



Website

# THE DEVIL IS IN THE SPURIOUS CORRELATIONS:

## Boosting Moment Retrieval with Dynamic Learning

Xinyang Zhou<sup>\*1</sup>, Fanyue Wei<sup>\*2</sup>, Lixin Duan<sup>1</sup>, Angela Yao<sup>2</sup>, Wen Li<sup>1</sup>,

<sup>1</sup>University of Electronic Science and Technology of China,

<sup>2</sup>National University of Singapore

Code: <https://github.com/xyangzhou/TD-DETR>

Website: <https://xyangzhou.github.io/TD-DETR>

Paper ID: 6639

Exhibit Hall I #1933

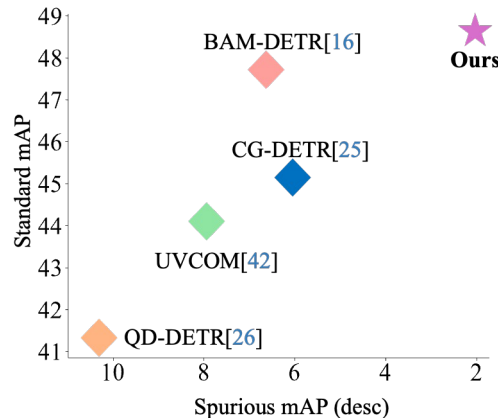
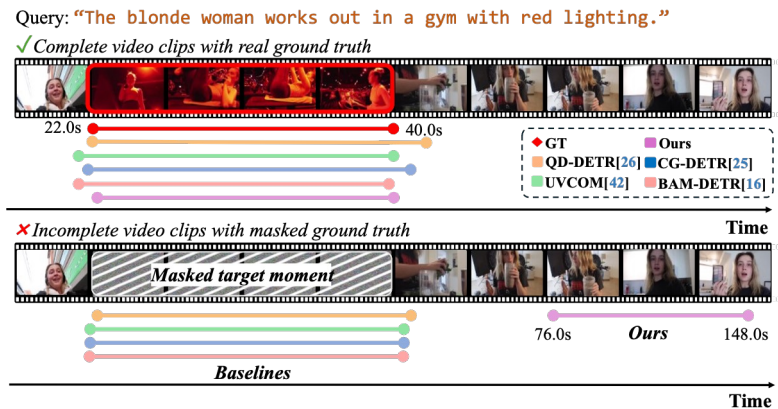
## ■ Video Moment Retrieval



- Browsing through entire videos is time-consuming.
- Tools to retrieve corresponding moments automatically by textual description is widely needed

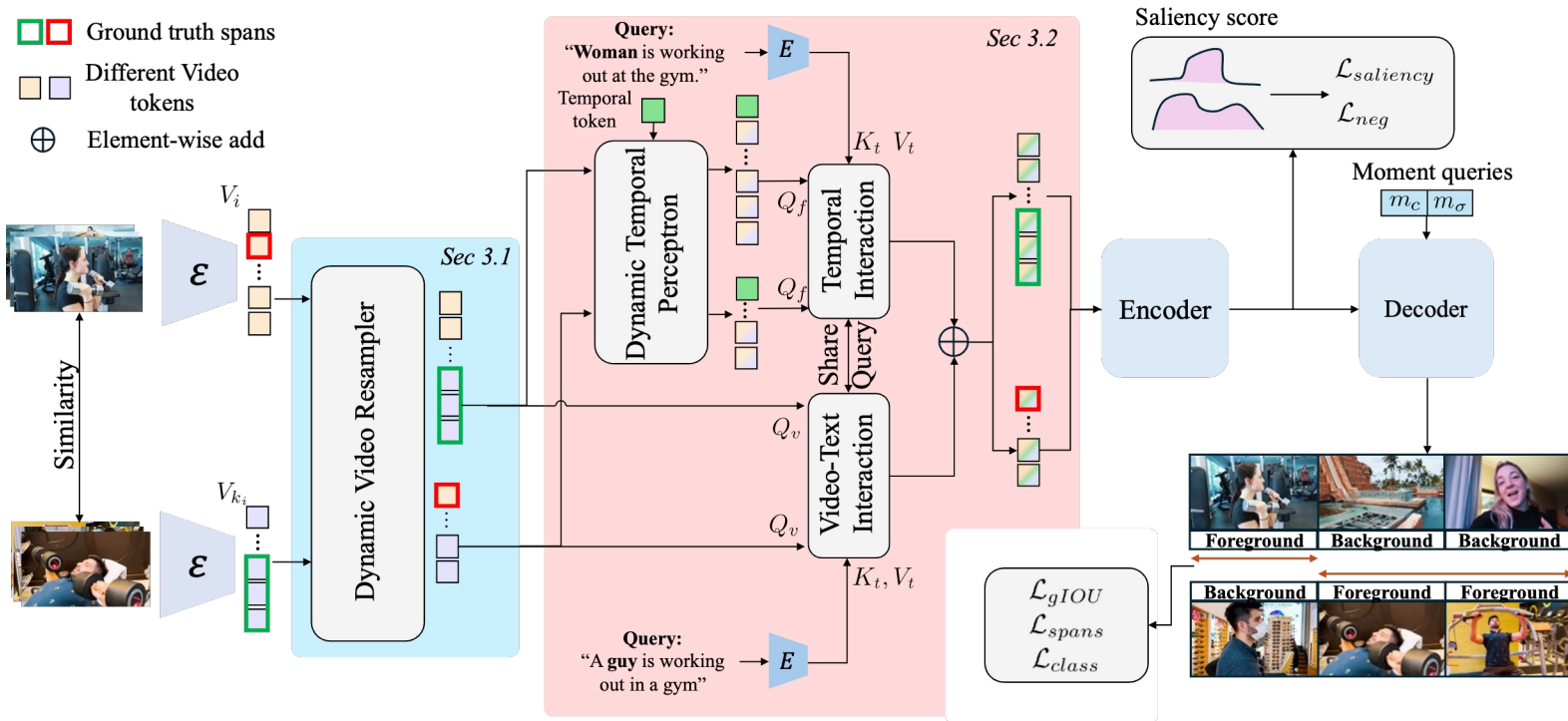
## ■ Motivation

- The model makes predictions by overly associating queries with background frames rather than distinguishing target moments.



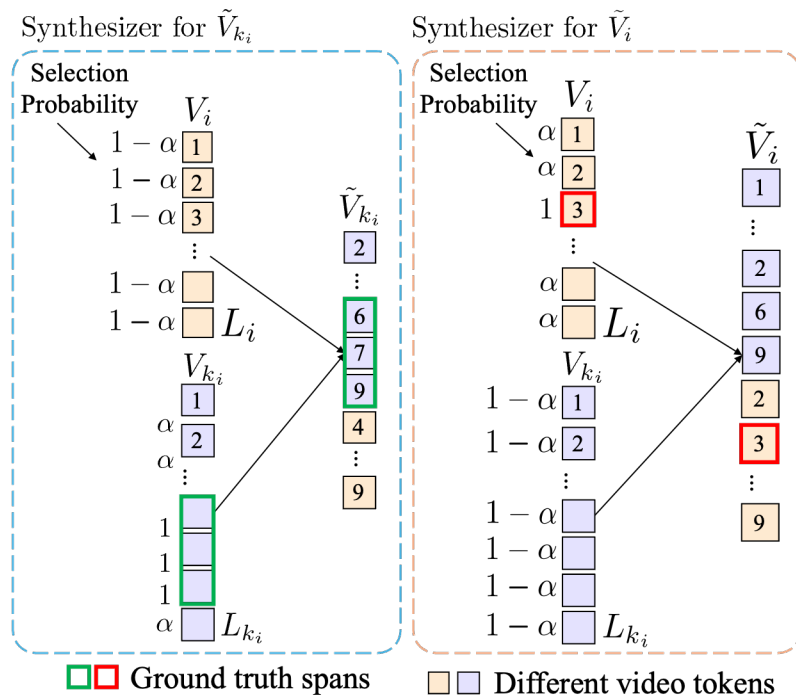
- Even when the target moment is masked, the existing method still predicts a similar span.
- Such issues lead to a sub-optimal performance.

## Learning Temporal Dynamics utilizing DETR



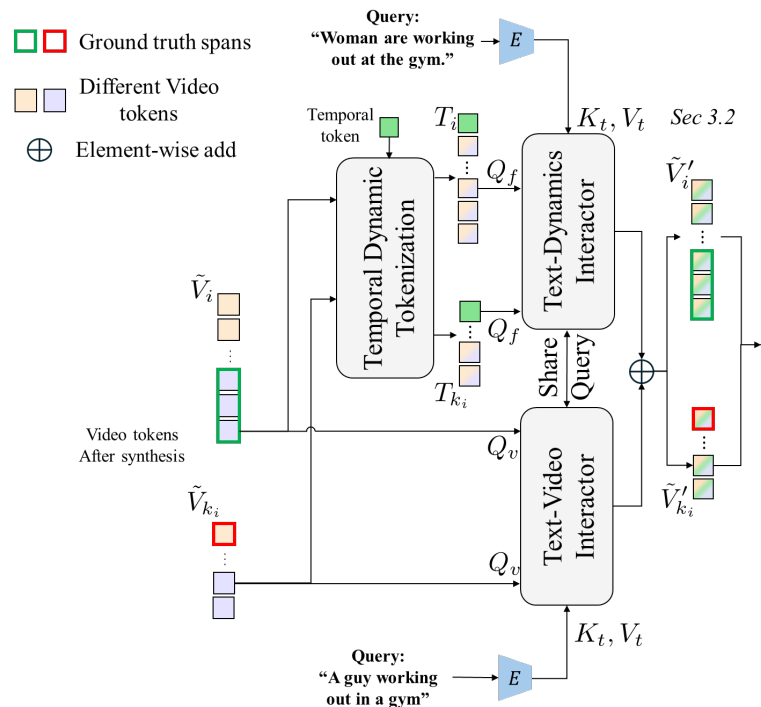
## ■ Video Synthesizer for Dynamic Context

- Spurious correlations stem from linking the moment's **context** to the text **query**.
- Synthesizing new samples for the target moments with more dynamic contextual variations.
- Enforcing model to attend to the target moment **corresponding** to the text query, even with in a dynamic context.



## ■ Temporal Dynamics Enhancement

- The attention of DETR-like architecture tends to emphasize background frames.
- Align text queries with temporal **dynamic** representations.
- Establishing a **stand-up** correlation between the query-related moment and its context.



## ■ Results on Standard Evaluation

### QVHighlights dataset

Method	MR-R1		MR-mAP		
	@0.5	@0.7	@0.5	@0.75	Average
MCN [2] <i>ICCV'17</i>	11.41	2.72	24.94	8.22	10.67
CAL [6] <i>arXiv'19</i>	25.49	11.54	23.40	7.65	9.89
XML [17] <i>ECCV'20</i>	41.83	30.35	44.63	31.73	32.14
XML+ [18] <i>NIPS'21</i>	46.69	33.46	47.89	34.67	34.90
SnAG <sup>†</sup> [27] <i>CVPR'24</i>	59.79	48.10	58.63	44.37	42.71
<i>SnAG /w TD-DETR</i>	<b>66.48</b>	<b>52.93</b>	<b>63.71</b>	<b>49.11</b>	<b>46.75</b>
Moment-DETR [18] <i>NIPS'21</i>	52.89	33.02	54.82	29.40	30.73
UMT [23] <i>CVPR'22</i>	56.23	41.18	53.83	37.01	36.12
MomentDiff [19] <i>NIPS'23</i>	57.42	39.66	54.02	35.73	35.95
QD-DETR [26] <i>CVPR'23</i>	62.40	44.98	62.52	39.88	39.86
UniVTG [20] <i>ICCV'23</i>	58.86	40.86	57.60	35.59	35.47
CG-DETR[25] <i>arXiv'23</i>	65.40	48.40	64.50	42.80	42.90
UVCOM [42] <i>CVPR'24</i>	63.55	48.70	64.47	44.01	43.27
BAM-DETR[16] <i>ECCV'24</i>	64.53	48.64	64.57	46.33	45.36
<i>TD-DETR (Ours)</i>	<b>64.53</b> <sub>±0.62</sub>	<b>50.37</b> <sub>±0.53</sub>	<b>66.21</b> <sub>±0.21</sub>	<b>47.32</b> <sub>±0.53</sub>	<b>46.69</b> <sub>±0.26</sub>

<sup>†</sup>reproduced by the official code

### Charades-STA dataset

Method	R1@0.5	R1@0.7
CAL [6]	44.90	24.37
2D TAN [52]	39.70	23.31
VSLNet [49]	47.31	30.19
IVG-DCL [28]	50.24	32.88
SnAG <sup>†</sup> [27]	65.72	37.32
<i>SnAG /w TD-DETR</i>	<b>70.14</b>	<b>42.35</b>
Moment-DETR [18]	53.63	31.37
Moment-Diff [19]	55.57	32.42
UMT [23]	48.31	29.25
QD-DETR [26]	57.31	32.55
CG-DETR[25]	58.40	36.30
BAM-DETR[16]	59.95	39.38
<i>TD-DETR (Ours)</i>	<b>60.89</b>	<b>40.35</b>

<sup>†</sup>reproduced by the official code

## ■ Results on Spurious Correlation Evaluation

- We replace the target clips of video content with masks without changing the duration of the videos.
- To verify the issue of spurious correlation, we introduce the Spurious mAP as the metric.
- Our model achieves the best ratio of mAP to Spurious mAP.

Method	Spurious R1 ↓		Spurious mAP ↓		Standard mAP ↑	
	@0.7	@0.9	@0.75	Avg.	@0.75	Avg.
QD-DETR	9.35	5.29	9.90	10.40	41.82	41.22
Ours w/ QD	8.26	3.68	7.46	8.15	49.86	49.05
CG-DETR	4.65	1.29	5.55	6.14	45.70	44.90
Ours w/ CG	2.58	0.39	3.38	4.41	49.16	48.38
BAM-DETR	7.16	1.87	6.30	6.72	48.56	47.61
Ours w/ BAM	1.61	0.52	1.73	1.98	49.62	48.67



## ■ Ablation study

### Analysis on the proposed components

	VSDC	TDEM	QVHighlight								Charades-STA				
			R1↑		mAP↑			Spurious R1↓		Spurious mAP↓		R1↑		Spurious R1↓	
			@0.5	@0.7	@0.5	@0.75	Avg.	@0.7	@0.9	@0.75	Avg.	@0.5	@0.7	@0.7	@0.9
(a)			61.12	46.77	62.45	43.66	42.54	9.35	5.29	9.90	10.40	57.31	32.55	25.72	6.31
(b)	✓		63.47	49.39	64.82	47.67	46.39	8.77	3.87	8.64	8.91	39.12	63.67	23.15	5.42
(c)		✓	62.93	48.25	64.22	45.49	44.84	8.84	4.0	9.10	9.56	38.51	60.80	24.03	5.73
(d)	✓	✓	<b>65.88</b>	<b>53.67</b>	<b>66.43</b>	<b>49.86</b>	<b>49.05</b>	<b>8.26</b>	<b>3.68</b>	<b>7.46</b>	<b>8.15</b>	<b>60.89</b>	<b>40.35</b>	<b>22.13</b>	<b>4.82</b>

### Generalization on different baselines

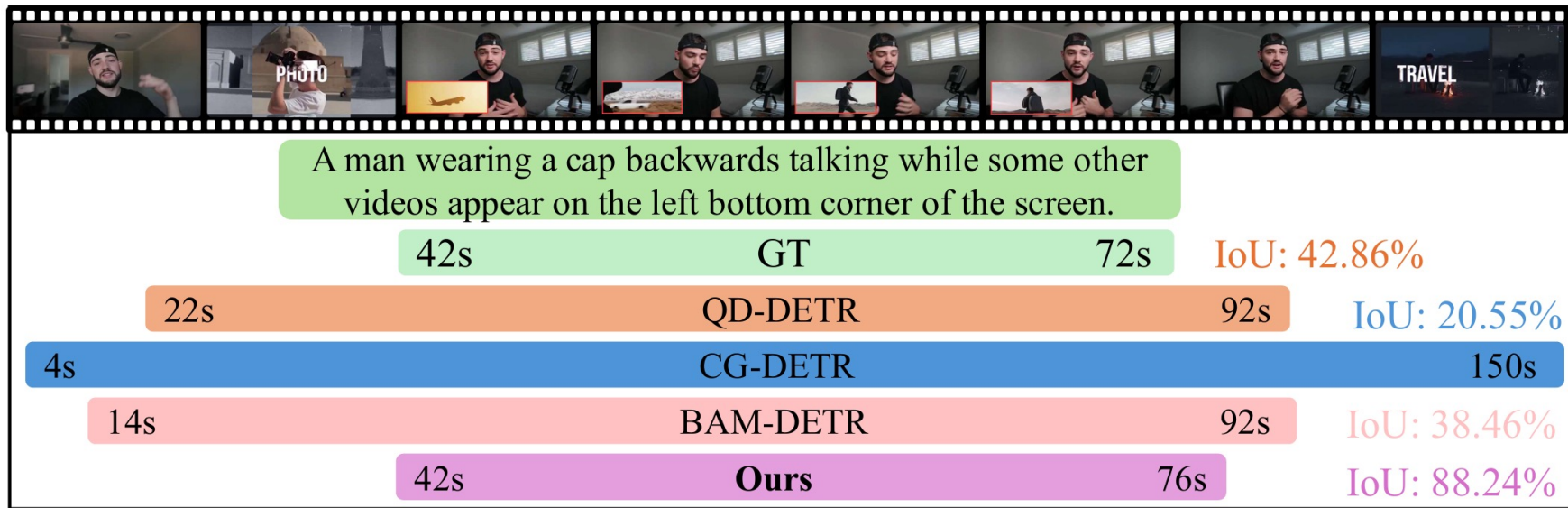
Method	QVHighlights val			Charades-STA test	
	R1@0.7	mAP@0.75	mAP	R1@0.5	R1@0.7
CG	52.10	45.70	44.90	58.40	36.30
Ours w/ CG	53.25 <sup>+1.15</sup>	49.16 <sup>+3.46</sup>	48.38 <sup>+3.48</sup>	59.35 <sup>+0.95</sup>	37.84 <sup>+1.54</sup>
BAM	51.61	48.56	47.61	59.95	39.38
Ours w/BAM	52.87 <sup>+1.26</sup>	49.62 <sup>+1.06</sup>	48.82 <sup>+1.21</sup>	60.92 <sup>+0.97</sup>	40.25 <sup>+0.87</sup>
QD	46.66	41.82	41.22	57.31	32.55
Ours w/ QD	53.67 <sup>+7.01</sup>	49.86 <sup>+8.04</sup>	49.00 <sup>+7.78</sup>	60.89 <sup>+3.58</sup>	40.35 <sup>+7.80</sup>
SnAG	48.10	44.37	42.71	65.72	37.32
Ours w/ SnAG	52.93 <sup>+4.83</sup>	49.11 <sup>+4.74</sup>	46.75 <sup>+4.04</sup>	70.14 <sup>+4.42</sup>	42.35 <sup>+5.03</sup>

### Comparisons across different sampling strategies.

Method	QVHighlights			Charades-STA	
	R1@0.7	mAP@0.75	mAP	R1@0.5	R1@0.7
baseline	46.66	41.82	41.22	57.31	32.55
w/ random	51.29	47.82	47.56	58.66	37.98
w/ similarity	<b>53.67</b>	<b>49.86</b>	<b>49.05</b>	<b>60.89</b>	<b>40.35</b>

## ■ Qualitative Analysis

Example MR prediction for the given masked video.



## ■ Contribution

- To the best of our knowledge, we are the first to investigate the **spurious correlation** in moment retrieval.
- We propose a **dynamic** learning approach that mitigates *spurious correlations*
  - Dynamically contextualizing target moments through novel video **synthesis**
  - Enhancing representations with **aligned** temporal dynamics.
- The proposed method achieves **state-of-the-art** performance across all benchmarks and provides a strong interpretation of *spurious correlations*.

Thank you