004

006

007

008 009 010

011 012 013

014

015

016

017

018

019

021

025

026

027 028 029

030

IMIT-DIFF: SEMANTICS GUIDED DIFFUSION TRANSFORMER WITH DUAL RESOLUTION FU-SION FOR IMITATION LEARNING

Anonymous authors

Paper under double-blind review

Abstract

Diffusion-based methods have become one of the most important paradigms in the field of imitation learning. However, even in state-of-the-art diffusion-based policies, there has been insufficient focus on semantics and fine-grained feature extraction, resulting in weaker generalization and a reliance on controlled environments. To address this issue, we propose Imit-Diff, which consists of three key components: 1) Dual Resolution Fusion for extracting fine-grained features with a manageable number of tokens by integrating high-resolution features into low-resolution visual embedding through an attention mechanism; 2) Semantics **Injection** to explicitly incorporate semantic information by using prior masks obtained from open vocabulary models, achieving a world-level understanding of imitation learning tasks; and 3) Consistency Policy on Diffusion Transformer to reduce the inference time of diffusion models by training a student model to implement few-step denoising on the Probability Flow ODE trajectory. Experimental results show that our method significantly outperforms state-of-the-art methods, especially in cluttered scenes, and is highly robust to task interruptions. The code will be publicly available.

1 INTRODUCTION

031 032 Imitation learning (Zhao et al., 2023; Bonardi et al., 2020; Cheng et al., 2024; Dasari & Gupta, 2021; 033 Englert & Toussaint, 2018; He et al., 2024; Luo et al., 2023; Fu et al., 2024; Team et al., 2024; Wu 034 et al., 2024b) provides an efficient framework for robots to acquire human skills by leveraging expert demonstrations. Existing methods, which typically follow a supervised learning paradigm, use 035 either explicit (Torabi et al., 2018) or implicit policies to map the robot's observations to the action 036 space or its latent representation space. These methods often rely on approaches such as mixtures of 037 Gaussians (Zhao et al., 2023) or categorical representations (Lee et al., 2024) of discretized action to approximate the action distribution. However, such techniques generally generate action sequences through a single forward pass, limiting their expressiveness in high-dimensional spaces and con-040 straining their ability to accurately capture the complexity of multimodal action distributions (Chi 041 et al., 2023). Moreover, the reliance on one-shot generation makes these models vulnerable to noise 042 and outliers, undermining their robustness in real-world applications. 043

Diffusion models (Chen, 2023; Chen et al., 2023; Chi et al., 2023; Fan et al., 2024; Huang et al., 044 2023b; Mishra et al., 2023; Ze et al., 2024), which employ a conditional denoising diffusion process 045 for visuomotor policy learning, have demonstrated remarkable effectiveness in tackling complex, 046 robotic tasks. The Diffusion Transformer architecture, DiT (Peebles & Xie, 2023), leverages the 047 attention mechanism to capture global context. It is highly effective at modeling long-range depen-048 dencies, which makes it particularly well-suited for handling both vision and action sequences in robotic applications. As a result, this architecture has emerged as a dominant paradigm in diffusion models. However, when using conditional embeddings to guide the denoising of action sequences, 051 existing diffusion-based methods lack effective extraction of fine-grained features as shown in Fig. 1. On the other hand, although previous works (Huang et al., 2023a;c; Li et al., 2024a; Yu et al., 052 2023) have attempted to introduce high-level semantic information to supervise agents in completing tasks, they have not explored methods for incorporating fine-grained semantic information to 054 Semantic Action Sequence Action Sequence antics Mask 057 Fine Diffusion Cond Grained Cond Model Rep-Diff Policy Feature 060 Action Sequence 061 Noise Noise ot State (a) ACT Like Policy (b) Diffusion Like Policy (c) Rep-Diff Policy 062 063

Figure 1: Comparison of current imitation learning paradigms. (a) **ACT Like Policy** refers to the method of directly mapping robot observation to action space through a feedforward with the challenge of weak representation for complex distributed actions. (b) **Diffusion Like Policy** extracts observation as a conditional vector to supervise the iterative denoising of action sequence with insufficient focus on feature representation. (c) Our method **Imit-Diff** introduces dual res fusion for fine-grained capture and prior mask for semantic information to raise world-level understanding.

capture subtle variations. This poses challenges for embodied intelligence in understanding scenes and tasks.

To tackle these challenging problems, we introduce **Imit-Diff**, an imitation learning policy network that explicitly incorporates prior-based semantics and enhances the representation of observation features to improve the robot's fine-grained perception and scene understanding. Specifically, the model extracts detailed information from the scene through high and low-resolution fusion. Additionally, we use open vocabulary models to introduce prior masks, which explicitly capture and align semantic information. Furthermore, we implement a Consistency Policy for the Diffusion Transformer, effectively increasing the robot's action execution frequency.

- 081 In conclusion, our contributions are three-fold:
- 1) Dual Resolution Fusion to improve fine-grained feature representation.
- 2) Semantics Injection to introduce semantics information with prior masks obtained through open vocabulary models.
- 3) Implementation of Consistency Policy for Diffusion Transformer to reduce inference time for DiT-based models.
- The experiments demonstrate that our method works effectively and the code will be open-sourcesoon.
- 091 092

093 094

095 096

064

065

066

067

068

069

070 071

2 RELATED WORK

2.1 DIFFUSION POLICY IN IMITATION LEARNING

Diffusion models, a category of generative models that progressively sample data from random noise, have gained significant traction and impressive expressiveness in robotic applications. In the 098 context of robotics learning, diffusion models are utilized as effective policy networks for imitation learning. For instance, Diffusion Policy (Chi et al., 2023) aggregates observations into a conditional 100 embedding to guide the denoising process of action sequences. However, compressing diverse ob-101 servation information into a single embedding can lead to information loss. Subsequent work such 102 as UIM (Kaewpoonsuk & Subsomboon, 2024), extended the conditional information from a single 103 embedding to a token sequence, but it didn't adequately address the integration of robot propriocep-104 tive states with environmental observations. Recent advances, like Aloha Unleashed (Zhao et al.), 105 expanded the Hybrid Transformer architecture from the ACT algorithm into Diffusion Policy. However real-world robotic systems often require more sophisticated data mining and integration meth-106 ods to handle complex scenarios. In our work, we leverage a dual-resolution encoder to fuse high 107 and low-resolution features. We also utilize prior masks to guide the attention mechanism to focus on critical areas, thereby enhancing the scene understanding and fine-grained extraction in imitation learning.

110 111

112

2.2 ACCELERATION STRATEGIES FOR DIFFUSION MODELS IN ROBOTICS

113 As mentioned in Sec. 1, diffusion models come with certain drawbacks, including long inference 114 times due to their iterative sampling process. Given the real-time requirements of applications in robotics, such as robot control, accelerating diffusion models is a critical issue for improving per-115 formance. One line of work, such as DDIM (Han, 2024) and EDM (Hasan et al., 2023), can be 116 interpreted as integrating deterministic ODEs (Zheng et al., 2023), addressing the long inference 117 times by reducing the number of denoising steps for prediction. However, while this variable-step 118 approach reduces the number of denoising steps, it can also degrade sample quality. Another line of 119 research aims to accelerate diffusion models through parallel sampling, using methods like Picard 120 iteration (Han et al., 2024; Andrade et al., 2023; Wang et al., 2024b), which attempt to converge 121 batches of points along the diffusion ODE trajectory in parallel. Due to the significant increase in 122 memory demand caused by this parallelization, such methods are impractical in computationally 123 constrained robotic settings. Distillation-based techniques (Wu et al., 2024a; Guo et al., 2023; Wang 124 et al., 2023; Phuong & Lampert, 2019; Hao et al., 2024; Gou et al., 2021) train new student models 125 from pre-trained teacher models, allowing the student to take larger steps along the ODE trajectory that the teacher has already mapped. The Consistency Policy (Prasad et al., 2024) introduced by 126 Aaditya et al. allows student models to map inputs at arbitrary step sizes and intervals to the same 127 starting point on the given ODE trajectory, demonstrating superiority in robot control tasks within 128 the U-Net (Ronneberger et al., 2015) architecture. In our work, we implement the CTMs framework 129 on top of the Diffusion Transformer, validating its orthogonality to the policy learning framework. 130 This resulted in an order-of-magnitude improvement in inference speed, which allows us to use 131 temporal ensemble and action dropout to enhance real-time performance and smoothness.

132 133

134

2.3 OPEN VOCABULARY VISION FOUNDATION MODELS

135 Open vocabulary vision foundation models (Liu et al., 2023; Ren et al., 2024a;b; Wasim et al., 2024; 136 Yuen et al., 2024) enable the understanding of images through vision-language learning, allowing 137 natural language descriptions to guide visual comprehension. These models generalize well across various downstream tasks and can be used in robotics as tools for defining complex goals, semantic 138 anchors for multimodal representation, and intermediate substrates for planning and reasoning. Al-139 though end-to-end methods are popular in offline tasks, learning directly from language-annotated 140 data presents challenges, particularly in mapping language, visual observations, and robotic sensor 141 data into a shared space. In this work, we use open vocabulary vision foundation models to translate 142 language into vision obervation for key object identification in robotic manipulation. Grounding 143 DINO (Liu et al., 2023) is employed for detection, combined with a MixFormerV2-based (Cui 144 et al., 2022; 2024) multi-object tracker for real-time performance and occlusion handling. Mobile 145 SAM (Zhang et al., 2023) is used to segment target objects, providing RGB-MASKs (Wang et al., 146 2024a) as observations for the policy network.

147 148

149

3 Method

The proposed method Imit-Diff mainly consists of four parts: Dual Resolution Fusion (see Sec. 3.1) to enhance representation capacity of visual tokens, Semantics Injection (see Sec. 3.2) to involve prior knowledge to aid environment perception, Consistency Policy within DiT to accelerate inference and Temporal Optimization (see Sec. 3.3).

154 155

156

3.1 DUAL RESOLUTION FUSION

In the methodology of imitation learning, models are trained to predict actions given sequential
observations from the environment. Since the time intervals between the observations are relatively small, the ability to perceive fine-grained details in high-resolution observations is of vital
importance. However, in previous methods, the environment observations are either transformed
to low-dimension feature vectors via a CNN network (thus losing fine-grained details) (Zhao et al.,
2023), or directly down-sampled to lower resolution (224x224 in Chi et al. (2023)).



Figure 2: Overview of Imit-Diff that consists of 1) Dual-Res Fusion: High-resolution images are downsampled to obtain low-resolution images, which are passed through a vision encoder for multi-resolution fusion. This process encodes visual embeddings with fine-grained information. 2)
Semantics Injection: High-resolution images are processed by open vocabulary models to generate masks. We use the same pretrained encoder as the low-res visual encoder to extract mask features, which are then injected into the multi-resolution fusion tokens to explicitly introduce semantic priors. 3) Consistency Policy for Diffusion Transformer: Visual tokens are fused with robot state tokens in a multi-modal manner, guiding the denoising process of the action sequence.

186

One possible solution to address this problem is to use high-resolution environment captures to train the policy network, but the unacceptable increase in memory footprint and the difficulty of directly modeling high-dimensional image spaces make this solution impractical. Motivated by Li et al. (2024b), we propose **Dual Resolution Fusion** (illustrated in the orange boxes in Fig. 2), which incorporates both hi-res and low-res features when representing environmental observations with the same amount of tokens. In this way, the model is expected to understand the environment in multiple granularities, providing adaptive information when decoding action sequences.

194 Specifically, given high-resolution observations from environment cameras and arm-side cameras 195 (the *i*-th frame denoted by I_E^i and I_A^i respectively), down-sampling is first applied to generate lowresolution observations $I_E^{i'}$ and $I_A^{i'}$. Then, the high-resolution and low-resolution observations are 196 197 processed by pre-trained hi-res visual encoder \mathcal{F}_H (implemented by ConvNext by Liu et al. (2022) followed by feature pyramid networks) and pre-trained low-res visual encoder \mathcal{F}_L (implemented by ViT-S version of DINOv2 by Oquab et al. (2023)). After being projected to the same dimension, the 199 features are fused by the self-attention layer \mathcal{F}_D whereas low-res features are regarded as queries 200 and high-res features are regarded as keys and values. Note that, the parameters of \mathcal{F}_H and \mathcal{F}_L are 201 frozen during training while \mathcal{F}_D is optimized during training. 202

This design allows the extraction of high-resolution details without drastically increasing the number
 of tokens for diffusion policy inference, thereby enhancing scene understanding with an acceptable
 length of conditional sequence.

206 207

208

3.2 SEMANTICS INJECTION

Although massive progress has been achieved by previous imitation learning methods (e.g. Fu et al. (2024), Zhao et al.), the current models are only able to perform specific tasks under a carefully controlled environment. This could be ascribed to the limited amount of demonstrations or the over-fitting in the latent space as the demonstrations are collected in an almost unchanged environment. To overcome this limitation, world-level knowledge embedded in the pre-trained multi-modal models could be used to prevent unnecessary focus on task-irrelevant details. The grounding of knowledge into the provided environment could be achieved by performing open-set detection and segmentation, which we call **Semantics Injection** (illustrated in the green boxes of Fig. 2). To perform **Semantics Injection**, the task-relevant phrases (e.g. red bowls) and the first frame of the downsampled environment capture $I_E^{0'}$ are fed into an open-set detector \mathcal{X}_D (implemented by Grounding DINO Liu et al. (2023)) to obtain relevant bounding boxes. To assure temporal consistency, the subsequent frames are processed via an end-to-end tracking model \mathcal{X}_T (implemented by MixFormerv2 by Cui et al. (2024)) given the latest predicted bounding boxes and captured frames. Subsequently, an open-set segmentation model \mathcal{X}_S (implemented by MobileSAM by Zhang et al. (2023)) is used to provide semantic masks and later semantic masked images.

Then, the injection of semantics is performed by fusing the feature extracted from mask visual encoder \mathcal{F}_M (implemented by ViT-S version of DINOv2 by Oquab et al. (2023)) and multi-resolution features extracted by \mathcal{F}_{D_1} with \mathcal{F}_I , a transformer decoder with masked image features used as queries. The semantic injected environment observation (output of \mathcal{F}_I) is later concatenated with arm-side observations and robot state observations (generated by action encoder \mathcal{F}_A , a multi-layer perceptron), which is then fed to multi-modal fusion module \mathcal{F}_F (a transformer encoder) to perform cross-modal fusion.

230 231

232

233

234

235

236

246 247

248 249

250

251

256

257

258

263 264 265

266

3.3 CONSISTENCY POLICY FOR DIFFUSION TRANSFORMER

Prasad et al. (2024) proposed U-Net-based Consistency Policy, allowing the prediction of action sequences with few-step or single-step diffusion. In the consistency policy method, the teacher model, denoted as s_{ϕ} , is trained under the EDM framework whereas the student model is distilled from the teacher model. The EDM framework takes the current position \mathbf{x}_t , time t, and condition o as input to estimate the derivative of the Probability Flow ODE (PFODE) trajectory:

$$\mathrm{d}\mathbf{x}_t/\mathrm{d}t = -\left(\mathbf{x}_t - s_\phi\left(\mathbf{x}_t, t; o\right)\right)/t,\tag{1}$$

where \mathbf{x}_t denotes the general form of the PFODE:

$$d\mathbf{x}_{t} = \left[\boldsymbol{\mu}\left(\mathbf{x}_{t}, t\right) - \frac{1}{2}\sigma(t)^{2}\nabla\log p_{t}\left(\mathbf{x}_{t}|o\right)\right]dt.$$
(2)

The optimized Denoising Score Matching (DSM) loss is used to train the EDM model:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{DSM}}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \mathbf{E}_{t,\mathbf{x}_0,\mathbf{x}_t|\mathbf{x}_0} \left[d\left(\mathbf{x}_0, s_{\boldsymbol{\phi}}(\mathbf{x}_t, t; o)\right) \right].$$
(3)

The DSM objective samples a point along the PFODE, (\mathbf{x}_t, t) , and trains the EDM model to predict the ground truth initial position \mathbf{x}_0 . Unlike the Consistency Policy, we use MSE Loss instead of the pseudo-Huber Loss as $d(\cdot, \cdot)$, giving higher weight to smaller fine-grained action errors.

$$d(x,y) = \|x - y\|_2^2.$$
(4)

The student model $g_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}_t, t, s; o)$ samples two positions \mathbf{x}_t and \mathbf{x}_u on the same PFODE, and denoises both positions back to the same time step s. After calculating $g_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}_t, t, s; o)$ and $g_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}_u, u, s; o)$, we use $g_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}_s^{(t)}, s, 0; o)$ and $g_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}_s^{(u)}, s, 0; o)$ to bring these two samples, referred to as $\mathbf{x}_s^{(t)}$ and $\mathbf{x}_s^{(u)}$, back to time 0. The loss is always measured in the fully denoised action space:

$$\mathcal{L}_{CTM} = d(g_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}_s^{(t)}, s, 0; o), g_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}_s^{(u)}, s, 0; o)).$$

$$\tag{5}$$

The final training objective combines DSM Loss and CTM Loss:

$$\mathcal{L}_{CP} = \alpha \mathcal{L}_{CTM} + \beta \mathcal{L}_{DSM}.$$
(6)

In practice, we implement the Consistency Policy by Prasad et al. (2024) on the backbone of Diffusion Transformer, originally proposed by Peebles & Xie (2023). Specifically, as illustrated in Fig. 2, the time step is concatenated with the output of the multi-modal fusion module, which is later used as the condition embedding for consistency policy denoising. With time step concatenated, the



Block Placement: Subtask #1 & #2 Pre-Grasp | Subtask #3 Grasp Block | Subtask #4 Place Block



Stack Blocks: Subtask #1 Grasp Block1 | Subtask #2 Stack Block1 | Subtask #3 Grasp Block2 | Subtask #4 Stack Block2



Object Sortation: Subtask #1 Grasp Block1 | Subtask #2 Place Block1 | Subtask #3 Grasp Block2 | Subtask #4 Place Block2

Figure 3: A brief description of each real-world task in stages. For detailed task setup, see 4.1.

attention mechanism can be used to denoise action sequences, replacing the FiLM module used in U-Net. Furthermore, we hope to employ the Temporal Ensemble introduced by ACT to improve the smoothness and dynamic response of diffusion models by accelerating inference.

4 EXPERIMENTS

We conduct experiments to evaluate the performance of Imit-Diff in fine-grained manipulation tasks in complex scenarios. We design three real-world tasks to verify the advanced capabilities of Imit-Diff. ablation study is also conducted to demonstrate the effectiveness of each component of the proposed method.

4.1 TASK SETUP AND METRICS

Tasks: We evaluate Imit-Diff in the real world on three tasks: Block Placement, Object Sorting, and
 Stack Blocks (See Fig. 3). The settings for testing the model's anti-interference and generalization
 capabilities are shown in Fig. 4 in Appendix A.1.

308
309
309
309
309
310
310
310
310
311
311
312
312
313
314
315
315
316
317
318
318
319
319
319
310
310
310
310
311
311
312
312
313
314
315
315
316
316
317
318
319
319
319
310
310
310
311
311
311
312
312
312
313
314
315
314
315
315
316
316
317
318
318
319
319
310
310
310
311
312
311
312
312
312
312
312
314
315
315
315
316
316
317
318
318
319
319
310
311
311
312
312
312
312
312
312
312
314
315
315
314
315
314
315
314
315
314
314
315
314
315
314
315
314
315
314
315
314
314
314
314
314
314
314
315
314
315
314
314
314
314
314
314
314
314
315
314
314
314
314
314
314
314
314
314
314
314
314
314
314
314
314
314
314
314
314
314

2) Object Sortation: With two blocks randomly placed on a plate with complex textures, the robot is expected to pick up the blocks further to the left and the right and place them in the left and the right bowls respectively. Irrelevant clutters are also randomly placed in the scenes for deliberate interference. The relevant objects are termed "yellow block", "red block", "blue bowl", and "pink bowl". This task intends to evaluate the robot's robustness against cluttered scenes.

318
3) Stack Blocks: With three blocks placed on the desk, the robot is expected to stack three blocks sequentially. Irrelevant clutters are also randomly placed in the scenes for deliberate interference. The relevant objects are termed as "green block", "blue block", and "red block". This task intends to evaluate the manipulation precision.

For the aforementioned tasks, we use a 6-DoF AIRBOT Play robot arm for collecting expert demonstrations with teleoperation. For each task, we collect only 50 demonstrations. During the demon324 strations, two USB cameras are used to capture RGB observations from different perspectives: two 325 cameras mounted on the table and at the end of the robotic arm, respectively. We use 224×224 326 images as the low-resolution input and 448×448 images for high-resolution input. For fairness in 327 comparison, we use the original image size of 480×640 as input for Diffusion Policy and ACT to 328 ensure the preservation of raw information. The low-dimensional observations consist of observed joint positions, including the six joint positions of the robot arm and the gripper's position. We perform inference using a laptop with a single 4060 GPU and 8GB of VRAM. Notably, we adopt 330 DDIM as the diffusion strategy for Diffusion Policy, using 16 steps for policy inference, which is 331 consistent with the original implementation. 332

In terms of the metrics, we assess the robot's performance by the average success rate. We run 20 evaluations for each task and divide the task into several sub-tasks to assess the algorithm's predictions. For the target objects, we change their appearance without altering their geometric properties to evaluate the model's generalization of appearance.

337 338

4.2 **BASELINES**

339 We benchmark Imit-Diff against state-of-the-art imitation learning methods that have shown signif-340 icant success in policy learning for complex robotic tasks. Specifically, we use ACT and Diffusion 341 Policy as baseline models. Both ACT and Diffusion Policy employ the ResNet-18 vision backbone, 342 as detailed in their original implementations. Similar to Imit-Diff, the baselines use a transformer 343 architecture, and hyper-parameters such as prediction horizon and image resolution are are tuned 344 similarly for a fair comparison. By comparing with baselines that have already demonstrated strong 345 performance on complex tasks, our goal is to demonstrate that the introduction of prior mask-guided 346 dual-vision fusion can improve generalization to clutter and fine-grained scene understanding within 347 limited data. See Tab. 6 and Tab. 7 for training details.

348 349

350

4.3 RESULTS

We report the success rates of Imit-Diff and the baselines in Tab. 1. Imit-Diff achieved a success rate of 0.9 for Block Placement, 0.9 for Object Sorting, and 0.95 for Stack Blocks, outperforming both ACT and Diffusion Policy. The excellent performance on the fine operations (e.g., picking up and stacking blocks) demonstrates the benefits of the fine-grained feature extraction enabled by multi-resolution fusion.

In Tab. 2, we report the success rates of various methods in environments with clutter interference.
 The outstanding experimental results demonstrate that the introduction of the prior mask effectively improves generalization against interference.

Tab. 3 presents the robustness of different models against appearance changes. We replace the target
objects with colors unseen during training, and Imit-Diff, unlike ACT and Diffusion Policy, is able
to clearly identify the objects that should be attended to.

Notably, Tab. 3 also demonstrates the re-completion ability of each model. After the robot completes
 the tasks, we manually restore the scene to an intermediate sub-task state. Imit-Diff enables the
 robot to reassess the current scene and successfully complete the task again, regardless of object
 appearance. This demonstrates that the high-quality feature tokens constructed by Imit-Diff enhance
 scene understanding.

- 367
- 368 4.4 ABLATION STUDY 369

We aim to validate our design choices through several ablation studies and gain a better understanding of how different hyper-parameters influence Imit-Diff. We choose the most challenging real-world task for fine-grained feature extraction, Stack Blocks, as the benchmark for the ablation study.

Tab. 4 a) presents the results of ablations on visual backbones. We found that ViT-S DINOV2
significantly outperforms a simple ViT-S pretrained on ImageNet. This suggests that the pretrained
weights have a crucial impact on the scene understanding capabilities of Imit-Diff. The superior
performance of ViT-S DINOV2 can be attributed to its self-supervised pretraining, which enables it
to learn rich, generalizable feature representations.

378 Tab. 4 b) shows the success rates for the Stack Blocks task under different loss designs. We find 379 that the model performs better with MSE Loss, which is more commonly used in diffusion models, 380 compared to Huber Loss used in Consistency Policy. This may be due to Huber Loss's higher 381 tolerance for noise in tasks requiring fine manipulation, which can cause small action variations to be 382 disregarded, while MSE Loss is more effective at capturing and reflecting these subtle movements.

In Tab. 4 c), we present the results of the ablation study on camera views. We find that adding 384 the arm-side view improves our model's performance in fine manipulation tasks, such as block 385 stacking. It demonstrates that our network is scalable and can further enhance its performance by 386 incorporating additional observational information due to multi-modal fusion.

387 Tab. 4 d) presents the results of our ablation study on semantics injection. The experimental setup is 388 similar to that in Sec. 4.1. The results show that the model performs better, especially under unseen 389 clutter interference, with the introduction of the prior mask. This validates the effectiveness of the 390 component we proposed in Sec. 3.1. 391

In Tab. 4 e), we present the results of the ablation study on dual-resolution fusion. As we pro-392 gressively reduce the number of FPN layers described in Sec. 3.1, the model's performance also 393 decreases, demonstrating the soundness of the component design in Sec. 3.1. Additionally, we 394 identify FPN=3 as a sweet spot, balancing model performance and training cost. 395

396 397

398

4.5 CONSISTENCY POLICY WITH ACTION DROPOUT

399 In previous experiments, we have demonstrated the strong performance and generalization capa-400 bilities of our method. However, similar to other diffusion-based imitation learning algorithms, 401 Imit-Diff suffers from longer inference times due to the EDM denoising framework. In Sec. 3.3, we introduce the implementation of the Consistency Policy within the DiT architecture. Tab. 5 reports 402 the inference times of our model. The implementation of the Consistency Policy in the DiT signif-403 icantly improves inference speed, making it possible to enhance dynamic responsiveness through 404 Temporal Ensemble and Action Dropout, a method we designed to increase execution frequency by 405 selectively dropping certain actions. 406

407

408 409

410

Table 1: Success rate (%) of 3 real-world tasks within 20 evaluation trials each, comparing our method with the two baselines. The model is trained with human demonstrations and fixed seed. Overall, Imit-Diff significantly outperforms previous methods.

	Blo	ck Place	ment		Object S	Sortation			Stack 1	Blocks	
Method	Pre- Grasp	Grasp Block	Place Block	Grasp Block1			Place Block2	1		1	Stack Block2
ACT	95	90	100	90	95	100	100	95	95	100	90
DP-T	90	85	95	90	95	85	90	85	95	90	95
Imit-Diff	95	95	100	95	100	100	95	95	100	100	100

Table 2: Success rate (%) of 3 real-world tasks within 20 evaluation trials each in cluttered scenes. We compare the models' performance with clutters seen / unseen during training placed at random positions.

	Block	Placement	Object	Sortation	Stack	Blocks
Method	Clutter Seen	Clutter Unseen	Clutter Seen	Clutter Unseen	Clutter Seen	Clutter Unseen
ACT	85	70	80	75	95	85
DP-T	80	65	85	75	90	80
Imit-Diff	95	90	95	90	95	95

431

423

424

Table 3: Success rate (%) of 3 real-world tasks within 20 evaluation trials each **with seen / unseen object appearance** and **with / without process interference**. Process interference refers to manually impeding after the task is done so that the model would have to restart from the intermediate stage.

		Block Placement	
Method	Appearance Seen	Appearance Seen + Process Interference	Appearance Unseen + Process Interference
ACT	85	50	45
DP-T	75	60	40
Imit-Diff	90	90	80
		Object Sortation	
Method	Appearance Seen	Appearance Seen + Process Interference	Appearance Unseen + Process Interference
ACT	85	75	70
DP-T	65	60	55
Imit-Diff	90	90	80
		Stack Blocks	
Method	Appearance Seen	Appearance Seen + Process Interference	Appearance Unseen + Process Interference
ACT	80	85	80
DP-T	70	85	70
Imit-Diff	95	85	85

Table 4: Success rate (%) of the Stack Blocks task in ablation studies within 20 evaluation trials each.

each.					
	a). Vist	ual Backbones		b). Loss D	esigns
	ViT-S	ViT-S DIN	OV2 Hu	iber Loss	MSE Loss
	30	95		10	95
		c)). Camera View	/8	
	E	nv. View		Env. + Arm-s	ide View
		90		95	
		d). S	Semantics Injec	tion	
		,	With Semantics	s With	out Semantics
	No Clutte	ers	95		95
	With Seen C	lutters	95		95
	With Unseen O	Clutters	95		85
				- ·	
		e). Du	al Resolution F	rusion	
	FPN-0	FPN-1	FPN-2	FPN-3	FPN-4
	20	30	60	85	95
	Table 5: Infe	erence Time of I	EDM and CTM	M Frameworks	for Imit-Dif
		EDM CTM (S	Single-step) C	TM (Few-step)	
		1.5s ().06s	0.12s	-

486 5 LIMITATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

487 488

501

504

505

506

512

513

Conclusions: We propose an imitation learning strategy for enhancing fine-grained feature repre-489 sentation and scene understanding, including improving fine-grained manipulation through dual-490 resolution fusion and introducing semantics through prior masks. The synergy between these two 491 parts enables the model to obtain generalization against interference and learn fine operations, such 492 as completing tasks in cluttered scenes and re-complete tasks from a certain stage.

493 Limitations and Future Work: Although our work outperforms on challenging tasks and shows 494 excellent generalization, there are still practical issues of algorithmic capabilities and robotics en-495 gineering. Specifically, our approach based on the EDM framework suffers from long inference 496 time. Although we have increased the inference speed by an order of magnitude in DiT to improve 497 dynamic response, there is still a gap in running speed compared to lightweight algorithms such as 498 ACT. In the future, we will explore the multi-modal fusion of robot observations including touch or 3D information. Overall, we hope that this representation-enhanced imitation learning algorithm 499 can take an important step forward in robot perception and open-source resources. 500

502 REFERENCES

- Francisco Andrade, Mario AT Figueiredo, and Joao Xavier. Distributed banach-picard iteration: Application to distributed parameter estimation and pca. IEEE Transactions on Signal Processing, 71:17-30, 2023.
- 507 Alessandro Bonardi, Stephen James, and Andrew J Davison. Learning one-shot imitation from 508 humans without humans. IEEE Robotics and Automation Letters, 5(2):3533–3539, 2020.
- 509 Lili Chen, Shikhar Bahl, and Deepak Pathak. Playfusion: Skill acquisition via diffusion from 510 language-annotated play. In Conference on Robot Learning, pp. 2012–2029. PMLR, 2023. 511
 - Ting Chen. On the importance of noise scheduling for diffusion models. arXiv preprint arXiv:2301.10972, 2023.
- 514 Xuxin Cheng, Jialong Li, Shiqi Yang, Ge Yang, and Xiaolong Wang. Open-television: teleoperation 515 with immersive active visual feedback. arXiv preprint arXiv:2407.01512, 2024. 516
- 517 Cheng Chi, Siyuan Feng, Yilun Du, Zhenjia Xu, Eric Cousineau, Benjamin Burchfiel, and Shu-518 ran Song. Diffusion policy: Visuomotor policy learning via action diffusion. arXiv preprint 519 arXiv:2303.04137, 2023. 520
- Yutao Cui, Cheng Jiang, Limin Wang, and Gangshan Wu. Mixformer: End-to-end tracking with 521 iterative mixed attention. In Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF conference on computer vision and 522 pattern recognition, pp. 13608–13618, 2022. 523
- 524 Yutao Cui, Tianhui Song, Gangshan Wu, and Limin Wang. Mixformerv2: Efficient fully transformer 525 tracking. Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems, 36, 2024. 526
- Sudeep Dasari and Abhinav Gupta. Transformers for one-shot visual imitation. In Conference on 527 Robot Learning, pp. 2071–2084. PMLR, 2021. 528
- 529 Peter Englert and Marc Toussaint. Learning manipulation skills from a single demonstration. The 530 International Journal of Robotics Research, 37(1):137–154, 2018. 531
- Ying Fan, Olivia Watkins, Yuqing Du, Hao Liu, Moonkyung Ryu, Craig Boutilier, Pieter Abbeel, 532 Mohammad Ghavamzadeh, Kangwook Lee, and Kimin Lee. Reinforcement learning for fine-533 tuning text-to-image diffusion models. Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems, 36, 534 2024. 535
- Zipeng Fu, Tony Z Zhao, and Chelsea Finn. Mobile aloha: Learning bimanual mobile manipulation 537 with low-cost whole-body teleoperation. arXiv preprint arXiv:2401.02117, 2024. 538
- Jianping Gou, Baosheng Yu, Stephen J Maybank, and Dacheng Tao. Knowledge distillation: A survey. International Journal of Computer Vision, 129(6):1789-1819, 2021.

540 Ziyao Guo, Haonan Yan, Hui Li, and Xiaodong Lin. Class attention transfer based knowledge distil-541 lation. In Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition, 542 pp. 11868-11877, 2023. 543 Jiequn Han, Wei Hu, Jihao Long, and Yue Zhao. Deep picard iteration for high-dimensional nonlin-544 ear pdes. arXiv preprint arXiv:2409.08526, 2024. 546 Manhyung Han. Ddim redux: Mathematical foundation and some extension. arXiv preprint 547 arXiv:2408.07285, 2024. 548 Zhiwei Hao, Jianyuan Guo, Kai Han, Yehui Tang, Han Hu, Yunhe Wang, and Chang Xu. One-for-549 all: Bridge the gap between heterogeneous architectures in knowledge distillation. Advances in 550 Neural Information Processing Systems, 36, 2024. 551 552 Mohammad Mainul Hasan, Tanveer Saleh, Ali Sophian, M Azizur Rahman, Tao Huang, and Mo-553 hamed Sultan Mohamed Ali. Experimental modeling techniques in electrical discharge machin-554 ing (edm): A review. The International Journal of Advanced Manufacturing Technology, 127(5): 2125-2150, 2023. 555 556 Tairan He, Zhengyi Luo, Wenli Xiao, Chong Zhang, Kris Kitani, Changliu Liu, and Guanya Learning human-to-humanoid real-time whole-body teleoperation. Shi. arXiv preprint 558 arXiv:2403.04436, 2024. 559 Siyuan Huang, Zhengkai Jiang, Hao Dong, Yu Qiao, Peng Gao, and Hongsheng Li. Instruct2act: Mapping multi-modality instructions to robotic actions with large language model. arXiv preprint 561 arXiv:2305.11176, 2023a. 562 563 Siyuan Huang, Zan Wang, Puhao Li, Baoxiong Jia, Tengyu Liu, Yixin Zhu, Wei Liang, and Song-564 Chun Zhu. Diffusion-based generation, optimization, and planning in 3d scenes. In Proceedings 565 of the IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition, pp. 16750–16761, 566 2023b. 567 Wenlong Huang, Chen Wang, Ruohan Zhang, Yunzhu Li, Jiajun Wu, and Li Fei-Fei. Voxposer: 568 Composable 3d value maps for robotic manipulation with language models. arXiv preprint 569 arXiv:2307.05973, 2023c. 570 571 Perapong Kaewpoonsuk and Kumpon Subsomboon. Methodology of 3d underground object models 572 and reality 3d models for urban information modeling (uim). In AIP Conference Proceedings, 573 volume 3239. AIP Publishing, 2024. 574 Seungjae Lee, Yibin Wang, Haritheja Etukuru, H Jin Kim, Nur Muhammad Mahi Shafiullah, and 575 Lerrel Pinto. Behavior generation with latent actions. arXiv preprint arXiv:2403.03181, 2024. 576 577 Xiaoqi Li, Mingxu Zhang, Yiran Geng, Haoran Geng, Yuxing Long, Yan Shen, Renrui Zhang, 578 Jiaming Liu, and Hao Dong. Manipllm: Embodied multimodal large language model for object-579 centric robotic manipulation. In Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition, pp. 18061-18070, 2024a. 580 581 Yanwei Li, Yuechen Zhang, Chengyao Wang, Zhisheng Zhong, Yixin Chen, Ruihang Chu, Shaoteng 582 Liu, and Jiaya Jia. Mini-gemini: Mining the potential of multi-modality vision language models. 583 arXiv preprint arXiv:2403.18814, 2024b. 584 585 Shilong Liu, Zhaoyang Zeng, Tianhe Ren, Feng Li, Hao Zhang, Jie Yang, Chunyuan Li, Jianwei Yang, Hang Su, Jun Zhu, et al. Grounding dino: Marrying dino with grounded pre-training for 586 open-set object detection. arXiv preprint arXiv:2303.05499, 2023. 588 Zhuang Liu, Hanzi Mao, Chao-Yuan Wu, Christoph Feichtenhofer, Trevor Darrell, and Saining Xie. 589 A convnet for the 2020s. In Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF conference on computer vision and 590 pattern recognition, pp. 11976–11986, 2022. 591 Jianlan Luo, Charles Xu, Fangchen Liu, Liam Tan, Zipeng Lin, Jeffrey Wu, Pieter Abbeel, and 592 Sergey Levine. Fmb: A functional manipulation benchmark for generalizable robotic learning. The International Journal of Robotics Research, pp. 02783649241276017, 2023.

594 595 596	Utkarsh Aashu Mishra, Shangjie Xue, Yongxin Chen, and Danfei Xu. Generative skill chaining: Long-horizon skill planning with diffusion models. In <i>Conference on Robot Learning</i> , pp. 2905–2925. PMLR, 2023.
597	
598	Maxime Oquab, Timothée Darcet, Théo Moutakanni, Huy Vo, Marc Szafraniec, Vasil Khalidov,
599	Pierre Fernandez, Daniel Haziza, Francisco Massa, Alaaeldin El-Nouby, et al. Dinov2: Learning
600	robust visual features without supervision. arXiv preprint arXiv:2304.07193, 2023.
601	William Peebles and Saining Xie. Scalable diffusion models with transformers. In Proceedings of
602 603	the IEEE/CVF International Conference on Computer Vision, pp. 4195–4205, 2023.
604	Mary Phuong and Christoph H Lampert. Distillation-based training for multi-exit architectures. In
605	Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF international conference on computer vision, pp. 1355–1364, 2019.
606 607 608	Aaditya Prasad, Kevin Lin, Jimmy Wu, Linqi Zhou, and Jeannette Bohg. Consistency policy: Accelerated visuomotor policies via consistency distillation. <i>arXiv preprint arXiv:2405.07503</i> , 2024.
609 610 611	Tianhe Ren, Qing Jiang, Shilong Liu, Zhaoyang Zeng, Wenlong Liu, Han Gao, Hongjie Huang, Zhengyu Ma, Xiaoke Jiang, Yihao Chen, et al. Grounding dino 1.5: Advance the" edge" of open-set object detection. <i>arXiv preprint arXiv:2405.10300</i> , 2024a.
612	Tianhe Ren, Shilong Liu, Ailing Zeng, Jing Lin, Kunchang Li, He Cao, Jiayu Chen, Xinyu Huang,
613 614	Yukang Chen, Feng Yan, et al. Grounded sam: Assembling open-world models for diverse visual tasks. <i>arXiv preprint arXiv:2401.14159</i> , 2024b.
615	
616	Olaf Ronneberger, Philipp Fischer, and Thomas Brox. U-net: Convolutional networks for biomed-
617	ical image segmentation. In Medical image computing and computer-assisted intervention-
618	MICCAI 2015: 18th international conference, Munich, Germany, October 5-9, 2015, proceed-
619	ings, part III 18, pp. 234-241. Springer, 2015.
620	Octo Model Team, Dibya Ghosh, Homer Walke, Karl Pertsch, Kevin Black, Oier Mees, Sudeep
621	Dasari, Joey Hejna, Tobias Kreiman, Charles Xu, et al. Octo: An open-source generalist robot
622	policy. arXiv preprint arXiv:2405.12213, 2024.
623	Faraz Torabi, Garrett Warnell, and Peter Stone. Behavioral cloning from observation. arXiv preprint
624 625	arXiv:1805.01954, 2018.
626 627 628	Gang Wang, Mingliang Zhou, Xin Ning, Prayag Tiwari, Haobo Zhu, Guang Yang, and Choon Hwai Yap. Us2mask: Image-to-mask generation learning via a conditional gan for cardiac ultrasound image segmentation. <i>Computers in Biology and Medicine</i> , 172:108282, 2024a.
629	Wenjun Wang, Chao Su, Guohui Han, and Heng Zhang. A lightweight crack segmentation network
630 631	based on knowledge distillation. <i>Journal of Building Engineering</i> , 76:107200, 2023.
632 633 634	Xuechuan Wang, Wei He, Haoyang Feng, and Satya N Atluri. Fast and accurate predictor-corrector methods using feedback-accelerated picard iteration for strongly nonlinear problems. <i>Comput. Model. Eng. Sci</i> , 139:1263–1294, 2024b.
635	
636	Syed Talal Wasim, Muzammal Naseer, Salman Khan, Ming-Hsuan Yang, and Fahad Shahbaz Khan.
637	Videogrounding-dino: Towards open-vocabulary spatio-temporal video grounding. In Proceed-
638	ings of the IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition, pp. 18909–
639	18918, 2024.
640	Peishu Wu, Zidong Wang, Han Li, and Nianyin Zeng. Kd-par: A knowledge distillation-based
641 642	pedestrian attribute recognition model with multi-label mixed feature learning network. <i>Expert Systems with Applications</i> , 237:121305, 2024a.
643	
644	Philipp Wu, Kourosh Hakhamaneshi, Yuqing Du, Igor Mordatch, Aravind Rajeswaran, and Pieter
645	Abbeel. Semi-supervised one-shot imitation learning. arXiv preprint arXiv:2408.05285, 2024b.
646	Wenhao Yu, Nimrod Gileadi, Chuyuan Fu, Sean Kirmani, Kuang-Huei Lee, Montse Gonzalez Are-
647	nas, Hao-Tien Lewis Chiang, Tom Erez, Leonard Hasenclever, Jan Humplik, et al. Language to rewards for robotic skill synthesis. <i>arXiv preprint arXiv:2306.08647</i> , 2023.

- 648 Kashing Yuen, Jianpeng Zou, and Kaoru Uchida. Generalized dino: Dino via multimodal models for 649 generalized object detection. In Proceedings of the 3rd International Conference on Computer, 650 Artificial Intelligence and Control Engineering, pp. 776–783, 2024. 651 Yanjie Ze, Gu Zhang, Kangning Zhang, Chenyuan Hu, Muhan Wang, and Huazhe Xu. 3d diffusion 652 policy. arXiv preprint arXiv:2403.03954, 2024. 653 654 Chaoning Zhang, Dongshen Han, Yu Qiao, Jung Uk Kim, Sung-Ho Bae, Seungkyu Lee, and 655 Choong Seon Hong. Faster segment anything: Towards lightweight sam for mobile applications. 656 arXiv preprint arXiv:2306.14289, 2023. 657 Tony Z Zhao, Jonathan Tompson, Danny Driess, Pete Florence, Seyed Kamyar Seyed Ghasemipour, 658 Chelsea Finn, and Ayzaan Wahid. Aloha unleashed: A simple recipe for robot dexterity. In 8th 659 Annual Conference on Robot Learning. 660 661 Tony Z Zhao, Vikash Kumar, Sergey Levine, and Chelsea Finn. Learning fine-grained bimanual 662 manipulation with low-cost hardware. arXiv preprint arXiv:2304.13705, 2023. 663 Kaiwen Zheng, Cheng Lu, Jianfei Chen, and Jun Zhu. Improved techniques for maximum likelihood 664 estimation for diffusion odes. In International Conference on Machine Learning, pp. 42363-665 42389. PMLR, 2023. 666 667 668 А APPENDIX 669 670 **EXPERIMENT DETAILS** A.1 671 Fig. 4 shows the experimental settings for model anti-interference and generalization capabilities. 672 673 674 A.2 TRAINING DETAILS 675 All models are trained using the same collected data on a platform with 8 \times A100 GPUs. The 676 training parameter settings of the baseline models are shown in Tab. 6, Tab. 7 and Tab. 8. 677 678 679 Table 6: ACT Training 680 Hyperparameter Value 681 input image shape $3\times 480\times 640$ 682 2e-4 683 learning rate batch size 16 684 10000 685 steps feedforward dimension 686 3200 hidden dimension 512 687 chunk size 100 688 10 689 beta 690 dropout 0.1691 692 693 694 696 697 699
- 700

	Table 7: Diffusion P	olicy Training
	Hyperparameter	Value
	input image shape	$3 \times 448 \times 448$
	learning rate	2e-4
	batch size	64
	steps	20000
	chunk size	20
	scheduler	DDIM
	train and test diffusion steps	100,16
	ema power	0.75
	backbone	pretrained ResNet18
	noise predictor	Transformer
	Table 8: Imit-Di	ff Training
Hyperparameter	Table 8: Imit-Di	ff Training Value
Hyperparameter high resolution imag		-
	ge shape	Value
high resolution imag	ge shape	Value $3 \times 448 \times 448$ $3 \times 224 \times 224$ 1e-4
high resolution images low resolution images and the second secon	ge shape	Value $3 \times 448 \times 448$ $3 \times 224 \times 224$
high resolution imag low resolution imag learning rate	ge shape	Value $3 \times 448 \times 448$ $3 \times 224 \times 224$ 1e-4
high resolution imag low resolution imag learning rate batch size	ge shape	Value $3 \times 448 \times 448$ $3 \times 224 \times 224$ 1e-4 64
high resolution imag low resolution imag learning rate batch size steps chunk size scheduler	ge shape e shape	Value $3 \times 448 \times 448$ $3 \times 224 \times 224$ $1e-4$ 64 20000 20 EDM
high resolution imag low resolution imag learning rate batch size steps chunk size	ge shape e shape	Value $3 \times 448 \times 448$ $3 \times 224 \times 224$ 1e-4 64 20000 20
high resolution imag low resolution imag learning rate batch size steps chunk size scheduler train and test diffusi ema power	ge shape e shape on steps 8	Value $3 \times 448 \times 448$ $3 \times 224 \times 224$ $1e-4$ 64 20000 20 EDM $0,80 (EDM) - 3 (CTM)$ 0.75
high resolution image low resolution image learning rate batch size steps chunk size scheduler train and test diffusi ema power backbone	ge shape e shape on steps 8	Value $3 \times 448 \times 448$ $3 \times 224 \times 224$ $1e-4$ 64 20000 20 EDM $0,80 (EDM) - 3 (CTM)$ 0.75 VV2 (LR) & pretrained ConvNex
high resolution imag low resolution imag learning rate batch size steps chunk size scheduler train and test diffusi ema power	ge shape e shape on steps 8	Value $3 \times 448 \times 448$ $3 \times 224 \times 224$ $1e-4$ 64 20000 20 EDM $0,80 (EDM) - 3 (CTM)$ 0.75
high resolution image low resolution image learning rate batch size steps chunk size scheduler train and test diffusi ema power backbone	ge shape e shape on steps 8	Value $3 \times 448 \times 448$ $3 \times 224 \times 224$ $1e-4$ 64 20000 20 EDM $0,80 (EDM) - 3 (CTM)$ 0.75 VV2 (LR) & pretrained ConvNex
high resolution image low resolution image learning rate batch size steps chunk size scheduler train and test diffusi ema power backbone	ge shape e shape on steps 8	Value $3 \times 448 \times 448$ $3 \times 224 \times 224$ $1e-4$ 64 20000 20 EDM $0,80 (EDM) - 3 (CTM)$ 0.75 VV2 (LR) & pretrained ConvNex
high resolution image low resolution image learning rate batch size steps chunk size scheduler train and test diffusi ema power backbone	ge shape e shape on steps 8	Value $3 \times 448 \times 448$ $3 \times 224 \times 224$ $1e-4$ 64 20000 20 EDM $0,80 (EDM) - 3 (CTM)$ 0.75 VV2 (LR) & pretrained ConvNex
high resolution image low resolution image learning rate batch size steps chunk size scheduler train and test diffusi ema power backbone	ge shape e shape on steps 8	Value $3 \times 448 \times 448$ $3 \times 224 \times 224$ $1e-4$ 64 20000 20 EDM $0,80 (EDM) - 3 (CTM)$ 0.75 VV2 (LR) & pretrained ConvNex



Figure 4: Experimental settings for model anti-interference and generalization capabilities. To verify the model's ability to adapt to scenes with unseen manipulating objects and interfering objects, we set up multiple groups of experiments for each task: a) randomly changing the color of the manipulated objects in the task; b) randomly placing objects that exist in the training data; c) randomly placing objects that do not exist in the training data.