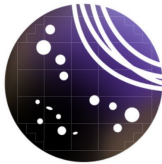


All aboard! RAIL <3 TVS SN

Alex Malz (LINCC Frameworks @CMU)

LINCC Frameworks

[LINCC Tech Talk](#)



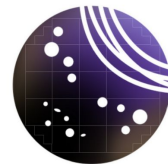
LINCC Frameworks

- Stands for LSST Interdisciplinary Network For Collaboration And Computing
- Schmidt Futures Foundation-funded collaboration between
UW, CMU, LSSTC, U Pitt, and NOIRLab
- Enables LSST science by developing scalable and productionised software/algorithms in collaboration with professional software engineers
- Activities include workshops, hack weeks, and incubators

Highlights of [first LINCC Tech Talk](#)

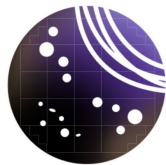


LINCC Frameworks Collaboration



Additional venues for collaboration:

- Workshops - Work with LSST Science Collaborations to identify areas of need.
 - Data to Software to Science Workshop (March 2022)
 - Whitepaper summary of DSS: [arXiv:2208.02781](https://arxiv.org/abs/2208.02781)
- Hackweeks - Provide tutorials and training in any new tools / frameworks.
- Incubators - Scientists work with team to get their science applications working (open proposal process).
- LINCC Frameworks members joining Science Collaborations.



Workshop: From Data to Software to Science with the Rubin Observatory LSST

Workshop goals:

1. Enabling *interactive development* of exciting scientific use cases for early LSST data, and identifying the common computational/technical challenges and enabling technologies associated with them.
2. Promoting the development of a broad and inclusive community of researchers engaged with LINCC Frameworks.

Paper: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2208.02781>





	Cross-matching	Photo- z	Selection functions	Time series	Image reprocessing	Image analysis
Cosmology	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓
Extragalactic static	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓		✓✓	✓
Extragalactic transient	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓	✓
Extragalactic variable	✓✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✓	✓
Local Universe transient & variable	✓✓		✓	✓✓		
Local Universe static	✓✓		✓✓		✓	✓
Solar system	✓		✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓

Table 1. Table highlighting the connection between scientific and technical areas discussed at the workshop. Rows are science areas while columns are for infrastructure capabilities. A double checkmark (✓✓) signifies that some infrastructure capability is essential to enable a particular scientific area, while a single checkmark (✓) signifies that the infrastructure capability would enhance or expand scientific discovery within that area but is not necessary to enable all of it.

Redshift Assessment Infrastructure Layers (RAIL) github.com/LSSTDESC/RAIL

A starting point for a photo-z framework

But first, some context (from [DESC PZ onboarding slides](#))

Schmidt, Malz & Soo, et al. (2020) overview



Motivation

To identify the best photo-z PDF estimation code for DESC pipelines

Data

DC1 was a DC2 precursor mock data set

N-body-based cosmological redshifts & photometry

Methods

Controlled comparison of 11+ photo-z PDF estimation codes

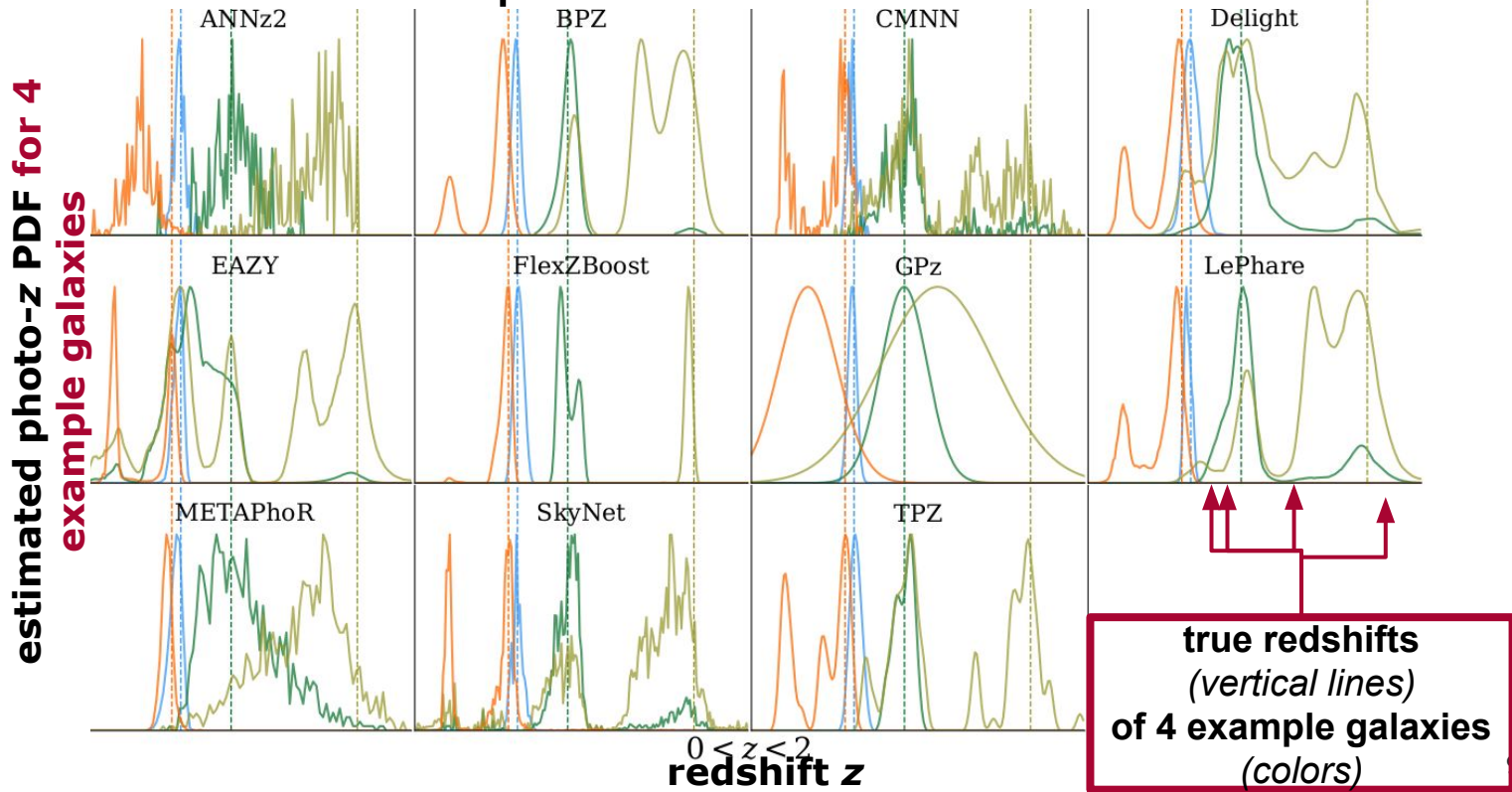
Evaluated performance by all standard metrics (and then some)

Baseline test before introducing realistic conditions

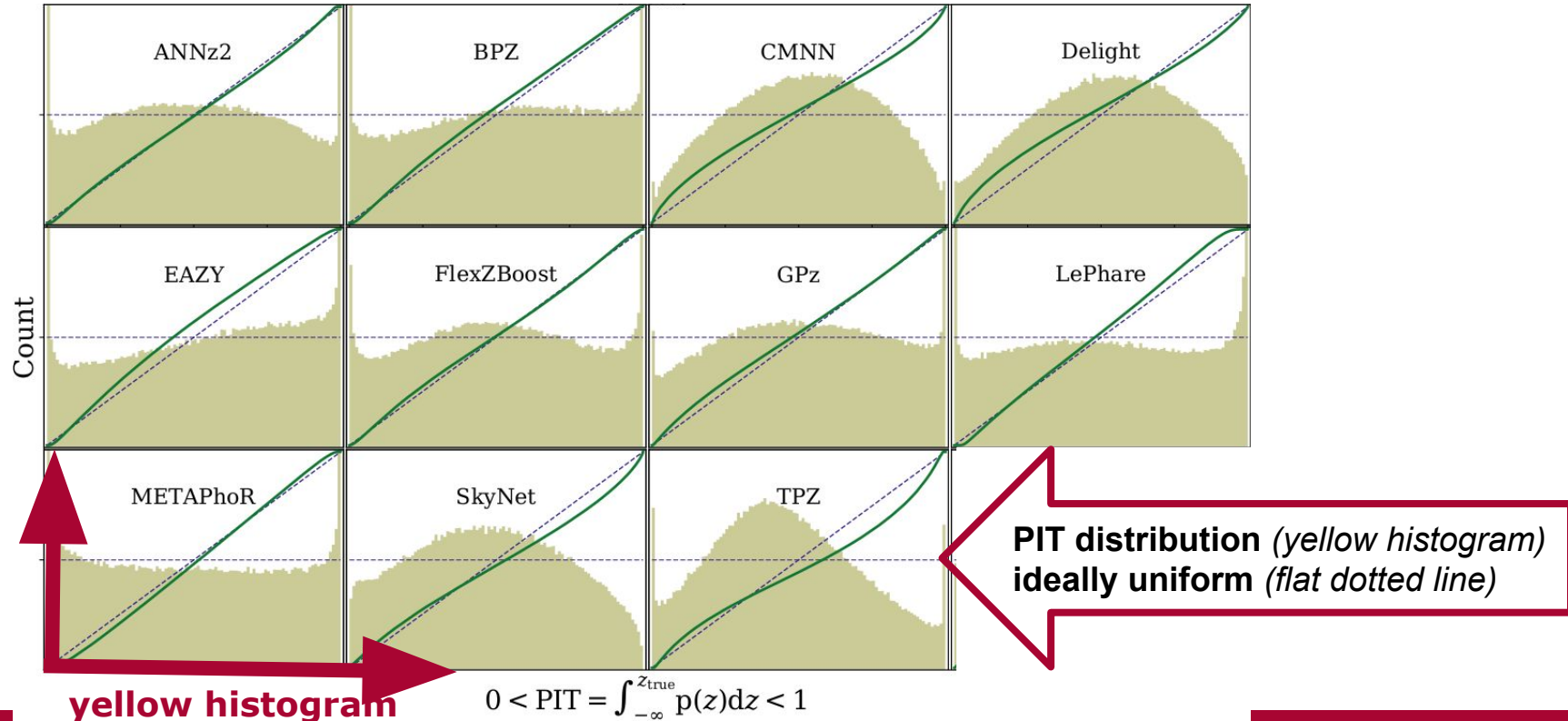
Experimental control: All estimators shared perfect prior information

- A representative training set for machine learning codes
- The true SED templates for model-fitting codes

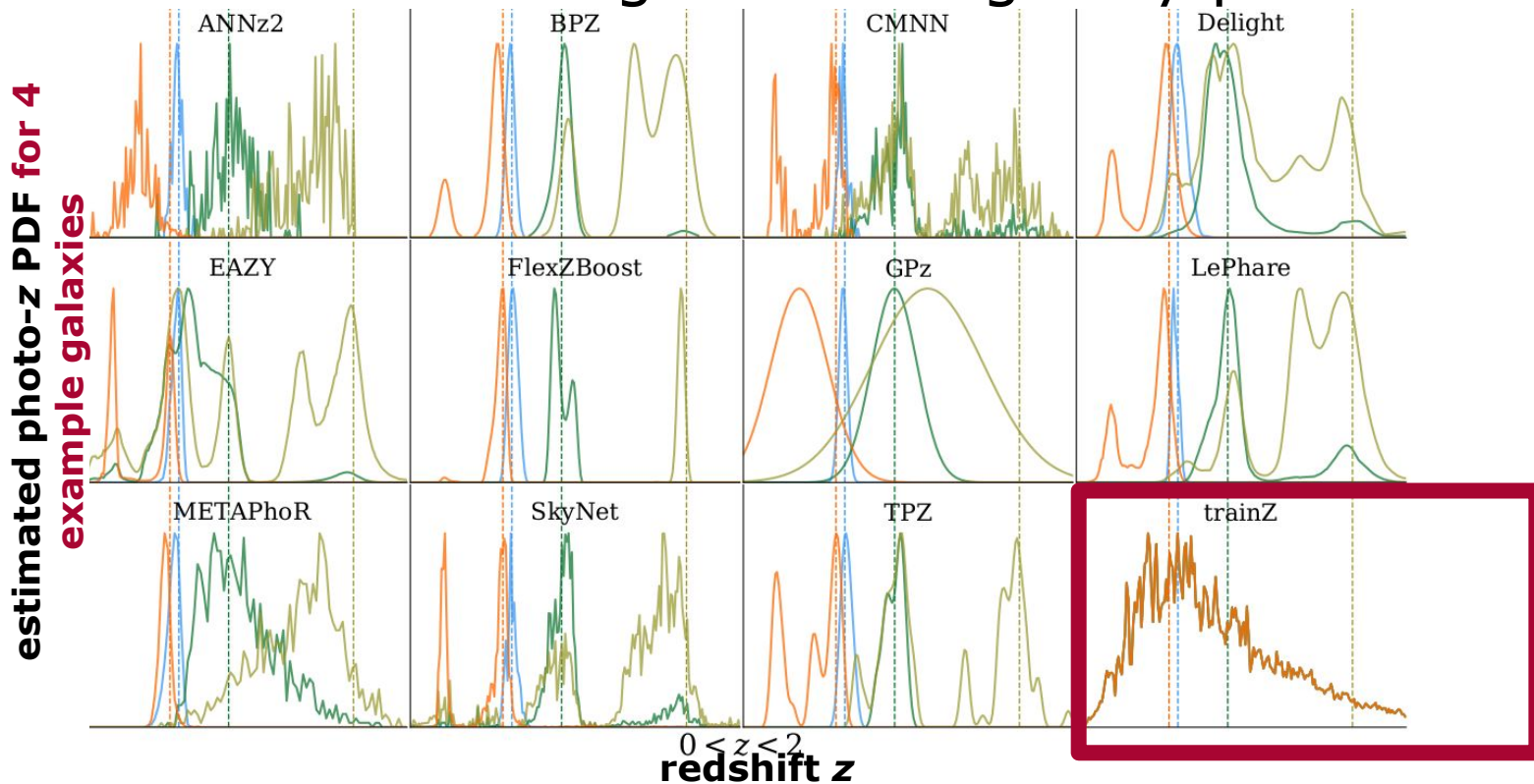
Under shared prior information, an *implicit prior* must induce per-estimator differences.



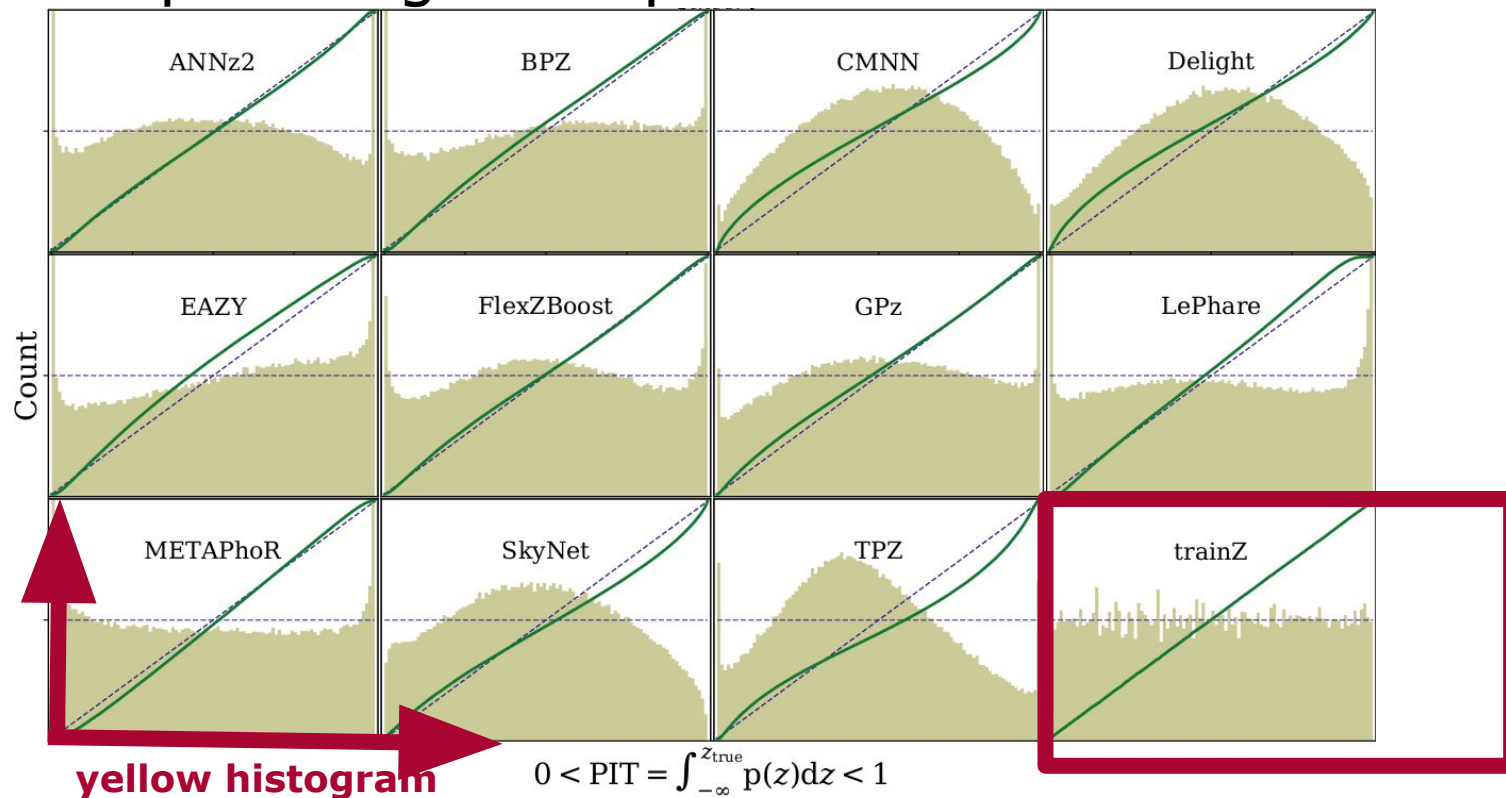
Even under perfect prior information,
no method yields perfect photo-z PDFs.



The experimental control returns the training set  redshift distribution regardless of galaxy photometry.



Traditional metrics of photo-z PDFs favor the pathological experimental control.



Schmidt, Malz & Soo, et al. (2020) conclusions and next steps

Each photo-z posterior estimator is distinguished by its implicit prior.



The implicit prior must be isolated to use photo-z posteriors for DESC cosmology.

No photo-z posterior estimator is perfect, even with perfect prior information.

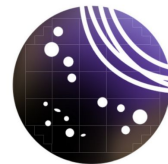


We must probe the response of estimators under realistically imperfect prior information.

Traditional metrics of photo-z posterior performance are inappropriate.



To evaluate principled metrics, we must compare estimates to true photo-z posteriors.



RAIL Structure

The implicit prior must be isolated to use photo-z posteriors for DESC cosmology.

We must probe the response of estimators under realistically imperfect prior information.

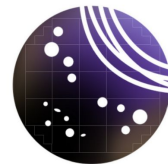
To evaluate principled metrics, we must compare estimates to true photo-z posteriors.

RAIL is a **modular toolkit** for building end-to-end pipelines for estimating and stress-testing photo-z data products.

Major themes:

RAIL's design facilitates **controlled experiments** to characterize estimators and mitigate shortcomings.

RAIL is designed to be extensible beyond DESC needs.



RAIL Structure

The implicit prior must be isolated to use photo- z posteriors for DESC cosmology.

We must probe the response of estimators under **realistically imperfect prior information**.

To evaluate principled metrics, we must compare estimates to **true photo- z posteriors**.

RAIL.creation forward models mock data

Generates mock redshifts and photometry *and* the **probability space $p(z, \text{data})$** so

posteriors $p(z | \text{data})$ and

likelihoods $p(\text{data} | z)$ are accessible

Includes both empirical and

physical modeling back-ends

Supports realistically complex systematics

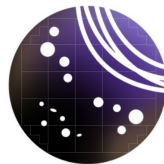
(**degradation**) modeling, including:

emission/absorption line confusion,

magnitude cuts (shortcuts to surveys),

observing condition/sky variation,

magnitude errors over time,



RAIL Structure

The **implicit prior** must be isolated to use photo-z posteriors for DESC cosmology.

We must probe **the response of estimators** under realistically imperfect prior information.

To evaluate principled metrics, we must compare estimates to true photo-z posteriors.

RAIL.estimation establishes a shared API for photo-z (PDF) algorithms

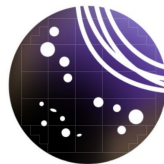
Currently includes

BPZ, Delight, FlexZBoost, GPz,
KNN (two implementations),
pzflow, SOM (two implementations),

Provides straightforward process
to wrap more estimators

*Supports several I/O formats via [tables.io](#)
with more coming soon!*

*(Also includes **summarizers** of ensemble
redshift distribution)*



RAIL Structure

The implicit prior must be **isolated** to use photo-z posteriors for DESC cosmology.

We must probe the response of estimators under realistically imperfect prior information.

To evaluate **principled metrics**, we must compare estimates to true photo-z posteriors.

RAIL.evaluation supports flexible metrics of photo-z (PDF) estimates

Currently includes:

Bias, IQR, MAD, outlier rate,
PIT plus KS, AD, CvM of PIT,
CDE loss (*and more via [qp](#)*)

Provides straightforward process
to add more metrics

Actively seeking to implement xSC metrics!

LINCCxRAILxTVS SN

Discussion: next steps for making RAIL useful for TVS

(And everyone is invited to join [#desc-pz-rail](#) on the LSSTC Slack!)