

# Selecting Patches, Matching Species:

*Shu Kong*

CS, ICS, UCI

# Selecting Patches, Matching Species: Fossil Pollen Identification ....

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# Selecting Patches, Matching Species: Fossil Pollen Identification by Spatially Aware Coding

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# Outline

1. Background
2. Strong baselines
3. Our framework
4. Exemplar selecting for discriminative dictionary
5. Spatially aware coding for matching
6. Implementation details
7. Experimental study
8. Conclusion

# Why pollen grains?

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- is one of the most ubiquitous of terrestrial fossils
- has an extraordinarily rich record
- has been used to test hypotheses and a diverse array of disciplines.

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such as...

- paleoecological and paleoclimatological investigation across hundreds to millions of years



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- paleoecological and paleoclimatological investigation across hundreds to millions of years
- implement the identification of plant speciation and extinction events
- calculate the correlation and biostratigraphic dating of rock sequences
- conduct studies of long-term anthropogenic impacts on plant communities and the study of plant-pollinator relationships

And...

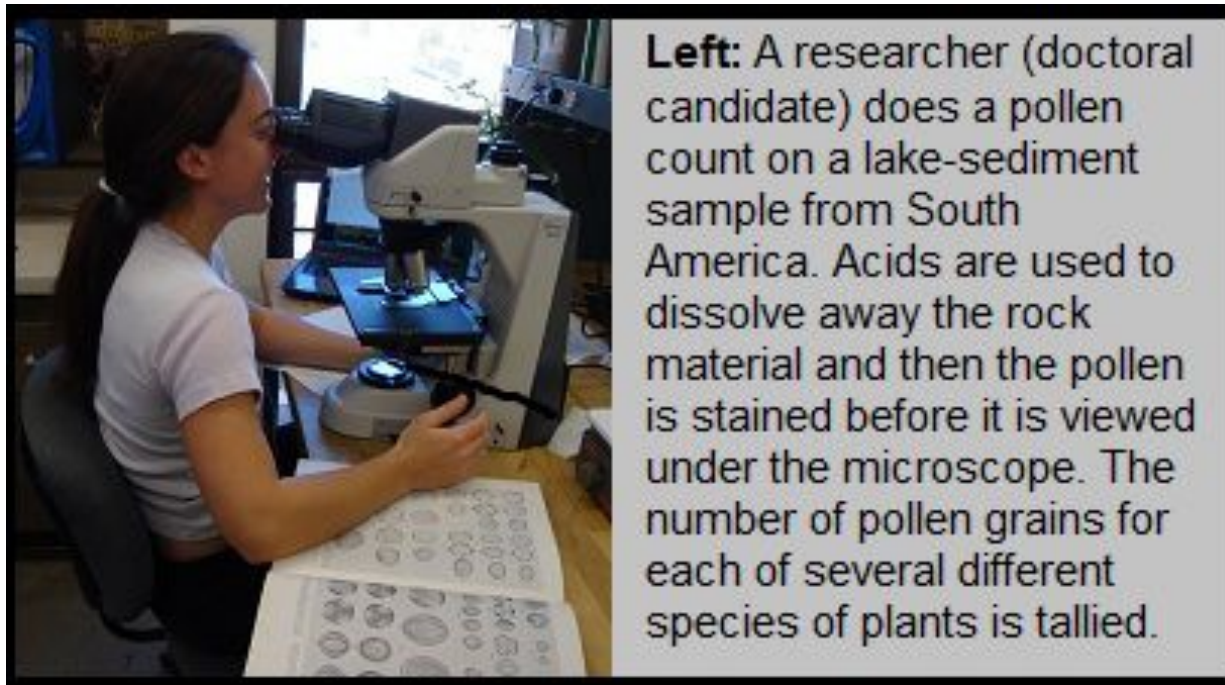
recognizing pollen grains **at species level** is significant to the reconstruction of paleoenvironments and discrimination of paleoecologically and apleoclimatically significant taxa

## And data?

high-throughput microscopic imaging allows for ready acquisition of large numbers of images of modern or fossilized pollen samples

But...

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Then...

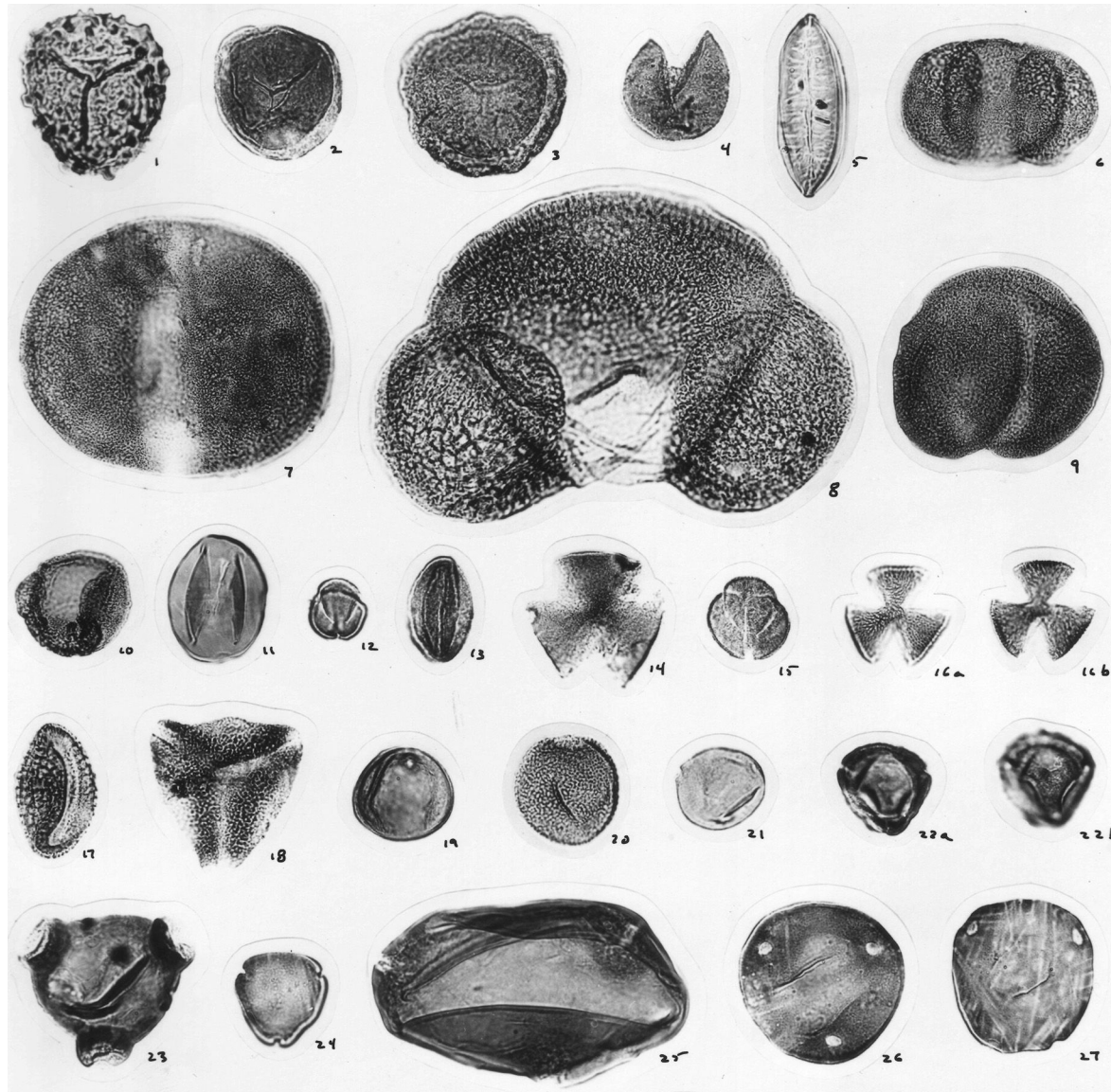
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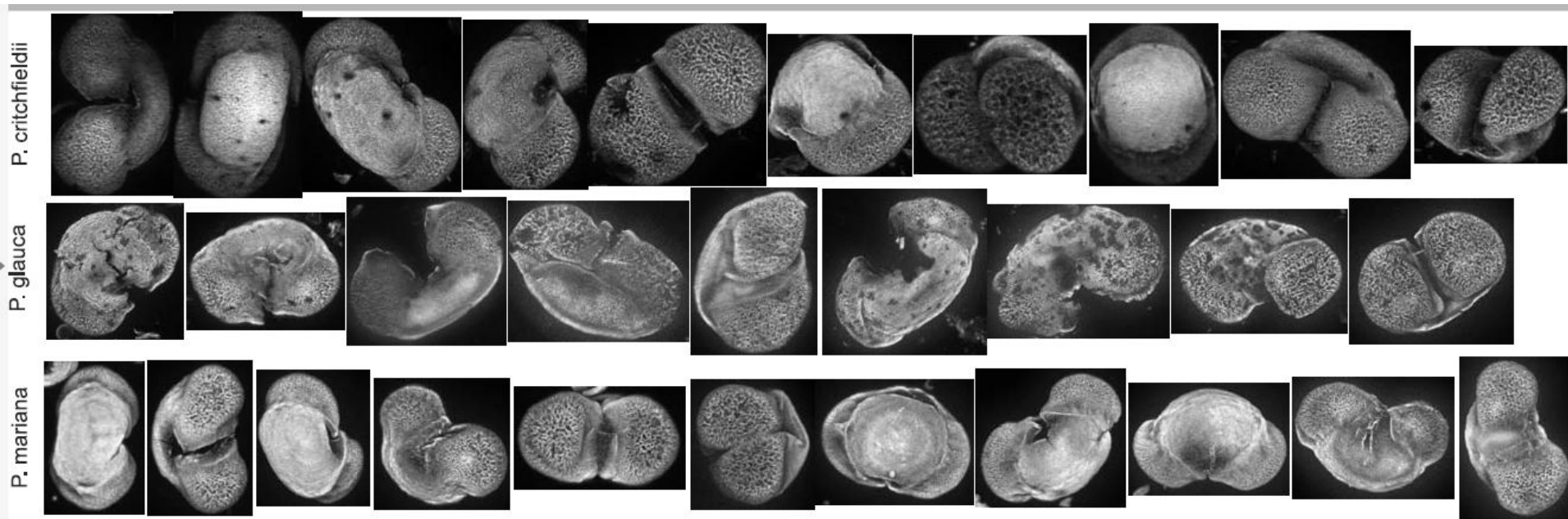
We don't want to do it by ourselves.

**We would like to automate through machine learning, computer vision, etc.**

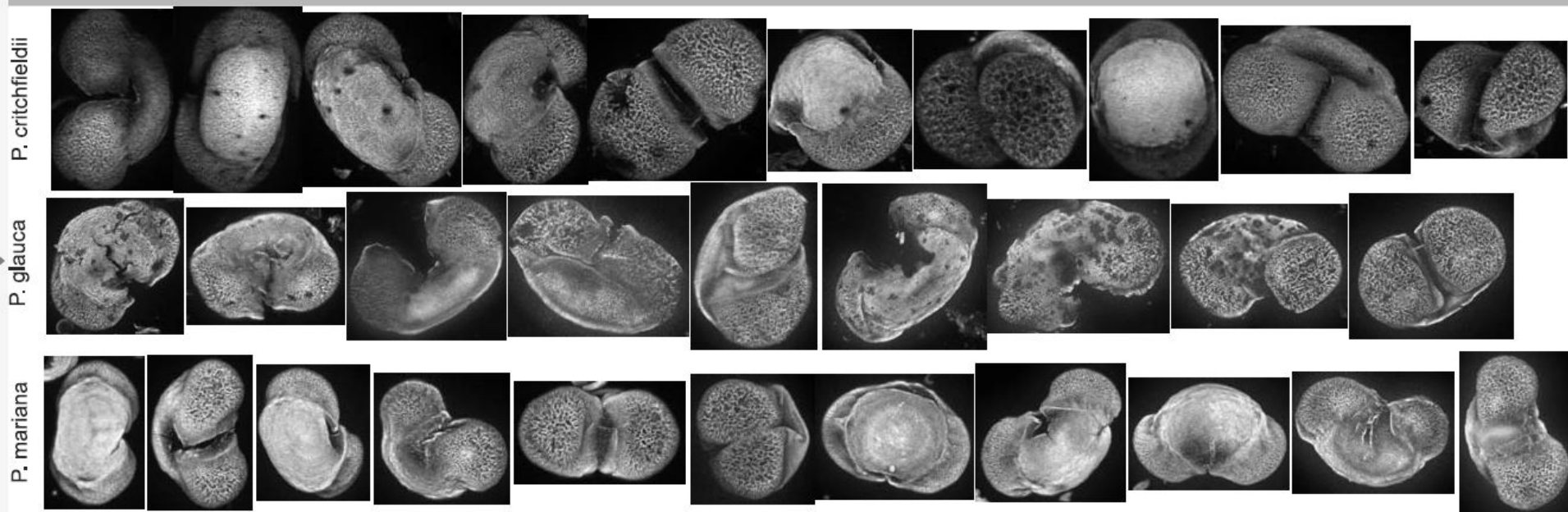
um.....



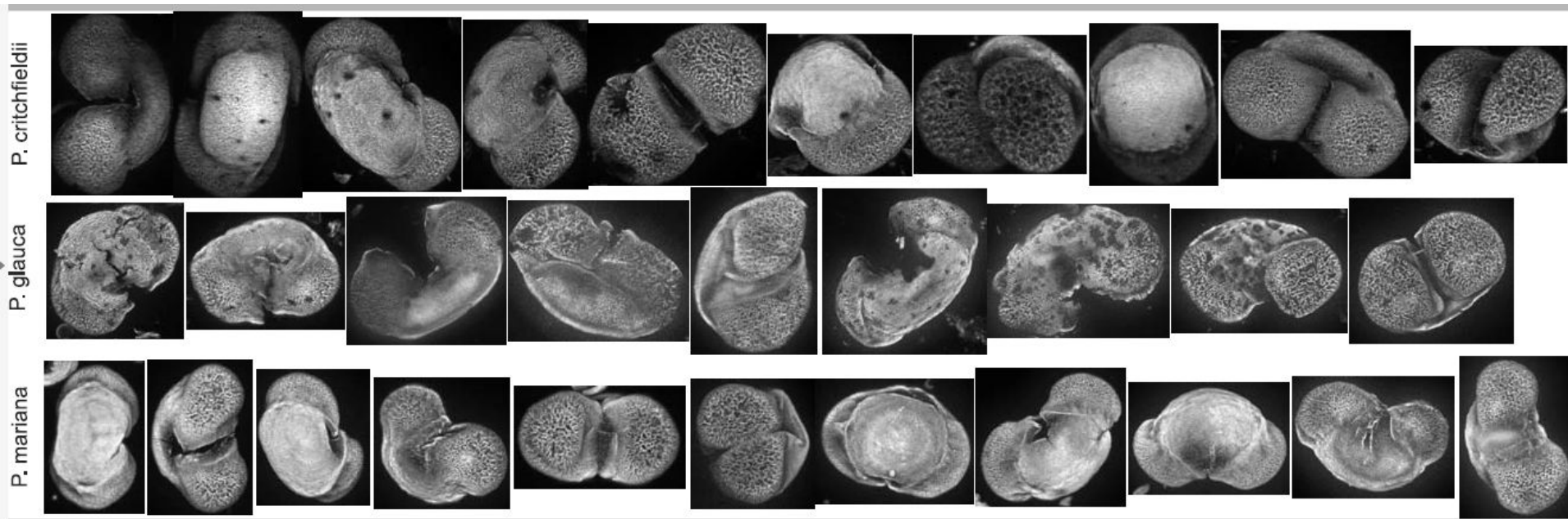
um.....



um...it's nontrivial



# nontrivial task



1. arbitrary viewpoint of  
the pollen grains imaged

# nontrivial task

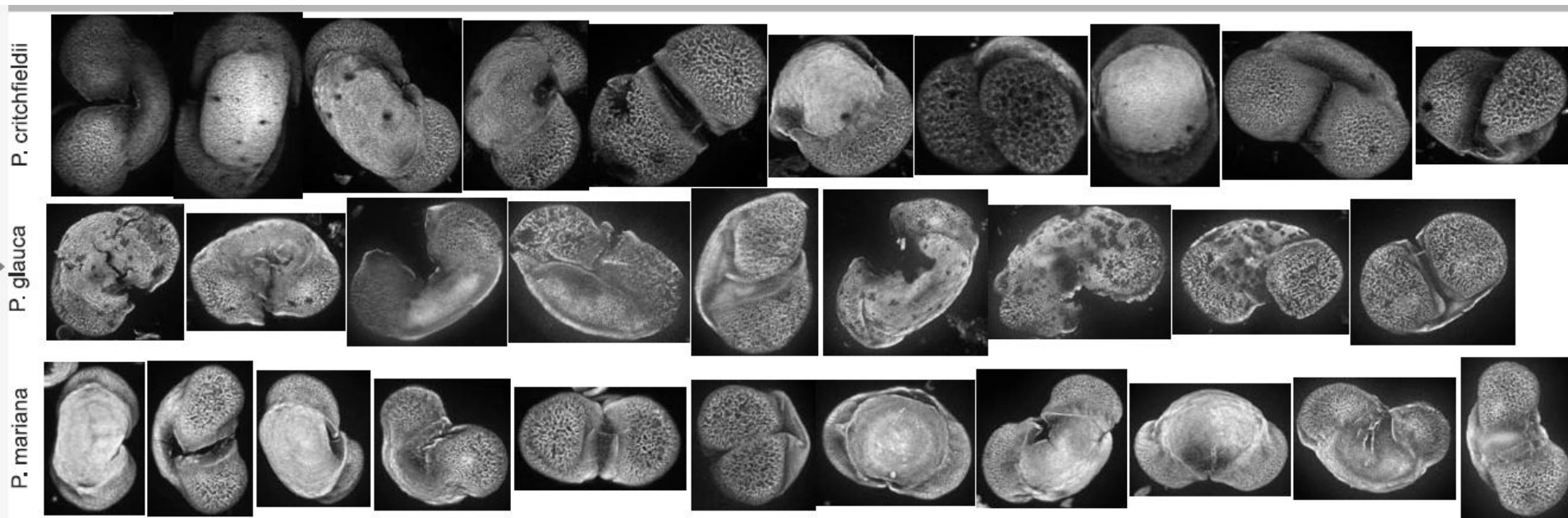


Table 1. Statistics of our fossil pollen grain dataset.

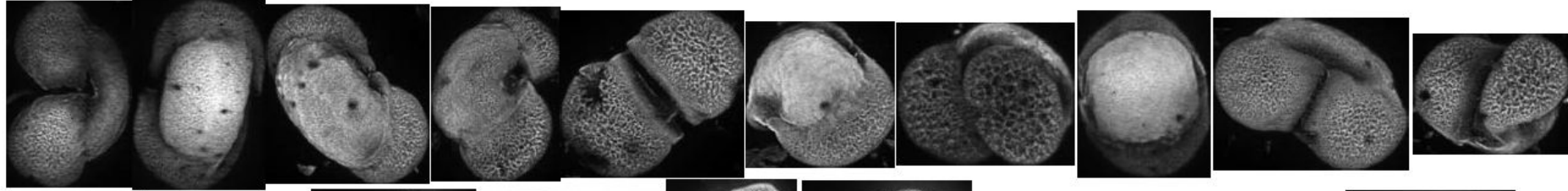
	#train	#test	#total
<i>P. critchfieldii</i>	65	43	108
<i>P. glauca</i>	65	355	420
<i>P. mariana</i>	65	287	352
Summary	195	685	880

1. arbitrary viewpoint of the pollen grains imaged
2. very limited amounts of expert-labeled training data

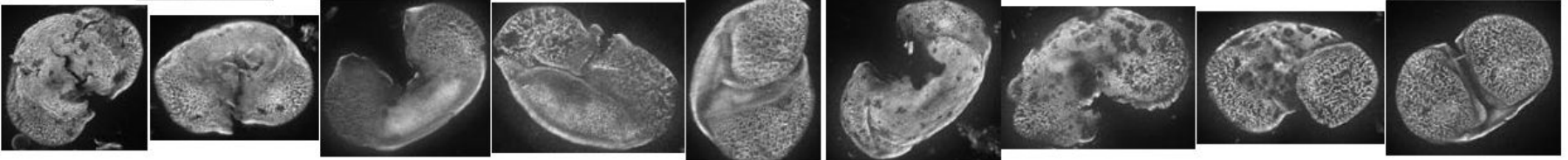


well, for arbitrary viewpoint

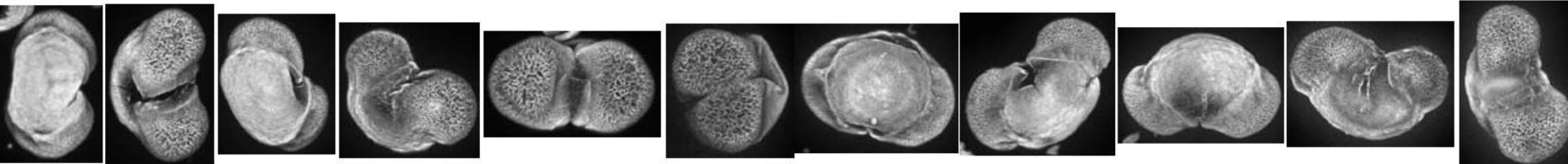
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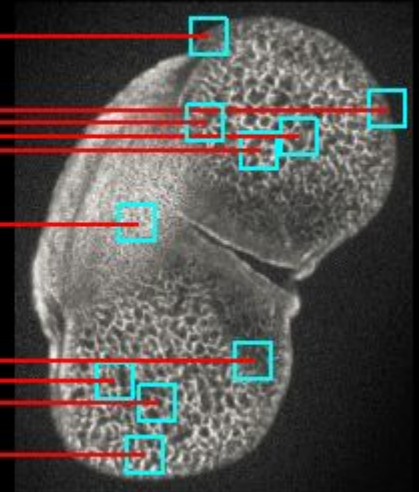
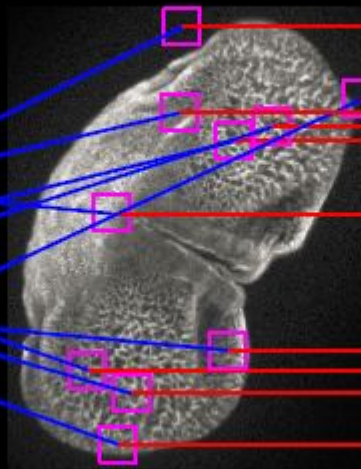
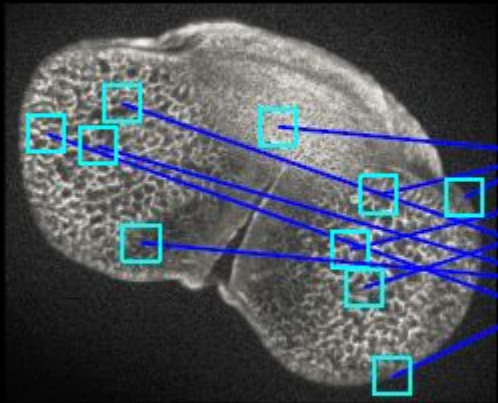
*P. glauca*



*P. mariana*



randomly matching patches

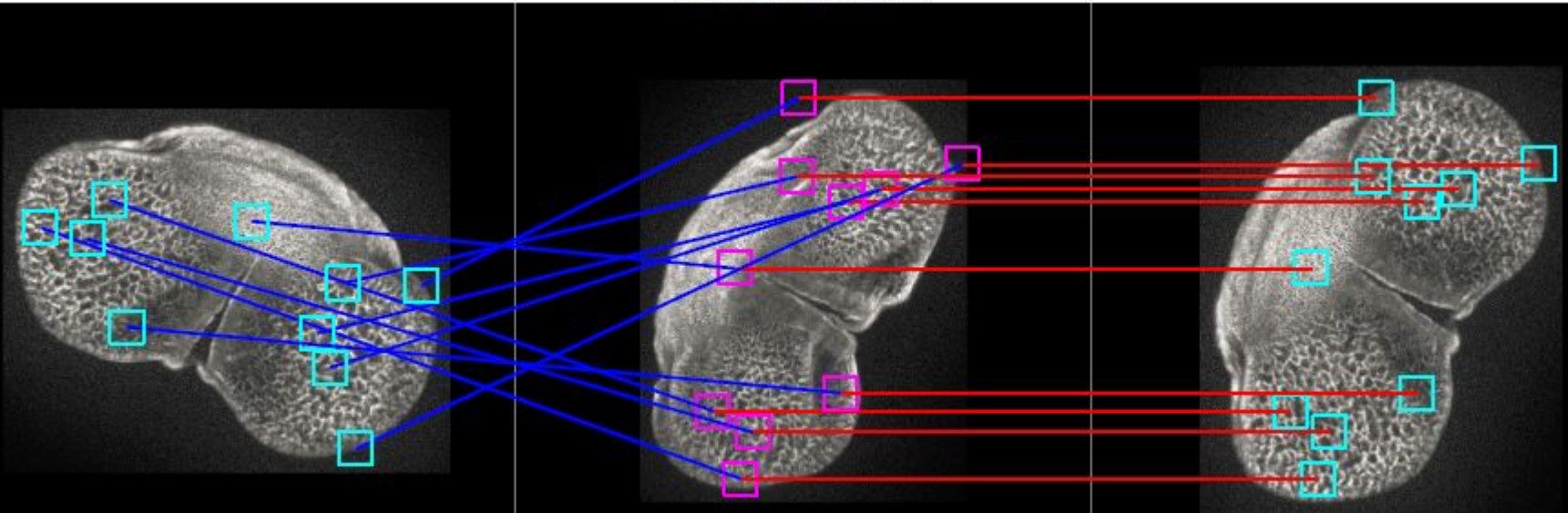


well, for arbitrary viewpoint

$$\min_{\theta} \|A - R_{\theta}(B)\|$$

where  $R_{\theta}(B)$  is an operator that rotates image  $B$  by  $\theta$  degrees.

randomly matching patches

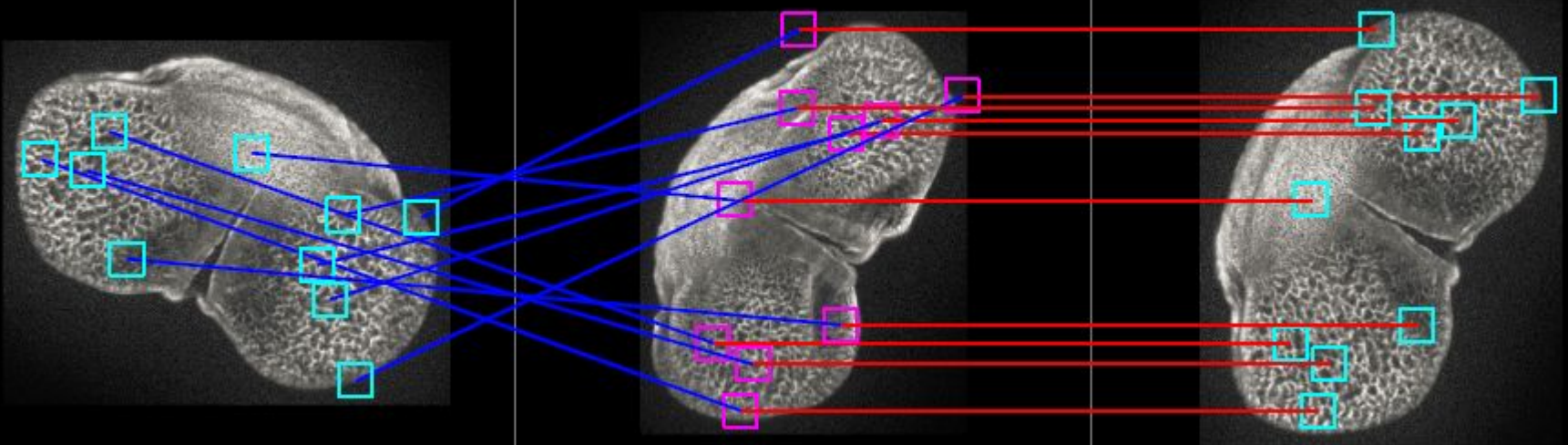




hey... let's find some canonical viewpoints

practical to align images according to canonical viewpoints

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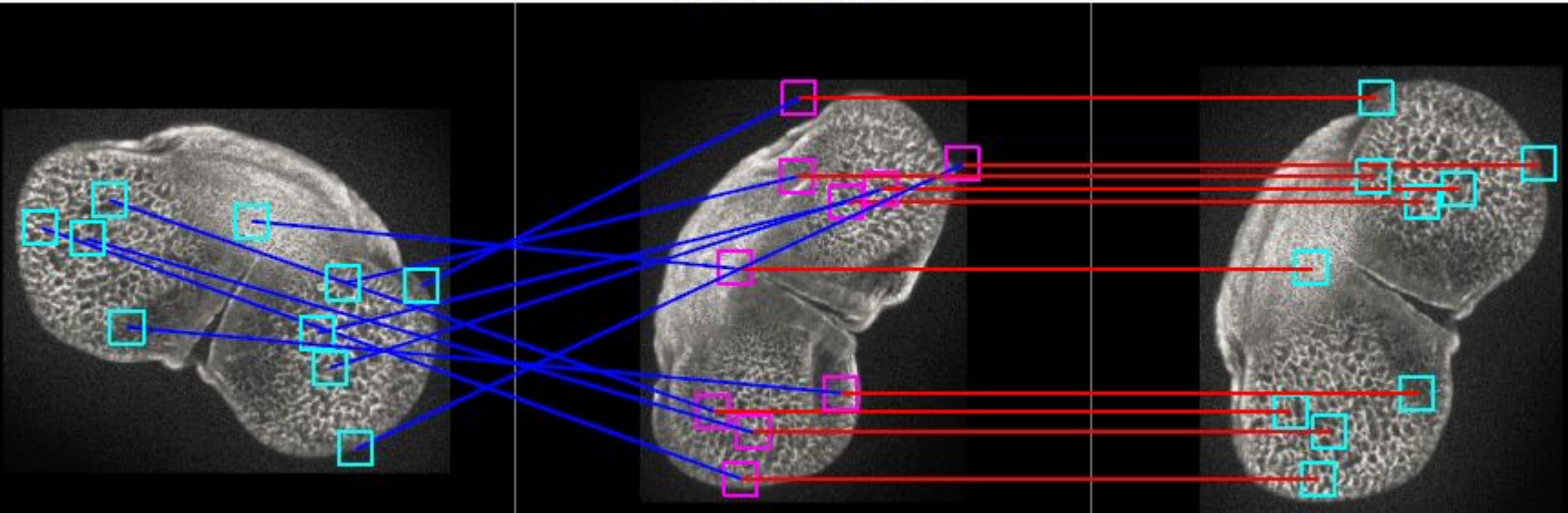
hey... let's find some canonical viewpoints

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perform k-medoids clustering on a similarity graph of training set

$$\text{similarity}(A, B) = \frac{1}{\min_{\theta} \|A - R_{\theta}(B)\|}$$

randomly matching patches



Here it is

resize images to 40x40 pixel resolution

bin 360 degrees, and also flip images

k-medoids

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$k$ -medoids

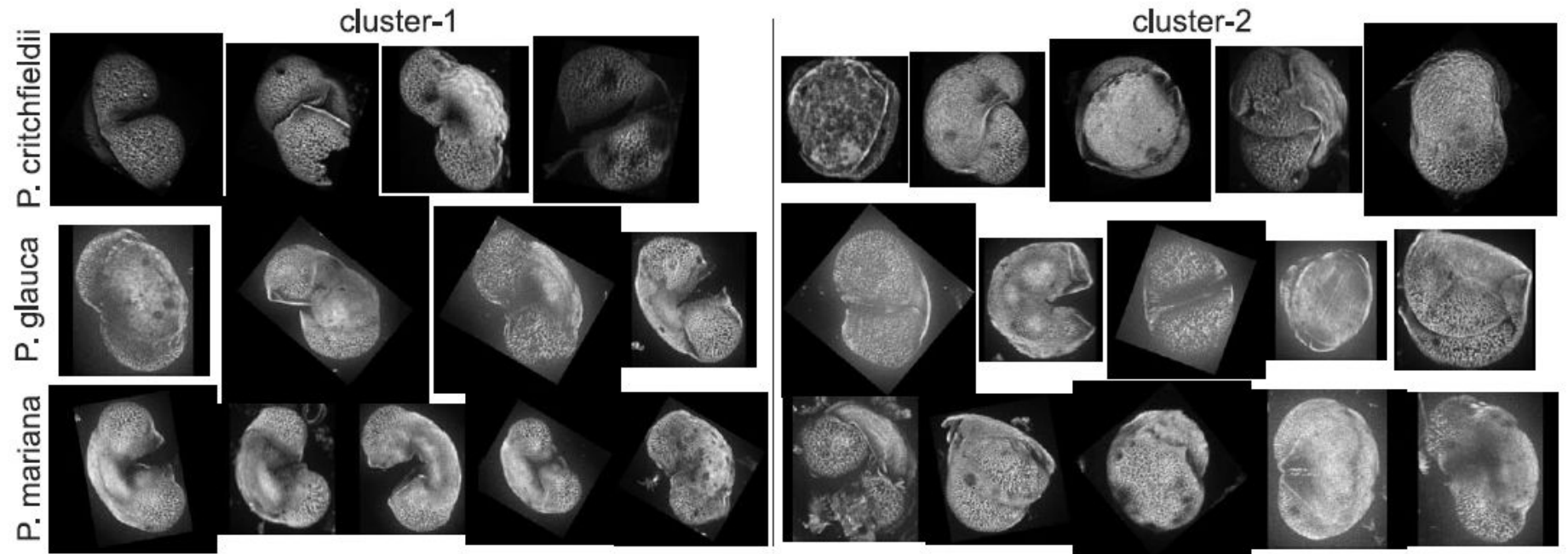


Figure 3. Rotated images according to two canonical viewpoints determined by  $k$ -medoids clustering.



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once in-plate rotation is removed, better performance is observed

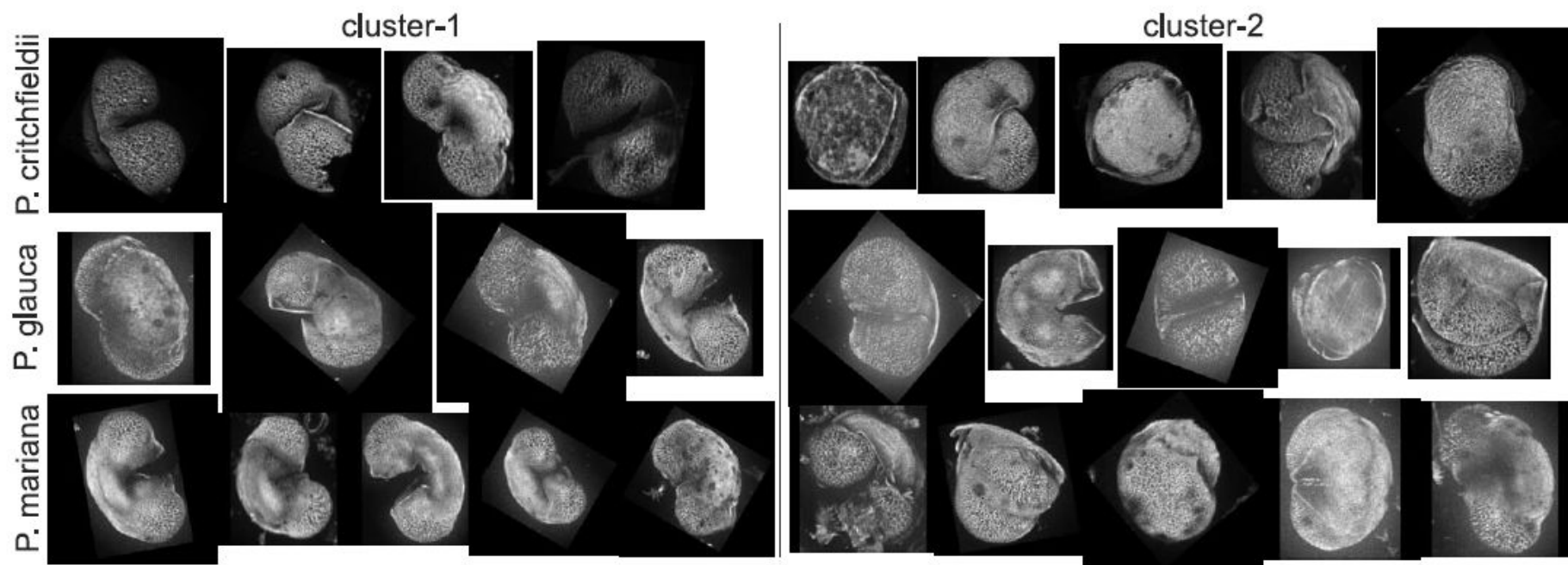


Figure 3. Rotated images according to two canonical viewpoints determined by  $k$ -medoids clustering.

# Baseline methods

1. SRC
2. VGG19+FV+SVM
3. VGG19+SVM

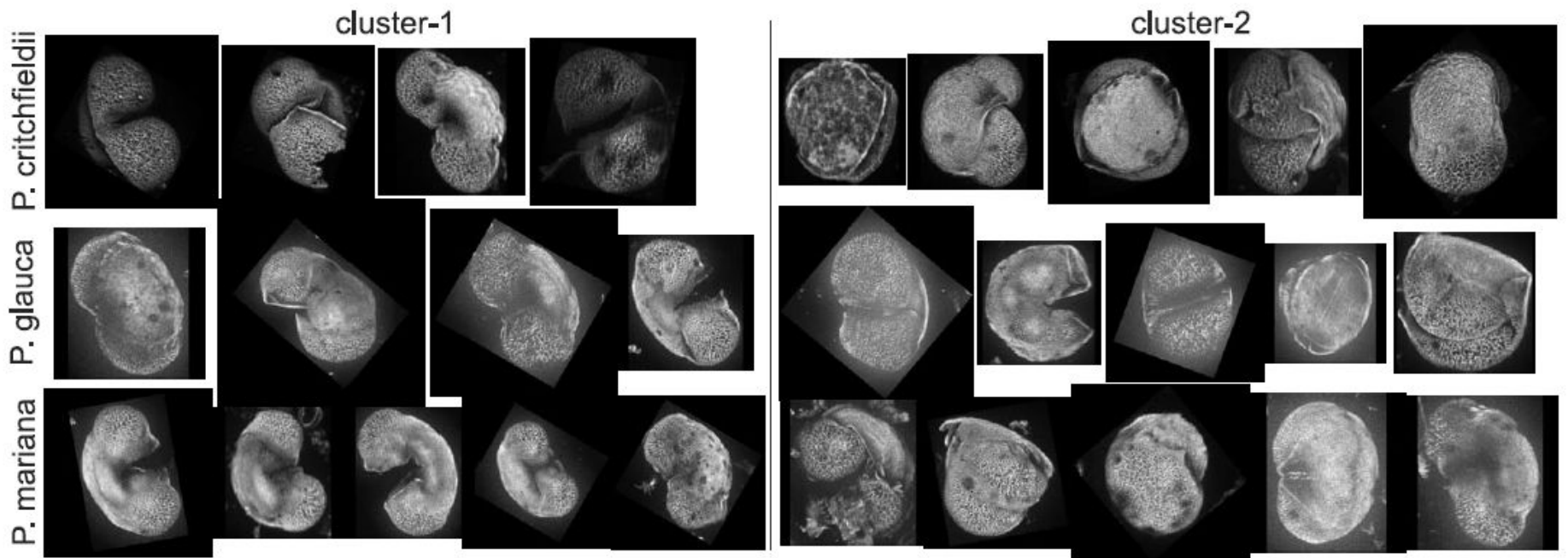


Figure 3. Rotated images according to two canonical viewpoints determined by  $k$ -medoids clustering.

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SRC	VGG19+SVM	FV+SVM
62.04	65.11	61.46

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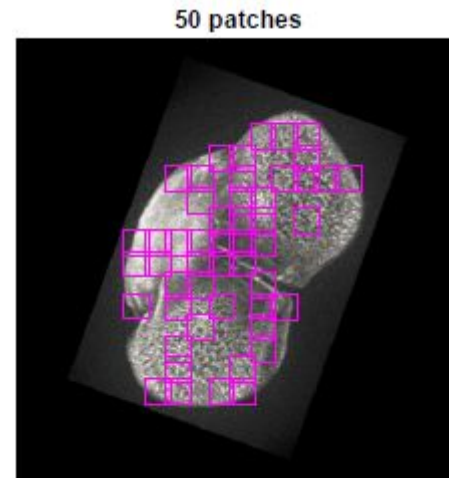
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SRC uses patches from training set as dictionary. It sums the reconstruction error for testing patches, and also exploits the spatial information of the patches.





happy with it?

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- random patches without spatial information: 57.12%
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- **besides, global pooling+SVM: 77.62%**

# Our robust framework

1. Well-selected patches as dictionary perform better than random patches.

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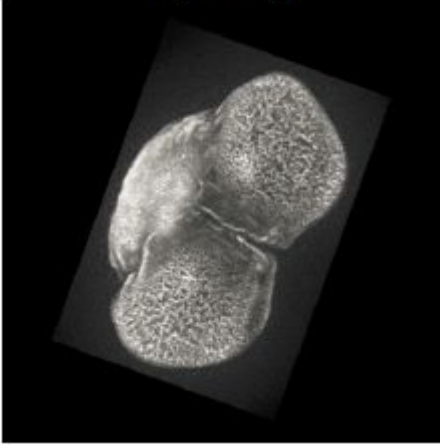
1. Well-selected patches as dictionary perform better than random patches. --> **exemplar selection**
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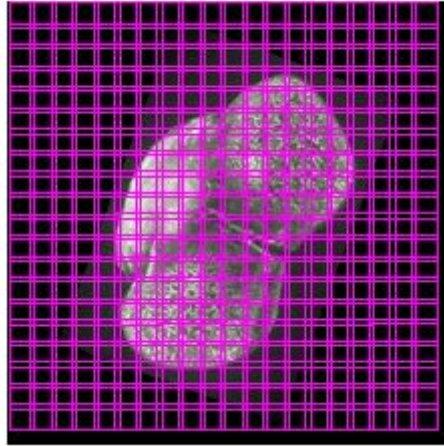
1. Well-selected patches as dictionary perform better than random patches. --> **exemplar selection**
2. incorporating spatial information of the patches -> **spatially aware coding**
3. pooling+SVM is better than reconstruction-based scheme

# Exemplar Selection

original image



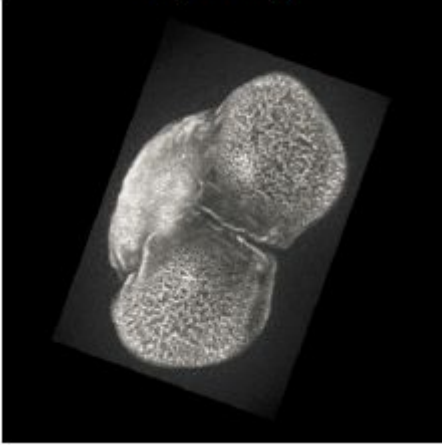
dense patches



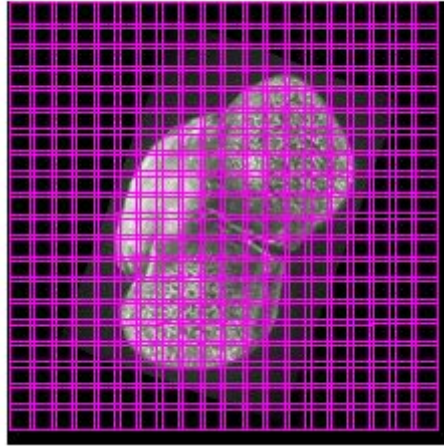


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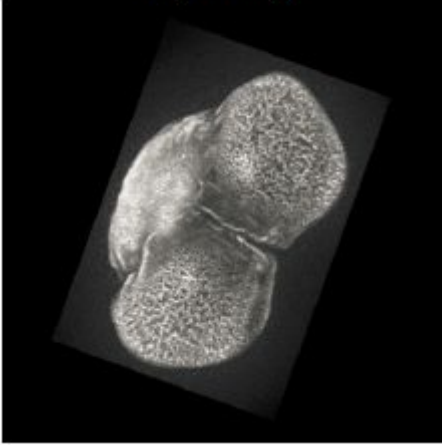


shape mask

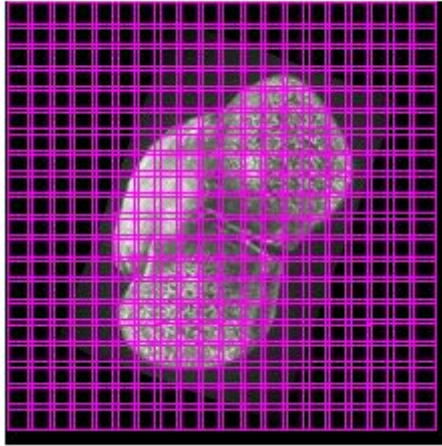


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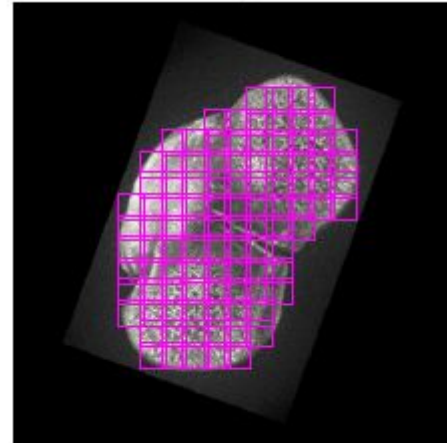
dense patches



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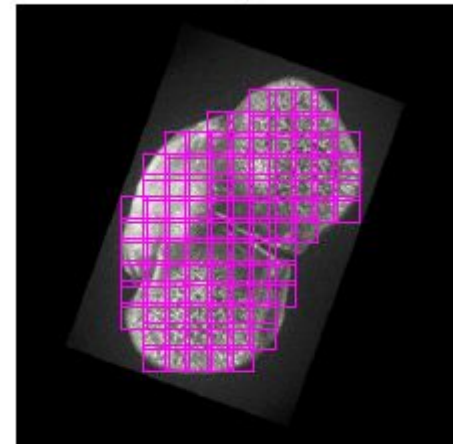
selective patches



# Exemplar Selection

From a finite set of patches,  $\mathcal{V}$ , we'd like to select  $M$  patches

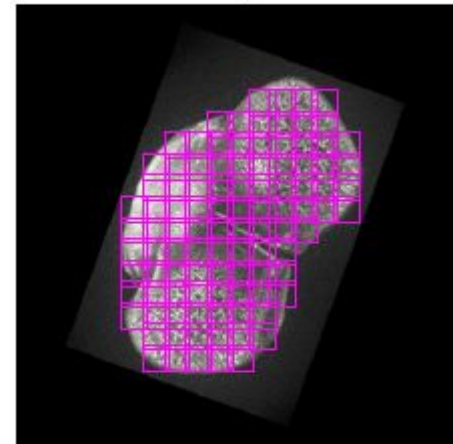
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selective patches

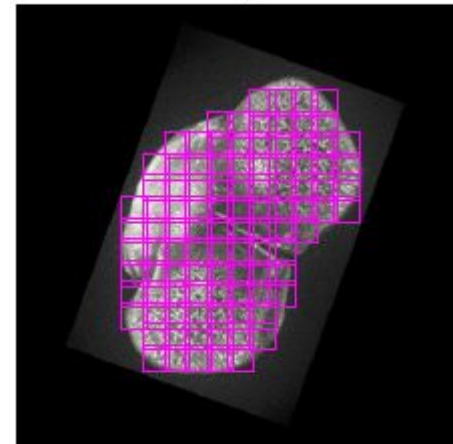


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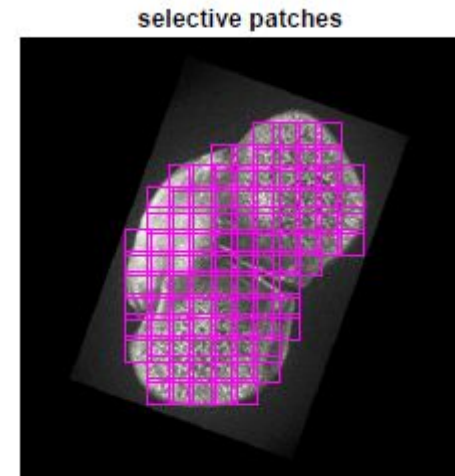
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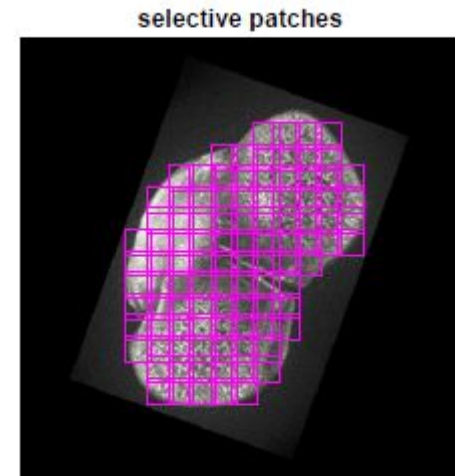
1. Representative in feature space
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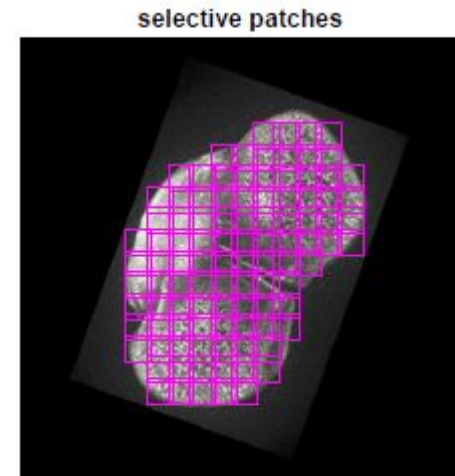
1. Representative in feature space
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3. Discriminative power
4. Class balance

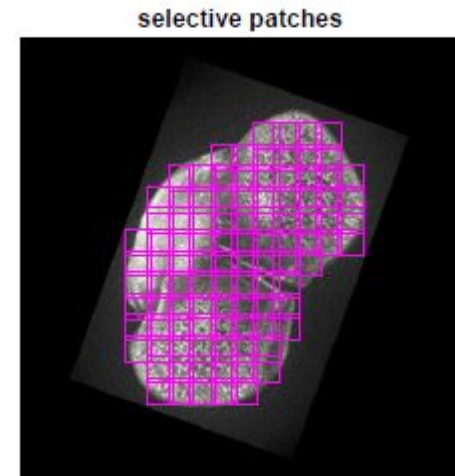




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5. Cluster compactness

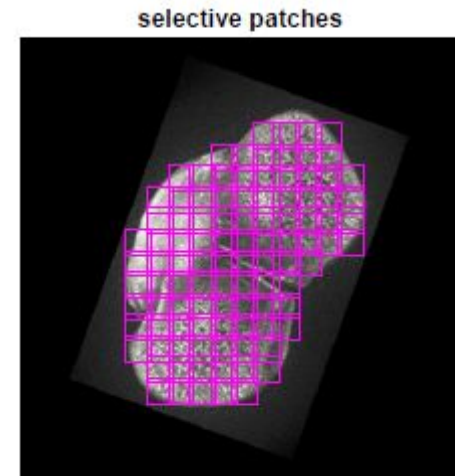


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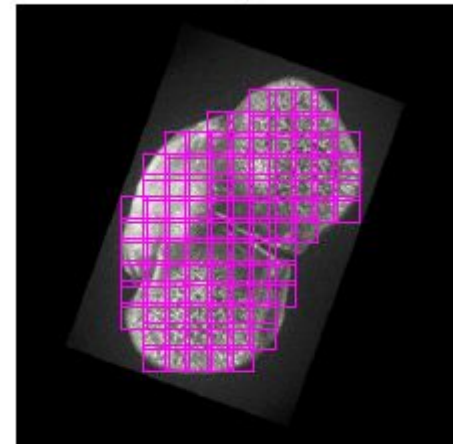
We index the selected patches by  $\mathcal{A}$



# Exemplar Selection -- Rule 1

Representative in feature space

selective patches

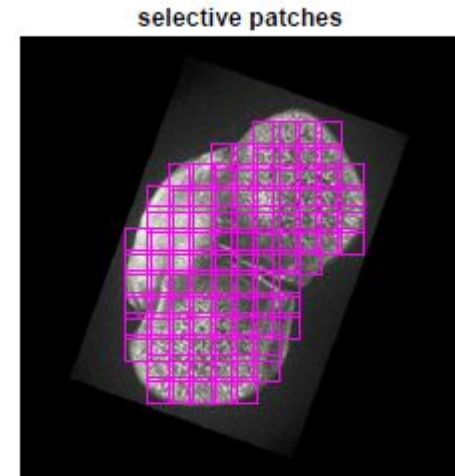


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$\mathbf{S} \in \mathbb{R}^{M \times M}$  where  $\mathbf{S}_{ij}$  is the similarity (a non-negative value) between patch  $i$  and patch  $j$ . Our aim is to select a subset  $A \subseteq \mathcal{V}$  consisting of patches that are representative in the sense that every patch in  $\mathcal{V}$  is similar to some patch in the set  $A$ . We define the score of a set exemplars  $A$  as:

$$\mathcal{F}_R(A) = \sum_{j \in \mathcal{V}} \max_{i \in A} \mathbf{S}_{ij}, \quad (1)$$



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Maximizing the following set function is NP-hard.

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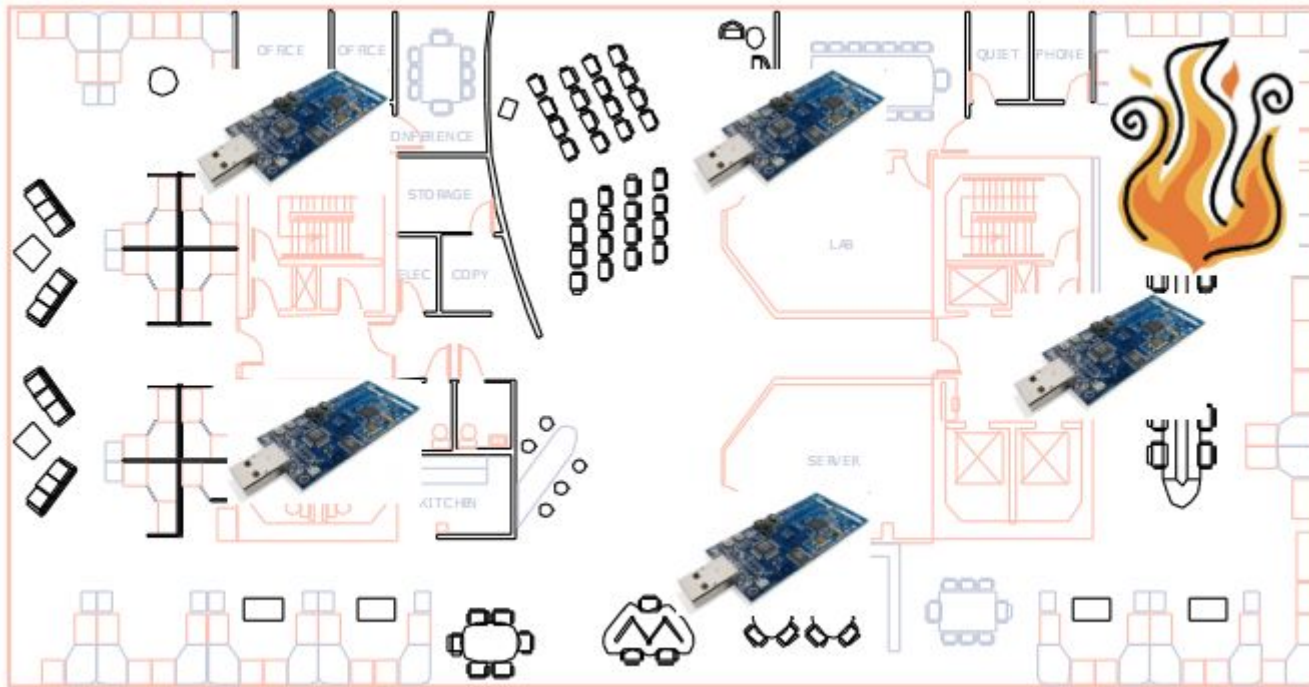
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A more general, well-known problem is the facility location problem, placing sensors to monitor temperature.



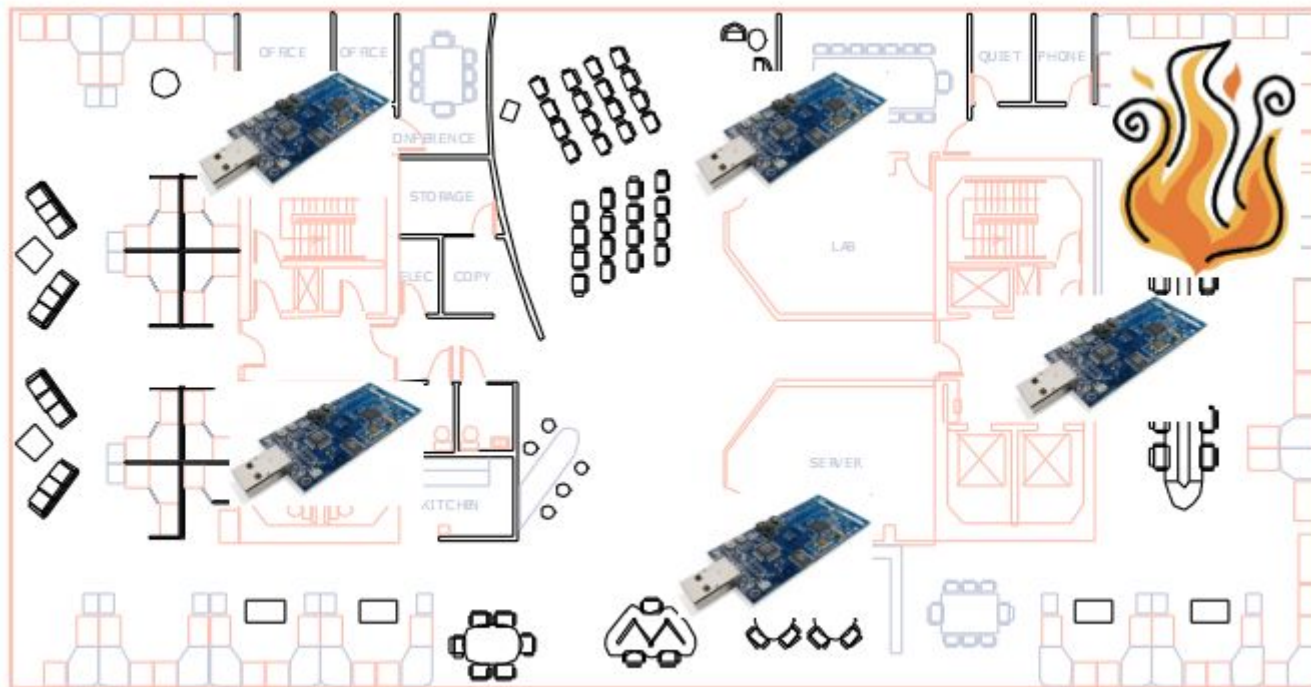
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facility location problem

$$A^* = \max_A \left\{ \mathcal{F}(A) \equiv \sum_{j \in \mathcal{V}} \max_{i \in A} \mathbf{S}_{ij} - \sum_{i \in A} c_i \right\}$$

maximizing the above is NP-hard.





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Good property, the function is

1. monotonically increasing,  $\mathcal{F}(A) \leq \mathcal{F}(B)$  for all  $A \subseteq B$ .

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Good property, the function is

1. monotonically increasing,  $\mathcal{F}(A) \leq \mathcal{F}(B)$  for all  $A \subseteq B$ .
2. submodular, or diminishing return property

$\mathcal{F}(A \cup a) - \mathcal{F}(A) \geq \mathcal{F}(A \cup \{a, b\}) - \mathcal{F}(A \cup b)$ , for all  $A \subseteq \mathcal{V}$  and  $a, b \in \mathcal{V}/A$ .

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# To be greedy is good

The two properties make a greedy algorithm give a near-optimal solution with  $(1-1/e)$ -approximation bound.

---

**Algorithm 1** Greedy Selection Algorithm

---

**Input:**  $\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{F}, K$

**Output:** a subset  $A$  with  $|A| \leq K$

initialize  $A = \emptyset, k = 0$

**while**  $k \leq K$  **do**

**for all**  $i \in \mathcal{V}/A$  **do**

    compute  $\Delta(i) = \mathcal{F}(A \cup \{i\}) - \mathcal{F}(A)$

**end for**

$i^* = \arg \max_{i \in \mathcal{V}/A} \Delta(i)$

**if**  $\Delta(i^*) < 0$  **then**

**return**  $A$

**else**

$A = A \cup \{i^*\}$

$k = k + 1$

**end if**

**end while**

**return**  $A$

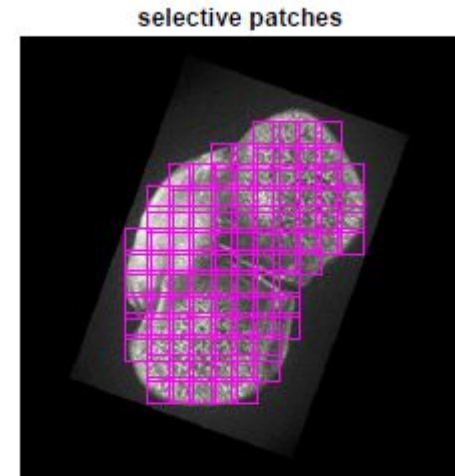
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# Exemplar Selection -- Rule 1

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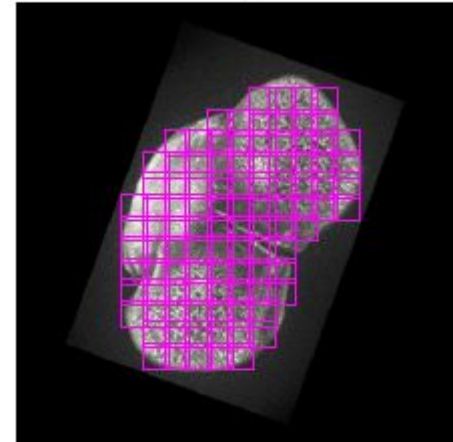


# Exemplar Selection -- Rule 2

Spatially distributed in input space

$$\mathcal{F}_S(A) = \sum_{j \in \mathcal{V}} \max_{i \in A} \mathbf{L}_{ij}$$

selective patches



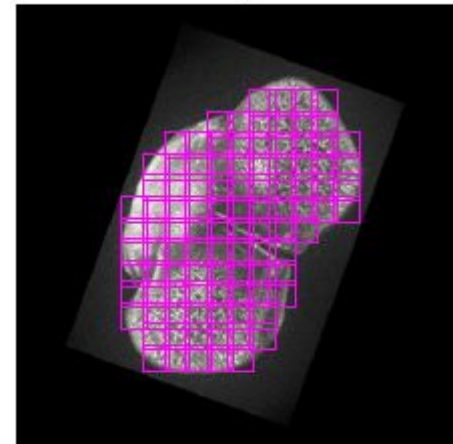
# Exemplar Selection -- Rule 3

## Discriminative power

$$\mathcal{F}_D(A) = \sum_{i \in A} \frac{\max_c N_c^i}{\sum_c N_c^i} - |A|, \quad (5)$$

where  $N_c^i$  is the number of exemplars from the  $c^{th}$  class that are assigned to the  $i^{th}$  cluster. As shown in [10], Eq. 5 is also a monotonically increasing submodular function.

selective patches





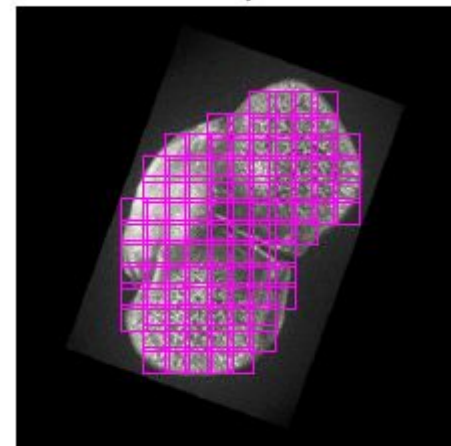
# Exemplar Selection -- Rule 4

**Class balance:** We further adopt the balancing term introduced in [11] to balance the number of exemplars belonging to different classes:

$$\mathcal{F}_B(A) = \sum_c \log(|A_c| + 1) \quad (6)$$

where  $A_c$  is the subset of exemplars in  $A$  belonging to class  $c$ . The proof can be found in [11] that the above term is monotonically increasing and a submodular function.

selective patches



# Exemplar Selection -- Rule 5

## Cluster compactness

$$\mathcal{F}_C(A) = - \sum_{i \in A} p(i) \log(p(i)) - |A| \quad (7)$$

where  $p(i) = \frac{|C_i|}{|\mathcal{V}|}$  is the prior probability of a patch belonging to the  $i^{th}$  exemplar cluster. This is a monotonically increasing submodular function as shown in [18].

## Exemplar Selection -- Objective

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{F}(A) \equiv & \sum_{j=1}^M \max_{i \in A} \mathbf{S}_{ij} + \lambda_S \sum_{j=1}^M \max_{i \in A} \mathbf{L}_{ij} \\ & + \lambda_D \left( \sum_{i \in A} \frac{\max_c N_c^i}{\sum_c N_c^i} - |A| \right) \\ & + \lambda_B \sum_c \log(|A_c| + 1) \\ & + \lambda_C \left( - \sum_{i \in A} p(i) \log(p(i)) - |A| \right)\end{aligned}\tag{8}$$

where  $\{\lambda_S, \lambda_D, \lambda_B, \lambda_C\}$  are hyperparameters that weigh the relative contribution of each term. We note that  $\mathcal{F}(\emptyset) = 0$ . As each term is a monotonically increasing submodular function, our objective summing up all the five terms is also a monotonically increasing submodular function. There-

# Exemplar Selection -- be greedy

There-

fore

---

**Algorithm 1** Greedy Selection Algorithm

---

**Input:**  $\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{F}, K$

**Output:** a subset  $A$  with  $|A| \leq K$

initialize  $A = \emptyset, k = 0$

**while**  $k \leq K$  **do**

**for all**  $i \in \mathcal{V}/A$  **do**

    compute  $\Delta(i) = \mathcal{F}(A \cup \{i\}) - \mathcal{F}(A)$

**end for**

$i^* = \arg \max_{i \in \mathcal{V}/A} \Delta(i)$

**if**  $\Delta(i^*) < 0$  **then**

**return**  $A$

**else**

$A = A \cup \{i^*\}$

$k = k + 1$

**end if**

**end while**

**return**  $A$

---

# Exemplar Selection -- be greedy and lazy

a lazy greed algorithm

---

**Algorithm 2** Lazy Greedy Selection Algorithm

---

**Input:**  $\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{F}, K$

**Output:** a subset  $A$  with  $|A| \leq K$

initialize  $A = \emptyset$ , iteration  $k = 0$

for all  $i \in \mathcal{V}$ , compute  $\Delta(i) = \mathcal{F}(\{i\})$

**while**  $k \leq K$  **do**

$i^* = \arg \max_{i \in \mathcal{V}/A} \Delta(i)$

    compute  $\Delta(i^*) = \mathcal{F}(A \cup \{i^*\}) - \mathcal{F}(A)$

**if**  $\Delta(i^*) \geq \max_{i \in \mathcal{V}/A} \Delta(i)$  **then**

**if**  $\Delta(i^*) < 0$  **then**

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**else**

$A = A \cup \{i^*\}$

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**end if**

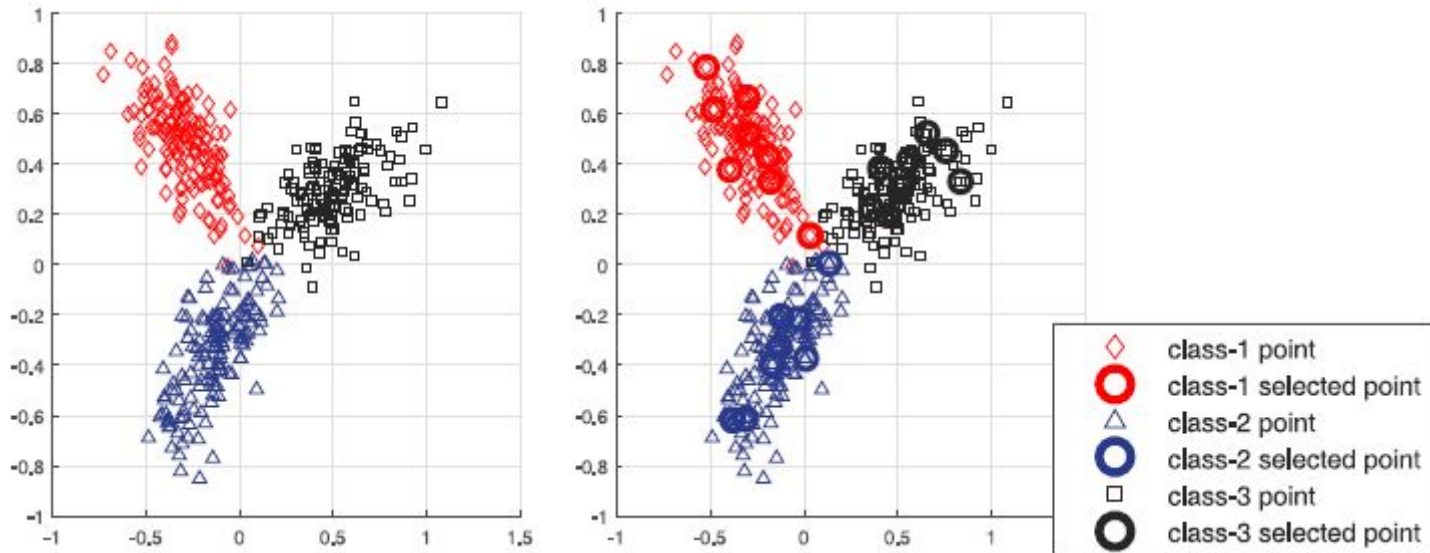
**end if**

**end while**

---

# Exemplar selection -- toy data

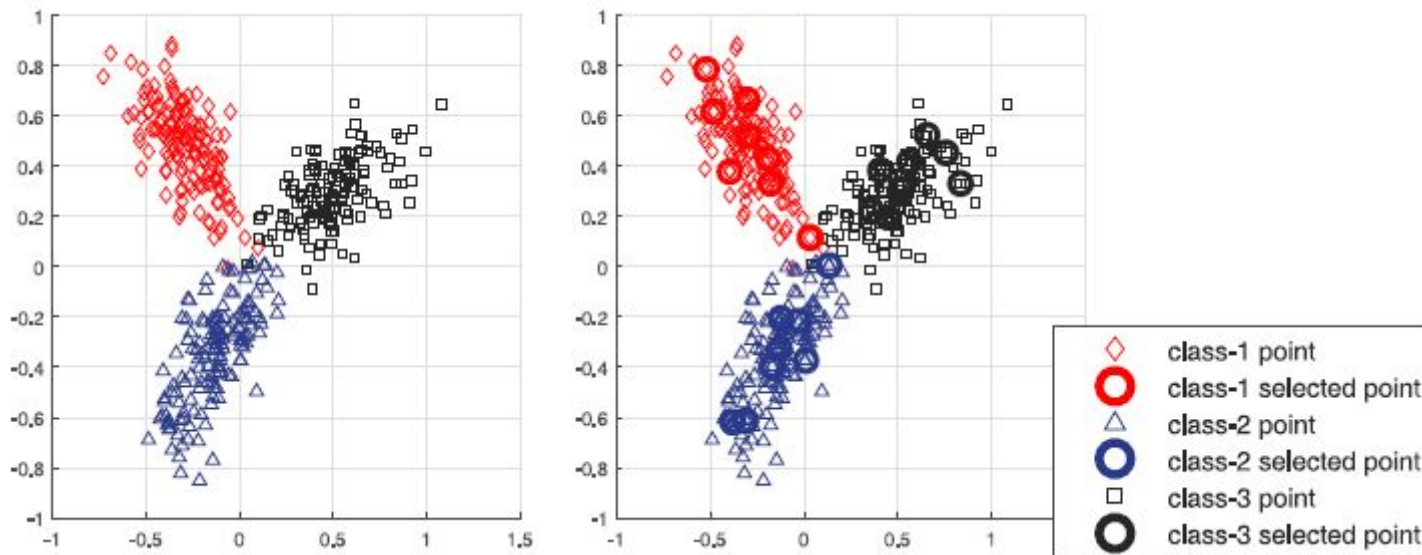
2D data simplify it by merging features and physical coordinates





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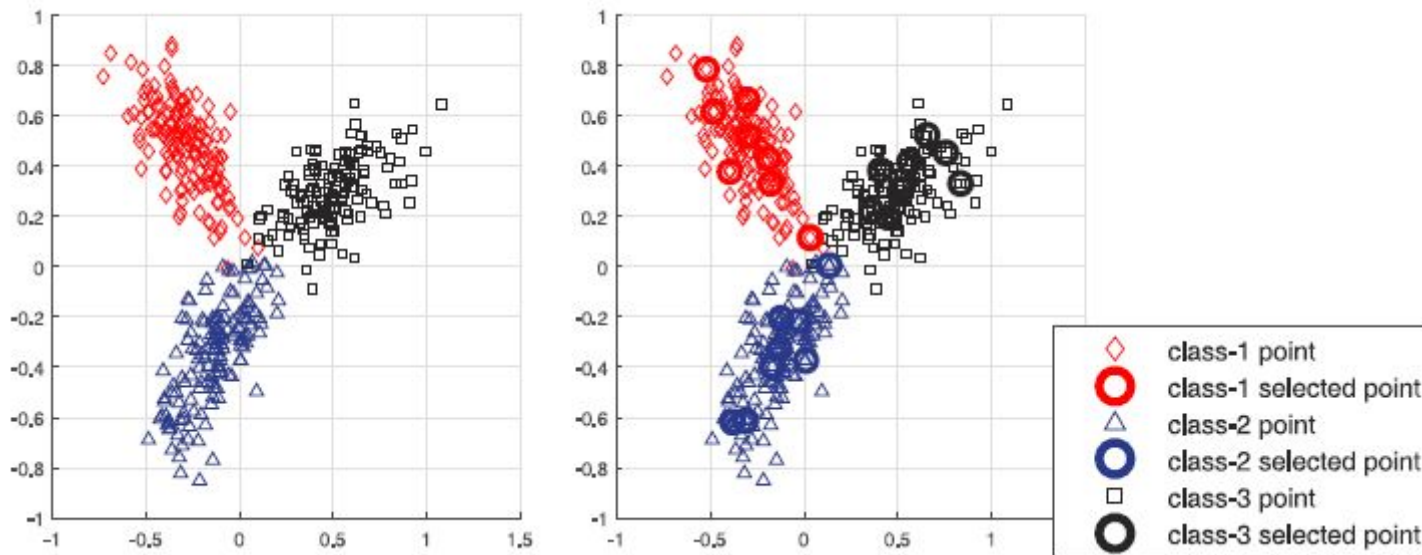
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cover the data points from each class



# Exemplar selection -- toy data

2D data simplify it by merging features and physical coordinates  
cover the data points from each class

maintain discriminative power by sampling near class  
boundaries



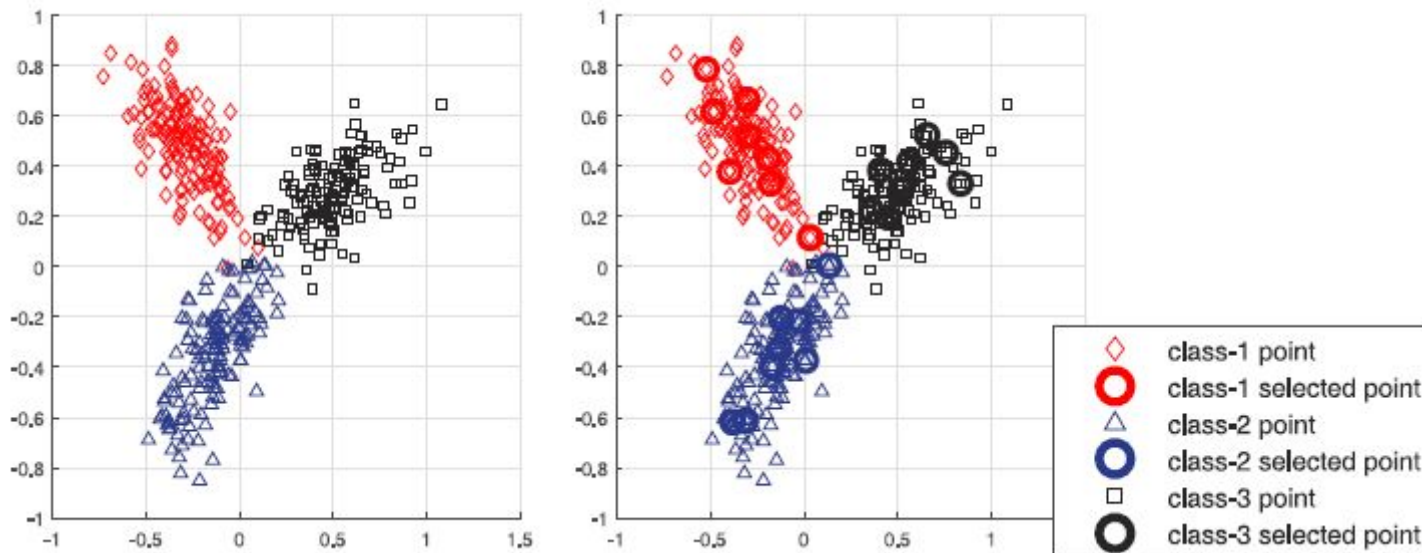


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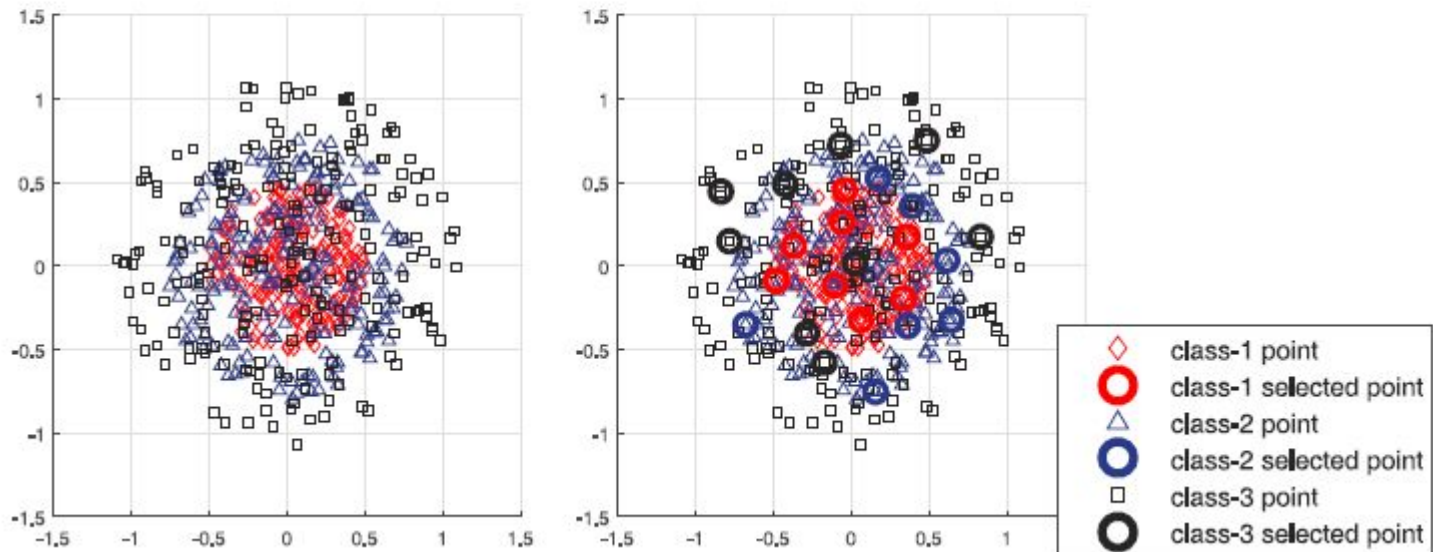
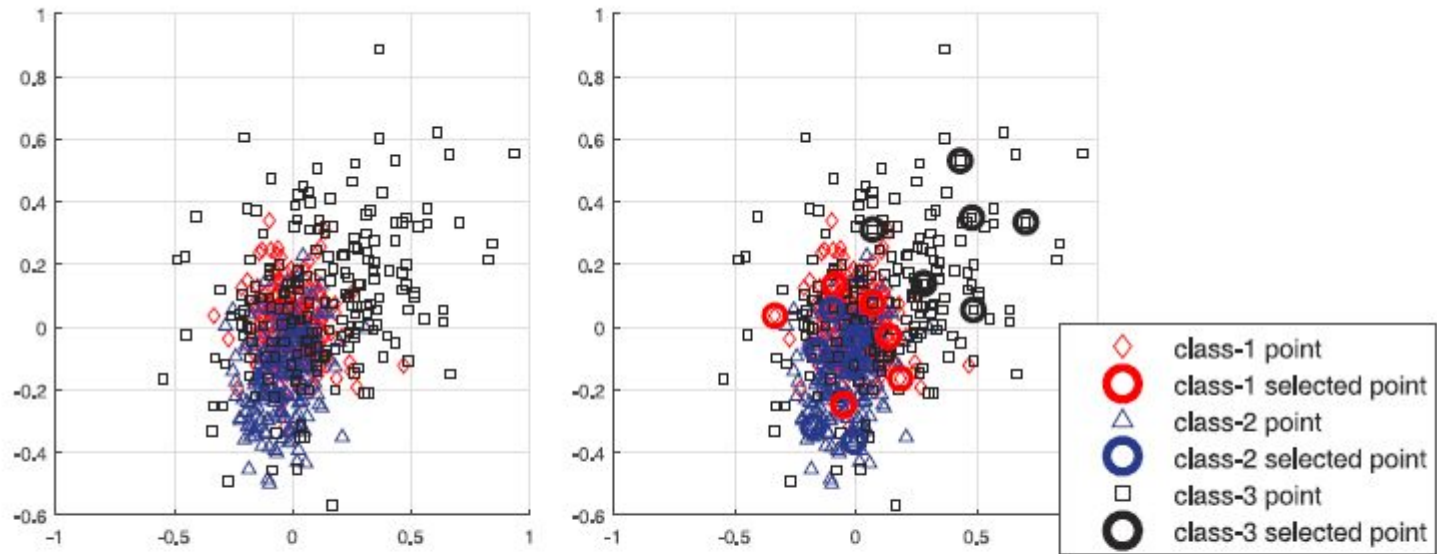
2D data simplify it by merging features and physical coordinates  
cover the data points from each class

maintain discriminative power by sampling near class  
boundaries

avoid high inter-class overlap



# Exemplar selection -- toy data



# Exemplar selection for dictionary

assemble the selected exemplar patches for a discriminative dictionary

# Exemplar selection for dictionary

assemble the selected exemplar patches for a discriminative dictionary

The spatial information is also saved as a part of the dictionary.

# Spatially aware coding

Sparse coding

$$\mathbf{a}^* = \underset{\mathbf{a}}{\operatorname{argmin}} \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{D}\mathbf{a}\|_2^2 + \lambda \|\mathbf{a}\|_0$$

# Our robust framework

1. Well-selected patches as dictionary perform better than random patches. --> **exemplar selection**
2. incorporating spatial information of the patches -> **spatially aware coding**
3. pooling+SVM is better than reconstruction-based scheme

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weighted sparse coding to model spatially aware coding

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or

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# Spatially aware coding -- fast alternative

$$\mathbf{D} \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times m}, \quad p \geq m.$$

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**SACO-I** (Spatially Aware Sparse Coding, version-I)

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$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{a}^* &= \underset{\mathbf{a}}{\operatorname{argmin}} \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{D}\mathbf{a}\|_2^2 + \lambda_2 \|\operatorname{diag}(\mathbf{w})\mathbf{a}\|_2^2 + \lambda_1 \|\mathbf{a}\|_1. \\ \mathbf{a}^* &= \underset{\mathbf{a}}{\operatorname{argmin}} \|\boldsymbol{\Omega}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{a}\|_2^2 + \lambda_1 \|\mathbf{a}\|_1 \\ \boldsymbol{\Omega} &\equiv (\mathbf{D}^T \mathbf{D} + \lambda_2 \operatorname{diag}(\mathbf{w})^2)^{-1} \mathbf{D}^T \\ \mathbf{u} &= \boldsymbol{\Omega}\mathbf{x} \\ a_i^* &= \operatorname{sgn}(u_i) \cdot \max(0, |u_i| - \lambda_1) \\ \mathbf{a}^* &= [a_1^*, \dots, a_i^*, \dots, a_m^*]^T.\end{aligned}$$

SACO-II

# Implementation details

global average pooling on the sparse codes

linear SVM

# Experimental study -- features

dense SIFT descriptor, SACO-I yields 54.40%

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VGG19 features

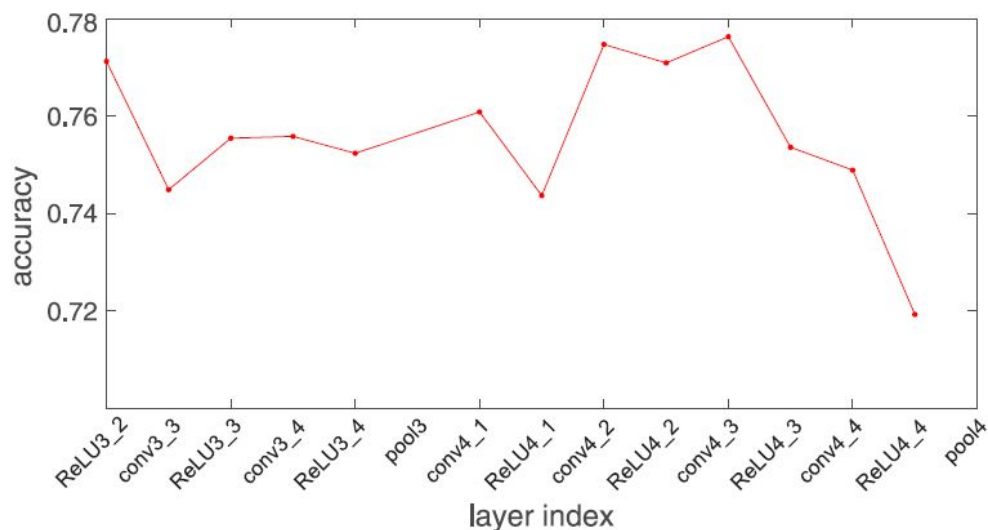


Figure 5. Classification accuracy vs. layer index in VGG19 model. We use features extracted from *conv4\_3* in the remainder of our experiments.

# Experimental study -- features

dense SIFT descriptor, SACO-I yields 54.40%

VGG19 features

SACO-I yields 77.62 at layer conv4\_3

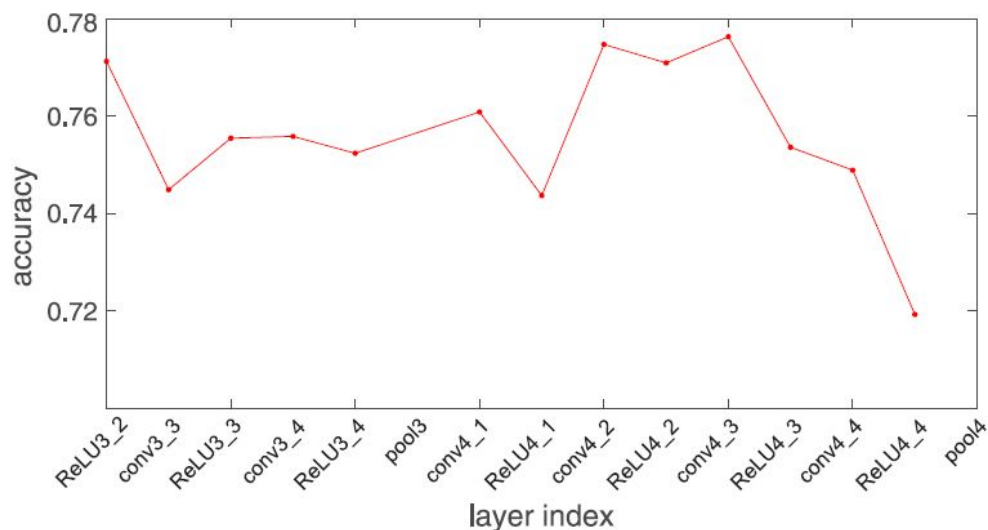


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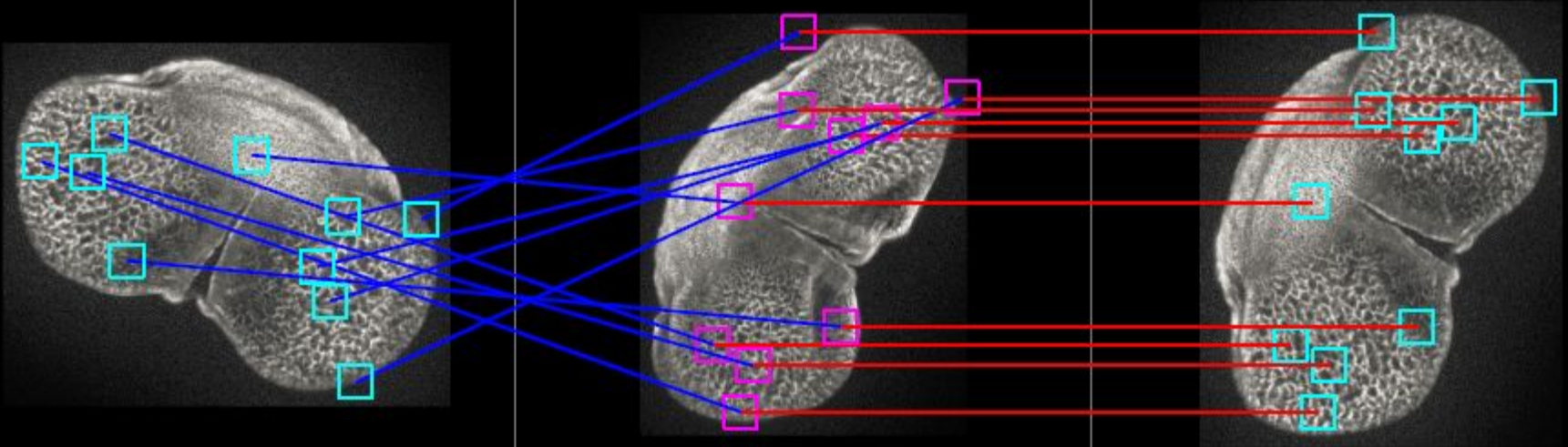
# Experimental study -- features

dense SIFT descriptor, SACO-I yields 54.40%

VGG19 features

SACO-I yields 77.62 at layer conv4\_3, RF: 52x52

randomly matching patches



# Experimental study -- dictionary choice

Selected exemplar patches vs. random patches  
performance as a function of size



# Experimental study -- dictionary choice

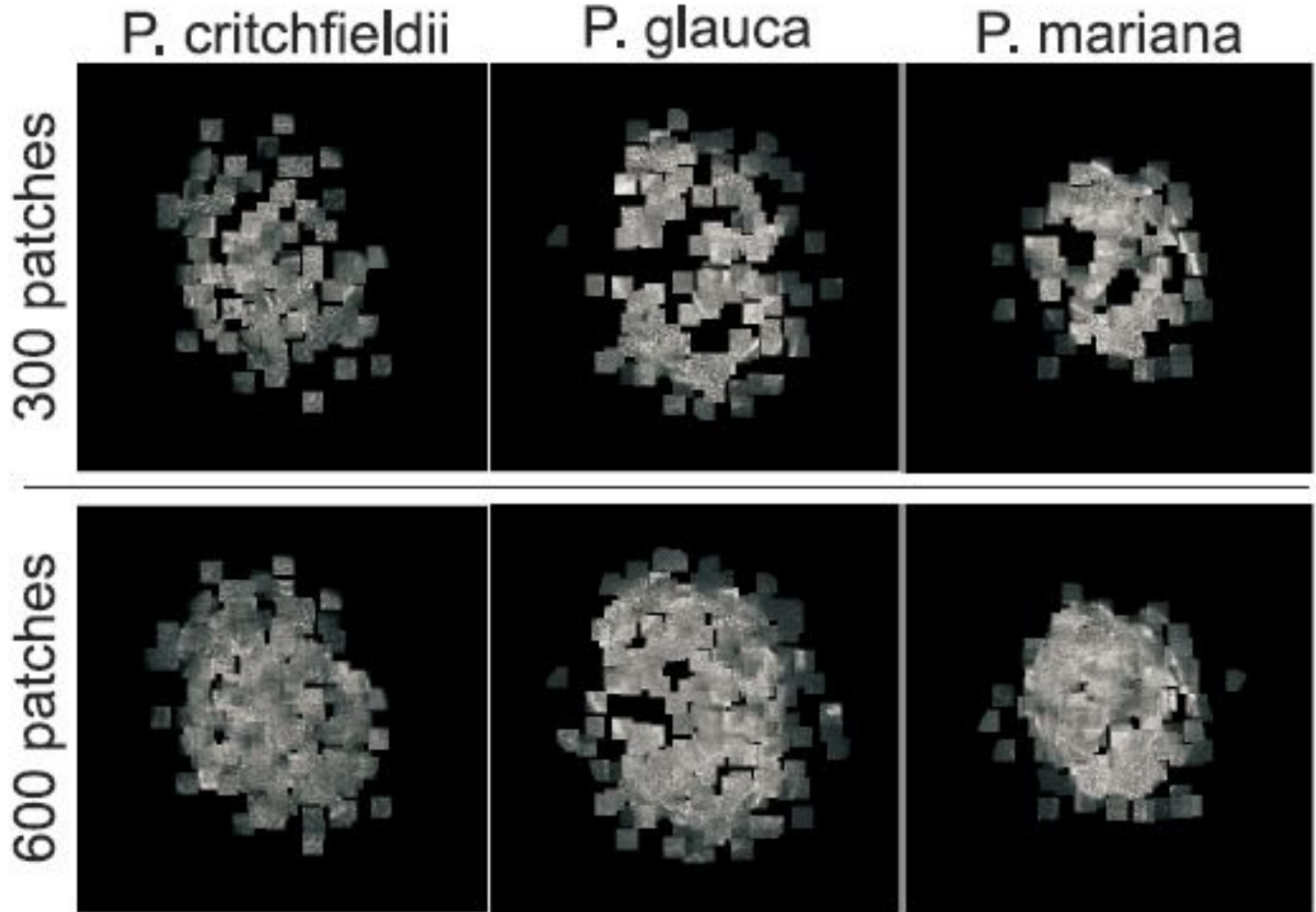
Selected exemplar patches vs. random patches  
performance as a function of size

dictionary size	300	512	600
Random Selection	77.66	76.49	77.23
Discriminative Selection	81.75	81.60	82.34

Table 2. Classification accuracy (%) for different sized dictionaries constructed by our discriminative exemplar selection algorithm. Our method consistently outperforms a baseline that selects patches at random from the training set.

# Experimental study -- dictionary visualization

Selected exemplar patches of size





# Experimental study -- baseline comparison

Compared to the strong baselines

SRC	VGG19+SVM	FV+SVM	SACO-I	SACO-II
62.04	65.11	61.46	83.21	86.13

Table 3. Performance of baselines and our SACO methods measured by classification accuracy (%).

# Experimental study -- parameter

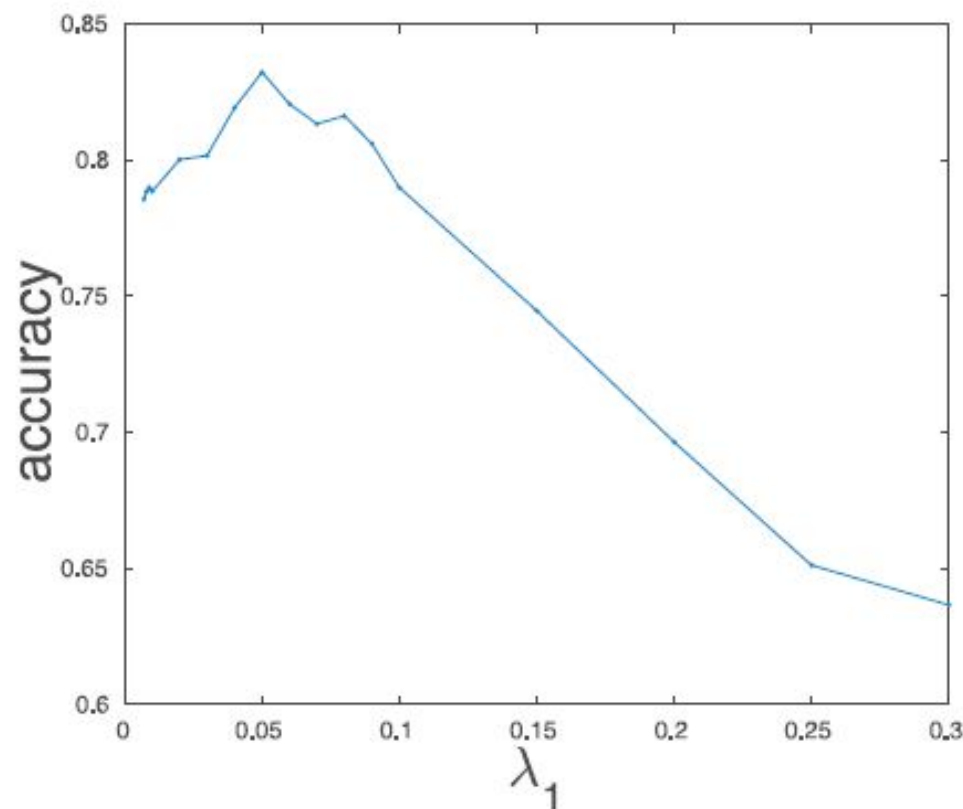
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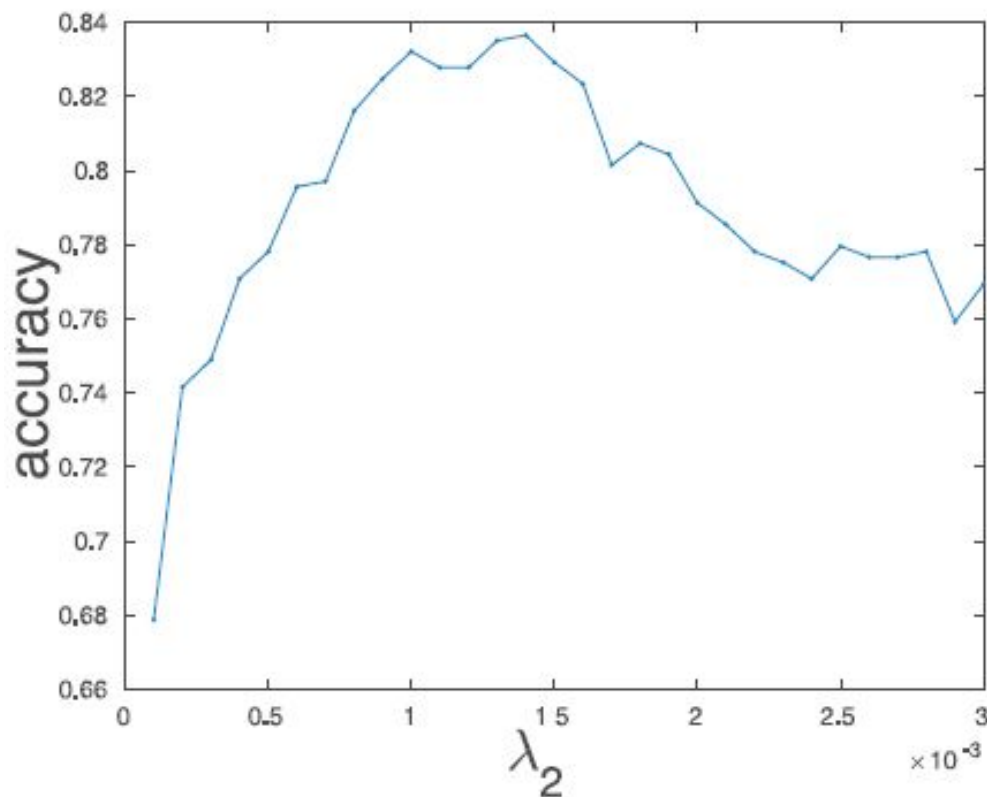
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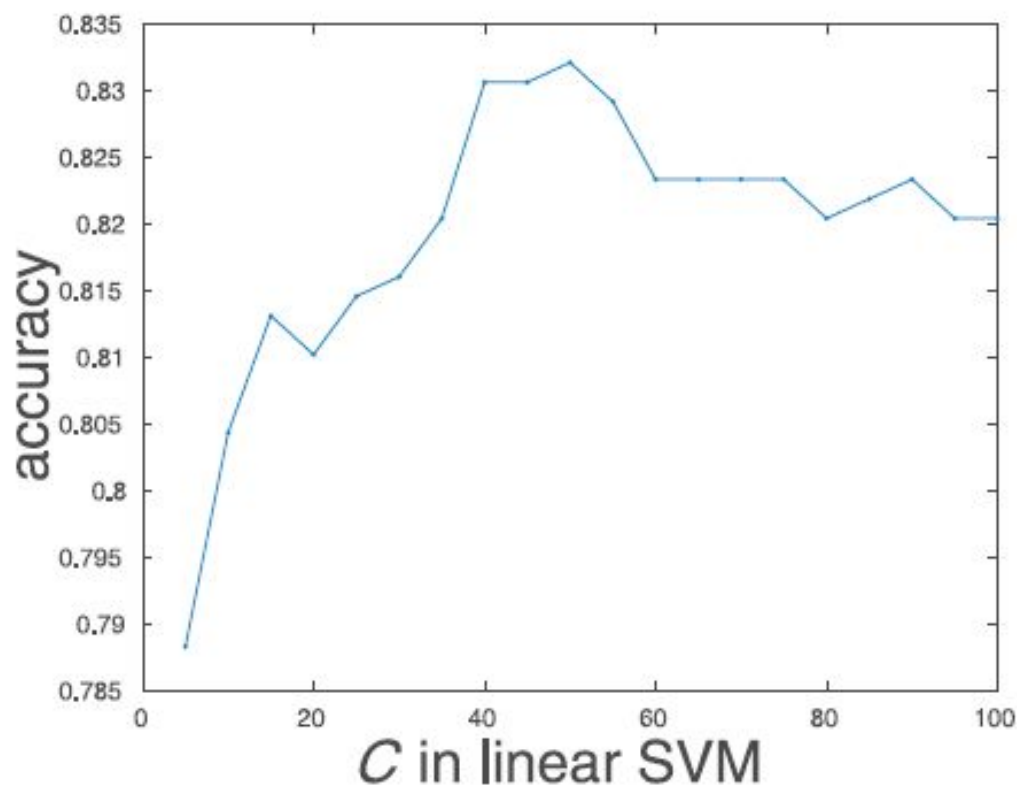
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## Extension -- on real testing set

The results are from validation set. We also test it on the real testing set.



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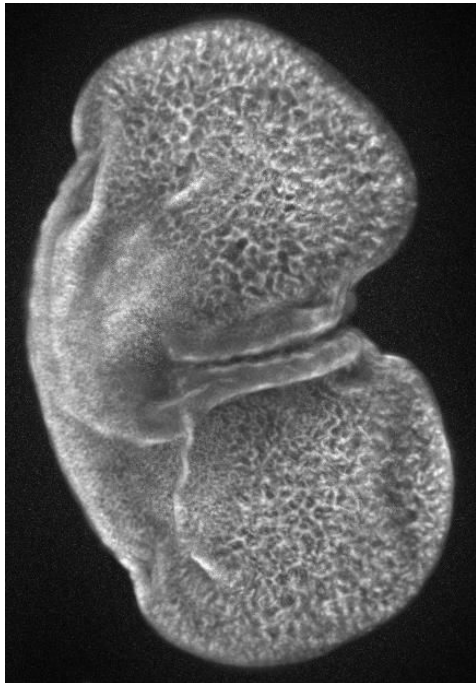
"The results broadly match what we have based on traditional morphometric measurements."

-- Surangi Punyasena

# Extension -- cross-domain

learning from modern pollen grains from two species, *P. glauca* and *P. mariana*

modern glauca pollen grain



# Extension -- cross-domain

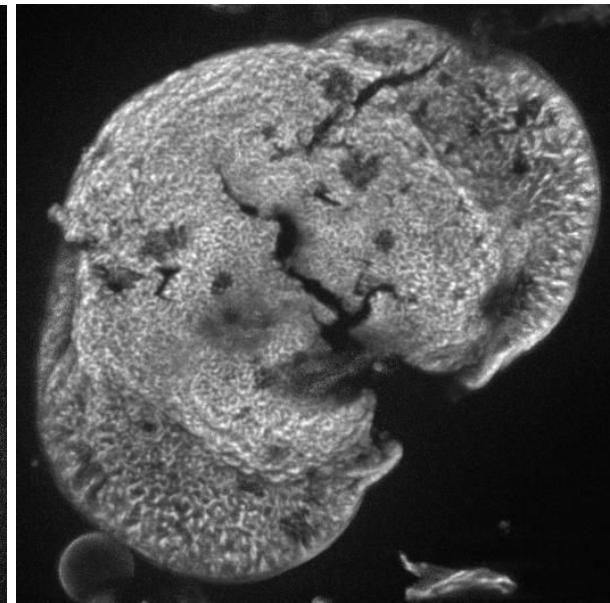
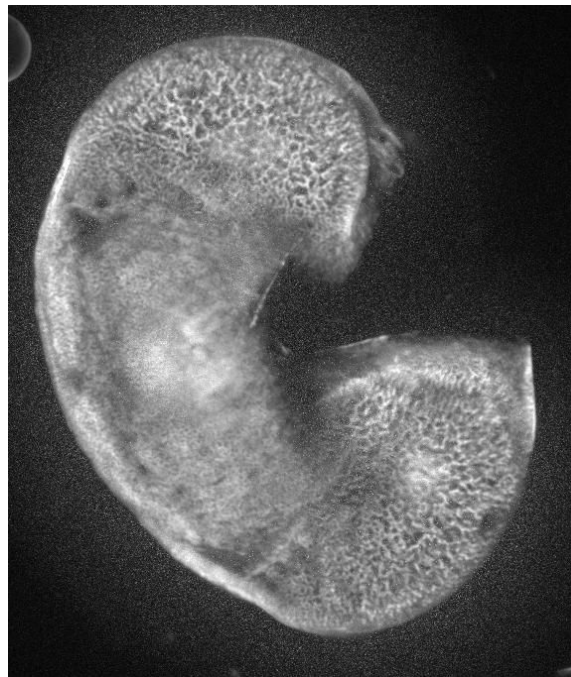
learning from modern pollen grains from two species, *P. glauca* and *P. mariana*

testing on fossil ones, which have been destroyed over time and are small in number.

modern glauca pollen grain



fossil glauca pollen grain



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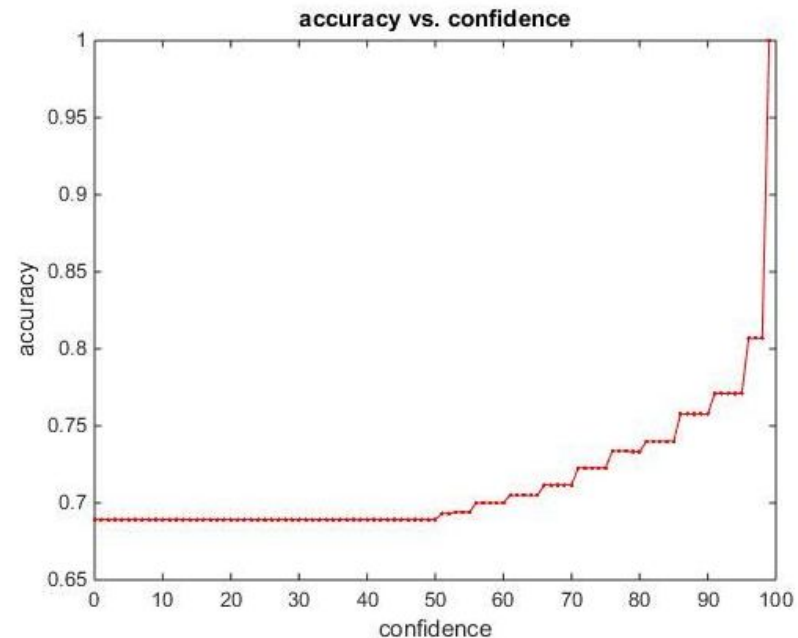
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- New technical directions to explore, embedding selection in neural net, how to exploit confidence score for better training, etc.



Thanks