

Spherical aberration: C_s

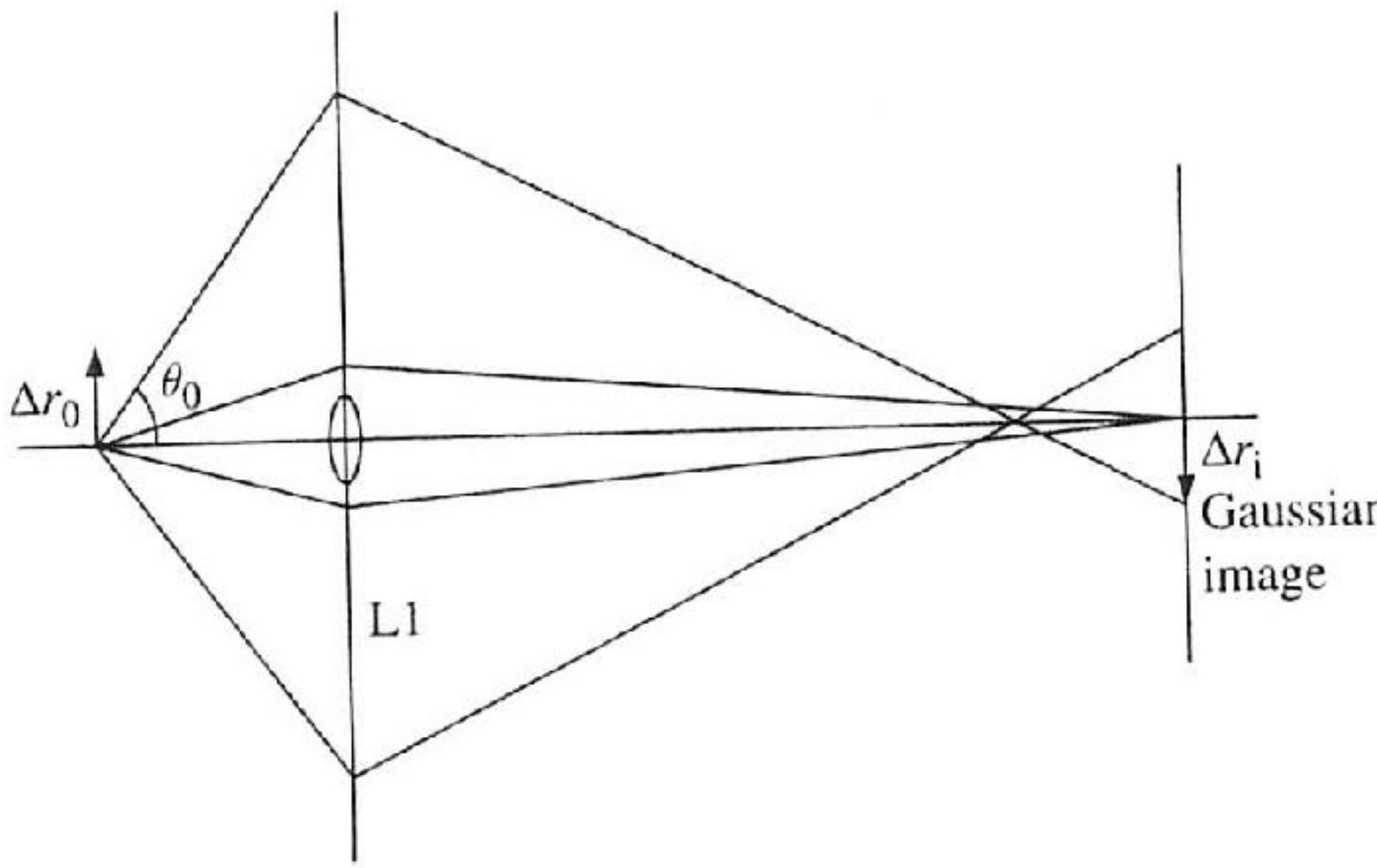


Figure 2.13 The effect of spherical aberration. Rays passing through the outer zones of the lens (far from the axis) are refracted more strongly than those paraxial rays passing close to the axis. These outer rays meet the axis before the Gaussian image plane, and meet that plane a distance Δr_i from the axis. Spherical aberration (or aperture defect) is the most important defect affecting the quality of high-resolution images.

Chromatic aberration: C_c

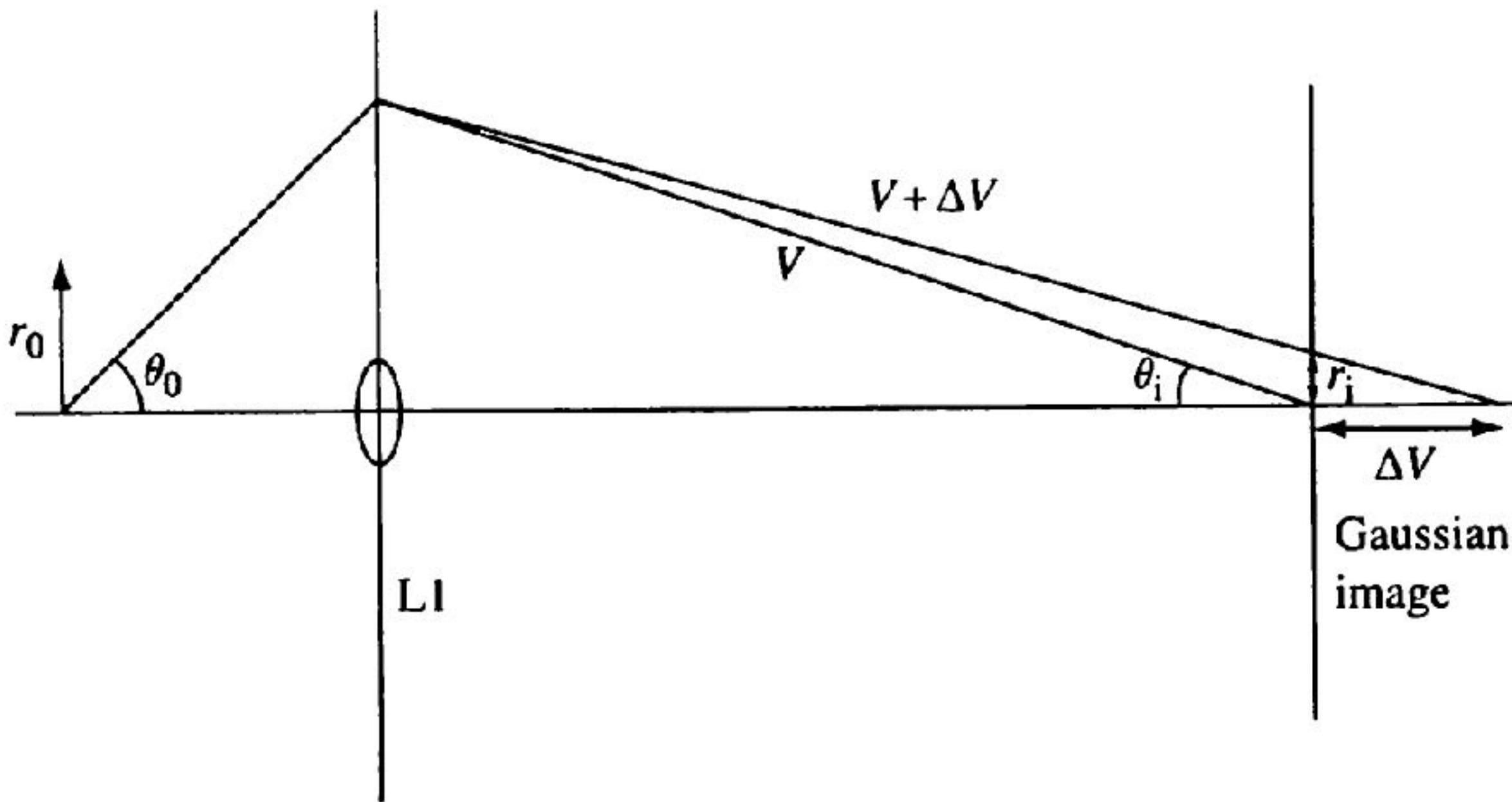


Figure 2.14 The effect of chromatic aberration. The faster electrons which have been accelerated through a potential $V + \Delta V$ are less strongly refracted than lower-energy electrons accelerated through a potential V . These higher-energy electrons are thus brought to a focus beyond the Gaussian image plane, which they pass at a distance r_i from the axis.

From John Spence: High-resolution electron microscopy

Astigmatism

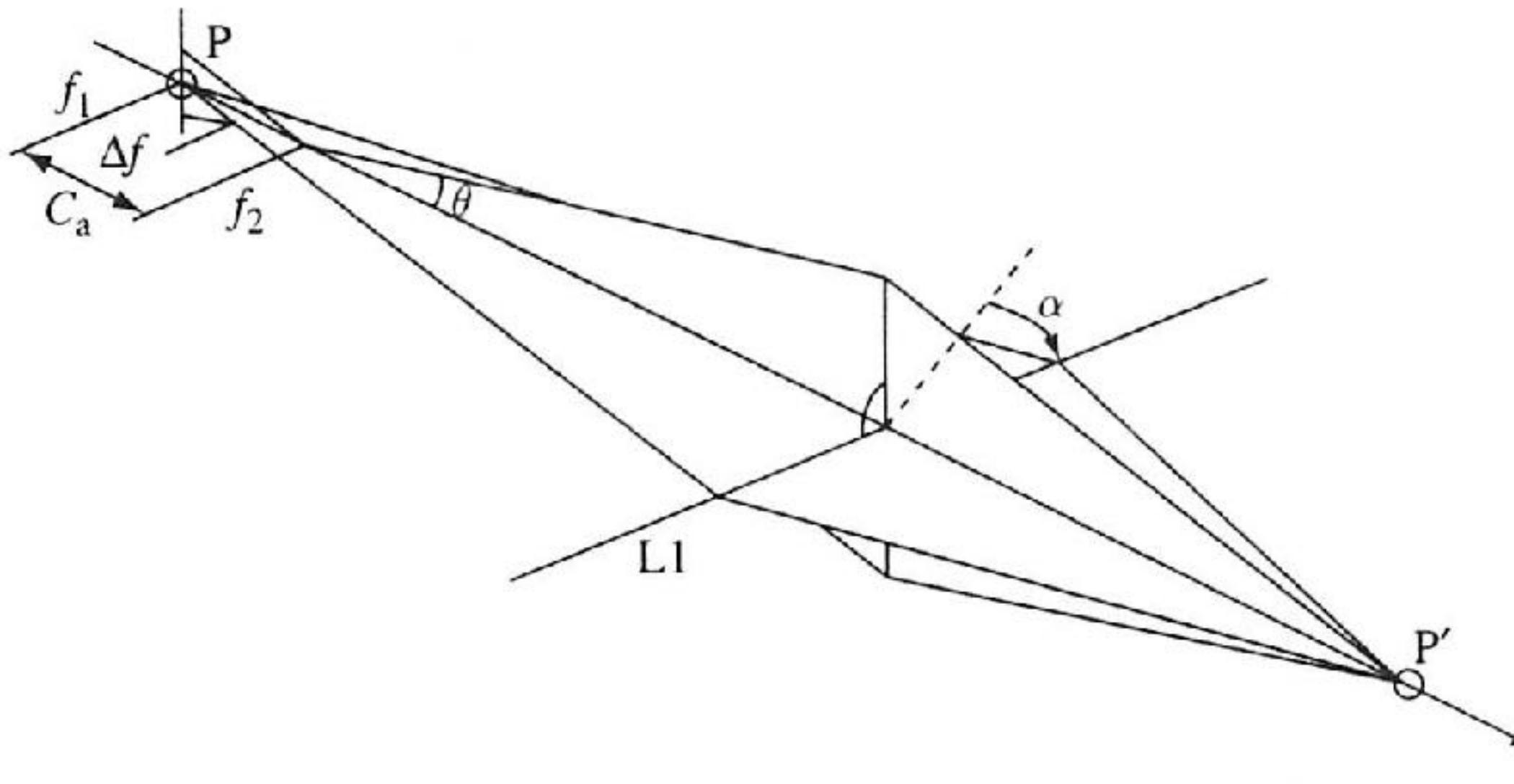
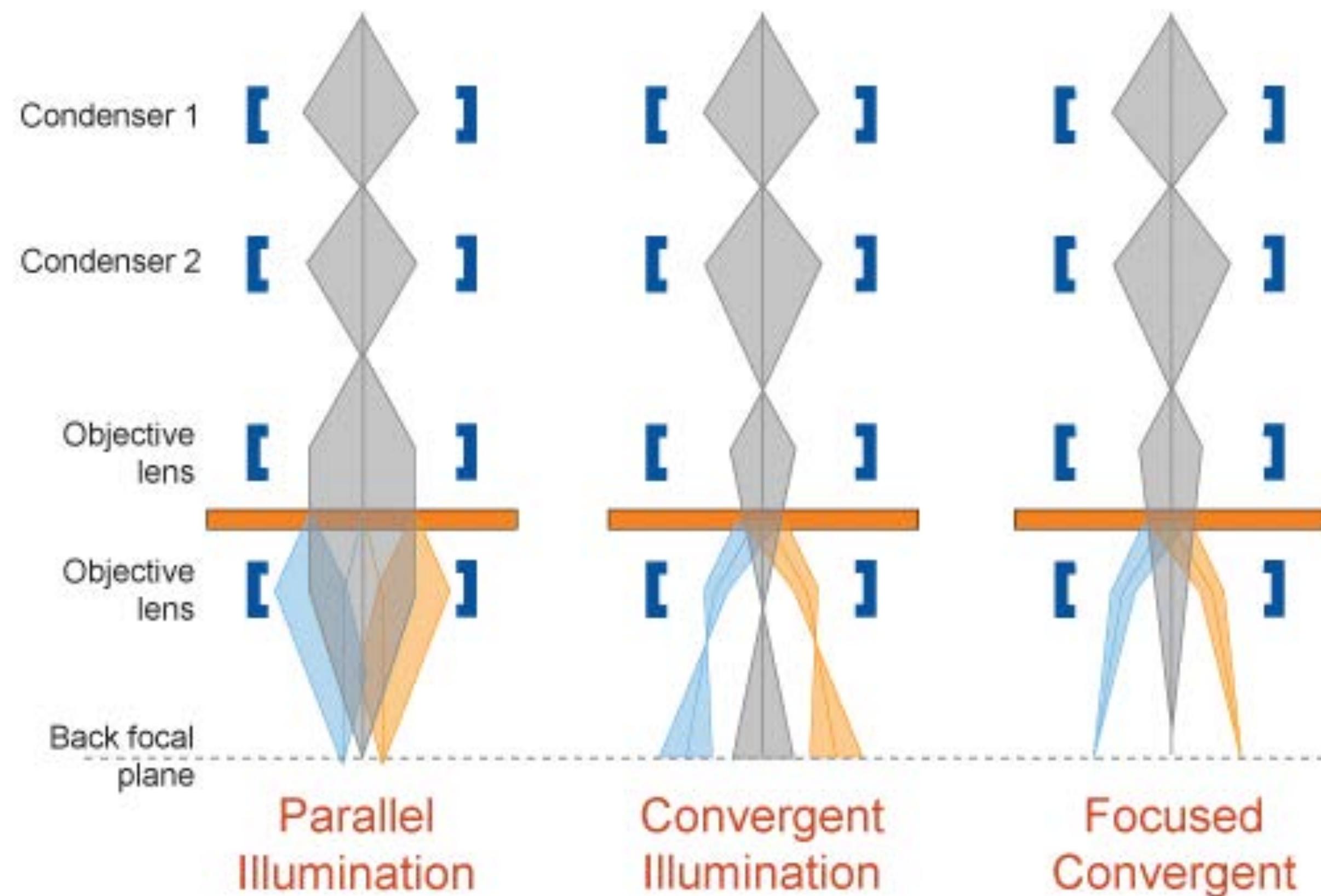


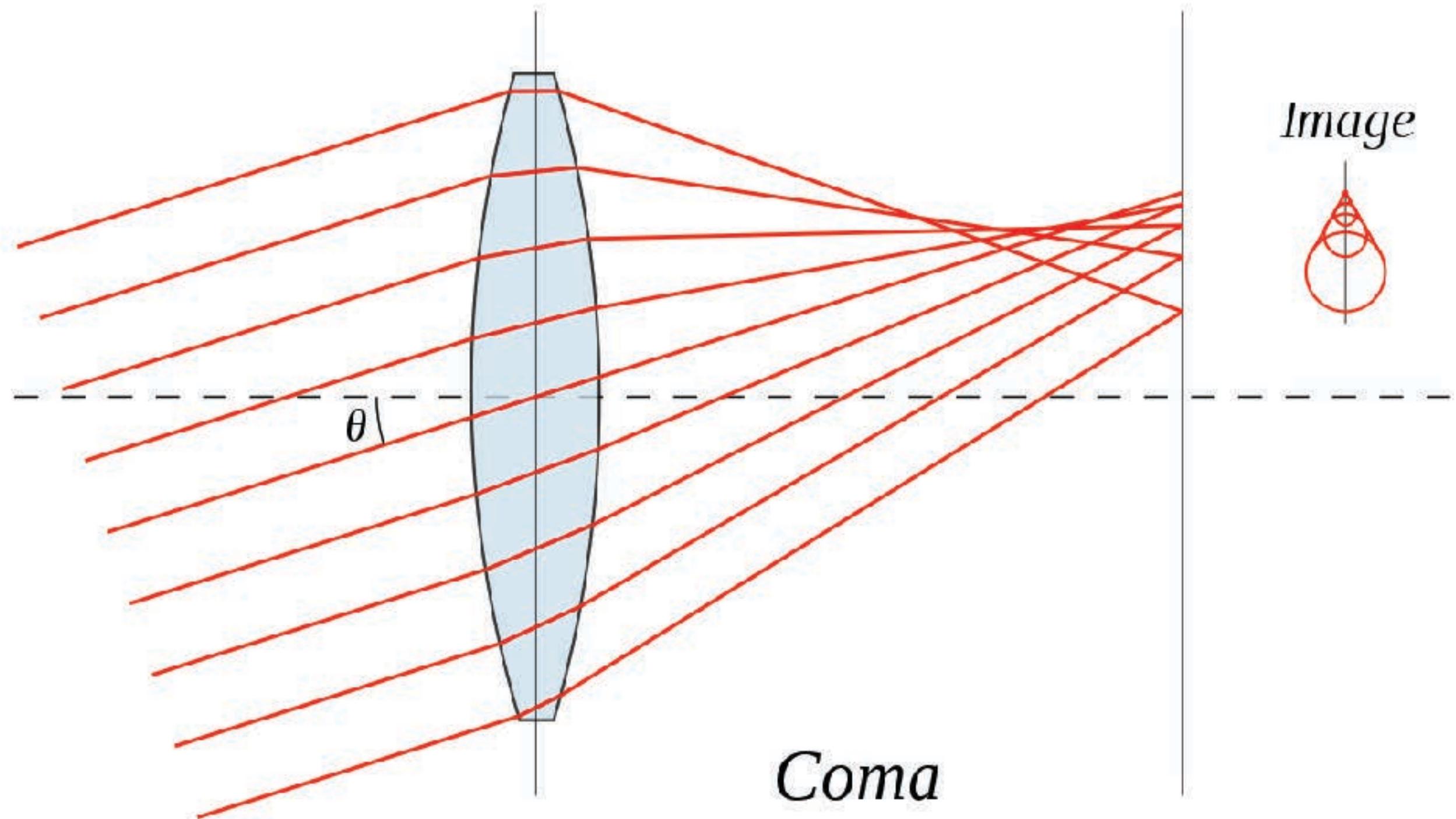
Figure 2.15 Astigmatism. The focal length of the lens depends on the azimuthal angle α of a ray leaving the object. These rays are in a plane containing the optic axis. Planes at right angles for the maximum and minimum focal length are shown, with a mean focus f . The difference between the maximum and minimum focus is the astigmatism constant C_a .

From John Spence: High-resolution electron microscopy

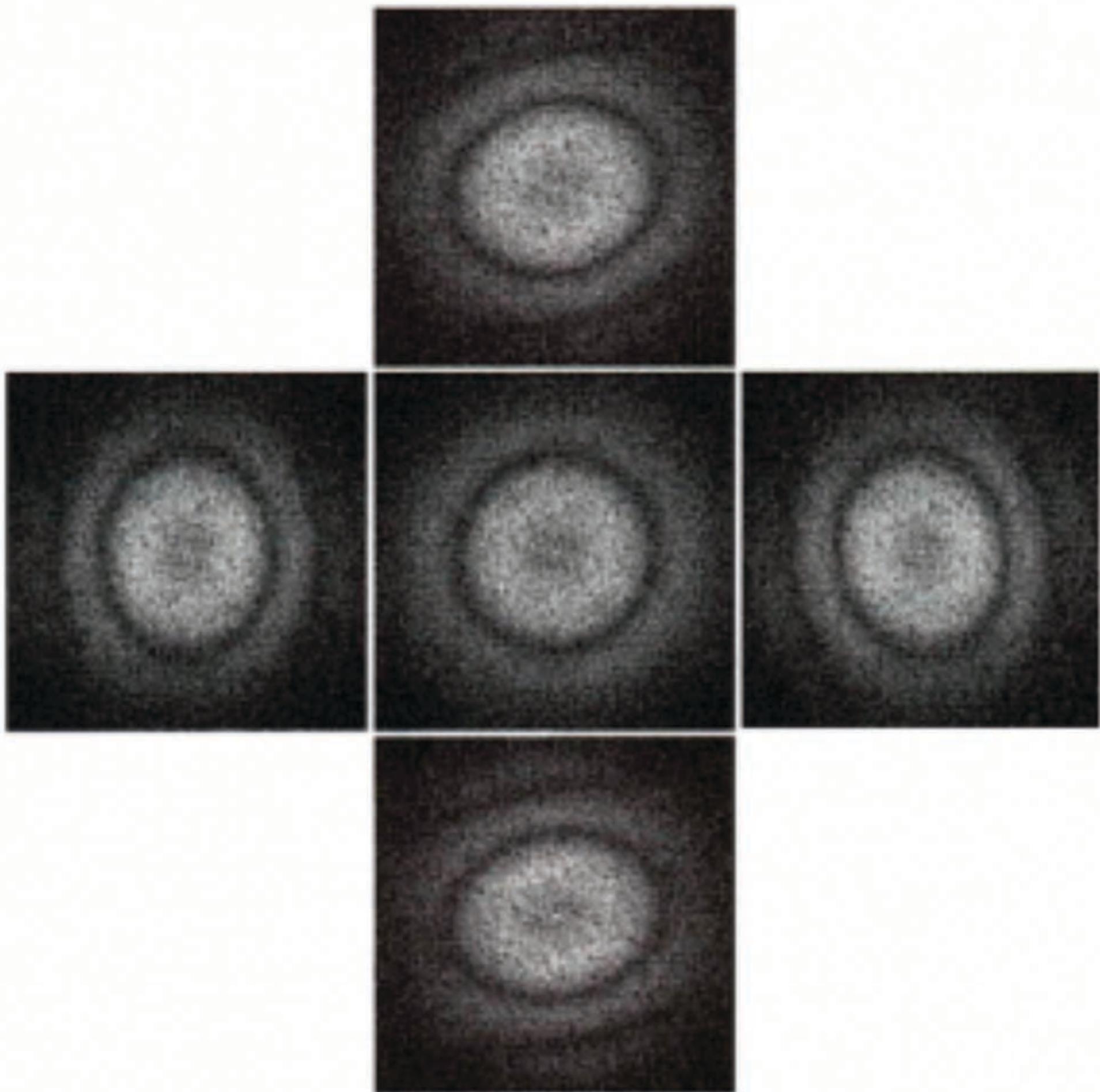
Parallel illumination



Coma

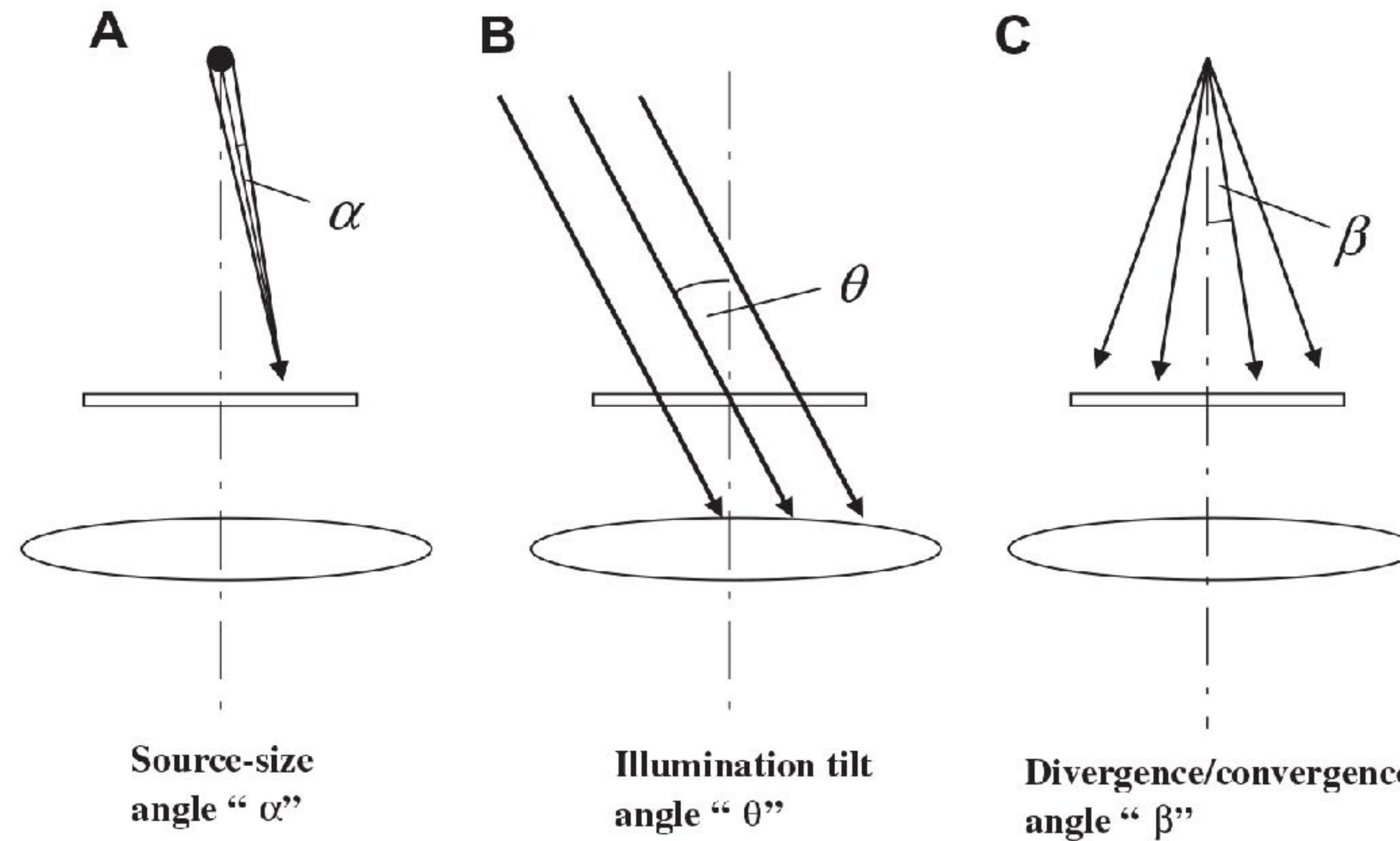


Image



influence of beam tilt

- Glaeser, Typke, Tiemeijer, Pulokas and Cheng (2011) Journal of Structural Biology **174**, 1-10. Precise beam-tilt alignment and collimation are required to minimize the phase error associated with coma in high-resolution cryo-EM



Atomic resolution imaging with TEM

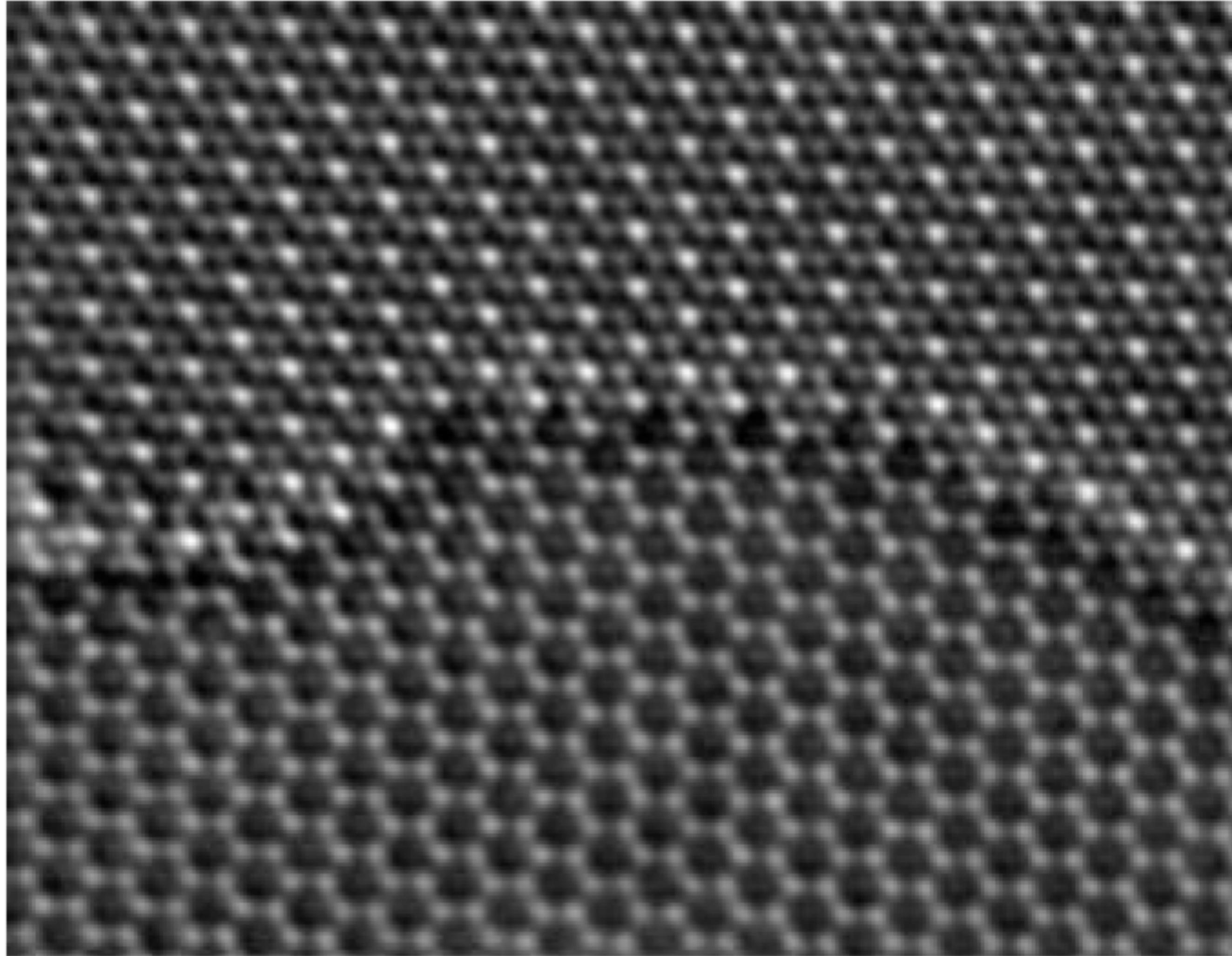
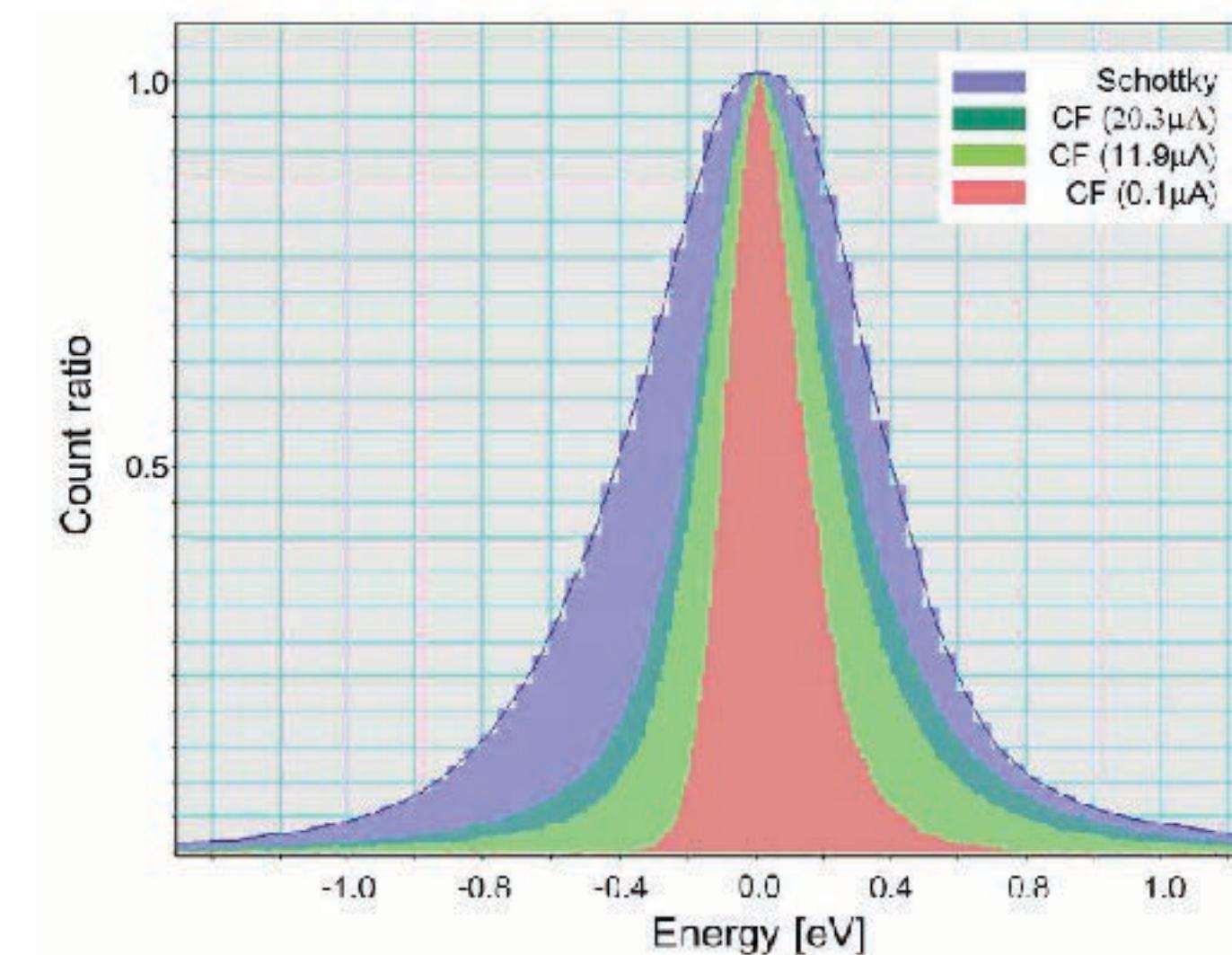
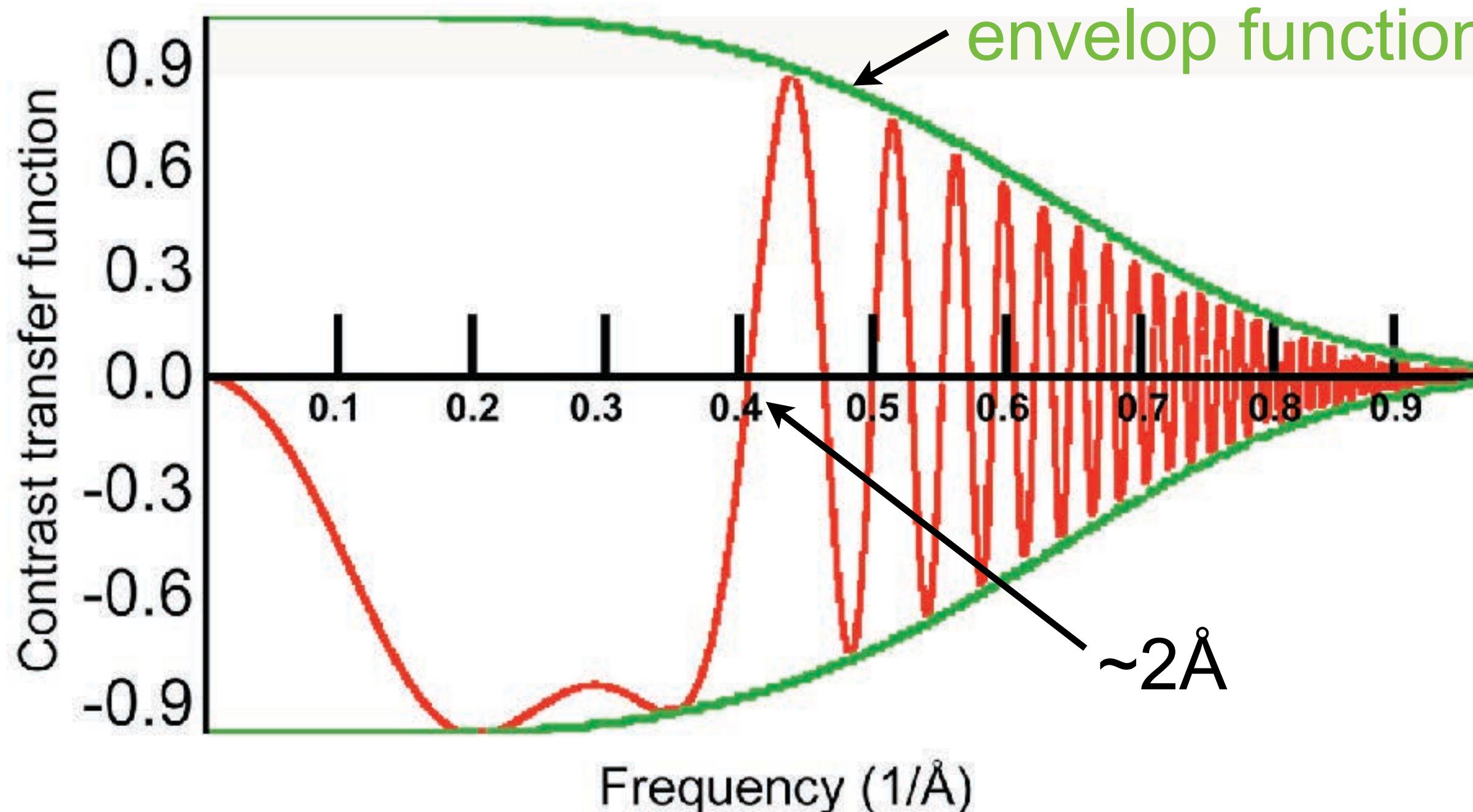


Image of graphene, Nature Mat, 2011, **10**, 165

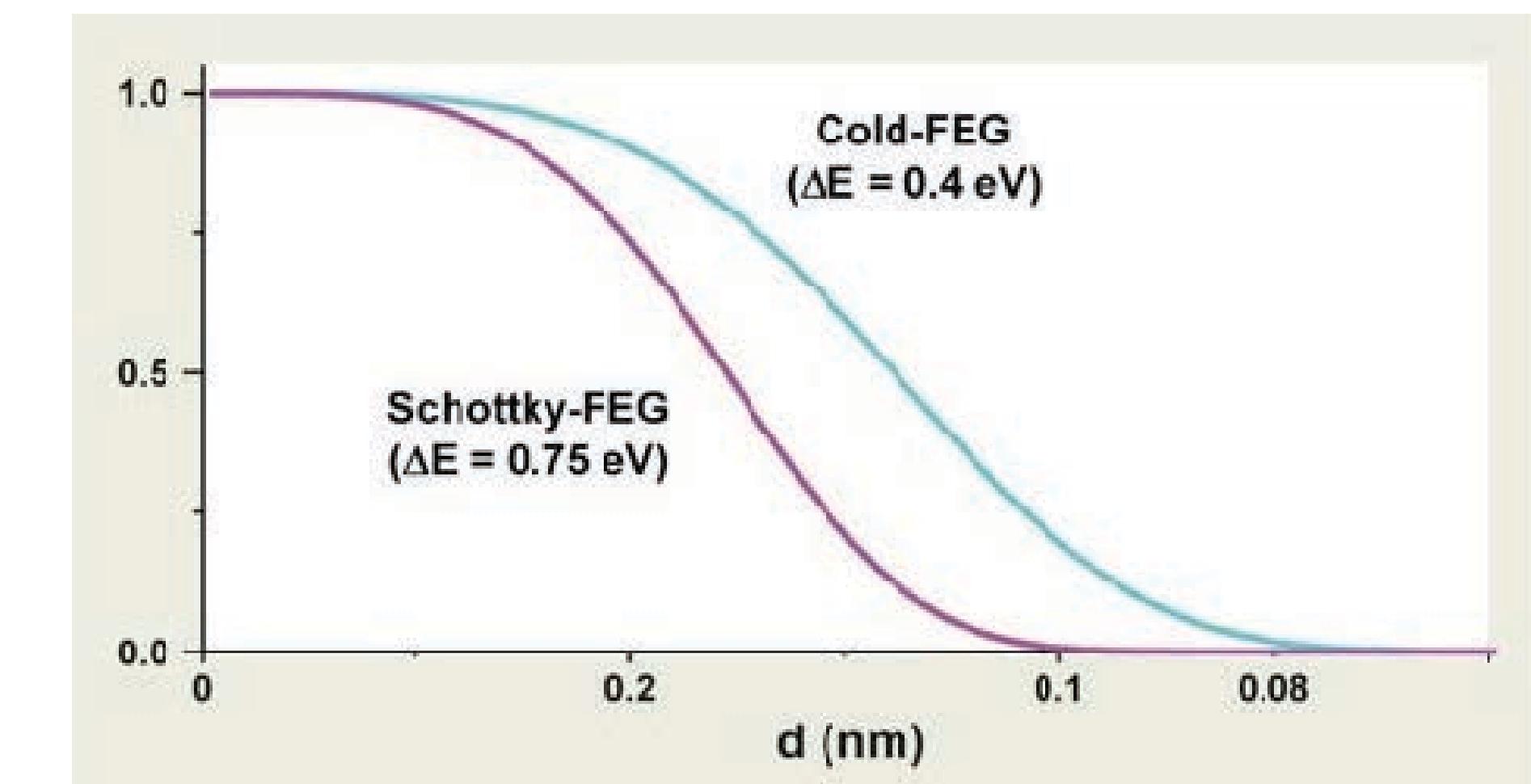
Electron optic system of a modern electron microscope is of sufficient quality to image radiation resistant material (typically inorganic) at atomic resolution ($\sim 2\text{\AA}$ or better).

Determinants of resolution

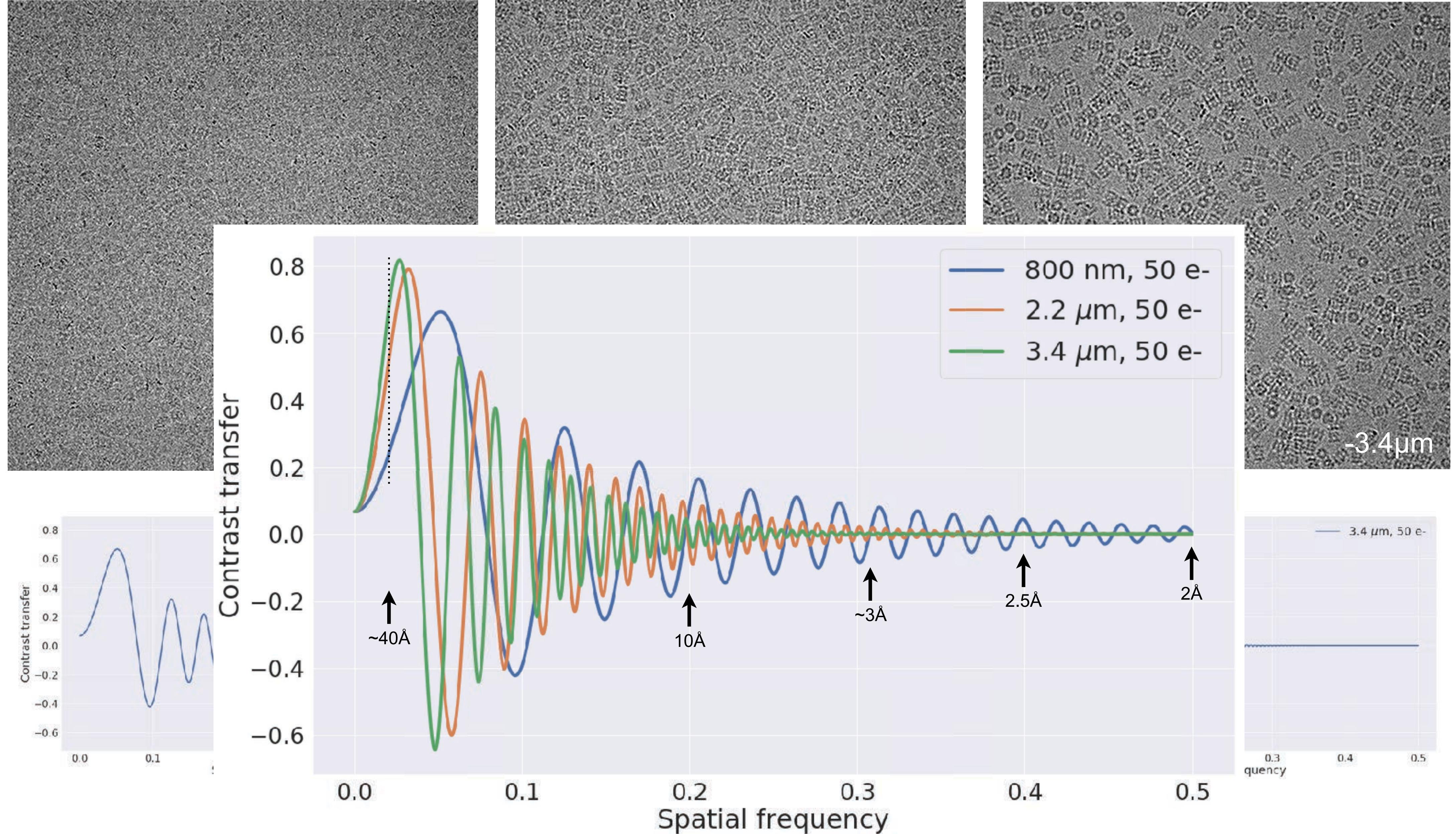


- Envelop function determines the information limit of a micrograph;
- Envelop function itself is shaped by defocus, beam spacial coherence,

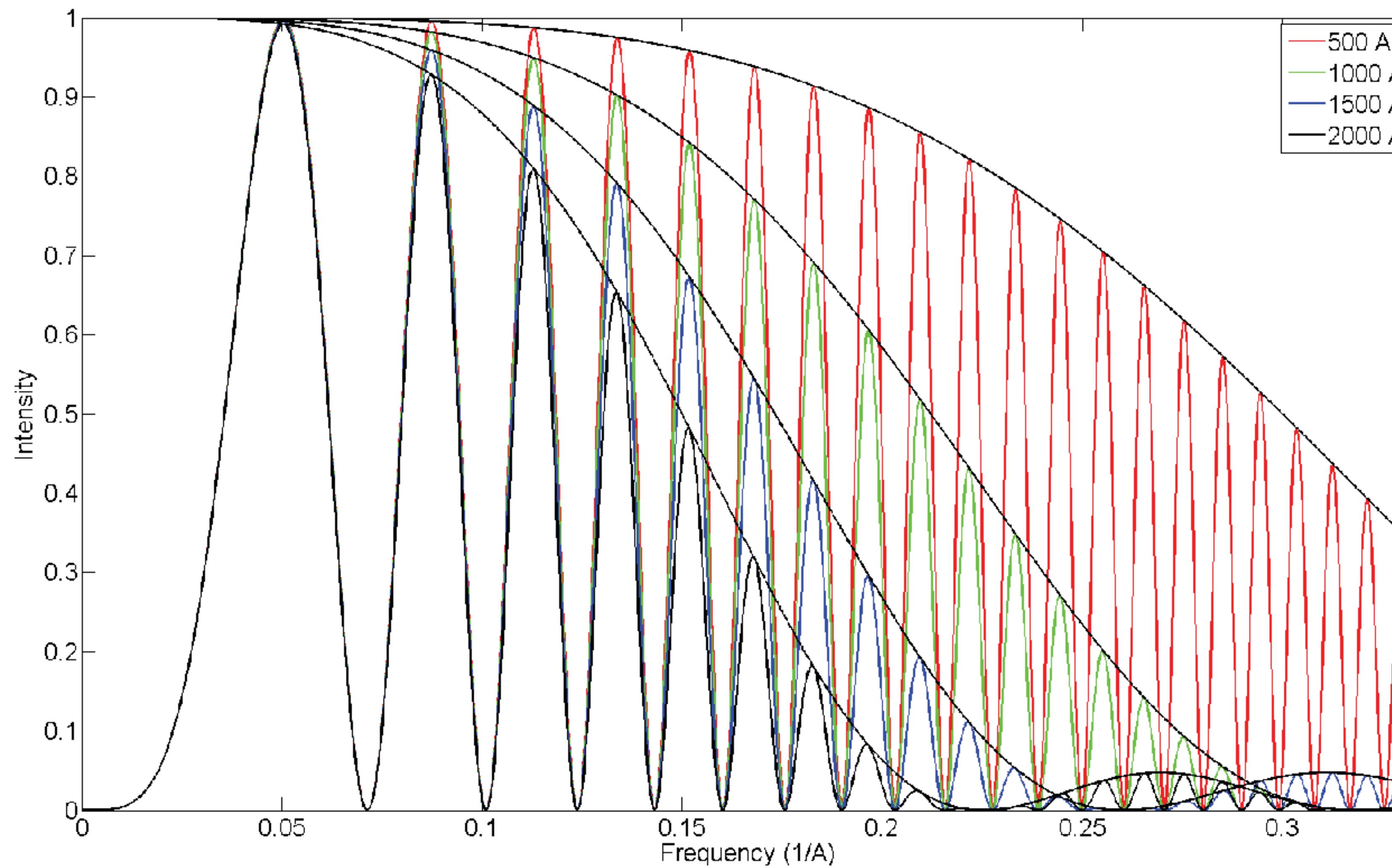
$$D(\vec{k}) = e^{-\frac{1}{2}\pi^2 \Delta^2 \lambda^2(\vec{k})^4} e^{-\pi^2 \alpha^2(\vec{k})^2} [\varepsilon + C_s \lambda^2(\vec{k})^2]^2$$



Influence of CTF on image



Influence of sample thickness



“You just *look at the thing!*”

Richard Feynman: There's plenty of room at the bottom
(December 29, 1959, lecture to American Physical Society):

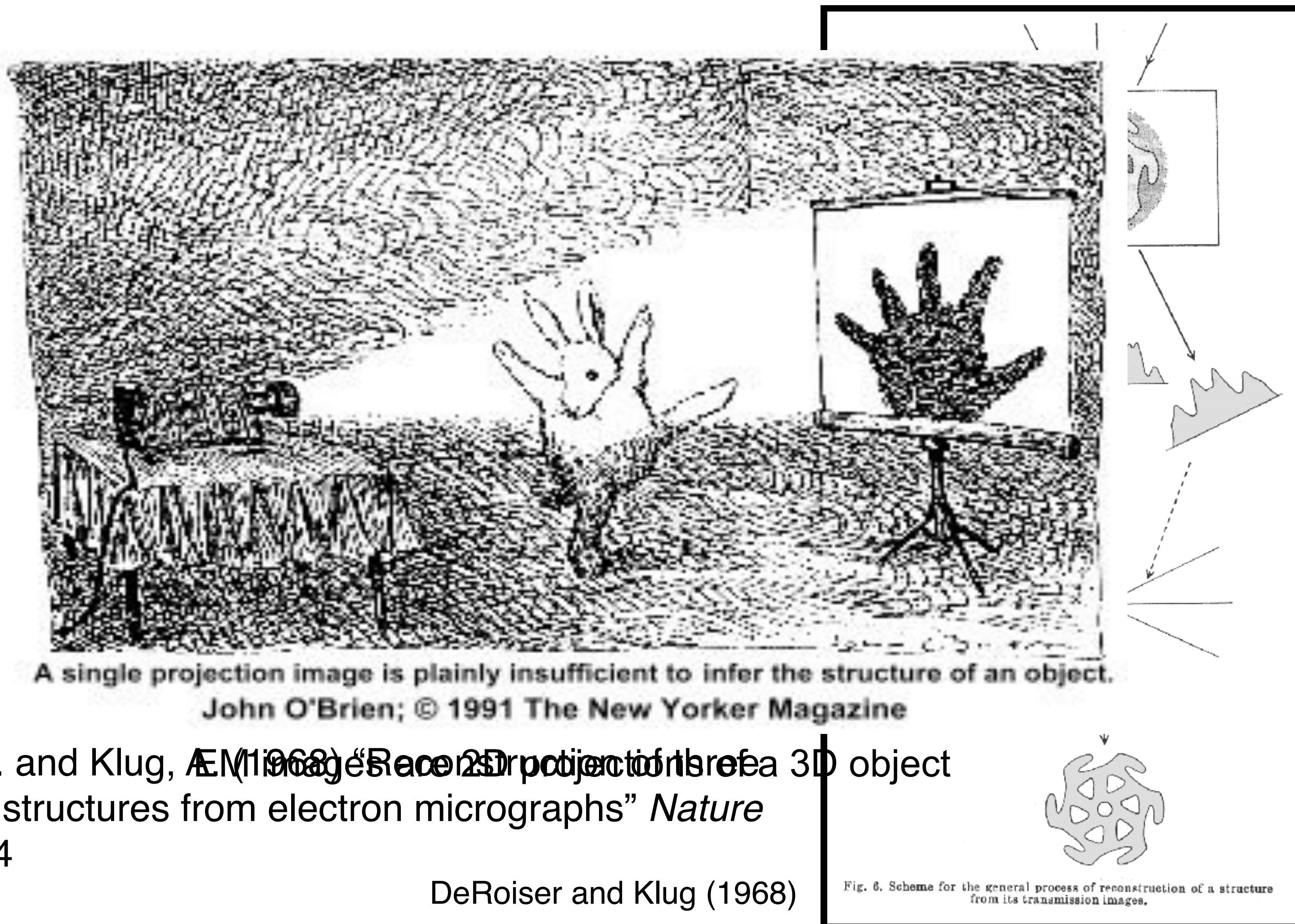
“It is very easy to answer many of these fundamental biological questions: you just *look at the thing!*”

“Unfortunately, the present microscope sees at a scale which is just a bit too crude. Make the microscope one hundred times more powerful, and many problems of biology would be made very much easier.”

“... the biologists would surely be very thankful to you”

Reconstructing 3D object from 2D projection images

Central Section
Fourier transform
section through
the direction



Molecular electron microscopy of biological sample

Strong electron scattering power means two things:

- 1 high vacuum of microscope column;
- 2 strong scattering with protein sample;

Problems:

- 1 dehydration of biological sample;
- 2 radiation damage by high energy beam;

Molecular electron microscopy of biological sample

Strong scattering by high-energy electrons imposes two challenges to biological samples:

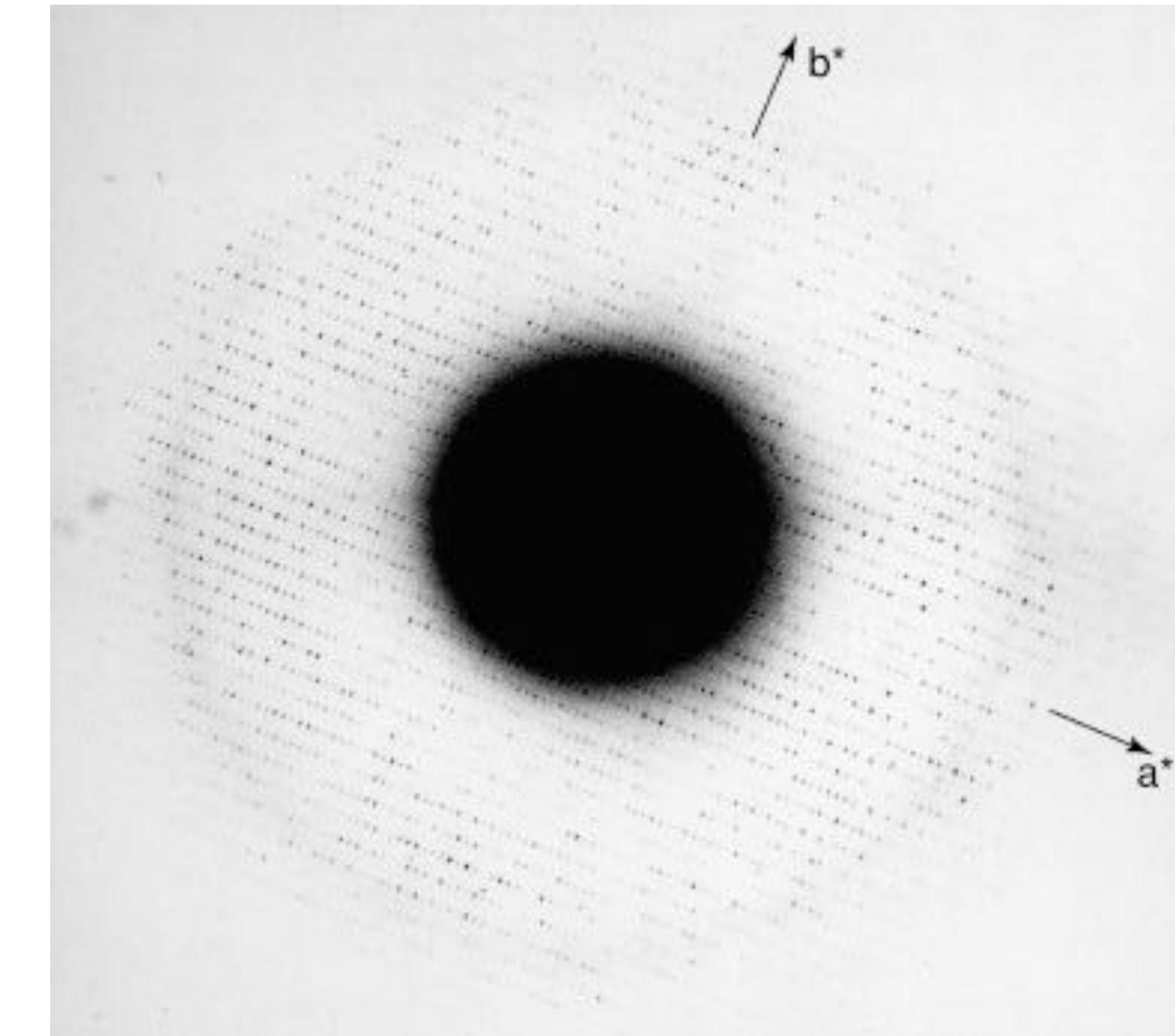
- dehydration caused by high vacuum within electron microscope column destroys biological samples;
- severe radiation damage caused by high-energy electron beam destroys biological samples;

- * Shadow casting (Williams & Wycoff, 1945);
- * Positive staining (Pease & Baker, 1948);
- * Glass knives for microtomy (Hartmann & Latta, 1950);
- * Diamond knives (Fernandez-Moran, 1953);
- * Negative staining (Hall, 1955);

Frozen hydration preserve structural integrity to atomic level.

Taylor K and Glaeser RM (1974) “Electron diffraction of frozen, hydrated protein crystals”
Science 186, 1036-1037

Taylor and Glaeser (2008) “Retrospective on the early development of cryoelectron microscopy of macromolecules and a prospective on opportunities for the future” *Journal of Structural Biology*



Cryo-electron microscopy

Against dehydration:

glucose/trehalose embedding: using glucose to substitute water, thus maintain hydration in the high vacuum. Only used for 2D crystal;

Frozen hydration: using plunge freezing to avoid crystal ice. Mostly for single particle;

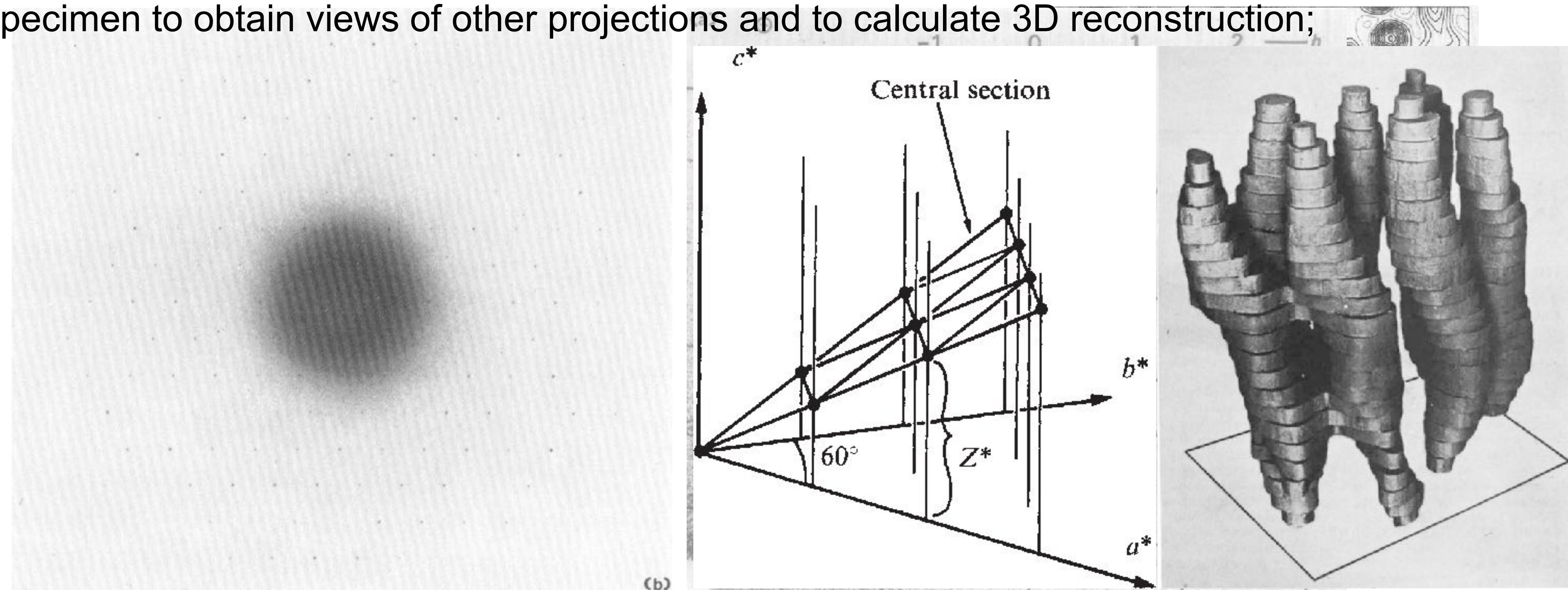
- Against radiation damage:

Low-temperature: LN2 (~80K) or LHe (~10K); Challenges to the instrumentations;

Low-electron dose: Low-dose imaging; Results in extremely noisy images, challenges for the data processing;

Structure of unstained crystalline specimen by electron microscopy

- Substituting water with sugar to prevent dehydration;
- Using crystalline samples to obtain sufficient signals from images recorded with low electron dose;
- Tilting specimen to obtain views of other projections and to calculate 3D reconstruction;



Henderson R and Unwin N (1975) "Three-dimensional model of purple membrane obtained by electron microscopy" *Nature* **257**, 28-32.

Unwin N and Henderson R (1975) "Molecular structure determination by electron microscopy of unstained crystalline specimens" *Journal of Molecular Biology* **94**, 425-440.

Single particle EM: averaging of low dose image of non-periodic objects

J Frank (1975) "Averaging of low exposure electron micrographs of non-periodic objects" *ultramicroscopy* **1**, 159.

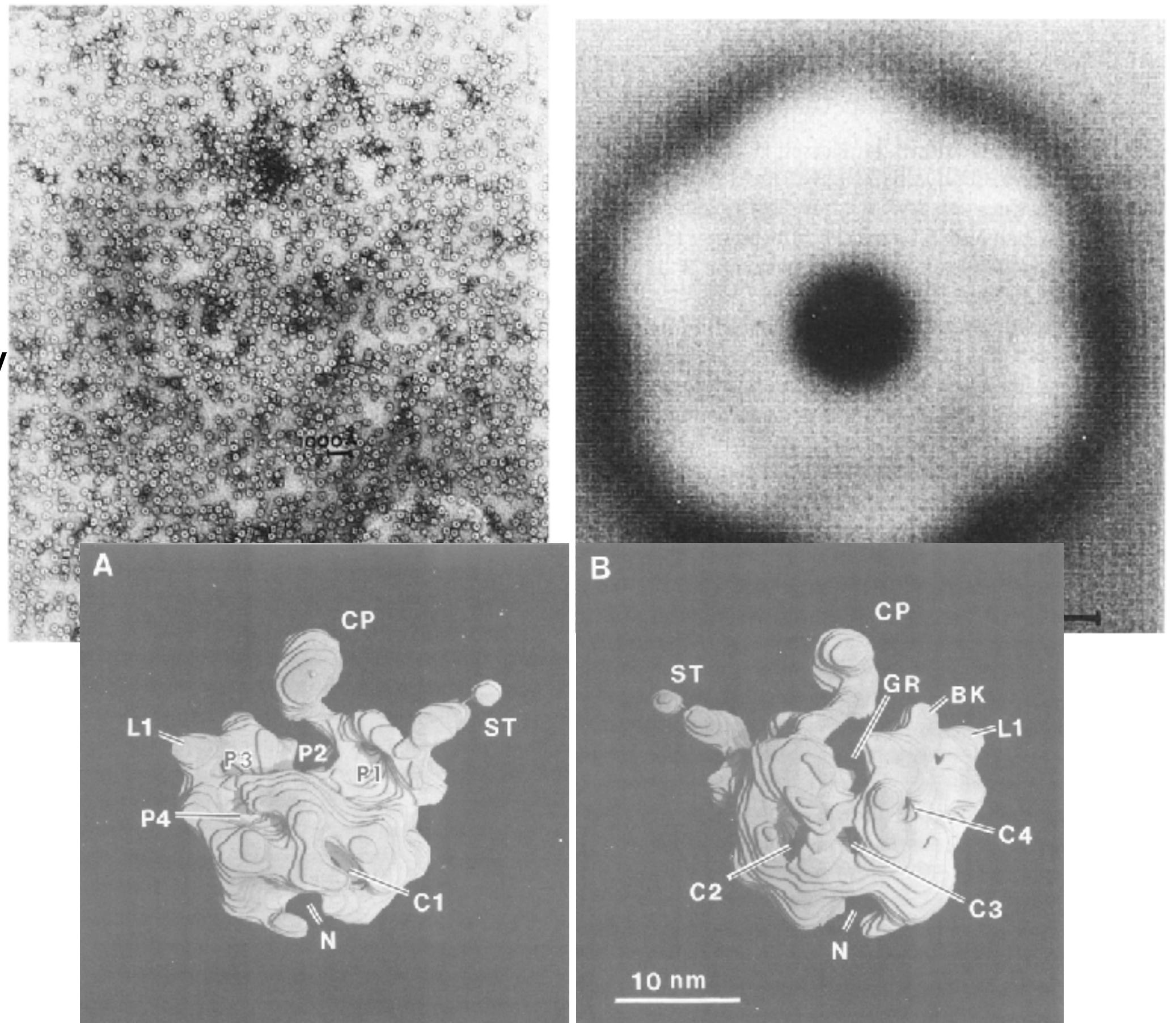
"We will investigate how the average techniques could be extended to this general case. Of all the possible regular specimen, we are interested in those which form identical particles, sufficiently well separated on the microscope grid so as not to overlap.".

Frank, J. Goldfarb, W, Eisenberg, D. and Baker, T.S.
(1978) "Reconstruction of glutamine synthetase using
computer averaging" *ultramicroscopy* **3**, 283-290.

"A single low-dose micrograph of a maximally tilted specimen will supply
all the Fourier information contained in a cone up to that tilt angle".

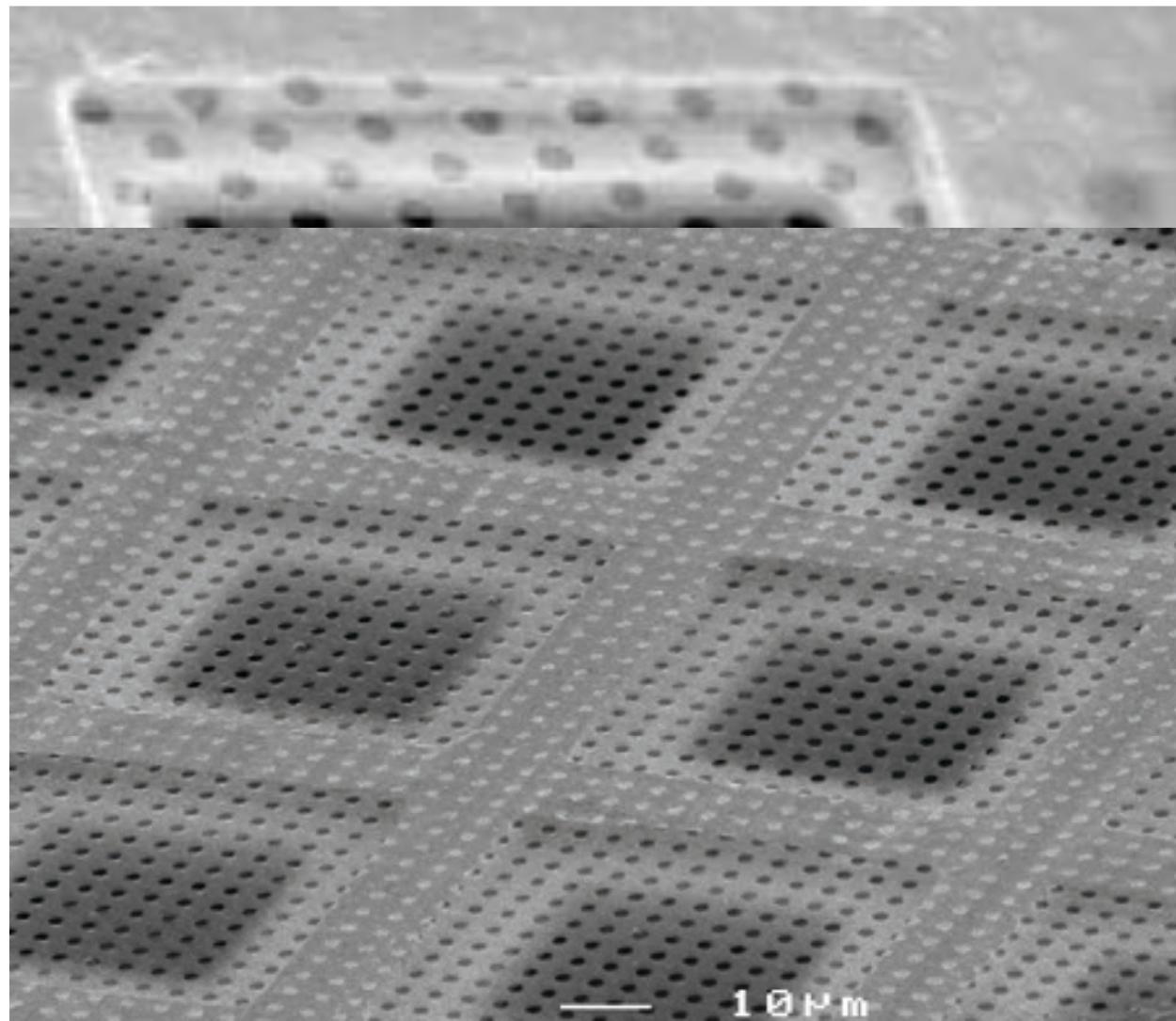
Radermacher, M., Wagenknecht, T., Verschoor, A.,
and Frank, J. (1987) "Three-dimensional Structure of
large ribosomal subunit from *Escherichia coli*" The
EMBO Journal **6**, 1107-1114.

E. coli 50S ribosome by random conical tilt (RCT)

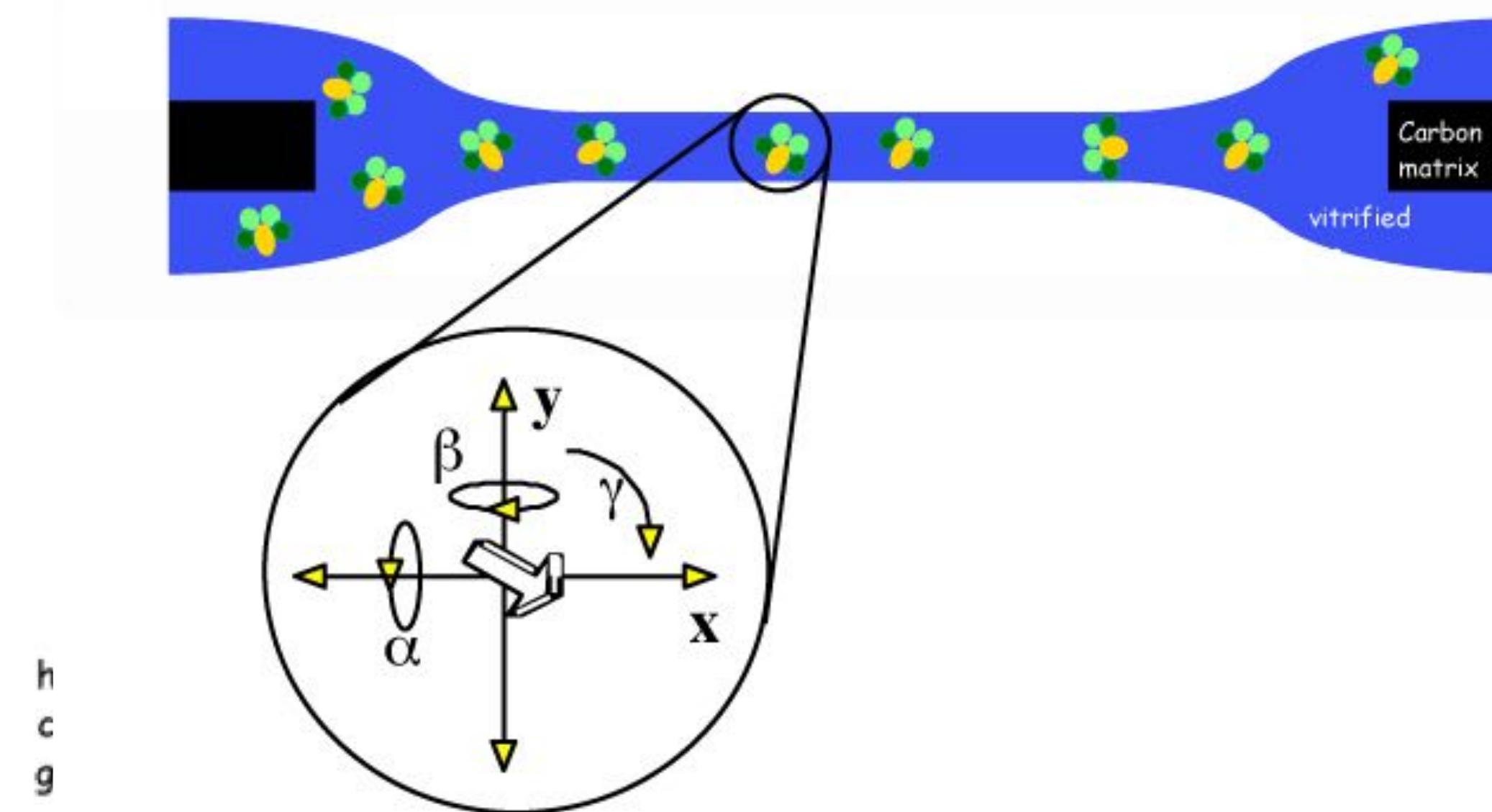


Frozen hydrated specimen preparation for single particle cryo-EM

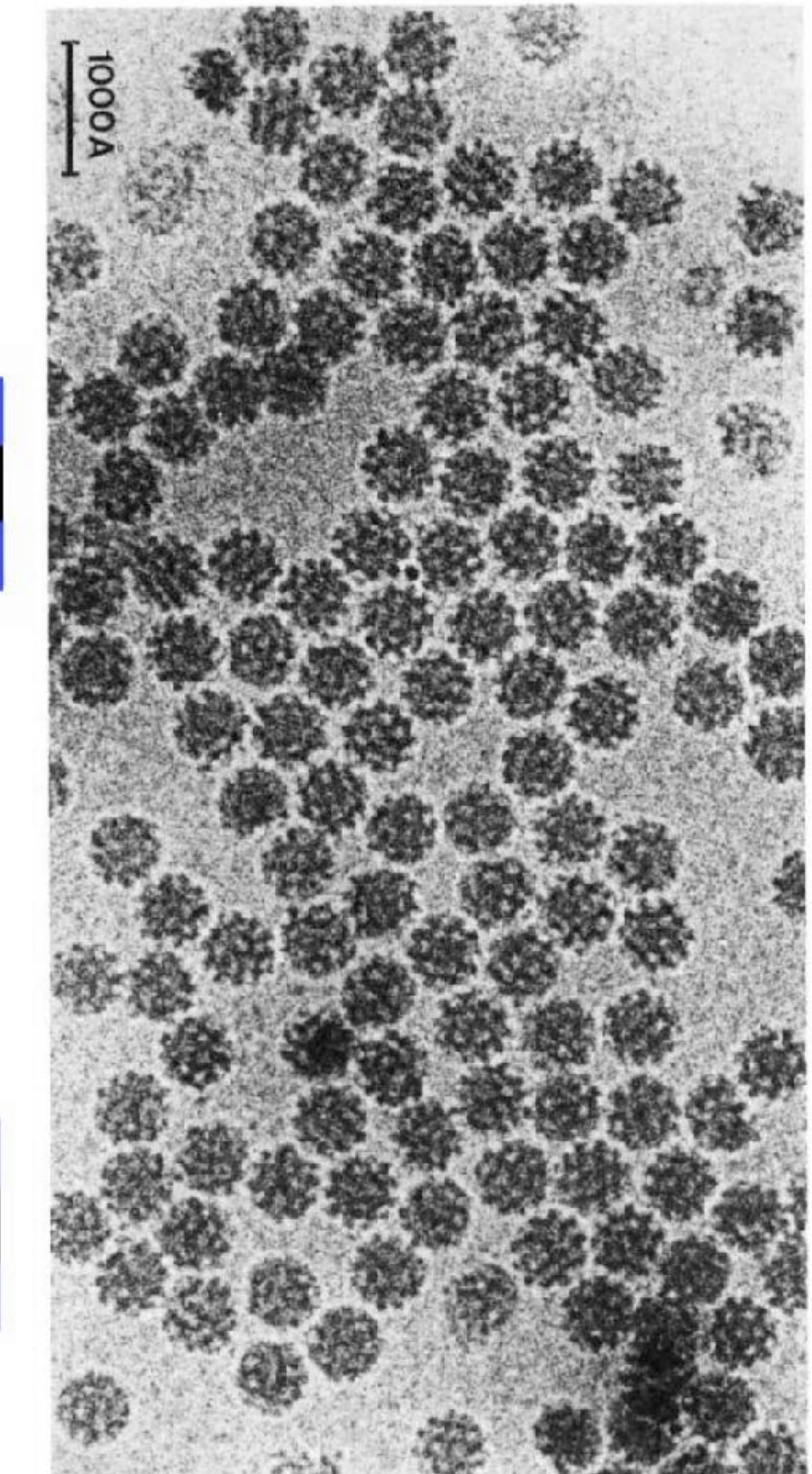
Adrian M, Dubochet J, Lepault J & McDowall AW (1984)
Cryo-electron microscopy of viruses. *Nature* **308**, 32-36.



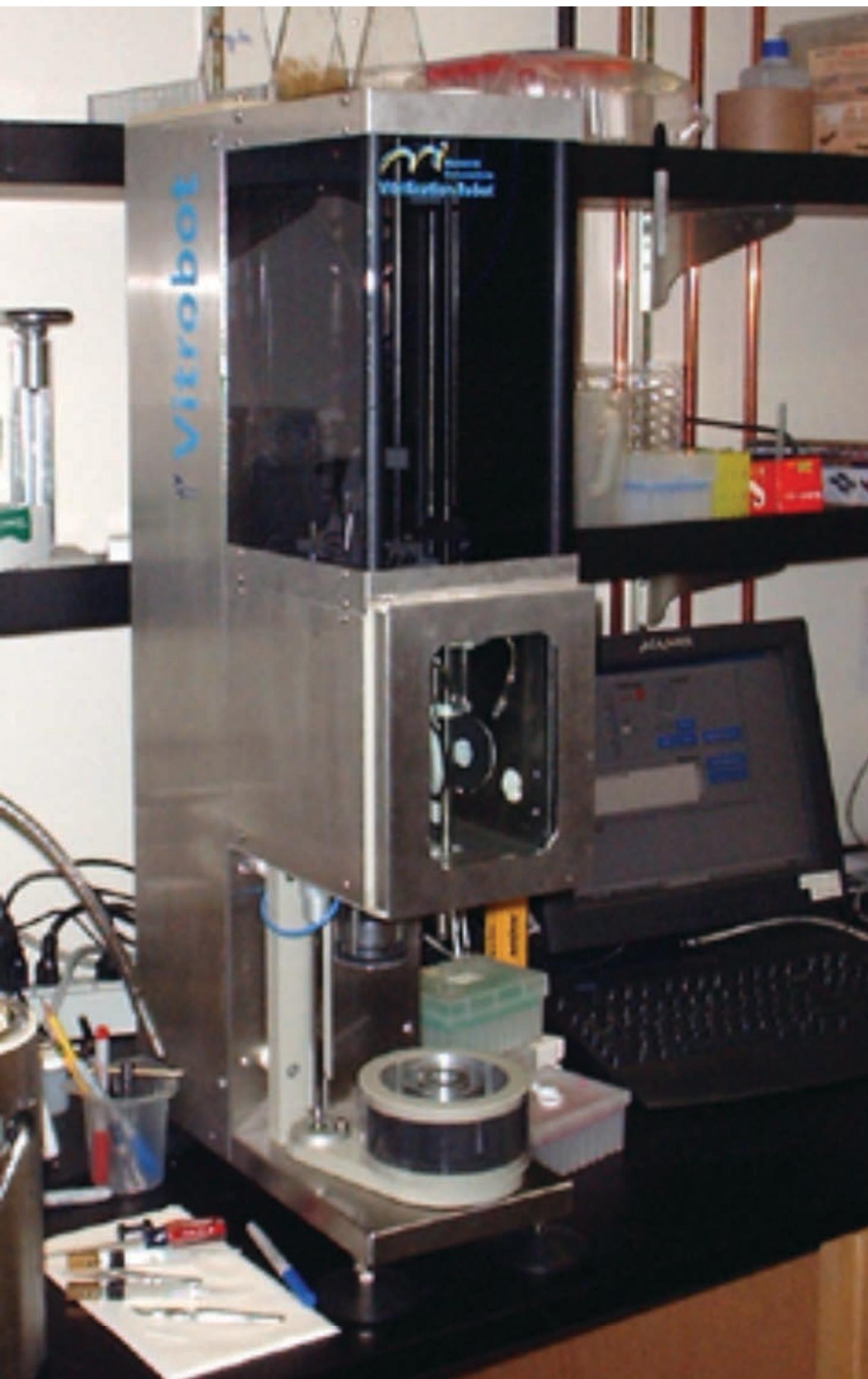
Quantifoil grid



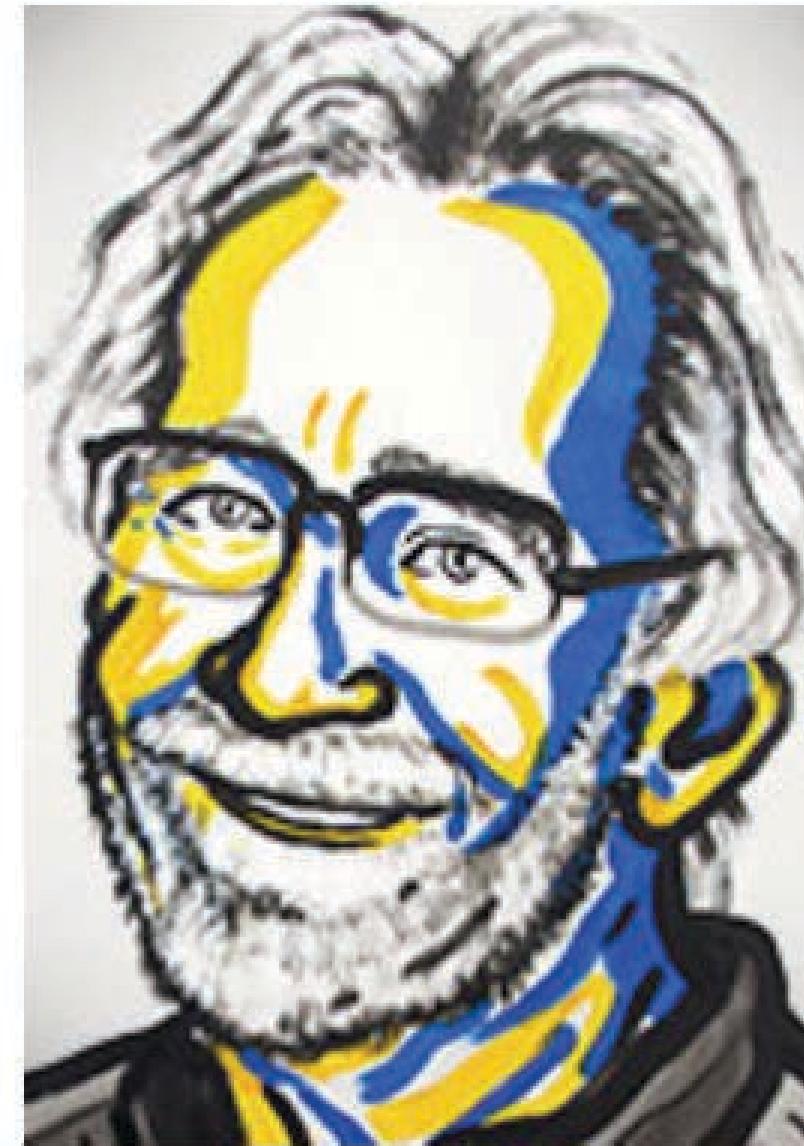
The geometry of each particles is defined by 5+1 parameters: three Euler angles, two in-plane positions (x , y) and defocus (z). First 5 are determined and refined against a reference model iteratively. Defocus is determined separately.



Equipment for cryo-electron microscopy



The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2017



© Nobel Media. Ill. N.
Elmehed
Jacques Dubochet
Prize share: 1/3



© Nobel Media. Ill. N.
Elmehed
Joachim Frank
Prize share: 1/3



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Elmehed
Richard Henderson
Prize share: 1/3

The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2017 was awarded to Jacques Dubochet, Joachim Frank and Richard Henderson "for developing cryo-electron microscopy for the high-resolution structure determination of biomolecules in solution".

Low-dose imaging technique

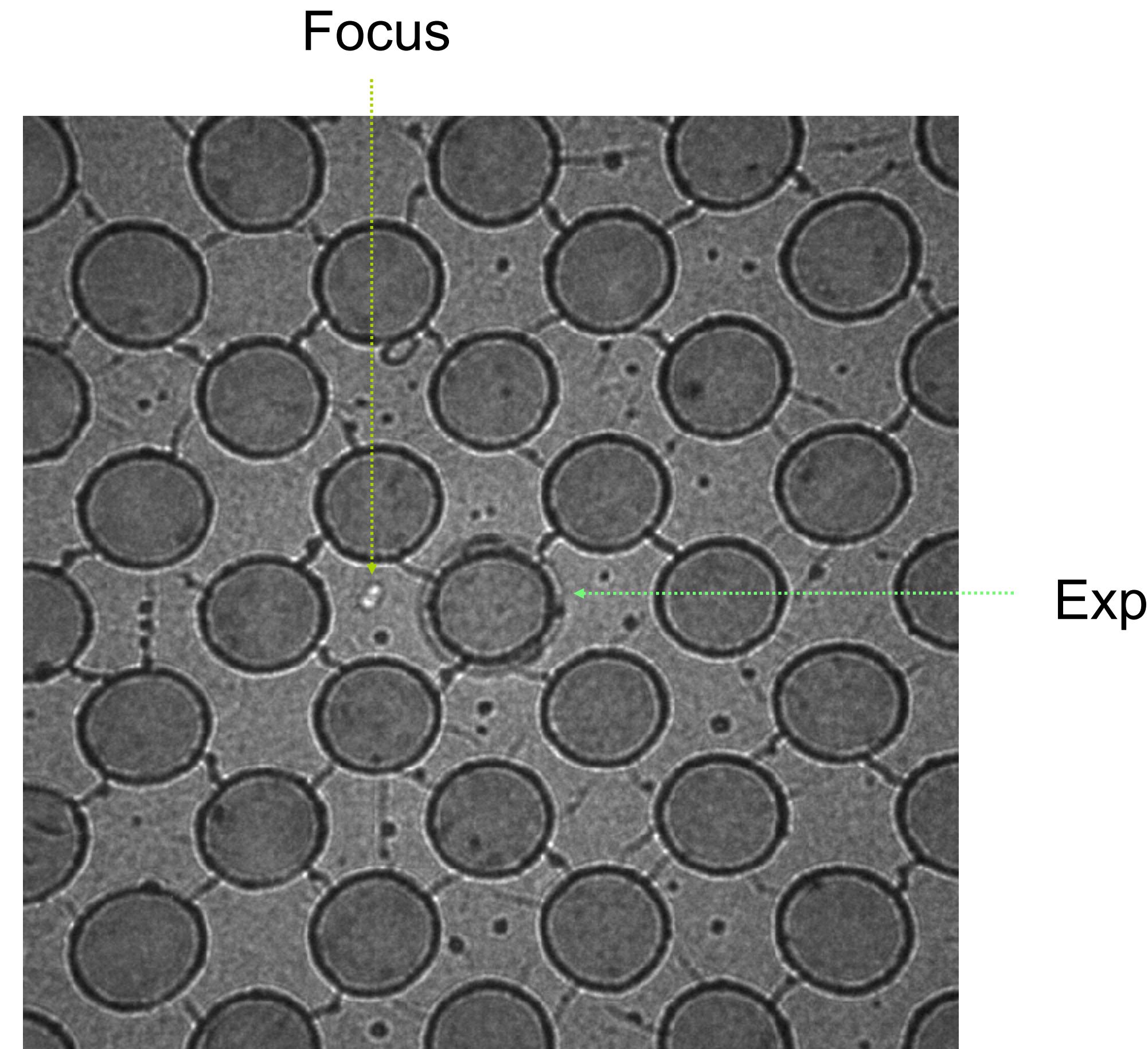
To record a good image, one needs to find the sample (search), adjust imaging condition (focus) and record image (exposure).

Low-dose imaging divide these steps into three different modes with different beam setting:

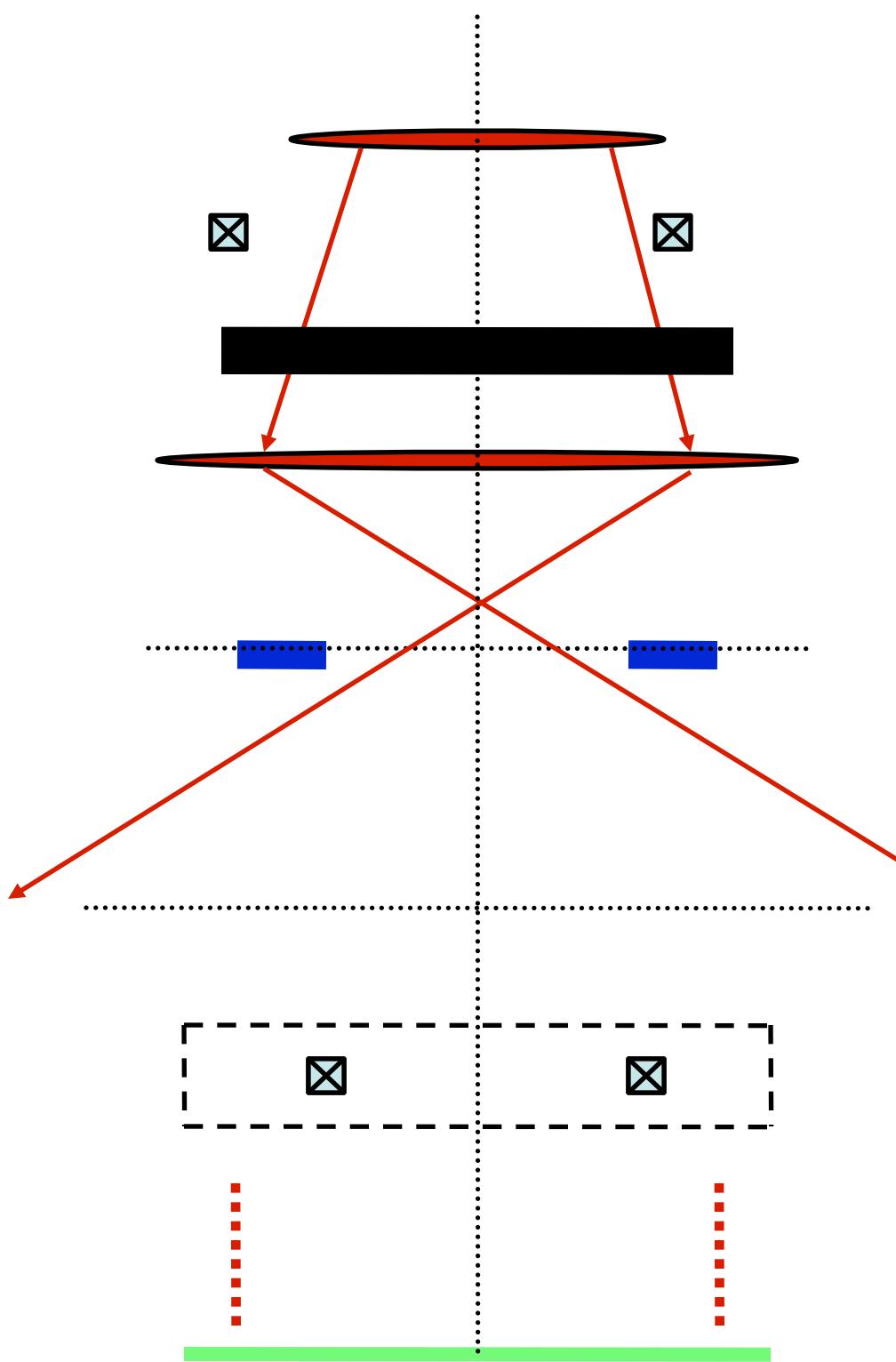
- * SEARCH: extremely low-dose, $\sim 10^{-3} e^-/\text{\AA}^2/\text{sec}$;
- * FOCUS: high magnification, away from the imaging area;
- * Exposure: $10 \sim 30 e^-/\text{\AA}^2$ dose rate to record image;

Three different modes in low dose

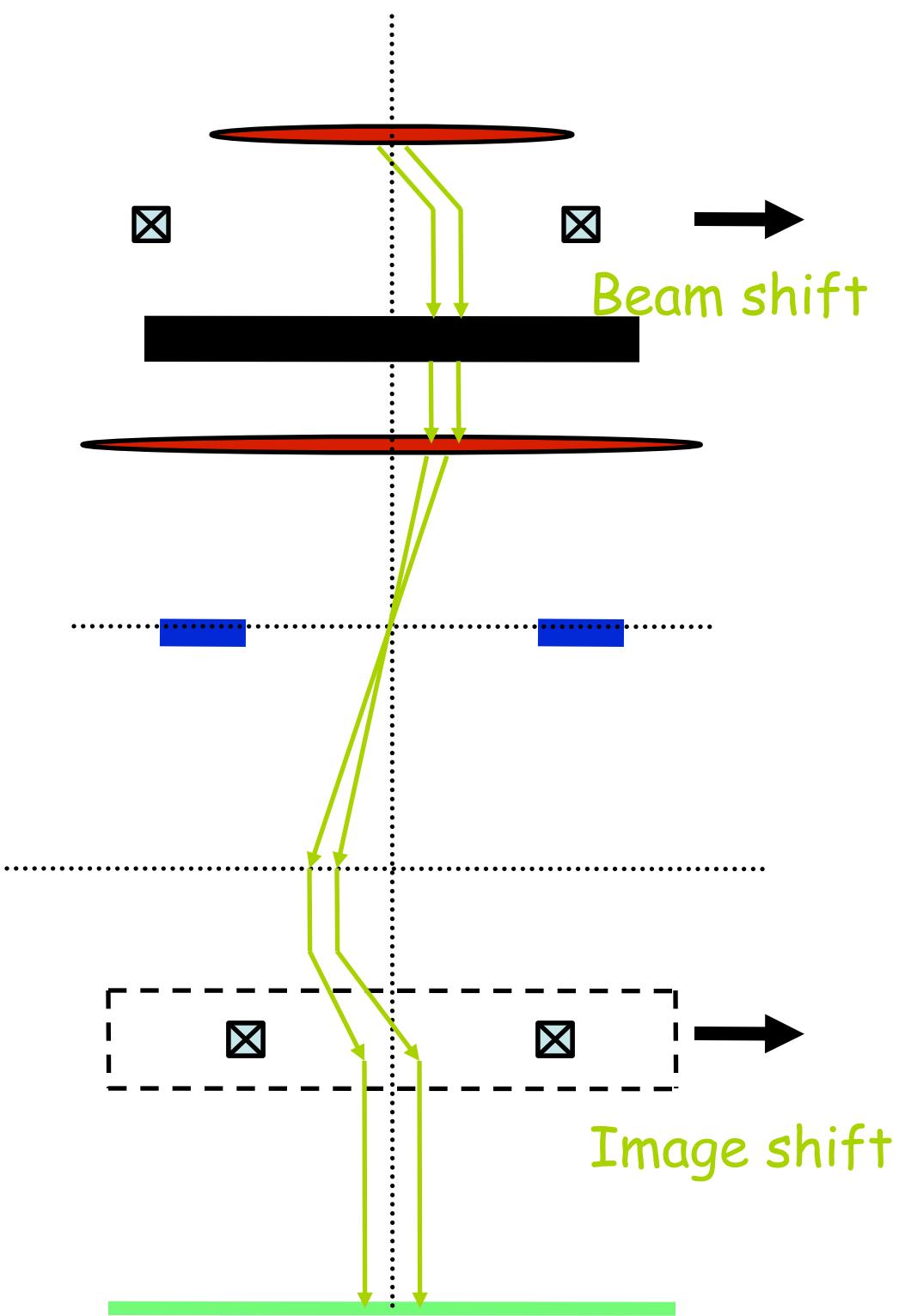
- * Search: lowest possible beam intensity;
- * Focus: off-exposure area, high magnification;
- * Exposure: desired magnification and beam intensity;



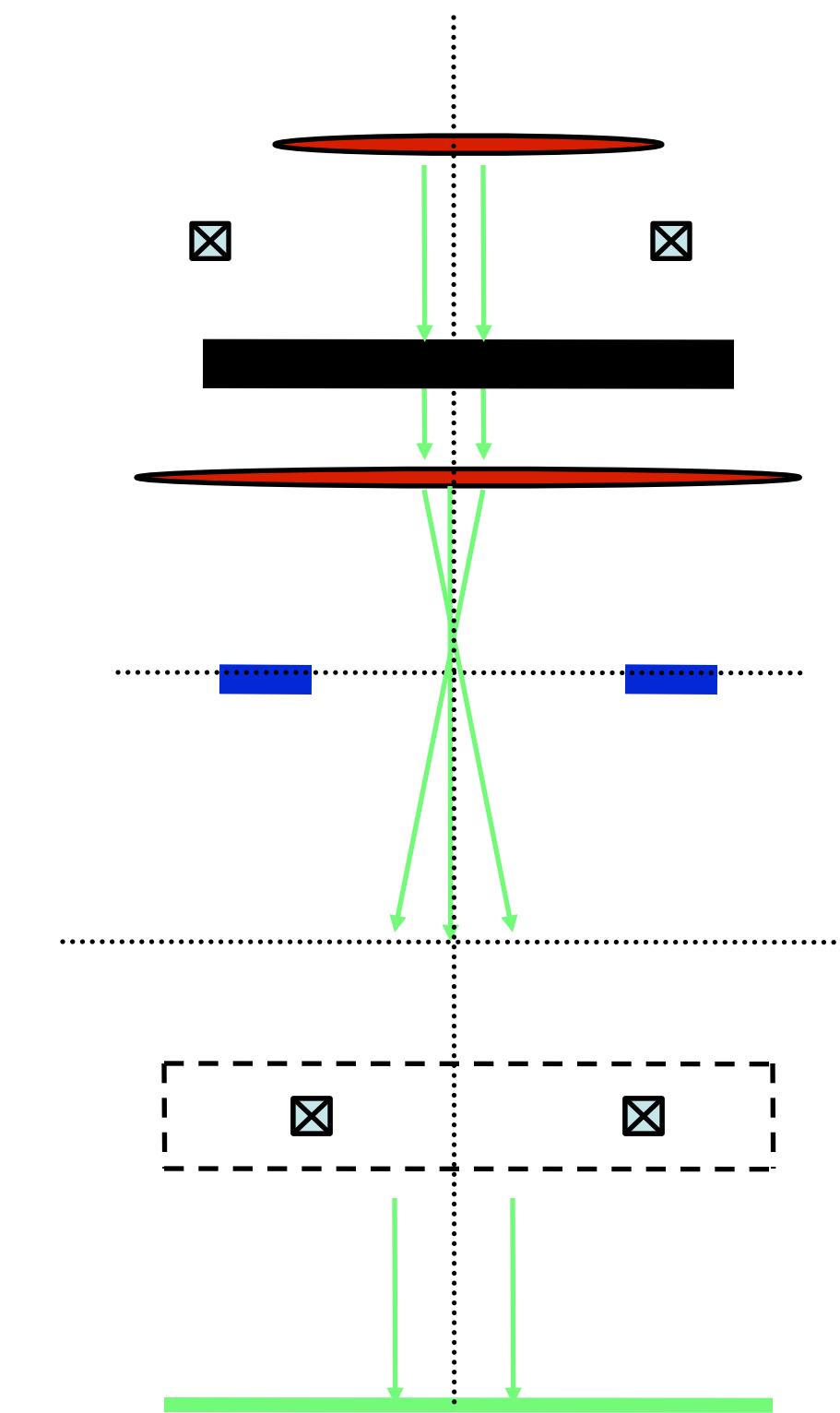
Electron optics of Low-Dose imaging



SEARCH

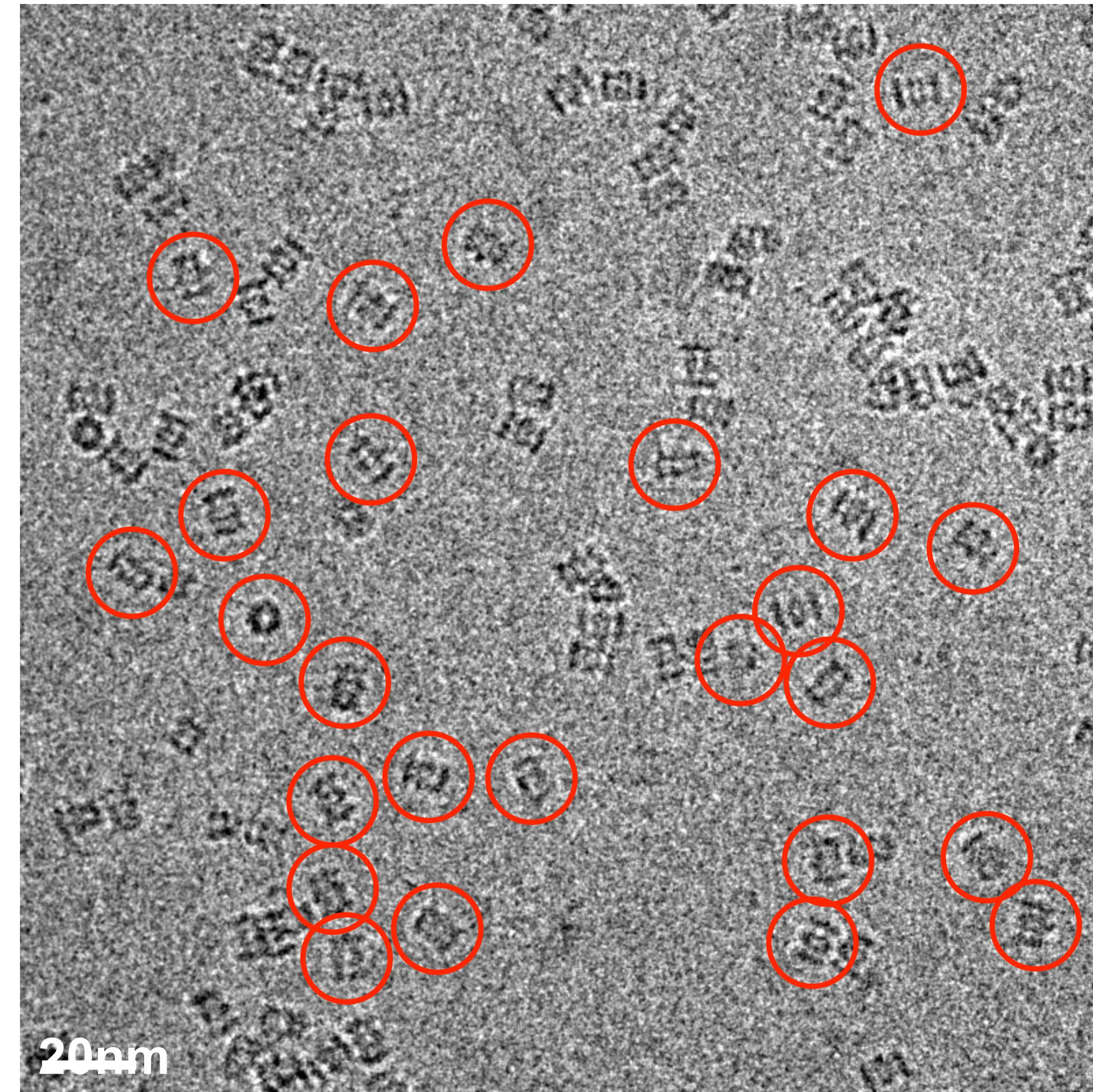


FOCUS



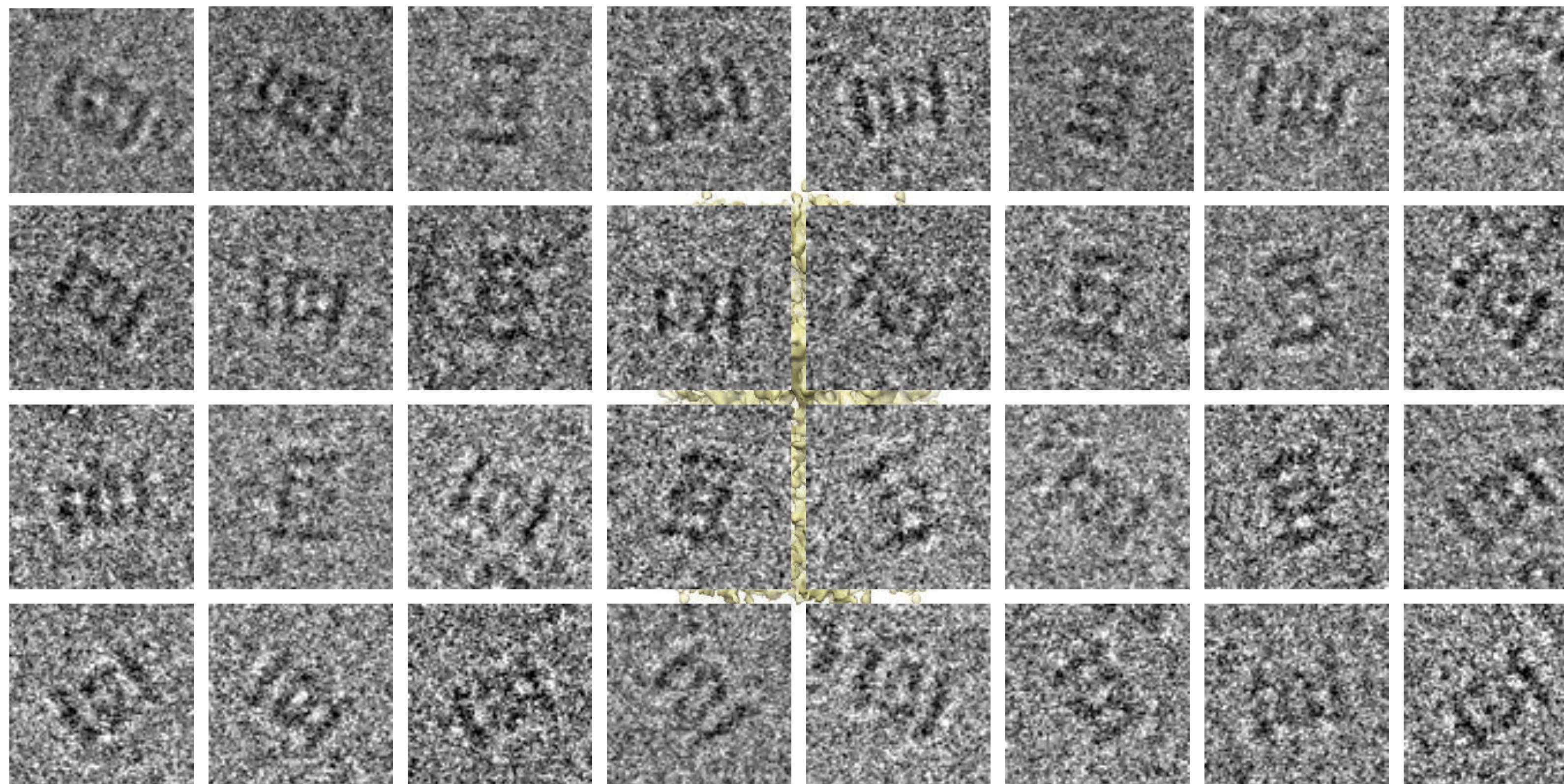
EXPOSURE

Single particle cryo-EM



Cryo-EM image of ~~S. cerevisiae~~ 20S proteasome

Single particle cryo-EM



3D reconstruction (Bokstein, Pacholska, and Agard, 2005)

Phase plate: to enhance image contrast

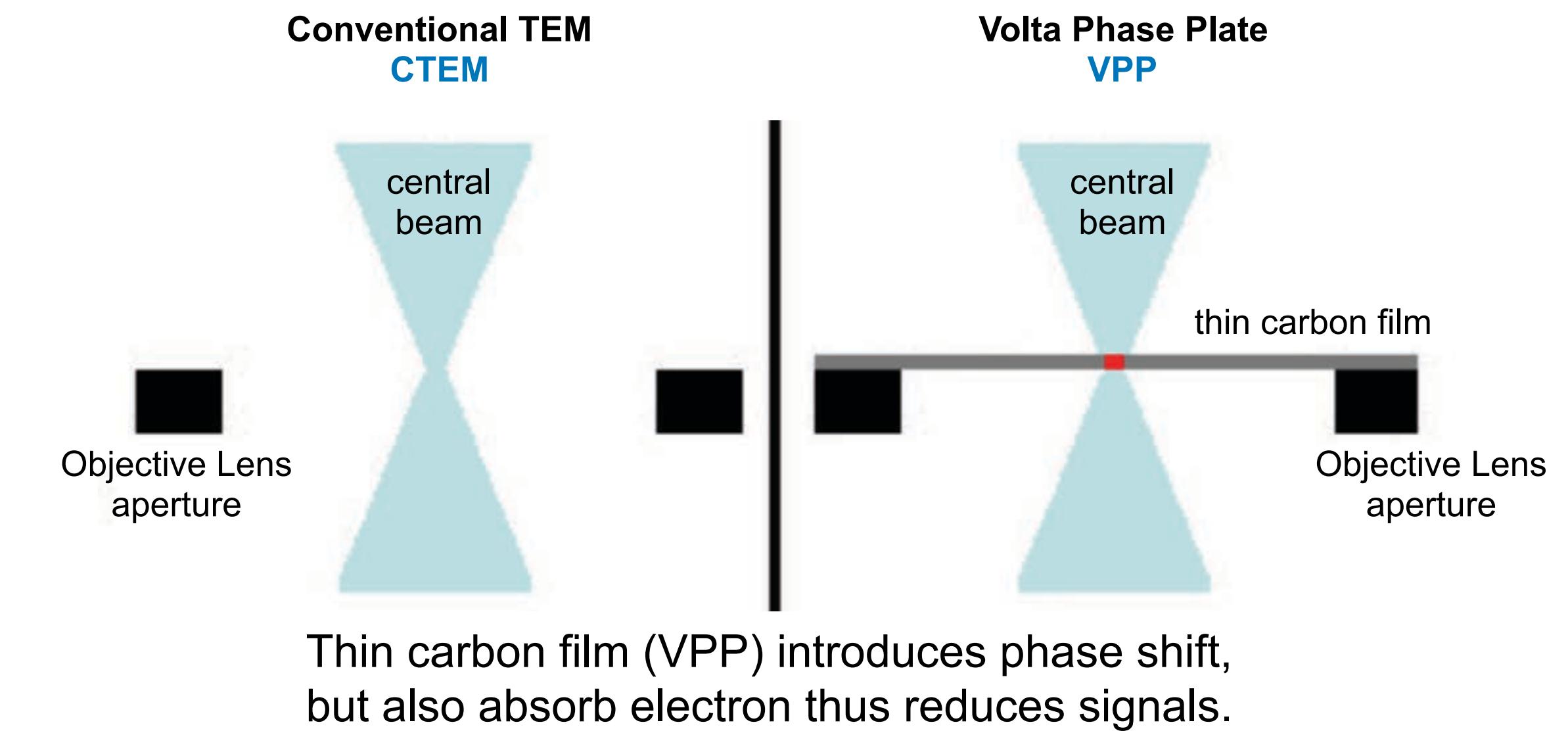
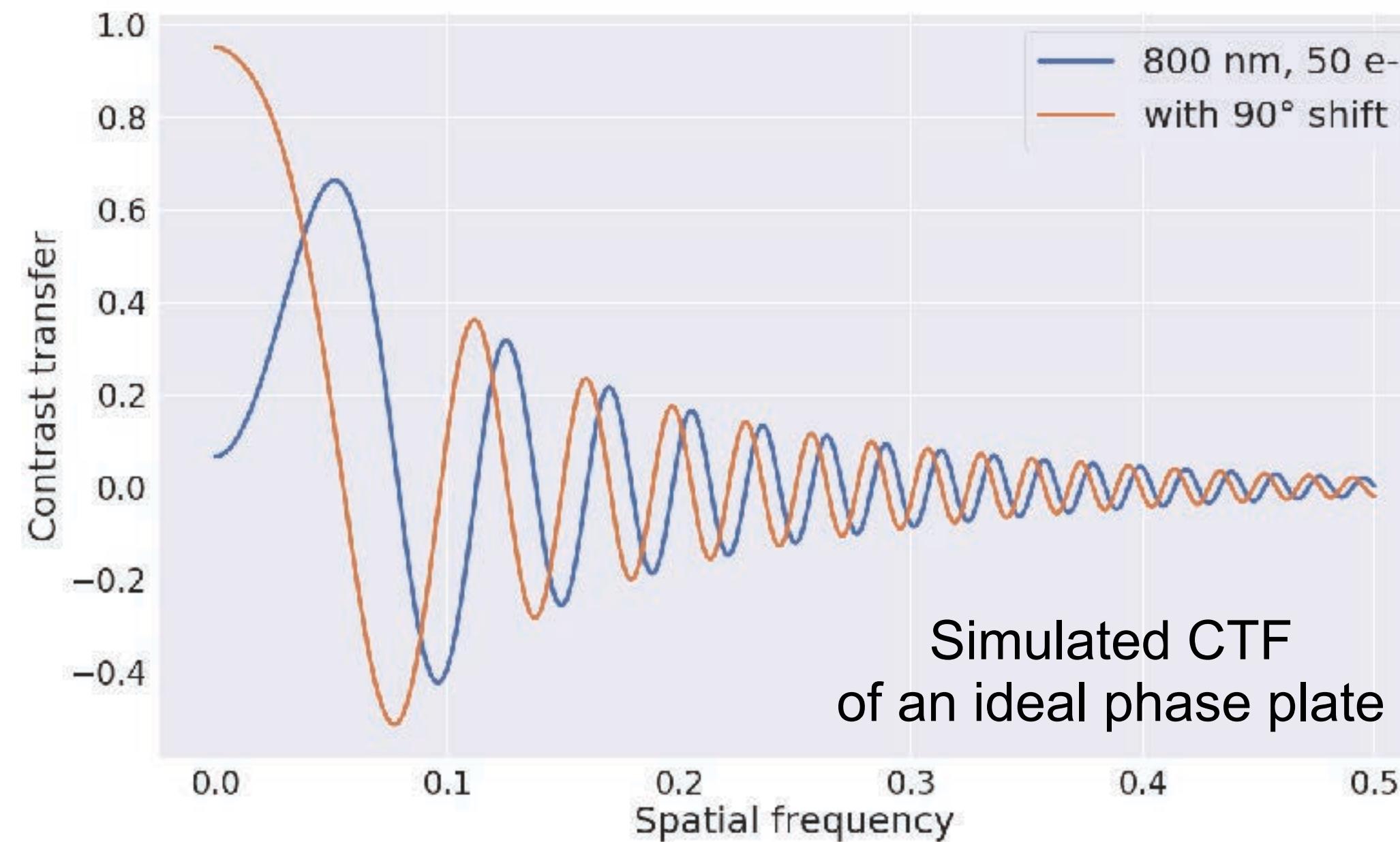
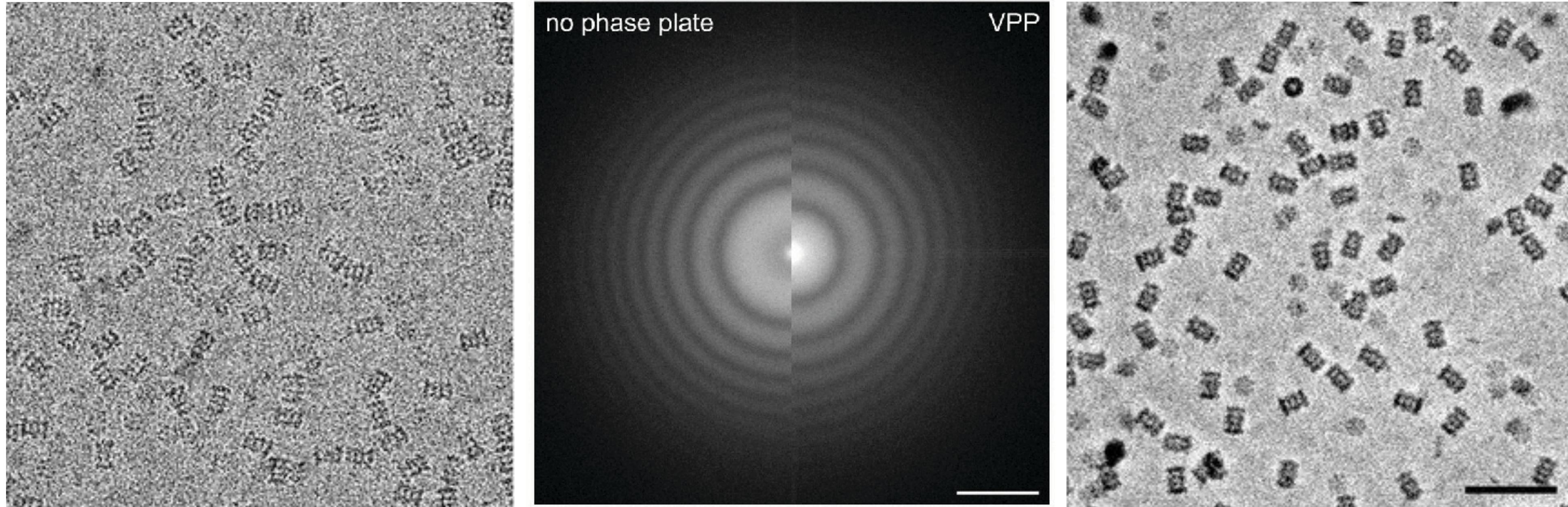
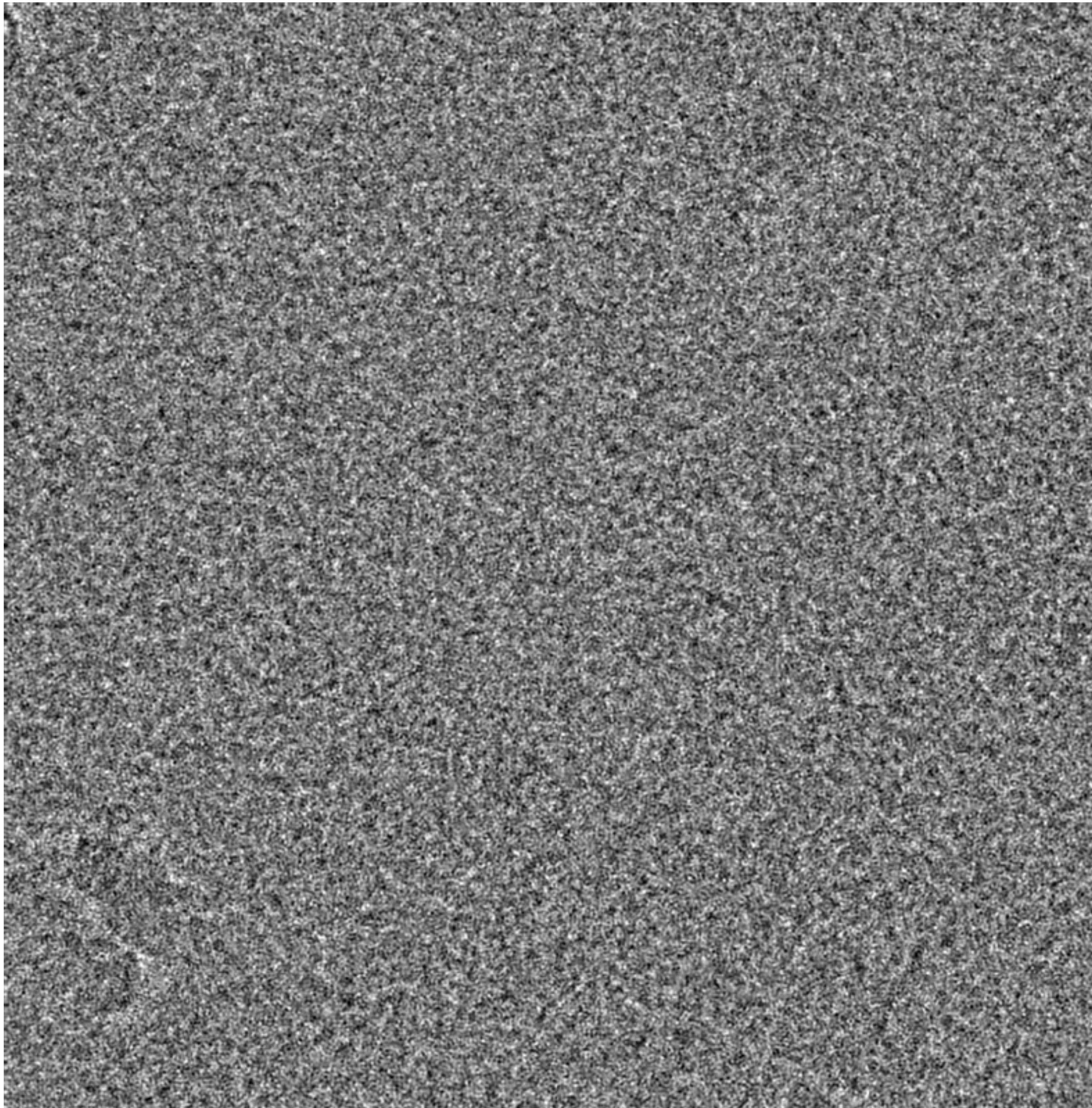
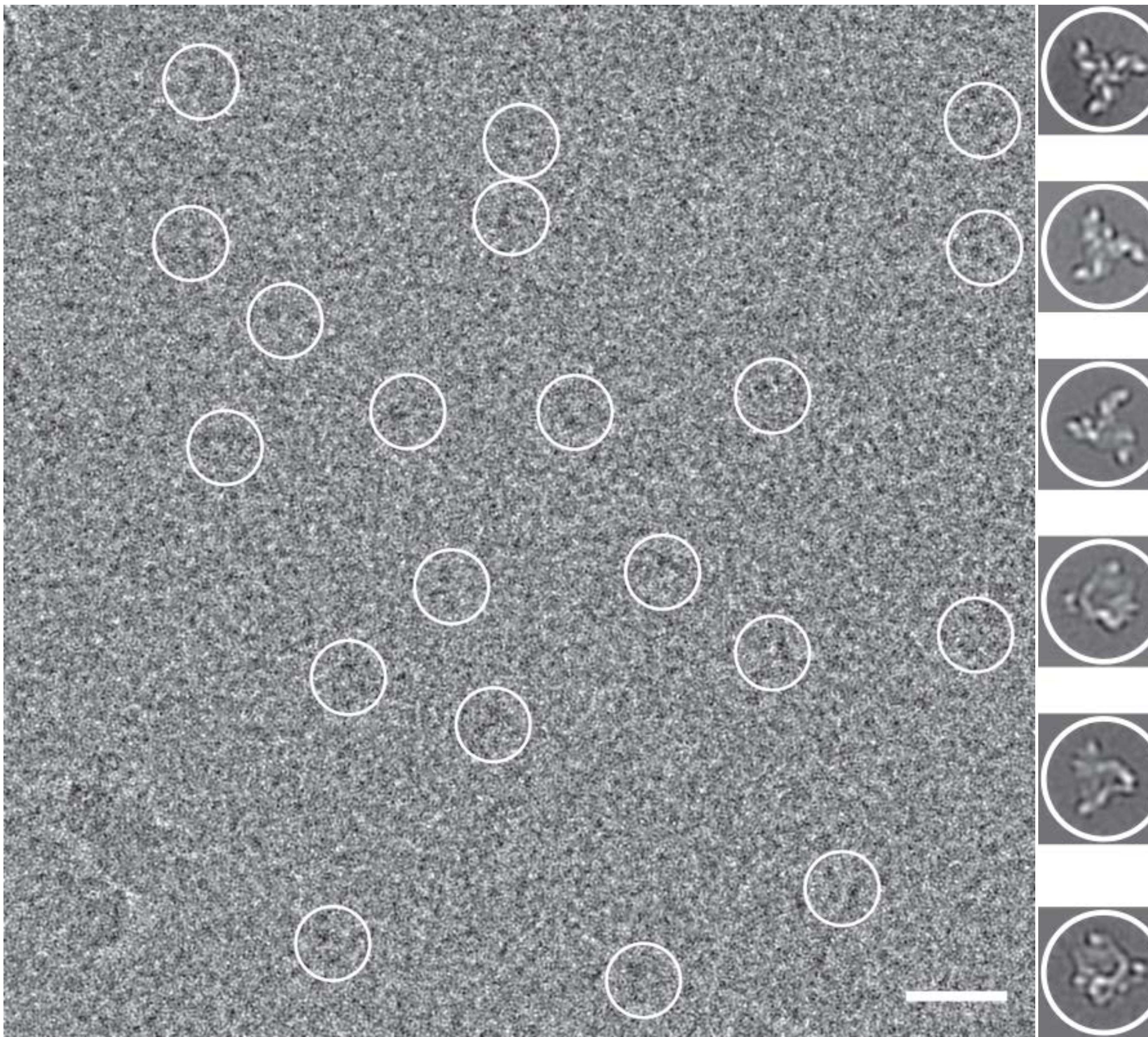


Image taken at close to focus



Mao et al, (2012) NSMB

Image taken at close to focus



Mao et al, (2012) NSMB

Ghost structure of HIV trimer

PNAS

Molecular architecture of the uncleaved HIV-1 envelope glycoprotein trimer

Youdong Mao^{a,b,1}, Liping Wang^{a,b}, Christopher Gu^{a,b}, Alon Herschhorn^{a,b}, Anik Désormeaux^c, Andrés Finzi^c, Shi-Hua Xiang^d, and Joseph G. Sodroski^{a,b,e,f,1}

^aDepartment of Cancer Immunology and AIDS, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, MA 02215; ^bDepartment of Microbiology and Immunobiology, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA 02115; ^cCentre de Recherche du Centre Hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, Université de Montréal, Montréal, QC, Canada H3A 2B4; ^dNebraska Center for Virology, School of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE 68583; ^eRagon Institute of Massachusetts General Hospital, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Harvard, Cambridge, MA 02139; and ^fDepartment of Immunology and Infectious Diseases, Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, MA 02115

PERSPECTIVE

Avoiding the pitfalls of single particle cryo-electron microscopy: Einstein from noise

Richard Henderson¹

Medical Research Council Laboratory of Molecular Biology, Cambridge CB2 0QH, United Kingdom

Finding trimeric HIV-1 envelope glycoproteins in random noise

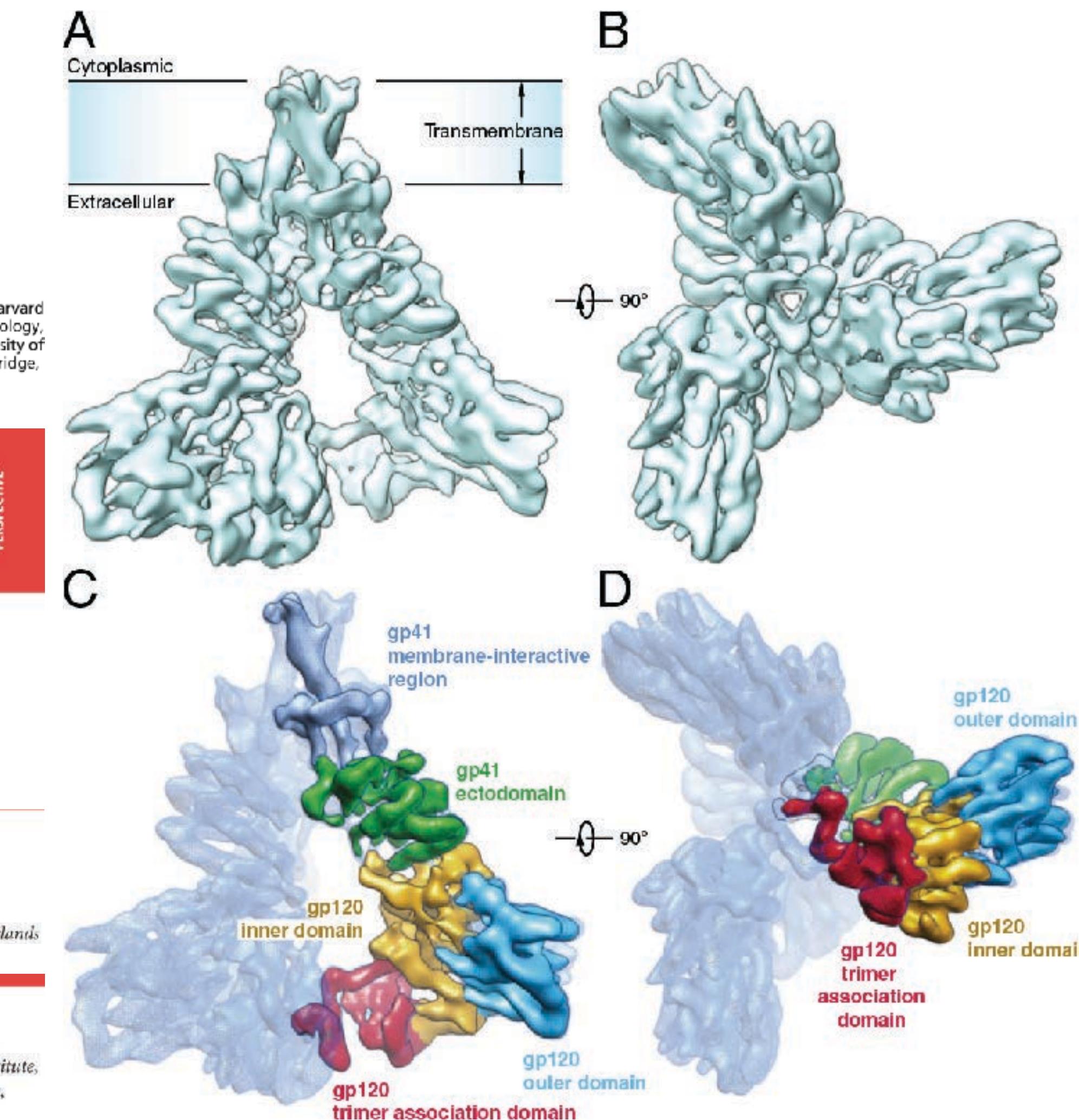
Marin van Heel¹

Leiden Institute of Chemistry, Leiden University, 2333 CC Leiden, The Netherlands

Structure of trimeric HIV-1 envelope glycoproteins

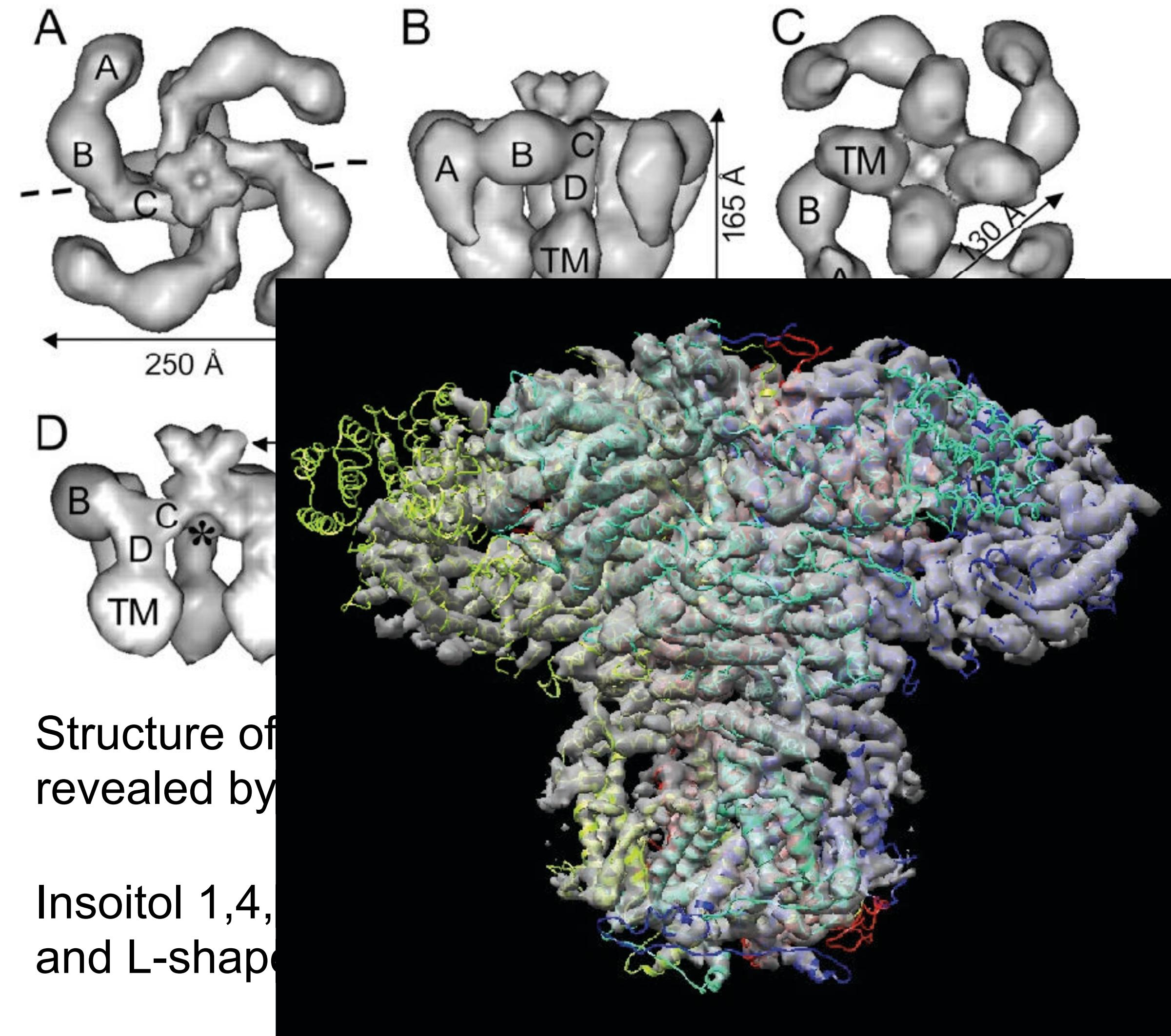
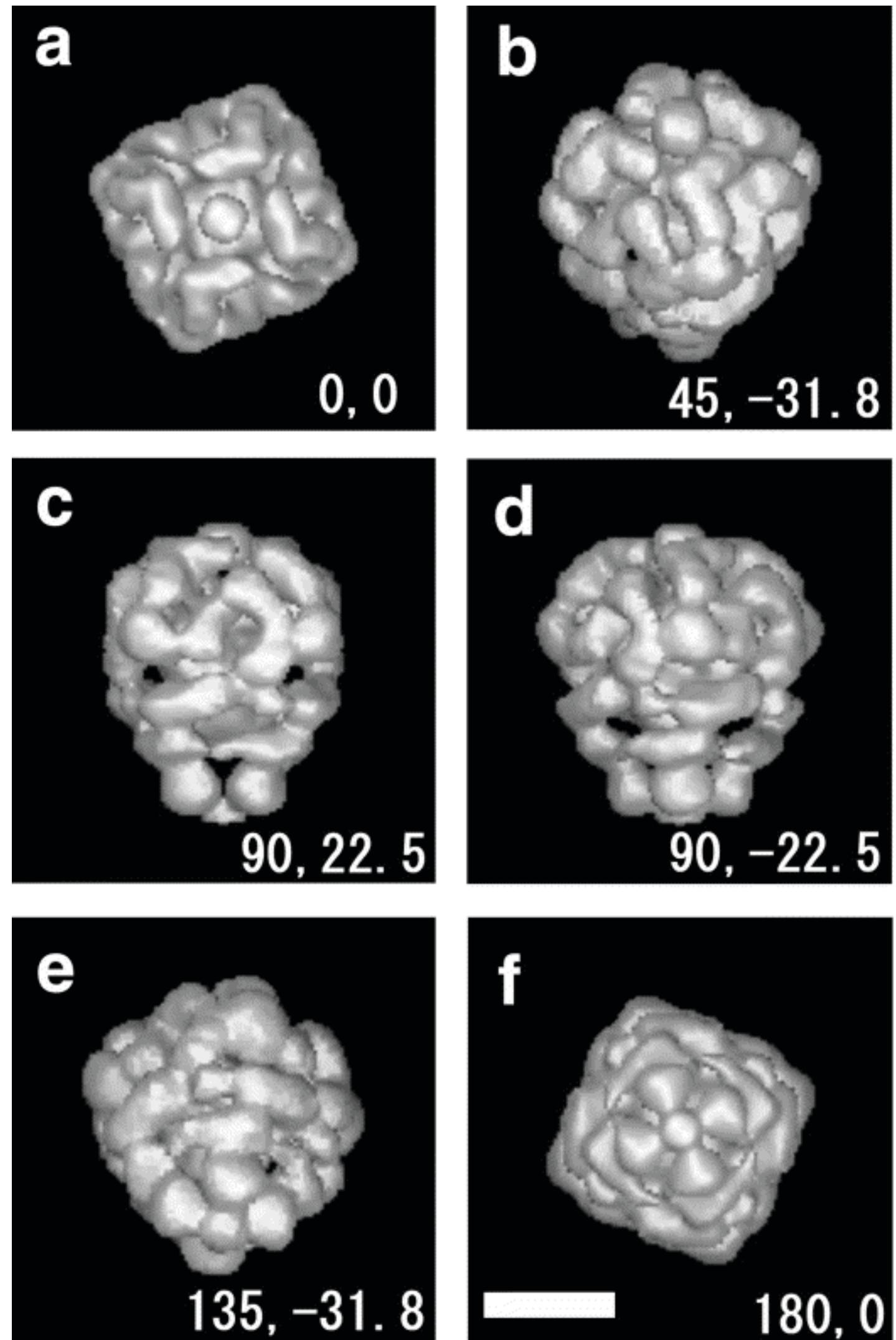
Sriram Subramaniam¹

Laboratory of Cell Biology, Center for Cancer Research, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD 20892



* Cryo-EM is not a turn-key technology and it is possible to make massive mistakes!

Single particle cryo-EM of membrane proteins



Structure of
revealed by

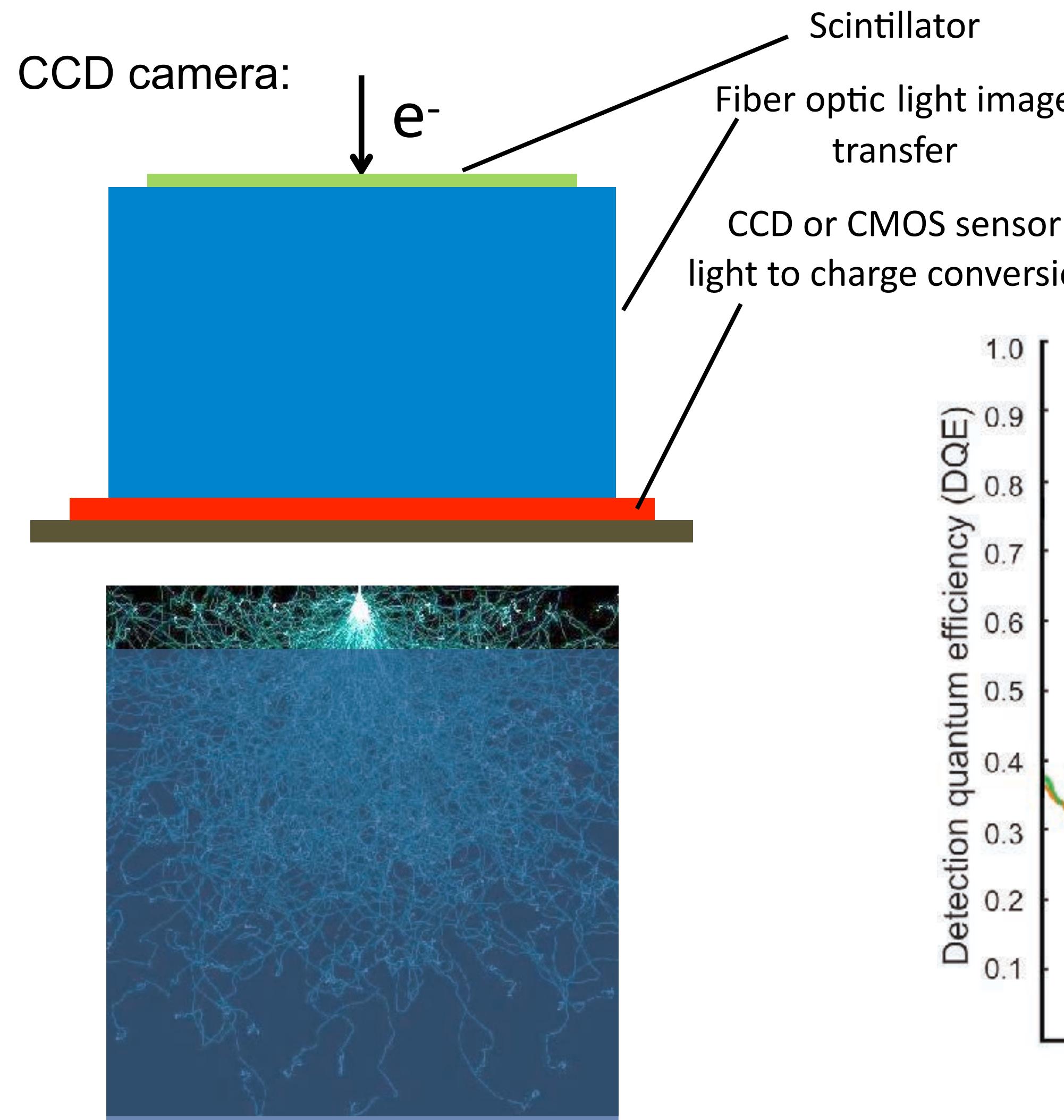
Inositol 1,4,
and L-shape

ceptor
1319-22.
cavities
155-64.

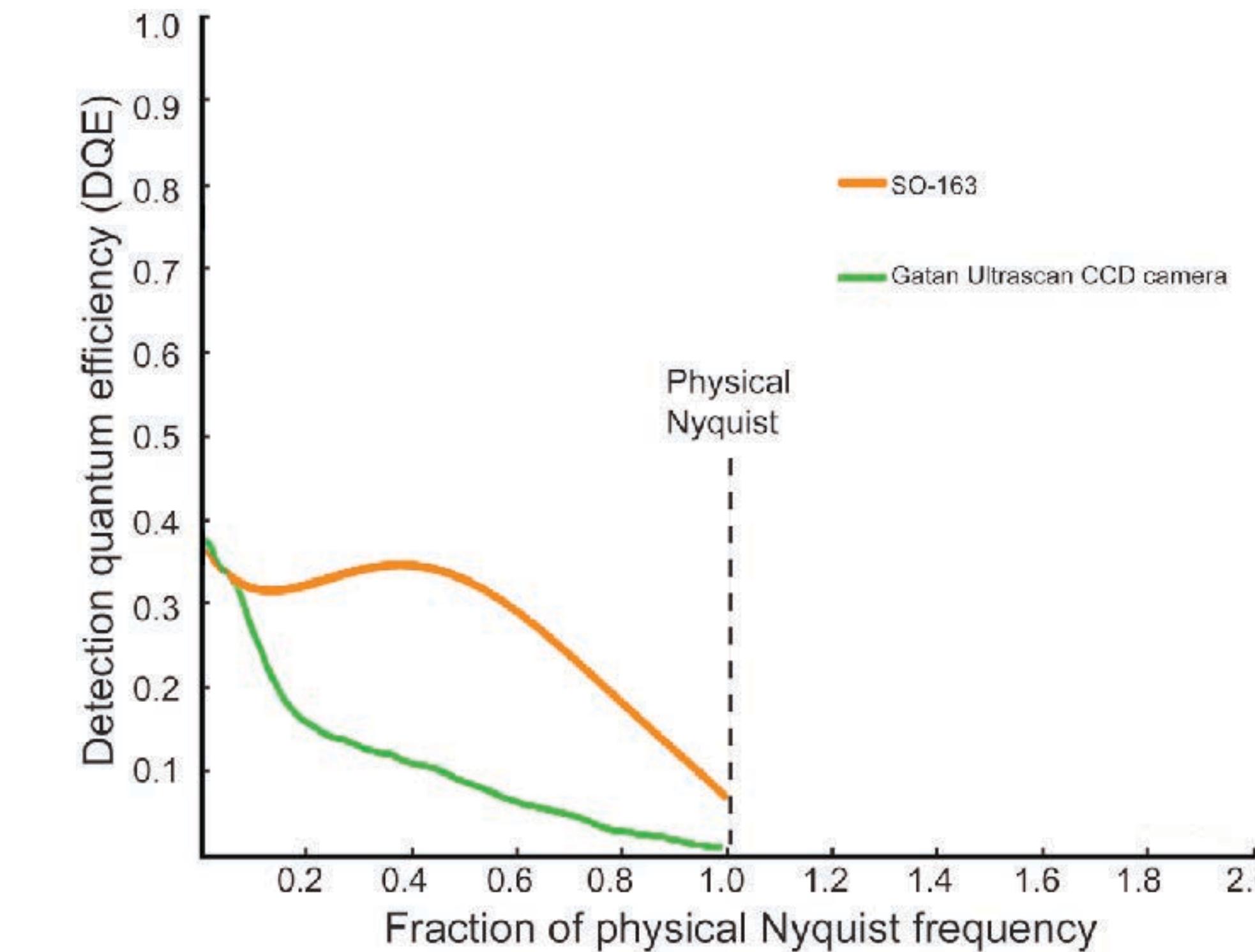
4.7 Å resolution, Nature 2015

Scintillator based camera/photographic film

Scintillator based camera and photographic film are inadequate for high-resolution cryo-EM.

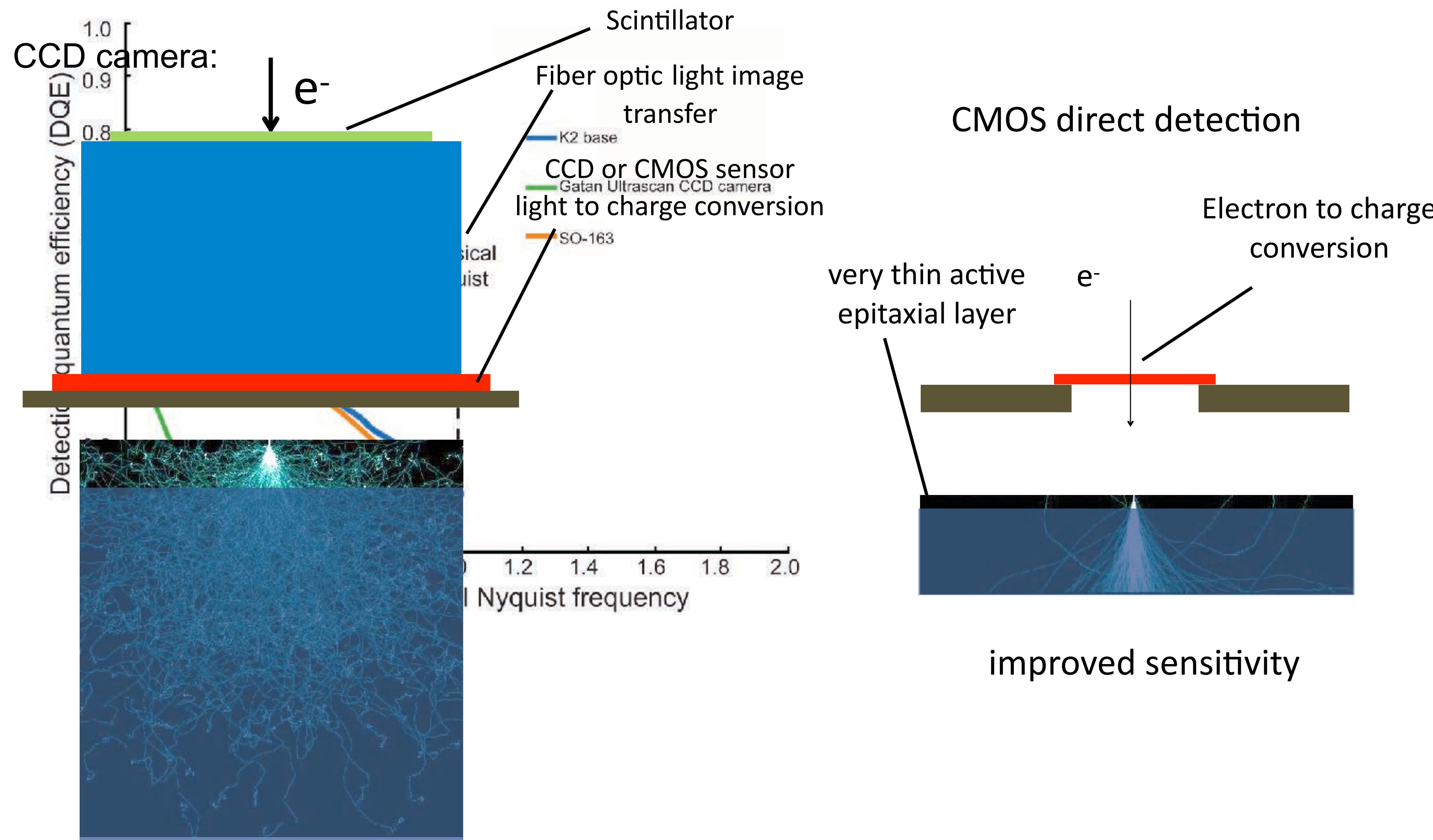


DQE:



CMOS direct detection camera

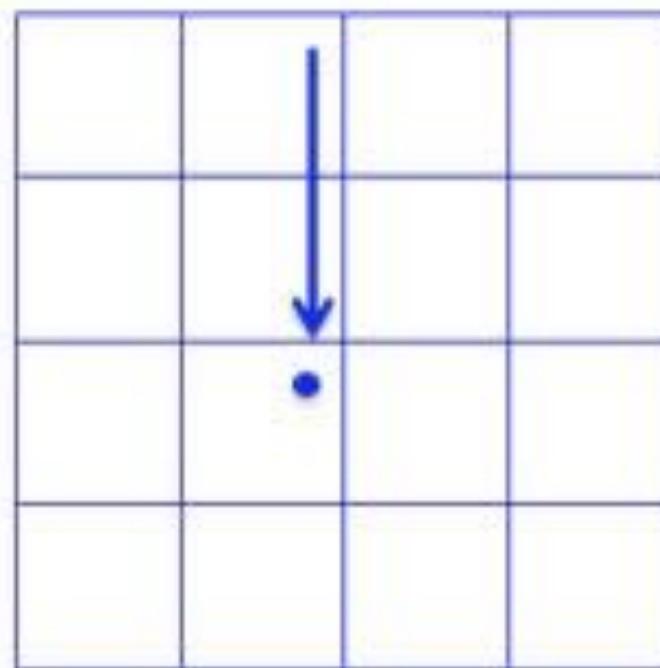
Direct detection minimizes the point spread function, and improve camera performance at both low and high resolution.



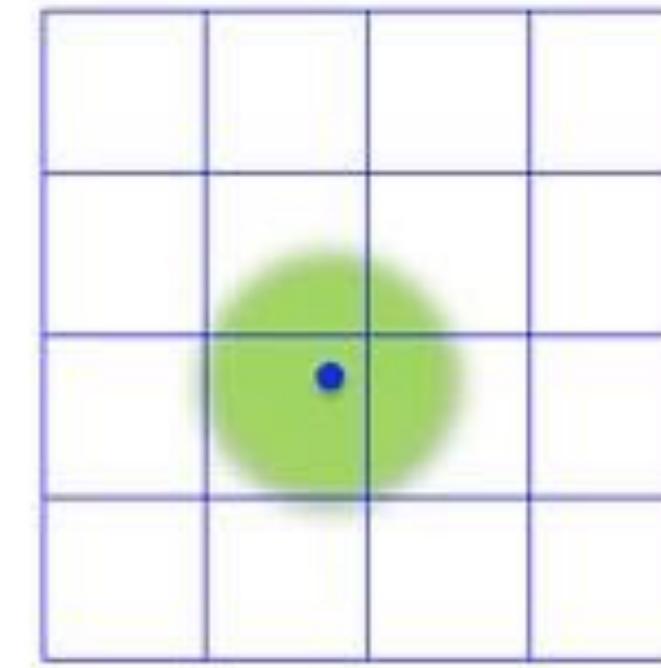
Single electron counting by the K2 Summit (UCSF, LBNL, Gatan)

- * Counting and centroiding primary electron events.
- * Counting removes Landau noise and further improves DQE;

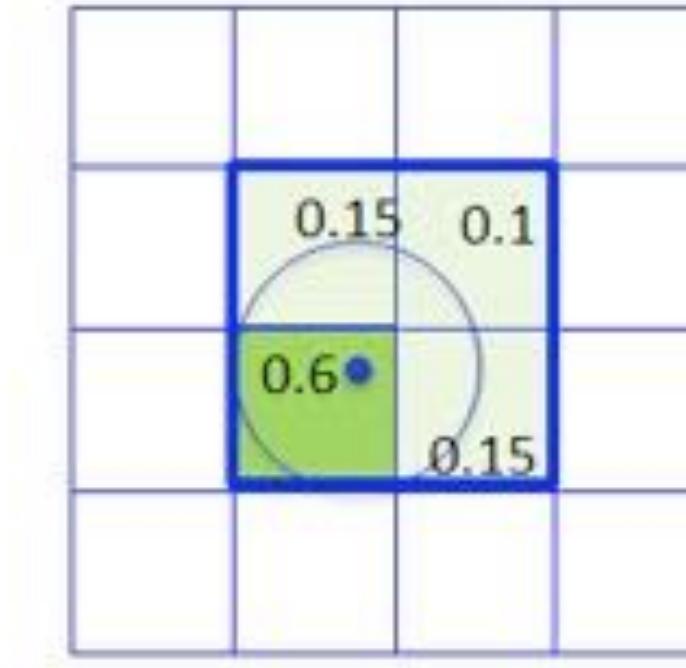
1. Electron enters detector



2. Signal Is Scattered



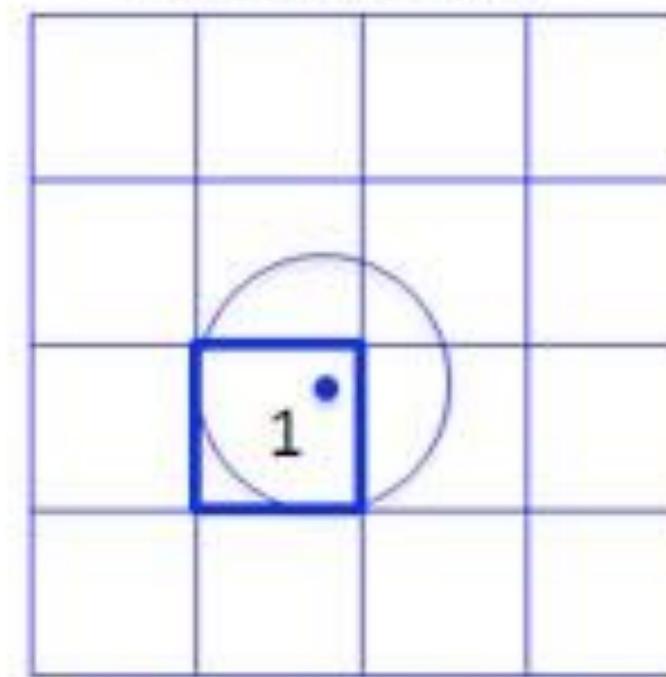
3. Charge collects in each pixel



K2 Base™: Charge Integration

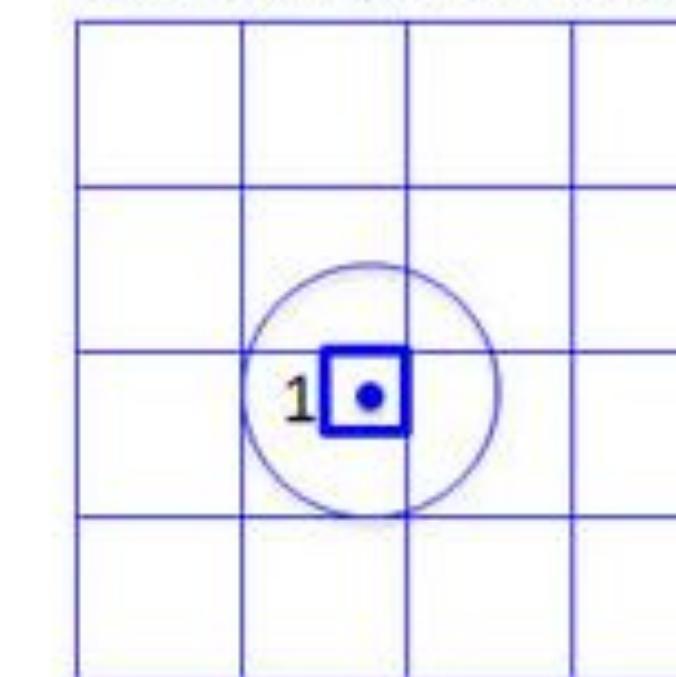
Improved DQE at high Frequency

4a. Events are reduced to the highest charge pixels

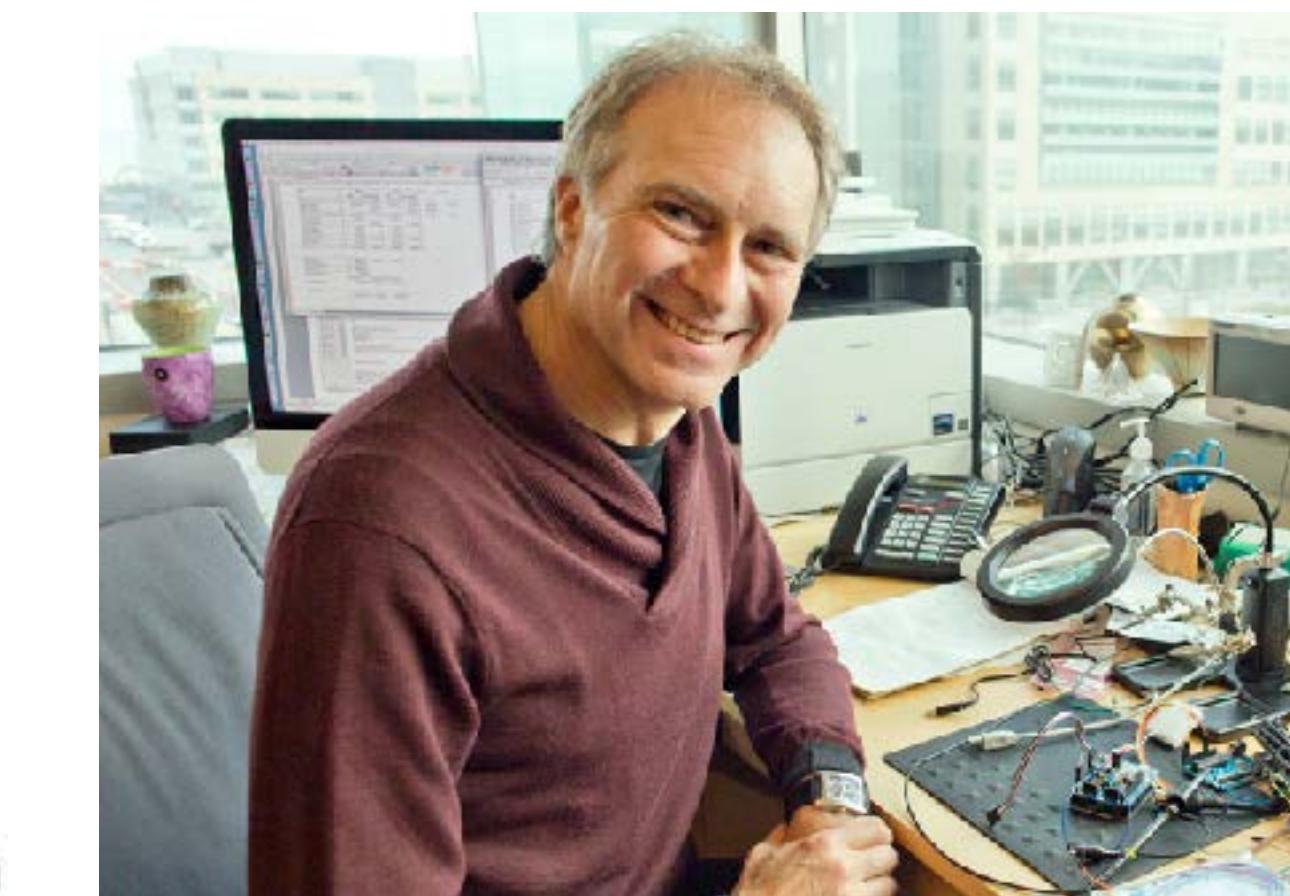


K2 Summit™ : Counting

4b. Events are localized with sub-pixel accuracy



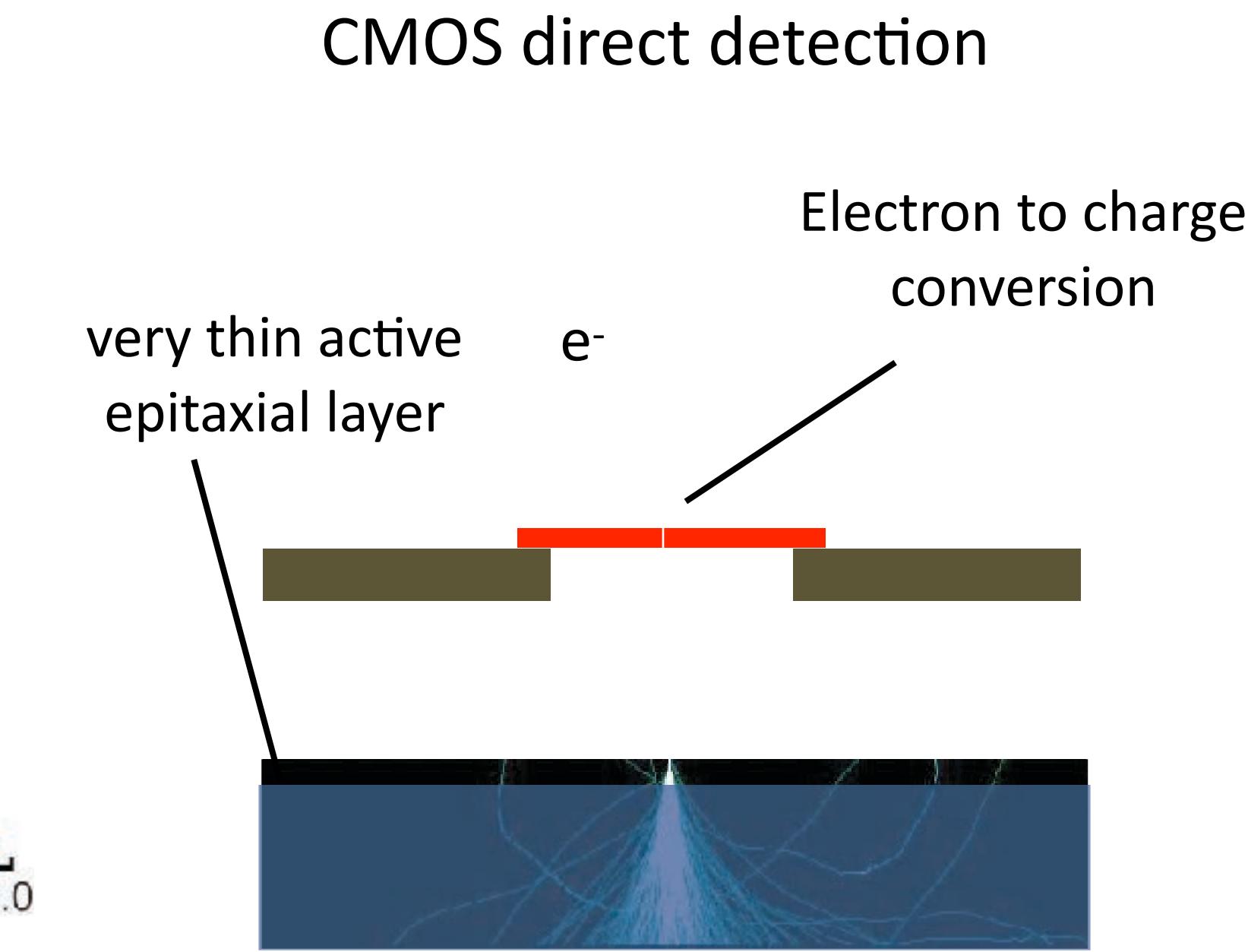
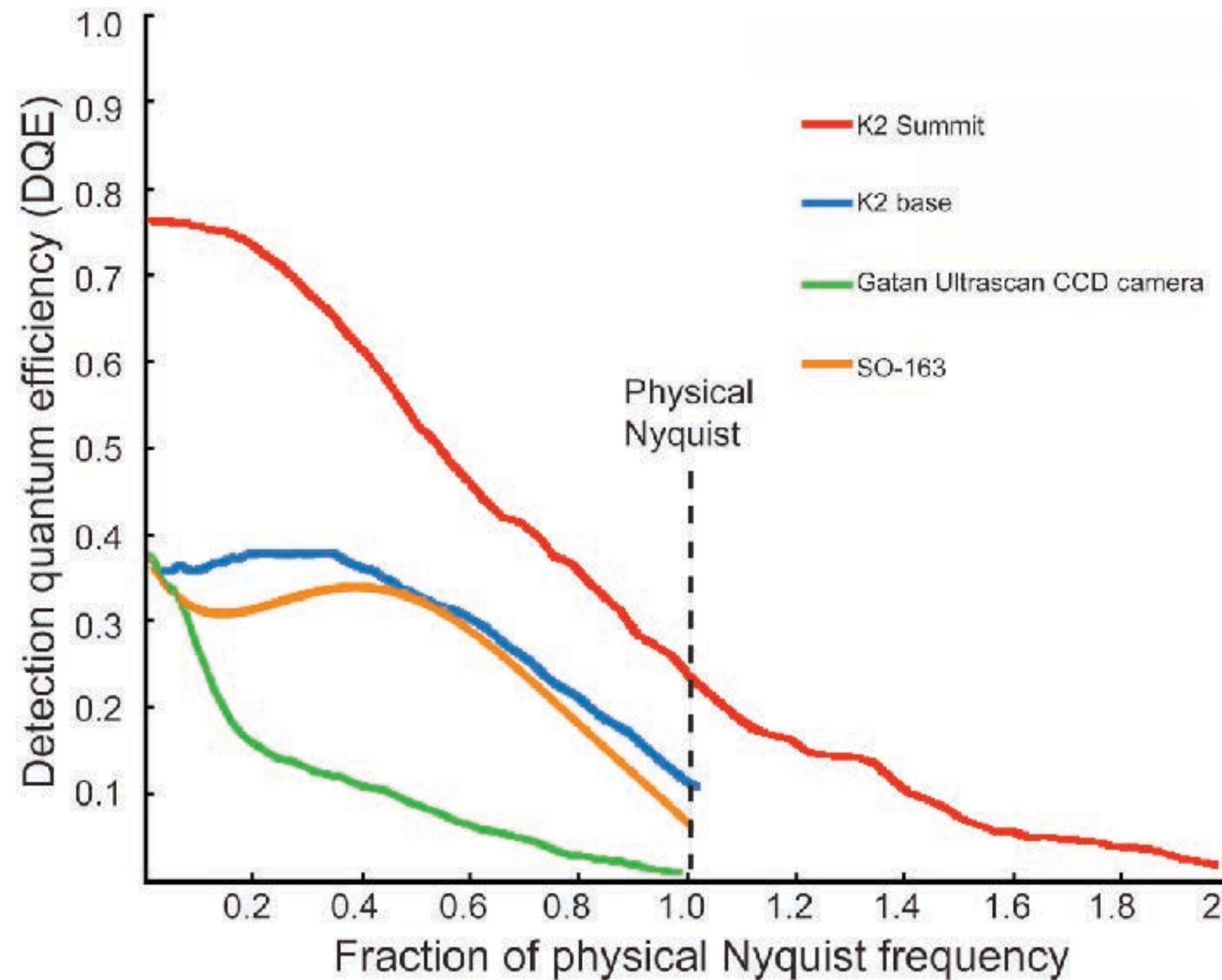
K2 Summit™: Super Resolution



with David Agard (HHMI/UCSF)

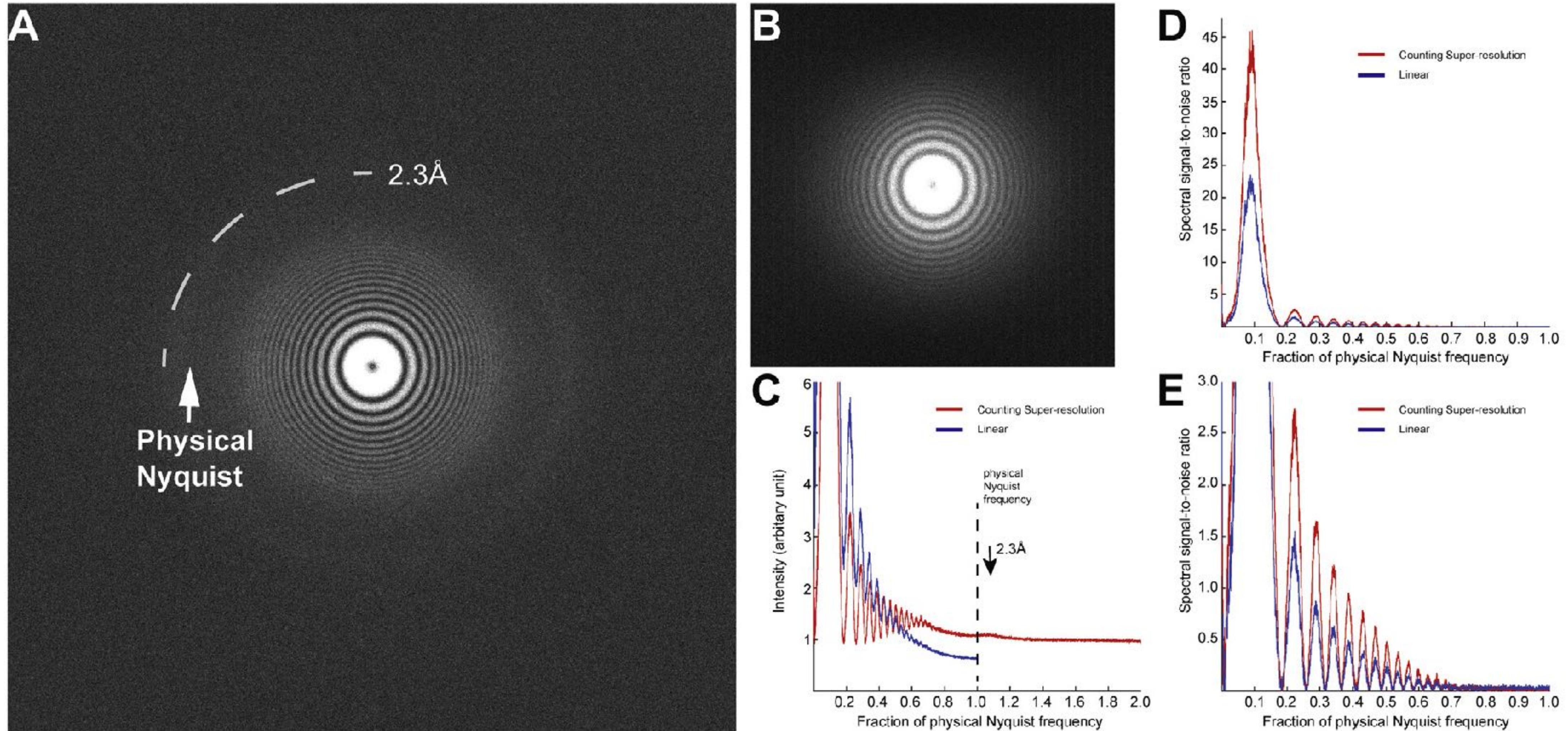
Single electron counting improves DQE

- Direct detection of single electron remove read out noise
- Rapid read out enabled recording image as movie



improved sensitivity

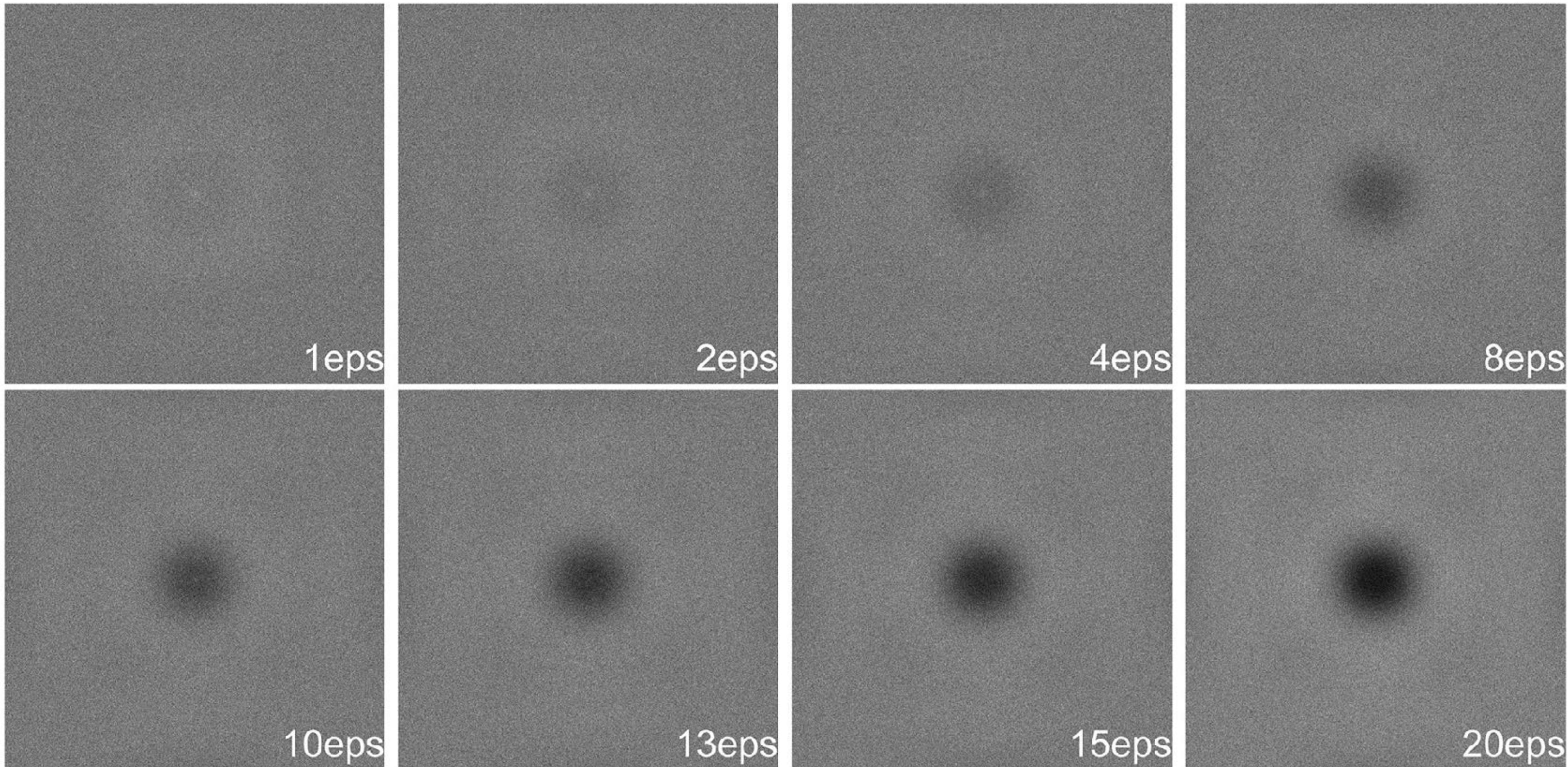
Single electron counting image and linear image



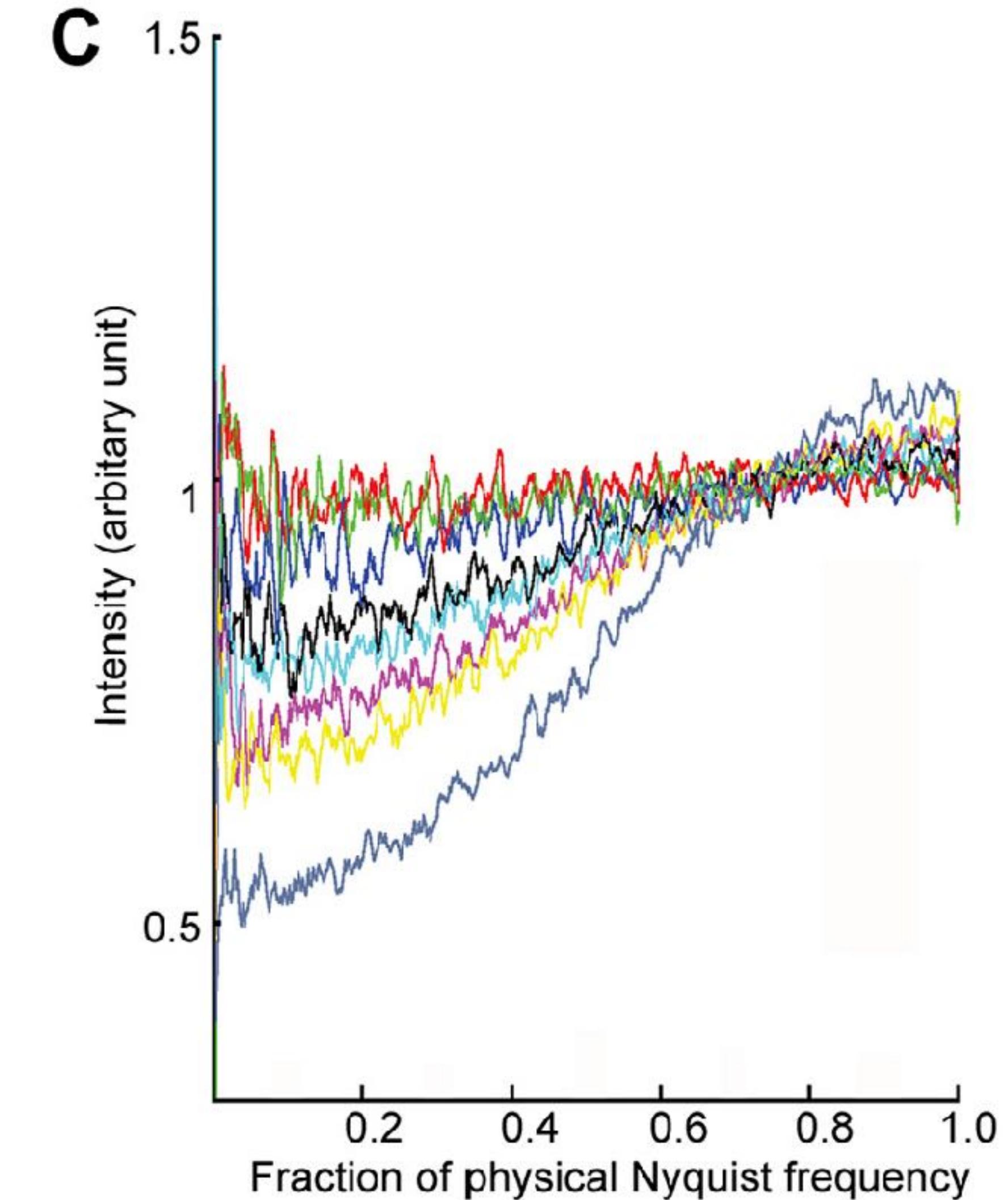
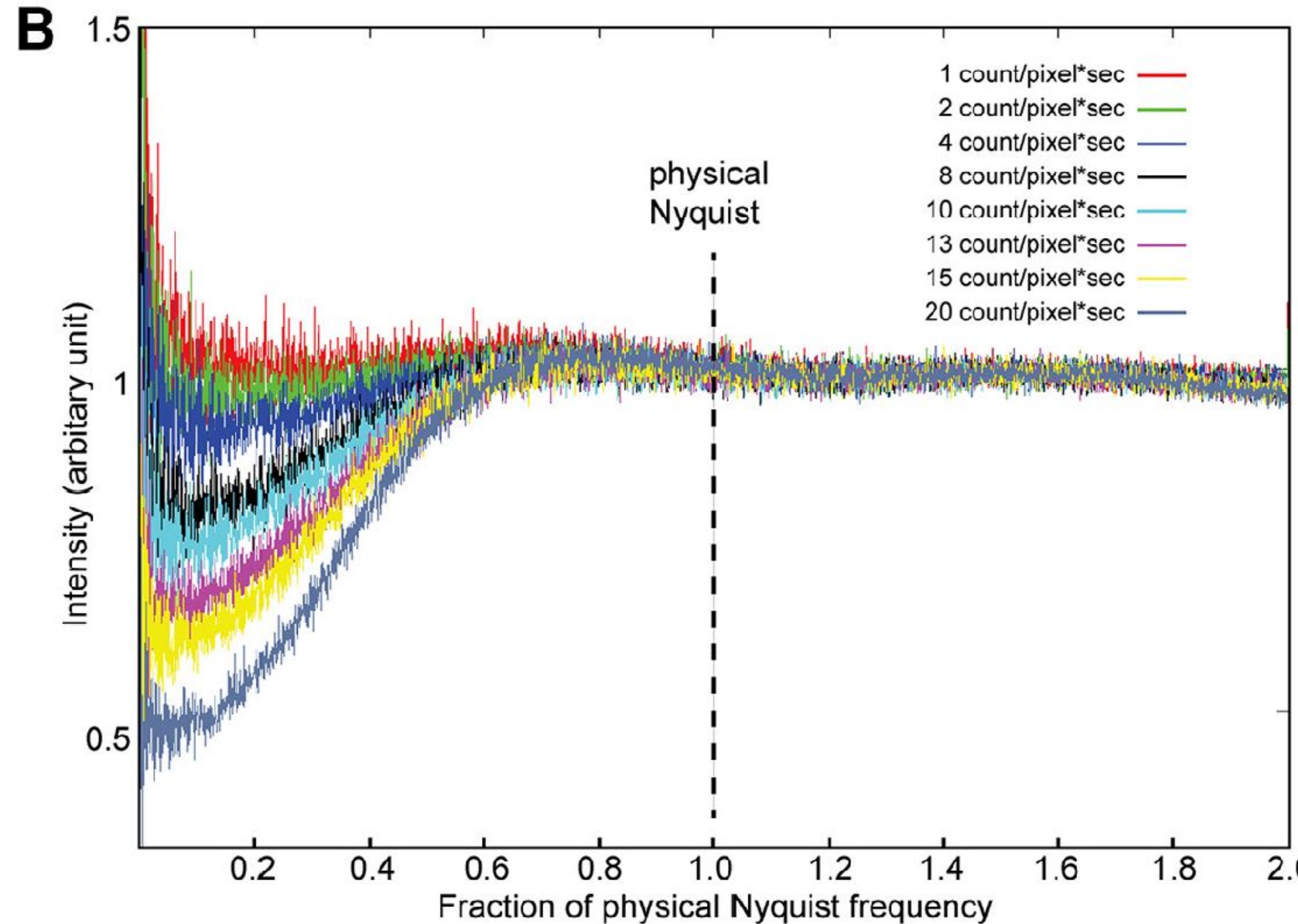
Comparison of images recorded with K2 counting and linear modes. Images of thin Pt/Ir film were recorded by the K2 Summit in both counting and linear modes. The

Coincidence loss

A

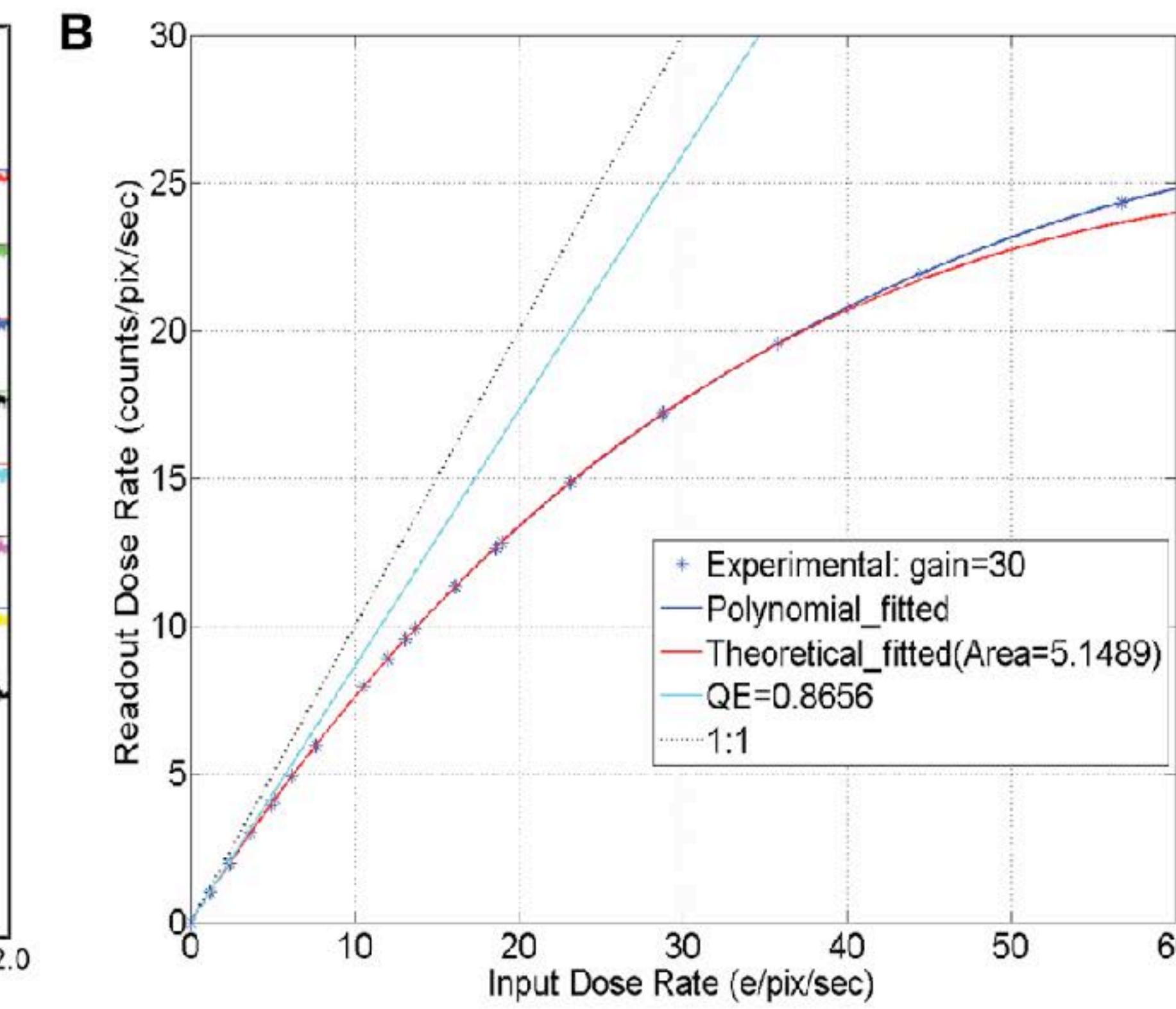
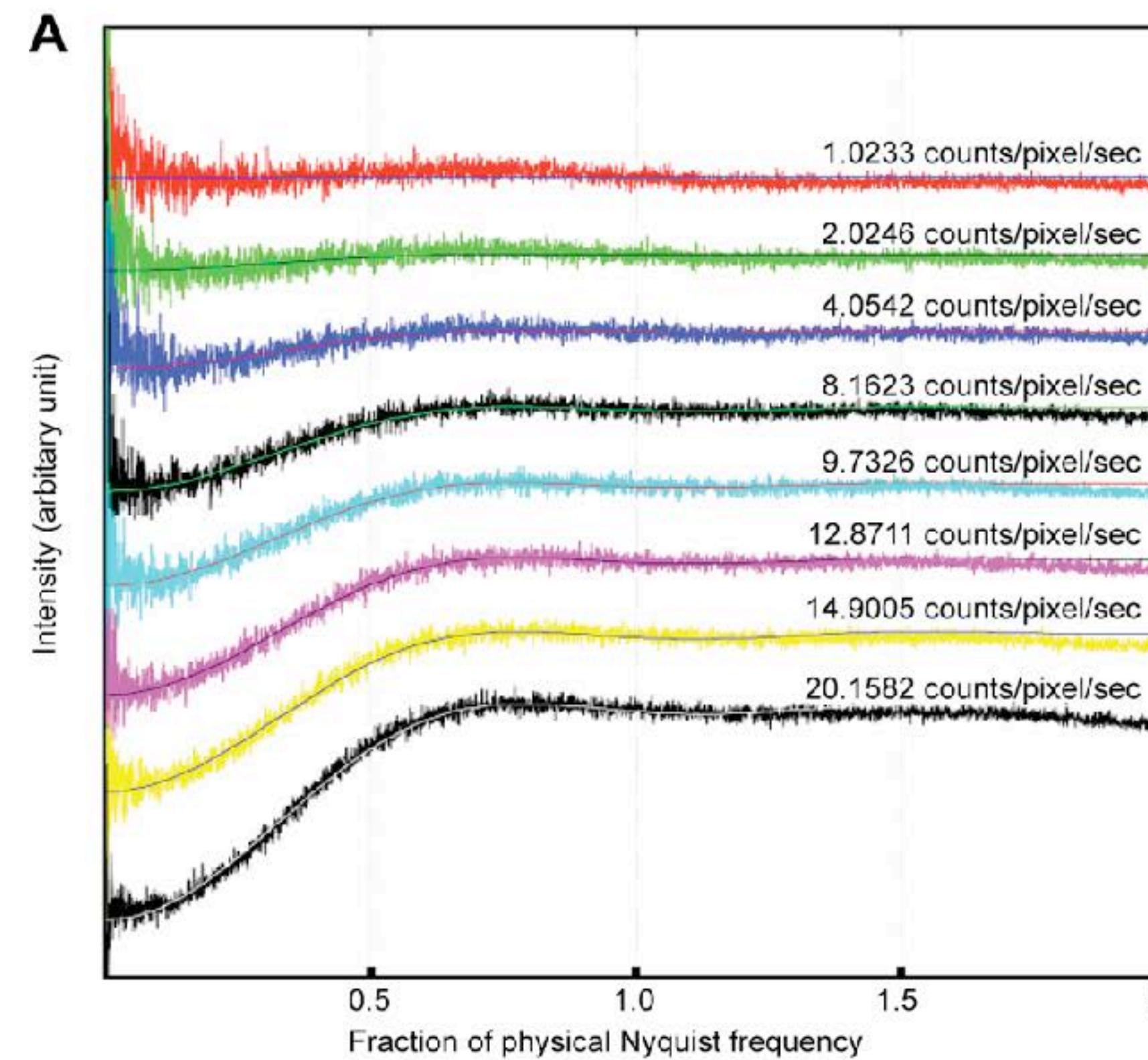


Coincidence loss



Coincidence loss

- When two electron strike the same pixel during one frame, only one is counted - coincidence loss;
- Coincidence loss deteriorate image quality, reduced linearity and DQE of camera;



Coincidence loss

- Coincidence loss is related to frame rate and camera pixel size;

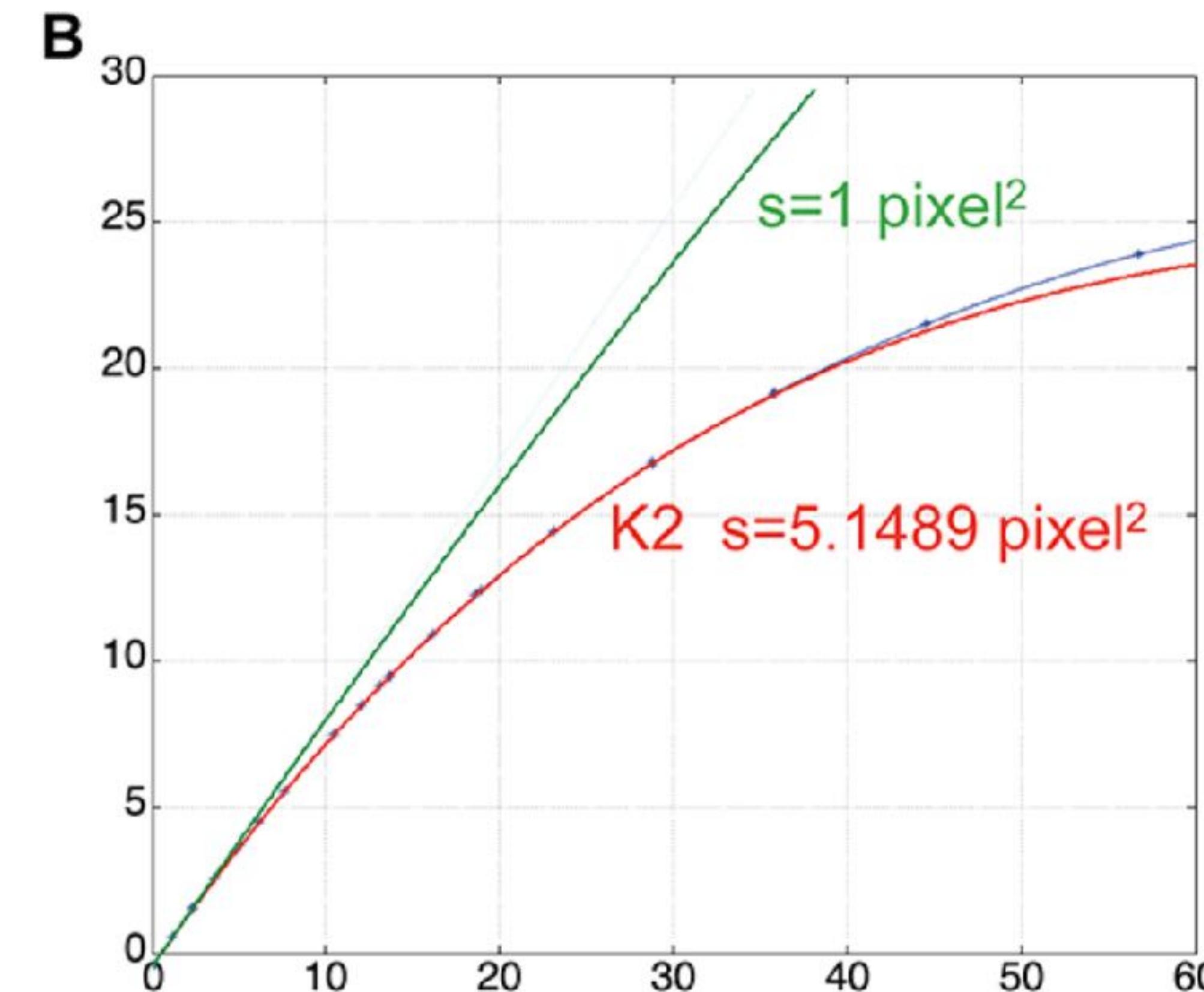
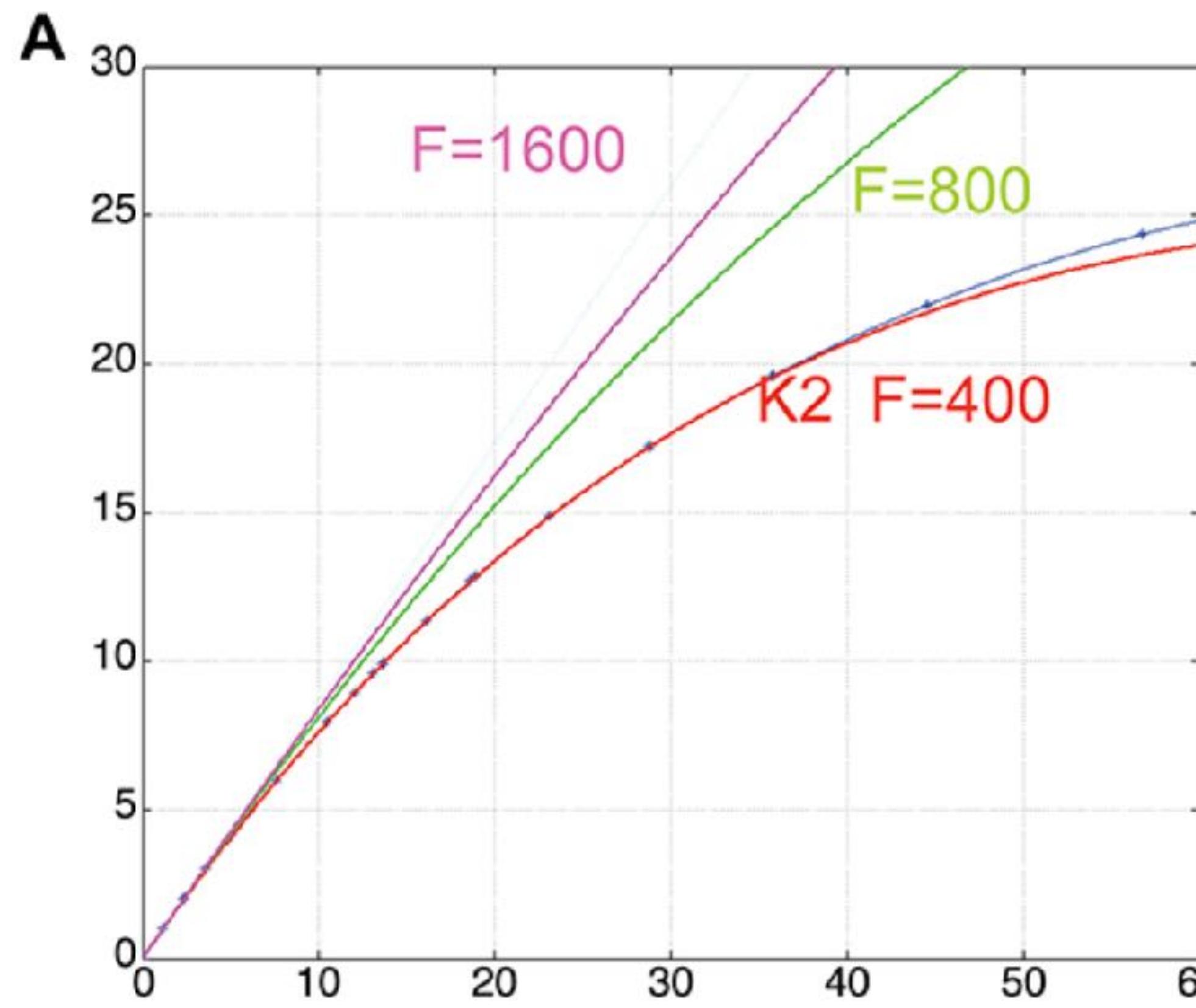
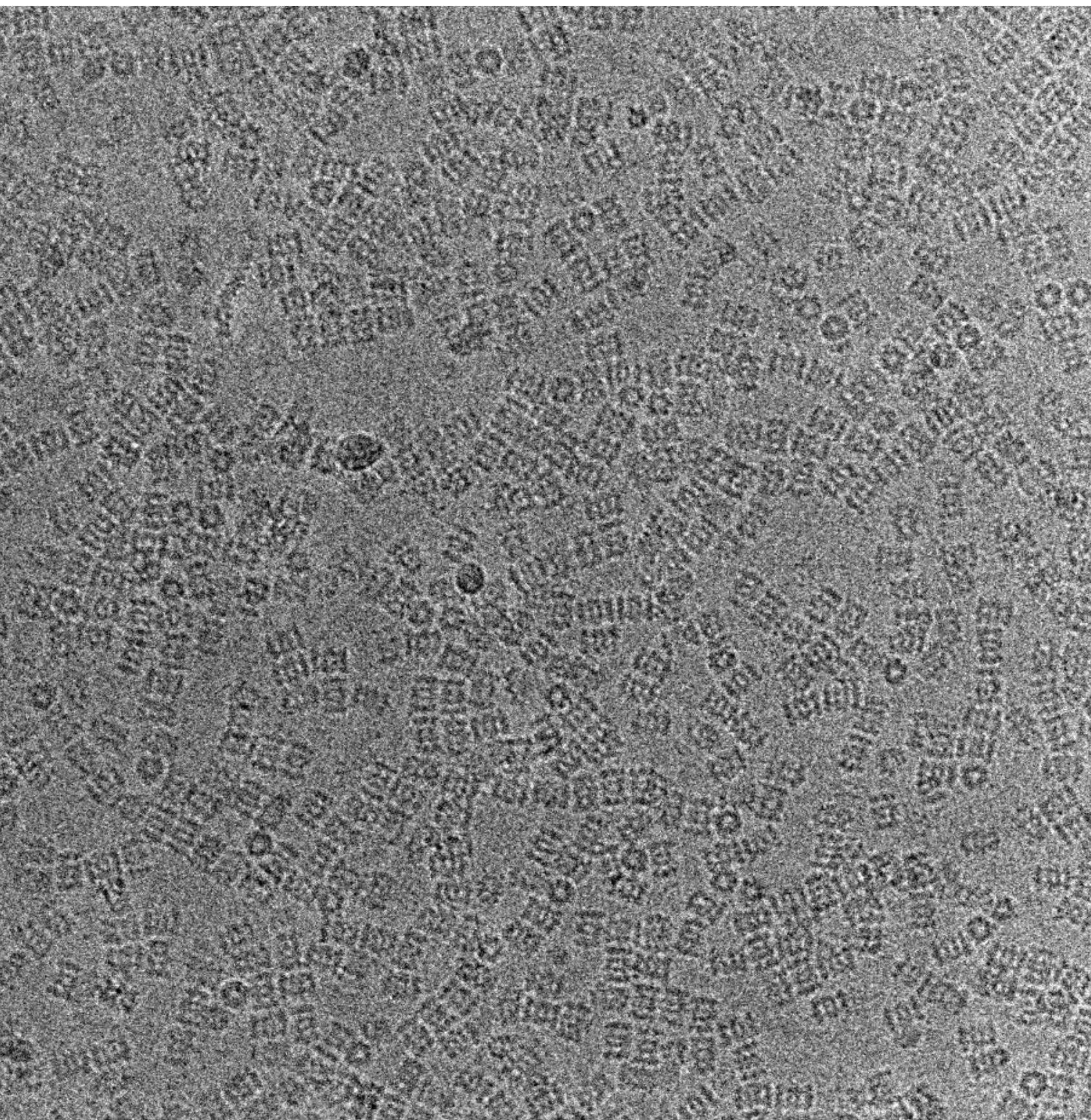
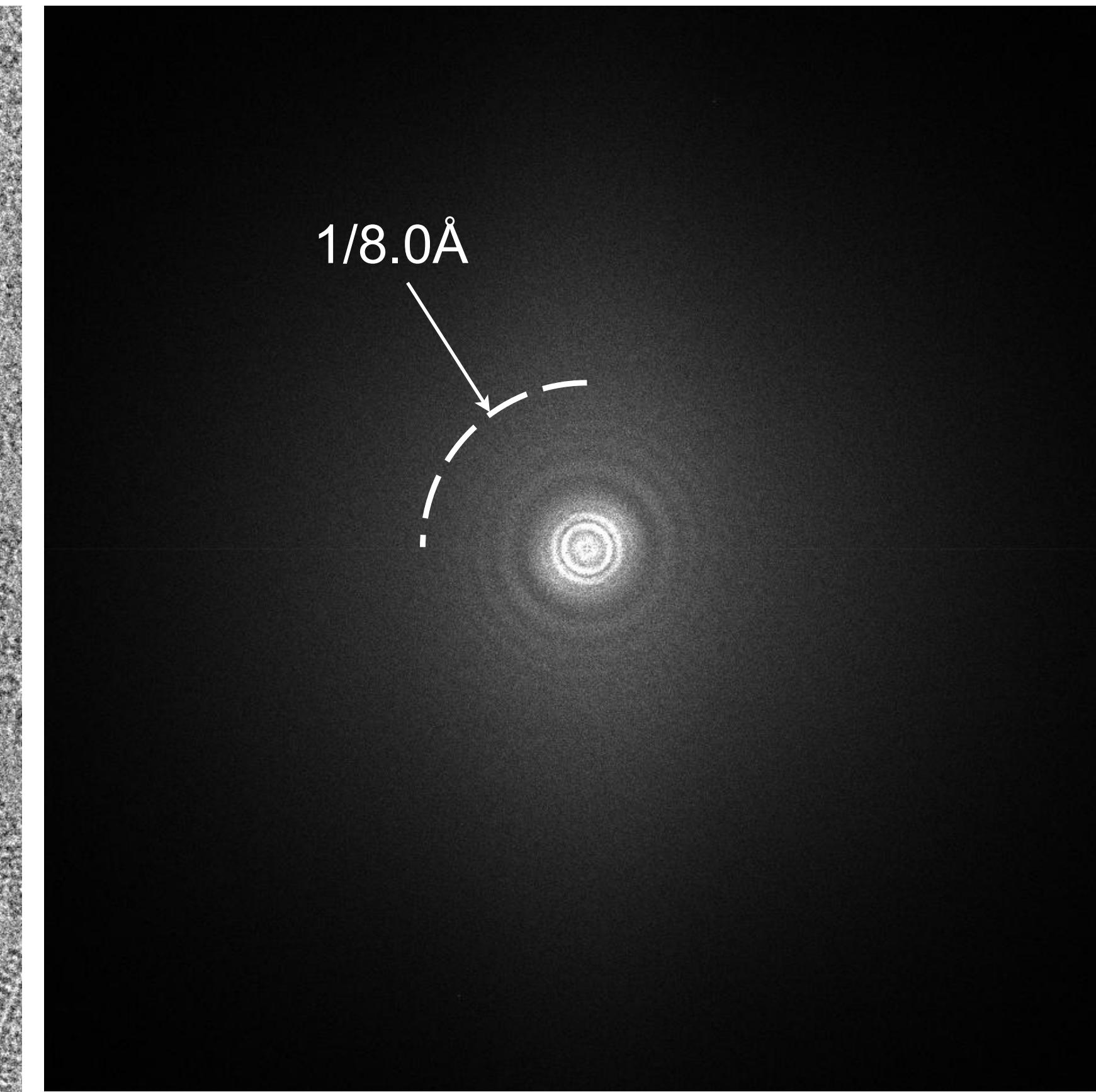


Image is further modified by recording devices

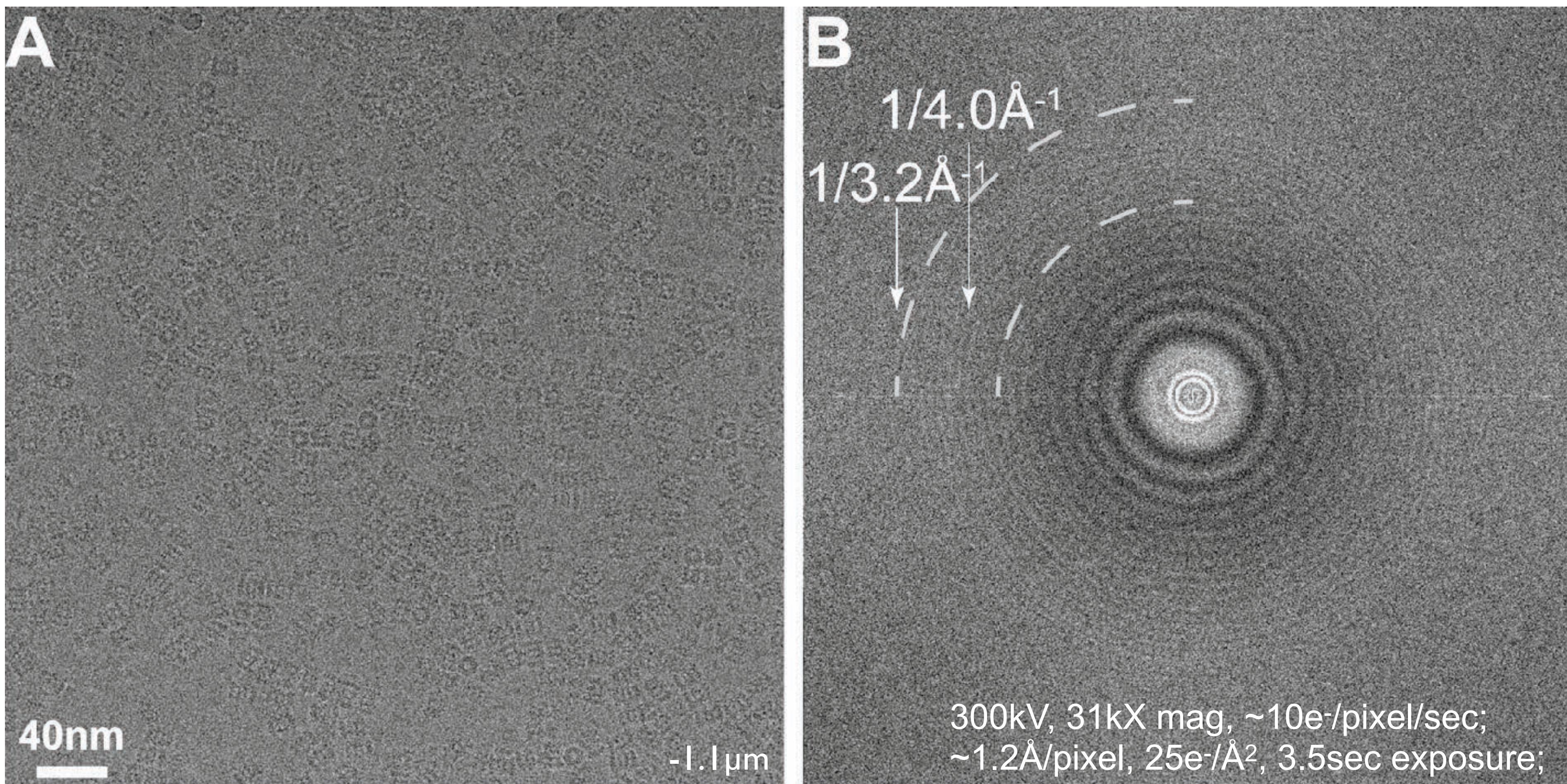


TVIPS F816 CMOS camera,
T20S proteasome, 700kDa,
200kV, -1.6 μ m (equivalent: 300kV, -2 μ m);

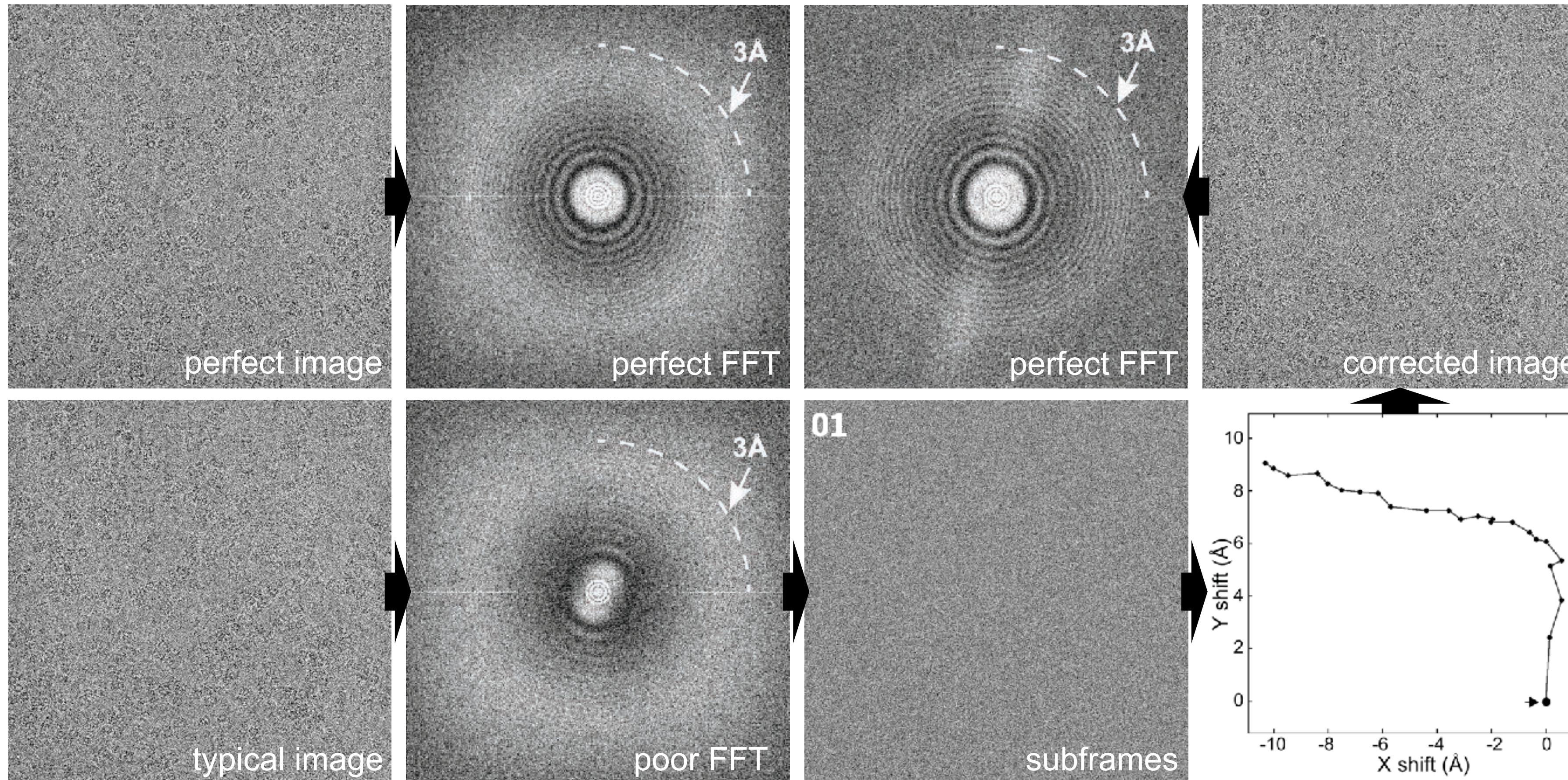


FFT: Thon ring visible to ~8.0 Å;

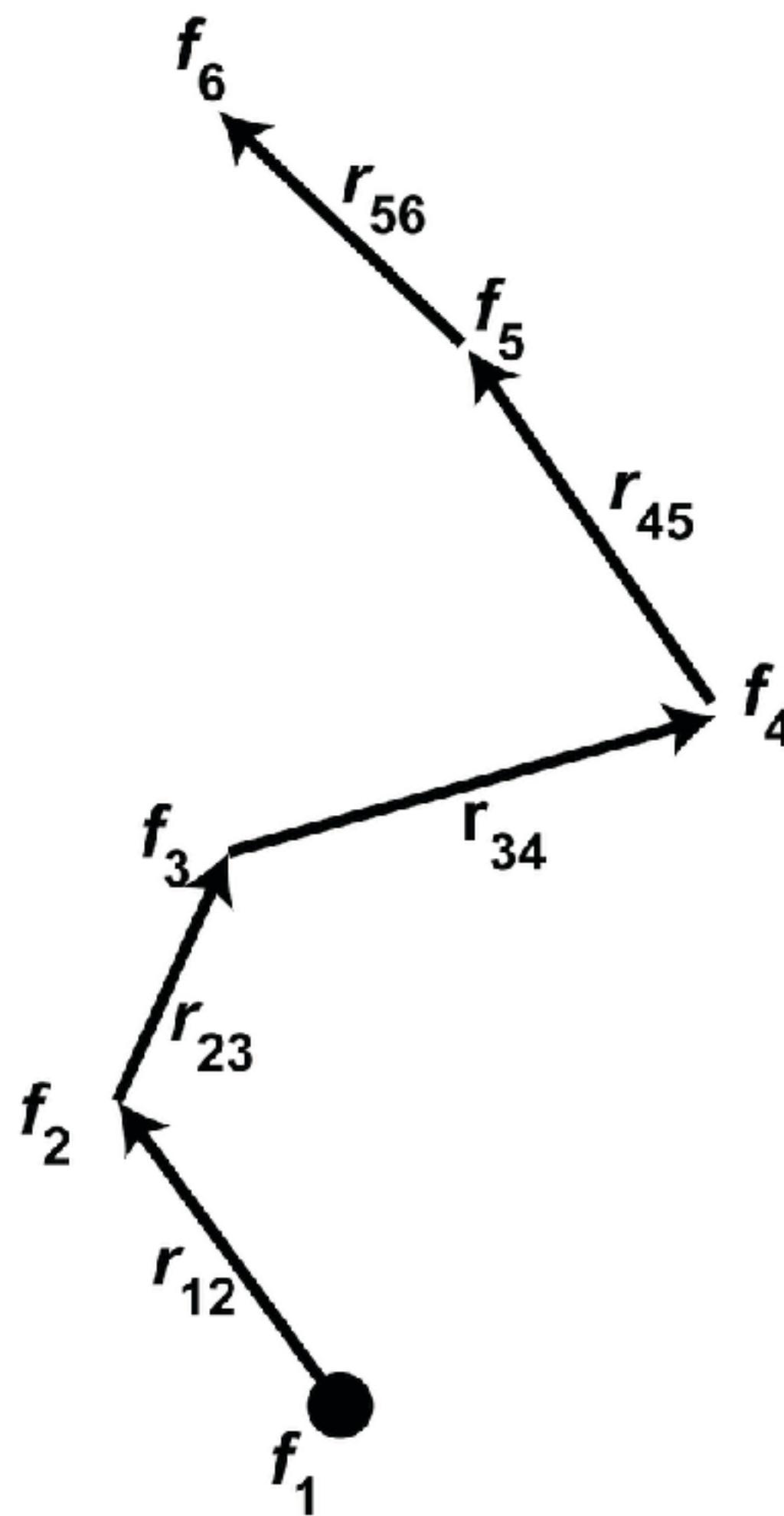
K2 image of frozen hydrated protein samples, archaeal 20S proteasome



Background subtraction recovers high-resolution quaternization

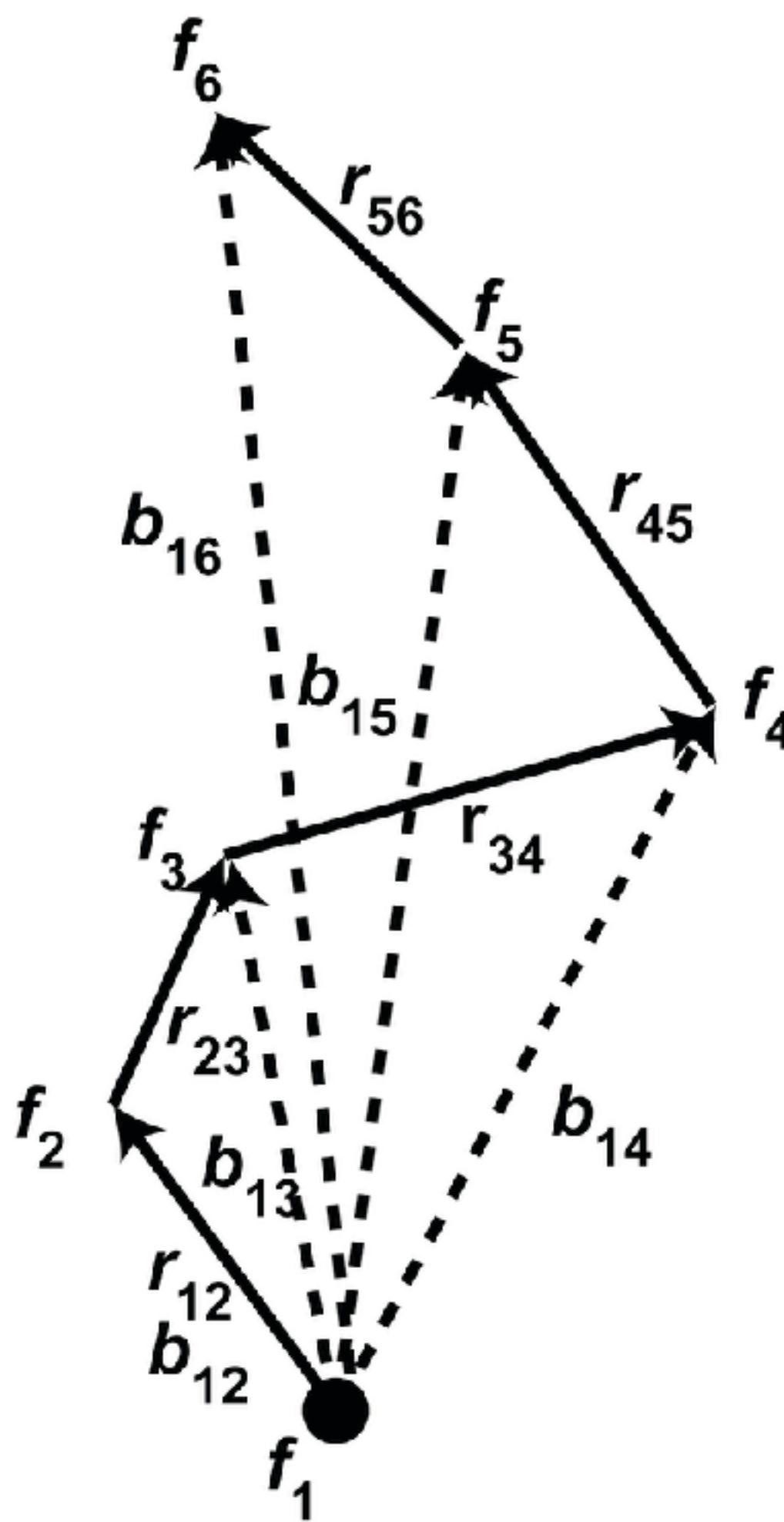


Algorithm for motion correction



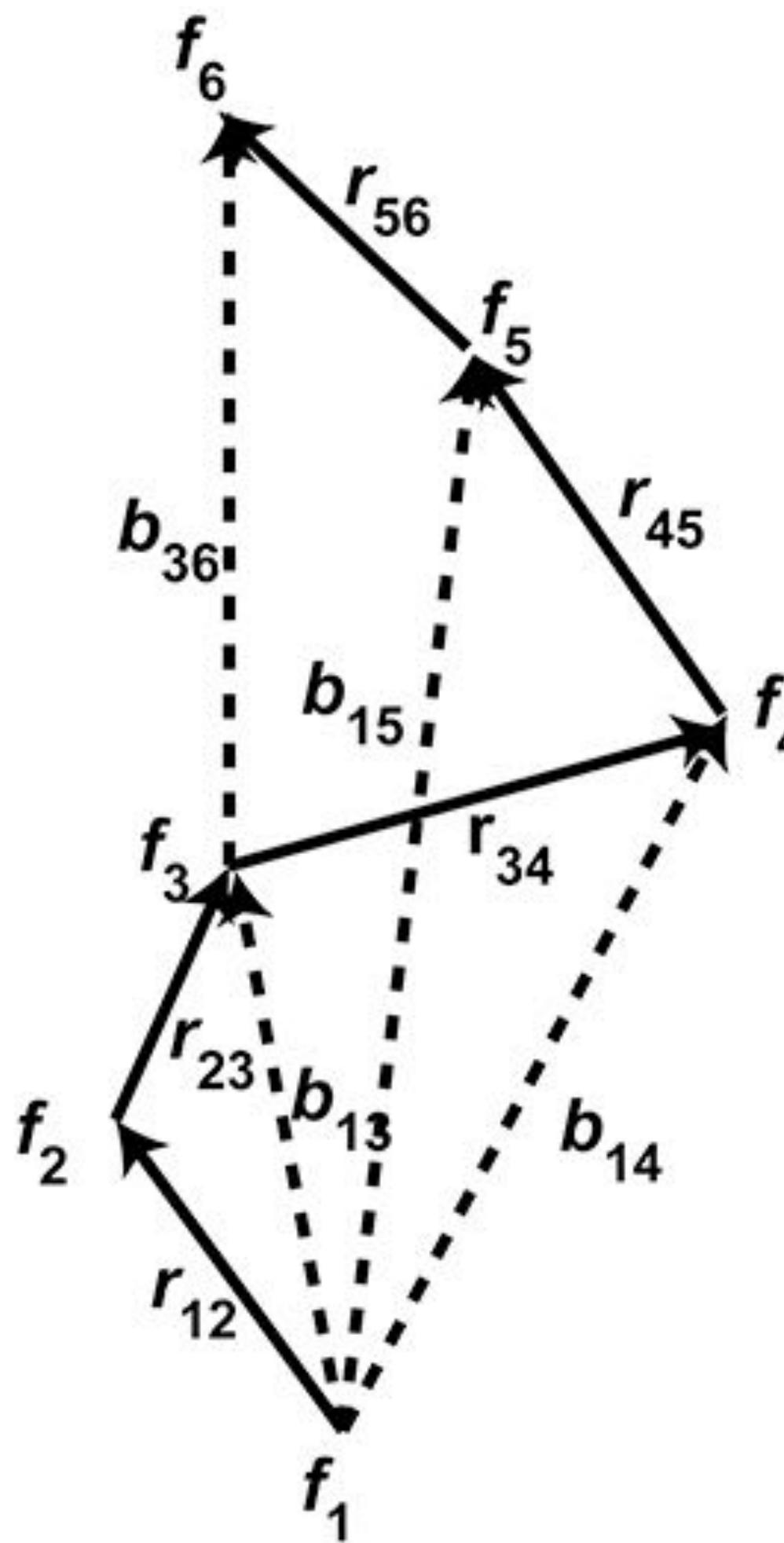
* Convention method is to use cross-correlation to determine image shift frame-by-frame.

Algorithm for motion correction



* Convention method is to use cross-correlation to determine image shift frame-by-frame, or against a common origin.

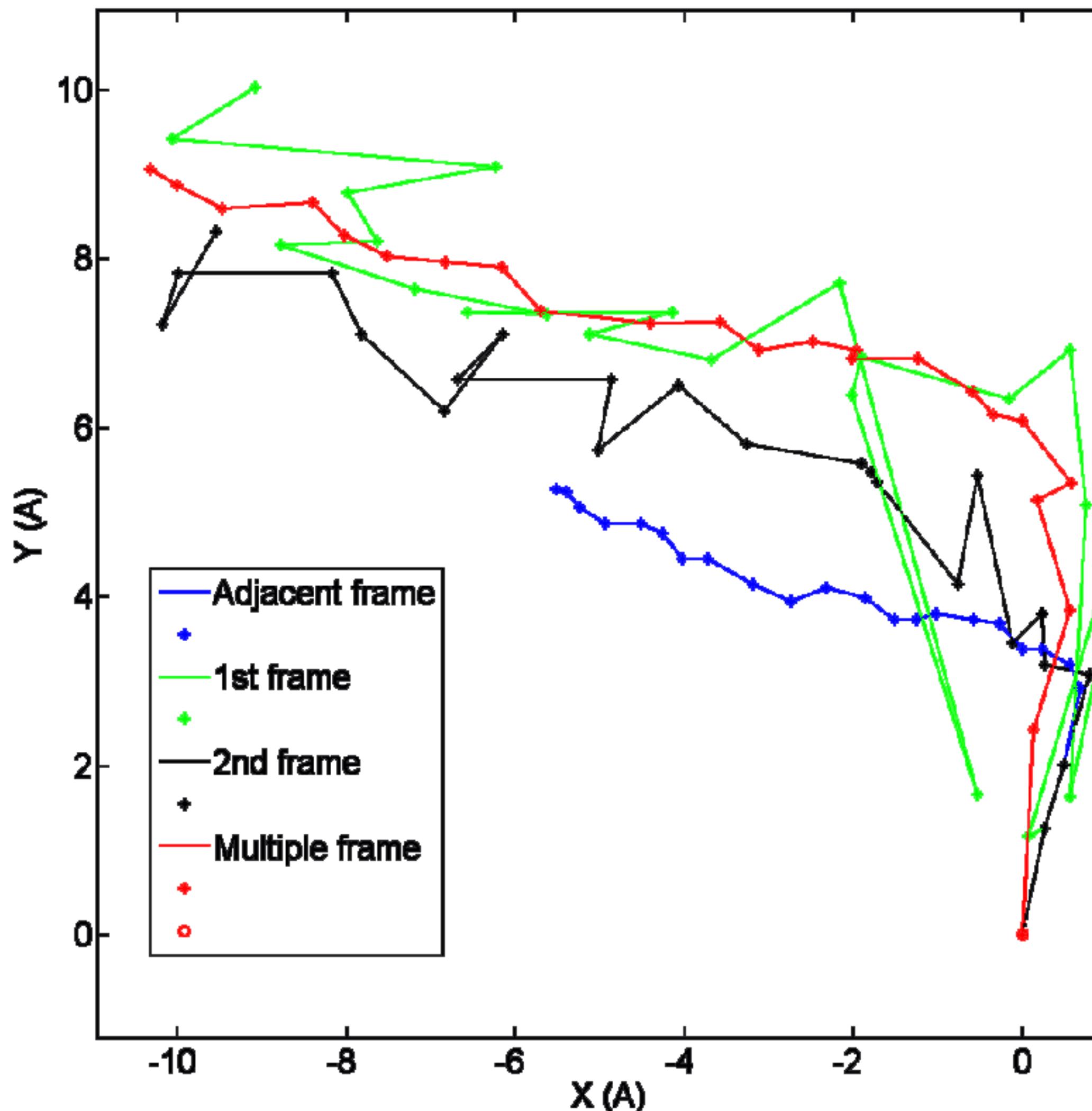
Algorithm for motion correction



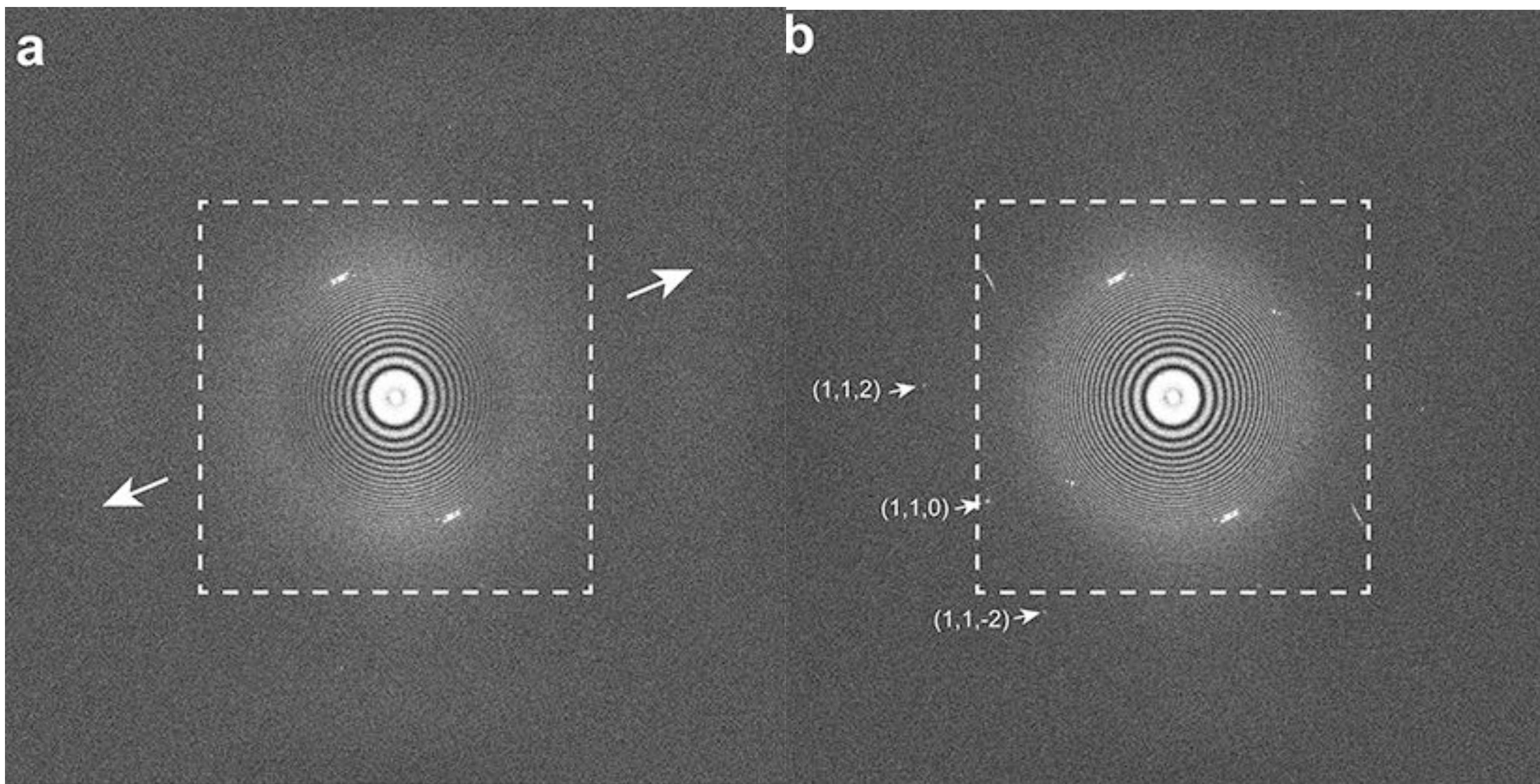
$$\begin{aligned}b_{13} &= r_{12} + r_{23} \\b_{14} &= r_{12} + r_{23} + r_{34} \\b_{15} &= r_{12} + r_{23} + r_{34} + r_{45} \\b_{16} &= r_{12} + r_{23} + r_{34} + r_{45} + r_{56} \\\dots\dots \\b_{35} &= r_{34} + r_{45} \\b_{36} &= r_{34} + r_{45} + r_{56}\end{aligned}$$

* All computations are carried out in GPU, and can be performed on-the-fly during data acquisition.

Comparisons of different subframe tracking algorithms

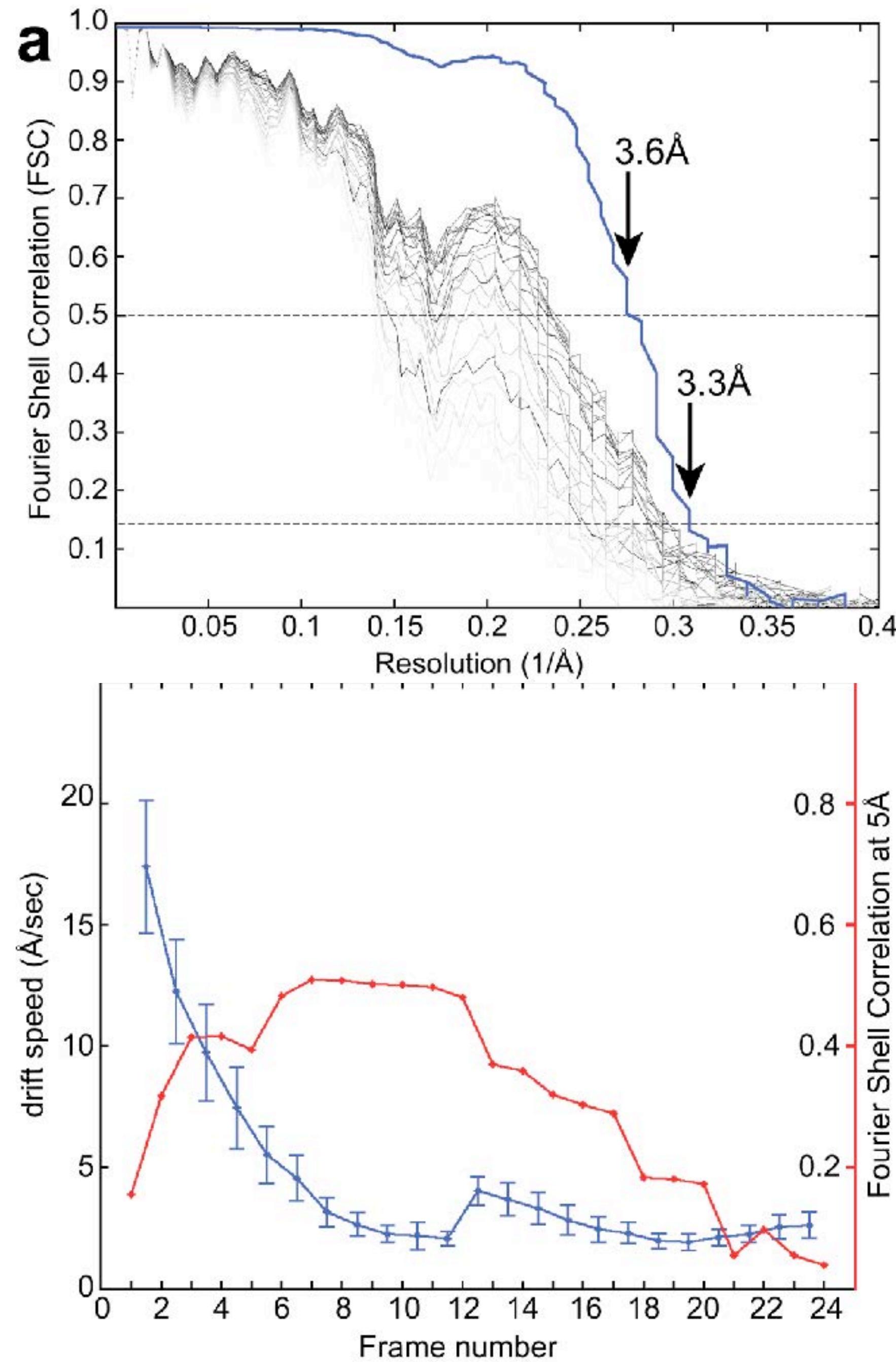


Motion correction at sub-pixel accuracy

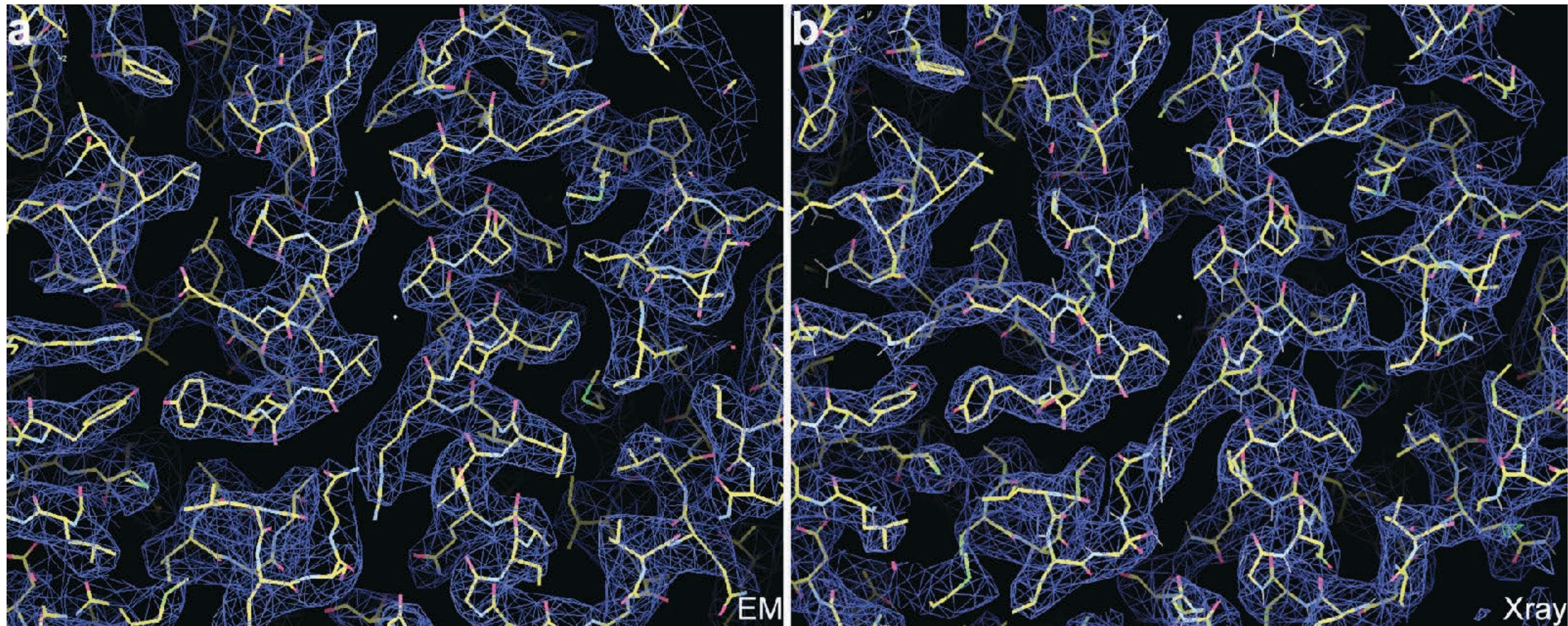


* Motion correction restored resolution beyond physical Nyquist limit;

Frame by frame 3D reconstruction



We achieved resolution comparable with X-ray crystallography



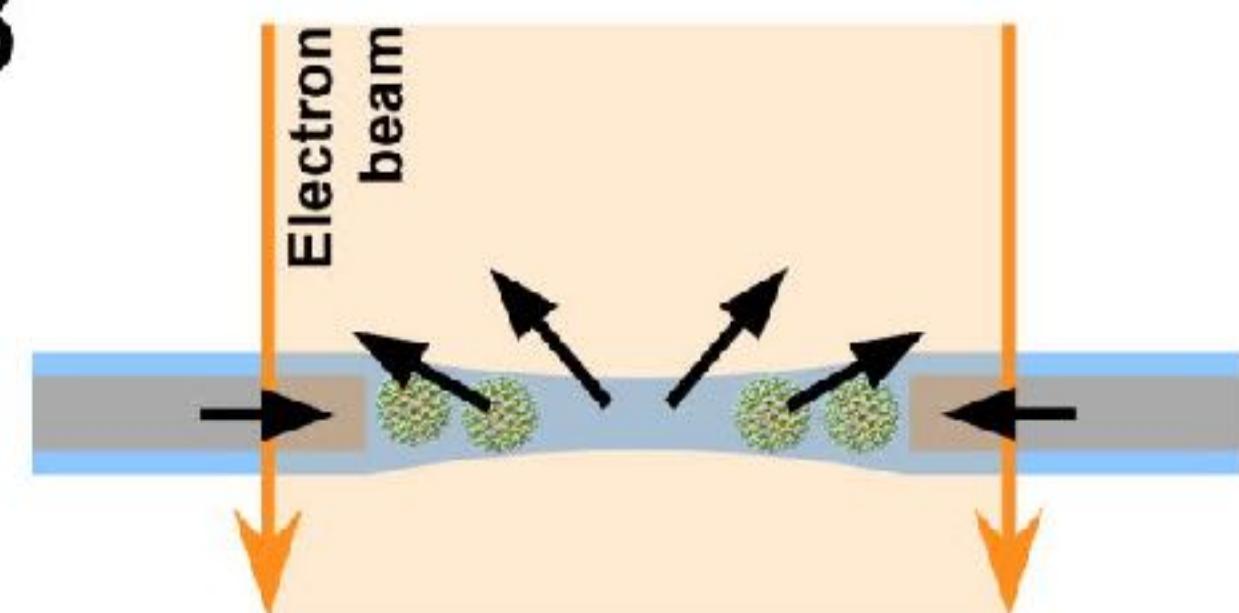
- archaeal 20S proteasome at ~3.3Å resolution, comparable to crystal map.

Caveat: all significant motion is not global

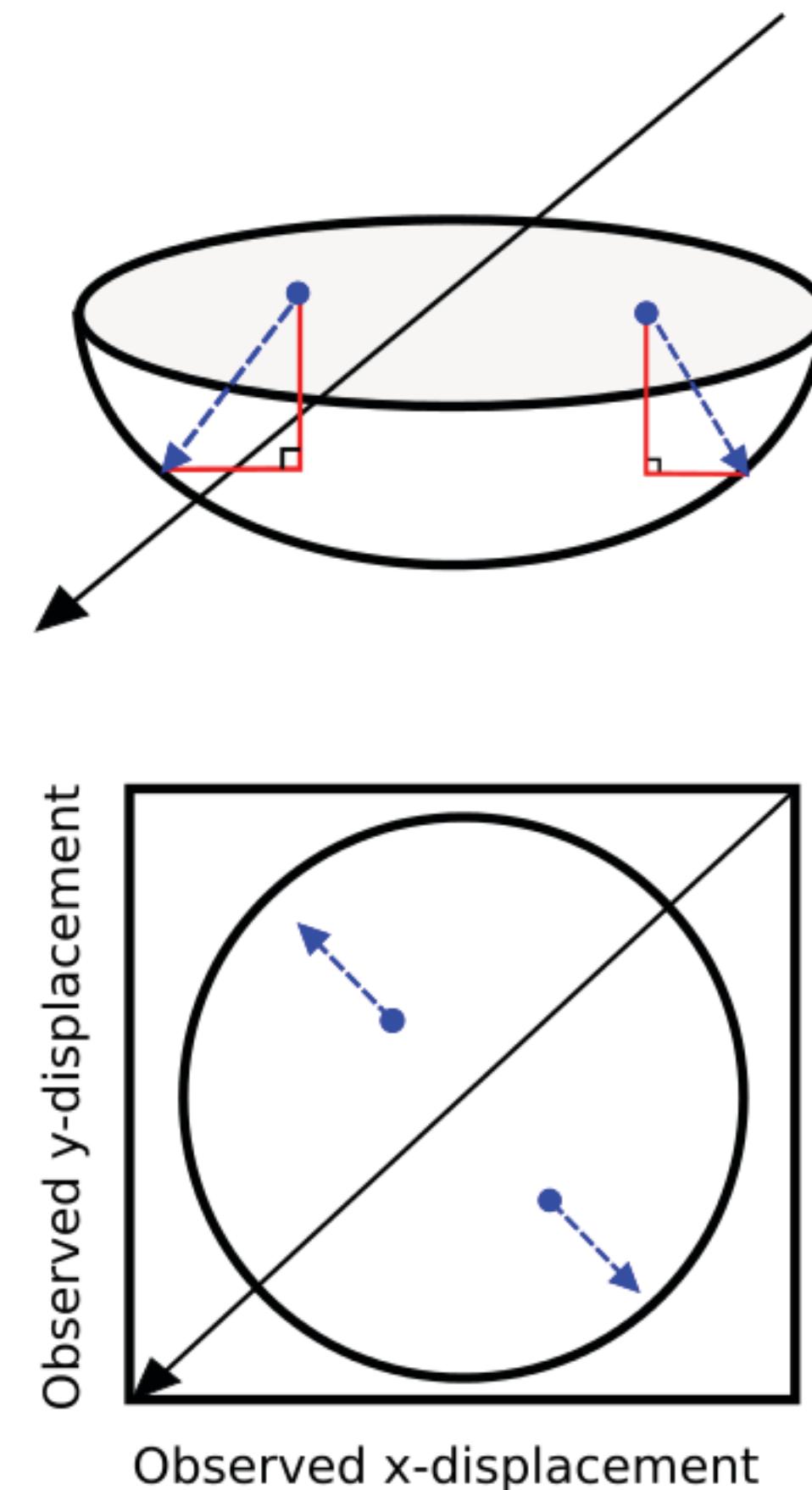
A



B



C

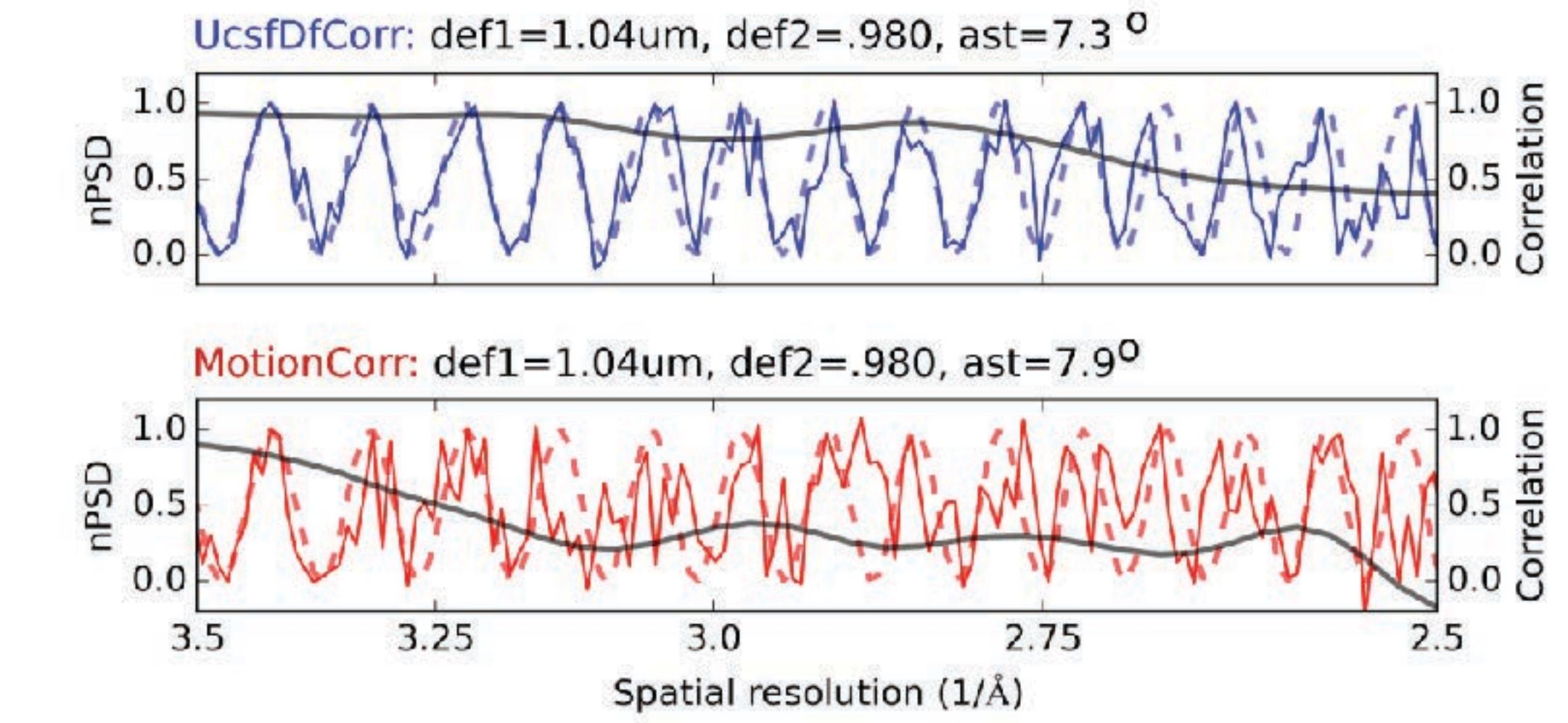
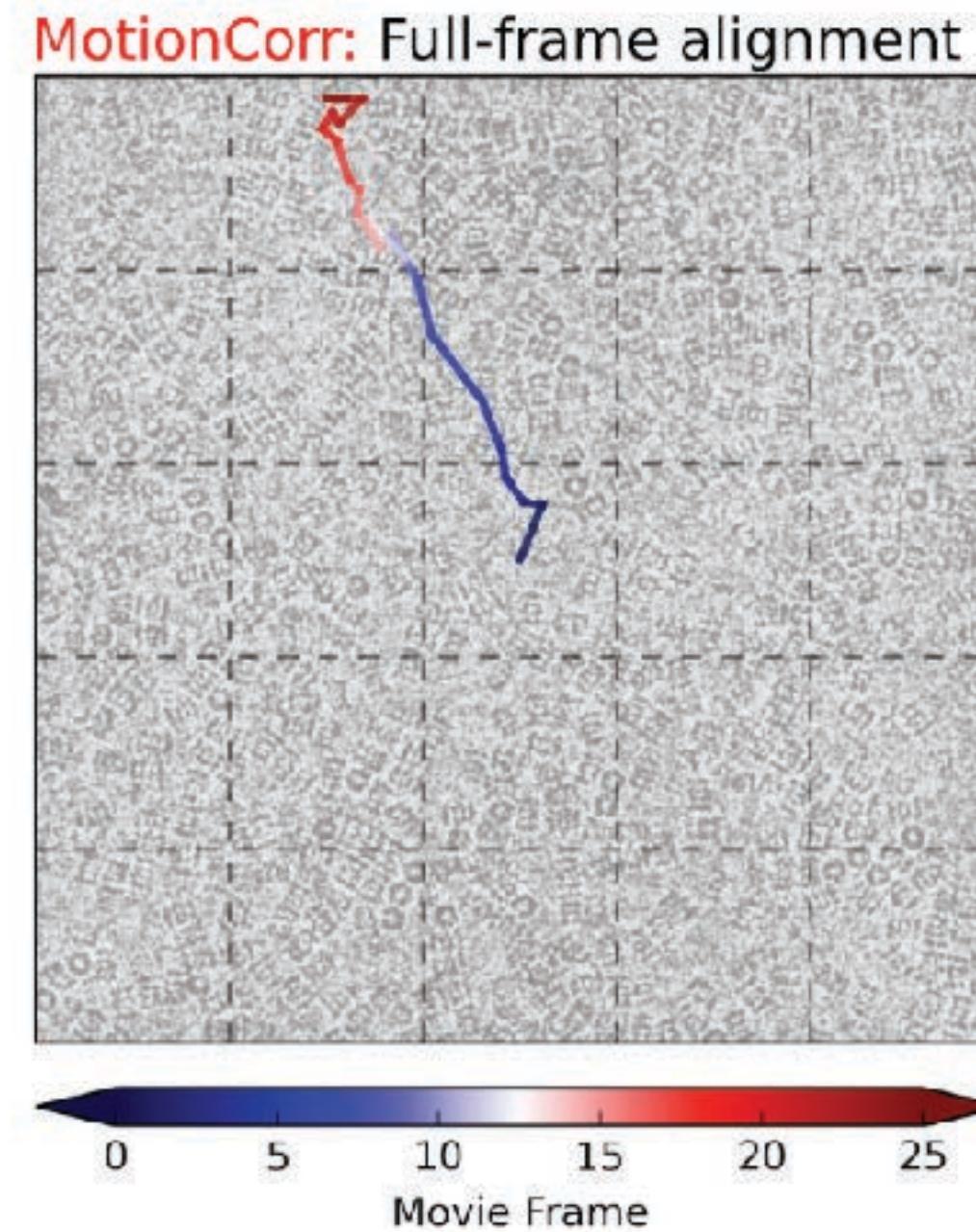
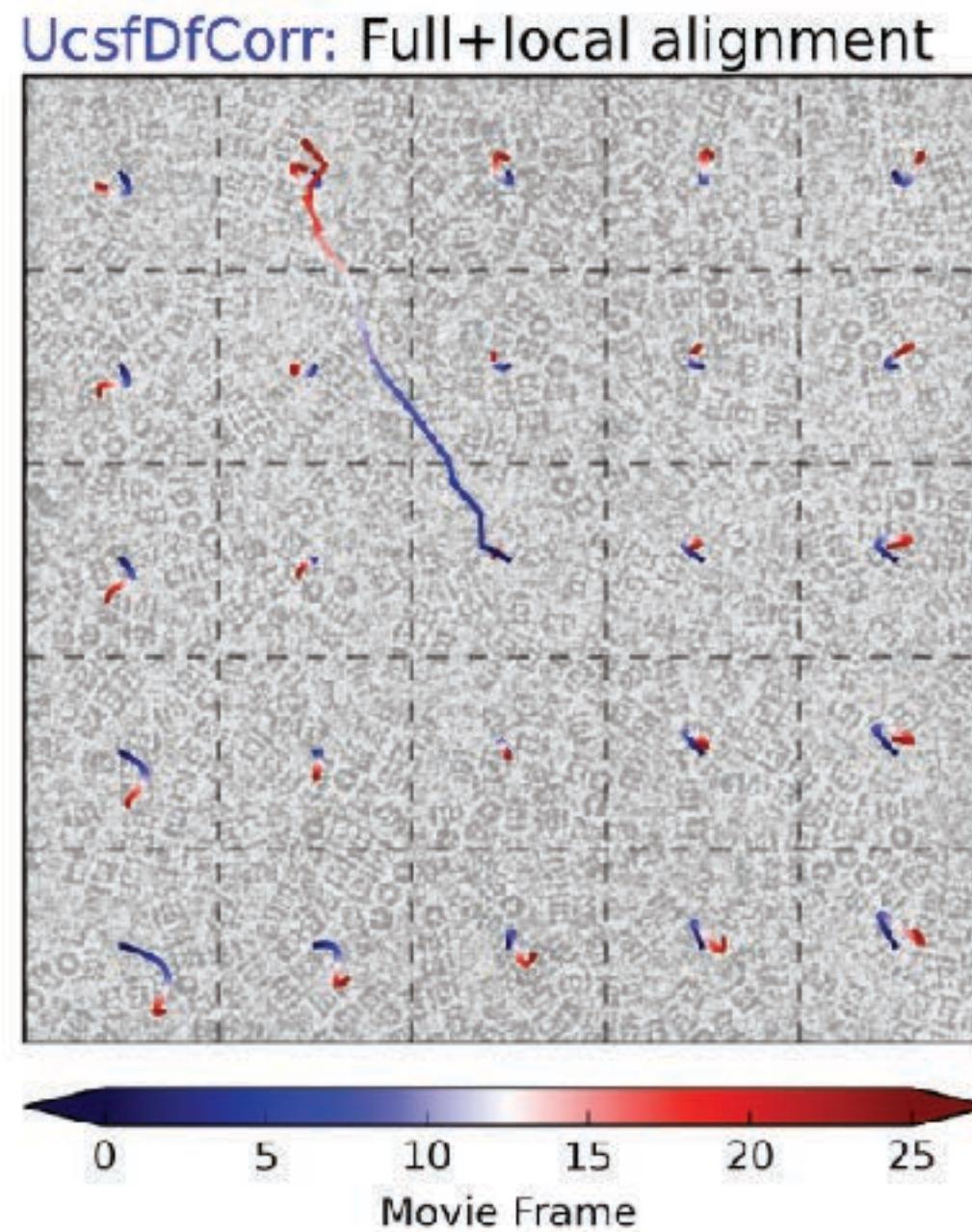


Axel Brilot (now in the Agard lab) discovered that vitrified viruses at the periphery of the sample hole move more than those in the center.

It was suggested that the electron beam causes the sample to 'dome.'

Shawn Zheng (also Agard lab) wrote a new algorithm that takes such motion into account.

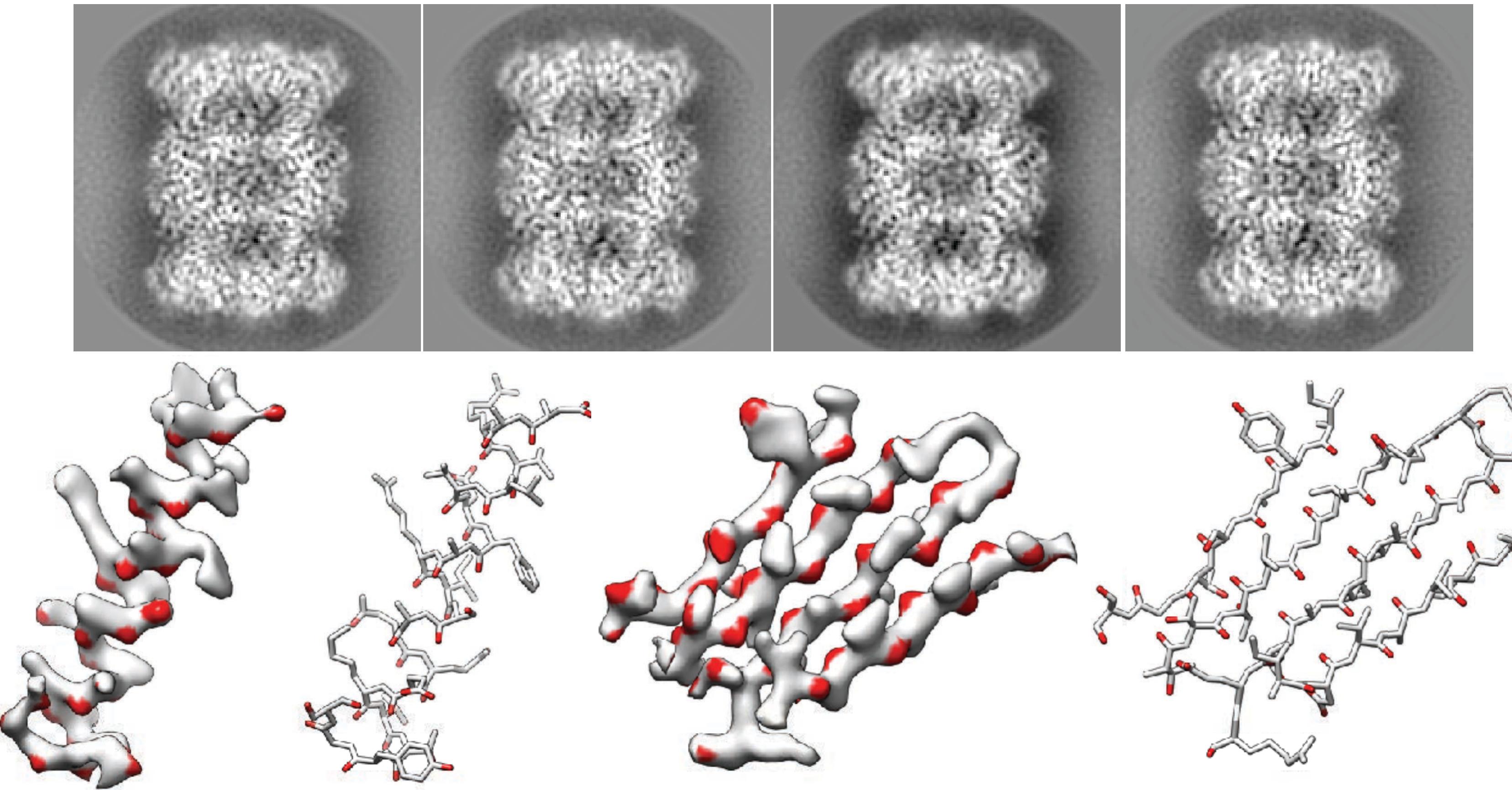
Caveat: all significant motion is not global



CTF Oscillations in the radially averaged Fourier Transform

Correcting local doming motions (interpolating each pixel of the image on the left with a time-varying vector field fitted by the trajectories in different patches of the image) improves the signal below 3A.

Re-process with the algorithm: archaeal 20S proteasome at ~2.5Å resolution

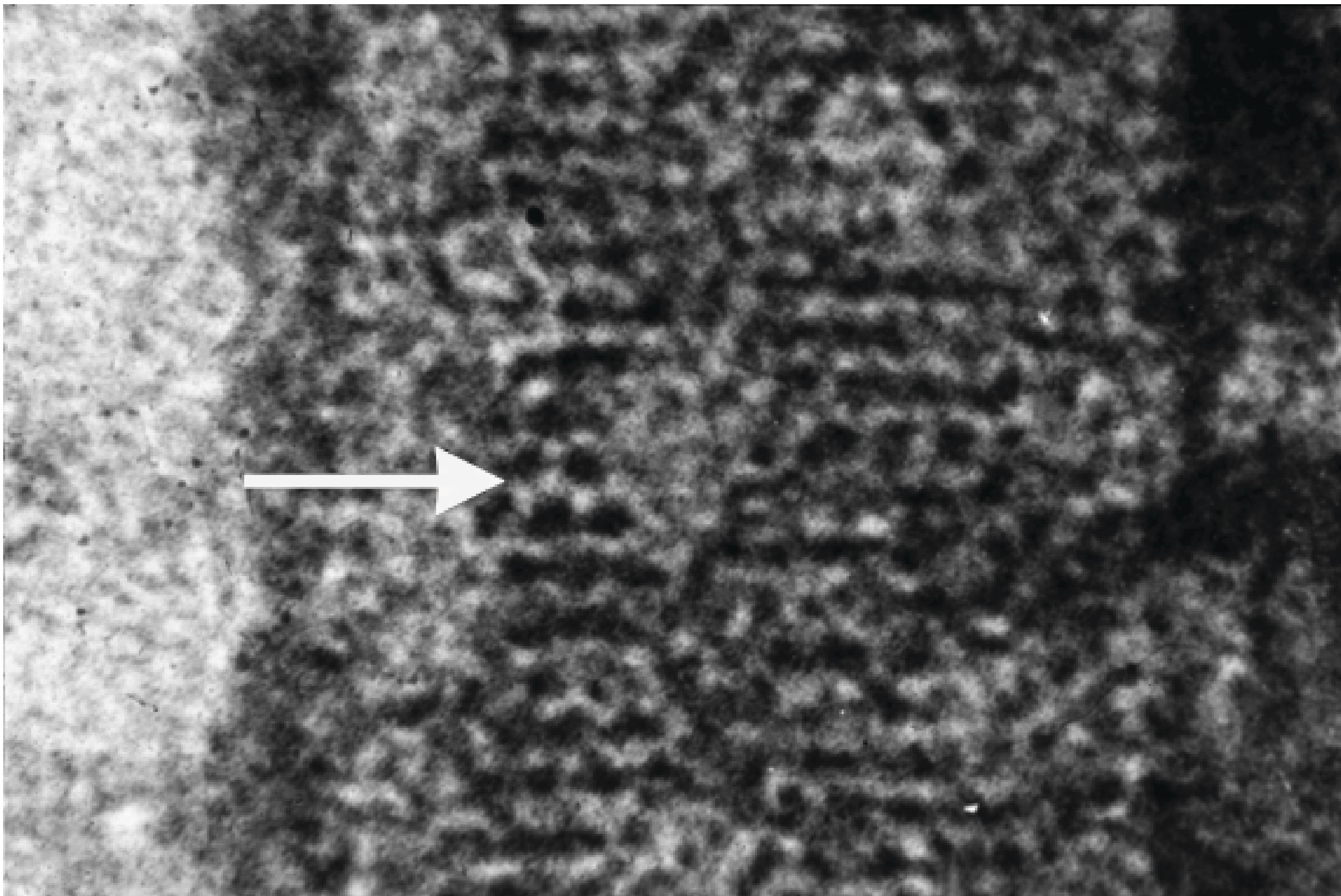


Single particle cryo-EM

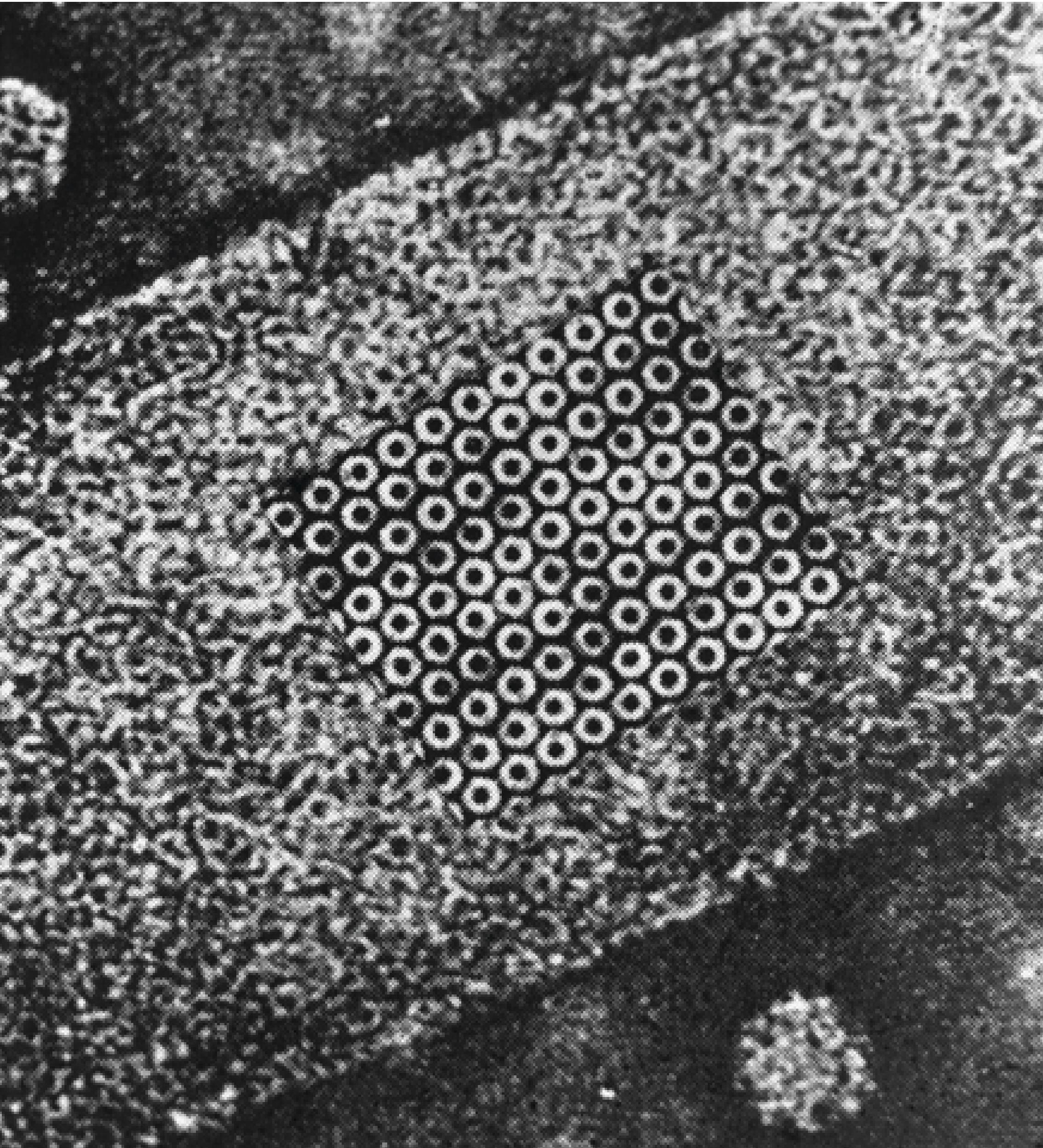
* Basic concepts of single particle cryo-EM: averaging, resolution, iterative refinement and reconstruction

Image averaging

Cryo-EM images are very noisy; have extremely low signal-to-noise ratio. Averaging of a large number of images are necessary to improve the SNR.



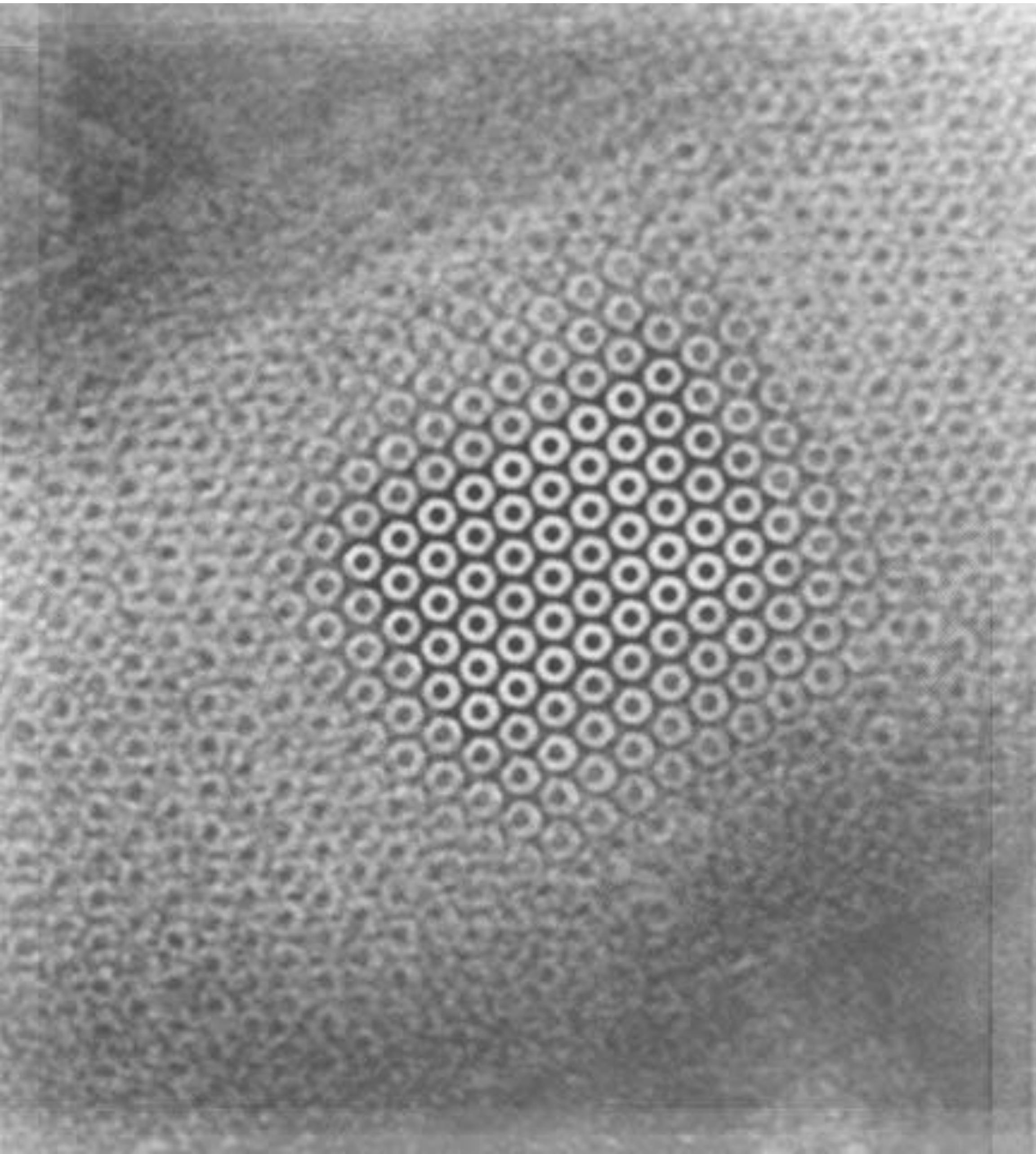
Averaging in darkroom



Photographic image superposition (averaging) by Roy Markham, who shifted image and added to the original in darkroom.

The trick is to know decide much and which direction to shift the image for superposition.

Averaging in computer.



David DeRosier used Markham's lattice to determine how much to shift, and performed averaging by using Adobe Photoshop.

Averaging in 2D crystals

How much and which direction to shift the image can be determined easily from FT of the image of a 2D crystal.

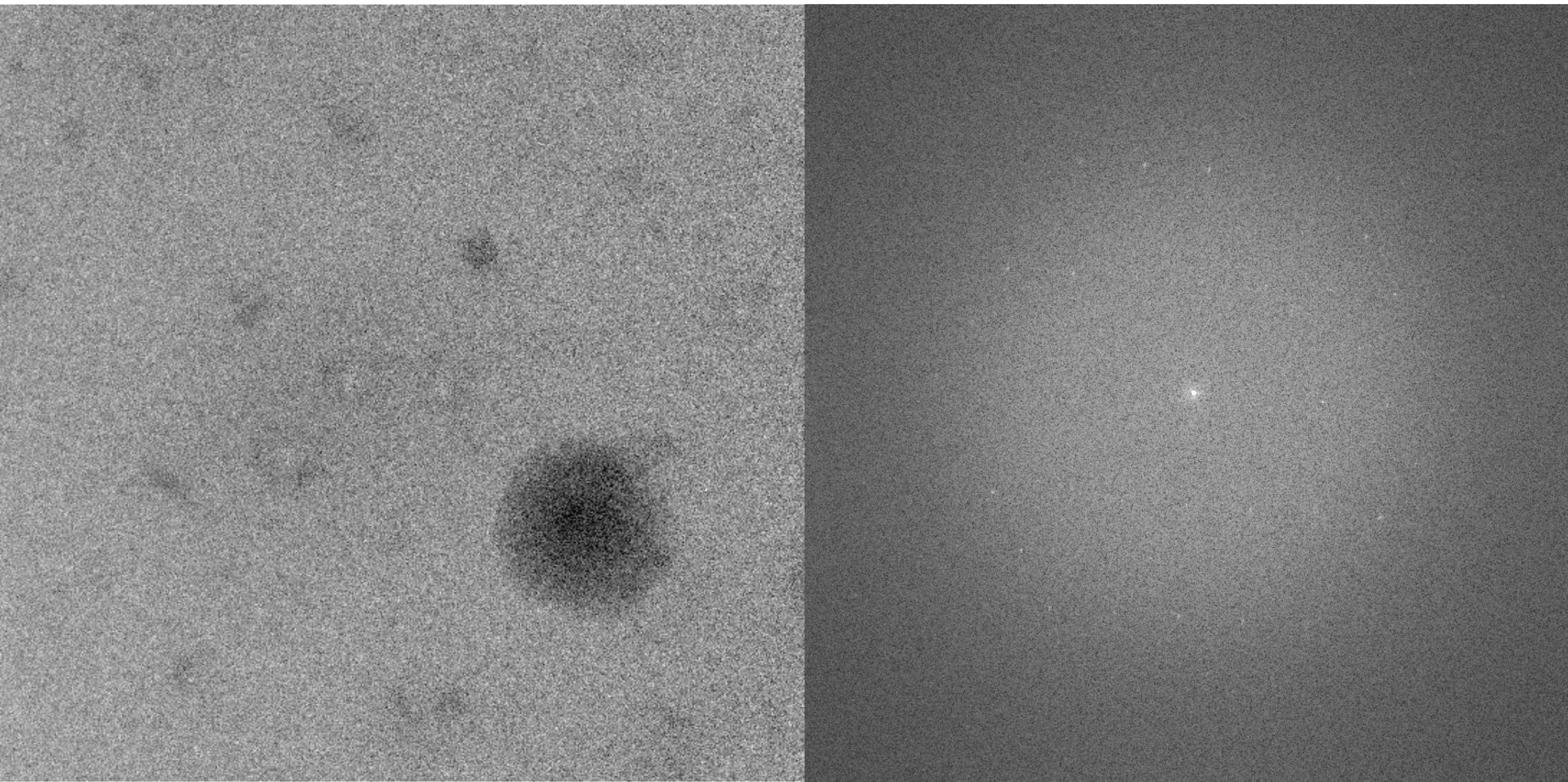
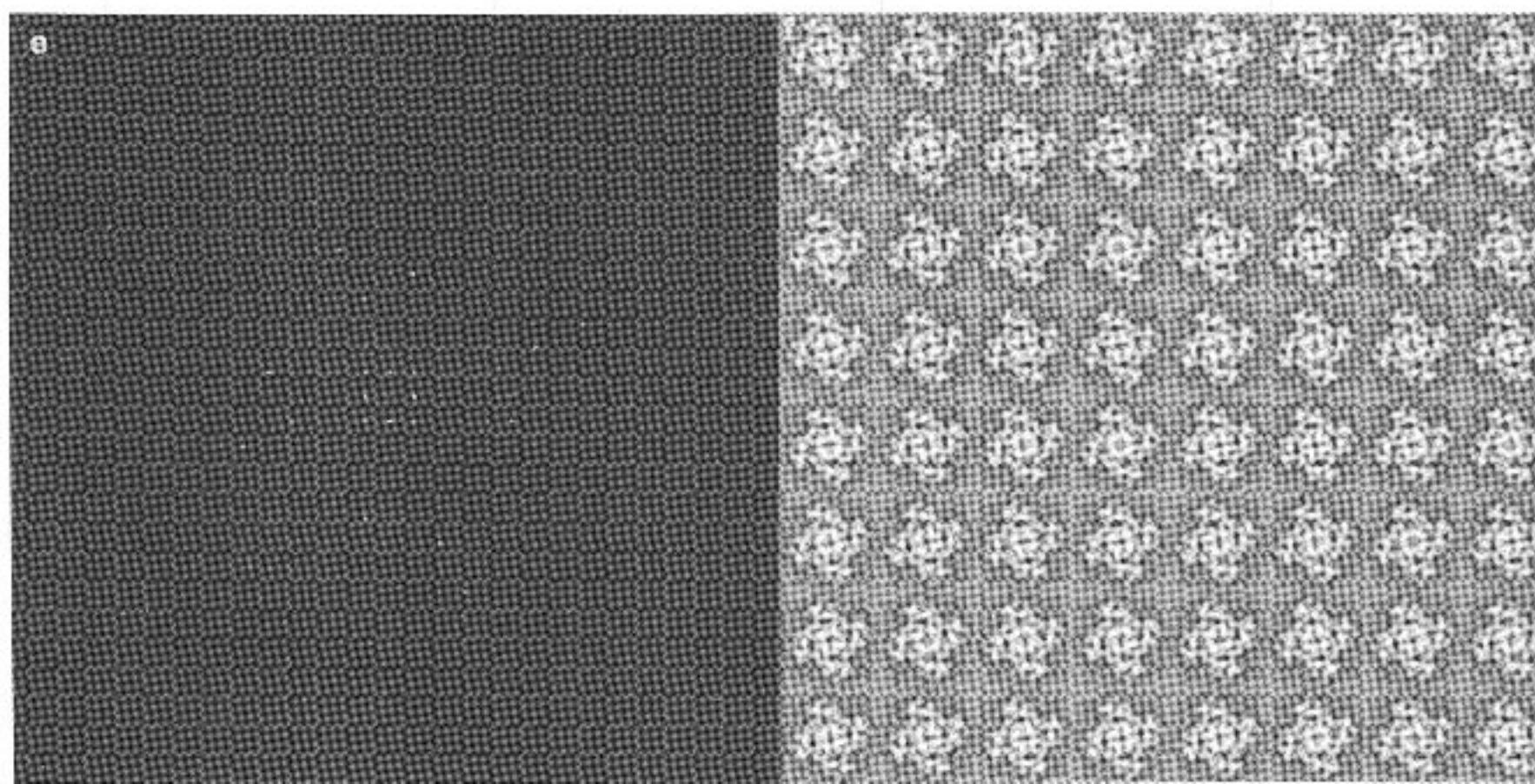
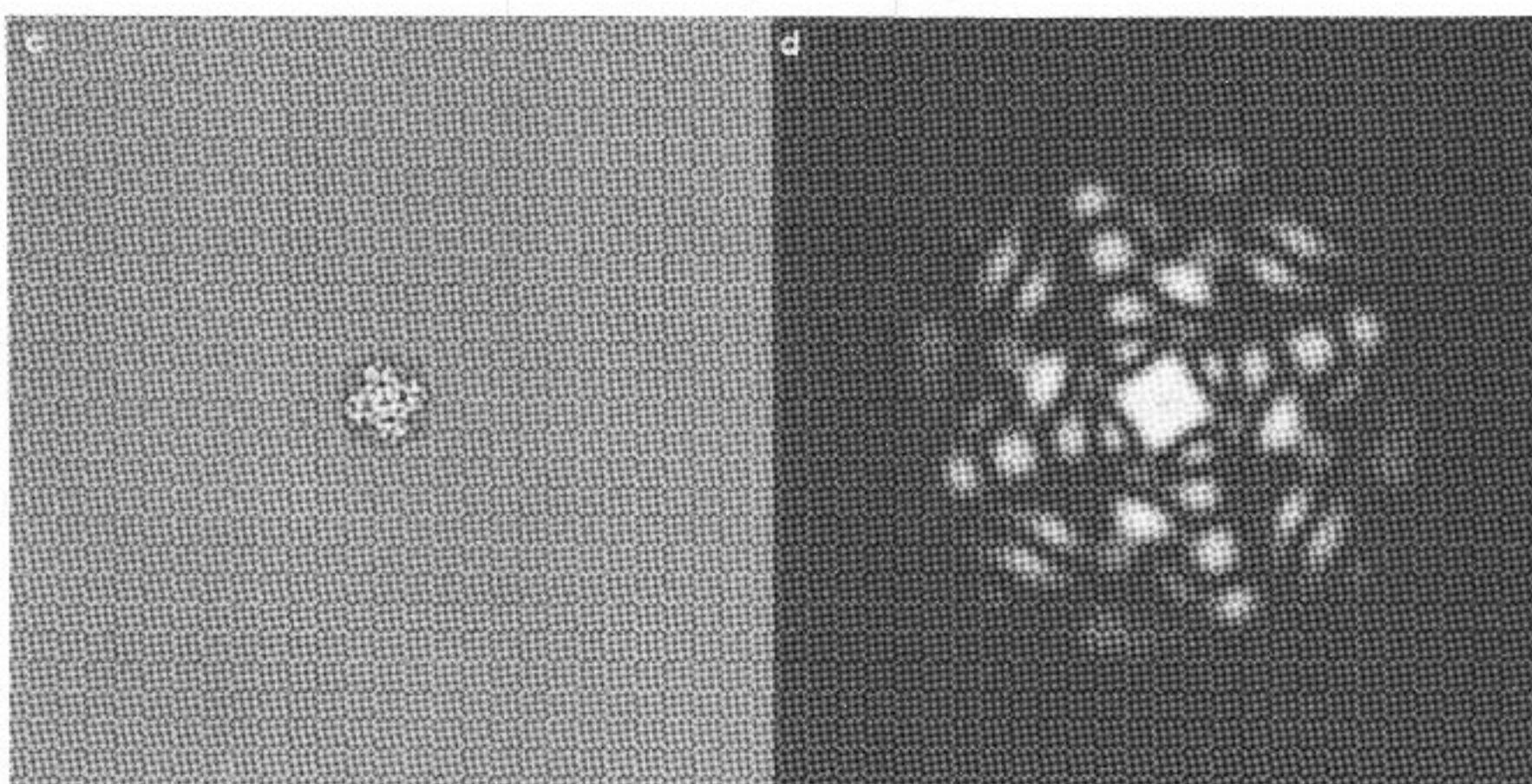
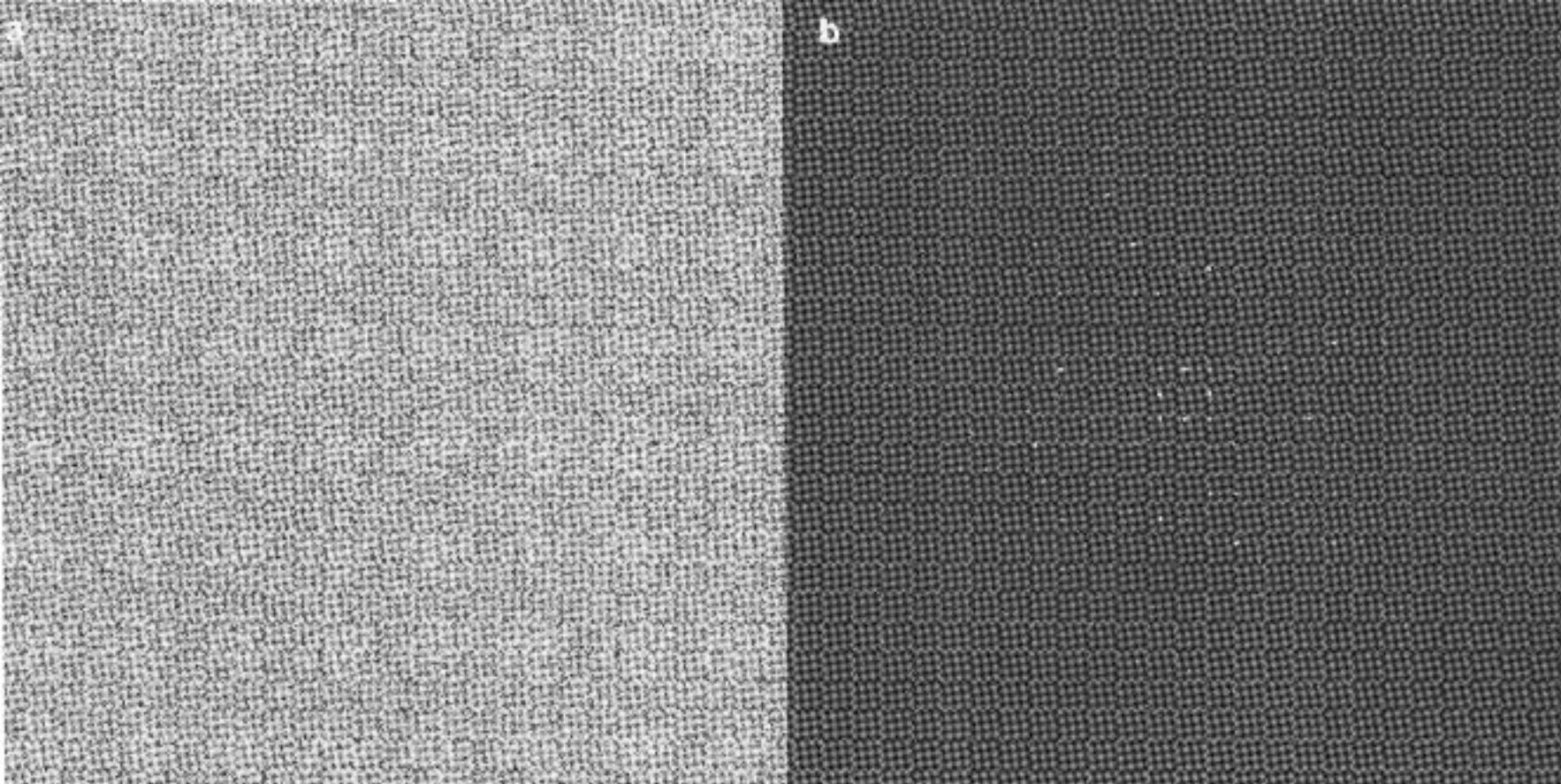


Image averaging in 2D crystal



In 2D crystal, one can extract amplitudes and phases from peaks of FT (contributed by the identical repeats of structural motif) and ignore everything in between peaks (contributed by the random noise). A reverse Fourier Transform using extracted amplitude and phases will give us an averaged features. This is equivalent to the averaging.

It is easy to perform averaging in 2D crystal. The molecules in the 2D crystal are identical in composition and orientation.

What about single molecules

A single particle image data set is a collection of images, each contains projection images of one molecules. The orientations and position of particles in all images are different. Before averaging, one needs to:

- judge how similar is the two particles: *cross-correlation coefficient*;
- shifts/rotates one particle to match another by maximizing ccc: *alignment*;
- separate different particles for averaging: *classification*;

Alignment \longleftrightarrow Classification

A digital image is collection of numbers in a grid

3	20	5	-3	4
3	5	34	45	4
0	-2	34	45	6
-1	34	2	3	1
4	5	2	2	0

$$f = \sum_{j=1}^J f(\vec{r}_j) = \sum_{j=1}^J f(m_j, n_j)$$

3	2	5	-3	4
25	2	4	2	4
0	34	45	5	6
-1	32	40	2	1
35	3	2	2	0

$$g = \sum_{j=1}^J g(\vec{r}_j) = \sum_{j=1}^J g(m_j, n_j)$$

Cross-correlation coefficient

Cross-correlation coefficient is a measure of similarity and statistical interdependence between two data sets. The mathematic definition of cross-correlation coefficient is:

$$\rho = \frac{\sum_{j=1}^J [f_1(\vec{r}_j) - \langle f_1 \rangle][f_2(\vec{r}_j) - \langle f_2 \rangle]}{\left\{ \sum_{j=1}^J [f_1(\vec{r}_j) - \langle f_1 \rangle]^2 \sum_{j=1}^J [f_2(\vec{r}_j) - \langle f_2 \rangle]^2 \right\}^{1/2}}$$

Where:

$$\langle f_i \rangle = \frac{1}{J} \sum_{j=1}^J f_i(\vec{r}_j)$$

Note that:

$$-1 < \rho < 1$$

Alignment between two images

Alignment is a process to search the grids to maximize the cross-correlation coefficient between two images. Three parameters are used to define alignment of 2D images: in-plane shift (x, y) and in-plane rotation angle.

Cross-correlation function based alignment:

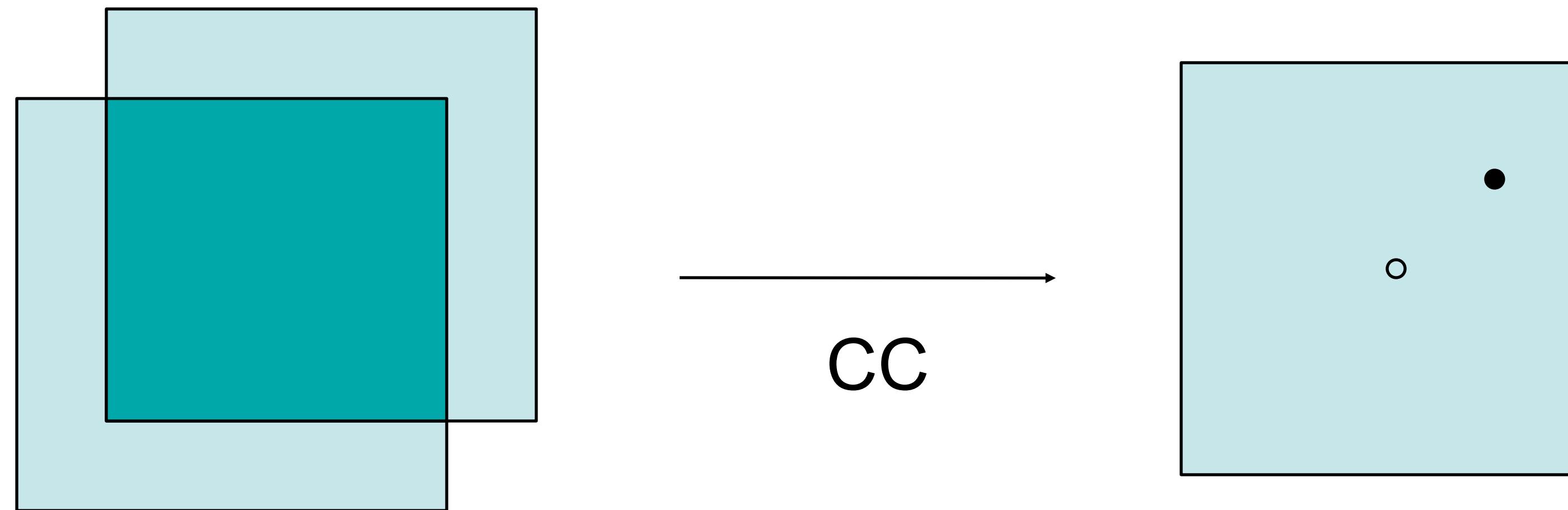
- In-plane shift can be determined by determine the peak position in the translational cross-correlation function between two images.
- Rotation can be determined by different ways: rotational cross-correlation function, Radon transform.

Cross-correlation function

The cross-correlation function is the most important tool for alignment of two images.

The mathematic definition of cross-correlation is:

$$f * g = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(t)g(t - \tau)d\tau$$



Q: what happens if shift is more than half of the image size?

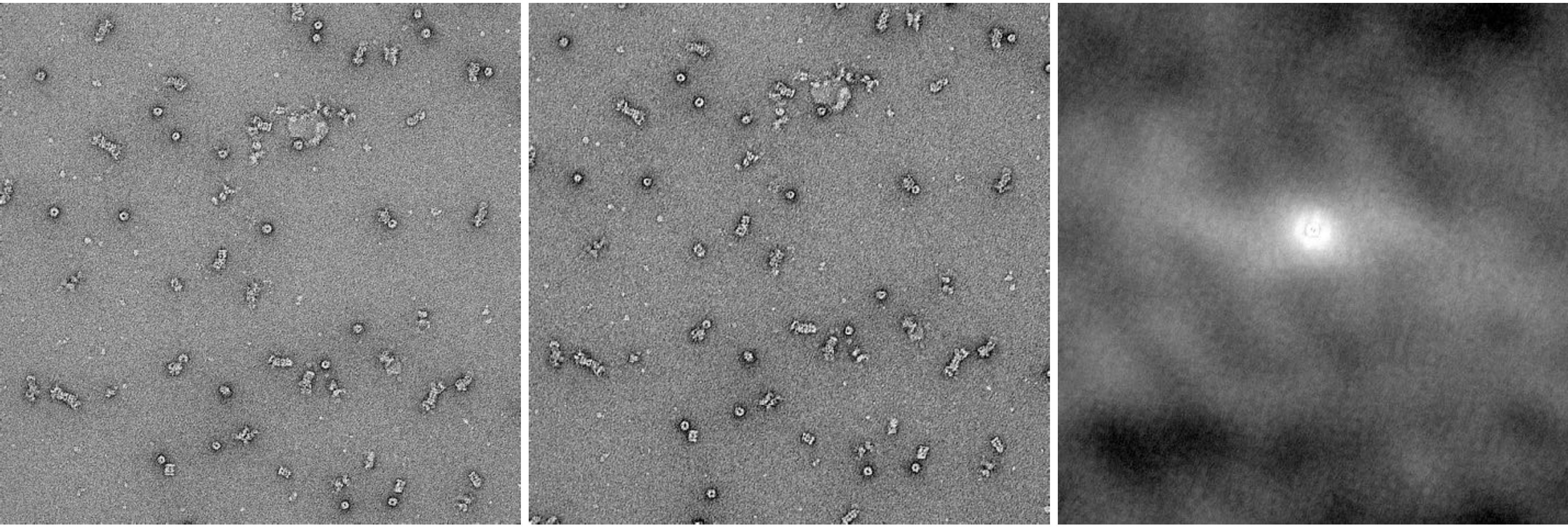
Calculating the cross-correlation

Cross-correlation theorem:

$$f * g = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(t)g(t - \tau)d\tau = F\{F(f) \cdot F^{-1}(g)\}$$

This formula enable us to calculate the cross-correlation between two images easily.

How cross-correlation looks like

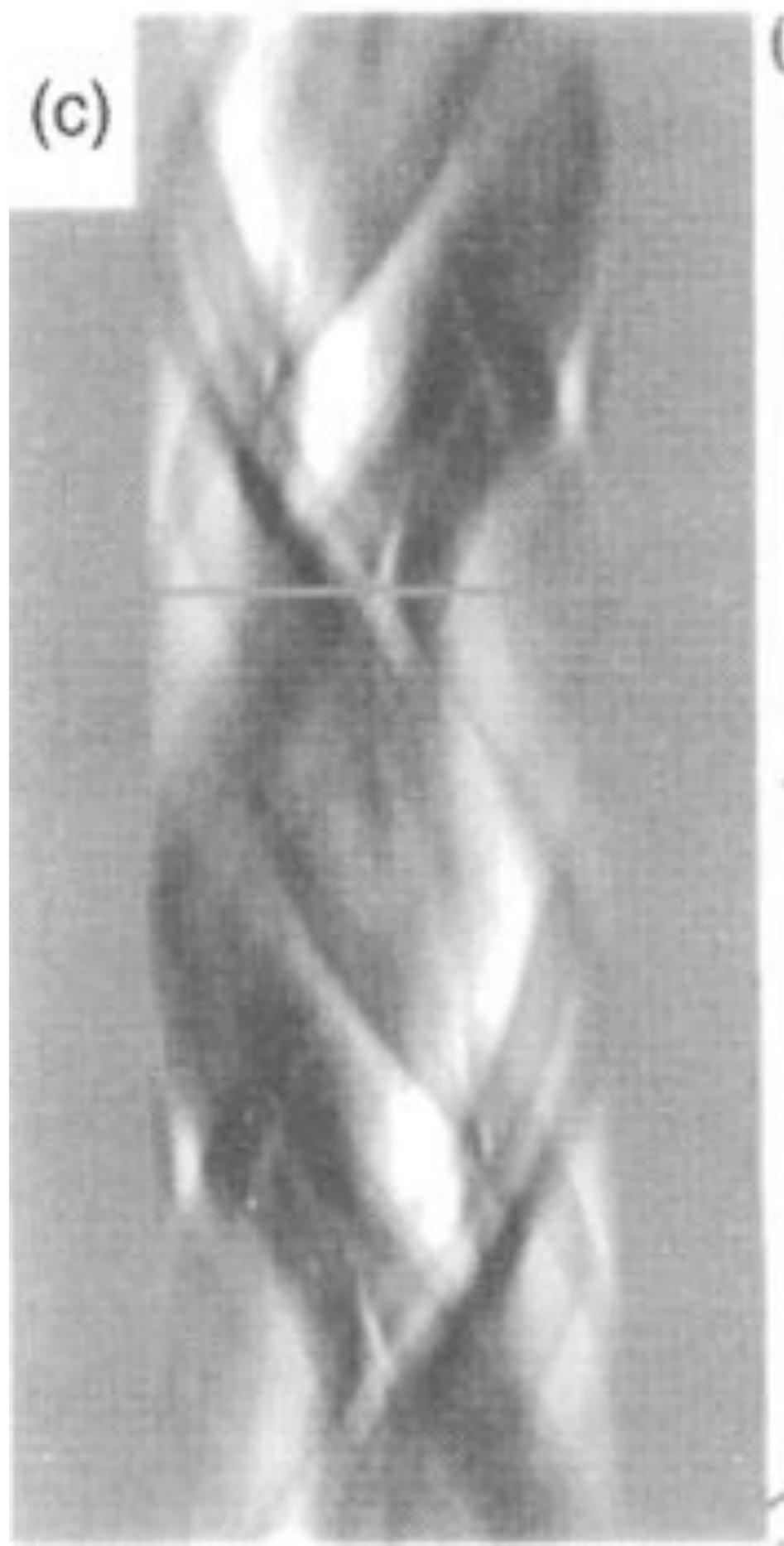
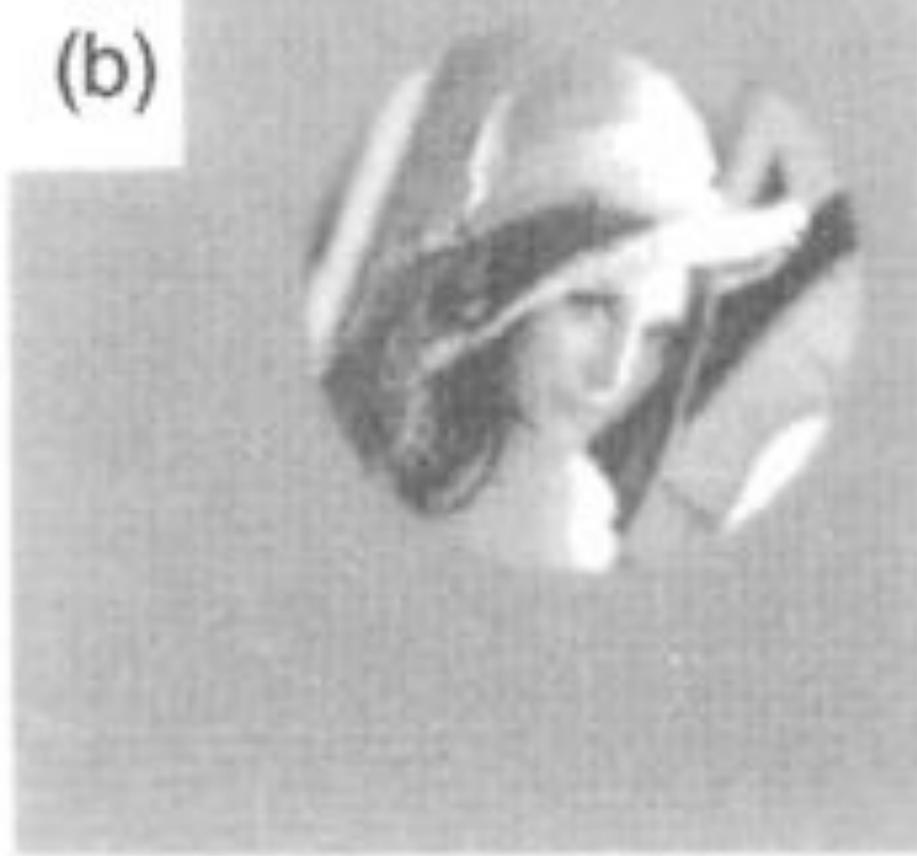


-1 μm

-1.5 μm

CCF

The image size is 1024X1024. The peak in the CCF is at (445,500). How much is the shift?



Radon transform

Radon transform is an efficient way for determining angular relationship between two images, but it only works well in images with high SNR.

More about the cross-correlation function

- Peak searching in the cross-correlation function;
search for a peak is not just finding the point of highest value in the CCF.
- Keep in mind that one can calculate cross correlation between any two images, and will always find a point with highest value.
- Cross-correlation based alignment and averaging always enhance the features of the reference image.

Demonstration of reference induced bias

Note: The averaged image after reference based alignment is strongly biased towards the reference.



100 images

1000 images

reference

Multi-reference alignment

For a heterogeneous data set, multiple references are used. Each images are aligned again each references, and decide which one yields highest cross-correlation coefficient.

Classification

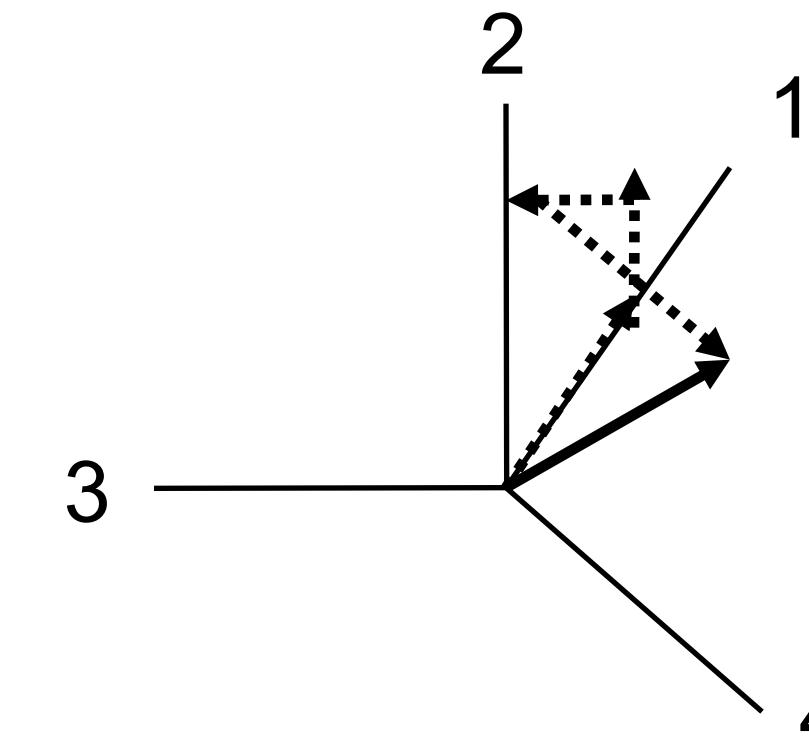
Classification - a process of dividing a set of images into subsets with similar features.

One can perform classification based on CCC to determine if the images are similar with each other; But for a very large data set of very noisy images (> 50,000 images)?

Hyperspace

An image of $m \times m$ pixels can be represented by a vector (or end point of a vector) in the hyperspace of $m \times m$ dimensions.

3	2
2	3



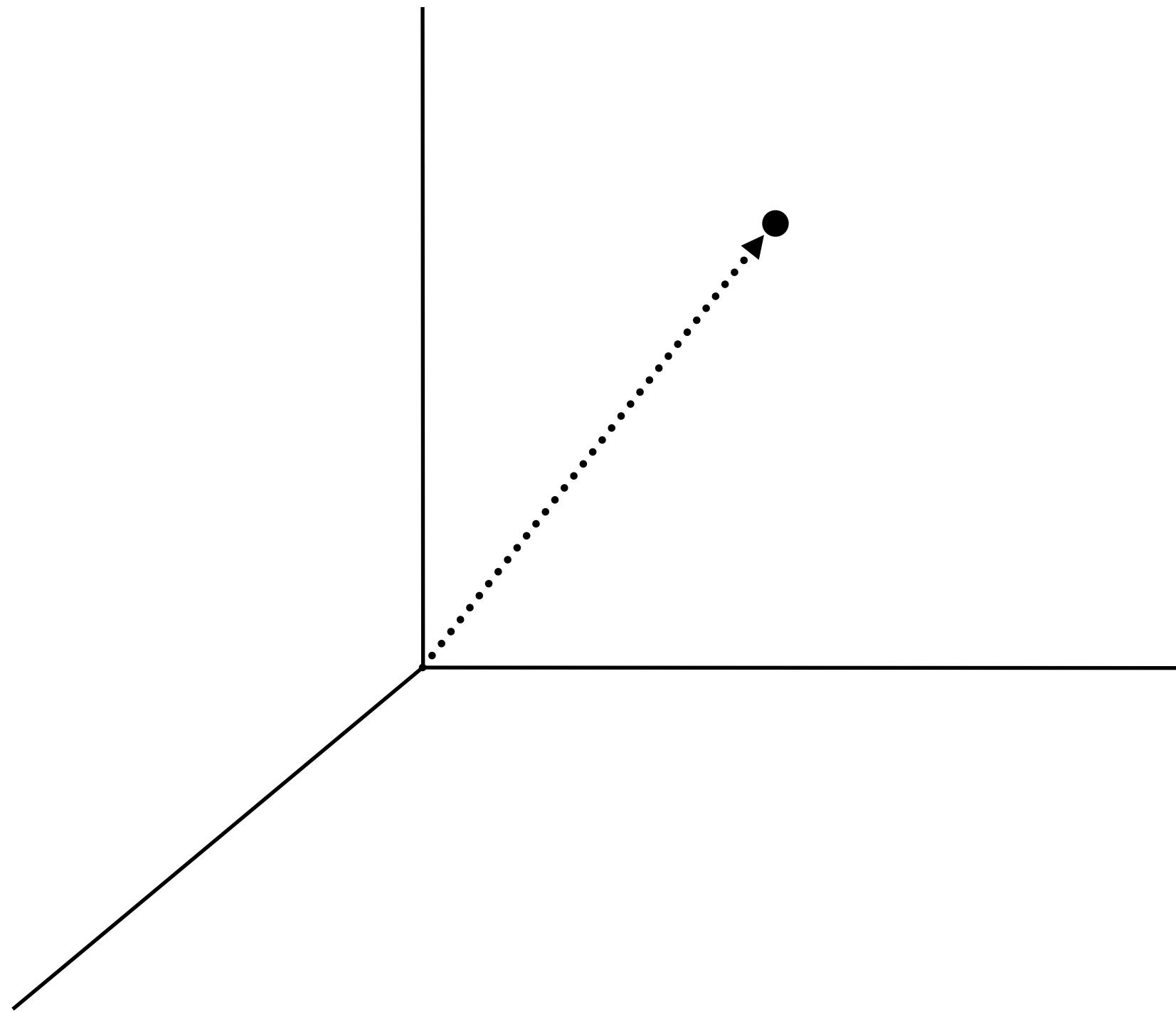
$$f = (f_1, f_2, \dots, f_m) = \sum_{i=1}^m f_i \vec{a}_i \quad \text{Where:} \quad |\vec{a}_i| = 1; \\ \vec{a}_i \perp \vec{a}_j \quad (j \neq i; j = 1, \dots, m);$$

Similar to the cross-correlation coefficient, the distance between two spots in the hyperspace represents the difference between two images.

A data set is represented as a cloud in the hyperspace. The center of the cloud is the average of the all images in the data set.

A data set is represented as a cloud in the hyperspace. The center of the cloud is the average of the all images in the data set.

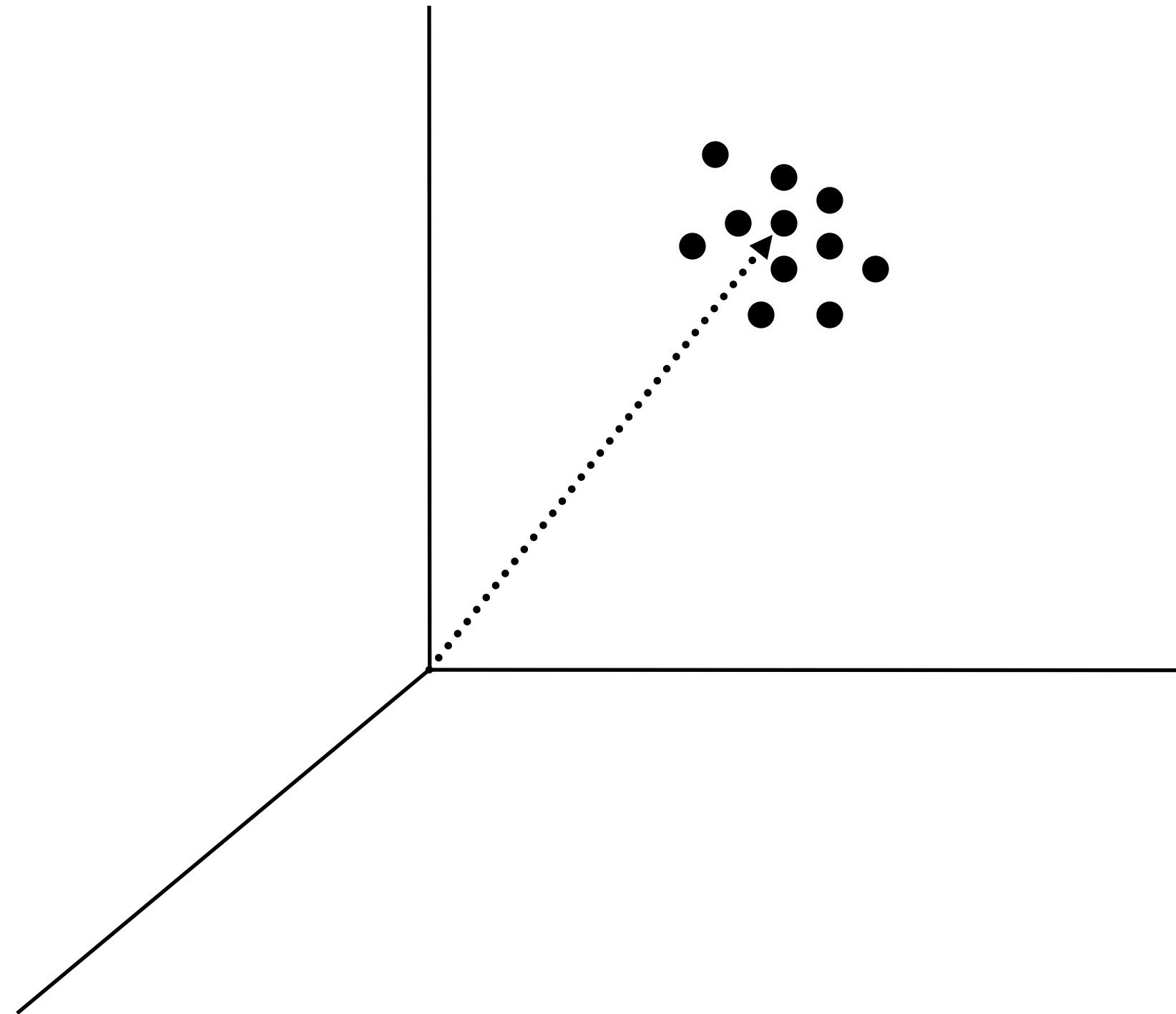
An image without any noise is represented by a point.



A data set is represented as a cloud in the hyperspace. The center of the cloud is the average of the all images in the data set.

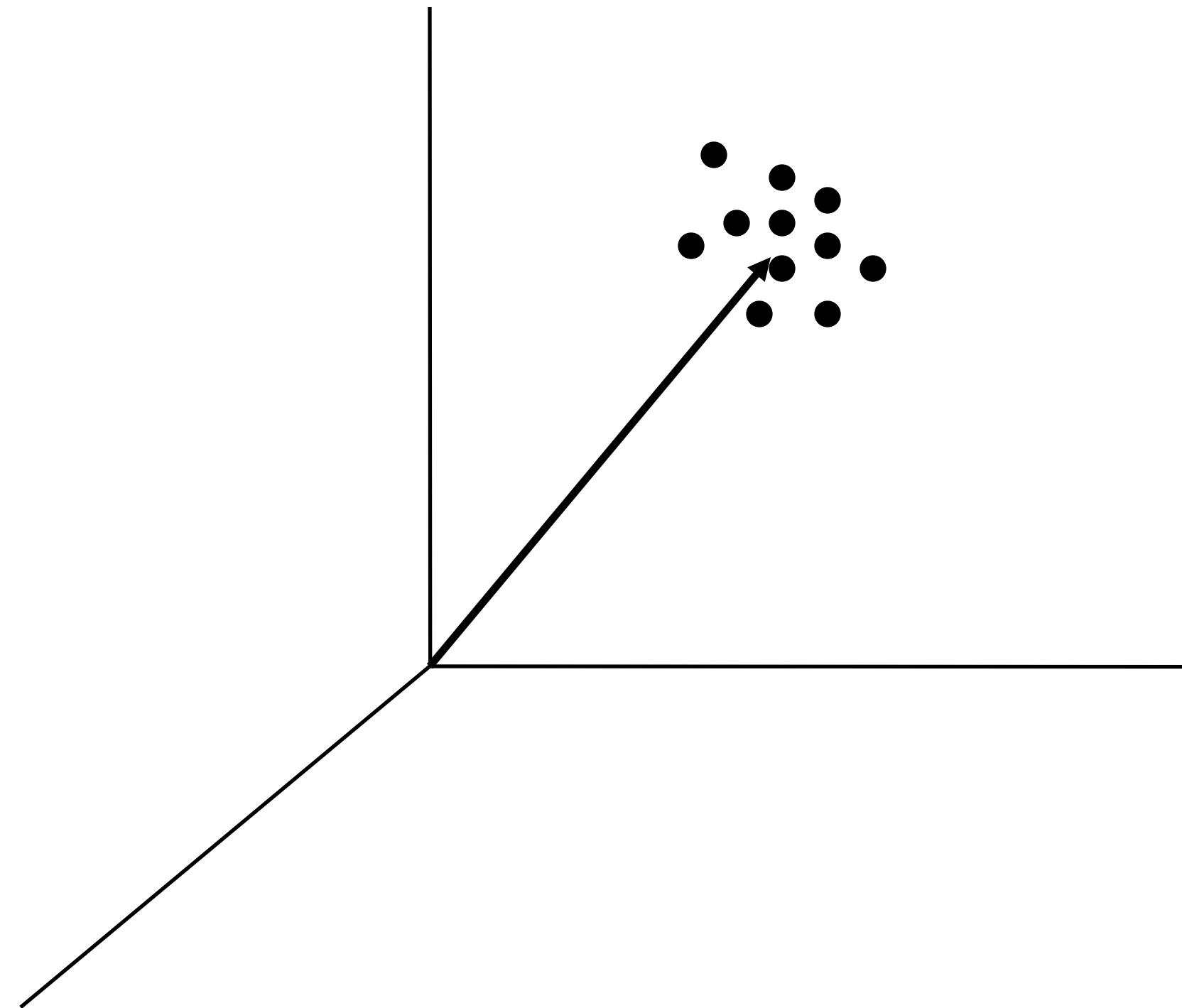
An image without any noise is represented by a point.

Adding random noise to the image expand the point into a cloud.



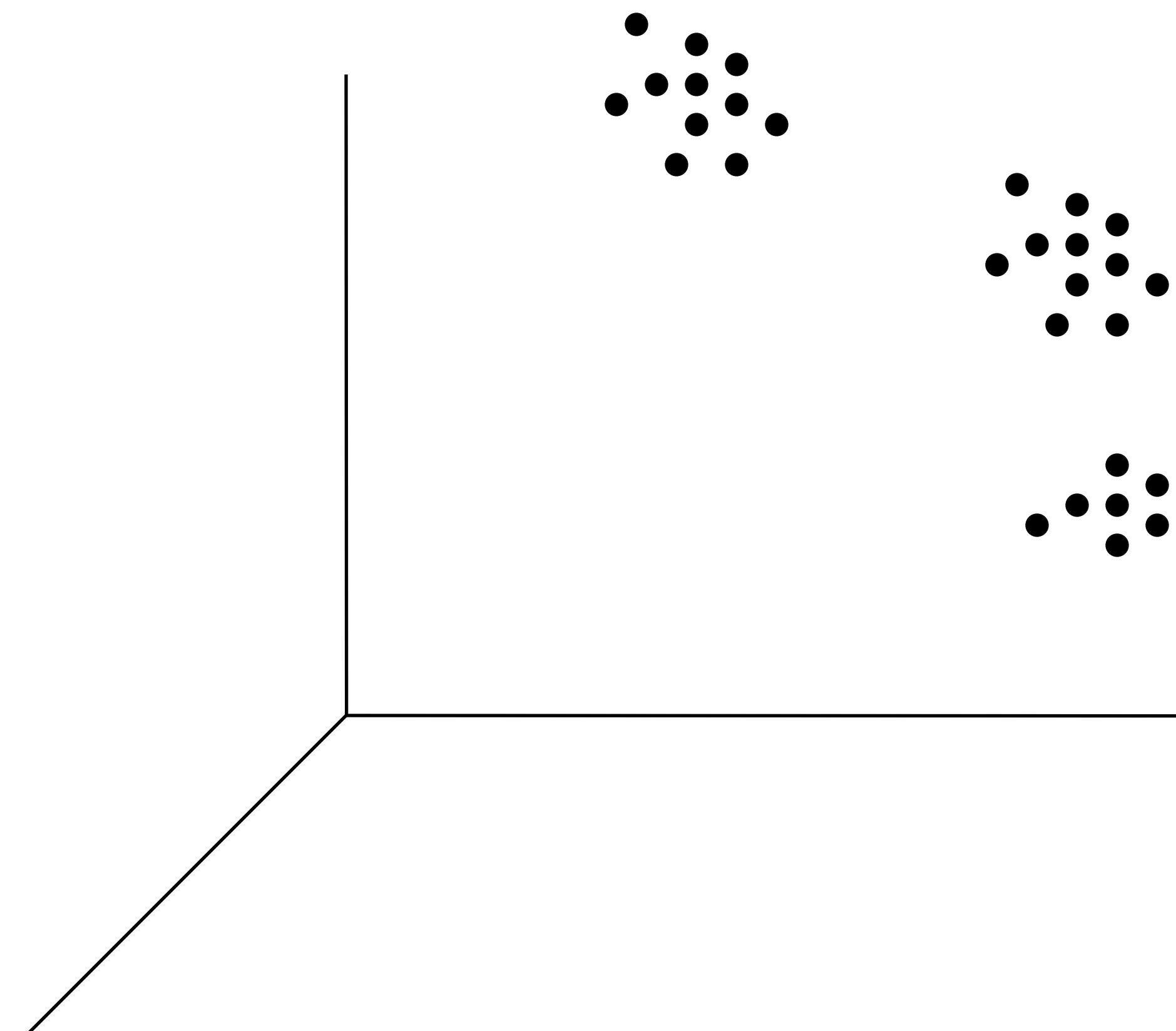
A data set is represented as a cloud in the hyperspace. The center of the cloud is the average of the all images in the data set.

The center of the loud is the average.



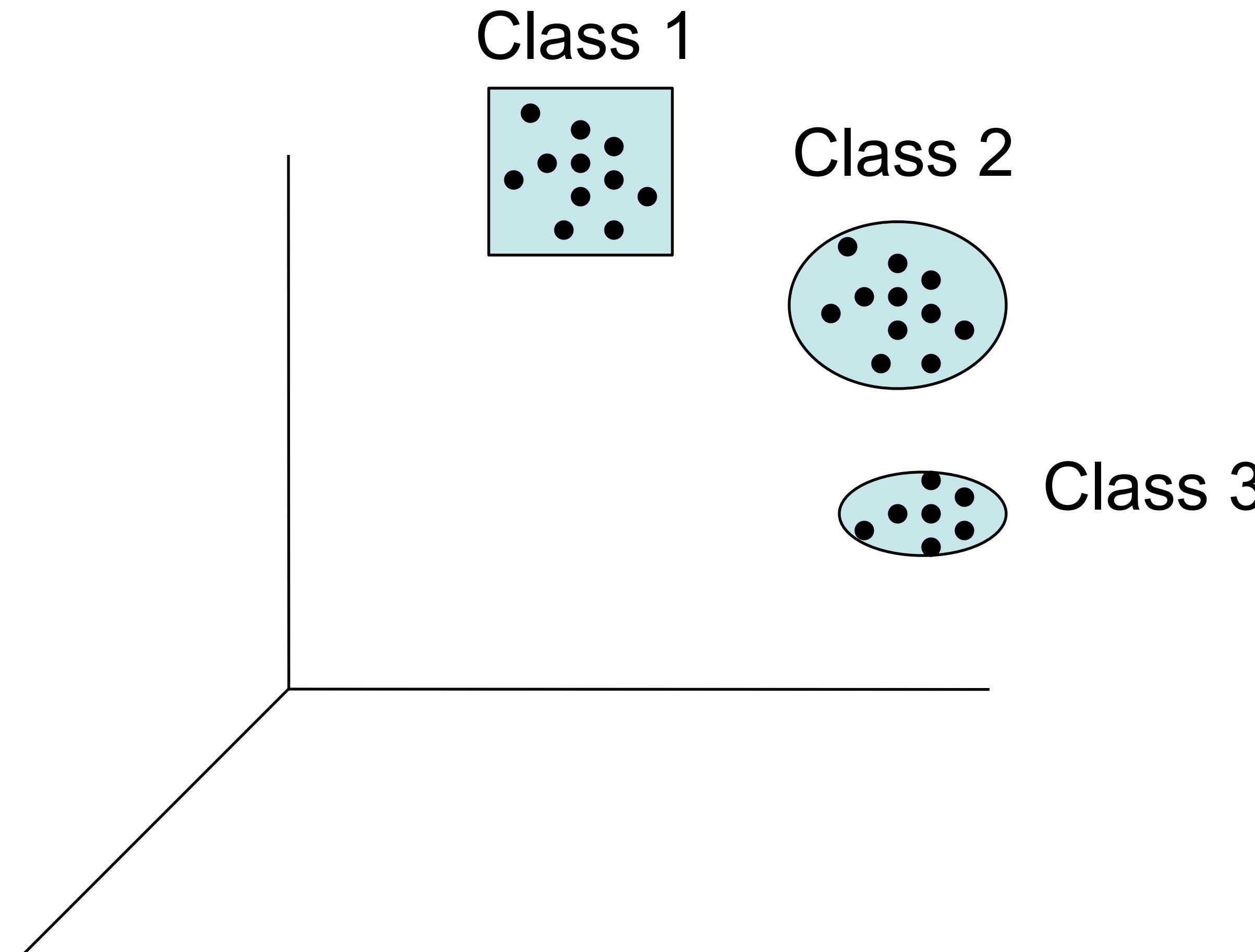
Classification

Assume images are aligned with each other. The clouds of particles can be grouped into different groups - classification.



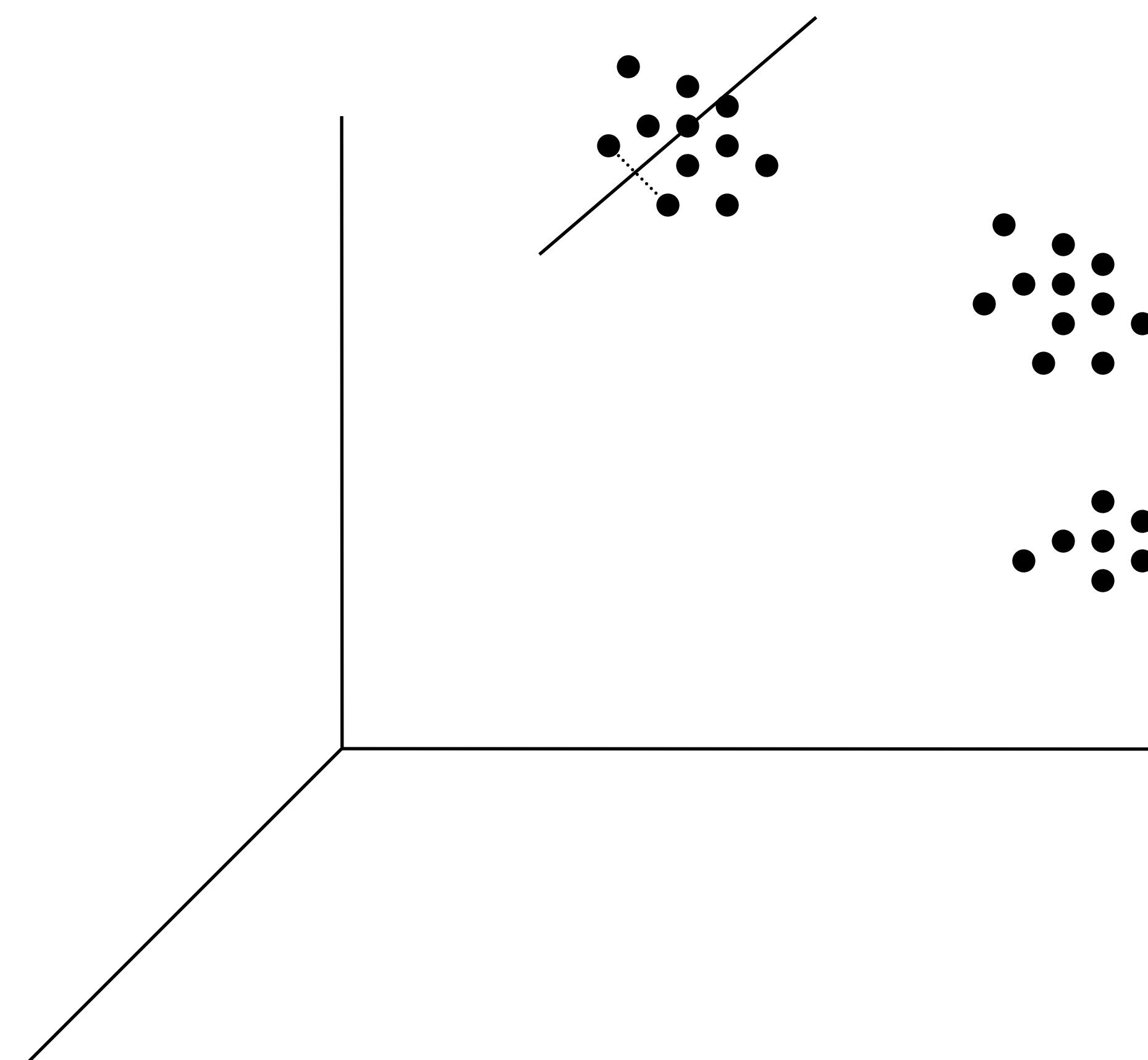
Classification

Assume images are aligned with each other. The clouds of particles can be grouped into different groups - classification.



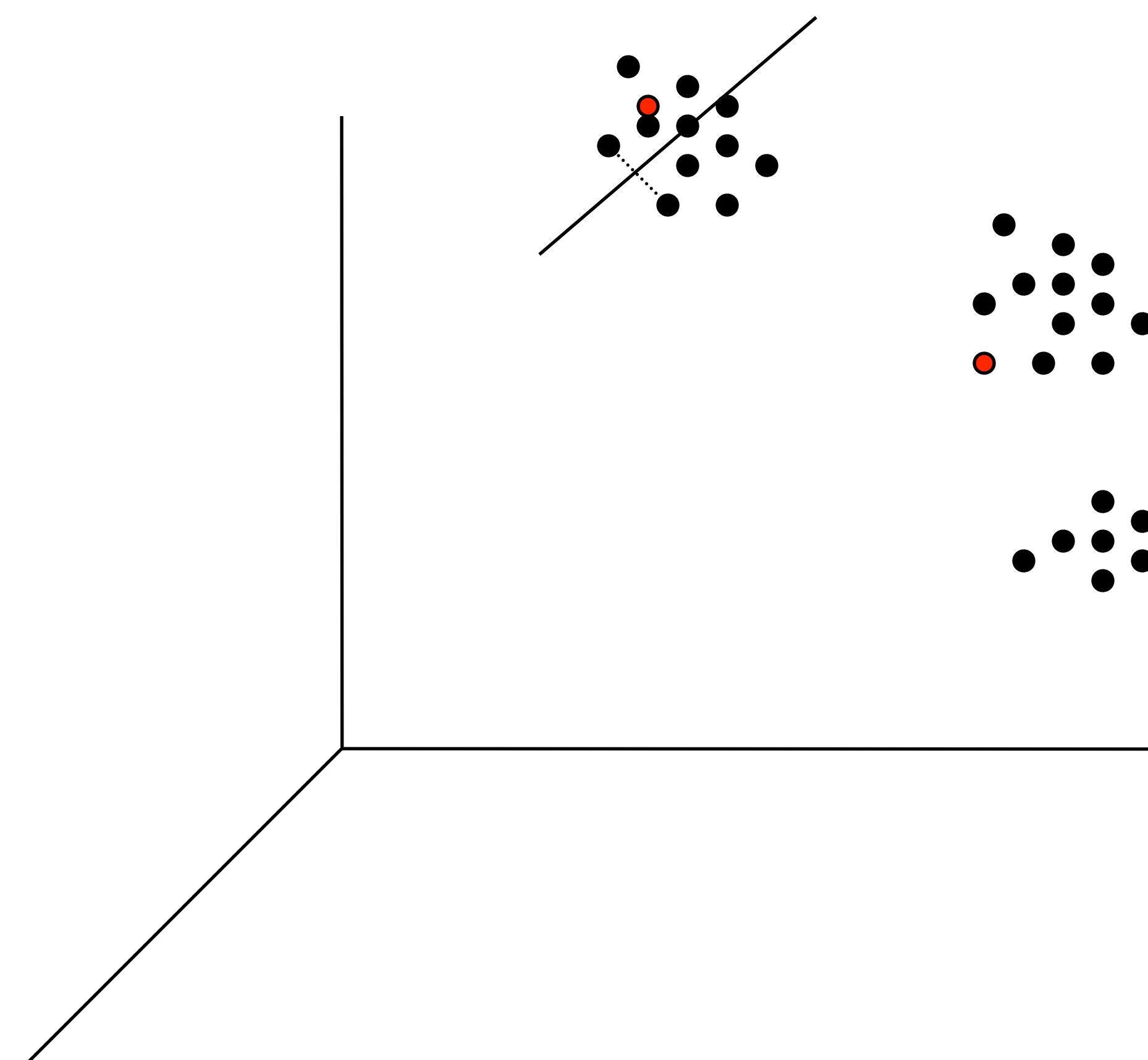
Classification

Assume images are aligned with each other. The clouds of particles can be grouped into different groups - classification.



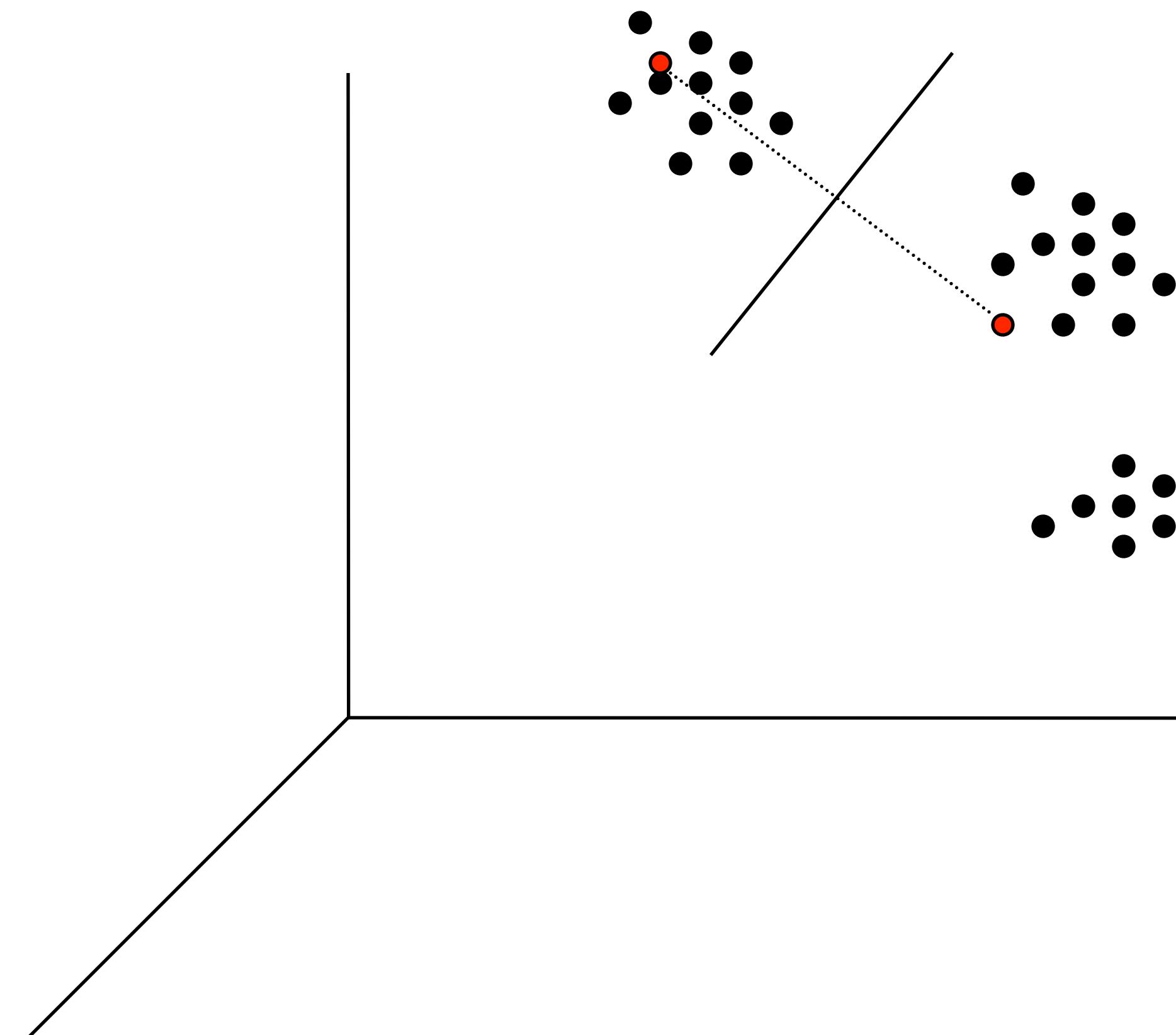
Classification

Assume images are aligned with each other. The clouds of particles can be grouped into different groups - classification.



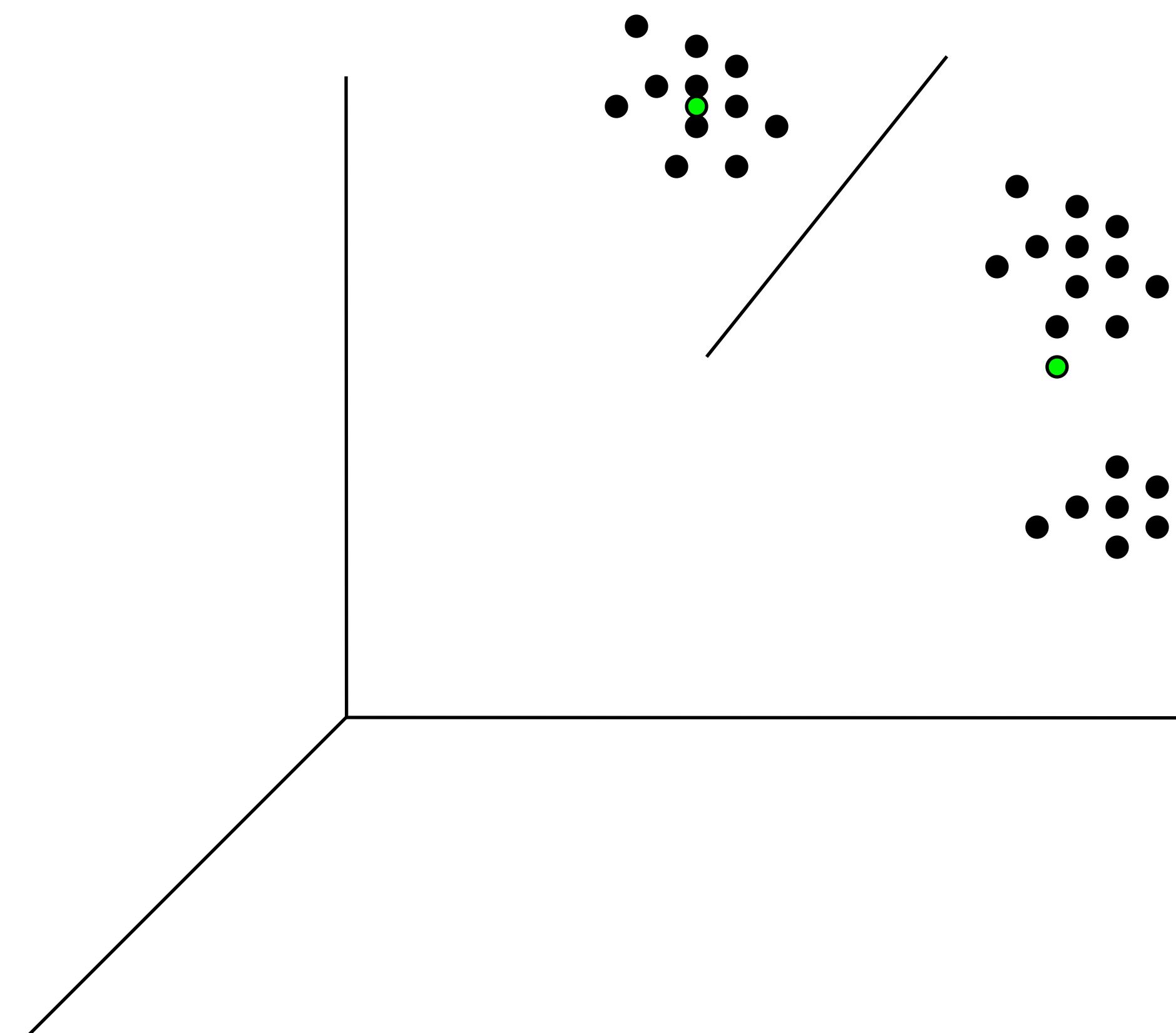
Classification

Assume images are aligned with each other. The clouds of particles can be grouped into different groups - classification.



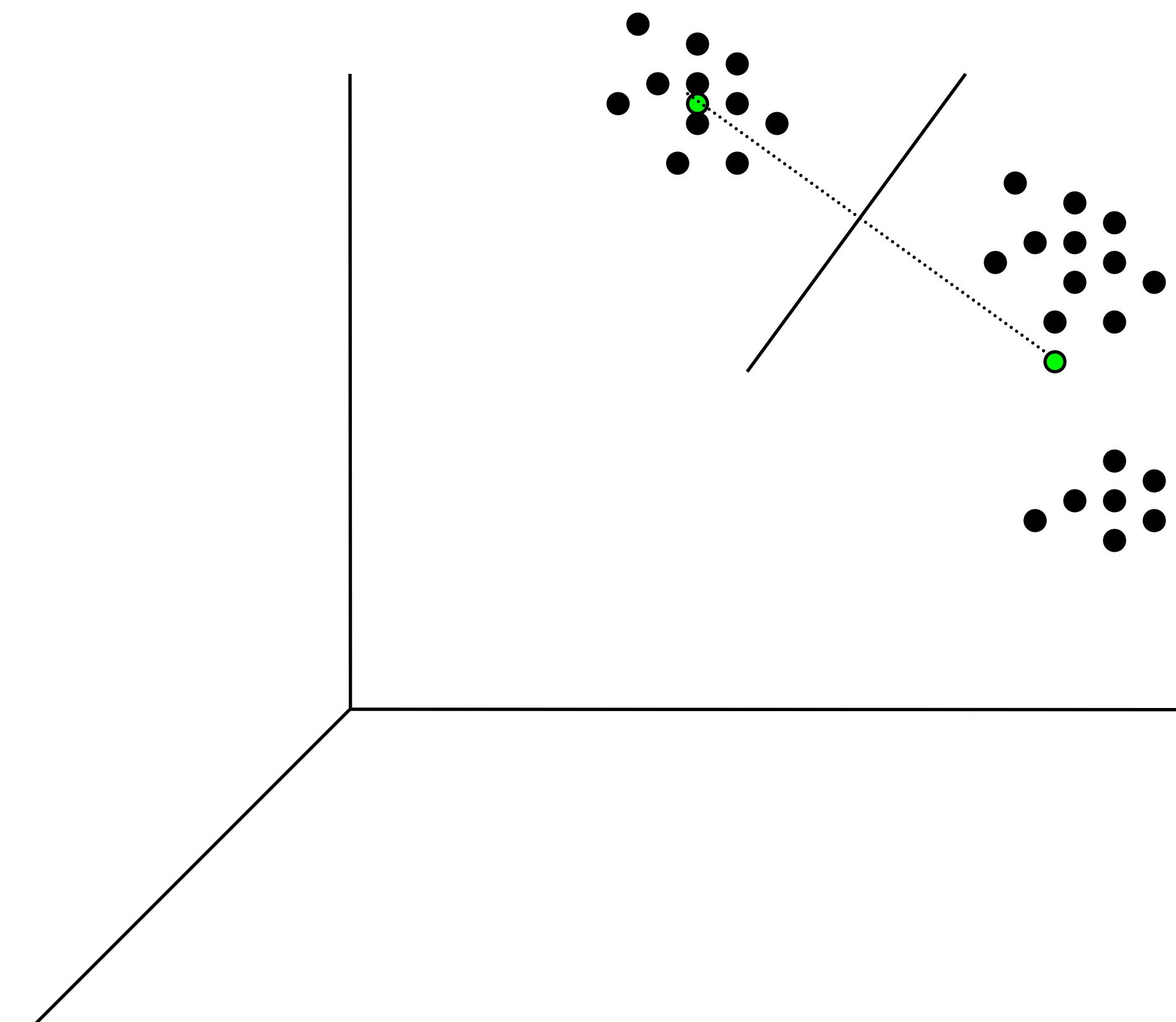
Classification

Assume images are aligned with each other. The clouds of particles can be grouped into different groups - classification.



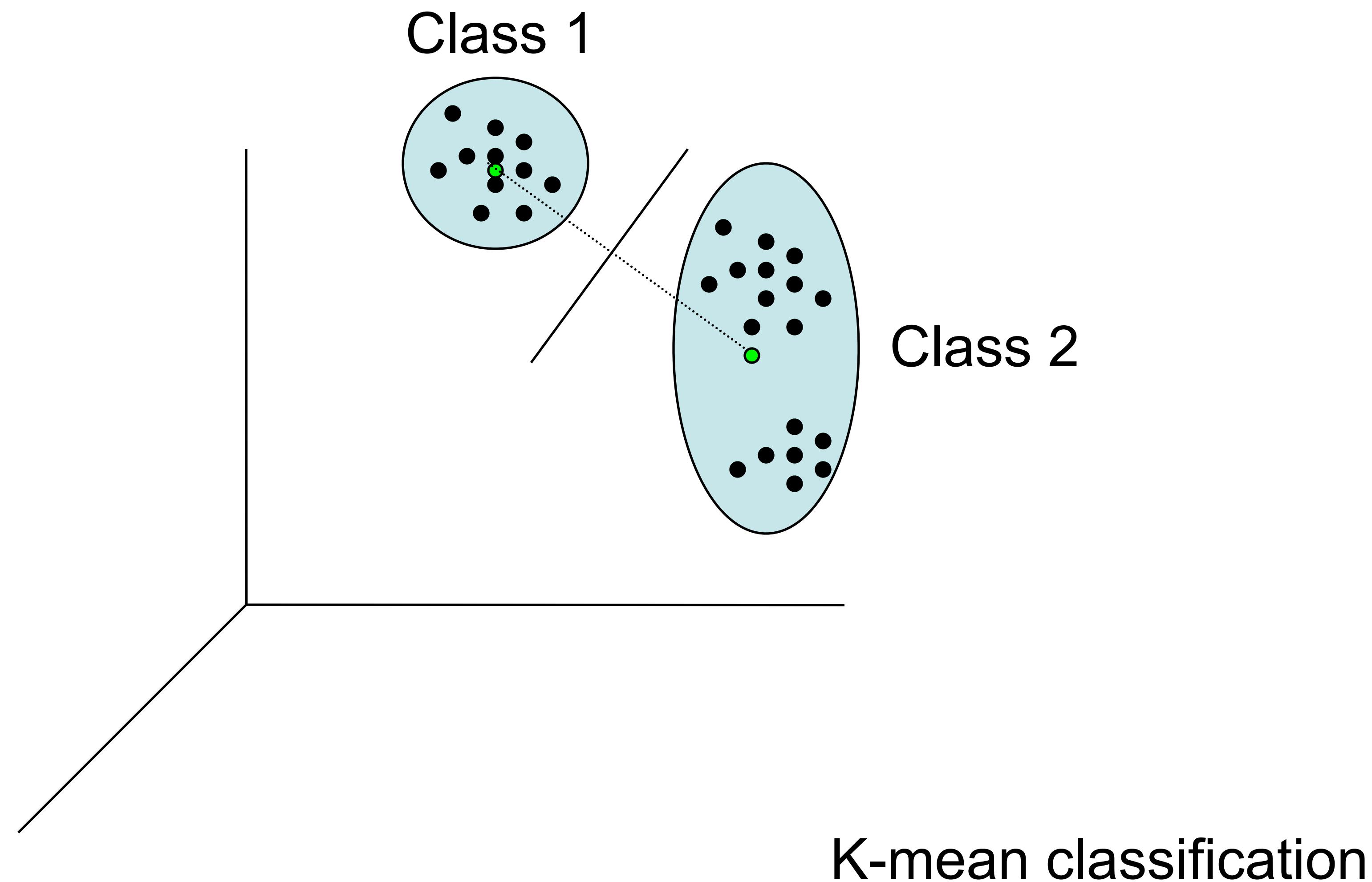
Classification

Assume images are aligned with each other. The clouds of particles can be grouped into different groups - classification.



Classification

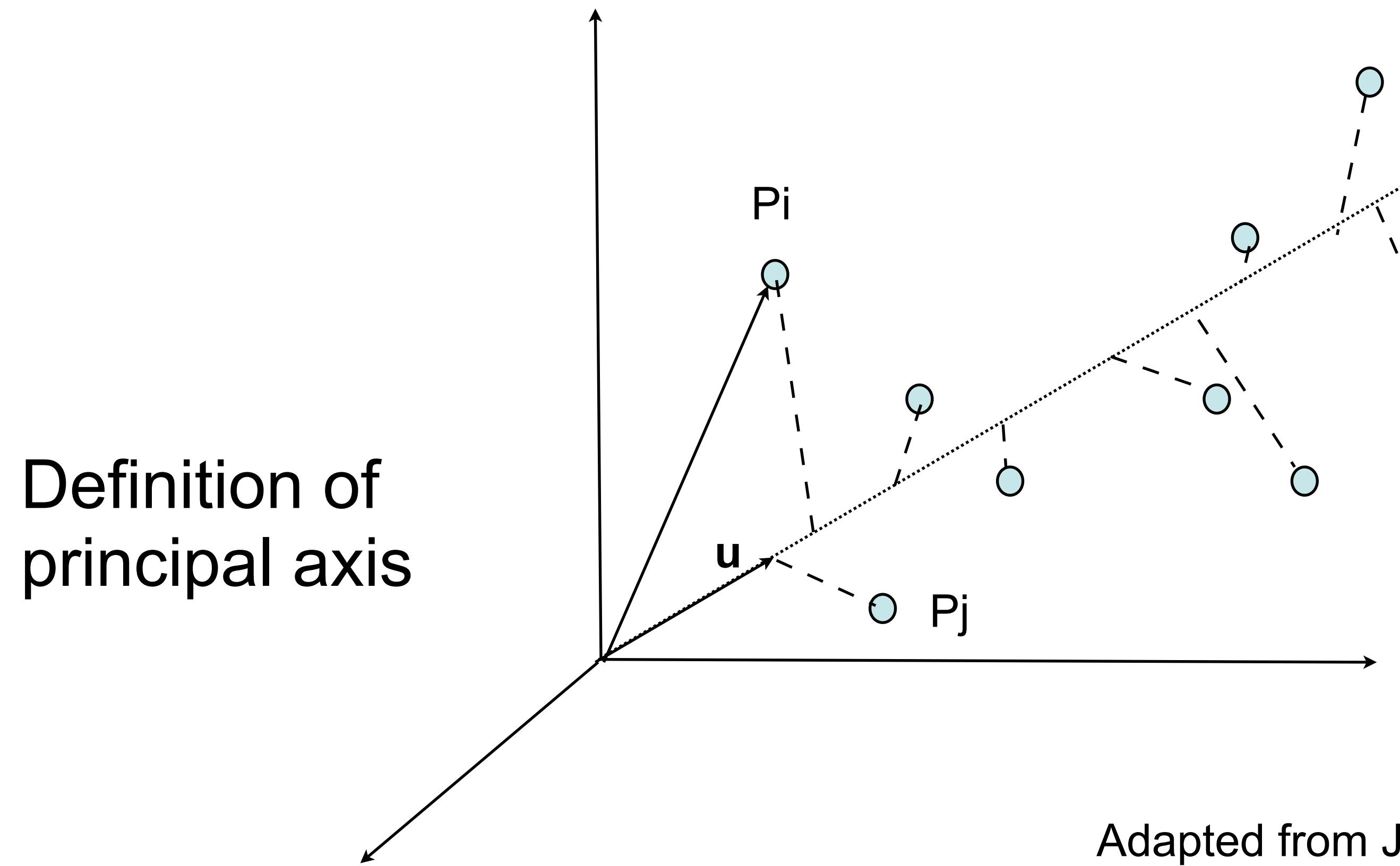
Assume images are aligned with each other. The clouds of particles can be grouped into different groups - classification.



Multivariate statistical analysis

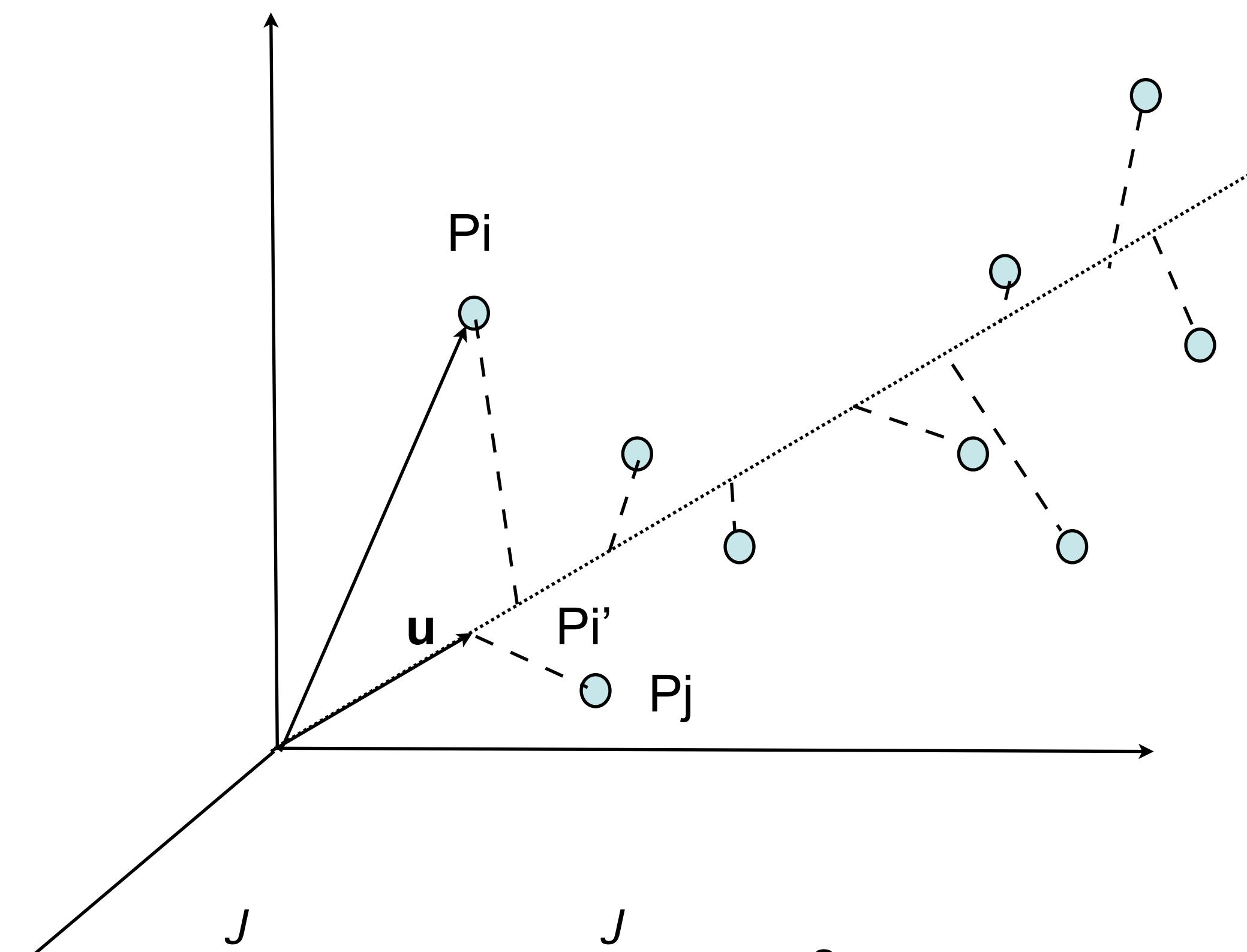
Making patterns emerge from data

Multivariate statistical analysis:
Principal Component Analysis
Correspondence Analysis



Adapted from Joachim Frank

Principal component analysis (PCA)



$$\sum_{j=1}^J (OP'_i)^2 = \sum_{j=1}^J (x_i u)^2 = (Xu)' Xu = u' X' Xu \longrightarrow \max$$

with constraint: $u'u = 1$

X: coordinate matrix

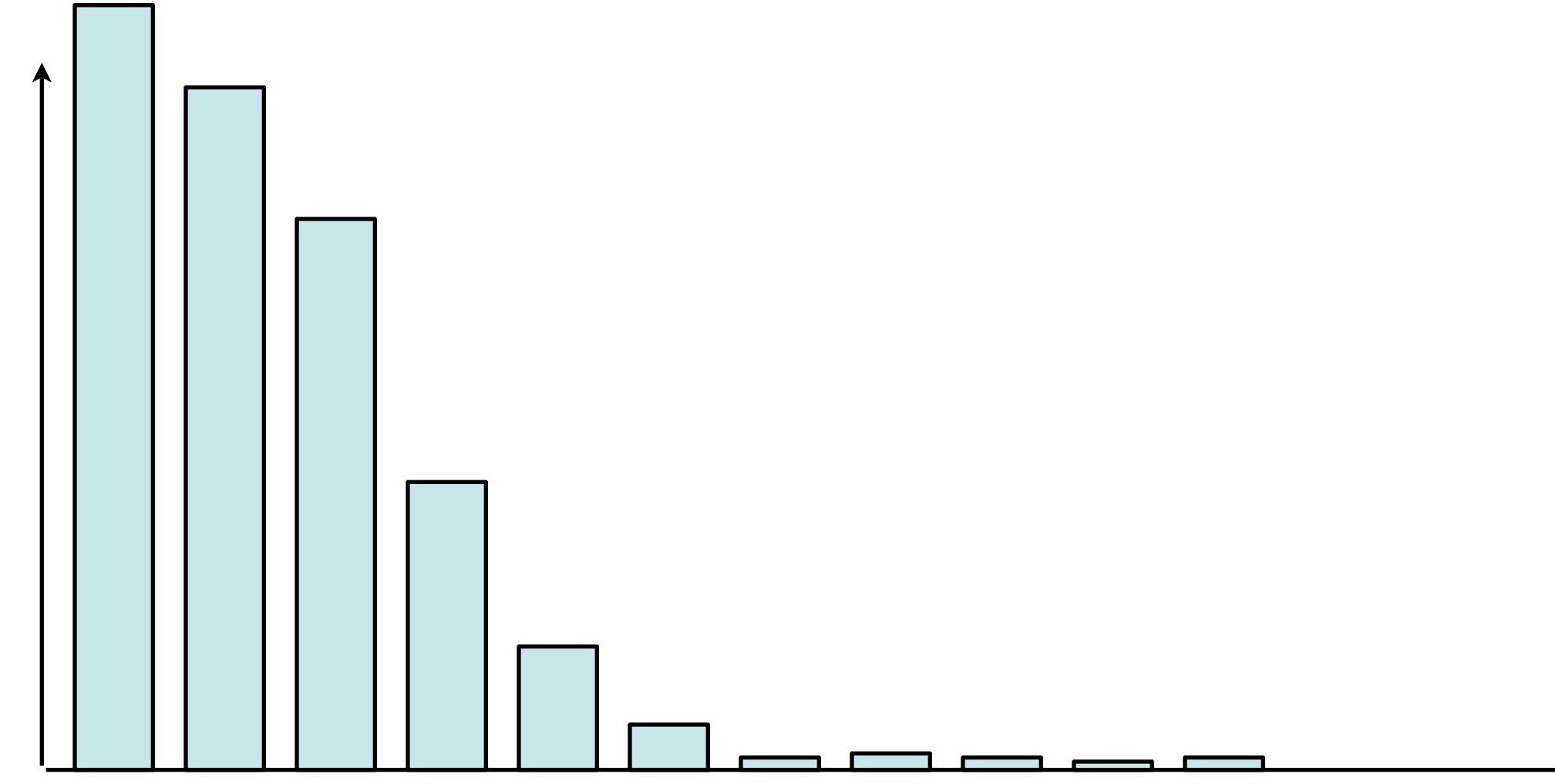
Eigenvector-eigenvalue equation

$$\mathbf{D}\mathbf{u} = \lambda\mathbf{u}$$

where $D = (X - \bar{X})'(X - \bar{X})$

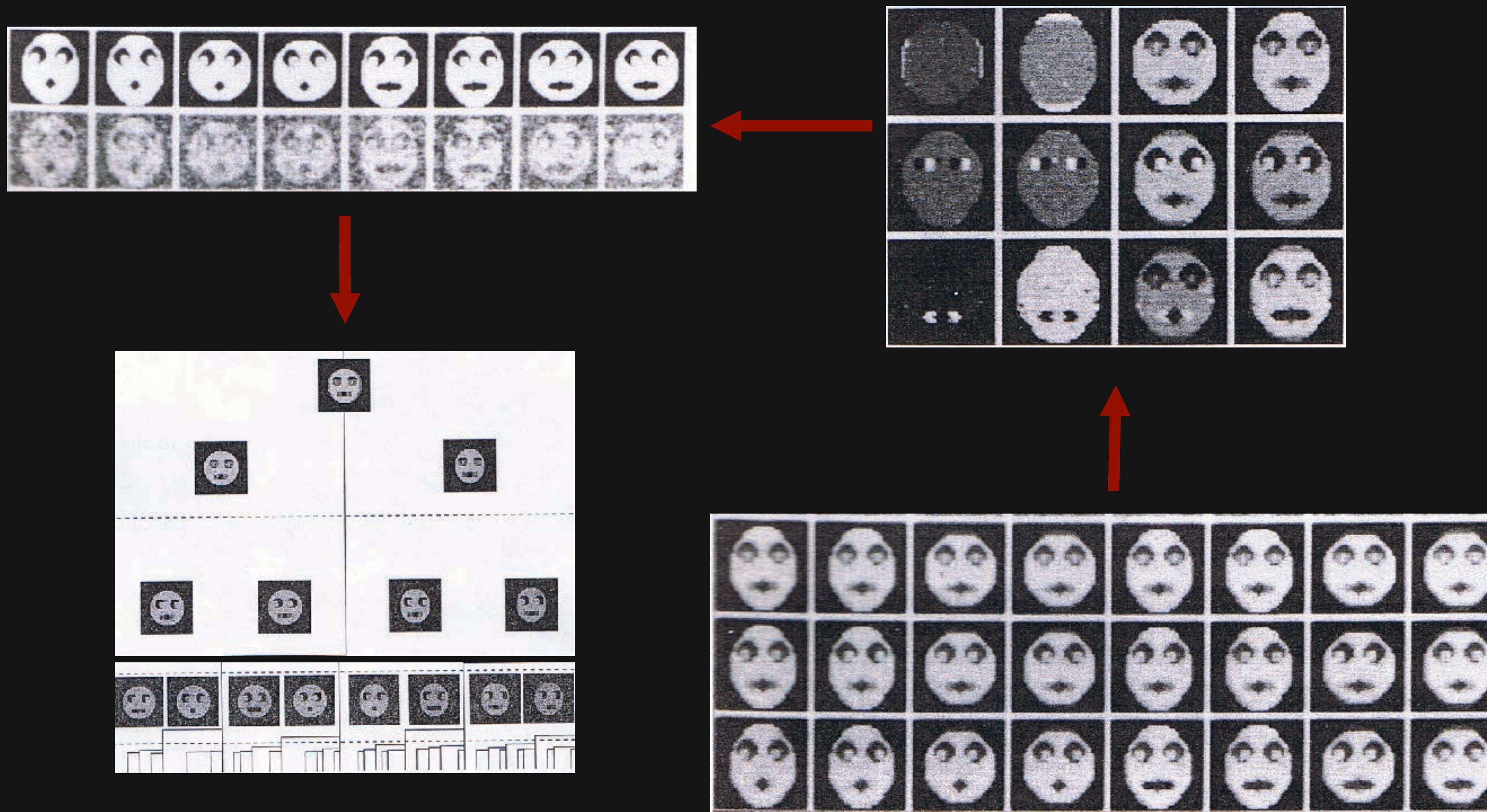
Solution of this equation generate a set of eigenvectors and eigenvalues.

Significant factors:



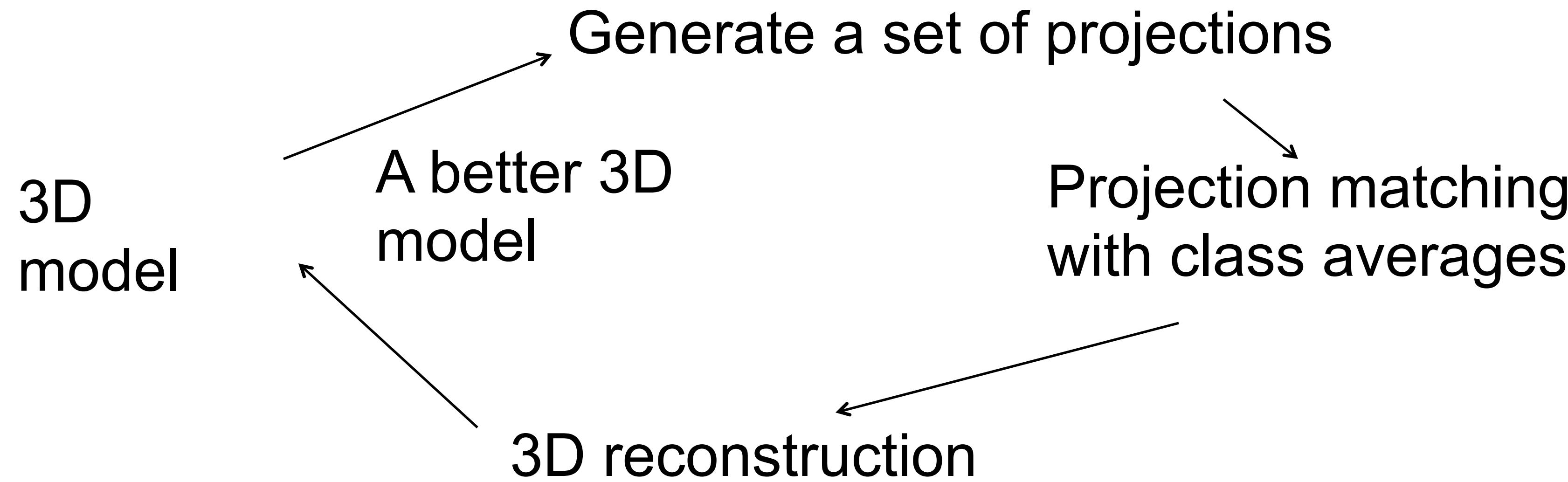
Classification based on eigenvector/eigenvalue clustering;

Principle Component Analysis



Iterative refinement procedure

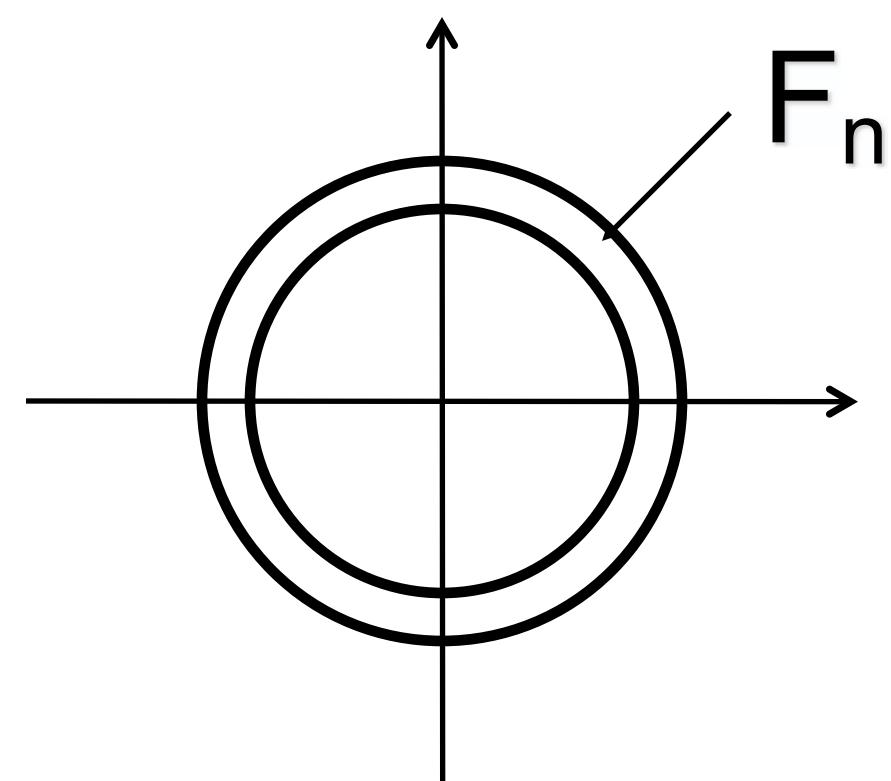
Iterative refinement procedure, using reference model based projection matching:



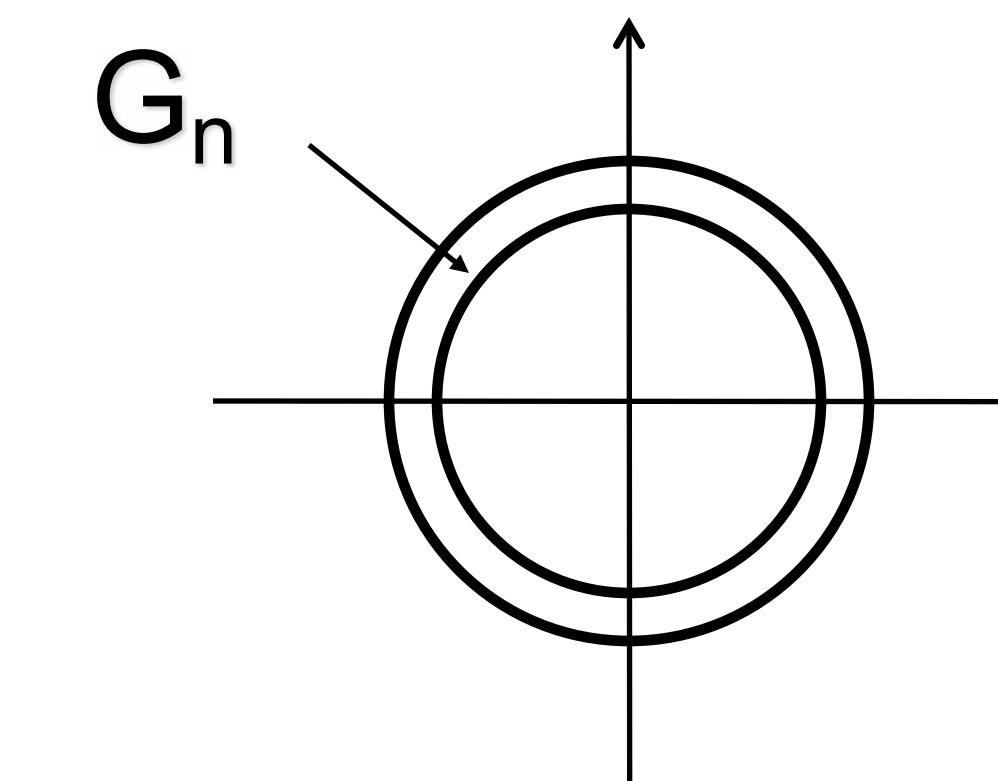
A least square approach to find the best solution that matches all data.

Resolution estimation

In single particle cryoEM the resolution is often estimated by Fourier Shell Correlation.

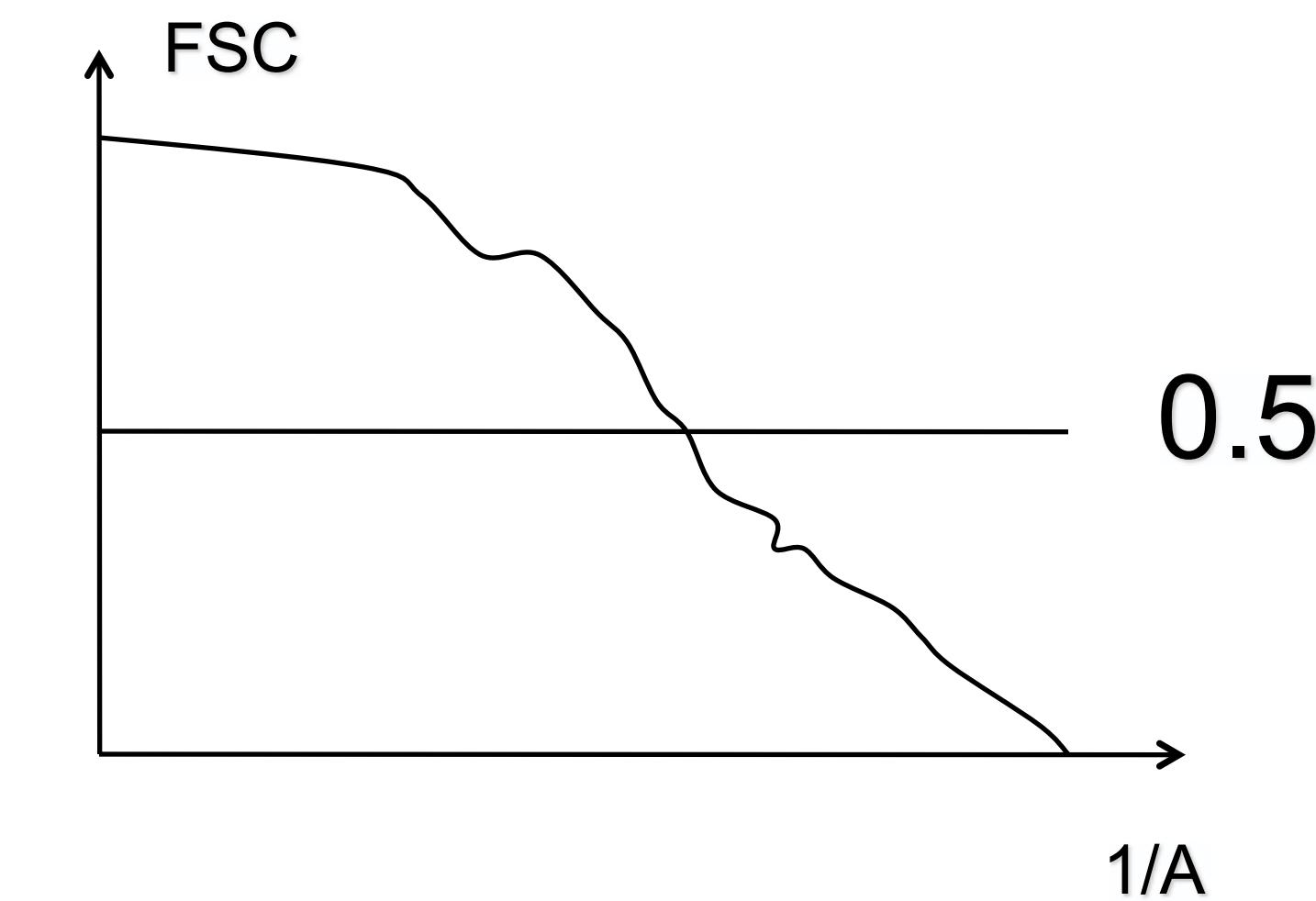


Reconstruction 1

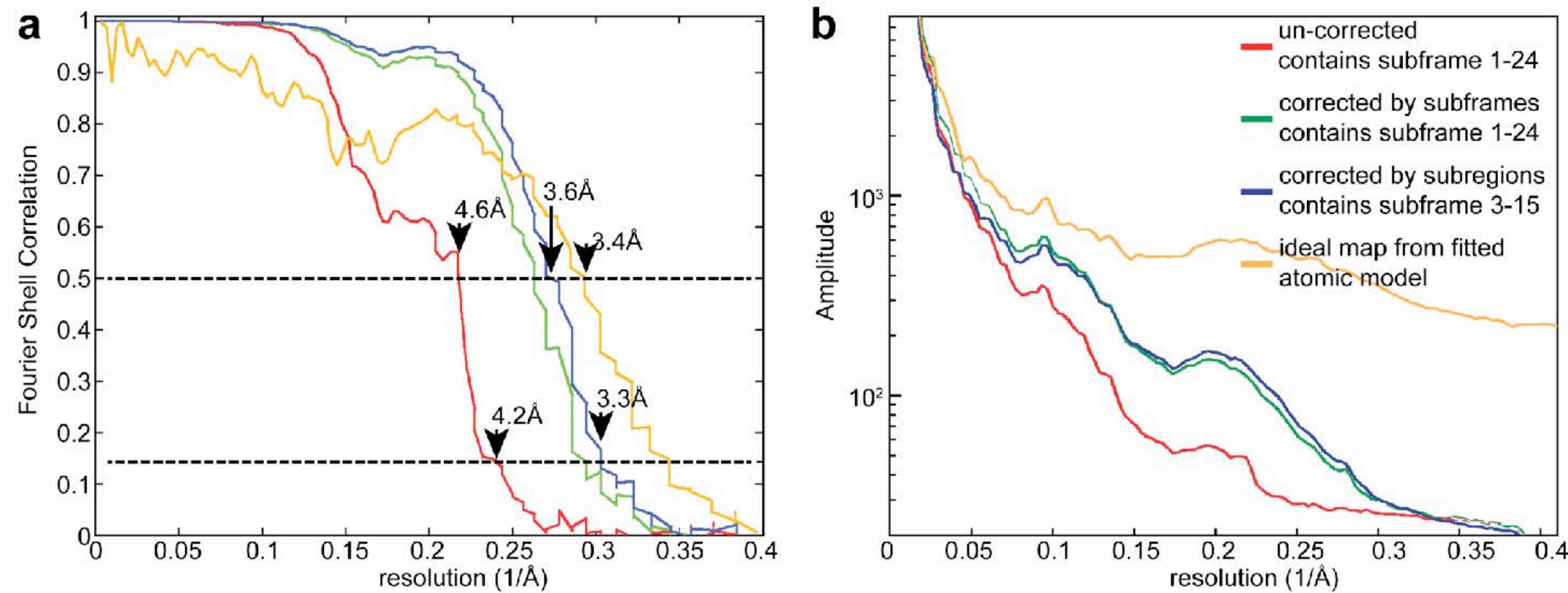


Reconstruction 2

$$FSC(R) = \frac{\sum_{n \in R} F_n G_n}{\left\{ \sum_{n \in R} |F_n|^2 \sum_{n \in R} |G_n|^2 \right\}^{1/2}}$$



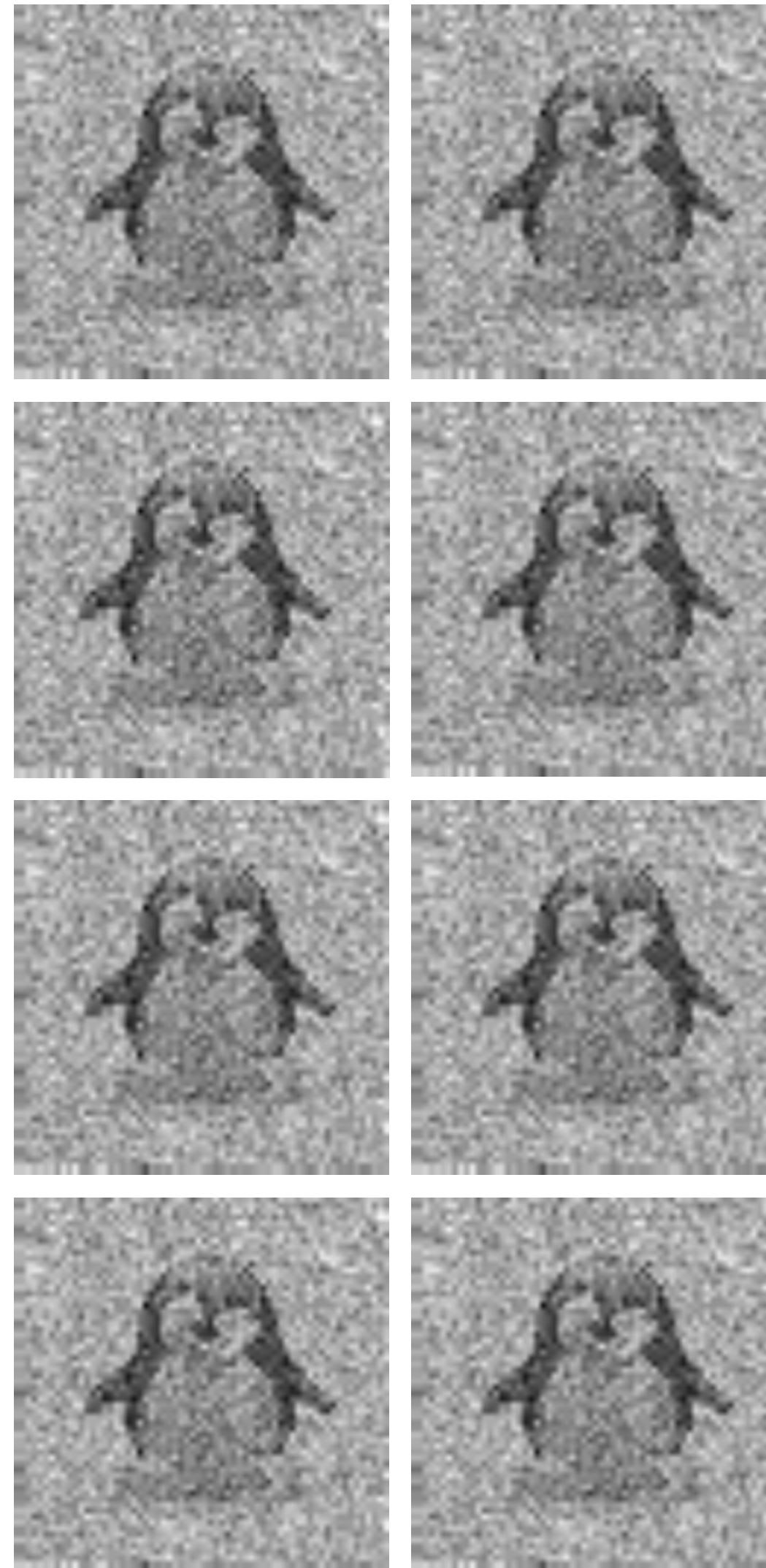
3D reconstruction of T20S proteasome



Fourier Shell Correlation curves and amplitude plot of T20S proteasome reconstruction

Image averaging

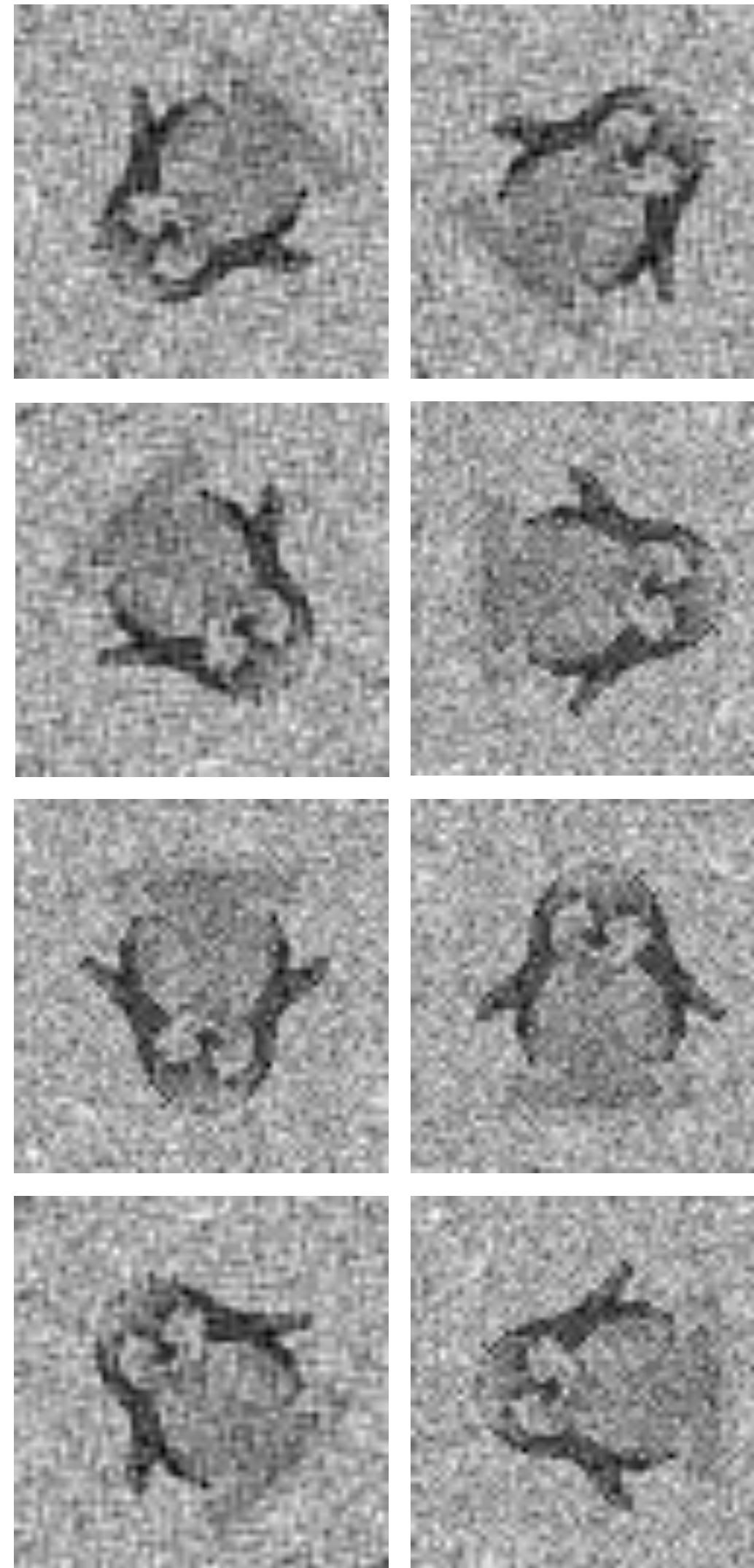
Averaging of a large number of identical images improves the SNR. A complete problem is simple to solve.



$$Average = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N X^i$$

Observed data (X): images

But we have an incomplete data set



Observed data (X): images

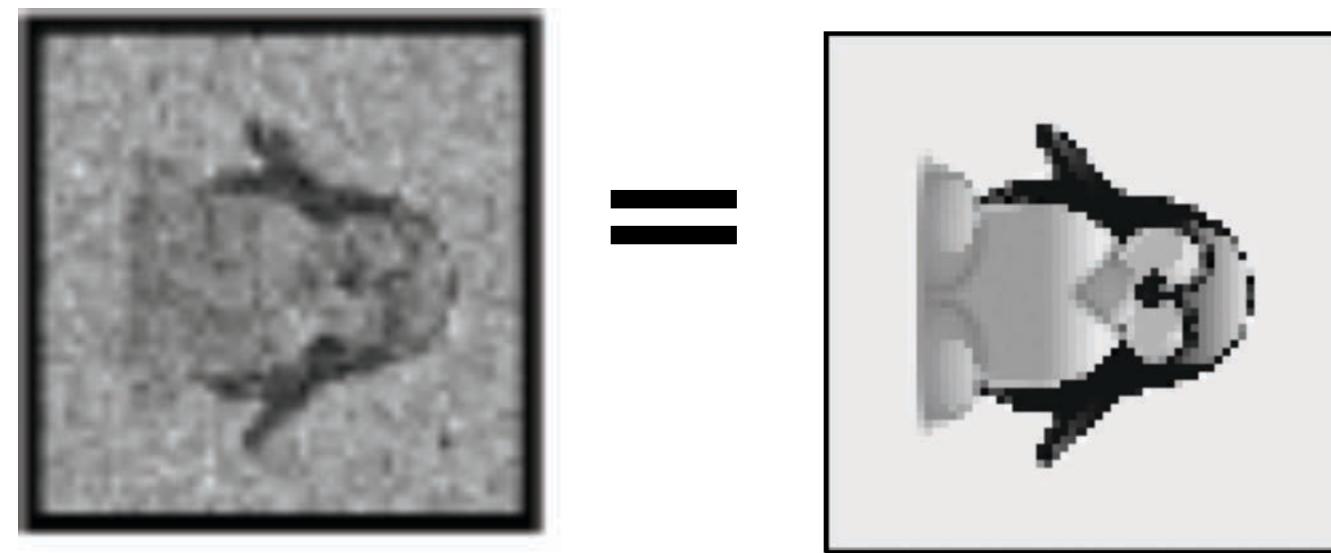
Missing data (Y):

Rotations, translations, classes & conformations

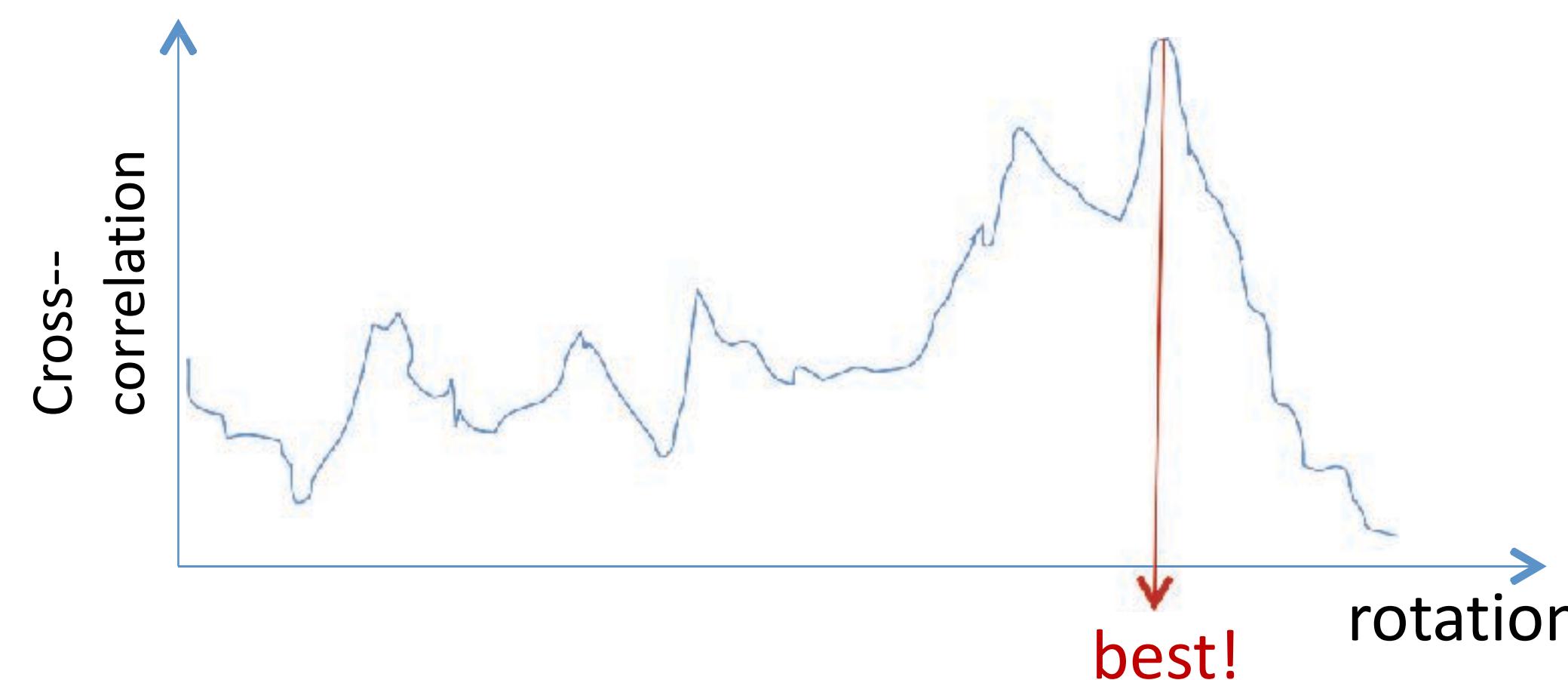
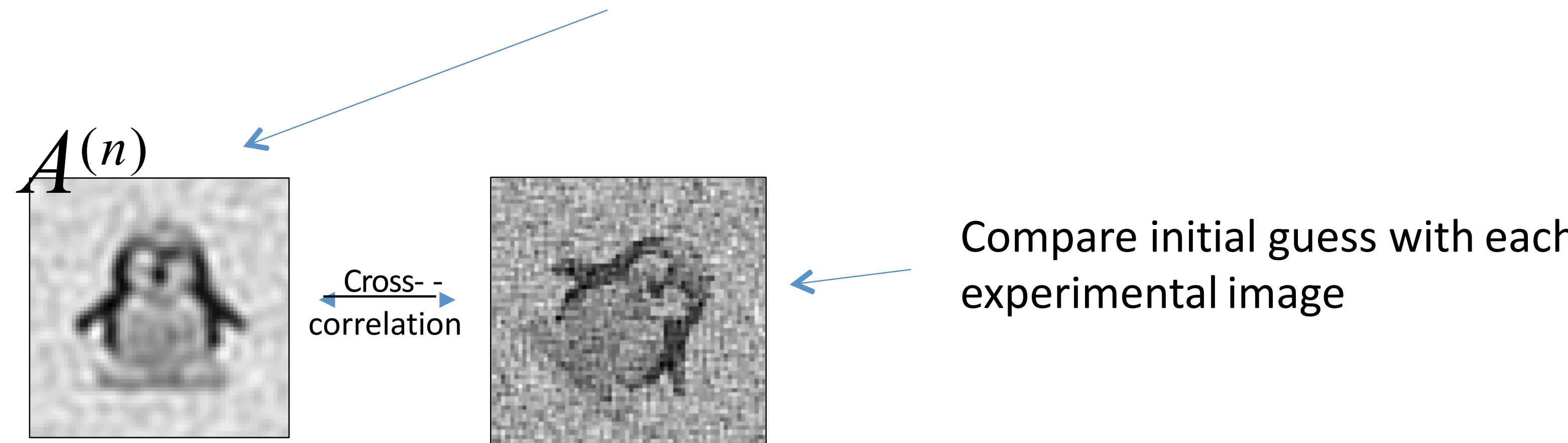
How do we find Y ?

$$X_i = P_\varphi V_k$$

X_i (Observed Projection) = P_φ (Rotations, etc) V_k (Actual Object)

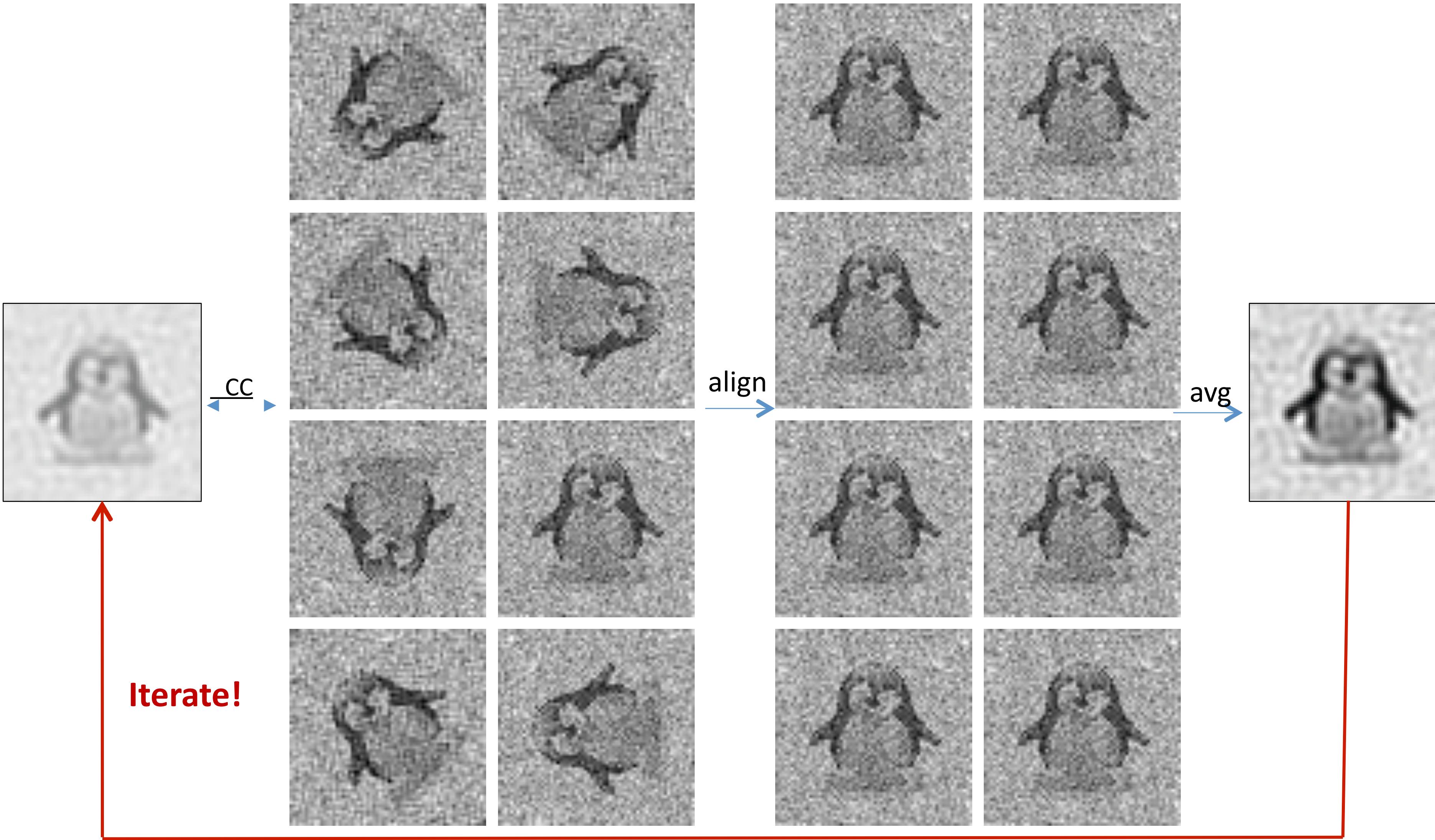


- Starts from some **initial guess** (source of model bias) about the structure



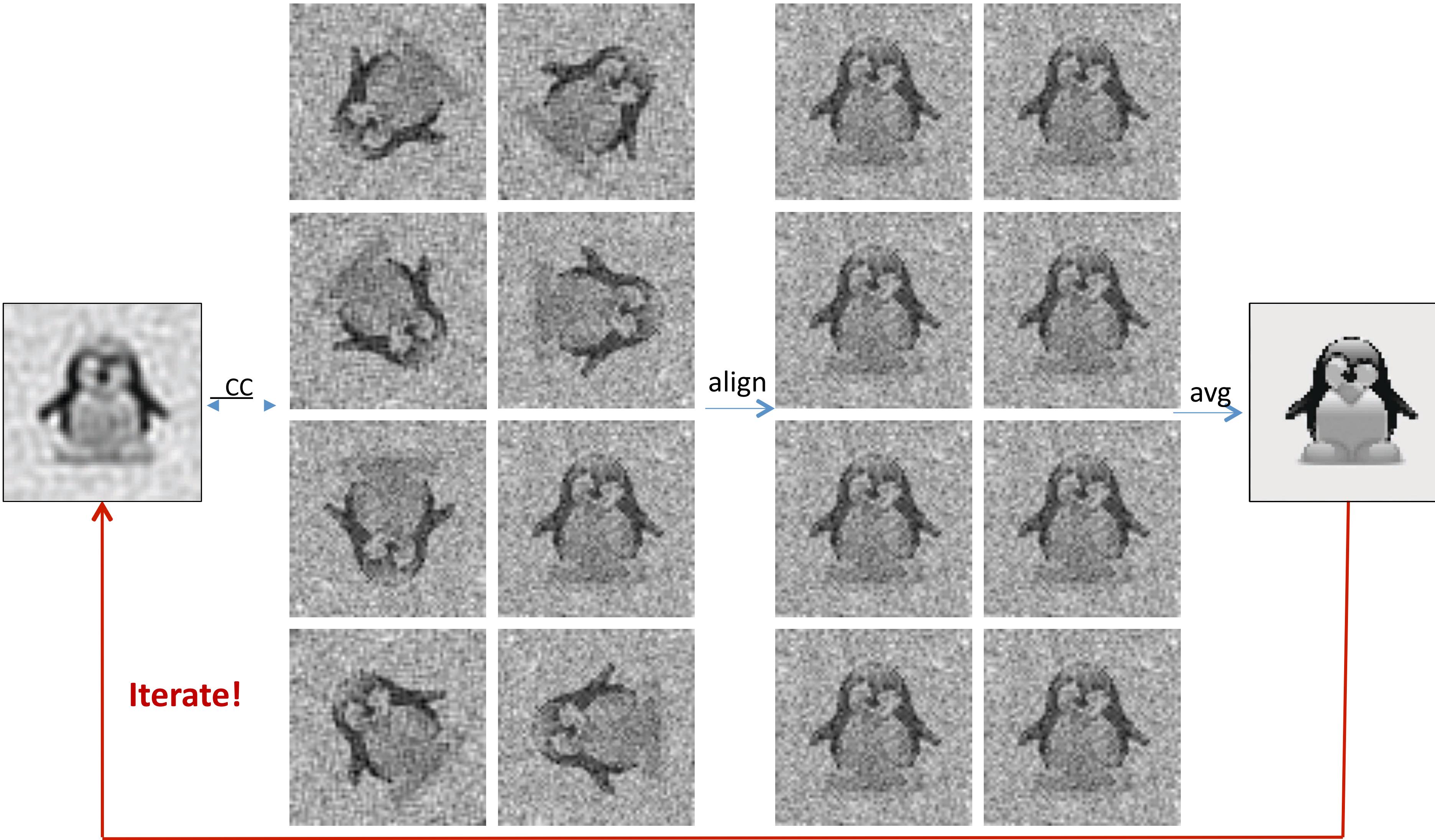
Iteratively align and average

How big is the search space?



Iteratively align and average

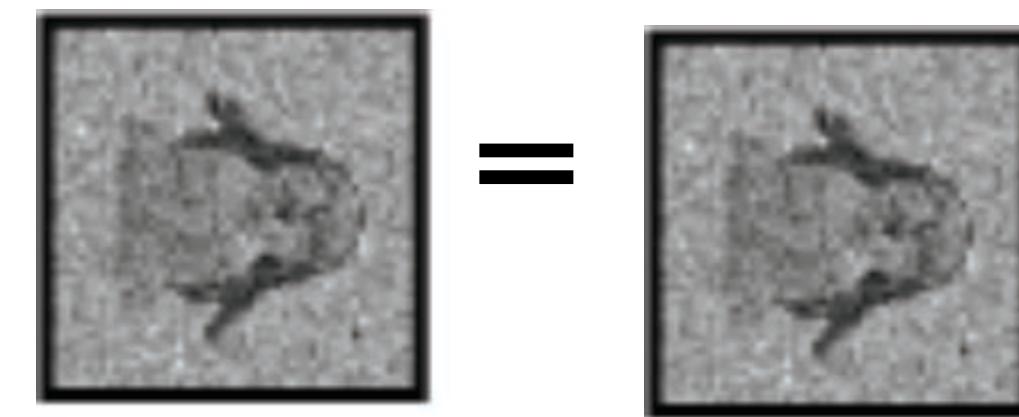
How big is the search space?



1) Uses model projections that include noise

$$X_i = P_\varphi V_k + N_i$$

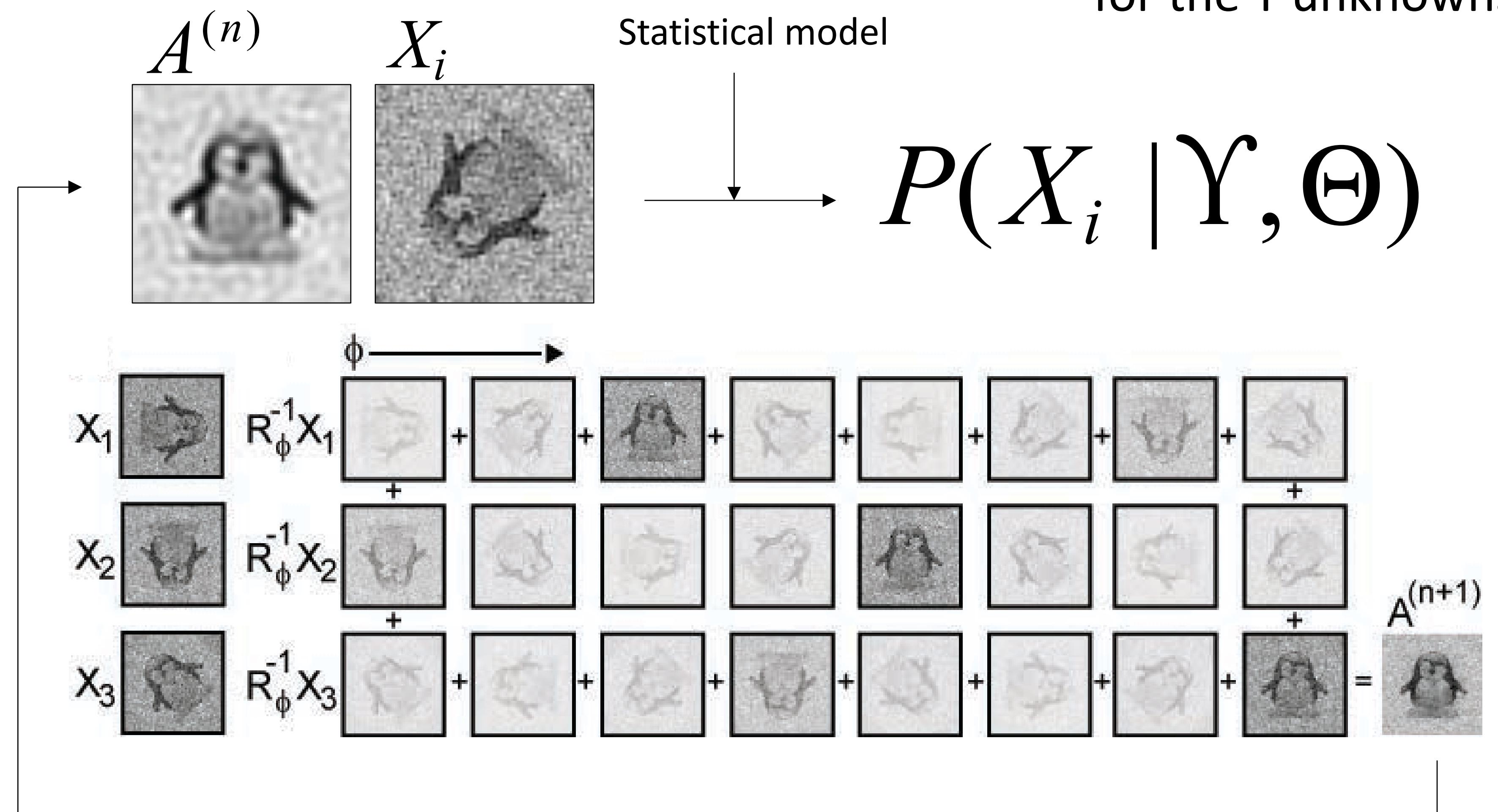
X_i (Observed Projection) = P_φ (Rotations, etc) V_k (Actual Object) + Noise



2) Maximizes likelihood with “marginalization” over Y

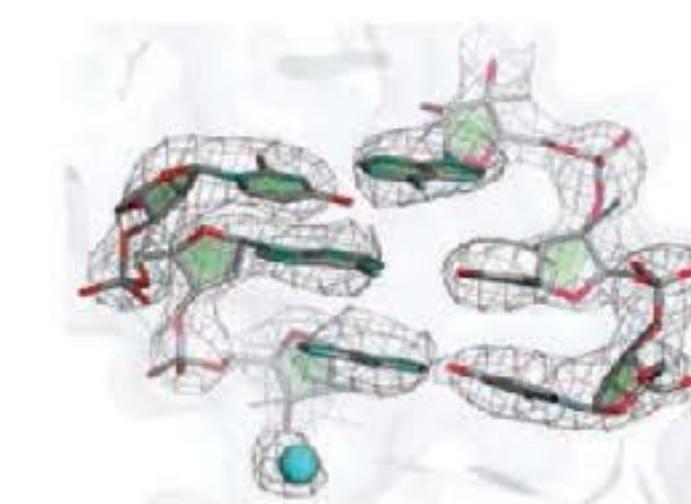
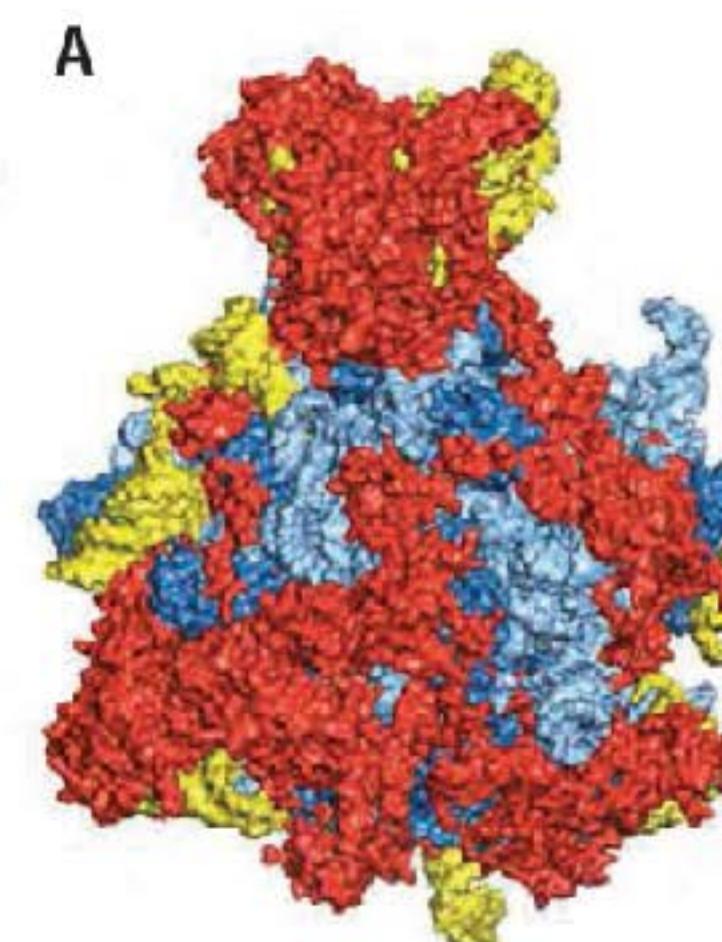
Need more? See *Methods in Enzymology*, 482 (2010)

Does not assign discrete “best” values for the Y unknowns !

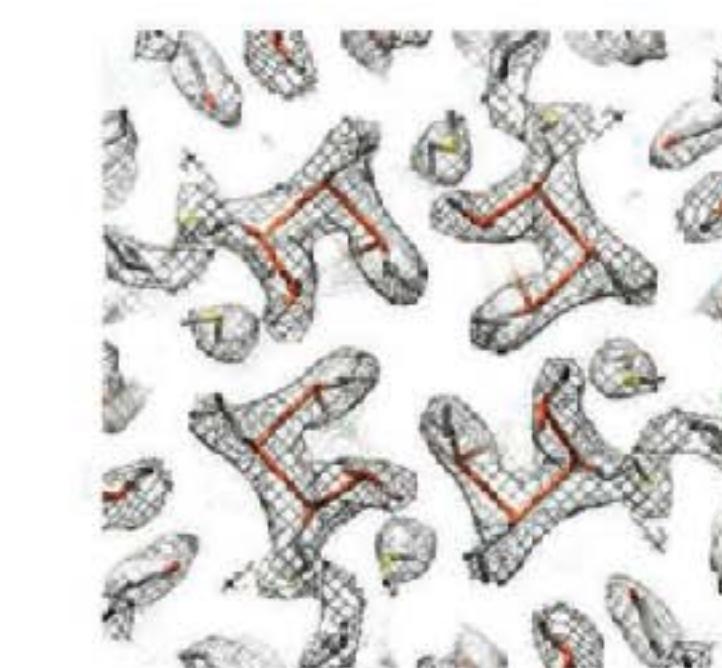


Resolution revolution

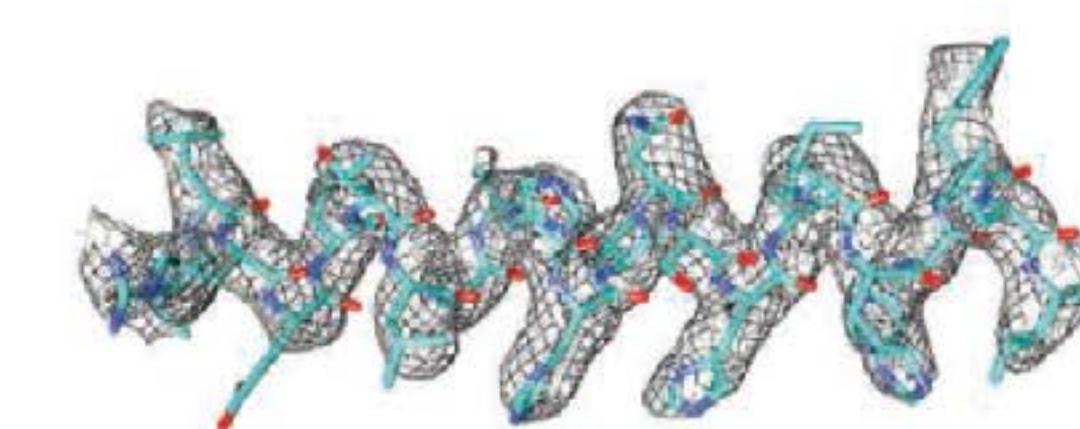
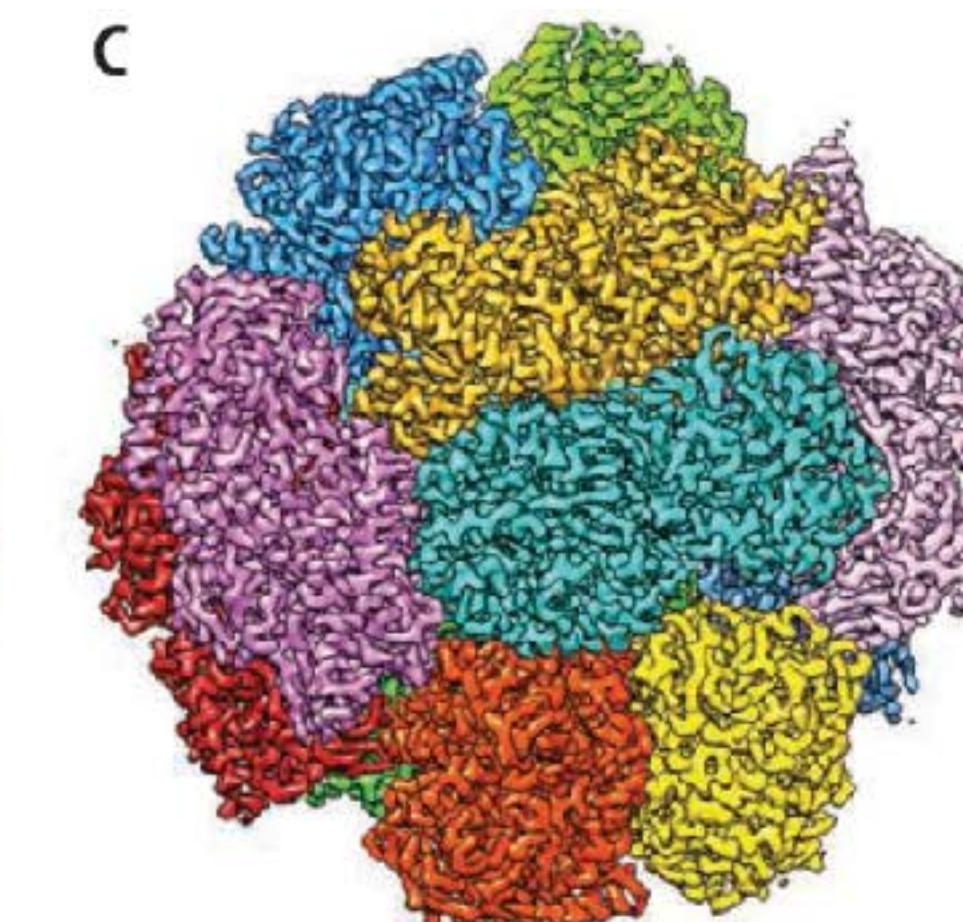
- Dose fractionation image acquisition and motion correction become standard procedures.
- Direct detection camera is being used to produce a number of near atomic resolution reconstructions: “Resolution Revolution”



Yeast mitochondrial
ribosome, 3.2Å



rat TRPV1 ion channel, 3.4Å

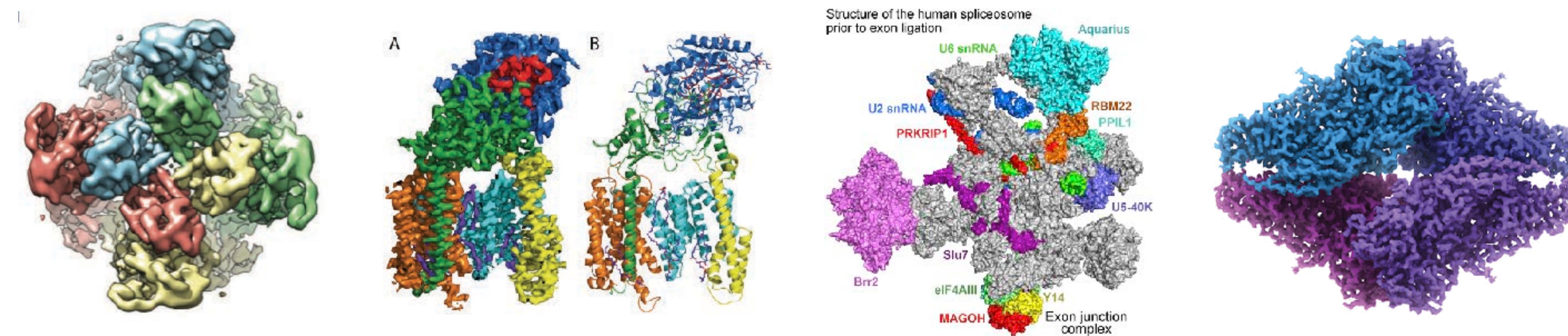


F420-reducing
hydrogenase, 3.4Å

Werner Kuhlbrandt
“The Resolution Revolution”,
Science (2014)

Technologies that facilitated resolution revolution

- Direct electron detection camera (since 2012):
 - Single electron counting significantly improves detective quantum efficiency (DQE);
 - High frame rate enables dose fractionation and correction of beam induced image motion;
- New image processing algorithm based on maximum likelihood approach (first introduced by Fred Sigworth):
 - Facilitates better classification of good and “bad” particles;
 - Facilitates higher resolution structure determination;
- Modernization of electron microscope technologies:
 - Automated high-quality data acquisition;
 - Pipelined image processing enabled on-the-fly image processing;



Use molecular EM in your own research

- exam the quality of your purification
- verify your hypothesis
- obtain addition information about your proteins: such as oligomeric status of your protein, formation of complex, etc
- Or if you are really really serious, get a high resolution structure by cryoEM!

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