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Intelligent Database of Astronomical Alerts from LSST & ZTF



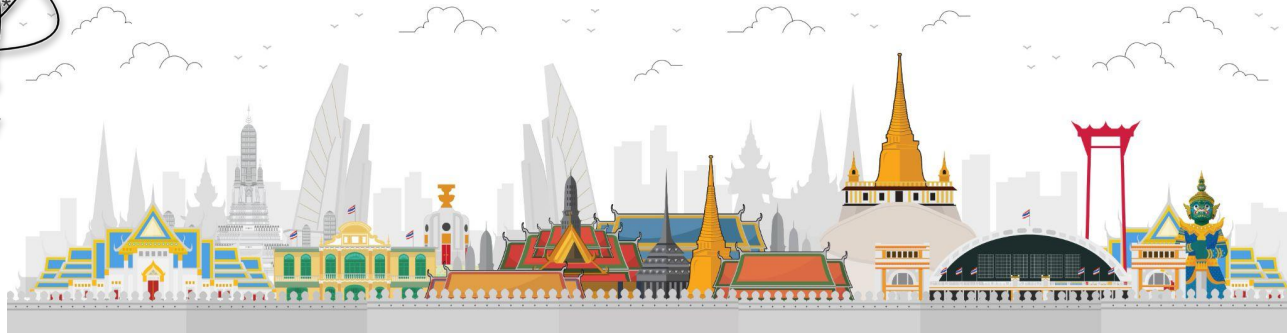
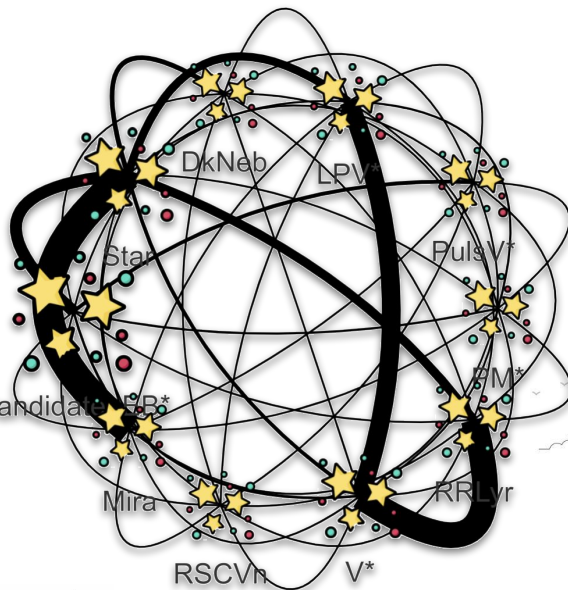
AstroLab
software



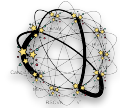
LSST
Legacy Survey of Space and Time

- **LSST**
 - Fink Broker
- **Classification Graphs**
 - Project
 - Implementation
 - Classification Schemas
- **Usage**
 - CLI
 - WS

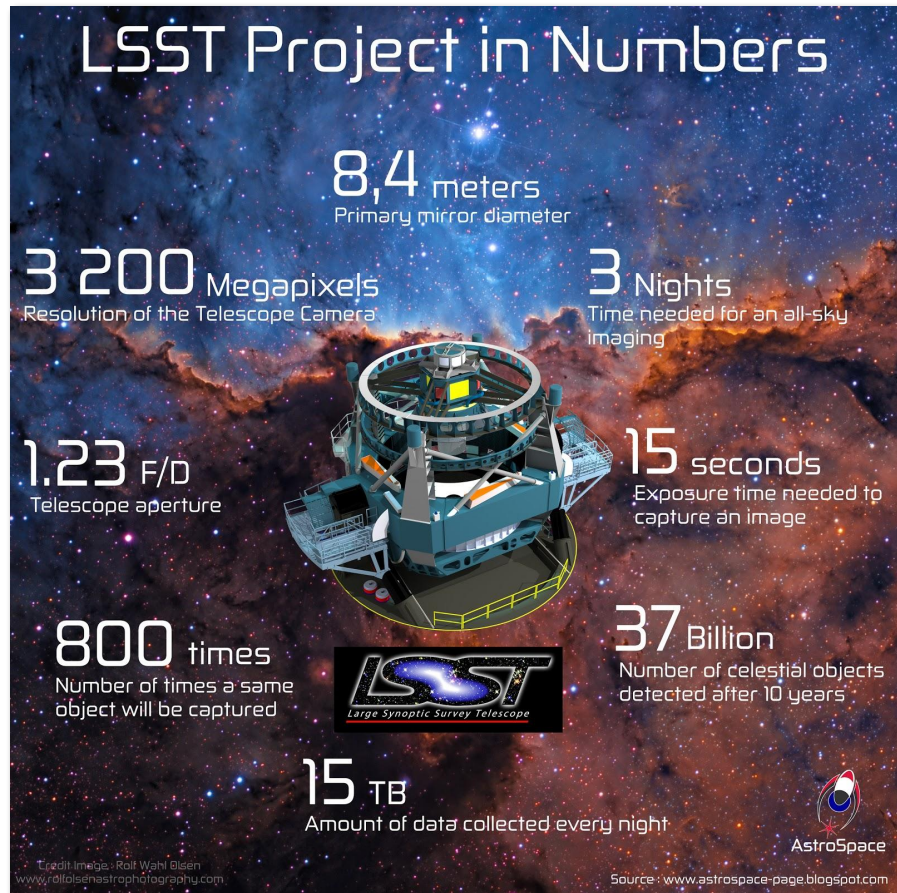
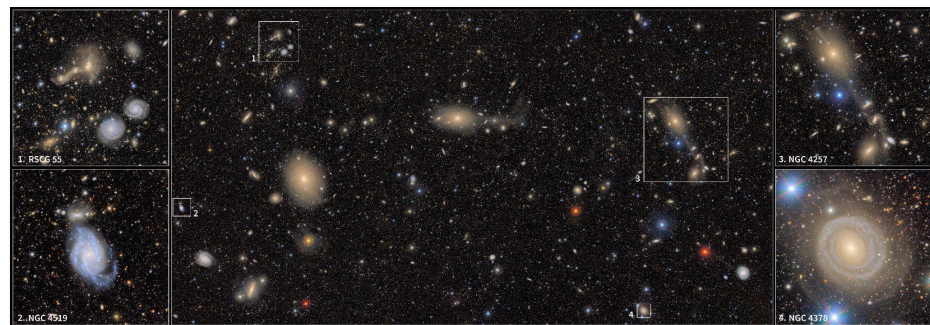
***Julius Hrivnac, UCLab**
for FINK Project
CHEP 2026
25-29/5/26
Bangkok*



LSST - Vera C. Rubin Observatory



The **Vera C. Rubin Observatory** is an astronomical observatory located on Cerro Pachón in Chile. It will repeatedly scan the southern sky over ten years to create a deep, time-resolved map of the Universe, enabling studies of transient phenomena. It is already delivering first images and alerts.



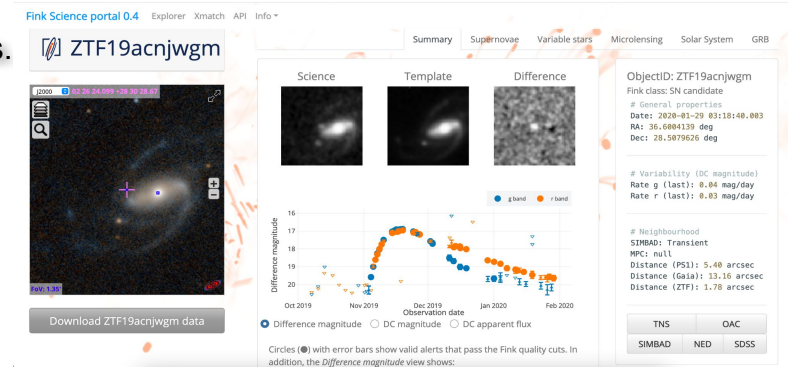
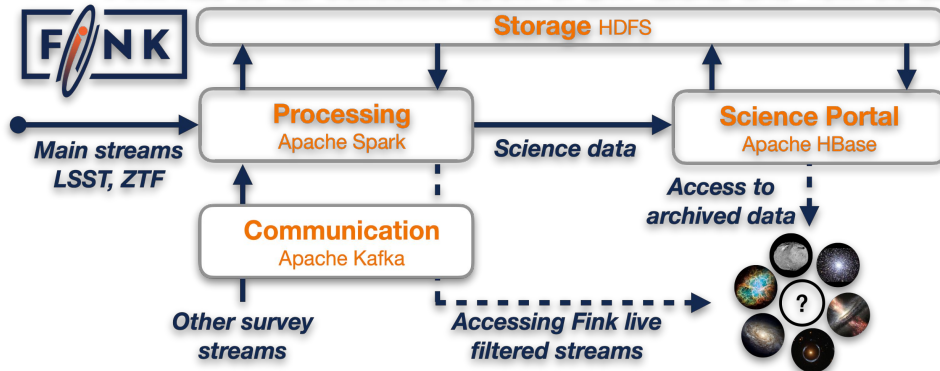
AstroLab - Fink Broker

10 000 000
alerts per night



- Fink is an astronomical **alert broker** designed to process the high-volume **transient alert** stream from the Vera C. Rubin Observatory and Zwicky Transient Facility (ZTF), acting as an **intermediary between those alerts and the scientific community**.
- It ingests, stores, annotates, enriches, classifies, filters and redistributes alerts adding contextual information needed for rapid scientific interpretation.
- Fink applies feature engineering, stream cross-matches, and machine-learning **classifiers** to identify astrophysical phenomena such as *supernovae*, *variable stars*, *solar-system objects*, etc.
- Fink is open-source and designed to support user-defined science modules, personalized filters, and follow-up workflows. It was designed to be modular and to facilitate the inclusion of personalized analyses.
- Fink has so far collected 250M of ZTF alerts and 10M of LSST alerts.

searching for objects which
are moving/changing



Classification Graphs

to organise alerts in a useful way

Project



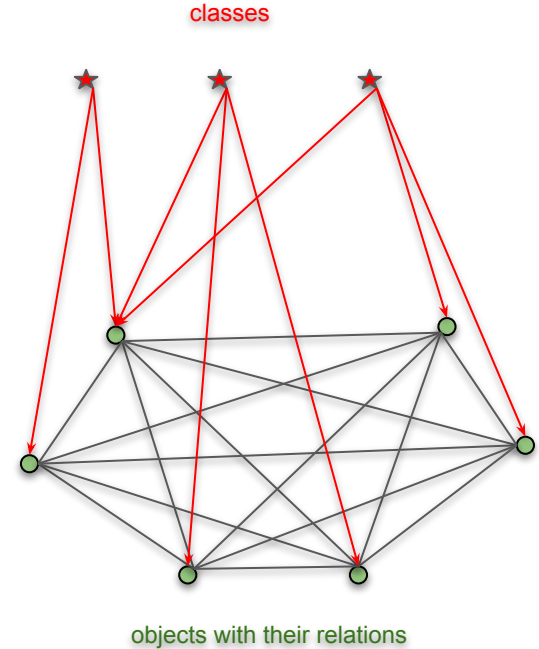
- To organize access to data (**alerts**) allowing **similarity** search and navigation
 - **Vector databases** functionality
- To be flexible about what **similarity** means (its defining object properties) and how to evaluate it (which metric to use)
- For finding similar objects, we should in principle calculate the distance to all other objects
 - Practically impossible for large amount of data
 - To make it feasible, we should
 - either sort the objects (but there is no unique sorting measure)
 - or clusterise them (classification)
- Organizing **classifications** in **graphs**

Simple Classification

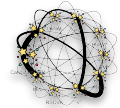
how classification
enables similarity search



- How objects classification enables similarity search
 - Without discrete classification, the problem is $n*n$ (n = number of objects), which is undoable for large number of objects
 - With a discrete classification scheme, the problem is $n*m + m*m + m$ (m = number of classes, $m \ll n$)
 - $n*m$ - classification of new objects, only done when they arrive
 - $m*m$ - overlaps, when needed
 - m - to get information for a particular object
 - Some classifications should be trained, but that can be done on the subset of objects and re-done only when something changes
- Object distance can be calculated by various metrics:
 - **Jensen-Shannon** - the most trustworthy, but slower
 - Euclidean, Cosine,... - faster, less trustworthy

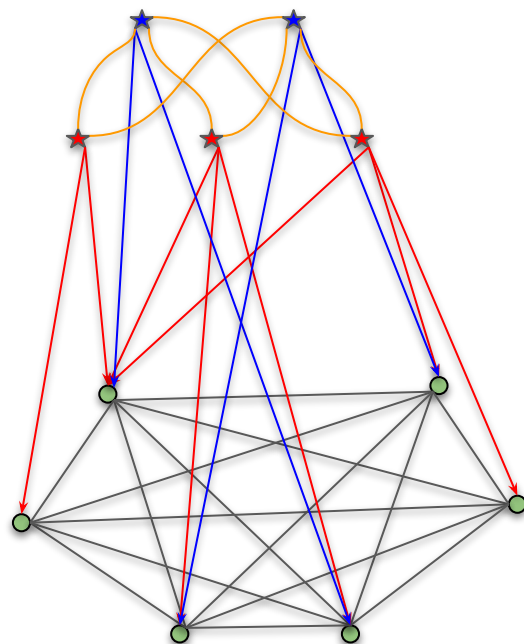


Multiple Classification



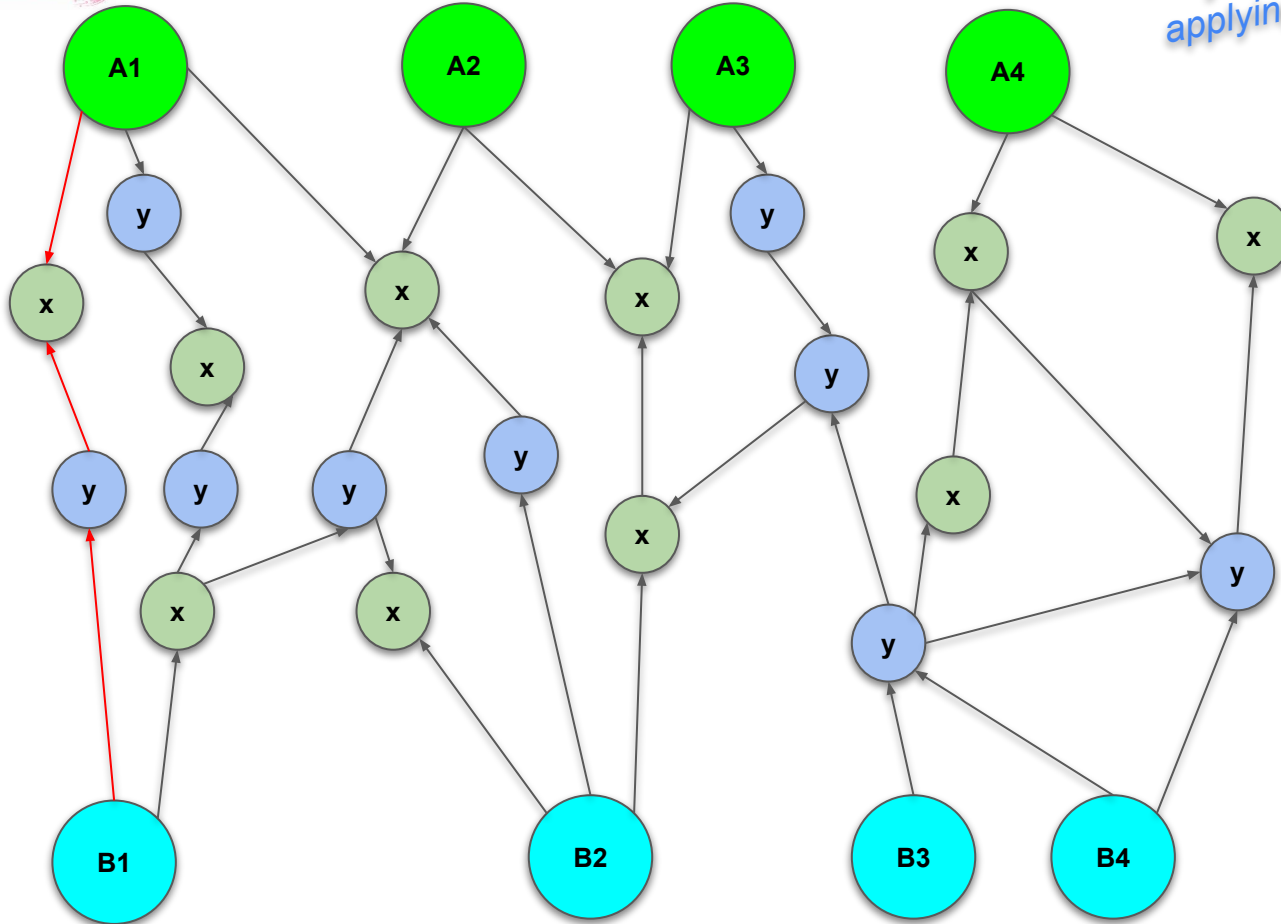
- Objects can be classified with several schemas, exploring different kind of similarities:
 - Analytical: calculated for each object individually by an algorithm, or taken from third services (mostly user-supplied filters)
 - AI: calculated by trained network, PCA,...
 - Tags: supplied individually by users
- Classification schemas can have several **flavours**
 - from different classification sources or hyperparameters,...
- Classification schemas
 - can be **combined** into *superschemas*
 - can be **divided** into *subschemas*
 - can be organised **hierarchically** (for big amount of data)
- Class Distances
 - Are calculated using modified **Graph Flow** algorithms
 - Often used in recommendation systems
- Once existing objects are classified, we can easily (and quickly):
 - Classify new objects
 - Find overlaps between schemas
 - Comparing truthfulness of schemas
 - Interpreting one schema by another schema

another classification

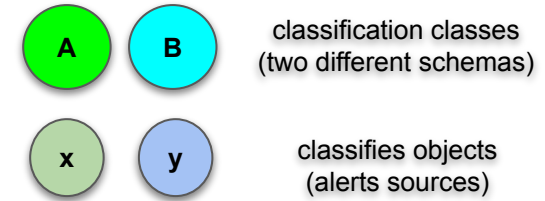


Class Distance Problem

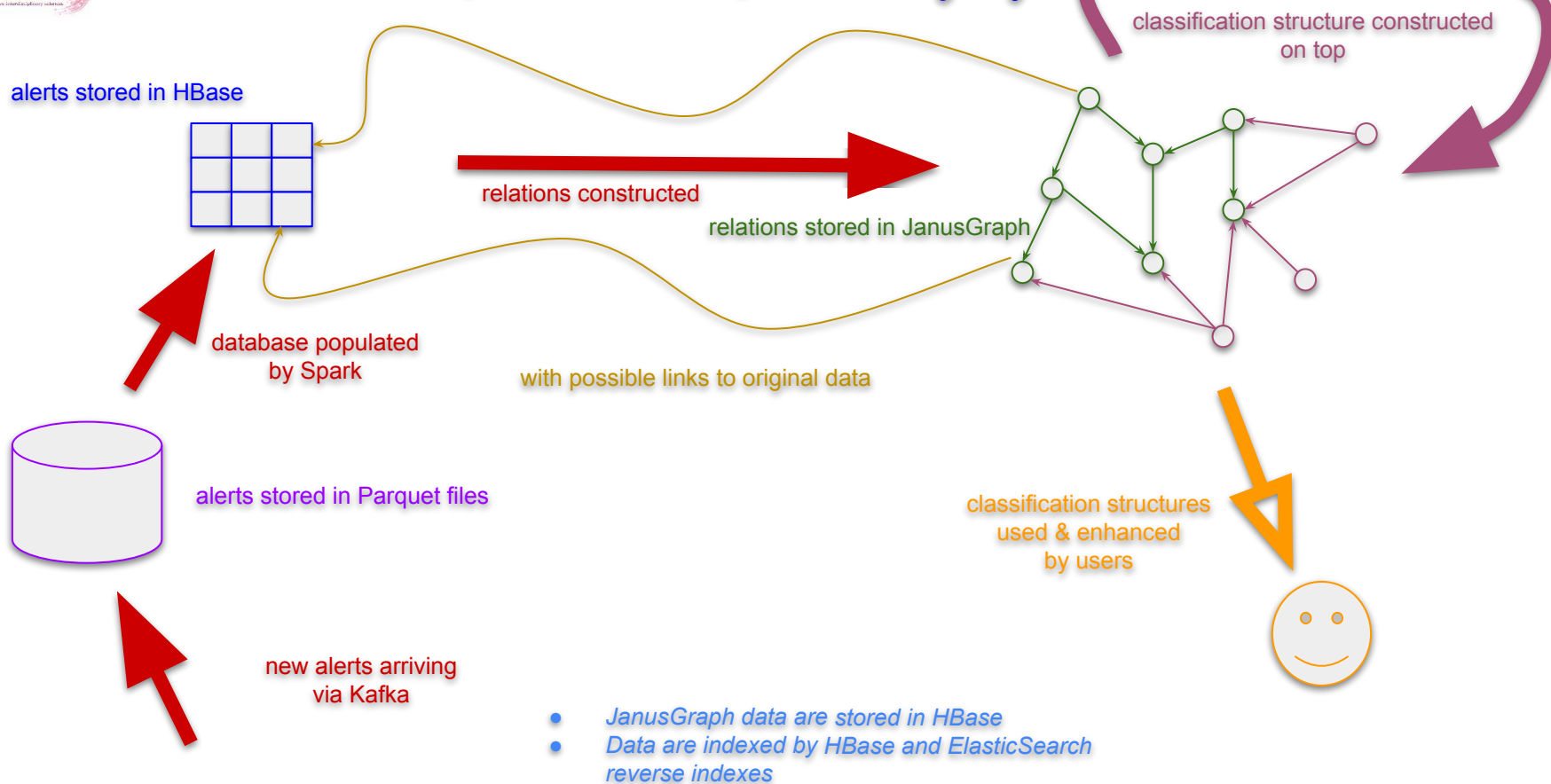
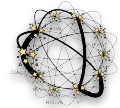
just one example of
applying graph algorithms



- Find overlaps (correlation) between A and B classes with respect to x and y objects
 - how to take into account Edge weights ?
 - how to include multiple-paths to the same x ?
 - should work for $A == B$
 - should work for oriented and unoriented Edges
- using **modified Flow graph algorithm**



Construction of the Classification Graph

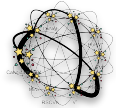


Classification Schema Examples

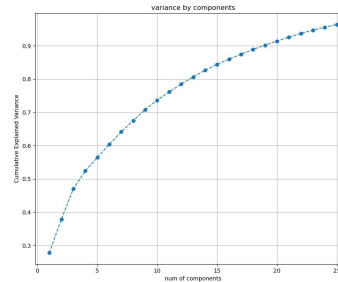
- Fink supports user-supplied classifiers/filters searching for particular types of alerts
 - Often using AI
- External classification source
 - When alert source is already known
- Manually tagged alerts (by users)
- **Features** - classification using PCA + Clustering on the alerts feature space
- **Light-Curves** - classification based on analysing alerts light-curves

global classification based on
alerts properties

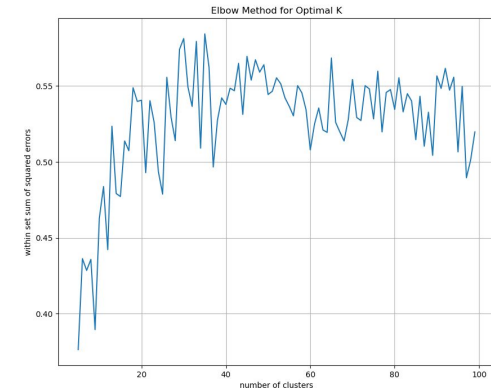
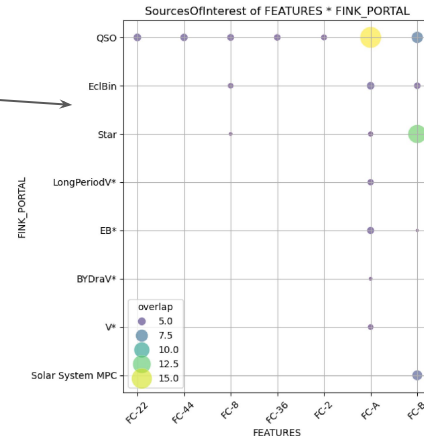
Features



- Preparing training data
 - Well classified alerts and classes with enough statistics
- **Principal Component Analysis**
 - choose number of pca parameters @ 80% variance = 13
- **KMeans Clustering**
 - choose number of clusters @ maximum silhouette = 30
- Output clustering model
- Creating FEATURES graph
- Generating overlaps
 - Merging similar classes



```
"mean",  
"weighted_mean",  
"standard_deviation",  
"median",  
"amplitude",  
"beyond_1_std",  
"cusum",  
"inter_percentile_range_10",  
"kurtosis",  
"linear_trend",  
"linear_trend_sigma",  
"linear_trend_noise",  
"linear_fit_slope",  
"linear_fit_slope_sigma",  
"linear_fit_reduced_chi2",  
"magnitude_percentage_ratio_40_5",  
"magnitude_percentage_ratio_20_10",  
"maximum_slope",  
"median_absolute_deviation",  
"median_buffer_range_percentage_10",  
"percent_amplitude",  
"mean_variance",  
"anderson_darling_normal",  
"chi2",  
"skew",  
"stetson_K"
```

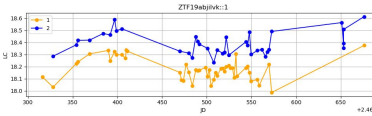
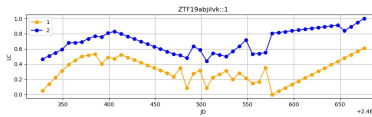
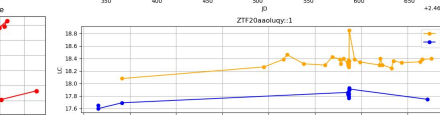
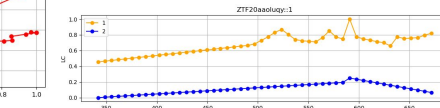
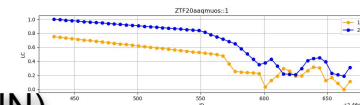
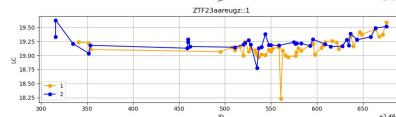
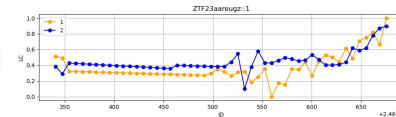
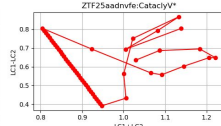
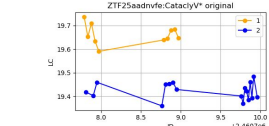
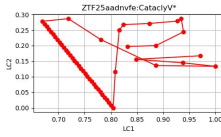
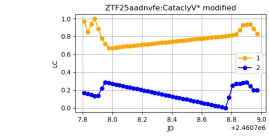
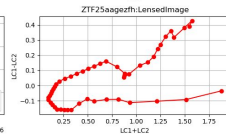
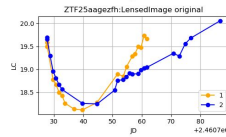
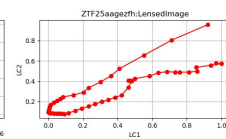
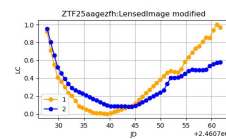
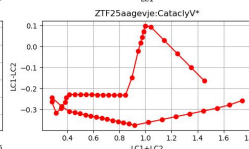
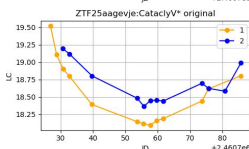
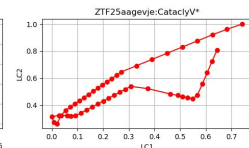
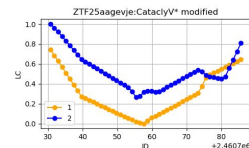
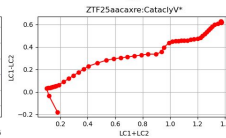
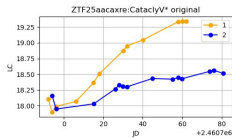
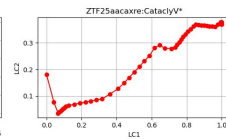
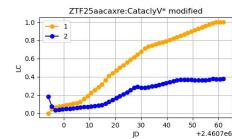
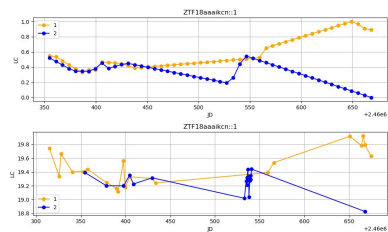
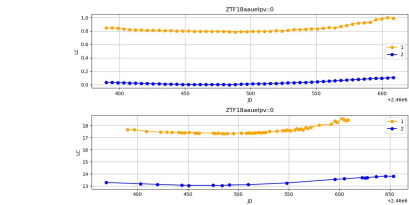
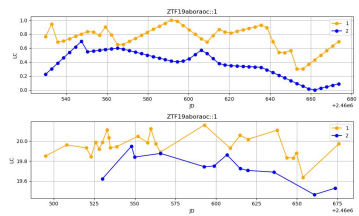


Light-Curves

global classification based on
alerts light-curves
(from series of alerts)

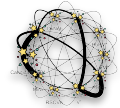


- Cleaning the curves
- Combining composite curves
 - using AI to find useful compositions
- Training **long short-term memory recurrent NN (LSTM-RNN)**



Usage - CLI

Neighborhood - ZTF



- Find 'similar' **alert sources**
 - With respect to a classification schema ('FINK_PORTAL')
 - Using certain metric ('JensenShannon')
- Once we get 'similar' sources, we can do more detailed comparison

```
// find all alerts the most similar to 'ZTF25aaqygm'
// using 'FINK_PORTAL' classification schema
// and 'JensenShannon' measure
gr.sourceNeighborhood('ZTF25aaqygm', 'FINK_PORTAL', 10, 'JensenShannon', 0.0, false)

==>ZTF25aavlimb=0.002668906826373764={SN candidate=0.7857142857142857, Early SN Ia candidate=0.21428571428571427}
==>ZTF25aauhbec=0.015127377117961508={SN candidate=0.7647058823529411, Early SN Ia candidate=0.23529411764705882}
==>ZTF25aavfxlt=0.015132453397871537={SN candidate=0.8, Early SN Ia candidate=0.2}
==>ZTF25aalpqkg=0.027252196630868728={SN candidate=0.75, Early SN Ia candidate=0.25}
==>ZTF25aavozkg=0.027252196630868728={SN candidate=0.75, Early SN Ia candidate=0.25}
==>ZTF25aakbssn=0.04552313886652741={SN candidate=0.7272727272727273, Early SN Ia candidate=0.2727272727272727}
==>ZTF25aayxghj=0.12260324160315225={SN candidate=0.625, Early SN Ia candidate=0.375}
==>ZTF25aascfmn=0.12953628201346198={SN candidate=0.6153846153846154, Early SN Ia candidate=0.38461538461538464}
==>ZTF25aawjnuz=0.17896159576496104={SN candidate=0.5454545454545454, Early SN Ia candidate=0.45454545454545453}
==>ZTF25aatclux=0.17972561983947669={SN candidate=0.95, Early SN Ia candidate=0.05}
```

Re-classification - ZTF



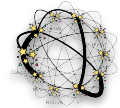
- 'FEATURES' classification schema is able to reproduce (to some extent) classification of 'FINK_PORTAL' schema without directly using it (thanks to correlations recorded in graph)

```
// classification from 'FINK_PORTAL' classification
gr.classification("ZTF25aaksfzy", 'FINK_PORTAL')
==>[weight:1.0,classifier:FINK_PORTAL,class:Solar System candidate]

// classification from 'FEATURES' classification (PCA+Clustering)
gr.classification("ZTF25aaksfzy", 'FEATURES')
==>[weight:1.0,classifier:FEATURES,class:FC-3]

// classification from 'FEATURES' classification
// interpreted by 'FINK_PORTAL' classification
// using correlations between two classifications
gr.reclassification('ZTF25aaksfzy', 'FEATURES', 'FINK_PORTAL')
==>Solar System candidate=556.0
==>Tracklet=511.0
==>SN candidate=318.0
==>Early SN Ia candidate=11.0
==>Solar System MPC=8.0
==>Ambiguous=2.0
==>Kilonova candidate=2.0
==>Microlensing candidate=1.0
==>BLLac=1.0
```

Re-classification - LSST



- Alerts sources can be tagged (annotated) and used for similarity searches and re-classification

```
// just take one object
oid = '313985349745377418'
// how it is classified
gr.classification(oid)
==>[weight:0.5714285714285714,classifier:FINK,flavor:,class:rubin.tag_early_snia_candidate]
==>[weight:0.42857142857142855,classifier:FINK,flavor:,class:rubin.tag_sn_near_galaxy_candidate]

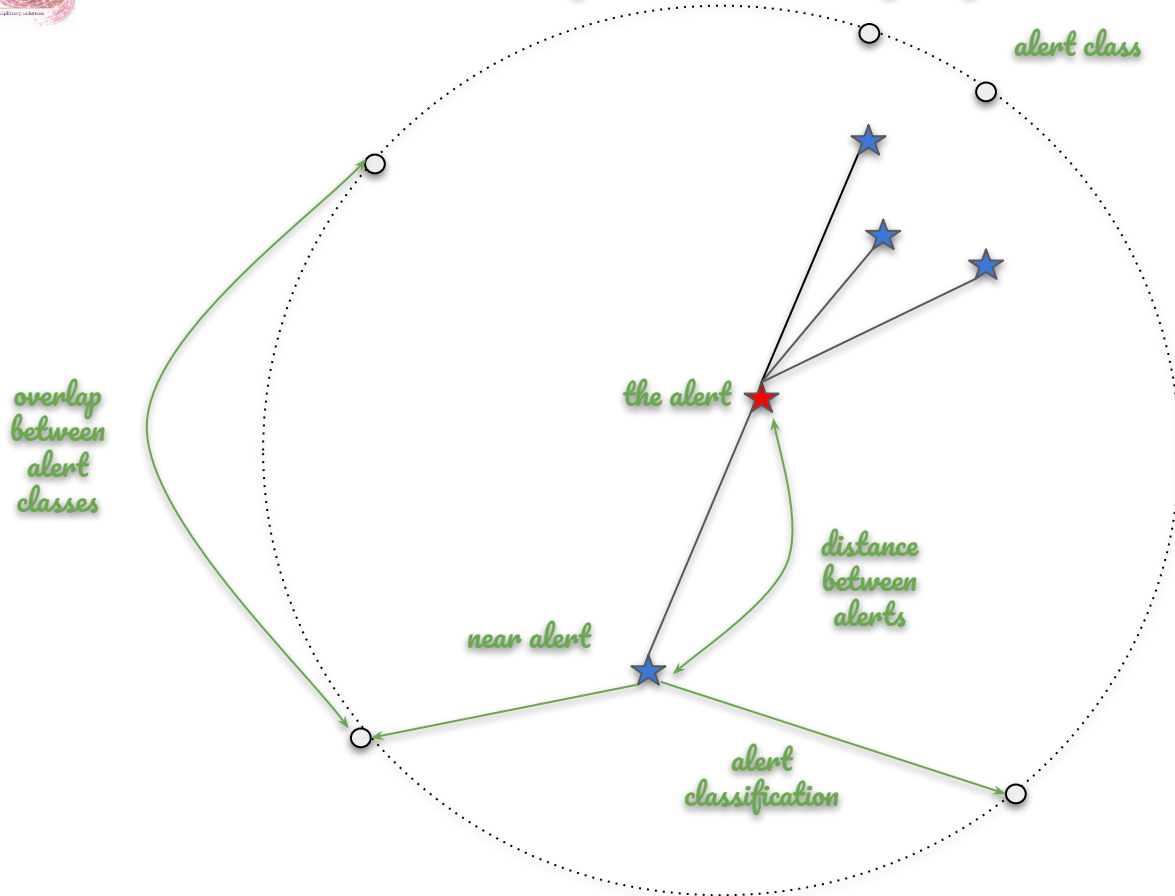
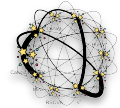
// what are the most similar objects
gr.objectNeighborhood(oid, 'FINK', 10, 'JensenShannon')
==>313888627059851362=0.0={rubin.tag_early_snia_candidate=0.5714285714285714,
rubin.tag_sn_near_galaxy_candidate=0.42857142857142855}
==>313998539864670258=0.0={rubin.tag_early_snia_candidate=0.5714285714285714,
rubin.tag_sn_near_galaxy_candidate=0.42857142857142855}
==>313972153277481152=0.020508231493818984={rubin.tag_early_snia_candidate=0.6, rubin.tag_sn_near_galaxy_candidate=0.4}
...

// tag oid as 'TestTag' with weight=1.0 in 'TAG' classification schema
// (manual classification schema)
gr.registerOCOL(Classifier.instance('TAG', 'LSST', ''), 'TestTag', oid, 1.0, '', '')

// how would be that oid classified in 'FINK'
// (it uses information about its classification in 'TAG'
// and the correlations between classification in 'FINK' and 'TAG' schemas,
// it doesn't use information how oid is actually classified in 'FINK')
gr.reclassification(oid, 'TAG', 'FINK', 10, true)
==>[classifier:FINK,flavor:,weight:0.5358983848622454,class:rubin.tag_early_snia_candidate]
==>[classifier:FINK,flavor:,weight:0.4641016151377546,class:rubin.tag_sn_near_galaxy_candidate]
```

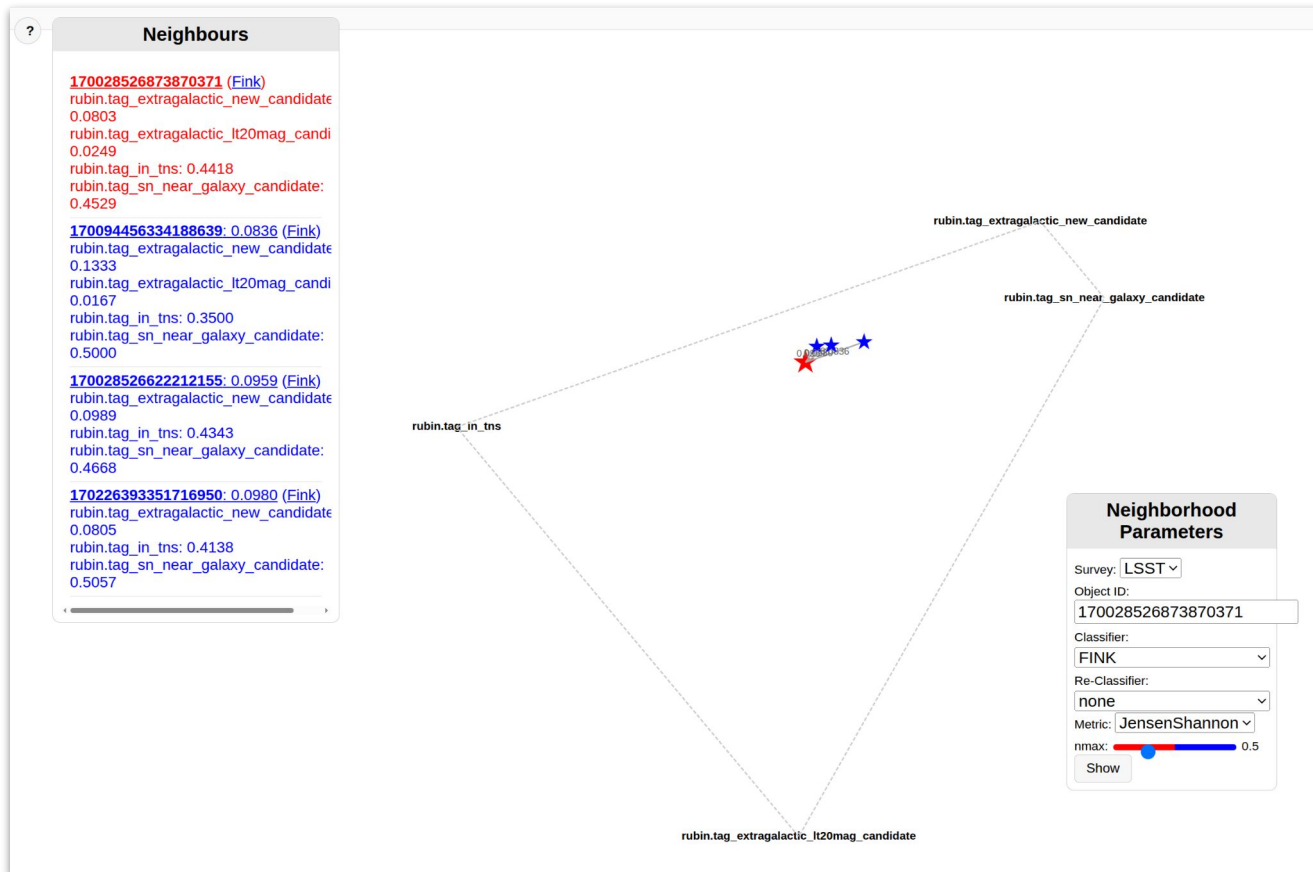
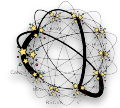
Usage - GUI/WS

Neighborhood Graphical View

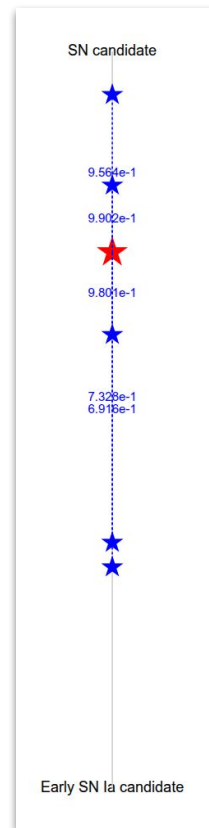
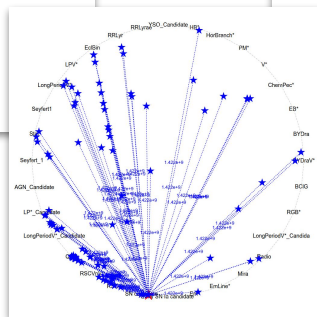
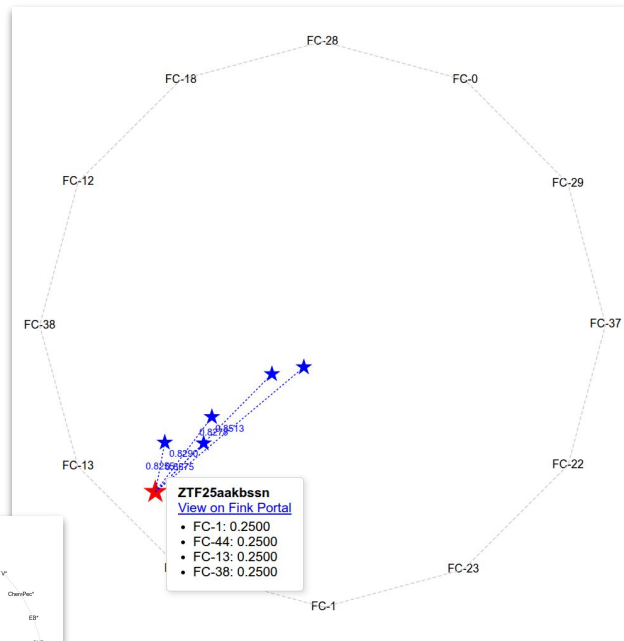
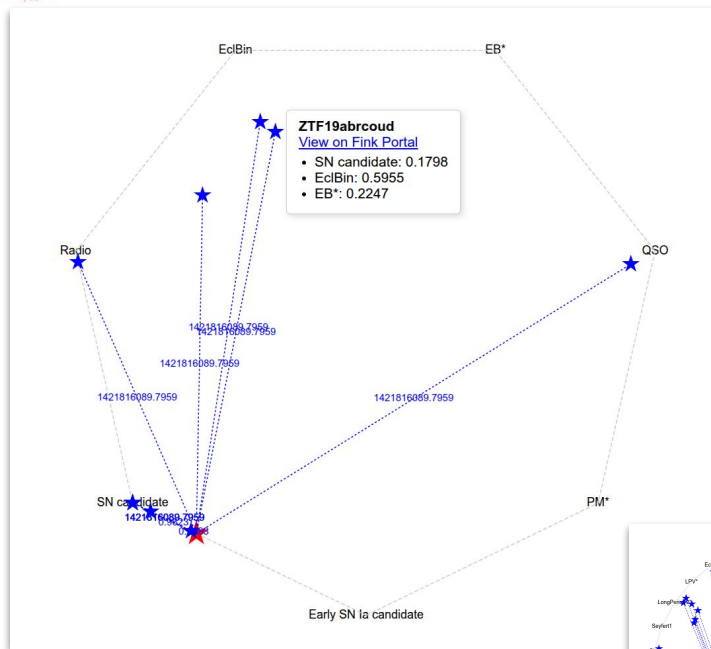


- The distance problem is multi-dimensional
- Its projection into 2-dim flat space is approximative, tuned to be intuitive
 - using AI
- It depends on
 - Chosen classification schema
 - Selected metric
- View is interactive
 - Hovering over an alert will show detailed information, with link to Fink Portal for that alert
 - Clicking on an alert will make this alert central and show its nearest alerts

Graphical View Example - LSST



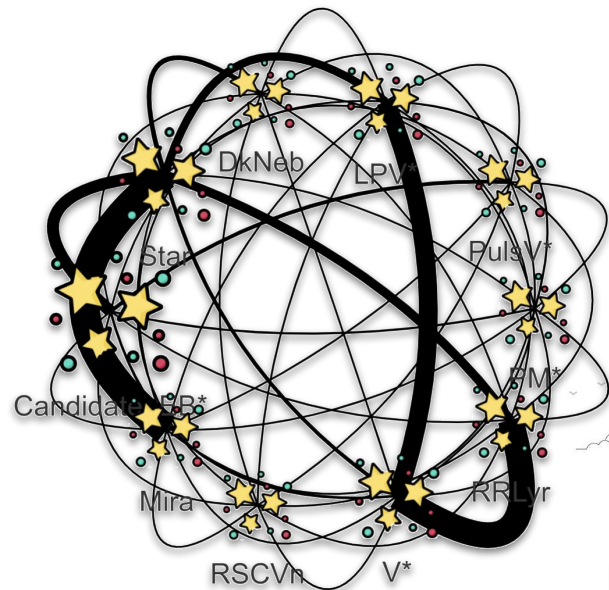
Graphical View Example - ZTF





Summary

- Database system for exploitation of similarities between data elements.
- Flexible wrt **similarity definition and metric**.
- Implementation for astronomical alerts of ZTF/LSST observatories.
- Based on [Lomikel toolset](#).
- Part of [Fink Broker](#).



used technologies:

*Spark, Kafka, Parquet, HDFS, HBase, JanusGraph,
Python, Java, Scala, Groovy, Gremlin, JavaScript*

