CAN LVLMS DESCRIBE VIDEOS LIKE HUMANS? A FIVE-IN-ONE VIDEO ANNOTATIONS BENCHMARK FOR BETTER HUMAN-MACHINE COMPARISON

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ABSTRACT

Large vision-language models (LVLMs) have made significant strides in addressing complex video tasks, sparking researchers' interest in their human-like multimodal understanding capabilities. Video description serves as a fundamental task for evaluating video comprehension, necessitating a deep understanding of spatial and temporal dynamics, which presents challenges for both humans and machines. Thus, investigating *whether LVLMs can describe videos as comprehensively as humans*—through reasonable human-machine comparisons using video captioning as a proxy task—will enhance our understanding and application of these models. However, current benchmarks for video comprehension have notable limitations, including short video durations, brief annotations, and reliance on a single annotator's perspective. These factors hinder a comprehensive assessment of LVLMs' ability to understand complex, lengthy videos and prevent the establishment of a robust human baseline that accurately reflects human video comprehension capabilities. To address these issues, we propose a novel benchmark, FIOVA (Five In One Video Annotations), designed to evaluate the differences between LVLMs and human understanding more comprehensively. FIOVA includes 3,002 long video sequences (averaging 33.6 seconds) that cover diverse scenarios with complex spatiotemporal relationships. Each video is annotated by five distinct annotators, capturing a wide range of perspectives and resulting in captions that are $4 \sim 15$ times longer than most existing benchmarks, thereby establishing a robust baseline that represents human understanding comprehensively for the first time in video description tasks. Using the FIOVA benchmark, we conducted an in-depth evaluation of six state-of-the-art (SOTA) LVLMs, comparing their performance with humans. To enhance this evaluation, we proposed FIOVA-DQ, a novel event-based metric that incorporates weighted event importance derived from human annotations. Results show that while current LVLMs demonstrate some perception and reasoning capabilities, they still struggle with information omission and descriptive depth. Moreover, we found significant discrepancies between LVLMs and humans in complex videos, particularly where human annotators exhibited substantial disagreement, whereas LVLMs tended to rely on uniform strategies for challenging content. These findings underscore the limitations of using a single human annotator as the groundtruth for evaluation and highlight the need for new evaluation perspectives. We believe this work offers valuable insights into the differences between LVLMs and humans, ultimately guiding future advancements toward human-level video comprehension.

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1 INTRODUCTION

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049 050 051 052 053 Large Language Models (LLMs) have made significant strides in Natural Language Processing (NLP), excelling in tasks such as text generation [\(Li et al.](#page-11-0) [\(2024a](#page-11-0)[;b\)](#page-11-1); [Mahapatra & Garain](#page-11-2) [\(2024\)](#page-11-2)) and question answering [\(Zhuang et al.](#page-12-0) [\(2023\)](#page-12-0); [Saito et al.](#page-11-3) [\(2024\)](#page-11-3)). Building on these advancements, large vision-language models (LVLMs), including GPT-4V [\(Achiam et al.](#page-10-0) [\(2023\)](#page-10-0)) and LLaVA [\(Liu](#page-11-4) [et al.](#page-11-4) [\(2024\)](#page-11-4)), extend LLM capabilities into multimodal domains. LVLMs excel in integrating text, images, and videos, demonstrating remarkable progress in applications such as text-to-video gener-

Figure 1: An overview of FIOVA. The overall workflow is divided into three steps (*i*.*e*., construction of FIOVA dataset (see Section [2\)](#page-2-0), collection responses of LVLMs (see Section [3\)](#page-4-0), and fine-grained evaluation and analysis (see Section [4\)](#page-6-0)), culminating in a benchmark that comprehensively compares the video understanding capabilities of humans and LVLMs.

087 088 089 090 ation [\(Huang et al.](#page-10-1) [\(2024b\)](#page-10-1)) and video captioning [\(Huang et al.](#page-10-2) [\(2024a\)](#page-10-2)). However, evaluating the true capabilities of LVLMs remains challenging, as traditional evaluation methods—typically based on text matching or embedding distances—often fail to capture the nuanced understanding required for human-like video comprehension [\(Hu et al.](#page-10-3) [\(2024b;](#page-10-3)[a;](#page-10-4) [2022\)](#page-10-5)).

091 092 093 094 095 096 097 098 This leads to the fundamental question: "*Can video-based LVLMs describe videos as comprehensively as humans?*" Video captioning [\(Aafaq et al.](#page-10-6) [\(2019\)](#page-10-6); [Ramanishka et al.](#page-11-5) [\(2016\)](#page-11-5)) serves as a key task to assess a model's ability to perceive, comprehend, and generate meaningful video descriptions. Unlike structured tasks like object recognition [\(Logothetis & Sheinberg](#page-11-6) [\(1996\)](#page-11-6)) or question answering [\(Antol et al.](#page-10-7) [\(2015\)](#page-10-7)), video captioning demands an in-depth understanding of both spatial and temporal dynamics, presenting significant challenges for both machines and humans. Thus, investigating this question through reasonable human-machine comparisons using video captioning as a proxy task will enhance our understanding and application of these LVLMs.

099 100 101 102 103 104 However, current benchmarks [\(Miech et al.](#page-11-7) [\(2019\)](#page-11-7); [Lee et al.](#page-10-8) [\(2021\)](#page-10-8); [Chen & Dolan](#page-10-9) [\(2011\)](#page-10-9); [Caba Heilbron et al.](#page-10-10) [\(2015\)](#page-10-10); [Xu et al.](#page-12-1) [\(2016\)](#page-12-1); [Chen et al.](#page-10-11) [\(2024b\)](#page-10-11); [Zhou et al.](#page-12-2) [\(2018\)](#page-12-2)) exhibit several major limitations: they typically feature simple scenarios (videos lasting about 10 seconds), provide brief annotations (averaging 15 words), and rely on single annotators (see Tab. [1\)](#page-2-1). These constraints limit the insight into LVLMs' understanding of complex, long-duration videos and prevent the establishment of a robust human baseline that accurately reflects human comprehension capabilities.

105 106 107 To address these challenges, we propose a novel benchmark, FIOVA (Five In One Video Annotations), designed to provide a comprehensive evaluation of the differences between LVLMs and human understanding. As shown in Fig. [1,](#page-1-0) FIOVA encompasses three key contributions: (1) Comprehensive dataset construction: We curated a dataset of 3,002 long video sequences (aver-

108 109 110 111 112 113 Table 1: Comparison of FIOVA and other video caption datasets. We split the datasets into two groups: automatic caption by ASR (Automatic Speech Recognition) [\(Miech et al.](#page-11-7) [\(2019\)](#page-11-7); [Lee et al.](#page-10-8) [\(2021\)](#page-10-8); [Zellers et al.](#page-12-3) [\(2021\)](#page-12-3); [Xue et al.](#page-12-4) [\(2022\)](#page-12-4); [Chen et al.](#page-10-11) [\(2024b\)](#page-10-11)) or LVLM, and manual caption [\(Chen & Dolan](#page-10-9) [\(2011\)](#page-10-9); [Xu et al.](#page-12-1) [\(2016\)](#page-12-1); [Zhou et al.](#page-12-2) [\(2018\)](#page-12-2); [Caba Heilbron et al.](#page-10-10) [\(2015\)](#page-10-10); [Anne Hen](#page-10-12)[dricks et al.](#page-10-12) [\(2017\)](#page-10-12); [Rohrbach et al.](#page-11-8) [\(2015\)](#page-11-8); [Wang et al.](#page-12-5) [\(2019a;](#page-12-5) [2024a\)](#page-11-9)). It is worth noting that FIOVA is the only dataset that provides multiple annotations for each video.

129 130 131 132 133 134 135 136 137 138 139 140 141 142 aging 33.6 seconds) that cover diverse scenarios with complex spatiotemporal relationships. Each video is annotated by five distinct annotators, capturing a wide range of human perspectives and resulting in captions that are 4 to 15 times longer than most existing benchmarks, establishing a robust baseline that comprehensively represents human understanding in video description tasks (see Section [2\)](#page-2-0). (2) Evaluation of state-of-the-art LVLMs: We conducted an in-depth evaluation of six representative open-source LVLMs (VideoLLaMA2, LLaVA-NEXT-Video, Video-LLaVA, VideoChat2, Tarsier, and ShareGPT4Video), ensuring our evaluation reflects the latest advancements in the field. Additionally, we applied diverse processing techniques to model outputs, enabling a more comprehensive assessment of their capabilities and limitations (see Section [3\)](#page-4-0). (3) Fine-grained human-machine comparative analysis: Leveraging the FIOVA benchmark, we performed detailed experiments to analyze the differences between LVLMs and human annotations across various aspects of video comprehension. To further enhance this analysis, we proposed FIOVA-DQ, an optimized event-based evaluation metric that incorporates human annotators' perspectives through weighted event importance, enabling a more fine-grained comparison of semantic understanding, fluency, and content relevance (see Section [4\)](#page-6-0).

143 144 145 By providing a benchmark with multiple human annotations, FIOVA aims to bridge the gap between LVLM and human video understanding, offering insights into the current state of LVLMs and guiding the development of future AI systems for video comprehension tasks.

147 2 CONSTRUCTION OF FIOVA DATASET

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148 149 150 151 152 153 Fig. [1](#page-1-0) illustrates an overview of our work. In this section, we will introduce the first step in detail. Initially, we gathered FIOVA dataset $D = \{(V_1, C_1), \ldots, (V_n, C_n)\}\$, in which C_i ${c_{i1}, c_{i2}, c_{i3}, c_{i4}, c_{i5}}$ represents the set of human annotations for video V_i (see Section [2.1\)](#page-2-2). On this basis, we also combined C_i to form a groundtruth g_i as a comprehensive baseline for human understanding of video V_i (see Section [2.3\)](#page-4-1). Totally, FIOVA contains 3,002 (V_i, C_i, g_i) pairs (*i.e.*, 3,002 videos, 15,010 human original descriptions, and 3,002 groundtruth descriptions).

154 155 2.1 VIDEO COLLECTION AND ANNOTATION

156 157 158 We curated a dataset consisting of 3,002 videos and 15,010 descriptions, specifically designed to evaluate the video comprehension capabilities of LVLMs. It spans 38 diverse themes, encompassing a wide range of real-world scenarios and interactions (see Appendix [B.1\)](#page-16-0).

159 160 161 To ensure high-quality annotations, each video was annotated by five individuals, focusing solely on the visual content, excluding audio or subtitles, except for naturally occurring text within the scene. This process emphasizes observable video elements, enhancing the dataset's relevance for video comprehension tasks. Annotators followed standardized guidelines to ensure consistency (see **162 1500 1000 163 500 164 0** acc ad ch di do docducear ex fa fi fu gar goahom ken ki mo modmotmu ne pon pu rab sad sc sch sp the tr va vi wat win xin you zok
#Videos 16 72 34 45 33 24 100 198 5 4 16 24 52 117 55 100 48 14 204 110 7 27 200 61 10 **165** (a) Statistics of average video frames and video sequences for each the **166** 225 **White 167** 200 11 S **168** $\overline{6}$ 175 **169** 150 **170** 125 100 **171** 75 **172** wer **173 174 (b)** $\frac{100}{\text{Length (Word Count)}}$ and $\frac{200}{\text{depth}}$ and \frac **175**

176 177 178 179 180 Figure 2: Statistical analysis of key aspects in FIOVA. (a) Statistics of average video frames and video sequences for each theme, see Tab. [A1](#page-16-1) for details of each theme. (b) Annotation length distribution for five people. The distribution of description lengths across human annotators remains highly consistent. (c) Average human caption length with video frames. The length of human descriptions increases with the length of the video, but the increase is not large and no redundant descriptions occur. (d) The word cloud of human descriptions (based on the groundtruth).

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182 183 184 185 Appendix [B.2\)](#page-19-0), which included details like time of day, location, and prominent objects or actions, while avoiding literary or emotionally charged language. Public figures were described generically, and descriptions strictly adhered to the chronological order of events. These guidelines ensured neutrality, clarity, and factual accuracy, providing a reliable foundation for evaluation.

186 187 188 189 190 191 192 193 FIOVA presents additional challenges that distinguish it from existing datasets, making it more demanding for video understanding tasks. As shown in Fig. [A1,](#page-17-0) FIOVA includes videos with varying resolutions and aspect ratios, requiring models to adapt to different visual formats. Frequent camera switches and diverse main subjects add complexity, challenging models to accurately follow transitions and identify critical elements. Moreover, FIOVA features footage with lens distortions, such as those from fisheye lenses, further complicating the interpretation of spatial relationships. These challenges are intended to stress-test LVLMs, pushing them to achieve higher adaptability and robustness in video comprehension.

194 195 196 197 198 199 200 Each video sequence is paired with five distinct English descriptions written by human annotators as coherent paragraphs of multiple declarative sentences. The number of sentences varied depending on the video's complexity, allowing for detailed accounts of events and transitions. With an average video length of 33.6 seconds, the dataset captures complex actions and interactions, making it ideal for tasks that require deep video understanding. Tab. [1](#page-2-1) compares FIOVA with other existing datasets, and Fig. [2](#page-3-0) presents statistical dimensions of FIOVA. Compared to others, FIOVA is annotated by multiple annotators and features more detailed and precise descriptions.

201 202 2.2 CAPTION QUALITY ASSESSMENT

203 204 205 206 207 208 209 210 211 212 213 214 215 In Section [2.1,](#page-2-2) we provided descriptions from five different annotators for each video, capturing diverse human perspectives to establish a robust human baseline. In addition to this diversity, a consolidated human description was generated as the final groundtruth, serving as a refined summary for video captioning evaluation. To create the groundtruth, we used GPT-3.5-turbo to evaluate descriptions across five key dimensions, following methods similar to those in Video-ChatGPT [\(Maaz](#page-11-10) [et al.](#page-11-10) [\(2023\)](#page-11-10)) and Tarsier [\(Wang et al.](#page-11-9) [\(2024a\)](#page-11-9)). Following VideoLLaMA2 [\(Cheng et al.](#page-10-13) [\(2024\)](#page-10-13)), these dimensions are: (1) Consistency: Whether the description is logically coherent and aligned with the video content. (2) **Context:** Whether the description accurately captures scene changes and relationships between events. (3) Correctness: Whether the information is accurate and free from misleading content. (4) **Detail Orientation:** Whether the description captures critical details, such as people, objects, scenes, and events. (5) **Temporality:** Whether the description follows the chronological order of events without skipping or over-summarizing. GPT-3.5-turbo assigned scores ranging from 1 to 10 for each caption across five dimensions (see Appendix [D.1.1\)](#page-31-0). This scoring allowed us to comprehensively analyze the quality of each annotator's description and identify those with the highest consistency and accuracy.

216 217 218 219 220 221 222 To better visualize the evaluation results, we plotted the score distribution of human annotators across all videos and all five dimensions. As shown in Fig. [3](#page-4-2) (a-e), the score distributions are relatively consistent across different dimensions, indicating that the annotations are representative and reflect an average human understanding with reasonable cognitive abilities. Notably, the distribution for Detail Orientation differs slightly from other dimensions, suggesting that human captions generally provide above-average coverage of content and details, capturing most of the critical points in the videos. However, there are still deficiencies in specific details or comprehensiveness.

223 224 225 226 227 228 229 230 231 232 233 234 235 236 237 238 239 240 241 242 243 244 245 Building on this, we further examined the variability among annotators. To quantify this variability, we calculated the coefficient of variation (CV) based on the standard deviation and mean of the scores. A higher CV for a particular video indicates greater annotation variability, suggesting divergent interpretations among annotators. We refer to this variability as *disagreement*, reflecting differences in understanding among annotators. To perform a more detailed analysis of these disagreements, we added a sixth dimension—Annotation Length (see Fig. [2](#page-3-0) (b))—to the existing five evaluation dimensions. By calculating the average CV for each video across all six dimensions (see Algorithm [A1\)](#page-28-0), we divided the dataset into eight distinct sub-groups based on the CV values (see Fig. [3](#page-4-2) (f) and Appendix [B.4\)](#page-22-0). Videos with lower CVs (Group A) indicate high similarity in annotators' descriptions across multiple dimensions, while higher CVs (Group H) signify greater discrepancies. This classification not only provides insight into the variability in human annotations but also lays a foundation for subsequent algorithm evaluation, allowing us to

Figure 3: Distribution of scores from human annotators across multi-dimensions. (a-e) The distribution of human annotation scores as evaluated by GPT-3.5-turbo, focusing on the dimensions of consistency, context, correctness, detail orientation, and temporality. (f) The distribution of disagreement in video descriptions, measured by the average CV (coefficient of variation) among human annotators across multi-dimensions.

246 247 compare different LVLMs to human groups in terms of video comprehension.

248 2.3 GROUNDTRUTH GENERATION

249 250 251 252 253 254 We used the GPT-3.5-turbo model to synthesize the five human-provided descriptions into a single, comprehensive video description that serves as the final groundtruth (see Appendix [D.1.2\)](#page-33-0). During this synthesis, the model integrates key elements from each of the five descriptions, balancing the diversity of perspectives with consistency and coherence. This ensures that the final groundtruth captures the most salient and informative aspects of the video while maintaining logical flow and completeness across all relevant dimensions, as illustrated in Fig. [4.](#page-5-0)

255 256 257 258 259 260 Using GPT-3.5-turbo for synthesis provides a systematic way to combine multiple viewpoints, reducing subjective bias and ensuring that no crucial detail is omitted. Each synthesized groundtruth represents a consolidated understanding of the video, balancing detail orientation, contextual relevance, and temporal accuracy. By combining the strengths of multiple human annotations, the generated groundtruth not only supplements individual descriptions but also sets a higher standard of quality, serving as a more stringent and standardized benchmark for evaluating model performance.

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3 LVLMS RESPONSE COLLECTION

263 264 265 As illustrated in step 2 of Fig. [1,](#page-1-0) in this section, each video V_i is processed by several LVLMs to form a benchmark of video & description & response pairs, denoted as $B = \{ (V_i, C_i, R_i) \mid (V_i, C_i) \in$ D }, in which $R_i = \{r_{i1}, r_{i2}, \dots, r_{in}\}$ represents the set of LVLMs' response for video V_i .

- **266 267** 3.1 BASELINE MODELS SELECTION
- **268 269** We utilized six SOTA open-source LVLMs for our study: VideoLLaMA2 [\(Cheng et al.](#page-10-13) [\(2024\)](#page-10-13)), Video-LLaVA [\(Lin et al.](#page-11-11) [\(2023\)](#page-11-11)), LLaVA-NEXT-Video [\(Zhang et al.](#page-12-6) [\(2024\)](#page-12-6)), Tarsier [\(Wang et al.](#page-11-9) [\(2024a\)](#page-11-9)), VideoChat2 [\(Li et al.](#page-10-14) [\(2023\)](#page-10-14)), and ShareGPT4Video [\(Chen et al.](#page-10-15) [\(2024a\)](#page-10-15)). More detailed

Figure 4: An example of FIOVA (see Fig. [A7](#page-25-0) for more details) and the calculation process of FIOVA-DQ.

introductions for these LVLMs can refer to Appendix [A.1.](#page-13-0) These models were prompted with video description tasks, generating 18,012 responses (see Appendix [D.2\)](#page-38-0). The distribution of response lengths for each LVLM is shown in Fig. [5,](#page-5-1) which provides insight into the variability of model outputs. VideoLLaMA2 used default settings with a temperature of 0.2 and a maximum token limit of 1,024. VideoChat2 and ShareGPT4Video were configured with default settings, a temperature of 1.0, top p of 0.9, and a maximum token limit of 1,024. Video-LLaVA had a temperature of 0.1 and the same token limit. Tarsier and LLaVA-NEXT-Video were set with a temperature of 0, top p of 1, and a maximum token limit of 1,024. All models processed 8 frames using four RTX 3090 GPUs.

302 3.2 EVENT GENERATION

303 304 305 306 307 308 309 310 311 312 313 The video descriptions generated by the LVLMs in the previous section are suitable for evaluation using traditional metrics. However, the recently proposed AutoDQ [\(Wang et al.](#page-11-9) [\(2024a\)](#page-11-9)) provides a novel event-based evaluation approach by extracting events from both reference and model-generated captions, enabling fine-grained assessments based on event matching. While AutoDQ has demonstrated its effectiveness in aligning model-generated descriptions with human annotations, it does not account for the cognitive importance of differ-

Figure 5: The distribution of response length.

314 315 316 317 ent events as perceived by human annotators. To address this limitation, we propose FIOVA-DQ, an extended evaluation metric that incorporates human cognitive weights into the event-based evaluation process. By assigning weights to events based on their importance across multiple annotators, FIOVA-DQ offers a more human-aligned assessment framework (see Section [4.1\)](#page-6-1).

318 319 320 321 322 323 To support a broader range of evaluation metrics and achieve a comprehensive analysis, we used GPT-3.5-turbo to perform event extraction on both the groundtruth g_i and the j-th LVLM's generated output r_{ij} (see Appendix [D.1.3\)](#page-35-0). This ensures consistency and accuracy in event extraction. From this process, event collections $E^{gt}i$ for g_i and E^rij for r_{ij} are generated to support subsequent analysis. For FIOVA-DQ, each event in E_i^{gt} is assigned a weight based on its average importance across the five annotators. These weights, normalized to sum to one, reflect the cognitive emphasis placed on different events by human annotators (see Fig. [4\)](#page-5-0). This weighting mechanism enables FIOVA-DQ to evaluate not only the alignment between model outputs and human annotations but also the relative importance of matched events, offering a more nuanced perspective.

4 FINE-GRAINED EVALUATION AND ANALYSIS

As shown in step 3 of Fig. [1,](#page-1-0) based on the FIOVA benchmark D , we compare LVLMs with both the representative human baseline (groundtruth) and the human interval (annotations by five individuals) across multiple dimensions. This allows for an in-depth analysis of the similarities and differences in video understanding between humans and LVLMs.

334 4.1 EVALUATION METHODS

335 336 337 338 339 340 341 342 Traditional metrics like BLEU [\(Papineni et al.](#page-11-12) [\(2002\)](#page-11-12)) have limitations in evaluating detailed and longer video descriptions, often failing to capture the semantic nuances and contextual accuracy required for a comprehensive assessment. Recent studies have attempted to use models such as ChatGPT for content rating [\(Maaz et al.](#page-11-10) [\(2023\)](#page-11-10); [Achiam et al.](#page-10-0) [\(2023\)](#page-10-0)), but the lack of interpretability in score assignment remains a challenge (see Appendix [A.3\)](#page-14-0). Therefore, we adopted AutoDQ [\(Wang](#page-11-9) [et al.](#page-11-9) [\(2024a\)](#page-11-9)), which extends traditional metrics like BLEU, GLEU, and METEOR by integrating text and semantic similarity, providing a more holistic evaluation of the alignment between LVLMgenerated captions and human annotations.

343 344 345 346 347 348 349 350 351 352 To further enhance the evaluation process, we propose FIOVA-DQ, which builds upon AutoDQ by incorporating cognitive weights derived from human annotators. At first, events are extracted from both the groundtruth caption $(E^{gt}i)$ and the LVLM-generated caption $(E^{rt}ij)$, as described in Section [3.2.](#page-5-2) For AutoDQ, two ratios are computed: (1) the ratio of events in $E^{gt}i$ that are also present in $E^{r}ij$ (*i.e.*, recall), and (2) the ratio of events in $E^{r}ij$ that are also present in $E^{gt}i$ (*i*.*e*., precision). For FIOVA-DQ, these ratios are adjusted using weights assigned to each event in E_i^{gt} based on their cognitive importance as perceived by annotators. Then, the harmonic mean of weighted precision and recall (*i*.*e*., weighted F1 score) is calculated to provide a balanced measure of model performance. This adjustment ensures that critical events are given more emphasis, aligning the evaluation process more closely with human judgment.

353 354 355 356 357 358 359 Finally, we employed a combination of traditional metrics (BLEU, GLEU, and METEOR), AutoDQ-based metrics (F1, Precision, and Recall), and the newly proposed FIOVA-DQ metrics (weighted F1, weighted Precision, and weighted Recall) for evaluation. These metrics collectively enable two main evaluation tasks: (1) Overall evaluation: Assigns quality scores to each generated caption, assessing whether LVLMs can describe videos at a level comparable to humans using all metrics. (2) **Batch evaluation:** Evaluates the relative performance of multiple model outputs, providing a nuanced understanding of the models' ability to produce human-like descriptions.

360 361 4.2 OVERALL EVALUATION FOR LVLMS

362 363 364 Traditional metrics. According to the results in Tab. [2,](#page-7-0) Tarsier demonstrates outstanding performance across most traditional metrics, while ShareGPT4Video ranks the lowest, with scores significantly below those of other models.

365 366 367 368 369 370 371 372 373 374 375 Tarsier's success can be attributed to its high lexical overlap with the groundtruth, as its generated captions frequently match the vocabulary used in the reference descriptions. However, its lower METEOR score compared to BLEU and GLEU reveals limitations in capturing synonym usage and morphological variations. This indicates that while Tarsier excels in aligning with the vocabulary of the groundtruth, it lacks linguistic diversity and expressive flexibility. In contrast, ShareGPT4Video faces significant challenges on FIOVA despite its demonstrated ability to generate detailed captions using sliding window-based methods and segment integration, which have been successful in other video understanding benchmarks. A closer analysis reveals that its captions often contain substantial redundancy, which adversely affects its performance on traditional metrics like BLEU, GLEU, and METEOR. These metrics prioritize lexical similarity and penalize repetitive or redundant content, highlighting ShareGPT4Video's struggles in maintaining conciseness and relevance.

376 377 These results underscore the importance of balancing lexical similarity with linguistic diversity and reducing redundancy to achieve comprehensive and high-quality video descriptions. This highlights the need for models that combine precise lexical alignment with expressive richness and efficiency.

Table 2: Comparison of LVLMs via different metrics. The background color represents the performance of the metric. The darker the green, the better the performance.

AutoDQ-based metrics. To evaluate the performance of LVLMs in video captioning, we utilized AutoDQ for fine-grained event-based segmentation and comparison between model-generated captions and groundtruth annotations (see Tab. [2\)](#page-7-0). This approach assesses the models' understanding of video content in terms of completeness and granularity.

392 393 394 395 396 397 398 399 Tarsier achieved the highest scores in both F1 and Recall, indicating that its captions comprehensively cover the events in the groundtruth. This highlights Tarsier's strength in content completeness. However, its low Precision score reveals challenges with descriptive accuracy, as its captions often include irrelevant or inaccurate information. While Tarsier demonstrates a solid understanding of overall video content, its lack of precision suggests a tendency to overgenerate. In contrast, ShareGPT4Video recorded the highest Precision but the lowest Recall. The high Precision reflects its ability to generate accurate and error-free descriptions, focusing on key events. However, the low Recall underscores its conservative approach, as it omits significant portions of the video content. This trade-off results in captions that are concise yet fail to capture the full scope of the video.

400 401 402 403 404 405 Other LVLMs demonstrated intermediate performance, striking a balance between Recall and Precision with moderate scores across both metrics. These results reveal the varying strategies employed by different models—some prioritize content completeness, while others focus on accuracy. The evaluation highlights the need for future models to achieve a balance, combining comprehensive content coverage with high descriptive precision to enhance video captioning quality.

406 407 408 409 410 411 FIOVA-DQ-based metrics. We incorporate human-weighted event importance into AutoDQ, resulting in FIOVA-DQ, which more effectively captures human intuitive judgments of description quality. This approach proves particularly suitable for evaluating the consistency and fluency of model-generated descriptions in multi-event long videos. Compared to AutoDQ, FIOVA-DQ reveals significant discrepancies between Recall and Precision metrics, offering a more granular understanding of model performance and better reflecting human preferences.

412 413 414 415 416 417 418 As with AutoDQ, Tarsier achieves the highest F1 and Recall scores. Notably, its Recall metric shows substantial improvement, indicating that Tarsier effectively captures most events, including key information emphasized by human annotators. However, its Precision metric decreases further, exposing deficiencies in event description accuracy under human-weighted evaluation—an aspect overlooked by previous metrics. For other LVLMs, the FIOVA-DQ metrics exhibit less pronounced changes compared to AutoDQ but follow a similar trend. The inclusion of human weighting enhances the metrics' sensitivity to human preferences, amplifying both the strengths and weaknesses of the models as evaluated on the FIOVA dataset.

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420 4.3 BATCH EVALUATION FOR LVLMS

421 422 423 424 425 426 427 428 429 430 431 Batch score evaluation for LVLMs. In addition to evaluating the overall score, we conduct batch score evaluations across eight sub-groups (see Fig. [6\)](#page-8-0). AutoDQ and FIOVA-DQ's performance trends are consistent with the overall evaluation, with Tarsier continuing to excel in Recall metrics. However, we observe a general decline in performance for most LVLMs in Group H. Group H consists of nine videos featuring multiple camera switches and frequent scene changes, with a coefficient of variation (CV) among human annotators exceeding 70%. These videos represent some of the most challenging content in the FIOVA dataset, making them particularly difficult to describe accurately. As expected, most LVLMs struggled to maintain descriptive completeness for Group H, resulting in notable omissions despite relatively accurate content. Interestingly, Tarsier performed better than other models in this group, likely due to its superior ability to capture temporal changes. This indicates that Tarsier is more capable of maintaining coherence amid rapid scene transitions, a critical factor for generating high-quality descriptions of complex sequences.

432 433 434 435 436 437 438 439 440 441 442 443 444 445 446 447 448 449 450 451 452 In terms of Precision, LVLMs demonstrated relatively consistent performance across different sub-groups, indicating their ability to accurately capture key details regardless of video complexity. Like overall evaluation, Tarsier's BLEU score is optimal in Group H, and its GLEU score remains stable across all sub-groups. GLEU allows for greater variation and emphasizes the fluency and overall quality of generated content, while BLEU focuses more on literal precision in word matching. Thus, when the generated text is semantically similar to the reference but differs in phrasing or word order, GLEU tends to assign a higher score, while BLEU is less favorable.

Figure 6: Radar plot of LVLMs on FIOVA and 8 sub-groups. See Appendix [E.2](#page-41-0) for details.

453 454 455 456 These findings underscore the limitations of traditional metrics in evaluating open-ended video captioning tasks. Metrics relying solely on lexical matching often fail to account for semantic coherence and fluency, both of which are critical for generating high-quality descriptions, particularly in complex videos with frequent scene transitions.

457 458 459 460 461 462 463 464 Batch ranking for LVLMs. Batch ranking serves as a key component to quantify the differences in consistency between LVLMs and human annotators when describing videos of varying difficulty levels. The procedure involves three main steps: (1) evaluating human annotators' consistency using six dimensions (Sec. [2.2\)](#page-3-1), (2) assessing LVLM consistency across traditional metrics, AutoDQ, and FIOVA-DQ (use Algorithm [A2\)](#page-29-0), and (3) comparing the rankings of consistency scores between human and LVLM groups (use Algorithm [A3\)](#page-30-0). This approach combines multi-dimensional consistency evaluation with ranking difference analysis, providing a novel perspective for understanding the descriptive capabilities of LVLMs. A detailed process is shown in Fig. [A8.](#page-27-0)

465 466 467 468 469 470 471 472 473 As shown in Fig. [7](#page-8-1) (a), the CV of model performance decreases progressively from Group A to Group H. This trend suggests that models exhibit greater variability in performance for simpler videos (*e*.*g*., Group A), whereas their outputs become more consistent for more complex videos (*e*.*g*., Group H).

474 475 The higher CV values in Groups

Figure 7: Comparison between humans and LVLMs based on the ranking of CV (coefficient of variation). (a) Ranking of CV for six LVLMs. (b) Difference between the ranking of CV for six LVLMs and humans.

476 477 478 479 480 481 A and B indicate that models employ diverse strategies for straightforward content, resulting in a broader range of descriptive quality. Conversely, as video complexity increases in Groups E to H, CV values decline, reflecting more stable outputs. This shift may be attributed to the increased difficulty of complex videos (*e*.*g*., Group H), which imposes stricter requirements on descriptive capabilities, leading models to adopt more uniform approaches. These findings show the importance of evaluating models on complex and diverse content, as it reveals their ability to generalize and maintain stability under challenging conditions, providing deeper insights into their robustness.

482 483 484 485 Batch ranking for LVLMs and humans. Fig. [7](#page-8-1) (b) shows that as the difficulty of accurately describing videos increases for humans (from Group A to Group H), the negative regions (such as Groups A and B) indicate that for easily describable videos, human annotators demonstrate more consistent performance, whereas models exhibit significant variations (see Fig. [A19](#page-53-0) in Appendix

486 487 488 [E.4\)](#page-52-0). This suggests that the models' descriptive capabilities are inadequate for simpler video content, failing to achieve the consistency demonstrated by humans.

489 490 491 492 493 494 Conversely, the positive regions (such as Group H) indicate that, for more challenging videos, human annotators exhibit greater variability in their descriptions, while the models display more consistent performance (see Fig. [A21](#page-55-0) in Appendix [E.4\)](#page-52-0). This consistency in models could be due to the similar strategies or shared limitations they employ when describing complex scenarios, leading to more uniform outputs. Most intermediate groups (such as C, D, and E) are close to zero, suggesting that for these videos, the coefficient of variation is relatively similar between models and humans, with no clear advantage for either (see Fig. [A20](#page-54-0) in Appendix [E.4\)](#page-52-0).

495 496 497 498 499 500 501 502 503 504 These observations align closely with the Overall and Batch Score Evaluations. In the Overall Score, LVLMs demonstrate a Precision exceeding 0.6, significantly surpassing Recall. This highlights the models' ability to produce accurate descriptions while revealing their limitations in comprehensiveness, as critical details are often omitted. In Group H, a marked decline in Recall scores is observed, with Precision remaining stable, consistent with Batch Ranking results. This pattern suggests that while LVLMs can generate accurate and consistent descriptions for complex videos, their descriptive coverage remains insufficient, particularly for multi-event scenarios. Overall, these findings show the inherent trade-off between accuracy and comprehensiveness in LVLMs' descriptive capabilities. Enhancing these models to balance high precision with comprehensive content coverage is essential, especially in complex video contexts where human annotations often exhibit significant variability.

505 506 4.4 SUMMARY

507 508 509 510 511 Based on the above results, we conclude that existing LVLMs exhibit notable perception and reasoning capabilities, enabling reasonably accurate video descriptions. However, most models face challenges with information omissions, limiting their ability to generate semantically comprehensive captions. Among the six evaluated models, Tarsier achieved the best overall performance, effectively leveraging temporal relationships to handle complex videos. Nevertheless, it requires improvements in descriptive precision and minimizing irrelevant content.

512 513 514 515 516 517 518 519 520 521 Compared to human-generated captions, LVLMs show significant discrepancies in simpler videos, often missing subtle nuances that human annotators readily capture. In contrast, for complex videos, LVLMs demonstrate greater consistency and stability, likely due to uniform strategies adopted under challenging scenarios. For videos of moderate complexity, LVLMs perform comparably to humans, balancing accuracy and completeness. However, issues such as hallucinations and redundancy remain prominent in some models, as illustrated in Fig[.A23,](#page-58-0) Fig[.A22,](#page-57-0) and Fig. [A24.](#page-60-0) While all six models perform well in simple scenarios, such as Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu practice, their performance declines significantly when handling spatiotemporal inconsistencies or frequent scene transitions. These findings highlight the need for substantial improvements in processing complex video scenes with intricate temporal dynamics.

522 523 524 525 526 527 The experiments also reveal the limitations of traditional metrics in assessing open-ended video descriptions. These metrics rely on lexical matching, making them inadequate for capturing the semantic richness, fluency, and contextual relevance of captions, particularly for tasks involving diverse content and nuanced understanding. To address these limitations, new evaluation metrics are urgently needed. Future metrics should emphasize semantic alignment, linguistic fluency, and content relevance to provide a more comprehensive and accurate evaluation of LVLMs' capabilities.

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5 CONCLUSIONS

530 531 532 533 534 535 536 537 538 539 This paper proposes FIOVA, a new benchmark designed to evaluate the judgment capabilities of LVLMs in video captioning across different evaluation settings and to assess their consistency with human judgments. Our findings indicate that while Tarsier performs well in terms of precision and temporal utilization, it often generates brief captions that lack detail, limiting comprehensiveness. In contrast, ShareGPT4Video, although comparable to GPT-4V in its claimed understanding, suffers from hallucinations and redundancy in its outputs. The FIOVA benchmark provides a complex environment for comparing LVLMs to human assessments, offering insights into their respective strengths and limitations across diverse video scenarios. Our results also emphasize the need for improved LVLMs that can effectively balance accuracy, comprehensiveness, and content relevance, particularly in complex settings. We hope that FIOVA will support further research in advancing video description and understanding.

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COMPREHENSIVE RELATED WORKS

A.1 LVLMS FOR VIDEO CAPTION

APPENDIX

708 709 710 711 712 713 714 715 716 717 718 719 720 721 722 723 724 725 726 727 728 729 730 731 732 733 734 735 736 737 738 739 740 741 742 743 744 745 746 747 748 749 750 751 752 753 754 755 In recent years, research on Large Vision-Language Models (LVLMs) has seen a notable surge, with some models even claiming to achieve performance on par with GPT-4V [\(Achiam et al.](#page-10-0) [\(2023\)](#page-10-0)) in handling general video tasks such as visual question answering and video description. These advanced models aim to bridge the gap between visual and linguistic understanding, allowing for more sophisticated interactions with video content. One of the standout models in this domain is Tarsier [\(Wang et al.](#page-11-9) [\(2024a\)](#page-11-9)), which employs CLIP-ViT to encode individual video frames and leverages a Large Language Model (LLM) to model the temporal relationships between these frames. Through a carefully crafted two-stage training process, Tarsier demonstrates superior capabilities in generating video descriptions compared to existing open-source models, making it a leading player in this rapidly evolving space. Building on earlier innovations, VideoLLaMA2 [\(Cheng et al.](#page-10-13) [\(2024\)](#page-10-13)) advances video captioning by improving on its predecessor, VideoLLaMA [\(Zhang et al.](#page-12-7) [\(2023\)](#page-12-7)). It introduces a custom-designed Spatio-Temporal Convolution (STC) connector that effectively captures the complex interplay between spatial and temporal elements in video data. This enhancement enables the model to generate more accurate and context-aware video descriptions and address broader video understanding tasks. Another notable development comes from ShareGPT4Video [\(Chen et al.](#page-10-15) [\(2024a\)](#page-10-15)), which advances video understanding in LVLMs and video generation in text-to-video models (T2VM) to new levels. By generating dense, detailed, and precise captions, ShareGPT4Video achieves state-of-the-art (SOTA) performance across three advanced video benchmarks, significantly enhancing the quality of video descriptions and the overall understanding of complex video content. Video-LLaVA [\(Lin et al.](#page-11-11) [\(2023\)](#page-11-11)) further pushes the boundaries of foundational LLMs by aligning visual representations with the language feature space, working towards a more unified LVLM architecture. This alignment is critical in enhancing the model's ability to understand and generate coherent, contextually appropriate captions that seamlessly integrate both visual and linguistic elements. VideoChat2 [\(Li et al.](#page-10-14) [\(2023\)](#page-10-14)) stands out for its impressive capabilities in spatio-temporal reasoning, event localization, and causal reasoning. By integrating a video backbone with a large language model via a learnable neural interface, VideoChat2 excels in tasks that require a deeper understanding of temporal sequences and the causal relationships between events in video data. This makes it particularly effective in scenarios that demand detailed analysis and interaction with dynamic video content. The emergence of these models has prompted researchers to ask a fundamental question: "*Can video-based LVLMs describe videos like humans and exhibit human-level understanding?*" This question forms the basis of our work. We selected these state-of-the-art models as evaluation subjects and conducted a comprehensive comparison of human and machine video understanding using the FIOVA benchmark. A.2 VIDEO CAPTION DATASET As the field of video understanding continues to evolve, researchers have introduced a growing number of video description datasets that cater to various levels of complexity and diversity in video content. These datasets play a crucial role in advancing video captioning models by providing training and evaluation materials that reflect real-world challenges. One of the well-known datasets in this field is YouCook-II [\(Zhou et al.](#page-12-2) [\(2018\)](#page-12-2)), which comprises 2,000 cooking videos evenly distributed across 89 distinct recipes. These videos, sourced from YouTube, encompass a wide range of cooking techniques and present various challenges typical of open-domain videos. The dataset features variations in camera angles, camera movement, lighting conditions, and background changes, making it an excellent resource for testing models on dynamic and complex scenarios. 14

756 757 758 759 760 The Microsoft Video Description (MSVD) [\(Chen & Dolan](#page-10-9) [\(2011\)](#page-10-9)) dataset offers another foundational benchmark for video captioning tasks. It includes 1,970 short video clips from YouTube, each paired with human-annotated sentences that provide natural language descriptions of the video content. This dataset is widely used for training and evaluating models, given its open-domain nature and the diversity of content it covers.

761 762 763 764 765 766 Further expanding the scope, the MSR-Video to Text (MSR-VTT) [\(Xu et al.](#page-12-1) [\(2016\)](#page-12-1)) dataset offers a larger and more diverse collection of open-domain videos for captioning tasks. It consists of 7,180 videos subdivided into 10,000 clips, organized into 20 distinct categories that encompass a broad range of scenarios, from sports to news events, and more. The MSR-VTT dataset serves as a benchmark for evaluating a model's capability to handle diverse, real-world video content, making it an important resource for researchers seeking to enhance the generalization abilities of their models.

767 768 769 770 771 Currently the largest dataset in the field, Panda-70M [\(Chen et al.](#page-10-11) [\(2024b\)](#page-10-11)), features an astounding 70 million videos paired with high-quality text captions. This extensive dataset has significantly accelerated the development of video understanding by providing a vast array of training examples that capture a wide spectrum of real-world video content. Its scale and diversity allow researchers to train more robust models capable of handling complex, open-world scenarios.

772 773 774 775 776 777 Notably, FIOVA stands out as the only dataset that provides multiple annotations for each video, offering richer insights into how different viewers perceive and describe the same content. Additionally, the length of the video descriptions in FIOVA is considerably longer than in other datasets, providing more detailed and nuanced explanations of the video content. This makes FIOVA an exceptional resource for testing the ability of models to generate comprehensive, contextually rich descriptions, pushing the boundaries of what video captioning systems can achieve.

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A.3 VIDEO CAPTION EVALUATION

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783 784 785 786 787 788 789 790 In the early stages of video description research, the primary focus was on pretraining videolanguage models, followed by fine-tuning on specific datasets for video captioning tasks. The performance of these models was typically assessed using well-established metrics such as BLEU [\(Papineni et al.](#page-11-12) [\(2002\)](#page-11-12)), GLEU [\(Mutton et al.](#page-11-13) [\(2007\)](#page-11-13)), METEOR [\(Banerjee & Lavie](#page-10-16) [\(2005\)](#page-10-16)), and CIDEr [\(Vedantam et al.](#page-11-14) [\(2015\)](#page-11-14)). These metrics, while useful for measuring the quality of generated descriptions based on syntactic and semantic alignment, often led to models that could achieve impressive results on specific datasets. However, a significant limitation was that these models frequently struggled to generalize well beyond their training data, especially when confronted with more diverse or open-world videos [\(Wang et al.](#page-11-9) [\(2024a\)](#page-11-9)).

791 792 793 794 795 796 797 To address this challenge, recent research efforts have shifted towards developing models capable of zero-shot video description [\(Tewel et al.](#page-11-15) [\(2022\)](#page-11-15); [Wang et al.](#page-12-8) [\(2019b\)](#page-12-8); [Zhou et al.](#page-12-9) [\(2024\)](#page-12-9)). These models aim to generate accurate captions for unseen videos without requiring fine-tuning on task-specific datasets. Although promising, the simplicity of many standard video description benchmarks limits their ability to fully evaluate these models' capabilities. These benchmarks often focus on straightforward, short videos with basic actions, which fails to stress-test models on more complex, nuanced content.

798 799 800 801 802 803 804 805 806 As the complexity of videos increases—whether in terms of length, visual diversity, or intricate narrative structure—traditional evaluation metrics struggle to reflect the true quality and relevance of the generated captions. This mismatch highlights the need for more sophisticated evaluation methods. In response, researchers have recently proposed using advanced language models, such as ChatGPT, for automatic evaluation [\(Sottana et al.](#page-11-16) [\(2023\)](#page-11-16)), which has gained popularity for tasks like open-ended question answering. While this approach offers more flexibility in evaluating the nuances of video descriptions, directly assigning a numerical score to an entire video description often lacks interpretability, with the meaning of each score level being ambiguous and inconsistent [\(Maaz et al.](#page-11-10) [\(2023\)](#page-11-10)).

807 808 809 To overcome the limitations of traditional evaluation metrics, we adopted AutoDQ [\(Wang et al.](#page-11-9) [\(2024a\)](#page-11-9)), a recently proposed approach for automatic scoring. AutoDQ offers significant advantages over traditional methods, as it combines both text similarity and semantic similarity to evaluate the alignment between the LVLMs' video captions and human-generated captions. This approach enables a more comprehensive evaluation of both the lexical accuracy and the semantic integrity of the descriptions, making it better suited for assessing the quality of detailed, nuanced video captions.

 The AutoDQ evaluation process involves two main stages. First, events are extracted from both the groundtruth and the LVLM-generated captions. In the next stage, these events are compared to calculate two key metrics: recall, which measures how much of the groundtruth's events are captured by the model-generated caption, and precision, which evaluates how accurately the generated content aligns with the events present in the groundtruth. Finally, the F1 score—a balanced measure of precision and recall—is used to provide an overall assessment of the model's performance. This method allows for a more nuanced understanding of how effectively a model captures the content of a video, considering both completeness and accuracy.

 In our evaluation of LVLMs using the FIOVA benchmark, we employed both traditional metrics (such as BLEU, GLEU, and METEOR) and the advanced AutoDQ approach. By combining these evaluation methods, we aim to provide a more comprehensive analysis of model performance, capturing both the lexical alignment and the deeper semantic relationships that are crucial for effective video comprehension. This combined approach ensures a scientifically rigorous comparison between LVLMs and human-generated video captions, particularly in complex video scenarios.

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B DETAILED INFORMATION OF FIOVA DATASET

B.1 THEME ABBREVIATIONS AND CORRESPONDING MEANINGS

Table A1: The video theme of the FIOVA dataset.

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Figure A1: The representative data of FIOVA. Each video is strictly selected based on themes.

 To ensure the legality, diversity, and high quality of the FIOVA dataset, we implemented a systematic approach to video sourcing and selection, as described below: Legitimacy of Video Sources. All videos in the FIOVA dataset were sourced from legal and publicly accessible copyright-compliant platforms. The acquisition process adhered to the following principles: • Public Copyright Resources: Videos were selected from platforms with explicit public copyright permissions, such as YouTube. These videos are explicitly allowed for noncommercial research purposes according to the terms of their source platforms. • Compliance Statement: We strictly followed the terms of use of these platforms, ensuring that all selected videos comply with applicable copyright regulations. By choosing videos permitted for non-commercial research, we ensured the dataset's compliance. **Diversity in Video Selection.** To construct a dataset capable of evaluating LVLMs across diverse scenarios, we prioritized diversity during the video selection process in the following aspects: • Coverage of Themes and Scenes: The FIOVA dataset spans a wide range of themes, including daily activities, sports events, and natural landscapes. This diversity ensures that LVLMs can be evaluated across a variety of real-world scenarios. • Rich Dynamic Complexity: Videos were carefully selected to represent complex dynamic characteristics, such as intricate spatiotemporal relationships, multi-agent interactions, and mixed short- and long-term sequences. These features reflect the actual challenges of semantic understanding tasks faced by LVLMs. **Video Screening and Quality Control.** To ensure the quality of the dataset, we designed and executed a rigorous video screening and quality control process, comprising the following steps: • Initial Screening: During the initial phase, videos meeting public copyright criteria were selected, with a focus on diversity in content. • Manual Review: Each video underwent manual review to ensure clarity, narrative consistency, and suitability for video understanding tasks. • Multidimensional Processing: At the processing stage, videos were grouped and balanced to ensure an appropriate distribution of length, content, and event complexity within the dataset, providing a reliable foundation for comprehensive LVLM evaluation. By adhering to these strategies, the FIOVA dataset ensures legality, diversity, and high quality, serving as a representative framework for the evaluation and optimization of LVLMs.

1026 1027 B.2 HUMAN ANNOTATION RULES

 To ensure the quality and robustness of the annotations in the FIOVA dataset, a carefully designed annotator arrangement strategy was implemented. Below, we describe the approach taken and its contributions to the diversity and representativeness of the dataset. **Annotator Assignment.** Unlike some datasets annotated by a fixed group of individuals, the annotation of FIOVA involved multiple groups of annotators. Specifically: • Dynamic Annotator Groups: Each video was independently annotated by five annotators; however, the annotators assigned to different videos varied. • Training and Standardization: All annotators were required to undergo rigorous training to ensure a thorough understanding of the annotation guidelines and the ability to deliver consistent, high-quality annotations. Diversity in Annotations. The use of multiple annotator groups was a deliberate choice aimed at enhancing the diversity, coverage, and adaptability of the GT. The key benefits of this approach include: • Diverse Descriptive Perspectives: Allowing different annotators to work on the dataset brought varied linguistic styles and perspectives, minimizing bias that might arise from relying on a fixed annotator group. • Comprehensive Semantic Coverage: The involvement of diverse annotators improved the coverage of video details, capturing nuanced aspects of the scenes and events depicted. • Enhanced Robustness: The diversity in annotators' perspectives enabled the GT to better generalize and adapt to various evaluation scenarios, ensuring that the dataset remains applicable across diverse use cases. Quality Control Measures. While annotator diversity introduces variability in descriptive styles, robust quality control measures were implemented to ensure the reliability and consistency of the annotations. These measures include: • Standardized Guidelines: A unified set of annotation instructions was provided to all annotators, ensuring consistency across annotations. • Post-Annotation Review: All annotations underwent a quality review process to verify their alignment with video content and eliminate errors. • Semantic Integration: Using GPT-3.5-turbo, the annotations from five annotators were integrated into a single, cohesive description, balancing consistency with the retention of diverse perspectives. Through these measures, the FIOVA dataset provides a robust, diverse, and high-quality GT that supports the evaluation of LVLMs in long-video description tasks.

B.3 WORD CLOUD FOR FIVE PEOPLE ANNOTATION AND LVLMS CAPTION

Figure A2: Word cloud for five people annotation and LVLMs caption.

1188 1189 B.4 DISTRIBUTION OF DISAGREEMENT AMONG HUMAN ANNOTATORS (BASED ON MULTIPLE DIMENSIONS)

1216 1217 1218 1219 1220 1221 Figure A3: The distribution of the multi-dimensional coefficient of variation for 8 groups. Please refer to Section [2.2](#page-3-1) for more details. The dataset is divided based on the coefficient of variation (CV) of human annotators across multiple dimensions, resulting in 8 groups. Each group represents a different degree of disagreement among the 5 annotators, ranging from the smallest (Group A) to the largest (Group H).

1235 1236 Figure A4: Distribution of multiple dimensions coefficient of variation (CV) and their mean value on FIOVA.

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1242 1243 B.5 EXAMPLES FOR VARIOUS GROUPS

1244 1245 To demonstrate the evaluation capability of GPT-3.5-turbo more intuitively, we provide the following cases to show the characteristics of different groups.

B.5.1 HIGH CONSISTENCY GROUP SAMPLE (GROUP A)

Figure A5: An example of videos in Group A.

The descriptions are highly consistent in style, semantically comprehensive, and linguistically fluent. The following are the annotators' descriptions:

- Human 1: *A little boy wearing a red hat stands on the scooter and slips forward. He waves his hand. He steps off the scooter. He looks at the scooter sliding forward and runs forward. The boy presses the scooter, then the scooter stops. The boy grabs the scooter with both hands.*
- Human 2: *A little boy wearing a helmet is playing skateboard in the open air. He jumps down and pauses. He looks at the skateboard slipping away. He runs following the skateboard and squats down, and stops the skateboard with his hand. He picks up the skateboard and holds it in the arms.*
- Human 3: *A child wearing a hat stands on a skateboard. There is a car next to the skateboard. The skateboard slides forward. The child goes down from the skateboard, and the skateboard continues sliding forward. The child catches up the skateboard and stops the skateboard by his hands. The child picks up the skateboard.*
- Human 4: *A boy wears a skateboard helmet. The skateboard slides forward. The boy waves hands to the camera len. The boy goes down from the skateboard. The skateboard still moves forward. The boy chases the skateboard and stops it. The boy picks up the skateboard.*
	- Human 5: *A boy standing on a skateboard is doing skateboarding. The boy lands on one foot, while the other foot also takes off from the skateboard. The skateboard continues moving forward. The boy catches up the skateboard and stops it.*

1279 1280 1281 1282 1283 1284 1285 The evaluation results by GPT-3.5-turbo indicate that the descriptions exhibit minimal differences in contextual consistency (CV: 0.00%) and context (CV: 0.00%), while showing small variations in correctness (CV: 4.56%) and temporality (CV: 4.56%). The detail orientation has a slightly higher variation (CV: 8.84%), and the length of descriptions displays the largest variation (CV: 11.40%). Overall, the average CV across all dimensions is 4.89%. These findings demonstrate highly concentrated semantic distributions across annotators, indicating strong agreement in their descriptions despite minor differences in specific dimensions.

- B.5.2 HIGH VARIABILITY GROUP SAMPLE (GROUP H)
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- Figure A6: An example of videos in Group H.
- The descriptions differ significantly in content, detail, and linguistic style:

1334 1335 1336 1337 1338 1339 The evaluation results by GPT-3.5-turbo highlight significant variability across annotators' semantic coverage and linguistic styles. Consistency exhibits the highest variability with a CV of 98.54%, followed by correctness (CV: 105.34%), temporality (CV: 76.70%), and context (CV: 49.79%). Descriptions also show notable differences in detail orientation (CV: 53.93%) and length (CV: 37.87%). Overall, the average CV across all dimensions is 70.36%, reflecting substantial semantic inconsistency. These findings underline the diversity in annotators' understanding and descriptions of the video, capturing a wide range of perspectives and interpretative styles.

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B.6 EXAMPLE FOR CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN VIDEOS, HUMAN DESCRIPTIONS, AND GENERATED GROUNDTRUTH

 Figure A7: A detailed example for correspondence between videos, human descriptions, and generated groundtruth.

1404 1405 1406 1407 1408 1409 1410 1411 1412 1413 1414 1415 1416 1417 1418 1419 1420 1421 1422 1423 1424 1425 1426 1427 1428 1429 1430 1431 1432 1433 1434 1435 1436 1437 1438 1439 1440 1441 1442 1443 1444 1445 1446 1447 1448 1449 1450 1451 1452 1453 1454 Fig. [A7](#page-25-0) illustrates the detailed annotation process for a selected video from the FIOVA dataset, accompanied by annotations from five human annotators and the synthesized groundtruth generated by GPT-3.5-turbo. The upper panel presents sampled frames extracted at 20-frame intervals, capturing key events in the video sequence. The lower panel provides individual descriptions from the five annotators (Human1-Human5), highlighting their observations, followed by the synthesized GT created by integrating these annotations. The video depicts a young boy riding a bicycle down a road. The boy encounters multiple events, including stopping the bike, falling off, and pretending to fall intentionally. Finally, the boy lies on the ground and points toward the camera. Each human annotator provides a unique perspective while describing the same sequence of events. A detailed comparison of their annotations reveals: • Core Event Agreement: All annotators capture the core sequence of events: riding the bike (#000), stopping (#200), falling off the bike (#440), lying on the ground (#500), and gesturing toward the camera (#640). These observations form the backbone of the GT synthesis process. • Diversity in Detail and Focus: Annotators vary in their descriptions of finer details, such as: – Human1: Focuses on the boy's playful intent, explicitly mentioning the "pretending to fall" action at #500. – Human3: Interprets the boy's actions differently, describing him as "stroking his hand and crying" at #600, which contrasts with other annotations. – Human5: Highlights additional context by describing the boy's method of riding "without pedals" and his subsequent smile and pointing gesture. This diversity reflects the richness of multi-perspective annotations in capturing both objective events and subjective interpretations. The groundtruth generated by GPT-3.5-turbo combines the perspectives of the five annotators into a cohesive narrative that captures key events while addressing conflicts in the descriptions: • Resolution of Annotation Conflicts: – "Pretending to Fall": Human1's explicit mention of "pretending" is corroborated by other annotations, leading to its inclusion in the groundtruth. – "Crying" vs. "Smiling": Human3 describes the boy as "crying," while Human5 interprets the action as "smiling." Upon integrating contextual information—such as the playful nature of the fall mentioned by Human1 and Human5—the groundtruth concludes that the boy smiles after the fall, aligning with the majority perspective. • Maintaining Core Event Coverage: The groundtruth ensures complete coverage of events, including the boy riding, stopping, falling, lying on the ground, and pointing to the camera. This case exemplifies the strength of multi-perspective annotation combined with LLM-based synthesis for generating high-quality groundtruth. This process not only captures the complexity of human interpretations but also ensures a unified and accurate representation of video content. The approach highlights the unique advantages of FIOVA in evaluating LVLMs' ability to describe complex, multi-event videos with human-like precision.

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C CALCULATION PROCESS OF COEFFICIENT OF VARIATION (CV)

Figure A8: Batch ranking for multi-dimensional consistency and human-machine comparison.

Fig. [A8](#page-27-0) illustrates the Batch Ranking process used in FIOVA to evaluate video descriptions by comparing human and machine consistency. The process consists of three main steps:

- Step 1. Human Caption Consistency Evaluation (see Algorithm [A1\)](#page-28-0): The quality of five human-provided captions is assessed across six evaluation dimensions (*i*.*e*., Consistency, Context, Correctness, Detail Orientation, Temporality, and Length) using an LLM. The coefficient of variation (CV) is calculated for each dimension to measure the diversity among human descriptions. The average CV across all dimensions determines the overall consistency score for the video, which is used to group videos into different categories (A-H).
- Step 2. LVLM Consistency Evaluation (see Algorithm [A2\)](#page-29-0): Captions generated by six representative LVLMs are assessed across traditional metrics (*e*.*g*.., BLEU, GLEU, METEOR), event-level semantic consistency metrics (AutoDQ), and the newly proposed FIOVA-DQ metric. The CV is calculated for each metric across the six models to evaluate their consistency. The average CV provides the overall consistency score for the LVLM group on each video.
- Step 3. Human-Machine Comparison (see Algorithm [A3\)](#page-30-0): The videos are ranked based on their consistency scores for humans and LVLMs separately. The ranking difference between human annotations and LVLMs provides a quantitative measure of the alignment and divergence in descriptive strategies between humans and machines.

1502 1503 This framework allows for a fine-grained analysis of model performance compared to human benchmarks, revealing the strengths and weaknesses of LVLMs in long video description tasks.

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1512 1513 1514 1515 1516 1517 1518 1519 1520 1521 1522 1523 1524 1525 1526 1527 1528 1529 1530 1531 1532 1533 1534 1535 1536 1537 1538 1539 1540 1541 1542 1543 1544 1545 1546 1547 1548 1549 1550 1551 1552 **15 Initialize** $Intervals \leftarrow \{\}$ **1553 16** for $i \leftarrow 1$ to $|sorted_keys|$ do **1554 1555 1556 1557 1558 1559 1560 1561 1562 1563 1564 1565** Algorithm A1 Framework for CV calculation between humans **Input:** $D = \{(V_1, C_1), \ldots, (V_n, C_n)\}$: FIOVA dataset; $C_i = \{c_{i1}, c_{i2}, c_{i3}, c_{i4}, c_{i5}\}\;$ human annotations for video V_i ; $E = \{Consistency, Context, Correctness, Detailed Orientation, Temporality, Length\}: evaluation di$ mensions; **Output:** $CV_{dimension}^{human}$: Dictionary of coefficient of variation between humans for each evaluation dimension; CV_{video}^{human} : Dictionary of mean coefficient of variation between humans for each video; *Intervals:* Dictionary of intervals dividing CV_{video}^{human} $/*$ Step 1: Calculate CV for each dimension 1 Initialize $CV_{dimension}^{human}$ // Dictionary to store CV for each dimension $\mathbf{2} \; \textbf{for} \; d \leftarrow 1 \; \textbf{to} \; |E| \; \textbf{do}$ 3 | Initialize $CV_{E[d]} \leftarrow \{\}$ // Dictionary to store CV for each video in dimension $E[d]$ 4 for $i \leftarrow 1$ to $|D|$ do \mathfrak{s} | Initialize scores list $S_i \leftarrow \mathfrak{m}$ for $j \leftarrow 1$ to $|C_i|$ do 6 $\vert \vert$ $s_{ij} \leftarrow$ score of c_{ij} in $E[d]$ Append s_{ij} to S_i $7 \mid$ Calculate mean μ_i of S_i Calculate standard deviation σ_i of S_i Calculate coefficient of variation $cv_i \leftarrow \frac{\sigma_i}{\mu_i}$ $CV_{E[d]}[i] \leftarrow cv_i$ // Store CV for video V_i $\begin{aligned} \textbf{s} \end{aligned} \begin{bmatrix} CV_{dimension}^{human}[E[d]] \leftarrow CV_{E[d]} \end{bmatrix}$ $/*$ Step 2: Calculate mean CV for each video 9 Initialize $CV_{video}^{human} \leftarrow \{\}$ // Dictionary to store mean CV for each video 10 for $i \leftarrow 1$ to $|D|$ do 11 | Initialize sum of CVs $sum_{CV} \leftarrow 0$ for $d \leftarrow 1$ to $|E|$ do $\begin{align} \text{12} \quad & \left[\quad \text{sum}_{CV} \leftarrow \text{sum}_{CV} + \text{CV}_{dimension}^{\text{human}}[E[d]][i] \right] \end{align}$ 13 Calculate mean $mean_{CV} \leftarrow \frac{sum_{CV}}{|E|}$ $CV_{video}^{human}[i] \leftarrow mean_{CV}$ // Store mean CV for video V_i /* Step 3: Divide CV_{video}^{human} into intervals based on the maximum value */ 14 Sort CV_{video}^{human} in ascending order by value and store sorted keys as sorted keys Calculate $max_C V \leftarrow max(CV_{video}^{human}$. $values()$ Calculate number of intervals $N \leftarrow \lceil max_CV \times 10 \rceil$ // Each interval represents 10% // Dictionary to store interval information for each video 17 | $video_id \leftarrow sorted_keys[i]$ $cv \leftarrow CV_{video}^{human}[video_id]$ Calculate interval index $index \leftarrow |cv \times 10|$ if $index \geq N$ then 18 | index \leftarrow N – 1 19 $Intervals[video_id] \leftarrow index$ // Store interval for video V_i 20 $\,$ return $\,CV^{human}_{dimension}, CV^{human}_{video},\,Intervals$

1676 1677 D.1 GPT-AIDED EVALUATION PROMPTS

D.1.1 PROMPT FOR EVALUATION OF HUMAN ANNOTATIONS

The Prompt for Consistency of Annotation (by GPT).

Prompt

You are an intelligent chatbot designed for evaluating the factual accuracy of generative outputs for video-based caption. Your task is to compare the provided text and determine if they are factually consistent. Here's how you can accomplish the task:

—— ##INSTRUCTIONS:

- Focus on the consistency of the text with the expected content or background. The text should correspond to the correct information and should not contain any contradictions or significant differences.

- The text must be consistent in the information it provides about the content.

- Consider synonyms or paraphrases as valid matches, but only if they maintain the consistency in the conveyed information.

- Evaluate the consistency of the text.

- DO NOT PROVIDE ANY OTHER OUTPUT TEXT OR EXPLANATION. Only provide a single evaluation score from 1 to 10. For example, your response should look like this: {"score": [score]}.

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User:

Please evaluate the following video caption:

Provided caption: "{Caption}"

DO NOT PROVIDE ANY OTHER OUTPUT TEXT OR EXPLANATION. Only provide a single evaluation score from 1 to 10. For example, your response should look like this: {"score": [score]}.

The Prompt for Context of Annotation (by GPT).

Prompt

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1708 You are an intelligent chatbot designed for evaluating the factual accuracy of generative outputs **1709** for video-based caption. Your task is to compare the provided text and determine if they are **1710** factually consistent. Here's how you can accomplish the task: **1711** —— ##INSTRUCTIONS: **1712** - Evaluate whether the text aligns with the overall context of the expected content or background. **1713** It should not provide information that is out of context or misaligned. **1714** - The text must capture the main themes and sentiments relevant to the content. **1715** - Consider synonyms or paraphrases as valid matches. **1716** - Provide your evaluation of the contextual understanding of the text. **1717** DO NOT PROVIDE ANY OTHER OUTPUT TEXT OR EXPLANATION. Only provide a single **1718** evaluation score from 1 to 10. For example, your response should look like this: {"score": **1719** [score]}. **1720 1721** User: **1722** Please evaluate the following video caption: **1723** Provided caption: "{Caption}" **1724** DO NOT PROVIDE ANY OTHER OUTPUT TEXT OR EXPLANATION. Only provide a single **1725** evaluation score from 1 to 10. For example, your response should look like this: {"score": **1726** [score]}.

1781 factually consistent. Here's how you can accomplish the task:

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Prompt

1834 1835 Given five video descriptions. Combine the five video descriptions into a single, coherent description that captures the essence of the video clip.

The Prompt for Groundtruth Generation (by GPT).

An Example of Groundtruth Generation (by GPT).

1851 Prompt: Given five video descriptions. Combine the five video descriptions into a single, coher-**1852** ent description that captures the essence of the video clip. **1853** Please generate the response in the form of a Python dictionary string with keys "gt". The value **1854** of "gt" is a List(str), of which is groundtruth for this video description. **1855 1856** User: **1857** Video description 1: "A silver car is running slowly on the road. A red motorcycle running **1858** beside crashed on a red car. The motorcycle is overturned. The following vehicles began to **1859** slow down. A man in a blue coat riding a motorcycle parked next to the fallen motorcycle. **1860** From the red car two people came out. The slow motion of the vedio re-played." **1861** Video description 2: "A silver business car on the side of the road is driving, followed by a **1862** motorcycle, and a red car in front of a commercial car changing lanes crashed on a mo-**1863** torcycle, and the man on the motorcycle fell to the ground. A white van in the following **1864** stopped. The motorcycle driver in red stood up and the following motorcycle stoped, the man in blue came down to help the blue men pick up the package. From the red car two **1865** men and one women waled to the man in red. The crash process is re played back in slow **1866** motion. " **1867** Video description 3: "The vehicle on the road was running normally. A red car crashed into **1868** the motorcycle next to it when changing lanes. The motorcycle was knocked down and the **1869** two men on the motorcycle fell. A motorcycle that passed by stopped to inquire about the **1870** situation. The two men on the motorcycle stood up, and the red car stopped. From the car **1871** down two men and a woman came. The crash scene is replayed again. ' **1872** Video description 4: "On the highway cars were driving normal. A motorcycle when driving **1873** hit a car which drove from the side lane to middle lane. The motorcycle driver fell in from **1874** of a van and several motocycles passed by. A motorcycle driver helped the man stand on **1875** the ground. A few people from the crashed car came over to check, and then slow down the crash video. " **1876** Video description 5: "In the daytime, a front silver hatchback in the right side of the road **1877** was running slowly. On the left side a motorcycle quickly passed, with two people. The mo-**1878** torcycle passed the silver car, which collided with a red car in front which was turning left, **1879** and the car was knocked to the ground and then climbed up. Rear vehicles stoped. From **1880** the rear three motorcycles came, one of which stopped next to the one who was knocked **1881** over. From the red car a woman and three men came out, and went to the people who was **1882** hit. Slow motion played back the accident moment." **1883** DO NOT PROVIDE ANY OTHER OUTPUT TEXT OR EXPLANATION. Only provide one **1884** Python dictionary string. For example, your response should look like this: {"gt": [gt]} **1885** GPT: { "gt": ["A silver car and a red motorcycle are driving on the road. The red car in front of the silver car changes lanes and collides with the motorcycle, causing it to crash. The motorcycle **1886** driver falls to the ground. A white van and several motorcycles behind stop. A man in a blue coat **1887** riding a motorcycle stops to help the fallen motorcycle driver. Two men and a woman from the **1888** red car come out to check on the situation. The crash scene is then replayed in slow motion." $\}$ **1889**

1890 1891 D.1.3 PROMPT FOR EVENT EXTRACTION

The Prompt for Event Extraction (by GPT).

Prompt

- Given a video description. Extract at most 10 key events from the video description paragraph. Requirements:
- Every event is represented by a brief sentence within 10 words, with a subject, a predicate and optionally an object,avoid unnecessary appearance descriptions.
- Every event must be atomic, meaning that it can not be further split into multiple events.
	- Scene cuts and camera motions are NOT events.
- Substitute pronouns by the nouns they refer to.

Please generate the response in the form of a Python dictionary string with keys "events". The value of "events" is a List(str), of which each item is an event.

User:

Video description: "{Caption}"

DO NOT PROVIDE ANY OTHER OUTPUT TEXT OR EXPLANATION. Only provide the Python dictionary string. For example, your response should look like this: {"events": [event1, $event2,...]$ }

An Example of Event Extraction (by GPT).

Prompt:

1944 1945 D.1.4 PROMPT FOR CROSS CHECKING

An Example of Cross Checking (by GPT).

Prompt:

2052 2053 D.2 VIDEO CAPTION PROMPTS

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2054 2055 We use the video description prompt provided by the official repository. If there is no official prompt, we will use "Describe the video in details." as a standard prompt.

Table A2: The URLs of official LVLMs repository in this work.

The Prompt for VideoLLaMA2, Video-LLaVA, ShareGPT4Video, Tarsier, and VideoChat2.

Describe the video in details.

The Prompt for LLaVA-NEXT-Video.

Please provide a detailed description of the video, focusing on the main subjects, their actions, and the background scenes.

Along with the prompt, we opted to use 8 frames per video as the input data. This decision was made to balance evaluation efficiency and information capture, aligning with the standard experimental paradigms in the current field of video tasks. The details are as follows:

- Consistency with Experimental Paradigm: FIOVA is designed to provide an open and high-quality evaluation benchmark for long-video description tasks, enabling comparisons of LVLM performance and their differences from human annotators. To ensure reproducibility and scalability, our experimental setup (including frame selection) followed the widely adopted fixed-frame sampling strategy in the video understanding field. This choice facilitates horizontal comparisons with existing works and offers a reference framework for future research.
- Methodological Generality: The number of input frames is a critical factor in long-video tasks. Selecting 8 frames balances computational cost and semantic capture, enabling effective performance evaluation. This strategy has been validated in many related works, such as VideoGPT+ [Maaz et al.](#page-11-17) [\(2024\)](#page-11-17) and Emu-3 [Wang et al.](#page-12-10) [\(2024b\)](#page-12-10), which also adopt 8 frames as input. These examples highlight the representativeness of this setup for longvideo understanding tasks. Additionally, current LVLMs typically face constraints on the number of input frames; too many frames could lead to resource limitations or performance degradation. The 8-frame setup is well-suited to the computational capabilities of mainstream LVLMs while avoiding information redundancy.
- Fairness and Feasibility of the Evaluation Platform: All experimental results in our study are based on the 8-frame setup. This configuration validates FIOVA's evaluation capability while ensuring fairness and feasibility. The selection of 8 frames strikes a balance among semantic capture, experimental efficiency, and model constraints, making it a reasonable setting aligned with the standard experimental paradigms in video tasks.

2101 2102 2103 2104 Although this study adopts the 8-frame setup, the FIOVA benchmark is designed with flexibility for expansion. Researchers can adjust the frame sampling strategy according to specific research needs, further exploring LVLMs' potential in complex long-video tasks. We also plan to open frame-setting options in future studies to support diversified experimental designs.

2106 2107 E DETAILED EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

2108 2109 E.1 LVLMS V.S. HUMANS ON TRADITIONAL METRICS

Table A3: Comparison of LVLMs and Humans on FIOVA based on traditional metrics (BLEU, METEOR, and GLEU). The background color represents the performance of the metric. The darker the green, the better the performance.

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2133 2134 2135 In Table [A3,](#page-39-0) it is observed that comparing model outputs with GPT-summarized human captions (aggregated GT) results in higher metric scores than directly comparing model outputs with single human captions. Below, we provide an analysis and explanation for this phenomenon:

2136 2137 2138 2139 Improved Information Coverage by GPT-Summarized Descriptions. Each video in the FIOVA dataset is annotated by five independent annotators who watched the full video before providing detailed descriptions. Due to their differing focuses, each annotator's description may emphasize various aspects, such as:

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- Action Details: Certain annotators might prioritize characters' actions and their sequences.
- Contextual Information: Others may focus on the environment, background, or secondary events.

2145 2146 2147 2148 2149 2150 GPT-3.5-turbo aggregates these descriptions, effectively integrating multi-perspective information from all five annotators into a comprehensive and diverse GT. By synthesizing multiple viewpoints, the aggregated GT captures a broader spectrum of video content, ensuring improved coverage compared to single human descriptions. For instance, as shown in Fig. [A7,](#page-25-0) certain annotators emphasize the actions of a child, while others document background details. The aggregation process ensures that both types of information are represented in the GT, enhancing its overall comprehensiveness.

2151 2152 Reasons for Higher Metric Scores. The higher scores observed when comparing model outputs with aggregated GT can be attributed to two main factors:

- Broader Alignment Possibility: The aggregated GT encompasses richer and more diverse content, making it easier for model outputs to align with various aspects of the GT. Consequently:
- **2157 2158** – Model outputs are more likely to match specific details captured by at least one annotator.
	- The inclusion of diverse content reduces the chance of missing critical information, resulting in improved BLEU and METEOR scores.

2214 E.2 RESULTS ON DIFFERENT GROUPS

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Table A4: Comparison of LVLMs on FIOVA based on traditional metrics (BLEU, METEOR, and GLEU), AutoDQ-based metrics, and FIOVA-DQ. The background color represents the performance of the metric. The darker the green, the better the performance.

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Figure A10: Distribution of LVLMs scores in different groups, based on METEOR metric. Figure A10: Distribution of LVLMs scores in different groups, based on METEOR metric.

E.3 COMPARISON BETWEEN HUMANS AND LVLMS IN CAPTION LENGTH

 Figure A18: Correlation between LVLMs and humans in video description length (based on 8 subgroups). It can be seen that the blue dashed box represents the results of humans, and the description length is highly consistent between human annotators. The yellow dashed box shows the results of LVLMs. The description lengths between LVLMs vary greatly, especially for the descriptions of Group H, which have basically no correlation. The green dashed line is a comparison between Tarsier, the model with the best performance in multiple indicators, and humans. It can be seen that Tarsier has a higher correlation with human description length than other models.

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 models, indicating that the models have poor descriptive ability in these scenarios. In some simple scenarios, humans are not only able to quickly capture key content in videos and describe it effectively, but also show a high degree of consistency. In contrast, LVLMs often struggle to grasp key details when handling such videos, leading to inadequate descriptive ability. This difficulty primarily stems from the models' limitations in understanding the overall context and interconnections within the video, particularly in integrating video events with background information. As a result, these models often fail to match human performance.

 In LVLMs, LLaVA-NEXT-Video, Video-LLaVA, and VideoChat2 all exhibit varying degrees of redundancy, while ShareGPT4video shows significant hallucination and repetitive description phenomena. Tarsier does not exhibit obvious hallucination or repetitive descriptions, but there are omissions regarding the video content, such as failing to notice the actions after the little boy lies on the ground.

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Figure A20: There is no significant difference in performance between the models and humans. When key content in a video is very obvious and easy to identify (such as someone playing baseball or a clear change of scenery), LVLMs can quickly capture these elements just like humans and generate corresponding descriptions. This type of video primarily relies on intuitive visual information rather than deep contextual or cultural background.

 In this video, due to the camera switches and the complexity of the video content, each model has information omissions. In addition, ShareGPT4Video has a lot of repetitive and redundant descriptions. Compared to other models, VideoChat2 incorrectly identifies the entire video as children playing.

 Figure A21: There is a significant variation in descriptions among humans, but the models perform more consistently.

 Due to the strong artistic elements in this video, the content is quite complex, making it difficult for humans to reach a consistent descriptive conclusion. As a result, LVLMs struggle to focus on certain scene details, leading to hallucinations, repetition, and redundancy. This issue is particularly prominent in ShareGPT4Video.

 Humans often vary in their descriptions of complex videos due to personal experiences, emotions, cultural backgrounds, and individual preferences, which can make their descriptions differ significantly. In contrast, LVLMs tend to be more consistent in their descriptions. These models are trained on vast datasets with the goal of learning a more universal, standardized way of describing. The training of these models typically focuses on identifying and describing visual elements that are widely recognized in most contexts, unaffected by individual traits. Thus, these models exhibit higher consistency and predictability in generating descriptions.

 immersed in her fantasies. The content of the fantasies and the environment around the woman contain many details, such as camera transitions and temporal discontinuities. These complex elements make it difficult for the models to accurately interpret and describe the video, resulting in an overall description that is not clear or easy to understand.

 So all LVLMs have varying degrees of content omissions, and most exhibit hallucination and repetitive description phenomena.

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 models excel in describing videos with simple scenes, such as this one showcasing Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu practice, featuring stable camera work and clear temporal relationships. When dealing with clear and structured video content, the models are better able to accurately recognize and describe the activities and actions within the scene.

 The content of this video is relatively simple, so the models perform quite well. The main issues are repetitive descriptions and redundancy, with hallucinations being relatively rare. Notably, the other LVLMs identified the martial arts clothing worn by the characters, while Video-LLaVA only recognized the color but did not distinguish the category.

E.4.2 POTENTIAL CAUSE ANALYSIS • Architectural Limitations. – Cross-modal alignment issues: Current LVLMs face significant challenges in effectively aligning video-text data. For instance, Tarsier processes each frame using separate visual encoders, while VideoLLaMA2 adopts a shared visual encoder for all frames. These varying alignment strategies directly impact the models' ability to interpret and understand video content comprehensively. – Insufficient long-sequence modeling: Handling long videos with multiple events requires robust attention mechanisms to ensure coherence and completeness. However, many LVLMs struggle in this aspect. For example, Video-LLaVA's descriptions often prioritize initial scenes while neglecting subsequent parts of the video. • Training Data Bias. – Inconsistent or insufficient data diversity: Training data with limited diversity can lead to biased outputs. For example, Video-LLaVA shows significant difficulty in recognizing martial arts scenes (Fig. [A23\)](#page-58-0) compared to other LVLMs, suggesting gaps in its training dataset. – Hallucination issues: Noisy or incomplete training data may propagate hallucinated content. In Fig. [A20,](#page-54-0) VideoChat2 misidentifies players and spectators in a baseball stadium as children, illustrating a severe misalignment between the output and actual video content. • Generation Strategy Issues. – Simplistic generation strategies: Using basic generation techniques, such as beam search, often results in repetitive or incoherent descriptions. For instance, ShareGPT4Video, while utilizing high-quality training data, demonstrates repetitive descriptions due to inadequate constraints during generation. – Weak constraints during generation: Insufficient semantic constraints in generation processes can lead to hallucinated content or semantic errors.

E.4.3 SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT AND OPTIMIZATION

– Improving semantic alignment: Incorporating cross-modal alignment constraints, such as visual-language consistency checks, can reduce semantic discrepancies and hallucination issues. Models like LLaVA-NeXT-Video emphasize the importance of maintaining alignment consistency throughout the comprehension process.

– Implementing deduplication strategies: Introducing mechanisms to detect and eliminate repetitive content during generation can improve description coherence and reduce redundancy.

• Training Data Optimization.

- Enhancing data diversity: Expanding training datasets to include diverse scenarios, particularly complex events in long videos, can mitigate bias and improve generalization.
- Data cleaning: Removing hallucinated or erroneous examples from training corpora enhances data quality. For instance, ShareGPT4Video demonstrates notable improvements through high-quality video-text data, though further refinements remain necessary.

• Evaluation Method Enhancement.

– Fine-grained error categorization: Incorporating detailed error categorization mechanisms within the FIOVA framework can help identify model weaknesses more precisely. For example, when calculating FIOVA-DQ, event similarity between annotators' descriptions and LVLM outputs could aid in detecting specific error types.