

Third Summer School on ML for Electron Microscopy

May 19 – 23 2025

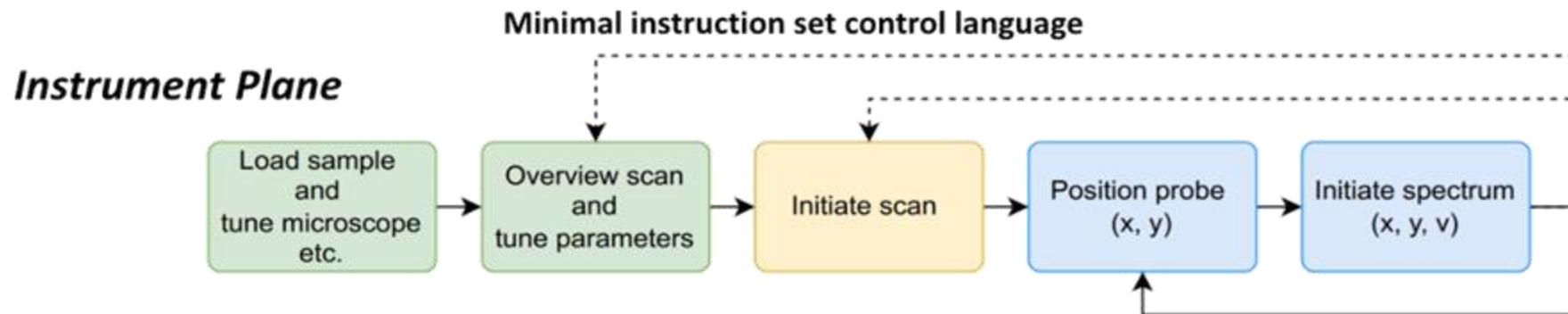
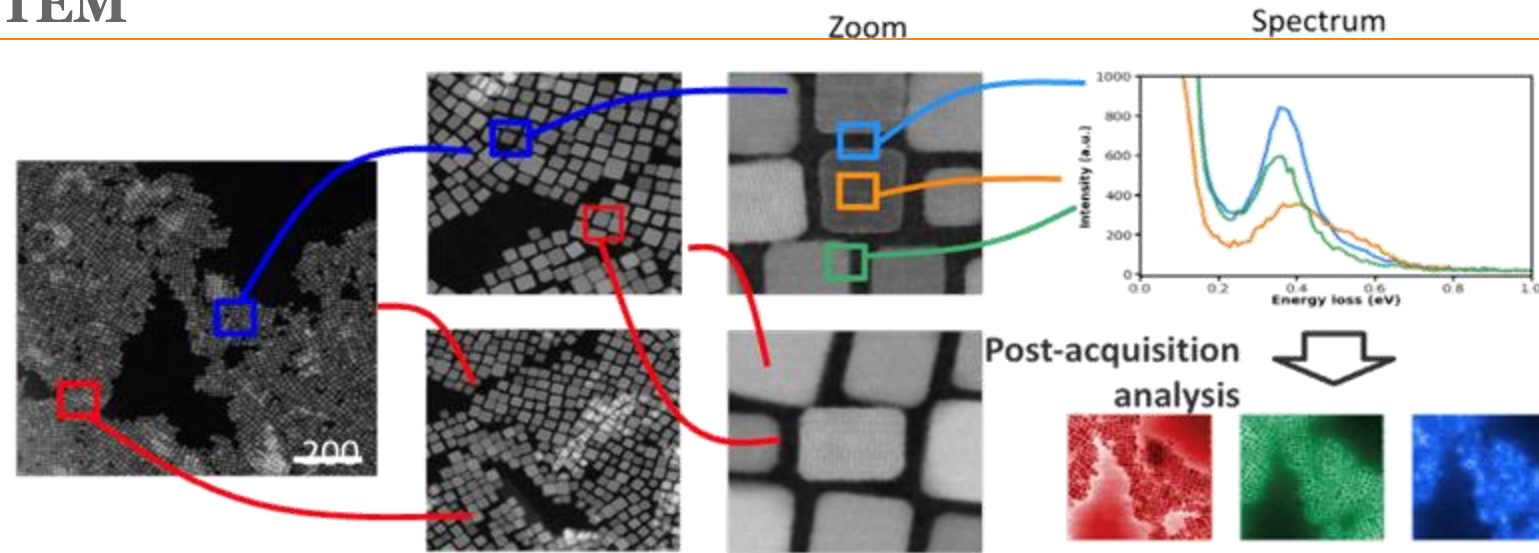
Reward Functions for Decision Making

➤ **Kamyar Barakati**



THE UNIVERSITY OF
TENNESSEE
KNOXVILLE

Workflows in STEM

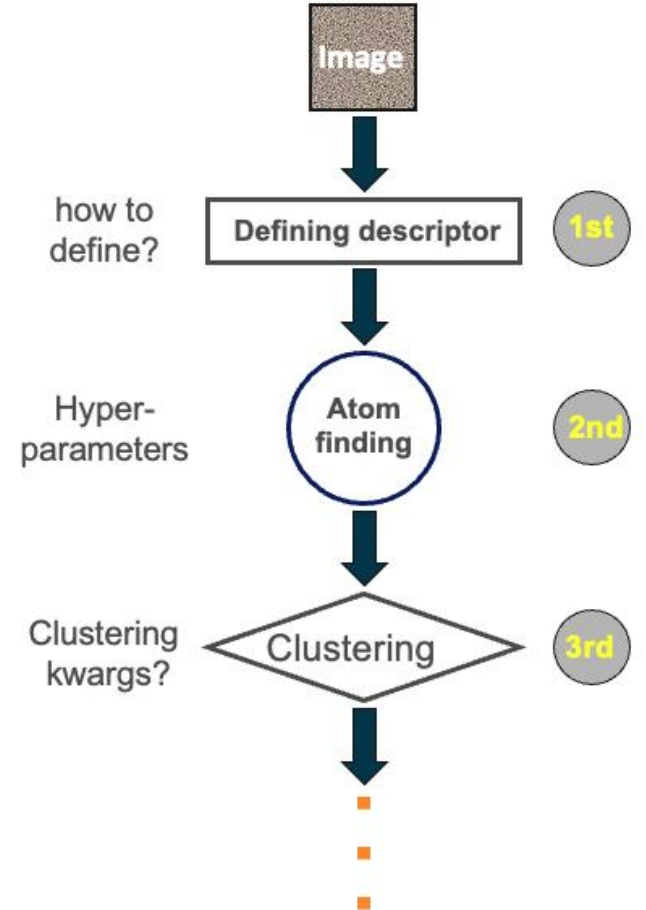
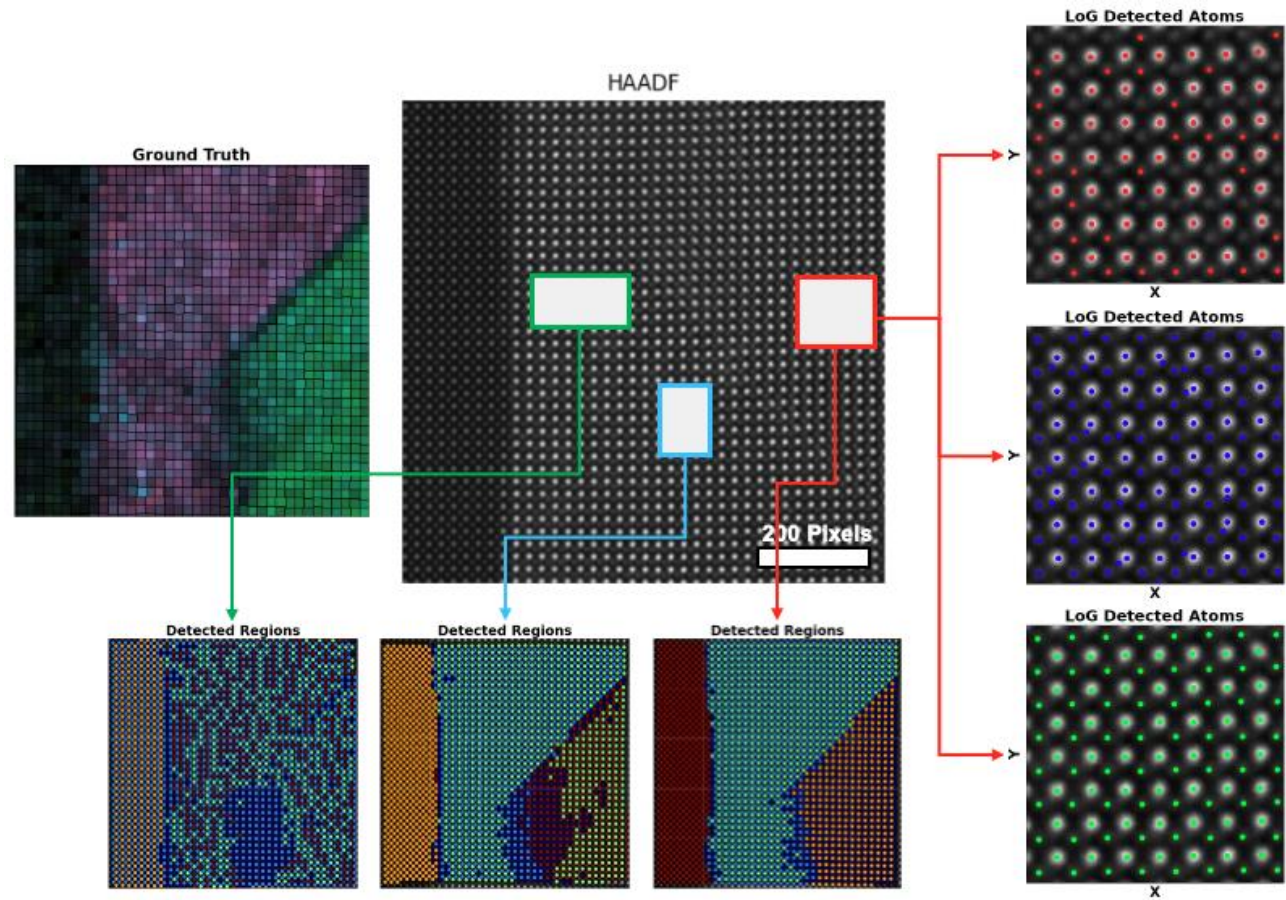


- Objective: purpose of the experiment (outside context)
- Policy: what do we depend on observation
- Reward: what do we hope to achieve
- Value: anticipated reward

Increase in data generation:

Challenges in real Time:

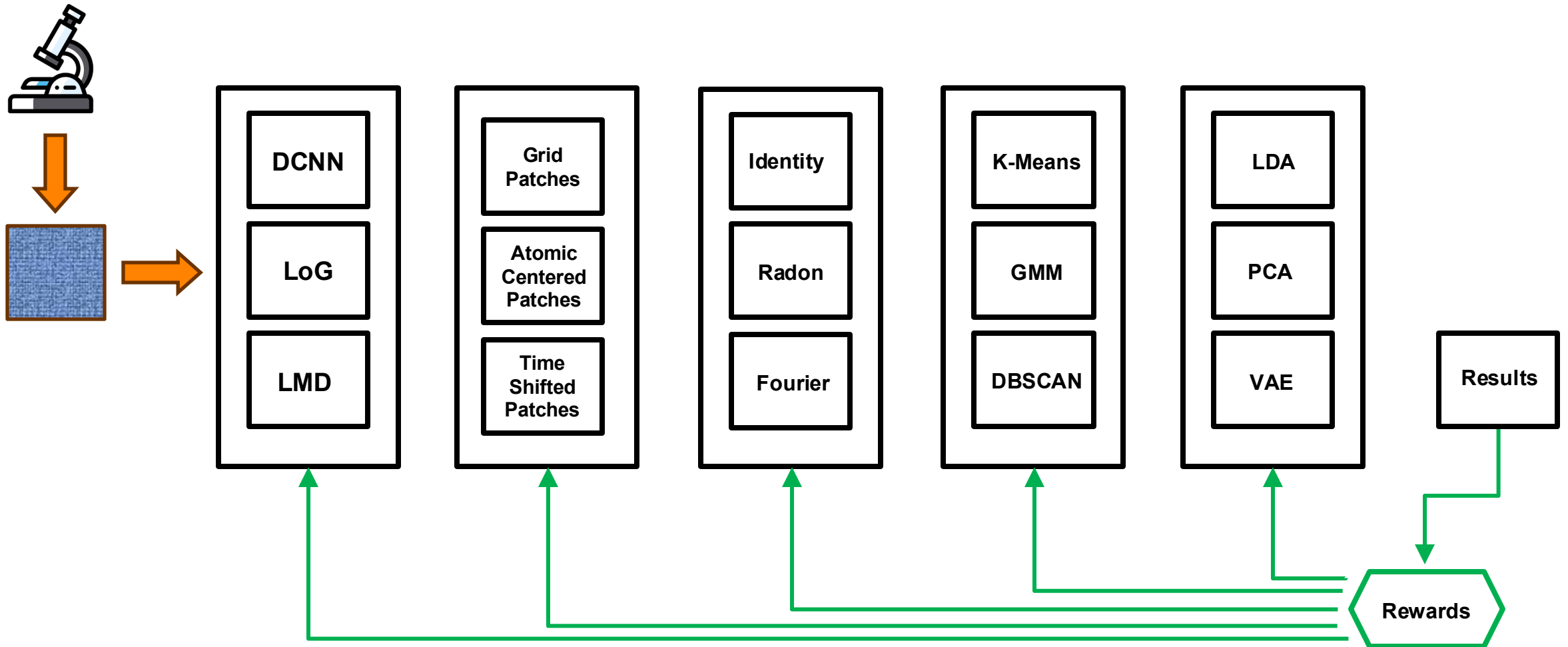
1. Parameter Sensitivity
2. Labeling



We do not know what may have been overlooked or sacrificed in pursuit of a seemingly desirable result.

Design Physics Based workflows

What are we looking for? 1. **Explainable** 2. **Reproducible** 3. **Fast**



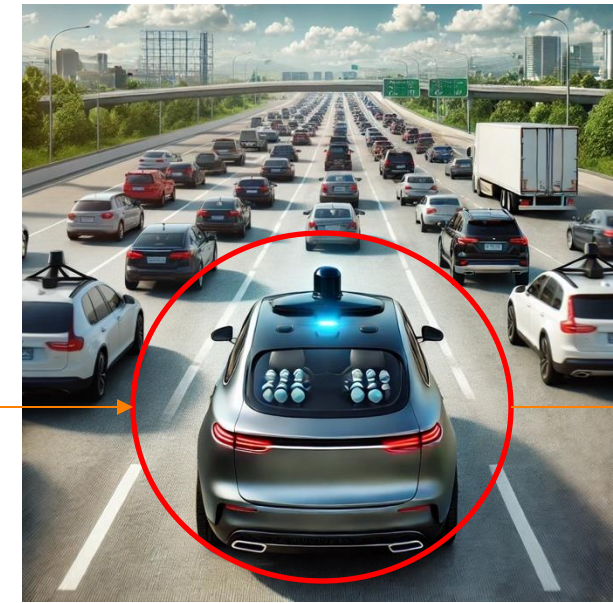
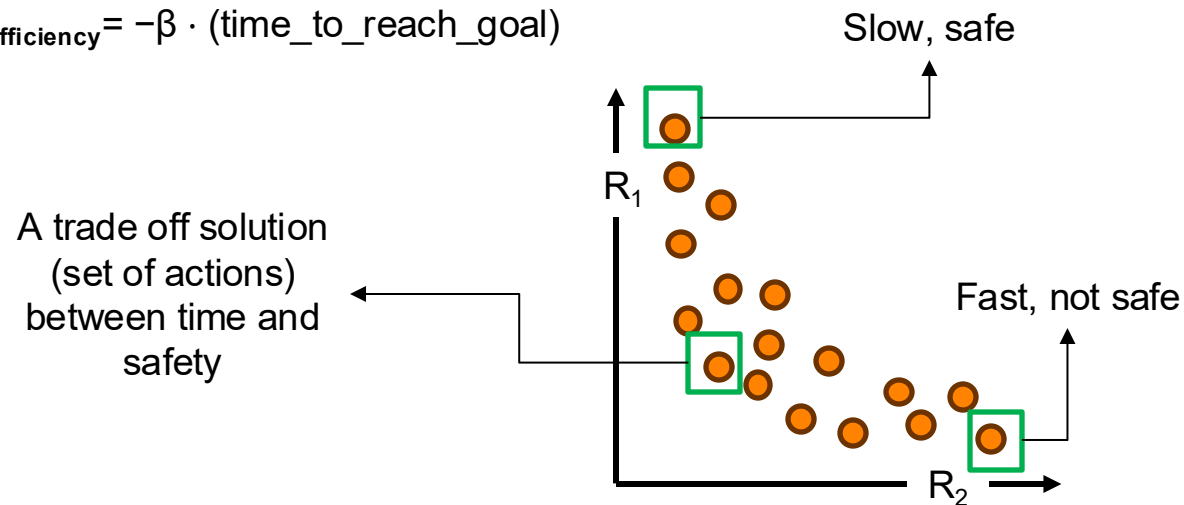
LMD: Local Maxima Detection
LDA: Linear Discriminant Analysis

Key Characteristics of Rewards

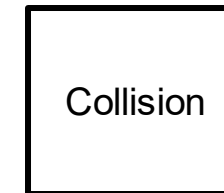
1. **Non-myopic:** Evaluates the entire outcome, not just individual actions.
2. **Multi-objective:** Can consider multiple factors (accuracy, efficiency, completeness)
3. **Alignment with goals:** The final reward should directly reflect how well the result meets the experimental objective.

$$R_{\text{safety}} = -\lambda \cdot \text{collision_risk}$$

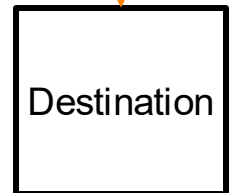
$$R_{\text{efficiency}} = -\beta \cdot (\text{time_to_reach_goal})$$



Safety



Avoid collision



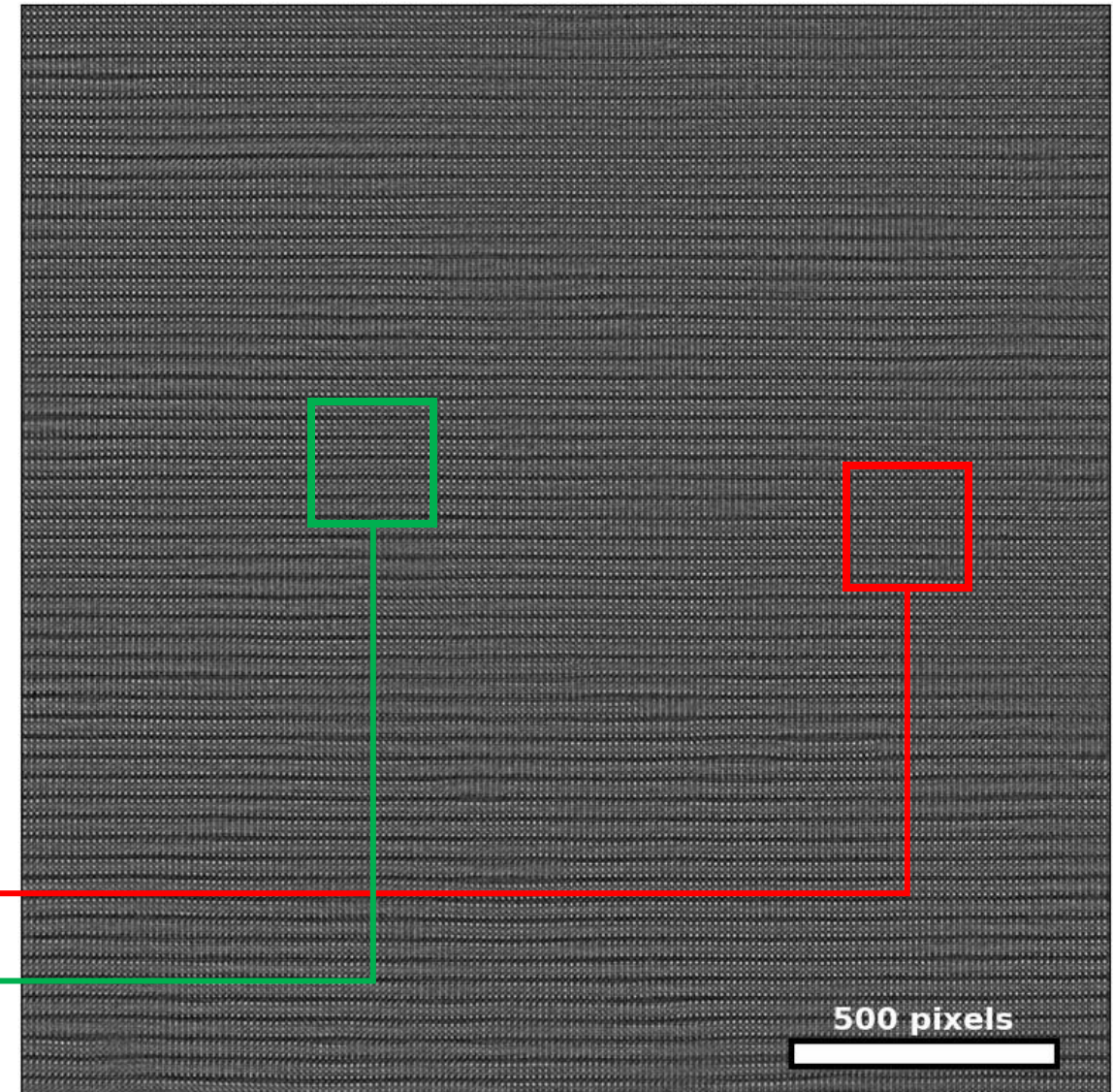
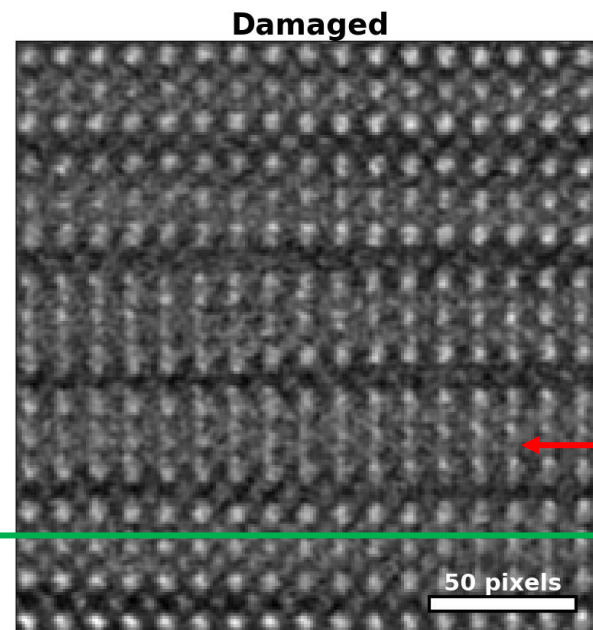
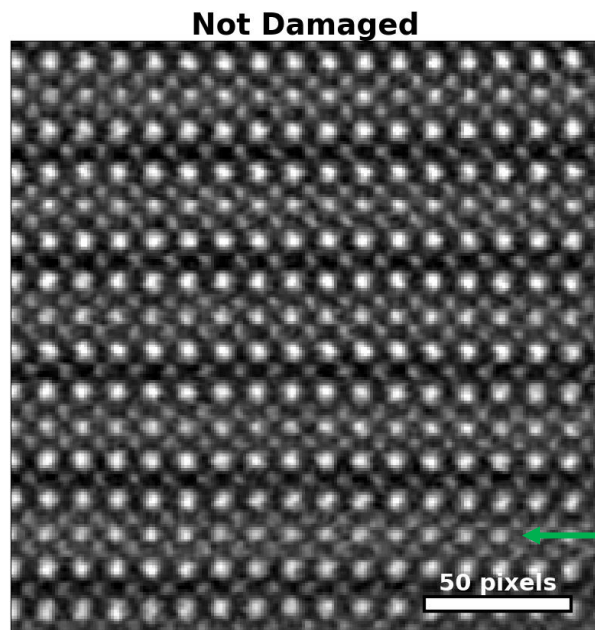
Reach destination in time

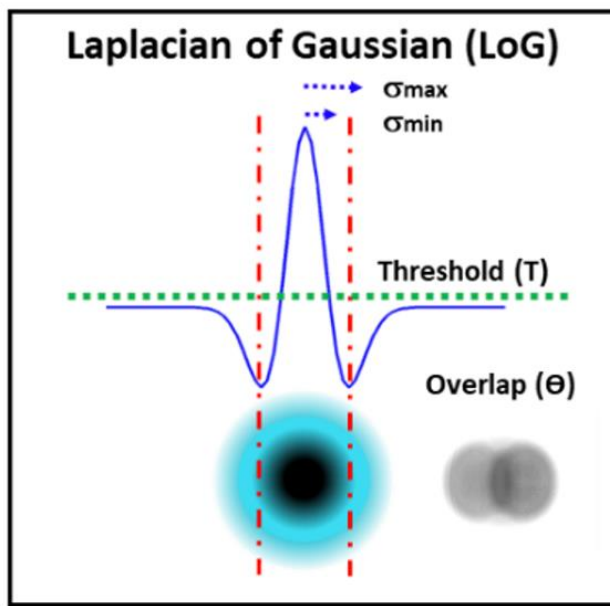
MODEL PROBLEM

Yttrium barium copper oxide (YBCO)

Gold Ion Irradiation

How we approach this problem?





Parameter space: **(6, 2)**

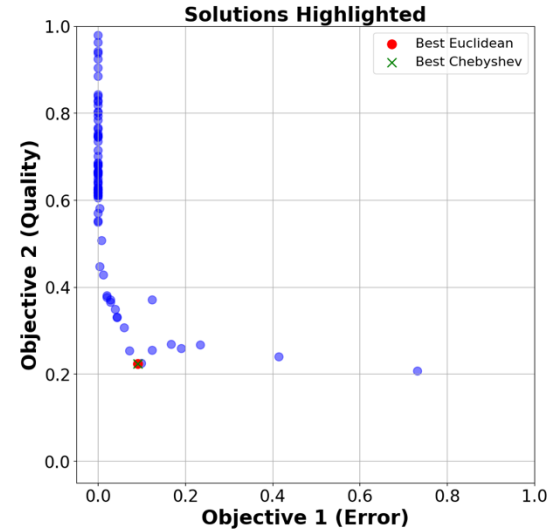
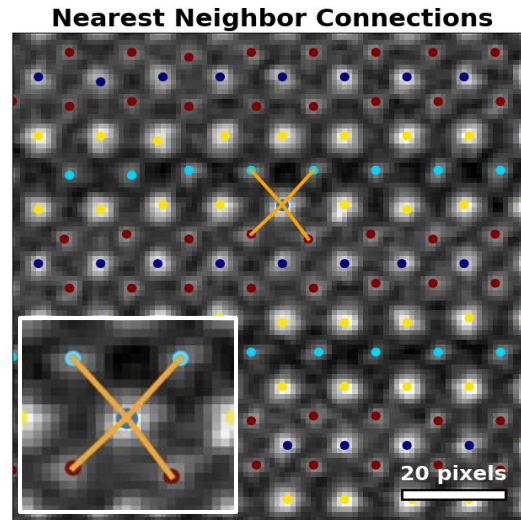
σ_{\min} , σ_{\max} , T , θ , w_w , w_h

Multiobjective optimization of LoG

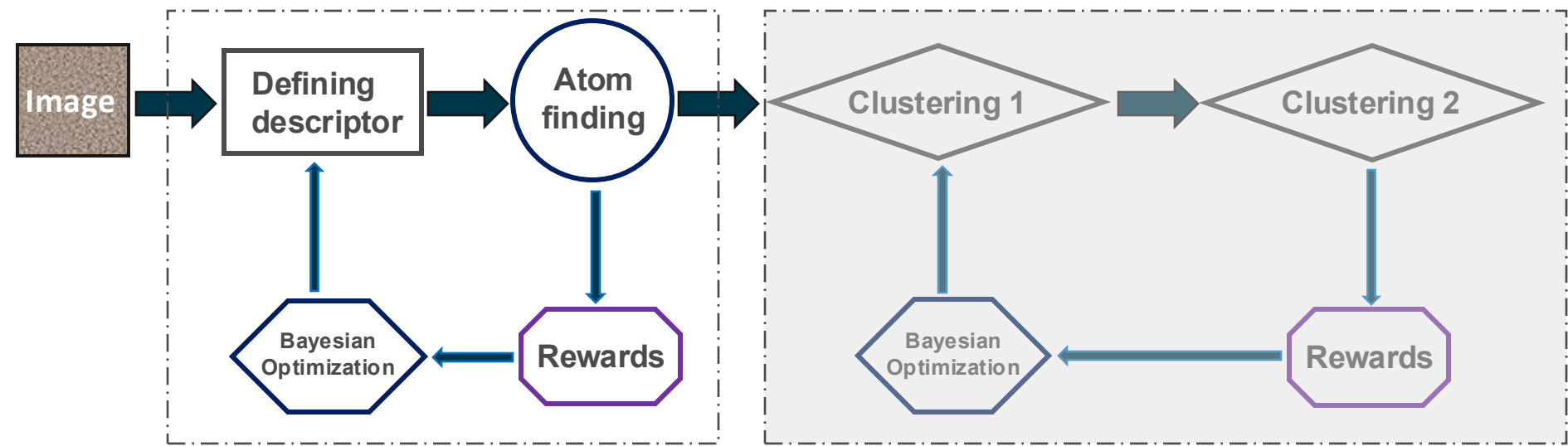
1. Number of atoms via **physical criterion** – like number of atoms in the structure with respect to stoichiometry
2. False positives (Atoms to close): $<$ distance to their 4 nearest neighbor

Benchmarking

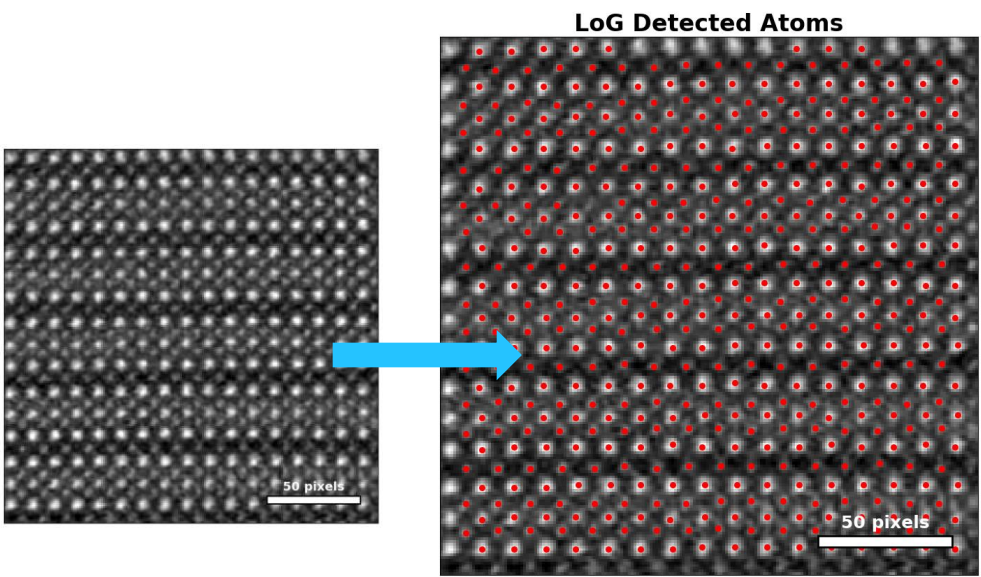
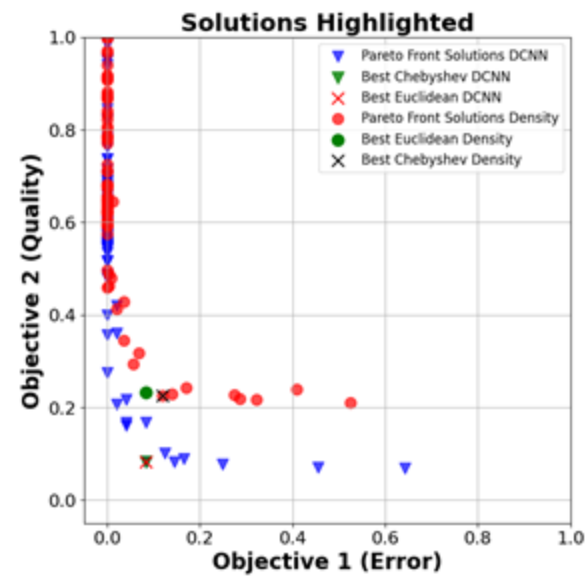
- Number of atoms via **DCNN**



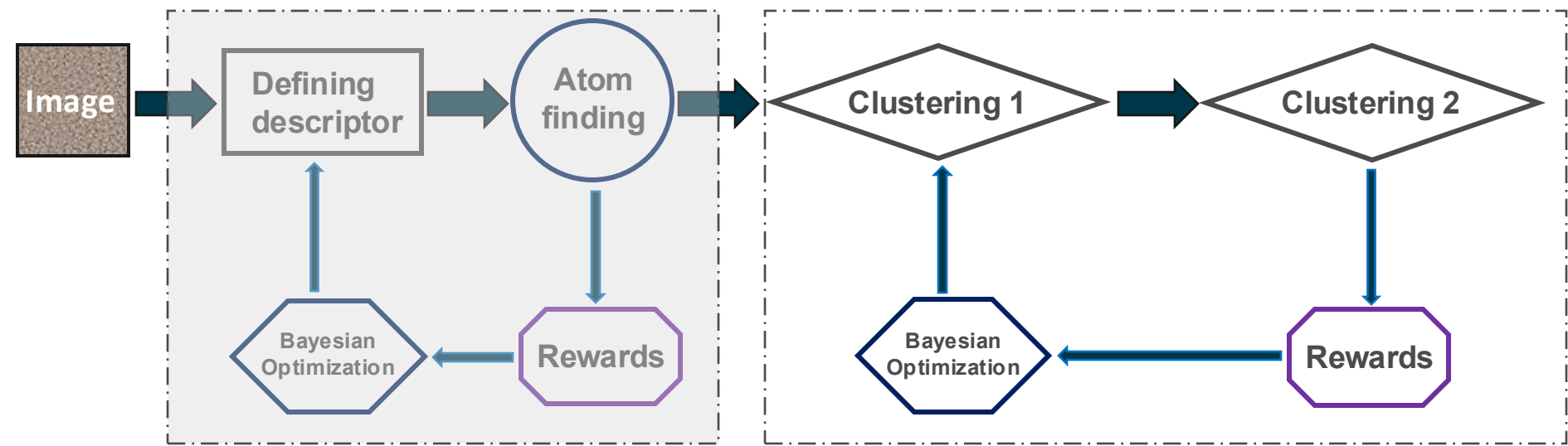
MODEL WORKFLOW



1 st set Rewards	
Objective 1	Objective 2
Quality	Error
Number of atoms	False positives



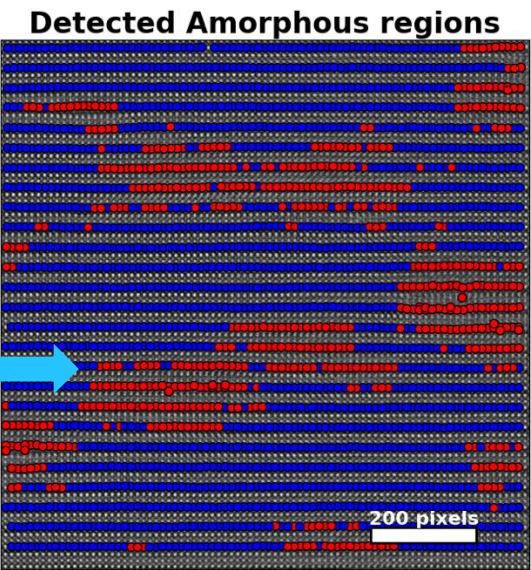
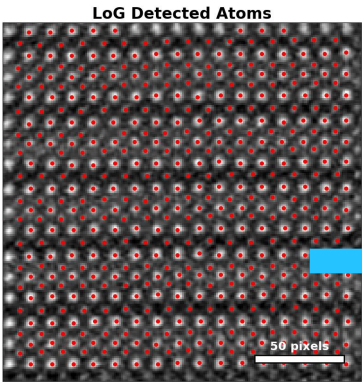
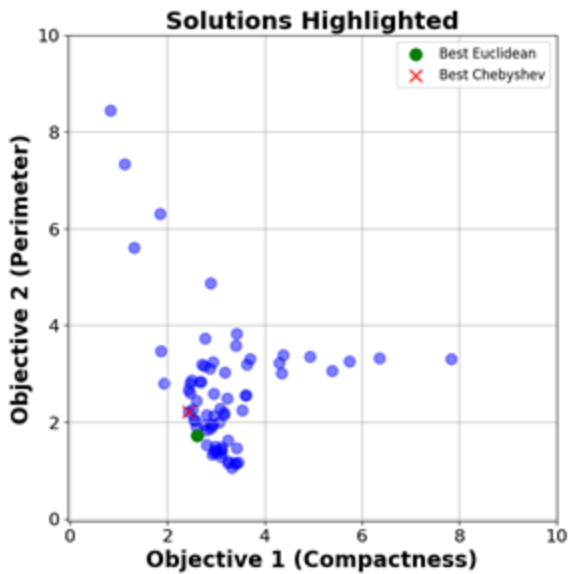
MODEL WORKFLOW



Parameter space: (3, 2)

W_w, W_h, COV_{type}

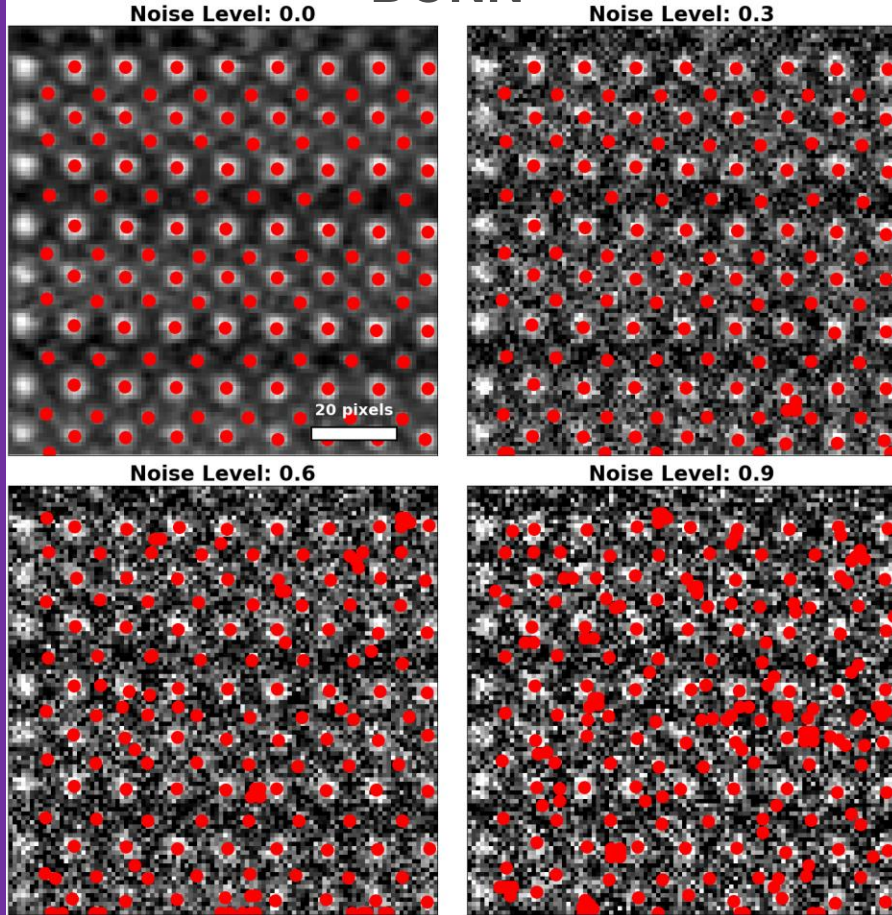
2 nd set Rewards	
Objective 1	Objective 2
Compactness	Perimeter



BENCHMARK VS DCNN

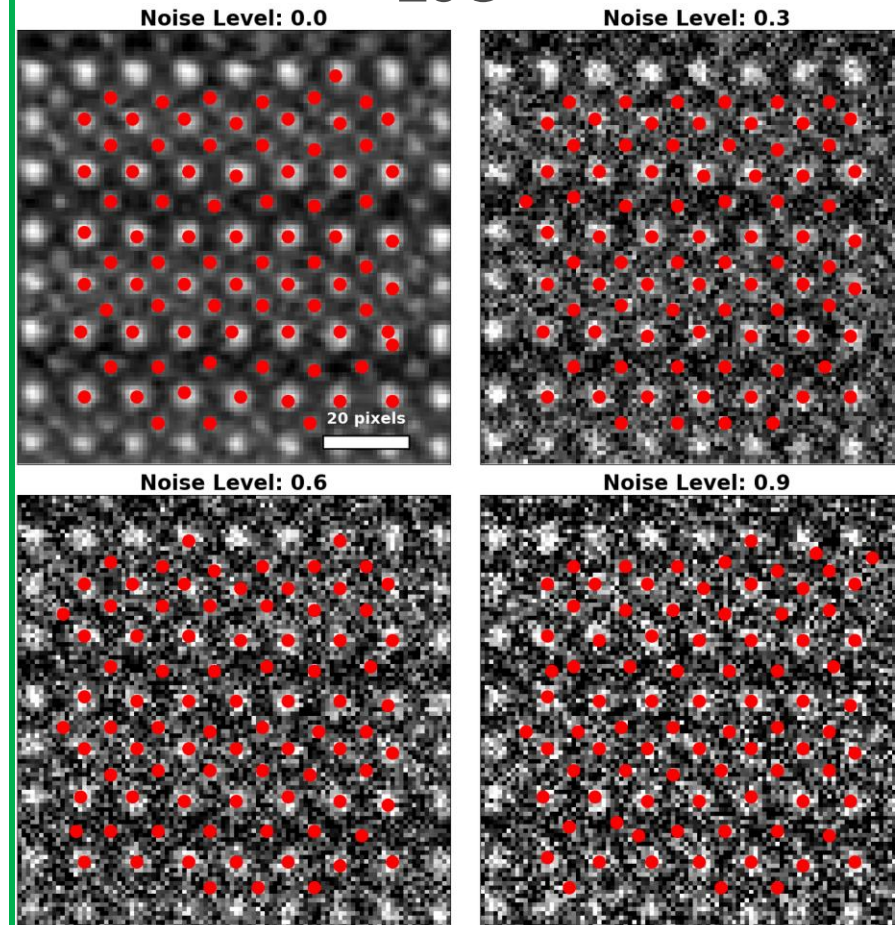
Stability vs Noise interference

DCNN



lack robustness to out-of-distribution shifts

LoG*

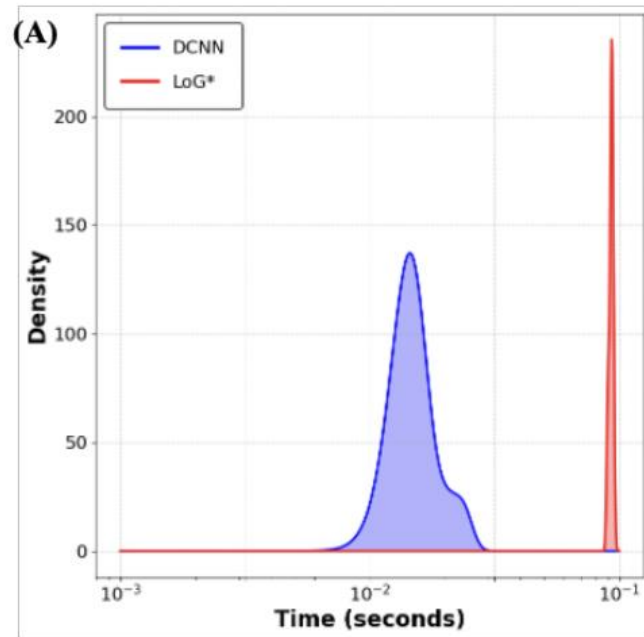


Rewards constraint false positive predictions

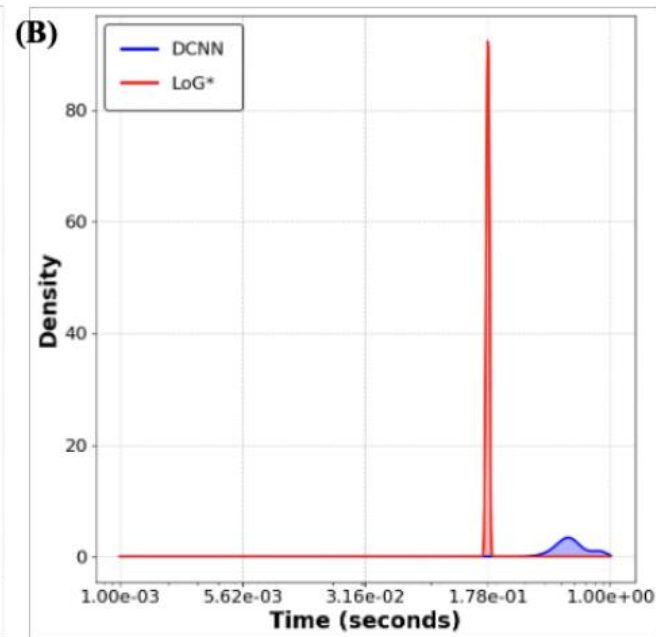


BENCHMARK VS DCNN

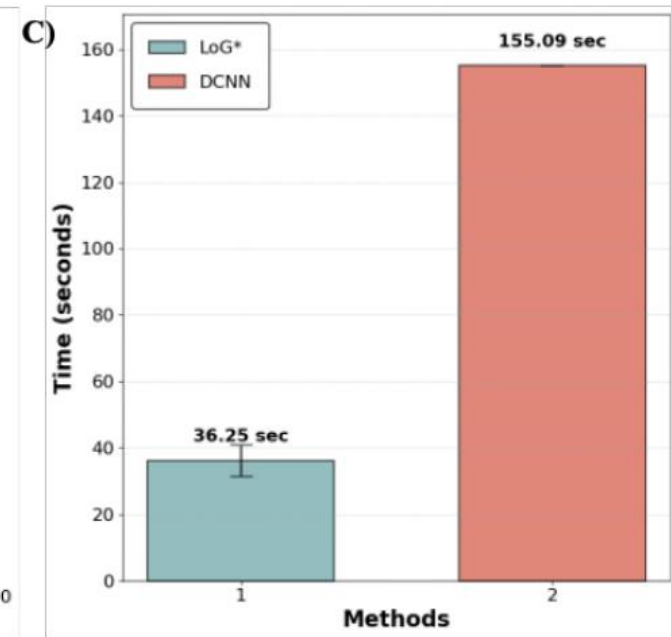
Time



(GPU)



(CPU)



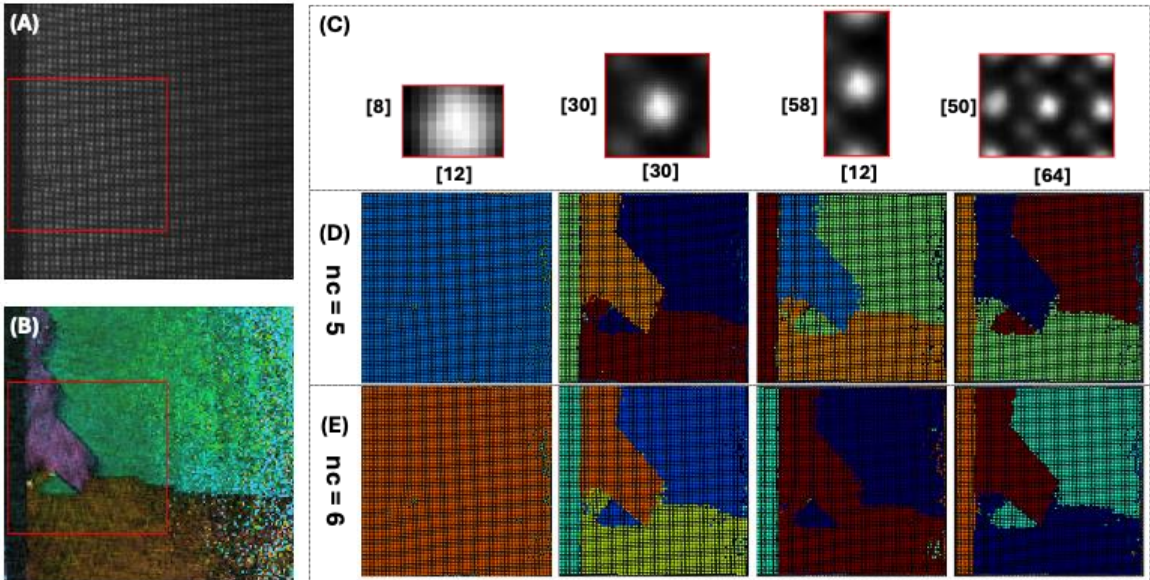
Optimization loop time vs training time

MODEL WORKFLOW

Sample: Sm-doped BiFeO₃ (BFO)

Experimental Goal: Discovery of polarization and lattice distortion

set Rewards	
Objective 1	Objective 2
Straightness	Length

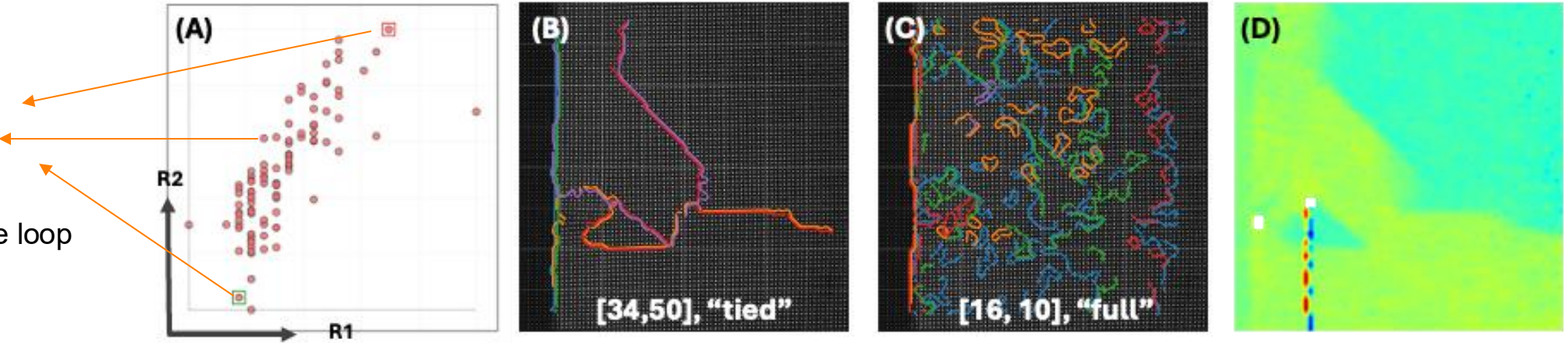


Parameter space: (3, 2)

W_w, W_h, COV_{type}

Control parameters:

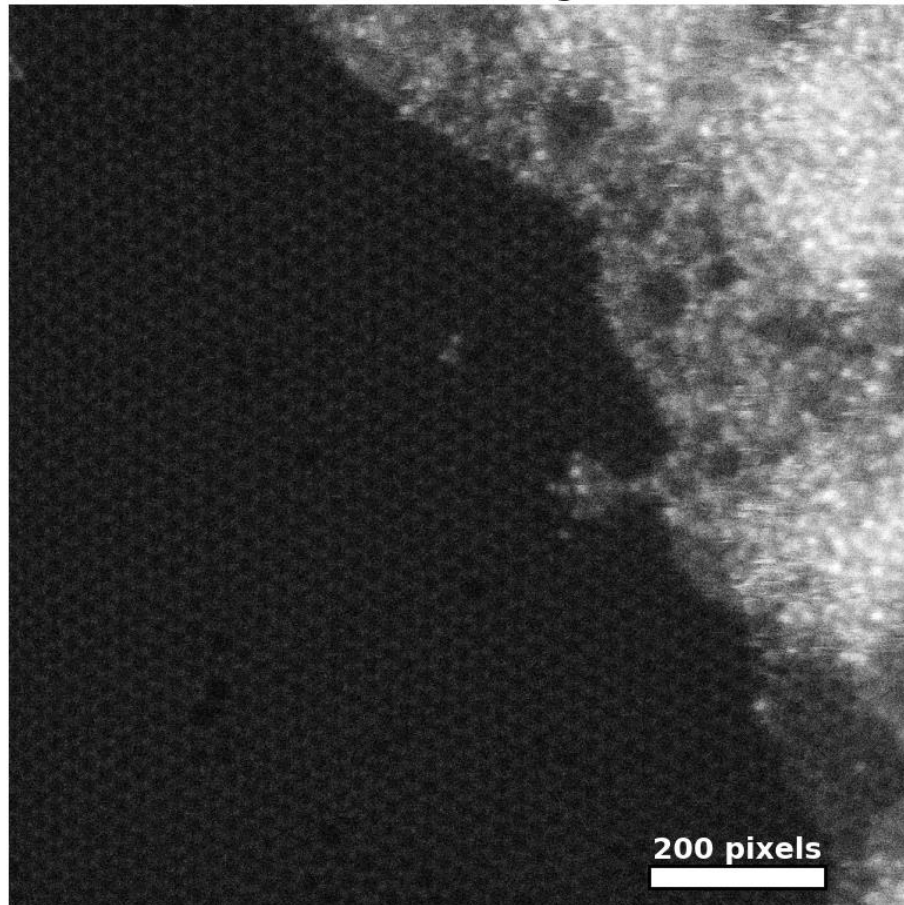
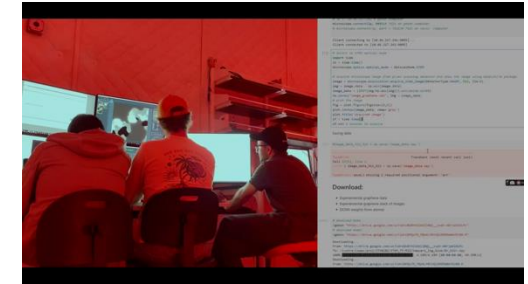
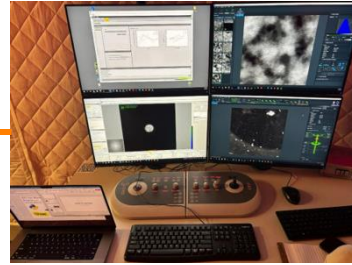
Keep **human** insight in the loop



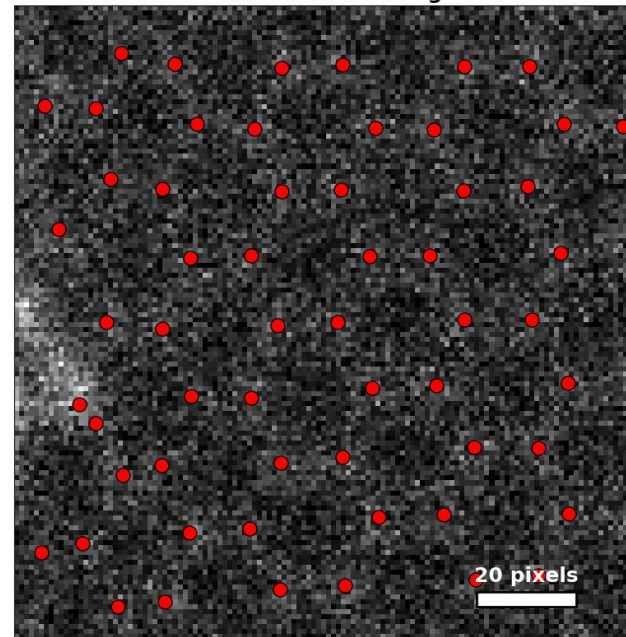
REAL TIME ANALYSIS

Spectra 300 by Thermofisher

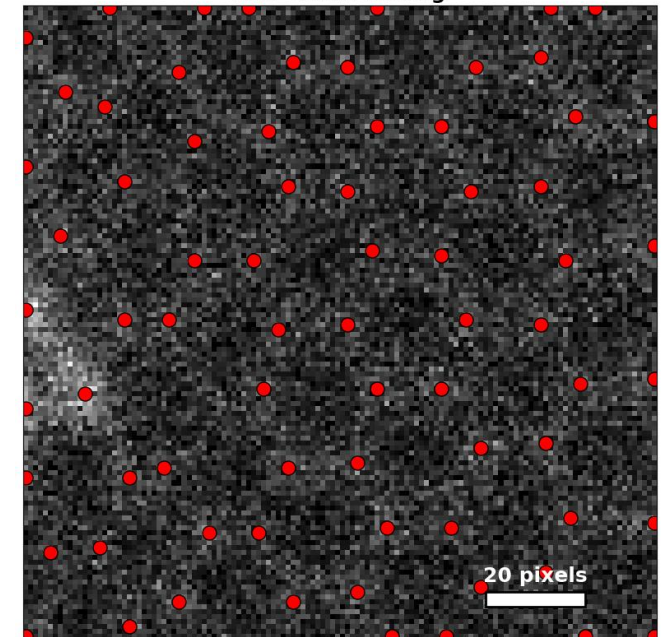
Real time image



DCNN atom finding



LoG* atom finding



GPU memory required: 5 GB
Number of Units: 1

Conclusion

- Reward Driven workflow which enables real time image analysis
- Hyperparameter tuning and optimization, keeping human insight in the loop
- Focus on physical and chemical concepts while doing the experiment

Questions?

Reference:

- [1] Barakati, Kamyar, et al. "Reward driven workflows for unsupervised explainable analysis of phases and ferroic variants from atomically resolved imaging data." *arXiv preprint arXiv:2411.12612* (2024).
- [2] Barakati, Kamyar, et al. "Unsupervised Reward-Driven Image Segmentation in Automated Scanning Transmission Electron Microscopy Experiments." *arXiv preprint arXiv:2409.12462* (2024).
- [3] Barakati, Kamyar, et al. "Physics-based reward driven image analysis in microscopy." *Digital Discovery* 3.10 (2024): 2061-2069.



Notebook