

Identify Video Scene Boundaries using Transformer Encoding Linker Network (TELNet)

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ABSTRACT Videos are made up of a series of scenes or chapters, which are each a sequence of semantically related shots. In this paper, we propose a Transformer Encoding Linker Network (TELNet), which learns the relationship among video shots and identifies scene boundaries without prior knowledge of video structure – such as the number of scenes in a video.

Shots are represented using deep features extracted from a fine-tuned 3D CNN model and encoded further using self-attention. TELNet uses the encoded features to link the semantically related shots and identify scene boundaries when there are no overhead links across consecutive shots..

TELNet was trained end-to-end on multiple video scene identification datasets, archives result on par with other state-of-the-art models in canonical setting, improves result in transfer setting significantly (F-score is doubled in the majority of cross-dataset evaluations), making the proposed model applicable to various video categories. Furthermore, TELNet's computational complexity grows linearly as the number of shots increases in a video; hence, it is efficient for scene boundary identification of long videos.

INDEX TERMS Enter key words or phrases in alphabetical order, separated by commas. For a list of suggested keywords, send a blank e-mail to keywords@ieee.org or visit http://www.ieee.org/organizations/pubs/ani_prod/keywrd98.txt

I. INTRODUCTION

VIDEO Scene boundary identification or video chaptering is a fundamental task in video structure analysis that facilitates extracting information from videos and enhancing user experience while browsing videos [1] [2]. It has shown that effective video temporal segmentation is as essential as predicting frame-level-importance-score in generating video summaries [3].

Considering an unbroken sequence of consecutive frames that are visually similar, videos can be split into shots – a sequence of frames recorded from a single camera. However, semantically meaningful storylines, scenes, or chapters that can be effectively used in information retrieval or video summarization can be a collection of consecutive video shots that may be visually different - recorded from different cameras and/or from different angles [4].

Various researchers have studied shot detection algorithms, and there are multiple established algorithms for

shot detection [5] [6] [7] Given the similarity of frames within each shot, studying shallow visual features like color histograms or tracking changes in mutual information of consecutive frames can deliver results on par with similar studies of deep features extracted using object classification or motion detection models. [8].

Understanding videos at a high-level and detecting video scenes as a combination of semantically related shots is a challenging task that requires the integration of different information modalities – feature fusion [9]. Therefore, the majority of researchers have attempted to select a subset of features (such as texture, objects, motion, text, or voice) and learn the association between these features based on specific video content categories (e.g., surveillance videos, human activity [10]). Moreover, despite the great body of research in this area, there is no common framework for high-level temporal segmentation of generic video content – Scene boundary identification.

Having video shots and focusing on visual features, we propose a novel end-to-end Transformer Encoding Linker network (TELNet) that learns associations among shot representations, establishes links among correlated shots, and identifies scene boundaries based on the links (See Figure 1). The idea is to have a model which makes intra-scene shot features and shot features that belong to different scenes more distinguishable through feature encoding and generate a graph of shot links for scene boundary identification. TELNet relies on a pre-trained and fine tuned 3D CNN model for extracting video shot features and a stack of multi-head self-attention networks for learning associations among the extracted shot features – Transformer Encoder. The linker network establishes links among shots based on the encoded shot features and creates a graph of shots(nodes) and their edges(links). Scene boundaries are declared where no over-head links exist between consecutive shots.

Assuming that each scene can be represented by a key-shot which is the shot closest to the mean of shot features within each scene, video graphs are created and used as a label for the Linker network. Furthermore, TELNet was trained using a moving window technique, scanning sequences of shots in steps and aggregating results when reaching the end of the video.

TELNet was trained on multiple publicly available datasets, and compared to other state-of-the-art models [11] [9] [12] [13] [14] [15]. TELNet achieved results comparable to the other SOTA models in the canonical settings and improved results significantly in the transfer setting (the F-score is doubled in the majority of cross-dataset evaluations). To summarize, our main contributions are as follows:

- We proposed a Transformer Encoding Linker Network (TELNet) that models video shot correlations and identifies video scene boundaries without needing prior knowledge of video structure, such as the number of video scenes. The significant improvement of the result in the transfer setting confirms that the selected network models the video structure efficiently for video scene identification.
- The model was trained using a novel labeling methodology that uses links among intra-scene key-shot and shots as the label, and furthermore, process videos using a moving window methodology – process sequences of shots in steps. The model was trained end-to-end compared to the other SOTA models which were trained in increments.
- Given the simplicity of the model architecture, TELNets' computational complexity grows linearly as the number of shots increases; hence it is applicable to long videos in contrast to other models whose complexity grows linearly to the square of the number of shots [14] or NP-hard complexity of Ncut algorithm with an estimate of the number of scenes in a video [15].

II. RELATED WORK

A. SCENE BOUNDARY DETECTION

Scenes as a higher-level unit can be formed based on relationships among shots representations [16]. Rui et al. defined keyframe for each shot as the frame that can represent the shot's salient information [4]. Selected keyframes of different shots can be clustered for identifying scene boundaries. Chasanis et al. [17] used K-Means clustering to group the shot keyframes into scenes. Haroon et al. [18] used Scaled-Invariant Feature Transform (SIFT) [19] descriptor to represent the keyframe of the shot. Scene boundaries are detected by comparing the difference of those descriptors. Sidiropoulos et al. proposed a graph-based clustering - Scene Transition Graph (STG) - which links the shots based on the selected distance measure [20] and identified scene boundaries if there are no links within specific number of shots. Trojahn et al. [12] used VKFrameS² key-frames selection algorithm [21] to determine key-frame from shot. Every key-frame are represented by multiple features including visual, audio and textual. Those features are fed toward the LSTM model to further decide if a shot is boundary or not.

B. SHOT REPRESENTATION

Pre-trained image classification CNNs have been widely used for extracting image features. Baraldi et al. [13] extracted visual features within a shot using CNN, trained on ImageNet dataset [22] and Places dataset [23], Protasov et al. extracted visual features using a pre-trained CNN on the Place205 dataset [24]. Rotman et al. used Inception-v3 to extract the visual features [25] [14].

It has been shown that 3D CNNs can represent transitions in a set of consecutive frames and hence, 3D CNNs (like C3D) perform well in motion detection/classification by tracking what appears in the first few frames (objects) of a sequence [26] [27]. Carreira et al. [28] proposed a 3D CNN architecture based-on Inception-v1 called I3D. Hara et al. In [29] found residual architecture useful on 3D CNN model and proposed a new 3D CNN model based on Resnet. Liu et al. used Resnet34 that was pre-trained on ImageNet and inflated into 3D and then further trained on Kinetic dataset for extracting shot features [15].

C. SHOT CLUSTERING

With the encoded features for each shot, we can cluster the shots into scenes and identify the scene boundaries. Baraldi et al. represented shots by concatenating the extracted visual features with the text features extracted using word2vec from the video transcripts [13]. They proposed the deep Siamese network which evaluates the similarity among shots. The deep Siamese network was trained to have a higher score if two shots come from the same scene. Once the deep Siamese network trained, the scene boundary was determined using the local minimum similarity score. [11] use perceptual features e.g. Visual appearance, audio feature, quantity of speech and time to represent shot. Triplet loss embedding network is employed to make those features more adaptive.

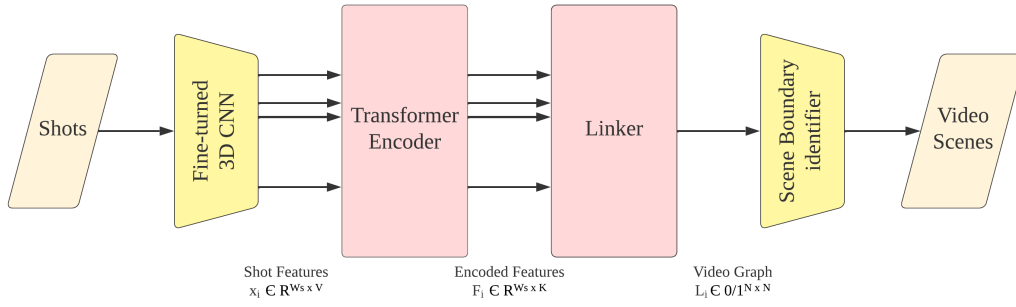


FIGURE 1. TELNet overall architecture

	Shot feature	Feature Encoding	Shot clustering	Complexity	Prior Knowledge
[20]	Color Histograms + Audio		Scene Transition Graph(STG)		No required
[11]Triplet	2D CNN + MFCC audio + textual	DNN with triplet loss	Temporal Aware Clustering with minimized Total Within group Sum of Square	Cube to the number of shots	No required
[9]	Audio + visual		Off-the shelf STG etc.		No required
[12]	CNN, textual and audio		LSTM		No required
[13]SDN	2D CNN + textual		Siamese Network		No required
[24]SAK-18	2D CNN + textual		Overlapping Link		No require
[25]OSG	2D CNN + audio		Optimal Sequence Grouping(OSG)	square to the number of shots	number of scenes need to know/estimate
[14]OSG-Triplet	2D CNN	triplet loss	OSG	square to the number of shots	number of scenes need to know/estimate
[15]ACRNet	3D CNN	Self-Attention	Normalized Cuts (NCuts)	NP-hard	Number of scenes need to know/estimate
TELNet*	3D CNN	Transformer Encoding Linker		Linear to the number of shots	No required

TABLE 1. Comparison of state-of-the-art and our model

Shots are clustered thus minimizing the total within-group sum of squares(TWSS).

Protasov et al. linked the shots if their similarity of deep features is higher than a specific threshold. A boundary is declared when the two consecutive shots are not linked [24].

Rotman et al. [25] [14] proposed Optimal Sequential Grouping (OSG) for grouping shots. Shots were clustered by combining visual features with the audio features extracted from VGGish, minimizing intra-scene distance. Having the number of scenes, OSG clusters the shots using dynamic programming.

Liu et al. proposed an adaptive context reading network (ACRNet) model based on Transformer [15]. They selected each shot as the query and the other shots in a specific range as key-value pair. Using Q-function [30], the number of scenes were estimated and then the normalized-cuts (NCuts) [31] was used for shots clustering.

III. METHOD

A. SHOT FEATURES

Three-dimensional convolutional neural networks (3D CNN) can track transitions in consecutive frames; hence, they have been used widely for action recognition tasks [26] [27].

Given that the scenes are defined as semantically related shots that may not be visually similar, we've employed a pre-trained C3D network for representing video shots [27]. C3D model was trained on the Sports-1M dataset [32] which is a well-established sports action recognition dataset. Following the suggestion given by [28], each shot was sampled into 16 frames fulfilling the requirement of C3D model and represented by features extracted from the last layer of C3D, removing the softmax layer [27].

B. TRANSFORMER ENCODER

Shot features that are extracted from the pre-trained 3D CNN are considered raw representations which capture transitions in consecutive frames. Shot representations are then transformed into encoded features based on the desired labels (Links among shots). The idea is to learn the relationship among shot features and transform features to be tuned for the scene boundary identification task. We've employed Transformer encode as a combination of multi-head stacked self-attention networks as the feature encoder given the success Transformers had in sequence modeling [33]. Considering a video with n shots and shots represented by d features,

X is denoted as shots feature matrix where $X \in R^{n \times d}$. Each attention head transforms input features using $W_{Qi} \in R^{d \times dk}$, $W_{Ki} \in R^{d \times dk}$, $W_{Vi} \in R^{d \times dk}$ respectively. Attention weight for i -th head $e_i \in R^{n \times n}$ can be written as (1). Each attention head output denoted as $head_i$ is the softmax of e_i multiplied by XW_v (2). Multi-head output Z is the weighted sum of concatenated outputs of attention heads (3). Normalized residual output Z' is the multi-head output Z added to the original features X . Z' then passed through a feed forward network with weight W_{FF1} and W_{FF2} . Each stack of multi-head attention layer output denoted as Y is the normalized feed forward output plus Z' (4). Employing multiple layers of self-attention networks (Stacks), the final output is the encoded features denoted by F .

$$e_i = [(XW_{Qi})(XW_{Ki})^T] \quad (1)$$

$$head_i = softmax(e_i)V_i, \text{ where } V_i = XW_{Vi} \quad (2)$$

$$Z = concat([head_1 head_2 head_3 \dots head_h])W_O \quad (3)$$

$$Y = norm(Z'W_{FF1}W_{FF2} + Z') \quad (4)$$

C. LINKER

Having the encoded shot features, Linker establishes links among shots and generates a video graph. A video graph is a complete graph in which all nodes (shots) are linked through weighted edges, and the role of the Linker is to predict the edge weights. The Linker is constructed with fully connected layers, denoted by L function which takes S_j , the source shot encoded features located in the j -th row of F , θ , model parameters and predict the pairwise linking probability $Y_j = L(S_j, F, \theta)$ denoted as the linking probability of the j -th shot to other shots in F .

D. MERGE ALGORITHM

Because of the limited size of the computing memory, we set the input window size as 15. However, it leads to the result of fixed boundary of every 15 shots. In order to eliminate the boundaries of every input window, we came up with a merge algorithm using sliding-window method. By selecting stride step as 10, we overlap the last 5 shots from the current window with the first 5 shots from the succeeding window, which we believe are the most possible shots that may link to shots in different window. We combine the top five key shot candidates from both window, by linking the overlapping shots to their most related key shot from both windows, we therefore eliminate the fixed boundaries of every window.

E. LABEL GENERATION

Encoded shot features are expected to be related within each scene and therefore feature encoding should be able to encode shot features to have closer intra-scene distance in comparison to out of scene distance. Selecting the mean of the encoded features within a scene as a key representation of the scene (1-Mean Clustering), we have selected the closest shot to the encoded feature mean as the key-shot within



FIGURE 2. Training label generation; This diagram represents a sample scene in which the key-shot (red rectangle) is linked to all the other shots within the scene.

each scene. Algorithm III-E describe the label generation procedure. Once the key-shot is selected, all shots within the same scene will be linked to key-shot. Figure 2 shows a sample of a key shot and how it is linked to the shots within the same scene.

[tb] Label Generation **Input:** Encoded features in a scene
Output: KeyShot

- 1: Let a scene start with k -th shot and n shots in that scene
- 2: Mean encoded feature $f_{mean} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=k}^{k+n-1} f_i$
- 3: $miniDist = \infty$
- 4: **for** $i = k$ to $k+n-1$ **do**
- 5: Dist = EuclideanDistance(f_{mean}, f_i)
- 6: **if** Dist < minDist **then**
- 7: minDist = Dist.
- 8: KeyShot = i
- 9: **end if**
- 10: **end for**
- 11: **return** KeyShot

IV. IMPLEMENTATION DETAIL AND EXPERIMENT RESULT

A. MODEL SETTING

Extracted shot features, $X \in R^{n \times 4096}$ are encoded to $F \in R^{n \times 4096}$ using a four-head, six stacks of self-attention networks - N is the number of shots in a video. The linker is implemented using a 3-layer fully connected neural network as detailed in Table 2.

B. MODEL EVALUATION METRIC

F-score calculated based on Overflow and Coverage has been widely used for evaluating the performance of the scene boundary identification models [34]. Having the predicted scenes $Z = \{Z_1, Z_2, Z_3 \dots Z_m\}$ and the ground truth scenes $\check{Z} = \{\check{Z}_1, \check{Z}_2, \check{Z}_3 \dots \check{Z}_m\}$, where Z_i, \check{Z}_j denote the scene index, $i \in \{1, \dots, m\}$, and $j \in \{1, \dots, m\}$. $\#(Z_i)$ is the number of shots in the predicted i -th scene. The metrics Coverage, C_t and Overflow, O_t for scene \check{Z}_t are calculated as (5) and (6). F-score is the harmonic mean of C_t and $1 - O_t$ and given by (7)

$$C_t = \frac{Z_{i=1, \dots, m} \#(Z_i \cap t)}{\#(t)} \quad (5)$$

$$O_t = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^m \#(Z_i \setminus t) * \min(1, \#(Z_i \cap t))}{\#(t-1) + \#(t+1)} \quad (6)$$

$$F-score = \frac{2}{\frac{1}{C_t} + \frac{1}{1-O_t}} \quad (7)$$

Transformer Encoder	Head=4, number of stacks=6, d model=4096
Fully connect layer 1	(4096,2048), activate function=relu
Fully connect layer 2	(2048,1024), activate function=relu
Fully connect layer 3	(1024, W_s)

TABLE 2. Transformer Encoding Linker setting, d model is the output dimension of Transformer Encoder

Video Name	Video Length (hh:mm:ss)	Number of Shots	Number of Scenes	Average Scene Length (mm:ss)
From Pole to Pole	00:49:15	445	23	1:04
Mountains	00:48:05	383	36	1:05
Ice Worlds	00:49:17	421	33	1:01
Great Plains	00:49:03	472	30	0:52
Jungle	00:49:14	460	25	0:55
Seasonal Forests	00:49:19	526	33	0:57
Fresh Water	00:49:17	531	37	0:52
Ocean Deep	00:49:14	410	29	1:04
Shallow Seas	00:49:14	336	33	0:51
Caves	00:48:55	374	22	0:55
Deserts	00:49:00	467	26	0:55
Total	08:59:53	4855	327	1:39

TABLE 3. Detail of BBC Planet Earth Dataset

C. TRAINING

Through the training procedure, the Transformer Encoder and the Linker were trained together, minimizing the cross-entropy loss of the predicted linking probabilities and the ground truth label (generated labels) as shown in following equation:

$$Loss = - \sum Y_{Label} \log(L(S_j, F, \theta)) \quad (8)$$

Y_{Label} is the one hot vector where 1 indicates the position of the key-shot – all shots within scene should be only connected to the scene key-shot.

Linker follows a moving window technique and slides through the sequence of W_s shots and predicts the pairwise linking probability within the range of W_s . Window size is selected as 15 after a comprehensive study provided in the supplementary material.

D. DATASET

We train our propose TELNet model on multiple public available datasets.

1) BBC Planet Earth Dataset

BBC Planet Earth dataset includes 11 episodes of BBC planet program, which are all about nature. Table 3 shows the details of the BBC Planet Earth dataset.

2) OVSD Dataset

Open Video Scene Detection (OVSD) dataset, proposed by Rotman et al., contains several movies and animations [25].

Video Name	Video Length (hh:mm:ss)	Number of Shots	Number of Scenes	Average Scene Length (mm:ss)
BBB	00:09:56	113	15	0:40
BWNS	01:09:46	257	36	1:56
CL	00:12:10	98	7	0:53
FBW	01:16:06	686	62	1:13
Honey	01:26:49	315	20	4:08
Meridian	00:11:58	56	9	1:52
Route 66	01:43:25	701	55	1:53
Star Wreck	01:43:14	1055	55	1:53
Total	07:53:24	4250	259	1:50

TABLE 4. Detail of OVSD selected videos

OVSD dataset originally had 21 videos, but we are not able to use all of them due to copyright problems. Table 4 shows the details of the OVSD videos we used in our study. OVSD dataset provides scene boundaries but shot boundaries were not provided.

3) MSC Dataset

Movie SceneClip (MSC) dataset is available through a YouTube Channel which contains 500+ videos [15]. Due to copyright problems, we only used 468 videos in our study. Unlike BBC Planet Earth or OVSD dataset, MSC dataset does not have complete videos, and each video is a highlight of a movie. Following [15], we integrate videos from the same movie into a video with pseudo scene boundaries (See Table 5)

Number of Video	Total Shot	Average Video Length	Average number of shots
468	16131	2:35	34

TABLE 5. Detail of MSC Dataset

E. PERFORMANCE COMPARISON

We compared TELNet's performance with the state-of-the-art methods that is detailed in Table 1 [13] [24] [25] [14] [15]. SDN applies the Siamese Neural Network on combination of visual and textual features [13]. SAK-18 estimates scene boundaries based on place change [24]. OSG detects scene boundaries using Optimal Sequential Grouping Algorithm [25]. OSG-Triplet further embeds original features using triplet embedding and applies OSG to detect the scene boundaries [14]. ACRNet [15] embeds features using a transformer and groups the shots using NCut algorithm [31].

Train \ Test	MSC	BBC	OVSD
MSC	0.67	0.64	0.63
BBC	0.28	0.76	0.22
OVSD	0.29	0.23	0.73

TABLE 6. F-score of ACRNet [15] on cross dataset

Train \ Test	MSC	BBC	OVSD
MSC	0.69	0.62	0.6
BBC	0.64	0.74	0.56
OVSD	0.64	0.64	0.72

TABLE 7. F-score of Proposed TELNet on cross dataset

Table 6 and Table 7 compared TELNet to ACRNet model [15] in transfer settings -cross-dataset evaluation. Note that the F-score on the BBC dataset and the OVSD dataset are based on leave-one-out training. For the MSC dataset, 70% of the videos were used for training and 30% were used for testing.

Table 8 shows the result on the BBC planet dataset. As shown in the Table 8, TELNet outperforms all models by relatively a large margin and achieves results on par with ACRNet [15].

Table 9 shows the result on the OVSD dataset. The F-score of OSG and OSG-triplet come from [25] [14].

TELNet achieves results on par with ACRNet [15] in the canonical setting and outperform other ACRNet significantly in transfer setting. Given the diversity of video categories among the dataset used, TELNet result in transfer setting verifies the effectiveness of the proposed model in learning video structure for scene boundary identification.

V. CONCLUSION

We've proposed a model integrating a Transformer Encoder and a Linker that are trained together to identify video scene boundaries. The proposed model relies on pre-trained 3D CNN models for shot representation and a link graph as the output - label. The link graph was created using a novel technique connecting intra-scene shots and the scene key-shot.

The proposed model was evaluated on various datasets, achieved results on par with the other state-of-the-art models in the canonical setting, and outperformed other models significantly in the transfer settings. The comparable results in the canonical setting were achieved without needing prior knowledge of the video structure, such as the number of scenes in a video. Furthermore, the significant improvement of the results in the transfer settings verifies the efficiency of the model in learning video structure for scene boundary identification.

TELNets' computational complexity grows linearly as the number of shots increases making it the simplest among the state-of-the-art models and applicable to long videos.

	[11] Triplet	[9]	[12]	[13] SDN *1	[24] SAK-18 *2	[25] OSG *2*3	[14] OSG- Triplet *2*3*5	[14] OSG- Triplet *2*4*5	[15] ACRNet *1*5	TELNet *5
B01	0.72	0.65	0.63	0.56	0.5	0.66	0.68	0.27	0.83	0.77
B02	0.75	0.65	0.65	0.63	0.54	0.65	0.65	0.31	0.82	0.68
B03	0.73	0.66	0.64	0.66	0.5	0.64	0.64	0.15	0.77	0.69
B04	0.63	0.7	0.68	0.61	0.54	0.6	0.6	0.29	0.72	0.75
B05	0.62	0.67	0.63	0.55	0.51	0.56	0.55	0.20	0.7	0.74
B06	0.65	0.69	0.64	0.64	0.51	0.58	0.61	0.29	0.7	0.75
B07	0.67	0.67	0.66	0.59	0.53	0.54	0.56	0.27	0.7	0.74
B08	0.65	0.64	0.67	0.64	0.38	0.65	0.66	0.3	0.73	0.76
B09	0.74	0.69	0.64	0.64	0.55	0.57	0.56	0.19	0.8	0.7
B10	0.62	0.65	0.67	0.64	0.43	0.59	0.61	0.19	0.75	0.77
B11	0.62	0.69	0.66	0.64	0.51	0.65	0.65	0.28	0.71	0.77
Average	0.67	0.67	0.654	0.62	0.5	0.608	0.62	0.25	0.76	0.74

TABLE 8. F-score comparison in BBC Planet Earth dataset. The episodes B01 to B11 are respectively From Pole to Pole, Mountains, Fresh Water, Caves, Deserts, Ice Worlds, Great Plains, Jungles, Shallow Seas, Seasonal Forests and Ocean Deep.

*1 Result obtained from the published paper

*2 Result obtained from their source code

*3 OSG and OSG-Triplet are given correct number of scenes

*4 Number of video scenes are estimated

*5 Leave-one-out training result

Video Name	[12]*1	[15] ACRNet*1*2	[14]OSG-Triplet*1	[25]OSG*1	Proposed model TELNet
BBB	0.57	0.74	0.81	0.83	0.69
BWNS	0.53		0.75	0.63	0.6
CL	0.64	0.61	0.49	0.62	0.88
FBW	0.57		0.76	0.57	0.66
Honey	0.6		0.73	0.58	0.77
Meridian	0.45		0.69	0.63	0.75
LCDUP	0.63		0.72	0.73	0.76
Route 66	0.63	0.72	0.54		0.64
Star Wreck	0.62		0.66	0.55	0.71
Average	0.58*3	0.73 *4	0.701	0.61	0.72

TABLE 9. F-score comparison in OVSD dataset

*1 Results obtained from the published paper

*2 Leave-one-out training result

*3 Average Fscore of the selected video

*4 From [15]

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