

Unsupervised classification of galaxy spectra up to $z \sim 1.2$

Towards galaxy spectral evolution ?

Jihane Moulaka

(IRAP, Observatoire Midi-Pyrénées, Toulouse, France)

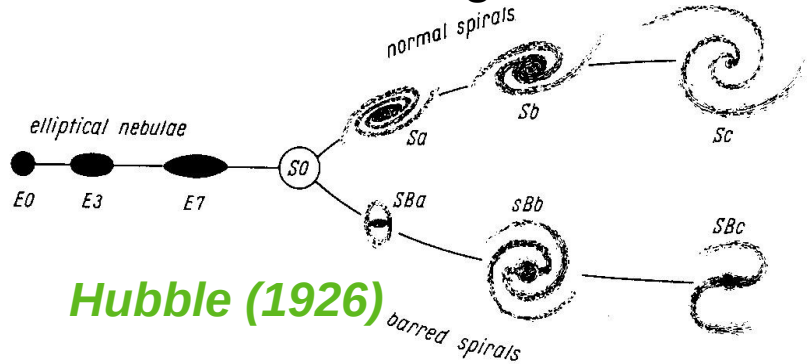
Didier Fraix-Burnet (IPAG, Grenoble, France)

Julien Dubois (PhD student)

Cécilia Beissière-Thygesen (Master student)

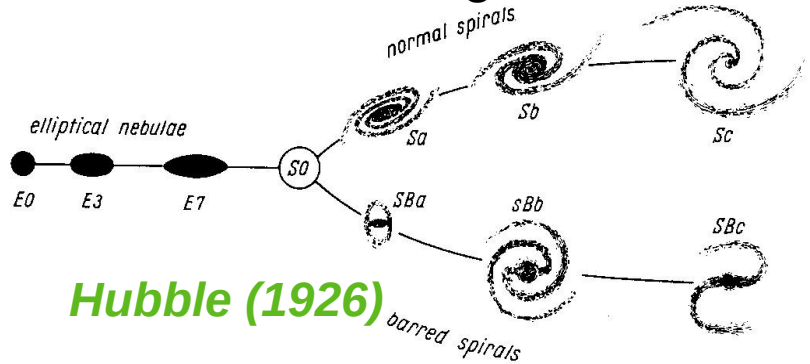
Classification of galaxies

The Hubble tuning fork

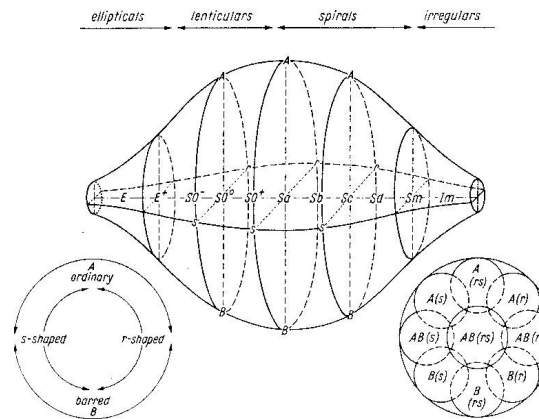


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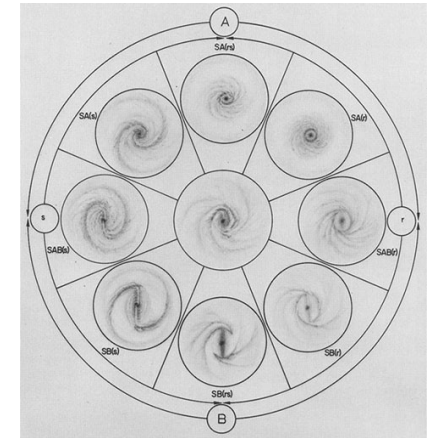
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Hubble (1926)

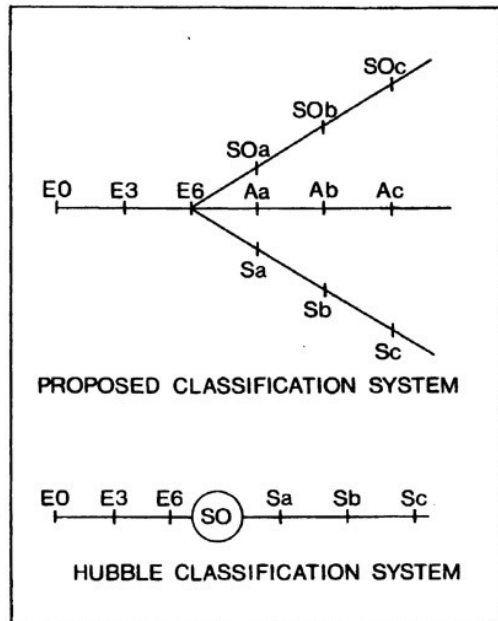


De Vaucouleurs (1959)



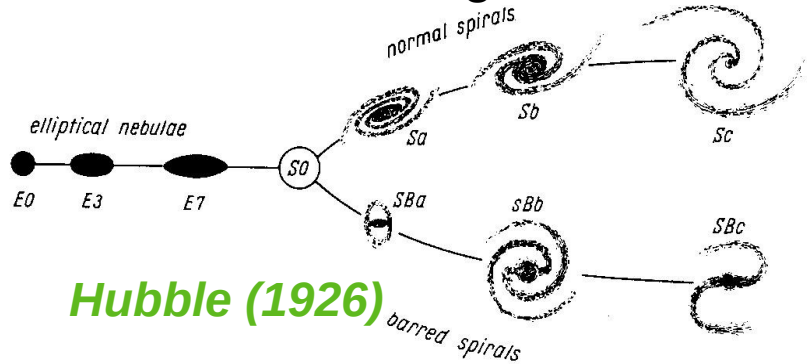
G. and A. De Vaucouleurs (1963)

Van den Bergh (1976)
"trifork" diagram

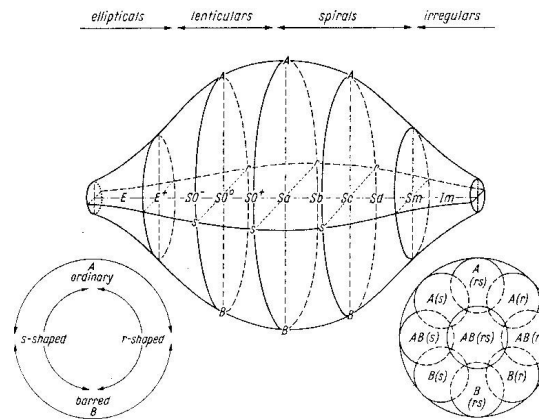


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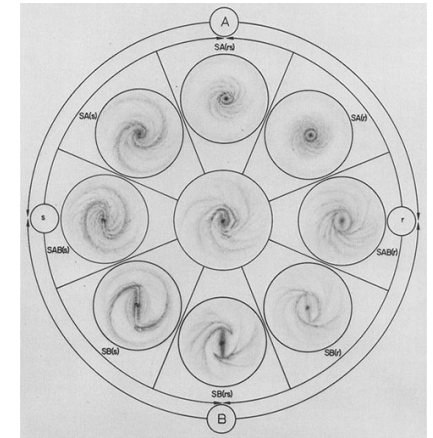
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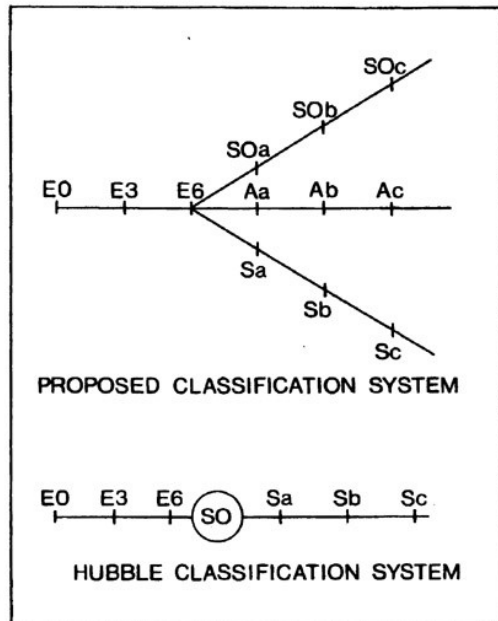


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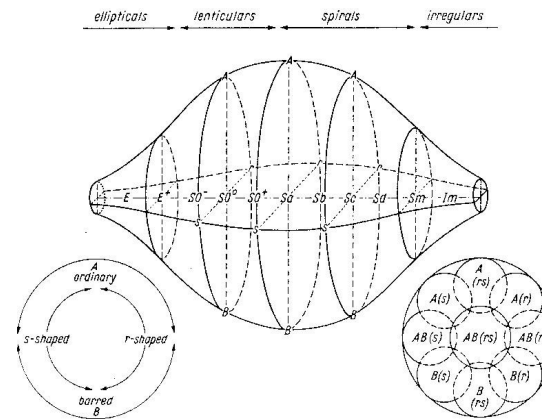
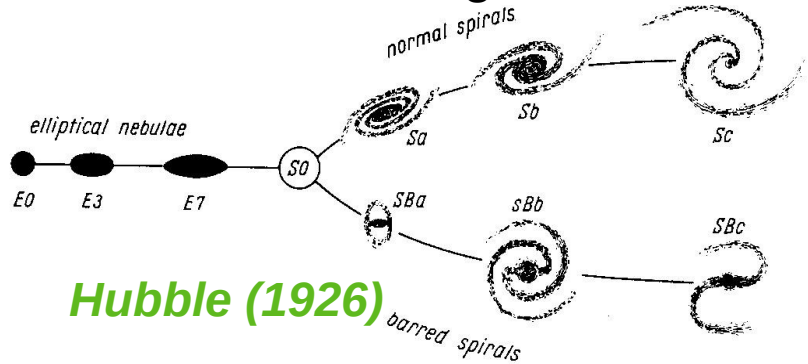
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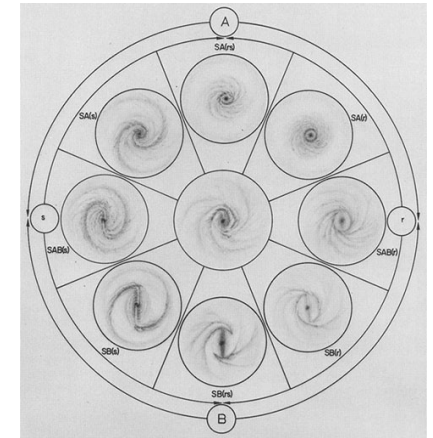
Morphologies

Classification of galaxies

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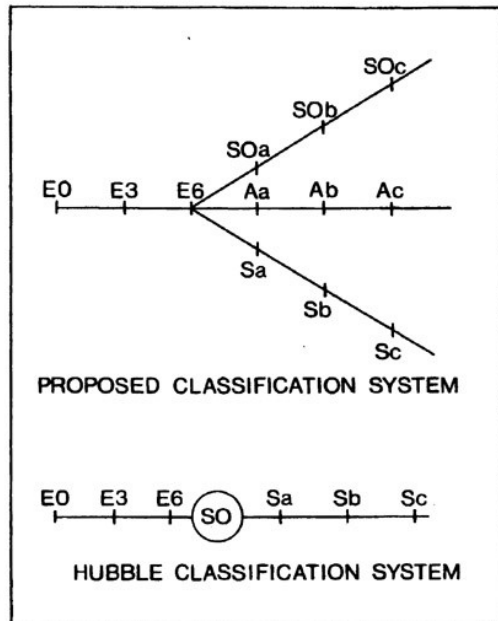


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... Automated classification with Machine Learning and Deep Learning

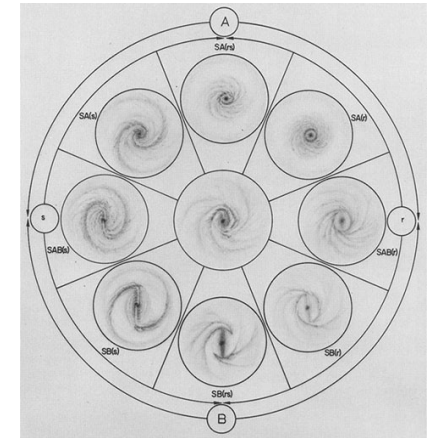
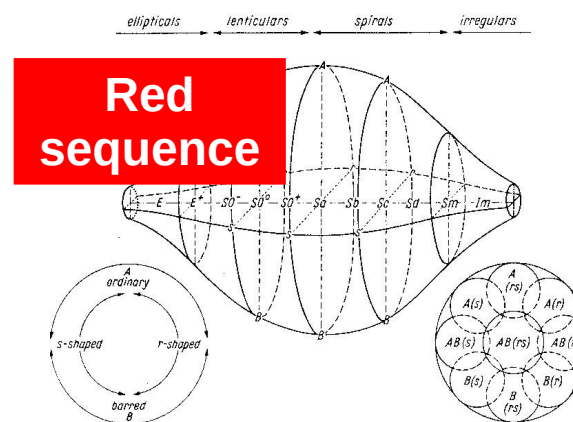
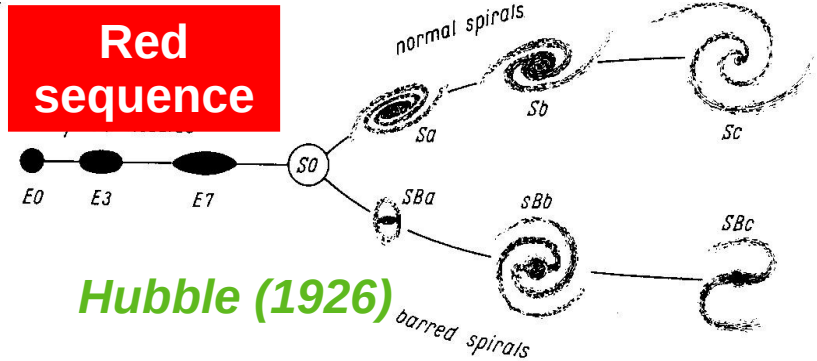
e.g : **Fraix-Burnet (2023)** , **Zhang et al (2022)**,
Cavanagh et al. (2021), **Cheng et al. (2020)**,
Khramtsov et al. (2019) ...



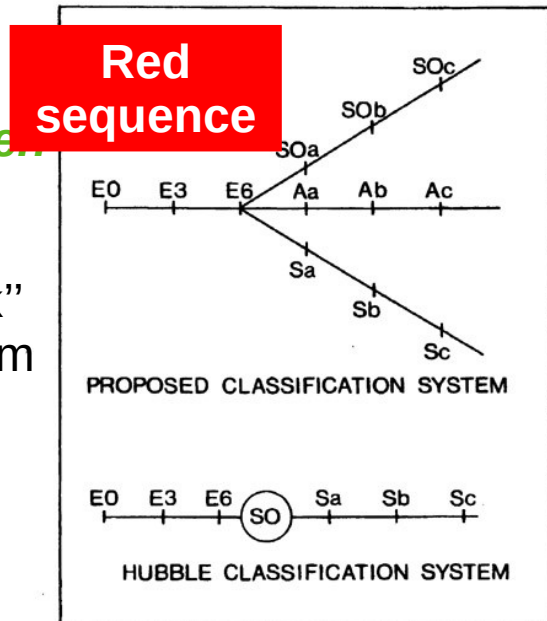
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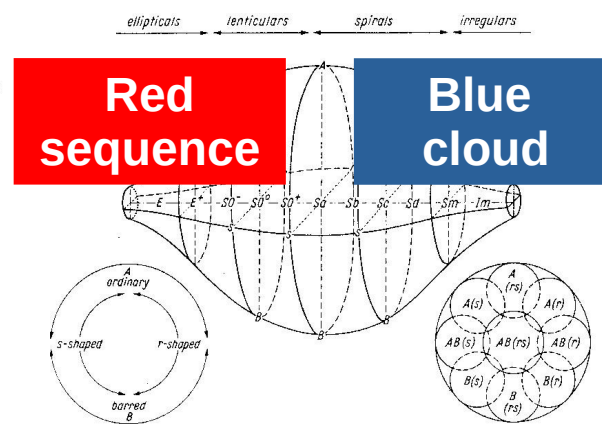
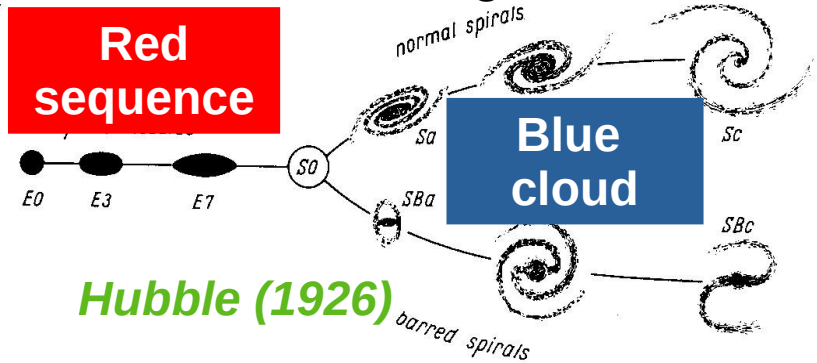
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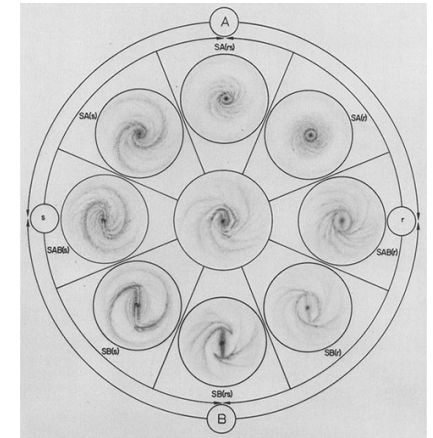
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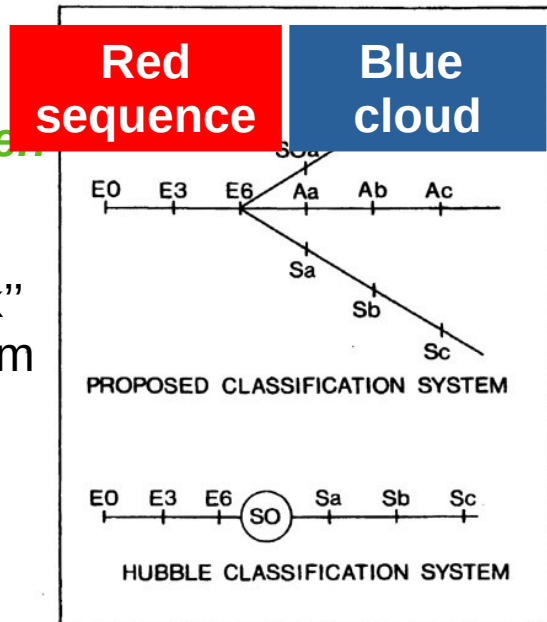


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... Automated classification with Machine Learning and Deep Learning

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Morphologies

2

15 October 2025

What about spectral classification ?

Visual inspection

Morgan & Mayall (1957), Veron (1976), Kennicutt (1992), Dobos et al. (2012), Wang et al. (2017) ...

Automatic inspection (Machine Learning)

Sanchez Almeida et al. (2010) : 700 000 (SDSS DR7) using K-means method

De et al. (2016) : Canopy clustering algorithm

... This talk



Not much has been done

Our goal

Make a classification of spectra of galaxies at different redshifts to :

- Improve galaxy classification across cosmic times by **constraining their physics**
- Find **unknown classes** of galaxy spectra → Refine the bimodal distribution of galaxies

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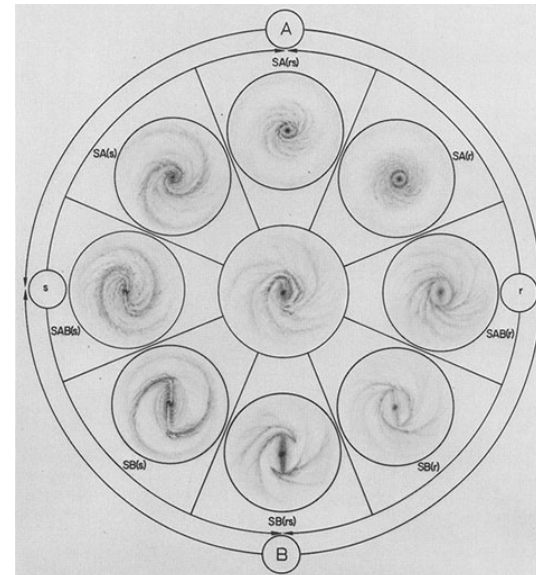
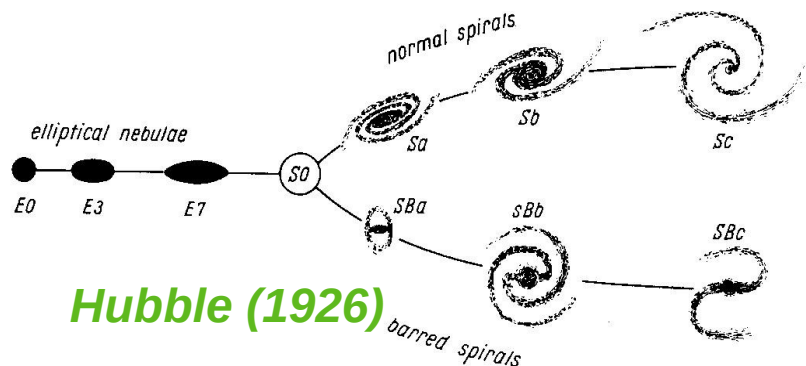
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Just like ...



G. & A. De
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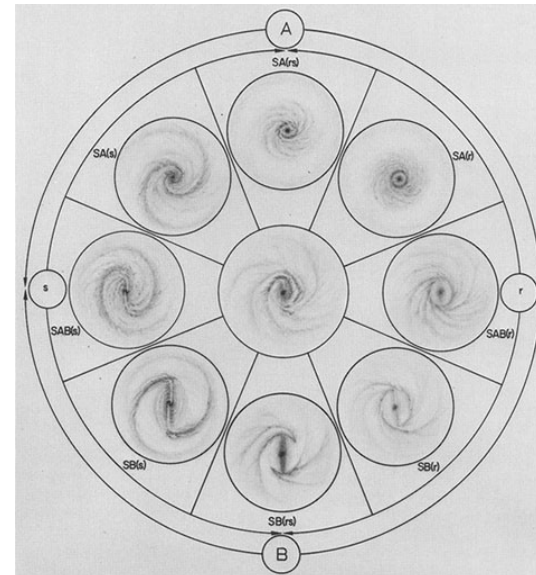
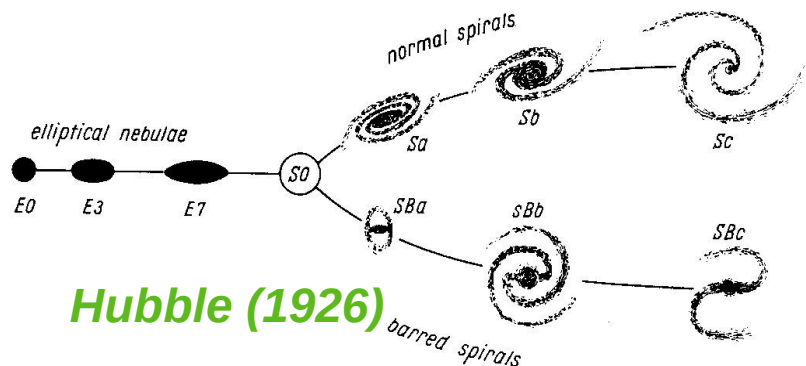
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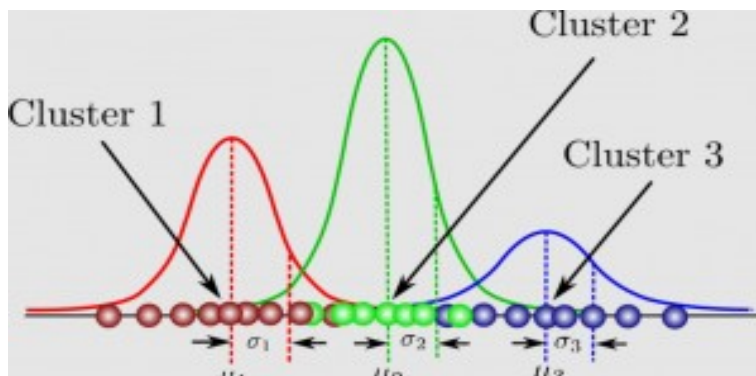
Just like ...



→ Derive **templates** of galaxy **spectra** that may be used as training templates for supervised approaches of ML ...

Fisher-EM algorithm

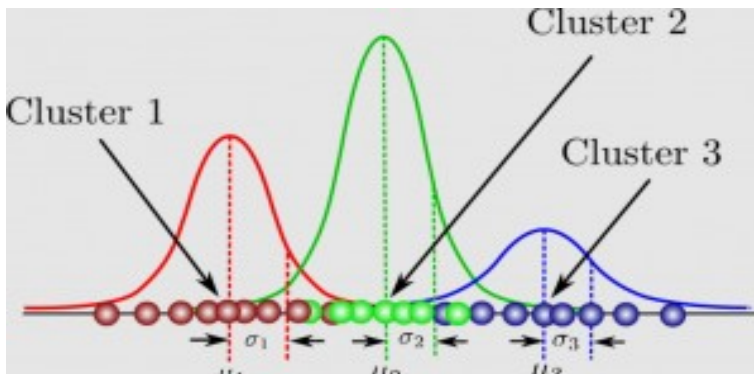
Bouveyron, C., & Brunet, C. 2012a, Stat. Comput., 22, 301



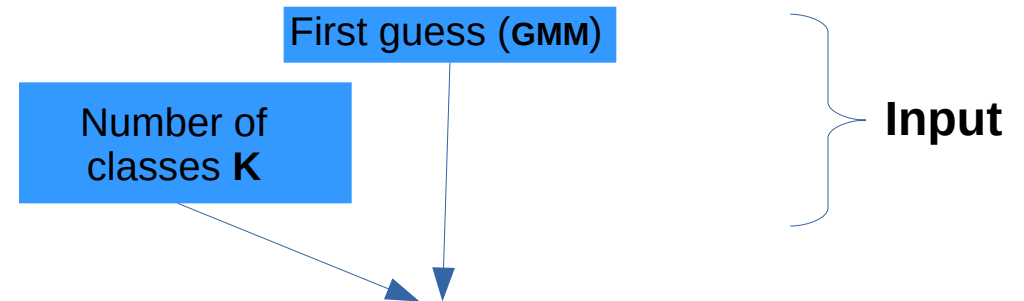
Gaussian Mixture Model (GMM)

Fisher-EM algorithm

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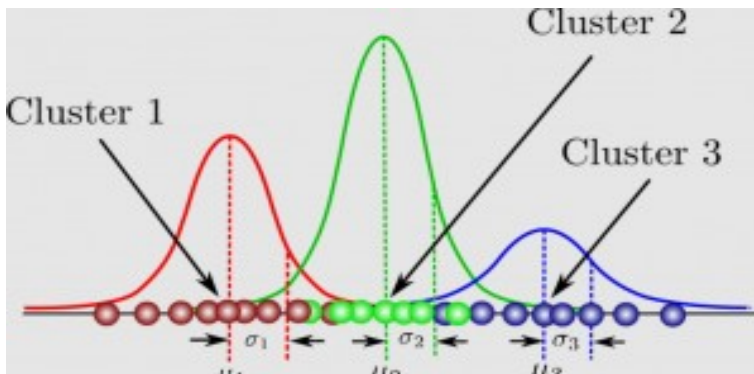


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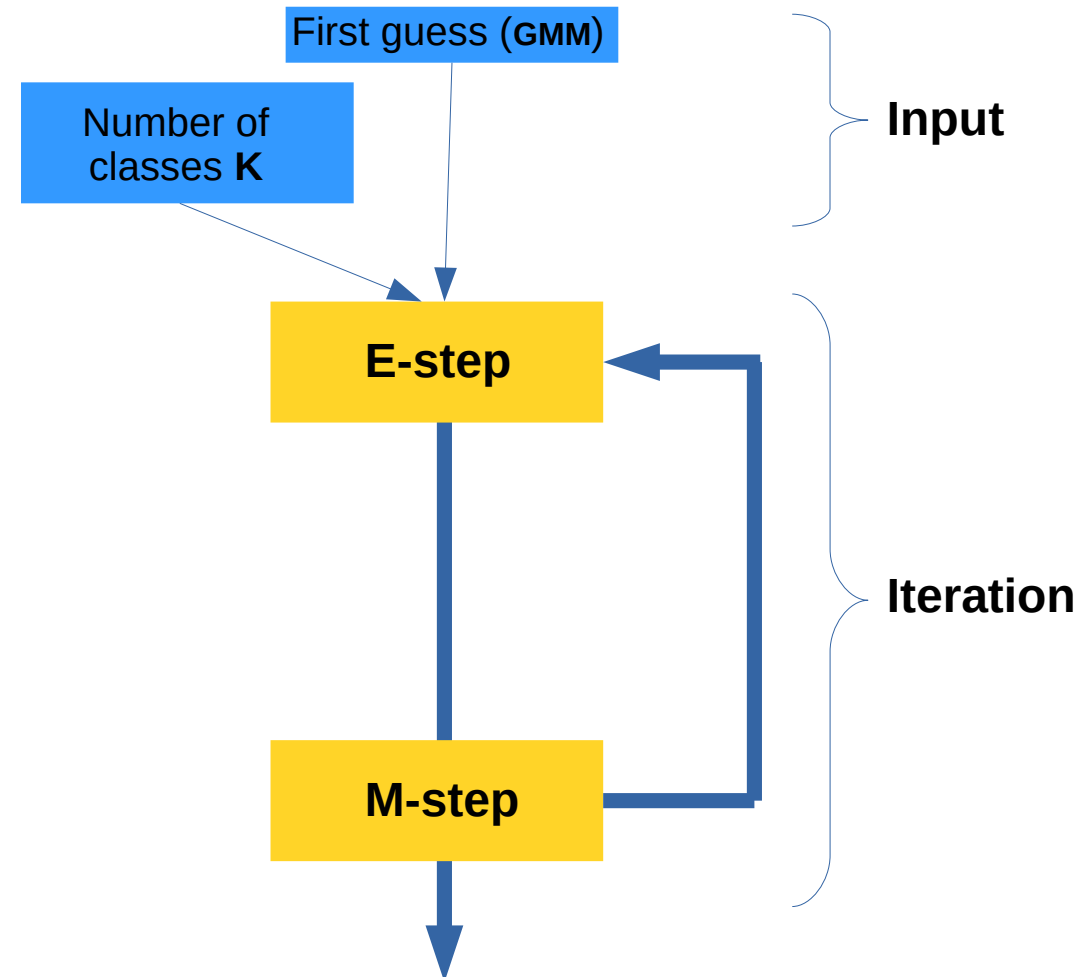


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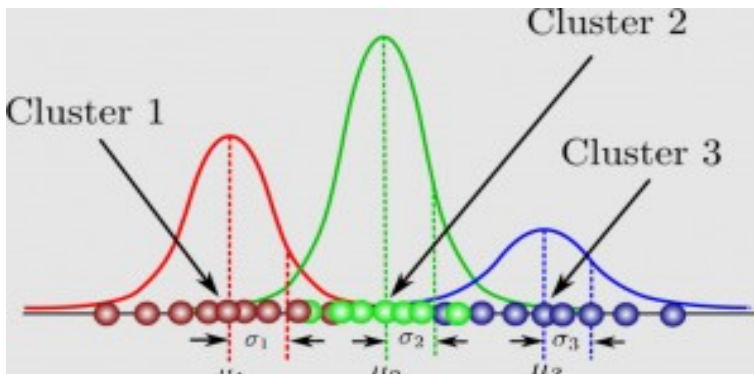


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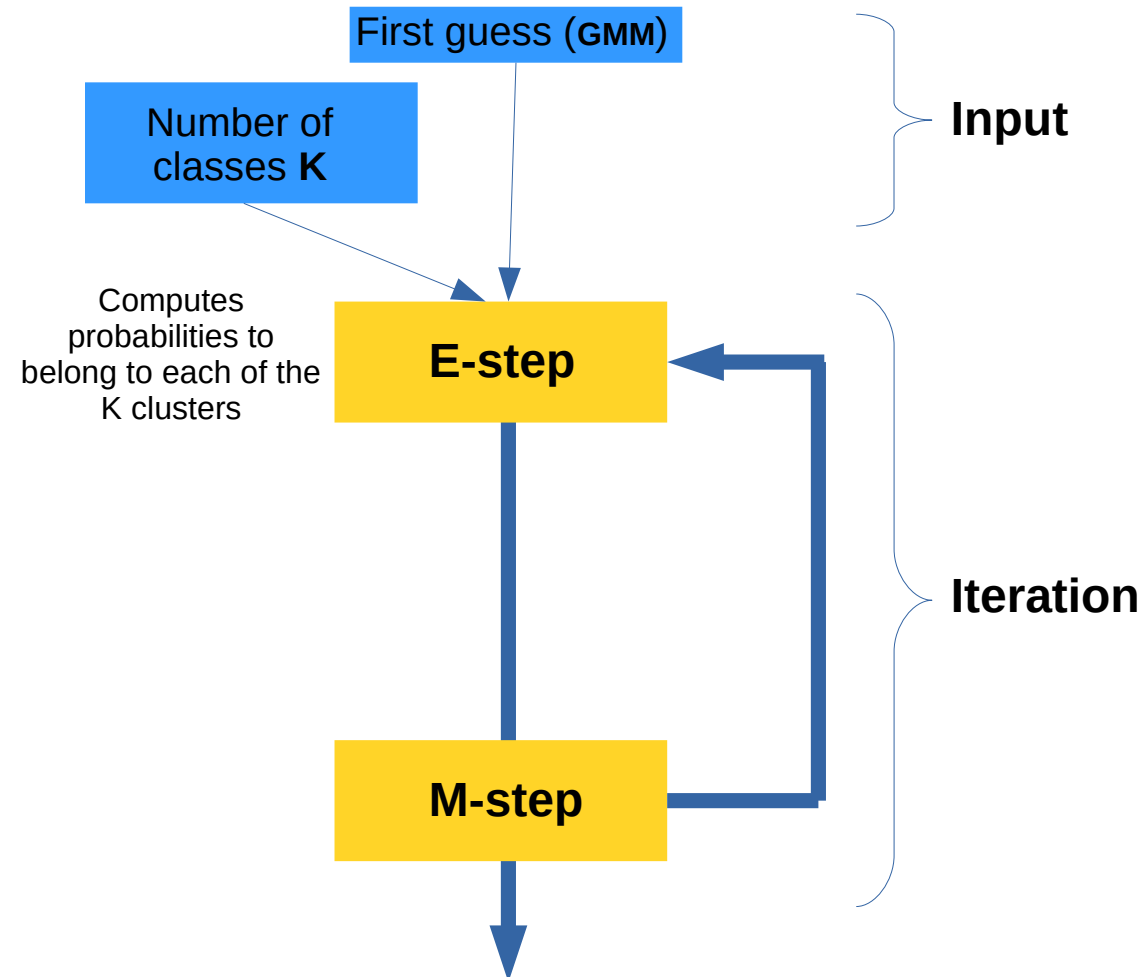


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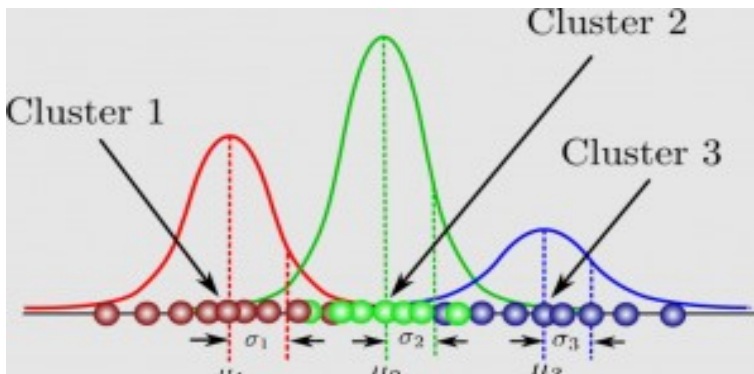


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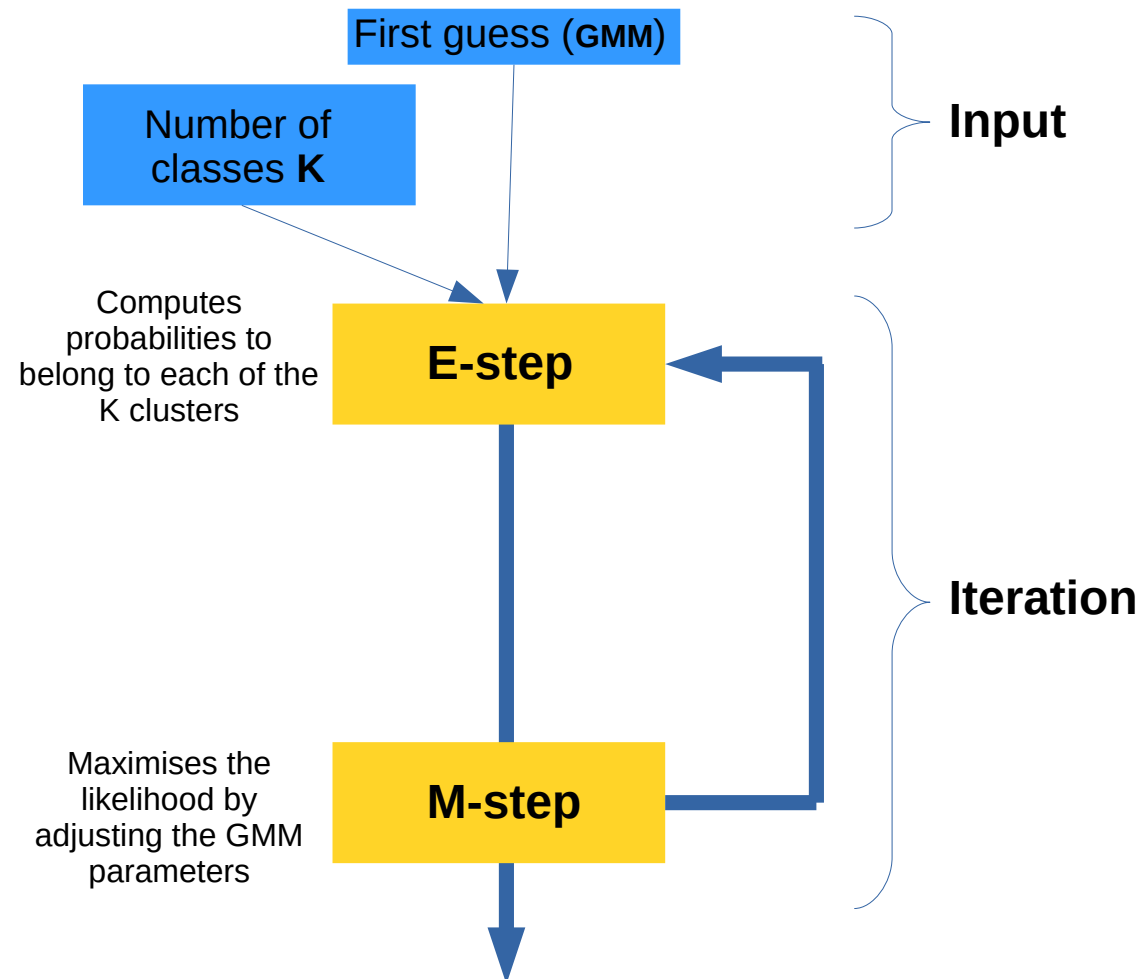


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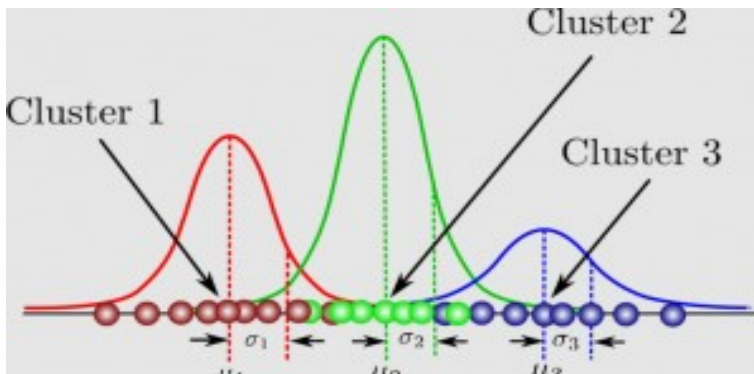


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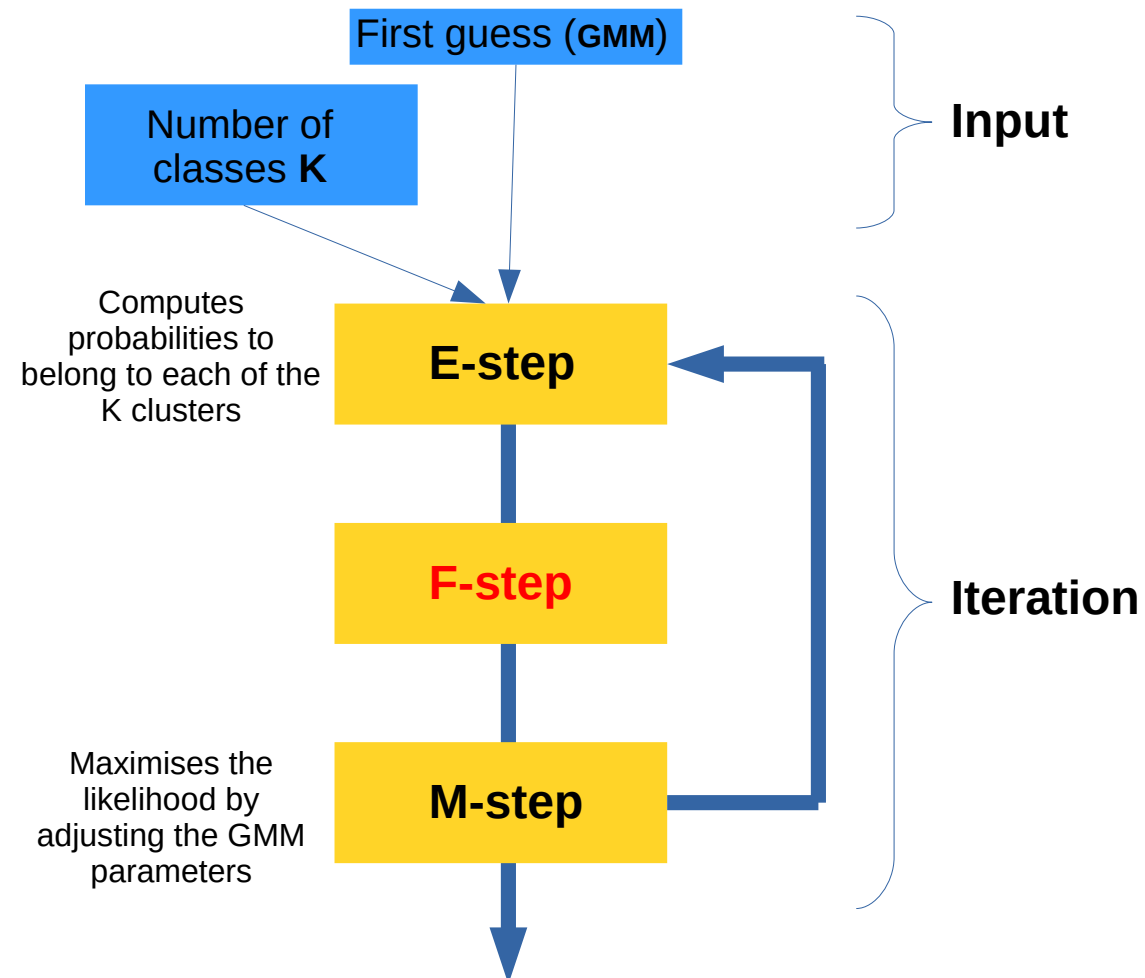


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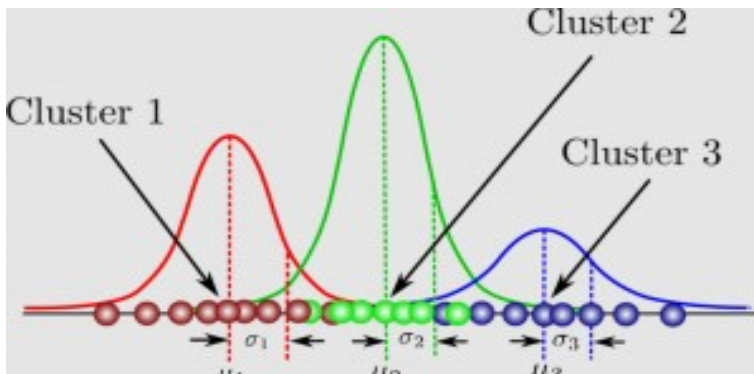


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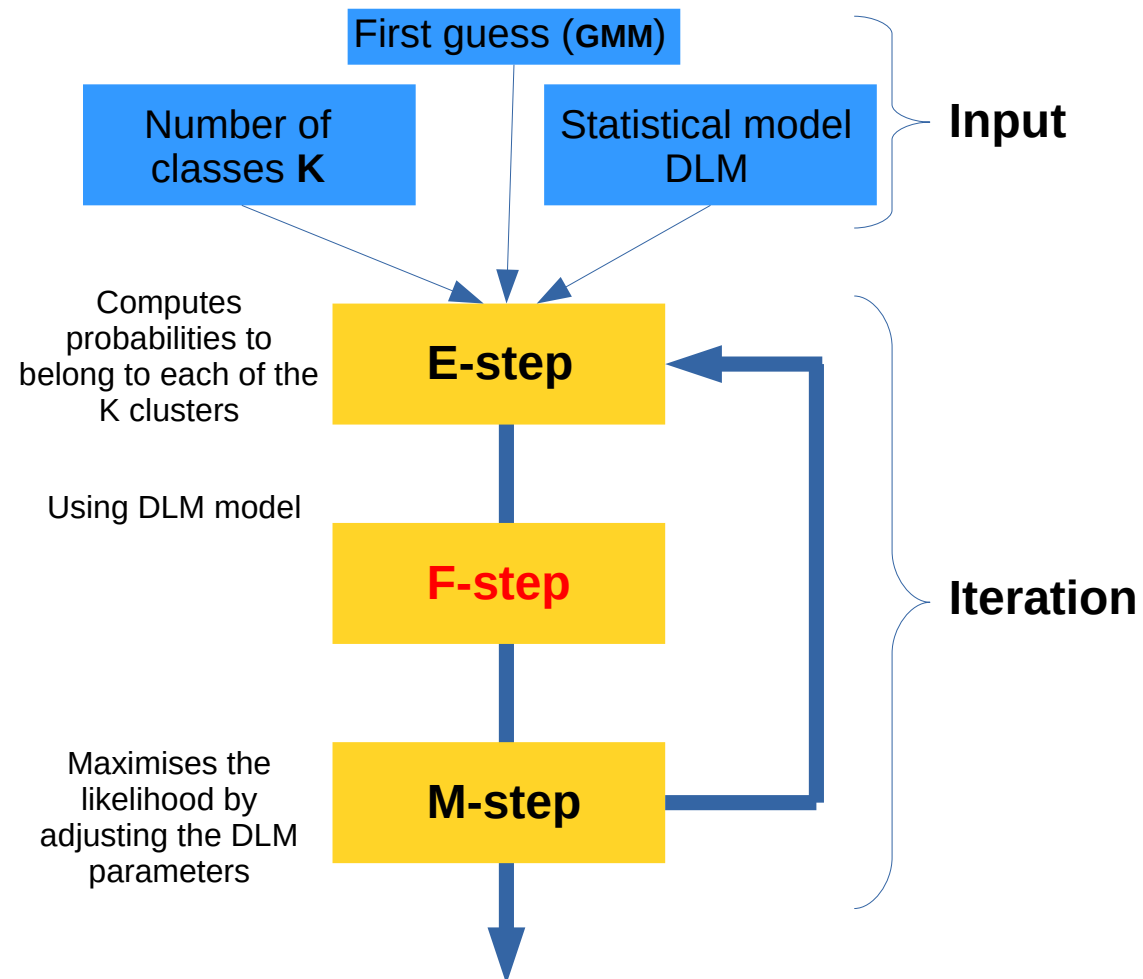


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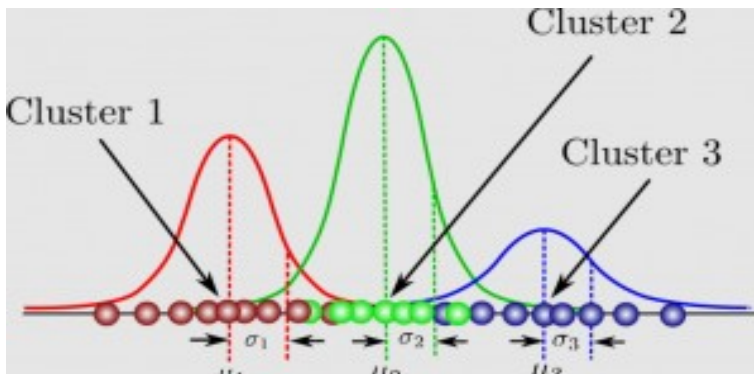


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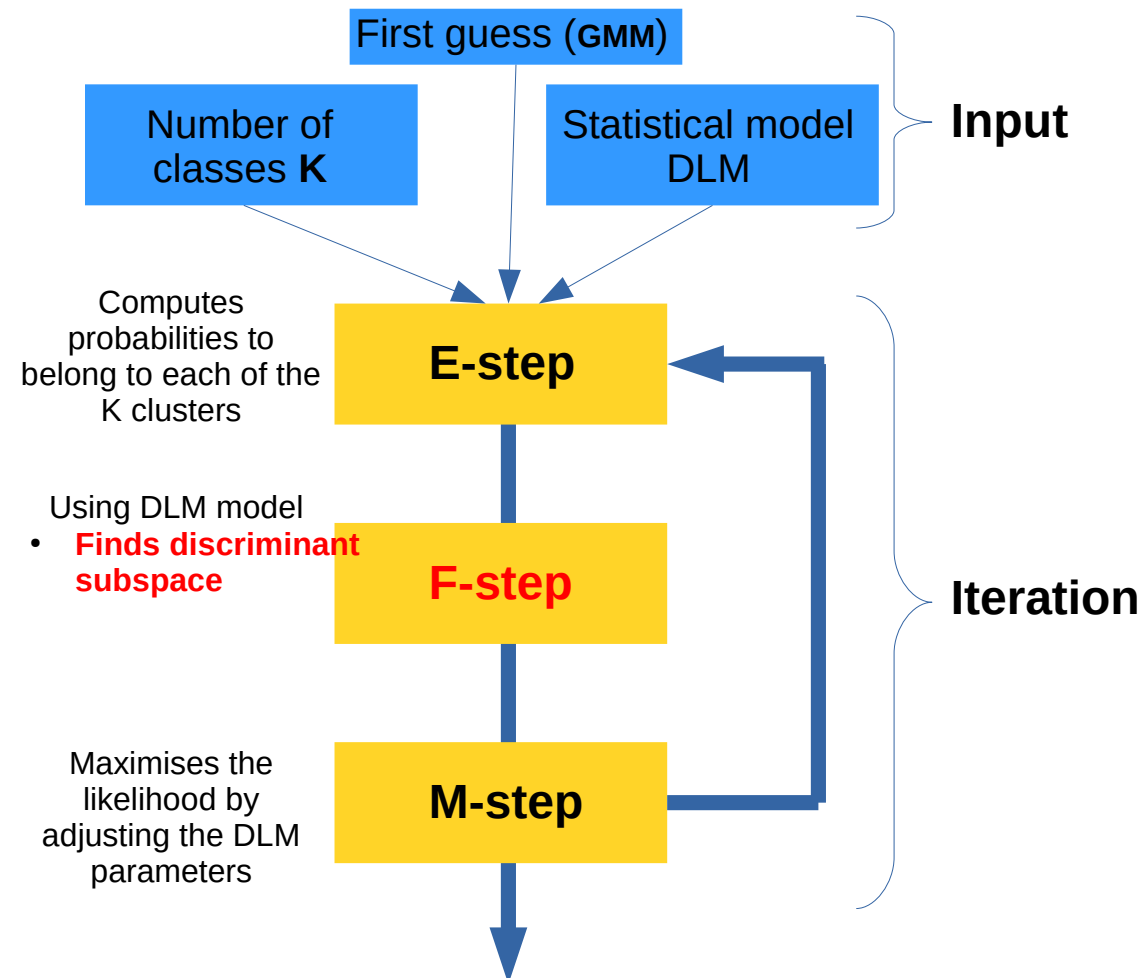
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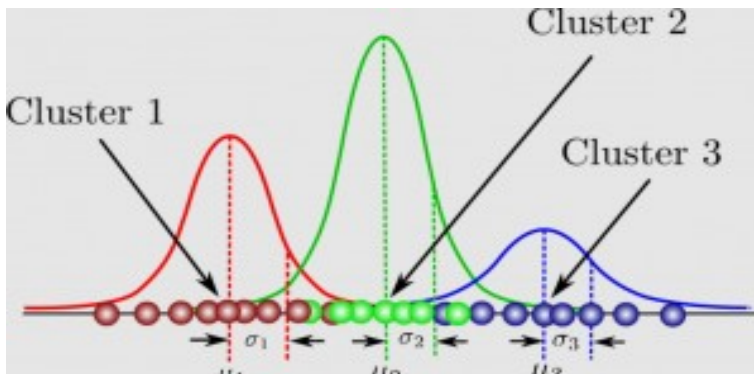
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**in a subspace of smaller dimension
than phys. parameter space,
the « latent subspace »**



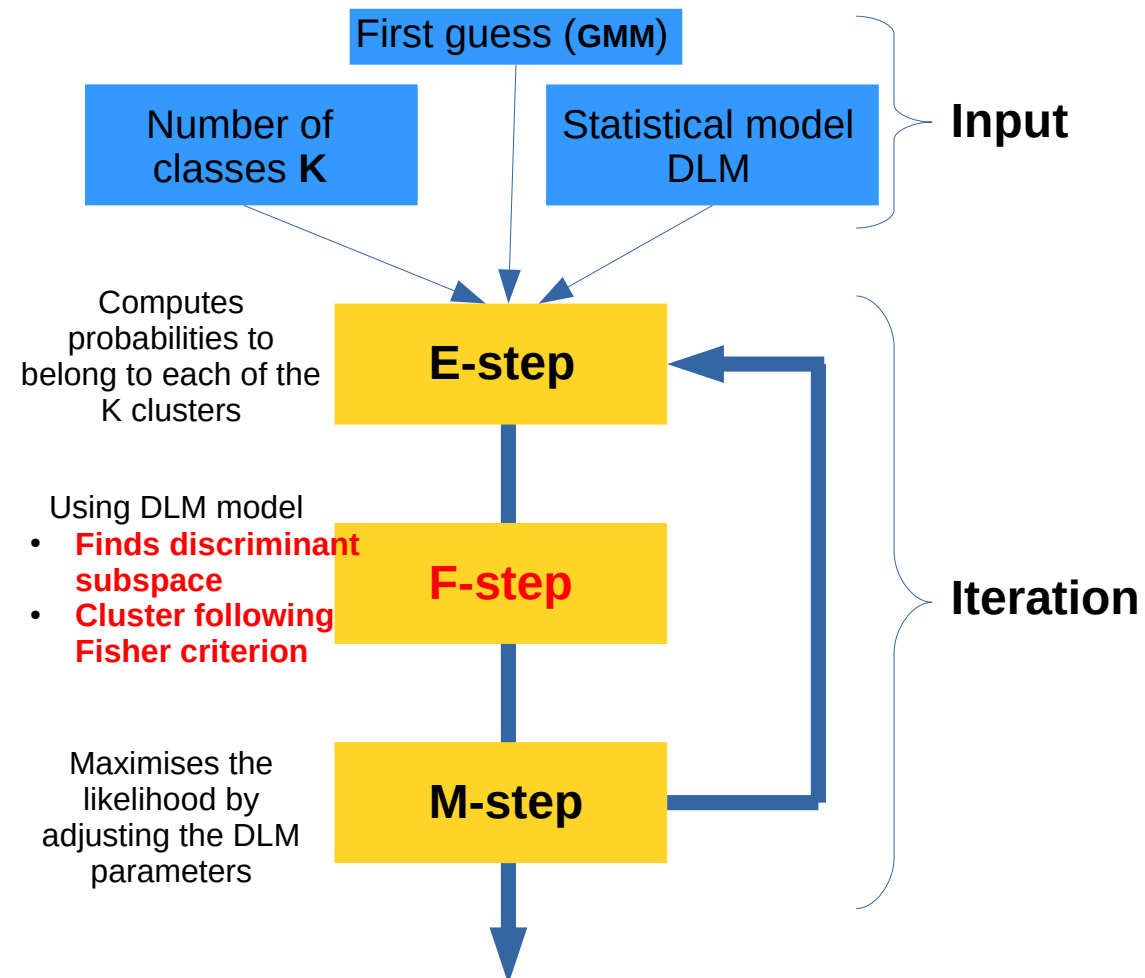
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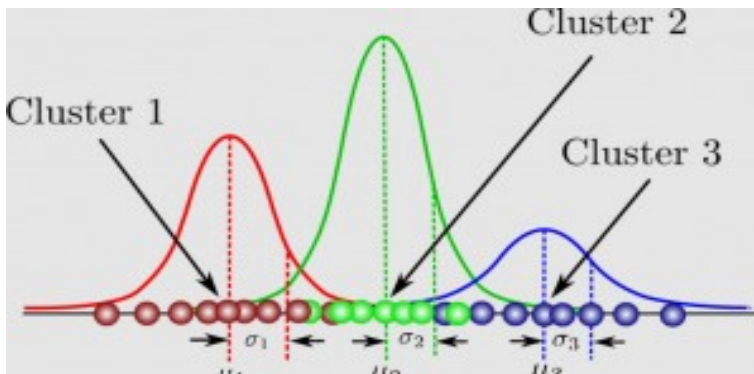
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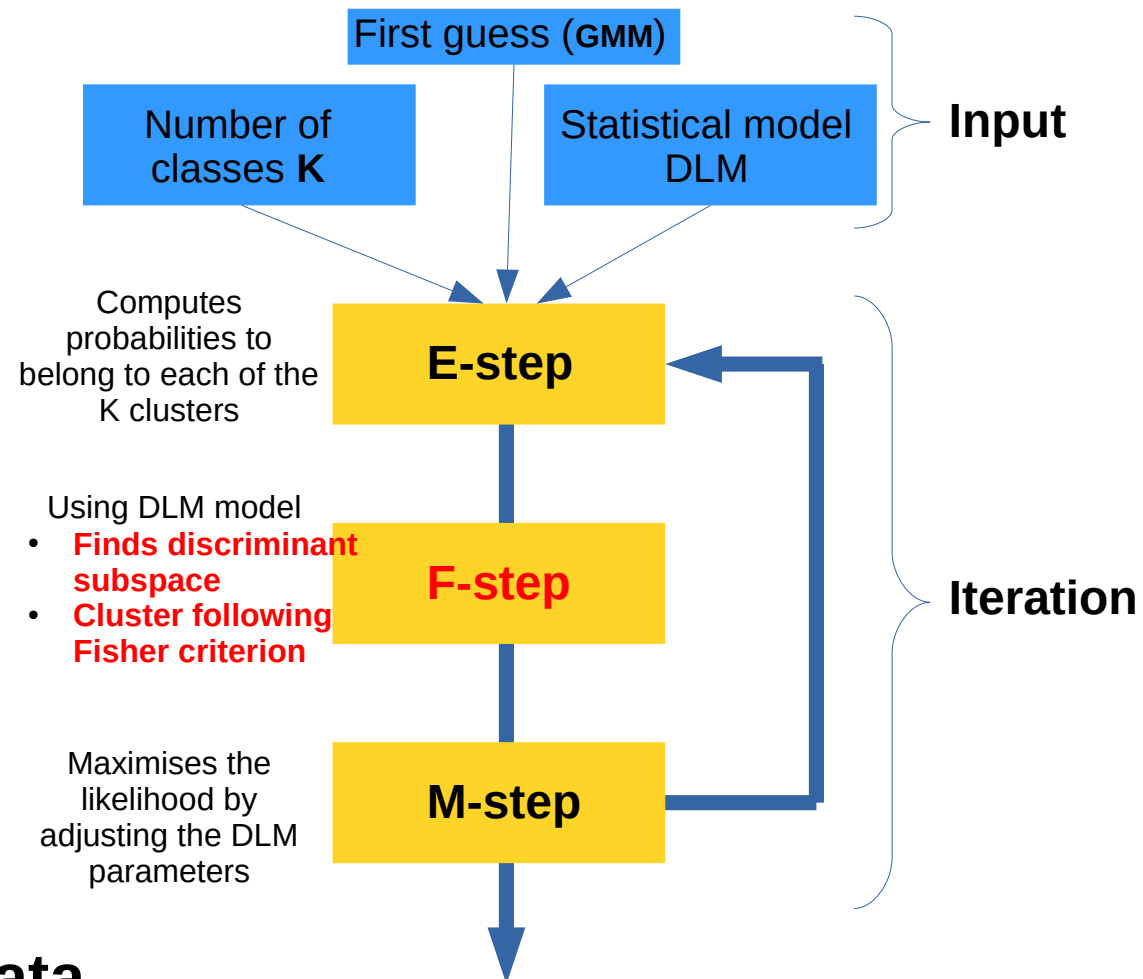
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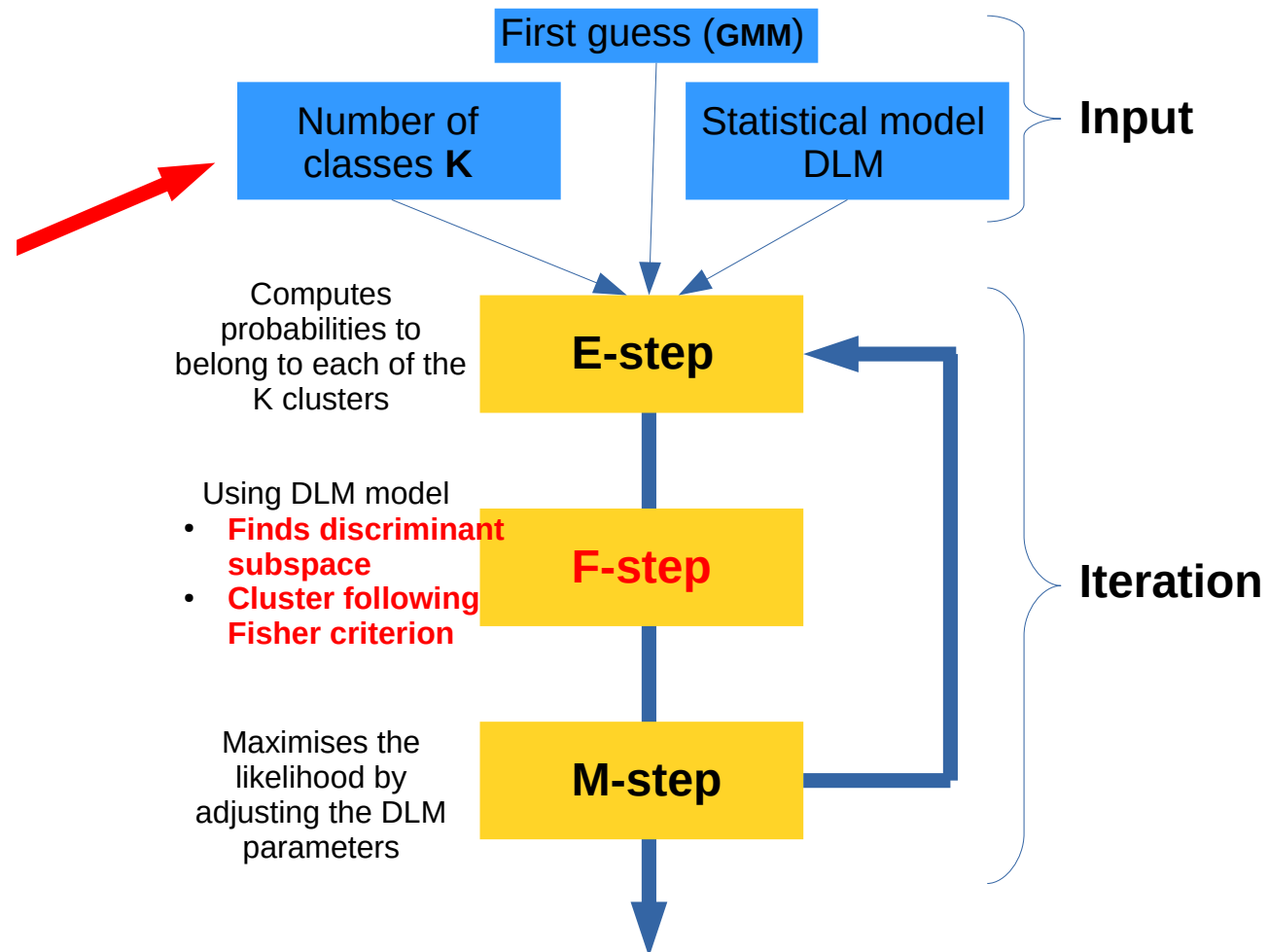
➡ **High-dimensional data**



Fisher-EM algorithm

Bouveyron, C., & Brunet, C. 2012a, Stat. Comput., 22, 301

**The best DLM model
and optimal K are
those maximising the
Integrated Completed
Likelihood (ICL)
statistical criterion**



Fisher-EM on simulated spectra

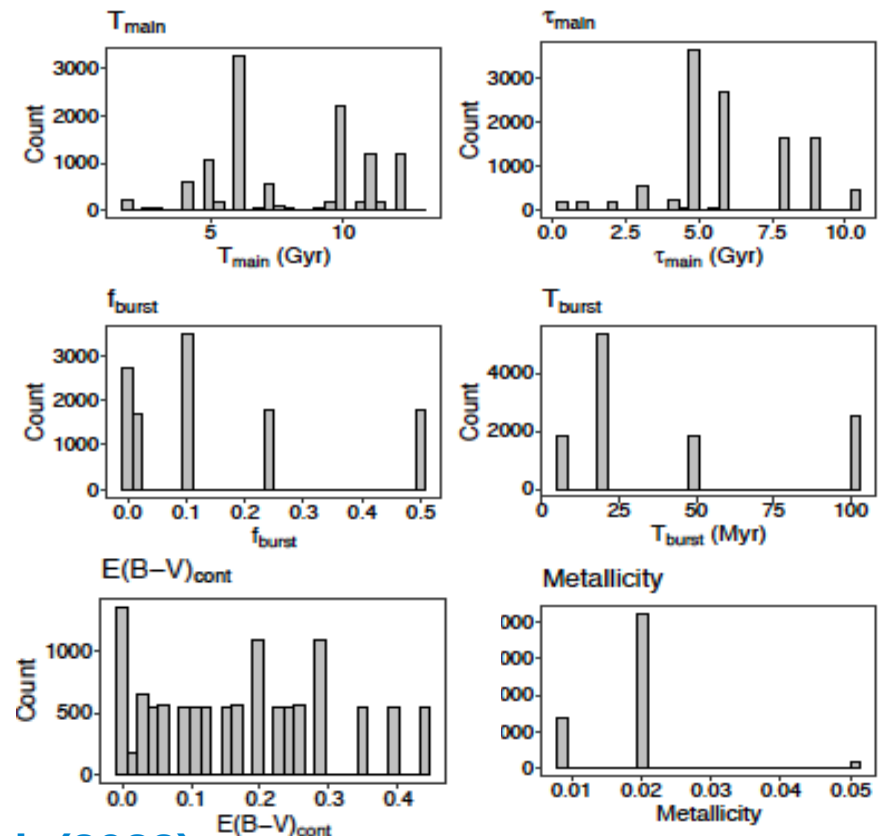
Optical simulated spectra of 11000 galaxies with CIGALE *Burgarella et al. (2005)*

SFH : Main population and a later burst (same metallicity)

➔ **6 physical parameters :**

- **Age & e-folding time** of the main SP (Myr)
- **Age & stellar mass fraction** of the burst (Myr)
- **Metallicity**
- **Reddening**

Dubois et al. (2022)



Distribution of parameters

Fisher-EM on simulated spectra

- Classification of sample without noise
- Classifications of samples with different added noise levels ($S/N = 1, 3, 5, 10, 20, 100, 500$)



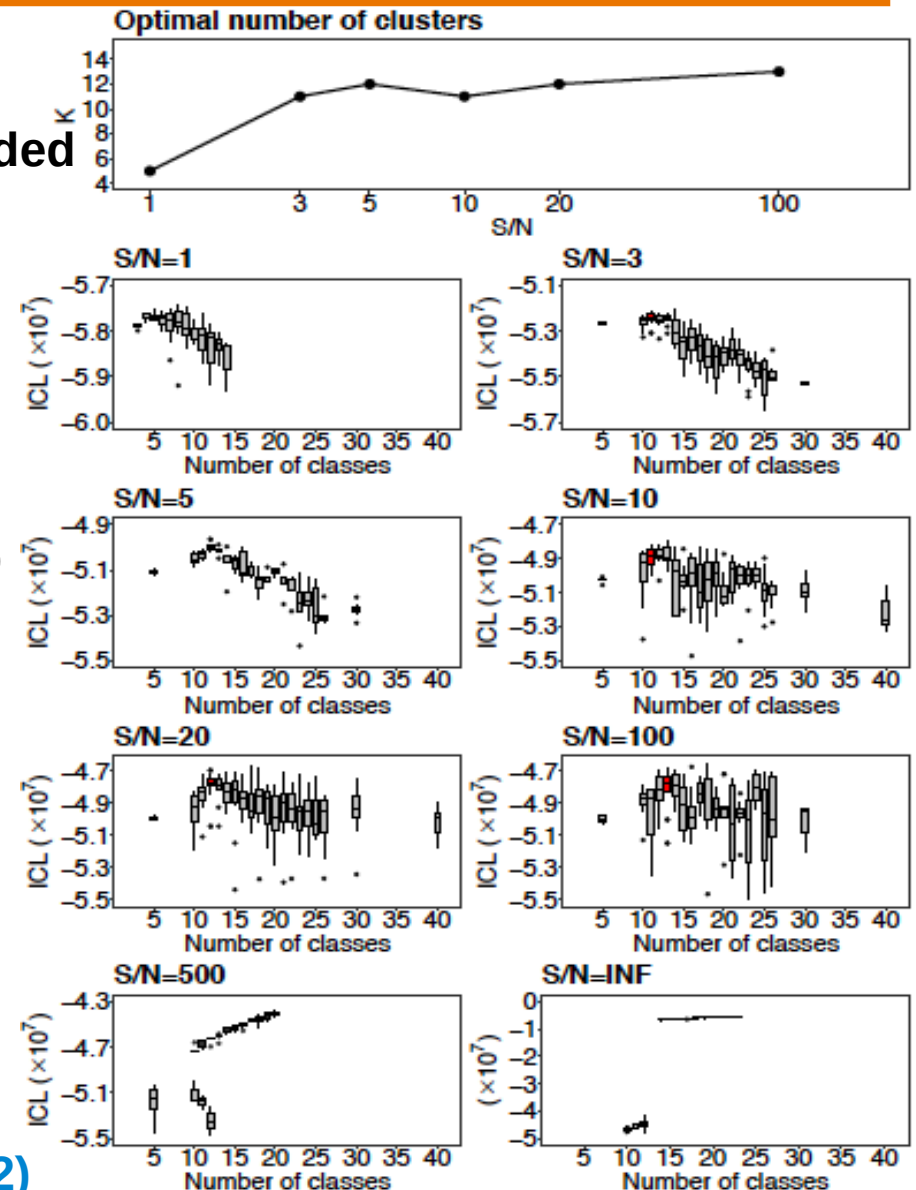
For $SNR < 500$:

- Best solution for $K=12$ (**Robust** results)
- Well **discriminated phys. parameters** (but less discrimination at higher noise)

Convergence issues for $SNR \geq 500$

- Due to coverage of parameter space, sparsity
- Noise insufficient to blur data sparsity

Dubois et al. (2022)



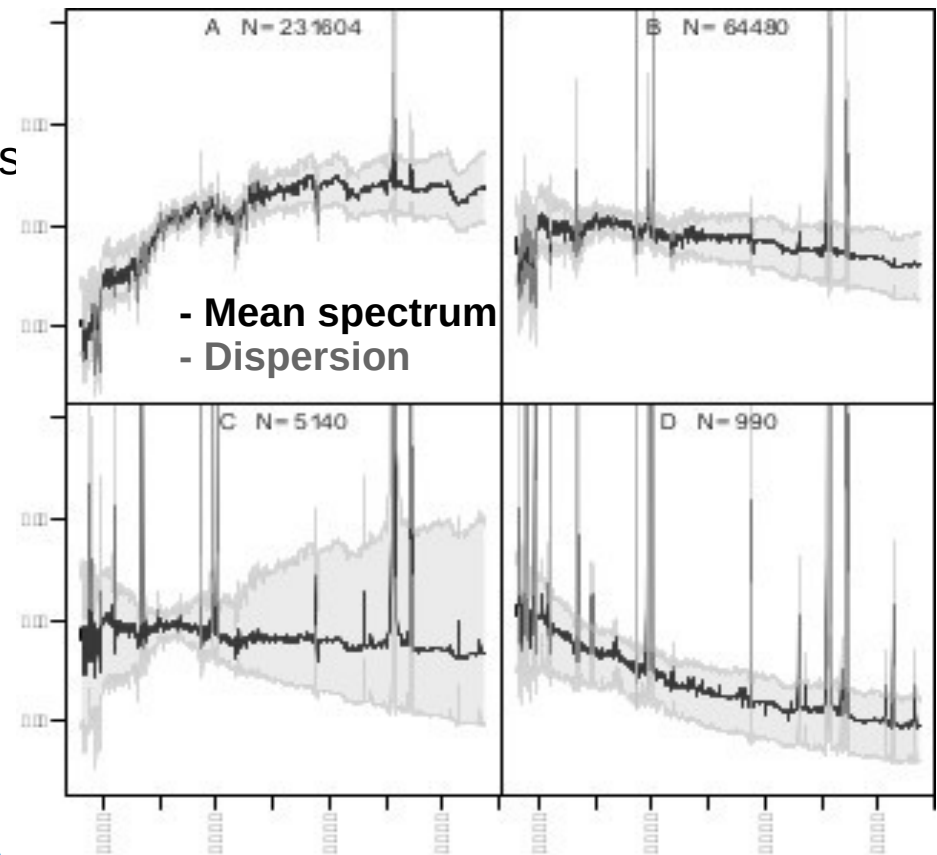
Fisher-EM on SDSS spectra

About 700,000 spectra of galaxies and quasars from SDSS DR7 with $z < 0.25$
(corrected for redshift, resampled, rebinned and normalised)

Different steps : FEM applied on subsamples

➡ 4 main classes :
A,B,C,D

➡ Subclassification



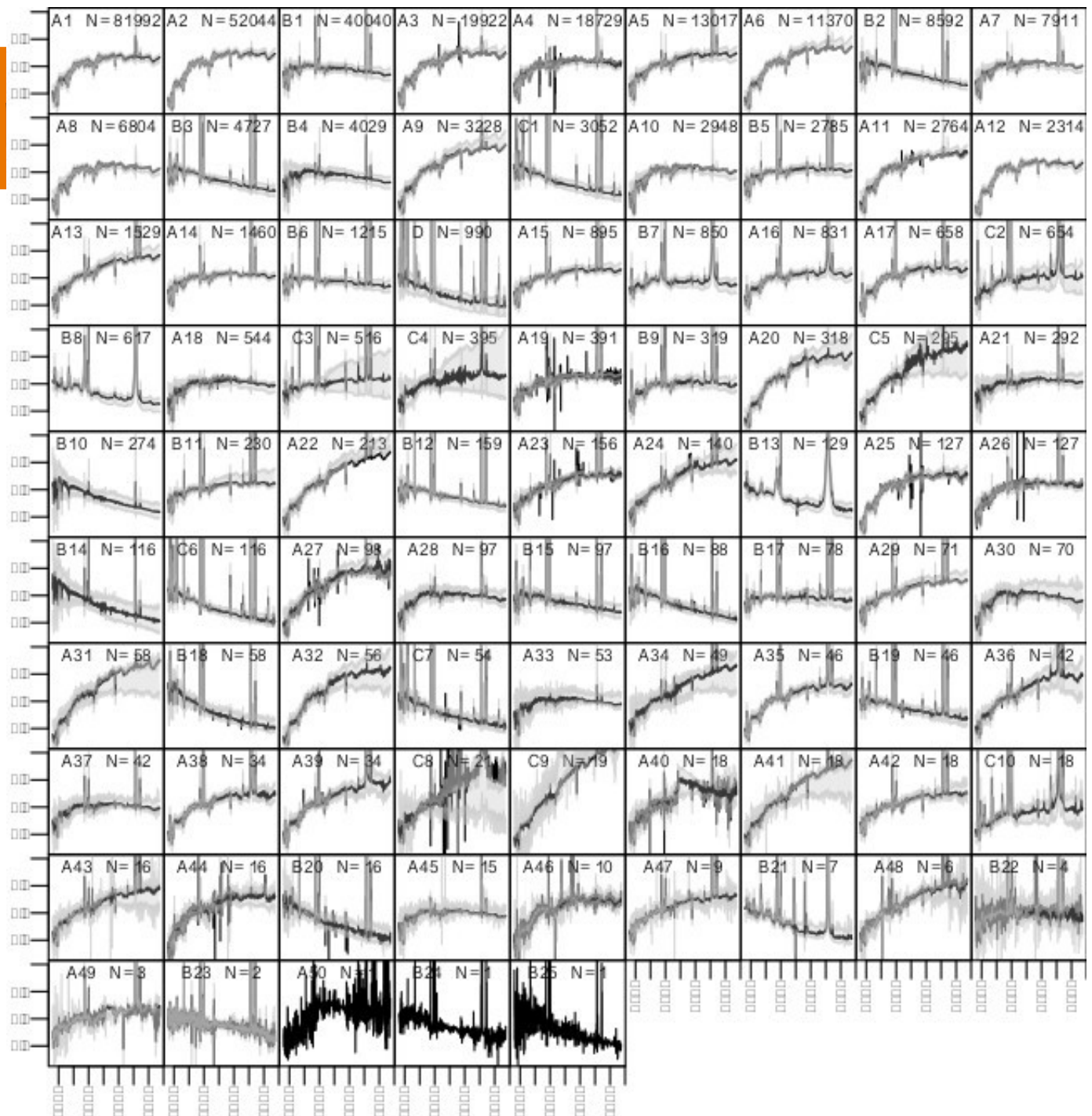
Fraix-Burnet et al. (2021)

Fishe



86 final classes

Fraix-Burnet et al.
(2021)

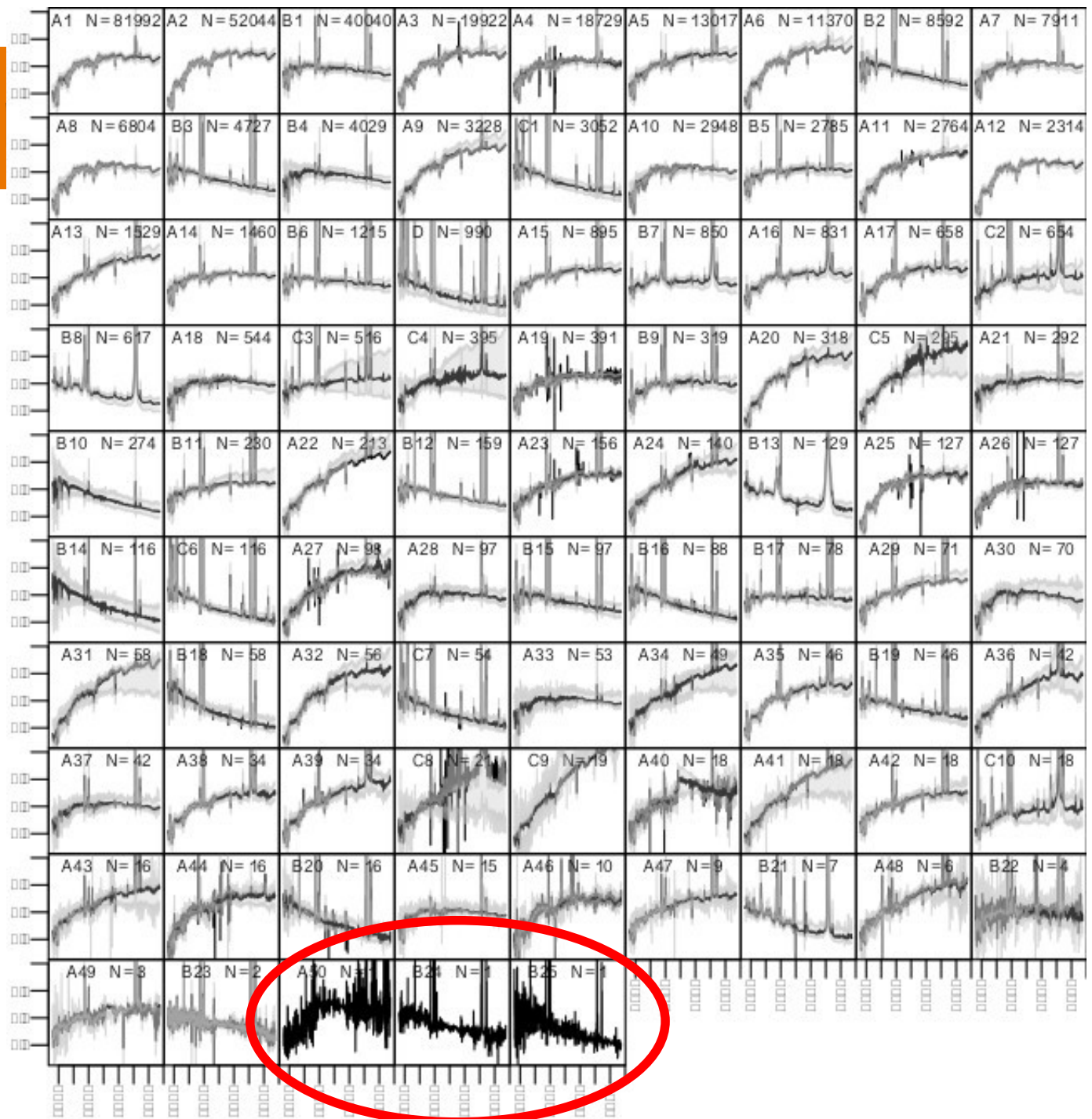


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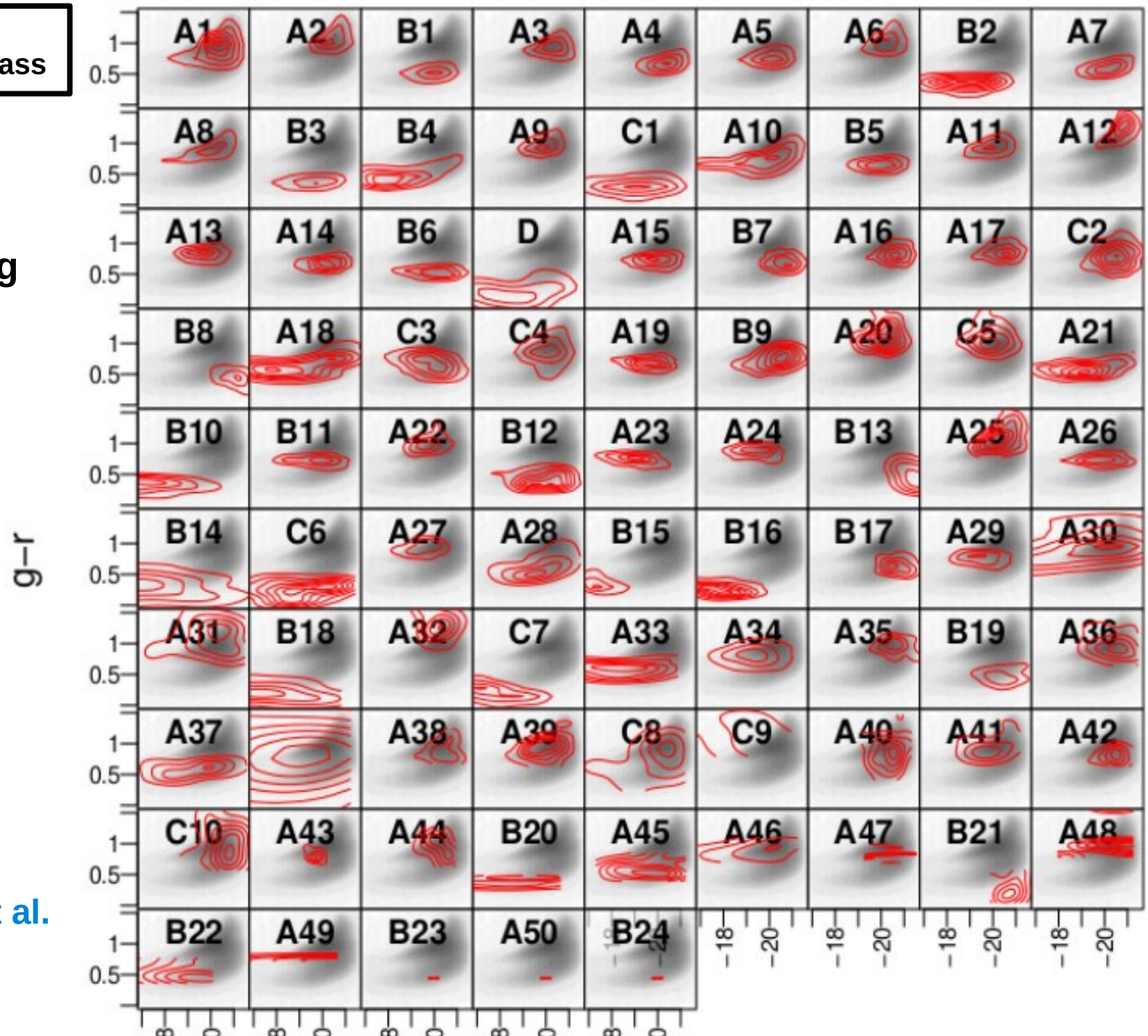
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Fraix-Burnet et al.
(2021)



Grey: whole sample
Red: spectra of the class

Color-mag diagram



Fraix-Burnet et al.
(2021)

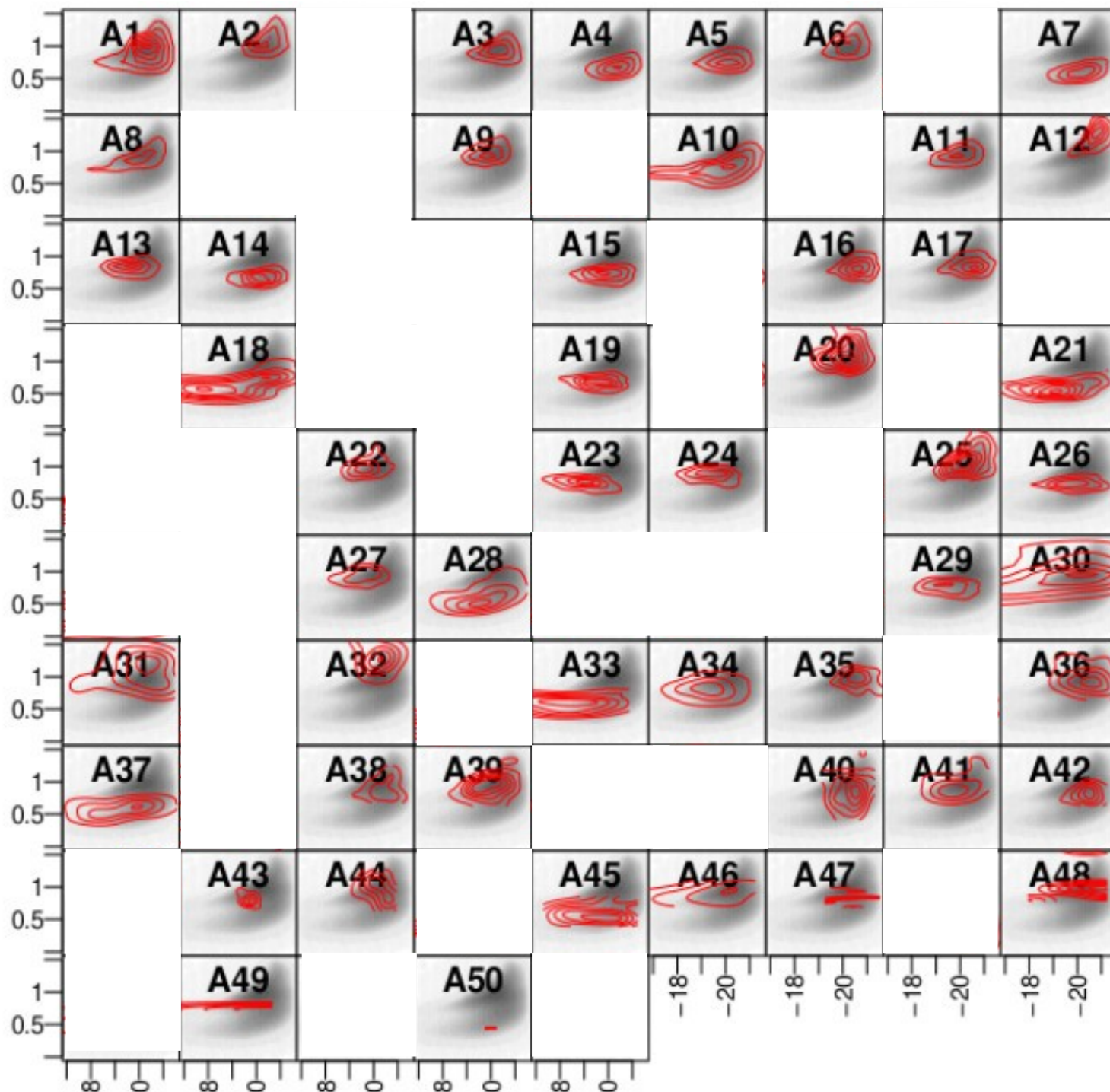
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Class A



Red
sequence

Fraix-Burnet et al.
(2021)



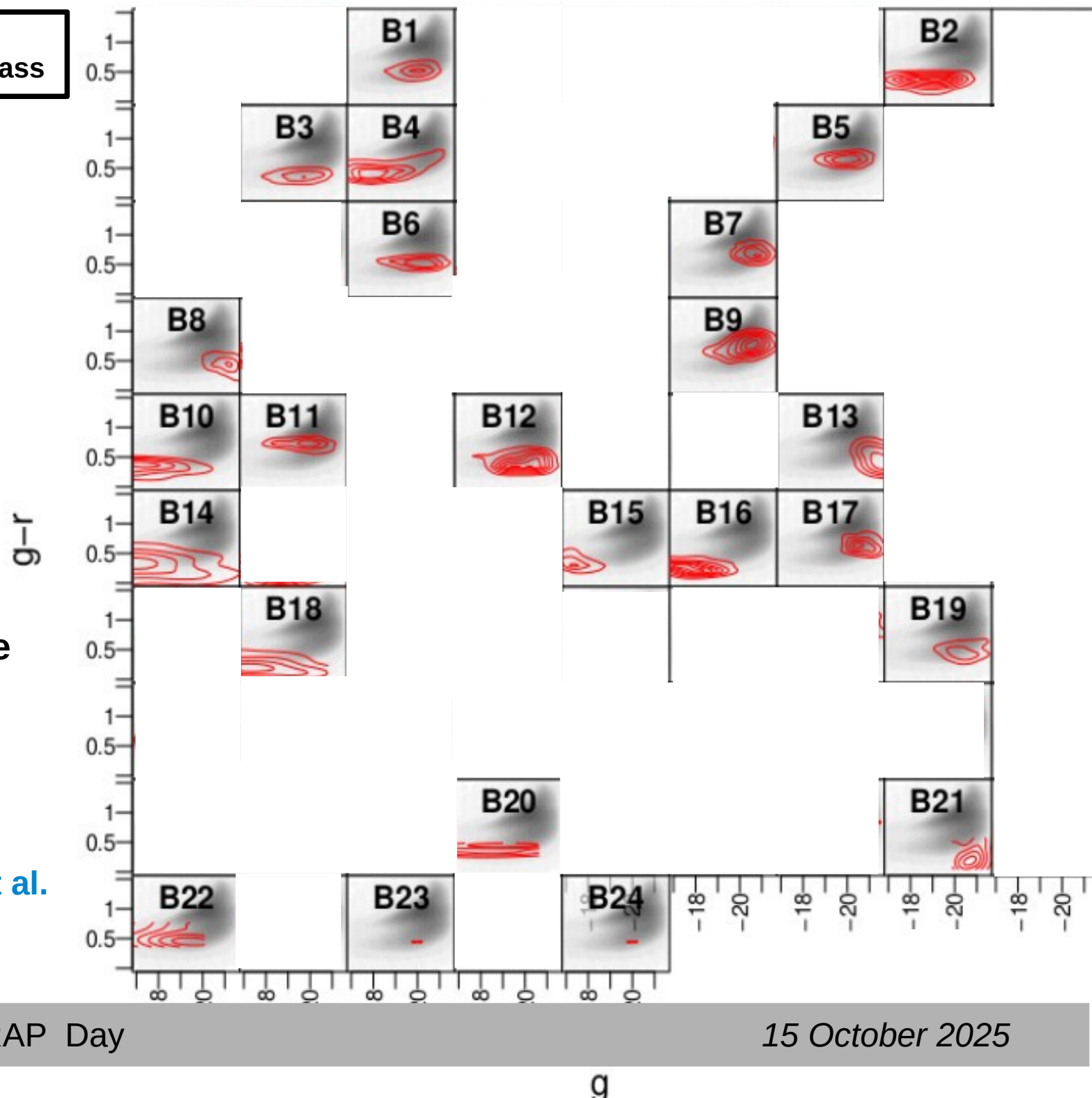
Grey: whole sample
Red: spectra of the class

Class B



Blue
sequence

Fraix-Burnet et al.
(2021)



Grey: whole sample
Red: spectra of the class

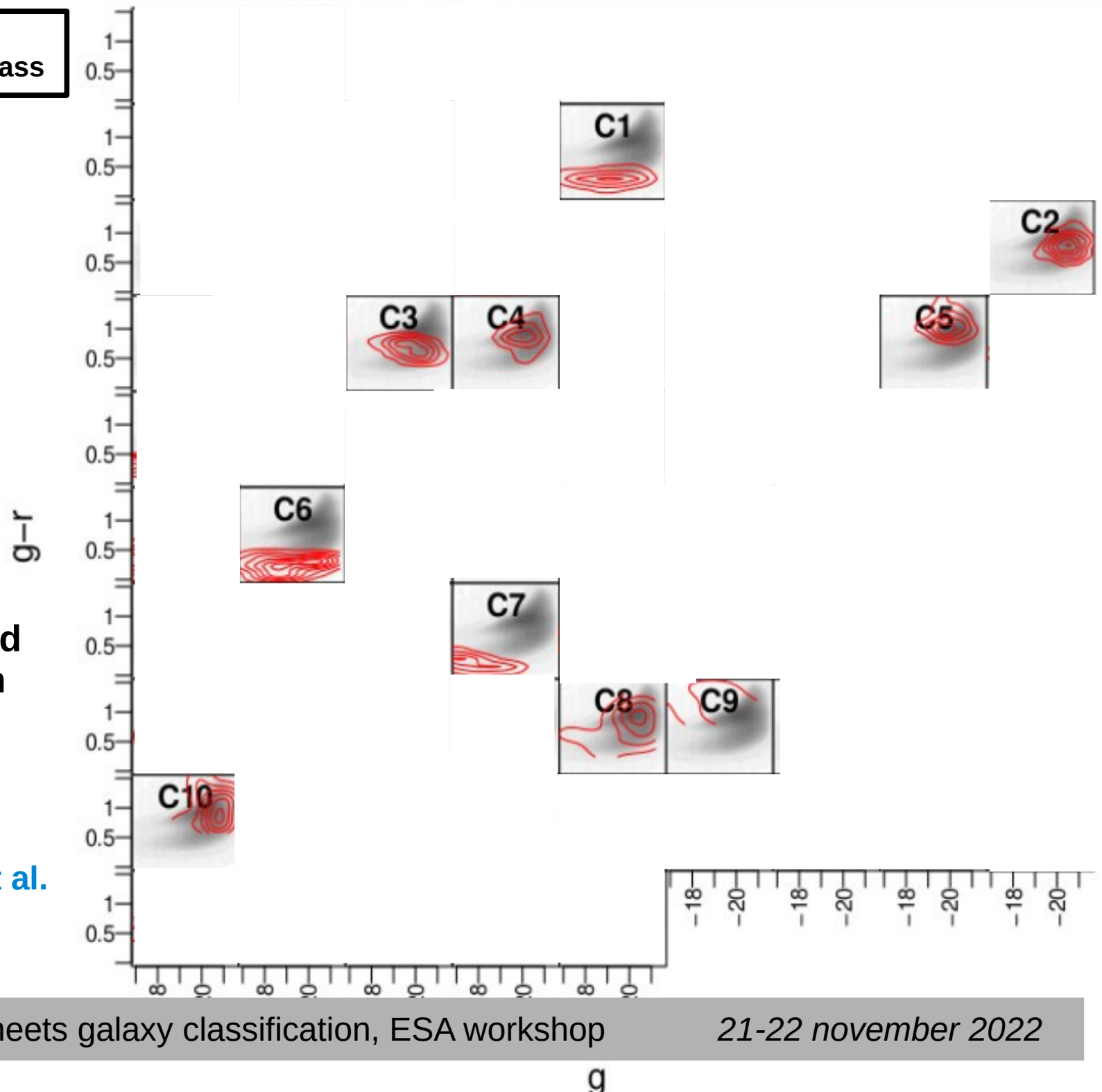
Class C



Diverse

Characterized
by emission
lines

Fraix-Burnet et al.
(2021)



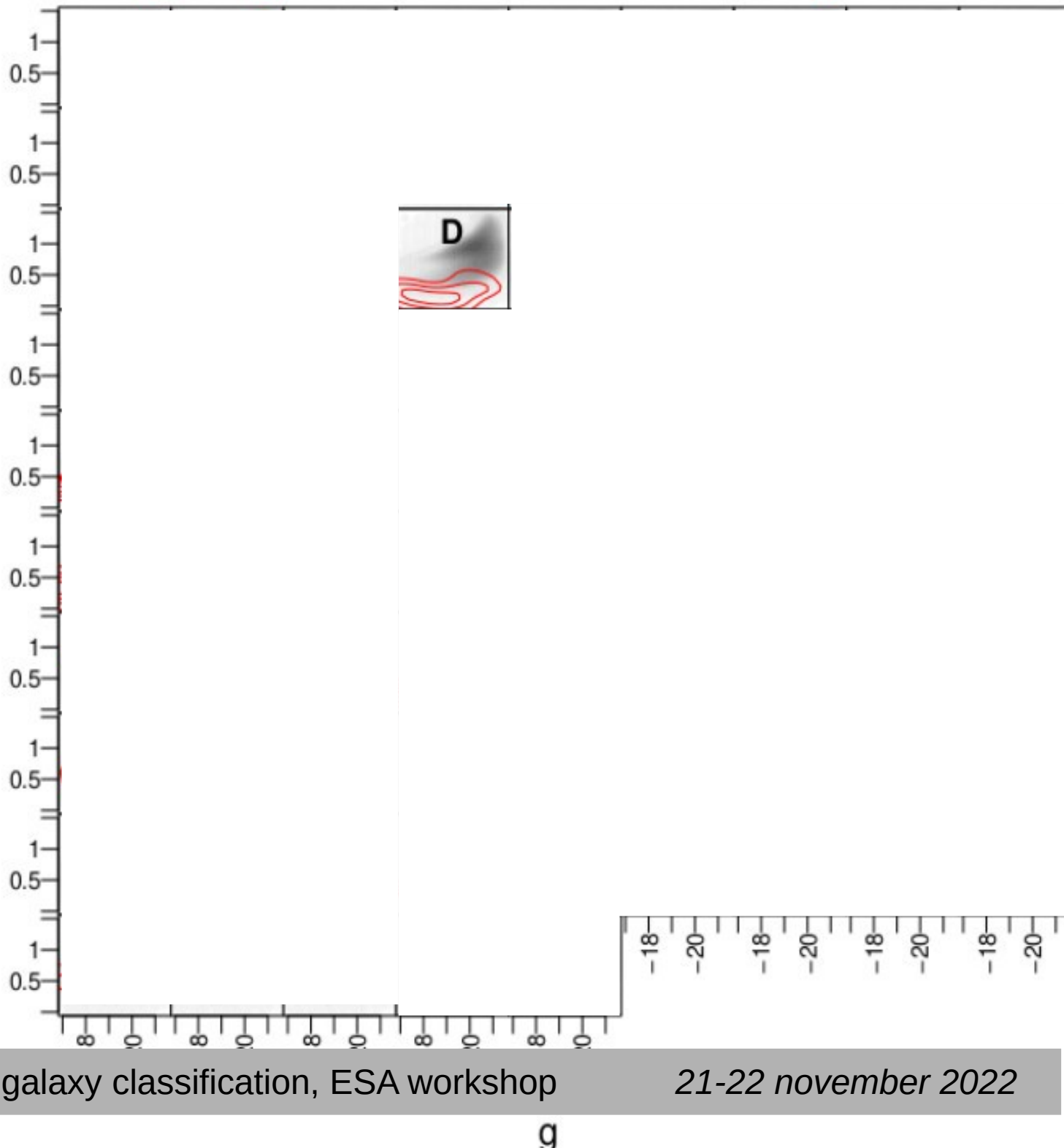
Grey: whole sample
Red: spectra of the class

Class D



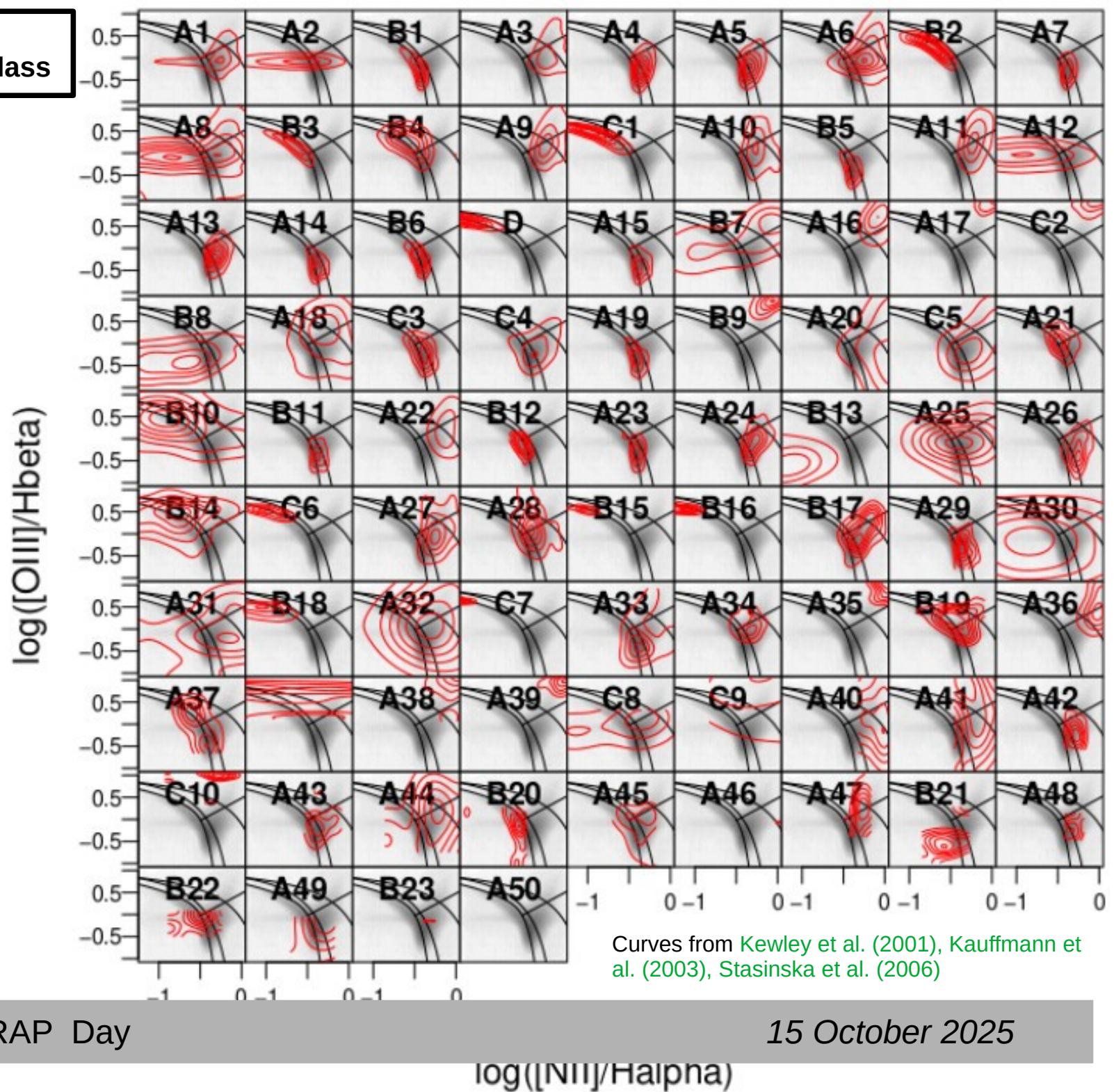
Extremely blue

Fraix-Burnet et al.
(2021)



Grey: whole sample
Red: spectra of the class

BPT diagrams



Grey: whole sample
Red: spectra of the class

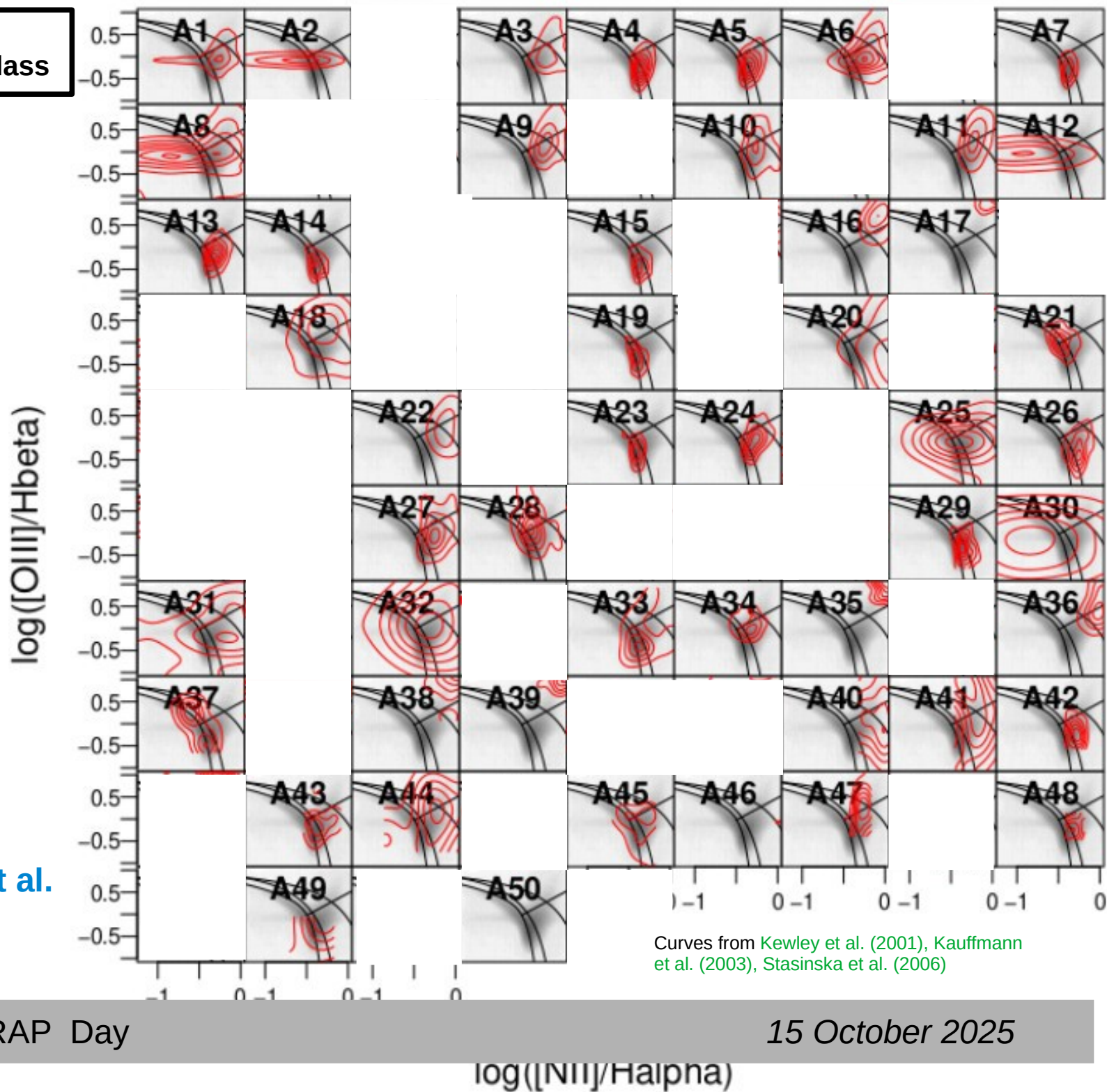
BPT
diagrams

Class A



Seyferts or
LINER
galaxies

Fraix-Burnet et al.
(2021)



Grey: whole sample
Red: spectra of the class

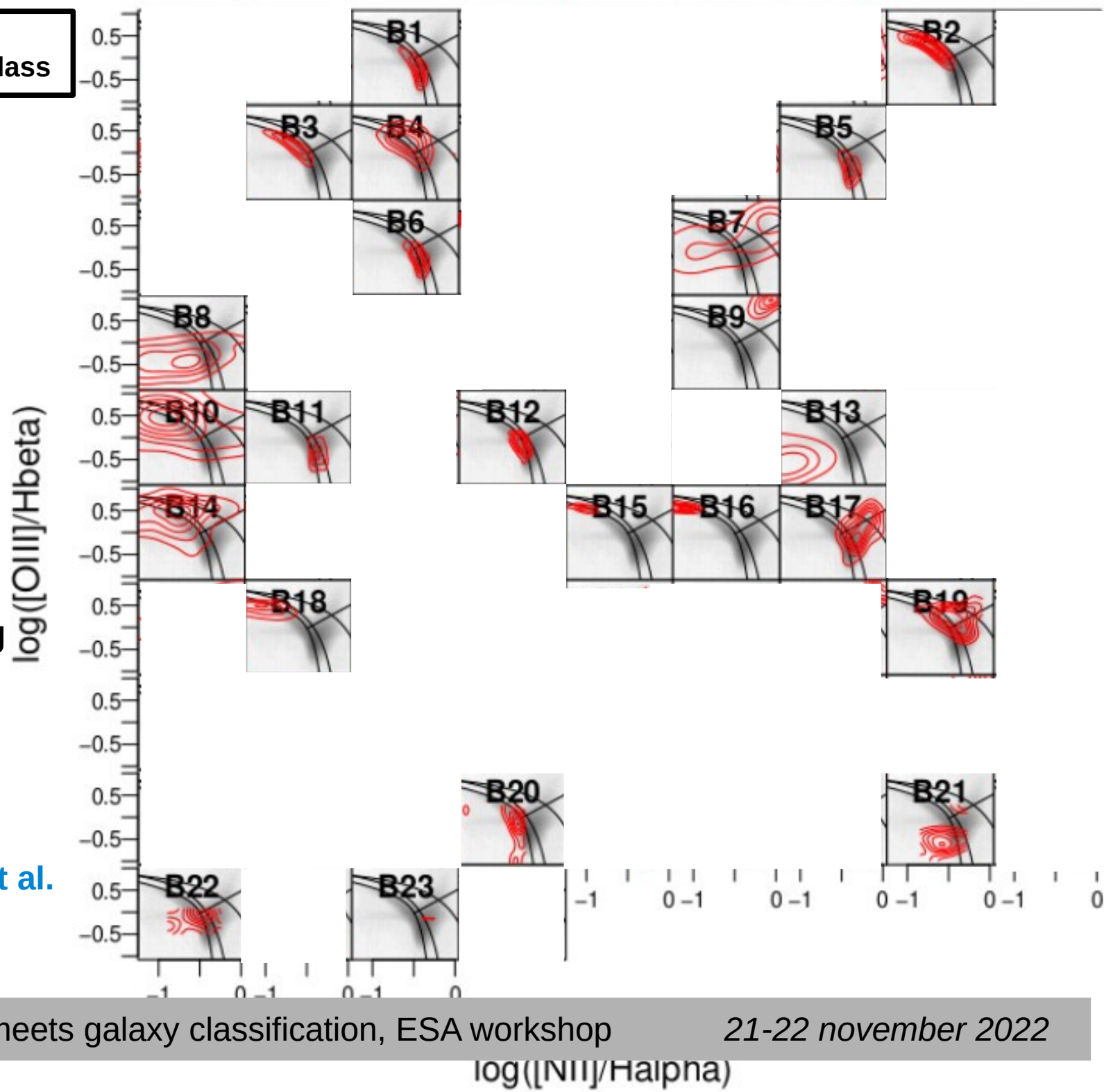
BPT
diagrams

Class B



Star-forming

Fraix-Burnet et al.
(2021)



Grey: whole sample
Red: spectra of the class

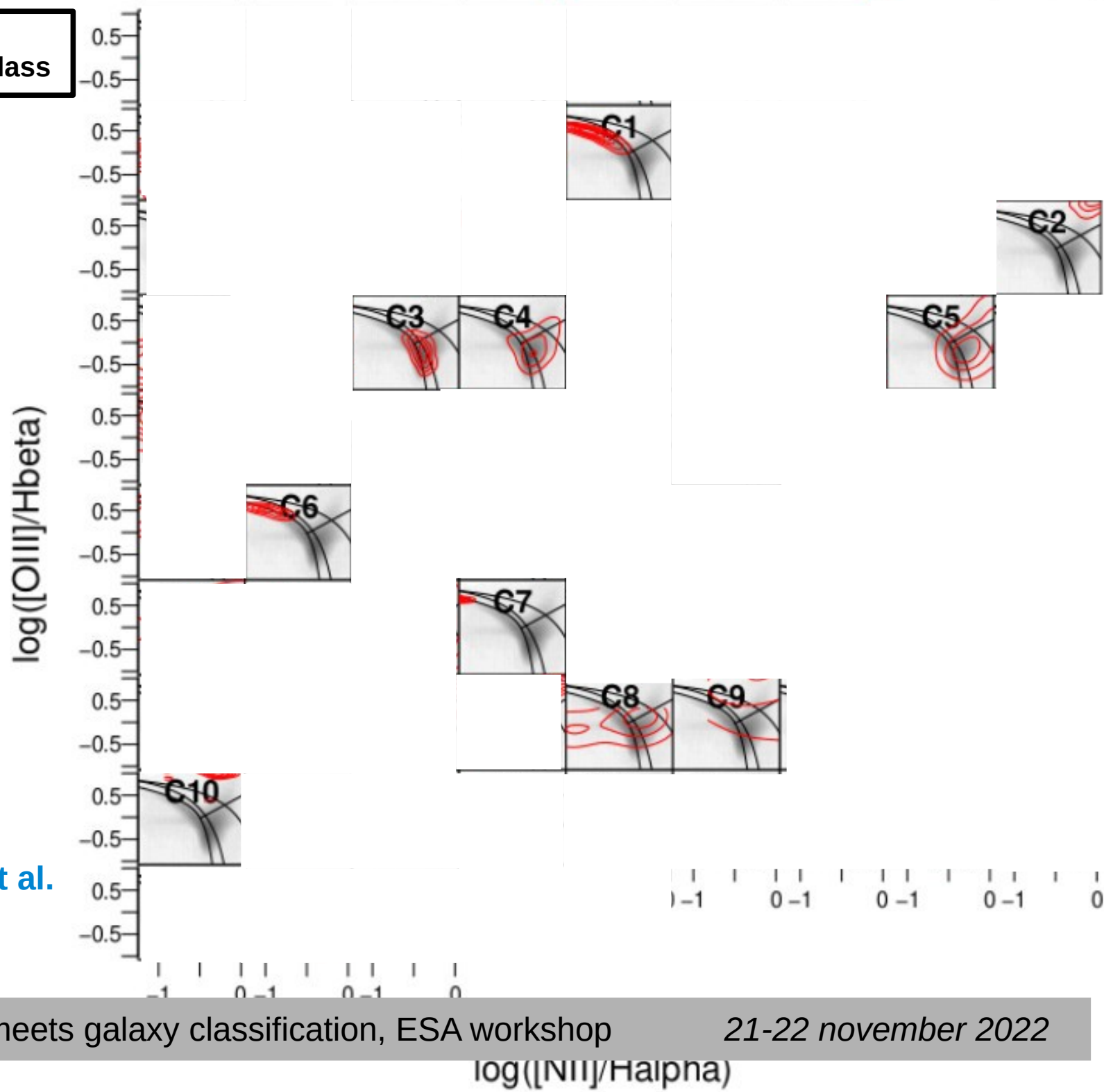
BPT
diagrams

Class C



Star
formation
&
Nuclear
activity

Fraix-Burnet et al.
(2021)



Grey: whole sample
Red: spectra of the class

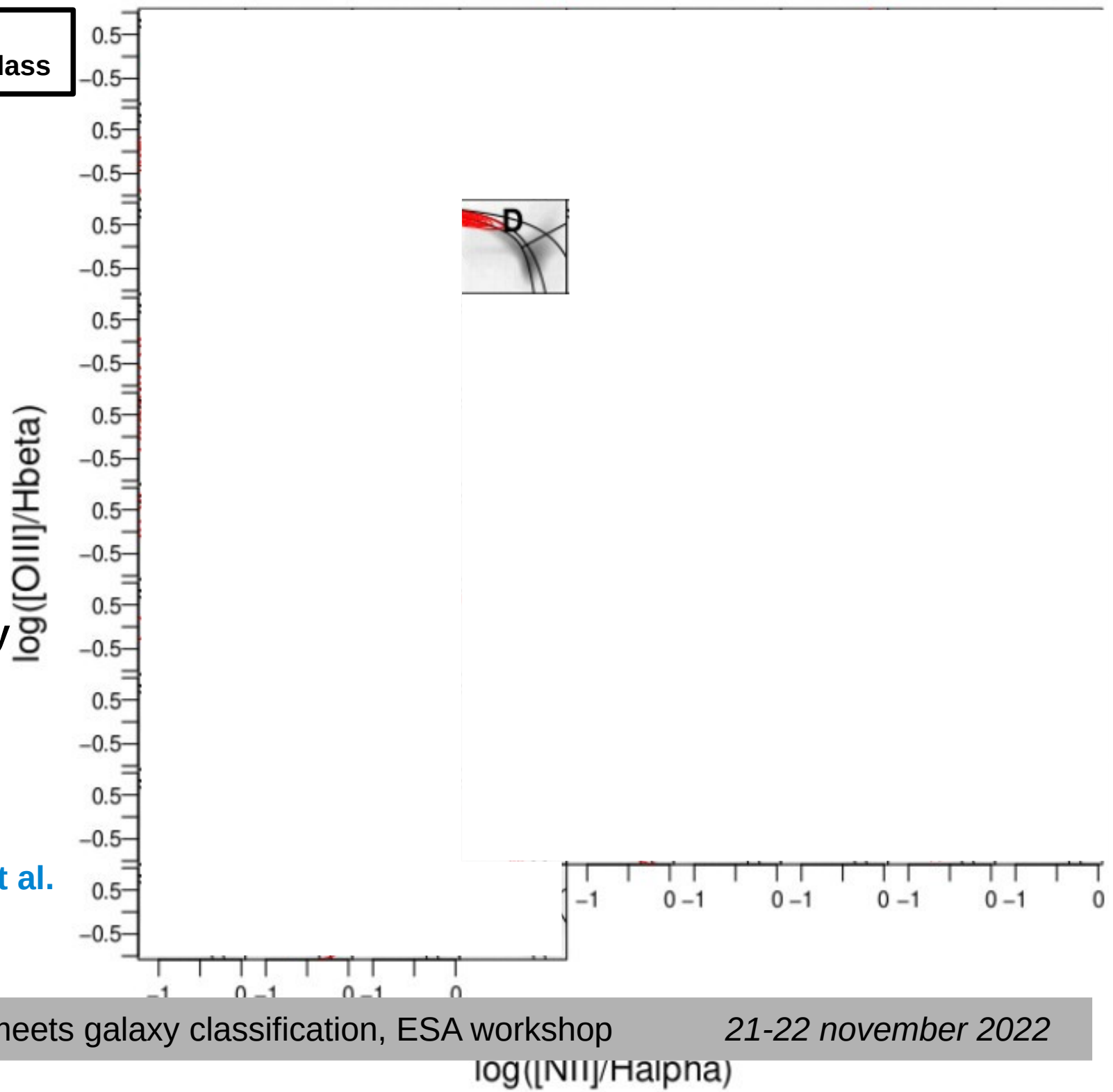
BPT
diagrams

Class D



High activity
of Star
formation

Fraix-Burnet et al.
(2021)



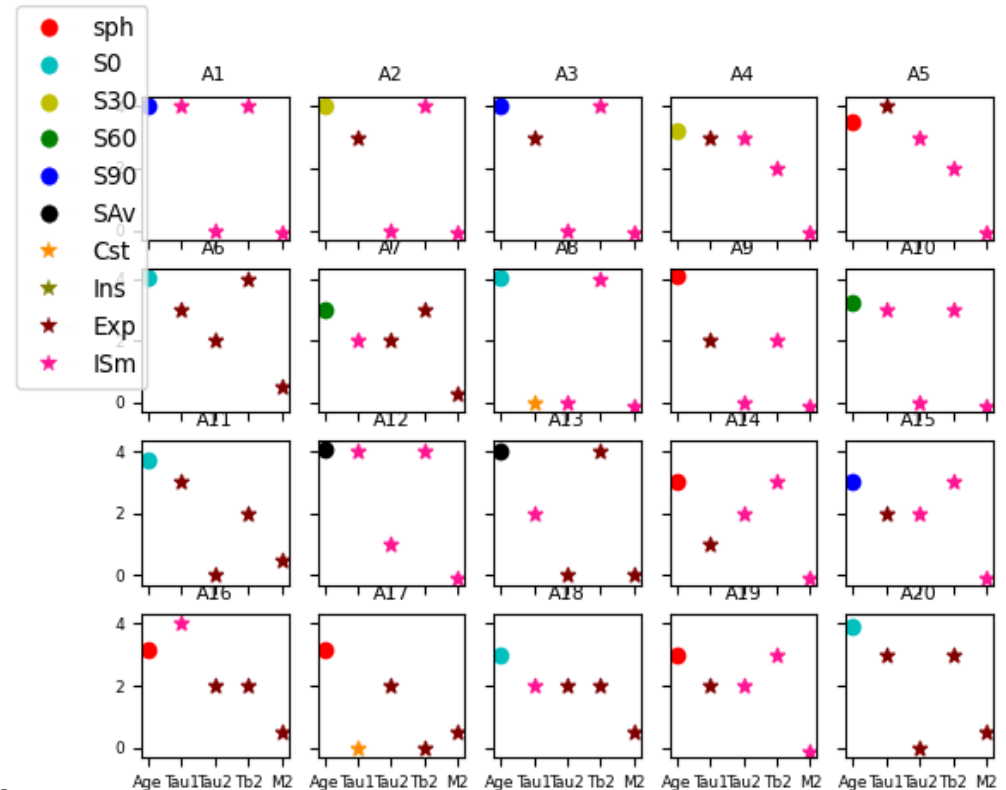
Fisher-EM on SDSS spectra

Next step → **Label** the mean spectra of the 86 classes

Mean spectra fitted by modeled stellar population models with PEGASE3 (*Fioc & Rocca-Volmerange 2019*)

Parameters :

- 2 stell. pop. (ages, e-folding times, burst mass)
- 4 SFR shapes
- 6 morphological types



→ **Each class has a distinct SP scenario**

Labeling example of the first A classes

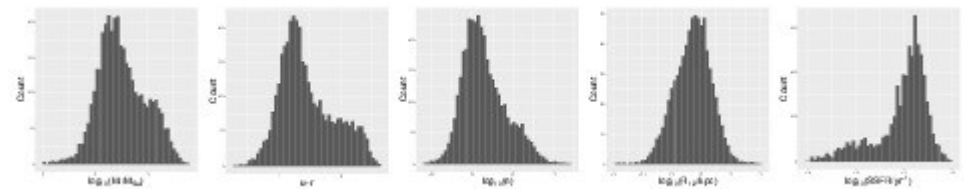
Moultaka et al. (in prep)

Fisher-EM on GAMA survey

Two samples of galaxies from GAMA survey (*Driver et al. 2009*) :

- Sample of **5 physical parameters** of **7338 galaxies** from *Turner et al. 2019 (T19)* :

- Stellar mass (M^*)
- Color ($u-r$)
- Sérsic index (n)
- Effective radius ($R_{1/2}$)
- Specific star formation rate (sSFR)



M^*

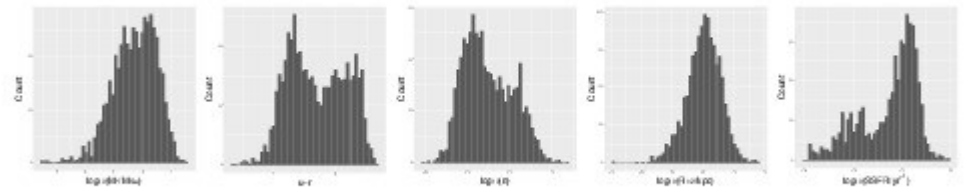
$u-r$

n

$R_{1/2}$

sSFR

- Subsample of **spectra** of **2550 galaxies** taken from the previous sample for which **SDSS optical spectra** are available.



Distribution of the samples in the 5-physical parameter space

Beissière & Moutaka (in prep)

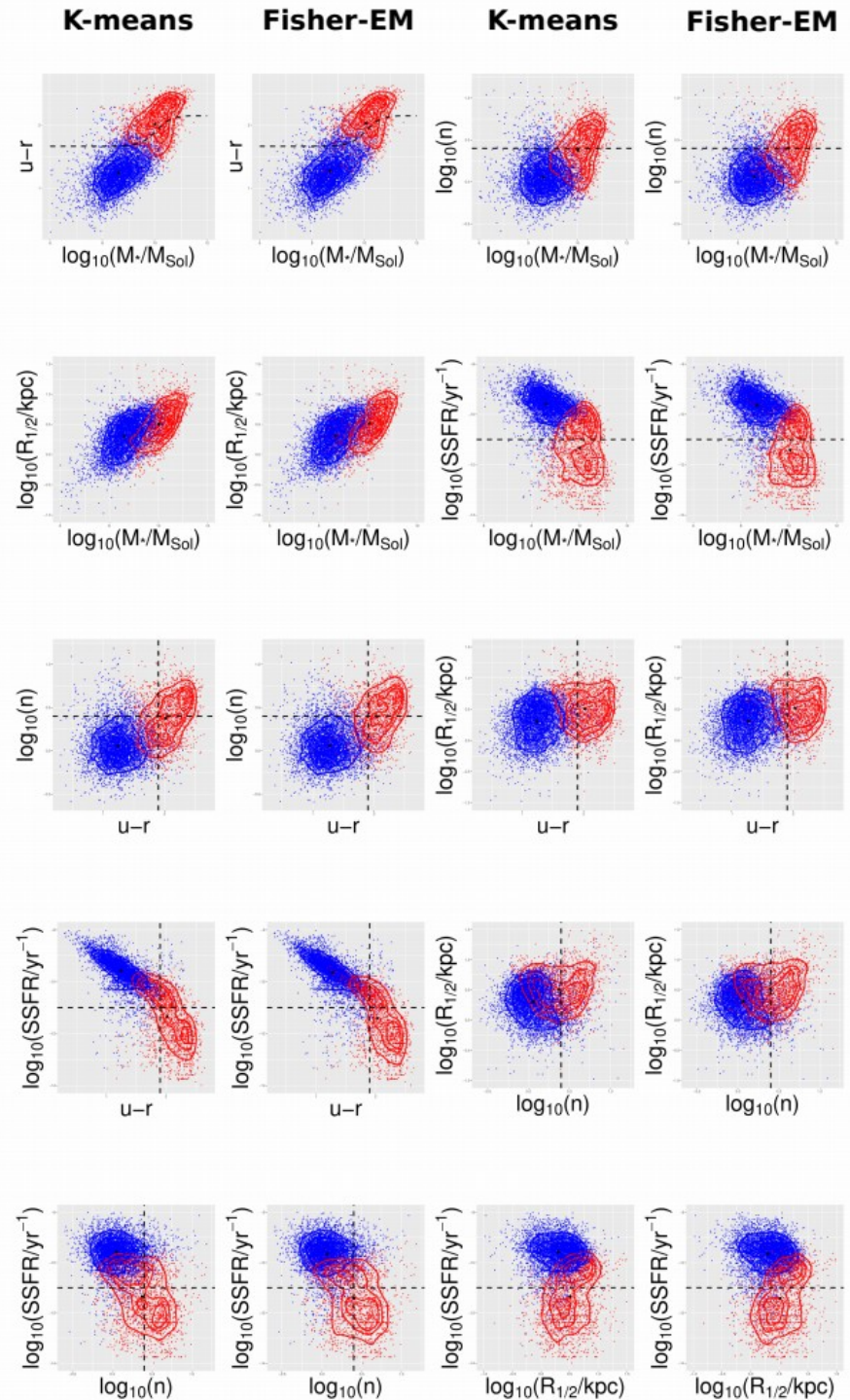
Fisher-EM

Comparison of the
classifications obtained with
K-means and Fisher-EM of
the sample of physical
parameters
for $K = 2$



Equivalent
solutions

Beissière & Moutaka (in prep)



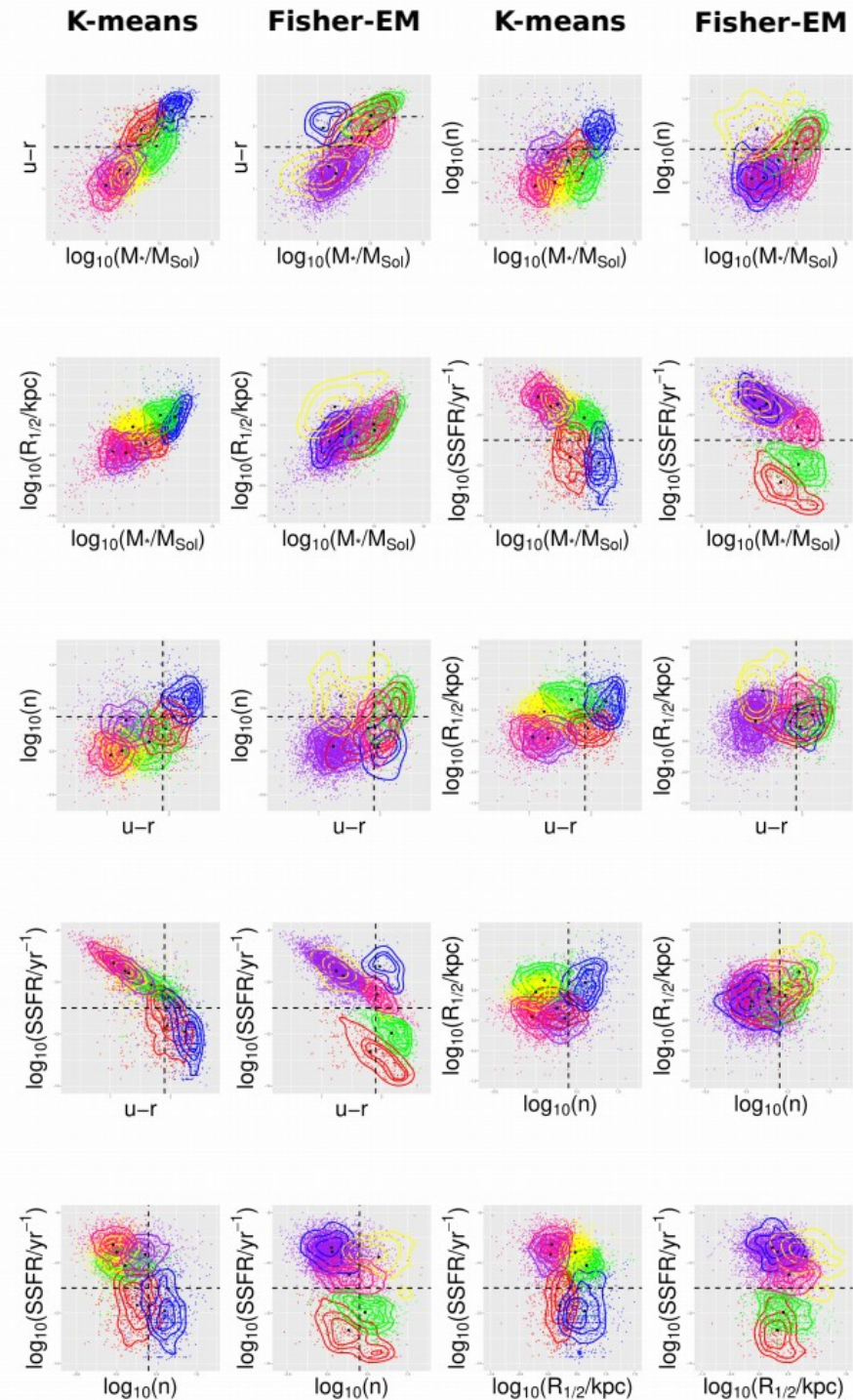
Fisher-EM

Comparison of the
classifications obtained with
K-means and Fisher-EM of
the sample of physical
parameters
for **K=6**



**Fisher-EM
solutions
are more
physical**

Beissière & Moutaka (in prep)



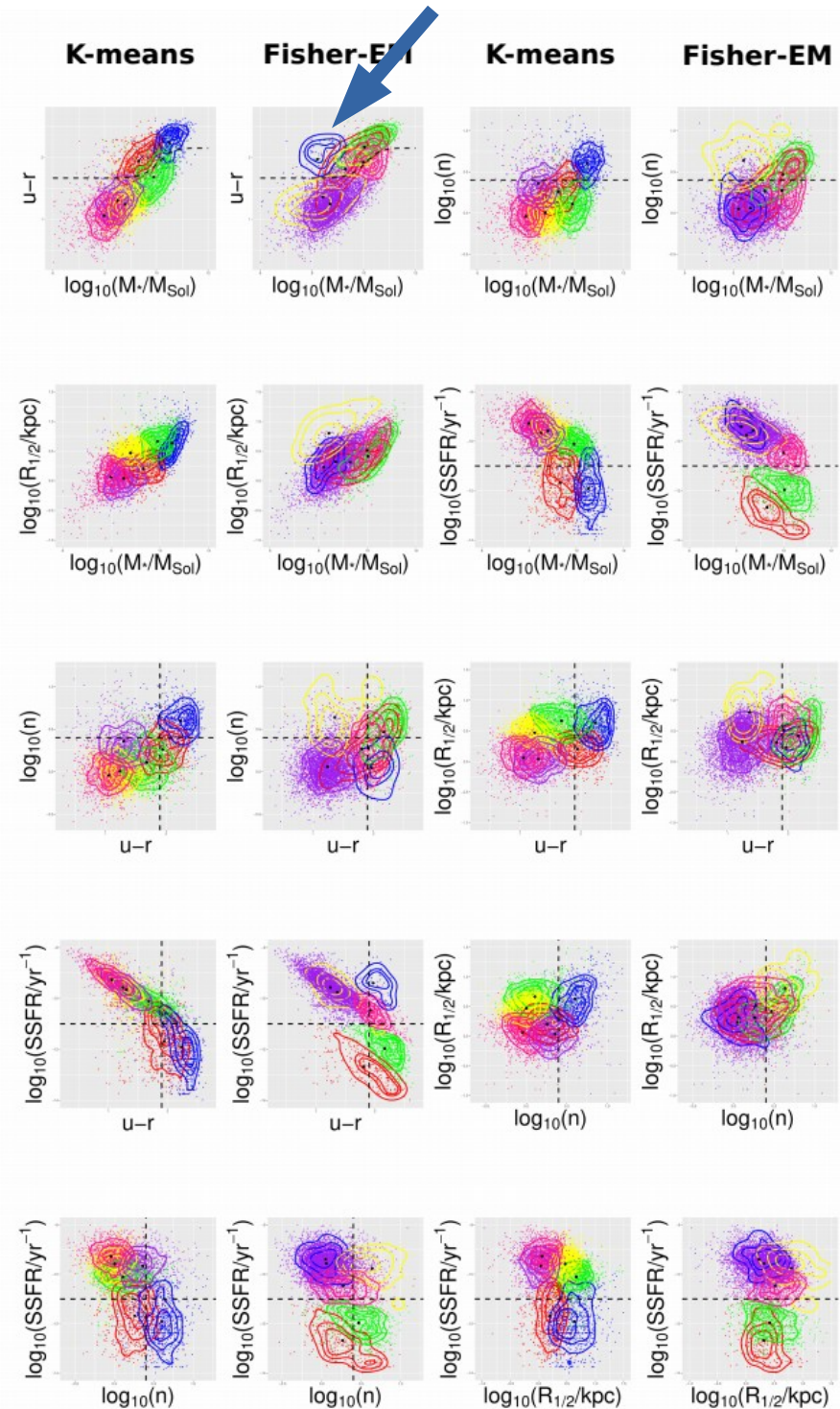
Fisher-EM

Comparison of the
classifications obtained with
K-means and Fisher-EM of
the sample of physical
parameters
for **K=6**



**Fisher-EM
solutions
are more
physical**

Beissière & Moutaka (in prep)



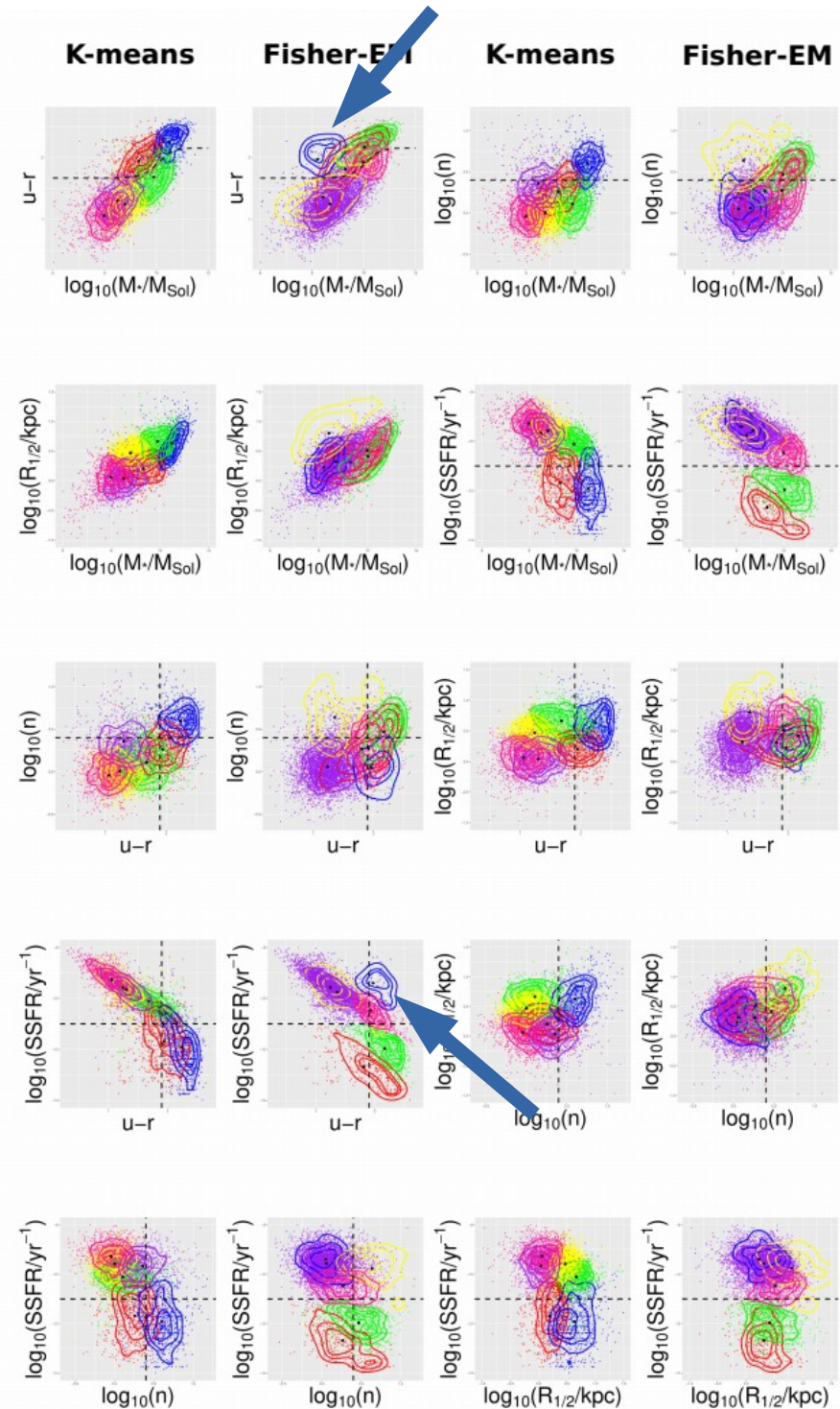
Fisher-EM

Comparison of the
classifications obtained with
K-means and Fisher-EM of
the sample of physical
parameters
for **K=6**



**Fisher-EM
solutions
are more
physical**

Beissière & Moutaka (in prep)



Fisher-EM

Optimal solution of the
5-parameter sample

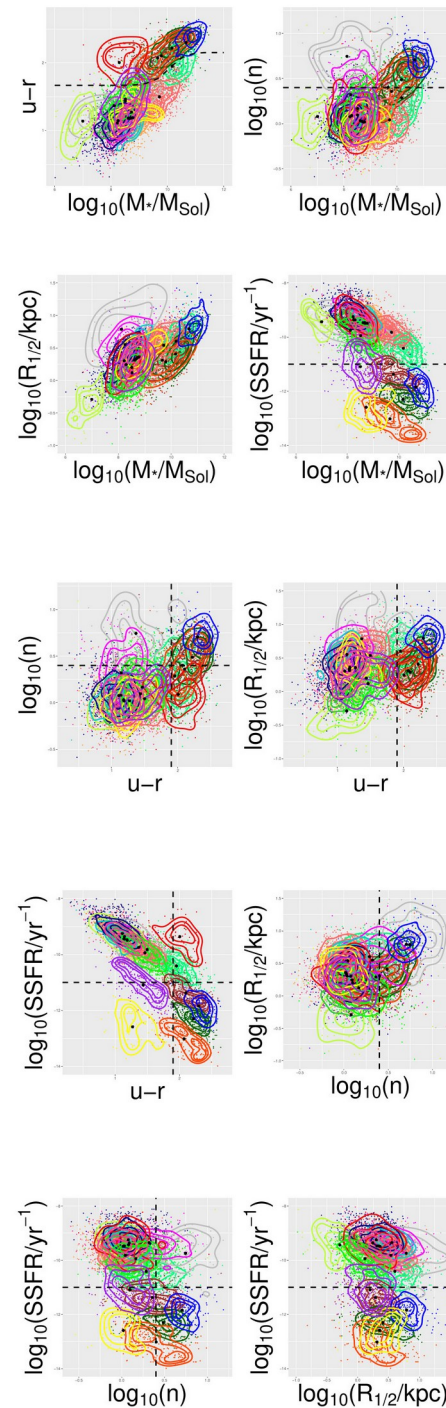


K= 18

Beissière & Moutaka (in prep)

Clusters

- Cluster_1
- Cluster_2
- Cluster_3
- Cluster_4
- Cluster_5
- Cluster_6
- Cluster_7
- Cluster_8
- Cluster_9
- Cluster_10
- Cluster_11
- Cluster_12
- Cluster_13
- Cluster_14
- Cluster_15
- Cluster_16
- Cluster_17
- Cluster_18



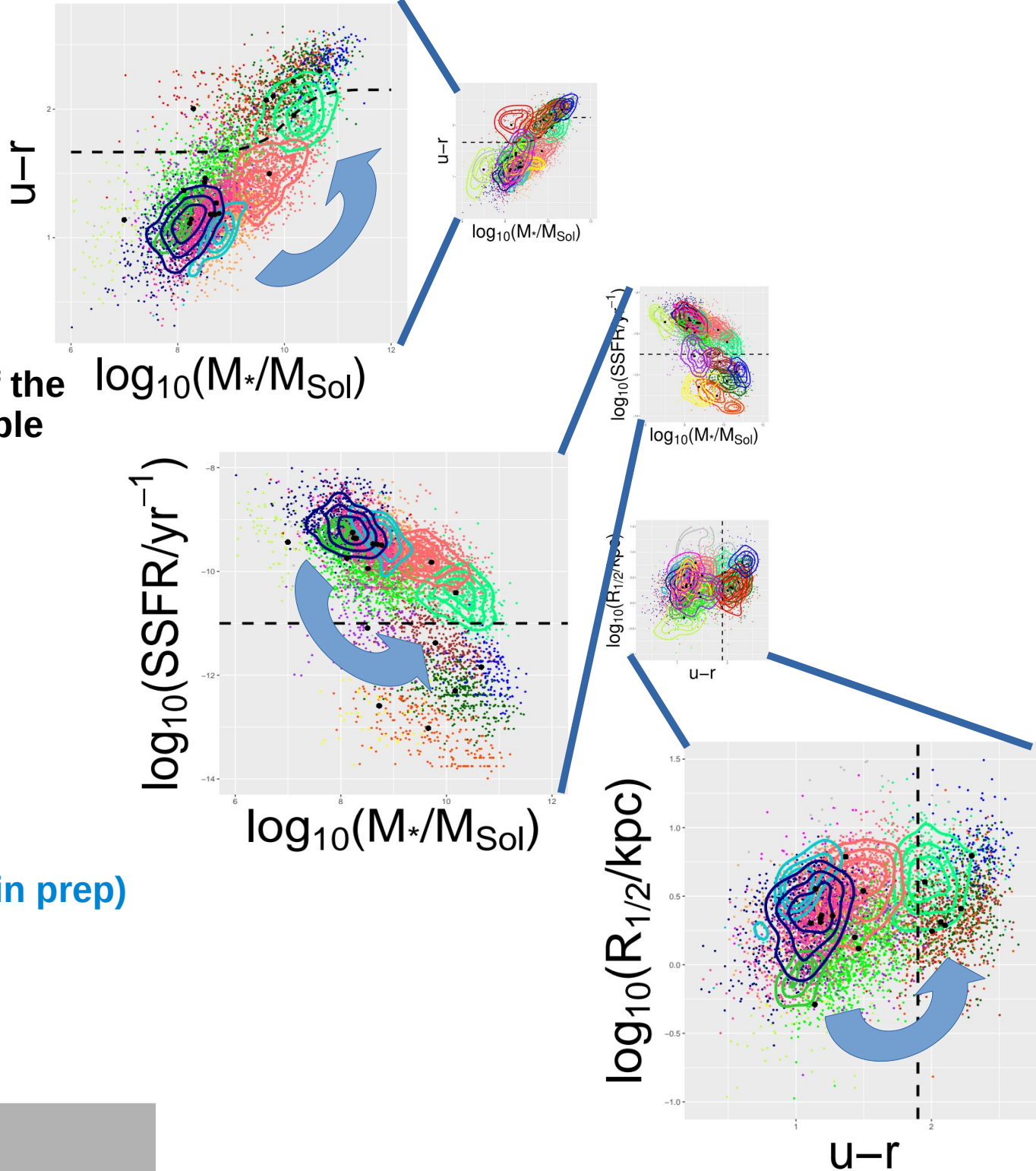
Fisher

Optimal solution of the
5-parameter sample

K= 18

Pathways
from blue
to red
galaxies

Beissière & Moutaka (in prep)



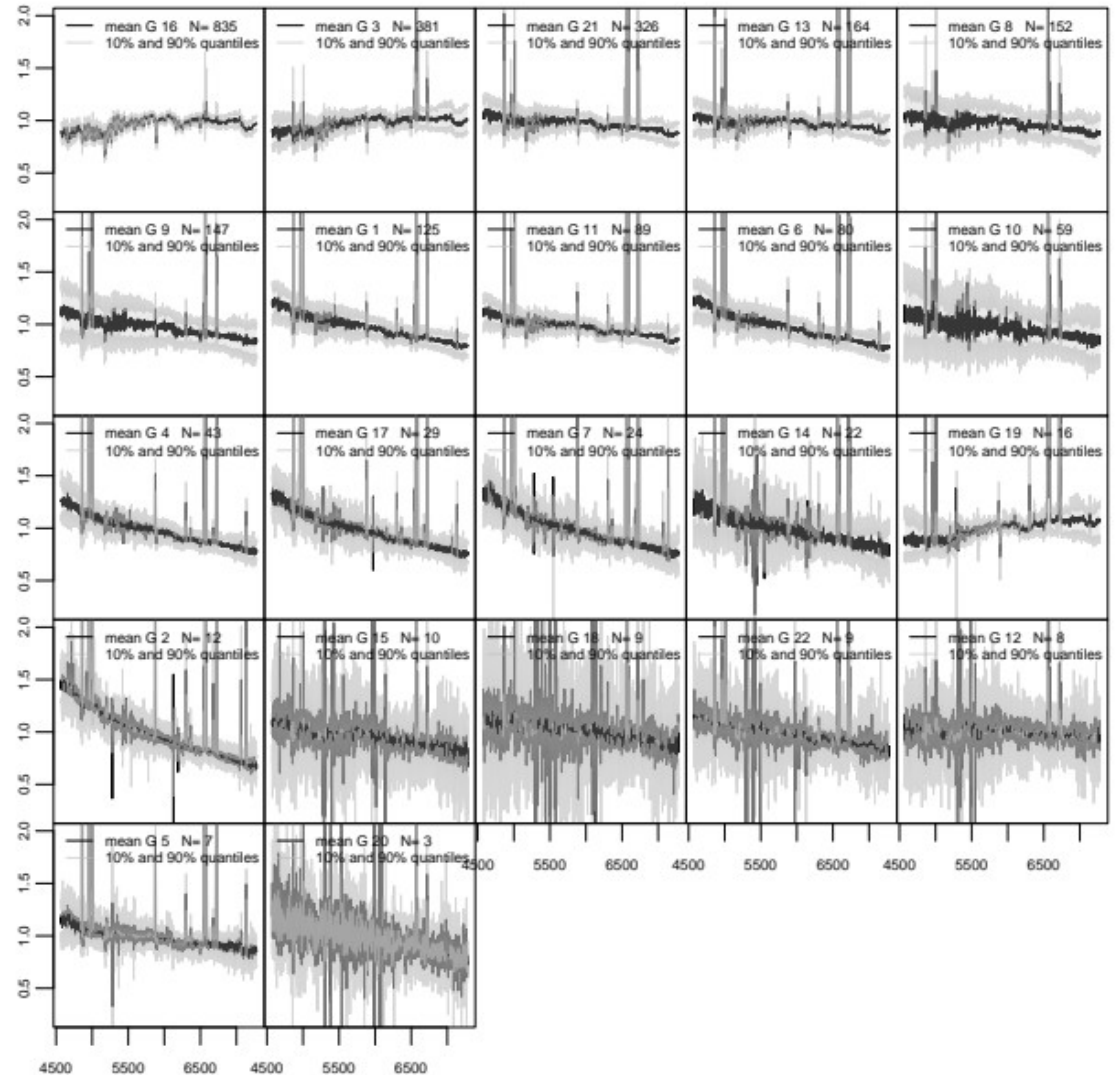
Fisher-EM on GAMA survey

Optimal solution of the
sample of spectra



$K = 22$

Beissière & Moutaka (in prep)



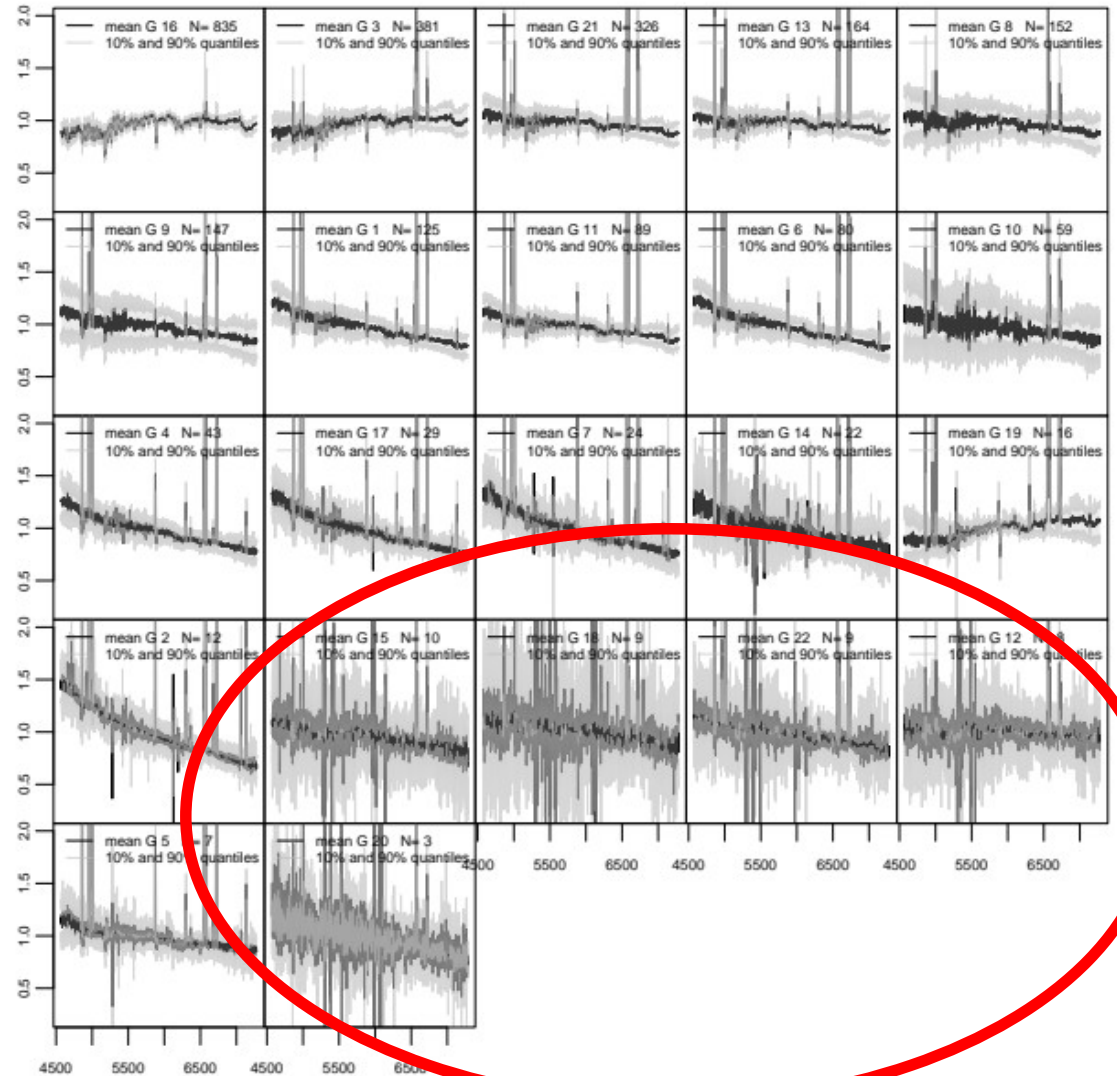
Fisher-EM on GAMA survey

Optimal solution of the
sample of spectra



$K = 22$

Beissière & Moutaka (in prep)



Fisher-EM on GAMA survey

Optimal solution of the
sample of spectra

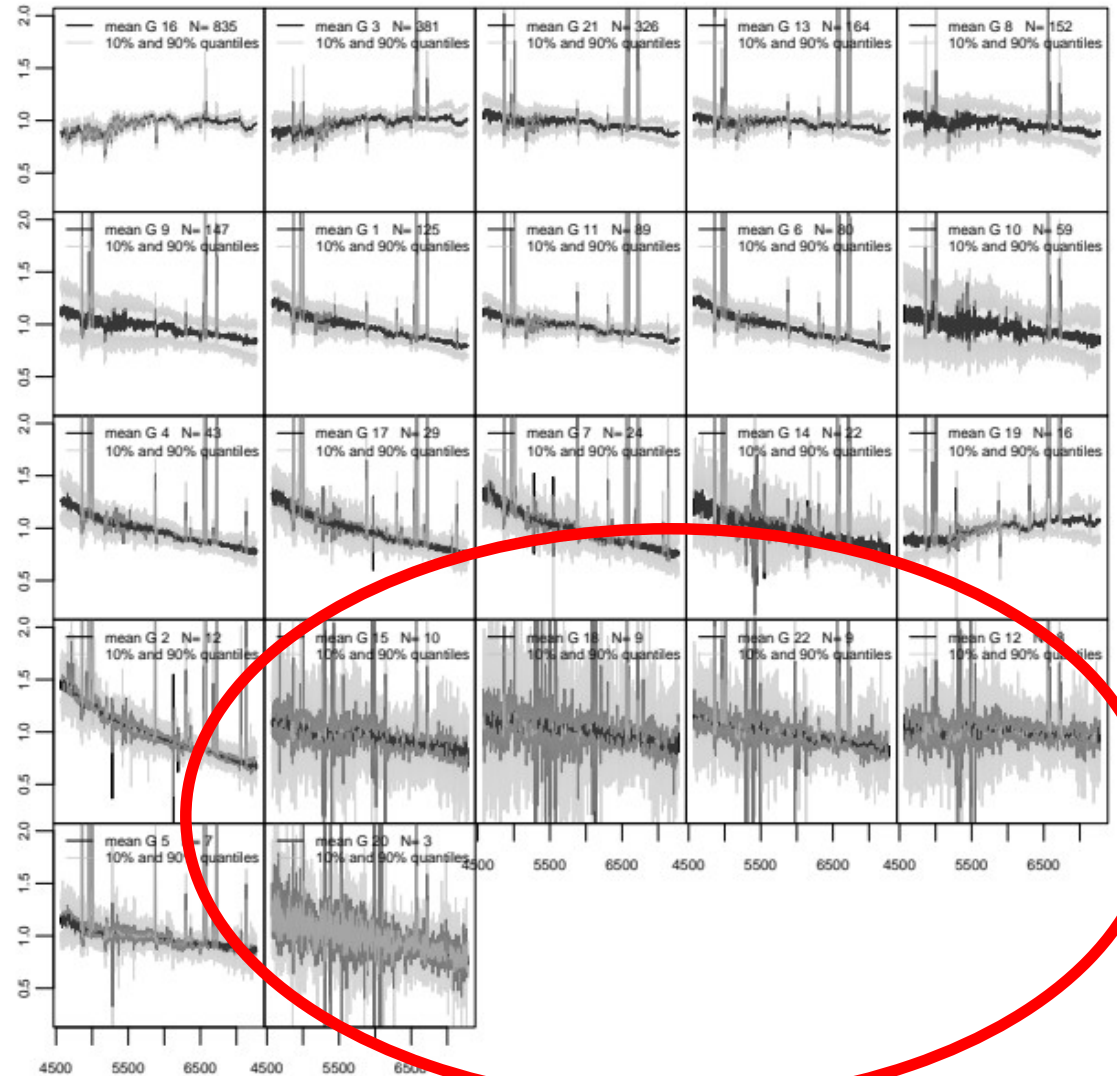


$K = 22$



$K = 17$

Beissière & Moutaka (in prep)



Fisher-EM on GAMA survey

Optimal solution of the
sample of spectra



$K = 22$

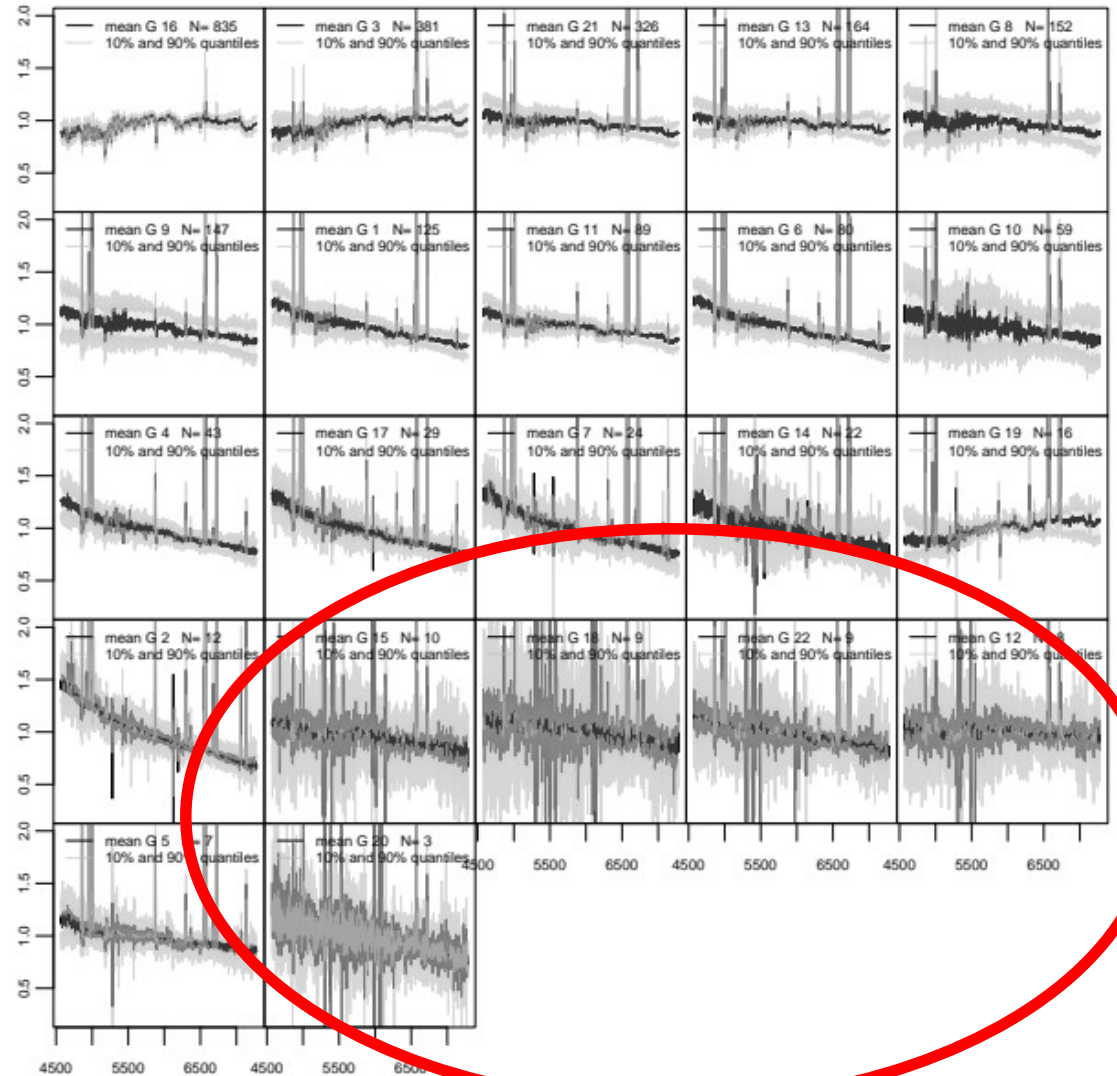


$K = 17$

Beissière & Moutaka (in prep)



To be continued ...

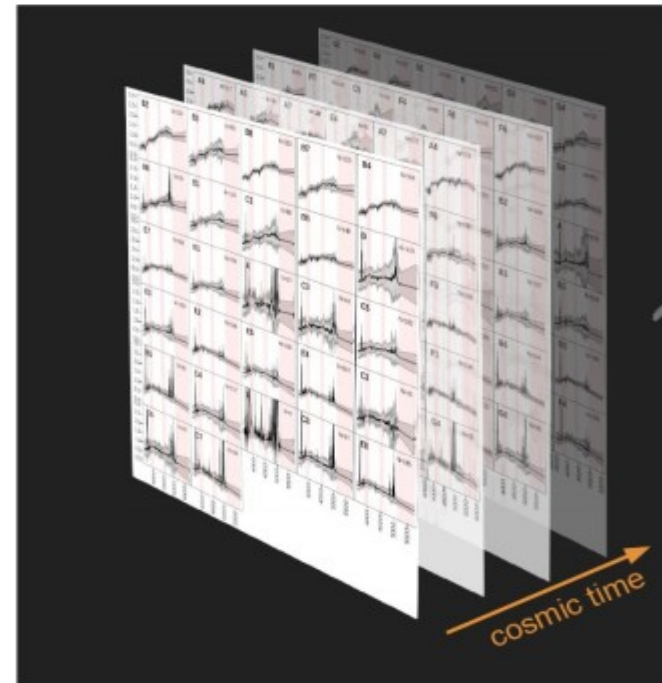


Fisher-EM on VIPERS spectra

79 000 spectra of galaxies from VIPERS survey ($0.4 < z < 1.2$)
(corrected for redshift and masked, homogeneously sampled)

➔ Divided into 26 bins of redshifts → constant step of cosmic time

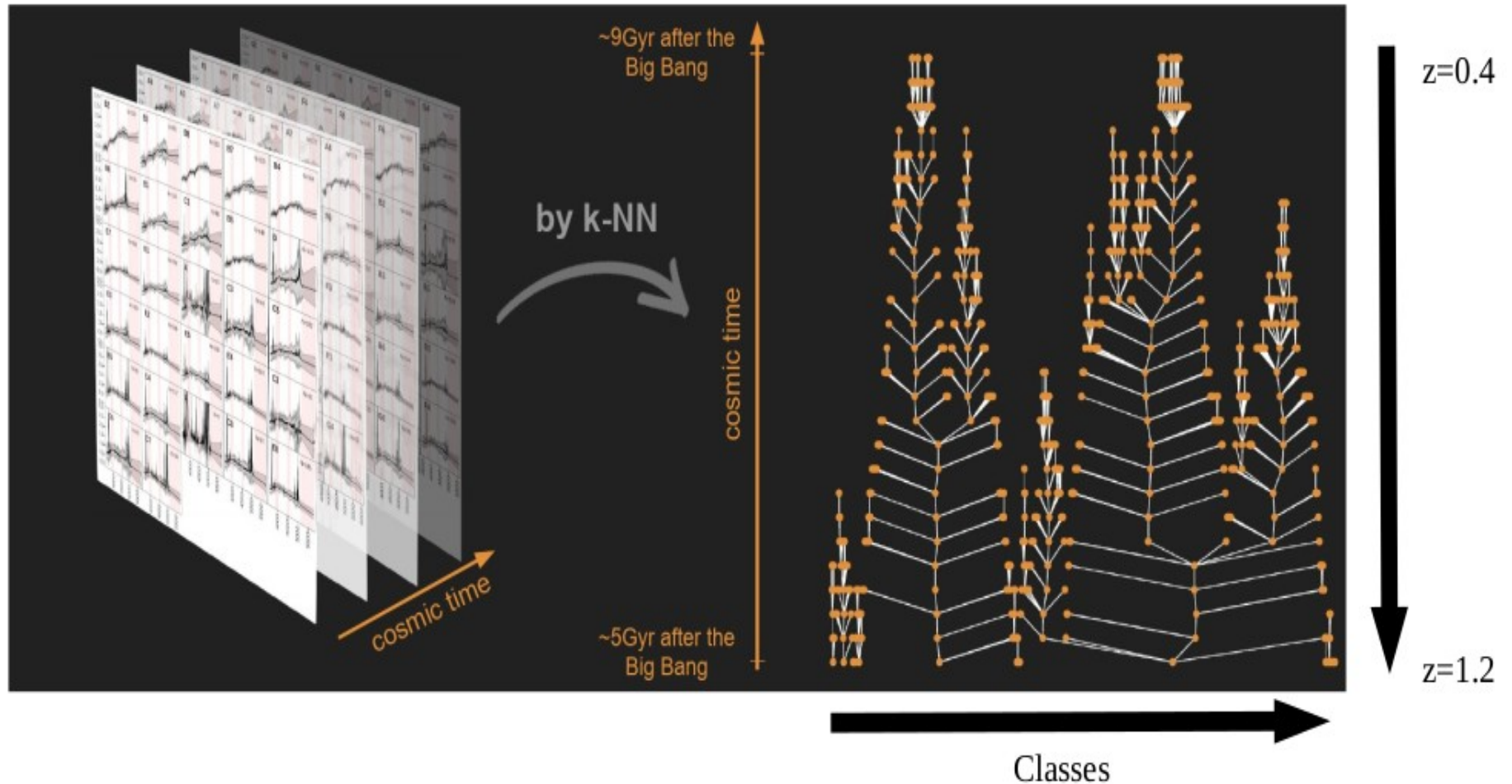
➔ Classification at each redshift bin → 26 classifications



Dubois et al. (2024)

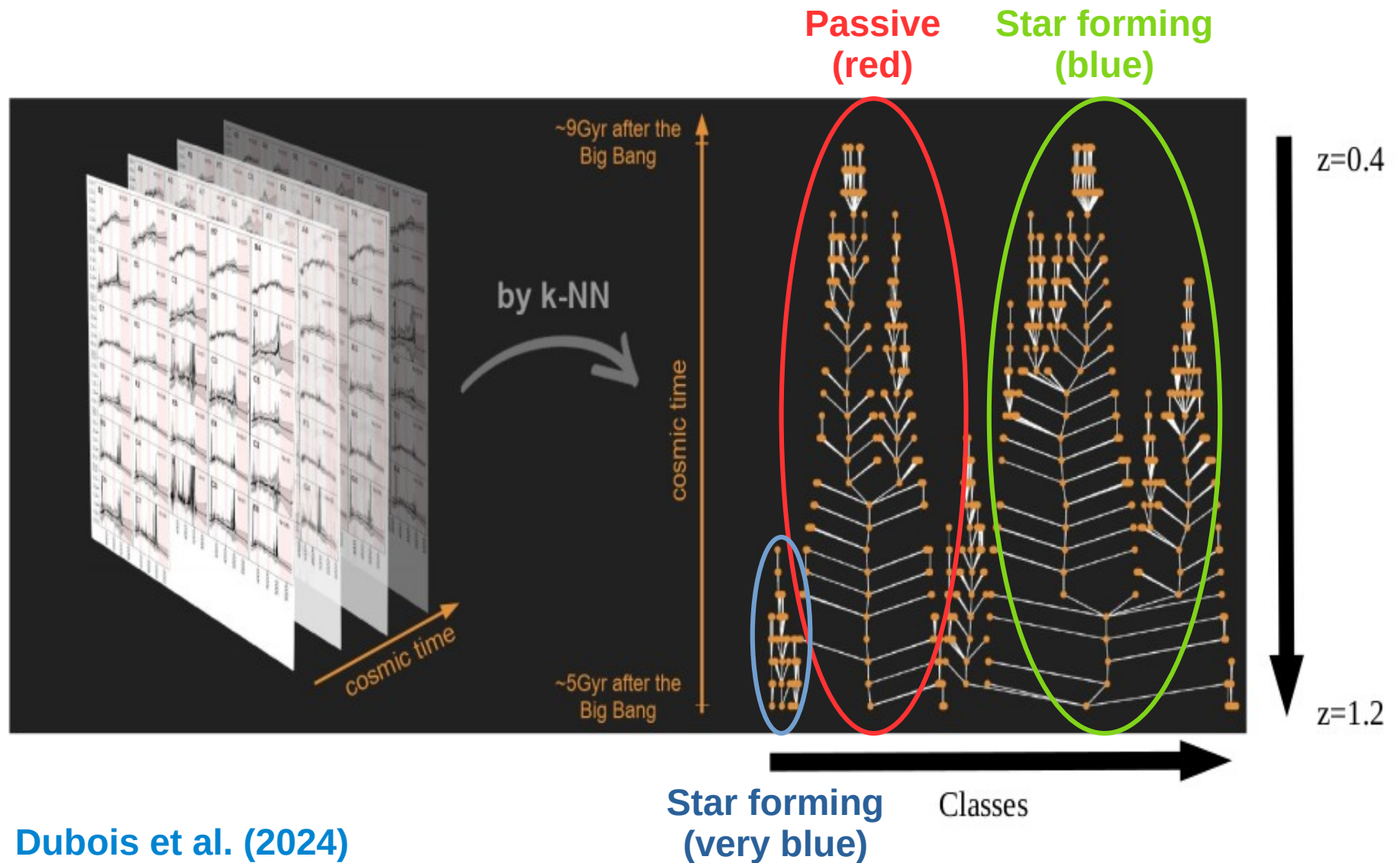
Link classes of successive epochs using k-NN algorithm → **Evolutionary tree**

Fisher-EM on VIPERS spectra



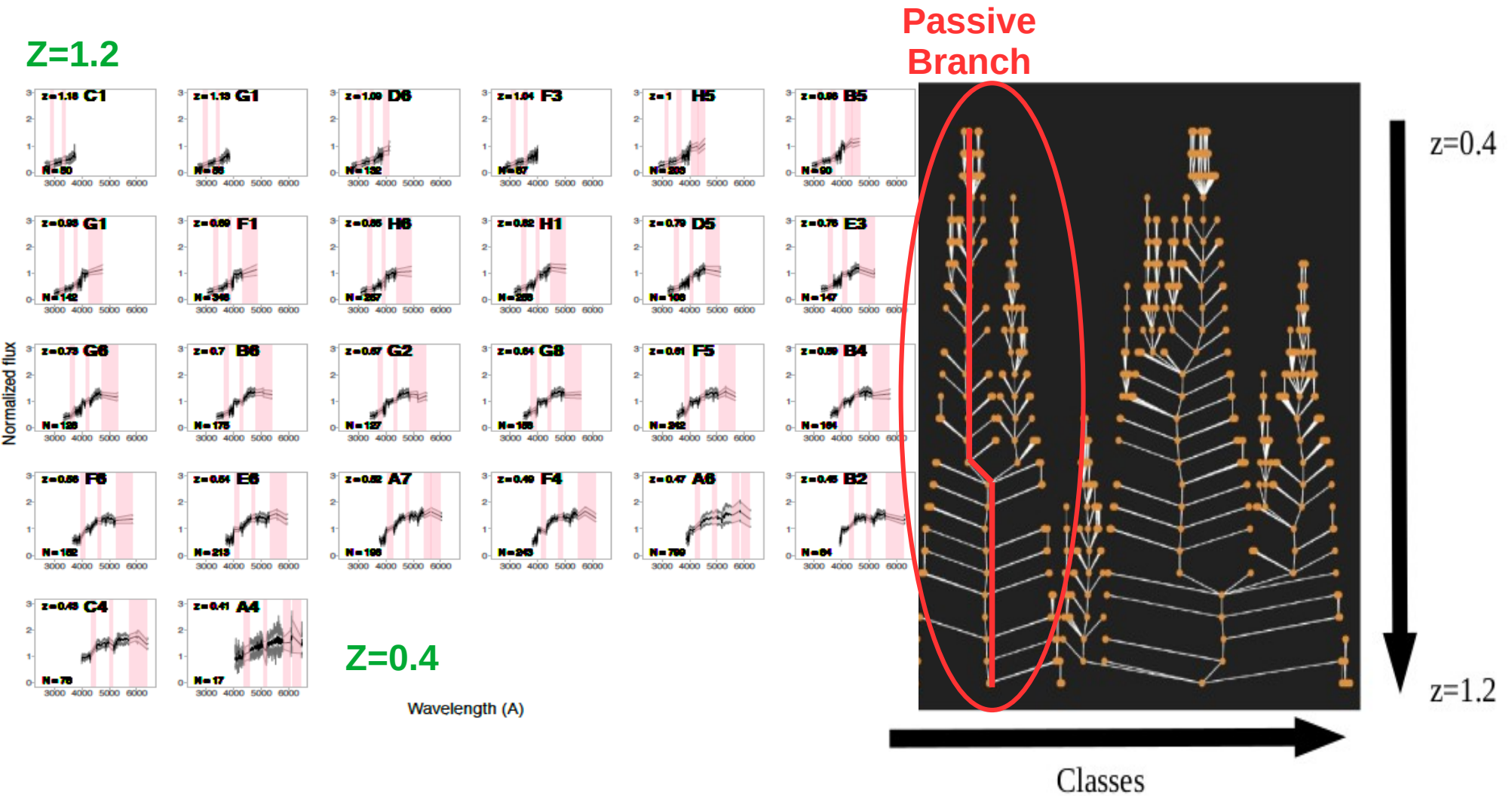
Dubois et al. (2024)

Fisher-EM on VIPERS spectra



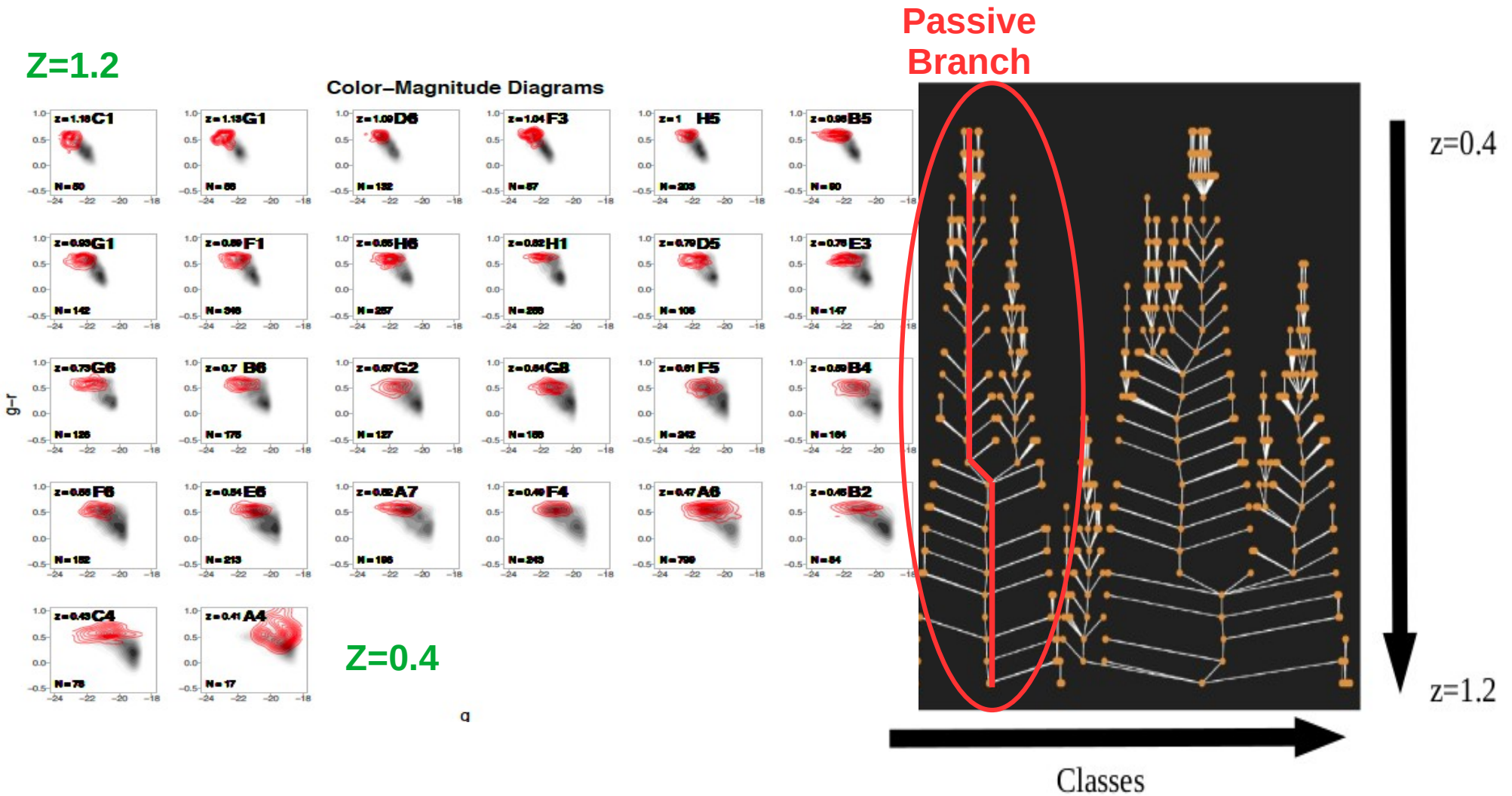
Dubois et al. (2024)

Fisher-EM on VIPERS spectra



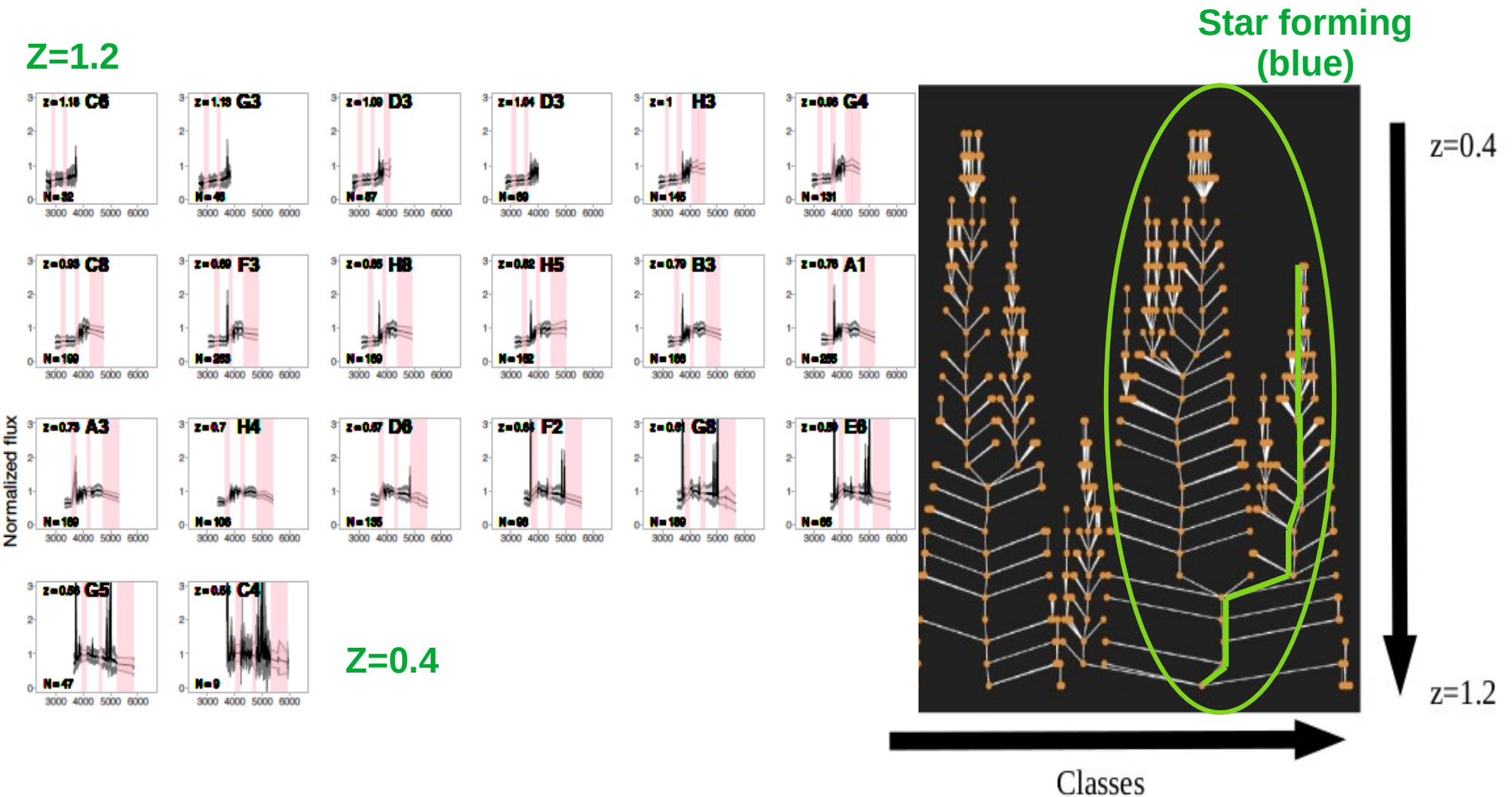
Dubois et al. (2024)

Fisher-EM on VIPERS spectra



Dubois et al. (2024)

Fisher-EM on VIPERS spectra

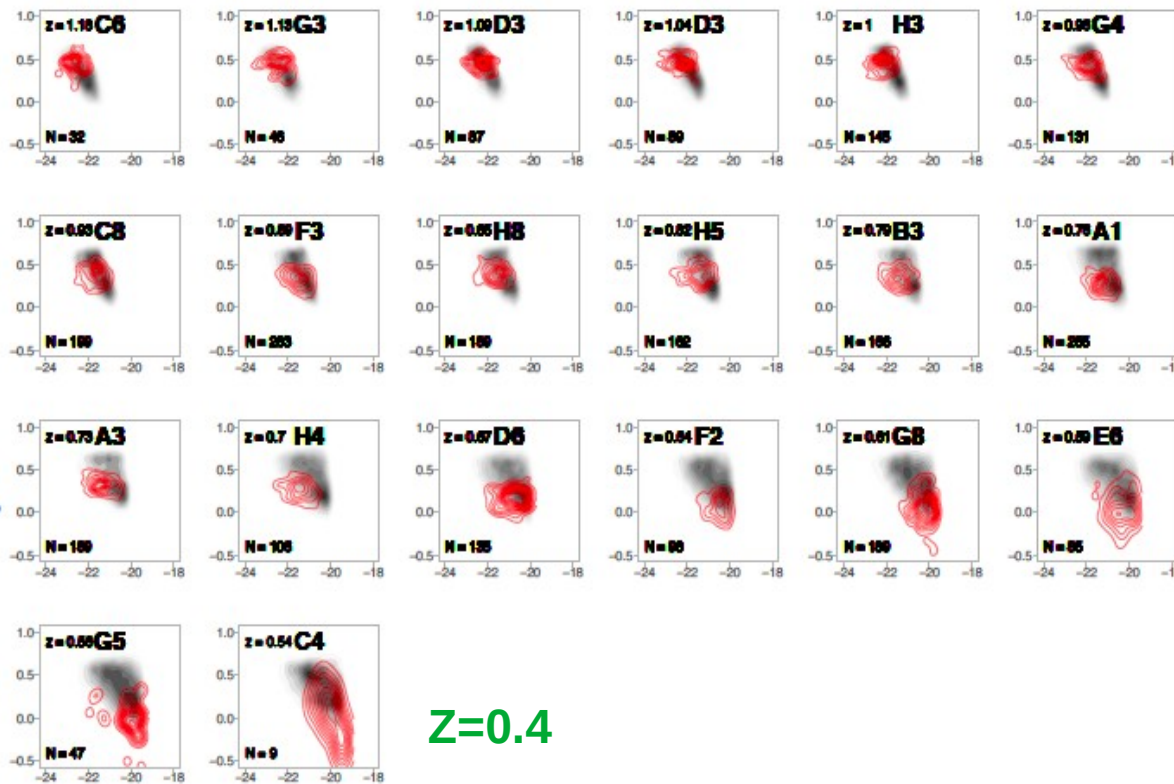


Dubois et al. (2024)

Fisher-EM on VIPERS spectra

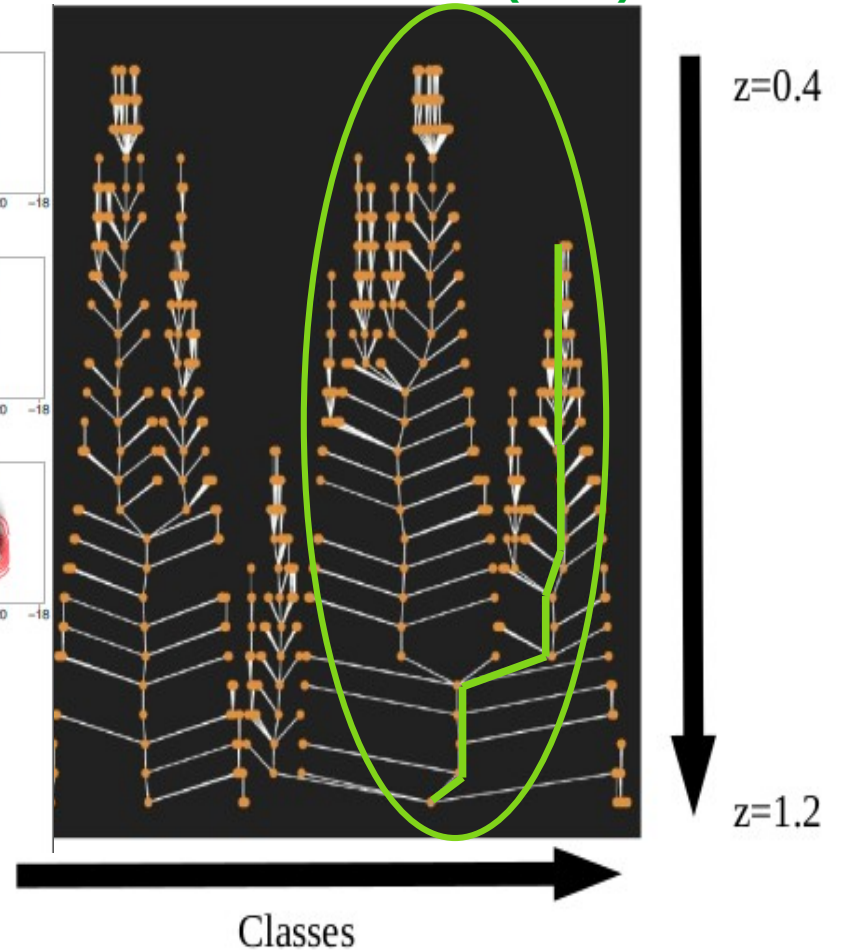
$z=1.2$

Color-Magnitude Diagrams



$z=0.4$

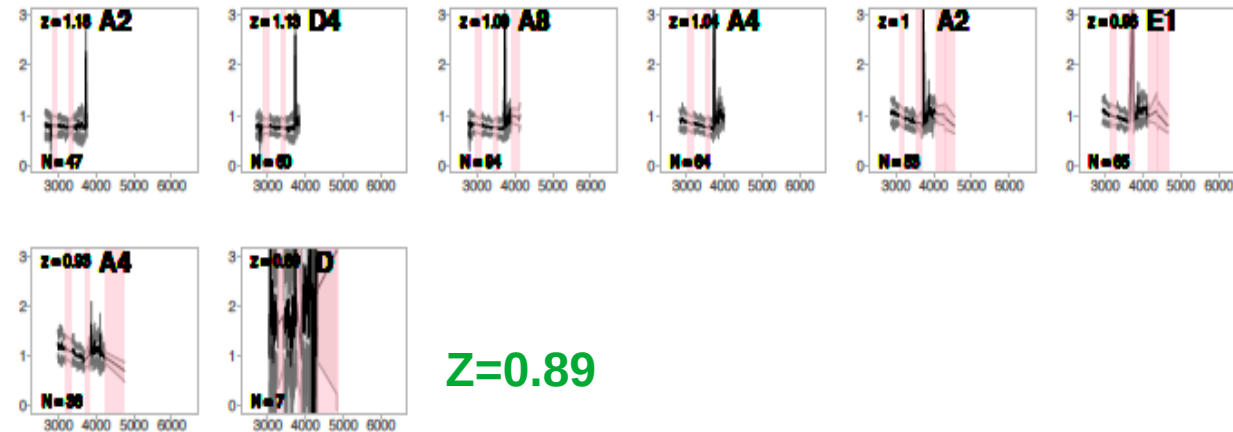
Star forming
(blue)



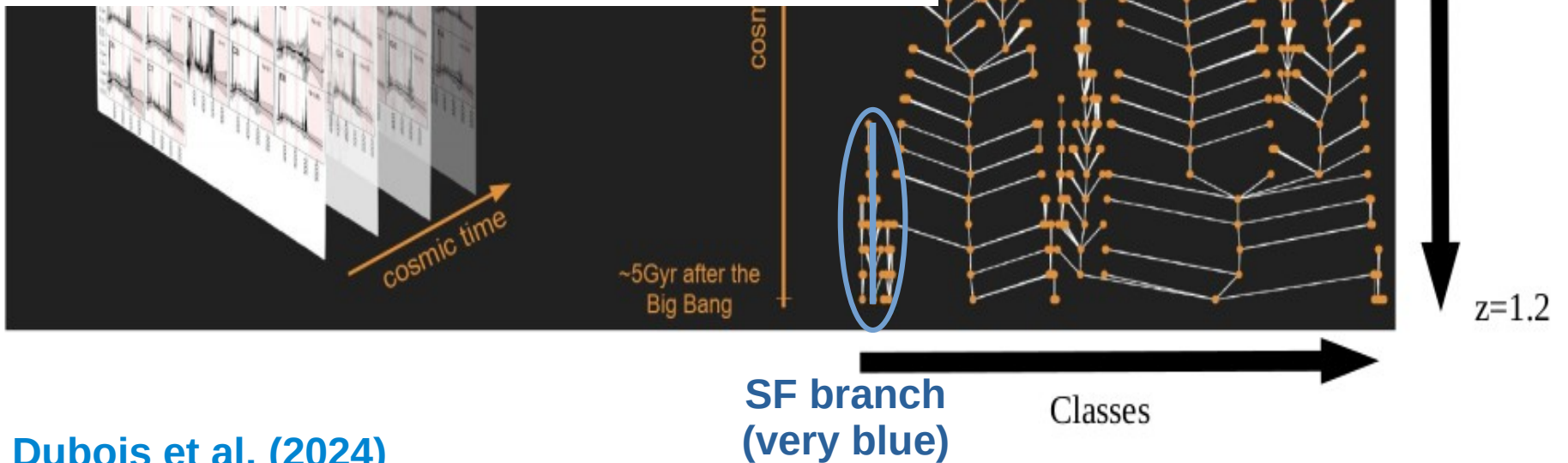
Dubois et al. (2024)

Fisher-EM on VIPERS spectra

$z=1.2$



$z=0.89$



Dubois et al. (2024)

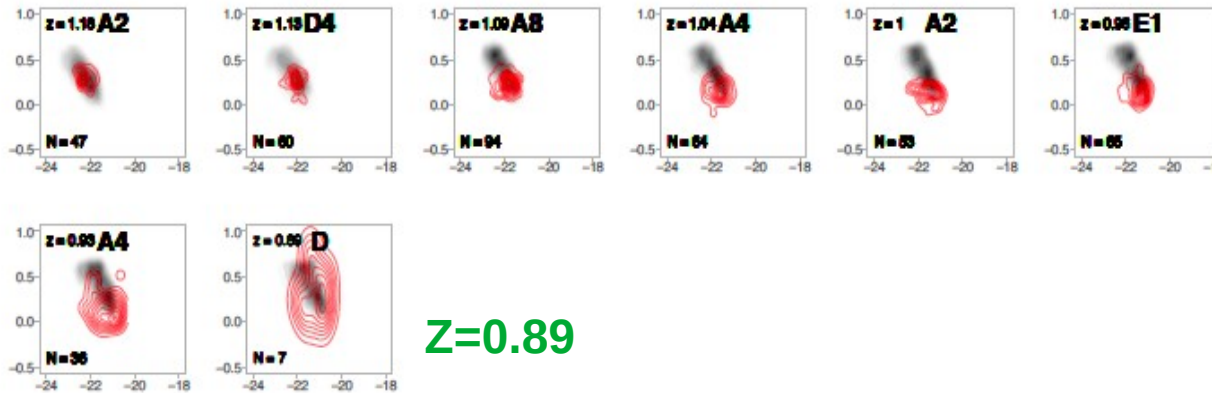
SF branch
(very blue)

Classes

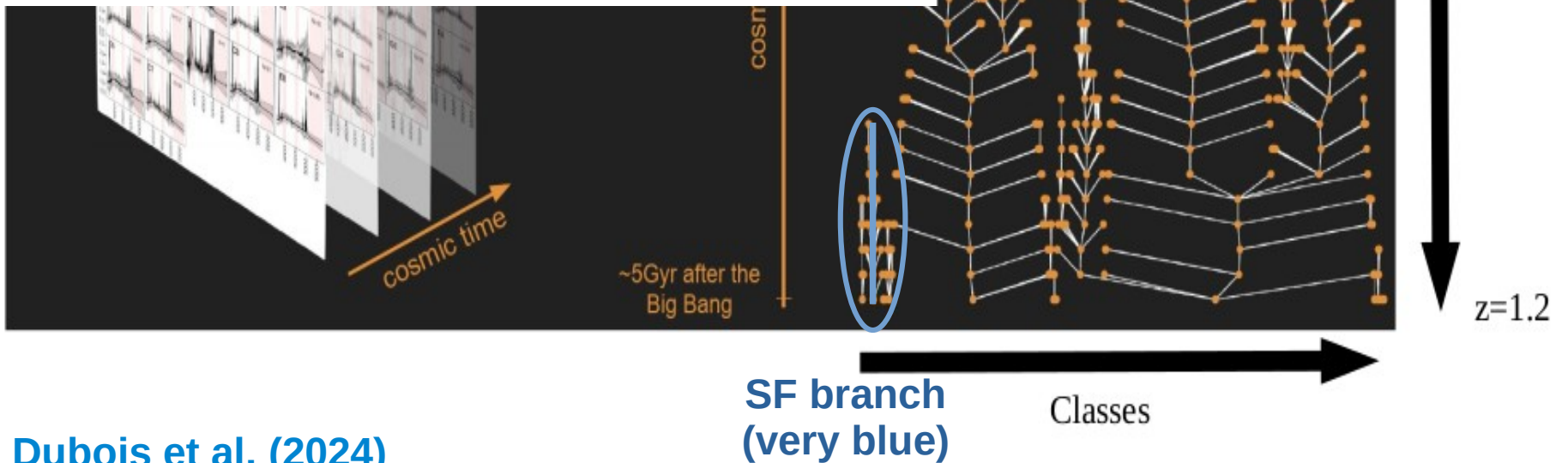
Fisher-EM on VIPERS spectra

$z=1.2$

Color-Magnitude Diagrams



$z=0.89$



Dubois et al. (2024)

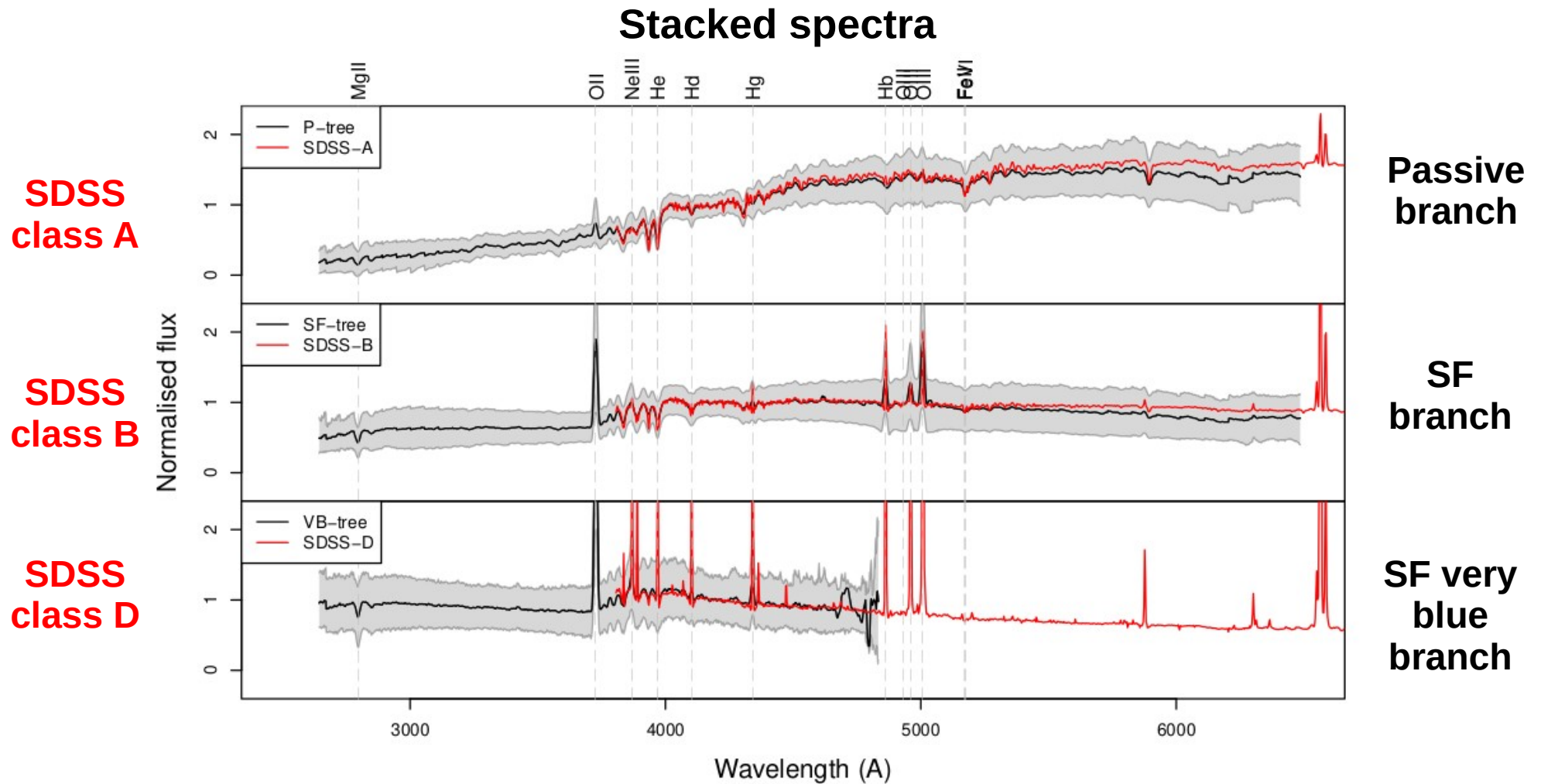
Conclusion

- Demonstrate the **power of unsupervised approach**
- **Fisher-EM** is a reliable method for unsupervised classification at **high dimension**
- **Discriminates** physical parameters of galaxies from their spectra
- Provides a meaningful **physical classification of optical spectra** at low redshift galaxies
- **Distinguishes pathways** in the parameter spaces of the classical **bimodal distribution** of galaxies
- Seems to discriminate **evolutionary sequences** of galaxy spectra through the cosmic ages

What's next ?

Probe other redshifts, wavelength ranges and physical observables

Fisher-EM on VIPERS spectra



Dubois et al. (2024)