Every Angle Is Worth A Second Glance: Mining Kinematic Skeletal Structures from Multi-view Joint Cloud

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Abstract—Multi-person motion capture over sparse angular observations is a challenging problem under interference from both selfand mutual-occlusions. Existing works produce accurate 2D joint detection, however, when these are triangulated and lifted into 3D, available solutions all struggle in selecting the most accurate candidates and associating them to the correct joint type and target identity. As such, in order to fully utilize all accurate 2D joint location information, we propose to independently triangulate between all same-typed 2D joints from all camera views regardless of their target ID, forming the Joint Cloud. Joint Cloud consist of both valid joints lifted from the same joint type and target ID, as well as falsely constructed ones that are from different 2D sources. These redundant and inaccurate candidates are processed over the proposed Joint Cloud Selection and Aggregation Transformer (JCSAT) involving three cascaded encoders which deeply explore the trajectile, skeletal structural, and view-dependent correlations among all 3D point candidates in the cross-embedding space. An Optimal Token Attention Path (OTAP) module is proposed which subsequently selects and aggregates informative features from these redundant observations for the final prediction of human motion. To demonstrate the effectiveness of JCSAT, we build and publish a new multi-person motion capture dataset BUMocap-X with complex interactions and severe occlusions. Comprehensive experiments over the newly presented as well as benchmark datasets validate the effectiveness of the proposed framework, which outperforms all existing state-of-the-art methods, especially under challenging occlusion scenarios.

Index Terms—3D human pose estimation, motion capture, transformer, optimal token attention path

1 INTRODUCTION

TITH the fast development of Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR) techniques, accessible VR/AR devices [1], [2], [3] allow people to control their own avatars immersively by capturing body motion from a headset with two handheld controllers. On the other hand, commercial Motion Capture systems [4], [5], [6] provide highprecision solutions in animation and film-making areas. The requirement of wearing pieces of equipment leads to inconvenient experiences. To ease those issues, researchers propose device-free motion-capturing frameworks. One of the most efficient and popular approaches is Vision-based Human Pose Estimation (HPE), showing remarkable progress in 2D multi-person pose detections [7], [8], [9], [10] and 3D single-person pose estimations [11], [12], [13]. However, motion capture usually involves multiple targets in one scene, and thus introduces occlusions and prevents accurate movement estimation. Multi-view observations are then

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introduced to provide additional information based on the assumption that joints occluded from one view are visible from another view. Current studies [12], [14], [15], [16], [17], [18] show that multi-view multi-person 3D HPE can be formulated as a multi-stage framework, i.e., use a 2D pose detector to estimate 2D poses from calibrated observations, and then apply triangulation algorithm [19] to reconstruct 3D motion.

The main challenge of a multi-stage framework is the association of 2D detections across views to the target identity and joint type. Due to ambiguities caused by occlusions, the inaccuracy in 2D detections may lead to bad associations. Here we categorise occlusions into self-occlusion which is caused by one's own body part, and mutual-occlusion which is caused by others. As shown in Fig. 1, 2D detectors have inherent limitations on occlusions: 1) self-occlusion happened in Row 2, Col 3, makes the left knee assigned to the wrong joint type (right knee), 2) mutual-occlusion happened in Row 1, Col 1, makes the left arm assigned to the wrong target ID (other people). Incorrect association error accumulates throughout the whole lifetime of the multi-stage framework, producing twisted motion results. To solve those issues, existing approaches [14], [15], [16], [21], [22] select the most accurate 2D candidates (discarding others) and then associate these with the target ID and joint type. However, these may lead to sub-optimal results (incorrect target ID and joint type) and cannot truly solve the error-accumulation issue. In our previous study [23], we propose to utilize the masking learning mechanism [24] to explore the correlation among partial motion. It enables us



Fig. 1: Demonstration of 2D detections from state-of-the-art 2D pose detectors [7], [9], [10] at the same timestamp on Shelf dataset [20]. Although both produce the most accurate results, there are still some defects notated by red dotted boxes regarding the limbs: 1) assigned to incorrect target identity, 2) assigned to incorrect joint type.

to circumvent the above sub-optimal issue by filtering those low-confidence 3D joints and reconstructing the complete motion with high accuracy performance and also enables our model to handle the missing. Nevertheless, as analyzed, 2D detections may have the wrong ID/joint type but accurate positions, which we cannot overlook.

To this end, our approach aims to leverage all available 2D detections by operating under the assumption that each detected 2D joint possesses an accurate position, but with a lower certainty regarding its target ID and joint type. Following this, we introduce the concept of Joint Cloud (JC), which consists of all 3D triangulated candidates from 2D detections within the same joint type between every two views, as shown in Fig. 2. Therefore JC contains both potentially valid joints lifted from the same target ID and joint type, as well as irregular ones that may come from different sources. We further propose a Joint Cloud Selection and Aggregation Transformer (JCSAT) based on three cascaded encoders that deeply explore the trajectile, skeletonstructural, and view-dependent correlations among all 3D candidates in the cross-embedding space. Besides, an Optimal Token Attention Path (OTAP) module is proposed to select and aggregate informative features from redundant candidates. In addition, following the masked language modelling task in BERT [26], we train our model based on a masked learning scheme to increase its robustness. Experiments on public datasets demonstrate the efficiency of our proposed framework against state-of-the-art methods. We also validate our method on a newly collected dataset, BUMocap-X which features complex interactions and heavy occlusions. BUMocap-X is an expanded version of BUMocap [23], approximately 0.3 times larger and includes two additional actors' motions. It captures a 5-actor group dance with complex interaction.

The main contributions are listed as follows:

• We introduce the concept, formation, and exploitation methodology of the Joint Cloud (JC). JC is designed to fully utilize all accurate 2D joint locations via inde-

pendent triangulation between all same-typed 2D joints from all camera views regardless of their target ID. This data arrangement improves information utilization from all observation angles.

- We propose the Joint Cloud Selection and Aggregation Transformer (JCSAT) framework which involves three cascaded encoders that deeply explore the trajectile, skeleton-structural, and view-dependent correlations among all 3D candidates in the cross-embedding space.
- Different from existing Transformer frameworks that rely on full self-attention mechanisms to associate and aggregate features, we propose the Optimal Token Attention Path (OTAP) module which selects the most informative feature from noisy and redundant options for more robust and accurate prediction of human motion.
- We build and publish the BUMocap-X dataset, a comprehensively and precisely annotated multi-person motion capture dataset featuring complex interactions and significant occlusions. Utilizing this dataset, we showcase the robustness of our proposed framework in effectively handling challenging occlusion scenarios.

2 RELATED WORKS

Multi-view multi-person 3D HPE. These frameworks are normally built upon two stages. We divide them into two categories: optimization-based and learning-based. Optimization-based methods mainly focus on the second stage. Pioneers in this field, such as [20], [27] propose a 3D pictorial structure (3DPS) model for searching corresponding body joints from a common state space shared by all bodies. Zhang et al. [14] associate 2D joints across views by optimizing the proposed geometric energy function, which includes the epipolar distance, PAF score [7] and tracking distance. Dong et al. [15] propose two affinity matrices for associating target bodies. These matrices measure the distance between 2D input pairs in terms of re-id visual features and geometric constraints. They adopt the 3DPS model to reconstruct the final motion. Inspired by [14], [15], Zhou et al. [18] associate joint at part- and body-level. They build a skeletal graph, which includes all possible joint connections, and adopt a clustering algorithm to optimize the best connection. Learning-based methods [16], [21] propose to use 3D convolutional neural networks (CNNs) to locate the most likely 3D joint from a voxel-based 3D heatmap. Those techniques allow for an end-to-end manner where losses can be back propagated to the first stage. However, those voxel-based regressions have a significant computing cost due to their greedy space discretization. Following the voxel representation, Ye et al. [28] accelerate the inference speed by utilizing 2D CNNs. Choudhury et al. [25] apply a Kalman filter and Spatial Gated Recurrent Units (GRUs) for pose tracking and forecasting. SelfPose3D [29] suggests that combining synthetic root data with augmented 2D pseudo-pose data improves model accuracy. Despite their high accuracy, these methods lack generalizability and are unable to cope with changes in camera parameters. On the other hand, Lin and Lee [30] propose a plane-sweepstereo-based network for regressing each joint's depth in every view. It enables real-time inference but requires fusing 3D poses from all views into the same coordinate, which



Fig. 2: Qualitative comparison with the most recent multi-view multi-person motion capture frameworks on our newly collected dataset **BUMocap-X**. We demonstrate the projection and rendered results as well as the manual-labelled ground truth (from left to right: 4DAssocGraph [14], DMAE [23], TEMPO [25], ours, the Joint Cloud, and the ground truth). We provide the rendered Joint Cloud of Actor-3 in ten frames. Same-typed joints are connected to indicate the trajectory. The proposed model reasons on trajectile, structural skeletal and angular information from the Joint Cloud and produces better predictions than existing frameworks, especially under occlusion scenarios.

may result in duplicate poses. We argue that, regardless of whether the method is optimization- or learning-based, the quality of 2D detections remains the bottleneck of the multistage framework. Under heavy occlusions, 2D detections may have false target ID and joint type (see Fig. 1) in the first stage, resulting in the error-accumulated association in the second stage and ultimately leading to sub-optimal performance. In contrast, we propose the Joint Cloud which consists of all 3D joint candidates regardless of their target ID in order to preserve 2D detections in terms of their precise location. We then propose the JCSAT framework to select the potentially valid ones from redundancy with the trajectile, skeletal and angular cross-embedding.

Motion prior. Recently, some research has been done to involve motion prior to 3D HPE tasks. Some studies [31], [32] predict the contact of limbs to make the 3D reconstruction physically plausible. Some [33], [34] use physics simulation to avoid floor penetration. Some other works [12], [35], [36] propose to estimate each camera's extrinsic parameters based on projection consistency across views. Pose2UV [37] focuses on human mesh recovery. It incorporates the human body mesh prior and the 2D pose prior to predict the corresponding SMPL-based [38] multi-person movements. Notably, it introduces a large-scale multi-view multi-person motion dataset 3DMPB with automatically annotated human target segmentation maps and SMPL data. In contrast, our datasets, BUMocap and BUMocap-X, are annotated manually. And we involve a weak prior which comes from the body's kinematic structure. We presume that the bone length should remain consistent throughout a motion sequence, and the structure should maintain a symmetrical form.

Graph-based motion modelling. Another line of work exemplifies the potential of graph models in human motion modelling. Yan et al. [39] focus on diverse designs of graph convolution kernels. Various works [17], [23], [40], [41] propose implementing Transformer-based networks for 3D HPE tasks. Some [17], [40], [41] treat each input 2D joint as a token [26] and apply Transformer [42] to learn the projection between 2D and 3D. POTR-3D [43] proposes to utilize three Transformers to explore multi-person interactions. MTF-

Algorithm 1 Joint Cloud Construction
Input
D , 2D detections
C , Camera matrix
Output
\mathcal{J} , Joint Cloud
function CLUSTER (\mathbf{J}, M)
$s \leftarrow \mathbf{J}^{mp}$
$c \leftarrow \text{KMeans}(s, M)$
for $m = 1 \rightarrow M$ and $i = 1 \rightarrow I$ do
If $dist(j, c^*) < m_i$ then \triangleright intesholding
$\mathbf{J} \leftarrow \mathbf{j}^{\gamma}$
and for
roturn I
and function
function Construct Joint Cloud (D, C)
for $n = 1 \rightarrow N$ and $i = 1 \rightarrow I$ do
for $(v', v'') \leftarrow \dot{\mathbf{v}}$ and $(m', m'') \leftarrow \dot{\mathbf{m}}$ do \triangleright Eq. 1, 2
$j_{n,\mathbf{v}}^{i,\mathbf{m}} \leftarrow \tau(d_{i,\mathbf{w}'}^{n,v'}, d_{i,\mathbf{w}''}^{n,v''}, \mathbf{C}_{v'}, \mathbf{C}_{v''}) \triangleright \text{ Triangulate}$
end for
$\mathbf{J}_{n}^{m} \leftarrow \text{Cluster}(\mathbf{J}_{n}, min(M_{n,1}, M_{n,2}, \cdots, M_{n,v}))$
end for
return ${\cal J}$

end function

Transformer [44] investigates the problem of calibrationfree 3D HPE by using Transformers to parallelly predict camera extrinsic and motion. Our previous work [23] uses a Transformer-based Auto-encoder to complete the 3D motion. In this work, we further explore the capability of the Transformer in 3D motion modelling. The proposed model receives 3D joint candidates from the Joint Cloud, aggregates and selects them from redundancy, and then regresses these to produce the final motion.



Fig. 3: The proposed JCSAT pipeline for efficiently extracting kinematic skeletal structures from multi-view Joint Clouds. For every multi-view camera pair (e.g., $\alpha\gamma$), the Trajectory Encoder and Structure Encoder aggregate trajectile and skeletal features from the triangulated Joint Cloud in parallel. The T-OTAP and S-OTAP modules select the optimal tokens along the joint candidate axis (joint candidates are constituents of the Joint Cloud, with each joint having multiple candidates triangulated from different camera view pairs) in a differentiable manner. By traversing through all joints and frames, these candidate feature tokens are then blended element-wise into cross-embedding tokens. The cross-embedding tokens are then gathered across the axis of camera view pairs. A View Encoder extracts angular features based on which the subsequent V-OTAP module selects the most representative token for every joint across all frames. Ultimately, an MLP head module decodes the refined trajectory. The three OTAP modules enable comprehensive and efficient optimization of the entire system from end to end.

3 METHODOLOGY

Our primary objective is to reconstruct multi-person movements from calibrated multi-view video sequences. In contrast to conventional pipelines that discard most of the 2D detections, we try to fully utilize them. To achieve this, we propose the notion of the Joint Cloud in Sec. 3.1. Since the Joint Cloud contains potentially valid candidates as well as redundant ones, we propose a Joint Cloud Selection and Aggregation Transformer (JCSAT) to distinguish among them in Sec. 3.2. Following each encoder, the redundant features are aggregated by the proposed Optimal Token Attention Path (OTAP) module in Sec. 3.3. The aggregated features are last regressed by a multi-layer perception (MLP) prediction head to 3D motion. The proposed framework's pipeline is illustrated in Fig. 3, and its details are described in the subsequent sub-sections.

3.1 Joint Cloud Construction

Suppose there are M person targets captured by V calibrated cameras, with each camera recording an N frames of video from different viewing angles. As the first step, a 2D pose detector (e.g., Openpose [7]) is applied to estimate 2D poses for each target (person). Ideally, the detector correctly identifies I types of human joints (e.g., left shoulder, right elbow and so on) and accurately estimates their 2D locations as $D_{n,v} = \{d_{n,v}^{i,m} \in \mathbb{R}^2\}$, where subscript $n \in [1, N]$ denotes the frame number and $v \in [1, V]$ denotes the view index, superscript $i \in [1, I]$ denotes the joint type and $m \in [1, M_{n,v}]$

denotes the target identity, respectively. $M_{n,v}$ stands for the total number of observed human targets from the camera view v in the frame n.

As discussed, existing approaches struggle in associating 2D joints with the correct target ID and joint type consistently across the views. Challenges mainly come from ambiguities caused by occlusions resulting in wrong ID and joint type assignments. Unlike conventional pipelines where early evaluations and thresholding operations are applied to exclude ones that are more likely to be wrong and choose only one (or a few) candidates for subsequent regression, we propose to directly triangulate all 2D joints of the same type from all possible pairwise view combinations:

$$\{ \dot{\mathbf{v}} = (v', v'') \mid v', v'' \in [1, V] \text{ and } v' \neq v'' \}, \qquad (1)$$

where $\dot{\mathbf{v}}$ represents one of such combinations. Since we do not consider each 2D joint's initial ID information (presumably error-prone under occlusion), the triangulated 3D candidates will have different target ID combinations as well:

$$\{\dot{\mathbf{m}} = (m', m'') \mid m' \in [1, M_{n,v'}], \ m'' \in [1, M_{n,v''}]\}.$$
 (2)

We collect all possible 3D candidates, including those that are extremely noisy and redundant, from each video frame with mixed view and ID combinations, i.e., $\mathbf{J}_n = \{j_{n,\mathbf{v}}^{i,\mathbf{m}} \in \mathbb{R}^3\}$. And by accumulating \mathbf{J}_n , from all frames, we form the final *Joint Cloud*: $\mathcal{J} = \{\mathbf{J}_1, \mathbf{J}_2, \cdots, \mathbf{J}_N\}$.

As analyzed, \mathcal{J} is extremely noisy and redundant. To reduce computational complexity, we establish a simple algorithm to cluster \mathcal{J} into smaller ones based on spatial proximity. We first select joints that belong to the middlehip type. Then we apply the K-Means algorithm to get each target body's centre. We separate joint candidates by calculating their Euler distance with each body centre with a predefined threshold. Algorithm. 1 describes the detailed Joint Cloud construction procedure.

3.2 Kinematic Structures from Trajectile and Skeletal token cross-embedding

Joint Cloud ${\mathcal J}$ consists of 3D candidates $j_{n, {\dot{\mathbf v}}}^{i, {\dot{\mathbf m}}}$ that are extremely noisy and redundant, especially with respect to their target ID and joint type labels. In this work, we propose a Joint Cloud Selection and Aggregation Transformer (JCSAT) framework, which is a Transformer-based structure as shown in Fig. 3. Inspired by DMAE [23], each 3D candidate $j_{n,\mathbf{v}}^{i,\mathbf{m}}$ will be treated as a Transformer's token. JCSAT focuses on selecting and aggregating valid trajectile, skeletal and angular features from noisy evidence. Specifically, JCSAT consists of three cascaded encoder modules that deeply explore the correlations among the candidate tokens along different dimensions. Each encoder is followed by an Optimal Token Attention Path (OTAP) module which differentiates and optimally selects reliable and representative candidate token features in a differentiable manner. Finally, an MLP prediction head regresses the aggregated tokens to 3D human motion trajectories.

The input sequence (after padding), \mathcal{J} $\{\mathbf{J}_1, \mathbf{J}_2, \cdots, \mathbf{J}_N\}$, can be organized as a five-dimensional matrix $\mathcal{J} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times \dot{V} \times \dot{M} \times I \times 3}$ where each dimension represents the frame index n, triangulation view pair index $\dot{\mathbf{v}}$, candidate index $\dot{\mathbf{m}}$, joint type *i*, and its corresponding 3D coordinate, respectively. Here V and M denote the total number of view combinations and candidate count (ID combination). First, a trainable linear projection layer is used to embed each candidate $j_{n,\mathbf{v}}^{i,\mathbf{m}}$ into a high-dimensional feature. Then we rearrange the input features into Frame-Target-major and Type-Target-major data structures. In Frame-Target-major data structure, we encode all tokens from the same view combination and the same joint type by Trajectory Encoder ($T_{\rm Enc}$). In Type-Target-major data structures, similarly, we encode all tokens from the same view combination and the same frame index by Structure *Encoder* (S_{Enc}). These two procedures can be formulated as:

$$\hat{z}_{T}^{i,\mathbf{v}} = T_{\text{OTAP}}(T_{\text{Enc}}(proj(\{j_{n,\mathbf{\dot{v}}}^{i,\mathbf{m}} \mid for \text{ all } n \text{ and } \mathbf{\dot{m}}\}) \\
+ Pos_{T})) \qquad (3)$$

$$= \{z_{0,\mathbf{\dot{v}}}^{i}, z_{1,\mathbf{\dot{v}}}^{i}, \cdots, z_{n,\mathbf{\dot{v}}}^{i}\}, \\
\hat{z}_{S}^{n,\mathbf{\dot{v}}} = S_{\text{OTAP}}(S_{\text{Enc}}(proj(\{j_{n,\mathbf{\dot{v}}}^{i,\mathbf{\dot{m}}} \mid for \text{ all } i \text{ and } \mathbf{\dot{m}}\}) \\
+ B_{\text{CL}}))$$

$$(4)$$

$$(4)$$

$$= \{z_{n,\mathbf{\dot{v}}}^{0}, z_{n,\mathbf{\dot{v}}}^{1}, \cdots, z_{n,\mathbf{\dot{v}}}^{i}\},$$

where \hat{z} is a set of the encoded joint patch, *proj* is the projection layer, and *Pos* is the position encoding. To be more precise, $\hat{z}_T^{i,\dot{\mathbf{v}}}$ and $\hat{z}_S^{n,\dot{\mathbf{v}}}$ are designed to represent *i*-th joint's trajectory and *n*-th frame's body structure at $\dot{\mathbf{v}}$ -th

view pair respectively. Each OTAP module aggregates the features by reducing the data on the candidate dimension $\dot{\mathbf{m}}$. In other words, OTAP helps us to select the most suitable representatives in terms of the joint's trajectory and the body's structure. Next, we blend two representations by element-wise addition as Trajectile and Skeletal cross-embedding to share spatial and temporal information cohesively. After that, the redundant view dimension is encoded by $V_{\rm Enc}$ and aggregated by the following OTAP module:

$$\hat{z}_V^{i,n} = V_{\text{OTAP}}(V_{\text{Enc}}(proj(\left\{\hat{z}_T^0 + \hat{z}_S^0, \cdots, \hat{z}_T^{\dot{\mathbf{v}}} + \hat{z}_S^{\dot{\mathbf{v}}}\right\}) + Pos_V)),$$
(5)

where $\hat{z}_V^{i,n}$ represents the *i*-th joint's token at *n*-th frame. It can be regarded as a motion representation. Last, an MLP prediction head is used to regress the motion representation to 3D movements.

3.2.1 Position Encoding

Similar to the vanilla Transformer [42], we add position encoding to facilitate the Transformer in distinguishing the input tokens. Following DMAE [23], we employ the Fourier encoding [45] to encode the joint position, frame index, joint type index and view index respectively:

$$PosEnc(x) = \left[\cos(2\pi\mathbf{B}x), \sin(2\pi\mathbf{B}x)\right]^T, \qquad (6)$$

where $x \in \mathbb{R}^{D_{emb} \times D_{in}}$ is the input, and $\mathbf{B} \in \mathbb{R}^{D_{out} \times D_{emb}}$ is a random matrix in Gaussian distribution which is sampled from $\mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2)$ and σ is a hyperparameter. D_{emb} , D_{in} and D_{out} denote the dimension of embedding, input and output respectively. In this way, the Pos_T , Pos_S and Pos_V in Eq. 3, 4, 5 can be formulated as:

$$Pos_T = PosEnc(j_{n,\dot{\mathbf{x}}}^{i,\dot{\mathbf{m}}}) + PosEnc(n), \tag{7}$$

$$Pos_{S} = PosEnc(j_{n \dot{\mathbf{x}}}^{i,\mathbf{m}}) + PosEnc(i), \tag{8}$$

$$Pos_V = PosEnc(\dot{\mathbf{v}}).$$
 (9)

3.2.2 Joint type conversion in MLP

The skeleton type is inconsistent between the 2D detector and the 3D ground truth. The 2D detector we use predicts 25-joint skeletons named Body25 while in the Shelf or Campus dataset, it provides 14-joint skeletons named Shelf14. Existing works [14], [15], [30] rely on hard-code interpolation to convert the reconstructed skeleton format to the ground-truth skeleton format for training or evaluation. Jiang et al. [23] adopt the MAE [24] concept to complete Shelf14 with Body25 during inference. However, both conversion approaches have their drawbacks. The hard-code interpolation discards several joints, such as the foot toe and only keeps the ankle while the toe's location does affect the ankle's prediction. DMAE [23]'s implicit completion leads to expensive computation. Different from them, we propose to use a simple and lightweight MLP layer to convert the skeleton format. Specifically, we fully connect the latent code on the joint type dimension and reduce the joint type number from I to I'.

3.2.3 Joint Cloud Masking

Each view pair could observe different body targets, leading to inconsistent candidate numbers. To rectify this, Joint Cloud is padded with zero to maintain a fixed-dimensional matrix form. Naturally, the zero padding should be masked in the self-attention mechanism [42]. We also perform token masking during training, to mimic the masked language modelling task [26]. To increase the model's robustness, we introduce randomness by randomly masking the input candidates: randomly select a mask ratio and apply it in every training batch.

3.3 Differentiable Feature Selection and Aggregation

Considerable noise and redundancies exist in the output of the cross-embedding encoders $T_{\rm Enc}$, $S_{\rm Enc}$ and $V_{\rm Enc}$. As shown in Fig. 3, $T_{\rm Enc}$ encodes $N \times \dot{M}$ candidate tokens while only N tokens are regarded as output representing trajectory details for each joint. $S_{\rm Enc}$ encodes $I \times \dot{M}$ candidate tokens while only I tokens are regarded as output representing the skeletal structure of the current frame. And $V_{\rm Enc}$ encodes $(I \times N) \times \dot{V}$ tokens while only $(I \times N)$ tokens represent the cross-view information. As such, our aim is to reduce redundancy from \mathcal{J} and calculate representative token features in a differentiable manner.

One straightforward idea is to directly aggregate information from all candidate tokens and rely on the Transformer's self-attention mechanism to differentiate useful information from noise. This is in a way similar to ViT [46] which aggregates the class token from image patches. We refer to it as *Non-selective aggregation*. However, we argue that the 3D joint candidates from \mathcal{J} do not conform to any rigorous statistical distribution, i.e., the discrepancies existing between the candidates are mutually exclusive in the sense that there should be one that is most correct, while all the others will only contribute negatively to the final regression accuracy when considered inclusively. We will validate this assumption in the ablation study.

As such, we propose an Optimal Token Attention Path (OTAP) module to select the most representative token(s) along desirable dimensions in a differentiable manner, named selective aggregation. Given latent representation in the form $z \in \mathbb{R}^{K_1 \times K_2 \times K_3}$, and a loss function $\mathcal{L}_{\text{OTAP}}(z)$. Our goal is to minimize the loss function by selecting only one candidate along the second dimension k_2 , thereby arriving at a more compact representation $z' \in \mathbb{R}^{K_1 \times K_3}$ in the end. Such selection task can be considered as an optimal transportation problem [47], in which the transportation plan $\mathbf{P} \in \mathbb{R}^{(K_1 \times K_2) \times K_3}$ converts embedding to z':

$$z' = \sqrt{K_2} \times \left\{ \sum_{k=1}^{K_1 \times K_2} \mathbf{P}_{k,1} \bar{z}_k, \cdots, \sum_{k=1}^{K_1 \times K_2} \mathbf{P}_{k,K_2} \bar{z}_k \right\}, \quad (10)$$

where $\bar{z} \in \mathbb{R}^{(K_1 \times K_2) \times K_3}$ is calculated from $z \in \mathbb{R}^{K_1 \times K_2 \times K_3}$ by vectorizing along its first and second dimensions, and $\bar{z}_k \in \mathbb{R}^{1 \times K_3}$ denotes the *k*-th row of \bar{z} . We ensure **P** approximates a permutation matrix, i.e., having the row sum and column sum close to 1, via regularization with Sinkhorn's algorithm [48].

The OTAP module will be used to select optimal tokens along the joint candidate dimension ($k_2 = \dot{\mathbf{m}}$) for T_{Enc}

and S_{Enc} . However, for T_{Enc} , k_1 dimension will be set for the frame indices n, while for S_{Enc} , k_1 will be set for join type i, respectively. For the view encoder V_{Enc} , OTAP will be employed to select the most informative viewing angle $(k_2 = \dot{\mathbf{v}})$, and the k_1 dimension will be set for $i \times n$.

Remark 1. We want to make sure that the token selection process should be done in a differentiable manner, since we will need to progressively *reconsider*, and *update* the selection outcomes after checking on trajectory consistency, skeletal structural and angular factors in an iterative manner. And the selection process will in-turn help to improve the cross-embedding encoders to generate more discriminative features among the noisy observations.

Remark 2. When we remove the proposed OTAP module, the aggregation process will be downgraded to nonselective aggregation. The merit of the OTAP module is evaluated in Table 7.

3.4 Loss functions

Several loss functions are carefully designed to fulfil the end-to-end learning manner. First, we use Mean Squared Error (MSE) to compute the reconstruction loss \mathcal{L}_{rec} between the prediction and ground-truth 3D joints in Cartesian space:

$$\mathcal{L}_{rec} = \frac{1}{N+I} \sum_{n=1}^{N} \sum_{i=1}^{I} \|Pred_i^n - Gt_i^n\|, \qquad (11)$$

where $Pred_i^n$ and Gt_i^n represent the prediction and groundtruth 3D joint *i* at frame *n*, respectively. $\|\cdot\|$ represents the L2 norm.

Second, we project both prediction $Pred_i^n$ and groundtruth Gt_i^n to 2D to compute each view's projection loss \mathcal{L}_{proj} :

$$\mathcal{L}_{proj} = \sum_{v=1}^{V} \left(\frac{1}{N+I} \sum_{n=1}^{N} \sum_{i=1}^{I} \left\| \prod_{v} Pred_{i}^{n} - \prod_{v} Gt_{i}^{n} \right\| \right), \quad (12)$$

where \prod_{v} is *v*-th camera's projection matrix.

Third, for kinematic structure learning, we adopt one of the 3D HPE evaluation metrics, the Percentage of Correctly estimated Parts (PCP) as the Kinematic Loss \mathcal{L}_{pcp} :

$$\mathcal{L}_{pcp} = \frac{1}{N+L} \sum_{n=1}^{N} \sum_{\{a,b\} \in L}^{L} Relu(\|Pred_{a}^{n} - Gt_{a}^{n}\| + \|Pred_{b}^{n} - Gt_{b}^{n}\| - \|Gt_{a}^{n} - Gt_{b}^{n}\|),$$
(13)

where L represents the limb between joint a and joint b. Relu in this equation acts as a hinge loss which enables \mathcal{L}_{pcp} equal to 0 when the reconstructed limb is correct (See Sec. 4.1.2 for details). We also compute the projected Kinematic Loss. Moreover, the human body is nearly symmetric and consistent during movement. That means the right side's bone length should be similar to the left side's. The length of the same bone should be consistent across frames. Based on this observation, we compute the structure loss \mathcal{L}_{bone} to enable the above constraint:

$$\mathcal{L}_{bone} = \frac{1}{N+L-1} \sum_{n=2}^{N} \sum_{l=1}^{L} \left\| Limb_{l}^{n-1} - Limb_{l}^{n} \right\| + \frac{1}{N+S} \sum_{n=2}^{N} \sum_{\{r,l\} \in S}^{S} \left\| Limb_{r}^{n} - Limb_{l}^{n} \right\|,$$
(14)

where Limb represents the predicted limb length and l denotes the limb index. $\{r, l\} \in S$ represents the symmetric limb pair. In practice, we only compute the upper/lower arms, upper/lower legs and right/left eye-to-ear limbs, eye-to-nose limbs in OpenPose [7] body format. Overall, the final loss \mathcal{L} is given by:

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_{rec} + \mathcal{L}_{proj} + \mathcal{L}_{pcp} + \mathcal{L}_{bone}.$$
 (15)

4 EXPERIMENTS

4.1 Experimental Setup

4.1.1 Dataset

We evaluate our framework against state-of-the-art methods using the following datasets. The limited availability of annotated multi-view multi-person motion datasets highlights the necessity and value of our BUMocap and BUMocap-X.

- (i) The Campus and the Shelf datasets. These are two widely used benchmarks proposed by [20], [27] where the Campus captures the outdoor activities of three individuals over three calibrated cameras, while the Shelf captures four individuals with five cameras indoors. Two datasets have annotated 1231 and 831 frames, respectively. However, these frames are partially labelled, leading to few training data.
- (ii) The BUMocap [23] and BUMocap-X datasets. The BUMocap records 90 seconds of challenging 3-actor interactive motions from five calibrated cameras with fully manual annotation. In order to better evaluate the performance of various methods under *serious occlusion*, we further expand it and present BUMocap-X, with an additional 120 seconds of extremely challenging 5-actor interactive motion from five cameras. BUMocap-X records group dance routines including self-rotations and positional changes. Given the nature of the dance movements, we believe that the richness of the actions in this dataset far surpasses that of the previous one.
- (iii) The CMU Panoptic dataset [49]. It is currently the largest dataset with 65 sequences, and 1.5 million frames of 3D skeletons under 8 motion categories. The annotation is auto-generated by Kinect [50] build-in algorithms. Note that most individuals are without occlusion, which makes pose estimation relatively easy. Following [21], we select data from five cameras (i.e., HD cameras 3, 6, 12, 13, 23) for evaluation.
- (iv) The **Markerless** dataset [14]. It consists of 4 video sequences with challenging 6-actor interactive motions. Since there is no ground truth, we use this only for qualitative evaluation.

4.1.2 Evaluation Metrics

Following the evaluation protocols in previous works [14], [15], [21], [22], [23], [30], [51], we first used the Percentage of Correctly estimated Parts (PCP) for evaluation. PCP indicates the correctness of the reconstructed limb by comparing the ground-truth limb length and the distance sum between reconstruction and ground truth at the joint level. Moreover, we used the Mean Per Joint Position Error (MPJPE) and Percentage of Correctly estimated Keypoints (PCK) as additional metrics. MPJPE measures the total average distance for the whole skeleton. PCK measures the true joint

TABLE 1: Quantitative comparison on the Shelf dataset. PCP (%) is used as the evaluation metric. "AVG" means the average PCP (%) score of three actors (A1-A3). "†" indicates recalculated performance values for this experiment setup, which could differ from the original papers.

Method	A1	A2	A3	AVG	Pub. Venue
3DPS [51]	75.3	69.7	87.6	77.5	TPAMI'15
4DAssocGraph [14]	99.0	96.2	97.6	97.6	CVPR'20
MVPose [15]	98.8	94.1	97.8	96.9	TPAMI'21
TesseTrack [21]	99.1	96.3	98.3	97.9†	CVPR'21
PlaneSweepPose [30]	99.3	96.5	98.0	97.9	CVPR'21
MMG-CRG [22]	99.3	96.5	97.3	97.7	ICCV'21
DMAE [23]	99.7	94.1	98.4	97.4	MM'22
QuickPose [18]	99.5	96.7	98.2	98.1	SIGGRAPH'22
FasterVoxelPose [28]	99.4	96.0	97.5	97.6	ECCV'22
TEMPO [25]	99.0	96.3	98.2	97.8†	ICCV'23
SelfPose3D [29]	97.2	90.3	97.9	95.1	CVPR'24
Ours	99.3	97.0	98.2	98.2	

if the distance between the reconstruction and the ground truth joints is smaller than a certain threshold. Following 4DAssocGraph [14], we set the threshold at 0.2 meters to calculate the Precision-Recall metric.

4.1.3 Implementation Details

We implemented our model with three standard ViTs [46]. $T_{\rm Enc}$ and $S_{\rm Enc}$ share the same structure. Similar to [24]'s asymmetrical structure design, we make $V_{\rm Enc}$ 50% narrower and shallower than $T_{\rm Enc}$ and $S_{\rm Enc}$ for reducing the computing cost. We adopted [47]'s optimal transport implementation in the OTAP module because of their open source wellmanaged package. During inference, we apply a shifting window to gather candidates from the Joint Cloud. We set the window length as N = 10.

For the Shelf dataset, we followed previous works [20], [27], [51] in training and evaluating configurations. In addition, We synthesized the ground truth for those non-labelled or non-complete-labelled frames by [14]. For the Campus dataset, we fine-tuned the model trained on the Shelf for 50 epochs. Following [15], [21], [30], we adopted HRNet [9] as the 2D detector for fairness of comparison. Since HRNet predicts Coco17 [52] skeletons, we padded the 2D detection to be consistent with Body25 [7]. For the training scheme, we used a dropout rate of 0.1. We adopted the AdamW optimizer with a cosine decay beginning with 10^{-5} . The training epoch was set to 120. The batch size was set to 5. To ease the problem of limited training data, we performed orientationbased data augmentation as follows: (i) every input motion sequence was subtracted by the cluster centre which belongs to the first frame of the sequence; (ii) randomly rotated Joint Cloud along the vertical direction. More details can be found in the supplementary material.

4.2 Quantitative Evaluation

For the Shelf dataset, quantitative evaluations using the PCP metric are presented in Table 1. We compared our method with recent state-of-the-art 3D HPE methods which can be generally divided into two categories: (1) optimization-based approaches [14], [15], [18], [51] and (2) learning-based approaches [21], [22], [23], [25], [28], [29], [30]. Note that

TABLE 2: Quantitative comparison on the Campus dataset. PCP (%) is used as the evaluation metric. " \dagger " indicates recalculated performance values for this experiment setup, which could differ from the original papers. " \ddagger " indicates recalculated values based on our own re-implementation.

Method	A1	A2	A3	AVG	Pub. Venue
3DPS [51]	93.5	75.7	84.4	84.5	TPAMI'15
4DAssocGraph‡ [14]	64.8	82.0	96.6	81.1	CVPR'20
MVPose [15]	97.6	93.3	98.0	96.3	TPAMI'21
TesseTrack [21]	97.9	95.2	99.1	97.4	CVPR'21
PlaneSweepPose [30]	98.4	93.7	99.0	97.0	CVPR'21
FasterVoxelPose [28]	96.5	94.1	97.9	96.2	ECCV'22
TEMPO [25]	97.7	95.5	97.9	97.0†	ICCV'23
SelfPose3D [29]	92.5	82.2	89.2	87.9	CVPR'24
Ours	99.6	93.5	98.8	97.3	

for the results presented in Table 1, only **Actor-2 is heavily occluded**, which substantially increases the difficulty of joint location reconstruction. It can be seen that our method showed more obvious advantages compared to other methods in this challenging scenario.

For the Campus dataset, results are presented in Table 2. We compared the performances among three optimizationbased approaches [14], [15], [51] and five learning-based approaches [21], [25], [28], [29], [30]. We observed that there exists a large PCP score gap between the optimizationbased and learning-based approaches. We believe this gap is caused by imprecise camera calibration, which leads to inaccurate triangulation. Since optimization-based methods are more heavily reliant on these initial triangulation and camera association, their performance on the Campus dataset was seriously affected/degraded. Moreover, our method learnt the moving trajectory from Actor-1 and Actor-3 while Actor-2 is stationary most of the time in the video sequence, which decreases the performance.

Table 3 demonstrates the performance of state-of-theart methods [14], [23], [25], [28] on the BUMocap and BUMocap-X datasets in terms of PCP, Precision, Recall and MPJPE metrics. Following [23], we trained our model and fine-tuned it on BUMocap and BUMocap-X datasets. We trained Faster VoxelPose [28] and TEMPO [25] under the same configurations mentioned in their papers respectively. We unified those skeletons in Skel19 [14] instead of Coco17 [52] used in [23], in order to prevent unfair comparison caused by false skeleton conversion when interpolating joints are missing. As shown in Table 3, our method significantly outperforms other methods. We've noticed that DMAE [23] failed to reconstruct most of the movements for the BUMocap-X dataset. We believe it failed because the simple re-ID algorithm in DMAE [23] failed to distinguish individuals with similar outlooks. Faster VoxelPose [28] didn't perform well for both datasets. We believe the reason lies that it cannot model the connection between voxelized joint heatmaps, especially when two people overlap causing mutual ambiguities. TEMPO [25] utilizes temporal information to ease the above issue, thus the performance is higher than [28]. Although TEMPO [25] proposes to utilize Spatial GRUs to model pose features in the temporal domain, it failed behind us, because our model explores the correlation among poses as well as joints, making our model able

TABLE 3: Quantitative comparison on the BUMocap (BU) and BUMocap-X (BU-X) datasets. Average PCP(%), Precision (%), Recall (%) and MPJPE (mm) are reported. "‡" indicates recalculated values based on our own re-implementation.

Method	PCP↑	Precision ↑	Recall↑	MPJPE↓
Dataset	BU/BU-X	BU/BU-X	BU/BU-X	BU/BU-X
4DAssocGraph [14]	82.1/73.1	95.1/95.1	94.4/95.1	70.8/56.5
DMAE [23]	94.3/57.0	97.5/77.5	97.5/48.4	56.3/113.4
FasterVoxelPose [28]	82.0/74.8	86.2/67.5	86.2/67.5	105.7/163.0
TEMPO‡ [25]	88.7/81.8	86.4/77.1	86.4/77.1	96.5/136.5
Ours	95.5/88.5	97.9/97.8	97.9/97.8	52.2/49.7

TABLE 4: Quantitative comparison with [14] on the CMU Panoptic dataset. We report our performance in terms of the detailed PCP (%), average PCP (%) and average MPJPE (mm). "LU.", "RU.", "LL." and "RL." stand for "Left Upper", "Right Upper", "Left Lower" and "Right Lower" respectively.

Subset ID Subset Name Body Num.	160224 haggling1 3		160- ultima 7	422 ntum1	160906 pizza1 6	
Method	Ours	[14]	Ours	[14]	Ours	[14]
LU. Arm RU. Arm LL. Arm RL. Arm LU. Leg RU. Leg RL. Leg Head Torso	99.9 99.9 99.6 98.6 99.9 99.9 99.9 99.9	 99.9 99.4 97.3 99.9 99.5 99.9 93.0 99.9 	99.9 98.9 95.1 96.6 98.9 99.6 98.2 99.2 84.3 99.9	99.9 97.3 88.9 91.9 98.9 99.9 99.9 99.9 89.2 99.9	 99.9 98.1 99.9 93.2 99.9 97.3 98.2 99.9 88.3 99.9 	99.9 99.9 93.9 97.0 99.9 97.0 99.9 88.9 99.9
AVG PCP ↑ AVG MPJPE ↓	98.9 32.7	98.9 34.1	97.1 51.3	96.6 60.7	97.5 47.1	97.6 46.3

to resolve ID/joint ambiguities. In addition, MVPose [15] crashed frequently due to re-ID failure. Therefore, we didn't present its quantitative evaluation, while qualitative demonstrations are provided in the supplementary material.

For the CMU Panoptic dataset [49], evaluation results are shown in Table 4. As shown in the table, we found that our proposed method outperforms others by a small margin. In fact, all methods present relatively high-performance scores due to the fact that the CMU Panoptic dataset presents less challenging occlusion problems.

4.3 Qualitative Evaluation

The qualitative evaluation results on the Shelf, BUMocap, BUMocap-X, and the Markerless datasets are shown in Fig. 4, Fig. 5, Fig. 2, and Fig. 6, respectively. We provide visual comparisons of 4DAssocGraph [14], DMAE [23], TEMPO [25] and our proposed model. We highlight the falsely reconstructed parts with a red dotted box. As can be seen in Fig. 4, 4DAssocGraph [14] estimated incorrect joint locations on the arms and legs under heavy occlusions, with wrong ID association. DMAE [23] predicted wrong foot locations because this prediction is related to other joints' temporal and structural information while other joints are



Fig. 4: Qualitative comparison with 4DAssocGraph [14] and DMAE [23] on the Shelf dataset. We demonstrate each projection for two clips in four views. In addition, we demonstrate the Joint Cloud for Actor-2 across a sequence of 10 frames. For a clear view, all joints in the same type are connected to represent trajectories and the predicted skeleton is drawn as an indicator.



Fig. 5: Qualitative comparison with 4DAssocGraph [14] and DMAE [23] on our newly collected dataset. We also visualize the Joint Cloud of Actor-1 and Actor-3 across 10 frames. The predicted skeletons from the first and last frames are used as indicators.



Fig. 6: Qualitative comparison with 4DAssocGraph [14] on Markerless [14] dataset. We visualize three video clips by comparing two consecutive frames to demonstrate the temporal consistency.

associated similarly to [14]. Our model predicted more reasonable and precise locations by using the trajectory and structural information for the unseen joints for Actor-2 in clip 2. For the testing results over the Markerless dataset shown in Fig. 6, since we trained the models on the Shelf dataset and tested on the Markerless dataset, the skeleton format is *Shelf14*, which differs from the output presented by 4DAssocGraph [14]. Nevertheless, when considering the limbs, our proposed framework yields more faithful 3D movements. More qualitative results can be found in the supplementary material.

Moreover, to assess the generalization ability of our model, we conducted cross-dataset performance evaluations. Specifically, we trained the JCSAT using the Shelf, BUMocap and BUMocap-X datasets and then tested it on alternate datasets. Given that the Shelf dataset provides a 15joint annotation, we standardized both the ground truth and the predictions to this skeleton definition. Other training or testing configurations remain the same. The results are presented in Table 11. Our observations confirm that our model is able to transfer the learnt motion prior across different datasets. However, we noted a decline in performance when the model, trained on the Shelf dataset, was tested on the BUMocap or BUMocap-X datasets. We attribute this decrease in performance to the complexity and diversity of the test motions, which were not captured as extensively in the training motions from the Shelf dataset.

4.4 Computational complexity analysis

We reported the framework's inference speed (the processing time per frame from 2D to 3D in milliseconds (*ms*)) and compared it with other state-of-the-art methods in Table 5. We also reported the time consumption of other steps: 1) 2D pose detection would take 5 *ms*, 2) Joint Cloud construction

TABLE 5: Inference speed comparison with state-of-the-art works on the Shelf dataset. We categorize these methods as optimization-based (*Opt.*) and learning-based (*Learn.*) methods. We report their processing time in milliseconds per frame for the 2D-to-3D procedures. The average PCP scores are also provided.

Туре	Method	PCP \uparrow	Time↓
	4DAssocGraph [14]	97.6	31.9
Opt.	MVPose [15]	96.9	$\sim \! 40$
	QuickPose [18]	98.1	2.94
	TesseTrack [21]	97.9	>333
	PlaneSweepPose [30]	97.9	23.4
	MMG-CRG [22]	97.7	~ 243
T	DMAE [23]	97.4	~ 78.5
Learn.	FasterVoxelPose [28]	97.6	32.2
	Ours with 3 views	96.4	76.5
	Ours with 4 views	97.5	117.4
	Ours with 5 views	98.2	229.1

TABLE 6: Ablation study on the Shelf dataset. PCP (%) is used as the evaluation metric. "View" indicates the number of views used during inference. "*mask*" stands for Joint Cloud masking. "*kine. loss*" stands for the Kinematic Loss.

N mask	Iodel <i>kine. loss</i>	View	A1	A2	A3	AVG
×	×	5	99.0	91.0	98.0	96.0
X	1	5	99.2	91.9	98.3	96.5
1	×	5	98.7	96.2	98.5	97.8
1	1	2	95.6	86.8	92.0	91.5
1	1	3	98.2	94.1	97.1	96.4
1	✓	4	99.1	95.2	98.1	97.5
1	1	5	99.3	97.0	98.2	98.2

would take 3 *ms*. Our framework was tested on an Intel i7-8700 3.20 GHz CPU and one NVIDIA RTX3090 GPU. Since some works didn't release the code, we can only directly reference the performance metrics as reported in the original papers. Table 5 presents the inference speed of three optimization-based approaches [14], [15], [18] and five learning-based approaches [21], [22], [23], [28], [30] (Our framework falls into the second category) as well as the performance of our model when the number of input views

TABLE 7: Performance for JCSAT variants on the Shelf dataset. Average PCP(%), Precision (%), Recall (%) and MPJPE (mm) are reported.

Model	$\text{PCP}\uparrow$	Precision \uparrow	Recall \uparrow	$\text{MPJPE}\downarrow$
OTAP-a	96.9	99.4	99.4	59.2
OTAP-b	96.4	99.0	99.0	58.0
OTAP-c	97.3	99.5	99.5	57.4
$T_{\rm Enc}$ -S& $S_{\rm Enc}$ -S	94.7	97.7	97.7	66.5
$T_{\rm Enc}$ -S& $S_{\rm Enc}$ -M	96.5	99.0	99.0	63.5
$T_{\rm Enc}$ -M& $S_{\rm Enc}$ -S	95.7	98.4	98.4	63.7
$T_{\rm Enc}$ -M& $S_{\rm Enc}$ -L	97.1	99.3	99.3	62.5
$T_{\rm Enc}$ -L& $S_{\rm Enc}$ -M	98.2	99.4	99.4	57.8
$T_{\rm Enc}\text{-}L\&S_{\rm Enc}\text{-}L$	98.1	99.6	99.6	58.6
$T_{\rm Enc}$ -M& $S_{\rm Enc}$ -M	98.2	99.5	99.5	57.3

TABLE 8: Comparison with 4DAssocGraph [14] (abbreviated as 4DA) on the Shelf dataset when camera parameters are inaccurate. PCP (%) is used as the evaluation metric. "Inac. views" denotes the number of *inaccurate views* during inference.

Inac. views	А	.1	А	2	А	.3	AV	/G
Method	Ours	4DA	Ours	4DA	Ours	4DA	Ours	4DA
1	99.8	98.9	93.5	95.7	98.2	97.1	97.2	97.2
2	98.7	97.8	91.6	91.5	97.6	97.6	96.0	95.6
3	45.2	44.1	29.2	37.5	30.6	31.4	35.0	37.7
0	99.3	99.0	97.0	96.2	98.2	97.6	98.2	97.6

TABLE 9: Comparison with 4DAssocGraph [14] (abbreviated as 4DA) on the Shelf dataset with different input image resolution rescaling factors. PCP (%) is used as the evaluation metric.

Factor	A1		tor A1 A2		А	.3	AVG	
Method	Ours	4DA	Ours	4DA	Ours	4DA	Ours	4DA
x0.25	99.7	98.7	94.1	95.3	98.4	97.7	97.4	97.2
x0.50	99.8	98.8	94.3	95.8	98.3	97.5	97.5	97.4
x0.75	99.7	99.0	95.7	96.1	98.4	97.6	97.9	97.6
x1.00	99.3	99.0	97.0	96.2	98.2	97.6	98.2	97.6

is reduced. It reveals that recent learning-based methods are generally slower than optimization-based methods. Our method demonstrates a rapid increase in inference speed as the number of input views decreases, underscoring its potential for acceleration.

Remark. We would like to clarify that, while Quick-Pose [18] appears to operate at a higher speed than our method with a small accuracy decrease of 0.1dB, such advantage in speed shall be attributed to professional programming optimization, such as the GNU C++ compiler [53]. However, learning-based approaches like ours typically utilize PyTorch [54] with costly floating-point computations. Therefore, a direct comparison of computational costs between these two method groups would be unfair. What's more important, since the Shelf dataset only contains relatively easy scenarios, the actual performance gap is not as trivial as Table 5 suggests. This is what motivates us to build a fully annotated dataset, BUMocap-X, with heavy occlusions and complex interactions. Table 3 showcases our framework's capability, which excels all compared ones by an obvious margin. It also shows that learning-based approaches (i.e., DMAE [23], Faster VoxelPose [28] and TEMPO [25]) are superior to optimization-based approaches (4DAssocGraph [14]) under this more challenging dataset with heavy occlusions.

4.5 Ablation Study

Masked Learning and Kinematic Loss. We first investigated the impact of the Joint Cloud masked learning as well as the designed Kinematic Loss in rows 1 to 3 of Table. 6 by PCP metrics on the Shelf dataset. We observed that when we remove the masking procedure, the PCP score drops 4%. When the Kinematic Loss is removed, the PCP score drops 0.4%. These results show that the Joint Cloud masking

TABLE 10: Details of the variants of the Encoder. We report the number of each variant's parameters in millions (Params). "Dim." denotes the corresponding dimension.

Encoder	Layers	Hidden Dim.	Head Dim.	Heads	Params
Small	8	128	16	16	1.33
Medium	16	256	16	16	3.20
Large	16	512	16	16	8.55

TABLE 11: Generalization evaluation of the proposed JC-SAT. We train our model individually on the BUMocap, BUMocap-X and Shelf datasets and test it on others. The MPJPE (mm) is reported.

Trai	ning Dataset		MPJPE ↓			
BUMocap	BUMocap-X	Shelf	BUMocap	BUMocap-X	Shelf	
1			52.2	64.0	59.8	
	1		66.0	49.7	61.3	
		1	83.6	68.3	57.3	

procedure increases the robustness of the model and the Kinematic Loss further improves its performance.

Observation number. As mentioned, Joint Cloud collects information from all estimated 2D joints. As our model reasons on trajectile, skeletal and angular information, we assume it gains robustness to ambiguities caused by occlusions. To validate our assumption, we decreased the observation number and compared the PCP scores on the Shelf dataset. Rows 4 to 6 of Table 6 demonstrate that our model can overcome ambiguities caused by occlusions.

Inaccurate camera parameters. We further assessed our model's resilience to inaccurate camera parameters and compared the results with 4DAssocGraph [14]. We denote the view with inaccurate camera parameters as *inaccurate view*. We intentionally add random errors to the camera parameters which causes random translation offsets within the range [-0.25cm, 0.25cm] and random rotations around a random axis within the range $[-2.5^{\circ}, 2.5^{\circ}]$. Results in Table 8 show that our model remains stable and outperforms 4DAssocGraph with no more than two *inaccurate views*. Both of our method and 4DAssocGraph degrade seriously with three *inaccurate views*. This noise causes the triangulation step to fail in the early stages of both pipelines.

Different input resolution. Considering that reducing the size of input images may result in the loss of semantic information and consequently degrade the performance of the 2D detector. We then compared our model against 4DAs-socGraph [14] with different rescaling factors. As shown in Table 9, ours exhibits superior robustness. Notably, when the rescaling factor is set to 0.5, our model achieves higher PCP scores for A1 and A3 than with a factor of 1.0. This suggests that our model has learnt motion prior, compensating for the missing information.

Feature aggregation. The impact of different feature aggregation methods in the proposed OTAP module is shown in rows 1 to 3 of Table 7. We investigated several aggregation combinations described in Sec. 3.3: a) all OTAPs adopt non-selective aggregation (OTAP-a); b) T_{OTAP} and S_{OTAP} adopt non-selective aggregation and V_{OTAP} adopt selective aggregation (OTAP-b); c) T_{OTAP} and S_{OTAP} adopt selective

aggregation and V_{OTAP} adopts non-selective aggregation (OTAP-c); d) all OTAPs adopt selective aggregation (T_{Enc} -M& S_{Enc} -M, i.e. our final model). We observed that replacing the selective aggregation with non-selective aggregation methods leads to the most 2% performance drop on PCP and 4.9% in terms of MPJPE. The changes to Precision and Recall are not obvious. Results show the optimal transport framework helps JCSAT to select the most suitable candidate representation and further improves its performance.

Variants of the Encoder. We assessed our model over different configurations, as summarized in Table 10. There are three variant designs for both the Trajectory Encoder $T_{\rm Enc}$ and the Structure Encoder $S_{\rm Enc}$. We reported the corresponding performance in rows 4 to 10 of Table 7, where $T_{\rm Enc}$ -S, $T_{\rm Enc}$ -M and $T_{\rm Enc}$ -L denote the Trajectory Encoder applied in "Small", "Medium" and "Large" configurations respectively. Other notations such as $S_{\rm Enc}$ -S follow the same naming rules. Results in Table 7 reveal that $S_{\rm Enc}$ is more influential in the overall performance of the model. This is evidenced by the larger performance gains observed with increases in $S_{\rm Enc}$'s parameters compared to those in $T_{\rm Enc}$. The combination of $T_{\rm Enc}$ -M and $S_{\rm Enc}$ -M yields the most balanced outcomes in terms of computing complexity and accuracy.

5 LIMITATIONS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

As mentioned in Sec. 3.2, Joint Cloud represents a 5dimensional matrix, formulated as $\mathcal{J} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times \dot{V} \times \dot{M} \times I \times 3}$. During the process of encoding, each encoder operates on three dimensions. For instance, $T_{
m Enc}$ takes N imes M imes dim as input. In practical implementation, we set N = 10, M = 4for one trajectory and there are 25 trajectories in total. Given the significant computational complexity associated with this setup, the proposed framework currently cannot run in real-time. Recent works [17], [41] propose several encoding strategies to reduce the computing complexity, e.g., 1) use fewer tokens for representation, and 2) process data on the temporal and spatial domains in the same memory buffer. We will try to use fewer tokens to represent the motion, with each token denoting a trajectory or skeletal structure. Further acceleration can be achieved using TensorRT [55] and frame-skipping strategies. To deal with even more serious occlusion, we will further investigate applying even more robust priors to better learn structures from noisy observations, such as fully articulated humanoid models (e.g., the SMPL-family [38], [56]).

6 CONCLUSIONS

In this paper, we have first introduced the concept of Joint Cloud which contains 3D candidates triangulated from 2D detections regardless of their ID in every view pair. This data arrangement facilitates information utilization from all observation angles. Since Joint Cloud is noisy and redundant, we have proposed a Joint Cloud Selection and Aggregation Transformer (JCSAT) framework to deeply explore the trajectile, skeletal and angular correlations among all 3D candidates derived from the Joint Cloud. Different from existing Transformer-based frameworks that fully rely on self-attention mechanisms to aggregate features, we have proposed the Optimal Token Attention Path (OTAP) module implemented by a trainable optimal transport framework to select the most informative features. Furthermore, to validate the effectiveness of the proposed framework, we have built and published a new multi-person motion capture dataset featuring complex interactions and severe occlusions, named BUMocap-X. Extensive experiments on public datasets as well as our BUMocap-X dataset establish the superiority of our approach over state-of-the-art methods.

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Supplementary Material for Every Angle Is Worth A Second Glance: Mining Kinematic Skeletal Structures from Multi-view Joint Cloud

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Fig. 1: Demonstration of the triangulation procedure in the Joint Cloud construction pipeline. Three views are presented in the scene. The 2D detections of the "Left Knee" are depicted by yellow dots. From one of the view pair combinations, the 3D triangulated candidates are shown in orange dots. Orange dashed lines symbolize the ray cast from a camera centre to the 2D point on the camera plane. For clarity, only four candidates are illustrated while there should be twelve candidates in total.

1 JOINT CLOUD CONSTRUCTION EXAMPLE

Here we give an example of the detailed construction of the proposed Joint Cloud. Images used here are from the Shelf dataset [57]. We will explain the process step by step with visual demonstrations. For a more illustrative explanation, we provide a supplementary video containing joint cloud construction animation and visual comparison to other methods.

1.1 Triangulation in view pairs

As mentioned in the main paper, the Joint Cloud consists of noisy and redundant 3D joint candidates $j_{n,\dot{\mathbf{v}}}^{i,\dot{\mathbf{m}}} \in \mathbb{R}^3$, where subscript $n \in [1, N]$ denotes the frame number and $\dot{\mathbf{v}} \in [1, \dot{V}]$ represents one of the view pair combinations (Eq. 1 in the main paper), superscript $i \in [1, I]$ denotes the joint type and $\dot{\mathbf{m}} \in [1, \dot{M}]$ denotes joint's initial identity (Eq. 2 in the main paper) respectively. As such, the Joint Cloud can be formulated as:

$$\mathbf{J}_n = \left\{ j_{n, \dot{\mathbf{v}}}^{i, \dot{\mathbf{m}}} \in \mathbb{R}^3
ight\}, \ \mathcal{J} = \left\{ \mathbf{J}_1, \mathbf{J}_2, \cdots, \mathbf{J}_N
ight\},$$

where \mathbf{J}_n stands for *n*-th frame's 3D candidate set and \mathcal{J} is the Joint Cloud accumulated from \mathbf{J}_n .

Fig. 1 illustrates a scene with three views and one frame. If OpenPose [7] is used as the 2D pose detection module, the total number of joint type I = 25 due to the 25-joint skeleton output format of the OpenPose [7]. As the number of the

Fig. 2: Demonstration of the mid-hip clustering procedure in the Joint Cloud construction pipeline. Yellow dots represent the 2D detections of "mid-hip". Orange dots represent the 3D triangulated candidates. Red dots represent the centroid of each cluster. We utilize the centroid as each individual's body centre indicating the corresponding Joint Cloud subset's centre.

observed individuals is 2 in each view, every two views, a.k.a. one view pair combination observes $\mathbf{M} = 2 \times 2 = 4$ ID combinations. N = 1 cause there is only one frame. V = 3because there are three views and the view pair combination is = 3. Let's focus on the joint type "Left Knee". Regardless of the individual's ID, literally, we have 6 "Left Knee" joints denoted as A, B, C, D, E, and F in three views. We can triangulate four candidates of "Left Knee" from each view pair combination v, e.g. A and C, A and D, B and C, B and D. Combining three view-pair combinations, the total number of candidates for "Left Knee" leads to 12. In Fig. 1, we only demonstrate one view combination's candidates for a clear view. Following the above instruction, we can triangulate tons of joint candidates from every frame in a video sequence. In the next subsection, we propose a simple clustering algorithm to assign initial IDs to joint candidates so that we get a smaller Joint Cloud.

1.2 Assign initial IDs to Joint Cloud

Since joint candidates are noisy and redundant in the Joint Cloud, we can adopt a rough filter to assign the initial target identity to those candidates thereby reducing the computational complexity. To illustrate, we know that a human leg cannot exceed a length of two meters, so we can filter out any limbs that surpass this limit. Following this intuition, we propose a simple but efficient clustering algorithm, outlined in Algorithm 1 of the main paper, to enable effective data reduction.



Fig. 3: Illustration of the failure case of the mid-hip clustering. From left to right: a), b), c) three continuous frames with the corresponding frame index $n = \{0, 1, 2\}$, d) trajectories of mid-hips in three frames.



Fig. 4: Illustration of one individual's Joint Cloud in three continuous frames. Blue dots indicate the candidates that are projected back to 2D. Red dash lines highlight the outliers.

1.2.1 Mid-hip clustering

We need to verify the number of individuals in every frame so that we can divide the Joint Cloud for each individual. To achieve this, we employ the KMeans clustering algorithm, utilizing joint candidates of the "mid-hip" type, to obtain a distinct central location for each individual. Initially, we establish the minimum number of individuals across views. Let's take the scene depicted in Fig. 2 as an example, the minimum individual number of this scene is 2. As mentioned in the main paper, the minimum individual number in one scene is the minimum number of detected persons across different views. Subsequently, we set the cluster number with the minimum individual number and cluster the mid-hip candidates. Lastly, after clustering, we assign the centroid of each cluster as each individual's central location. Therefore, we can divide those joint candidates with two IDs and we process them separately.

1.2.1.1 Discussion: On possible failure case is depicted in Fig. 3. We illustrate it in a two-dimensional space. Similar to Fig. 2, the orange dots represent the candidates and the red dots represent the cluster centroids. As shown in Fig. 3, there are three continuous frames in $n = \{0, 1, 2\}$. Blue arrows illustrate two trajectories of the cluster centroids in the right sub-figure. We can find that, one trajectory is not smooth. Generally, this is because the performance of the KMeans algorithm tends to be affected by imbalanced data. In cases where mid-hip candidates are widely dispersed, the location of the individual centre can be unstable across frames. More advanced clustering algorithms can be employed to ameliorate the imbalanced data bias. Alongside this, object-tracking algorithms can be also employed to enhance the continuity of the Joint Cloud subset's centre across frames. In our case, the aforementioned scenario does not arise.

Joint type	Threshold	Joint type	Threshold
Nose	0.85	Neck	0.7
RShoulder	0.7	RElbow	0.8
RWrist	0.8	LShoulder	0.7
LElbow	0.7	LWrist	0.8
MidHip	0.3	RHip	0.3
RKnee	0.6	RAnkle	1.0
LHip	0.3	LKnee	0.6
LAnkle	1.0	REye	0.9
LEye	0.9	REar	0.85
LEar	0.85	LBigToe	1.0
LSmallToe	1.0	LHeel	1.0
RBigToe	1.0	RSmallToe	1.0
RHeel	1.0	-	-

1.2.2 Thresholding for each individual

For each cluster centroid (a.k.a. individual centre), we adopt several thresholds to filter outlier candidates and assign the remaining candidates to the current individual subset. Specifically, we first calculate the Euler distance between the candidate and the current individual centre. If the distance is bigger than the given threshold, we next filter this candidate. Table 1 lists the detailed thresholds utilised in the main paper.

Discussion: The above processes are in-1.2.2.1 tended to reduce the Joint Cloud's complexity. Nonetheless, one possible situation is that two individuals stand close and interact, rough thresholds may assign redundant candidates to each individual. This situation can be depicted as Fig 4. In Fig 4, there are three continuous Joint Cloud reprojections. While the outliers highlighted by red dash lines are not filtered correctly, we can still identify potential outliers through discontinuous patterns. To select the potentially valid candidates from the noisy and redundant Joint Cloud, we involve the spatial and temporal information: skeletal structure, and joint trajectory. The redundant candidates will lead to a false skeleton in every frame and discontinuous trajectories across the frames, and our proposed framework can distinguish them.

1.3 Intuitive visual examples

We provide intuitive visual examples to demonstrate the trajectories and skeletal structures in the proposed Joint Cloud. We want to justify that, in the Joint Cloud, we can select candidates to form a complete movement based on joint trajectories, skeletal structures and angular perspectives. Therefore a Transformer can also deeply explore the correlations among the trajectile, skeletal structural and angular information derived from Joint Cloud and regress those features to the 3D motion. In Fig. 5, we present the skeletal and trajectile data for one individual in ten frames, with a variety of colour-coded view pairs to differentiate between them. In Fig. 5a, we connect all possible limbs for every frame, thus revealing an approximate body skeletal structure. Similarly, in Fig. 5b, we connect all joints in the same type to indicate their corresponding trajectories, thus revealing a rough body movement. Therefore, Joint Cloud can provide enough information to explore the implicit





(b) Trajectories in all view pair combinations.

Fig. 5: Demonstration of skeletal and trajectile information for one individual in Joint Cloud. Different colours represent different view pair combinations.



Fig. 6: Demonstration of the data arrangement of the Joint Cloud. Blue-coloured cubes and white-coloured cubes represent the candidates and zero padding respectively.

movement representations. With the help of the Transformer, we can regress those implicit representations to the final motion.

1.4 Data arrangement

As a supplementary explanation to the padding process described in Sec. 3.2 of the main paper, we visualize this process in Fig. 6. Recall that the padded Joint Cloud is organized as a 5-dimensional matrix $\mathcal{J} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times \dot{V} \times \dot{M} \times I \times 3}$. If we ignore the last dimension, we can illustrate the matrix in Fig. 6. Every blue-coloured cube represents one joint candidate, and every white-coloured cube represents zero padding. In practice, the maximum limit for the joint candidate count is restricted to four.

2 NETWORK STRUCTURE

As introduced in the main paper, the proposed Joint Cloud Selection and Aggregation Transformer (JCSAT) consists of three Transformer-based encoders for trajectile, skeletal structural and angular cross-embedding. Each encoder is a vanilla Visual Transformer (ViT) [46] consisting of multiheaded self-attention blocks (MSAs) and feed-forward network blocks (FFNs). Layernorm (LN) is applied before MSAs and FFNs. Residual connections are employed after every block. JCSAT takes Joint Cloud as input and treats every joint candidate as an independent token encoded by the Trajectory Encoder and Structure Encoder in parallel. After encoding, we propose an Optimal Token Attention Path (OTAP) module that differentiates and optimally selects reliable and representative candidate token features from the Trajectory Encoder and Structure Encoder respectively. Next, we sum up trajectile features and skeletal structural features on the view dimension (in the main paper, we also refer to features as representations). So for each view pair combination, there is one motion feature to represent the body motion. Then, we encode the motion features by the View Encoder followed by an OTAP module to select one view's motion feature among all view pair combinations. Last, an MLP prediction head is used to regress the motion feature to 3D movements. Table 2 and Table 3 show the details of the ICSAT structure. We will release the whole code of our proposed framework as well as the newly collected multi-view multi-person labelled motion capture dataset after publication.

TABLE 2: The detailed structure of the proposed Joint Cloud Selection and Aggregation Transformer (JCSAT) network. 'Num' denotes the number of layers. 'Dim' denotes the corresponding dimension.

Trajectory Encoder	Num
In Dim	3
Enc Dim	256
Enc Depth	16
MSA Head	16
MSA Dim per Head	16
FFN Dim	256
Structure Encoder	Num
In Dim	3
Enc Dim	256
Enc Depth	16
MSA Head	16
MSA Dim per Head	16
FFN Dim	256
View Encoder	Num
In Dim	256
Enc Dim	32
Enc Depth	8
MSA Head	8
MSA Dim per Head	4
FFN Dim	3

TABLE 3: The detailed structure of the proposed Optimal Token Aggregation Path (OTAP) module. We implement it by a trainable optimal transport technique [47]. 'Num' denotes the number of layers. 'Dim' denotes the corresponding dimension.

TOTAD	NT
I-OTAP	Num
In Dim	256
MSA Head	1
Log Domain	True
Out Dim	25
S-OTAP	Num
In Dim	256
MSA Head	1
Log Domain	True
Out Dim	10
V-OTAP	Num
In Dim	32
MSA Head	1
Log Domain	True
Out Dim	1

2.1 Joint type conversion

As discussed in Sec. 3.2.2 of the main paper, we utilize an additional MLP layer after the prediction head to convert the predicted movement into the ground-truth joint type. Inside, there are two linear layers that convert the input dimension from 25 to 20 and 20 to 15 sequentially.

3 TRAINING DETAILS

To easily reproduce our result, we provide the training specifications in Table 4. Moreover, following [23], [24], [46], we adopt the linear learning rate scaling rule [58], i.e., $lr = base \ lr \times batch \ size/256$.

TABLE 4: Specifications for network training.

Specifications	
optimizer	AdamW [59]
optimizer momentum	$\beta_1, \beta_2 = 0.9, 0.999$
weight decay	0.05
learning rate schedule	cosine decay [60]
warmup epochs [58]	30
gradient clipping	0.02
drop out	No
base learning rate	2e-4
batch size	5
epoch size	120

4 ADDITIONAL RESULTS

We offer supplementary visual comparisons with Zhang et al. [14] (CVPR'20), Dong et al. [15] (TPAMI'21) and Jiang et al. [23] (MM'22) on the Shelf dataset and our newly collected multi-view multi-person motion capture dataset. We highlight the false reconstruction with red dotted boxes. Same to the main paper, the visualization of Joint Cloud for one individual is included for every frame sample. Furthermore, we provide synthetic videos for continuous evaluation.

Fig. 7 and Fig. 8 demonstrate the results of two continuous clips on the Shelf dataset. In Fig. 7, let's focus on the second and third individuals which are under heavy conclusion. [14] reconstructs most of the correct body parts while the left foot is wrongly produced. [15] reconstructs inconsistent identifications (the third individual's colour changes through frames). [23] predicts the imprecise head location. Our framework produces more accurate results in terms of identification consistency (don't change through frames) and joint location precision (the second individual's foot location is relatively accurate). In Fig. 8, [14], [15], [23] struggle in reconstructing the third individual's movement. Since the third individual is under heavy occlusion, the locations of the feet are badly reconstructed. Also [15] suffers from inconsistent individual identification through frames (the skeleton colour is changed). But in our framework, the proposed JCSAT explores the joint trajectory and skeletal structure information. The occluded joint part can be regressed from the former and latter frames so that our framework outperforms others.

Fig. 9 and Fig. 10 demonstrate the results of two continuous clips on our newly collected dataset. This dataset records five individuals' dancing movements including turns and rotations with heavy occlusions and ambiguities

leading to a challenging scenario. Thus we want to validate our proposed framework that JCSAT learns to regress the motion via trajectories and skeletal structures and also show its superiority among state-of-the-art frameworks. In Fig. 9, [14] reconstructs discontinuous movements while the tracking energy function gives all individuals consistent identities. [23] fail to reconstruct correct movements due to its simple re-id algorithm. The re-id algorithm is unable to differentiate between two individuals with similar appearances. Our framework regresses more accurate movements. [15] fails to reconstruct most of the movements. We believe the failure reason is similar to [23]'s. That is [15] wrongly re-identify each detection across views. Besides, we find that [15]'s 2D pose detector is prone to detect humanoid shadows as poses. In other words, [15] is sensitive to the appearance of detections. If the detections share similar appearances (e.g. dark-coloured outlooking in a weak light environment and the grey shadows), the re-id algorithm will fail. Despite this, in Fig. 10, our framework fails in some frames in terms of the light-blue-coloured individual. This is because, in the first, JCSAT doesn't detect this individual. The trajectile information is missing. [14] reconstructs incorrect arms for the dark-blue-coloured individual. Overall, ours performs better than [14], [15], [23] in this scene.



Fig. 7: Visual comparisons on the Shelf dataset in five continuous frames (214-218). We demonstrate 3D poses and the corresponding reprojection on the 5th view. From top to bottom, Zhang et al. [14] (CVPR'20), Dong et al. [15] (TPAMI'21), Jiang et al. [23] (MM'22), our proposed framework (JCSAT) and Joint Cloud. We highlight the false reconstruction with red dotted boxes.



Fig. 8: Visual comparisons on the Shelf dataset in five continuous frames (246-250). We demonstrate 3D poses and the corresponding reprojection on the 5th view. From top to bottom, Zhang et al. [14] (CVPR'20), Dong et al. [15] (TPAMI'21), Jiang et al. [23] (MM'22), our proposed framework (JCSAT) and Joint Cloud. We highlight the false reconstruction with red dotted boxes.



Fig. 9: Visual comparisons on our newly collected dataset in five continuous frames (30-34). We demonstrate 3D poses and the corresponding reprojection on the 5th view. From top to bottom, Zhang et al. [14] (CVPR'20), Dong et al. [15] (TPAMI'21), Jiang et al. [23] (MM'22), our proposed framework (JCSAT) and Joint Cloud. We highlight the false reconstruction with red dotted boxes.



Fig. 10: Visual comparisons on our newly collected dataset in five continuous frames (235-239). We demonstrate 3D poses and the corresponding reprojection on the 5th view. From top to bottom, Zhang et al. [14] (CVPR'20), Dong et al. [15] (TPAMI'21), Jiang et al. [23] (MM'22), our proposed framework (JCSAT) and Joint Cloud. We highlight the false reconstruction with red dotted boxes.