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SIGNATURE

A Particle Analysis System for Molecular Electron Microscopy

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System Overview
Algorithm & Implementation
Application Demo



Signature is a particle analysis system for molecular EM :

A friendly GUI for interactive data analysis
Batch processing & distributed computing
Compatible data I/O with major EM packages
Multi-platform application: Linux, Mac OS X, MS-Win

Program website: www.brandeis.edu/~jzchen/Signature



Particle Selection

Signature supports algorithmic & manual particle selection:

Algorithmic selection

Hierarchical screening, high-throughput distributed computing, reproducible and less susceptible to subjective bias.

Manual selection / inspection

Utilizing human users' unrivalled pattern recognition ability for quality control and decision making.

Local Correlation Function (LCF) for image intensity matching

$$LCF(x) = \frac{1}{N_T \sigma(I_x)} \langle M_T \otimes T, I \rangle_x$$

Spectra Correlation Function (SCF) for overall shape matching

$$SCF(x) = \frac{1}{N_S \sigma(LCF_x)} \langle M_S \otimes ACF, LCF \rangle_x$$

I is a template image, M_T and M_S are template masks, N_T and N_S are pixels under the respective masks. ACF is the auto-correlation function of *I*, and σ () is the square-root of variance.

LCF & SCF Functions



Micrograph



Template





Source of Templates

Depending on the stage of development, template images may come from

Particle images cropped directly from a micrograph
Class averages from a sizable particle dataset
2D projections from a 3D density model

Data Processing Protocol

Image pre-processing

Micrograph quality inspection, image filtering, background removal ...

Hierarchical particle screening

Image correlation, spectrum correlation, multi-layer template masking

Particle post-processing

Informative display for user inspection, editing, and decision making ...

Data Processing Toolbox

Data visualization

1D data plotting, 2D image displaying

Image processing functions

2D/3D images: normalization, filtering, re-sampling ...

Image Stack Editor

Particle display and editing, synchronized with micrograph



1. On a synthetic micrograph

2. On a cryo-EM micrograph



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