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Where Does a Moment Start? Measuring Temporal Boundary Ambiguity in Retrieval Benchmarks

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Abstract

Moment retrieval metrics treat a single annotated time range as ground truth. We collected five independent boundary annotations for 2,000 queries and found that the median disagreement between annotators is 0.84 seconds at the start and 1.31 seconds at the end, larger than the typical improvement reported between competing methods. Disagreement is highest for gradual events such as lighting changes and slow camera moves. We propose evaluating against the distribution of annotations rather than a single range, introduce a soft-IoU variant, and show that it changes the ranking of six published methods on two public benchmarks.

About this document

This is the public extended abstract. The full report, including appendices, ablations and evaluation scripts, is available on request from research@videofinder.link. Code and data referenced in this work are listed at https://helsinki.videofinder.link/open-source.html and /datasets.html.

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