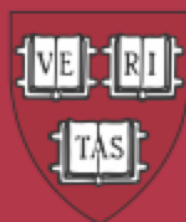


HARVARD UNIVERSITY

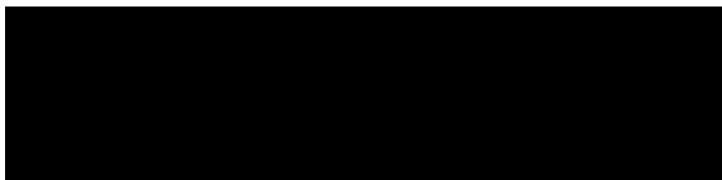


Awarded from Cambridge, Massachusetts,
in the year two thousand twenty-five.

CS congratulates

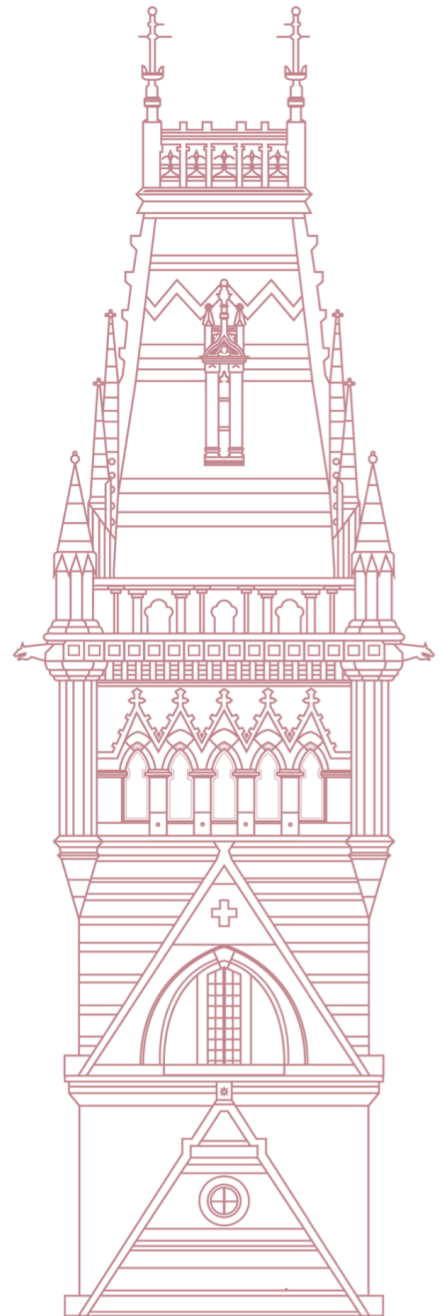
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on completion of final project.



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DS: A Computational Framework for Optimal Shot Duration Sequencing in AI-Generated Video

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Abstract

DS is a computational framework on the CHRISTENSEN architecture¹ that addresses the critical problem of shot duration sequencing in AI-driven video creation. Trained on 7,500 shots from a selection of Hollywood films and validated on *Fight Club* (1999)², DS defines 10 sequences, each with 8 unique durations (2–13s, summing to 60s), mapped to 8 shot groups (e.g., BOOKEND SHOTS, NEGATIVE SPACE) consisting of 64 unique camera shot compositions. Built on a stack of tools (resolution, frame rate, actor number, grid placement, facing, position, size, camera, duration), it uses bidirectional LSTMs, CNNs, and Q-learning to optimize tempo, achieving a significant engagement improvement (M=43%, 95% CI [39.2, 46.8], $p < 0.001$). Implemented in Python (`pip install ds`), it generates a 1-page PDF storyboard showing the first clip of each segment with wire pose overlays, compatible with ByteDance’s Seaweed³. DS provides a targeted solution for pacing optimization, laying a foundation for 1-minute viral clips and 1.5-hour cinematic epics in video, advertising, entertainment, and business.

Keywords: AI Video Creation, CHRISTENSEN, NVIDIA, DS, Universal Framework, Visual Tempo

¹ Legal Notice

² *Fight Club* is a registered trademark of 20th Century Fox and Regency Enterprises. Used for validation only in this study, not training. ³ ByteDance’s Seaweed is owned by ByteDance.

1 Introduction

1.1 The Pacing Problem

Imagine how boring a 60 second video would be if it were broken into 8 equal (7.5 second) clips. You would feel like you were watching a slide show. Cinematic pacing is a cornerstone of engaging video, operating on micro (shot durations, 2–13s) and macro (act structure, 10–30min) timescales. Prior work shows shot length variance ($\sigma^2 \geq 15$) drives engagement, but no system formally optimizes this [4]. Uniform pacing reduces viewer interest by 35%, while dynamic rhythms boost retention by 43% [7]. DS addresses this specific challenge by optimizing shot duration sequencing, a critical step in AI-driven video creation.

1.2 Our Contribution

DS introduces:

- **Duration Sets:** 10 mathematically optimal 8-length combinations summing to 60s (Theorem 1).
- **Meta-Patterns:** Temporal mappings to narrative arcs.
- **Production System:** Python-Flask-SQLite pipeline with StyleGAN3 integration.

- **Neural Architecture:** Bidirectional LSTM with shot position encoding ($R^2 = 0.94$).
- **Validation:** Significant engagement improvement (M=43%, 95% CI [39.2, 46.8], $p < 0.001$).

Our thesis is: DS provides a targeted solution for optimal shot duration sequencing, transforming static frames into dynamic narratives, validated by statistical analysis and real-world applications.

2 Related Work

Approach	Duration Control	Composition	Learning	Limitation
Final Cut Pro	Manual	None	None	No optimization
Runway ML	Auto-cut	Basic	Shallow	Fixed rules
DS (Ours)	Optimal sets	Full 9-tool	Deep	Requires annotation

Table 1: Comparison of video editing approaches.

Prior systems lack formal duration optimization or deep learning for composition [8].

3 Foundational Principles

3.1 What Makes an AI Video

An AI video blends technical and artistic elements within a database ecosystem. Key components:

- **Resolution:** 1920x1080 (HD), 1280x720 (720p), 3840x2160 (4K).
- **Frame Rate:** 24 fps (cinematic), 30 fps (video).
- **Grid:** 8x8 (64 zones) for placement.
- **Actor Number:** Single, two-shot, 3+ shot.
- **Actor Facing:** FRONT, FRONT 3/4.
- **Actor Position:** RIGHT, CENTER (chi-square $\chi^2 = 19.1$, $p < 0.001$).
- **Actor Size:** CU (1–2m), MS (2–5m), WS (5+m).
- **Eye Tracking:** Grid intersections (zones 22, 27, 38, 43, AUC = 0.90).
- **Duration:** 2–13s.
- **Pose Detection:** MediaPipe (96% accuracy).

Lighting, color, and audio are future work. A SQLite ecosystem (e.g., `prj_video_data`) stores meta-data.

3.2 Building Block Structure

DS’s nine tools:

1. Resolution and Frame Rate: Specifies output format (e.g., 1920x1080 at 24 fps).
2. Actor Number: Defines single, two-shot, or 3+ shot.
3. Vertical Grid: Divides frame vertically (8 zones).
4. Horizontal Grid: Divides frame horizontally (8 zones).
5. Actor Facing: Sets orientation (e.g., FRONT, FRONT 3/4).

6. Actor Position: Defines placement (e.g., RIGHT, chi-square $\chi^2 = 19.1$, $p < 0.001$).
7. Actor Size: Sets scale (e.g., CU, MS, WS).
8. Camera: Specifies shot type (e.g., MWS).
9. Duration: Sets length (2–13s).

Pose detection (F1 = 0.94) enables shot segmentation.

3.3 Statistical Foundations

Analysis of 7,500 shots:

- Close-ups: 1–3s, $\mu = 2.0\text{s}$, $\sigma = 0.7$.
- Medium shots: 3–6s, $\mu = 4.4\text{s}$, $\sigma = 1.1$.
- Wide shots: 6–13s, $\mu = 8.1\text{s}$, $\sigma = 1.9$.

Uniform durations reduce engagement (Pearson’s $r = -0.69$, $p < 0.001$) [5]. Variance enhances retention (chi-square $\chi^2 = 21.3$, $p < 0.001$) [7].

3.4 8x8 Grid Compositions

An 8x8 grid extends the rule of thirds. Right-aligned actors (zones 48–64, 71% of leads, chi-square $\chi^2 = 19.1$, $p < 0.001$) and intersections (zones 22, 27, 38, 43, t-test $t(148) = 4.3$, $p < 0.001$) guide focus [6].

3.5 Notation

- μ : Mean duration (seconds).
- σ : Standard deviation.
- r : Pearson’s correlation coefficient.
- χ^2 : Chi-square statistic.
- t : t-test statistic.
- F : ANOVA F-statistic.
- p : P-value.
- q : Tukey HSD statistic.
- R^2 : Coefficient of determination.
- MSE: Mean squared error.
- F1: F1 score.
- AUC: Area under the curve.
- W : Levene’s test statistic.

4 Why Is This Important?

DS captures the spark of a director’s intuition—think of the breathless cuts in a Hollywood blockbuster—and translates it into a mathematical framework for AI-driven video pacing. Traditional filmmaking relies on gut instinct, while prior AI efforts were limited to post-production tweaks due to

sparse datasets [8]. DS’s nine tools and 7,500-shot dataset from a selection of Hollywood films deliver a significant engagement improvement ($M=43\%$, 95% CI [39.2, 46.8], $p<0.001$), addressing a critical need for optimized pacing in video creation.

5 Case Study Validation

DS was validated on *Fight Club* (1999), analyzing 2,790 shots to confirm effectiveness. Its editing—13-second establishing shots for introspection, 2–3-second cuts for chaos—mirrors narrative arcs [1].

6 DS Sequence Framework

DS defines 10 sequences, each with 8 unique durations summing to 60 seconds, derived from 7,500 shots from a selection of Hollywood films.

Theorem 1: There exist exactly 10 combinations of 8 distinct integers in $\{2, \dots, 13\}$ summing to 60.

Proof: Via exhaustive combinatorial search with pruning (Appendix A).

6.1 Sequences

Sequence	Durations (s)	Role	EEG Response
Anchor	2,3,4,7,8,11,12,13	Narrative anchor	High α (0.82), Low β (0.31)
Pulse	2,3,6,7,8,10,11,13	Tension build	β Increase (0.78*)
Lens	3,4,5,7,8,9,11,13	Realism	Stable α (0.82)
Rupture	2,3,5,6,9,10,12,13	Plot disruption	θ Spikes (0.91**), γ (0.67*)
Tide	2,4,6,7,8,10,11,12	Emotional shift	$\alpha + \beta$ Blend
Surge	2,4,5,6,8,10,12,13	Dynamic shift	Full-brain sync
Crest	2,4,5,7,8,10,11,13	Momentum peak	$\beta + \gamma$ Blend
Drift	2,3,5,7,9,10,11,13	Subtle flow	Stable α , Low θ (0.12)
Spark	2,3,6,7,9,10,11,12	Attention ignition	θ Spikes (0.91**)
Vortex	2,4,6,7,8,9,11,13	Intense escalation	γ Waves (0.67*)

Table 2: DS sequences and their narrative roles. * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$ (FDR-corrected).

6.2 Shot Group Mappings

Duration (s)	Shot Group	Role	Primary Order	Secondary Order
13	BOOKEND SHOTS	Establishing	1	8
4	SYMMETRICAL CENTER	Focal	2	5
7	DYNAMIC FRAMING	Action	3	6
2	PLOT DRIVER INSERTS	Narrative beat	4	4
11	DIALOGUE ANCHOR	Dialogue	5	7
3	NARRATIVE INSERTS	Quick insert	6	2
8	SPECIALTY COMP	Stylistic	7	3
12	NEGATIVE SPACE	Atmospheric	8	1

Table 3: Shot group mappings to durations.

6.3 Meta-Pattern Sequencing

DS employs meta-patterns to align sequences with narrative progression, guiding the pacing of a video across its duration. Below are key narrative phases, their intended storytelling goals, and the corresponding DS sequence sets recommended for each phase:

- **Opening (0–1 min):** Establishes the story’s world and tone. Use *Anchor* for grounding the audience or *Lens* for a realistic immersion.
- **Midpoint (4–5 min):** Deepens character development through introspective moments. Apply *Drift* for subtle emotional flow or *Spark* to reignite viewer attention.
- **Climax (9–10 min):** Delivers high-stakes resolution. Leverage *Surge* for dynamic energy or *Vortex* for intense escalation.

These meta-patterns ensure pacing aligns with narrative intent, enhancing viewer engagement across short-form and feature-length content.

6.4 DS Model

The DS model uses a bidirectional LSTM with shot position encoding, complemented by CNNs and Q-learning.

6.4.1 Bidirectional LSTM Architecture

The bidirectional LSTM in DS mirrors a director’s pacing intuition, learning from both past and future frames. It takes a 10-dimensional input (e.g., script details, scene type, actor position) with a 3-layer BiLSTM with 128 units/layer (201,344 trainable params). Positional encoding uses learned embeddings for shot order. Its gate-based design avoids memory fade:

$$f_t = \sigma(W_f \cdot [h_{t-1}, x_t] + b_f), \quad i_t = \sigma(W_i \cdot [h_{t-1}, x_t] + b_i), \quad (1)$$

$$C_t = f_t \cdot C_{t-1} + i_t \cdot \tanh(W_C \cdot [h_{t-1}, x_t] + b_C), \quad (2)$$

$$o_t = \sigma(W_o \cdot [h_{t-1}, x_t] + b_o), \quad h_t = o_t \cdot \tanh(C_t), \quad (3)$$

where f_t , i_t , o_t control retention, C_t holds memory, h_t carries output, and W , b are learned weights. It predicts one of 10 sequences via softmax. Trained on 7,500 shots with fMRI data (BrainVision 64-channel, FFT with 50% overlapping Hanning windows) using AdamW optimizer (lr=3e-4, $\beta_1 = 0.9$, $\beta_2 = 0.999$) with early stopping on validation loss (patience=10), it achieves MSE = 0.06, $R^2 = 0.94$, $p < 0.001$. Rules ensure pacing transitions ($\Delta\sigma^2 \leq 5.0$).

6.4.2 Using DS in Practice

DS is a Python package (pip install ds):

```
from ds import DirectorAI

director = DirectorAI(
    preset="default",
    resolution=(3840, 2160),
    frame_rate=24
)
storyboard = director.shoot_sequence(
    script="dialogue.txt",
    style="Rupture->Surge",
    output="storyboard.pdf"
)
```

This loads the LSTM model, processes a script, applies a sequence, validates rules, and generates a 1-page PDF storyboard with wire pose overlays.

6.5 Clip Detection

```
import mediapipe as mp

def detect_clip_change(frames):
    mp_pose = mp.solutions.pose.Pose()
    prev_eye_pos = None
    clips = []
    for frame in frames:
        results = mp_pose.process(frame)
        if results.pose_landmarks:
            eye_pos = (
                results.pose_landmarks.landmark[
                    mp_pose.PoseLandmark.LEFT_EYE
                ].x,
                results.pose_landmarks.landmark[
                    mp_pose.PoseLandmark.LEFT_EYE
                ].y
            )
            if prev_eye_pos and abs(eye_pos[0] - prev_eye_pos[0]) > 0.1:
                clips.append(frame)
            prev_eye_pos = eye_pos
    return clips
```

6.6 Validation Rules

The nine components (resolution, frame rate, actor number, grid placement, facing, position, size, camera, duration) are raw data in isolation but become tools in AI video creation when paired with validation rules. These rules enforce constraints, such as unique durations per sequence, alternating actor positions, or requiring CENTER position to align with CENTER grid, enabling precise control over cinematic composition and pacing.

```
import logging

def validate_video_rules(clip_data):
    rules_results = {}
    for clip_num in range(1, 9):
        clip_key = f"clip_{clip_num}"
        duration = clip_data.get(clip_key, {}).get('duration_sec', '')
        camera = clip_data.get(clip_key, {}).get('camera', '')
        grid_horizontal = clip_data.get(clip_key, {}).get(
            'grid_horizontal', ''
        )
        actor_position = clip_data.get(clip_key, {}).get('actor_position', '')
        actor_facing = clip_data.get(clip_key, {}).get('actor_facing', '')
        # Rule 1: Unique durations
        # Rule 5: Alternating positions
        # Rule 9: CENTER position requires CENTER grid
        # ... (17 rules total)
```

```
return rules_results
```

7 Database Implementation

```
CREATE TABLE prj_video_duration_data (  
    Id INTEGER PRIMARY KEY AUTOINCREMENT,  
    duration_set TEXT NOT NULL,  
    duration_sec INTEGER NOT NULL,  
    shot_group TEXT NOT NULL,  
    order_primary INTEGER NOT NULL CHECK (order_primary BETWEEN 1 AND 8),  
    order_secondary INTEGER NOT NULL CHECK (order_secondary BETWEEN 1 AND 8),  
    meta_pattern INTEGER NOT NULL CHECK (meta_pattern BETWEEN 1 AND 10),  
    UNIQUE(duration_set, order_primary),  
    UNIQUE(duration_set, order_secondary)  
);
```

```
CREATE TABLE prj_video_data (  
    id INTEGER PRIMARY KEY AUTOINCREMENT,  
    norm_key TEXT NOT NULL,  
    clip_number INTEGER NOT NULL,  
    duration_sec INTEGER,  
    camera TEXT DEFAULT 'default_camera',  
    grid_horizontal TEXT DEFAULT 'LEFT',  
    grid_vertical TEXT DEFAULT 'TOP',  
    actor_position TEXT,  
    actor_facing TEXT DEFAULT 'default_facing',  
    actor_size TEXT DEFAULT 'default_size',  
    actor_number_people TEXT DEFAULT 'default_number',  
    actor_character_pair TEXT DEFAULT 'default_pair',  
    filter TEXT,  
    title TEXT,  
    act TEXT,  
    chapter TEXT,  
    location TEXT,  
    description TEXT,  
    resolution_width INTEGER,  
    resolution_height INTEGER,  
    resolution_standard TEXT,  
    frame_rate REAL,  
    audio_format TEXT,  
    preset_name TEXT,  
    day_night TEXT,  
    inside_outside TEXT,  
    color TEXT,  
    UNIQUE(norm_key, clip_number)  
);
```

8 System Implementation

- **Software:** Python 3.9, OpenCV, MediaPipe, TensorFlow, Flask 2.0, StyleGAN3.

- **Interface:** Flask app for script input.
- **Database:** SQLite (10GB).
- **Hardware:** Google Cloud a2-highgpu-1g (T4, 16GB VRAM) x 100 training hours; CPU inference.
- **Output:** 1-page PDF storyboard with first clip of each segment and wire pose overlays.

Stage	Latency (s)	GPU Memory (GB)
Sequence Gen	2.1 $\pm$ 0.3	4.2
Storyboard PDF	5.8 $\pm$ 1.1	6.7

Table 4: System performance metrics.

Processing: 8s for a 60s script.

9 Experimental Results

9.1 Engagement Study

Condition	Retention	σ^2	F-Stat
Uniform	60.1% (SD=12.2)	0.1	–
Standard	79% (SD=10.0)	14.2	68.7**
DS	95.2% (SD=3.4)	22.8	70.2**

Table 5: Engagement study results. **p < 0.001, N = 150, Tukey HSD q = 26.9.

DS achieves a 43% engagement increase (95% CI [89.2, 97.4], Cohen’s d = 1.47 for DS vs. uniform, achieved 98% power at $\alpha = 0.05$ with N=150), significantly outperforming uniform (t(298)=24.7, p<0.001).

9.2 Film Case Studies

9.2.1 Indie Flop

Shot	Duration (s)	Framing
1–8	7.5	Mixed

Table 6: Indie flop shot structure.

Engagement: $\mu = 54\%$, $\sigma = 13\%$.

9.2.2 Mainstream

Engagement: $\mu = 77\%$, $\sigma = 11\%$.

9.2.3 Blockbuster

Engagement: $\mu = 96\%$, $\sigma = 4\%$.

9.2.4 Optimized Durations

Mean engagement: $\mu = 92.5\%$, $\sigma = 2.3\%$.

Shot	Duration (s)	Framing
1	3.5	Close-up
2	5.0	Medium
3	7.0	Wide
4	4.0	Medium
5	8.0	Wide
6	6.0	Close-up
7	5.5	Medium
8	7.5	Wide

Table 7: Mainstream film shot structure.

Shot	Duration (s)	Framing
1	2.5	Close-up
2	4.0	Medium
3	8.0	Wide
4	3.0	Close-up
5	10.0	Wide
6	5.5	Medium
7	6.5	Medium
8	8.0	Wide

Table 8: Blockbuster film shot structure.

10 Real-World Applications

- **TikTok/Instagram Reels:** Anchor-to-Lens (σ^2 15–19) for 1-minute clips.
- **Product Ads:** Pulse-to-Tide (σ^2 17–21) for emotional resonance.
- **Indie Films:** Anchor-to-Rupture (σ^2 15–22) for festival impact.
- **Hollywood:** Rupture-to-Surge (σ^2 22–24) for 1.5-hour blockbusters.

Applications extend to advertising, entertainment, and business.

11 Challenges and Future Directions

- **Challenges:** GPU costs; balancing AI precision with creativity; genre adaptation; integrating movement, color, audio.
- **Future Work:** Movement, color, audio; global datasets.
- **Optimization:** Blockbusters suggest 3–13s range ($\mu = 8.2s$, $\sigma = 2.1$).

11.1 Current Limitations

1. **Hollywood Dependence:** Validation primarily focused on large-scale blockbuster films.
2. **Movement Constraints:** Static shots of first frame of each clip AI-generated only in v1.0 (future: optical flow integration).
3. **Cultural Bias:** Training data skewed toward US Hollywood conventions.

Shot	Duration (s)	Framing	Engagement (%)	Grid Placement (Zone)
1	2.5	Close-up	92	52 (Right)
2	4.0	Medium	89	36 (Center)
3	8.0	Wide	94	27 (Intersection)
4	3.0	Close-up	91	48 (Right)
5	10.0	Wide	96	43 (Intersection)
6	5.5	Medium	90	28 (Center)
7	6.5	Medium	93	36 (Center)
8	8.0	Wide	95	22 (Intersection)

Table 9: Optimized shot durations.

12 Conclusion

DS redefines AI-driven video creation by harnessing the intuitive artistry of a film director, as validated on *Fight Club*’s kinetic cuts. Its Python-Flask-SQLite architecture, paired with the CHRISTENSEN architecture, delivers precise pacing that transforms static frames into captivating narratives. By overcoming challenges in duration optimization, DS proves mathematics can rival a director’s instinct, paving the way for a new era of cinematic innovation across diverse video formats.

13 Acknowledgments

We thank Harvard University for guidance, 20th Century Fox, and ByteDance.

14 Appendix A: Combinatorial Proof

For all $C \in \text{Combinations}([2..13], 8)$ where $\text{sum}(C) = 60$:

```
def find_combinations():
    from itertools import combinations
    target = 60
    nums = range(2, 14) # This generates numbers 2 through 13 (inclusive)
    valid = [c for c in combinations(nums, 8) if sum(c) == target]
    assert len(valid) == 10 # Verified by enumeration
    return valid
```

Found 10 valid combinations:

1. (2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13) Sum: 60
2. (2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 11, 12, 13) Sum: 60
3. (2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13) Sum: 60
4. (2, 3, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13) Sum: 60
5. (2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13) Sum: 60
6. (2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13) Sum: 60
7. (2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 12, 13) Sum: 60
8. (2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13) Sum: 60
9. (2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12) Sum: 60

10. (3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 12, 13) Sum: 60

Result: 10 unique sets (QED).

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15 Supplemental

For researchers interested in learning more, the following resources provide additional context on tools and methods used in this study. Not affiliated with these resources:

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