PUSA V1.0: UNLOCKING TEMPORAL CONTROL IN PRETRAINED VIDEO DIFFUSION MODELS VIA VECTORIZED TIMESTEP ADAPTATION

Anonymous authorsPaper under double-blind review

000

001

002

004

006

008 009 010

011 012 013

014

015

016

017

018

019

021

023

025

026

027

028

029

031

032 033 034

035

037

040

041

042

043

044

046

047

048

050 051

052

ABSTRACT

The rapid advancement of video diffusion models has been hindered by fundamental limitations in temporal modeling, particularly the rigid synchronization of frame evolution imposed by conventional scalar timestep variables. While task-specific adaptations and autoregressive models have sought to address these challenges, they remain constrained by computational inefficiency, catastrophic forgetting, or narrow applicability. In this work, we present **Pusa**¹ V1.0, a versatile model that leverages vectorized timestep adaptation (VTA) to enable finegrained temporal control within a unified video diffusion framework. Note that VTA is a non-destructive adaptation, which means that it fully preserves the capabilities of the base model. Unlike conventional methods like Wan-I2V, which finetune a base text-to-video (T2V) model with abundant resources to do image-to-video (I2V), we achieve comparable results in a zero-shot manner after an ultra-efficient finetuning process based on VTA. Moreover, this method also unlocks many other zero-shot capabilities simultaneously, such as start-end frames and video extension—all without task-specific training. Meanwhile, it keeps the T2V capability from the base model. Mechanistic analyses also reveal that our approach preserves the foundation model's generative priors while surgically injecting temporal dynamics, avoiding the combinatorial explosion inherent to the vectorized timestep. This work establishes a scalable, efficient, and versatile paradigm for next-generation video synthesis, democratizing high-fidelity video generation for research and industry alike.

1 Introduction

Diffusion models Song et al. (2020); Ho et al. (2020) have transformed generative modeling, achieving remarkable results in image synthesis. Their extension to video generation Ho et al. (2022); He et al. (2022); Chen et al. (2023); Wang et al. (2023); Ma et al. (2024); OpenAI (2024); Xing et al. (2023b); Liu et al. (2024a) has been a focal point. However, these mainstream video diffusion models (VDMs) still employ a scalar timestep variable following image diffusion models, enforcing uniform temporal evolution across all frames. This approach, while being effective for text-to-video (T2V), struggles with nuanced, temporal-dependent tasks like image-to-video (I2V) and video extension Liu et al. (2024b); Wan et al. (2025); Xing et al. (2023a).

Autoregressive alternatives like Diffusion Forcing Chen et al. (2024) and AR-Diffusion Sun et al. (2025) have explored avoiding this rigid synchronization modeling form of conventional VDMs. Nonetheless, their applications for video generation, like start-end frames, remained constrained by the autoregressive design. Despite large-scale deployment such as MAGI-1 Teng et al. (2025) and SkyReels V2 Chen et al. (2025) further advanced scalability, they still face challenges in computational efficiency, bidirectional reasoning, and error accumulation over long sequences.

¹Pusa (/puː 'sɑː/) normally refers to "Thousand-Hand Guanyin" in Chinese, reflecting the iconography of many hands to symbolize boundless compassion and ability. We use this name to indicate that our model uses many timestep variables to achieve various video generation capabilities, and we will fully open source it to let the community benefit from this technology.

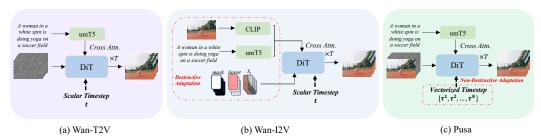


Figure 1: **Method comparison.** (b) Wan2.1-I2V-14B (Wan-I2V) and (c) Pusa both support I2V generation and are fine-tuned from (a) Wan2.1-T2V-14B (Wan-T2V). Specifically, Wan-I2V represents the mainstream practice for I2V, which modifies the base T2V model with a mask mechanism and an image clip embedding, leading to the destruction of the pretrained priors of the base model. In contrast, Pusa proposes a non-destructive VTA approach, which only inflates the model's timestep variable from a scalar to a vector. In this way, Pusa fully utilizes the pretrained priors and uses much less data and computation to achieve comparable I2V results.

Concurrently, FVDM Liu et al. (2024b) proposed a vectorized timestep to reframe the video diffusion paradigm fundamentally. Specifically, instead of using a scalar timestep to control the noise level of the whole video, it allows independent noise evolution per frame by assigning each frame a timestep, together results in a timestep vector for the video. Besides, to address the potential computational explosion inherent with frame-level timesteps during training, FVDM introduces a novel probabilistic timestep sampling strategy (PTSS), which not only achieves training efficiency comparable to that of conventional scalar timestep approaches but also unlocks T2V, I2V, and other temporal control tasks simultaneously.

In this work, we extend the paradigm of Frame-Aware Video Diffusion Models (FVDM)Liu et al. (2024b) to an industrial scale by proposing a vectorized timestep adaptation (VTA) strategy, which adapts pretrained large-scale VDMs to support frame-level timesteps (shown in Fig. 1). Besides, to enable fine-grained temporal control with minimal finetuning data and computation, we design the VTA to be non-destructive, which means it does not need any architectural modification to the base model and thus fully preserves the model's capabilities. As a result, our proposed model, Pusa V1.0, achieves SOTA level performance on the VBench-I2V benchmark Huang et al. (2024), comparable with Wan-I2V, which is also adapted and fine-tuned from the same base model (Wan-T2V), despite using only 4K samples and 0.5K compute cost (vs. expected ≥ 10 M samples and ≥ 100 K cost Wan et al. (2025)). Besides I2V capability, Pusa also generalizes to tasks such as start-end frames and video extension, all in a zero-shot way without any task-specific retraining. This highlights the great potential and versatility of the FVDM/Pusa paradigm at scale.

Our contributions can be summarized as:

- Unprecedented Efficiency: We present Pusa with a non-destructive VTA method to the base T2V model and an ultra-efficient finetuning strategy, which achieves SOTA I2V performance with only 4K samples and 0.5K compute cost.
- **Unified Multi-Task Generalization:** Pusa not only preserves T2V capability from the base model, but also generalizes well to many advanced temporal tasks like I2V, start-end frames, video extension, etc., all in a zero-shot way.
- **Underlying Superiority:** Mechanistic analyses reveal that our approach preserves the foundation model's generative priors while surgically injecting temporal dynamics, avoiding the combinatorial explosion inherent to vectorized timesteps. This work marks a critical shift in video generation by combining principled temporal modeling with efficient adaptation, enabling scalable, high-quality, and general-purpose video synthesis.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Preliminaries: Flow Matching for Generative Modeling

Generative modeling aims to learn a model capable of synthesizing samples from a target data distribution $q_0(\mathbf{z})$ over \mathbb{R}^D . Continuous Normalizing Flows (CNFs) Chen (2018) achieve this by

transforming samples \mathbf{z}_1 from a simple base distribution $q_1(\mathbf{z})$ (e.g., a standard Gaussian $\mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0},\mathbf{I})$) to samples \mathbf{z}_0 that approximate the target distribution $q_0(\mathbf{z})$. This transformation is defined by an invertible mapping, often conceptualized as an ordinary differential equation (ODE) trajectory. Specifically, a probability path $\{\mathbf{z}_t\}_{t\in[0,1]}$ is defined, connecting $\mathbf{z}_0\sim q_0$ at t=0 to $\mathbf{z}_1\sim q_1$ at t=1. The dynamics along this path are described by an ODE:

$$\frac{d\mathbf{z}_t}{dt} = v_t(\mathbf{z}_t, t), \quad t \in [0, 1]$$

where $v_t : \mathbb{R}^D \times [0,1] \to \mathbb{R}^D$ is a time-dependent vector field.

Flow Matching (FM) Lipman et al. (2022); Liu et al. (2022); Tong et al. (2023) is a simulation-free technique to directly learn this vector field $v_t(\mathbf{z}_t,t)$ by training a neural network $v_{\theta}(\mathbf{z}_t,t)$ to approximate it. This is achieved by regressing $v_{\theta}(\mathbf{z}_t,t)$ against a target vector field $u_t(\mathbf{z}_t|\mathbf{z}_0,\mathbf{z}_1)$. This target field is defined along specified probability paths $p_t(\mathbf{z}_t|\mathbf{z}_0,\mathbf{z}_1)$ that connect samples $\mathbf{z}_0 \sim q_0$ to corresponding samples $\mathbf{z}_1 \sim q_1$.

A common choice for these paths is a linear interpolation between a data sample z_0 and a prior sample z_1 :

$$\mathbf{z}_t = (1-t)\mathbf{z}_0 + t\mathbf{z}_1, \quad t \in [0,1]$$
 (2)

For such paths, the conditional target vector field is the time derivative of \mathbf{z}_t :

$$u_t(\mathbf{z}_0, \mathbf{z}_1) = \frac{d\mathbf{z}_t}{dt} = \mathbf{z}_1 - \mathbf{z}_0 \tag{3}$$

Note that for linear interpolation paths, u_t is independent of t and \mathbf{z}_t , depending only on the endpoints \mathbf{z}_0 and \mathbf{z}_1 . The (conditional) flow matching objective function to train the neural network v_{θ} is then:

$$\mathcal{L}_{FM}(\theta) = \mathbb{E}_{t \sim \mathcal{U}[0,1], \mathbf{z}_0 \sim q_0, \mathbf{z}_1 \sim q_1} \left[\left\| v_{\theta}((1-t)\mathbf{z}_0 + t\mathbf{z}_1, t) - (\mathbf{z}_1 - \mathbf{z}_0) \right\|_2^2 \right]$$
(4)

where $\mathcal{U}[0,1]$ is the uniform distribution over [0,1] and $\|\cdot\|_2^2$ denotes the squared Euclidean norm. Once v_{θ} is trained, new samples that approximate q_0 can be generated by first sampling $\mathbf{z}_1 \sim q_1$ and then solving the ODE $\frac{d\mathbf{z}_t}{dt} = v_{\theta}(\mathbf{z}_t, t)$ from t = 1 down to t = 0. The resulting \mathbf{z}_0 is a generated sample.

2.2 Frame-Aware Flow Matching

Flow matching has become the common choice for SOTA video generation models Wan et al. (2025); Kong et al. (2024); Team (2024). To enable nuanced temporal modeling in existing SOTA models, we first need to extend the FVDM Liu et al. (2024b) paradigm to the flow matching framework.

A video clip \mathbf{X} is represented as a sequence of N frames. Each frame $\mathbf{x}^i \in \mathbb{R}^d$ is a d-dimensional column vector. The entire video clip can be represented as an $N \times d$ matrix \mathbf{X} , where the i-th row is $\mathbf{x}^{i\top}$. This can be written as $\mathbf{X} = [\mathbf{x}^1, \mathbf{x}^2, \dots, \mathbf{x}^N]^{\top}$, thus $\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times d}$.

In contrast to the single-scalar time variable t used in standard flow matching (Eq. 4), we introduce a **vectorized timestep variable** (VTV) $\tau \in [0,1]^N$, defined as:

$$\boldsymbol{\tau} = [\tau^1, \tau^2, \dots, \tau^N]^\top \tag{5}$$

Here, each component $\tau^i \in [0,1]$ represents the individual progression parameter of the *i*-th frame along its respective probability path from the data distribution to a prior distribution. This vectorization allows each frame to evolve at a potentially different rate or stage within the generative process.

Let $\mathbf{X}_0 = [\mathbf{x}_0^1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_0^N]^{\top}$ be a video sampled from the true data distribution $q_{\text{data}}(\mathbf{X})$, where $\mathbf{x}_0^i \in \mathbb{R}^d$. Similarly, let $\mathbf{X}_1 = [\mathbf{x}_1^1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_1^N]^{\top}$ be a video sampled from a simple prior distribution $q_{\text{prior}}(\mathbf{X})$ (e.g., each frame \mathbf{x}_1^i is drawn independently from $\mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \sigma^2 \mathbf{I}_d)$).

For each frame i, we define a conditional probability path $p(\mathbf{x}_{\tau^i}^i|\mathbf{x}_0^i,\mathbf{x}_1^i)$ indexed by its individual timestep τ^i . Adopting the linear interpolation strategy from Eq. 2 for each frame (which are d-dimensional vectors):

$$\mathbf{x}_{\tau^i}^i = (1 - \tau^i)\mathbf{x}_0^i + \tau^i\mathbf{x}_1^i \tag{6}$$

The state of the entire video, corresponding to a specific vectorized timestep τ , is then given by the $N \times d$ matrix \mathbf{X}_{τ} , whose i-th row is $\mathbf{x}_{\tau}^{i\top}$:

$$\mathbf{X}_{\tau} = [\mathbf{x}_{\tau^1}^1, \mathbf{x}_{\tau^2}^2, \dots, \mathbf{x}_{\tau^N}^N]^{\top}$$

$$\tag{7}$$

We aim to learn a single neural network $v_{\theta}(\mathbf{X}, \boldsymbol{\tau})$ that models the joint dynamics of all frames conditioned on their respective timesteps. This network takes the current video state $\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times d}$ (which is \mathbf{X}_{τ} during training) and the vectorized timestep $\boldsymbol{\tau} \in [0,1]^N$ as input. It outputs a velocity field for the entire video, an $N \times d$ matrix denoted as $v_{\theta}(\mathbf{X}, \boldsymbol{\tau}) = [\mathbf{v}^1, \dots, \mathbf{v}^N]^{\top}$, where each $\mathbf{v}^i \in \mathbb{R}^d$ is the velocity vector for the i-th frame. Thus, $v_{\theta} : \mathbb{R}^{N \times d} \times [0,1]^N \to \mathbb{R}^{N \times d}$.

The target vector field for the entire video \mathbf{X}_{τ} , conditioned on the initial video \mathbf{X}_0 and target prior \mathbf{X}_1 , is an $N \times d$ matrix $\mathbf{U}(\mathbf{X}_0, \mathbf{X}_1)$. Its *i*-th row is the transpose of the derivative of the *i*-th frame's path (Eq. 6) with respect to its individual timestep τ^i . Using the derivative from Eq. 3 for each frame:

$$\frac{d\mathbf{x}_{\tau^i}^i}{d\tau^i} = \mathbf{x}_1^i - \mathbf{x}_0^i \tag{8}$$

Thus, the target video-level vector field is:

$$\mathbf{U}(\mathbf{X}_0, \mathbf{X}_1) = [(\mathbf{x}_1^1 - \mathbf{x}_0^1), \dots, (\mathbf{x}_1^N - \mathbf{x}_0^N)]^{\top} = \mathbf{X}_1 - \mathbf{X}_0$$
(9)

Notably, for the linear interpolation path, this target vector field $\mathbf{X}_1 - \mathbf{X}_0$ is independent of both the current video state \mathbf{X}_{τ} and the vectorized timestep τ itself, simplifying the regression target. The video state \mathbf{X}_{τ} at timestep τ is constructed via frame-wise linear interpolation:

$$\mathbf{X}_{\tau} = (1 - \tau) \odot \mathbf{X}_0 + \tau \odot \mathbf{X}_1 \tag{10}$$

where \odot denotes element-wise multiplication between the timestep vector $\boldsymbol{\tau} = [\tau^1, \tau^2, ..., \tau^N]^\top$ and each frame.

Key Properties:

- 1. Path Consistency: Each frame evolves linearly: $\mathbf{x}_{\tau^i}^i = (1 \tau^i)\mathbf{x}_0^i + \tau^i\mathbf{x}_1^i$
- 2. Vector Field Simplicity: $\frac{d\mathbf{X}_{\tau}}{d\tau} = \mathbf{X}_1 \mathbf{X}_0$ (constant for all τ)
- 3. Decoupling: Frame dynamics depend only on their own τ^i , enabling asynchronous evolution.

The parameters θ of the neural network v_{θ} are optimized by minimizing the Frame-Aware Flow Matching (FAFM) objective function:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{FAFM}}(\theta) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{X}_0 \sim q_{\text{data}}, \mathbf{X}_1 \sim q_{\text{prior}}, \boldsymbol{\tau} \sim p_{\text{PTSS}}(\boldsymbol{\tau})} \left[\| v_{\theta}(\mathbf{X}_{\boldsymbol{\tau}}, \boldsymbol{\tau}) - (\mathbf{X}_1 - \mathbf{X}_0) \|_F^2 \right]$$
(11)

where \mathbf{X}_{τ} is the video state constructed according to Eq. 7, $\|\cdot\|_F^2$ denotes the squared Frobenius norm, $\tau \sim p_{\text{PTSS}}(\tau)$ indicates that the vectorized timestep τ is sampled according to PTSS in FVDM Liu et al. (2024b). This strategy is designed to expose the model to both asynchronous frame evolutions with a probability $p_{\text{async}} \in [0,1]$) and synchronized frame evolutions with probability $1-p_{\text{async}}$ during training.

2.3 VECTORIZED TIMESTEP ADAPTATION

In this work, we aim to adapt a large-scale, pre-trained T2V diffusion models to support the vectorized timestep Liu et al. (2024b). The adaptation, which we term Vectorized Timestep Adaptation (VTA), along with a lightweight fine-tuning process, imbues the model with fine-grained temporal control, enabling advanced capabilities such as zero-shot I2V.

2.3.1 IMPLEMENTATION OF VECTORIZED TIMESTEP ADAPTATION

The foundational principle of our implementation is to re-engineer the core architecture to process a vectorized timestep τ instead of a scalar timestep t. Conventional DiT models Wan et al. (2025); Peebles & Xie (2023) use a single scalar timestep t to modulate features across all frames, effectively assuming a synchronized noise level. We adapt this to a frame-granular level as follows:

Vectorized Timestep Embedding. Unlike the standard approach that embeds a scalar t into a single vector $\mathbf{e}(t)$, we process the input vector $\boldsymbol{\tau} \in [0,1]^N$ element-wise. We utilize the same shared embedding function (consisting of sinusoidal positional encoding followed by an MLP) used in the base model to independently project each component τ^i . This yields a sequence of frame-specific embeddings $\mathbf{E}_{\boldsymbol{\tau}} = [\mathbf{e}(\tau^1), \mathbf{e}(\tau^2), \dots, \mathbf{e}(\tau^N)]$, where $\mathbf{e}(\tau^i) \in \mathbb{R}^D$.

Per-Frame Modulation. In a DiT architecture, the video is tokenized into a sequence of patches. Let $\mathbf{z}^{i,k}$ denote the latent representation of the k-th spatial patch in the i-th frame. In the standard architecture, a global embedding $\mathbf{e}(t)$ regresses modulation parameters (scale , shift, and gate) that are applied uniformly to all patches $\mathbf{z}^{i,k}$ via Adaptive Layer Norm (adaLN).

In Pusa, we modify this mechanism to be frame-specific. The spatial patches of frame i are modulated exclusively by parameters derived from $e(\tau^i)$. Conceptually, the operation for a token in frame i becomes:

$$\mathbf{z}_{\text{out}}^{i,k} = \text{DiTBlock}(\mathbf{z}_{\text{in}}^{i,k}, \text{context}, \text{modulate}(\mathbf{e}(\tau^i)))$$

Implementation-wise, we broadcast the sequence of embeddings \mathbf{E}_{τ} to align with the flattened sequence of video tokens. This allows us to perform the modulation efficiently in parallel using standard tensor operations, requiring minimal changes to the underlying attention or feed-forward layers. This modification is non-destructive: if we set $\tau = t \cdot \mathbf{1}$ (i.e., $\tau^i = t$ for all i), the model mathematically reduces to the original base model, fully preserving its T2V capabilities.

Table 1: **Vbench-I2V results.** Our model demonstrates SOTA-level performance, achieving a toptier rank among open-source models, and is notably comparable with its architectural baseline, Wan-I2V. All scores are reported in percentages (%). Higher is better for all metrics. Best score in each column is in **bold**. **Abbreviations**: **SC**: Subject Consistency, **BC**: Background Consistency, **MS**: Motion Smoothness, **DD**: Dynamic Degree, **AQ**: Aesthetic Quality, **IQ**: Imaging Quality, **I2V-S**: I2V Subject Consistency, **I2V-B**: I2V Background Consistency, **CM**: Camera Motion.

Model	Ov	erall Sco	ores ↑		(Quality 1	Metrics	<u> </u>		I2V	Metrics	\uparrow
Wiodei	Total	I2V	Quality	SC	BC	MS	DD	AQ	IQ	I2V-S	I2V-B	CM
— Closed / Proprieta	ıry Mode	els —										
Gen-4-I2V (API)	88.27	95.65	80.89	93.23	96.79	98.99	55.20	61.77	70.41	97.84	97.46	68.26
STIV (Apple)	86.73	93.48	79.98	98.40	98.39	99.61	15.28	66.00	70.81	98.96	97.35	11.17
— Open Source Mod	lels —											
Magi-1	89.28	96.12	82.44	93.96	96.74	98.68	68.21	64.74	69.71	98.39	99.00	50.85
Step-Video-TI2V	88.36	95.50	81.22	96.02	97.06	99.24	48.78	62.29	70.44	97.86	98.63	49.23
DynamiCrafter-512	86.99	93.53	80.46	93.81	96.64	96.84	69.67	60.88	68.60	97.21	97.40	31.98
CogVideoX-5b-I2V	86.70	94.79	78.61	94.34	96.42	98.40	33.17	61.87	70.01	97.19	96.74	67.68
Animate-Anything	86.48	94.25	78.71	98.90	98.19	98.61	2.68	67.12	72.09	98.76	98.58	13.08
SEINE-512x512	85.52	92.67	78.37	95.28	97.12	97.12	27.07	64.55	71.39	97.15	96.94	20.97
I2VGen-XL	85.28	92.11	78.44	94.18	97.09	98.34	26.10	64.82	69.14	96.48	96.83	18.48
ConsistI2V	84.07	91.91	76.22	95.27	98.28	97.38	18.62	59.00	66.92	95.82	95.95	33.92
VideoCrafter	82.57	86.31	78.84	97.86	98.79	98.00	22.60	60.78	71.68	91.17	91.31	33.60
CogVideoX1.5-5B	71.58	92.25	50.90	91.80	94.66	40.98	62.29	70.21	97.07	96.46	95.50	39.71
SVD-XT-1.1	_	_	79.40	95.42	96.77	98.12	43.17	60.23	70.23	97.51	97.62	_
SVD-XT-1.0	_	_	80.11	95.52	96.61	98.09	52.36	60.15	69.80	97.52	97.63	-
Wan-I2V	86.86	92.90	80.82	94.86	97.07	97.90	51.38	64.75	70.44	96.95	96.44	34.76
Ours	87.32	94.84	79.80	92.27	96.02	98.49	52.60	63.15	68.27	97.64	99.24	29.46

2.3.2 Training Procedure

The optimization follows the FAFM objective defined in Eq. 11. A key advantage of our approach is its simplicity: by leveraging the robust generative prior of the base model, we circumvent the need for sampling synchronous timesteps. Instead, we train the model directly with a fully randomized vectorized timestep ($p_{\rm async}=1$), where each component τ^i is sampled independently from U[0,1]. This stochastic training regimen compels the model to learn fine-grained temporal control from a maximally diverse distribution of temporal states.

2.3.3 Inference for Image-to-Video

Pusa performs zero-shot I2V generation by strategically manipulating the vectorized timestep τ during sampling. To condition generation on a starting image I_0 , for simplicity and fair comparison with baselines, we clamp its timestep component to zero throughout inference (i.e., $\tau_s^1=0$ for all steps s). Note that we can also add some noise (e.g., set $\tau_s^1 = 0.2 * s$ or any level of noise) to the first frame, which may synthesize more coherent videos with a slight change to the first frame. During sampling, which follows the Euler method for ODE integration, this ensures the change in the first frame's latent is always zero, effectively fixing it as a clean condition. This flexible control scheme naturally extends to other complex temporal tasks, such as start-end frames and video extension. The detailed I2V sampling algorithm is outlined in Appendix B.

EXPERIMENTS

270

271 272

273

274

275

276

278

279

280 281

283 284

285

286

287

288 289 290

291

292 293

295 296 297

298 299

300

301

302

303

304

305 306 307

308

310

311

312

313

314

315

316

317

318

319

320

321

322 323 Our experiments are designed to rigorously validate the three core contributions of this work: (1) the unprecedented efficiency and SOTA-level performance of our model, Pusa, on the primary task of I2V generation; (2) the underlying mechanism for why Pusa works; and (3) the emergent zero-shot multi-task capabilities of Pusa.



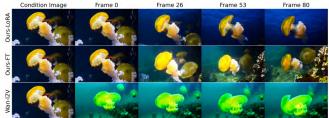


Figure 2: **Quantitative compari**son of training strategies. Both our LoRA and full fine-tuning (FT) approaches consistently outperform achieving much superior scores get. with unprecedented efficiency.

Figure 3: Qualitative comparison of training strategies at **900 iterations.** From top to bottom: Ours (LoRA, $\alpha = 1.4$), Ours (FT), and Wan-I2V like baseline. Our methods maintain high fidelity to the condition image, whereas the baseline fails Wan-I2V's fine-tuning method, to preserve subject identity and color under the training bud-

3.1 SETUP

Our method works for both full fine-tuning and Lora fine-tuning. Towards adaptation with fewer GPUs, we perform fine-tuning on the SOTA open-source Wan-T2V model using the LoRA (Low-Rank Adaptation) technique Hu et al. (2022) for our final model, which enables parameter-efficient training. The training infrastructure consists of 8 GPUs, each has 80GB of memory and high bandwidth, with DeepSpeed Zero2 Rajbhandari et al. (2020) for memory optimization, achieving a total batch size of 8. The LoRA implementation is based on DiffSynth-Studio², leveraging its optimized diffusion model training pipeline. Regarding the fine-tuning dataset, we directly utilize T2V samples generated by Wan-T2V Zheng et al. (2025); Wan et al. (2025). This dataset includes 3,860 highquality 720p videos and spans diverse visual domains and temporal structures (e.g., natural scenes, human activities, camera motion), ensuring robust model generalization and aligned with Wan's original distribution. For evaluation, we use Vbench-I2V Huang et al. (2024) for comprehensive I2V capability evaluation. Note that there is no overlap between the training and evaluation data. For baseline comparison, we use the whole testing set, generating 5590 videos. For hyperparameter and ablation studies, we test with a subset of 750 videos.

²https://github.com/modelscope/DiffSynth-Studio

3.2 Baseline Comparison

As shown in Table 1, Pusa, with only 10 inference steps, achieves SOTA-level performance among open-source models. This result is also comparable to the result of its direct baseline, Wan-I2V. Note that all the baselines are trained with vastly greater resources. More specifically, our model obtains a total score of 87.32, outperforming Wan-I2V's 86.86. Besides, Pusa demonstrates superior performance in key I2V metrics, such as I2V Background Consistency (99.24 vs. 96.44) and I2V Subject Consistency (97.64 vs. 96.95), indicating a more faithful adherence to the input image condition. Furthermore, our model exhibits a higher Dynamic Degree (52.60 vs. 51.38), producing more motion-rich videos while maintaining high Motion Smoothness (98.49 vs. 97.90). Hyperparameter studies about Pusa are available in Appendix C.1.

3.3 ABLATION STUDY

We conduct a series of ablation studies to dissect the core components and verify the effectiveness of our proposed methodology. Due to space constraints, we present a summary of our key findings here. Comprehensive results are provided in the Appendix C.2.

Training Strategy. We compare three distinct training strategies: the baseline model trained with the Wan-I2V method, our approach with full fine-tuning, and LoRA fine-tuning on the same dataset with 480p resolution. As illustrated in Fig. 2, both our methods converge at a very early stage with close results and substantially outperform the baseline across all training steps. This quantitative superiority is mirrored in our qualitative results (Fig. 3). At 900 iterations, both our LoRA and fully fine-tuned models generate videos highly faithful to the conditioning image. In stark contrast, the baseline fails catastrophically under the same training budget, with the generated video completely diverging from the source. This underscores a critical finding: the Wan-I2V's method is profoundly inefficient, requiring a massive scale of data and compute to reach its official performance Wan et al. (2025). Our method, conversely, delivers superior results with a minuscule fraction of these resources, demonstrating a paradigm shift in training efficiency.

Timestep Sampling Strategy. Our framework employs a simple yet powerful strategy of sampling purely random timesteps for each frame during training. To validate this design, we compare it against a more structured approach, PTSS, where timesteps are preferentially sampled from a specific range, and an intuitive baseline for I2V with the first frame always being noise-free $\tau^1=0$ while all other timesteps being of the same value. Table 2 summarizes the performance at 900 steps. The results unequivocally demonstrate that our fully random

Table 2: **Ablation on Timestep Sampling Strategy.** Comparison of overall scores at 900 training iterations. Our random sampling approach achieves the highest performance.

Sampling Strategy	Total (%)	Quality (%)	I2V (%)
Ours	87.69	80.55	94.83
I2V	73.27	69.96	76.57
PTSS ($p = 0.2$)	84.74	77.60	91.88
PTSS (p = 0.8)	86.49	79.30	93.69

sampling strategy achieves the highest scores, surpassing all baselines. This finding confirms that our training strategy is more effective for learning robust temporal dynamics in our framework.

Table 3: Ablation Study on Base Model.

Base Model	Setting	Overall		Quality Metrics						I2V Metrics			
	Setting	Total	Quality	I2V	SC	BC	MS	DD	AQ	IQ	I2V-S	I2V-B	CM
Wan2.1	$\alpha = 1.4$	87.69	80.55	94.83	91.39	96.02	98.10	66.40	62.42	68.57	97.78	99.33	26.40
Wan2.2	high $\alpha = 1.5$, low $\alpha = 1.4$	87.69	79.89	95.49	91.57	96.83	97.91	63.60	59.30	68.75	96.99	99.18	51.60

Base Model Comparison. We further investigate the impact of different base models on final performance. As shown in Table 3, both our Wan2.1-based model and our Wan2.2-based model achieve an identical overall score of 87.69. However, they demonstrate different characteristic strengths: the Wan2.1 variant excels in aesthetic quality and dynamic degree. Conversely, the Wan2.2 variant generates videos with significantly more pronounced camera motion (51.60 vs. 26.40). Since we use the same dataset for finetuning, these differences mainly come from the base models themselves. Overall, this suggests our method works well with different base models, and the choice of base model can be tailored to application needs and the model's characteristics.



Figure 4: I2V results, where our model generates a smooth and realistic animation of the first frame while Wan2.1-T2V generates completely different frames but aligned with the text prompt, and Wan2.1-I2V generates frames with noticeable distortions. All videos are generated with the same condition image and text prompt: "a snowboarder is in the air doing a trick".

3.4 ANALYSIS OF THE ADAPTATION MECHANISM

We investigate the mechanisms underlying Pusa's efficient adaptation, showing that it performs highly targeted parameter updates that augment — rather than overwrite — the pretrained knowledge of the foundation model.

12V Qualitative. In Fig. 4, Wan-T2V with VTA uses the same inference method as Pusa to do I2V generation, which is by directly setting the first frame noise-free. Since the model is only trained for the T2V task, the generated frames only align with the text prompt but have no relation to the first frame. Meanwhile, Pusa achieves seamless alignment with both text and input image, outperforming Wan-I2V, which exhibits visible distortions and poor character preservation.

Attention Mechanism. Visualization of frame-to-frame self-attention maps (Fig. 5) reveals critical differences. Specifically, we plot the self-attention maps of queries and keys within the final Transformer block across 3 different inference steps, i.e., steps 0, 4, and 9 (10 steps in total). Wan-T2V exhibits a diagonal attention pattern, indicating that each frame primarily attends to itself, with little frame correlation. In contrast, both Wan-I2V and Pusa show strong attention from all frames to the first frame initially, which is essential for maintaining consistency with the input image. However, a key difference emerges: the attention to the first frame in Wan-I2V is only strengthened in step 0. In Pusa, the attention to the first frame is significantly enhanced across all steps. This exemplifies Pusa's surgical injection of temporal dynamics.

Parameter Divergence. This observation is further supported by an analysis of parameter changes (Fig. 6). The parameter drift in Wan-I2V is substantial and concentrated in modules critical for content generation, such as the text encoder and cross-attention blocks. This implies a significant alteration of the model's core generative priors. Pusa, in contrast, exhibits minimal parameter changes, with modifications almost exclusively in the self-attention blocks responsible for temporal dynamics. The magnitude of parameter change in Wan-I2V is more than an order of magnitude larger than in Pusa. This confirms that our approach constitutes a minimal, targeted adaptation, preserving the integrity of the foundation model, and explaining its efficiency.

Vectorized Timestep Adaptation Efficacy. The VTV framework faces a combinatorial explosion in temporal composition space (e.g., 10^{48} configurations for 16 frames), making convergence from scratch challenging. Pusa circumvents this by leveraging Wan-T2V's pretrained video generation capabilities, requiring only brief fine-tuning to master temporal control with independent timesteps. The base model's inherent robustness to timestep asynchronization is evidenced by its coherent zero-shot I2V generation (Fig. 4), despite failing image-condition adherence. This stems from Wan-T2V's diagonal self-attention patterns (Fig. 5), indicating frame synthesis independence. Pusa's fine-tuning surgically introduces targeted temporal correlation while preserving the stable generative core, enabling nondestructive adaptation that solves the VTV compositionality problem with unprecedented efficiency.

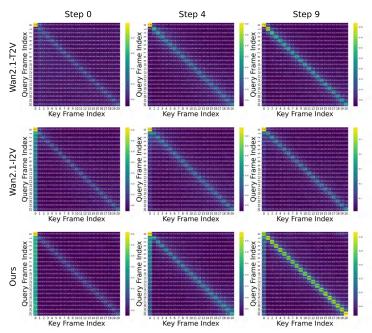


Figure 5: Visualization of attention maps. Specifically, these maps are of the last DiT block across multiple inference steps. Each value in the attention map represents frame-to-frame correlation/attention; a larger value means higher correlation. Zoom in for a better view.

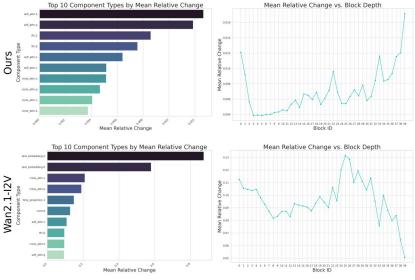


Figure 6: Analysis on finetuned model's parameter shifts. The columns, from left to right, represent the top 10 components with largest average relative parameter changes and average change by transformer blocks, respectively. Zoom in for a better view.

3.5 ZERO-SHOT MULTI-TASK CAPABILITIES

Our approach demonstrates exceptional generalization across diverse video generation tasks beyond T2V without task-specific training. This capability comes from flexible vectorized time step settings, enabling arbitrary conditioning on any subset of frames with any level of noise. Besides, Pusa retains high T2V generation quality after adaptation from its strong foundation model, confirming that our fine-tuning process avoids catastrophic forgetting of the primary task. More significantly, the proposed method exhibits remarkable zero-shot performance on complex temporal synthesis tasks, including I2V generation, start-end frames, video completion, video extension, and so on. Comprehensive results for these tasks are available in Appendix E.

4 CONCLUSION

This work introduces Pusa, which achieves SOTA-level I2V performance based on Wan-T2V with unprecedented efficiency, requiring only \$500 and 4K samples. The key innovation lies in our non-destructive VTA strategy, preserving the foundation model's robust priors while enabling frame-independent evolution. This unlocks many zero-shot generalizations to diverse tasks, a property unmatched by conventional or auto-regressive VDMs. Our analysis demonstrates that Pusa's success stems from its minimal, targeted modifications to the base model's temporal attention mechanisms, avoiding the catastrophic forgetting observed in task-specific fine-tuning. The implications are profound: Pusa redefines the efficiency-quality tradeoff in video generation, enabling high-fidelity, multi-task generation at a fraction of traditional costs.

REFERENCES

- Dan Biderman, Jacob Portes, Jose Javier Gonzalez Ortiz, Mansheej Paul, Philip Greengard, Connor Jennings, Daniel King, Sam Havens, Vitaliy Chiley, Jonathan Frankle, et al. Lora learns less and forgets less. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2405.09673*, 2024.
- Boyuan Chen, Diego Martí Monsó, Yilun Du, Max Simchowitz, Russ Tedrake, and Vincent Sitzmann. Diffusion forcing: Next-token prediction meets full-sequence diffusion. *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems*, 37:24081–24125, 2024.
- Guibin Chen, Dixuan Lin, Jiangping Yang, Chunze Lin, Junchen Zhu, Mingyuan Fan, Hao Zhang, Sheng Chen, Zheng Chen, Chengcheng Ma, et al. Skyreels-v2: Infinite-length film generative model. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2504.13074*, 2025.
- Haoxin Chen, Menghan Xia, Yingqing He, Yong Zhang, Xiaodong Cun, Shaoshu Yang, Jinbo Xing, Yaofang Liu, Qifeng Chen, Xintao Wang, et al. Videocrafter1: Open diffusion models for high-quality video generation. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2310.19512*, 2023.
- Ricky T. Q. Chen. torchdiffeq, 2018. URL https://github.com/rtqichen/torchdiffeq.
- Karan Dalal, Daniel Koceja, Jiarui Xu, Yue Zhao, Shihao Han, Ka Chun Cheung, Jan Kautz, Yejin Choi, Yu Sun, and Xiaolong Wang. One-minute video generation with test-time training. In *Proceedings of the Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition Conference*, pp. 17702–17711, 2025.
- Zhongjie Duan, Wenmeng Zhou, Cen Chen, Yaliang Li, and Weining Qian. Exvideo: Extending video diffusion models via parameter-efficient post-tuning. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2406.14130*, 2024.
- Xun Guo, Mingwu Zheng, Liang Hou, Yuan Gao, Yufan Deng, Chongyang Ma, Weiming Hu, Zhengjun Zha, Haibin Huang, Pengfei Wan, et al. I2v-adapter: A general image-to-video adapter for video diffusion models. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2312.16693*, 2023.
- Yingqing He, Tianyu Yang, Yong Zhang, Ying Shan, and Qifeng Chen. Latent video diffusion models for high-fidelity long video generation. 2022.
- Roberto Henschel, Levon Khachatryan, Daniil Hayrapetyan, Hayk Poghosyan, Vahram Tadevosyan, Zhangyang Wang, Shant Navasardyan, and Humphrey Shi. Streamingt2v: Consistent, dynamic, and extendable long video generation from text. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2403.14773*, 2024.

- Jonathan Ho, Ajay Jain, and Pieter Abbeel. Denoising diffusion probabilistic models. *Advances in neural information processing systems*, 33:6840–6851, 2020.
- Jonathan Ho, Tim Salimans, Alexey Gritsenko, William Chan, Mohammad Norouzi, and David J Fleet. Video diffusion models. *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems*, 35:8633– 8646, 2022.
 - Edward J Hu, Yelong Shen, Phillip Wallis, Zeyuan Allen-Zhu, Yuanzhi Li, Shean Wang, Lu Wang, Weizhu Chen, et al. Lora: Low-rank adaptation of large language models. *ICLR*, 1(2):3, 2022.
 - Xun Huang, Zhengqi Li, Guande He, Mingyuan Zhou, and Eli Shechtman. Self forcing: Bridging the train-test gap in autoregressive video diffusion. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2506.08009*, 2025.
 - Ziqi Huang, Fan Zhang, Xiaojie Xu, Yinan He, Jiashuo Yu, Ziyue Dong, Qianli Ma, Nattapol Chanpaisit, Chenyang Si, Yuming Jiang, et al. Vbench++: Comprehensive and versatile benchmark suite for video generative models. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2411.13503*, 2024.
 - Jihwan Kim, Junoh Kang, Jinyoung Choi, and Bohyung Han. Fifo-diffusion: Generating infinite videos from text without training. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2405.11473*, 2024.
 - Weijie Kong, Qi Tian, Zijian Zhang, Rox Min, Zuozhuo Dai, Jin Zhou, Jiangfeng Xiong, Xin Li, Bo Wu, Jianwei Zhang, et al. Hunyuanvideo: A systematic framework for large video generative models. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2412.03603*, 2024.
 - Weijie Li, Litong Gong, Yiran Zhu, Fanda Fan, Biao Wang, Tiezheng Ge, and Bo Zheng. Tuning-free noise rectification for high fidelity image-to-video generation. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2403.02827*, 2024.
 - Yaron Lipman, Ricky TQ Chen, Heli Ben-Hamu, Maximilian Nickel, and Matt Le. Flow matching for generative modeling. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2210.02747*, 2022.
 - Xingchao Liu, Chengyue Gong, and Qiang Liu. Flow straight and fast: Learning to generate and transfer data with rectified flow. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2209.03003*, 2022.
 - Yaofang Liu, Xiaodong Cun, Xuebo Liu, Xintao Wang, Yong Zhang, Haoxin Chen, Yang Liu, Tieyong Zeng, Raymond Chan, and Ying Shan. Evalcrafter: Benchmarking and evaluating large video generation models. In *Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition*, pp. 22139–22149, 2024a.
 - Yaofang Liu, Yumeng Ren, Xiaodong Cun, Aitor Artola, Yang Liu, Tieyong Zeng, Raymond H Chan, and Jean-michel Morel. Redefining temporal modeling in video diffusion: The vectorized timestep approach. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2410.03160*, 2024b.
 - Yu Lu, Yuanzhi Liang, Linchao Zhu, and Yi Yang. Freelong: Training-free long video generation with spectralblend temporal attention. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2407.19918*, 2024.
 - Xin Ma, Yaohui Wang, Gengyun Jia, Xinyuan Chen, Ziwei Liu, Yuan-Fang Li, Cunjian Chen, and Yu Qiao. Latte: Latent diffusion transformer for video generation. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2401.03048*, 2024.
 - Haomiao Ni, Bernhard Egger, Suhas Lohit, Anoop Cherian, Ye Wang, Toshiaki Koike-Akino, Sharon X Huang, and Tim K Marks. Ti2v-zero: Zero-shot image conditioning for text-to-video diffusion models. In *Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition*, pp. 9015–9025, 2024.
 - OpenAI. Sora: Creating video from text. https://openai.com/sora, 2024.
 - Jiadong Pan, Hongcheng Gao, Zongyu Wu, Taihang Hu, Li Su, Qingming Huang, and Liang Li. Leveraging catastrophic forgetting to develop safe diffusion models against malicious finetuning. *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems*, 37:115208–115232, 2024.
 - William Peebles and Saining Xie. Scalable diffusion models with transformers. In *Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF International Conference on Computer Vision*, pp. 4195–4205, 2023.

- Samyam Rajbhandari, Jeff Rasley, Olatunji Ruwase, and Yuxiong He. Zero: Memory optimizations toward training trillion parameter models. In *SC20: International Conference for High Performance Computing, Networking, Storage and Analysis*, pp. 1–16. IEEE, 2020.
 - Vinay Venkatesh Ramasesh, Aitor Lewkowycz, and Ethan Dyer. Effect of scale on catastrophic forgetting in neural networks. In *International conference on learning representations*, 2021.
 - Yang Song, Jascha Sohl-Dickstein, Diederik P Kingma, Abhishek Kumar, Stefano Ermon, and Ben Poole. Score-based generative modeling through stochastic differential equations. *arXiv* preprint *arXiv*:2011.13456, 2020.
 - Mingzhen Sun, Weining Wang, Gen Li, Jiawei Liu, Jiahui Sun, Wanquan Feng, Shanshan Lao, SiYu Zhou, Qian He, and Jing Liu. Ar-diffusion: Asynchronous video generation with auto-regressive diffusion. In *Proceedings of the Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition Conference*, pp. 7364–7373, 2025.
 - Genmo Team. Mochi 1. https://github.com/genmoai/models, 2024.
 - Hansi Teng, Hongyu Jia, Lei Sun, Lingzhi Li, Maolin Li, Mingqiu Tang, Shuai Han, Tianning Zhang, WQ Zhang, Weifeng Luo, et al. Magi-1: Autoregressive video generation at scale. *arXiv* preprint arXiv:2505.13211, 2025.
 - Alexander Tong, Kilian Fatras, Nikolay Malkin, Guillaume Huguet, Yanlei Zhang, Jarrid Rector-Brooks, Guy Wolf, and Yoshua Bengio. Improving and generalizing flow-based generative models with minibatch optimal transport. *arXiv* preprint arXiv:2302.00482, 2023.
 - Team Wan, Ang Wang, Baole Ai, Bin Wen, Chaojie Mao, Chen-Wei Xie, Di Chen, Feiwu Yu, Haiming Zhao, Jianxiao Yang, et al. Wan: Open and advanced large-scale video generative models. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2503.20314*, 2025.
 - Cong Wang, Jiaxi Gu, Panwen Hu, Haoyu Zhao, Yuanfan Guo, Jianhua Han, Hang Xu, and Xiaodan Liang. Easycontrol: Transfer controlnet to video diffusion for controllable generation and interpolation. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2408.13005*, 2024a.
 - Jing Wang, Fengzhuo Zhang, Xiaoli Li, Vincent YF Tan, Tianyu Pang, Chao Du, Aixin Sun, and Zhuoran Yang. Error analyses of auto-regressive video diffusion models: A unified framework. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2503.10704*, 2025.
 - Jiuniu Wang, Hangjie Yuan, Dayou Chen, Yingya Zhang, Xiang Wang, and Shiwei Zhang. Modelscope text-to-video technical report. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2308.06571*, 2023.
 - Xiaojuan Wang, Boyang Zhou, Brian Curless, Ira Kemelmacher-Shlizerman, Aleksander Holynski, and Steven M Seitz. Generative inbetweening: Adapting image-to-video models for keyframe interpolation. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2408.15239*, 2024b.
 - Jinbo Xing, Menghan Xia, Yong Zhang, Haoxin Chen, Xintao Wang, Tien-Tsin Wong, and Ying Shan. Dynamicrafter: Animating open-domain images with video diffusion priors. *arXiv* preprint *arXiv*:2310.12190, 2023a.
 - Zhen Xing, Qijun Feng, Haoran Chen, Qi Dai, Han Hu, Hang Xu, Zuxuan Wu, and Yu-Gang Jiang. A survey on video diffusion models. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2310.10647*, 2023b.
 - Tianwei Yin, Qiang Zhang, Richard Zhang, William T Freeman, Fredo Durand, Eli Shechtman, and Xun Huang. From slow bidirectional to fast causal video generators. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2412.07772*, 2024.
 - Shiwei Zhang, Jiayu Wang, Yingya Zhang, Kang Zhao, Hangjie Yuan, Zhiwu Qin, Xiang Wang, Deli Zhao, and Jingren Zhou. I2vgen-xl: High-quality image-to-video synthesis via cascaded diffusion models. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2311.04145*, 2023.
 - Min Zhao, Guande He, Yixiao Chen, Hongzhou Zhu, Chongxuan Li, and Jun Zhu. Riflex: A free lunch for length extrapolation in video diffusion transformers. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2502.15894*, 2025.

Dian Zheng, Ziqi Huang, Hongbo Liu, Kai Zou, Yinan He, Fan Zhang, Yuanhan Zhang, Jingwen He, Wei-Shi Zheng, Yu Qiao, et al. Vbench-2.0: Advancing video generation benchmark suite for intrinsic faithfulness. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2503.21755*, 2025.

APPENDIX

A MORE RELATED WORKS

The field of video generation has rapidly evolved, driven by the success of diffusion models in image synthesis. Our work builds upon and extends several key research threads, positioning itself as a highly efficient and versatile solution for the next paradigm of video diffusion models.

A.1 CONVENTIONAL VIDEO DIFFUSION MODELS

The initial extension of image diffusion models to video generation established a foundational paradigm. Seminal works like VDM Ho et al. (2022) and subsequent large-scale models such as Latent Video Diffusion Models (LVDM) He et al. (2022), VideoCrafter1 Chen et al. (2023), and others Wang et al. (2023); Ma et al. (2024); Wan et al. (2025); Kong et al. (2024) all adopted the same diffusion framework. A core characteristic of these conventional models is their reliance on a scalar timestep variable. This single variable governs the noise level and evolution trajectory uniformly across all frames of a video clip during the diffusion process. While this synchronized-frame approach proved effective for generating short, self-contained clips, particularly for T2V tasks, it imposes a rigid temporal structure. The uniform noise schedule inherently limits the model's ability to handle tasks requiring asynchronous frame evolution, such as I2V generation, where the first frame or condition image is given, or complex editing tasks like video interpolation. Recognizing the limitations of conventional VDMs in temporal modeling, the research community has developed numerous extensions targeting specific video generation tasks Xing et al. (2023b). These approaches predominantly focus on adapting existing scalar timestep based models through fine-tuning strategies or zero-shot techniques to handle domain-specific challenges such as image-to-video generation Xing et al. (2023a); Guo et al. (2023); Zhang et al. (2023); Li et al. (2024); Ni et al. (2024), video interpolation Wang et al. (2024b;a); Wan et al. (2025), and long video synthesis Duan et al. (2024); Henschel et al. (2024); Kim et al. (2024); Lu et al. (2024); Dalal et al. (2025); Zhao et al. (2025) These methods typically involve extensive fine-tuning of a large, pre-trained T2V model on taskspecific data or employing zero-shot domain transfer techniques.

I2V generation has emerged as a particularly active area. For example, the Wan-I2V model presented in the Wan paper required fine-tuning Wan T2V model on its T2V pretraining dataset to achieve its SOTA I2V capabilities and can only do I2V after this process Wan et al. (2025). Overall, these extensions reveal fundamental challenges in balancing flexibility, generalization, and the retention of original model capabilities. Fine-tuning approaches often suffer from catastrophic forgeting, where adaptation to specific tasks severely degrades performance on its original capabilityPan et al. (2024); Ramasesh et al. (2021). Zero-shot methods, exemplified by TI2V-Zero introduces a zero-shot method for conditioning T2V diffusion models on images Ni et al. (2024). However, its generalization and generation quality are limited by potential visual artifacts and reduced robustness, as its simple "repeat-and-slide" strategy struggles with diverse input and can produce blurry or flickering videos. The reliance on task-specific architectures and training procedures highlights the need for a more unified and general approach that can handle diverse video generation scenarios without requiring extensive finetuning. Our work departs from these limitations by adopting the VTV introduced by FVDM Liu et al. (2024b), enabling fine-grained control over the generative process.

A.2 AUTOREGRESSIVE VIDEO DIFFUSION MODELS

Recently, people have explored autoregressive paradigms for video diffusion models, where frames are generated sequentially rather than simultaneously (Chen et al., 2024; Sun et al., 2025; Teng et al., 2025; Chen et al., 2025; Huang et al., 2025). This direction includes methods like Diffusion Forcing, which trains a causal next-token model to predict one or multiple future tokens without fully diffusing past ones, enabling variable-length generation capabilities. CauseVid Yin et al. (2024) represents another significant advancement in this direction, proposing fast autoregressive video diffusion models that can generate frames on-the-fly with streaming capabilities.

Large-scale autoregressive models such as MAGI-1 Teng et al. (2025) and SkyReels-V2 Chen et al. (2025) have demonstrated the potential for scalable video generation through chunk-by-chunk pro-

 cessing, where each segment is denoised holistically before proceeding to the next. Self-Forcing Huang et al. (2025) addresses the critical issue of exposure bias in autoregressive video diffusion by introducing a training paradigm where models condition on their own previously generated outputs rather than ground-truth frames. This approach enables real-time streaming video generation while maintaining temporal coherence through innovative key-value caching mechanisms.

Despite these advances, autoregressive video diffusion models face inherent limitations that constrain their applicability. The sequential nature of generation restricts these models to unidirectional tasks, making them inadequate for many scenarios, such as start-end frames, video transitions, and keyframe interpolation. Moreover, error accumulation and drift issues represent persistent challenges in autoregressive approaches, where small prediction errors compound over time, leading to quality degradation in longer sequences Huang et al. (2025). Recent theoretical analyses have also identified both error accumulation and memory bottlenecks as fundamental phenomena in autoregressive video diffusion models, revealing a Pareto frontier between these competing constraints Wang et al. (2025).

A.3 FRAME-AWARE VIDEO DIFFUSION MODEL

Frame-aware video diffusion model (FVDM) Liu et al. (2024b) is a parallel line of research to reconstruct the paradigm for video diffusion models, by enabling independent temporal evolution for each frame. The vectorized timestep approach enables unprecedented flexibility across multiple video generation tasks, including T2V, I2V, start-end frames, video extension, and so on, all within a single unified framework. Unlike conventional approaches that require extensive destructive architectural modifications and retraining, FVDM demonstrates strong zero-shot capabilities across diverse temporal conditioning scenarios with its PTSS training strategy. In this work, Pusa-Wan (V1.0) further extends FVDM to an industrial scale and proposes a dedicated VTA strategy and post-training method, achieving remarkable efficiency gains with finetuning costs reduced to mere \$500 from above 100K of Wan-I2V, while outperforming it on Vbench-I2V.

The FVDM/Pusa framework represents a fundamental departure from previous temporal modeling approaches, offering a solution that can perform both directional generation tasks (like autoregressive models) and bidirectional temporal reasoning tasks that autoregressive approaches cannot handle. This unified capability, combined with the demonstrated computational efficiency and strong empirical results, positions this approach as a promising direction for next-generation video diffusion models.

Algorithm 1 Pusa: Sampling for I2V Generation

```
790
               Require: Trained model v_{\theta}, VAE Encoder E and Decoder D, Scheduler.
791
               Require: Initial image I_0, text prompt c, number of frames N_1, inference steps S.
792
                 1: Encode prompt: \mathbf{c}_{emb} \leftarrow \text{EncodePrompt}(c).
793
                 2: Encode image to initial latent: \hat{\mathbf{z}}_1^1 \leftarrow E(I_0).
794
                 3: Sample noise for remaining frames: [\mathbf{z}_1^1, \mathbf{z}_1^2, \dots, \mathbf{z}_1^{N_1}] \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I}).
                                                                     ▶ Initialize video with clean first frame and noisy subsequent frames.
                 4:
                 5: Construct initial latent video: \mathbf{Z}_1 \leftarrow [\hat{\mathbf{z}}_1^1, \mathbf{z}_1^2, \dots, \mathbf{z}_1^{N_1}].
6: Retrieve scheduler noise levels \{\sigma_s\}_{s=1}^S, where \sigma_1 > \dots > \sigma_S \approx 0.
796
797
798
                 7: for s \leftarrow 1, ..., S - 1 do
799
                 8:
                             Let \sigma_{current} \leftarrow \sigma_s and \sigma_{next} \leftarrow \sigma_{s+1}.
                             \triangleright \text{Construct vectorized timestep to freeze the first frame.} Set current path parameter \pmb{\tau}_s \leftarrow \sigma^{-1}([0,\sigma_{current},\ldots,\sigma_{current}]^\top).
                 9:
800
               10:
801
                             Set current noise levels \sigma_s \leftarrow [0, \sigma_{current}, \dots, \sigma_{current}]^{\top}.
Set next noise levels \sigma_{s+1} \leftarrow [0, \sigma_{next}, \dots, \sigma_{next}]^{\top}.
               11:
802
               12:
803
                             Predict vector field: \hat{\mathbf{U}}_s \leftarrow v_{\theta}(\mathbf{Z}_s, \boldsymbol{\tau}_s, \mathbf{c}_{emb}).
               13:
804
                                                                                                        ▶ Update latents; first frame remains unchanged.
               14:
805
                             \mathbf{Z}_{s+1} \leftarrow \mathbf{Z}_s + \hat{\mathbf{U}}_s \odot (\boldsymbol{\sigma}_{s+1} - \boldsymbol{\sigma}_s).
               15:
806
               16: end for
807
               17: Decode final latent video: \mathbf{X}_{out} \leftarrow D(\mathbf{Z}_S).
808
                18: return Output video X_{out}.
809
```

B INFERENCE ALGORITHM FOR I2V GENERATION

Pusa performs zero-shot I2V generation by strategically manipulating the vectorized timestep τ during sampling.

Theoretical Justification. From the perspective of Flow Matching, generation entails integrating a vector field from a prior distribution (at t=1) to the data distribution (at t=0). Our model $v_{\theta}(\mathbf{X}, \boldsymbol{\tau})$ learns to predict the velocity field $\frac{d\mathbf{X}}{d\boldsymbol{\tau}}$. In the I2V setting, we are given a clean first frame \mathbf{x}_0^1 . We can define the probability path for this frame as effectively constant at the data distribution, which corresponds to $\tau^1=0$ throughout the process. Since the model was trained with fully randomized timesteps ($\boldsymbol{\tau}\sim U[0,1]^N$), it has learned the conditional velocity field $v_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}^i|\mathbf{x}^j,\tau^i,\tau^j)$. Specifically, it can predict the evolution of noisy frames ($\tau^i>0$) conditioned on a clean frame ($\tau^1=0$).

Sampling Procedure. To condition generation on a starting image I_0 , we clamp the timestep component of the first frame to zero throughout the inference process (i.e., $\tau_s^1 = 0$ for all steps s). Standard ODE solvers update the state based on the step size. For the first frame, the effective step size is $d\tau^1 = 0$. In our discrete Euler integration step (Algorithm 1, line 29), this is realized by the term $(\sigma_{s+1} - \sigma_s)$. Since we set σ^1 to 0 for all s, the update for the first frame is zero, keeping it fixed at the encoded input image $E(I_0)$.

Note that we can also add some noise (e.g., set $\tau_s^1 = 0.2 * s$) to the first frame. This relaxes the hard constraint, allowing the first frame to evolve slightly to better match the motion dynamics of the generated video, potentially improving coherence at the cost of strict fidelity (see Table 6 for detailed results). The detailed I2V sampling procedure is outlined in Algorithm 1.

C COMPREHENSIVE QUANTITATIVE RESULTS

C.1 Hyperparameter Study

To validate our hyperparameter choices and understand their impact on performance, we conducted a series of studies, summarized in Table 4.

Lora Configurations Lora rank is a critical ingredient that influences the fine-tuning performance. As we know, Lora learns much less with small ranks compared to full fine-tuning Biderman et al. (2024), thus, Lora rank should be large enough to have the capacity to learn the new capabilities since tasks like I2V are very general. We investigated the influence of LoRA rank, a proxy for the adaptation's capacity. As shown in Table 4(a), a higher rank of 512 consistently outperforms a rank of 256 on most metrics, particularly in overall quality. This suggests that a larger adaptation capacity is beneficial in capturing the nuances of temporal dynamics required for I2V tasks. We also find that the LoRA alpha scaling at inference time is critical; an alpha of 1.7 yields the best results for the 750-iteration checkpoint, balancing the influence of the LoRA weights against the pre-trained model.

Inference Steps. As detailed in Table 4(b), we analyzed the trade-off between computational cost at inference and generation quality using our best checkpoint with rank 512 and alpha 1.4 with 900 iterations. Performance scales predictably with the number of steps, with significant gains observed up to 10 steps. While 20 steps provide a marginal improvement, the results at 10 steps are nearly identical (87.69 vs. 87.84). Consequently, we adopt 10 inference steps as our default to ensure an optimal balance between quality and generation speed.

Training Progression. We evaluated checkpoints of Lora rank 512 at various stages of training, from 150 to 1200 iterations, using 10 inference steps. Table 4(c) shows a clear trend of improving performance up to 900 iterations, where we achieved our highest score of 87.69 with an alpha of 1.4. Beyond this point, performance begins to plateau or slightly degrade, indicating that the model has converged. This rapid convergence underscores the data efficiency of our approach. Our final model for comparison in Table 1 uses the 900-iteration checkpoint of rank 512.

Table 4: **Comprehensive studies on key hyperparameters.** This table presents a detailed analysis of our model's performance by varying training iterations, LoRA configurations, and the number of inference steps. All scores are reported in percentages (%), with higher values indicating better performance. For each ablation group, the best score per metric is highlighted in **bold**.

Group	Setting		Overall				Quality	Metrics	3		12	V Metric	s
Group	Setting	Total	Quality	I2V	SC	BC	MS	DD	AQ	IQ	I2V-S	I2V-B	CM
(a) LoRA	Configurat	ions											
	$\alpha = 1.0$	79.75	73.25	86.25	84.35	88.20	98.91	28.92	60.90	64.73	91.69	91.18	28.00
256	$\alpha = 1.4$	83.12	76.07	90.17	85.65	96.67	98.99	30.06	60.13	67.15	90.33	98.78	23.48
230	$\alpha = 1.7$	85.86	77.96	93.76	97.18	96.68	99.06	10.40	63.04	70.70	98.60	98.30	8.40
	$\alpha = 2.0$	84.22	76.30	92.14	96.71	94.63	99.05	6.40	60.34	69.63	97.96	95.77	16.00
	$\alpha = 1.0$	80.17	74.35	85.99	83.16	86.99	98.05	62.40	58.44	62.49	91.23	90.70	34.40
512	$\alpha = 1.4$	86.46	79.79	93.13	88.64	93.54	97.68	78.80	61.12	67.47	95.72	97.60	38.40
312	$\alpha = 1.7$	87.11	80.42	93.80	92.93	95.58	97.72	62.80	61.78	70.34	97.30	97.93	29.60
	$\alpha = 2.0$	85.98	79.10	93.87	93.88	93.93	97.96	51.20	60.57	70.38	96.92	97.69	17.60
(b) Inferer	ice Steps												
	2 steps	79.92	67.97	91.87	77.18	92.90	98.18	16.80	51.69	55.44	94.20	97.55	30.40
	5 steps	86.03	77.59	94.48	88.53	95.65	98.25	50.00	60.21	65.96	97.03	99.25	29.20
_	10 steps	87.69	80.55	94.83	91.39	96.02	98.10	66.40	62.42	68.57	97.78	99.33	26.40
	20 steps	87.84	81.17	94.51	89.54	95.89	98.10	79.88	61.02	68.99	97.07	99.10	31.10
(c) Trainir	ng Iteration	ıs											
	$\alpha = 1.0$	78.23	73.36	83.11	80.29	86.09	98.63	50.80	60.19	63.62	88.67	88.47	34.00
150	$\alpha = 1.4$	79.33	73.01	85.65	81.61	86.20	98.74	48.00	59.32	61.92	90.79	91.11	26.91
150	$\alpha = 1.7$	82.79	74.99	90.60	84.37	89.92	98.84	48.40	60.05	63.25	93.62	95.99	31.60
	$\alpha = 2.0$	84.31	76.25	92.37	87.23	91.86	98.86	53.97	59.03	62.36	95.71	97.04	30.20
	$\alpha = 1.0$	79.27	74.20	84.35	82.20	86.81	98.32	59.20	59.48	62.62	90.32	89.00	33.60
450	$\alpha = 1.4$	85.72	79.41	92.04	88.07	93.34	98.12	73.54	61.88	66.69	94.94	96.98	32.94
430	$\alpha = 1.7$	87.37	80.95	93.80	91.67	95.51	97.61	72.54	62.25	69.91	96.87	98.23	30.34
	$\alpha = 2.0$	85.96	79.54	92.39	92.88	94.12	97.46	60.69	61.04	70.22	96.51	97.52	14.51
	$\alpha = 1.0$	80.17	74.35	85.99	83.16	86.99	98.05	62.40	58.44	62.49	91.23	90.70	34.40
750	$\alpha = 1.4$	86.46	79.79	93.13	88.64	93.54	97.68	78.80	61.12	67.47	95.72	97.60	38.40
,,,	$\alpha = 1.7$	87.11	80.42	93.80	92.93	95.58	97.72	62.80	61.78	70.34	97.30	97.93	29.60
	$\alpha = 2.0$	85.98	79.10	93.87	93.88	93.93	97.96	51.20	60.57	70.38	96.92	97.69	17.60
	$\alpha = 1.0$	81.78	74.63	88.93	84.23	88.48	98.44	60.73	58.56	60.10	93.14	93.73	32.80
900	$\alpha = 1.4$	87.69	80.55	94.83	91.39	96.02	98.10	66.40	62.42	68.57	97.78	99.33	26.40
, 00	$\alpha = 1.7$	86.93	79.19	94.67	94.78	95.80	98.22	41.20	61.84	70.14	98.31	99.26	18.00
	$\alpha = 2.0$	85.91	77.96	93.86	95.15	94.26	98.38	32.40	60.57	70.17	98.22	98.95	6.15
	$\alpha = 1.0$	82.08	75.01	89.14	84.81	88.30	98.15	63.20	58.17	61.90	93.02	94.04	34.40
1200	$\alpha = 1.4$	87.32	80.30	94.34	90.72	95.44	97.58	73.20	61.51	68.01	97.19	98.83	29.89
1200	$\alpha = 1.7$	86.86	79.70	94.02	93.66	95.46	98.02	54.80	60.77	69.70	97.65	98.77	18.80
	$\alpha = 2.0$	86.01	78.32	93.69	94.21	94.16	98.40	41.20	59.51	69.96	97.90	98.74	9.16

C.2 ABLATION STUDIES

We conduct further ablation studies to analyze the core components of our proposed method. We investigate the effectiveness of our training strategy against a baseline approach and examine the impact of different timestep sampling strategies during training. The results are summarized in Table 5.

Table 5: **Ablation studies on training methodology.** This table presents our analysis of (a) the training strategy, comparing our method (with both Full and LoRA fine-tuning) against the baseline across different training steps, and (b) the timestep sampling strategy. All scores are reported in percentages (%), with higher values being better. The overall best configuration is marked with *.

Group	Setting		Overall		Quality Metrics					I2V Metrics			
Group	ocung	Total	Quality	I2V	SC	BC	MS	DD	AQ	IQ	I2V-S	I2V-B	CM
(a) Training Strategy													
	150 steps	75.01	77.85	72.16	97.02	98.31	99.22	24.80	59.75	63.65	82.19	77.43	29.60
	300 steps	74.02	76.81	71.23	96.93	97.75	99.18	18.80	58.28	63.39	81.58	76.48	30.00
Baseline (Wan-I2V)	600 steps	73.29	75.63	70.95	97.44	97.88	99.23	9.60	56.63	62.18	81.47	76.09	30.80
	900 steps	73.21	76.02	70.39	96.96	97.65	99.13	17.20	57.00	61.42	80.56	76.15	28.80
	1500 steps	73.39	76.26	70.53	97.19	98.00	99.30	11.20	59.24	62.11	80.60	76.13	31.60
	150 steps	83.78	76.10	91.46	85.20	91.10	98.79	39.60	63.46	67.95	94.62	96.14	36.00
Ours (Full Finetune)	300 steps	83.35	78.07	88.62	84.86	90.91	98.37	66.40	63.61	67.35	92.77	93.57	32.80
	600 steps	85.21	78.51	91.90	85.95	90.20	98.30	76.00	61.80	66.69	95.58	95.79	38.80
	900 steps	84.06	77.67	90.45	85.97	90.67	98.40	66.80	61.27	66.17	94.27	95.05	33.60
	150 steps, $\alpha = 1.4$	81.62	74.62	88.62	83.56	88.10	98.90	45.60	60.52	65.39	92.20	94.30	29.60
	150 steps, $\alpha = 1.7$	84.92	77.39	92.44	87.18	93.12	99.02	46.00	62.73	66.76	95.52	97.08	33.20
Ours (LoRA Finetune)	300 steps, $\alpha = 1.4$	82.97	75.39	90.55	86.42	90.99	98.94	40.80	59.90	65.19	93.87	95.67	32.00
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	600 steps, $\alpha = 1.4$	85.98	78.60	93.35	89.37	93.50	98.76	58.80	60.55	66.98	96.49	97.87	30.40
	600 steps, $\alpha = 1.7$	86.27	78.73	93.81	91.78	94.51	98.40	52.40	60.13	68.37	97.31	98.43	22.80
	900 steps, $\alpha = 1.4$ *	87.09	79.77	94.42	90.37	94.68	98.55	62.80	61.72	68.20	97.40	98.67	31.20
	900 steps, $\alpha = 1.7$	87.01	80.02	94.00	93.56	96.01	98.44	51.20	61.74	70.24	97.70	98.54	20.80
(b) Timestep Sampling	Strategy												
	450 steps, $\alpha = 1.0$	79.27	74.20	84.35	82.20	86.81	98.32	59.20	59.48	62.62	90.32	89.00	33.60
	450 steps, $\alpha = 1.4$	85.72	79.41	92.04	88.07	93.34	98.12	73.54	61.88	66.69	94.94	96.98	32.94
Ours	450 steps, $\alpha = 1.7$	87.37	80.95	93.80	91.67	95.51	97.61	72.54	62.25	69.91	96.87	98.23	30.34
Curs	900 steps, $\alpha = 1.0$	81.78	74.63	88.93	84.23	88.48	98.44	60.73	58.56	60.10	93.14	93.73	32.80
	900 steps, $\alpha = 1.4*$	87.69	80.55	94.83	91.39	96.02	98.10	66.40	62.42	68.57	97.78	99.33	26.40
	900 steps, $\alpha = 1.7$	86.93	79.19	94.67	94.78	95.80	98.22	41.20	61.84	70.14	98.31	99.26	18.00
	450 steps, $\alpha = 1.0$	74.26	71.62	76.91	76.83	84.03	98.41	54.40	58.14	61.92	82.44	84.49	30.80
	450 steps, $\alpha = 1.4$	74.03	71.11	76.95	76.55	83.58	98.49	53.60	56.12	62.20	82.48	84.61	29.60
YOY (1 0)	450 steps, $\alpha = 1.7$	74.73	70.98	78.47	76.63	83.91	98.56	49.60	56.23	62.63	83.65	85.96	29.60
$I2V (\tau^1 = 0)$	900 steps, $\alpha = 1.0$	73.27	69.96	76.57	75.93	83.37	98.60	43.20	56.57	61.25	82.23	84.15	30.80
	900 steps, $\alpha = 1.4$	72.54	68.47	76.61	75.11	83.10	98.68	36.40	53.87	60.23	81.61	84.33	36.40
	900 steps, $\alpha = 1.7$	72.42	67.82	77.02	74.53	82.96	98.72	32.80	53.39	59.66	81.90	85.05	32.00
	450 steps, $\alpha = 1.0$	77.53	72.33	82.74	79.62	85.66	98.61	42.40	59.96	63.85	88.18	88.80	27.60
	450 steps, $\alpha = 1.4$	79.67	73.63	85.70	81.07	87.44	98.69	46.40	60.23	64.35	90.77	90.77	32.80
PTSS ($p = 0.2$)	450 steps, $\alpha = 1.7$	82.05	75.32	88.79	82.47	89.80	98.76	50.80	62.16	64.42	92.70	94.19	28.80
	900 steps, $\alpha = 1.0$	77.96	72.24	83.68	80.38	85.49	98.40	44.40	58.67	63.72	89.43	88.91	31.20
	900 steps, $\alpha = 1.4$	81.57	74.71	88.43	83.63	88.95	98.51	52.40	59.57	63.50	92.69	93.51	30.40
	900 steps, $\alpha = 1.7$	84.74	77.60	91.88	85.97	92.68	98.40	63.20	61.27	64.93	94.68	96.82	34.80
	450 steps, $\alpha = 1.0$	78.16	72.96	83.36	80.69	86.58	98.42	45.20	59.80	64.21	88.97	88.64	33.60
	450 steps, $\alpha = 1.4$	82.08	75.76	88.41	84.98	91.24	98.46	48.40	61.64	64.70	91.94	94.20	29.60
PTSS ($p = 0.5$)	450 steps, $\alpha = 1.7$	85.52	78.64	92.41	88.87	94.94	98.45	52.40	63.29	67.36	95.06	97.40	33.60
	900 steps, $\alpha = 1.0$	79.63	73.51	85.76	82.98	87.27	98.37	46.00	58.80	64.42	91.01	90.80	30.67
	900 steps, $\alpha = 1.4$	86.38	79.51	93.26	90.18	95.60	98.26	56.30	63.74	68.01	96.20	98.09	28.75
	900 steps, $\alpha = 1.7$	87.36	80.44	94.28	93.25	96.63	98.07	54.80	63.58	69.67	97.71	98.36	28.80
	450 steps, $\alpha = 1.0$	79.03	73.78	84.28	82.13	86.86	98.56	45.60	60.41	65.36	89.98	89.14	34.40
DTCC (0.0)	450 steps, $\alpha = 1.4$	85.59	79.03	92.14	88.10	93.93	98.63	61.60	62.84	67.03	94.78	97.35	32.00
PTSS $(p = 0.8)$	450 steps, $\alpha = 1.7$	87.31	80.84	93.79	91.63	95.98	98.17	65.20	63.27	69.41	97.02	98.08	30.40
	900 steps, $\alpha = 1.0$	80.71	75.17	86.25	82.65	86.73	97.73	69.60	59.37	64.50	91.37	90.96	34.80
	900 steps, $\alpha = 1.4$	85.98	78.86	93.10	87.10	91.34	97.31 97.11	86.40	60.79	64.98	96.13	97.24	38.00
	900 steps, $\alpha = 1.7$	86.49	79.30	93.69	89.98	92.78	97.11	79.20	60.44	66.67	97.15	97.67	32.40

Training Strategy. We compare our training strategy against the baseline method used in Wan-I2V across different training regimes: full model fine-tuning and parameter-efficient LoRA fine-tuning. As shown in Table 5(a), both of our fine-tuning approaches significantly outperform the baseline at every checkpoint. Our full fine-tuning method already achieves a total score of 83.78 in just 150 steps, surpassing the baseline's peak score of 75.01. The LoRA-based approach further accelerates performance gains. The results show that performance consistently improves with more training steps. For instance, with $\alpha = 1.7$, the score increases from 84.92 at 150 steps to 86.27 at 600

steps. The best LoRA result is 87.09 at 900 steps with $\alpha = 1.4$, which substantially outperforms full fine-tuning at the same iteration (84.06). This highlights not only the effectiveness of our training recipe but also the remarkable efficiency and power of combining it with LoRA.

Timestep Sampling Strategy. Our method utilizes a simple yet effective strategy of sampling purely random timesteps for each frame during training. To validate this choice, we compare it against an intuitive baseline for I2V with the first frame always being noise-free $\tau^1=0$ while all other timesteps are of the same value, and a more structured approach, PTSS, where a certain percentage of timesteps are sampled from a specific range. As detailed in Table 5(b), we conduct a comprehensive comparison at the 900-iteration mark, testing PTSS with probabilities (p) of 0.2, 0.5, and 0.8 against our fully random approach (equivalent to p=0). The results consistently show that our method outperforms I2V beaseline and all PTSS variants across different LoRA alpha values. Notably, our approach with $\alpha=1.4$ achieves the highest total score of 87.69, surpassing the best PTSS result (87.36 from p=0.5, $\alpha=1.7$). This confirms that a simpler, fully randomized timestep sampling strategy is more effective for learning robust temporal dynamics in our framework.

C.3 FIRST FRAME CONDITIONING NOISE ANALYSIS

We further investigate the impact of the inference-time constraint on the first frame. By default, we clamp the first frame's timestep to zero $(\lambda=0)$ to ensure maximal fidelity to the input image. However, relaxing this constraint by adding noise $(\tau_s^1=\lambda\cdot s)$ can encourage the model to generate more dynamic content.

As shown in Table 6, increasing λ significantly boosts the Dynamic Degree (DD) from 29.60 ($\lambda=0.0$) to 62.00 ($\lambda=0.3$), indicating richer motion generation. While this comes with a slight reduction in I2V consistency metrics (I2V-S, I2V-B), the overall Quality Score improves, peaking at $\lambda=0.3$. The Total Score, which balances quality and fidelity, reaches its maximum at $\lambda=0.1$. The setting $\lambda=0.2$ provides a favorable trade-off, achieving high motion dynamics (DD=57.20) while maintaining strong subject identity (I2V-S=97.51). These results validate our default choice for strict fidelity while highlighting the flexibility of our method to trade off fidelity for enhanced dynamics when desired.

Table 6: Impact of first frame conditioning noise (λ). We analyze the effect of adding noise to the first frame's timestep schedule ($\tau_s^1 = \lambda \cdot s$) during inference. The default setting ($\lambda = 0.0$) clamps the first frame to zero, maximizing fidelity. Increasing noise improves motion dynamics (DD) and overall quality at the cost of strictly preserving the input frame pixels (I2V scores). We use Wan2.2-based Pusa model for this study with high $\alpha = 1.4$ and low $\alpha = 1.4$.

Setting	Overall			Quality Metrics						I2V Metrics		
	Total	Quality	I2V	SC	BC	MS	DD	AQ	IQ	I2V-S	I2V-B	CM
$\lambda = 0.0$ (Default)	87.78	79.48	96.08	95.86	96.36	99.09	29.60	61.73	72.63	99.24	99.28	36.40
$\lambda = 0.1$	88.39	80.67	96.12	95.86	96.26	98.95	45.20	61.28	72.47	98.78	98.90	47.60
$\lambda = 0.2$	88.12	81.11	95.14	95.37	95.24	98.74	57.20	61.12	71.70	97.51	97.87	56.00
$\lambda = 0.3$	87.58	81.24	93.92	95.32	94.70	98.68	62.00	61.07	71.11	96.33	96.68	60.40

C.4 Inference Efficiency Analysis

We evaluate the real-world deployment efficiency of Pusa by measuring peak memory usage and inference latency against the Wan-T2V and Wan-I2V baselines. All models were evaluated generating 81-frame videos at 720×1280 resolution in the same environment. The results are summarized in Table 7.

Analysis. Pusa demonstrates a significant advantage in total inference speed, completing video generation in approximately 418 seconds compared to over 1,800 seconds for the baselines. This $4.5 \times$ speedup over Wan-T2V and $5.5 \times$ speedup over Wan-I2V is achieved through our method's ability to produce high-quality results in significantly fewer sampling steps (10 vs. 50). While our current implementation exhibits higher peak memory usage (\sim 37.9 GB) due to the broadcasting of vectorized timestep embeddings, this trade-off yields a dramatic reduction in wait time, making Pusa exceptionally efficient for practical applications requiring rapid turnaround.

Table 7: Inference efficiency comparison.

Model	Task	Memory (MiB)	Latency (s/step)	Steps	Total Time (s)	Speedup
Wan-T2V	T2V	26,358	37.39	50	1,869.5	-
Wan-I2V	I2V	29,088	45.81	50	2,290.5	-
Ours	I2V	37,892	41.85	10	418.5	$5.5 \times$

C.5 ZERO-SHOT LENGTH GENERALIZATION

We investigate Pusa's ability to generalize to varying video lengths in a zero-shot manner. Although trained exclusively on 81-frame sequences, the model demonstrates remarkable robustness when generating videos of 65, 121, and 129 frames. As shown in Table 8, the performance metrics remain highly stable. For instance, extending the length to 129 frames results in a negligible drop in Final Score (from 87.32 to 86.54) while maintaining exceptional Motion Smoothness (over 98.0). Interestingly, the 65-frame generation achieves the highest Dynamic Degree (74.80), suggesting strong adaptability to shorter, more dynamic sequences.

This length generalization capability is largely attributed to our VTA method's non-destructive nature. By preserving the base model's original weights and Rotary Positional Embeddings (RoPE) settings, Pusa effectively leverages the foundation model's strong generative priors and temporal understanding. This allows for seamless extrapolation to longer sequences (up to 129 frames and beyond) without the need for task-specific retraining or architectural modifications.

Table 8: Zero-shot generalization results across different frame lengths. The model was trained solely on 81 frames. * indicates the default training setting.

Frames	Total Score	Quality Score	I2V Score	Subject Const.	Motion Smooth.	Dynamic Deg.	Aesthetic	Imaging
65	87.87	81.05	94.69	90.59	97.98	74.80	68.54	97.49
81 (Default)*	87.32	79.80	94.84	92.27	98.48	52.60	68.27	97.64
121	86.62	79.46	93.78	91.33	98.25	59.60	68.84	97.45
129	86.54	79.43	93.65	90.87	98.17	58.40	69.18	97.26

C.6 QUANTITATIVE EVALUATION ON MULTI-TASK CAPABILITIES

To address the need for quantitative assessment of Pusa's zero-shot generalization, we evaluated the model on start-end frames (video interpolation), video extension, and video completion tasks using a held-out test set of 30 samples. We report standard reconstruction metrics: PSNR, SSIM, LPIPS, and DISTS.

Table 9: Quantitative evaluation of zero-shot multi-task capabilities. Comparisons are made against the specialized Wan-FLF2V baseline for Start-End generation. **S-E**: Start-End Generation, **Ext**: Video Extension, **Comp**: Video Completion. Indices represent latent frames.

Method	Task	PSNR ↑	SSIM ↑	LPIPS ↓	DISTS ↓
Wan-FLF2V	S-E (First + Last Frame)	16.01	0.676	0.257	0.093 0.103 0.153 0.167
Pusa (Ours)	S-E (Latents 0, 20) (Last 4 Frames) [†]	16.71	0.686	0.257	
Pusa (Ours)	S-E (Latents 0, 20) (Single End Frame)	15.28	0.621	0.332	
Pusa (Ours)	S-M-E (Latents 0, 10, 20)	16.11	0.642	0.292	
Pusa (Ours)	Ext (First 13 frames)	15.75	0.687	0.329	0.132
Pusa (Ours)	Ext (First 41 frames)	19.02	0.812	0.201	0.093
Pusa (Ours)	Comp (First 9 + Last 12 frames)	18.20	0.757	0.204	0.088

[†]Conditions on the first frame and the last 4 frames (encoded to latent index 20) to mitigate VAE temporal compression loss.

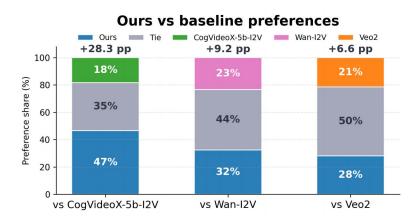


Figure 7: Aggregated human preference shares for each Pusa vs. baseline matchup.

Analysis. Table 9 demonstrates Pusa's strong performance across various zero-shot tasks. For Start-End generation, our method (conditioning on the first frame and the last 4 frames) surpasses the specialized Wan-FLF2V baseline in PSNR (16.71 vs. 16.01) and SSIM (0.686 vs. 0.676), confirming the effectiveness of our vectorized timestep approach for interpolation. In Video Extension, providing richer context (41 frames) yields significant improvements in fidelity (PSNR 19.02) compared to shorter context (13 frames, PSNR 15.75). The Video Completion task also achieves high reconstruction quality, further highlighting the model's versatility in handling diverse inpainting masks without task-specific fine-tuning.

D HUMAN PREFERENCE STUDY

To complement automated metrics, we ran a controlled human study comparing Pusa against CogVideoX-5b-I2V, Wan-I2V, and Veo2. Eight trained annotators used our in-browser interface (Fig. 8), which randomizes model ordering, enforces prompt coverage, and auto-saves votes. The interface shows paired clips plus the textual prompt/reference image and logs winner/tie per trial. We retained 361 valid pairwise judgments across the three matchups. Figure 7 (left) summarizes the aggregated preference shares from around 120 prompts per baseline. Pusa is preferred over CogVideoX-5b-I2V in 46.7% of comparisons versus 18.3% losses (+28.3 pp), over Wan-I2V in 32.5% versus 23.3% (+9.2 pp), and over Veo2 in 28.1% versus 21.5% (+6.6 pp); the remaining votes are ties, indicating many prompts where our and baseline generations are comparable yet ours retains a consistent edge.

E QUALITATIVE RESULTS ON MULTI-TASK CAPABILITIES

Our approach demonstrates exceptional generalization across diverse video generation tasks beyond text-to-video (T2V), without task-specific training. This capability comes from flexible vectorized timestep settings, enabling arbitrary conditioning on any subset of frames.

Text-to-Video Generation. Unlike specialized image-to-video (I2V) models, Pusa preserves the T2V capabilities of its foundation model. As shown in Fig. 17, the qualitative output maintains high quality, demonstrating that our fine-tuning process does not induce catastrophic forgetting of the primary T2V task. This preservation of capabilities establishes Pusa as a truly unified video generation model.

Complex Temporal Tasks. The FVDM framework reveals its true power through zero-shot performance on complex temporal synthesis tasks. Additional results demonstrating seamless I2V generation are presented in Fig. 4.

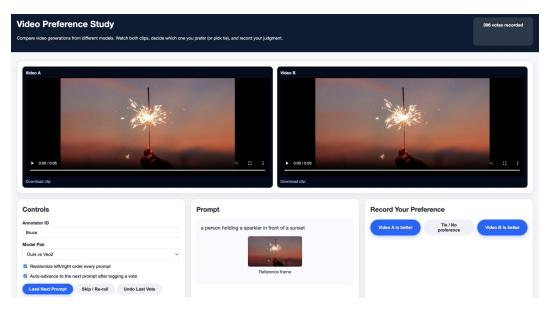


Figure 8: Annotation interface used in the preference study.

Pusa can perform start-end frames conditioning through various configurations. When conditioning on the first frame and the last frame (encoded to a single latent frame similar to the first frame), the model generates coherent video sequences, as illustrated in Fig. 11. Alternatively, conditioning on the first frame and the last 4 frames (encoded to a single latent frame as default) yields improved results, as shown in Fig. 13. The latter approach addresses the challenge posed by the $4\times$ compression rate for the last frames introduced by the VAE, where conditioning solely on the last frame produces inferior results due to its interpretation as 4 static frames.

Using the unique properties of our framework, we can enhance video coherence by introducing controlled noise to the encoded latents (e.g., setting $\tau^1 = 0.3 * t$ and $\tau^N = 0.7 * t$). This technique generates appropriate motion and content for the condition frames, resulting in more coherent video synthesis, as demonstrated in Fig. 12.

Furthermore, Figures 14, 15, and 16 showcase Pusa's capabilities for video completion/transition and video extension, seamlessly completing or continuing given video sequences. These advanced capabilities emerge inherently from our vectorized timestep adaptation strategy, which does not require task-specific training, and highlight the remarkable versatility and power of our approach.

F LIMITATIONS AND TRADE-OFFS

While our approach demonstrates high efficiency and strong performance, we acknowledge certain trade-offs and limitations, particularly regarding the gap between condition images and generated frames (Sim2Real gap) and artifacts arising from VAE compression.

Gen-to-Real Gap. As illustrated in the top row of Figure 9, a slight color shift and detail inconsistency can occur between the conditioning first frame (Frame 0) and the subsequent generated frame (Frame 1). This phenomenon is attributed to the discrepancy between the exact pixel distribution of the input condition image (which may come from a different distribution or be a real image) and the manifold of frames the model is capable of generating. Since we do not force the model to overfit to the condition image (to preserve more motion dynamics), minor semantic or color deviations may appear as the model projects the input onto its learned latent space.

VAE Compression Artifacts. Another limitation stems from the 3D VAE used in the base model, which compresses chunks of 4 temporal frames into a single latent representation. As shown in the bottom row of Figure 9, when we condition on the last latent frame for tasks like Start-End generation, this effectively locks the last 4 pixel-space frames (Frames 77-80) to a static state upon



Figure 9: Visual analysis of trade-offs in Start-End Frame Generation. **Top Row:** The first four frames (0-3). Frame 0 is the conditioning first frame. A slight color shift and detail inconsistency can be observed in Frame 1 due to the Sim2Real gap between the exact condition image and the model's generated manifold. **Bottom Row:** The last four frames (77-80). Frame 80 is the conditioning last frame. Note that the last four frames appear static and of low quality; this is due to the VAE component, where the last conditioning frame is encoded into a single latent frame and decoded to four frames, restricting fidelity and high-frequency temporal variation.

decoding. This is because a single fixed latent frame decodes to a sequence of 4 frames with minimal temporal variation. Consequently, the generated video may exhibit static artifacts at the boundary conditions, a trade-off inherent to the underlying compression architecture rather than our sampling method.

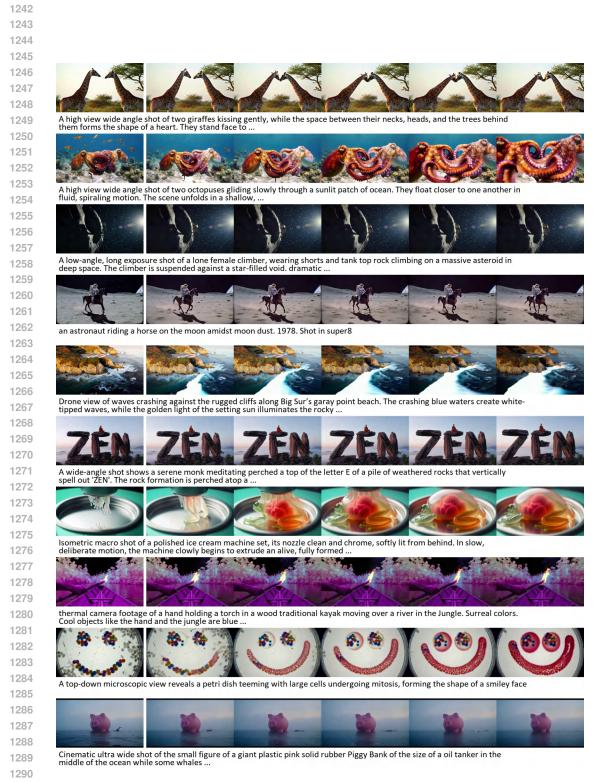


Figure 10: More image-to-video results. The first frames of each row are the given condition images extracted from Veo2 & Sora demos. Each generated video has 81 frames in total.

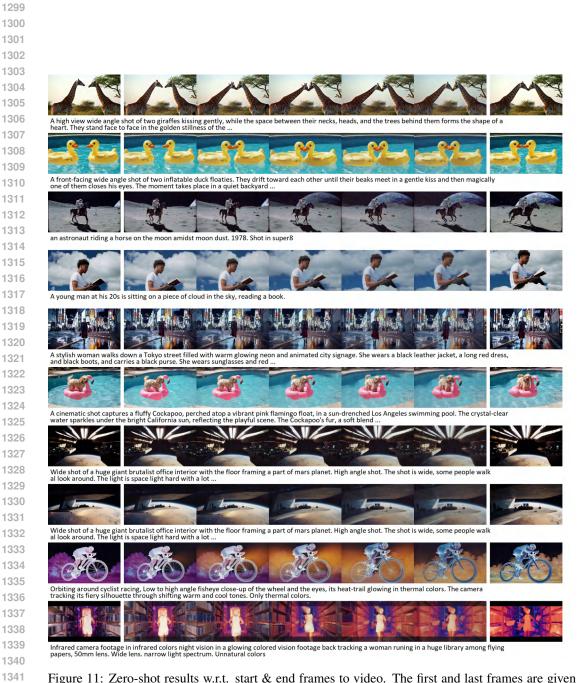


Figure 11: Zero-shot results w.r.t. start & end frames to video. The first and last frames are given condition frames extracted from Veo2 & Sora demos. Each generated video has 81 frames in total.

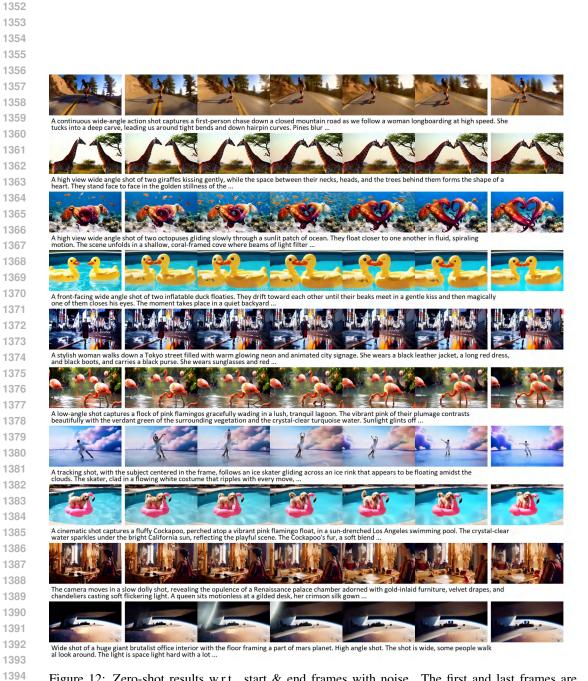


Figure 12: Zero-shot results w.r.t. start & end frames with noise. The first and last frames are given conditions and added 30% and 70% noise during sampling to make the generated video more coherent. Condition frames are extracted from Veo2 & Sora demos. Each generated video has 81 frames in total.

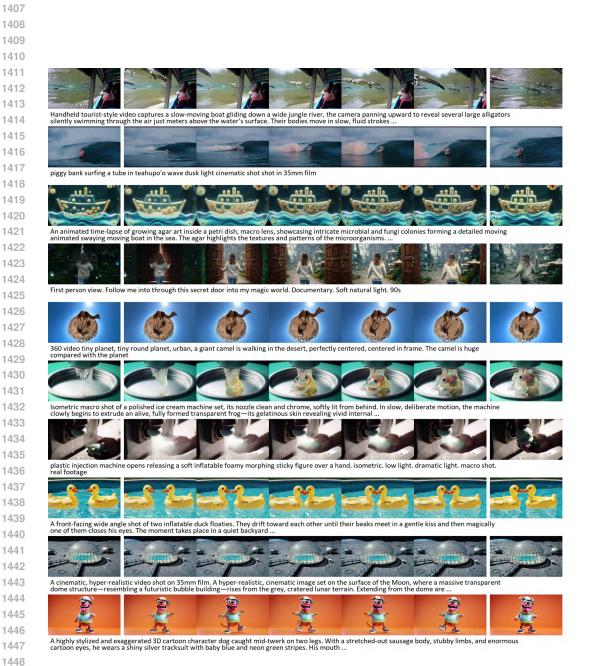


Figure 13: Zero-shot results w.r.t. start & end frames to video. The first and last 4 frames (encoded to one latent frame) are given condition frames extracted from Veo2 & Sora demos. Each generated video has 81 frames/21 latent frame in total.

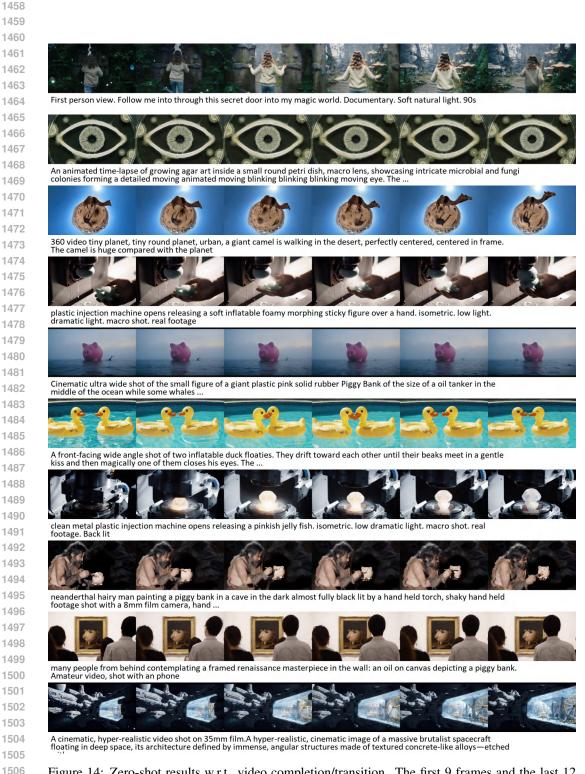


Figure 14: Zero-shot results w.r.t. video completion/transition. The first 9 frames and the last 12 frames extracted from Veo2 demos are given as conditions and encoded to the first 3 latent frames and the last 3 latent frames, respectively. Each generated video has 81 frames/21 latent frames in total.

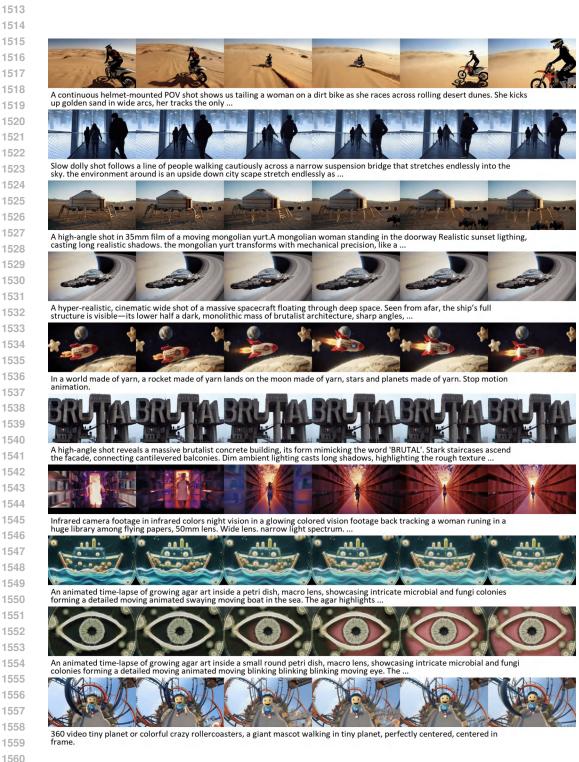


Figure 15: Zero-shot results w.r.t. video extension. The first 13 frames extracted from Veo2 demos are given as conditions and encoded to the first 4 latent frames. Each generated video has 81 frames/21 latent frames in total.

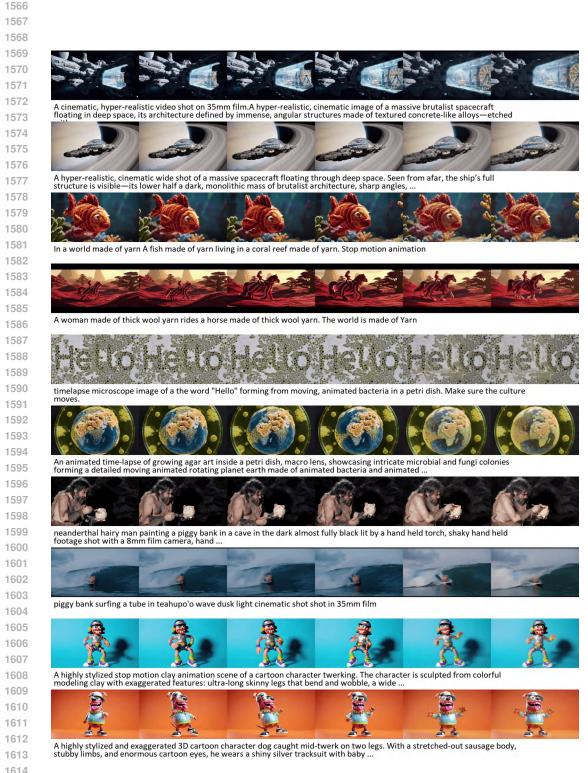


Figure 16: Zero-shot results w.r.t. video extension. The first 41 frames extracted from Veo2 demos are given as conditions and encoded to the first 11 latent frames. Each generated video has 81 frames/21 latent frames in total.

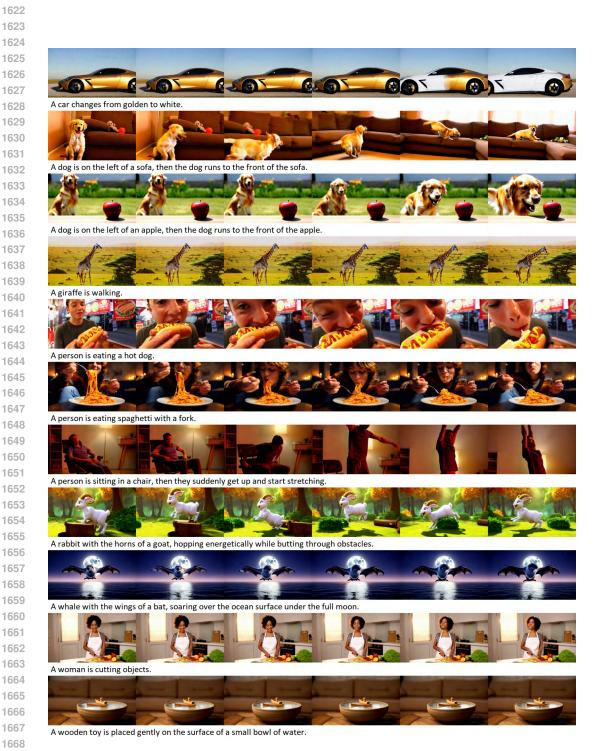


Figure 17: Text-to-video results. Prompts all from Vbench2.0.