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# Reconstructing the Lives (and Deaths) of Massive Stars with the Help of Fine-Tuned Embeddings

*Kandinsky, Squares with Concentric Circles*

IAIFI Seminar, March 8th 2024

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# Talk Outline

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- I. A Primer on Supernova Classification
- II. The Value of Circumstellar Interaction
- III. Finding Interaction Signatures, Faster

# Supernovae: The Explosive Deaths of Stars

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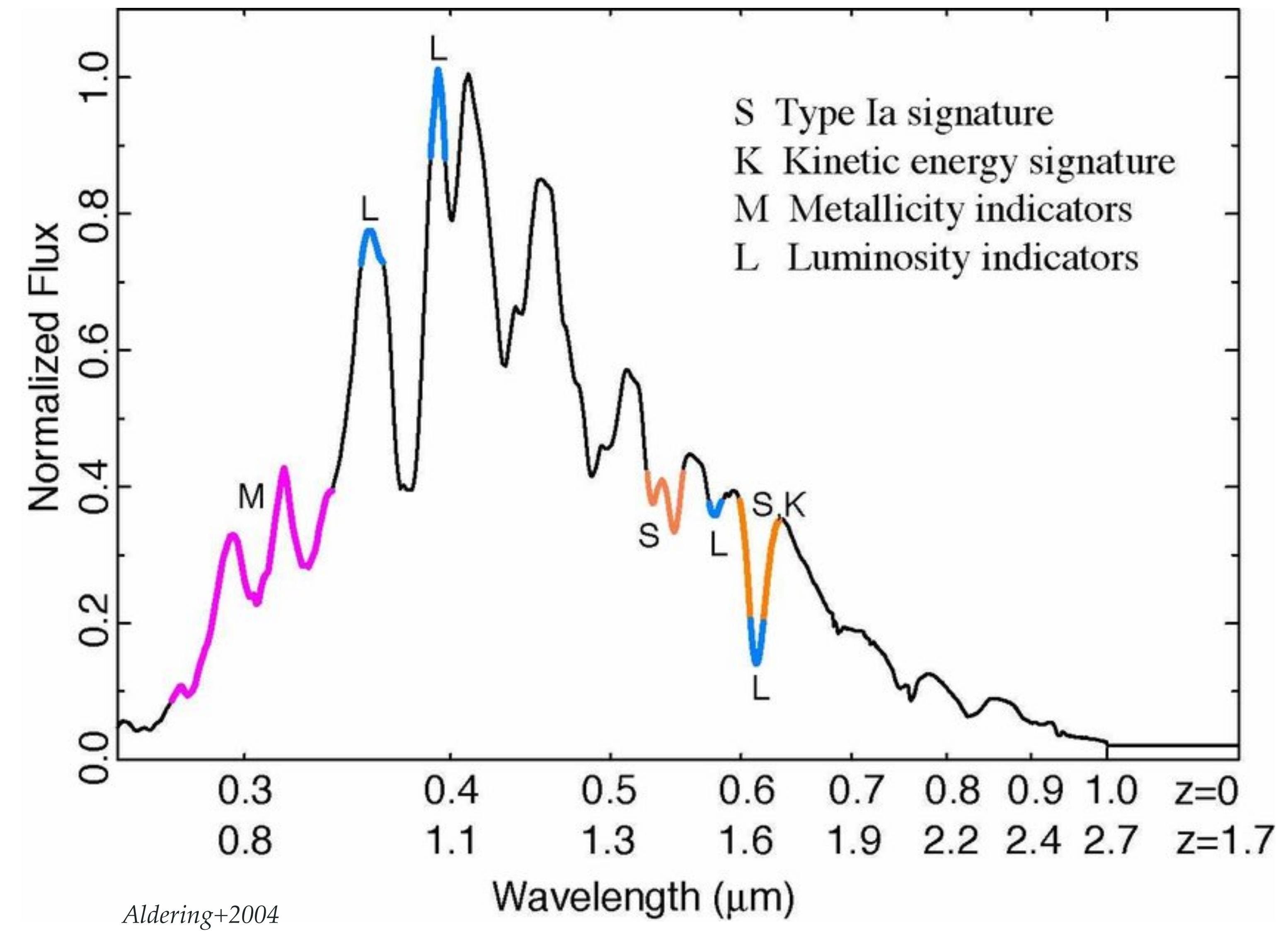


*SN 1994D; NASA/ESA*

# Spectroscopy: An SN's Rosetta Stone

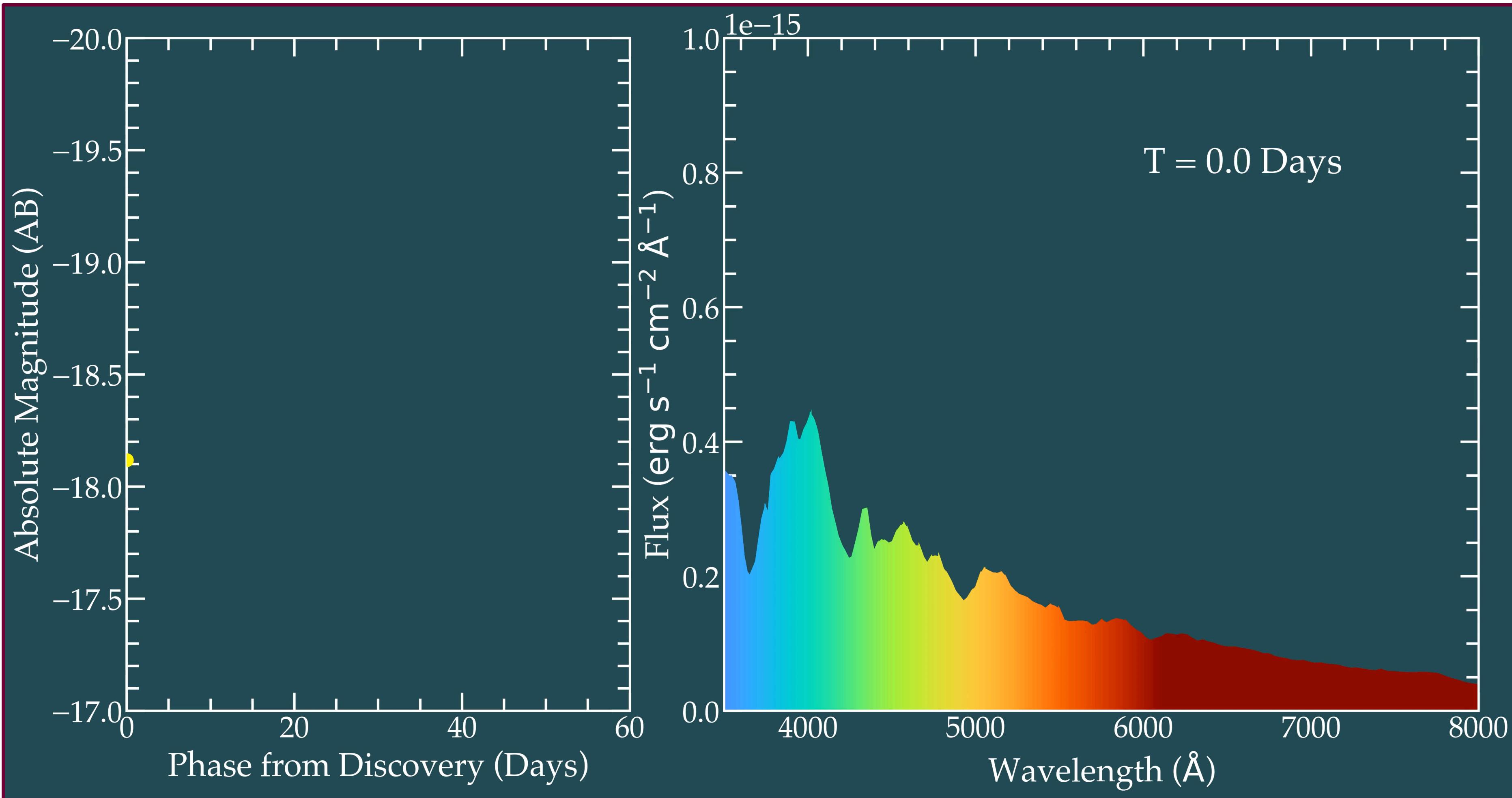
A supernova is fully described by its composition, density profile, and velocity structure.

All of these are constrained with spectroscopy.



# From Spectroscopy to Photometry

*Optical Spectral Sequence of a Type Ia Supernova*

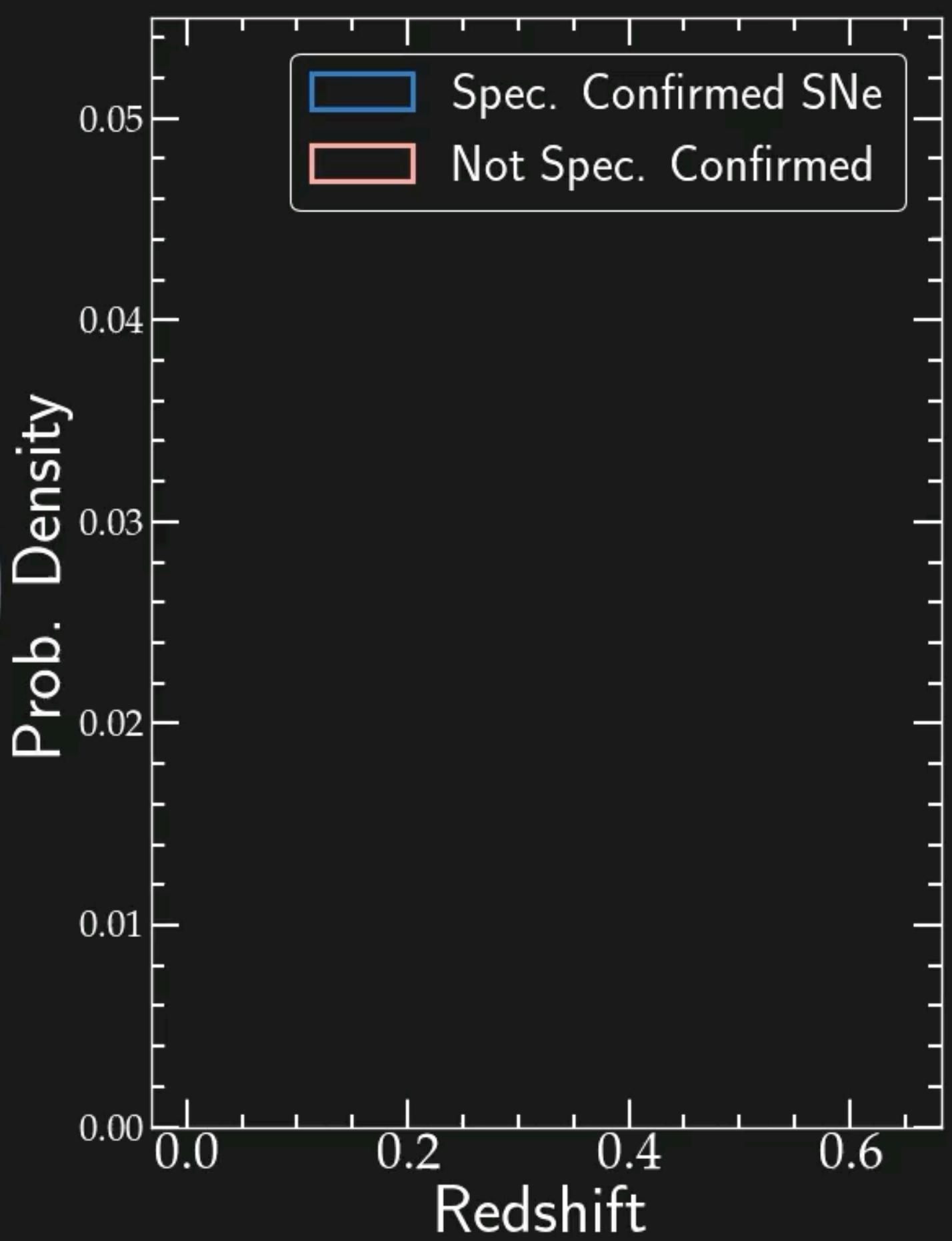
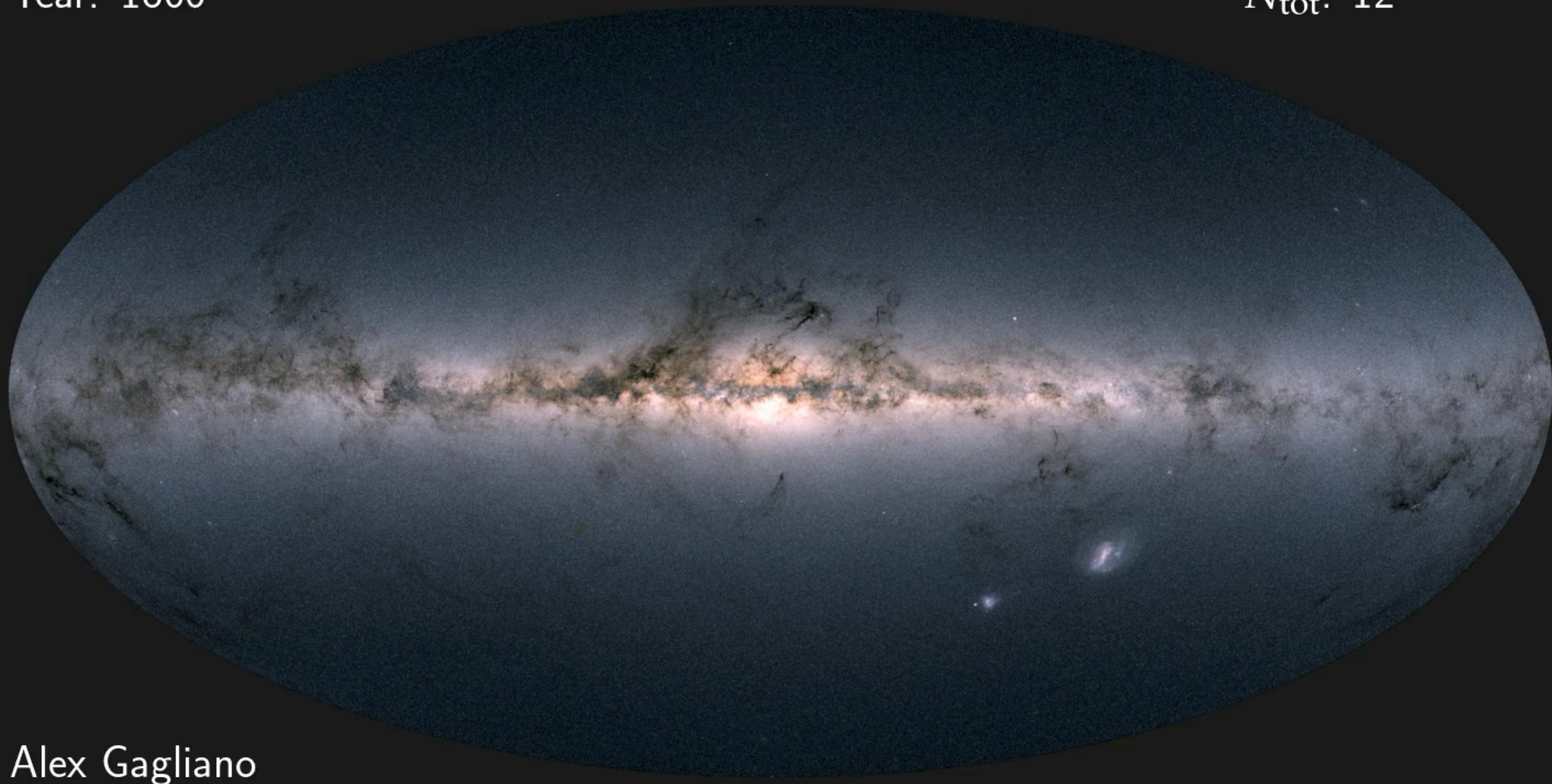


Multi-band  
**photometric features**  
(peak light, decline)  
are a weak proxy for  
underlying spectral  
evolution.

# Trading Data Quality for Quantity

Year: 1800

$N_{\text{tot}}$ : 12



Alex Gagliano

# Photometric Classification

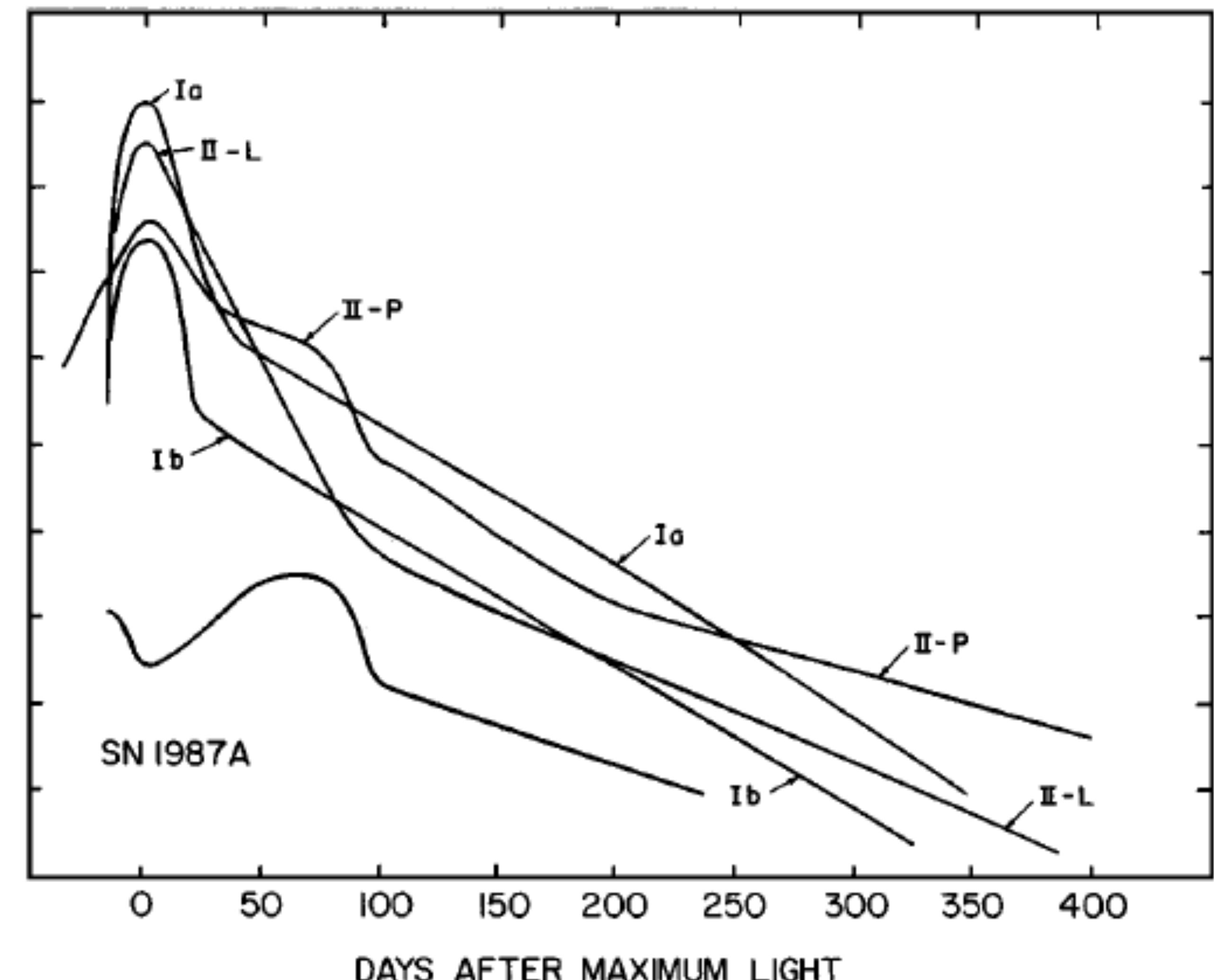
Increasing **discovery rates & sims**  
drove classifier development:

Brute-force template matching  
(*Sako+08, Rodney+09*)

Decision trees on LC features  
(*Möller+16, Lochner+16, Boone+18, Leoni+22*)

NNs on raw / interpolated  
photometry  
(*Karpenka+13, Charnock+17, Muthukrishna+19,  
Villar+19, Qu+21, Pimentel+22, Gagliano+23*)

*Filippenko (1997)*



# Photometric Classification

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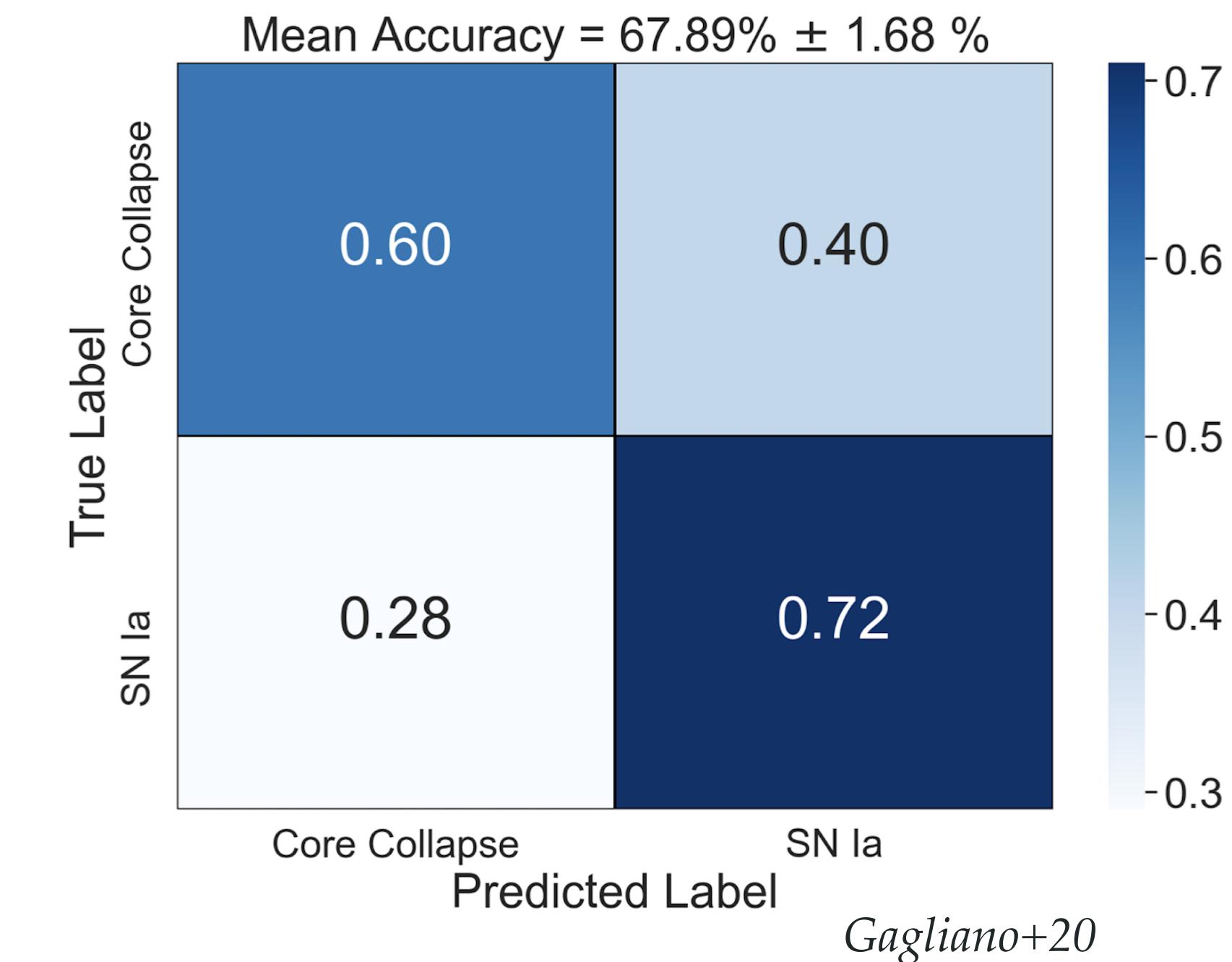
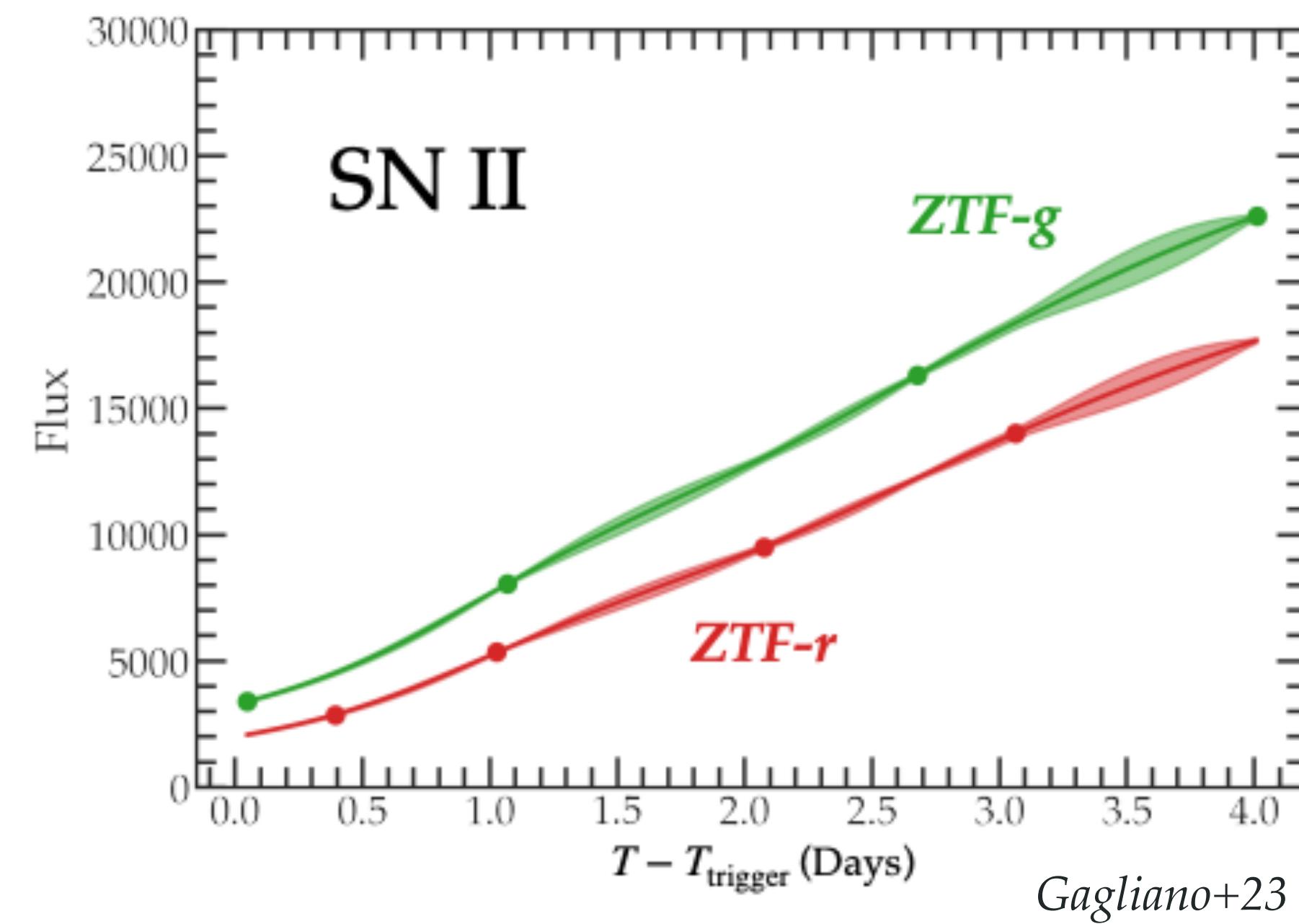
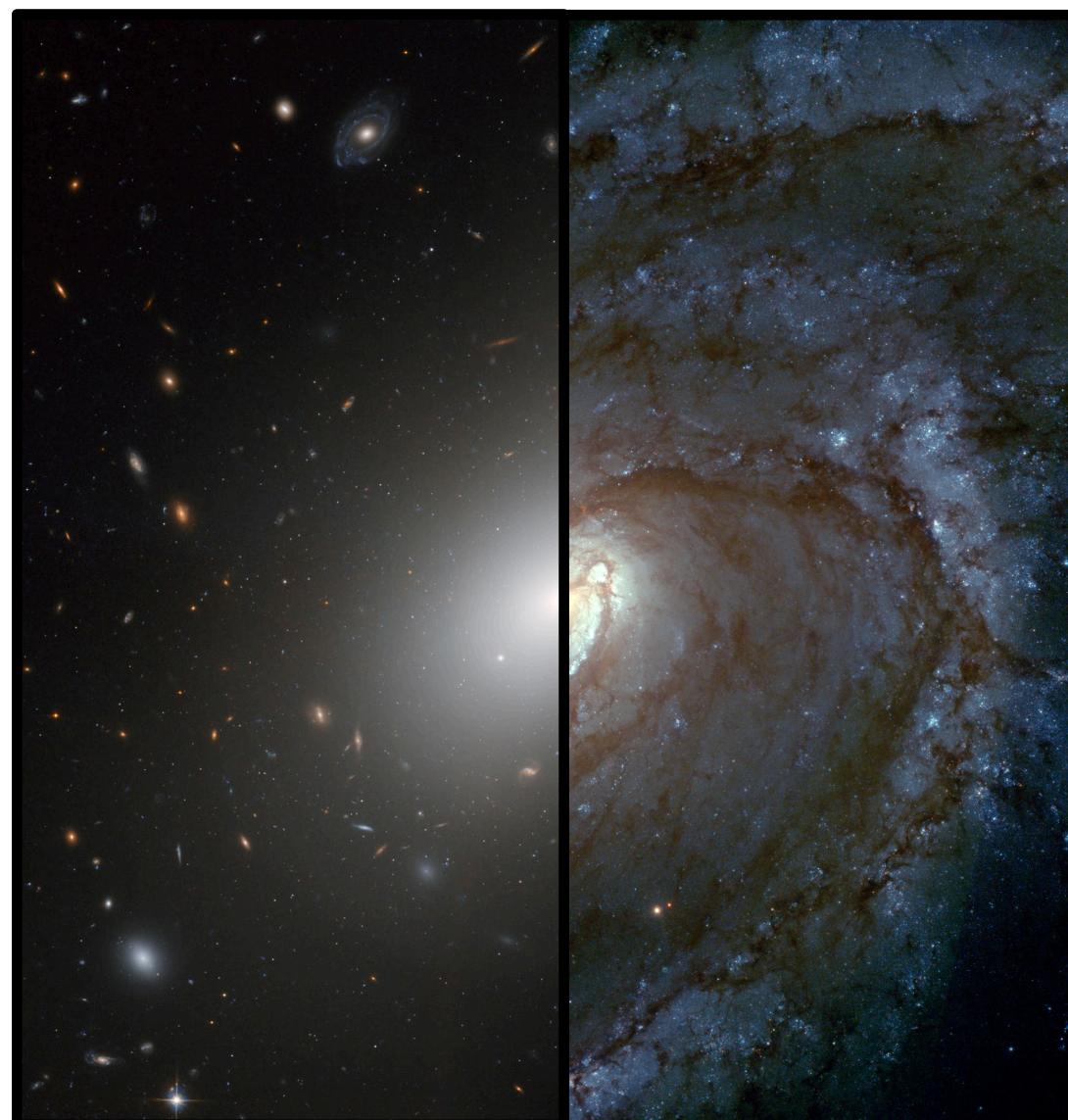
The screenshot shows the PLAsTiCC Astronomical Classification competition page. At the top right, it says '\$25,000 Prize Money'. The main title is 'PLAsTiCC Astronomical Classification' with the subtitle 'Can you help make sense of the Universe?'. Below that is the LSST Project logo and the text 'LSST Project · 1,089 teams · 4 years ago'. A navigation bar includes 'Overview', 'Data', 'Code', 'Discussion' (which is underlined), 'Leaderboard', and 'Rules'. On the far right are 'New Topic' and '...' buttons.

**Objective:** To foster development of machine learning algorithms for photometric classification of transients.

Name	Boosted Decision Trees			Neural Nets			
	LightGBM	CatBoost	XGBoost	NN	CNN	RNN	MLP
Kyle Boone	✓	x	x	x	x	x	x
Mike & Silogram	✓	x	x	x	x	✓	x
Major Tom, mamas & nyanc	✓	✓	x	x	✓	x	x
Ahmet Erdem	✓	x	x	✓	x	x	x
SKZ Lost in Translation	✓	x	x	x	x	✓	✓
Stefan Stefanov	x	x	x	✓	x	x	x
rapids.ai	✓	x	x	x	x	✓	✓
Three Musketeers	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	x	x
Simon Chen	✓	x	x	x	x	x	x
Go Spartans!	✓	x	✓	x	x	x	x

# Host-Enabled Early-Time Classification

How well can we do with the **explosion site?**



~70% accuracy from host galaxy photometry alone, with further improvements from partial-phase SN photometry.

(*Gagliano+20,23*)

NGC 1132,4321; NASA/ESA/Hubble

# What's the Value of Classification?

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## 1. Linking Observations to Underlying Explosion Physics

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1. Linking Observations to Underlying Explosion Physics
2. Finding & Observing Transients that Challenge Existing Models

# What's the Value of Classification?

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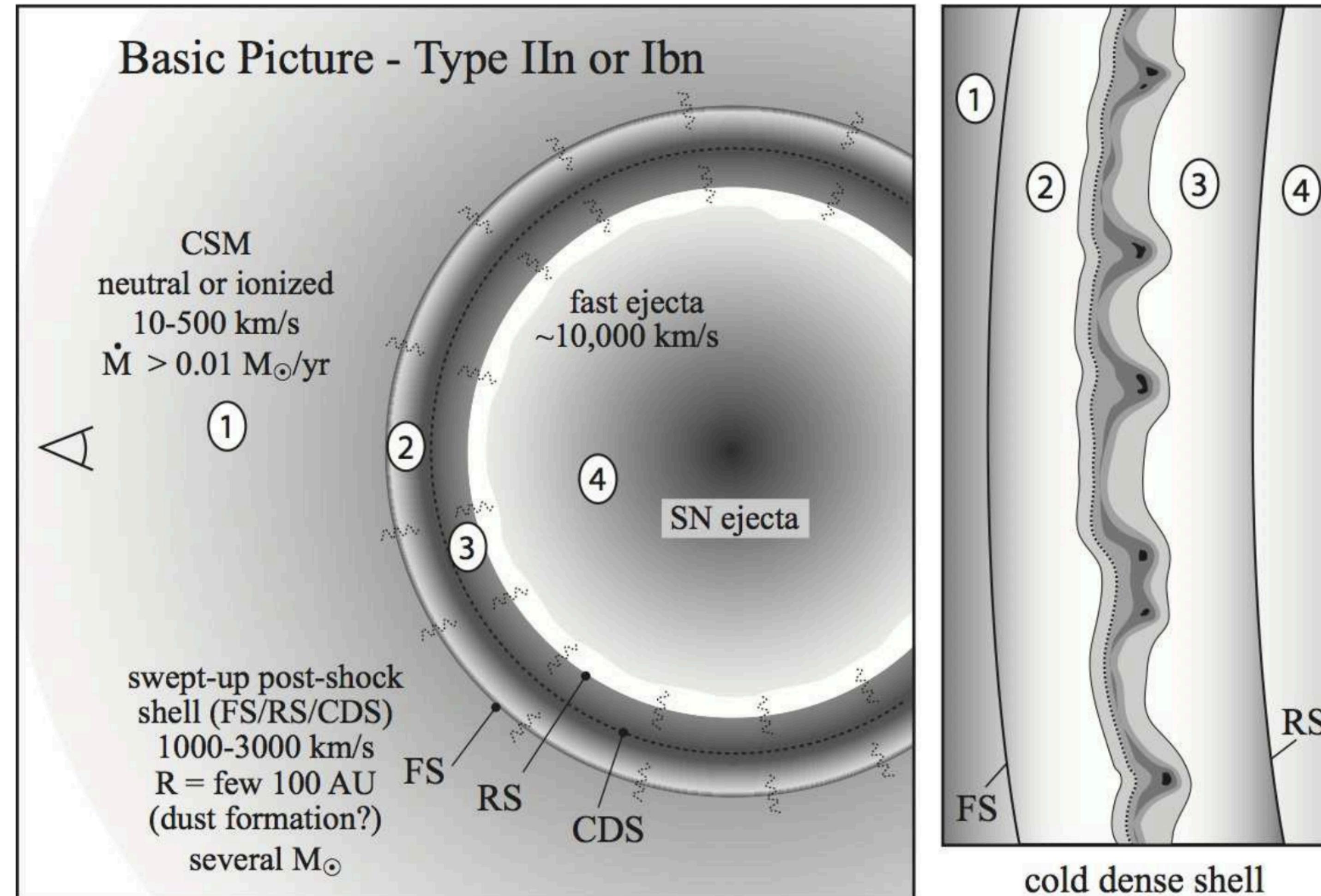
1. Linking Observations to Underlying Explosion Physics
2. Finding & Observing Transients that Challenge Existing Models

*Circumstellar  
Interaction*



*Kandinsky, Squares with Concentric Circles*

# Circumstellar Material (CSM) and Its History

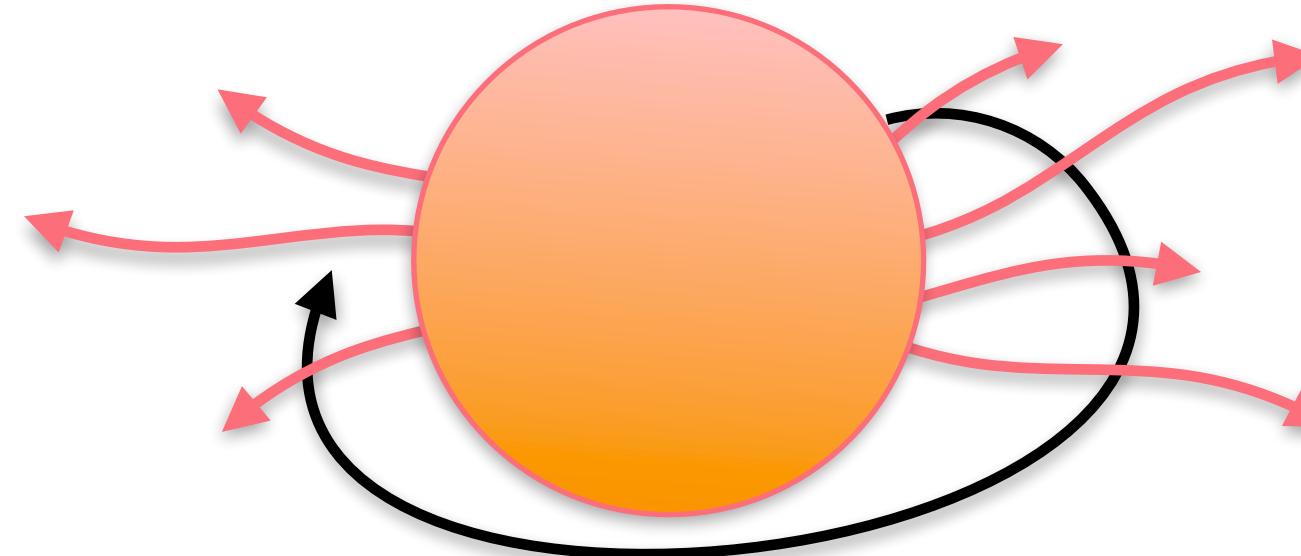


Smith+2014

# Where Does CSM Come From?

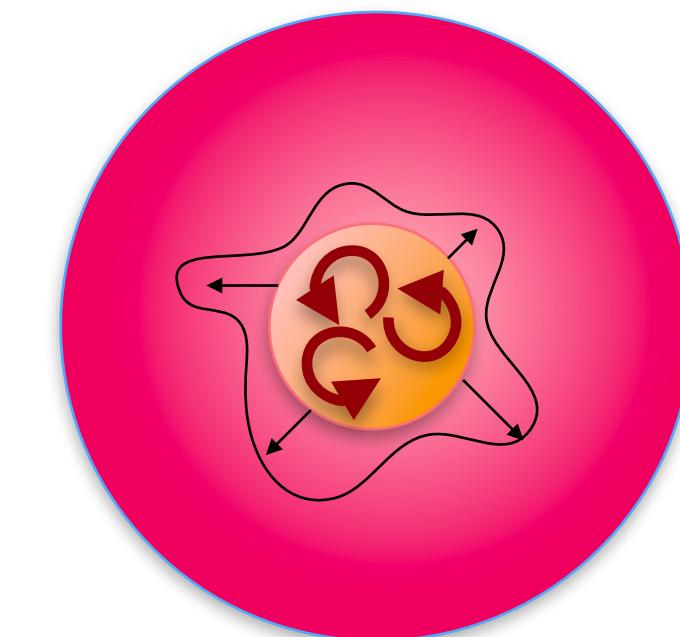
Centrifugally-induced mass-loss  
in rapidly rotating stars.

(Aguilera-Dena<sup>+</sup>18)



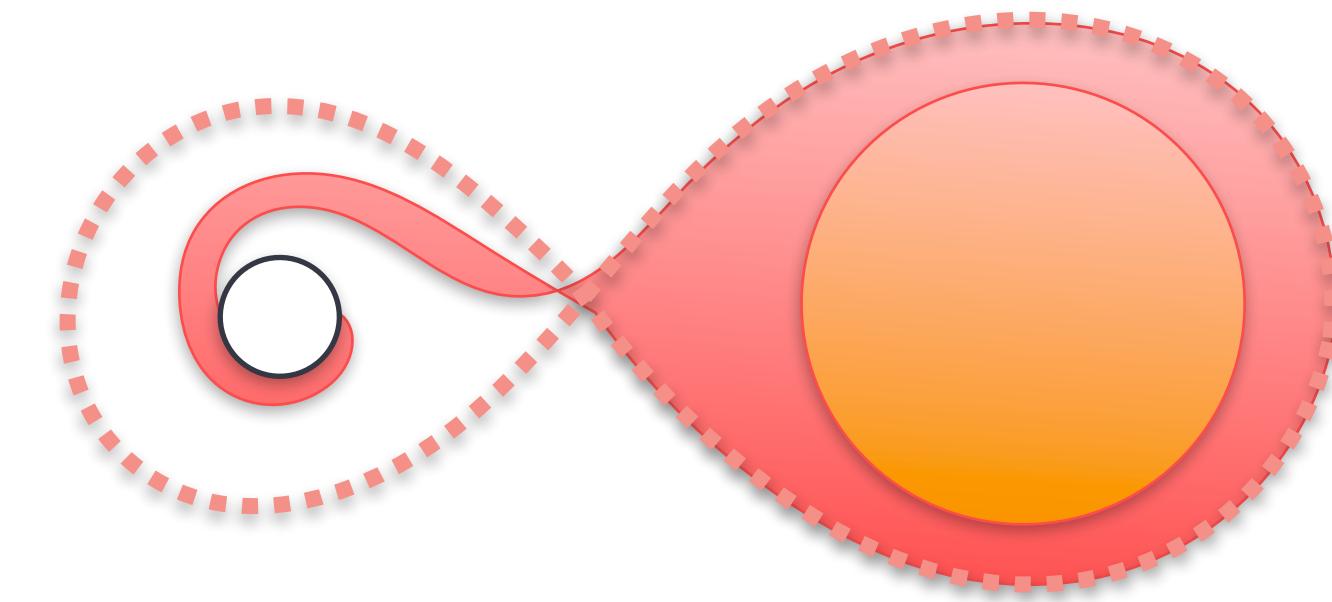
Energy deposition from  
convection-driven gravity waves.

(Quataert & Shiode<sup>+</sup>12; Wu & Fuller<sup>+</sup>22)



Mass transfer onto  
stellar companion.

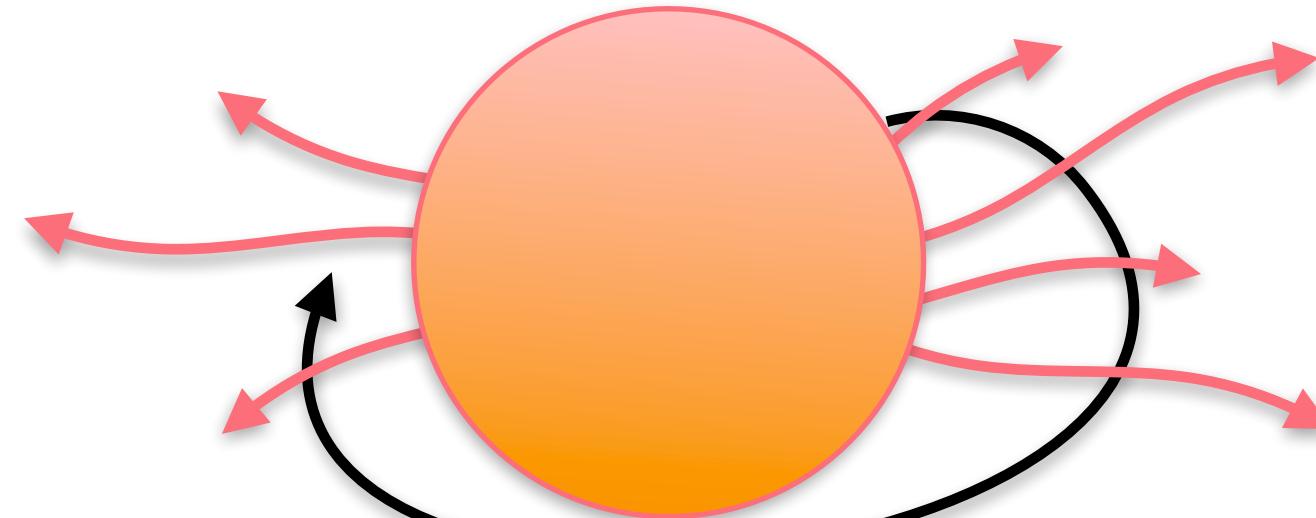
(Sun<sup>+</sup>20)



# Where Does CSM Come From?

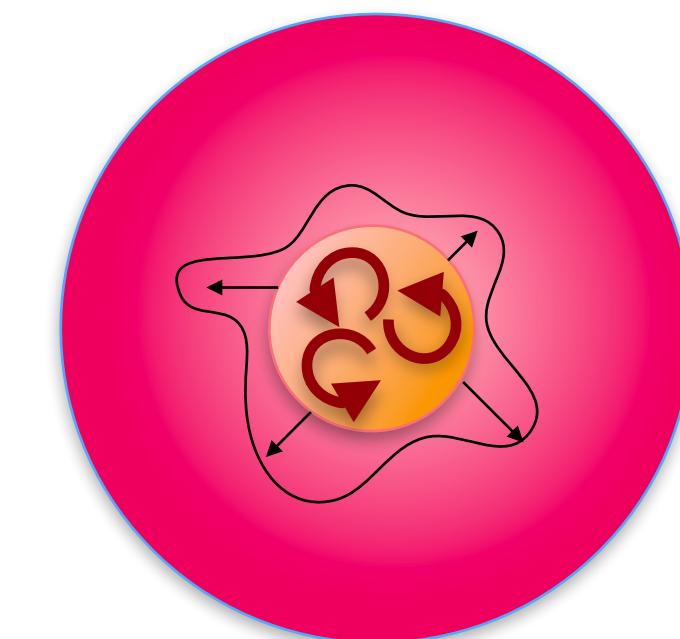
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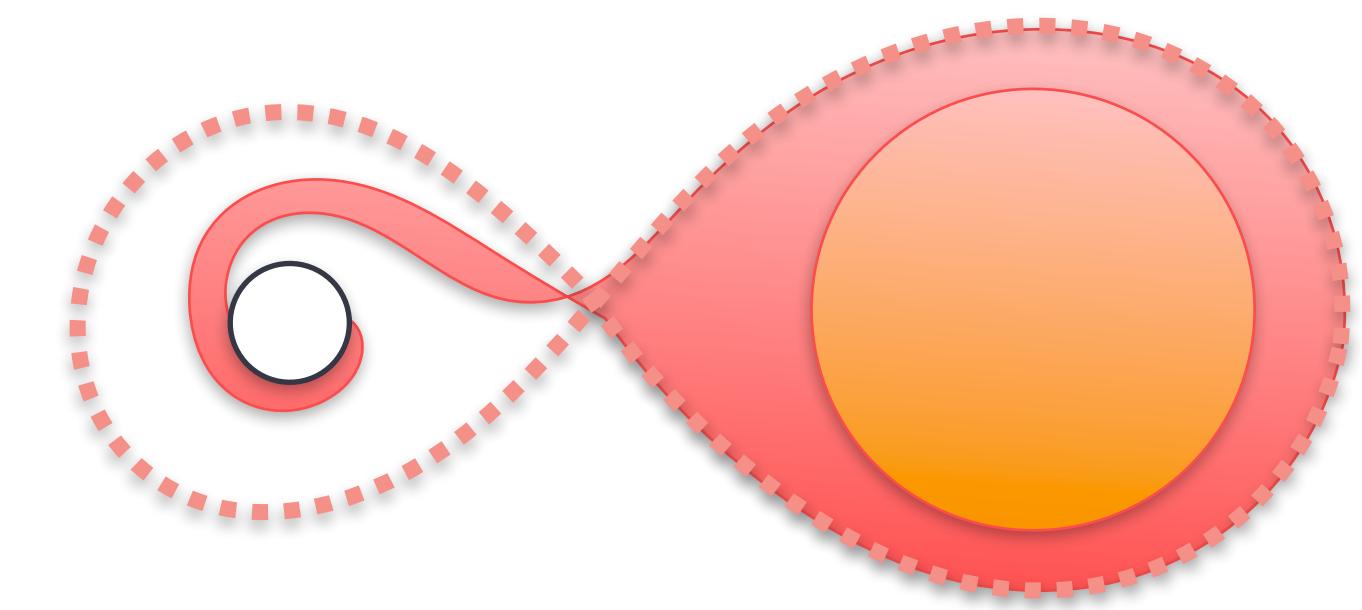


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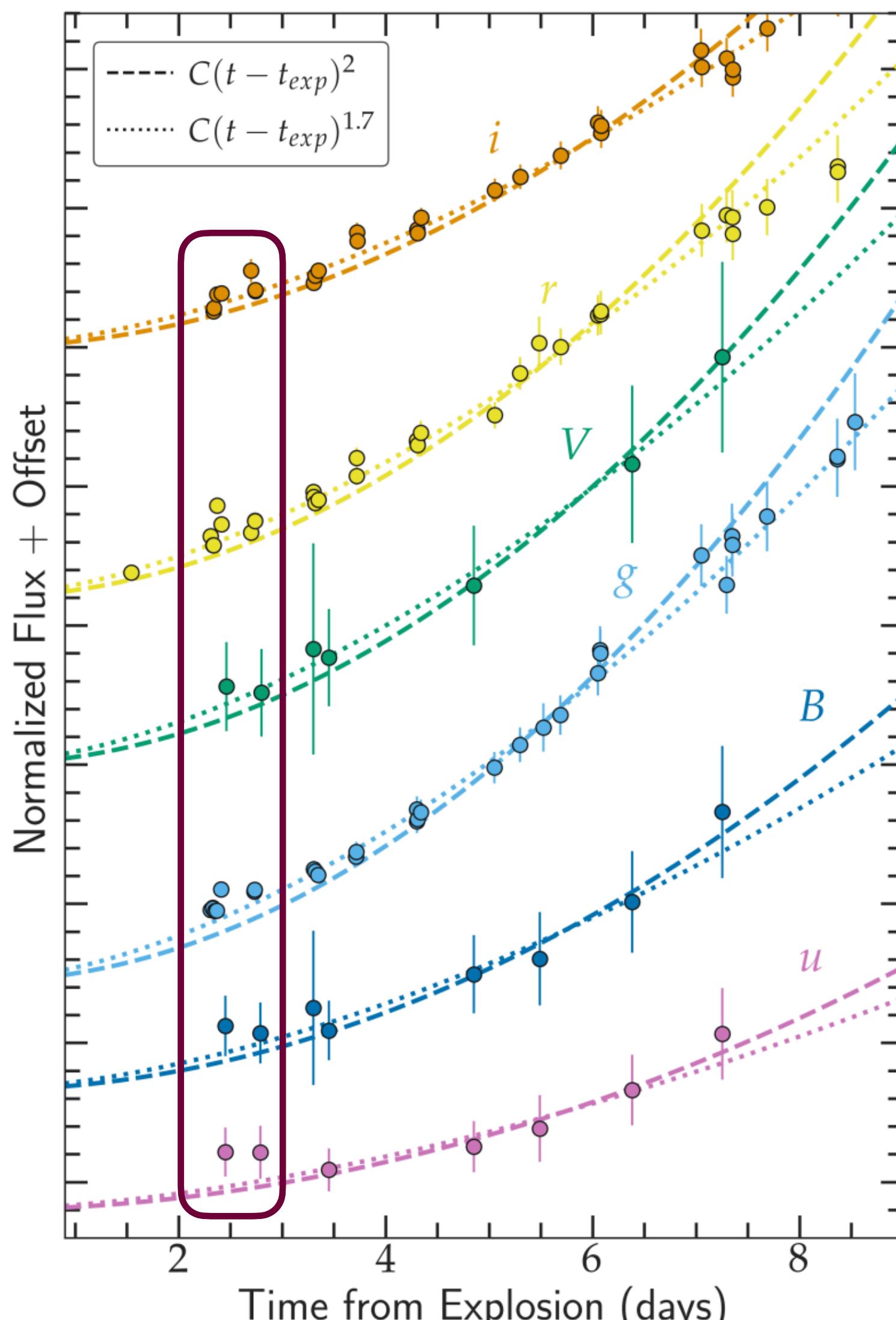
Infrared ( $>100$  yr)

Optical (0.1 - 100 yr)

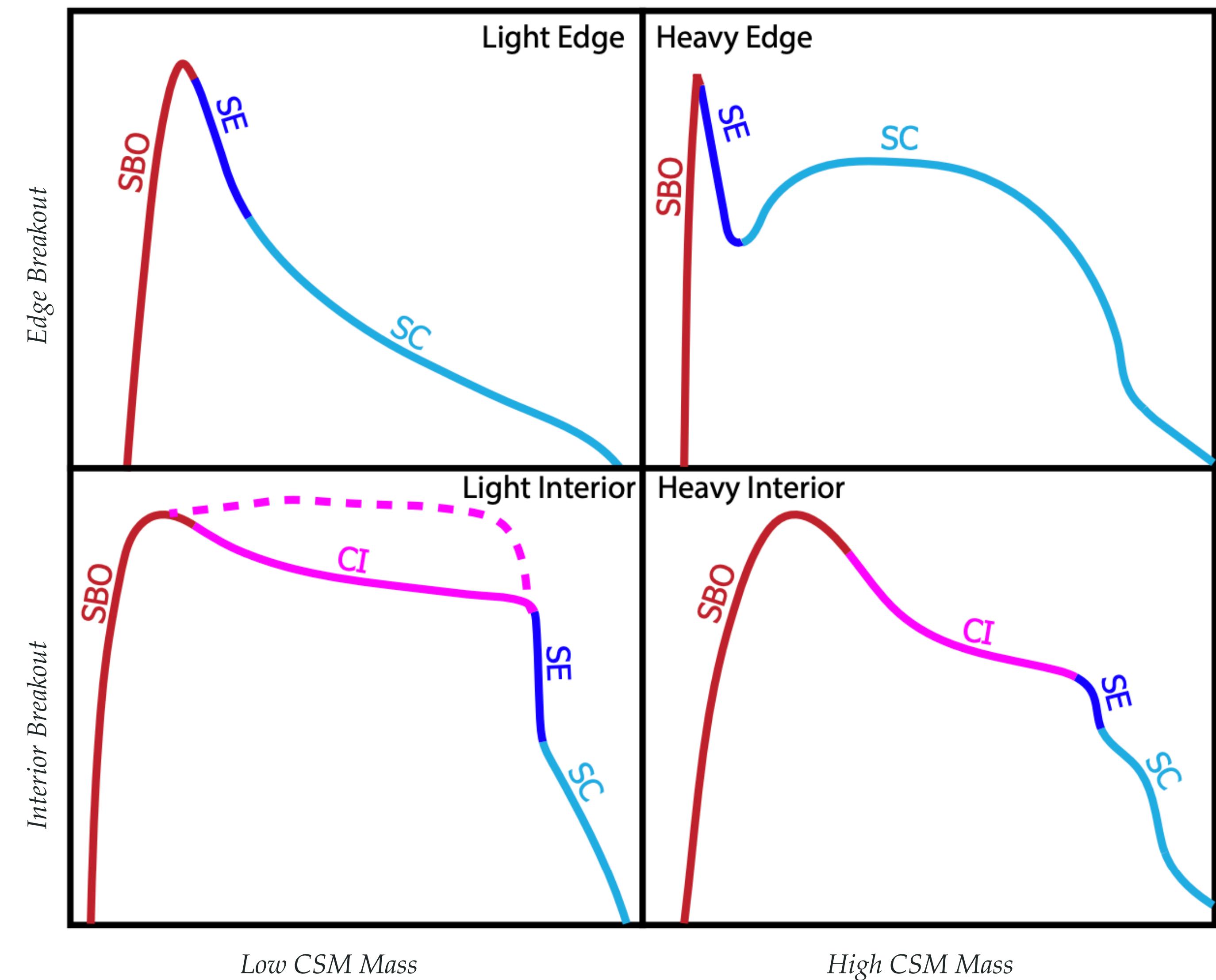
Radio ( $<0.1$  yr)

# CSM Breeds Persistent Anomalous Behavior

Khatami & Kasen+23



Gagliano+21



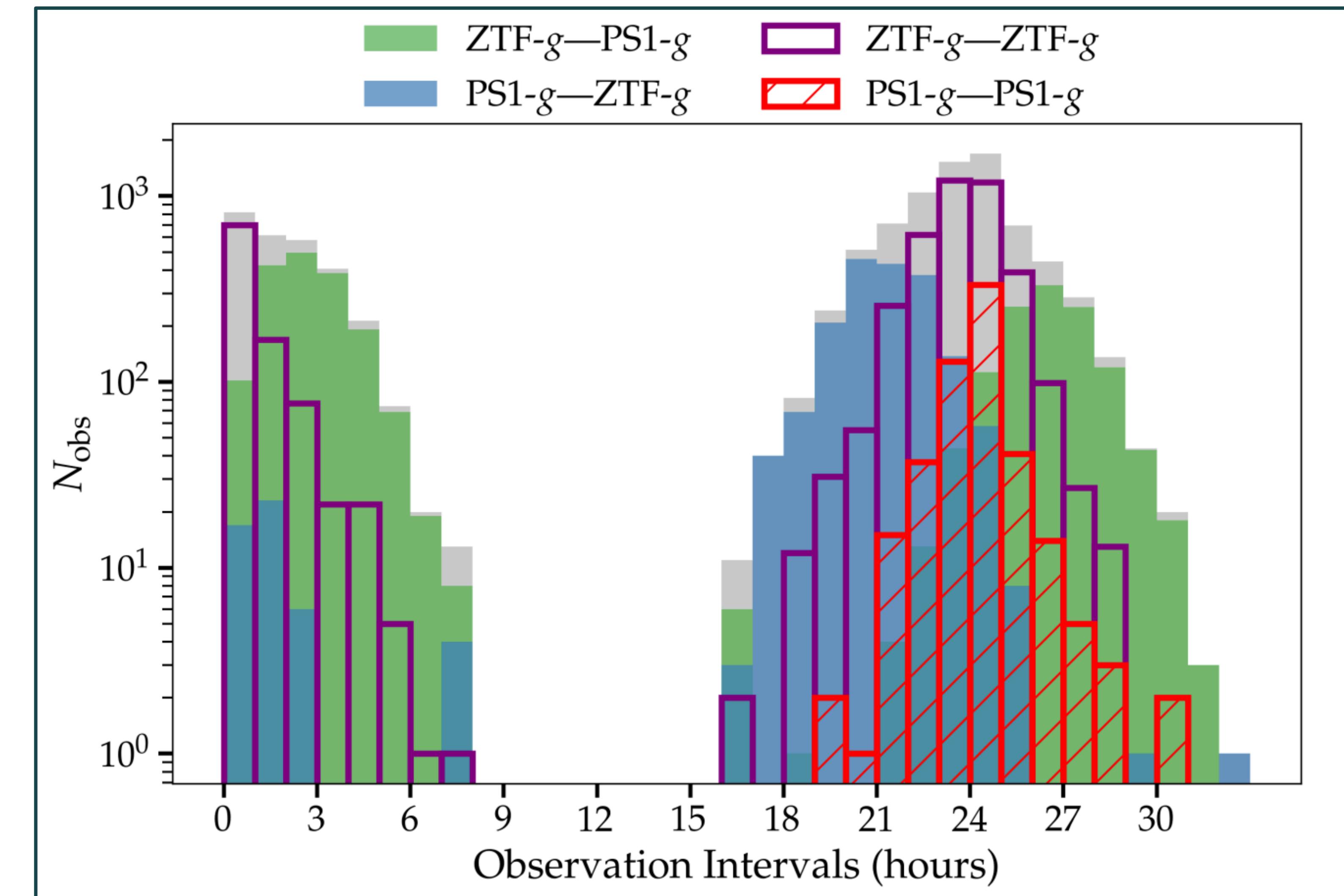
# The Young Supernova Experiment



<https://www2.ifa.hawaii.edu/research/Pan-STARRS.shtml>

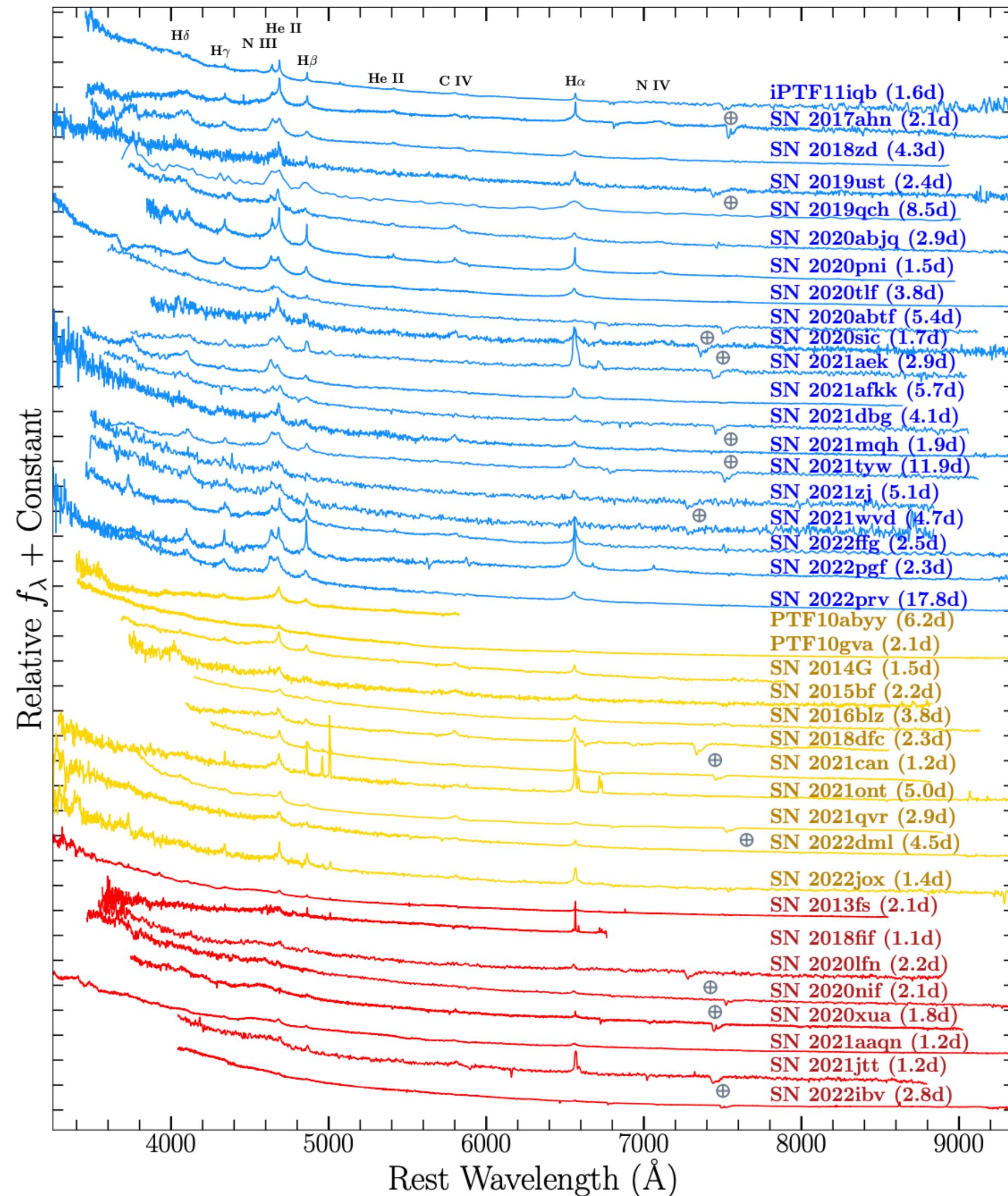
7% of time on Pan-STARRS1, 7%  
of time on Pan-STARRS2

3-day cadence + overlap with  
public photometry yields **highest  
effective cadence** of any ongoing  
transient survey.



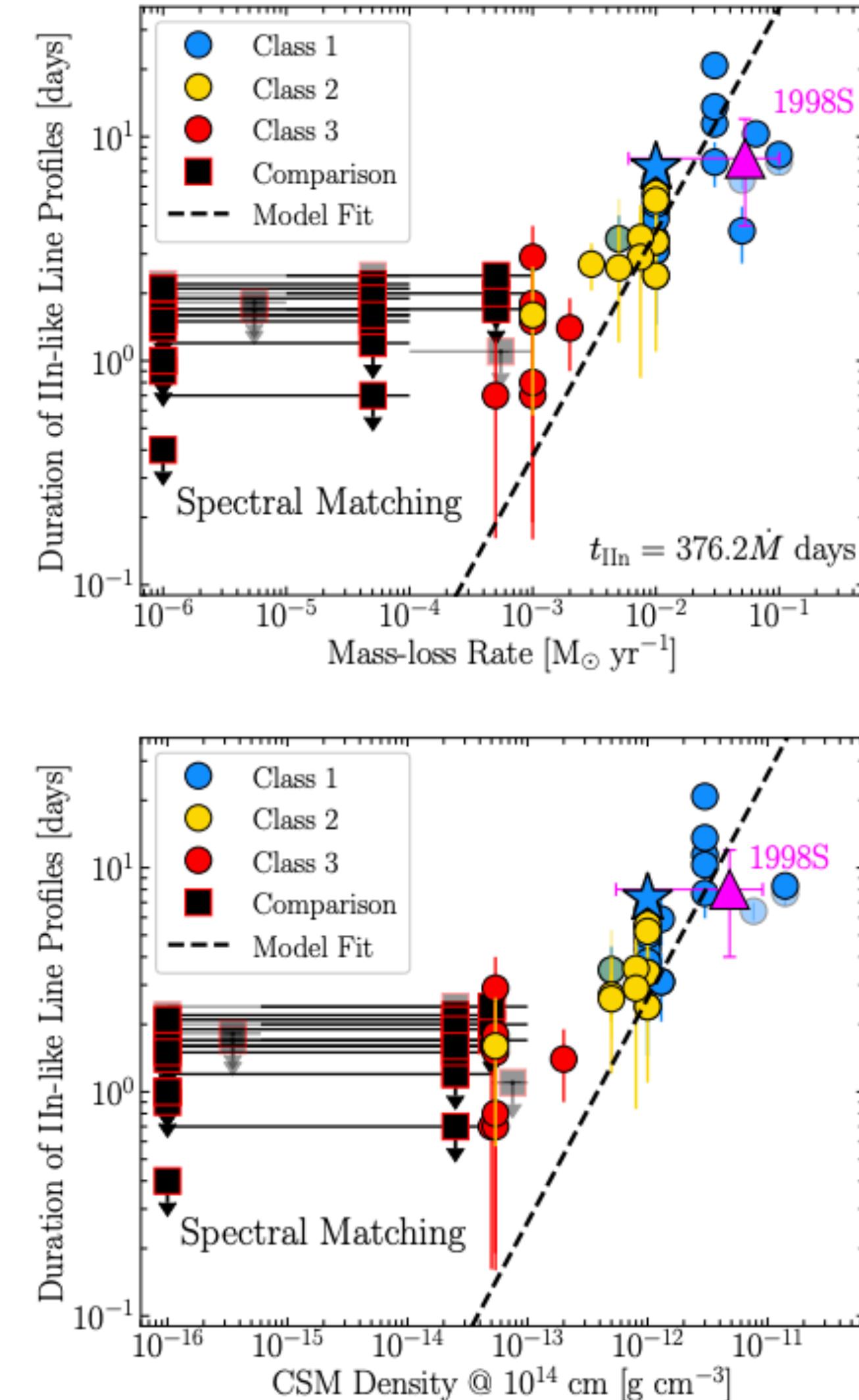
(Aleo+23)

# Constraints on Phases and Mass-Loss Rates

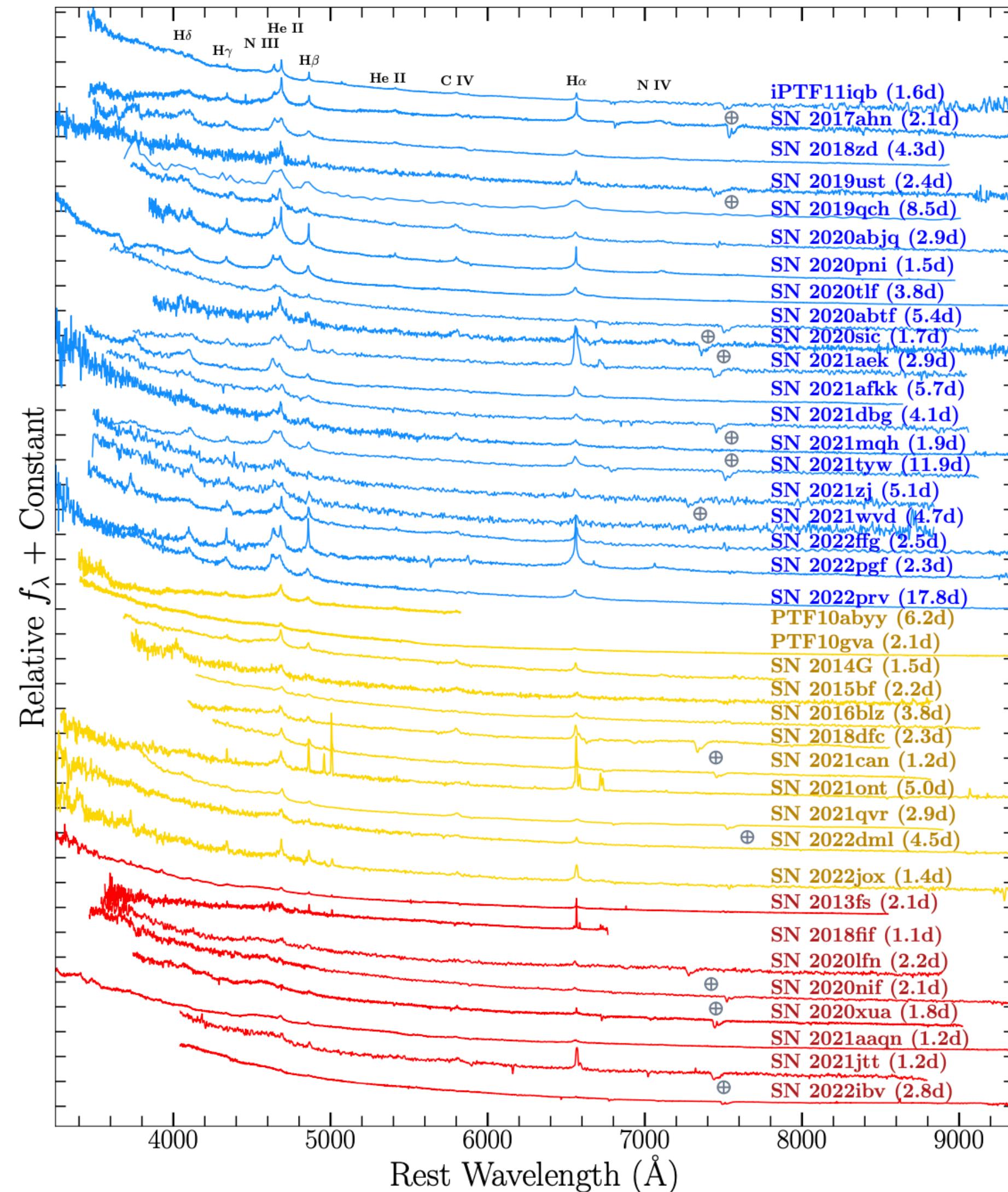


(Jacobson-Galán+24)

Early YSE spectroscopy  
provides new constraints  
on **CSM density profiles**  
for 39 supernovae  
(largest to date)!



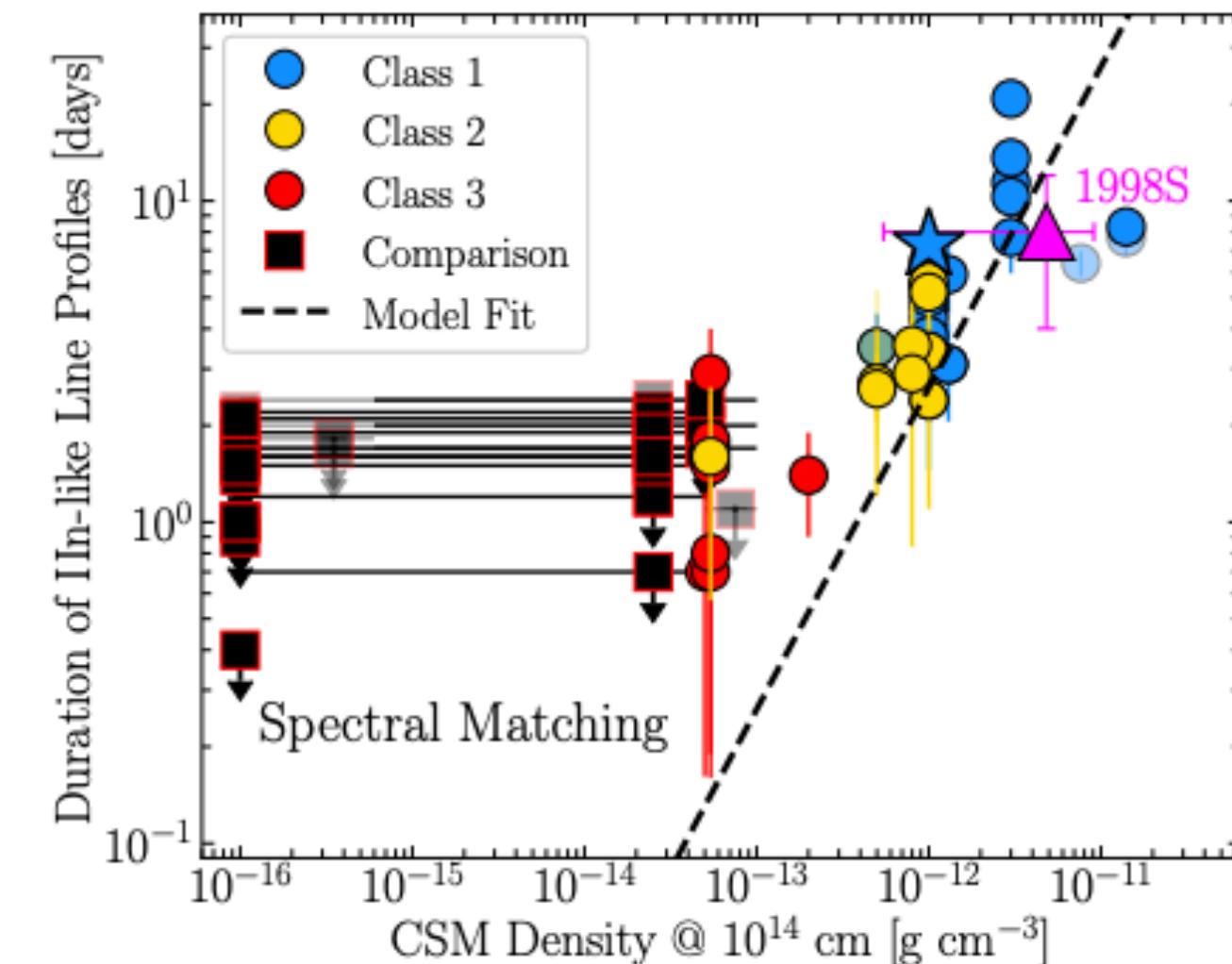
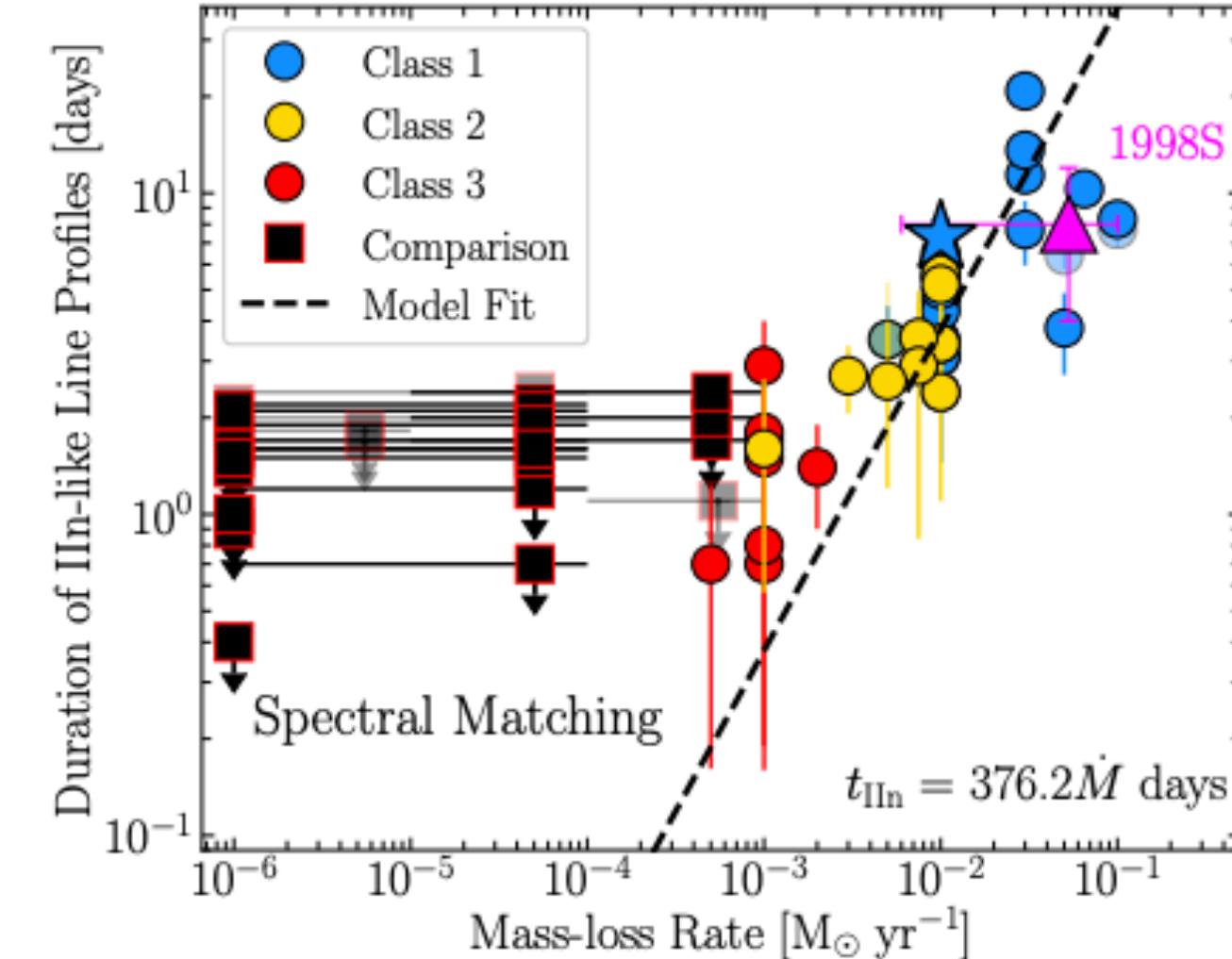
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(Jacobson-Galán+24)

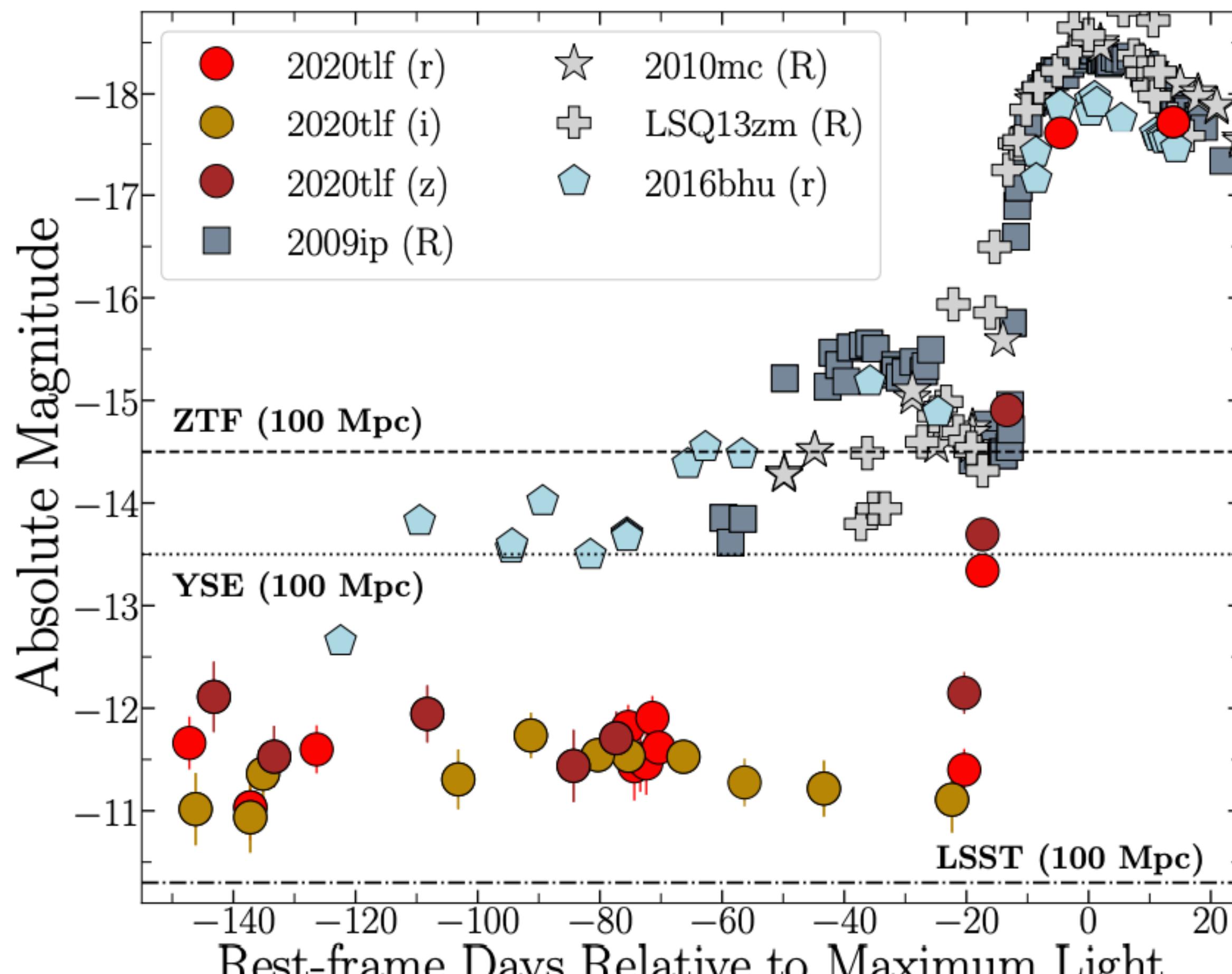
Early YSE spectroscopy  
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on **CSM density profiles**  
for 39 supernovae  
(largest to date)!

*Can we look for  
them directly?*

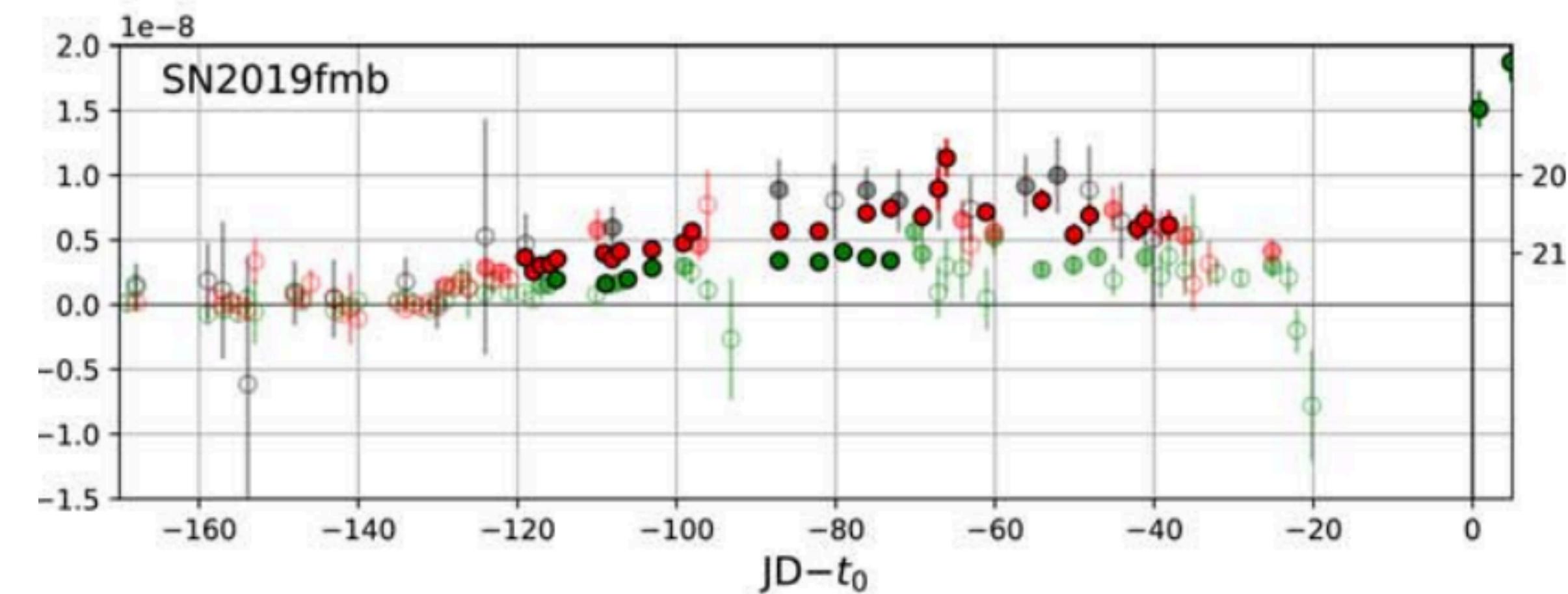


# Yes!

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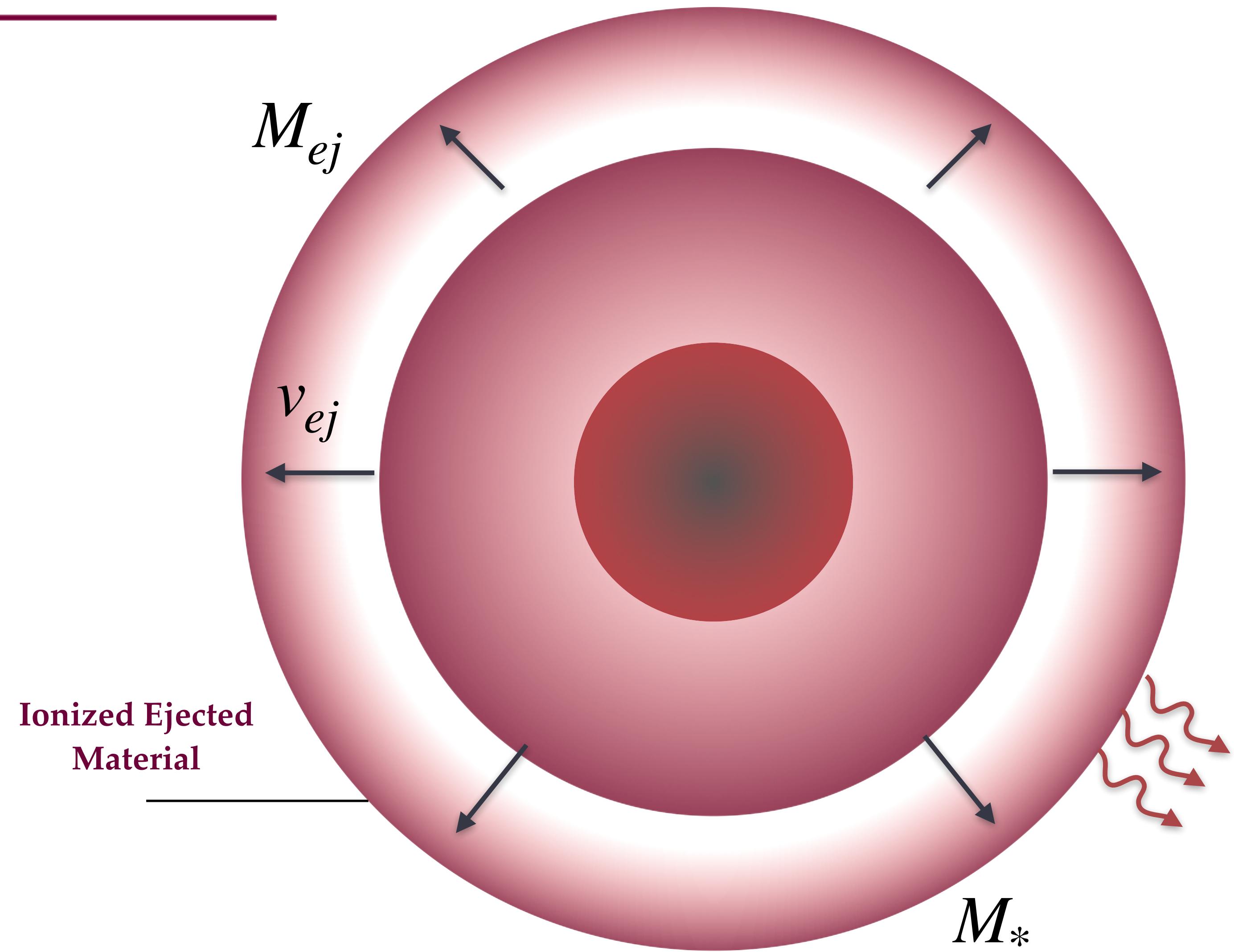
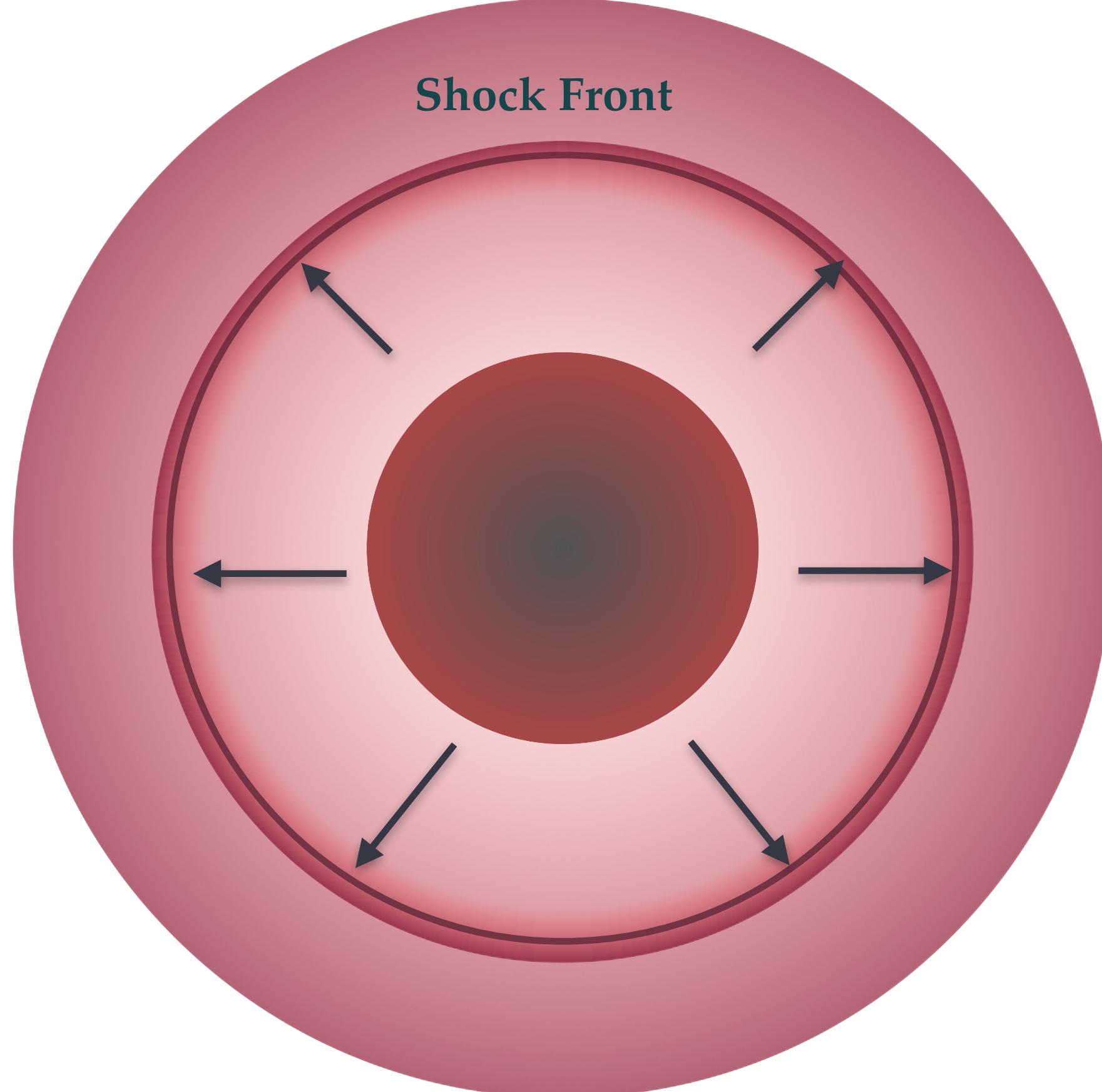
(Jacobson-Galán+2022)



Precursor eruptions are a  
**direct, independent probe**  
of CSM formation.

But we can't make population  
statements with 10 events.

# Modeling an Eruptive Precursor

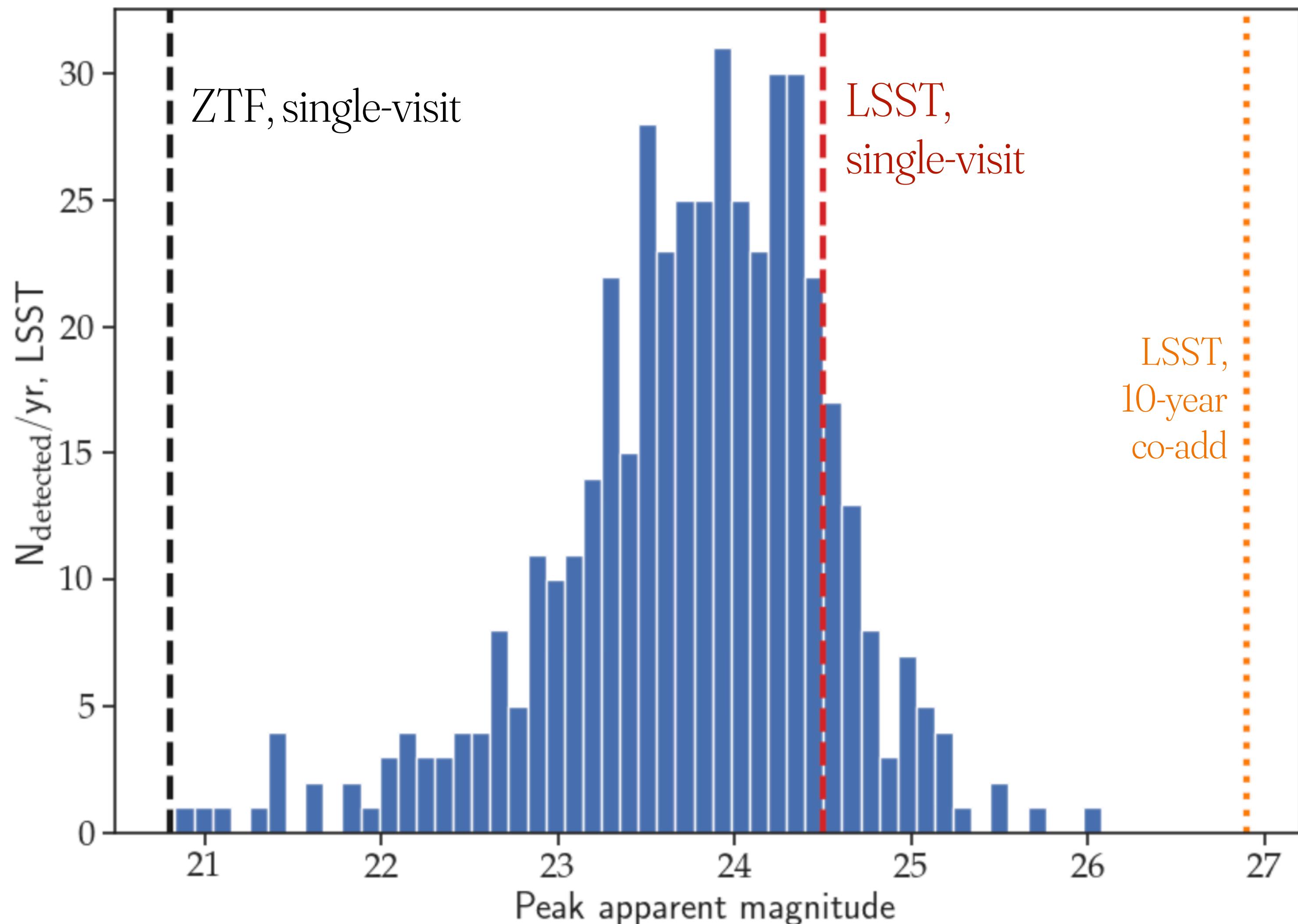


(Matsumoto & Metzger, 2022)

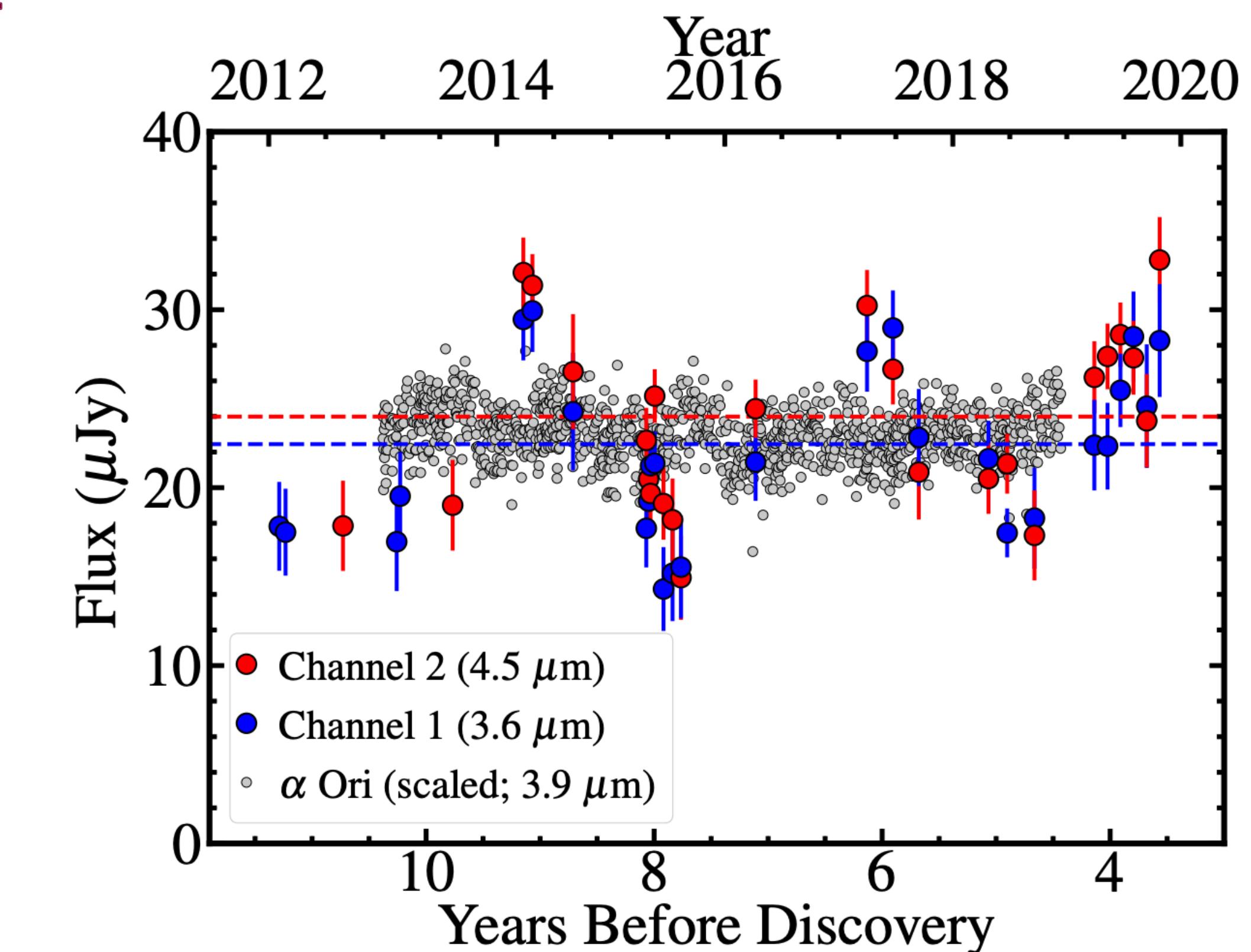
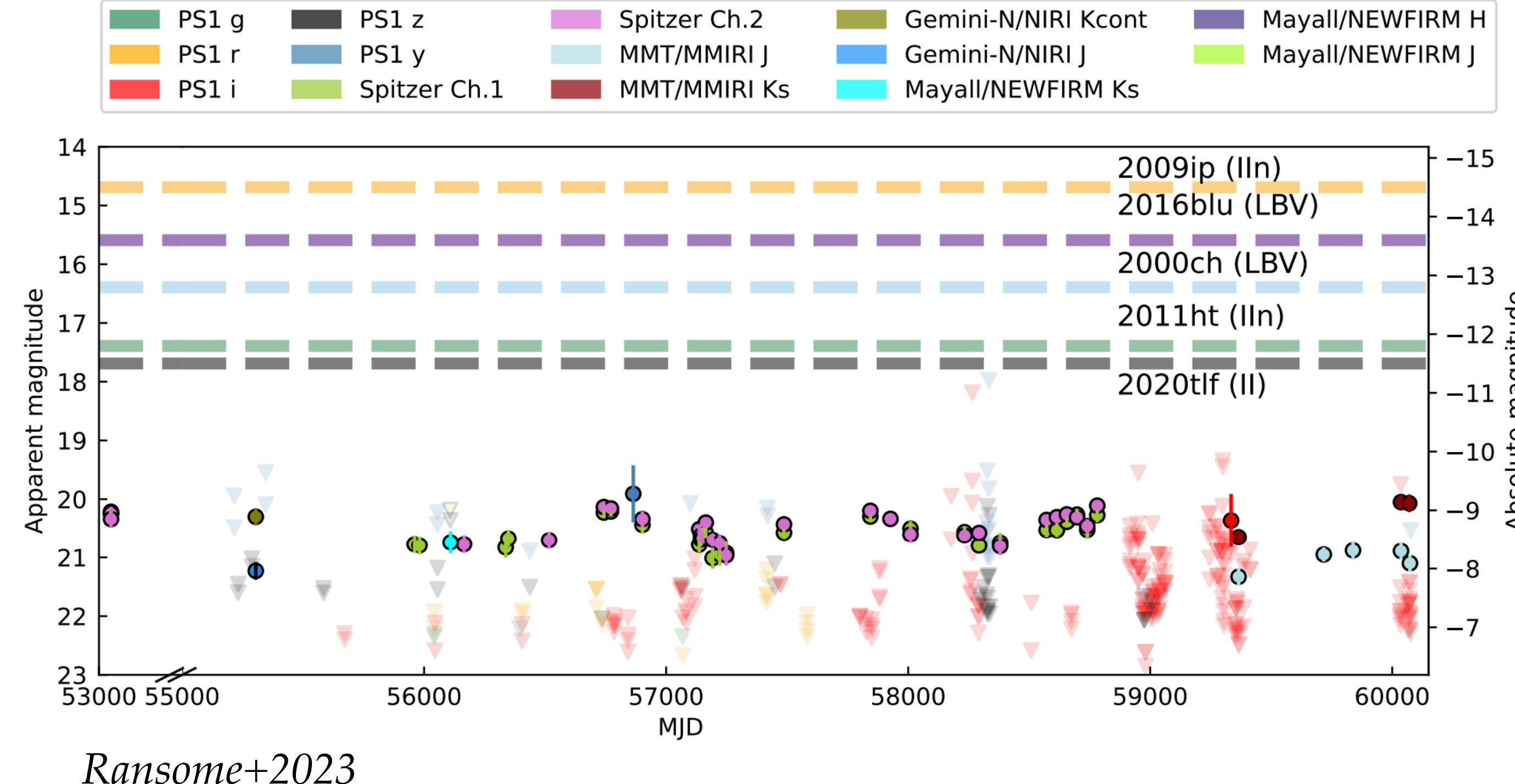
# Preliminary Results for LSST

The Rubin Observatory  
may directly detect **~100**  
**eruptive precursors/yr**  
(*Gagliano & Berger+24, in prep.*).

Scores more will fall out of  
image stacking.



# Dust Puts a Damper on the Situation



Kilpatrick+2023 (incl. A. Gagliano)

Dust can condense from the cooling CSM, **obscuring optical** emission.

Infrared missions like *Roman* (2027) offer a complementary view!

# Building Population Statistics, Photometrically

1. Does the SN's galaxy host massive stellar populations?
2. Does the light curve show prominent variability beyond radioactive decay? (e.g., phases of re-brightening?)

# Benefits of Host Galaxy Characterization

## A New Class of Fast Transients Has Emerged in an Unlikely Place

By Kerry Hensley on 15 September 2023

FEATURES

Share:

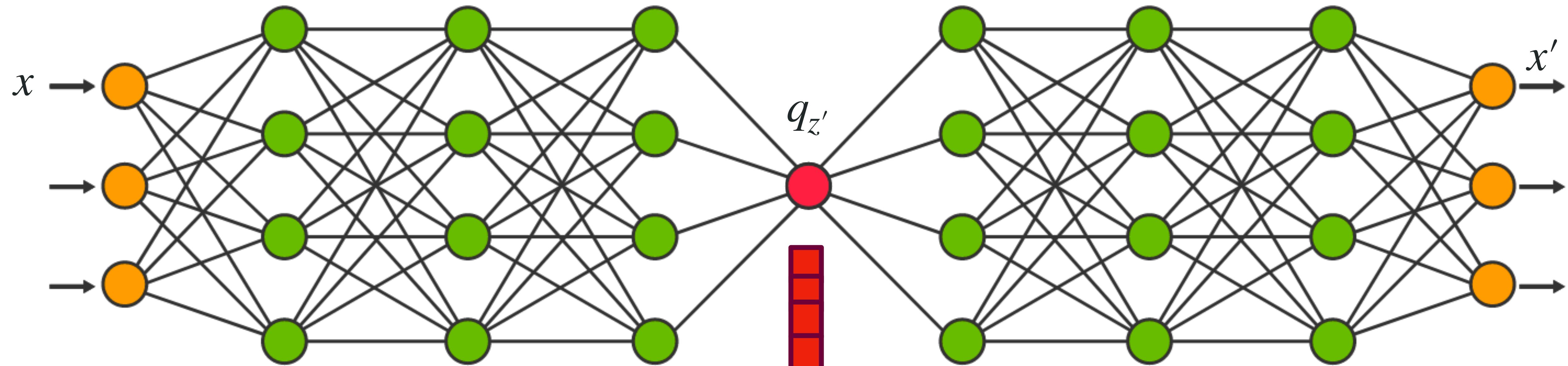


Nicholl+23

1. Some **rare transient classes** correlate with **rare galaxies**:
  - SLSNe-I  
(Perley+16, Ørrum+20, Cleland+23)
  - TDEs  
(French+17, Bortolas+22, Wang+23)
2. **Contextual anomalies** point to distinct formation channels.

# Image Compression via Variational Autoencoders

Weights optimized to minimize distance of decoded values to input values.



The *Encoding* Network

The *Decoding* Network

$$\text{ELBO Loss} = \text{MSE}(x, x') + \text{KL}(q_{z'} || N)$$

Image  
Reconstruction  
Error

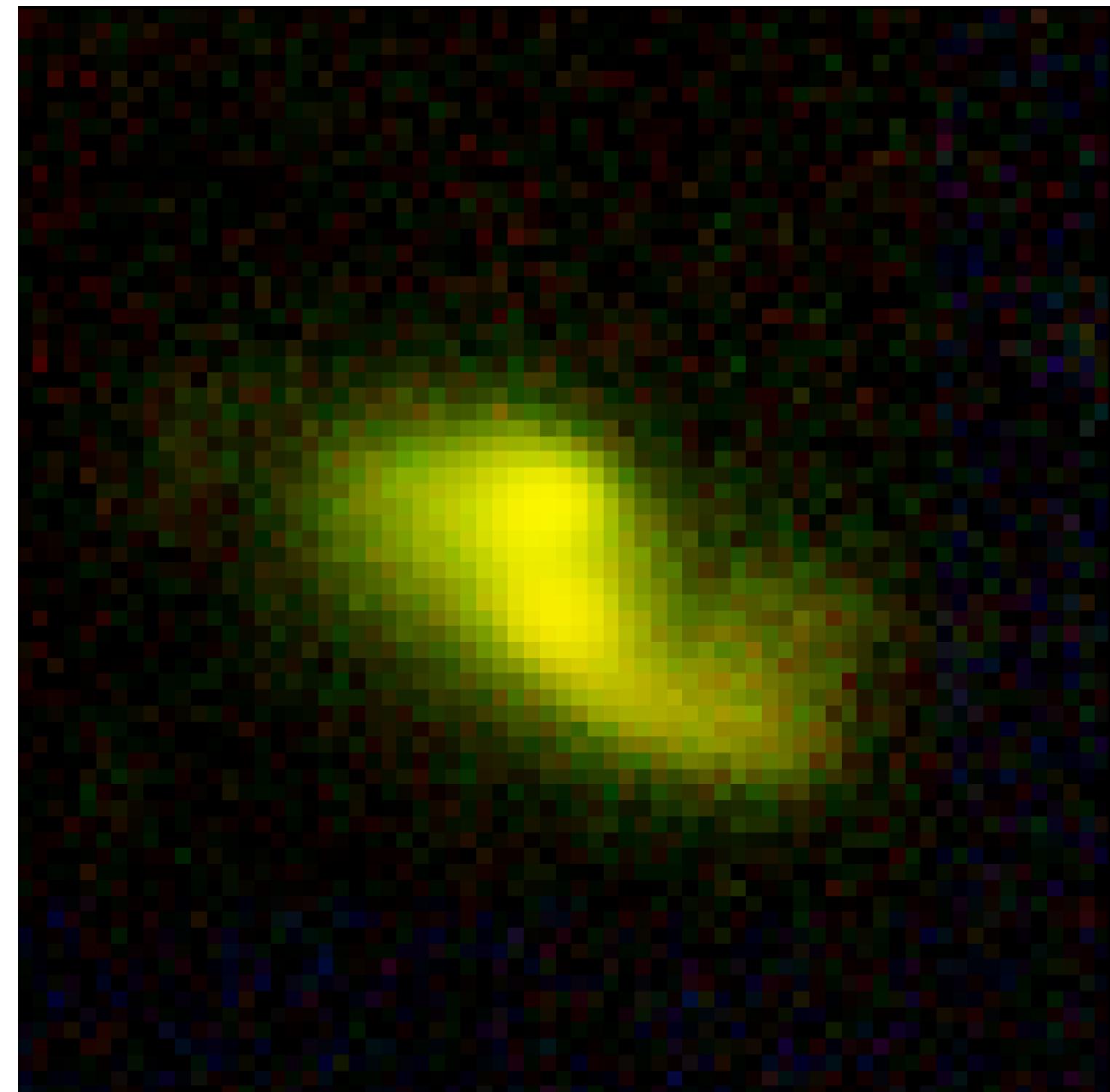
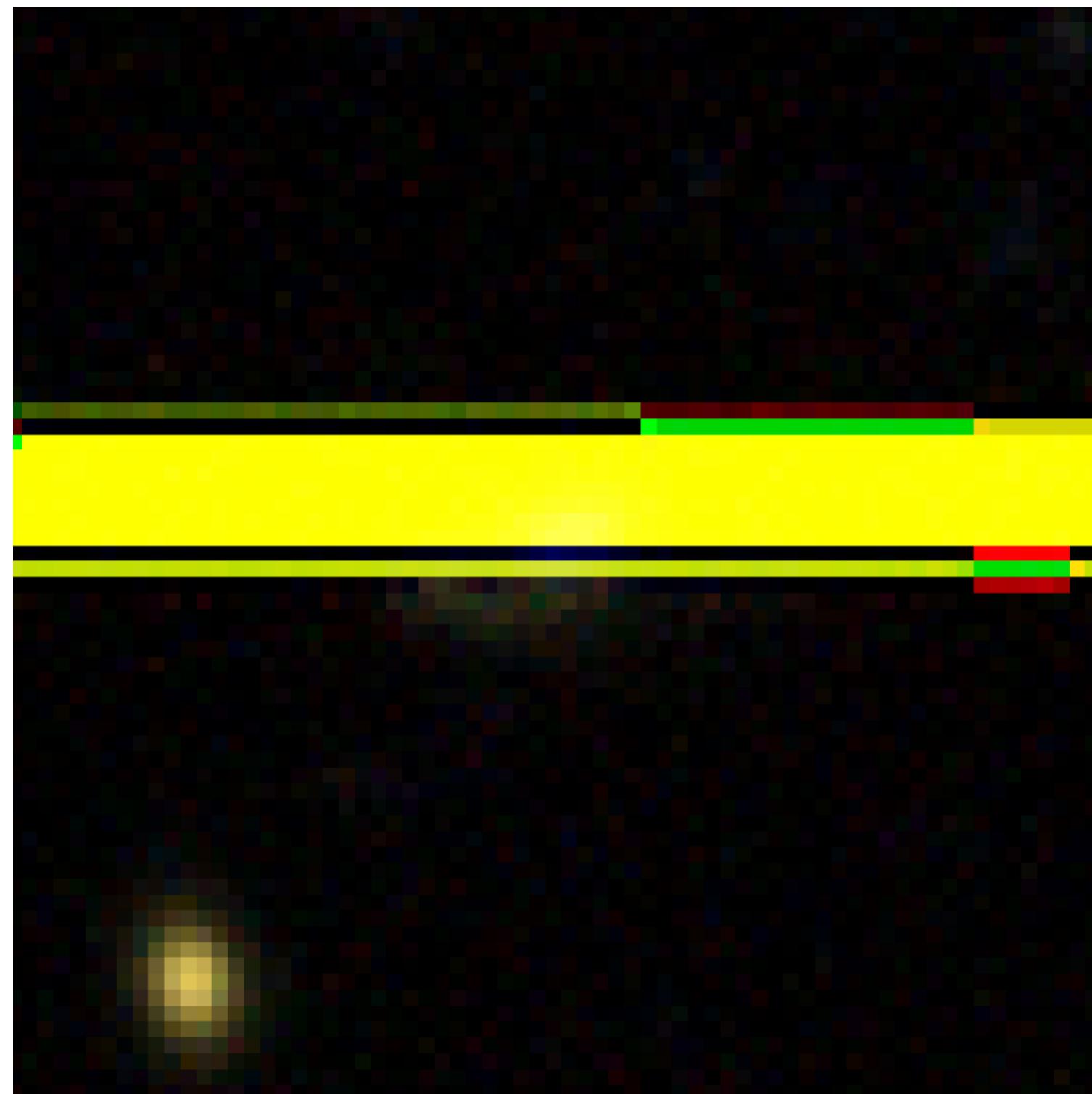
KL-Divergence

# ‘Galaxy’ Anomalies in the VAE Latent Space

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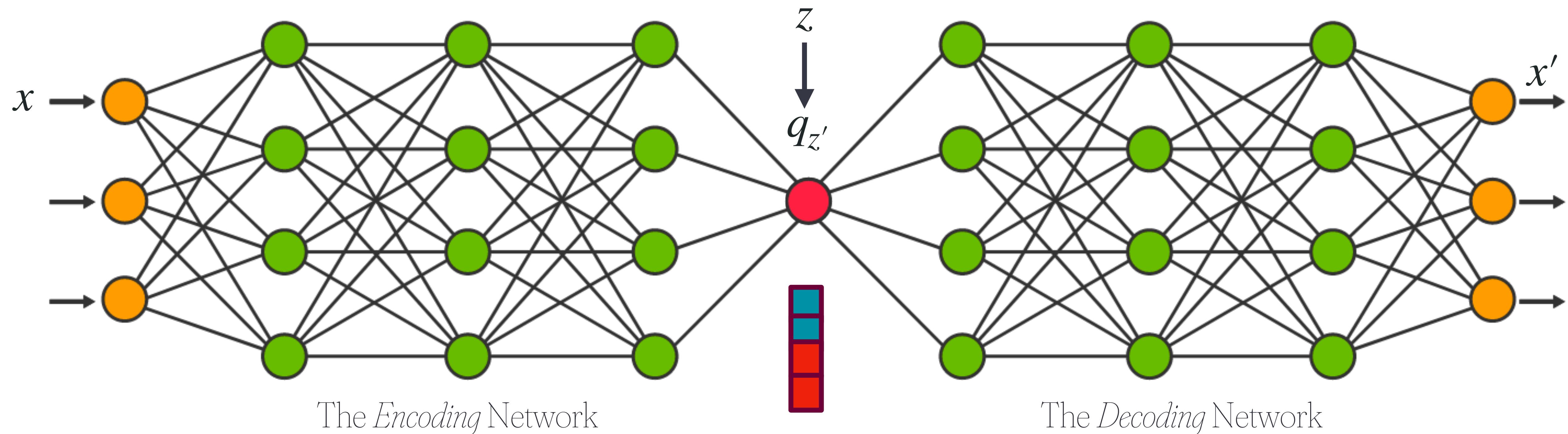
Trained for **grz-band imaging of ~26k galaxies** from the Dark Energy Camera Legacy Survey (DECaLS).

Isolation forest on the latent space returns:



# Image Compression via Variational Autoencoders

Weights optimized to minimize distance of decoded values to input values.

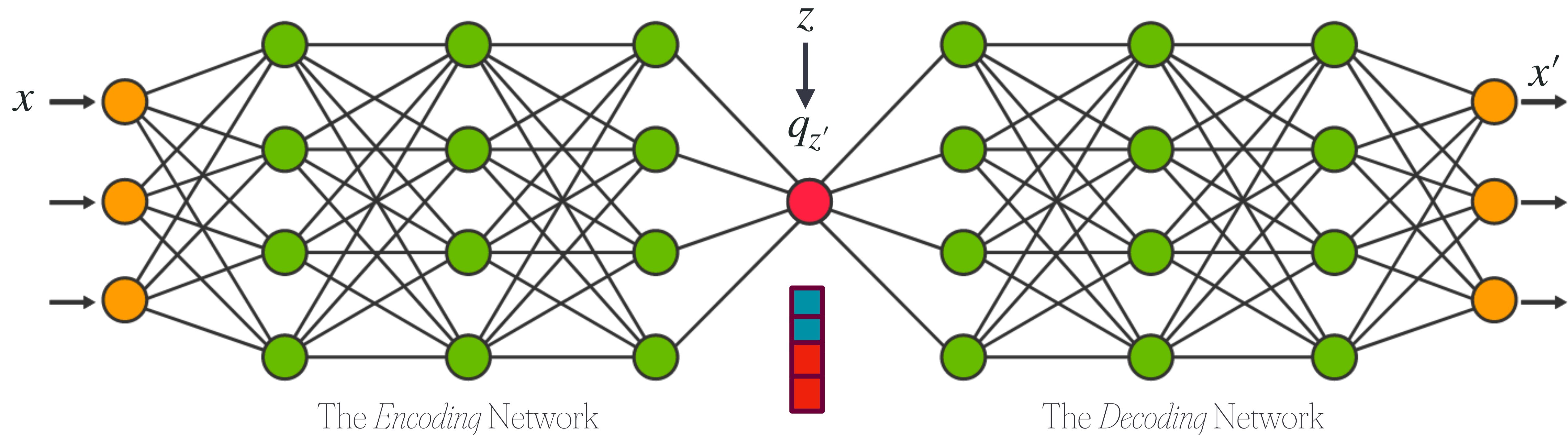


$$\text{ELBO Loss} = \text{MSE}(x, x') + \text{KL}(q_{z'} || N) + \text{MSE}(z, z')$$

Image Reconstruction Error      KL-Divergence      Physical Parameter Reconstruction Error

# Image Compression via Variational Autoencoders

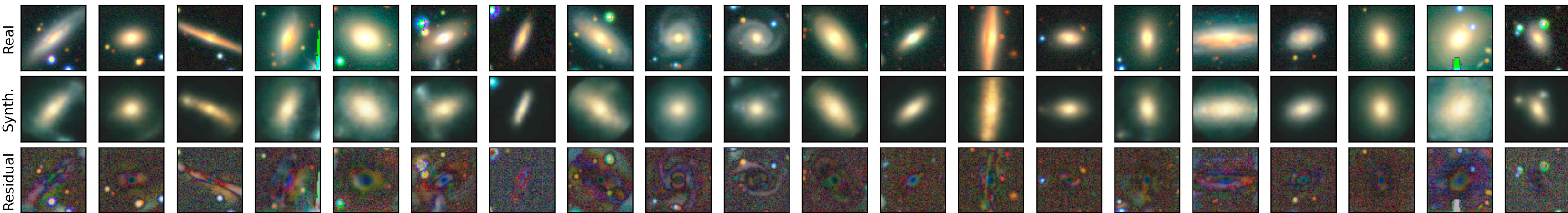
Weights optimized to minimize distance of decoded values to input values.



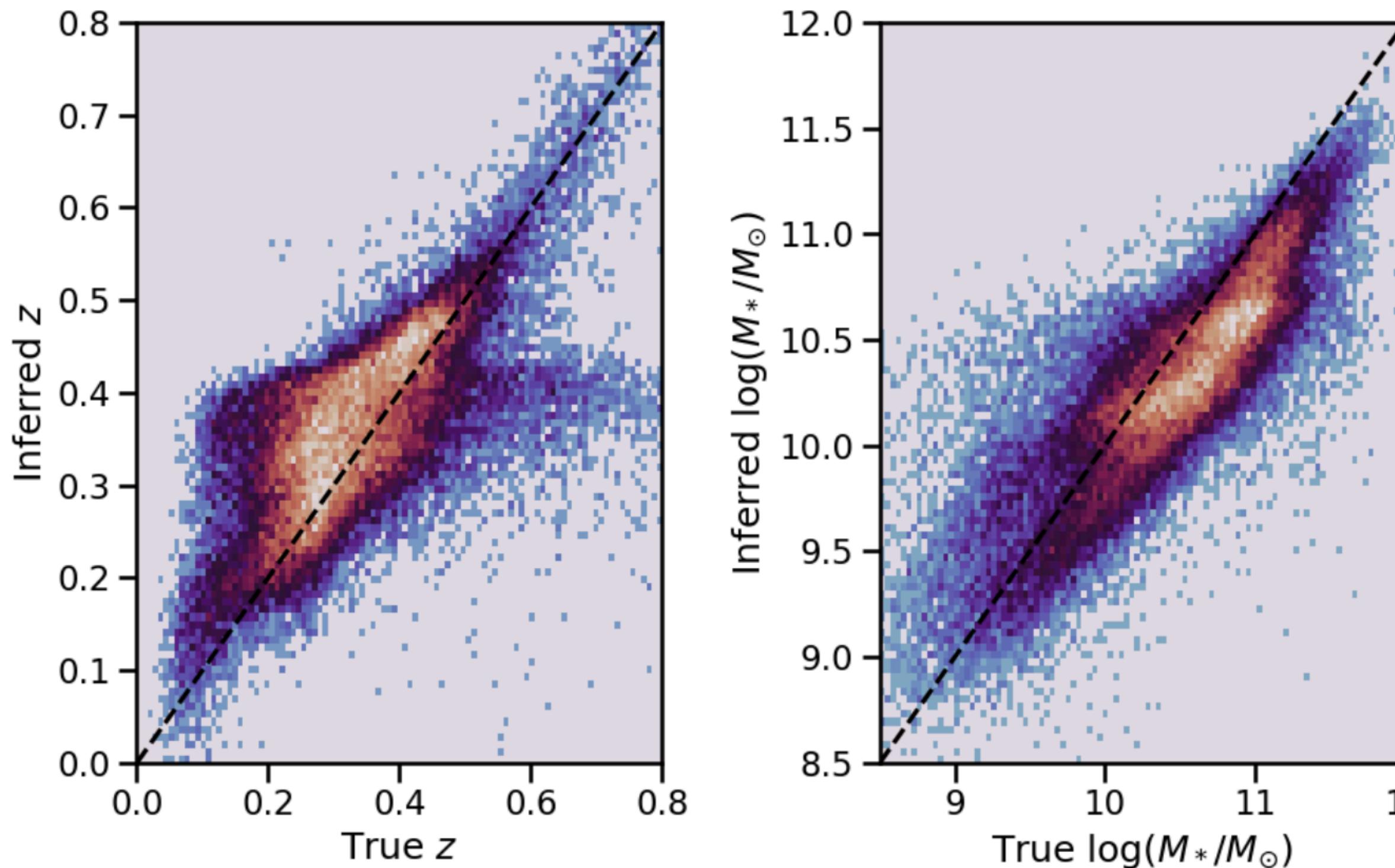
$$\text{ELBO Loss} = \beta_0 \text{MSE}(x, x') + \text{KL}(q_{z'} || N) + \beta_1 \text{MSE}(z, z')$$

**Image Reconstruction Error**      **KL-Divergence**      **Physical Parameter Reconstruction Error**

# Galaxy Reconstructions: Images and Parameters



(Gagliano & Villar+24, in prep)



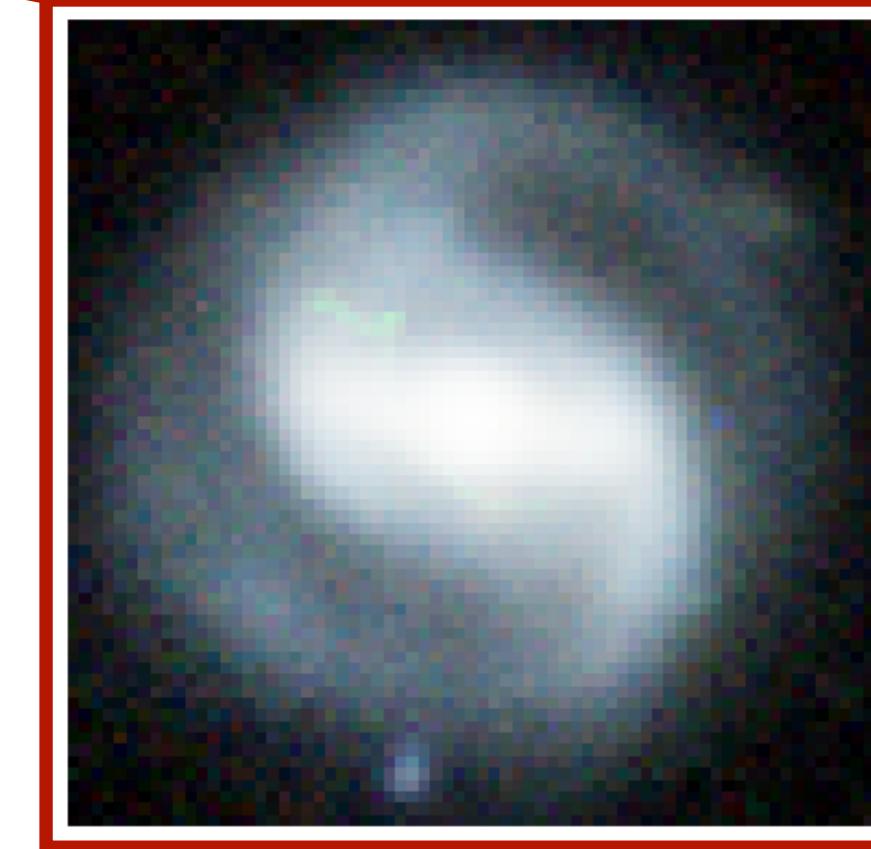
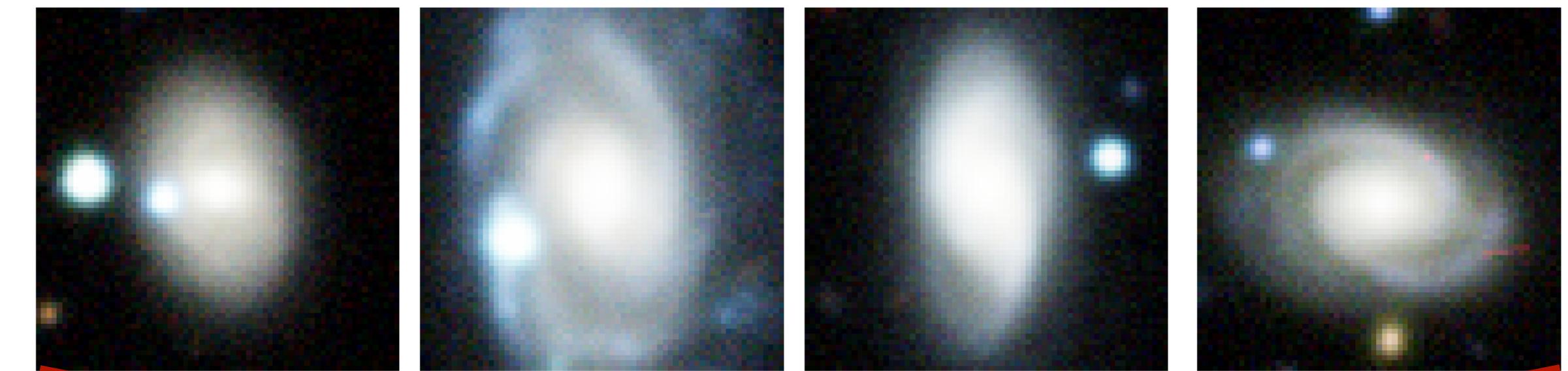
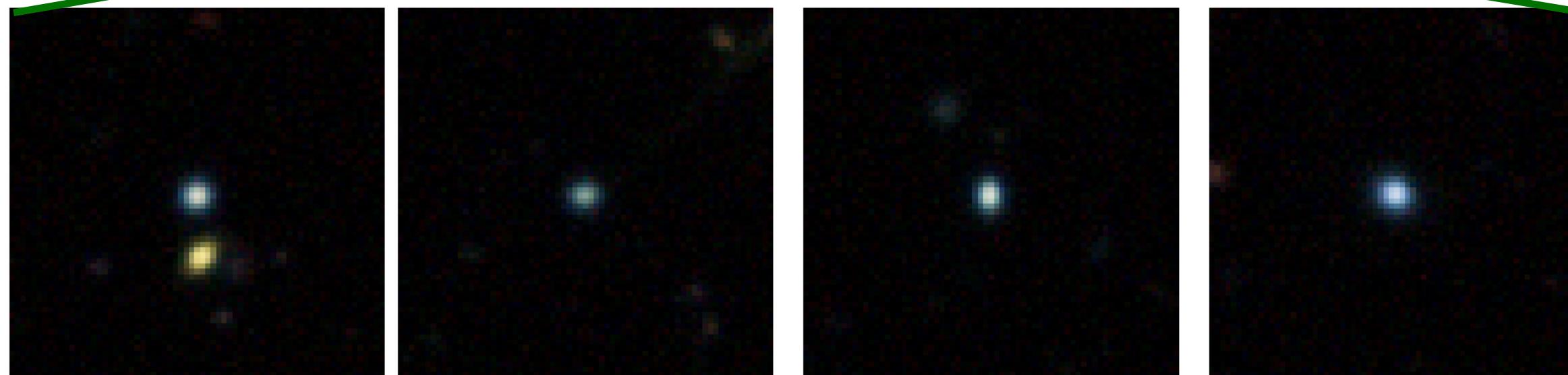
Scaled to **2M DECaLS galaxies**, with SED-derived  $z$  and stellar mass from Zou+19.

Trained for 200 epochs on 4 Cannon A100 GPUs.

Method	Redshift $R^2$	Stellar Mass $R^2$
( $r, g, z$ ) Photometry + MLP [11]	0.69	0.65
Image Embedding + MLP [16]	0.39	0.45
Image Embedding + MLP [11]	0.63	0.57
Image Embedding + kNN [11]	0.71	0.66
<b>Image Embedding (ours)</b>	<b>0.83</b>	<b>0.75</b>

# Recovering Galaxy Anomalies in the Latent Space

**Green Peas:** Galaxies with anomalously high specific star-formation rates  
*(Rhoads+2023).*



**Red Spirals:** Galaxies with anomalously low ongoing star-formation  
*(Masters+2010).*

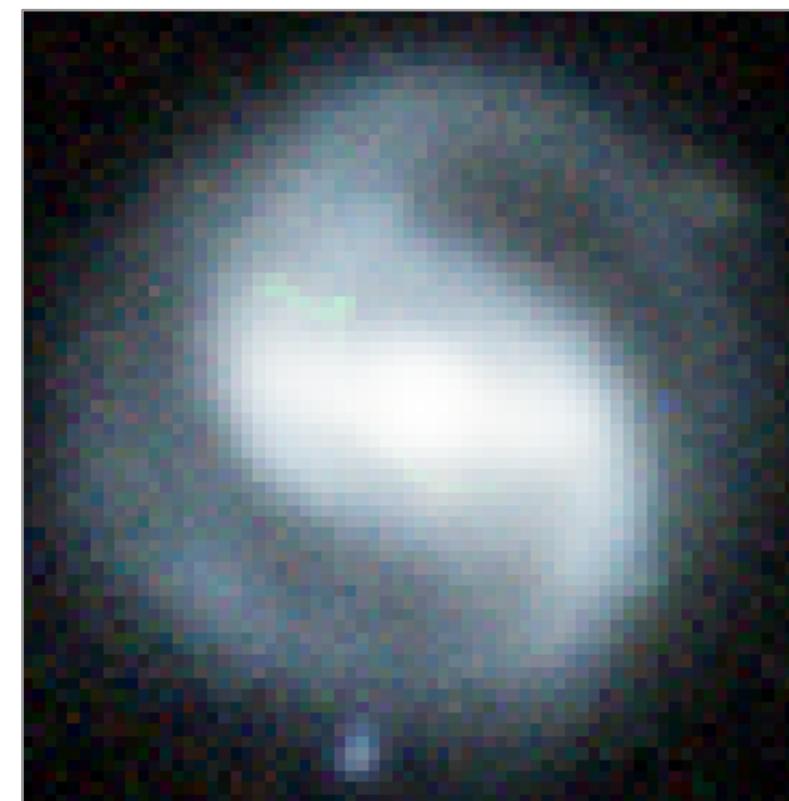
*(Gagliano & Villar+23 NeurIPS)*

Soon-to-be applied to the SN problem - stay tuned!

# Combining SN and Host-Galaxy Properties

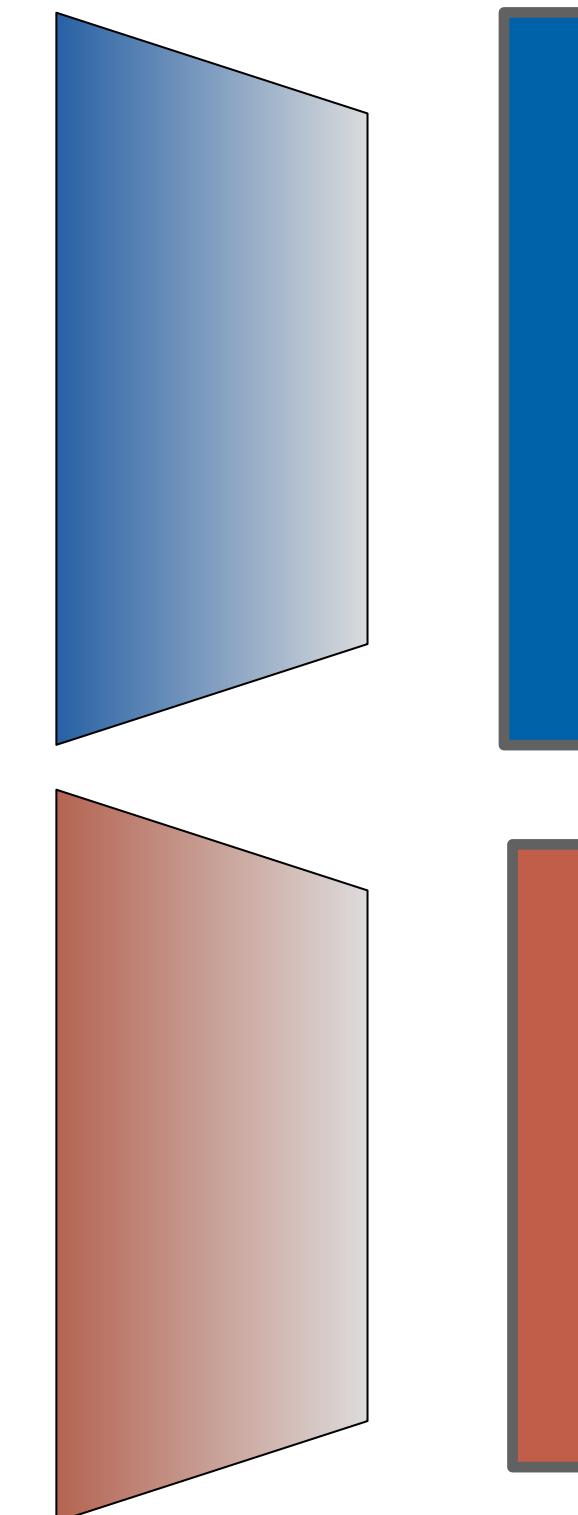
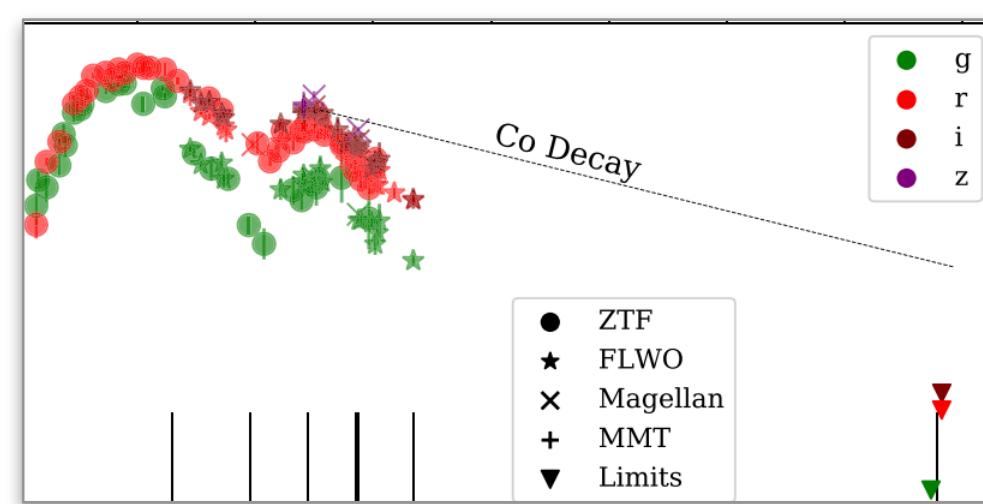
Multi-band imaging of supernova location

$\mathcal{X}$



Supernova photometry

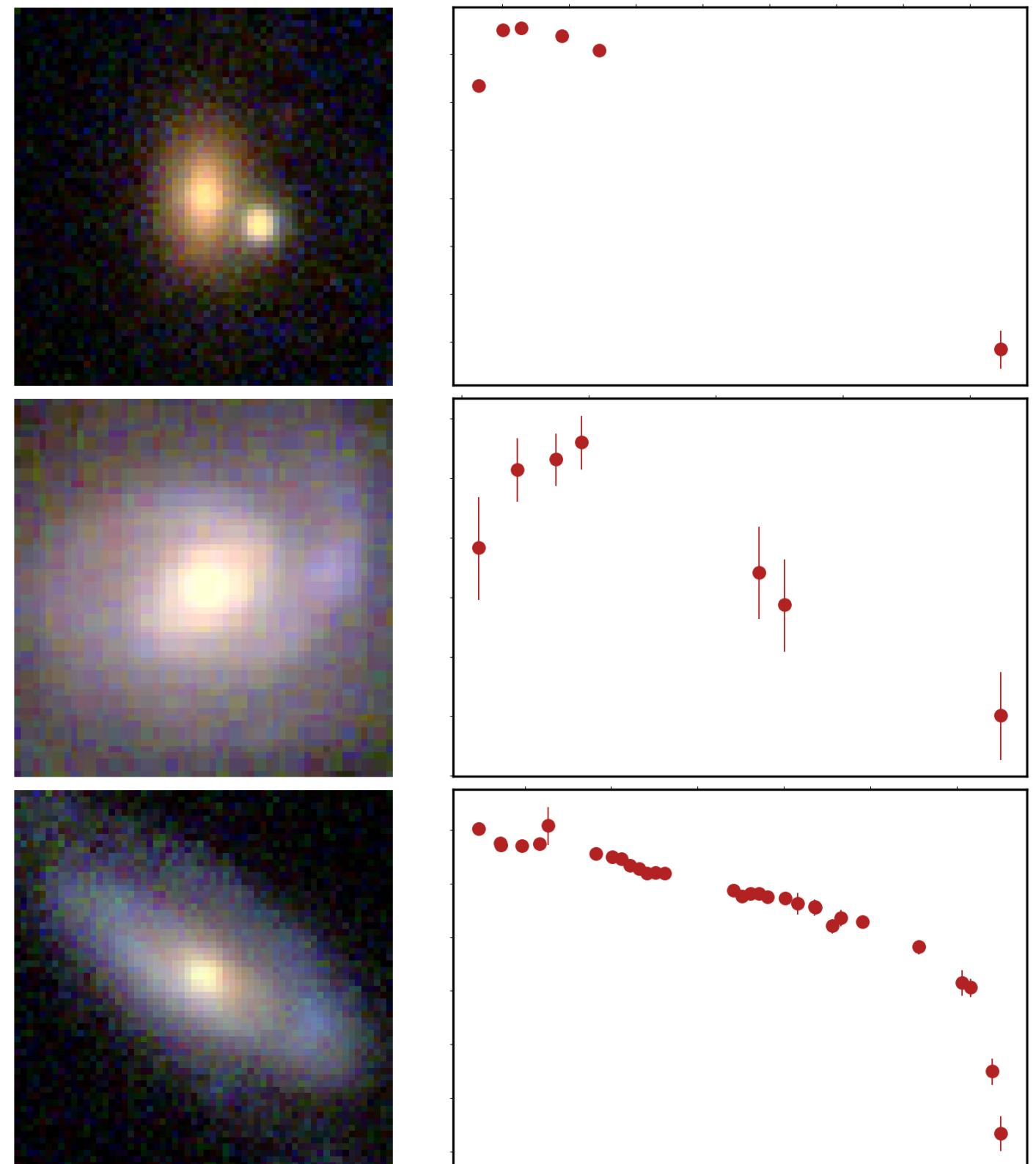
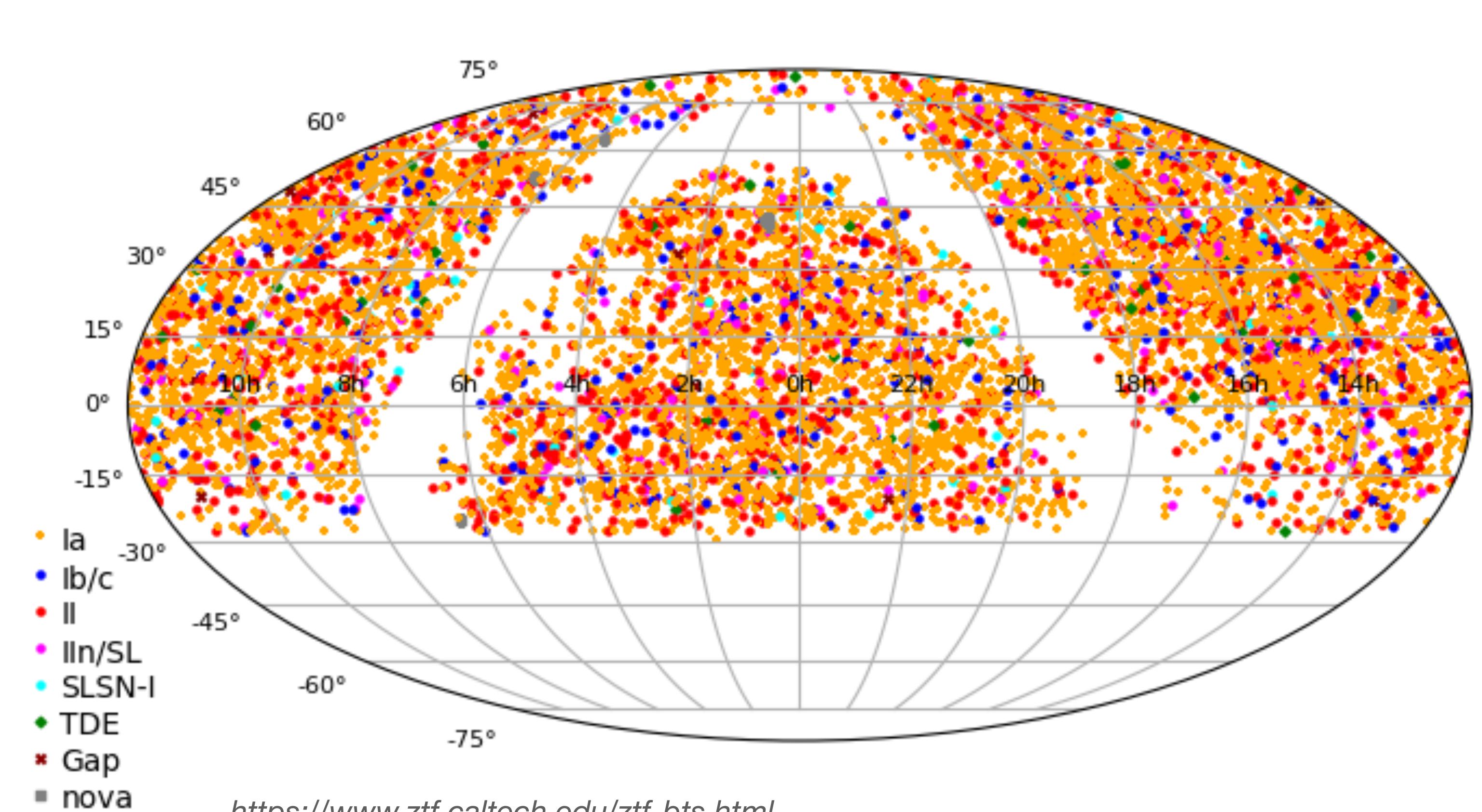
$y$



Contrastive loss allows for **embedding** and **aligning** multiple modalities, e.g.,

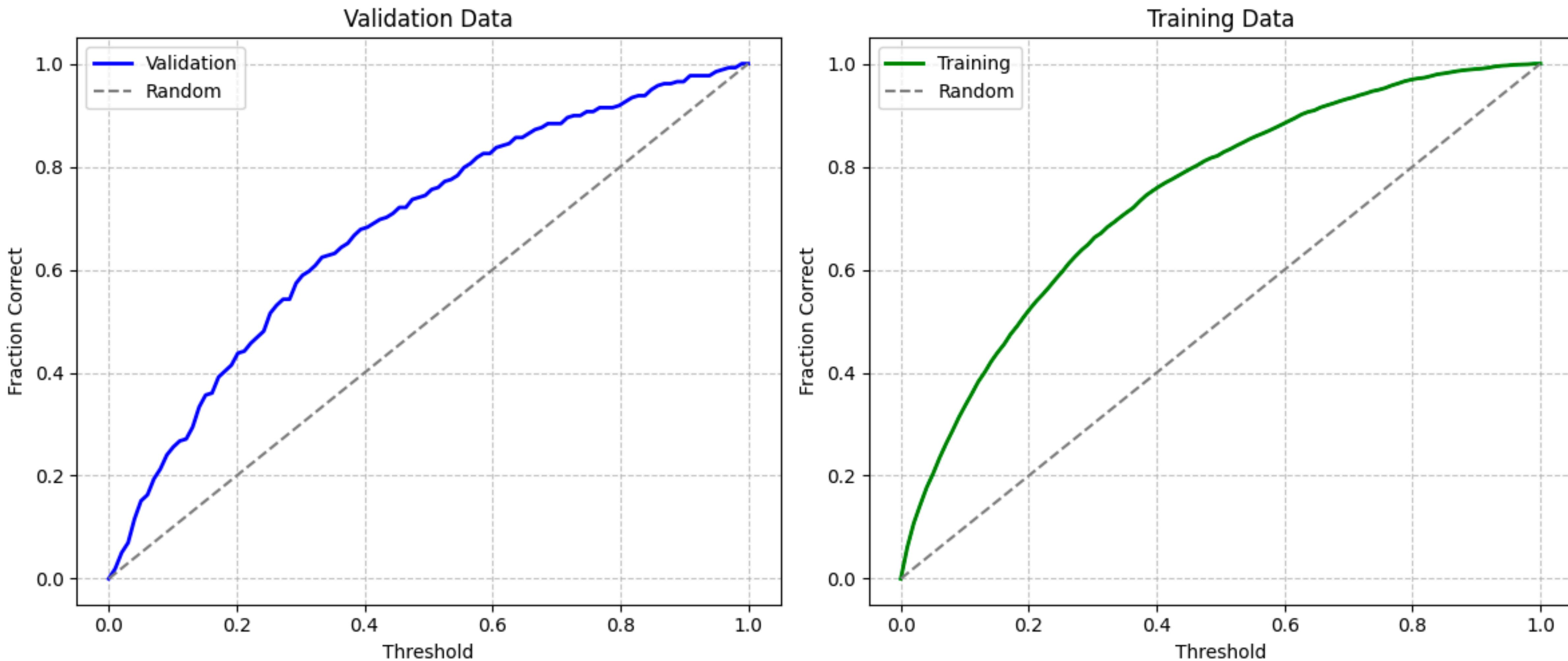
$$\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{|B|} \sum_{i=1}^{|B|} \sum_{j=1}^{|B|} \log \frac{1}{1 + e^{z_{ij}(-tx_i \cdot y_j + b)}}$$

# The Dataset: ZTF Bright Transient Sample



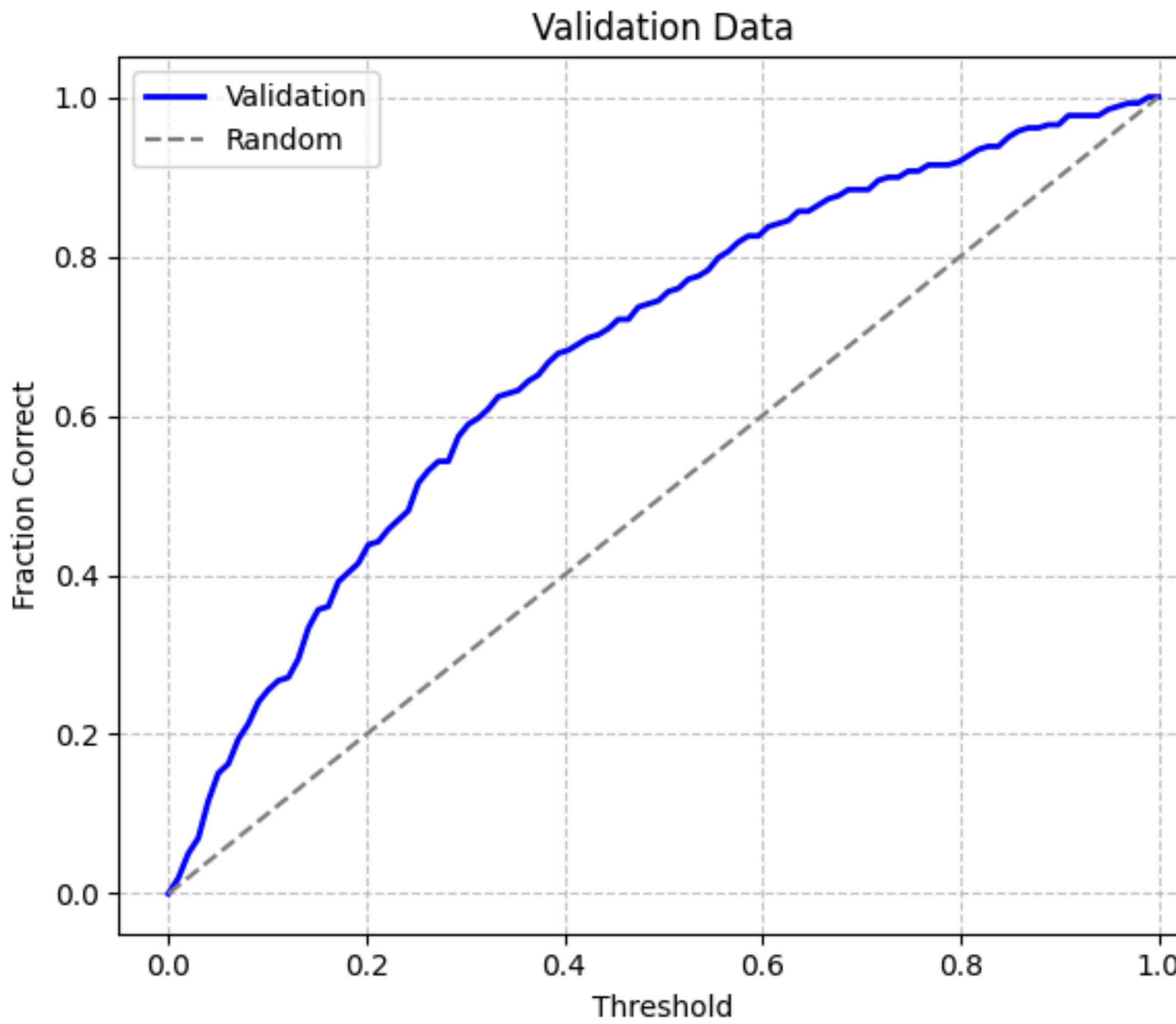
Scanned the Northern sky every ~2 nights in  $g,r$  since 2018.  
**>5,000 spectroscopic SNe with consistently-calibrated photometry & spectra!**

# Galaxy Image and SN Light Curves: Training!



Gemma Zhang, Thomas Helper, Siddharth Mishra-Sharma, Alex Gagliano

# Galaxy Image and SN Light Curves: Training!



*Gemma Zhang, Thomas Helper, Siddharth Mishra-Sharma, Alex Gagliano*

# Downstream Tasks

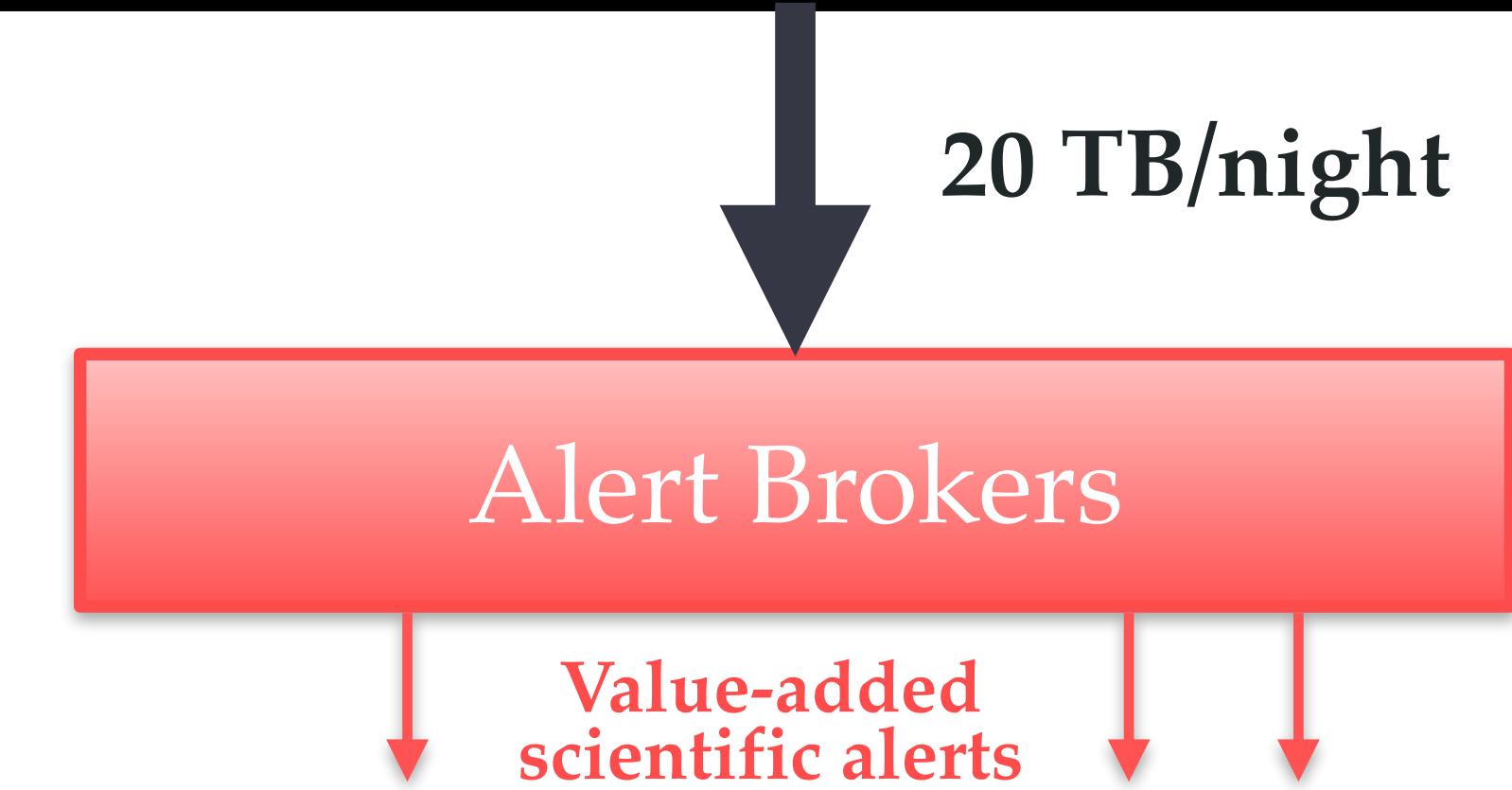
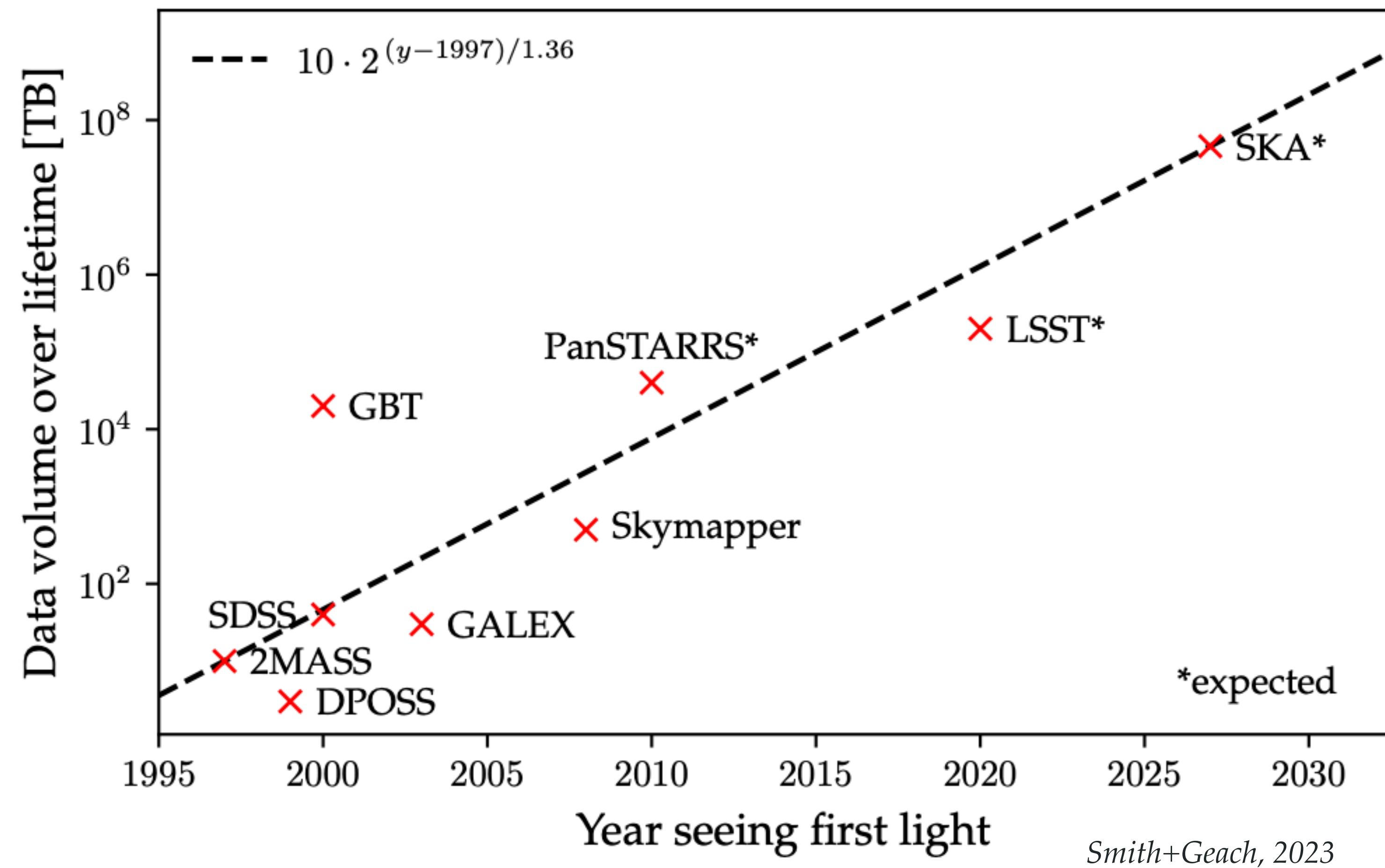
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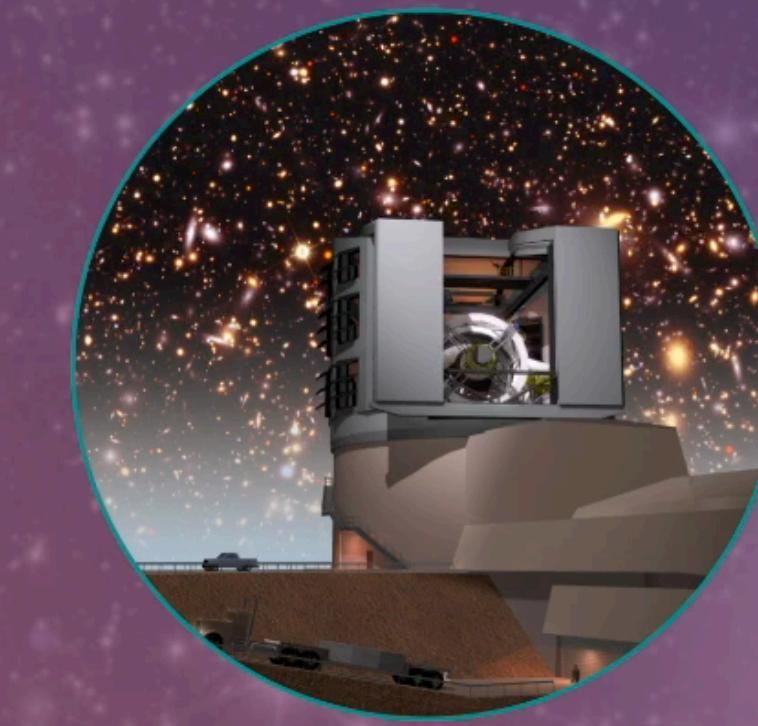
Neighbor retrieval/identification of long-duration CSM interactions

Improved photometric redshifts/classifications

Cross-survey generalization/inference

# Forecasting the Vera C. Rubin Observatory





# Time-Domain Needles in Rubin's Haystack

Harvard Center for Astrophysics, Cambridge, MA | April 17-19, 2024

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About

Registration

Program

Getting Around

<https://rubin-anomalies-workshop.github.io/>

# Conclusions

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Circumstellar interaction offers a tracer of late-stage stellar evolution that is **anomalous** among SNe and **robust** to drops in observing cadence.

Finding these events (using ML) will inform where we hunt for **precursor emission**, to stitch together the final years of a massive star's life.

**10-year light curves of 10M supernovae** with the Rubin Observatory (2025-2035) will revolutionize these studies.

*[gaglian2@mit.edu](mailto:gaglian2@mit.edu)*

