

# DeepQAMVS: Query-Aware Hierarchical Pointer Networks for Multi-Video Summarization



Safa Messaoud



Ismini Lourentzou



Assma Boughoula\*



Mona Zehni\*



Zhizhen Zhao



Chengxiang Zhai



Alex Schwing

sigir21

UNIVERSITY OF  
ILLINOIS  
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

VT  
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING  
COMPUTER SCIENCE  
VIRGINIA TECH.

# Growing Popularity of Video and Explosion of Video Sharing Platforms



**82% of internet traffic** will be from video streaming and downloads in 2022  
(Cisco, 2019)



Video watch time:  
ca. **10 hours per week** per internet user in 2020  
(Statistica, 2020)



Avg. U.S. consumer pays **4 different streaming video subscriptions**  
(Deloitte, 2021)



**87% of the marketing professionals** use video as a marketing tool  
(Wyzowl, 2019)

<https://cedcommerce.com/video-marketing>

How can we make this exponentially growing video content easier to consume?

# Query-Aware Multi-Video Summarization (QAMVS)

**Query:** Prince William Wedding



**Retrieved Videos**



Video 1



Video 2



Video 3



Video N

...

**Summary:** a subset of  
the input videos frames



**Summary  
Criteria**

1. Conciseness
2. Representativeness of query-relevant events
3. Chronological soundness

# QAMVS Models in the Literature

Multi-staged pipelines optimizing for summary criteria **sequentially**

Conciseness

Select diverse frames

Sparse Coding (e.g. QUASC)  
Clustering (e.g. HDS)



Query-relevance

Discard frames dissimilar to  
web-images retrieved with  
the same query

Textual  
Query    ↔    Image space  
(Web-images)

Selected  
frames

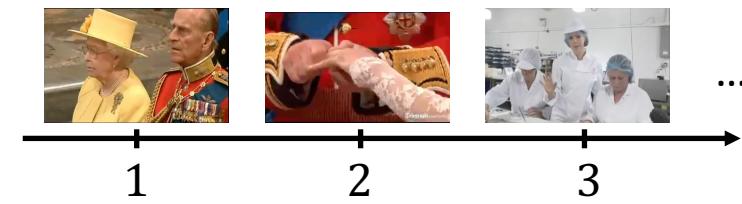


Chronological soundness

Order frames  
chronologically

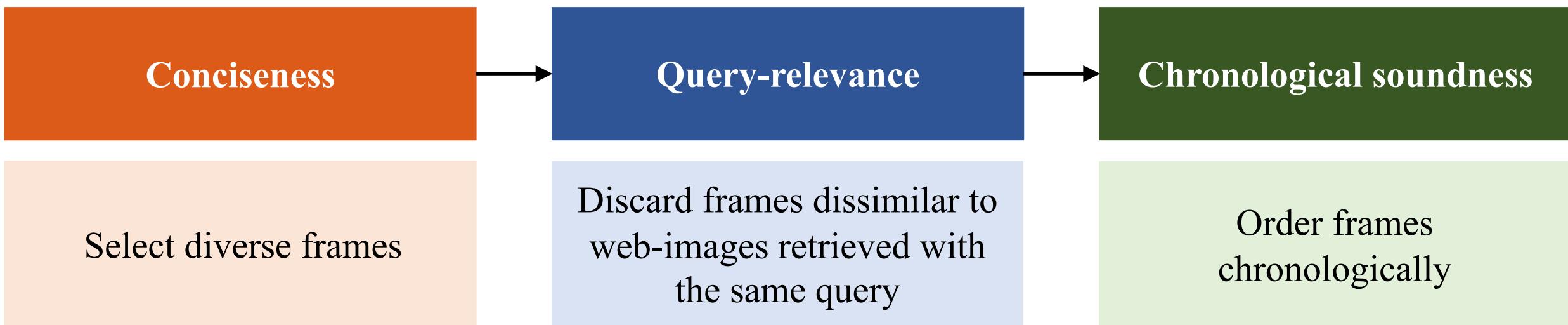
Scores based on topic  
closeness/videos time tags

$$S_1 < S_2 < S_3$$



# QAMVS Models in the Literature

Multi-staged pipelines optimizing for summary criteria **sequentially**



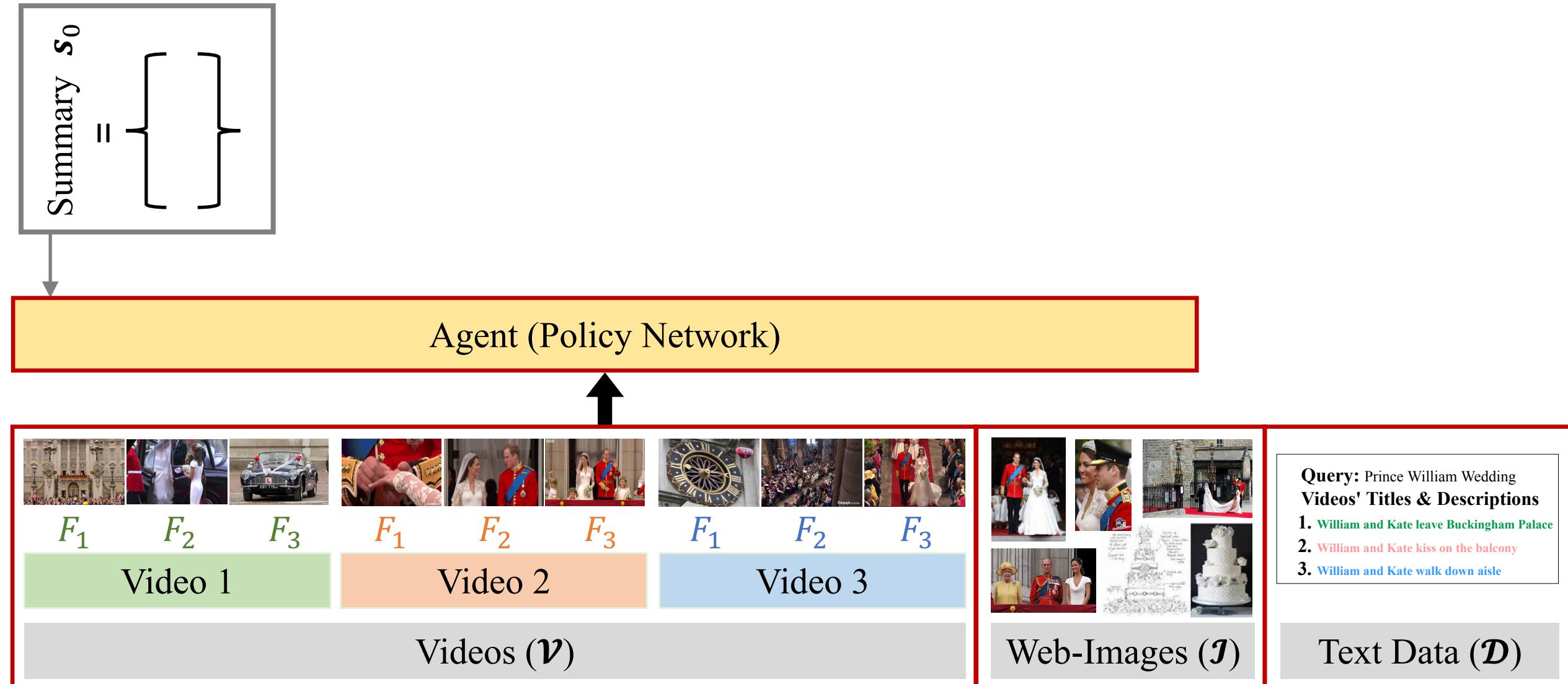
## Limitations:

- ✗ Error propagation through sequential stages
- ✗ Polynomial complexity w.r.t. number of input frames

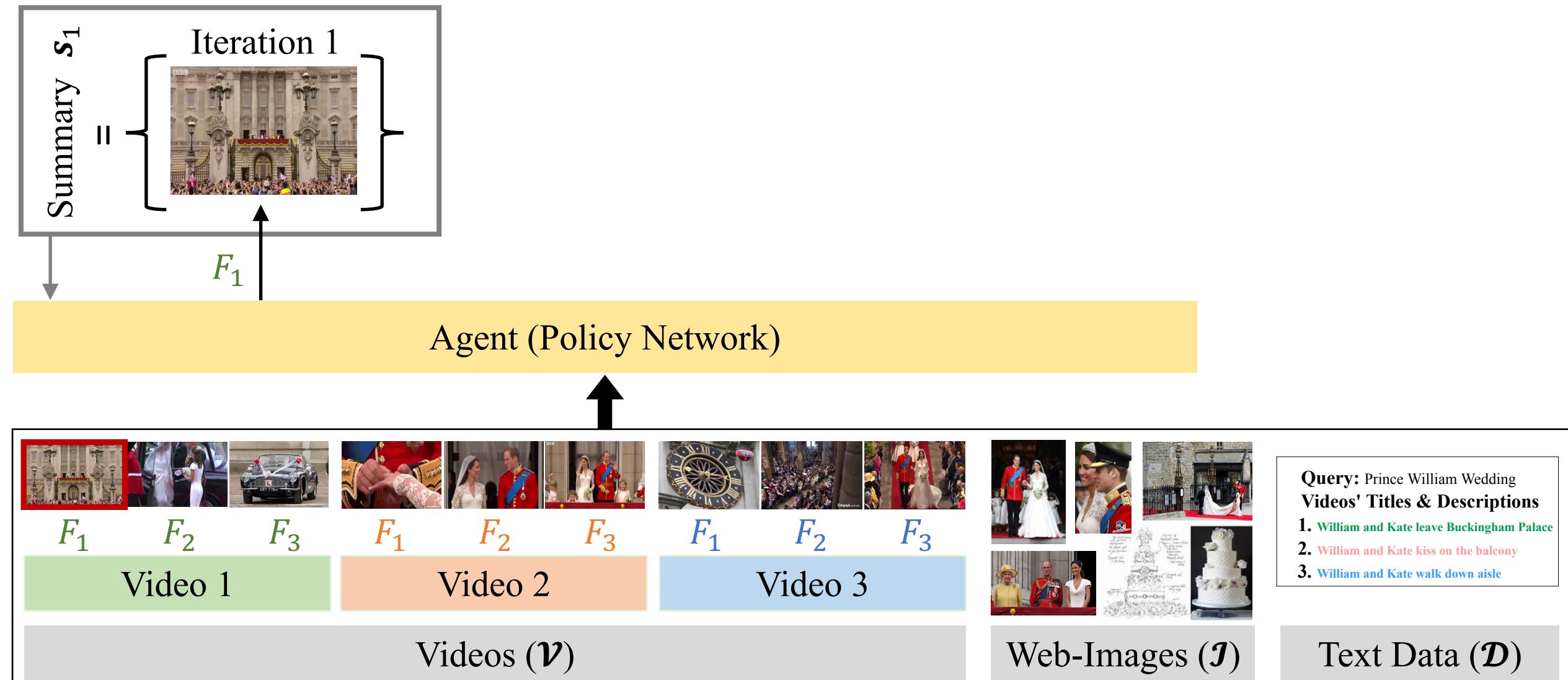
Can we **learn** efficient end-to-end trainable models for QAMVS?

- ✗ Scarcity of annotated data
- ✗ Subjectivity of ground-truth summaries

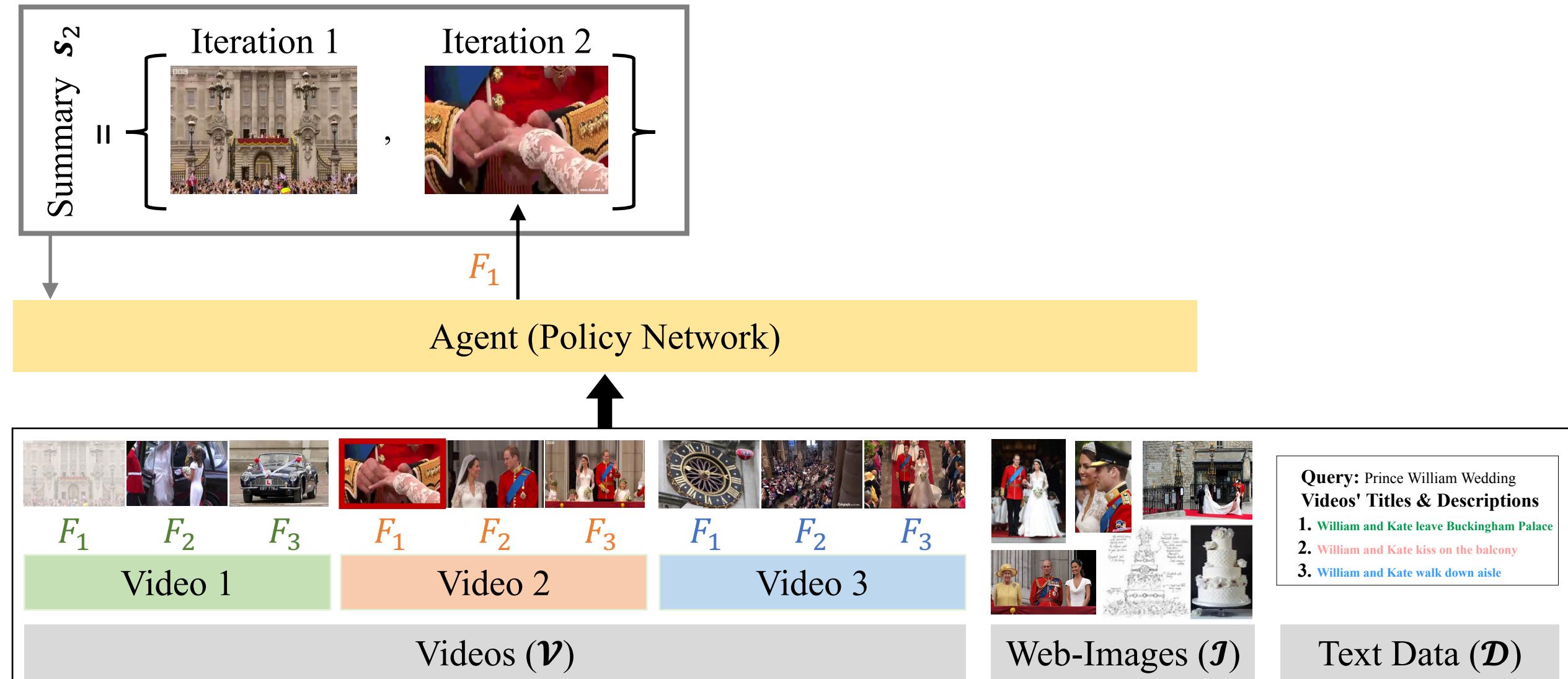
# Reinforcement Learning for DeepQAMVS



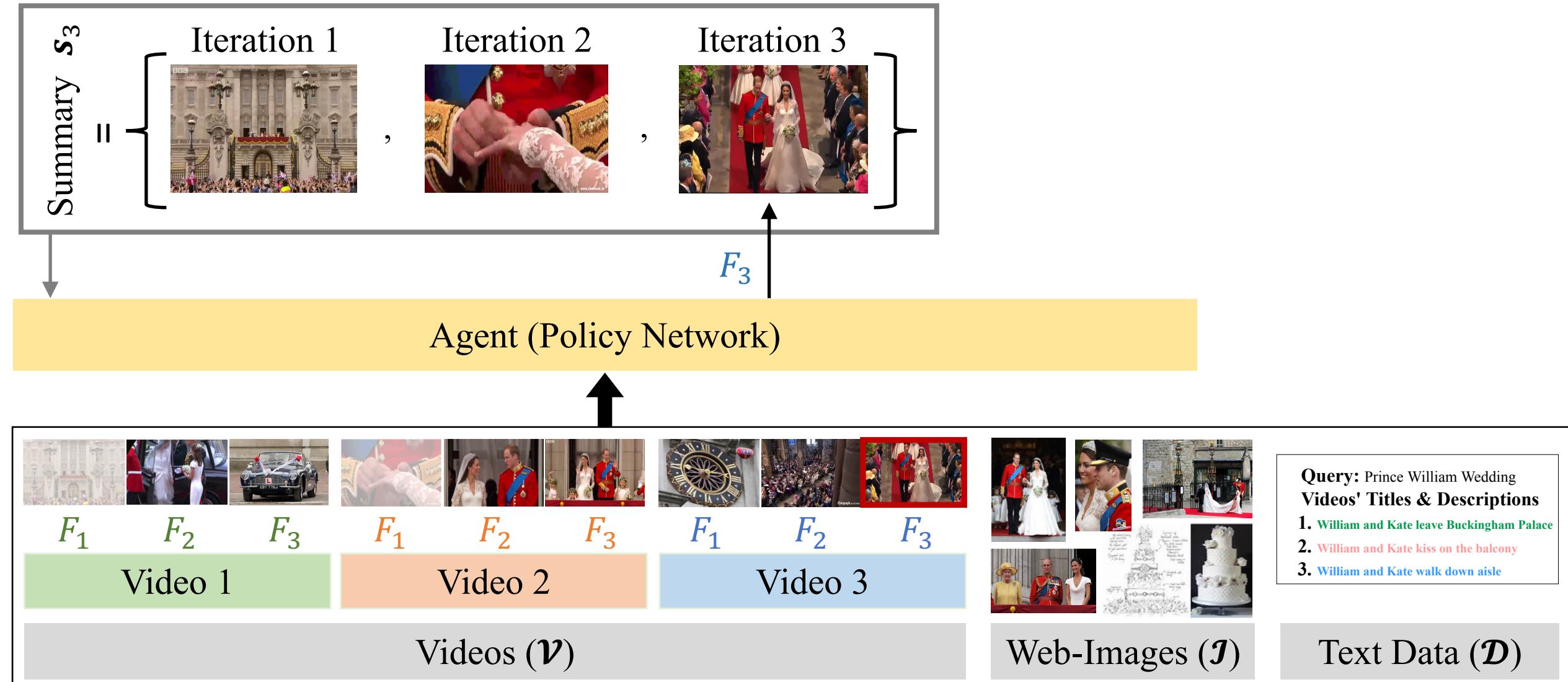
# Reinforcement Learning for DeepQAMVS



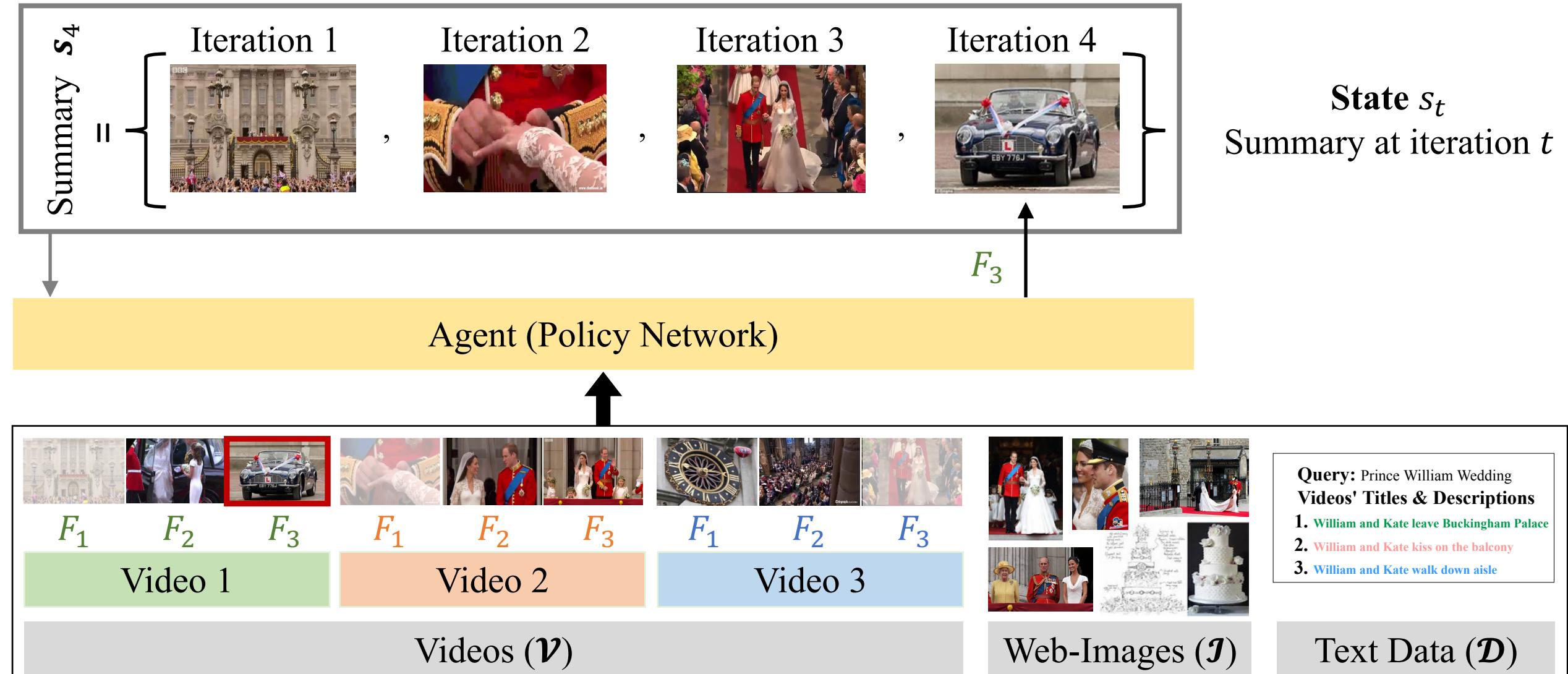
# Reinforcement Learning for DeepQAMVS



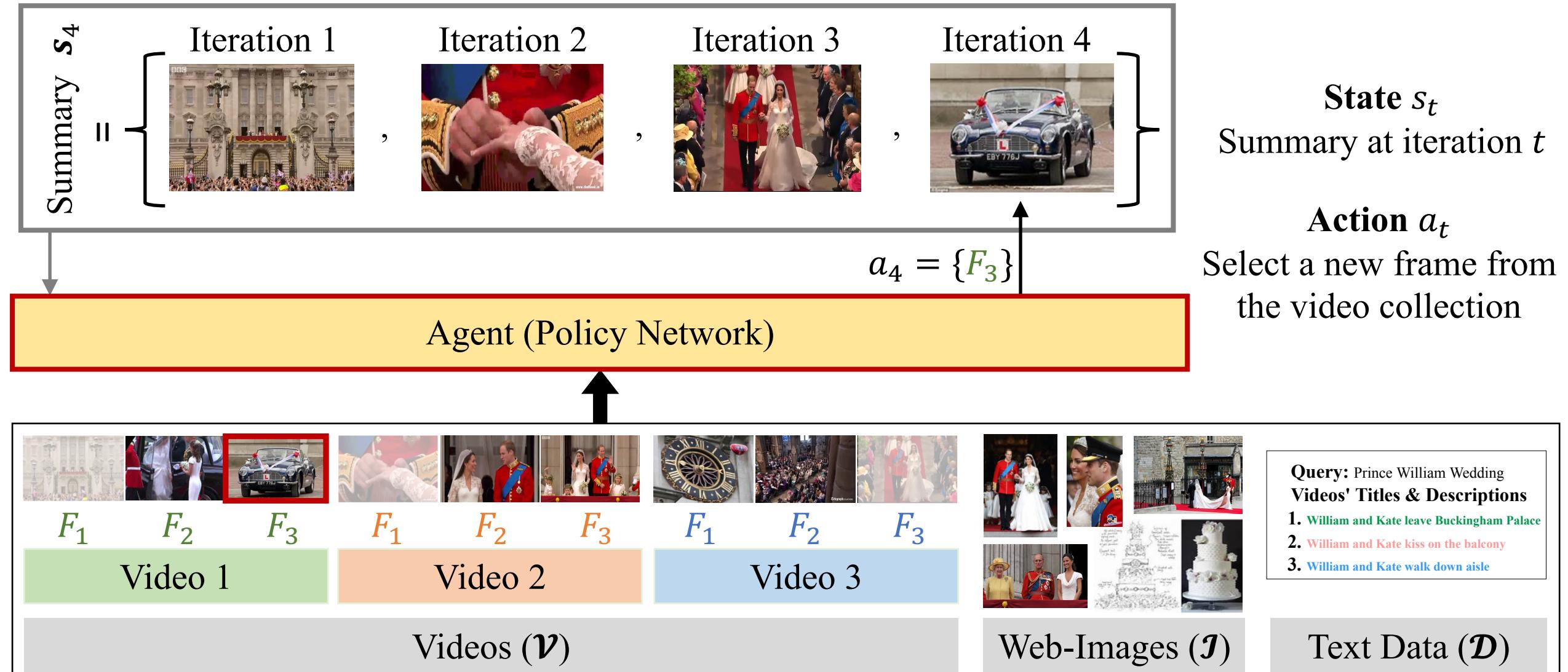
# Reinforcement Learning for DeepQAMVS



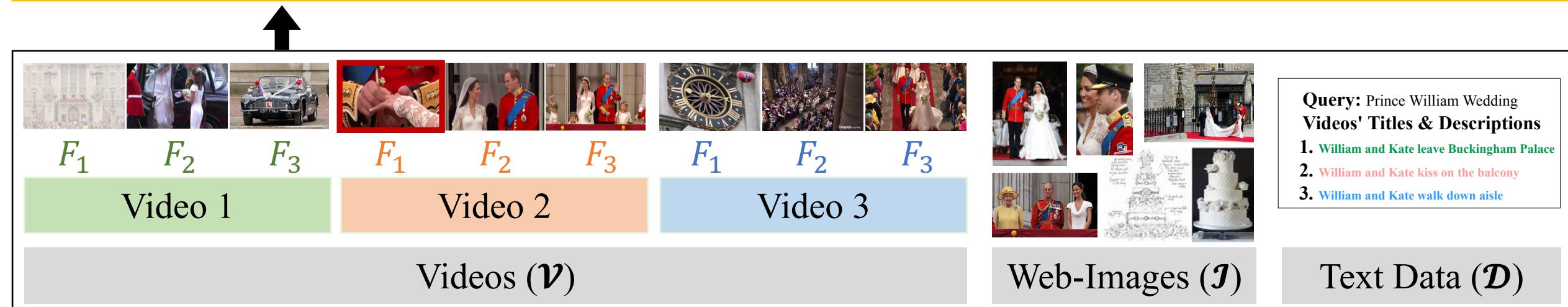
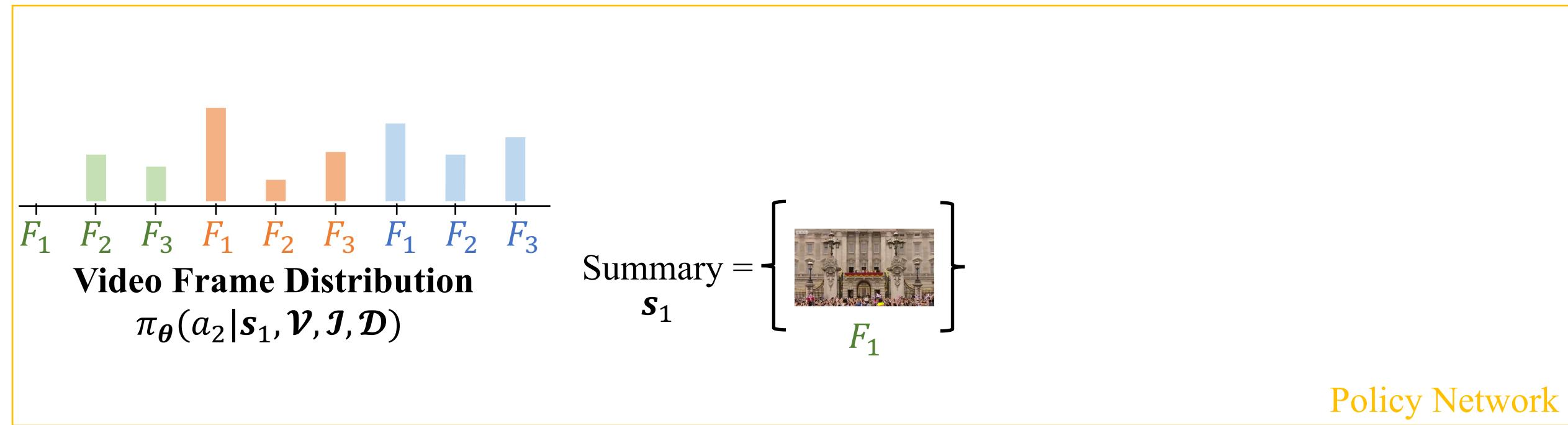
# Reinforcement Learning for DeepQAMVS



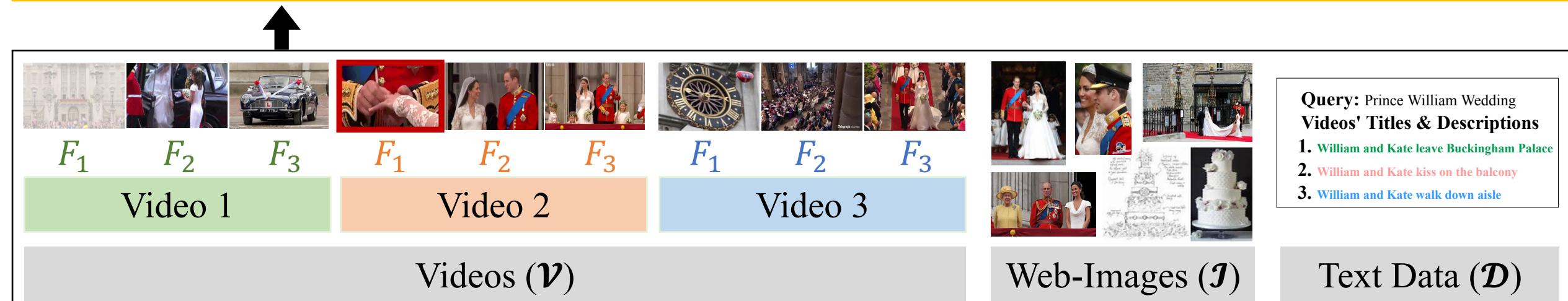
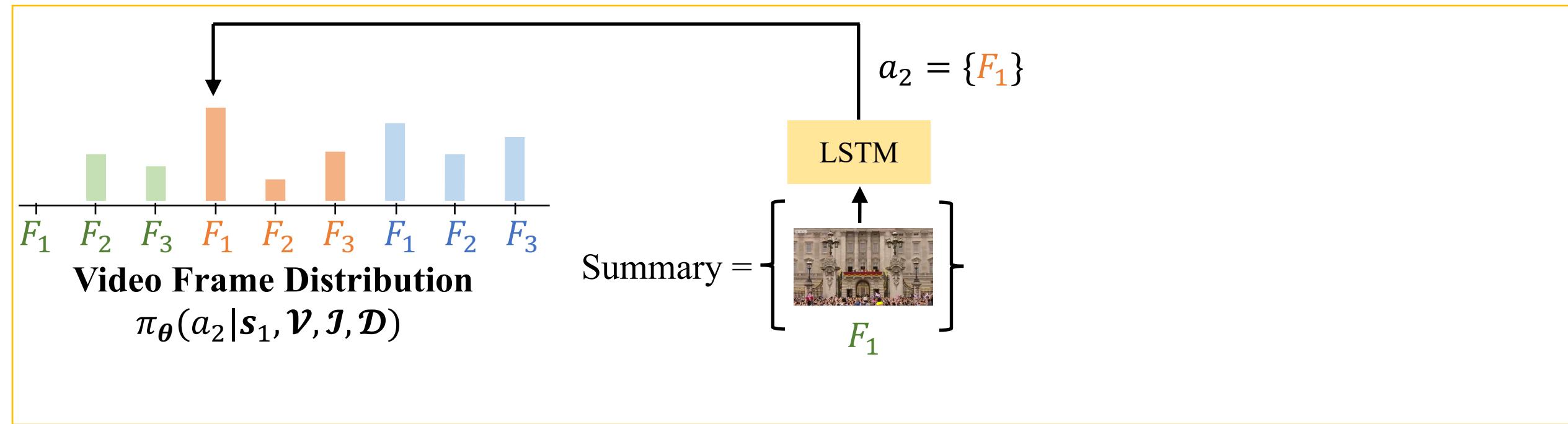
# Reinforcement Learning for DeepQAMVS



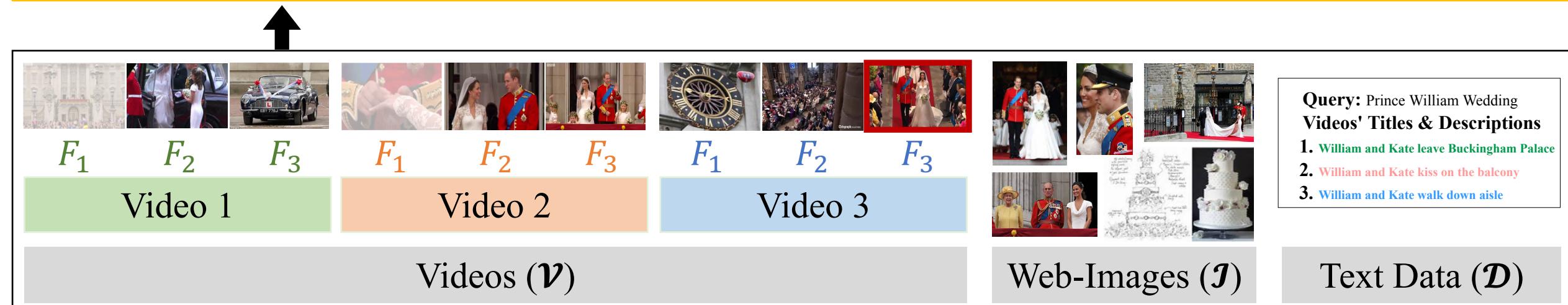
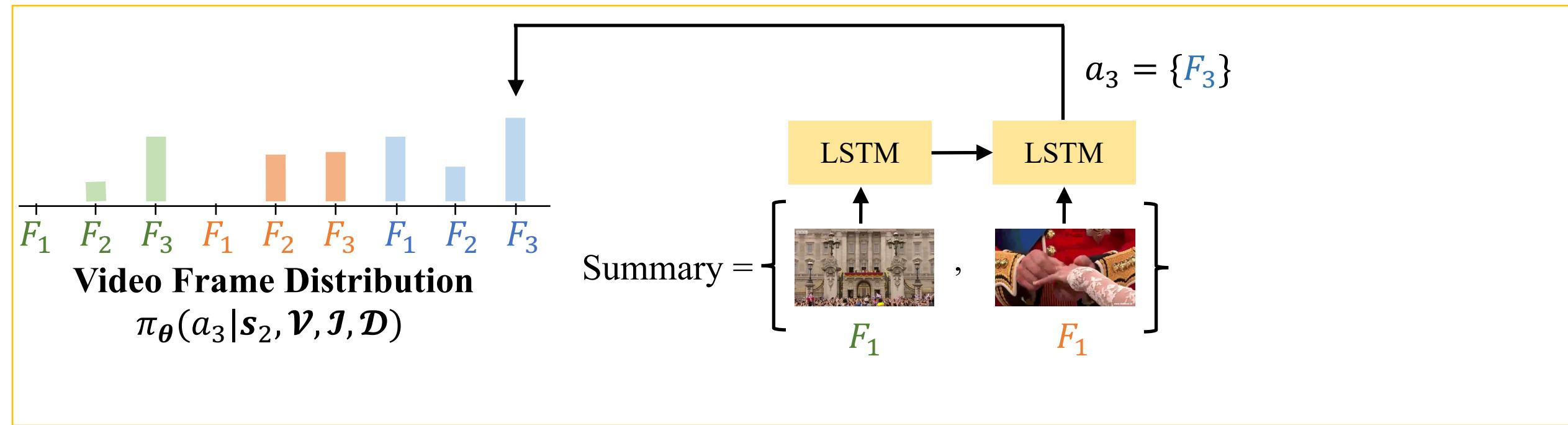
# Policy Network: Pointer Network



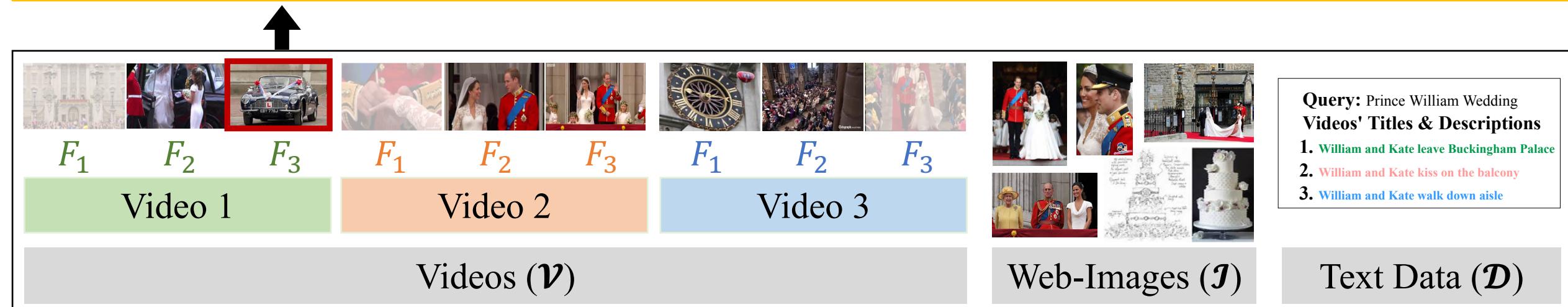
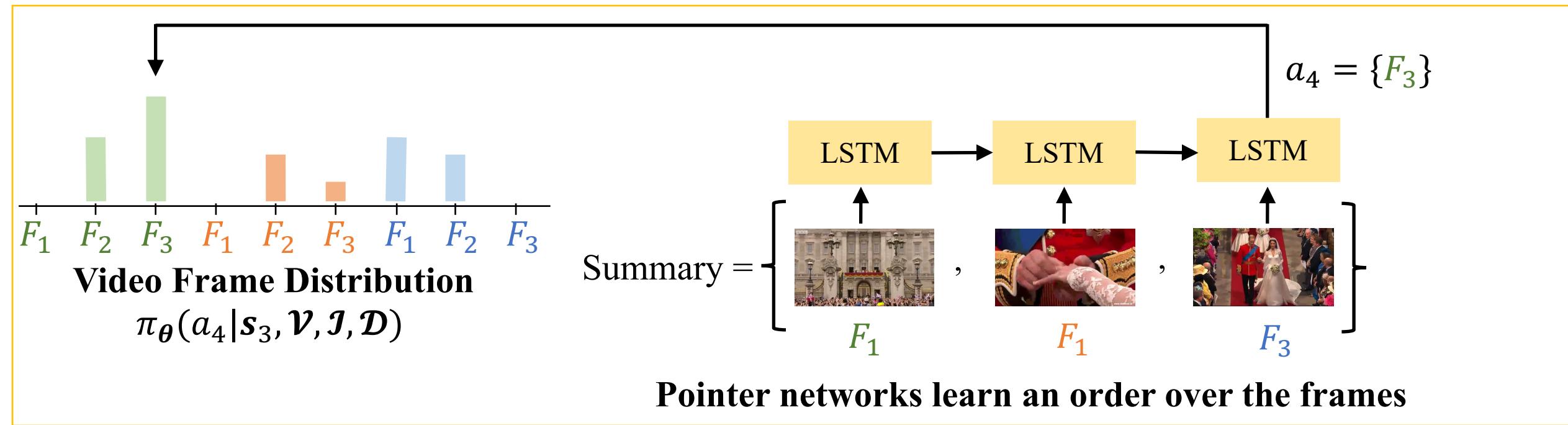
# Policy Network: Pointer Network



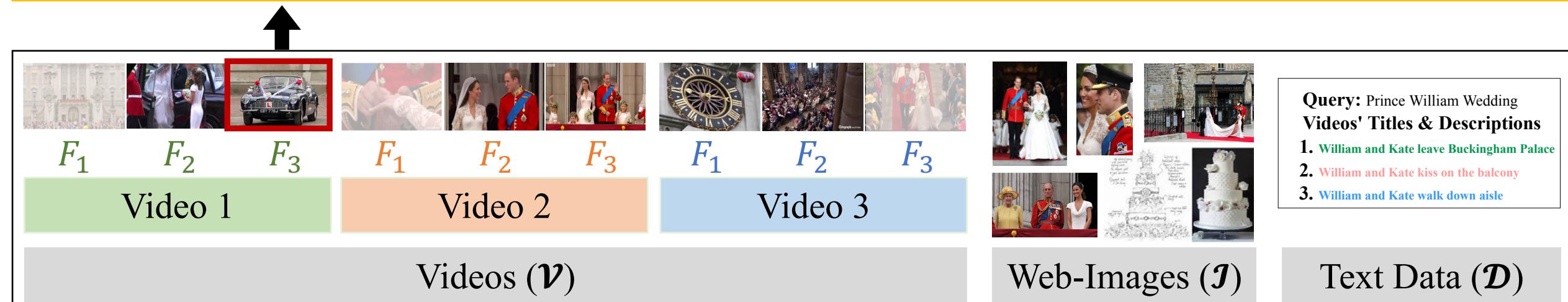
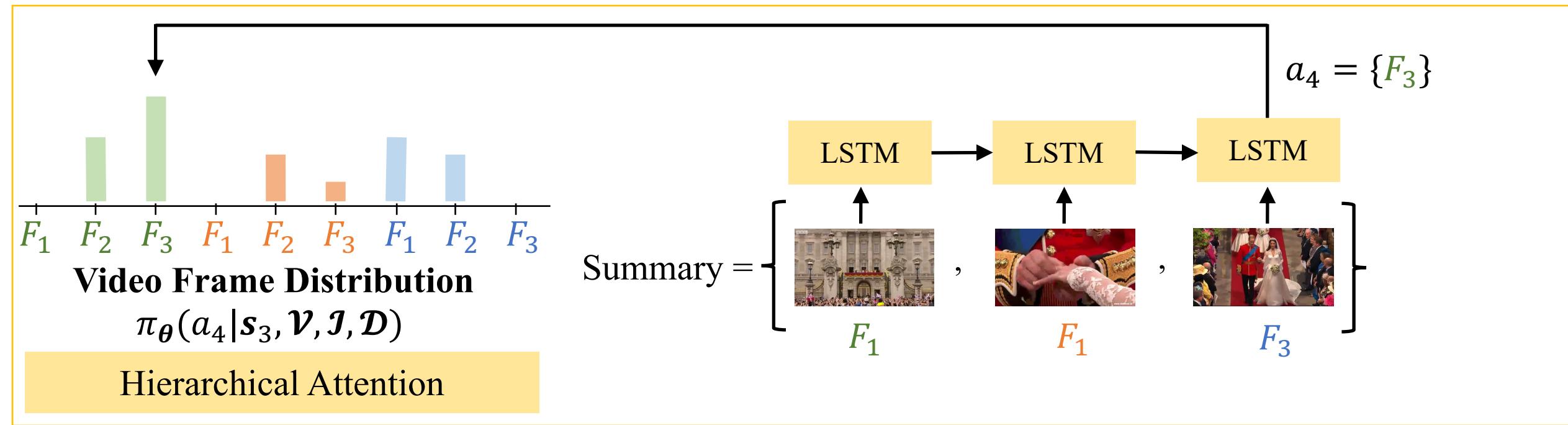
# Policy Network: Pointer Network



# Policy Network: Pointer Network



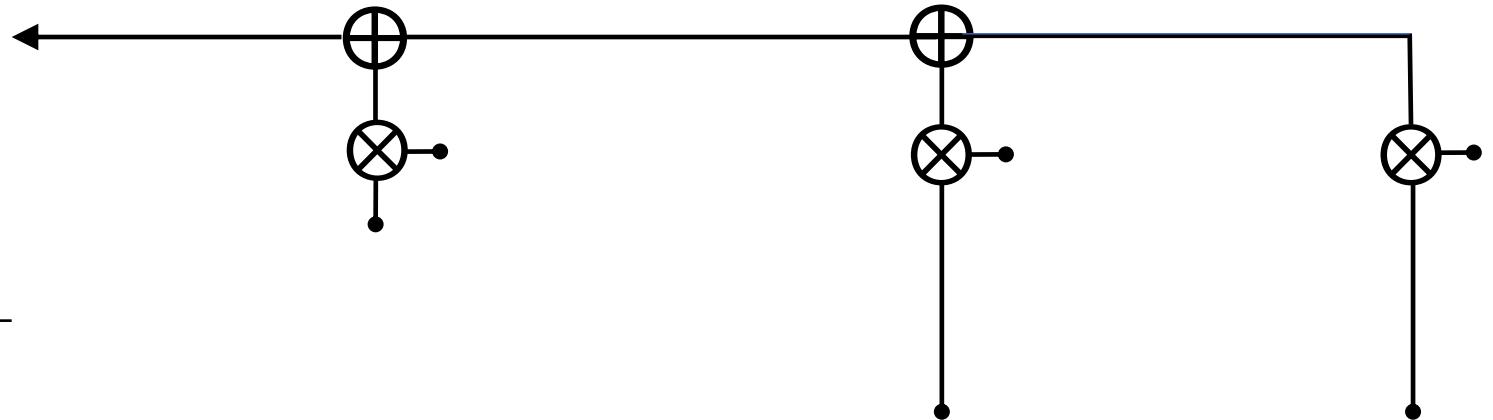
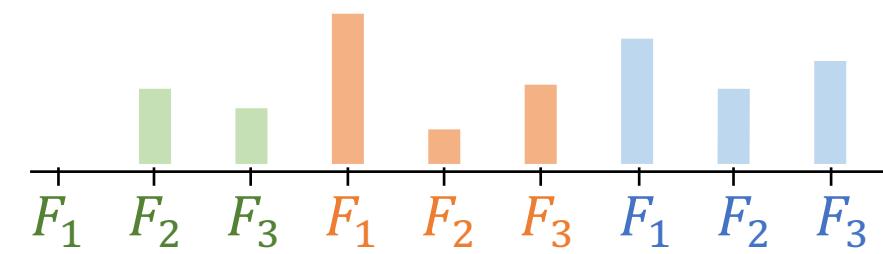
# Policy Network: Pointer Network



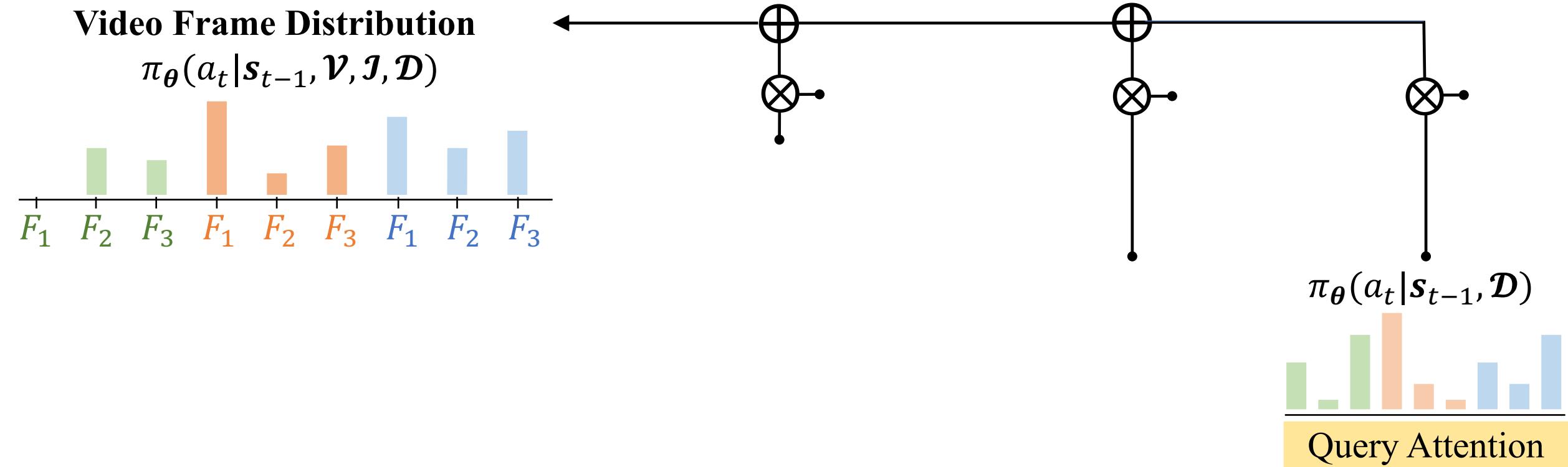
# Policy Network: Hierarchical Attention

**Video Frame Distribution**

$$\pi_{\theta}(a_t | s_{t-1}, \mathcal{V}, \mathcal{I}, \mathcal{D})$$



# Policy Network: Hierarchical Attention



**Query:** Prince William Wedding  
**Videos' Titles & Descriptions**

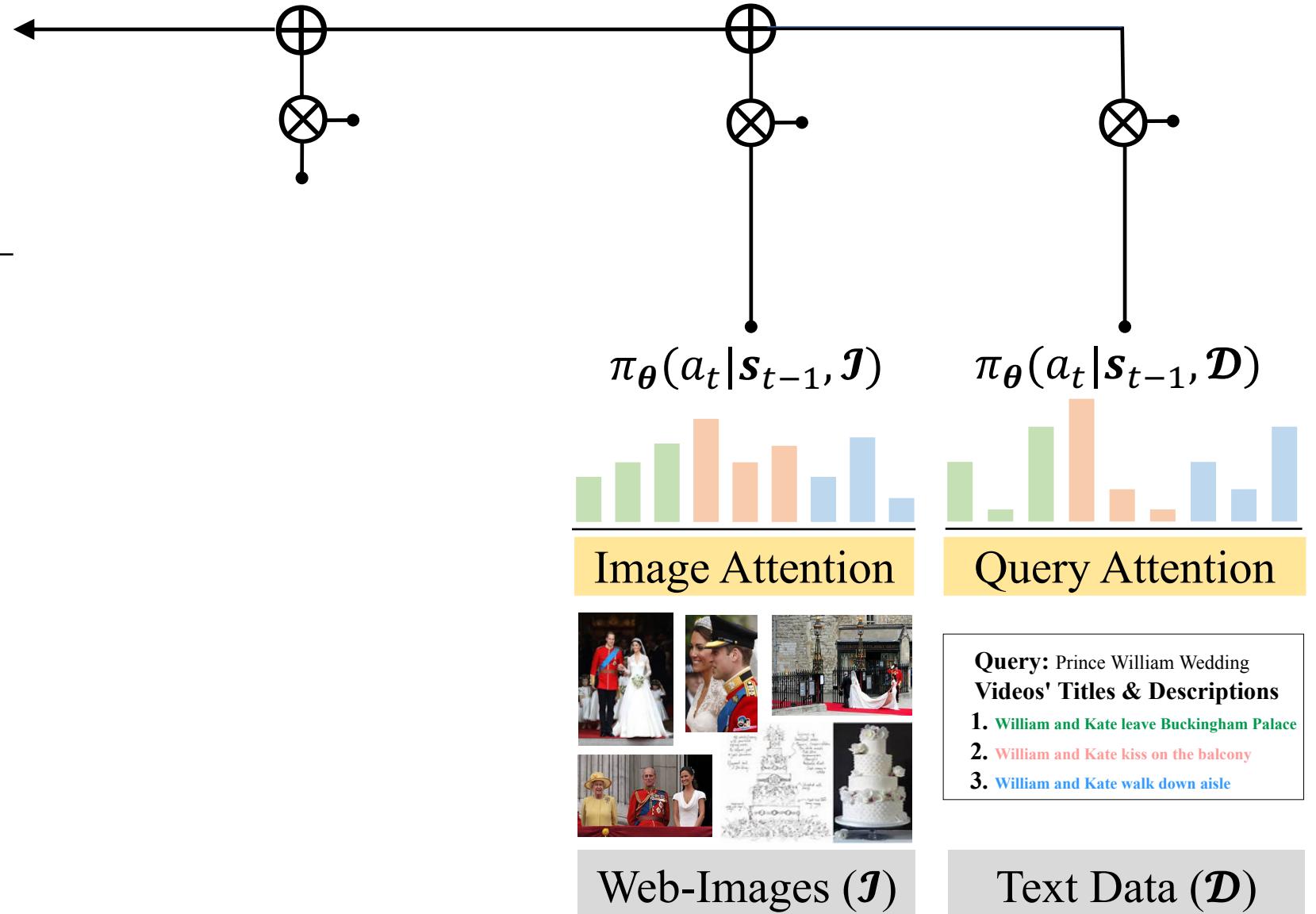
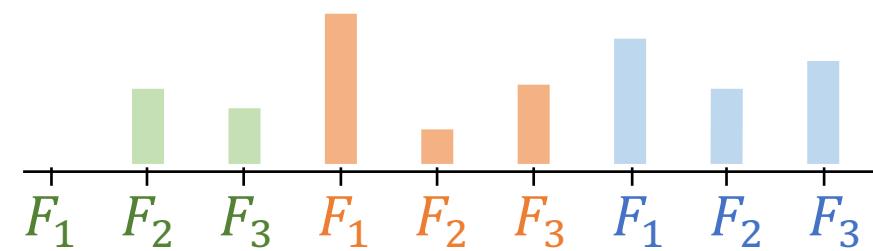
1. William and Kate leave Buckingham Palace
2. William and Kate kiss on the balcony
3. William and Kate walk down aisle

Text Data ( $\mathcal{D}$ )

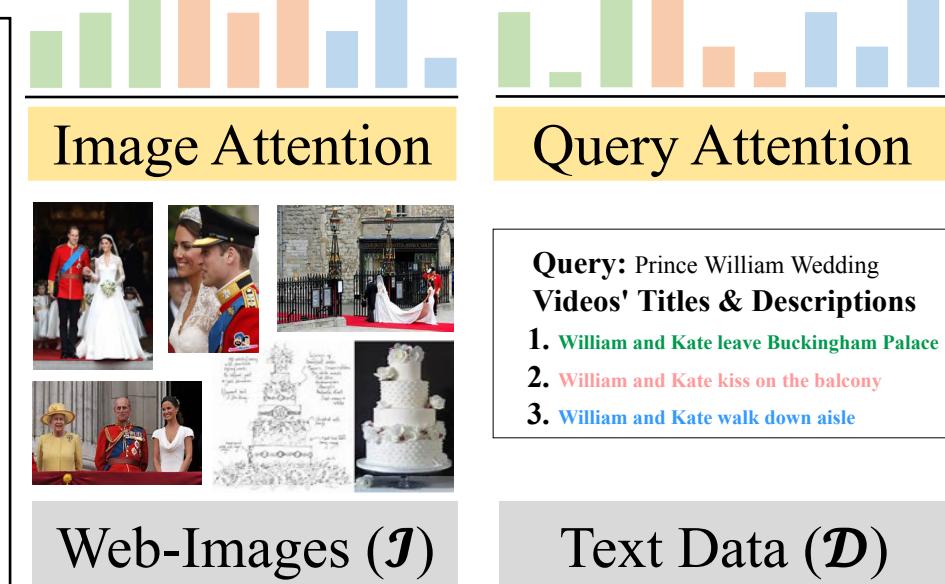
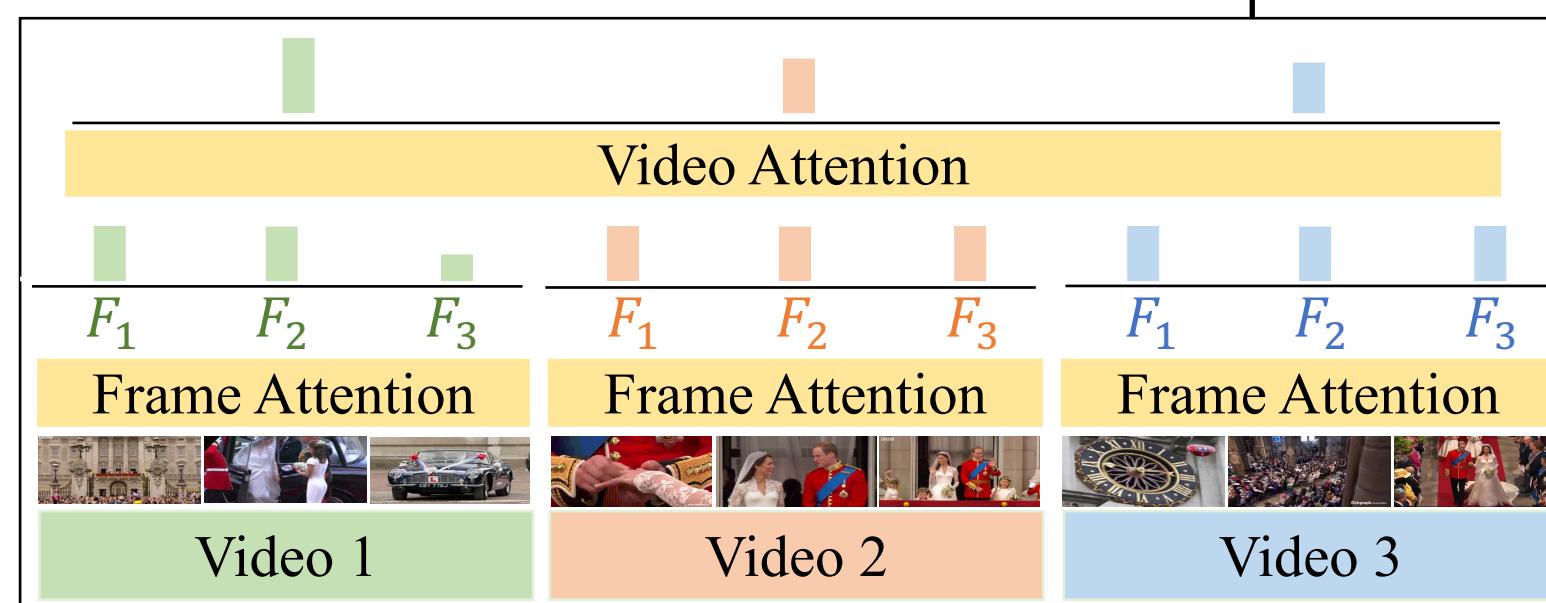
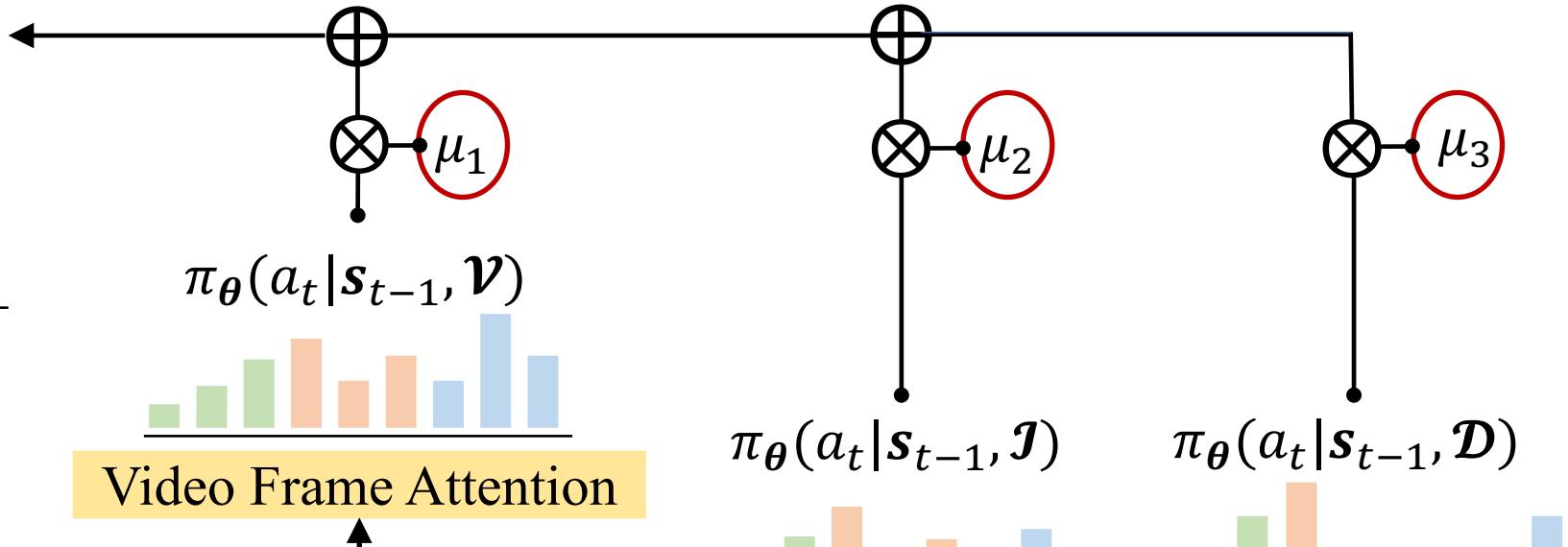
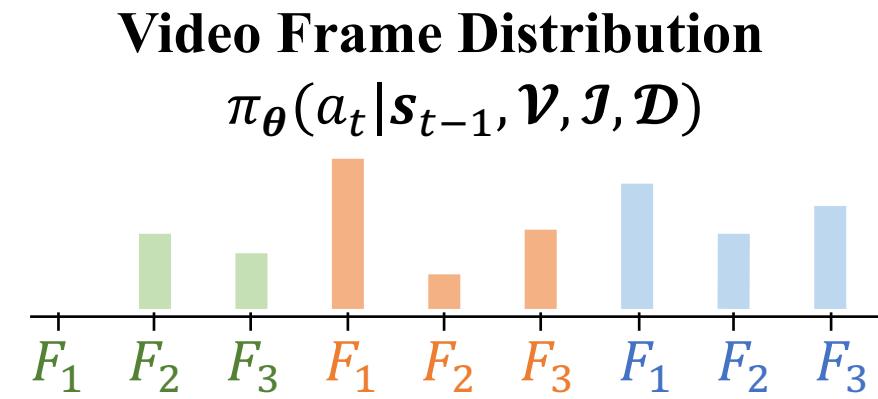
# Policy Network: Hierarchical Attention

**Video Frame Distribution**

$$\pi_{\theta}(a_t | s_{t-1}, \mathcal{V}, \mathcal{I}, \mathcal{D})$$



# Policy Network: Hierarchical Attention



# Rewards

1. **Diversity Reward ( $R_{\text{div}}$ )**: Selected frames are diverse

$$R_{\text{div}} \left( \left[ \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{Image 1} \\ , \\ \text{Image 2} \\ , \\ \text{Image 3} \end{array} \right\} \right] \right) > R_{\text{div}} \left( \left[ \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{Image 1} \\ , \\ \text{Image 1} \\ , \\ \text{Image 1} \end{array} \right\} \right] \right)$$

# Rewards

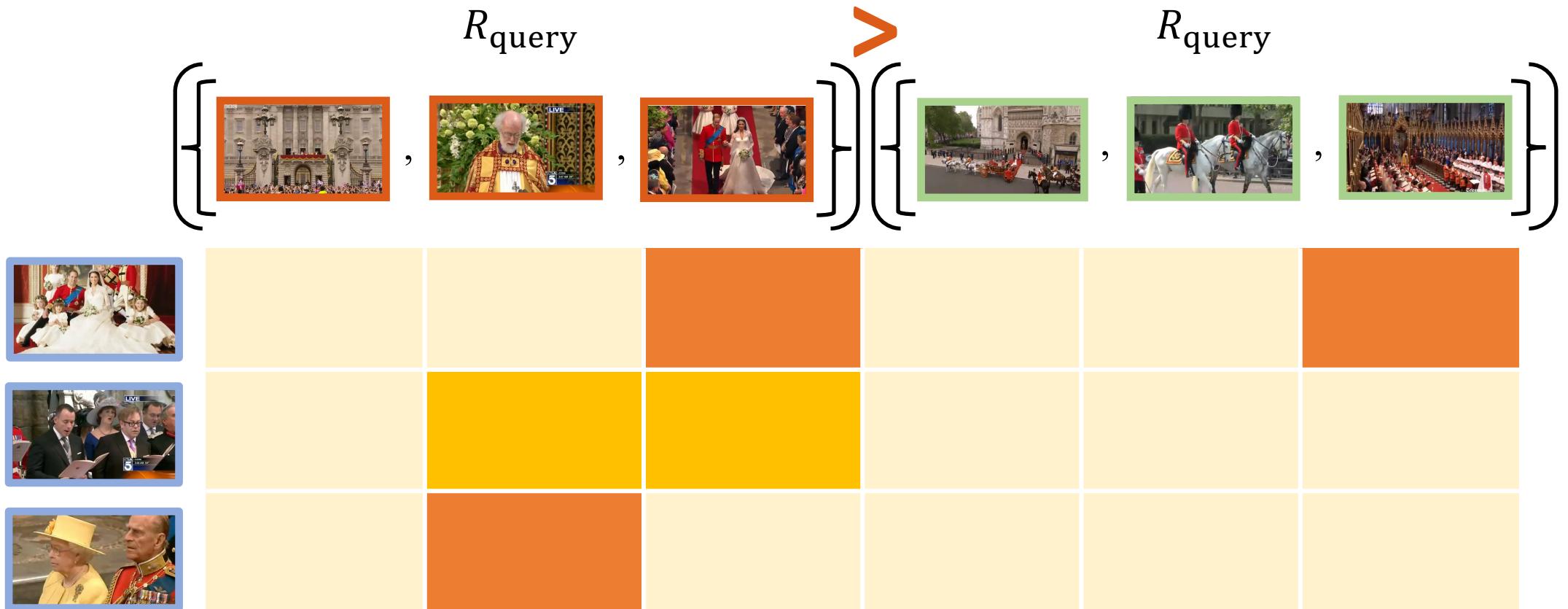
1. **Diversity Reward ( $R_{\text{div}}$ )**: Selected frames are diverse
2. **Representativeness Reward ( $R_{\text{rep}}$ )**: Selected frames are **cluster centers** of the input frames



$$R_{\text{rep}} \left( \left[ \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{Frame 1 (Orange)} \\ , \\ \text{Frame 2 (Orange)} \end{array} \right], \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{Frame 3 (Orange)} \\ , \\ \text{Frame 4 (Orange)} \end{array} \right] \right] \right) > R_{\text{rep}} \left( \left[ \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{Frame 5 (Green)} \\ , \\ \text{Frame 6 (Green)} \end{array} \right], \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{Frame 7 (Green)} \\ , \\ \text{Frame 8 (Green)} \end{array} \right] \right] \right)$$

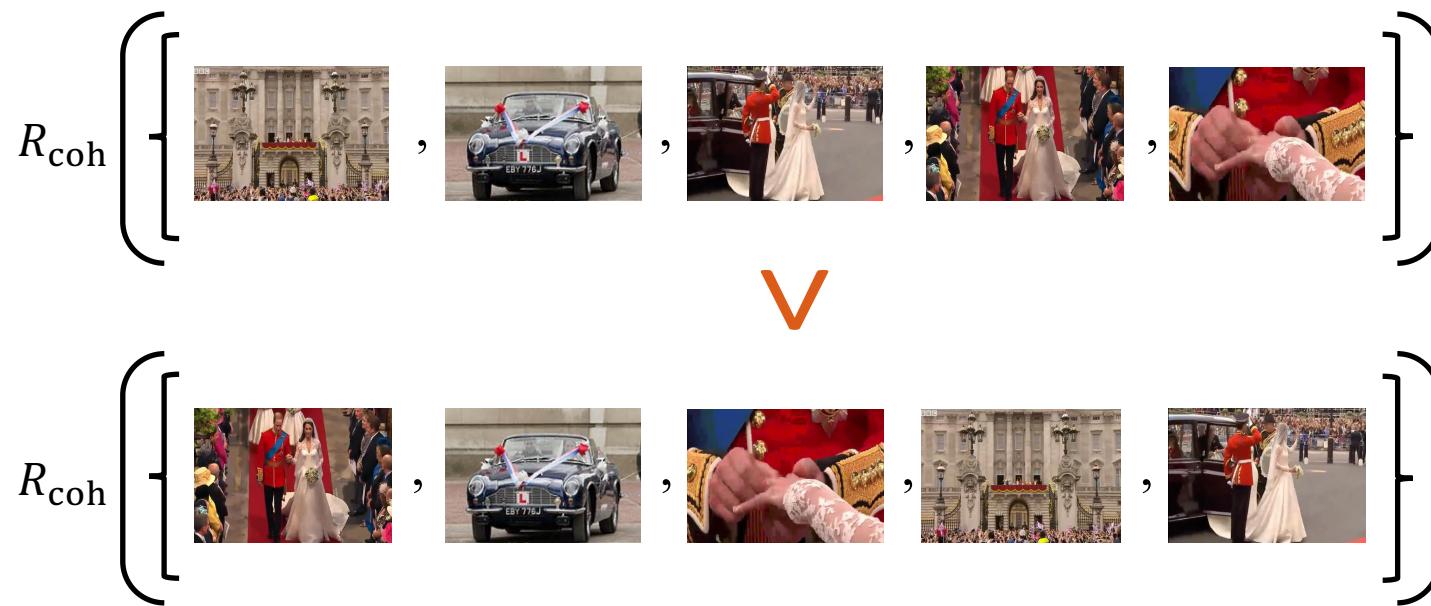
# Rewards

1. **Diversity Reward ( $R_{\text{div}}$ )**: Selected frames are diverse
2. **Representativeness Reward ( $R_{\text{rep}}$ )**: Selected frames are cluster centers of the input frames
3. **Query-adaptability Reward ( $R_{\text{query}}$ )**: Selected frames are similar to retrieved web-images



# Rewards

1. **Diversity Reward ( $R_{\text{div}}$ )**: Selected frames are diverse
2. **Representativeness Reward ( $R_{\text{rep}}$ )**: Selected frames are cluster centers of the input frames
3. **Query-adaptability Reward ( $R_{\text{query}}$ )**: Selected frames are similar to retrieved web-images
4. **Temporal Coherence Reward ( $R_{\text{coh}}$ )**: Summaries are visually coherent

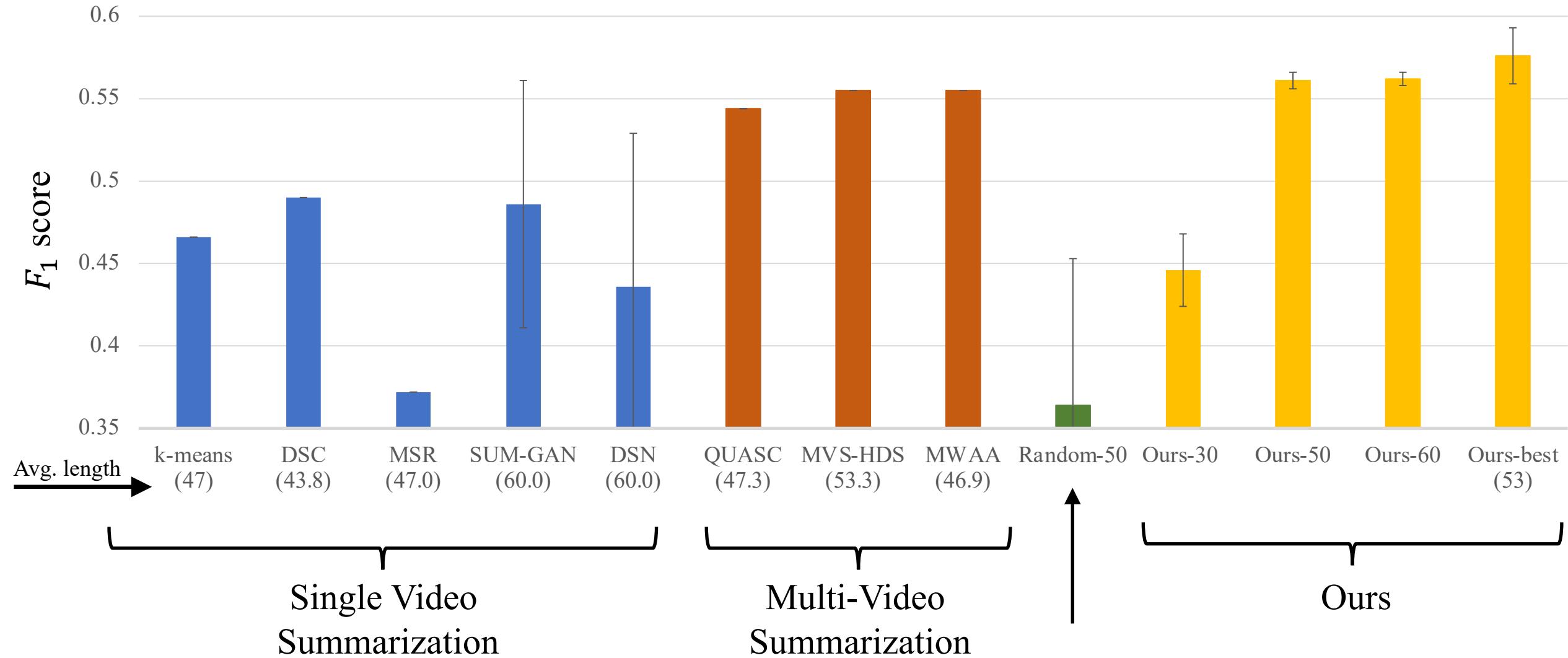


# Experiments

**Dataset:** MVS1K Dataset (4 ground-truth summaries per Query ID)

Query ID	Query	# Videos	# Frames	# Images
1	Britains Prince William wedding 2011	90	1124	324
2	Prince death 2016	104	1549	142
3	NASA discovers Earth-like planet	100	1349	226
4	American government shut-down 2013	82	962	177
5	Malaysia Airline MH370	109	1330	435
6	FIFA corruption scandal 2015	90	785	177
7	Obama re-election 2012	85	1263	207
8	Alpha go vs Lee Sedo	84	976	118
9	Kobe Bryant retirement	109	1140	221
10	Paris terror attacks	83	857	651
<b>Total</b>	-	936	-	2678

# Quantitative Results



# Qualitative Results

K-Means (6|7)



DSC (0|4)



MSR (0|7)



SUM-GAN (0|8)



DSN (0|3)



HDS (2|4)



QUASC (0|3)



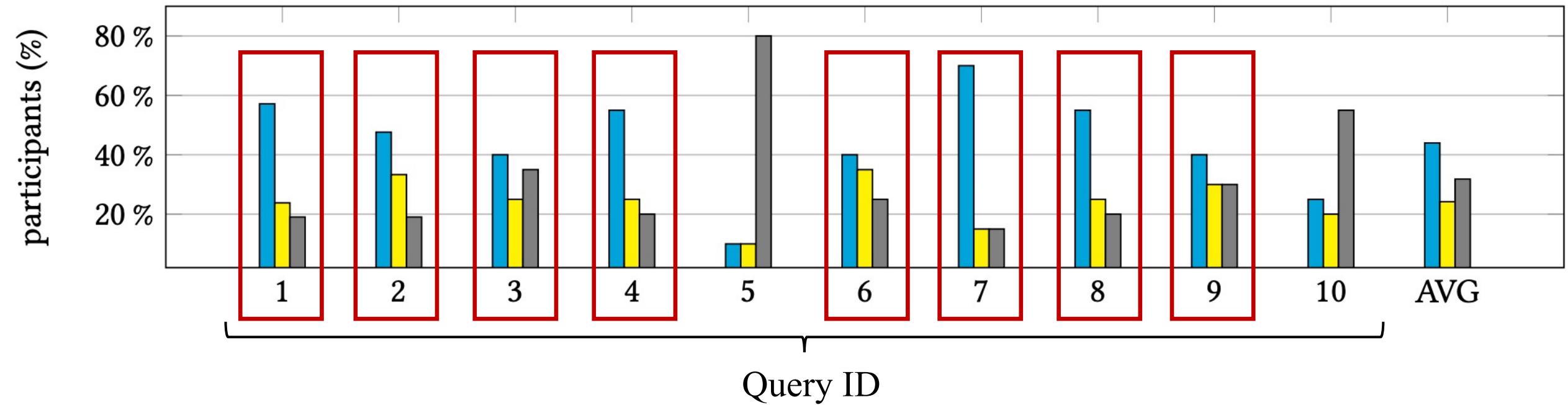
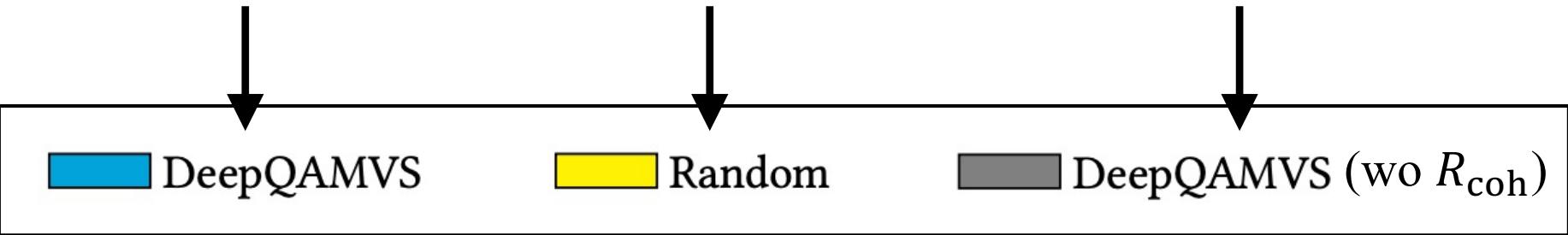
→ Ours (0|1)



Yellow Box: Redundant  
Red Box: Unimportant

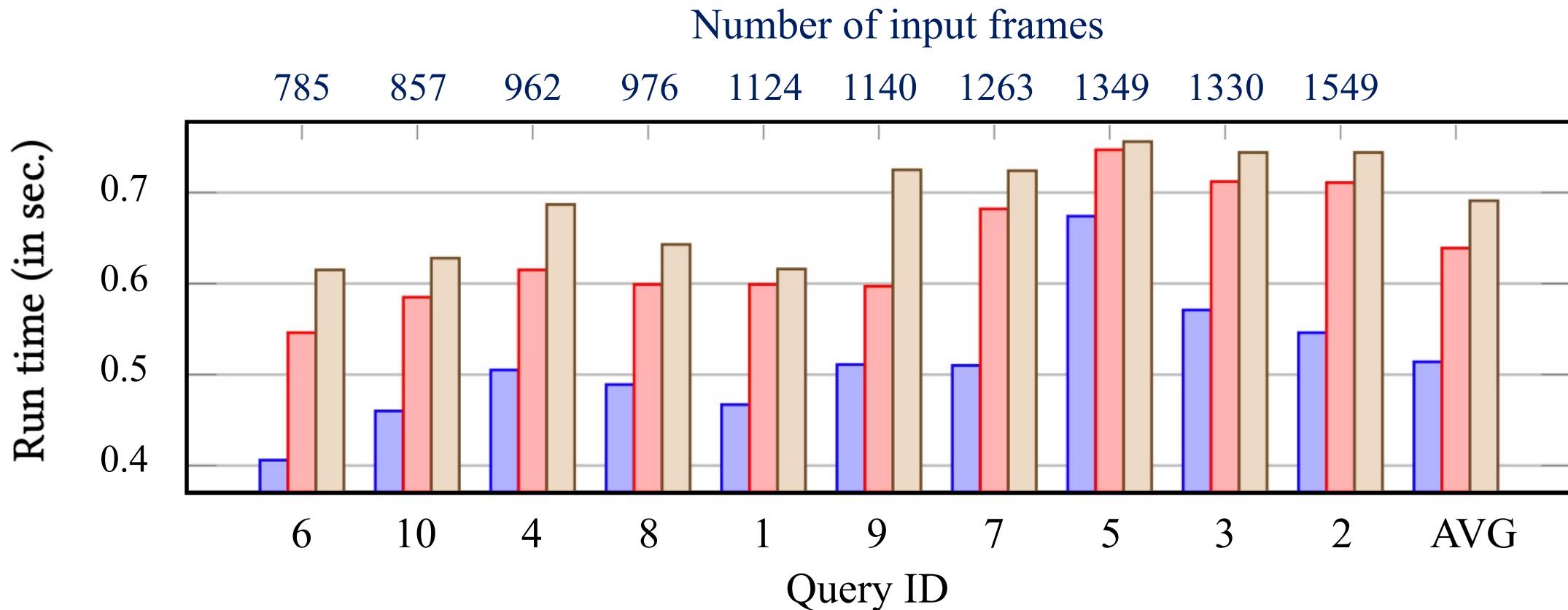
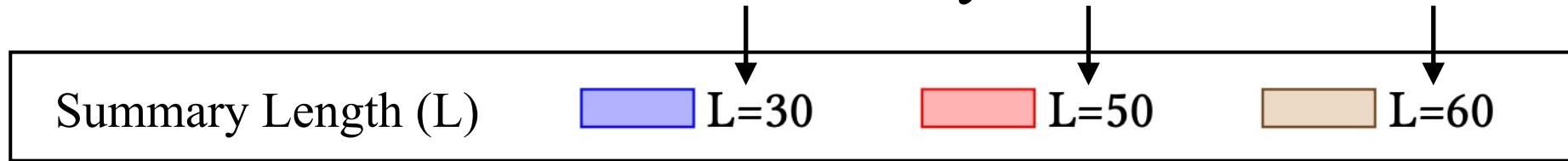
# User Study for Temporal Coherence Assessment

21 participants



Users preferred our DeepQAMVS summary in 8 out of 10 queries

# Run-Time Analysis



Run-time scales **linearly** with the number of input frames and summary length

# Conclusion

## Advantages

- ✓ First end-to-end trainable model for QAMVS
- ✓ SOTA results on MVS1K dataset
- ✓ Scales linearly with the number of input video frames and summary length

Future QAMVS would benefit from:

Better evaluation metric combining visual, textual and temporal order overlap

Better rewards for temporal coherence

New dataset with segment based textual annotation

