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# Photometric Redshifts with LSST:

Methodological Advancements, Rubin Commissioning,  
and the Potential for High-Redshift Cosmology

John Franklin Crenshaw | University of Washington

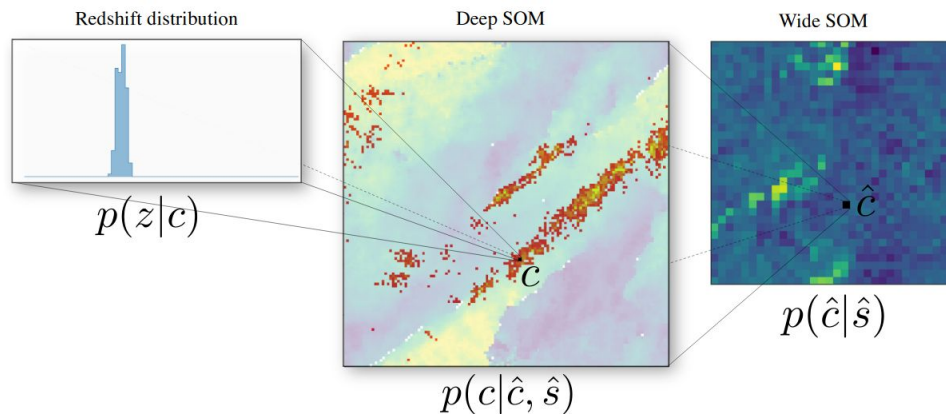
# DES as a starting point

Lots of continuity of DES, including many DES members directly contributing to DESC photo-z efforts

DES 2-tiered SOM likely to feature prominently in (early) DESC cosmology

Exploring improvements, e.g.

- replacing Balrog SSI with Deep Field bootstrapping
- separate SOM for each tomographic bin for all samples

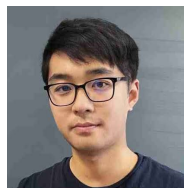
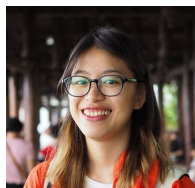


Buchs et al. 2019

# Building Beyond DES with RAIL



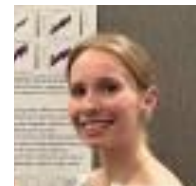
- Exploring and testing methods beyond DES. Especially worried about confirmation bias of DES results
- **RAIL**: framework for photo-z estimation, forward modeling, & pipelining
  - Flexibility to swap lots of photo-z algorithms into pipelines for comparison
  - Forward modeling with normalizing flows that provide *true photo-z posteriors* to enable evaluation at the per-posterior level (**PZFlow, Crenshaw 2024**)
  - Also built-in SPS modeling
  - Modeling and testing systematic errors & quantifying impact on cosmology



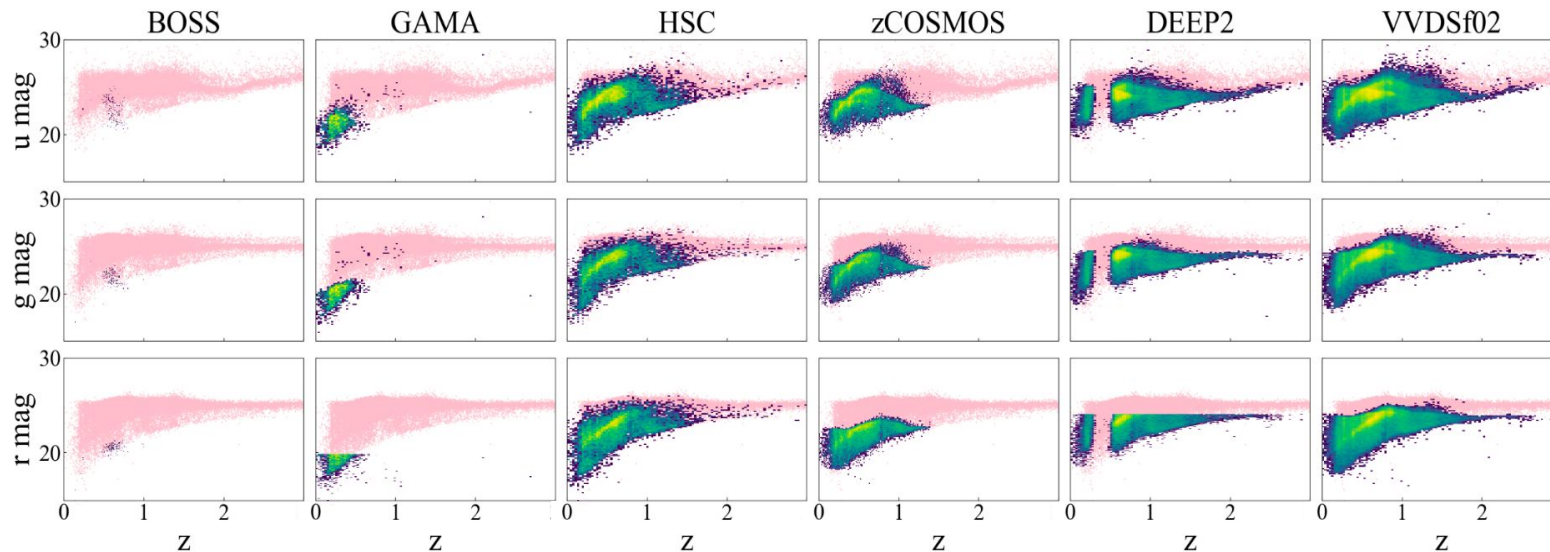
Created by Alex Malz,  
currently led by Ellen Hang and TQ Zhang,  
supported by LINCC Frameworks

# E.g. Modeling Spectroscopic Incompleteness

Spectra only obtained for biased subset of photometric sample



Spectroscopic Survey Degradation



Alice Crafford  
(incl. Crenshaw)  
*paper in review*

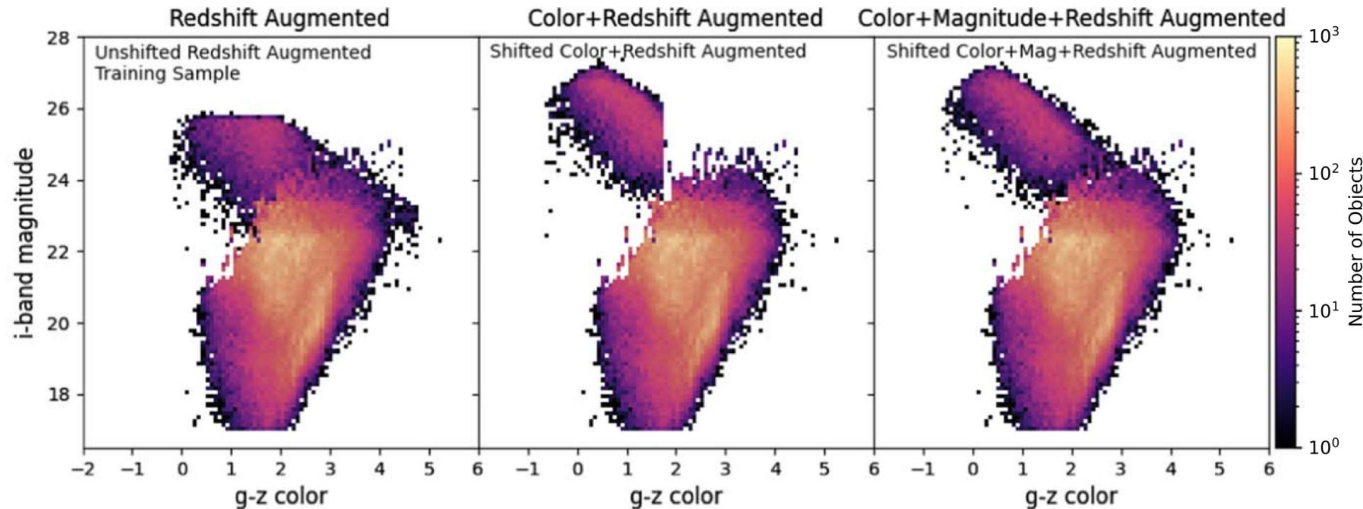
# Simulated Training Set Augmentation



See Irene's poster  
@ 5:30pm today!

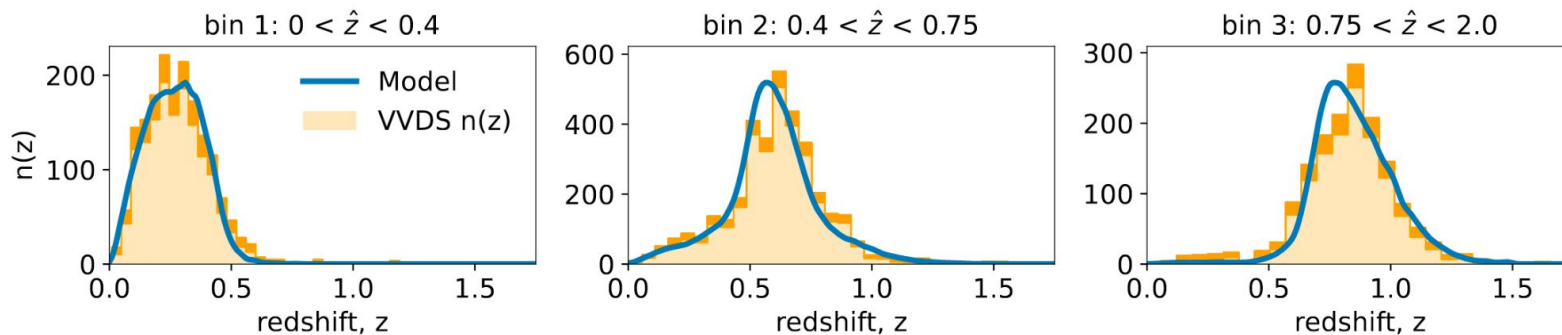
Can you augment spectroscopic sets with simulated data?

Moskowitz 2024 (*incl. Crenshaw*) shows yes; can reduce bias by 50%!



# SPS-driven Photo-z Estimation

- Lots of work to accelerate inference with Stellar Population Synthesis (SPS) models
- So far successfully applied to  $\sim 10^5$  galaxies; more acceleration possible!
- Test using SPS to estimate photo-z's (and galaxy properties!) for DESC cosmology



Alsing et al. 2022

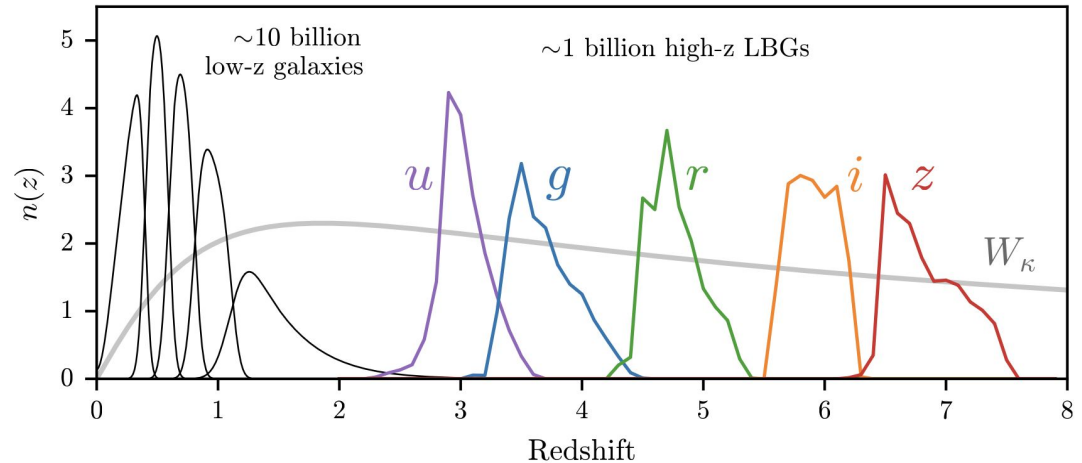
# Pushing to Higher Redshifts

LSST depth and width will provide hundreds-of-millions Lyman-break Galaxies (LBGs) across the whole southern sky

**Euclid** and **Roman** will provide IR photometry that will enable secure photo-z calibration

**DESI-II** will provide high-z spectroscopy

*Lots of synergies for high-z cosmology emerging this decade!*

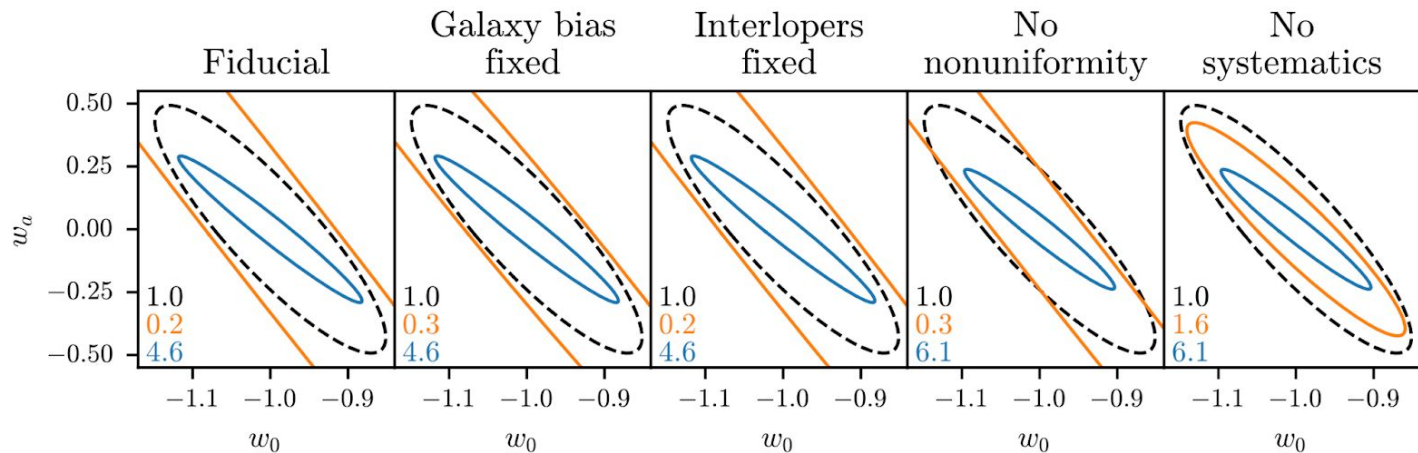


Crenshaw in prep.

# Constraints on High-Redshift Cosmology

Clustering and cross-correlation with CMB lensing will provide powerful cosmological constraints

- Evolution of  $\sigma_8$
- Evolution of DE
- Sum of neutrino masses (independent of tau)
- $f_{\text{NL}}$



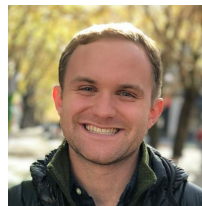
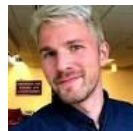
Crenshaw *in prep.*



# LBG Cosmology Topical Team

Lots of ongoing work:

- Optimizing survey strategy (w/ Boris Leistedt)



JFC



Tanveer Karim

- Ramping up to measure UV LF using Rubin Commissioning Data



- Calibrating high-redshift cosmology simulations (w/ Gillian Mohrmann and Andrew Hearin)

- Cosmology forecasts (w/ Niko Šarčević)



- Exploring more flexible DE parameterizations (w/ João Victor Silva Rebouças and Diogo Henrique Francis De Souza)



- Inverse Galaxy-Galaxy Lensing (w/ Dane Cross and Carles Sánchez)

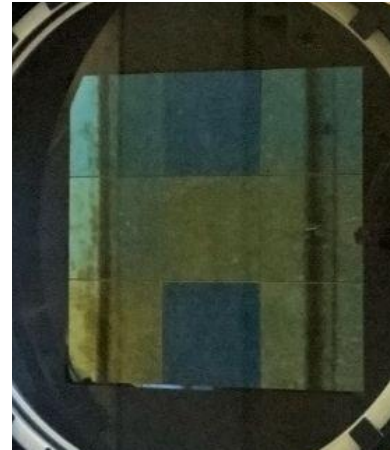
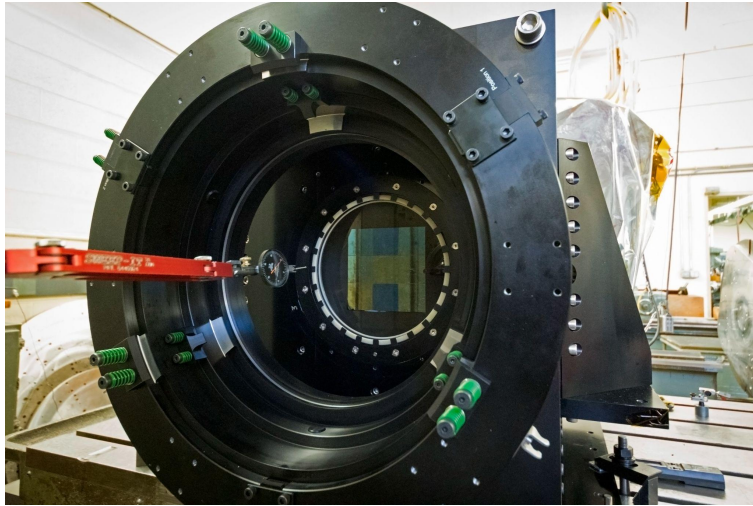


**LBG Cosmology Workshop**  
**Dunlap Institute, Toronto**  
**May 7 - 9**



# Rubin ComCam Commissioning

- Rubin on-sky from October - December 2024
- Same telescope, mirrors, etc. but only single raft (FoV  $\sim 0.5 \text{ deg}^2$ )
- A lot of time dedicated to Active Optics and other engineering activities



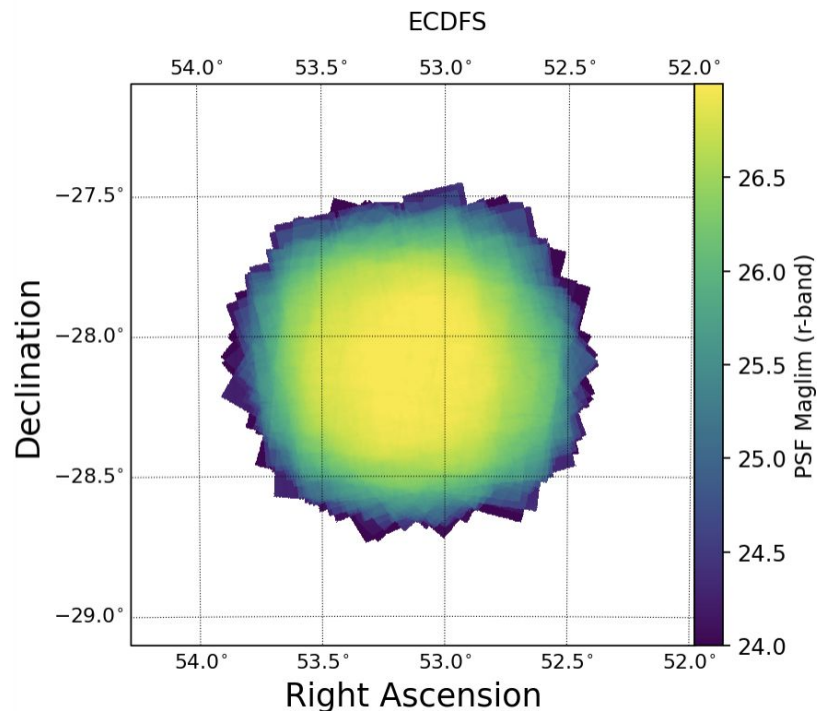
# ComCam Commissioning Surveys

- 10 year *griz*, 2 years *uy* in ECDFS
- 2 year *ugrizy* in EDFS

Rubin Photo-z Commissioning Team beginning to process this data, test photo-z estimation, exercise our pipelines, etc.

I am preparing to begin testing LBG selection, UV LF measurements, etc.

**Public release expected June – July 2025**



# Summary

- DESC photo-z analysis for early cosmology likely to look a lot like DES
- RAIL provides a flexible photo-z estimation framework, with which we are testing many different algorithms and calibrating systematic errors
- LBG cosmology will extend DESC cosmology to higher redshifts than seen in Stage III surveys
- The Rubin ComCam Commissioning Campaign provided deep imaging in Rubin Deep Drilling Fields. We are beginning to analyze this data, providing a first glimpse at the potential of LSST

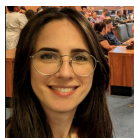
# Backup Slides

# What does “photo-z” mean to DESC

There are a wide variety of uses and types of “photo-z” in DESC

- $n(z)$  distributions for 3x2pt cosmology
- $n(z)$  from cross-correlation with spectroscopic catalogs
- $p(z)$  for individual galaxies
- $p(z)$  for galaxy clusters

We will likely end up with multiple photo-z pipelines and resulting photo-z products, tailored to the needs of each science case



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# Photo-z Server

Welcome to the Photo-z Server! This is an ancillary service available to Rubin Science Platform users to host lightweight data products related to photo-zs.  
Click [here](#) for more details.

### Rubin Observatory PZ Data Products

Official data products released by the LSST Data Management team.

### User-generated Data Products

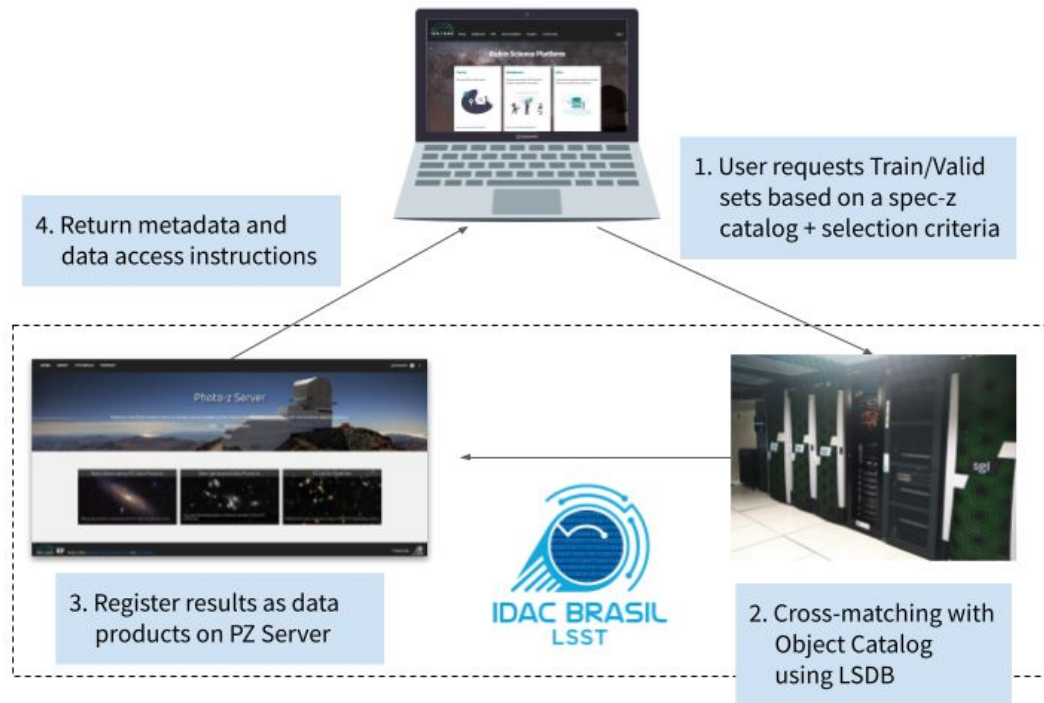
User-generated data products shared by members of the LSST community.

### PZ Server Pipelines

Pipelines to create customized science-driven PZ-related data products.

VERA C. RUBIN RSP Image credits: NOIRLab public images archive and LSST gallery. Powered By LineA





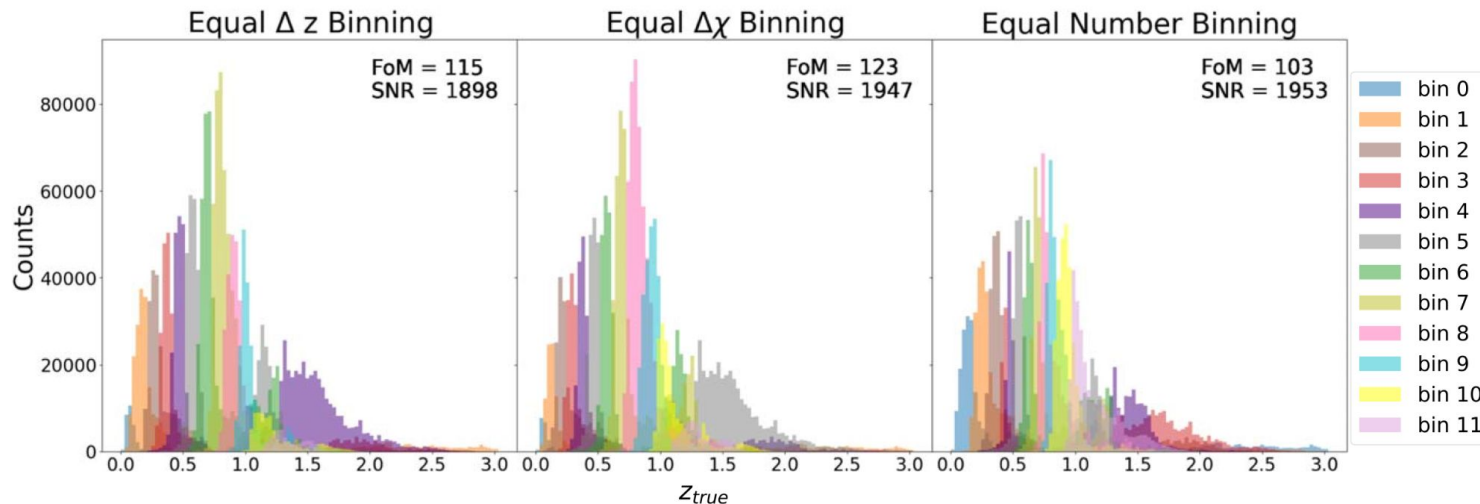
# Optimizing definition of $n(z)$ binning



See Irene's poster  
@ 5:30pm today!

Exploring different schemes for determining bin edges to optimize DE figure of merit

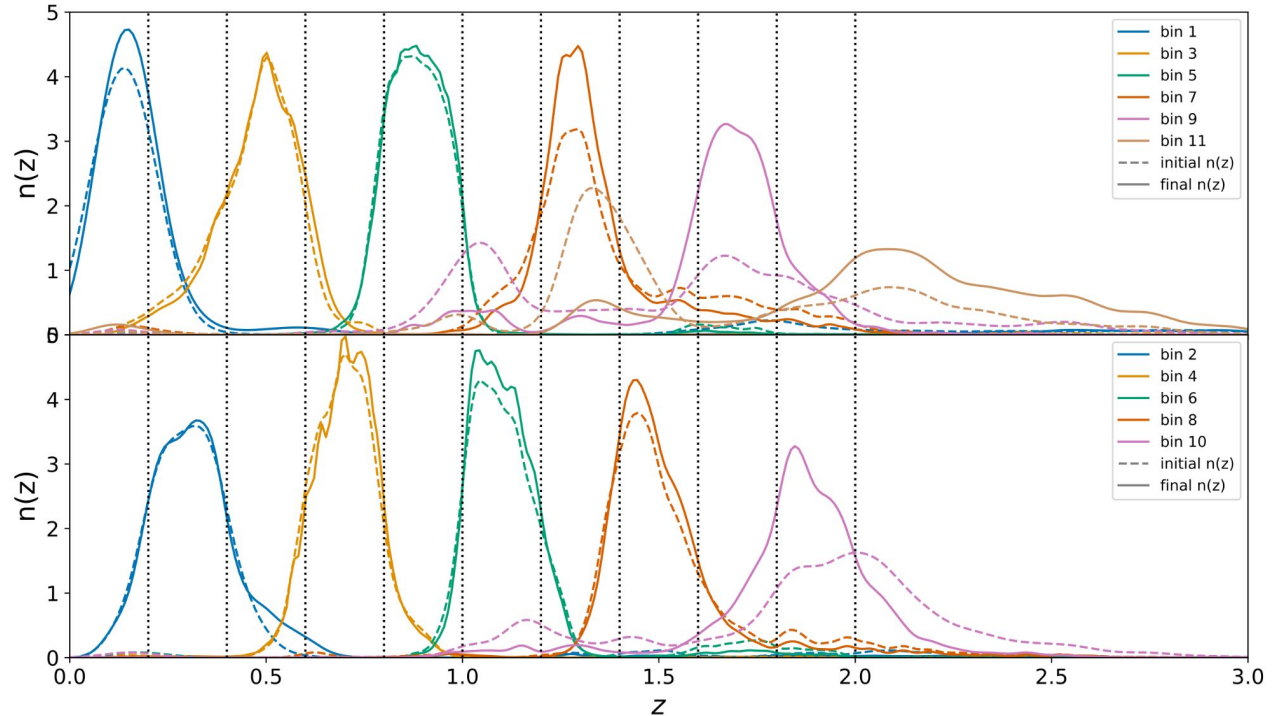
Moskowitz 2023 shows equal comoving distance is close to optimal (but depends on galaxy sample)



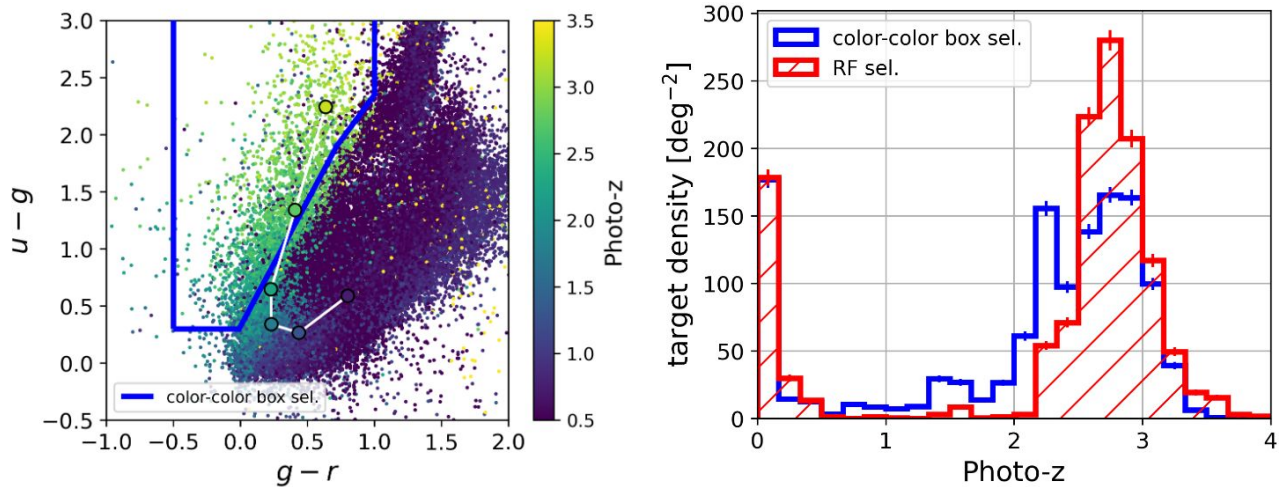
# Optimizing Bin Assignment with Annealing

Stölzner 2022  
developed method of  
using simulated  
annealing together with  
clustering signal to  
optimize tomographic bin  
assignment

(decreases outliers in highest-z  
bin from 57% to 16%)

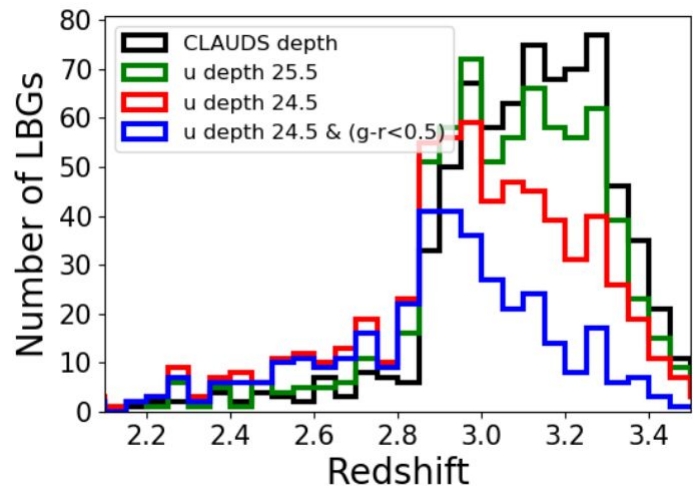
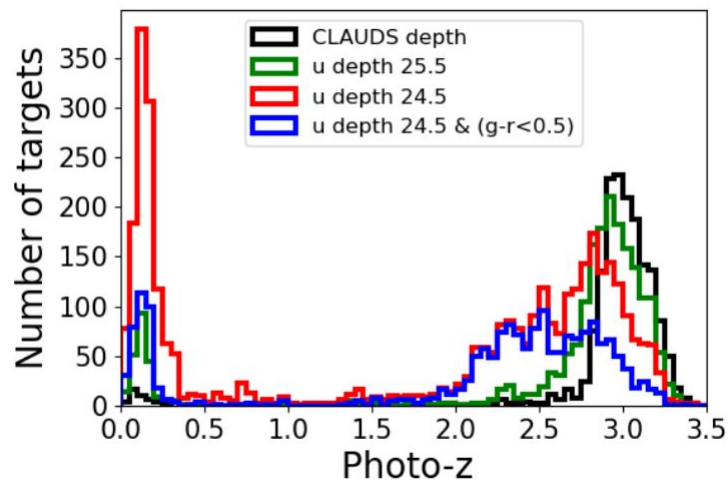


# LBG selection: color-color vs random forest



Payerne 2024

# LBG purity vs u-band depth



Ruhlmann-Kleider 2024