

An encryption-decryption framework to  
validating single-particle imaging: Supplementary  
Information

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Table 1: Multiplication table of basis unit quaternions

	$\mathbf{1}$	$\mathbf{i}$	$\mathbf{j}$	$\mathbf{k}$
$\mathbf{1}$	$\mathbf{1}$	$\mathbf{i}$	$\mathbf{j}$	$\mathbf{k}$
$\mathbf{i}$	$\mathbf{i}$	$-1$	$\mathbf{k}$	$-\mathbf{j}$
$\mathbf{j}$	$\mathbf{j}$	$-\mathbf{k}$	$-1$	$\mathbf{i}$
$\mathbf{k}$	$\mathbf{k}$	$\mathbf{j}$	$-\mathbf{i}$	$-1$

## 1 Representing spatial rotation with quaternions

In this section, a brief introduction is given about the unit quaternion representation of rotation, which commonly occurs in computational geometry. Quaternions are points in a 4D real space  $(Q_0, Q_1, Q_2, Q_3)$ . And the unit quaternion ( $\sum_{i=0}^3 Q_i^2 = 1$ ) representation of a rotation has the following relation with the angle-axis pair representation,  $(\theta \in [0, 2\pi), \hat{\mathbf{n}})$ ,

$$Q = \left( \cos \frac{\theta}{2}, \sin \frac{\theta}{2} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{n}} \right), \quad (1)$$

where  $\hat{\mathbf{n}}$  is the axis of the rotation and  $\theta$  is the rotation angle.

The combination of two rotations is mapped to a special multiplication, which makes quaternions into an algebra. To define that multiplication, it is easier to rewrite Eqn. (1) into  $Q = Q_0\mathbf{1} + Q_1\mathbf{i} + Q_2\mathbf{j} + Q_3\mathbf{k}$ , where  $\mathbf{1}, \mathbf{i}, \mathbf{j}, \mathbf{k}$  are four basis unit quaternions  $(1, 0, 0, 0), (0, 1, 0, 0), (0, 0, 1, 0), (0, 0, 0, 1)$ . The multiplication between any two quaternions can be extended from the multiplication table (Table 1) of these four bases.

Simply applying this bases multiplication shows that the conjugate,  $Q^* \equiv Q_0\mathbf{1} - Q_1\mathbf{i} - Q_2\mathbf{j} - Q_3\mathbf{k}$ , of a unit quaternion  $Q$  is its inverse,  $QQ^* = \mathbf{1}$ . This conclusion also can be verified by considering the quaternion representation of a rotation  $(\theta, \hat{\mathbf{n}})$  and its inverse  $(\theta, -\hat{\mathbf{n}})$ . Another helpful corollary derived from the multiplication is about calculating the natural geodesic distance between two rotations,  $\Omega_A, \Omega_B \in \text{SO}(3)$ . This distance is defined as the angle of rotation,  $\theta$ , of the joint rotation operation  $\Omega_A \cdot \Omega_B^{-1}$ , or  $\theta(Q_A, Q_B) = 2 \cdot \arccos \sum_{i=0}^3 Q_{Ai}Q_{Bi}$  in the quaternion representation.

It should be noted that the positions of the OPD clusters in Fig. 9 (main text) are centro-symmetric. The reason is that rotating an object by  $\theta$  along axis  $\hat{\mathbf{n}}$ , could also be expressed as rotating it by  $2\pi - \theta$  along axis  $-\hat{\mathbf{n}}$ . However, the quaternions representations of these two equivalent rotations,  $(\theta, \hat{\mathbf{n}}) \rightarrow Q$  and  $(2\pi - \theta, -\hat{\mathbf{n}}) \rightarrow -Q$ , are different by Eqn. (1). Hence, we call the unit quaternion representation a *double cover* of  $\text{SO}(3)$  group (also known as the 3D rotation group).