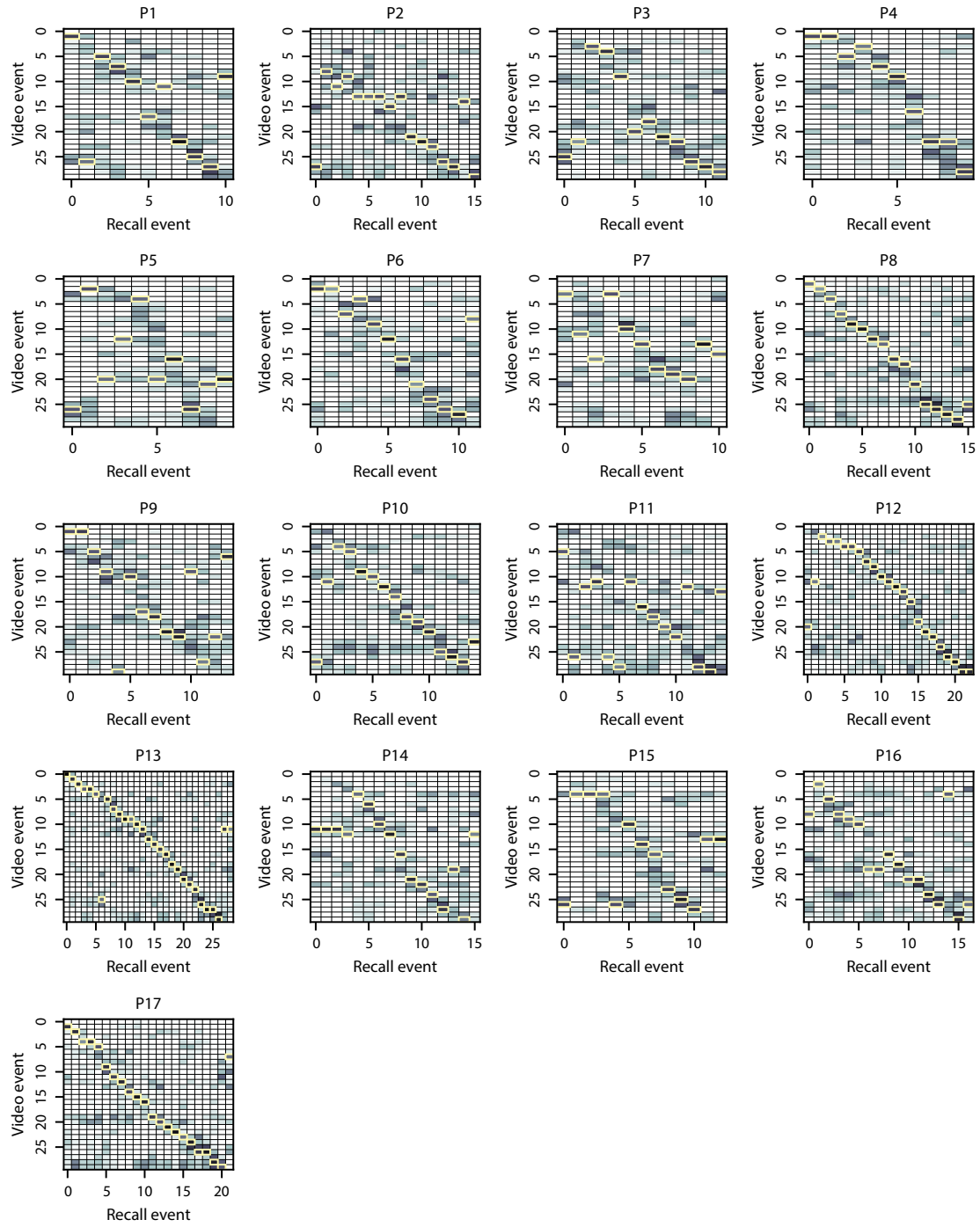


Figure S5: Video-recall event correlation matrices. Each panel is in the same format as Figure 2G in the main text. The yellow boxes mark the maximum correlation in each column.

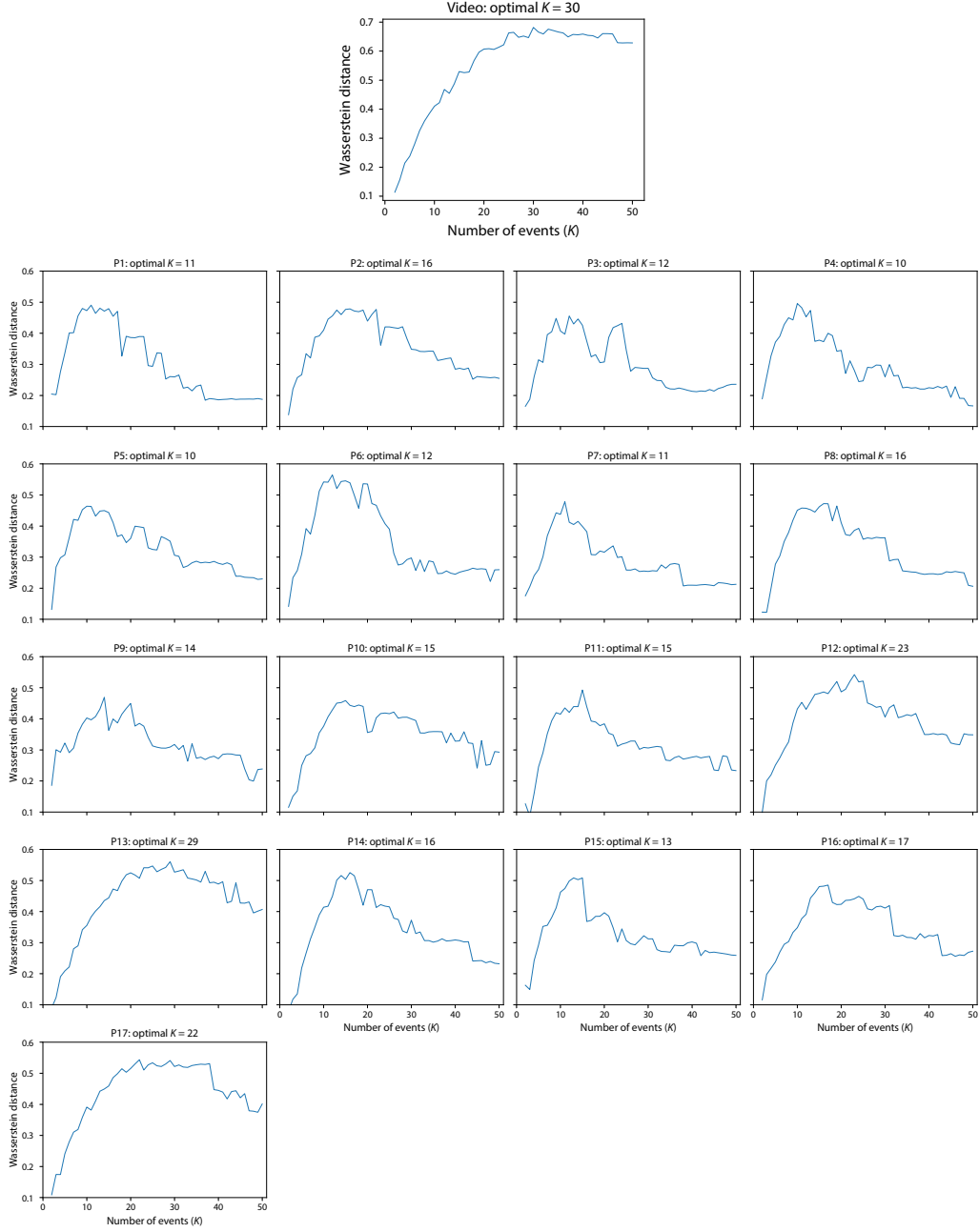


Figure S6: Video and recall trajectory K -optimization functions. We selected the optimal K -value for the video and each recall trajectory, using the formula described in *Methods*. This computation resulted in a curve for each trajectory, describing the Wasserstein distance between the distributions of within-event and across-event topic vector correlations, as a function of K .

Supplemental references

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- McInnes, L., Healy, J., and Melville, J. (2018). UMAP: Uniform manifold approximation and projection for dimension reduction. *arXiv*, 1802(03426).