Skepticism films: Knowing and doubting the world in contemporary cinema
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Sequence Protocols
Sequence protocol ABRE LOS OJOS
Director: Alejandro Amenábar. Screenplay: Alejandro Amenábar and Mateo Gil

(I) Exposition: The Death of a Womanizer
00:00:01 Credit sequence on black background

Subsequence 1: Introducing César
00:00:28 (01) Dream scene: César wakes up to the waking call “abre los ojos”
00:01:34 (02) Dream scene: César is driving through the deserted streets of Madrid
00:03:07 (03) César wakes up again adjacent to Nuria, this time realising he had a nightmare
00:04:19 (04) César drives through the crowded streets of Madrid
00:05:49 (05) César picks up Pelayo, driving with him through town
00:07:14 (06) César and Pelayo are playing squash

Subsequence 2: Meeting Sofia
00:08:08 (07) Frame story: A masked César talks with his psychiatrist Antonio about what he has done
00:11:25 (08) At César’s birthday party he is introduced to Sofia
00:12:20 (09) At the party, César encounters Nuria and rejects her
00:14:29 (10) César and Sofia start talking with other at the party
00:17:15 (11) Pelayo discovers César and Sofia and becomes jealous

Subsequence 3: The Consequences of Spending the Night With Sofia
00:19:57 (12) César accompanies Sofia to her apartment, where they are talking the entire night through. César sees the cryogenics video for the first time
00:25:42 (13) César wants to drive home, but a suddenly appearing Nuria convinces him to drive in her car. On the road, Nuria causes a suicidal car accident

(II) A Womanizer Disfigured

Subsequence 4: Coming to Terms with Disfigurement
00:29:30 (14) Transitional Dream scene: César meets Sofia in a sun-lit park and tells her about a nightmare he had in which he was disfigured by a suicidal car accident (first encounter in the park)
00:31:14 (15) César wakes up from the dream and encounters his disfigured face in the bathroom mirror
00:35:31 (16) Frame story: In the sanatorium Antonio tries to convince César that the doctors have already reconstructed his face
00:32:21 (17) The doctors tell César there is nothing they can do for him at this moment. The chief surgeon hands him a mask
Frame story: Antonio and César continue arguing about César’s face behind the mask. César demands a pen and a sketch notebook.

The disfigured César watches a pantomime Sofia from his car. Then he talks to her, trying to get a date with her (second encounter in the park).

At home, César gets ready for his date with Sofia and decides to put on the mask.

Subsequence 5: A Catastrophic Night

Date with Sofia in a night club. Pelayo is there as well. César puts on aberrant behaviour.

César, Sofia and Pelayo are walking home. When Sofia leaves, the two former best friends are talking with each other for a short time before Pelayo leaves as well. César, convinced the other two are a couple now, passes out drunk on the sidewalk.

(III) The Nightmare Becomes a Dream

Subsequence 6: A Dream Life

“Abre los ojos”: Sofia wakes César, who is still lying on the sidewalk, in the morning. She confesses her love for him (the lucid dream begins).

César and Sofia are walking through the park together (third encounter in the park).

Frame story: Antonio makes César remember fragments of the Life Extension office. César tells in flashback of the miraculous surgical solution his doctors have found.

César shows Sofia that his face has been reconstructed. While they are making love, César claims to only have met her the day before.

In voice-over, César remembers moments of his happy relationship with Sofia. For whatever reason, Pelayo is not jealous.

Subsequence 7: Glitches in the Lucid Dream

Dream scene: In bed with Sofia. In the bathroom, he encounters his disfigured face.

César wakes up, finds himself lying adjacent to Nuria. He ties her to the bed and demands her to tell him where Sofia is.

César wants to press charges against Nuria, but the police officer claims that Nuria is in fact Sofia.

Pelayo attacks César for hurting Nuria-Sofia and claims that César has gone crazy since the accident.

In a bar, a Life Extension man approaches César and urges him to take control again of his dream life. He reveals that César is in a lucid dreaming state.
(IV) Searching for the Truth

Subsequence 8: Strangling the Dream

01:15:17 (33) **Frame story:** Hypnotised by Antonio, César remembers talking about cryonization at the Life Extension office and remembers committing suicide (*rotscoped flashback imagery*). Talking about dream vs. reality, Antonio asks César whether he remembers what he did to Nuria-Sofia.

01:19:00 (34) In Sofia’s apartment César finds only photographs of Nuria and his sketch, which also depicts Nuria. Nuria-Sofia strikes him down, believing him to be a burglar. When he wakes up again, he phantasises her being Sofia. While they are making love, Sofia turns into Nuria again, arousing him to strangle her.

01:24:29 (35) César flees from the apartment and sees himself disfigured in a mirror.

(V) The Lucid Dream Revealed

Subsequence 9: Discovering Life Extension

01:25:24 (36) **Frame story:** César is talking with Antonio again.

01:28:07 (37) **Frame story:** In the sanatorium, César sees the life Extension spot on TV. He urges Antonio to accompany him to the company office.

01:30:46 (38) **Frame story:** At the Cryogenics office, César is told about the working mechanisms of the Life Extension program and the ensuing memory erasure.

01:36:19 (39) **Frame story:** Shocked about the revelation, César gives in to Antonio’s repeated requests to remove his mask. Believing that he still is disfigured, César attempts to escape from the building, shooting several officers.

Subsequence 10: Living the Dream or Living in the Future

01:40:25 (40) **Frame story:** After the shootout, César and Antonio are suddenly alone in front of the building. Having noticed someone, César rushes to the roof of the skyscraper. There, the nameless Cryogenics representative reveals to him that he has been dead for over 150 years. César is faced with the choice of either continuing his lucid dream or to start a life in the future by committing suicide in the dream. After saying goodbye to Sofia one last time, he jumps from the building. Over a black screen, we hear the wake-up call “abre los ojos”.

01:52:20 (40) **End Credits**

01:54:06 **End of film**
Sequence protocol INCEPTION
Director: Christopher Nolan. Screenplay: Christopher Nolan

00:00:01 Warner Bros. and Legendary Pictures logo in black-and-white

(I) Exposition

Sequence 1: Conning Saito
00:00:40 (01) Limbo: Cobb washes up on a shore and has dinner with an old Saito
00:02:50 (02) Dream scene: Dinner with young Saito: An idea is the most resilient parasite
00:04:25 (03) Dream scene: Apartment in an Arab city: Cobb, Arthur and Saito dreaming
00:05:01 (04) Dream scene: In Saito’s dream house, Cobb tries to steal Saito’s secret but is sabotaged by Mal (from 00:09:10: Parallel montage between dream house and Arab apartment)
00:11:47 (05) Dream scene: Saito discovers the second dream level but is impressed (from 00:12:33: parallel montage between apartment and train)
00:15:20 (06) Waking up on a train to Tokyo

(II) Planning the heist

Sequence 2: Accepting the inception mission
00:15:40 (07) Hotel room: Cobb tests the spinning top. Phone call with his children, discusses plans with Arthur
00:18:20 (08) Cobb accepts Saito’s offer for an inception heist
00:21:38 (09) On a plane to Paris, Cobb and Arthur discuss Saito’s mission

Sequence 3: Preparing the heist in Paris: Recruiting Ariadne and explaining the dream-share
00:22:07 (10) Cobb visits his father-in-law Miles
00:24:42 (11) Cobb’s team sets up the new workshop. Insert: Cobb explores dream-share with Ariadne
00:25:50 (12) Cobb recruit Ariadne as the new dream architect
00:28:19 (13) Workshop: Explaining time-frame of dream-share
00:29:04 (14) Another dream-share. Cobb warns Ariadne not to build a dream-share from memory (mirror-picture of Paris)
00:33:25 (15) Workshop: Cobb’s problem and the function of totems. Ariadne backs out

Sequence 3: Preparing the heist: Cobb recruits Eames and Yusuf in Mombasa
00:35:02 (16) Mombasa: Cobb recruits Eames and escapes from Cobol Engineering agents
00:39:34  (17) Paris: Ariadne returns. In a dream-share, Arthur instructs her about paradoxical dream architecture
00:41:25  (18) Mombasa: Meeting Yusuf and explaining three-level architecture
00:42:33  (19) Mombasa: The lost dreamers
00:43:42  (20) Dream: Cobb has a Mal flashback

Sequence 4: Preparing the heist: Developing a strategy
00:44:30  (21) Mombasa: Cobb and Eames explain plan to Saito
00:45:47  (22) Eames observes Browning in his office. Fischer’s estranged relationship with his father / parallel montage: in the workshop, Eames explains how he will use Browning for conning Fischer
00:47:59  (23) While Ariadne builds her totem, she talks with Cobb about totems and mazes

Sequence 5: Completing the heist preparations
00:50:04  (24) Workshop/dream share: The simple idea
00:51:45  (25) Dream-share: The time structure of the three levels, planning the kicks
00:54:14  (26) Cobb is dreaming again. Ariadne follows him. Flashback inserts explain Cobb’s and Mal’s stay in limbo; Ariadne explores Cobb’s mal-dream
01:00:24  (27) Ariadne and Cobb wake up. Saito explains that he bought the airline for the Sydney-L.A. flight (voice forward)

(III) The heist

Sequence 6: Dream level 1
01:01:25  (28) At the airport and on the plane: The heist begins
01:04:08  (29) Rainy day in Manhattan. Cobb’s team kidnaps Fischer but is ambushed by his dream security
01:07:18  (30) Hiding in a warehouse, trying to keep Saito alive
01:10:32  (31) Interrogating Fischer. Fischer and Eames/Browning together
01:15:29  (32) Dream level 1 and flashback, parallel montage: Cobb explains Ariadne the danger of being in limbo; flashback to Mal’s suicide and Cobb’s flight from the US
01:22:15  (33) Fischer threatened to reveal safe number. Fleeing from dream security

Sequence 7: Dream level 2
01:25:24  (34) Cobb as Mr. Charles talks to Fischer in hotel bar, telling him he’s dreaming / Parallel montage with Ariadne and Arthur
01:28:19  (35) Saito chased / Yusuf’s problems on dream level 1 / Arthur and Ariadne try to evade attention/ Cobb tells Fischer he is in a dream
01:30:40  (36) Bringing Fischer to the hotel room – Fischer wants to shoot himself and tries to remember his other dream-share
Sequence protocol INCEPTION

01:33:35 (37) Planting the explosives in the hotel room/ Waiting for Fischer in front of room 528, exposing Browning, entering dream level 3

Sequence 8: Dream level 3
01:37:29 (38) Dream level 3: Winter landscape: Fighting to approach the snow fortress. Constant parallel montage with dream level 1 (Yusuf chased by dream security) and level 2 (Arthur prepares the kick and fights dream security)
01:40:39 (39) Dream level 3: Getting Fischer into the snow fortress / dream level 1: Yusuf starts the drop / dream level 2: Arthur improvises a kick
01:51:30 (40) In the fortress; Fischer shot by Mal

Sequence 9: Limbo
01:54:55 (41) Limbo: Cobb and Ariadne search for Fischer while Arthur detonates the elevator and Yusuf drives off the bridge
01:59:40 (42) Limbo: Cobb finds Mal (cont’d parallel montage) while Eames, Saito and Arthur fight dream security. The consequences of inception
02:05:37 (43) Saito falls into limbo / Ariadne gets Fischer
02:09:25 (44) Fischer meets his father / Initiating the kicks on all three levels / Cobb tells Mal they had their time together

(IV) Mission accomplished

Sequence 10: Tying the knots
02:13:54 (45) Dream level 1: Fischer decides to split his empire
02:15:23 (46) Limbo: Cobb finds Saito in limbo
02:17:24 (47) Reality: Waking up on the plane, passing immigration control at LAX
02:19:50 (48) Reality: Cobb at home, reunited with children
02:21:01 End credits
02:28:07 End of film
### Sequence protocol MATRIX

**Director:** Andy and Lana Wachowsk. **Screenplay:** Andy and Lana Wachowski  
**Year:** 1999. **Duration:** 02:10:40 hrs. **DVD edition**

(I) Prologue

**Subsequence 1: Prologue**  
00:00:00  (1) Prologue: Trinity in danger

(II) Unplugging from the Matrix

**Subsequence 2: Neo Meets Trinity**  
00:06:21  (2) Neo: waking up, Trinity’s message, the tattoo  
00:09:20  (3) In the nightclub: Trinity and Neo

**Subsequence 3: Metacortech and Interrogation**  
00:11:29  (4) At Metacortech: Attempts to Escape, Neo is arrested  
00:16:22  (5) Neo is interrogated by Agent Smith

**Subsequence 4: Meeting with Morpheus**  
00:20:41  (6) Neo wakes up, appointment and drive to Morpheus  
00:24:05  (7) Neo’s decision to unplug

(III) The World As It Exists Today

**Subsequence 5: Neo Regains Health**  
00:31:09  (8) Neo unplugged: awaking in the tank  
00:33:41  (9) Recovery on board of the Nebuchadnezzar

**Subsequence 6: The World as it Exists Today**  
00:37:48  (10) The Construct; The world as it exists today, Neo breaks down  
00:42:35  (11) Morpheus’ revelation: Is Neo the Chosen One?

**Subsequence 7: Training in the Construct**  
00:44:43  (12) Neo’s training; combat training Neo vs. Morpheus  
00:51:30  (13) Neo’s first jump

**Subsequence 8: Enemies**  
00:53:23  (14) Trinity and Cypher  
00:54:15  (15) Morpheus & Neo in the construct: the System is the enemy  
00:56:37  (16) Hiding from the sentinels  
00:58:41  (17) Neo and Cypher
(IV) Treason and Prophecies

Subsequence 9: Dinners
01:01:07  (18) Cypher and Agent Smith having dinner
01:02:37  (19) The Nebuchadnezzar crew’s dinner

Subsequence 10: Neo and the Oracle
01:04:24  (20) Neo visits the Oracle in her appartment

Subsequence 11: Déjà Vu
01:14:39  (21) Déjà Vu: escape, Morpheus vs. Agent Smith
01:21:37  (22) Cypher’s treason

(V) Crisis: Saving Morpheus

Subsequence 12: Smith interrogates Morpheus
01:27:44  (23) Morpheus captured, Neo’s decision to rescue him
01:33:27  (24) Agent Smith interrogates Morpheus

Subsequence 13: Saving Morpheus
01:37:00  (25) Neo and Trinity fighting in the entrance hall
01:40:04  (26) Neo and Trinity on the roof
01:43:20  (27) Saving Morpheus with the helicopter

(VI) Climax: Neo vs. Agent Smith

Subsequence 14: Showdown
01:58:21  (28) Duel of the Giants: Neo vs. Agent Smith
02:13:59  (29) Attack of the sentinels; Neo’s death and resurrection: He is the One
02:00:34  (30) Neo is the One

(VII) Epilogue

Subsequence 15: Epilogue
02:02:41  (31) ‘I am not afraid anymore’ – A World without borders
02:04:10  (32) End credits
02:10:40  End of film
Sequence protocol MOON

Director: Duncan Jones. Screenplay: Duncan Jones and Nathan Parker


Subsequence 1: Prologue
00:00:01 Advertisement for Lunar Industries

Subsequence 2: A Day in the Life of Sam Bell
00:01:17 (01) Sam Bell’s everyday routine at the mining base (opening credits)
00:08:32 (02) Sam Bell is frustrated, in poor health and misses his wife
00:11:03 (03) Hallucinations of his daughter

Subsequence 3: Accident with the harvester
00:13:05 (04) Erotic dreams and another boring work day. Problems with one of the harvesters
00:16:11 (05) On the moon’s surface: Accident with the harvester

(II) Sam-6 meets Sam-5

Subsequence 4: Sam-6’s disconcerting discovery
00:17:52 (06) Bell-6 wakes up in the moon base and discovers a problem with the harvester
00:23:28 (07) Lunar Industries announces a recovery team.
00:26:13 (08) Bell-6 finds Bell-5 at the broken harvester and brings him into the moon base

Subsequence 5: Bell-5 and Bell-6 meet
00:29:15 (09) Bell-5 wakes up and meets his clone
00:31:19 (10) Bell-6 watches a transmission from his wife
00:34:30 (11) Bell-5 and Bell-6 discuss the clone problem
00:36:32 (12) Struggles: Who is the original Sam Bell?

(III) Searching for answers

Subsequence 6: Finding answers
00:42:45 (13) Bell-6 starts looking for the secret chamber and fights with Bell-5
00:47:12 (14) Gerty reveals the truth to Bell-5
00:52:02 (15) Both Bells form a plan
00:54:32 (16) Both Bells find satellite stations on the moon surface. Bell-5 does not feel well
00:58:12 (17) Bell-5 back at the base, in very poor health

Subsequence 7: The secret chamber
(18) Bell-5 searches through the database and finds records of the former Bells

(19) Bell-5 finds the burning coffin and the secret chamber

(20) Bell-6 returns and enters the secret chamber with Bell-5

**Subsequence 8: The dead wife**

(21) Bell-5 goes to the satellite uplink, makes a video call to his daughter and finds out that his wife is dead

(22) Bell-5 returns to the station and falls ill, Bell-6 sees the video call

(IV) **The escape**

**Subsequence 9: Dying**

(23) Bell-6 activates another clone and plans their escape. Bell-6 is supposed to escape while Bell-5 stays back

(24) Waiting for the clone to come alive, Bell-5 decides to remain on the moon

(25) Bell-5 and Bell-6 drive to the accident site, where Bell-5 dies

**Subsequence 10: Escape**

(26) Bell-5 erases Gerty’s memory bank and prepares to escape

(27) Bell enters the tube and activates self-destruction while the “rescue unit” arrives. A voice-over narrates the events on earth after Bell-6’s arrival

(40) *End Credits*

*End of film*
Sequence protocol THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR

Director: Josef Rusnak. Screenplay: Josef Rusnak and Ravel Centeno-Rodriguez

(I) Exposition
00:00:00   Title sequence
00:01:03   (1) Fuller in the Hotel

(II) Douglas Hall, murder suspect
00:06:22   (2) Fuller is killed in 1998
00:08:23   (3) Hall notified about Fuller’s death. Conversation with McBain
00:11:29   (4) At the company. First meeting with Jane
00:14:24   (5) Douglas and Whitney
00:17:37   (6) Douglas Hall is Fuller’s heir
00:19:31   (7) Douglas is the primary murder suspect

(III) Search for Fuller’s message
00:21:34   (8) Douglas jacks in to the simulation of 1937
00:24:44   (9) Visit to Grierson
00:30:41   (10) At the Omnihotel. Meeting with Ashton and Bridget
00:36:46   (11) Back to 1998
00:38:21   (12) Tom Jones tries to blackmail Douglas

(IV) The investigations continue
00:40:21   (13) Douglas and Jane come closer to each other
00:43:29   (14) Douglas is imprisoned and released due to Jane’s alibi
00:45:52   (15) A second visit to Grierson
00:49:42   (16) Douglas and Grierson at the Omnihotel
00:53:32   (17) Fight between Douglas and Ashton
00:59:30   (18) Whitney saves Douglas

(V) The truth about the world
01:00:48   (19) Searching for Jane and meeting Natasha
01:06:30   (20) At the end of the world
01:09:35   (21) The truth about the world

(VI) Climax: The worlds merge
01:14:00   (22) Whitney dies in 1937
01:17:11   (23) Ashton dies in 1998
01:25:05   (24) David dies in 1998

(VII) Coda
01:30:41   (25) Douglas wakes up in 2024
01:33:24   (26) End credits
01:36:55   End of film
Sequence protocol THE TRUMAN SHOW
Director: Peter Weir. Screenplay: Andrew Niccol

(I) Exposition: A Day in the Life of Truman Burbank. Day 10909 (00:00:19-00:13:50)
00:00:19  (01) Opening: Cristof, Meryl, and Marlon are talking about “The Truman Show”; Truman does stand-up comedy in front of the bathroom mirror
00:02:22  (02) A headlight falls from the sky in front of Truman’s house
00:03:32  (03) Truman on his way to work, buys a magazine, talks with the twin brothers
00:05:10  (04) In his office Truman secretly explores the fashion magazine
00:07:28  (05) Truman misses his external appointment on the other side of the bay because of his fear of water
00:09:06  (06) After work: working in the garden
00:09:49  (07) Truman and Marlon play golf, Truman speaks of his desire to go to Fiji
00:11:14  (08) Truman alone at the beach, thinking of his father’s drowning during a boat trip (flashback). Truman becomes the victim of a strange rainfall
00:12:49  (09) Truman and Meryl talk with each other about her planned pregnancy; closing extra-TS-diegetic shot on the parking lot security officers in front of their TV screen

(II) Frictions of Everyday Life. Day 10910 (00:13:50-00:28:33)
00:13:50  (10) On his way to work Truman sees his father, whom he believed to be dead
00:15:44  (11) Truman tells his mother that he saw his father
00:16:55  (12) In his basement, Truman thinks of Lauren/Sylvia
00:18:45  (13) Flashback: Truman meets Lauren/Sylvia for the first time in college

(III) Frictions of trust to the people one lives with. Day 10911 (00:28:33-00:37:40)
00:28:33  (14) Accidentally, Truman listens to the studio’s radio frequency which gives detailed accounts of everything he does
00:29:39  (15) Having become suspicious, Truman strays from his usual paths, thereby causes chaos and discovers a fake elevator
00:33:33  (16) Truman turns to Marlon for help. Both end up at the beach watching the sunset, where Truman talks again of his desire to go to Fiji
00:35:32  (17) In the evening, Truman looks at photo albums with Meryl and his mother. He discovers that Meryl crosses her fingers on one of the supposedly romantic wedding pictures

(IV) The Limits of the World. Truman’s Desire to Travel. Day 10912 (00:37:40-01:07:40)
00:37:40  (18) The now mistrusting Truman follows Meryl to her workplace in the hospital
00:41:02  (19) In a travel agency, he unsuccessfully tries to book a flight to Fiji
Sequence protocol THE TRUMAN SHOW

00:42:17 (20) Even the bus to Chicago has a motor damage
00:44:00 (21) Sitting in his car, Truman becomes aware that some people in his neighbourhood are on a loop around the block. He tries to drive away from Seahaven in his car, hijacking Meryl. A road blockage because of a leak at the power plant stops him
00:51:06 (22) Back home again, Truman and Meryl quarrel. Meryl’s facade breaks down, and Marlon comes for Meryl’s rescue
00:53:22 (23) While he and Truman are sitting together again, Marlon presents Truman with his long-believed-to-be-dead father, who supposedly was the cause for all the strange events that occurred during the last days
00:58:40 (24) Insert: A TV interview with Cristof explains the background history of the TV show. After a heated telephone discussion with Sylvia, Cristof announces the next developments in his reality show (“a new romantic interest is introduced,” “TV’s first on-air conception”)

(V) Early Sunrise. Truman Vanishes. Day 10913 (01:07:40-01:32:07)
01:07:40 (25) This work day goes by in a time lapse. Vivian is introduced to Truman
01:11:02 (26) In the evening, Truman has vanished all of a sudden. A hectic search begins, and the sun rises prematurely
01:19:04 (27) Cristof finds Truman sailing out on the sea. He raises a potentially lethal storm in order to stop Truman
01:24:20 (28) Truman miraculously survives the storm. He continues on his journey and soon reaches the (literal) end of his world
01:28:50 (29) Cristof reveals the secret of his life to Truman, but he does not manage to convince him to stay. Eventually, Truman leaves his show and his former life through a door
01:32:20 (30) End Credits
01:38:40 End of film
Sequence protocol VANILLA SKY

Director: Cameron Crowe. Screenplay: Cameron Crowe

(I) Exposition: The Death of a Womanizer
00:00:01 Aerial shots of Manhattan

Sequence 1: Introducing David
00:00:56 (01) Dream scene: David wakes up to the waking call “open your eyes”
00:02:06 (02) Dream scene: David is driving through the deserted streets of Manhattan
00:04:00 (03) David wakes up again adjacent to Julie Gianni, realising he had a nightmare. While David prepares for work, Julie is in the kitchen
00:06:07 (04) David drives through the crowded streets of Manhattan and picks up Brian. Intercut with shots of Julie in the kitchen. Non-diegetic voice-over about David’s background
00:05:49 (05) César picks up Pelayo, driving with him through town. Arguing about love and life, they almost have a fatal car accident
00:09:00 (06) David arrives late at a board meeting at his company. A non-diegetic voice-over by David comments on his company’s board of trustees

Sequence 2: Meeting Sofia
00:10:31 (07) Frame story: In the psychiatric ward, McCabe asks David whether he is aware of why he is in custody. David denies the murder charges, both are talking about David’s biographical background
00:14:33 (08) Birthday party at David’s penthouse. David and Sofia meet for the first time
00:18:32 (09) David rejects Julie, who attends the party uninvited
00:20:27 (10) David and Sofia talk about “the saddest girl to ever hold a Martini”
00:22:43 (11) Brian finds David and Sofia and shows that he is jealous

Sequence 3: The Consequences of Spending the Night With Sofia
00:25:56 (12) David accompanies Sofia to her apartment, where they are talking the entire night through
00:29:22 (13) Frame story: David and McCabe discuss flirt strategies.
00:30:40 (14) Still in Sofia’s apartment, David and her are painting caricatures of each other. David sees the Cryogenics video for the first time on TV. Before David leaves, they kiss each other
00:36:19 (15) David leaves the house in the morning. In front of it Julie Gianni confronts him and invites him into her car
00:38:35 (16) While they are driving through Manhattan, Julie Gianni confesses her love for David and then drives off a bridge
(II) A Womanizer Disfigured

Sequence 4: Coming to Terms with Disfigurement
00:41:51        (17) **Dream scene:** David and Sofia meet each other in a park. David tells her about his nightmare. Non-diegetic voice-over already foreshadows the next scene (*transition starts at 00:45:20*)
00:45:41        (18) **Frame story:** Conversation between McCabe and David about the pain and psychological side-effects after the disfiguring accident
00:47:43        (19) David tries to participate in his company’s business decisions again
00:41:52        (20) David follows Sofia on the street
00:49:34        (21) David has a frustrating conversation with his doctors. They hand him the mask

Sequence 5: A Catastrophic Night
00:52:37        (22) David plans his comeback (non-diegetic voice-over) and meets Sofia in her dance school
00:55:06        (23) At home, David gets ready for his date with Sofia and decides to put on the mask
00:56:53        (24) The date at the night club turns into a rather unpleasant evening
01:03:56        (25) David is walking home alone after first Sofia, then Brian say goodbye, Convinced that Brian and Sofia are a couple, David passes out drunk on the sidewalk

(III) The Nightmare Becomes a Dream

Sequence 6: A Dream Life
01:07:53        (26) “Open your eyes”: Sofia wakes David, who is still lying on the sidewalk, in the morning. She confesses her love for him (*the lucid dream begins*)
01:10:09        (27) **Frame story:** David makes sketches of Sofia while he imagines her. McCabe is talking with David about her, then asks him whether he remembers “Ellie”. McCabe claims that David’s face has already been reconstructed.
Flashback to the surgery scene (*cross-cutting, start 01:12:25*)
01:14:30        (28) Sofia sees David’s new, reconstructed face
01:17:14        (29) Happy relationship: David and Sofia are making love, walking through the city together, stay at a bar with Brian. There, David sees the Life Extension employee for the first time

(IV) Searching for the Truth

Sequence 7: Glitches in the Lucid Dream
01:20:34        (30) **Nightmare scene:** David wakes up adjacent to Sofia and sees his disfigured face in the mirror
01:21:36        (31) David wakes up from his nightmare and is horrified to see Julie in his bed
(32) David in custody for attacking Julie. His lawyer manages to get him released

(33) Exiting the prison, Brian attacks David for hurting Julie

(34) In a bar, a Life Extension man approaches David and urges him to take control again of his dream life. He reveals that David is in a lucid dream state. Non-diegetic voice-over prepares next scene

(35) **Frame story:** David remembers that he signed a contract with Life Extension

**Sequence 8: Strangling the Dream**

(36) David is struck down in Sofia’s apartment. There he has sex with Sofia/Julie. When Sofia turns into Julie, he kills her (*cross-cutting with memory flashbacks*)

(37) **Frame story:** César flees from the apartment and sees himself disfigured in a mirror. Cross-edited with conversation between David and McCabe about the upcoming trial. David sees the Life Extension spot on TV

(V) **The Lucid Dream Revealed**

**Sequence 9: Discovering Life Extension**

(38) **Frame story:** At the Cryogenics office, David is told about the working mechanisms of the Life Extension program and the ensuing memory erasure

(39) **Frame story:** Shocked about the revelation, David wants to wake up and flees from the office. In the building lobby he calls for Tech Support

(40) **Frame story:** In the elevator, the tech support person (Edmund Ventura) tells David everything about the nature of his lucid dream and his former life

(41) **Frame story:** On the rooftop, David has to decide whether to stay in the dream or to start a new life in the future. David decides to jump after he says goodbye to “dream Sofia”. Then he jumps. Shortly before the impact (*cross-edited with memory flashbacks*) the film fades into a white screen

**Epilogue: Waking from the Dream**

(42) Extreme close-up on an eye which suddenly opens. A female voice says “open your eyes”