Analysis of Brand Prevalence in Digital Video Content using Scale-Invariant Feature Detection

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1 Abstract

2 Introduction

Digital content such as videos has quickly risen to become one of the primary marketing platforms of our day. With this development, advertisements have quickly become an ingrained part of content itself, this is especially true in the age of Adblockers, now making many traditional digital ads obsolete. In turn, this has made quantifying the efficacy and value of advertisements harder to estimate.

In the following post, we will be looking at detecting and validating frameaccurate counts of branding material in digital media such as videos. Furthermore, we are going to combine this data, with time stamped user-interactivity data, view counts and viewerbase demographics.

If you were to only read a few parts of this paper, I would recommend reading the section on *Detection Models*, and atleast skimming the visualizations in *Extracting Insight*. It is important to note that this paper is intended as a walkthrough of a rapidly developed Proof-of-Concept. Because of this, there will be things that could be done more efficiently or elegantly, however, that is not the matter of the paper.

3 Data Collection

For this prototype, I have decided that analysis will be done on video content, specifically, Videos-on-Demand (VODs'), from the popular streaming site twitch.tv. This is reasoned by the current influx of marketing through streamed media, and the rise of e-sports. As per the nature of VODs', we will not be analysis content in real-time. However, a brief explanation of how to do so, will be made later.

3.1 Fetching Videos

Firstly, it is important to note, that the *rights* to these videos, is not neccesarily such that downloading them would be considered legal. Thusly, i recommend that this be done only using your own test-content.

When fetching videos, there are alot of metric to be considered, some of which being encoding, filetypes, scaleability and throttling. All of which become very important, if you were to scale this prototype into a useable business application. But since we are not doing that, some compromises will be made.

3.1.1 Youtube-dl

To download our videos, we are going to use the Python-Bindings for the popular command-line program youtube-dl. There is not alot to say about this approach, as the python implementation is quite simple, and allows us to very quickly make a working script, that looks like this:

```
1 """ Twitch Video-On-Demand Downloader
2 H H H
3 import os, sys, youtube_dl
4 from typing import Dict, Tuple
6 def download_vod(video_id: int, path_to_output_dir: str) ->
      Tuple[str, Dict]:
    """ Downloads a Twitch VOD referenced by its Twitch ID
        Curtesy of jaimeMF @ https://stackoverflow.com/a
8
      /18947879
    0.00
9
10
    ydl_opts = {
        'outtmpl': os.path.join(path_to_output_dir, f'{str(
      video_id)}.mp4')
        }
13
14
    with youtube_dl.YoutubeDL(ydl_opts) as ydl:
15
        result = ydl.extract_info(
16
17
             f"https://www.twitch.tv/videos/{video_id}",
             download = True
18
19
20
    if 'entries' in result:
21
        # Can be a playlist or a list of videos
22
        video = result['entries'][0]
23
    else:
24
        # Just a video
25
        video = result
26
    return (os.path.join(path_to_output_dir, f'{str(video_id)})
28
      }.mp4'), result)
29
30 if __name__ == "__main__":
31
    # Quick CLI Implemenation
32
    filename = download_vod(
33
        sys.argv[1], # Video ID
34
        sys.argv[2] # Output Dir
35
    [0]
36
37
    print(f"Finished Downloading VOD to path: {filename}")
```

Calling this function, will not return, before the video is fully downloaded.

3.1.2 Conversion to Frames

Now that we have downloaded our video, we need to convert it to a series of frames. For our implementation, we will use the Python bindings for OpenCV2, and use its cv2::VideoCapture object. this will allow us to iteratively step-and-read through a given video, and yield each frame as a PIL / OpenCV2 Image object. This will be useful for the pipeline process later. Alternatively, when used as a standalone script, we save the frames to a folder.

During this process, we are also converting the frames to grayscale, as this will both reduce the size of our images, and reduce the dimensionality of our data for our detection model. The code for this simple script, looks like this:

```
""" Convert a video to a series of frames using OpenCV
  0.00
3 import os, sys, cv2
4 from typing import Iterable
6 def to_grayscale_frames(path_to_video: str) -> Iterable:
    """ Convert a video to a series of grayscale frames using
     OpenCV """
    video_capture = cv2.VideoCapture(path_to_video)
    success, image = video_capture.read()
10
    while success:
      gray = cv2.cvtColor(image, cv2.COLOR_BGR2GRAY)
12
      yield gray
      success, image = video_capture.read()
14
15
16 if __name__ == "__main__":
    """ Python -m video_to_frames.py
17
          path_to_video
18
          output_dir
19
    0.00
20
    # Quick CLI Implemenation
21
    for enum, frame in enumerate(to_grayscale_frames(sys.argv
      cv2.imwrite(os.path.join(sys.argv[2], f"{str(enum)}.jpg"
23
24
    print(f"Finished Downloading frames to dir:{sys.argv[2]}")
```

Using this function, we can both download every frame to a folder, as a .jpg file. Or we can stream them, using the method as a generator. This allows us greater flexibility when it comes to easily plugging different scripts together in our pipeline, that will be mentioned later.

4 Detection Models

4.1 Requirements

On first thought, it seems quite trivial to detect images in videos, when we already know which images we are supposed to look for. However, this problem is highly domain-specific. For this project, we are targeting e-sports media, and in this domain, problems such as images that are embedded into game maps, partially covered by in-game decals such as artifacts, noise or more specifically blood or soot, would be prone to faults using naive image detection.

Furthermore, problems might arise by the nature of scale-invariance or rotation. Though this problem is easier to solve using conventional image detection, it is still a major contributor to instability of our solution if we were to scale it up to be business applicable. So how are we going to solve this problem? We know that we need:

- 1. Ability to detect images in other images
- 2. Be able to approximate likeness even when images are partially covered.
- 3. Not have scale, skew or rotation significantly degrade our predictive abilities

From here, we are going to look at different detection techniques, from classical computer vision to the newly arrived convolutional neural networks, and see if we can find a solution that fulfills our requirements

4.2 Possible Solutions

There are several approaches to this problem, but here we will describe a few:

Optical Character Recognition

OCR is a tried and true way of detecting text in images, however, the ease of use and the high level of accuracy is not particularly useful to us. Remember, flexibility is one of our primary concerns. Barring the issue of non-text based logos, OCR is also notoriously bad at handling noise. For these reasons, we are going to dismiss the possibility of using OCR as our primary tooling for our implementation.

Feature Detection

This is a rather vague title forclassic image detection algorithms. The reasoning behind the specificity is a result of the vast and nauseating sea of Computer Vision algorithms. If you are interested in hearing more about the other classical techniques that were not chosen for this implementation, see the section

$Other\ Approaches$

Feature Detection typically describes algorithms in which we use information, such as images, to create new information of a higher-abstraction. You could here imagine converting a 16x16 matrix of RGB values, into a two bit binary representing shapes such as square, circle, triangle, hook all of which are grayscale. This would allow us to later use this simplified and "compressed" version of the original data to infer more complex ideas. This is, in spirit, the same approach that Convolutional Neural Networks use, however with classical techniques we are typically more actively participating in deciding these abstractions instead of having the neural networks black box make its own decisions. Conversely we are also limited by our own ability to extract meaningful patterns and by reason of man-power and a less pure-mathematical approach, it is also harder to validate the efficiency of large-scale data.

Neural Networks

Neural networks such as CNNs' and RNNs' have a few benefits, such as allowing us to train models with a modicum of generalization built-in. However, there are also a wealth of issues such as:

- 1. Trusting the black box
- 2. Training Multiple Models
- 3. Collecting a lot of data, for every logo.

A more in-depth explanation of the models can be found in the section: **Neural Networks**, **a deeper look**. So, are these problems insurmountable? Are they worth the pain to become an "AI Solution"?

4.3 Picking a Model

Based on the former descriptions, and experience working with these different techniques, I came to the conclusion that Neural Networks. at least not for the scale that we are thinking in for thsi implementation, is not worth it. There are plenty of great parts about the approach, one of which is multi-objective learning, and multiclass classification. Approaches that allow us to train a singular neural network, to perform different but similar tasks (such as looking for a variety of logos in a single image) and exploit the commonalities in the tasks to improve accuracy across the board. This sounds amazing! Right? Well, yes, however, if we sideline the lacking technology and our limited project scope, this would still require us to either create a supervised-training set for each of our logos, to train our model with. Or, we would need a way to validate our classification post-prediction. Both of these tasks take a lot of manpower, and are not very scalable solutions. As reasoned by this, we come to the conclusion that for this project, sticking with a more classical approach is better aligned with our scope and resources.

5 Scale-Invariant Feature Detection

The feature detection algorithm we are going to use for this project is called SIFT (Scale-Invariant Feature Detection). Before continuing on, it is important to note here, that this algorithm is patented by David Lowe, and requires a license to use commercially.

5.1 How It Works

Our SIFT algorithm is firstly given an image, in our case, an image of the logo we want to detect. From this image, SIFT collects a group of keypoints, also described as points of interest. These points usually represent areas with very unique attributes such as lines of various angles, textures and clear-separations (such as a mountain peak seperating from the background).

Mathematically this works by convolving the image using gaussian filters at different sizes, the areas of which have the minima / maxima difference between these different convolutions are said to be the most unique, and are stored in a database for future use.

This technique has to be done for every logo we want to detect, however, in comparison to the neural solution we mentioned earlier, this is completely unsupervised. After having found this set of keypoints, we now have to "thin out the bunch" a bit, since the aforementioned technique, known as "Scale-space extrema detection" creates a lot of keypoints, some of which of questionable robustness. This process, called keypoint localization is done via. the following list of techniques:

- 1. Interpolation
- 2. Contrast Filtering
- 3. Edge Sensitivity

As the first step, we are going to interpolate nearby keypoints using the quadratic Taylor expansion. This is done for every keypoint that we found previously, in an attempt to more precisely calculate their position. This process helps counteract the unstable nature of our massive collection of keypoints.

Following this, we are going to discard every keypoint whose second order Taylor expansion is lower than 0.03, which results in a dramatic decrease in keypoints in areas such as the sky, as the contrast of keypoints relative to the surrounding area could correlate with its descriptiveness and uniqueness in the image. Lastly, we are tackling a problem relating to our Difference-of-Gaussian function (The same function used in Scale-space extrema detection). This procedure responds very strongly to edges, no matter the stability of its position. To solve this, we are filtering out keypoints whose locations have been poorly determined, but

still created a high edge response.

Now that we have done some filtering on our keypoints, it is time to make our features rotation-invariant. This is done by assigning each keypoint with at least one orientation, based on the gradient directions of its locale in the image. The calculations done in this process, takes the keypoints scale into consideration, which in return, creates the scale-invariant nature of the algorithm. For the final step of the algorithm, we compute descriptor vectors for each of our keypoints, which creates even more invariance to factors such as lighting and view angle.

As our understanding of our approach is now solid enough to build a prototype of our project, let us move on to the implementation of the SIFT algorithm in the programming language Python.

5.2 Implementation Details

kdtrees, flann etc etc

5.3 Code

```
3 import numpy as np
4 import sys
5 import cv2 as cv
6 import cv2 as cv2
7 import os
8 import json
9 import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
10
12 def analyze_frame(frame, template):
      img1 = template
13
      img2 = frame
14
      # Initiate SIFT detector
16
      sift = cv2.xfeatures2d.SIFT_create()
17
      # find the keypoints and descriptors with SIFT
18
      kp1, des1 = sift.detectAndCompute(img1,None)
19
      kp2, des2 = sift.detectAndCompute(img2,None)
20
      # FLANN parameters
21
      FLANN_INDEX_KDTREE = 1
22
      index_params = dict(algorithm = FLANN_INDEX_KDTREE,
23
      trees = 5)
      search_params = dict(checks=50)
                                         # or pass empty
      dictionary
      flann = cv.FlannBasedMatcher(index_params, search_params)
```

```
matches = flann.knnMatch(des1, des2, k=2)
26
      # Need to draw only good matches, so create a mask
27
      matchesMask = [[0,0] for i in range(len(matches))]
28
29
      j = 0
30
      # ratio test as per Lowe's paper
31
      for i,(m,n) in enumerate(matches):
           if m.distance < 0.7 * n.distance:</pre>
33
               matchesMask[i] = [1,0]
34
               j += 1
35
      if j < 20:
37
           dontDraw = True
38
      else:
39
           dontDraw = False
40
41
      draw_params = dict(matchColor = (0,255,0),
42
43
                       matchesMask = matchesMask,
                       flags = cv.DrawMatchesFlags_DEFAULT)
44
      #img3 = cv.drawMatchesKnn(img1, kp1, img2, kp2, matches,
45
       None, **draw_params)
46
      #----#
47
      # create BFMatcher object
      bf = cv2.BFMatcher(cv2.NORM_L1, crossCheck=True)
      # Match descriptors.
      matches = bf.match(des1,des2)
52
      # Sort them in the order of their distance.
54
      matches = sorted(matches, key = lambda x:x.distance)
55
57
      good_matches = matches[:10]
      src_pts = np.float32([ kp1[m.queryIdx].pt for m in
58
      good_matches
                        ]).reshape(-1,1,2)
      dst_pts = np.float32([ kp2[m.trainIdx].pt for m in
59
      good_matches ]).reshape(-1,1,2)
      M, mask = cv2.findHomography(src_pts, dst_pts, cv2.
      RANSAC, 5.0)
61
      h, w = img1.shape[:2]
62
      pts = np.float32([ [0,0],[0,h-1],[w-1,h-1],[w-1,0] ]).
63
      reshape(-1,1,2)
64
      dst = cv2.perspectiveTransform(pts,M)
      dst += (w, 0) # adding offset
67
      if not dontDraw:
68
           return [str(dst[0]), str(dst[1]), str(dst[2]), str(
69
      dst[3])]
```

```
else:
70
          return None
71
72
     __name__ == "__main__":
73
74
      frame = cv2.imread(sys.argv[1], cv2.IMREAD_GRAYSCALE)
75
      template = cv2.imread(sys.argv[2], cv2.IMREAD_GRAYSCALE)
76
      # Quick CLI Compatible Implemenation
78
      bounding_box = analyze_frame(
79
           frame.
           template
81
82
83
      if bounding_box == None:
84
           print("No bounding boxes were found that matched the
85
       template")
          print(f"A bounding box was found at location: {
87
      bounding_box}")
```

6 Extracting Insight

6.1 Viewer Interaction

Knowing how many frames of exposure your brand is getting for any given content, can be very valuable information when analysing the efficacy of marketing. However, imagine that every single one, of those frames, were during a "bathroom break" or something of the likes. In this situation, we could reasonably assume, that there will be given less attention to the video, and thus, the frames of exposure you are getting, that otherwise.

To try and partially mitigate this, we are going to look at the user interactivity data, for any given timeframe of the video. Though it might be an assumption, i find it fair, that more posts would be made in the chat of a video, in times where something attentiongrabbing has just, or is about to occur. And thus, these timeframes can give us approximate "areas of higher attention".

6.1.1 Fetching Chat Data

Following the rapid-prototyping methodology that we have stuck to, during this project, we are again going to use a pre-made solution by Petter Kraabol which he creatively dubbed: "Twitch-Chat-Downloader".

This command-line tool allows us to download the complete chat-history related to a video, using either preset or custom formats. We are largely only interested in the exact time each comment was posted, and not the duration of which it stayed in the chat, and thus we are going to use the built-in format "irc", which might be familiar to a few of you.

Visually, it looks like this: [timestamp] ¡username; comment. This format is rather simple, but it gives us all the information we need. And as for the implementation, we used Python's subprocess library to use interact with the tools CLI, and converted that to a python function like this:

```
""" Simple interface to use
    PetterKraabol's Twitch-Chat-Downloader
    # https://github.com/PetterKraabol/Twitch-Chat-Downloader
5 import os, sys, subprocess
  def download_twitch_chat(video_id: int, path_to_output_dir:
     str, twitch_id: str) -> str:
    """ Downloads the given Twitch VODs
9
        chat as irc format """
    # Start subprocess
10
    p = subprocess.Popen([
        "tcd", "--video", str(video_id),
12
        "--format", "irc",
13
        "--output", path_to_output_dir,
14
        "--client-id", twitch_id],
15
        shell=True)
16
    # Wait for subprocess to finish
17
    p_status = p.wait()
18
19
    return os.path.join(path_to_output_dir, f"{str(video_id)}.
20
      log")
21
22 if __name__ == "__main__":
    # Quick CLI Implemenation
23
    filename = download_twitch_chat(
24
        sys.argv[1], # Video ID
25
        sys.argv[2], # Output Dir
        sys.argv[3] # Twitch ID
27
    )
28
    print(f"Finished Downloading Chat log of VOD {sys.argv[1]}
       to path: {filename}")
```

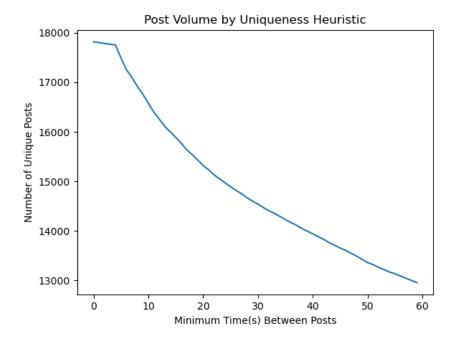
Here it is important to note the argument *Twitch ID*, this is the Twitch Developer ID, and can be found at dev.twitch.tv. Without this, we will not be able to download the full chat log, only part of it.

A snippet of the downloaded chat log can be seen here:

6.1.2 Ensuring Uniqueness

We cannot naively trust that the volume of comments is a good indicator of neither the intensity of which the users are watching the stream, nor the amount of unique impressions one can except by having exposure during that given timeframe. Given this problem, we can start filtering out "spam" comments, by setting a minimum time between posts, before we decide to include them in our calculations. For this project, we decided that a heuristic of ten seconds gave us good results.

With this consideration, we can quickly visualize the size disparity of our dataset, given different heuristic values:



As you would expect, setting our heuristic to zero sharply increases our volume of unique posts. And as for our example, spam only decreased our dataset

by cirka. 2000 posts, around an 11 percent decrease from our total volume of posts.

Based on this, we can conclude that the measure of uniqueness can definitely contribute to creating robust and trustable data, however, it is not necessary to gain value, as long as there is still awareness regarding spam, when looking at numbers. The function used to collect this data, will also be mentioned in later functions, and looks like this:

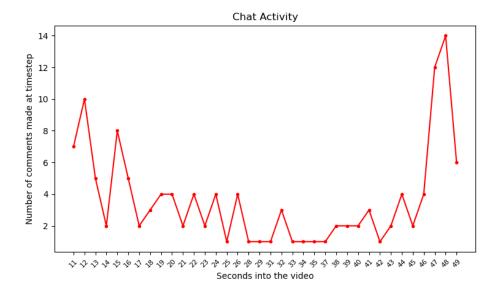
```
def _make_unique(path_to_chat_log: str, UNIQUENESS: int =
      10) -> Dict:
      """ Converts a given chat log to
          a spam-filtered dictionary,
      USER_POST_TRACKER = defaultdict(int)
      posts = defaultdict(int)
      for enum, post in enumerate(open(path_to_chat_log, 'r',
      encoding="utf8").read().split('\n')):
          post = post.split(' ')
          if not len(post) >= 2:
               continue
13
          timestamp, username = post[0], post[1]
14
          timestamp = _to_seconds(timestamp)
16
          # if the post was created withing UNIQUENESS seconds
17
          # since the last counted post by the same user,
18
          # ignore it.
19
          if abs(timestamp - USER_POST_TRACKER[username])
             <= UNIQUENESS:
21
              print(f''')
23
                 Ignoring comment number: {enum}
24
                 from user "{username}","
25
26
               continue
27
          # Otherwise, count it and update the timestamp.
28
              USER_POST_TRACKER[username] = timestamp
30
              posts[str(timestamp)] += 1
31
      return posts
33
```

In this code, we use the function _to_seconds(), which simply converts the string timestamps as mentioned in the previous section, to an integer, representing it purely by seconds into the video.

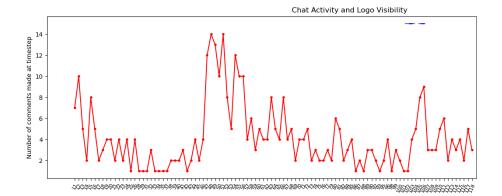
6.1.3 Visual Analysis

The simplest approach to gain insight from this data, would be to simply overlay chat-activity data on-top of a timeline of when our brand is visible (detected by our SIFT Algorithm). To do this, we are going to use the Python library matplotlib.

Firstly, we are going to plot the volume of posts created (Y axis), by the number of seconds into the stream they were posted (X axis). For this, we are using the function matplotlib::pyplot.plot, and feeding it our data, as well as using the marker style ".r", which ensures that each individual point on the X axis, will be marked by a red circle, and the points will be connected by a red line.



Hereafter, we want to overlay the time frames in which our brand logo is visible. This is achieved by simply going through each entry in our bounding_boxes.json file, dividing each frame number by 60 (Our video is 60 frames per second, thusly this will give us the number of seconds into the video the entry represents), and then plotting the entries in a similar fashion as our post volumes. Matplotlib will by itself handle connecting points next to each other, with a blue line.



Finally, now that we have our illustrations, we can try to draw some conclusions based on our dataset. We see that our logo was visible from 102 to 104, and again from 105 to 106, given that this is a visual analysis, we have not yet accounted for the accuracy of our detection model, and thus, we can safely assume that this is one connected timeframe of exposure, from 102 to 106.

Given this, we can see that our logo gained exposure during a timeframe of medium to medium-high chat activity, which can correlate with the "clip-ability", or rather, how many times that specific timeframe will be rewatched or reposted and furthermore, we can assume that chat interactivity correlates with the intensity or focus the viewerbase is giving the stream.

Converting our data into visual representations is vital for our application, luckily for us, it is also quite simple, as seen in the code we used to generate the graphs shows earlier:

```
1 def timeframe_chat_activity(path_to_chat_log: str,
     path_to_bounding_boxes: str):
       Creates a matplotlib plot showing the chat activity
        and the timeframes of branding exposure together.
3
    posts = _make_unique(path_to_chat_log, 10)
    fig, ax = plt.subplots()
    ax.plot(list(posts.keys()), list(posts.values()), '.r-')
10
    # Plot timeframes in which bounding boxes are visible
    for key in list(json.load(open(path_to_bounding_boxes, 'r
12
      ')).keys()):
        ax.plot(int(key) / 60, max(list(posts.values())) + 1 ,
13
14
    plt.title("Chat Activity and Logo Visibility")
15
    plt.xlabel("Seconds into the video")
16
    plt.xticks(fontsize=8, rotation=65)
```

```
plt.ylabel("Number of comments made at timestep")
return plt
```

6.1.4 Numerical Analysis

Now that we have both generated and looked over our visual data, its time for hard numbers. Questions that might have risen from our previous chapter, such as: "How big a percentage is that? or "How big was the total?. Well, lets calculate it. First and foremost, we are interested in how big of a percentage of the chat-activity existed withing the bounds of our branding being visible. As we have data telling us the times of both exposure and posts, we simply count it up, using the following function:

```
def percent_of_chat_activiy(path_to_chat_log: str,
     timeframes: List[Tuple[int]]) -> float:
    """ Returns the total percentage of chat activity
        experienced during the given timeframes
3
    # Filter by Uniqueness
6
    posts = _make_unique(path_to_chat_log, 10)
    total_posts = sum(posts.values())
    timeframe_posts = list()
9
10
    # Iterate through timeframes
    for enum, timeframe in enumerate(timeframes):
        posts_during_timeframe = sum(
13
          [posts[str(timestamp)]
14
          for timestamp in timeframe]
        )
        percent = posts_during_timeframe / total_posts * 100
        timeframe_posts.append(posts_during_timeframe)
19
20
    return sum(timeframe_posts) / total_posts * 100
```

Following this, and with the addition of some nice output formatting, you end up with returns like this:

```
>> There are a total of 5432 comments in the given chat log
>> timeframe: 0, saw a total of 432 posts, which is 7.952% of the total chat activity
>> timeframe: 1, saw a total of 241 posts, which is 4.436% of the total chat activity
>> ...
>> Collectively, the 26 timeframes got 46.342% of the chat activity
```

Given theese results, we can start to gather a better picture of how much actual exposure (using our assumption of attention) our branding received. Let os combine this with another numerical data point, the percentage of the total

video, our received exposure makes up. This data can be used to fuel our intuition, and when combined with the previous data point, be used for further calculations at higher levels of abstraction. We will in a later section dive into higher-abstraction analysis, but for now, let us look at the function used to calculate this data:

This simple function, with some pretty-printing as before, will return data in the following manner:

>> the timeframes in bounding_boxes.json make up 23.422% of the total video

Now, these numbers might not seem very exciting, knowing the percentage of chat activity, really does not allow us to conclude much. The percentage of total video length is neat, but again, tells us very little about the *clip-ability* or *high-attention* probability of the timeframes in which our brand got exposure, however, when combined, we get a clearer picture.

Knowing that our video was exposed for e.g. 13% of the total video, but received more than 60% of the chat activity, is robust enough to start forming some ideas about *what* content our brand actually got exposure in. And yes, we can pretty confidently assume, that this was not during a bathroom break.

6.2 Selective Viewcounts

Now that we got through a more, assumptious, segment of our analysis. Let us look at some data, that is unequivocally useful, and really should be a part of the standard analytics-platform these video sites have.

Given a video, without analysing the video in real-time, it is hard to know how many views our timeframes of exposure actually got, sure, we can approximate using the chat activity and the total view count, but that is not good enough. We need to know how many views each individual frame received.

- 6.2.1 Example
- 7 Scaleability
- 7.1 Piping
- 7.1.1 Code
- 7.2 Microservices
- 7.2.1 Implementation
- 7.3 Load Balancing
- 7.3.1 Implementation
- 8 Insight Useability
- 8.1 Generating Reports
- 8.2 Example
- 8.3 Code
- 9 Conclusion