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# RESEARCH ARTICLE



# Partial multiview clustering with locality graph regularization

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## **Abstract**

Multiview clustering (MVC) collects complementary and abundant information, which draws much attention in machine learning and data mining community. Existing MVC methods usually hold the assumption that all the views are complete. However, multiple source data are often incomplete in real-world applications, and so on sensor failure or unfinished collection process, which gives rise to incomplete multiview clustering (IMVC). Although enormous efforts have been devoted in IMVC, there still are some urgent issues that need to be solved: (i) The locality among multiple views has not been utilized in the existing mechanism; (ii) Existing methods inappropriately force all the views to share consensus representation while ignoring specific structures. In this paper, we propose a novel method termed partial MVC with locality graph regularization to address these issues. First, followed the traditional IMVC approaches, we construct weighted semi-nonnegative matrix factorization models to handle incomplete multiview data. Then, upon the consensus representation matrix, the locality graph is constructed for regularizing the shared feature matrix. Moreover, we add the coefficient regression term to constraint the various base matrices among views. We incorporate the three aforementioned processes into a unified framework, whereas they can negotiate

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with each other serving for learning tasks. An effective iterative algorithm is proposed to solve the resultant optimization problem with theoretically guaranteed convergence. The comprehensive experiment results on several benchmarks demonstrate the effectiveness of the proposed method.

#### KEYWORDS

incomplete data clustering, multiple view clustering

#### 1 | INTRODUCTION

Clustering has been intensively studied by combing information to categorize unlabelled data items into appropriate groups. 1-16 With increasing data collection, many data in the real-world could be presented from different perspectives, which are termed multiview data in the literature. Multiview data could provide more abundant information than the traditional singleview feature representation to reveal the intrinsic structure of the data. Existing multiview clustering (MVC) approaches can be summarized into the following four strategies. The cotraining approaches for MVC iteratively product multiple clustering results that can provide predicted clustering labels for other views. In this way, besides extracting the specific cluster information from the corresponding view, the clustering results are forced to be consistent across views. The second method bases on the assumption that high-dimensional data points are drawn from the low-dimensional spaces and therefore each cluster is formed from one of them. By following the multiple kernel learning framework, multiple kernel clustering (MKC) seeks an optimal kernel similarity matrix through linear combination of predefined kernels. The last category extends semi-nonnegative matrix factorization (SNMF) to incorporate multiple source information to learn consensus latent representation in Reference [1]. The essential idea is to optimize a united representation for downstream clustering task with the respective linear transformation.<sup>2</sup> In this paper, we focus on the multiview SNMF clustering methods.

Despite many MVC algorithms have been proposed and achieved great achievements in various applications, traditional MVC algorithms cannot effectively deal with multiview data with incomplete features. However, incompleteness happens quite common in real-world applications. For example, questionnaire forms take missing values due to unfinished processes and medica examines can be partially done for the lack of financial support. All these factors could contribute to incomplete multiview data. Therefore, the incomplete multiview clustering algorithms (IMVC) have attracted extensive attention in recent years. Followed the multiview SNMF methods, NMF-based IMVC methods consider the incomplete data items with zero weight and therefore can be regarded as a special weighted version for NMF MVC. Most of them take the strategy of combining the view-specific and common representations into a unified one.<sup>7-10,17-28</sup> They usually accomplish the missing features with mean values, and then use the weighted NMF to reduce the weight of the missing samples to obtain a consistent representation.<sup>29</sup> These weighted NMF methods commonly impose different constraints on the basis matrix or consensus representation for capturing different properties. Among these methods,  $\ell_{2,1}$ ,  $\ell_{1}$ , and  $\ell_{F}$  norm constraints are adopted on the latent representations or basis

matrices, respectively. However, it is limited to the following two points: (i) The locality among multiple views have not been utilized in existing mechanism. They usually neglect the intrinsic local structure of views, which could degrade clustering performance. (ii) Existing methods inappropriately force all the views share consensus representation while ignoring specific structures.

The graph-based IMVC methods utilize the geometric structure of data. <sup>18,30,31</sup> However, it is naturally difficult to construct an accurate graph similarity due to the lack of partial samples. <sup>30</sup> First estimates the missing features and then applies with complete MVC mechanism. Zhao et al. obtained consistent representations to guide the generation of graphs and therefore contain the local structure. <sup>18</sup> However, when the missing rate is high, the filling strategy will dominate the learning of the representation, resulting in the filled samples being connected with each other. Moreover, there graphs are constructed in high-dimensional space and therefore cause huge time complexity.

To address the above issues, this paper proposes a novel IMVC method to fuse the low-dimensional representation learning and locality graph. First, followed the traditional IMVC approaches, we construct weighted semi-NMF models to handle incomplete multiview data. Then, upon the consensus representation matrix, the locality graph is constructed for regularizing the shared feature matrix obtained from multiple sources. Moreover, we add the base coefficient regression  $\ell_{2,1}$ -norm regularization term to constraint the various base matrices among views. This term is here introduced to constraint sparseness in rows. We incorporates the three aforementioned processes into a unified framework, whereas they can negotiate with each other serving for learning task. The final learned graph not only considers the incomplete data features but also ensures locality among all views.

Compared with existing IMVC methods, the main advantages of the proposed partial multiview clustering with locality graph regularization (PMVC-LGR) can be included as follows:

- We induce the  $\ell_{2,1}$  regularization term into traditional NMF based incomplete MVC approaches. This regularization not only ensures sparsity in various base matrices but also performs feature selection in the original model.
- The constructed graph is utilized for preserving the locality in the consensus representation while also encourages the view-consistency and degrades the intra-view disagreements. These factors greatly promote the clustering performance of our proposed method.
- Comprehensive experiment are conducted on several benchmarks data sets. The experimental results clearly demonstrate the effectiveness of the proposed method.

The rest of this paper is organized as follows. Section 2 introduces some notations and related work in our paper. Section 3 presents the proposed optimization objective and the three-step alternate algorithms. Section 5 shows the experimental results with evaluation. Section 6 concludes the paper.

# 2 | PRELIMINARIES AND RELATED WORK

In this section, we introduce some necessary notations and preliminaries in our paper. Throughout this paper, we use boldface lowercase letters to denote matrices. The (i, j)th elements of a matrix U is referred as  $U_{ij}$ . The notations are summarized in Table 1.

I A D L E I Maili ilotations used in the pap	LE 1 Main notations us	ed in the	paper
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Notation	Meaning
MVC	Multiview clustering
IMVC	Incomplete multiview clustering
NMF	Nonnegative matrix factorization
n	The number of samples
m	The number of or views
k	The number of clusters
$d^{(v)}$	The dimension of $\nu$ th view
$\mathbf{U}^{(v)} \in \mathbb{R}^{d^{(v)} \times k}$	The vth view's base matrix
$\mathbf{X}^{( u)}$	The vth view's data matrix
v	The shared representation matrix
S	The learned local graph
$\mathbf{B}^{(v)}$	The regression matrix for $\nu$ th view

# 2.1 | Semi-NMF for single view and multiple views

The semi-NMF proposed in Reference [32] behaves as a constrained extension of NMF, which under the constraint that the coefficient matrix should be nonnegative. Specifically, given the single-view data matrix  $\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times N}$ , the semi-NMF utilizes base matrix  $\mathbf{U} \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times k}$  and the nonnegative coefficient matrix  $\mathbf{V} \in \mathbb{R}^{k \times N}$  to reconstruct the original matrix  $\mathbf{X}$ .

The optimization goal of SNMF can be mathematically formulated as follows:

$$\min_{\mathbf{U},\mathbf{V}} \|\mathbf{X} - \mathbf{U}\mathbf{V}\|_F^2, \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \mathbf{V} \ge 0.$$
 (1)

As can be seen, Equation (1) seamlessly performs dimension reduction from original space to lower dimension.<sup>32</sup> Further proposes an iterative optimization algorithm to solve Equation (1). The updating strategy can be rewritten as follows:

(i) With **V** being fixed, **U** can be updated by

$$\mathbf{U} = \mathbf{X}\mathbf{V}^{\mathsf{T}}(\mathbf{V}\mathbf{V}^{\mathsf{T}})^{-1}.\tag{2}$$

(ii) With U being fixed, V can be iteratively updated by

$$\mathbf{V}_{ij} \leftarrow \mathbf{V}_{ij} \sqrt{\frac{(\mathbf{X}^{\mathsf{T}}\mathbf{U})_{ij}^{+} + [\mathbf{V}^{\mathsf{T}}(\mathbf{U}^{\mathsf{T}}\mathbf{U})^{-}]_{ij}}{(\mathbf{X}^{\mathsf{T}}\mathbf{U})_{ii}^{-} + [\mathbf{V}^{\mathsf{T}}(\mathbf{U}^{\mathsf{T}}\mathbf{U})^{+}]_{ii}}}},$$
(3)

where the positive and negative elements of matrix **M** are denoted as:  $M_{ij}^+$  and  $M_{ij}^-$ .

For multiview data setting, the fundamental optimization formulation can be easily extended as follows:

$$\min_{\mathbf{U}^{(v)}, \mathbf{V}} \sum_{v=1}^{m} \|\mathbf{X}^{(v)} - \mathbf{U}^{(v)}\mathbf{V}\|_{F}^{2} + \Omega(\mathbf{V}), \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \mathbf{V} \ge 0,$$
(4)

where  $\Omega(\mathbf{V})$  denotes various regularization terms for the consensus representation matrix  $\mathbf{V}$ . They take the assumption that multiview data could share the same latent representation in low-dimensional space. Among these methods,  $\ell_{2,1}$ ,  $\ell_1$ , and  $\ell_F$  norm constraint are adopted into Equation (4) to regularize the representation matrix.

# 2.2 | Weighted NMF for IMVC

To handle IMVC with samples obtaining missing features, the natural way to extend Equation (4) is first to define a weight matrix W which indicates the existence of complete samples in views. The weight matrix W can be formulated as follows:

$$\mathbf{W}_{jj}^{(i)} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } j \text{ - th instance is in the } i \text{ - th view ,} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise .} \end{cases}$$
 (5)

With the weight matrix W, Equation (4) can be extended as the following equation:

$$\min_{\mathbf{U}^{(i)}, \mathbf{V}} \sum_{i=1}^{m} \| (\mathbf{X}^{(i)} - \mathbf{U}^{(i)} \mathbf{V}^{T}) \mathbf{W}^{(i)} \|_{F}^{2}, \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \mathbf{V} \ge 0.$$
 (6)

By solving Equation (6), we can get the shared representation for multiple incomplete-view samples.

# 3 | PROPOSED METHOD

Although Equation (6) could cope with the basic IMVC, the various basis matrices for multiview have not been utilized. Despite sharing the same representation, the basis for each view should be orthogonal which indicates differences in clustering centers. Thus, we design to align the basis matrices of respective views to approximate the identity matrix to ensure orthogonality, which can be fulfilled as follows:

$$\min_{\mathbf{U}^{(\nu)}, \mathbf{V}, \mathbf{B}^{(\nu)}, \sum_{\nu=1}^{m} \|\mathbf{B}^{(\nu)} \mathbf{U}^{(\nu)} - \mathbf{I}\|_{F}^{2} + \|\mathbf{B}^{(\nu)}\|_{2,1}.$$
 (7)

Based on Equation (7), the learned basis centers can be disjoint with each others which makes them more discriminate. Further, the  $\ell_{2,1}$  norm on  $\mathbf{B}^{(\nu)}$  simultaneously performs dimension reduction form original dimension  $d_{\nu}$  to k dimension. The learning process will automatically selects top k vital dimension features to represent data items.

Moreover, after obtaining the consensus representation V, the local structures hidden among views should be preserved and we adopt the local graph S to preserve locality, which is formed by minimizing  $\sum_{i,j=1}^{n} \mathbf{S}_{ij} \| v_i - v_j \|_2^2$ . To be specific, a large value of  $S_{ij}$  indicates with high probability that they are in the same cluster. By introducing local graph regularization term, the model preserves the neighbourhood relationships in the unified space.

Integrating the above parts into an unified objective function, we formulate the final formula of our proposed as follows:

$$\min_{\mathbf{U}^{(v)}, \mathbf{V}, \\ \mathbf{B}^{(v)}, \mathbf{S}} \sum_{\nu=1}^{m} \| (\mathbf{X}^{(\nu)} - \mathbf{U}^{(\nu)} \mathbf{V}^{\mathsf{T}}) \mathbf{W}^{(\nu)} \|_{F}^{2} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j=1}^{n} \mathbf{S}_{ij} \| v_{i} - v_{j} \|_{2}^{2} \\
+ \alpha \Big( \| \mathbf{B}^{(\nu)} \mathbf{U}^{(\nu)} - \mathbf{I} \|_{F}^{2} + \| \mathbf{B}^{(\nu)} \|_{2,1} \Big) + \lambda \| \mathbf{S} \|_{F}^{2} ,$$
s.t.  $\mathbf{V} \ge 0$ ,  $\mathbf{S} \ge 0$ ,  $\mathbf{S}^{\mathsf{T}} \mathbf{1} = \mathbf{1}$ ,

where S is the learned local graph and V is the respective consensus representation matrix. The first term performs the incomplete NMF with multimodality data. The following part in Equation (8) ensures the orthogonality of the basis matrices for each view and also preserves the local structure for the consensus representation.

Regarding of Equation (8), our proposed model has the following merits: (i) The induced  $\ell_{2,1}$  regularization term not only ensures sparsity in various base matrices but also performs feature selection in the original model. (ii) The constructed graph is utilized for preserving the locality in the consensus representation while also encourages the view-consistency and degrades the intra-view disagreements. These factors greatly promote the clustering performance of our proposed method.

#### 4 | OPTIMIZATION

It is difficult to simultaneously optimize Equation (8) over all the variables. In this section, we propose an alternate algorithm to solve this optimization problem.

# 4.1 | Update $U^{(v)}$

With  $\mathbf{V}, \mathbf{B}^{(\nu)}$  and  $\mathbf{S}$  fixed, for each  $\mathbf{U}^{(\nu)}$ , we need to solve the following problem in Equation (9):

$$\sum_{\nu=1}^{m} \min_{\mathbf{U}^{(\nu)}} \| (\mathbf{X}^{(\nu)} - \mathbf{U}^{(\nu)} \mathbf{V}^{\mathsf{T}}) \mathbf{W}^{(\nu)} \|_{F}^{2} + \alpha \| \mathbf{B}^{(\nu)} \mathbf{U}^{(\nu)} - \mathbf{I} \|_{F}^{2}.$$
 (9)

Setting the derivation of the objective function with respect to  $\mathbf{U}^{(\nu)}$ , we can get the following equation:

$$(\mathbf{U}^{(\nu)}\mathbf{V}^{\mathsf{T}} - \mathbf{X}^{(\nu)})\mathbf{W}^{(\nu)}\mathbf{V} + \alpha \mathbf{B}^{(\nu)}(\mathbf{B}^{(\nu)}^{\mathsf{T}}\mathbf{U}^{(\nu)} - \mathbf{I}) = 0, \tag{10}$$

where  $\mathbf{W}^{(v)} = \mathbf{W}^{(v)}\mathbf{W}^{(v)\top}$ . According to the form of the Sylvester equation, Equation (10) can be further reformulated into Equation (11) utilizing Kronecker product and vectorization operator as follows:

$$(\mathbf{I}_{k} \otimes (\alpha \mathbf{B}^{(v)} \mathbf{B}^{(v)\top}) + (\mathbf{V}^{\top} \mathbf{W}^{(v)} \mathbf{V}) \otimes \mathbf{I}_{d_{v}}) \operatorname{vec}(\mathbf{U}^{(v)}) = \operatorname{vec}(\mathbf{X}^{(v)} \mathbf{W}^{(v)} \mathbf{V} + \alpha \mathbf{B}^{(v)}). \tag{11}$$

In this paper, we employ the *lyap* function following the work in Reference [19] to solve this problem.

# 4.2 | Update V

Fixing  $\mathbf{U}^{(\nu)}$ ,  $\mathbf{B}^{(\nu)}$ , and  $\mathbf{S}$ , the minimum problem for optimizing  $\mathbf{V}$  is reduced into the following problem:

$$\min_{\mathbf{V}} \sum_{\nu=1}^{m} \| (\mathbf{X}^{(\nu)} - \mathbf{U}^{(\nu)} \mathbf{V}^{\mathsf{T}}) \mathbf{W}^{(\nu)} \|_{F}^{2} 
+ \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j=1}^{n} \mathbf{S}_{ij} \| \nu_{i} - \nu_{j} \|_{2}^{2}, \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \mathbf{V} \ge 0.$$
(12)

The second term can be rewritten into the form of matrix according to Theorem 1.

**Theorem 1.** Note that  $\mathbf{L} = \mathbf{D} - \mathbf{S}$ .  $\mathbf{L}$  and  $\mathbf{D}$  are the Laplacian matrix and degree matrix of the symmetric similarity matrix  $\mathbf{S}$ , respectively. Then we can get the following conclusion:

$$\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j=1}^{n} \mathbf{S}_{ij} \| v_i - v_j \|_2^2 = \text{Tr}(\mathbf{V}^\mathsf{T} \mathbf{L} \mathbf{V}), \tag{13}$$

where  $v_i$  and  $v_j$  are the ith and jth rows of matrix  $\mathbf{V}$ ,  $S_{i,j}$  is the element of ith row and jth column of  $\mathbf{S}$ .

*Proof.* We can transform into the following equation mathematically:

$$\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{n} \mathbf{S}_{ij} \| \nu_{i} - \nu_{j} \|_{2}^{2} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{n} \mathbf{S}_{ij} \left( \nu_{i}^{\top} \nu_{i} - 2 \nu_{i}^{\top} \nu_{j} + \nu_{j}^{\top} \nu_{j} \right) 
= \frac{1}{2} \left( 2 \sum_{i=1}^{n} d_{ii} \nu_{i}^{\top} \nu_{i} - 2 \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{n} \mathbf{S}_{ij} \nu_{i}^{\top} \nu_{j} \right) 
= \text{Tr}(\mathbf{V}^{\top} \mathbf{D} \mathbf{V}) - \text{Tr}(\mathbf{V}^{\top} \mathbf{S} \mathbf{V}) = \text{Tr}(\mathbf{V}^{\top} \mathbf{L} \mathbf{V}).$$
(14)

The proof is completed.

Thus, we can transform Equation (12) into minimizing the following problem:

$$\min_{\mathbf{V}} \sum_{\nu=1}^{m} \| (\mathbf{X}^{(\nu)} - \mathbf{U}^{(\nu)} \mathbf{V}^{\mathsf{T}}) \mathbf{W}^{(\nu)} \|_{F}^{2} + \text{Tr}(\mathbf{V}^{\mathsf{T}} \mathbf{L} \mathbf{V}), \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \mathbf{V} \ge 0.$$
 (15)

The partial derivation of  $\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{V})$  with respect to  $\mathbf{V}$  is

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{V})}{\partial \mathbf{V}} = \mathbf{W}^{(\nu)} \mathbf{V} \mathbf{U}^{(\nu)} \mathbf{U}^{(\nu)} + \mathbf{L} \mathbf{V} - \mathbf{W}^{(\nu)} \mathbf{X}^{(\nu)} \mathbf{U}^{(\nu)}.$$
(16)

According to the optimization of semi-NMF32 and the KKT condition, we can get

$$(\mathbf{W}^{(\nu)}\mathbf{V}\mathbf{U}^{(\nu)}^{\mathsf{T}}\mathbf{U}^{(\nu)} + \mathbf{L}\mathbf{V} - \mathbf{W}^{(\nu)}\mathbf{X}^{(\nu)}^{\mathsf{T}}\mathbf{U}^{(\nu)})_{jk}\mathbf{V}_{jk} = 0.$$
(17)

Based on this, we can get the updating rule by Following the work in Reference [19], we normalize the solution  $\mathbf{V}$  and  $\mathbf{U}^{(\nu)}$  by  $\mathbf{V} \leftarrow \mathbf{V}\mathbf{H}^{-1}$  and  $\mathbf{U}^{(\nu)} \leftarrow \mathbf{U}^{(\nu)}\mathbf{H}^{-1}$ . Consequently,  $\mathbf{V}\mathbf{H}^{-1}$  and

 $\mathbf{U}^{(\nu)}\mathbf{H}^{-1}$  forms another solution of Equation (12), where  $\mathbf{H}$  is an invertible matrix and is defined as  $\mathbf{H} = diag(\sum_{i=1}^{n} H_{i1}, \sum_{i=1}^{n} H_{i2}, ..., \sum_{i=1}^{n} H_{ik})$ .

# 4.3 | Update $B^{(v)}$

Given  $\mathbf{U}^{(\nu)}$ ,  $\mathbf{V}$  and  $\mathbf{S}$ , the optimization for updating  $\mathbf{B}^{(\nu)}$  can be reduced to

$$\min_{\mathbf{R}^{(\nu)}} \|\mathbf{B}^{(\nu)}^{\mathsf{T}} \mathbf{U}^{(\nu)} - \mathbf{I}\|_F^2 + \|\mathbf{B}^{(\nu)}\|_{2,1}. \tag{18}$$

Similarly, through setting the derivation of  $\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{B}^{(v)})$  w.r.t  $\mathbf{B}^{(v)}$  to zero, we can obtain the close-form solution for updating  $\mathbf{B}^{(v)}$ .

$$\mathbf{B}^{(\nu)} = (2\mathbf{U}^{(\nu)}\mathbf{U}^{(\nu)}^{\mathsf{T}} + \mathbf{P})^{-1}2\mathbf{U}^{(\nu)},\tag{19}$$

where  $\frac{\partial \|\mathbf{B}^{(v)}\|_{2,1}}{\partial \mathbf{B}^{(v)}} = \mathbf{P}^{(v)}\mathbf{B}^{(v)}$  and  $\mathbf{P}^{(v)}$  is diagonal matrix with its *i*th diagonal element being  $\frac{1}{\|\mathbf{B}^{(v)}_{i,\cdot}\|_{2}}$ .

# 4.4 Update S

When  $\mathbf{U}^{(\nu)}$ ,  $\mathbf{V}$ , and  $\mathbf{B}^{(\nu)}$  are fixed, the optimization for  $\mathbf{S}$  can be simplified as:

$$\min_{\mathbf{S}} \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j=1}^{n} S_{ij} \| v_i - v_j \|_2^2 + \lambda \| \mathbf{S} \|_F^2 , \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \mathbf{S} \ge 0, \quad \mathbf{S}^\mathsf{T} \mathbf{1} = \mathbf{1}.$$
 (20)

**Theorem 2.** L is the Laplacian matrix of symmetry similarity matrix S and the i, jth element of Q is denoted as  $Q_{ij} = ||v_i - v_j||_2^2$ , where  $v_i$  is the ith row of matrix V. Then we can obtain the equivalent representation.<sup>33</sup>

$$Tr(\mathbf{V}^{\mathsf{T}}\mathbf{L}\mathbf{V}) = Tr(\mathbf{SQ}). \tag{21}$$

*Proof.* We can achieve this equation by mathematical derivation as following:

$$\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} S_{ij} \| v_i - v_j \|_2^2 = \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{1}^{\mathsf{T}} (\mathbf{Q} \odot \mathbf{S}) \mathbf{1} = \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{Tr}(\mathbf{S} \mathbf{Q}).$$
 (22)

This finishes the proof.

On the basis of Theorem 2, we optimize S by transforming into Equation (23)

$$\min_{\mathbf{S}} \frac{1}{2} \operatorname{Tr}(\mathbf{SQ}) + \lambda \|\mathbf{S}\|_F^2, \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \mathbf{S} \ge 0, \quad \mathbf{S}^\mathsf{T} \mathbf{1} = \mathbf{1}.$$
 (23)

Analogous to Reference [34], we adopt a two-step algorithm to gain a approximate result efficiently. In the first step, we neglect the constraints and straightly acquire a close-form solution Equation (24) by setting the derivation w.r.t  $\bf S$  to zero.

$$\hat{\mathbf{S}} = -\frac{1}{2\lambda} \mathbf{Q}^{\mathsf{T}}.\tag{24}$$

In the second step, we minimize the following problem to learn a approximate optimal solution under a constrained condition:

$$\min_{\mathbf{S}} \frac{1}{2} \| \mathbf{S} - \hat{\mathbf{S}} \|_F^2, \quad s. \ t. \quad \mathbf{S} \ge 0, \quad \mathbf{S}^{\mathsf{T}} \mathbf{1} = \mathbf{1}. \tag{25}$$

For each column  $S_{:,j}$ , the Lagrange function can be formulated as

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2} \| S_{:,j} - \hat{S}_{:,j} \|_2^2 - \tau_i \left( S_{:,j}^{\top} \mathbf{1} - 1 \right) - \gamma_i^{\top} S_{:,j}.$$
 (26)

where  $\tau_j$  and  $\gamma_j$  are Lagrange multipliers. Therefore, combining the result of taking the derivation with respect to  $S_{:,j}$  and the KKT condition, we get

$$S_{:,j} = max(\hat{S}_{:,j} + \tau_j \mathbf{1}, 0).$$
 (27)

Considering the constraint  $\mathbf{S}^{\mathsf{T}}\mathbf{1} = \mathbf{1}$ , that is,  $\sum_{i=1}^{n} (\hat{S}_{ij} + \tau_{j}\mathbf{1}) = 1$ , we can obtain the update rule for  $\tau_{j}$  that

$$\tau_j = \frac{1 + \hat{S}_{:,j}^{\mathsf{T}} \mathbf{1}}{n - 1}.\tag{28}$$

We can update  $S_{:,j}$  by Equation (27) after gaining  $\tau_j$ . Then we perform  $\mathbf{S} = \frac{\mathbf{S} + \mathbf{S}^T}{2}$  to keep the symmetry of graph  $\mathbf{S}$ .

The alternate optimization algorithm terminates when objective function converges or reaches the maximum number of iterations. Then we get an approximate optimal solution of Equation (20) in an efficient fashion.

# 4.5 | Convergence analysis

In the iterative optimization process, when one variable is updated and the other variables are kept fixed, these two subproblems are strictly convex. When optimizing a variable and fixing other variables in each iteration, the goal of our algorithm will decrease monotonically. Until the lower bound of the entire optimization function approaches 0, the algorithm will converge. Also, the results of the evolution of the objective value on the benchmark data sets demonstrates the convergence, as shown in Figures 2, 3, and 4.

# 5 | EXPERIMENTS

In this section, we introduce the data sets used in this paper and the setting of generating incomplete samples. Then, we evaluate the effectiveness of our proposed method and compared state-of-the-art algorithms on the six natural or manual incomplete data sets.

# 5.1 Data sets

The data sets used in our experiments are BUAA-visnir face database (BUAA)\*, orlRnSp<sup>†</sup>, 3 Sources<sup>‡</sup>, BBC.<sup>35</sup>

BUAA. The BUAA data set contains 1350 samples, belonging to 150 clusters. Each of sample are composed with visible images (VIS) and near infrared images (NIR). This makes the data set naturally been a two-view data set.

orlRnSp. orlRnSp data set has 400 face images. We construct two views one based on raw pixel values and the other comprising of HOG features.

*3Sources.* This data set is composed of 948 news articles, which are collected from BBC, Reuters, and Guardian. We select a subset containing 169 stories reported in the above three sources. The 169 stories have six different subject and therefore can be group into six classes.

*BBC*. The BBC data set contains 2225 documents about the sport news articles from the BBC Sport website. These documents are described by 2–4 views and categorized into five classes.

The detailed information of these data sets is shown in Table 2. The first four data sets are complete multiview data sets. We generate different incomplete data sets under two incomplete setting, which we introduce in next section. The last two data sets are naturally incomplete.

# 5.2 | Experiment setting

In this section, we will introduce our experimental setting for handmade incomplete data sets. *One-complete setting*. We randomly select one view as the complete view and the rest of the views suffer incomplete ratio (IR) equally from 10% to 70%. In this way, we generate the incomplete data sets under one-complete setting.

Random incomplete setting. Under random incomplete setting, we randomly remove 10%, 20%, 30%, 40%, and 50% samples in each view, but each sample has at least one existing view. Natural incomplete setting. Data sets 3Sources and BBC are natural incomplete. The missing

samples in each view are denoted as NaN.

# 5.3 | Compared algorithm

In this section, we list the compared algorithms as follows,

- Best single view (BSV): BSV method first fills the missing samples with the average of other
  existing samples. Then gaussian affinity matrices are constructed on each view to perform
  spectral clustering. The best performance is reported as BSV.
- Direct concatenation (Concate): Similar to BSV, Concate first fills the missing instance. Then all features across views are concatenated into a single view representation. The clustering results are obtained by performing *K*-means on the connected feature.

**TABLE 2** Description of the benchmark multiview data set

Data set	Sample	View	Cluster	Feature dimension			
orlRnSp	400	2	40	1024	288	-	-
BUAA	1350	2	150	100	100	-	-
3Sources	169	3	6	3560	3610	3068	-
BBC	2225	4	5	4659	4633	4665	4684

Ours

- Incomplete multimodal visual data grouping (IMG). <sup>18</sup> IMG proposes to use the latent representation to generate a complete graph, which establishes a connection between missing data from different views.
- IMVC via weighted NMF with  $\ell_{2,1}$  regularization (MIC). <sup>29</sup> This paper first fills the missing instances with average values of features and then learns a  $\ell_{2,1}$  regularized latent subspace by weighted NMF.
- Partial multiview clustering (PVC). 17 Based on the NMF, this method integrates the common and view-specific representations in the latent space to form a unified representation.
- Incomplete multiview spectral clustering with adaptive graph learning (INMF-AGL)<sup>36</sup> induces a coregularization term to learn the common representation, which integrates the graph learning and spectral clustering.
- Doubly aligned incomplete multiview clustering (DAIMC). 19 The proposed method first aligns the samples into a common representation by semi-NMF and then aligns the base matrices with the help of  $\ell_{2,1}$  regularized regression modal.

Note that PVC and IMG only work for two-view data. Following work in Reference [19], we evaluate PVC and IMG on all two-view combinations and report the best results. MIC, IMSC-AGL, DAIMC, and our proposed method can be applied for arbitrary incomplete multiview data. Then we use these methods as suggusted.

#### 5.4 Experimental results and analysis

We generated the incomplete data sets under various settings according to the introduction in experiment setting. Therefore, we obtain the BUAA data set with one view that is complete and the random missing orlRnSp data set. Data set 3Source and BBC are natural incomplete. The experimental results of different data set at different settings are shown in Tables 3-6. We report five metrics of accuracy (ACC), normalized mutual information (NMI), Purity, F-score and precision to compare the clustering performance. The best results are presented as bold numbers.

Method	ACC	NMI	Purity	F-score	Precision
BSV	0.2716	0.0500	0.3101	0.2008	0.1933
Concate	0.3966	0.2176	0.4303	0.3114	0.3026
IMG	0.3510	0.2032	0.3675	0.2947	0.1961
MIC	0.4313	0.3601	0.4678	0.3273	0.2554
PVC	0.5859	0.4720	0.6326	0.5083	0.4924
IMSC-AGL	0.8173	0.6678	0.8173	0.7122	0.6949
DAIMC	0.8125	0.6751	0.8125	0.6790	0.6924

TABLE 3 The clustering performance of different methods on natural incomplete data set 3Source

0.7073 Note: Bold numbers denote the best results and the underlined numbers denote the second-best results.

0.8510

Abbreviations: ACC, accuracy; BSV, best single view; Concate, direct concatenation; DAIMC, doubly aligned incomplete multiview clustering; IMG, Incomplete multimodal visual data grouping; INMF-AGL, incomplete multiview spectral clustering with adaptive graph learning; NMI, normalized mutual information.

0.8510

0.7440

0.7621

0.8601

Ours

0.9267

	0 1			1	
Method	ACC	NMI	Purity	F-score	Precision
BSV	0.2679	0.0184	0.2724	0.2511	0.2155
Concate	0.2710	0.0361	0.3065	0.2338	0.2262
IMG	0.3741	0.1852	0.3757	0.3430	0.2392
MIC	0.4951	0.3572	0.5183	0.4114	0.3145
PVC	0.6149	0.4272	0.6394	0.5181	0.4871
IMSC-AGL	0.9020	0.7391	0.9020	0.8214	0.8178
DAIMC	0.8503	0.6785	0.8503	0.7311	0.7208

TABLE 4 The clustering performance of different methods on natural incomplete data set BBC

Note: Bold numbers denote the best results and the underlined numbers denote the second-best results.

Abbreviations: ACC, accuracy; BSV, best single view; Concate, direct concatenation; DAIMC, doubly aligned incomplete multiview clustering; IMG, Incomplete multimodal visual data grouping; INMF-AGL, Incomplete multiview spectral clustering with adaptive graph learning; NMI, normalized mutual information.

0.9267

0.8641

0.7919

Tables 3 and 4 show the comparison of the data sets 3Source and BBC with other comparison algorithms under the natural incomplete setting with five evaluation metrics, respectively.

It can be seen from the two tables that our proposed algorithm achieves the best results under all metrics compared to other comparison algorithms. Our results outperform DAIMC because the graphs we learn contain not only the consistency information in the consensus representation but also the local structural information between samples. The latest IMVC algorithms based on graph and matrix decomposition or subspace (our proposed method and IMSC-AGL) outperform those based on matrix decomposition alone, which illustrates the importance of mining local information between samples for the clustering task.

Tables 5 and 6 show the comparative experimental results for BUAA and orlRnSp under one-complete and random incomplete settings, respectively. In the first one-complete setting, the two view data set BUAA suffers 10%–70% missing samples in one view with another view is complete. Compared with other methods, our proposed method has the best performance no matter under different evaluation criteria or different incomplete ratio. The ACC obtained by our method exceeds the corresponding DAIMC results by 18.67%, 14.08%, 16.37%, 12.08%, 11.19%, 9.19%, and 7.11% from the deletion rate of 10%–70%, respectively. This illustrates the effectiveness of the local structure extract between the consensus representation.

Under the random incomplete setting in Figure 7, our proposed method outperforms IMSC-AGL by 20%, 20%, 24%, 16.25%, and 9.25% in terms of ACC, respectively. Although IMSC-AGL combines subspace learning and consensus representation learning, the high-dimensional representation could lead to inaccurate distance measurement. Our algorithm incorporates the NMF and LGR, learning of consistent representation and acquisition of local structure in a more low-dimensional and compact feature space, which contributes to our excellent performance.

To show the comparison between different methods more clearly, we draw the ACC of different methods under different missing rates as a line graph, as shown in Figure 1. From this picture, we can find that our method (red line) is always higher than the other methods and can keep relatively stable as the incomplete ratio increases.

TABLE 5 The clustering performance on BUAA under one-complete setting

IR	Metric	BSV	Concate	IMG	MIC	PVC	IMSC-AGL	AGC-IMC	DAIMC	Ours
10%	ACC	0.2889	0.3570	0.3064	0.0193	0.2699	0.2607	0.4593	0.3585	0.5452
	NMI	0.6438	0.6728	0.5622	0.2215	0.6253	0.6219	0.7329	0.6857	0.7770
	Purity	0.3281	0.3733	0.3516	0.1170	0.2865	0.2800	0.4756	0.3822	0.5733
	F-score	0.1271	0.1663	0.0322	0.0132	0.0953	0.0930	0.2680	0.1869	0.3746
	Precision	0.0925	0.1424	0.0168	0.0067	0.0802	0.0770	0.2472	0.1550	0.3504
20%	ACC	0.2852	0.3333	0.2881	0.0193	0.2318	0.2541	0.4400	0.3222	0.4630
	NMI	0.6419	0.6602	0.5355	0.2215	0.5936	0.6201	0.7267	0.6575	0.7372
	Purity	0.3222	0.3578	0.3276	0.1170	0.2510	0.2763	0.4563	0.3504	0.4859
	F-score	0.1264	0.1394	0.0292	0.0132	0.0665	0.0896	0.2572	0.1417	0.2840
	Precision	0.0917	0.1173	0.0152	0.0067	0.0497	0.0731	0.2394	0.1169	0.2642
30%	ACC	0.2852	0.2844	0.2729	0.0193	0.2381	0.2548	0.4170	0.2985	0.4622
	NMI	0.6419	0.6422	0.5168	0.2215	0.5945	0.6188	0.7152	0.6446	0.7287
	Purity	0.3222	0.3163	0.3119	0.1170	0.2522	0.2733	0.4363	0.3252	0.4881
	F-score	0.1264	0.1096	0.0248	0.0132	0.0625	0.0880	0.2357	0.1166	0.2692
	Precision	0.0917	0.0886	0.0129	0.0067	0.0483	0.0732	0.2225	0.0953	0.2484
40%	ACC	0.3007	0.2763	0.2541	0.0193	0.2291	0.2474	0.4126	0.2970	0.4178
	NMI	0.6509	0.6320	0.5039	0.2215	0.5796	0.6146	0.7082	0.6450	0.7110
	Purity	0.3415	0.3007	0.2927	0.1170	0.2440	0.2667	0.4259	0.3230	0.4348
	F-score	0.1365	0.1024	0.0247	0.0132	0.0477	0.0826	0.2219	0.1223	0.2380
	Precision	0.1008	0.0817	0.0128	0.0067	0.0341	0.0681	0.2107	0.0964	0.2203
50%	ACC	0.2852	0.2763	0.2347	0.0193	0.2088	0.2474	0.4074	0.3111	0.4230
	NMI	0.6419	0.6268	0.4804	0.2215	0.5778	0.6128	0.7077	0.6511	0.7169
	Purity	0.3222	0.2948	0.2685	0.1170	0.2221	0.2637	0.4222	0.3348	0.4452
	F-score	0.1264	0.0973	0.0232	0.0132	0.0436	0.0840	0.2238	0.1342	0.2413
	Precision	0.0917	0.0735	0.0121	0.0067	0.0314	0.0696	0.2118	0.1048	0.2235
60%	ACC	0.2852	0.2719	0.2304	0.0193	0.1971	0.2467	0.3904	0.3244	0.4163
	NMI	0.6419	0.6256	0.4808	0.2215	0.5500	0.6153	0.6982	0.6529	0.7059
	Purity	0.3222	0.2919	0.2632	0.1170	0.2078	0.2667	0.4067	0.3474	0.4385
	F-score	0.1264	0.0971	0.0231	0.0132	0.0300	0.0837	0.2040	0.1369	0.2187
	Precision	0.0917	0.0737	0.0120	0.0067	0.0199	0.0707	0.1890	0.1063	0.2004
70%	ACC	0.2889	0.2615	0.1996	0.0193	0.1699	0.2452	0.3830	0.3311	0.4022
	NMI	0.6438	0.6146	0.4661	0.2215	0.5016	0.6122	0.6984	0.6653	0.7050
	Purity	0.3281	0.2830	0.2344	0.1170	0.1836	0.2622	0.4030	0.3504	0.4244
	F-score	0.1271	0.0940	0.0214	0.0132	0.0216	0.0806	0.2025	0.1596	0.2165

(Continues)

TABLE 5 (Continued)

IR	Metric	BSV	Concate	IMG	MIC	PVC	IMSC-AGL	AGC-IMC	DAIMC	Ours
	Precision	0.0925	0.0707	0.0111	0.0067	0.0125	0.0674	0.1924	0.1275	0.2015

Note: Bold numbers denote the best results.

Abbreviations: ACC, accuracy; BSV, best single view; Concate, direct concatenation; DAIMC, doubly aligned incomplete multiview clustering; IMG, Incomplete multimodal visual data grouping; INMF-AGL, incomplete multiview spectral clustering with adaptive graph learning; NMI, normalized mutual information.

TABLE 6 The clustering performan on orlRnSp under thet random incomplete setting

IR	Metric	BSV	Concate	IMG	MIC	PVC	IMSC-AGL	AGC-IMC	DAIMC	Ours
10%	ACC	0.2625	0.4675	0.4853	0.5535	0.5091	0.5150	0.6625	0.6675	0.715
	NMI	0.4972	0.6692	0.6885	0.7212	0.7004	0.7103	0.806	0.8162	0.8478
	Purity	0.2925	0.5325	0.555	0.581	0.5466	0.5475	0.6900	0.7050	0.755
	F-score	0.0918	0.2261	0.1783	0.3435	0.3193	0.3688	0.5468	0.5476	0.5926
	Precision	0.0535	0.1557	0.108	0.2794	0.2628	0.3449	0.5225	0.5052	0.5657
20%	ACC	0.2325	0.4100	0.4348	0.4680	0.4616	0.4925	0.5800	0.6425	0.6925
	NMI	0.4438	0.6160	0.6275	0.6496	0.6449	0.6824	0.7632	0.7920	0.8423
	Purity	0.2600	0.4550	0.496	0.5075	0.4978	0.5200	0.6275	0.6750	0.7375
	F-score	0.0719	0.1901	0.1210	0.2007	0.1942	0.3240	0.4611	0.5081	0.5862
	Precision	0.0433	0.1388	0.0694	0.1384	0.1346	0.2995	0.4254	0.4547	0.5373
30%	ACC	0.2425	0.4000	0.3820	0.3255	0.4061	0.4575	0.5575	0.6125	0.6975
	NMI	0.4621	0.5911	0.5514	0.5090	0.5787	0.6569	0.7184	0.7644	0.8259
	Purity	0.2600	0.4350	0.4330	0.3515	0.4380	0.4875	0.5825	0.6425	0.7375
	F-score	0.0852	0.1793	0.0778	0.0974	0.1133	0.2891	0.4038	0.4508	0.5783
	Precision	0.0742	0.1354	0.0426	0.0631	0.0689	0.2630	0.3751	0.3947	0.5301
40%	ACC	0.2425	0.3475	0.3343	0.2720	0.3505	0.3775	0.4125	0.4925	0.5400
	NMI	0.4824	0.5764	0.4886	0.4917	0.5220	0.5862	0.6279	0.6912	0.7396
	Purity	0.2600	0.3875	0.3678	0.2935	0.3790	0.3900	0.4450	0.5350	0.5925
	F-score	0.0897	0.1602	0.0614	0.1024	0.0742	0.1929	0.2423	0.3218	0.3825
	Precision	0.0806	0.1173	0.0330	0.0777	0.0420	0.1791	0.2282	0.2799	0.3448
50%	ACC	0.2650	0.3550	0.1285	0.2930	0.3533	0.3175	0.4075	0.3900	0.4100
	NMI	0.5001	0.576	0.2714	0.5214	0.5988	0.5542	0.6372	0.6228	0.6408
	Purity	0.2800	0.3850	0.1510	0.3110	0.3863	0.3375	0.4425	0.4275	0.4575
	F-score	0.0948	0.1541	0.0454	0.1257	0.1895	0.1498	0.2370	0.2237	0.2472
	Precision	0.0897	0.1115	0.0250	0.1023	0.1650	0.1380	0.2227	0.1969	0.2361

Note: The bold number demotes the best result.

Abbreviations: ACC, accuracy; BSV, best single view; Concate, direct concatenation; DAIMC, doubly aligned incomplete multiview clustering; IMG, Incomplete multimodal visual data grouping; INMF-AGL, incomplete multiview spectral clustering with adaptive graph learning; NMI, normalized mutual information.

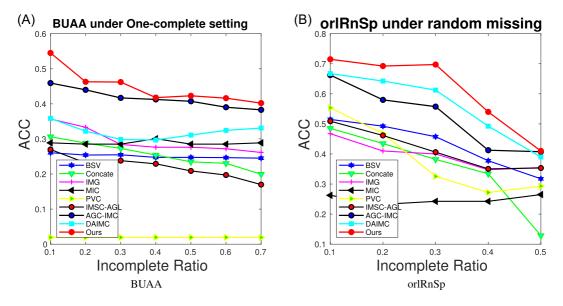


FIGURE 1 The ACC performance variation with various incomplete ratio increasing on BUAA and orlRnSp under One-complete setting. ACC, accuracy [Color figure can be viewed at wileyonlinelibrary.com]

In summary, the above experimental results have well demonstrated the effectiveness of our proposed method comparing to other state-of-the-art methods. We attribute the superiority of proposed algorithm as two aspects: (i) We induce the  $\ell_{2,1}$  regularization term into traditional NMF-based IMVC approaches. This regularization not only ensures sparsity in various base matrices but also performs feature selection in the original model. (ii) The constructed graph is utilized for preserving the locality in the consensus representation while also encourages the view-consistency and degrades the intra-view disagreements. These factors greatly promote the clustering performance of our proposed method.

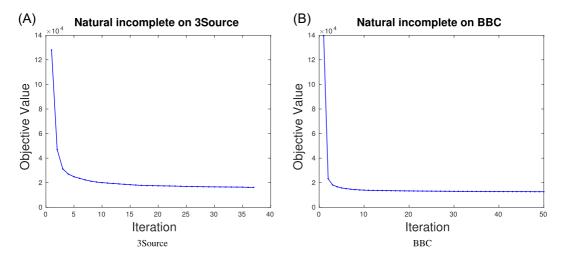


FIGURE 2 The convergence curves of the objective values on data set orlRnSp under random incomplete setting [Color figure can be viewed at wileyonlinelibrary.com]

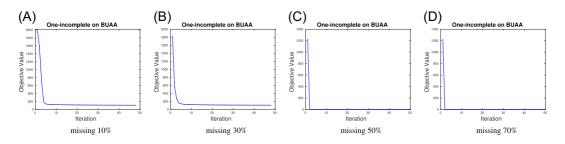


FIGURE 3 The convergence curves of the objective values on data set BUAA under One-incomplete setting [Color figure can be viewed at wileyonlinelibrary.com]

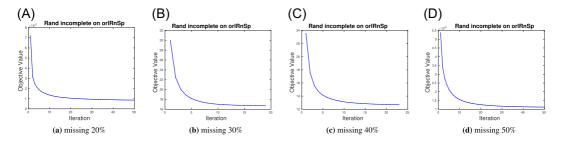


FIGURE 4 The convergence curves of the objective values on data set orlRnSp under random incomplete setting [Color figure can be viewed at wileyonlinelibrary.com]

# 5.5 | Convergence and parameter sensitivity

Convergence. Our algorithm is theoretically guaranteed to converge to a local minimum. The examples of the evolution of the objective value on the experimental results are shown in Figures 2, 3, and 4. Figure 2 shows the convergence visualization of the natural incomplete data sets 3Source and BBC. Figures 3 and 4 are the curves of objective value under one-complete setting and random incomplete setting. In the above experiments, we observe that the objective

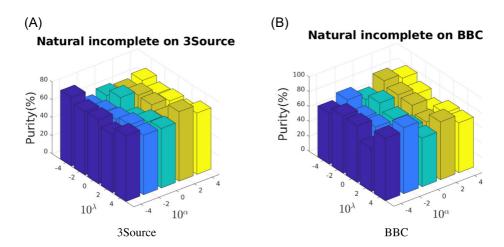


FIGURE 5 The sensitivity of purity on natural incomplete data set 3Source and BBC [Color figure can be viewed at wileyonlinelibrary.com]

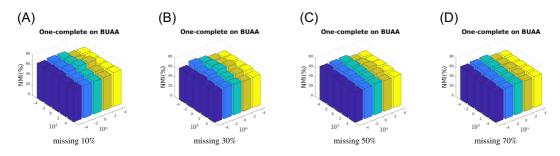


FIGURE 6 The NMI sensitivity on data set BUAA under One-complete setting. NMI, normalized mutual information [Color figure can be viewed at wileyonlinelibrary.com]

value of our algorithm does monotonically decrease at each iteration and that it usually converges in less than 50 iterations. These results clearly verifies our proposed algorithm's convergence.

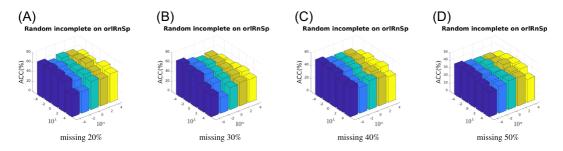
Sensitivity. In addition, we analyze the sensitivity of the clustering performance to the hyper parameters  $\alpha$  and  $\lambda$ . Parameters are chosen in the range of  $10^{-4}$  to  $10^4$  in steps of  $10^2$ . We use three different evaluation metrics, ACC NMI and purity, in three different settings to demonstrate the effect of parameter variation on clustering performance. Figure 5 is the sensitivity of hyper-parameters on natural incomplete data set 3Source and BBC in terms of purity.

Figures 6 and 7 show the variety of clustering performance of the data set BUAA and orlRnSp under one-complete and random incomplete settings for all parameter combinations.

From these observations, we can find that the performance of BUAA and orlRnSp can maintain relatively stable with the change of parameters at some missing ratio. And it shows a trend of obtaining the optimal performance between the chosen range of parameters  $\alpha$  and  $\lambda$ . However, the natural incomplete data sets 3Source and BBC do not display a clear pattern in their sensitivity bar chart.

## 6 | CONCLUSION

In this article, we propose a novel partial no-negative matrix factorization to handle IMVC. We incorporate NMF and local graph regularisation into a unified framework, whereas two processes can negotiate with each other serving for learning task. Moreover, we add the base coefficient regression  $\ell_{2,1}$ -norm regularization term to constraint the various base matrices among views. This



**FIGURE 7** The ACC sensitivity on data set orlRnSp under random incomplete setting. ACC, accuracy [Color figure can be viewed at wileyonlinelibrary.com]

term is here introduced to constraint sparseness in rows. The final learned graph not only considers the incomplete data features for the clustering tasks but also ensures locality among all views. In the future, we will explore to IMVC with more advanced consideration.

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#### **AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS**

All authors contributed to the manuscript preparation of the paper. *Conceptualization*: Huiqiang Lian and Huiying Xu; *Methodology*: Huiqiang Lian and Siwei Wang; *Validation*: Miaomiao Li and Siwei Wang; *Formal analysis*: Huiqiang Lian, Huiying Xu, Xinwang Liu, and Xinzhong Zhu; *Writing-original draft preparation*: Huiqiang Lian; *Writing-review and editing*: Huiying Xu and Xinwang Liu; *Funding acquisition*: Xinwang Liu and Xinzhong Zhu. All authors reviewed and approved the final manuscipt.

#### **ENDNOTES**

\*https://github.com/hdzhao/IMG.

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 $<sup>\</sup>label{lem:com/GPMVCDummy/GPMVC/blob/master/partialMV/PVC/recreateResults/data/orlRnSp.mat.$ 

<sup>\*</sup>http://erdos.ucd.ie/datasets/3sources.html.

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