

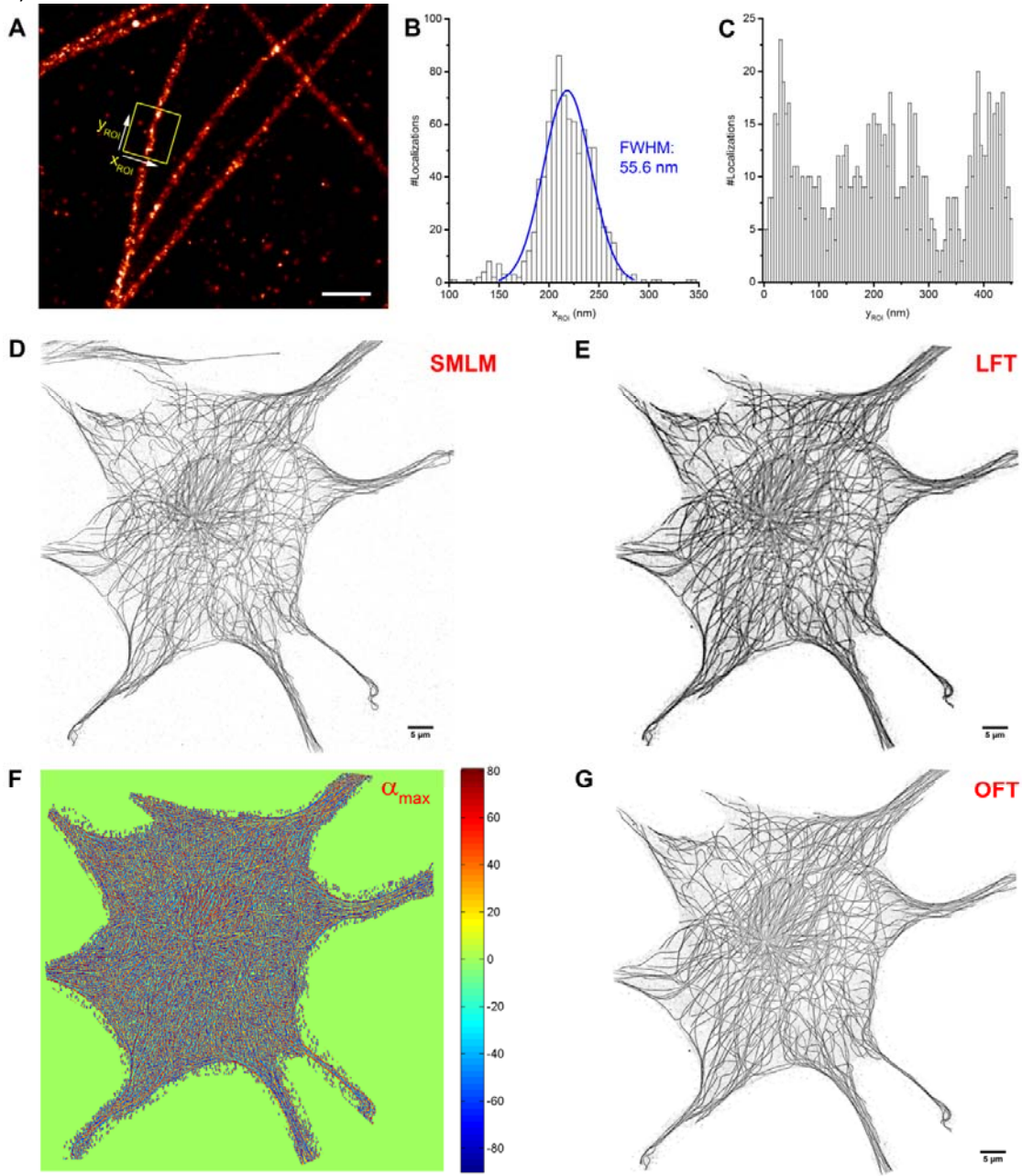
# Supplemental Materials

*Molecular Biology of the Cell*

Zhang et al.

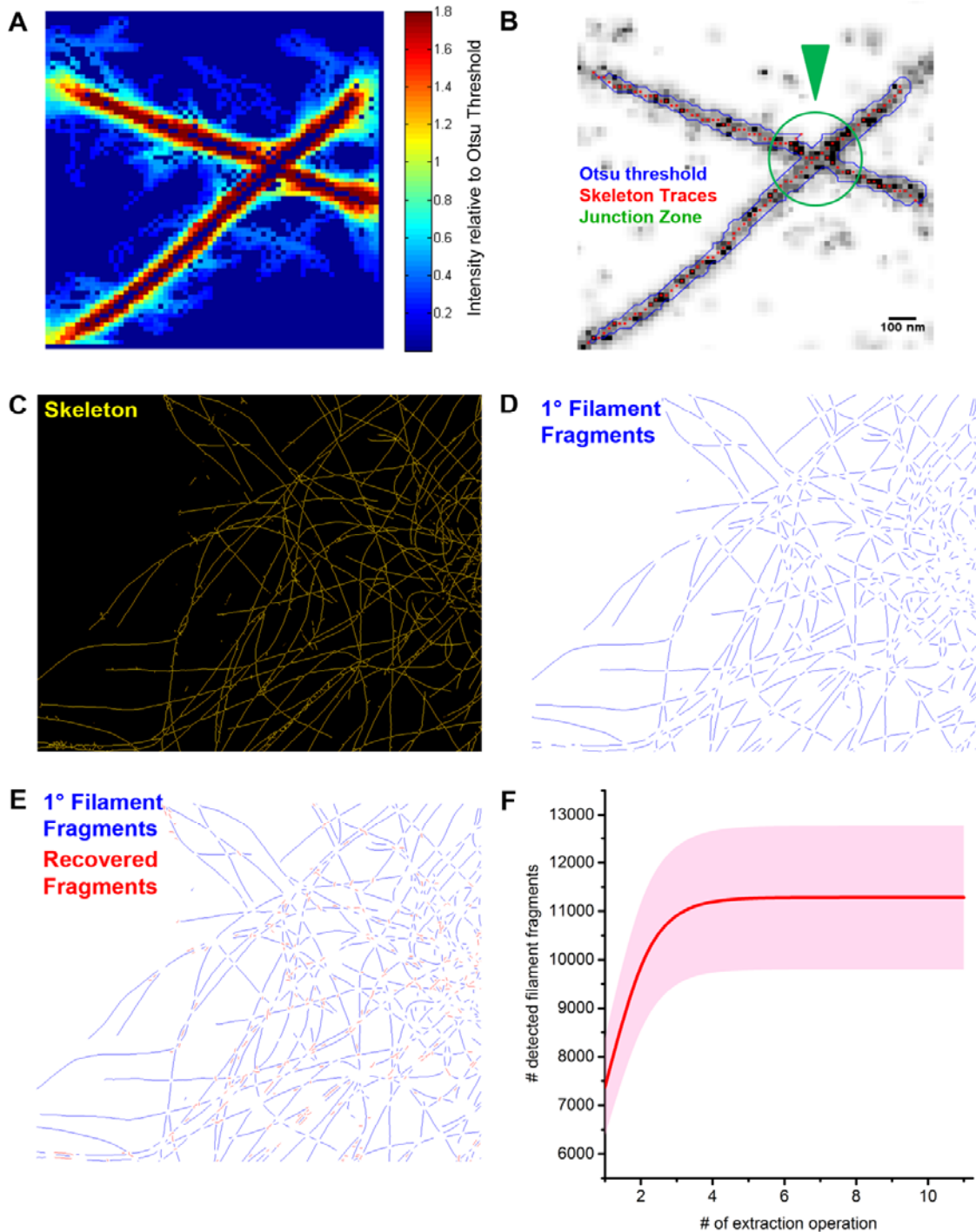
**Figure S1 Superresolution imaging by single-molecule localization microscopy and filament enhancement transforms**

**A)** Single-molecule localization microscopy (SMLM) image of microtubules in NIH3T3 mouse fibroblast from Fig. 1B (magnified view of inset in Fig. 1A). Transverse ( $x_{ROI}$ ) and longitudinal axes ( $y_{ROI}$ ) relative to the microtubule filament in the region of interest (yellow rectangle) are indicated. **B)** Histogram of localization peaks and fit to a Gaussian curve (blue) along the transverse  $x_{ROI}$  axis in A). Full-width-half-maximum (FWHM) indicated. **C)** Histogram of localization peaks along the longitudinal  $y_{ROI}$  axis in A). Bin size, 5 nm (B,C). **D)** Inverse contrast SMLM image of the entire field of view for cell shown in Fig. 1A. **E)** Line Filter Transform (LFT) Intensity map ( $L_{intensity}$ ). **F)** Map of the maximum orientation  $\theta_{max}$  calculated by LFT ( $L_{orientation}$ ). **G)** Orientation Filter Transform (OFT) image, showing enhanced contrast for the filaments. Scale bars: 500 nm (A), 5  $\mu$ m (D-G)



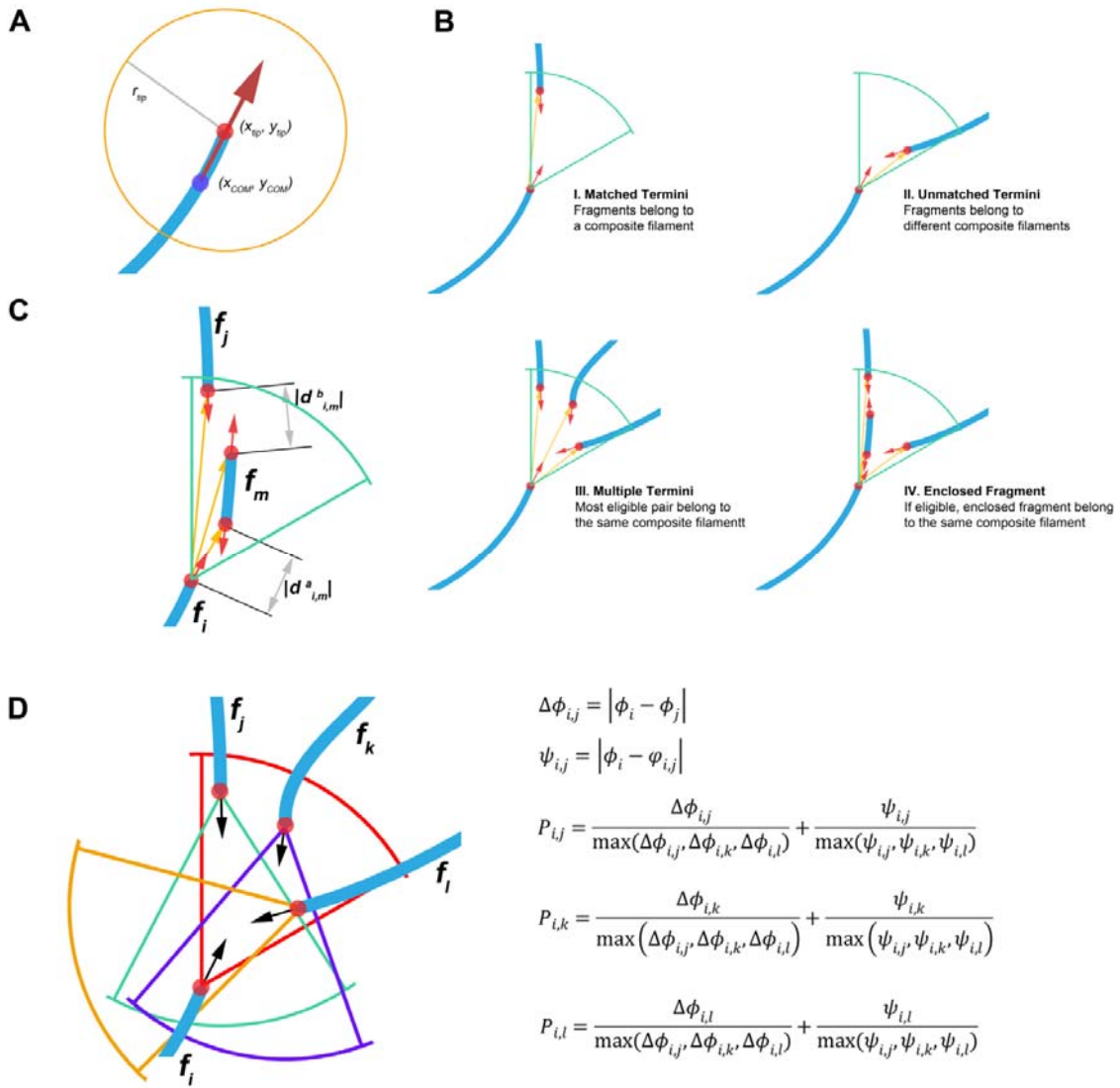
**Figure S2 Filament Fragment Generation and Iterative Reconstruction and Extraction of Filament-Associated Localization Coordinates**

**A)** Heatmap of OFT-enhanced image of microtubule filaments scaled relative to threshold level calculated by Otsu's method. **B)** Overlay of SMLM image (inverted contrast, grayscale), with the boundary of Otsu threshold level (blue), and the skeleton traces (red). Junction zone surrounding the crossing points are removed to generate filament fragment. **C)** Skeletonized binary image of OFT-enhanced microtubules. **D)** Filament fragments generated from a single iteration of OFT-enhancement and binarization. **E)** Recovery of additional filament fragments (red) by iterative reconstruction and extraction, compared to singly-extracted fragments (blue). **F)** Number of detected filament fragments as a function of extraction iteration.  $N = 4$ , light red bands depict standard deviation.



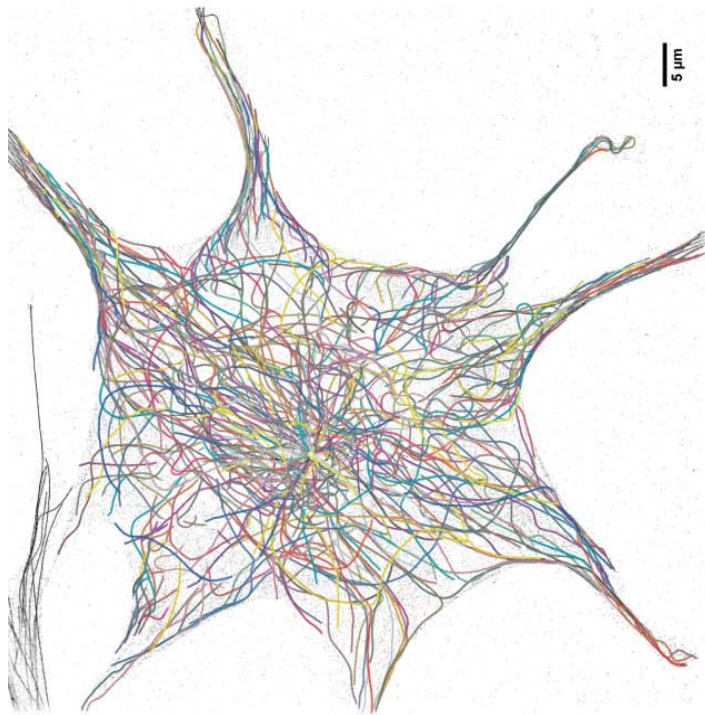
### Figure S3 Parameters for Filament Identity Assignment

**A) Propagation Vector.** The coordinate of the local center-of-mass ( $x_{COM}$ ,  $y_{COM}$ ) is determined from the portion of the filament fragment with the radius  $r_{tip}$  from the terminus ( $x_{tip}$ ,  $y_{tip}$ ). The propagation vector is defined to be from ( $x_{COM}$ ,  $y_{COM}$ ) to ( $x_{tip}$ ,  $y_{tip}$ ). **B) Major scenarios for filament matching.** I. An eligible fragment is found within the search fan, thus the two fragments are grouped into the same composite filament. II. The fragment pairs do not meet the criteria. Both termini assigned as filament end points. III. Multiple eligible fragment pairs are located. Priority scores are calculated to determine the most eligible pairing. The unpaired termini are assigned as filament end points. IV. Small eligible fragments enclosed in the search fan are detected. The enclosed fragment is considered before the distal fragment. **C) Coordinate system for evaluating enclosed fragment.** **D) Parameters definition for priority score calculation.**  $\Delta\phi_{i,j}$  corresponds to the difference in the propagation direction between fragments  $i$  and  $j$ .  $\psi_{i,j}$  corresponds to the difference between the propagation direction of fragment  $i$  and the distance vector between fragment  $i$  and  $j$ .  $P_{i,j}$  corresponds to the priority score for fragment  $j$  with respect to the search fan center at  $i$ .

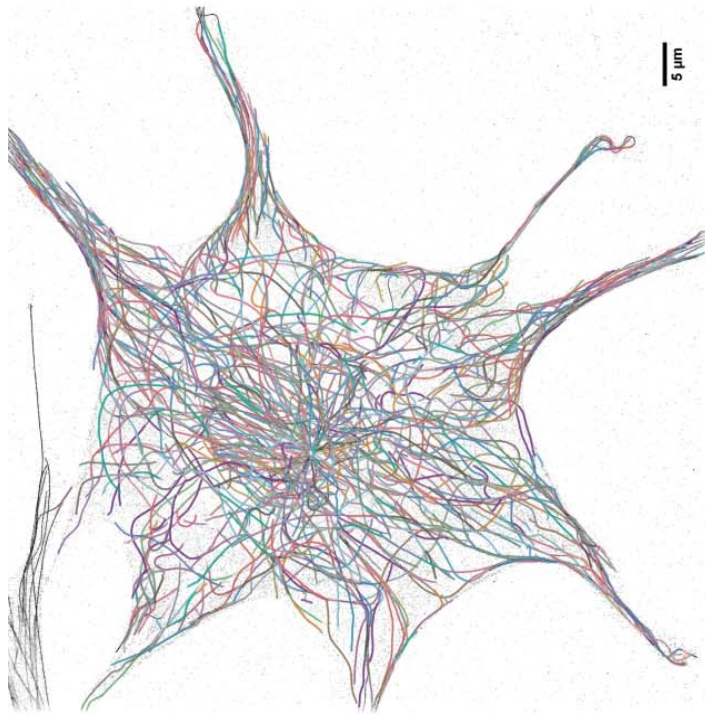


**Figure S4 Composite Filaments of the entire MT networks.**

Comparison between automated extraction using SIFNE (A) and the manually curated networks based on initial computer-based extraction (B). Each composite filament is colored randomly for visual differentiation. Scale bar, 5  $\mu\text{m}$ .



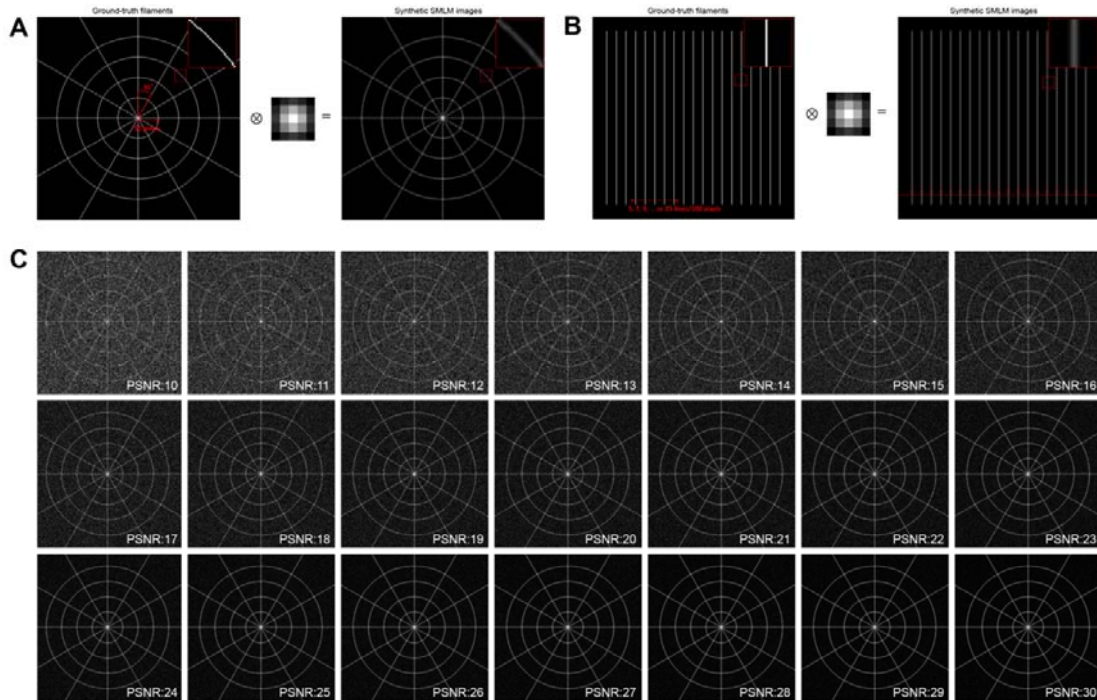
**B**



**A**

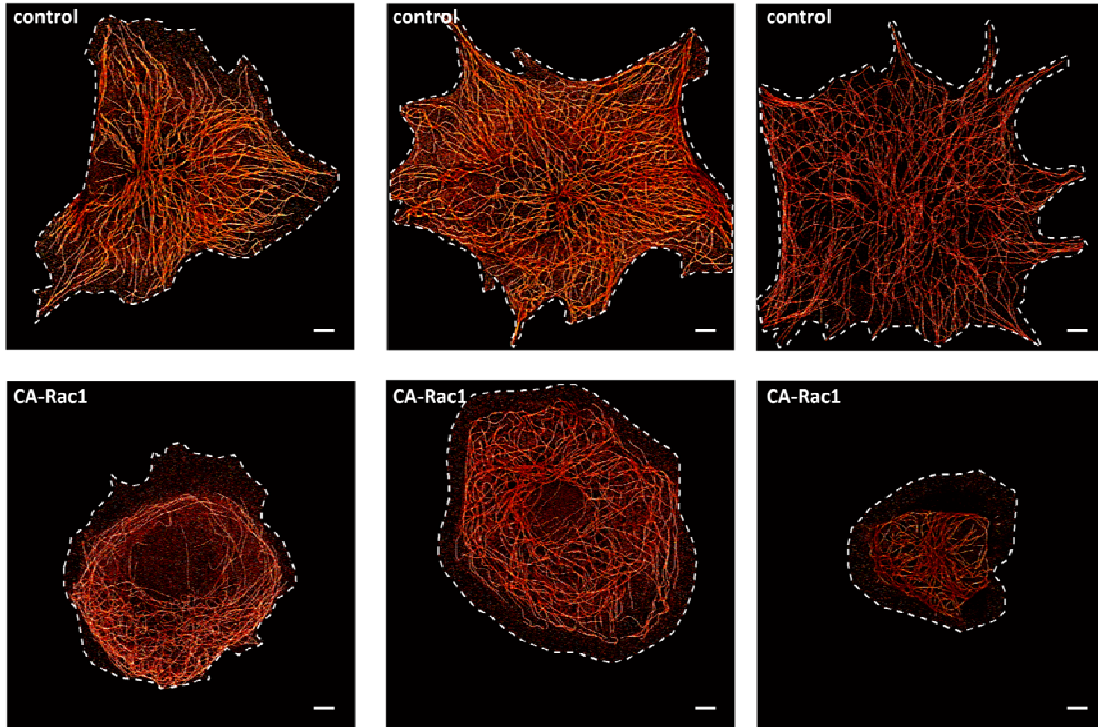
**Figure S5 Ground-truth images used for sensitivity analysis**

**A)** Synthetic cob-web pattern of filaments (the ground-truth image) is convoluted with a 2D-Gaussian to generate a synthetic SMLM image. Insets show magnified views of boxed regions (red). **B)** Parallel lines of varying density is convoluted with a 2D-Gaussian function to generate a synthetic SMLM image for filament density sensitivity analysis. **C)** Noise-corrupted synthetic SMLM image, with varying degree of noise level (PSNR: peak signal-to-noise ratio).



**Figure S6 Rac1 modulation of microtubule network architecture**

Superresolution SMLM images of MT networks in NIH 3T3 fibroblasts, showing representative control cells (top row) and CA Rac1 overexpression (bottom row). White dashed lines denote cell boundaries. Scale bars: 5  $\mu$ m



## Supplementary Table 1 Definition of Parameters and Optimal values

### Optimal Key Parameters Used for Processing PALM Images of Real MT Network

### Optimal Parameters Used for Processing PALM Images of Real MT Network

GUI Names	Parameters Name	Optimal Values	Unit	Definition
LFT_OFT	LFT and OFT filter radius*	10/200	pixel/nm	The range of line-segment scanning during LFT and OFT. It determines the extent of enhancement for filamentous structure.
LFT_OFT	Number of filtering orientations	20	NA	The number of orientations the line segment scans for linearity checking during LFT and OFT. With this parameter, we assume that the filamentous structures show a finite number of orientations.
SegmentB4Grouping	Factor relative to Otsu's threshold (Default)*	1.42	NA	Scale factor multiplied with the threshold value computed using Otsu's method. By adjusting this parameter, users should be able to get clear network skeleton.
SegmentB4Grouping	Junction size	7/140	pixel/nm	The size of junction region (square region) to remove.
SegmentB4Grouping	Pre-removal of short noisy pieces	6	pixel	Minimum length of filament fragments for recombination.
SegmentB4Grouping	Number of Iterative extractions of fragments*	5	NA	Number of iterative extraction of filament fragments.
GrpAndAnalysis	Pixel size	0.02	$\mu\text{m}$	Pixel size of original image.
GrpAndAnalysis	Maximum curvature	1	radian/ $\mu\text{m}$	Maximum curvature of the structure of interest.
GrpAndAnalysis	Search angle*	57.3	degree	The angle of the sector region for searching partner tips.
GrpAndAnalysis	Search radius*	50	pixel/ $\mu\text{m}$	The radius of the sector region for searching partner tips.
GrpAndAnalysis	Maximum orientation difference	57.3	degree	The maximum difference between the propagation directions of two tips.
GrpAndAnalysis	Maximum gap difference	28.6	degree	The maximum difference between the propagation direction of the base tips and the orientation of the gap vector from this base tip to another tip.



GrpAndAnalysis	Weight for orientation difference	1	NA	Weight for the orientation difference between the propagation directions of two tips. This applies to the case where two or more tips satisfying the tip-pairing criteria.
GrpAndAnalysis	Weight for gap difference	1	NA	Weight for the difference between the propagation direction of the base tips and the orientation of the gap vector from this base tip to another tip.. This applies to the case where two or more tips satisfying the tip-pairing criteria.
GrpAndAnalysis	Minimum length of filament	50/1	pixel/ $\mu\text{m}$	Minimum length of reconstructed filaments.

\* key parameters that should be selected carefully.

# **SIFNE 1.0**

# **User Manual**

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# 1. Preparation

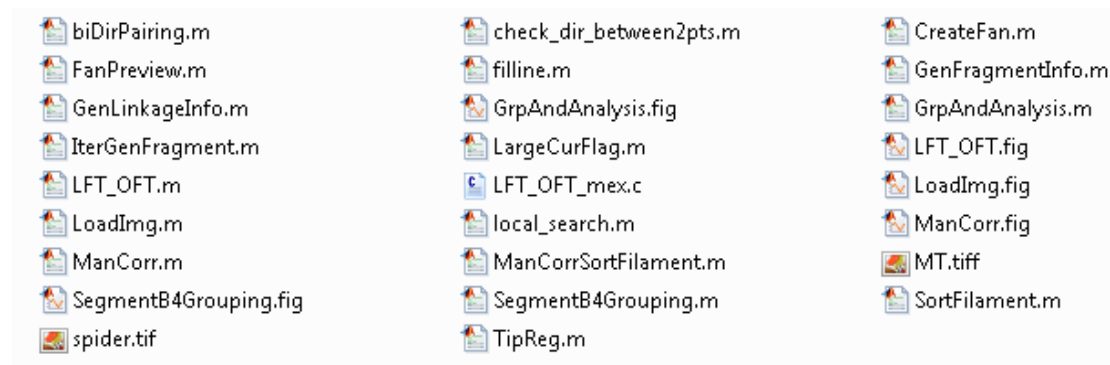
## 1.1 Source File

Download the software package named *SIFNE.zip* and unzip it (Fig. 1). The unzipped folder contains the following sample images for testing.

(1) *spider.tiff*. Synthetic image of cobweb pattern for quick test.

(2) *MT.tiff*. Superresolution image of 4088×4088 pixels with pixel size of 20nm.

\* *This manual uses MT.tiff for illustration. Parameters can be used for spider.tiff as well, unless otherwise mentioned.*



**Figure 1. Files included with SIFNE 1.0 package**

There are 4 user interfaces (GUIs) that are sequentially opened.

(1) *LoadImg.m/LoadImg.fig*

(2) *LFT\_OFT.m/LFT\_OFT.fig*

(3) *SegmentB4Grouping.m/SegmentB4Grouping.fig*

(4) *GrpAndAnalysis.m/GrpAndAnalysis.fig*

## 1.2 Software Installation

In SIFNE, most code were written using Matlab except for one routine for image enhancement which is written in C, *LFT\_OFT\_mex.c*. In order to call this external C function, the user needs to create a MEX file by setting up a C compiler to compile this C code via command '*mex -setup*'. A list of supported and compatible compilers can be found in the following link.

[http://www.mathworks.com/support/sysreq/files/SystemRequirements-Release2015a\\_SupportedCompilers.pdf](http://www.mathworks.com/support/sysreq/files/SystemRequirements-Release2015a_SupportedCompilers.pdf)

Upon successful compilation, the user should be able to see a new file (e.g. *LFT\_OFT\_mex.mexw64*) created in the folder.

## 1.3 Data Directory

While using this software, three new folders (data, result and UserSettings) will be created containing all necessary parameters, intermediate and ultimate results.

(1) data. This folder contains all intermediate and ultimate results in *.mat*

format.

(2) result. All ultimate results including plots (in *.fig* format for easy modification) and exported data sheets (in *.xlsx* format) are saved in this folder.

(3) UserSettings. This folder contains all user settings in GUIs.

## 2. Data Processing Steps

### 2.1 Load Image

To start, run the script, LoadImg.m to load the first GUI (Fig. 2) and click button ① to load the image, MT.tiff and open the second GUI (Fig. 3).



Figure 2. GUI for image loading.

### 2.2 Image Enhancement

#### 2.2.1 Preview and Choose Region of Interest

The image enhancement method we use in our algorithm is line and orientation filter transform (LFT and OFT). For this enhancement approach, the user should define the radius and number of rotations of the scanning line segment at ① and ② (Fig. 3). Click button ③ to see the dimension of the scanning line segment (Fig. 4). Since MT.tiff is quite larger, the demonstrative region of scanning is very small as a red dot (Fig. 4, left). Hence, you can zoom in to see details (Fig. 4, right).

*\* The default values here have been optimized for MT.tiff.*

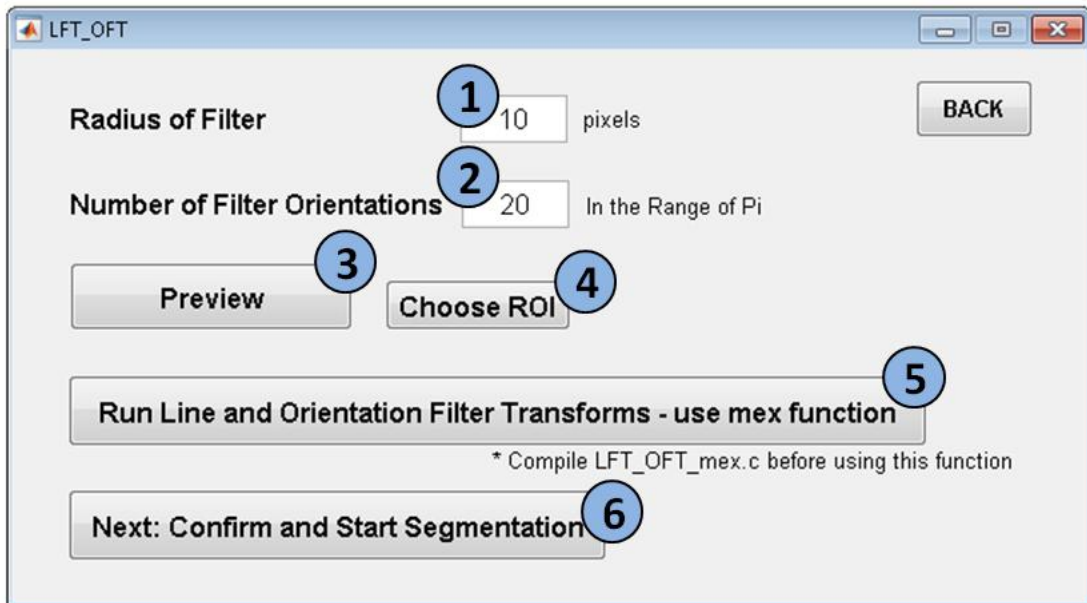


Figure 3. GUI for imaging enhancement.

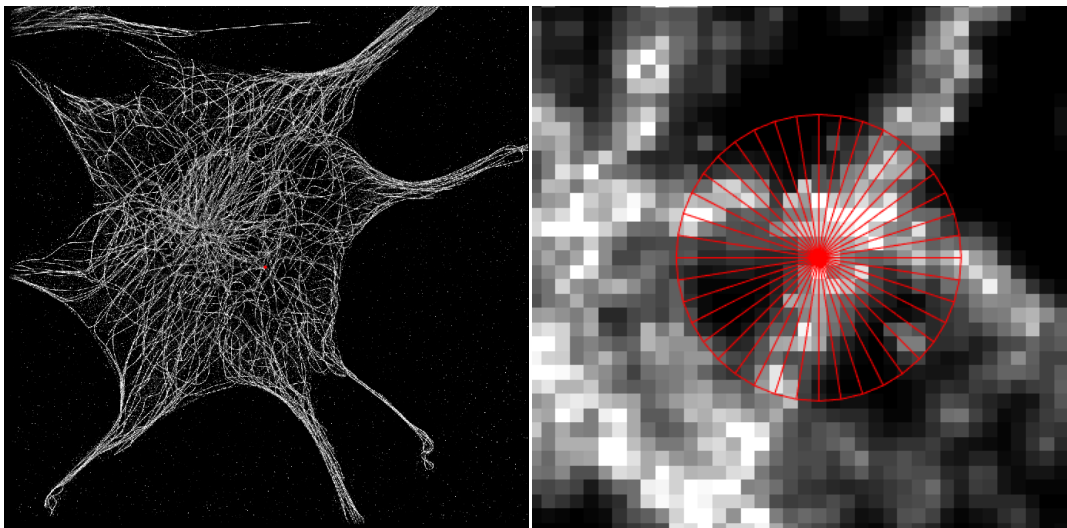


Figure 4. Preview of the filter dimension of LFT and OFT.

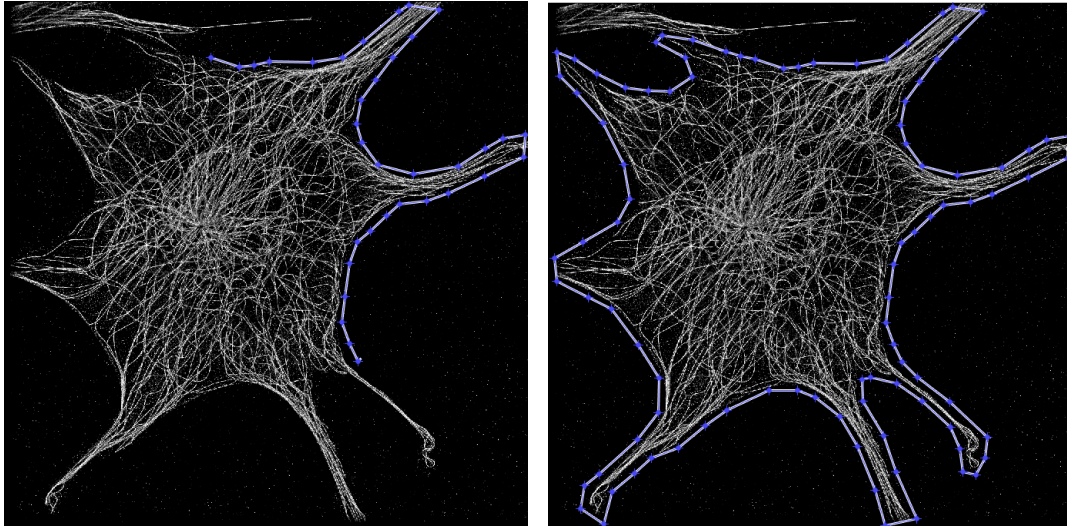
Click button ④ to choose region of interest.

*\* This region will be used to define the cell boundary and calculate the distance map in the analysis section. So the user should choose the ROI carefully.*

To do this, left-single-click all neighboring control points as highlighted in red rings (Fig. 5, left). Right-single-click at the last control point, the region will close itself (Fig. 5, right). Left click the center of the ROI twice.

The image will disappear and a message box will pop up telling you 'ROI Selected'. Click OK to continue.

*\* For large dataset, this may take around 20 seconds.*



**Figure 5. Selection of the region of interest.**

### 2.2.2 Line and Orientation Filter Transform

Click the button ⑤ to run LFT and OFT. For MT.tiff, this step will take a couple of minutes. At the end of transformation, a message box will pop up telling you 'Transformation Done!' and the enhanced image will appear. When you are done, click button ⑥ to open the next GUI.

## 2.3 Segmentation and Tip Registration

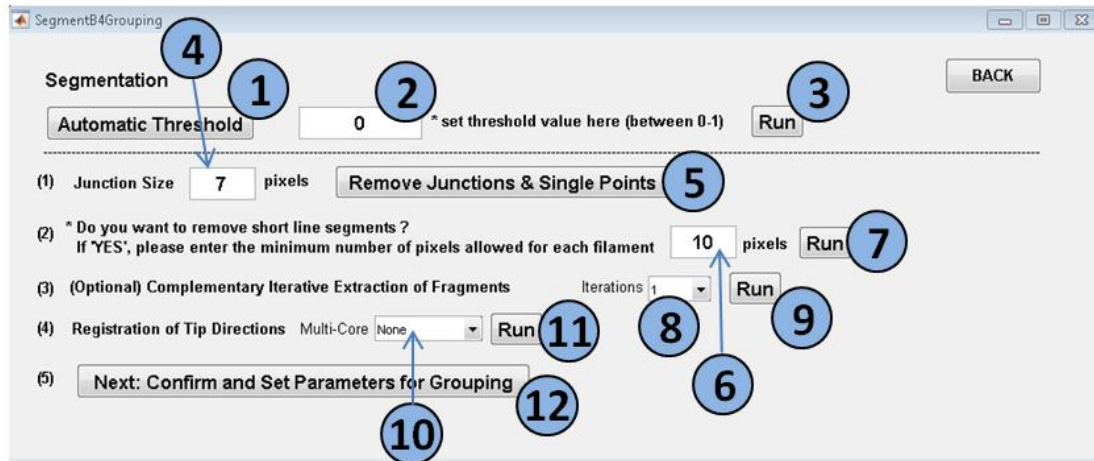
### 2.3.1 Segmentation

Click button ① in the new GUI to automatically calculate the threshold for binarizing the enhanced image whose intensities has been normalized to 1 (Fig. 6) and the threshold will appear at ②. The default threshold is 1.42 times the value calculated using Otsu's method. Then a box will jump out telling you the Otsu's threshold. The binary image and overlay of original image and its extracted skeleton will appear for the user to evaluate by observation (Fig. 7). The user can feel free to manually define the threshold value between 0 and 1 at ② and click button ③ to assess again.

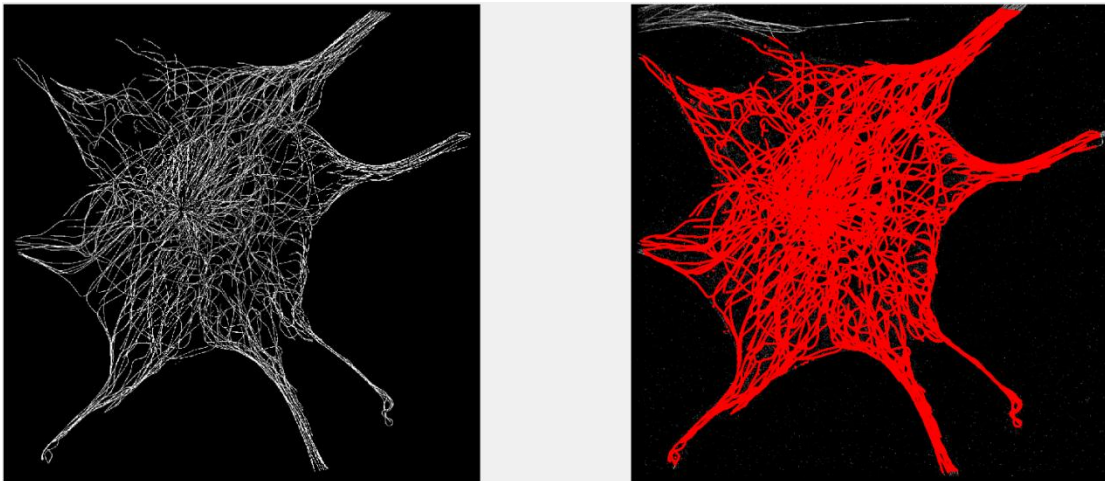
*\* The scale factor 1.42 is based on the noise level of MT.tiff and sensitivity test using synthetic images as described in the main text.*

*\* The user can feel free to zoom in to see details of figures.*

*\* The user does not have to stick to Otsu's threshold since it only provides you a reference value to start with.*



**Figure 6. GUI for segmentation and tip registration.**



**Figure 7. Skeleton of binarized image.**

### 2.3.2 Junction Removal

To create the pool of minimal linear filament fragments, regions of junctions should be removed. Click button (5) to remove a local region of 7-by-7 pixels around each junction. This step will also remove single points. It is suggested to remove some short filament fragments primarily generated from noise by clicking button (7).

*\* The user can feel free to define the size of the junction region at (4) and minimal number of pixels in each filament fragment at (6).*

### 2.3.3 Iterative Extraction of Linear Fragments

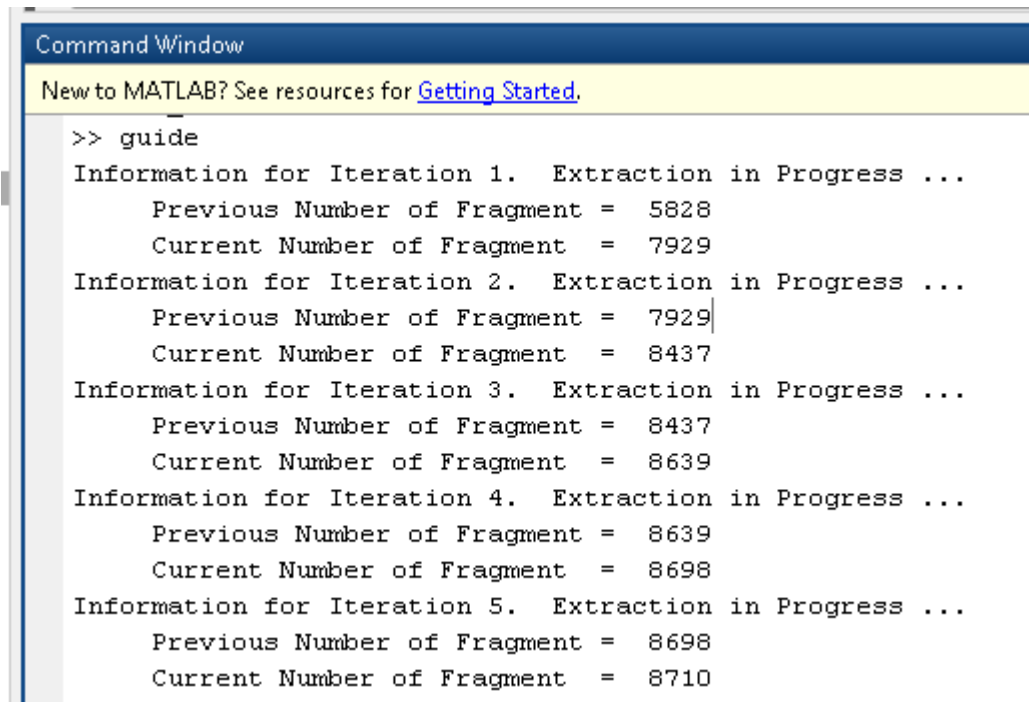
Although this step is optional our result has shown that an iterative extraction of filament fragments will significantly recover undetected linear structures, especially in highly complex filament networks. Choose the number of additional iterations (from 1 to 5) you want to perform at (8) and click button (9). If you choose to iteratively extract filament fragments, the command window will display its progress including the iteration you are doing and number of



fragments added (Fig. 8).

\* *Noted that each iteration takes a couple of minutes for MT.tiff.*

\* *For spider.tiff, you can skip this step.*



```

Command Window
New to MATLAB? See resources for Getting Started.
>> guide
Information for Iteration 1.  Extraction in Progress ...
    Previous Number of Fragment = 5828
    Current Number of Fragment = 7929
Information for Iteration 2.  Extraction in Progress ...
    Previous Number of Fragment = 7929
    Current Number of Fragment = 8437
Information for Iteration 3.  Extraction in Progress ...
    Previous Number of Fragment = 8437
    Current Number of Fragment = 8639
Information for Iteration 4.  Extraction in Progress ...
    Previous Number of Fragment = 8639
    Current Number of Fragment = 8698
Information for Iteration 5.  Extraction in Progress ...
    Previous Number of Fragment = 8698
    Current Number of Fragment = 8710

```

**Figure 8. Progress in iterative extraction of filament fragments.**

### 2.3.4 Tip Registration

To register the propagation direction of each tip, the user can choose the computation mode at ⑩ as follows and click button ⑪,

(1) None: No parallel computing is needed.

(2) Half: Use half of the cores.

(3) Max: Use all cores.

Click button ⑫ and go to the last GUI.

\* *To increase the computational speed, we configured the program for parallel computing.*

## 2.4 Grouping and Analysis

### 2.4.1 Image Information

Indicate pixel size at ①.

Indicate the maximum curvature at ②.

\* *Noted that this parameter is only used to help automatically set other parameters. If the user doesn't know the max curvature of your filament, you can just ignore button ④ and manually set other parameters. For MT.tiff, the value is 1.*

Click button ④ to automatically set the conditions for fragment grouping.

This part is configured for parallel computing at. The user can choose at ③ accordingly.

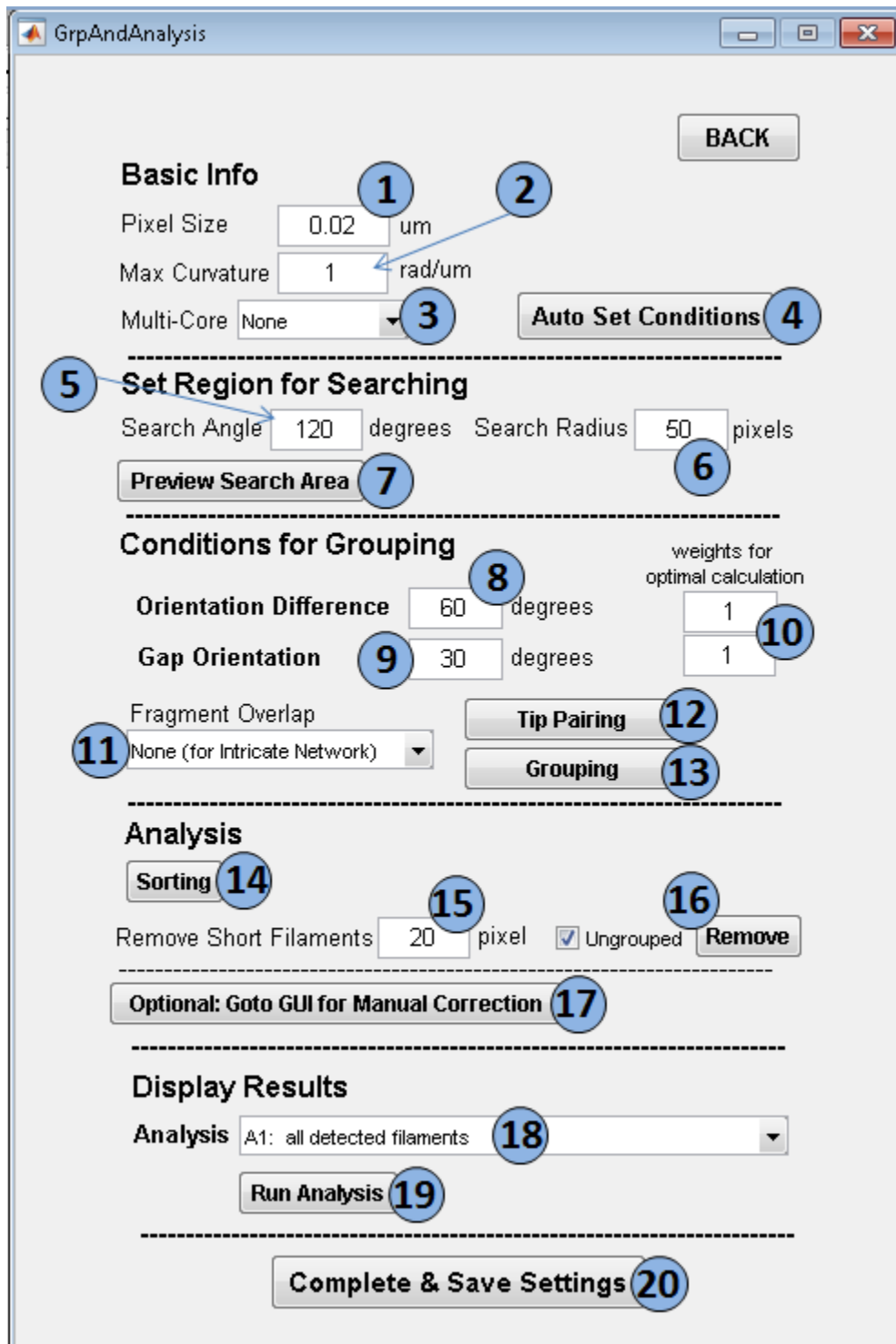


Figure 9. GUI for filament reconstruction and analysis.

#### 2.4.2 Preview and Search Criteria

Indicate the search angle and radius at (5) and (6).

*\* Noted that these two parameters can be automatically set.*

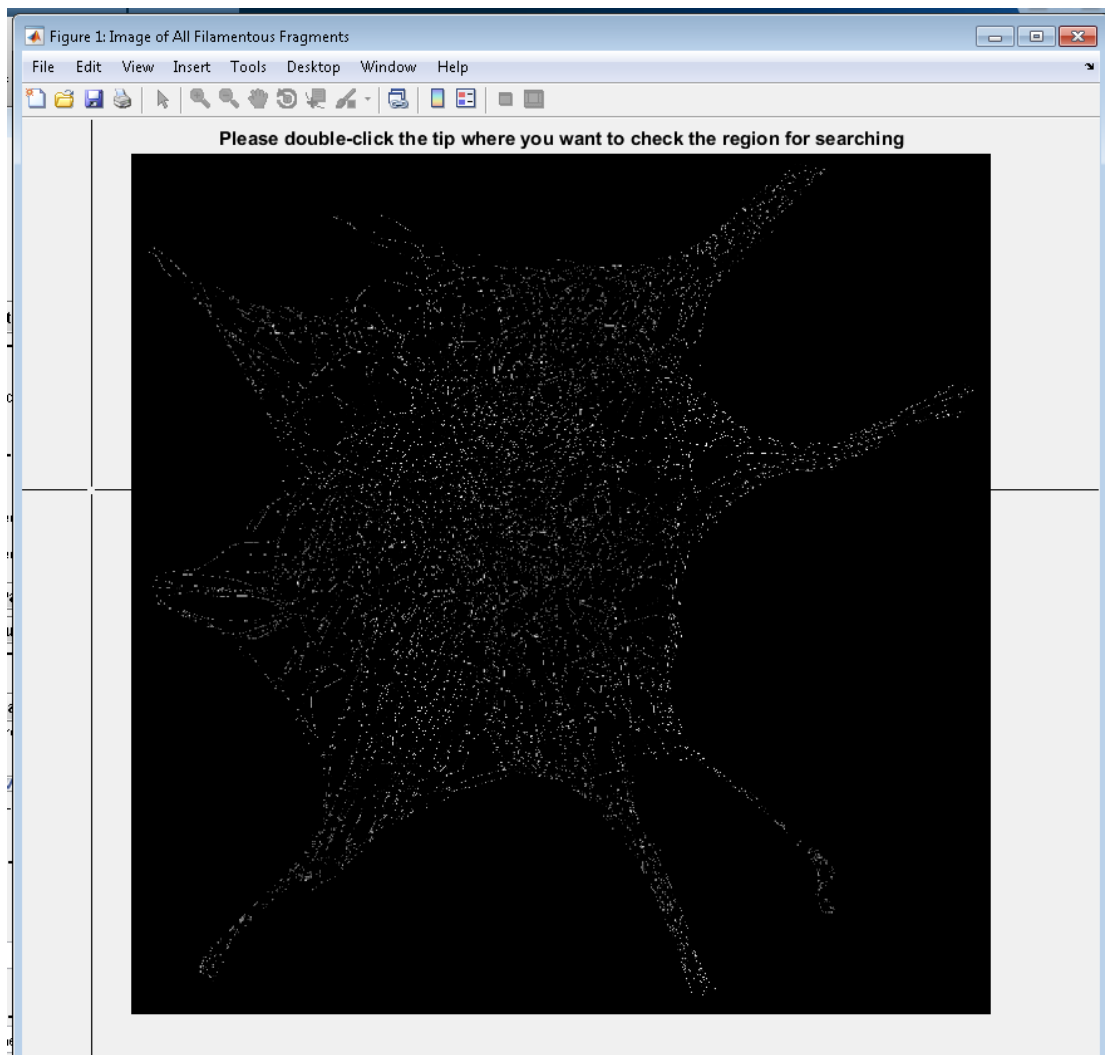
Click button (7) to preview the search region and check whether it is suitable to cover most gaps that should be filled. An image of filament fragments will

appear request the user to click one location of network for preview (Fig. 10). Due to large data set, the search region (green color) looks quite small (Fig. 11, left). The user can zoom in to see it clearly (Fig. 11, right).

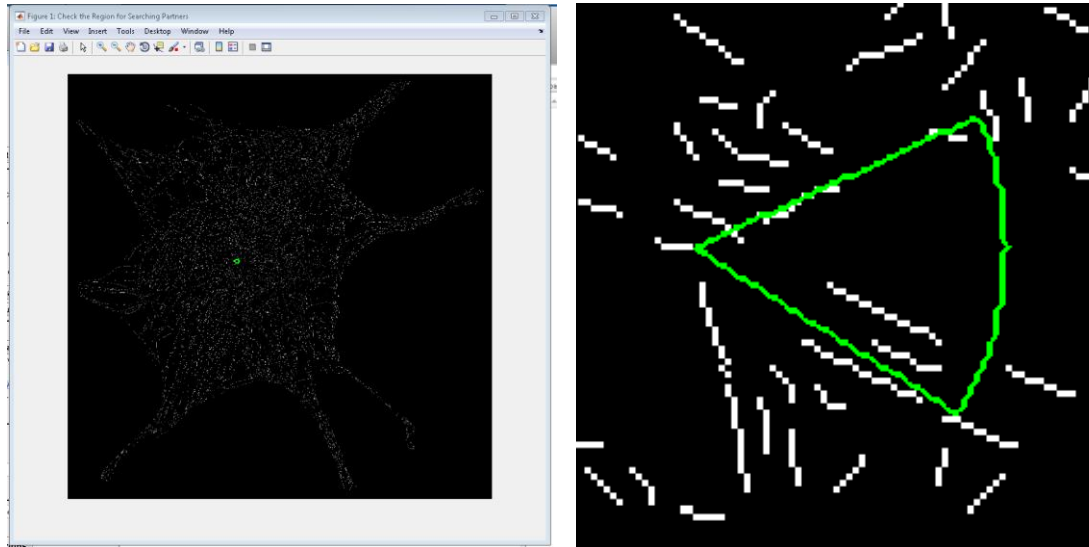
Indicate the maximum allowable orientation difference between two endpoints at ⑧ and the maximum allowable angle difference between base endpoint and gap vector at ⑨.

*\* Noted that the above two parameters can be automatically set.*

Indicate the weights for similarity and continuity conditions during scoring calculation at ⑩. The default value is 1.



**Figure 10. Interaction visualization of search region.**



**Figure 11. Zoom-in view of search region.**

### 2.4.3 Tip Pairing and Grouping

In our algorithm we also allow the case that a fragment is combined into more than one composite filament in dependent on the maximum number of pairings it can form with other endpoints.

Two options at (11)

- (1) None (for Intricate Network)
- (2) Allowed

*\* Noted that for MT.tiff, it is suggested to use the first option, 'None' due to high complexity of the network.*

Click button (12) to pair endpoints (also known as tips).

*\* Noted that you can use parallel computing in this step and indicate at (3). A message box will pop up after finish.*

Click button (13) to generate composite filaments.

*\* A message box will pop up after finish.*

### 2.4.4 Filament Sorting

Click button (14) to sort composite filaments

*\* Noted that you can use parallel computing in this step and indicate at (3). A message box will pop up after finish.*

You can define the minimum filament length allowed at (15) and toggle at (16) to choose whether you want to remove ungrouped filament fragments.

*\* Tick: To remove ungrouped fragments.*

Optional: Click button (17) to open another GUI for manual correction. This will be described in section 3.

### 2.4.5 Analysis Features

SIFNE provides the following analysis and the user can select at 18 and then click button 19.

- A1: all detected filaments
- A2: junctions

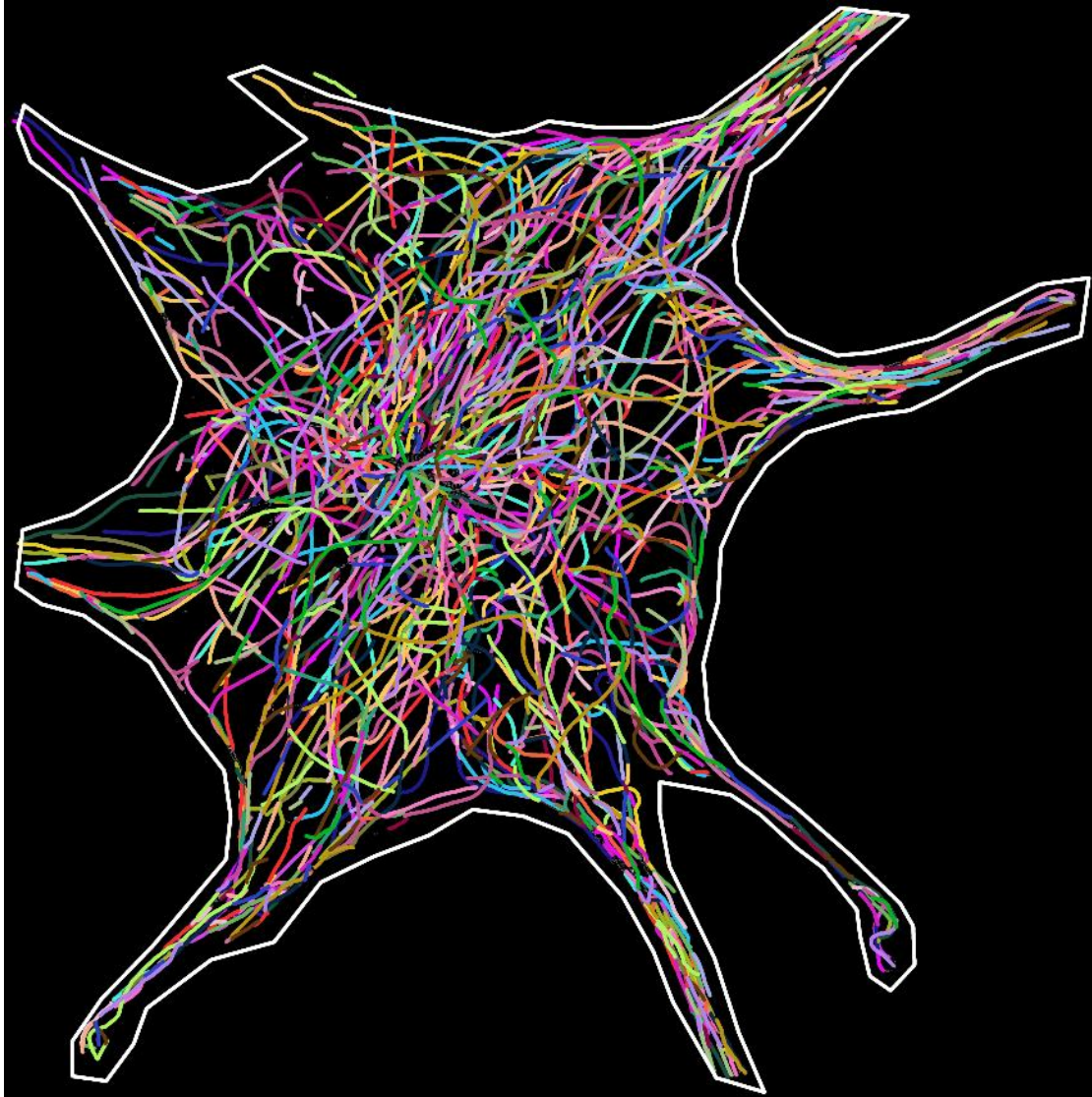
A3: histogram of orientations

A4: curvature

A5: export into excel

#### 2.4.5.1 Detected Filament

Image of the skeleton of binarized image overlaid with composite filaments shown in different colors (Fig. 12). Cell boundary is indicated in white.



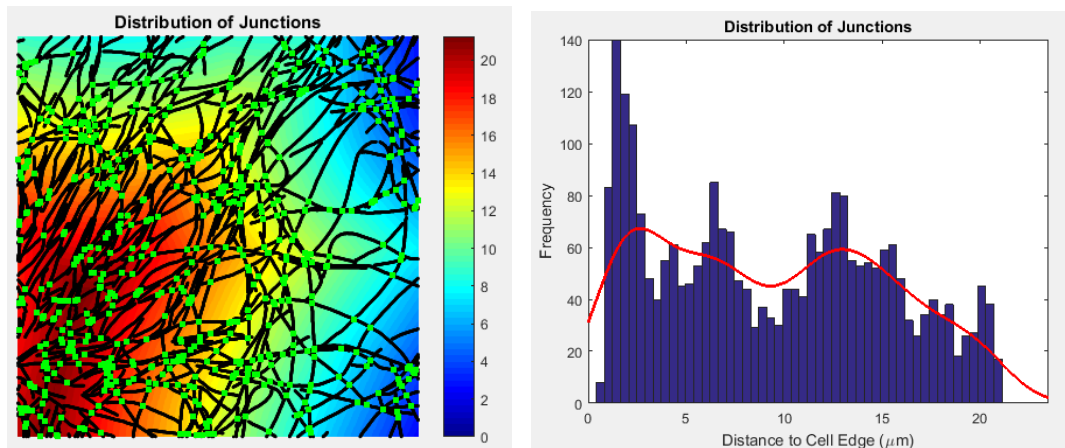
**Figure 12. Extracted filaments.**

#### 2.4.5.2 Junctions

Enlarged image of all composite filaments (black) overlaid with all centroids of junctions (green) (Fig. 13, left). The background image is distance map as a function of the distance to cell edge.

\* *Unit of color bar:  $\mu\text{m}$ .*

Distribution of junctions as a function of their distances to cell boundary (Fig. 13, right).



**Figure 13. Junction analysis.**

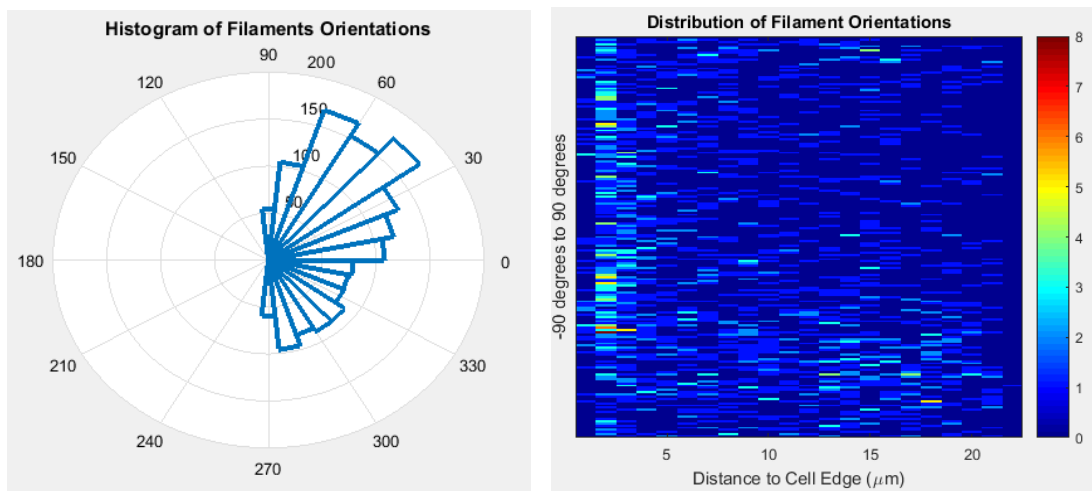
#### 2.4.5.3 Filament Orientation

Rose plot of all filament orientations.

\* *The orientations of filaments ranges from  $-90^\circ$  to  $90^\circ$  (Fig. 14, left).*

Spatial distribution of all orientations as a function of the distance between filament centroids and cell edge (Fig. 14, right).

\* *Unit of colorbar: counts/frequency.*



**Figure 14. Orientation analysis.**

#### 2.4.5.4 Curvature

Enlarged image of filament curvatures (Fig. 15, left).

\* *Unit of colorbar:  $\mu\text{m}^{-1}$*

Histogram of curvatures all composite filament pixels (Fig. 15, middle).

Plot of the mean curvatures of all composite filaments as a function of the distances between the centroids of filaments and cell edge (Fig. 15, right).

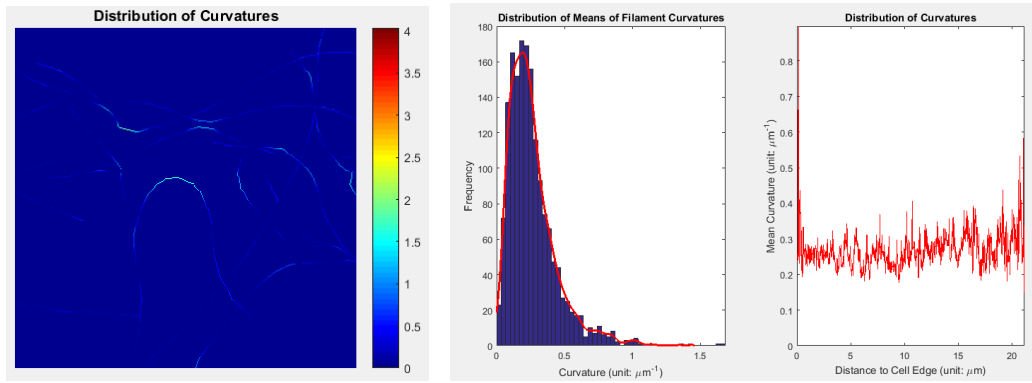


Figure 15. Curvature analysis.

**2.4.5.5 Export into Excel**

Export the information of composite filaments, junctions and fragment linkage into an excel file for more customized analysis. The exported excel file includes 4 worksheets as follows.

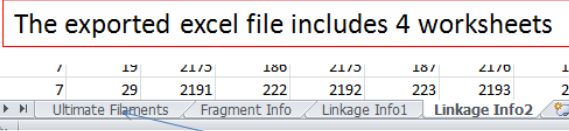
Worksheet 1: Information of all composite filaments (Fig. 16, 17)

Worksheet 2: Information of all filament fragments (Fig. 18)

Worksheet 3: Linkage information before removing short filaments and ungrouped fragments (Fig. 19)

Worksheet 4: Linkage information after removing short filaments and ungrouped fragments (Fig. 20)

When the user is done with all analysis, click button (20) to complete and save settings.



Worksheet1 is organized as follows

Filament ID	Locations of termini				Morphological property			Coordinates of all filament pixels							
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	
Filament ID	1st X pos	1st Y pos	last X pos	last Y pos	Orientation	Total Length	End-to-End Distance	X	Y	X	Y	X	Y	X	
1	871	490	468	77	134.707243	606.2884553	577.0424594	871	490	871	489	871	488	87	
2	732	360	440	86	132.9781288	430.0975465	400.4247745	732	360	731	360	730	359	72	
3	2084	560	2036	95	173.2729714	489.8528137	467.4708547	2084	560	2083	559	2083	558	208	
4	1740	756	2020	115	-159.6556747	793.5828278	699.48624	1740	756	1741	756	1742	756	174	
5	2095	271	2110	119	-173.4982899	159.0416306	152.7383383	2095	271	2095	270	2096	269	209	
6	2218	324	2147	130	161.6370536	223.4091629	206.5841233	2218	324	2218	323	2217	322	221	
7	2253	393	2156	133	159.3589713	301.0071427	277.5049549	2253	393	2252	392	2252	391	225	
8	2192	217	2151	140	149.7072784	96.81118318	87.23531395	2192	217	2191	217	2190	216	218	
9	2225	326	2180	218	157.9535161	126.6396103	117	2225	326	2225	325	2224	324	222	
10	2182	755	2171	220	178.8105834	583.4629868	535.1130722	2182	755	2183	754	2184	753	218	

Figure 16. Exported Excel File for 'all composite filaments' option.

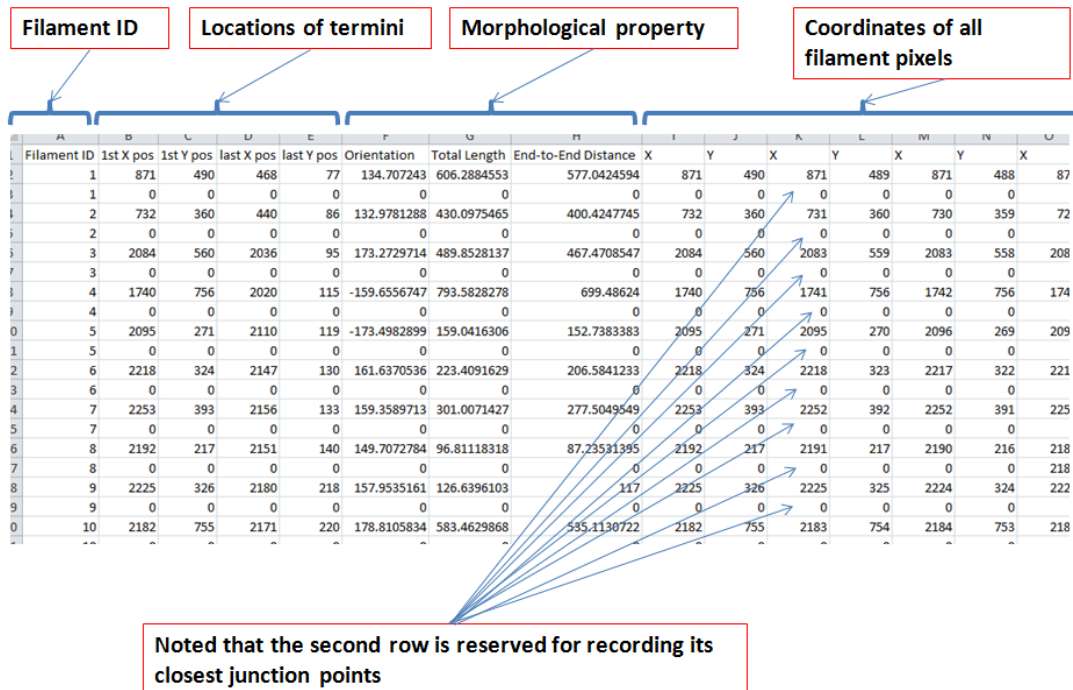


Figure 17. Junction information in exported Excel File

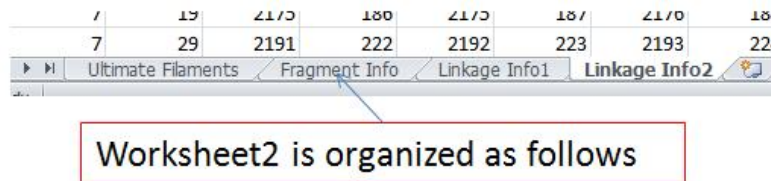


Figure 18. Export into excel. All filament fragment information.



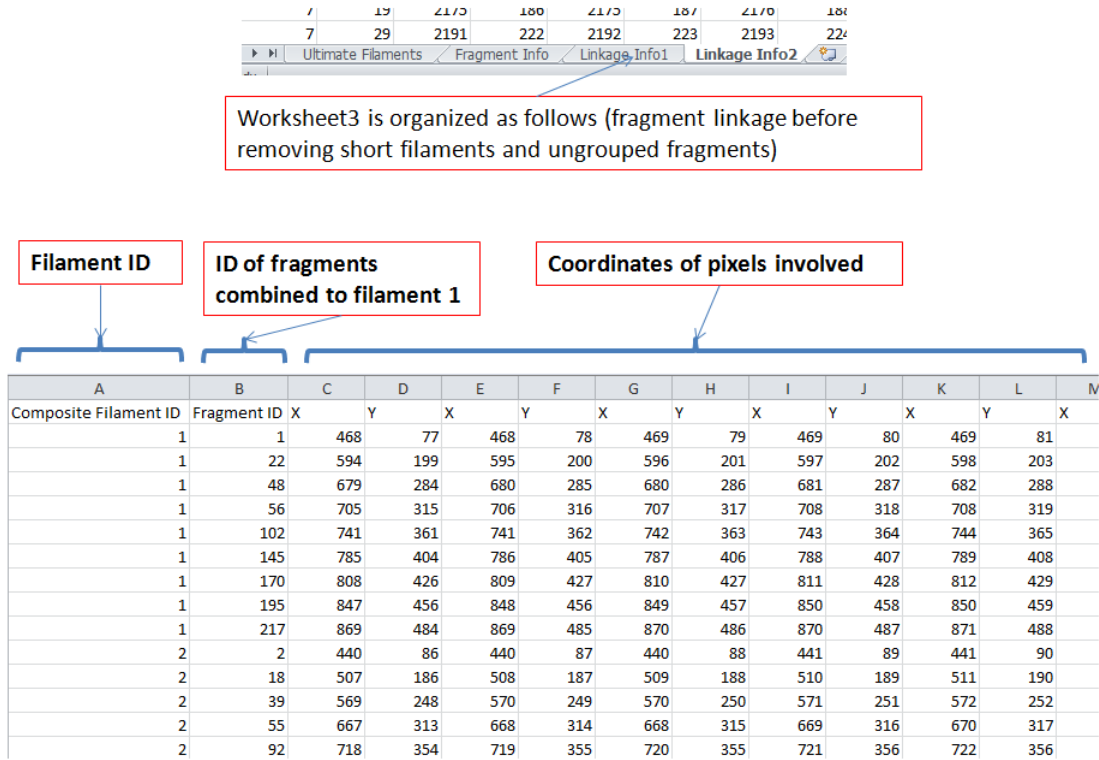


Figure 19. Linkage information before the removal of short filaments and ungrouped fragments in exported Excel file

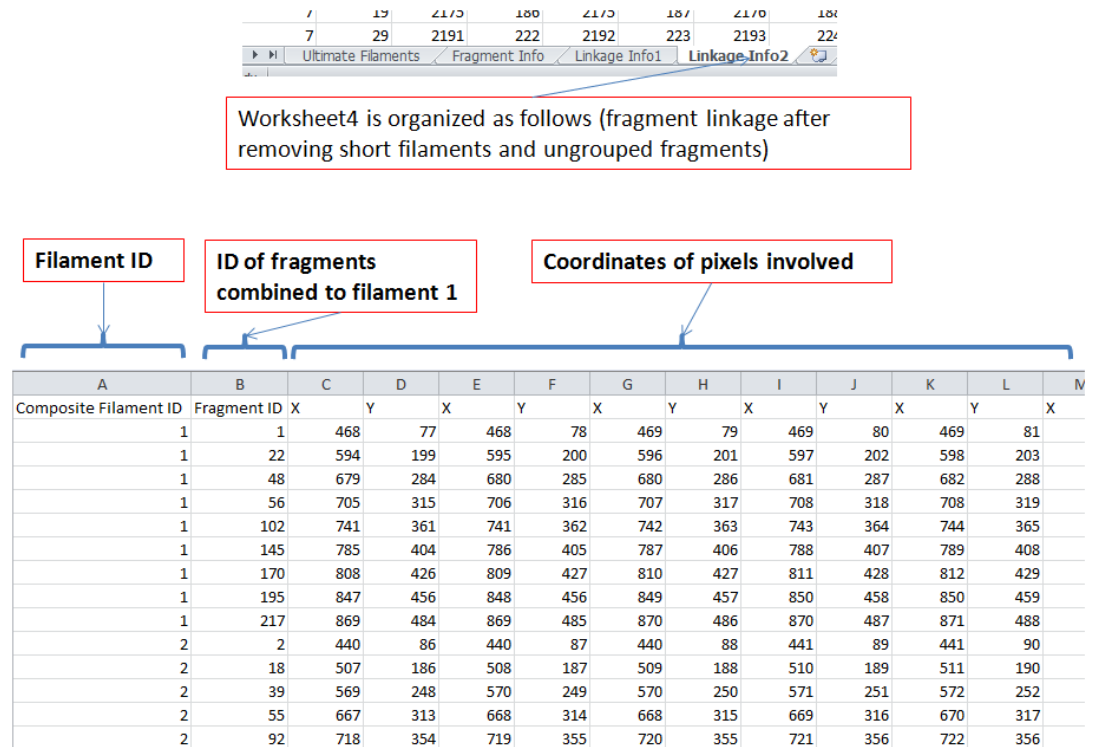


Figure 20. Linkage information after the removal of short filaments and ungrouped fragments in exported Excel file.

## 3. Manual Correction

### 3.1 Initialization

Click button ⑰ in Fig. 9 to open the GUI for manual correction as shown in Fig. 21.

Click button ① to initialize and the image for correction will appear (Fig. 22). Detected filament pixels are shown in cyan and endpoints are marked in red.

During correction, click button ⑨ if the user wants to save corrected filaments and continue after some time (e.g. to continue tomorrow). Click button ② if you want to continue from previously saved results.

To highlight a filament (help the user clearly distinguish one from others), click button ③ and then click any point of the filament the user wants to highlighted in the image (the selected filament will be highlighted in red) (Fig. 23).

To refresh the current figure, click button ④.

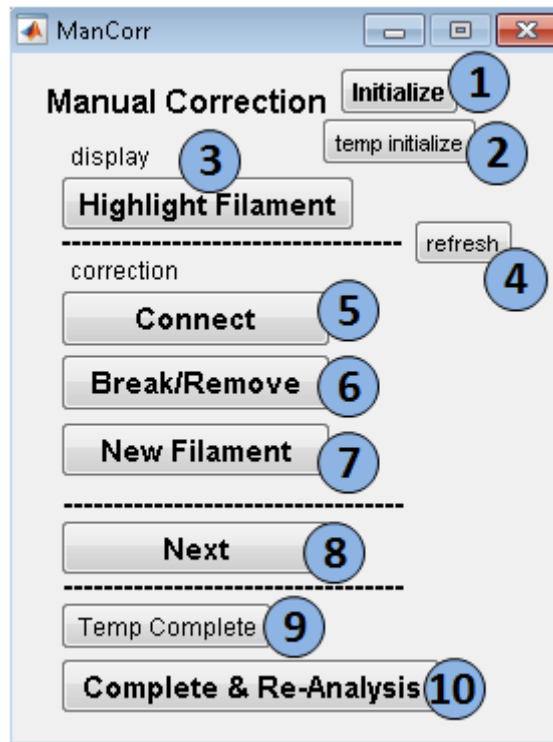
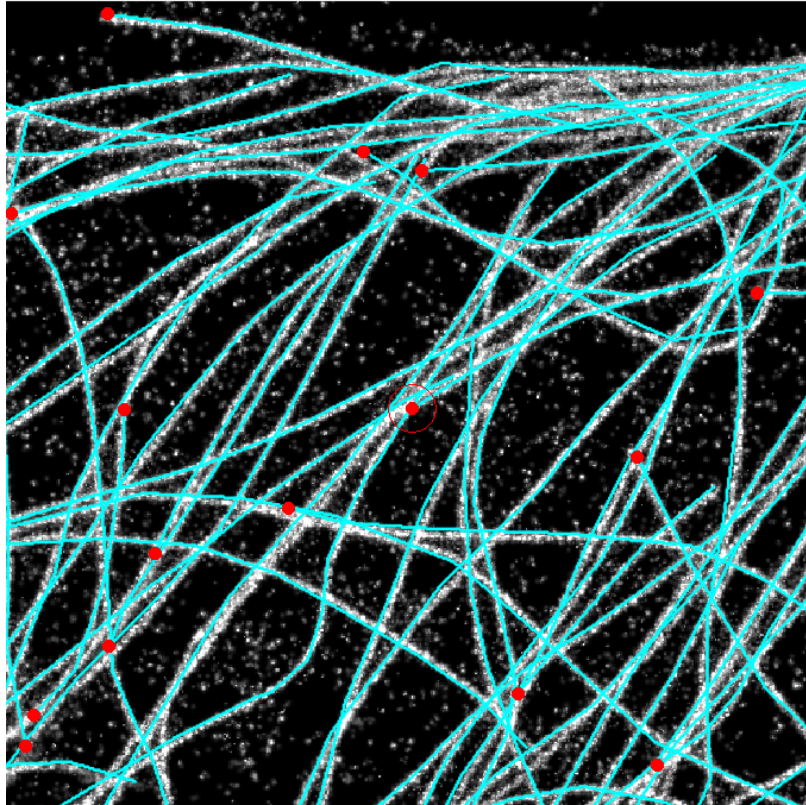
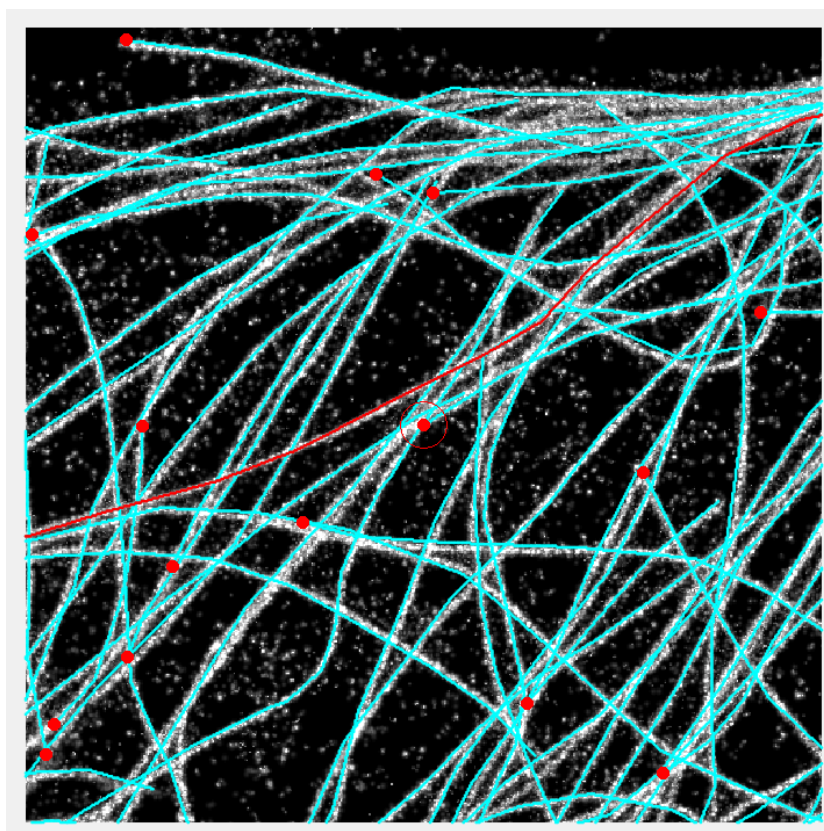


Figure 21. GUI for manual correction.



**Figure 22. Example of an image to be corrected.**



**Figure 23. Highlighted filament.**

### 3.2 Connect

To connect two tips, click button ⑤ and then click the two red endpoints in the image.

### 3.3 Break/Remove

To remove an entire or partial filament, click button ⑥ and then click the filament to modify in the image (its color will become red).

Subsequently, use mouse to enclose the region you want to remove. This step should be performed as follows

- (1) left-click a point and hold
- (2) enclose the region to remove (not necessarily go back to the first point)
- (3) release your finger
- (4) new filament information will be updated in the image

### 3.4 New Filament

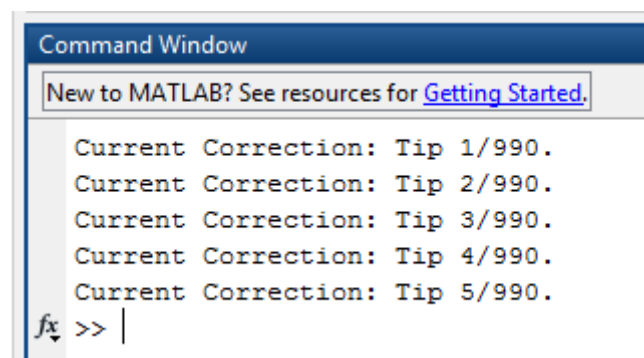
To create a new filament, click button ⑦ and then go back to the image to draw a new filament.

The drawing should be performed as follows

- (1) left-click the first control point and release
- (2) left-click the second control point and release
- (3) repeat step2 till the last control point
- (4) right-click to complete this drawing

### 3.5 Continue

During the manual correction, the user should check the situation at each tip. This progress can be monitored in the command window (Fig. 24). Click button ⑧ to check the situation around the next tip



```
Command Window
New to MATLAB? See resources for Getting Started.
Current Correction: Tip 1/990.
Current Correction: Tip 2/990.
Current Correction: Tip 3/990.
Current Correction: Tip 4/990.
Current Correction: Tip 5/990.
fx >> |
```

Figure 24. Progress in manual correction.

### 3.6 Save

When completed, click button ⑩ to re-analyze all corrected filaments.

## Contact Information and Updates

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