

1 Thank you for the insightful comments from all reviewers. Those are very helpful to improve our submission.

2 **Additional baselines [R1-A1]** We agree that [TaBERT & TabNet] and VIME have common concepts - the pretext task
3 for self-supervised learning (self-SL) is recovering masked data. However, there are two major differences as well: (1)
4 VIME utilizes another pretext task (binary mask vector estimation) for self-SL, (2) VIME utilizes the imputed data
5 as augmented samples for semi-SL. We include TaBERT and TabNet as additional baselines and the brief results (for
6 Table 2) are: [0.8653, 0.9463, 0.8127] and [0.8637, 0.9487, 0.8114] which are consistently worse than VIME.

7 **Extra ablation study [R1-A2]** These results are already presented in Section 8 in Appendix (see Table 4). The
8 combination of two pretext tasks is consistently better than only using one of those two pretext tasks.

9 **Correlation structure of tabular data [R1-A3]** The spatial correlations between pixels in images or the sequential
10 correlations between words in text data are well-known and consistent across different datasets. By contrast, the
11 correlation structure among features in tabular data is unknown and varies across different datasets. In other words,
12 there is no *common* correlation structure in tabular data.

13 **Novelties [R1-A4]** The design of VIME is dedicated to tabular data. The pretext tasks we use here mark a departure
14 from those used previously on image and text data. The main novelties of the VIME framework are (1) novel pretext
15 task(s) for tabular data (the combination of two pretext tasks) in Section 4.1 and (2) novel data augmentation for tabular
16 data in Section 4.2. We will clarify these novelties in the revised manuscript and tone down the semi-SL part.

17 **Alternative augmentation [R1-A5]** Thank you for the suggestion, though we would note that augmentation methods
18 for tabular data are not standardized. Note also that we included “MixUp” results as an additional augmentation model
19 in the manuscript (and it underperformed VIME in all experimental settings). We have since performed an additional
20 experiment in which we add Gaussian noise to the original data and treat this as the augmented sample. Briefly, as
21 compared with results in Table 2, performances with Gaussian noise augmentations are 0.8627, 0.9481, 0.8253 with
22 Income, MNIST, and Blog datasets, respectively. These results are consistently worse than the performances of VIME.

23 **Minor issues [R1-A6]** We will fix those typos and improve Figure 1 and 2 in the revised manuscript.

24 **Categorical variables [R2-A1]** We agree that categorical variable issues in tabular data is critical. In practice and
25 experiments, we change Eq (6) to cross-entropy loss for categorical features to properly handle them. We will clarify this.
26 Most of the tabular datasets used in our paper include categorical variables. For instance, all the variables in genomic
27 datasets are categorical. Also, two clinical datasets include various categorical features (see Table 2 in Appendix).

28 **PCA on Genomics [R2-A2]** We performed extra experiments using PCA + ElasticNet and PCA + Linear on genomics
29 data (as suggested). Unfortunately, the performance of PCA + ElasticNet and of PCA + Linear are consistently and
30 significantly worse than original ElasticNet and Linear models in terms of MSE. As explained in **R2-A1**, all the variables
31 in genomic data are categorical features; and usually, applying PCA on categorical variables is not recommended.

32 **Data normalization [R2-A3]** Yes, we did. We first use MinMaxScaler to normalize the data between 0 and 1 (it can
33 be also checked in the submitted codes (data-loader.py)); then, we train the self and semi-supervised models. We also
34 tried StandardScaler for data normalization (mean=0, std=1); and the performances were similar with MinMaxScaler.

35 **Clarification [R2-A4]** In the revised paper, we will clarify the meaning of “Variants of VIME” in the captions.

36 **Novelties [R3-A1]** We acknowledge that self/semi-supervised learning is well-studied in the image and language
37 domains. However, as shown in various results in the manuscript (e.g., Table 2) and Appendix (e.g., Table 5), the
38 state-of-the-art self/semi-supervised learning models for image and language domains (such as SimCLR) underperform
39 VIME in the tabular setting. This demonstrates that new self/semi-supervised learning models are necessary for tabular
40 domain (we also highlight our novelties in **R1-A4**). Note that VIME consistently outperforms Gaussian noise based
41 models in various settings not only shown in the manuscript (results with DAE baseline) but also proved in **R1-A5**.

42 **Masking the data [R3-A2]** The first term ($\mathbf{m} \cdot \bar{\mathbf{x}}$) consists precisely of the shuffled samples (with \mathbf{m} determining which
43 features will be shuffled for the given data sample \mathbf{x}). Essentially the masked samples are partially masked (as is the
44 typical meaning of *masking*) - some of the sample consists of truly observed features, and the remainder is masked by
45 the *shuffling* you refer to. In this case, the marginal distributions of the corrupted samples are valid but conditional
46 distributions are invalid. Therefore, the encoder must consider the values of other components to estimate whether that
47 component is corrupted. In other words, the encoder should learn the *joint distributions* (which is the main objective of
48 self-supervised learning).

49 **Masking with Gaussian [R3-A3]** If we sample \mathbf{m} with Gaussian distribution (instead of Bernoulli distribution), the
50 prediction performances for Income, MNIST, and Blog datasets are 0.8427, 0.9439, 0.8127 which are consistently
51 worse than VIME (See Table 2). Note that the performance degradation is significant with datasets including categorical
52 variables (Income and Blog). This is because, with Gaussian noise, the encoder can easily identify which feature is
53 corrupted if the corrupted features are categorical variables. Please see **R2-A1** and **R1-A5** for more details.

54 **Clarification [R3-A4]** To clarify the “Self-SL only” variant, it can be interpreted as $\beta = 0$. More specifically, we first
55 train the encoder via self-supervised learning. Then, we train the predictive model with loss function (in Eq 7) with
56 $\beta = 0$ (only utilizing the labeled data). We will clarify this in the revised manuscript.