
MOMA-LRG: Language-Refined Graphs for Multi-Object Multi-Actor Activity Parsing

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Abstract

1 Video-language models (VLMs), large models pre-trained on numerous but noisy
2 video-text pairs from the internet, have revolutionized activity recognition through
3 their remarkable generalization and open-vocabulary capabilities. While complex
4 human activities are often hierarchical and compositional, most existing tasks
5 for evaluating VLMs focus only on high-level video understanding, making it
6 difficult to accurately assess and interpret the ability of VLMs to understand
7 complex and fine-grained human activities. Inspired by the recently proposed
8 MOMA framework, we define **activity graphs** as a single universal representation
9 of human activities that encompasses video understanding at the activity, sub-
10 activity, and atomic action level. We redefine **activity parsing** as the overarching
11 task of activity graph generation, requiring understanding human activities across
12 all three levels. To facilitate the evaluation of models on activity parsing, we
13 introduce **MOMA-LRG** (Multi-Object Multi-Actor Language-Refined Graphs),
14 a large dataset of complex human activities with activity graph annotations that
15 can be readily transformed into natural language sentences. Lastly, we present a
16 model-agnostic and lightweight approach to adapting and evaluating VLMs by
17 incorporating structured knowledge from activity graphs into VLMs, addressing
18 the individual limitations of language and graphical models. We demonstrate a
19 strong performance on activity parsing and few-shot video classification, and our
20 framework is intended to foster future research in the joint modeling of videos,
21 graphs, and language.

22 1 Introduction

23 Computer vision is currently undergoing a paradigm shift from models trained on crowd-labeled
24 data [1, 2] to large-scale base models [3, 4, 5, 6, 7] trained on noisy but readily accessible image-text
25 pairs. Video understanding is no exception, with the rise of Video-Language Models (VLMs) [8, 9, 10,
26 11, 12, 13, 14] that have shown remarkable generalization capabilities on videos from new domains.
27 When compared to fixed-set video classification [2, 15, 16], VLMs are able to learn and represent a
28 wider variety of concepts and demonstrate superior low-shot abilities on many downstream tasks due
29 to the flexibility and open-vocabulary nature of language. Besides, while annotating videos remains
30 one of the most laborious processes in computer vision, VLMs utilize widely and freely available
31 video-text pairs [9, 8, 13, 17] facilitating larger and more diverse pre-training at a lower cost.

Despite improved generalization and scalability, the application of VLMs to human activity recognition faces a number of challenges. The first challenge is adapting existing VLMs for *fine-grained, actor-centric activity recognition*. Essential computer vision applications in healthcare, surveillance, and robotics are often characterized by complex human activities involving many concurrent events between actors and objects. On the other hand, existing VLMs are typically trained on noisy, coarse-grained internet data and evaluated on downstream tasks that are focused on high-level video understanding [18, 10, 12]. It is unclear how VLMs can be effectively adapted to and accurately evaluated for recognizing fine-grained activities. The second challenge is the *lack of a single overarching task* for evaluating VLMs on activity recognition. Human activities are often hierarchical and compositional [19, 20, 21], requiring explicit modeling and evaluation at multiple levels of granularity. Existing downstream tasks used for VLM evaluation, such as activity classification [18], activity segmentation [10, 12], video-text retrieval [13, 12, 8] and VideoQA [10, 13], only provide an incomplete assessment of VLM performance on activity recognition. Lastly, the black-box nature of VLMs makes their predictions difficult to interpret. This hinders the application of VLMs to many risk-averse domains [22, 23, 24], where it is necessary to interpret VLM predictions in a structured and symbolic manner.

To address the aforementioned challenges, this paper first aims to standardize an overarching representation of human activities across varying levels of granularity and provide a unified task for VLMs by generating this representation. Inspired by the recently proposed MOMA [20] framework, we introduce **activity graphs** as dynamic graphs that encompass activities, sub-activities, and atomic actions in a video. Specifically, an activity graph is a representation that simultaneously (1) provides a class label on the activity level, (2) provides a dynamic sub-activity label that contains all temporal boundaries and categories of sub-activities, and (3) captures fine-grained atomic actions in multi-object multi-actor settings with spatial localization and tracking of all entities and temporal localization of all predicates. Further, we introduce **activity parsing** as the overarching task of predicting the activity graph from a video, thereby achieving multi-level activity recognition via activity graph generation.

Next, we introduce the **MOMA-LRG** dataset, a novel activity recognition dataset that leverages both the descriptive capacity of activity graphs and the expressivity of natural language. MOMA-LRG involves videos with Multiple Objects and Multiple Actors (MOMA) and is designed to enable models to understand a broad set of human activities. To enable few-shot activity recognition with language, MOMA-LRG provides Language-Refined Graph annotations in a format that enables an easy conversion from the structured graph representation into natural language sentences.

Lastly, we introduce **GraphVLM** as our framework for evaluating VLMs on activity parsing, consisting of an activity parsing model and a transfer learning paradigm. We first propose an architecture for activity parsing that can be readily adapted for VLMs, featuring a video stream, a text stream, and video tokenizers shared across all three levels of activity. Although fine-tuning is a widely used transfer learning technique, it requires a fixed architecture and clip sampling approach. In GraphVLM, we propose a transfer learning approach based on knowledge distillation, which enables the adaptation of VLMs in a flexible and lightweight manner.

2 Related work

Activity recognition. Activity recognition tasks a model to identify events performed by human agents. The dominant task has been activity classification on benchmarks such as [2, 15, 16], but other datasets add richer information to their annotations such as spatio-temporal scene graphs [19, 21]. 3D CNNs that jointly model space and time [25, 26, 27] have been popular for activity recognition historically, but recently transformers-based methods have achieved comparable or superior results [28, 29, 30, 31, 32]. Action localization datasets like ActivityNet [15], THUMOS’14 [33], and FineGym [34] label the temporal boundaries and the action class of each action that happens within the video. The methods utilized here tend to propose temporal boundaries and then classify them [35, 36, 37, 38, 39], while others attempt to jointly model both [40, 41]. Other datasets [42, 43]

82 additionally add a spatial dimension which attempts to localize actions in both space and time,
83 where methods include long-term feature banks [44], relation-modeling [45, 46] and pretrained
84 video modules and object detection architectures [43]. MOMA-LRG encompasses and extends these
85 existing video datasets by labeling actions, the sub-activities that compose them, and providing rich
86 scene graph annotations to describe the interactions between entities in a crowded scene.

87 **Video and language models.** Several works pre-train large-scale models jointly on video and
88 language data for a variety of downstream video-language tasks, such as video captioning, VQA,
89 and video-text retrieval [47, 18, 12, 10, 14, 13]. Pre-training these models often either relies on a
90 combination of masked-language-modeling (MLM) and masked-frame-modeling (MFM) [18, 10, 14]
91 or contrastive learning [47, 9, 12, 13]. These VLMs have shown promising zero-shot results for
92 activity recognition tasks such as activity classification [18], action segmentation [12], and action
93 step localization [12, 10]. These methods show powerful zero-shot capabilities for high-level video
94 understanding, however, they lack explicit knowledge about fine-grained interactions between actors
95 and objects.

96 **Fine-tuning large pre-trained models.** Finetuning pre-trained large language models for downstream
97 tasks has recently become the most popular learning method in NLP [48, 49]. Methods for efficiently
98 fine-tuning these large language models, such as using adapter modules [50] and prompting [51, 49],
99 use only a small number of learnable parameters while keeping most of the pre-trained model frozen.
100 As a result, these methods are less computationally expensive than full fine-tuning of the entire
101 model, which is the traditional fine-tuning method used in computer vision [52, 53]. There has been
102 recent work adopting these efficient fine-tuning techniques for vision-language models. [54] and [55]
103 both propose adapter module methods and demonstrate comparable performance to full fine-tuning.
104 On the prompt-tuning side, Zhou et al. [56] develops prompt-tuning techniques for vision-language
105 models for zero-shot image classification, Yao et al. [57] uses prompt-tuning for grounding referring
106 expressions in images, and Ju et al. [58] uses image-level tokens and textual prompt tuning for
107 few-shot action recognition.

108 **Low-shot activity recognition.** Low-shot activity recognition, which recognizes activities that
109 were either scarce or missing from the training set, reduces the reliance on obtaining expensive
110 labels for crowded scenes. Zero-shot action recognition tries to predict unseen classes, where
111 approaches either project visual features into a semantic embedding space [59, 60, 61, 62, 63],
112 an intermediate embedding space learned from textual and visual data [64, 65, 66], or a visual
113 embedding space that is synthesized by incorporating semantic information [67, 68]. Few-shot
114 learning tends to be based on metric-learning that learn similarities to the scarce in-domain training
115 examples [69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74]. Other recent methods utilized self-supervised and contrastive or
116 meta-learning approaches [75, 76] with a high degree of success. More recently, visual-language
117 models have shown strong results on zero-shot recognition [18, 4, 12].

118 **Visual grounding and scene graphs.** Visual grounding merges visual and language understanding
119 by attempting to localize an object in an image space given a text query. Some datasets associate
120 nouns with bounding boxes in the video [77, 78], while others introduce scene graph annotations
121 that describe the relationships between entities in the image [79]. Yu et al. [80] and Chen et al. [81]
122 demonstrate that using hierarchical text-generated scene graphs allows for better representation of
123 fine-grained semantics than using raw text alone. Other work has proposed the use of an action graph
124 to generate novel videos [82, 83], defining an object-centric graph with objects as nodes and edges as
125 actions with temporal annotations. Wang et al. [84] models videos as space-time region graphs that
126 capture long range dependencies and spatial-temporal relations between objects.

127 3 Activity Graphs and the MOMA-LRG Dataset

128 MOMA-LRG improves and extends MOMA [20] by providing the new abstraction of the activity
129 graph as the single universal representation of human activities that encompasses video understanding
130 at the activity, sub-activity and atomic action levels. Thus, our new formulation for the task of
131 activity parsing as activity graph generation allows for a single overarching task for hierarchical

Table 1: A comparison of MOMA-LRG with related video datasets. A dash signifies that the annotation does not exist in the dataset, and n/a indicates that the paper did not report a specific number.

Dataset	Hours	Levels	Activity		Sub-activity		Actor		Object		Atomic action		Unary predicate		Binary predicate	
			Classes	Instances	Classes	Instances	Classes	Instances	Classes	Instances	Classes	Instances	Classes	Instances	Classes	Instances
AVA [42]	107.5	2	-	-	-	-	1	424K	-	-	14	424K	66	651K	-	-
AVA-Kinetics [85]	638.9	2	-	-	-	-	1	310K	-	-	13	633K	47	~ 800K	-	-
Action Genome [19]	82	2	157	10K	-	-	-	-	35	0.4M	-	-	25	1.7M	-	-
FineGym [34]	708	3	10	4.9K	530	32.7K	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Home Action Genome [21]	25.4	3	75	1.75K	453	24.6K	1	24.6K	86	n/a	-	-	29	583K	-	-
MultiSports [43]	18.6	2	66	37.7K	-	-	1	902K	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Something V2 [16]	121	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	a few thousand	30K	-	-	174	318K	-	-
DALY [86]	31	1	10	3.6K	-	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-	-	-	-	-	-
MEVA [87]	9.3K	1	37	n/a	-	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-	-	-	-	-	-
TTTAN [88]	3	1	-	-	-	-	3	395K	2	249K	16	935K	28	426K	-	-
MOMA [20]	66	3	17	373	67	2364	20	80K	120	80K	52	12K	23	119K	-	-
MOMA-LRG	148	3	20	1.4K	91	15.8K	26	740K	126	396K	13	704K	52	1.4M	-	-

video understanding. The MOMA-LRG dataset also enables the training of few-shot video-language models by encapsulating high-level and fine-grained semantics within activity videos.

3.1 Activity Graphs

The key abstraction of MOMA-LRG is the activity graph, an all-encompassing and human-interpretable representation of human activities that captures temporal changes and compositionality. An activity graph is a dynamic graph $\mathbf{G} = [G_1, G_2, \dots, G_t]$ represented as an ordered list of timed events, such as the addition or deletion of nodes and edges over time. Each $G_i \in \mathbf{G}$ can be represented as the pair (V_i, E_i) , where V_i is a set of entities and their attributes and the set of edges $E_i = \{(v_{1i}, r_i, v_{2i}), \dots\}$ encapsulates the relationships between the source and target entities. An activity graph has two levels of labels: (1) an activity label which stays constant for the entire graph; (2) a dynamic subactivity label that changes when subactivities begin and end. Each unique activity instance is associated with a unique activity graph. Unlike the dynamic scene graphs from [19], activity graphs in MOMA-LRG are *activity-centric* and contain information relevant only to the activity. The activity graph includes three levels of hierarchy:

Activity. An activity is an event where several human (actors) and non-human (objects) entities interact to complete a multi-step task. Parsing the activity returns an activity class label associated with the activity graph.

Sub-activity. A sub-activity is a step that makes up part of a larger activity and are (1) temporally localized within an activity and (2) mutually exclusive between activities. For example, the sub-activity the *adult* is *comforting* the *child* is unique to the activity of *babysitting*. Sub-activities are represented with two labels: 1) a temporal boundary indicating the start and end time relative to the activity video; 2) a semantic label which represents the class of the sub-activity. Parsing the activity produces the dynamic sub-activity label that contains the temporal boundaries and class of all sub-activities.

Atomic action. An atomic action describes how entities interact *within* a sub-activity video, which involves understanding entities and their predicates. Atomic actions are **entity-centric**, i.e. entities involved in an atomic action are spatially and temporally localized. Entity labels are entity-centric to disambiguate which entities are involved in a given atomic action. Atomic actions are activity and sub-activity agnostic—that is, a given atomic action class can be involved in many different sub-activity and activity instances. The predicates are atomic, such that they are generic across all activities. Predicates like *running*, *walking* or *bending* are general and can be involved in multiple sub-activity and activity instances. At this level, activity parsing evaluates the ability of the model to predict: (1) all relationships present in the global context, similar to scene graph generation and relationship retrieval and (2) all the predicates specific entity is involved across time, similar to spatio-temporal atomic action detection in [42].

Atomic actions consist of two components: entities and predicates. An **entity** is defined to be either a human actor or an object that is present in the scene and relevant to the action being performed. In a

Figure 1: An example of the results for the activity parsing task. For the activity level, the model predicts the activity class `haircut` for the video input. For the subactivity level, the temporally localized sub-activity predictions are displayed on the bottom, with the corresponding sub-activity classes on the legend placed on the left. For the atomic action level, the model has localized and tracked all entities (actors and objects) and predicted their interactions as displayed in the graph visualization on the right. Note: this graphic is a live animation that can be viewed in an Adobe Acrobat PDF viewer.

video frame, we annotate each entity with a bounding box, class label, and instance ID. Throughout the video instance, an entity is therefore represented as a spatio-temporal tube with a corresponding semantic label. A **predicate** to describe an interaction that occurs with at least one entity. There are two different types of predicates: a unary predicate defined on a specific entity is called an **attribute**, whereas a predicate defined on two or more entities is called a **higher-order relationship**. Unlike other scene graph datasets [79, 19], relationships in MOMA-LRG can involve two or more actors. To do this, we provide **hyperedge** annotations where higher-order interactions involving multiple entities are grouped into a single edge (e.g. multiple actors beneath an object). Note that multi-node edges can easily be converted to a set of binary edges if needed.

Intuition and advantages. The activity graph is a single universal representation of human activities, consisting of three levels of hierarchy ranging from coarse to fine-grained: activity, sub-activity, and atomic action. This is inspired by the fact that complex human activities in real-world settings are usually hierarchical and compositional across space and time. In particular, complex human activities typically involve a number of achievable steps (activity \rightarrow sub-activity). It is also essential to understand the roles of actors, the affordances of objects, and the relationships between these components in order to recognize fine-grained activities (sub-activity \rightarrow atomic action). In contrast, many existing activity recognition benchmarks and tasks [2, 15, 89] only focus on a specific level of granularity.

3.2 The MOMA-LRG Dataset

Dataset statistics. MOMA-LRG provides annotations on 1,412 activity instances from 20 different unique activity classes and 15,842 sub-activity instances from 92 unique classes. We provide 634,194 image-level actor instances and 104,594 video-level actor instances from 27 unique classes, as well as 349,244 image-level object instances and 47,523 video-level object instances from 269 unique classes. On the atomic action level, there are 1,037,319 higher order relationships from 52 classes and 704,230 attribute instances from 13 classes. Overall, there are 161,265 image-level atomic action instances and 15,842 video-level atomic action instances.

Language-Refined Graphs. One of MOMA-LRG’s distinguishing features is that it enables few-shot capabilities. To do this, we provide graphical annotations that are easily compatible with natural language through two conventions. First, predicate classes are of the form [src] [predicate] [trg], where src is the source entity and trg the target entity. This enables easy conversion to natural language given graphical annotations. For example, given an outgoing predicate edge with class [src] talking to [trg] from the entity cashier onto the entity customer, we can produce the sentence the cashier is talking to a customer. Second, all of our annotations are in the present continuous tense, e.g. the player is throwing a frisbee, which resembles a live narration in a fashion similar to existing video-language datasets (e.g. YouCook2 [90], HowTo100M [9], etc.) created from instructional YouTube videos.

Comparison with existing datasets. Compared to existing datasets, there are several key advantages that the MOMA-LRG dataset provides. First, MOMA-LRG grounds all associated entities. In contexts with more than one entity, it is necessary to disambiguate which entities are involved in a particular interaction. Existing ego-centric datasets [16, 34] dodge this issue since at most interaction is involved in a scene. Second, we classify each actor’s role. Typical datasets [34, 43] involve one type of actor and hence do not label the person’s role [42, 19, 21]. In a diverse set of scenes, the role of the actor becomes more important in understanding actions since it can provide an important signal in parsing a human activity [91]. Third, the MOMA-LRG dataset differentiates between static and dynamic predicates. For example, the dynamic predicate sitting down is a dynamic movement where an actor transitions from the standing static predicate to the sitting static predicate. We argue that observing state transitions is important for the model to learn, encouraging it to learn perceptual causality [92]. For a more detailed comparison, refer to Table 1.

Comparison with MOMA [20]. First of all, MOMA-LRG introduces a new dataset and a new abstraction of human activity. MOMA-LRG contains an order of magnitude more annotations, along with longer videos from a greater variety of scenes. In addition, MOMA-LRG the introduction of activity graphs as the overarching graphical representation across all three levels of hierarchy, as opposed to only the atomic level. Secondly, MOMA-LRG is directly motivated by the rise and limitations of VLMs. While VLMs have demonstrated remarkable generalization on videos from new domains and improved scalability through training on free video-language pairs, there is a lack of a single overarching task for evaluating VLMs on complex activity recognition. MOMA-LRG introduces a new annotation schema that can be easily converted from natural language to graphical annotations to enable few-shot learning, and a new framework (GraphVLM) to evaluate VLMs on activity parsing.

Ethics. Prior research [93] shows that Youtube videos exhibit geographic bias. To mitigate potential ethical issues associated with the dataset, we have adopted the following protocols: (1) The videos are sourced from YouTube, where each video has been cross-verified by multiple annotators to ensure that it does not contain offensive material. (2) Instead of providing the raw videos, we provide YouTube IDs and a script for downloading them. Note that this is a standard practice for many video datasets collected from the Internet, such as ActivityNet [15] and Kinetics [2]. (3) Since we only provide YouTube IDs, only publicly available videos are available for download, and video owners may disable accessibility at any time. (4) Our group will verify any image data released for demonstration purposes, and in order to minimize the risk of personally identifiable information being compromised, we blur faces whenever possible.

238 4 Activity Parsing and the GraphVLM Model

239 In this section, we introduce a method for performing activity parsing and provide a transfer learning
240 framework to adapt Video-Language Models (VLMs) to activity parsing.

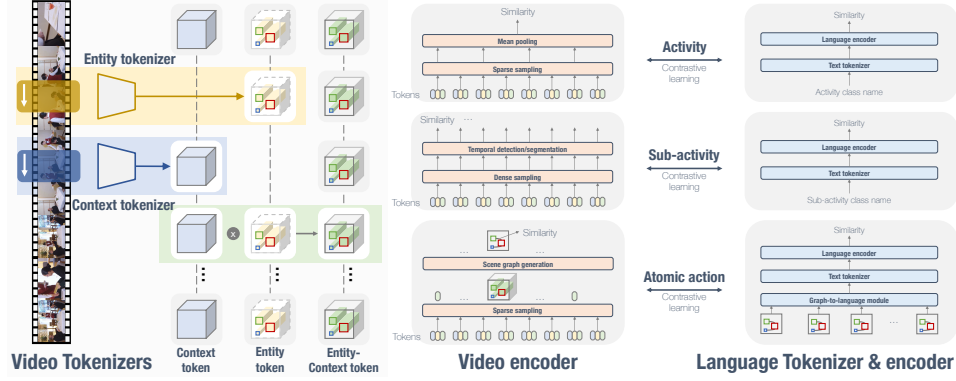


Figure 2: The GraphVLM model: We utilize two different tokenizers for entities and contexts, and a task specific head for each level of the MOMA hierarchy.

4.1 Activity Parsing

We define activity parsing as the task of generating an activity graph as defined in Section 3.1. Specifically, given a video as input, an activity parsing model (1) returns an activity class label, (2) temporally localizes and classifies all sub-activities, as well as (3) localizes each entity in the scene. Following this, it will need to detect all predicates: i.e. all unary predicates (i.e., attributes) involving a single entity and all binary predicates (i.e. relationships) which are between pairs of distinct entities. Refer to Figure 1 for an example of the end results of activity parsing.

4.2 GraphVLM: Video Stream

Our video stream module consists of two tokenizers and an encoder for each level of the activity hierarchy.

Tokenization. The first tokenizer is the context tokenizer, which consists of a clip sampler and a clip feature extractor. The clip sampler takes a video as input and samples non-overlapping short video clips. It has two parameters: the number of sampled frames T and temporal stride τ_c , meaning that each sampled clip consists of $T \times \tau_c$ total frames. For our clip feature extractor, we evaluate on a Swin-B [29], MViT-B [94], and SlowFast-R50 [25] pre-trained on Kinetics-400 [2]. The second tokenizer is the entity tokenizer, which consists of a frame sampler and an entity detector. The role of the frame sampler is to uniformly sample frames across the whole video, parameterized by τ_e , where τ_e is the temporal stride (i.e. we sample one frame every τ_e frames). After frame sampling, we detect entities at the frame-level and generate bounding boxes as well as ROI features associated with each entity, which we call the entity token. These two tokens are used to generate an *entity-context token* by applying the bounding boxes extracted from entity tokenization to the context tokens through ROIAlign.

Entity detection. To detect entities and extract entity tokens for activity parsing, we use a FasterRCNN [89] object detector with a ResNet-101 [95] FPN [96] backbone pre-trained on ImageNet [1]. We use maskrcnn-benchmark¹ for our implementation. For our activity parsing experiment, we treat all human role classes as a single class to facilitate downstream predicate classification. Separately, we also experiment with object detection using the role classes in our dataset. We use Detectron2² for actor role detection, and use pre-trained weights from COCO keypoints[97], with the same architecture described above. We show results for entity detection in Table 4.

Activity encoding. The video encoder for activity videos *sparsely* samples N_a context tokens produced by the context tokenizer and performs a mean pool to get the activity feature. This encoding works both with and without a text stream: using the features, we can train an action classifier

¹github.com/facebookresearch/maskrcnn-benchmark

²github.com/facebookresearch/detectron2

273 using a cross-entropy loss exclusively on the features or train jointly with the text stream utilizing a
274 contrastive loss.

275 **Sub-activity encoding.** The video encoder for sub-activity videos *densely* samples N_s context tokens
276 which are used to run either temporal action detection or segmentation. For temporal action detection,
277 we input the context tokens into a G-tad [35] model and train a model to predict temporal boundaries
278 using a cross entropy loss. For temporal action segmentation, the encoding is flexible to work with
279 and without the text stream: we can train a classifier with cross-entropy loss using only the features
280 and classify each token as belonging to a sub-activity class or a background class and also train jointly
281 with a text stream using a contrastive loss.

282 **Atomic action encoding.** Atomic action encoding consists of two parts: per-frame scene graph
283 generation and spatio-temporal atomic action detection. For scene graph generation, relationships
284 are grounded over all entities in the scene, whereas spatio-temporal atomic action detection is actor-
285 centric and only considers a single actor at a time. We use entity tokens (i.e. object labels, bounding
286 boxes, and ROI features) as input for scene graph detection. We train a ReIDN [98] model for
287 scene graph detection using Microsoft’s Scene Graph Benchmark ³ for our implementation. We
288 evaluate our model on the tasks of predicate classification, scene graph classification, and scene graph
289 detection without graphical constraints as in Xu et al. [99], since the MOMA-LRG dataset often
290 contains multiple relationships for a given source and target entity. Results are shown in Table 4. For
291 spatio-temporal action detection, the entity-context token of an actor object is taken as input, and the
292 model outputs frame-level predicate labels for the actor in a multi-label classification setting. In our
293 implementation, we train a single layer classifier with a sigmoid activation function, though we note
294 that our framework is compatible with using the generated natural language predicate sentences as
295 supervision via contrastive learning. We show results in Table 4.

296 4.3 GraphVLM: Text Stream

297 In order to effectively leverage the natural language capabilities of VLMs, we convert all levels of the
298 MOMA-LRG activity graph hierarchy to natural language via our *graph-to-language* module.

299 **Graph-to-language module.** At the activity level, each class name is a noun, thus it can be
300 represented by its class name or via prompting (e.g. by prepending "A video of [CLS_NAME]"). At
301 the sub-activity level, class names are descriptions of the sub-activities in the present continuous tense
302 (narration-style). At the atomic action level, we tag all predicates with [src], and [trg] templates
303 to allow for easy conversion into a full grammatically correct sentences in present continuous form.
304 For example, the predicate touching is represented as [src] touching [trg]. So, given the
305 entities [src]=person and [trg]=table, the sentence is A person is touching the table.

306 **Text encoding.** After converting the associated activity graph level to language, we use a pre-trained
307 language model to encode the text. When evaluating existing VLMs (e.g. VideoCLIP [12], FiT [8])
308 using our framework, we use their respective text encoders. For our model agnostic use-case, we use
309 bert-base-uncased [7].

310 4.4 GraphVLM: Few-shot and Transfer Learning

311 MOMA-LRG includes a few-shot split, which splits the MOMA dataset into non-overlapping activity
312 and sub-activity classes. The few-shot training set contains 10 activity classes and 45 sub-activity
313 classes, the validation set contains 5 activity classes and 24 sub-activity classes, and the test set
314 contains 5 activity classes and 22 sub-activity classes. For our baseline methods, **we report** results
315 using two meta-learning classifiers, OTAM [100] and CMN [101]. To evaluate the performance
316 of video-language models in the few shot setting, we perform out of the box classification for
317 a VideoCLIP [12] and a Frozen-In-Time [8] video-language model on activity and sub-activity
318 classification on the meta-test set. We use class names as text (either activity or sub-activity) and raw
319 videos as input. To compute the class label for a video input, we find the text embedding that is closest

³github.com/microsoft/scene_graph_benchmark

Table 2: Temporal action detection. AP is reported at thresholds 0.1, 0.3, and 0.5 for different backbones.

Backbones	Pre-train	Temporal Detection		
		AP@0.1	AP@0.3	AP@0.5
MVIT-B	K-400+LVIS	17.906	9.369	5.107
SlowFast-R50	K-400+LVIS	21.797	11.782	4.904
Swin-B	K-400+LVIS	22.102	10.853	4.860

Table 3: Video classification. Results are reported for activity and sub-activity classification with different video backbones.

Model	$T \times \tau$	Pre-train	Activity		Sub-activity	
			acc@1	acc@5	acc@1	acc@5
MVIT-B	16×4	Kinetics-400	0.7731	0.9468	0.6032	0.9473
	16×4	None	0.5140	0.8010	0.4375	0.7500
SlowFast-R50	8×8	Kinetics-400	0.7569	0.9375	0.5625	0.9226
	8×8	None	0.4375	0.7500	0.3739	0.7731
Swin-B	4×3	Kinetics-400	0.8576	0.9688	0.6450	0.9781
	4×3	None	0.5282	0.8415	0.3817	0.7868
GCN	30×1	None	0.7837	0.9539	0.3829	0.8276
GCN (oracle bbox)	30×1	None	0.9502	0.9964	0.563	0.9706

in dot product similarity to the video embedding as in Xu et al. [12]. We visualize the performance of this method on the regular MOMA-LRG test set in Figure 3. For k -shot video classification, we sample k videos per class and average the representation to obtain a prototype video. We compute a weighted average between the text embedding and the video prototype and classify using the same method as in the zero-shot setting. A more detailed explanation and ablation study of our method can be found in the Appendix.

In addition to our framework for evaluating VLMs without training, we also propose a method for using VLMs for activity parsing in a more flexible manner than full fine-tuning. We use knowledge distillation to incorporate visual and linguistic knowledge from VLMs into the activity parsing framework. This is considerably more flexible than full fine-tuning since it is model-agnostic. In this method, we can use a different backbone network than that used by the VLMs, and can sample clips differently so long as the clips from the student and the teacher model are centered at the same frame. We report results using our framework and investigating the effect of incorporating linguistic information for spatio-temporal atomic action detection in Table 4. Details for our approach are explained in the Appendix.

5 Activity Parsing Evaluation

In this section, we evaluate our dataset on methods across two different tasks. First, we evaluate model performance on the activity parsing task which leverages the hierarchy of our dataset. Next, we examine our method on activity parsing in the few-shot setting.

We evaluate each level of activity parsing using the following metrics.

Activity: Activity performance is measured by the top 1 accuracy (acc@1) and top 5 accuracy (acc@5) for video-level activity classification.

Sub-activity: Sub-activity performance is measured by two metrics. First, we report the sub-activity acc@1 and acc@5 (where the pre-segmented sub-activity video is used as input). Second, we evaluate temporal detection using mAP at thresholds 0.1, 0.3, and 0.5 and report the average mAP following [33].

Atomic action: We report atomic action performance using several metrics. First, we evaluate entity detection using standard average prevision (AP) metrics. To evaluate scene graph generation, we follow work in [79, 19, 99] and perform the following tasks: predicate classification (PredCls), which takes ground truth bounding boxes and object categories as input and returns predicate labels, scene graph classification (SGCls) which only takes in ground truth bounding boxes as input and predicts object categories and predicate labels, and scene graph detection (SGDet) which simply takes in an input image and predicts bounding box locations, object categories, and predicate labels.

6 Conclusion

We introduce the MOMA-LRG dataset, a large activity recognition dataset of complex human activities that enables evaluation and fine-tuning of large, generalizable video-language models.

Table 4: Scene graph, entity, and sub-activity detection results from the methods described in Section 4.2. Our results show that sub-activity detection and entity detection are challenging in the MOMA-LRG dataset. The entity detection results pose challenges for scene graph detection, as is evidenced by the relatively higher scores for SGCLs and PredCLs, where ground truth bounding boxes and class labels are known.

Scene Graph Detection				Entity Detection							Temporal Detection	
	Recall@20	Recall@50	Recall@100		AP	AP50	AP75	APs	APm	API		
PredCLs	58.2243	62.4389	64.0983	Actor role	38.3567	58.1256	41.2369	7.8053	19.4897	40.0392	MViT-B	0.2130
SGCLs	44.3065	48.3825	50.2992	Entity	15.2896	29.3032	14.0742	4.3134	10.1288	17.1472	SlowFast-R50	0.2353
SGDet	37.6275	43.8594	47.9960									0.2023

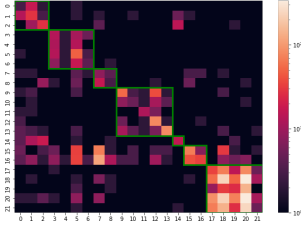


Figure 3: A confusion matrix for zero-shot classification of VideoCLIP [12] on the standard MOMA-LRG sub-activity test set. The sub-activities are ordered to be adjacent to other sub-activities within the same activity. As is indicated by the green squares and the results in Table 5, there is a significant degree of within-activity confusion for zero-shot video language models.

Table 5: Low-shot video classification. We evaluate both VideoCLIP [12] and Frozen-in-Time [8] within our few-shot framework for activity and sub-activity classification. We note that although the video-language models we tested performed well for high-level activity classification, they performed significantly worse for the more granular task of sub-activity classification.

Model	Activity			Sub-activity		
	0-shot	1-shot	5-shot	0-shot	1-shot	5-shot
OTAM [100]	-	80.71	92.07	-	57.14	72.59
CMN [101]	-	73.57	86.30	-	52.30	66.60
VideoCLIP [12]	75.90	84.40	84.80	30.80	32.70	32.70
Frozen [8]	90.80	92.30	92.50	19.10	26.50	26.30

356 We define activity parsing as the overarching task of activity graph generation, requiring video
 357 understanding at multiple levels of granularity. We demonstrate the capacity of MOMA-LRG to train
 358 video-language models by introducing a model-agnostic and lightweight approach for adaptation,
 359 and we evaluate VLMs by demonstrating strong few-shot classification performance. We hope that
 360 MOMA-LRG will enable further research into generalizable activity recognition models that are
 361 trained with multiple input modalities or **generating language descriptions for videos**.

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Checklist

1. For all authors...

- (a) Do the main claims made in the abstract and introduction accurately reflect the paper's contributions and scope? [Yes]
- (b) Did you describe the limitations of your work? [Yes]
- (c) Did you discuss any potential negative societal impacts of your work? [Yes]
- (d) Have you read the ethics review guidelines and ensured that your paper conforms to them? [Yes]

2. If you are including theoretical results...

- (a) Did you state the full set of assumptions of all theoretical results? [N/A]
- (b) Did you include complete proofs of all theoretical results? [N/A]

3. If you ran experiments...

- (a) Did you include the code, data, and instructions needed to reproduce the main experimental results (either in the supplemental material or as a URL)? [Yes]
- (b) Did you specify all the training details (e.g., data splits, hyperparameters, how they were chosen)? [Yes]
- (c) Did you report error bars (e.g., with respect to the random seed after running experiments multiple times)? [N/A]
- (d) Did you include the total amount of compute and the type of resources used (e.g., type of GPUs, internal cluster, or cloud provider)? [Yes]

4. If you are using existing assets (e.g., code, data, models) or curating/releasing new assets...

- (a) If your work uses existing assets, did you cite the creators? [Yes]
- (b) Did you mention the license of the assets? [Yes]
- (c) Did you include any new assets either in the supplemental material or as a URL? [N/A]
- (d) Did you discuss whether and how consent was obtained from people whose data you're using/curating? [Yes]
- (e) Did you discuss whether the data you are using/curating contains personally identifiable information or offensive content? [Yes]

5. If you used crowdsourcing or conducted research with human subjects...

- (a) Did you include the full text of instructions given to participants and screenshots, if applicable? [N/A]
- (b) Did you describe any potential participant risks, with links to Institutional Review Board (IRB) approvals, if applicable? [N/A]
- (c) Did you include the estimated hourly wage paid to participants and the total amount spent on participant compensation? [N/A]