

Video on Demand Toolkit: A Framework for Analysis of Speech and Chat Content in YouTube and Twitch Streams

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Outline

- 1. Background
 - Video streams as an increasingly popular CMC modality
 - Corpus-based study of video streams
- 2. VoD Toolkit: Pipeline components
- 3. Use cases
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 - Automated analysis of video streams
- 4. Outlook and summary

Slides for the presentation are on my homepage at https://cc.oulu.fi/~scoats



Background

- In the past 15 years, video-based CMC modalities have become popular
- Many streaming sites have large numbers of users
 - Twitch (mostly gaming), YouTube Live (mostly music, live vlogging, tutorials, etc.), Instagram Live,
 Facebook Live, X Livestream, and others
 - Increasing importance as an economic activity (Zhou et al. 2019; Johnson & Woodcock 2019; Yu et al. 2018)
- Recorded streams contain multiple levels of communication at multiple levels (Sjöblom et al. 2019; Recktenwald 2017),
 for example
 - Speech and visual content (e.g. facial expressions or gestures) of the streamer
 - Text and graphical image content (emoji, emotes) of live chat
 - Text and graphical content of system messages (e.g. bots showing tips to streamer)
 - Secondary visual content (and text and speech) of video output (e.g., window showing gameplay)
- These offer new perspectives for the study of online interactional coherence (Herring 1999)
- Most corpus-based analyses have focused on live chat content (Olejniczak 2015; Kim et al. 2022)
- Few studies consider the content of the streamer as well as chat and comments.



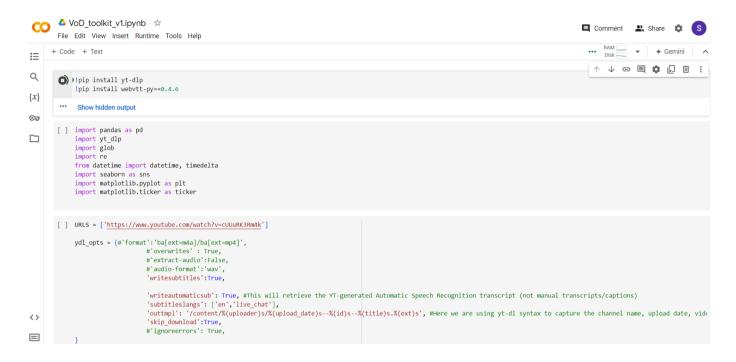
VoD Toolkit (https://t.ly/le6_e)

This contribution: A script pipeline to generate a structured, time-aligned transcript that combines the stream speech transcript with chat contributions and other types of content

- Python Jupyter environment
- Google Colab
- Generates textual output that can be analyzed with corpus methods
- Includes emoji and custom emotes
- Can also be used to capture video/audio for combined multimedia analysis



Pipeline components

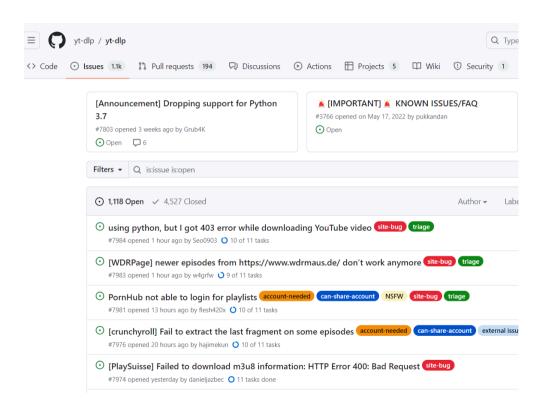


- yt-dlp
- TwitchDownloaderCLI
- Whisper/WhisperX

The toolkit's output is an HTML file



Component: yt-dlp



- Fork of YouTube-DL
- Can be used to access any content streamed with DASH or HLS protocols
- Can be used to get video







Twitch Downloader

Twitch VOD/Clip/Chat Downloader and Chat Renderer

Report Bug

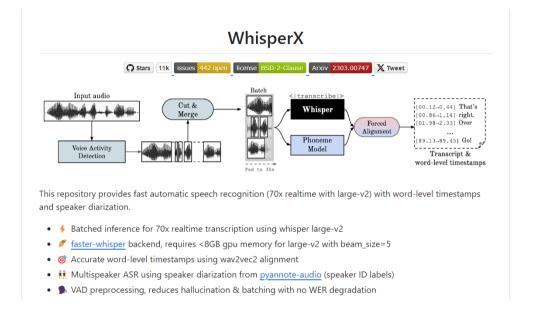
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 Command-line interface for retrieving Twitch videos and chats



Component: WhisperX



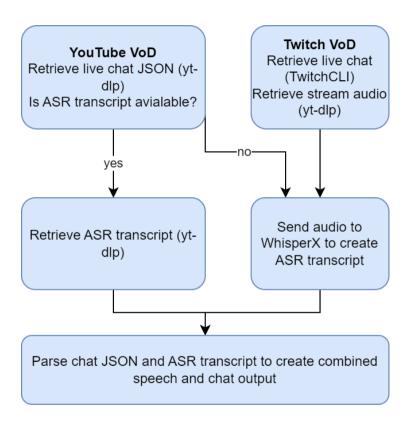
Library based on OpenAl's Whisper providing Automatic speech recognition

- Word-level timestamps
- Speaker diarization
- Faster than Whisper, especially with GPU

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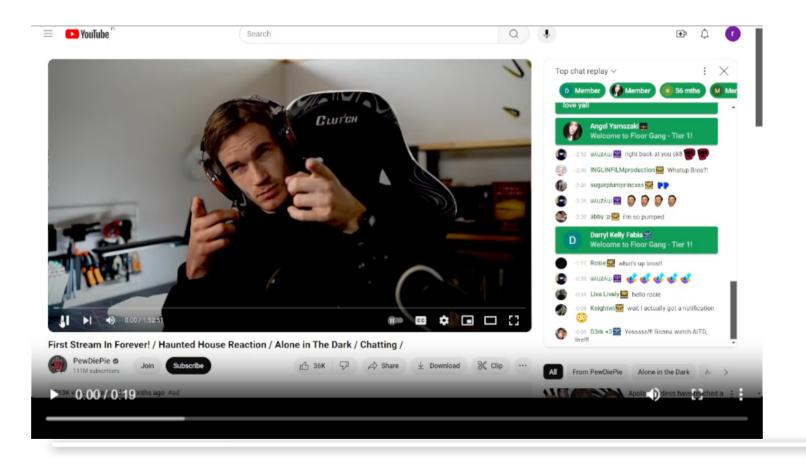


Schematic representation of pipeline functions





Example: YouTube stream



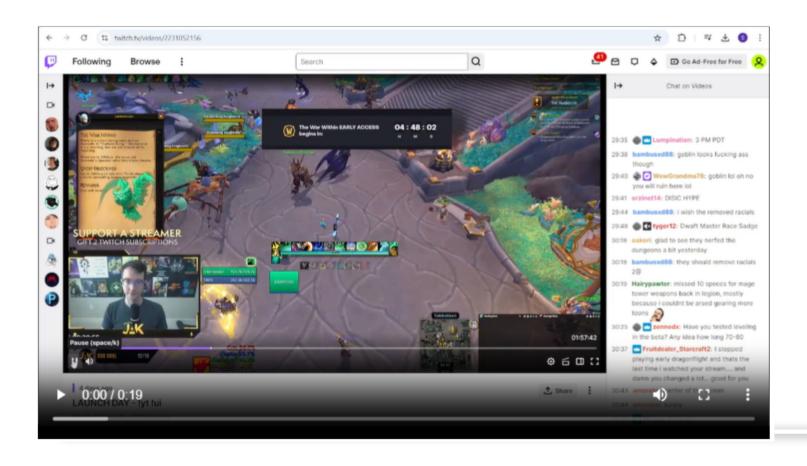


Example: YouTube output

time	text	author	message
-1429.0		j 🛬	you mean play?
-1359.0		Blank Budder	well it has #ad in the description. I don't mind though, the haunted house video was great
-1350.0		ScottK	9 Pills
-1348.0		ScottK	
-1346.0		ScottK	
-1323.0		ScottK 👺	



Example: Twitch stream



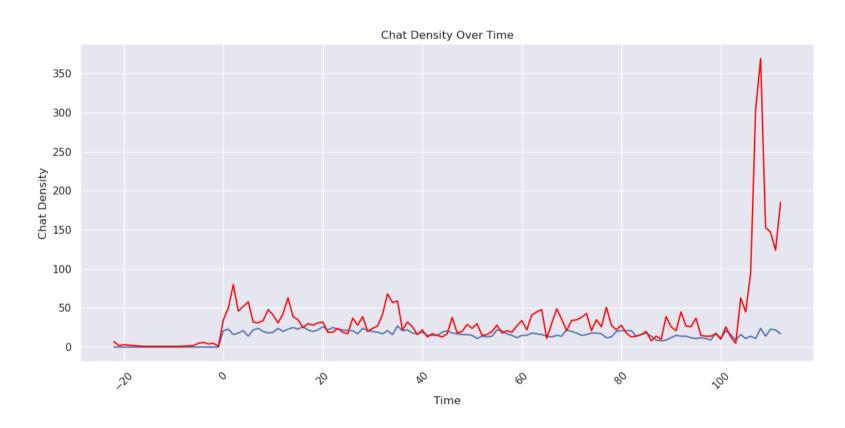


Example: Twitch output

time	text	author	message
11.000		StreamElements 💉	AutomaticJak is now live! Streaming World of Warcraft: LAUNCH DAY -!yt !ui
28.000		zanis_	We here!
39.000		Goldenhusk	LICKA 📷
42.000		lissargh 🌑	woooh hype launch day launch day
77.000		CarlCYuro	Woohoo got my snacks, foods, dirnks, dinner meal prepped for the next 3 days lets go
108.000		teddyx87 🏋	lol
118.000		teddyx87 🏋	what you maining Carl?



Use cases: Chat density



• Chat density can be compared with and correlated with streamer utterances

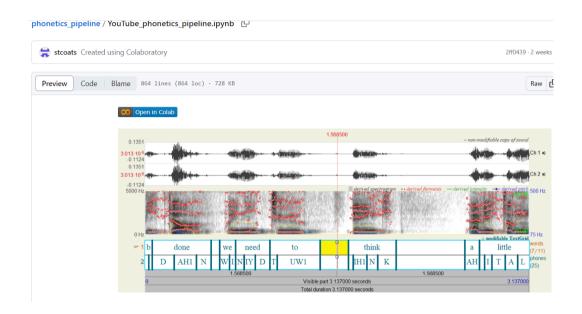


Potential use case: Automated analysis of video streams

- Retrieve video with yt-dlp
- Add cells to VoD Toolkit to import (e.g.) X-CLIP (Ni et al. 2022), LLaVA-NeXT-Video-7B-h9 (Zhang et al. 2022), or other libraries
 - Automatically generate text describing what is going on in different parts of the video
 - Who is chatting about what parts of the video?
 - Is chat about (for example) video content, other chat, or speech content?



Use cases: Acoustic analysis



• Acoustic features of particular streamers or streams with different topics/from different locations etc. can be analyzed (cf. Coats 2023; Méli et al. 2023)

https://colab.research.google.com/github/stcoats/phonetics_pipeline/blob/main/phonetics_pipeline_v3.ipynb



Summary and outlook

- Ready-to-use scripting pipeline for generation of combined speech transcript/live chat files
- Can be used for various text-based corpus-analytic research questions
- Can be used, with additional modules, for multimodal analysis of video and audio content







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