**How to easily sample video comments from YouTube**

There are three different options:

1.  YouTube Data Tools
2.  Webometric Analyst
3.  Tuber for R

YouTube Data Tools are the easiest method to sample video comments. Emojis are retained in their original form. However, you need to provide each video id separately, and the tools takes more time than actually needed because it always creates additional files you do not need. You should prefer this method when you only want to sample a **small number of videos** and want to **code manually.**

Webometric Analyst is a more complicated method, but it saves time if you need to download a larger number of video comments (repeatedly). Emojis are retained in their original form. You should prefer this method when you want to sample a **larger number of videos or want to sample repeatedly**, want to **code manually,** and have a **Windows** installation. Warning: Webometrics Analyst can only sample the first five follow-up comments.

Tuber for R is the most complicated method. Emojis are converted to a machine readable form that needs to be decoded (and I don't know yet how to do this). You should prefer this method **independent from the number of videos** if you ever want to **code automatically**. Warning: Tuber for R can only sample the first five follow-up comments.

**Obtaining an authentication code**

If you want to use Webometric Analyst or tuber, you need an authentication code from YouTube. The code is generated as follows:

1.  Create a google account (in case you do not already have one).
2.  Login.
3.  Open this webpage and follow the steps in case you need a code for Webometric Analyst.
4.  If you need a code for tuber, follow the same steps until you are asked to create an API key. Create an OAuth Client-ID instead. Alternatively, use our instruction video.

**Using YouTube Data Tools**

1.  Open YouTube Data Tools in any web browser.
2.  Scroll down and launch the *Video Info and Comments* module.
3.  Input the Video ID from the YouTube video you want (e.g., aobkwf370Ek)
4.  Wait until the results files are displayed.
5.  Download the file ending with "[...]comments.tab".
6.  Rename the ending from ".tab" to ".txt".
7.  Open the file in a simple text editor (e.g., Notepad).
8.  Mark all the text (CTRL+A), copy it (CTRL+C), and paste it to Excel or SPSS (CTRL+V). Do not open the file directly in Excel or SPSS, or the emojis will be replaced by unreadable symbols.

## Using Webometric Analyst

1. Download Webometric Analyst.
2. Open the program.
3. In versions before 4.2, select the *Classic* interface (default).
4. Switch to the tab *YouTube*.
5. Insert your API Key (see above) in the yellow form field.
6. Open a simple text editor and create a text file (.txt) with all the video IDs you want. Separate the IDs with Returns. Do not put too many IDs in one file (especially if the videos have a larger amount of comments), or the download of the comments could take forever.
7. Click on the button *Get YouTube Comments for List of Video IDs*. It's in the lower middle of the program screen.
8. You will be asked for a text file containing the video IDs. Choose the file you created in step 6.
9. You will be asked for a text file in which the results will be saved. Choose a name or just use the default setting.
10. Open the text file in a simple text editor (e.g., Notepad).
11. Mark all the text (CTRL+A), copy it (CTRL+C), and paste it to Excel or SPSS (CTRL+V). Do not open the file directly in Excel or SPSS, or the emojis will be replaced by unreadable symbols.

## Using Tuber for R

1. Download and install RStudio.
2. Download our R-script and run it.