# Aligning Video Recordings with Text Proceedings in Open Parliament TV

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### Summary

- Open Parliament TV project: goals and architecture
  - "Creating, Analysing, and Increasing Accessibility of Parliamentary Corpora"
- The Bundestag context
- The data processing pipeline
  - Official text proceedings and video feed
- Identified issues in the data
  - Mislabelling
  - Segmentation
- Alignment approaches
- Data visualisations

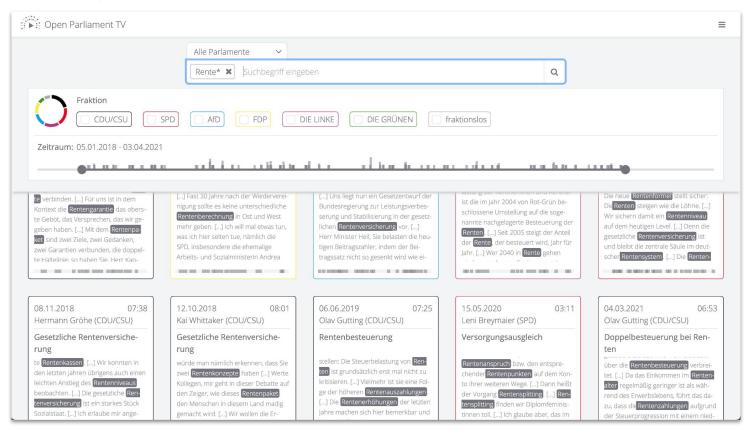
### The Open Parliament TV project

Started in 2019

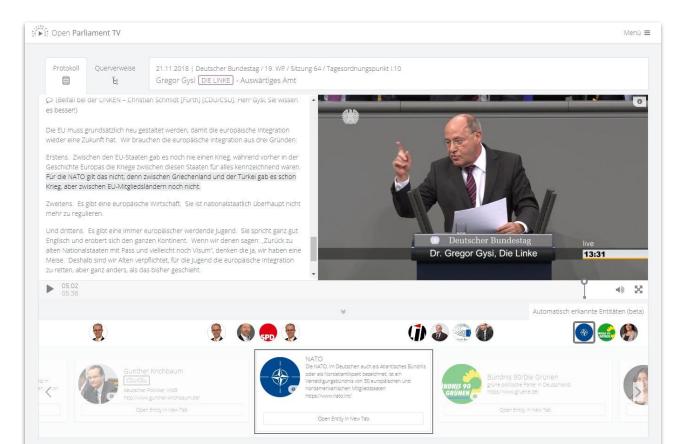
Goal: Making parliamentary debates more transparent and accessible

- User-accessible interface and search engine
- Enriched video and transcripts (with entities and documents)
- Ability to quote/link parts of speech
- Connect political discourse beyond the boundaries of single parliaments

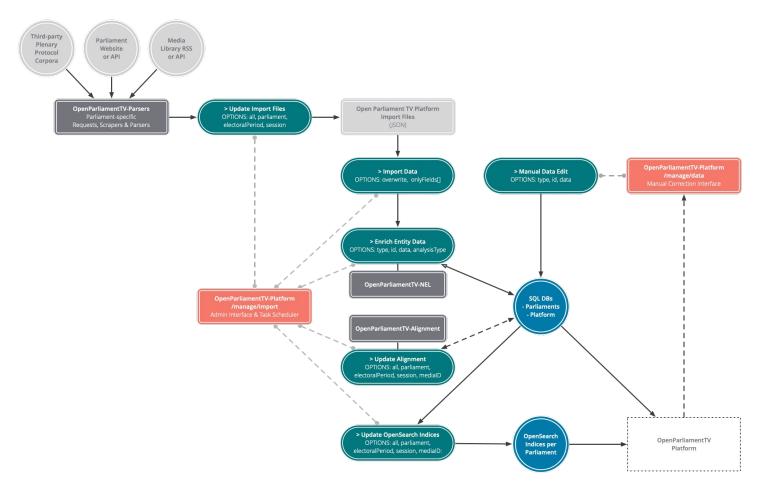
### Search engine



### Enriched video presentation



### Open Parliament TV architecture



### The Bundestag context

- Video feed for plenary sessions
  - live, and available afterwards as a RSS feed
  - features title and speaker name
  - segmented by agenda item
  - 1483 hours for the current parliamentary session (20) started in nov. 2021
- Official text proceedings
  - provided after a 2-3 days delay
  - in PDF format and XML format (using the dbtplenarprotokoll DTD)
- Goal: align official text proceedings and video feed
- Existing projects (OpenDiscourse and GermaParl) not quite fit
- Development funded by Prototype Fund program

### Data processing goals

- Download data for video and text documents
- Parse to provide a unified data model from both sources
- Merge video items and text items
- Enrich the merged model with
  - Named-Entity Linking (for explicitly structured data)
  - Named-Entity Recognition (for other entities)
  - text sentences forced alignment with audio/video
- Have a system that can run mostly unattended on low-end servers

### Data processing pipeline

Individual tools/modules orchestrated in a workflow.py:

- Scrapers (video and text) (scraper)
- Parsers (video and text) (parser)
- Video and text alignment/merging (merger)
- Named-Entity Linking with Wikidata entities (curated source) (nel)
- Named-Entity Recognition with Wikidata/spacy (ner)
- Forced text alignment with aeneas (aligner)
- Publication (push to git) (worfklow.py)

See <a href="https://github.com/OpenParliamentTV/OpenParliamentTV-Tools">https://github.com/OpenParliamentTV/OpenParliamentTV-Tools</a>

### Issues

#### Technical issues

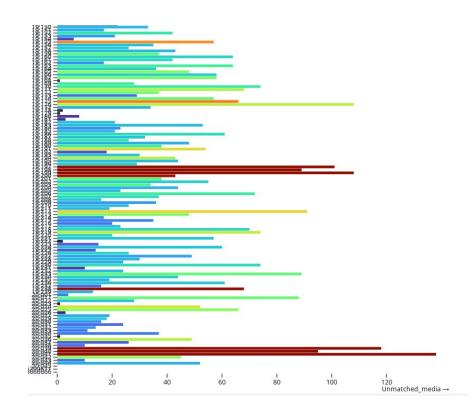
- servers sometimes unreliable -> implement a retry mechanism
- non-monotonous session numbering (e.g. 20082 -> 20904 -> 20083)

#### Main data issues

- non-formalized formats and inconsistent entries: the DTD specifies a schema, but not all content form (e.g. speaker + faction identification)
- plain human entry errors (wrong speak title, wrong speaker name...)
- segmentation differences between video feed and text proceedings

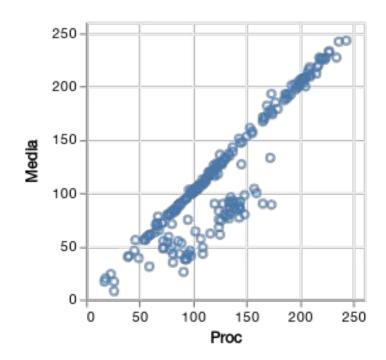
### Initial key-based alignment approach

- key for item based on speaker name + title + index in case of duplicates
  - local order only
  - very fragile wrt human errors and segmentation differences
- highlights some error patterns



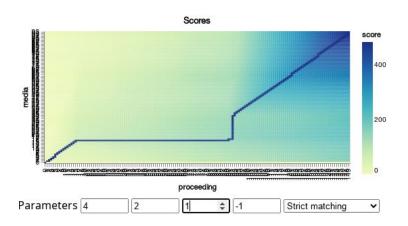
### Segmentation issue

- Plot proceeding item count vs media item count - mismatch
- Often due to "Fragestunde" (Questions to the Parliament)
- Other corner cases (arbitrary segmentation)



### Needleman-Wunsch alignment

- Analogy with DNA sequence alignment, with global order constraint
- Speak items with title + speaker name (with possible mutations/deletions/insertions)
- Parameters
  - weights for speaker name and item title for item similarity
  - merge\_penalty and split\_penalty to express cost of merging/splitting a media item in multiple proceeding items
- Principle
  - build a score matrix from start items
  - follow the highest score path starting from the end



### General dashboard



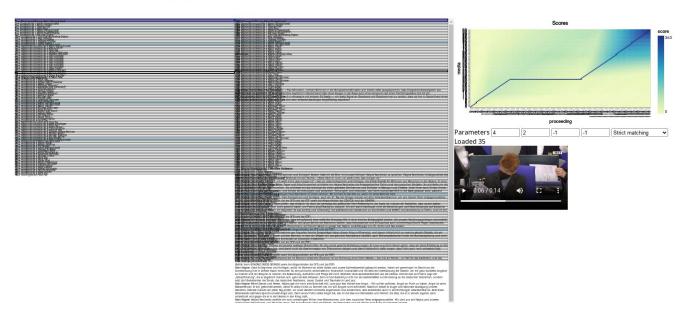
## "Block" visualization - dynamic parameters

#### Data for 20020

1101 20020

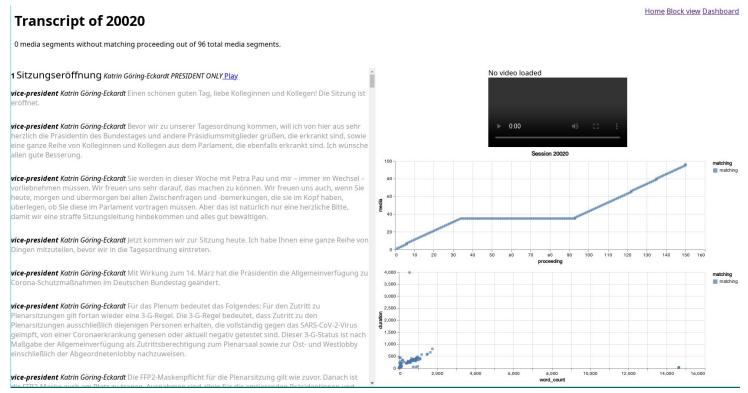
Home Dashboard Transcript view

96 media items / 150 proceedings items - Toggle reduced



https://optv.olivieraubert.net/OpenParliamentTV-Tools/optv/parliaments/DE/dashboard/block.html?session=20020#

# Transcript visualisation - alignment result



https://optv.olivieraubert.net/OpenParliamentTV-Tools/optv/parliaments/DE/dashboard/transcript.html?session=20020

### Results

Term	Period	# Sessions	# Items	Video duration (h)
20	2021-	173	20295	1483
19	2017-2021	239	27603	2151
18	2013-2017	245	19382	1866

### Conclusion and perspectives

- Data ingestion and processing code available at <a href="https://github.com/OpenParliamentTV/OpenParliamentTV-Tools">https://github.com/OpenParliamentTV-Tools</a>
- Data (origin and aligned/merged) available at <a href="https://github.com/OpenParliamentTV/OpenParliamentTV-Data-DE/">https://github.com/OpenParliamentTV/OpenParliamentTV-Data-DE/</a>
- Still some QA to do
- Extension to other parliaments

Feedback welcome!