OPUS-TOMO: Deep Learning Framework for Structural Heterogeneity Analysis in Cryo-electron Tomography

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Abstract

The inherent structural heterogeneity of macromolecules–stemming from varied compositions and dynamic conformations *in situ*–poses significant challenges for biological discovery using cryo-electron tomography (cryo-ET). In this paper, we present OPUS-TOMO, a deep learning framework for analyzing structural heterogeneity across the entire cryo-ET workflow. OPUS-TOMO employs a convolutional Encoder-Decoder architecture to map real-space subtomograms onto a smooth, low-dimensional latent space, thereby capturing the complete landscape of compositional and conformational variations of macromolecules. It integrates crucial cryo-ET specific enhancements, including a per-particle 3D CTF model and an end-to-end pose correction network. Demonstrations on multiple real cryo-ET datasets show OPUS-TOMO's robust capacity to improve the resolution of subtomogram average by filtering template matching result directly, and reconstruct dynamic biological processes at molecular levels for cryo-ET data of different resolutions. This approach offers the potential to accelerate the quest for understanding biological mechanisms *in situ* on a proteomic scale at molecular levels. The software is available at https://github.com/alncat/opusTOMO.

Introduction

The recent advancements in single-tilt axis holder[1], sample preparation through cryo-focused ion beam (cryo-FIB) instruments[2,3], and the development of image processing algorithms[4-8] have significantly enhanced the capabilities of cryo-electron tomography (cryo-ET) in determining cellular structures at sub-nanometer resolution[5]. In contrast to cryo-electron microscopy (cryo-EM), cryo-ET does not require the isolation of the macromolecules of interest from their native cellular environment[9,10]. Hence, cryo-ET can capture three-dimensional (3D) snapshots of "molecular sociology"[11], and provide valuable insights into the functional states of macromolecules *in situ*[12]. However, structural determination by cryo-ET still faces many challenges.

Similar to cryo-EM, structural heterogeneities remain one of the most formidable challenges in cryo-ET structural determination[13,14]. Structural heterogeneities are manifested in different scales, in the formats of compositional and/or conformational differences, throughout the cryo-ET workflow. At the very beginning of the workflow, the particle sets picked by particle localization methods, whether template matching methods[15-17] or template-free methods[18], often contain different macromolecular species. At the later stages where a relatively pure particle set has been obtained after rounds of classifications, macromolecules could still exhibit significant levels of structural heterogeneities due to their inherent dynamics. These intrinsic compositional and conformational dynamics[10,11,19], while reflecting critical aspects of the structures and functions of macromolecules in performing their biological functions within the cellular environment, present an enormous hurdle in cryo-ET reconstruction. Therefore, resolving structural heterogeneity is not only crucial for improving the resolutions of subtomogram averages in cryo-ET reconstruction [13], but also for providing much-needed insights

into the compositional and conformational dynamics that underpin fundamental biological processes.

Traditional approaches for characterizing structural heterogeneity is 3D classification[20], which has been implemented in various methods for cryo-ET data analysis such as pyTOM[21], RELION[9], nextPYP[6], and EmClarity[8], with the latter implementing unsupervised machine learning algorithms, such as principal component analysis (PCA) and KMeans clustering, to identify compositionally different macromolecules. However, these traditional approaches can only resolve a few discrete states and are very time consuming, while real biological processes could happen by continuous compositional and conformational changes of macromolecules. Therefore, a few discrete functional states are often insufficient to cover the continuous dynamic processes. Recently, in the cryo-EM community, a number of algorithms leveraging powerful neural networks to reconstruct continuous structural changes have been developed, such as cryoDRGN[22] and OPUS-DSD[23], and have demonstrated great successes in characterizing structural heterogeneity and reconstructing continuous dynamics. Continuing on this line of work, tomoDRGN[24], and cryoDRGN-ET[25] leveraged the neural network architecture proposed in cryoDRGN and high-resolution subtomogram averaging result to resolve structural heterogeneity in subtomograms from cryo-ET.

Another major challenge of cryo-ET is the systematic errors arising from the corruption of 3D structural information in cryo-ET image acquisition. For example, in order to prevent radiation damage, minimal doses are used in cryo-ET data collection, leading to subtomograms with very low signal-to-noise ratios (SNRs)[9,10,26]. Furthermore, tomograms also have "missing wedges" due to the limited rotational angles of specimen holders[10,26]. Moreover, there are substantial defocus variations across the recorded images caused by the tilting of specimen

holders and the thickness of specimens[9,26]. These limitations in cryo-ET data collection often lead to an overwhelming number of false positives among subtomograms picked by either template-matching methods[15-17] or template-free algorithms[18]. Recently, deep learning-based methods have been developed to search structures of interest within cryo-ET tomograms and achieved a higher accuracy. For instance, DeePiCt[27] sets an example to identify different structures in cryo-ET data using U-Nets[28] that was trained on a set of expert-annotated tomograms.

In this paper, we report the development of a convolutional neural network-based framework to effectively address structural heterogeneities at different scales throughout the cryo-ET workflow. Our new method, termed as OPUS-TOMO, is an open-source software that characterizes compositional and conformational variations in subtomograms regardless of particle localization methods, the purity of a given particle set or the resolutions of input subtomograms. By testing OPUS-TOMO across a series of publicly accessible cryo-ET datasets with various resolutions, including both *in vitro* and *in vivo* samples, we demonstrated the ability of OPUS-TOMO to improve the resolution of template matching result and reconstruct dynamic biological processes at molecular levels from subtomogram averaging result by resolving structural heterogeneities.

Results

Neural Architecture of OPUS-TOMO

Template matching and subtomogram averaging represent two essential steps in cryo-ET analysis. Specifically, template matching determines the location and orientation of a specific macromolecule inside a tomogram, whereas subtomogram averaging determines the translation

and orientation of a subtomogram with respect to (w.r.t) the subtomogram average and achieves higher accuracies in general. OPUS-TOMO starts with using the template matching or subtomogram averaging results as input to resolve structural heterogeneity. Then, the reconstruction of the 3D structure for a subtomogram is carried out as following. The 3D subtomogram is first aligned to the canonical orientation of a template or a consensus subtomogram average by inversely rotating according to its estimated pose. The Encoder takes the aligned subtomogram as the input, and estimates the distributions of the latent code z and the pose correction latent code z_c. Specifically, it estimates the means $z \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and standard variations $\sigma \in \mathbb{R}^n$ for the latent codes[29] (**Fig.1a**). Next, the latent codes are sampled according to the estimated distributions and supplied to the corresponding components. The sampled latent code is supplied to the Decoder to reconstruct a 3D volume $V(\boldsymbol{x})$ (**Fig.1a**), which is represented by a discrete grid of voxels. Meanwhile, the sampled pose correction latent code is supplied to the Pose Corrector to estimate pose correction (**Fig.1a**), which mainly serves to correct errors in pose parameters from template matching or subtomogram averaging. The pose assignment errors are systematic for these algorithms since they align subtomograms with different structures to a common 3D structure. Finally, the Decoder leverages spatial transformer[30] to produce a 3D reconstruction by applying the rigid transformation with the corrected pose onto the 3D volume $V(\boldsymbol{x})$ (**Fig.1a**). The 3D reconstruction is transformed into a subtomogram with its corresponding 3D-contrast transfer function (3D CTF) following the differentiable model defined in the subsection of **Subtomogram Formation Model** in **Methods**.

The neural architecture of OPUS-TOMO can be trained end-to-end by reconstructing each input subtomogram and minimizing the squared reconstruction errors between the input and the output (**Fig.1a**). During training, to encourage the smoothness of latent spaces, the latent

codes and the pose correction latent codes are regularized by the structural disentanglement prior[23] from OPUS-DSD and Kullback-Leibler (KL) divergence w.r.t standard Gaussian[29,31] (**Fig.1a**). The architectures of the Encoder and Decoder are the same as in OPUS-DSD[23]. The Pose Corrector is relatively simple and consists of a series of multi-layer perceptron (MLPs) and nonlinearities (**Fig.1b**). The 4-dimensional pose correction latent code is transformed into a 512-dimensional representation by an MLP followed by LeakyReLU nonlinearity. The 512-dimensional representation is then projected to a 6-dimensional vector by another MLP. This 6-dimensional vector defines the deviation between the ground-truth pose parameters of a subtomogram w.r.t its ground-truth conformation and its estimated pose parameters w.r.t the consensus subtomogram average. The first three dimensions of the 6-dimensional output are used to construct the quaternion that represents the rotational correction for a subtomogram, while the last three dimensions of the 6-dimensional output represent the translational correction. The construction of pose correction parameters is detailed in the **Training Objective** subsection in **Methods**.

Reconstruction of 80S Ribosome Structures from Tomograms of Wild-type *Schizosaccharomyces pombe* (*S. pombe*)

We tested the performance of OPUS-TOMO in structural heterogeneity analysis on *in vivo* 80S ribosomes in tomograms acquired from cryo-FIB-milled lamellae of wild-type *S. pombe*[27]. The tomograms were first reconstructed using the tilt series and their corresponding parameters of tilt series alignment deposited in EMPIAR-10988[27]. Then ribosome subtomograms were extracted from tomograms using the expertly annotated particle coordinates which were deposited in EMPIAR-10988[27]. Structural heterogeneity analysis was performed

using OPUS-TOMO with the pose parameters determined by subtomogram averaging using RELION 3.0.8[9].

Clustering the latent space learned by OPUS-TOMO using KMeans[32] results in 24 well-separated clusters (**Extended Data Fig.1a**). The 3D structures for these classes are reconstructed by supplying the classes' centroids into the trained Decoder (**Extended Data Fig.1b**). Within these 24 classes, Class 17 shows non-ribosome densities, Class 0 presents only the 60S subunit, Class 10 shows 60S subunit with a partial 40S subunit, Classes 2, 12 and 14 show identifiable additional cofactors bound to 80S ribosomes (**Fig.2a**), and many classes correspond to transient states of the translation elongation cycle performed by 80S ribosome, such as Classes 1, 3, 5, 12 and 20 (**Fig.2b**). In particular, Class 2 from OPUS-TOMO reveals ES27L RNA, the large subunit rRNA expansion segment, at the exit tunnel, as seen in the human Ebp1-ribosome structure in which Ebp1 recruits ES27L to the tunnel exit (EM Data Bank (EMDB) accession code: EMD-10608[33]) (**Fig.2a, Left panel; Extended Data Fig.2a**). Rigid body fitting of the ES27L model based on a 6.1 Å cryo-EM map of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* (*S. cerevisiae*) translating 80S ribosome (Protein Data Bank (PDB) accession code: 3IZD[34]) into Class 2 map achieves a correlation coefficient (CC) of 0.73 (**Extended Data Fig.2a, Middle panel**). In addition, Class 12 exhibits an additional density that binds with the head of 40S subunit (**Fig.2a, Middle panel**). This additional density overlaps with the density for translation elongation factor eEF3 in eEF3-bound *S. cerevisiae* 80S ribosome map (EMD-12064[35]) (**Extended Data Fig.2b**), while rigid body fitting of atomic structure of eEF3 (PDB accession code: 2IX8[36]) results in a CC of 0.70 (**Extended Data Fig.2b, Middle panel**). Furthermore, the additional density in Class 14 bound to 40S subunit is mapped to elongation factor 1-alpha-A (eEF1A) (**Fig.2a, Right panel**), supported by the cryo-EM map of mammalian 80S ribosome with eEF1A

cofactor reconstructed by nextPYP[6] (EMDB accession code: EMD-41205) (**Extended Data Fig.2c**). Rigid body fitting of the predicted structure of eEF1A from AlphaFold Protein Structure Database (AF-P0CT53) [37,38] validated the additional density in Class 14 having the same overall triangular arrangement as eEF1A, with a CC of 0.60 (**Extended Data Fig.2c, Middle panel**). DeePiCt also captured the conformations seen in our Classes 2 and 12, after labor-consuming multi-round hierarchical focused classifications[27].

In addition to revealing compositional differences of 80S ribosome in various classes, OPUS-TOMO uncovered a series of transient states of 80S ribosome throughout the translation elongation cycle. 80S ribosome has three tRNA binding sites, A, P and E sites. In the elongation cycle, these sites are sequentially occupied and released by tRNAs, facilitating the translation of mRNA to peptide chains. As outlined by Ranjan *et. al.*[35], the elongation cycle initiates with tRNAs at the A- and P-site (Pre-1 state), transitions through various configurations including Pre-3 state with A- and hybrid P/E-site tRNAs, Pre-4 state with hybrid A/P- and P/E-site tRNAs, Post-1 state with P- and E-site tRNAs, and ends with Post-3 state with a sole occupancy at the P-site. Impressively, these distinct dynamic states are faithfully captured in OPUS-TOMO's reconstructions: Class 1 shows A- and P-site tRNAs as in Pre-1 state; Class 5 shows A- and hybrid P/E-site tRNAs as in Pre-3 state; Class 12 shows hybrid A/P- and hybrid P/E-site tRNAs as in Pre-4 state; Class 20 shows P- and E-site tRNAs as in Post-1 state; Class 3 shows only P-site tRNA as in Post-3 state (**Fig.2b** and **Extended Data Fig.2d~h**). The occupied sites in density maps are confirmed by the rigid-body fitting of the atomic structure of yeast 80S ribosome with A/A- and P/P- tRNAs (PDB accession code: 7B7D[35]) (**Fig.2b**). Furthermore, by analyzing the principal components (PCs) of the latent space learned by OPUS-TOMO, we can trace the progression of these states. For example, traversing along the PC8 reveals a transition

from a state with P-site tRNA and A/T tRNA bound to eEF1A cofactor (-5PC8), through a state with A- and P-site tRNAs (1.6PC8), and culminating in a state with hybrid A/P- and P/E-site tRNAs (5PC8) (**Fig.2c, Extended Data Fig.3a~d**). The densities for eEF1A and A/T tRNA in "-5PC8" (**Extended Data Fig.3b**) overlaps with the corresponding densities in EMD-41205 showing an eEF1A cofactor delivering the A/T tRNA[6] (**Extended Data Fig.3c**). The AlphaFold predicted structure for eEF1A, AF-P0CT53, has a correlation coefficient of 0.8 with the corresponding density of "-5PC8" (**Extended Data Fig.3d**). The transition along PC8 clearly demonstrates the translocation dynamics of tRNAs inside the 80S ribosome: the translocation of A/T tRNA to the A-site, and the P-site tRNA to P/E-site (**Supplementary Video 1**). Noticeably, the CC between "-5PC8" and AF-P0CT53 is higher than that between "Class 14" and AF-P0CT53. This might be caused by the difference between PCA and KMeans clustering in latent space. PC8 captures the compositional changes in higher qualities by filtering out latent dimensions that are uncorrelated with the occupancy changes of eEF1A cofactor. In contrast, "Class 14" was reconstructed as the average of a set of closely distributed latent encodings, which may include noisy latent encodings from particles without eEF1A. Additionally, PC8 also reveals the binding and dissociation of elongation factors, eEF1A and eEF3, with the 40S subunit, while the ES27L RNA gradually appearing at the exit tunnel, as well as the rotation of 40S subunit (**Supplementary Video 2**). On the other hand, traversing along the PC9 shows the transition beginning with the state with A- and P-site tRNA, progressing to a state where one end of the A-site tRNA detaches from 60S subunit, and ending with a state with A/T tRNA and P-site tRNA (**Extended Data Fig.3e** and **Supplementary Video 3**). Traversing along the PC12 depicts the movement of L1 stalk from an "open" conformation, where it is disengaged from subunits, leaving the E-site accessible, to a "closed" conformation where it occupies the inter-subunit

space between the head of the 40S subunit and the 60S subunit, closing the E-site (**Supplementary Video 4**).

High-resolution Reconstruction of 80S Ribosomes from Tomograms of Wild-type *S. pombe*

The initial subtomogram sets picked by template matching or other methods often contain a large number of false positives due to the complex compositions of cell samples and low SNRs. Conventionally, multiple rounds of 3D classifications are required to filter those false positives before subtomogram averaging can be conducted. OPUS-TOMO can serve as an effective tool for removing false negatives in initial subtomogram sets as long as their orientations are determined. Here we used the tomograms of wild-type *S. pombe* used in DeePiCt's work[27] (EMPIAR-10988) to demonstrate the capacity of OPUS-TOMO to significantly increase the efficiency of high-resolution reconstruction subtomogram average in tomography workflow. A total of 50,000 80S ribosomes were picked by template matching in pyTOM[15] with a published *S. cerevisiae* 80S ribosome map[9] (EMDB accession code: EMD-3228) as the template. We then performed structural heterogeneity analysis by training OPUS-TOMO with subtomograms and their orientations from the template matching result directly.

The UMAP visualization of the 12-dimensional latent space learned by OPUS-TOMO shows distinct clusters, which we clustered into 20 classes by KMeans algorithm, and reconstructed 3D structure for each class by supplying cluster centroids into the trained Decoder of OPUS-TOMO (**Fig.3a~b**). Classes 12~17 on the left-hand side of UMAP visualization show complete densities for 80S ribosomes, while the remaining classes on the right-hand side of UMAP show densities for other species (**Fig.3a~b**). A total of 17,215 subtomograms from

Classes 12~17 were imported into M[5] for refinement, achieving a resolution of 9.1 Å after multiple rounds of image warp, CTF and particle pose refinement (**Fig.3c**). This sub-nanometer resolution was attained using only ten tomograms. By contrast, a larger set of 25,901 subtomograms from DeePiCt's work that were annotated by human expert (EMPIAR-10988)[27] converged to a resolution of 10.2 Å under the same refinement settings in M[5] (**Fig.3c**). The local resolutions of the subtomogram average of Classes 12~17 are improved to Nyquist limit (6.74 Å) in most regions compared to that of expert annotated set from DeepPiCt's work[27] at the same contour level (4σ) (**Fig.3d**). Using the atomic structure of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* (*S. c*) 80S ribosome (PDB code: 9BDP)[39] as a reference, the subtomogram average of Classes 12~17 shows densities for the secondary structures of atomic structure (**Fig.3d**).

We also compared the distributions of subtomograms from template matching and Classes 12~17 from OPUS-TOMO to DeePiCt's annotations. Among the total 50,000 subtomograms from our template matching results, there were 21,351 subtomograms that overlapped with DeePiCt's annotations, among which 14,039 subtomograms were found in Classes 12~17 of our OPUS-TOMO analysis (**Extended Data Fig.4a and Extended Data Table 1, Left**). The ratio of subtomograms that overlap with DeePiCt's annotations in the original template matching result was 0.43 (21,351/50,000), while the ratio of subtomograms that overlap with ground-truths in Classes 12~17 from OPUS-TOMO's analysis was improved to 0.82 (14,039/17,215). The distribution of these subtomograms in each tilt series is shown in **Extended Data Fig.4b~c** and **Extended Data Table 1, Left**. Clearly, OPUS-TOMO improves the fraction of ribosomes in the cluster over the original template matching result by a large margin.

In summary, a single-shot of heterogeneity analysis by OPUS-TOMO on template matching result produced subtomogram set largely overlapping with human expert annotations and even improved the resolution of 80S ribosomes from tomograms of wild-type *S. pombe* by 1.1 Å compared to the human expert annotations.

Reconstruction of Fatty Acid Synthase Structures from Tomograms of Wild-type *S. pombe*

Following a similar procedure, we performed structural heterogeneity analysis on *in vivo* fatty acid synthase (FAS) in tomograms of wild-type *S. pombe*, using the tilt series and their corresponding parameters of tilt series alignment deposited in EMPIAR-10988[27]. A total of 4,800 particles for FAS were picked using template matching method in pyTOM[15] with a published *S. cerevisiae* FAS map[40] (EMDB accession code: EMD-1623) as the template. The picked subtomograms were extracted from the tomograms using RELION 3.0.8[9]. We then performed 3D refinement using picked subtomograms and the low-pass filtered *S.cerevisiae* FAS map as the starting model, and obtained a low-resolution and not-so-continuous subtomogram average. Given the D_3 symmetry inherent to the FAS structure, we applied symmetry expansion to the refined pose parameters of subtomograms using RELION 3.0.8 as a preparatory step for structural heterogeneity analysis. Following this symmetry expansion, OPUS-TOMO was trained on subtomograms with the assumption that their projection angles correspond to one of the six equivalent angles satisfying D_3 symmetry.

The UMAP visualization of the 10-dimensional latent space learned by OPUS-TOMO shows distinct clusters, which we clustered into 20 classes by KMeans algorithm, and

reconstructed 3D structure for each class by supplying cluster centroids into the trained Decoder of OPUS-TOMO (**Extended Data Fig.5**). Only Class 19 shows complete densities for FAS, and contains 221 particles.

The map of Class 19 displays higher-resolution features, for instance in regions marked by red box and red dashed box (**Fig.4a, Left panel**), compared to the subtomogram average obtained by DeePiCt[27] (EMDB accession code: EMD-14422) (**Fig.4a, Right panel**), when both maps are contoured at the same level. This is further supported by fitting the atomic structure of FAS (PDB accession code: 2VKZ[41]) into density maps (**Fig.4b**). Judging by Fourier Shell Correlations (FSC)=0.143 between the atomic model 2VKZ and the density maps, Class 19 reconstructed by OPUS-TOMO reaches a resolution of 20.0 Å, while the subtomogram average in EMD-14422 from DeePiCt has a resolution of 27.4 Å (**Fig.4c**).

Given the sparsity of FAS population, picking FAS from the template matching results is similar to find a needle in a haystack. Among the total number of 4,800 subtomograms from our template matching results, there were 115 subtomograms that overlapped with DeePiCt's expert annotation result, among which 89 subtomograms were found in Class 19 of our OPUS-TOMO analysis (**Extended Data Table 1, Right; Extended Data Fig.6a**). The distribution of these subtomograms in each tilt series is shown in **Extended Data Fig.6b** and **Extended Data Table 1, Right**. **Extended Data Fig.6c** shows the significantly enhanced ratios of subtomograms overlapping with DeePiCt's expert annotation result for Class 19 from OPUS-TOMO for each tilt series than for the original template matching result. Furthermore, although the portion of subtomograms that were included in both OPUS-TOMO and DeePiCt was relatively small, both methods faithfully re-captured the essential features of FAS. This is exemplified by the similarity of subtomograms from tilt series TS_045, where the 16 subtomograms in Class 19 of

our analysis and the 18 subtomograms in DeePiCt's expert annotation result, in spite of no overlaps, exhibited similar densities corresponding to the FAS complex (**Extended Data Fig.6d**).

Reconstruction of *E. coli* 70S Ribosome Structures

We similarly performed structural heterogeneity analysis on *in vitro E. coli* 70S ribosome with an EMPIAR accession code of 10304[42]. The tilt series were automatically aligned and reconstructed as tomograms using AreTOMO[43]. 16,800 subtomograms were picked in the 4x binned tomograms by template matching method in pyTOM[15] using an *E. coli* ribosome structure[44] (EMD accession code: EMD-6311) as the template, and subtomogram averaging were performed by RELION 3.0.8[9]. Structural heterogeneity analysis was performed by training OPUS-TOMO using the 2x binned subtomograms with pose parameters from subtomogram averaging.

The UMAP visualization[45] of the 12-dimensional latent spaced learned by OPUS-TOMO exhibits well-separated clusters, which we clustered into 16 classes using KMeans algorithm (**Extended Data Fig.7a**). The density maps for 16 classes were reconstructed by supplying the centroids of classes into the trained Decoder of OPUS-TOMO (**Extended Data Fig.7b**). Among these reconstructions, Classes 7 and 12~15 were obvious noises, Classes 0 and 8 correspond to the single 50S subunit, while Classes 1~6 and 9 show complete densities for 70S ribosome (**Extended Data Fig.7b~d**). There are visible compositional and conformational differences among those classes. As an example, the relative displacement between the 30S subunits of Class 5 and Class 6 is highlighted with red arrows, while the relative displacement of L1 stalks is indicated by a yellow dashed circle between the two classes (**Fig.5a**). Furthermore, the density

maps reconstructed by OPUS-TOMO unveiled the translocation of tRNAs in the three binding sites of ribosome, *i.e.*, A, P and E sites. For reference, we selected the density map of aminoacyl-tRNA·EF-Tu·GDP·kirromycin-bound *E. coli* ribosome[46] (EMDB accession code: EMD-5036) and its corresponding atomic model (PDB accession code: 4V69[46]), which exhibits tRNAs occupying the P and E sites. Compared to EMD-5036 and 4V69, we observed that the A, P and E tRNA binding sites in Class 4 are empty, whereas the E site in Class 5, and the P site in Class 6 are occupied (**Fig.5b**).

We performed PC analysis to explore the latent space learned by OPUS-TOMO, and reconstructed dynamical changes for 70S ribosome. Traversing the PC5 revealed significant motions: the L1 stalk is moving towards the inter-subunit region between the head of 30S subunit and the 50S subunit, while the L11 stalk transits from visible to invisible, and concurrently, the head of the 30S subunit rotates towards the L1 stalk (**Supplementary Video 5)**. Traversing the PC4 uncovers that the head of 30 subunit moves away from its initial association with the 50S subunit, accompanied by a partial loss of head density (**Supplementary Video 6)**, indicating a complex dynamical behavior during the dissociation process.

Reconstruction of High-resolution 70S Ribosome Structures from Tomograms of *M. Pneumoniae*

To test the capacity of OPUS-TOMO for facilitating high-resolution reconstruction, we applied OPUS-TOMO to the reconstructions of 70S ribosomes from *Mycoplasma (M.) Pneumoniae* tomograms[47] (EMPIAR accession code: 10499) using WARP[7]/M[5]-based tomography workflow. The tilt series were automatically aligned and reconstructed as tomograms using AreTOMO[43]. Using the *M. Pneumoniae* 70S ribosome structure[47] (EMD

accession code: EMD-11999) which was lowpass filtered to 40 Å as a template, for each of the 64 tomograms, the 750 top-scored subtomograms in the 8x binned tomograms were picked by template matching in pyTOM[15]. The coordinates of picked subtomograms and tilt alignment parameters were imported into WARP[7] to reconstruct subtomograms and estimate their 3DCTF parameters. The reconstructed subtomograms were aligned by pyTOM[15], and the aligned coordinates and poses were imported into M[5] for further refinement. The raw template matching set converged to a resolution of 4.82 Å after multiple rounds of image warp, CTF and particle pose refinement. The refined coordinates were then imported into WARP to reconstruct subtomograms. The reconstructed subtomograms together with their orientations and CTF parameters determined by M were then supplied into OPUS-TOMO for heterogeneity analysis.

The UMAP[45] visualization of the 12-dimensional latent space learned by OPUS-TOMO shows distinct clusters, which we clustered into 30 classes by KMeans algorithm, and reconstructed 3D structure for each class by supplying cluster centroids into the trained Decoder of OPUS-TOMO (**Extended Data Fig.8a~b**). Classes 9~16 in UMAP visualization show strong and continuous densities for 70S ribosomes, classes 19~20 show weak and noisy densities for 70S ribosomes, while the remaining classes in UMAP don't resemble 70S ribosome. Combining Classes 9~16 yielded 21,417 subtomograms in total, which represent 0.45 (21,417/48,000) of the subtomograms picked by template matching. The subtomograms of Classes 9~16 were imported into M[5] for refinement, and converged to a resolution of 3.74 Å after multiple rounds of image warp, CTF and particle pose refinement. The local resolutions of the subtomogram average of Classes 9~16 are improved to Nyquist limit (3.4 Å) in most regions compared to that of the original template matching set at the same contour level (4σ) (**Extended Data Fig.8c**). Judged by the corrected gold-standard FSC at 0.143[48], the resolution of subtomogram average of Classes

9~16 from OPUS-TOMO is improved to 3.74 Å compared to the 4.82 Å resolution for the original template matching (**Extended Data Fig.8d**).

In the application to reconstructing high-resolution 70S ribosome structures of *M. Pneumoniae*, OPUS-TOMO replaced 3D classification in the traditional tomography workflow and improved the resolution of subtomogram average by 1.08 Å.

High-Resolution Structural Heterogeneity Analysis of 70S Ribosome Structures from Tomograms of *M. Pneumoniae*

Previous analyses mainly focus on resolving structural heterogeneity for subtomograms from tomograms directly. To demonstrate the capacity of OPUS-TOMO for structural heterogeneity analysis using subtomograms refined by M[5], we tested OPUS-TOMO in analyzing 70S ribosomes from *Mycoplasma (M.) Pneumoniae* [24,47] (EMPIAR accession code: 11843) at a resolution of ~3.5 Å, which is the same dataset used in the analysis by tomoDRGN. The subtomograms of size 210^3 were reconstructed from the M-refined particle tilt series by RELION 3.0.8[4], and were then supplied into OPUS-TOMO for heterogeneity analysis using their orientations and CTF parameters determined by M.

The UMAP[45] visualization of the 12-dimensional latent space learned by OPUS-TOMO shows distinct clusters, which we clustered into 30 classes using KMeans algorithm, and reconstructed 3D structure for each class by supplying cluster centroids into the trained Decoder of OPUS-TOMO (**Extended Data Fig.9a~b**). Significant conformational changes of 70S ribosome can be revealed by comparing different classes. For example, large joint conformational changes of the head of 30 subunit and L1 stalk were identified by comparing the density maps of Class 16 and Class 19 (**Fig.6a**). Class 11 and Class 23 show densities for the

EF-Tu cofactor between the body of 30S subunit and L10 stalk (**Extended Data Fig.9b**). By comparing Class 11 to a state without the EF-Tu cofactor, Class 16, we can observe that the binding of EF-Tu cofactor induces large displacements of RNAs in the body of 30S subunit (**Fig.6b**). Besides, we can also observe densities for L7/L12 NTD dimer of dimers in Class 11 and Class 16, which are consistent with previous study by tomoDGRN[24] (**Fig.6b**).

Principal component analysis in the 12-dimensional latent space learned by OPUS-TOMO automatically reveals a set of spatially correlated structural changes. Traversing along the PC9 reveals a part of elongation cycle: the cycle starts from a state with EF-Tu-A/T-site tRNA and P- and E-site tRNA (4.8PC9), through an intermediate state with partly occupied A-site and P- and E-site tRNAs (0.2PC9), transiting to a state with A-, P- and E-site tRNAs, culminating in a state with only A- and P-site tRNAs (-4.5PC9) (**Fig.6c**). Specifically, PC9 captures the delivery of tRNA to A-site by EF-Tu cofactor and the release of E-site tRNA facilitated by L1 stalk (**Fig.6c** and **Supplementary Video 7**). Additionally, traversing PC9 reveals the orchestration of different structural elements in 70S ribosome during the transition. The RNA above the EF-Tu cofactor in the body of 30S subunit is shifting downwards as the EF-Tu cofactor being released, and the head of 30S subunit is shifting rightwards as the L1-stalk opens the E-site (**Supplementary Video 7**). However, it is worth noting that the spatially correlated states in elongation cycle revealed by traversing PC9 are not necessarily causal.

Traversing along the PC8 reveals the occupancy change of L9 on 50S subunit (**Fig.6d**). Using the atomic models of 70S ribosomes in Cm-treated *M. pneumoniae* cell[49] (PDB accession code: 7PHA) as reference, the densities for L9 disassociate from the 50S subunit when transiting from -4.7PC8 to 5.8PC8, while significant amount of densities appear at the neighboring region of L9.

Traversing along the PC10 reveals occupancy change of EF-Tu cofactor and the conformational change for L7/L12 NTDs (**Fig.6e**). The EF-Tu cofactor without tRNA presents in the density map reconstructed at -4.4PC10. The correlation between the atomic structure of EF-Tu cofactor and the density map at -4.4PC10 reaches 0.7. The atomic structures of neighboring subunits, L6, L10 and L11, also fit with the neighboring densities. When transiting to 4.8PC10, the EF-Tu cofactor disappears while the densities for L7/L12 NTDs flexing away from the region hosting EF-Tu cofactor (**Fig.6e**).

Traversing along the PC1 reveals occupancy change of peptide at the peptide exit tunnel, which is located between L29 and L22, and supported by L24 (**Extended Data Fig.9c**). In the density map reconstructed at -10.0PC1, a tail-like density for peptide chain grows out from the peptide exit tunnel. In contrast, in the density map reconstructed at -2.3PC1, the tail-like density disappears.

The structural heterogeneity of 70S ribosome in Cm-treated *M. pneumoniae* cell was previously studied by cryoDRGN-ET[25] and tomoDRGN[24] (**Supplementary Video 8**). In cryoDRGN-ET[25], the translation dynamics is reconstructed by using the latent codes from manually selected from latent space **(Supplementary Video 8, Left panel**). In tomoDRGN[24], the translation dynamics is reconstructed by manually selecting translation states among 100 structures at KMeans centroids **(Supplementary Video 8, Right panel**). By contrast, OPUS-TOMO reconstructed the translation dynamics by traversing PC9 without any human selection, and achieves much higher resolution and continuity **(Supplementary Video 7)**. This comparison demonstrates that OPUS-TOMO excels in associating spatially correlated structural changes to the principal components of latent space.

We further compared the density maps of 70S ribosome with EF-Tu-tRNA in translational dynamics reconstructed by different methods (**Extended Data Fig.9d**). The contour levels of density maps were normalized to show similar volumes of densities for EF-Tu-tRNA in all density maps. Among all methods, the density map of OPUS-TOMO preserves the structure of 70S ribosome in higher resolution while showing stronger and more complete densities for EF-Tu-tRNA (**Extended Data Fig.9d**).

Discussion

Structural heterogeneity, manifesting across diverse scales, represents one of the main challenges in processing cryo-ET data throughout the entire workflow. Overcoming this challenge is critical not only for obtaining high-resolution subtomogram averages, but also for deciphering the functional and regulatory mechanisms of biological systems. Here, we have introduced OPUS-TOMO, a unified framework for resolving multi-scale structural heterogeneities in cryo-ET data. By training a convolutional neural network, OPUS-TOMO encodes subtomograms into a low-dimensional latent space, from which the per-particle 3D structures for subtomograms can be decoded. It can retrieve the complete landscape of macromolecular species, including the compositional and conformational variations of a macromolecule preserved in cryo-ET data. Our results, showcased across datasets of varying resolutions, demonstrate that OPUS-TOMO can effectively replace conventional 3D classification steps in the tomography workflow. Firstly, training OPUS-TOMO takes much less time compared to classify subtomograms using conventional 3D classification. Secondly, a single-shot of heterogeneity analysis by OPUS-TOMO is often enough to identity homogeneous subtomogram set for a macromolecular specie. More importantly, by analyzing its latent space

using KMeans clustering or PCA, the structural heterogeneity analysis by OPUS-TOMO can scale to much greater number of states compared to conventional 3D classification, and even reconstruct continuous structural changes. In summary, OPUS-TOMO offers two key advancements: the potential to improve the resolutions of subtomogram averages by filtering heterogenous particles, and the enablement of fast biological discovery by providing a comprehensive and continuous view of *in situ* structural heterogeneity at the molecular level.

A major advantage of OPUS-TOMO is that, by employing an Encoder-Decoder architecture, it distills the structural information from subtomograms into a smooth, low-dimensional latent space, within which structurally heterogeneous subpopulations can be clustered, and compositional and conformational dynamics can be explored by traversing along the PC axes. The smoothness of the latent space is critically important for structural heterogeneity analysis, as it guarantees the linear interpolation in latent space corresponding to the continuous structural changes in 3D space. In OPUS-TOMO, the smoothness of the latent space w.r.t structural variations is prompted by both KL divergence from β-VAE[22,31] and the structural disentanglement prior from OPUS-DSD[23]. Such enhancements have not only strengthened OPUS-TOMO's classification precision, as evidenced by achieving sub-nanometer resolution for 80S ribosomes using only ten tomograms (**Fig.3c**) and the substantial improvement of the resolution from 27.4 Å to 20.0 Å in reconstructing FAS (**Fig.4c**), but also allowed smooth modeling of complex dynamical processes through linear interpolations across its PCs, as exemplified by visualizations of the translocation of tRNAs during the elongation cycle in ribosomes and the binding of eEF3 cofactor in the 80S ribosome (**Supplementary Videos 1, 2** and **7**), where OPUS-TOMO successfully reconstructs both compositional and conformational dynamics using latent codes sampled along PCs. In marked contrast, existing

approaches, such as tomoDRGN[24] and cryoDRGN-ET[25], implement much more complex analysis pipelines with a much larger number of samples in latent space in order to uncover similar structural heterogeneities, such as MAVEn analysis in tomoDRGN[24] and the ensemble analysis in cryoDRGN-ET[25]. Moreover, these methods mainly demonstrate results of structural heterogeneity analysis on datasets with high resolution subtomogram averaging.

Additionally, OPUS-TOMO implements several effective computational techniques to deal with other challenges in cryo-ET. One major challenge is from the spatially varying CTF of subtomograms due to tilting in data acquisition[26]. OPUS-TOMO accounts for the defocus gradient by implementing a 3D CTF model[9]. The CTF parameters of a subtomogram are calculated according to its coordinate in the tomogram and stored into files in Self-defining Text Archiving and Retrieval (STAR) format[50]. OPUS-TOMO then reads the defocus parameters from STAR files and reconstructs the 3D CTF volume for each subtomogram *ad hoc* during training. This implementation is flexible enough to accept per-particle defocus parameters estimated by other programs, such as TomoAlign[51] and WARP[7], thereby allowing a wide interoperability with softwares for 3D CTF estimation. Moreover, OPUS-TOMO can benefit from advancements of reconstruction algorithms that improve the resolution of subtomograms by accounting experimental defects during imaging, such as Warp[7] and M[5].

Another major challenge is pose assignment error in recovering the per-particle ground-truth conformation for subtomograms. Theoretically, the ground-truth conformation can be reconstructed from subtomograms with poses defined relative to their ground-truth structures. However, the ground-truth pose of a subtomogram is generally unattainable. In OPUS-TOMO, the projection pose of a subtomogram in training data is determined by comparing them to a consensus model at different projection poses exhaustively. This comparison process introduces

pose assignment errors to accommodate the subtomograms with incomplete and heterogeneous structure into a single average. Neural network could reconstruct distorted conformations when trained by subtomograms with erroneous pose parameters. The end-to-end pose correction neural network implemented in OPUS-TOMO serves to estimate the deviations between the estimated pose of a subtomogram and its ground-truth by minimizing the reconstruction loss, thereby reducing the distortion of reconstructed structures.

The process of 3D reconstruction in cryo-ET using subtomograms shares many similarities to that of cryo-EM using 2D images. They both intend to recover 3D structures using inputs with incomplete structural information, *i.e.,* subtomograms in cryo-ET or 2D images in cryo-EM. Hence, practices with established structural heterogeneity resolved in cryo-EM can help resolve structural heterogeneity in cryo-ET. For instance, structural disentanglement prior[23] from OPUS-DSD is leveraged to alleviate the 'missing wedge' problem in OPUS-TOMO. This prior can aggregate subtomograms from the same structure with different orientations to the same latent encoding, thus increasing the coverage of the spectrum of 3D structural information at each latent encoding during training. In addition, to reduce the projection pose related variations in inputs, subtomograms are aligned with the canonical orientation of consensus subtomogram average before supplying into the Encoder[23]. Lastly, data augmentation[23] from OPUS-DSD is implemented in OPUS-TOMO to reduce its sensitivity to image contrast variations in subtomograms[23].

In summary, OPUS-TOMO implements a deep learning framework to deliver a more efficient and insightful analysis of structural heterogeneity in cryo-ET. This framework provides a robust and accurate tool capable of characterizing complex molecular states *in situ*. We believe OPUS-TOMO will be a valuable addition to the cryo-ET toolkit, facilitating biological

discoveries concerning a broad range of macromolecular complexes in their native cellular environment.

Methods

Subtomogram Formation Model

During data acquisition in cryo-ET, the specimen is usually tilted around a single axis to collect a series of images with different tilt angles. Each tilt image corresponds to a 2D projection of the specimen. According to the Fourier-slice theorem, the Fourier transform of the 2D projection is a central slice through the 3D Fourier transform of the specimen, while the orientation of the 2D slice corresponds the projection angle. The Fourier transform of the tilt series can fill up a 3D volume, *i.e.,* to allow reconstruction of the 3D structure of the specimen, which is often referred to as a tomogram. However, due to the limitation of the geometry of specimen holders, the attainable tilt angles are limited to a certain range. The tilt series from cryo-ET lack high tilt images, thus creating wedge shaped empty region in the Fourier transform of a tomogram, which is often referred to as 'missing wedge'. Similar as single particle analysis of cryo-EM data, there are multiple copies of the same structure within a tomogram. Cryo-ET can determine structures to sub-nanometer resolution by aligning and averaging these copies, *i.e.,* subtomograms.

The image formation model of cryo-ET can be defined in the Fourier domain. For a subtomogram X_i, denote the Fourier transform of X_i as $\mathcal{X}_i$, let the Fourier transform of the reference volume V be $\mathcal{V}$, suppose X_i is rotated from V by rotation matrix R_i, the Fourier transform of a subtomogram has the following relation w.r.t the Fourier transform of the reference volume,

$$\mathcal{X}_i(\boldsymbol{x}) = \mathrm{CTF}_i(\boldsymbol{x})\mathcal{V}(R_i\boldsymbol{x}) + \epsilon_i(\boldsymbol{x}), \qquad \text{(Equation 1)}$$

where $\boldsymbol{x}$ is the 3D coordinate of a voxel, $\mathrm{CTF}_i(\boldsymbol{x})$ is a 3D model in the Fourier domain that describes the effects of the CTF on the 2D images in the tilt series, and the effects of the missing wedge, and ϵ_i is the 3D Gaussian noise, which is assumed to be independent and zero-mean for each voxel. As in cryo-EM, the image collected in cryo-ET is the 2D projection of a 3D structure which is convoluted with a point spread function, whose Fourier transform is the CTF, to model the effects of underfocus and the aberration of the objective lens. The subtomogram is of three dimensionality and consists of 2D images with different tilt angles. The CTF model for the subtomogram in cryo-ET hence becomes 3D and accounts for the CTF of each tilt image. It can be obtained by backprojecting the 2D CTFs of all images in the tilt series into an empty 3D volume in Fourier domain. Each 2D CTF is placed as a central slice in the 3D CTF, whose orientation is determined by its tilt angle. Reconstructing the CTF model for subtomograms by backprojection naturally handles the missing wedges as the region which is not covered by tilt series remains empty. However, the CTF is spatially variant because the tilting and the thickness of specimen[13]. Due to the tilting of the specimen holder in cryo-ET, the defocus values vary significantly along the axis in the image plane that is perpendicular to the tilt axis. In addition, particles in the specimen are distributed in different heights along Z axis because of the thickness of the specimen. Hence, tilt images in subtomograms extracted from different locations of the image have different defocus. Various methods have been proposed to correct the CTF gradient in cryo-ET[13]. In this paper, we followed the approach proposed in RELION[9] to correct CTF for each subtomogram individually. Using this approach, for a particle, the defocus of each tilt image is calculated according to its coordinate in the tomogram and the tilt angle[9,51]. Formally, let the tilt axis be y axis, suppose the coordinate of a particle relative to the center of tomogram

is $[x, y, z]$, and the tilt angle of the image is θ, following the convention of rotation in AreTomo[43], the coordinate of the particle in XZ plane after tilting is

$$\begin{pmatrix} x' \\ z' \end{pmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos\theta & -\sin\theta \\ \sin\theta & \cos\theta \end{bmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ z \end{pmatrix}. \qquad \text{(Equation 2)}$$

If the average defocus of the tilt image is D, the defocus of the particle D_i is

$$D_i = D + Az', \qquad \text{(Equation 3)}$$

where A is the angstrom per pixel. The defocus difference is proportional to tilted z coordinate, and higher underfocus corresponds to more positive z.

To capture the structural heterogeneity, the reference volume in (Equation 1) is defined on a per-particle basis. We assume that the structures of subtomograms reside in a low-dimensional latent space as in OPUS-DSD[23]. Hence, the structure of a particle can be associated with a low-dimensional vector $\boldsymbol{z}$. For a particle whose latent encoding is $\boldsymbol{z}$, given a neural network V that transforms $\boldsymbol{z}$ into a 3D density map, the Fourier transform of the subtomogram of the particle can be expressed as

$$\mathcal{X}_i(\boldsymbol{x}|\boldsymbol{z}, R_i) = \mathrm{CTF}_i(\boldsymbol{x})\mathcal{V}(R_i\boldsymbol{x}|\boldsymbol{z}) + \epsilon_i(\boldsymbol{x}). \qquad \text{(Equation 4)}$$

(Equation 4) defines the subtomogram formation model for the particle in cryo-ET which describes the effects of both spatial CTF variations and structural heterogeneity.

Training Objective

The main objective of OPUS-TOMO is learning the per-particle structure for a subtomogram using subtomogram averaging result. Due to the presence of pose assignment error in consensus refinement resulted from subtomogram averaging, the pose of each particle is

corrected by a pose $R_{i,c}$, which can be estimated by neural network. The neural networks are trained by minimizing the difference between the subtomogram reconstructed from the structure and the experimental subtomogram X_i, that is,

$$\min_{V,R_{i,c}} \left\| \mathrm{CTF}_i \mathcal{V}\left(R_{i,c} R_{i,t}, \boldsymbol{z}_i\right) - \mathcal{X}_i \right\|^2 \qquad \text{(Equation 5)}$$

where $\boldsymbol{z}_i$ is the latent code for the template volume of subtomogram i. To estimate the pose correction $R_{i,c}$, we propose using an additional 4-dimensional latent space to predict it. For each particle, its pose correction can be estimated by a neural network R which maps a 4-dimensional latent vector $\boldsymbol{z}_i^c$ to the pose parameter. The rotation of pose correction $R_{i,c}$ is represented by quaternion. To limit the range of rotation correction, the neural network only estimates the last three dimensions of the quaternion, while the first dimension of quaternion is fixed to be a constant 8. The initial weights of the MLP for pose correction are set to zeros. The training objective in (Equation 5) is not complete yet since the latent codes $\boldsymbol{z}_i$ and $\boldsymbol{z}_i^c$ of each particle remains to be inferred. We adopt the variational autoencoder (VAE) architecture where the distributions of latent codes $\boldsymbol{z}$ and $\boldsymbol{z}^c$ are inferred by an Encoder network f. Specifically, OPUS-TOMO leverages a combination of the training objective of β-VAE[31] and the structural disentanglement prior proposed in OPUS-DSD[23]. Let the dimension of 3D volume be N^3, the training objective of OPUS-TOMO is of the form,

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{f,V} E_{f\left(\boldsymbol{z}_i, \boldsymbol{z}_i^c | X_i\right)} - \log \sum_{\theta' \in NN(\theta)} \exp -\frac{1}{2} \left\| \mathcal{X}_i - \mathrm{CTF}_i \mathcal{V}\left(R(\boldsymbol{z}_i^c) R_{i,t}, \boldsymbol{z}_i\right) \right\|^2 \qquad \text{(Equation 6)} \\ + \lambda_{KL} D_{KL}\left(f(\boldsymbol{z}_i, \boldsymbol{z}_i^c | X_i) \middle| N(0, I)\right) + \lambda J\left(f(\boldsymbol{z}_i, \boldsymbol{z}_i^c | X_i)\right) \\ + \lambda_{tv} \sum_{\boldsymbol{x}} \left\| \frac{\partial V(\boldsymbol{x}|\boldsymbol{z}_i)}{\partial \boldsymbol{x}} \right\|_2 + \lambda_{l_1} \sum_{\boldsymbol{x}} \| V(\boldsymbol{x}|\boldsymbol{z}_i) \|_1, \end{aligned}$$

where the first term is expectation of error between the experimental subtomogram X_i and the reconstruction over the distribution of latent codes, $R(\boldsymbol{z}_i^c)$ represents the pose correction estimated by the neural network using the latent code $\boldsymbol{z}_i^c$ as input, $N(0, I)$ is the standard Gaussian distribution, D_{KL} is the KL divergence between the distributions of latent codes estimated by the Encoder network f and the standard Gaussian distribution, λ_{KL} is the restraint strength for the KL divergence, λ is the restraint strength of structural disentanglement prior for the latent code of structure $\boldsymbol{z}$, λ_{tv} is the restraint strength for the total variation of structure, and λ_{l_1} represents the restraint strength of the L_1 norm of the structure. It is worth noting that the expectation term in (Equation 6) is intractable, and approximated by the reparameterization trick during training [29].

Experimental Protocol

We followed the conventional approaches to prepare subtomograms and performed subtomogram averaging before the structural heterogeneity analysis by OPUS-TOMO[13]. Due to inaccuracies in image tracking during data collection, the tilt series was first aligned to make y axis as the tilt axis, and the center of image being the center of tilting before tomogram reconstruction. The alignment of tilt series can be performed either by IMOD[52] or AreTOMO[43]. The tomogram can then be reconstructed by backprojecting the aligned tilt series into a 3D volume according to their tilt angles.

Template matching from pyTOM[15] was used to select subtomograms from target species. For each tilt series, the subtomograms were sorted according to their correlation coefficients with respect to template calculated by pyTOM, and the subtomograms with correlation coefficients that were higher than a threshold was selected. For FAS, the threshold was set to 0.2, and the

number of subtomograms was rounded to multiple of hundred for simplicity. For 70S ribosome, the threshold was set at 0.3 since the corresponding dataset had a higher signal to noise ratio. To speed up template matching, the tomograms were 4x binned. The subtomograms for picked particles were extracted by *relion_preprocess* routine in RELION 3.0.8[9]. The average defocus parameters for each tilt image in the tilt series were determined by CTFPLOTTER[53,54] in IMOD. We used the data preparation scripts from RELION[4] to compute the per-particle variations of CTF parameters for each subtomogram according to its coordinates in a tomogram. We reconstructed the 3D CTF for each subtomogram using *relion_reconstruct* routine in RELION 3.0.8[9]. With subtomograms and their 3D CTFs, we performed subtomogram averaging using *relion_refine_mpi* routine in RELION 3.0.8[9] to determine the pose parameters for subtomograms relative to the subtomogram average. Finally, we performed structural heterogeneity analysis by training OPUS-TOMO using the subtomograms with their poses estimated by subtomogram averaging.

Training

The training process of OPUS-TOMO is similar to OPUS-DSD[23]. The subtomogram undergoes data augmentation processes before being supplied into the Encoder. The data augmentation consists of several steps. Firstly, the Fourier transform of the subtomogram is blurred by a randomly sampled B-factor in the range $[-0.25, 0.75] \times 4\pi^2$. The contrast and brightness of the subtomogram is also randomly altered according to the SNR of the subtomogram. Next, the subtomogram is multiplied with a randomly chosen constant in the range $1 + [-0.15, 0.15] \times \mathrm{SNR}$ to change its overall contrast, and the subtomogram is added by a randomly chosen constant in the range $[-0.2, 0.2] \times \mathrm{SNR}$ to change its overall brightness. The

Encoder takes the randomly augmented subtomogram and outputs its latent codes. The Decoder takes the latent codes to reconstruct the corresponding 3D volume and predict the pose correction of the input subtomogram. OPUS-TOMO reads the CTF parameters for the input subtomogram from STAR file and computes the corresponding 3D CTF. The Encoder can then reconstruct the subtomogram using the 3D volume, pose, and 3D CTF according the subtomogram formation model in (Equation 4). The reconstructed subtomogram and the original subtomogram for input together forms the reconstruction loss. We construct the training objective by combining the reconstruction loss, the priors for latent codes, and the total variation and L_1 norms[55] for the template volumes with specified weights as it is given in (Equation 6). During training, OPUS-TOMO uses the same batching process as in OPUS-DSD[23] to sample subtomograms with similar projection directions as a batch.

OPUS-TOMO is fast to train. It only takes only 10 minutes to train 25,900 subtomograms of size 128x128x128 on 4 NVIDIA V100 GPUs for one epoch. This is much faster than the traditional 3D classification methods in RELION using the same hardware for the same number of data when the number of class is set to 4, which takes 1 hour for one iteration.

Hyperparameters' Settings

The training losses of OPUS-TOMO were minimized by the Adam optimizer[56]. The learning rate of Adam was set to 5×10^{-5}. Let the SNR of dataset be SNR, the restraint strength λ for structural disentanglement prior was set to $0.5 \times \mathrm{SNR}$, and the restraint strength λ_{KL} for KL divergence between latent codes and standard Gaussian was set to $0.5 \times \mathrm{SNR}$. The SNR was estimated *ad hoc* during training by treating the reconstruction from OPUS-TOMO as signal and

the input subtomogram with reconstruction subtracted as noise. Formally, using a batch of N images, the SNR was estimated as,

$$\mathrm{SNR} = \frac{1}{N}\sum_{i=1}^{N}\frac{\|\tilde{X}_i\|^2}{\|X_i - \tilde{X}_i\|^2}, \qquad \text{(Equation 7)}$$

where $\tilde{X}_i$ was the subtomogram reconstructed by OPUS-TOMO, and X_i was the experimental subtomogram. $\|X_i - \tilde{X}_i\|^2$ estimated the norm of noises in the experimental subtomogram, while $\|\tilde{X}_i\|^2$ estimated the norm of signals. The restraint strength λ_{tv} for the total variation of 3D reconstruction was set to 0.1, and the restraint strength λ_{l_1} for the L_1 norm of 3D reconstruction was set to 0.3.

Data availability

We used the following publicly available datasets: EMPIAR-10988[27](cryo-FIB-milled lamellae of wild-type *S. pombe*), EMPIAR-10304[42](*E. coli* 70S Ribosome), EMPIAR-10499[47] (Cm-treated *M. pneumoniae*) and EMPIAR-11843[24] (Cm-treated *M. pneumoniae*). The trained weights and structural heterogeneity analysis results are available at Zenodo at https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.12631920 [57].

Code availability

The source code of OPUS-TOMO is available at https://github.com/alncat/opusTOMO, and also at Zenodo at https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.13626517 [58].

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Author Contributions

All authors conceived the work. Z.L. designed the algorithm and implemented the software. Z.L. and X.C. performed experiments and analyses. All authors wrote and approved the final manuscript.

Competing Interests

Q.W. is an employee of Harcam Biomedicines who is bound by confidentiality agreements that prevents the disclosure of competing interests in this work. All remaining authors declare no competing interest.

Figure Legends

Figure 1. Architecture of OPUS-TOMO. a). Overall architecture. Pose refers to the projection direction of the subtomogram with respect to the consensus subtomogram average. 3D CTF refers to its 3D contrast transfer function. z is the mean vector of a latent code. σ is the standard deviation vector of a latent code. z_c is the mean vector of pose correction latent code. σ_c is the standard deviation vector of pose correction latent code. $\mathrm{kNN}(z, z_c)$ refers to the K nearest neighbor of the concatenation of z and z_c. $\mathrm{kFP}(z, z_c)$ refers to the K farthest points of the concatenation of z and z_c. For better visualization, the link between the pose correction latent code and the memory is omitted. The standard Gaussian prior for latent distribution as

well as the smoothness and sparseness priors for the 3D volume are also omitted. **b)**. **Architecture of the pose corrector of OPUS-TOMO.** This diagram shows the pose corrector that translates the latent encoding z_c into a pose correction. MLP denotes the multi-layer perceptron. All MLPs except the last one were with LeakyReLU nonlinearities with a negative slope of 0.2.

Figure 2. Heterogeneity analysis on the *S. pombe* 80S ribosome (data from EMPIAR-10988). a). Comparison between classes with different cofactors. Class 2 shows the structure of 80S ribosome with an ES27L RNA at the exit tunnel, Class 12 shows the 80S ribosome with the cofactor eEF3 bound to 40S subunit, and Class 14 shows the 80S ribosome with eEF1A bound to 40S subunit. The densities for additional components are marked by red dashed ellipses. **b)**. The transient states for tRNA translocation found in Classes 1, 5, 12, 20, and 3 from the KMeans clustering of latent space learned by OPUS-TOMO. The sites occupied by tRNAs are marked by red dashed ellipses and annotated with corresponding labels. The atomic structures of tRNAs at A- and P- sites are superimposed into the density maps for comparison. The atomic structure of yeast 80S ribosome with A/A- and P/P- tRNAs (PDB accession code: 7B7D) resolved by Ranjan *et. al*[35] is fitted into these classes. The A-site tRNA is colored in red, and the P-site tRNA is colored in cyan. **c)**. The transient states for tRNA translocation reconstructed by the Decoder of OPUS-TOMO using latent codes at different locations along PC8. The sites occupied by tRNAs are marked by red dashed ellipses and annotated with corresponding labels. The A/T-site consists of A-site at 40S subunit and T-site at 60S subunit, the hybrid A/P-site consists of A-site at 40S subunit and P-site at 60S subunit, and the hybrid P/E-site consists of P-site at 40S subunit

and E-site at 60S subunit. The locations of latent codes are specified as xPC8. All maps and models are visualized by ChimeraX[59].

Figure 3. Heterogeneity analysis of template matching result for the *S. pombe* 80S ribosome (data from EMPIAR-10988). a). Twenty density maps reconstructed by the Decoder of OPUS-TOMO at centers of latent spaces found by KMeans clustering. **b)**. UMAP visualization of the 12-dimensional latent space learned by OPUS-TOMO and the distribution of centers for clusters found by KMeans algorithm. Solid black dot represents the cluster center for labelled class. Red dashed ellipse highlights the cluster of subtomograms corresponding to 80S ribosome. **c**). Comparison between the gold standard FSCs of the subtomogram averages of DeePiCt's annotations and OPUS-TOMO. "DeePiCt Corrected" represents the corrected FSC of the subtomogram averages of the DeePiCt's annotations. "OPUS-TOMO corrected" represents the corrected FSC of the subtomogram averages of Classes 12~17 given by OPUS-TOMO. "DeePiCt Masked" represents the masked FSC of the subtomogram averages of the DeePiCt's annotations. "OPUS-TOMO Masked" represents the masked FSC of the subtomogram averages of Classes 12~17 given by OPUS-TOMO. **d)**. Comparison between subtomogram averages of *S. Pombe* 80S ribosome of DeePiCt's annotations and Classes 12~17 from OPUS-TOMO. Both density maps are contoured at 4σ level, and colored by local resolutions. The red boxes highlight the fitting between the density of the subtomogram average of Classes 12~17 from OPUS-TOMO and the atomic structure of *S. c* 80S ribosome (PDB code: 9BDP) in zoomed view.

Figure 4. Heterogeneity analysis on the *S. pombe* FAS (data from EMPIAR-10988). a). Comparison between the FAS reconstructed by OPUS-TOMO (Class 19) and the deposited density maps for FAS (EMD-14422). Side and top views of these EM maps are presented. Class 19 reconstructed by the Decoder of OPUS-TOMO shows complete densities for FAS, and EMD-14422 shows the subtomogram average of subtomograms picked by DeePiCt[27]. The regions where Class 19 presents structural features at a higher resolution than EMD-14422 are marked by red boxes where separate domains are labeled by texts. **b).** Zoomed views of the boxed regions in **a)** with the atomic structure of FAS with PDB accession code 2VKZ[41] fitted into density maps. Separate domains are labeled by texts as in **a)**. **c**) The model-map FSCs between the atomic structure of FAS with PDB accession code 2VKZ and the density maps from OPUS-TOMO and DeePiCt. All maps and models are visualized by ChimeraX[59].

Figure 5. Heterogeneity analysis on the *E. coli* 70S ribosome (data from EMPIAR-10304). a). Comparison between Class 5 and Class 6. The head of 30S subunit marked by the red dashed ellipse in these two classes undergoes a large rotation. The yellow dashed circle highlights the relative displacement of L1 stalks between these two classes. Red arrows indicate the directions of relative displacements between the corresponding structures in these two classes. **b)**. The occupancy differences of the tRNA binding sites in different classes. The atomic structures of tRNAs at A/T-, P- and E- sites are superimposed into the density maps for comparison. The atomic structure of *E.coli* 70S ribosome with PDB accession code 4V69[46] is fitted into these maps. The A/T-site tRNA is colored in green, the P-site tRNA is colored in red, and the E-site tRNA is colored in cyan. EMD-5036[46] is a 70S ribosome map with A/T-, P- and E-site tRNAs. A/T-site consisting of A-site at 30S subunit and T-site at 50S subunit. Class 4 is a 70S ribosome

map with no tRNAs in binding sites. Class 5 is a 70S ribosome map with E-site tRNA. Class 6 is a 70S ribosome map with P-site tRNA. Zoomed views are shown for regions marked by red boxes. The tRNAs in binding sites are marked by red dashed ellipses and annotated with corresponding labels. All maps and models are visualized by ChimeraX[59].

Figure 6. Heterogeneity analysis on the *M. pneumoniae* 70S ribosome (data from EMPIAR-11843). a). The large-scale displacement between the head of 30S subunit of Class 16 and the head of 30S subunit of Class 19 identified by OPUS-TOMO. The red arrow annotates the direction of displacement. **b)**. The conformational change of the body of 30S subunit induced by the binding of EF-Tu cofactor identified by OPUS-TOMO. The atomic model of 70S ribosome in Cm-treated *M. pneumoniae* cell (PDB accession code: 7PHA[49]) is fitted into the density map of Class 11 with additional EF-Tu cofactor, while the density map of Class 19 without additional EF-Tu cofactor serves as reference. Red circles mark the densities for EF-Tu. Red arrows indicate the direction of displacement of subunits from Class 19 to Class 11. **c)**. The transient states for tRNA translocation reconstructed by the Decoder of OPUS-TOMO using latent codes at different locations along PC9. The atomic structures of A-, P- and E-site tRNAs from *T. thermophilus* Cm-bound 70S ribosome (PDB accession code: 6ND5[60]) and EF-Tu-tRNAs from 70S ribosome in Cm-treated *M. pneumoniae* cell (PDB accession code: 7PHA[49]) are fitted into density maps for comparison. The sites occupied by tRNAs and densities for EF-Tu cofactor and L1 are marked by red dashed ellipses and annotated with corresponding labels. The A/T-site consists of A-site at 30S subunit and T-site at EF-Tu. The locations of latent codes are specified as xPC9. **d)** The occupancy change of L9 subunit identified by OPUS-TOMO using latent codes at different locations along PC8. The locations of latent codes are specified as

xPC8. The atomic structure of 70S ribosome (PDB accession code: 7PHA[49]) is fitted into density map at -4.7PC8. The atomic structure of L9 subunit is colored in red. Red dashed ellipses mark the location of L9. **e)** The occupancy change of EF-Tu cofactor and the associated conformational changes identified by OPUS-TOMO using latent codes at different locations along PC10. The locations of latent codes are specified as xPC10. The atomic structure of 70S ribosome with EF-Tu cofactor (PDB accession code: 7PHA[49]) is fitted into density map at -4.4PC10. The atomic structure of EF-Tu cofactor is colored in red, while other neighboring subunits are colored and annotated by text with the same colors. The density maps at -4.4PC10 and 4.8PC10 are superimposed to reveal the displacement of the L7/L12 NTD, which is marked by the green ellipse. The red arrow annotates the direction of displacement. All maps and models are visualized by ChimeraX[59].

Extended Data Figure Legends

Extended Data Figure 1. Heterogeneity analysis on the *S. pombe* 80S ribosome (data from EMPIAR-10988). a). UMAP visualization of the 12-dimensional latent space learned by OPUS-TOMO and the distribution of centroids for clusters found by KMeans algorithm. Solid black dot represents the cluster center for labelled class. **b)**. Twenty-four density maps at class centers reconstructed by the Decoder of OPUS-TOMO. All maps are contoured at the same level and visualized by ChimeraX[59].

Extended Data Figure 2. Characterization of density maps reconstructed by the Decoder of OPUS-TOMO. a~c). Comparison between density maps from different classes reconstructed by the Decoder of OPUS-TOMO and the atomic structures of cofactors. Atomic structures are

fitted into maps by rigid-body fitting. Zoomed views are shown for cofactors marked by red dashed ellipses. "CC" represents the correlation coefficient between the atomic structure and the density map, which was calculated by *measure* in ChimeraX[59] and for densities from atomic structure above the level of 0.4, where the density map for the atomic structure was created by molmap in ChimeraX. The deposited maps with the same cofactors are shown for reference. **a)**. Comparison between the density map of Class 2 and the additional ES27L RNA at the exit tunnel. The deposited density map EMD-10608[33] with ES27L RNA is shown for reference. The structure with PDB accession code 3IZD[34] is fitted into the maps. **b)**. Comparison between the density map of Class 12 and the cofactor eEF3 bound to the 40S subunit. The deposited density map EMD-12064[35] with eEF3 is shown in reference. The structure with PDB accession code 2IX8[36] is fitted into the maps. **c)**. Comparison between the density map of Class 14 and the cofactor eEF1A bound to the 40S subunit. The deposited density map EMD-41205[6] with eEF1A is shown for reference. The predicted structure of AF-P0CT53[37] is fitted into the maps. **d~h)**. Reference density maps for transient states in translation elongation cycle resolved by Ranjan *et. al*[35]. These maps are to be compared with the maps of different classes reconstructed by the Decoder of OPUS-TOMO in Fig.2b. The atomic structures of tRNAs at A- and P- sites are superimposed into the density maps for comparison. The atomic structure of yeast 80S ribosome with A- and P- site tRNAs (PDB accession code: 7B7D) resolved by Ranjan *et. al*[35] is fitted into these states. The A-site tRNA is colored in red, and the P-site tRNA is colored in cyan. Maps show densities overlapping with tRNA structures at the occupied sites. **d)**. The density map for Pre-1 state. The red dashed ellipses highlight the A- and P- site tRNAs. **e)**. The density map for Pre-3 state. The red dashed ellipses highlight the A- and P/E- site tRNAs. The P/E site tRNA extends from P-site in 40S subunit to E-site in 60S subunit. **f)**. The density map for Pre-4 state.

The red dashed ellipses highlight the A/P- and P/E- site tRNAs. The A/P site tRNA extends from A-site in 40S subunit to P-site in 60S subunit. **g)**. The density map for Post-1 state. The red dashed ellipses highlight the P- and E- site tRNAs. The E-site tRNA extends from E-site in 40S subunit to E-site in 60S subunit. **h)**. The density map for Post-3 state. The red dashed ellipse highlights the P-site tRNA. All maps and models are visualized by ChimeraX[59].

Extended Data Figure 3. Analysis of tRNA translocation revealed by by the Decoder of OPUS-TOMO. a and **e).** The transient states for tRNA translocation reconstructed by the Decoder of OPUS-TOMO using latent codes at different locations along different PCs. The locations of latent codes are specified as xPCn. The atomic structures of tRNAs at A- and P-sites are superimposed into the density maps for comparison. The atomic structure of yeast 80S ribosome with A- and P- site tRNAs (PDB accession code: 7B7D[35]) is fitted into these maps. The tRNA at A-site is colored in red, and the tRNA at P-site is colored in cyan. Zoomed views are shown for regions marked by red boxes. **a)**. The transient states for tRNA translocation reconstructed by the Decoder of OPUS-TOMO using latent codes at different locations on PC8. A/T tRNA in "-5PC8", and A/P and P/E tRNAs in "5PC8" are marked by red dashed ellipses. A/T tRNA extends from A-site in 40S subunit to T-site in 60S subunit, A/P tRNA extends from A-site in 40S subunit to P-site in 60S subunit, and P/E tRNA extends from P-site in 40S subunit to E-site in 60S subunit. **b~d).** The densities for eEF1A and A/T tRNA in the density map "-5PC8" reconstructed by the Decoder of OPUS-TOMO. **b)**. The densities for eEF1A and A/T tRNA in "-5PC8". The density for eEF1A is highlighted by red ellipse, and the density for A/T tRNA is highlighted by red dashed ellipse. The predicted structure for eEF1A under AF-P0CT53[37] is fitted into the density map of "-5PC8" to highlight the density for eEF1A. The

atomic structure of yeast 80S ribosome with A- and P- site tRNAs (PDB accession code: 7B7D[35]) is fitted into "-5PC8" to highlight the A- and P- sites. **c)**. The densities for eEF1A and A/T tRNA in the deposited density map EMD-41205. **d)**. The fitting between the density of eEF1A from "-5PC8" and the predicted structure for eEF1A under AF-P0CT53[37]. "CC" represents the correlation coefficient between the map and model. **e)**. The transient states for tRNA translocation reconstructed by the Decoder of OPUS-TOMO using latent codes at different locations on PC9. The tRNA marked by red dashed ellipse in "0.8PC9" detached from the A-site in 60S subunit. Red dashed ellipse in "4PC9" marks the A/T tRNA. All maps and models are visualized by ChimeraX[59].

Extended Data Figure 4. Purifying template matching result for the *S. pombe* 80S ribosome (data from EMPIAR-10988). a). The Venn diagram for the subtomograms for 80S ribosome from different methods. The blue ellipse represents the subtomograms from DeePiCt's expert annoation[27] which is 25,901 in total. DeePiCt's expert annotation is referred to as DeePiCt for simplicity. The yellow ellipse represents the subtomograms from our template matching, which is 50,000 in total. The red ellipse represents the cluster formed by Class 12~17 from OPUS-TOMO's clustering result, which is 17,215 in total. The number of subtomograms in the intersection between DeePiCt and Classes 12~17 is 14,039. The number of subtomograms in the intersection between DeePiCt and template matching is 21,351. **b).** Distribution of the number of subtomograms from Classes 12~17 given by OPUS-TOMO in each tilt series which overlap with DeePiCt's result. "Template Matching Overlapping with DeePiCt" refers to the number of subtomograms from the template matching result that overlap with DeePiCt's result in each tilt series. "OPUS-TOMO" refers to the number of subtomograms from Classes 12~17 in OPUS-

TOMO's result that overlap with DeePiCt's result in each tilt series. **c).** Distribution of the ratio of subtomograms from Class 12~17 given by OPUS-TOMO in each tilt series which overlap with DeePiCt's result. The ratio is calculated by dividing the number of subtomograms overlapping with DeePiCt's result by the total number of subtomograms of the particle set for each tilt series. "Template Matching Overlapping Ratio" refers to the ratio of subtomograms in the template matching result that overlap with DeePiCt's result in each tilt series. "OPUS-TOMO" refers to the ratio of subtomograms from Classes 12~17 in OPUS-TOMO's result that overlap with DeePiCt's result in each tilt series.

Extended Data Figure 5. Heterogeneity analysis on the *S. pombe* FAS (EMPIAR-10988). a). UMAP visualization of the 12-dimensional latent space learned by OPUS-TOMO and the distribution of centroids for clusters found by KMeans algorithm. Solid black dot represents the cluster center for labelled class. **b)**. Density maps reconstructed by the Decoder of OPUS-TOMO using twenty cluster centers as inputs. All maps are contoured at the same level and visualized by ChimeraX[59].

Extended Data Figure 6. Comparison of subtomograms for *S. pombe* FAS from different methods. a). The Venn diagram for the subtomograms for FAS from different methods. The blue ellipse represents the subtomograms from DeePiCt's expert annotation[27], which is 366 in total. DeePiCt's expert annotation is referred to as DeePiCt for simplicity. The yellow ellipse represents the subtomograms from template matching[21], which is 4,800 in total. The red ellipse represents the Class 19 from OPUS-TOMO's clustering result, which is 221 in total. The number of subtomograms in the intersection between DeePiCt and Class 19 is 89. The number

of subtomograms in the intersection between DeePiCt and template matching is 115. **b)**. Distribution of the number of subtomograms from Class 19 given by OPUS-TOMO in each tilt series which overlap with DeePiCt's result. "Template Matching Overlapping with DeePiCt" refers to the number of subtomograms from the template matching result that overlap with DeePiCt's result in each tilt series. "OPUS-TOMO" refers to the number of subtomograms from Class 19 in OPUS-TOMO's result that overlap with DeePiCt's result in each tilt series. **c)**. Distribution of the ratio of subtomograms from Class 19 given by OPUS-TOMO in each tilt series which overlap with DeePiCt's result. The ratio is calculated by dividing the number of subtomograms overlapping with DeePiCt's result by the total number of subtomograms of the particle set for each tilt series. "Template Matching Overlapping Ratio" refers to the ratio of subtomograms in the template matching result that overlap with DeePiCt's result in each tilt series. "OPUS-TOMO" refers to the ratio of subtomograms from Class 19 in OPUS-TOMO's result that overlap with DeePiCt's result in each tilt series. **d)**. The projections of subtomograms from the tilt series TS_045 for Class 19 in OPUS-TOMO, and the projections of subtomograms from DeePiCt. The subtomograms are 4x binned and blurred by a Gaussian with standard deviation 1 before projecting along the Z axis.

Extended Data Figure 7. Heterogeneity analysis on the *E. coli* 70S ribosome (data from EMPIAR-10304). a). UMAP visualization of the 12-dimensional latent space learned by OPUS-TOMO and the distribution of centroids for clusters found by KMeans algorithm. Solid black dot represents the cluster center for labelled class. **b)**. Sixteen density maps reconstructed by the Decoder of OPUS-TOMO at the class centers. All maps are contoured at the same level and visualized by ChimeraX[59]. **c)**. The projections of subtomograms from the tomogram

numbered Tilt1 for Class 0 from OPUS-TOMO, which show densities correspond to 50S subunit. **d)**. The projections of subtomograms from the tomogram numbered Tilt1 for Class 1 from OPUS-TOMO, which show densities correspond to 70S ribosome. The subtomograms are 8x binned and blurred by a Gaussian with standard deviation 0.75 before projecting along the *Z* axis.

Extended Data Figure 8. Purifying Template Matching Result for the *M. pneumoniae* 70S Ribosome (data from EMPIAR-10499). a). UMAP visualization of the 12-dimensional latent space learned by OPUS-TOMO and the distribution of centroids for clusters found by KMeans algorithm. Solid black dot represents the cluster center for labelled class. Red dashed ellipse highlights the cluster of subtomograms corresponding to 70S ribosome. **b).** Thirty density maps at class centers reconstructed by the Decoder of OPUS-TOMO. **c)**. Comparison between subtomogram averages of *M. pneumoniae* 70S ribosome of template matching and OPUS-TOMO. Both density maps are contoured at 4σ level, and colored by local resolutions. **d**). Comparison between the gold standard FSCs of the subtomogram averages of template matching and OPUS-TOMO. "Template Matching Corrected" represents the corrected FSC of the subtomogram averages of the original template matching set. "OPUS-TOMO corrected" represents the corrected FSC of the subtomogram averages of Classes 9~16 given by OPUS-TOMO. "Template Matching Masked" represents the masked FSC of the subtomogram averages of original template matching set. "OPUS-TOMO Masked" represents the masked FSC of the subtomogram averages of Classes 9~16 given by OPUS-TOMO. All maps and models are visualized by ChimeraX[59].

Extended Data Figure 9. Heterogeneity analysis on the *M. pneumoniae* 70S ribosome (data from EMPIAR-11843). a). UMAP visualization of the 12-dimensional latent space learned by OPUS-TOMO and the distribution of centroids for clusters found by KMeans algorithm. Solid black dot represents the cluster center for labelled class. **b)**. Thirty density maps at class centers reconstructed by the Decoder of OPUS-TOMO. All maps are contoured at the same level and visualized by ChimeraX[59]. **c)**. The occupancy change at the peptide exit tunnel identified by OPUS-TOMO using latent codes at different locations along PC1. The locations of latent codes are specified as xPC1. The atomic model of 70S ribosome in Cm-treated *M. pneumoniae* cell (PDB accession code: 7PHA[49]) is fitted into the density map of -10.0PC1. Red dashed ellipses mark the region at peptide exit tunnel. The subunits forming the peptide exit channel are colored and annotated by texts with the same colors. **d**). Comparison between 70S ribosome with EF-Tu cofactor reconstructed by different methods. The atomic model of 70S ribosome in Cm-treated *M. pneumoniae* cell (PDB accession code: 7PHA[49]) is fitted into the density map at 4.8PC9 reconstructed by OPUS-TOMO for reference. Red dashed ellipses mark the densities for EF-Tu-tRNA and their zoomed views. The atomic model of EF-Tu-tRNA from 7PHA is fitted into density maps and shown in zoomed views. The density maps are contoured by normalizing volumes of densities for EF-Tu-tRNA.

Extended Data Table

Extended Data Table 1. Distributions of subtomograms representing 80S ribosome (Left) or FAS (Right) in each tilt series. "Template matching" refers to the number of subtomograms localized by template matching; "DeePiCt" refers to the number of subtomograms which are extracted according to expert annotations from DeePiCt[27]; "Template matching overlapping with

DeePiCt" refers to the number of subtomograms that in both template matching and DeePiCt's annotation result; "OPUS-TOMO" refers to the number of subtomograms from Classes 12~17 (for 80S ribosome) or Class 19 (for FAS) given by OPUS-TOMO in each tilt series; and "OPUS-TOMO Overlapping with DeePiCt" refers to the number of subtomograms that are in both Classes 12~17 (for 80S ribosome) or Class 19 (for FAS) from OPUS-TOMO's clustering result and DeePiCt's annotation result. The ratio was calculated by the number of overlapping subtomograms divided by the number of subtomograms from template matching (for "Template matching overlapping ratio") or from OPUS-TOMO's clustering result (for "OPUS-TOMO overlapping ratio), respectively.

Supplementary Video Legends

Supplementary Video 1. Traversal of PC8 of the latent space of the *S. pombe* 80S ribosome reveals the transition from the state with A/T site tRNA and P-site tRNA to the state with hybrid A/P and P/E site tRNAs, corresponding to the transition from Pre-1 state to Pre-4 state in the elongation cycle. The atomic models for 40S ribosome, A-site tRNA and P-site tRNA are colored in green, red, and cyan, respectively. The T- and E- sites on the 60S subunit are annotated by corresponding labels. The video is created by traversing PC8 forward and backward twice. The dynamics of tRNAs can be identified by observing the occupancy changes at the A- and P- sites with atomic models.

Supplementary Video 2. Traversal of PC8 of the latent space of the *S. pombe* 80S ribosome reveals the binding and dissociation of the eEF1A and eEF3, and the occupancy transition of the ES27L RNA at the exit tunnel. The atomic models for 40S ribosome, eEF1A, eEF3 and ES27L

RNA are colored in red, light blue, dark blue, and green, respectively. The video is created by traversing PC8 forward and backward twice.

Supplementary Video 3. Traversal of PC9 of the latent space of the *S. pombe* 80S ribosome reveals the transition from the state with A/T site tRNA and P-site tRNA to the state with A- and P-site tRNAs, demonstrating the delivery of tRNA into A-site. The atomic models for 40S ribosome, A-site tRNA and P-site tRNA are colored in green, red, and cyan, respectively. The video is created by traversing PC9 forward and backward twice.

Supplementary Video 4. Traversal of PC12 of the latent space of the *S. pombe* 80S ribosome reveals the dynamics of L1 stalk that opens and closes the E-site. The atomic models for 40S ribosome, and L1 stalk are colored red and green, respectively. The video is created by traversing PC12 forward and backward twice.

Supplementary Video 5. Traversal of PC5 of the latent space of the *E. coli* 70S ribosome reveals the movement of L1 stalk, and the compositional changes of L11 stalk. The atomic models for 30S ribosome, L1 stalk and L11 stalk are colored in red, green and cyan, respectively. The video is created by traversing PC5 forward and backward twice.

Supplementary Video 6. Traversal of PC4 of the latent space of the *E. coli* 70S ribosome reveals the dynamics and compositional changes of the 30S subunit. The atomic models for 30S ribosome, L1 stalk and L11 stalk are colored in red, green and cyan, respectively. The video is created by traversing PC4 forward and backward twice.

Supplementary Video 7. Traversal of PC9 of the latent space of the *M. pneumoniae* 70S ribosome reveals the transition from the state with EF-Tu-tRNA and P- and E- site tRNA to the state with A- and P- site tRNAs, corresponding to the delivery of tRNA into A-site and the exit of E-site tRNA. The atomic models for EF-Tu, tRNA, A-site tRNA, P-site tRNA and E-site tRNA are colored in blue, cyan, yellow, red and green, respectively. The regions with large movements during traversal are marked by red arrows. The video is created by traversing PC9 backward and forward twice with and without cropping. The dynamics of tRNAs can be identified by observing the occupancy changes at the A- and P- sites with atomic models. The dynamics of the subuints an be identified by observing the density changes in regions indicating by red arrows.

Supplementary Video 8. Translation dynamics reconstructed by cryoDRGN-ET and tomoDRGN. The heterogeneity analyses of cryoDRGN-ET and tomoDRGN are performed using multi-particle refinement result from M at a resolution of ~3.5 Å. The dynamics reconstructed by cryoDRGN-ET (**Left**) is created using the first 32 deposited volumes, which are reconstructed at latent codes sampled by interpolation between manually chosen states[25]. The dynamics reconstructed by tomoDRGN (**Right**) is created using deposited volumes for Classes 23~32 from the 100 classes clustered by KMeans algorithm[24]. The atomic models for EF-Tu, tRNA, A-site tRNA, and P-site tRNA are colored in blue, cyan, yellow, and red, respectively. The head and body of the 30S subunit and the L1 stalk are indicated by corresponding labels. The dynamics of tRNAs can be identified by observing the occupancy changes at the A- and P-

sites with atomic models. The dynamics of the cofactor located between the head and body can be identified by observing the density changes indicating by red arrows.

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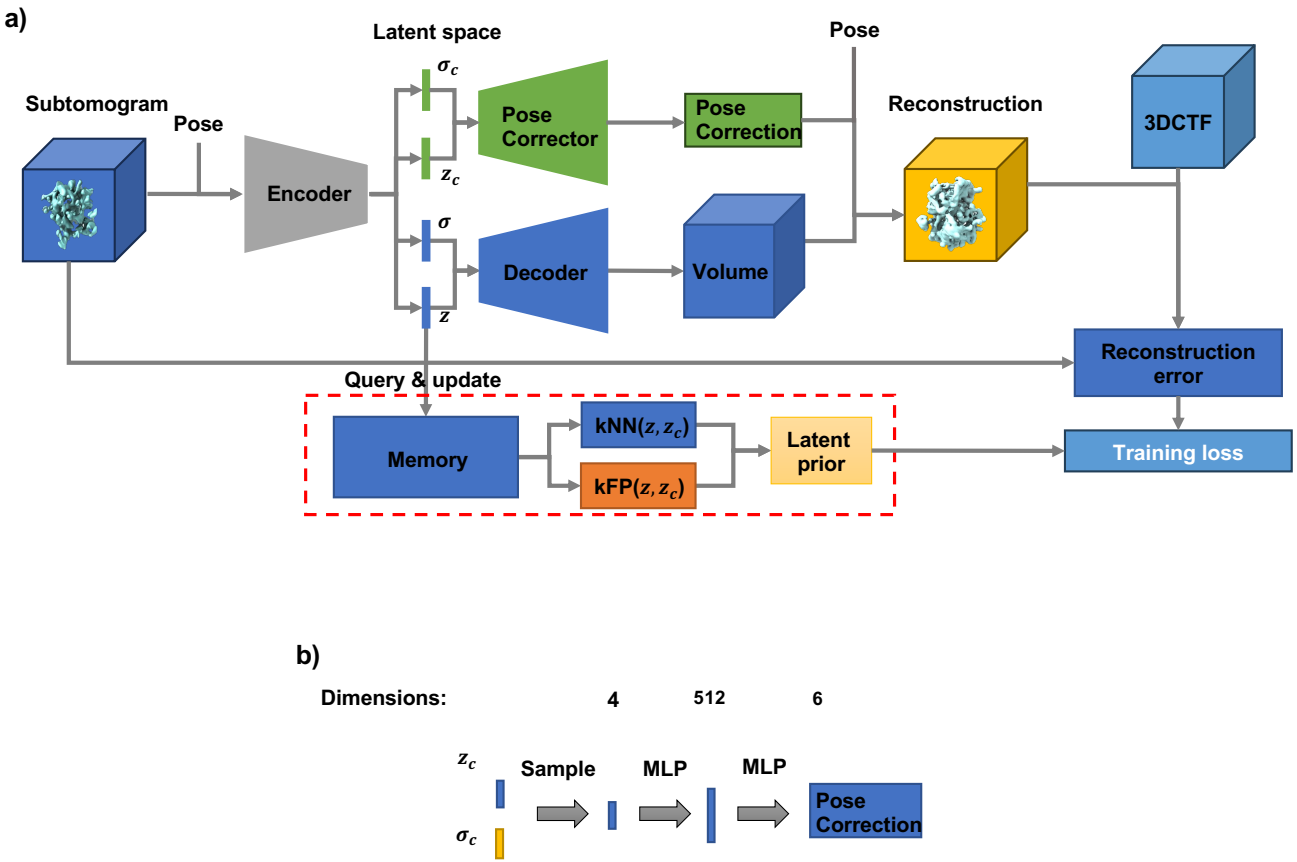

a)
Latent space
Pose
Subtomogram
Pose
Encoder
σ_c
z_c
σ
z
Pose Corrector
Pose Correction
Decoder
Volume
Reconstruction
3DCTF
Reconstruction error
Query & update
Memory
kNN(z, z_c)
kFP(z, z_c)
Latent prior
Training loss
b)
Dimensions:
4
512
6
z_c
σ_c
Sample
MLP
MLP
Pose Correction

Fig.1

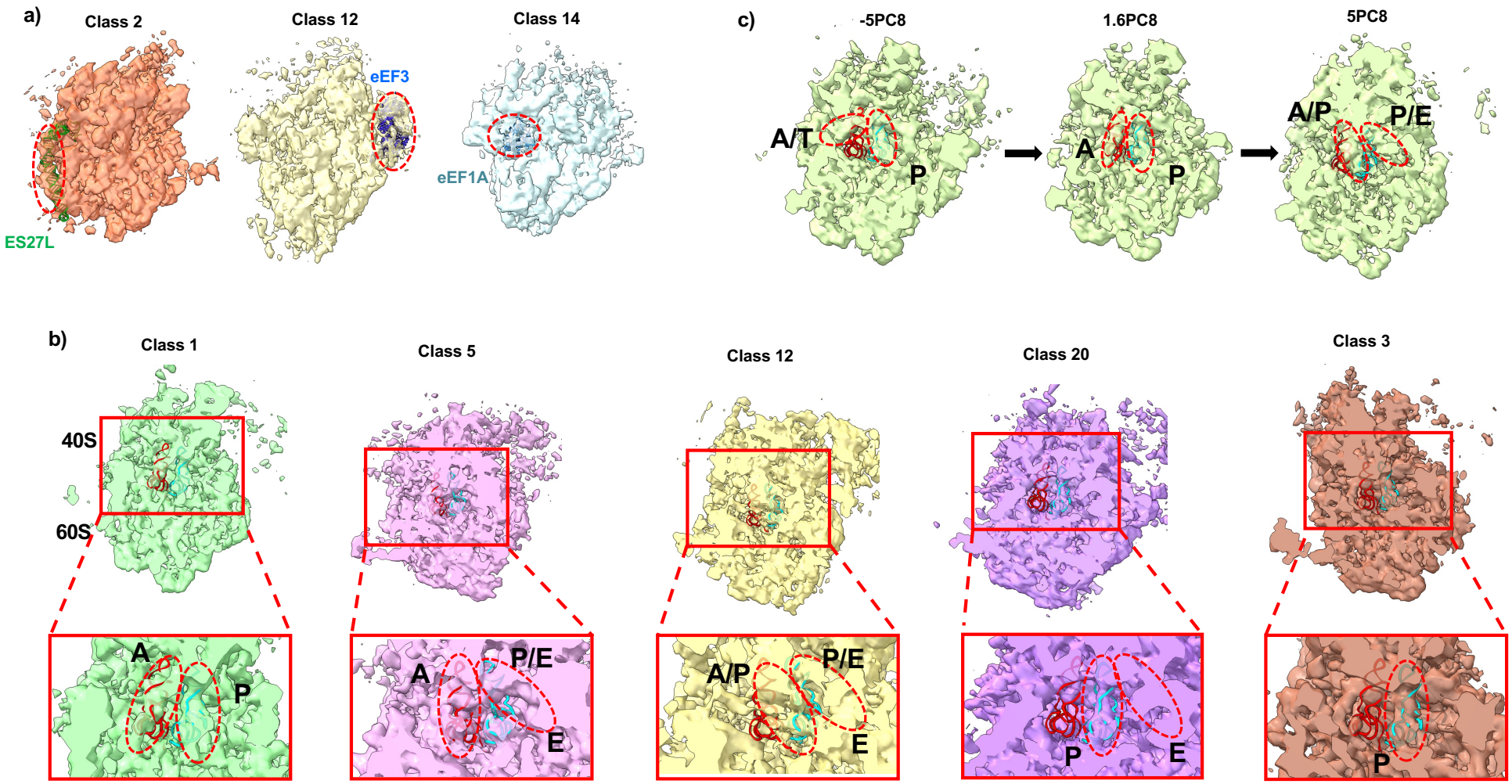

a)
Class 2
Class 12
Class 14
eEF3
eEF1A
ES27L
c)
-5PC8
1.6PC8
5PC8
A/T
P
A
P
A/P
P/E
b)
Class 1
Class 5
Class 12
Class 20
Class 3
40S
60S
A
P
A
P/E
E
A/P
P/E
E
P
E
P

Fig.2

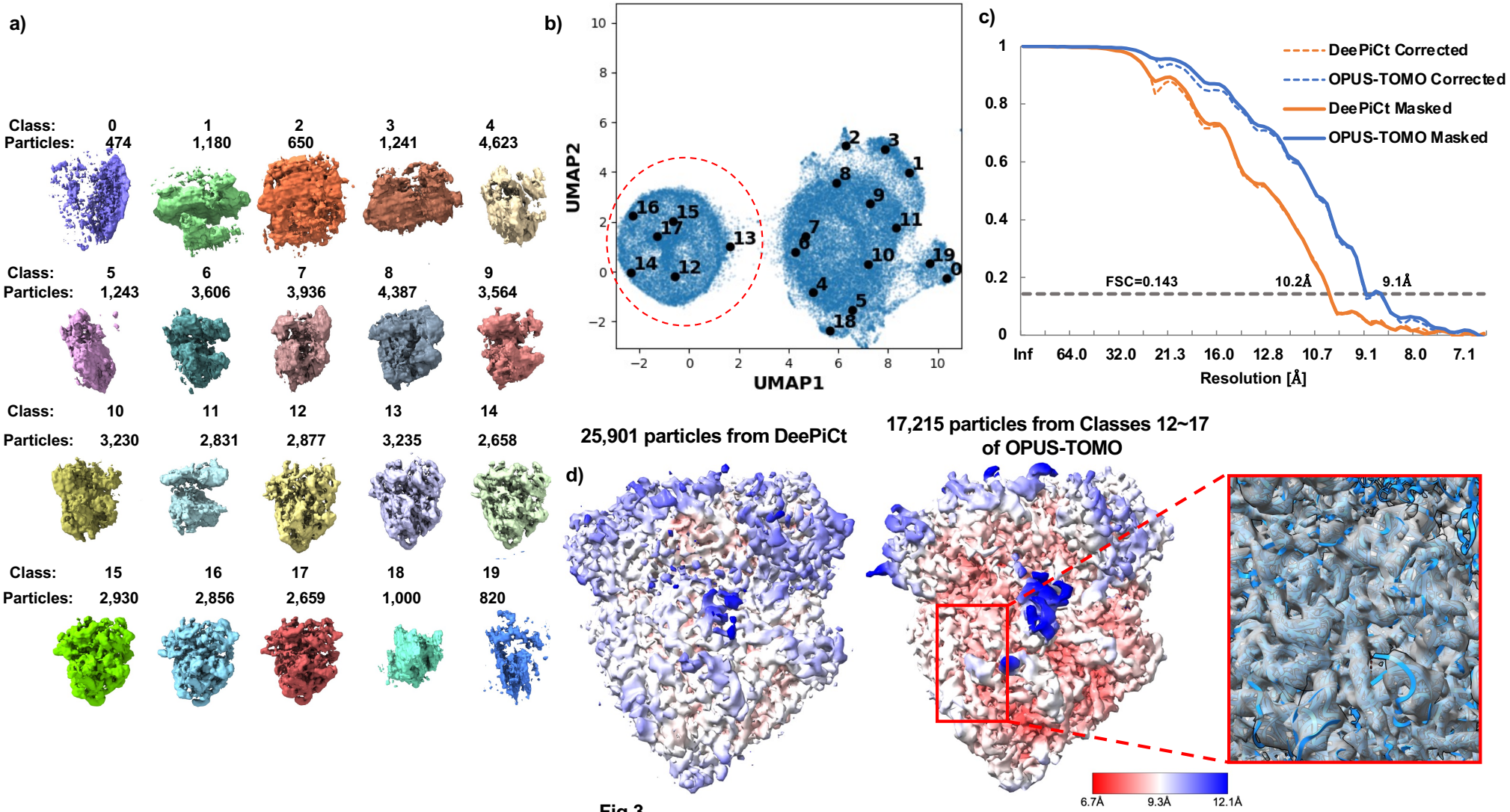

a)
Class: 0 1 2 3 4
Particles: 474 1,180 650 1,241 4,623
Class: 5 6 7 8 9
Particles: 1,243 3,606 3,936 4,387 3,564
Class: 10 11 12 13 14
Particles: 3,230 2,831 2,877 3,235 2,658
Class: 15 16 17 18 19
Particles: 2,930 2,856 2,659 1,000 820
b)
UMAP1
UMAP2
c)
DeePiCt Corrected
OPUS-TOMO Corrected
DeePiCt Masked
OPUS-TOMO Masked
FSC=0.143
10.2Å
9.1Å
Resolution [Å]
Inf 64.0 32.0 21.3 16.0 12.8 10.7 9.1 8.0 7.1
25,901 particles from DeePiCt
17,215 particles from Classes 12~17 of OPUS-TOMO
d)
6.7Å 9.3Å 12.1Å

Fig.3

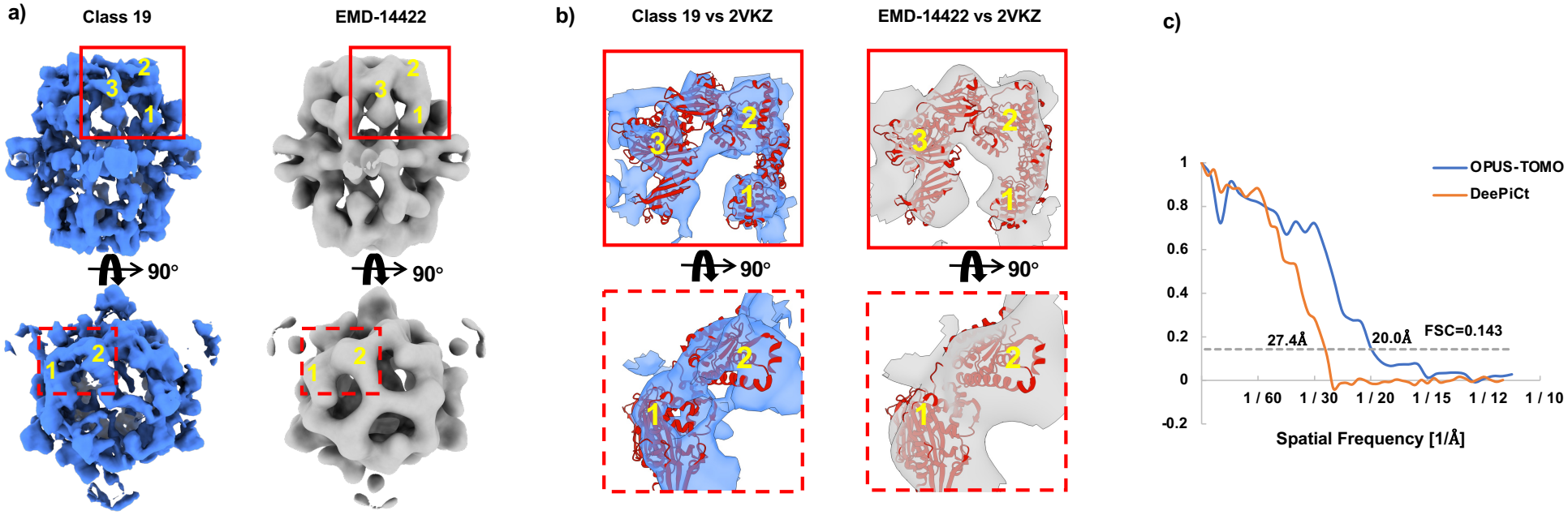

a)
Class 19
EMD-14422
90°
90°
b)
Class 19 vs 2VKZ
EMD-14422 vs 2VKZ
90°
90°
c)
OPUS-TOMO
DeePiCt
1
0.8
0.6
0.4
0.2
0
-0.2
27.4Å
20.0Å
FSC=0.143
1 / 60
1 / 30
1 / 20
1 / 15
1 / 12
1 / 10
Spatial Frequency [1/Å]

Fig.4

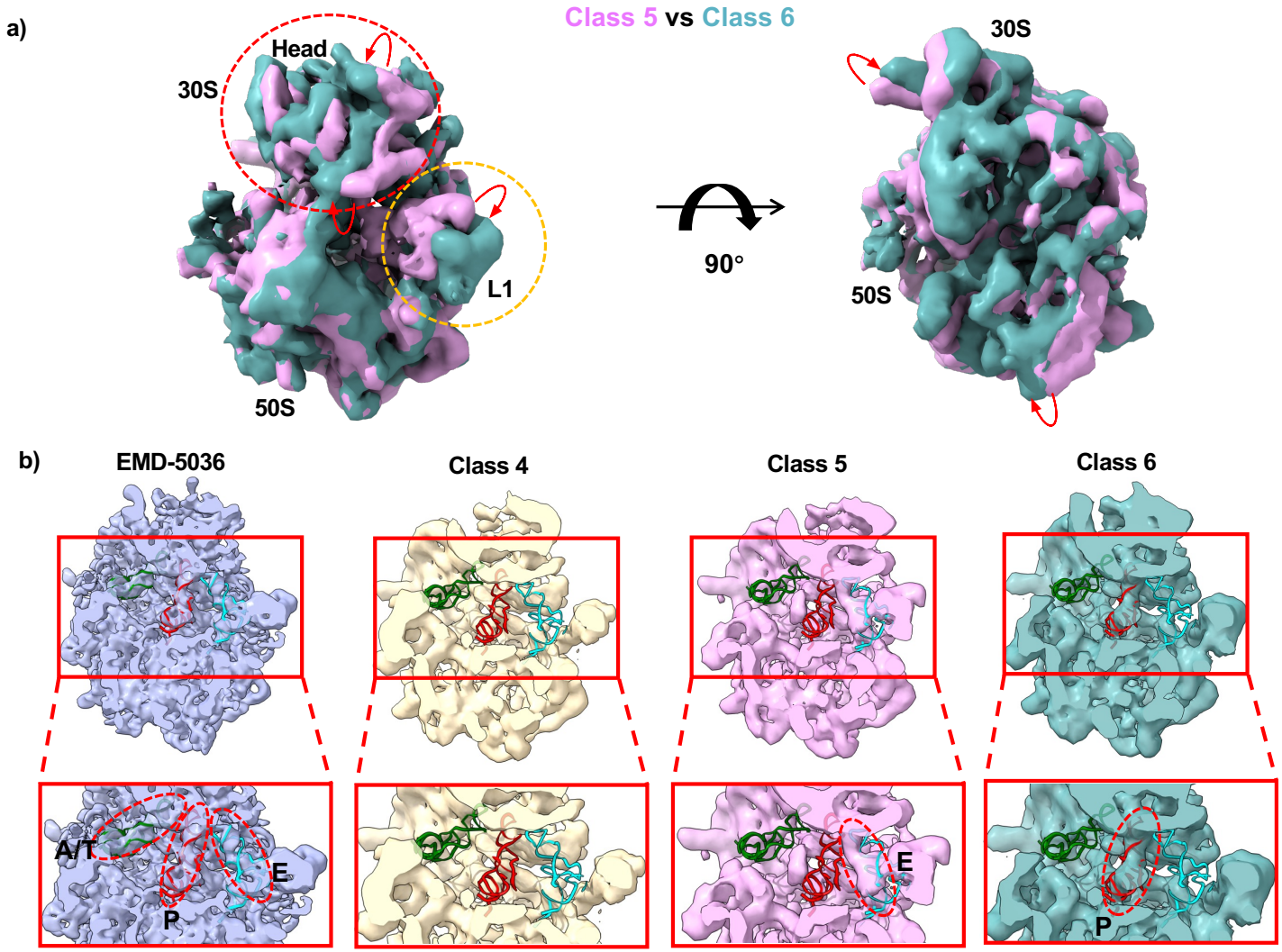

a)
Class 5 vs Class 6
Head
30S
L1
50S
90°
30S
50S
b)
EMD-5036
Class 4
Class 5
Class 6
A/T
E
P
E
P

Fig.5

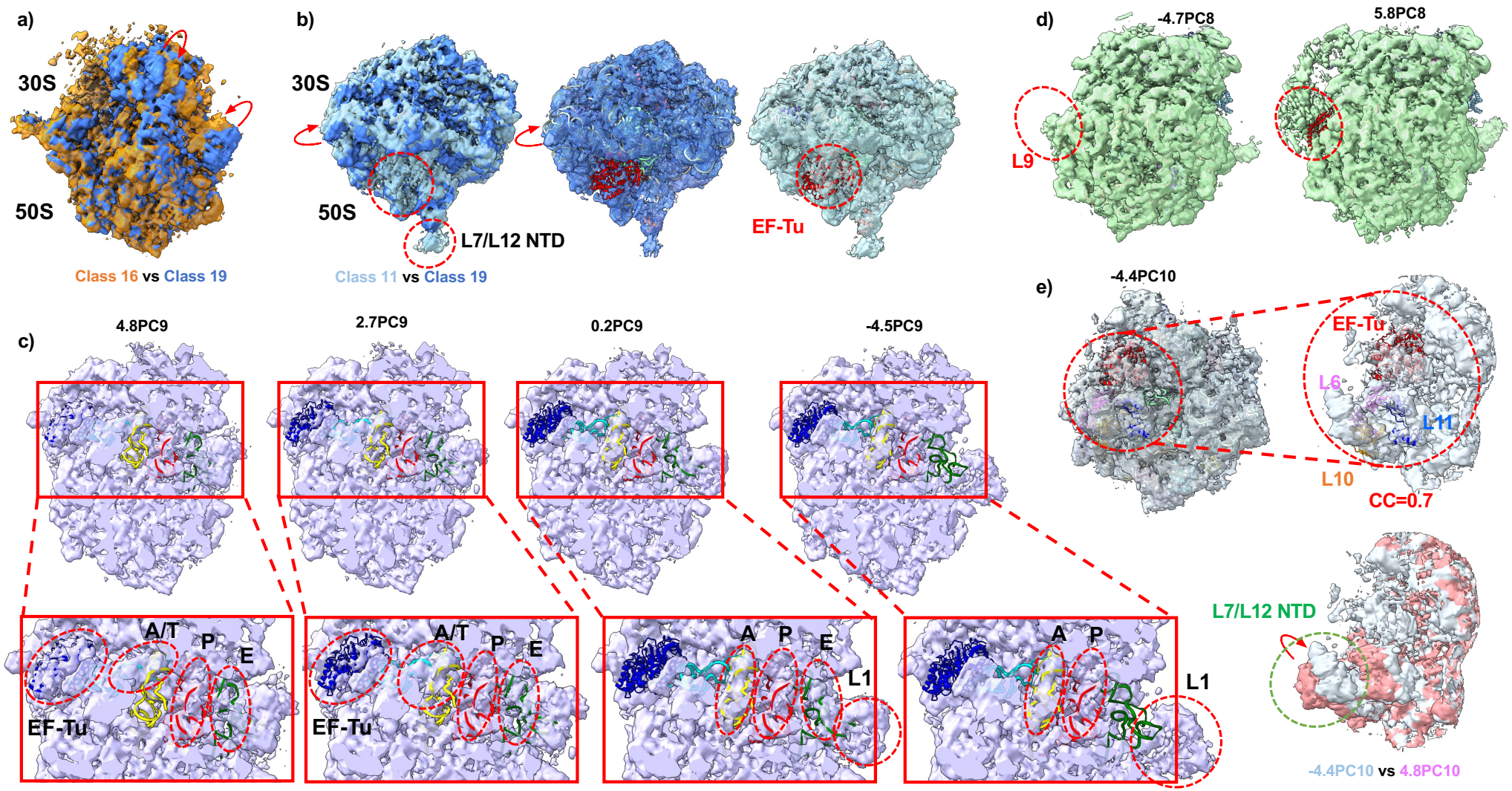
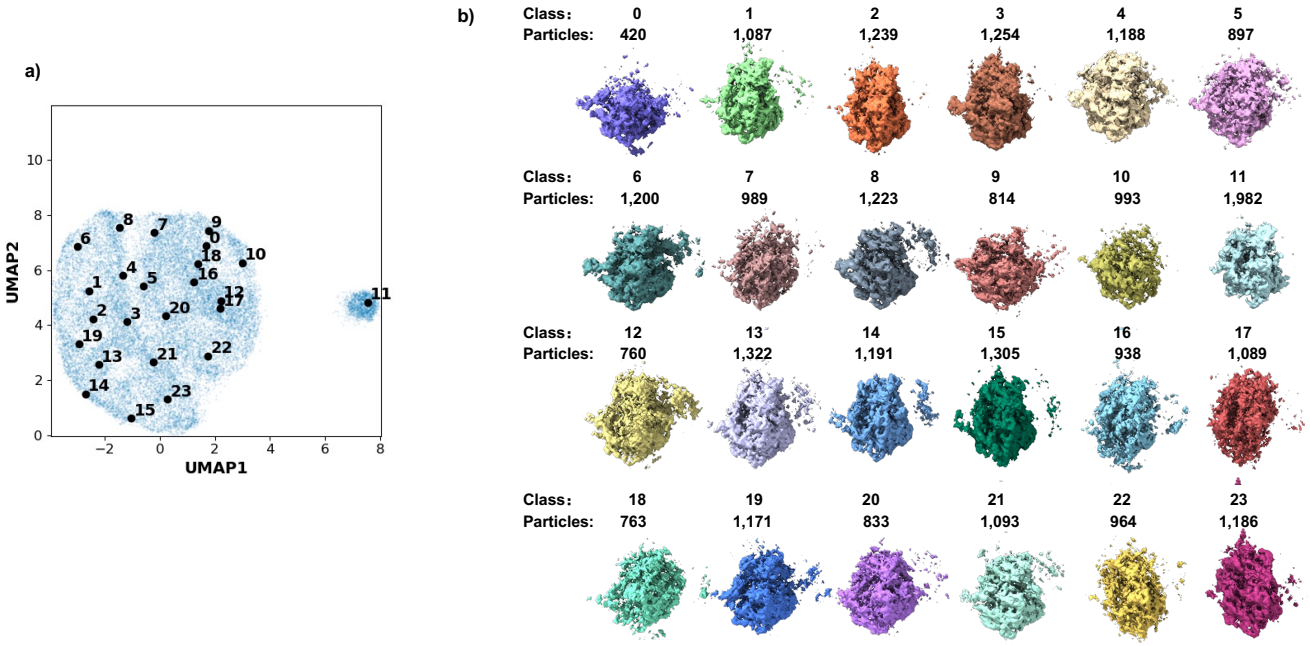
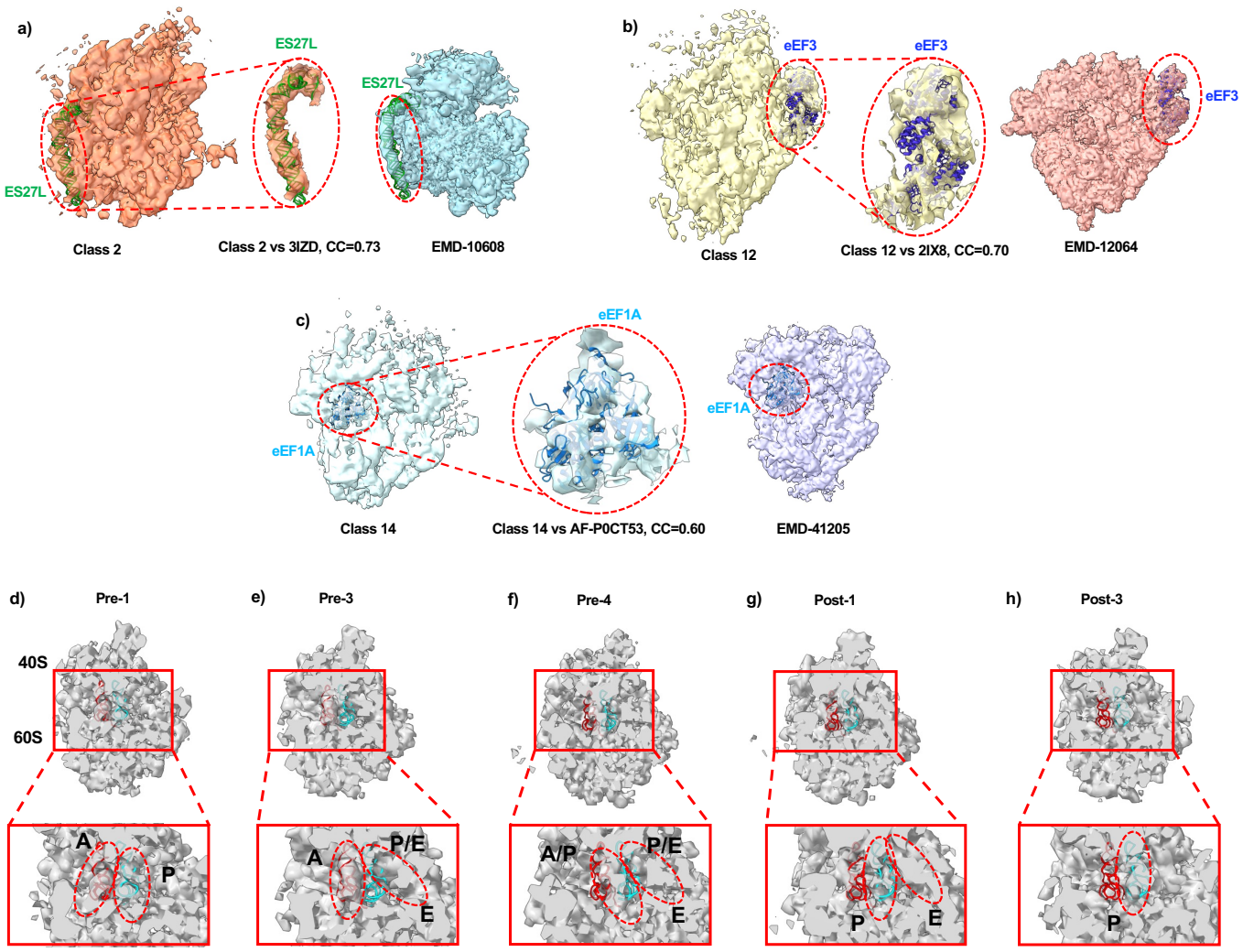

a)
30S
50S
Class 16 vs Class 19
b)
30S
50S
L7/L12 NTD
Class 11 vs Class 19
EF-Tu
d)
-4.7PC8
5.8PC8
L9
e)
-4.4PC10
EF-Tu
L6
L11
L10
CC=0.7
c)
4.8PC9
2.7PC9
0.2PC9
-4.5PC9
A/T
P
E
EF-Tu
A/T
P
E
EF-Tu
A
P
E
L1
A
P
L1
L7/L12 NTD
-4.4PC10 vs 4.8PC10

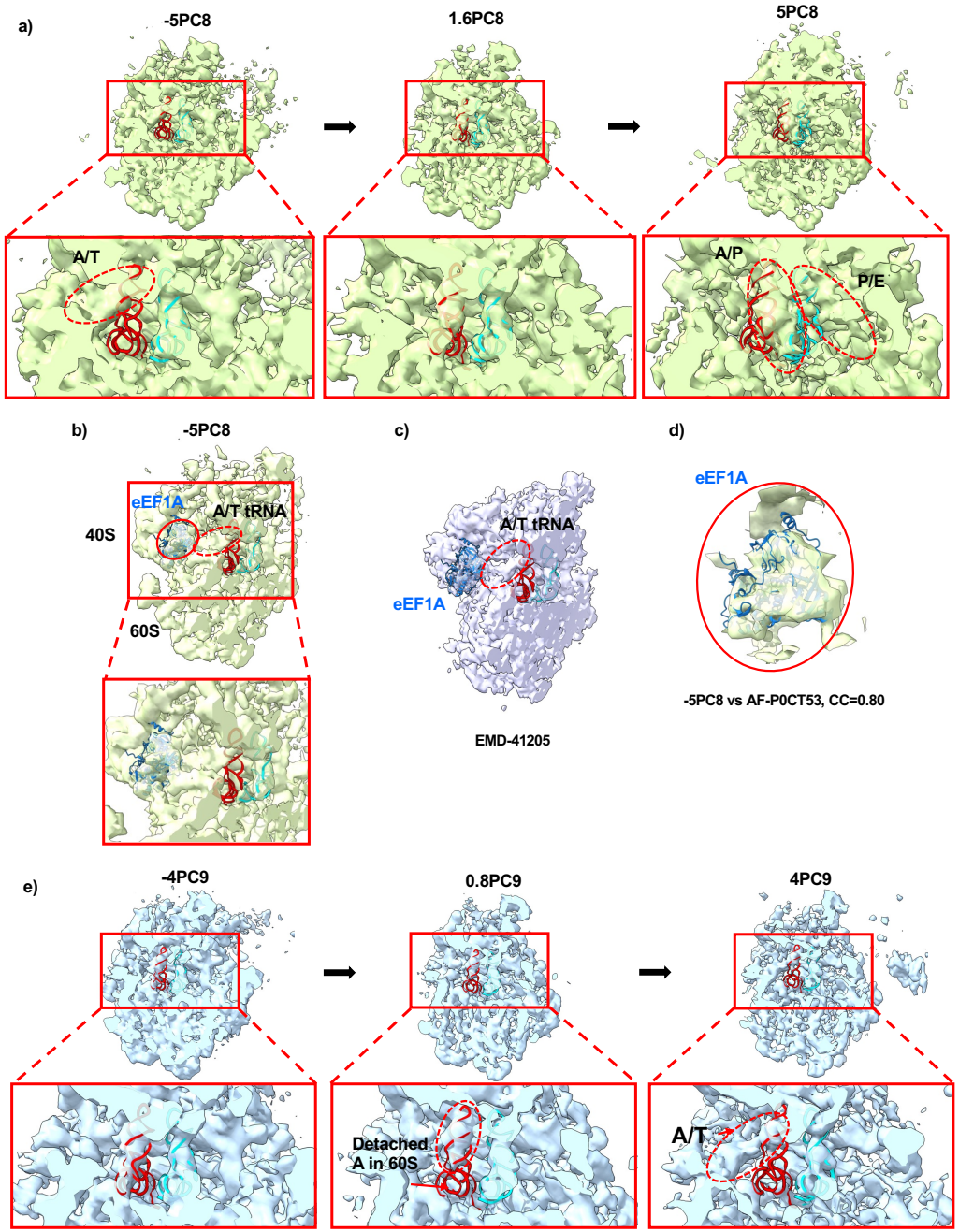
Fig.6



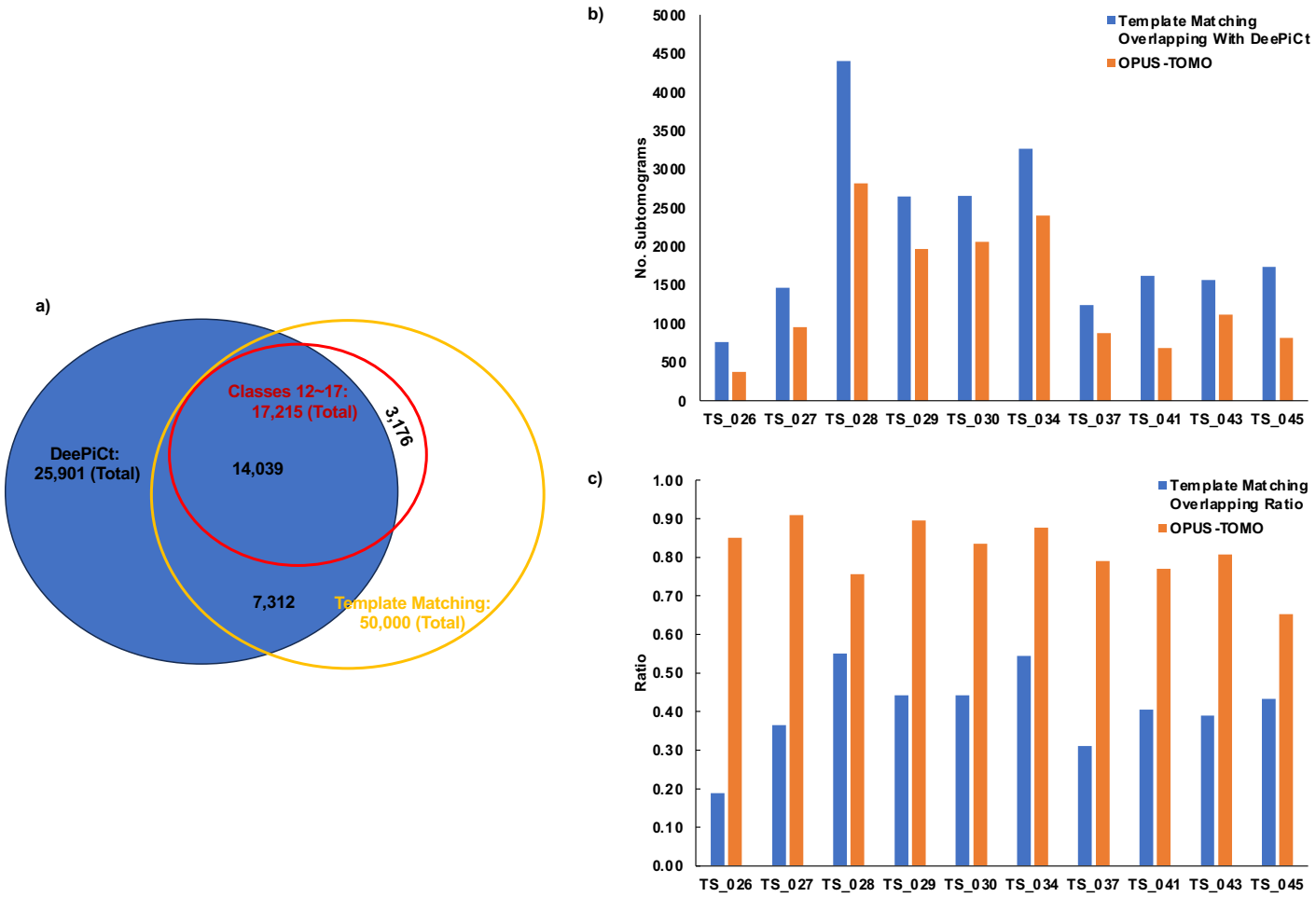
Extended Data Fig.1



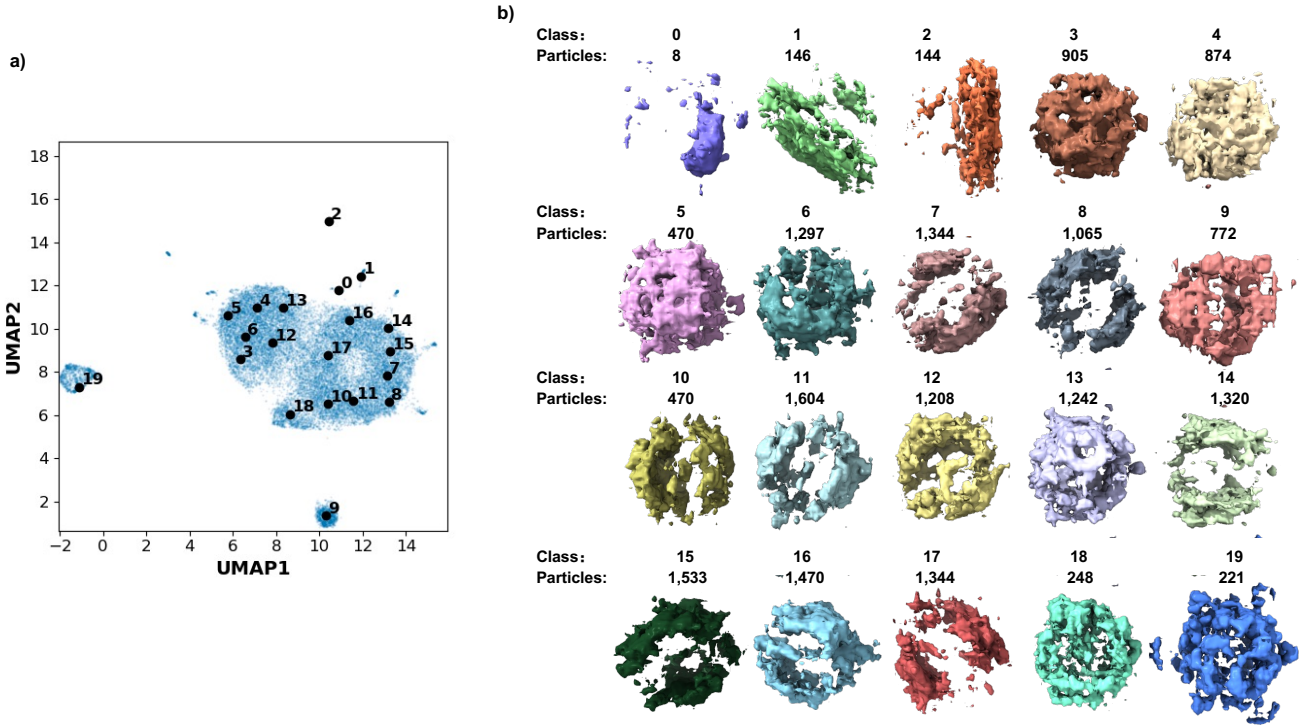
Extended Data Fig.2



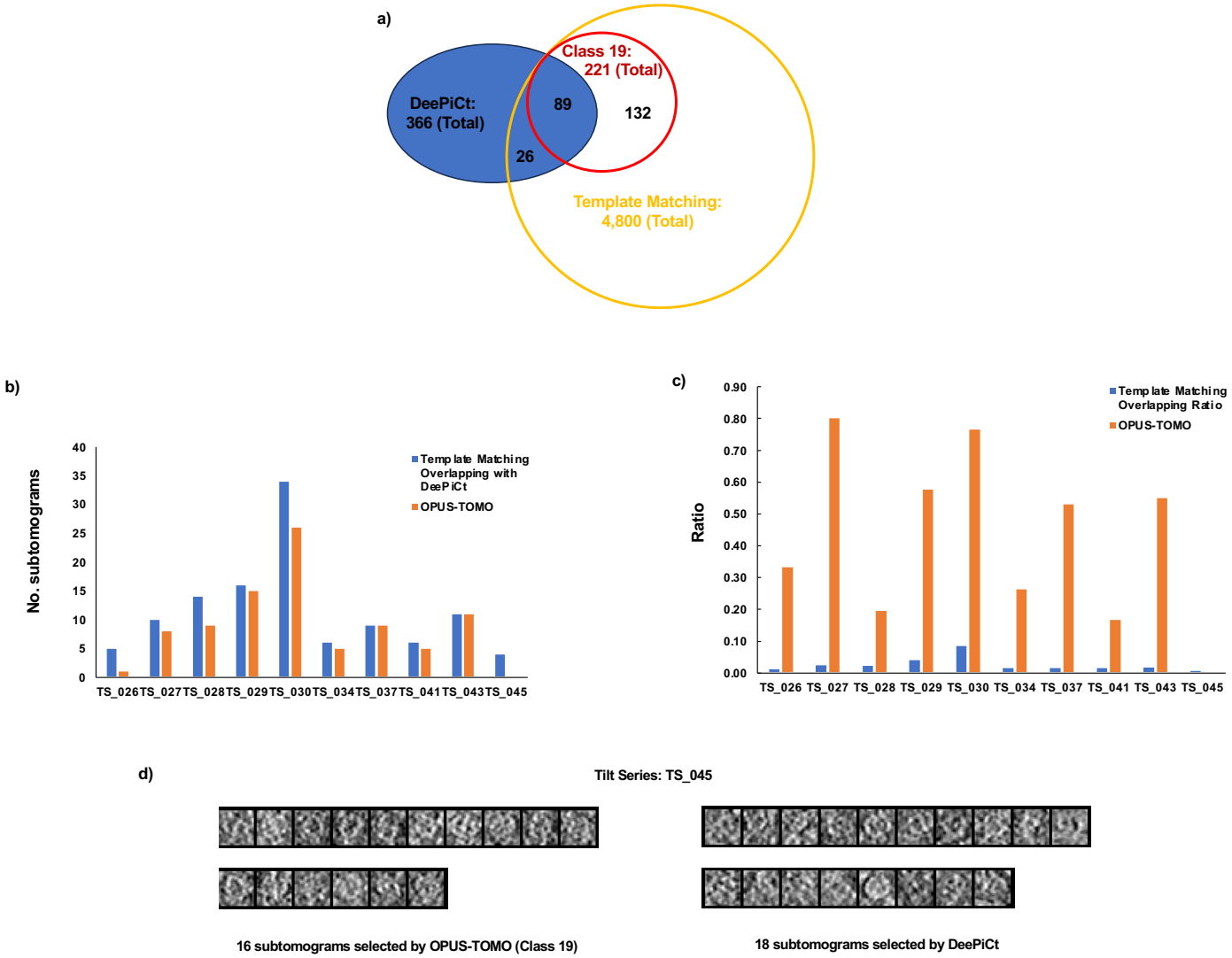
Extended Data Fig.3



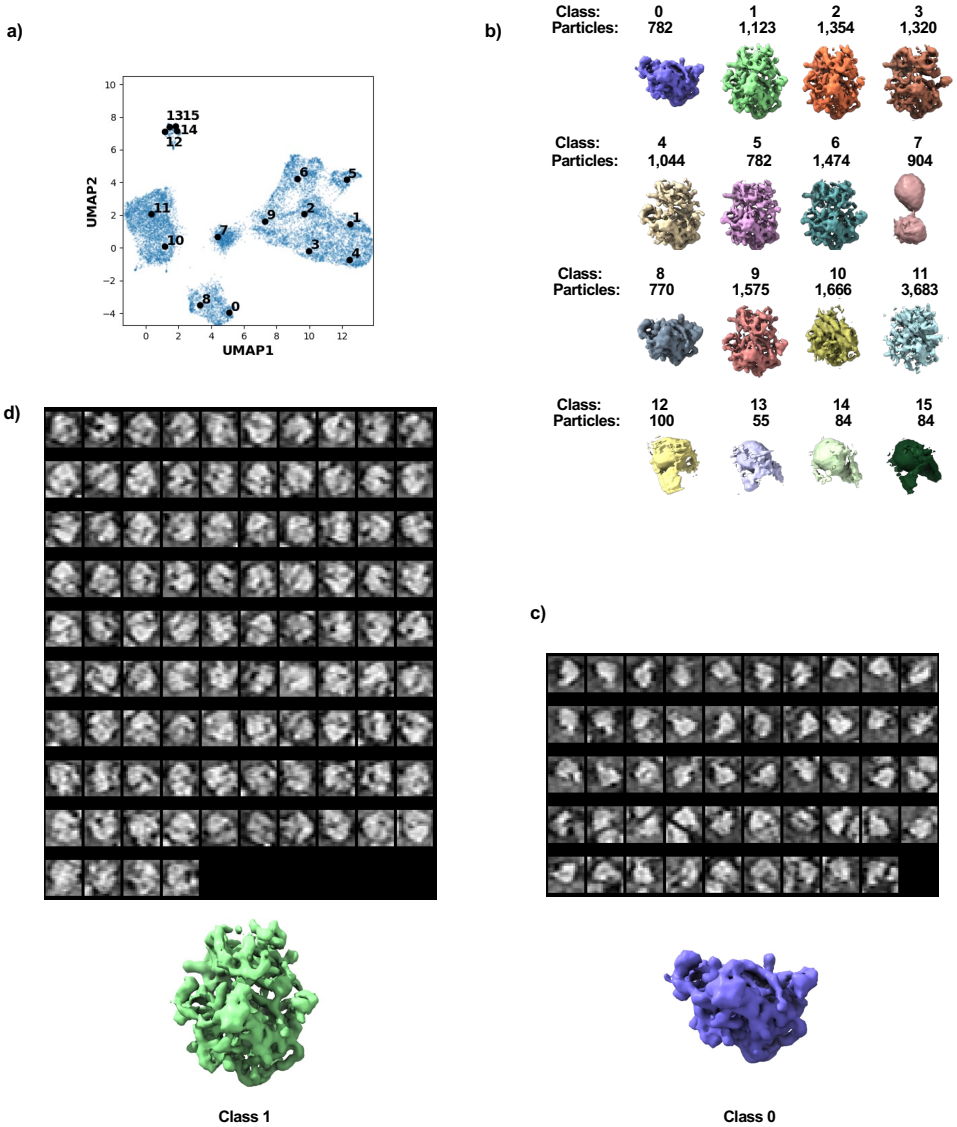
Extended Data Fig.4



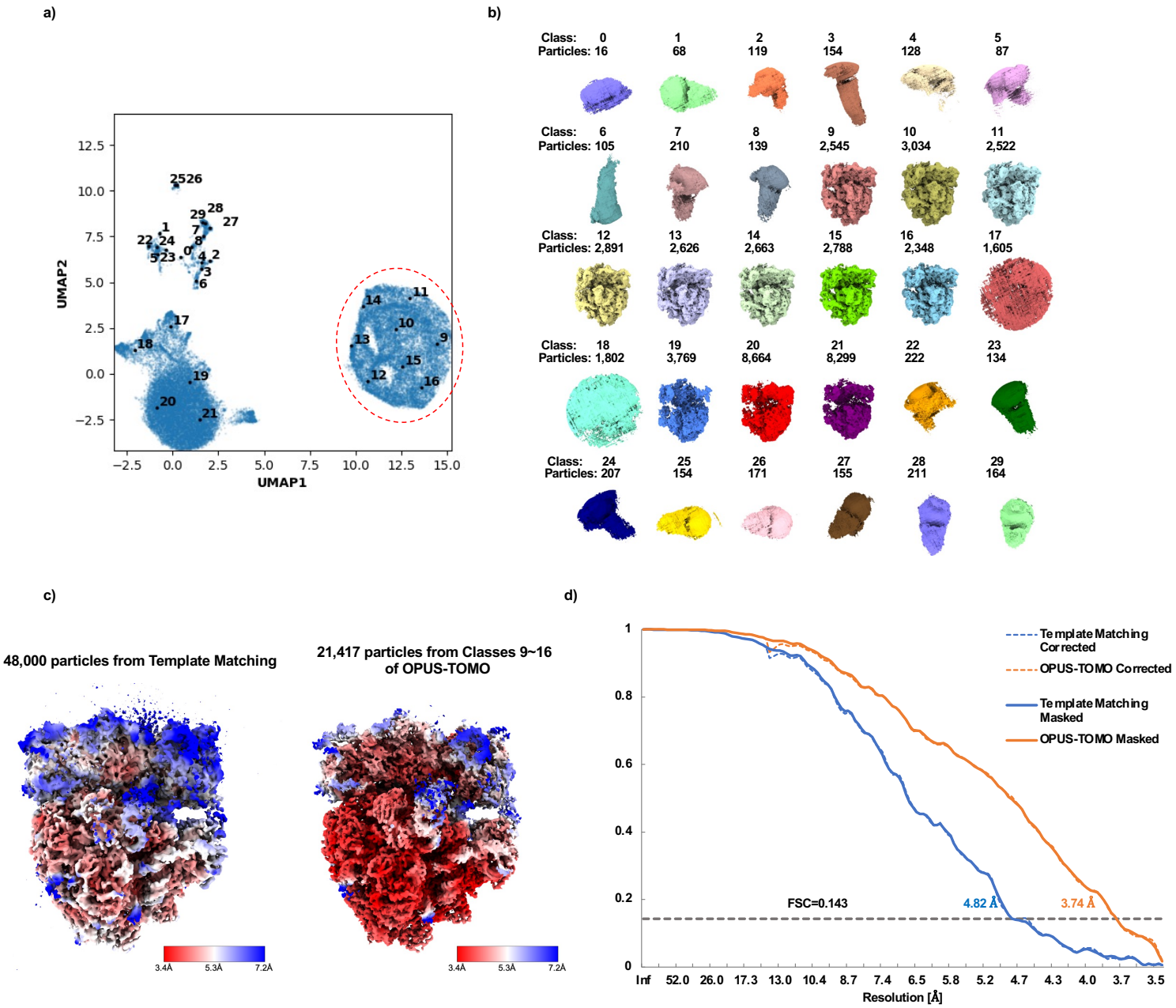
Extended Data Fig.5



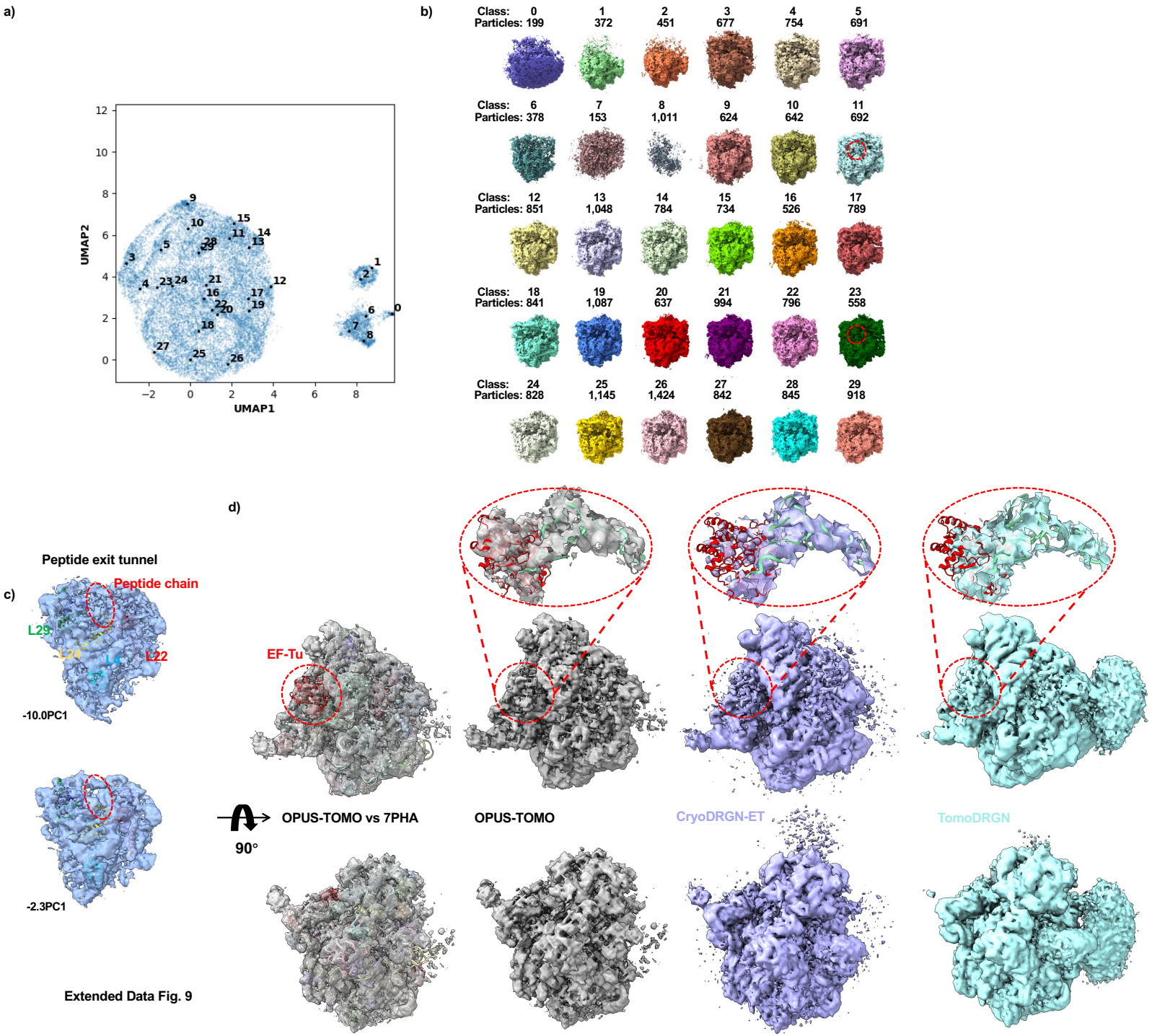
Extended Data Fig.6



Extended Data Fig.7



Extended Data Fig.8



Extended Data Fig. 9

Tilt Series	80S Ribosome							FAS						
	Template Matching	DeePiCt	Template Matching Overlapping With DeePiCt	OPUS-TOMO	OPUS-TOMO Overlapping with DeePiCt	Template Matching Overlapping Ratio	OPUS-TOMO Overlapping Ratio	Template Matching	DeePiCt	Template Matching Overlapping with DeePiCt	OPUS-TOMO	OPUS-TOMO Overlapping with DeePiCt	Template Matching Overlapping Ratio	OPUS-TOMO Overlapping Ratio
TS_026	4,000	838	758	435	370	0.19	0.85	400	16	5	3	1	0.01	0.33
TS_027	4,000	1,673	1,462	1,047	952	0.37	0.91	400	56	10	10	8	0.03	0.80
TS_028	8,000	5,305	4,404	3,726	2,816	0.55	0.76	600	76	14	46	9	0.02	0.20
TS_029	6,000	2,897	2,650	2,197	1,966	0.44	0.89	400	42	16	26	15	0.04	0.58
TS_030	6,000	2,783	2,654	2,462	2,055	0.44	0.83	400	64	34	34	26	0.09	0.76
TS_034	6,000	3,783	3,266	2,733	2,398	0.54	0.88	400	37	6	19	5	0.02	0.26
TS_037	4,000	1,646	1,242	1,109	876	0.31	0.79	600	22	9	17	9	0.02	0.53
TS_041	4,000	2,813	1,621	884	681	0.41	0.77	400	18	6	30	5	0.02	0.17
TS_043	4,000	1,815	1,562	1,378	1,133	0.39	0.81	600	17	11	20	11	0.02	0.55
TS_045	4,000	2,348	1,732	1,244	812	0.43	0.65	600	18	4	16	0	0.01	0.00
Sum/Average	50,000	25,901	21,351	17,215	14,039	0.43	0.82	4,800	366	115	221	89	0.02	0.40

Extended Data Table 1