

Video-Text as Game Players: Hierarchical Banzhaf Interaction for Cross-Modal Representation Learning Supplementary Material

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A. Datasets and Implementation Details

A.1. Datasets

MSRVTT. MSRVTT [23] contains 10K YouTube videos, each with 20 text descriptions. We follow the training protocol in [7, 12] and evaluate on text-to-video and video-to-text search tasks on the 1K-A testing split with 1K video or text candidates defined by [24].

ActivityNet Captions. ActivityNet Captions [9] consists densely annotated temporal segments of 20K YouTube videos. Following [7, 16, 21], we concatenate descriptions of segments in a video to construct “video-paragraph” for retrieval. We use the 10K training split to finetune the model and report the performance on the 5K “val1” split.

DiDeMo. DiDeMo [1] contains 10K videos annotated 40K text descriptions. We concatenate descriptions of segments in a video to construct “video-paragraph” for retrieval. We follow the training and evaluation protocol in [14].

MSRVTT-QA. MSRVTT-QA [22] is based on the MSRVTT dataset and has 243K VideoQA pairs.

A.2. Implementation Details

For fair comparisons, we follow common practice [4, 14, 20] to extract the video representations of input videos and the language representations of input texts. In detail, for video representations, we first extract the frames from the video clip as the input sequence of video. Then we use ViT [5] to encode the frame sequence, by exploiting the transformer [11, 19] architecture to model the interactions between image patches. Followed by the CLIP [17], the output from the [class] token is used as the frame embedding. Finally, we obtain the video representation $V_f = \{v_f^i\}_{i=1}^{N_v}$. For text representation, we directly use the text encoder of CLIP to acquire the text representation $T_w = \{t_w^j\}_{j=1}^{N_t}$.

The dimension of the feature is 512. The temporal transformer is composed of 4-layer blocks, each including 8 heads and 512 hidden channels. The temporal position embedding and parameters are initialized from the CLIP’s text encoder. We use the Adam optimizer and set the temperature τ to 0.01. The initial learning rate is 1e-7 for text encoder and video encoder and 1e-3 for other modules.

For text-video retrieval, we utilize the CLIP (ViT-B/32) [17] as the pre-trained model. The frame length and caption length are 12 and 24 for MSRVTT. The network is optimized with the batch size of 128 in 5 epochs. We set the caption length to 64 for ActivityNet Captions and DiDeMo.

For video question answering, we use the target vocabulary and train a fully connected layer on top of the final language features to classify the answer. The frame length and question length are 12 and 32 for MSRVTT-QA. The network is optimized with the batch size of 32 in 5 epochs.

B. Proof of Theorem 1

We start by reviewing Banzhaf Values [3] and Banzhaf Interaction [8] for a cooperative game.

The cooperative game theory consists of a set $\mathcal{N} = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ of players with a characteristic function $\phi : 2^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. The characteristic function ϕ maps each team of players to a real number. This number indicates the payoff obtained by all players working together to complete the task. The core of the cooperative game theory is calculating how much gain is obtained and how to distribute the total gain fairly [18].

Banzhaf Values. The Banzhaf value [3] is one of the most important solution concepts in cooperative games. Formally, the Banzhaf value measures the average marginal contribution of each player across all permutations of the players. It is the unbiased estimation of the importance or contribution of each player in a cooperative game [6], and has thus found many applications from estimating feature importance to pruning neural networks. Given a set $\mathcal{N} = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ of players and a characteristic function $\phi : 2^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, the Banzhaf value $\mathcal{B}(i|\mathcal{N})$ for player i is defined as the average marginal contribution of player i to all possible coalitions $\mathcal{C} \subseteq \mathcal{N}$ that are formed without i :

$$\mathcal{B}(i|\mathcal{N}) = \sum_{\mathcal{C} \subseteq \mathcal{N} \setminus \{i\}} p(\mathcal{C}) (\phi(\mathcal{C} \cup \{i\}) - \phi(\mathcal{C})), \quad (\text{A})$$

where $p(\mathcal{C}) = \frac{1}{2^{n-1}}$ is the likelihood of \mathcal{C} being sampled. “ $\mathcal{N} \setminus \{i\}$ ” denotes removing $\{i\}$ from \mathcal{N} .

Banzhaf Interaction. In a cooperative game, some players tend to form a coalition: it may happen that $\phi(\{i\})$ and $\phi(\{j\})$ are small and at the same time $\phi(\{i, j\})$ is large. The Banzhaf Interaction [8] measures the additional benefits brought by the coalition compared with the costs of the lost interactions of these players with others. For a coalition $\{i, j\}$, we consider $\{\{i, j\}\}$ as a single hypothetical player, which is the union of the players in $\{i, j\}$. Then, the reduced game is formed by removing the individual players in $\{i, j\}$ from the game and adding $\{\{i, j\}\}$ to the game.

Definition 1. Banzhaf Interaction [8]. Given a coalition $\{i, j\} \subseteq \mathcal{N}$, the Banzhaf Interaction $\mathcal{I}(\{\{i, j\}\})$ for the player $\{\{i, j\}\}$ is defined as:

$$\mathcal{I}(\{\{i, j\}\}) = \sum_{\mathcal{C} \subseteq \mathcal{N} \setminus \{i, j\}} p(\mathcal{C}) [\phi(\mathcal{C} \cup \{\{i, j\}\}) + \phi(\mathcal{C}) - \phi(\mathcal{C} \cup \{i\}) - \phi(\mathcal{C} \cup \{j\})], \quad (\text{B})$$

where $p(\mathcal{C}) = \frac{1}{2^{n-2}}$ is the likelihood of \mathcal{C} being sampled. “ $\mathcal{N} \setminus \{i, j\}$ ” denotes removing $\{i, j\}$ from \mathcal{N} .

Similar to Banzhaf value axioms [8], the following axioms convey intuitive properties that a cross-modal interaction score should satisfy.

Axioms 1. Given a set $\mathcal{N} = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ of players, a characteristic function $\phi : 2^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, and a coalition $\mathcal{C} = \{i, j\} \subseteq \mathcal{N}$, following properties are met for the interaction score $\mathcal{I}(\{\mathcal{C}\})$. (a) **Symmetry:** If $\forall \mathcal{S} \subseteq \mathcal{N}$, $\phi(\mathcal{S} \cup \{\mathcal{C}\}) = \phi(\mathcal{S} \cup \{\mathcal{C}'\})$, $\sum_{i \in \mathcal{C}} \phi(\mathcal{S} \cup \{i\}) = \sum_{i' \in \mathcal{C}'} \phi(\mathcal{S} \cup \{i'\})$, then $\mathcal{I}(\{\mathcal{C}\}) = \mathcal{I}(\{\mathcal{C}'\})$; (b) **Dummy:** If $\forall \mathcal{S} \subseteq \mathcal{N}$, $\phi(\mathcal{S} \cup \{\mathcal{C}\}) = \phi(\mathcal{S})$, $\sum_{i \in \mathcal{C}} \phi(\mathcal{S} \cup i) = 0$, then $\mathcal{I}(\{\mathcal{C}\}) = 0$; (c) **Additivity:** If $\phi(\ast)$ and $\phi'(\ast)$ have the interaction scores $\mathcal{I}(\{\mathcal{C}\})$ and $\mathcal{I}'(\{\mathcal{C}\})$ respectively, then the interaction score for the game with value function $\phi(\ast) + \phi'(\ast)$ is $\mathcal{I}(\{\mathcal{C}\}) + \mathcal{I}'(\{\mathcal{C}\})$; (d) **Recursivity:** let $\mathcal{B}(\ast)$ denote the Banzhaf value, then $\mathcal{B}(\{\mathcal{C}\}|\mathcal{N} \setminus \mathcal{C} \cup \{\mathcal{C}\}) = \mathcal{B}(i|\mathcal{N} \setminus \{j\}) + \mathcal{B}(j|\mathcal{N} \setminus \{i\}) + \mathcal{I}(\{\mathcal{C}\})$.

Theorem 1. The Banzhaf Interaction index satisfies **Symmetry, Dummy, Additivity and Recursivity** axiom.

B.1. Symmetry Axiom

Symmetry states that if changing the value of two coalitions has the same effect on the output under all values of the other variables, then both coalitions should have an identical interaction score.

Proof. We consider $\mathcal{C} = \{i, j\}$, $\mathcal{C}' = \{i', j'\}$ fixed. Let us choose $\mathcal{T} \subseteq \mathcal{N}$, and consider the unanimity game. Clearly, $\phi(\mathcal{T} \cup \{\{i, j\}\}) - \phi(\mathcal{T} \cup \{\{i', j'\}\}) = 0$, $\phi(\mathcal{T} \cup i) - \phi(\mathcal{T} \cup i') = 0$, $\phi(\mathcal{T} \cup j) - \phi(\mathcal{T} \cup j') = 0$. That is, for every $\mathcal{T} \subseteq \mathcal{N}$, $\mathcal{C} = \{i, j\}$ and $\mathcal{C}' = \{i', j'\}$ produce the same benefits. Thus, Banzhaf Interaction satisfies Symmetry axiom, i.e., $\mathcal{I}(\{\mathcal{C}\}) = \mathcal{I}(\{\mathcal{C}'\})$.

B.2. Dummy Axiom

Dummy states that if changing the value of a coalition $\{\mathcal{C}\}$ has no effect on the output under all values of other variables, then the interaction value of $\{\mathcal{C}\}$ should be zero.

Proof. We consider $\mathcal{C} = \{i, j\}$ fixed. Let us choose $\mathcal{T} \subseteq \mathcal{N}$, and consider the unanimity game. Clearly, $\phi(\mathcal{S} \cup \{\mathcal{C}\}) - \phi(\mathcal{S}) = 0$, $\sum_{i \in \mathcal{C}} \phi(\mathcal{S} \cup i) = 0$. For every $\mathcal{T} \subseteq \mathcal{N}$, $\mathcal{C} = \{i, j\}$ has no interaction with any player. Thus, Banzhaf Interaction satisfies Dummy axiom, i.e., $\mathcal{I}(\{\mathcal{C}\}) = 0$.

B.3. Additivity Axiom

Additivity states the sum of the interaction scores of the two characteristic functions is equal to the interaction score of the sum of these characteristic functions.

Proof. Let us choose $\mathcal{T} \subseteq \mathcal{N}$, and consider the unanimity game. Clearly, for the characteristic function $\Phi(\ast) = \phi(\ast) + \phi'(\ast)$, $\Phi(\mathcal{T}) = \phi(\mathcal{T}) + \phi'(\mathcal{T})$. That is, for every $\mathcal{T} \subseteq \mathcal{N}$, the sum of the scores of the two characteristic functions $(\phi(\ast), \phi'(\ast))$ is equal to the score of the sum of these characteristic functions $\Phi(\ast)$. Thus, Banzhaf Interaction satisfies Additivity axiom.

B.4. Recursivity Axiom

We hypothesize that the interaction score should depend on the values of i when j is absent, and j when i is absent.

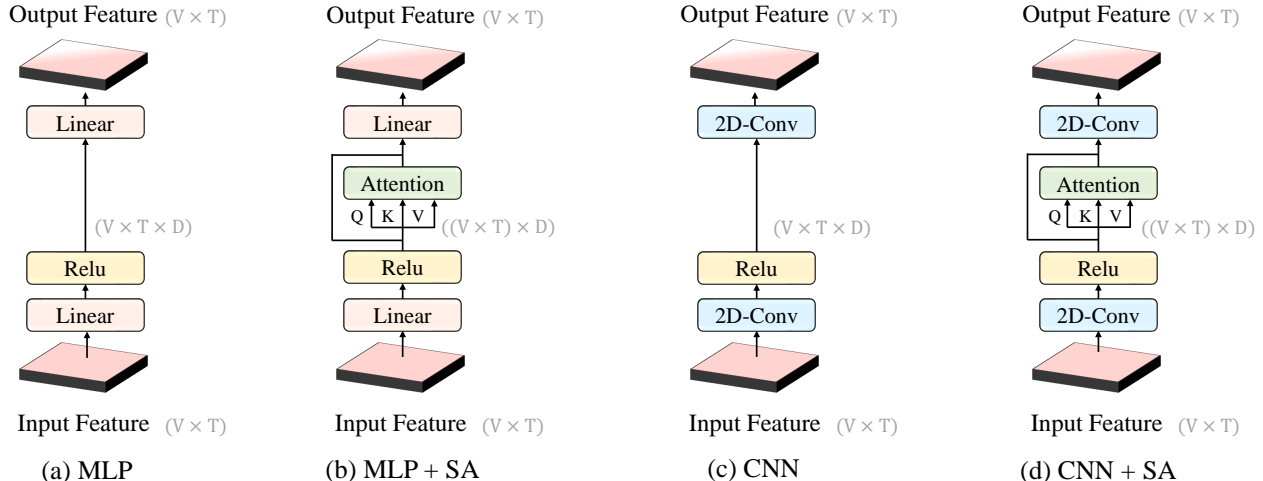


Figure A. **The structure of the prediction header.** We choose four several popular structures, *i.e.*, “MLP”, “CNN”, “MLP+SA” and “CNN+SA”. V, T, D represent the number of visual tokens, the number of textual tokens, and the number of feature channels, respectively.

And somehow, their interaction should also be taken into account. Specifically, Recursivity states that if the interaction is positive, then the interaction score of $[\{i, j\}]$ should be greater than simply the sum of individual values. If the interaction is negative, the interaction score of $[\{i, j\}]$ should be less than the sum.

Proof. We can rewrite Eq. B as $\mathcal{I}(\mathcal{C}) = \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{C}|\mathcal{N} \setminus \mathcal{C} \cup \{\mathcal{C}\}) - \sum_{i \in \mathcal{C}} \mathcal{B}(i|\mathcal{N} \setminus \mathcal{C} \cup \{i\})$. Clearly, the above formula is equivalent to Recursivity axiom. Thus, Banzhaf Interaction satisfies Recursivity axiom.

C. Discussions

C.1. Banzhaf Interaction Estimator

Since the calculation of the exact Banzhaf Interaction is an NP-hard problem [15], existing methods mainly use sampling-based methods [2, 10] to obtain unbiased estimates. To speed up the computation of Banzhaf Interaction for many data instances, we pre-train a tiny model to learn a mapping from a set of input features to a result using MSE loss. The tiny model consists of a convolutional layer for encoding features, a self-attention module for capturing global interaction, and a convolutional layer for decoding. The tiny model has 64 hidden channels. The input is the similarity matrix of video frames and text tokens, and the output is the estimation of Banzhaf Interaction.

To explore the impact of the Banzhaf Interaction estimator on our method, we compare the sampling-based method and pre-trained tiny model estimator in Tab. A. Given the costly training time, the ablation study is based on a subset of MSRVT dataset (3K videos, each with 20 text descriptions). We find that the pre-trained tiny model maintains the estimation accuracy while avoiding intensive computations. The average training time is reduced from 19.79 seconds per

Method	Text->Video				Iteration
	R@1↑	R@5↑	R@10↑	MnR↓	Time↓
Baseline	40.0	66.8	77.0	16.5	2.06 s
w/ Sampling-based method	41.5	68.6	78.9	15.1	19.79 s
w/ Tiny estimator	41.8	67.5	79.0	15.2	3.14 s

Table A. **Effect of the Banzhaf Interaction Estimator.** “↑” denotes that higher is better. “↓” denotes that lower is better.

iteration to 3.14 seconds per iteration.

C.2. The Structure of the Prediction Header

Due to the disparity in semantic similarity and interaction index, we design a prediction header to predict the fine-grained relationship $\mathcal{R}_{i,j}$ between the i_{th} video frame and the j_{th} text word. To explore the impact of the structure of the prediction header on our method, we compare four popular structures, *i.e.*, “MLP”, “CNN”, “MLP+SA” and “CNN+SA”. Fig. A illustrates the structures.

“MLP” consists of a linear layer with a ReLU activation function for encoding features and a linear layer for decoding. The dimension of the hidden channels is 64. “CNN” consists of a convolutional layer with a ReLU activation function for encoding features and a convolutional layer for decoding. The dimension of the hidden channels is 64. “MLP+SA” consists of a linear layer with a ReLU activation function for encoding features, a self-attention module for capturing global interaction, and a linear layer for decoding. The dimension of the hidden channels is 64. “CNN+SA” consists of a convolutional layer with a ReLU activation function for encoding features, a self-attention module for capturing global interaction, and a convolutional layer for decoding. The dimension of the hidden channels is 64.

Method	Text->Video				
	R@1↑	R@5↑	R@10↑	MdR↓	MnR↓
MLP	47.2	73.7	83.5	2.0	12.3
CNN	47.3	73.5	83.7	2.0	12.2
MLP+SA	46.6	74.0	83.7	2.0	12.3
CNN+SA	48.6	74.6	83.4	2.0	12.0

Table B. **Effect of the structure of the prediction header on MSRVT dataset.** “SA” is the self-attention module. “↑” denotes that higher is better. “↓” denotes that lower is better.

Method	Text->Video				
	R@1↑	R@5↑	R@10↑	MdR↓	MnR↓
E->A	48.1	73.6	82.9	2.0	11.9
E->O	48.0	74.1	83.2	2.0	11.8
A->O	48.0	73.0	83.1	2.0	12.0
E->A + A->O	48.2	74.1	82.9	2.0	11.8
E->A + E->O	48.6	74.6	83.4	2.0	12.0

Table C. **Ablation study about the self-distillation of our method on MSRVT dataset.** *E, A, O* denote entity level, action level, and event level, respectively. \rightarrow indicates the distillation direction. For example, $E \rightarrow A$ indicates the distillation from *E* to *A*. “↑” denotes that higher is better. “↓” denotes that lower is better.

\mathcal{L}_I Banzhaf Interaction	Deep Supervision	\mathcal{L}_D Self Distillation	Top1 Acc ↑	Top5 Acc ↑
			45.2	73.1
✓			45.8	73.7
	✓		46.0	74.0
	✓	✓	46.0	74.1
✓	✓		46.1	74.2
✓	✓	✓	46.2	74.2

Table D. **Ablation study about the importance of each part on MSRVT-QA dataset.** “↑” denotes that higher is better.

As shown in Tab. B, we find that the combination of CNN and attention (“CNN+SA”) can capture both local and global interaction, so it is beneficial for predicting the fine-grained relationship between video and text. As a result, we adopt “CNN+SA” to achieve the best performance.

C.3. Self-Distillation

Fig. B shows the performance of each semantic level. We find that the entity level converges first in the training process. This is because higher-level semantic features are merged from lower-level semantic features. When lower-level semantic features do not converge, it is difficult for higher-level semantic features to learn semantic information. Based on this observation, we propose using lower-level semantic features to guide the learning of higher-level semantic features. Thus, we distill the entity-level similarity to the other two semantic levels.

To illustrate the impact of the self-distillation of our

Method	Text->Video				
	R@1↑	R@5↑	R@10↑	MdR↓	MnR↓
Baseline	46.6	73.1	83.0	2.0	13.3
One level	47.5	73.7	83.0	2.0	12.0
Two levels	48.1	73.6	82.9	2.0	11.9
Three levels	48.6	74.6	83.4	2.0	12.0

Table E. **Effect of the number of semantic levels (the number of stacked token merge modules) on MSRVT dataset.** “↑” denotes that higher is better. “↓” denotes that lower is better.

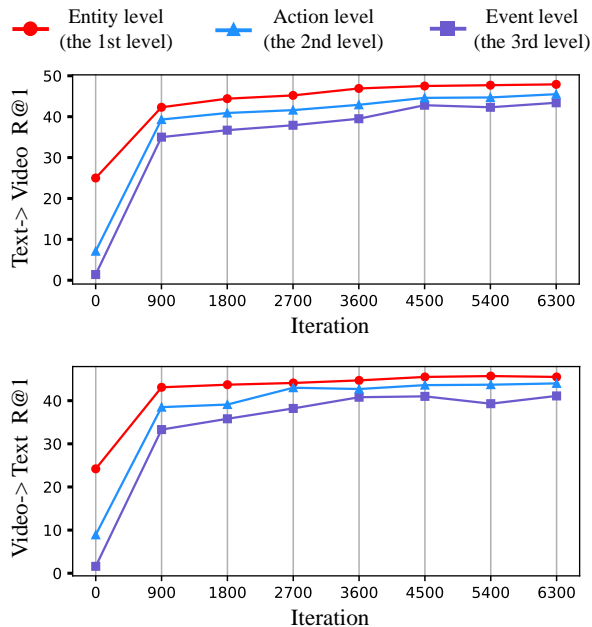


Figure B. **Performance at each semantic level of text-to-video retrieval and video-to-text retrieval task.**

method, we conduct ablation experiments on MSRVT dataset in Tab. C. As we can see, self-distillation improves the generalization ability. Distilling from the entity level to the other two semantic levels achieves the best results. As a result, we distill the entity-level similarity to the other two semantic levels as default in practice.

C.4. Ablation for Video-Question Answering Task

To illustrate the importance of each part of our method for the video-question answering, we conduct ablation experiments on MSRVT-QA dataset in Tab. D. As we can see, Banzhaf Interaction boosts the baseline with the improvement up to 0.6% at Top1 accuracy. Moreover, deep supervision and self-distillation significantly improve the generalization ability. Self-distillation provides limited improvement for video-question answering compared to text-video retrieval. This is because reasoning relies primarily on high-level semantic features. Therefore, it is difficult

Query: The woman wearing the white top talks to the people in the audience.



Query: A guy wearing a black shirt talks and shows a chart on the tv screen.

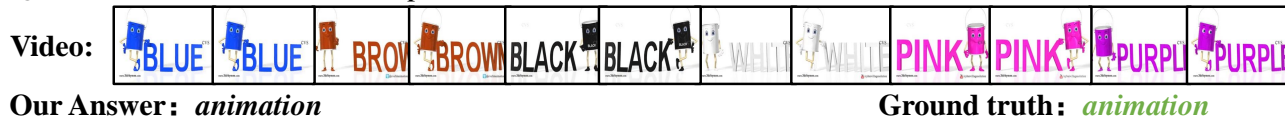


Figure C. Visualization of the text-to-video retrieval. Only the correct videos are highlighted in green.

Question: What is someone showing something in?



Question: What is shown to help learn colors?



Question: What is a man with a blue shirt and glasses doing?



Figure D. Visualization of the video-question answering.

for low-level semantic features to guide high-level semantic features. Our full model achieves the best performance and outperforms the baseline by 1.0% at Top1 accuracy.

C.5. The Number of Semantic Levels

To efficiently generate coalitions among game players, we cluster the original visual (textual) tokens and compute the

Banzhaf Interaction between the merged tokens. By stacking token merge modules, we get cross-modal interaction efficiently at different semantic levels.

To explore the impact of the number of semantic levels on our method, we conduct ablation experiments on MSRVT dataset in Tab. E. We find that the performance of the model increases with the number of semantic levels. These results

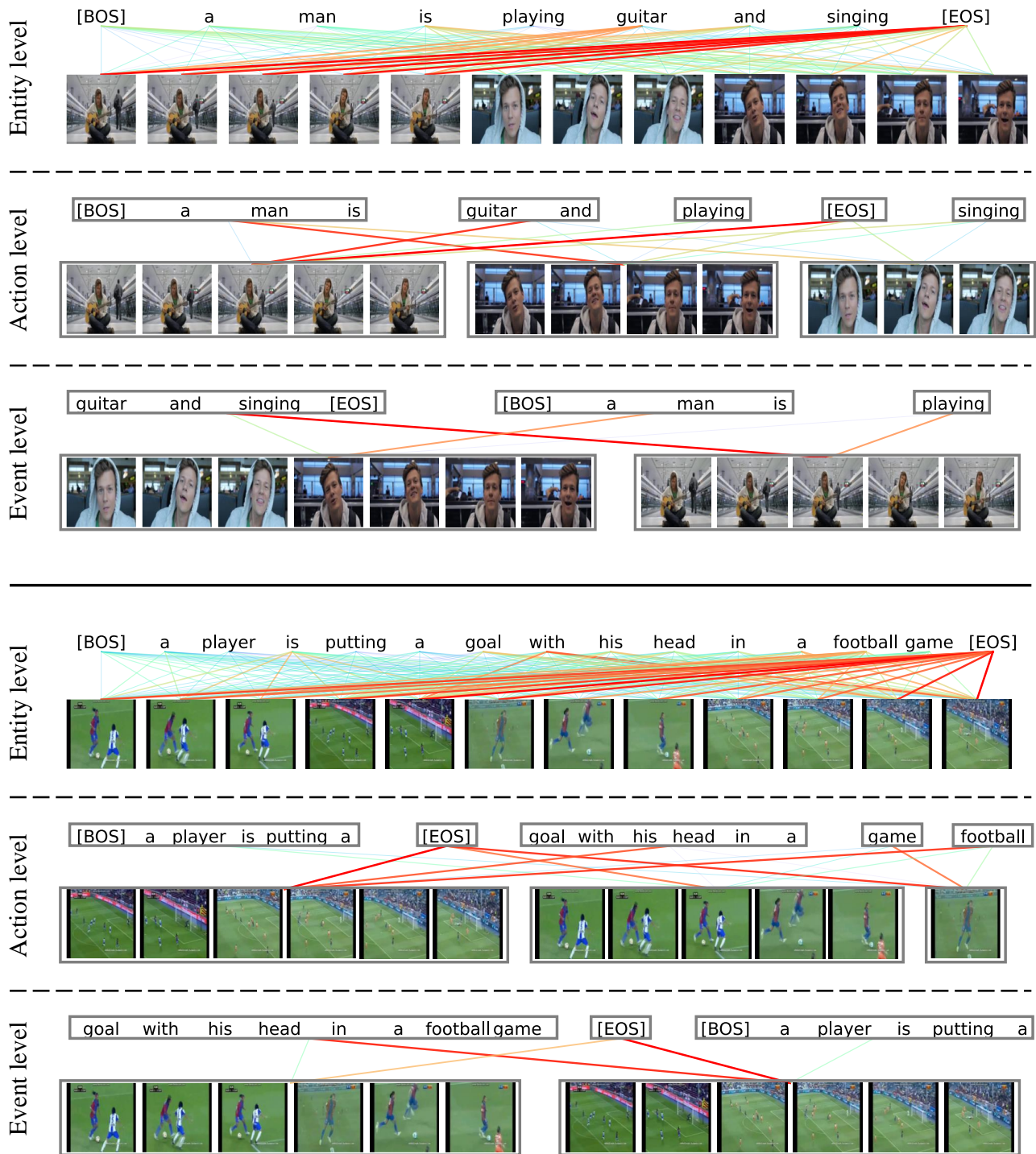


Figure E. **Visualization of the hierarchical interaction.** Here, the degree of confidence from high to low is represented by red, orange, green and blue lines, respectively. Entity-level interactions demonstrate the semantic correlation between frames and words. Action-level interactions indicate the semantic correlation between clips and phrases. Event-level interactions show the semantic correlation between segments and paragraphs.

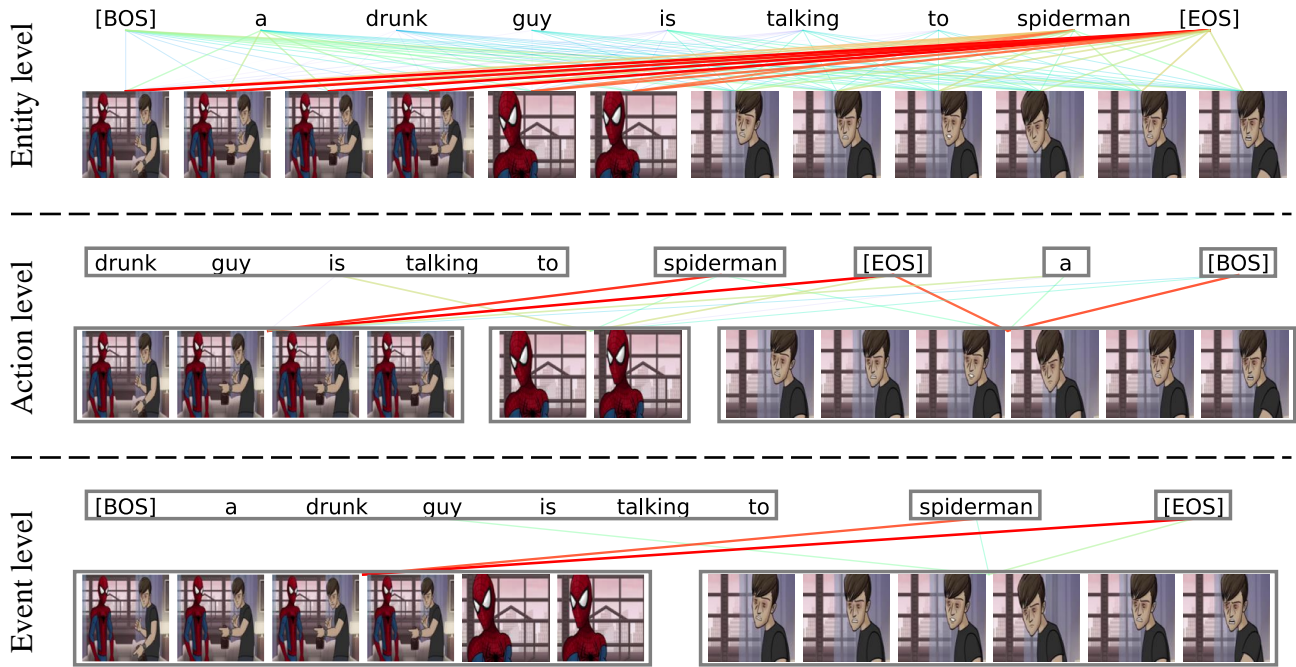


Figure F. **Visualization of the hierarchical interaction.** Here, the degree of confidence from high to low is represented by red, orange, green and blue lines, respectively. Entity-level interactions demonstrate the semantic correlation between frames and words. Action-level interactions indicate the semantic correlation between clips and phrases. Event-level interactions show the semantic correlation between segments and paragraphs.

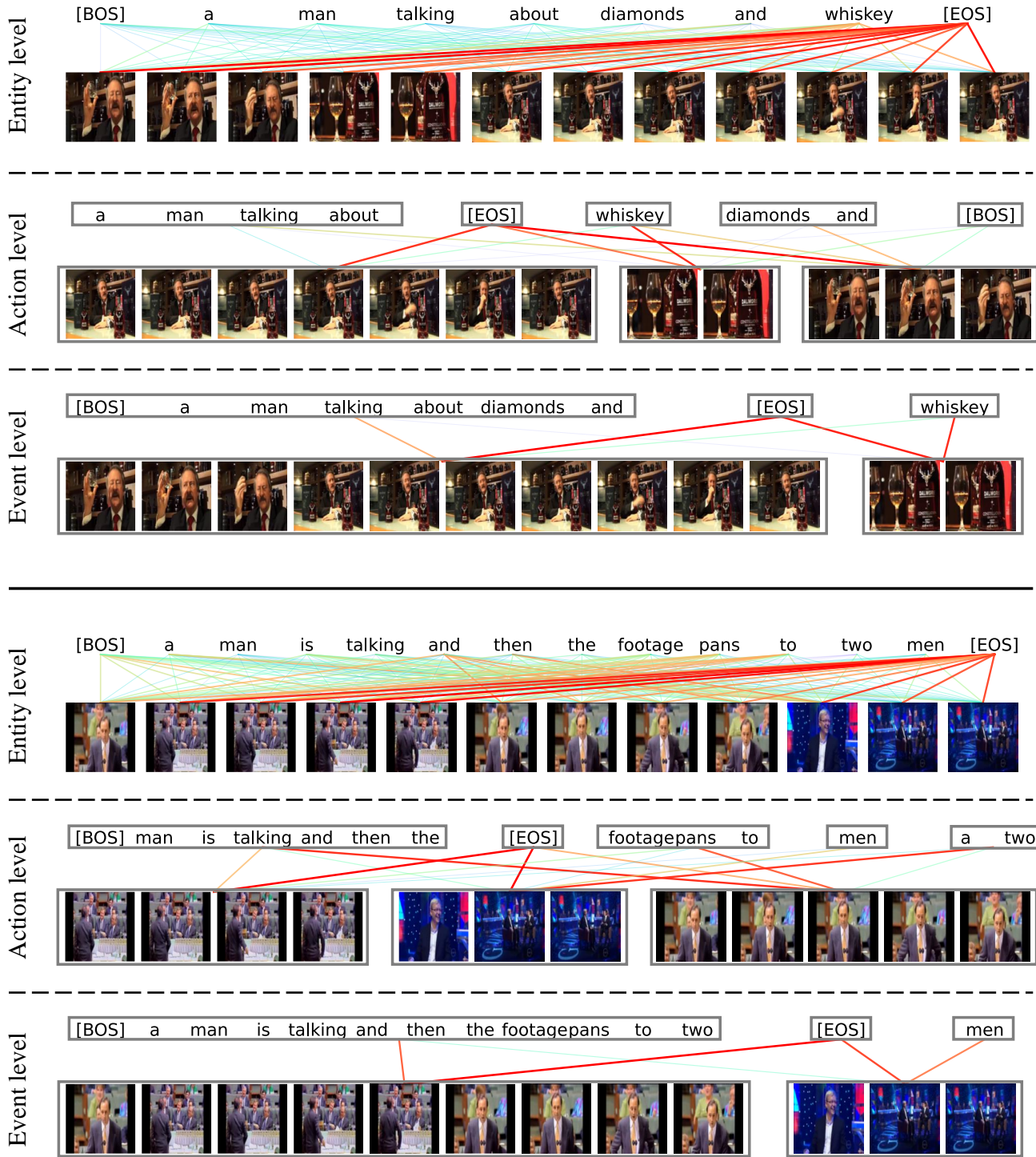


Figure G. **Visualization of the hierarchical interaction.** Here, the degree of confidence from high to low is represented by red, orange, green and blue lines, respectively. Entity-level interactions demonstrate the semantic correlation between frames and words. Action-level interactions indicate the semantic correlation between clips and phrases. Event-level interactions show the semantic correlation between segments and paragraphs.

indicate that stacking more token merge modules can provide more coalitions, which enables the model to learn more diverse semantic interaction information. We make a trade-off between the number of semantic levels and computation cost and set the number of semantic levels to 3 in practice.

C.6. Limitations of our Work

The cross-modal contrastive approach typically exploits the coarse-grained labels of video-text pairs to learn a global semantic interaction. To move a step further, we model video-text as game players with multivariate cooperative game theory to handle the uncertainty during fine-grained semantic interaction with diverse granularity, flexible combination, and vague intensity. Therefore, our method inevitably requires more training time costs. Although our method takes less time than TS2-Net [13] during the inference stage (see Tab. 5 in the main paper), more effort could be paid to obtain an efficient structure in the future.

D. Visualizations

D.1. Text-to-Video Retrieval

We show two retrieval examples from the MSR-VTT testing set for text-to-video retrieval in Fig. C. As shown in Fig. C, our method successfully retrieves the ground-truth video. These results demonstrate that our method can align video and text effectively.

D.2. Video-Question Answering

We show the visualization of the video-question answering in Fig. D. As shown in Fig. D, our method succeeds in getting the ground-truth answer. These results demonstrate that our method can deal with cross-modal inference task effectively.

D.3. Hierarchical Interaction

To better understand the proposed method, we show the visualization of the hierarchical interaction in Fig. E, Fig. F and Fig. G. This experiment shows that our Hierarchical Banzhaf Interaction (HBI) can effectively handle fine-grained semantic interaction with diverse granularity, flexible combination, and vague intensity. More encouragingly, the visualization illustrates that the proposed method can be used as a tool for visualizing the cross-modal interaction and help us understand the cross-modal model.

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