

# Graph Denoising for Molecular Imaging

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# Outline

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- 1 Molecular Imaging Methods
- 2 Graphs & Manifolds
- 3 GAT-Denoiser
- 4 Results
- 5 Summary & Future Work
- 6 Questions

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Only single particle cryo-EM is considered.

# Cryo-Electron Microscopy (Cryo-EM) - Illustration

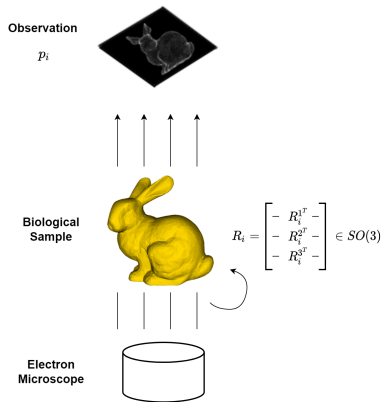


Figure: Cryo-EM overview

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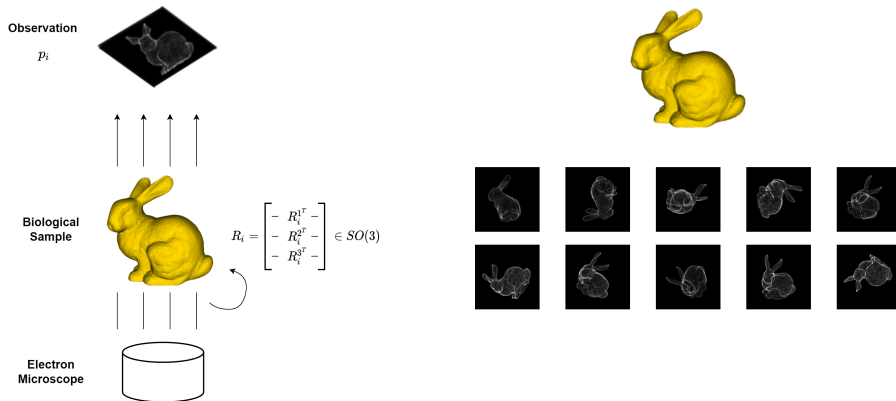


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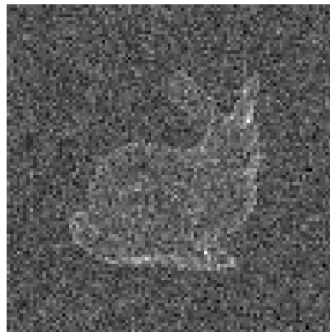


# Cryo-Electron Microscopy (Cryo-EM) - Illustration

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(a) Clean micrograph



(b) Noisy micrograph

# Computed Tomography (CT)

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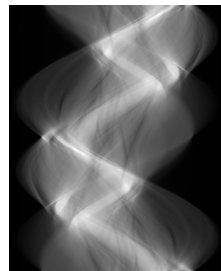
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(a) Biological sample



(b) Clean observation (sinogram)

# Shared Observation Model

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## Observation

$$y_i = p_i + \eta_i \quad \text{with } 1 \leq i \leq N \quad (1)$$

- >  $y$ : noisy observation
- >  $p$ : noiseless observation
- >  $\eta$ : noise, assumed  $\eta_i \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2)$
- >  $y_i \in \mathbb{R}^M$ ,  $M$ : observation dimension
- >  $N$ : number of observations

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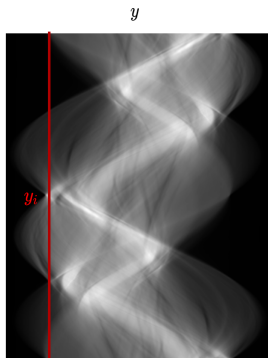
## Observation

$$\begin{aligned} y_i &= p_i + \eta_i && \text{with } 1 \leq i \leq N \\ y_i &= A(x, \theta_i) + \eta_i && \text{with } 1 \leq i \leq N \end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

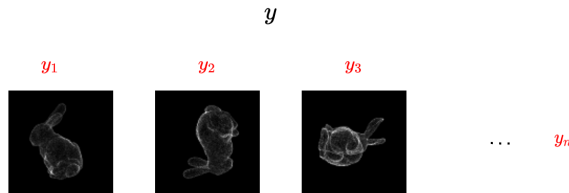
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- >  $x$ : biological sample
- >  $y_i \in \mathbb{R}^M$ ,  $M$ : observation dimension
- >  $N$ : number of observations
- >  $A : x \mapsto A(x; \theta_i) \in \mathbb{R}^M$ : a non-linear operator
- >  $\theta_i$ : observation angle

# Observation - Illustration

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(a) CT Observation -  
sinogram



(b) Cryo-EM Observation - micrographs



# Reconstruction

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## Reconstruction

$$Recon : \mathbb{R}^{M \times N} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{M \times M} \quad y \mapsto Recon(y; \theta) \quad (2)$$

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$\text{SNR}$  is used as a metric for the quality of reconstructions.

# Reconstruction - Computed Tomography

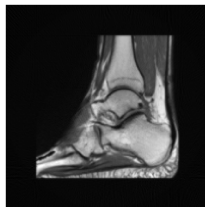
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  - Enables reconstruction for moderate noise

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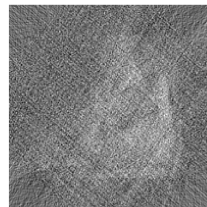
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(a) Reconstruction clean:

$$\text{Recon}(p, \theta) \approx x$$



(b) Reconstruction noisy

with  $\text{SNR}_y$  5 dB:

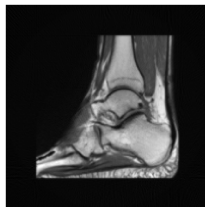
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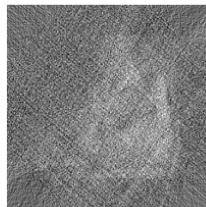
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- Filter Backprojection (FBP)
  - Can be considered historical approach
  - Enables reconstruction for moderate noise
- Neural Network Approaches
  - Today state-of-the art
  - Using result of FBP and further denoise
  - U-Net Ronneberger, Fischer, and Brox 2015



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## Goal

$$\text{denoiser} : y_i \mapsto y_i^* \approx p_i$$

$$\text{Recon}(\text{denoiser}(y; \theta)) \approx x$$

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## Nodes

$(n_1, n_2, \dots) \in \mathbb{R}^F$ , with  $F$  as node feature dimensions

## Edges

Edges are defined as a set of tuples  $(i, j)$ , where  $i$  and  $j$  determine the index of the nodes.



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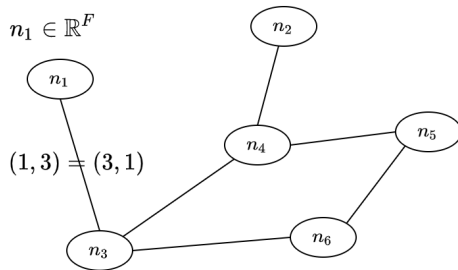


Figure: Sample graph

# Graph - Definitions - Adjacency Matrix

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## Adjacency Matrix

The binary adjacency matrix of graph  $G = \langle V, E \rangle$  is defined as:

$$A_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } (i, j) \in E \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

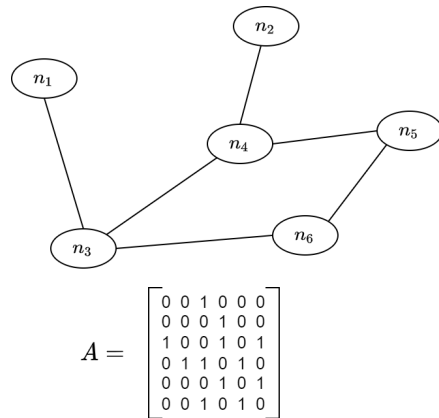


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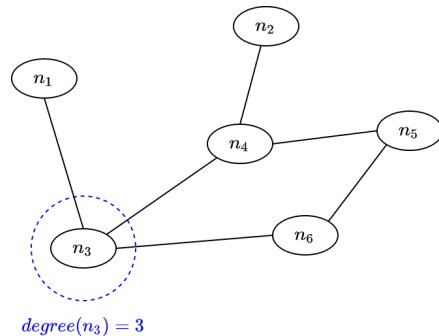


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## Degree Matrix of Graph $G$

Is a diagonal matrix with degree of nodes as entries.

$$D_{ii} = \text{degree}(n_i)$$

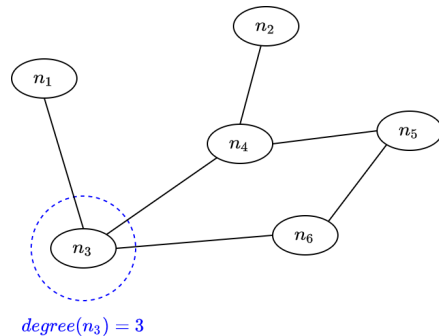


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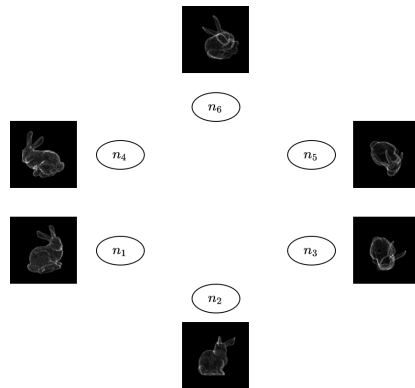


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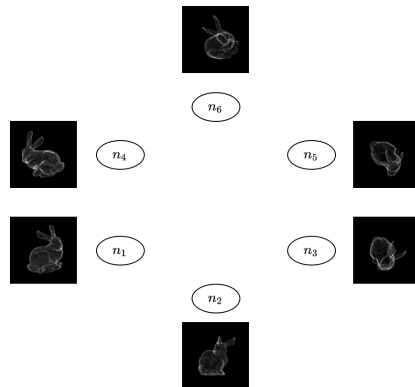


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  - › Define similarity measure for nodes:  $\ell_2$ -norm

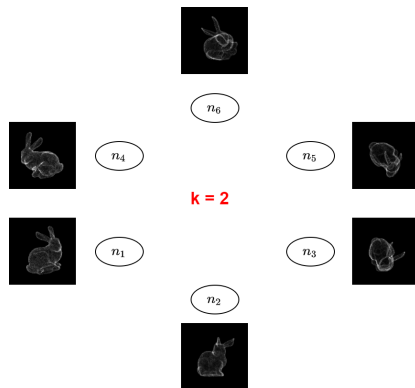


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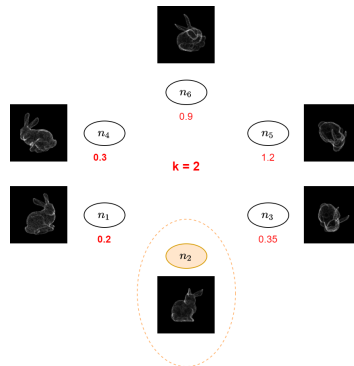


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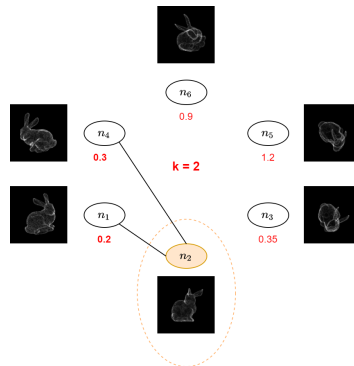


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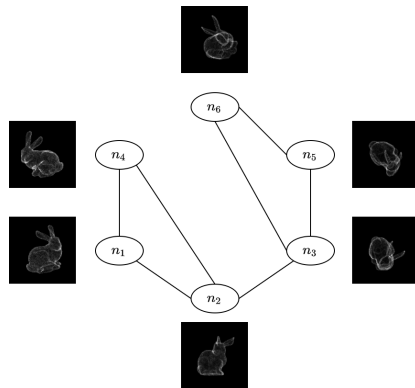


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## Graph for Molecular Imaging Observation - Noise

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## Graph for Molecular Imaging Observation - Noise

What happens with our noisy observations?

- > With noise, graph will capture neighborhood inaccurately.

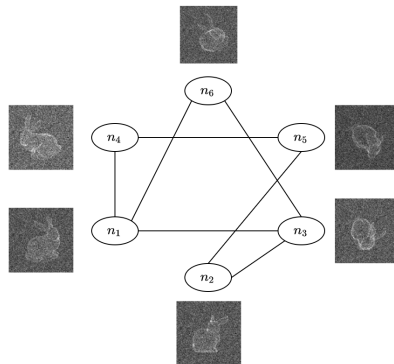


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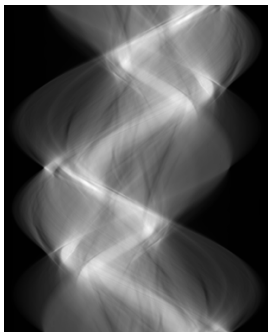
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## Low-dimensional Embedding

1. Construct a k-NN graph from observations.
2. Calculate  $L = D - A$
3. Get 2nd and 3rd smallest eigenvalue with corresponding eigenvectors.

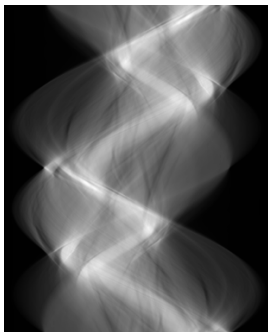
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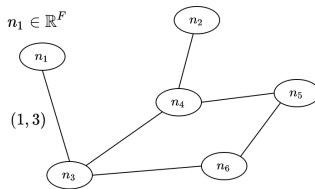


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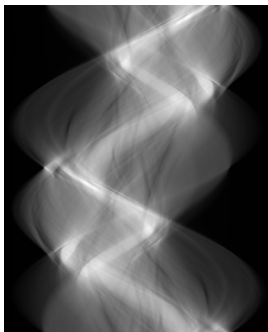


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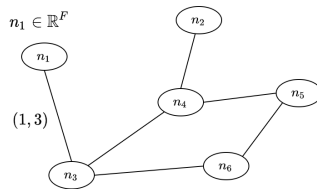


(b) Building k-NN graph with  $k = 2$

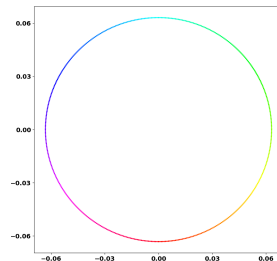
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(c)  $2_{nd}$  and  $3_{rd}$  smallest eigenvectors of  $L = D - A$

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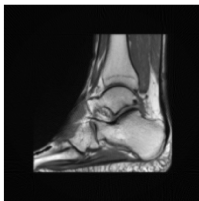
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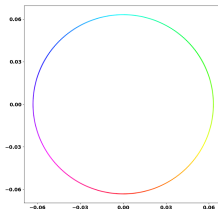
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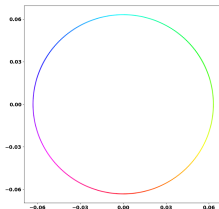


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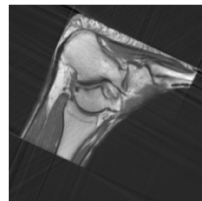
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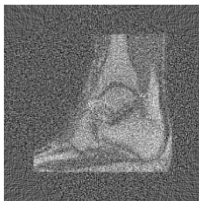
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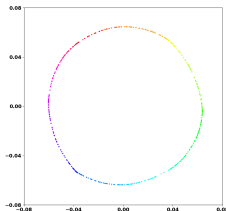
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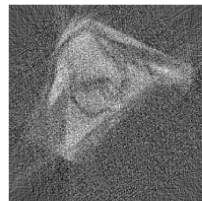
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(a) Reconstruction known angles  $SNR_y$  : 10 dB



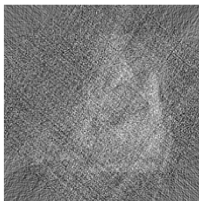
(b) GL-Embedding from  $k = 8$  and  $SNR_y$  : 10 dB



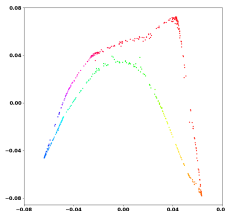
(c) Reconstruction unknown angles  $SNR_y$  : 10 dB

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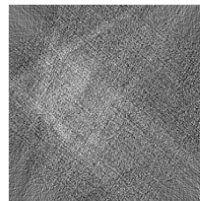
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Exploit graph as a data structure and the GL-Embedding



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- Consists of three components:
  - Convolution
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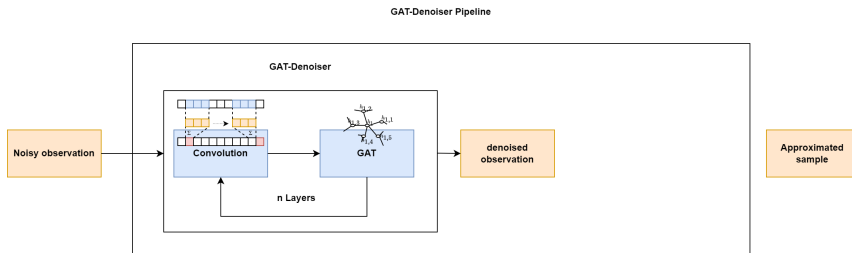
GAT-Denoiser Pipeline

Noisy observation

Approximated  
sample

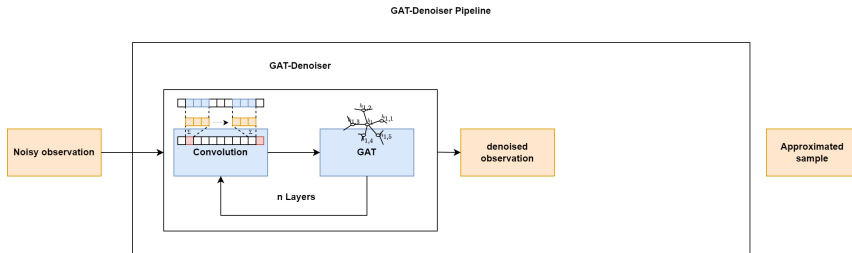
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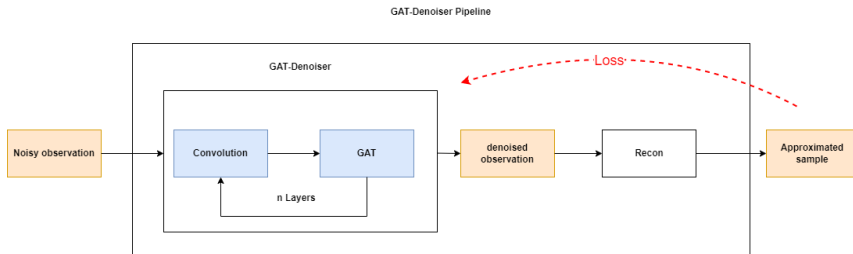
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    - > Denoise single observation
  - > **Graph Attention Network (GAT)** Veličković et al. 2017
    - > Denoise neighboring observation
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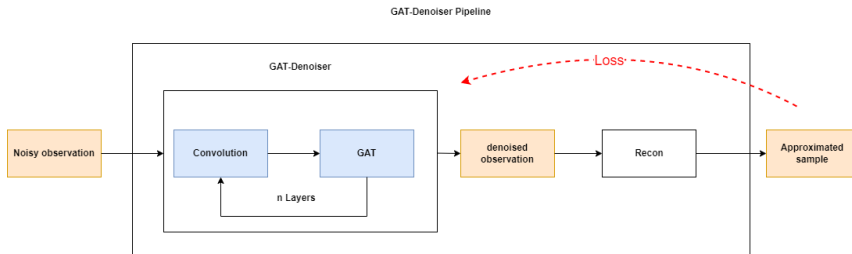
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  - > Graph Attention Network (GAT) Veličković et al. 2017
  - > **End-to-End Learning**
    - > Optimize for reconstruction quality
    - > Loss:  $\mathcal{L}_{reconstruction} = \|x - Recon(GAT-Denoiser(y))\|_2^2$



# Graph Attention Network - GAT

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# Graph Attention Network - GAT

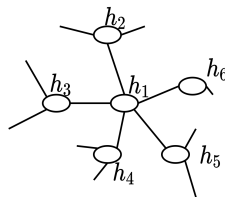
---

- › Extends Graph Convolution Network with attention (weights)
- › Computes new node features
- › Averages graph over neighborhood
- › Multi-head available, motivated by Vaswani et al. 2017

# Graph Attention Network - GAT

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- › Extends Graph Convolution Network with attention (weights)
- › Computes new node features
- › Averages graph over neighborhood
- › Multi-head available, motivated by Vaswani et al. 2017
- ›  $\alpha$ : normalized attention coefficients
- ›  $W$ : learnable weight matrix
- ›  $\sigma$ : activation function (Exponential Linear Unit)



$$h'_1 = \sigma \left( \sum_{i=1}^6 \alpha_i W h_i \right)$$

# Input Graph

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# Input Graph

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- › Exploit information from GL
  - › Low-dimensional embedding estimates angles
  - › Dominant information in data can be considered observation angles.

# Input Graph

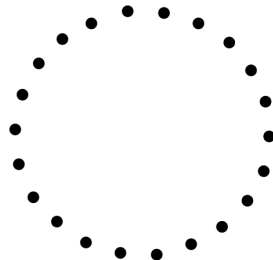
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- › Exploit information from GL
  - › Low-dimensional embedding estimates angles
  - › Dominant information in data can be considered observation angles.
- › Construct graph from observation angles

# Input Graph

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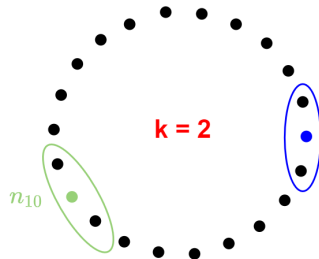
- Exploit information from GL
  - Low-dimensional embedding estimates angles
  - Dominant information in data can be considered observation angles.
- Construct graph from observation angles
  - Map angles to unit-circle / unit-sphere



# Input Graph

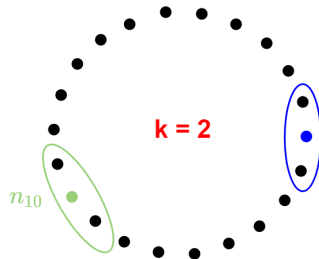
---

- Exploit information from GL
  - Low-dimensional embedding estimates angles
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  - Apply k-NN with great-circle distance



# Input Graph

- Exploit information from GL
  - Low-dimensional embedding estimates angles
  - Dominant information in data can be considered observation angles.
- Construct graph from observation angles
  - Map angles to unit-circle / unit-sphere
  - Apply k-NN with great-circle distance



Observation angles  $\theta$  are assumed to be equally spaced on the unit-circle.



# Outline

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1 Molecular Imaging Methods

2 Graphs & Manifolds

3 GAT-Denoiser

4 **Results**

5 Summary & Future Work

6 Questions

## LoDoPaB-CT dataset

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- › Dataset for low-dose Computed Tomography
- › 35'820 train samples
- › 3'553 test samples
- › Resolution  $64 \times 64$
- › BM3D as baseline algorithm



Figure: Some samples from the LoDoPaB-CT dataset.

# GAT-Denoiser - Implementation for Computed Tomography

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- › PyTorch Geometric
- › U-Net used for reconstruction
  - › Pre-trained with complete dataset and  $SNR_y$  in  $[-10, 0]$  dB for 200 epochs
  - › Joint U-Net training possible
- › Mini-batch gradient descent with batch size 64
- › Adam optimizer

# Evaluation

---

## > Small Scale Experiments

- > 1024 train samples
- > 100 test samples
- > 200 epochs

## > Large Scale Experiments

- > Complete LoDoPaB-CT dataset
- > 20 - 40 epochs

# Evaluation

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## > Small Scale Experiments

- > 1024 train samples
- > 100 test samples
- > 200 epochs
- > Goal: Find most promising architecture

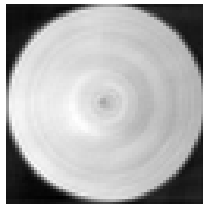
## > Large Scale Experiments

- > Complete LoDoPaB-CT dataset
- > 20 - 40 epochs
- > Goal: Find best model

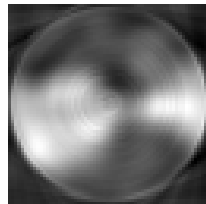
## Small Scale Experiments - Overall Results

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- Learning fails with random graph (Erdős–Rényi)
- Learning succeeds with defined input graph



(a) Reconstruction with random Erdős–Rényi graph with  $p = 0.01$

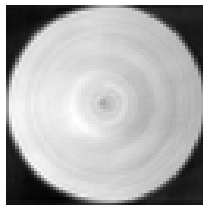


(b) Reconstruction with k-NN input graph  $k = 10$

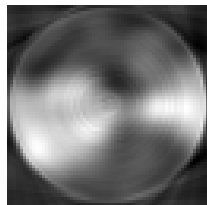
## Small Scale Experiments - Overall Results

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- › Learning fails with random graph (Erdős–Rényi)
- › Learning succeeds with defined input graph
- › Single components contribute to success of GAT-Denoiser:
  - › GAT: 2 layers and 4 heads
  - › Convolution: kernel size 3 and padding 1
  - › k-NN with  $k=2$
  - › Joint U-Net training



(a) Reconstruction with random Erdős–Rényi graph with  $p = 0.01$



(b) Reconstruction with k-NN input graph  $k = 10$

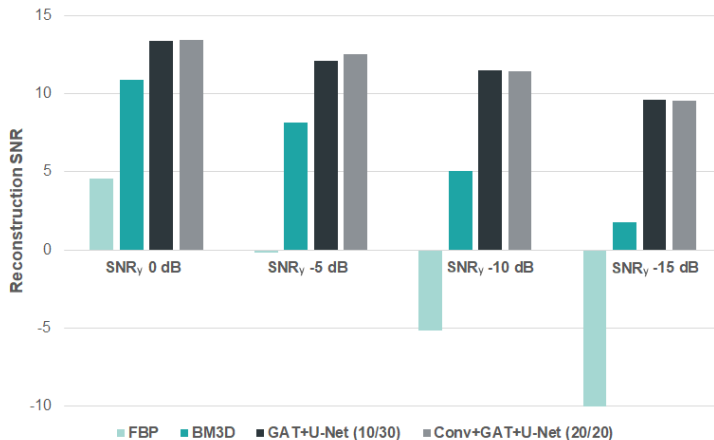
## Large Scale Experiment - SNR Results

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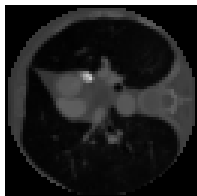
- 3'553 test samples
- Different algorithms / GAT-Denoiser models:
  - FBP
  - BM3D
  - GAT + U-Net (10/30)
  - Conv + GAT + U-Net (20/20)
- Reconstruction SNR averages over all test samples



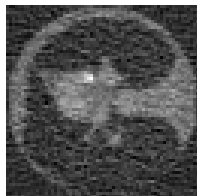
## Large Scale Experiment - SNR Results



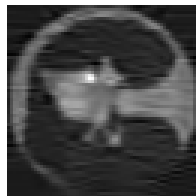
## Large Scale Experiment - Visual Results - $SNR_y$ 0 dB



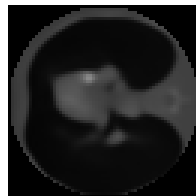
(a) Clean sample



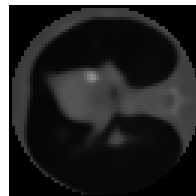
(b) FBP



(c) BM3D



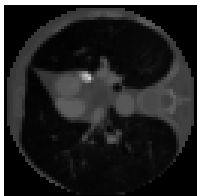
(d)  $GAT+U-$   
 $Net(10/30)$



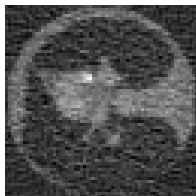
(e)  
 $Conv+GAT+U-$   
 $Net(20/20)$

Figure: Large Scale Experiment: Visual results for  $SNR_y$  0 dB.

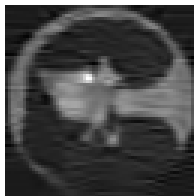
## Large Scale Experiment - Visual Results - $SNR_y$ 0 dB



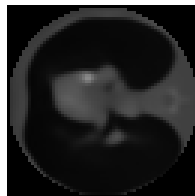
(a) Clean sample



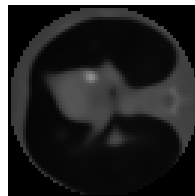
(b) FBP



(c) BM3D



(d)  $GAT+U-$   
 $Net(10/30)$

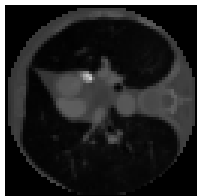


(e)  
 $Conv+GAT+U-$   
 $Net(20/20)$

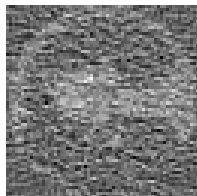
Figure: Large Scale Experiment: Visual results for  $SNR_y$  0 dB.

GAT-Denoiser improves BM3D for  $SNR_y$  0 dB by 27.6%.

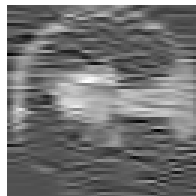
## Large Scale Experiment - Visual Results - $SNR_y$ -10 dB



(a) Clean sample



(b) FBP



(c) BM3D



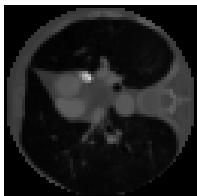
(d)  $GAT+U-$   
 $Net(10/30)$



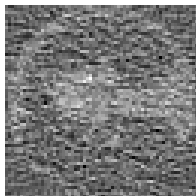
(e)  
 $Conv+GAT+U-$   
 $Net(20/20)$

Figure: Large Scale Experiment: Visual results for  $SNR_y$  -10 dB.

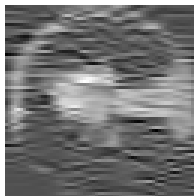
## Large Scale Experiment - Visual Results - $SNR_y$ -10 dB



(a) Clean sample



(b) FBP



(c) BM3D



(d)  $GAT+U-$   
 $Net(10/30)$

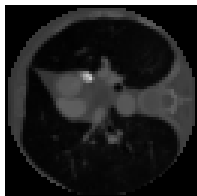


(e)  
 $Conv+GAT+U-$   
 $Net(20/20)$

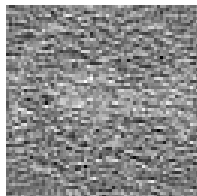
Figure: Large Scale Experiment: Visual results for  $SNR_y$  -10 dB.

GAT-Denoiser improves BM3D for  $SNR_y$  -10 dB by 126.0%.

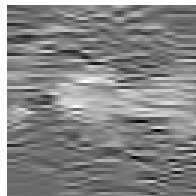
## Large Scale Experiment - Visual Results - $SNR_y$ -15 dB



(a) Clean sample



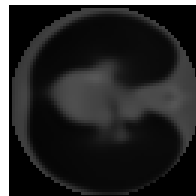
(b) FBP



(c) BM3D



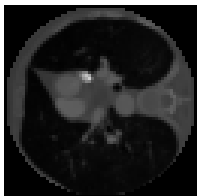
(d)  $GAT+U-$   
 $Net(10/30)$



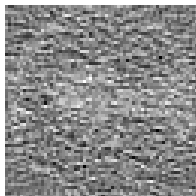
(e)  
 $Conv+GAT+U-$   
 $Net(20/20)$

Figure: Large Scale Experiment: Visual results for  $SNR_y$  -15 dB.

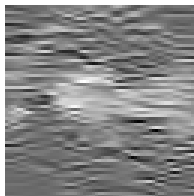
## Large Scale Experiment - Visual Results - $SNR_y$ -15 dB



(a) Clean sample



(b) FBP



(c) BM3D



(d)  $GAT+U-$   
 $Net(10/30)$



(e)  
 $Conv+GAT+U-$   
 $Net(20/20)$

Figure: Large Scale Experiment: Visual results for  $SNR_y$  -15 dB.

GAT-Denoiser improves BM3D for  $SNR_y$  -15 dB by 379.9%.

# Outline

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1 Molecular Imaging Methods

2 Graphs & Manifolds

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5 Summary & Future Work

6 Questions



# Summary

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- › GAT-Denoiser enables denoising of observations
  - › Convolution
  - › GAT
  - › End-To-End Learning
  - › Joint U-Net training boost performance

# Summary

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- GAT-Denoiser enables denoising of observations
  - Convolution
  - GAT
  - End-To-End Learning
  - Joint U-Net training boost performance
- Evaluated on LoDoPaB-CT dataset
  - Outperformed baseline BM3D by up to 379.9 %

## Future Work

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- › Improve current GAT-Denoiser
- › Derive GAT-Denoiser for 3D
- › Make it work for unknown angles

## Future Work

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- › Improve current GAT-Denoiser
- › Derive GAT-Denoiser for 3D
- › Make it work for unknown angles
- › Cryo-EM
  - › Known angles
  - › Unknown angles
  - › Work with structural variety in observations

# Outline

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- 1 Molecular Imaging Methods
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- 3 GAT-Denoiser
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# Questions

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## References (1)

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