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# Attentive Captioning without Attention

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Kate Saenko



# Problem: Captioning images or video

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Image Description

Input image



Output: A close up of a hot dog on a bun.

Video Description

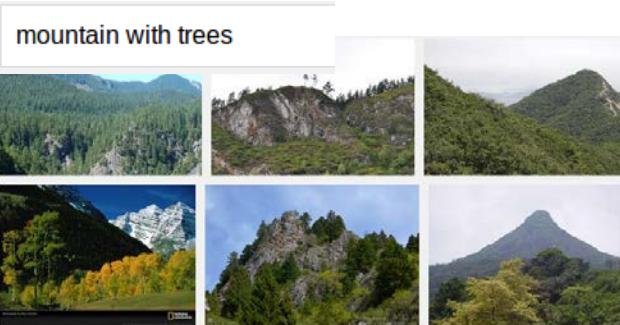
Input video



Output: A woman shredding chicken in a kitchen

# Applications

Image and video retrieval by content.



Human Robot Interaction

Video description service.



Children are wearing green shirts. They are dancing as they sing the carol.



Video surveillance

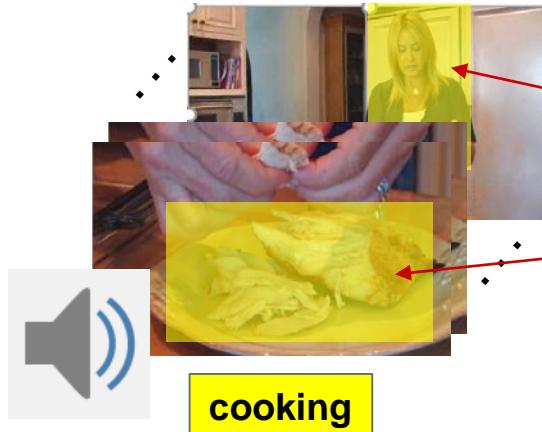
# Today

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ICCV15 – end-to-end video captioning

ACM MM16 – multimodal video captioning

CVPR17 – caption-guided video saliency



A **woman** shredding **chicken** in a kitchen

# Image Captioning, B.D. (before deep learning)

Language: Increasingly focused on **grounding** meaning in perception.

Vision: Exploit linguistic ontologies to “**tell a story**” from images.

[Farhadi et. al. ECCV’10]



(animal, stand, ground)

[Kulkarni et. al. CVPR’11]



There are one cow and one sky.  
The golden cow is by the blue sky.

Many early works on Image Description  
Farhadi et. al. ECCV’10, Kulkarni et. al.  
CVPR’11, Mitchell et. al. EACL’12,  
Kuznetsova et. al. ACL’12 & ACL’13

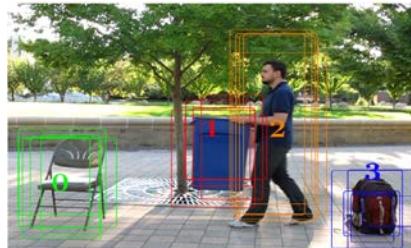
Identify objects and attributes, and combine  
with linguistic knowledge to “tell a story”.

Dramatic increase in interest 2015  
(8 papers in CVPR’15)

# Video Captioning, B.D. (before deep learning)



[Krishnamurthy, et al. AAAI'13]



[Yu and Siskind, ACL'13]



[Rohrbach et. al. ICCV'13]

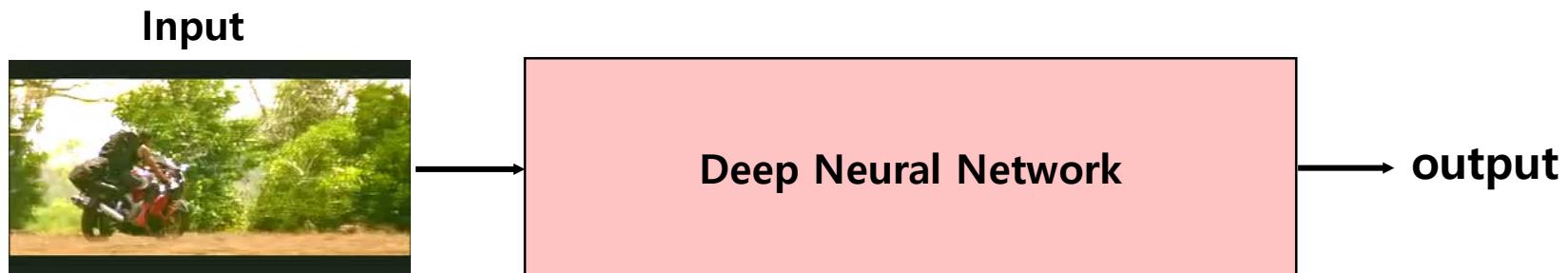
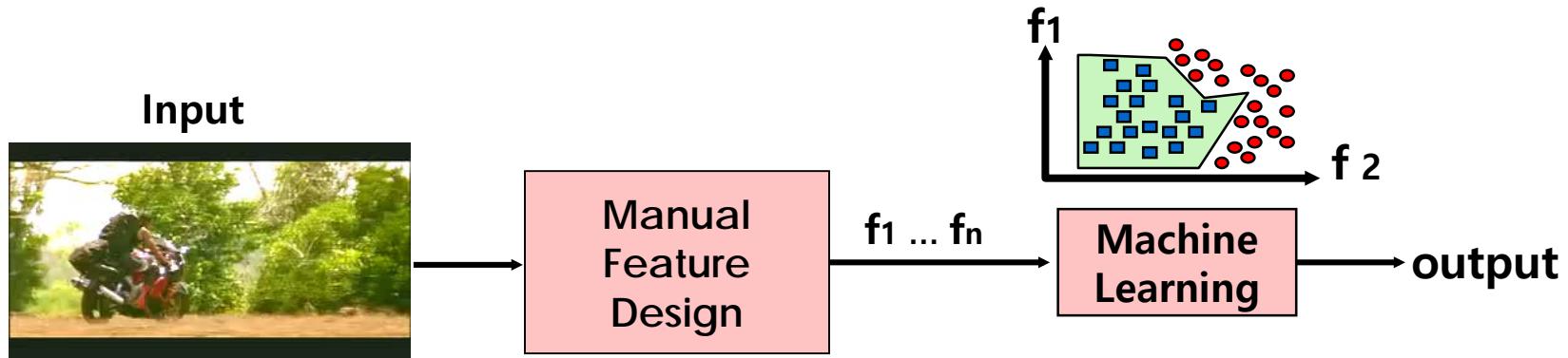
- Extract object and action descriptors.
- Learn object, action, scene classifiers.
- Use language to bias visual interpretation.
- Estimate most likely agents and actions.
- Template to generate sentence.

Others: Guadarrama ICCV'13, Thomason COLING'14

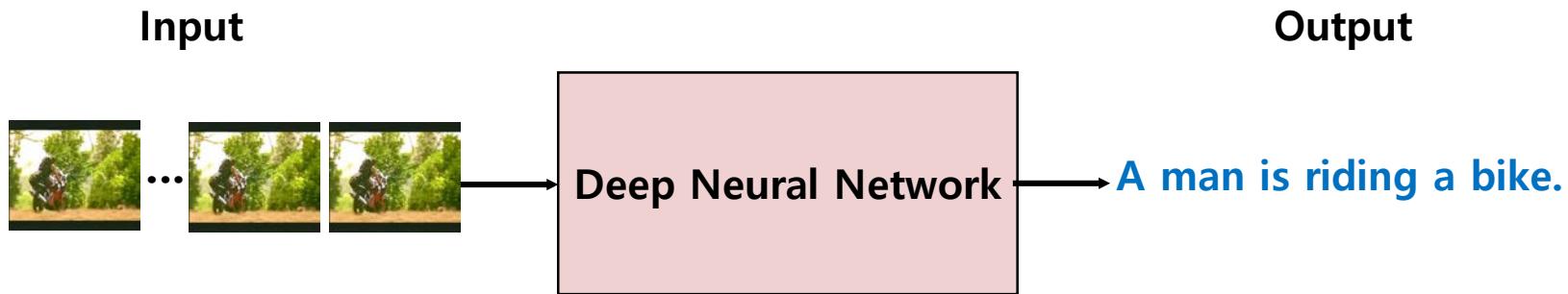
## Limitations:

- Narrow Domains
- Small Grammars
- Template based sentences
- Several features and classifiers

# Deep Learning Revolution



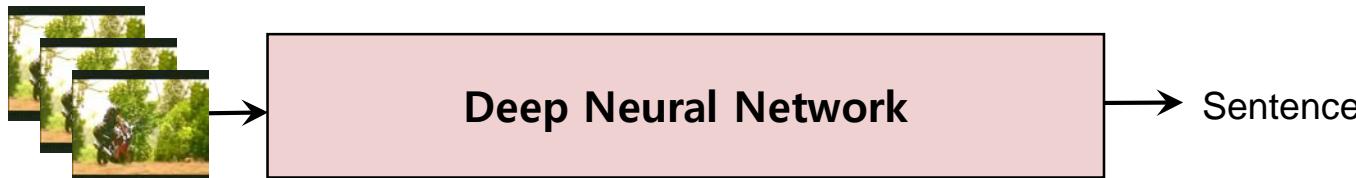
# Video description: Sequence-to-sequence problem



# Deep End-to-End Neural Models based on Recurrent Nets



[Donahue et al. CVPR'15]  
(our work)  
[Vinyals et al. CVPR'15]



[Venugopalan et. al.  
NAACL'15]  
[Venugopalan et. al.  
ICCV'15] (our work)

# Today

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ICCV15 – end-to-end video captioning

ACM MM16 – multimodal video captioning

CVPR17 – caption-guided video saliency

# End-to-End Neural Video Description



Subhashini  
Venugopalan  
UT Austin



Jeff  
Donahue  
UC Berkeley



Marcus  
Rohrbach  
UC Berkeley



Raymond  
Mooney  
UT Austin



Trevor  
Darrell  
UC Berkeley

# [Background] Recurrent Neural Networks

Successful in translation, speech.

RNNs can map an input to an output sequence.

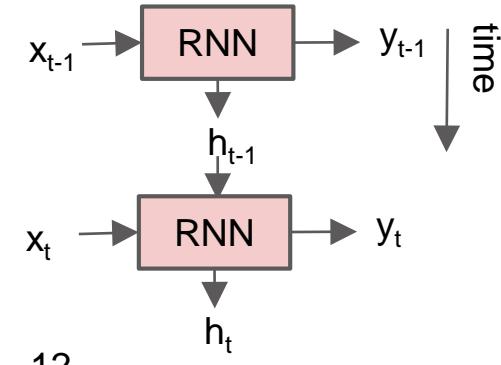
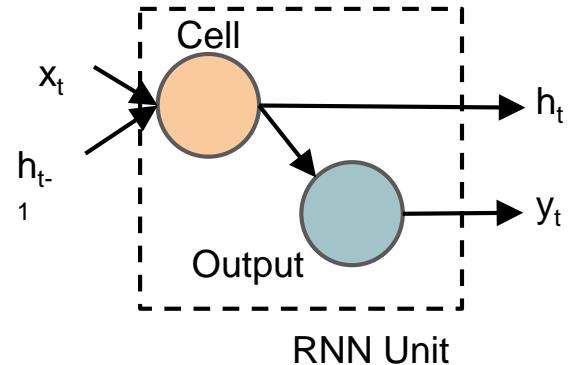
$$\Pr(\text{out } y_t \mid \text{input}, \text{out } y_0 \dots y_{t-1})$$

Insight: Each time step has a layer with the same weights.

Problems:

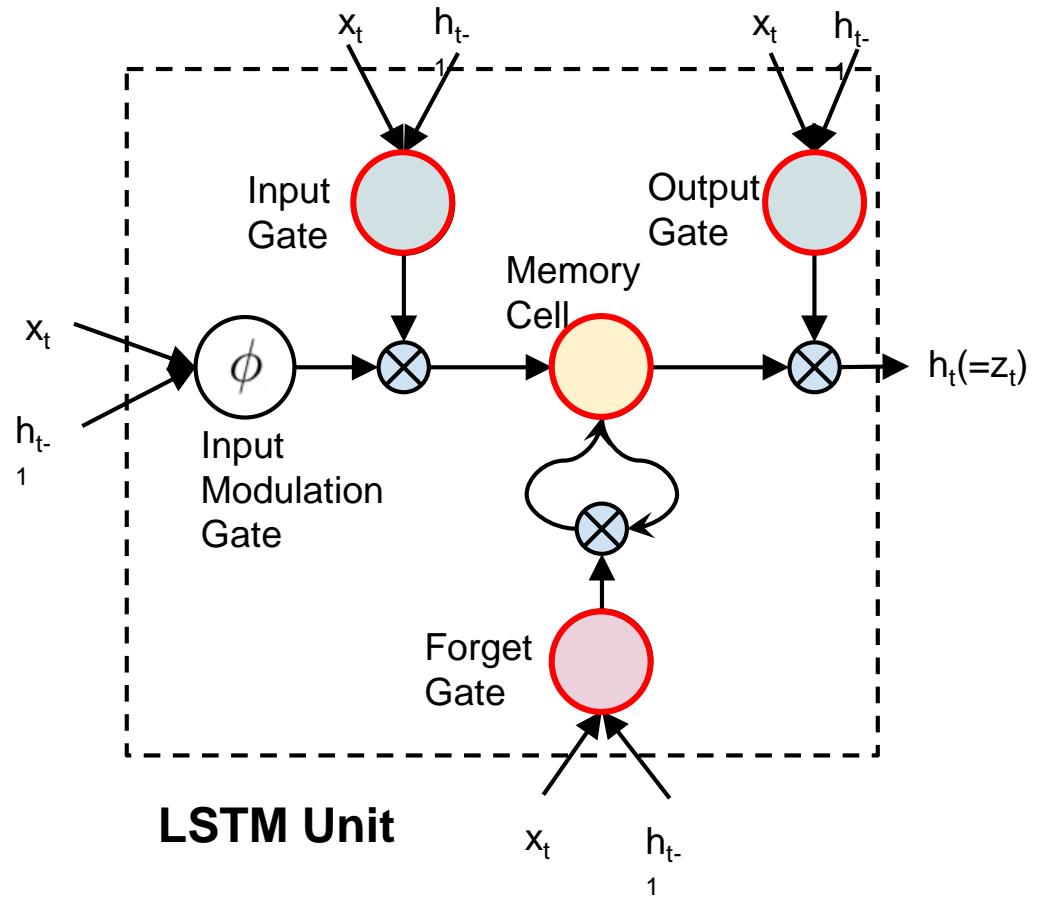
1. Hard to capture long term dependencies
2. Vanishing gradients (shrink through many layers)

Solution: Long Short Term Memory (LSTM) unit



# [Background] LSTM

Hochreiter and Schmidhuber '97  
Graves '13



$$i_t = \sigma(W_{xi}x_t + W_{hi}h_{t-1})$$

$$f_t = \sigma(W_{xf}x_t + W_{hf}h_{t-1})$$

$$c_t = f_t \odot c_{t-1} + i_t \odot \phi(W_{xc}x_t + W_{hc}h_{t-1})$$

$$o_t = \sigma(W_{xo}x_t + W_{ho}h_{t-1})$$

$$h_t = o_t \odot \phi(c_t)$$

# [Background] LSTM Sequence decoders

Functions are differentiable.

Full gradient is computed by backpropagating through time.

Weights updated using Stochastic Gradient Descent.

Matches state-of-the-art on:

Speech Recognition

[Graves & Jaitly ICML'14]

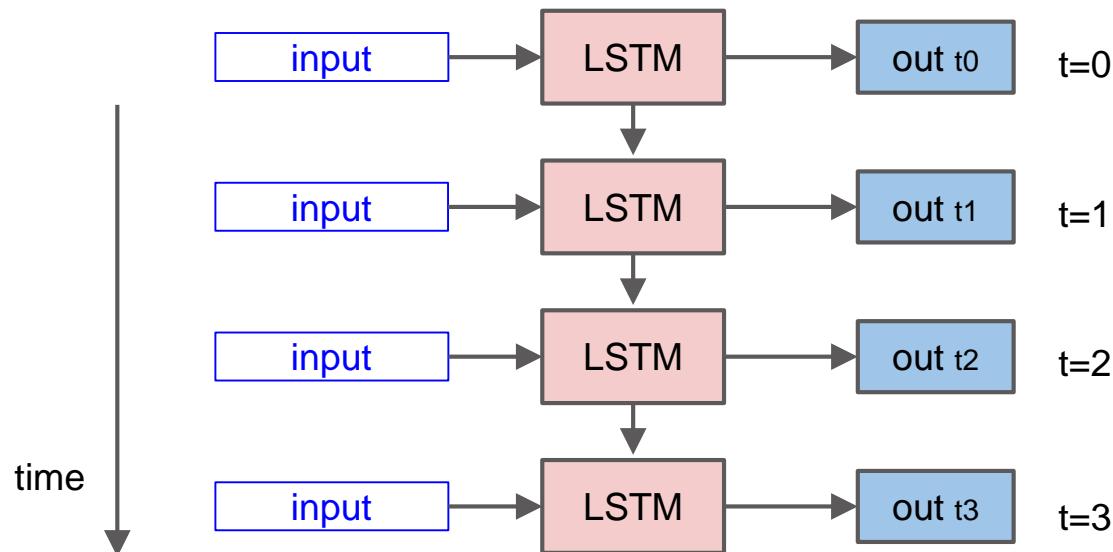
Machine Translation (Eng-Fr)

[Sutskever et al. NIPS'14]

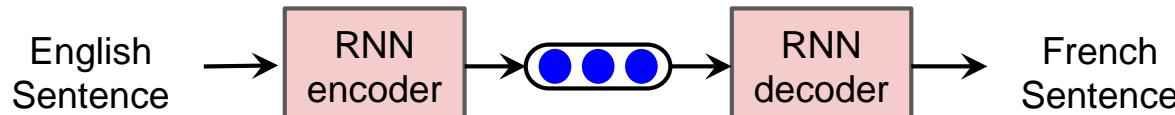
Image-Description

[Donahue et al. CVPR'15]

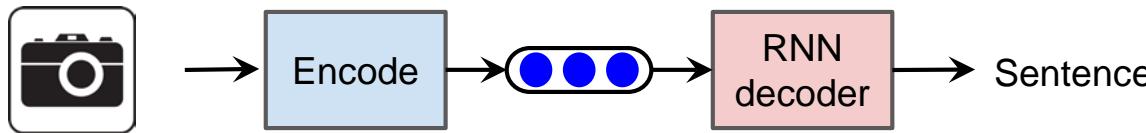
[Vinyals et al. CVPR'15]



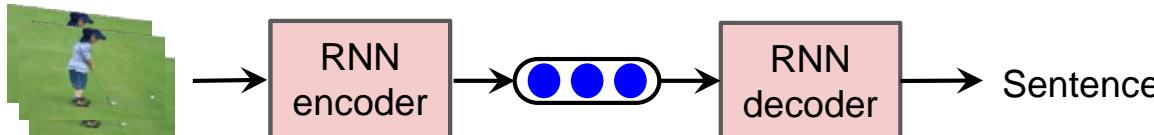
# Key Insight: Encode the video into hidden state vector and “decode” it to a sentence



[Sutskever et al. NIPS'14]



[Donahue et al. CVPR'15]  
[Vinyals et al. CVPR'15]

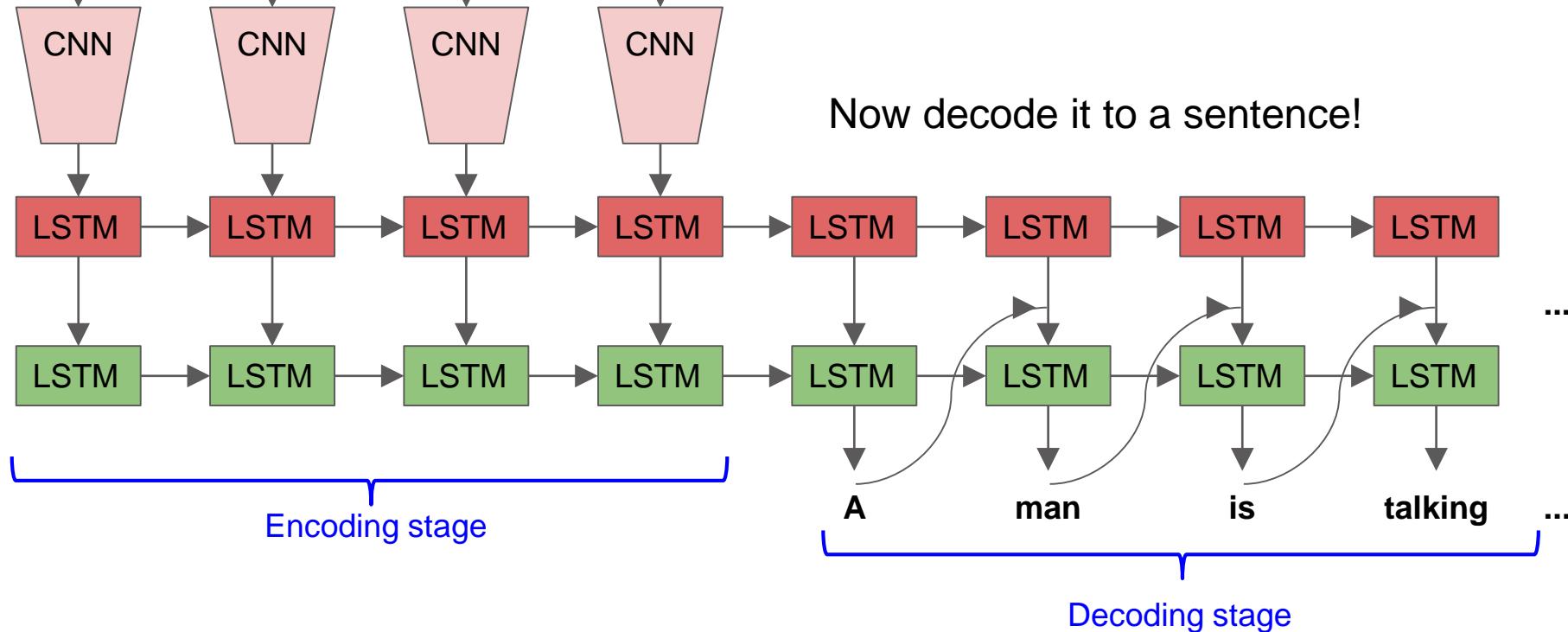


[Venugopalan et. al.  
NAACL'15]  
[Venugopalan et. al.  
ICCV'15] (our work)

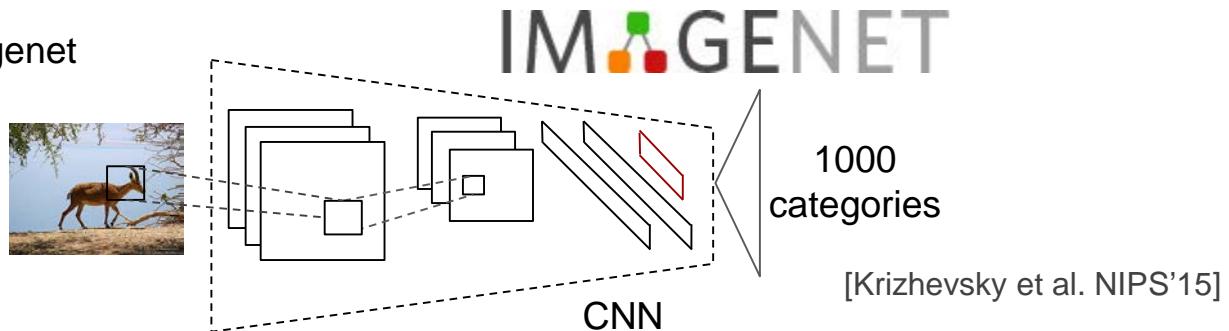


# S2VT: Sequence to Sequence Video to Text

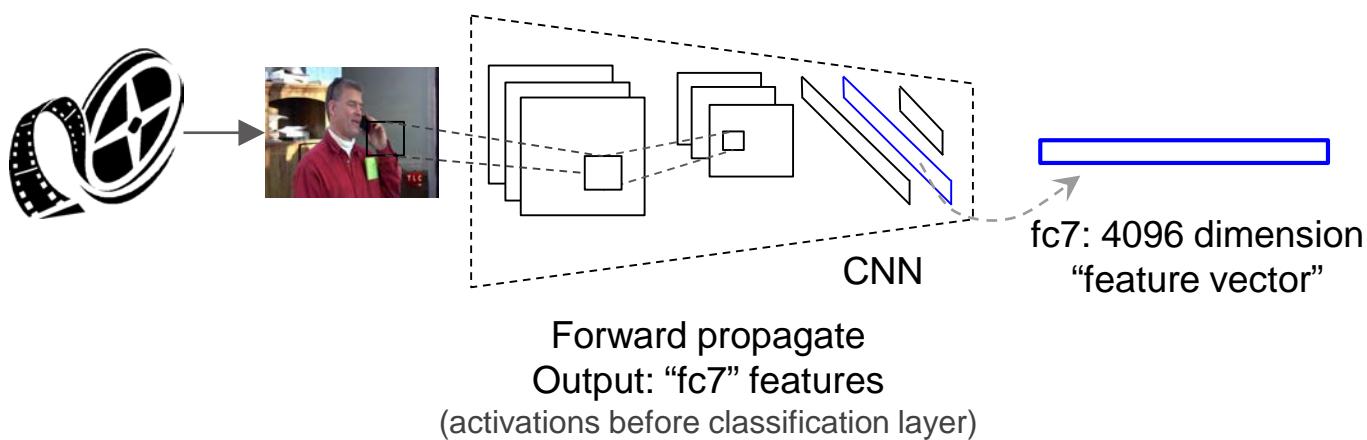
Now decode it to a sentence!



1. Train on Imagenet

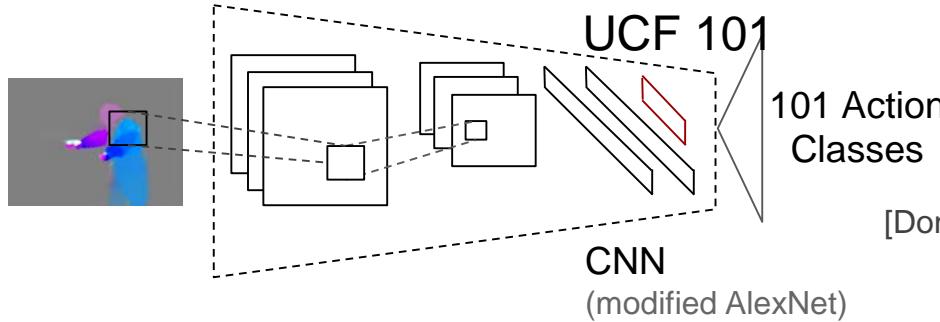


2. Take activations from layer before classification



# Frames: RGB

1. Train CNN on Activity classes

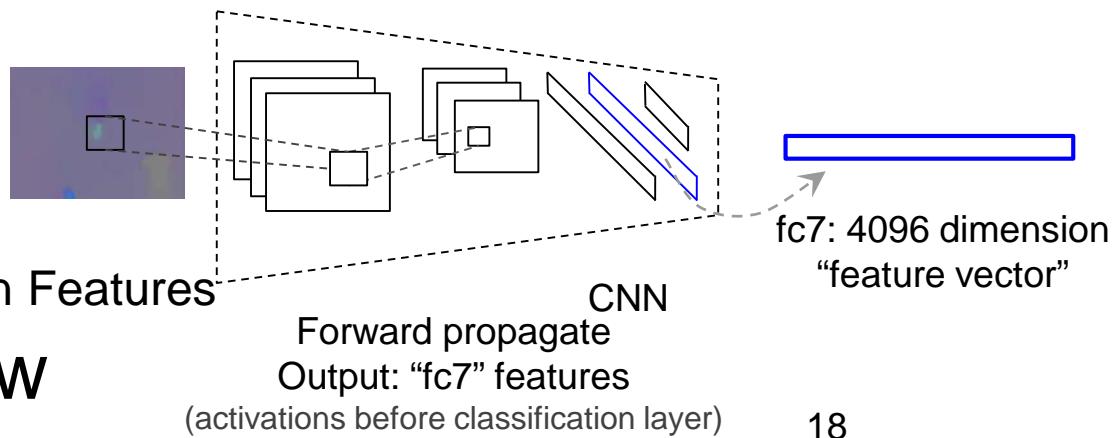


2. Use optical flow to extract flow images.



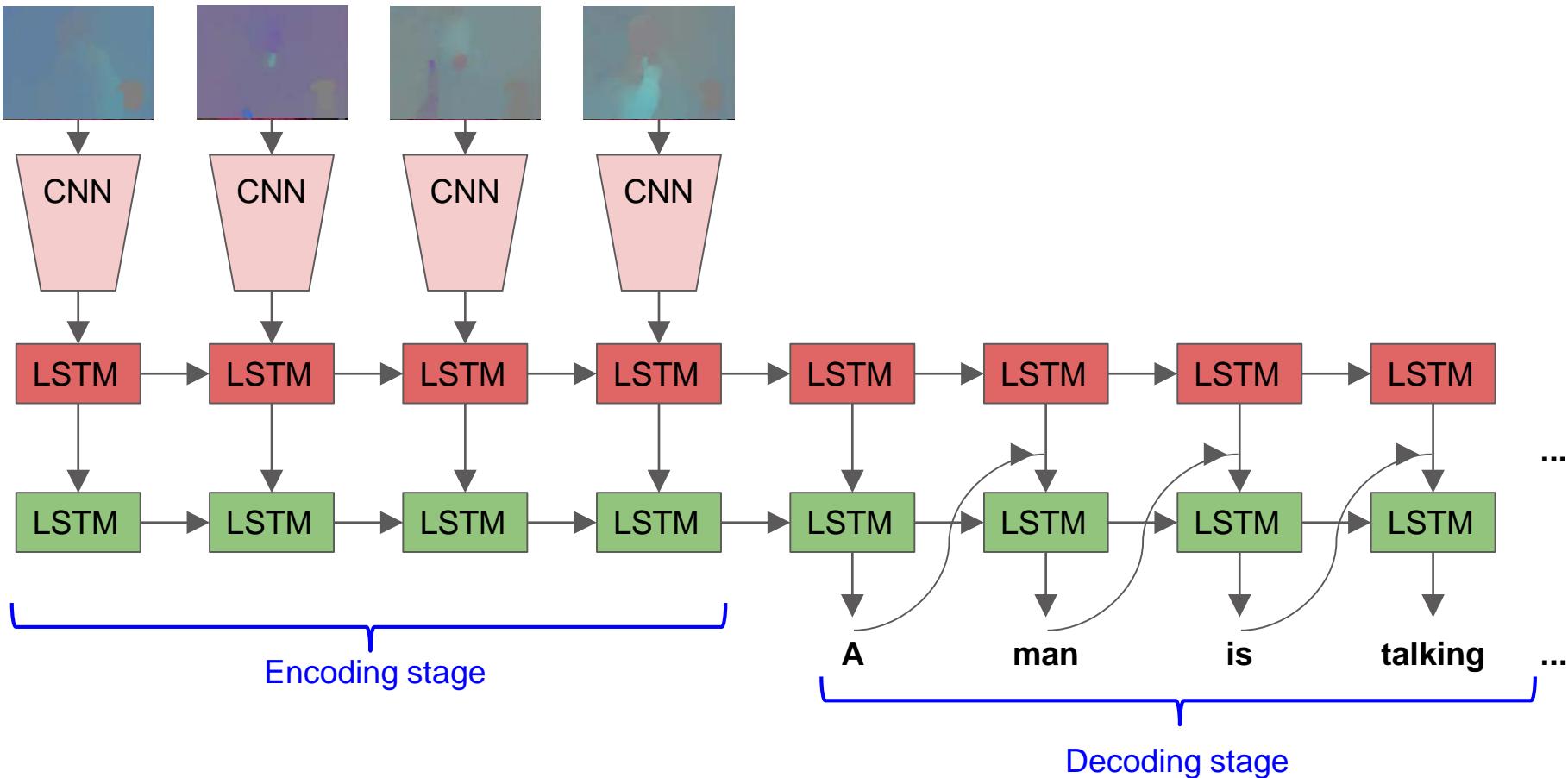
[T. Brox et. al. ECCV '04]

3. Take activations from layer before classification



Explicit Activity Recognition Features

## Frames: Flow



# Experiments: MSR Youtube Dataset

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Microsoft Research Video Description dataset [Chen & Dolan, ACL'11]

Link: <http://www.cs.utexas.edu/users/ml/clamp/videoDescription/>

1970 YouTube video snippets

10-30s each

typically single activity

no dialogues

1200 training, 100 validation, 670 test

Annotations

Descriptions in multiple languages

~40 English descriptions per video

descriptions and videos collected on AMT

# Youtube corpus: Sample video and gold descriptions



- A man appears to be **plowing** a rice field with a plow being pulled by two **oxen**.
- A team of **water buffalo pull** a plow through a rice paddy.
- Domesticated **livestock** are helping a man **plow**.
- A man **leads** a team of oxen down a muddy path.
- Two **oxen walk** through some mud.
- A man is **tilling** his land with an **ox pulled** plow.
- **Bulls** are **pulling** an object.
- Two **oxen** are **plowing** a field.
- The farmer is **tilling** the soil.
- A man in **ploughing** the field.

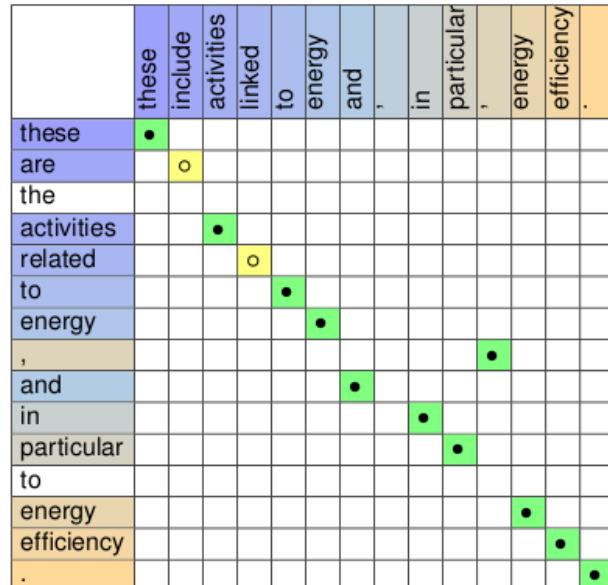


- A man is **walking** on a **rope**.
- A man is **walking** across a **rope**.
- A man is **balancing** on a **rope**.
- A man is **balancing** on a **rope** at the beach.
- A man **walks** on a **tightrope** at the beach.
- A man is **balancing** on a **volleyball net**.
- A man is **walking** on a **rope** held by poles
- A man **balanced** on a **wire**.
- The man is **balancing** on the **wire**.
- A man is **walking** on a **rope**.
- A man is **standing**<sup>21</sup>in the sea shore.

# Evaluation Metric

## METEOR

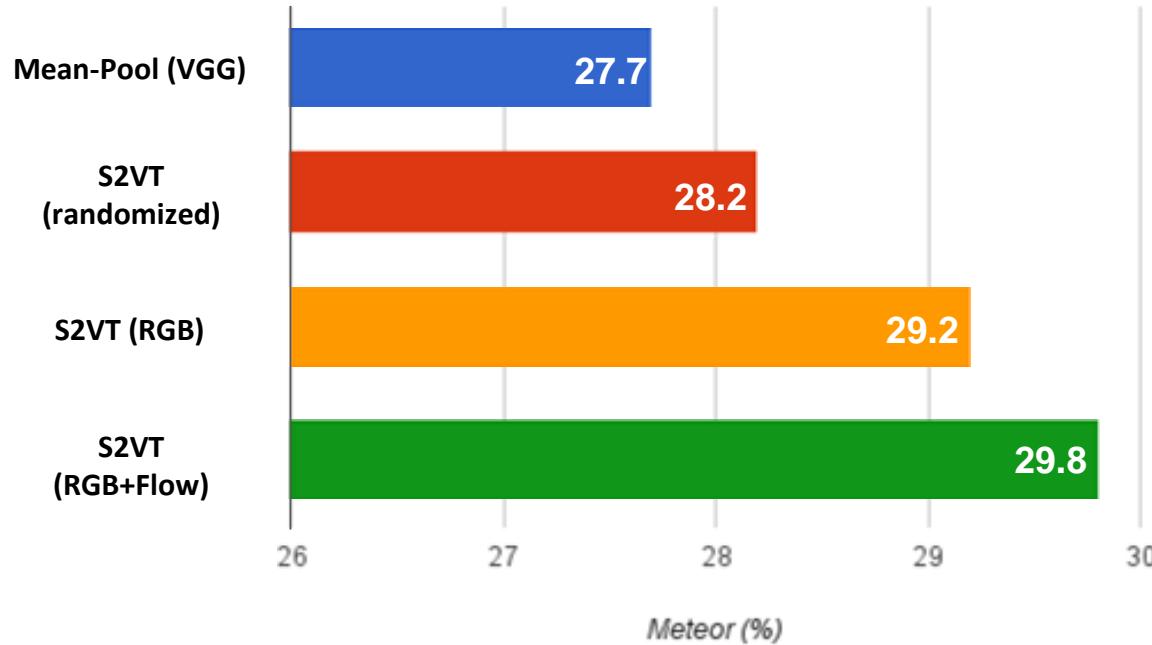
- scores hypotheses by aligning them to one or more reference sentences
- alignments are based on exact, stem, synonym, and paraphrase matches between words and phrases



Segment 2022

P:	0.897
R:	0.907
Frag:	0.514
Score:	0.440

# Results (Youtube)



# Movie Corpus - DVS

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**CC:** Queen: "Which estate?"

**DVS:** Looking trou-  
bled, the Queen de-  
scends the stairs.

The Queen rushes  
into the courtyard.  
She then puts a head  
scarf on ...

...and gets into the  
driver's side of a  
nearby Land Rover.

The Land Rover  
pulls away.

Three bodyguards  
quickly jump into  
a nearby car and  
follow her.

**Processed:**

Looking troubled,  
someone descends  
the stairs.

Someone rushes  
into the courtyard.  
She then puts a  
head scarf on ...

# Evaluation: Movie Corpora

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MPII-MD

MPII, Germany

DVS alignment: semi-automated and  
crowdsourced

94 movies

68,000 clips

Avg. length: 3.9s per clip

**~1 sentence per clip**

68,375 sentences

M-VAD

Univ. of Montreal

DVS alignment: semi-automated and  
crowdsourced

92 movies

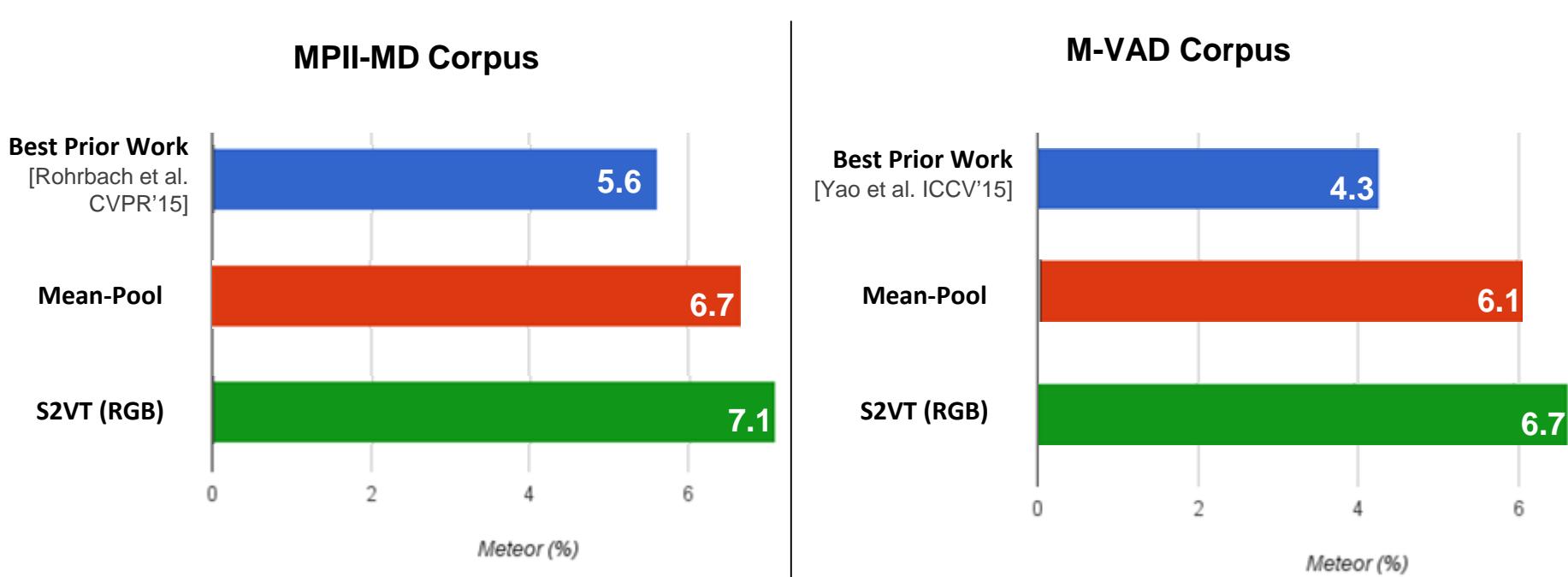
46,009 clips

Avg. length: 6.2s per clip

**1-2 sentences per clip**

56,634 sentences

# Results (M-VAD Movie Corpus)



# Examples (M-VAD Movie Corpus)



S2VT: In the bedroom, someone sits on his bed and finds a photo of someone.  
someone sits on a couch, then sits on a table, and someone sits on a table.

GT: at home, someone's father enters his son's dark bedroom and turns on the light.  
someone lies on top of his bedsheet. his hands folded on his chest. his father steps closer.

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MPII-MD: <https://youtu.be/XTq0huTXj1M>

M-VAD: <https://youtu.be/pER0mjzSYaM>

# Today

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ICCV15 – end-to-end video captioning

ACM MM16 – multimodal video captioning

CVPR17 – caption-guided video saliency

# Multimodal Video Description

Vasili Ramanishka<sup>1</sup>, Abir Das<sup>1</sup>, Dong Huk Park<sup>3</sup>, Subhashini Venugopalan<sup>2</sup>,  
Lisa Anne Hendricks<sup>3</sup>, Marcus Rohrbach<sup>3</sup>, Kate Saenko<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Boston University, MA

<sup>2</sup> University of Texas Austin, TX

<sup>3</sup> UC Berkeley, CA

# Problem: how to incorporate non-visual information?



animals



1. A black and white horse runs around.
2. A horse galloping through an open field.
3. A horse is running around in green lush grass.
4. There is a horse running on the grassland.
5. A horse is riding in the grass.



news



1. A woman giving speech on news channel.
2. Hillary Clinton gives a speech.
3. Hillary Clinton is **making a speech** of mayors.
4. A woman is giving a speech on stage.
5. A lady speak some news on TV.



theatre



1. A man and a woman performing a musical.
2. A teenage couple perform in an amateur musical.
3. Dancers are playing a routine.
4. People are dancing in a mu:
5. Some people are acting and **singing** performance.



autos



1. A white car is drifting.
2. Cars racing on a road surrounded by lots of people.
3. Cars are racing down a narrow road.
4. A race car races along a track.
5. A car is drifting in a fast speed.



cooking



1. A child is cooking in the kitchen.
2. A girl is putting her finger into a plastic cup containing an egg.
3. Children boil water and get egg whites ready.
4. People make food in a kitchen.
5. A group of people are making food in a kitchen.



sports



1. A player is putting the basketball into the post from distance.
2. The player makes a three-pointer.
3. People are playing basketball.
4. A 3 point shot by someone in a basketball race.
5. A basketball team is playing in front of spectators.

# MSR-VTT Dataset

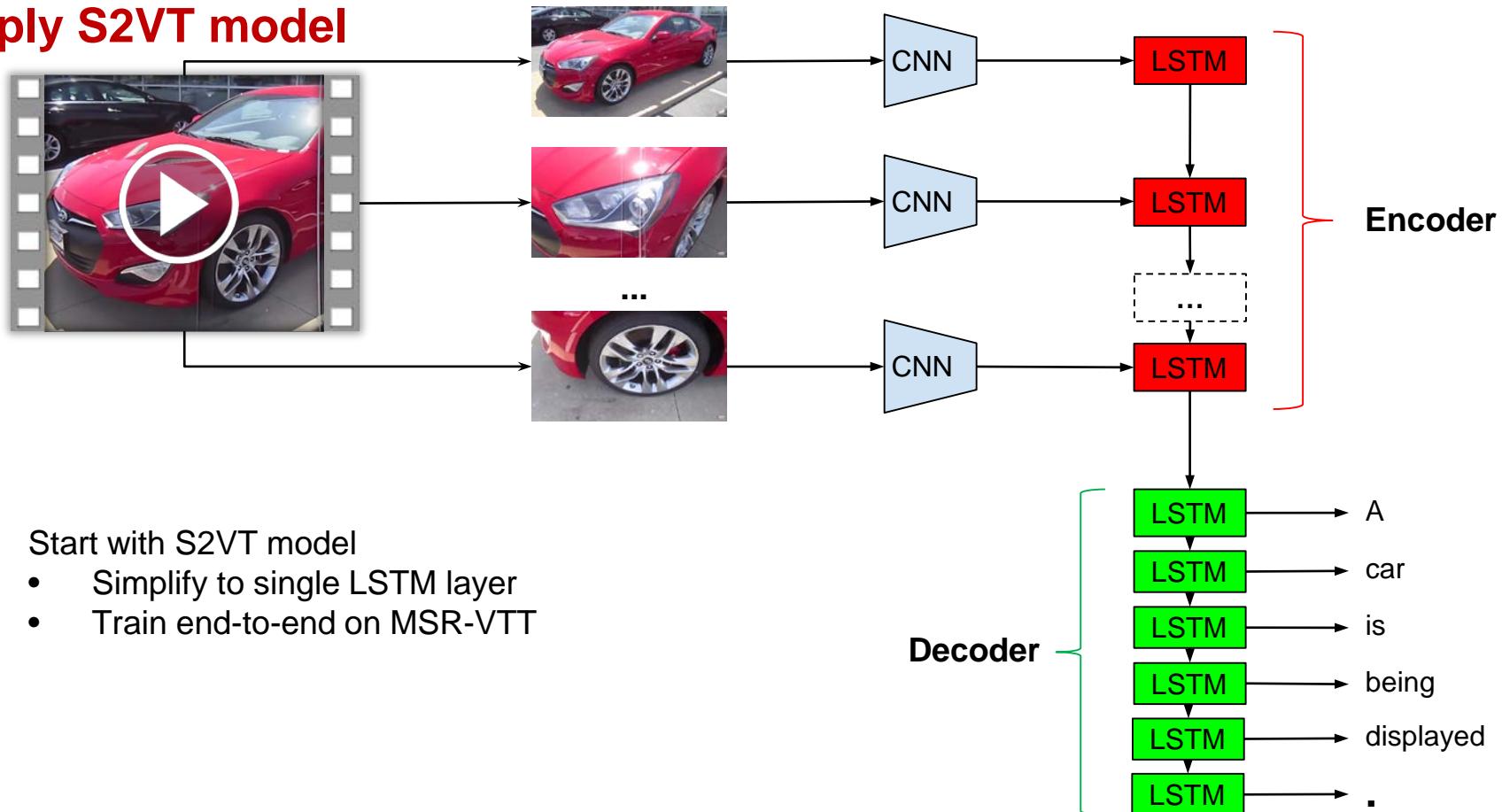


1. A white car is drifting.
2. Cars racing on a road surrounded by lots of people.
3. Cars are racing down a narrow road.
4. A race car races along a track.
5. A car is drifting in a fast speed.

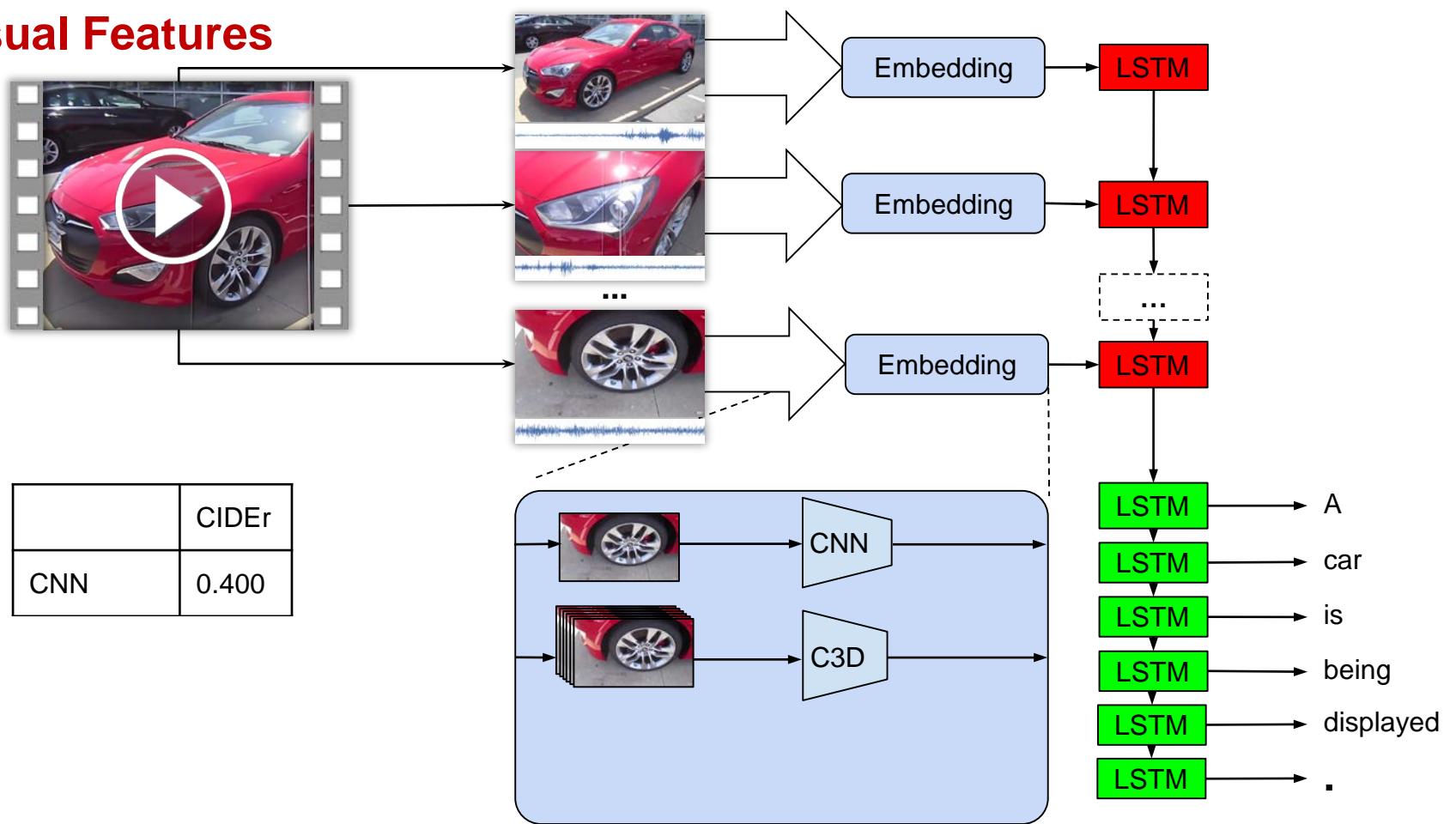
Dataset	Context	Sentence Source	#Video	#Clip	#Sentence	#Word	Vocabulary	Duration (hrs)
YouCook [5]	cooking	labeled	88	–	2,668	42,457	2,711	2.3
TACos [25, 28]	cooking	AMT workers	123	7,206	18,227	–	–	–
TACos M-L [26]	cooking	AMT workers	185	14,105	52,593	–	–	–
M-VAD [32]	movie	DVS	92	48,986	55,905	519,933	18,269	84.6
MPII-MD [27]	movie	DVS+Script	94	68,337	68,375	653,467	24,549	73.6
MSVD [3]	multi-category	AMT workers	–	1,970	70,028	607,339	13,010	5.3
MSR-VTT-10K	20 categories	AMT workers	7,180	10,000	200,000	1,856,523	29,316	41.2



# Apply S2VT model



# Visual Features

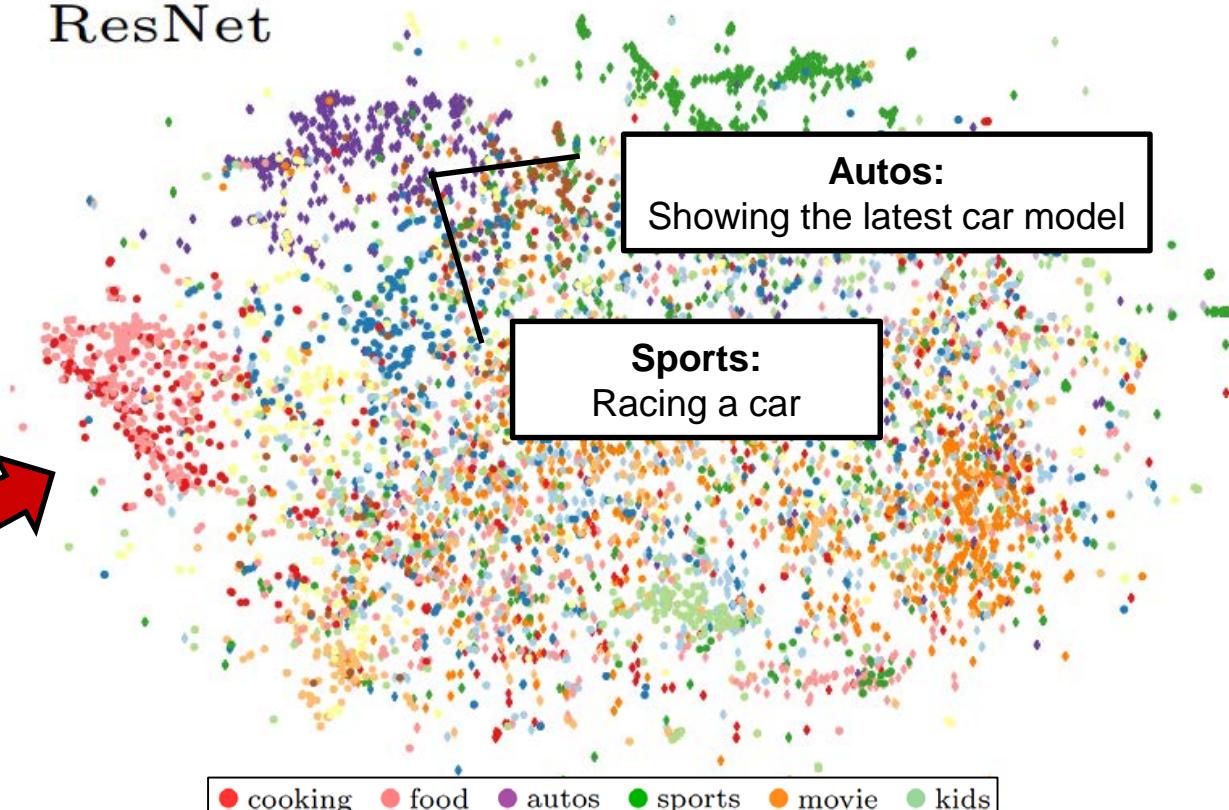


# Add Topic Category

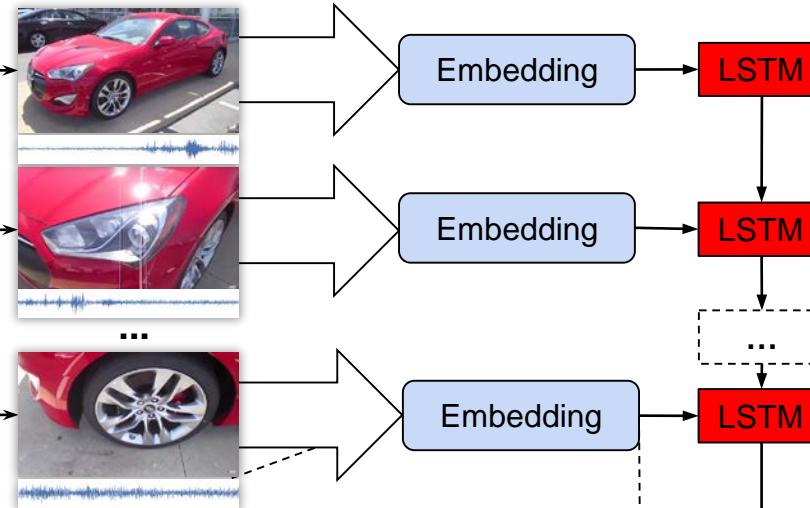


	CIDEr
CNN	0.400
+C3D	0.411

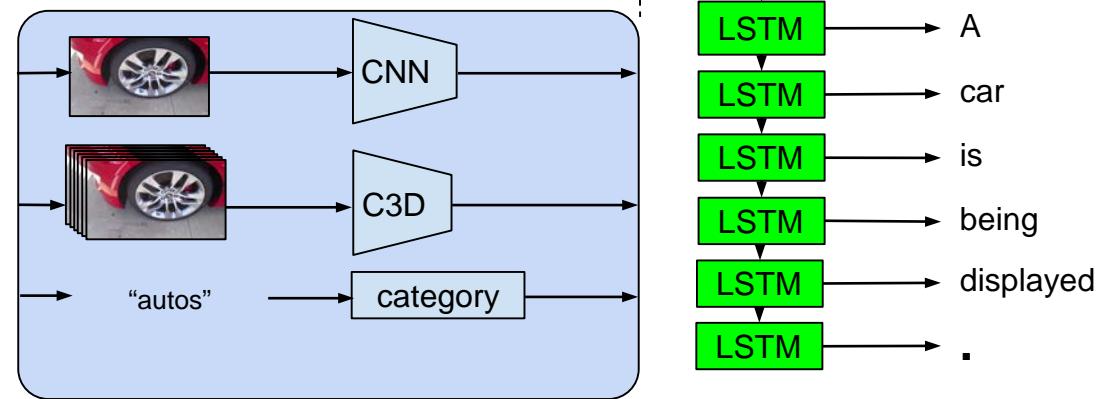
## ResNet



# Add Topic Category



	CIDEr
CNN	0.400
+C3D	0.411
+category	<b>0.418</b>

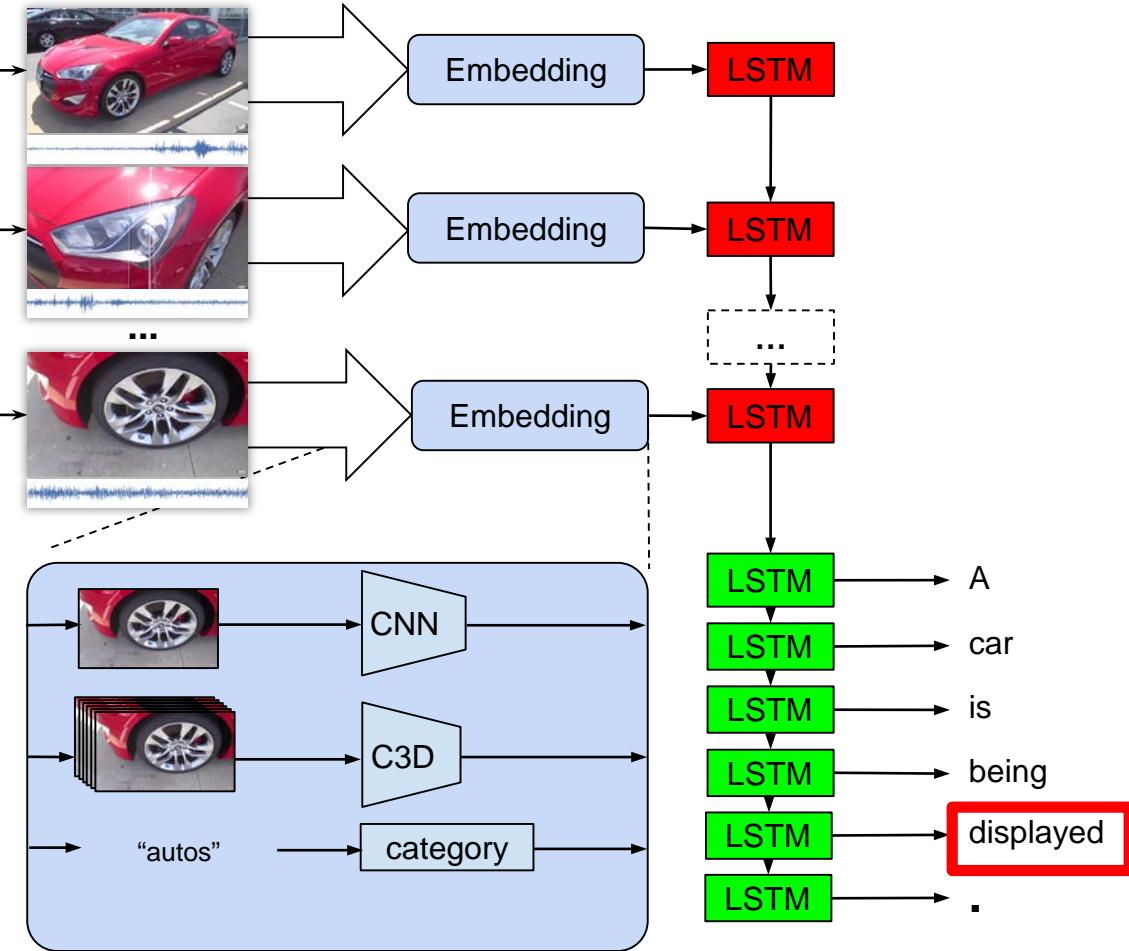


# Add Sound Features



No audio

	CIDEr
CNN	0.400
+C3D	0.411
+category	0.418

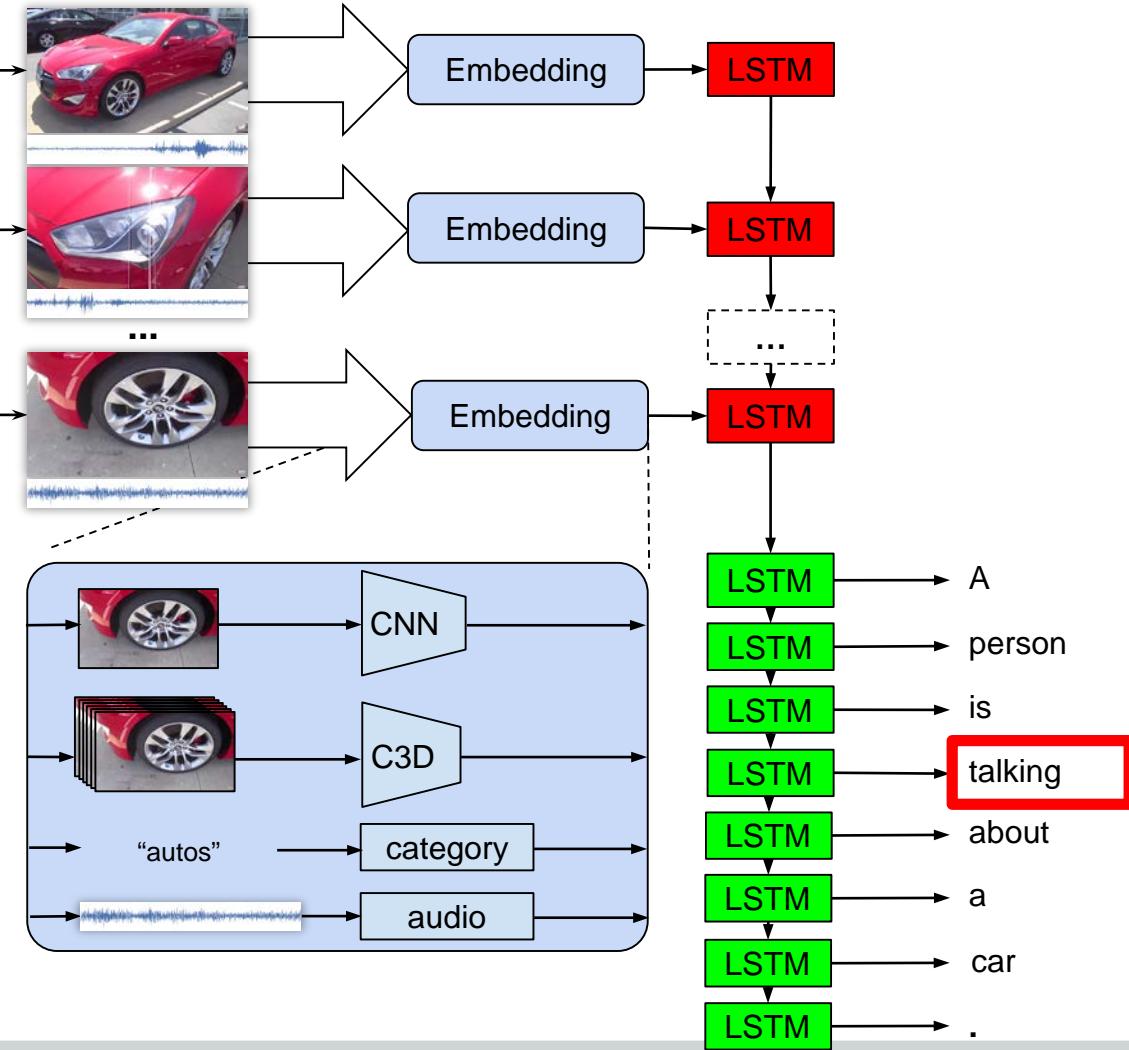


# Add Sound Features

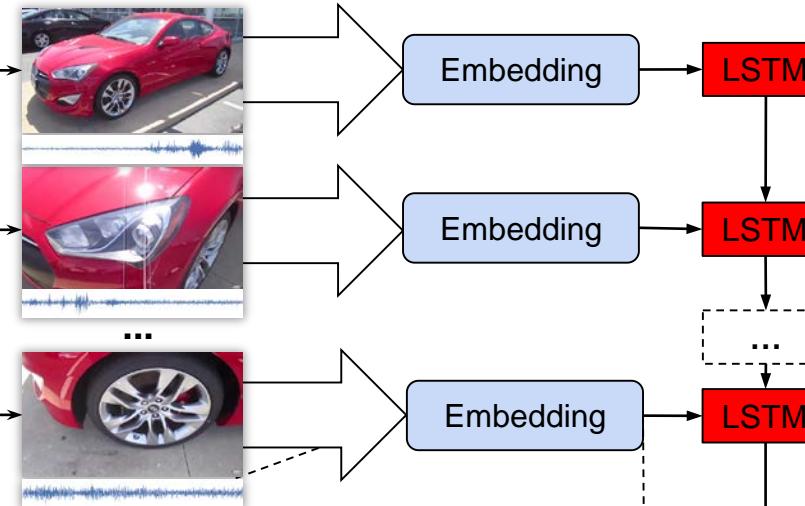


With audio

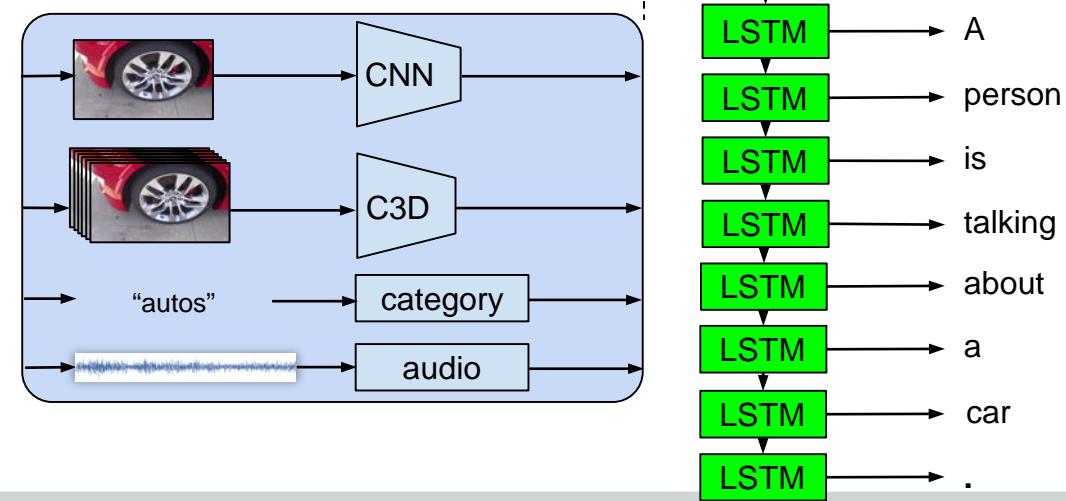
	CIDEr
CNN	0.400
+C3D	0.411
+category	0.418



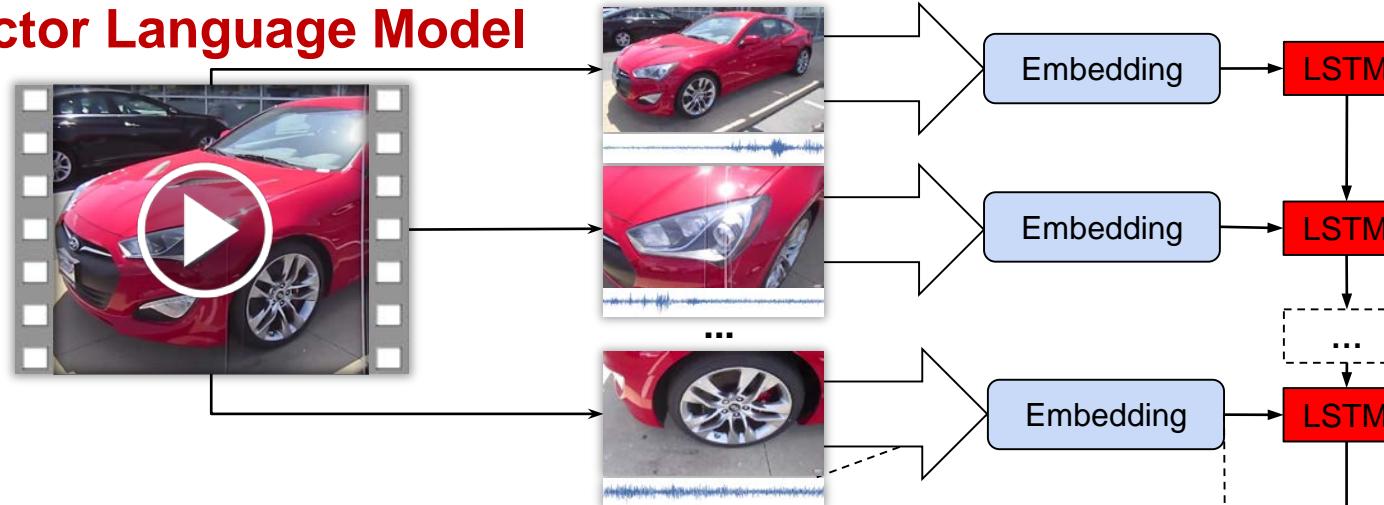
# Add Sound Features



	CIDEr
CNN	0.400
+C3D	0.411
+category	0.418
+audio	<b>0.442</b>

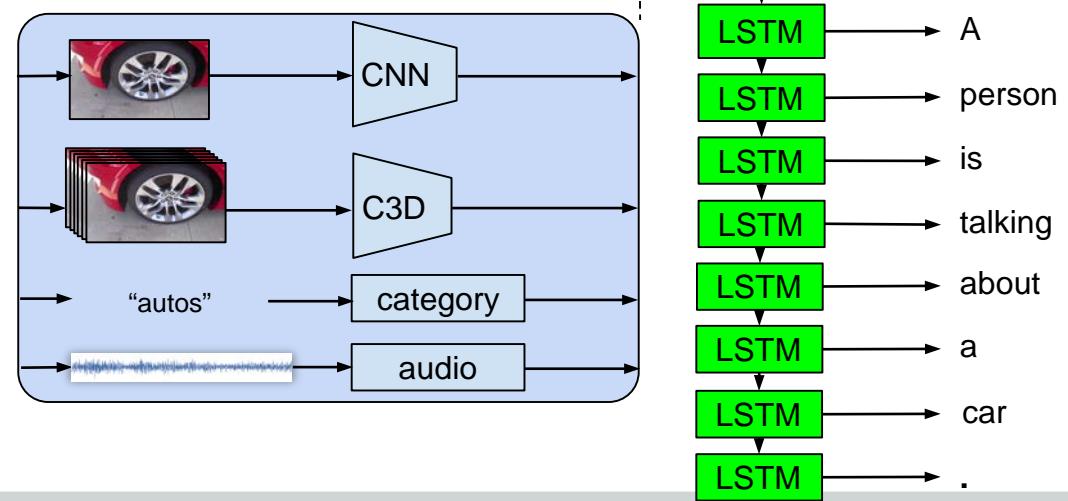


# Factor Language Model

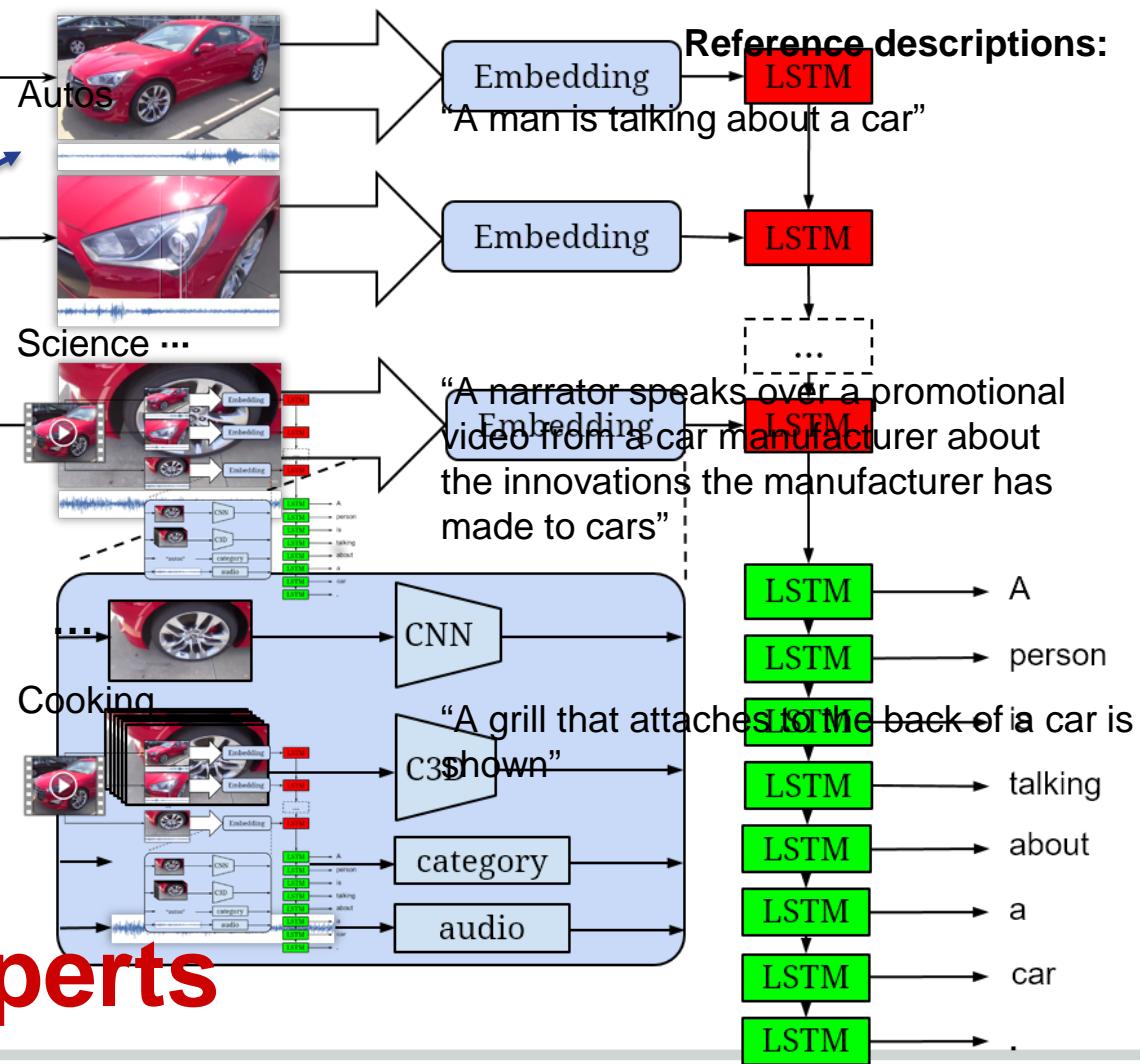


**Science:** “man”, “talking”

**Cooking:** “woman”, “cooking”



# Factor Language Model



Network of experts

	CIDEr
CNN	0.400
+C3D	0.411
+category	0.418
+audio	0.442
experts	<b>0.465</b>



# Our final model

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- Baseline model
  - Encoder – decoder approach (S2VT)
- Capture activities and motion
  - C3D as motion features
- Capture sound and audio
  - MFCC as audio features
- Topic aware model to capture language differences
  - Network of experts

	CIDEr
CNN	0.400
+C3D	0.411
+category	0.418
+audio	0.442
experts	<b>0.465</b>

# ACM MM 2016 Video Description Challenge

## Automatic evaluation

Rank	Team	Organization	BLEU@4	Meteor	CIDEr-D	ROUGE-L
1	v2t_navigator	RUC & CMU	0.408	0.282	0.448	0.609
2	Aalto	Aalto University	0.398	0.269	0.457	0.598
3	<b>VideoLAB</b>	UML & Berkeley & UT-Austin	0.391	0.277	0.441	0.606
...						
21						

# ACM MM 2016 Video Description Challenge

## Human evaluation

Best on “relevance” as judged by humans

Rank	Team	Organization	Coherence	Relevance	Helpful for blind
1	Aalto	Aalto University	3.263	3.104	3.244
2	v2t_navigator	RUC & CMU	3.261	3.091	3.154
3	<b>VideoLAB</b>	UML & Berkeley & UT-Austin	3.237	<b>3.109</b>	3.143
...					
21					

# Today

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ICCV15 – end-to-end video captioning

ACM MM16 – multimodal video captioning

CVPR17 – caption-guided video saliency

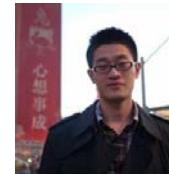
# Top-down saliency guided by captions



Vasili  
Ramanishka  
Boston University



Abir  
Das  
Boston University



Jianming  
Zhang  
Adobe Research

# Explaining the network's captions

**Predicted sentence:** A woman is cutting a piece of meat



can the network  
localize objects?

# Neural Attention Models

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“Attention”: Sequentially processes regions in a single image.

Objective: Model learns “where to look” next.

Image Captioning



girl



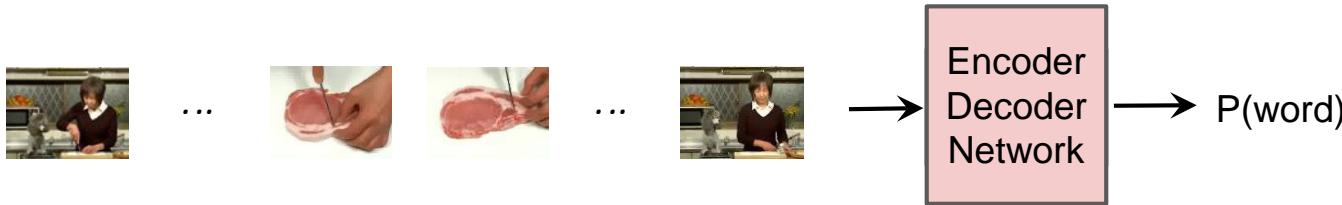
teddy bear

- *soft attention* adds special attention layer
- Only spatial or only temporal
- Can we get spatio-temporal attention?

Show, Attend and Tell  
[Xu et al. ICML’15]

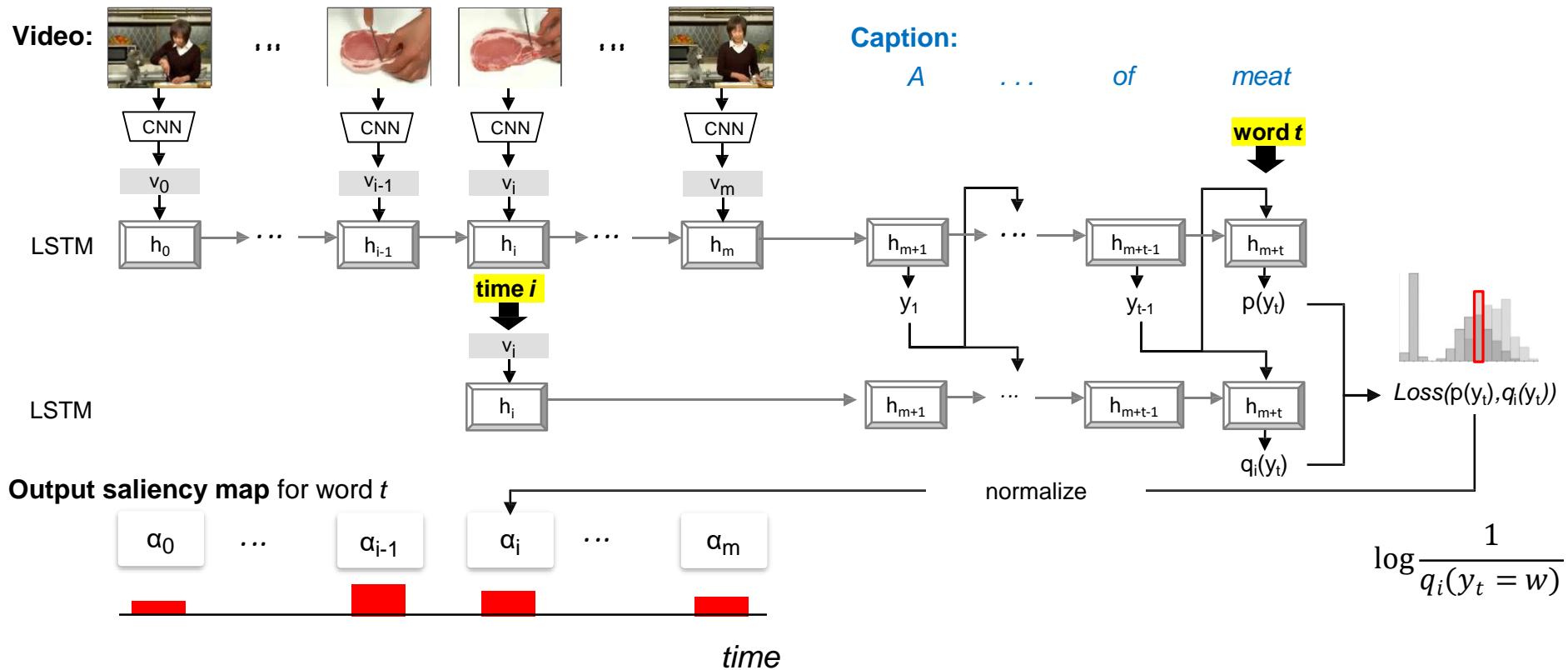
# Key idea: probe the network with small part of input, look at change in prob(word)

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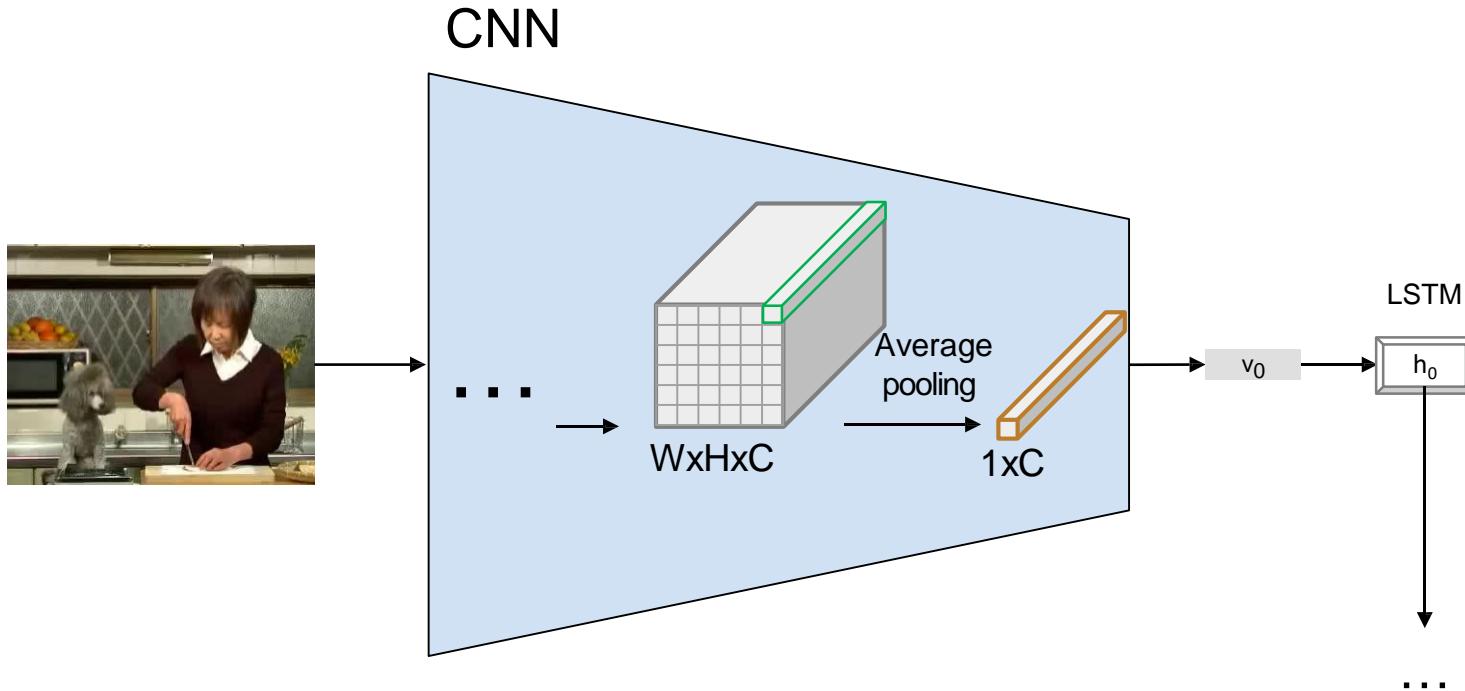


- *No need for* special attention layer
- Get spatio-temporal attention for free

# Approach: temporal saliency

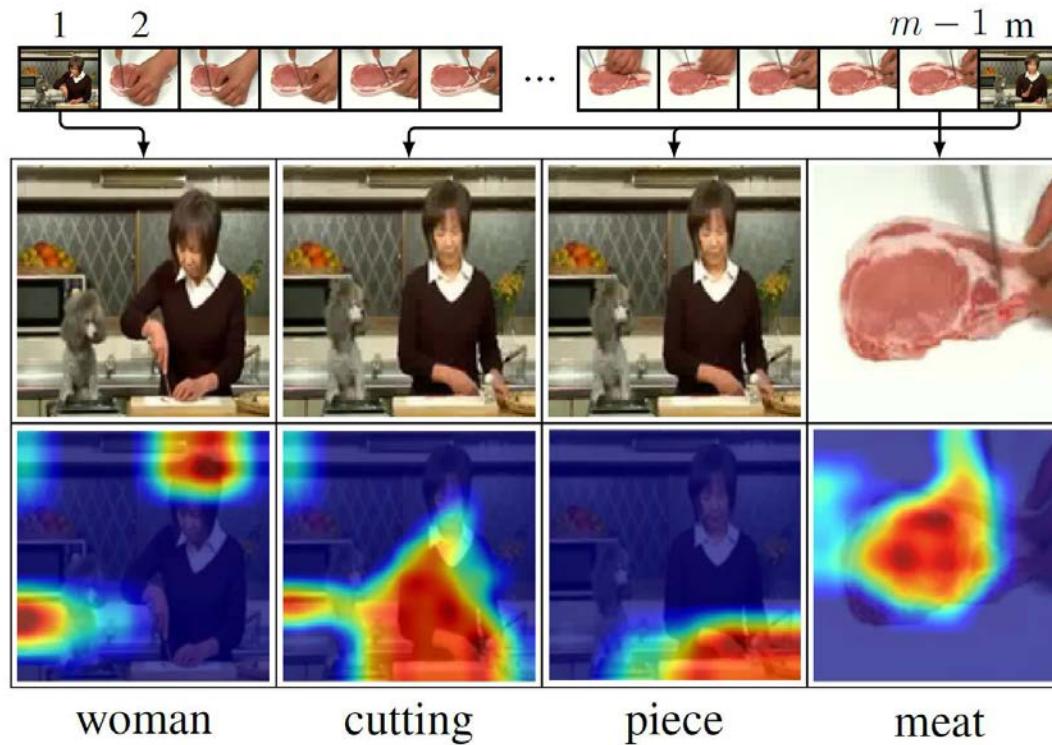


# Spatial localization (almost) for free

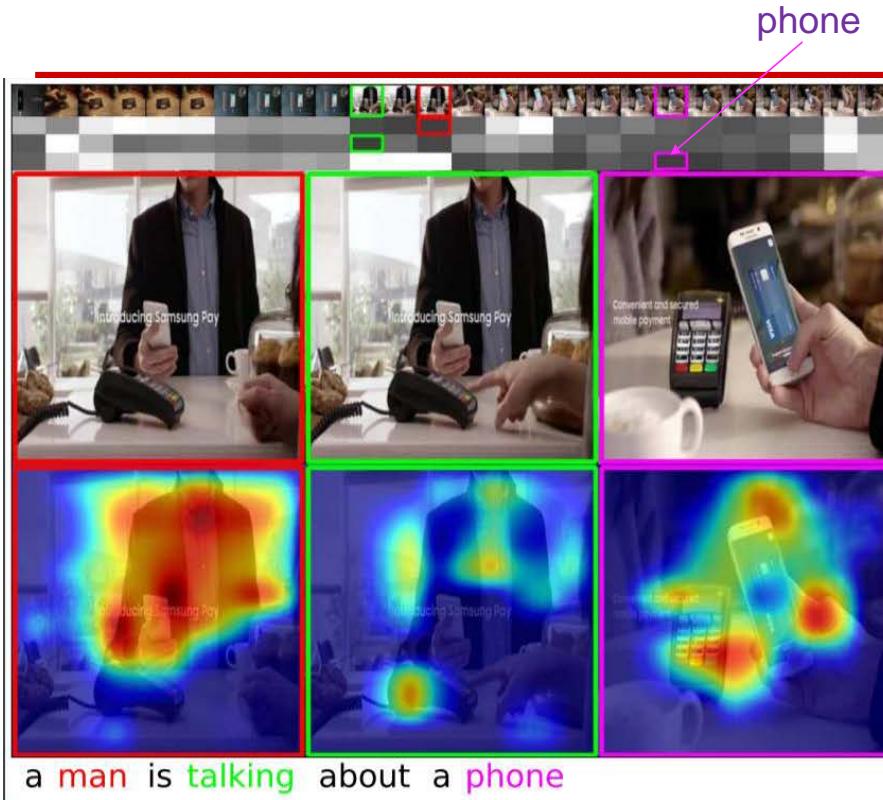


# Spatiotemporal saliency

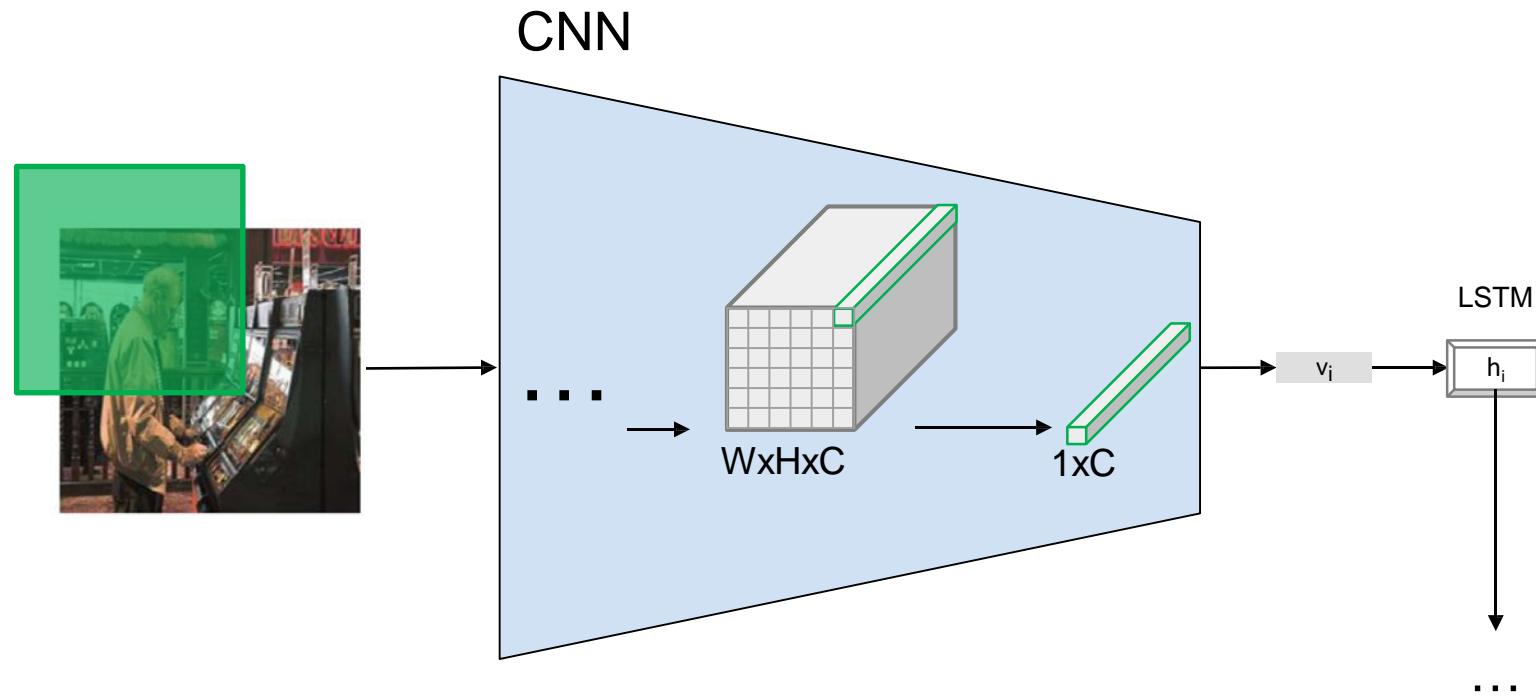
Predicted sentence: A **woman** is **cutting** a **piece** of **meat**



# Spatiotemporal saliency

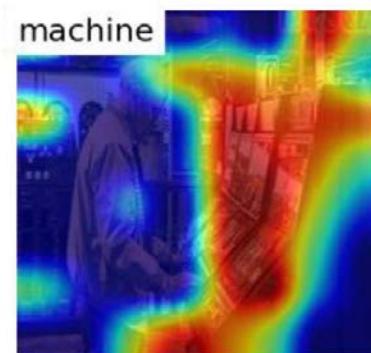
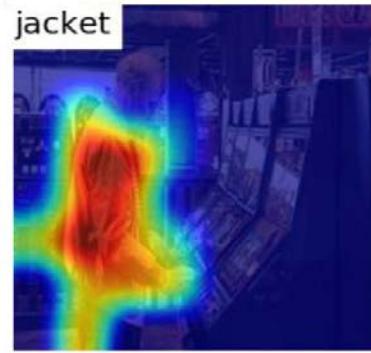


# Image captioning with the same architecture

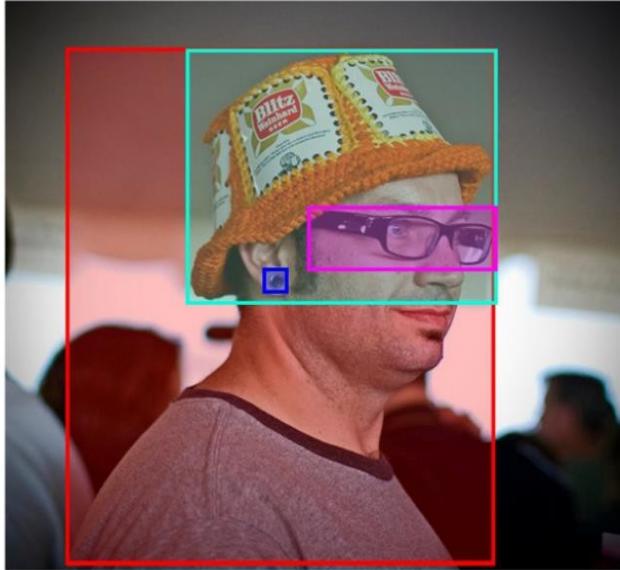


# Image captioning with the same architecture

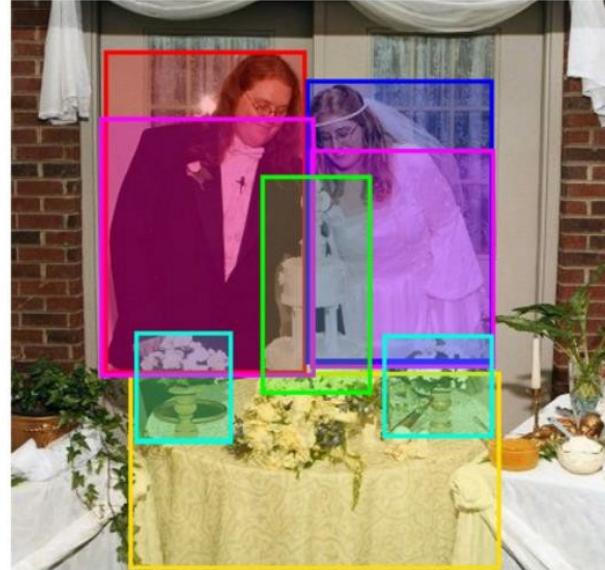
Input query: A man in a jacket is standing at the slot machine



# Flickr30kEntities



A man with **pierced ears** is wearing **glasses** and **an orange hat**.  
A man with **glasses** is wearing **a beer can crotched hat**.  
A man with **gauges** and **glasses** is wearing **a Blitz hat**.  
A man in **an orange hat** starring at **something**.  
A man wears **an orange hat** and **glasses**.



A couple in **their wedding attire** stand behind **a table** with **a wedding cake** and **flowers**.  
A **bride** and **groom** are standing in front of **their wedding cake** at their reception.  
A **bride** and **groom** smile as **they** view **their wedding cake** at a reception.  
A couple stands behind **their wedding cake**.  
**Man** and **woman** cutting **wedding cake**.

# Pointing game in Flickr30kEntities

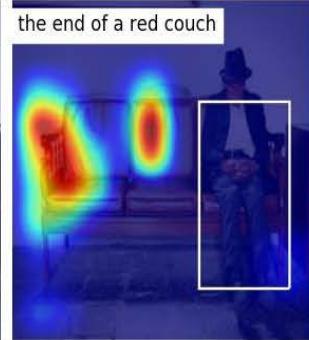
An elderly man sleeps sitting up on the end of a red couch



An elderly man



the end of a red couch



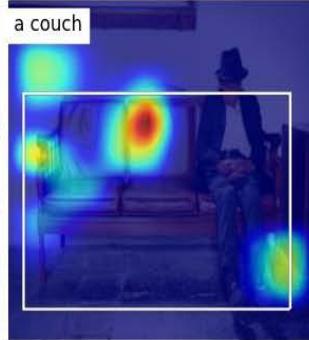
An old man is sitting alone on a couch and sleeping .



An old man



a couch



Old man wearing a hat and coat sleeping sitting up on a sofa .



Old man



a hat



coat



a sofa



# Flickr30kEntities

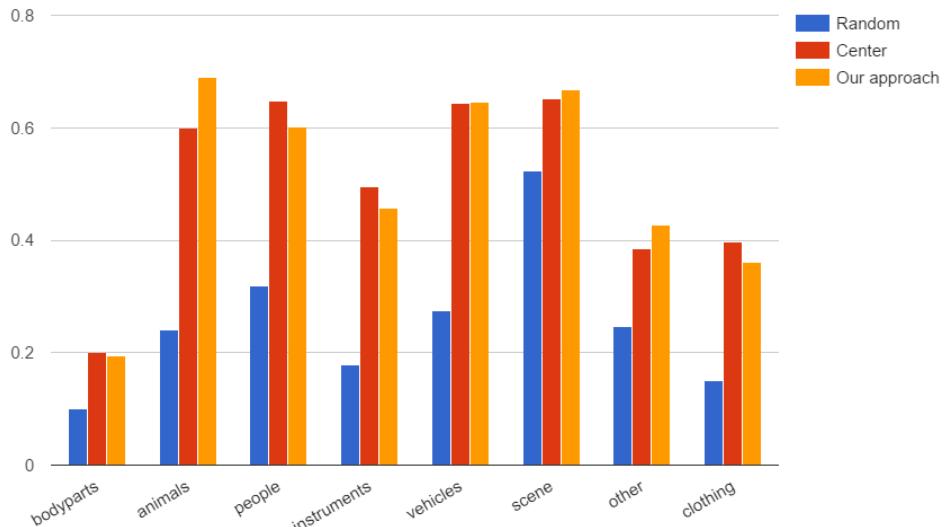
## Attention correctness

	Avg per NP
Baseline [14]	0.321
SA [14]	0.387
SA-supervised [14]	0.433
Baseline*	0.325
Our model	<b>0.473</b>

## Captioning performance

Model	Dataset	METEOR [9]
Soft-Attn [28]	MSVD	30.0
Our Model	MSVD	31.0
Soft-Attn [12]	MSR-VTT	25.4
Our Model	MSR-VTT	25.9
Soft-Attn [27]	Flickr30k	18.5
Our Model	Flickr30k	18.3

## Pointing game accuracy



[14] C. Liu, J. Mao, F. Sha, and A. L. Yuille. Attention correctness in neural image captioning, 2016, implementation of K. Xu, J. Ba, R. Kiros, K. Cho, A. Courville, R. Salakhudinov, R. Zemel, and Y. Bengio. Show, attend and tell: Neural image caption generation with visual attention. In ICML 2015

# Video summarization: predicted sentence



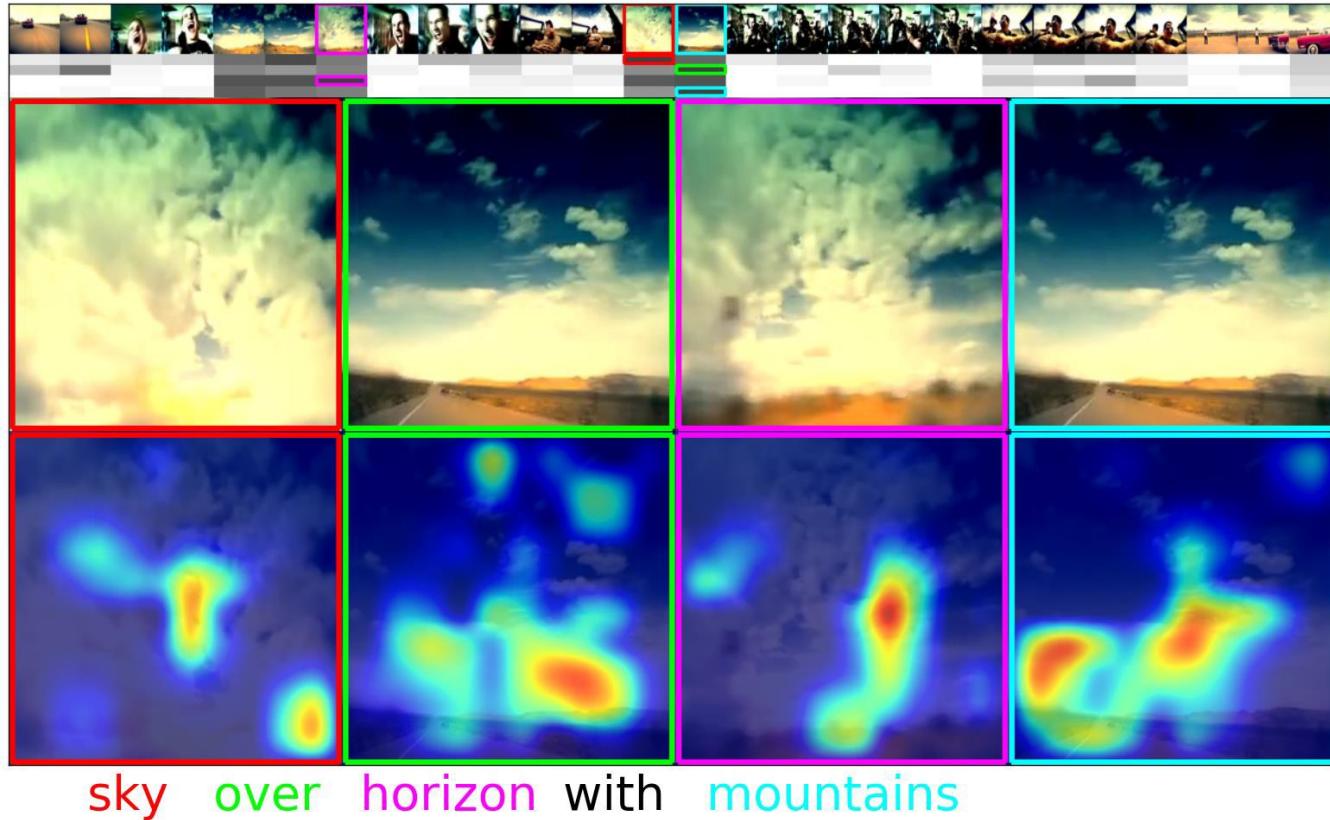
# Video summarization: arbitrary query



# Video summarization: arbitrary query



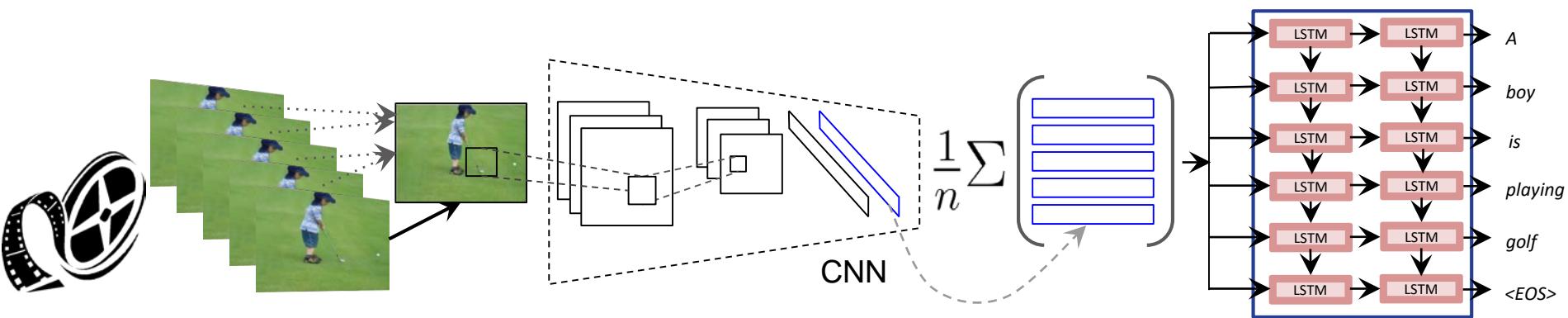
# Video summarization: arbitrary query



Thanks

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# Translating Videos to Natural Language



Does not consider temporal  
sequence of frames.