

Grandad's Story - Stan Still

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Blurb The story of my grandad, Stanley Still.

1. 30/09/1930 - Pre-fostering

2. ??/03/1932 - Fostered childhood

- Born
- Knows very little.

3. ??/06/1944 - Leaves School

- Leaves school on the Friday
- Starts work on the Monday at a bakery
- Mainly works on doing confectionaries
- The bakery was in Chippin Norton
- He used to cycle
- Made his bike himself by finding a frame and some wheels from down the pit
- The back wheel was bigger than the front
- When it snowed he would pick up the bike and cover it over his shoulder
- They were still rationed so they couldn't really make much, they used "telefat" which was really solid so they used to have to soften it in hot water.
- He used to be quite good at icing cakes
 - Used to cycle 5 miles every mile to Chippin Norton every morning
 - Had to be there at 7am
 - There was a big hill on the way so if it was snowing he'd have to pick the bike up and carry it
 - When he turned 18 he had to leave the bakery because he got called up for his national service.
- The woman who fostered him used to clean school
 - So on the way to work he had to stop at the school and make sure that the fire was working ok
 - Then he had to pump the water up into the tank, then it would pump around the school as central heating
- At this time Vic was in the merchant navy
 - Vic joined the merchant navy at 15
 - He was 18 months older than Grandad
 - Before he joined the merchant navy he went to work on a farm for a year.

- It was a mixed farm, used to have milking cows, and grew wheat, barley and oats.
- Most farms did very similar.
- You'd start with the barley, then the oats, then the wheat on a rotation
- It was all done manually, and a horse would pull a thing called a "binder" (harvest binder), which makes wheat sheafs.
- After the binder had been through the children follow the binder and stand up the wheat sheafs and balance them so they were stood up so that they'd dry.
- After he left the farm he used to work part time for a Russian who Kossac riding (acrobatic) riding
- Vic wanted to go off with him touring
- But his foster mother wouldn't let him go because he would be used as a slave.
- Vic went in the Merchant navy when he was 15
- He got married when he was 17
- They had three daughters, called: Valerie and then two others who live in Chicago.
- Vic's wife was called Marie.
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- Valeries is the one who he goes to visit in Oxford.
 - * The other two married two Americans who were stationed at an airbase near Oxford.
 - * They met them in Oxford.
 - * And then they married both of them and went back to America after the war.
 - * This was 18 years after the war.
 - * All three daughters were born in Kingham and then moved to Oxford.
 - * Valerie married an English bloke so she stayed.
- He joined the merchant navy when he was 15
- He was in there for two years.
- Then when he came out he had to go and do his national service.
- He then went back into the merchant navy for another year or so (post marriage)
- Marie wanted him to come out of the merchant navy because she had three daughters under 5.
- Because every time he came back from the navy, she gets pregnant.
- Then they move to Oxford because he got a job in a car factory.

- He then works in that car factory for the rest of his working life (30-65)
- At this point Grandad did not even know that he had an older brother.
 - He first met Ron when he was about 17.
 - Ron was 4 years older than Stan.
 - He was living in Guildford.
 - He knew the address somehow, presumably from when they were fostered.
 - He wrote a letter telling them that he was coming down
 - Then they met him off the train.
 - He doesn't know if his foster mum knew he had an older brother, but he doubts it.
 - But she was fine with him coming to meet them.
 - By this point Ron had got married and that was why he was living Guildford.
 - Grandad's dad was also living in Guildford.
 - But his dad didn't come to visit.
 - Grandad never met his dad.
 - * Grandad assumes that Ron grew up in East London, but he didn't sound like a cockney.
 - * Then he moves to Guildford with his dad at some point.
 - * Grandad doesn't really know what he did when left school.
 - * He was in the RAF during the war and he was an Airgunner.
 - * After the war he worked somewhere to do with the testing of concord.
 - * (Concord was being built at Bristol, then it moved to Fairford for testing) This was near Grandad so this is the bit he knows about.
- The first that he really knew about his dad was when he was in the RAF.
 - So when he was on his 48 hours off of leave.
 - And so one day when he was visiting her aunty his Dad rang the house phone.
 - So his dad said that he'd like to meet up.
 - When he hangs up his aunty says that "you don't want anything to do with him"
 - So when he gets back to camp he writes a letter to his dad saying that he doesn't see the point in meeting up, because he's a stranger, and when Grandad needed him he wasn't there, so he didn't want to meet him.
- He had an aunty in Sreatham
 - Grandad said "she was a gay old bird".
 - She used to be a dancer on the stage.
 - She was a chorus girl or something like that.
 - And she lived with this bloke, basically as a mistress.
 - She was kind of like his kept woman.
 - This guy was quite well off, but he wouldn't marry her.
 - But his two sons made sure that he never married her.
 - She used to drink a lot.
 - Whenever Grandad went down the first thing they'd do was go straight to the pub.
 - Her name was Ada, and everyone knew here in the pub so she drank a lot.
 - In the end she ended up in a mental home.
 - After Grandad was married to Whinney, police came and knocked on the door one night and said: "Do you know an Ada Still" and he said "Yes" and they said she's been taken into a hospital in Balham because she had tried to take an overdose.
 - Then later they communicated to Grandad that she'd been taken to a mental hospital down in Surrey somewhere.
 - So Grandad and Whinney went and saw in the place in Surrey.
 - She did not seem alright at all, she seemed fully out of her mind.
 - She really wanted matches. Presumably to burn either herself or the home.
 - The only way that they could get away from her was by telling her that they were going out to get some matches.
- Grandad also had an uncle called Arthur
 - Arthur lived in New York
 - He worked in the hotel business.
 - When he retired he came over to see Grandad and Whinney.
 - They were living in rooms (1952/53) in Cirencester.
 - Vic was living in Kingham.
 - Grandad used to have a moterbike, and you took Arthur to Kingham to introduce him to Vic.

4. Work pre national service

5. 30/09/1948 - National service

- He got called up when he turned 18, because everyone had to do their national service.
- The first 8 weeks you go to a camp and they give you a uniform
- You spend the first 8 weeks doing "square bashing" (marching/drill) and learning to shoot a rifle
- After 8 weeks they got sent to a new camp, (Insworth in Gloucester)
- Because he'd been a baker he got sent to the catering one (quatermaster)
- When he finished the 8 week cookery course he got posted at Watton in Norwich
- Watton was a general camp, a flying station.
- There three messes, the airman's mess, the sergeant's mess and the officer's mess.
- Everyone started in the airman's mess, then if you were and good and lucky then you could get pulled up into the officer's mess.
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- Went to a training camp somewhere
 - One night he was the duty cook
 - Thank meant that he had to be there until about 8pm at night.
 - He put meat in for about 400 men
 - And then he forgot, he should have taken it out when he went off duty at 10pm.
 - There was some guy who looked after the boilers, and he came over to Grandad's quaters.
 - This guy came over and shook him, Grandad was asleep.
 - asks if Grandad is the duty cook,
 - Grandad say's he is
 - He says you left it in
 - And when you went and checked it was about a quater of the size it should be and very burnt.
 - So he didn't sleep much that night.
 - So Stan went and had a worked in a guy who he knew in the stores.
 - He gave him two joints of the officers meat.
- This was all at about 8am in the morning.
- So Stan slipped them into the oven.
- So the sergeant asked him why he was cooking stuff at 8am.
- And Stan lies and says that he left two of them in the stores by mistake.
- So he Stan had to slice the meat really thin
- He said that the beef was that thin that he was worried it might dissolve in the gravy.
- But he got away with it
- On a Saturday night they used to go from Watton to Norwich
 - Norwich used to put on a dance at Norwich town hall.
 - One night Stan went and he met this girl, and he was dancing with this girl.
 - In those days you were always expected to walk a girl home.
 - But the girl about 2 miles away from the hall
 - The lorry used to leave between 10pm and 10:15 to take them back to camp.
 - By the time he got back to Norwich Town hall the lorry had gone.
 - So then he knew that the only way he could get back to camp was by walking.
 - He'd been walking for he doesn't know how many miles he'd been walking for, but it was about 20 miles from Norwich to Watton camp.
 - So after a while, he saw this horse.
 - He tried to catch it, he was going to try and run it back to camp.
 - But every time he got it to near a wall so that he could jump on, but every time he tried it would run away.
 - He started to walk again, but then luckily some guy in car came along, and asked where he was going, then he gave him a lift to within about a mile of the camp.
 - Then he walked back from there.
 - He made it back just in time.
 - He made it back just in time for 6:30am.
- He made friends with people because you're all sleeping in the same place basically on top of each other.
- Also you're working the same shifts so you get to know each other.

- So because they were good friends they'd all socialise together and they'd go out drinking together if they had enough money.
- Beer was only about 4pence or 6pence in those days.
- He didn't stay in touch with any of them afterwards.
- The only time he saw a couple of them was when he had to do H-reserve.
- You had to go back to some random camp for two weeks every year.
- He only had to go one year because he was working at the agricultural college in Cirencester and the bursar (head of the college) managed to get him out of it every year but one.
- Stan had to go to a place just outside Southampton.
- Stan had to go but head
- When you finished your national service, you got to keep your kit, so he hadn't seen it since he was in it.
- It properly smelled.
- One guy he met had used his trousers for working as a fireman on the railway, so his trousers were filthy.
- When he got to the camp in Southampton, they couldn't believe it. The people at the camp hadn't heard anything about them so they didn't know they were coming.
- The first thing they did was take them to the stores and give them all new uniforms.
- When he finished with the RAF, he went back to the abber in Chipping Norton.
- At that time they were making it more mechanised.
- So jobs were disappearing, but Grandad was doing all the puff pastry and icing cakes, and the laybrough who was greasing tins was getting more money than Stan.
- So Stan went to the office and said that this is taking the piss.
- And they said that we can't pay you a man's wage because you're not 21 yet.
- So he said you can keep the job.
- So he went and got a job down at Kingham Hall school.
- He got a job as an under-chef/assistant-chef.

- With milk
- Without milk

- He was working at a flying base
- He used to have to put the food in for the pilots the night before at about midnight
 - He put in the
 - Without milk
- But one day he did it and

6. Post national service

- Come out of the RAF and went back to the bakery in Chipping Norton
 - The people who were greasing tins were getting paid more than he was
 - He said this taking the piss
 - And they said that they couldn't pay him a man's wage so he said they could keep their job
- Was working as an assistant chef at Kingham Hall School
- He was there for about 18 months
- It was ok.
- He was having to live with his sister because the woman who brought him up had married again and her new husband didn't want Stan around.
- So one of the big attractions of this job was that it had free accommodation.
- His sister was still living in Kingham, and she lived there all her life.
- His sister was married with a young baby.
- It wasn't very convenient living with his sister because they only had a small cottage with one bedroom and one up in the loft.
- So he goes to this boarding school near Birkhamstead
- So you went up for interview, and then he got the job.
- He was living in accommodation at the school.
- He was friendly with the rest of the staff.
- Whinney was one of about 6 waitresses.
- There were people who peeled potatoes, (Kitchen porters), a veg cook, a woman who did all the deserts.

- It was quite a big school. There were boys and girls, they were separated, boys on one side of the school, girls on the other.
- He met Nana there
 - She was a waitress in the dining room, giving the children food at each meal time.
 - After a while Stan asked Nana if she'd like to go to the pictures.
 - So they went to the cinema.
 - So most weekends they went to the cinema
 - Sometimes they got a meal or something.
- There weren't that many people worth mentioning.
- You were just one of a crowd, everyone had their own job.
 - He met Nana there
 - Learned more about cooking there
 - There was this women there who he couldn't get on with
 - He used to get this cooking journal, and he saw an advert for being a chef at the royal agricultural college in Cirencester.
 - He got the job so he ended up there
- One day he nearly burnt the place down
 - They used to cook for the children and all the teachers separately
 - He was cooking chips
 - He'd just put the chips in so he went up for a shower
 - He was over the other side in the same block of accommodation as the girls
 - The local guy who did the boilers saw the flames in the glass dome
 - Grandad comes back and the boiler man has managed to put it out.
 - Grandad said that the guy looked like he'd sprayed the fire extinguished basically everywhere but the fire, but he had got it under control
 - If that guy hadn't seen then the school would probably have burnt down
 - Also Grandad had handed in his notice so he was worried that he could end up doing time because they might think he'd done it deliberately
- Moving on
 - There was this women there who he couldn't get on with
 - She was a housekeeper, she was in charge of all the domestic women, cleaners and stuff like that.
 - She wasn't his boss, but she thought she could do anything she liked.
 - She moved him to a room that he didn't like which was right on top of the swimming pool
 - So all the noise and smell came up into the room
 - So Grandad told her what she could do with his room
 - So the next thing he knows the headmaster has sent off him.
 - So the moment he goes in he doesn't give the HM a chance to say anything
 - He says that he's breaking the terms of his contract and that in there it says he should have appropriate accommodation, and this isn't.
 - He said that she could shove her room where the monkey sticks his nuts.
 - He was always looking for jobs.
 - He used to get this cooking journal, and he saw an advert for being a chef at the royal agricultural college in Cirencester.
 - He got the job so he ended up there.
 - By the time this fight happened he'd already written to the other place, been for an interview and got the job in Cirencester.
 - This was why you were particularly worried they'd think it was deliberate.
- So Grandad moves to Cirencester for the job at the RAC.
 - The job provided accommodation.
 - The manager was a really nice guy
 - When Stan went there he told the boss that he was courting Nana in Birkhamstead.
 - So the boss said that every month he could have the Friday off and have a long weekend to go and see Nana in Birkhamstead.
 - It's over 100 miles between the two.
 - So Stan had to get a train from Ciren to London, a train from London to Watford and then a bus from Watford to Birkhamstead.
 - Stan worked at the RAC until he got married and then after that.

- So Stan Nana if she wanted to get married and she agreed.
- At that point she was still working in Birkhamstead.
- They fixed a date for the wedding and Stan went up to see her Dad to ask him if it was alright.
- Stan says that she was one of 5 sisters and he was probably glad to get rid of here (joke).
- This was the first time he'd met her dad.
- They went up for a long weekend to stay with her parents and that was when he had to ask him.
- He most of her family at that point. He met all her other sisters because they all lived in Seaham anyway.
- They got married in Seaham.
- Stan asked her where she wanted to live, Birkhamstead, Seaham or Cirencester, and she said she wanted to come to Cirencester, so they did.
- They got married in a catholic church because Nana was a catholic.
- They went to blackpool for their honey moon.
- They had blackpool pier
- They had a big dance in a big ball room. (Blackpool tower ball room)
- They would go dancing and go on the funfair, and spend time on the beach.
- Their honeymoon was 1 week.
- They couldn't afford any more.
- When they decided to get married and they were going to move to Cirencester.
- They couldn't find any houses because they couldn't afford one and also you needed to be on the waiting list for about 2 years before you got one (council house).
- They were renting a room out from an old lady.
- They had the use of the front room, bedroom and sharing the kitchen.
- This was in Cirencester, about 1 mile away from work.
- Nana wasn't allowed to live at the place he'd been living before (they had to find new digs)
- Grandad found this new place (the old lady) in the news paper.
- So he found his first two jobs and his first house in the news paper.

- You used to have all the deaths, marriages etc and rooms in the local paper.
- They live in that house for about 2 years.
- He's still working at the RAC that whole time.
- After that time they managed to rent a small cottage
 - It was a small cottage
 - It was 1 down and 2 up.
 - A living downstairs with a kitchen
 - Then there were two bedrooms upstairs, one bedroom and one attic.
 - The attic was above the bedroom (3 storied)
 - They used the attics as a spare room in case anyone came to stay. (eg her sisters)
 - They lived in that cottage for about two years
- Grandad was working on the busses at this point
 - At this point Grandad was working on the busses down in Cirencester as a conductor
 - He did that for about 18 months
 - He left the RAC because he got fed up of working weekends when Nana was off.
 - So that meant that he didn't have any time off with Nana.
 - They used to open it up in the summer for courses so he worked all year round.
 -
- When they were living in the cottage the lady next door's dad had a removals business, they hauled coal and also furniture.
- One night he'd come round and they were talking, and Nana's family had wanted her to move back up north because they didn't like her being so far away.
- The guy said "Are you serious about going up the north, because I've got a guy who wants to move up to newcastle and doesn't have much stuff, so if you had your stuff as well it would make it worth while"
- When they were living in the cottage Nana worked as a waitress in a restaurant.
- While they were living in that cottage Nana had Paul (insert date here)
- So they talked it over that night (moving)

- Grandad thought it would be better because all of Nana's three sisters and family (big Irish) lived up the north and so it would be better for Paul because he'd have cousins and family to grow up around.
- They decided all in that one night.
- So then they moved up two or three weeks after.
-

7. Living up the north (Paul is 18 months)

- So they moved up there
- But Grandad couldn't get a job down the mines
- Nana's dad had kept saying, come up here, I'll get you a good job down the mines.
- Grandad never went down a mine because he couldn't get a job.
- They didn't want a southerner down the pit
- Those jobs were passed down father to son,
- In retrospect was pleased that he didn't go down the mines because of the conditions that they worked in and breathing in all the dust and the health conditions
- Also he avoided the carnage of Thatcher
- Jobs were hard to come-by because everyone worked down the pit
- So you saw an advert in the paper about going door to door selling vacuum cleaners.
- And you thought you'd give it a go because he had nothing else
- They were told to go in and start hoovering the carpet.
- And you'd hoover one section, then you'd dump the dirt on the carpet so that they could see the dirt and see why they needed a new Hoover.
- And they also were supposed to sell this thing that sprayed water which you could use for patting and cleaning your carpet and stuff.
- So in one ladies house, Grandad spent about 90 mins in there, and hoovered all the down stairs carpet, and then she said she didn't want it.
- He kept going because it was showing how good it was.
- But then she said she didn't want it, so he turned the Hoover round and used the blowing end to blow the dirt all over her.
- So she said "you'd blown dirt all over me", and he said, "Well it's your dirt Mrs" and then scarpered.
- Grandad was a Hoover salesman for about 9 months.
- He was that fed up after 9 months (about when the lady incident happened) that he went back to the centre and said you can keep your job.
- He then went and got a job on the busses up the north
- It was alright, but he wasn't happy doing it, he'd already left the busses down in Cirencester because he was fed up with it, but it was the only job he could find, so he just had to put up with it.
- When people would get on they'd tell him where they were going, and he was supposed to ring the bell when they got to that stop, but he couldn't remember all the stops, so they'd go mad if he didn't ring it.
- Also people had really strong Geordie accents so he couldn't understand what they were saying, "It was like working in a foreign country"
- When Grandad worked on the busses, when they came in, if you were on the night shift then you'd all go back to depot and then you'd have to wait for all the other busses to come in to give you a lift home.
- So they'd be waiting for an hour or so so they'd play cards.
- One night Grandad went in and they were playing 3 card brag.
- Every round everyone puts in a six pence or whatever you were playing for.
- And so at the start there were lots of people 5/6
- Then as you're playing if people are doing badly they "pack their hand", drop out.
- Grandad was one of the last two playing, so he got to the end and this guy kept bragging, but Grandad had three threes, which was the highest hand that you could have in brag.
- So they got to the end, the guys said "I'll see you then" and he had a Jack, Queen, King, which was a good hand.

- And the guy got annoyed because he was saying that "Grandad should have declared that he'd got that hand at the start, but Grandad said, no one told me any rules when I sat down so I didn't know, and he took the money"
- At the time they were living with Nana's mum and dad.
- Nana's dad used to drink a lot, he would drink a lot in the morning
- Because he'd had four daughters they'd always have to do what he said. Because he'd never had a son no-one ever challenged him.
- One night Grandad came in from work.
- And her dad would come in from work and pull a drink
- When he was drunk was the time he'd talk
- Whenever he came in his wife always had to make him dinner.
- So he came in drunk and his wife made him food as per. And then he said to Grandad "Come up and get somethign to eat" and Grandad said, "I'm alright, I've already eaten", and then one thing led to another and he started saying "Do you think you're a better man than me", and Grandad said "No I don't think I'm a better man than you, but I'm as good until you show me different". Then they nearly came to blows, and his wife was crying and Nana was upset but it all blew over.
- But from then Grandad knew that he didn't want to live there because feel comfortable.
- And every weekend when he was drunk you'd have to sit there and listen to him, you'd think from what he said that "Him and the yanks won the war"
- Nana's dad did fight in the war, but he wasn't in a fighting unit, he was in the pioneering corps because he only had one eye.
- He lost his other eye because in his younger days he went to work in Canada and that's where he lost his eye.
- He was born and bred in Seaham
- He married Nana's mum when he came back
- When grandad wasn't working he'd go to the working men's club during the week. There were four or five working men's clubs for miners in Seaham harbour, he used to go out with the other son in laws.

- At this point all of Nana's sisters were married, apart from Rose.
- He normally went out with the other son in laws.
- Every Saturday they used to have dances at one of the working men's clubs, so they would all go down.
- Women were only allowed upstairs, they weren't allowed in the bars. they were only allowed in the "Lounge".
- It sounds weird to me now, and it seemed weird to Grandad then. Because women were allowed in pubs in the south, but they weren't allowed in the North.
- The reason women weren't allowed in the bar was that it meant men didn't have to mind their language and so they could eff and blind if they wanted to.
- Going up the north was really like being in a different country.
- But when they moved up there Rose was only about 3.
- Rose is only slightly older than Paul.
- It wasn't long after that Grandad went down the north.

8. Pre car factory

9. Car factory

10. Paul's born

11. Michelle's born

12. Car factory

Program	Asymptotic Complexity	% of Execution Time
<i>frame_to_object_stream</i>	$\mathcal{O}(f * e * \log e)$	95.18
<i>frame_to_spikes</i>	$\mathcal{O}(f * (h * w + c * \log c))$	2.33
<i>spikes_to_frame</i>	$\mathcal{O}(f)$	0.99
<i>frame_insert_objects</i>	$\mathcal{O}(f * e_{pf} * w_p * h_p * scale^2)$	0.98
<i>frame_subsample</i>	$\mathcal{O}(f * h * w)$	0.52
<i>object_stream_stretch</i>	$\mathcal{O}(f * e_{pf} * o)$	0.00
<i>frame_highlight_objects</i>	$\mathcal{O}(f * e_{pf} * scale)$	*
<i>generate_object_stream</i>	$\mathcal{O}(f)$	*

Table 1: The complexities of the original code. Definitions:

f = number of frames

c = number of candidate spikes

$h * w = 720 * 1280 = 9.2e6$ pixels (See Section ??)

e = number of potential events during classification

e_{pf} = number of events per frame

o = oversampling factor

w_p, h_p = Width and height of the pattern

*Steps run as part of the initialisation/visualisation, not considered part of the critical application.

13.

13.1. Data Flows and Dependencies

The flow of data and its dependencies throughout the application is shown in Figure 1. In the ideal case of maximum pipelining efficiency, each process block would continuously output data. The basic implementation of the application in *standard_flow.sh* runs each step in serial and outputs the result to a file before continuing, thus there is overhead in writing to disk and a complete lack of pipelining.

13.2. Complexity Analysis & Bottlenecks

The original complexities of the programs called from *standard_flow.sh* are shown in Table 1. The majority of the total execution time is spent executing *frame_to_object_stream* and within this program, the sorting of the events (of complexity $e \log e$) dominates.

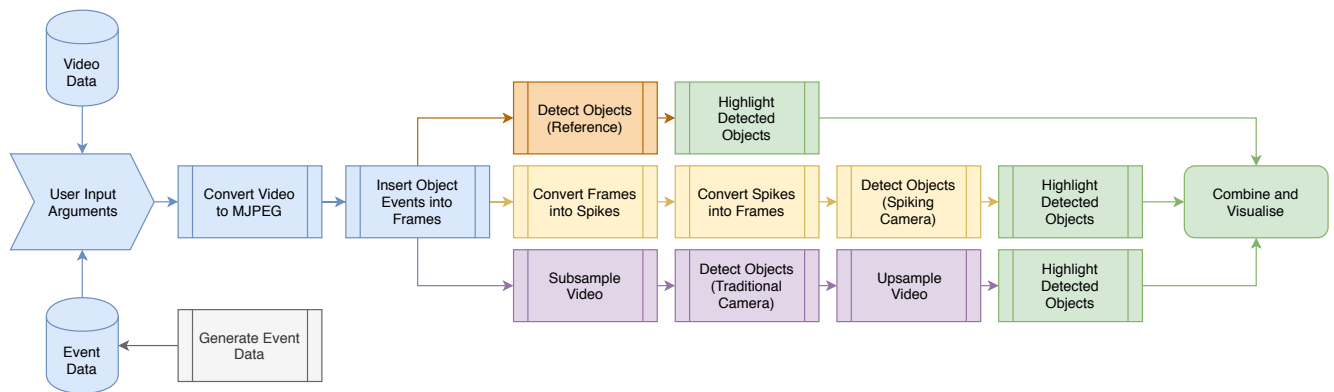


Figure 1: A representation of the complete program flow and the data dependencies.