



# **Exploring Explainability in Video Action Recognition**

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#### Introduction

- While explainability methods have been designed for image tasks, there is little work specifically for video.
- We find that attribution-based methods such as
   GradCAM have several issues when applied to video
   tasks, such as flickering and ambiguous directionality.
- We propose an extension of TCAV called Video-TCAV and an automated method to generate video concepts.
- We generate two types of concepts spatial-only and spatiotemporal, which reveal interesting properties about SOTA models such as Video Swin Transformer.

### **GradCAM Revisited**





(a) Positive Illustration

- (b) Limitation
- Can be applied frame-by-frame or by frame batches.
- Framewise analysis insensitive to temporal direction
  picking up a cup is the same as putting it down.
- Exhibits temporal flickering attributions vary widely between frames and jump between elements.
- Impractical at scale must be individually analyzed.

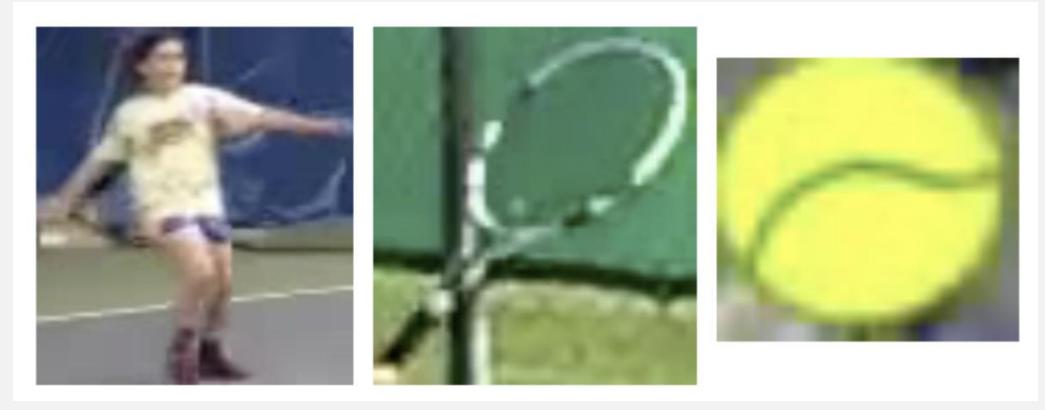
#### Video-TCAV

**Concept**: Collection of inputs sharing an implicit high-level property. **CAV**: Hyperplane separating samples of concept and random inputs. **TCAV**: Sensitivity of class samples to concept – directional derivative. **Pre-trained Model**: Video Swin Transformer, action recognition SOTA.

Use YOLO-v7 to obtain concepts based on objects and their behavior.

#### Spatial Concept Generation

Crops of objects detected copied over several frames. Conceptually describe the **simple presence or absence – no temporal aspect.** 



#### Spatiotemporal Concept Generation

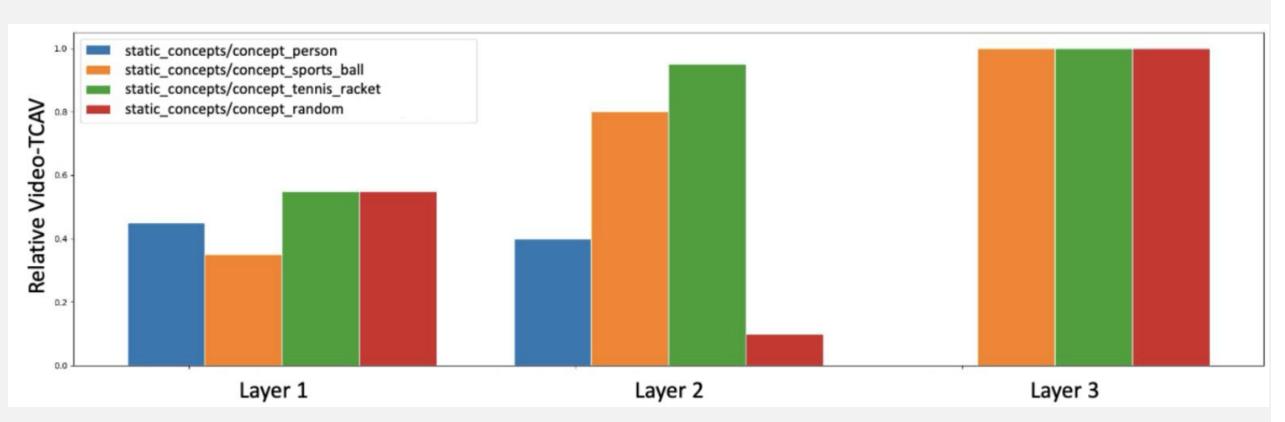
Tracking of objects over several frames. Conceptually describe both the presence of an object and how it moves in space in given context.



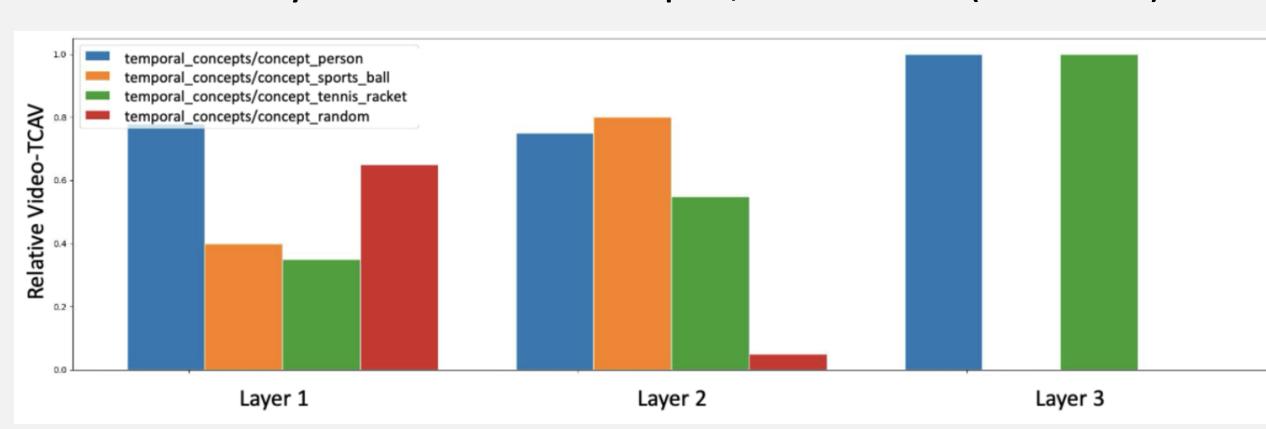
We study three levels of representation – early, middle and late stage in our pretrained model. We also manually verify concepts for sanity.

## **Results and Experiments**

Static concepts are not very informative when compared to 'random concept'. Effect persists till the last layer.



• Dynamic concepts much more informative. Motion sensitivity increases with depth, as in brain (V1 vs V5).



• Dynamic version of concept dominates static version with increase in depth. Last layer exclusively prefers dynamic.

