

GARF: Learning Generalizable 3D Reassembly for Real-World Fractures

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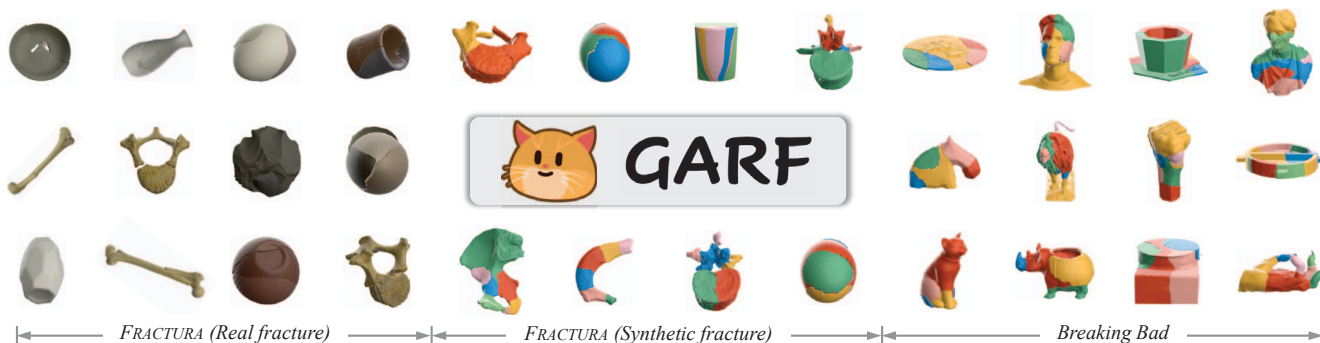


Figure 1. We curate FRAC-TURA, a unique dataset presenting real-world fracture assembly challenges across scientific domains, including ceramics, bones, eggshells, and lithics. To tackle these challenges, we introduce GARF, a *generalizable* 3D reassembly framework designed to handle varying *object shapes*, diverse *fracture types*, and the presence of *missing* or *extraneous* fragments.

Abstract

3D reassembly is a challenging spatial intelligence task with broad applications across scientific domains. While large-scale synthetic datasets have fueled promising learning-based approaches, their generalizability to different domains is limited. Critically, it remains uncertain whether models trained on synthetic datasets can generalize to real-world fractures where breakage patterns are more complex. To bridge this gap, we propose GARF, a *generalizable* 3D reassembly framework for *real-world* fractures. GARF leverages fracture-aware pretraining to learn fracture features from individual fragments, with flow matching enabling precise 6-DoF alignments. At inference time, we introduce two-session flow matching, improving robustness to unseen objects and varying numbers of fractures. In collaboration with archaeologists, paleoanthropologists, and ornithologists, we curate FRAC-TURA, a diverse dataset for vision and learning communities, featuring real-world fracture types across ceramics, bones, eggshells, and lithics. Comprehensive experiments have shown our approach consistently outperforms state-of-the-art methods on both synthetic and real-world datasets, achieving 82.87% lower rotation error and 25.15% higher

part accuracy on the Breaking Bad Everyday dataset. This sheds light on training on synthetic data to advance real-world 3D puzzle solving, demonstrating its strong generalization across unseen object shapes and diverse fracture types. GARF’s code, data and demo are available at <https://ai4ce.github.io/GARF/>.

1. Introduction

We have long been captivated by questions of human origins [51]: *What are we? Where do we come from?* The answers to these fundamental questions lie in archaeological materials such as bones [6], ceramics [49], and lithics [34]. However, these artifacts are often highly fragmented and incomplete [6, 19]. Reassembling them requires placing each fragment in its correct *position* and *orientation* to restore a complete or functional entity [41]. This process is not only time-consuming but also challenges the limits of human *spatial intelligence* [10, 41, 47]. For instance, an experimental study on lithic refitting reported a success rate of only 30%, with experts performing only marginally better than novices [20]. Consequently, museum storerooms around the world remain filled with thousands of unassembled fragments, waiting to be pieced back together [47].

Recently, the emergence of the large-scale dataset Breaking Bad [42] has brought new hope to this domain, fueling the development of data-intensive reassembly meth-

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ods [7, 17, 21, 23, 28, 30, 41, 48, 50, 53, 56, 60]. While PuzzleFusion++ achieves state-of-the-art (SOTA) performance on the *everyday* subset, its generalization degrades significantly on the *artifact* subset due to its reliance on global geometry learning [50]. More critically, the Breaking Bad dataset is generated via physics-based simulation [43], raising a fundamental question: *can models trained on synthetic breakage patterns generalize to real-world fractures?*

To answer this question, we identify two major real-world fracture challenges and curate FRACTURA, a dataset capturing key complexities: (i) **Data diversity** encompasses three geometrically distinct fracture types across multiple scientific domains, including bones, ceramics, eggshells, and lithics. As shown in Fig. 2, ceramics exhibit irregular, chaotic fractures typical of random breakage events, whereas flintknapping produces conchoidal fractures. This allows a systematic study of how *object shapes and fracture types* affect reassembly performance. (ii) **Missing or extraneous fragments** are common issues in real-world scenarios [13, 47] (see Fig. 2), which guides our model design to improve robustness.

In response to these complexities, we propose GARF, a generalizable 3D reassembly framework for real-world fractures, featuring four components: (i) **Large-scale fracture-aware pretraining** takes lessons from recent successes of large-scale pretraining in natural language and computer vision [1, 35, 40, 44, 45]. This module learns fracture segmentation of individual fragments to handle unseen objects as well as missing or extraneous fragments. (ii) **Flow-based reassembly on SE(3)** introduces flow matching to learn pose distribution, leveraging the SO(3) manifold for accurate rotation estimation. Inspired by human puzzle-solving, we design a multi-anchor training strategy that randomly selects a subset of fragments to form local structures, exposing the model to diverse combinations to enhance distribution learning. (iii) **Two-session flow matching at inference time** emphasizes the importance of pose initialization. The first session performs a one-step flow matching to generate a strong pose initialization on SE(3); the second session performs standard multi-step flow for refinement. (iv) **LoRA-based fine-tuning** enhances the model’s adaptability to specific domains.

Our main contributions are as follows:

- We introduce GARF, the first flow-based 3D fracture assembly framework that integrates fracture-aware pretraining and two-session flow matching, achieving SOTA performance across synthetic and real-world datasets.
- GARF sheds light on training on synthetic data for real-world challenges, effectively handling unseen object shapes and diverse fracture types, while remaining robust to missing or extraneous fragments.
- Collaborating with domain experts, we curate FRACTURA, a diverse dataset capturing real-world fracture

Table 1. **Comparisons of 3D Reassembly Datasets.** For Fracture Type*: Syn. denotes synthetic data. The number in parentheses indicates the number of synthetic/real fracture modes.

Datasets	Breaking Bad [42]	Fantastic Breaks [18]	RePAIR [47]	FRACTURA
# Pieces	8M	300	1070	53350+292
# Breaks	2-100	2	2-44	2-22
# Assemblies	10474	150	117	9727+41
Fracture Type*	Syn. (1)	Real (1)	Real (1)	Syn. (2) + Real (3)
Object Type	Everyday Artifact, Other	Everyday	Frescoes	Bones, Eggshells Lithics, Ceramics
Miss. / Extra.	× / ×	× / ×	✓ / ×	✓ / ✓
Texture	×	×	✓	✓

complexities, to conduct the first study on 3D reassembly generalization across ceramics, bones, eggshells, and lithics. Moreover, we apply the first integration of LoRA-based fine-tuning for domain-adaptive 3D reassembly.

2. FRACTURA Dataset

Existing datasets, whether synthetic [42] or real [18, 47], are limited to a single fracture type. To fill this gap, we curate FRACTURA, a challenging dataset (see Fig. 2), designed for a comprehensive evaluation of how *object shapes, fracture types*, and the presence of *missing or extraneous* parts affect reassembly performance.

Data Characteristics. FRACTURA comprises both real and synthetic fracture subsets. In collaboration with archaeologists, paleoanthropologists, and ornithologists, the **real fracture** subset includes three real fracture types relevant to scientific challenges (see Fig. 2): (i) *Random breakage* produces irregular, chaotic fractures, commonly observed in *ceramics, bones, and eggshells*. (ii) *Incomplete ossification* results in unfused bone ends (epiphyses) in *juvenile skeletons*, leading to fragmented rather than intact bones in skeletal collections and fossil records. Reassembling these unfused parts will benefit the following analysis and further create a complete series of bone developments over time from early childhood to adulthood. (iii) *Flintknapping* produces conchoidal fractures in *lithics*, characterized by radially propagating fracture lines (see Fig. 2). Real-world collections and scans naturally incorporate *missing or extraneous fragments*. For the **synthetic fracture** subset, we generate realistic fractures using physics-based simulation [43] for *ceramics, bones, and eggshells*, and geometry-based simulation [36] for *lithics*.

Data Collection and Simulation. We utilize the high-accuracy Artec spider 3D scanner (precision: 0.05 mm) to acquire detailed 3D meshes of real fragments and intact objects from the same categories. The real fracture subset serves as test data, while intact objects are used to generate the synthetic fracture subset for fine-tuning and evaluation. Details are provided in the supplementary materials.

Data Statistics. Table 1 summarizes key statistics of FRACTURA and other 3D reassembly datasets. Compared with existing datasets, FRACTURA introduces a diverse set of

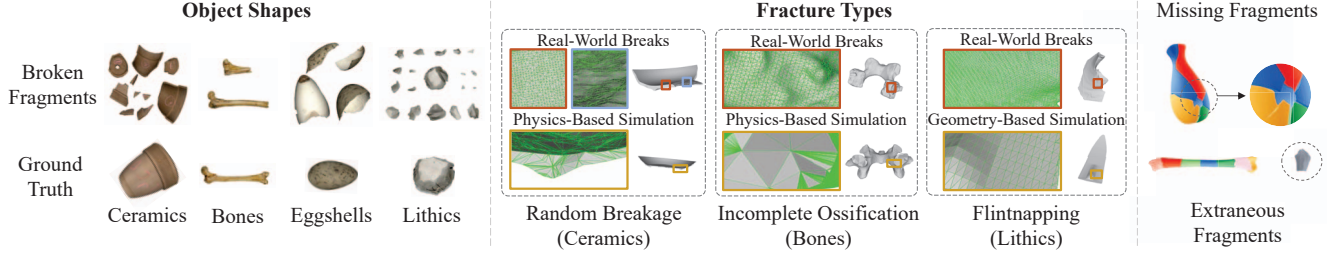


Figure 2. **Characteristics and Challenges of FRACTURA.** (i) Diverse fracture types including two synthetic and three real-world types, across ceramics, bones, eggshells, and lithics. (ii) Real-world challenges such as missing or extraneous fragments.

real and synthetic fractures across multiple scientific domains. We are actively expanding its size and diversity. More details are provided in the supplementary materials.

3. Method

Previous work either enhances global geometry learning through *fragment features* [41, 50, 53] or *jointly* learns hierarchical features from both global and local geometry [30]. In contrast, as shown in Fig. 3, GARF decouples the understanding of *local fracture* features (Sec. 3.1) and *global* fragment alignment (Sec. 3.2). At inference, we propose the two-session flow matching (Sec. 3.3) for robustness to unseen objects and increasing numbers of fractures. To further boost the performance on domain-specific data, we employ a LoRA-based fine-tuning method (Sec. 3.4).

3.1. Why Large-Scale Fracture-Aware Pretraining?

Humans can infer fracture points without knowledge of the global object shape [30, 37]. To emulate this ability, we leverage large-scale data to learn local fracture features from individual fragments, drawing inspiration from recent advances in large-scale pretraining [1, 35, 40, 44, 45]. This enables our method to generalize to unseen object shapes and handle missing or extraneous fragments.

Specifically, we sample a set of point clouds $\mathbf{P} = \{P^1, P^2, \dots, P^N\}$ to represent fragments, where N is the number of fragments. To extract fracture-level features from $\mathbf{P}$, we employ Point Transformer V3 (PTv3) [54] as the backbone, integrating two MLP layers [30] as the segmentation head for fracture cloud segmentation. Since fracture points constitute only a small proportion of $\mathbf{P}$, an imbalance arises between positive and negative samples. To mitigate this, we adopt the Dice loss function [46]:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{Seg}} = 1 - \frac{2 \sum_{i=1}^N p_i g_i + \epsilon}{\sum_{i=1}^N p_i + \sum_{i=1}^N g_i + \epsilon}, \quad (1)$$

where p is the predicted value and g is its ground truth label. To derive the high-quality g , we directly extract shared surfaces between connected fragments from the mesh, defining them as fracture surfaces $\mathbf{F}$. We then apply Poisson disk sampling [5] to generate $\mathbf{P}$, ensuring that $g = \mathbf{P} \cap \mathbf{F}$. This weighted sampling based on the surface area of fragments

prevents the encoder from overfitting to specific point densities, improving generalization.

3.2. Flow-Based Reassembly on SE(3)

Inspired by flow-based generative models [25–27, 38] in image synthesis [9], protein structure generation [4, 11, 16], and robotic manipulation [3, 57], we leverage flow matching (FM) to model the fracture reassembly process.

On a manifold $\mathcal{M}$, the flow $\psi_t : \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathcal{M}$ is defined as the solution of an ordinary differential equation (ODE):

$$\frac{d}{dt} \psi_t(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{v}_t(\psi_t(\mathbf{x})), \quad \psi_0(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{x}, \quad (2)$$

where $\mathbf{v}_t(\mathbf{x}) \in \mathcal{T}_{\mathbf{x}}\mathcal{M}$ is the time-dependent vector field, and $\mathcal{T}_{\mathbf{x}}\mathcal{M}$ denotes the tangent space at $\mathbf{x}$. In the context of SE(3), the tangent space corresponds to the *Lie algebra* $\mathfrak{se}(3)$, a six-dimensional vector space representing the velocity of the rigid motion of fragments.

Given an object composed of N fragments, we represent their poses as $\mathbf{T} = \{T^1, T^2, \dots, T^N\}$, where each T^i consists of a rotation $r \in \text{SO}(3)$ and a translation $a \in \mathbb{R}^3$, expressed as $T^i : \{r, a\} \in \text{SE}(3)$. The initial noise distribution is defined as: $p_0(\mathbf{T}_0) = \mathcal{U}(\text{SO}(3)) \otimes \mathcal{N}(0, I_3)$, where the rotation noise follows a uniform distribution over $\text{SO}(3)$, and the translation noise is sampled from a unit Gaussian distribution. We decouple the rotation and translation flows, allowing independent flow modeling in $\text{SO}(3)$ and $\mathbb{R}^3$. Therefore, the conditional flow $\mathbf{T}_t = \psi_t(\mathbf{T}_0 | \mathbf{T}_1)$ follows the geodesic path connecting $\mathbf{T}_0$ and $\mathbf{T}_1$:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{r}_t &= \exp_{\mathbf{r}_0}(t \log_{\mathbf{r}_0}(\mathbf{r}_1)), \\ \mathbf{a}_t &= (1-t)\mathbf{a}_0 + t\mathbf{a}_1, \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

where $\exp_{\mathbf{r}}$ and $\log_{\mathbf{r}}$ are the exponential and logarithmic maps on $\text{SO}(3)$. The final optimization objective is:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_{\text{FM}} &= \mathbb{E}_{t, p_1(\mathbf{T}_1), p_t(\mathbf{T} | \mathbf{T}_1)} \left[\sum_{i=1}^N \left\| \mathbf{v}_{\mathbf{r}}^i(\mathbf{T}_t, t) - \frac{\log_{\mathbf{r}_t}(\mathbf{r}_1)}{1-t} \right\|_g^2 \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \left\| \mathbf{v}_{\mathbf{a}}^i(\mathbf{T}_t, t) - \frac{\mathbf{a}_1 - \mathbf{a}_t}{1-t} \right\|_g^2 \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

Further details are in the supplementary materials.

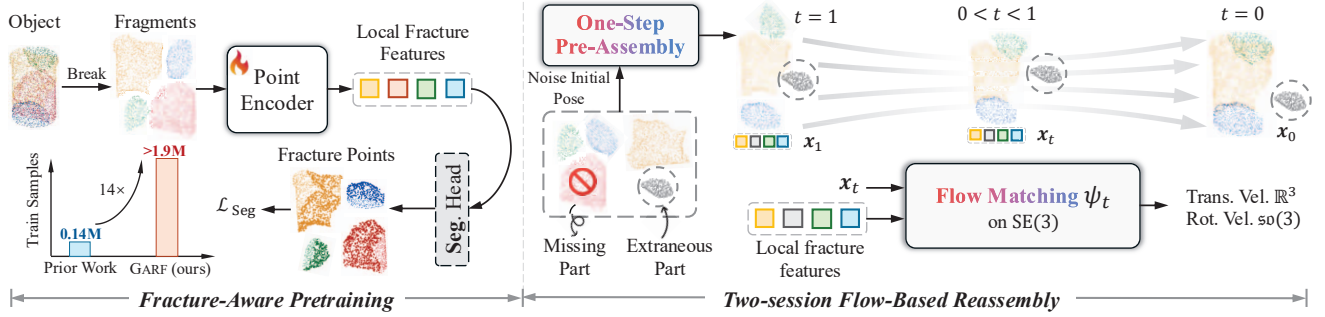


Figure 3. **Pipeline of GARF.** Our framework comprises two main components: (i) Fracture-aware pretraining leverages $14\times$ more data than previous methods to learn the local fracture features via fracture point segmentation, and (ii) Two-session flow-based reassembly on $SE(3)$ leverages the $SO(3)$ manifold for precise rotation estimation. At inference time, one-step pre-assembly strategy provides better initial poses, enhancing robustness against unseen objects and increasing numbers of fractures.

Network Architecture. Consider an object consisting of N fragments with initial poses $T_t \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times 7}$ at timesteps t . The corresponding latent features are extracted from the pre-trained encoder: $F = \mathcal{E}(P) \in \mathbb{R}^{M \times c}$, where c is the number of channels and M is the pre-defined number of sampled points. We integrate point cloud coordinates $P \in \mathbb{R}^{M \times 3}$, normals $n \in \mathbb{R}^{M \times 3}$, and scale information $s \in \mathbb{R}^{M \times 1}$ as pose-invariant shape priors in the position embedding:

$$s_{\text{emb}} = f_{\text{shape}} \left(\text{concat} \left(F, \text{PE}(P), \text{PE}(n), \text{PE}(s) \right) \right). \quad (5)$$

The pose is treated as spatial information: $p_{\text{emb}} = f_{\text{pose}}(\text{PE}(T))$. These embeddings are combined to form the Transformer input: $d = \text{PE}(s_{\text{emb}} + p_{\text{emb}})$.

The feature d is then processed through L Transformer layers including self-attention and global attention. Leveraging the efficient computation of FlashAttention [8], we modify the self-attention module to allow more attention on large fragments:

$$\begin{aligned} Q, K, V &= \text{Linear}(\text{LN}(d)), \\ A_{\text{self}} &= \text{FlashAttn}(Q, K, V; \text{cu}(\ell), \ell_{\text{max}}), \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

where the model computes the sequence lengths ℓ of the variable number of sampled points per fragment batch, along with their cumulative sums $\text{cu}(\ell)$. More details are in the supplementary materials. The self-attention output A_{self} is added to the original feature d , yielding the updated representation $h = d + A_{\text{self}}$. The global attention layer then applies a similar attention mechanism to aggregate information across fragments with $\ell = M$. The output undergoes Layer Normalization (LN) and a feed-forward network (FFN) with a residual connection, before regressing the pose $T_{t-1} : \{r_{t-1}, a_{t-1}\}$ at the next timestep:

$$\begin{aligned} h &\leftarrow h + \text{FFN}(\text{LN}(h)), \\ a_{t-1} &= f_{\text{trans}}(h), \quad r_{t-1} = f_{\text{rot}}(h). \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

Multi-Anchor Training Strategy. We observe that probability paths vary significantly across fragments; some require complex transformations, while others remain nearly stationary. To model this variation, we introduce a multi-anchor training strategy, randomly selecting $k \in [1, N - 1]$ fragments as anchors and fixing their positions with identity rotations and zero translations. For these anchor fragments i , the vector field is explicitly supervised to be zero: $v^i(T_t, t) = 0$. Unlike prior approaches [50], which prevent gradient propagation for a single anchor (the largest fragment and its connected neighbors within a 50% threshold), our multi-anchor strategy enforces a zero vector field, expanding the range of probability paths and enhancing generalization across diverse fragment configurations.

3.3. Two-Session Flow Matching at Inference Time

Prior diffusion/flow matching work only uses single-session inference. While image generation methods use search strategies or self-supervised verifiers to improve initialization [24, 32, 39, 61], such strategies are less effective for pose estimation. In contrast, we design the two-session flow matching at inference time: the first session performs a one-step FM inference (step = 1) to generate an initial pose T'_0 , leveraging FM's ability to model straight-line probability paths and narrow the search space; the second session performs standard multi-step flow for refinement. Despite a minimal 5% increase in computational cost ($20 \rightarrow 1 + 20$ steps), this design outperforms single-session inference, particularly for larger fragment sets.

3.4. LoRA-based Fine-tuning

To quickly adapt to domain-specific contexts, we employ a LoRA-based [15] fine-tuning approach using the synthetic fracture subset in FRACTURA. Specifically, we integrate LoRA adapters into the self-attention and global attention layers of the final Transformer block while unfreezing the MLP heads for pose prediction (f_{rot} and f_{trans}). Our experiments demonstrate that this lightweight fine-tuning method

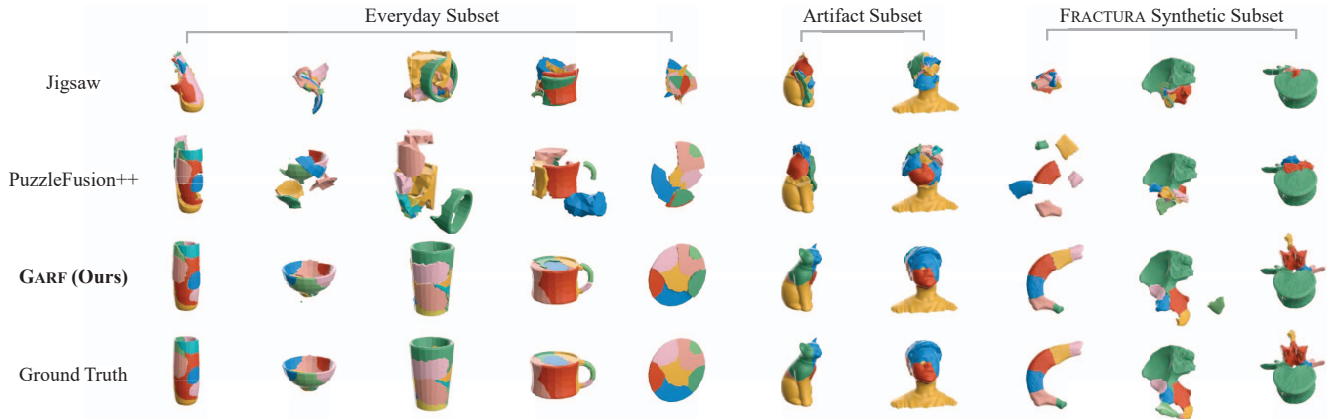


Figure 4. **Qualitative Comparisons on the Breaking Bad and FRACTURA.** GARF consistently produces more accurate reassemblies, particularly on the Breaking Bad Artifact subset and FRACTURA synthetic fracture subset, demonstrating strong generalization to unseen object shapes. Meshes are used for visualization only. Additional results are available in the supplementary material.

requires as few as 5–10 domain-specific objects to achieve substantial improvements in scientific applications such as juvenile skeleton reconstruction and lithic refitting.

4. Experiments

4.1. Training and Evaluation Details.

Training. For fracture-aware pretraining, Point Transformer V3 (PTv3) [54] serves as the backbone, extracting 64-channel features from its final layer. GARF is pre-trained on three Breaking Bad [42] subsets, totaling 1.9M fragments—14× more than prior works. For fair comparisons, GARF-mini is pretrained only on the Everyday subset. For FM, both GARF and GARF-mini are trained on the Everyday subset. We use a standard transformer [50] to compute the vector field, with each block consisting of 6 encoder layers, 8 attention heads per layer, and an embedding dimension of 512. The initial learning rate is $2e-4$ and decays by a factor of 2 at epochs 900 and 1200. GARF is trained with a batch size of 32 on 4 NVIDIA H100 HBM3 GPUs, requiring 2 days for pretraining and 3 days for FM. GARF-mini completes pretraining in 0.5 days. For LoRA fine-tuning, we use the PEFT framework [33] with rank $r = 128$, $\alpha = 256$, and a dropout rate of 0.1.

Datasets. We evaluate our model on three datasets with diverse object shapes and fracture types: (i) **Breaking Bad** [42], the largest synthetic fracture dataset for 3D reassembly. We use the volume-constrained version, evaluating 7,872 assemblies from the Everyday subset and 3,697 assemblies from the Artifact subset. Results on the vanilla version are in the supplementary materials. (ii) **Fantastic Breaks** [18], a real-world dataset of 195 manually scanned fractured objects with complex surfaces, used for evaluation only. (iii) **FRACTURA**, a mixed synthetic-real dataset spanning ceramics, bones (vertebrae, limbs, ribs), eggshells, and lithics. For the synthetic fracture subset, we follow an 80/20

split [47] for LoRA fine-tuning and evaluation.

Evaluation Metrics. Following [50], we evaluate assembly quality using four metrics: (i) RMSE(R) is the root mean square error of rotation (degrees); (ii) RMSE(T) is the root mean square error of translation; (iii) PA is the percentage of correctly assembled fragments, where the per-fragment chamfer distance is below 0.01; and (iv) CD is the chamfer distance between the assembled object and ground truth.

Competing Methods. We compare our approach against Global [22], LSTM [52], DGL [59], Jigsaw [30], PMTR* [21], and PuzzleFusion++ (PF++) [50]. We implemented PF++ [50] and Jigsaw [30] using its official codebase, while performance metrics for other methods on the volume-constrained Breaking Bad dataset are sourced from their official papers or repositories. Additional comparisons with SE(3)-Equiv [53], DiffAssemble [41], and PHFormer [7] on the vanilla Breaking Bad dataset, as well as FragmentDiff [56] on its custom Breaking Bad subset, are provided in the supplementary materials.

4.2. Can GARF Generalize to Unseen Shapes?

Real-world fragmentation varies in object geometries, requiring GARF to *generalize to unseen object shapes*. To empirically assess this, we evaluate GARF-mini on FRACTURA and the Artifact subset of Breaking Bad, as well as GARF on FRACTURA.

Results and Analysis. Table 2 presents the evaluation results on the Breaking Bad dataset, where GARF achieves significant improvements over previous SOTA methods. Compared to PF++ [50], GARF reduces rotation error by 82.87% and translation error by 79.83%, while achieving a CD below 0.001, indicating near-perfect reconstructions. Even more impressively, GARF-mini demonstrates exceptional generalization capability. Despite being trained

*The performance of PMTR [21] is from PuzzleFusion++ [50].

Table 2. **Quantitative Results on Volume-Constrained Breaking Bad [42] and FRACTURA Datasets.** The best performance metric is highlighted in **bold**, while the second-best is underlined.

Methods	RMSE(R) ↓ degree	RMSE(T) ↓ $\times 10^{-2}$	PA ↑ %	CD ↓ $\times 10^{-3}$
Tested on the Everyday Subset				
Global [22]	80.50	14.60	28.70	13.00
LSTM [52]	82.70	15.10	27.50	13.30
DGL [59]	80.30	13.90	31.60	11.80
Jigsaw [30]	42.19	6.85	68.89	8.22
PMTR [21]	31.57	9.95	70.60	5.56
PF++ [50]	35.61	6.05	76.17	2.78
GARF-mini	<u>6.68</u>	<u>1.34</u>	<u>94.77</u>	<u>0.25</u>
GARF	6.10	1.22	95.33	0.22
Tested on the Artifact Subset				
Jigsaw	43.75	7.91	65.12	8.50
PF++	47.03	10.63	57.97	8.24
GARF-mini	<u>7.67</u>	<u>1.77</u>	<u>93.34</u>	<u>0.81</u>
GARF	5.82	1.27	95.04	0.42
Tested on the Fractura (Synthetic Fracture)				
Jigsaw	60.50	18.49	33.06	70.68
PF++	62.57	18.65	37.74	36.13
GARF-mini	<u>27.88</u>	<u>6.79</u>	<u>76.25</u>	<u>7.70</u>
GARF	19.63	4.93	83.41	6.06

only on the Everyday subset, it maintains consistent performance on the *unseen* Artifact subset, avoiding the performance degradation typically observed with unseen object shapes. This highlights GARF’s robust feature extraction and assembly mechanisms. Notably, GARF achieves 95.33% and 95.04% PA on the Breaking Bad dataset, approaching the theoretical maximum PA of 96.49% (Everyday subset) and 96.10% (Artifact subset) when excluding fragments smaller than 0.1% of the object volume[†]. On the challenging synthetic subset of FRACTURA, which contains *unseen domain-specific objects*, GARF further demonstrates superior generalization capability, outperforming all competing methods across all evaluation metrics. As shown in Fig. 4, GARF consistently produces more accurate re-assemblies, particularly on the Breaking Bad Artifact subset and the FRACTURA synthetic fracture subset, confirming its strong generalization to unseen object shapes.

4.3. How Do Fracture Types Affect Generalization?

As scanning time significantly increases with fragment count [18], real fracture datasets are typically limited in *size* and *diversity*, making large-scale training infeasible. To address this, we investigate *how fracture types impact zero-shot generalization* on Fantastic Breaks and FRACTURA, as well as *the fine-tuning performance using domain-specific synthetic fractures* on FRACTURA.

[†]Scanning tiny 3D fragments in real-world settings is inherently challenging; anthropologists often treat such fragments as missing parts.

Table 3. **Quantitative Results on Fantastic Breaks Dataset [18].** This includes manually collected real-world objects.

Methods	RMSE(R) ↓ degree	RMSE(T) ↓ $\times 10^{-2}$	PA ↑ %	CD ↓ $\times 10^{-3}$
Tested on the Fantastic Breaks				
Jigsaw [30]	26.30	6.43	73.64	10.47
PF++ [50]	<u>20.68</u>	<u>4.37</u>	<u>83.33</u>	<u>6.68</u>
GARF	10.62	2.10	91.00	2.12

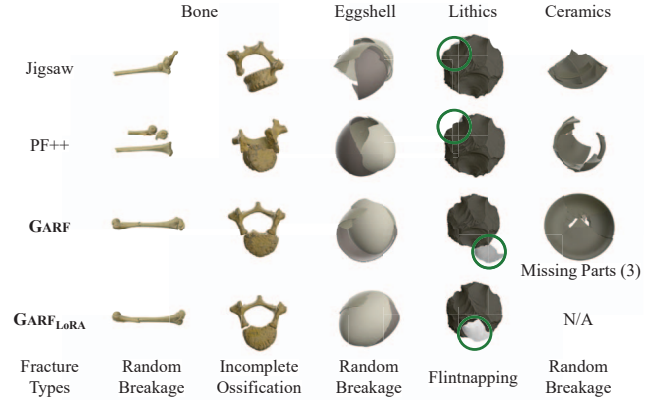


Figure 5. **Qualitative Comparisons on the FRACTURA real fracture subset.** GARF generalizes well to random breakage (limb bones and ceramics) and incomplete ossification (vertebrae) but faces challenges with high-ambiguity fractures like flintknapping (lithics). Fine-tuning enhances performance, particularly for thin-shell structures (eggshells) and flintknapping (lithics).

Real Fracture on Fantastic Breaks [18]. As shown in Table 3, GARF demonstrates superior generalization to real-world fracture surfaces, achieving a remarkable 48.65% reduction in rotation error compared to PF++ [50], indicating that our model effectively bridges the synthetic-to-real gap in fracture surface understanding for everyday objects.

Real Fracture on FRACTURA. We further evaluate performance across three fracture types. To isolate the impact of unseen objects, GARF_{LoRA} is fine-tuned separately on synthetic fractures from bones, eggshells, and lithics in FRACTURA[‡]. Figure 5 compares reassembly performance across three fracture types in the FRACTURA real fracture subset. GARF outperforms competing methods on ceramics even with three missing fragments. GARF_{LoRA} further improves performance by mitigating the effect of unseen objects. GARF_{LoRA} generalize well to random breakage (limb bones, ceramics) and incomplete ossification (vertebrae). Unfortunately, although finetune significantly improves the performance on lithics, both GARF and GARF_{LoRA} struggle on lithics, likely due to high ambiguity among flakes and the core, a well-known challenging spatial reasoning problem for anthropologists [20]. This unresolved challenge in FRACTURA offer valuable directions for future research.

[‡]Fine-tuning is not performed for ceramics, as its object categories closely resemble those in the Everyday subset of Breaking Bad.

Table 4. Quantitative Results on Missing / Extraneous Parts.

Methods	Input	RMSE(R) ↓	RMSE(T) ↓	PA ↑	CD ↓
Jigsaw [30]	Complete	71.41	15.83	28.34	21.94
	20% Miss.	70.45	15.54	28.85	21.58
	20% Extra.	74.55	19.02	24.03	26.15
PF++ [50]	Complete	59.26	12.00	49.38	5.52
	20% Miss.	61.14	12.26	44.71	7.57
	20% Extra.	61.25	13.91	40.59	8.77
GARF	Complete	19.55	3.83	83.39	0.62
	20% Miss.	22.23	4.75	78.87	1.40
	20% Extra.	22.70	4.62	79.21	1.29

4.4. How Do Missing or Extraneous Parts Affect Performance?

Archaeological materials are often *incomplete* or mixed with similar but *extraneous* fragments, posing significant challenges for assembly. To quantitatively assess model robustness under these conditions at scale, we extend Breaking Bad’s Everyday subset in two ways: (i) *Missing* parts subset removes 20% of fragments in descending order of volume, preserving the largest anchor fragments and maintaining the object’s connectivity graph; (ii) *Extraneous* parts subset adds fragments from other objects in the same category, selecting pieces smaller than the largest anchor fragment but larger than 5% of the object’s total volume to ensure they are not trivially small. For a fair comparison, we evaluate objects with 5 to 17 fragments. Additionally, we provide visual demonstrations of assemblies with naturally missing or extraneous parts in FRACTURA.

Results and Analysis. Table 4 shows that GARF demonstrates strong resilience, with minimal performance degradation over competing methods. With 20% extraneous fragments, GARF maintains a high PA of 79.21%, only 5.0% lower than with complete sets, whereas PF++ drops by 24.32%. Similarly, with 20% missing fragments, GARF achieves 78.87% PA, far surpassing Jigsaw (28.85%) and PF++ (47.22%). Figure 6 illustrates how missing or extraneous fragments affect reassembly performance. While all methods degrade under these challenging conditions, GARF demonstrates superior robustness, maintaining coherent structures despite missing or extraneous fragments. In contrast, Jigsaw and PF++ exhibit severe misalignments and fragment mismatches. This robustness suggests that GARF can partially handle missing or extraneous fragments, benefiting from our model design.

4.5. Ablation Study

Designs of Model. We incrementally add our key design choices to the PF++ [50] baseline, reporting RMSE (R/T) and PA as shown in Table 5. ① **Fracture-aware Pre-training Strategy.** We replace the VAE-based pretraining used in PF++ with our fracture-aware pretraining strategy. Our strategy reduces RMSE(R) by 53.3% and RMSE(T)

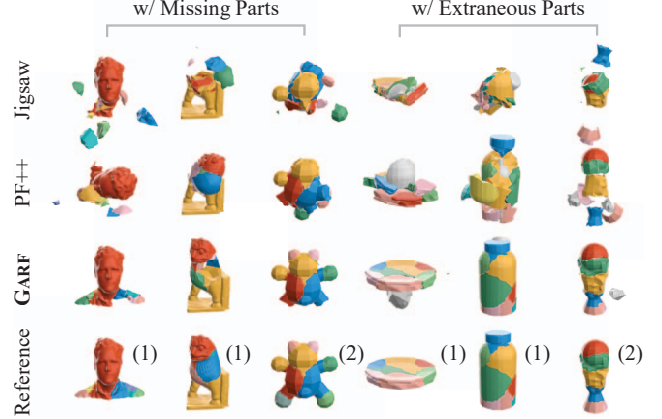


Figure 6. Qualitative Comparisons on the Missing or Extraneous Impact. GARF demonstrates superior robustness, maintaining coherent structures despite missing or extraneous fragments.

by 49.0%. ② **More attention on large fragments.** We observe that large fragments are easier to assemble and yield more stable gradients. To leverage this, we apply surface-area-based weighted sampling and modify the attention mechanism to emphasize large fragments. This leads to substantial improvements. ③ **Two-Session Flow Matching on SE(3).** We design a two-session flow matching scheme: the first session performs one-step coarse pose initialization, while the second refines it via multi-step flow. This design further boosts performance during inference. More experimental results and analysis are in the supplementary materials.

Table 5. Ablation Study on Our Designs of Model.

Setups	Backbone	Denoiser	RMSE(R) ↓	RMSE(T) ↓	PA ↑
I: PuzzleFusion++	PointNet++	Diffusion	32.91	5.26	78.95
I + ①	PointNet++	Diffusion	15.36	2.68	89.40
I + ①	PointNet++	FM	15.55	2.69	89.43
I + ① ②	PointNet++	Diffusion	12.58	2.16	91.24
I + ① ②	PointNet++	FM	8.70	1.67	93.60
I + ① ② ③	PointNet++	FM	7.40	1.47	94.43
I + ① ② ③ (GARF-mini)	PTv3	FM	6.68	1.34	94.77

Number of Fragments. We analyze performance across varying fragment counts, as shown in Figure 7. GARF-mini consistently surpasses PF++ across all fragment counts. Our two-session FM further enhances performance on unseen objects containing more than 10 fragments. Interestingly, although GARF has only been trained on data with 2-20 fragments in Breaking Bad, it can still generalize to fractures with more than 20 pieces as shown in Figure 7.

5. Impact and Limitations

Scientific Impacts. How objects—whether they are bones, ceramic pots, or stone tools—were reassembled and what

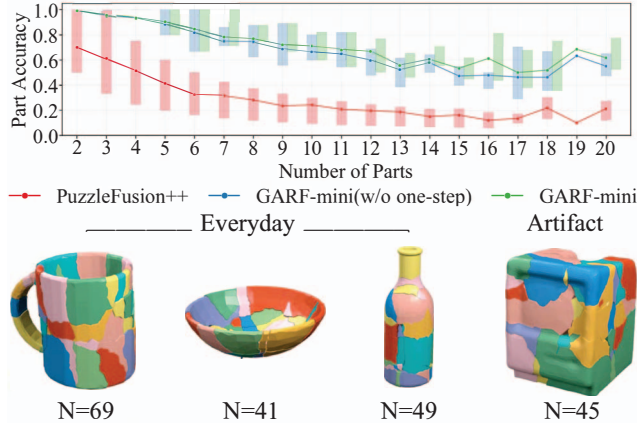


Figure 7. **Investigation on the Number of Fragments.** GARF-mini significantly outperforms PF++, with the two-session FM further boosting results for > 10 fragments. Notably, GARF-mini also generalizes to fractures containing well over 20 fragments.

processes influenced their reconstruction is one of the basic questions common to different research communities, including *paleontology* and *paleoanthropology*, *archaeology*, and *forensic science*. To explore this, we make the first attempt to collaborate with archaeologists, paleoanthropologists, and ornithologists to build a generalizable model for real-world fracture reassembly. While GARF achieves significant improvements, challenges remain, particularly in handling the complexities presented by FRACTURA, which creates new opportunities for the vision and learning communities, encouraging advancements in 3D puzzle solving.

Limitations and Future Directions. GARF encounters challenges in handling fracture ambiguity, especially when fragments have subtle geometric differences or inherently ambiguous fracture surfaces. For instance, it struggles with lithic refitting in FRACTURA due to high ambiguity among flakes and the core, as well as fresco reconstruction in RePAIR, where erosion affects fracture surfaces [47]. Therefore, our future work will focus on: (i) Multimodal fracture reassembly, integrating geometric and texture information; (ii) Test-time policy optimization using expert feedback; (iii) Expanding the size and diversity of FRACTURA.

6. Related Work

Fracture Assembly. Early methods relied on explicit geometric matching with handcrafted features [2, 14, 31, 55], often struggling with ambiguous or incomplete geometries. The advent of the large-scale synthetic dataset Breaking Bad [42] has enabled learning-based approaches to acquire robust geometric representations and assembly strategies [29]. Jigsaw [30] jointly learns hierarchical features from global and local geometries for fracture matching and pose estimation, while SE(3)-equiv [53] extracts fragment features for pose estimation. DiffAssemble [41] improves

performance using a diffusion model. PuzzleFusion++ [50] mimics how humans solve spatial puzzles by integrating diffusion-based pose estimation with a VAE-based fragment representation and transformer-based alignment verification. However, while PuzzleFusion++ achieves SOTA results on the everyday subset, its performance degrades significantly on the Artifact subset [50]. More critically, it remains unclear whether models trained on synthetic data can generalize to real-world fractures with more complex breakage patterns. To fill this gap, we identify major real-world fracture challenges and curate FRACTURA, a dataset capturing key complexities. To address these challenges, we propose GARF, a generalizable 3D reassembly framework for real-world fractures.

Flow Matching. Recent advances have explored flow matching (FM) across image generation [9], protein backbone generation [11, 16, 57], and general robot control [3]. AssembleFlow [12] attempts to leverage FM for molecular assembly, but introduces numerical errors by approximating quaternion updates through direct addition over small time intervals during inference. While diffusion models have been widely applied to fracture assembly [41, 50], FM provides a more natural formulation by learning geodesic flows in SE(3). We propose the first FM-based fracture assembly framework, incorporating the multi-anchor training strategy and two-session flow matching at inference time.

7. Conclusion

In collaboration with archaeologists, paleoanthropologists, and ornithologists, we present FRACTURA, a diverse and challenging fracture assembly dataset, and GARF, a generalizable 3D reassembly framework designed for real-world fractures. FRACTURA serves as a challenging benchmark to evaluate how object shapes, fracture types, and the presence of missing or extraneous parts affect reassembly performance. Facing these challenges, GARF offers vital guidance on training on synthetic data to advance real-world 3D puzzle solving. Comprehensive evaluations demonstrate its strong generalization to unseen object shapes and diverse fracture types. Despite its superior performance, GARF still struggles with geometric ambiguity, particularly when dealing with highly similar fragments and eroded fracture surfaces. We anticipate that FRACTURA will drive further advancements in 3D reassembly, pushing the boundaries of spatial reasoning to answer unknown scientific questions.

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