

1 **Supplementary Information**

2 **EM Generalist: A physics-driven diffusion foundation model
3 for electron microscopy**

4
5 Enze Ye^{1,2,†}, Chixiang Lu^{3,†}, Zixuan Jiang^{4,†}, Weimin Bai^{1,2,5}, Shaochi Ren^{1,2}, Chenyu
6 Wang^{1,2}, Jinyang Zhang^{1,2,6}, Ruohua Shi^{2,7,8}, Lei Ma^{2,7,8}, Kun Song^{1,2,*}, Xiaojuan Qi^{9,*},
7 Haibo Jiang^{3,*}, He Sun^{1,2,5,*}

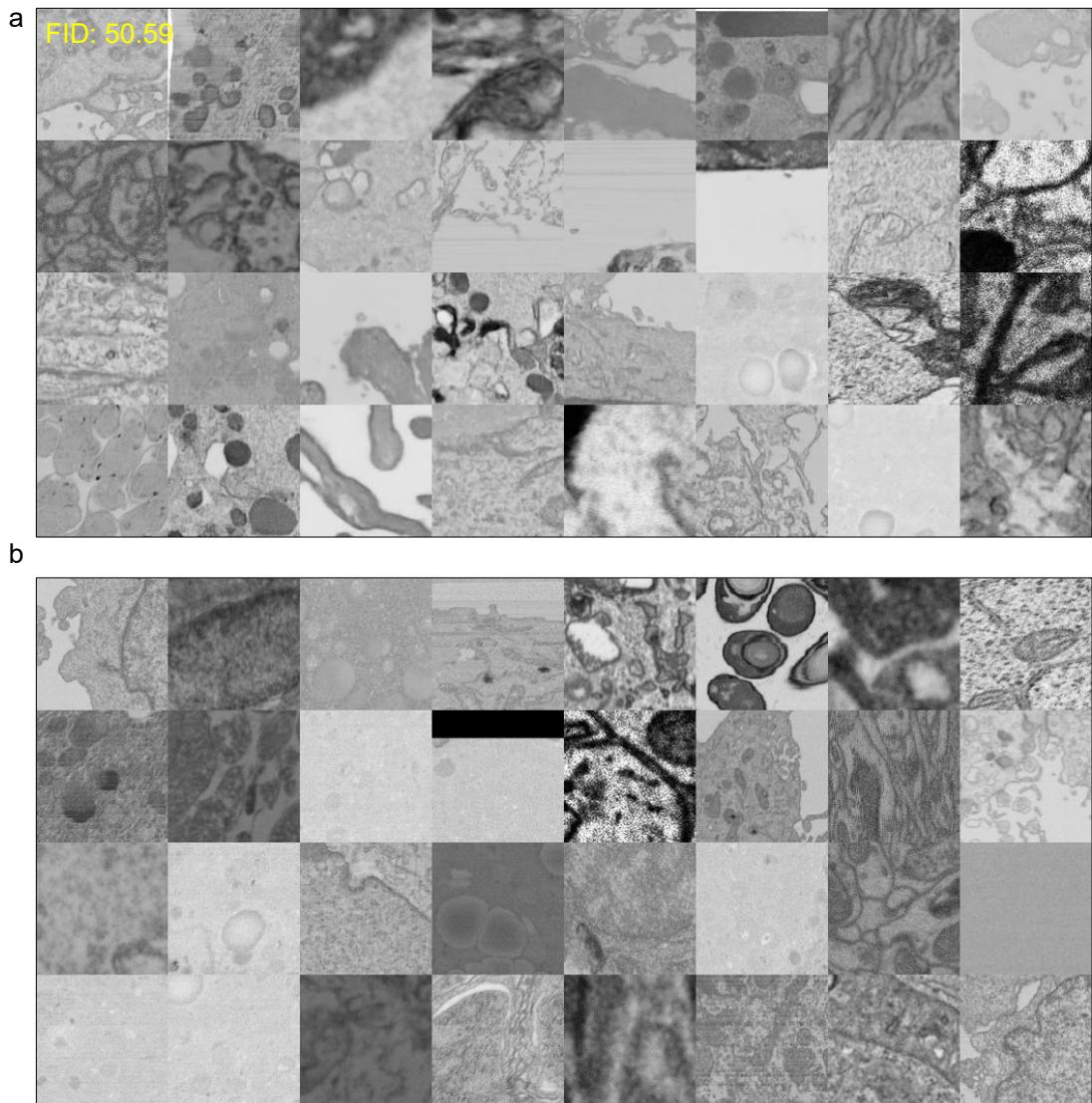
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9 *1 College of Future Technology, Peking University, Beijing, China*
10 *2 National Biomedical Imaging Center, Peking University, Beijing, China*
11 *3 Department of Chemistry, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China*
12 *4 College of Engineering, Peking University, Beijing, 100871, China*
13 *5 Academy for Advanced Interdisciplinary Studies, Peking University, Beijing, China*
14 *6 College of Informatics, Huazhong Agricultural University, Wuhan, China*
15 *7 National Engineering Research Center of Visual Technology, School of Computer
16 Science, Peking University, Beijing, China*
17 *8 National Key Laboratory for Multimedia Information Processing, School of
18 Computer Science, Peking University, Beijing, China*
19 *9 Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, The University of Hong Kong,
20 Hong Kong, China*

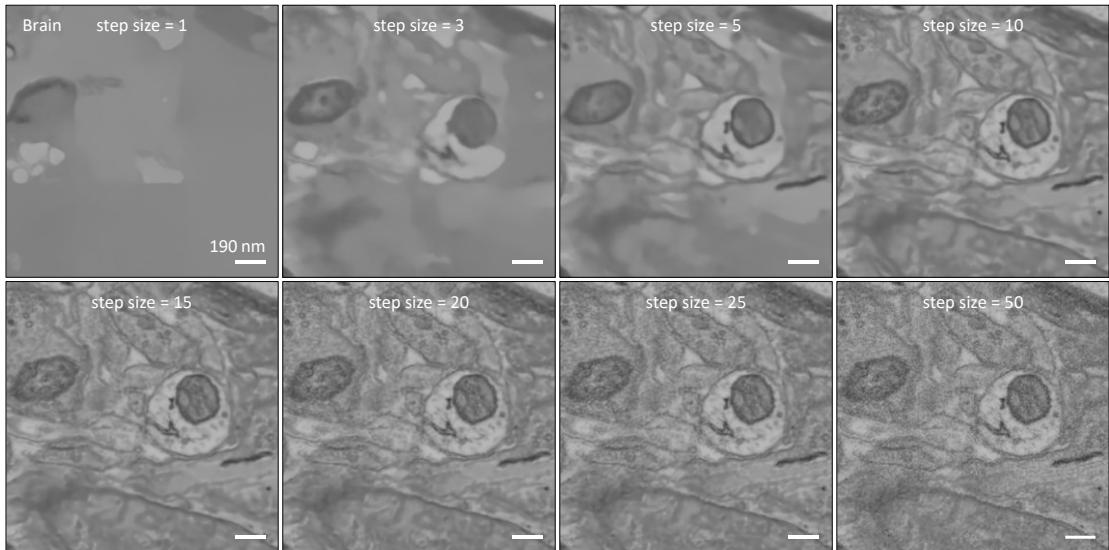
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22 [†] Contributed equally to this work: Enze Ye, Chixiang Lu, and Zixuan Jiang.

23
24 ^{*} Corresponding authors: K. Song (kun.song@pku.edu.cn), X. Qi (xjqi@eee.hku.hk),
25 H. Jiang (hbjiang@hku.hk), and H. Sun (hesun@pku.edu.cn)

26
27 Editorial corresponding author: H. Sun (hesun@pku.edu.cn)

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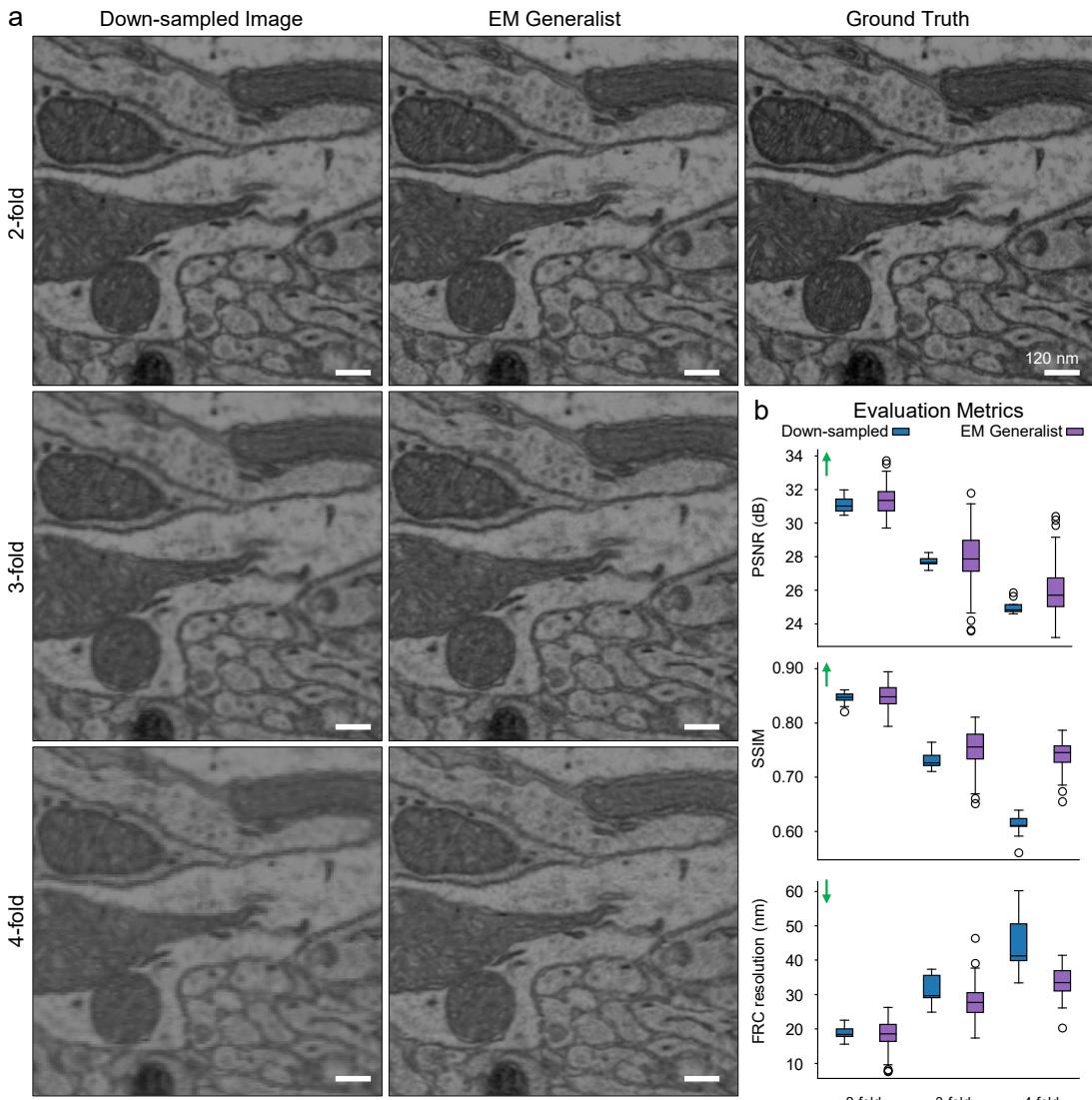


36

37 **SI Fig. 2.** Visualization of the effect of the parameter *step size* (gradient scaling
38 coefficient in the likelihood term) on denoising reconstruction results. The results show
39 that a small step size (e.g., 1 or 3) leads to overly smoothed and blurred images, while
40 a large step size (e.g., 50) introduces noise and artifacts. Optimal step size values (e.g.,
41 15) balance the image prior from the diffusion model and the data consistency, yielding
42 high-quality results.

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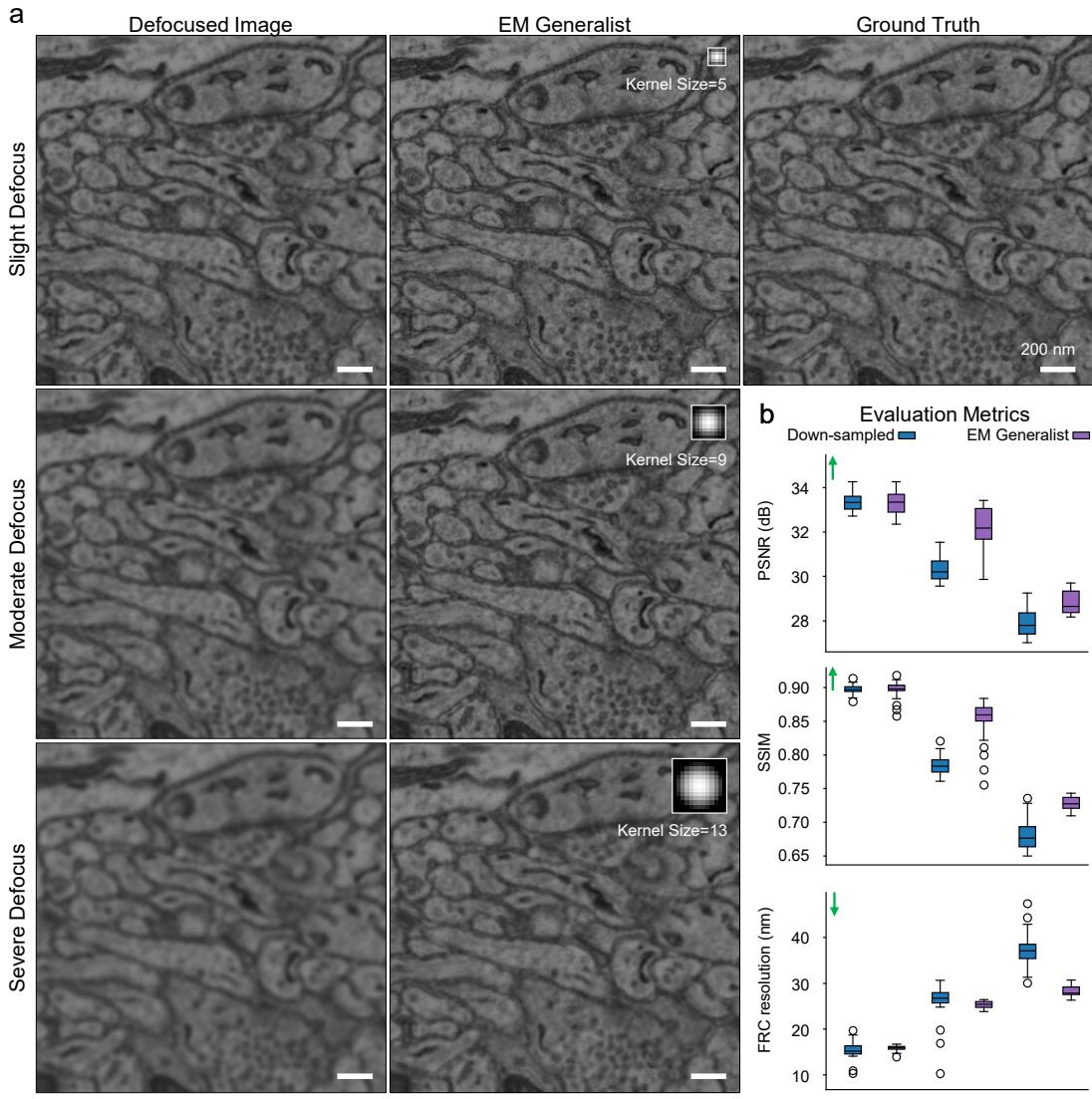
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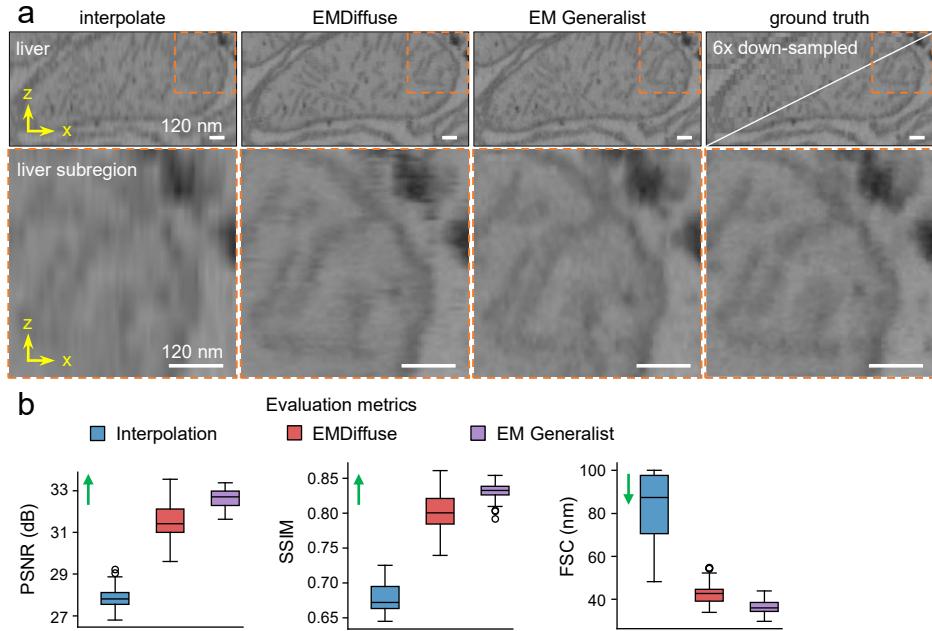
46 **SI Fig. 3. (a)** Super-resolution results of EM Generalist applied to mouse brain images
47 down-sampled by factors of 2-, 3-, and 4-fold, alongside comparisons with the ground
48 truth. **(b)** Quantitative evaluation of the reconstruction results. As the downsampling
49 factor increases and effective information is progressively lost, the reconstruction
50 quality gradually declines. Nevertheless, even under 4-fold downsampling, EM
51 Generalist achieves a FRC resolution below 35 nm (pixel size = 4.0 nm), with a PSNR
52 of 26 and a SSIM of 0.75, demonstrating its ability to significantly recover the original
53 image details.

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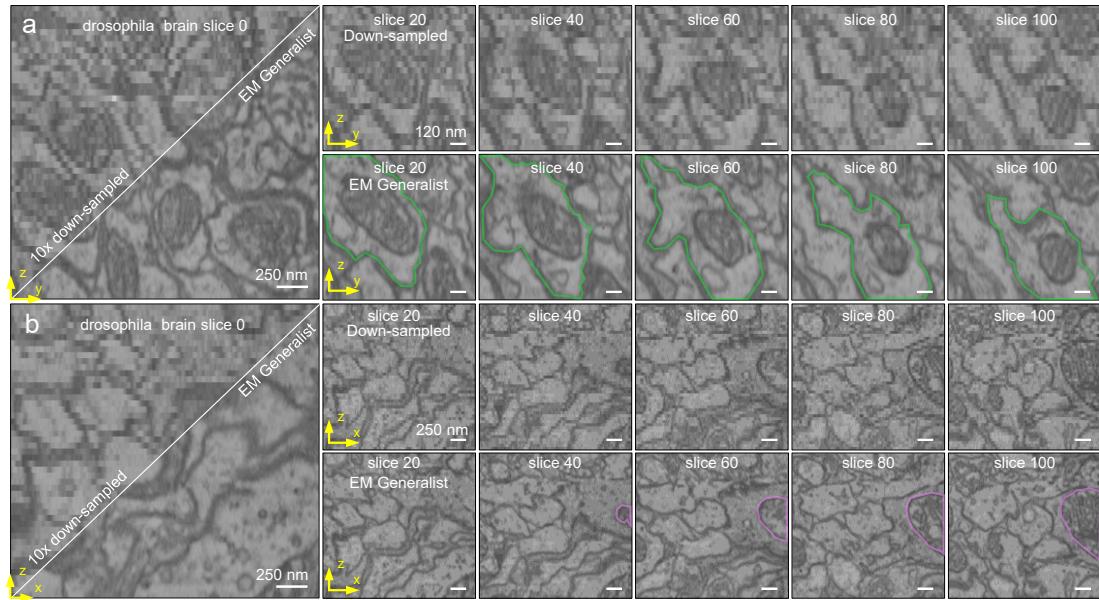
56 **SI Fig. 4. (a)** Recovery results of EM Generalist for mouse brain EM images with **slight**
 57 **defocus, moderate defocus, and severe defocus**, alongside comparisons with the
 58 ground truth. **(b)** Quantitative evaluation of the reconstruction results. For images
 59 with **severe defocus**, EM Generalist significantly mitigates the impact of defocus,
 60 achieving a PSNR of up to 29 and a SSIM of 0.72, with a FRC resolution below 30 nm
 61 (pixel size = 4.0 nm), demonstrating its robustness in challenging restoration scenarios.
 62



63

64 **SI Fig. 5. (a)** Comparison of 6-fold super-resolution results (x-z plane, mouse liver
 65 dataset) between interpolation, EMDiffuse and EM Generalist. EM Generalist
 66 demonstrates superior reconstruction quality as visualized by the highlighted regions
 67 (orange dashed boxes). **(b)** Quantitative metrics (PSNR, SSIM, FRC resolution) of EM
 68 Generalist reconstruction also surpass those of interpolation and EMDiffuse.

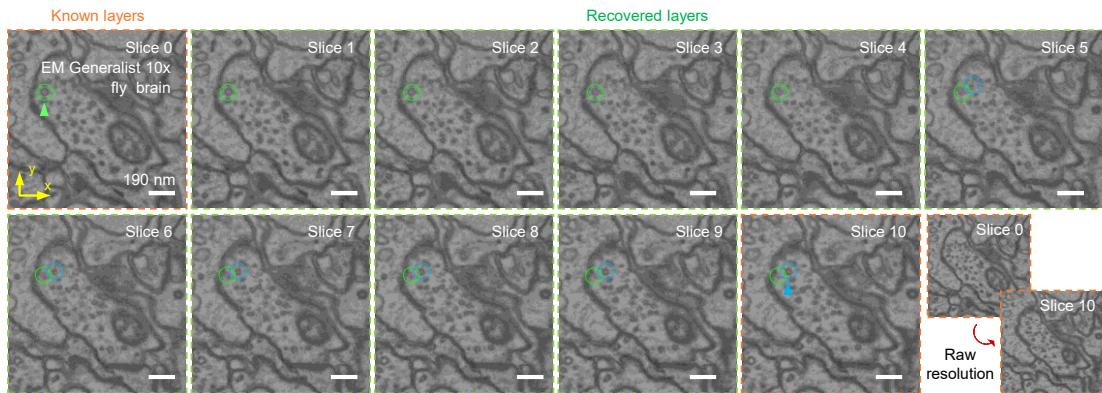
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70

71 **SI Fig. 6.** EM Generalist achieves 10-fold super-resolution on raw anisotropic fly brain
 72 vEM data (resolution: $4 \times 4 \times 40$ nm). Selected slices (0, 20, 40, ..., 100) of raw images
 73 and reconstructions along yz-plane **(a)** and xz-plane **(b)** highlight the restoration of fine
 74 structures. Green borderlines in **(a)** and pink borderlines in **(b)** show that EM Generalist
 75 recovers clear boundaries of neuronal cells and mitochondria in different layers.

76



77

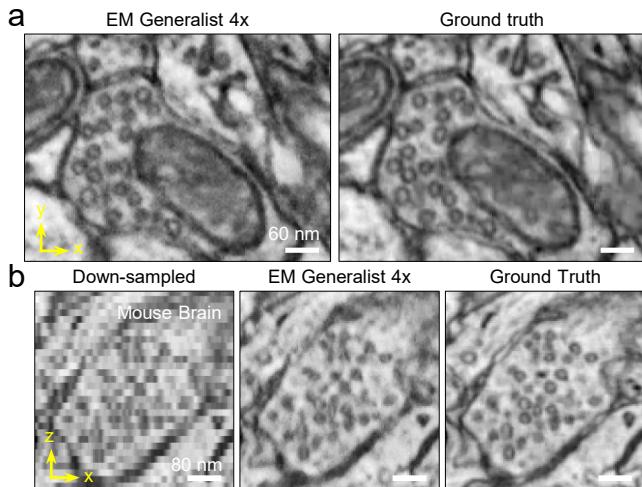
78 **SI Fig. 7.** Isotropic reconstructions of synaptic vesicles in fly brain data at 10-fold
 79 super-resolution using EM Generalist. Orange dashed boxes denote known anisotropic
 80 slices, while other green dashed are reconstructed slices. Since the vesicles marked in
 81 green are present in both the upper and lower known planes, they are correctly and
 82 consistently recovered across all intermediate reconstructed slices. In contrast, vesicles
 83 marked in blue, observed only in the lower plane, appear predominantly in the latter
 84 half of the reconstructed volume. The reconstructed images successfully approximate
 85 the spherical morphology of these vesicles across different reconstructed planes,
 86 effectively recovering their 3D structures.

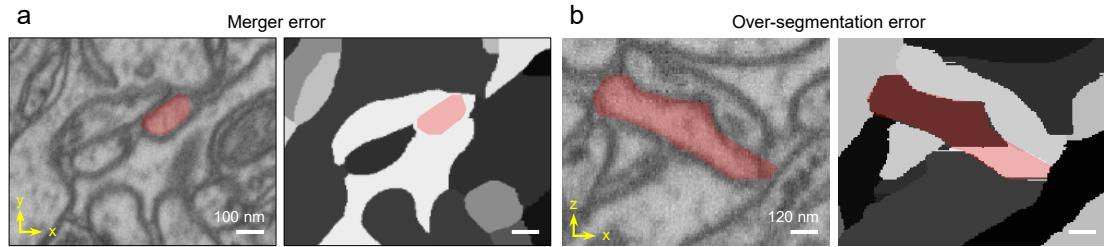
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89 **SI Fig. 8.** Reconstruction of another mouse brain dataset ($4 \times 4 \times 4$ nm resolution, down-
90 sampled to 16 nm axial resolution, from
91 <https://elifesciences.org/articles/25916/figures#videos>). EM Generalist accurately
92 recovers vesicles in both **(a)** x-y (interpolated slice) and **(b)** x-z planes, matching the
93 number and location in the ground truth.

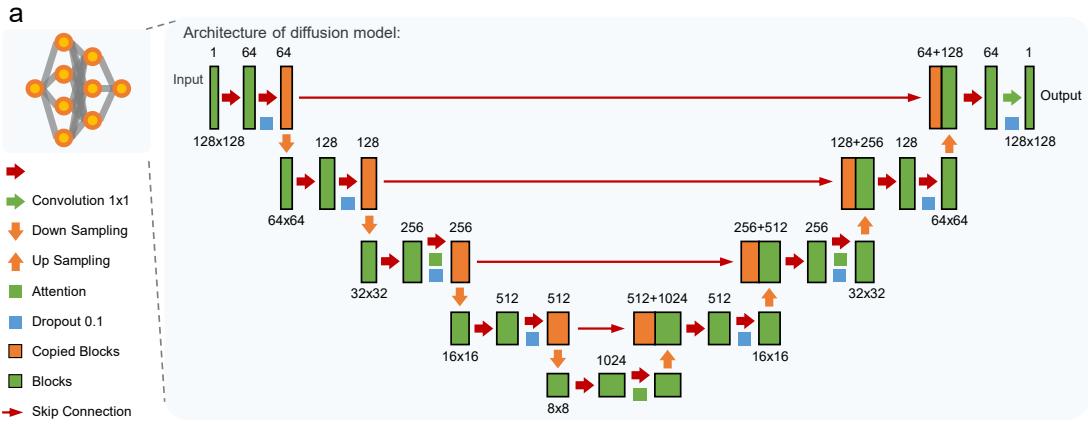
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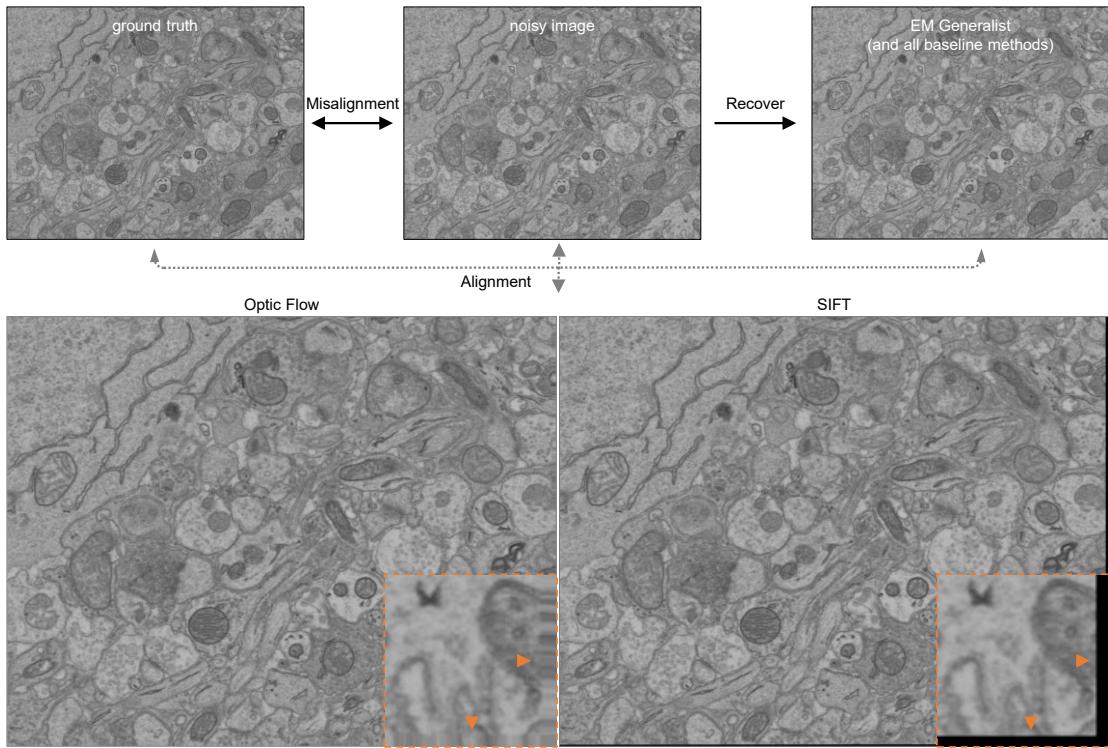
96 **SI Fig. 9.** (a) Merger error: The red masks in vEM image (left) and segmentation map
 97 (right) highlight an example of a merger error, where an individual dendritic spine is
 98 incorrectly segmented together with adjacent regions. (b) Over-segmentation error: The
 99 red masks in vEM image (left) and segmentation map (right) highlight a complete
 100 neural process within the vEM image, which has been erroneously divided into separate
 101 segments by the segmentation result.



102

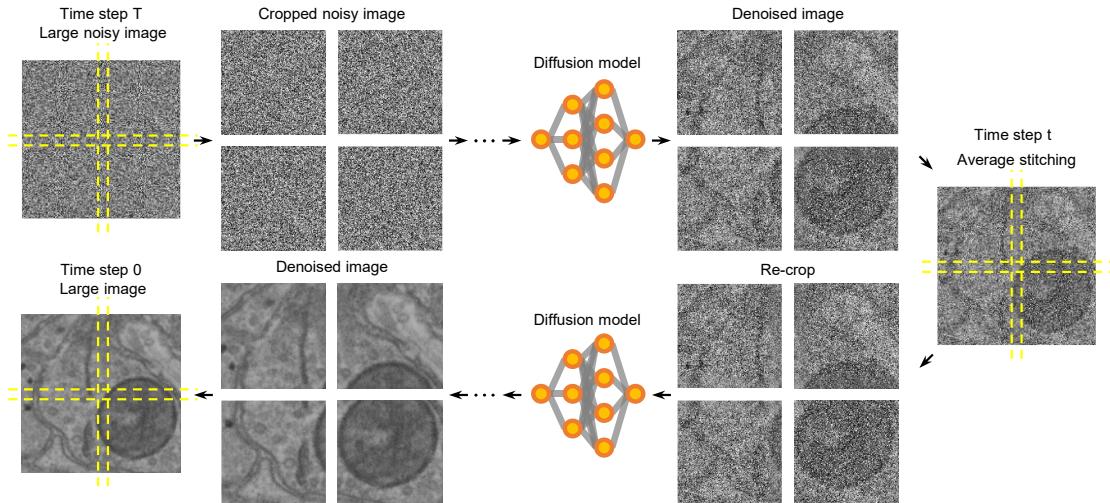
103 **SI Fig. 10.** The architecture of the diffusion foundation model for EM Generalist is a
 104 U-net model, comprising an encoder and a decoder (hidden layer dimension: 128, 64,
 105 32, 16, 8; layers: 64, 128, 256, 512, 1024). Attention blocks are integrated into the third
 106 and final layers to enhance model performance.

107



108

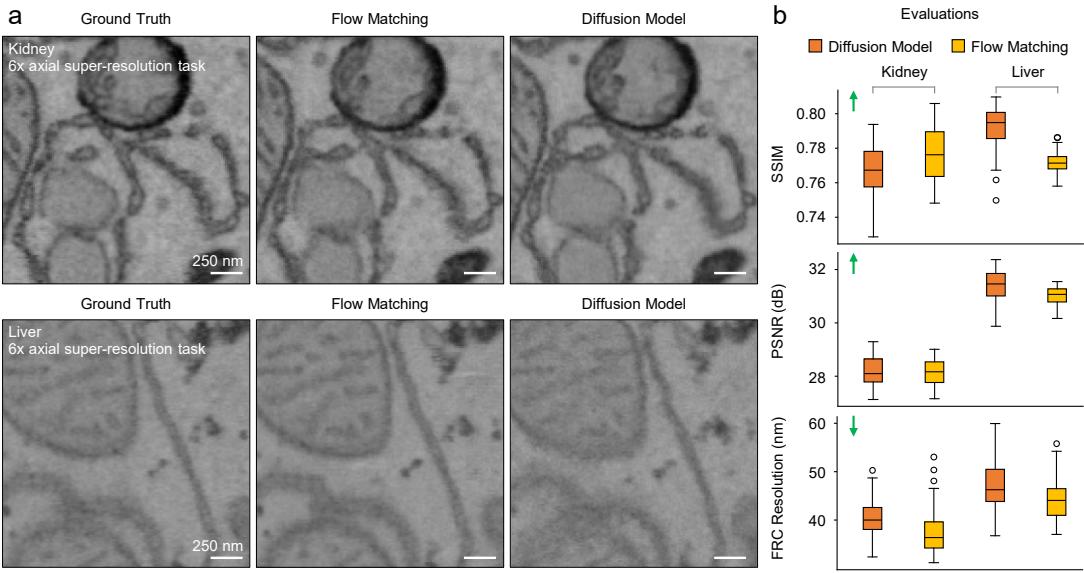
109 **SI Fig. 11.** To address the misalignment issues of the ground truth image and degraded
 110 image in real paired imaging datasets, we use preprocessing procedures offered by the
 111 alignment method in the supervised baseline, EMDiffuse. Both degraded images and
 112 the results from EM Generalist or other baseline methods were aligned using optical
 113 flow and SIFT-based registration before metric computation. We performed alignment
 114 on the recovered images rather than on the raw images, as the alignment procedures
 115 alter the noise distribution of the raw data, thereby degrading the denoising performance
 116 of EM Generalist. The bottom row showcases optical flow and SIFT alignment results,
 117 with the orange dashed box highlighting regions of significant mismatch. This
 118 alignment ensures fair and accurate performance evaluations for different methods.
 119



120

121 **SI Fig. 12.** The large-scale image generation process using a diffusion model trained
 122 on 128×128 patches. During each denoising step, the large image is divided into
 123 overlapping 128×128 patches with a 16-pixel overlap margin. After denoising, the
 124 patches are reassembled into the full image, with overlapping regions blended by
 125 averaging.

126



127

128 **SI Fig. 13.** Flow matching, a novel variant of diffusion model, is used to accelerate the
 129 reconstruction process in EM Generalist framework. **(a)** A comparison between the
 130 ground truth image, and the recovered results by flow matching and diffusion model
 131 for 6-fold axial super-resolution tasks on kidney and liver vEM test data. **(b)**
 132 Evaluations for the flow matching and diffusion model results. Flow matching can
 133 recover images over 20 times faster, and hold a comparable evaluation result with the
 134 diffusion model-based approach.

135

a Training data

	Pixel size	Equipment	Source
CEM500K	2-20 nm	multiple	https://elifesciences.org/articles/65894
Tobacco Leaf Chloroplast	3.6 nm	SBF-SEM	https://www.ebi.ac.uk/empiar/EMPIAR-11831/
Human hepatocellular carcinoma cell	4 nm	FIB-SEM	https://www.ebi.ac.uk/empiar/EMPIAR-11849/
Myelin	5 nm	FIB-SEM	https://www.ebi.ac.uk/empiar/EMPIAR-11214/
Human brain	4 nm	ssSEM	https://h01-release.storage.googleapis.com/data.html
Microphage	4 nm	FIB-SEM	https://openorganelle.janelia.org/datasets/jrc_macrophage-2
Mouse brain	3.3 nm	FEI Verios SEM	https://zenodo.org/records/10205819
Mouse Heart	4.4 nm	FEI Verios SEM	https://zenodo.org/records/10205819
Mouse Liver	4.4 nm	FEI Verios SEM	https://zenodo.org/records/10205819
HeLa cell	4 nm	FIB-SEM	https://openorganelle.janelia.org/datasets/jrc_hela-3
T cell	8 nm	FIB-SEM	https://openorganelle.janelia.org/datasets/jrc_ctl-id8-4
Mouse Kidney (3D)	8 nm	FIB-SEM	https://openorganelle.janelia.org/datasets/jrc_mus-kidney
Mouse Liver (3D)	8 nm	FIB-SEM	https://openorganelle.janelia.org/datasets/jrc_mus-liver
Mouse Skin (3D)	8 nm	FIB-SEM	https://openorganelle.janelia.org/datasets/jrc_mus-skin-1

b 3D test data

	Pixel size	Equipment	Source
Mouse Brain CA1 hippocampus region	$5 \times 5 \times 5$ nm	SEM	https://www.epfl.ch/labs/cvlab/data/data-em
Fly brain	$4 \times 4 \times 40$ nm	SEM	https://www.janelia.org/project-team/flyem/manc-connectome
Mouse Brain	$4 \times 4 \times 4$ nm	FIB-SEM	https://elifesciences.org/articles/25916/figures#videos

136

137 **SI Table 1:** Lists of training datasets **(a)** and 3D test datasets **(b)**, including their sample
138 types, pixel sizes, imaging equipment and source links.

139

140 **Sample Preparation and Imaging Details**

141 The experimental validation samples for denoising task (plant stigma, kidney, HeLa
142 cells, heart, and mouse oocytes) were collected from Electron Microscopy Platform,
143 School of Life Sciences, Peking University, originating from experiments conducted
144 by multiple independent research groups. And for super-resolution and deblurring tasks,
145 we prepared the mouse brain cortex sample.

146

147 (1) Stigma, kidney, human HeLa cells, heart, and mouse oocytes: Imaging was
148 performed using a Helios dual-beam scanning electron microscope at an accelerating
149 voltage of 2 kV. Images were acquired with dwell times of 500 ns, 1 μ s, 3 μ s, and 10 μ s,
150 where the first three were used to produce noisy images, and the images captured at
151 10 μ s served as ground truth. Three magnifications were applied: 15,000 \times (pixel size
152 8.98 nm) for stigma and kidney tubules, 20,000 \times (pixel size 6.73 nm) for kidney
153 Glomerulus, mouse oocytes, and human HeLa cells, and 40,000 \times (pixel size 3.36 nm)
154 for imaging mitochondria in kidney cells. Subsequently, by manually adjusting the
155 defocus and stigmator (X and Y axes) settings, we acquired blurred-clear paired images
156 at a dwell time of 3 μ s, ensuring that the imaging area matched the noisy region, and
157 the pixel size remained consistent with that of the noisy images for each category.

158

159 (2) Mouse brain cortex data: Animals were anesthetized and perfused with 15 mL PBS
160 followed by 30 mL fixative mixture containing 2% PFA (EMS), 2.5% glutaraldehyde
161 (EMS), 2.1% sucrose (EMS), and 0.1 M sodium cacodylate buffer (pH=7.4) (Sigma-
162 Aldrich). Mouse brain was cut into small sizes and fixed with fixative 48-72 h. Then,
163 the samples were fixed with 2% OsO₄ aqueous solution (EMS) and 1.5% potassium
164 ferrocyanide (EMS) in 0.1 M sodium cacodylate for 1h at 4°C. Subsequently, the
165 samples were incubated with 1% thiocarbohydrazide (EMS) for 20 min at RT, 2%
166 OsO₄ aqueous solution for 30 min at RT, and 2% Neodymium (Sigma-Aldrich) at 4°C
167 overnight. Tissues were washed three times (5 min each) using H₂O between each step.
168 On the next day, the samples were dehydrated through a graded ethanol series (30, 50,
169 75, 85, 95, 100%, 7 min each, all cooled at 4°C) followed by immersion into 1:1 and
170 2:1 mixtures of acetone and EMbed 812 embedding kits (EMS) at room temperature
171 for 1h and pure Embed 812 resin overnight on a rotator. Immersed samples were then
172 incubated in pure resin and placed in embedding moulds (Ted Pella) in a pre-warmed
173 oven (60°C) for 48 to 72 h. After polymerization, the resin-embedded tissue was cut
174 into thick sections of 100 nm. The sections were mounted on a silicon wafer.

175

176 Imaging was performed using a Zeiss GeminiSEM 360 scanning electron microscope
177 at an accelerating voltage of 2 kV. The ground truth pixel size was 4 nm, and the dwell
178 time was 1.6 μ s. For each task, only one imaging condition was altered. For super-
179 resolution tasks, the dwell time was kept constant at 1.6 μ s, while the pixel size was
180 varied to 16 nm, 12 nm, and 8 nm, respectively. For defocus tasks, the focus was
181 manually adjusted until the images appeared blurred. For ultra-large images, the pixel

182 size remained 4 nm, with the total number of pixels reaching approximately 320
183 megapixels.

184

185 **Publicly Available EM Datasets Collection**

186 To clearly document the sources and characteristics of various public EM datasets used
187 in this paper, we provide detailed information in Supplementary Information (SI) Table
188 1. Both the training data and test data are included.

189

190 **Model architecture and implementations for EM Generalist**

191 We employed the ‘UNet2DModel’ from the Hugging Face ‘diffusers’ library as the
192 basic architecture of our diffusion model, As depicted in SI Fig. 10, the model consists
193 a down-sampling pathway and an up-sampling pathway¹. Since EM images are
194 grayscale, the model’s input and output channels are set to 1. The architecture consists
195 of four stages of down-sampling and four corresponding up-sampling stages. Each
196 down-sampling block consists of two convolution layers per block, both with batch
197 normalization applied. The down-sampling pathway consists of two down-sampling
198 modules, followed by a self-attention module, and another down-sampling module,
199 allowing the model to focus on significant features at a coarser resolution.

200

201 The channel dimensions are progressively increased as 64, 128, 256, 512. In attention
202 mechanism², the input feature map is first transformed through three linear projections
203 into the ‘Query’ (Q), ‘Key’ (K), and ‘Value’ (V) embedding spaces. Each embedding
204 typically has the shape $\mathbb{R}^{H \times W \times C}$, where H and W represent the spatial height and
205 width of the feature map, and C denotes the feature dimension. The attention weights
206 are computed using the dot product between the Query and Key, normalized to prevent
207 large values, thus we can derive the formula as follows:

$$208 \quad \text{Attention}(Q, K, V) = \text{softmax}\left(\frac{QK^T}{\sqrt{C}}\right)V.$$

209 In this equation QK^T represents the dot product between Query and Key, calculating
210 the similarity between different positions. \sqrt{C} is a scaling factor that prevents the dot
211 product from growing too large when the feature dimension is high. The softmax
212 operation normalizes the computed similarities into a probability distribution, ensuring
213 the attention weights sum to 1.

214

215 The up-sampling pathway mirrors the down-sampling pathway, employing symmetric
216 block types, including three up-sampling modules and a self-attention module. The
217 input to each up-sampling block differs slightly from that of the down-sampling blocks,
218 as it combines the output of the previous up-sampling block with the output from the
219 corresponding down-sampling block at the same level. This skip connection facilitates
220 the fusion of shallow and deep features, thereby enhancing the model’s performance.
221 A dropout rate of 0.1 is used for regularization to mitigate overfitting.

222

223 **Evaluation metrics**

224 **Structural Similarity Index (SSIM)**³ is a widely used evaluation metric for measuring
 225 the similarity between two images. SSIM is particularly useful in tasks such as image
 226 reconstruction, compression, and denoising, as it assesses perceived visual quality by
 227 comparing structural information, luminance, and contrast between two images. Unlike
 228 traditional pixel-wise metrics like mean squared error (MSE), SSIM aligns with human
 229 visual perception of image quality. Given two images x and y , the SSIM index is
 230 defined as:

$$231 \quad \text{SSIM}(x, y) = \frac{(2\mu_x\mu_y + C_1)(2\sigma_{xy} + C_2)}{(\mu_x^2 + \mu_y^2 + C_1)(\sigma_x^2 + \sigma_y^2 + C_2)},$$

232 where μ_x and μ_y are the local means of images x and y representing luminance,
 233 σ_x^2 and σ_y^2 are the local variances of x and y , representing contrast, σ_{xy} is the
 234 covariance between x and y , representing structural similarity, and C_1 and C_2 are
 235 constants that stabilize the computation by preventing division by zero. SSIM values
 236 range from [-1, 1], where 1 indicates perfect similarity, values close to 0 indicate low
 237 similarity, and negative values suggest significant differences between the images.

238

239 **Peak Signal-to-Noise Ratio (PSNR)** is a widely used evaluation metric to measure the
 240 similarity between a processed image and a reference image. It is based on pixel-wise
 241 error, i.e., MSE, and expresses the ratio of signal strength to noise in a logarithmic scale.
 242 Given a reference image x and a processed image y , PSNR is defined as:

$$243 \quad \text{PSNR}(x, y) = 10 \cdot \log_{10} \left(\frac{\text{MAX}^2}{\text{MSE}(x, y)} \right),$$

244 where MAX is the maximum possible pixel value of the image. For example, for 8-
 245 bit images, MAX=255. MSE(x, y) is the Mean Squared Error between the two
 246 images, defined as:

$$247 \quad \text{MSE}(x, y) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N (x_i - y_i)^2,$$

248 where x_i and y_i are the pixel values of images x and y , and N is the total number
 249 of pixels in the image. The PSNR value is expressed in decibels (dB) and reflects the
 250 ratio between signal strength and noise. A higher PSNR indicates a higher similarity
 251 between the images, with less noise.

252

253 Besides PSNR, and SSIM, we also use **Fourier ring Correlation (FRC)** and **Fourier**
 254 **Shell Correlation (FSC)** to estimate the resolution of the recovered image/volume⁴.
 255 FRC is based on the Fourier transform of 2D images, and it calculates the correlation

256 between the frequency components of the recovered and ground-truth 2D images in
257 annular frequency bands. The formula for FRC is:

$$258 \quad FRC(f) = \frac{\sum_{k \in \text{ring}(f)} F_1(k) F_2^*(k)}{\sqrt{\sum_{k \in \text{ring}(f)} |F_1(k)|^2 \sum_{k \in \text{ring}(f)} |F_2(k)|^2}},$$

259 Where $F_1(k)$ and $F_2(k)$ are the Fourier transforms of two images, $F_2^*(k)$ is the
260 complex conjugate of $F_2(k)$, and $\text{ring}(f)$ refers to the frequency band at frequency
261 f in the Fourier space. FRC evaluates the similarity of 2D images in the frequency
262 domain by analyzing correlations at specific spatial frequencies.

263

264 Similarly, we have FSC for 3D volumes as follows:

$$265 \quad FSC(f) = \frac{\sum_{k \in \text{shell}(f)} F_1(k) F_2^*(k)}{\sqrt{\sum_{k \in \text{shell}(f)} |F_1(k)|^2 \sum_{k \in \text{shell}(f)} |F_2(k)|^2}}$$

266 where $F_1(k)$ and $F_2(k)$ are the Fourier transforms of the two 3D volumes, and
267 $\text{shell}(f)$ refers to the spherical shell at frequency f in the 3D Fourier space. Further,
268 we derive the FRC/FSC resolution from FRC/FSC curve. The structural resolution was
269 determined using FRC/FSC analysis. Following standard cryo-EM protocols, we
270 applied the 0.5 correlation threshold to identify the spatial frequency at which two
271 independent reconstructions maintain structural consistency, ensuring the measured
272 resolution reflects authentic biological features rather than stochastic noise.

273

274 In addition to the evaluation metrics calculated through comparison with ground truth,
275 the article also employs several no-reference image quality metrics to assess the quality
276 of the reconstructed images, particularly in the absence of ground truth images. These
277 methods include parameter-free resolution and NIQE^{5,6}. Parameter-free resolution is a
278 metric designed to assess the resolution of an image without requiring any prior
279 knowledge or reference parameters. It is based on the analysis of the image's spatial
280 frequencies, evaluating how well fine structures are resolved. It is particularly useful
281 when assessing images where high-frequency components indicate sharper details. The
282 metric does not require the specification of any parameters such as thresholds or scaling
283 factors, making it inherently robust to various imaging conditions. For details, please
284 refer to Descloux's work⁵.

285

286 The NIQE index is a widely used no-reference image quality assessment metric. It is
287 designed to predict perceptual quality without the need for reference images. NIQE
288 operates by first extracting a set of natural scene statistics from the image and then
289 comparing these statistics to a pre-established model of natural image features. The

290 model captures typical image structures, such as textures and edges, that are naturally
291 expected in high-quality images. The NIQE score is calculated as:

292

$$\text{NIQE} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N (\mathbf{f}_i - \mathbf{m})^T \mathbf{C}^{-1} (\mathbf{f}_i - \mathbf{m})}$$

293 where \mathbf{f}_i represents the extracted features from the image, \mathbf{m} is the mean of the
294 natural image feature distribution, and \mathbf{C} is the covariance matrix of these features. A
295 lower NIQE score indicates higher image quality.

296

297 During the evaluation process, to fix the slight misalignment between the real degraded
298 image and the ground truth image caused by separate acquisition processes, Scale-
299 Invariant Feature Transform (SIFT)⁷ and Optical Flow⁸ algorithms were employed to
300 register the reconstructed image with the ground truth image (SI Fig. 11).

301

302 **Confidence intervals:** To quantify the precision of detection performance, we
303 computed 95% confidence intervals (CIs) using the Wilson score method for binomial
304 proportions⁹. This approach provides robust interval estimates that account for
305 sampling variability while maintaining accuracy across extreme probability ranges. The
306 interval is defined as:

307

$$\text{CI} = \frac{p + \frac{z^2}{2n} \pm z \sqrt{\frac{p(1-p)}{n} + \frac{z^2}{4n^2}}}{1 + \frac{z^2}{n}}$$

308 where p is the observed proportion (e.g., detection rate), n is the total sample size,
309 and $z=1.96$ corresponds to the 95% confidence level in the standard normal distribution.
310 The Wilson score method was selected over asymptotic approximations (e.g., Wald
311 intervals) due to its superior coverage properties, particularly for small sample sizes or
312 near-boundary proportions (e.g., >99% detection rates). This formulation ensures
313 statistically rigorous uncertainty quantification in classification tasks.

314

315 **Baseline settings**

316 The baseline methods used in this study include two unsupervised approaches,
317 SCUnet¹⁰ and ZS-deconvnet¹¹, as well as the state-of-the-art supervised learning-based
318 method EMDiffuse¹².

319

320 **SCUnet** integrates Swin Transformer blocks with convolutional layers to establish
321 hierarchical feature learning for EM denoising, where we specifically adopted its noise-
322 level=50 grayscale model (<https://replicate.com/cszn/scunet>) which provides the best
323 reconstructions. **ZS-DeconvNet** implements zero-shot microscopy enhancement via
324 Noise2Noise-based training on in-domain EM data, deployed through its ImageJ plugin

325 with 250-epoch CPU training (3-4 days per task). **EMDiffuse** is trained on paired EM
326 datasets (Zenodo:10205819) to implement supervised diffusion processes through its
327 open-source framework (<https://github.com/Luchixiang/EMDiffuse/>), iteratively
328 refining structural features specific to EM imaging.

329

330 **Stitching for Large EM Image During Reconstruction**

331 To effectively recover large degraded images using our model—which is trained on
332 small 128×128 patches—we propose a stitching strategy to align adjacent image
333 patches seamlessly (SI Fig. 12). Specifically, large images are divided into overlapping
334 128×128 patches, each overlapping its neighbors by 12.5% (16 pixels). Initially, we
335 generate a Gaussian noise image matching the degraded image size and similarly divide
336 it into overlapping patches. During each subsequent iteration of the reconstruction,
337 overlapping regions between neighboring patches are averaged, creating a cohesive
338 intermediate image. This intermediate image is again segmented into overlapping
339 patches for the next step. This method reduces artifacts and ensures smooth transitions
340 between patches, significantly enhancing the overall reconstruction quality.

341

342 **Flow Matching-based inference time acceleration**

343 The computational efficiency of EM Generalist is constrained by two key limitations:
344 (1) the inherent 1000-step diffusion sampling process, and (2) the computationally
345 intensive gradient calculation required for conditional score function estimation. To
346 alleviate these constraints, we adopt a diffusion model architecture based on flow
347 matching^{13,14}. Flow matching is a technique where a continuous velocity field is learned
348 to deterministically transport a simple base distribution (such as Gaussian noise) to the
349 target data distribution. Rather than following the stochastic reverse process of typical
350 diffusion models, flow matching directly learns the dynamics of this transformation via
351 an ordinary differential equation (ODE). Specifically, if we denote the latent variable
352 at time step t as \mathbf{x}_t , the generative process is governed by:

353

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{x}_t}{\partial t} = v_t(\mathbf{x}_t),$$

354 where $v_t(\mathbf{x}_t)$ represents the instantaneous velocity field at time t . This velocity field
355 essentially characterizes the “speed” and “direction” with which \mathbf{x}_t should be adjusted
356 to morph into a sample from the data distribution. This ODE formulation enables high-
357 quality sample generation with significantly fewer steps than the iterative denoising
358 used by conventional diffusion models.

359

360 The iterative sampling procedure based on flow matching can be derived via a simple
361 Euler integration. Let \mathbf{x}_t denote the latent variable at time t and consider two
362 successive time points, the update equation then becomes:

363

$$\mathbf{x}_{t-1} = \mathbf{x}_t + \Delta t v_t(\mathbf{x}_t, t) = \mathbf{x}_t + \Delta t \frac{\partial \hat{\mathbf{x}}_0(\mathbf{x}_t, t)}{\partial t}.$$

364 Here, $v_\theta(\mathbf{x}_t, t)$ denotes the estimated velocity field parameterized by θ —equivalent
365 to the derivative of the estimated denoised latent variable $\hat{\mathbf{x}}_0(\mathbf{x}_t, t) = \mathbf{x}_t - t$
366 $v_\theta(\mathbf{x}_t, t)$ —and Δt represents the discretized time interval. This update rule is
367 analogous to the reverse diffusion update used in DDPM but replaces the expensive
368 1000-step-iteration with much fewer step iterations (as few as 100 steps) by the learned
369 velocity field. Consequently, the sampling process becomes considerably faster while
370 preserving the model's overall performance.

371

372 Follow the predefined posterior sampling approach, we can formulate the posterior
373 sampling approach for flow matching as follows:

374
$$\mathbf{x}_{t-1} = \mathbf{x}_t + \Delta t \frac{\partial \hat{\mathbf{x}}_0(\mathbf{x}_t, t)}{\partial \mathbf{x}_t} - (1-t)^\alpha \nabla_{\hat{\mathbf{x}}_0} \| y - \mathcal{A}(\hat{\mathbf{x}}_0(\mathbf{x}_t, t)) \|^2.$$

375 Here, the first term represents the flow matching sampling process, and the second term
376 enforced data consistency. By taking the gradient for $\hat{\mathbf{x}}_0$ rather than \mathbf{x}_t , the
377 approximation of the conditional term can further accelerate the inference process by
378 skipping the heavy calculation for gradient with respect to the diffusion model. The
379 integration of flow matching with the new gradient calculation formulation reduced
380 reconstruction time of an isotropic 128×128×128-pixel volume from 40 minutes to 1.5
381 minutes on a single NVIDIA A800 GPU, achieving a 26.7× speedup without
382 performance degradation (SI Fig. 13).

383

384 Our implementation for flow matching utilizes the same model architecture the
385 diffusion model, featuring a U-Net structure enhanced with residual blocks, channel
386 multiplication, and self-attention mechanisms. The training protocol comprised
387 200,000 optimization steps executed across multiple GPUs with a batch size of 256,
388 requiring approximately 24 hours of computation on NVIDIA A40 hardware. We
389 employed the Adam optimizer with an initial learning rate of 10^{-4} , incorporating a
390 1,000-step warmup phase to ensure training stability. Furthermore, we applied
391 Exponential Moving Average (EMA) to model parameters with a decay rate of 0.999
392 to enhance model convergence and robustness during training. During reconstruction,
393 the hyper-parameter α can be selected from the range [0, 1] to impose data consistency
394 constraints of varying strengths (normally 0.3), where 1 indicates no constraint and 0
395 corresponds to full enforcement of data consistency. Based on empirical evaluation, α
396 is typically set to 0.3, and users are encouraged to manually adjust this hyper-parameter
397 for different datasets to optimize reconstruction quality.

398

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