














The Zwicky Transient Facility Bright Transient Survey. III. BTSbot: Automated Identification and Follow-up of Bright Transients with Deep Learning

NABEEL REHEMTULLA ^{1,2} ADAM A. MILLER ^{1,2} THEOPHILE JEGOU DU LAZ ³ MICHAEL W. COUGHLIN ⁴
CHRISTOFFER FREMLING ^{3,5} DANIEL A. PERLEY ⁶ YU-JING QIN ³ JESPER SOLLERMAN ⁷
ASHISH A. MAHABAL ^{3,8} RUSS R. LAHER ⁹ REED RIDDLE ⁵ BEN RUSHOLME ⁹ AND SHRINIVAS R. KULKARNI ³

¹*Department of Physics and Astronomy, Northwestern University, 2145 Sheridan Road, Evanston, IL 60208, USA*

²*Center for Interdisciplinary Exploration and Research in Astrophysics (CIERA), 1800 Sherman Ave., Evanston, IL 60201, USA*

³*Division of Physics, Mathematics, and Astronomy 249-17, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, CA 91125, USA*

⁴*School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455, USA*

⁵*Caltech Optical Observatories, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, CA 91125, USA*

⁶*Astrophysics Research Institute, Liverpool John Moores University, IC2, Liverpool Science Park, 146 Brownlow Hill, Liverpool L3 5RF, UK*

⁷*Department of Astronomy, The Oskar Klein Center, Stockholm University, AlbaNova, SE-10691 Stockholm, Sweden*

⁸*Center for Data Driven Discovery, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, CA 91125, USA*

⁹*IPAC, California Institute of Technology, 1200 E. California Blvd, Pasadena, CA 91125, USA*

Lunwei Zhang

2024-05-17

<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fspas.2021.718139/full>
2024/5/17

Outline

Part I Introduction

Part II Data and Method

Part III Results and Discussion

Part IV Summary

Part I Introduction

1.1 Introduction

- The goal of the Bright Transient Survey (BTS) is to spectroscopically classify all extragalactic transients **brighter than 18.5 mag (<18.5 mag)** in either the g-ZTF or r-ZTF-filters at peak brightness and immediately announce those classifications to the public.
- Some of the largest **SN population studies** conducted to date (e.g., Perley et al. 2020; Irani et al. 2022; Sharon & Kushnir 2022; Sollerman et al. 2022; Rodríguez et al. 2023; Cold & Hjorth 2023; Sharma et al. 2023)
- The survey also provides **unique discoveries** (e.g., Goobar et al. 2023; Yang et al. 2021)
- Paving the way for using SNe to **study large scale structure** (Tsaprazi et al. 2022)

1.2 Introduction-previous work



BTS

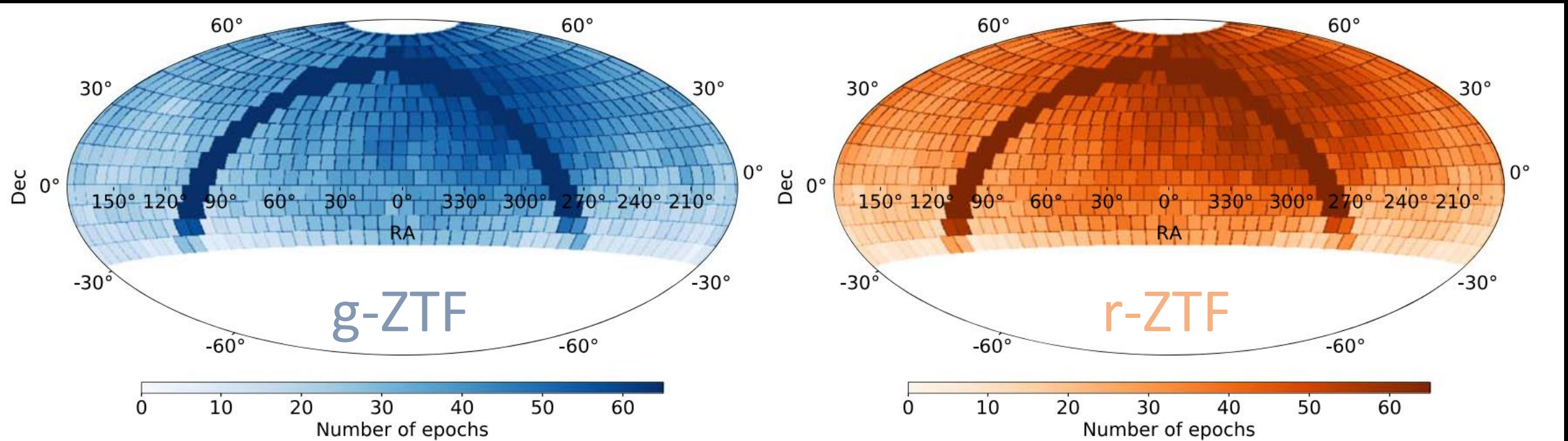


Figure 1. Coverage maps for the ZTF MSIP surveys, in the g_{ZTF} (left panel) and r_{ZTF} bands (right panel) between 2018 April 1 and 2018 December 31. The colored rectangles represent the fixed ZTF main field grid. The color intensity indicates the number of observations during this time period, truncated to a maximum of 65.

1.1 Introduction-previous work

THE ASTROPHYSICAL JOURNAL, 895:32 (19pp), 2020 May 20
© 2020. The American Astronomical Society. All rights reserved.

<https://doi.org/10.3847/1538-4357/ab8943>



The Zwicky Transient Facility Bright Transient Survey. I. Spectroscopic Classification and the Redshift Completeness of Local Galaxy Catalogs

C. Fremling¹, A. A. Miller^{2,3}, Y. Sharma¹, A. Dugas^{1,4}, D. A. Perley⁵, K. Taggart⁵, J. Sollerman⁶, A. Goobar⁷, M. L. Graham⁸, J. D. Neill¹, J. Nordin⁹, M. Rigault¹⁰, R. Walters^{1,11}, I. Andreoni¹, A. Bagdasaryan¹, J. Belicki¹¹, C. Cannella¹², E. C. Bellm⁸, S. B. Cenko¹³, K. De¹, R. Dekany¹¹, S. Frederick¹⁴, V. Z. Golkhou^{8,15,21}, M. J. Graham¹, G. Helou¹⁶, A. Y. Q. Ho¹, M. M. Kasliwal¹, T. Kupfer¹⁷, R. R. Laher¹⁶, A. Mahabal^{1,18}, F. J. Masci¹⁶, R. Riddle¹¹, B. Rusholme¹⁶, S. Schulze¹⁹, D. L. Shupe¹⁶, R. M. Smith¹¹, S. van Velzen^{14,20}, Lin Yan¹¹, Y. Yao¹, Z. Zhuang¹, and S. R. Kulkarni¹

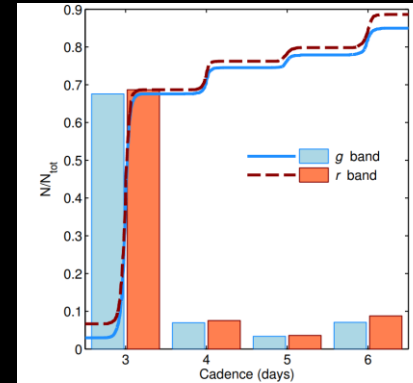


Figure 2. Cadence distribution for the ZTF NSS, in the g_{ZTF} -band (blue bars) and r_{ZTF} -band (red bars), truncated at six days. Cumulative distributions are shown as a blue solid line for the g band and a red dashed line for the r band. N/N_{tot} is the fraction of observations at a specific cadence compared to the total number of observations between 2018 Apr. 1 and 2018 Dec. 31.

761 BTS SNe

2018 Apr. 1 to 2018 Dec. 31

1206 BTS

THE ASTROPHYSICAL JOURNAL, 904:35 (24pp), 2020 November 20
© 2020. The American Astronomical Society. All rights reserved.

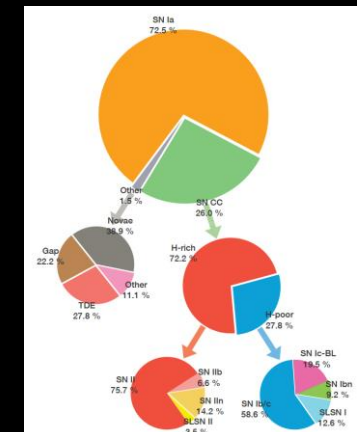
<https://doi.org/10.3847/1538-4357/abbd98>



The Zwicky Transient Facility Bright Transient Survey. II. A Public Statistical Sample for Exploring Supernova Demographics*

Daniel A. Perley¹, Christoffer Fremling², Jesper Sollerman³, Adam A. Miller^{4,5}, Aishwarya S. Dahiwalé², Yashvi Sharma², Eric C. Bellm⁶, Rahul Biswas⁷, Thomas G. Brink⁸, Rachel J. Bruch⁹, Kishalay De², Richard Dekany¹⁰, Andrew J. Drake², Dmitry A. Duev², Alexei V. Filippenko^{8,11}, Avishay Gal-Yam¹², Ariel Goobar⁷, Matthew J. Graham², Melissa L. Graham⁶, Anna Y. Q. Ho^{2,8,13}, Ido Irani¹², Mansi M. Kasliwal², Young-Lo Kim¹⁴, S. R. Kulkarni², Ashish Mahabal^{2,15}, Frank J. Masci¹⁶, Shaunak Modak⁸, James D. Neill², Jakob Nordin¹⁷, Reed L. Riddle¹⁰, Maayane T. Soumagnac^{9,18}, Nora L. Strotjohann¹², Steve Schulze¹², Kirsty Taggart¹, Anastasios Tzanidakis², Richard S. Walters², and Lin Yan¹⁰

- 1 Introduction
- 2 BTS Sample Selection and Characterization
- 3 Sample Completeness
- 4 Results
 - 4.1 The Landscape of Stellar Death
 - 4.1.1 Rapidly Evolving Transients
 - 4.1.2 Low-Luminosity ("Gap") Transients
 - 4.1.3 Superluminous Transients
 - 4.1.4 Tidal Disruption Events
 - 4.2 SNe and Luminosity-Duration Correlations
 - 4.3 Rate Measurements
 - 4.4 Host-Galaxy Properties
- 5 Summary and Online Catalog



1.2 Introduction-Motivations

- BTS critically relies on visual inspection (“scanning”) to select targets for spectroscopic follow-up, which, while effective, has required a significant **time investment** over the past ~5 yr of ZTF operations;
- Under the large, wide-field time-domain surveys, alert filters are **needed** to identify candidate sources of interest;
- Adopting **ML** will be **near-compulsory** to efficiently extract knowledge from the next generation of surveys;
- While appropriate in some cases with traditional ML or CNN, limiting these models to extracted features alone **ignores potentially valuable information** present in the images from which the features are extracted.

Part II Data and Method

2.1 Data

BTS only from ZTF

63×63×3,reference,science,difference

1/3 query

"trues"

"vars"

"dims"

"rejects"

~~"junk"~~

2/3 humman

“Humman Scanner”

| Name of Query | Number of Sources | Number of Alerts |
|----------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Initial queries | | |
| <i>trues^a</i> | 5,212 | 308,934 |
| <i>vars^b</i> | 1,127 | 150,017 |
| <i>dims^c</i> | 8,979 | 249,087 |
| <i>rejects^d</i> | 4,417 | 407,357 |
| Total | 19,735 | 1,115,395 |



3/3 clean

Clean

| Cleaned training set | | |
|----------------------------|--------|---------|
| <i>trues^a</i> | 5,206 | 264,317 |
| <i>vars^b</i> | 1,126 | 109,934 |
| <i>dims^c</i> | 8,824 | 223,934 |
| <i>rejects^d</i> | 4,402 | 241,478 |
| Total | 19,558 | 839,663 |

| Table 4. BTSbot metadata features | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Feature name | Definition [unit] |
| Alert packet metadata | |
| <i>sgscore{1,2}</i> | Star/Galaxy score of nearest two PS1 sources |
| <i>distpsnr{1,2}</i> | Distance to nearest two PS1 sources [arcsec] |
| <i>fwhm</i> | Full Width Half Max [pixels] |
| <i>magpsf</i> | magnitude of PSF-fit photometry [mag] |
| <i>sigmapsf</i> | 1- σ uncertainty in <i>magpsf</i> [mag] |
| <i>chipsf</i> | Reduced χ^2 of PSF-fit |
| <i>ra</i> | Right ascension of source [deg] |
| <i>dec</i> | Declination of source [deg] |
| <i>diffmaglim</i> | 5- σ magnitude detection threshold [mag] |
| <i>ndethist</i> | Number of previous detections of source |
| <i>nmthcps</i> | # of PS1 cross-matches within 30 arcsec |
| <i>drb</i> | Deep learning-based real/bogus score |
| <i>ncovhist</i> | # of times source on a field and read channel |
| <i>chidr</i> | χ parameter of nearest source in reference |
| <i>sharpnr</i> | sharp parameter of nearest source in reference |
| <i>scorr</i> | Peak-pixel S/N in detection image |
| <i>sky</i> | Local sky background estimate [DN] |
| Custom metadata | |
| <i>days_since_peak</i> | Time since brightest alert [days] |
| <i>days_to_peak</i> | Time from first to brightest alert [days] |
| <i>age</i> | <i>days_since_peak</i> + <i>days_to_peak</i> |
| <i>peakmag_so_far</i> | Source's minimum <i>magpsf</i> thusfar [mag] |
| <i>maxmag_so_far</i> | Source's maximum <i>magpsf</i> thusfar [mag] |
| <i>nnondet^a</i> | <i>ncovhist</i> - <i>ndethist</i> |

25 metadata features

2.1 Data

Table 1. Training set size before/after cleaning cuts

| Name of Query | Number of Sources | Number of Alerts |
|----------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Initial queries | | |
| <i>true</i> ^a | 5,212 | 308,934 |
| <i>var</i> ^b | 1,127 | 150,017 |
| <i>dim</i> ^c | 8,979 | 249,087 |
| <i>reject</i> ^d | 4,417 | 407,357 |
| Total | 19,735 | 1,115,395 |
| Cleaned training set | | |
| <i>true</i> ^a | 5,206 | 264,317 |
| <i>var</i> ^b | 1,126 | 109,934 |
| <i>dim</i> ^c | 8,824 | 223,934 |
| <i>reject</i> ^d | 4,402 | 241,478 |
| Total | 19,558 | 839,663 |

^aSpectroscopically confirmed bright ($m_{\text{peak}} \leq 18.5$ mag) extragalactic transients.

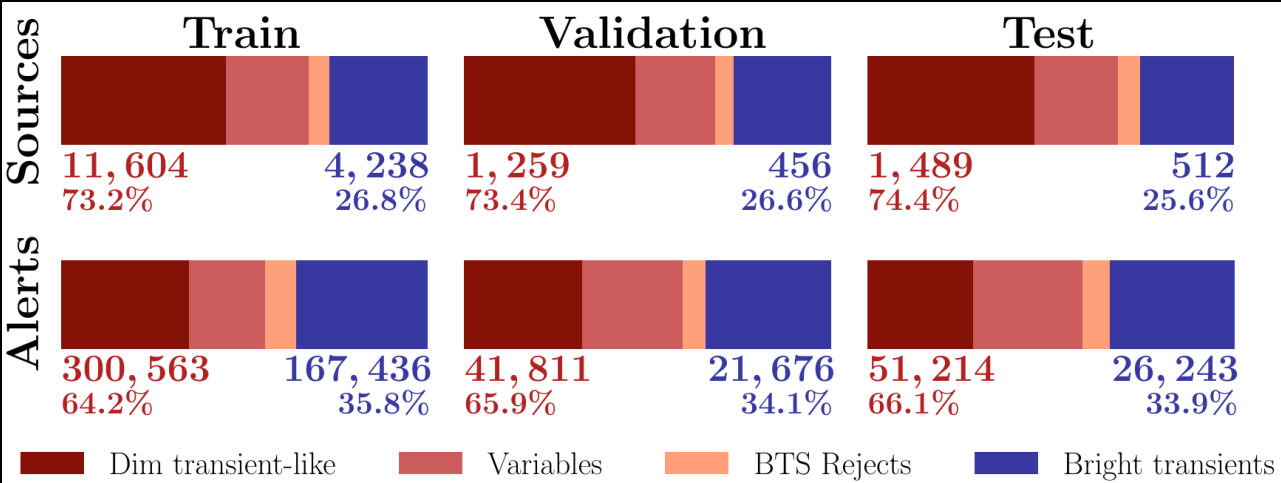
^bSources classified as AGN, CVs, VarStars, or QSOs.

^cDim ($m_{\text{peak}} > 18.5$ mag) sources with transient-like light curves.

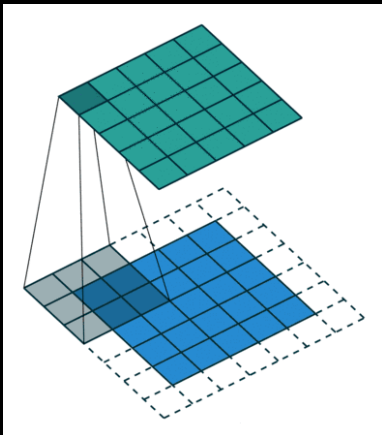
^dSources not marked as bright extragalactic transients by BTS scanners.

on source

Train: 81%
Validation: 9%
test : 10%



2.2 Method

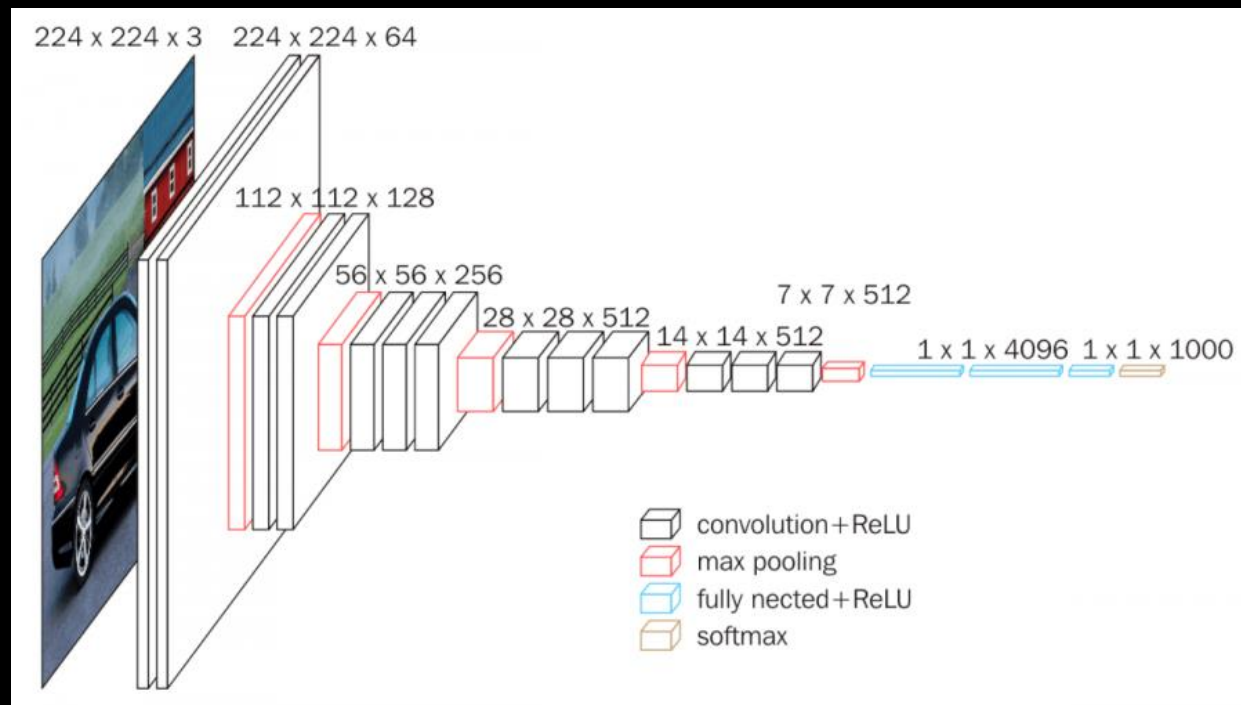


Convolution



CNN

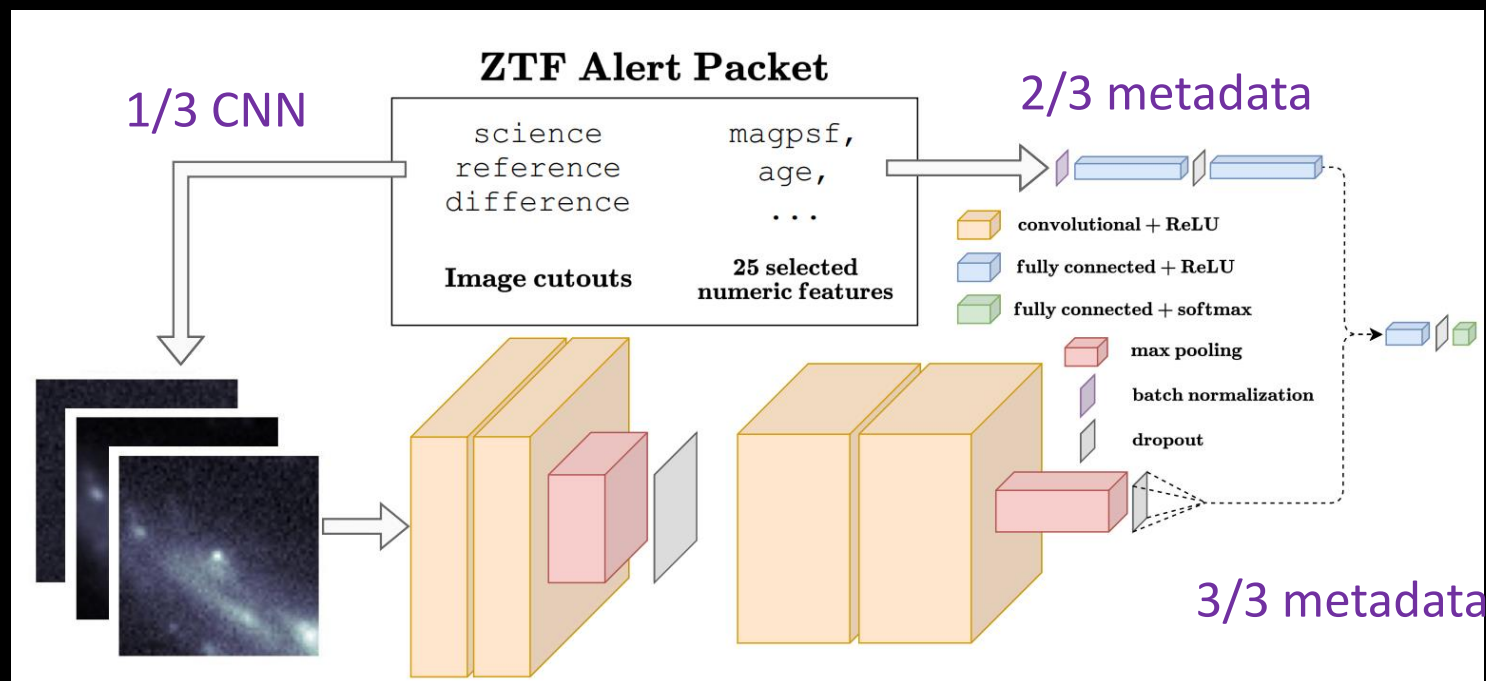
Credit from the Internet



VGG network

2.2 Method-BTSbot

Motivation: the images and the extracted features provide complementary information for performing our task



The architecture of BTSbot

Table 2. BTSbot layer configurations

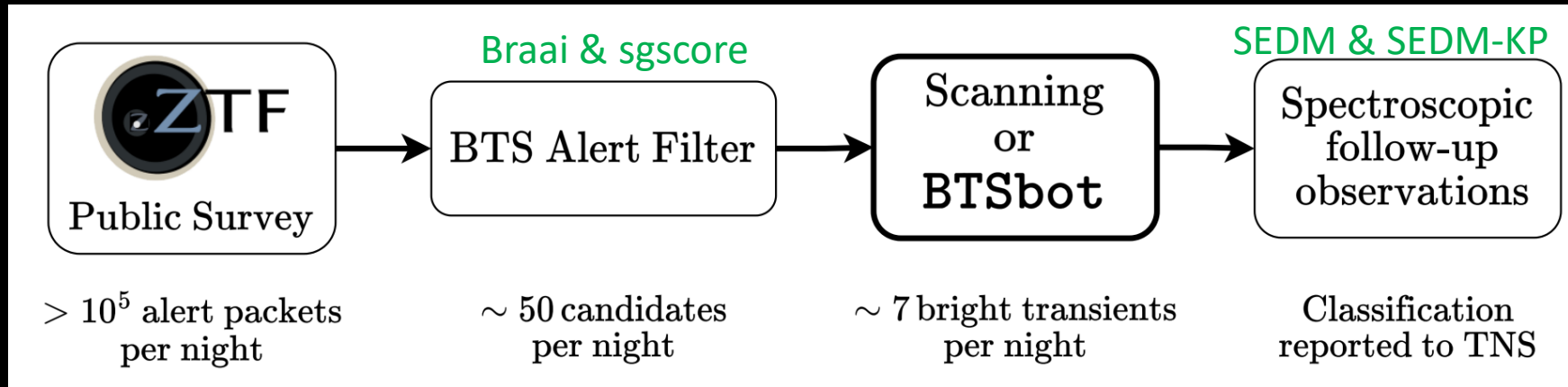
| Layer type | Layer parameters | Hyperparameter search range |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Convolutional branch | | |
| 2D Conv. | 32 filters, 5×5 kernel | 8–128 filters ^a |
| 2D Conv. | 32 filters, 5×5 kernel | [3, 5, 7] kernel size ^a |
| Max pool | 2×2 kernel | - |
| Dropout | 0.50 | 0.1–0.8 |
| 2D Conv. | 64 filters, 5×5 kernel | 8–128 filters ^a |
| 2D Conv. | 64 filters, 5×5 kernel | [3, 5, 7] kernel size ^a |
| Max pool | 4×4 kernel | - |
| Dropout | 0.55 | 0.1–0.8 |
| Metadata branch | | |
| Batch norm. | - | - |
| Dense | 128 units | 32–256 units |
| Dropout | 0.25 | 0.1–0.8 |
| Dense | 128 units | 32–256 units |
| Combined section | | |
| Dense | 8 units | 8–128 units |
| Dropout | 0.20 | 0.1–0.8 |
| Dense | 1 unit | - |

^a All 2D Convolutional (Conv.) layers have the same search range for filter counts and kernel size.

Table 3. BTSbot hyperparameters

| Parameter name | Optimized value | Hyperparameter search range |
|----------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| batch size | 64 | 8–64 |
| Adam β_1 | 0.99 | 0.81–0.999 |
| Adam β_2 | 0.99 | 0.9–0.9999 |
| learning rate (α) | 10^{-4} | 10^{-2} – 5×10^{-6} |
| α decrease factor | 0.4 | 0.25–0.75 |
| α_{\min} | 5×10^{-10} | 10^{-10} – 10^{-5} |
| N_{\max} | 100 | 1– ∞ |

2.2 Method-BTSbot



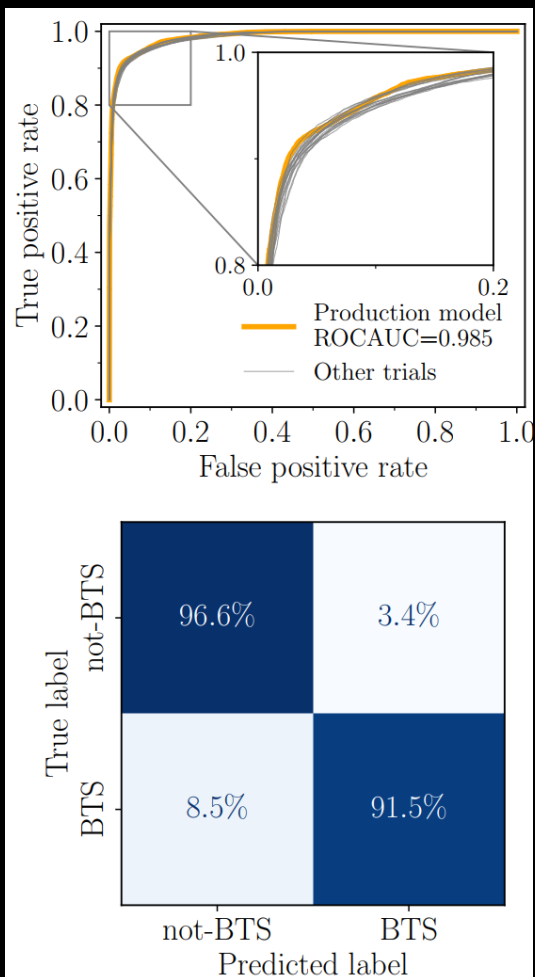
BTSbot has been integrated in Fritz and Kowalski to enable running in real-time on incoming alert packets from IPAC's alert-producing and brokering system.

Example: About **14 hours before** the first TNS report, **SN 2023ixf** was detected by ZTF, and, just minutes later, this alert packet was assigned a bright transient score of **0.840** by an early version of BTSbot.

Part III Results and Discussion

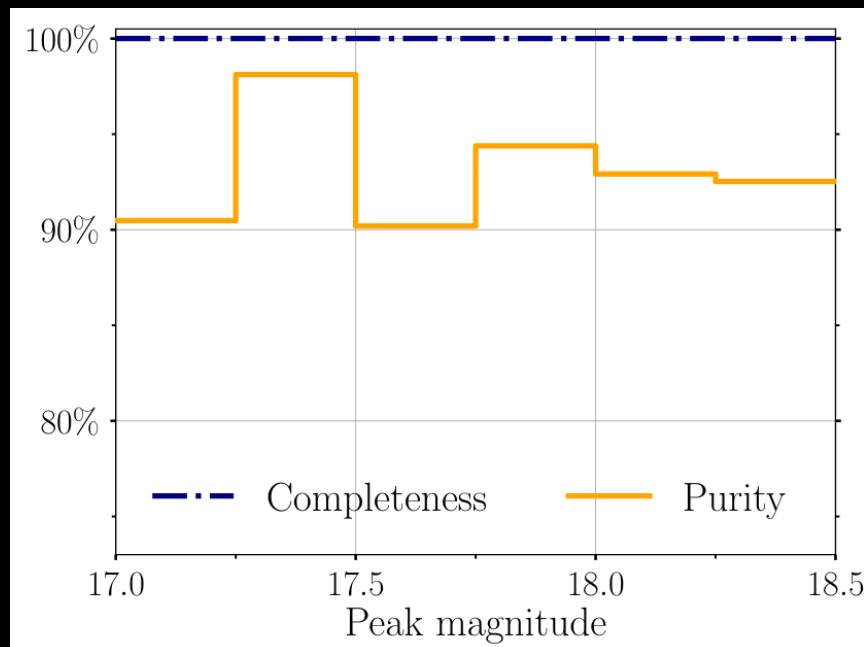
3.1 Results

1) ROC



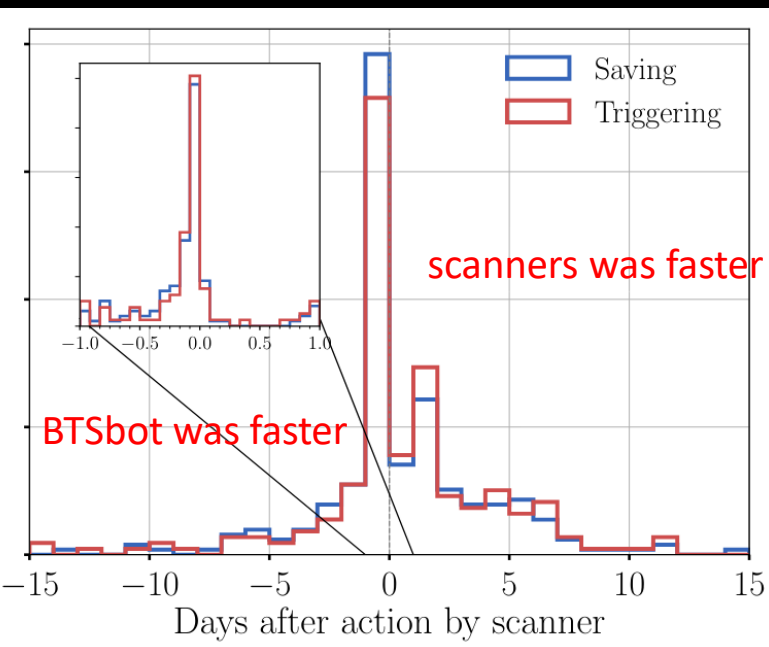
2) Confusion Matrix

3) Completeness and Purity



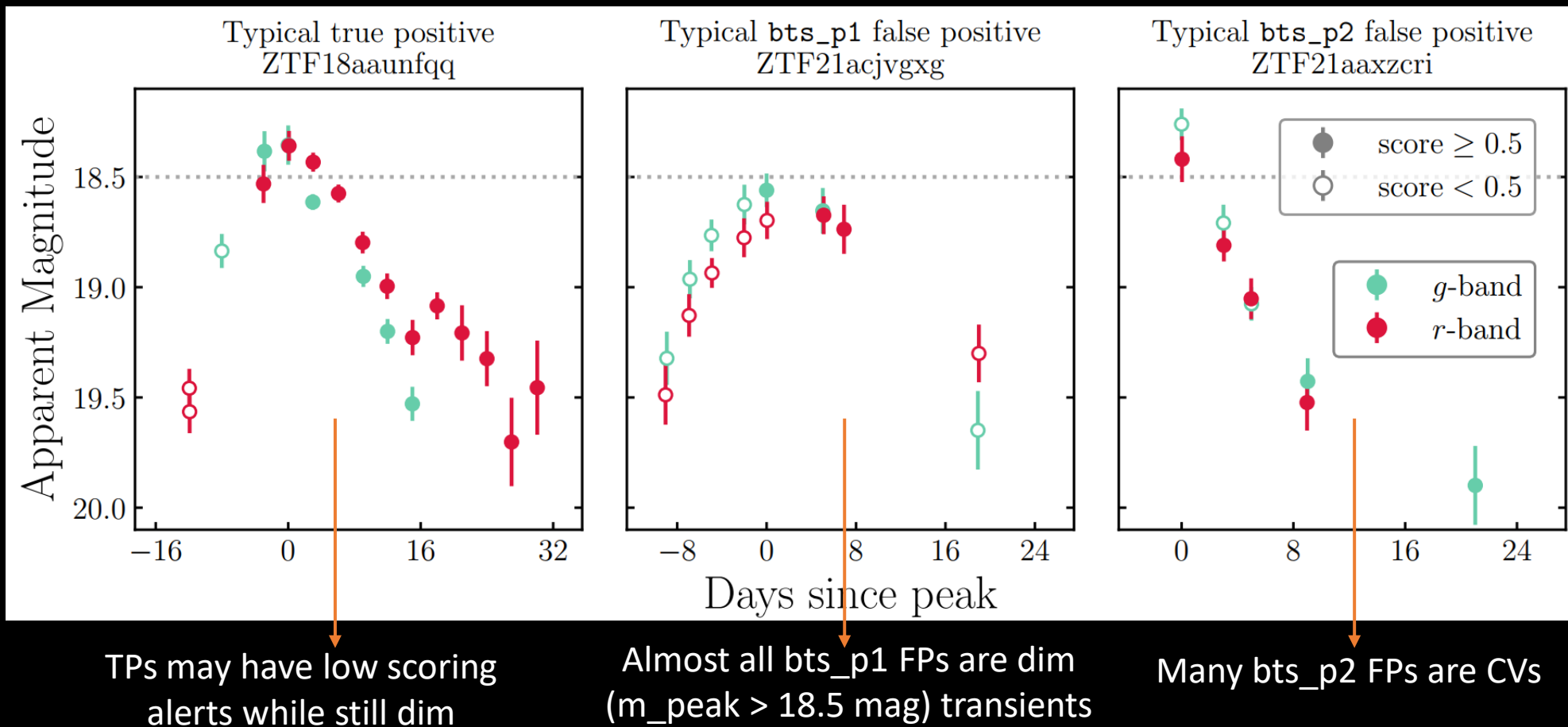
The completeness curve is exactly 100% in all peak magnitude bins, giving **perfect** overall completeness.

4) Comparison with human scanner



BTSbot acts **as quickly as human scanners** on new bright transients

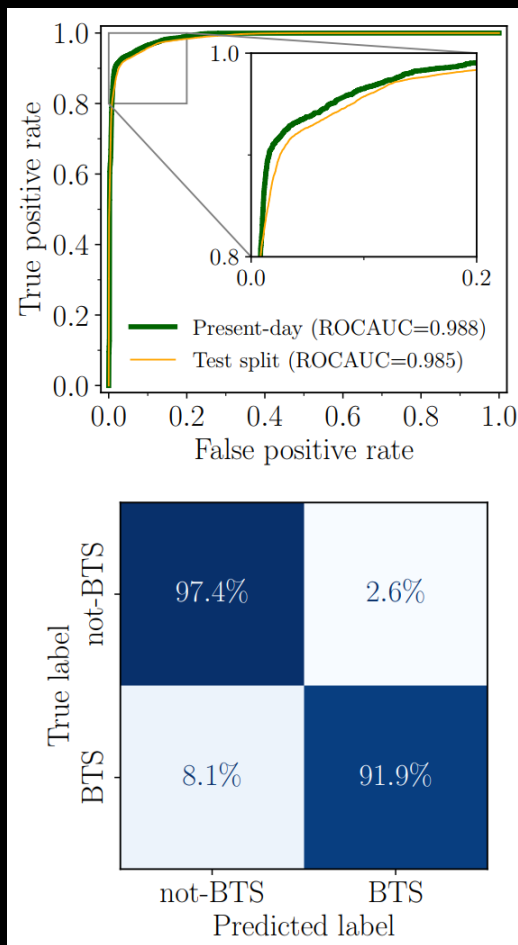
3.2 Discussion-misclassifications



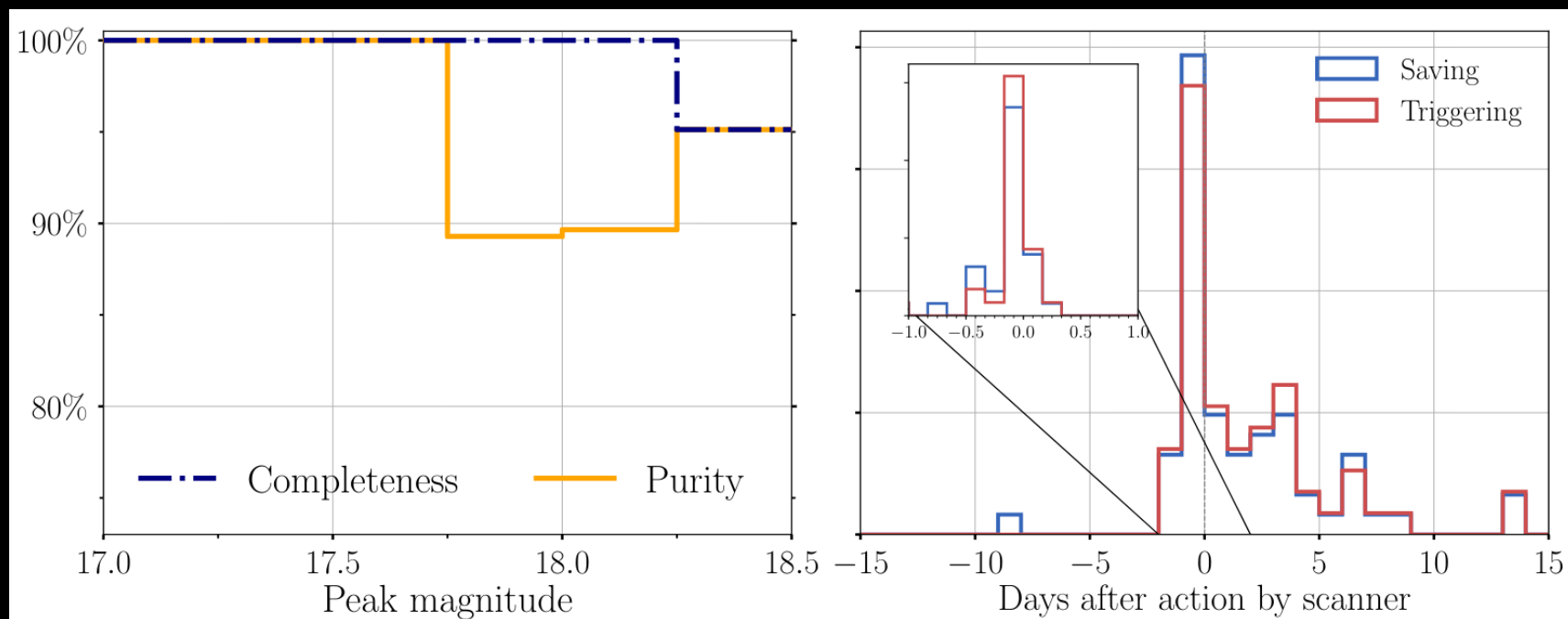
bts_p1: A source have at least two alerts with high (≥ 0.5) bright transient score and $\text{magpsf} \leq 19$ mag before being saved and having an SEDM trigger sent at priority 1; *bts_p2*: A source meet *bts_p1* as well as having at least one alert with $\text{magpsf} \leq 18.5$ mag before a trigger being sent with priority 2

3.2 Discussion-performance-present-day

Test split robust and representative, but includes many alerts that are years old and a subtle data shift can have associated biases



2460175.5(19 August 2023) < JD < 2460216.5 (29 September 2023)



Performance is very similar to the metrics computed from test split data


3.3 Discussion-comparion with similar models

ALeRCE

(SN, AGN, VarStar, asteroid, bogus)

ACAI

(hosted, orphan, nuclear, VarStar, bogus)



Neither the stamp classifier nor ACAI learn class definitions that are sensitive to the source's brightness.

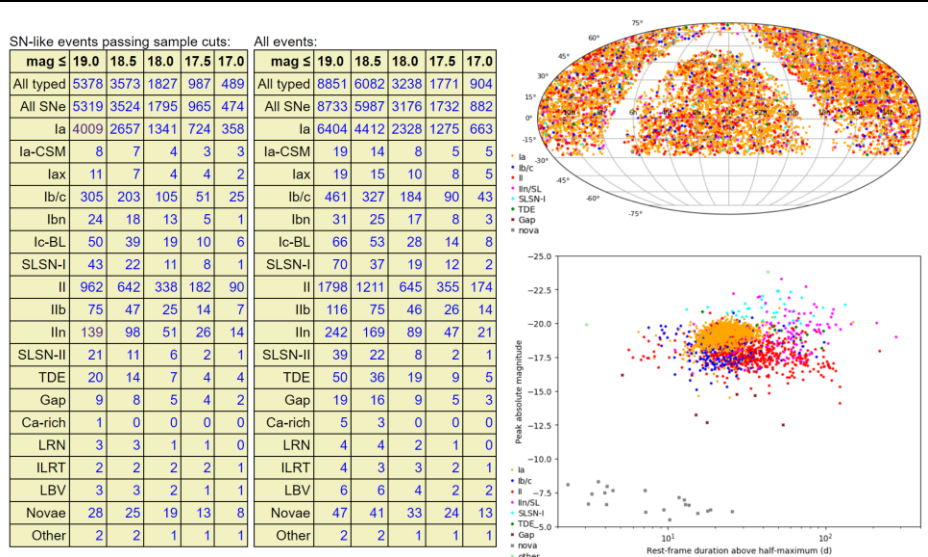
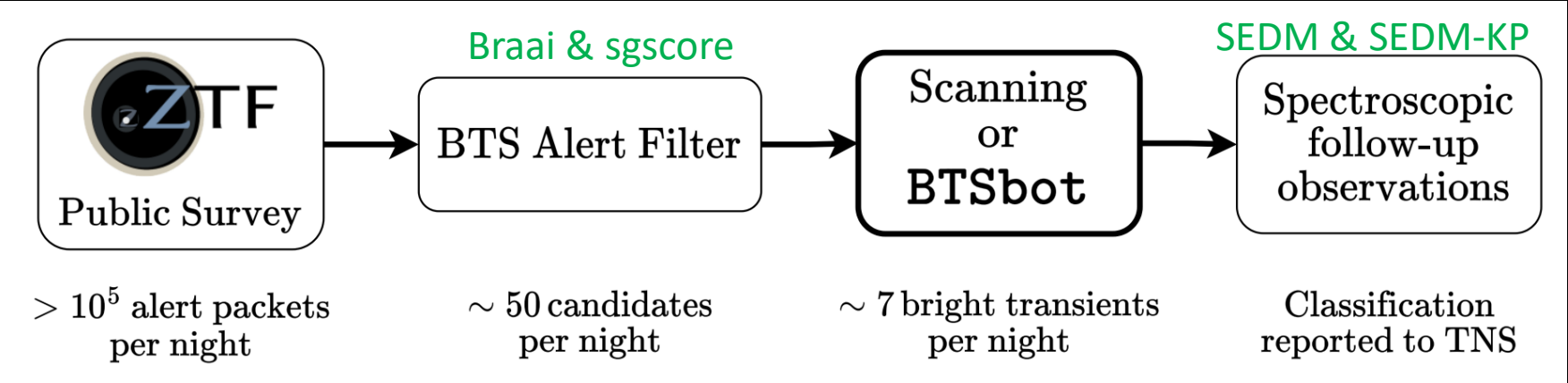
Part IV Conclusion and future work

4.1 Summay

- Presented a new multi-modal binary classifier, **BTSbot**, to automated classify bright transient / not bright transient; ~95% accuracy on input alerts and identified 100% in our test split with 93% purity;
- BTSbot focus on relatively narrow domain($m_{\text{peak}} \leq 18.5$ mag, reject other extragalactic transients and all other sources), but significantly **more alerts** (608,943) than other models with similar architectures,such as the ALeRCE stamp classifier (~52,000; the ACAI models (~200,000);
- BTSbot acts as quickly as human scanners on new bright transients(fig 7) and particularly well suited for the automated identification of very young transients;
- **BTSbot** joins a rich collection of ML models and automation tools central to daily BTS operations, has been integrated into Fritz and Kowalski and now sends automatic spectroscopic follow-up requests for the new transients it identifies

BTSbot has been integrated in Fritz and Kowalski to enable running in real-time on incoming alert packets from IPAC's alert-producing and brokering system.

BTS workflow



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

Thank you for your attention!
Q&A

Table 4. BTSbot metadata features

| Feature name | Definition [unit] |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Alert packet metadata | |
| <code>sgscore{1,2}</code> | Star/Galaxy score of nearest two PS1 sources |
| <code>distpsnr{1,2}</code> | Distance to nearest two PS1 sources [arcsec] |
| <code>fwhm</code> | Full Width Half Max [pixels] |
| <code>magpsf</code> | magnitude of PSF-fit photometry [mag] |
| <code>sigmapsf</code> | 1- σ uncertainty in <code>magpsf</code> [mag] |
| <code>chipsf</code> | Reduced χ^2 of PSF-fit |
| <code>ra</code> | Right ascension of source [deg] |
| <code>dec</code> | Declination of source [deg] |
| <code>diffmaglim</code> | 5- σ magnitude detection threshold [mag] |
| <code>ndethist</code> | Number of previous detections of source |
| <code>nmtchps</code> | # of PS1 cross-matches within 30 arcsec |
| <code>drb</code> | Deep learning-based real/bogus score |
| <code>ncovhist</code> | # of times source on a field and read channel |
| <code>chintr</code> | χ parameter of nearest source in reference |
| <code>sharpnr</code> | sharp parameter of nearest source in reference |
| <code>scorr</code> | Peak-pixel S/N in detection image |
| <code>sky</code> | Local sky background estimate [DN] |
| Custom metadata | |
| <code>days_since_peak</code> | Time since brightest alert [days] |
| <code>days_to_peak</code> | Time from first to brightest alert [days] |
| <code>age</code> | <code>days_since_peak</code> + <code>days_to_peak</code> |
| <code>peakmag_so_far</code> | Source's minimum <code>magpsf</code> thusfar [mag] |
| <code>maxmag_so_far</code> | Source's maximum <code>magpsf</code> thusfar [mag] |
| <code>nndet</code> ^a | <code>ncovhist</code> - <code>ndethist</code> |

ZTF-limiting magnitude

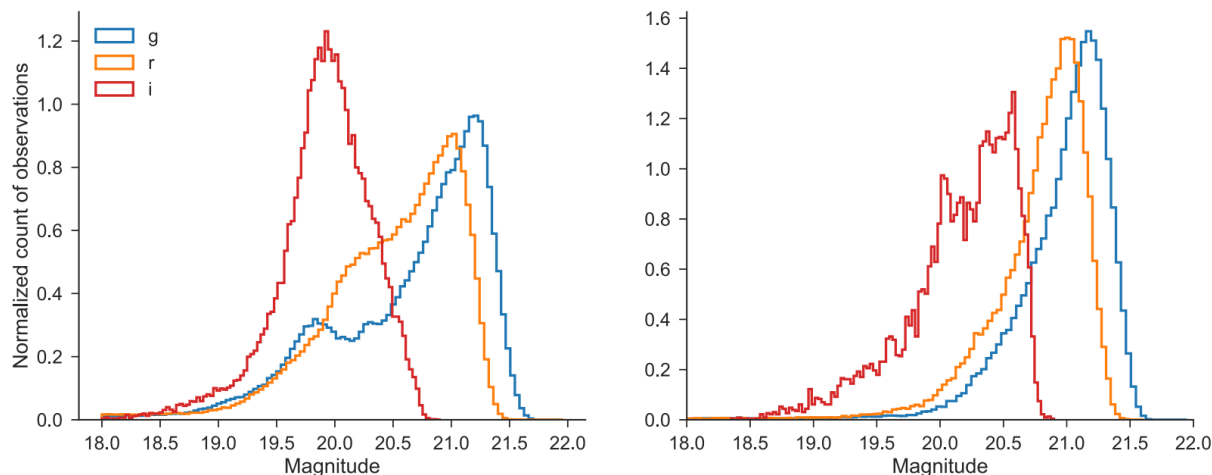


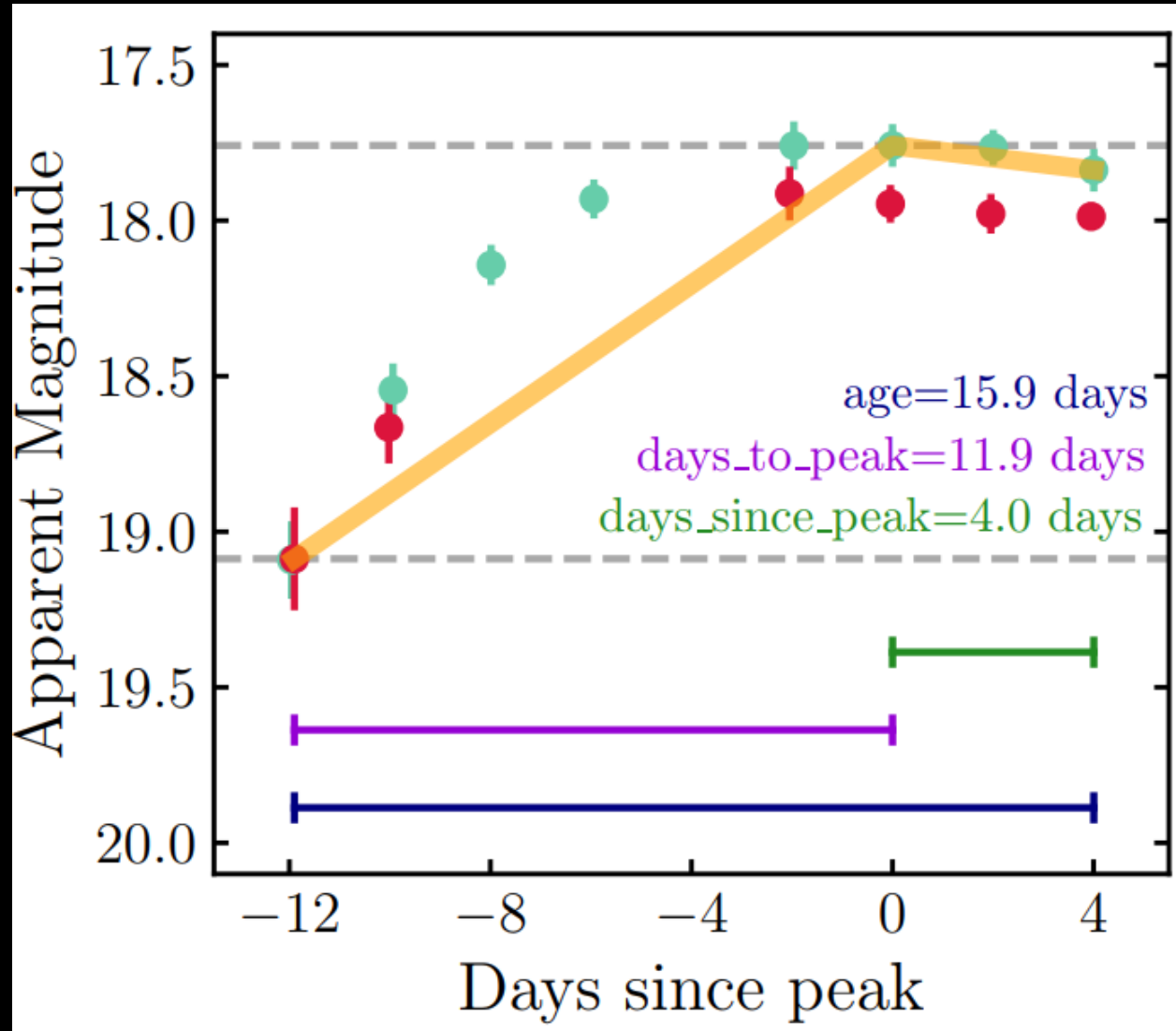
Figure 6. Left: histogram of five-sigma limiting magnitudes in 30 s exposures for *g* (blue), *r* (orange), and *i* (red) bands over one lunation. Right: limiting magnitudes for observations obtained within ± 3 days of new moon. (A color version of this figure is available in the online journal.)

Median Sensitivity
(30 s, 5 σ)

$$m_g = 20.8, \quad m_r = 20.6, \quad m_i = 19.9$$

$$m_g = 21.1, \quad m_r = 20.9, \quad m_i = 20.2 \text{ (new moon)}$$

Metadata features



Days_to_peak (purple), days_since_peak (green), age (navy), peakmag so far (upper dashed gray), and maxmag so far (lower dashed gray)