

torch-projectors: A High-Performance Differentiable Projection Library for PyTorch

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Abstract

Fourier-space projection operations are central to many algorithms in electron microscopy single-particle analysis and electron tomography. Methods employing machine learning require these operations to be differentiable, enabling end-to-end model training. While an implementation using solely PyTorch’s built-in operations is possible, it is often too slow for practical use. This paper introduces **torch-projectors**: a high-performance, cross-platform library for differentiable Fourier-space projection operations in PyTorch. The library implements 2D and 3D forward and backward projection operators with support for linear and cubic interpolation, and gradient calculation for all inputs. Designed to be efficient on CPU, Apple Silicon (MPS), and CUDA devices, **torch-projectors** outperforms the existing Python-only **torch-fourier-slice** library by 1–2 orders of magnitude in many common scenarios.

1 Introduction

Transmission electron microscopes (TEMs) capture 2D projections of the sample’s Coulomb potential at very high optical resolution. Given multiple projections from different angles, the original 3D potential can be reconstructed computationally, enabling atomic model building in favorable cases. Over the past decade, cryogenic electron microscopy (cryo-EM) has emerged as the dominant method for solving protein structures and investigating their dynamics. If the sample is thin enough for the thin-object approximation to hold, the Fourier slice theorem states that each 2D projection corresponds to a central slice through the 3D Fourier transform of the potential. This relationship is fundamental to many algorithms in electron microscopy (EM) single-particle analysis (SPA) and electron tomography (ET).

Modern machine learning methods can quickly optimize vast amounts of parameters leveraging gradient back-propagation in differentiable models. PyTorch [PyTorch ref] is a popular framework for implementing such models, providing automatic differentiation capabilities. However, many EM algorithms require differentiable Fourier-space projection operations that are not natively supported by PyTorch. While it is possible to implement these operations using PyTorch’s built-in functions [torch-fourier-slice ref], the performance is often insufficient, and the memory overhead is too high for practical use. **torch-projectors** implements each projection operation in a single call without the need to store intermediate values. Thus, the memory footprint is limited to the input and output tensors, making the operators suitable for large-scale models.

RELION [methods in enzymology ref] has popularized an accurate, yet computationally efficient interpolation method for Fourier-space projection operations in single-particle analysis (SPA). Forward projections sample from a reference that has been oversampled by zero-padding it in real space, while backward projections insert data into a similarly oversampled reconstruction, and the reconstruction is cropped to its regular size in real space afterwards. This approach improves the accuracy of computationally cheap linear interpolation at the cost of increased memory usage. While it works well for conventional SPA algorithms, novel methods utilizing machine learning may be memory-constrained, or have very short-lived intermediate data that need costly Fourier transforms in every forward and backward pass to enable oversampling. **torch-projectors** implements Catmull-Rom cubic interpolation [Catmull-Rom spline ref] in addition to linear, which can significantly improve accuracy without oversampling.

Another elegant approach implemented in RELION is the use of two volumes for reconstructions: one volume with complex-valued data, and another volume to keep track of real-valued weights for each Fourier component. This allows for efficient normalization of per-component sampling counts as well as Wiener-like deconvolution approaches when the weights incorporate the contrast transfer function (CTF) of the back-projected images. **torch-projectors** implements this approach, and enables gradient back-propagation through the weight components if desired.

While 3D->2D forward projection and 2D->3D backward projection are the dominant operations in SPA, procedures like 2D particle classification require projections in both directions without a change in dimensionality. All four operations are implemented in `torch-projectors`.

2 Methods

2.1 Data Conventions

`torch-projectors` operates exclusively in Fourier space using PyTorch’s RFFT format, following FFTW conventions. Unlike RELION’s implementation, tensors on both ends of the projection operations remain RFFT-formatted, without intermediate stages with different data layouts.

For rotations to work correctly, reconstruction and projection data must be shifted (fftshift) in real space to place their center at the 0th tensor element before FFT. Results must be inverse-shifted (ifftshift) in real space to restore conventional centering.

All spatial dimensions must be square (2D) or cubic (3D) with even sizes. 2D reconstructions use shape $[B, N, N/2+1]$ where B is the batch dimension. 3D reconstructions use shape $[B, D, H, W/2+1]$. Projections follow the same RFFT convention with shape $[B, P, N, N/2+1]$, where B is the reconstruction batch dimension, and P is the pose dimension.

Rotations are specified as matrices: $[B, P, 2, 2]$ for 2D and $[B, P, 3, 3]$ for 3D. Translation shifts use shape $[B, P, 2]$ and are applied via phase modulation. A positive shift value moves the image contents along the positive direction of the respective axis. In back-projection, the shift is applied in the opposite direction to ensure it is the inverse of the forward projection with the same parameters. Batch broadcasting is supported where B can be 1 or match the reconstruction batch size B ; or the P dimension in either rotations or shifts (but not both) can be 1 to use the same value over all poses. This enables efficient processing of multiple reconstructions with shared or individual poses.

2.2 Interpolation

`torch-projectors` supports linear and cubic interpolation methods for sampling Fourier-space data at non-integer coordinates. Linear interpolation uses standard multilinear kernels: bilinear for 2D operations (4-point support) and trilinear for 3D operations (8-point support).

Cubic interpolation employs separable Catmull-Rom kernels with parameter $a = -0.5$, providing C^1 continuity and exact interpolation through control points. The kernel function is defined as:

$$w(s) = \begin{cases} (a+2)|s|^3 - (a+3)|s|^2 + 1 & \text{if } |s| \leq 1 \\ a|s|^3 - 5a|s|^2 + 8a|s| - 4a & \text{if } 1 < |s| \leq 2 \\ 0 & \text{if } |s| > 2 \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

For bicubic interpolation, a 4×4 neighborhood is sampled around each coordinate, while tricubic interpolation samples a $4 \times 4 \times 4$ neighborhood. The final interpolated value is computed as the separable product of 1D kernel evaluations along each dimension.

All interpolation operations support oversampling, where coordinates are scaled by a factor > 1 to sample from reconstructions that were previously zero-padded in real space to increase the Fourier space sampling rate. This improves interpolation accuracy at constant computational load, but at the expense of increased memory usage. The sampling grid is sparse, matching the box size of the unpadded reconstruction. Because of this, no additional real-space cropping is required for the final projections.

A hard low-pass filter can be applied during the projection operation.

Shifts can be applied as part of the forward and backward projection operations. This is achieved by applying a phase modulation to the complex Fourier space components according to the Fourier shift theorem: $F\{f(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{s})\} = F\{f(\mathbf{x})\} \cdot e^{-i2\pi\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{s}}$, where \mathbf{k} are the Fourier coordinates and \mathbf{s} is the shift vector.

2.3 Friedel Symmetry

The Fourier transform of a real-valued function exhibits Friedel symmetry, characterized by the relationship:

$$F(-\mathbf{k}) = F^*(\mathbf{k}) \quad (2)$$

where $F^*(\mathbf{k})$ denotes the complex conjugate at frequency \mathbf{k} . This symmetry property allows PyTorch’s RFFT format to store only the non-negative frequency components along the last dimension, yielding the characteristic $[\dots, N/2+1]$ shape.

However, the zero-frequency axis (where $k_c = 0$) requires careful handling during projection operations to maintain mathematical consistency and prevent double-counting:

Forward Pass: Standard Friedel symmetry lookup is applied when sampling negative k_c coordinates. For $k_c < 0$, the implementation accesses $F(-k_c, -k_r)$ and returns its complex conjugate $F^*(-k_c, -k_r)$ according to equation 2.

Backward Pass: To avoid over-representation in gradient accumulation, the implementation skips processing the negative half of the zero-frequency axis (specifically, components where $k_c = 0$ and $k_r < 0$), since these are present twice in the RFFT-formatted gradient.

Accumulation on Zero-Frequency Axis: When projection operations result in values that must be accumulated at positions on the zero-frequency axis, the implementation maintains Friedel symmetry by inserting contributions at both the target location $(k_r, 0)$ and its symmetric counterpart $(-k_r, 0)$.

2.4 Implementation Architecture

`torch-projectors` follows PyTorch’s hybrid C++/Python extension architecture using the `TORCH_LIBRARY` registration system. The library implements a multi-backend design with separate optimized kernels for CPU, Apple Silicon (MPS), and CUDA devices.

Each backend maintains its own implementation in dedicated directories (`csrc/cpu/`, `csrc/mps/`, `csrc/cuda/`), with common utilities factored into `csrc/cpu/common/`. All projection operators are registered in a unified `torch_projectors` namespace using `TORCH_LIBRARY` declarations, enabling automatic device dispatch through PyTorch’s operator registration system.

The Python interface wraps C++ operators with custom `torch.autograd.Function` classes that handle gradient computation. Library initialization loads the compiled C++ extension and registers Python autograd functions using `torch.library.register_autograd`. This architecture provides seamless integration with PyTorch’s automatic differentiation while maintaining high performance through backend-specific optimizations.

2.5 2D \rightarrow 2D Forward Projection

The 2D forward projection operator generates rotated 2D projections from 2D Fourier-space reconstructions. Given a reconstruction tensor $[B, N, N/2+1]$ and rotation matrices $[B_{rot}, P, 2, 2]$, the operator produces projections $[B, P, N_{out}, N_{out}/2+1]$ by sampling the reconstruction at transformed Fourier coordinates.

2.5.1 Forward Pass

For each output Fourier coordinate \mathbf{k}_{out} in the projection, the operator computes the corresponding coordinate in the reconstruction as:

$$\mathbf{k}_{rec} = \mathbf{R}^{-1} \mathbf{k}_{out} \quad (3)$$

where \mathbf{R} is the 2D rotation matrix. The projection value is obtained by interpolating the reconstruction at \mathbf{k}_{rec} , then applying phase modulation for translation:

$$P(\mathbf{k}_{out}) = F_{rec}(\mathbf{k}_{rec}) \cdot e^{-i2\pi \mathbf{k}_{out} \cdot \mathbf{s}} \quad (4)$$

where \mathbf{s} is the shift vector.

2.5.2 Backward Pass

During backpropagation, the incoming projection gradients are first phase-modulated using the conjugate shift:

$$\nabla P' = \nabla P \cdot e^{i2\pi \mathbf{k}_{out} \cdot \mathbf{s}} \quad (5)$$

Reconstruction gradients are then accumulated via transposed interpolation operations at the transformed coordinates \mathbf{k}_{rec} .

Analytical rotation matrix gradients require careful application of the chain rule: Since $\mathbf{k}_{rec} = \mathbf{R}^{-1}\mathbf{k}_{out}$, the gradient with respect to rotation matrix element R_{ij} is:

$$\frac{\partial P}{\partial R_{ij}} = \frac{\partial F_{rec}(\mathbf{k}_{rec})}{\partial \mathbf{k}_{rec}} \cdot \frac{\partial \mathbf{k}_{rec}}{\partial R_{ij}} \quad (6)$$

For bilinear interpolation, spatial derivatives are computed from the 2×2 sample grid using separable linear kernel derivatives:

$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial r} = \sum_{i=0}^1 \sum_{j=0}^1 p_{ij} \cdot l'(r_f - i) \cdot l(c_f - j) \quad (7)$$

$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial c} = \sum_{i=0}^1 \sum_{j=0}^1 p_{ij} \cdot l(r_f - i) \cdot l'(c_f - j) \quad (8)$$

where $l(s) = 1 - |s|$ for $|s| \leq 1$ and $l'(s) = \text{sign}(s)$ for $|s| < 1$.

For bicubic interpolation, derivatives follow from separable Catmull-Rom kernel derivatives over the 4×4 neighborhood:

$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial r} = \sum_{i=-1}^2 \sum_{j=-1}^2 p_{ij} \cdot w'(r_f - i) \cdot w(c_f - j) \quad (9)$$

$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial c} = \sum_{i=-1}^2 \sum_{j=-1}^2 p_{ij} \cdot w(r_f - i) \cdot w'(c_f - j) \quad (10)$$

where $w'(s)$ is the cubic kernel derivative. The coordinate transformation derivatives $\frac{\partial \mathbf{k}_{rec}}{\partial R_{ij}}$ are computed from the matrix inverse relationships.

Shift gradients follow from the phase modulation derivative:

$$\frac{\partial P}{\partial \mathbf{s}} = -i2\pi \mathbf{k}_{out} P(\mathbf{k}_{out}) \quad (11)$$

2.6 2D \rightarrow 2D Backward Projection

The 2D backward projection operator is the mathematical adjoint of the forward projection operation. It accumulates 2D Fourier-space projections $[B, P, N, N/2 + 1]$ into 2D reconstructions $[B, N_{rec}, N_{rec}/2 + 1]$, where the reconstruction size accounts for oversampling: $N_{rec} = N \cdot \text{oversampling}$.

2.6.1 Forward Pass

For each projection coordinate $\mathbf{k}_{proj} = (k_r, k_c)$, the corresponding coordinate in the 2D reconstruction is computed using equation 3 with the same 2×2 rotation matrix \mathbf{R} . The projection value is then accumulated into the reconstruction at the transformed coordinate. When shifts are present, the projection data is first conjugate phase-modulated:

$$P'(\mathbf{k}_{proj}) = P(\mathbf{k}_{proj}) \cdot e^{i2\pi \mathbf{k}_{proj} \cdot \mathbf{s}} \quad (12)$$

where the conjugate phase ensures the mathematical adjoint relationship with forward projection.

The accumulation process uses 2D interpolation kernels in transpose mode. For bilinear interpolation, contributions are distributed to the 2×2 neighborhood around each fractional coordinate. For bicubic interpolation, contributions are spread across the 4×4 neighborhood according to the Catmull-Rom weights defined in equations 7–8 and 9.

Optional weight accumulation supports applications requiring per-Fourier component weights, such as CTF correction in cryo-EM. Weights are accumulated using the absolute values of the 2D interpolation kernel weights, maintaining a reference for downstream normalization (e.g. for Wiener-like filters).

2.6.2 Backward Pass

During backpropagation, projection gradients are computed using forward projection of reconstruction gradients, exploiting the adjoint relationship. Rotation matrix gradients follow equation 6 with spatial derivatives computed using equations 7–8 for bilinear interpolation or equation 9 for bicubic interpolation. Shift gradients are computed using equation 11, applied to the accumulated reconstruction data.

2.7 3D \rightarrow 2D Forward Projection

The 3D \rightarrow 2D forward projection operator implements the Central Slice Theorem, generating 2D projections from 3D Fourier-space reconstructions. Given a 3D reconstruction tensor $[B, D, H, W/2 + 1]$, 3 \times 3 rotation matrices $[B, P, 3, 3]$, and optional 2D shifts $[B, P, 2]$, the operator produces projections $[B, P, H_{out}, W_{out}/2 + 1]$ by sampling central slices through the 3D volume.

2.7.1 Forward Pass

For each output projection coordinate $\mathbf{k}_{proj} = (k_r, k_c)$, the operator extends it to 3D by setting the third coordinate to zero: $\mathbf{k}_{3D} = (k_c, k_r, 0)$. This implements the central slice through the origin required by the Central Slice Theorem. The corresponding coordinate in the 3D reconstruction is computed using the 3 \times 3 rotation matrix:

$$\mathbf{k}_{rec} = \mathbf{R}^{-1} \mathbf{k}_{3D} \quad (13)$$

where \mathbf{R} is the 3 \times 3 rotation matrix. The projection value is obtained by trilinear or tricubic interpolation in the 3D volume at \mathbf{k}_{rec} , then applying phase modulation for translation:

$$P(\mathbf{k}_{proj}) = F_{rec}(\mathbf{k}_{rec}) \cdot e^{-i2\pi \mathbf{k}_{proj} \cdot \mathbf{s}} \quad (14)$$

where \mathbf{s} is the 2D shift vector applied to the projection coordinates.

2.7.2 Backward Pass

During backpropagation, the incoming projection gradients are first phase-modulated using the conjugate shift applied to the 2D projection coordinates (using equation 5).

Reconstruction gradients are then accumulated via 3D transposed interpolation operations at the transformed coordinates \mathbf{k}_{rec} .

Analytical 3 \times 3 rotation matrix gradients require extension of the chain rule to three dimensions: Since $\mathbf{k}_{rec} = \mathbf{R}^{-1} \mathbf{k}_{3D}$, the gradient with respect to rotation matrix element R_{ij} is:

$$\frac{\partial P}{\partial R_{ij}} = \frac{\partial F_{rec}(\mathbf{k}_{rec})}{\partial \mathbf{k}_{rec}} \cdot \frac{\partial \mathbf{k}_{rec}}{\partial R_{ij}} \quad (15)$$

For trilinear interpolation, spatial derivatives are computed from the 2 \times 2 \times 2 sample grid using separable linear kernel derivatives:

$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial d} = \sum_{i=0}^1 \sum_{j=0}^1 \sum_{k=0}^1 p_{ijk} \cdot l'(d_f - i) \cdot l(r_f - j) \cdot l(c_f - k) \quad (16)$$

$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial r} = \sum_{i=0}^1 \sum_{j=0}^1 \sum_{k=0}^1 p_{ijk} \cdot l(d_f - i) \cdot l'(r_f - j) \cdot l(c_f - k) \quad (17)$$

$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial c} = \sum_{i=0}^1 \sum_{j=0}^1 \sum_{k=0}^1 p_{ijk} \cdot l(d_f - i) \cdot l(r_f - j) \cdot l'(c_f - k) \quad (18)$$

where $l(s) = 1 - |s|$ for $|s| \leq 1$ and $l'(s) = \text{sign}(s)$ for $|s| < 1$.

For tricubic interpolation, derivatives follow from separable Catmull-Rom kernel derivatives over the $4 \times 4 \times 4$ neighborhood:

$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial d} = \sum_{i=-1}^2 \sum_{j=-1}^2 \sum_{k=-1}^2 p_{ijk} \cdot w'(d_f - i) \cdot w(r_f - j) \cdot w(c_f - k) \quad (19)$$

$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial r} = \sum_{i=-1}^2 \sum_{j=-1}^2 \sum_{k=-1}^2 p_{ijk} \cdot w(d_f - i) \cdot w'(r_f - j) \cdot w(c_f - k) \quad (20)$$

$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial c} = \sum_{i=-1}^2 \sum_{j=-1}^2 \sum_{k=-1}^2 p_{ijk} \cdot w(d_f - i) \cdot w(r_f - j) \cdot w'(c_f - k) \quad (21)$$

where $w'(s)$ is the cubic kernel derivative. The coordinate transformation derivatives $\frac{\partial \mathbf{k}_{rec}}{\partial R_{ij}}$ are computed from the matrix inverse relationships.

Shift gradients follow from the phase modulation derivative applied to the 2D projection coordinates:

$$\frac{\partial P}{\partial \mathbf{s}} = -i2\pi \mathbf{k}_{proj} P(\mathbf{k}_{proj}) \quad (22)$$

2.8 2D \rightarrow 3D Backward Projection

The 2D \rightarrow 3D backward projection operator is the mathematical adjoint of the 3D \rightarrow 2D forward projection operation. It accumulates 2D Fourier-space projections $[B, P, H, W/2+1]$ into 3D reconstructions $[B, D, H_{rec}, W_{rec}/2+1]$, where the reconstruction dimensions account for oversampling and form a cubic volume: $D = H_{rec} = W_{rec} = H \cdot \text{oversampling}$.

2.8.1 Forward Pass

For each projection coordinate $\mathbf{k}_{proj} = (k_r, k_c)$, the operator extends it to 3D by setting the third coordinate to zero, implementing the central slice through the origin required by the Central Slice Theorem:

$$\mathbf{k}_{3D} = (k_c, k_r, 0) \quad (23)$$

The 3D sampling coordinate in the reconstruction is computed using equation 13 with the same 3×3 rotation matrix \mathbf{R} . The projection value is then accumulated into the reconstruction at the transformed coordinate. When shifts are present, the projection data is first conjugate phase-modulated using equation 12 to ensure the mathematical adjoint relationship.

The accumulation process uses 3D interpolation kernels in transpose mode. For trilinear interpolation, contributions are distributed to the $2 \times 2 \times 2$ neighborhood around each fractional coordinate. For tricubic interpolation, contributions are spread across the $4 \times 4 \times 4$ neighborhood according to the Catmull-Rom weights defined in equations 16–18 and 19.

Optional weight accumulation supports applications requiring per-Fourier component weights, such as CTF correction in cryo-EM. Weights are accumulated using the absolute values of the 3D interpolation kernel weights, with proper handling of 3D Friedel symmetry for real-valued reconstructions.

2.8.2 Backward Pass

During backpropagation, projection gradients are computed using 3D \rightarrow 2D forward projection of reconstruction gradients, exploiting the adjoint relationship. The 3×3 rotation matrix gradients follow equation 15 with spatial derivatives computed using equations 16–18 for trilinear interpolation or equation 19 for tricubic interpolation. Shift gradients are computed using equation 22, applied to the 2D projection coordinates since shifts affect only the 2D projection plane.

3 Results

Performance benchmarks were conducted on three representative platforms: NVIDIA H100 CUDA, Apple M4 CPU, and Apple M4 MPS (Metal Performance Shaders). Throughput measurements in thousands of projections per second

were obtained across systematic parameter sweeps including box sizes (32, 128, 256 pixels), batch dimensions (1, 8), pose counts (8, 128, 2048), and interpolation methods (linear, cubic).

3.1 Performance Benchmarks

Projection throughput exhibits strong scaling with both batch size and pose count across all platforms (Tables 1–4). For 2D→2D forward projection operations with 32×32 pixel boxes, throughput increases from 201.7k projections/second with batch size 1 and 8 poses to 134.9M projections/second with batch size 8 and 2048 poses on H100 CUDA using linear interpolation. Similar scaling behavior is observed for all operation types and platforms.

CUDA demonstrates superior absolute performance for large-scale computations, achieving peak throughputs exceeding 100M projections/second for 3D→2D forward projection with high pose counts. CPU implementations provide consistent performance across different workload sizes, with M4 CPU maintaining throughputs of 50-1000k projections/second depending on operation complexity. MPS implementations show intermediate performance characteristics, performing particularly well for medium-scale workloads.

Cubic interpolation incurs computational overhead compared to linear interpolation, typically reducing throughput by 30-60

Box size scaling follows expected computational complexity patterns. Moving from 32×32 to 256×256 pixel boxes reduces throughput by approximately one order of magnitude across all platforms, reflecting the quadratic relationship between image area and computational cost. Forward-only operations consistently outperform combined forward+backward passes by factors of 2-10, with the overhead being most significant for smaller workloads where parallelization benefits are limited.

3.2 Performance Comparison with torch-fourier-slice

Direct comparison with the existing `torch-fourier-slice` library demonstrates substantial performance improvements (Tables 5, 6). `torch-projectors` consistently outperforms `torch-fourier-slice` by 1-2 orders of magnitude across all tested configurations, with speedup factors ranging from 2.3× to 874× depending on the operation, platform, and workload parameters.

The most pronounced improvements occur for 3D→2D forward projections on H100 CUDA, where `torch-projectors` achieves speedups of 91-200× for large batch operations. Backward projection speedups are similarly dramatic, reaching 247-874× for CPU implementations. These gains reflect the efficiency of native C++ kernels with optimized memory access patterns compared to the Python-only implementation using PyTorch’s general-purpose operations.

Speedup factors generally increase with pose count and batch size, indicating superior scaling characteristics of the native implementation. For 32×32 pixel boxes, forward projection speedups improve from 5.3× (8 poses, batch 1) to 200× (128 poses, batch 8) on H100 CUDA. CPU implementations show particularly strong relative performance for backward projections, where the specialized transpose interpolation kernels provide advantages over general tensor operations.

The performance advantage is consistent across interpolation methods, with both linear and cubic variants showing similar speedup patterns. Notably, `torch-projectors` maintains these performance gains while providing additional functionality including analytical gradient computation for rotation matrices and phase-shift operations for sub-pixel translations.

3.3 Interpolation Efficiency

Cubic interpolation without oversampling, and linear interpolation with x2 oversampling result in roughly the same real-space signal attenuation up to ca. half the box size. Most algorithms for EM data will likely restrict the real-space signal extent to this limit to leave room for signal delocalization after CTF convolution.

3 scenarios were benchmarked to provide guidance on when to use which interpolation scheme. 1: 4096 128 px 2D references projected without padding using linear or cubic interpolation, 1 pose per reference. 2: With x2 padding, i.e. preparing 128 px projections from 256 px references. 3: Same as 2, but the padding process (resulting in additional IFFT, padding, and FFT operations) was included in the timed code. The last scenario is meant to be representative of use cases where references are an intermediate representation in a larger model and can’t be pre-padded offline.

While sampling on an oversampled grid incurs a noticeable performance penalty (ca. 10% on CPU, 25% on MPS,)

Table 1: 2D \rightarrow 2D forward projection throughput in 10^3 projections/second

Box	Batch	Poses	Interp.	H100: CUDA		M4: CPU		M4: MPS	
				Fwd	Fwd+Bwd	Fwd	Fwd+Bwd	Fwd	Fwd+Bwd
32	1	8	Linear	201.7	35.7	119.9	39.3	16.3	9.0
			Cubic	198.4	37.4	82.3	22.3	32.7	7.2
		128	Linear	3248.5	580.4	629.2	71.2	462.9	81.5
			Cubic	3208.1	393.9	392.3	37.2	397.6	70.5
		2048	Linear	44496.6	3223.5	1296.7	85.0	2910.5	624.0
			Cubic	32044.1	1026.4	520.9	40.2	1478.3	184.8
	8	8	Linear	1541.8	303.1	414.8	107.7	258.8	67.5
			Cubic	1559.5	289.1	316.4	70.5	240.2	43.9
		128	Linear	25379.8	3572.7	1100.1	225.9	1999.5	623.4
			Cubic	19847.7	1738.9	480.2	107.0	1174.9	373.2
		2048	Linear	134947.7	4216.0	1233.7	264.2	8660.8	1275.2
			Cubic	60536.6	1130.9	494.6	116.5	5542.4	555.3
128	1	8	Linear	152.7	36.2	41.0	7.2	23.2	4.7
			Cubic	106.1	22.0	24.2	3.8	19.6	4.5
		128	Linear	2396.0	412.4	103.9	12.3	189.7	63.3
			Cubic	1576.4	169.8	36.1	5.4	93.4	25.6
		2048	Linear	11067.6	776.7	94.6	12.7	524.3	80.2
			Cubic	4302.8	231.1	34.4	5.4	349.8	32.9
	8	8	Linear	1215.1	254.4	84.0	14.8	129.3	47.5
			Cubic	794.1	139.8	33.5	6.9	71.9	21.7
		128	Linear	8921.7	872.0	97.2	18.4	571.3	84.0
			Cubic	3892.2	259.6	34.4	7.7	358.8	35.4
		2048	Linear	14040.0	824.9	92.0	16.6	501.7	86.1
			Cubic	4844.0	239.3	34.5	7.1	335.7	36.6
256	1	8	Linear	81.4	21.2	19.2	2.1	14.3	5.0
			Cubic	40.1	8.7	7.2	1.0	8.3	2.5
		128	Linear	1212.3	204.2	28.7	3.2	69.6	20.3
			Cubic	599.2	67.0	9.2	1.5	91.2	8.0
		2048	Linear	3333.2	269.2	23.6	3.3	125.6	21.8
			Cubic	1208.7	80.7	8.8	1.5	86.9	9.2
	8	8	Linear	630.9	145.4	28.2	4.8	60.9	19.4
			Cubic	306.3	54.3	9.2	1.9	57.3	8.1
		128	Linear	2999.6	275.1	24.7	4.7	131.2	21.6
			Cubic	1128.9	86.1	8.9	1.9	88.9	9.1
		2048	Linear	3695.1	266.8	23.1	4.1	126.4	22.3
			Cubic	1292.7	83.0	8.7	1.8	87.9	9.1

Table 2: 2D \rightarrow 2D backward projection throughput in 10^3 projections/second

Box	Batch	Poses	Interp.	H100: CUDA		M4: CPU		M4: MPS	
				Fwd	Fwd+Bwd	Fwd	Fwd+Bwd	Fwd	Fwd+Bwd
32	1	8	Linear	67.5	21.4	37.4	26.0	20.0	7.5
			Cubic	97.9	25.9	17.6	14.2	10.3	5.5
		128	Linear	1284.4	389.5	56.0	50.0	101.0	65.0
			Cubic	557.7	278.1	27.8	25.3	117.2	78.3
		2048	Linear	3395.1	2420.4	62.8	58.1	619.8	516.5
			Cubic	940.2	845.5	28.7	27.0	159.5	150.1
	8	8	Linear	783.4	202.8	197.9	112.6	137.4	52.7
			Cubic	651.6	195.0	105.0	69.7	153.3	65.9
		128	Linear	5799.6	2553.1	249.0	185.8	1189.9	684.3
			Cubic	2001.5	1364.2	117.4	91.5	461.4	346.0
		2048	Linear	3772.6	3487.9	255.3	198.5	2130.1	1551.2
			Cubic	961.2	933.8	114.4	90.8	561.5	497.3
128	1	8	Linear	67.1	23.0	8.2	6.1	14.0	7.4
			Cubic	29.5	15.5	3.8	3.1	5.9	4.4
		128	Linear	550.7	270.7	8.6	7.5	84.1	59.9
			Cubic	169.8	127.8	4.0	3.5	24.7	21.6
		2048	Linear	777.0	664.3	8.8	7.8	120.6	92.9
			Cubic	200.7	186.4	3.5	3.1	30.7	27.8
	8	8	Linear	469.8	175.2	16.1	11.2	64.6	39.5
			Cubic	175.2	104.8	7.4	5.6	24.1	19.3
		128	Linear	955.9	729.1	17.0	13.3	126.5	94.8
			Cubic	251.2	223.2	7.1	5.8	32.8	29.4
		2048	Linear	837.0	749.2	15.7	12.3	135.3	101.8
			Cubic	210.9	198.8	6.6	5.4	34.3	30.7
256	1	8	Linear	27.0	13.4	1.9	1.5	4.7	3.4
			Cubic	8.6	6.0	1.1	0.9	2.0	1.7
		128	Linear	227.0	147.7	2.7	2.3	26.6	20.5
			Cubic	62.7	52.0	1.3	1.1	7.0	6.4
		2048	Linear	294.8	250.2	2.5	2.1	33.5	25.3
			Cubic	75.1	68.9	1.1	1.0	8.5	7.7
	8	8	Linear	193.9	101.6	4.3	3.3	24.2	18.3
			Cubic	55.0	40.6	1.9	1.5	6.7	6.0
		128	Linear	305.4	249.5	4.2	3.3	33.1	25.1
			Cubic	78.6	71.2	1.8	1.4	8.4	7.6
		2048	Linear	297.3	258.1	4.1	3.2	34.7	25.9
			Cubic	74.8	69.3	1.8	1.4	8.8	7.7

Table 3: 3D \rightarrow 2D forward projection throughput in 10^3 projections/second

Box	Batch	Poses	Interp.	H100: CUDA		M4: CPU		M4: MPS	
				Fwd	Fwd+Bwd	Fwd	Fwd+Bwd	Fwd	Fwd+Bwd
32	1	8	Linear	37.2	16.2	117.6	30.4	40.9	10.2
			Cubic	31.8	15.6	69.1	15.4	31.9	5.0
		128	Linear	576.8	261.4	524.3	77.4	569.2	160.6
			Cubic	516.8	205.0	199.7	20.4	487.1	76.9
		2048	Linear	8579.5	2536.7	987.2	98.1	5788.0	748.6
			Cubic	4821.2	637.3	229.5	22.4	1906.2	146.1
	8	8	Linear	1596.3	307.7	352.1	81.5	286.9	82.3
			Cubic	1071.7	250.0	172.3	32.0	276.5	55.5
		128	Linear	22239.1	3546.4	843.9	159.5	3735.5	680.9
			Cubic	9301.1	1009.3	222.6	40.3	1578.9	153.3
		2048	Linear	86681.4	6816.6	937.3	188.1	7367.9	877.6
			Cubic	17133.8	993.2	226.9	41.6	2045.2	166.1
128	1	8	Linear	24.1	12.2	38.4	5.9	31.1	7.5
			Cubic	11.6	5.5	12.2	1.9	21.8	2.5
		128	Linear	393.8	176.9	70.8	8.9	336.7	47.4
			Cubic	178.3	56.6	14.7	2.3	109.9	8.6
		2048	Linear	3038.7	556.9	67.7	9.1	392.9	52.9
			Cubic	632.1	88.5	14.6	2.2	126.3	9.7
	8	8	Linear	916.8	190.1	49.5	6.7	196.0	20.0
			Cubic	167.4	46.2	13.8	2.2	92.8	6.5
		128	Linear	5256.8	579.1	55.7	9.2	313.9	47.3
			Cubic	917.1	87.6	14.0	2.3	126.6	9.5
		2048	Linear	7729.0	645.8	57.3	9.1	304.1	51.6
			Cubic	1110.4	95.2	12.8	2.1	126.6	9.7
256	1	8	Linear	14.7	7.5	11.3	1.0	24.3	2.3
			Cubic	3.7	1.8	2.9	0.4	8.0	0.7
		128	Linear	231.2	89.0	11.1	1.8	70.1	10.6
			Cubic	57.7	17.6	2.9	0.5	30.4	2.2
		2048	Linear	929.5	149.1	11.0	1.9	62.2	12.4
			Cubic	164.6	23.0	3.2	0.5	30.2	2.4
	8	8	Linear	333.1	72.8	7.4	1.2	54.4	3.3
			Cubic	39.5	13.2	2.6	0.5	23.1	1.4
		128	Linear	1252.8	138.4	7.9	1.6	48.4	10.0
			Cubic	203.6	21.4	2.7	0.5	14.2	2.1
		2048	Linear	1838.2	164.6	7.9	1.6	47.8	11.8
			Cubic	253.8	24.7	2.7	0.5	16.2	2.2

Table 4: 2D \rightarrow 3D backward projection throughput in 10^3 projections/second

Box	Batch	Poses	Interp.	H100: CUDA		M4: CPU		M4: MPS	
				Fwd	Fwd+Bwd	Fwd	Fwd+Bwd	Fwd	Fwd+Bwd
32	1	8	Linear	127.9	25.1	39.2	20.9	15.9	7.3
			Cubic	64.1	21.1	10.8	8.5	3.8	1.0
		128	Linear	1717.8	377.6	54.7	46.7	311.9	77.0
			Cubic	521.9	256.7	12.9	12.1	77.5	55.9
		2048	Linear	4928.6	3077.0	57.0	53.1	779.8	599.4
			Cubic	708.5	637.2	9.8	12.6	109.1	100.8
	8	8	Linear	979.9	197.6	105.0	46.2	184.7	41.4
			Cubic	424.7	153.1	28.5	20.0	60.5	39.2
		128	Linear	5228.2	2293.9	131.9	86.0	748.4	493.4
			Cubic	887.5	701.9	28.4	24.5	114.3	102.4
		2048	Linear	5492.8	4665.0	124.7	72.9	935.4	783.9
			Cubic	714.8	681.4	27.5	22.9	118.8	113.1
128	1	8	Linear	48.7	17.6	4.0	1.9	7.8	4.6
			Cubic	8.6	5.9	1.4	0.8	1.8	1.5
		128	Linear	442.4	231.3	5.4	4.4	44.4	32.1
			Cubic	64.9	52.6	1.5	1.4	6.2	5.6
		2048	Linear	570.3	473.0	5.8	5.0	56.8	46.6
			Cubic	72.5	67.6	1.5	1.3	7.2	6.8
	8	8	Linear	280.6	92.2	5.8	2.3	19.8	6.3
			Cubic	53.3	34.5	1.7	1.1	4.7	3.1
		128	Linear	530.7	393.0	5.1	5.2	51.0	31.2
			Cubic	70.6	64.8	1.7	1.4	7.0	6.3
		2048	Linear	587.7	508.2	6.9	5.4	57.3	41.8
			Cubic	73.8	69.3	1.9	1.5	7.3	6.8
256	1	8	Linear	15.3	6.9	0.8	0.3	2.1	0.8
			Cubic	2.3	1.7	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.3
		128	Linear	123.3	74.6	1.4	1.0	11.2	6.2
			Cubic	17.6	14.7	0.4	0.3	1.6	1.4
		2048	Linear	135.8	114.8	1.5	1.1	14.3	10.0
			Cubic	18.5	17.1	0.4	0.3	1.8	1.7
	8	8	Linear	69.5	14.8	0.9	0.3	3.1	0.9
			Cubic	13.8	7.3	0.4	0.2	1.1	0.6
		128	Linear	101.7	69.6	1.1	0.8	9.4	5.1
			Cubic	16.1	14.3	0.4	0.3	1.8	1.4
		2048	Linear	134.0	113.9	1.5	1.1	10.4	7.0
			Cubic	18.7	17.4	0.4	0.3	1.8	1.5

Table 5: 3D \rightarrow 2D forward projection throughput in 10^3 projections/second, comparison between torch-projectors and torch-fourier-slice

Box	Batch	Poses	H100: CUDA						M4: CPU					
			Forward			Backward			Forward			Backward		
			t-f-s	t-p	\uparrow	t-f-s	t-p	\uparrow	t-f-s	t-p	\uparrow	t-f-s	t-p	\uparrow
32	1	8	5.4	28	$\times 5.3$	6.2	42	$\times 6.7$	9.1	153	$\times 17$	0.3	55	$\times 202$
		128	84	449	$\times 5.3$	18	621	$\times 35$	38	643	$\times 17$	0.2	87	$\times 364$
		2048	922	6604	$\times 7.2$	—	4174	—	118	981	$\times 8.3$	—	109	—
	8	8	6.0	1098	$\times 183$	7.0	323	$\times 46$	11	450	$\times 40$	0.3	102	$\times 371$
		128	95	18894	$\times 200$	18	4509	$\times 247$	40	841	$\times 21$	0.2	206	$\times 874$
		2048	941	85962	$\times 91$	—	7542	—	115	935	$\times 8.2$	—	234	—
128	1	8	6.0	20	$\times 3.4$	—	36	—	2.8	41	$\times 15$	—	7.3	—
		128	59	321	$\times 5.5$	—	410	—	7.5	69	$\times 9.3$	—	10	—
		2048	99	2781	$\times 28$	—	728	—	8.3	68	$\times 8.2$	—	10	—
	8	8	6.5	759	$\times 118$	—	259	—	2.7	44	$\times 17$	—	7.8	—
		128	60	5129	$\times 85$	—	663	—	7.1	55	$\times 7.8$	—	11	—
		2048	99	7721	$\times 78$	—	761	—	5.9	56	$\times 9.4$	—	11	—
256	1	8	5.5	13	$\times 2.3$	—	18	—	1.0	9.5	$\times 9.1$	—	1.2	—
		128	22	206	$\times 9.3$	—	157	—	1.8	10	$\times 5.9$	—	2.2	—
		2048	26	917	$\times 36$	—	191	—	1.7	11	$\times 6.6$	—	2.3	—
	8	8	5.7	314	$\times 55$	—	94	—	1.0	7.0	$\times 7.0$	—	1.4	—
		128	22	1246	$\times 56$	—	166	—	1.7	7.9	$\times 4.6$	—	2.0	—
		2048	26	1835	$\times 71$	—	196	—	1.5	8.0	$\times 5.3$	—	2.0	—

Table 6: 2D \rightarrow 3D backward projection throughput in 10^3 projections/second, comparison between torch-projectors and torch-fourier-slice

Box	Batch	Poses	H100: CUDA						M4: CPU					
			Forward			Backward			Forward			Backward		
			t-f-s	t-p	\uparrow	t-f-s	t-p	\uparrow	t-f-s	t-p	\uparrow	t-f-s	t-p	\uparrow
32	1	8	3.3	97	$\times 29$	10	33	$\times 3.2$	6.5	45	$\times 6.8$	21	53	$\times 2.5$
		128	47	1454	$\times 31$	151	515	$\times 3.4$	14	54	$\times 3.8$	50	292	$\times 5.9$
		2048	159	4848	$\times 30$	1222	8291	$\times 6.8$	26	58	$\times 2.3$	123	542	$\times 4.4$
	8	8	3.6	754	$\times 211$	14	262	$\times 19$	6.5	96	$\times 15$	21	89	$\times 4.2$
		128	51	5028	$\times 98$	202	4251	$\times 21$	13	126	$\times 9.6$	41	362	$\times 8.8$
		2048	162	5614	$\times 35$	1298	33718	$\times 26$	25	129	$\times 5.2$	102	539	$\times 5.3$
128	1	8	3.1	44	$\times 14$	9.2	32	$\times 3.4$	0.7	4.2	$\times 5.6$	1.9	3.8	$\times 2.0$
		128	14	419	$\times 29$	76	483	$\times 6.4$	1.6	5.4	$\times 3.4$	7.0	23	$\times 3.4$
		2048	18	557	$\times 31$	108	2795	$\times 26$	1.7	5.5	$\times 3.2$	7.0	35	$\times 5.0$
	8	8	3.4	261	$\times 77$	12	146	$\times 12$	0.7	4.8	$\times 6.7$	1.6	3.7	$\times 2.3$
		128	15	529	$\times 36$	80	1546	$\times 19$	1.5	7.2	$\times 4.8$	5.6	18	$\times 3.3$
		2048	18	588	$\times 33$	102	3787	$\times 37$	1.4	7.3	$\times 5.3$	5.2	25	$\times 4.8$
256	1	8	2.1	15	$\times 7.1$	6.5	13	$\times 2.0$	0.2	0.8	$\times 3.7$	0.4	0.5	$\times 1.4$
		128	4.1	124	$\times 30$	24	198	$\times 8.3$	0.3	1.4	$\times 4.5$	1.3	3.2	$\times 2.4$
		2048	4.6	135	$\times 30$	27	732	$\times 27$	0.3	1.5	$\times 4.8$	1.4	5.0	$\times 3.6$
	8	8	2.3	70	$\times 30$	7.3	27	$\times 3.7$	0.2	0.9	$\times 4.3$	0.3	0.5	$\times 1.5$
		128	4.1	102	$\times 25$	23	285	$\times 12$	0.3	1.3	$\times 4.6$	1.2	2.8	$\times 2.4$
		2048	4.6	134	$\times 29$	—	791	—	0.2	1.4	$\times 8.1$	—	4.0	—

Table 7: Projecting 4096 128x128px references, throughput in 10^3 projections/second

Platform	Interpolation	Oversampling = 1.0	Oversampling = 2.0	Pad 2x, Oversampling = 2.0
Mac, M4: CPU	linear	93.0	84.6	6.9
	cubic	34.5	33.6	6.2
Mac, M4: MPS	linear	442.5	335.9	81.7
	cubic	332.7	308.6	80.3

3.4 Accuracy Validation

4 Discussion

5 Availability

The `torch-projectors` library is available as an open-source Python package at <https://github.com/warpem/torch-projectors> and can be installed via pip. For CUDA-enabled packages, please refer to the repository's README.

References