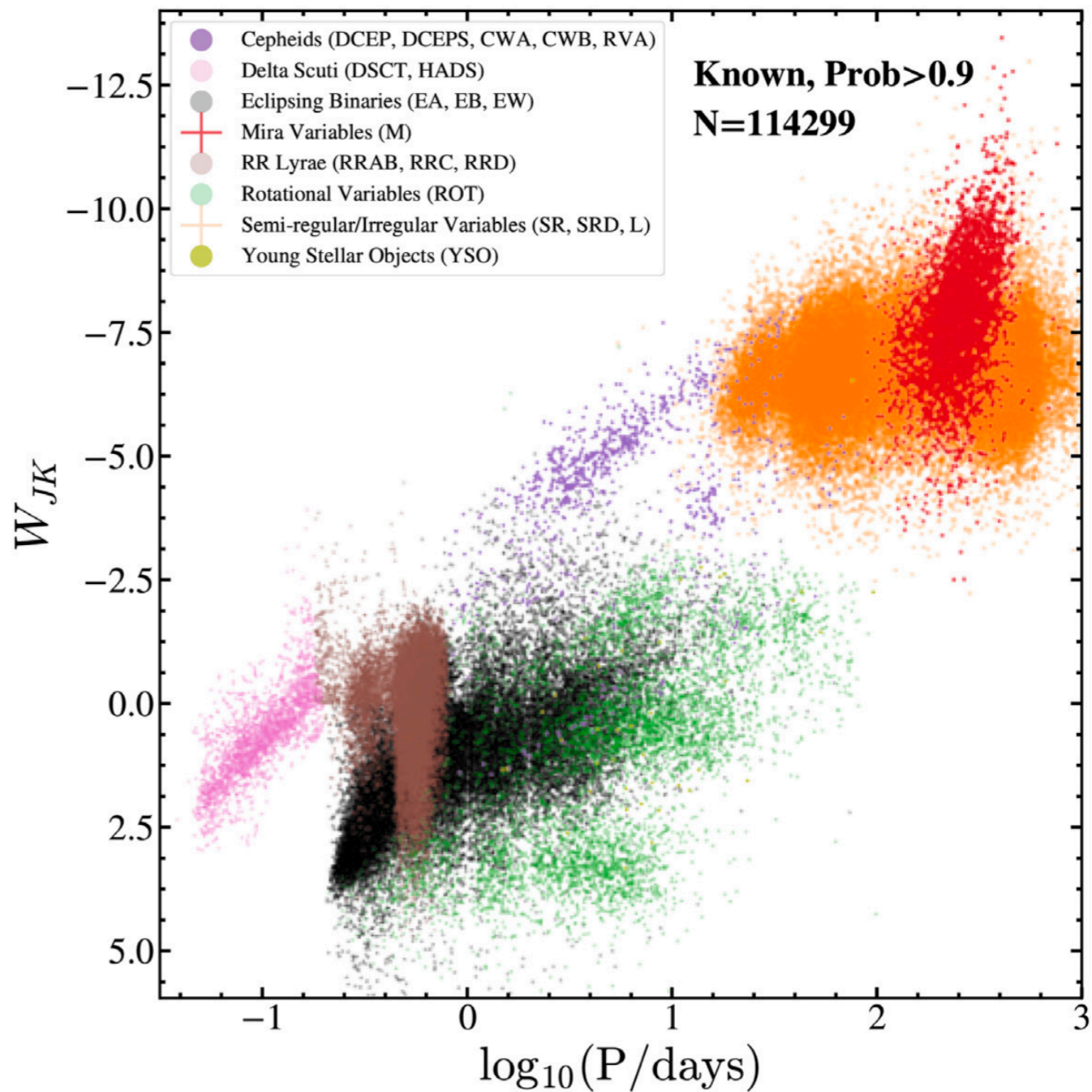


Photometric Classification of Transients and Variables



Time-domain classification is foundational to astronomical science.

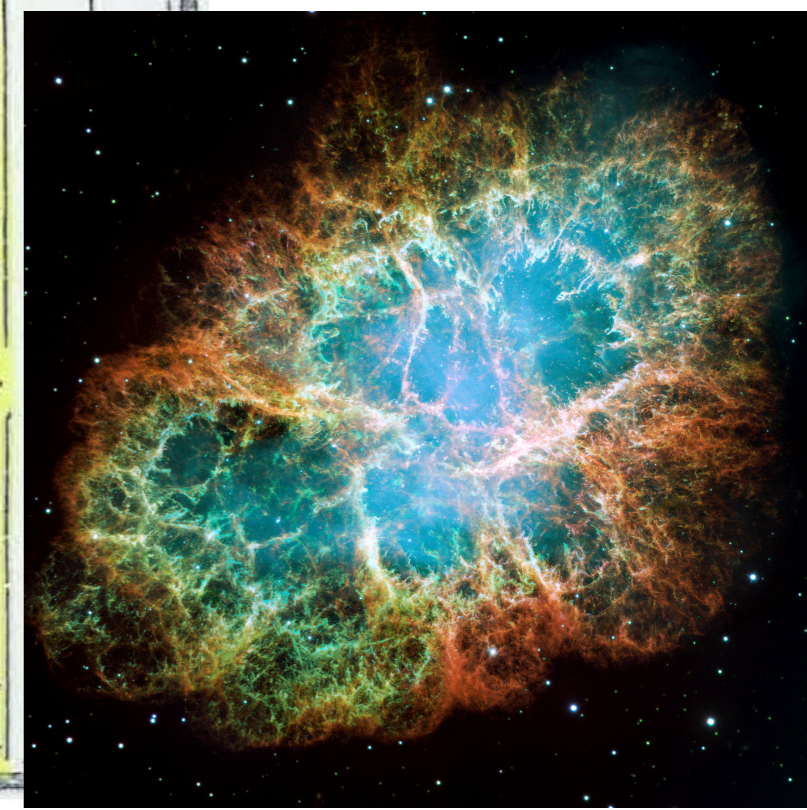
歷代名臣奏議卷之三百一

灾祥

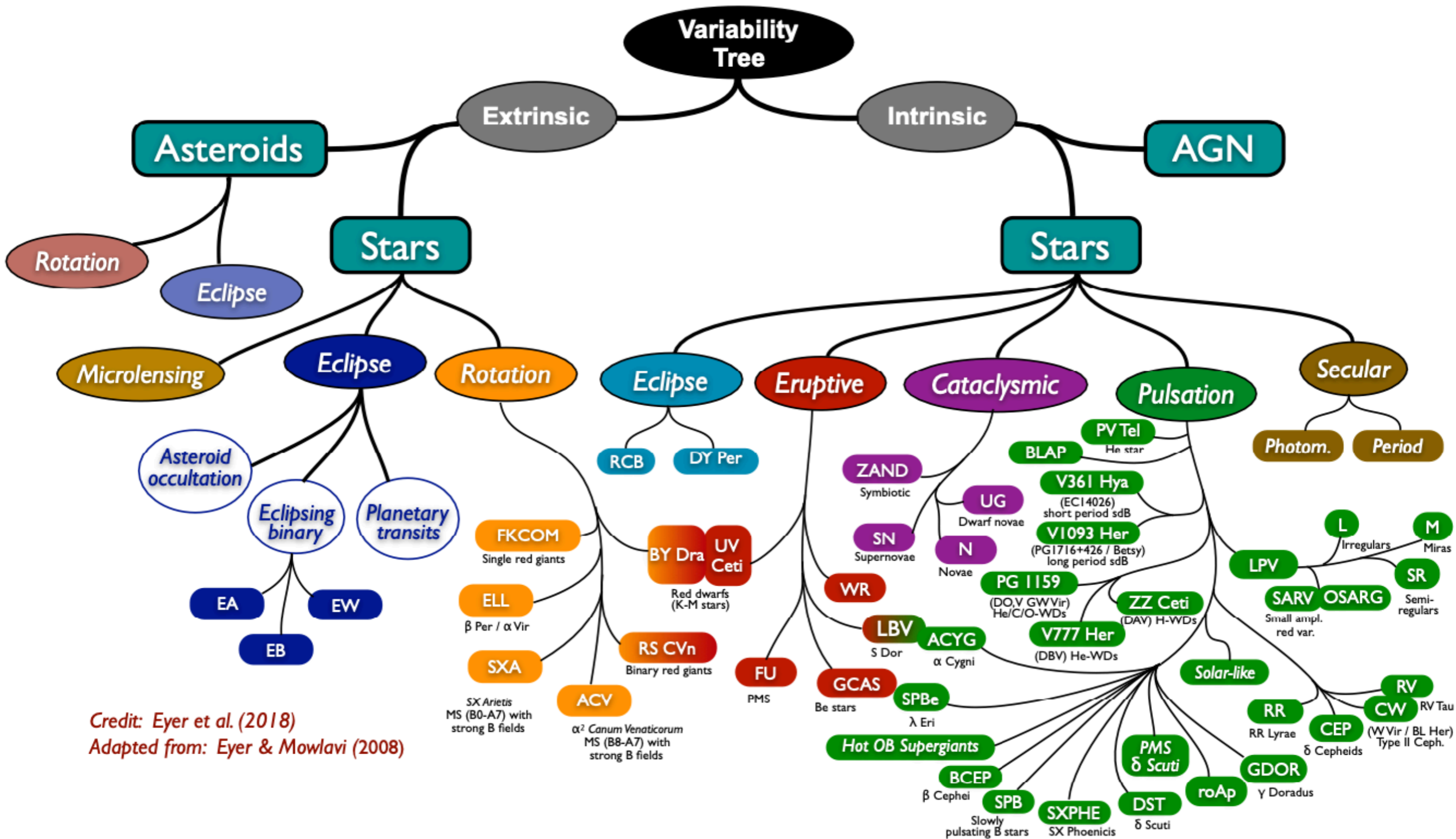
宋仁宗至和二年。侍御史趙抃上言曰。臣伏見自去年五月已來。妖星遂見。僅及周稔。至今光耀未退。此谷永所謂馳騁驟步。芒炎長短。所慙奸犯。其為譎變甚可畏也。又去冬連今春。京東西路及陝右川蜀諸郡。旱暵不雨。麥苗焦死。民既艱食。寇攘必興。此京房所謂欲德不用。茲謂張厥災荒。其為災沴。復可懼也。邇來岷峽山谷。驚裂有聲。他郡數處。地亦震動。此伯陽所謂陽伏而不能出。陰迫而不能升。蓋土失其性。其為災異。益可駭也。夫燮調陰陽者。三公之職。天戒若曰。陛下左右輔弼。當得忠賢剛正之人為之。乃可以召至和之氣。消未萌之眚。不然。何以妖星譎變也。旱暵災沴也。地震祥異也。三者咎應。察明如是之著耶。臣愚伏望陛下。謹天之戒。應天以實。取天下公議。與天下瞻望之。所謂賢人君子者。陟之使居廟堂之上。責以三公四輔之事業。委注而仰成之。若然。則陰陽以和。災異以消。朝廷清明。夷狄畏服。太平之風。可翹足引領而待之也。臣朝夕思慮。載惟擇賢命相。繫國家休戚治亂之本。伏願陛下。慎重之。然後發聖斷。力行而不疑。則宗廟社稷之福。天下生靈之幸。

起居舍人知諫院范鎮上奏曰。臣伏見去冬多南風。今春多西六風。乍寒乍暑。欲雨不雨。又有黑氣蔽日。此皆人事之所感動也。黑氣陰也。小人也。日。陽也。君象也。黑氣蔽日者。陰侵陽。小人惑君也。欲雨不雨者。政事不決也。陳執中為相。不病而家居者。百日矣。陛下以御史之言。決一婢死。而欲退宰相為是。即乞速退執中。以解天意。以御史之言為非。亦乞勅執中起視事。無使天意久不決也。寒暑者。賞罰也。乍寒乍暑者。不當賞而賞。當罰而不罰也。鄧保吉有過於法。不當為

"guest star"
SN 1054

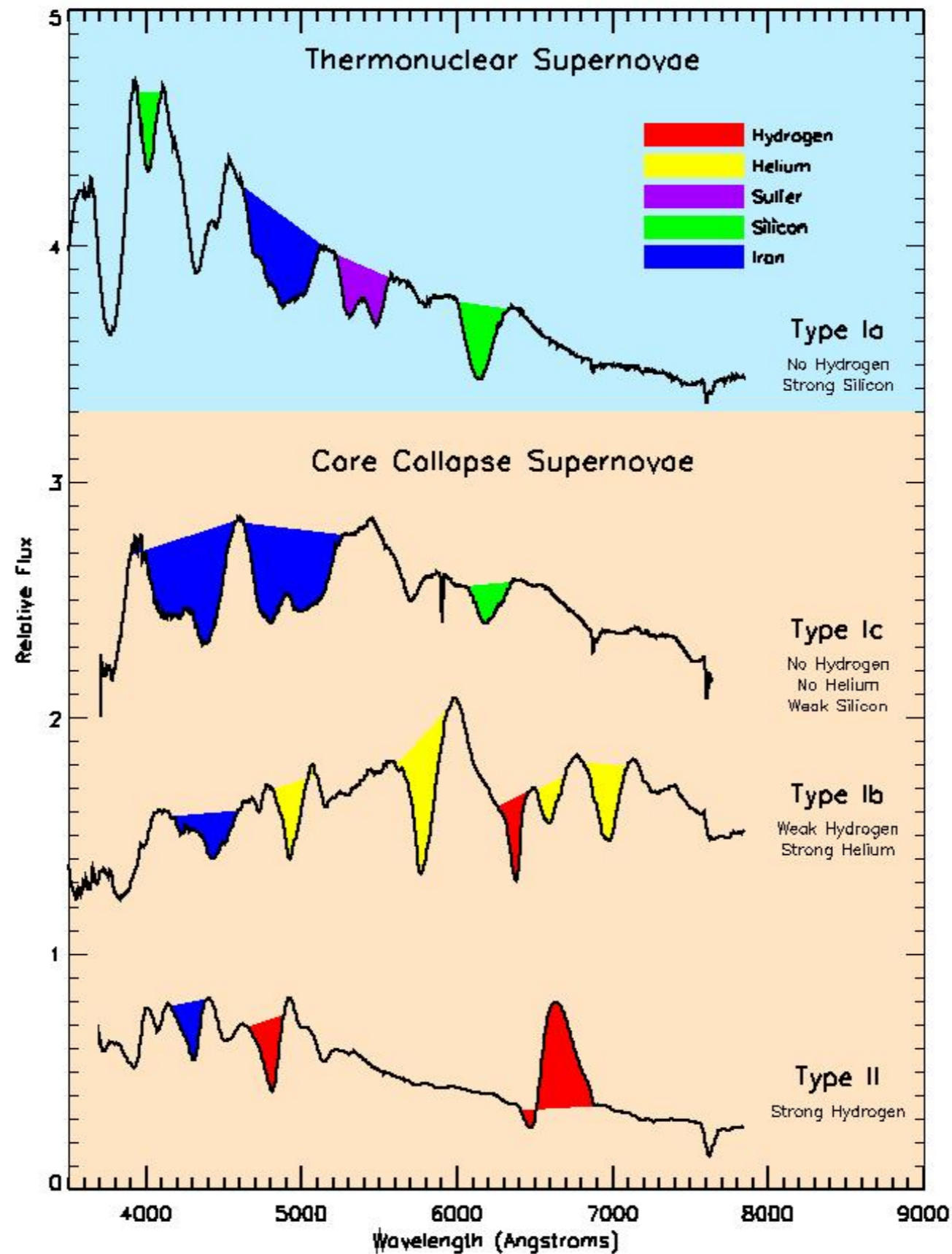


How far down the classification tree you descend depends on your scientific interest.



Credit: Eyer et al. (2018)
Adapted from: Eyer & Mowlavi (2008)

Photometric variability alone does not distinguish all astrophysical classes.



Astronomers use a range of classification methods.

Simple cuts on event properties

Spectroscopy

Template fitting

Host/environment

Parametric fitting

Featurized Machine Learning

Deep Learning & friends

"Physics-aware ML"

Astronomers use a range of classification methods.

Simple cuts on event properties

Spectral energy

Template fitting

Host/environment

Parametric fitting

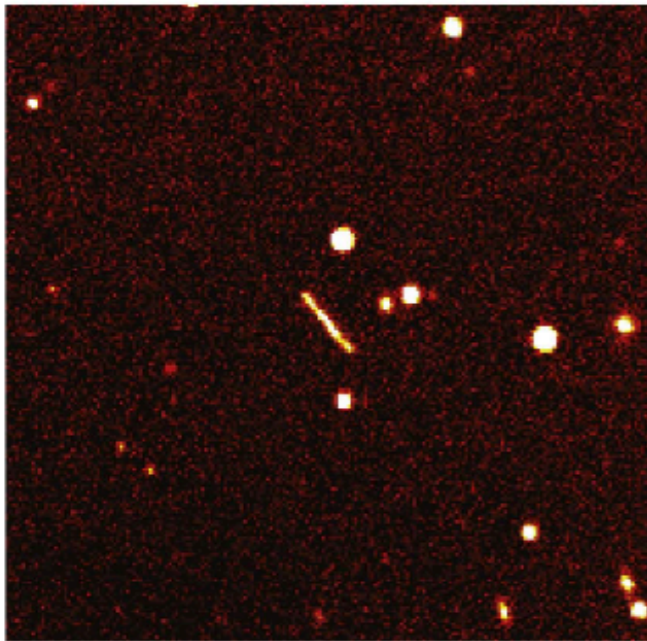
Featurized Machine Learning

Deep Learning & friends

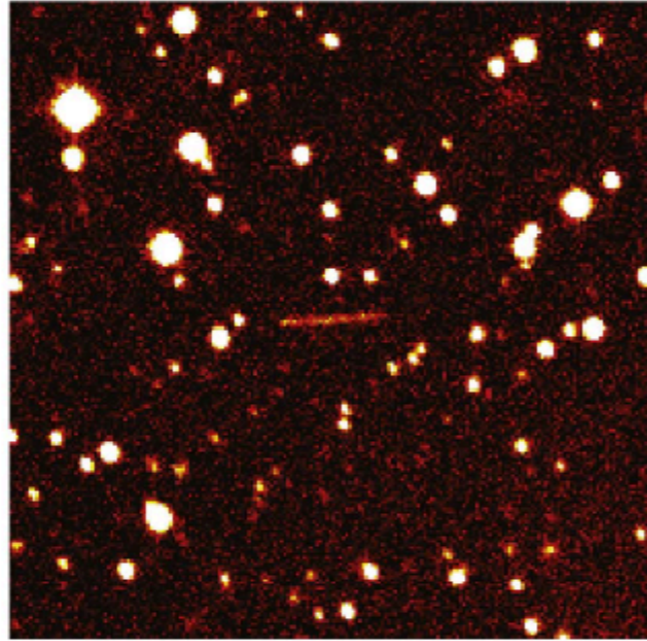
"Physics-aware ML"

BIASED & INCOMPLETE

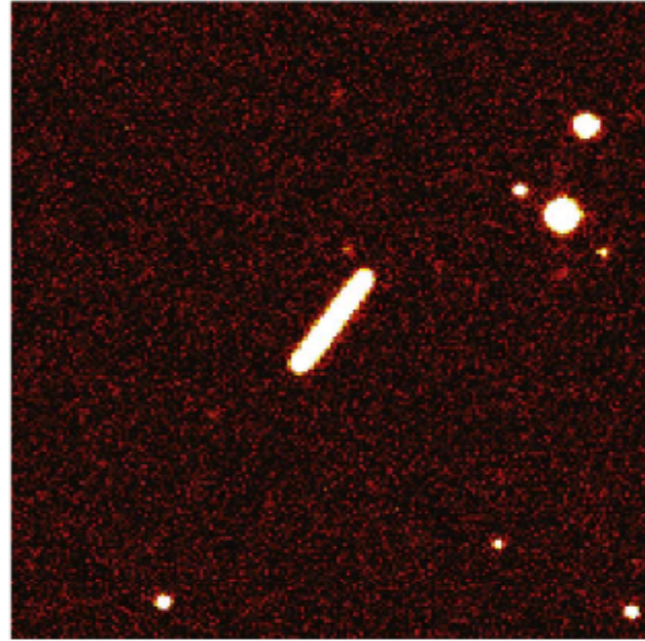
Simple cuts can be surprisingly effective.



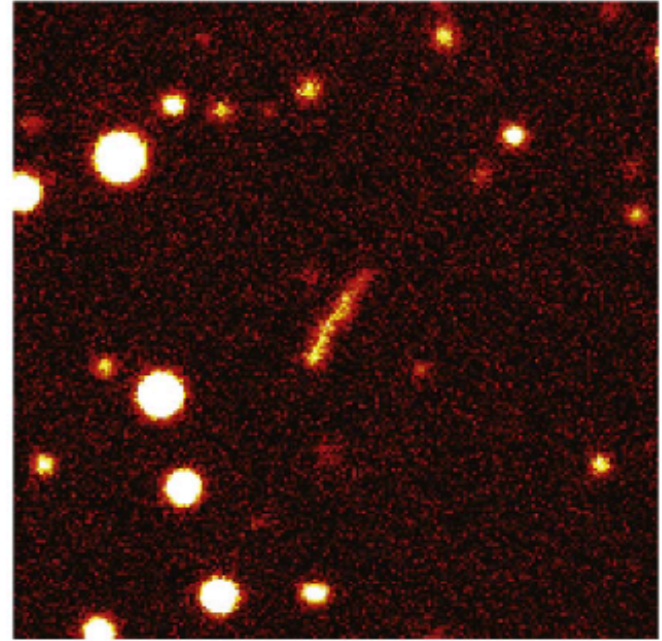
2009 HK73
V~17.5 length=24" FWHM=2.1"



2010 UC7
V~18.5 length=32" FWHM=2.6"

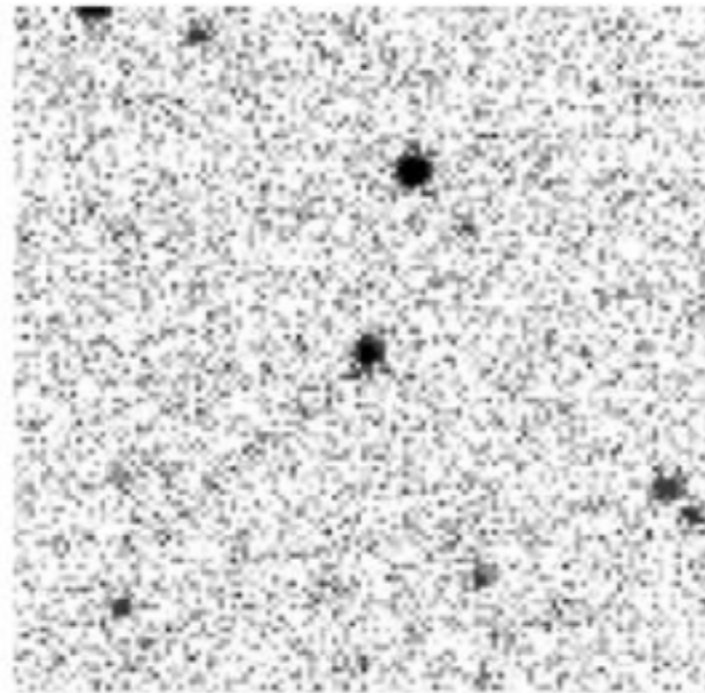
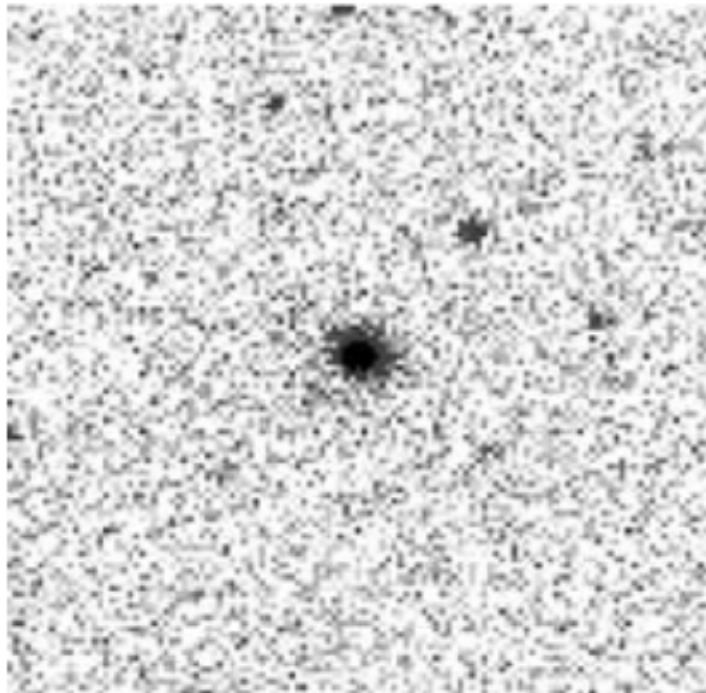


(277475) 2005 WK4
V~14.3 length=34" FWHM=2.4"



2013 SU24
V~16.6 length=36" FWHM=5.0"

Waszczak+17



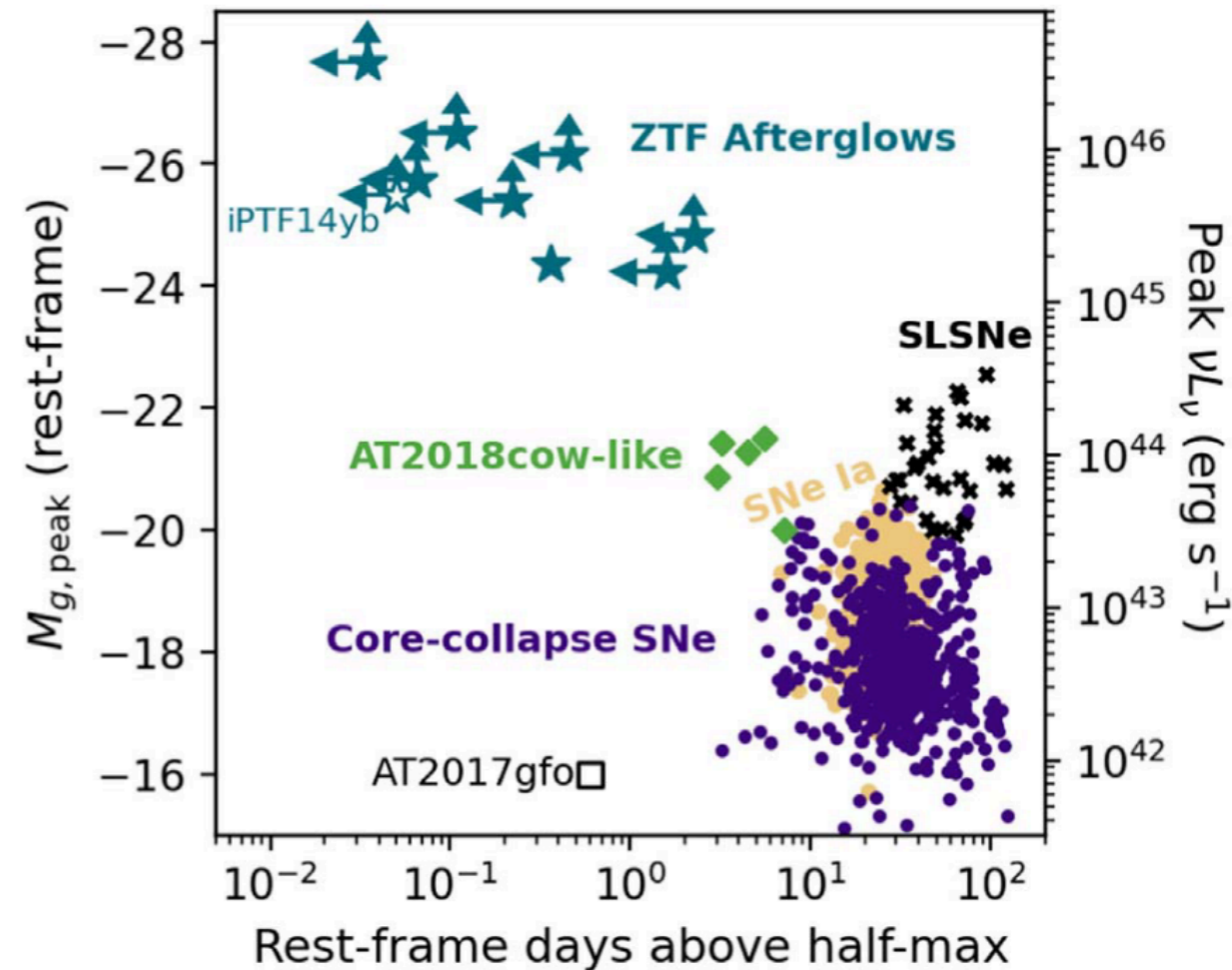
Waszczak+13

Simple cuts can be surprisingly effective.

2.2. Search Procedure

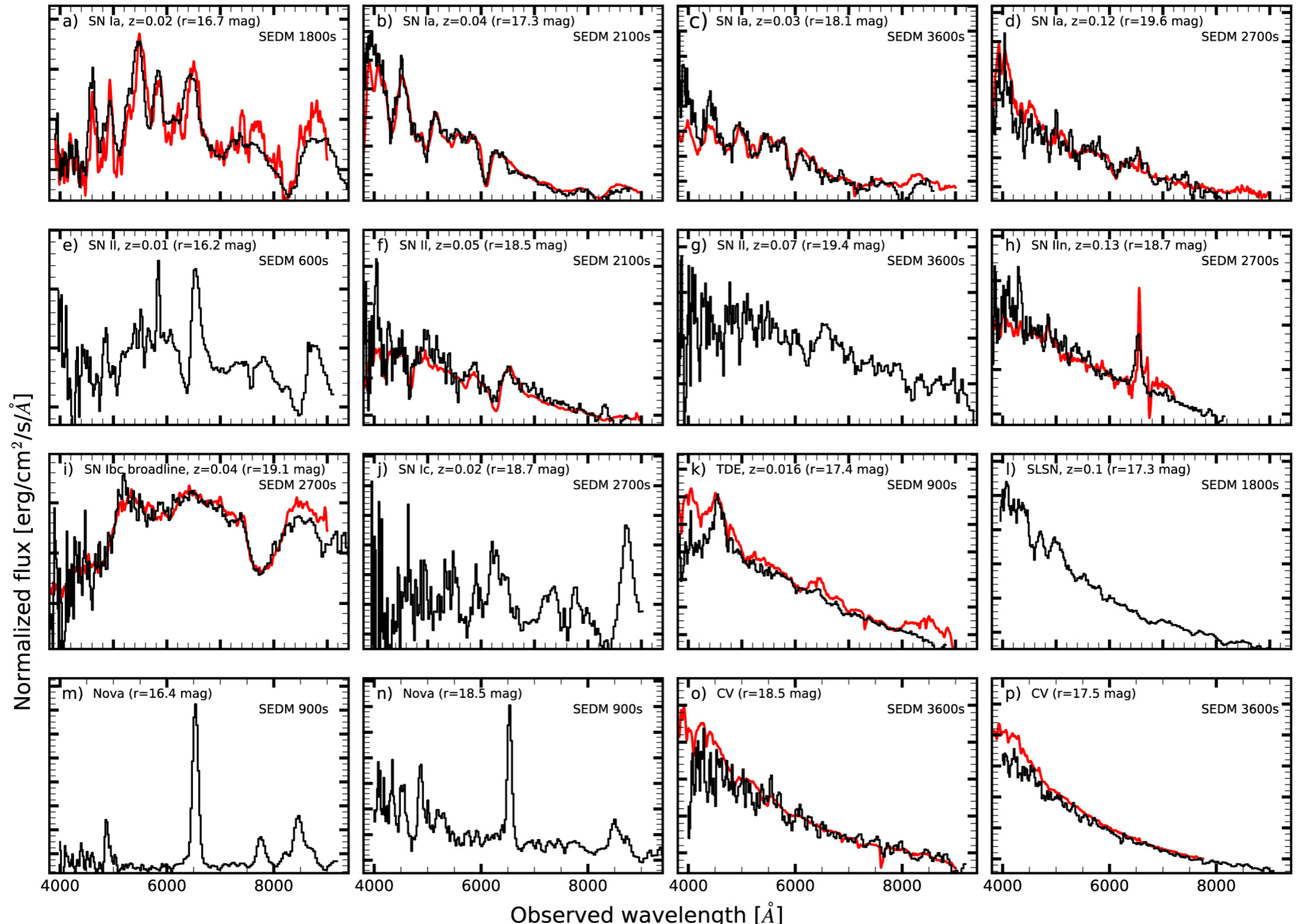
Every night, the ZTF alert stream is filtered by several independent pipelines to identify young or fast-evolving transients. In this paper we focus on events discovered via the approach described by Ho et al. (2020a) and Perley et al. (2021b). In short, basic cuts are applied to remove artifacts, asteroids, and stellar flares. Remaining transients are divided into several groups, including new transients (those with no detections prior to the current night). One of us (A.Y.Q.H., D.A.P., or Y.Y.) visually inspects the new transients and determines whether any meet the following criteria for afterglows.

1. A fast rise from the previous nondetection ($\gtrsim 0.5$ mag day $^{-1}$).
2. Red colors ($g - r > 0$ mag) expected from optically thin synchrotron radiation (see Ho et al. 2020a) *or* rapid intranight fading in a single band.
3. Either no, or a very faint, associated host in deep archival imaging from the Legacy Survey (Dey et al. 2019) or Pan-STARRS1 (Chambers et al. 2016).

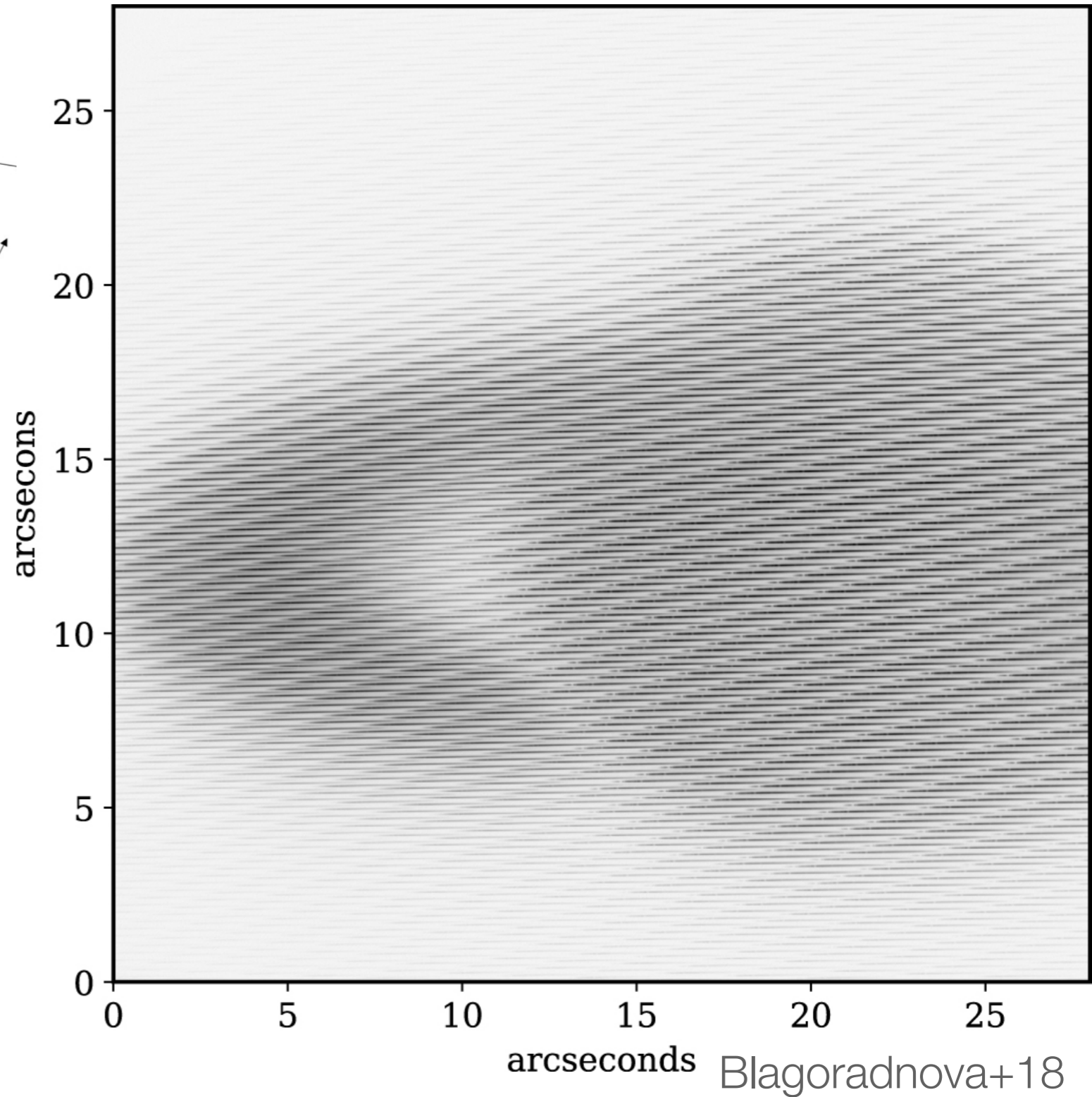
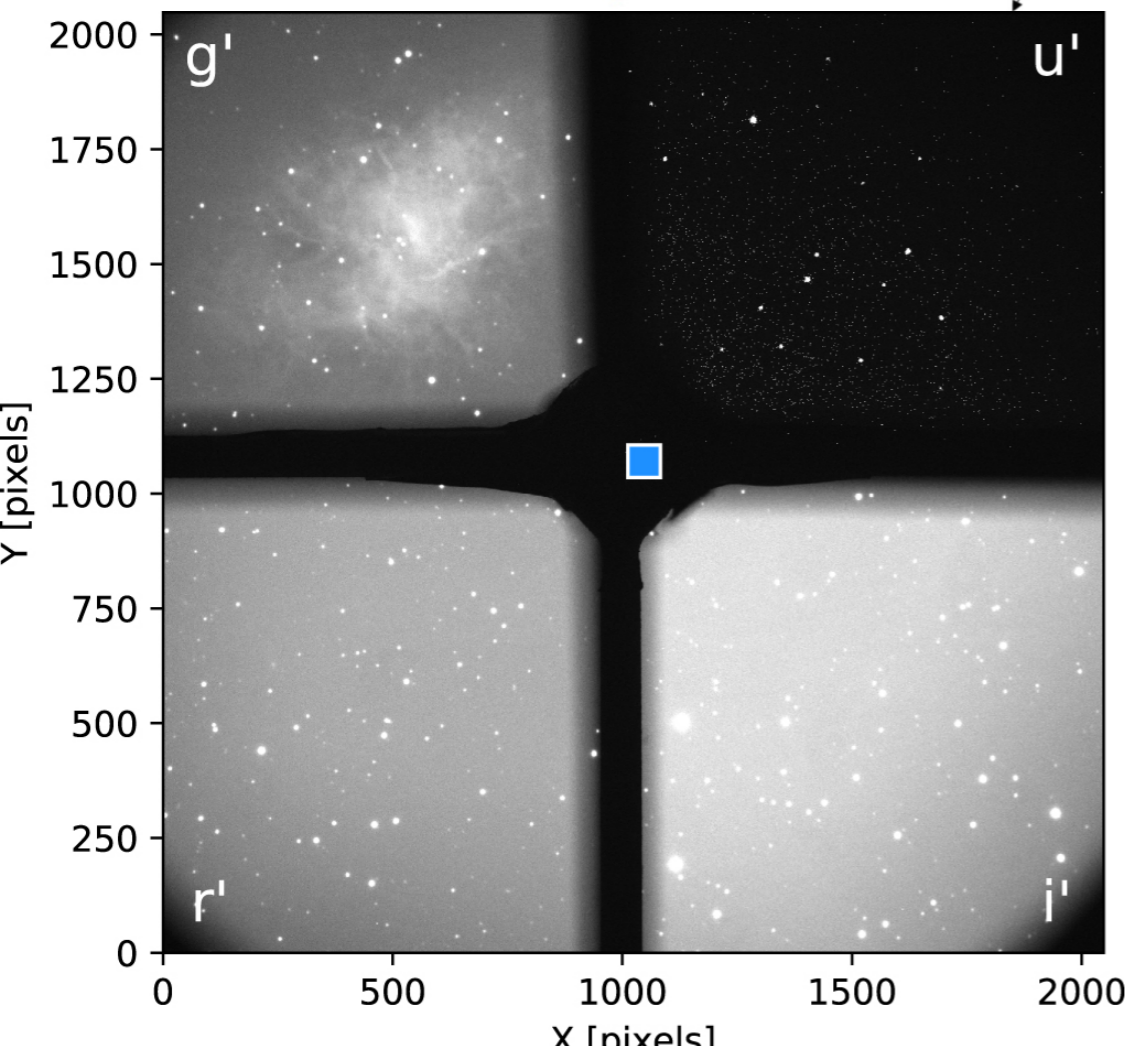
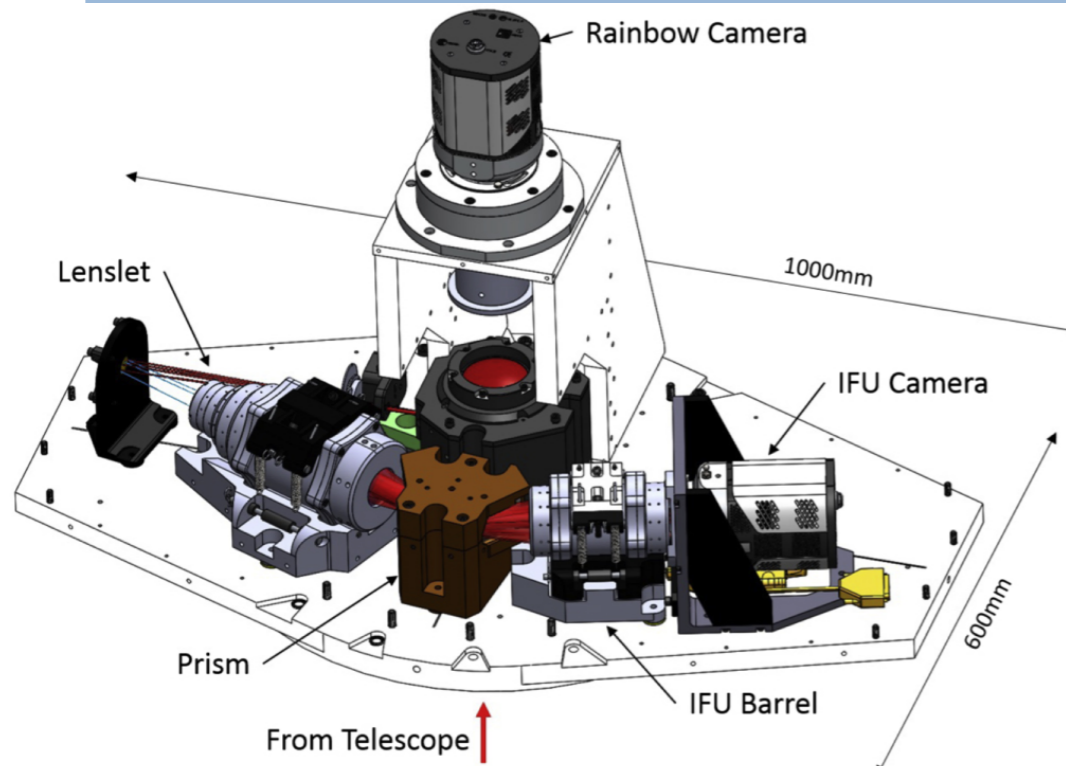


Ho+22

For supernovae spectroscopy provides the best classification.

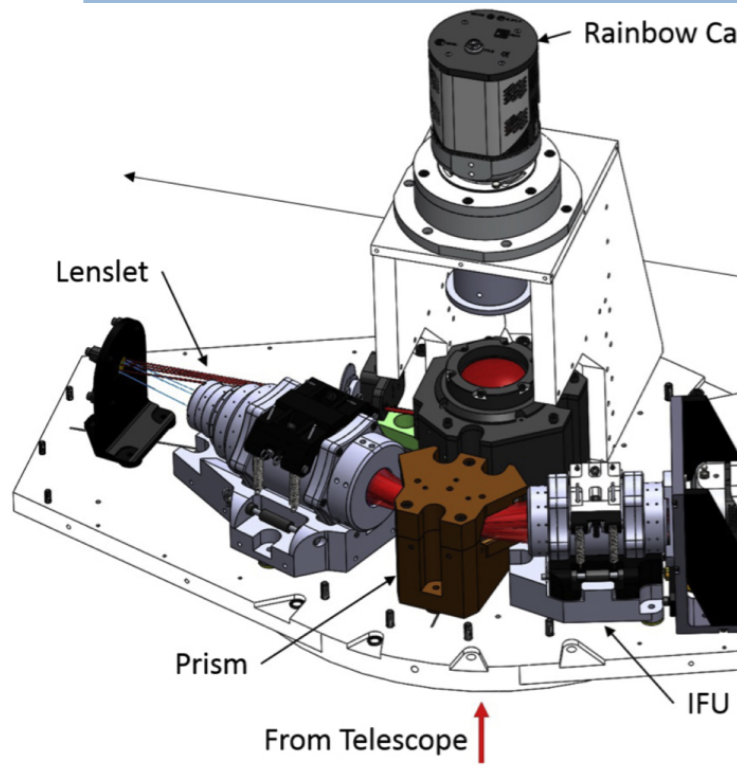


Robotic followup with the SEDM on P60 provides world-leading transient classification throughput.

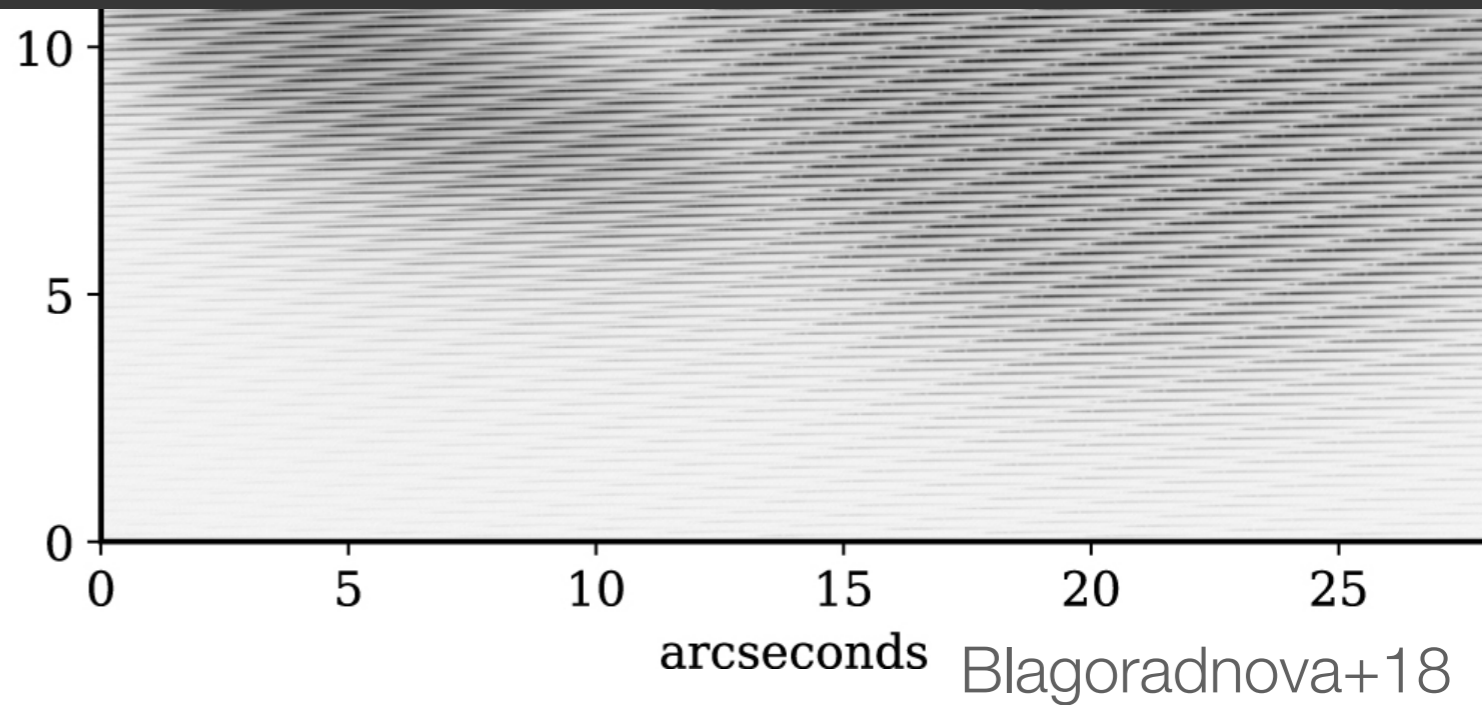
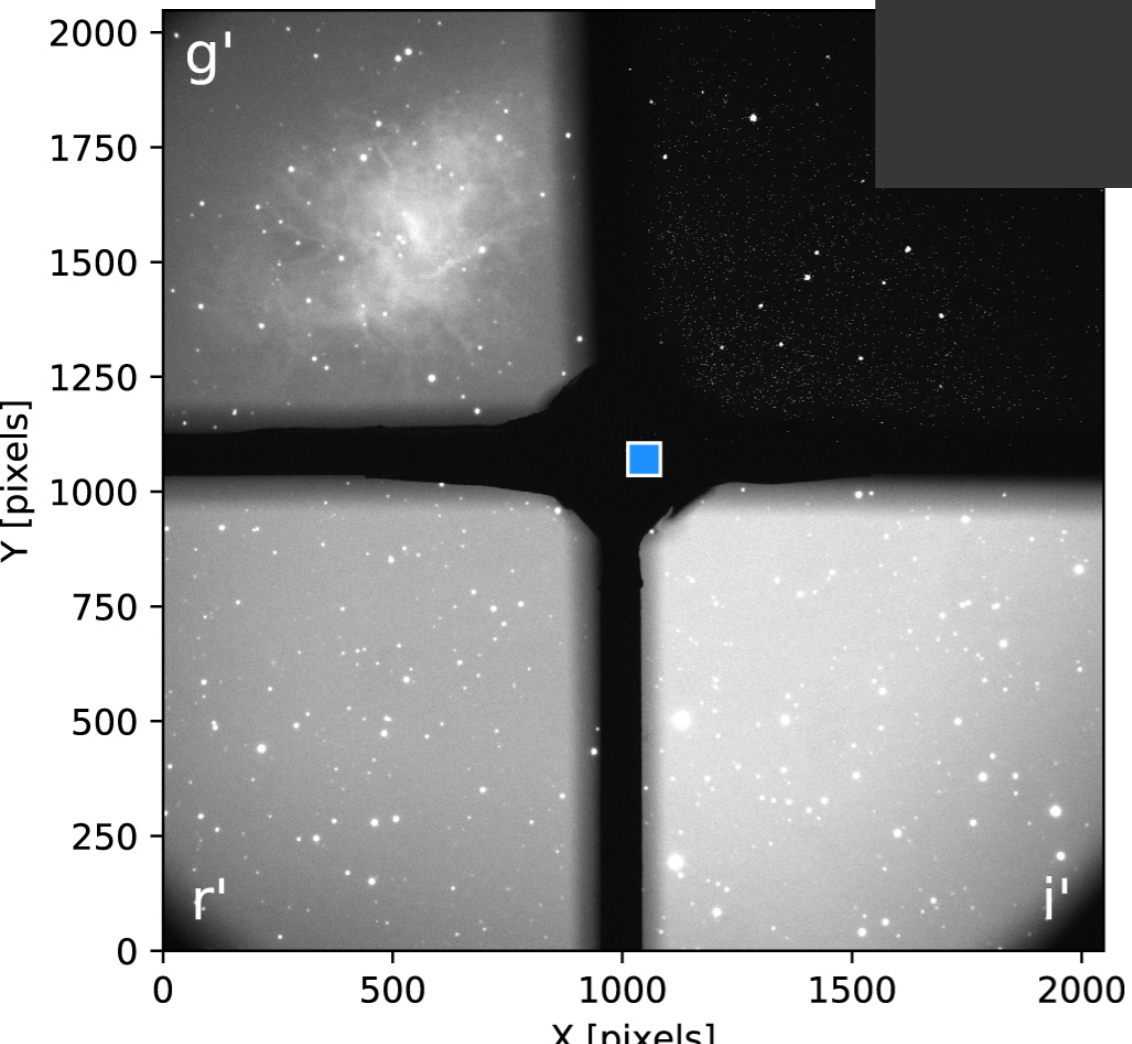


SEDM v2 on KP88 soon!

Robotic followup with the SEDM on P60 provides world-leading transient classification throughput.



PUBLIC classified SNe for the top 5 data source groups	ZTF	4416
	ATLAS	2166
	ASAS-SN	734
	Pan-STARRS1	571
	GaiaAlerts	506
ALL spectra reported to the TNS		11169
PUBLIC spectra reported to the TNS		10849
PUBLIC classifications for the top 5 contributing groups	ZTF	4312
	ePESSTO+	927
	ePESSTO	723
	SCAT	648
	PESSTO	277



SEDM v2 on KP88 soon!

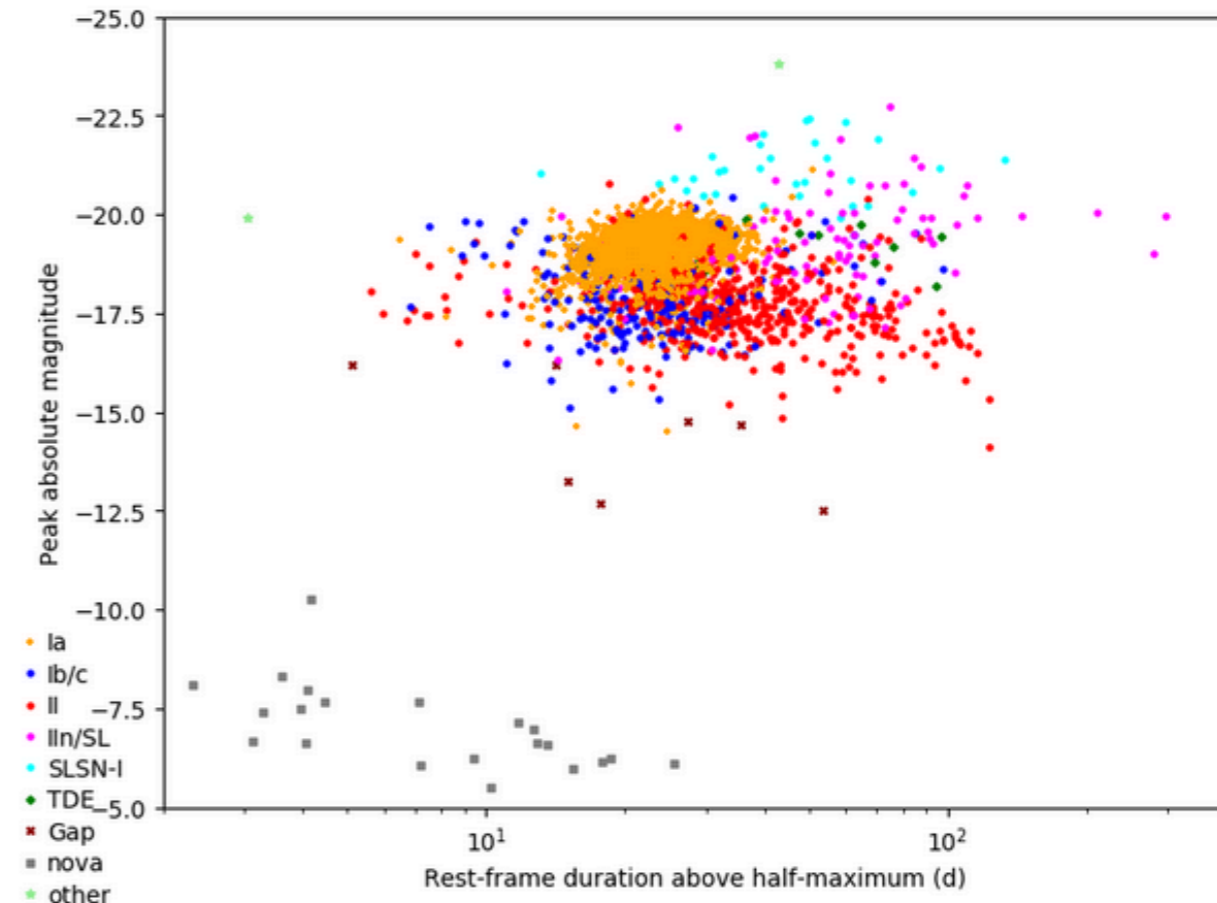
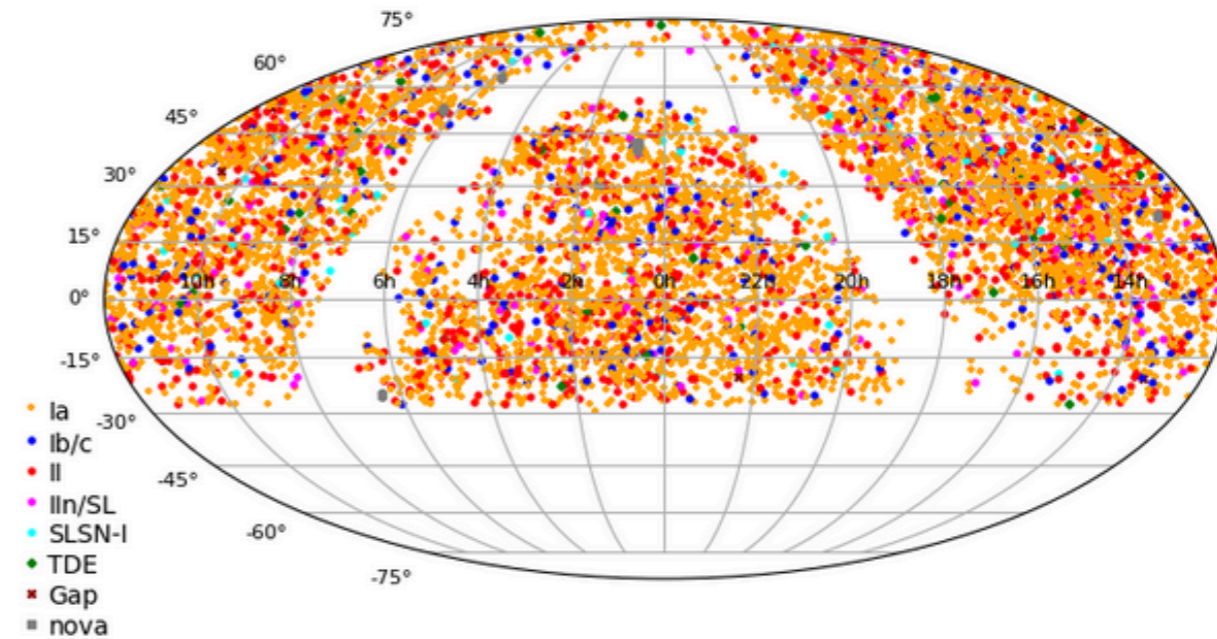
The ZTF Bright Transient Survey is the largest spectroscopic supernova survey ever.

Spectroscopic followup of all ZTF transients brighter than 18.5 mag
Over 7000 classified objects to date

All events:

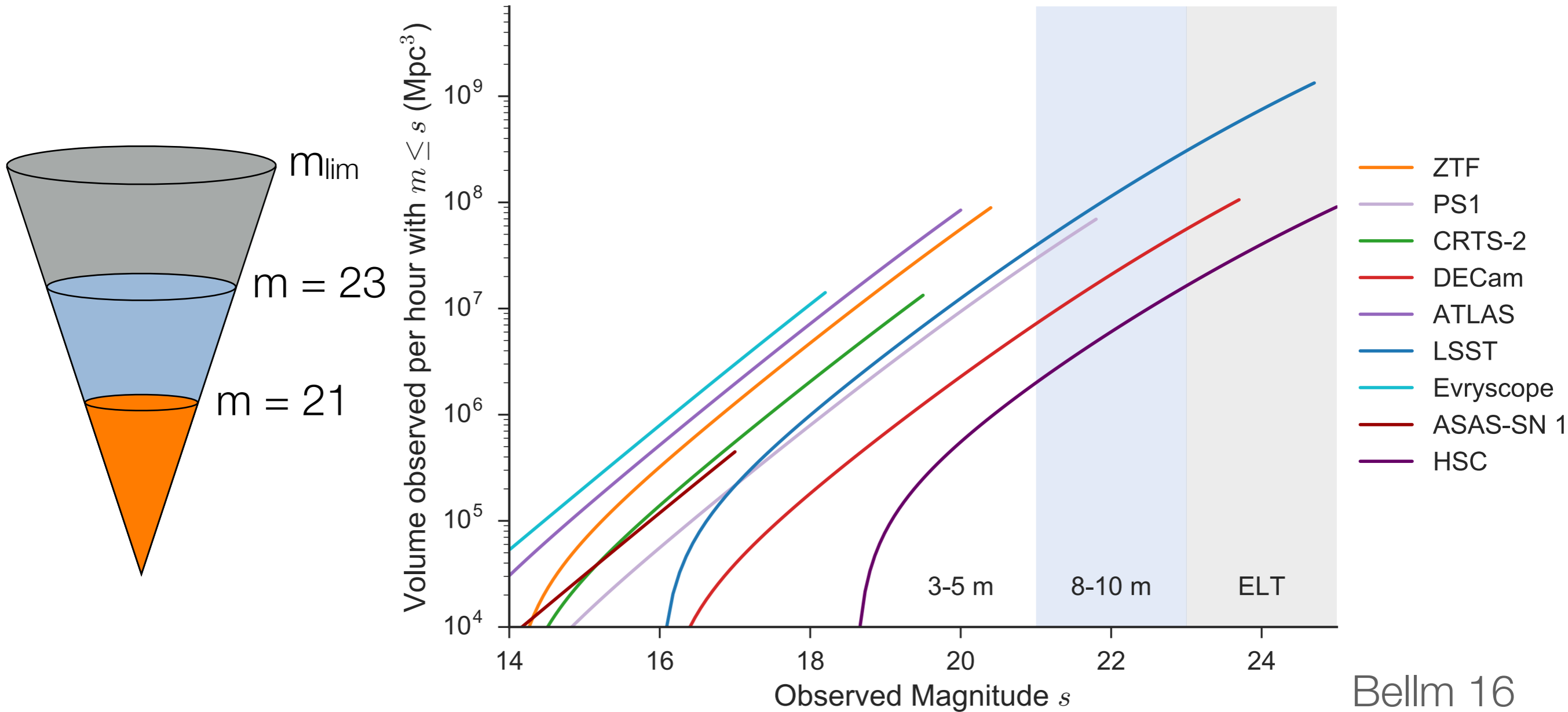
mag \leq	19.0	18.5	18.0	17.5	17.0
All typed	7368	4947	2614	1424	716
All SNe	7266	4867	2562	1394	698
Ia	5370	3606	1885	1035	529
Ia-CSM	12	10	5	4	4
Iax	14	11	7	5	4
Ib/c	371	256	142	70	32
Ibn	24	18	12	6	2
Ic-BL	57	44	23	11	7
SLSN-I	59	29	15	11	2
II	1466	976	520	278	135
IIb	100	63	39	21	11
IIIn	198	139	75	38	17
SLSN-II	35	20	6	1	0
TDE	43	30	15	5	4
Gap	15	12	8	4	3

Fremling+20,
Perley+20



<https://sites.astro.caltech.edu/ztf/bts/>

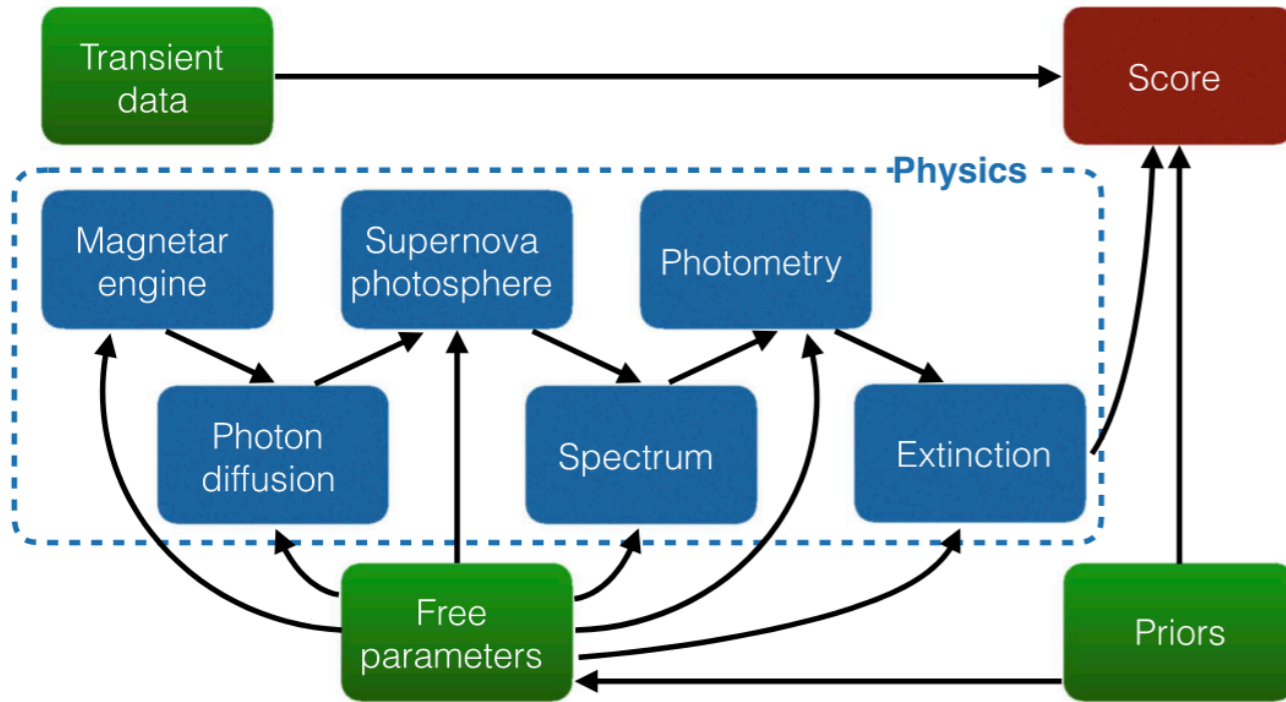
Most LSST transients will be too faint for routine spectroscopy!



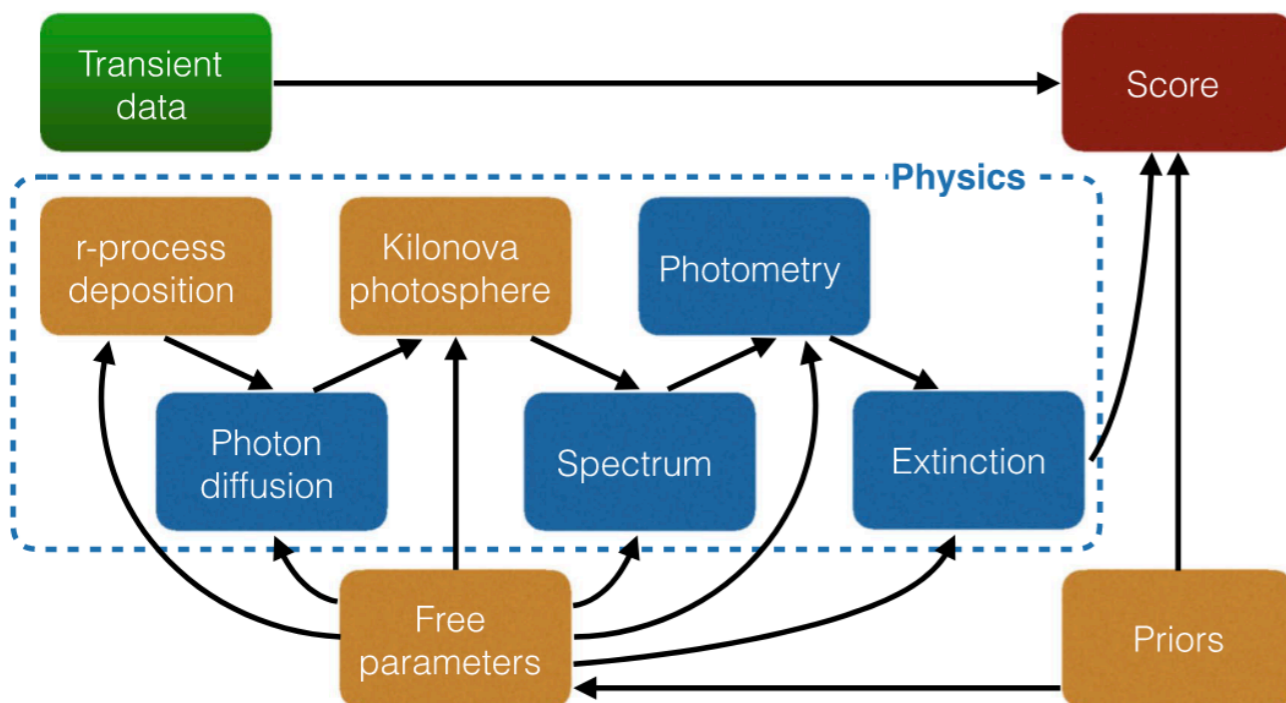
Bellm 16

Template fitting compares lightcurves to models or exemplars of known transients.

Model A (Superluminous supernova)



Model B (Kilonova)

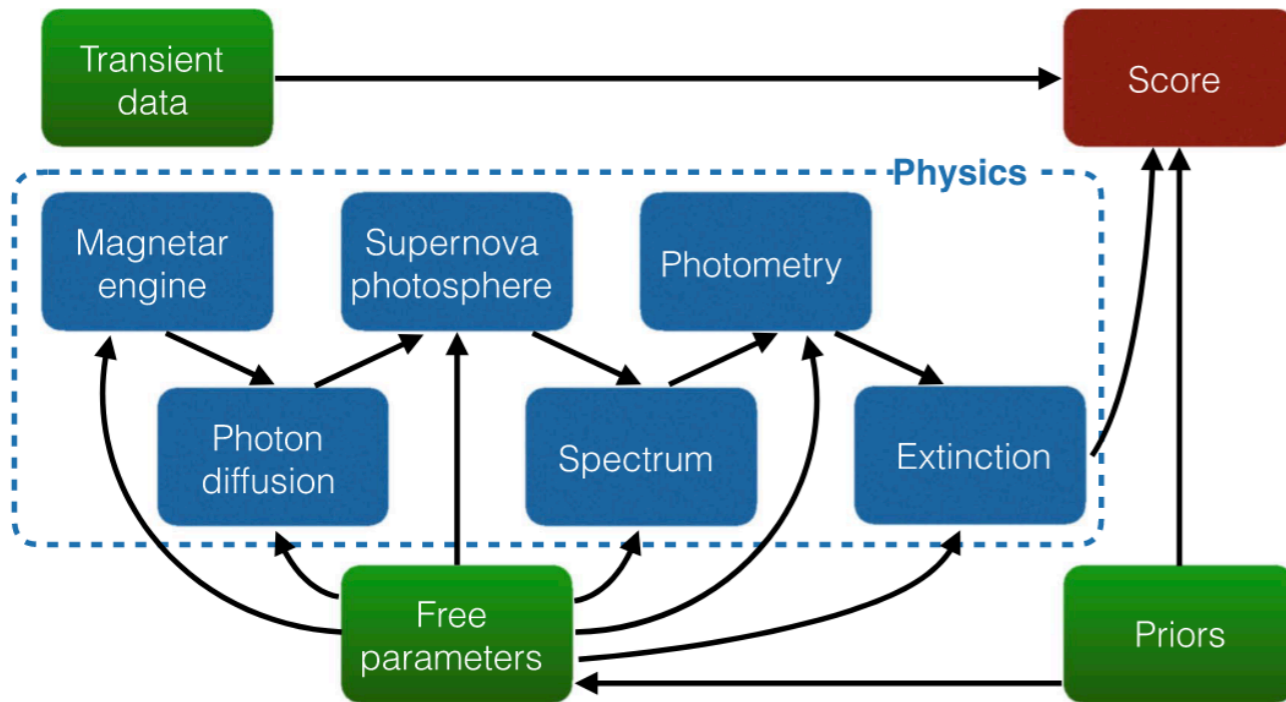


List of built-in models [🔗](#)

Model name	Description	Reference(s)
<code>default</code>	Nickel-cobalt decay	1994ApJS...92..527N
<code>csm</code>	Interacting CSM-SNe	2013ApJ...773...76C, 2020RNAAS...4...16J
<code>csmni</code>	CSM + NiCo decay	See <code>default</code> & <code>csm</code>
<code>exppow</code>	Analytical engine	
<code>ia</code>	NiCo decay + I-band	
<code>ic</code>	NiCo decay + radio	
<code>magnetar</code>	Magnetar engine w/ simple SED	2017ApJ...850...55N
<code>magni</code>	Above + NiCo decay	
<code>rprocess</code>	Kilonova	2017ApJ...851L..21V
<code>kilonova</code>	Kilonova	2017ApJ...851L..21V
<code>bns</code>	Kilonova + binary params + angle	2021arXiv210202229
<code>slsn</code>	Magnetar + modified SED + constraints	2017ApJ...850...55N
<code>tde</code>	Tidal disruption events	2018arXiv180108221

Template fitting compares lightcurves to models or exemplars of known transients.

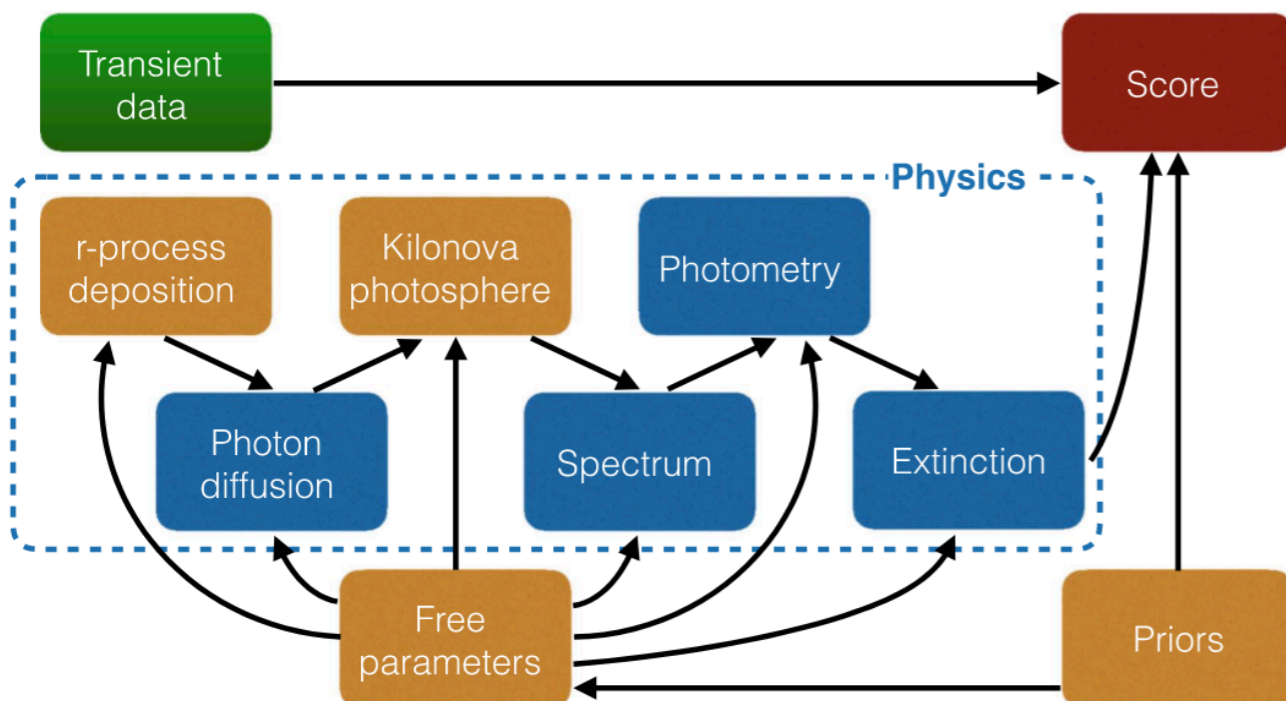
Model A (Superluminous supernova)



Pros:

Conceptually straightforward
Can sometimes constrain physical parameters

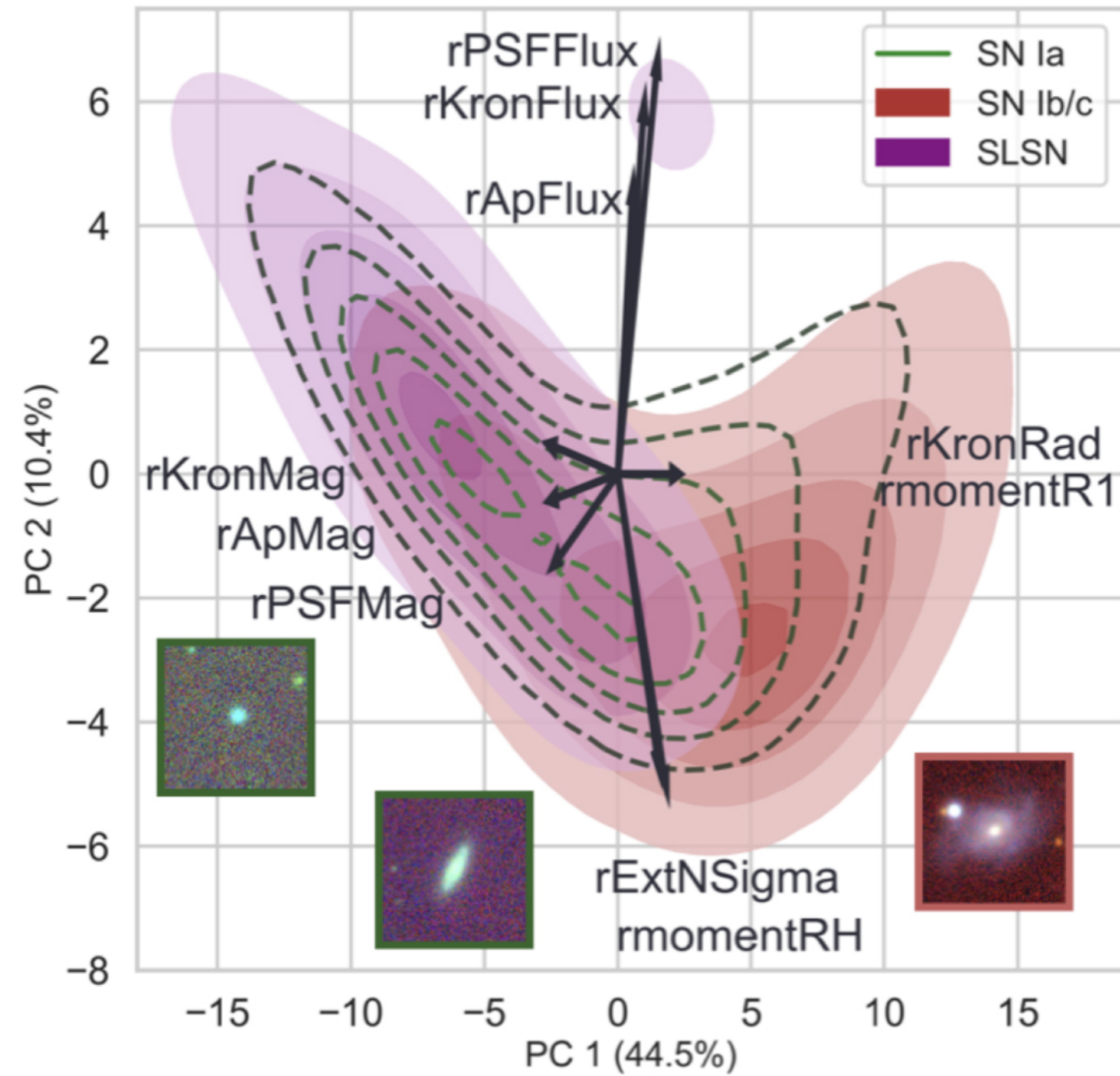
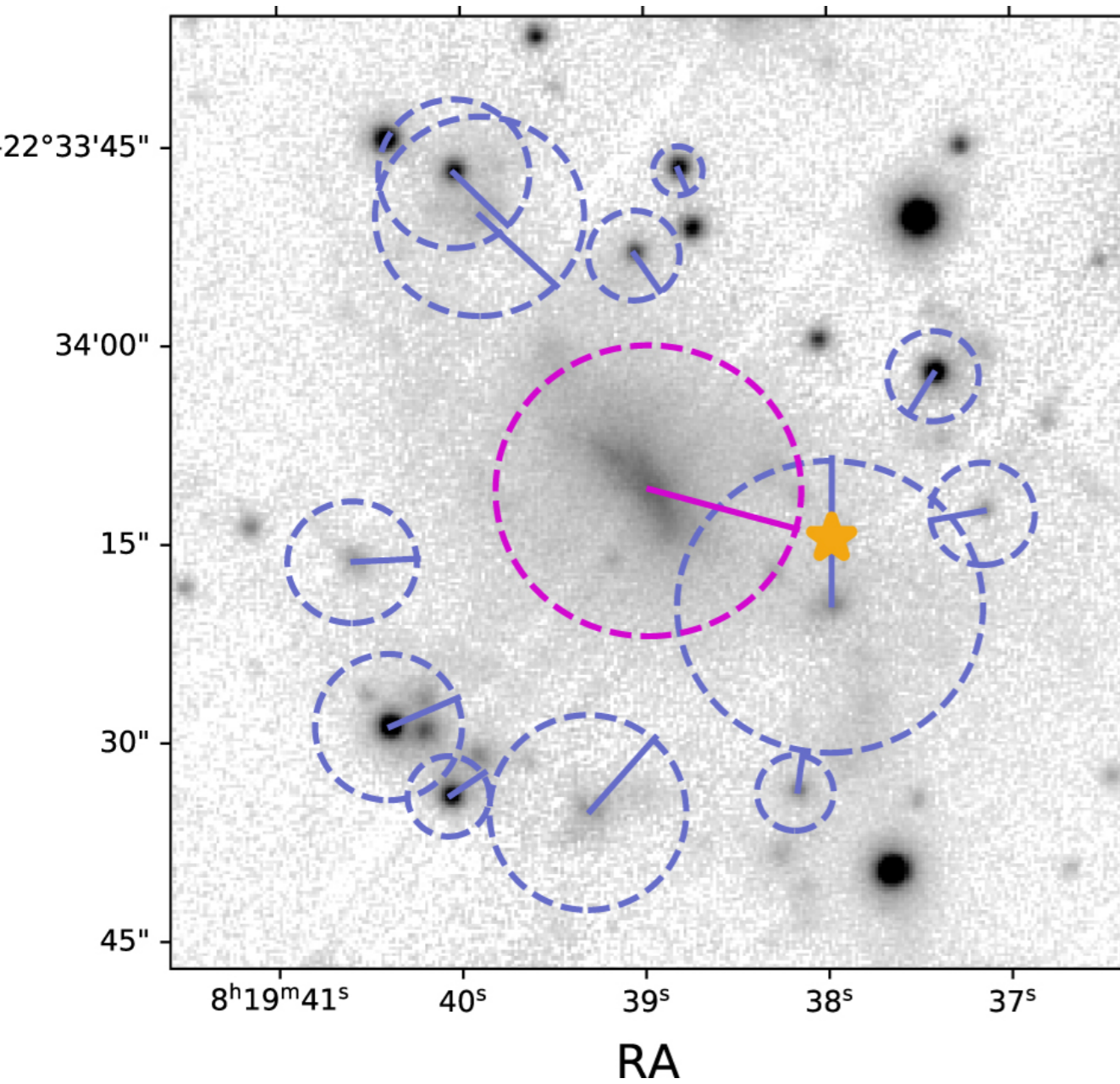
Model B (Kilonova)



Cons:

Can be slow to execute
Need really good data/models
"Searching under the lamppost"

Contextual/host galaxy information can aid classification.

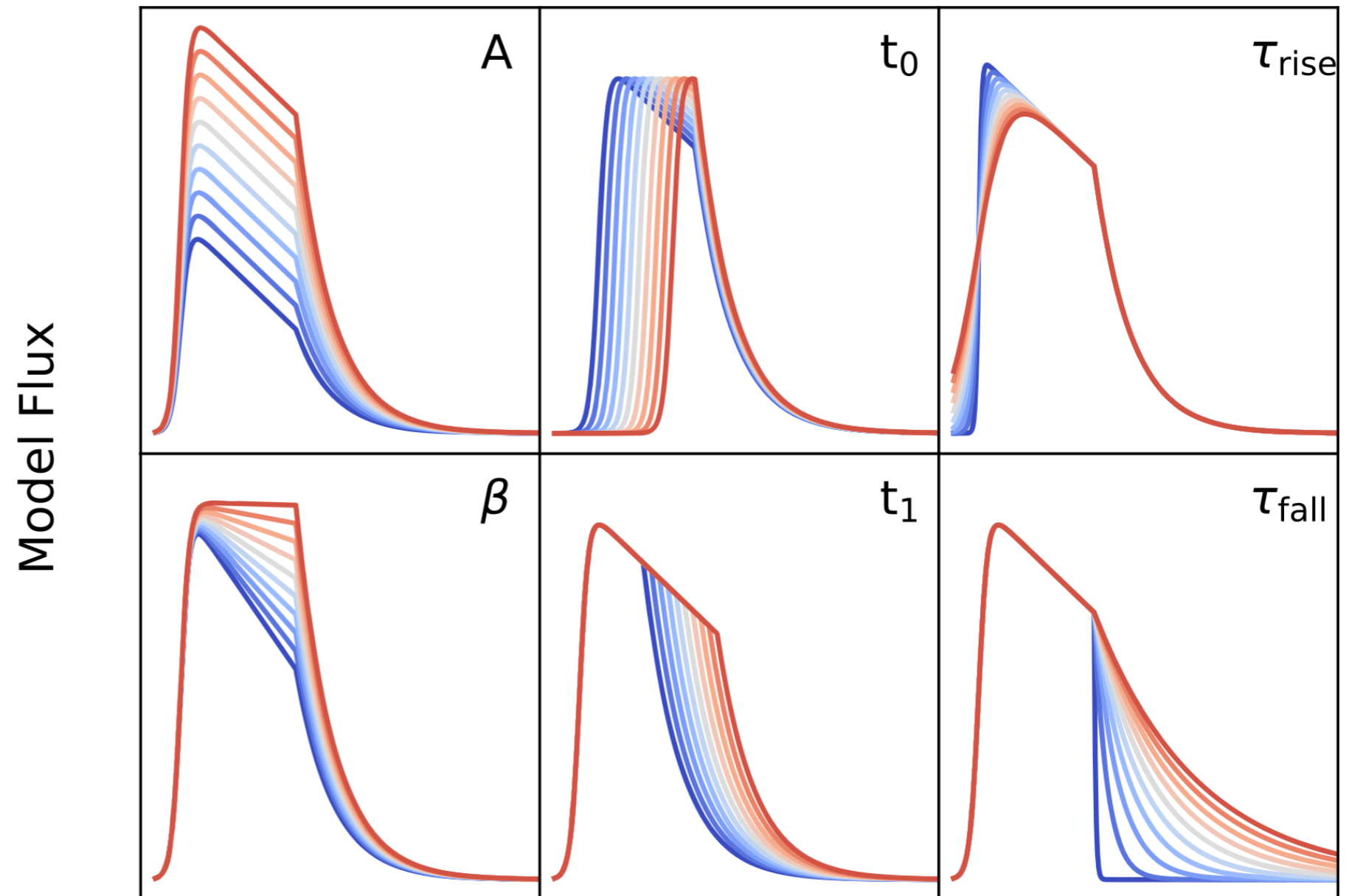


GHOST: Gagliano+21

Parametric models can fit a variety of object types.

$$F = \begin{cases} \frac{A + \beta(t - t_0)}{1 + e^{-(t-t_0)/\tau_{\text{rise}}}} & t < t_1 \\ \frac{(A + \beta(t_1 - t_0))e^{-(t-t_1)/\tau_{\text{fall}}}}{1 + e^{-(t-t_0)/\tau_{\text{rise}}}} & t \geq t_1. \end{cases}$$

Villar+19



Model Phase

Fit parameters and other lightcurve statistics can be used as features for machine learning models.

Table 2
List of Detection Features Used by the Light Curve Classifier

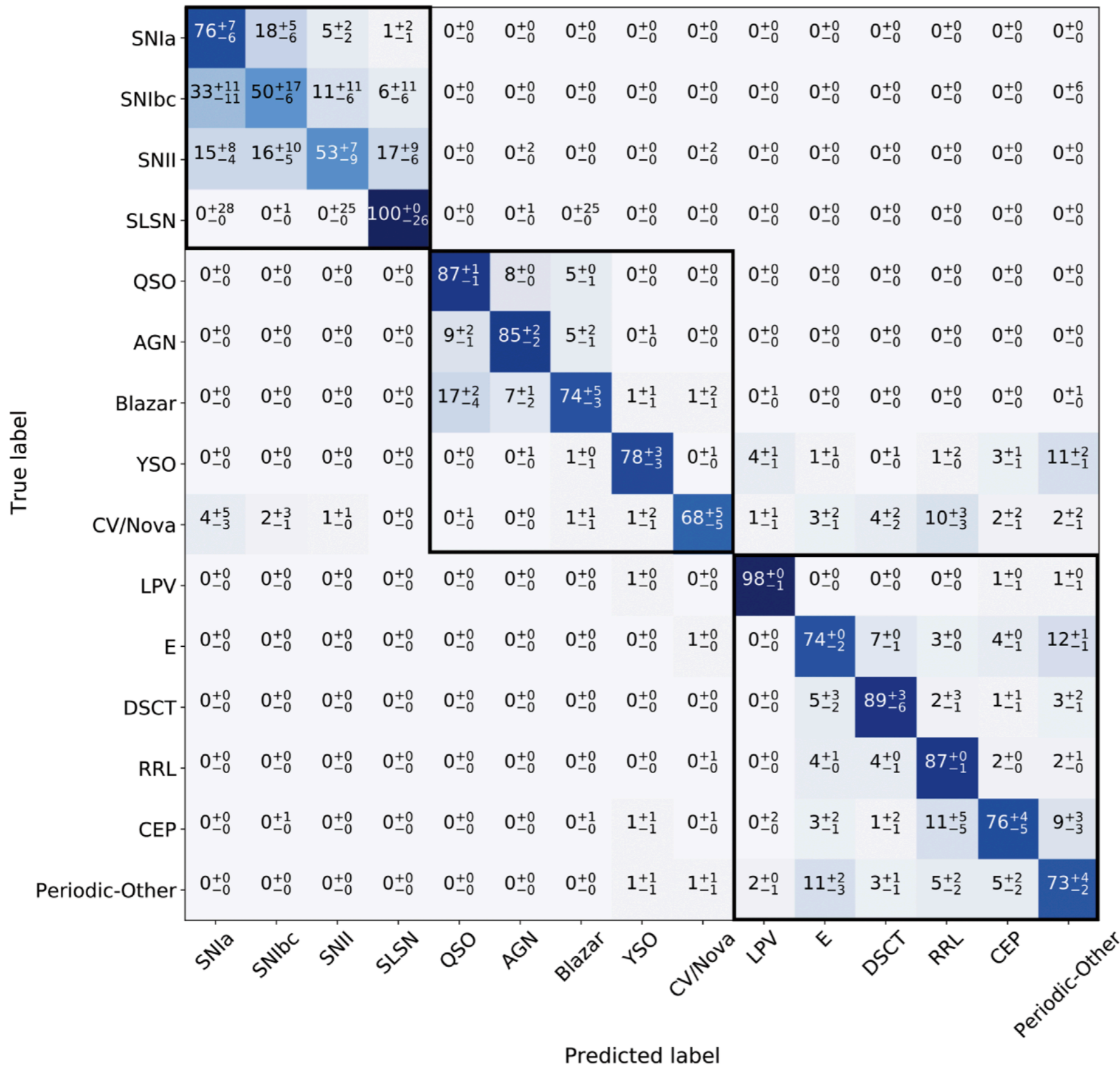
Sanchez-Saiz+21

Feature	Description	References
delta_period	Absolute value of the difference between the <code>Multiband_period</code> and the MHAOV period obtained using a single band	This work
IAR_phi*	Level of autocorrelation using a discrete-time representation of a DRW model	Eyheramendy et al. (2018)
MHPS parameters*	Obtained from an MHPS analysis (three in total)	Arévalo et al. (2012)
positive_fraction	Fraction of detections in the difference images of a given band which are brighter than the template image	This work
Power_rate* ♦	Ratio between the power of the multiband periodogram obtained for the best period candidate (P) and $2 \times P$, $3 \times P$, $4 \times P$, $P/2$, $P/3$, or $P/4$	This work
PPE* ♦	Multiband Periodogram Pseudo Entropy	This work
(g-r)_max ♦	$g-r$ color obtained using the brightest <code>lc_diff</code> magnitude in each band	This work
(g-r)_max_corr ♦	$g-r$ color obtained using the brightest <code>lc_corr</code> magnitude in each band	This work
(g-r)_mean ♦	$g-r$ color obtained using the mean <code>lc_diff</code> magnitude of each band	This work
(g-r)_mean_corr ♦	$g-r$ color obtained using the mean <code>lc_corr</code> magnitude of each band	This work
delta_mag_fid	Difference between maximum and minimum observed magnitude in a given band	This work
ExcessVar**	Measure of the intrinsic variability amplitude	Allevato et al. (2013)
GP_DRW_tau**	Relaxation time τ from DRW modeling	Graham et al. (2017)
GP_DRW_sigma**	Amplitude of the variability at short timescales ($t \ll \tau$), from DRW modeling	Graham et al. (2017)
Harmonics parameters**	Obtained by fitting a harmonic series up to the seventh harmonic (14 in total)	(Stellingwerf & Donohoe 1986)
Multiband_period** ♦	Period obtained using the multiband MHAOV periodogram	Mondrik et al. (2015)
Pvar**	Probability that the source is intrinsically variable	McLaughlin et al. (1996)
SF_ML_amplitude**	rms magnitude difference of the SF, computed over a 1 yr timescale	Schmidt et al. (2010)
SF_ML_gamma**	Logarithmic gradient of the mean change in magnitude	Schmidt et al. (2010)
SPM features**	Supernova parametric model features (seven in total)	Villar et al. (2019)
Amplitude	Half of the difference between the median of the maximum 5% and of the minimum 5% magnitudes	Richards et al. (2011)
AndersonDarling	Test of whether a sample of data comes from a population with a specific distribution	Nun et al. (2015)
Autocor_length	Lag value where the autocorrelation function becomes smaller than <code>Eta_e</code>	Kim et al. (2011)
Beyond1Std	Percentage of points with photometric mag that lie beyond 1σ from the mean	Richards et al. (2011)
Con	Number of three consecutive data points brighter/fainter than 2σ of the light curve	Kim et al. (2011)
Eta_e	Ratio of the mean of the squares of successive mag differences to the variance of the light curve	Kim et al. (2014)
Gskew	Median-based measure of the skew	
LinearTrend	Slope of a linear fit to the light curve	
MaxSlope	Maximum absolute magnitude slope between two consecutive observations	
Meanvariance	Ratio of the standard deviation to the mean magnitude	
MedianAbsDev	Median discrepancy of the data from the median data	
MedianBRP	Fraction of photometric points within <code>amplitude/10</code> of the median mag	

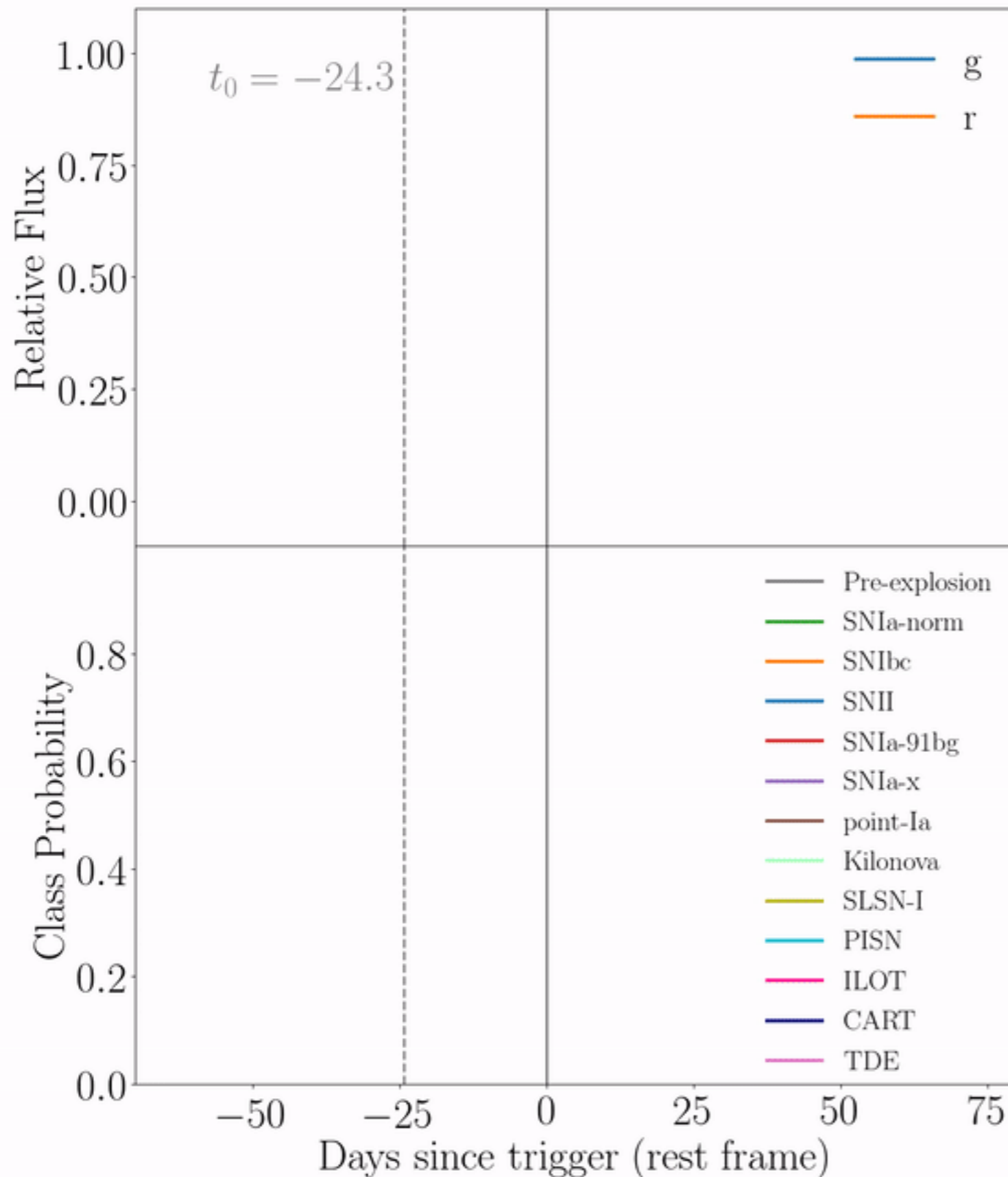
See dmtn-118.lsst.io for a review of timeseries features

Fit parameters and other lightcurve statistics can be used as features for machine learning models.

Sanchez-Saiz+21



Deep learning approaches avoid the need for feature engineering.

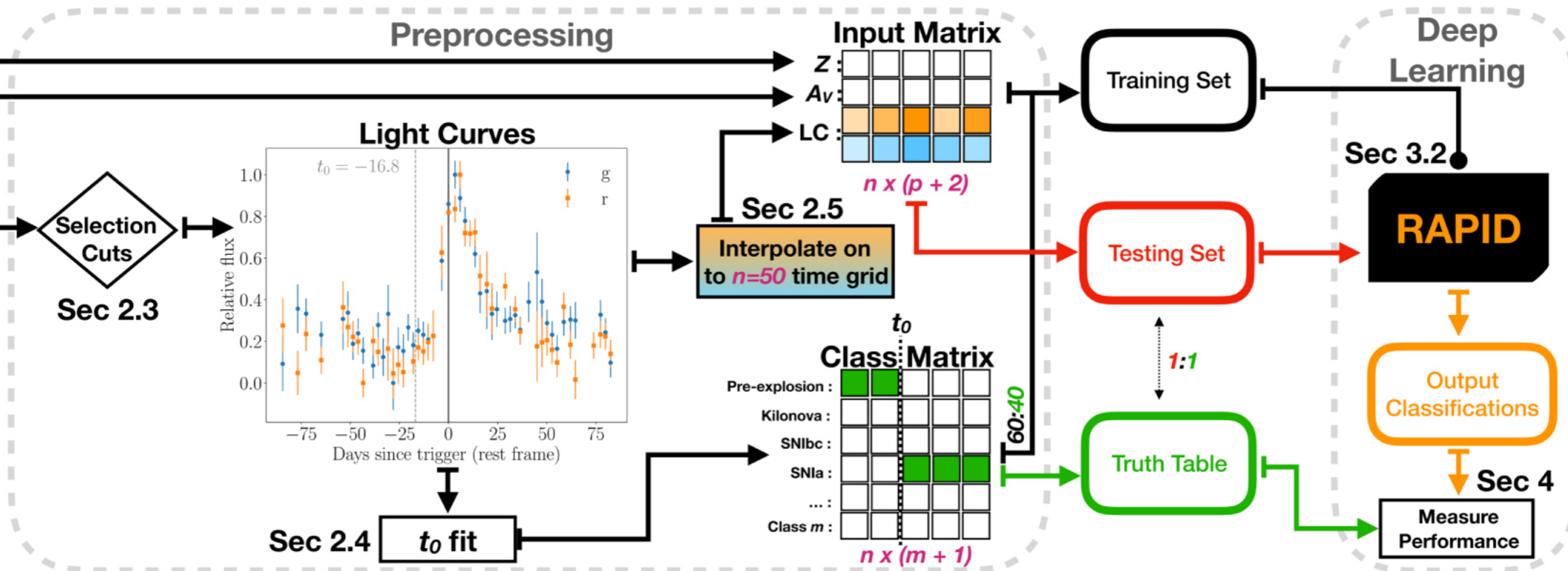


RAPID

Muthukrishna+19

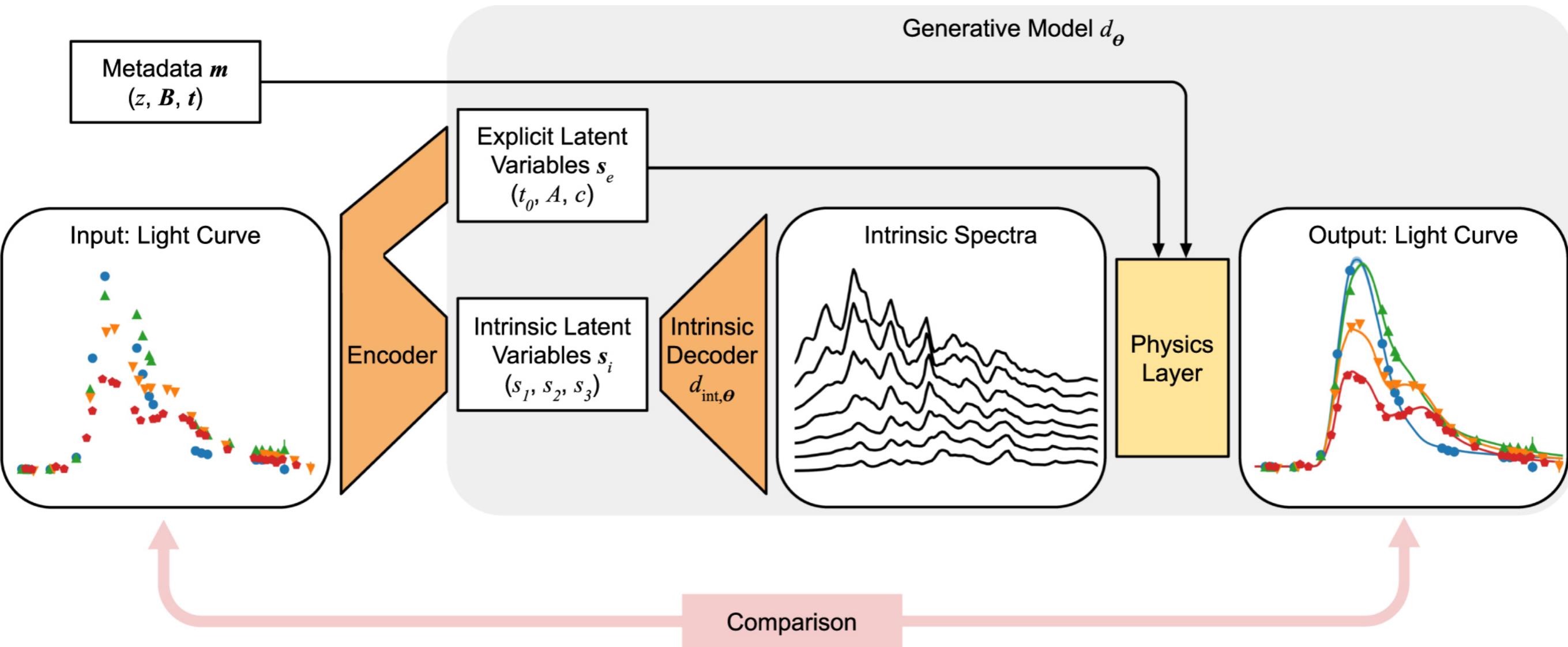
Deep learning approaches avoid the need for feature engineering.

RAPID
Muthukrishna+19

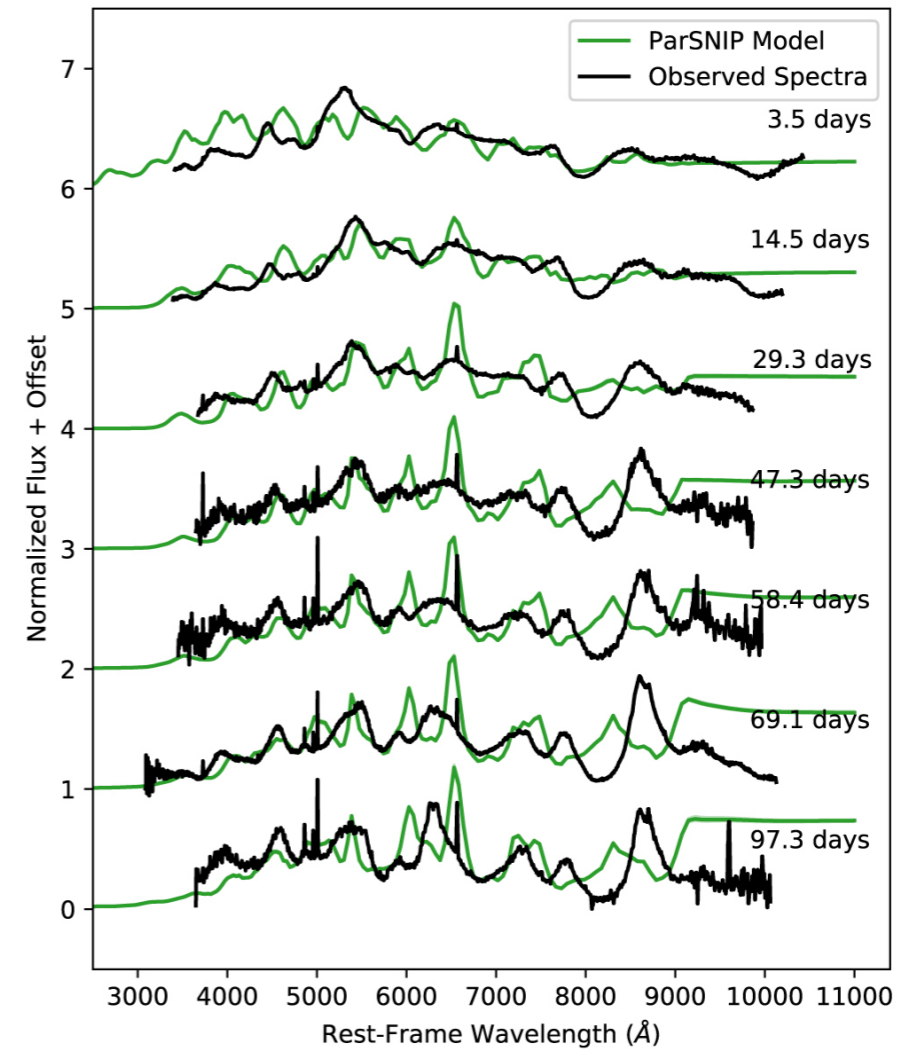
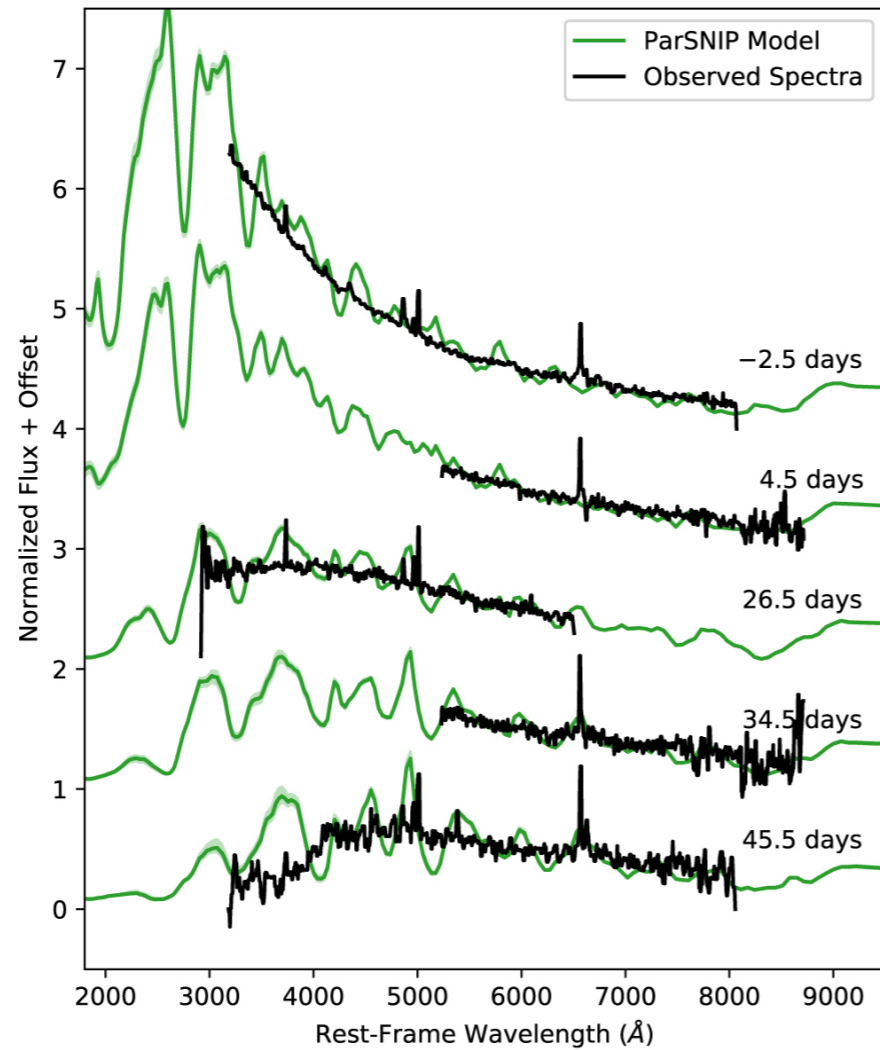
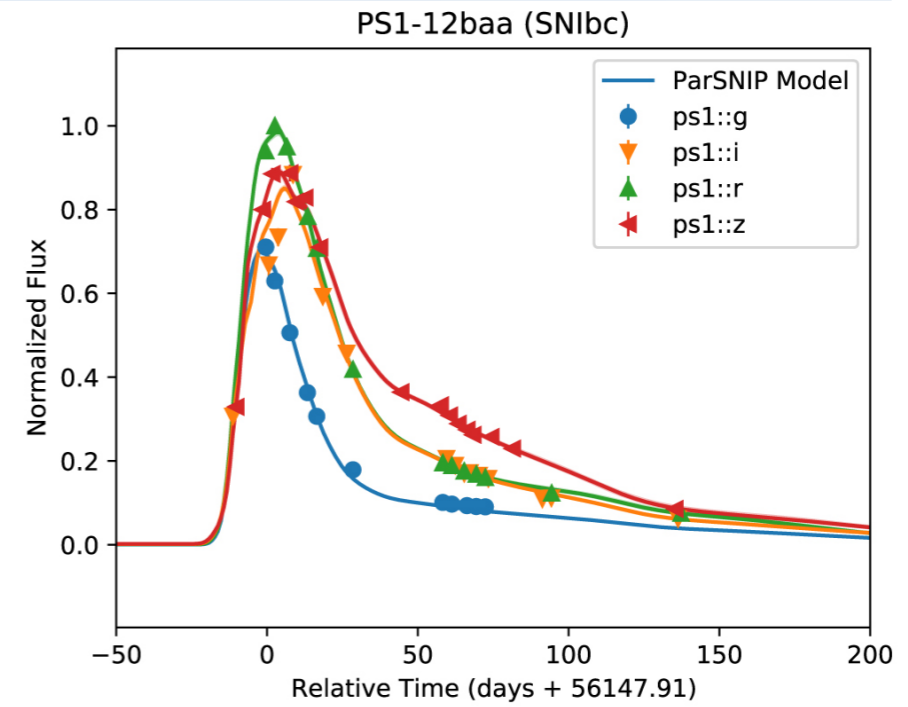
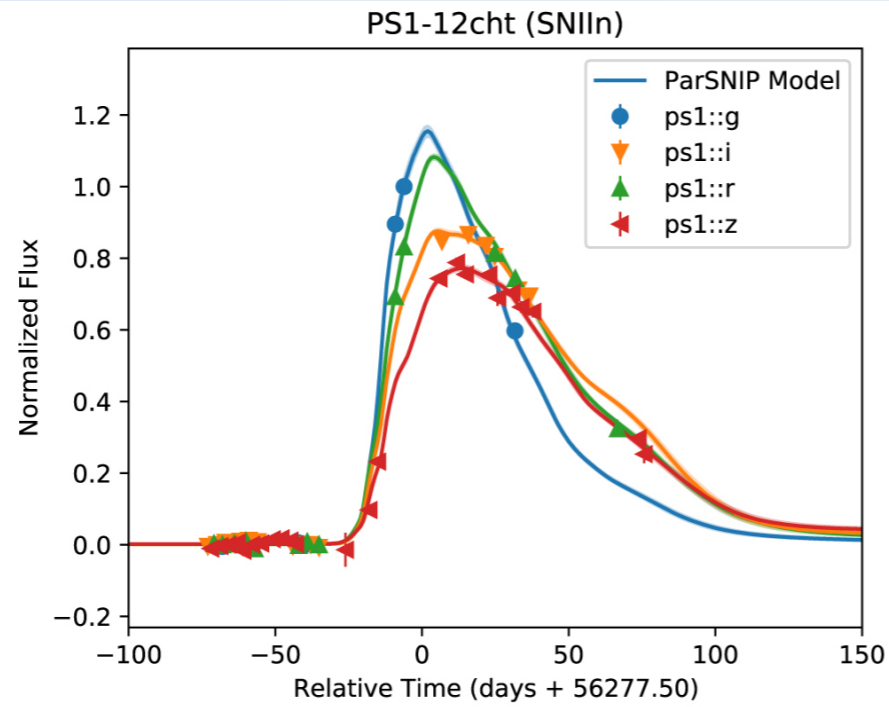


See Jamal & Bloom 2020 for a review of network architectures.

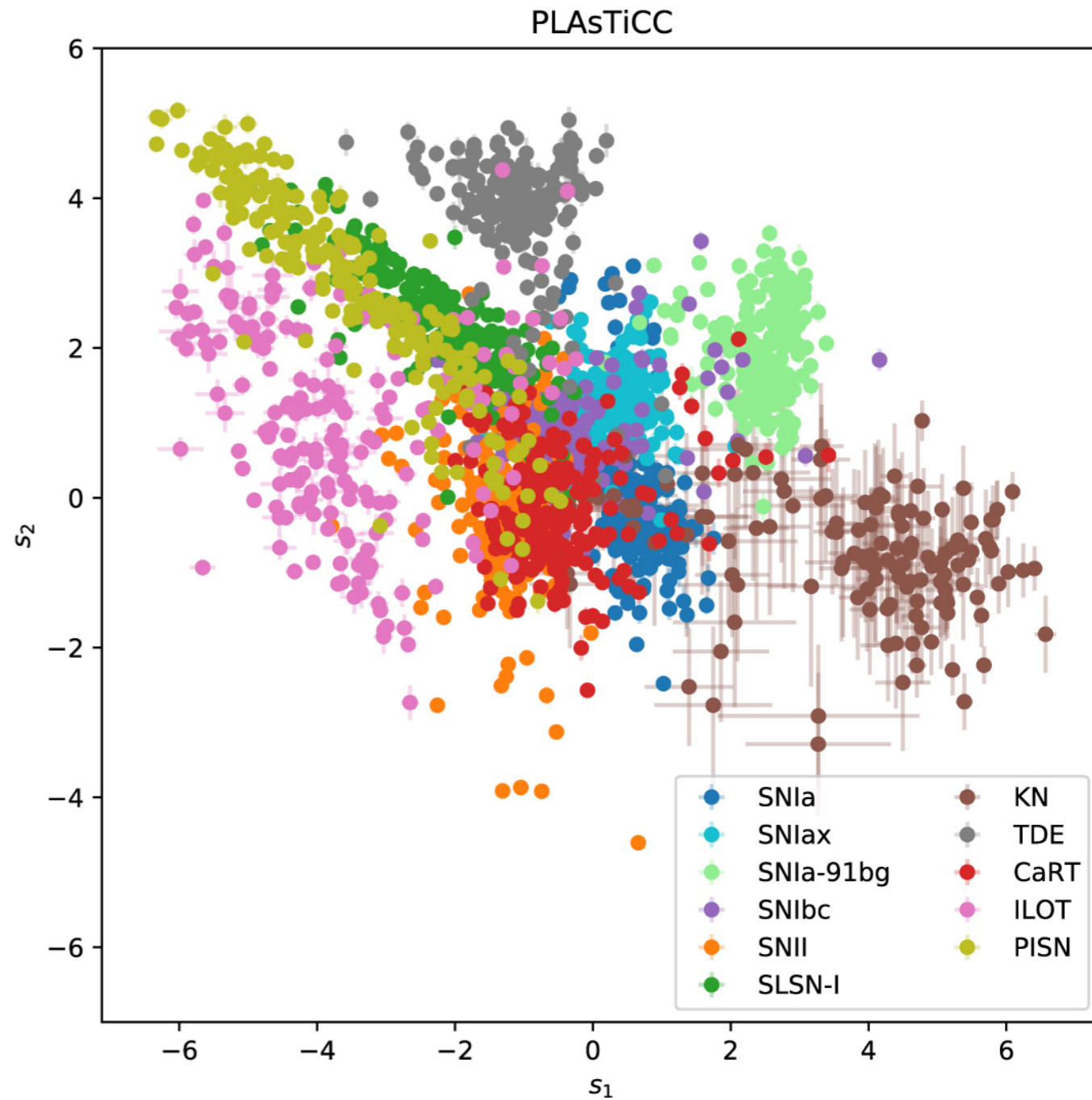
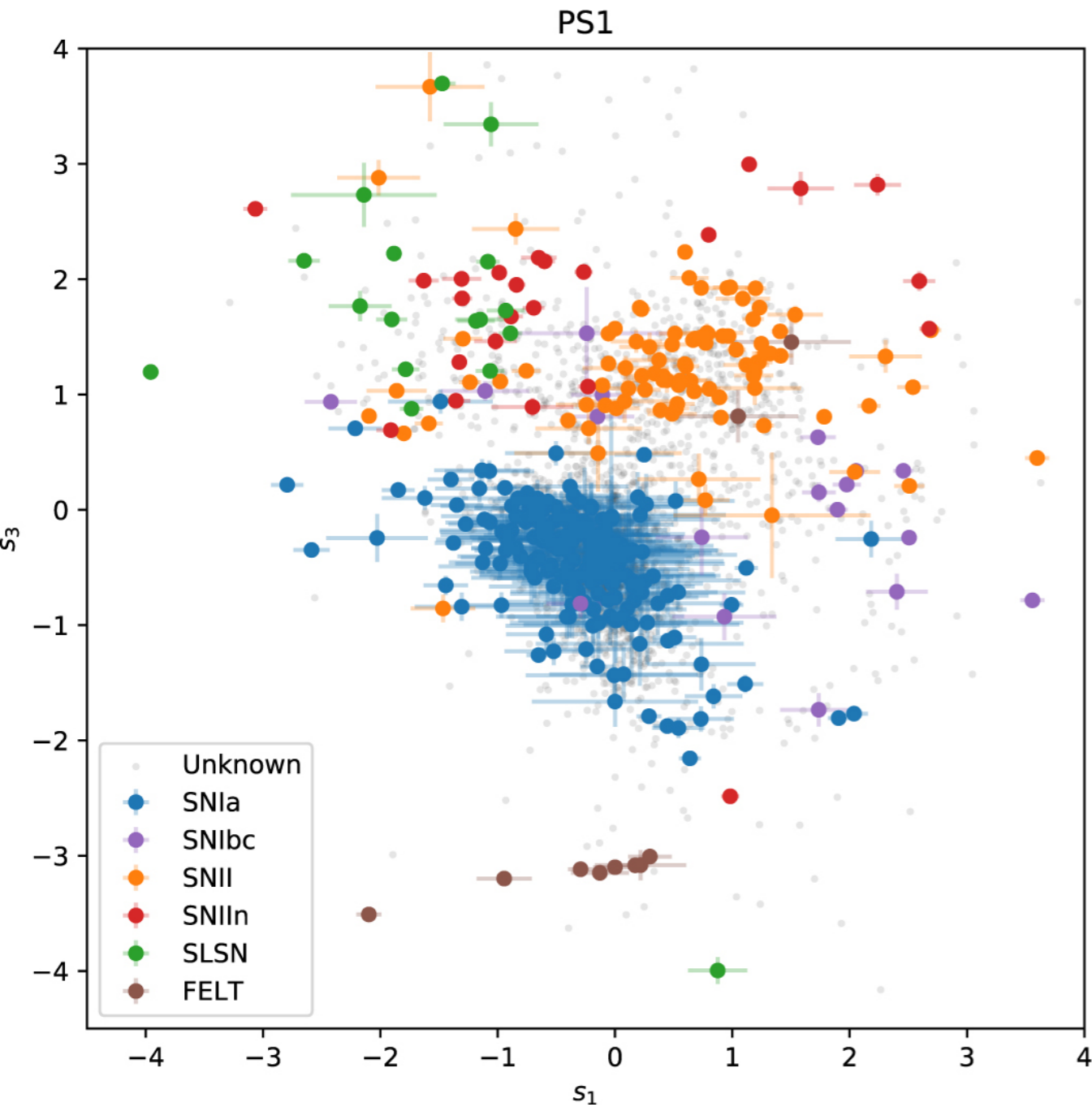
Separating known physics from unknown or nuisance parameters appears powerful.



Separating known physics from unknown or nuisance parameters appears powerful.



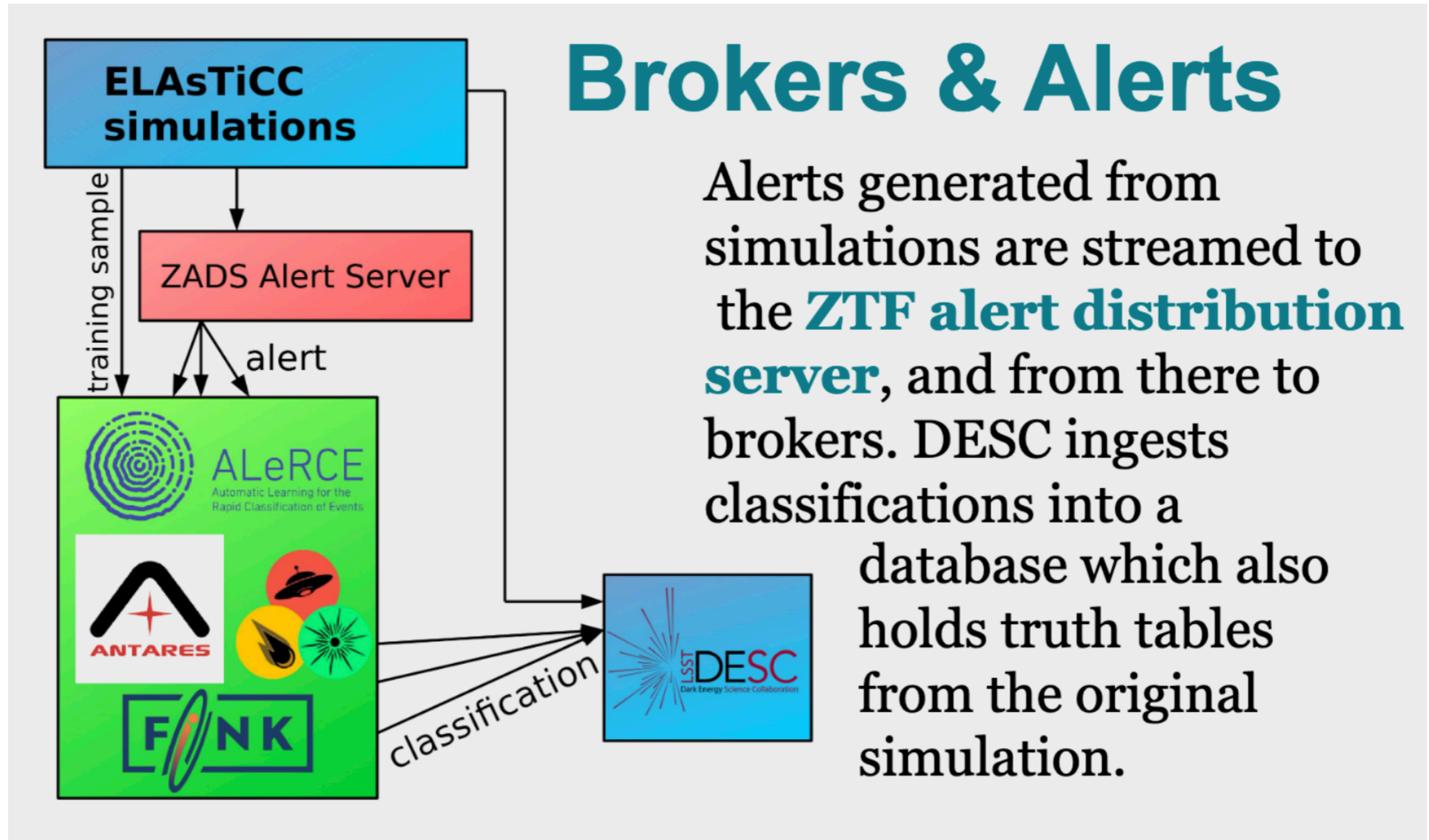
Separating known physics from unknown or nuisance parameters appears powerful.



ParSNIP
Boone 2021

& can aid Ia cosmology by
marginalizing over
classification

The ELAsTiCC classification challenge is currently preparing community alert brokers for LSST.



https://portal.nersc.gov/cfs/lsst/DESC_TD_PUBLIC/ELASTICC/

The ELAsTiCC classification challenge is currently preparing community alert brokers for LSST.

AMPEL v0.4

- Show **ElasticcLiveSNGuess (XGBUnified+Parsnip05)**
 - Show **ElasticcLiveSNGuessParsnip (XGBUnified+Parsnip05)**
 - Show **ElasticcLiveSNGuessParsnipPrior (XGBUnified+Parsnip05)**
-

ANTARES 2.0.0

- Show **Astrorapid_filter (known_redshift=True)**
 - Show **LiCuParsnip_filter (v2)**
 - Show **LightGBM_filter (v3)**
 - Show **REFLECT_subclass_v1 (v1)**
 - Show **REFLECT_v1 (v1)**
-

Fink 2.4

- Show **AGN classifier version 1.0 (Probability to NOT be an AGN based on a Random Forest classifier)**
- Show **AGN classifier version 1.0 (Probability to be an AGN based on a Random Forest classifier)**
- Show **CATS broad classifier version 1.0 (Level 1 classifier based on the CBPF Algorithm for Transient Search)**

The ELAsTiCC classification challenge is currently preparing community alert brokers for LSST.

ALeRCE 3.1.0 balto

True class	SN-like/Other	Ia	Ib/c	II	Iax	91bg	KN	M-dwarf Flare	Dwarf Nova	uLens	SLSN	TDE	ILOT	CART	PISN	Cepheid	RR Lyrae	Delta Scuti	EB	AGN
Ia	1.0% 13393	29.0% 490432	10.0% 165706	27.0% 455702	2.0% 28356	0.0% 702	0.0% 50	0.0% 86	0.0% 71	0.0% 55	14.0% 231881	3.0% 52497	0.0% 7253	0.0% 4498	13.0% 219322	0.0% 9	0.0% 13	0.0% 25	0.0% 10	2.0% 40621
Ib/c	2.0% 6228	12.0% 42022	32.0% 112642	14.0% 50171	3.0% 10295	0.0% 780	0.0% 53	0.0% 34	0.0% 12	0.0% 30	12.0% 43826	3.0% 12091	1.0% 2077	2.0% 7175	13.0% 44901	0.0% 1	0.0% 7	0.0% 5	0.0% 6	6.0% 22281
II	2.0% 32592	5.0% 97607	6.0% 108315	40.0% 720939	2.0% 35617	0.0% 1205	0.0% 161	0.0% 92	0.0% 34	0.0% 87	14.0% 250882	17.0% 295909	1.0% 13508	1.0% 15763	6.0% 104631	0.0% 7	0.0% 9	0.0% 32	0.0% 34	6.0% 104174
Iax	1.0% 684	14.0% 6716	5.0% 2250	20.0% 9461	12.0% 5691	0.0% 60	0.0% 8	0.0% 1	0.0% 0	0.0% 5	12.0% 5664	13.0% 6445	0.0% 232	1.0% 629	17.0% 8237	0.0% 0	0.0% 1	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	4.0% 1995
91bg	3.0% 1059	4.0% 1488	35.0% 13811	6.0% 2326	5.0% 1852	8.0% 2989	0.0% 50	0.0% 6	0.0% 2	0.0% 3	7.0% 2927	3.0% 1192	1.0% 207	2.0% 653	18.0% 6902	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 2	0.0% 0	9.0% 3676
KN	2.0% 1	0.0% 0	10.0% 5	10.0% 5	4.0% 2	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	12.0% 6	12.0% 6	6.0% 3	0.0% 0	10.0% 5	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	31.0% 15
M-dwarf Flare	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	39.0% 514	5.0% 68	23.0% 303	0.0% 6	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	5.0% 66	5.0% 72	11.0% 141	11.0% 151	0.0% 0
Dwarf Nova	0.0% 1	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 9	81.0% 2330	9.0% 262	0.0% 1	0.0% 1	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	2.0% 55	4.0% 107	2.0% 65	1.0% 35	0.0% 0
uLens	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 1	2.0% 43	94.0% 1690	0.0% 3	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	1.0% 11	2.0% 27	1.0% 15	0.0% 8	0.0% 0
SLSN	0.0% 53	0.0% 155	2.0% 542	8.0% 2628	1.0% 400	0.0% 10	0.0% 1	0.0% 0	0.0% 7	1.0% 292	67.0% 22835	2.0% 686	0.0% 87	6.0% 1971	13.0% 4341	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 5	0.0% 26	1.0% 184
TDE	0.0% 12	0.0% 50	0.0% 16	4.0% 638	1.0% 91	0.0% 9	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	6.0% 862	80.0% 11658	0.0% 20	0.0% 8	2.0% 359	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	5.0% 768
ILOT	0.0% 5	1.0% 8	1.0% 15	9.0% 106	3.0% 31	1.0% 6	0.0% 1	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 1	21.0% 242	16.0% 186	8.0% 97	0.0% 5	30.0% 352	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	10.0% 122
CART	1.0% 114	3.0% 291	5.0% 428	20.0% 1810	6.0% 514	0.0% 23	0.0% 3	0.0% 0	0.0% 1	0.0% 0	20.0% 1800	19.0% 1716	1.0% 54	5.0% 445	13.0% 1160	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 1	0.0% 0	7.0% 586
PISN	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	1.0% 2	1.0% 3	0.0% 0	0.0% 1	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	17.0% 60	1.0% 3	1.0% 4	0.0% 1	79.0% 275	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 1
Cepheid	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	1.0% 9	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	97.0% 1226	0.0% 3	2.0% 28	0.0% 2	0.0% 0
RR Lyrae	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 1	0.0% 5	0.0% 115	0.0% 1	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 106	92.0% 43070	6.0% 2983	1.0% 408	0.0% 0
Delta Scuti	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 2	0.0% 19	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	2.0% 203	2.0% 140	95.0% 8401	1.0% 48	0.0% 0
EB	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 6	0.0% 10	1.0% 1299	0.0% 97	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 85	2.0% 1749	3.0% 3003	94.0% 102389	0.0% 0
AGN	0.0% 54	0.0% 188	0.0% 146	0.0% 193	1.0% 574	1.0% 600	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 79	4.0% 3806	0.0% 192	0.0% 6	0.0% 2	0.0% 0	0.0% 1	0.0% 7	0.0% 22	94.0% 90370

Predicted class

