

## Graph Denoising for Molecular Imaging

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### Outline

- Molecular Imaging Methods
- Graphs & Manifolds
- **GAT-Denoiser**
- Results
- Summary & Future Work
- Questions

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

## Cryo-Electron Microscopy (Cryo-EM)

- Major motivation
- > Enables observation of molecules in near atomic resolution

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- > Observation through an electron microscope
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  - $\rightarrow$  Frozen molecules are fragile  $\mapsto$  electron microscope low power
  - > During freezing, molecules rotate randomly
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Only single particle cryo-EM is considered.

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

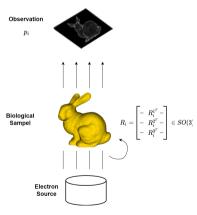


Figure: Cryo-EM overview

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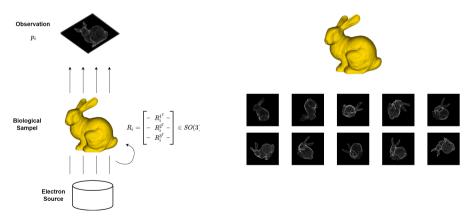
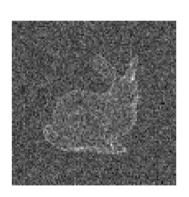


Figure: Cryo-EM overview

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



(a) Clean micrograph



(b) Noisy micrograph

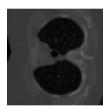
# Computed Tomography (CT)

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(a) Biological sample



(b) Clean observation (sinogram)

## Shared Observation Model

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#### Observation

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

## Shared Observation Model

#### Observation

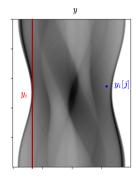
Molecular Imaging Methods

$$y_i = p_i + \eta_i$$
 with  $1 \le i \le N$   
 $y_i = A(x, \theta_i) + \eta_i$  with  $1 \le i \le N$  (1)

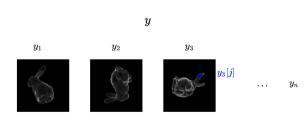
- > v: noisy observation
- p: noiseless observation
- n: noise, assumed  $\eta_i \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2)$
- > x: biological sample

- $v_i \in \mathbb{R}^M$ . 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



(a) CT Observation - sinogram



(b) Cryo-EM Observation - micrographs

#### Reconstruction

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

- > SNR is a measure, which compares the power of an input signal to the power of the undesired noise
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 $SNR_y$  is used to define the level of noise in an observation.

SNR is used as a metric for the quality of reconstructions.

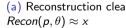
## Reconstruction - Computed Tomography

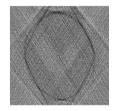
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  - Can be considered historical approach
  - Enables reconstruction for moderate noise

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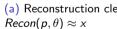
(a) Reconstruction clean: (b) Reconstruction noisy with SNR<sub>v</sub> 0 dB:  $Recon(y, \theta) \not\approx x$ 

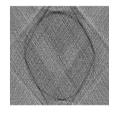
## Reconstruction - Computed Tomography

Graphs & Manifolds

- 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







(a) Reconstruction clean: (b) Reconstruction noisy with SNR<sub>v</sub> 0 dB:  $Recon(y, \theta) \not\approx x$ 

## Problem and Goal

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p not observable directly only access to y.

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#### Goal

denoiser : 
$$y_i \mapsto y_i^* \approx p_i$$

$$Recon(denoiser(y; \theta)) \approx x$$

## Outline

- Graphs & Manifolds

Graph - Definitions

## Graph - Definitions

#### **Graph Definition**

A graph is defined as  $G = \langle V, E \rangle$ , where V is a set of nodes and E is a set of edges.

#### **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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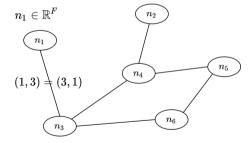


Figure: Sample graph

Graph - Definitions - Adjacency Matrix

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### Adjacency Matrix

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

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

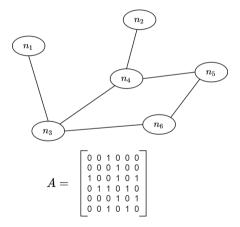


Figure: Sample graph

## Graph - Definitions - Degree

#### Degree of a node

The *degree* of a node is defined as the number of (incoming) edges.

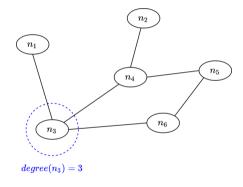


Figure: Sample graph

### Graph - Definitions - Degree

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### Degree Matrix of Graph G

Is a diagonal matrix with degree of nodes as entries.

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

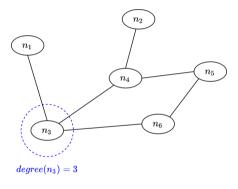


Figure: Sample graph

How to construct a graph for molecular imaging?





> Nodes: Single observation  $y_i$ 





















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- Edges: Use k-nearest neighbours (k-NN) to construct a graph





















- Nodes: Single observation  $y_i$
- Edges: Use k-nearest neighbours (k-NN) to construct a graph
  - Define similarity measure for nodes:  $\ell$ 2-norm















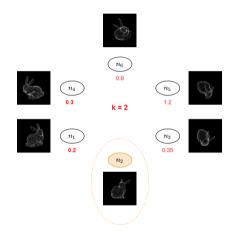




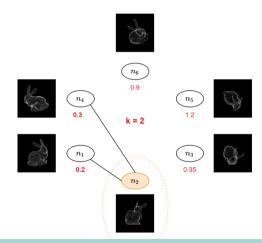




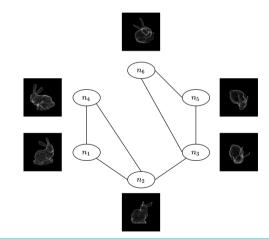
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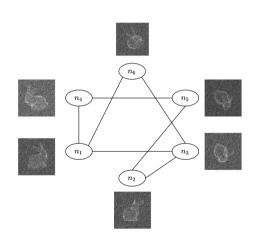
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What happens with our noisy observations?

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With noise, graph will capture neighborhood inaccurately.



# Graph Laplacian (GL)

What can we use this graph for?

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Coifman et al. 2008 used it to approximate angles for CT:

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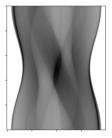
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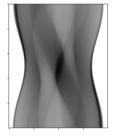
### Low-dimensional Embedding

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

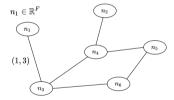
### Low-dimensional Embedding for Computed Tomography



(a) Clean CT observation

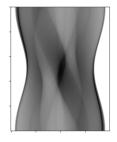


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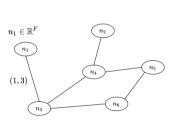


(b) Building k-NN graph with k=2

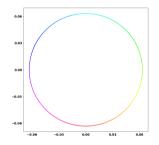
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(c)  $2_{nd}$  and  $3_{rd}$  smallest eigenvectors of L = D - A



(a) Reconstruction known angles



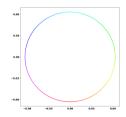
(a) Reconstruction known angles



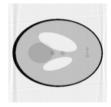
(b) GL-Embedding from k = 2



(a) Reconstruction known angles



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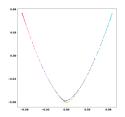
(c) Reconstruction unknown angles

> GL-Embedding estimates observation angles

What happens in the noisy case?



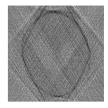
(a) Reconstruction known angles  $SNR_v$ : 10 dB



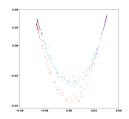
(b) GL-Embedding from k = 6 and  $SNR_v : 10 \text{ dB}$ 



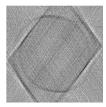
(c) Reconstruction unknown angles  $SNR_v$ : 10 dB



(a) Reconstruction known angles  $SNR_v$ : 0 dB



(b) GL-Embedding from k = 6 and  $SNR_v : 0$  dB



(c) Reconstruction unknown angles  $SNR_v$ : 0 dB

# Observation Denoising

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- > Use existing denoising algorithms
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  - Non-local means Buades, Coll, and Morel 2005
  - No graph as data structure
  - > But, both exploit neighborhood during averaging

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Exploit graph as a data structure and the GL-Embedding

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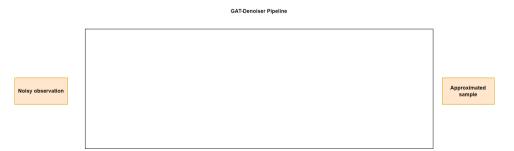
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### **GAT-Denoiser**

- > GAT-Denoiser is a graph neural network (GNN) to denoise observations.
- > Consists of three components:
  - Convolution
  - > Graph Attention Network (GAT) Veličković et al. 2017
  - > End-to-End Learning

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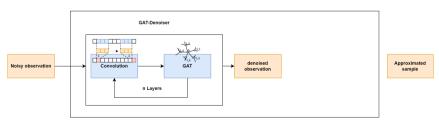
# Noisy observation GAT-Denoiser GAT-Denoiser GAT-Denoiser GAT-Denoiser GAT-Denoiser Approximated sample

olecular Imaging Methods Graphs & Manifolds GAT-Denoiser Results Summary & Future Work Questions References

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- > Consists of three components:
  - → Convolution
    - Denoise single observation
  - > Graph Attention Network (GAT) Veličković et al. 2017
    - Denoise neighboring observation
  - > End-to-End Learning

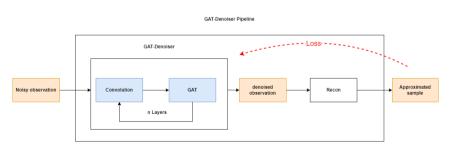
### **GAT-Denoiser Pipeline**



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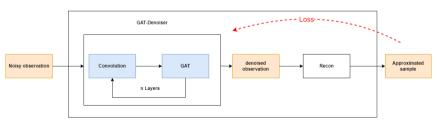


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- > Consists of three components:
  - Convolution
  - Graph Attention Network (GAT) Veličković et al. 2017
  - > End-to-End Learning
    - Optimize for reconstruction quality
    - Loss:  $\mathcal{L}_{reconstruction} = ||x Recon(GAT-Denoiser(y))||_2^2$

GAT-Denoiser Pipeline



# Graph Attention Network - GAT

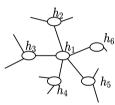
### Graph Attention Network - GAT

- 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

Graphs & Manifolds

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



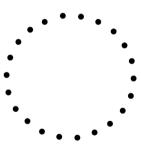
$$h_1' = \sigma \left( \sum_{i=1}^6 \alpha_i W h_i \right)$$

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  - > Low-dimensional embedding estimates angles
  - Dominant information in data can be considered observation angles.

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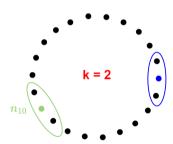
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- Exploit information from GL
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- > Construct graph from observation angles
  - > Map angles to unit-circle / unit-sphere



olecular Imaging Methods Graphs & Manifolds **GAT-Denoiser** Results Summary & Future Work Questions References

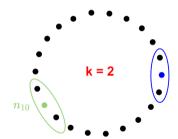
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olecular Imaging Methods Graphs & Manifolds GAT-Denoiser Results Summary & Future Work Questions References

### 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.

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#### LoDoPaB-CT dataset

- > Dataset for low-dose Computed Tomography
- > 35'820 train samples
- > 3'553 test samples
- > BM3D as baseline algorithm
- Resolution 64 x 64









Figure: Some samples from the LoDoPaB-CT dataset.

## GAT-Denoiser - Implementation for Computed Tomography

- PyTorch Geometric
- > U-Net used for reconstruction
  - $\rightarrow$  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

olecular Imaging Methods Graphs & Manifolds GAT-Denoiser **Results** Summary & Future Work Questions References

#### **Evaluation**

- > Small Scale Experiments
  - > 1024 train samples
  - > 100 test samples
  - > 200 epochs
- Large Scale Experiments
  - > Complete LoDoPaB-CT dataset
  - > 20 40 epochs

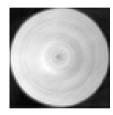
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#### **Evaluation**

- > Small Scale Experiments
  - > 1024 train samples
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  - > 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

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



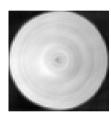
(a) Reconstruction with random Erdős–Rényi graph with p=0.01



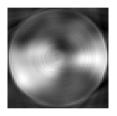
(b) Reconstruction with k-NN input graph k = 10

## Small Scale Experiments - Overall Results

- 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
  - $\rightarrow$  k-NN with k=2
  - > Joint U-Net training



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

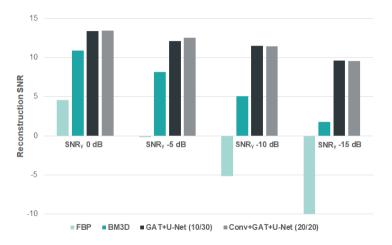


(b) Reconstruction with k-NN input graph k = 10

## Large Scale Experiment - SNR Results

- > 3'553 test samples
- Different algortihms / GAT-Denoiser models:
  - FBP
  - BM3D
  - > GAT + U-Net (10/30)
  - $\mathsf{Conv} + \mathsf{GAT} + \mathsf{U-Net} (20/20)$
- > Reconstruction SNR averages over all test samples

## Large Scale Experiment - SNR Results



## Large Scale Experiment - Visual Results - SNR<sub>v</sub> 0 dB

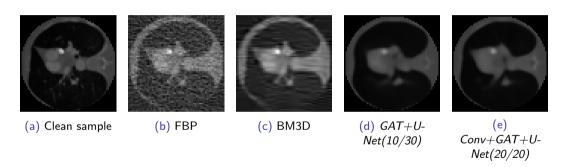


Figure: Large Scale Experiment: Visual results for SNR<sub>v</sub> 0 dB.

## Large Scale Experiment - Visual Results - SNR<sub>v</sub> 0 dB

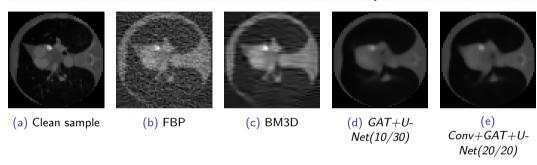


Figure: Large Scale Experiment: Visual results for SNR<sub>v</sub> 0 dB.

GAT-Denoiser improves BM3D for SNR<sub>v</sub> 0 dB by 27.6%.

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

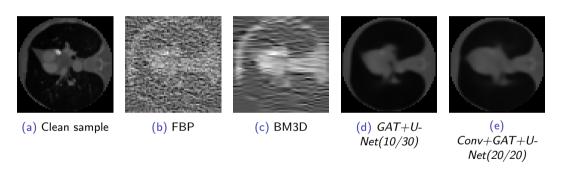


Figure: Large Scale Experiment: Visual results for SNR<sub>v</sub> -10 dB.

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

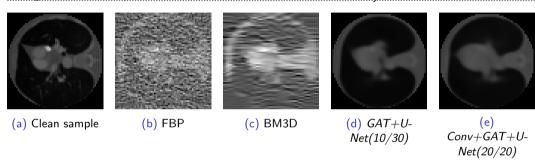


Figure: Large Scale Experiment: Visual results for SNR<sub>v</sub> -10 dB.

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

### Large Scale Experiment - Visual Results - SNR<sub>v</sub> -15 dB

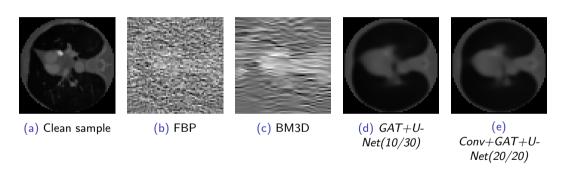


Figure: Large Scale Experiment: Visual results for SNR<sub>v</sub> -15 dB.

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

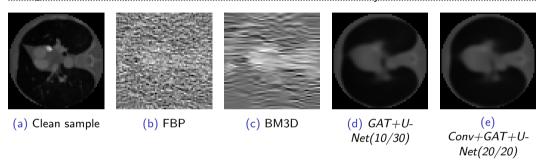


Figure: Large Scale Experiment: Visual results for SNR<sub>v</sub> -15 dB.

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

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#### Summary

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

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### Summary

- 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

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

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#### Future Work

- > 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

- Questions

# Questions



Molecular Imaging Methods Graphs & Manifolds GAT-Denoiser Results Summary & Future Work Questions References

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