

APPLE Picking: Particles without Templates

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Particle Picking in Cryo-EM





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• Query window f[n, m], template g[n, m], cross-correlation:¹

$$\max_{n,m} \sum_{n',m'} f[n - n', m - m']g[n', m']$$





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¹Frank & Wagenknecht, 1983



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g[n,m]







f[*n*, *m*]



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What Templates?

• Simulated projections of particles





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• Class averages from micrograph²



²Scheres, 2015



What Templates?

• Simulated projections of particles



• Class averages from micrograph²



• Difference of Gaussians³, disks⁴

²Scheres, 2015 ³Voss et al., 2009 ⁴Langlois et al., 2014



• Randomly select reference windows from micrograph



Some will contain particles, others not



• Randomly select reference windows from micrograph



Some will contain particles, others not

• What are correlations of query window with references?



• Randomly select reference windows from micrograph



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• What are correlations of query window with references?







• Randomly select reference windows from micrograph



Some will contain particles, others not

• What are correlations of query window with references?



Correlation Distribution

• Empty window correlates badly with all







Correlation Distribution

• Empty window correlates badly with all



• Window with particle correlates well with some







Window Score

• Count number k of correlations above threshold



Window Score

• Count number k of correlations above threshold





Window Score

• Count number k of correlations above threshold





• Good indicators, but expensive



Good indicators, but expensive Micrograph





Good indicators, but expensive Micrograph



k values





• Good indicators, but expensive

Micrograph



• Need denser sampling







Localization

• Mean (μ) and standard deviation (σ) can discriminate



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Localization

• Mean (μ) and standard deviation (σ) can discriminate





• Train support vector machine⁵ (SVM) on μ and σ from high and low k windows



- Train support vector machine⁵ (SVM) on μ and σ from high and low k windows
- Both μ and σ may be calculated fast





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• Calculate μ and σ for dense sampling of windows





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- Calculate μ and σ for dense sampling of windows
- Use SVM to predict















Results (cont.)

• Pick particles from 84 micrographs and reconstruct using RELION





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- Agrees up to 6.7 ${\rm \AA}$ with published EMD-2824



Results (cont.)

• Pick particles from 84 micrographs and reconstruct using RELION



- Agrees up to 6.7 ${\rm \AA}$ with published EMD-2824
- Fully automatic, template-free particle picking, 15 minutes

• Cross-correlation within micrograph strong signal



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• Unsupervised classification using cross-correlation histogram



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• Leverage initial classification to train SVM on mean and standard deviation



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• Unsupervised classification using cross-correlation histogram

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• Apply SVM to densely spaced windows for prediction



Future Work

• How to extract more information from cross-correlation? Distance on histograms? Moments of distributions? Separate identification of non-particles?



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• Score function on densely spaced windows. Fast calculation? Smoothness? Efficient interpolation?



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More discriminative features for SVM? Large-scale gradients?
Wavelet moments? Other classifiers? Training for deep networks?



Thank you!

Paper: https://arxiv.org/abs/1802.00469

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https://github.com/PrincetonUniversity/APPLEpicker

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