

High z luminosity functions through photometric classification of core-collapse supernovae

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Fink@World

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SWINBURNE
UNIVERSITY OF
TECHNOLOGY



Supervisors:

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Supernova types



Type Ia Supernova - Artist's Impression

Lukas Steinwender



Watch on

Thermonuclear supernova. (Lukas Steinwender)

Supernova types



Type Ia Supernova - Artist's Impression
Lukas Steinwender



Watch on



Type II Supernova - Artist's Impression
Lukas Steinwender



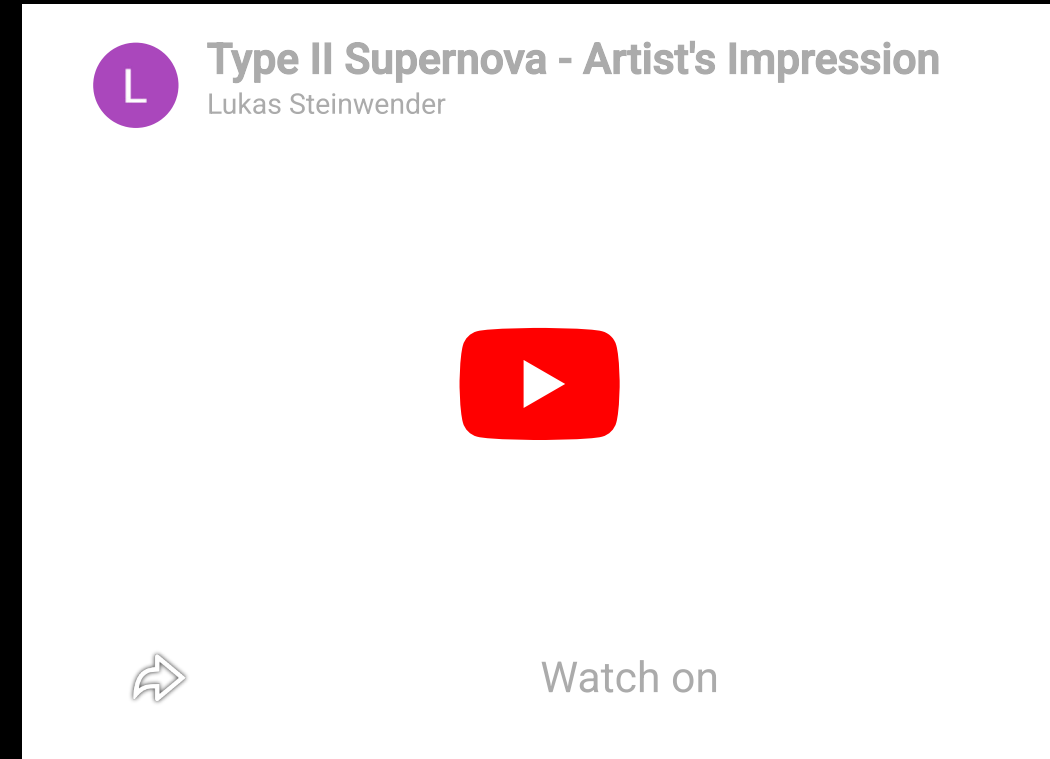
Watch on

Thermonuclear supernova. (Lukas Steinwender)

Core-collapse supernova. (Lukas Steinwender)

Core-collapse supernovae

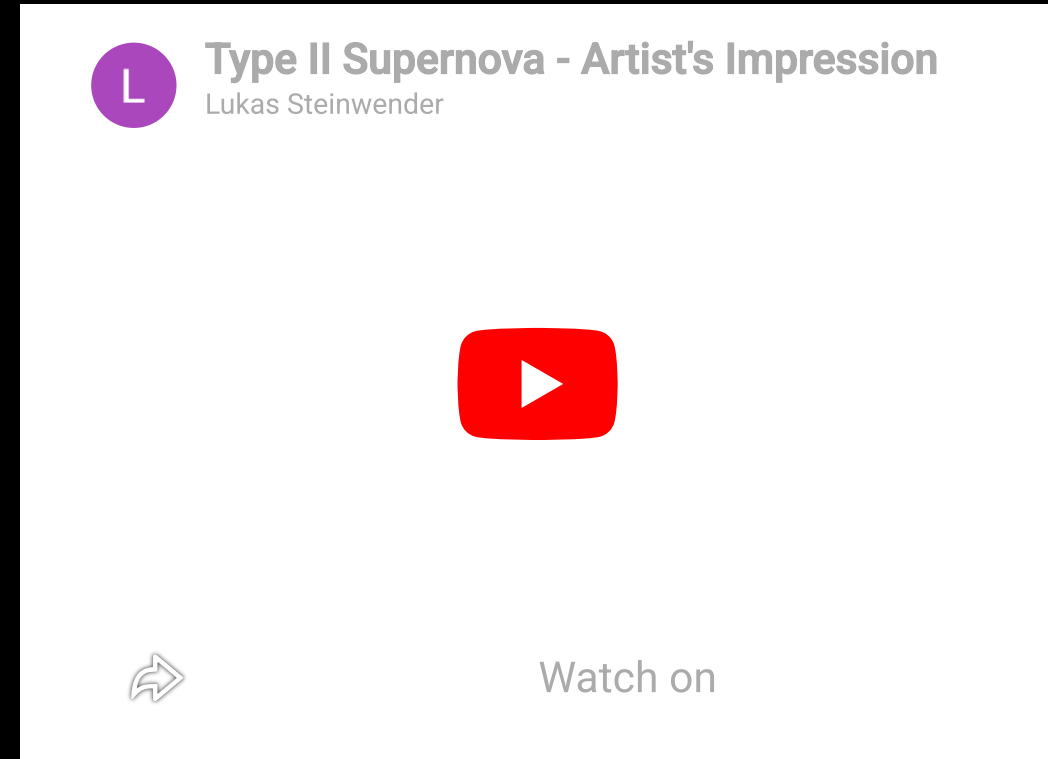
- Death of massive stars ($M_* \geq 8 M_{\odot}$)
- 2 major classes
 - SN II (50% of all SNe)
 - SN Ib/c (25% of all SNe)
- Probes of chemical enrichment
- Probes of extreme physics
- Less than 700 classified
- Most up to $z \approx 0.4$



Core-collapse supernova. (Lukas Steinwender)

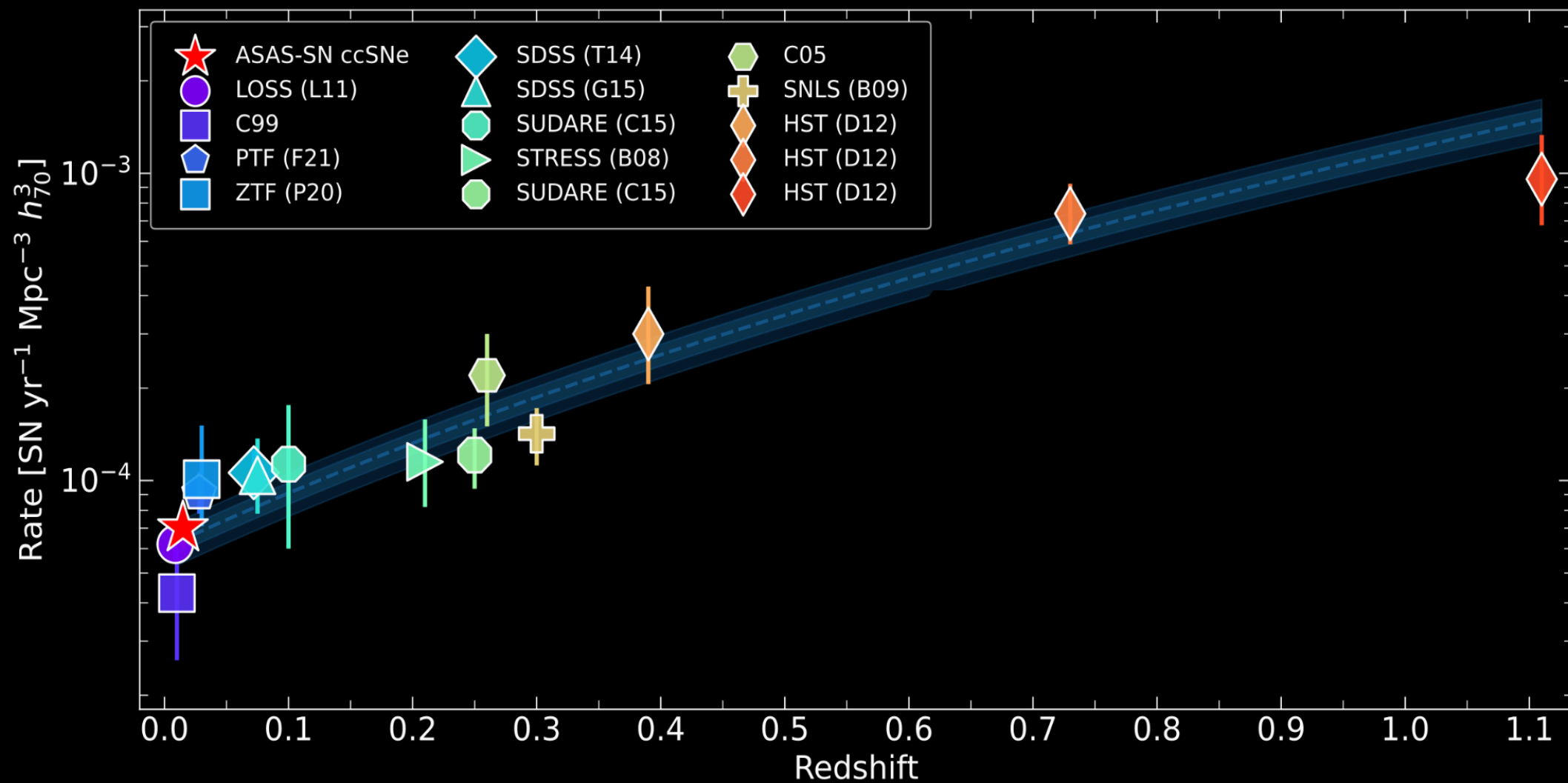
Core-collapse supernovae

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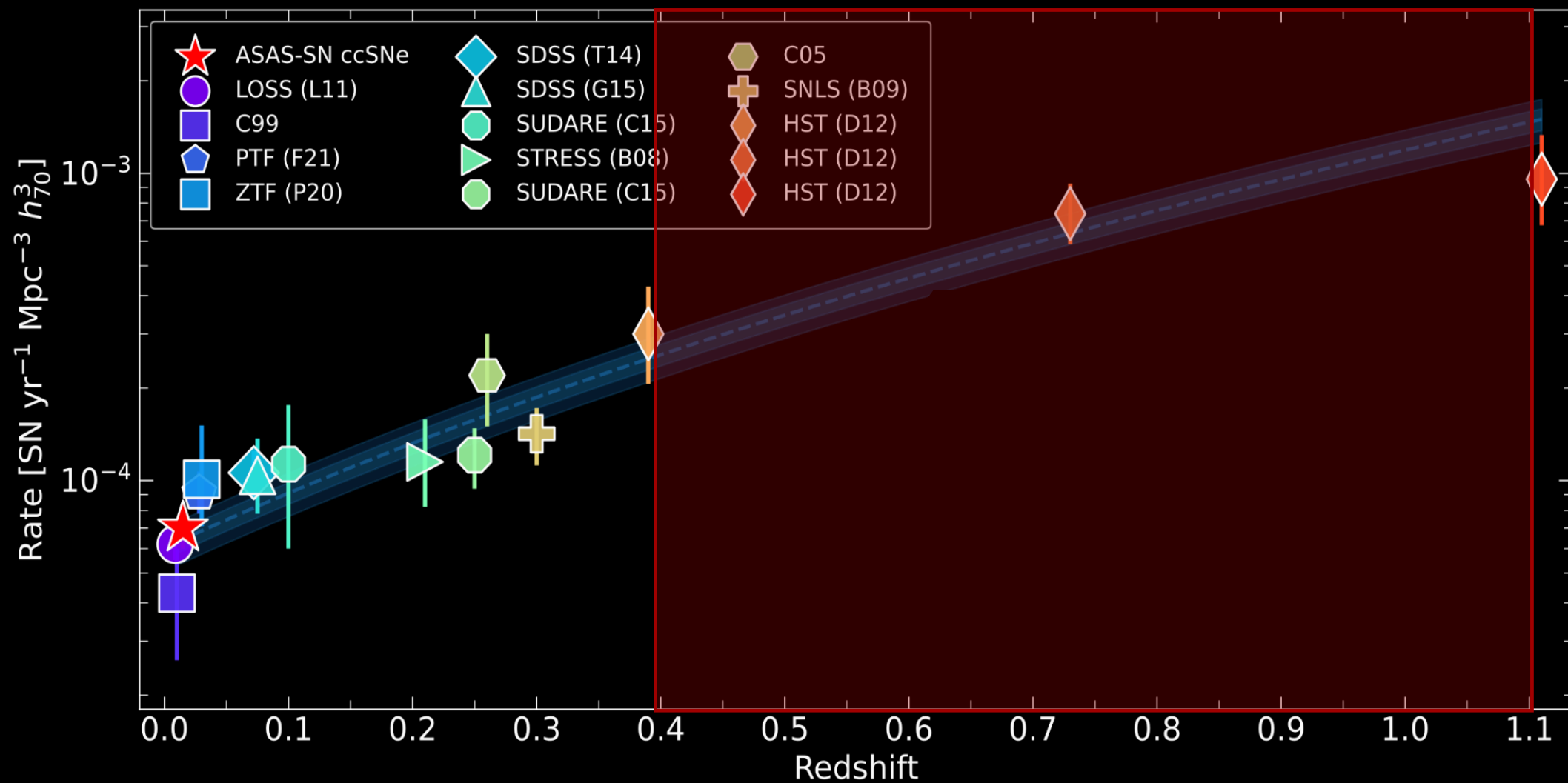


Core-collapse supernova. (Lukas Steinwender)

We need more of them!



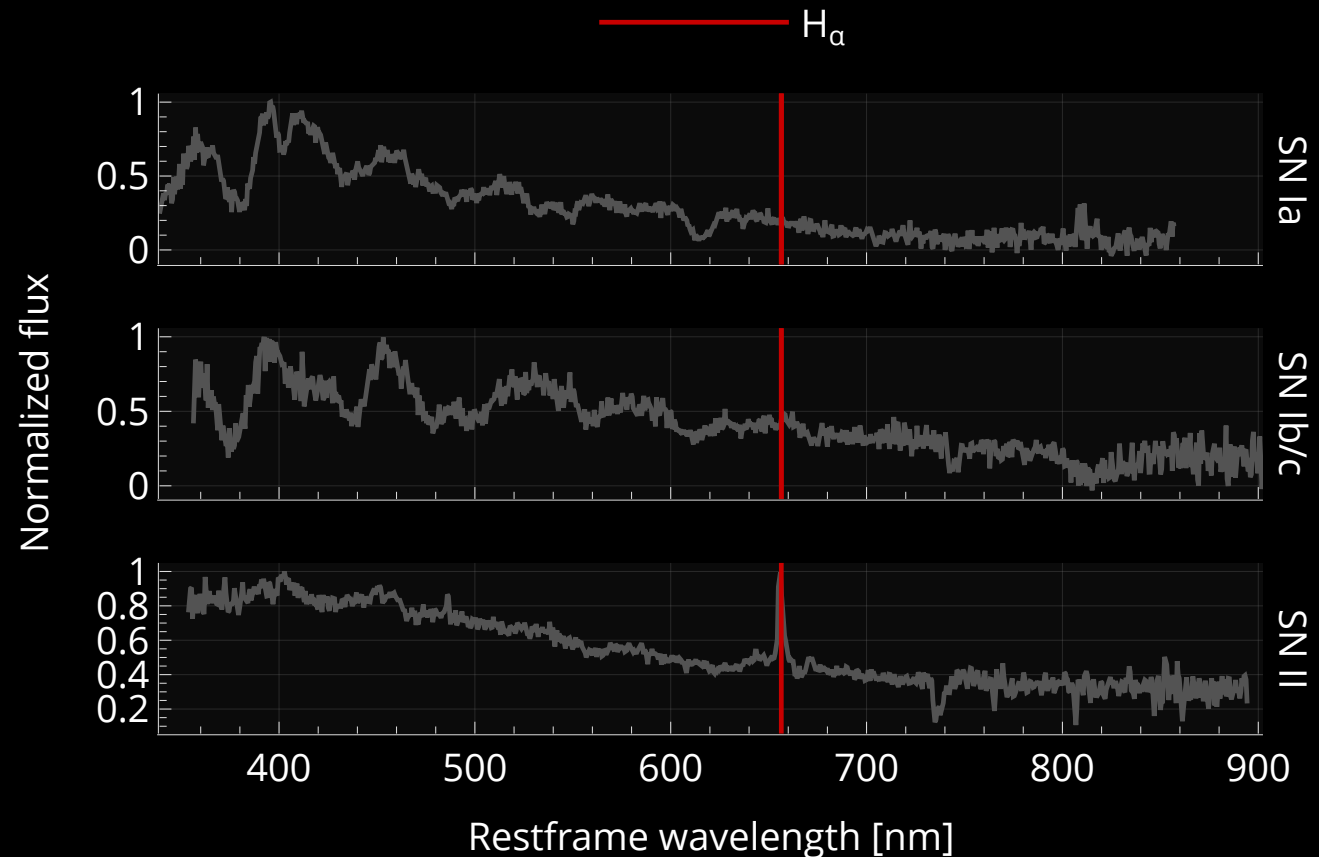
Current SNe CC rate landscape. (Pessi et al., 2025)



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Supernova classification - spectroscopy

- Traditional approach
- Time-intensive to follow up
- Limited to close-by SNe

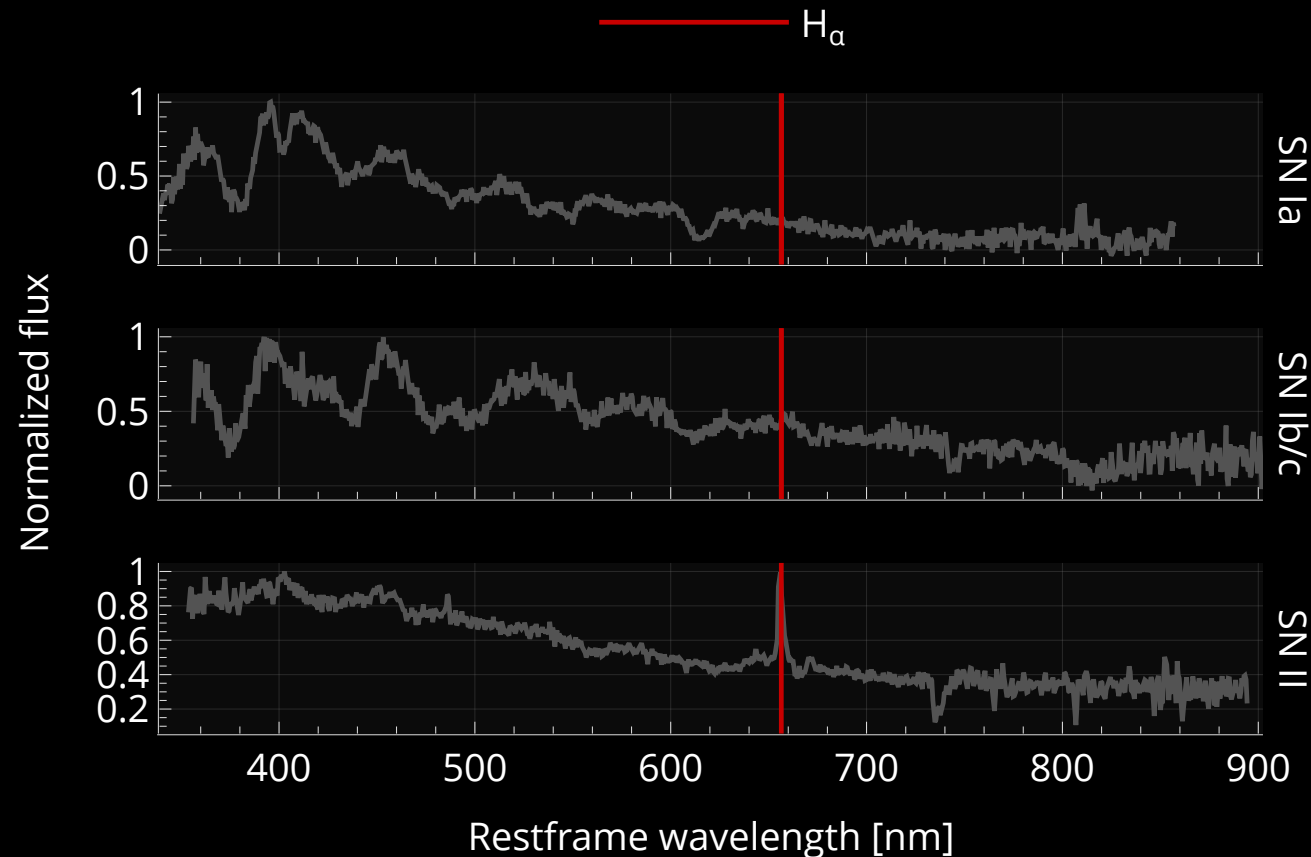


Spectra of supernova subtypes.

Supernova classification - spectroscopy

- Traditional approach
- Time-intensive to follow up
- Limited to close-by SNe

We need an alternative!



Spectra of supernova subtypes.

The Vera C. Rubin Observatoy

huge opportunity with new challenges



- Legacy Survey of Space and Time (LSST, Ivezić et al., 2019)
 - Southern night-sky
 - For 10 years
 - Once every 3 days
 - 6 colors
- 10 million alerts per night
- Largest digital camera ever built



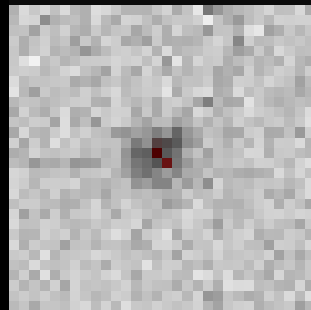
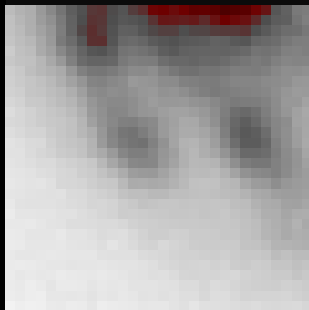
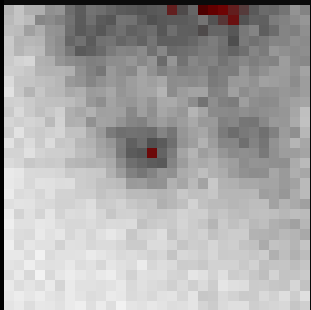
(NSF-DOE Vera C. Rubin Observatory/NOIRLab/SLAC/AURA)

Discovery by visual inspection

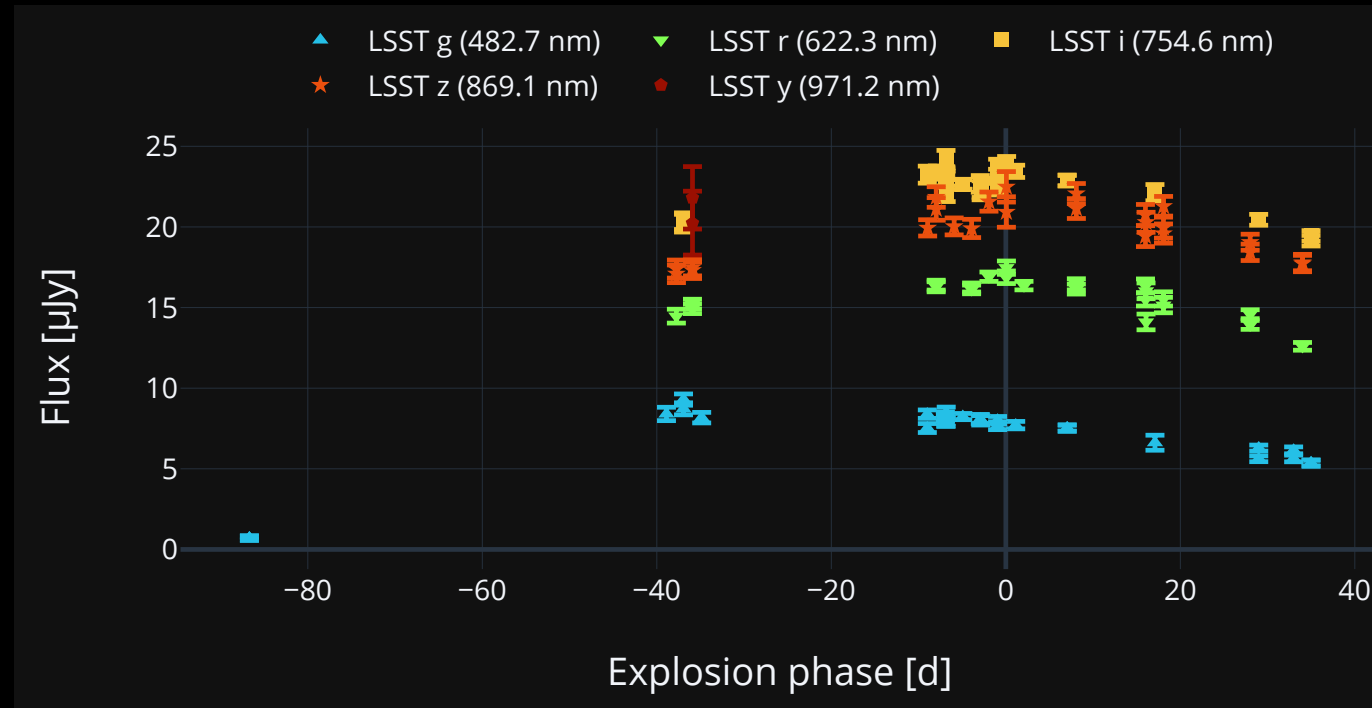
Science

Template

Difference



Difference imaging.



Lightcurve of a SN II.

ThumP! visual inspection for transient discovery.

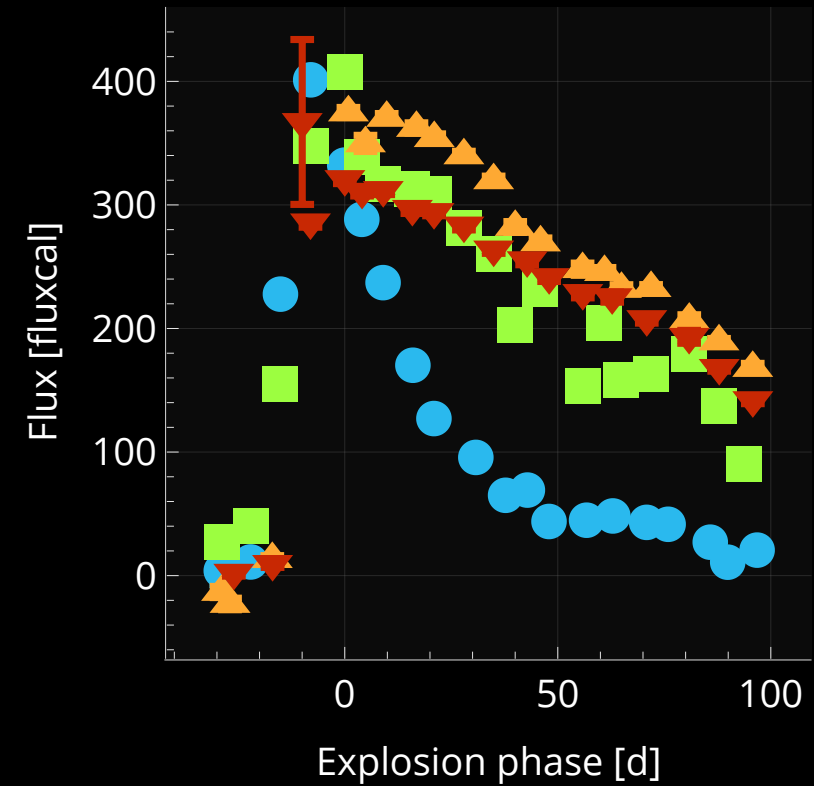
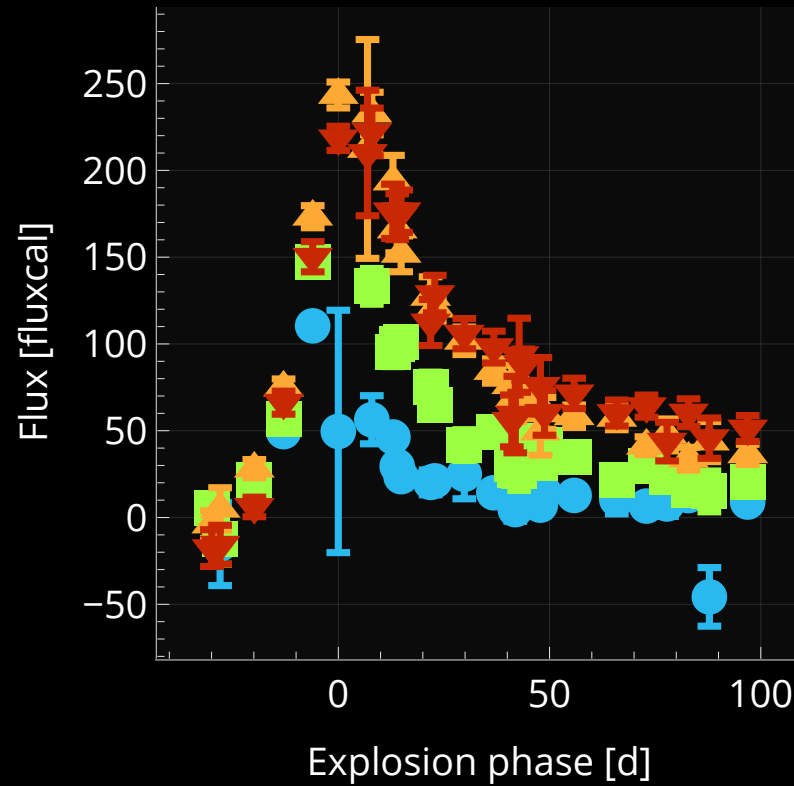
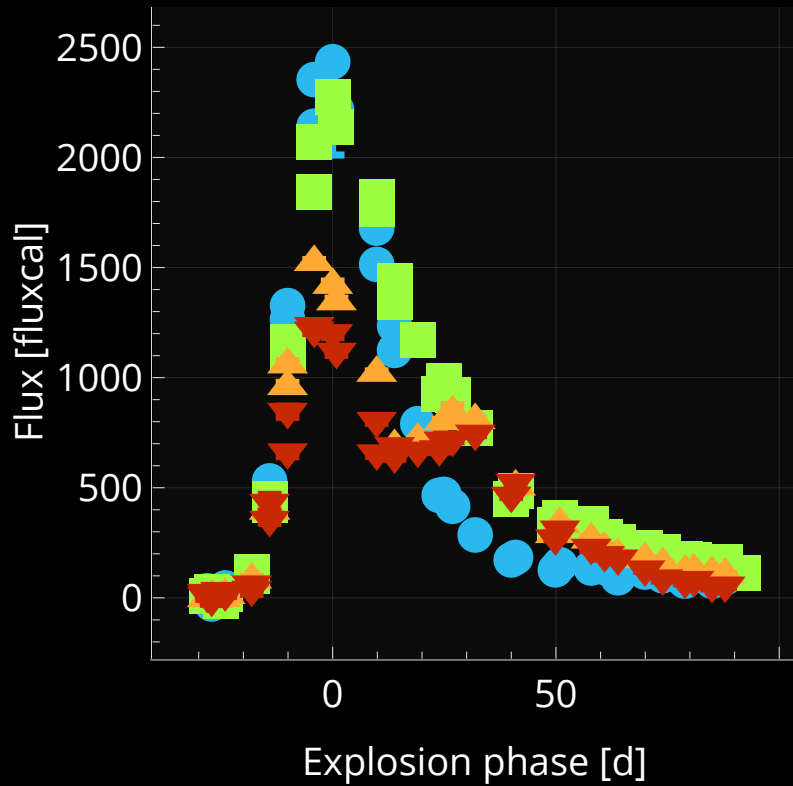
- Find things that are changing through difference images
- A lot of domain knowledge needed

There is no certainty on the type of SN!



ThumP! in action for Rubin's first alerts!

Photometric classification



SN Ia lightcurve.

SN Ib/c lightcurve.

SN II lightcurve.

SuperNNova (Möller et al., 2020)

- Recurrent Neural Network for SN classification
- Trained on LCs
- Designed for SNe Ia
- Discovered 2500 SNe Ia
- Biggest high redshift SNe Ia cosmology sample
- Used by 4 surveys

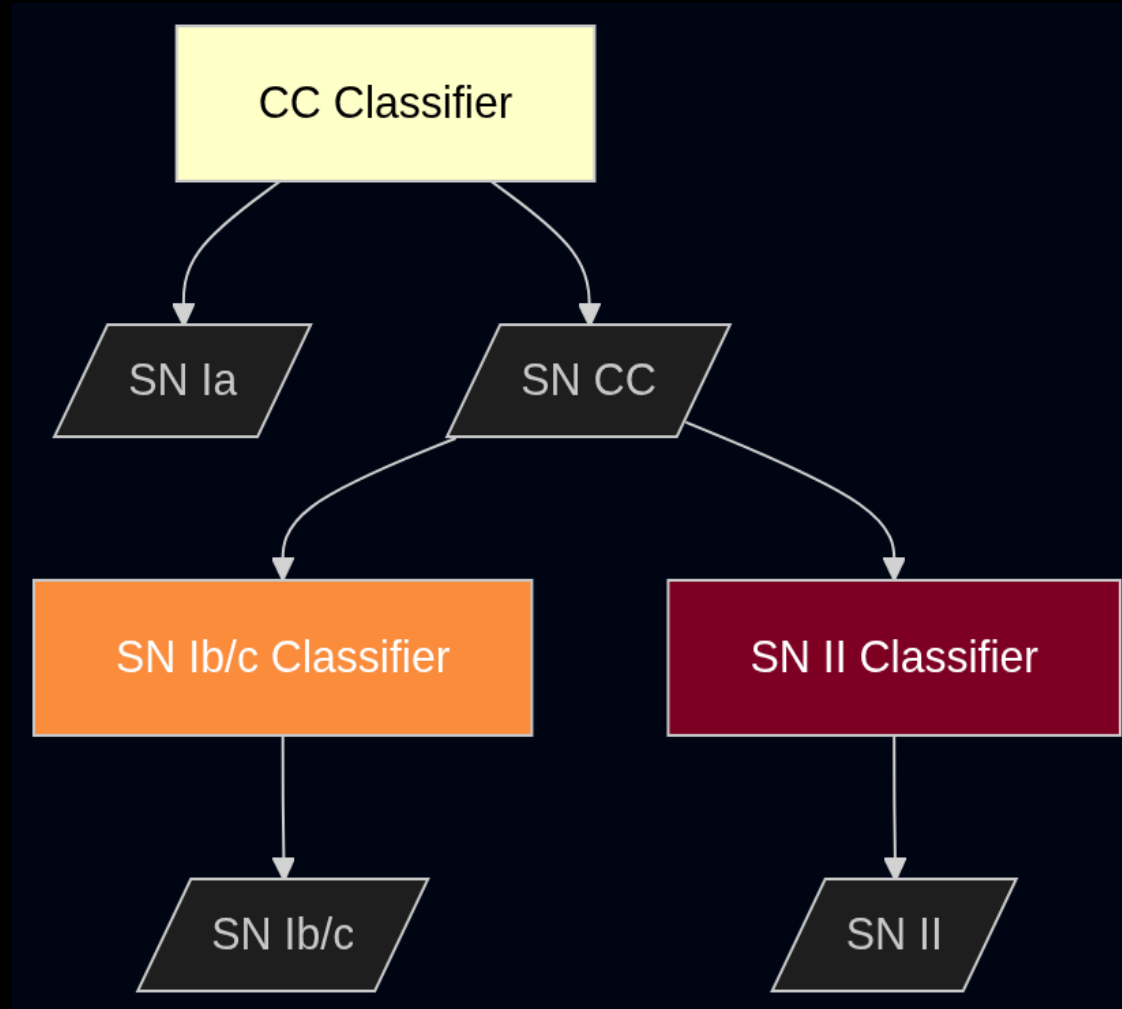
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Designed to deal with sparse, irregular data

- *No extrapolation*
- *No filling*
- *Use Δt as feature*

Pipeline



2-step approach.

Dark Energy Survey

- Bernstein et al. (2012)
- Similar depth to Rubin
- 4 passbands similar to Rubin
- Cadence similar to most of Rubin
- Well understood
- SN CC detectable up to $z = 0.7$



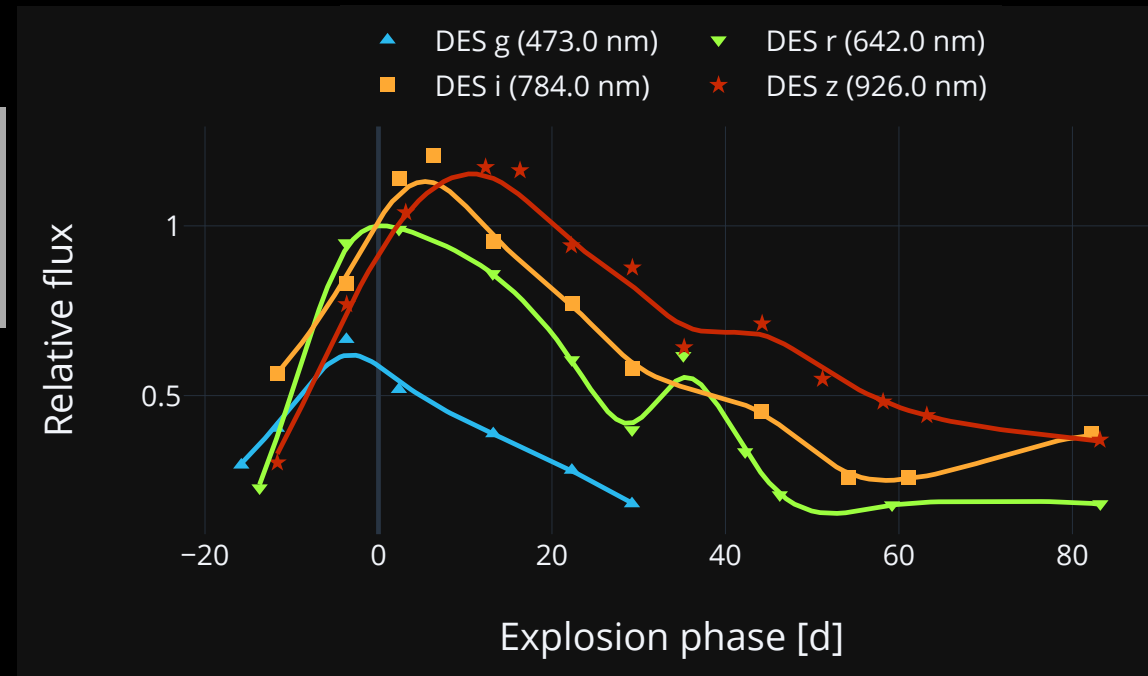
Blanco 4-meter Telescope.
(CTIO/NOIRLab/NSF/AURA/D. Munizaga)

Training data: DES simulations

- Möller et al. (2020)
- Truth known
- As close to reality as possible
- Well-behaved LCs

Over 94% accuracy! Below 5% contamination!

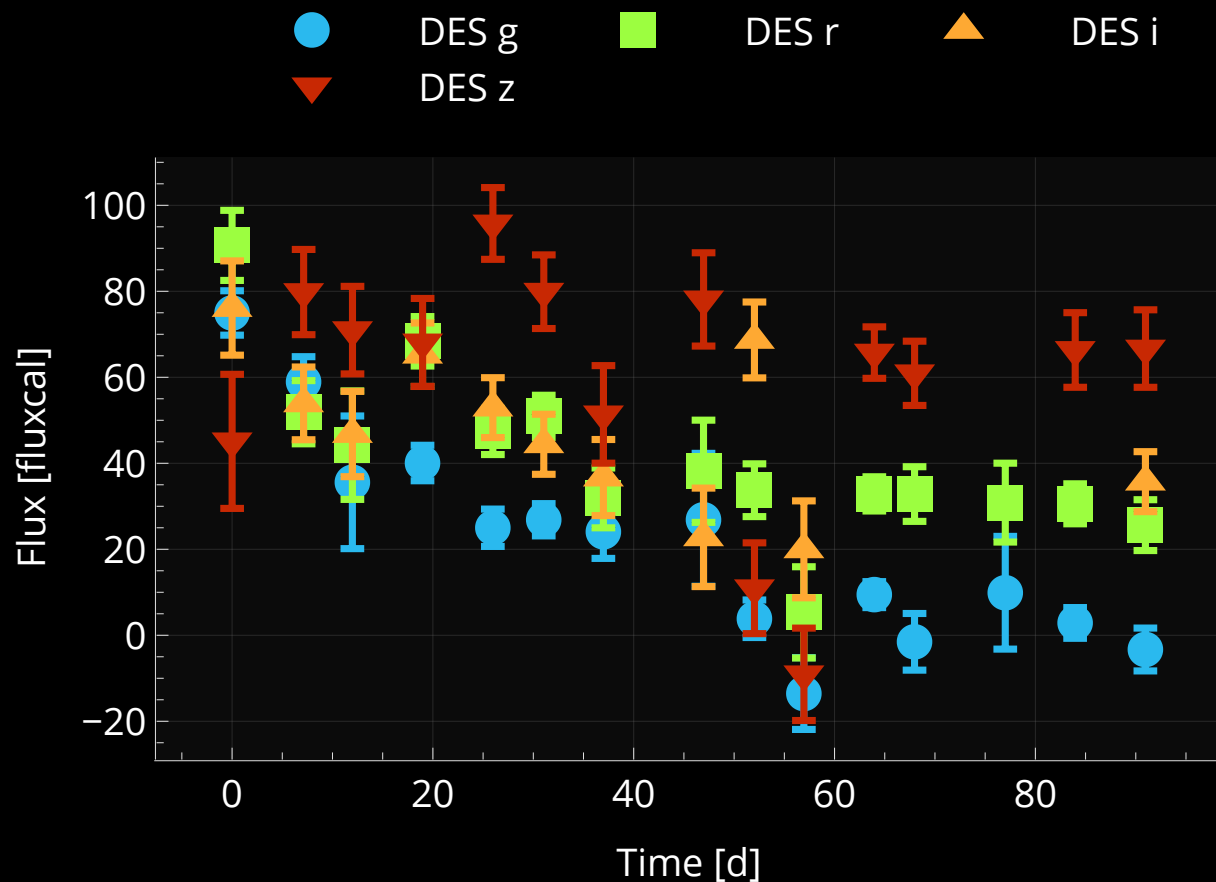
SN Ia	SN Ib/c	SN II
900 000	300 000	700 000



Simulated DES SN Ib/c LC.

Real data

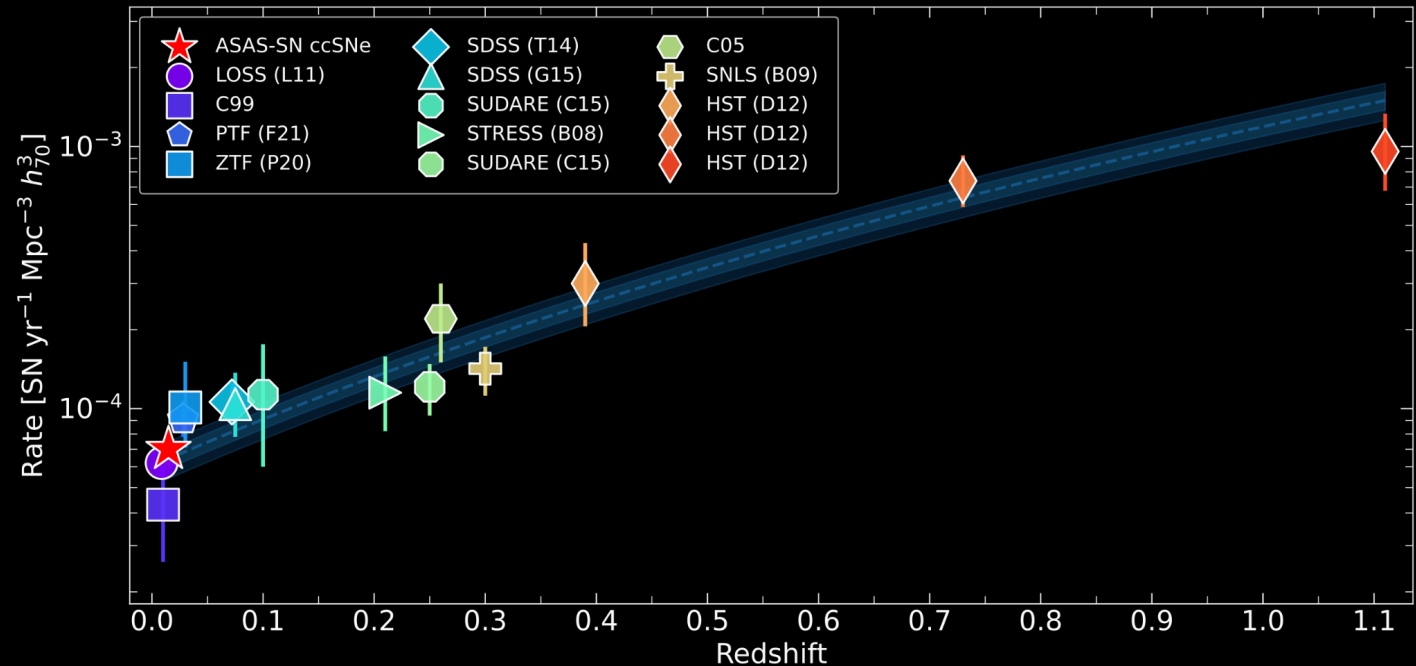
- 13 000 SN-candidates from Möller et al. (2024)
 - DES 5 year survey
- What we actually care about
- Can contain new things we don't know about
- Limited dataset size
- Real data is messy...



Yes, that's a SN II...

Grayling et al. (2023)

- 115 DES SNe CC
- Includes subtype classification
- Mostly spectroscopically classified

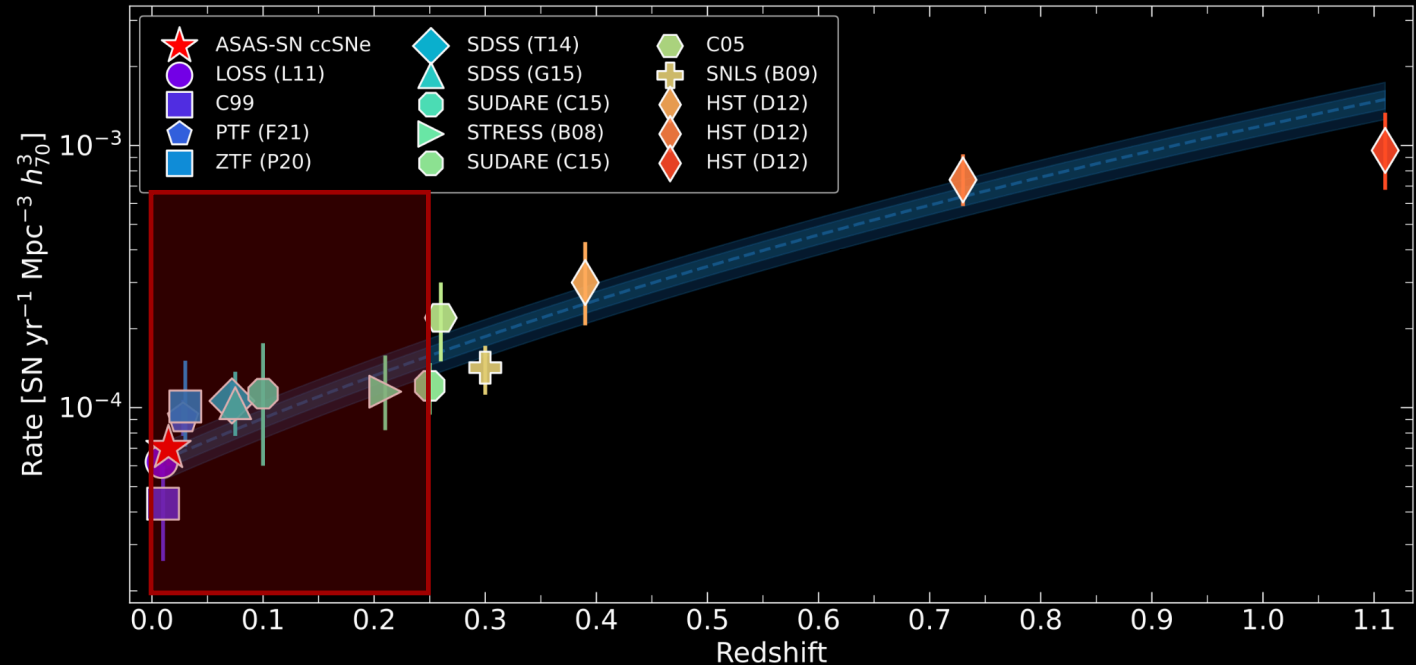


Current SN CC rate landscape. (Pessi et al., 2025)

Grayling et al. (2023)

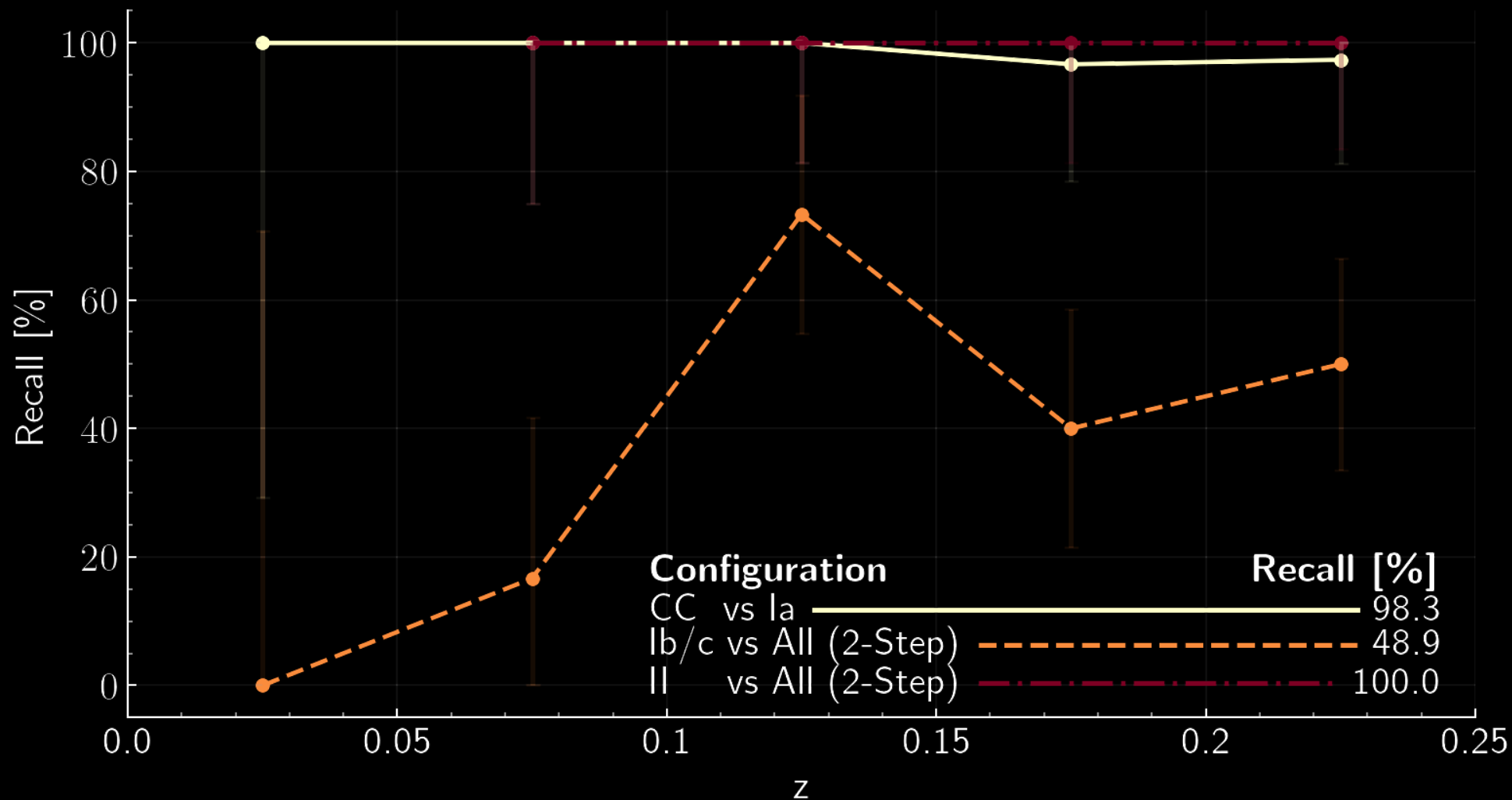
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Only up to $z \approx 0.25$



Current SN CC rate landscape. (Pessi et al., 2025)

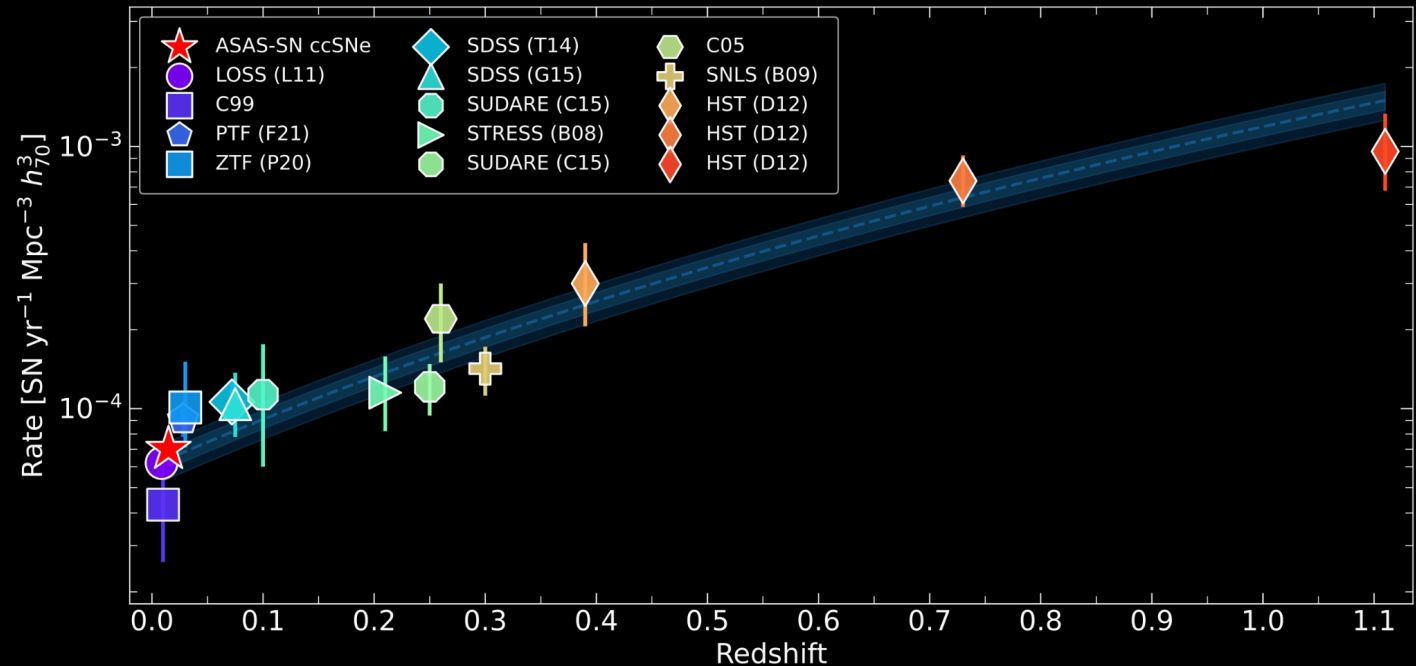
Model performance



Recall on 115 SN CC of Grayling et al. (2023) dataset. (Steinwender et al., in prep.)

Möller et al. (2024)

- 3547 SNe Ia
- Photometrically classified
 - Using SuperNNova

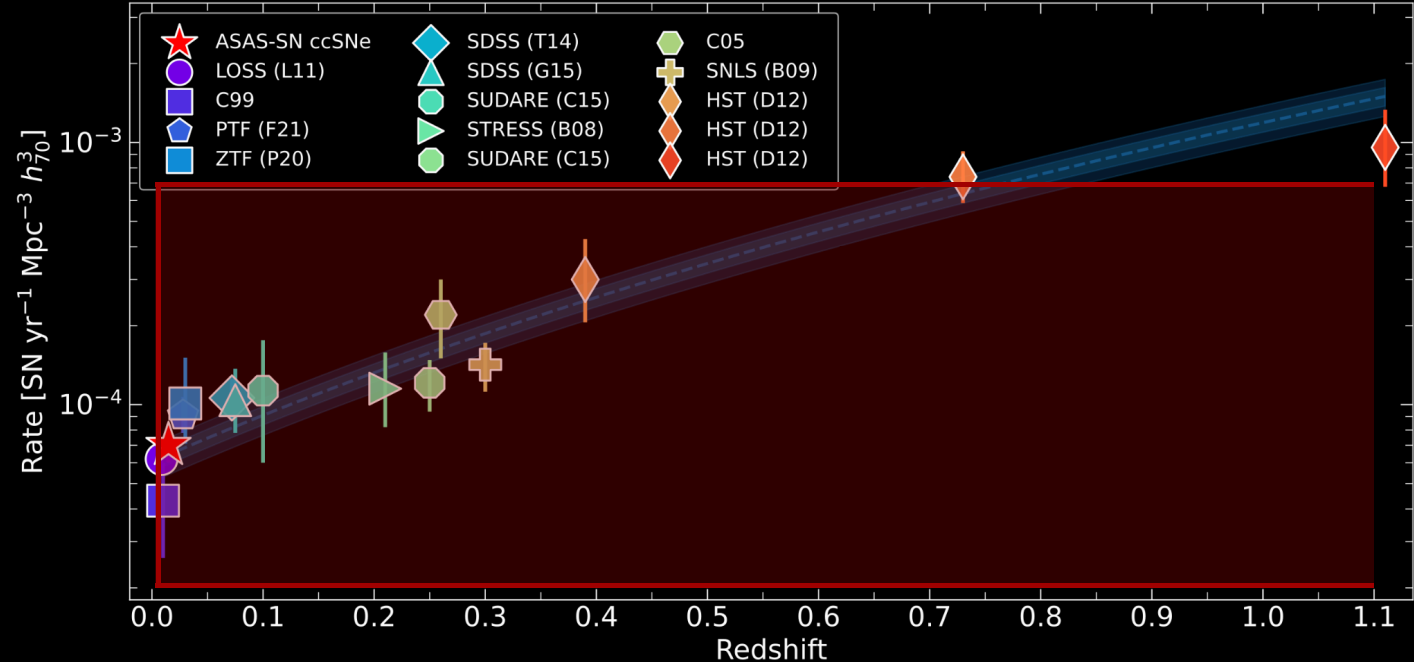


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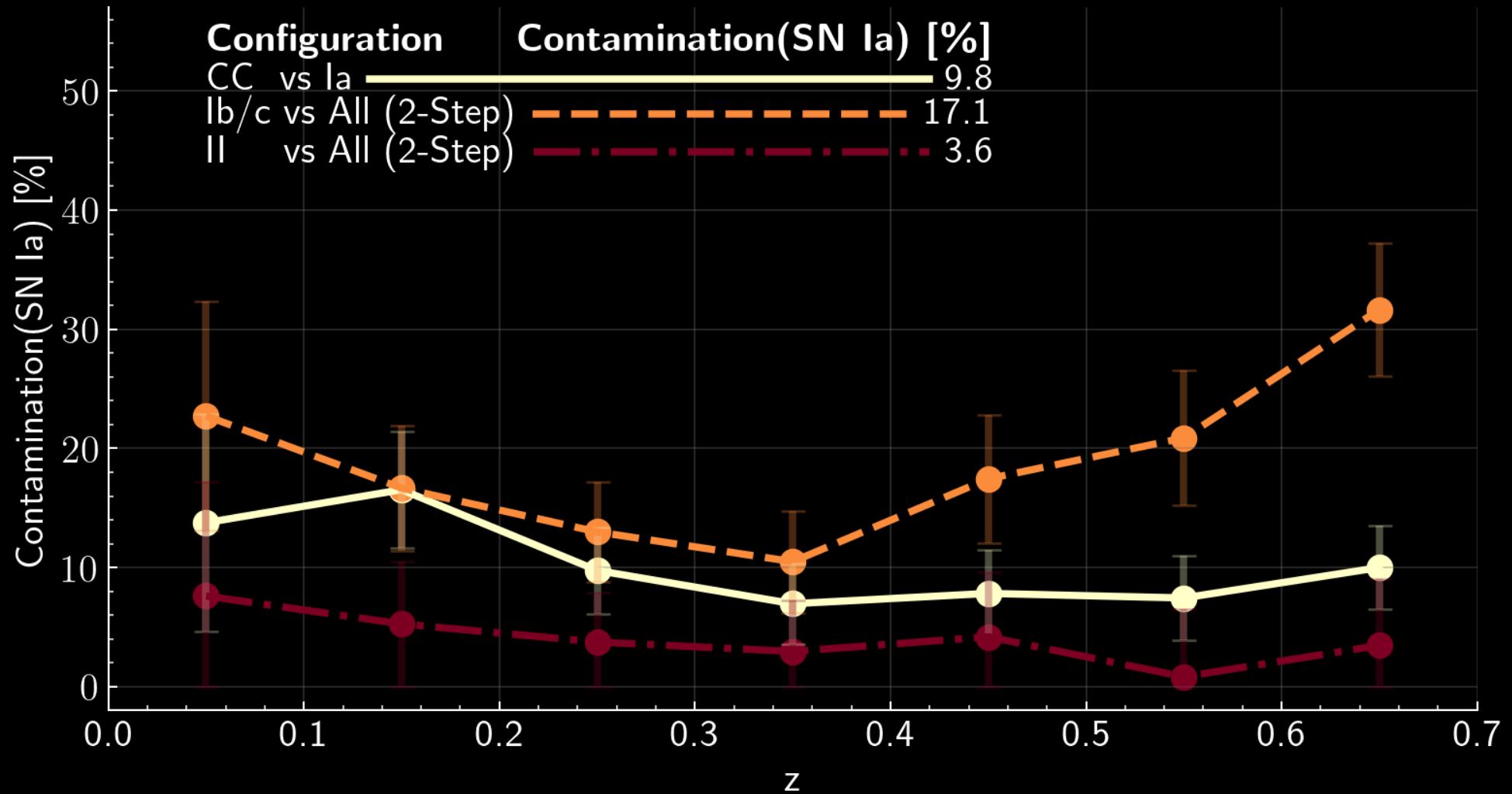
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Beyond $z = 1$!



Current SN CC rate landscape. (Pessi et al., 2025)

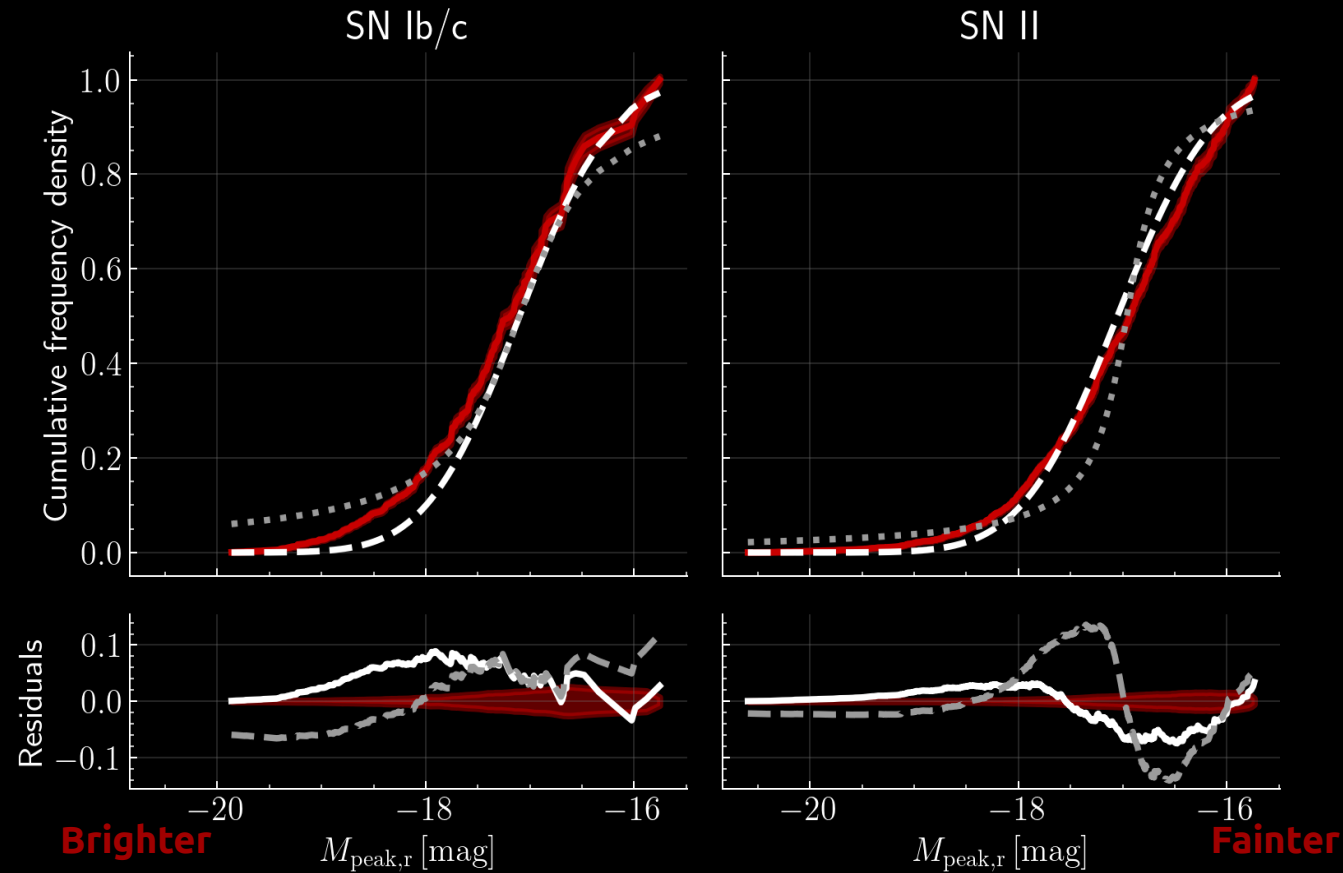
Model performance



Contamination on Möller et al. (2024) dataset. (Steinwender et al., in prep.)

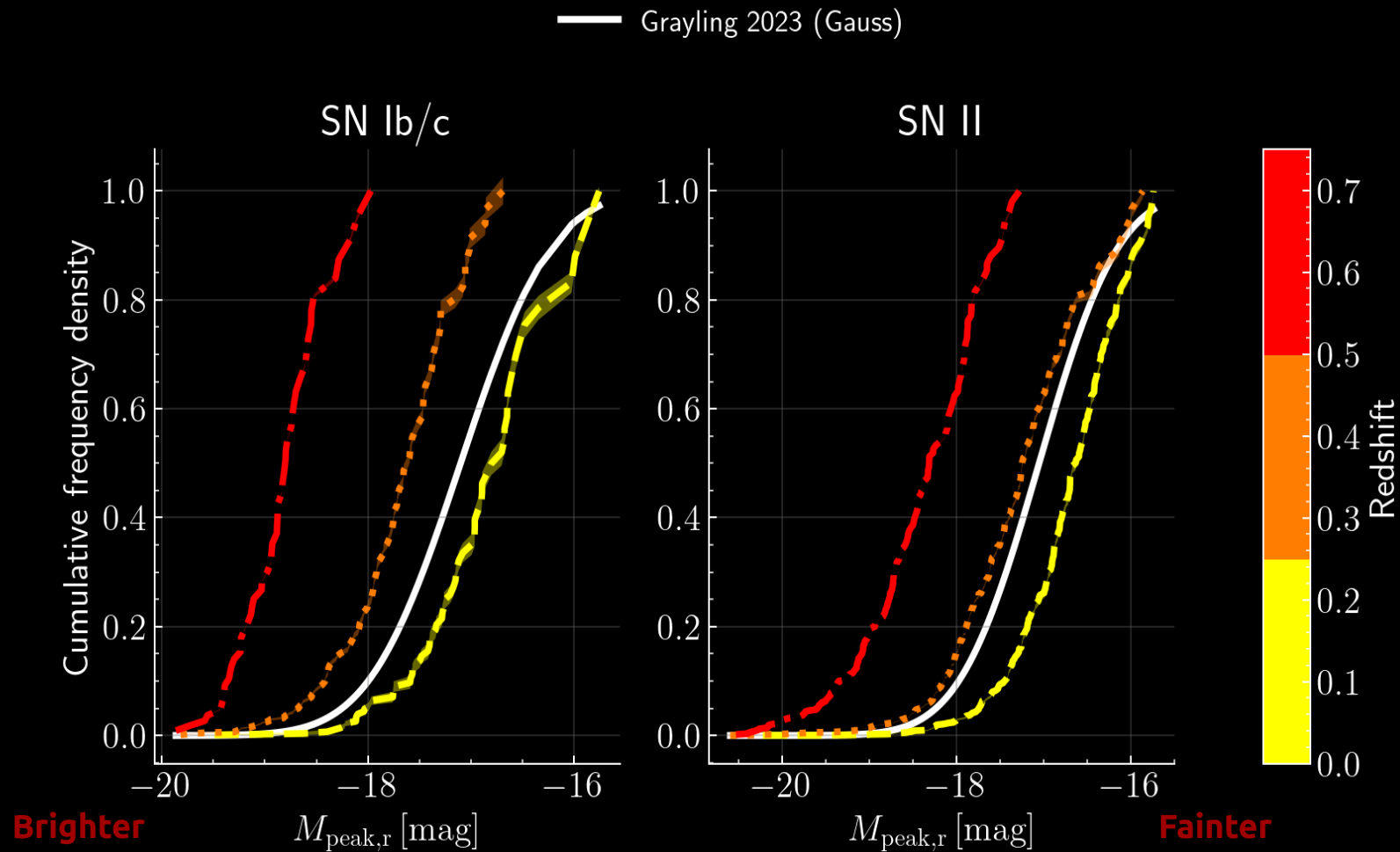
Luminosity functions

— SN CC candidates - - Grayling 2023 (Gauss) ···· Grayling 2023 (Lorentz)



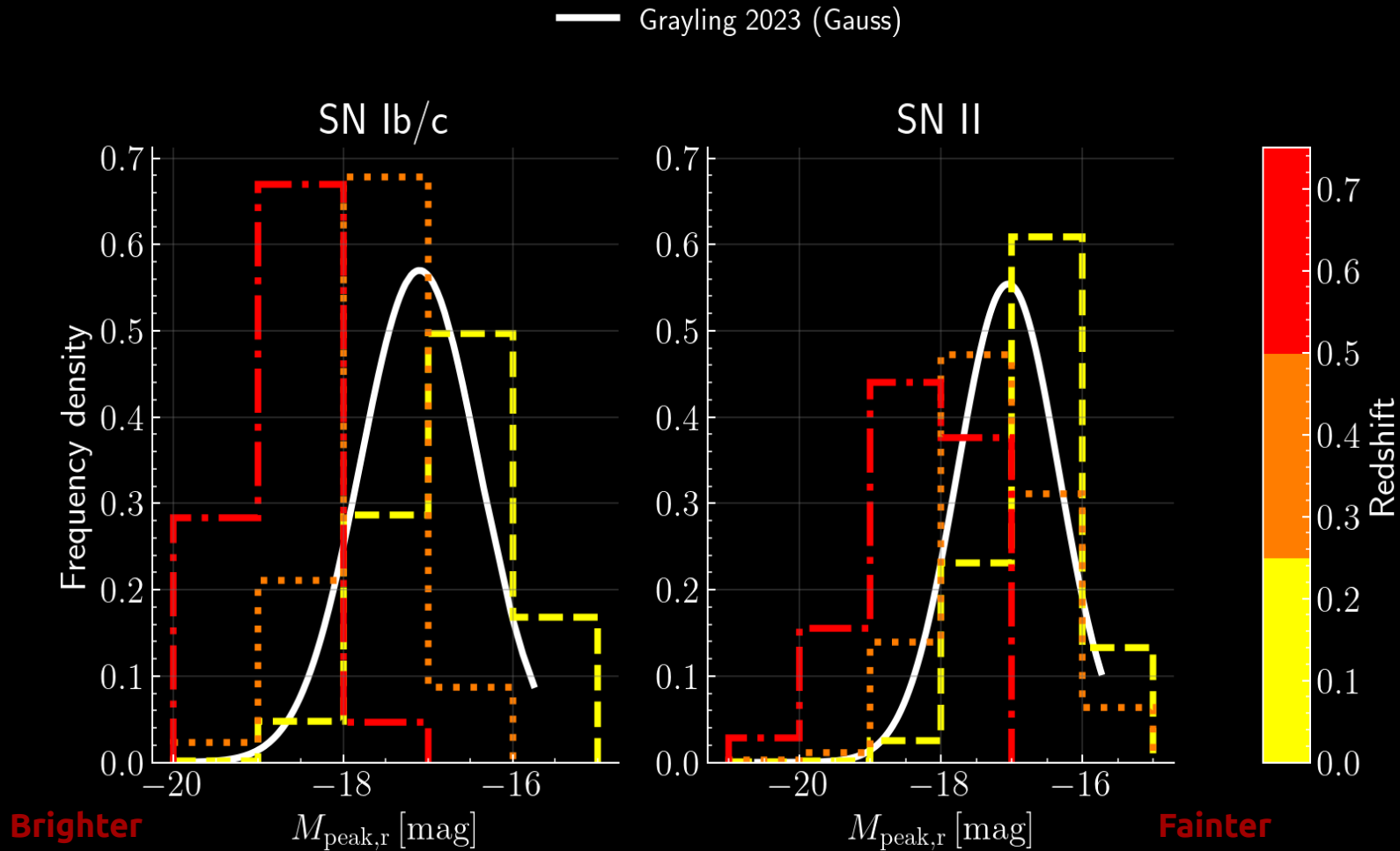
DES luminosity functions. (Steinwender et al., in prep)

Luminosity functions in cosmic time



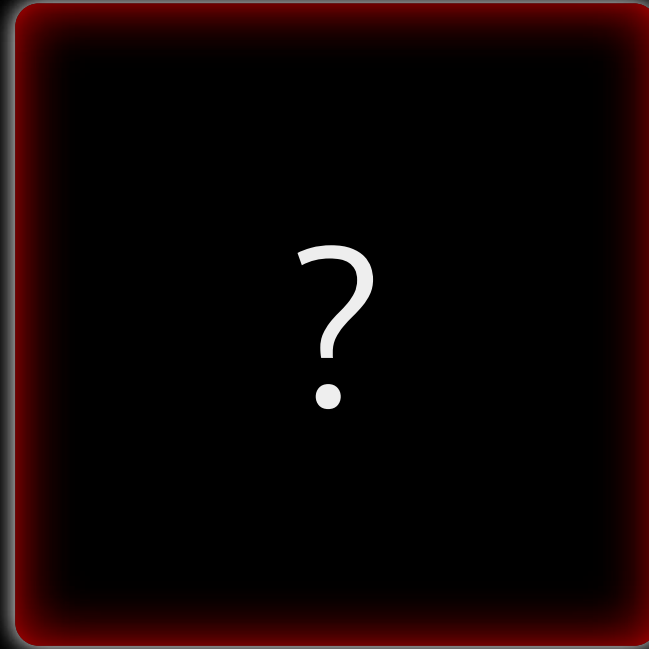
DES luminosity functions. (Steinwender et al., in prep)

Luminosity functions in cosmic time



DES luminosity functions. (Steinwender et al., in prep)

Future work



Classification

Future work



Transformers
(Vaswani et al., 2017)



Classification

Future work



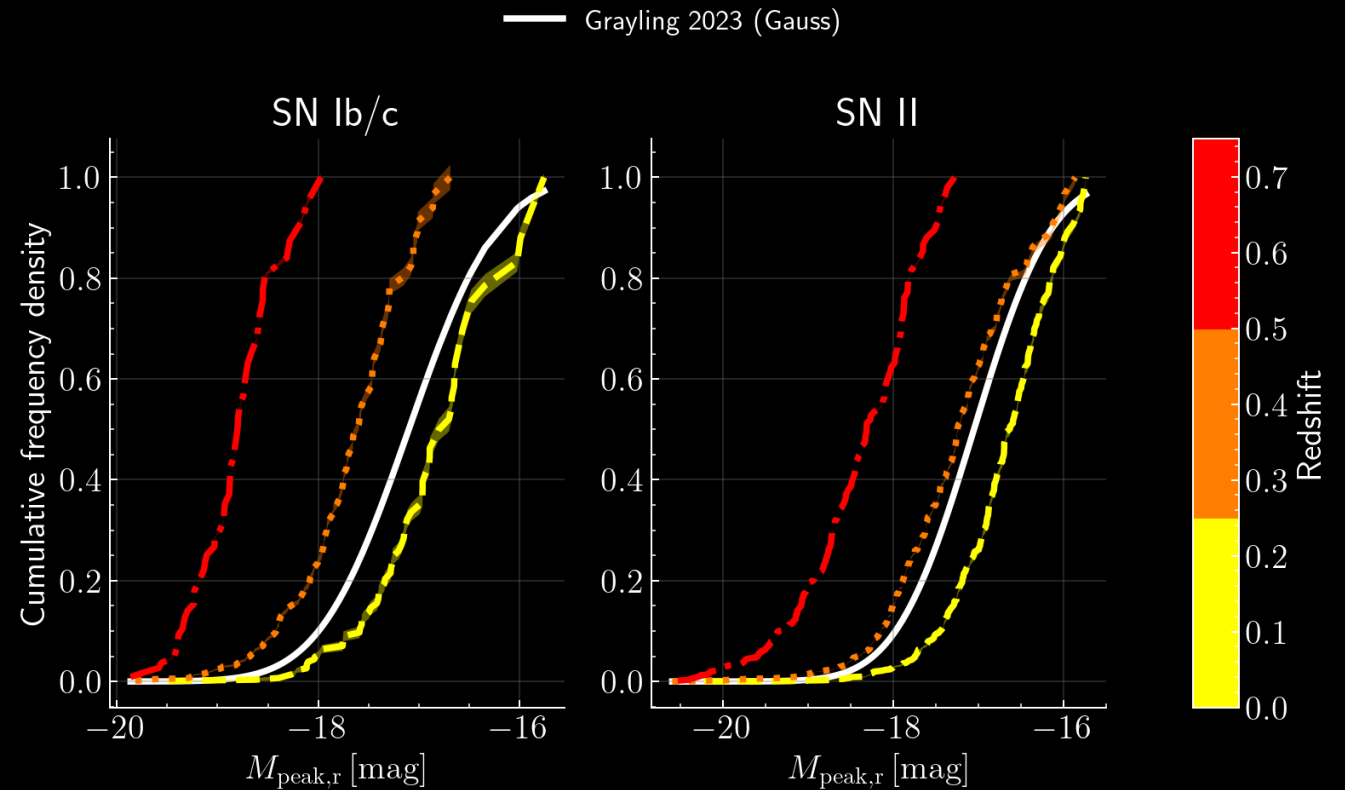
Classification

What can we learn about SNe CC at $z \geq 0.4$ by data-mining modern, large surveys?

Summary

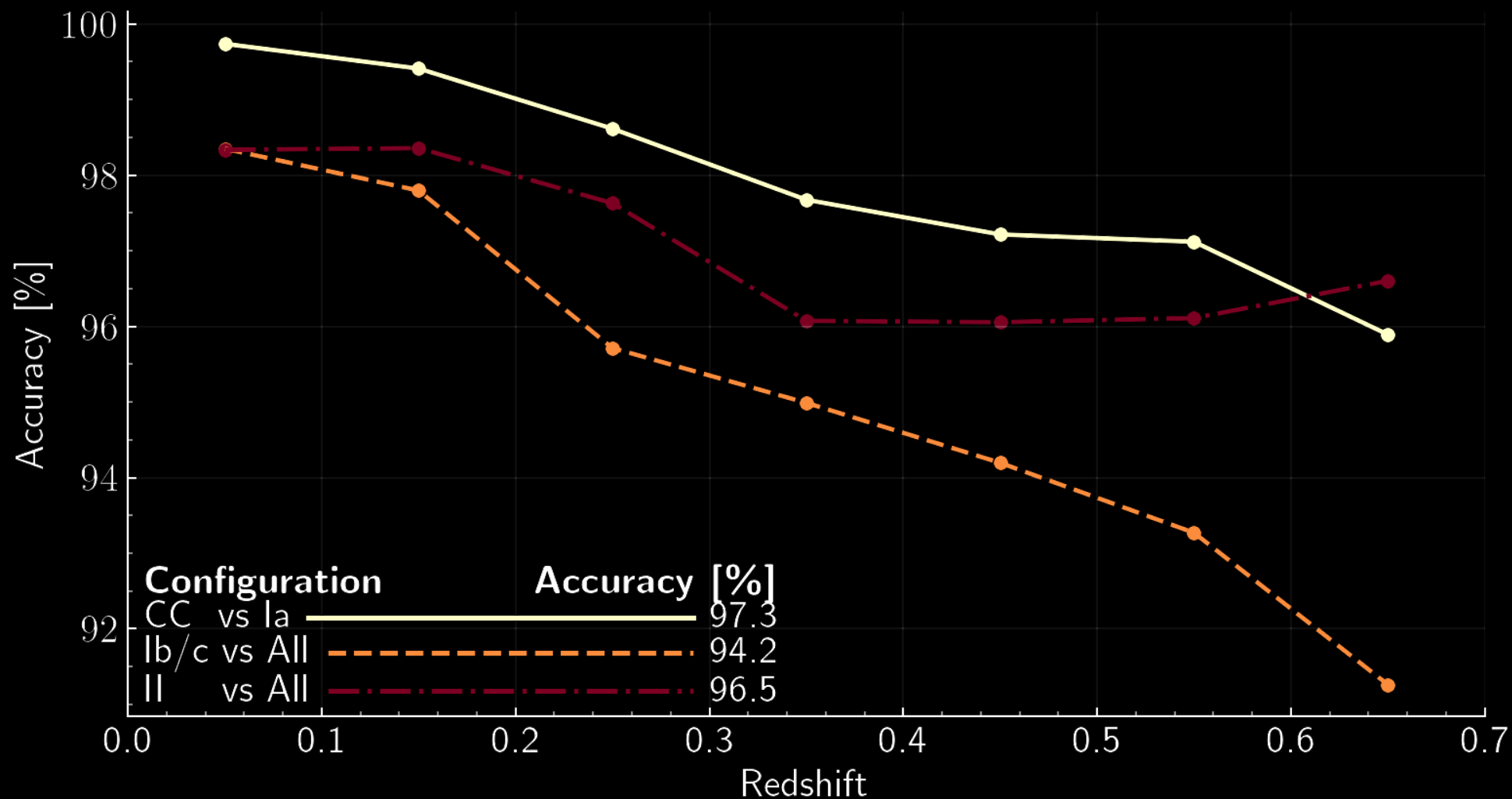
exciting times for supernova astronomy through big-data

modern surveys allow probing SNe CC across cosmic time



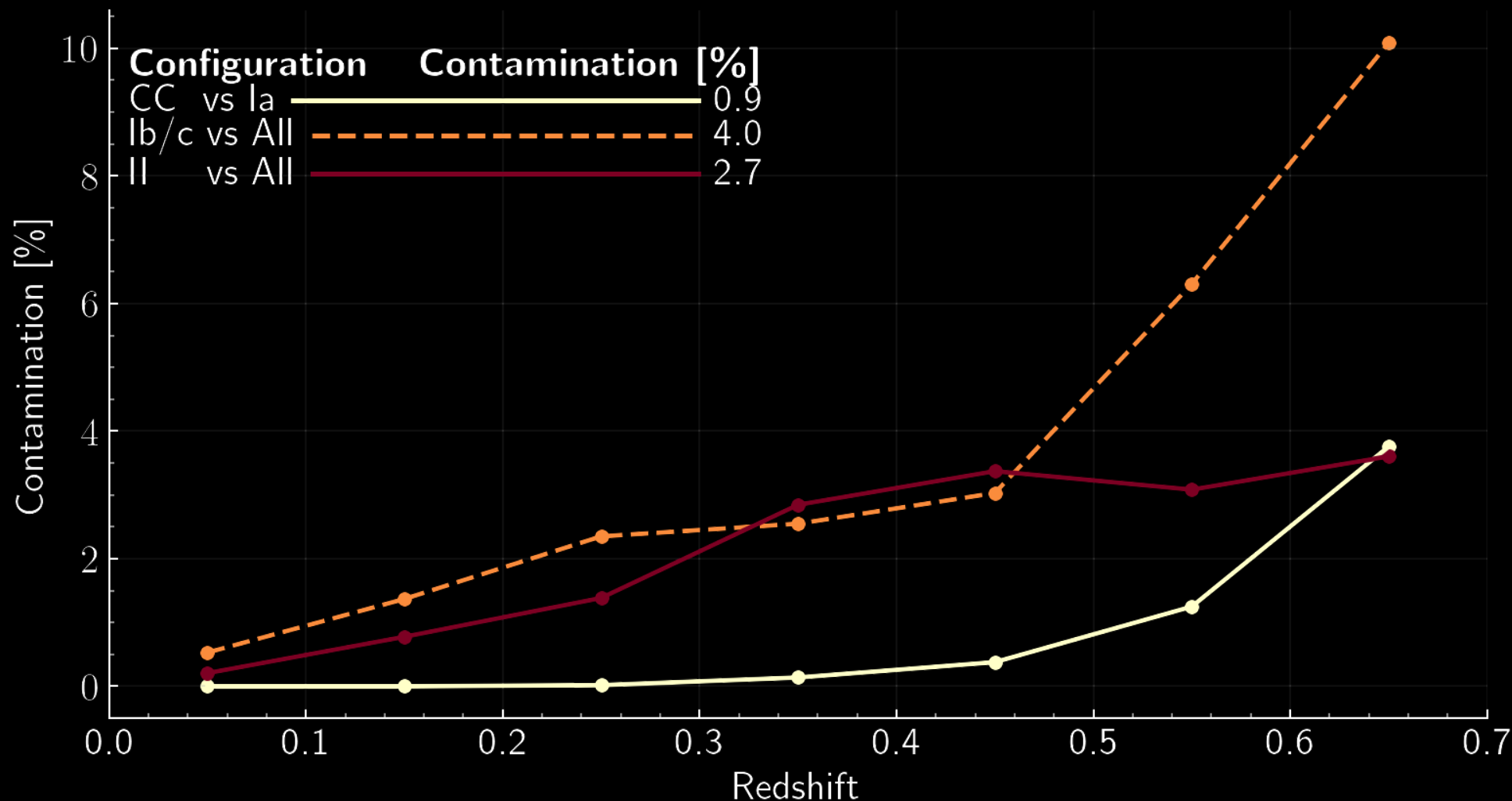
Bonus slides

Model performance



Accuracy on simulations. (Steinwender et al., in prep.)

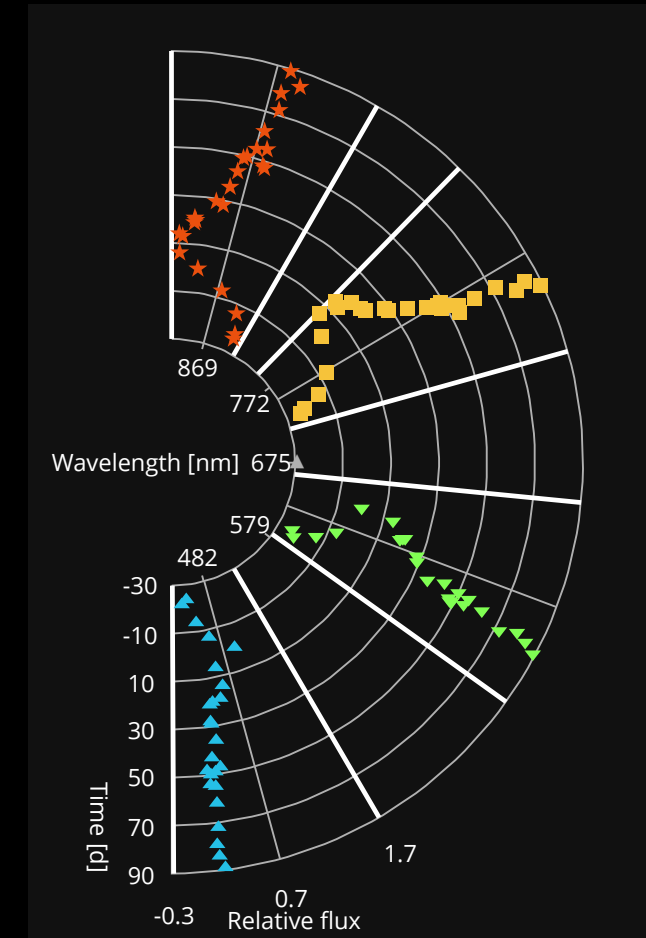
Model performance



Contamination on simulations. (Steinwender et al., in prep.)

Sample cleaning

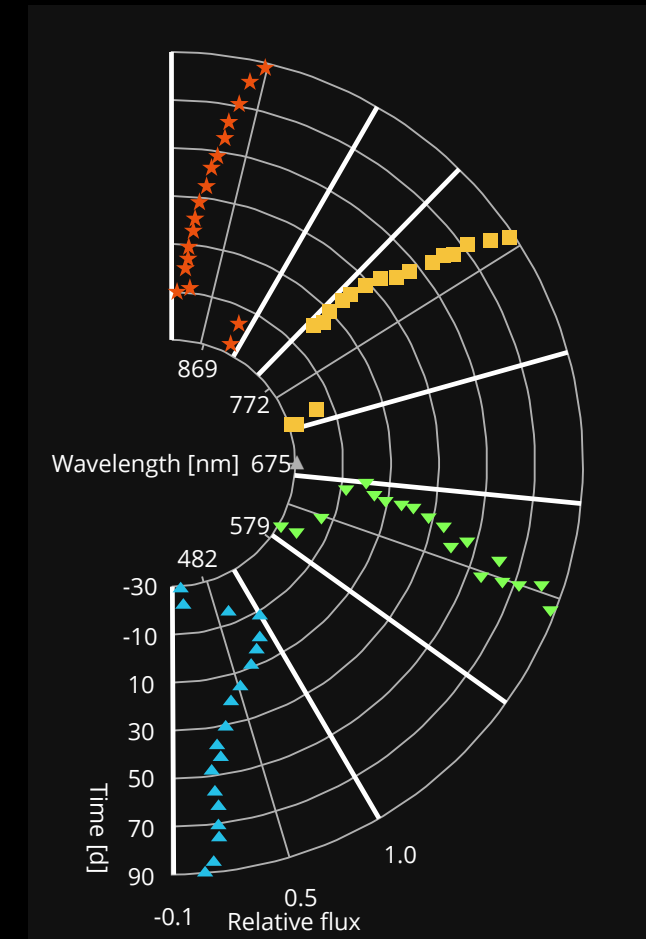
Cut	Total	Percent	Grayling 2023	Grayling 2023 [%]
Möller 2024 SN Candidates	13117	100.0	115	100.0
Physics cuts	2435	18.6	79	68.7
Prediction cut (SN Ia)	1301	9.9	77	67.0
Prediction cut (SN II)	981	7.5	59	51.3
Prediction cut (SN Ib/c)	331	2.5	16	13.9



LStein applied to DES SN Ib/c.

Sample cleaning

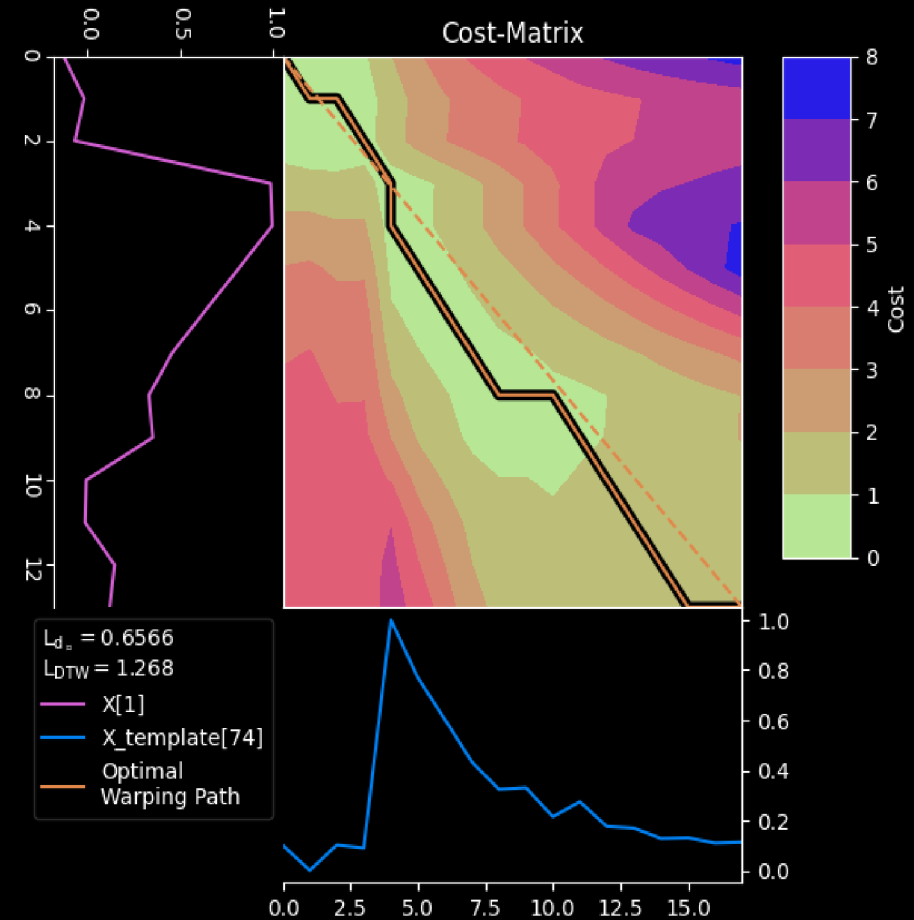
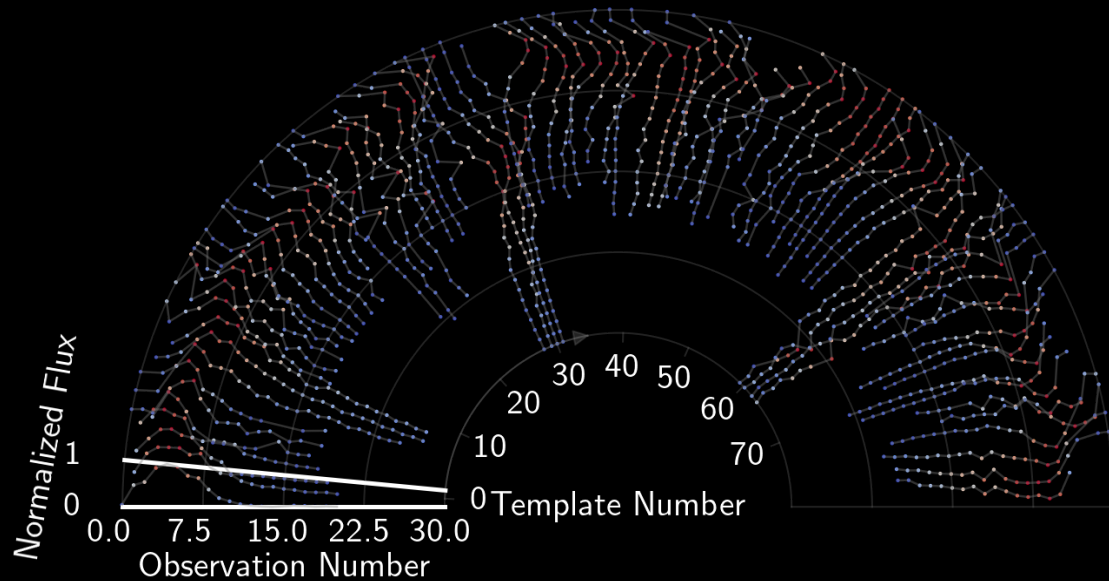
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LStein applied to DES SN II.

Dynamic time warping

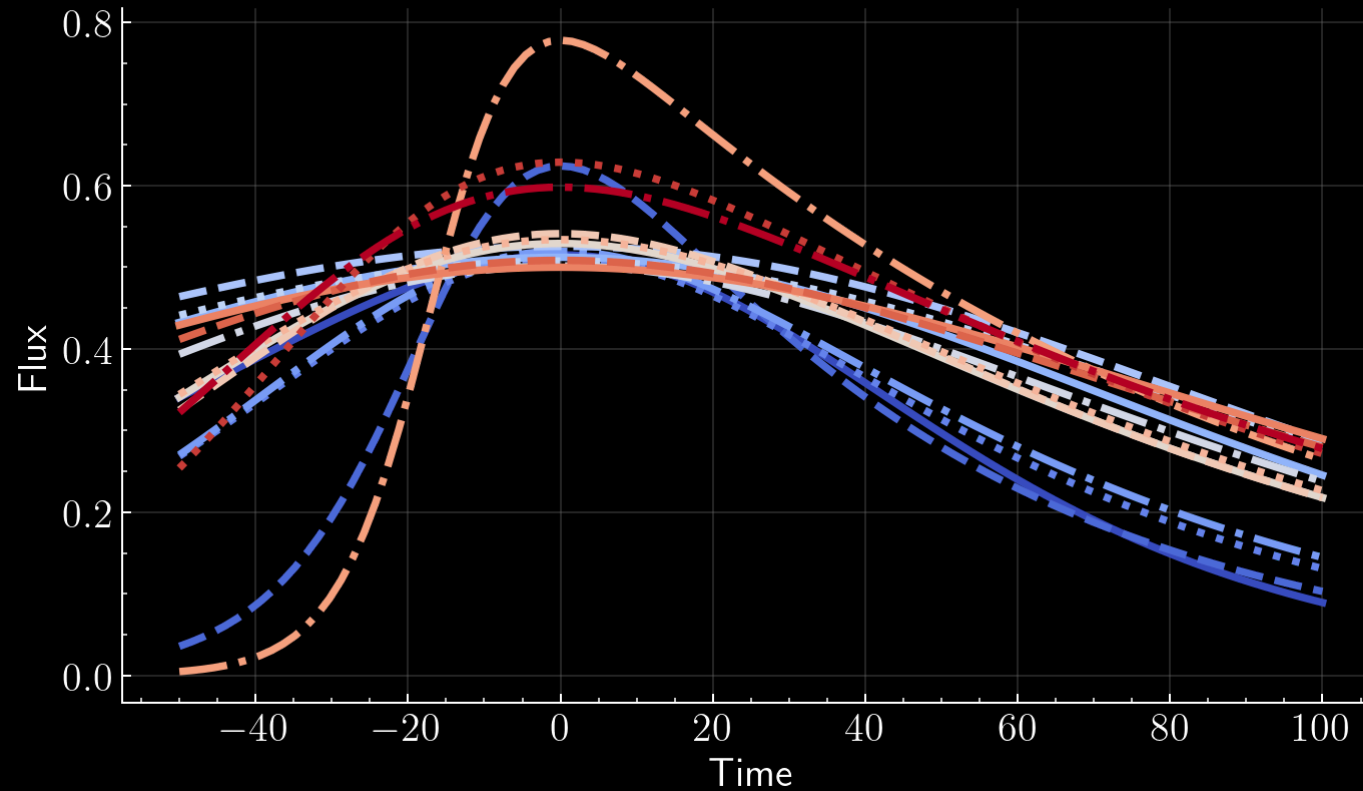
- Allows template matching between timeseries
- Compare pairwise distances
- Compute optimal warping path



Dynamic time warping on a SN Ib/c.

Bazin modelling

- Based on Bazin et al. (2011)
- Phenomenological
- Exponential decay and rise
- Contains amplitude and time of maximum light



Bazin model parameter space.