# Anchors Crash Tensor: Efficient and Scalable Tensorial Multi-view Subspace Clustering

Jintian Ji, Songhe Feng

**Abstract**—Tensorial Multi-view Clustering (TMC), a prominent approach in multi-view clustering, leverages low-rank tensor learning to capture high-order correlation among views for consistent clustering structure identification. Despite its promising performance, the TMC algorithms face three key challenges: 1). The severe computational burden makes TMC methods difficult to handle large-scale datasets. 2). Estimation bias problem caused by the convex surrogate of the tensor rank. 3). Lack of explicit balance of consistency and complementarity. Being aware of these, we propose a basic framework Efficient and Scalable Tensorial Multi-View Subspace Clustering (ESTMC) for large-scale multi-view clustering. ESTMC integrates anchor representation learning and non-convex function-based low-rank tensor learning with a Generalized Non-convex Tensor Rank (GNTR) into a unified objective function, which enhances the efficiency of the existing subspace-based TMC framework. Furthermore, a novel model ESTMC-C<sup>2</sup> with the proposed Enhanced Tensor Rank (ETR), Consistent Geometric Regularization (CGR), and Tensorial Exclusive Regularization (TER) is extended to balance the learning of consistency and complementarity among views, delivering divisible representations for the clustering task. Efficient iterative optimization algorithms are designed to solve the proposed ESTMC and ESTMC-C<sup>2</sup>, which are time-economical and enjoy theoretical convergence. Extensive experimental results on various datasets demonstrate the superiority of the proposed algorithms as compared to state-of-the-art methods.

Index Terms—Multi-view clustering, subspace clustering, low-rank tensor learning, anchor representation learning .

#### 1 Introduction

Custering is a basic task in unsupervised learning, which aims to partition the data into a certain number of groups by exploring the information hidden in the data. Many well-known algorithms such as k-means [1] and spectral clustering [2] perform well on single-view data. However, single-view data cannot provide a comprehensive depiction of objects, which limits the performance of these single-view clustering algorithms. To address this limitation, multi-view data, which presents objects from diverse sources or perspectives, has garnered significant interest. Multi-view clustering [3]–[5] aims to exploit both consistent and complementary information across multiple views, thereby enhancing the understanding of the objects and improving clustering performance.

In recent years, many multi-view algorithms have emerged, which can be briefly divided into two categories, matrix-oriented multi-view clustering and Tensorial Multi-view Clustering (TMC). The matrix-oriented multi-view clustering methods [6]–[15] usually explore the information in individual views or between pairs of views. Depending on the method used to construct the representation matrices, these algorithms are usually classified as subspace-based methods, graph-based methods, and kernel-based methods, respectively. For subspace-based methods [16]–[21], they usually adopt the self-representation strategy to

build representations that reveal the linear structure between samples. For example, Cao et al. [16] learns the low-dimensional subspace representation of each view and explores the respective smooth and diverse structures. The graph Laplacian regularization is employed in [18] to preserve the geometric features of the graph in each view. [19] imposes rank constraints on the Laplace matrix of each view to directly obtain the indicator matrices, and then uses spectral rotation to achieve the fusion of multiple views. To improve the efficiency of processing large-scale data, some works learn a set of anchors that cover all samples to reduce the size of representation matrices. For instance, Kang et al. [20] pre-select certain anchors to learn a smaller affinity matrix for clustering. [21], [22] integrate anchor selection and representation learning into a unified framework to avoid suboptimal solutions. Graph-based methods [7], [8], [23] explore the non-linear structure between samples by constructing similarity graphs. For example, [7] learns viewspecific similarity graphs to construct a unified graph that Leads to direct response clustering results. To reduce the complexity of building graphs and clustering, [8], [23] introduce anchors to construct bipartite graphs in the graph learning framework. Kernel-based methods [24], [25] are another classic popular approach, which aims to explore heterogeneous information from multiple base kernels to improve clustering performance. For example, Liu et al. [25] lean on a quality kernel to integrate different views while ensuring their diversity and heterogeneity. Since these matrix-oriented algorithms split the multi-view problem into several single-view problems or one unified-view problem, it is difficult to explore the high-order correlation among all the views to obtain a consistent clustering structure.

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Due to the challenges of exploring correlation among views with matrix-oriented constraints, recent methods like TMC approaches [11], [26]-[29] have emerged, focusing on capturing the high-order correlation among views. Specifically, these algorithms combine the representation matrices of different views into a third-order tensor and then leverage the low-rank tensor constraint for consistent clustering structure discovery. For example, [30] constructs a three-order tensor from multi-view matrices and employs a slice-based nuclear norm to exploit high-order correlation. To better constrain the low-rankness of the representation tensor, [31]-[33] introduce the tensor average rank for the representation tensor, with the Tensor Nuclear Norm (TNN) based on the tensor Singular Value Decomposition (t-SVD) serving as the tightest convex approximation. [26], [34] adopt the Tensor Nuclear Norm (TNN) on rotated representation tensor to improve the efficiency of capturing highorder correlation. However, subsequent studies have criticized TNN for its loose and biased approximation of tensor rank, as it over-penalizes large singular values and underpenalizes small ones. To address this problem, tensor ranks based on non-convex approximation functions have been proposed. For example, [11], [27] proposes the weighted tensor nuclear norm that imposes different penalty parameters for different singular values. [35] proposed a Tensor Logarithmic Schatten-p Norm (TLS $_{\nu}$ N), [36] constructs the Tensorial Arctangent Rank (TAR) based on the characteristics of the arctan-function. [37] proposed a generalized nonconvex low-rank tensor approximation to integrate some common non-convex approximation functions. To mitigate the computational burden associated with tensor operations (e.g., the tensor Singular Value Decomposition (t-SVD) and the Fast Fourier transformations (FFT)), [10], [38] pre-select a portion of the anchors to build bipartite graphs, which leads to a space-saving representation tensor.

Despite its progress, the TMC approach encounters several limitations: 1) The tensor rank approximation problem. Although non-convex tensor rank methods exhibit superior performance over TNN, an optimal formulation remains elusive. This unresolved issue calls for further research to identify a practical tensor rank model. 2) High computational complexity problem. The reliance on tensor operations often leads to substantial computational overhead in TMC methods. Moreover, pre-selected anchors introduce additional time and may compromise the optimality of solutions. 3) The problem of balancing consistency and complementarity. Many existing TMC algorithms inadequately address complementary information. Accurately clustering samples, especially those with similar classes or on class boundaries, can be challenging without explicitly capturing complementary aspects across views.

To address the aforementioned problems, we first propose a basic framework named Efficient and Scalable Tensorial Multi-View Subspace Clustering Framework (ESTMC) for large-scale TMC tasks (See Fig. 1), which integrates anchor representation learning and non-convex function-based low-rank tensor learning into a unified optimization model. Specifically, ESTMC adopts the anchor representation strategy to simultaneously learn optimal anchors and construct a space-saving representation tensor, a Generalized Non-convex Tensor Rank (GNTR) to explore

the high-order correlation among views. In addition, we extend ESTMC with three tailored items (Enhanced Tensor rank (ETR), Consistent Geometric Regularization (CGR), and Tensorial Exclusive Regularization (TER)) to a novel model ESTMC-C<sup>2</sup> (See Fig. 3), which can explicitly capture the consistent parts and complementary parts in different views. Then a concatenation-fusion strategy is designed to integrate these two parts into discriminative representations. The novelty and main contributions of this paper are summarized as follows:

- ESTMC first integrates the anchor representation strategy with non-convex function-based low-rank tensor learning into a unified framework that can efficiently handle large-scale multi-view clustering problems. Furthermore, we give the standard form of the non-convex tensor rank (Generalized Nonconvex tensor Rank (GNTR)), allowing ESTMC to accelerate most current TMC frameworks.
- ESTMC-C<sup>2</sup> proposes a novel Enhanced Tensor Rank (ETR) with an improved non-convex function to approximate the tensor rank, which leans to protect larger singular values and pushes smaller singular values to zero, thus a compact low-rank representation tensor can be desired.
- ESTMC-C<sup>2</sup> proposes Tensorial Exclusive Regularization (TER) and Consistent Geometric Regularization (CGR) to obtain the complementary information and consistent non-linear structure, which balances the consistency and complementarity of multiple views. Then a concatenation-fusion approach is designed to improve the discriminative properties of the sample representations.
- Efficient algorithms are proposed to solve ESTMC and ESTMC-C<sup>2</sup>, which are time-economical and enjoy theoretically proven convergence. Experimental results over twelve datasets indicate that ESTMC and ESTMC-C<sup>2</sup> are superior to the state-of-the-art methods.

This paper is a significant extension of our conference work [39]. Compared with [39], several substantial improvements are concluded here: 1) We propose an efficient and scalable framework (ESTMC) to address the large-scale TMC problem. With an improved anchor representation strategy and the proposed GNTR, ESTMC is a versatile tool that can enhance the efficiency of most TMC approaches. 2) We propose a novel model ESTMC-C<sup>2</sup> to improve the discriminative properties of the sample representations. ESTMC-C<sup>2</sup> adopts the Enhanced Tensor Rank, Consistent Geometric Regularization (CGR), and Tensorial Exclusive Regularization (TER) to explicitly capture consistent and complementary information in different views, respectively. A concatenation-fusion strategy is designed to integrate the obtained consistent and complementary parts into discriminative representations for subsequent clustering tasks. 3) More comparison experiments are conducted on twelve challenging datasets to demonstrate the superiority of our proposed algorithms compared to competing methods.

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows. Section 2 presents a description of the notations and preliminaries. Section 3 details our proposed ESTMC and ESTMC-

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C<sup>2</sup>. In Section 4, we present the convergence analysis and complexity analysis of the proposed methods. The experimental results and analysis are shown in Section 5. Finally, Section 6 concludes this paper.

## 2 NOTATIONS AND RELATED WORKS

#### 2.1 Notations

We summarize the frequently used notations in Table 1.

TABLE 1: Summary of notations.

| Symbol   | Definition  |
|--|---|
| x, $x$ , $x$ , and $x$                           | scalar, vector, matrix, and tensor                |
| $\mathcal{X}^k$                                  | the $k$ -th frontal slice of tensor $\mathcal{X}$ |
| $\mathcal{X}_f = \text{fft}(\mathcal{X}, [], 3)$ | the fast Fourier transformation (FFT)             |
| n, t, m  | the number of samples, anchors, and views         |
| $d^v$  | the dimension of <i>v</i> -th view                |
| $\mathbf{X}^v \in \mathbb{R}^{n 	imes d^v}$      | the feature matrix of $v$ -th view                |
| $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{t 	imes l}$          | the anchor matrix with $l$ dimension              |
| $\mathbf{Z}^v, \mathbf{Z}^v_{anc}$               | the representation matrix in v-th view            |
| $\mathcal{Z}, \mathcal{Z}_{anc}$                 | the representation tensor                         |
| $\mathbf{E}^v \in \mathbb{R}^{n 	imes d^v}$      | the reconstruction error in $v$ -th view          |
| $\ \cdot\ _{F'} \ \cdot\ _{2,1}$                 | the Frobenius norm, $\ell_{2,1}$ norm             |
| ·   <sub>®</sub>                                 | the nuclear norm                                  |

Then, given the tensors  $\mathcal{X} \in \mathbb{R}^{n_1 \times n_2 \times n_3}$  and  $\mathcal{Y} \in \mathbb{R}^{n_2 \times n_4 \times n_3}$ , we will introduce some operations related to tensor [40].

- Transposition of tensor  $\mathcal{X}^T \in \mathbb{R}^{n_2 \times n_1 \times n_3}$ , which means that each frontal slice of the tensor is transposed.
- Cyclic expansion of the tensor  $circ(\mathcal{X}) \in \mathbb{R}^{n_1 n_3 \times n_2 n_3}$ :

$$circ(\mathcal{X}) = \begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{X}^1 & \mathcal{X}^{n_3} & \cdots & \mathcal{X}^2 \\ \mathcal{X}^2 & \mathcal{X}^1 & \cdots & \mathcal{X}^3 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \mathcal{X}^{n_3} & \mathcal{X}^{n_3-1} & \cdots & \mathcal{X}^1 \end{bmatrix} . \tag{1}$$

• Tensor unfolding and folding:

$$unfold(\mathcal{X}) = \left[\mathcal{X}^1, \mathcal{X}^2, \cdots, \mathcal{X}^{n_3}\right]^T \in \mathbb{R}^{n_1 n_3 \times n_2}.$$

$$\mathcal{X} = fold(unfold(\mathcal{X})).$$
(2)

• t-product  $\mathcal{X} * \mathcal{Y} \in \mathbb{R}^{n_1 \times n_4 \times n_3}$ :

$$\mathcal{X} * \mathcal{Y} = fold(circ(\mathcal{X}) \cdot unfold(\mathcal{Y})). \tag{3}$$

• Orthogonal tensor: The tensor  $\mathcal{X}$  is orthogonal if  $\mathcal{X}^T * \mathcal{X} = \mathcal{X} * \mathcal{X}^T = \mathcal{I}$ , where  $\mathcal{I} \in \mathbb{R}^{n_1 \times n_1 \times n_3}$  is identity tensor whose first frontal slice is  $\mathcal{I}^1 = \mathbf{I} \in \mathbb{R}^{n_1 \times n_1}$ , and the other frontal slices are  $\mathcal{I}^k = \mathbf{0}, \forall k = 2, 3, \ldots, n_3$ .

Based on the above tensor operations, we can give the definition of tensor Singular Value Decomposition (t-SVD) and Tensor Nuclear Norm (TNN).

**Definition 1** (t-SVD) [41] Given tensor  $\mathcal{X} \in \mathbb{R}^{n_1 \times n_2 \times n_3}$ , then the t-SVD of  $\mathcal{X}$  is:

$$\mathcal{X} = \mathcal{U} * \mathcal{S} * \mathcal{V}^T \tag{4}$$

where  $\mathcal{U} \in \mathbb{R}^{n_1 \times n_1 \times n_3}$  and  $\mathcal{V} \in \mathbb{R}^{n_2 \times n_2 \times n_3}$  are orthogonal tensors,  $\mathcal{S} \in \mathbb{R}^{n_1 \times n_2 \times n_3}$  is a f-diagonal tensor.

**Definition 2** (TNN) [31]–[33] Given a tensor  $\mathcal{X} \in \mathbb{R}^{n_1 \times n_2 \times n_3}$ , the nuclear norm of the tensor is defined as:

$$\|\mathcal{X}\|_{\circledast} = \frac{1}{n_3} \sum_{k=1}^{n_3} \sum_{i=1}^h \mathcal{S}_f^k(i, i)$$
 (5)

where  $h = \min(n_1, n_2)$  and  $S_f$  is from the t-SVD of  $\mathcal{X} = \mathcal{U} * S * \mathcal{V}^T$  in the Fourier domain.

## 2.2 Multi-view Subspace Clustering

Multi-view subspace clustering [15], [17], [42] has recently attracted more attention due to its ability to handle high-dimensional data efficiently. It usually adopts the self-representation strategy to learn the multi-view representations, then an affinity matrix can be fused and fed into spectral clustering to obtain the clustering result. Given a multi-view data  $\{\mathbf{X}^v\}_{v=1}^m$  with n samples and m views, the general framework of multi-view subspace clustering algorithms can be expressed as follows:

$$\min_{\{\mathbf{Z}^v\}_{v=1}^m, \{\mathbf{E}^v\}_{v=1}^m} \Omega(\{\mathbf{E}^v\}_{v=1}^m) + \beta \mathcal{R}(\{\mathbf{Z}^v\}_{v=1}^m) 
s.t. \forall v, \mathbf{X}^v = \mathbf{Z}^v \mathbf{X}^v + \mathbf{E}^v,$$
(6)

where  $\mathbf{X}^v \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d^v}$ ,  $d^v$  is the dimension of v-th view.  $\Omega(\cdot)$  denotes the loss function.  $\mathcal{R}(\cdot)$  means some regularization operations on the representation matrices, Multifarious multi-view clustering methods can be obtained by combining different regularizations and loss functions. For instance, Cao et al. [16] adopt the Hilbert Schmidt Independence Criterion (HSIC) to diversify the multi-view representations. Chen et al. [43] propose smooth regularization and crossview consistency regularization to explicitly preserve the locality and exploit the subspace grouping effect, respectively. These algorithms constrain the representation matrices in individual views or between pairs of views, resulting in the absence of global information about all views. Recently, some works are gradually adopting global constraint (i.e., low-rank tensor constraint) to enhance the exploration of high-order correlation among views, called tensorial multiview subspace clustering. Specifically, given a multi-view data  $\{\mathbf{X}^v\}_{v=1}^m$  with n samples and m views, the general framework of tensorial multi-view subspace clustering algorithms can be expressed as follows:

$$\min_{\mathcal{Z}, \{\mathbf{E}^v\}_{v=1}^m} \mathcal{L}\mathcal{R}(\mathcal{Z}) + \alpha\Omega(\{\mathbf{E}^v\}_{v=1}^m) + \beta\mathcal{R}(\{\mathbf{Z}^v\}_{v=1}^m) 
s.t. \forall v, \mathbf{X}^v = \mathbf{Z}^v \mathbf{X}^v + \mathbf{E}^v, \mathcal{Z} = \Phi(\mathbf{Z}^1, \mathbf{Z}^2, \dots, \mathbf{Z}^m),$$
(7)

where  $\alpha, \beta$  are the trade-off parameters.  $\Phi(\cdot)$  denotes merging and rotating operation [26], which merges anchor-representation matrices  $\{\mathbf{Z}^v\}_{v=1}^m$  to a three-order tensor  $\mathcal{Z}$  with dimension  $n \times m \times n$ .  $\mathcal{LR}(\cdot)$  denotes the low-rank constrain of tensor (e.g., TNN [44], TAR [36], TLS\_pN [35], etc.).  $\Omega(\cdot)$  measures the reconstruction error of self-representation typically using the matrix Frobeniusm norm or the  $\ell_{2,1}$  norm.  $\mathcal{R}(\cdot)$  means some specific constraint terms for the representation matrices, for example, the hyper-Laplacian regularizer [45] and the sliced sparse gradient regularization [36]. Once the optimal representation matrices  $\{\mathbf{Z}^v\}_{v=1}^m$  have been learned, the fused affinity matrix  $\mathbf{S} = 1/m \sum_{v=1}^m (|\mathbf{Z}^v| + |\mathbf{Z}^{vT}|)$  can be fed into the spectral clustering to obtain the final clustering result. Although

the low-rank tensor constraint significantly enhances the learning of global information among views, it also introduces several issues such as severe computational burden, tensor-rank approximation problem, and consistency-complementarity balancing problem. To the best of our knowledge, no tensorial multi-view subspace clustering algorithm can simultaneously address all of these problems.

## 3 PROPOSED METHOD

# 3.1 Efficient and Scalable Tensorial Multi-View Clustering Framework (ESTMC)

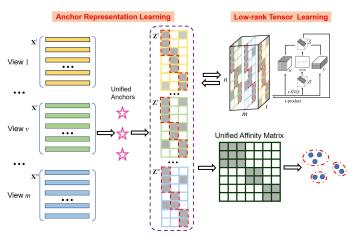


Fig. 1: Framework of the proposed ESTMC. Given multiview data  $\{\mathbf{X}^v\}_{v=1}^m$  with m views, we first learn a set of anchors in a unified space to construct the representation matrices  $\{\mathbf{Z}^v\}_{v=1}^m$ . Then we adopt the low-rank tensor constraint based on non-convex functions to learn the high-order correlation hidden in representation matrices.

Tensorial multi-view subspace clustering methods can explore the high-order correlation among views to achieve satisfactory performance, which benefits from the t-SVDbased low-rank tensor learning framework. As shown in Fig. 2, the t-SVD-based low-rank tensor learning framework can use the low-rank property of the tensor as a view-level constraint to significantly improve the consistency of multiview representation matrices, leading to a compact affinity matrix that shows a clear clustering structure. Although such algorithms have made impressive progress in the field of multi-view clustering, there are still two key issues to be addressed. The first problem is the tensor rank approximation, where the learning of the tensor low-rank structure directly affects the clustering structure of the affinity matrix. Second, due to the extremely high computational complexity of tensor correlation operations (t-SVD and FFT), the efficiency of processing large-scale datasets will be seriously affected.

For the tensor rank approximation problem, it is equivalent to the traditional matrix rank approximation problem. For example, the commonly used Tensor Nuclear Norm (TNN) is an extension of the traditional nuclear norm, the least convex envelope of the rank function. However, some works have proved that TNN is a loose and biased approximation, which under-penalizes the smaller singular values

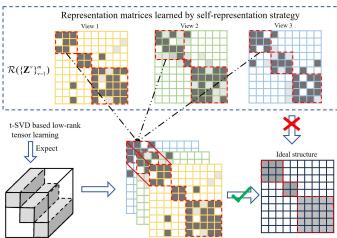


Fig. 2: Illustration of the t-SVD-based low-rank tensor learning framework. The consistent diagonal block structure can be efficiently captured through the low-rank property of the tensor, whereas traditional fusion methods at the matrix level (weighted fusion strategy, averaged fusion strategy) will confuse diagonal block structures.

and over-penalizes the larger singular values. Usually, the large singular values represent the main information, and small singular values indicate noise, thus TNN often results in noise residuals that disrupt the clustering structure. This motivates us to approximate the rank function by nonconvex surrogate functions that have a better approximation to the rank function and provide appropriate penalties for varying singular values. So, the tensor rank based on the non-convex surrogate function can explore a better low-rank property of the representation tensor than TNN.

To this end, we herein design a standard form of tensor rank based on the non-convex surrogate function, called Generalized Non-convex Tensor Rank (GNTR) (See Definition 3), which can extend most existing non-convex surrogate functions (Table 2) or their deformations to TMC framework.

In the next section, we also proposed an improved Enhanced Tensor Rank (ETR) that incorporates the strengths of several existing non-convex functions.

**Definition 3** Given a tensor  $\mathcal{Z} \in \mathbb{R}^{n_1 \times n_2 \times n_3}$ , then the Generalized Non-convex Tensor Rank (GNTR) is defined as:

$$\|\mathcal{Z}\|_{GNTR} = \frac{1}{n_3} \sum_{k=1}^{n_3} \|\mathcal{Z}_f^k\|_{GNTR}$$

$$= \frac{1}{n_3} \sum_{k=1}^{n_3} \sum_{i=1}^h \psi\left(\mathcal{S}_f^k(i,i), \delta\right),$$
(8)

where  $\delta$  denotes a set of parameters,  $h = \min(n_1, n_2)$  and  $S_f$  is obtained by t-SVD of  $\mathcal{Z}_f = \mathcal{U}_f S_f \mathcal{V}_f^T$  in Fourier domain.

The  $\psi(x,\delta)$  represents the non-convex surrogate functions, which satisfies the following assumptions:

- 1)  $\psi(x, \delta)$ :  $\mathbb{R} \Rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$  is continuous, concave and monotonically increasing on  $[0, \infty)$ . It is possibly non-smooth.
- 2)  $x = 0 \Rightarrow \psi(0, \delta) = 0$ .

For the computational complexity problem, constructing a space-saving representation tensor is an effective way to

TABLE 2: Popular non-convex surrogate functions.

| Name                       | Formula $\psi(x,\delta)$ ( $\delta$ is parameter) |
|----------------------------|---|
| $\ell_{\delta}$ -norm [46] | $\frac{(1+\delta)x}{\delta+x}$                    |
| Arctan [47]                | $\operatorname{Arctan}rac{ x }{\delta}$          |
| Geman [48]                 | $\frac{\delta x}{x+\delta}$                       |
| Laplace [49], [50]         | $1 - exp(-\frac{x}{\delta})$                      |
| Logdet [51], [52]          | $\log(x+\delta)$                                  |
|                            |   |

alleviate the computational burden of tensor-related operations (e.g., t-SVD and FFT). Inspired by the anchor-based approaches [21], [53], we adopt the anchor representation strategy, which selects several representative samples as anchor dictionary to characterize all samples,

$$\forall v, \ \mathbf{X}^v = \mathbf{Z}^v_{anc} \mathbf{A} \mathbf{P}^v + \mathbf{E}^v \tag{9}$$

where  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{t \times l}$  is the anchors in unified anchor space with l dimensions, where t is the anchor number,  $\mathbf{P}^v \in \mathbb{R}^{l \times d_v}$  denotes the space mapping matrix of v-th view.  $\mathbf{Z}^v_{anc} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times t}$  is the anchor-representation matrix of v-th view. Apparently, the constructed anchor-representation tensor  $\mathcal{Z}_{anc} = \Phi(\mathbf{Z}^1_{anc},...,\mathbf{Z}^m_{anc}) \in \mathbb{R}^{t \times m \times n}$  is space-saving and will take less computational complexity on tensor-related operations. Therefore, the objective function of our proposed Efficient and Scalable Tensorial Multi-View Clustering Framework (ESTMC) is as follows:

$$\min_{\substack{\mathcal{Z}_{anc}, \mathbf{E}, \mathbf{A}, \{\mathbf{P}^v\}_{v=1}^m \\ \mathcal{Z}_{anc}, \mathbf{E}, \mathbf{A}, \{\mathbf{P}^v\}_{v=1}^m \}}} \|\mathcal{Z}_{anc}\|_{GNTR} + \lambda \|\mathbf{E}\|_{2,1}$$

$$s.t. \mathbf{X}^v = \mathbf{Z}_{anc}^v \mathbf{A} \mathbf{P}^v + \mathbf{E}^v, v = 1, 2, \dots, m,$$

$$\mathcal{Z}_{anc} = \Phi(\mathbf{Z}_{anc}^1, \mathbf{Z}_{anc}^2, \dots, \mathbf{Z}_{anc}^m),$$

$$\mathbf{E} = [\mathbf{E}^1, \mathbf{E}^2, \dots, \mathbf{E}^m]^T, \mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A} = \mathbf{I}, \mathbf{P}^{vT} \mathbf{P}^v = \mathbf{I},$$
(10)

where  $\gamma$  is the parameter.  $\Phi(\cdot)$  denotes merging and rotating operation [26], which merges anchor-representation matrices  $\{\mathbf{Z}_{anc}^v\}_{v=1}^m$  to a three-order tensor  $\mathcal{Z}_{anc}$  with dimension  $t \times m \times n$ .

Once the optimal representation matrices  $\{\mathbf{Z}_{anc}^v\}_{v=1}^m$  are obtained, the unified affinity matrix can be fused as  $\mathbf{S}_{\mathbf{Z}} = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{v=1}^m \mathbf{Z}_{anc}^v \mathbf{Z}_{anc}^v ^T \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ . Inspired by [20], the spectral embedding  $\mathbf{F} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times c}$  can be obtained by directly imposing the Singular Value Decomposition (SVD) on  $\hat{\mathbf{Z}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{m}}[\mathbf{Z}_{anc}^1, \cdots, \mathbf{Z}_{anc}^m] \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times mt}$ . According to Theorem 1, it has linear time complexity  $\mathcal{O}(nm^2t^2)$ .

**Theorem 1** The left singular vectors of  $\mathbf{Z} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{m}}[\mathbf{Z}^1, \cdots, \mathbf{Z}^m] \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times mt}$  is the same as the eigenvectors of  $\mathbf{S} = \hat{\mathbf{Z}}\hat{\mathbf{Z}}^T$ .

*Proof* The singular value decomposition (SVD) of  $\hat{\mathbf{Z}}$  is indicated as  $\mathbf{U}\Sigma\mathbf{V}^T$ , then

$$\mathbf{S} = \hat{\mathbf{Z}}\hat{\mathbf{Z}}^T = (\mathbf{U}\Sigma\mathbf{V}^T)(\mathbf{U}\Sigma\mathbf{V}^T)^T = \mathbf{U}\Sigma^2\mathbf{U}^T.$$
(11)

Therefore, the left singular vectors of  $\hat{\mathbf{Z}}$  are the same as the eigenvectors of  $\mathbf{S}$ .

Inspired by the alternation direction method of multipliers (ADMM) [54], we introduce the auxiliary tensor variable

 $\mathcal{G}$ , so the model (10) can be rewritten as the following unconstrained problem,

$$\mathcal{L}(\{\mathbf{Z}_{anc}^{v}\}_{v=1}^{m}, \mathbf{A}, \{\mathbf{P}^{v}\}_{v=1}^{m}, \mathcal{G}, \mathbf{E}, \{\mathbf{Y}^{v}\}_{v=1}^{m}, \mathcal{W}) 
= \|\mathcal{G}\|_{GNTR} + \lambda \|\mathbf{E}\|_{2,1} + \langle \mathcal{W}, \mathcal{Z}_{anc} - \mathcal{G} \rangle 
+ \sum_{v=1}^{m} (\langle \mathbf{Y}^{v}, \mathbf{X}^{v} - \mathbf{Z}_{anc}^{v} \mathbf{A} \mathbf{P}^{v} - \mathbf{E}^{v} \rangle 
+ \frac{\mu}{2} \|\mathbf{X}^{v} - \mathbf{Z}_{anc}^{v} \mathbf{A} \mathbf{P}^{v} - \mathbf{E}^{v}\|_{F}^{2}) + \frac{\rho}{2} \|\mathcal{Z}_{anc} - \mathcal{G}\|_{F}^{2},$$
(12)

where  $\mathcal{W}$  and  $\{\mathbf{Y}^v\}_{v=1}^m$  are Lagrange multipliers,  $\mu$  and  $\rho$  are penalty parameters to control convergence. Then, we solve the variables in Eq. (12) through the following five subproblems.

 $ullet \{ \mathbf{Z}_{anc}^v \}_{v=1}^m$ -Subproblem Fixing the other variables leads to the following problem for  $\mathbf{Z}_{anc'}^v$ 

$$\underset{\mathbf{Z}_{anc}^{v}}{\operatorname{arg \, min}} Tr(\mathbf{W}^{vT}(\mathbf{Z}_{anc}^{v} - \mathbf{G}^{v})) + \frac{\rho}{2} \|\mathbf{Z}_{anc}^{v} - \mathbf{G}^{v}\|_{F}^{2}$$

$$+ \langle \mathbf{Y}^{v}, \mathbf{X}^{v} - \mathbf{Z}_{anc}^{v} \mathbf{A} \mathbf{P}^{v} - \mathbf{E}^{v} \rangle$$

$$+ \frac{\mu}{2} \|\mathbf{X}^{v} - \mathbf{Z}_{anc}^{v} \mathbf{A} \mathbf{P}^{v} - \mathbf{E}^{v}\|_{F}^{2}.$$
(13)

this problem is a quadratic convex optimization problem, so derivative for  $\mathbf{Z}^v$  and equals to 0:

$$\mathbf{Z}_{anc}^{v} = \left(\mathbf{Y}^{v} \mathbf{P}^{vT} \mathbf{A}^{T} + \mu \mathbf{X}^{v} \mathbf{P}^{vT} \mathbf{A}^{T} + \rho \mathbf{G}^{v} - \mathbf{W}^{v} - \mu \mathbf{E}^{v} \mathbf{P}^{vT} \mathbf{A}^{T}\right) \left((\rho + \mu) \mathbf{I}\right)^{-1}$$
(14)

•**E-Subproblem** Fixing the other variables, the problem with **E** is formulated as,

$$\underset{\mathbf{E}}{\arg\min} \frac{\lambda}{\mu} \left\| \mathbf{E} \right\|_{2,1} + \frac{1}{2} \left\| \mathbf{E} - \hat{\mathbf{E}} \right\|_{F}^{2}, \tag{15}$$

where  $\hat{\mathbf{E}}^T$  is constructed by horizontally concatenating the matrices  $\mathbf{X}^v - \mathbf{Z}^v_{anc} \mathbf{A} \mathbf{P}^v - \mathbf{E}^v + \frac{1}{\mu} \mathbf{Y}^v$  together along row. Its solution can be obtained by  $\ell_{2,1}$  minimization thresholding operator as in [55],

$$\mathbf{E}_{i,:} = \begin{cases} \frac{\left\|\hat{\mathbf{E}}_{i,:}\right\|_{2} - \frac{\alpha}{\mu}}{\left\|\hat{\mathbf{E}}_{i,:}\right\|_{2}} \hat{\mathbf{E}}_{i,:}, & \left\|\hat{\mathbf{E}}_{i,:}\right\|_{2} > \frac{\alpha}{\mu}, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$
(16)

where  $\mathbf{E}_{i,:}$  is the *i*-th row of  $\mathbf{E}$ .

ullet  $\mathcal{G}$ -Subproblem When other variables are fixed, the subproblem for  $\mathcal{G}$  is formulated as,

$$\arg\min_{\mathcal{G}} \frac{1}{\rho} \|\mathcal{G}\|_{GNTR} + \frac{1}{2} \left\| \mathcal{G} - (\mathcal{Z}_{anc} + \frac{\mathcal{W}}{\rho}) \right\|_{F}^{2}.$$
 (17)

We refer to this problem as the Generalized Nonconve Tensor Rank Minimization problem (GNTRM), which can be solved by the following theorem.

**Theorem 2** Suppose  $\mathcal{G}, \mathcal{Q} \in \mathbb{R}^{n_1 \times n_2 \times n_3}$  with t-SVD  $\mathcal{Q} = \mathcal{U} * \mathcal{S} * \mathcal{V}^T$  and  $\beta > 0$ , the Generalized Non-convex Tensor Rank Minimization problem (GNTRM) can be described as follows,

$$\underset{\mathcal{C}}{\arg\min} \beta \left\| \mathcal{G} \right\|_{GNTR} + \frac{1}{2} \left\| \mathcal{G} - \mathcal{Q} \right\|_{F}^{2}. \tag{18}$$

Then, optimal solution  $G^*$  is obtained as,

$$\mathcal{G}^* = \mathcal{U} * ifft(Prox_{f,\beta}(\mathcal{S}_f), [], 3) * \mathcal{V}^T,$$
(19)

## Algorithm 1 Optimization Algorithm of ESTMC

**Input:** Multi-view data matrix  $\{\mathbf{X}^1, \dots, \mathbf{X}^m\}$ , cluster number c, trade-off parameter  $\lambda$  and anchor number t.

**Output:** Clustering results **C**.

Înitialize:  $\forall v, \mathbf{Z}^v = \mathbf{0}, \mathbf{E}^v = \mathbf{0}, \mathbf{Y}^v = \mathbf{0}, \mathcal{G} = \mathbf{0}, \mathcal{W} = \mathbf{0}, \mu = 10^{-5}, \rho = 10^{-4}, \eta_{\mu} = \eta_{\rho} = 2, \mu_{max} = \rho_{max} = 10^{10}, \epsilon = 10^{-7}.$ 

1: **while** not converge **do** 

2: Update  $\mathbf{Z}_{anc}^{v}$ , (v = 1, 2, ..., m) by Eq.(14);

3: Update **E** by Eq.(16);

4: Update  $\mathbf{P}^{v}, (v = 1, 2, ..., m)$  by Eq.(28);

5: Update **A** by Eq.(29);

6: Update  $\mathbf{Y}^v$ , (v = 1, 2, ..., m) by Eq.(30);

7: Update W by Eq.(30);

8: Update parameters  $\mu$  and  $\rho$  by Eq.(30);

9: Check the convergence conditions:

$$\|\mathbf{X}^{v} - \mathbf{Z}_{anc}^{v} \mathbf{A} \mathbf{P}^{v} - \mathbf{E}^{v}\|_{\infty} < \epsilon \& \|\mathcal{Z}_{anc}^{v} - \mathcal{G}^{v}\|_{\infty} < \epsilon;$$

10: end while

11: Output clustering results C via performing k-means on F.

where  $ifft(Prox_{f,\beta}(S_f), [], 3) \in \mathbb{R}^{n_1 \times n_2 \times n_3}$  is a f-diagonal tensor, and  $Prox_{f,\beta}(S_f^k(i,i))$  satisfies the following equation,

$$Prox_{f,\beta}(S_f^k(i,i)) = \underset{x>0}{\arg\min} \frac{1}{2} (x - S_f^k(i,i))^2 + \beta f(x),$$
 (20)

where  $f(x) = \psi(x, \delta)$ .

Theorem 2 can be proved with the following lemma.

**Lemma 1** [46] Given matrices  $\mathbf{G}, \mathbf{Q} \in \mathbb{R}^{n_1 \times n_2}$ , and  $\mathbf{Q} = \mathbf{US}_Q \mathbf{V}^T$  is the SVD of  $\mathbf{Q}$  and  $\beta > 0$ , then an optimal solution to the following problem

$$\min_{\mathbf{G}} \beta \|\mathbf{G}\|_{GNTR} + \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{G} - \mathbf{Q}\|_F^2, \qquad (21)$$

is  $\mathbf{G}^* = \mathbf{U}\mathbf{S}_G^*\mathbf{V}^T$ , where  $\mathbf{S}_G^* = diag(\sigma^*)$  and  $\sigma^* = Prox_{f,\beta}(\sigma_Q)$ . And  $Prox_{f,\beta}(\sigma_Q)$  is the Moreau-Yosida operator [56] defined as

$$Prox_{f,\beta}(\sigma_Q) := \operatorname*{arg\,min}_{\sigma>0} \beta f(\sigma) + \frac{1}{2} \left\| \sigma - \sigma_Q \right\|_2^2, \quad (22)$$

where  $f(x) = \psi(x, \delta)$ .

*Proof* In Fourier domain, based on the fact that  $\|\mathcal{X}\|_F^2 = \frac{1}{n_3} \|\mathcal{X}_f\|_F^2$ , the objective function  $\frac{1}{2} \|\mathcal{G} - \mathcal{Q}\|_F^2 + \beta \|\mathcal{G}\|_{GNTR}$  can be transformed to the following form,

$$\frac{1}{2} \|\mathcal{G} - \mathcal{Q}\|_F^2 + \beta \|\mathcal{G}\|_{GNTR}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2n_3} \|\mathcal{G}_f - \mathcal{Q}_f\|_F^2 + \frac{\beta}{n_3} \sum_{k=1}^{n_3} \|\mathcal{G}_f^k\|_{GNTR}$$

$$= \frac{1}{n_3} \sum_{k=1}^{n_3} \left( \frac{1}{2} \|\mathcal{G}_f^k - \mathcal{Q}_f^k\|_F^2 + \beta \|\mathcal{G}_f^k\|_{GNTR} \right)$$
(23)

As a result, the original tensor optimization problem can be reformed into the following  $n_3$  independent matrix optimization problem:

$$\underset{\mathcal{G}_{f}^{k}}{\arg\min} \frac{1}{2} \left\| \mathcal{G}_{f}^{k} - \mathcal{Q}_{f}^{k} \right\|_{F}^{2} + \beta \left\| \mathcal{G}_{f}^{k} \right\|_{GNTR}, \tag{24}$$

for  $1 \le k \le n_3$ .

Here, the SVD of  $\mathcal{Q}_f^k$  is  $\mathcal{Q}_f^k = \mathcal{U}_f^k \mathcal{S}_f^k (\mathcal{V}_f^k)^H$ . According to Lemma 1, the optimal solution of (24) is

$$\mathcal{G}_f^{*k} = \mathcal{U}_f^k Prox_{f,\beta}(\mathcal{S}_f^k)(\mathcal{V}_f^k)^H, \tag{25}$$

where  $Prox_{f,\beta}(\mathcal{S}_f^k(i,i))$  is given by solving the following problem:

$$Prox_{f,\beta}(S_f^k(i,i)) = \underset{x>0}{\arg\min} \frac{1}{2} (x - S_f^k(i,i))^2 + \beta f(x)$$
 (26)

where 
$$f(x) = \psi(x, \delta)$$
.

Eq. (26) is a combination of concave and convex functions, so we can use the Difference of Convex (DC) programming [57] to acquire a closed-form solution,

$$\tau^{iter+1} = \left(S_f^k(i, i) - \frac{\partial f(\tau^{iter})}{\rho}\right)_+,\tag{27}$$

where  $\tau = Prox_{f,\beta}(\mathcal{S}_f^k(i,i)), \ f(x) = \psi(x,\delta)$  and iter is the number of iterations.

•{ $\mathbf{P}^v$ } $_{v=1}^m$ -**Subproblem** Fixing the other variables,  $\mathbf{P}^v$  can be updated by,

$$\mathbf{P}^{v*} = \underset{\mathbf{P}^{vT}\mathbf{P}^v = \mathbf{I}}{\arg\max} Tr(\mathbf{P}^{vT}\mathbf{N}^v), \tag{28}$$

where  $\mathbf{N}^v = \mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{Z}_{anc}^v (\mu \mathbf{X}^v + \mathbf{Y}^v - \mu \mathbf{E}^v)$ . The optimal solution of  $\mathbf{P}^v$  is  $\mathbf{U}_P^v \mathbf{V}_P^v T$ , where  $\mathbf{U}_P^v$  and  $\mathbf{V}_P^v$  are the left and right singular matrix of  $\mathbf{N}^v$ .

•A-Subproblem Fixing the other variables, A can be updated by,

$$\mathbf{A} = \arg\max_{\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A} = \mathbf{I}} Tr(\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{M}), \tag{29}$$

where  $\mathbf{M} = \sum_{v=1}^{m} \mathbf{Z}_{com}^{v}{}^{T} (\mu \mathbf{X}^{v} + \mathbf{Y}^{v} - \mu \mathbf{E}^{v}) \mathbf{P}^{vT}$ . The optimal solution of  $\mathbf{A}$  is  $\mathbf{U}_{A} \mathbf{V}_{A}{}^{T}$ , where  $\mathbf{U}_{A}$  and  $\mathbf{V}_{A}$  are the left and right singular matrix of  $\mathbf{M}$ .

At last, the Lagrange multipliers and penalty parameters are updated as follows,

$$\begin{cases}
\mathbf{Y}^{v} = \mathbf{Y}^{v} + \mu(\mathbf{X}^{v} - \mathbf{Z}_{anc}^{v} \mathbf{A} \mathbf{P}^{v} - \mathbf{E}^{v}) \\
\mathcal{W} = \mathcal{W} + \rho(\mathcal{Z}_{anc} - \mathcal{G}) \\
\mu = \eta_{\mu} \mu, \ \mu = \min(\mu, \mu_{\text{max}}) \\
\rho = \eta_{o} \rho, \ \rho = \min(\eta, \rho_{\text{max}})
\end{cases}$$
(30)

where  $\eta_{\mu}, \eta_{\rho} > 1$  are used to accelerate convergence. The complete procedure is summarized in Algorithm 1.

# 3.2 Generic to Specific: Compromise Between Consistency and Complementarity

In this section, we further discuss how to explicitly portray complementarity among views based on the proposed framework ESTMC. Usually, the t-SVD based low-rank tensor learning framework focuses on capturing the consistency in different views and discards some view-specific information. However, samples in similar classes or at the class boundary tend to exhibit similar representations in most views, which can be incorrectly classified using only the captured consistency information. To improve the discriminative representations of such samples, we strive to simultaneously mine consistency and complementarity information among different views. Specifically, two types

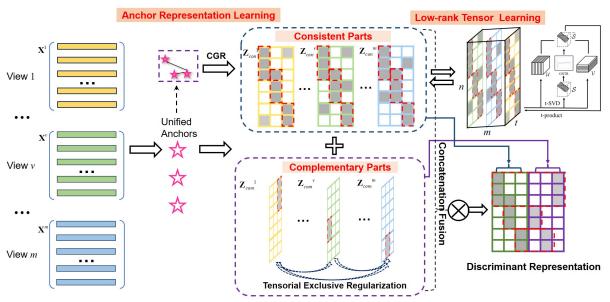


Fig. 3: Framework of the proposed ESTMC-C<sup>2</sup>. Given multi-view data  $\{\mathbf{X}^v\}_{v=1}^m$  with m views, we first adopt the learned anchors to construct two groups of representation matrices  $\{\mathbf{Z}^v_{con}\}_{v=1}^m, \{\mathbf{Z}^v_{com}\}_{v=1}^m$ , which denotes the consistent parts and complementary parts, respectively. Then we adopt the non-convex function-based low-rank tensor constraint and CGR on consistent parts  $\{\mathbf{Z}^v_{con}\}_{v=1}^m$  to explore the high-order correlation and consistent structure. Meanwhile, the Tensor Exclusive Regularization is imposed on complementary parts  $\{\mathbf{Z}^v_{com}\}_{v=1}^m$  to capture view-specific information. We design a concatenation-fusion strategy to obtain a more discriminate representation for subsequent clustering.

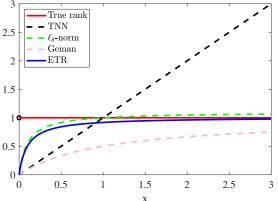


Fig. 4: Comparison of different approximation functions with the same parameter.

of representation matrices  $\{\mathbf{Z}^v_{con}\}_{v=1}^m$  and  $\{\mathbf{Z}^v_{com}\}_{v=1}^m$  are obtained via

$$\forall v, \ \mathbf{X}^v = (\mathbf{Z}_{con}^v + \mathbf{Z}_{com}^v) \mathbf{A} \mathbf{P}^v + \mathbf{E}^v, \tag{31}$$

where  $\mathbf{Z}^v_{con} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times t}$  and  $\mathbf{Z}^v_{com} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times t}$  denote the consistent and complementary parts in v-th view, respectively.

For the complementary parts, similar to [58], we propose the Tensorial Exclusive Regularization (TER) represented in Definition 4 to capture the view-specific information explicitly.

**Definition 4** Given a tensor  $\mathcal{Z} \in \mathbb{R}^{n_1 \times n_2 \times n_3}$ , then the Tensorial Exclusive Regularization (TER) is defined as:

$$\|\mathcal{Z}\|_{TER} = \frac{1}{n_3} \sum_{v=1}^{n_3} \sum_{w=1}^{n_3} \langle \mathbf{Z}^v, \mathbf{Z}^w \rangle$$
 (32)

where  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  means inner product of two matrices.

For the consistent parts, based on the works [46], [48], we propose a novel Enhanced Tensor Rank (ETR) with an improved non-convex surrogate function  $f_{ETR}(x) = e^{\delta^2}x/(\delta+x)$  instead of existing functions. ETR aims to make a compromise between  $\ell_{\delta}$ -norm and Geman. From Fig. 4, it is clear to see that ETR encourages the penalty for small singular values to be increased and the penalty for large singular values to be decreased. According to the Definition 3, the definition of ETR is shown as follows.

**Definition 5** [39] Given a tensor  $\mathcal{Z} \in \mathbb{R}^{n_1 \times n_2 \times n_3}$ , then the Enhanced Tensor Rank (ETR) is defined as:

$$\|\mathcal{Z}\|_{ETR} = \frac{1}{n_3} \sum_{k=1}^{n_3} \|\mathcal{Z}_f^k\|_{ETR}$$

$$= \frac{1}{n_3} \sum_{k=1}^{n_3} \sum_{i=1}^h \left(\frac{e^{\delta^2} \mathcal{S}_f^k(i,i)}{\delta + \mathcal{S}_f^k(i,i)}\right),$$
(33)

where  $0 < \delta$ ,  $h = \min(n_1, n_2)$  and  $S_f$  is obtained by t-SVD of  $\mathcal{Z}_f = \mathcal{U}_f S_f \mathcal{V}_f^T$  in Fourier domain.

Since the representation tensor is constructed by the dictionary learning manners (e.g., anchor representation, self-representation, matrix factorization), the missing of consistent non-linear structure is unavoidable, and the graph structural constraint is commonly utilized to address such issues. However, such constraint usually requires constructing an adjacency matrix in sample space, often with a complexity of  $\mathcal{O}(n^2)$ . Considering the unified anchors learned in ESTMC, establishing the geometric structure constraint in the unified anchor space can efficiently fill in the missing consistent non-linear structures. So a Consistent Geometric Regularization (CGR) in anchor space is first proposed with the following definition.

**Definition 6** Given an anchor-representation tensor  $\mathcal{Z}=$  $\Phi(\mathbf{Z}^1,\cdots,\mathbf{Z}^m) \in \mathbb{R}^{t\times m\times n}$  and unified anchors  $\mathbf{A}$ , then the Consistent Geometric Regularization (CGR) is defined as:

$$\|\mathcal{Z}\|_{CGR} = \sum_{v=1}^{m} \|\mathbf{Z}^v\|_{CGR} = \sum_{v=1}^{m} Tr(\mathbf{Z}^v \mathbf{L}(\mathbf{Z}^v)^T), \quad (34)$$

where  $\mathbf{L} = \mathbf{D} - \mathbf{B}$  is the Laplacian matrix of  $\mathbf{B} \in \mathbb{R}^{t \times t}$ , which is the adjacency matrix of unified anchors  $\mathbf{A} = [a_1; \cdots; a_t]$  and is constructed by solving following problem:

$$\min_{\boldsymbol{b}_{i}\mathbf{1}=\mathbf{1},\boldsymbol{b}_{i}\geq 0} \sum_{i,j=1}^{t} \|\boldsymbol{a}_{i}-\boldsymbol{a}_{j}\|_{2}^{2} b_{ij} + \omega \sum_{i=1}^{t} \|\boldsymbol{b}_{i}\|_{2}^{2},$$
(35)

the closed-form solution can be obtained from [8]. The degree matrix **D** is a diagonal matrix whose i-th diagonal element is computed by  $\mathbf{D}(i,i) = \sum_{j=1}^{t} \mathbf{B}(i,j)$ .

By integrating Eq. (10), Eq. (31), Eq. (34), and Eq. (32), the ESTMC can be further boosted to ESTMC-C<sup>2</sup> with the following objective function:

$$\min_{\mathbf{A}, \mathcal{Z}_{con}, \mathcal{Z}_{com}, \mathbf{E}, \{\mathbf{P}^{v}\}_{v=1}^{m}} \|\mathcal{Z}_{con}\|_{ETR} + \lambda \|\mathbf{E}\|_{2,1} 
+ \beta \|\mathcal{Z}_{con}\|_{CGR} + \alpha \|\mathcal{Z}_{com}\|_{TER} 
s.t. \mathbf{X}^{v} = (\mathbf{Z}_{con}^{v} + \mathbf{Z}_{com}^{v})\mathbf{A}\mathbf{P}^{v} + \mathbf{E}^{v}, v = 1, 2, \dots, m, 
\mathcal{Z}_{con} = \Phi(\mathbf{Z}_{con}^{1}, \dots, \mathbf{Z}_{con}^{m}), \mathcal{Z}_{com} = \Psi(\mathbf{Z}_{com}^{1}, \dots, \mathbf{Z}_{com}^{m}), 
\mathbf{E} = [\mathbf{E}^{1}, \mathbf{E}^{2}, \dots; \mathbf{E}^{m}]^{T}, \mathbf{A}^{T}\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{I}, \mathbf{P}^{vT}\mathbf{P}^{v} = \mathbf{I}.$$
(36)

where  $\lambda$ ,  $\beta$ , and  $\alpha$  are trade-off parameters.  $\Phi(\cdot)$  denotes merging and rotating operation, which merges anchorrepresentation matrices  $\{\mathbf{Z}_{con}^v\}_{v=1}^m$  to a three-order tensor  $\mathcal{Z}_{con}$  with dimension of  $t \times m \times n$ .  $\Psi(\cdot)$  denotes merging operation that merges  $\{\mathbf{Z}_{com}^v\}_{v=1}^m$  in to three-order tensor with a dimension of  $n \times t \times m$ .

Then, rather than using only the consistent part for subsequent clustering task [59], we employ a concatenationfusion strategy to combine both the learned consistent part and complementary part to obtain more discriminate representations  $\mathbf{U}^v = [\mathbf{Z}^v_{con}, \mathbf{Z}^v_{com}] \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times 2t}$ . Then similar to ESTMC, the spectral embedding  $\mathbf{F} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times c}$  can be obtained by directly imposing singular value decomposition (SVD) on  $\hat{\mathbf{U}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{m}}[\mathbf{U}^1,\cdots,\mathbf{U}^m] \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times 2mt}$ . By doing so, we leverage the useful information provided by both the consistent and complementary parts to enhance the discriminability of our proposed ESTMC-C<sup>2</sup>.

The optimization of Eq. (36) is similar to ESTMC, so we do not repeat it here and the detailed solution is placed in the Supplementary.

**Remark 1** [The benefits of CGR] In ESTMC-C<sup>2</sup>, the CGR is used to efficiently capture the consistent geometric information. Unlike previous work [36], [60], CGR preserves the geometric information of the sample space by building the geometric structure of the unified anchors instead of the samples, which brings the following benefits: 1) The computational complexity of the adjacency matrix in anchor space O(n) is much lower than that in samples space  $\mathcal{O}(n^2)$ . 2) The CGR keeps geometric information in a unified anchor space rather than different views, which fills the gap of the dictionary learning methods that have trouble capturing consistent non-linear information.

Remark 2 [The benefits of TER and concatenation-fusion strategy] In previous work, they have focused on capturing consistent information among views, but for some special points (e.g., boundary samples and samples of similar classes), it is difficult to discriminate by consistent information alone. Therefore, our proposed TER explicitly captures the complementary information across views and the concatenation-fusion strategy can integrate the consistent part and the complementary part to improve the discriminative properties of these special points.

## MODEL ANALYSIS

## 4.1 Convergence Analysis

The convergence of ESTMC and ESTMC-C<sup>2</sup> is ensured by the following Theorem 3, and according to Theorem 3, the sequence obtained by Algorithm 1 converges to a stationary Karush-Kuhn -Tucker (KKT) critical point [61]. The proof of Theorem 3 is in Appendix A.

 $\begin{array}{l} \textbf{Theorem 3} \ \textit{Let} \ \{\mathcal{L}_{1(k)} = (\mathbf{Z}^v_{anc(k)}, \mathbf{P}^v_{(k)}, \mathbf{A}_{(k)}, \mathbf{E}^v_{(k)}, \mathbf{Y}^v_{(k)}, \\ \mathcal{W}_{(k)}, \mathcal{G}_{(k)})\}_{k=1}^{\infty} \ \textit{and} \ \{\mathcal{L}_{2(k)} = (\mathbf{Z}^v_{con(k)}, \mathbf{Z}^v_{com(k)}, \mathbf{P}^v_{(k)}, \mathbf{A}_{(k)}, \\ \mathbf{E}^v_{(k)}, \mathbf{Y}^v_{(k)}, \mathcal{W}_{(k)}, \mathcal{G}_{(k)})\}_{k=1}^{\infty} \ \textit{be} \ \textit{the sequences} \ \textit{generated} \ \textit{by} \end{array}$ ESTMC and ESTMC- $\mathsf{C}^2$ , then the sequences  $\{\mathcal{L}_{1(k)}\}_{k=1}^\infty$  and  $\{\mathcal{L}_{2(k)}\}_{k=1}^{\infty}$  meet the following two principles:

- 1).  $\{\mathcal{L}_{1(k)}\}_{k=1}^{\infty}$  and  $\{\mathcal{L}_{2(k)}\}_{k=1}^{\infty}$  are bounded; 2). Any accumulation point of  $\{\mathcal{L}_{1(k)}\}_{k=1}^{\infty}$  and  $\{\mathcal{L}_{2(k)}\}_{k=1}^{\infty}$  is a KKT point.

## 4.2 Complexity Analysis

Time Complexity Analysis: For the proposed ESTMC, the main time complexity is focused on solving for the variables  $\mathcal{G}$ ,  $\mathbf{E}$ ,  $\mathbf{Z}^v$ ,  $\mathbf{P}^v$ , and  $\mathbf{A}$ . For tensor  $\mathcal{G}$ , each update requires FFT, inverse FFT, and t-SVD operations, corresponding to a time complexity of  $\mathcal{O}(\mathcal{O}(nmt\log(nm) + nm^2t)$ . The update of the variables  $\mathbf{Z}^v$  requires  $\mathcal{O}(nld^v)$ . For  $\mathbf{E}$ , it needs  $\mathcal{O}(nd)$  for each iteration, where  $d = \sum_{v=1}^{m} d^{v}$ . And the time complexity of updating  $\mathbf{P}^v$  and  $\mathbf{A}$  are  $\mathcal{O}(nld^v + d^v l^2)$  and  $\mathcal{O}(ntmd^v)$ , respectively. Hence, considering  $t \ll n$ , the time complexity of ESTMC is  $\mathcal{O}(nmtlog(nm) + nd)$ . The optimization of ESTMC-C<sup>2</sup> is similar to ESTMC, so ESTMC-C<sup>2</sup> also enjoys the time complexity  $\mathcal{O}(nmtlog(nm) + nd)$ . Compared to the traditional tensor-based approaches with a complexity of  $\mathcal{O}(n^2 log(n))$ , ESTMC and ESTMC-C<sup>2</sup> are more efficient and scalable to large-scale datasets.

Storage Complexity Analysis: For our proposed ESTMC and ESTMC-C<sup>2</sup>, the major memory costs are various matrices and tensors. From the previous section on optimization, the storage complexity of our proposed methods is all  $\mathcal{O}((d+mc)n)$ , which is linear to the sample size. For existing tensor methods, such as TLS<sub>p</sub>NM-MSC [35] and TBGL-MVC [38], the storage complexity is  $O(n^2)$ . So our proposed methods also present advantages in terms of storage complexity, enabling large-scale data to be processed with fewer resources.

# EXPERIMENT

In this section, we design extensive experiments to detect the effectiveness and superiority of our proposed ESTMC and ESTMC-C<sup>2</sup>. Specifically, we compare them with several

state-of-the-art algorithms on various datasets with different types and sizes. All the experiments are implemented on a computer with a 2.90GHz i7-10700 CPU and 32GB RAM, Matlab R2020b.

TABLE 3: Summary of the benchmark datasets.

| Dataset         | Sam./Clu.   | Dimensions                   |
|-----------------|-------------|------------------------------|
| NGs             | 500 / 5     | 2000/2000/2000               |
| <b>BBCSport</b> | 544/5       | 3183/3203                    |
| HW              | 2000 / 10   | 216/76/64/6/240/47           |
| BDGP            | 2500 /5     | 1000/500                     |
| CCV             | 6773 / 20   | 20/20/20                     |
| Caltech101-all  | 9144 /102   | 48/40/154/1984/512/928       |
| Aloi-100        | 11025 / 100 | 77/13/64/125                 |
| Animal          | 11673 / 20  | 2689/2000/2001/2000          |
| AWA             | 30475 / 50  | 2688/2000/252/2000/2000/2000 |
| NUS             | 30000 / 31  | 65/226/145/74/129            |
| CIFAR10         | 50000 / 10  | 512/2048/1024                |
| Noisy_MNIST     | 50000 / 10  | 784/784                      |

## 5.1 Experimental Settings

Datasets: To verify the effectiveness of the proposed methods, twelve challenging datasets with different properties are used and summarized in Table 3, all datasets are in the ideal case (i.e., no missing samples, samples in order), more detailed information about these datasets can be found below.

- NGs<sup>1</sup>. It is a subset of the 20 Newsgroup dataset, which consists of 500 newsgroup documents. Each raw document is pre-processed with three different methods (three views) and is classified with one of five labels.
- **BBCSport**<sup>2</sup>. It consists of 544 new sports articles in five topical areas (athletics, cricket, football, rugby, and tennis). Each sample is described by three views, and their dimensions are 2582, 2544, and 2465, respectively.
- HW<sup>3</sup>. It is a handwritten digits (0-9) dataset, which comes from the UCI repository and consists of 2000 samples. Each sample is represented by six types of features, whose dimensions are respectively 216, 76, 64, 6, 240, and 47.
- **BDGP**<sup>4</sup>. It contains 2500 Drosophila embryo samples in 5 classes. Each sample has two views with dimensions of 1000 and 500.
- CCV<sup>5</sup>. It consists of 6773 samples belonging to 20 semantic categories of YouTube videos. Each sample has three views, and the dimensions are all 20.
- Caltech101-all. It is a subset of the challenging object database Caltechall [62] dataset and contains 9144 images belonging to 102 categories. Each sample

dim HOG, 512-dim GIST and 928-dim LBP. Animal<sup>6</sup>. It consists of 11673 animal pictures belonging to 20 categories, each sample has four views.

has six types of features, i.e., 48-dim Gabor, 40dim Wavelet Moments, 254-dim CENTRIST, 1984-

- **Aloi-100**<sup>7</sup>. It is a broadly adopted small objects dataset, which consists of 11025 images of 100 small objects. Each sample is represented by four types of features: RGB, HSV, Color similarity, and Haralick features.
- NUS [63]. It is a challenging dataset of 30000 object images with 31 categories. Each sample has 5 different feature views.
- AWA<sup>8</sup>. It contains 30475 images of 50 animals and collects six common image features to form a sixfeature view of each sample.
- Noisy\_MNIST [38]. It has 50,000 samples with 2 views, where the first view is original data, and the second view is constructed by random choosing within-class images with white Gaussian noise.
- CIFAR10<sup>9</sup>: It consists of 50,000 tiny images that can be divided into ten mutually exclusive classes. Similar to [64], we extract its features from three different views.

**Baselines:** We compare the following ten state-of-the-art multi-view clustering methods with our proposed methods, including SC-best [2], GMC (2019 TKDE) [7], CoMSC (2021 TNNLS) [65], OMSC (2022 KDD) [66], RCAGL (2024 TKDE) [67], SMVSC (2021 ACM MM) [21], EOMSC-CA (2022 AAAI) [22], **t-SVD-MSC** (2018 IJCV) [26], **TLS**<sub>p</sub>**NM-MSC** (2023 TPAMI) [35], TBGL-MVC (2023 TPAMI) [38], and ARLRR-TU (2023 TPAMI) [68]. Their detailed distinguishing features are provided in Table 4.

TABLE 4: Detailed characteristics of baselines. Case #1-#3 indicate whether the corresponding algorithm has the ability to capture the high-order correlations, whether it is accelerated by employing the anchor strategy, and whether it has the ability to explicitly capture the complementary information, respectively.

| Baselines  | Computational complexity | Case# 1      | Case# 2      | Case# 3 |
|------------|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|---------|
| GMC        | $\mathcal{O}(n^2)$       | ×            | ×            | X       |
| CoMSC      | $\mathcal{O}(n)$         | X            | $\checkmark$ | X       |
| OMSC       | $\mathcal{O}(n)$         | X            | $\checkmark$ | X       |
| RCAGL      | $\mathcal{O}(n)$         | X            | $\checkmark$ | X       |
| SWVSC      | $\mathcal{O}(n)$         | X            | $\checkmark$ | X       |
| EOMSC-CA   | $\mathcal{O}(n)$         | X            | $\checkmark$ | X       |
| t-SVD-MSC  | $\mathcal{O}(n^2 log n)$ | $\checkmark$ | X            | X       |
| TLSpNM-MSC | $\mathcal{O}(n^2 log n)$ | $\checkmark$ | X            | X       |
| TBGL-MVC   | $\mathcal{O}(nlogn)$     | $\checkmark$ | $\checkmark$ | ×       |
| ARLRR-TU   | $\mathcal{O}(n^2 log n)$ | ✓            | ×            | ×       |

**Metrics:** To measure the clustering performance of our proposed algorithms, five metrics are adopted, including Accuracy (ACC), Normalized Mutual Information (NMI),

- 1. https://lig-membres.imag.fr/grimal/data.html
- 2. http://mlg.ucd.ie/datasets/segment.html
- 3. http://archive.ics.uci.edu/ml/datasets/Multiple+Features
- 4. https://www.fruitfly.org/
- 5. http://www.ee.columbia.edu/ln/dvmm/CCV/

- 6. https://github.com/wangsiwei2010/
- 7. http://elki.dbs.ifi.lmu.de/wiki/DataSets/MultiView
- 8. https://cvml.ista.ac.at/AwA/
- 9. https://www.cs.toronto.edu/kriz/cifar.html

TABLE 5: Results (mean(std)%) of our proposed methods and other compared methods on twelve datasets. 'OM' indicates the "out-of-memory error". 'NAN' means the 'not a number error'.

| Dataset            | Metric                                 | $SC_{best}$   | GMC  | CoMSC   | OMSC  | RCAGL   | SMVSC   | EOMSC<br>-CA  | t-SVD<br>-MSC   | TLS <sub>p</sub> NM<br>-MSC  | TBGL<br>-MVC   | ARLRR-TU  | ESTMC   | ESTMC-C <sup>2</sup>  |
|--------------------|--|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|---|---|---|
| NGs                | ACC                                    | 26.06(0.30)   | 98.20(0.00)  | 85.20(0.00)   | 73.80(0.00)   | 65.60(0.00)   | 74.20(0.00)   | 63.00(0.00)   | 90.00(0.00)   | 100(0.00)  | 34.20(0.00)  | 100(0.00)   | 99.60(0.00)   | 100(0.00)   |
|                    | NMI                                    | 1.84(0.15)  | 93.92(0.00)  | 64.17(0.00)   | 59.23(0.00)   | 55.45(0.00)   | 52.38(0.00)   | 46.17(0.00)   | 76.64(0.00)   | 100(0.00)  | 16.17(0.00)  | 100(0.00)   | 98.78(0.00)   | 100(0.00)   |
|                    | Purity                                 | 26.06(0.30)   | 98.20(0.00)  | 85.20(0.00)   | 73.80(0.00)   | 80.20(0.00)   | 74.20(0.00)   | 64.80(0.00)   | 90.00(0.00)   | 100(0.00)  | 34.80(0.00)  | 100(0.00)   | 99.60(0.00)   | 100(0.00)   |
|                    | F-score                                | 22.21(0.12)   | 96.43(0.00)  | 72.86(0.00)   | 65.68(0.00)   | 60.28(0.00)   | 58.31(0.00)   | 54.24(0.00)   | 82.03(0.00)   | 100(0.00)  | 25.40(0.00)  | 100(0.00)   | 99.20(0.00)   | 100(0.00)   |
|                    | ARI                                    | 0.55(0.14)  | 95.54(0.00)  | 66.09(0.00)   | 56.61(0.00)   | 49.39(0.00)   | 47.25(0.00)   | 41.30(0.00)   | 77.57(0.00)   | 100(0.00)  | 11.75(0.00)  | 100(0.00)   | 99.00(0.00)   | 100(0.00)   |
| BBCSport           | ACC                                    | 50.31(0.38)   | 80.70(0.00)  | 87.32(0.00)   | 45.22(0.00)   | 55.33(0.00)   | 52.39(0.00)   | 46.32(0.00)   | 34.74(0.00)   | 99.82(0.00)  | 54.78(0.00)  | 99.82(0.00)   | 99.82(0.00)   | 99.82(0.00)   |
|                    | NMI                                    | 21.01(0.18)   | 72.26(0.00)  | 69.03(0.00)   | 19.63(0.00)   | 40.17(0.00)   | 21.77(0.00)   | 21.57(0.00)   | 1.84(0.00)  | 99.29(0.00)  | 27.75(0.00)  | 99.38(0.00)   | 99.38(0.00)   | 99.38(0.00)   |
|                    | Purity                                 | 55.28(0.38)   | 84.38(0.00)  | 87.32(0.00)   | 51.10(0.00)   | 60.48(0.00)   | 53.68(0.00)   | 50.37(0.00)   | 23.61(0.00)   | 99.82(0.00)  | 54.96(0.00)  | 99.82(0.00)   | 99.82(0.00)   | 99.82(0.00)   |
|                    | F-score                                | 41.33(0.23)   | 79.43(0.00)  | 76.56(0.00)   | 35.57(0.00)   | 44.54(0.00)   | 38.50(0.00)   | 34.86(0.00)   | 37.86(0.00)   | 99.83(0.00)  | 47.32(0.00)  | 99.83(0.00)   | 99.83(0.00)   | 99.83(0.00)   |
|                    | ARI                                    | 15.89(0.47)   | 72.18(0.00)  | 69.63(0.00)   | 13.69(0.00)   | 27.00(0.00)   | 17.47(0.00)   | 15.04(0.00)   | 0.62(0.00)  | 99.66(0.00)  | 18.75(0.00)  | 99.77(0.00)   | 99.77(0.00)   | 99.77(0.00)   |
| нw                 | ACC                                    | 73.85(0.00)   | 88.20(0.00)  | 77.45(0.00)   | 80.80(0.00)   | 87.75(0.00)   | 82.05(0.00)   | 76.00(0.00)   | 100(0.00)   | 99.95(0.00)  | 100(0.00)  | 99.90(0.00)   | 99.80(0.00)   | 100(0.00)   |
|                    | NMI                                    | 69.92(0.00)   | 89.32(0.00)  | 74.98(0.00)   | 77.42(0.00)   | 80.61(0.00)   | 78.86(0.00)   | 77.89(0.00)   | 100(0.00)   | 99.86(0.00)  | 100(0.00)  | 99.72(0.00)   | 99.51(0.00)   | 100(0.00)   |
|                    | Purity                                 | 73.85(0.00)   | 88.20(0.00)  | 78.45(0.00)   | 80.80(0.00)   | 87.75(0.00)   | 82.05(0.00)   | 76.20(0.00)   | 100(0.00)   | 99.95(0.00)  | 100(0.00)  | 99.90(0.00)   | 99.80(0.00)   | 100(0.00)   |
|                    | F-score                                | 65.27(0.00)   | 86.53(0.00)  | 70.08(0.00)   | 73.42(0.00)   | 78.08(0.00)   | 75.25(0.00)   | 73.42(0.00)   | 100(0.00)   | 99.90(0.00)  | 100(0.00)  | 99.79(0.00)   | 99.60(0.00)   | 100(0.00)   |
|                    | ARI                                    | 61.20(0.00)   | 84.96(0.00)  | 66.66(0.00)   | 70.27(0.00)   | 75.61(0.00)   | 72.34(0.00)   | 69.94(0.00)   | 100(0.00)   | 99.89(0.00)  | 100(0.00)  | 99.78(0.00)   | 99.56(0.00)   | 100(0.00)   |
| BDGP               | ACC                                    | 32.11(0.03)   | 13.96(0.00)  | 58.92(0.00)   | 63.80(0.00)   | 56.48(0.00)   | 65.52(0.00)   | 43.64(0.00)   | 48.20(0.06)   | 96.76(0.00)  | NAN  | 60.68(0.00)   | 98.56(0.00)   | 98.60(0.00)   |
|                    | NMI                                    | 8.02(0.01)  | 19.40(0.00)  | 37.55(0.00)   | 36.18(0.00)   | 38.30(0.00)   | 37.36(0.00)   | 20.26(0.00)   | 3.46(0.08)  | 89.47(0.00)  | NAN  | 44.56(0.00)   | 95.40(0.00)   | 95.63(0.00)   |
|                    | Purity                                 | 35.09(0.03)   | 71.08(0.00)  | 61.28(0.00)   | 63.80(0.00)   | 57.92(0.00)   | 65.52(0.00)   | 47.08(0.00)   | 39.83(0.08)   | 96.76(0.00)  | NAN  | 62.24(0.00)   | 98.56(0.00)   | 98.60(0.00)   |
|                    | F-score                                | 28.03(0.01)   | 20.34(0.00)  | 49.77(0.00)   | 45.94(0.00)   | 45.95(0.00)   | 47.58(0.00)   | 32.99(0.00)   | 40.05(0.09)   | 93.66(0.00)  | NAN  | 50.79(0.00)   | 97.14(0.00)   | 97.22(0.00)   |
|                    | ARI                                    | 5.66(0.01)  | 2.10(0.00)   | 36.53(0.00)   | 31.82(0.00)   | 32.16(0.00)   | 33.45(0.00)   | 12.44(0.00)   | 24.99(0.08)   | 92.08(0.00)  | NAN  | 37.04(0.00)   | 96.42(0.00)   | 96.52(0.00)   |
| CCV                | ACC                                    | 13.52(0.30)   | 10.63(0.00)  | 16.92(0.00)   | 24.02(0.00)   | 24.42(0.00)   | 22.06(0.00)   | 24.32(0.00)   | 47.87(0.06)   | 59.99(0.00)  | 14.6(0.00)   | 30.65(0.00)   | 74.58(0.00)   | 75.05(0.00)   |
|                    | NMI                                    | 9.40(0.12)  | 0.38(0.00)   | 12.28(0.00)   | 18.55(0.00)   | 19.05(0.00)   | 15.88(0.00)   | 18.59(0.00)   | 41.37(0.03)   | 52.53(0.00)  | 6.79(0.00)   | 22.17(0.00)   | 73.63(0.00)   | 72.13(0.00)   |
|                    | Purity                                 | 17.37(0.19)   | 10.79(0.00)  | 19.78(0.00)   | 26.89(0.00)   | 26.25(0.00)   | 25.14(0.00)   | 26.68(0.00)   | 49.86(0.07)   | 61.54(0.00)  | 16.52(0.00)  | 33.00(0.00)   | 75.49(0.00)   | 77.37(0.00)   |
|                    | F-score                                | 8.51(0.16)  | 10.86(0.00)  | 10.41(0.00)   | 13.84(0.00)   | 13.70(0.00)   | 13.14(0.00)   | 13.99(0.00)   | 33.47(0.07)   | 45.41(0.00)  | 6.2(0.00)  | 16.73(0.00)   | 65.97(0.00)   | 60.61(0.00)   |
|                    | ARI                                    | 3.13(0.16)  | 0.02(0.00)   | 4.84(0.00)  | 8.37(0.00)  | 8.22(0.00)  | 7.35(0.00)  | 8.52(0.00)  | 29.65(0.04)   | 42.25(0.00)  | 0.92(0.00)   | 11.94(0.00)   | 64.00(0.00)   | 58.29(0.00)   |
| Caltech<br>101-all | ACC<br>NMI<br>Purity<br>F-score<br>ARI | 19.5(0.65)<br>40.44(0.38)<br>40.34(0.46)<br>15.01(0.76)<br>13.47(0.77)  | 19.50(0.00)<br>23.79(0.00)<br>30.12(0.00)<br>4.96(0.00)<br>-0.42(0.00) | 14.09(0.00)<br>31.83(0.00)<br>28.41(0.00)<br>8.65(0.00)<br>7.28(0.00) | 34.43(0.00)<br>40.90(0.00)<br>37.24(0.00)<br>25.26(0.00)<br>21.76(0.00) | 37.34(0.00)<br>47.84(0.00)<br>56.14(0.00)<br>25.55(0.00)<br>22.22(0.00) | 32.16(0.00)<br>40.57(0.00)<br>39.57(0.00)<br>30.01(0.00)<br>27.68(0.00) | 24.70(0.00)<br>21.09(0.00)<br>27.64(0.00)<br>14.19(0.00)<br>10.02(0.00)       | 47.39(1.28)<br>71.26(0.50)<br>68.76(0.87)<br>32.84(1.21)<br>31.65(1.23) | 62.99(0.00)<br>84.80(0.00)<br>83.40(0.00)<br>49.02(0.00)<br>48.1(0.00) | 20(0.00)<br>18.76(0.00)<br>24.51(0.00)<br>3.09(0.00)<br>0.55(0.00) | 62.92(0.00)<br><b>87.96(0.00)</b><br><b>86.77(0.00)</b><br>46.77(0.00)<br>45.91(0.00) | 58.76(0.00)<br>83.33(0.00)<br>83.03(0.00)<br>44.04(0.00)<br>43.14(0.00) | 64.90(0.00)<br>85.19(0.00)<br>85.14(0.00)<br>49.38(0.00)<br>48.49(0.00) |
| Aloi-100           | ACC                                    | 64.61(1.20)   | 65.28(0.00)  | 69.79(0.00)   | 35.34(0.00)   | 41.56(0.00)   | 34.35(0.00)   | 22.48(0.00)   | 71.99(1.44)   | 83.59(0.00)  | 66.1(0.00)   | 84.44(0.00)   | 83.81(0.00)   | 89.45(0.00)   |
|                    | NMI                                    | 80.03(0.37)   | 81.27(0.00)  | 82.52(0.00)   | 68.39(0.00)   | 65.71(0.00)   | 60.99(0.00)   | 56.19(0.00)   | 83.92(0.43)   | 90.89(0.00)  | 69.25(0.00)  | 92.25(0.00)   | 92.97(0.00)   | 94.31(0.00)   |
|                    | Purity                                 | 67.32(0.85)   | 51.59(0.00)  | 71.66(0.00)   | 36.40(0.00)   | 80.15(0.00)   | 35.58(0.00)   | 23.47(0.00)   | 58.03(1.56)   | 85.26(0.00)  | 67.41(0.00)  | 86.24(0.00)   | 86.54(0.00)   | 90.39(0.00)   |
|                    | F-score                                | 55.04(1.26)   | 57.12(0.00)  | 58.16(0.00)   | 19.30(0.00)   | 8.85(0.00)  | 21.58(0.00)   | 8.51(0.00)  | 62.12(1.11)   | 75.15(0.00)  | 6.81(0.00)   | 77.91(0.00)   | 80.41(0.00)   | 84.91(0.00)   |
|                    | ARI                                    | 54.52(1.29)   | 56.65(0.00)  | 57.7(0.00)  | 17.90(0.00)   | 7.13(0.00)  | 20.39(0.00)   | 6.76(0.00)  | 61.71(1.13)   | 77.5(0.00)   | 10.74(0.00)  | 79.76(0.00)   | 80.21(0.00)   | 84.76(0.00)   |
| Animal             | ACC<br>NMI<br>Purity<br>F-score<br>ARI | 14.44(0.17)<br>10.48(0.15)<br>17.82(0.15)<br>9.14(0.15)<br>3.19(0.07)   | 9.99(0.00)<br>1.17(0.00)<br>10.09(0.00)<br>11.07(0.00)<br>0.04(0.00)   | 13.08(0.00)<br>8.81(0.00)<br>16.57(0.00)<br>8.29(0.00)<br>2.95(0.00)  | 19.07(0.00)<br>15.86(0.00)<br>21.82(0.00)<br>14.17(0.00)<br>8.33(0.00)  | 23.05(0.00)   | 19.49(0.00)<br>15.72(0.00)<br>21.34(0.00)<br>14.89(0.00)<br>8.35(0.00)  | 18.87(0.00)<br>14.80(0.00)<br>21.37(0.00)<br>13.82(0.00)<br>6.99(0.00)        | 16.77(0.10)<br>12.56(0.06)<br>20.03(0.07)<br>10.40(0.05)<br>4.56(0.04)  | 25.28(0.00)<br>19.14(0.00)<br>27.29(0.00)<br>14.04(0.00)<br>9.86(0.00) | 9.16(0.00)<br>0.17(0.00)<br>9.21(0.00)<br>5.86(0.00)<br>0(0.00)    | 71.90(0.00)<br>62.94(0.00)<br>72.99(0.00)<br>59.58(0.00)<br>57.21(0.00)               | 92.25(0.00)<br>91.62(0.00)<br>93.40(0.00)<br>89.09(0.00)<br>88.44(0.00) | 92.28(0.00)<br>91.65(0.00)<br>93.43(0.00)<br>89.14(0.00)<br>88.50(0.00) |
| NUS                | ACC<br>NMI<br>Purity<br>F-score<br>ARI | 11.50(0.31)<br>10.73(0.15)<br>24.22(0.28)<br>8.27(0.20)<br>4.10(0.17)   | OM<br>OM<br>OM<br>OM<br>OM   | OM<br>OM<br>OM<br>OM<br>OM  | 19.93(0.00)<br>12.78(0.00)<br>23.46(0.00)<br>13.25(0.00)<br>6.27(0.00)  |   | 18.44(0.00)<br>11.77(0.00)<br>22.97(0.00)<br>12.30(0.00)<br>6.02(0.00)  | 19.51(0.00)<br>12.68(0.00)<br>23.94(0.00)<br><b>13.76(0.00)</b><br>6.92(0.00) | OM<br>OM<br>OM<br>OM<br>OM  | OM<br>OM<br>OM<br>OM<br>OM   | OM<br>OM<br>OM<br>OM<br>OM   | OM<br>OM<br>OM<br>OM<br>OM  | 15.44(0.00)<br>13.09(0.00)<br>24.67(0.00)<br>9.45(0.00)<br>5.36(0.00)   | 21.07(0.00)<br>20.17(0.00)<br>30.73(0.00)<br>12.33(0.00)<br>8.38(0.00)  |
| AWA                | ACC                                    | 8.81(0.15)  | OM   | OM  | 9.76(0.00)  | 9.63(0.00)  | 9.30(0.00)  | 8.70(0.00)  | OM  | OM   | OM   | OM  | 92.4(0.00)  | 93.82(0.00)   |
|                    | NMI                                    | 9.38(0.05)  | OM   | OM  | 11.55(0.00)   | 12.03(0.00)   | 10.63(0.00)   | 8.75(0.00)  | OM  | OM   | OM   | OM  | 94.89(0.00)   | 95.87(0.00)   |
|                    | Purity                                 | 10.85(0.11)   | OM   | OM  | 10.54(0.00)   | 15.93(0.00)   | 10.18(0.00)   | 9.40(0.00)  | OM  | OM   | OM   | OM  | 95.85(0.00)   | 96.29(0.00)   |
|                    | F-score                                | 4.39(0.05)  | OM   | OM  | 6.27(0.00)  | 5.30(0.00)  | 6.12(0.00)  | 5.99(0.00)  | OM  | OM   | OM   | OM  | 91.01(0.00)   | 93.36(0.00)   |
|                    | ARI                                    | 2.08(0.03)  | OM   | OM  | 2.73(0.00)  | 2.66(0.00)  | 2.83(0.00)  | 2.53(0.00)  | OM  | OM   | OM   | OM  | 90.8(0.00)  | 93.20(0.00)   |
| CIFAR10            | ACC<br>NMI<br>Purity<br>F-score<br>ARI | 90.70(0.01)<br>80.53(0.01)<br>90.70(0.01)<br>82.68(0.01)<br>80.75(0.01) | OM<br>OM<br>OM<br>OM<br>OM   | OM<br>OM<br>OM<br>OM<br>OM  | 98.99(0.00)<br>97.31(0.00)<br>98.99(0.00)<br>98.01(0.00)<br>97.79(0.00) | 98.98(0.00)<br>97.29(0.00)<br>98.98(0.00)<br>98.00(0.00)<br>97.78(0.00) | 98.85(0.00)   | 99.08(0.00)<br>97.48(0.00)<br>99.08(0.00)<br>98.18(0.00)<br>97.97(0.00)       | OM<br>OM<br>OM<br>OM<br>OM  | OM<br>OM<br>OM<br>OM<br>OM   | OM<br>OM<br>OM<br>OM<br>OM   | OM<br>OM<br>OM<br>OM<br>OM  | 100(0.00)<br>100(0.00)<br>100(0.00)<br>100(0.00)<br>100(0.00)           | 100(0.00)<br>100(0.00)<br>100(0.00)<br>100(0.00)<br>100(0.00)           |
| Noisy_<br>MNIST    | ACC<br>NMI<br>Purity<br>F-score<br>ARI | 62.82(2.97)<br>62.80(1.69)<br>69.10(1.31)<br>56.66(2.29)<br>51.58(2.69) | OM<br>OM<br>OM<br>OM<br>OM   | OM<br>OM<br>OM<br>OM<br>OM  | 59.49(0.00)<br>49.35(0.00)<br>61.01(0.00)<br>47.78(0.00)<br>41.66(0.00) | 52.00(0.00)<br>46.39(0.00)<br>56.00(0.00)<br>44.10(0.00)<br>37.68(0.00) | 60.28(0.00)<br>51.89(0.00)<br>60.95(0.00)<br>49.24(0.00)<br>43.14(0.00) | 58.65(0.00)<br>49.08(0.00)<br>58.83(0.00)<br>46.72(0.00)<br>40.44(0.00)       | OM<br>OM<br>OM<br>OM<br>OM  | OM<br>OM<br>OM<br>OM<br>OM   | OM<br>OM<br>OM<br>OM<br>OM   | OM<br>OM<br>OM<br>OM<br>OM  | 98.78(0.00)<br>97.18(0.00)<br>98.78(0.00)<br>97.59(0.00)<br>97.32(0.00) | 99.56(0.00)<br>98.81(0.00)<br>99.56(0.00)<br>99.13(0.00)<br>99.04(0.00) |

Purity, F-score, and the Adjusted Rand index (ARI). All the metrics indicate better performance with larger values.

**Parameter Setting:** For our proposed methods, three trade-off parameters need to be tuned, we set the value ranges of  $\lambda$ ,  $\beta$ ,  $\alpha$  to  $[10^{-6},10^{-5},\cdots,1]$ . For the anchor space, the dimension l and anchor number t are both set to the number of classes c. Due to the varying parameter ranges of the different non-convex approximation functions, our proposed ESTMC and ESTMC-C<sup>2</sup> adopt ETR with  $\delta = \{10^{-2},10^{-1},1\}$ , more non-convex surrogate functions will

be discussed in the ablation part. For all the baselines, their related parameters are tuned with the ranges suggested in the original paper and the best results are shown. Since most algorithmic codes employ fixed random numbers, all methods in the experiment are run 10 times and the average is reported.

## 5.2 Clustering Results

The results of proposed ESTMC and ESTMC-C<sup>2</sup> and all baselines are shown in Table 5 and Table 6, where the **best** 

TABLE 6: Average running time (sec.) comparison of multi-view clustering methods under datasets with more than 6,000 samples.' OM' indicates the "out-of-memory error".

| Dataset        | GMC    | CoMSC    | OMSC    | RCAGL  | SMVSC   | EOMSC<br>-CA | t-SVD<br>-MSC | TLS <sub>p</sub> NM<br>-MSC | TBGL<br>-MVC | ARLRR-TU | ESTMC  | ESTMC-C <sup>2</sup> |
|----------------|--------|----------|---------|--------|---------|--------------|---------------|-----------------------------|--------------|----------|--------|----------------------|
| CCV            | 476.03 | 95.58    | 42.73   | 15.96  | 105.01  | 13.51        | 2630.27       | 2459.58                     | 2600.69      | 2438.34  | 4.17   | 4.81                 |
| Caltech101-all | 461.73 | 1549.456 | 2961.70 | 92.07  | 980.71  | 53.56        | 13840.56      | 31219.72                    | 18259.95     | 17385.06 | 125.37 | 107.5                |
| Aloi-100       | 633.14 | 748.9917 | 914.05  | 56.80  | 658.18  | 86.38        | 14494.13      | 64684.79                    | 42223.69     | 12010.17 | 41.85  | 42.36                |
| Animal         | 676.36 | 483.443  | 134.07  | 55.71  | 136.19  | 29.63        | 16332.87      | 35213.18                    | 39613.85     | 21256.57 | 198.40 | 150.39               |
| NUS            | OM     | OM       | 432.21  | 355.34 | 429.65  | 106.52       | OM            | OM                          | OM           | OM       | 66.02  | 102.85               |
| AWA            | OM     | OM       | 4044.14 | 288.13 | 1985.10 | 71.41        | OM            | OM                          | OM           | OM       | 633.55 | 730.72               |
| CIFAR10        | OM     | OM       | 490.66  | 117.53 | 547.36  | 97.29        | OM            | OM                          | OM           | OM       | 286.73 | 250.07               |
| Noisy_MNIST    | OM     | OM       | 496.10  | 109.35 | 528.41  | 99.57        | OM            | OM                          | OM           | OM       | 130.19 | 118.41               |

and <u>second best</u> values in all algorithms are denoted by bold values and underlined values, respectively. ESTMC-ETR is ESTMC using the proposed tensor rank ETR. From all the results, we have the following observations.

From a global perspective, ESTMC-ETR and ESTMC-C<sup>2</sup> show commendable performance on all datasets. More importantly, ESTMC-ETR stands out with optimal results on the CIFAR10 dataset, while ESTMC-C<sup>2</sup> obtains the ideal clustering results on three distinct datasets (i.e., NGs, HW, and CIFAR10). Notably, our proposed methods significantly enhance performance on challenging datasets, such as AWA, where they both obtain over an 80% improvement in all five metrics (ACC, NMI, Purity, F-score, and ARI) compared to competing algorithms. On the Animal dataset, ESTMC-C<sup>2</sup> reaches the best performance and gains significant improvements over ARLRR-TU over five metrics, i.e., 20.38%, 28.71%, 20.44%, 29.56%, and 31.29%. Furthermore, our proposed algorithms can effectively handle these large-scale datasets (AWA, NUS, CIFAR10, and Noisy\_MNIST) with limited resources compared to existing tensor algorithms.

Then, in our detailed analysis of Table 5, we observed the following observations:

- 1) The single-view spectral clustering (SC-best) is inferior to multi-view clustering algorithms in most cases. The reason for this phenomenon may be that multi-view clustering methods can exploit consistent and complementary information among the views to obtain a clear clustering structure. In contrast, single-view spectral clustering relies solely on one view, limiting its performance.
- 2) Tensor-based approaches, such as  $TLS_pNM-MSC$ , ARLRR-TU, and ESTMC- $C^2$ , demonstrate better performances than matrix-oriented approaches on most datasets. This is attributed to the ability of tensor-based methods to capture high-order correlation, enhancing the learning of consistent clustering structures across views, which matrix-oriented methods cannot achieve.
- 3) Although our proposed ESTMC framework and TBGL-MVC are all anchor-based methods, ESTMC shows consistently competitive results on different datasets. For example, on NGs, BBCSport, and HW datasets, the clustering stability of TBGL-MVC is inferior to ESTMC. This is mainly because ESTMC combines anchor learning and low-rank representation learning into a unified framework to learn the optimal anchors and the optimal representations simultaneously, thus the sub-optimal solution problem caused by the pre-selected anchor method is avoided.
- 4) The proposed ESTMC-C<sup>2</sup> presents superior performances than other tensor-based methods on all datasets.

Especially compared to ESTMC, which uses a similar framework, the clustering results on most of the datasets are improved. For example, on the Caltech101-all dataset, ESTMC- $\rm C^2$  gains significant improvements around 6.14%, 1.86%, 2.11%, 5.34%, 5.35% of five metrics, respectively. This is because complementary information captured by ESTMC- $\rm C^2$  can significantly improve the discriminability of some special samples like boundary samples.

Based on the runtime results in Table 6, additional insights include:

- 1) Compared to other tensor-based methods (t-SVD-MVC,  $TLS_pNM$ -MSC), our proposed ESTMC and ESTMC-C² both have the ability to efficiently handle large-scale datasets. This is because the anchor representation strategy can reduce the computational complexity of tensor-related operations from  $\mathcal{O}(n^2)$  to  $\mathcal{O}(nlog(n))$ . More importantly, the storage complexity of proposed ESTMC and ESTMC-C² is  $\mathcal{O}(n)$ , which is much lower than  $\mathcal{O}(n^2)$  in tensor-based methods.
- 2) Although TBGL-MVC is also an anchor-based method, the number of anchors is much higher than that in our ESTMC and ESTMC-C<sup>2</sup> and the storage complexity reaches  $\mathcal{O}(n^2)$ , thus limiting its performance and efficiency on large-scale datasets.
- 3) Despite ESTMC and ESTMC-C<sup>2</sup> taking a little longer time as compared with the anchor-based and matrix-oriented methods, e.g., EOMSC-CA, OMSC, RCAGL, and SMVSC, they show excellent performance that significantly beats these methods on all challenging datasets. This shows that the combination of anchor strategy and low-rank tensor learning strategy can achieve both efficiency and accuracy.

## 5.3 Ablation Study

Influence of different non-convex surrogate functions: To investigate the impact of various non-convex functions, we instantiated the proposed GNTR in ESTMC with four popular forms (e.g.,  $\ell_{\delta}$ -norm, Gemana, Laplace, and our proposed ETR), which are named ESTMC- $\ell_{\delta}$ , ESTMC-Gem, ESTMC-Lap and ESTMC-ETR, respectively. Their parameter ranges are all set to  $[10^{-3}, 10^{-2}, \cdots, 10]$ . Meanwhile, in order to demonstrate the difference between the non-convex function and the traditional TNN, the TNN-based variant ESTMC-TNN is also constructed. We compare the clustering performance of all variants on NGs, BBCSport, HW, BDGP, CCV, Caltech101-all, and Aloi-100 datasets. The clustering results are given in Table 7. It is observed that the methods using non-convex functions (i.e., ESTMC-ETR, ESTMC- $\ell_{\delta}$ ,

TABLE 7: Clustering performance with different surrogate functions of rank.

| Variants               | NGs   |       |        | BBCSport |       | HW     |       | BDGP  |        |       | Aloi-100 |        |       |       |        |
|------------------------|-------|-------|--------|----------|-------|--------|-------|-------|--------|-------|----------|--------|-------|-------|--------|
|                        | ACC   | MNI   | Purity | ACC      | MNI   | Purity | ACC   | MNI   | Purity | ACC   | MNI      | Purity | ACC   | MNI   | Purity |
| ESTMC-TNN              | 98.80 | 96.39 | 98.80  | 96.14    | 88.43 | 96.14  | 99.45 | 98.64 | 99.45  | 97.76 | 93.46    | 97.76  | 78.33 | 90.21 | 80.06  |
| ESTMC- $\ell_{\delta}$ | 99.40 | 97.91 | 99.40  | 99.26    | 97.43 | 99.26  | 99.70 | 99.18 | 99.70  | 98.60 | 95.51    | 98.60  | 82.36 | 92.43 | 85.14  |
| ESTMC-Gem              | 99.20 | 97.21 | 99.20  | 98.16    | 93.78 | 98.16  | 99.20 | 98.17 | 99.20  | 98.56 | 95.40    | 98.56  | 84.69 | 93.11 | 87.00  |
| ESTMC-Lap              | 99.40 | 97.91 | 99.40  | 99.26    | 97.23 | 99.26  | 99.70 | 99.18 | 99.70  | 97.64 | 93.37    | 97.64  | 83.31 | 92.75 | 85.97  |
| ESTMC-ETR              | 99.60 | 98.78 | 99.60  | 99.82    | 99.38 | 99.82  | 99.80 | 99.51 | 99.80  | 98.56 | 95.40    | 98.56  | 83.81 | 92.97 | 86.54  |

ESTMC-Gem and ESTMC-Lap) outperform ESTMC-TNN in most cases, The reason for this is that low-rank constraints based on non-convex approximation functions provide appropriate penalty strengths for singular values of different sizes, thus ensuring that the main structure of the data is not corrupted. ESTMC-ETR, ESTMC- $\ell_{\delta}$ , ESTMC-Gem, and ESTMC-Lap show satisfactory performance on these datasets, the clustering performances (ACC, NMI, Purity) differ within 2%. From the details, different non-convex approximation functions achieve the best clustering performance on specific datasets, for example, our proposed ETR on the NGs, BBCSport, and HW datasets, and ESTMC-Gem based on the Geman function on the Aloi-100 dataset. This phenomenon suggests that low-rank constraints based on different non-convex approximation functions can well capture the low-rank structure of multi-view data and that different functions have their different application areas.

TABLE 8: Ablation study on eight datasets (ACC(%)).

| Dataset        | w/o TER | w/o CGR | w/o CS | ESTMC-C <sup>2</sup> |
|----------------|---------|---------|--------|----------------------|
| NGs            | 99.80   | 100     | 93.80  | 100                  |
| BBCSport       | 98.90   | 99.82   | 99.82  | 99.82                |
| НŴ             | 97.60   | 99.50   | 99.70  | 100                  |
| BDGP           | 98.32   | 98.50   | 98.52  | 98.6                 |
| CCV            | 72.30   | 71.90   | 65.20  | 75.05                |
| Caltech101-all | 59.10   | 49.22   | 61.83  | 64.9                 |
| Aloi-100       | 81.06   | 85.19   | 86.61  | 89.45                |
| Animal         | 88.97   | 92.26   | 89.19  | 92.28                |

Influence of TER, CGR, and Concatenation-fusion **Strategy:** The ESTMC-C<sup>2</sup> model has three important components: Tensorial Exclusive Regularization (TER), Consistent Geometric Regularization (CGR) and the Concatenationfusion Strategy (CS). To demonstrate the effectiveness of ESTMC-C<sup>2</sup>, we conduct the comparison experiments on eight datasets (NGs, BBCSport, HW, BDGP, CCV, Caltech101-all, Aloi-100, and Animal), systematically removing each component while retaining the other, resulting in variants labeled as w/o TER, w/o CGR, and w/o CS. As depicted in Table 8, ESTMC-C<sup>2</sup> consistently outperforms those variants. This is due to its ability to capture both complementary and consistent information across views, making it adaptable to diverse datasets with varying distributions. The performance of those variants varies across datasets, For example, they achieve satisfactory results on BBCSport and BDGP datasets, but their performance is less effective on the Caltech101-all dataset. This discrepancy can be attributed to the roles of CGR and TER in capturing nonlinear structures and view-specific information. On datasets with clear sample distributions, these regular terms have minimal impact. However, they prove beneficial in assisting

clustering on more complex datasets with chaotic sample distributions, by providing comprehensive information.

# 5.4 Model Analysis

Effect of the Number of Anchors: We conducted an empirical analysis to investigate the influence of anchor numbers on the proposed ESTMC and ESTMC- $C^2$ . By setting the range of t as  $\{c, 2c, 3c, \cdots, 8c\}$ , where c is the number of clusters, we examined the clustering metrics (ACC and NMI) on five datasets. As shown in Fig. 5, the results indicate that the choice of anchor numbers has a minimal impact on the clustering performance of models. Both ESTMC and ESTMC- $C^2$  exhibit consistently satisfactory performance regardless of the parameter t. This happens because when the number of anchors exceeds or equals the number of clusters, the anchors learned by our proposed models can cover all the samples well. Consequently, in practical experiments, fixing the number of anchors at c can be employed to alleviate the burden of parameter tuning during training.

Parameters Analysis: In our proposed ESTMC-C<sup>2</sup>, there are three balance parameters  $\lambda$ ,  $\beta$  and  $\alpha$ . we empirically employ the grid search strategy to determine the optimal parameters in each data set, where the search range for all parameters is  $\{10^{-6}, 10^{-5}, \dots, 1\}$ . Fig. 6 shows the effect of varying parameters on clustering performance (ACC and NMI) over five datasets (NGs, BBCSport, HW, BDGP, and CCV). We can observe that the performance of the proposed ESTMC-C<sup>2</sup> is relatively insensitive to these three parameters in certain ranges. Since determining the optimal parameters remains an open challenge for unsupervised clustering, it is not necessary to determine the exact value of each parameter, but rather to select a small range of parameters. So the search range for these three parameters can be narrowed down, where the range of  $\lambda$ ,  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ can be set to  $\{10^{-4}, 10^{-3}, \dots, 10^{-1}\}, \{10^{-2}, 10^{-1}, 1\},$  and  $\{10^{-6}, 10^{-5}, \cdots, 10^{-3}\}$ , respectively.

**Convergence Analysis:** The convergence of ESTMC and ESTMC- $C^2$  has been proved in the previous section and is guaranteed by the Theorem 3. In this section, we use the stopping criteria to further verify the stability of our algorithms and the stopping criteria used here are Reconstruction Error (RE) and Match Error (ME) [26]:  $RE = \max_{v} \|\mathbf{X}^v - \mathbf{X}^v \mathbf{Z}^v - \mathbf{E}^v\|_{\infty}$  and  $ME = \|\mathcal{Z} - \mathcal{G}\|_{\infty}$ , respectively. We show the variation curves of these two stopping criteria on four datasets, which are shown in Fig. 7. The values of RE and ME drop rapidly to 0 and remain stable on all datasets, and the number of iterations on these datasets is within 25 steps, indicating the excellent convergence of our algorithms.

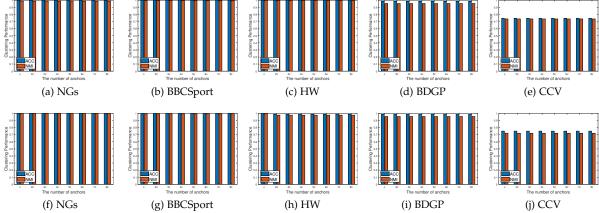


Fig. 5: The performance (i.e., ACC and NMI) of our proposed methods on five datasets by varying the number of anchors. (a)-(e) are variation curves for ESTMC, (f) - (j) for ESTMC- $C^2$ .

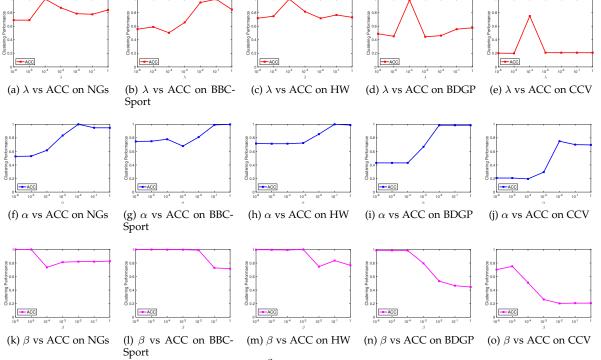


Fig. 6: Parameter sensitivity analysis of ESTMC-C<sup>2</sup> on five datasets in terms of ACC. (a)-(e)  $\lambda$ , (f)-(j)  $\alpha$ , (k)-(o)  $\beta$ .

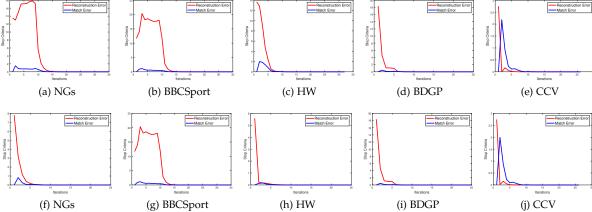


Fig. 7: Convergence Analysis: The stop criteria (i.e., RE and ME) variation curves on five datasets. (a)-(e) are convergence curves for ESTMC, (f) - (j) for ESTMC- $C^2$ .

## 6 CONCLUSION

In this paper, we first propose an efficient and scalable framework (ESTMC) for subspace-based TMC tasks. ESTMC integrates anchor representation learning and nonconvex function-based low-rank tensor learning with a generalized tensor rank (GNTR) into a unified framework, advancing the capabilities of traditional TMC methods on large-scale datasets. To further boost its capacity, we develop a specialized model, ESTMC-C<sup>2</sup>, which employs three distinct regularizations (ETR, CGR, and TER) to explicitly promote both consistency and complementarity across views. Efficient algorithms are designed to solve our objectives, which have both resource-saving complexity and strict convergence. Extensive experiments on twelve challenging datasets indicate the effectiveness of our proposed models.

## **APPENDIX**

#### **PROOF OF THEOREM 3**

Since the proof procedures for  $\{\mathcal{L}_{1(k)}\}_{k=1}^{\infty}$  and  $\{\mathcal{L}_{2(k)}\}_{k=1}^{\infty}$  are similar, we just present the detailed proof of  $\{\mathcal{L}_{1(k)}\}_{k=1}^{\infty}$ , we first introduce two important lemmas.

**Lemma 2** [69] Let  $\mathcal{H}$  be a real Hilbert space endowed with an inner product  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ , a norm  $\| \cdot \|$  with the dual norm  $\| \cdot \|^{dual}$ , and  $y \in \partial \|x\|$ , where  $\partial f(\cdot)$  is the subgradient of  $f(\cdot)$ . Then we have  $\|y\|^{dual} = 1$  if  $x \neq 0$ , and  $\|y\|^{dual} \leq 1$  if x = 0.

**Lemma 3** [70] Suppose that  $F: \mathbb{R}^{m \times n} \to \mathbb{R}$  is defined as  $F(\mathbf{X}) = f \circ \sigma(\mathbf{X}) = f(\sigma_1(\mathbf{X}), \dots, \sigma_r(\mathbf{X}))$ , where  $\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{U}Diag(\sigma(\mathbf{X}))\mathbf{V}^T$  is SVD of matrix  $X \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}, r = \min(m, n)$ , and  $f(\cdot): \mathbb{R}^r \to \mathbb{R}$  be differentiable and absolutely symmetric at  $\sigma(\mathbf{X})$ . Then, the subdifferential of  $F(\mathbf{X})$  at  $\mathbf{X}$  is

$$\frac{\partial F(\mathbf{X})}{\partial \mathbf{X}} = \mathbf{U} Diag(\partial f(\boldsymbol{\sigma}(\mathbf{X}))) \mathbf{V}^{T}, \tag{37}$$

where 
$$\partial f(\sigma(\mathbf{X})) = (\frac{\partial f(\sigma_1(\mathbf{x}))}{\partial \mathbf{X}}), \dots, \frac{\partial f(\sigma_r(\mathbf{x}))}{\partial \mathbf{X}}).$$

**Proof** 1). Proof of 1st part: On the k+1 iteration, from the updating rule of  $\mathbf{E}_{(k+1)}$ , the first-order optimal condition should be satisfied.

$$0 = \lambda \partial \|\mathbf{E}_{(k+1)}\|_{2,1} + \mu_k(\mathbf{E}_{(k+1)} - \hat{\mathbf{E}}), \tag{38}$$

where  $\mathbf{E}_{(k+1)}=[\mathbf{E}_{(k+1)}^1,\cdots,\mathbf{E}_{(k+1)}^m]^T$ . With the updating rule of  $\mathbf{Y}_{(k+1)}^v$ :

$$\mathbf{Y}_{(k+1)}^{v} = \mathbf{Y}_{(k)}^{v} + \mu(\mathbf{X}^{v} - \mathbf{Z}_{anc(k+1)}^{v} \mathbf{A}_{(k+1)} \mathbf{P}_{(k+1)}^{v} - \mathbf{E}_{(k+1)}^{v}),$$
(39)

we obtain  $\hat{\mathbf{E}} = [\mathbf{Y}_{(k+1)}^1, \cdots, \mathbf{Y}_{(k+1)}^m]^T$ .

Then, from the definition of  $\ell_{2,1}$  norm, the following equation can be derived,

$$\frac{1}{\lambda} [\mathbf{Y}_{(k+1)}^v]_{:,j} = \partial \left\| [\mathbf{E}_{(k+1)}^v]_{:,j} \right\|_2, \tag{40}$$

where  $[\mathbf{Y}^v_{(k+1)}]_{:,j}$  and  $[\mathbf{E}^v_{(k+1)}]_{:,j}$  are the j-th columns of  $\mathbf{Y}^v_{(k+1)}$  and  $\mathbf{E}^v_{(k+1)}$ . And the  $\ell_2$  norm is self-dual, so based on the Lemma 2,  $\left\|\frac{1}{\lambda}[\mathbf{Y}^v_{(k+1)}]_{:,j}\right\|_2 \leq 1$ , which means that the sequence  $\{\mathbf{Y}^v_{(k+1)}\}_{k=1}^\infty$  is bounded.

Then, to prove the sequence  $\{W_{(k+1)}\}_{k=1}^{\infty}$  is bounded. We obtain the first-order optimality condition of  $\mathcal{G}$  in the updating rule,

$$\partial \|\mathcal{G}_{(k+1)}\|_{GNTR} = \mathcal{W}_{(k)} + \mu_k(\mathcal{Z}_{(k+1)} - \mathcal{G}_{(k+1)}) = \mathcal{W}_{(k+1)}.$$
(41)

Let  $\mathcal{U} * \mathcal{S} * \mathcal{V}^T$  be the t-SVD of tensor  $\mathcal{G}$ . According to the Lemma 3 and Definition 3,

$$\left\|\partial \left\|\mathcal{G}_{(k+1)}\right\|_{GNTR}\right\|_{F}^{2}$$

$$= \left\|\frac{1}{n_{3}}\mathcal{U}*ifft(\partial \psi(\mathcal{S}_{f},\delta),[],3)*\mathcal{V}^{T}\right\|_{F}^{2}$$

$$= \frac{1}{n_{3}^{3}}\left\|\partial \psi(\mathcal{S}_{f},\delta)\right\|_{F}^{2}$$

$$\leq \frac{1}{n_{3}^{3}}\sum_{i=1}^{n_{3}}\sum_{j=1}^{min(n_{1},n_{2})}\left[\partial \psi(\mathcal{S}_{f}^{v}(j,j),\delta)\right]^{2}.$$

$$(42)$$

Since the singular values of a finite matrix are bounded,  $\partial \psi(\mathcal{S}^v_f(j,j),\delta)$  is also bounded, which implies  $\partial \left\|\mathcal{G}_{(k+1)}\right\|_{GNTR}$  is bounded. From Eq. (41), we can obtain the sequence  $\{\mathcal{W}_{(k+1)}\}_{k=1}^\infty$  is also bounded.

Moreover, based on the iterative solution of the proposed Algorithm 1, we can infer that

$$\mathcal{L}_{\mu_{k},\rho_{k}}(\mathbf{Z}_{anc(k+1)}^{v}, \mathbf{A}_{(k+1)}, \mathbf{P}_{(k+1)}^{v}, \mathbf{E}_{(k+1)}, \mathcal{G}_{(k+1)}, \mathbf{Y}_{(k)}^{v}, \mathcal{W}_{(k)}) 
\leq \mathcal{L}_{\mu_{k},\rho_{k}}(\mathbf{Z}_{anc(k)}^{v}, \mathbf{A}_{(k)}, \mathbf{P}_{(k)}^{v}, \mathbf{E}_{(k)}, \mathcal{G}_{(k)}, \mathbf{Y}_{(k)}^{v}, \mathcal{W}_{(k)}) 
= \mathcal{L}_{\mu_{k-1},\rho_{k-1}}(\mathbf{Z}_{anc(k)}^{v}, \mathbf{A}_{(k)}, \mathbf{P}_{(k)}^{v}, \mathbf{E}_{(k)}, \mathcal{G}_{(k)}, \mathbf{Y}_{k-1}^{v}, \mathcal{W}_{k-1}) 
+ \frac{\rho_{k} + \rho_{k-1}}{2\rho_{k-1}^{2}} \|\mathcal{W}_{(k)} - \mathcal{W}_{k-1}\|_{F}^{2} 
+ \frac{\mu_{k} + \mu_{k-1}}{2\mu_{k-1}^{2}} \sum_{v=1}^{m} \|\mathbf{Y}_{(k)}^{v} - \mathbf{Y}_{k-1}^{v}\|_{F}^{2},$$
(43)

Thus, summing right side of (43) form k = 1 to n,

$$\mathcal{L}_{\mu_{k},\rho_{k}}(\mathbf{Z}_{anc(k+1)}^{v}, \mathbf{A}_{(k+1)}, \mathbf{P}_{(k+1)}^{v}, \mathbf{E}_{(k+1)}, \mathcal{G}_{(k+1)}, \mathbf{Y}_{(k)}^{v}, \mathcal{W}_{(k)}) 
\leq \mathcal{L}_{\mu_{0},\rho_{0}}(\mathbf{Z}_{1}^{v}, \mathbf{A}_{1}, \mathbf{P}_{1}^{v}, \mathbf{E}_{1}, \mathcal{G}_{1}, \mathbf{Y}_{0}^{v}, \mathcal{W}_{0}) 
+ \sum_{k=1}^{n} \frac{\rho_{k} + \rho_{k-1}}{2\rho_{k-1}^{2}} \|\mathcal{W}_{(k)} - \mathcal{W}_{k-1}\|_{F}^{2} 
+ \sum_{k=1}^{n} \left( \frac{\mu_{k} + \mu_{k-1}}{2\mu_{k-1}^{2}} \sum_{v=1}^{m} \|\mathbf{Y}_{(k)}^{v} - \mathbf{Y}_{k-1}^{v}\|_{F}^{2} \right)$$
(44)

Observe that

$$\sum_{k=1}^{n} \frac{\mu_k + \mu_{k+1}}{2\mu_{k-1}^2} < \infty, \quad \sum_{k=1}^{n} \frac{\rho_k + \rho_{k+1}}{2\rho_{k-1}^2} < \infty$$
 (45)

and  $\mathcal{L}_{\mu_0,\rho_0}(\mathbf{Z}_1^v,\mathbf{A}_1,\mathbf{P}_1^v,\mathbf{E}_1,\mathcal{G}_1,\mathbf{Y}_0^v,\mathcal{W}_0)$  is finite, and the sequences  $\{\mathbf{Y}_{(k)}^v\}_{k=1}^{\infty},\{\mathcal{W}_{(k)}\}_{k=1}^{\infty},\sum_{k=1}^n\frac{\mu_k+\mu_{k+1}}{2\mu_{k-1}^2}$  and  $\sum_{k=1}^n\frac{\rho_k+\rho_{k+1}}{2\rho_{k-1}^2}$  are all bounded. So we can obtain  $\mathcal{L}_{\mu_k,\rho_k}(\mathbf{Z}_{anc(k+1)}^v,\mathbf{A}_{(k+1)},\mathbf{P}_{(k+1)}^v,\mathbf{E}_{(k+1)},\mathcal{G}_{(k+1)},\mathbf{Y}_{(k)}^v,\mathcal{W}_{(k)})$  is bounded.

Note that

$$\mathcal{L}_{\mu_{k},\rho_{k}}(\mathbf{Z}_{anc(k+1)}^{v}, \mathbf{A}_{(k+1)}, \mathbf{P}_{(k+1)}^{v}, \mathbf{E}_{(k+1)}, \mathcal{G}_{(k+1)}, \mathbf{Y}_{(k)}^{v}, \mathcal{W}_{(k)})$$

$$= \|\mathcal{G}_{(k+1)}\|_{GNTR} + \lambda \|\mathbf{E}_{(k+1)}\|_{2,1}$$

$$+ \sum_{v=1}^{m} (\langle \mathbf{Y}_{(k)}^{v}, \mathbf{X}^{v} - \mathbf{Z}_{anc(k+1)}^{v} \mathbf{A}_{(k+1)} \mathbf{P}_{(k+1)}^{v} - \mathbf{E}_{(k+1)}^{v} \rangle$$

$$+ \frac{\mu_{k}}{2} \|\mathbf{X}^{v} - \mathbf{Z}_{anc(k+1)}^{v} \mathbf{A}_{(k+1)} \mathbf{P}_{(k+1)}^{v} - \mathbf{E}_{(k+1)}^{v} \|_{F}^{2}$$

$$+ \langle \mathcal{W}_{(k)}, \mathcal{Z}_{(k+1)} - \mathcal{G}_{(k+1)} \rangle + \frac{\rho_{k}}{2} \|\mathcal{Z}_{(k+1)} - \mathcal{G}_{(k+1)} \|_{F}^{2},$$

$$(46)$$

and each term of (46) is nonnegative, we can deduce each term of (46) is bounded. The boundedness of  $\|\mathcal{G}_{(k+1)}\|_{GNTR}$  implies that all singular values of  $\mathcal{G}_{(k+1)}$  are bounded. Furthermore, based on the following equation

$$\|\mathcal{G}_{(k+1)}\|_F^2 = \frac{1}{n_3} \|\mathcal{G}_{f,k+1}\|_F^2 = \frac{1}{n_3} \sum_{i=1}^{n_3} \sum_{j=1}^{min(n_1, n_2)} (\mathcal{S}_f^i(j, j))^2,$$
(47)

we can derive the sequence  $\{\mathcal{G}_{(k+1)}\}_{k=1}^{\infty}$  is bounded. Then, according to the updating formulas Eq. (14), Eq. (29), Eq. (28), it can be deduced that these sequences  $\{\mathbf{Z}^{v}_{(k+1)}\}_{k=1}^{\infty}, \{\mathbf{A}_{(k+1)}\}_{k=1}^{\infty} \text{ and } \{\mathbf{P}^{v}_{(k+1)}\}_{k=1}^{\infty} \text{ are bounded.}$ 

Therefore, we can conclude that the sequence  $\{\mathcal{L}_{1(k)} = (\mathbf{Z}_{(k)}^v, \mathbf{P}_{(k)}^v, \mathbf{A}_{(k)}, \mathbf{E}_{(k)}^v, \mathbf{Y}_{(k)}^v, \mathcal{W}_{(k)}, \mathcal{G}_{(k)})\}_{k=1}^{\infty}$  generated by Algorithm 1 is bounded.

2). Proof of 2nd part: According to Weierstrass-Bolzano theorem [71], there is at least one accumulation point of the sequence  $\{\mathcal{L}_{1(k)}\}_{k=1}^{\infty}$ , we denote one of the points as  $\mathcal{L}_{1*}$ .

$$\lim_{k \to \infty} (\mathbf{Z}_{(k)}^{v}, \mathbf{P}_{(k)}^{v}, \mathbf{A}_{(k)}, \mathbf{E}_{(k)}^{v}, \mathbf{Y}_{(k)}^{v}, \mathcal{W}_{(k)}, \mathcal{G}_{(k)})$$

$$= (\mathbf{Z}_{v}^{v}, \mathbf{P}_{v}^{v}, \mathbf{A}_{*}, \mathbf{E}_{v}^{v}, \mathbf{Y}_{v}^{v}, \mathcal{W}_{*}, \mathcal{G}_{*}).$$
(48)

Form the updating rule of W and  $Y^v$ , we have the following equations:

$$\mathbf{X}^{v} - \mathbf{Z}_{anc(k+1)}^{v} \mathbf{A}_{(k+1)} \mathbf{P}_{(k+1)}^{v} - \mathbf{E}_{(k+1)}^{v} = (\mathbf{Y}_{(k+1)}^{v} - \mathbf{Y}_{(k)}^{v}) / \mu_{k},$$

$$\mathcal{Z}_{(k+1)} - \mathcal{G}_{(k+1)} = (\mathcal{W}_{(k+1)} - \mathcal{W}_{(k)}) / \rho_{k}.$$
(49)

According the boundedness of sequences  $\{W_{(k)}\}_{k=1}^{\infty}$ and  $\{\mathbf{Y}_{(k)}^v\}_{k=1}^{\infty}$ , we can obtain

$$\mathbf{X}^{v} - \mathbf{Z}_{*}^{v} \mathbf{A}_{*} \mathbf{P}_{*}^{v} - \mathbf{E}_{*}^{v} = 0, \quad \mathcal{Z}_{*} - \mathcal{G}_{*} = 0.$$
 (50)

Furthermore, due to the first-order optimality conditions of  $\mathbf{E}_{(k+1)}^v$  and  $\mathcal{G}_{(k+1)}$ , we can deduce:

$$\mathbf{Y}_{*}^{v} \in \lambda \partial \|\mathbf{E}_{*}^{v}\|_{2,1}$$

$$\mathcal{W}_{*} \in \partial \|\mathcal{G}_{*}\|_{GNTR}$$
(51)

Thus, the accumulation point  $\mathcal{L}_{1*}$  of sequence  $\{\mathcal{L}_{1_{(k)}}\}_{k=1}^{\infty}$  generated by Algorithm 1 satisfied the KKT

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