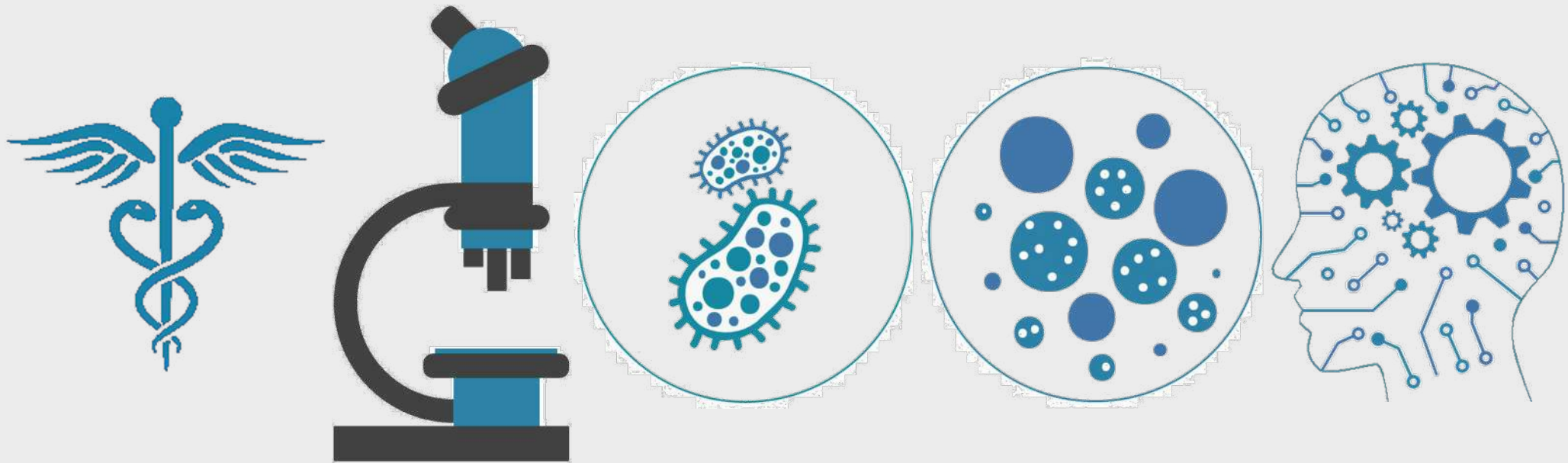


# Tomography roundtable

## Theory



**Tomography Short Course!**

4-12-21

Alex Noble

[anoble@nysbc.org](mailto:anoble@nysbc.org)



SIMONS ELECTRON  
MICROSCOPY CENTER

National Resource for Automated Molecular Microscopy  
Simons Electron Microscopy Center  
New York Structural Biology Center

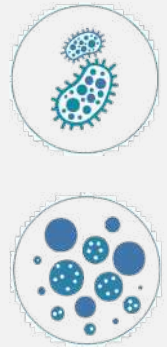
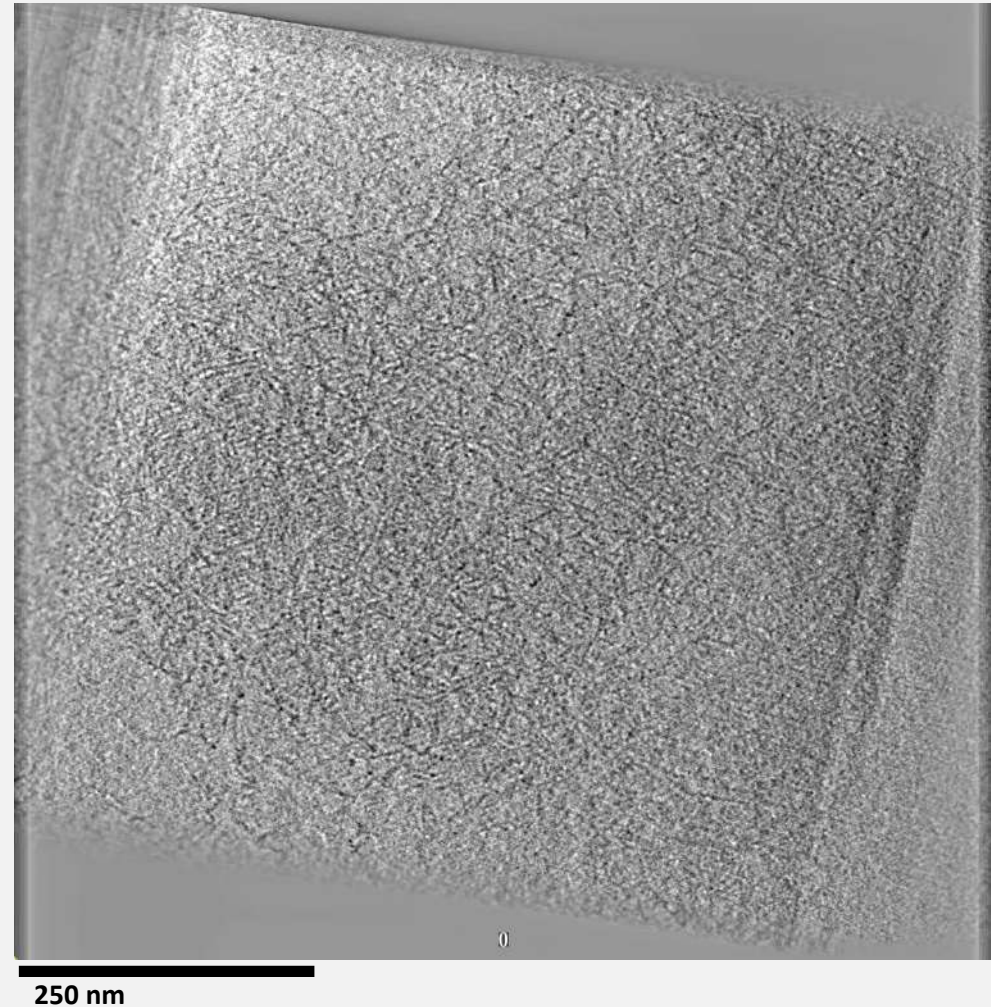
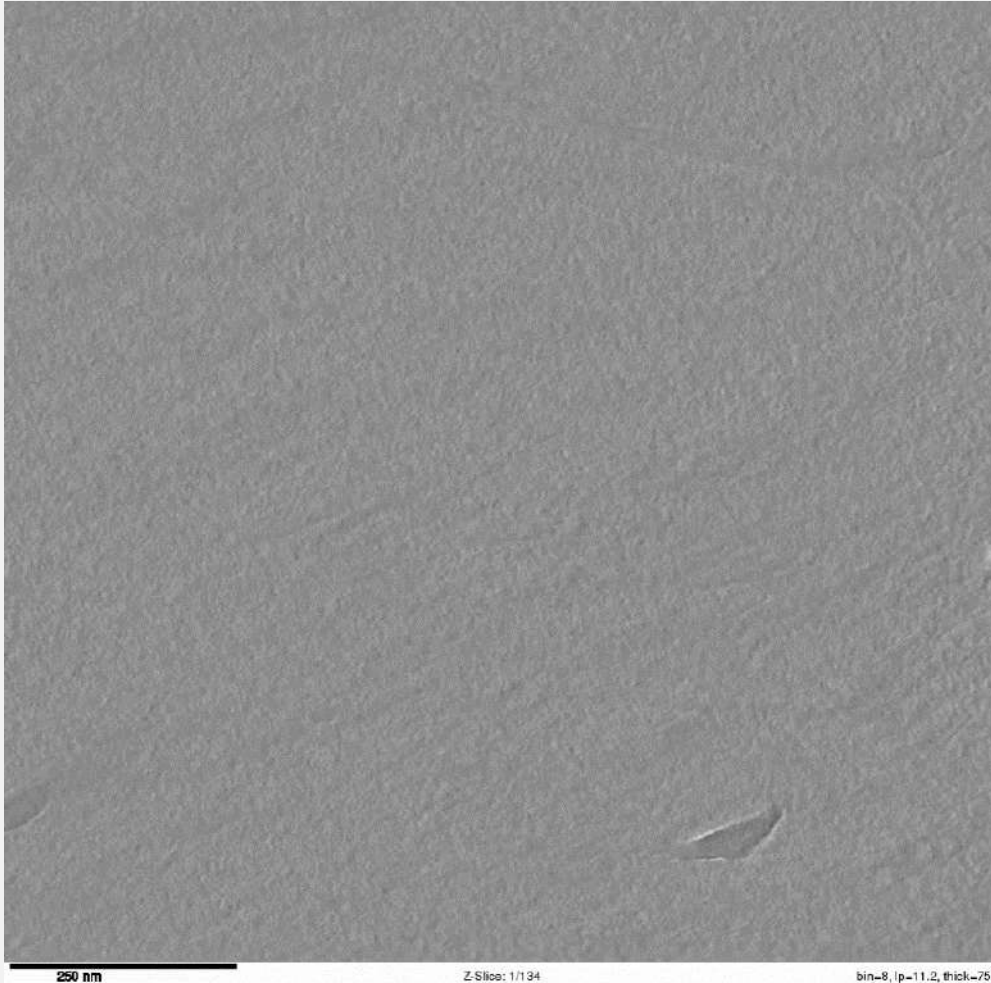




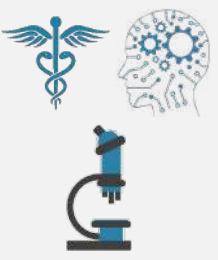
# What is CryoET?

(cryo-electron tomography)

- Cells or complex reconstituted environments

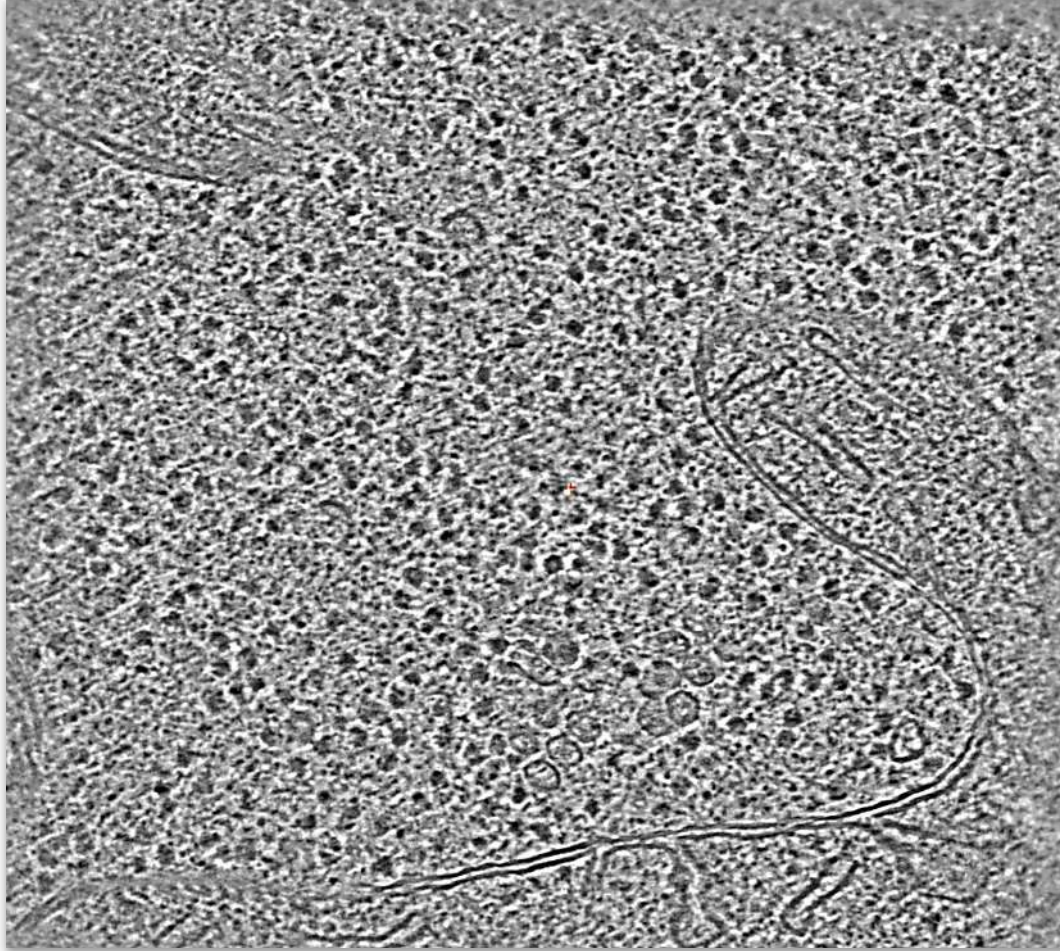






# What is CryoET?

(cryo-electron tomography)

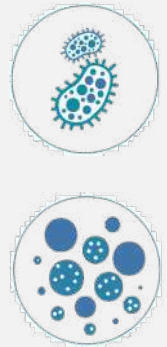


250 nm



250 nm

>> CryoET is the **highest resolution method** for **native specimen**





# Overview – Why CryoET?

Why **cryo**?

- Specimen preservation in native or near-native environments.

Why **electrons**?

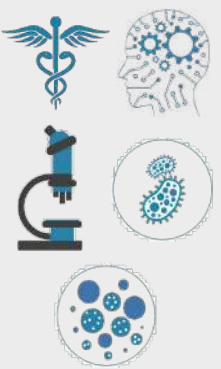
- +Small wavelengths (high res), +Can be focused, –Damage sample

Why **tomography**?

- Some combination of:
  - Sample is **unique**; e.g. cells,
  - Sample is too **heterogeneous** (structurally or morphologically); e.g. viruses with variable # of receptors, or viruses of different non-symmetric shapes,
  - **Domain-stoichiometry** and/or orientation is required,
  - **Sub-nanometer** information is usually **not** required, but may be possible.

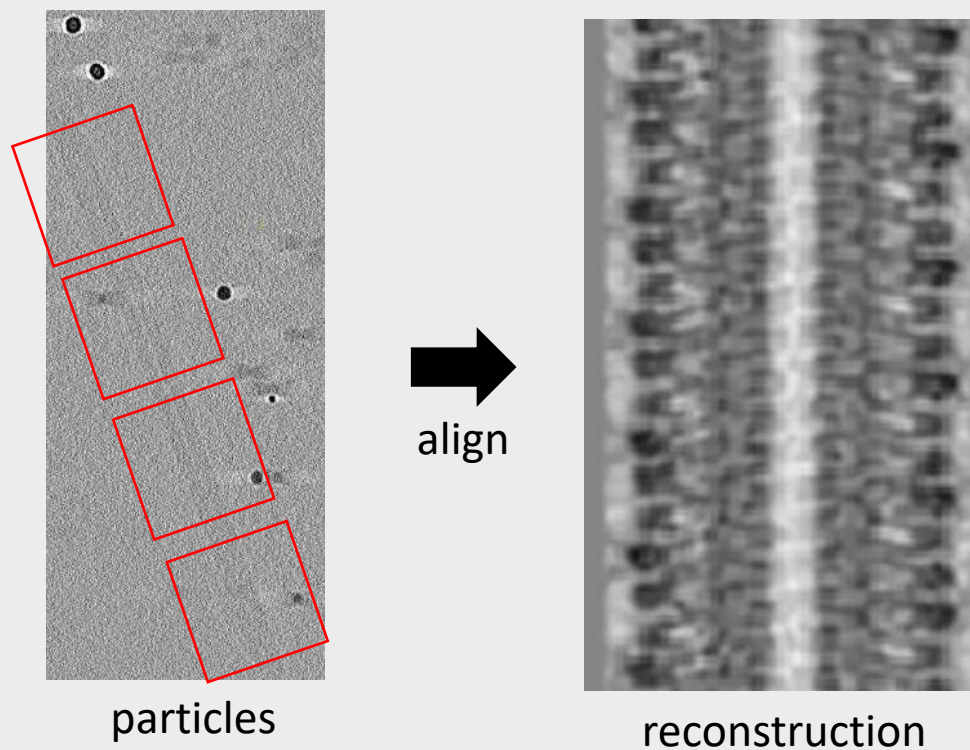




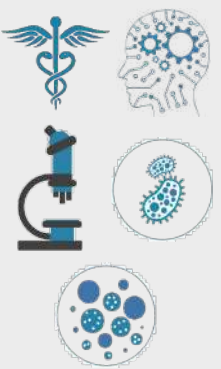


# Overview – Why subtomogram averaging?

- Some amount of structural **repetition**,
- Repeating subunit preferred **orientation** overcome by **tilt range**



Courtesy of  
Misha Kudyashev

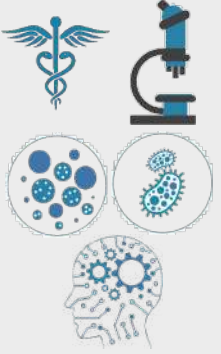


# Overview

- CryoET limitations
- Tilt-series collection
- Tilt-series alignment
- Defocus estimation and CTF correction
- Sub-tomogram localization
- Sub-tomogram alignment and averaging
- Examples
- Processing limitations
- Future directions and improvements







# CryoET Limitations



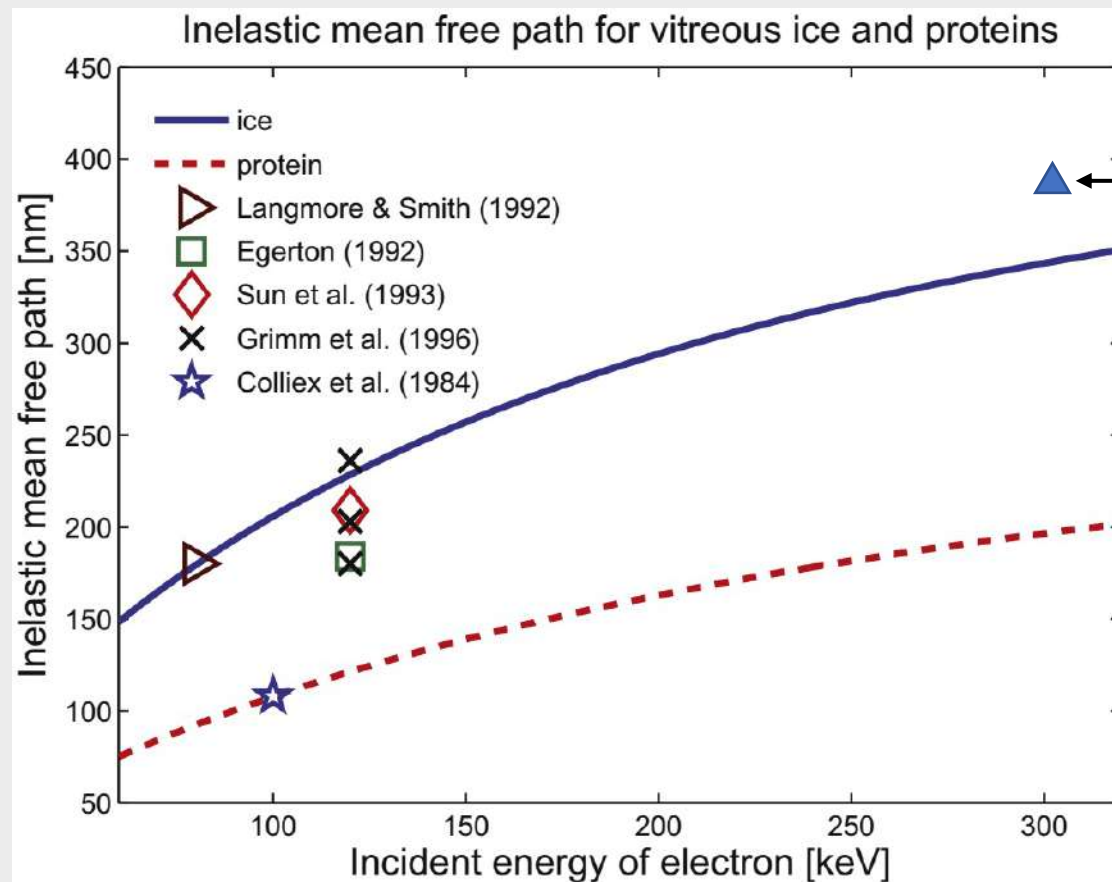


# Overview – Limitations

Limitation: Specimen/Ice **thickness**

- At **300keV** in a TEM (e.g. Krios), electrons cannot penetrate more than **0.5-1  $\mu\text{m}$**

Vulović, 2013



William J. Rice, NYSBC, 2017  
300 keV Krios



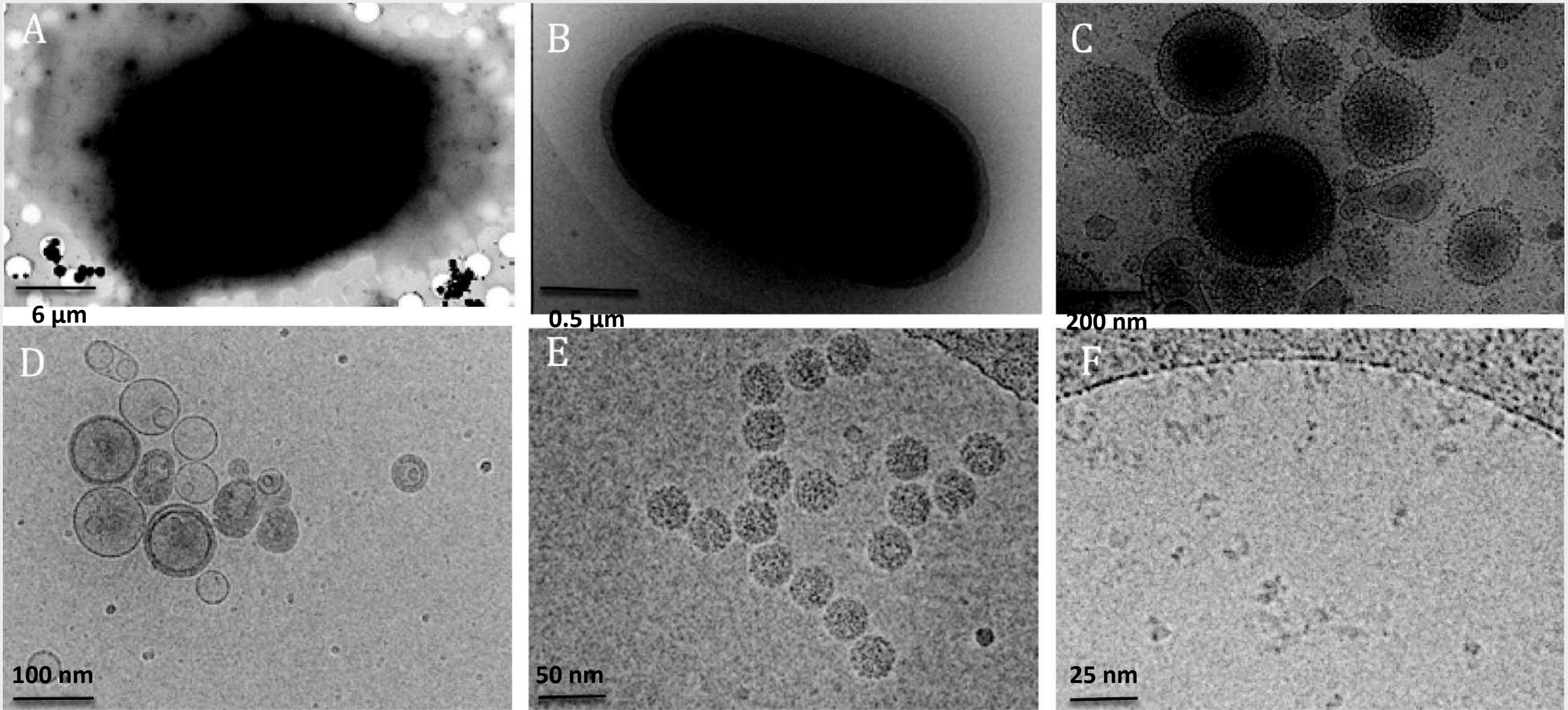




# Overview – Limitations

Limitation: Specimen/Ice **thickness**

- At **300keV** in a TEM (e.g. Krios), electrons cannot penetrate more than **0.5 - 1  $\mu\text{m}$**



Thompson et. al.,  
2016





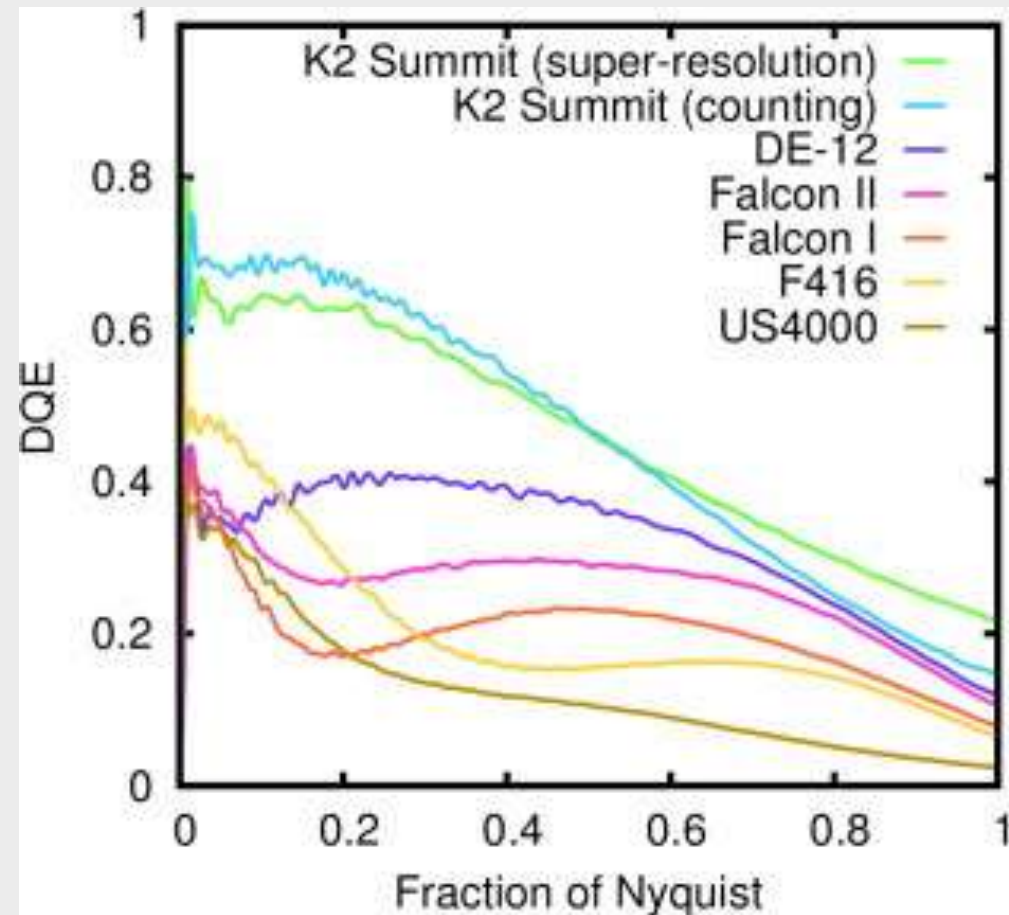
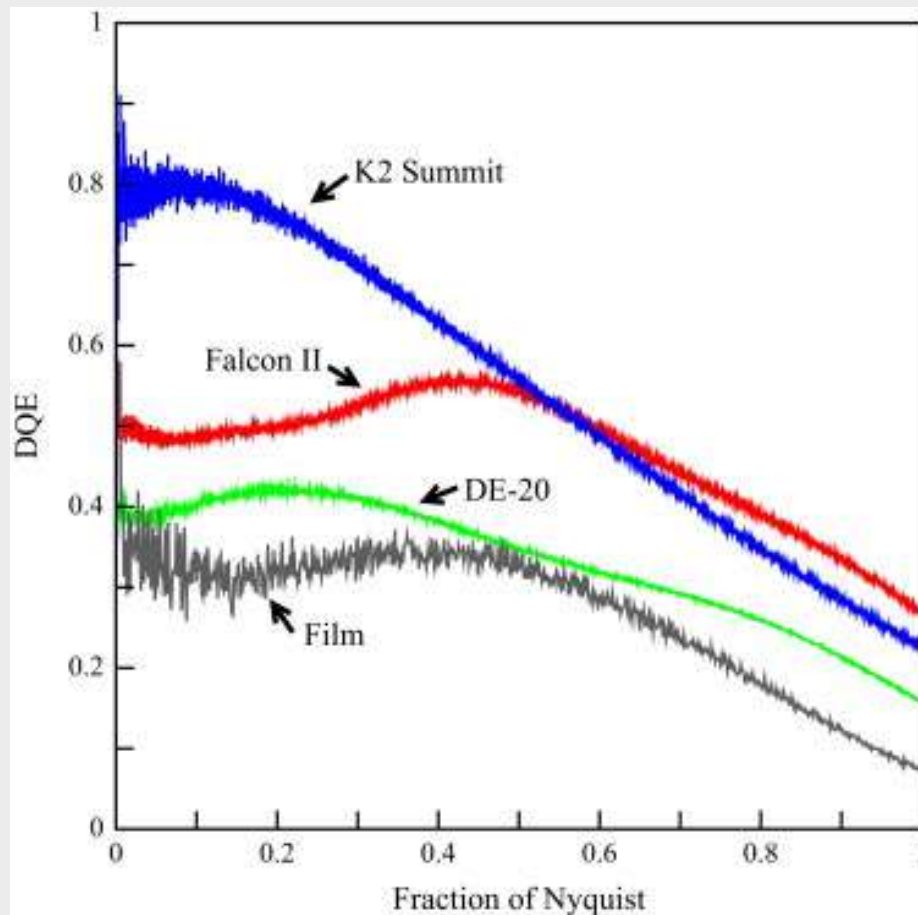
# Overview – Limitations

Limitation: Camera fidelity at **localizing electrons**

- Cameras **do not** transfer information **perfectly or equally across frequencies**.



McMullin, 2014 &  
Ruskin, 2013



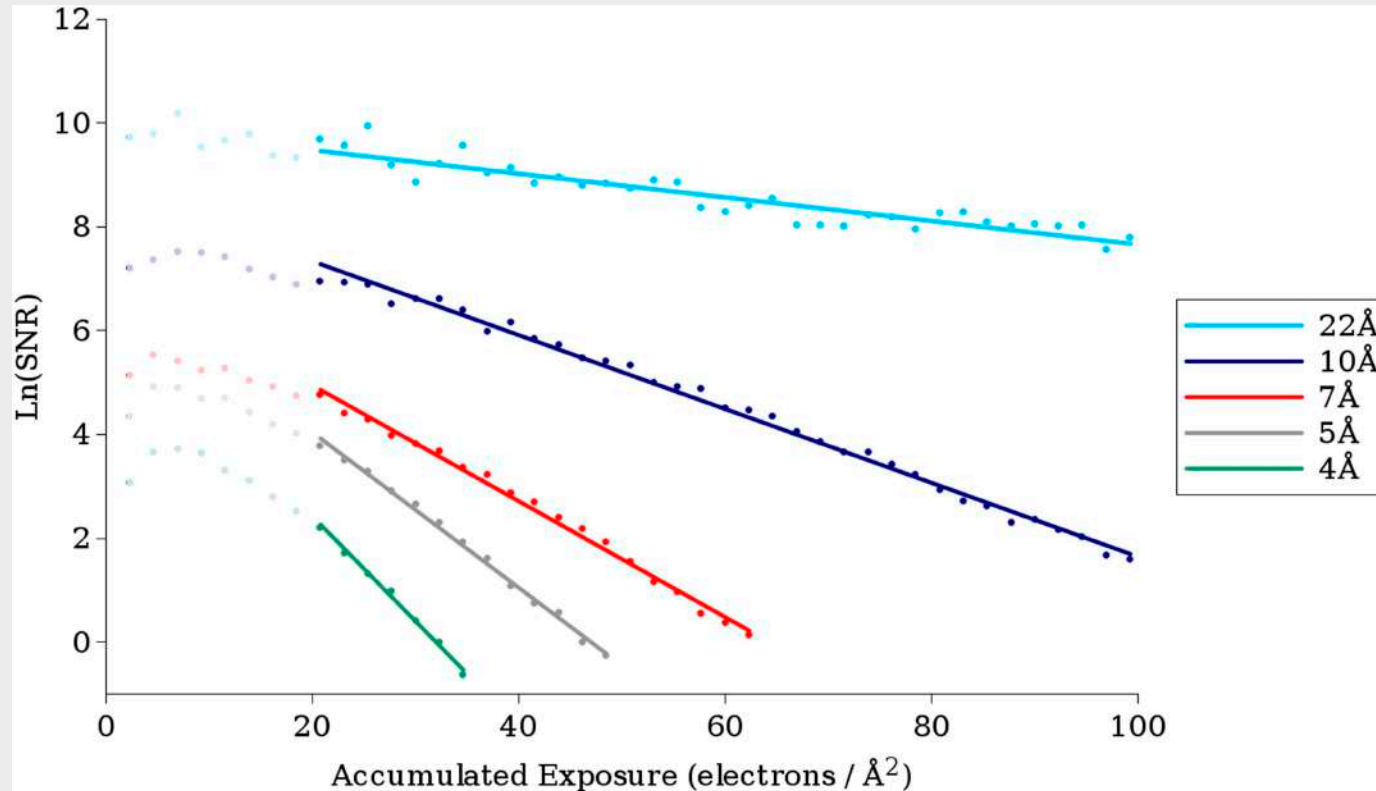
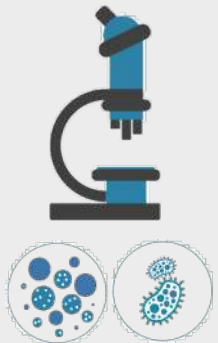




# Overview – Limitations

Limitation: **Electron damage** of the specimen

- High voltage electrons damage biological specimen.
  - **High resolution information is lost first** followed by lower resolution info.



**Solution:**  
Remove damaged  
information from  
image frames

Grant & Grigorieff, 2015

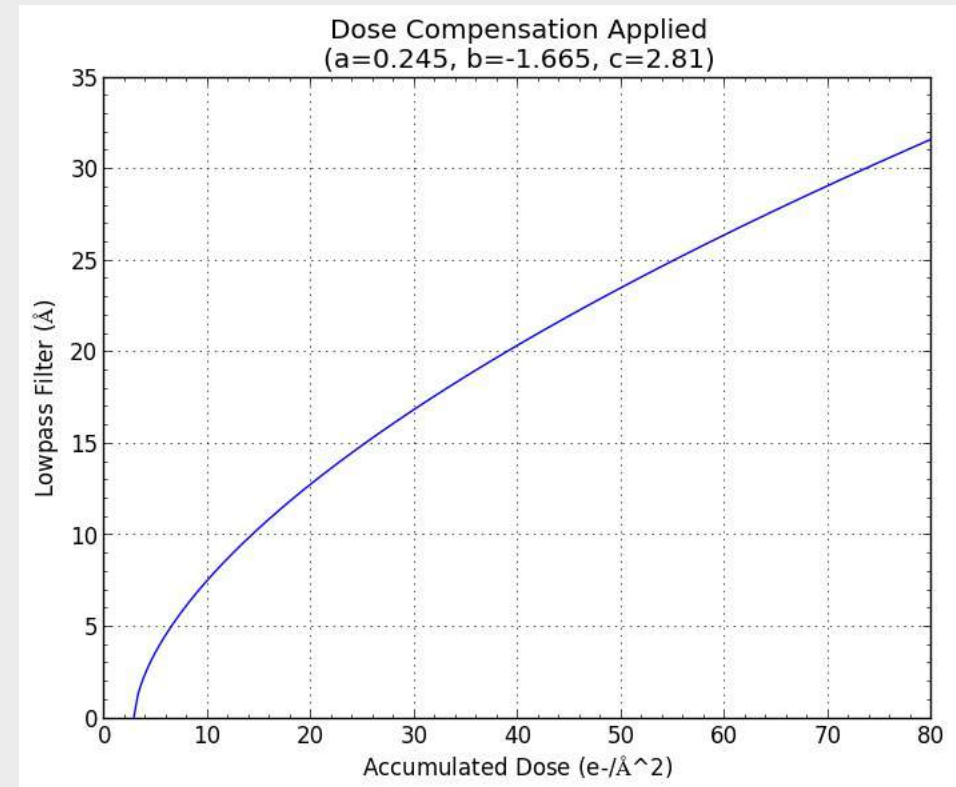
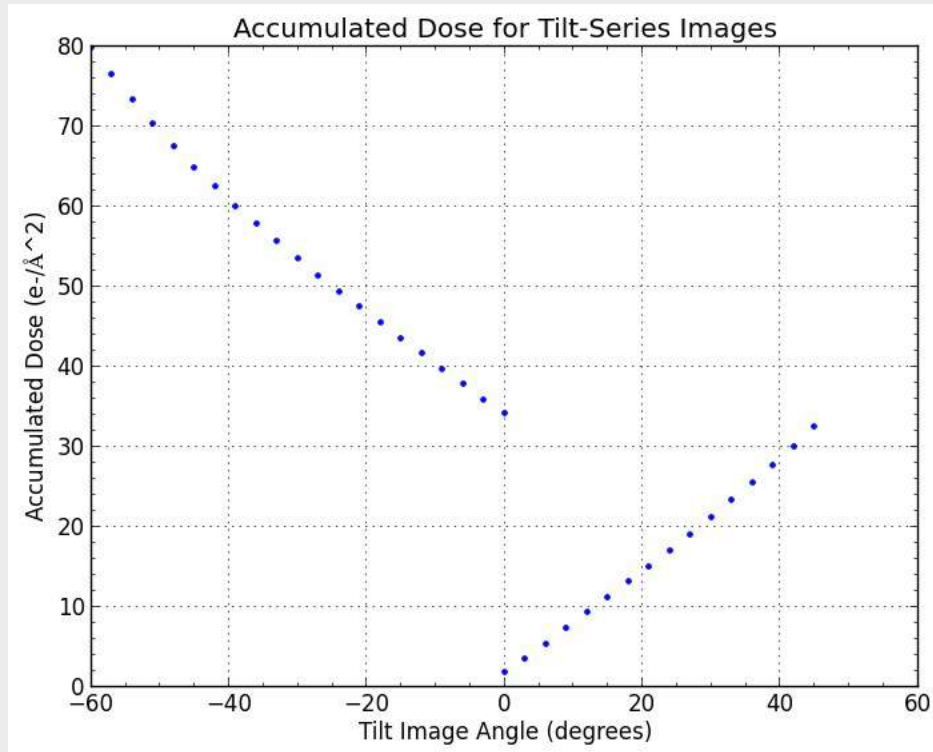
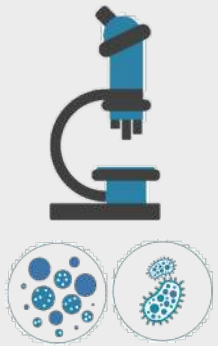




# Overview – Limitations

Limitation: **Electron damage** of the specimen

- **Solution:** Remove damaged information from image frames (single particle) or tilt images (tomography):



Noble & Stagg, 2015



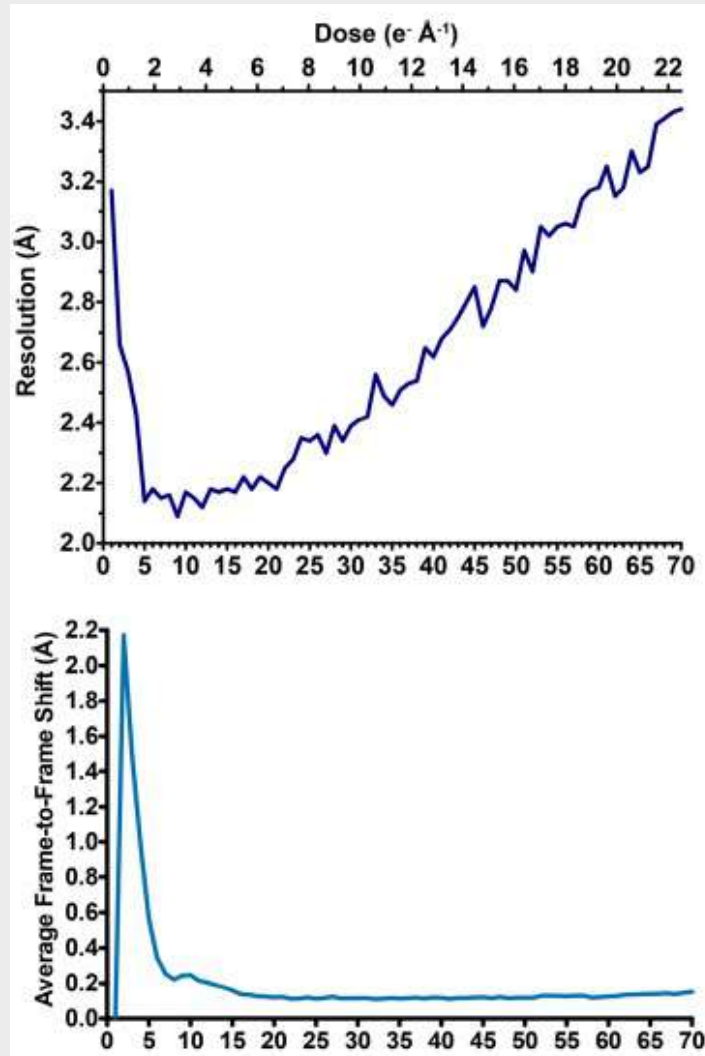


# Overview – Limitations

But be careful! There **might be more information** than you think:



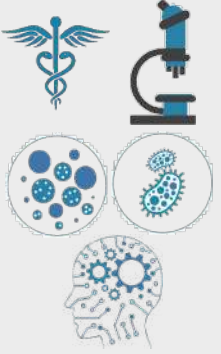
Tan et al., Nat. Comm. 2018



**Supplementary Figure 3 | Resolution of individual frame reconstructions.** (a) Using the best Euler angles and shifts, reconstructions were computed separately for each of the 70 frames. The resulting resolution shows two trends: the first 4 frames (3.17-2.43 Å) suffered from the initial effects of beam-induced motion; after frame 22, the resolution gradually worsens owing to the cumulative effects of radiation damage. (b) Frame-to-frame shifts in Ångstroms for all 70 frames are shown in blue. Frame-to-frame shifts were calculated using MotionCor2 global frame alignment mode.

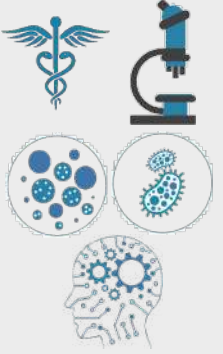






# Tomography overview

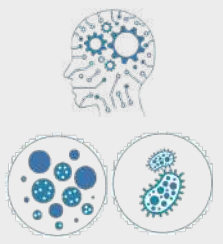




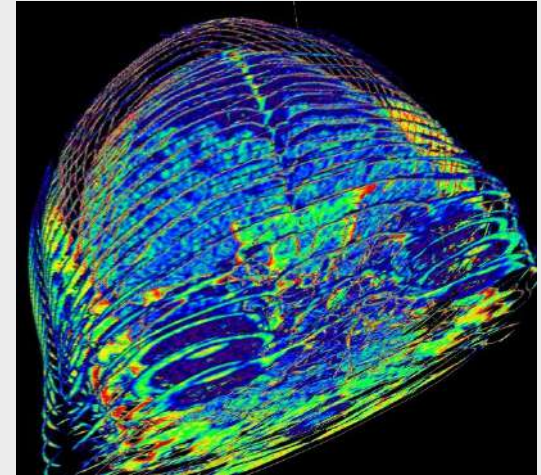
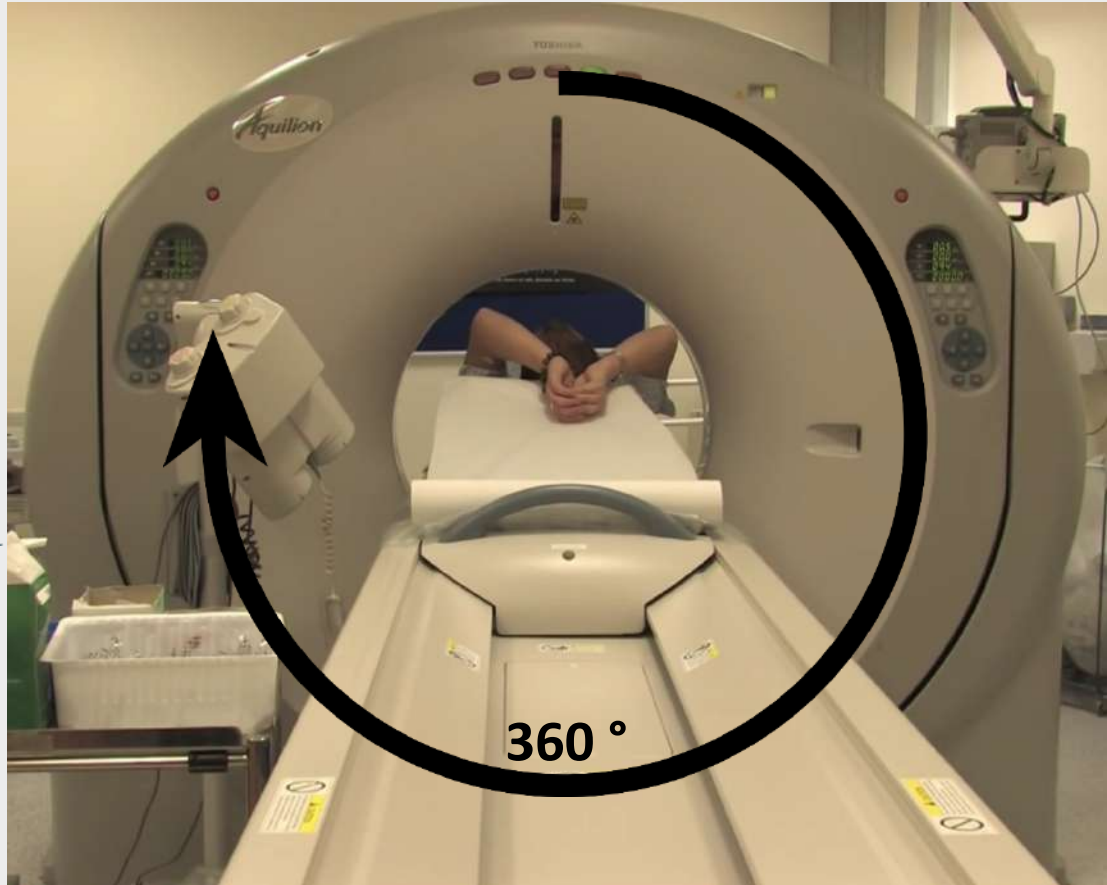
# Tomography overview

## Tilt-series Collection

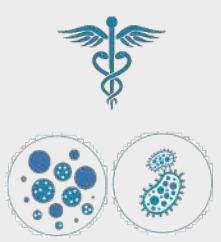




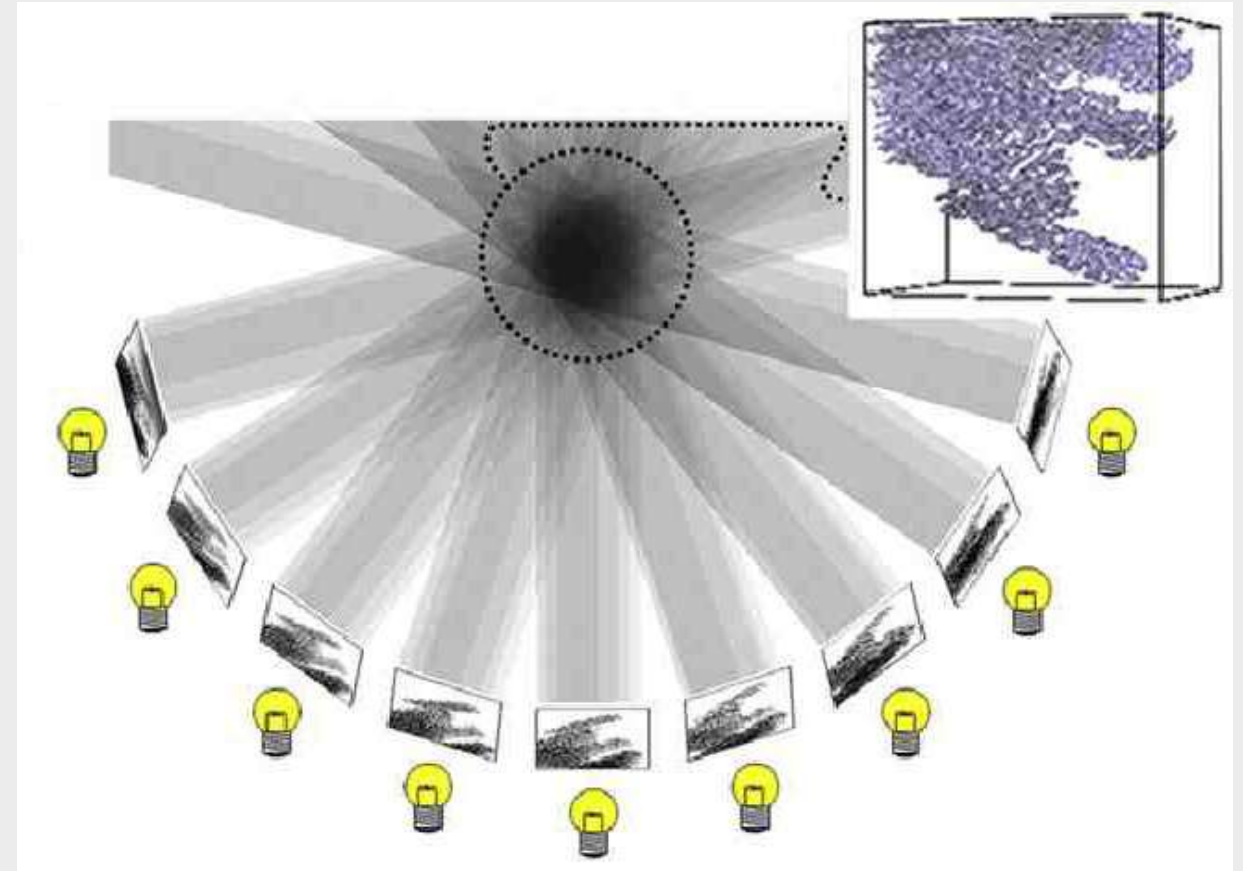
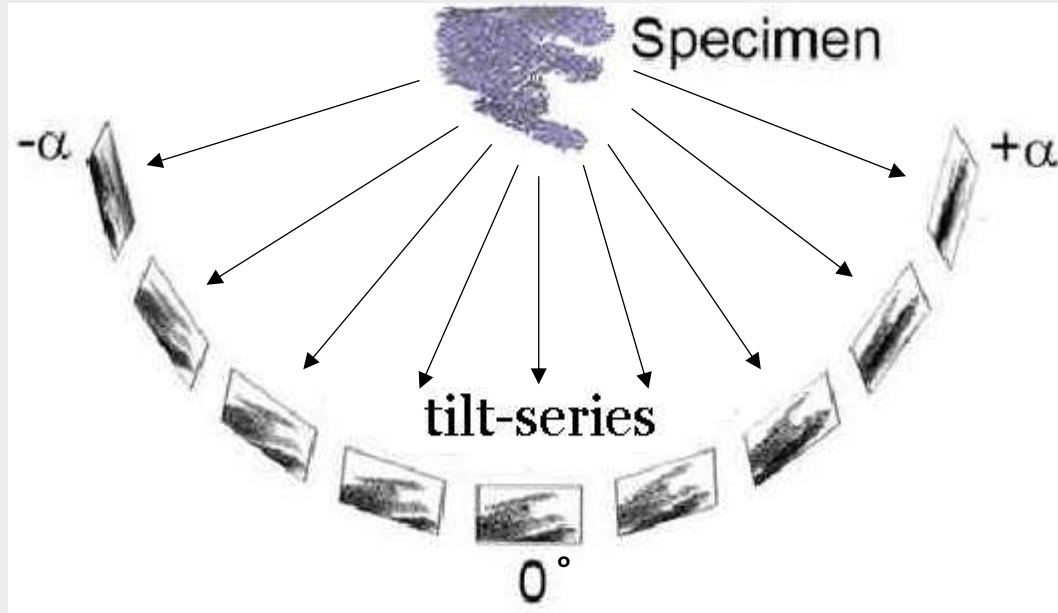
# Tomography overview







# ET/CryoET collection and processing overview

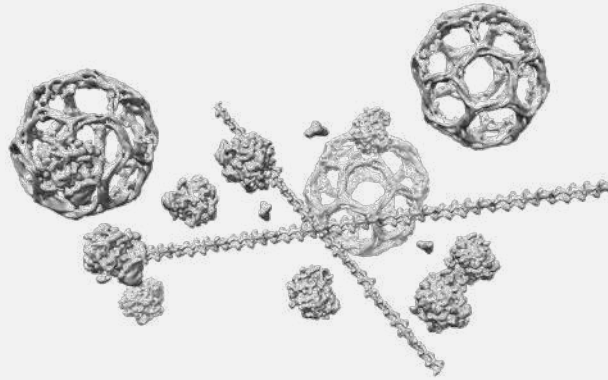
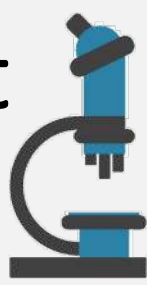


Collect → align → reconstruct

(UMET)



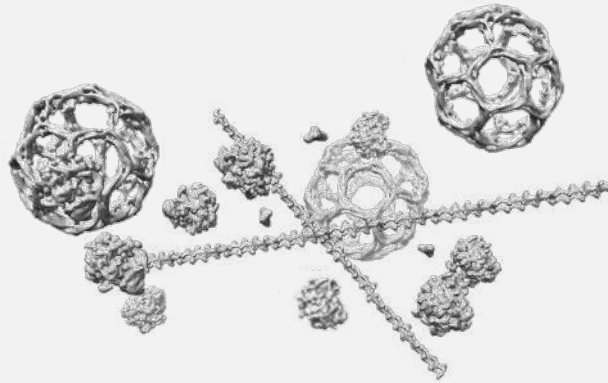
# 3D specimen movement during collection



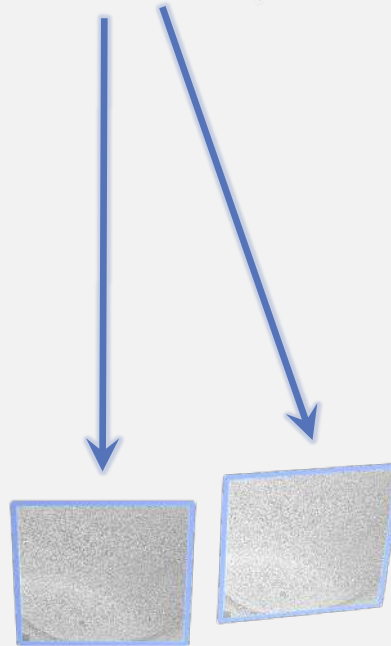
*(movements are exaggerated)*



# 3D specimen movement during collection

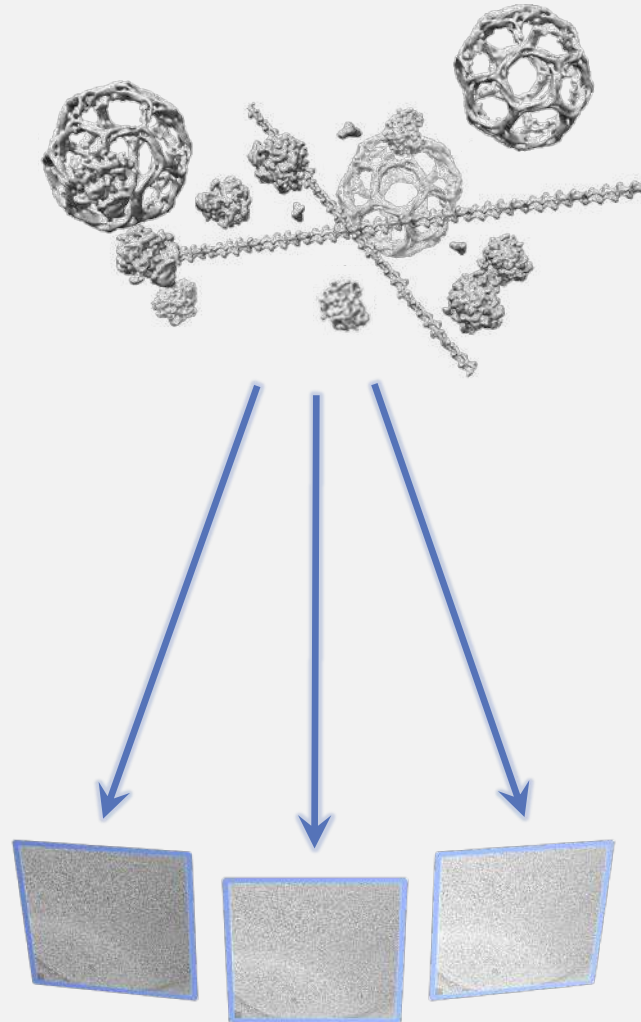


*(movements are exaggerated)*



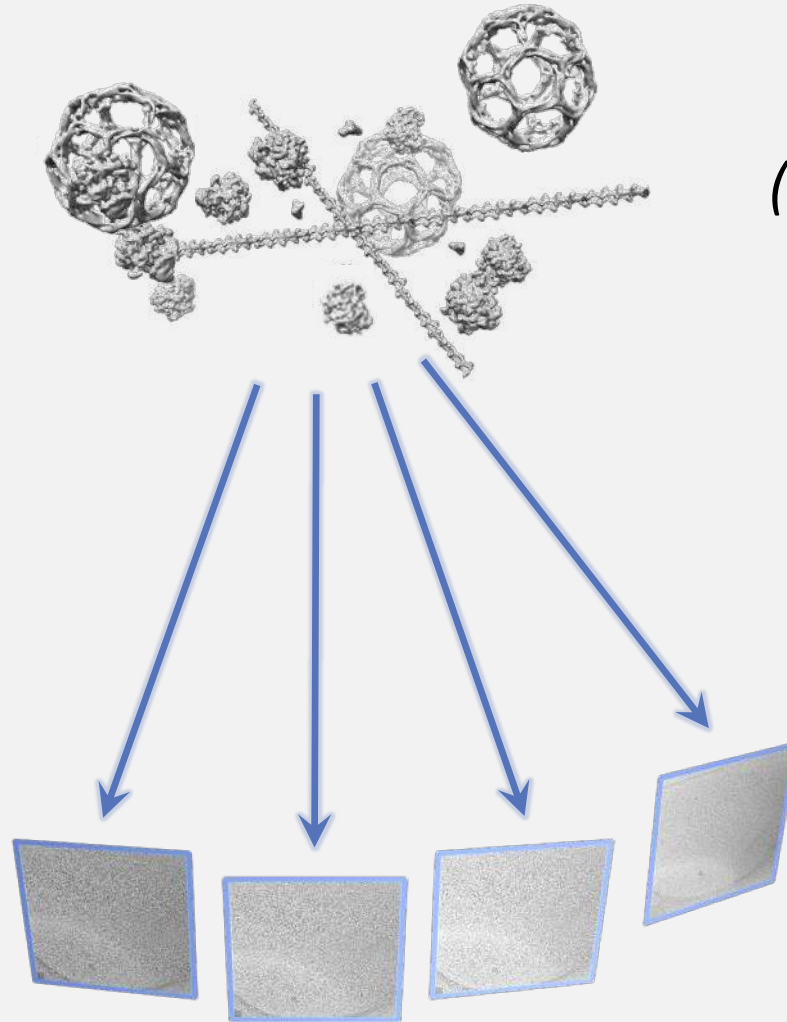
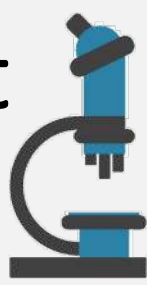


# 3D specimen movement during collection



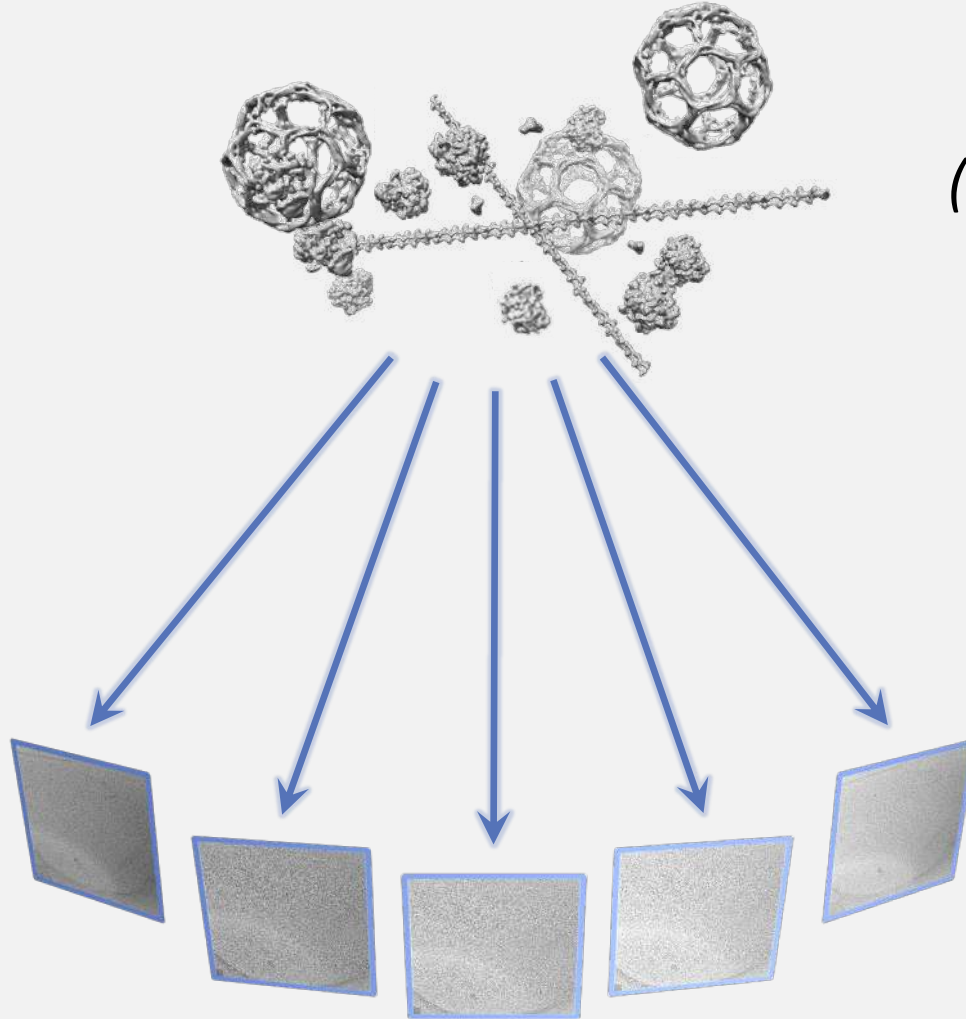
*(movements are exaggerated)*

# 3D specimen movement during collection



*(movements are exaggerated)*

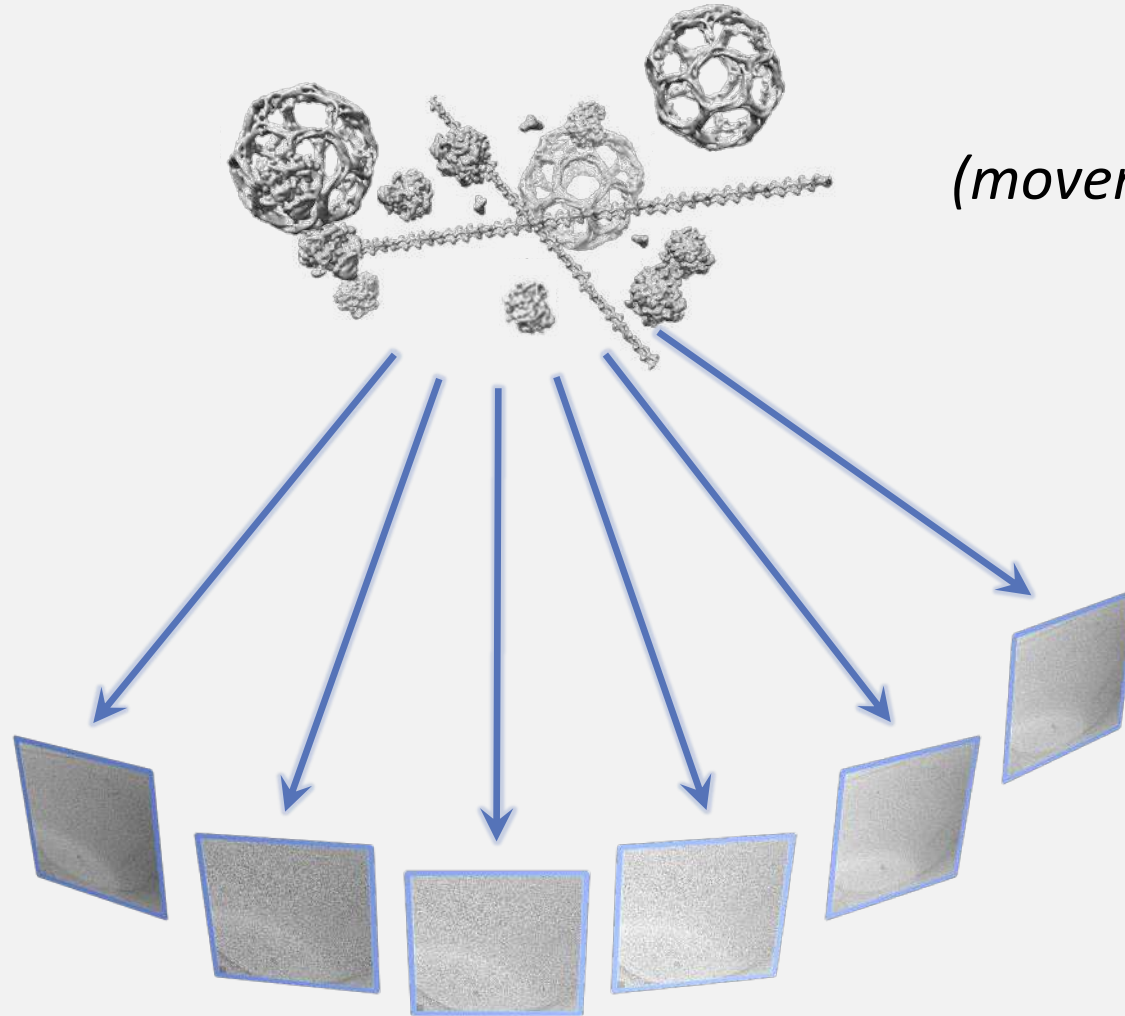
# 3D specimen movement during collection



*(movements are exaggerated)*

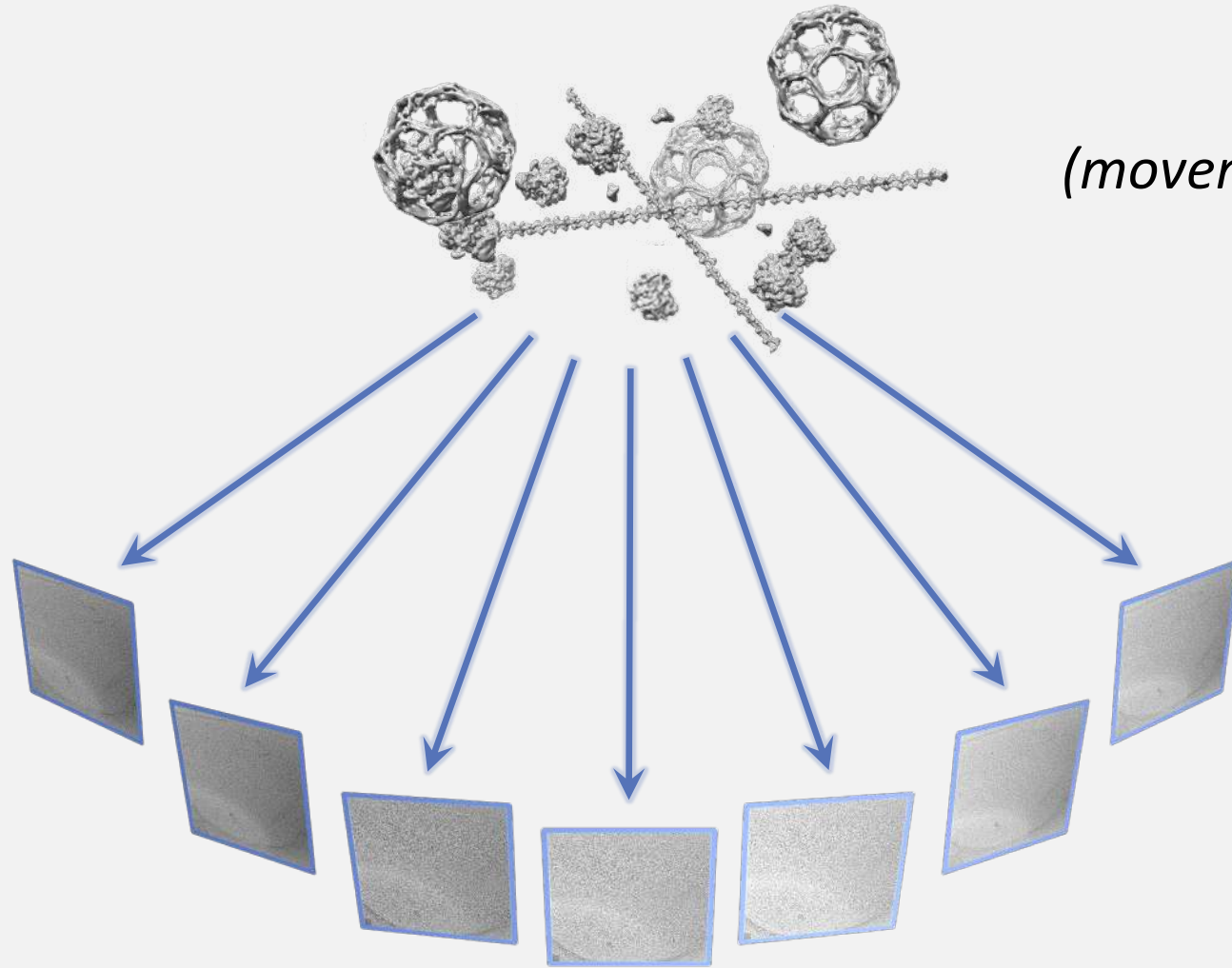
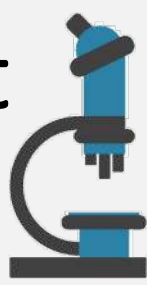


# 3D specimen movement during collection



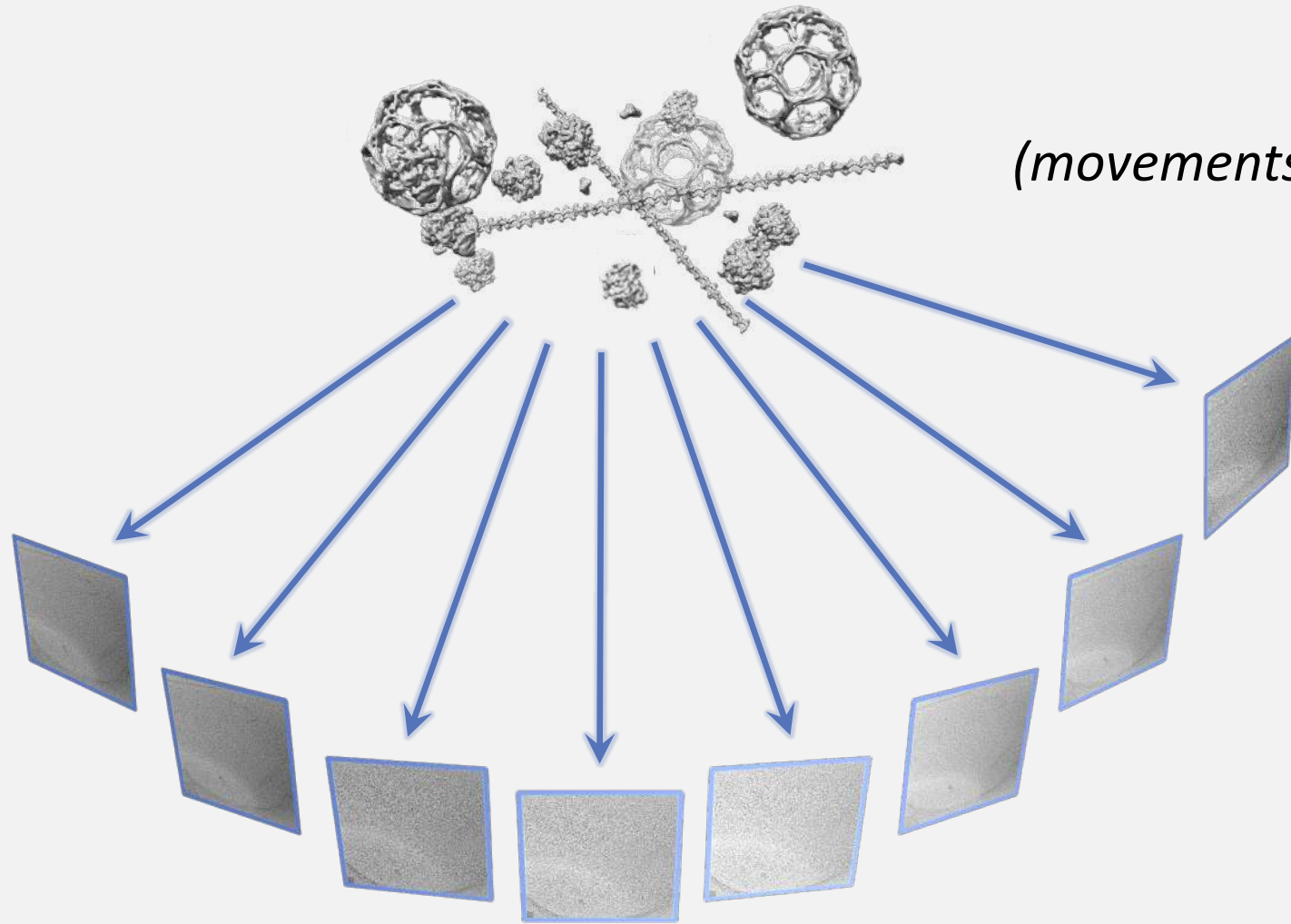
*(movements are exaggerated)*

# 3D specimen movement during collection



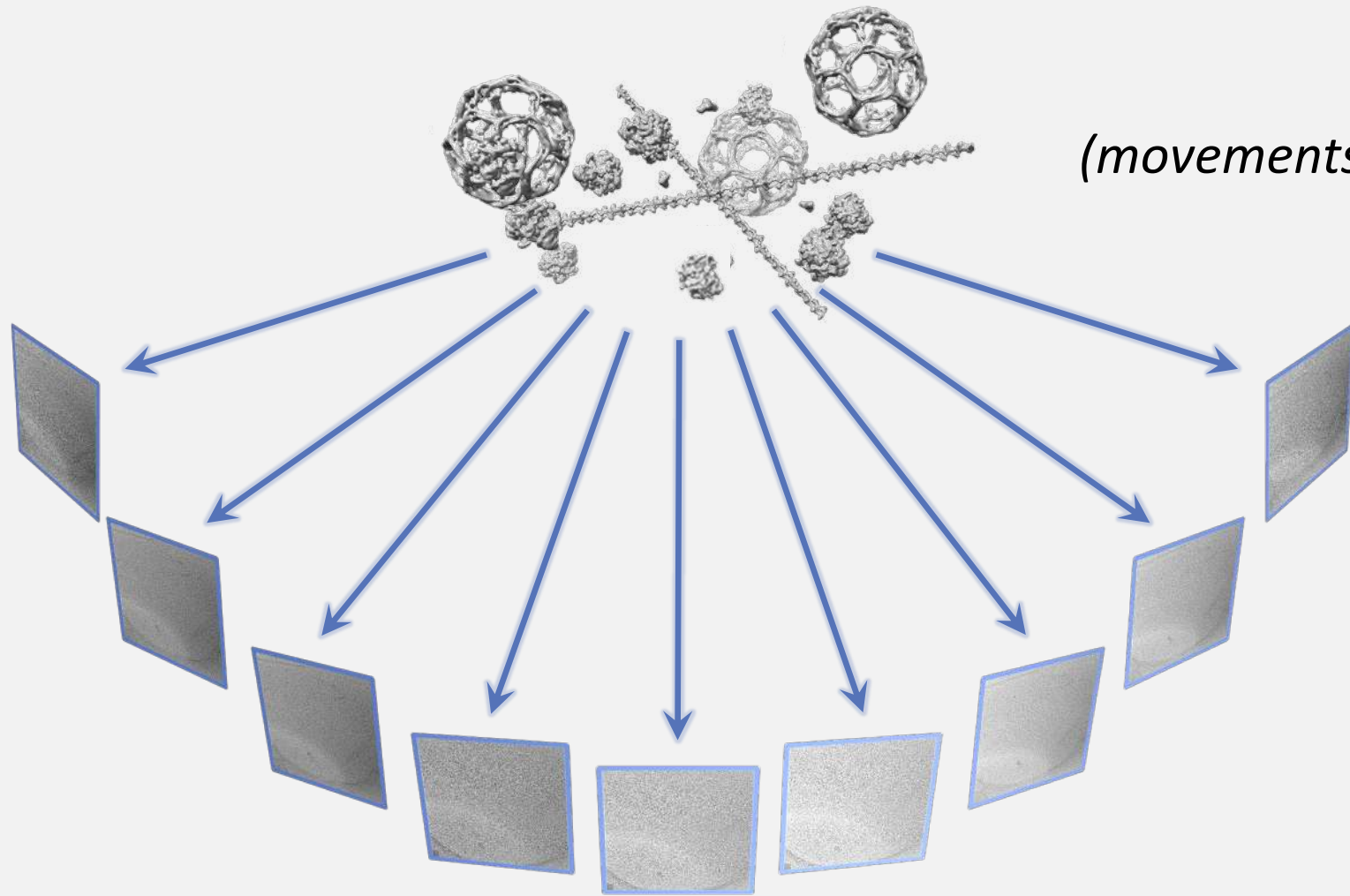
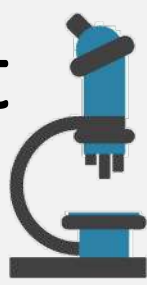
*(movements are exaggerated)*

# 3D specimen movement during collection



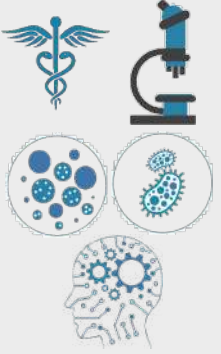
*(movements are exaggerated)*

# 3D specimen movement during collection



*(movements are exaggerated)*



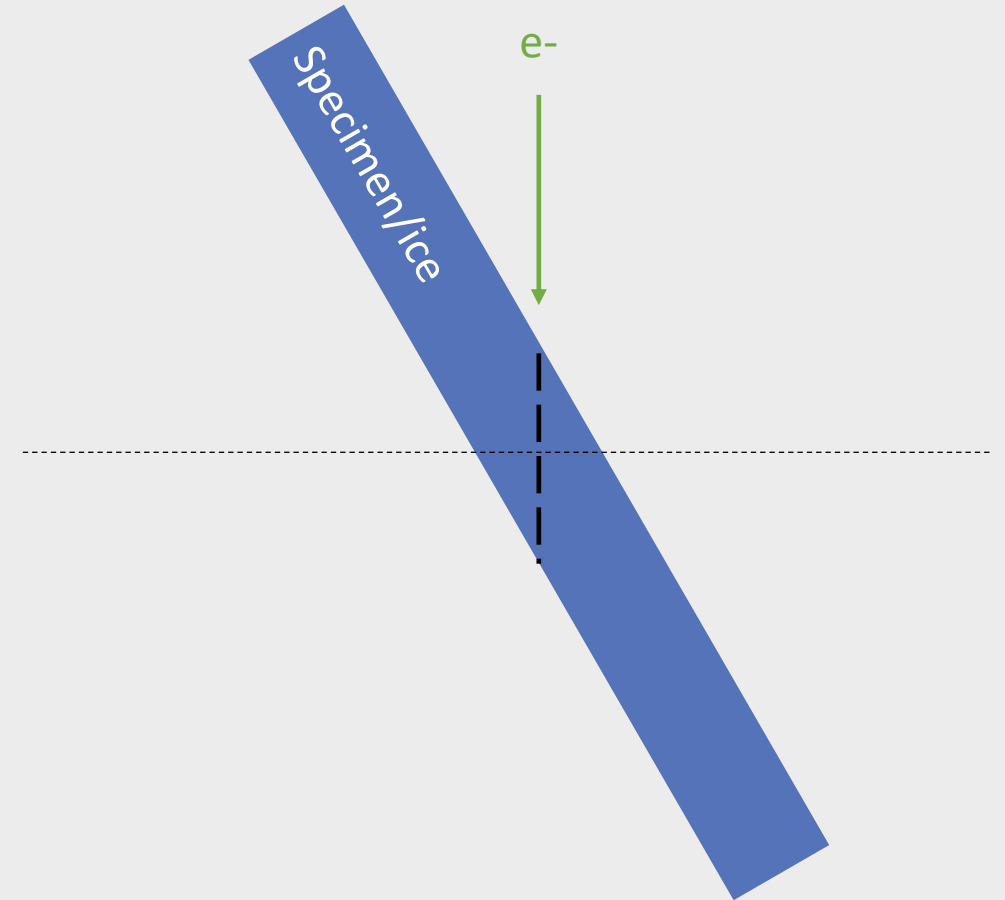
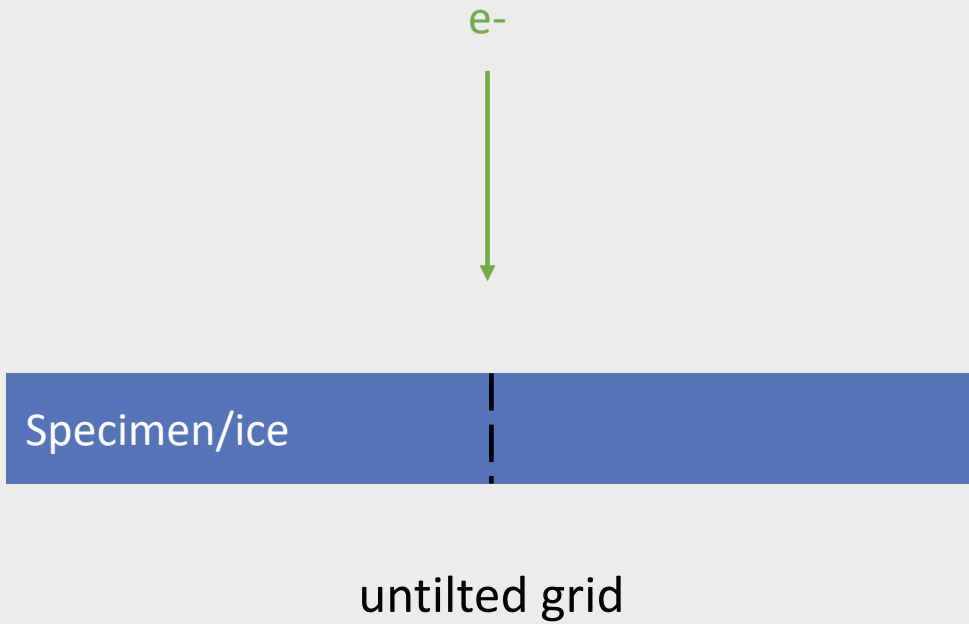


# Some more CryoET Limitations





# Grid tilting increases thickness

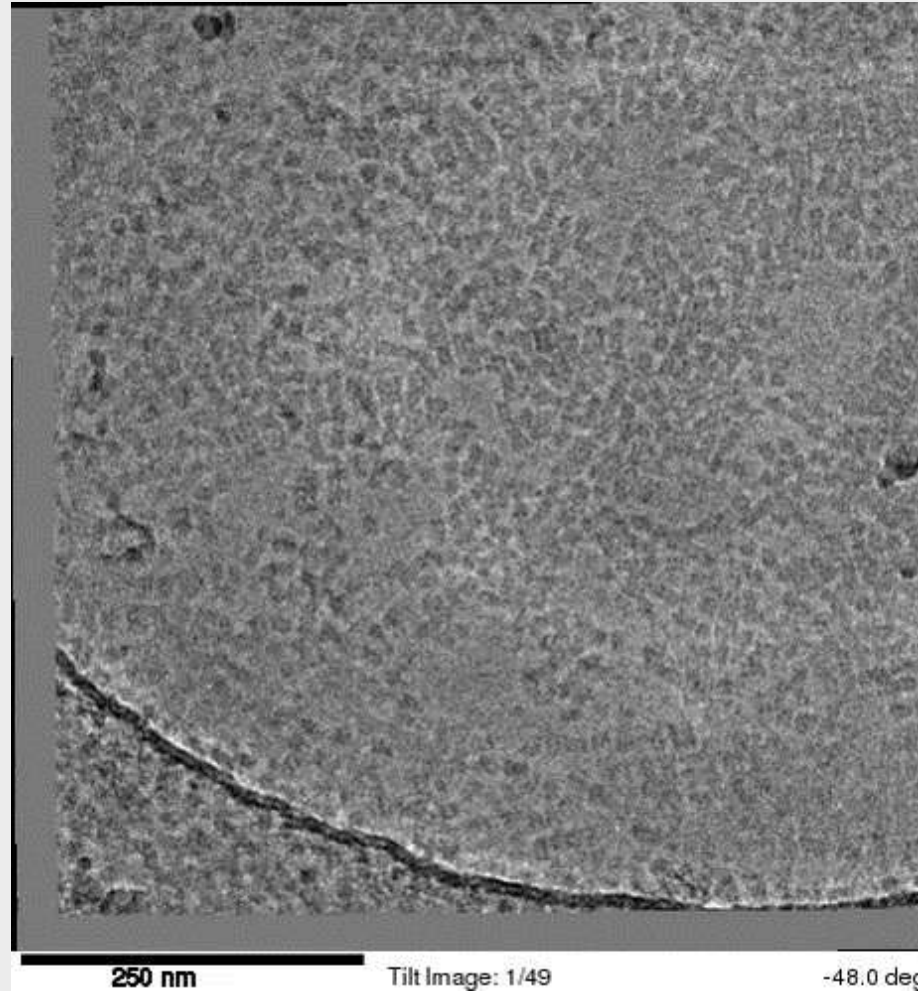


grid tilted  $60^\circ = 2\times$  thickness





# Grid tilting thickness increase limits tilting



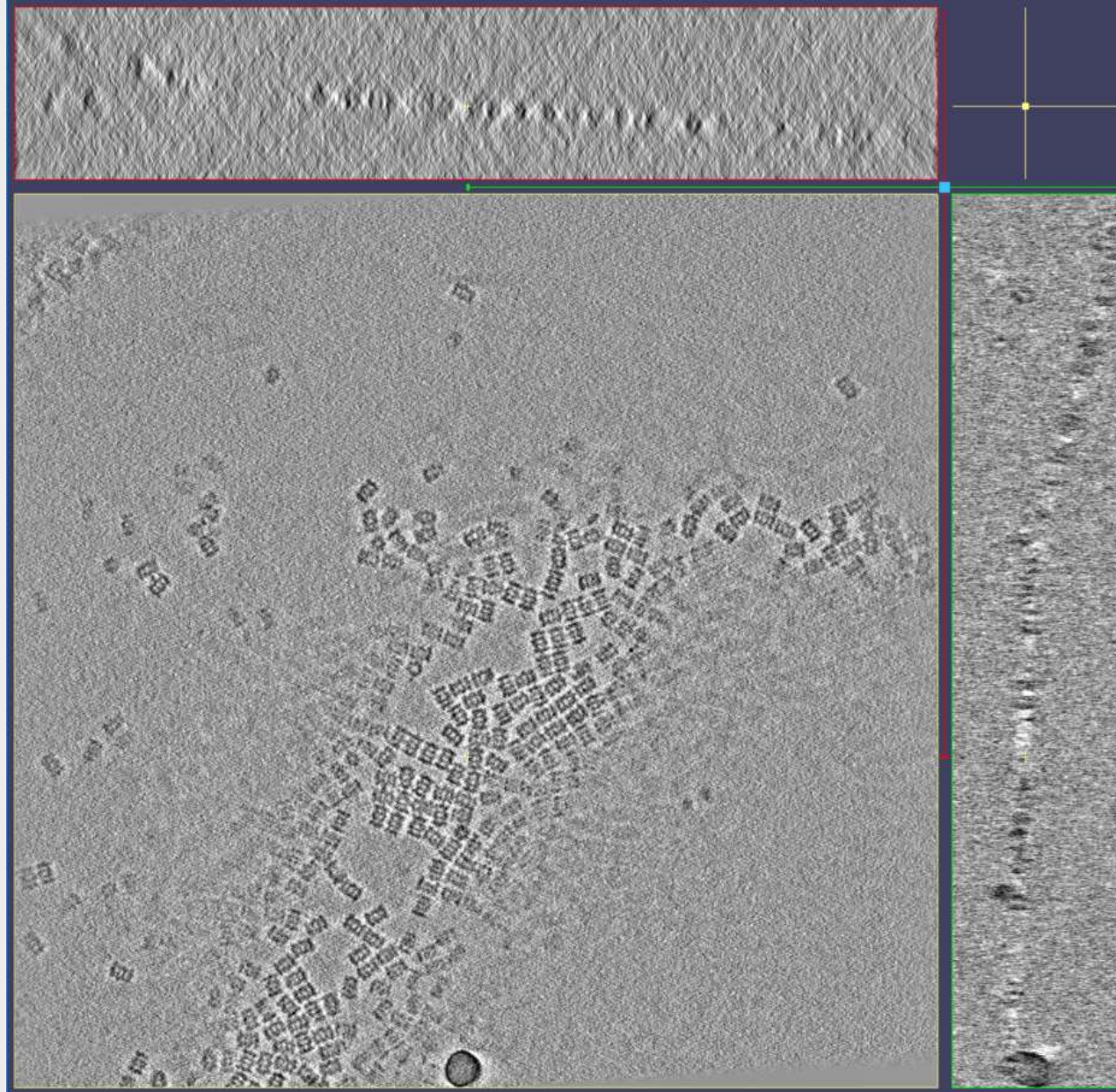
- Phase plate tilt-series of T20S Proteasome
- Tilt axis is **horizontal**

Noble et al., 2018





# Grid tilting limit results in missing information



Phase plate tilt-series  
of T20S Proteasome.

Tilt axis is **vertical**

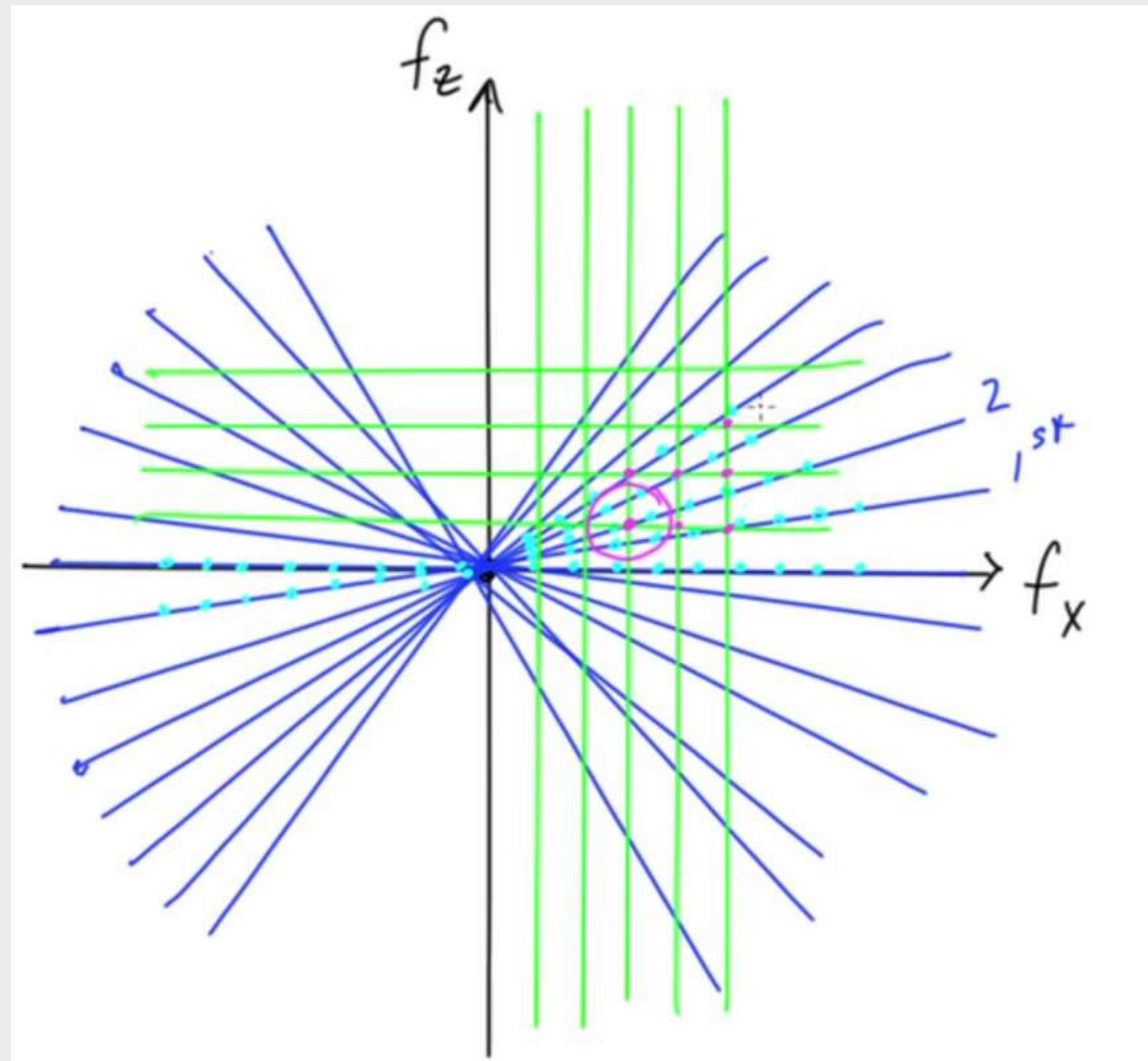


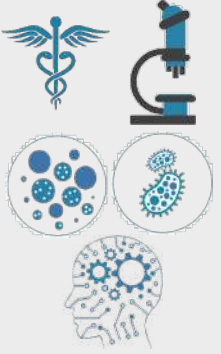




# Reconstruction Implies Interpolation

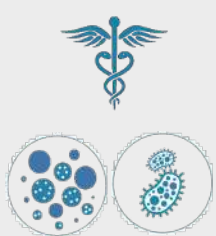
- Tomographic reconstruction on a **3D grid** requires **interpolation**
- Larger tilt increment = more **missing information** at higher tilt angles





# Tilt-series collection

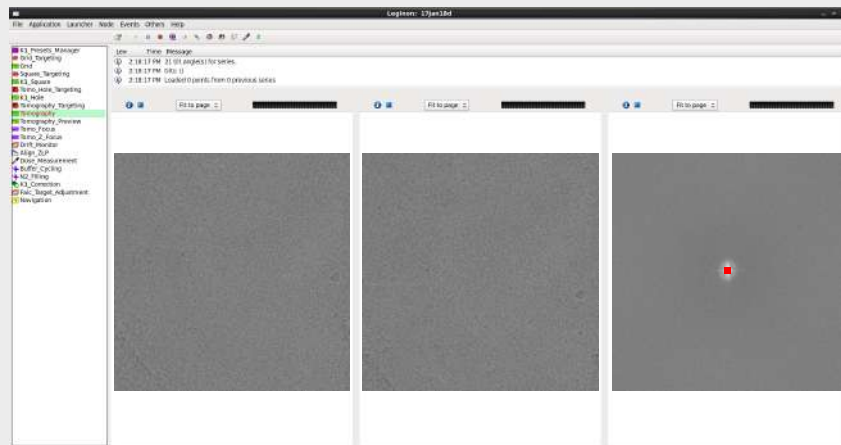




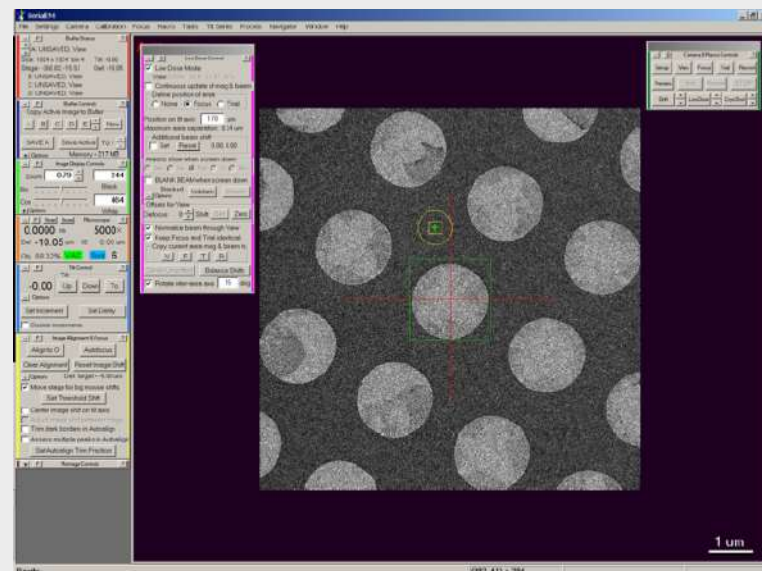
# Tilt-series collection software

EPU

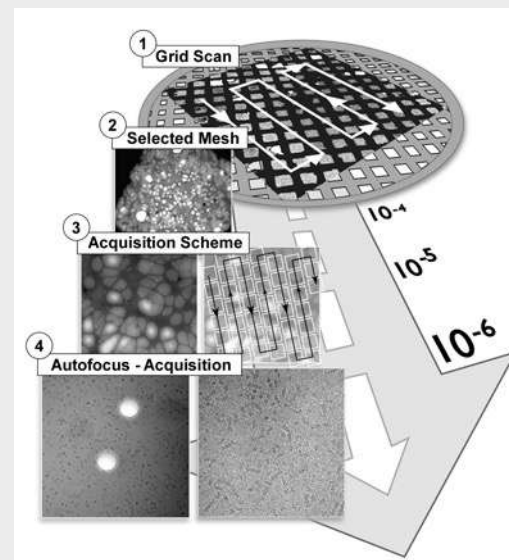
Leginon



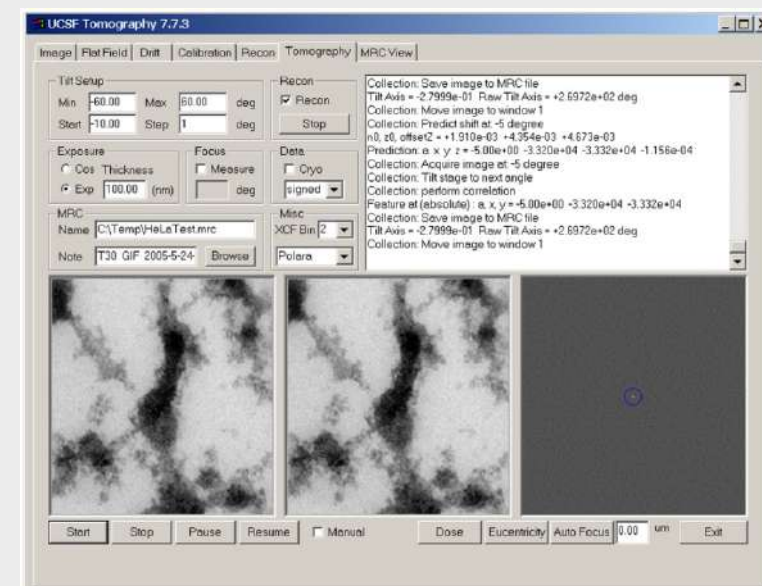
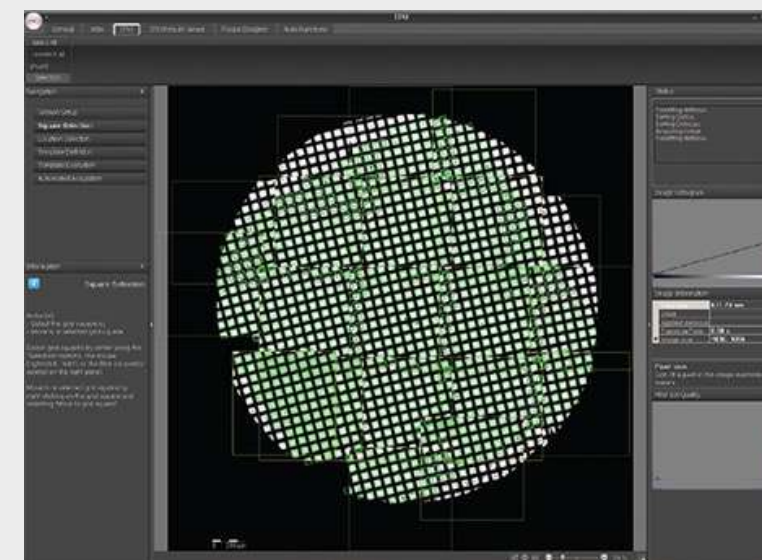
Application: Leginon: MS-Biology (3.2) started



SerialEM



TOM Toolbox



UCSF Tomography





# Tilt-series tracking

- **Problem:** You **cannot trust the goniometer** to move where you tell it
- **Problem:** You **cannot use the area of interest to refine** your tracking because you will over-expose your sample
- **Problem:** You need to **refine x, y, and usually z to within 10-100 nm** for a high-mag tilt-series collection.



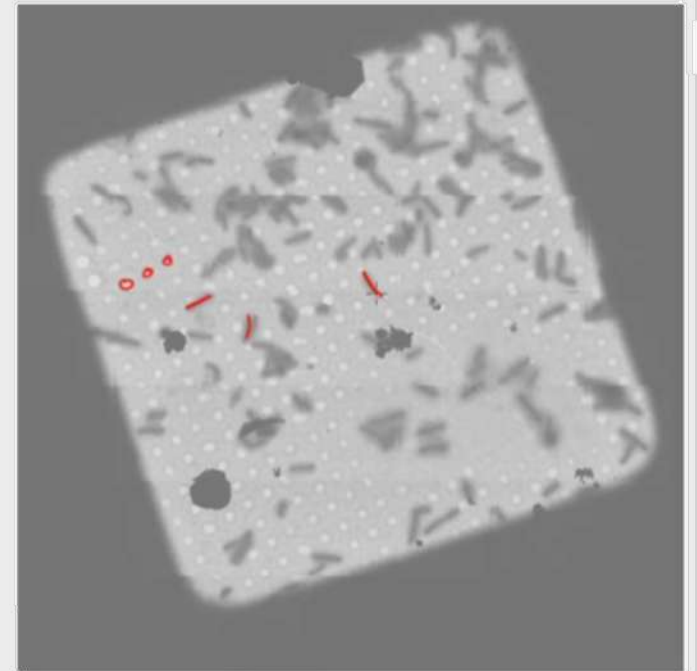
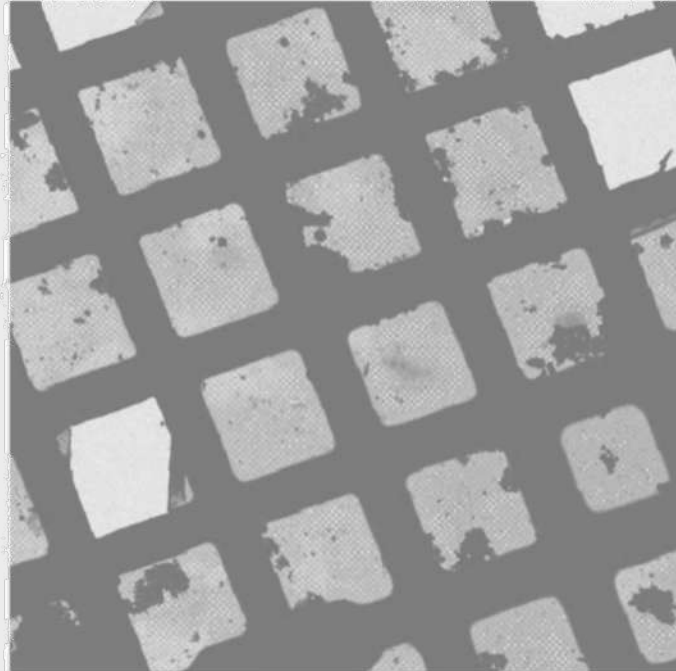
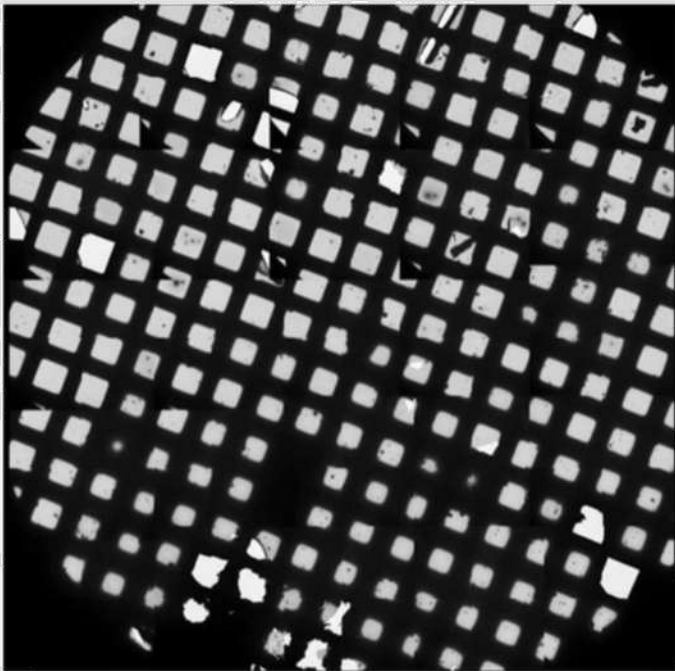
- **Solution 1: Predictive tracking** – Use previous tilt images, previous tilt-series, and possibly known goniometer instabilities.
- **Solution 2: Focus position method** – Identify one or two locations along the tilt axis the software will go to re-focus and re-track.
- **Solution 3: Pre-calibrated tracking** – Make a model of your goniometer before collecting to predict movements.







# Automated tilt-series collection



Automated tilt-series collection is currently **routine**

- From an atlas, select multiple squares, and from each square select holes,
- For each hole place an exposure target along with one or more focus targets,
- Set up dose, defocus range, tilt model, etc. appropriately,
- Collect!

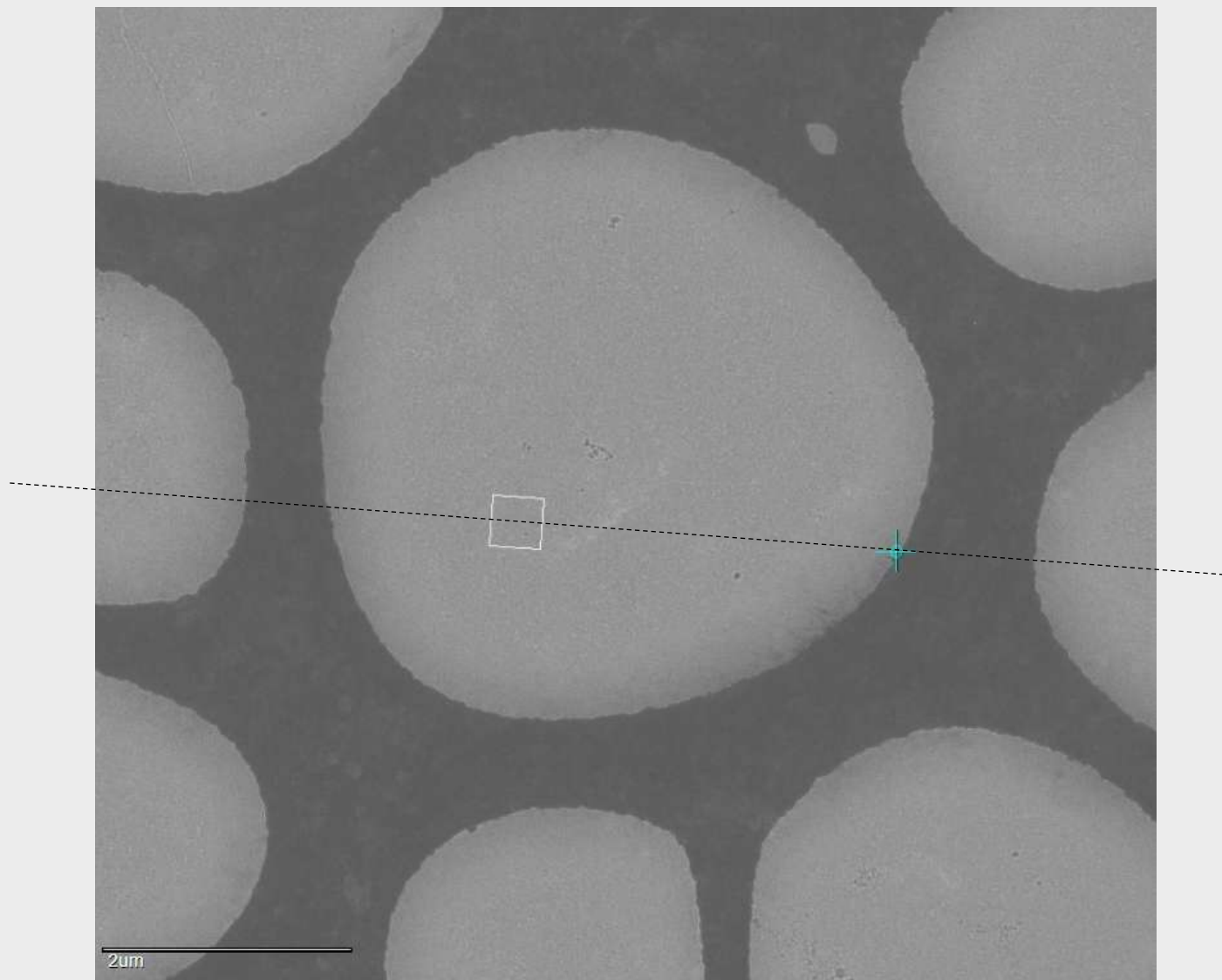




# Automated tilt-series collection

## Focus on the tilt axis!

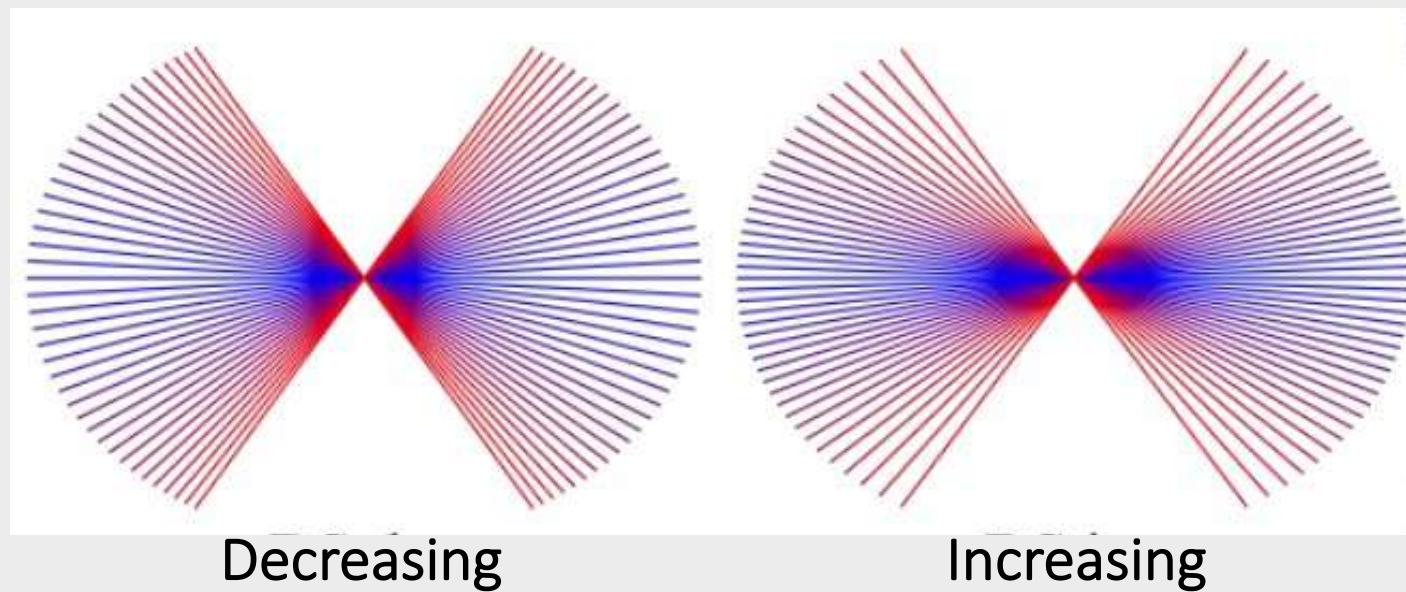
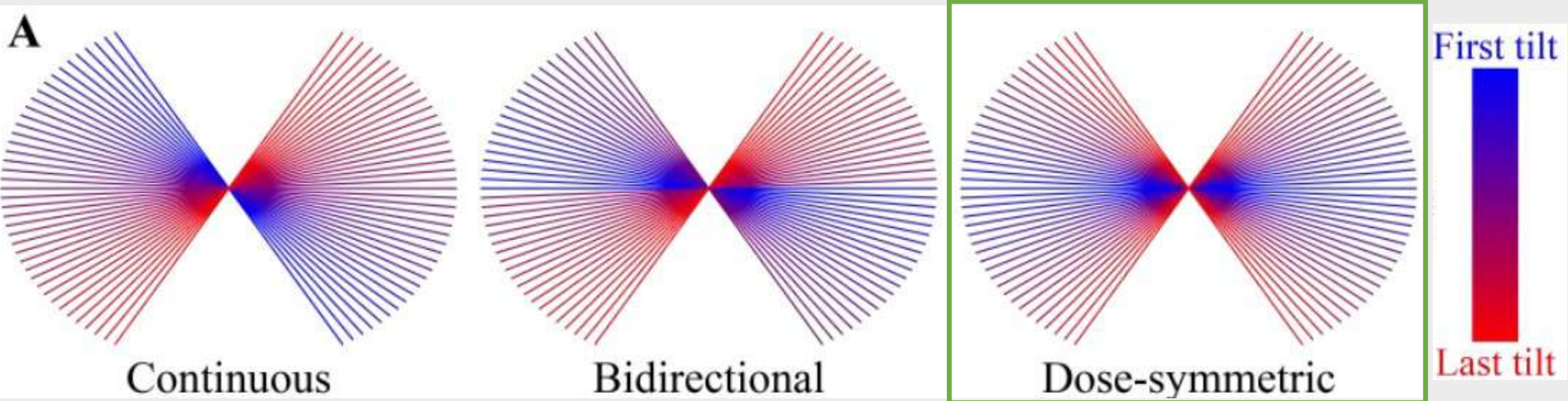
- You want to minimize the amount of tracking error
  - Tilting should not change the x,y,z target location
- This is called getting **eucentric height**.





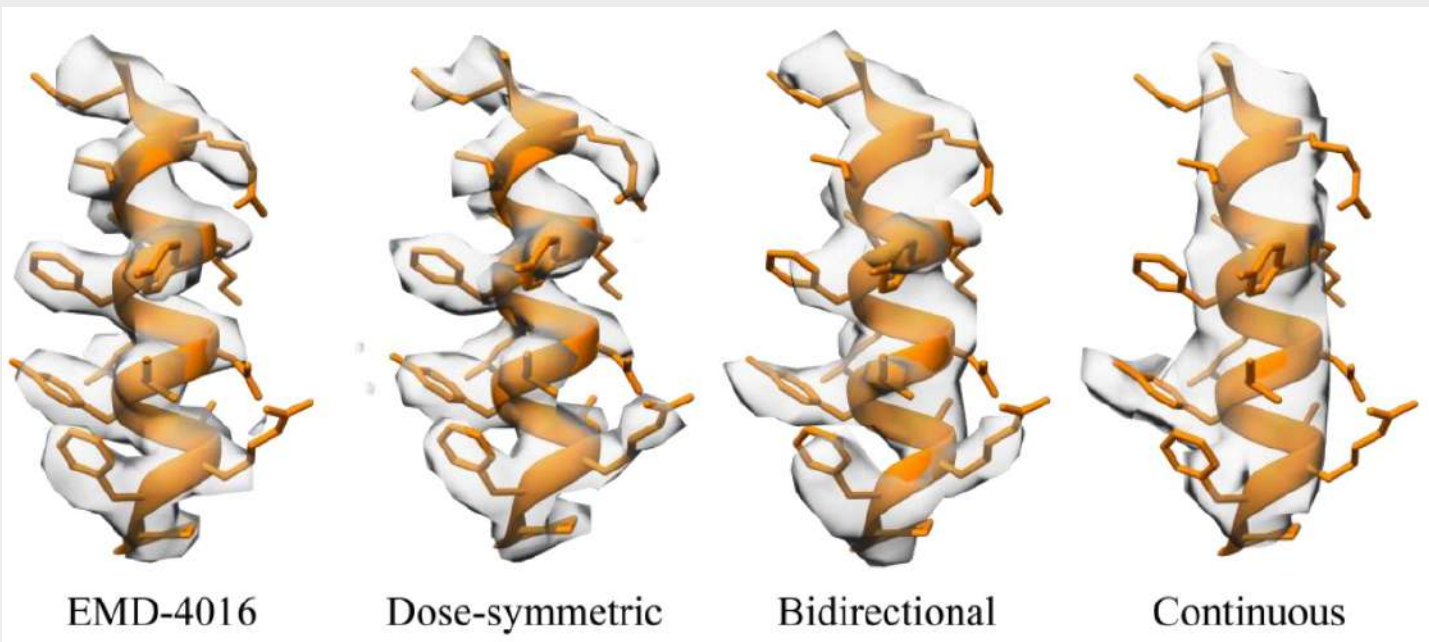
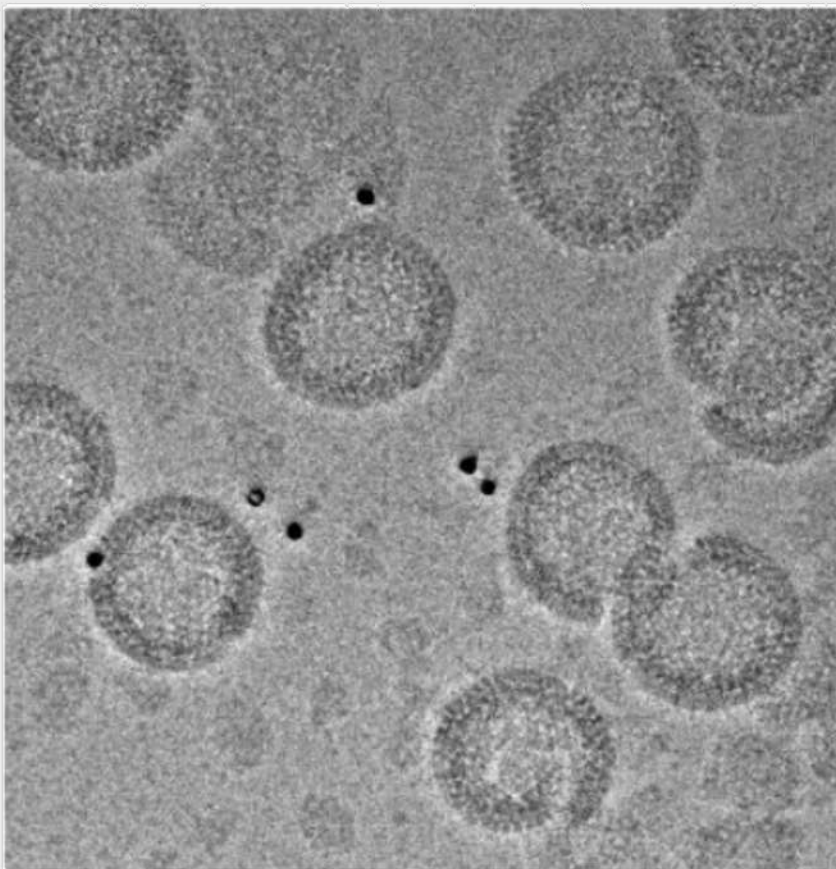


# Some Collection Schemes





# Some Collection Schemes on an *Isotropic* Sample







# Tilt-series alignment





# Tilt-series alignment

- **Software:**

- ETomo in IMOD – **Fiducial-based** alignment (also **patch tracking**)
- Markerauto and AuTom – Automated **fiducial-based** alignment
- Protomo – **Fiducial-less** alignment
- Alignator – **Patch tracking** alignment, GPU-accelerated
- Dynamo – **Fiducial-based** alignment

- **Must refine** most or all of the following:

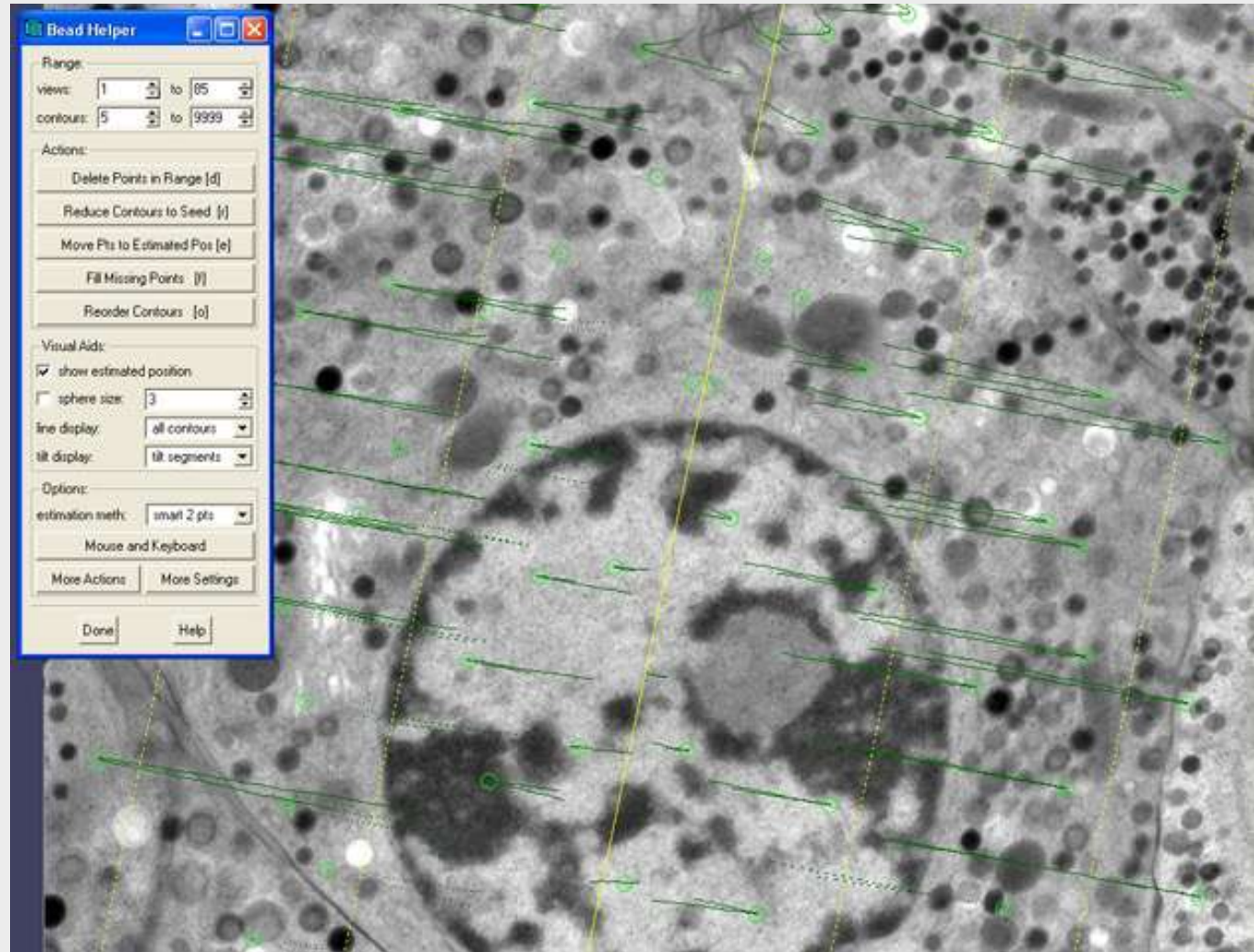
- Tilt image shifts, rotations, defocus changed, & magnification changes
- Tilt axis location
- Tilt angles



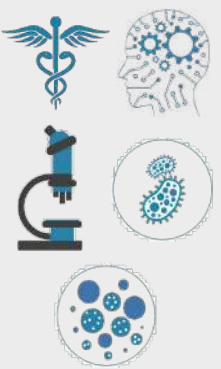


# Fiducial-based tilt-series alignment

- Requires a **sufficient number of well-behaved gold beads**
- Semi-automated (IMOD, Dynamo) or automated (AuTom/markerauto, IMOD) processing

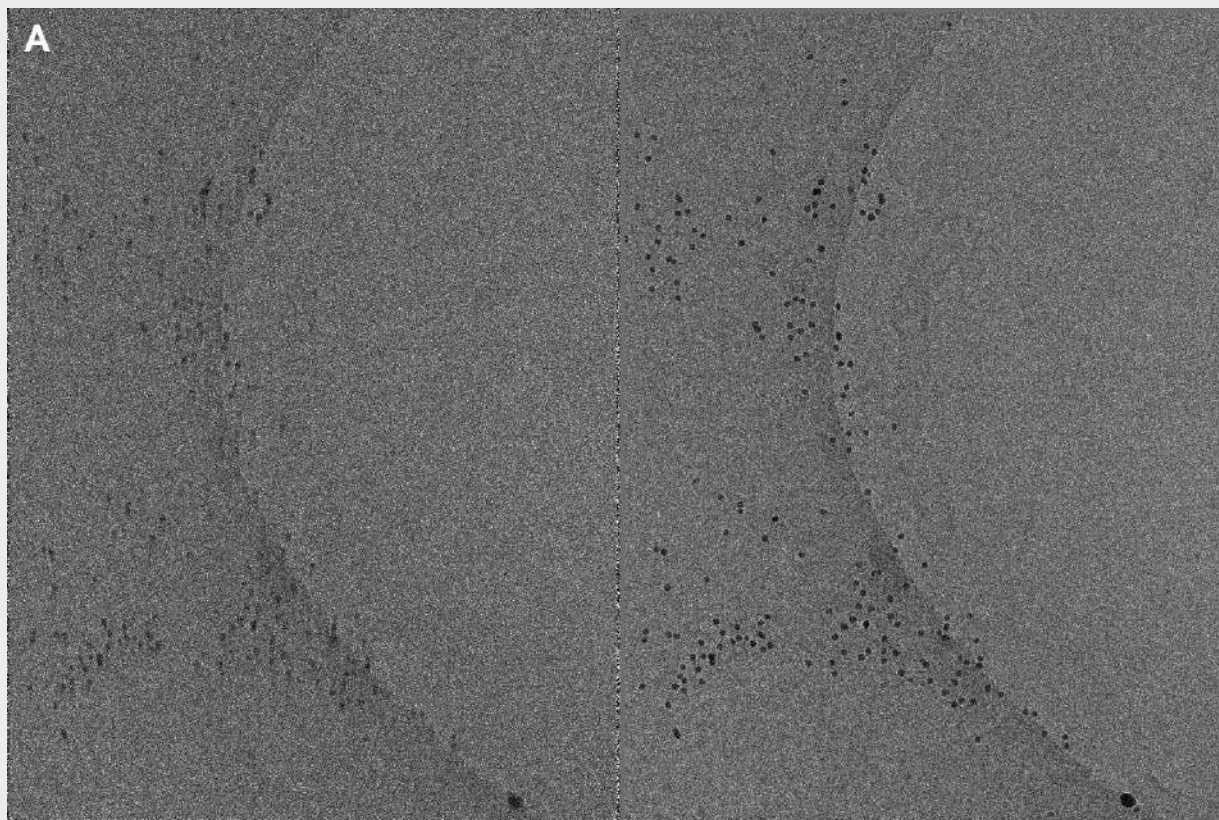






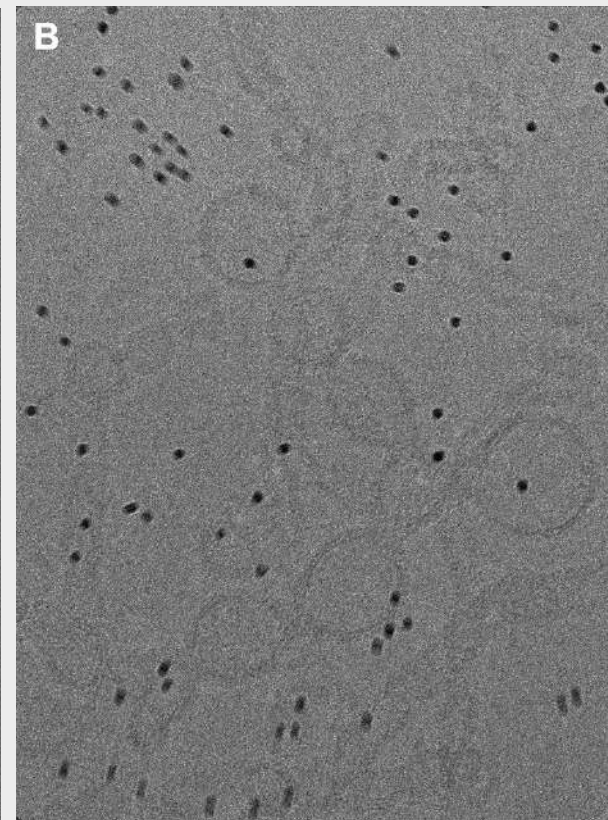
# Observed fiducial & sample motion in 2D

Fiducial Movement



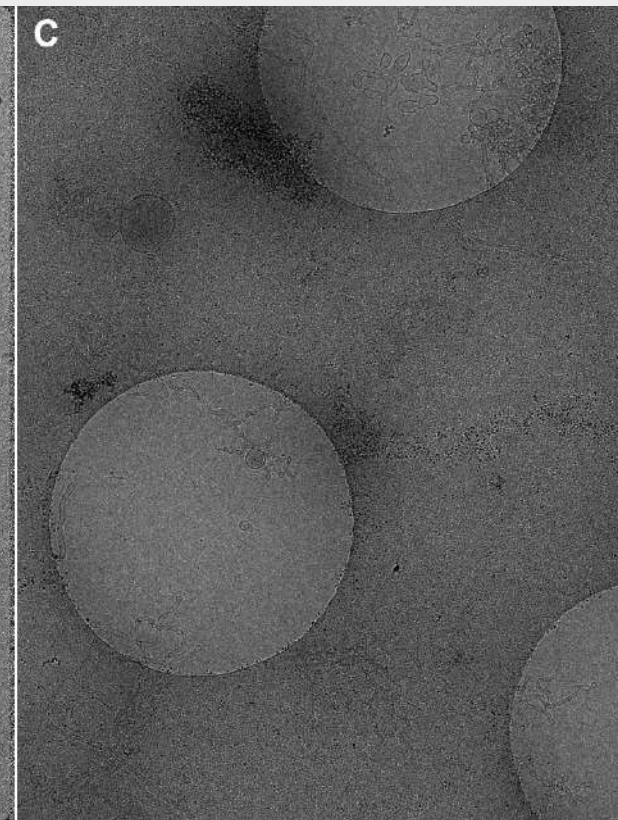
DE-20 @ 18kx; 51°, 2.34 e<sup>-</sup>/Å<sup>2</sup> after a cumulative dose of 60 e<sup>-</sup>/Å<sup>2</sup>

Anisotropic Bead Motion

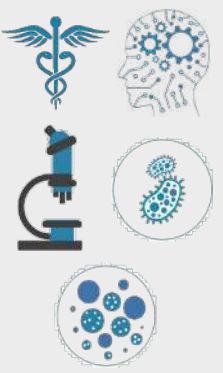


DE-20; 57.5 e<sup>-</sup>/Å<sup>2</sup>, 0° exposure

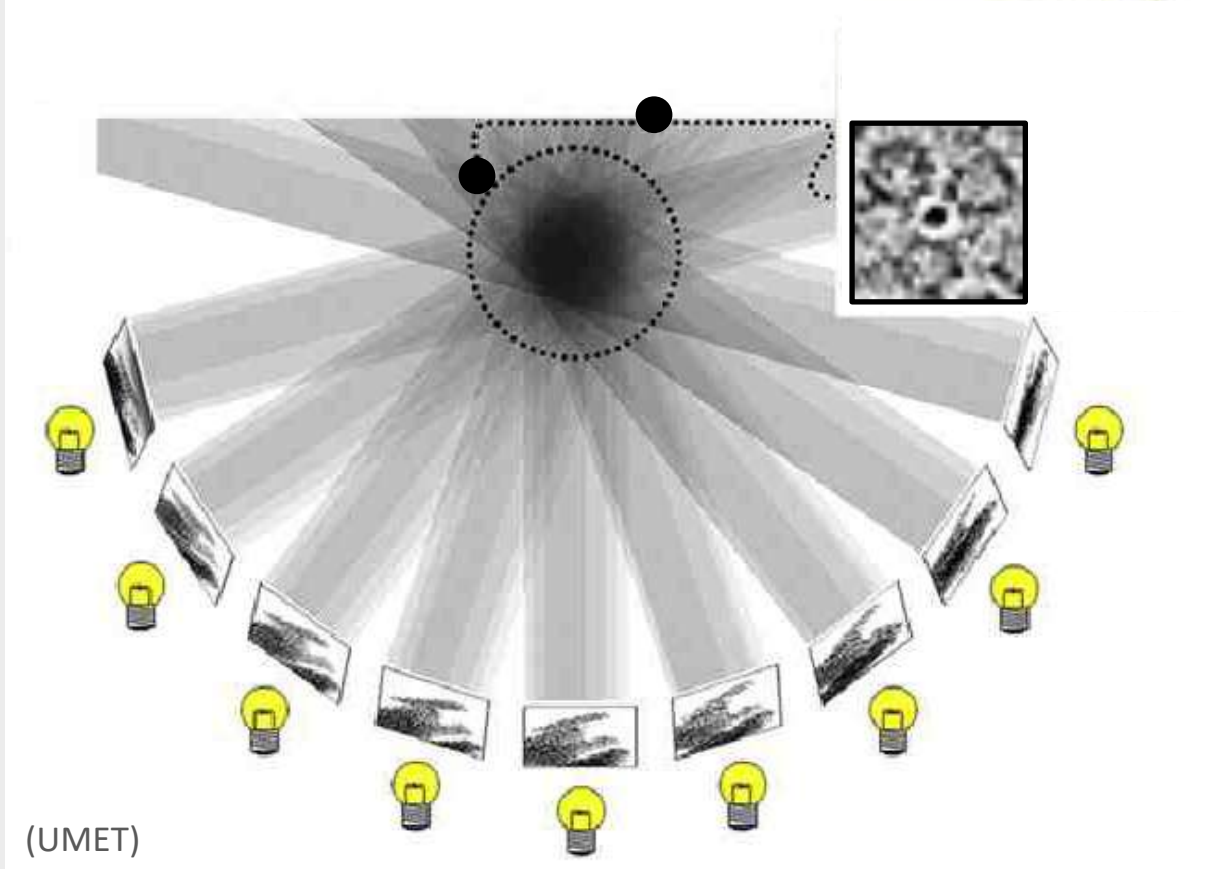
Bead Aggregation





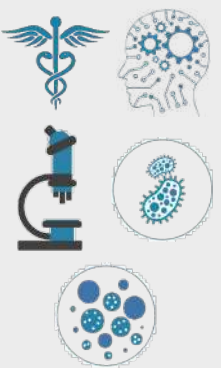


# Fiducial-based tilt-series alignment **issues**

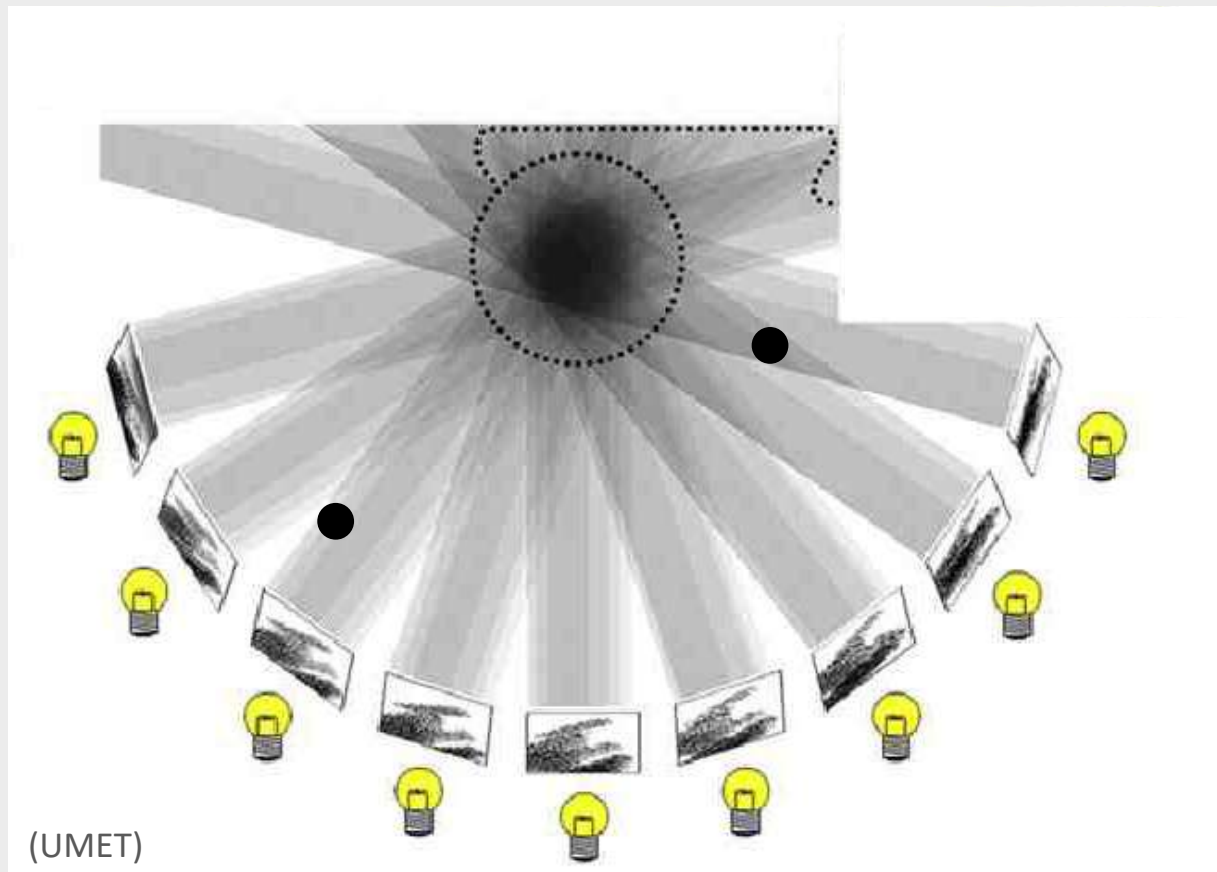


## Nearby Fiducials Affect **Signal** and **Contrast**

- **Fiducial fringes** change the **power spectrum** of your reconstructed object.

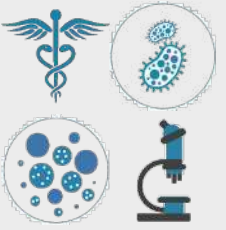


# Fiducial-based tilt-series alignment **issues**

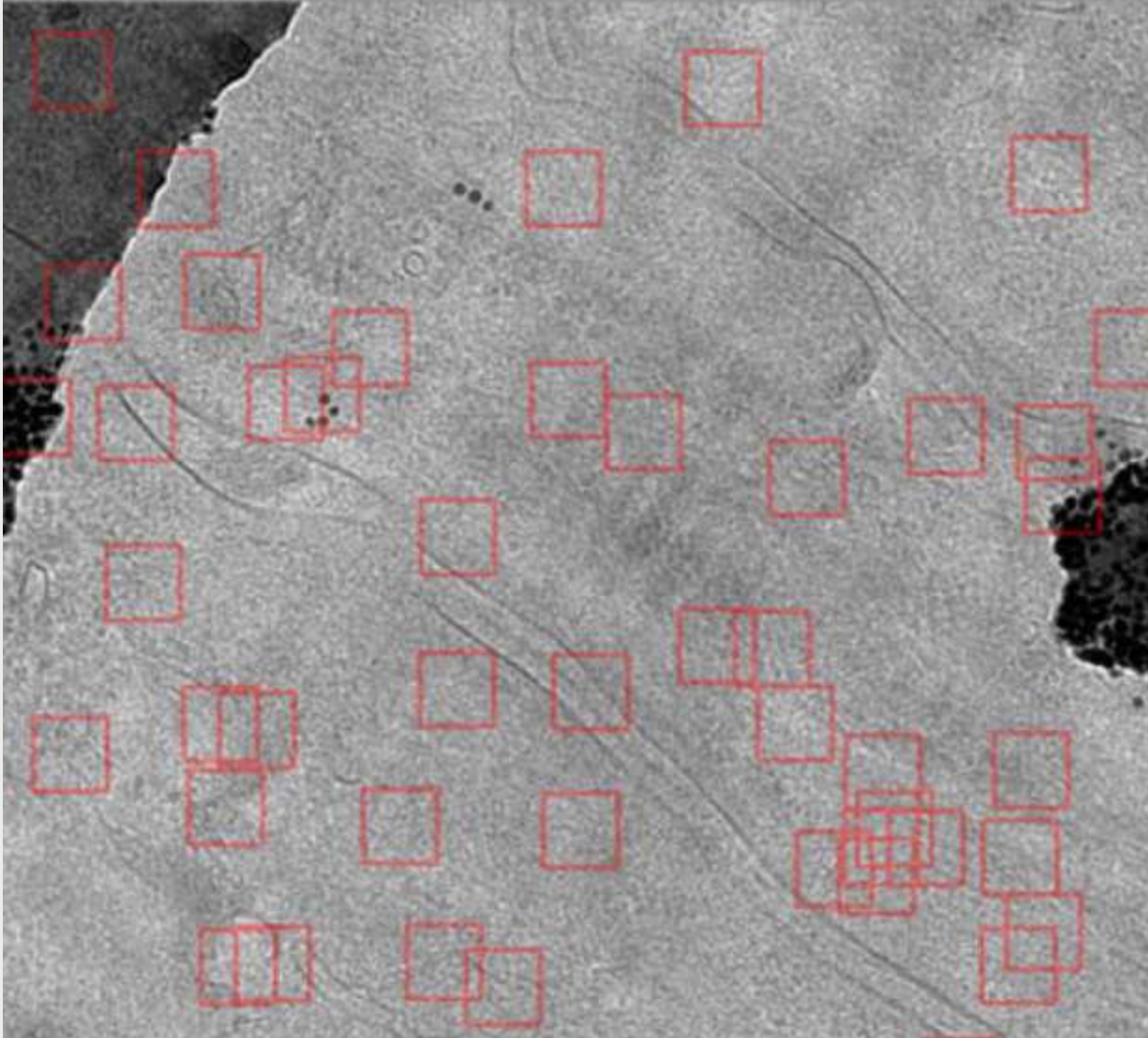


**Fiducials are in the reconstruction,  
*Even if You Can't See Them!***

- **Distant fiducials** can be in the **projection direction** of your extracted object of interest.
- Erasing fiducials isn't perfect.



# Patch tracking tilt-series alignment



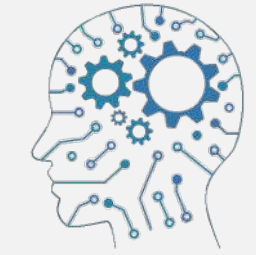
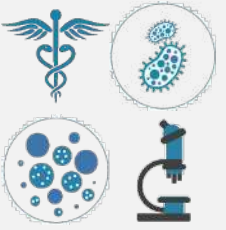
Identify featureful objects with contrast in all tilt images and track them.

- Semi-automated (IMOD, Alignator)



Castaño-Díez, 2010





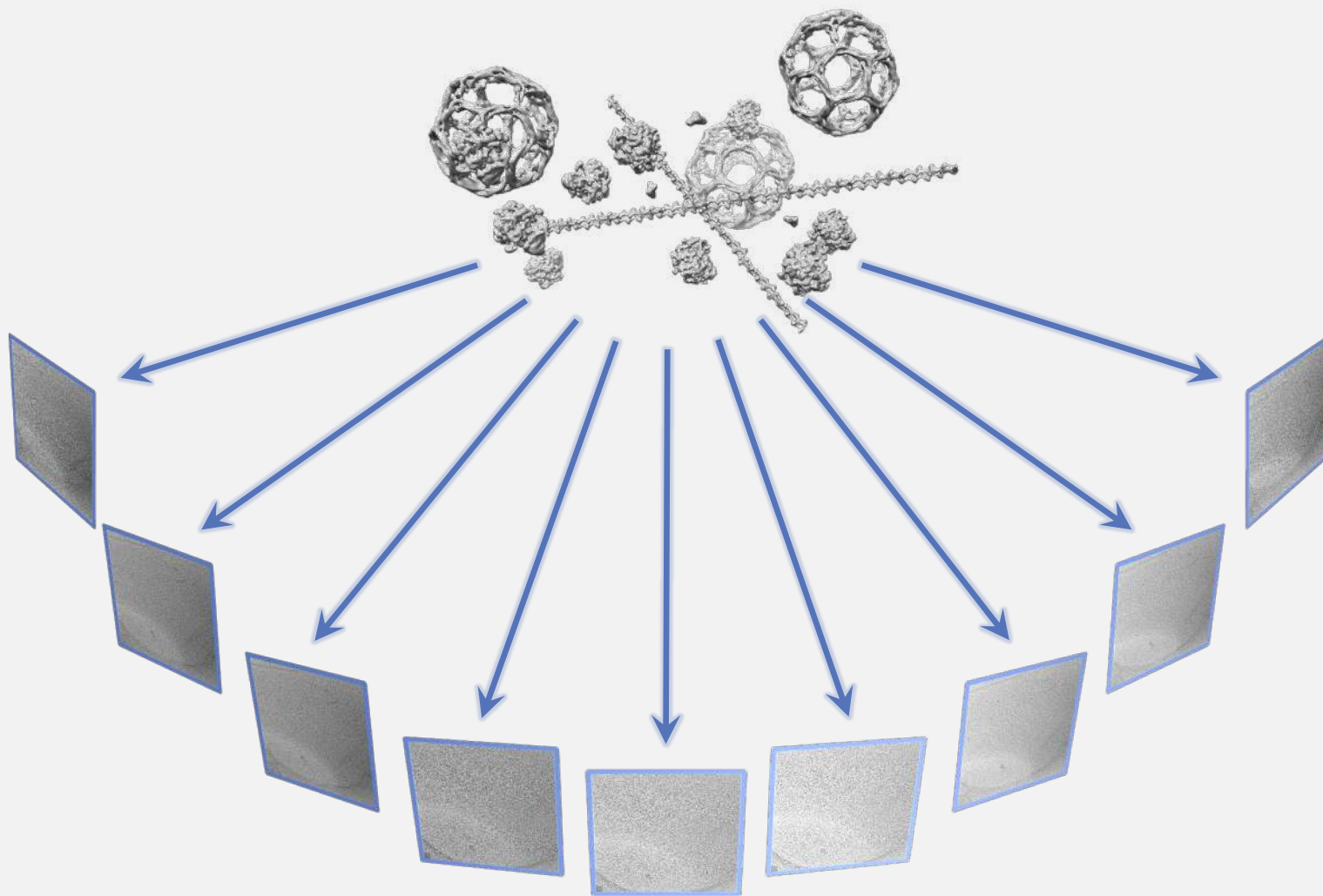
How does **fiducial-less**  
alignment in **Protomo** work?

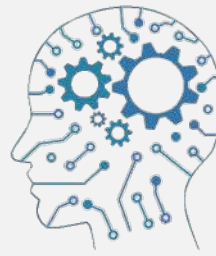




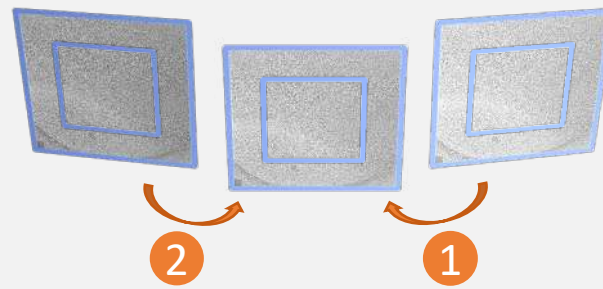


Collect a tilt-series





# Protomo alignment

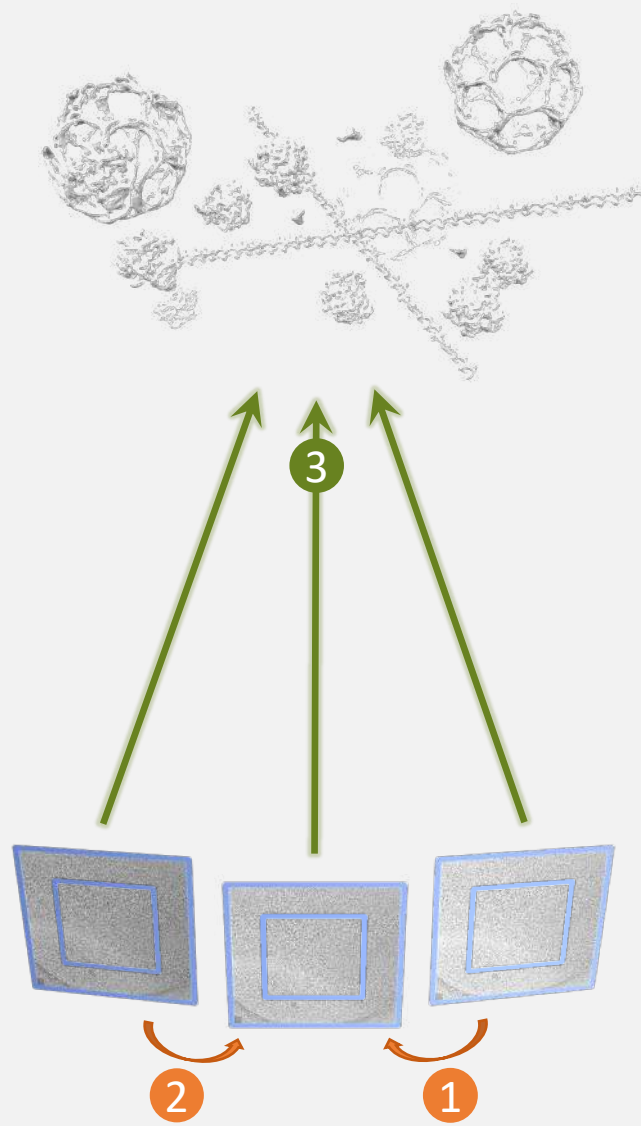


● Nearest-neighbor correlation





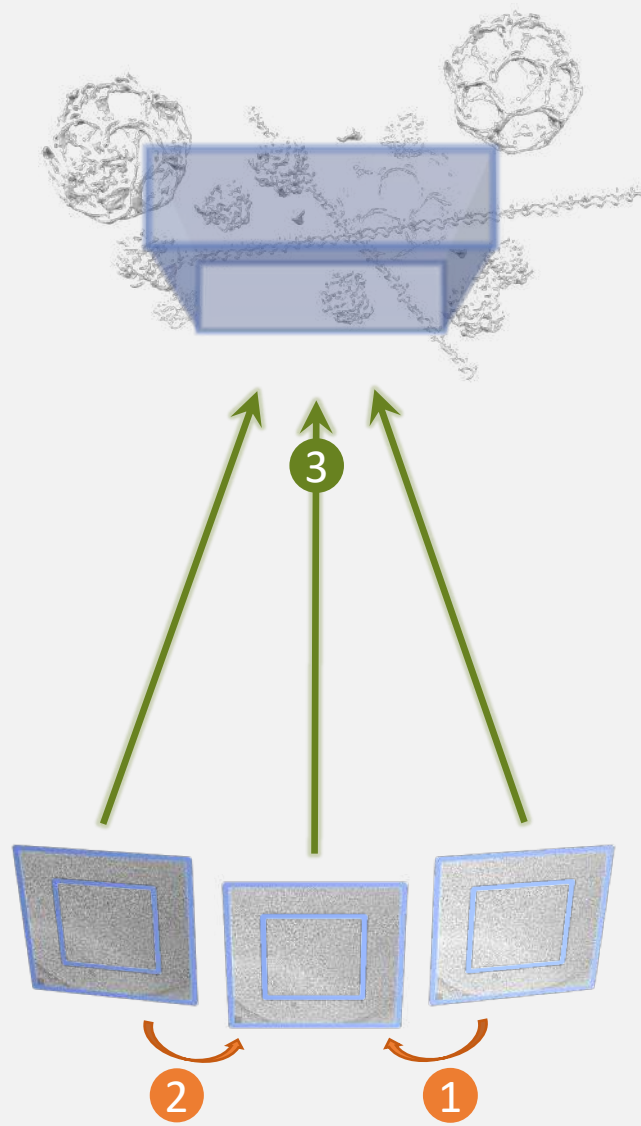
# Protomo alignment




- Nearest-neighbor correlation
- Weighted back-projection



# Protomo alignment



- Nearest-neighbor
- correlation
- Weighted back-projection

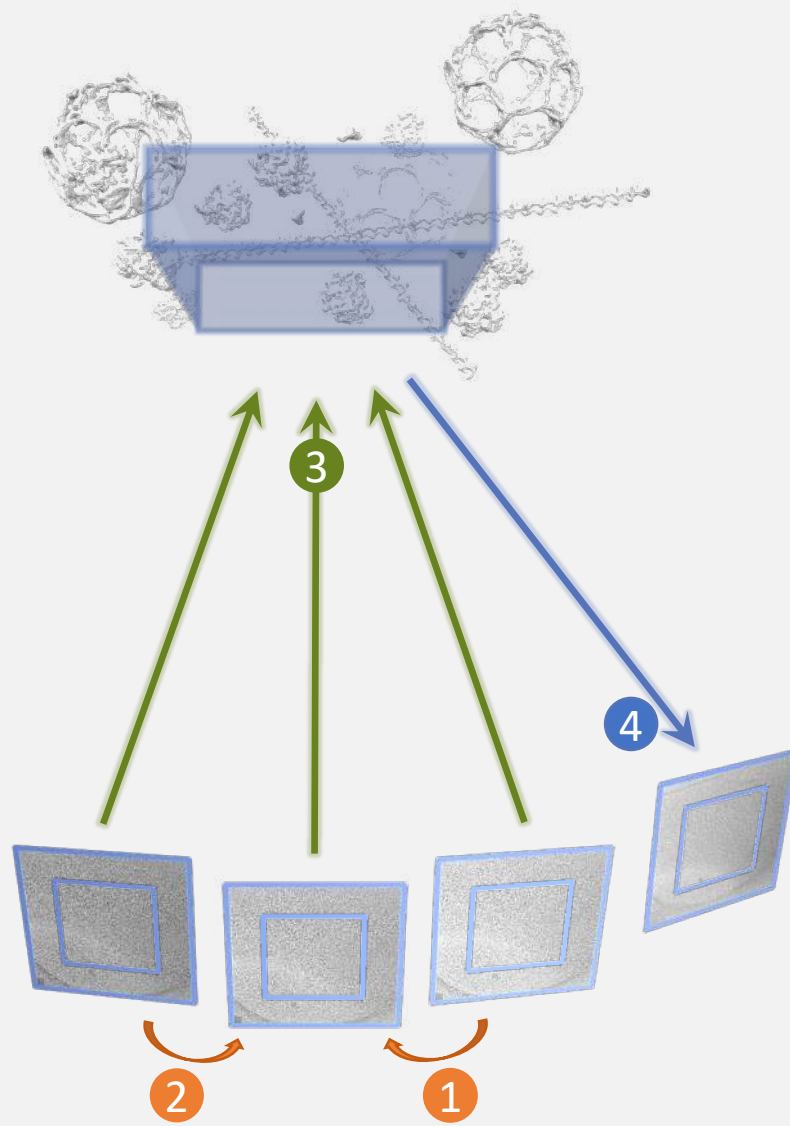
alignment thickness =  $z$   Volume to be re-projected








# Protomo alignment



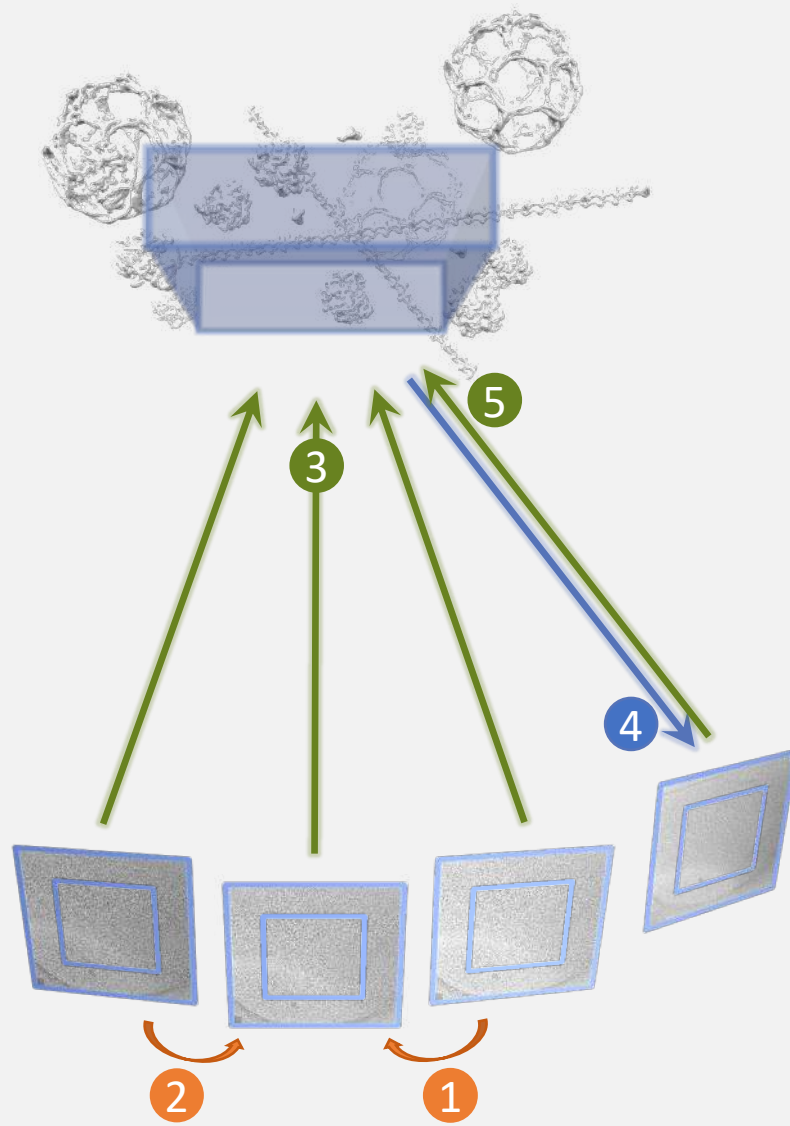
- Nearest-neighbor correlation
- Weighted back-projection
- Volume to be re-projected
- Re-projection  $\rightarrow$  correlation

alignment thickness =  $z$



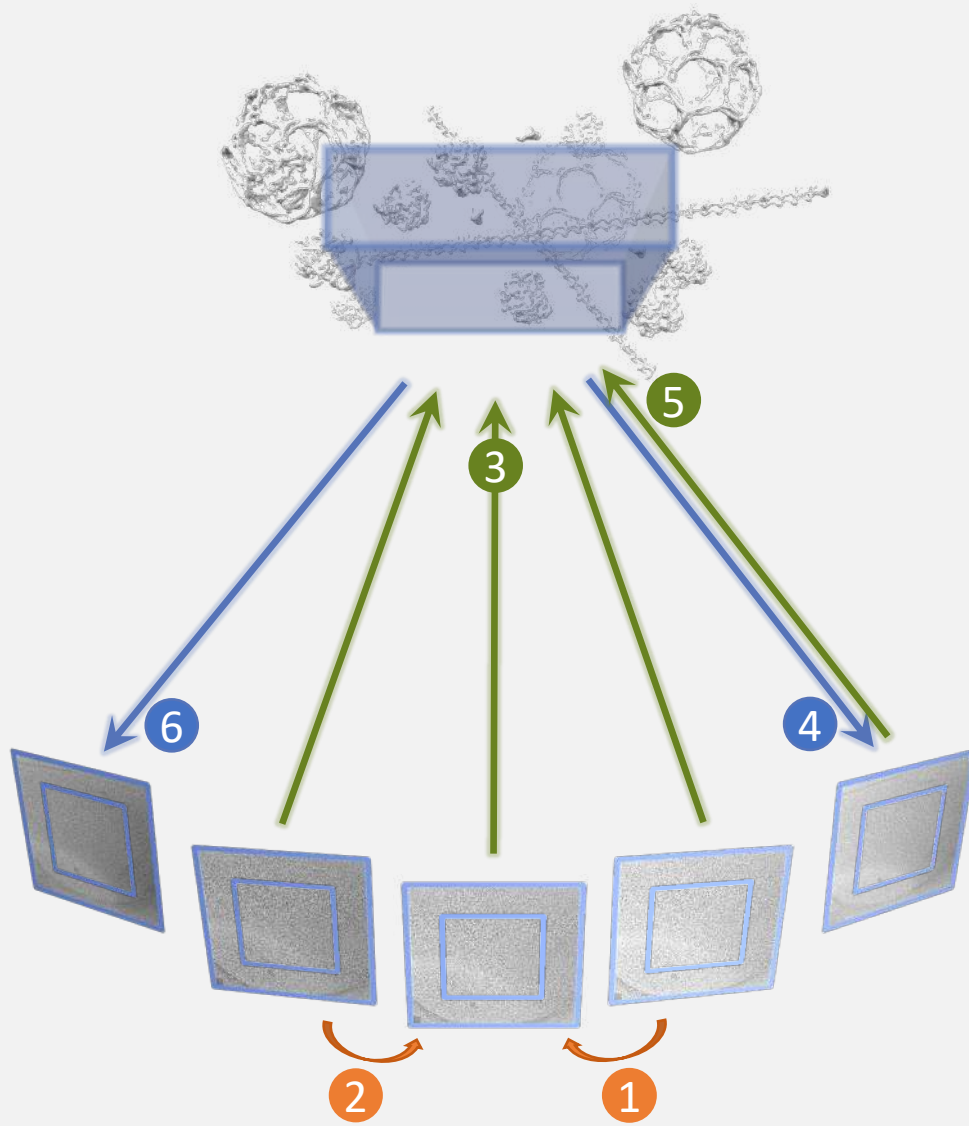


# Protomo alignment





# Protomo alignment

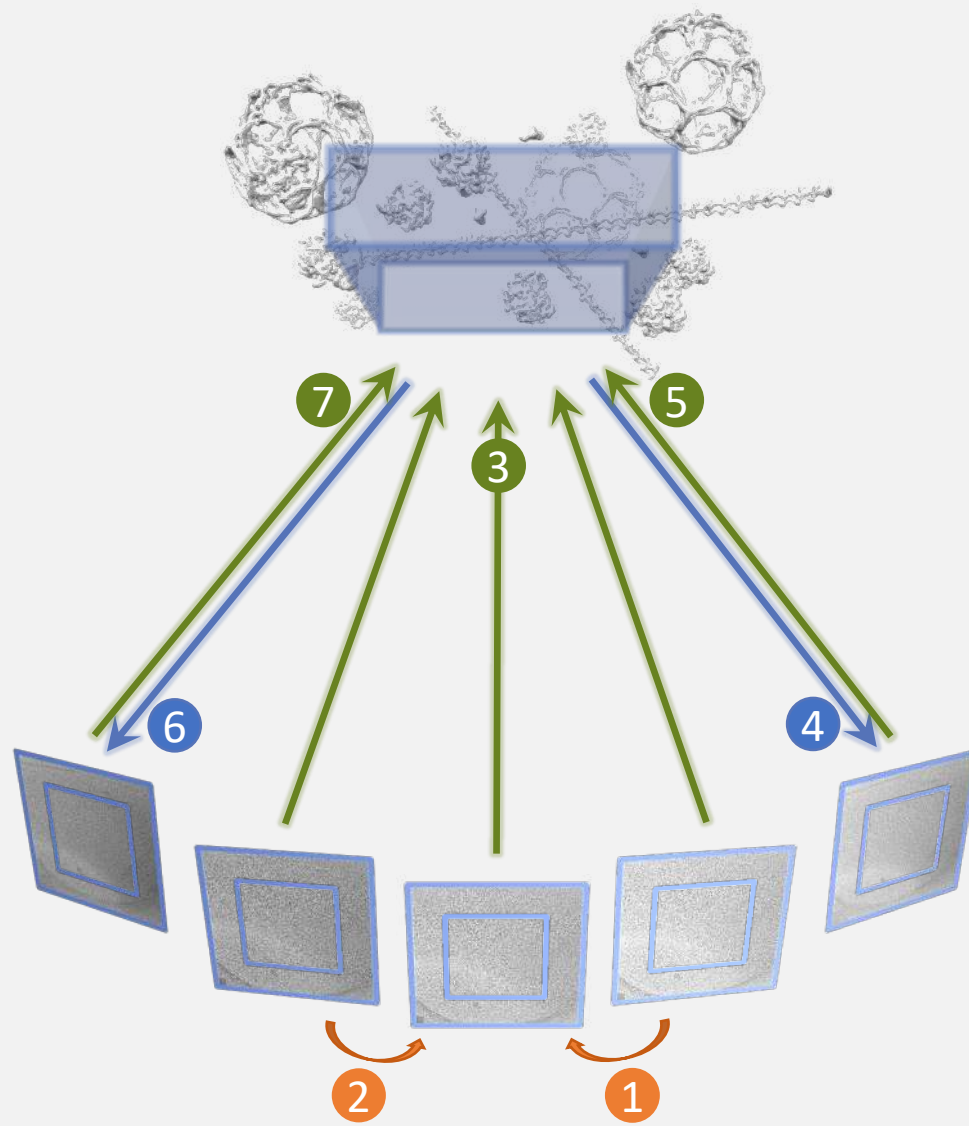


- Nearest-neighbor correlation
- Weighted back-projection
- Volume to be re-projected
- Re-projection  $\rightarrow$  correlation





# Protomo alignment



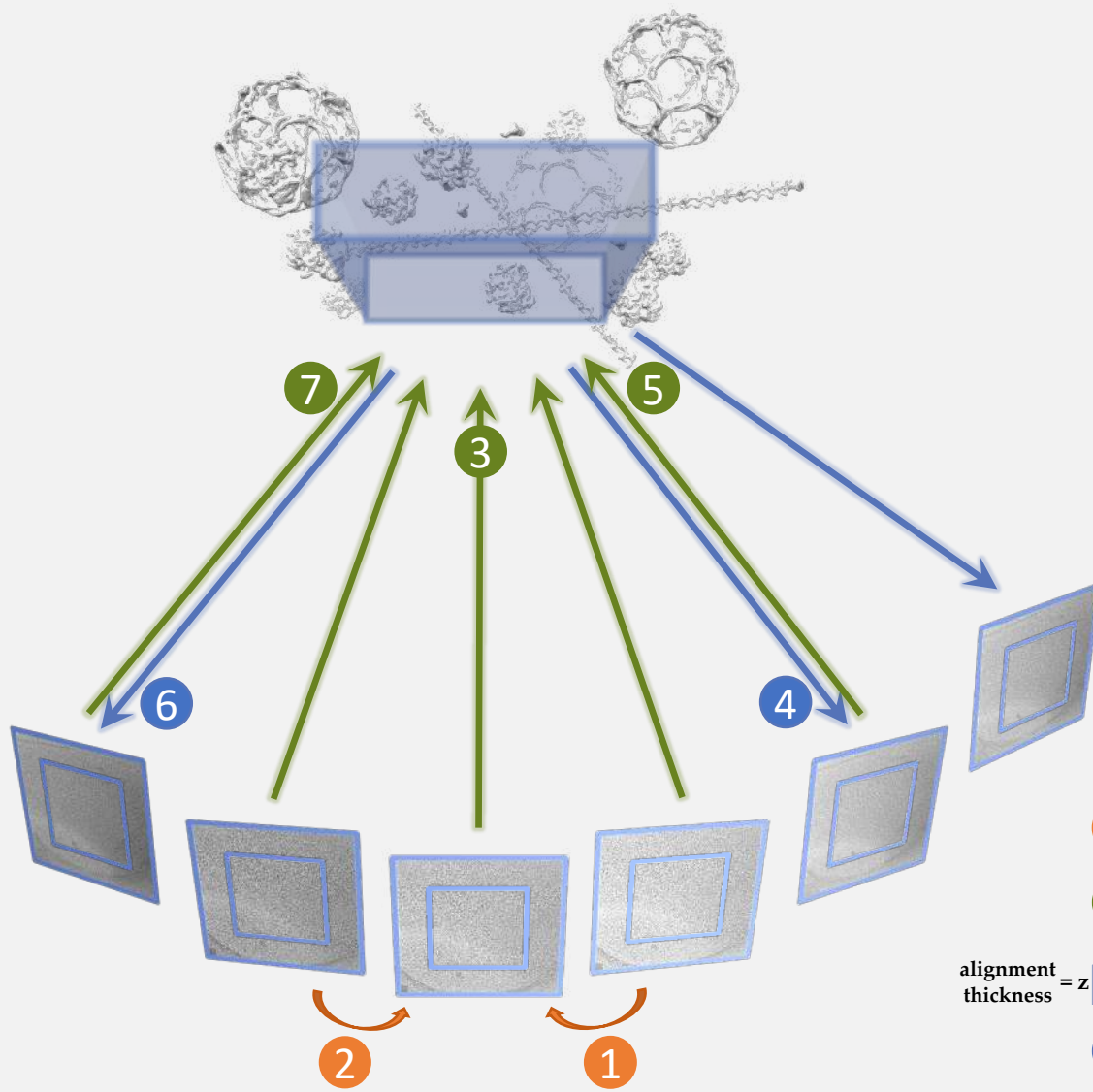
- Nearest-neighbor correlation
- Weighted back-projection
- Volume to be re-projected
- Re-projection  $\rightarrow$  correlation








# Protomo alignment



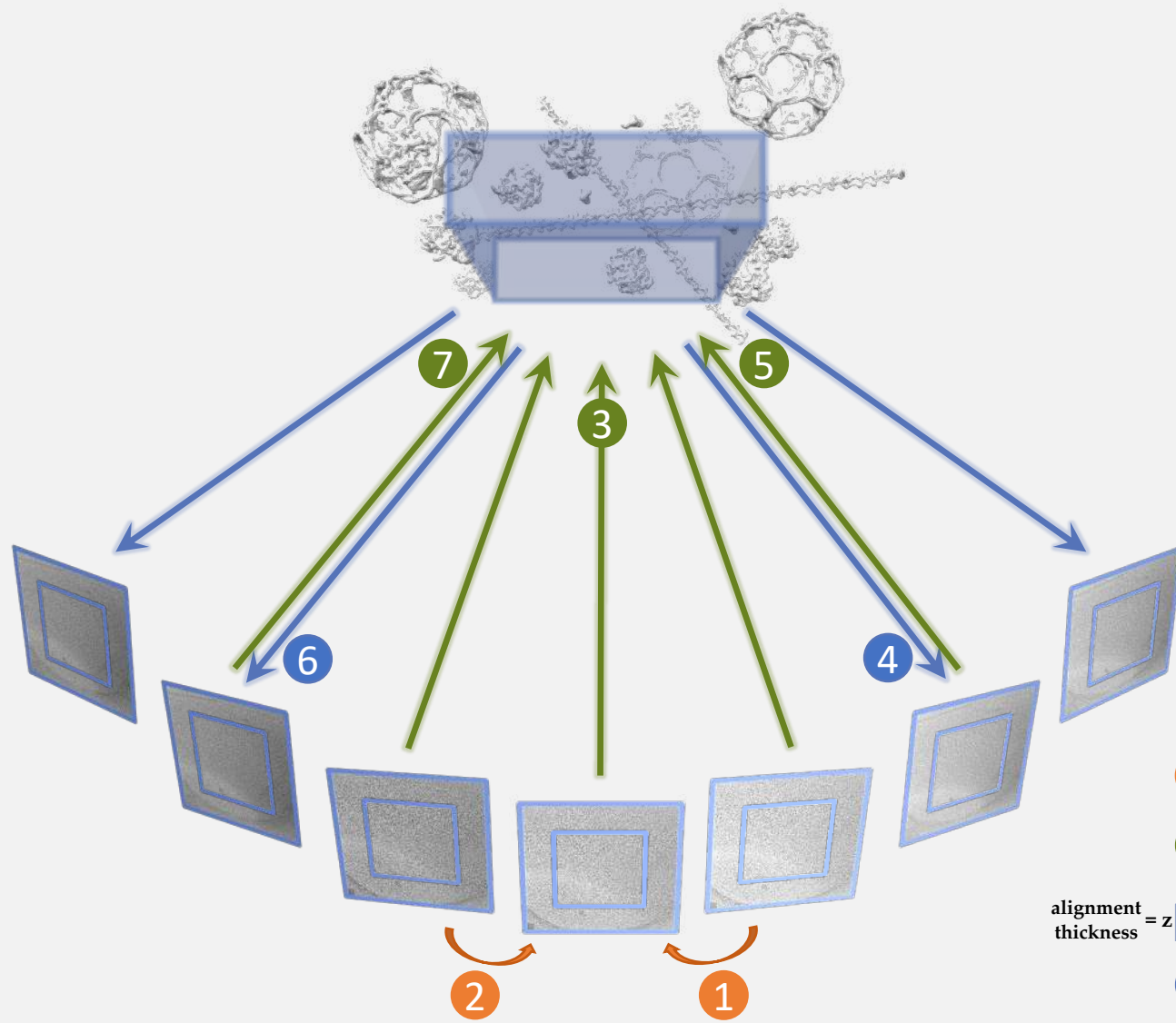
- Nearest-neighbor
- correlation
- Weighted back-projection
- Volume to be re-projected
- Re-projection  $\rightarrow$  correlation

alignment thickness =  $z$



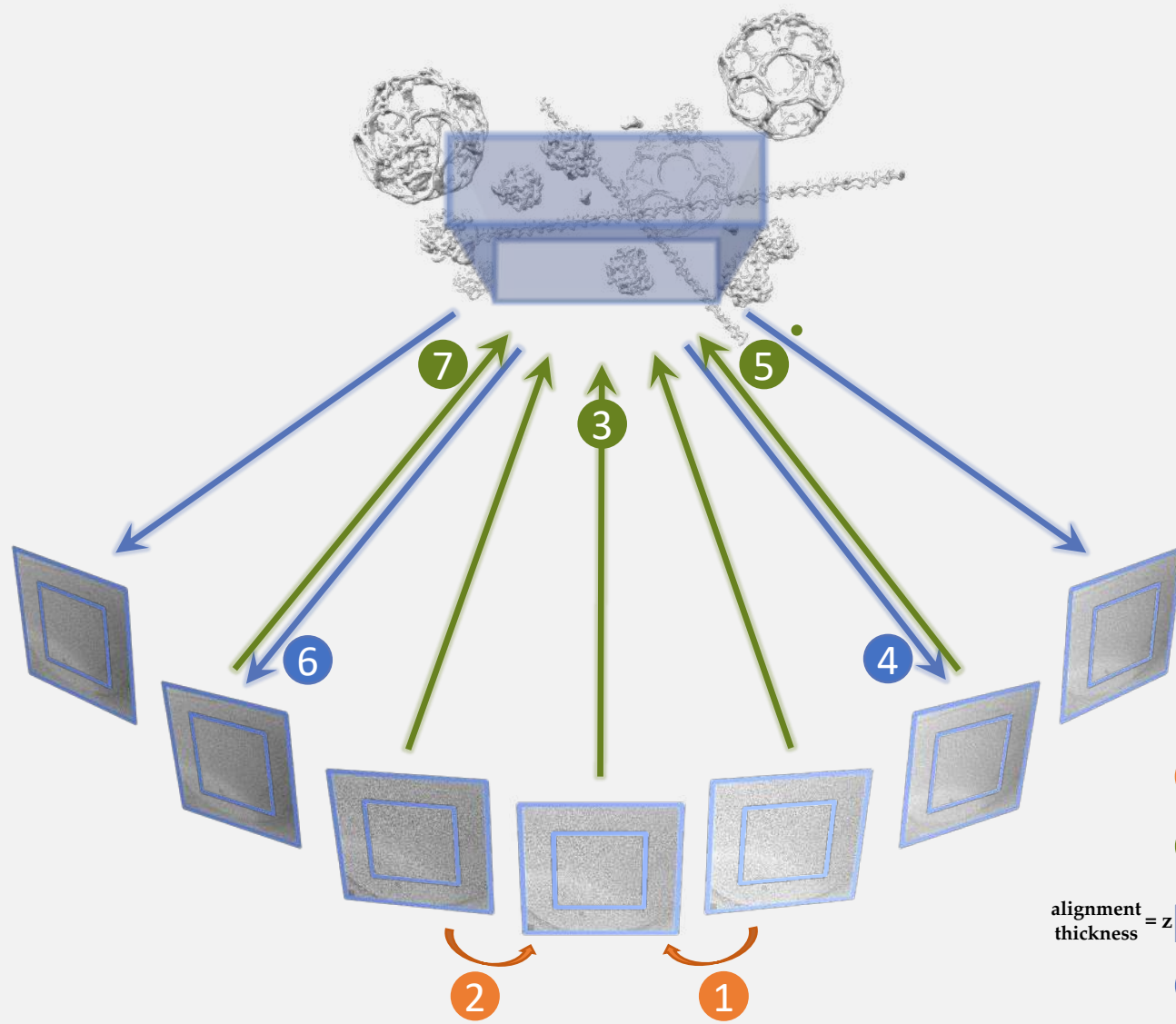


# Protomo alignment



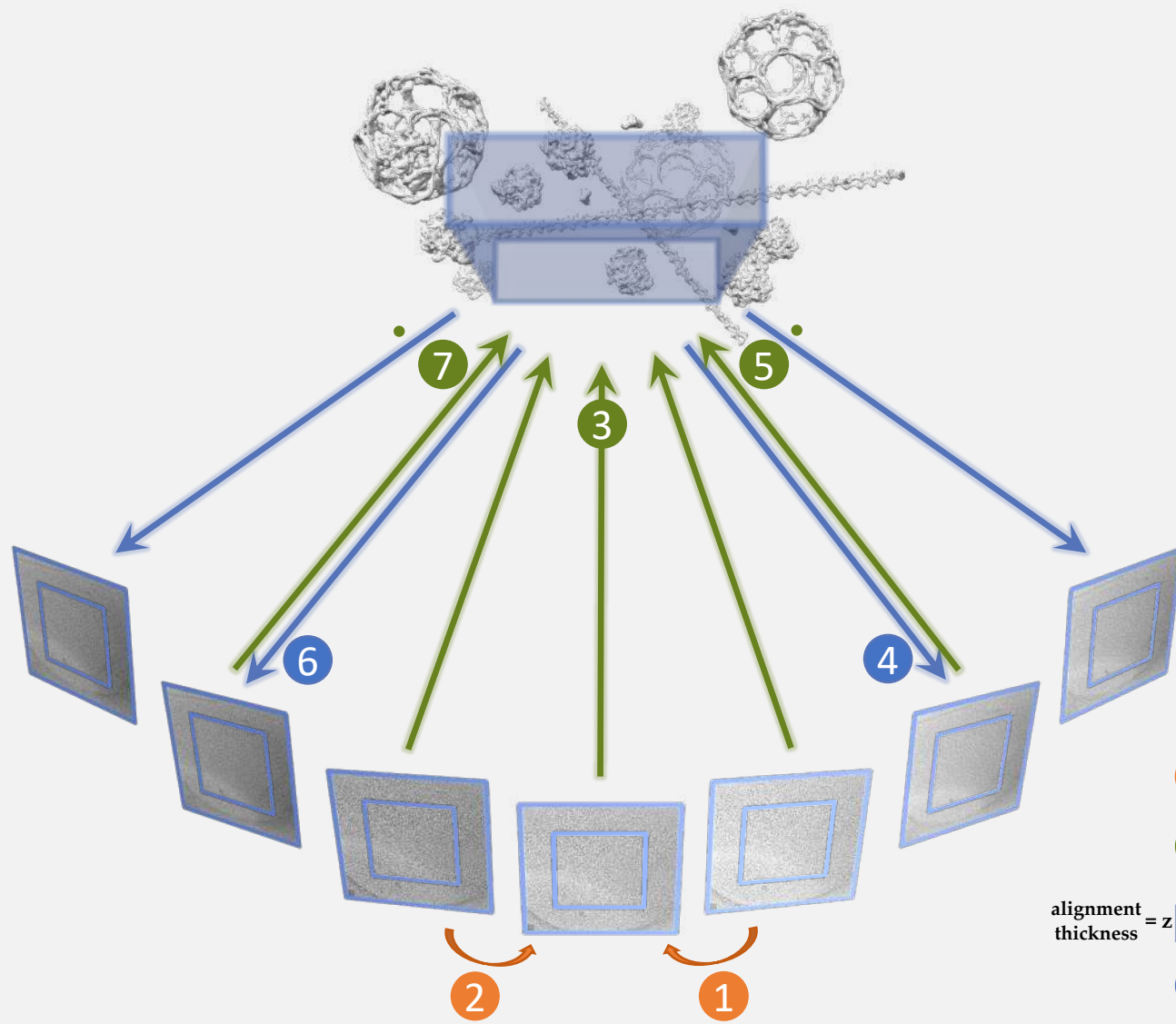


# Protomo alignment





# Protomo alignment



- Nearest-neighbor correlation
- Weighted back-projection

alignment thickness =  $z$

Volume to be re-projected

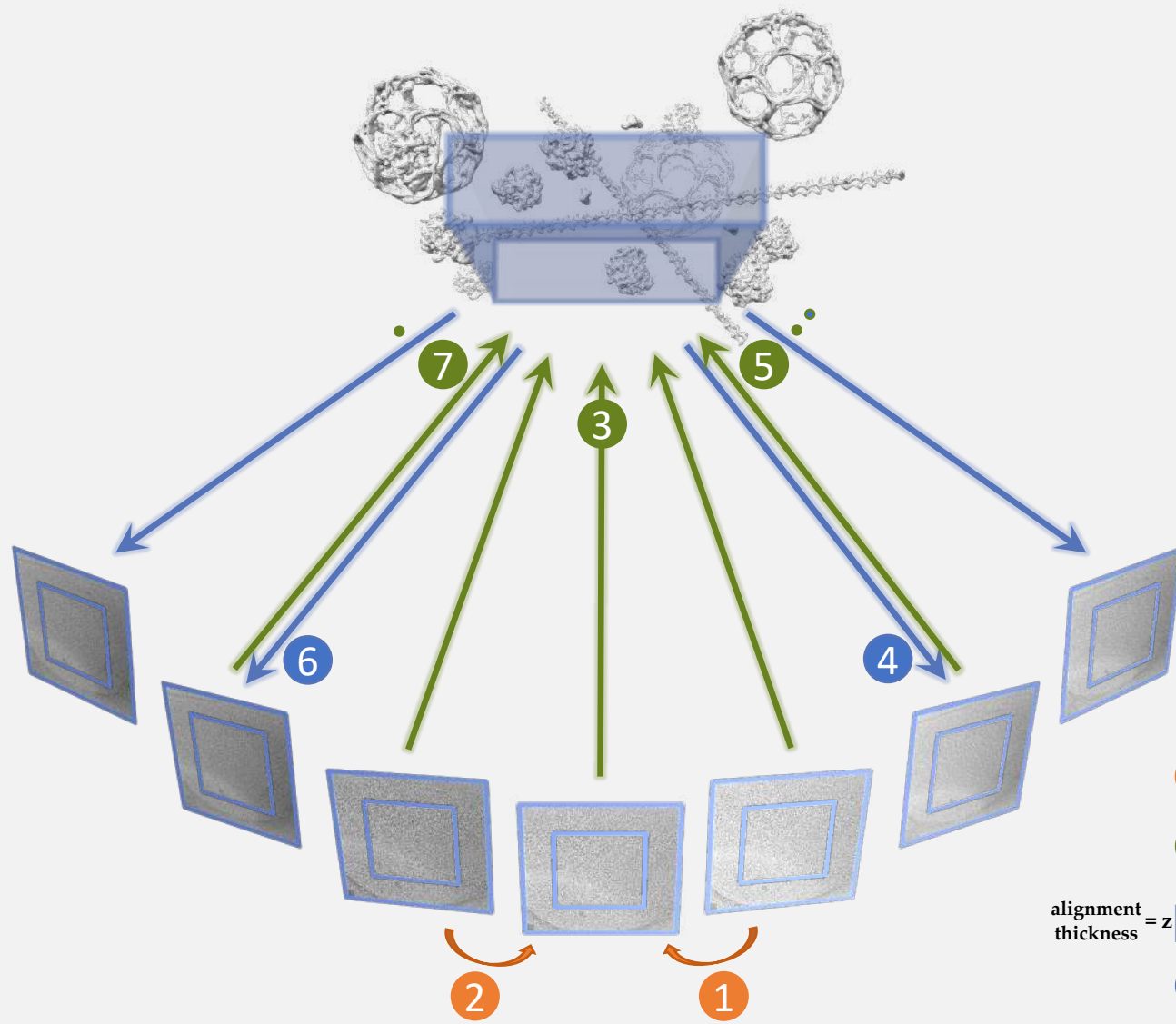
Re-projection  $\rightarrow$  correlation








# Protomo alignment



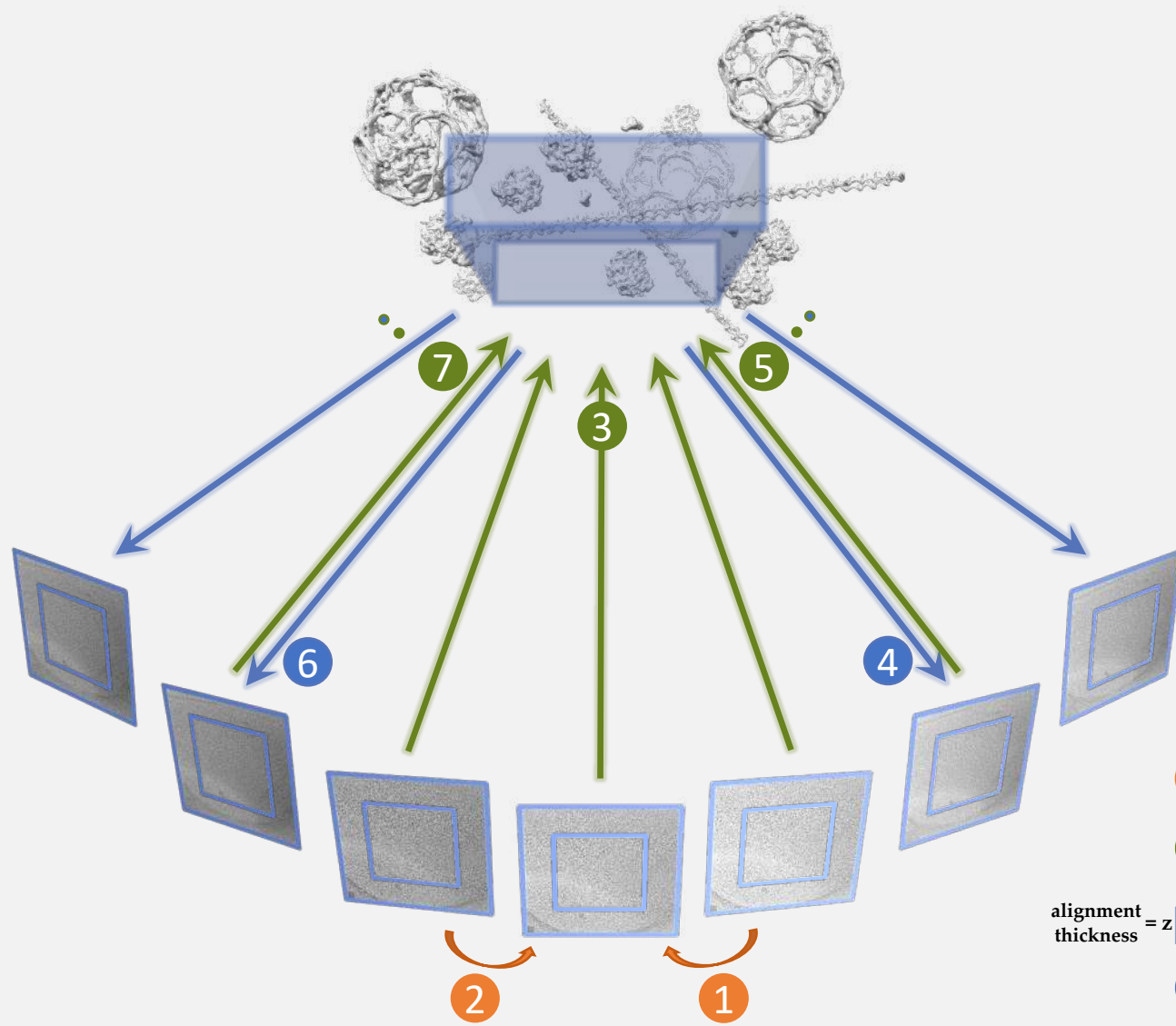
- Nearest-neighbor
- correlation
- Weighted back-projection
- Volume to be re-projected
- Re-projection  $\rightarrow$  correlation

alignment thickness =  $z$






# Protomo alignment



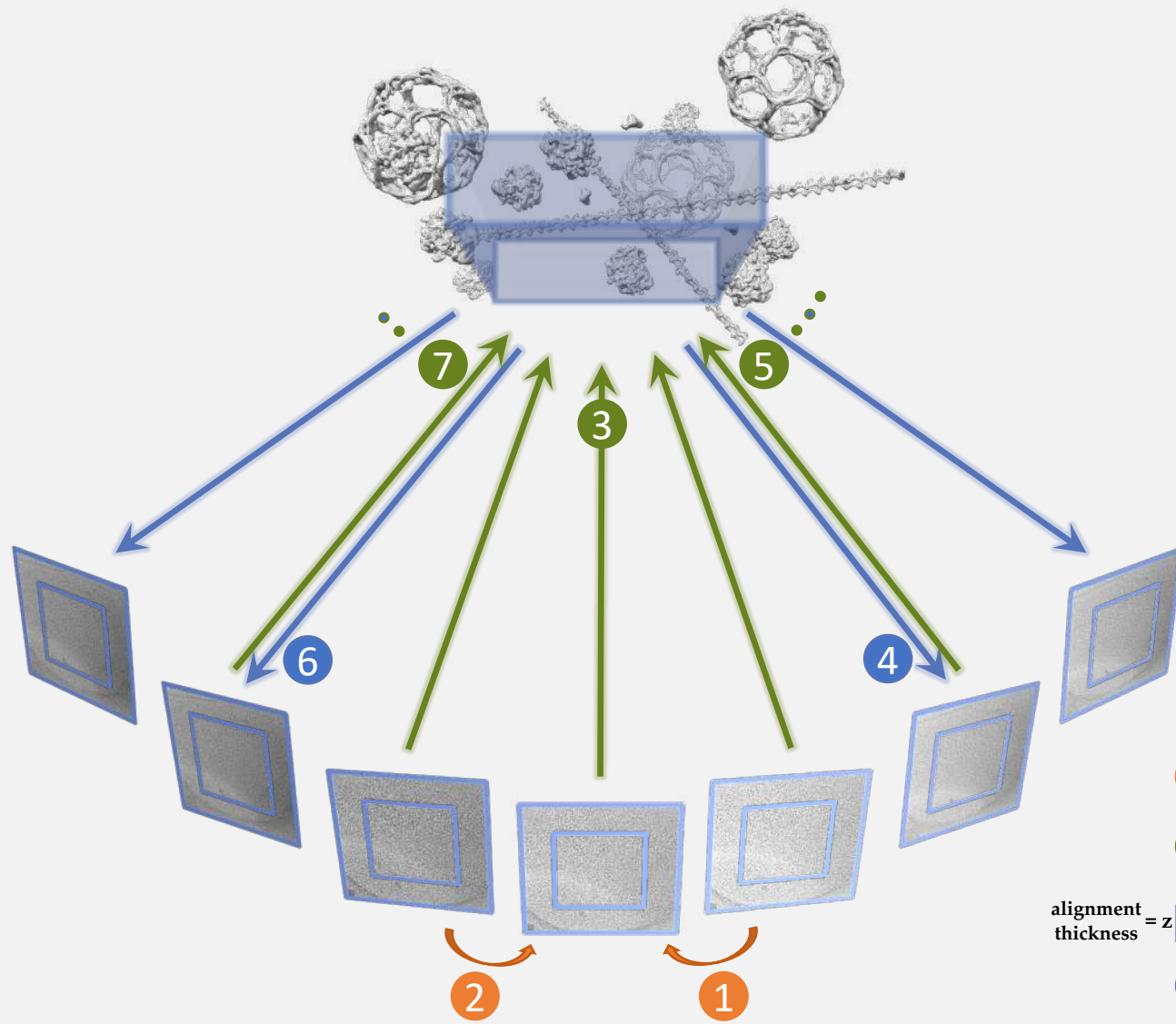
- Nearest-neighbor correlation
- Weighted back-projection
- Volume to be re-projected
- Re-projection  $\rightarrow$  correlation

alignment thickness =  $z$






# Protomo alignment



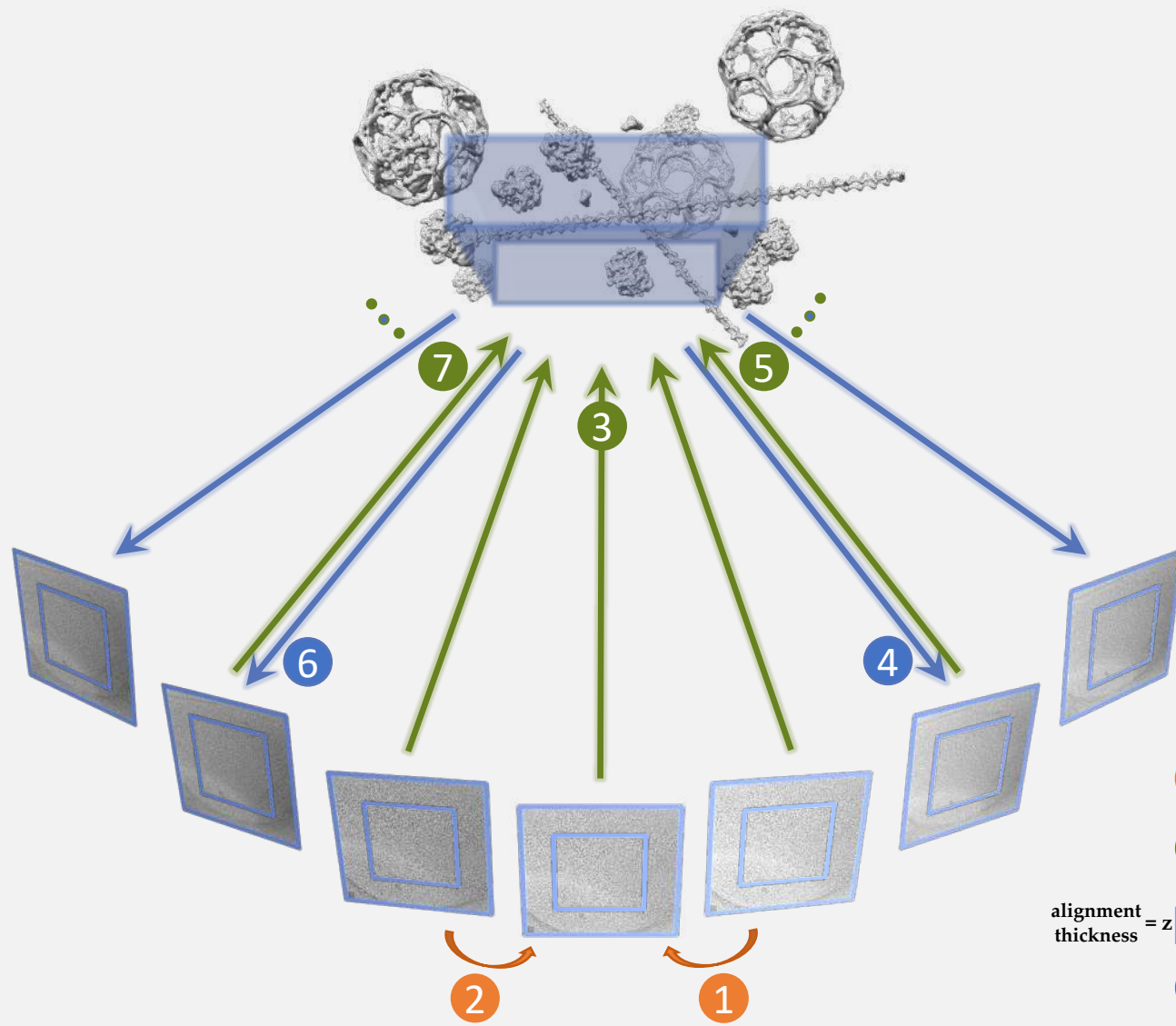
- Nearest-neighbor correlation
- Weighted back-projection
- Volume to be re-projected
- Re-projection  $\rightarrow$  correlation

alignment thickness =  $z$






# Protomo alignment



- Nearest-neighbor correlation
- Weighted back-projection

alignment thickness =  $z$



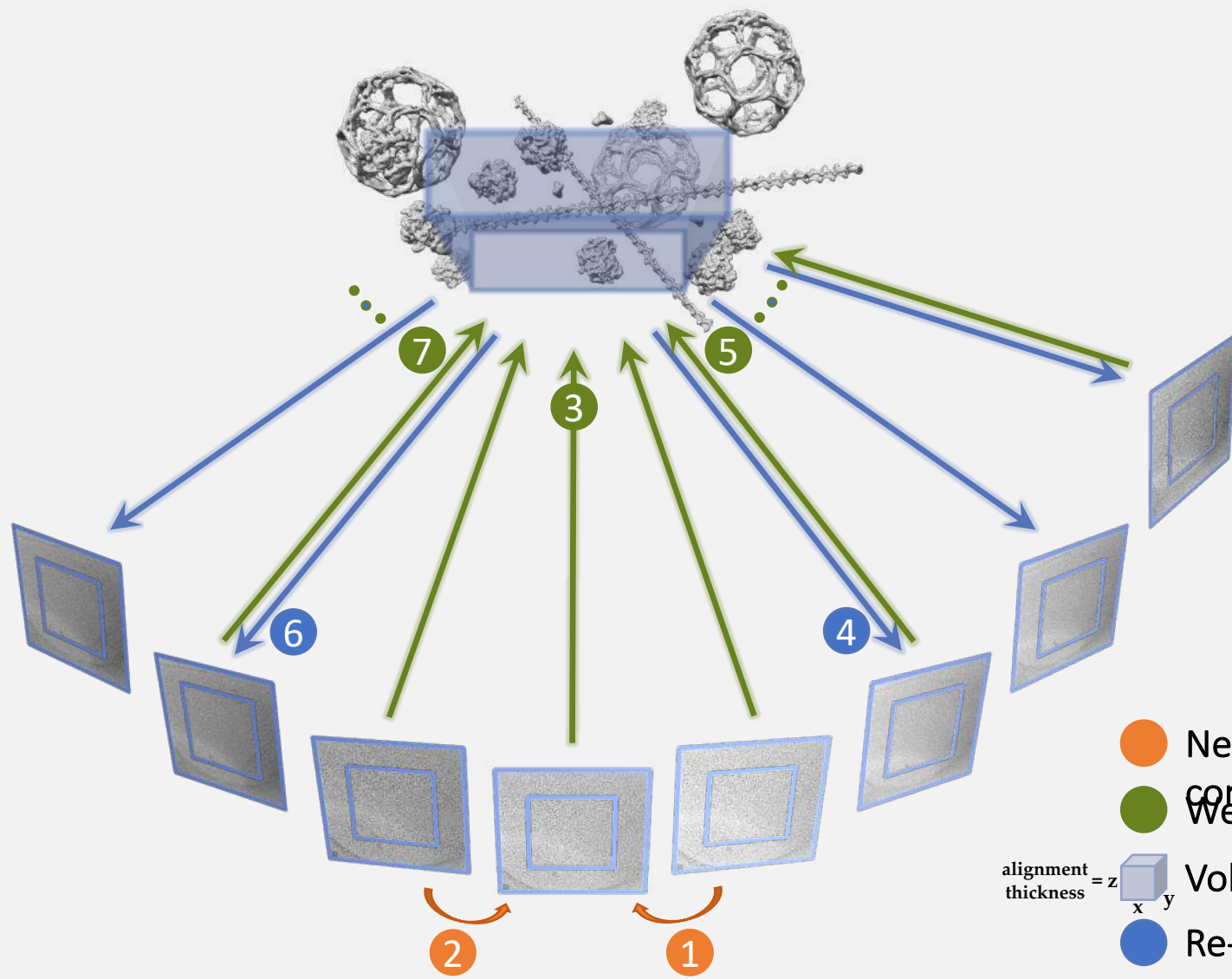
Volume to be re-projected

- Re-projection  $\rightarrow$  correlation



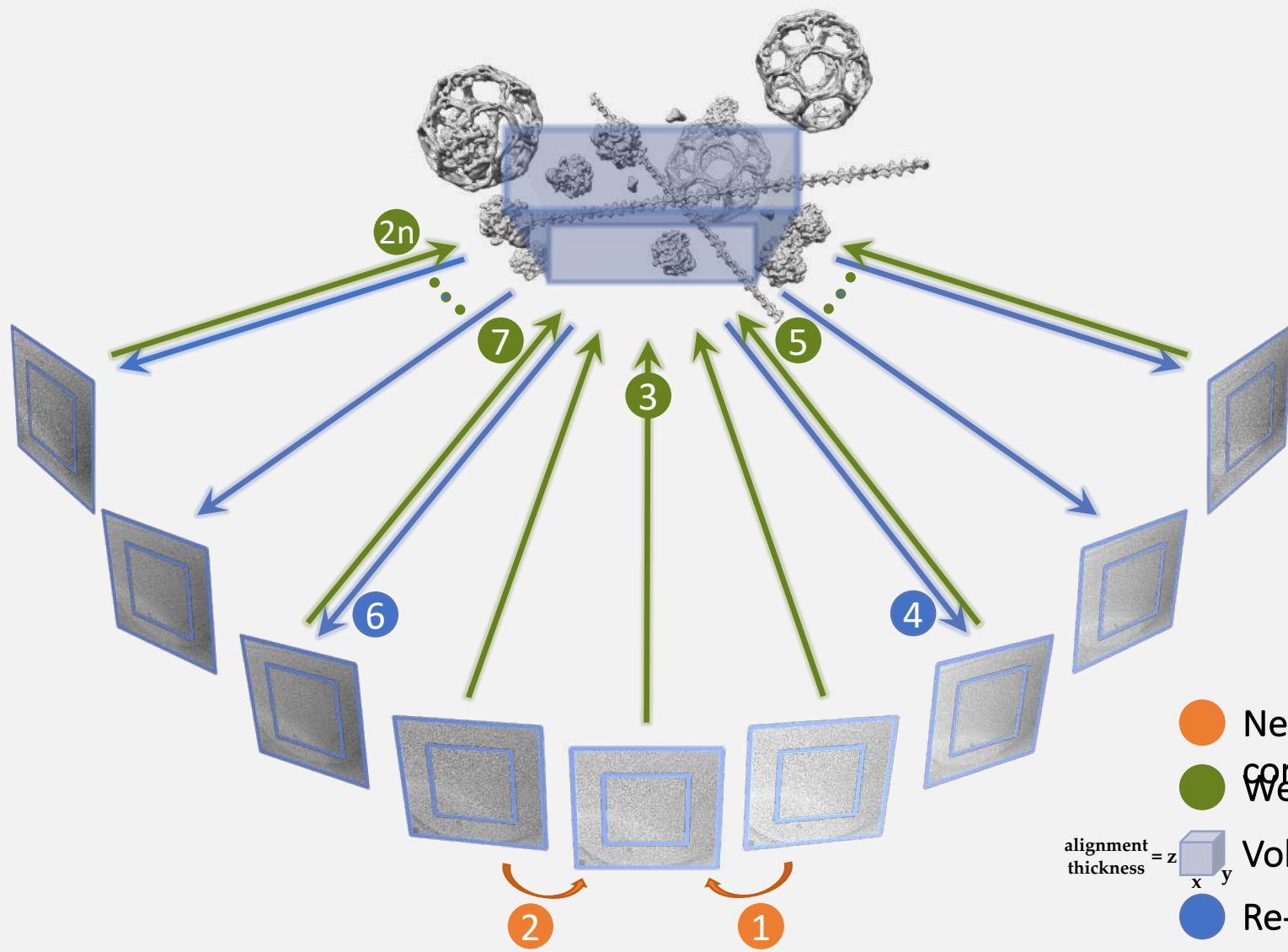


# Protomo alignment





# Protomo alignment

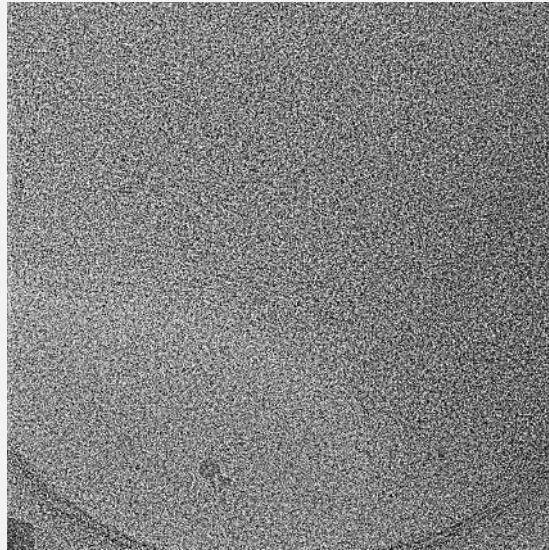
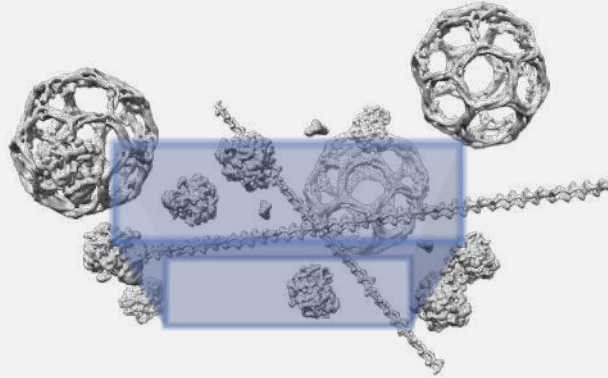


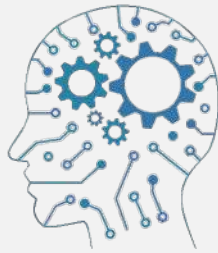
- Nearest-neighbor correlation
- Weighted back-projection
- Volume to be re-projected
- Re-projection → correlation



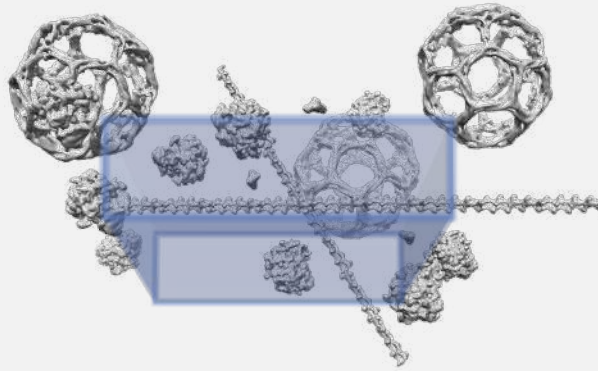


# Protomo alignment

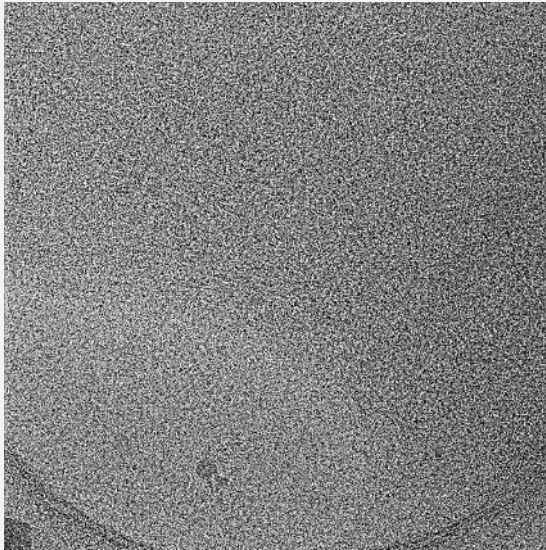




# Protomo alignment



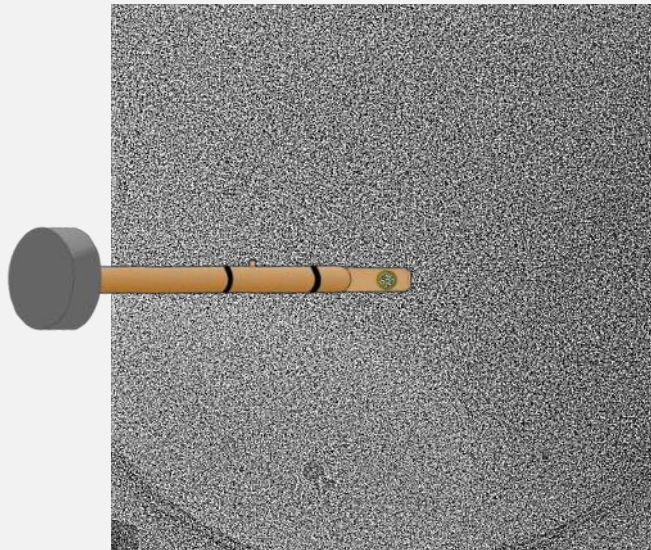
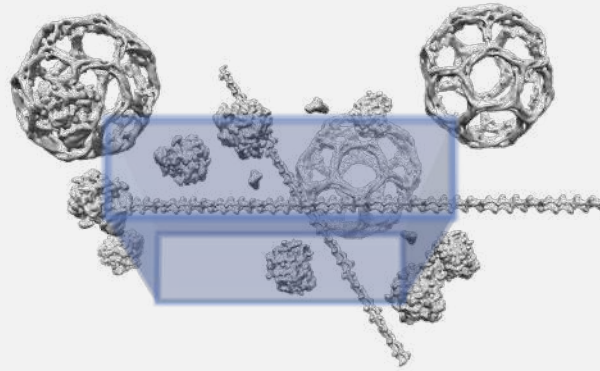
Refine orientations  
of objects

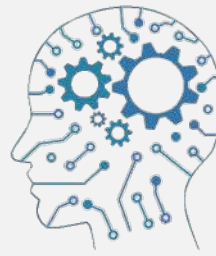




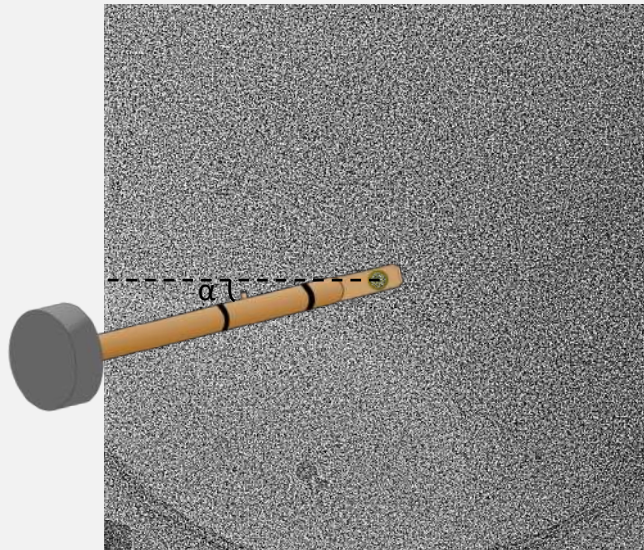
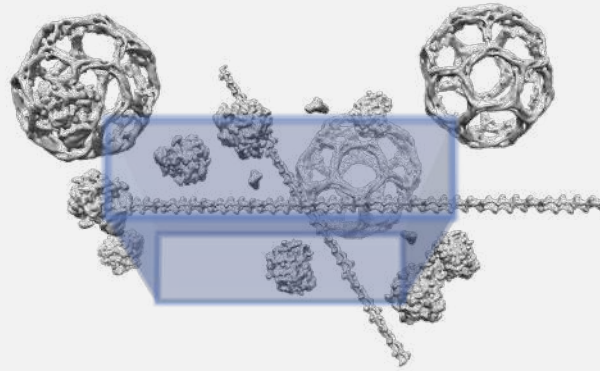


# Protomo alignment





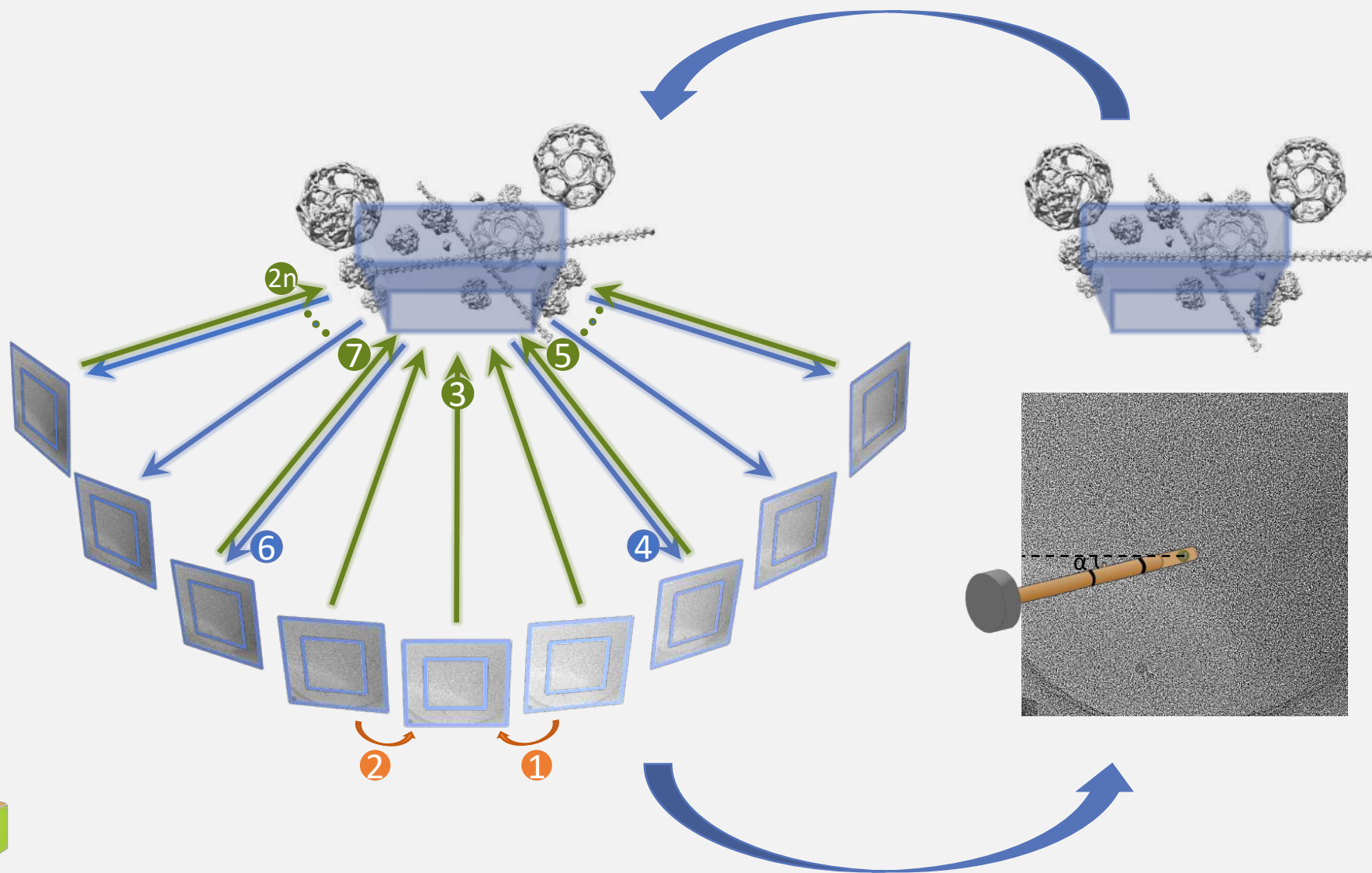
# Protomo alignment



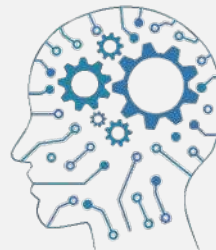
Refine tilt azimuth



# Appion-Protomo refinement

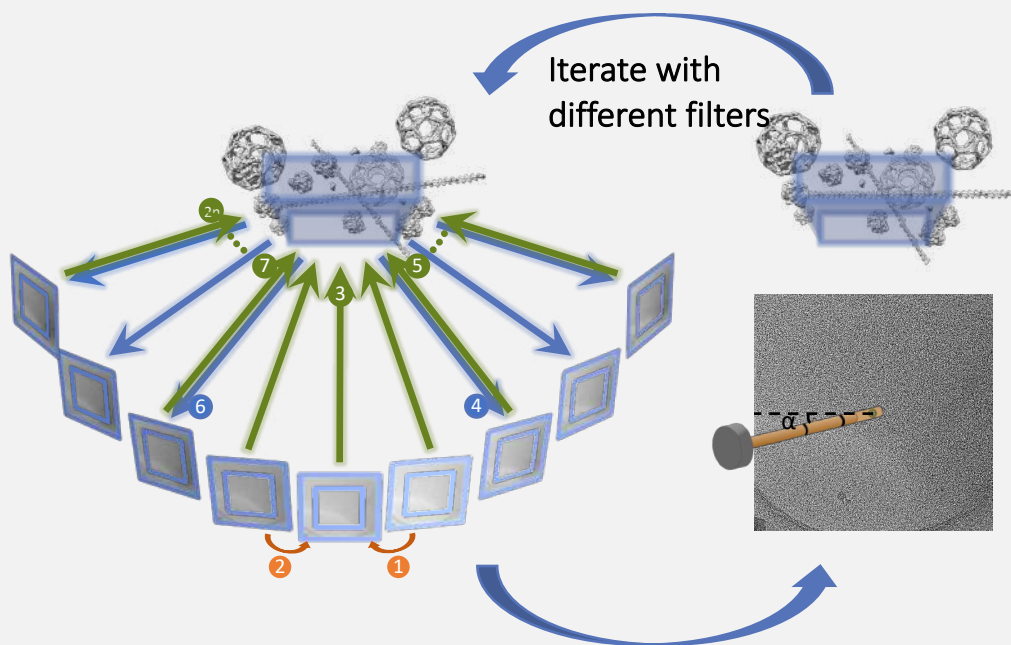


Iterate with  
different filters



# Appion-Protomo refinement

*Why is this important?*

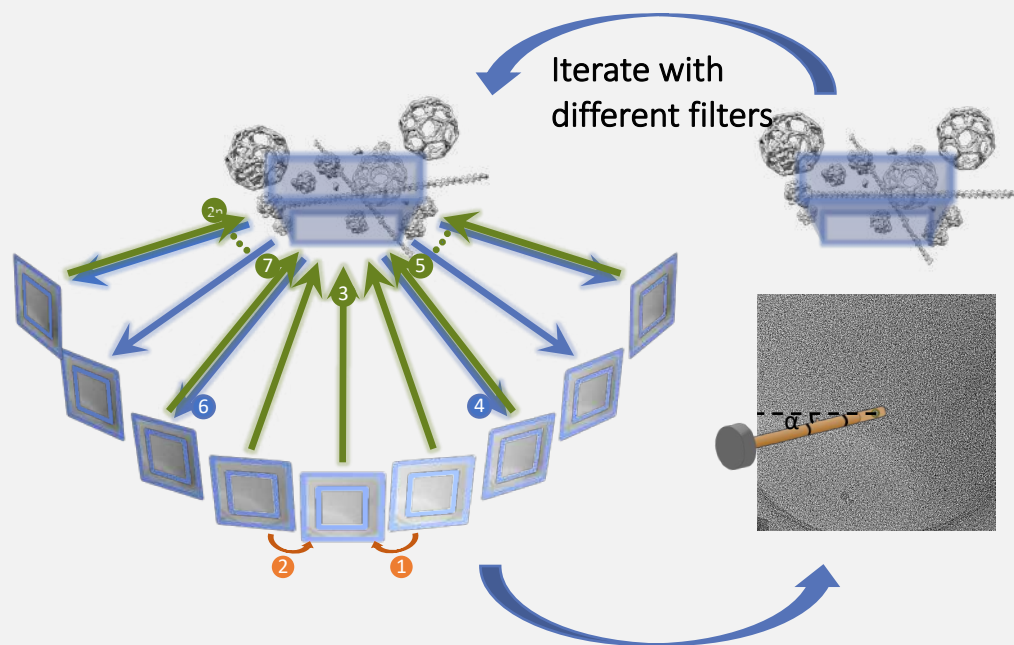






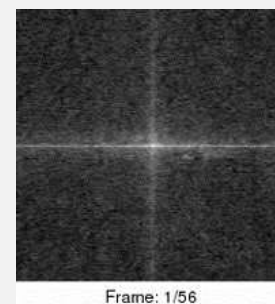
# Appion-Protomo refinement

*Why is this important?*

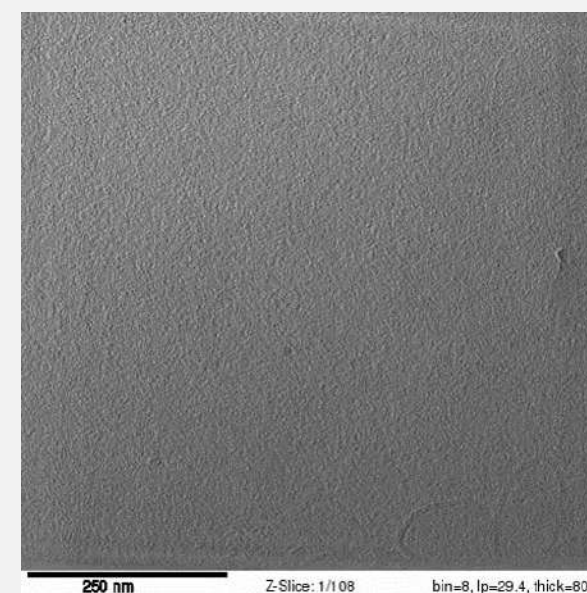
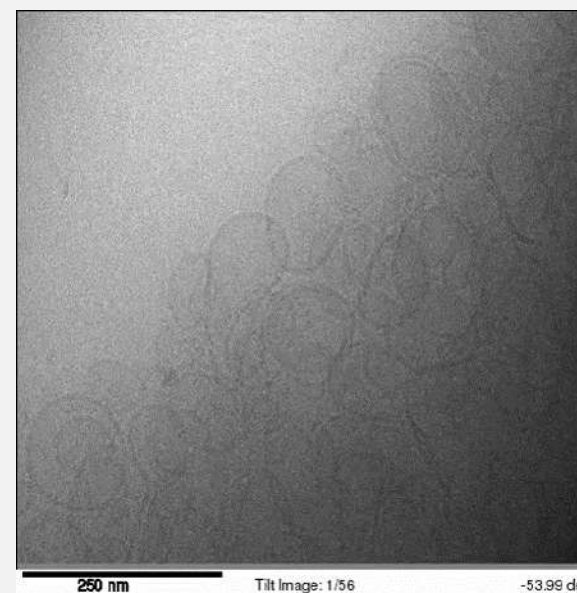


Nearest-neighbor alignment

After refinement



After refinement





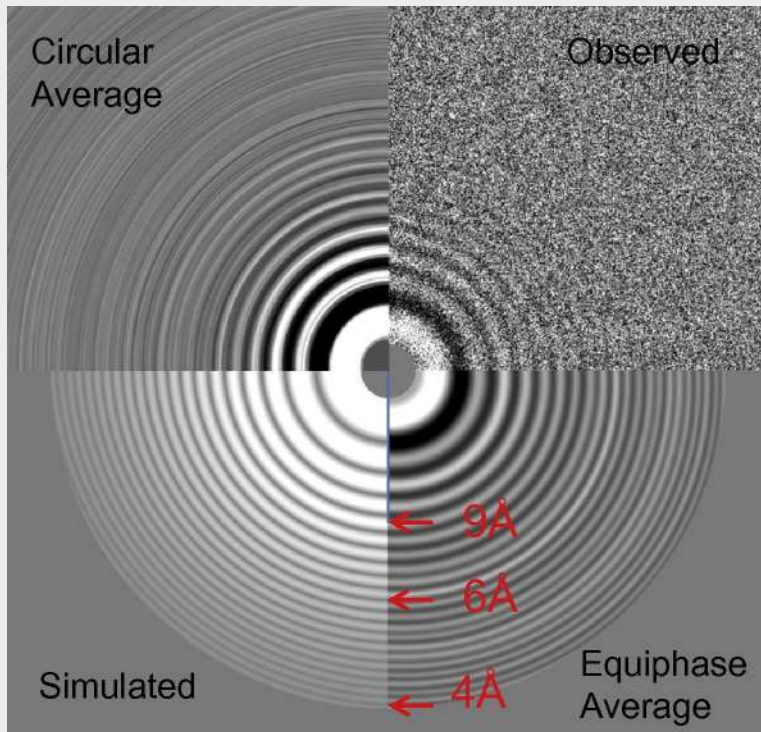
# Defocus estimation

**Goal:** Find the **height of your objects** of interest to correct for microscope aberrations (CTF)

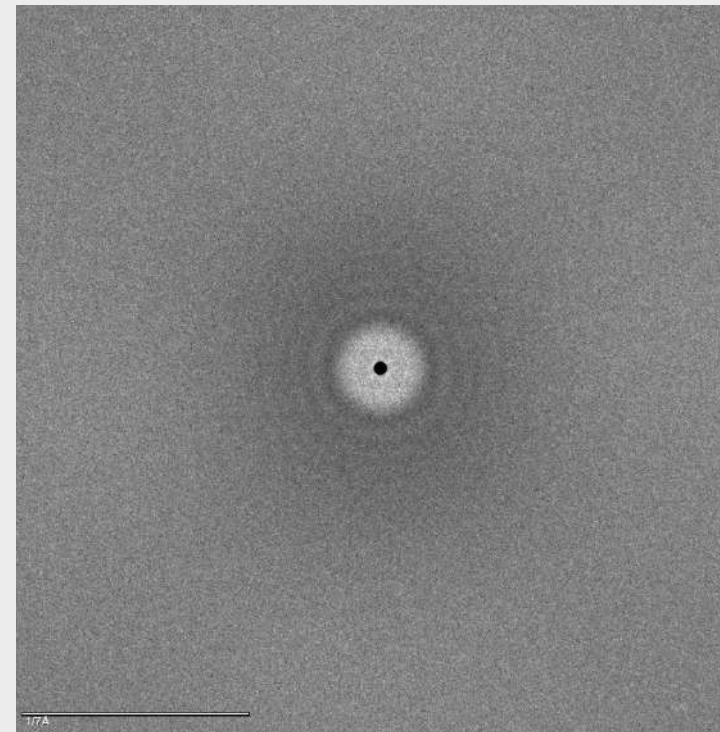
**Problem:** **Low** per-image **SNR** and potential poor tracking



Zhang, 2016



High dose single particle image



$3 \text{ e}^-/\text{\AA}^2$  single particle tilt image





# CTF estimation and correction for tilt-series or tomograms





# Defocus estimation methods

Methods ordered approximately **worst-to-best** (depends on sample):

- **Per-image** defocus estimation accounting for tilts (CTFFIND4, GCTF, etc.)
- Per-tomogram post-hoc estimation by using **SPT FSC to locate the first CTF zero**
- **Image tiling** to estimate the **defocus of the untilted plane** (TomoCTF)
- Defocus estimation and **interpolation using two focus locations** on the tilt axis (Eibauer, 2012)
- Per-particle tilt image fine estimation and correction that accounts for the **3D location of each particle**
- Per-particle tilt image fine estimation and correction that takes into **account overlapping objects** in each tilt image of each particle and accounts for the 3D location of each particle – can use all particles in each tilt image to refine!







# CTF correction methods

Methods ordered approximately **worst-to-best** (depends on sample):

- **Per-image** correction
- Strip-based correction with TomoCTF or IMOD ctfphaseflip
  - Flips phases and optionally corrects amplitudes (TomoCTF) on a strip-by-strip basis.
  - Error will depend on the amount of non-eucentricity
- 3D CTF model (Relion) takes into account x,y,z particle locations
- Per-particle/tiling CTF correction (EMAN2)
- During tomographic reconstruction (EmSART, NovaCTF)



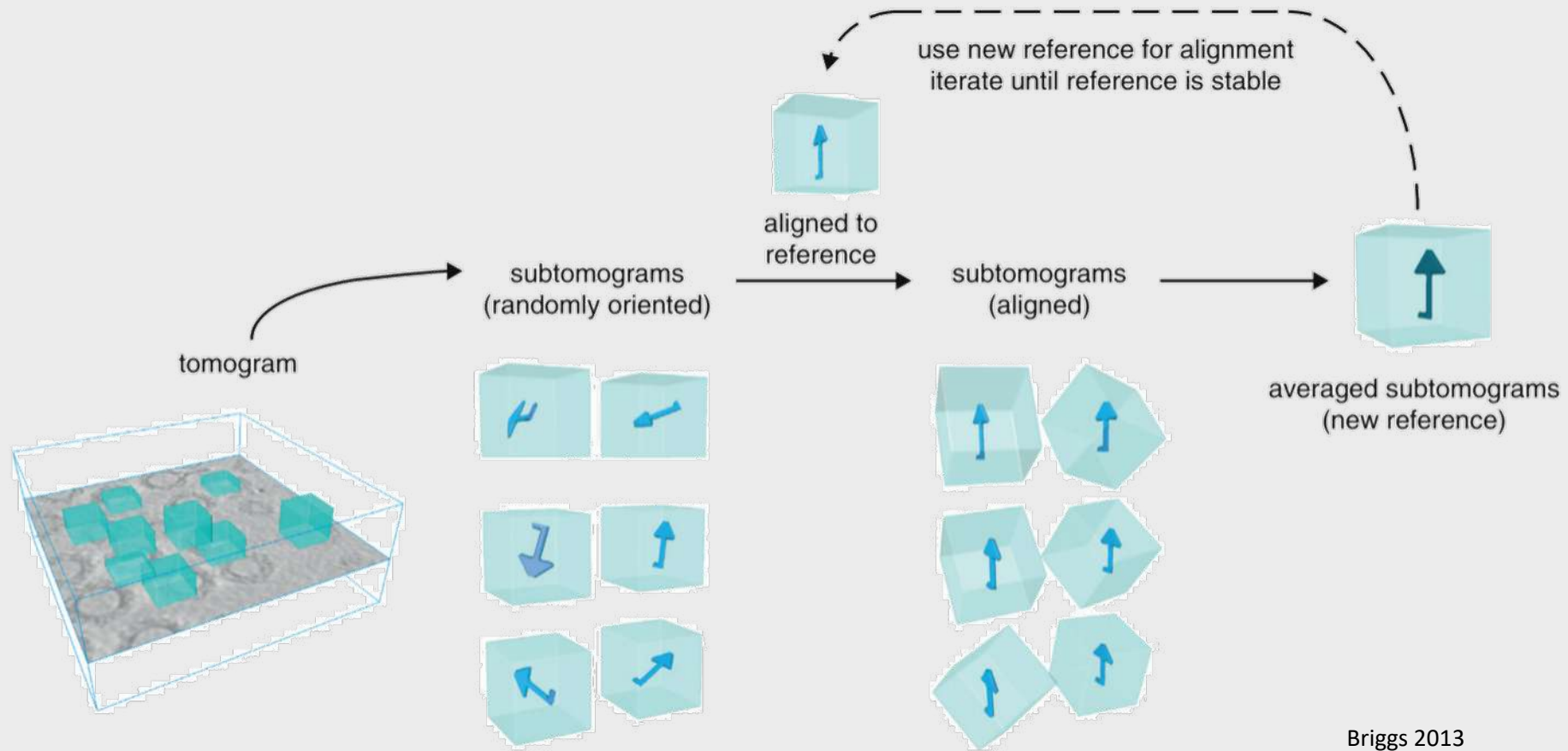


# Sub-tomogram processing





# Sub-tomogram processing workflow

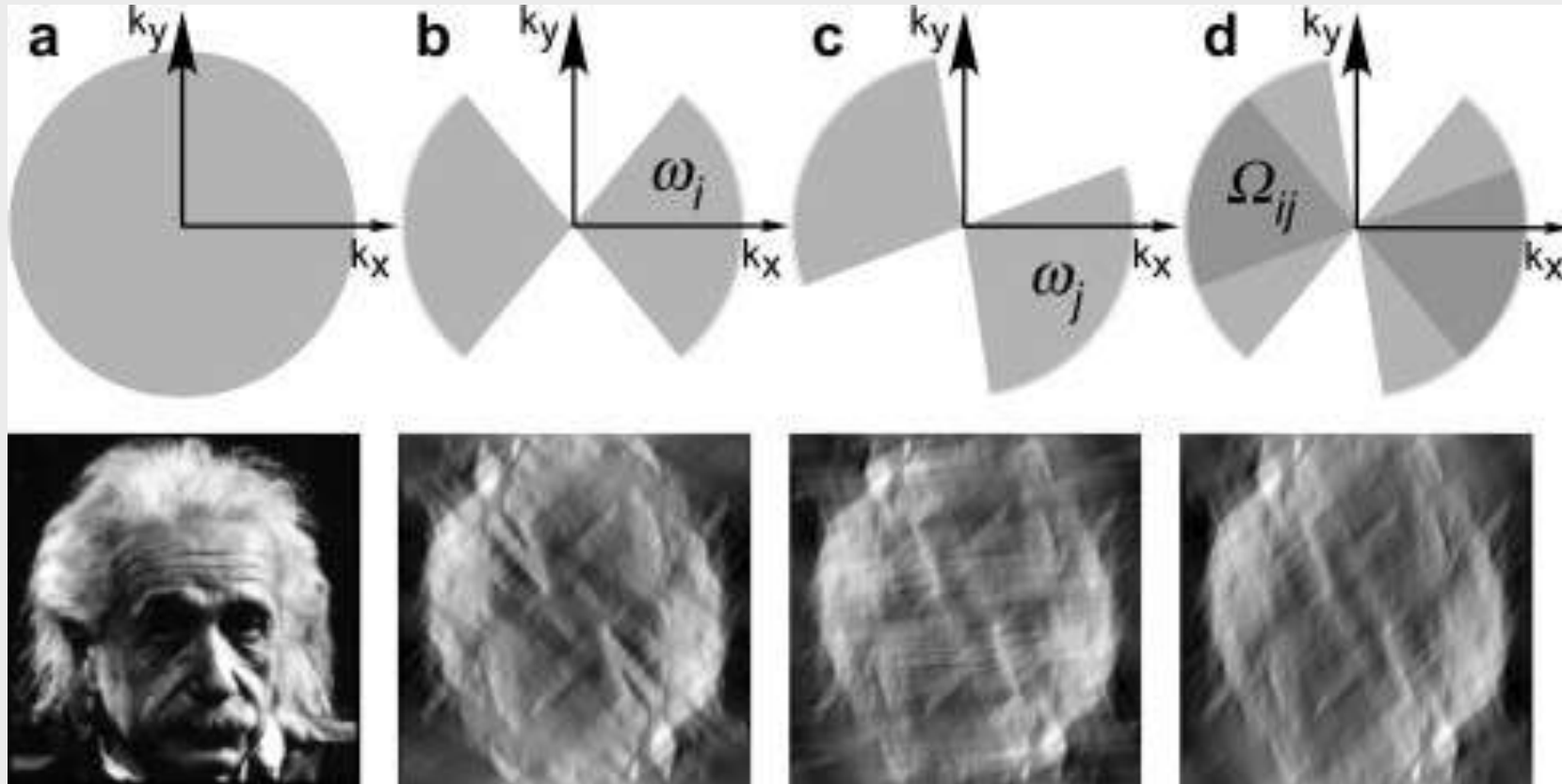


- **Missing wedge** must be taken into account for each sub-tomogram





# Must take into account subtomogram missing wedges



Forster et al, J. Struct. Biol, 2008

- Effectively align volume in common in Fourier space







# Classification (in Dynamo)

- PCA + K-Means
  - Calculate **eigenvolumes** to reduce the dimensionality
  - **Separate** particles according to **eigenvalues**
- MRA / ML
  - Generate **M seeds** and **align each particle** to each seed
  - **Iterate** till convergence
- Challenges
  - **May classify** direction of missing wedge, defocus, etc.
  - Computationally expensive





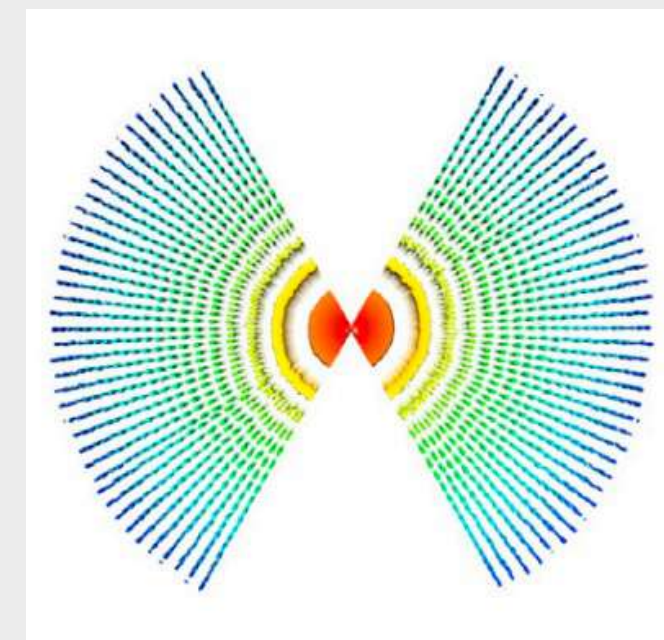
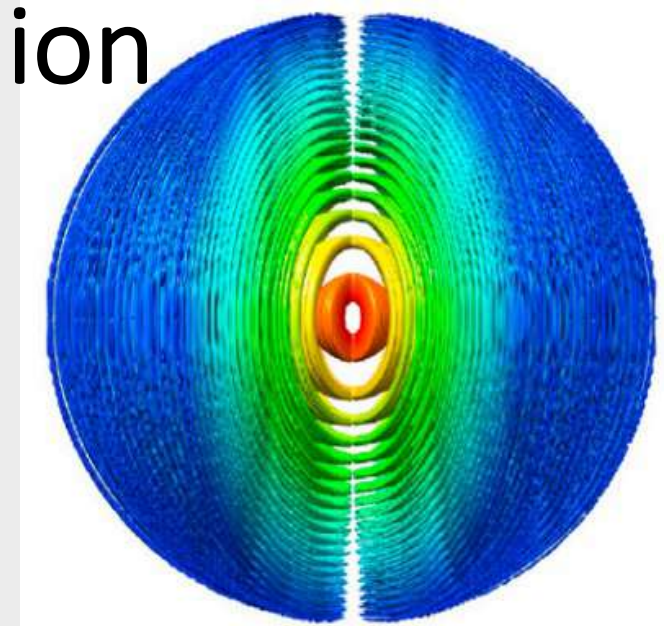
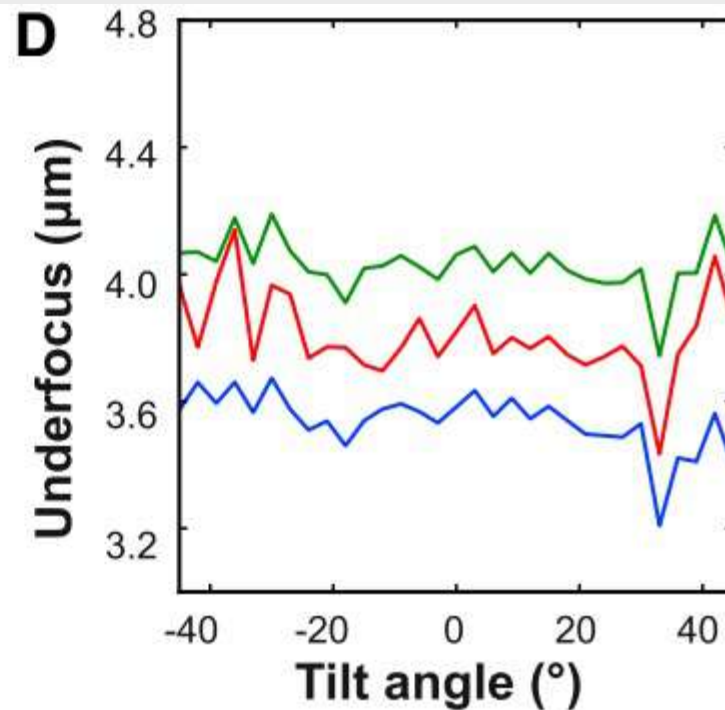
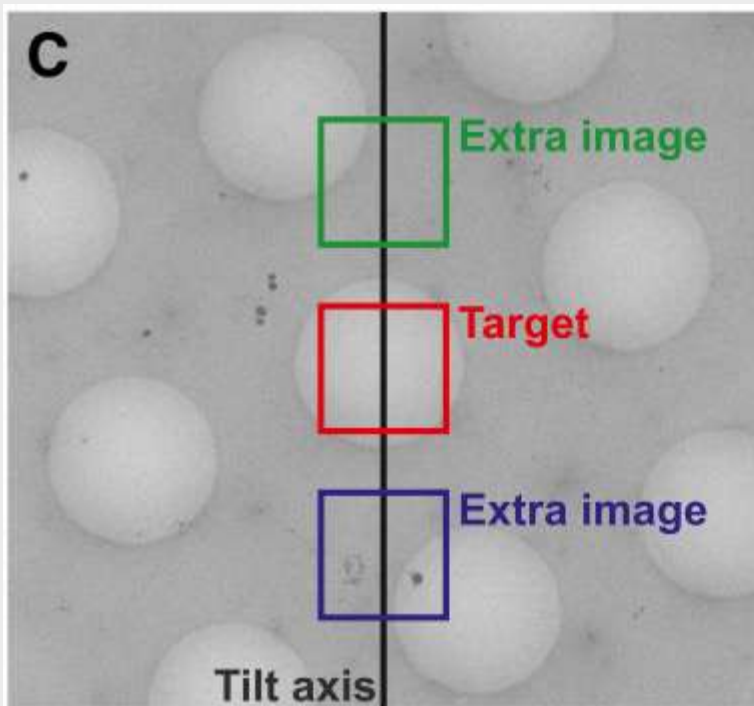
# Sub-tomogram processing software

- Dynamo – GPU accelerated, tomogram database, extensive picking abilities
- Relion – 3D CTF model, Bayesian approach to alignment is used
- EMAN2 – Sub-tilt-series refinement and defocus estimation/correction
- emClarity – Sub-tilt-series refinement and defocus estimation/correction
- TYGRESS – Intended for use w/ high dose 0 degree image (Nicastro group)
- PyTom
- PEET
- Jsubtomo
- TOM & AV3
- XMIPP
- Warp





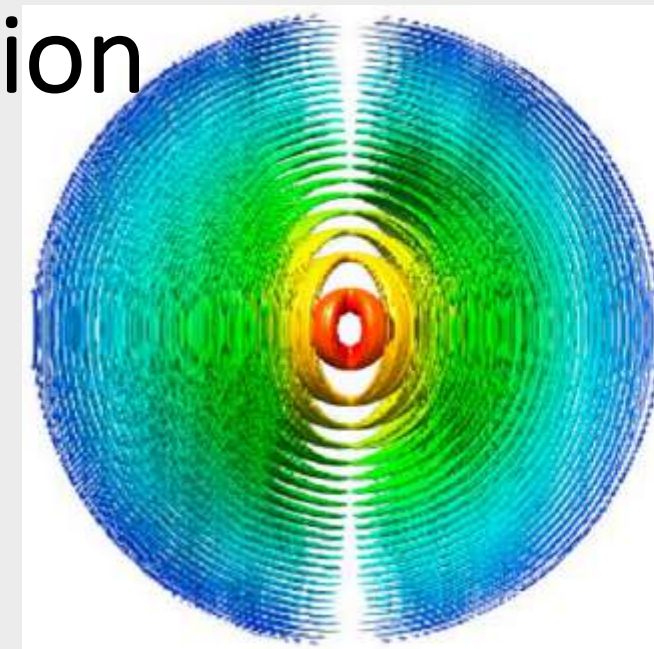
# Sub-tomogram processing in Relion



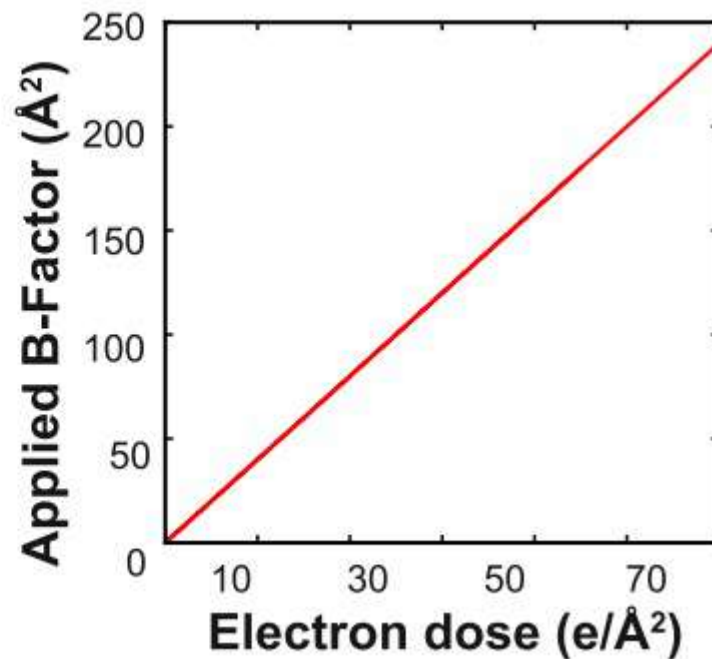
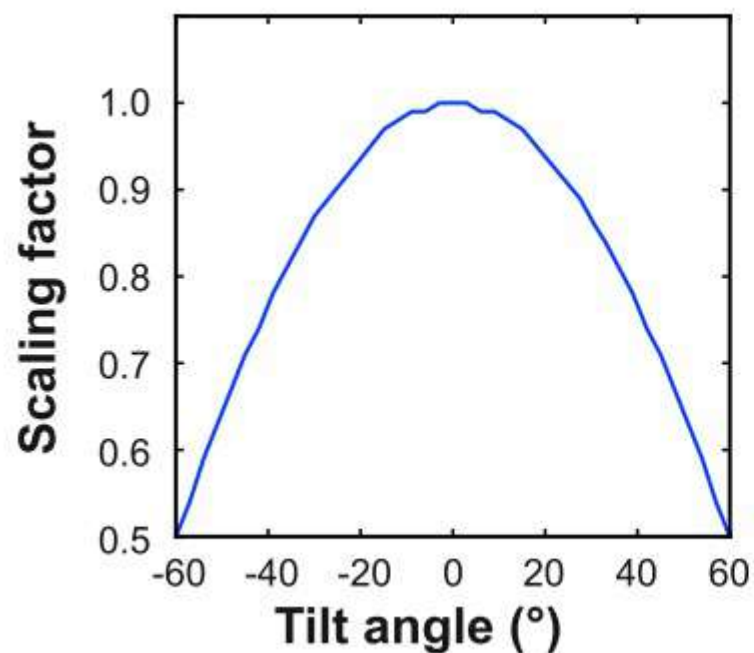
- Uses normal Relion workflow.
- Potential issues:
  - Extra images are likely not at the same focus as the Target
  - 3D FSC may eliminate properly interpolated values due to sampling



# Sub-tomogram processing in Relion



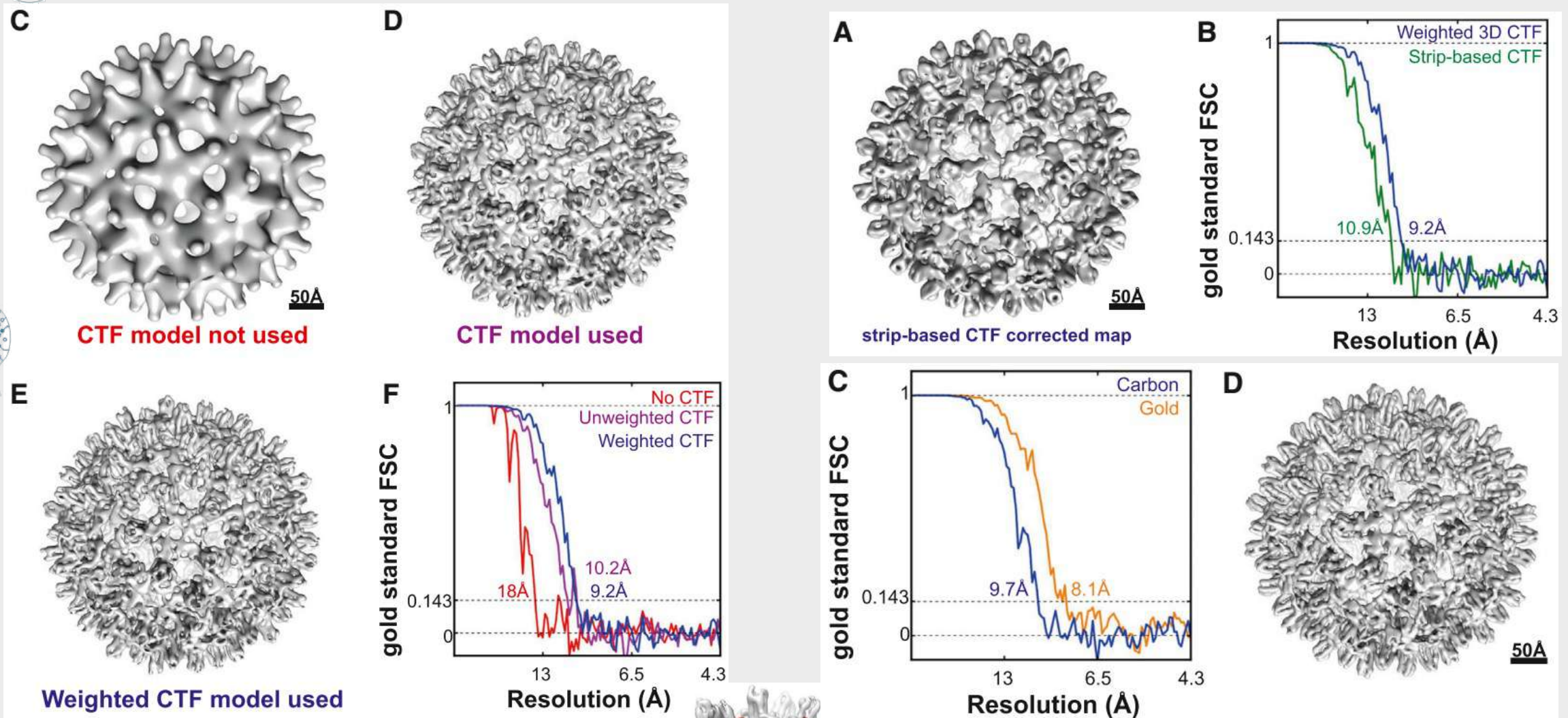
**weighted CTF model**



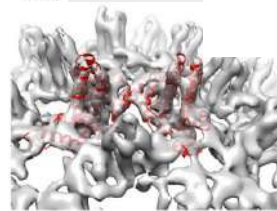




# Sub-tomogram processing in Relion

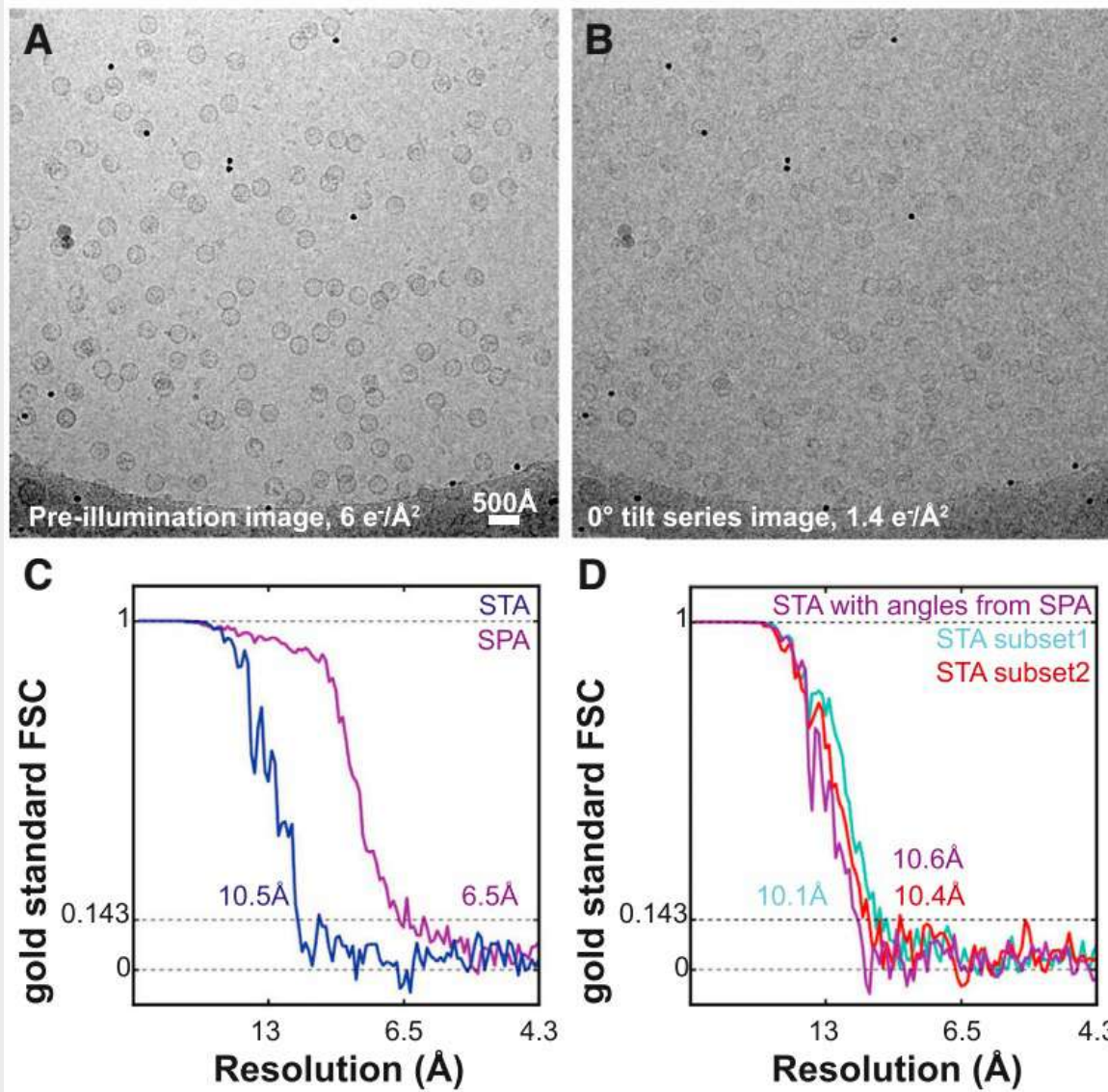


- Test case: Hepatitis B capsid





# Sub-tomogram processing in Relion



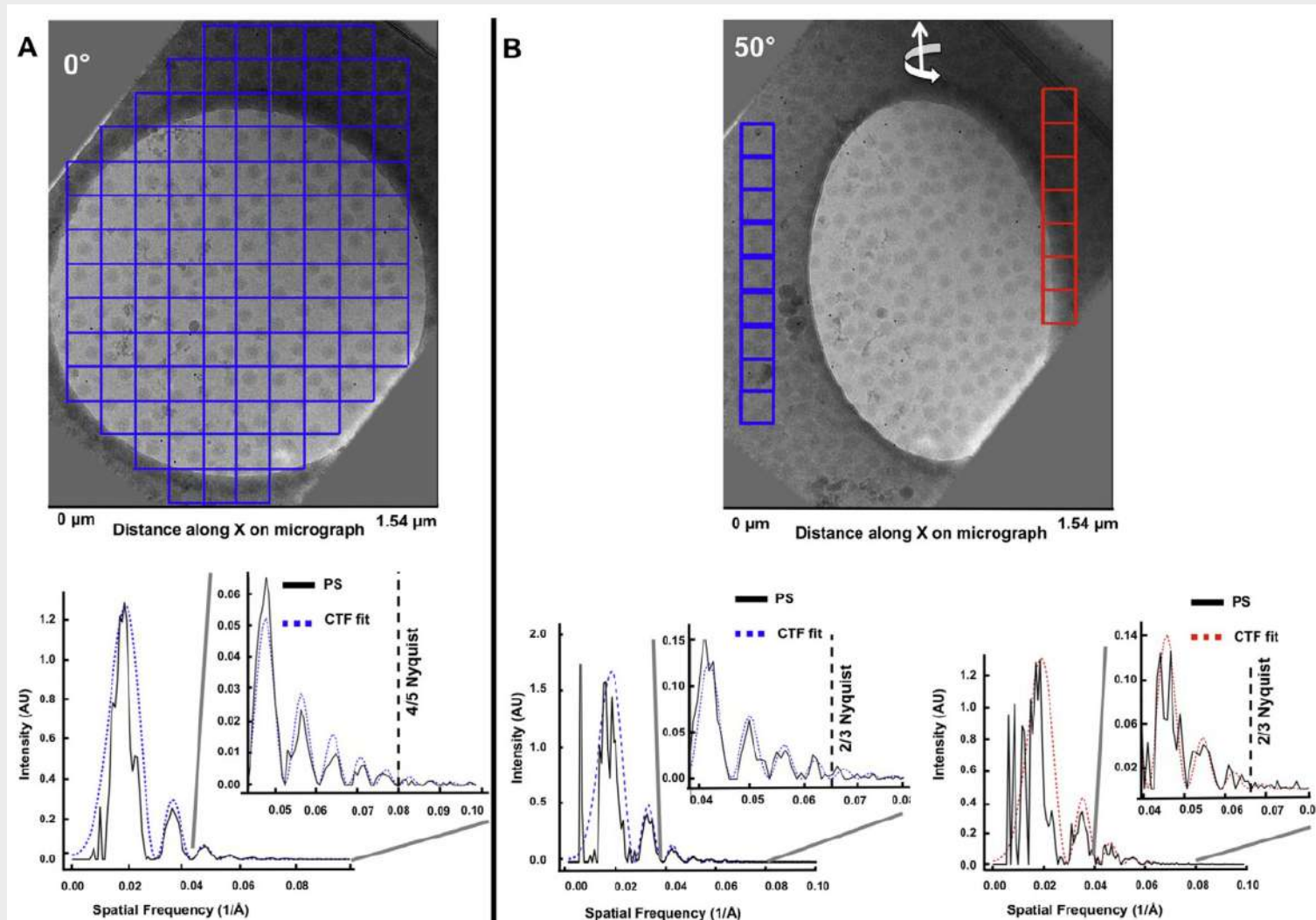
- 6e-/Å<sup>2</sup> pre-exposures prior to tilt-series collected were collected and analyzed with single particle





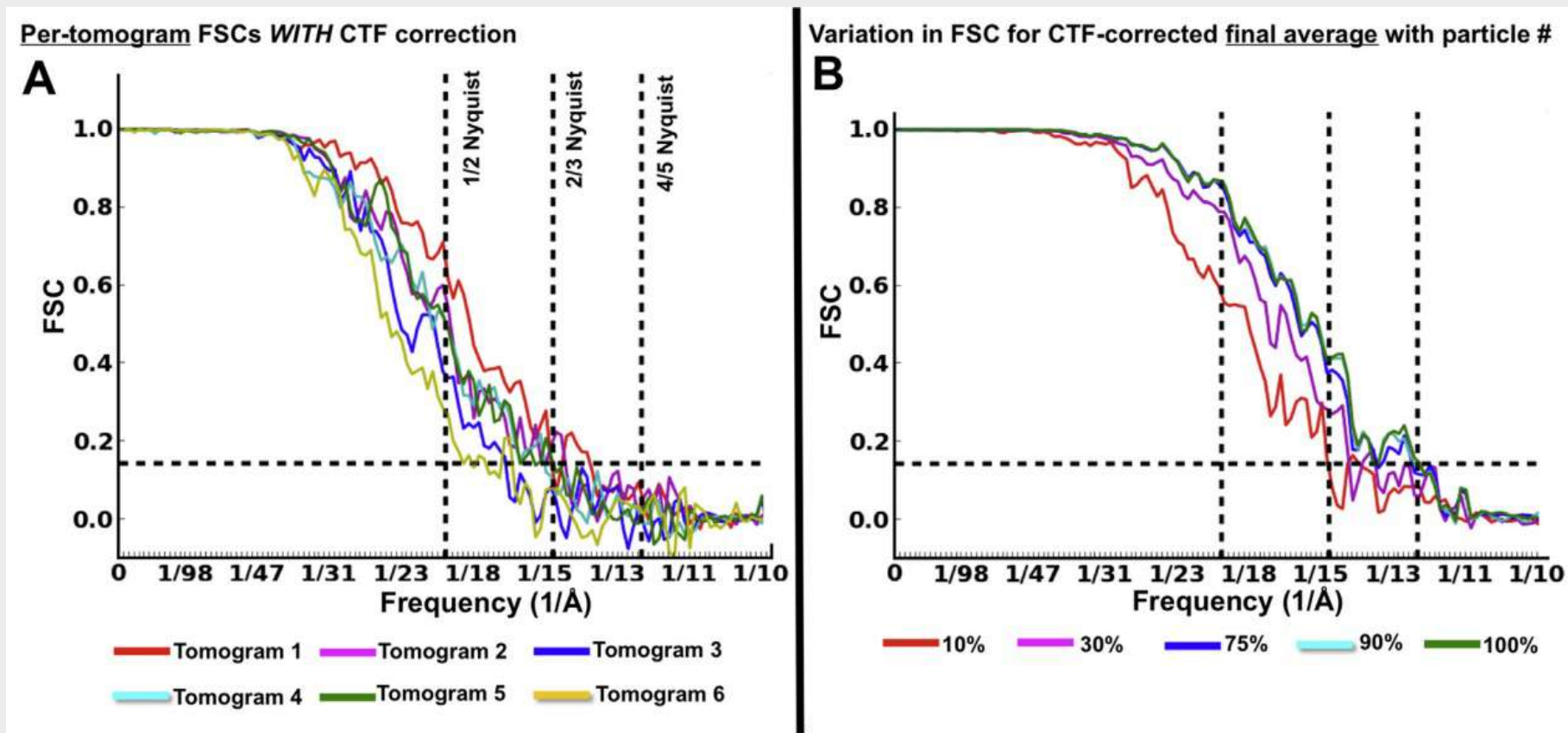


# Sub-tomogram processing in EMAN2





# Sub-tomogram processing in EMAN2



- Better than 2/3 Nyquist





# Tomogram annotation





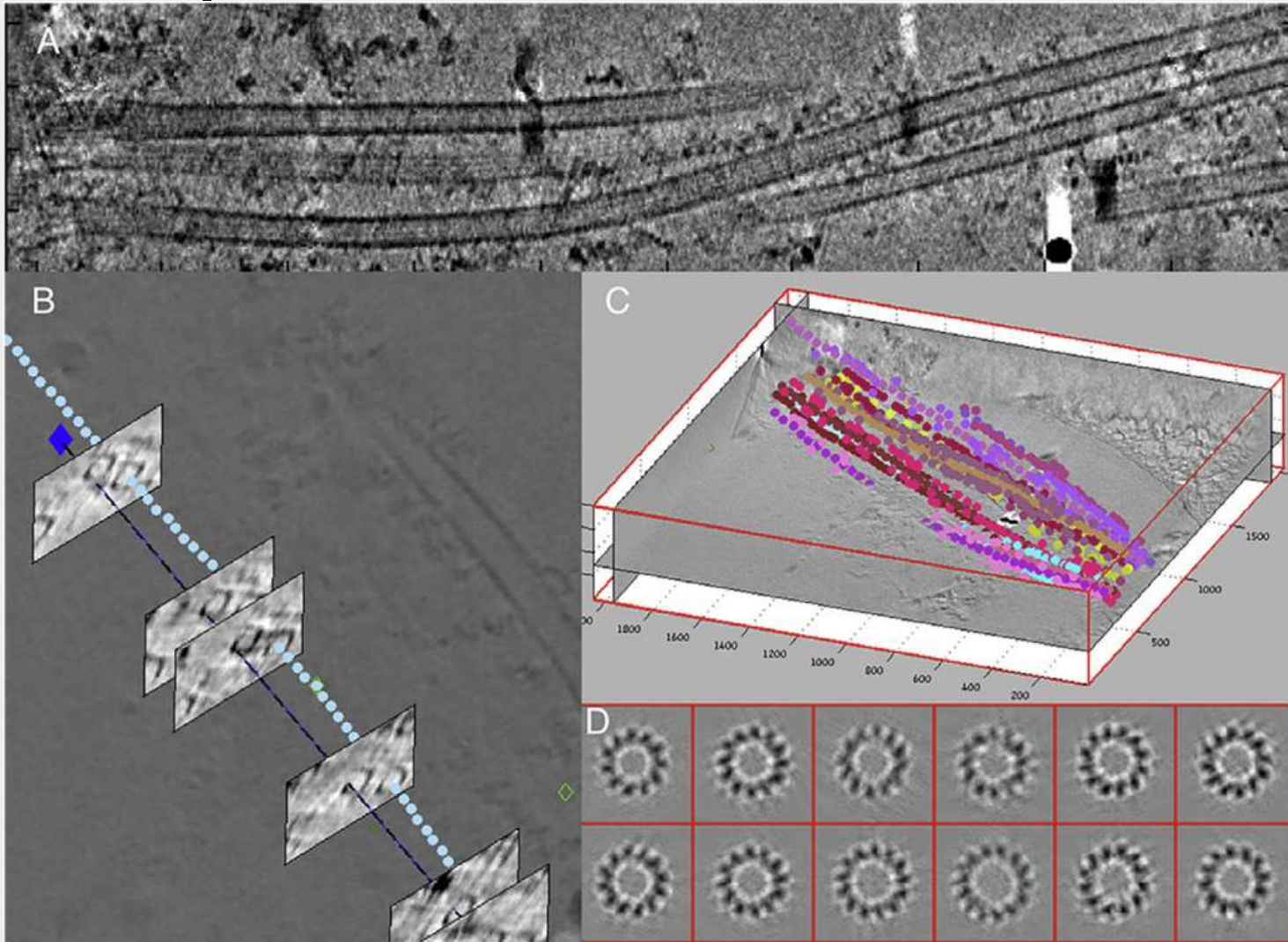
# Tomogram/sub-tomogram annotation and segmentation software

- Dynamo – Annotate membranes, tubes, helices, crystal structures, vesicles, etc.
- EMAN2 – Shallow learning neural network
- Amira – Interactive segmentation and filtering suite
- UCSF Chimera w/ Segger - Interactive segmentation
- Template picking – MolMatch, Dynamo
- Various deep learning picking and segmentation softwares (search biorxiv)





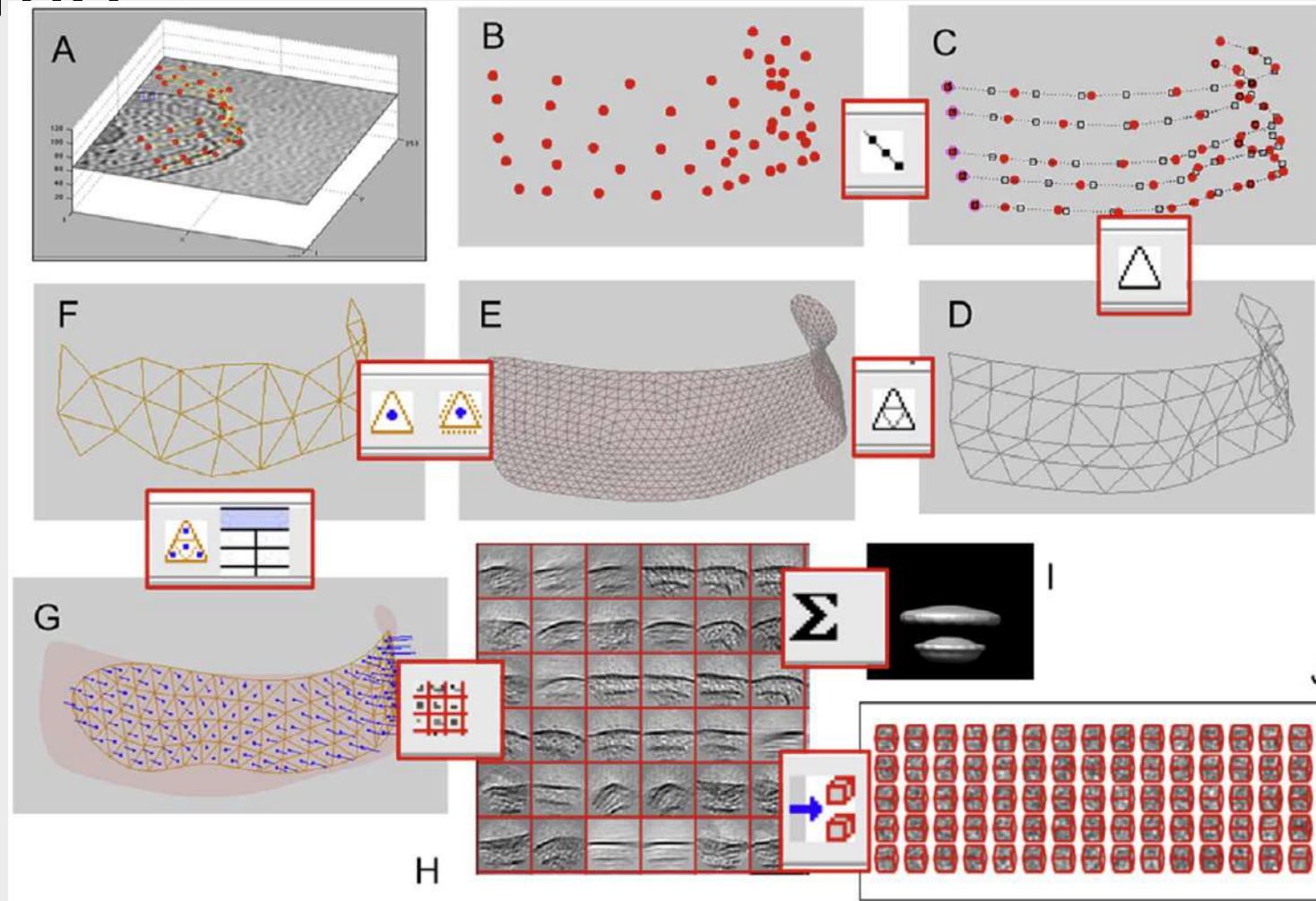
# Sub-tomogram annotation processing in Dynamo



- Backbone, helical, and circumferential picking
- Helical symmetry determination



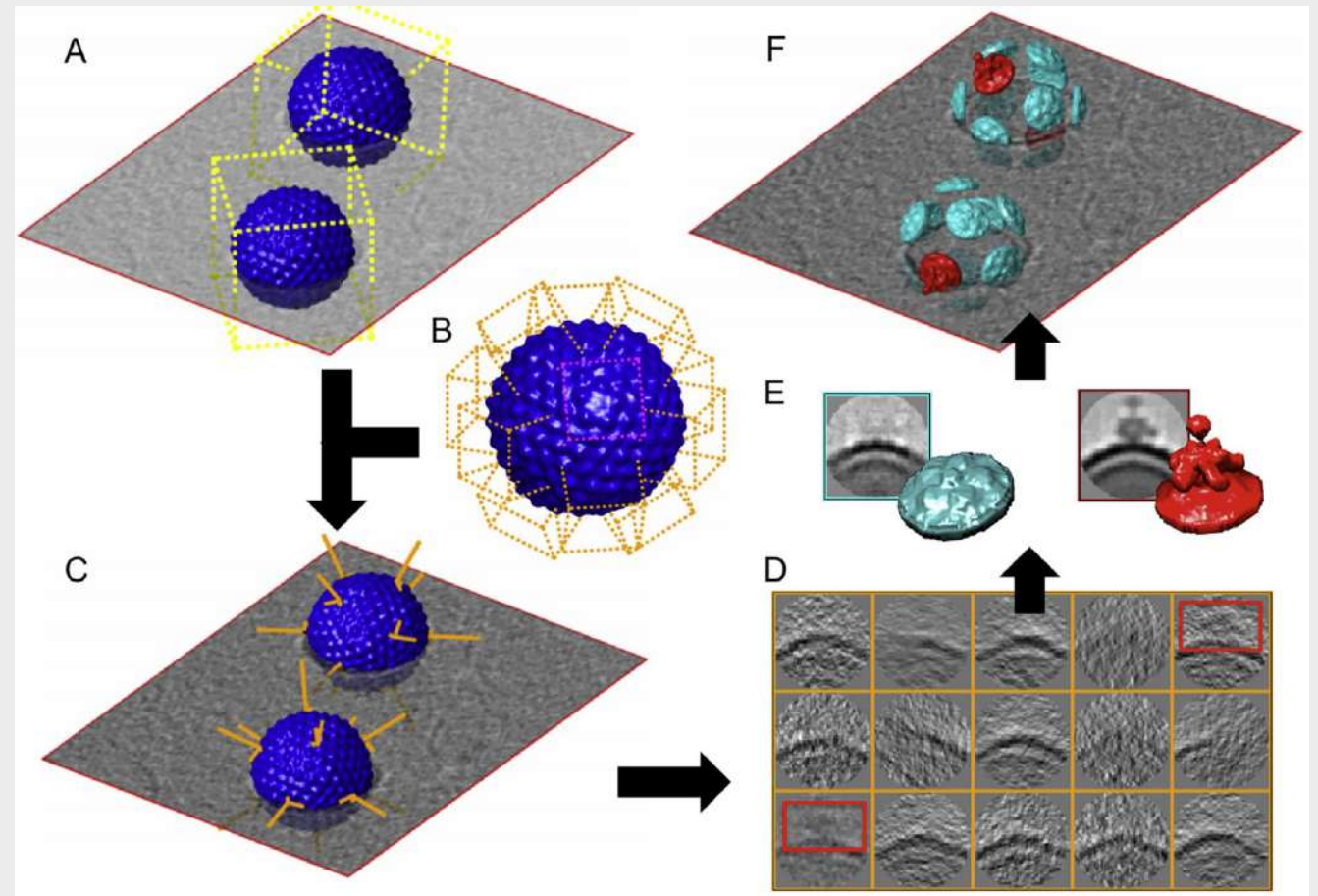
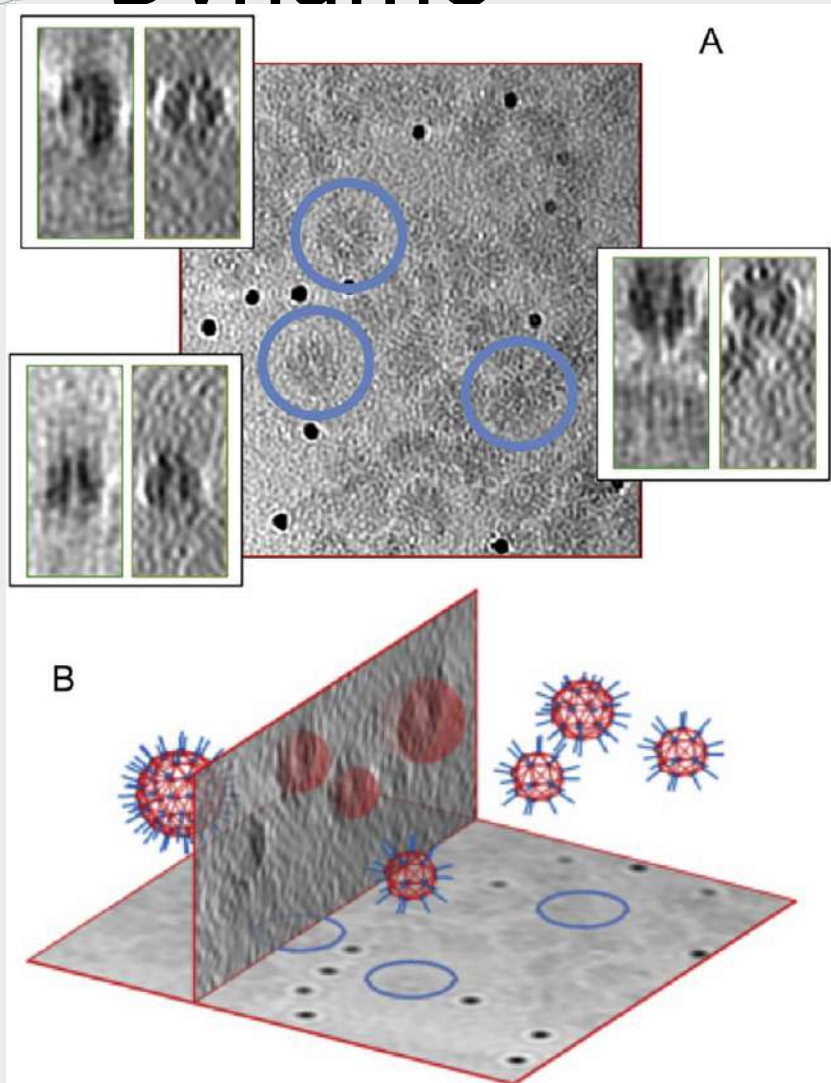
# Sub-tomogram annotation processing in Dynamo







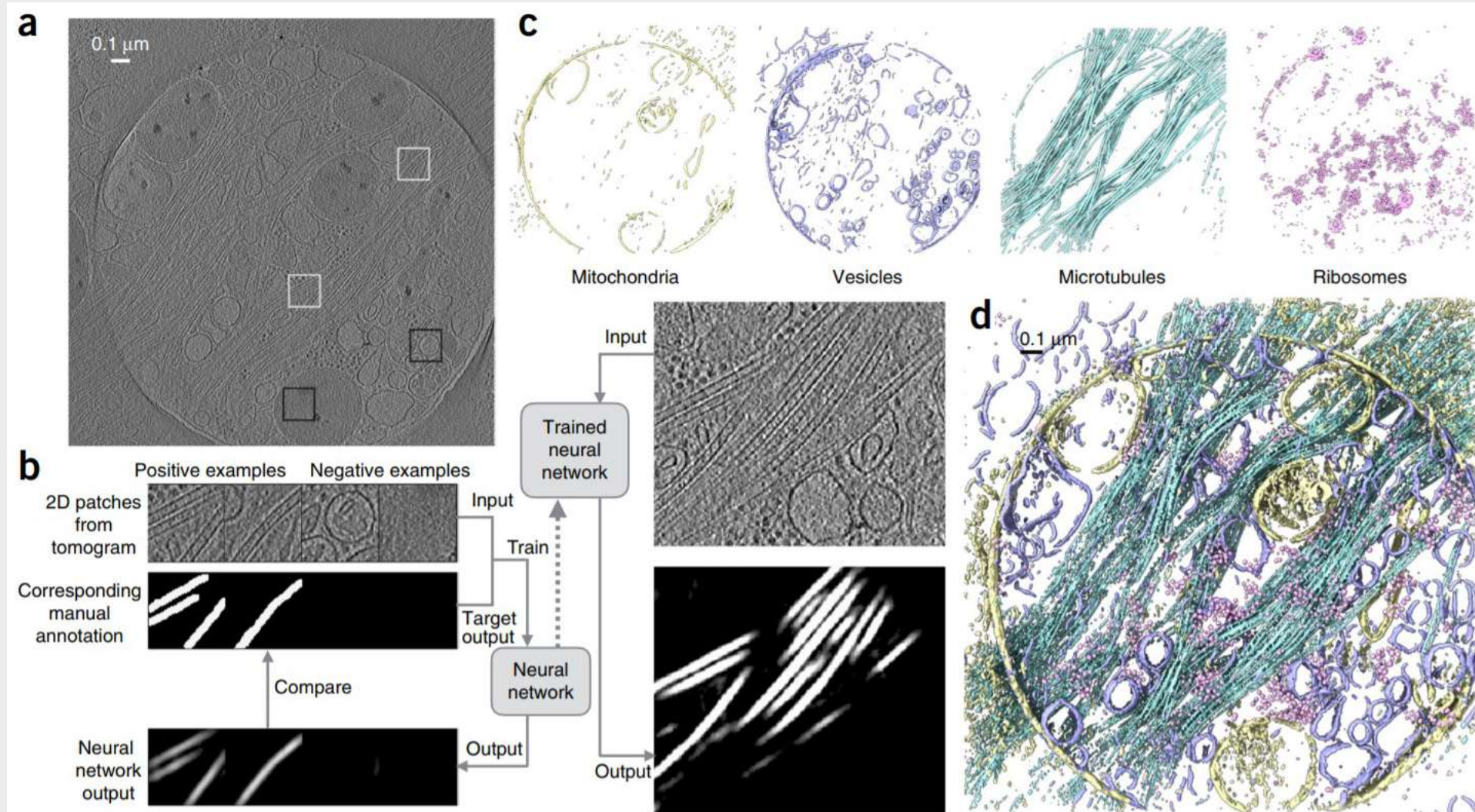
# Sub-tomogram annotation processing in Dynamo







# Sub-tomogram segmentation with CNNs in EMAN2

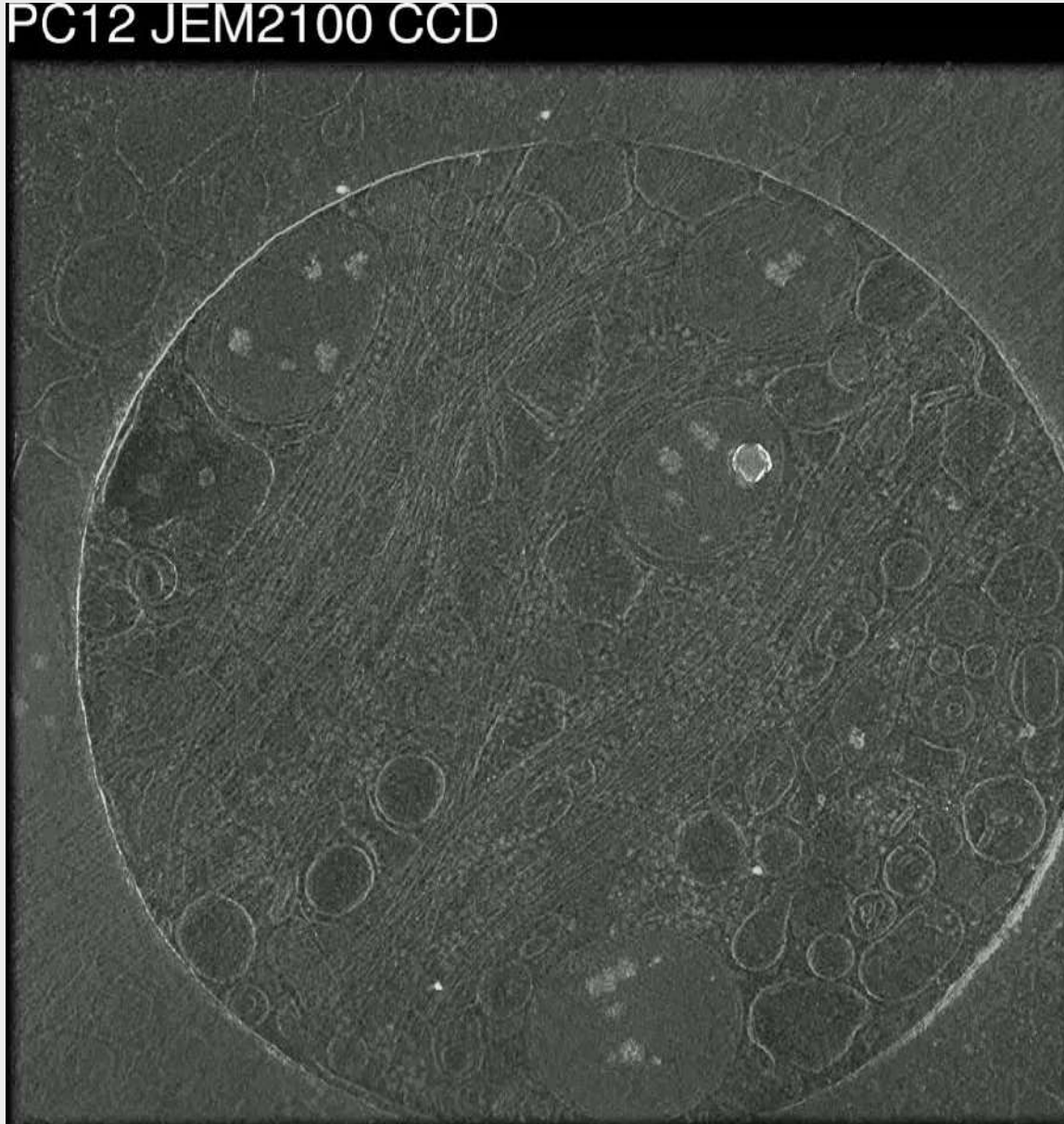




# Sub-tomogram segmentation with CNNs in EMAN2



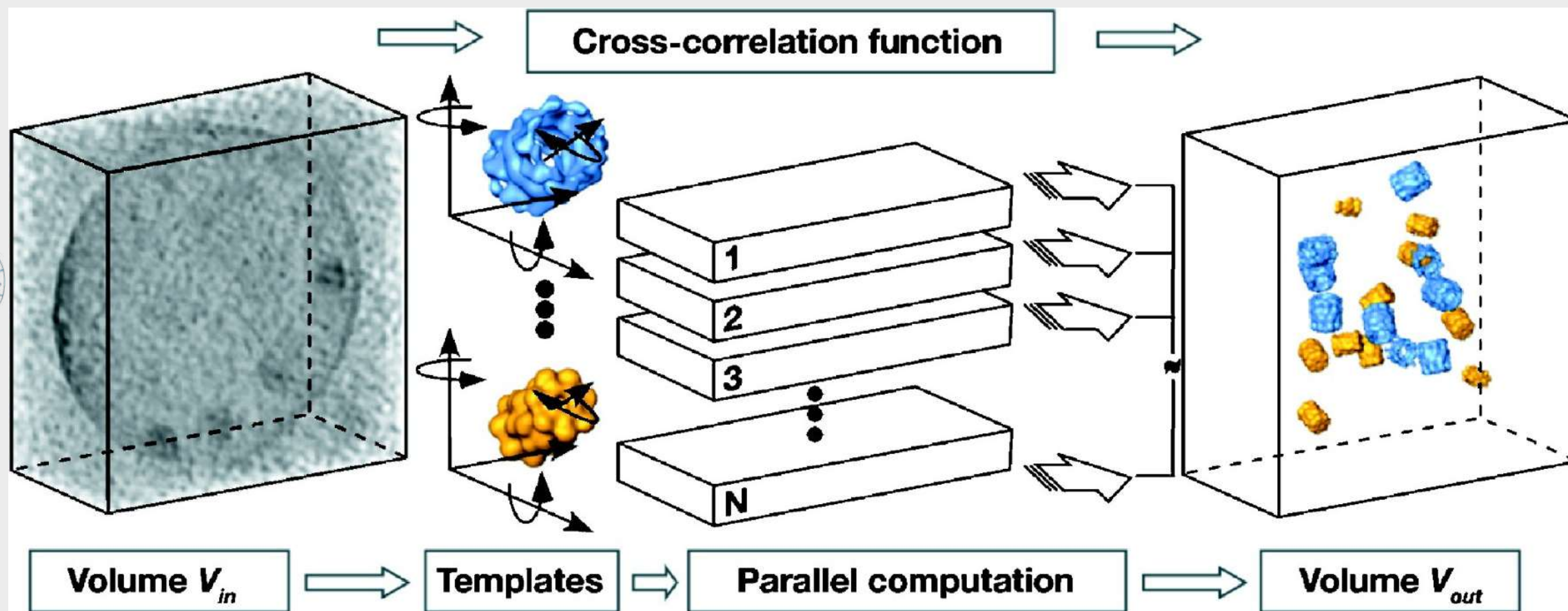
PC12 JEM2100 CCD



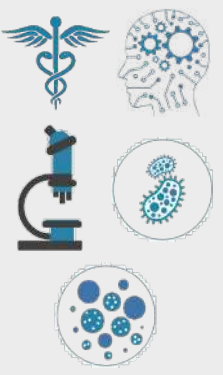




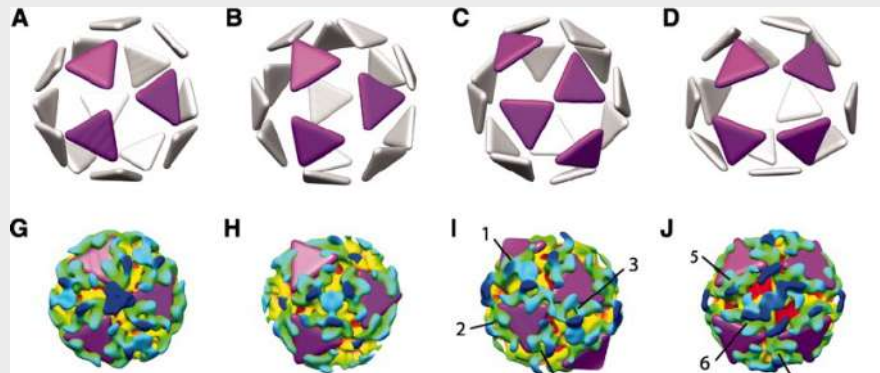
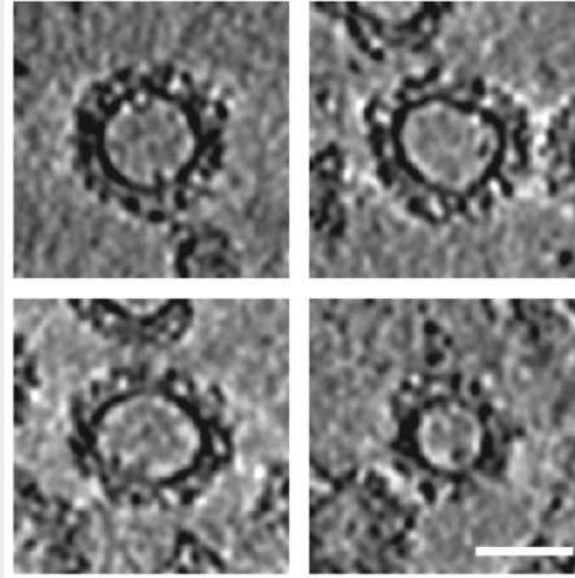
# Template matching





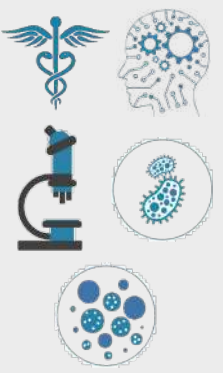


# Example: STA followed by placing averages to the tomograms



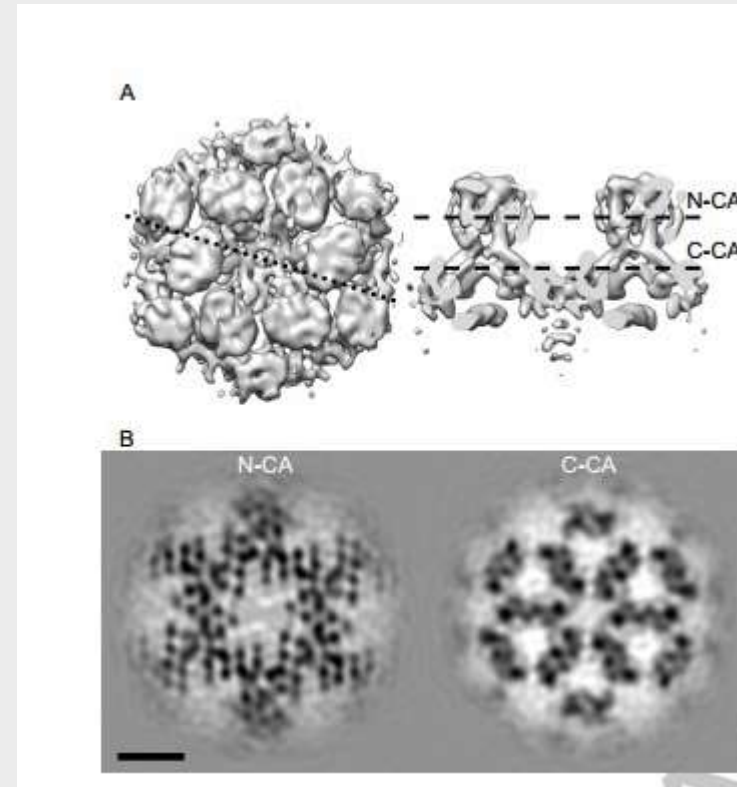
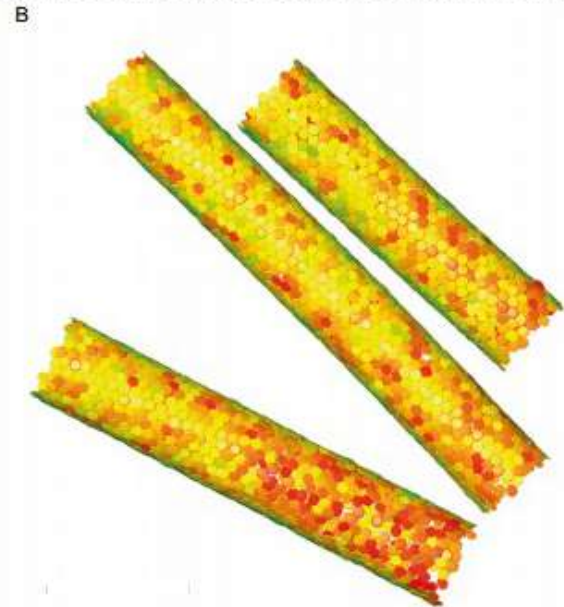
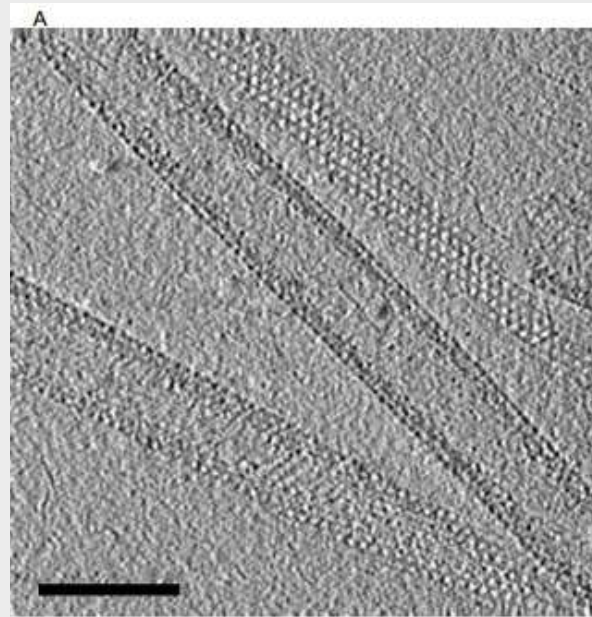
COP-I coated vesicles From: Faini et al, Science, 2012





# Example: Mason-Pfizer monkey virus Gag protein

Over-picking to find repeating units



Schur et al, J. Struct Biol, 2013

Schur et al, Nature , 2015

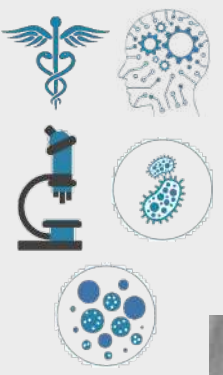




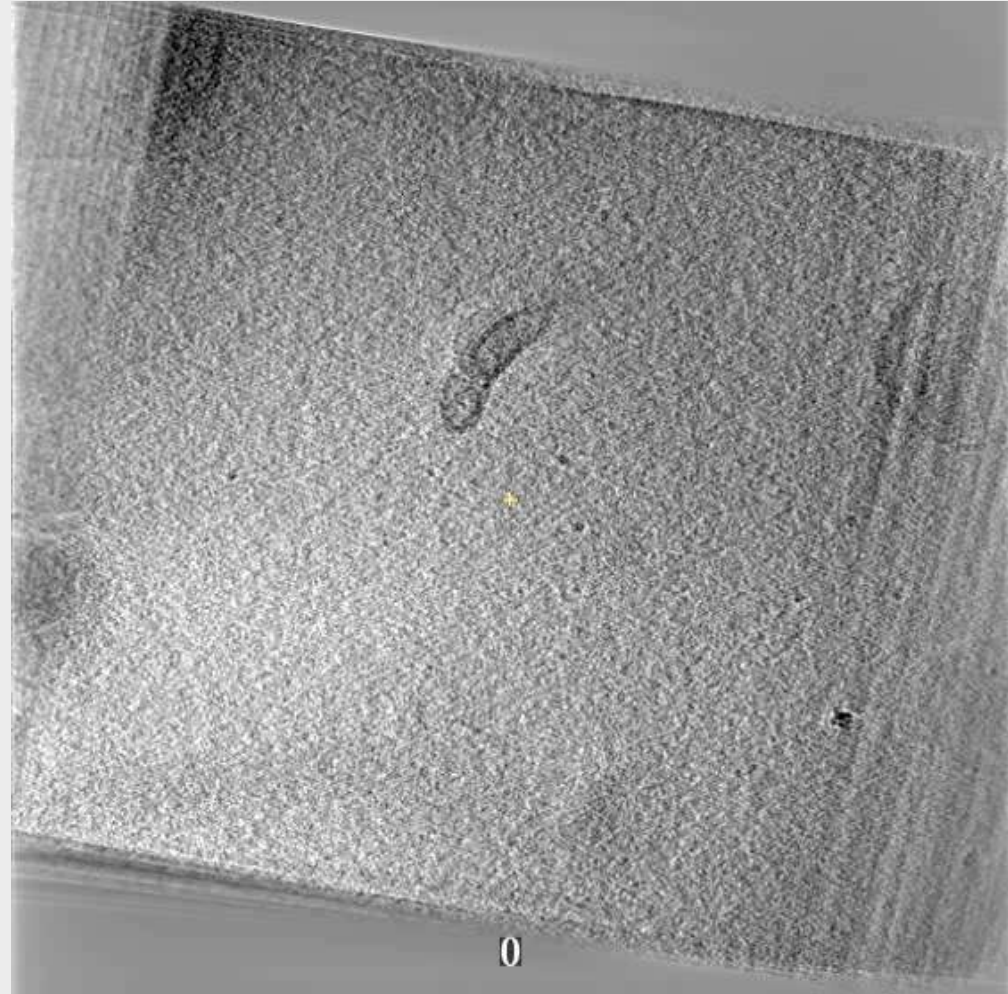
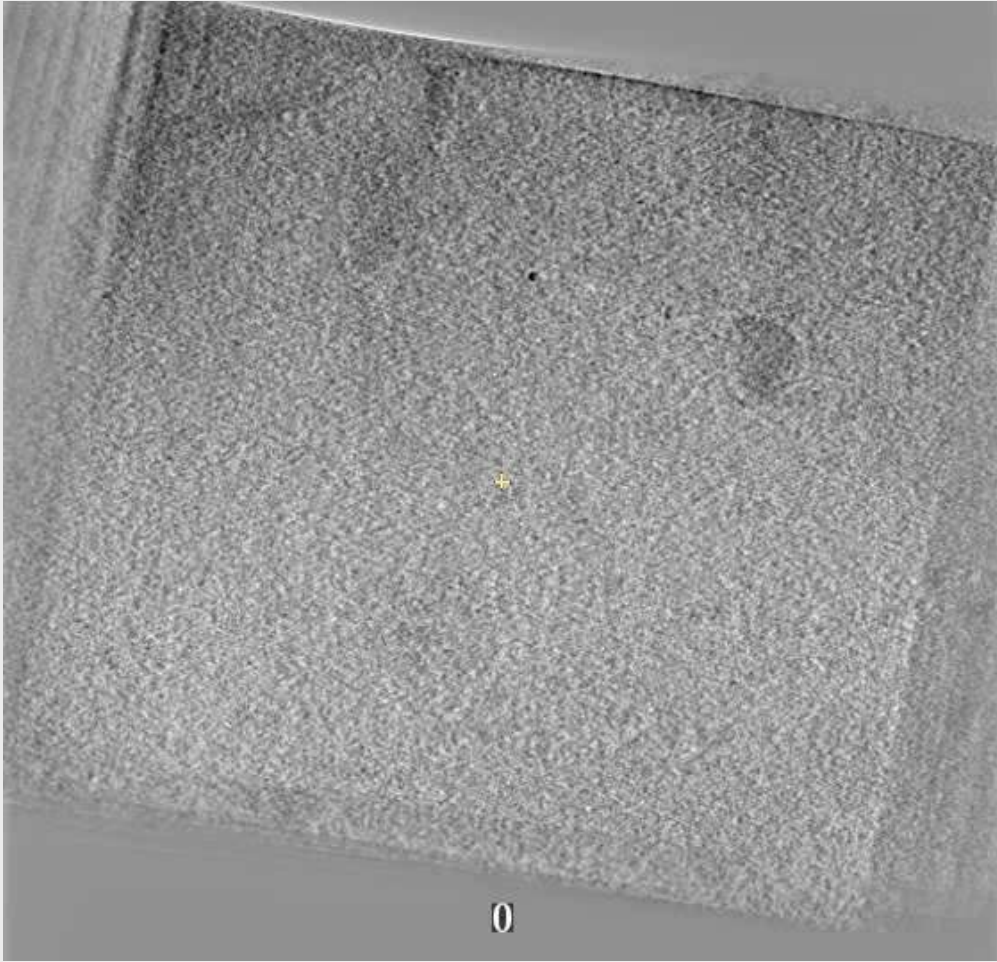
# Various examples



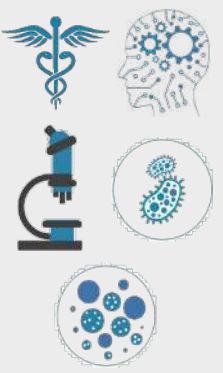




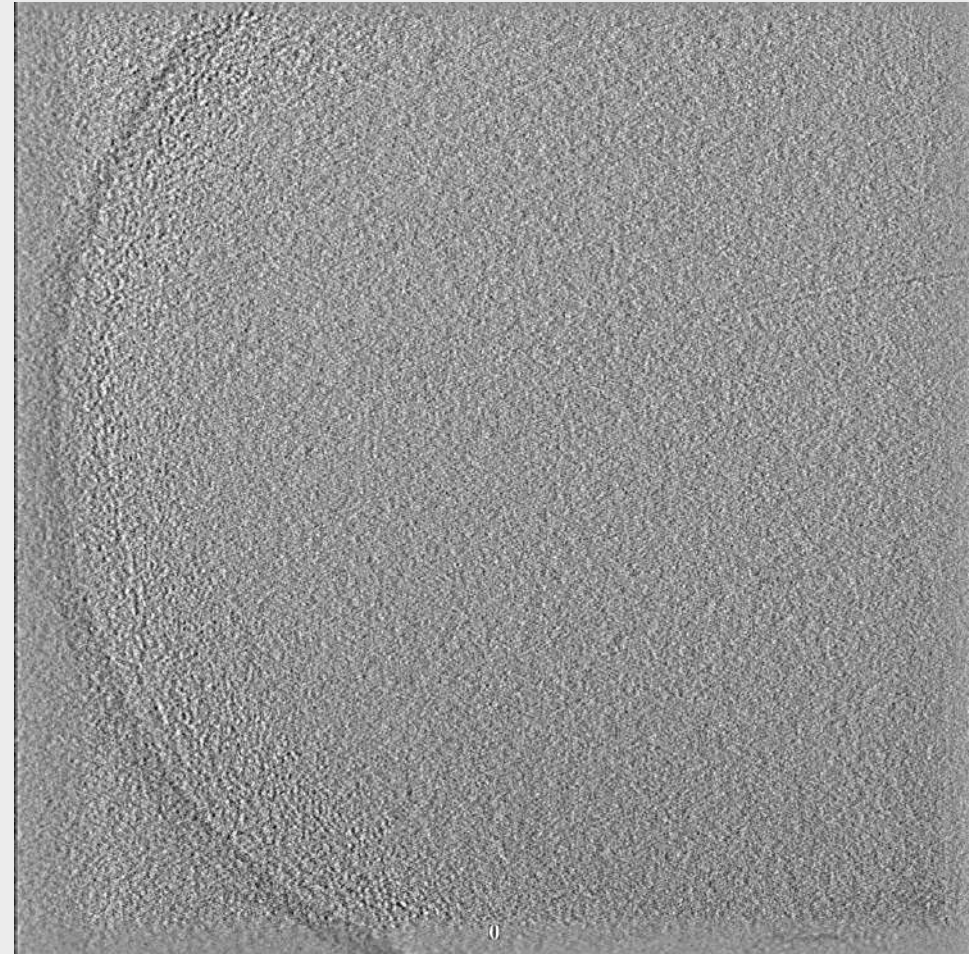
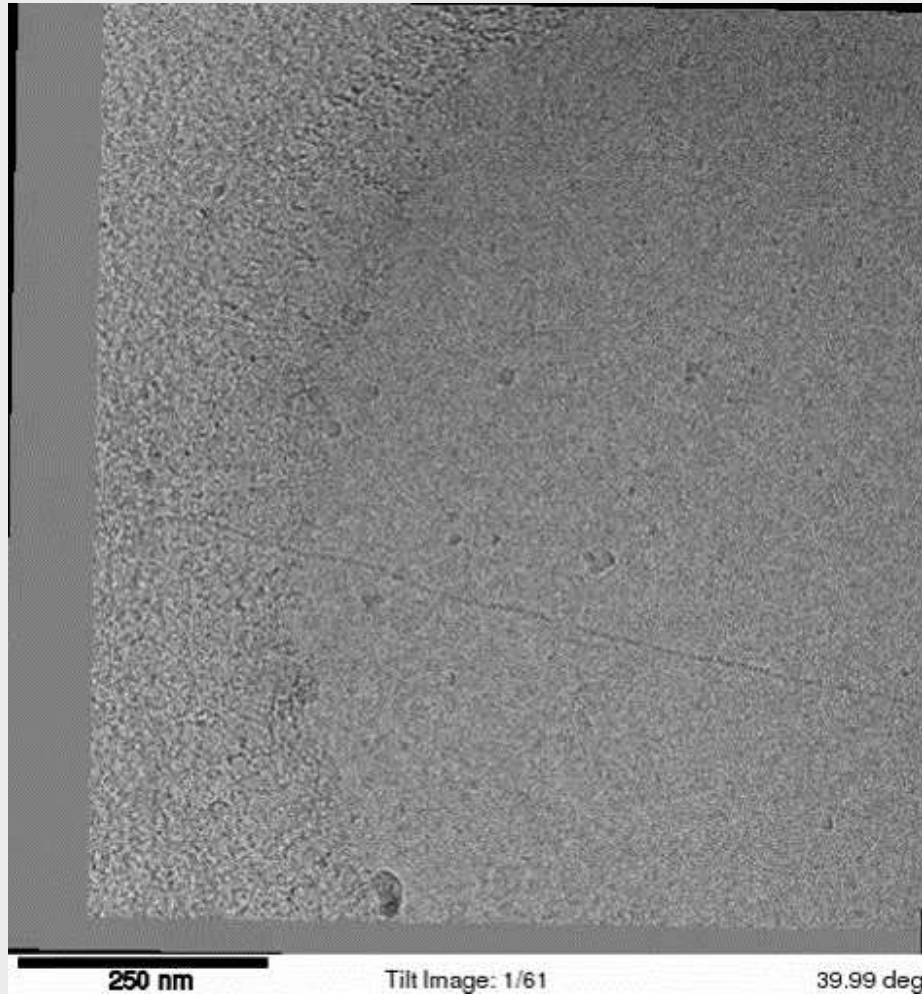
# Example: Liposomes and VLPs







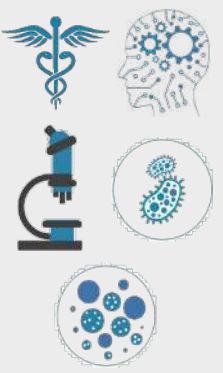
# Example: Actin Filaments



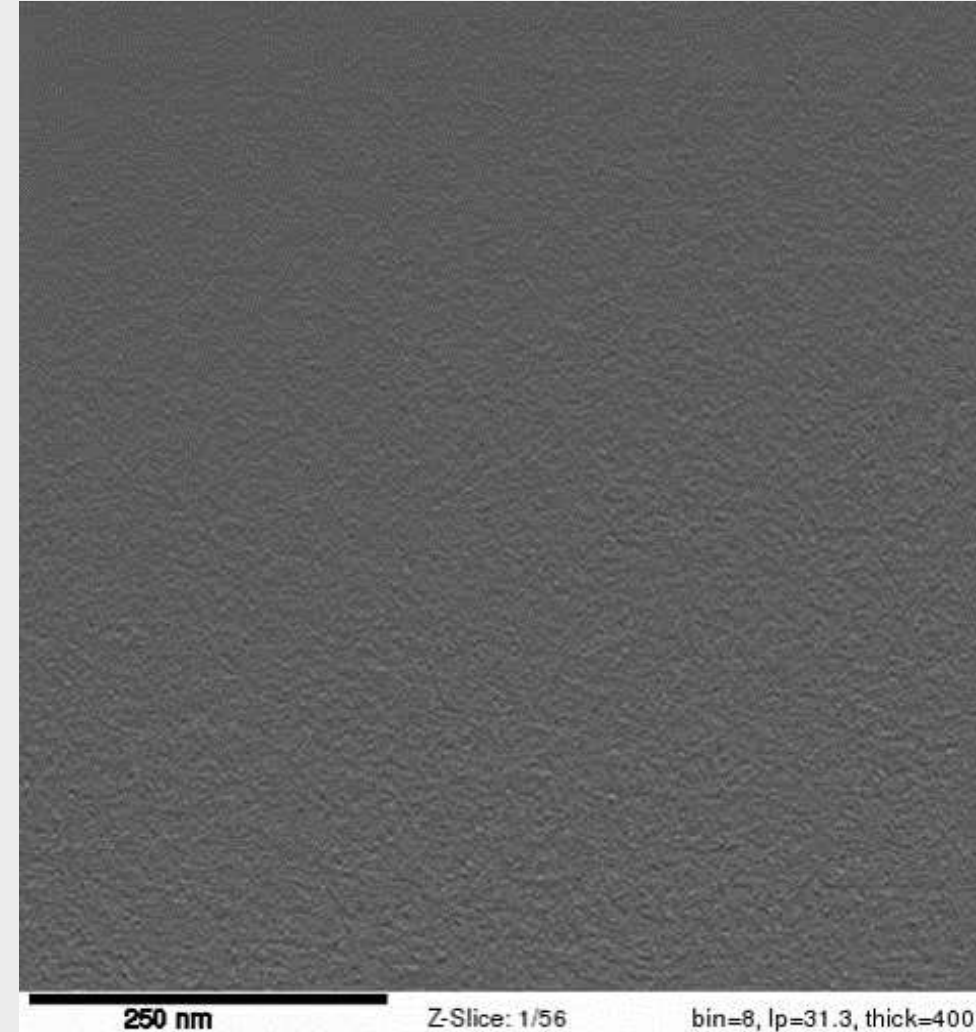
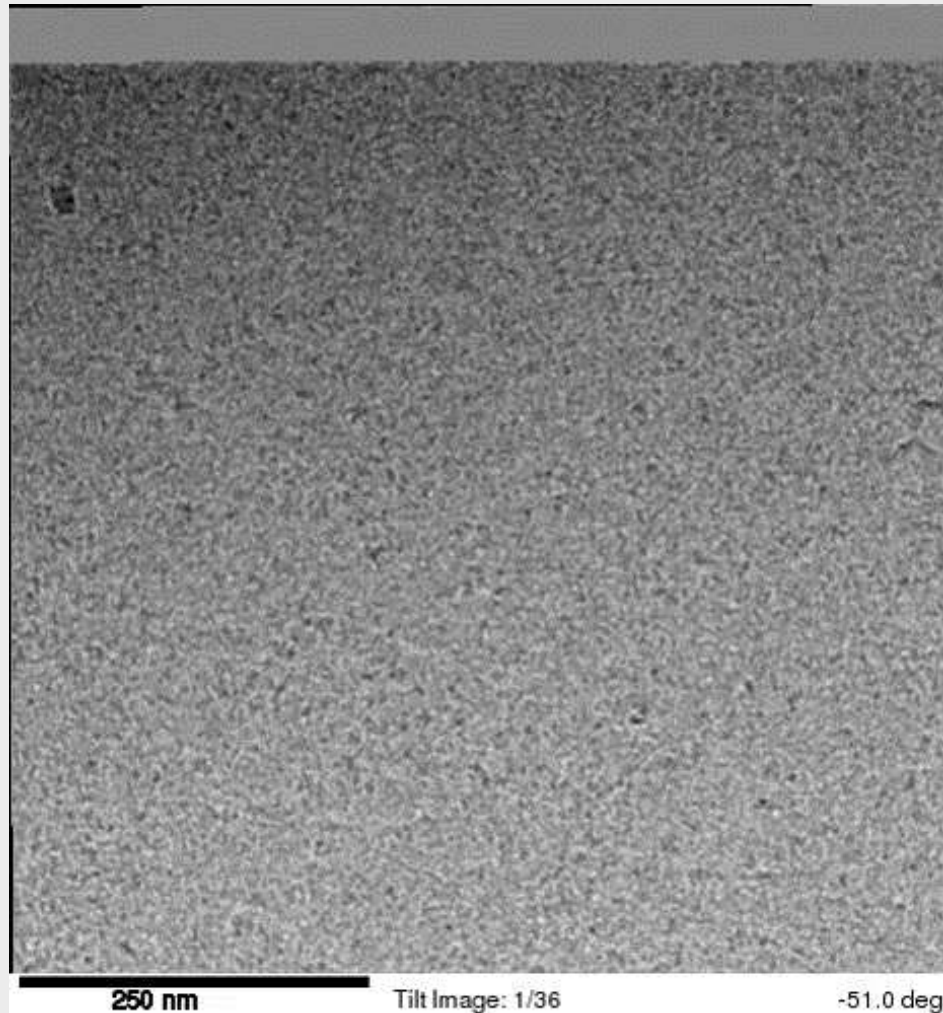
Pinar Gural, Greg Alushin, Alex Noble  
unpublished

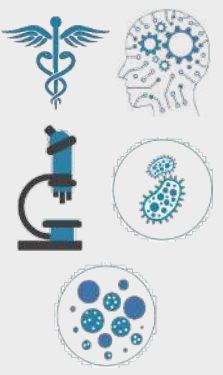




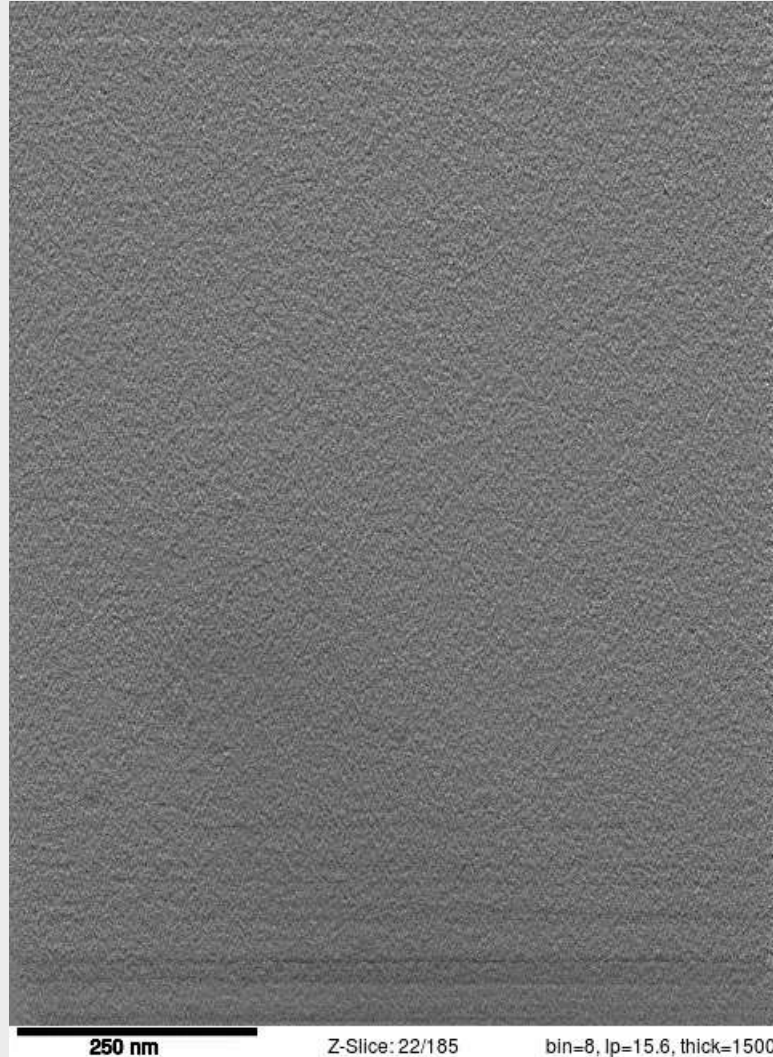


# Example: HIV-1 trimer single particle





# Example: Exotically Shaped Samples

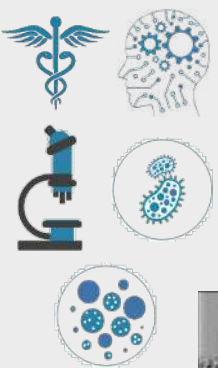


ZmNDPK1: GTP complex

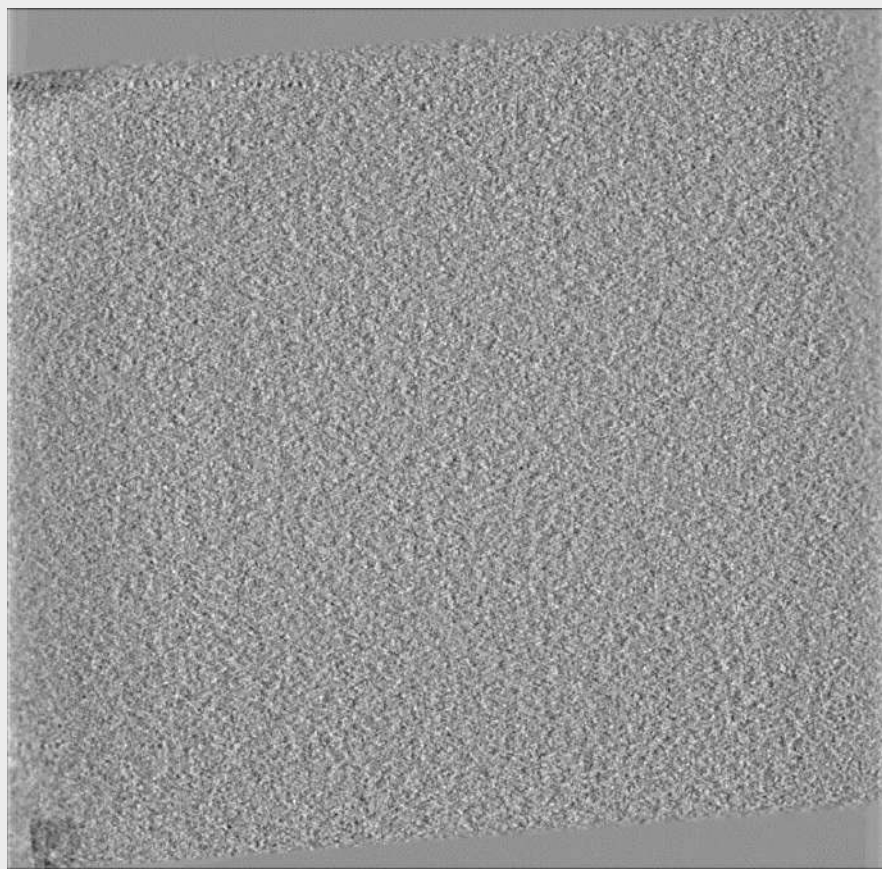
**Mykhailo Kopylov & Beth Stroupe**  
unpublished





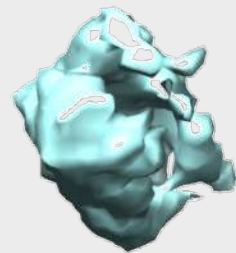
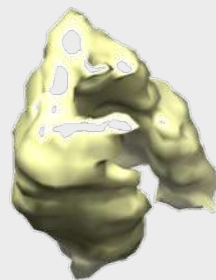
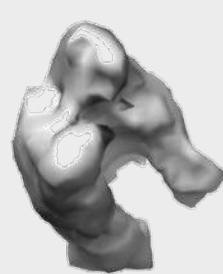


# Example: Tomography for single particle initial model

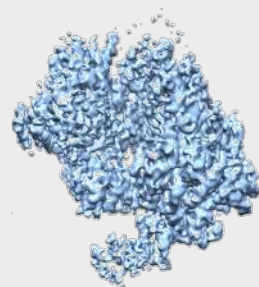


250 nm

Z-slices through tomogram/ice



template pick  
initial model



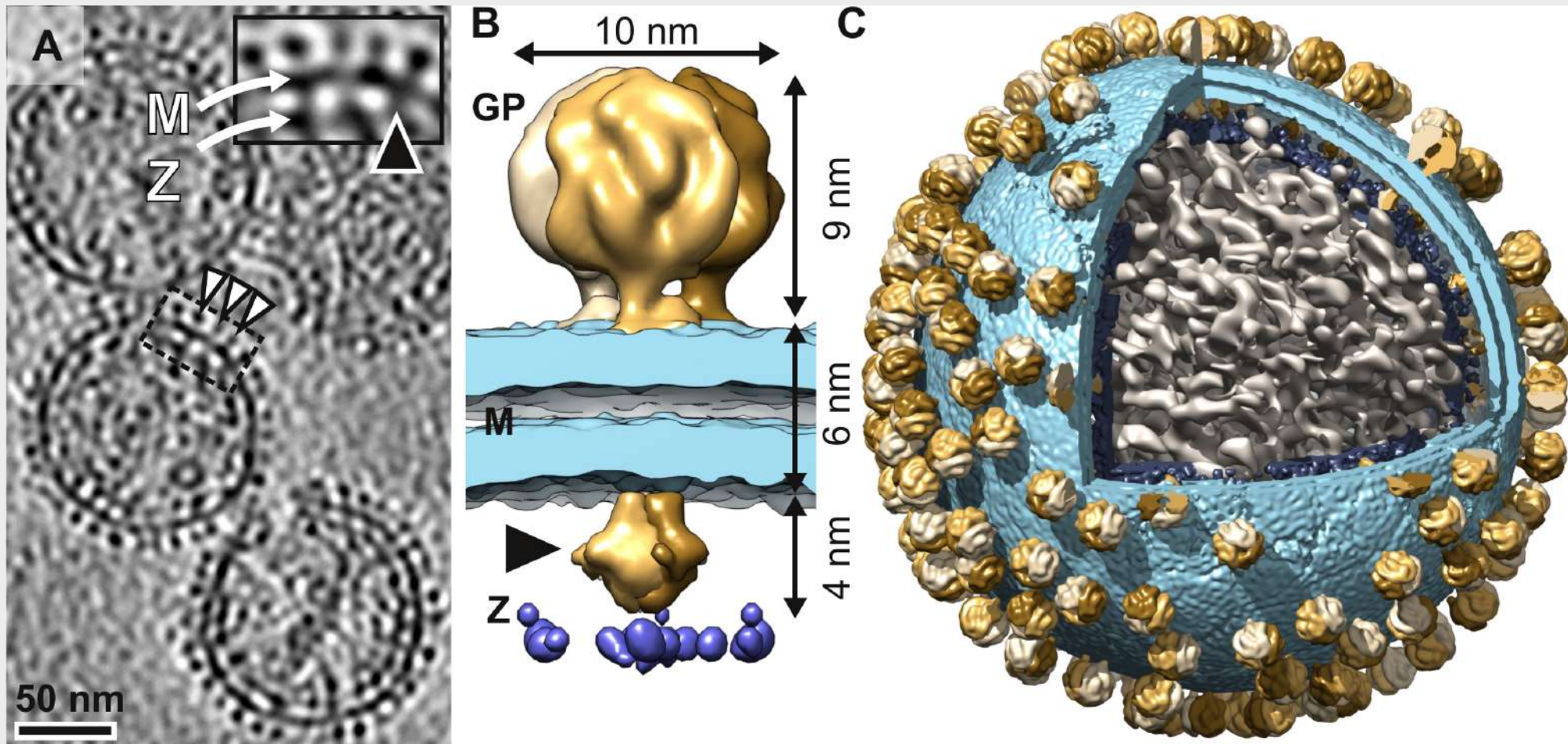
Structure now  
at 4 Å!

- 5 tomograms were collected
- ~1,000 particles picked, aligned, and classified
- Classes used as templates for picking single particle micrographs
- Single particle now at 4 Å without anisotropy.





# Example: Lassa virus glycoprotein spike

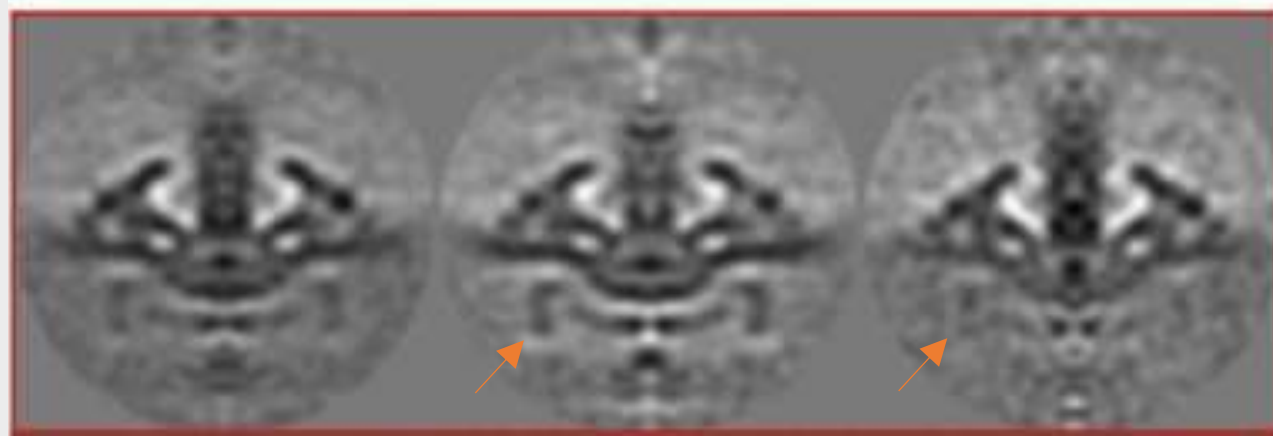


- **Heterogeneous shape** makes single particle difficult/impossible
- Sub-tomogram processing on spiked allows for **13.6 Å spike structure**
- Can **re-map spikes** onto all particles in the tomogram

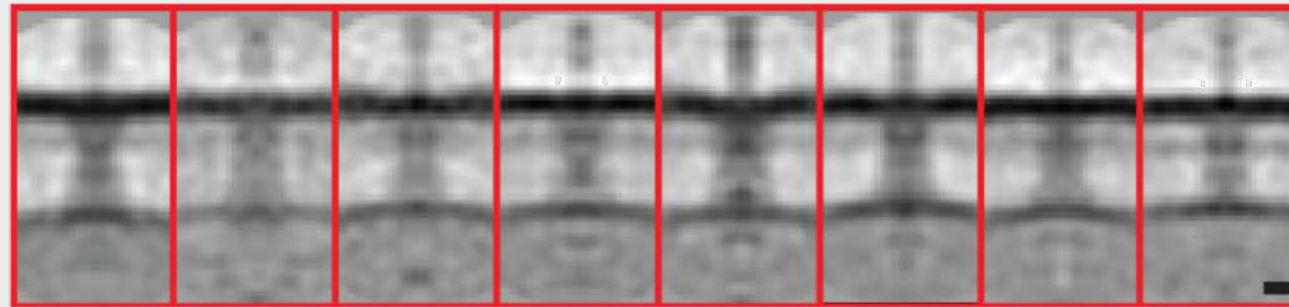




# Example: Bacterial flagella motor and type III secretion injectisome



Kudryashev et al, JSB, 2010 and  
Castaño-Díez, et al, JSB, 2012



Kudryashev et al, eLife, 2013

- Conformational states studied *in situ*
- Presence and absence of C-ring
- Elongation of injectisome

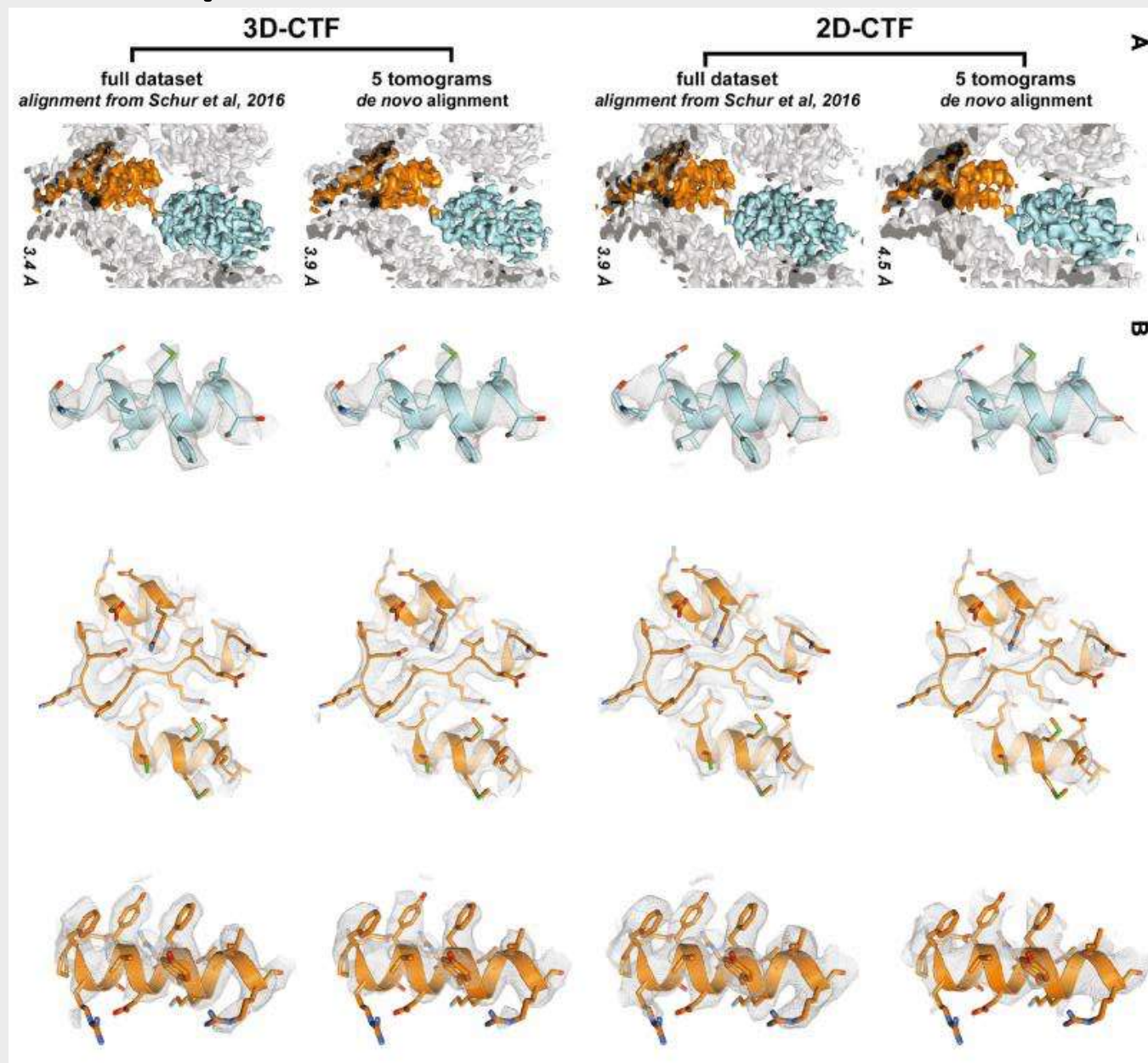






# Example: HIV-1 Capsid-SP1 at 3.9/3.4/3.2 Å

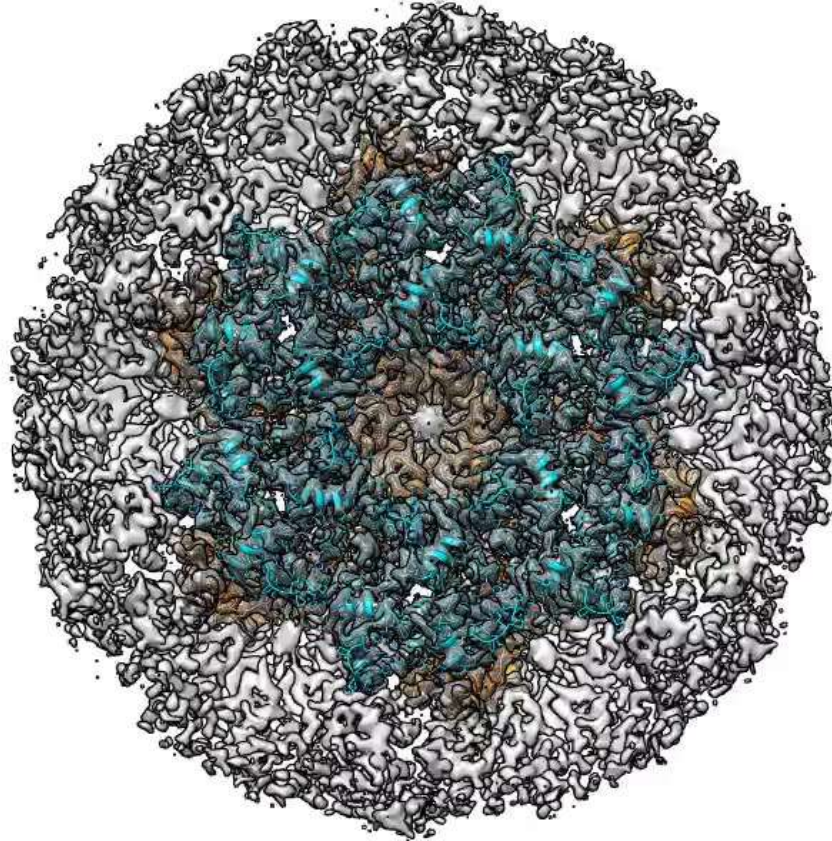
- Krios + Super-res K2 + Gatan Energy Filter
- Fiducial tilt-series alignment
- 1.5 – 5 micron defocus
- Strip-based CTF correction
- ~750,000 sub-particles used
- TOM, AV3, Dynamo, and in-house scripts were used
- NovaCTF 3D CTF pushed it to 3.4 Å
- emClarity pushed to 3.2 Å



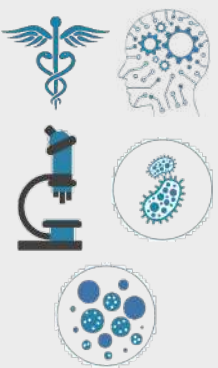


# Example: HIV-1 Capsid-SP1 at 3.9 Å

An atomic model of HIV-1 capsid-SP1 reveals structures regulating assembly and maturation  
Schur F.K.M, Obr M., Hagen W.J.H, Wan W., Jakobi A.J., Kirkpatrick J.M., Sachse C., Kräusslich H-G., Briggs J.A.G








# Example: HIV-1 Capsid-SP1 at 3.9 Å

Sample	HIV-1 ΔMACANCSP2 VLPs	HIV-1 ΔMACANCSP2 VLPs + 100 µg/ml Bevirimat	Immature HIV-1 (D25A) virus	
Acquisition settings	Microscope	FEI Titan Krios	FEI Titan Krios	FEI Titan Krios
	Voltage (keV)	300	300	300
	Detector	Gatan Quantum K2	Gatan Quantum K2	Gatan Quantum K2
	Energy-filter	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Slit width (eV)	20	20	20
	Super-resolution mode	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Å/pixel	1.35	1.35	1.35
	Defocus range (microns)	-1.5 to -4.5	-1.5 to -5.0	-1.5 to 5.0
	Defocus step (microns)	0.25	0.25	0.25
	Acquisition scheme	-60/60°, 3°, Serial EM	-60/60°, 3°, Serial EM	-60/60°, 3°, Serial EM
	Total Dose (electrons/Å <sup>2</sup> )	~90 - 270	~120 - 145	~120-221
	Dose rate (electrons/Å <sup>2</sup> /sec)	~3 - 8	~3 - 3.8	~1.5 – 5.5
	Frame number	6 – 10	8 – 10	10 – 12
	Tomogram number	93	43	74
Processing settings	VLPs/Viruses	285	383	484
	Asymmetric units Set A	265,506	386,040	301,302
	Asymmetric units Set B	263,910	386,598	301,920
	Final resolution (0.143 FSC) in Å	4.5	3.9	4.2





# Processing/Resolution limits

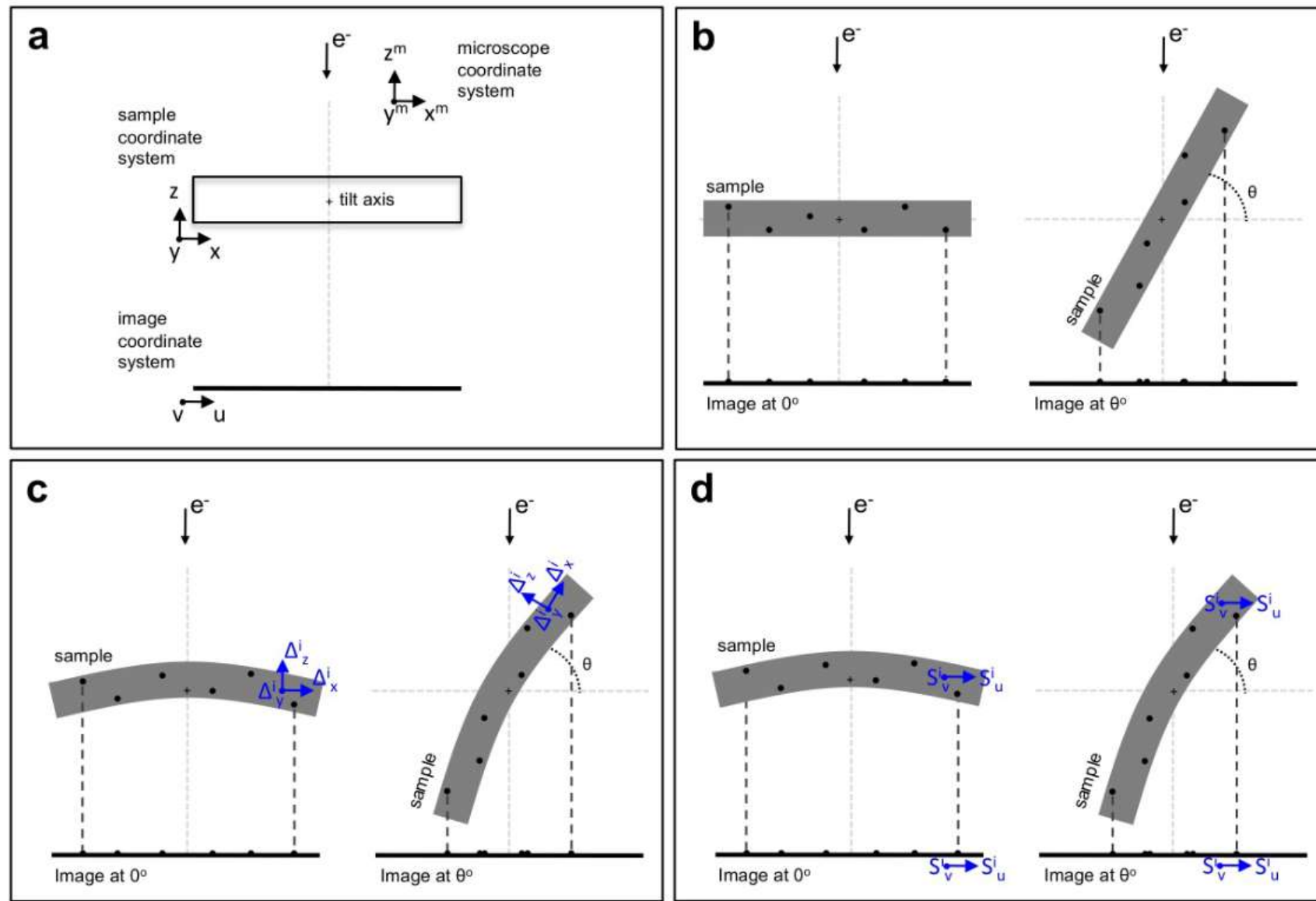
- Pixelsize (highest resolution =  $2 \times \text{pixelsize} = \text{Nyquist}$ )
- Isotropic motion (monitor your **drift** before full collection)
-  • Inherent specimen **flexibility**
- **Ice warping** in 3D during collection (doming)
- Beam-induced **motion of objects** of interest **in 3D** (particularly anisotropic)

*Already discussed:* Sample thickness, camera accuracy, and specimen damage



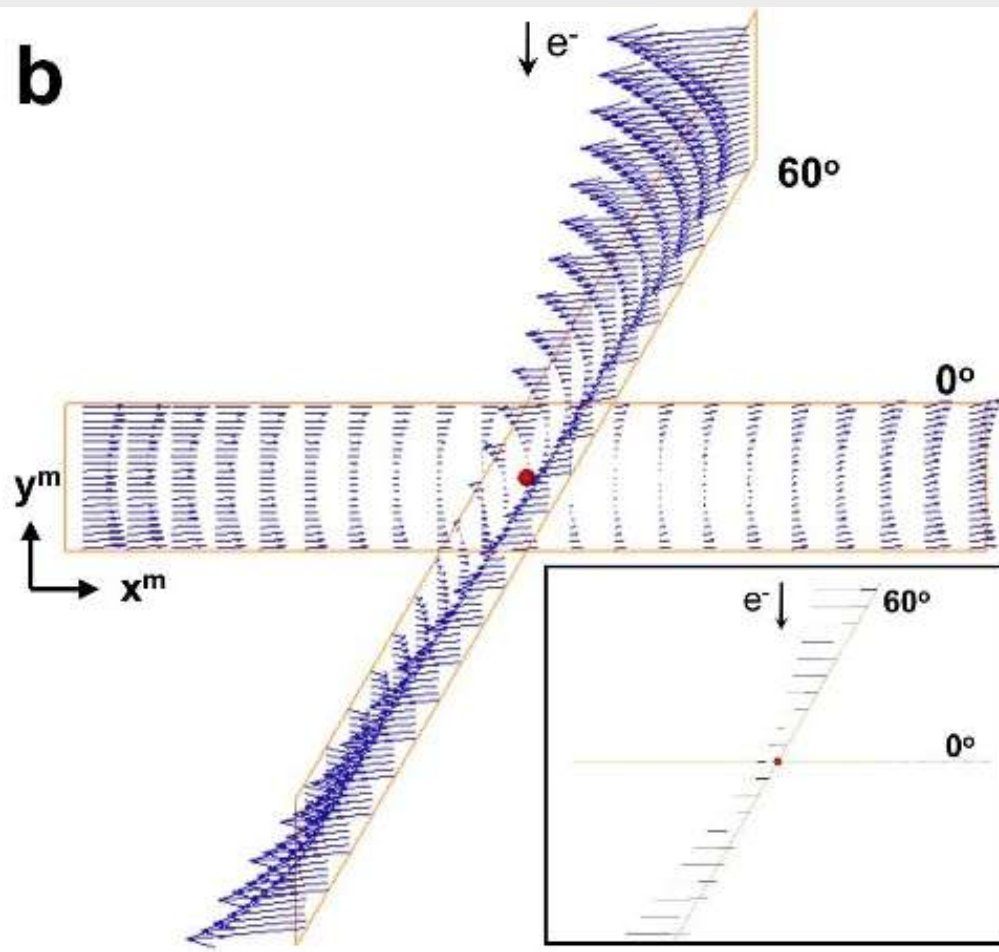
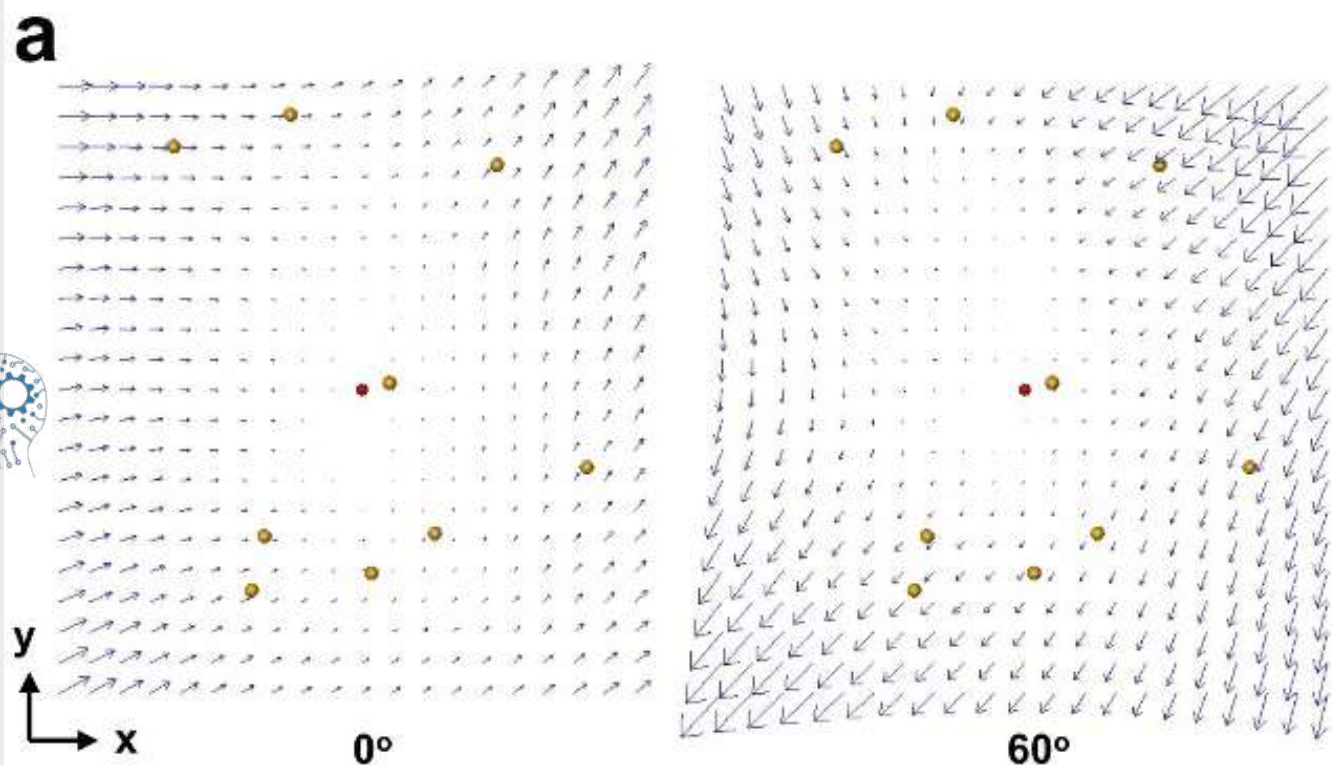


# Refining tilt-series alignment by tracking beads in 3D





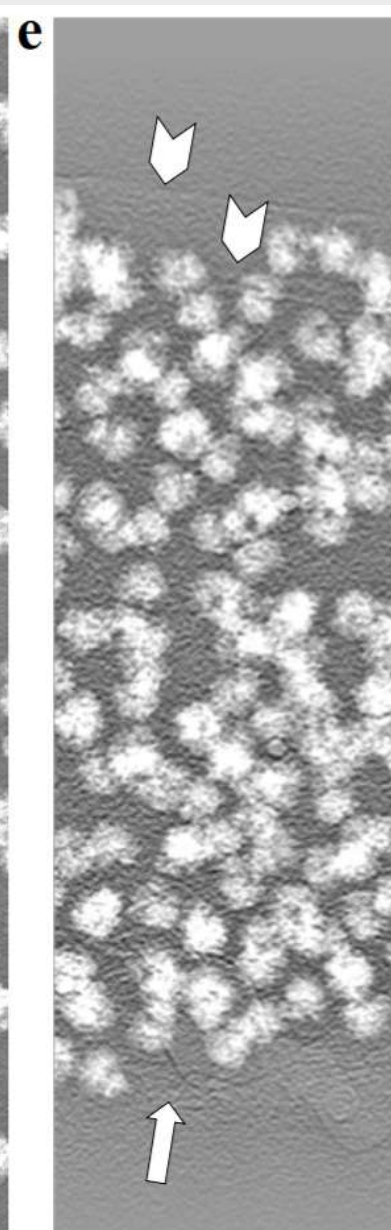
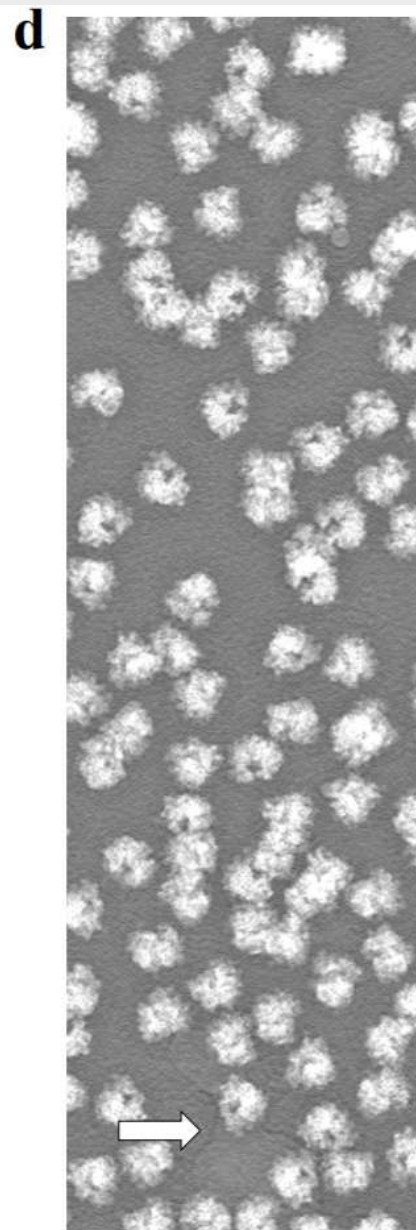
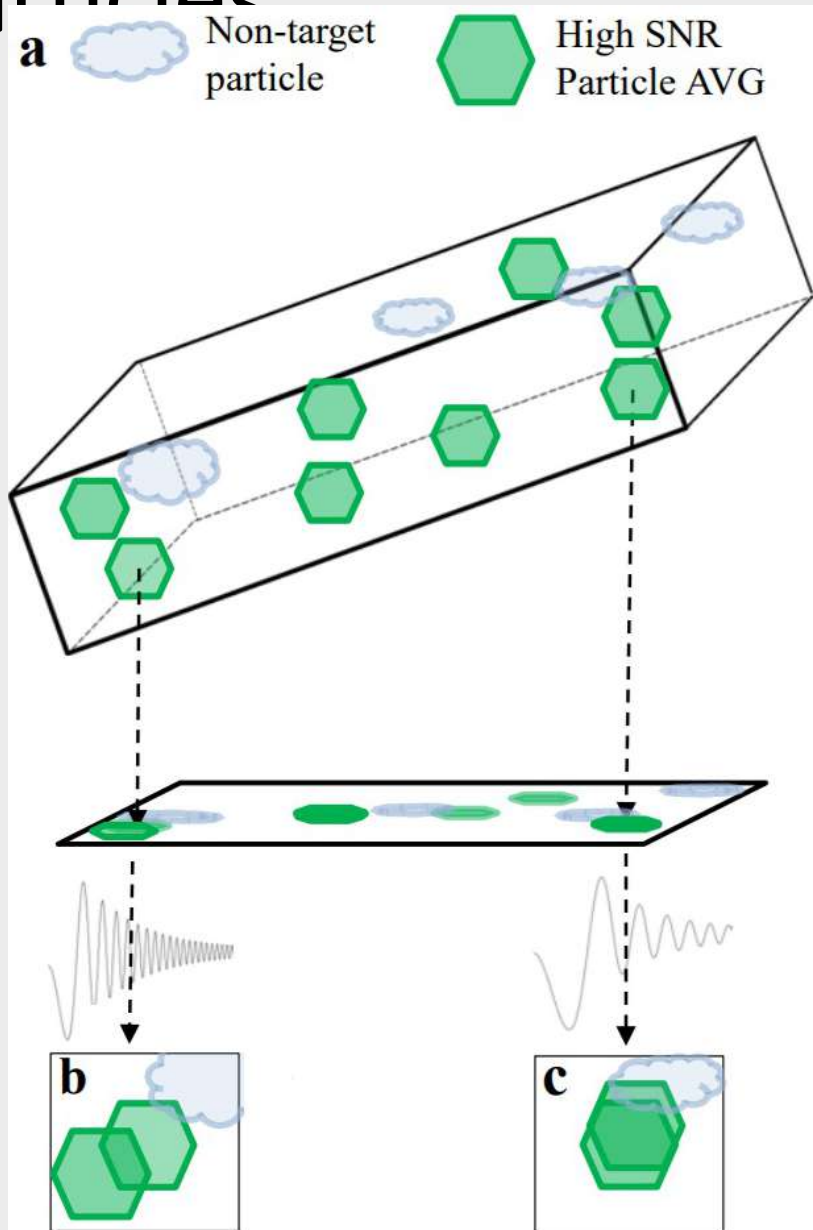
# Refining tilt-series alignment by tracking beads in 3D







# Refining tilt-series alignment by tracking just particles



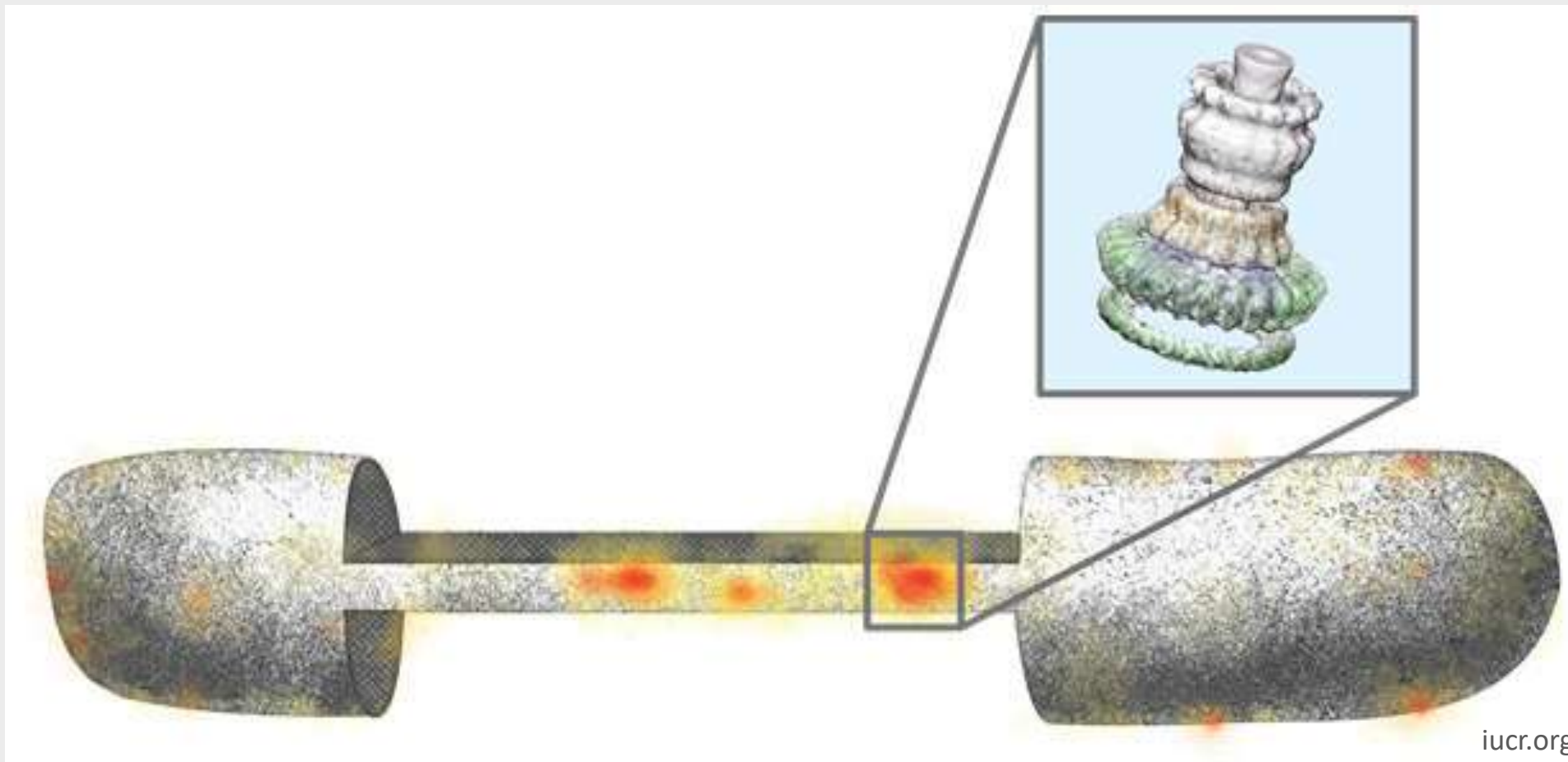
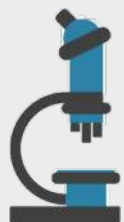


# Current/future directions in tomography





# Future hardware improvements in the field: 3D cryo-CLEM



iucr.org





# Hardware improvement – Rapid tilting

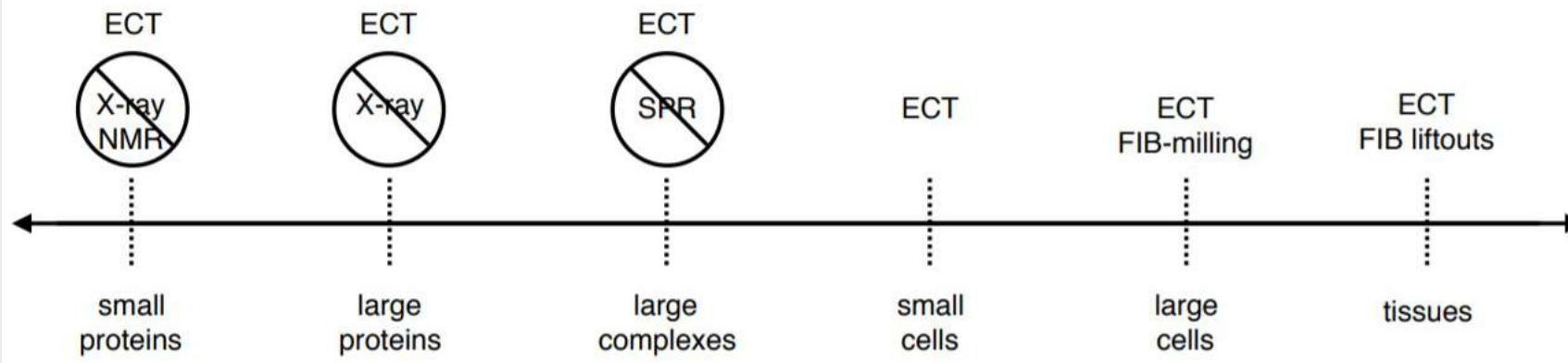
Nominal magnification	Pixel size (Å)	Exposure time (s)	Total frames	Total time per tilt-series (min)
33kx	4.32	126	5040 or less	9.7
53kx	2.74	50	2000 or less	7.6
81kx	1.78	20	800	6.7
130kx	1.09	12	480	5.0



*MOSTLY*

*MOST*

*~~ALL~~ cryotomography, ~~ALL~~ the time*





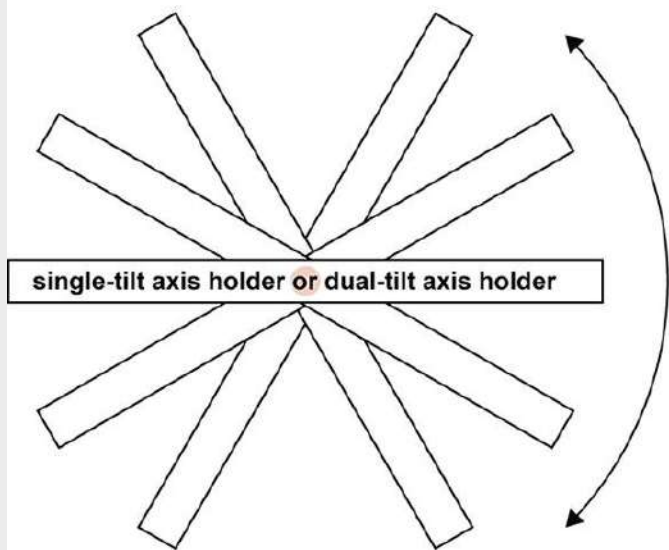


# Hardware/software improvement

## Pre-calibrated rapid tilting!



Fast-incremental single-exposure



K3

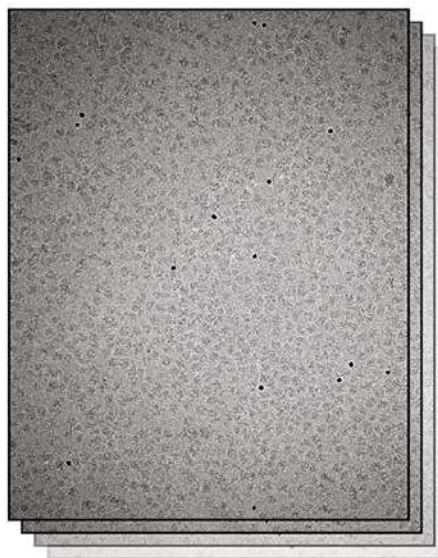
x, y, z specimen shift compensation

Collection



< 5 min  
per tilt series

Tilt series movie

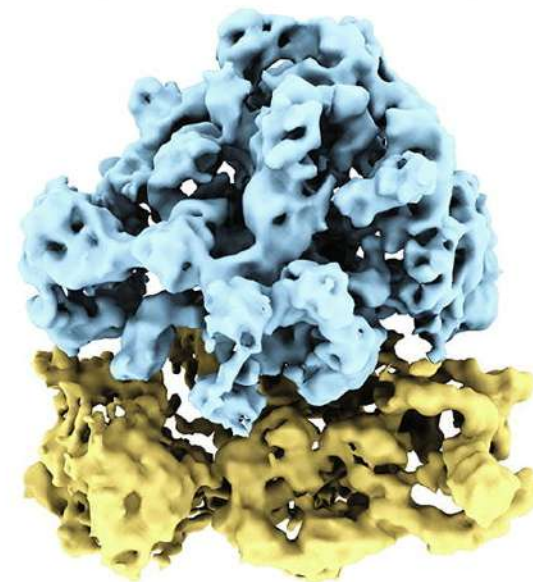


Processing



several days

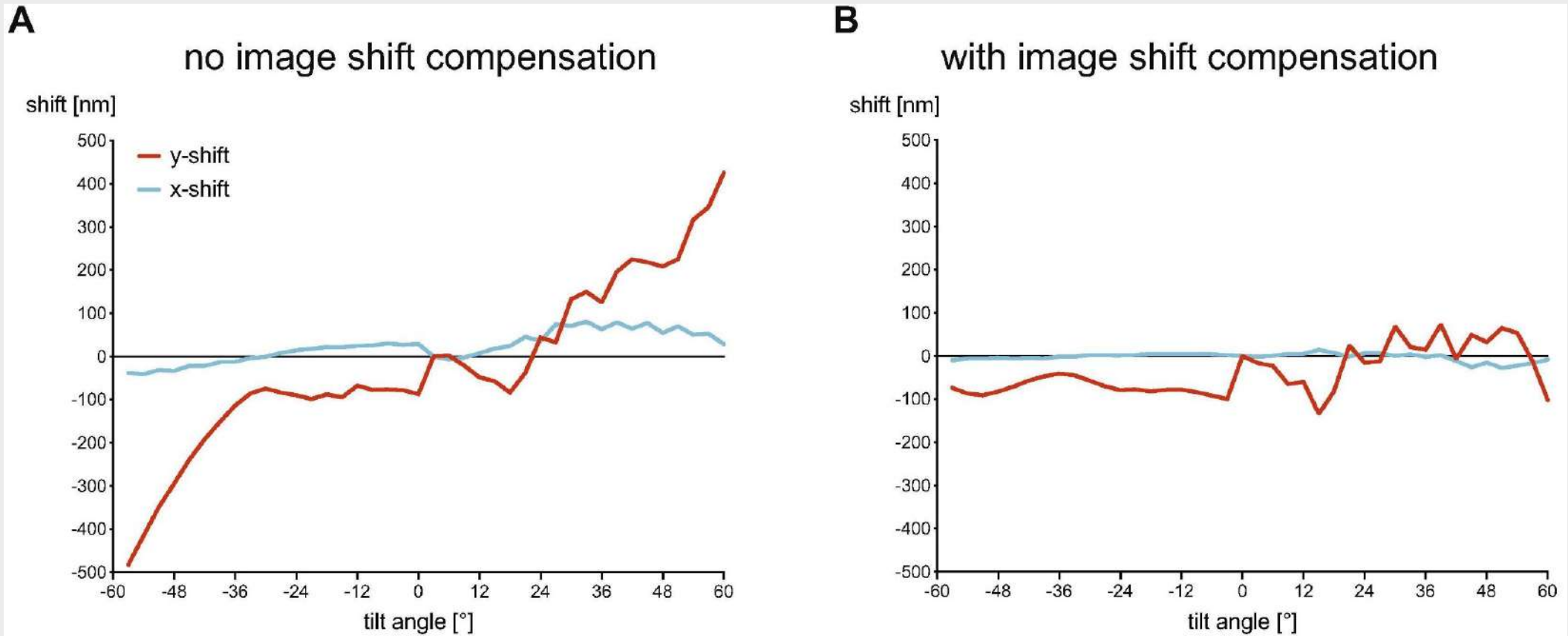
Subtomogram average at  
subnanometer resolution





# Software improvements in the field

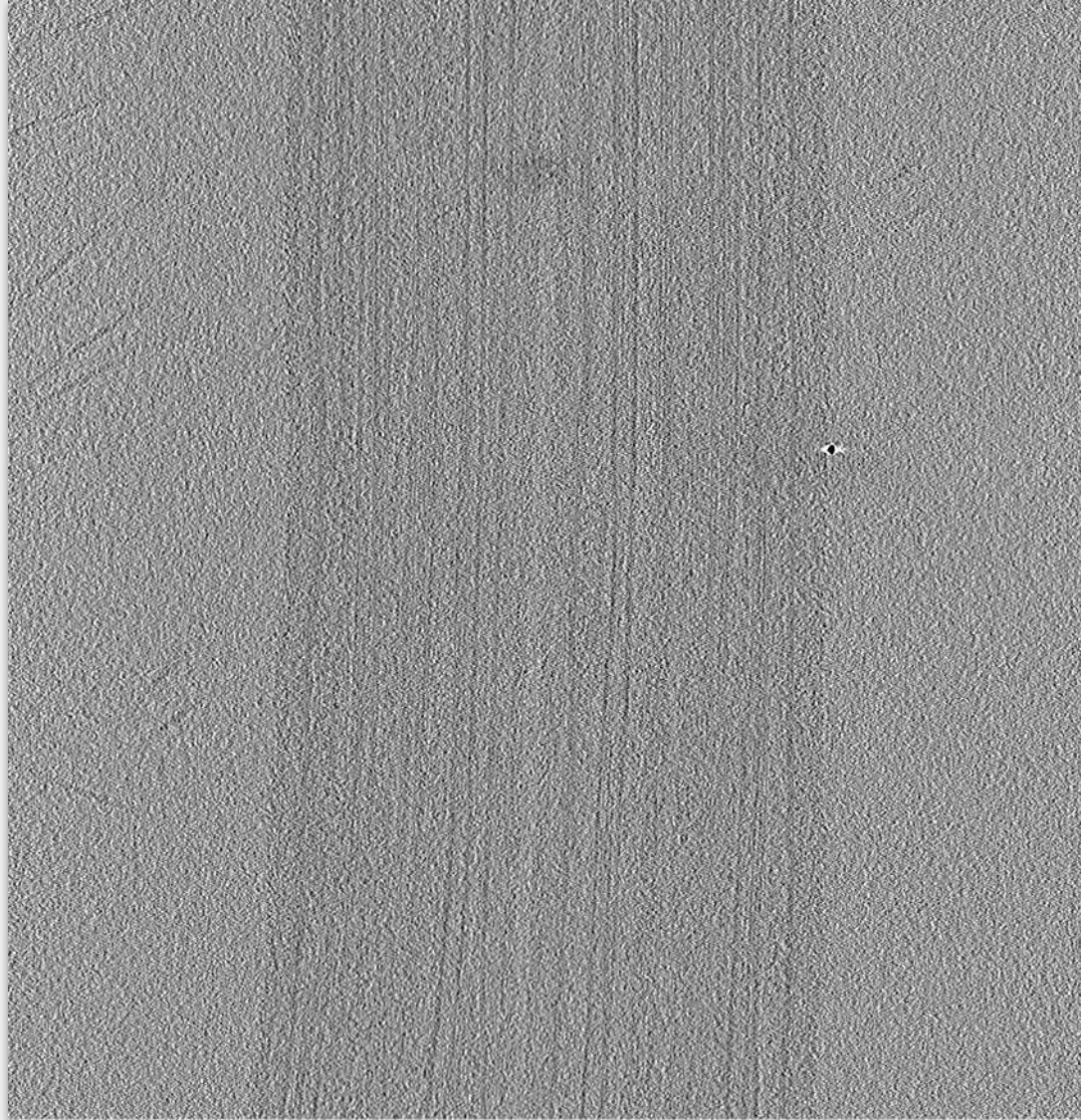
## Pre-calibrated Rapid tilting



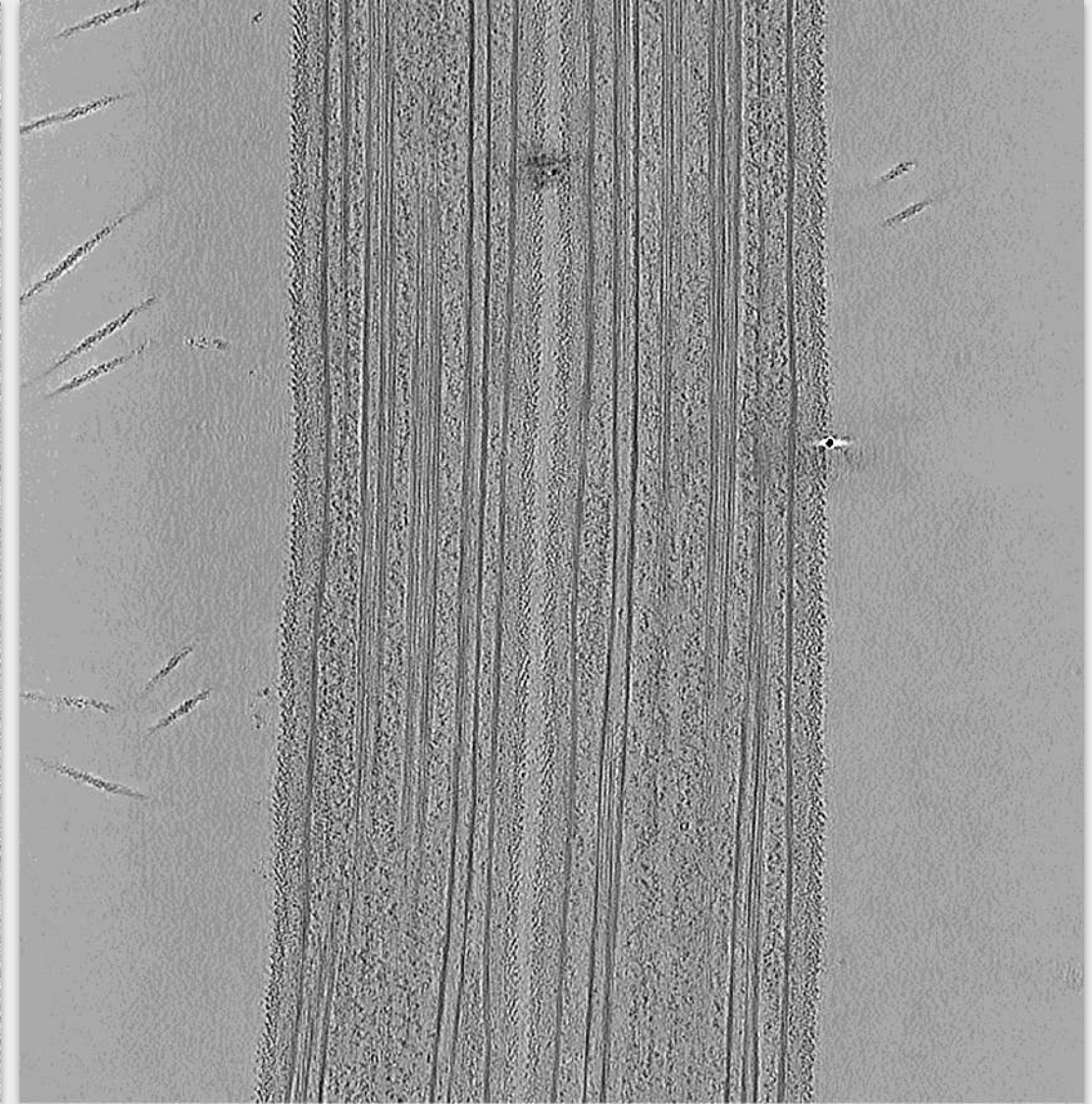




# Post-processing improvement - *Denoising* Cryo-CARE (3D Noise2Noise):



Before



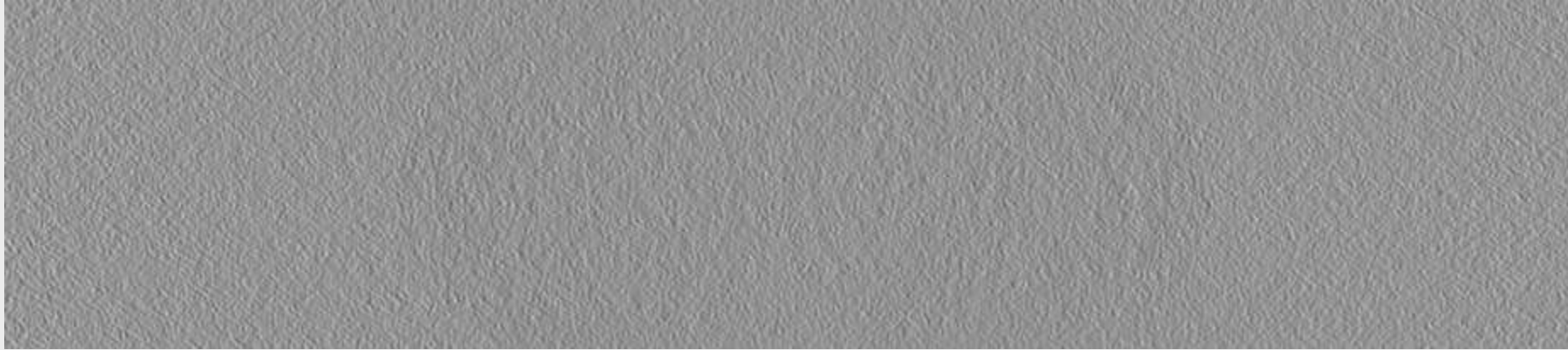
After!



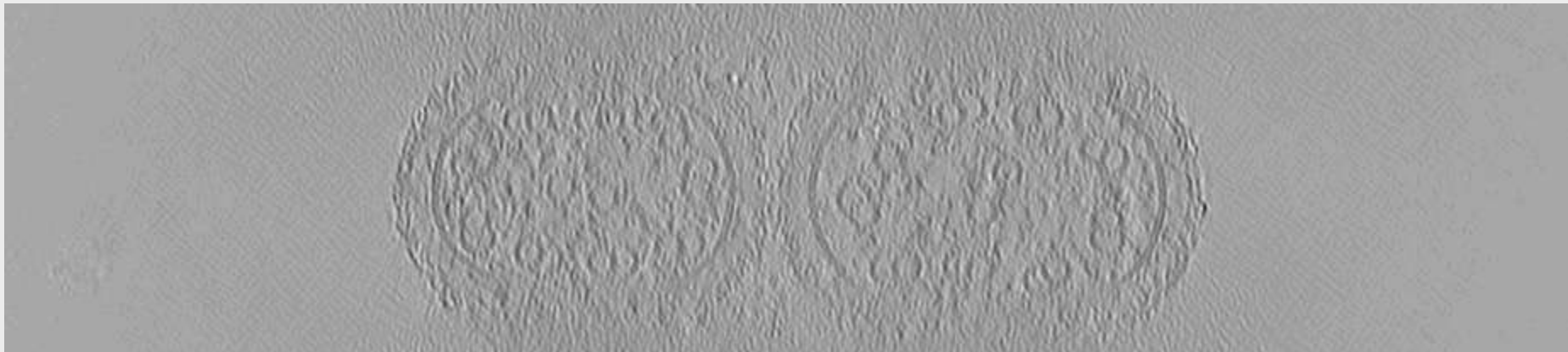




# Post-processing improvement - *Denoising* Cryo-CARE (3D Noise2Noise):



Before



After!

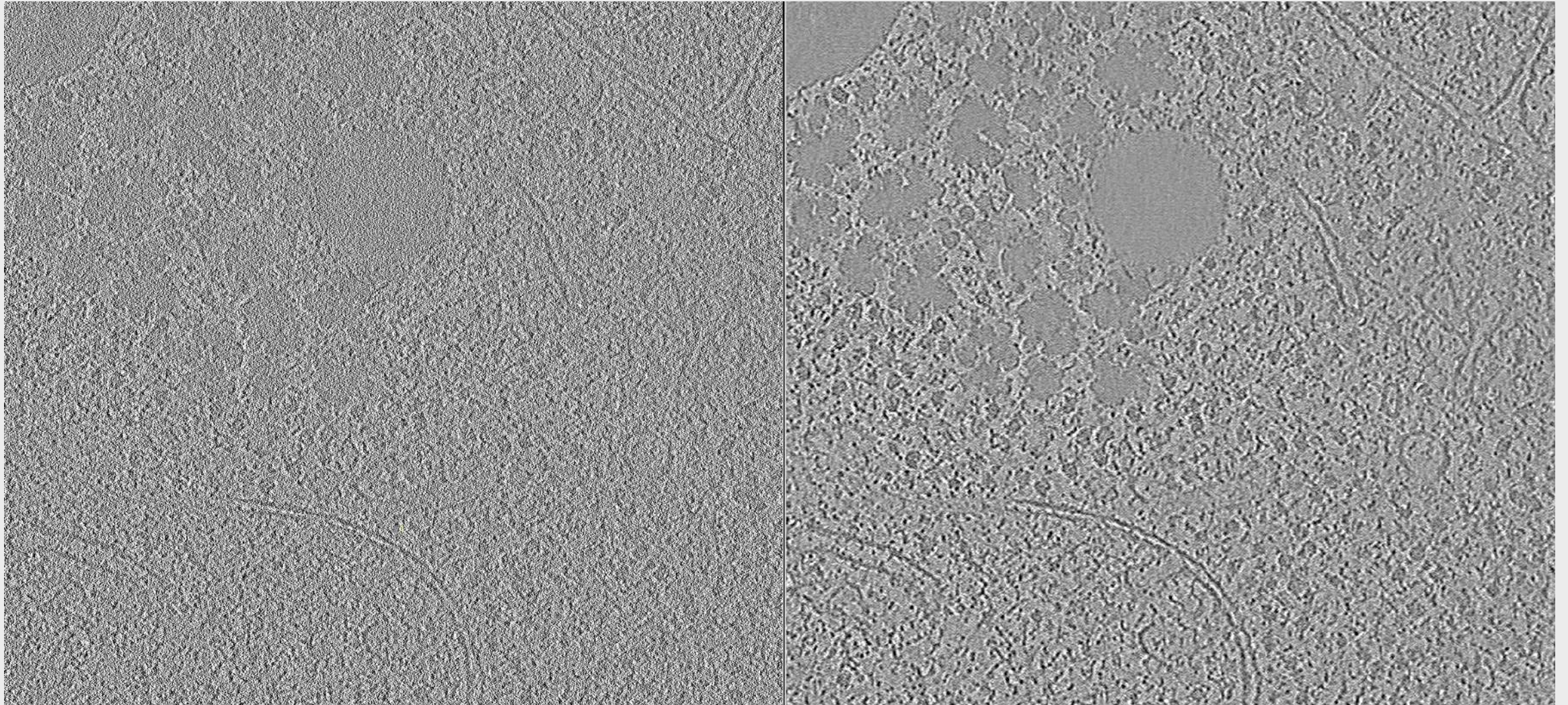






# Post-processing improvement - *Denoising*

## Topaz (3D Noise2Noise):

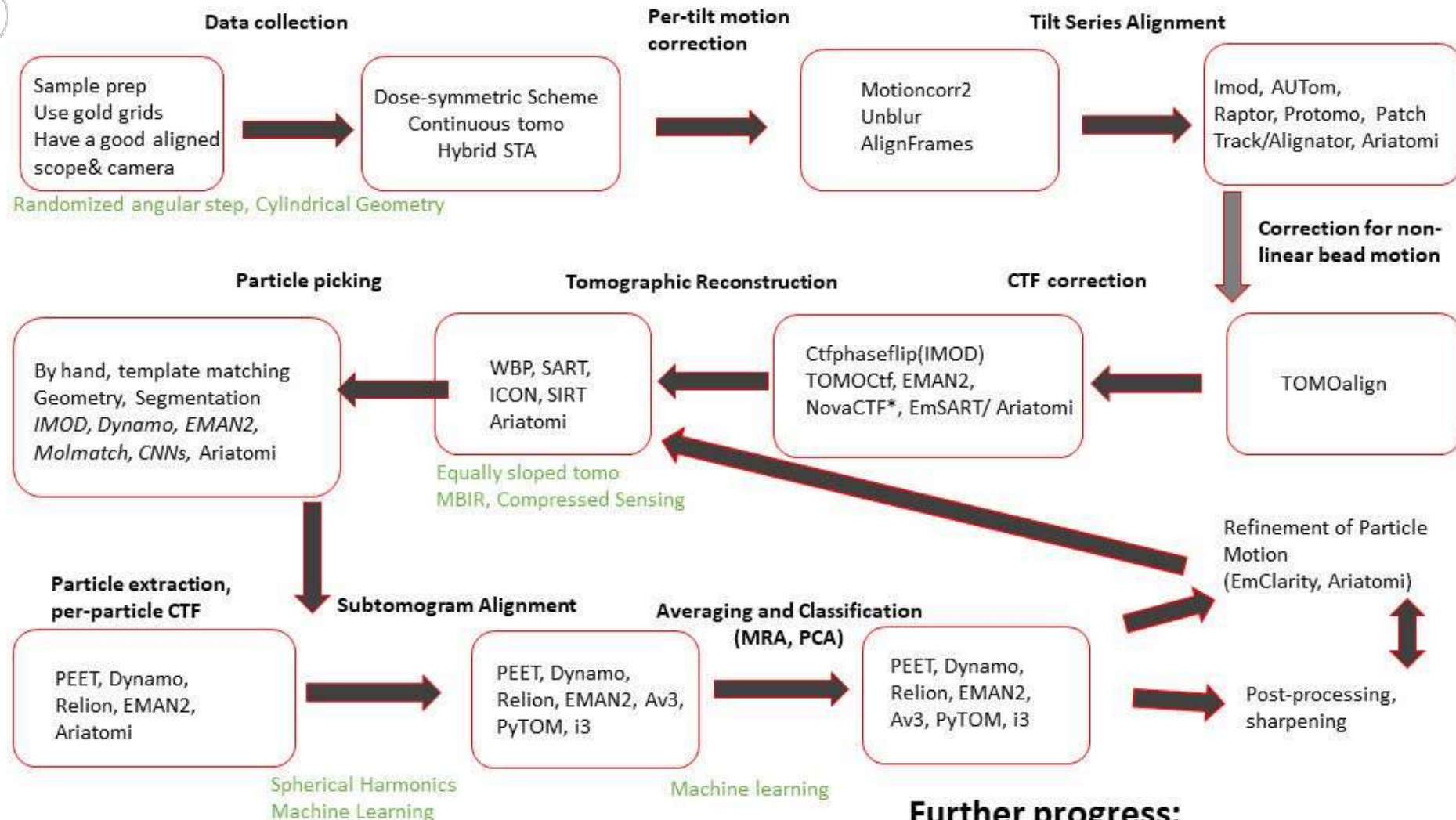
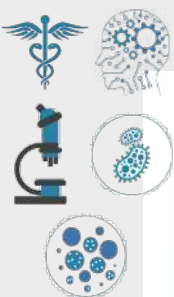


**Original**

**Topaz denoised**







Unreleased and interesting:  
Bartesaghi et al 2008;  
Warp – Tegunov et al (Bioarxiv)  
PyTOM workflow

~16 operations of various difficulty  
~5 image interpolations

### Further progress:

- New/ better modules
- Cross-talk between the modules
- Standardized IO

### Do it some early time

#### Dose Weighting

Motioncorr2, Unblur,  
Relion, etc

Throw away bad  
projections

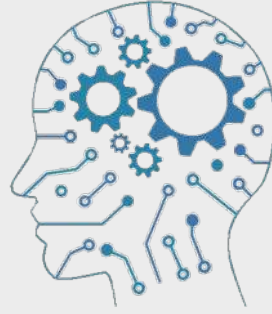
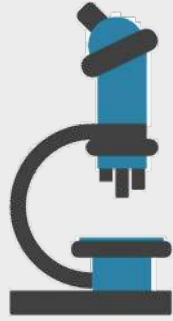
### Per tilt CTF determination

GCTF, CTFind  
Ctfplotter, TOMOCTf  
EmClarity

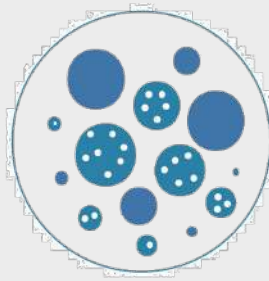
### Anisotropic mag correction

IMOD, Unblur, Motioncorr2,  
Ariatomi

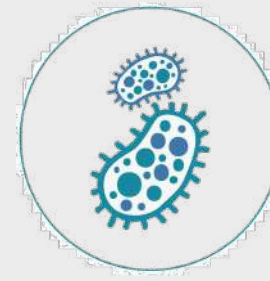
Produced with input from  
Alex J. Noble (NYSCC)



Thank you!  
Questions?



Alex Noble  
[anoble@nysbc.org](mailto:anoble@nysbc.org)  
tw: [@alexjamesnoble](https://twitter.com/alexjamesnoble)



National Resource for Automated Molecular Microscopy  
Simons Electron Microscopy Center  
New York Structural Biology Center



SIMONS ELECTRON  
MICROSCOPY CENTER

