

Bridging Brain and Semantics: A Hierarchical Framework for Semantically Enhanced fMRI-to-Video Reconstruction

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Abstract

Reconstructing dynamic visual experiences as videos from functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) is pivotal for advancing the understanding of neural processes. However, current fMRI-to-video reconstruction methods are hindered by a semantic gap between noisy fMRI signals and the rich content of videos, stemming from a reliance on incomplete semantic embeddings that neither capture video-specific cues (e.g., actions) nor integrate prior knowledge. To this end, we draw inspiration from the dual-pathway processing mechanism in human brain and introduce CINENEURON, a novel hierarchical framework for semantically enhanced video reconstruction from fMRI signals with two synergistic stages. First, a bottom-up semantic enrichment stage maps fMRI signals to a rich embedding space that comprehensively captures textual semantics, image contents, action concepts, and object categories. Second, a top-down memory integration stage utilizes the proposed Mixture-of-Memories method to dynamically select relevant “memories” from previously seen data and fuse them with the fMRI embedding to refine the video reconstruction. Extensive experimental results on two fMRI-to-video benchmarks demonstrate that CINENEURON surpasses state-of-the-art methods across various metrics.

1. Introduction

Understanding how the human brain processes visual information has long been a central goal in cognitive neuroscience [1, 11, 15, 50, 90]. Among various efforts, re-

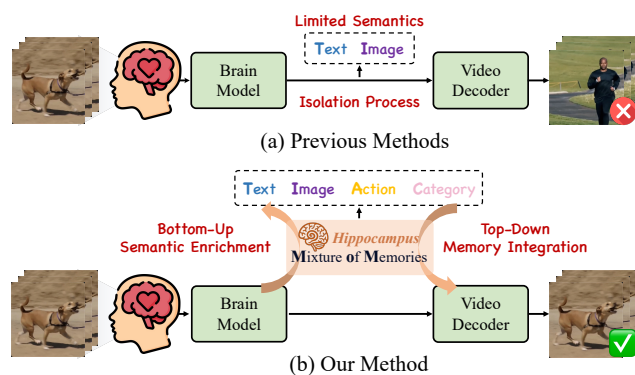


Figure 1. **Comparison with previous methods.** (a) Previous methods often align fMRI embeddings with limited semantics in an isolation process, relying only on the current stimulus and yielding semantically inaccurate results. (b) Our method enriches the fMRI embeddings with comprehensive video semantics and introduces Mixture-of-Memories to dynamically select and fuse prior knowledge, producing semantically coherent videos.

constructing visual experiences from neural signals, particularly functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI), offers valuable insights into the neural representations underlying visual perception. While earlier studies [2, 9, 53, 80] have made substantial progress in reconstructing static images from fMRI signals, extending this success to continuous visual stimuli (e.g., videos) remains an open challenge.

The difficulty mainly stems from accurately recovering both spatial content and temporal dynamics of videos from raw fMRI signals that have a low signal-to-noise ratio and limited temporal resolution [3]. The inherent sparsity and noise of fMRI further blur the high-level meaning of the underlying neural responses [73, 113], making it difficult to extract comprehensive semantics from fMRI data alone. Prior works [10, 25, 66] have attempted to enrich semantics by aligning fMRI embeddings with additional images and text representations. However, as shown in Fig. 1, these methods still suffer from low semantic coherence and reconstruct videos with incorrect objects for two reasons: **1)** They ignore the rich semantics embedded in video stimuli,

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such as actions and object categories, which are essential for faithful video reconstruction; **2)** They treat the fMRI reconstruction in isolation, using only the current stimulus. In fact, the human brain interprets the visual world by incorporating both incoming stimuli and memories of learned semantic concepts [83, 84]. Therefore, *enriching the semantic capacity of fMRI embeddings and integrating prior knowledge are both crucial for bridging the semantic gap between brain activity and reconstructed videos.*

This hierarchical design principle is also consistent with the brain’s dual processing pathways [12, 22]. Specifically, a bottom-up pathway extracts high-level semantics by accumulating sensory evidence from early to higher-order visual regions, while a top-down pathway delivers semantic predictions and integrated memories from hippocampal systems back to the sensory cortex to refine stimulus perception. This synergistic interaction is fundamental to how the brain constructs a coherent perception of the real world.

Drawing inspiration from this dual-pathway mechanism, we present CINENEURON, a hierarchical framework for semantically enhanced fMRI-to-video reconstruction by unifying two synergistic stages: **1)** *bottom-up semantic enrichment*, which enriches the fMRI representations with multimodal semantics extracted from the current video stimuli, and **2)** *top-down memory integration*, which incorporates “memories” from the semantic embeddings of previously seen data to supplement and refine the fMRI representations, ensuring a coherent video reconstruction.

Specifically, in the first stage, we decompose the semantics hidden in the video stimuli into multiple dimensions and extract corresponding embeddings using heterogeneous pre-trained encoders. Beyond aligning fMRI only with image and text modalities, we design explicit video tasks using action concepts and object categories. Then, we train a Brain Model to map fMRI signals into a space capturing these comprehensive semantics, creating a semantically rich foundation for fMRI-to-video reconstruction.

In the second stage, we introduce a Mixture-of-Memories (MoM) module to refine the Stage-1 fMRI embedding by fusing it with prior “memories,” *i.e.*, multimodal embeddings from previously seen data. Analogous to hippocampal processing, MoM proceeds in two coordinated steps: retrieval and integration. The retrieval step uses a modality-aware router to dynamically assign weights to multimodal memories and selects the most relevant ones via weighted similarity. The integration step then aggregates these selected memories with the fMRI embedding, producing a fused representation that incorporates prior knowledge while preserving current neural evidence. This final representation is then passed to a video decoder to reconstruct temporally consistent and semantically coherent videos.

We evaluate the effectiveness of CINENEURON on two challenging fMRI-to-video reconstruction datasets,

cc2017 [110] and CineBrain [20], where it outperforms state-of-the-art methods across metrics and reconstructs semantically accurate and visually coherent videos.

Our contributions are summarized as follows: **1)** We present CINENEURON, a novel hierarchical framework for semantically enhanced fMRI-to-video reconstruction by synergizing the bottom-up semantic enrichment with the top-down memory integration. **2)** We propose to enrich the semantics of fMRI signals by learning explicit tasks for video stimuli, capturing comprehensive semantics with image, text, action, and category concepts. **3)** We propose a novel Mixture-of-Memories method that dynamically selects and fuses relevant multimodal embeddings with the fMRI embedding to refine video decoding. **4)** Extensive experimental results on two fMRI-to-video benchmarks demonstrate the superior performance of CINENEURON over state-of-the-art methods.

2. Related Work

2.1. Brain Decoding

Decoding visual stimuli from brain activity, particularly fMRI signals, has attracted growing attention in recent years [4, 9, 14, 18, 19, 36–41, 59, 60, 65, 68, 75, 80, 97, 102]. While previous works have shown promising results in decoding static images from fMRI signals [26, 111, 115, 119, 120], the human visual perception is inherently dynamic and continuous. This gap highlights the need for fMRI-to-video reconstruction, which enables a deeper understanding of how the brain processes real-world stimuli. However, reconstructing video content from fMRI signals presents greater challenges due to the low temporal resolution and signal-to-noise ratio of the measurements [17, 58, 66, 96, 98].

Recent fMRI-to-video reconstruction methods typically learn semantic embedding from raw fMRI signals and then drive a video generator [66, 98, 116]. For instance, Mind-Video [10] aligns a self-supervised fMRI encoder to CLIP [76] and adapts an inflated Stable Diffusion [79] model for video reconstruction. NeuroClips [25] advances this further by encoding semantic keyframes from low-level perceptual flows, improving the smoothness of generated videos. Despite these advances, previous methods capture only shallow semantics as they rely primarily on image-text aligned spaces and treat reconstruction as an isolated process, using only the current fMRI stimulus and ignoring prior learned knowledge. In contrast, our work explicitly enriches fMRI with comprehensive semantics by learning tasks over text, image, *action*, and *category* concepts and integrating multimodal memories for refined decoding.

2.2. Diffusion Models for Video Generation

Diffusion models have become the dominant paradigm for image and video synthesis [28, 30–32, 108, 118], primarily due to their superior generation fidelity and flexible conditioning mechanisms [51, 52, 85, 87–89, 105, 106]. Early works like VDM [33] pioneer this direction by extending image diffusion to videos, while subsequent text-to-video models [6, 7, 99] integrate spatiotemporal modules for higher temporal consistency. Driven by the rapid progress of Transformers [93] in understanding [62, 63] and generation [61, 91, 107] tasks, Diffusion Transformers (DiT) [74] establishes a new paradigm that further enhances generation quality [45, 109]. Modern video generation models push long-range coherence with advanced DiT architectures. For example, CogVideoX [114] introduces a spatiotemporal VAE [8, 44] and a multimodal DiT with full attention. Wan [94] adopts a cross-attention DiT trained on large-scale data, enhancing video coherence. In this work, we adopt Wan2.1 1.3B as our default video decoder backbone, but our framework is model-agnostic and can be readily integrated into other models like CogVideoX.

3. Method

The overall framework of CINENEURON is illustrated in Fig. 2, which consists of two main learning stages. 1) In the bottom-up semantic enrichment stage (Sec. 3.1), a Brain Model is designed to map fMRI signals to an embedding space that captures comprehensive semantics. 2) In the top-down memory integration stage (Sec. 3.2), the proposed Mixture-of-Memories module first utilizes fMRI embeddings to retrieve relevant text, image, and action embeddings from an established memory pool, and then integrate them into the fMRI embeddings to serve as the input condition for the video decoder.

3.1. Bottom-Up Semantic Enrichment

Extracting reliable semantic cues from noisy raw fMRI signals remains a bottleneck in reconstructing dynamic videos, which necessitates transforming the fMRI signals into more compact, informative representations using multimodal semantic priors [21, 67]. To address this, we enrich the fMRI embeddings with comprehensive semantics, including text, image, action, and object categories, all of which are crucial for video reconstruction. This is driven by a suite of dedicated learning tasks: *image-text semantic alignment*, *action semantic alignment*, and *category semantic learning*.

To begin with, we build on the previous works [10, 20, 49] to design a transformer-based Brain Model that produces two outputs: a global fMRI token summarizing the fMRI signal and an fMRI embedding that retains finer contextual patterns. This dual output allows for functional decoupling, where the global fMRI token supports alignment

with external semantic representations and the fMRI embedding facilitates downstream feature fusion and video reconstruction in the subsequent stage. Below, we detail the semantic enrichment within each task.

Image-Text Semantic Alignment. Given a video clip $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^{B \times F \times C \times H \times W}$ and the paired fMRI signals $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^{B \times N}$, we first feed \mathbf{x} into the Brain Model f to obtain the fMRI global token $\mathbf{f}^c \in \mathbb{R}^{B \times D}$ and the fMRI embedding $\mathbf{f}^e \in \mathbb{R}^{B \times L \times D'}$. The video \mathbf{y} and its caption c are processed by the CLIP encoder to produce multi-frame image embeddings $\mathbf{e}^{\text{img}} \in \mathbb{R}^{B \times F \times D}$ and text embeddings $\mathbf{e}^{\text{txt}} \in \mathbb{R}^{B \times D}$, respectively. Then, a projection head φ_v aggregates the multi-frame image embeddings into a consolidated image embedding $\hat{\mathbf{e}}^{\text{img}} = \varphi_v(\mathbf{e}^{\text{img}}) \in \mathbb{R}^{B \times D}$. Finally, we employ the InfoNCE loss [71] to align the global fMRI token with image and text embeddings:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{clip}} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{info}}(\mathbf{f}^c, \hat{\mathbf{e}}^{\text{img}}) + \mathcal{L}_{\text{info}}(\mathbf{f}^c, \mathbf{e}^{\text{txt}}), \quad (1)$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{info}}(\mathbf{f}^c, \mathbf{e}) = -\frac{1}{B} \sum_{i=1}^B \log \frac{\exp(\mathbf{f}_i^c \cdot \mathbf{e}_i / \tau)}{\sum_{j=1}^B \exp(\mathbf{f}_i^c \cdot \mathbf{e}_j / \tau)}, \quad (2)$$

where τ is the temperature.

Action Semantic Alignment. Apart from image and text representations, actions such as walking and swimming are vital to understanding video content and preventing semantic discrepancies for the fMRI-to-video reconstruction. To this end, we introduce an action alignment task using ViCLIP [103], a video understanding model pretrained on a large-scale dataset of 10 million video-text pairs. ViCLIP exhibits robust zero-shot capabilities for video understanding and action recognition, thereby effectively capturing the action and temporal information in the input videos [35]. We process the video \mathbf{y} with ViCLIP to obtain action embeddings \mathbf{e}^{act} , and map the fMRI global token into the action space using an action head φ_a , yielding $\mathbf{f}^a = \varphi_a(\mathbf{f}^c)$. Consequently, we compute the action contrastive loss $\mathcal{L}_{\text{action}}$ to align the projected fMRI token and the action embedding, formulated as $\mathcal{L}_{\text{action}} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{info}}(\mathbf{f}^a, \mathbf{e}^{\text{act}})$.

Category Semantic Learning. While contrastive learning ensures semantic alignment at the embedding level, explicitly identifying objects within a video helps the Brain Model capture category semantics. To achieve this, we introduce a multi-label classification task. Specifically, we utilize Qwen2.5-VL [101] to extract object categories from video captions based on the MSCOCO category list [54], and train a classification head φ_c for category prediction using binary cross-entropy (BCE) loss. However, directly training the Brain Model with this objective faces two main challenges: 1) the large number of categories complicates the task, impeding effective category semantic learning; and 2) the class imbalance can bias predictions towards frequent classes. To address these issues, we simplify the categories by filtering and merging infrequent classes into a reduced

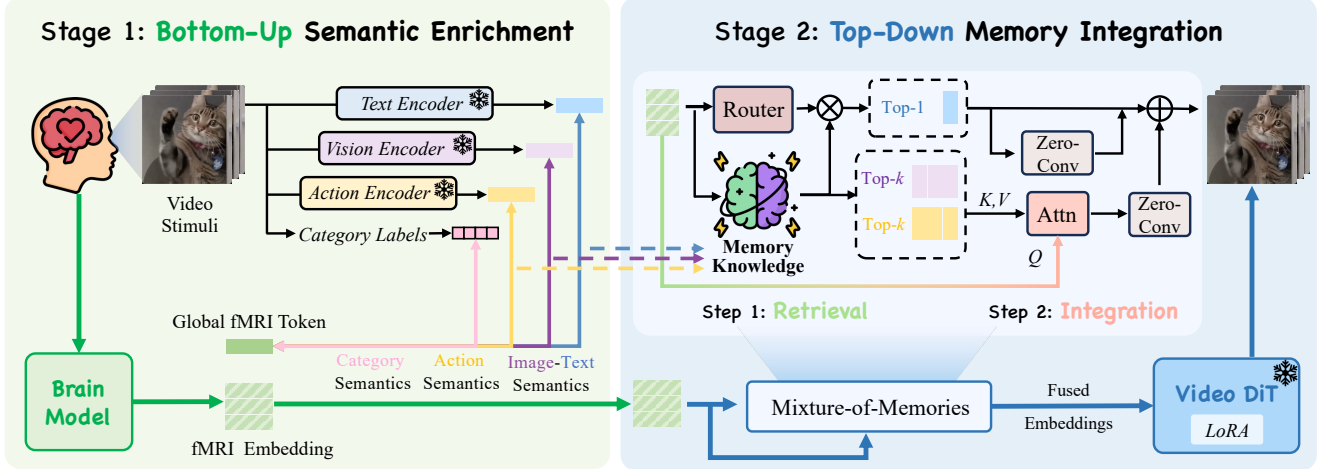


Figure 2. **Overview of the proposed CINEURON.** In stage 1, given an input fMRI-video pair, the fMRI signals are first embedded by a Brain Model and enriched with the text, image, action, and category semantics extracted from the video. In stage 2, the proposed Mixture-of-Memories method dynamically selects multimodal embeddings from previously seen data via a router and fuses them with the fMRI embeddings via a fusion mechanism, guiding the Video DiT for semantically-enhanced and high-quality video reconstruction.

set of superclasses, and apply Focal Loss [55] to dynamically reweight samples within each category. The final classification loss \mathcal{L}_{cls} is a combination of BCE and focal loss. Finally, the loss for this stage is given by:

$$\mathcal{L}_{stage1} = \mathcal{L}_{clip} + \lambda_1 \mathcal{L}_{action} + \lambda_2 \mathcal{L}_{cls}. \quad (3)$$

3.2. Top-Down Memory Integration

The first stage equips fMRI embeddings with multimodal semantic information, yet further refinement is necessary to enhance and supplement semantic and perceptual details in the sparse fMRI signals. Inspired by the hippocampal memory replay, we introduce Mixture-of-Memories (MoM), a two-step retrieval-and-integration method. MoM first replays and retrieves multimodal embeddings from a memory pool built from seen training videos, and then integrates these memories into the fMRI embedding to guide the decoder, refining reconstructed videos.

Retrieval Step. The first step of MoM is to retrieve the most relevant memories using the fMRI embeddings from the bottom-up semantic enrichment stage. A straightforward solution is to compare the text embeddings in the memory pool with the fMRI embeddings, obtain the most similar one as a condition, and feed it into the subsequent Video DiT model for reconstruction. However, such naïve strategy is sensitive to imprecise retrieval due to noise or ambiguity in the fMRI signals.

To this end, we incorporate multimodal embeddings as memories and adaptively weighs the contributions of each modality. Let \mathcal{M} denote the memory pool with N entries, where each entry i is a tuple of tri-modality embeddings $(e_i^{txt}, e_i^{img}, e_i^{act})$ extracted from the same training video. A routing network R first computes instance-specific retrieval

weights of three modalities using fMRI embedding f^e :

$$W_r = [w^{txt}, w^{img}, w^{act}] = \text{softmax}(R(f^e)). \quad (4)$$

Instead of retrieving from each modality independently, we compute a *mixture score* S_i for each memory entry through a weighted sum of its multimodal similarities to f^e :

$$S_i = \sum_{m \in \mathcal{M}_{\text{modal}}} w_m \cdot \text{sim}(f^e, e_i^m), \quad i \in \{1, \dots, N\}, \quad (5)$$

where $\mathcal{M}_{\text{modal}} = \{\text{txt}, \text{img}, \text{act}\}$ and $\text{sim}(\cdot, \cdot)$ denotes cosine similarity. We then re-rank all memory entries based on their mixture scores S_i . Specifically, let $\{i_1, i_2, \dots, i_K\}$ be the indices of the memory entries corresponding to the top- K highest scores, we select the top-1 text embedding $e_{i_1}^{\text{mem}} = e_{i_1}^{\text{txt}}$ from the highest-scoring entry, along with the sets of top- K image and action embeddings $e_{\text{img}}^{\text{mem}} = \{e_{i_k}^{\text{img}}\}_{k=1}^K$ and $e_{\text{act}}^{\text{mem}} = \{e_{i_k}^{\text{act}}\}_{k=1}^K$. This mixture weighting strategy allows the model to dynamically prioritize the most relevant modality for each input instance, enhancing retrieval precision.

Integration Step. The second step of MoM is to fuse retrieved multimodal embeddings from the memory pool into the fMRI embedding. Specifically, we design a fusion mechanism using two cross-attention layers and zero-convolution layers. In cross-attention layers, the fMRI embedding f^e functions as the query, while K retrieved image embeddings $e_{\text{img}}^{\text{mem}}$ and action embeddings $e_{\text{act}}^{\text{mem}}$ serve as keys and values, respectively. This attention mechanism injects visual and action cues into the fMRI embedding, producing an enhanced representation \hat{f}^e :

$$\hat{f}^e = \text{CrossAttention}(Q^e, K^{\text{img}}, V^{\text{img}}) + \text{CrossAttention}(Q^e, K^{\text{act}}, V^{\text{act}}), \quad (6)$$

where $Q^e = W_Q f^e$, $K^{\text{img}} = W_K e_{\text{img}}^{\text{mem}}$, and $V^{\text{img}} = W_V e_{\text{img}}^{\text{mem}}$. K^{act} and V^{act} are computed similarly.

We then employ a dual-stream structure to fuse \hat{f}^e with the retrieved top-1 text embedding $e_{\text{txt}}^{\text{mem}}$. Concretely, \hat{f}^e is first passed through a normalization layer [86, 112] to scale it comparably to the text embeddings, facilitating effective integration. Following normalization, a zero-conv layer $\mathcal{Z}_{\text{fMRI}}$ is applied to \hat{f}^e to ensure stability in training by initializing outputs to zero. To balance the contributions of both modalities, another zero-conv layer \mathcal{Z}_{txt} is added for text embedding $e_{\text{txt}}^{\text{mem}}$ in a residual manner, ensuring the initial fused embedding equates to $e_{\text{txt}}^{\text{mem}}$:

$$z_f = \mathcal{Z}_{\text{fMRI}}(\text{Norm}(\hat{f}^e)), \quad z_t = \mathcal{Z}_{\text{txt}}(e_{\text{txt}}^{\text{mem}}) + e_{\text{txt}}^{\text{mem}}. \quad (7)$$

Finally, the embeddings are then summed to produce the fused embeddings f^{fuse} as follows:

$$f^{\text{fuse}} = z_t + \alpha * z_f, \quad (8)$$

where α is the weighting factor for balance. The final fused embedding f^{fuse} are fed into the Video DiT ϵ_θ , trained with LoRA [34] modules using diffusion loss [32, 56, 57]:

$$\mathcal{L}(\theta) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{y}, \epsilon, f^{\text{fuse}}, t} [\|\epsilon - \epsilon_\theta(\mathbf{y}_t, f^{\text{fuse}}, t)\|_2^2], \quad (9)$$

where \mathbf{y}_t is the noisy video at diffusion timestep t , and ϵ is the random Gaussian noise. In total, the loss for the Top-Down Memory Integration stage is formulated as:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{stage2}} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{stage1}} + \mathcal{L}(\theta). \quad (10)$$

3.3. Inference

In contrast to the complex inference processes of previous methods [25, 98], which necessitate components like ControlNet [117], keyframe reconstruction for the first frame of the video, and additional condition generation, our *end-to-end* pipeline is straightforward and efficient. Users simply input fMRI signals into our Brain Model, and the Mixture-of-Memories then produces fused embeddings that condition the video decoder for seamless reconstruction.

4. Experiment

4.1. Experimental Setup

Datasets. We conduct experiments on two publicly available fMRI-to-video datasets: cc2017 [110] and CineBrain [20]. The cc2017 dataset comprises fMRI data from three subjects who viewed various natural videos; the stimuli are split into 18 eight-minute training segments (2 repeats) and 5 eight-minute test segments (10 repeats), yielding around 11.5 hours of data per subject. The CineBrain dataset provides synchronized EEG and fMRI recordings from six healthy participants as they watch and listen to

20 episodes of ‘‘The Big Bang Theory’’ (720p), totaling approximately 6 hours of audiovisual stimuli per subject. The fMRI data were sampled at 1.25 Hz. We preprocess the cc2017 fMRI data following NeuroClips [25]. For the CineBrain dataset, which provides visual ROIs, we follow the same pipeline to extract the additional hippocampus ROI for our experiments. More details about preprocessing are provided in the Supplementary Materials A.1.

Evaluation Metrics. We evaluate the reconstructed videos at semantic, spatiotemporal, and pixel levels [20, 25]. For semantic-level evaluation, we compute N -way top- K accuracy to assess whether the generated videos semantically match the ground-truth (GT) clips, using a VideoMAE [92]-based classifier on 400 video classes from the Kinetics-400 dataset [42], following prior work [20, 25, 98]. For spatiotemporal-level evaluation, we use CLIP temporal consistency (CLIP-pcc) [77] and DINO [72] temporal consistency [20, 35] (DTC) to measure the spatiotemporal coherence of the generated videos. Additionally, we employ the Motion Smoothness (MS) and Dynamic Degree [35] to assess the smoothness and magnitude of movements, along with the Mean End-Point Error (EPE) to assess the motion consistency compared with GT videos. Apart from video-based metrics above, we also assess frame-wise image quality at both semantic and pixel levels; see Supplementary Materials A.2 and C.2 for more details and results.

Implementation Details. We use the AdamW [64] optimizer with the OneCycle learning rate schedule [82]. In the first stage, the Brain Model is trained for 8,000 steps with a batch size of 144 and a learning rate of 1×10^{-4} . In the second stage, the Brain Model along with the router and fusion module in Mixture-of-Memories are trained for 20 epochs with a batch size of 32 and a learning rate of 1×10^{-6} . Following [10, 20], the transformer-based Brain Model consists of 24 layers, each with a hidden dimension of 2048 and a token length of 513 (512 fMRI embedding tokens plus one global fMRI token). We use a LoRA rank of 16 with a scaling factor of 16. We adopt Wan2.1 1.3B [95] as our video decoder. On the cc2017 dataset, we generate 57-frame videos at 624×624 , much longer and higher resolution than NeuroClips (16 frames at 256×256) and MindVideo (6 frames at 256×256). On the CineBrain dataset, we generate 33 frames at 720×480 resolution, matching the source videos. More implementation details are provided in the Supplementary Materials A.3.

4.2. Main Results

Results on cc2017 Dataset. Fig. 3 reveals that the baselines suffer from semantic errors and low reconstruction quality. For example, in the left and right panels of Fig. 3, both MindVideo and NeuroClips fail to reconstruct the yoga and petting actions; in the middle panel, MindVideo incorrectly decodes the dog as a person, while NeuroClips hallu-

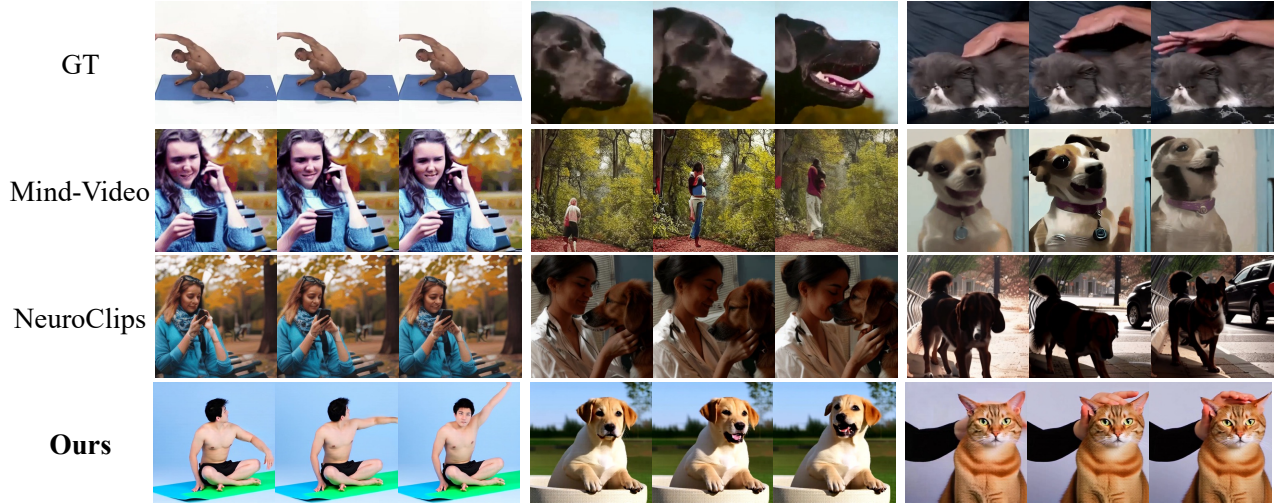


Figure 3. **Qualitative comparison of CINENEURON and baselines on the cc2017 dataset.**

Table 1. **Quantitative comparison results of all subjects on the cc2017 and CineBrain datasets.** Results for the cc2017 dataset are quoted from [25, 66], except for the DTC and MS (Motion Smoothness) metrics. Results for the CineBrain dataset are quoted from [20], except for the MS metric. “*” denotes methods reimplemented using the same decoder model and fMRI input as CINENEURON.

DATASET	METHODS	Semantic-level		Spatiotemporal-level			Pixel-level	
		2-way	50-way	CLIP-pcc	DTC	MS	SSIM	PSNR
cc2017	Kupershmidt [47]	0.771±0.03	-	0.386±0.47	-	-	0.135±0.08	8.761±2.22
	MinD-Video [10]	<u>0.839±0.03</u>	0.197±0.02	0.408±0.46	0.884±0.08	0.901±0.05	0.171±0.08	8.662±1.52
	Mind-Animator [66]	0.830	-	0.425	-	-	0.321	<u>9.220</u>
	NeuroClips [25]	0.834±0.03	<u>0.220±0.01</u>	<u>0.738±0.17</u>	<u>0.926±0.05</u>	<u>0.955±0.01</u>	0.390±0.08	9.211±1.46
	CINENEURON	0.850±0.02	0.240±0.03	0.972±0.01	0.954±0.01	0.966±0.02	<u>0.375±0.06</u>	9.476±0.23
CineBrain	GLFA [49]	0.801	0.167	0.735	0.706	-	0.123	7.526
	CineSync [20]	0.893	0.307	0.945	0.907	<u>0.974±0.01</u>	0.240	11.92
	CineSync*	<u>0.933±0.02</u>	<u>0.324±0.02</u>	<u>0.977±0.01</u>	<u>0.942±0.01</u>	<u>0.973±0.01</u>	<u>0.267±0.04</u>	16.04±2.35
	CINENEURON	0.937±0.02	0.393±0.03	0.988±0.01	0.975±0.01	0.975±0.01	0.271±0.05	<u>16.02±2.38</u>

cinates spurious objects (a woman) and background context (a room) that are absent from the GT video. In contrast, our CINENEURON faithfully reconstructs complex videos with coherent action, category, and context semantics, demonstrating its superior performance.

Tab. 1 shows that our method achieves the best scores on semantic and spatiotemporal metrics, showing the effectiveness of our comprehensive semantic enrichment and the Mixture-of-Memories design. At the pixel level, we obtain the highest PSNR and competitive SSIM. Although NeuroClips reports slightly higher SSIM, its reconstructions exhibit inferior semantics and temporal coherence, indicating a trade-off between fidelity and semantic alignment. In contrast, our method strikes a better balance. Note that Tab. 1 reports the average scores across all subjects; per-subject results are provided in Supplementary Materials C.1.

Results on CineBrain Dataset. Tab. 1 shows that our method outperforms all baselines across most metrics while achieving comparable PSNR with only marginal differences, confirming the broad effectiveness of our framework. Notably, our method also outperforms CineSync*, an en-

hanced baseline that uses the same decoder and additional hippocampal fMRI input as CINENEURON. Per-subject results are provided in Supplementary Materials C.1.

Fig. 4 shows that strong baselines (e.g., CineSync and CineSync*) still struggle to accurately reconstruct visual details or capture action semantics. In contrast, videos reconstructed from our method are temporally consistent and semantically accurate.

Comparison on Motion Consistency. Tab. 2 shows that our method achieves the lowest (best) endpoint error (EPE) on both cc2017 and CineBrain datasets, indicating the closest match to GT motion trajectories. We further assess motion magnitude using the Dynamic Degree metric [35], reporting the absolute difference from the GT (lower is better). Our method achieves the smallest discrepancy, closely matching the GT motion magnitude.

Human Evaluation Results. We conduct a comprehensive human evaluation to further evaluate the video reconstruction performance. Twenty participants evaluate 360 video groups, comparing videos from four anonymous methods (MindVideo, NeuroClips, Mind-Animator, and our



Figure 4. Qualitative comparison of CINE NEURON and baselines on the CineBrain dataset.

Table 2. Quantitative comparison of motion consistency on the cc2017 and CineBrain datasets. “ Δ Dynamic Degree” denotes the absolute difference from the GT videos’ Dynamic Degree; lower values indicate motion amplitudes closer to the GT.

METRIC	Test Set: cc2017			Test Set: CineBrain	
	MINDVIDEO	NEUROCLIPS	CINE NEURON	CINESYNC	CINE NEURON
EPE (\downarrow)	9.045	4.432	1.628	3.258	2.126
Δ Dynamic Degree (\downarrow)	0.1155	0.2133	0.0200	0.2611	0.0649

Table 3. Human evaluation results.

METHOD	Semantic Alignment	Temporal Consistency	Visual Quality	Overall Fidelity
MindVideo	8.31%	7.74%	9.08%	7.79%
NeuroClips	16.30%	18.13%	13.79%	15.80%
Mind-Animator	11.62%	8.23%	6.46%	8.82%
Ours	63.77%	65.90%	70.67%	67.59%

CINE NEURON) to the GT video over four dimensions: 1) Semantic Alignment, 2) Temporal Consistency, 3) Visual Quality, and 4) Overall Fidelity. The results in Tab. 3 show that CINE NEURON significantly outperforms competing methods across all dimensions.

4.3. Ablation Studies

We conduct ablation studies to evaluate each component’s effectiveness on cc2017 dataset, and the impact of using additional hippocampus fMRI data on CineBrain dataset.

Ablation on Each Proposed Component. Quantitative (Tab. 4) and qualitative (Fig. 6) ablation results highlight the effectiveness of each component. For ablation baselines without Mixture-of-Memories (MoM), we condition the video decoder on the retrieved most similar (top-1) text embedding for reconstruction. We observe that the baseline using only \mathcal{L}_{clip} struggles to generate semantically accurate videos. Introducing the classification loss \mathcal{L}_{cls} improves object recognition (*e.g.*, identifying the object as two persons, as in Fig. 6), but still fails to capture correct actions.

Table 4. Quantitative ablation of each component on Subject 1 of the cc2017 dataset.

KEY COMPONENTS	Semantic-level		Spatiotemporal-level						
	\mathcal{L}_{clip}	\mathcal{L}_{cls}	\mathcal{L}_{action}	MoM	2-way	50-way	CLIP-pecc	DTC	MS
✓					0.824 \pm 0.01	0.217 \pm 0.03	0.973\pm0.01	0.960\pm0.03	0.961 \pm 0.01
✓	✓				0.829 \pm 0.01	0.228\pm0.03	0.965 \pm 0.01	0.951 \pm 0.01	0.956 \pm 0.02
✓	✓	✓			0.835\pm0.02	0.223 \pm 0.04	0.970\pm0.01	0.957 \pm 0.01	0.963\pm0.01
✓	✓	✓	✓		0.846\pm0.02	0.237\pm0.02	0.973\pm0.01	0.959\pm0.01	0.967\pm0.02

Adding the action contrastive loss \mathcal{L}_{action} further helps the model grasp action concepts (*e.g.*, detecting that a person is running), though details remain inaccurate. Finally, incorporating the MoM module allows the model to accurately perceive both object categories and actions, and effectively reconstruct fine-grained details.

Ablation on the Input fMRI Data. By default, on the CineBrain dataset, CINE NEURON takes fMRI data from both the visual area and hippocampus as input for video reconstruction. As shown in the second row of Tab. 5, removing the hippocampus fMRI input causes a performance drop in semantic-level metrics while spatiotemporal metrics remain comparable. This indicates that the hippocampus provides crucial semantic information, validating our top-down memory integration design. Furthermore, we test the effect of adding fMRI signals from the mPFC region, which is known to collaborate with the hippocampus in memory processing. As shown in the third row of Tab. 5, including mPFC inputs yields further performance gains, especially on semantic metrics. This result reinforces our model’s de-

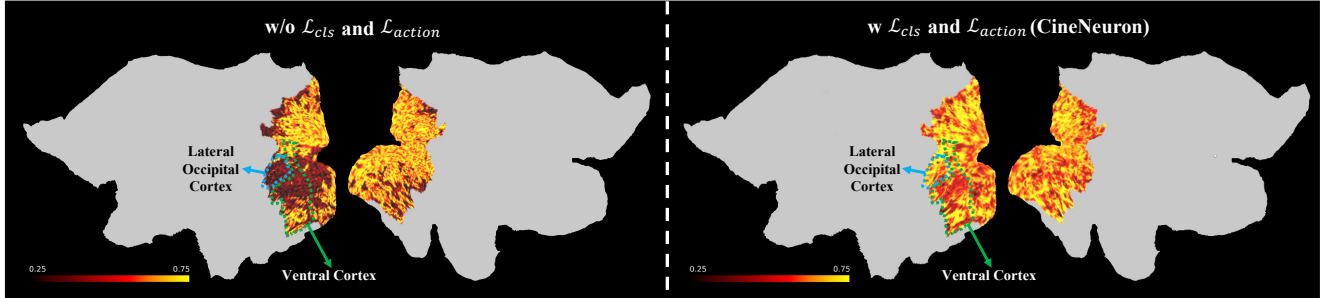


Figure 5. **Visualization of voxel weights from the first regression layer.** Voxel weights are averaged and normalized to $[0, 1]$, displayed with a 0.25 to 0.75 colorbar. The blue and green dotted lines indicate the lateral occipital and ventral cortex, respectively.



Figure 6. **Qualitative ablation of each proposed component.**

sign, which integrates retrieved memories (long-term) with current fMRI features (working memory).

Ablation on Integration Step in MoM. Tab. 6 ablates the MoM integration step and shows it is the main contributor to spatiotemporal quality gains. Prior work like MindVideo directly conditions the generator on raw fMRI features, which are misaligned with the pretrained model’s text-anchored conditioning space, leading to poor spatiotemporal quality. In contrast, our integration step in MoM uses residual fusion with retrieved multimodal memories to supplement details missing from fMRI while preserving the stability of the generator’s feature space, producing higher-quality videos.

4.4. Interpretation Results

To assess the neural interpretability of our model, we visualize voxel weights within the visual cortex on a brain flat map, comparing models trained without and with the

Table 5. **Quantitative ablation of hippocampus and mPFC fMRI inputs on Subject 5 of the CineBrain dataset.**

METHODS	Semantic-level		Spatiotemporal-level		
	2-way	50-way	CLIP-pcc	DTC	MS
CINENEURON	0.938±0.01	0.401±0.02	0.990±0.01	0.978±0.01	0.976±0.01
- hippo. input	0.935±0.02	0.358±0.03	0.993±0.01	0.974±0.01	0.975±0.01
+ mPFC	0.945±0.01	0.442±0.03	0.993±0.01	0.981±0.01	0.976±0.01

Table 6. **Quantitative ablation of MoM’s integration step on Subject 1 of the cc2017 dataset.**

METHODS	Semantic-level		Spatiotemporal-level		
	2-way	50-way	CLIP-pcc	DTC	MS
w/o Integration	0.830±0.02	0.224±0.05	0.802±0.01	0.920±0.01	0.961±0.01
w/ Integration	0.846±0.02	0.237±0.02	0.973±0.01	0.959±0.01	0.967±0.02

combination of category semantic learning \mathcal{L}_{cls} and action semantic alignment \mathcal{L}_{action} on the CineBrain dataset, as shown in Fig. 5. Incorporating these tasks significantly increases voxel weights in the lateral occipital and ventral visual cortices—regions that are critically related to object recognition, shape analysis, and complex visual processing [27, 46]. Notably, weight increases also appear in visual motion-sensitive areas (*e.g.* V5/MT, MST, and FST) within the lateral occipital cortex, highlighting the effectiveness of the designed tasks in enhancing both object identification and visual motion capture [5, 16].

5. Conclusion

In this paper, we present CINENEURON, a hierarchical framework for semantically enhanced fMRI-to-video reconstruction that combines bottom-up semantic enrichment with top-down memory integration. We enrich fMRI embeddings with comprehensive video semantics from text, image, action, and category modalities. Building on these embeddings, our Mixture-of-Memories adaptively retrieves multimodal memories and fuses them into the fMRI representation to refine video reconstruction. Extensive experiments on two datasets show that CINENEURON surpasses prior methods on both qualitative and quantitative results. Furthermore, we provide an interpretable analysis demonstrating functional alignment between the human visual cortex and our model, offering insights into neural processing.

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