



Finanziato
dall'Unione europea
NextGenerationEU



Ministero
dell'Università
e della Ricerca



Italiadomani
PIANO NAZIONALE
DI RIPRESA E RESILIENZA



Centro Nazionale di Ricerca in HPC,
Big Data and Quantum Computing

Improving photo-z estimation under covariate shift with StratLearn

Chiara Moretti, Roberto Trotta, M. Autenrieth, D. van Dyk, A. Mesinger

**Spoke 3 II Technical Workshop, Perugia 26-29 Maggio
2025**

Scientific Rationale

Covariate shift

Unrepresentative training datasets $\rightarrow p_S(x) \neq p_T(x)$ but $p_S(y|x) = p_T(y|x)$

\rightarrow ML algorithms show **poor generalisation**

Ubiquitous problem in astronomy! Due to **selection effects** (brighter/low redshift objects more likely to be observed)

GOAL: improve generalisation properties of ML algorithms in presence of covariate shift

Scientific application:

Photometric redshift estimation

- obtain redshifts of several objects at once from imaging (vs spectroscopy, more accurate but more expensive)
- Key in ongoing/future cosmological surveys like Euclid, LSST
- Typically estimated with template fitting or **ML based methods**

Technical Objectives, Methodologies and Solutions

→ Proposed solution: StratLearn

Code declined for photo-z estimation (applied to weak lensing in [arXiv:2401.04687](https://arxiv.org/abs/2401.04687))

- Data partitioned in strata, based on quantiles of **propensity scores**

$$e(x_i) = P(s_i = 1|x_i)$$

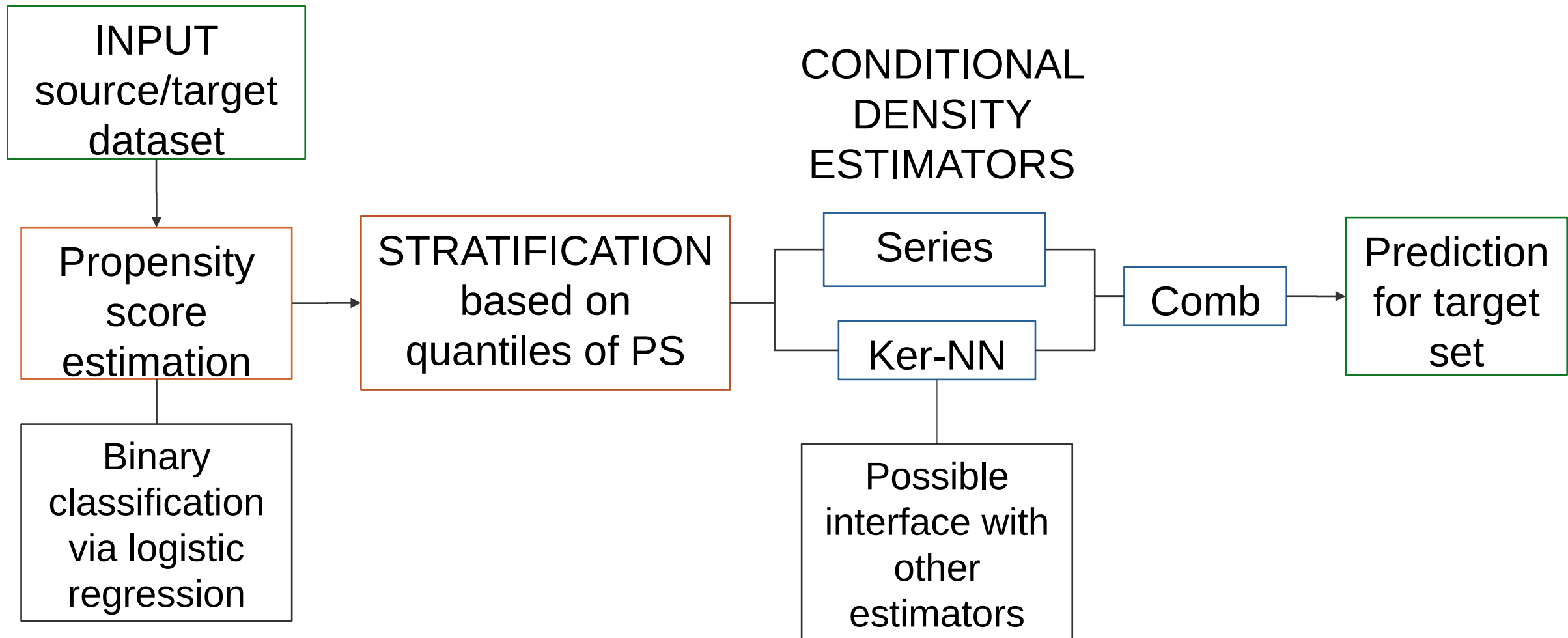
→ Estimated via binary classification with logistic regression

- Conditional density estimators (Series, ker-NN) trained within each stratum, then combined with weighted average

→ Approach is **general and multi-purpose**

→ Can be combined with other estimators/models

Technical Objectives, Methodologies and Solutions



Main Results

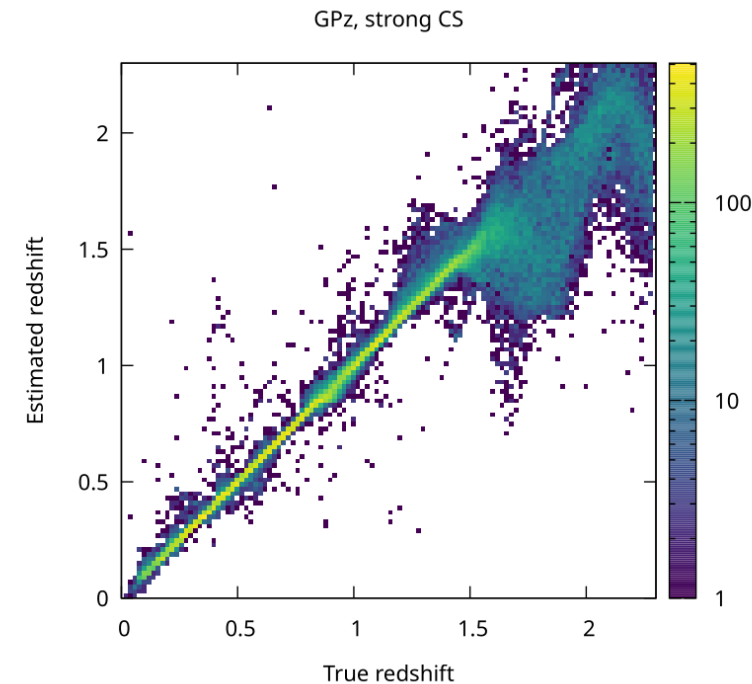
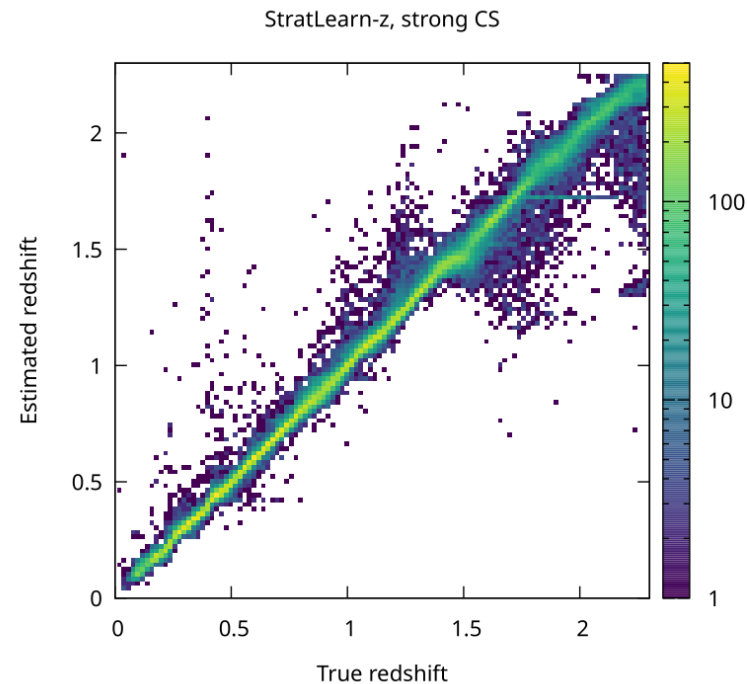
Previous milestones:

- Original code ported from R to julia → 50x faster **KPI**
- Code optimisation → 10x faster **KPI**
- Introduction of yaml parameterfile for easy usage
- Public github repository available at github.com/chiamoretti/StratLearn-z **KPI**
- Generalised to read covariates from input datafile
- Additional script that only performs stratification → **easier combination with external photo-z codes**

Main Results

Application to simulated dataset
(Buzzard flock simulations produced
for DES, LSST) with introduced
covariate shift

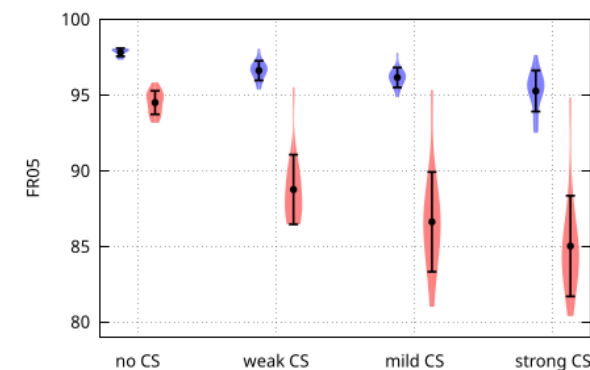
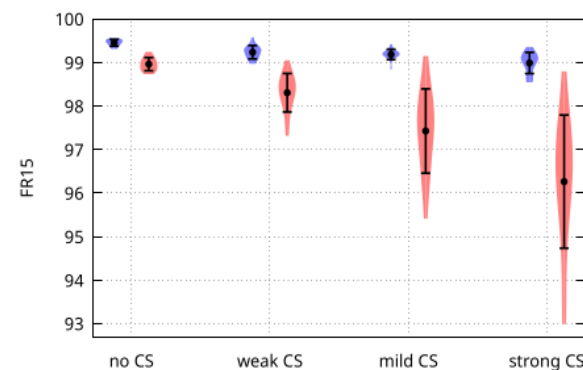
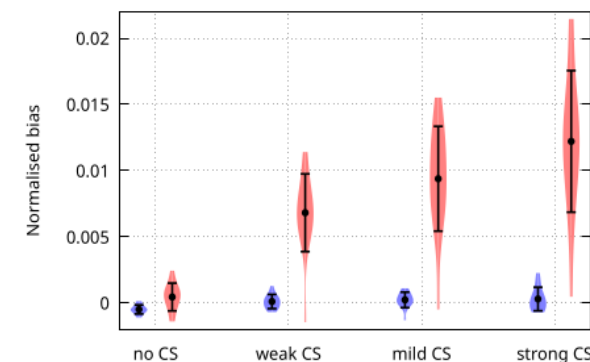
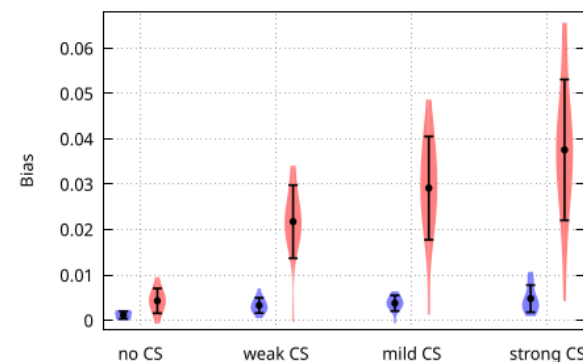
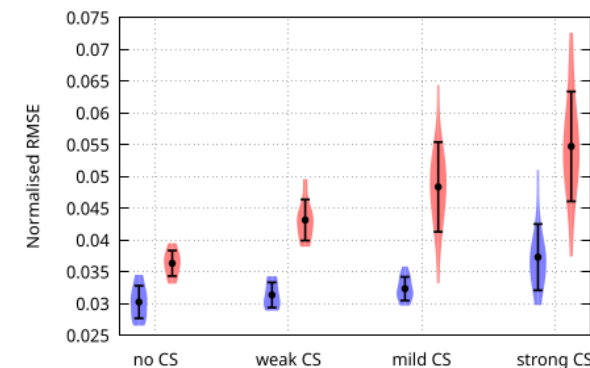
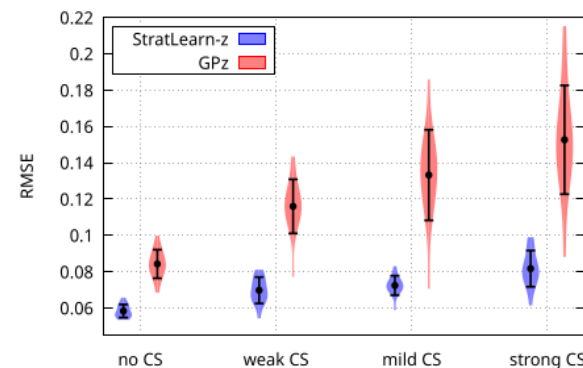
→ 100k objects with *ugrizy*
photometry + redshifts
→ CS introduced by performing
rejection sampling on the r-band



Main Results

Application to simulated dataset
(Buzzard flock simulations produced
for DES, LSST) with introduced
covariate shift

Comparison with GPz code:
improved results on all point
estimate metrics considered



Main Results

Application to simulated dataset
(Buzzard flock simulations produced
for DES, LSST) with introduced
covariate shift

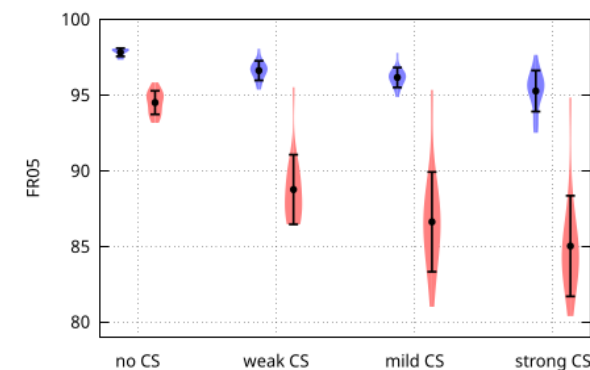
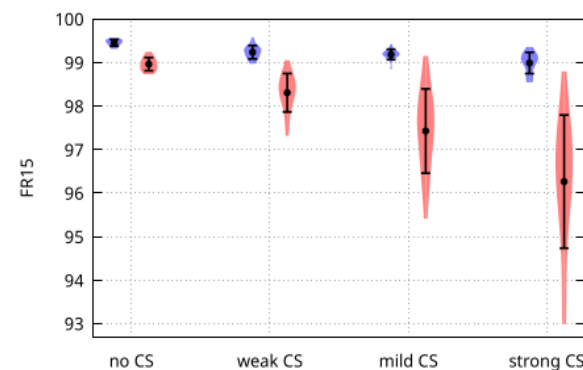
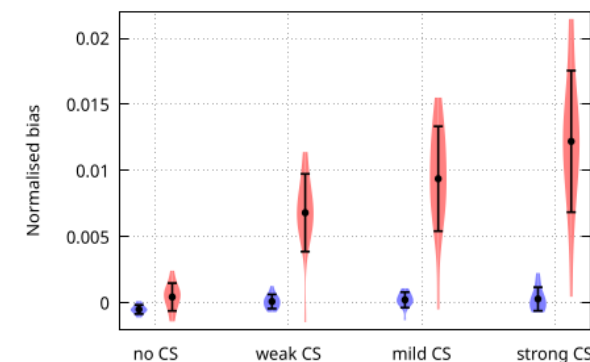
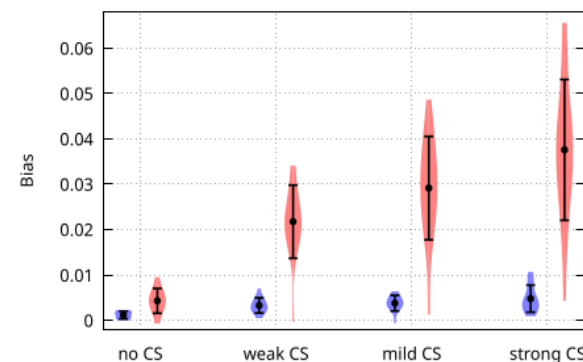
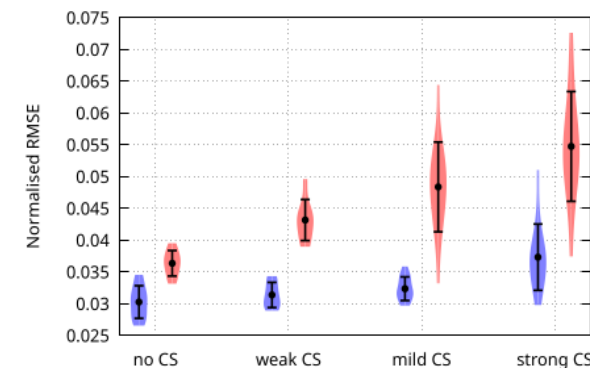
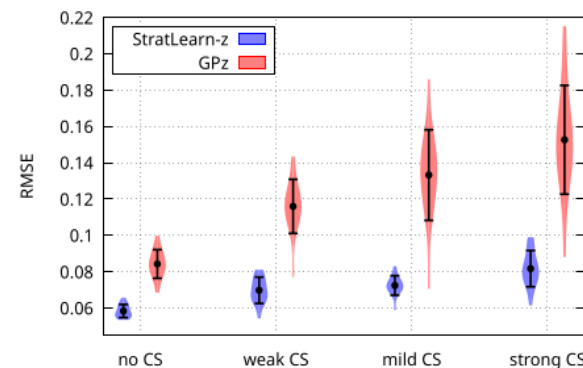
Comparison with GPz code:
improved results on all point
estimate metrics considered

Paper published on OJA
[arXiv:2409.20379](https://arxiv.org/abs/2409.20379)

Poster presentation @ COSMO

KPI

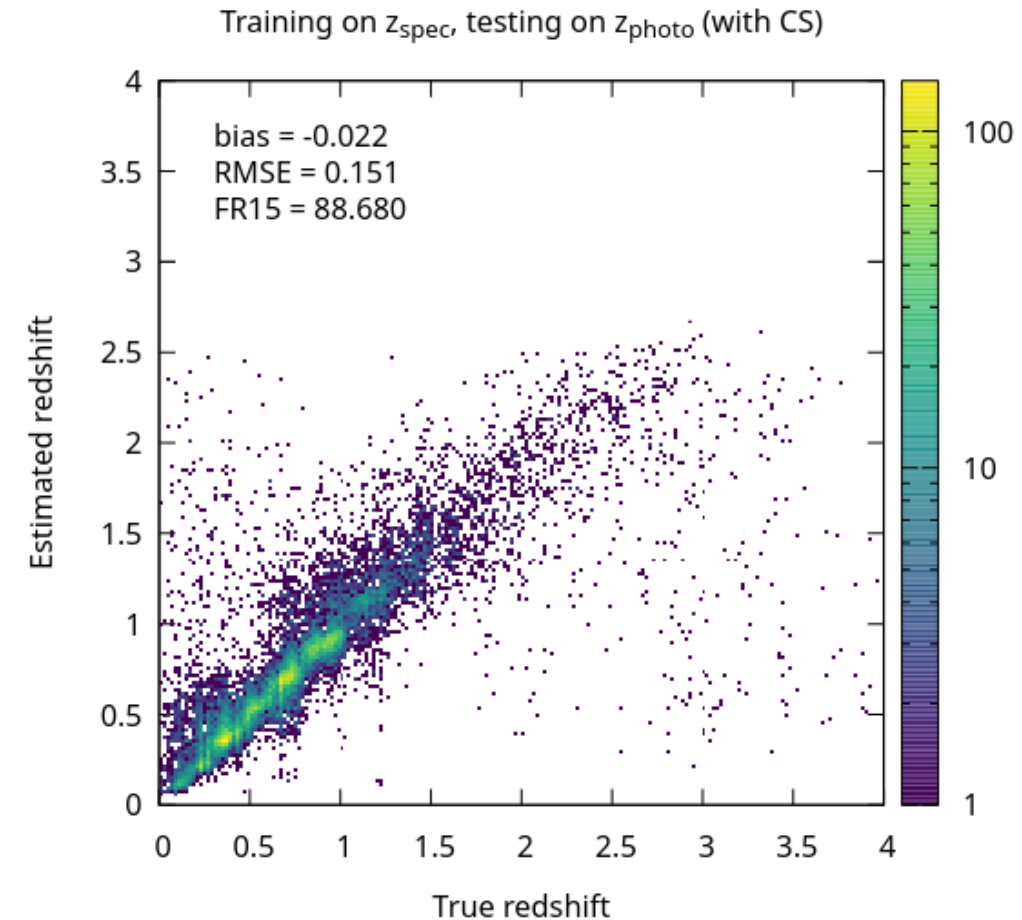
KPI



Main Results & Next Steps

Ongoing work:

- Application to Euclid-like dataset based on COSMOS field
 - more realistic, used in Euclid photo-z challenge
 - 400k objects, 8 photometric bands *g,r,i,z,Y,J,H,VIS-like*
 - “ground truth” redshift from spectroscopy + 30-band photometry
- First results in place, starting paper writing



Main Results & Next Steps

Science applications:

- Application to Euclid-like dataset based on COSMOS field
- Application to Euclid real data (Q1): looking into feasibility

Not on spoke funds anymore, so work is ongoing on a best-effort basis

Code development:

- First step towards parallelisation ✓
→ assessment of scaling properties ongoing
- Combination with more CDEs
- Further optimisation