



Augmented Dual-Contrastive Aggregation Learning for Unsupervised Visible-Infrared Person Re-Identification

Bin Yang

yangbin_cv@whu.edu.cn

National Engineering Research Center for Multimedia Software, School of Computer Science, Wuhan University
Wuhan, China

Jun Chen*

chenj@whu.edu.cn

National Engineering Research Center for Multimedia Software, School of Computer Science, Wuhan University
Wuhan, China

Mang Ye*

yemang@whu.edu.cn

National Engineering Research Center for Multimedia Software, School of Computer Science, Wuhan University
Wuhan, China

Zesen Wu

zesenwu@whu.edu.cn

National Engineering Research Center for Multimedia Software, School of Computer Science, Wuhan University
Wuhan, China

ABSTRACT

Visible infrared person re-identification (VI-ReID) aims at searching out the corresponding infrared (visible) images from a gallery set captured by other spectrum cameras. Recent works mainly focus on supervised VI-ReID methods that require plenty of cross-modality (visible-infrared) identity labels which are more expensive than the annotations in single-modality person ReID. For the unsupervised learning visible infrared re-identification (USL-VI-ReID), the large cross-modality discrepancies lead to difficulties in generating reliable cross-modality labels and learning modality-invariant features without any annotations. To address this problem, we propose a novel Augmented Dual-Contrastive Aggregation (ADCA) learning framework. Specifically, a dual-path contrastive learning framework with two modality-specific memories is proposed to learn the intra-modality person representation. To associate positive cross-modality identities, we design a cross-modality memory aggregation module with count priority to select highly associated positive samples, and aggregate their corresponding memory features at the cluster level, ensuring that the optimization is explicitly concentrated on the modality-irrelevant perspective. Extensive experiments demonstrate that our proposed ADCA significantly outperforms existing unsupervised methods under various settings, and even surpasses some supervised counterparts, facilitating VI-ReID to real-world deployment. Code is available at <https://github.com/yangbincv/ADCA>.

CCS CONCEPTS

• Information systems → Information retrieval.

*Corresponding Author.

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KEYWORDS

person re-identification, unsupervised learning, visible-infrared, cross-modality

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1 INTRODUCTION

Person re-identification (ReID) targets at matching the same person across different cameras [14, 17]. In recent years, ReID has attracted increasing interest due to its importance in intelligent video surveillance applications [21, 36, 48]. However, most existing techniques consider images of people collected by visible cameras in the daytime, which cannot capture enough information about a person under poor lighting conditions, limiting the applicability of a single-modality ReID in practical surveillance [22, 38]. To address this problem, the cross-modality visible-infrared person re-identification (VI-ReID) is proposed to match images of people captured by visible and infrared (including near- [41] and far-infrared (thermal) [28]) cameras. A few deep-learning methods have made initial attempts at VI-ReID to learn modality-sharable feature representations [11, 18, 40, 43, 46]. However, training VI-ReID models requires a large number of cross-modality (visible-infrared) identity annotations, which are more expensive than those in single-modality ReID, making supervised VI-ReID methods less scalable in real-world deployments.

With the above motivations, this paper studies the challenging unsupervised learning visible-infrared ReID task, named USL-VI-ReID, which aims at learning modality-invariant knowledge from the unlabeled visible-infrared dataset and matching the same person captured by visible and infrared cameras. Different from the existing unsupervised ReID work like H2H [24], our work does not use any labeled datasets for pre-training, while achieving higher accuracy.

State-of-the-art methods address the unsupervised single modality ReID (USL-ReID) problem with the contrastive learning [2, 16, 33, 35]. Specifically, they construct a memory module that contains the features of all identities. A pseudo ID is assigned to each training

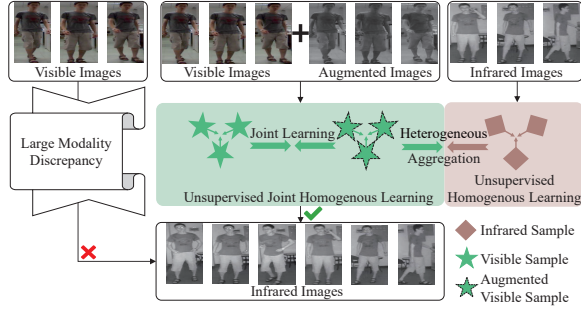


Figure 1: Illustration of our main idea for USL-VI-ReID. The pentagram represents the visible sample and the pentagram with a dashed line denotes the augmented visible sample. The cube indicates the infrared sample. The large modality discrepancy hinders the retrieval of the same person across different modalities. Unsupervised joint homogenous learning and heterogeneous aggregation build a bridge between visible and infrared modalities without any annotations.

image by a clustering algorithm. During training, the contrastive loss between training data features and memory module is minimized to train the feature extractor to learn a good representation. Such the pseudo-label-based USL pipeline has yielded good results on the single-modality USL ReID. However, for USL-VI-ReID, the differences between the visible and infrared cameras result in large cross-modality discrepancies, leading to difficulties in generating positive cross-modality labels. This undoubtedly results in limited retrieval performance for the same person across two modalities.

To handle the challenges in USL-VI-ReID, we propose a solution of unsupervised homogenous joint learning and heterogeneous aggregation. The rationale is that we can carry out unsupervised homogenous learning to capture intra-modality features and jointly use the powerful color augmentation method like Channel Augmentation (CA) [46] to bridge the gap between visible modality and infrared modality, and at the same time take into account the heterogeneous aggregation of positive sample pairs across modalities for cross-modality label association, as shown in Figure 1.

Based on the above insights, we take inspiration from previous two-stream supervised VI-ReID methods to propose a novel Augmented Dual-Contrastive Aggregation (ADCA) learning framework. It builds a two-stream contrastive learning framework with two modality-specific memories to learn the intra-modality person representation. To guarantee the model modality generalizability, the visible stream incorporates the color augmentation method of random channel augmentation [46] for jointly contrastive learning. To handle the inter-modality variations, a Cross-modality Memory Aggregation (CMA) module is designed to select highly associated positive samples and aggregate their corresponding memory features for cross-modality contrastive learning. The CMA ensures that the optimization is explicitly concentrated on the modality-irrelevant perspective. The major advantage is that the CMA associates cross-modality information at the memory cluster level, enabling a tight coupling of the cross-modality label association for contrastive learning. This formulates a mutual reinforcement and efficient solution compared to the sample-to-sample association.

The main contributions can be summarized as follows:

- We propose a dual-stream contrastive learning framework with two modality-specific memory modules for USL-VI-ReID. To learn color-invariant features, the visible stream employs a powerful color augmentation method of random channel augmentation as a bridge to infrared modality for joint contrastive learning.
- We design a Cross-modality Memory Aggregation (CMA) module to select reliable positive samples and aggregate corresponding memory representations in a parameter-free manner, which enables the dual-stream framework to learn better modality-invariant knowledge, while simultaneously reinforcing each contrastive learning stream.
- We present extensive experiments on the SYSU-MM01 and RegDB datasets, which demonstrate that our method outperforms existing unsupervised methods under various settings, and even surpasses some supervised counterparts, providing a new baseline for USL-VI-ReID task and significantly pushing VI-ReID to real-world deployment.

2 RELATED WORK

2.1 Supervised Visible-Infrared Person ReID

Visible-infrared person ReID (VI-ReID) is a challenging cross-modality person recognition problem. The most problematic technique is to reduce the large modality gap of intra-class person images between visible and infrared modalities [6, 18, 31, 43–45, 47, 49]. [41] started the first attempt by directly utilizing grayscale images for training and testing with a zero-padding one-stream network. [37] proposed a dual-level discrepancy modeling method to generate the cross-modality images with the advancement of GANs, eliminating discrepancy at the pixel level. A joint modality and pattern alignment network in [42] was introduced to discover cross-modality nuances in different patterns for visible-infrared person ReID. Additionally, a channel augmentation (CA) method was introduced in [46] to homogeneously generate color-irrelevant images by randomly exchanging the color channels for VI-ReID.

The above supervised VI-ReID methods require a large amount of cross-modality identity annotations, which hinders fast deployment to new scenes. In this work, we investigate purely unsupervised visible-infrared Person ReID (USL-VI-ReID) task where no identity annotations are required, with important implications for real-world VI-ReID deployments.

2.2 Unsupervised Single-Modality Person ReID

Unsupervised single-modality person ReID can be roughly categorized into unsupervised domain adaptation (UDA) and fully unsupervised learning (USL). There are two categories of UDA methods: pseudo label-based methods [1, 10, 12, 15, 16, 30], and domain translation-based methods [3, 4, 39, 52, 54], where the former achieve state-of-the-art performance. All these UDA-based methods require a labeled source dataset. Fully unsupervised learning ReID (USL ReID) methods have a better flexibility for deployment [25, 26, 33]. CAP [35] designed a camera-aware proxies learning framework to split each single cluster into multiple proxies. Cluster Contrast [7] was introduced to compute contrast loss at the cluster level to maintain cluster consistency. ICE [2] leveraged

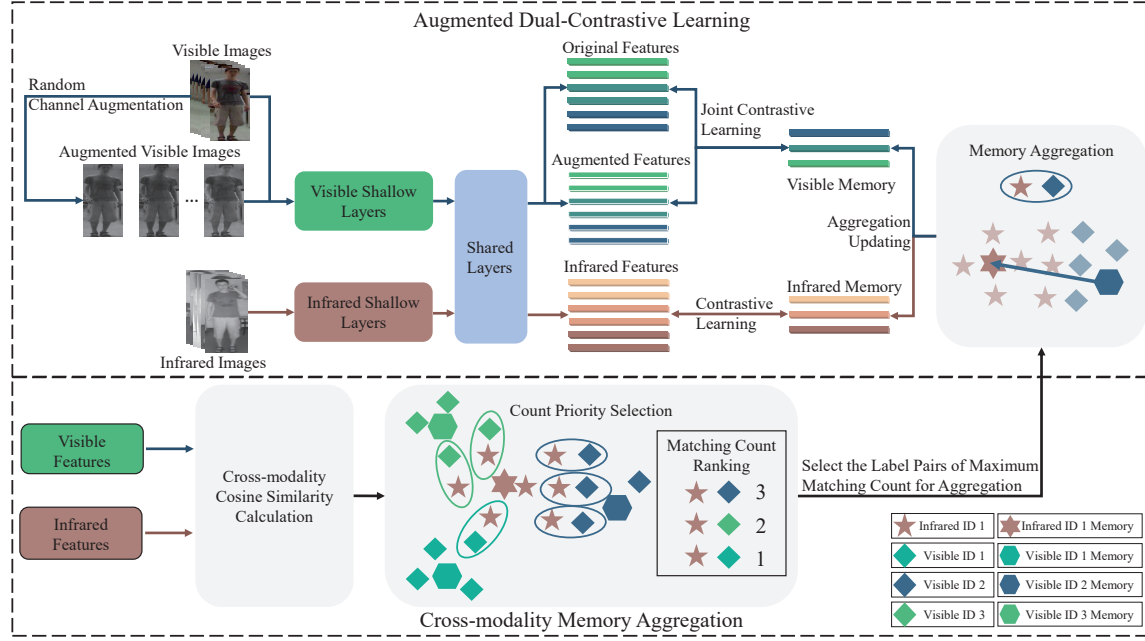


Figure 2: Augmented Dual-Contrastive Learning Aggregation Framework. It comprises two components: **Augmented Dual-Contrastive (ADC) learning** and **Cross-modality Memory Aggregation (CMA) module**. ADC has a dual-path contrastive learning framework (one path for visible modality and the other for infrared modality). CMA selects the reliable positive cross-modality label pairs using the count priority selection strategy for aggregating the two modality-specific memories.

inter-instance pairwise similarity scores to boost previous class-level contrastive ReID methods. However, the above approaches cannot learn effective modality-irrelevant knowledge against large modality discrepancy without any cross-modality annotation.

2.3 Unsupervised Visible-Infrared Person ReID

Unsupervised Learning Visible-Infrared Person ReID (USL-VI-ReID) problem has two challenges. First, different from single-modality person ReID, USL-VI-ReID has a large cross-modality discrepancy, which results in large intra-class variations and makes it difficult to generate reliable cross-modality labels. Second, there are no available cross-modality (visible-infrared) identity labels in USL-VI-ReID, leading to the difficulty in directly learning modality-invariant feature representations. H2H [24] started the first attempt by designing a two-stage method to solve the USL-VI-ReID task, including homogeneous learning and heterogeneous learning. However, H2H [24] used the Market-1501 dataset [51] as an extra labeled RGB dataset for pre-training, making the method less scalable in real-world deployments. No identity labels are available in our work, making the task more challenging in simultaneously learning discriminative and modality-invariant representations for cross-modality retrieval.

3 PROPOSED METHOD

3.1 Overview

We propose an Augmented Dual-Contrastive Aggregation (ADCA) learning framework for USL-VI-ReID, as shown in Figure 2. Our ADCA has two components including Augmented Dual-Contrastive

(ADC) learning and Cross-modality Memory Aggregation (CMA) module. In ADC, two modality-specific shallow layers are utilized to capture modality-specific information for different modalities. Modality-shared layers focus on learning a multi-modality sharable space to bridge the gap between two heterogeneous modalities. Then, two modality-specific memories are constructed for mining inter- and intra-class information within each modality with contrastive learning. To ensure the modality generalization capability, we adopt random channel augmentation following [46] as an extra input to the visible stream for joint learning. To further explore the correlation between two modalities, we design a Cross-modality Memory Aggregation (CMA) module to select reliable positive cross-modality label pairs and aggregate corresponding memories, ensuring the discriminability of cross-modality features. These two modules reinforce each other. CMA module enables ADC framework to learn better modality-invariant features, while ADC’s modality generalization capability allows CMA to better mine the knowledge of the association between two modalities.

3.2 Augmented Dual-Contrastive Learning Framework

The Augmented Dual-Contrastive (ADC) learning framework is shown at the top of Figure 2. The ADC has two input paths. Visible images and their augmented images obtained by random Channel Augmentation (CA) [46] are input into the visible path for learning visible-specific features while being able to learn color-invariant information. Infrared images are sent to the infrared path for obtaining infrared-specific features. The final embeddings

are extracted by shared layers to learn modality-sharable information. Two modality-specific memories are updated by a momentum strategy. The parameters of feature extractors are updated with dual-contrastive learning.

To facilitate the description of our method, we first introduce the notations used in this paper. Let $X_i = \{x_1^i, x_2^i, \dots, x_N^i\}$ denote the infrared images with N instances. $X_v = \{x_1^v, x_2^v, \dots, x_M^v\}$ and $X_{va} = \{x_1^{va}, x_2^{va}, \dots, x_M^{va}\}$ indicate the visible and augmented visible training sets with M instances, respectively. The X_{va} follows the settings in CA [46]. $U_i = \{u_1^i, u_2^i, \dots, u_N^i\}$ and $U_v = \{u_1^v, u_2^v, \dots, u_M^v\}$ represent the corresponding features extracted by the infrared and visible feature extractor f_θ^i and f_θ^v . q_i and q_v are query instance features extracted by f_θ^i and f_θ^v , respectively.

Modality-specific Memory Initialization. The initialization of two modality-specific memory is illustrated in Figure 3. At the beginning of each training epoch, each cluster's representation $\{\phi_1^i, \dots, \phi_K^i, \phi_1^v, \dots, \phi_L^v\}$ of infrared and visible modalities are stored in infrared and visible memory dictionaries for modality-specific memory initialization, respectively. This process can be written as

$$\phi_k^i = \frac{1}{|\mathcal{H}_k^i|} \sum_{u_n^i \in \mathcal{H}_k^i} u_n^i, \quad (1)$$

$$\phi_l^v = \frac{1}{|\mathcal{H}_l^v|} \sum_{u_m^v \in \mathcal{H}_l^v} u_m^v, \quad (2)$$

where $\mathcal{H}_k^{i(v)}$ denotes the k -th cluster set in infrared or visible modality and $|\cdot|$ indicates the number of instances per cluster.

Modality-specific Memory Updating. During training, we sample P person identities and Z instances for each identity from each modality training set. Then, we obtain a total number of $3P \times Z$ query images including infrared, visible, and augmented visible person images in a batch. We update the two modality-specific memories by a momentum updating strategy:

$$\phi_k^{i(\delta)} \leftarrow \beta \phi_k^{i(\delta-1)} + (1 - \beta) q_i, \quad (3)$$

$$\phi_l^{v(\delta)} \leftarrow \beta \phi_l^{v(\delta-1)} + (1 - \beta) q_v, \quad (4)$$

$$\phi_l^{v(\delta)} \leftarrow \beta \phi_l^{v(\delta-1)} + (1 - \beta) q_{va}, \quad (5)$$

where q_{va} is the augmented query instance features. β is the momentum updating factor. δ is the iteration number.

Joint Learning Loss Function. In each iteration, the modality-specific shallow layers and shared layers are jointly updated by three types of ClusterNCE [7] loss, including infrared, visible, and augmented visible loss by the following equations:

$$L_{q_i} = -\log \frac{\exp(q_i \cdot \phi_+^i / \tau)}{\sum_{k=0}^K \exp(q_i \cdot \phi_k^i / \tau)}, \quad (6)$$

$$L_{q_v} = -\log \frac{\exp(q_v \cdot \phi_+^v / \tau)}{\sum_{l=0}^L \exp(q_v \cdot \phi_l^v / \tau)}, \quad (7)$$

$$L_{q_{va}} = -\log \frac{\exp(q_{va} \cdot \phi_+^v / \tau)}{\sum_{l=0}^L \exp(q_{va} \cdot \phi_l^v / \tau)}, \quad (8)$$

where ϕ_+ is the positive representation vector of the cluster corresponding to the pseudo label of the query and the τ is a temperature hyper-parameter following Cluster Contrast [7].



Figure 3: Modality-specific memory initialization process.

Overall Loss. Certainly, three types of ClusterNCE loss function are designed to learn discriminative representation:

$$L_{overall} = L_{q_i} + L_{q_v} + L_{q_{va}}. \quad (9)$$

The loss value is low when q is close to its positive cluster representation and dissimilar to all other cluster features. This process is equivalent to two modality-specific softmax-based classifiers that try to classify q_i as ϕ_+^i , and q_v together with q_{va} as ϕ_+^v . q_{va} is the query of channel augmented features for learning color-invariant information, and thus feature encoders have a certain modality generalization ability with the help of joint augmented learning.

Discussion. Different from the learning approach in H2H [24], we integrate homogeneous learning of two modalities into a two-stream network which has a partially shared structure. Therefore, our approach can simultaneously learn modality-specific representation and modality-invariant features. In addition, joint augmented learning further aligns the feature spaces of the two modalities, giving the model a stronger modality generalization capability.

3.3 Cross-modality Memory Aggregation

Thanks to the augmented dual-contrastive learning framework, the model has certain modality generalization power and cross-modality retrieval capability, but the correlation between the samples of two modalities has not been fully explored and cannot handle the challenge of large cross-modality variations. To address this issue, we design a Cross-modality Memory Aggregation (CMA) module, which contains a count priority selection and a memory aggregation strategy. CMA can select reliable positive cross-modality label pairs and aggregate corresponding memories at the beginning of each training epoch, as shown in Figure 2.

For each cross-modality instance pairs $\langle x_m^v, x_n^i \rangle$, we compute the similarity by:

$$\text{sim}(x_m^v, x_n^i) = \frac{u_m^v \cdot u_n^i}{\|u_m^v\| \times \|u_n^i\|}. \quad (10)$$

Then, we can match instance pairs by a threshold:

$$R = \{(y_m^v, y_n^i) | \text{sim}(x_m^v, x_n^i) \geq \Delta, x_m^v \in X_v, x_n^i \in X_i\}, \quad (11)$$

where the threshold $\Delta = 0.5$ in our work. y_m^v and y_n^i are the pseudo labels of x_m^v and x_n^i , respectively. It is an initial similarity restraint, which can filter easy negative pairs for reducing calculations.

Count Priority Selection. For associating the reliable positive cross-modality cluster pairs, we argue that the number of each pseudo label pair represents the reliability of cross-modality label matching. Specifically, we count the label pairs in R and rank them. One visible label can match many infrared labels, and the label pair corresponding to the maximum number can be regarded as the

Algorithm 1: Cross-modality Memory Aggregation**Data:** Matched label pair set R **Data:** The memories of two modality

$$\{\phi_1^i, \dots, \phi_K^i, \phi_1^v, \dots, \phi_L^v\}$$

Result: Aggregate the reliable cross-modality memories

- 1 Count the set R to obtain set R_{cnt} ;
- 2 Sort R_{cnt} from largest to smallest according to the number of label pairs;
- 3 **for** $\langle y_n^i, y_m^v \rangle \in R_{cnt}$ **do**
- 4 **if** $y_n^i = -1$ or $y_m^v = -1$ **then**
- 5 Continue
- 6 **if** y_n^i or y_m^v has appeared **then**
- 7 Continue
- 8 Update the infrared memory with Eq 12 ;
- 9 Update the visible memory with Eq 13

Table 1: The comparison of different memory updating strategies on SYSU-MM01. Rank at r accuracy(%), mAP (%) and mINP (%) are reported.

Strategies	SYSU-MM01 (All Search)				
	$r1$	$r10$	$r20$	mAP	mINP
Average Memory	44.39	82.91	91.11	41.02	25.94
Visible Memory	42.18	82.04	91.72	40.13	25.78
Infrared Memory	45.51	85.29	93.16	42.73	28.29

most reliable pseudo label pair, as shown in Figure 2. These pseudo label pairs are selected to aggregate the corresponding memories.

Memory Aggregation. We aggregate the selected memories using a momentum updating strategy by

$$\phi_{y_n^i}^{i(t)} \leftarrow \alpha \phi_{y_n^i}^{i(t)} + (1 - \alpha) \phi_{y_n^i}^{i(t)}, \quad (12)$$

$$\phi_{y_m^v}^{v(t)} \leftarrow \alpha \phi_{y_m^v}^{v(t)} + (1 - \alpha) \phi_{y_m^v}^{v(t)}, \quad (13)$$

where α is the momentum updating factor. $\phi_{y_n^i}^{i(t)}$ and $\phi_{y_m^v}^{v(t)}$ are the memories corresponding selected label pairs $\langle y_n^i, y_m^v \rangle$ at epoch t . It is worth noting that we do not aggregate in both directions, and specifically we just aggregate the visible memory to the infrared memory. It means that the infrared memory is not changed as Eq 12 shows, and the visible memory is aggregated to infrared by Eq 13. This aggregation method allows the model to have a better ability to handle cross-modality variations. We will demonstrate it by comparing different aggregation strategies in Sec 4.5. The details are presented in Algorithm 1.

Discussion. In contrast to the usual label refinement methods, we associate cross-modality samples by aggregating memory modules. This has two advantages: 1) In contrastive learning, the memory module provides supervised information for feature learning. The direct aggregation of memory modules enables a tight coupling of the cross-modality label association for contrastive learning, which is a mutual reinforcement. 2) The aggregation of memory is a fusion and association at the cluster level, which is more efficient than sample-to-sample association methods.

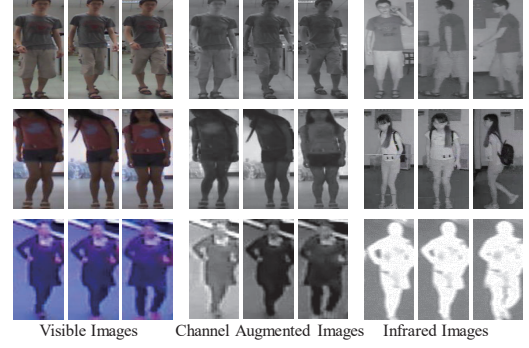


Figure 4: Example images and random channel augmented images from SYSU-MM01 dataset (first two rows) and RegDB dataset (last row). Each row indicates images of the same identity from three different modalities.

4 EXPERIMENTS

4.1 Datasets and Evaluation Protocol

We adopt two publicly available cross-modality person re-identification datasets (RegDB [28] and SYSU-MM01 datasets [41]) for evaluation. We plot some example images from two datasets in Figure 4, together with channel augmented images.

The SYSU-MM01 dataset is a cross-modality person image dataset captured by 2 near-infrared cameras and 4 visible cameras. The SYSU-MM01 contains 395 training identities, including 22,258 visible and 11,909 near-infrared images in outdoor and indoor environments. We adopt all-search and indoor-search evaluation modes.

RegDB dataset is captured by two aligned cameras (one visible and one thermal camera) system, containing 412 identities. We evaluate our method in the two test modes, including thermal to visible and visible to thermal. We strictly follow existing methods to perform ten trials of the gallery set selection [37, 47], and calculate the average performance.

Evaluation Protocol. Following existing works [44], mean Average Precision (mAP) and Cumulative Matching Characteristics (CMC) are calculated as the evaluation metrics.

4.2 Implementation Details

Our proposed framework is implemented in PyTorch. The settings of two shallow layers follow AGW [48], and we use ResNet50 [20] as the shared layers, which is initialized with ImageNet-pretrained weights [8]. During testing, we take the features of GeM [29] pooling layer to calculate the cosine similarity. At the beginning of each training epoch, DBSCAN [9] is adopted to generate pseudo labels in each modality independently.

During training, we sample 16 person identities and 16 instances for each identity from each modality training set. We apply the random horizontal flipping, random erasing, and random cropping images with size 288×144 for training. For augmented visible stream, we adopt random Channel Augmentation (CA) method [46]. Adam optimizer is used to train the model. The initial learning rate is set to $3.5e - 4$ and reduced to $1/10$ of its previous value every 20 epochs. We train the model in total of 100 epochs, in

Table 2: Ablation studies on the SYSU-MM01 dataset and RegDB. "DC" denotes the dual-contrastive learning without joint augmentation. "ADC" means the augmented joint dual-contrastive learning framework in Sec 3.2. "CMA" represents the cross-modality memory aggregation module in Sec 3.3. Rank at r accuracy(%), mAP (%) and mINP (%) are reported.

Index	Components				SYSU-MM01 (All Search)					SYSU-MM01 (Indoor Search)					RegDB (Visible to Infrared)				
	Baseline	DC	ADC	CMA	$r1$	$r10$	$r20$	mAP	mINP	$r1$	$r10$	$r20$	mAP	mINP	$r1$	$r10$	$r20$	mAP	mINP
1	✓				20.16	59.27	72.5	22.00	12.97	23.33	68.13	82.66	34.01	30.88	11.76	24.83	32.84	13.88	9.94
2			✓		29.92	68.28	80.14	29.40	18.01	31.95	75.48	87.63	41.94	37.98	32.73	50.22	60.14	32.55	24.03
3				✓	35.07	75.87	86.11	34.58	22.05	43.66	84.60	93.54	52.23	48.05	41.12	59.55	67.88	40.18	30.58
4		✓		✓	35.94	77.53	88.70	34.06	20.63	40.13	82.27	91.47	47.61	41.75	61.46	78.03	84.27	59.62	48.70
5			✓	✓	45.51	85.29	93.16	42.73	28.29	50.60	89.66	96.15	59.11	55.17	67.20	82.02	87.44	64.05	52.67

Table 3: The comparison with the state-of-the-art methods on SYSU-MM01. It contains two groups, i.e., unsupervised ReID methods and supervised VI-ReID methods. *cm-SSFT [22] reported a higher matching accuracy by using all gallery samples as auxiliary information, which is infeasible in many applications. Rank at r accuracy(%), mAP (%) and mINP (%) are reported.

	SYSU-MM01 Settings		All search					Indoor Search				
	Methods	Venue	$r1(\%)$	$r10(\%)$	$r20(\%)$	mAP(%)	mINP(%)	$r1(\%)$	$r10(\%)$	$r20(\%)$	mAP(%)	mINP(%)
Supervised	Zero-Padding [41]	ICCV-17	14.80	54.12	71.33	15.95	-	20.58	68.38	85.79	26.92	-
	eBDTR [45]	TIFS-19	27.82	67.34	81.34	28.42	-	32.46	77.42	89.62	42.46	-
	HSME [19]	AAAI-19	20.68	32.74	77.95	23.12	-	-	-	-	-	-
	D ² RL [37]	CVPR-19	28.9	70.6	82.4	29.2	-	-	-	-	-	-
	AlignGAN [34]	ICCV-19	42.4	85.0	93.7	40.7	-	45.9	87.6	94.4	54.3	-
	X-Modal [23]	AAAI-20	49.9	89.8	96.0	50.7	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Hi-CMD [5]	CVPR-20	34.9	77.6	-	35.9	-	-	-	-	-	-
	cm-SSFT* [27]	CVPR-20	47.7	-	-	54.1	-	-	-	-	-	-
	AGW [48]	TPAMI-21	47.50	84.39	92.14	47.65	35.30	54.17	91.14	95.98	62.97	59.23
	DDAG [47]	ECCV-20	54.75	90.39	95.81	53.02	39.62	61.02	94.06	98.41	67.98	62.61
	VCD+VML [31]	CVPR-21	60.02	94.18	98.14	58.80	-	66.05	96.59	99.38	72.98	-
	CA [46]	ICCV-21	69.88	95.71	98.46	66.89	53.61	76.26	97.88	99.49	80.37	76.79
	MPANet [42]	CVPR-21	70.58	96.21	98.80	68.24	-	76.74	98.21	99.57	80.95	-
	MSO [13]	MM-21	58.70	92.06	-	56.42	-	63.09	96.61	-	70.31	-
Unsupervised	AGM [50]	MM-21	69.63	96.27	98.82	66.11	52.24	74.68	97.51	99.14	78.30	74.00
	MCLNet [18]	ICCV-21	65.40	93.33	97.14	61.98	47.39	72.56	96.98	99.20	76.58	72.10
	HHL [52]	ECCV-18	2.86	21.41	35.36	7.37	-	-	-	-	-	-
	SSG [12]	ICCV-19	2.32	17.23	28.88	5.00	-	-	-	-	-	-
	ECN [53]	CVPR-19	8.07	32.49	45.95	12.68	-	-	-	-	-	-
	SPCL [16]	NIPS-20	18.37	54.08	69.02	19.39	10.99	26.83	68.31	83.24	36.42	33.05
	MMT [15]	ICLR-20	21.47	59.65	73.29	21.53	11.50	22.79	63.18	79.04	31.50	27.66
	CAP [35]	AAAI-21	16.82	47.6	61.42	15.71	7.02	24.57	57.93	72.74	30.74	26.15
	Cluster Contrast [7]	arXiv-21	20.16	59.27	72.5	22.00	12.97	23.33	68.13	82.66	34.01	30.88
	ICE [2]	ICCV-21	20.54	57.5	70.89	20.39	10.24	29.81	69.41	82.66	38.35	34.32
	H2H [24]	TIP-21	30.15	65.92	77.32	29.40	-	-	-	-	-	-
	ADCA (Ours)	-	45.51	85.29	93.16	42.73	28.29	50.60	89.66	96.15	59.11	55.17

which the previous 50 epochs are used for pre-training the ADC framework, and the CMA is executed in the last 50 epochs. The other settings of contrastive learning parameters follow [7]. The aggregation momentum value α is set to 0.1.

4.3 Comparison with State-of-the-Arts

There are limited corresponding state-of-the-art methods for USL-VI-ReID. To compensate for this, we refer to 3 unsupervised methods from H2H [24], and implement 6 advanced unsupervised methods

on USL-VI-ReID. Meanwhile, we also report 16 state-of-the-art supervised methods for comparison. SPCL [16], MMT[15] and H2H [24] use Market1501 as an extra labeled RGB dataset for training. The comparisons on the SYSU-MM01 and RegDB are reported Table 3 and Table 4, respectively.

Comparison with unsupervised methods. The experiments demonstrate that our ADCA significantly outperforms existing unsupervised methods under various settings. Specifically, we surpass the existing single-modality unsupervised methods by considerable margins of about 20% and 40% mAP on SYSU-MM01 and RegDB

Table 4: The comparison with the state-of-the-art methods on RegDB. It contains two groups, i.e., unsupervised ReID methods and supervised VI-ReID methods. *cm-SSFT [22] reported a higher matching accuracy by using all gallery samples as auxiliary information, which is infeasible in many applications. Rank at r accuracy(%), mAP (%) and mINP (%) are reported.

	RegDB Settings		Visible to Infrared					Infrared to Visible				
	Methods	Venue	r1(%)	r10(%)	r20(%)	mAP(%)	mINP(%)	r1(%)	r10(%)	r20(%)	mAP(%)	mINP(%)
Supervised	Zero-Padding [41]	ICCV-17	17.75	34.21	44.35	18.90	-	16.63	34.68	44.25	17.82	-
	eBDTR [45]	TIFS-19	34.62	58.96	68.72	33.46	-	34.21	58.74	68.64	32.49	-
	HSME [19]	AAAI-19	50.85	73.36	81.66	47.00	-	50.15	72.40	81.07	46.16	-
	D ² RL [37]	CVPR-19	43.4	66.1	76.3	44.1	-	-	-	-	-	-
	AlignGAN [34]	ICCV-19	57.9	-	-	53.6	-	56.3	-	-	53.4	-
	X-Modal [23]	AAAI-20	62.21	83.13	91.72	60.18	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Hi-CMD [5]	CVPR-20	70.93	86.39	-	66.04	-	-	-	-	-	-
	cm-SSFT* [27]	CVPR-20	72.3	-	-	72.9	-	71.0	-	-	71.7	-
	AGW [48]	TPAMI-21	70.05	86.21	91.55	66.37	50.19	70.49	87.21	91.84	65.90	51.24
	DDAG [47]	ECCV-20	69.34	86.19	91.49	63.46	49.24	68.06	85.15	90.31	61.80	48.62
	VCD+VML [31]	CVPR-21	73.2	-	-	71.6	-	71.8	-	-	70.1	-
	CA [46]	ICCV-21	85.03	95.49	97.54	79.14	65.33	84.75	95.33	97.51	77.82	61.56
	MPANet [42]	CVPR-21	82.8	-	-	80.7	-	83.7	-	-	80.9	-
	MSO [13]	MM-21	73.6	88.6	-	66.9	-	74.6	88.7	-	67.5	-
	AGM [50]	MM-21	88.40	95.10	96.94	81.45	68.51	85.34	94.56	97.48	81.19	65.76
	MCLNet [18]	ICCV-21	80.31	92.70	96.03	73.07	57.39	75.93	90.93	94.59	69.49	52.63
Unsupervised	HHL [52]	ECCV-18	4.61	11.48	16.53	6.22	-	-	-	-	-	-
	SSG [12]	ICCV-19	1.91	5.14	7.53	3.18	-	-	-	-	-	-
	ECN [53]	CVPR-19	2.17	8.38	12.55	2.90	-	-	-	-	-	-
	SPCL [16]	NIPS-20	13.59	26.98	34.88	14.86	10.36	11.70	25.53	32.82	13.56	10.09
	MMT [15]	ICLR-20	25.68	42.23	54.03	26.51	19.56	24.42	41.21	51.89	25.59	18.66
	CAP [35]	AAAI-21	9.71	19.27	25.6	11.56	8.74	10.21	19.91	26.38	11.34	7.92
	Cluster Contrast [7]	arXiv-21	11.76	24.83	32.84	13.88	9.94	11.14	24.11	32.65	12.99	8.99
	ICE [2]	ICCV-21	12.98	25.87	34.4	15.64	11.91	12.18	25.67	34.9	14.82	10.6
	H2H [24]	TIP-21	23.81	45.31	54.00	18.87	-	-	-	-	-	-
	ADCA (Ours)	-	67.20	82.02	87.44	64.05	52.67	68.48	83.21	88.00	63.81	49.62

tasks, respectively. In addition, compared with H2H [24] which used an extra labeled RGB dataset for unsupervised cross-modality ReID, evident 13.33% and 45.18% mAP gains are achieved on SYSU-MM01 (all search) and RegDB (visible to infrared), respectively.

Comparison with supervised methods. Our ADCA surpasses some supervised methods including Zero-Padding [41], eBDTR [45], HSME [19], D²RL [37], and AlignGAN [34]. This is an encouraging result, showing that unsupervised cross-modality ReID is promising in approximating the effects of supervised VI-ReID.

These considerable gains benefit from the insightful design of our method for USL-VI-ReID. There are three major advantages of our method: 1) We do not need any additional labeled data. This property makes our proposed framework more applicable to practical deployment. 2) Our solution is simple, efficient, and easy to implement. We assume that the performance would be further improved if advanced contrastive learning were introduced. 3) The learned feature is robust against different cross-modality datasets and matching settings.

4.4 Ablation Study

The performance boost of the ADCA framework in USL-VI-ReID mainly comes from the proposed Augmented Dual-Contrastive

(ADC) learning and Cross-modality Memory Aggregation (CMA) module. We validate the effectiveness of each component by conducting ablation studies on SYSU-MM01 and RegDB datasets. Results are shown in Table 2.

Baseline in index 1 denotes that we directly train the model on SYSU-MM01 and RegDB tasks using one-stream contrastive learning with Cluster Contrast [7] method. Although Cluster Contrast has a promising performance on single-modality unsupervised ReID, it is observed that the baseline only achieves 22.00% mAP on SYSU-MM01 (all search) and 11.76% mAP on RegDB (visible to infrared). Therefore, directly using single-modality unsupervised ReID methods can hardly tackle the USL-VI-ReID problems.

Effectiveness of DC. Index 2 means the dual-contrastive learning without joint augmented learning. Compared with baseline, DC improves the performance of 7.40% and 18.67% mAP on SYSU-MM01 (all search) and RegDB (visible to infrared). The main gain is achieved by the design of the dual-path network which allows the model to learn homogeneous learning without interfering with each other, and capture certain modality-invariant features through the shared embedding layers.

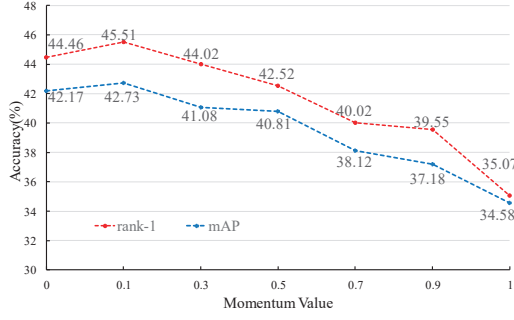


Figure 5: The impact of memory aggregation momentum value on SYSU-MM01 dataset.

Effectiveness of ADC. Index 3 represents the augmented dual-contrastive learning which incorporates random channel augmentation (CA) as an auxiliary branch for joint learning. Compared with DC, ADC brings consistent improvement in all settings. The improvements are 5.18% and 7.63% mAP on SYSU-MM01 (all search) and RegDB (visible to infrared). The reasons for improvements are two-fold. First, the random channel augmentation [46] encourages the model to learn the explicit relation between each color channel of the visible images and the single-channel infrared images. Second, the joint learning strategy fully utilizes the channel augmented images without modifying the network structures, which facilitates the learning of cross-modality features.

Effectiveness of CMA. Index 4 and 5 denote the DC and ADC with the CMA module. Compared with the results in DC and ADC, the significant improvements demonstrate the effectiveness of CMA. CMA can select reliable positive cross-modality label pairs and aggregate the corresponding memories to ensure the discriminability of cross-modality features at the cluster level, which is more efficient than point-to-point association methods.

4.5 Further Analysis

Memory Aggregation Momentum Value. We use the momentum update strategy to aggregate the two modality-specific memories. The α in Eq 12 and Eq 13 controls the speed of aggregating the memory. As shown in Figure 5, when $\alpha = 0.1$, ADCA achieves the best results.

Memory Updating Strategy. We present the different memory update strategies in Table 1. The average memory in Table 1 denotes that we update the two memories by:

$$\phi_{y_n^i}^{i(t)} \leftarrow \alpha \phi_{y_n^i}^{i(t)} + \frac{1}{2}(1 - \alpha)(\phi_{y_n^i}^{i(t)} + \phi_{y_m^v}^{v(t)}), \quad (14)$$

$$\phi_{y_m^v}^{v(t)} \leftarrow \alpha \phi_{y_m^v}^{v(t)} + \frac{1}{2}(1 - \alpha)(\phi_{y_n^i}^{i(t)} + \phi_{y_m^v}^{v(t)}). \quad (15)$$

The visible memory in Table 1 indicates that we use visible memory to update the two memories as follows:

$$\phi_{y_n^i}^{i(t)} \leftarrow \alpha \phi_{y_n^i}^{i(t)} + (1 - \alpha)\phi_{y_m^v}^{v(t)}, \quad (16)$$

$$\phi_{y_m^v}^{v(t)} \leftarrow \alpha \phi_{y_m^v}^{v(t)} + (1 - \alpha)\phi_{y_n^i}^{i(t)}. \quad (17)$$

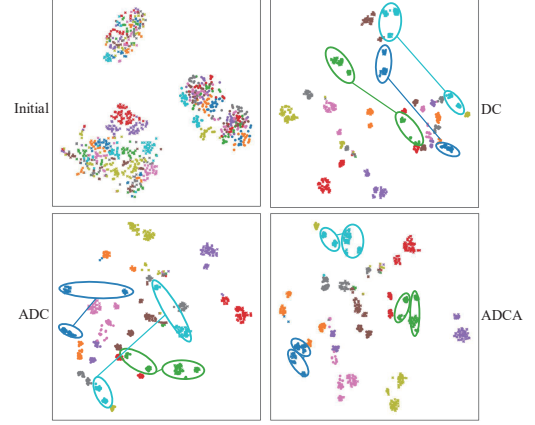


Figure 6: The t-SNE visualization of 20 randomly selected identities. The color indicates the identity. Circle means visible modality and the cross means the infrared modality. The sample points of the two modalities in the oval are gradually drawn closer from DC to ADCA.

The infrared memory in Table 1 means that we update the two memories by Eq 12 and Eq 13. The results demonstrate that the update strategy using infrared memory achieves the best performance.

Visualization. We plot the t-SNE [32] map of 20 identities randomly selected from the SYSU-MM01 dataset, as shown in Figure 6. From initial to ADCA, infrared and visible positive sample points are gradually drawn closer. Ultimately, the model learns a better distribution of cross-modality features in ADCA. This visualization further validates the effectiveness of our approach. We also note that some sample points of the same identity are not clustered together and there is still much room for improvement in the USL-VI-ReID task.

5 CONCLUSION

This paper introduces unsupervised learning visible infrared re-identification (USL-VI-ReID) task to alleviate the issue of expensive cross-modality annotations. To address the problem caused by large cross-modality discrepancies in USL-VI-ReID, we propose a novel Augmented Dual-Contrastive Aggregation (ADCA) learning framework which is based on the idea of homogenous joint learning and heterogeneous aggregation, improving the unsupervised cross-modality recognition. It has been validated on two different tasks, significantly outperforming current state-of-the-art unsupervised methods and even some supervised methods, pushing unsupervised VI-ReID to real-world deployment. We will further investigate our approach in other visible-infrared applications.

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