

# DEBIASED AND DENOISED PROJECTION LEARNING FOR INCOMPLETE MULTI-VIEW CLUSTERING

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006 Paper under double-blind review  
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054       sus representations (Lin et al., 2022; Yin et al., 2025). Such incorrect correspondences may further  
 055       exacerbate distribution shifts and result in erroneous clustering structures.  
 056

057       It can be observed that deep IMVC still encounters two major challenges: 1) Existing methods of-  
 058       ten ignore the complementary role of the available views in incomplete samples when learning their  
 059       consensus representation. Unfortunately, although a few approaches have considered this issue, they  
 060       usually lack effective strategies to mitigate the distribution shifts induced by missing views. 2) Ex-  
 061       isting methods tend to simply restore or complete data using the learned consensus representation.  
 062       While the consensus representation captures certain cross-view consistencies, the absence of nec-  
 063       essary structural consistency constraints inevitably introduces misalignment noise. This, in turn,  
 064       exacerbates the risk of clustering collapse.

065       To address the above issues, we propose a novel strategy based on debiased and denoised projection  
 066       learning for incomplete multi-view clustering. The proposed framework is illustrated in Figure 1.  
 067       Notably, our consensus learning paradigm is not merely restricted to intra-view or inter-view inter-  
 068       actions, but instead enables concurrent interactions across all instances. Specifically, to bridge the  
 069       semantic gaps across views, DDP-IMVC optimizes the projections of the common embedding space  
 070       by maximizing the mutual information between the consensus projections and the view-specific  
 071       embeddings. In practice, we design adaptive projection matrices based on cluster separability to  
 072       collaboratively integrate detailed information from all views and to accommodate the influence of  
 073       varying degrees of missing instances. In this space, an unbiased projection is introduced through a  
 074       refinement strategy to correct biased projections, thereby constructing robust consensus projections.  
 075       Furthermore, to overcome the heterogeneity in IMVC and inconsistencies of consensus projections,  
 076       DDP-IMVC employs a denoised contrastive strategy to reduce the risk of clustering collapse. Fi-  
 077       nally, the data are recovered through the matched consensus projections. Our main contributions  
 078       can be summarized as follows:  
 079

- We propose an innovative incomplete multi-view clustering framework, i.e., DDP-IMVC, which employs unbiased projection to correct and refine the distribution shifts of the biased projection.
- To alleviate the cluster collapse problem induced by misalignment noise, we adopt a robust contrastive constraint based on consensus projections. This approach facilitates the generation of common embedding projections.
- We analyze the robustness of DDP-IMVC from both theoretical and experimental perspectives. Extensive experiments demonstrate that under varying missing rates, DDP-IMVC significantly outperforms state-of-the-art methods across four datasets.

## 090       2 RELATED WORK

### 092       2.1 MULTI-VIEW CLUSTERING

094       MVC groups samples with similar feature patterns into the same cluster by integrating feature in-  
 095       formation from different views (Yang & Wang, 2018; Zhou et al., 2024). Deep autoencoders, as  
 096       powerful feature extraction tools, have been widely applied in MVC. To address the inconsistency  
 097       between discrete clustering information and continuous visual information, Xu et al. (2021) employs  
 098       a variational autoencoder to learn disentangled representations. MFLVC relies on an autoencoder to  
 099       learn latent features at different levels to mine common semantics (Xu et al., 2022b). However, these  
 100       methods struggle to eliminate the interference of private information and noise during consistent in-  
 101       formation extraction. Yan et al. (2024a) proposes a novel variational autoencoder under information  
 102       bottleneck theory to preserve clustering information. Unlike the above approaches that optimize  
 103       reconstruction loss to learn latent features, Xie et al. (2020) constructs a multi-view joint cluster-  
 104       ing network using stacked autoencoders, convolutional autoencoders, and variational autoencoders  
 105       to capture precise multi-view features. Trosten et al. (2021); Tang & Liu (2022) employ encoding  
 106       networks to extract view-specific features while maintaining cluster compactness through clustering  
 107       constraints. Moreover, for real-world multi-view data with missing views, the above methods often  
 108       struggle to uncover accurate data representations. Therefore, uncovering accurate clustering patterns  
 109       in incomplete multi-view data has become an important research direction.

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## 2.2 INCOMPLETE MULTI-VIEW CLUSTERING

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In recent years, IMVC has achieved significant breakthroughs. Generally, deep IMVC methods can be divided into four categories: 1) Prediction-based methods. Lin et al. (2021; 2022) predict the missing data with the predictor to leverage the available data across views, with the goal of minimizing the conditional entropy. 2) Adversarial network-based methods. Wang et al. (2021) explicitly generates missing view data through generative adversarial networks (GANs) and integrates multi-view information to achieve efficient clustering. Wang et al. (2023) proposes a self-supervised framework that combines GANs with dual contrastive learning, exploiting the hidden information in incomplete data. 3) Prototype-based methods. Dai et al. (2025) proposes an IMVC framework in a common semantic space based on consensus semantics without data completion or alignment. Yuan et al. (2025) introduces a robust prototype contrastive strategy to handle overfitting caused by prototype misalignment. 4) Neighborhood-based methods. Tang & Liu (2022) dynamically updates neighbors based on learned semantic features, avoiding the interference of low-quality samples during data completion. Chao et al. (2024) constructs a neighbor-sample adjacency matrix and adopts graph neural networks (GNNs) to complete missing samples. Pu et al. (2024) constructs a latent graph to preserve topological information for the dynamic imputation of missing embedded features. Chao et al. (2025) adaptively completes missing representations by integrating intra-view local relationships and cross-view global relationships through GCNs. Despite their effectiveness, most IMVC methods ignore the potential inter-view distribution bias due to missing views.

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## 3 METHODOLOGY

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## 3.1 NOTATIONS

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Given a multi-view dataset  $\mathcal{X} = \{\mathbf{X}^v \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times D_v}\}_{v=1}^V$ , consisting of  $N$  samples, each represented by  $V$  views of dimensionality  $D_v$ . There are  $N_u$  complete samples with all views and  $N_b$  samples with missing views. Let the complete samples be denoted as  $\{\mathbf{X}_C^v\}_{v=1}^V$ , and the samples with missing views be denoted as  $\{\mathbf{X}_I^v\}_{v=1}^V$ . A complete view indicator matrix  $\mathbf{M} \in \{0, 1\}^{N \times V}$  indicates the positions of missing views.  $\mathbf{M}_{iv}$  is set to 1 if the  $i$ -th sample in the  $v$ -th view is observed; otherwise, it indicates a missing view. It is assumed that no sample is missing in all views simultaneously, i.e.,  $\forall i \in \{1, \dots, N\}, \sum_{v=1}^V \mathbf{M}_{iv} \geq 1$ . The task is to cluster these  $N$  samples with potentially missing views into  $K$  clusters.

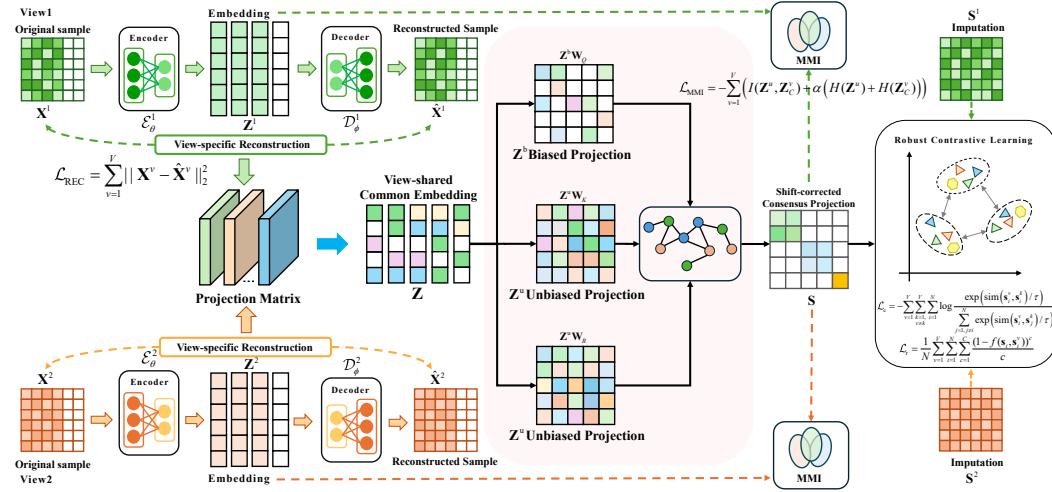
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Figure 1: The architecture of our proposed DDP-IMVC framework. (a) Independent autoencoders are employed for each view to extract deep features. (b) The deep features are adaptively projected in a consensus embedding space to bridge the semantic gaps across views. (c) An attention-based refinement strategy is employed to optimize the biased projection introduced by the incomplete sample. (d) A denoised consensus projection contrastive strategy is adopted to alleviate the risk of clustering collapse.

162 3.2 VIEW-SPECIFIC RECONSTRUCTION  
163

164 Considering that the data across different views are mostly heterogeneous and differently distributed,  
165 we provide independent autoencoders for each view to alleviate clustering instability on the man-  
166 ifold structure in high-dimensional space (Hinton & Salakhutdinov, 2006; Guo et al., 2017). An  
167 autoencoder  $\mathcal{E}_\theta^v(\cdot)$  is used to learn the embedding of the sample:

$$168 \quad \mathbf{Z}^v = \mathcal{E}_\theta^v(\mathbf{X}^v), \quad (1)$$

170 where  $\mathbf{Z}^v \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times d}$  denotes the embedding of the  $v$ -th view in the  $d$ -dimensional embedding space.  
171  $\theta$  represents the learnable parameters of the autoencoder. Then, we reconstruct the embedding  $\mathbf{Z}^v$   
172 into  $\hat{\mathbf{X}}^v \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times D_v}$  with the decoder  $\mathcal{D}_\phi^v(\cdot)$ , as follows:

$$173 \quad \hat{\mathbf{X}}^v = \mathcal{D}_\phi^v(\mathbf{Z}^v), \quad (2)$$

175 where  $\phi$  denotes the learnable parameters of the decoder. The reconstruction loss across all views  
176 can be expressed as follows:

$$177 \quad \mathcal{L}_{\text{REC}} = \sum_{v=1}^V \|\mathbf{X}^v - \hat{\mathbf{X}}^v\|_2^2. \quad (3)$$

180 3.3 UNBAISED REFINEMENT FOR DEBIASED PROJECTION  
181

182 Multi-view complementary information can enhance cluster separability, making single-view insep-  
183 arable clusters linearly separable (Zhang et al., 2024b; Dai et al., 2025). Moreover, in the common  
184 embedding space, the view-specific projections share consistent semantics, allowing each sample to  
185 be represented by the projection from any view. Accordingly, we extract common representations  
186 through an adaptive projection matrix.

187 Variance reflects sample deviation from the mean along a certain dimension, with well-separated  
188 clusters exhibiting high value (Xu et al., 2023). We leverage the variance to assess the separability  
189 of clusters and compute an adaptive projection matrix  $\mathbf{W} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times V}$  that preserves the clustering  
190 information of views with well-defined cluster structures:

$$192 \quad \mathbf{W}_{iv} = \frac{\text{Var}(\mathbf{Z}_C^v)}{\sum_{v'=1}^V \mathbf{M}_{iv'} \text{Var}(\mathbf{Z}_C^{v'})}, \quad (4)$$

194 where  $\mathbf{W}_{iv}$  denotes the projection weight of the  $i$ -th sample in the  $v$ -th view.  $\text{Var}(\cdot)$  represents the  
195 variance operator. The mask  $\mathbf{M}_{iv'}$  allows the projection matrix to adapt to randomly missing data.  
196  $\mathbf{Z}^v = [\mathbf{Z}_I^v; \mathbf{Z}_C^v]$  denotes embedding representations of the complete samples and incomplete samples  
197 in the  $v$ -th view. Based on the projection matrix  $\mathbf{W}$ , the samples are mapped to the view-shared  
198 common embeddings  $\mathbf{Z} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times d}$ .

$$199 \quad \mathbf{z}_i = \sum_{v=1}^V \mathbf{W}_{iv} \mathbf{z}_i^v. \quad (5)$$

202 where  $\mathbf{z}_i \in \mathbf{Z}$  denotes the projection of the  $i$ -th sample from all views.

203 The random missing of sample views can cause distribution shifts and lower clustering separability.  
204 To address this, we innovatively propose an attention-based complementarity refinement (Vaswani  
205 et al., 2017). The core idea is to compute the similarity between the biased projections  $\mathbf{z}_i^b$  and  
206 unbiased projections  $\mathbf{z}_i^u$  as sample affinity attention weights  $\mathbf{A}$ . It extracts the unbiased projection  
207 most compatible with the missing samples to correct the distribution shifts.

208 Biased projections are defined as those corresponding to samples with missing views, while unbiased  
209 projections correspond to samples with all views complete:

$$211 \quad \mathbf{Z}^u = \mathbf{Z} \left[ \{ i \mid \prod_{v=1}^V \mathbf{M}_{iv} = 1 \} \right], \quad (6)$$

$$214 \quad \mathbf{Z}^b = \mathbf{Z} \left[ \{ i \mid \prod_{v=1}^V \mathbf{M}_{iv} = 0 \} \right]. \quad (7)$$

216 Then, by comparing the biased projections with the high-quality unbiased projections, the corre-  
 217 sponding affinity attention weights are computed:  
 218

$$219 \quad \mathbf{A}^{(l)} = \text{Softmax} \left( \frac{\mathbf{Z}^b \mathbf{W}_Q^{(l)} \left( \mathbf{Z}^u \mathbf{W}_K^{(l)} \right)^\top}{\sqrt{d/L}} \right), l = 1, 2, \dots, L \quad (8)$$

223 where  $\mathbf{W}_Q$  and  $\mathbf{W}_K$  denote learnable parameters.  $L$  denotes the number of attention heads.  $d$   
 224 denotes the dimension of the projection  $\mathbf{Z}$ . Based on the affinity attention weights, the unbiased  
 225 projections can be used to correct the data shifts present in the biased projections. Finally, the  
 226 results from all attention heads are concatenated to obtain the corrective features in the common  
 227 embedding space:  
 228

$$\mathbf{B}^{(l)} = \mathbf{A}^{(l)} (\mathbf{Z}^u \mathbf{W}_R^{(l)}), \quad (9)$$

$$\mathbf{B} = [\mathbf{B}^{(1)}, \dots, \mathbf{B}^{(L)}], \quad (10)$$

230 where  $\mathbf{W}_R$  denotes learnable parameters. Then we incorporate the information of corrective features  
 231  $\mathbf{B}$  into the biased projections to obtain shift-corrected consensus projections  $\mathbf{S} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times d}$ :  
 232

$$\mathbf{S} = [\mathbf{Z}^u; \mathbf{Z}^b] + [\mathbf{0}; \mathbf{B}], \quad (11)$$

234 where  $\mathbf{0}$  denotes an all-zero matrix with the same dimensions as  $\mathbf{Z}^u$ . Clearly, correcting the distribu-  
 235 tion shifts caused by missing data lies in the high-quality common projected embeddings. Accurate  
 236 projections of multi-view features require exploiting the correlation between the view-specific fea-  
 237 tures and the projected embeddings. A natural idea is to maximize the mutual information (Lin et al.,  
 238 2021) between unbiased projections and embeddings under each view. Specifically, we regard the  
 239 unbiased projections as the anchor of the embeddings under each view, and sequentially maximize  
 240 the mutual information between the anchor and a specific view with the following loss function:  
 241

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{MMI}} = - \sum_{v=1}^V (I(\mathbf{Z}^u, \mathbf{Z}_C^v) + \alpha (H(\mathbf{Z}^u) + H(\mathbf{Z}_C^v))), \quad (12)$$

244 where  $\alpha$  serves as the entropy regularization coefficient.  $I(\cdot)$  denotes mutual information, and  $H(\cdot)$   
 245 denotes information entropy, which can be computed as follows:  
 246

$$H(\mathbf{X}) = - \sum_x p(x) \log p(x), \quad (13)$$

$$I(\mathbf{X}; \mathbf{Y}) = \sum_x \sum_y p(x, y) \log \frac{p(x, y)}{p(x)p(y)}. \quad (14)$$

252 where  $p(x)$  denotes the probability distribution of the random variable  $\mathbf{X}$ , and  $p(x, y)$  denotes the  
 253 joint distribution of the random variables  $\mathbf{X}$  and  $\mathbf{Y}$ .  
 254

255 Since the consensus projections capture both the inherent information of the incomplete samples and  
 256 the clustering information of the affiliated complete sample set, restoring embedding with consensus  
 257 projections can effectively ensure the integrity of the sample structure and the consistency of the  
 258 distribution. Therefore, we complete the missing-view embeddings from consensus projections by:  
 259

$$\mathbf{S}^v = \mathbf{Z}^v + (1 - \tilde{\mathbf{M}}^v) \odot \mathbf{S}, \quad (15)$$

260 where  $\odot$  denotes the element-wise multiplication.  $\mathbf{S}^v$  denotes the embeddings after completion in  
 261 the  $v$ -th view. We take the  $v$ -th column of matrix  $\mathbf{M} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times V}$  as  $\mathbf{m}^v \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times 1}$  that indicates  
 262 the missing samples in the  $v$ -th view and expand it into  $\tilde{\mathbf{M}}^v \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times d}$  by replicating  $\mathbf{m}^v$   $d$  times.  
 263 Finally, we project the completed embeddings  $\mathbf{S}^v$  into  $\mathbf{S}'$  via the variance projection matrix, which  
 264 is constructed by leveraging the variance of the embeddings from each view.  
 265

### 3.4 DUAL CONTRASTIVE LEARNING FOR DENOISED PROJECTION

#### 3.4.1 INTER-VIEW CONTRASTIVE LEARNING

266 To overcome the heterogeneity in incomplete multi-view learning, we construct positive pairs from  
 267 the same instance across views and negative pairs from different instances. Contrastive learning  
 268

270 maximizes the positive-pair correlation while minimizing that of negative pairs. The contrastive  
 271 learning loss across all views is:  
 272

$$273 \quad \mathcal{L}_c = - \sum_{v=1}^V \sum_{k=1}^V \sum_{\substack{i=1 \\ v \neq k}}^N \log \frac{\exp(\text{sim}(\mathbf{s}_i^v, \mathbf{s}_i^k) / \tau)}{\sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^N \exp(\text{sim}(\mathbf{s}_i^v, \mathbf{s}_j^k) / \tau)}, \quad (16)$$

277 where  $\mathbf{s}_i^v$  and  $\mathbf{s}_j^k$  denote the representations from  $v$ -th view and  $k$ -th view.  $\text{sim}(\cdot)$  is cosine similarity.  
 278  $\tau$  represents the temperature coefficient.  
 279

### 280 3.4.2 ROBUST CONTRASTIVE LEARNING 281

282 To prevent cluster collapse after completing missing views with consensus projections, it is nec-  
 283 essary to impose constraints between the consensus projections and the recovered samples. A  
 284 conventional approach is to apply contrastive learning between them. Although consensus projec-  
 285 tions capture the consistency of the data distribution, the completion process inevitably introduces  
 286 potential noise. Conventional contrastive learning’s strong focus on hard samples can exacerbate  
 287 noise-induced overfitting. Inspired by Yuan et al. (2024), we employ a denoised contrastive learning  
 288 between consensus projection  $\mathbf{S}$  and each view projection  $\mathbf{S}^v$  to enhance the robustness of consensus  
 289 projections against noise.  
 290

291 Set  $f(\mathbf{s}_i, \mathbf{s}_j) = \frac{\exp(\text{sim}(\mathbf{s}_i, \mathbf{s}_j) / \tau)}{\sum_{n=1}^N \exp(\text{sim}(\mathbf{s}_i, \mathbf{s}_n) / \tau)}$ , and thus  $\sum_{j=1}^N f(\mathbf{s}_i, \mathbf{s}_j) = 1$ . For the general form of  
 292 InfoNCE, its power series expansion over the interval  $[0, 1]$  is:  
 293

$$\begin{aligned} 294 \quad \mathcal{L}_{\text{Info}} &= - \frac{1}{N} \sum_{v=1}^V \sum_{i=1}^N \log \frac{\exp(\text{sim}(\mathbf{s}_i, \mathbf{s}_i^v) / \tau)}{\sum_{n=1}^N \exp(\text{sim}(\mathbf{s}_i, \mathbf{s}_n^v) / \tau)} \\ 295 \\ 296 &= \frac{1}{N} \sum_{v=1}^V \sum_{i=1}^N \left[ (1 - f(\mathbf{s}_i, \mathbf{s}_i^v)) + \frac{(1 - f(\mathbf{s}_i, \mathbf{s}_i^v))^2}{2} + \dots + \frac{(1 - f(\mathbf{s}_i, \mathbf{s}_i^v))^c}{c} + \dots \right] \\ 297 \\ 298 &= \frac{1}{N} \sum_{v=1}^V \sum_{i=1}^N \left[ \frac{1}{2} (2 - 2f(\mathbf{s}_i, \mathbf{s}_i^v)) + \frac{(1 - f(\mathbf{s}_i, \mathbf{s}_i^v))^2}{2} + \dots + \frac{(1 - f(\mathbf{s}_i, \mathbf{s}_i^v))^c}{c} + \dots \right] \quad (17) \\ 299 \\ 300 &= \frac{1}{N} \sum_{v=1}^V \sum_{i=1}^N \left[ \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{e}_i - \mathbf{f}_i\|_1 + \frac{(1 - f(\mathbf{s}_i, \mathbf{s}_i^v))^2}{2} + \dots + \frac{(1 - f(\mathbf{s}_i, \mathbf{s}_i^v))^c}{c} + \dots \right] \\ 301 \\ 302 &= \frac{1}{2N} \sum_{v=1}^V \sum_{i=1}^N \|\mathbf{e}_i - \mathbf{f}_i\|_1 + \frac{1}{N} \sum_{v=1}^V \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{c=1}^{\infty} \frac{(1 - f(\mathbf{s}_i, \mathbf{s}_i^v))^c}{c} \end{aligned}$$

308 where  $\mathbf{e}_i$  denotes the one-hot encoding whose  $i$ -th element is 1;  $\mathbf{f}_i$  is a vector whose the  $j$ -th element  
 309 is  $f(\mathbf{s}_i, \mathbf{s}_i^v)$ . It can be seen that, after expanding InfoNCE into an infinite series, the first term  
 310 is exactly the Mean Absolute Error (MAE) loss, which is proven to be robust to noise (Ghosh  
 311 et al., 2015; 2017). However, MAE loss treats each sample equally. The infinite terms can provide  
 312 differentiated attention to samples but are sensitive to noise. Therefore, we can construct a robust  
 313 contrastive loss by truncating part of the infinite series to maintain a balance between MAE loss and  
 314 InfoNCE loss, which is adjusted by a truncation coefficient  $C$ . Specifically, we take the first  $C$  terms  
 315 of the infinite series and obtain the robust contrastive loss as follows:  
 316

$$\mathcal{L}_r = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{v=1}^V \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{c=1}^C \frac{(1 - f(\mathbf{s}_i, \mathbf{s}_i^v))^c}{c}, \quad (18)$$

319 Its significance lies in that it transforms the unbounded amplification of  $-\log f(\mathbf{s}_i, \mathbf{s}_i^v)$  for hard sam-  
 320 ples into a bounded approximation, balancing positive sample discrimination and noise suppression.  
 321 Adjusting the truncation coefficient  $C$  allows tuning between cluster collapse and noise robustness.

322 Finally, the dual contrastive loss is:  
 323

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{DCL}} = \mathcal{L}_c + \mathcal{L}_r. \quad (19)$$

---

324 **Algorithm 1** DDP for Incomplete Multi-view Clustering

325

326 1: **Input:** Incomplete multi-view dataset  $\mathcal{X} = \{\mathbf{X}^v\}_{v=1}^V$  for all  $N$  samples, Training epoch  $E$ ,  
327 Hyper-parameter  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \alpha$ , and  $C$ .

328 2: Construct the complete view indicator matrix  $\mathbf{M} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times V}$ .

329 3: **while** Not reaching epochs  $E$  **do**

330 4: Calculate the embedding representation  $\{\mathbf{Z}^v\}_{v=1}^V$  by Eq.(1).

331 5: Calculate the projection embedding  $\mathbf{Z}$  by Eq.(5).

332 6: Correct the shifts to obtain consensus projections  $\mathbf{S}$  by Eq.(11).

333 7: Impute the each view embeddings  $\mathbf{S}^v$  by Eq.(15).

334 8: Compute the clustering-friendly representation  $\mathbf{S}'$  with the imputed embeddings.

335 9: Optimize the total loss function  $\mathcal{L}_{all}$  by Eq.(20).

336 10: **end while**

337 11: Perform k-means clustering algorithm on  $\mathbf{S}'$ .

338 12: **Output:**  $K$  clusters for  $N$  samples.

---

340 3.5 THE OBJECTIVE FUNCTION

341

342 Overall, the total loss function of our method consists of three parts are formulated as:

343

344 
$$\mathcal{L}_{all} = \mathcal{L}_{REC} + \lambda_1 \mathcal{L}_{MMI} + \lambda_2 \mathcal{L}_{DCL}. \quad (20)$$

345

346  $\lambda_1$  and  $\lambda_2$  are trade-off parameters.  $\mathcal{L}_{REC}$  is the autoencoder reconstruction loss.  $\mathcal{L}_{MMI}$  is the maximum mutual information loss, used to enhance the common cluster information.  $\mathcal{L}_{DCL}$  is the robust contrastive loss that mitigates heterogeneity in incomplete multi-view learning and prevents cluster collapse. Finally, K-means is performed on  $\mathbf{S}' \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times d}$  to obtain  $K$  clusters.

350

351 4 EXPERIMENTS

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353 4.1 DATASETS

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355 We conducted experiments on four representative datasets. The datasets are: **HandWritten** (LeCun  
356 et al., 1989) comprises 2,100 samples belonging to 10 categories corresponding to digits from 0 to  
357 9. We employ three distinct features Pixel, Fourier and Profile for analysis. **Scene-15** (Fei-Fei &  
358 Perona, 2005) consists of 15 categories with a total of 4,485 samples. GIST, PHOG, and LBP are  
359 selected as three views in our experiments. **ALOI-100** (Geusebroek et al., 2005) contains 10,800  
360 object images belonged to 100 categories. We extract HSB, RGB, Colorsim, and Haralick features  
361 to construct multi-view data. **LandUse-21** (Yang & Newsam, 2010) comprises 2,100 samples be-  
362 longing to 21 categories corresponding to different land-use scene categories. GIST, PHOG and  
363 LBP are used for analysis. To evaluate the performance of our approach, we employ three standard  
364 metrics: Accuracy (ACC), Normalized Mutual Information (NMI), and Adjusted Rand Index (ARI).

365

366 4.2 COMPARE METHOD

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368 DDP-IMVC is compared with nine SOTA methods. **Fusion-kmeans** clusters the mean-fused fea-  
369 tures with k-means. **Completer** (Lin et al., 2021) predicts missing views by minimizing conditional  
370 entropy. **DIMVC** (Xu et al., 2022a) proposes a no-imputation framework that maps data to reveal  
371 linear separability. **DSIMVC** (Tang & Liu, 2022) completes views by dynamically mining seman-  
372 tic features of neighbors. **DCP** (Lin et al., 2022) learns consistent representations via dual con-  
373 trastive learning under the information-theoretic framework. **ProImp** (Li et al., 2023) recover data  
374 by learning prototypes with dual attention layers. **APADC** (Xu et al., 2023) achieves imputation-  
375 free stragedy through adaptive projection and distribution alignment. **ICMVC** (Chao et al., 2024)  
376 completes missing views with GNNs and aligns distributions through high confidence guidance.  
377 **GHICMC** (Chao et al., 2025) employs cascaded GNNs to enable global graph propagation and  
hierarchical information transfer.

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Table 1: Clustering results of all methods on four datasets. The best and second-best results are  
highlighted with bold and underline, respectively.

	Missing_rates	0.1			0.3			0.5			0.7		
		Metrics	ACC	NMI	ARI	ACC	NMI	ARI	ACC	NMI	ARI	ACC	NMI
LandUse-21	Fusion-kmeans	20.45	25.42	8.62	16.41	17.48	5.51	12.86	12.58	2.77	11.45	9.81	1.38
	Completer(2021)	26.40	<u>32.48</u>	13.93	26.96	<u>32.64</u>	12.09	21.36	26.27	9.34	24.43	<b>29.01</b>	10.31
	DIMVC(2022)	24.63	30.04	10.58	23.69	29.94	10.01	22.40	27.78	9.38	21.77	26.14	7.91
	DSIMVC(2022)	18.47	19.34	5.58	17.95	18.47	5.16	18.13	18.53	5.26	17.90	17.97	5.11
	DCP(2023)	26.78	30.87	13.80	<u>27.08</u>	30.69	<u>13.80</u>	23.07	27.00	11.31	<u>25.18</u>	28.04	<b>12.00</b>
	ProImp(2023)	22.38	23.79	8.76	19.53	20.55	6.86	20.30	21.94	7.32	15.10	15.48	4.00
	APADC(2023)	22.75	31.90	9.50	18.08	24.72	7.22	15.67	21.23	5.61	15.11	20.08	4.84
	ICMVC(2024)	<u>28.18</u>	31.78	<b>15.14</b>	25.77	29.39	12.69	<u>25.98</u>	27.74	<u>11.92</u>	22.26	24.95	9.31
	GHICMC(2025)	26.86	31.14	12.81	25.72	29.26	11.32	25.15	<u>28.57</u>	11.26	23.53	26.55	9.72
Scene-15	<b>Ours</b>	<b>28.21</b>	<b>34.68</b>	<u>14.93</u>	<b>28.02</b>	<b>33.49</b>	<b>14.27</b>	<b>27.14</b>	<b>31.89</b>	<b>13.24</b>	<b>25.36</b>	<u>28.09</u>	<u>10.67</u>
	Fusion-kmeans	34.20	34.84	20.93	22.39	23.60	12.80	17.54	17.31	7.88	14.90	13.54	4.29
	Completer(2021)	40.28	42.50	23.13	40.12	42.93	23.96	39.12	41.79	22.98	38.05	40.22	21.84
	DIMVC(2022)	32.95	27.41	15.61	33.51	29.42	16.75	30.65	25.21	13.64	29.58	24.11	12.85
	DSIMVC(2022)	27.65	29.74	14.11	26.73	29.36	13.94	26.40	28.03	13.04	25.31	27.04	12.43
	DCP(2023)	38.54	42.39	23.33	40.49	43.10	24.14	39.50	42.35	23.51	38.55	40.57	21.72
	ProImp(2023)	40.74	42.14	24.00	41.69	43.03	<u>25.28</u>	40.28	41.80	23.89	<u>39.96</u>	40.35	<u>22.92</u>
	APADC(2023)	<u>43.70</u>	<b>44.20</b>	<u>26.00</u>	41.80	43.10	24.30	39.90	<u>42.40</u>	23.80	38.50	41.10	22.80
	ICMVC(2024)	38.78	36.62	21.84	37.40	34.94	20.60	31.35	27.91	14.98	25.31	23.88	11.33
HandWritten	GHICMC(2025)	41.26	43.21	24.95	40.98	43.13	25.05	<u>40.91</u>	42.29	<u>24.64</u>	38.79	40.94	<u>22.92</u>
	<b>Ours</b>	<b>46.16</b>	<b>47.62</b>	<b>28.69</b>	<b>45.53</b>	<b>45.99</b>	<b>28.05</b>	<b>44.35</b>	<b>43.67</b>	<b>26.79</b>	<b>42.12</b>	<b>41.20</b>	<b>24.73</b>
	Fusion-kmeans	41.70	47.59	34.22	36.28	38.76	21.46	29.64	28.51	11.54	25.69	22.14	6.58
	Completer(2021)	83.22	82.47	73.59	75.38	77.55	61.69	74.05	76.13	58.89	78.55	76.07	68.67
	DIMVC(2022)	67.13	63.17	53.16	59.43	56.49	43.19	54.80	50.50	30.76	43.82	41.54	23.80
	DSIMVC(2022)	84.35	80.32	74.38	85.64	80.71	75.94	84.73	78.82	74.13	82.71	75.35	69.85
	DCP(2023)	53.35	65.72	35.60	51.96	63.88	31.49	59.06	65.07	36.51	60.97	60.53	29.90
	ProImp(2023)	83.20	80.29	74.17	84.24	77.75	72.60	78.16	70.79	63.96	80.31	68.85	62.92
	APADC(2023)	67.43	65.34	47.18	68.95	67.28	45.98	68.85	68.61	56.43	61.77	61.97	48.26
ALOI-100	ICMVC(2024)	83.16	81.33	74.78	82.01	79.62	72.22	75.13	71.99	63.19	72.47	70.01	59.71
	GHICMC(2025)	<u>96.19</u>	<u>92.14</u>	<b>92.89</b>	<u>96.11</u>	<u>91.32</u>	<u>90.83</u>	<b>94.88</b>	<b>89.16</b>	<b>89.10</b>	<b>92.73</b>	<b>85.85</b>	<b>84.71</b>
	<b>Ours</b>	<b>96.38</b>	<b>92.23</b>	<u>91.99</u>	<b>96.15</b>	<b>91.49</b>	<b>91.21</b>	<u>94.34</u>	<u>88.38</u>	<u>87.87</u>	<u>90.86</u>	<u>82.65</u>	<u>81.92</u>
	Fusion-kmeans	52.37	72.31	40.79	30.63	55.28	16.10	22.48	47.33	7.46	17.39	41.82	4.94
	Completer(2021)	48.19	77.96	44.25	43.03	72.43	36.73	36.16	66.89	26.52	34.55	64.06	24.97
	DIMVC(2022)	71.86	84.99	61.79	<u>68.52</u>	82.15	<u>58.31</u>	64.80	78.53	51.36	61.64	75.33	47.25
	DSIMVC(2022)	38.76	67.49	29.71	38.89	66.00	29.12	39.32	64.42	28.53	35.98	61.28	25.16
	DCP(2023)	51.85	74.88	42.73	47.38	70.54	38.38	42.37	66.30	32.36	36.02	60.75	25.40
	ProImp(2023)	68.39	83.47	<u>62.08</u>	45.98	73.01	38.53	32.71	65.74	24.76	29.23	62.08	19.46
	APADC(2023)	47.40	68.92	35.02	38.95	62.27	26.10	32.78	58.16	20.10	26.02	53.91	14.11
411	ICMVC(2024)	68.02	80.78	56.64	68.14	80.40	55.94	<u>67.68</u>	<u>78.92</u>	<u>53.92</u>	49.15	70.50	38.45
	GHICMC(2025)	OOM			OOM			OOM			OOM		
	<b>Ours</b>	<b>76.02</b>	<b>88.35</b>	<b>67.82</b>	<b>73.18</b>	<b>85.82</b>	<b>64.36</b>	<b>69.87</b>	<b>82.34</b>	<b>58.09</b>	<b>66.94</b>	<b>78.60</b>	<b>53.20</b>

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Table 2: Ablation study results on LandUse21 and Scene-15 datasets with missing rate 0.3.

Datasets			LandUse21	Scene-15				
$\mathcal{L}_{REC}$	$\mathcal{L}_{MMI}$	$\mathcal{F}_{DCL}$	ACC	NMI	ARI	ACC	NMI	ARI
✓	✓		17.54	22.97	6.08	36.06	43.69	21.88
✓	✓		24.16	26.09	11.06	41.96	40.00	25.94
✓			16.78	17.96	5.63	21.53	21.61	11.48
✓	✓	✓	<b>28.02</b>	<b>33.49</b>	<b>14.27</b>	<b>45.53</b>	<b>45.99</b>	<b>28.05</b>

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4.3 EXPERIMENTAL SETTINGS423  
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We adopt Adam to optimize our framework DDP-IMVC and all the experiments are conducted in  
425 PyTorch 1.13.1 on Windows with an NVIDIA 4070 SUPER GPU. The dimensions of encoders are  
426  $D_v$ -1024–1024–1024–128. The decoder is symmetric to its corresponding encoder. The number of  
427 heads  $L$  in multi-head attention is set to 4. The entropy regularization coefficient  $\alpha$  is set to 10, and  
428 the truncation coefficient  $C$  is set to 9.429  
430  
4.4 INCOMPLETE MULTI-VIEW CLUSTERING PERFORMANCE431  
Table 1 reports the incomplete multi-view clustering results of all methods under different missing  
432 rates. It shows that DDP-IMVC can effectively handle high missing rates and large-scale issues in

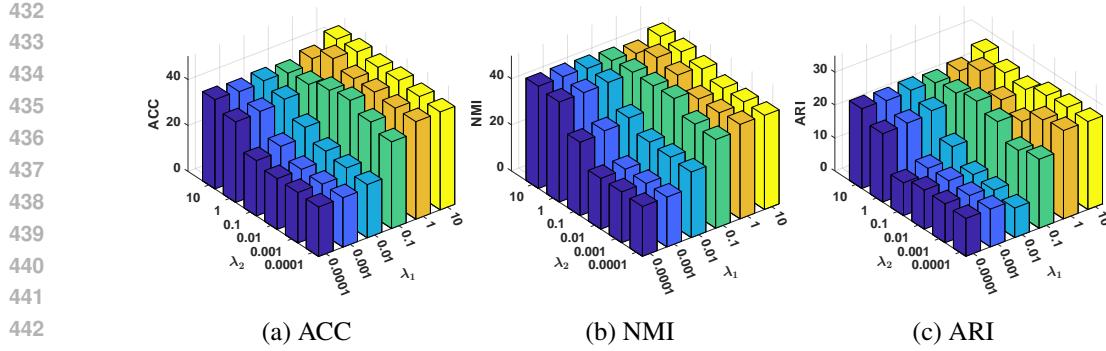


Figure 2: Parameter sensitivity analysis on Scene-15 with the missing rate 0.3.

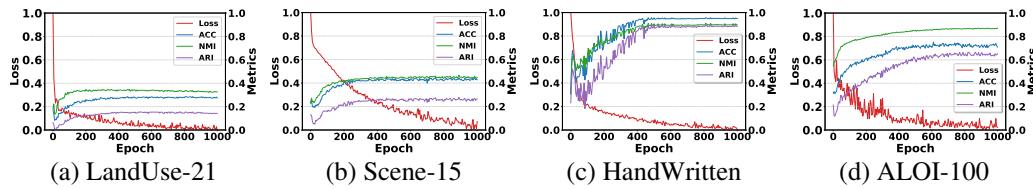


Figure 3: The convergence analysis on all datasets with the missing rate 0.3.

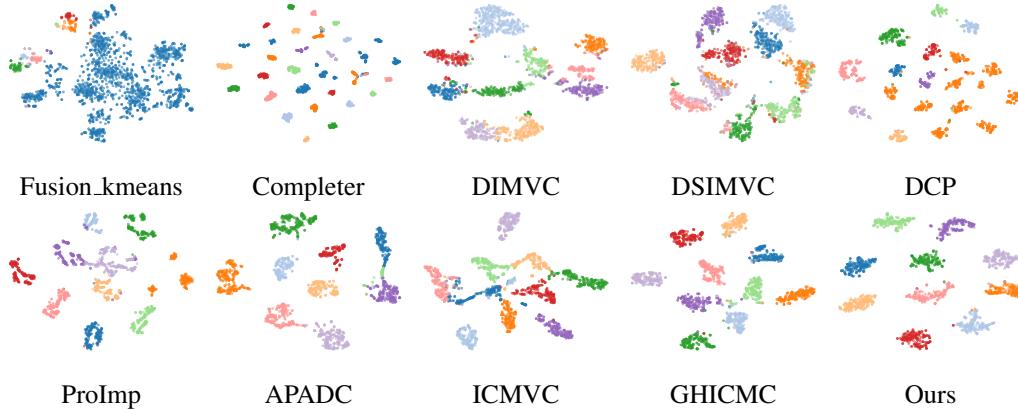


Figure 4: The visualization results of HandWritten dataset in all methods with a missing rate of 0.5.

471 IMVC. From the perspective of effectiveness, our method significantly outperforms SOTA methods  
472 across four datasets. For example, in Scene-15 dataset, ACC, NMI, and ARI outperform the second-  
473 best method, APADC, by an average of 3.56%, 1.92%, and 2.86%, respectively. We notice that when  
474 the missing rate is 0.5 and 0.7, DDP-IMVC performs slightly worse than GHICMC. We attribute  
475 this to the simplicity of the HandWritten dataset, where inter-class features are singular. Under high  
476 missing rates, it is suitable to use cascade graphs for data recovery. For other complex datasets,  
477 GHICMC shows a significant performance drop. More critically, its high memory consumption  
478 prevents it from handling large-scale datasets. From the perspective of robustness, DDP-IMVC can  
479 still maintain a high level of performance under a high missing rate. Moreover, unlike some methods  
480 whose performance drops sharply, DDP-IMVC remains stable even as the missing rate increases.

#### 4.5 MODEL DISCUSSION

481 *1) Ablation Study:* To investigate the importance of each component, we conducted an ablation  
482 study on our DDP-IMVC framework using LandUse21 and Scene-15 datasets under a missing rate  
483 of 0.3. As shown in Table 2, removing the attention correction mechanism for the learned consensus  
484 projection ( $\mathcal{L}_{MMI}$ ) or the robust contrastive learning ( $\mathcal{L}_{DCL}$ ) leads to suboptimal performance. When

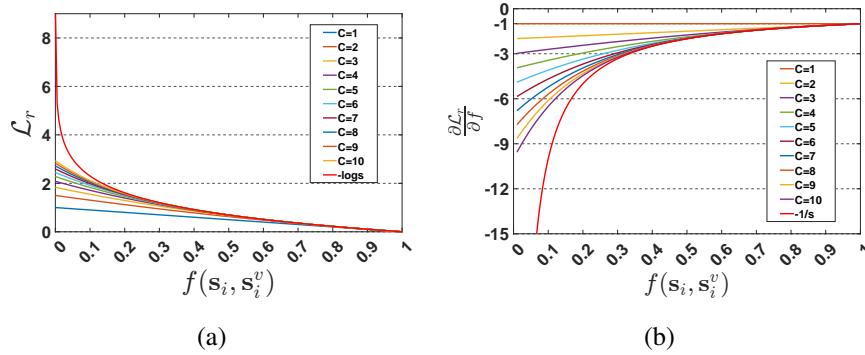


Figure 5: The variation trend of the loss and its gradient.

all strategies are applied together, we achieve the best results. The experimental findings demonstrate that the attention correction mechanism can refine the distribution of biased projections, while the robust contrastive learning enhances the consistency of consensus projections and alleviates the risk of cluster collapse.

2) *Parameter Analysis*: Our objective loss mainly involves two trade-off parameters,  $\lambda_1$  and  $\lambda_2$ . To verify their effectiveness, we conducted a parameter analysis by setting both parameters in the range from  $10^{-4}$  to 10. As shown in Figure 2, excessively high or low parameter values are unfavorable for clustering. Based on our parameter experiments, we recommend setting the parameter range between 1 and 10.

3) *Convergence Analysis*: Meanwhile, to better verify the convergence and robustness of our model, we observed the convergence performance of all datasets under a 0.3 missing rate. As shown in the Figure 3, the total loss function involved in our training achieved excellent convergence. With the increase in training epochs, various metrics for evaluating clustering also tended to converge.

4) *Visualization Analysis*: As shown in Figure 4, with a missing rate of 0.5, we visualized the distribution of common embedding of all methods on the HandWritten dataset using t-SNE. Through the correction of the distribution shift of missing samples during the imputation process by DDP-IMVC, our method is facilitated to discover the common clustering patterns of all views in the common embedding space.

5) *Discussion of Robust Contrastive Loss*: In Figure 5, we plot the InfoNCE loss and the loss function in Equation (18), as well as their gradients. As described in Section 4.5, the single-sample InfoNCE function is  $\mathcal{L}_r = -\log f$ , with gradient  $\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}_r}{\partial f} = -\frac{1}{f}$ . The function in Equation (18) is  $\mathcal{L} = \sum_{c=1}^C \frac{(1-f)^c}{c}$ , with gradient  $\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}_r}{\partial f} = -\sum_{c=1}^C (1-f)^{c-1}$ . When  $C = 1$ , the gradient of Equation (18) is  $-1$ , indicating that it treats all samples equally, equivalent to MAE. When  $C \rightarrow \infty$ , it degenerates to InfoNCE, giving excessively high attention to noisy samples. Our loss gradient is smaller than MAE, which indicates that our loss can assign different attention levels to different samples, improving training efficiency. It is larger than InfoNCE and has an upper bound, indicating that our loss prioritizes clean samples, mitigating the issue of excessive attention to hard samples, thereby enhancing robustness.

## 5 CONCLUSION

In this work, we propose a consensus projection refinement strategy for IMVC to address data shift and misalignment noise introduced by missing views. An adaptive feature projection constructs a common embedding space. Within this space, unbiased projections correct the distribution of biased projections through an attention mechanism to form robust consensus embeddings. In addition, we employ a denoise contrastive strategy to prevent cluster collapse that may occur when completing missing views in the consensus projections. The effective synergy of these two strategies enables DDP-IMVC to achieve strong performance across most complex IMVC tasks.

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