

A hand is holding a yellow measuring tape against a grayscale image of a galaxy. The tape is held vertically, with the top end near the top of the galaxy and the bottom end near the bottom. The galaxy is a complex, multi-colored structure with a bright central region and a diffuse, irregular outer boundary. The background is a dark field of stars, with a prominent bright star in the lower-left quadrant. The measuring tape has black markings and numbers, and a black plastic hook at the top. The hand is visible at the top and bottom of the frame, holding the tape in place.

Mesure d'attributs par ajustement de profils

E.Bertin, IAP



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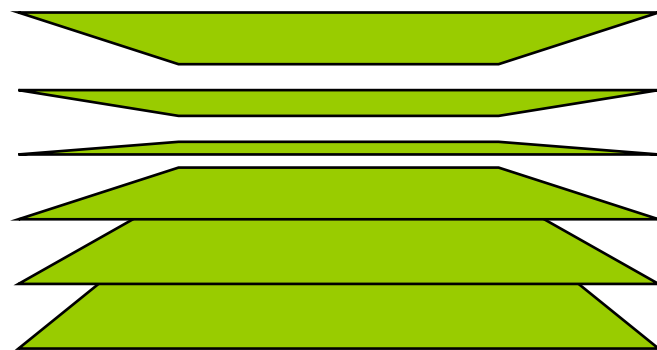
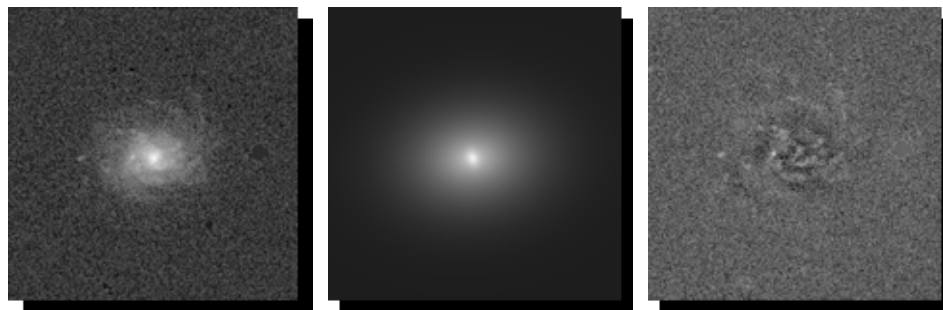
Measuring attributes using profile-fitting

- Recap of previous episodes
- Implementing profile-fitting in SExtractor
- Results on image simulations
- Fitting additional shape parameters
- Future plans



Recap of previous episodes

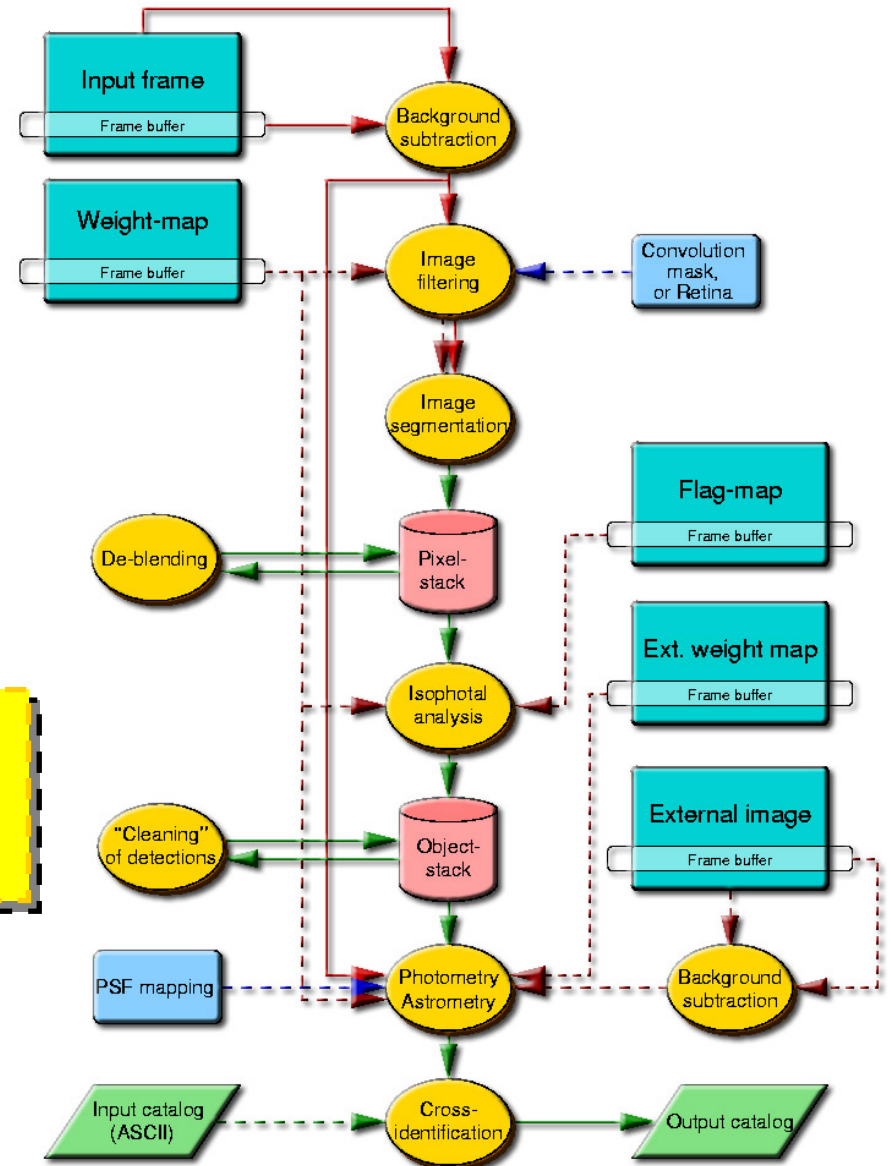
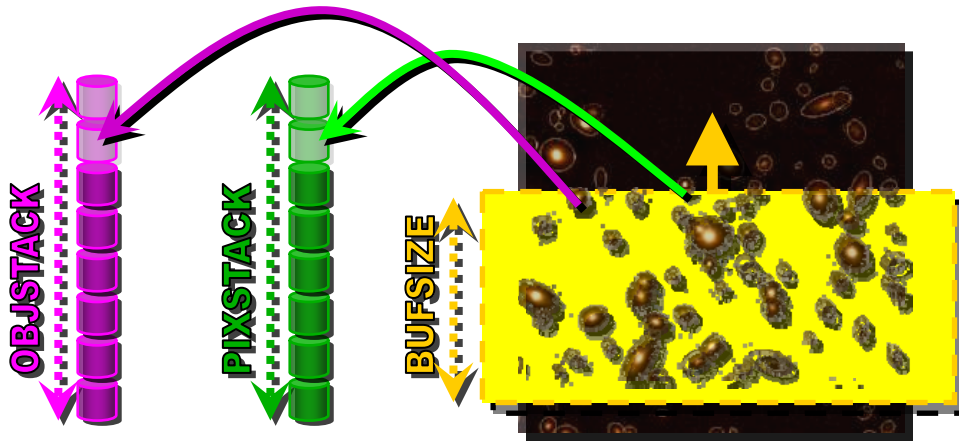
- « Plan B » triggered because of difficulties with the linear decomposition approach.
- Began with Marta's work in 2006 with MATLAB: Sersic fit (without a PSF).
- Implementation in C within **SExtractor** (<http://terapix.iap.fr/soft/sExtractor/>) followed by the end of 2006
- Original idea:
 - Sur un processeur de type x86, une simple élévation à la puissance `pow()` prend environ 8 fois plus de temps qu'une interpolation bi-linéaire.
 - Donc: pourquoi ne pas utiliser des profils 2D pré-calculés au lieu de fonctions analytiques?
 - Malheureusement la variation de certains paramètres physiques (indice de Sersic par exemple) s'accommodent mal d'une interpolation image-à-image: les gradients sont trop importants.
 - Avec le compilateur Intel la tendance est inversée: un retour aux fonctions analytiques devient plus rentable!



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SExtractor data flow

- The tricky part is the management of all buffers and FIFO stacks:

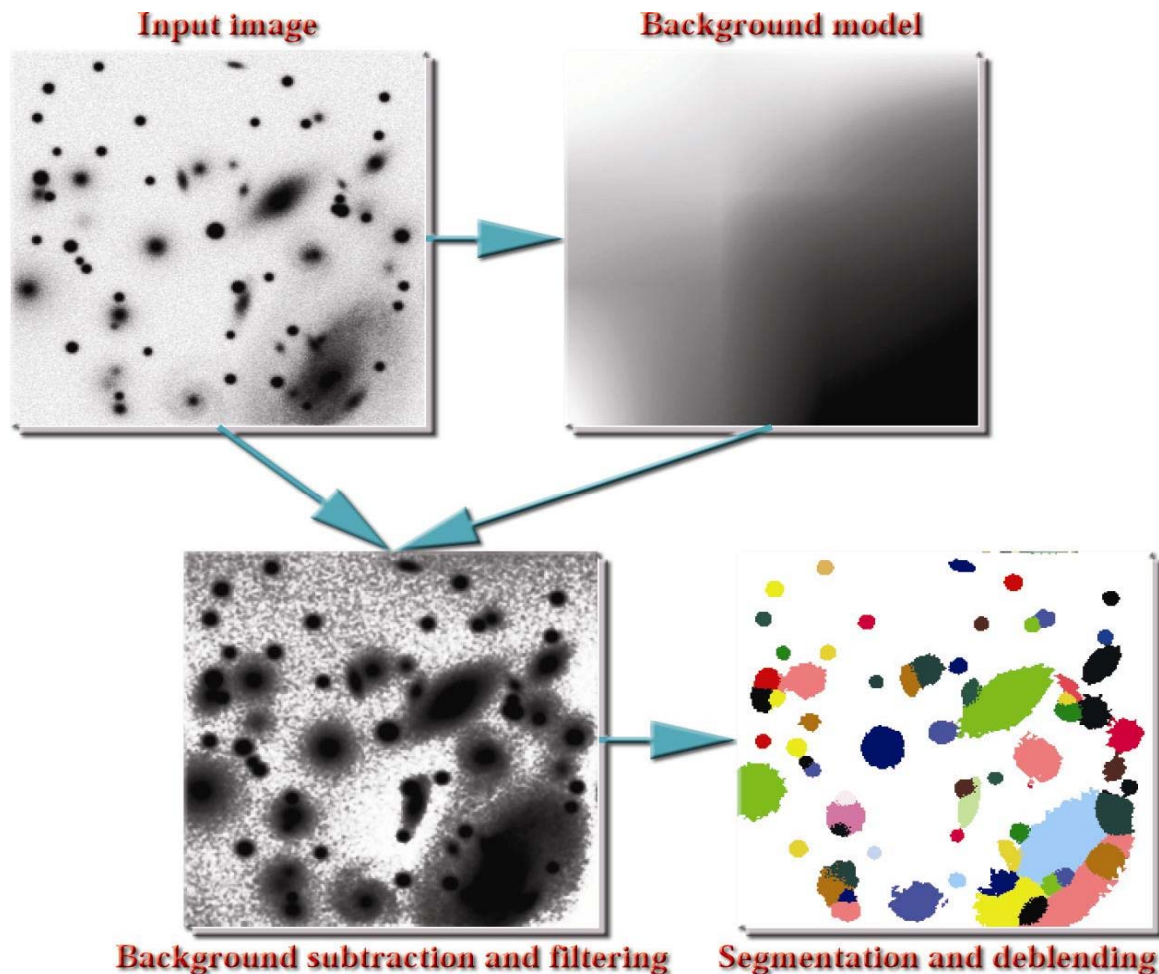




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How sources are detected in SExtractor

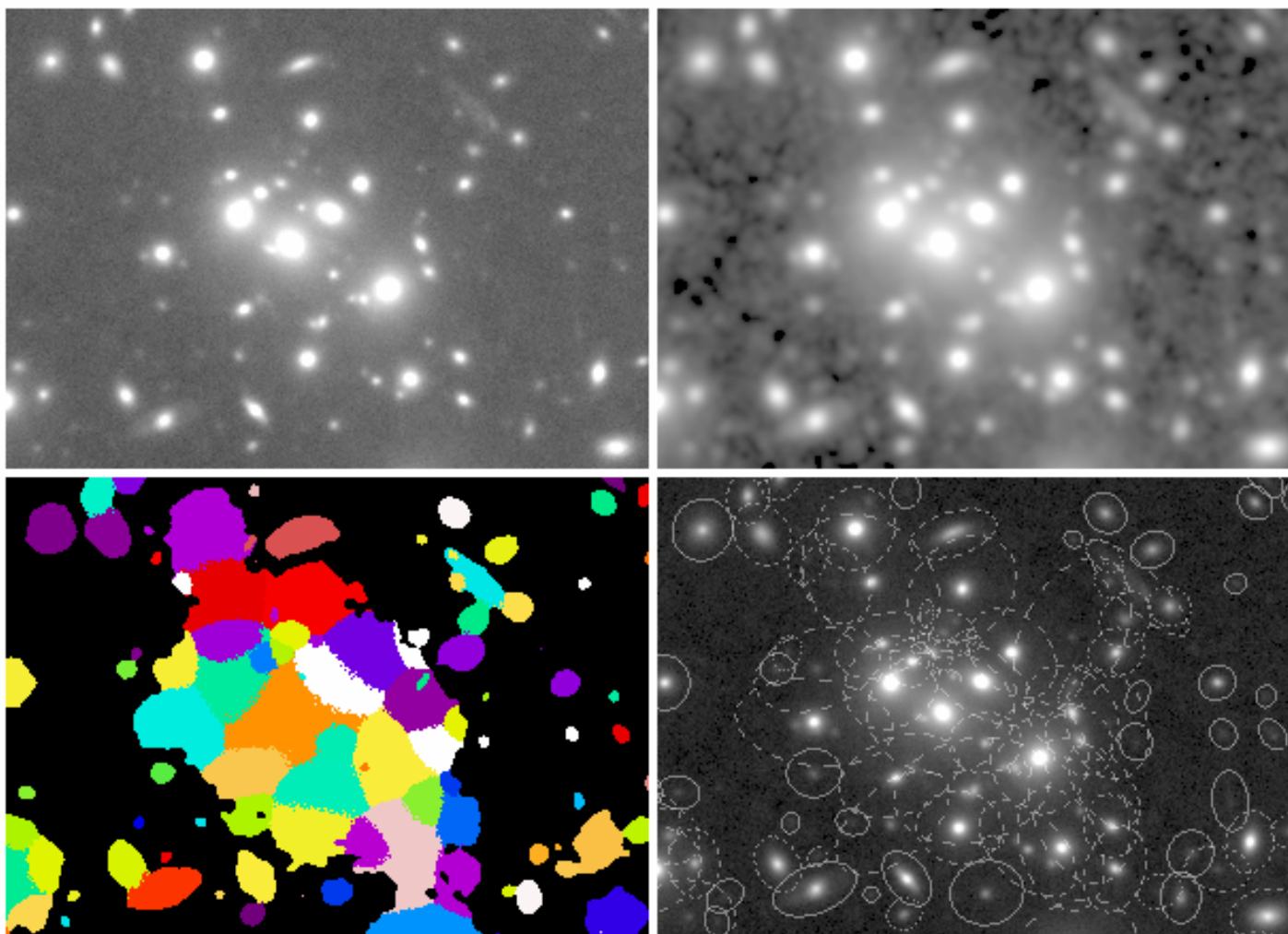
- 4 steps:
 - Sky background modeling and subtraction
 - Image filtering at the PSF scale (matched filter)
 - Thresholding and image segmentation
 - Merging and/or splitting of detections





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Image segmentation





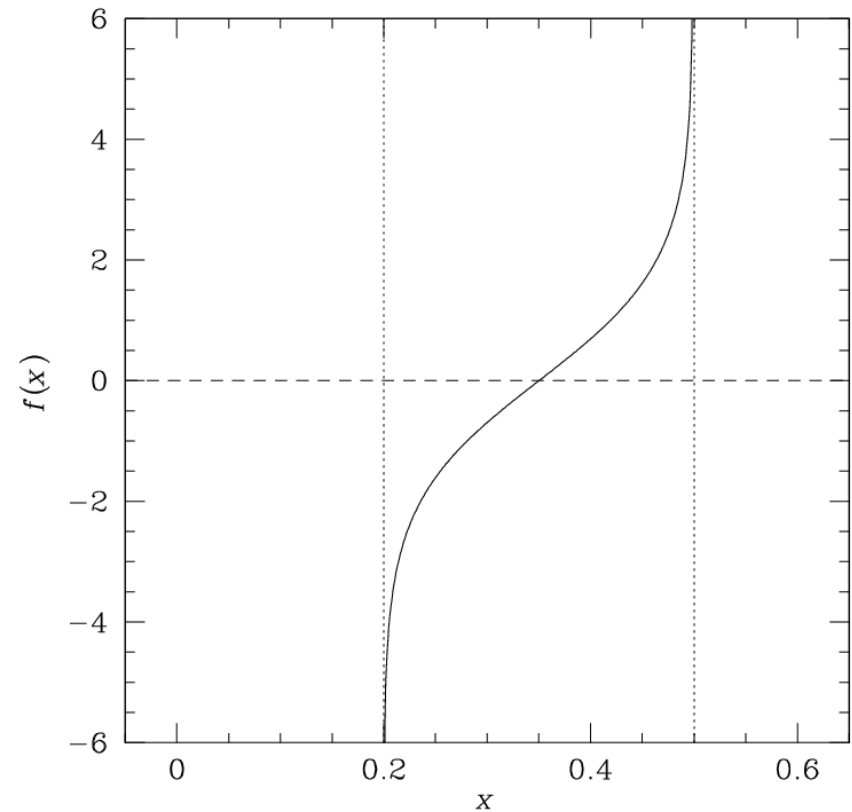
Profile-fitting: implementation

- PSF modeled using **PSFEx**
 - Sampling automatically adjusted depending on image
 - Several improvements and bugfixes done over the past months
- Profile models are now computed with a grid size that depends on the object.
- Automatic sharing of component parameters (e.g. x, y, \dots)
- 6 profile components currently available:
 - Background level
 - Sersic (2 + 5 free parameters)
 - De Vaucouleurs (2 + 4 free parameters)
 - Exponential (2 + 4 free parameters)
 - Logarithmic spiral arms (3 + 7 free parameters)
 - Exponential bar (3 + 3 free parameters)
- Minimisation:
 - Two C implementations of the Levenberg-Marquardt algorithm:
 - **Imfit** by J.Wuttke
 - **LevMar** by M.Lourakis
 - Initial parameter guesses made from isophotal measurements and half-light radius.
 - Bright pixels from neighbours automatically masked by SExtractor.
 - Robust fitting



Profile-fitting: fighting degeneracies

- It is mandatory to include some implicit prior in the χ^2 :
 - positivity constraints for fluxes
 - negativity constraints for dust band(s)
 - ellipticity constraints for the bulge and the bar
- Implementation of the box-constrained algorithm by Kanzow, N. Yamashita and M. Fukushima (2004) in `levmar` does not seem to work.
- House-made trick: map free parameters from a bounded space to an unbounded space
 - A sigmoid function works fine!
 - In some rare cases a free parameter can get stuck at one of the boundaries





Robust profile-fitting (cont.)

- The sky around galaxies is not « clean » because of overlapping stars, galaxies or defects. Possible solutions:
 - Use nFIGI: fast and efficient for images of individual objects.
 - The old SExtractor « CLEANer » masks out the pixels from bright neighbours, but it is not efficient enough
- The « perfect fit » does not exist, except may be for some ellipticals and spheroidals
 - dust, star formation regions, overlapping objects,...
- Minimizing fractional errors instead of absolute ones is more appropriate for bright parts of the profile
- Proposition: replace the usual residual in

$$\chi^2 = \sum_i \frac{I_i - f(x_i)}{\sigma^2}$$

with

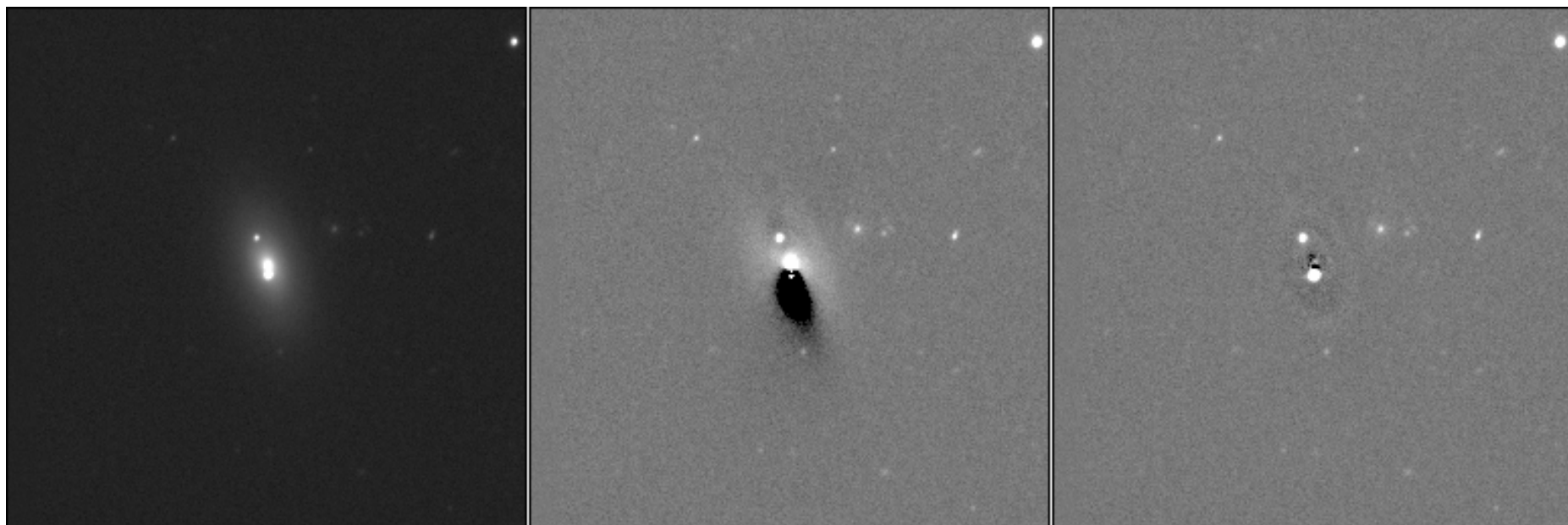
$$\chi^2 = \sum_i g\left(\frac{I_i - f(x_i)}{\sigma}\right)^2 \quad \text{where } g(u) = \begin{cases} \log(1 + \kappa u) & \text{if } u \geq 0 \\ -\log(1 - \kappa u) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- $\kappa \sim 1$: linear close to the noise and continuously derivable



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Robust profile-fitting



Galaxy

Linear weighting

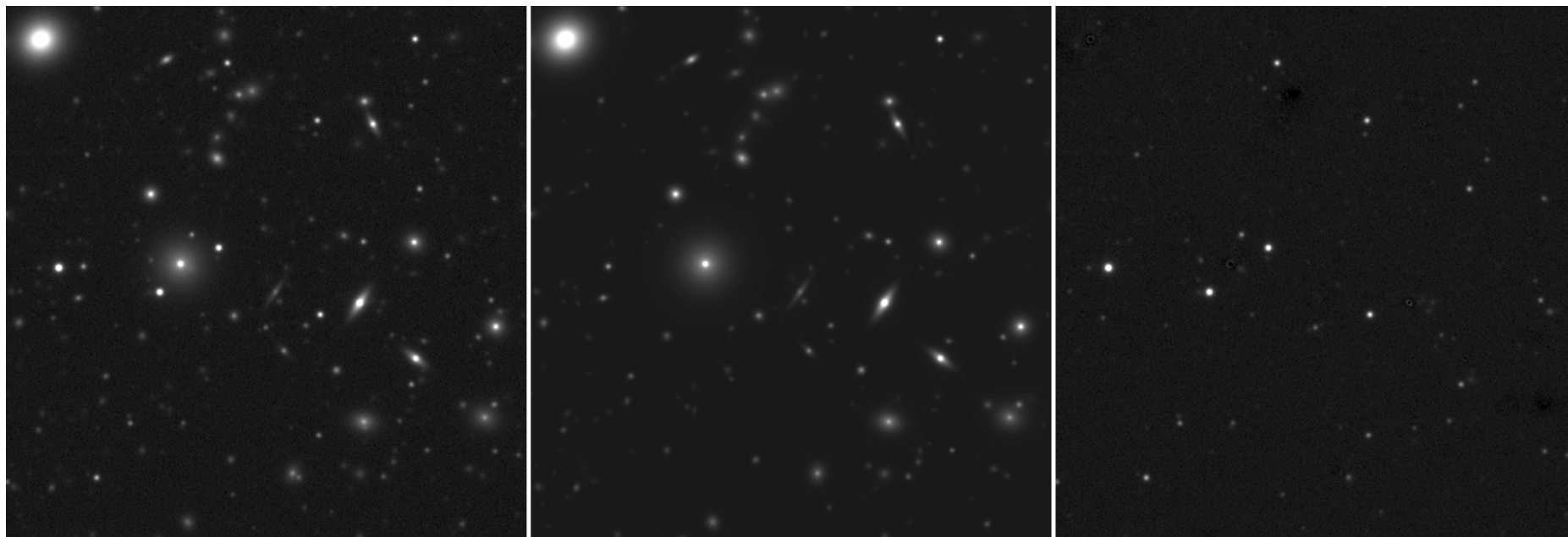
Non-linear weighting

- More robust towards bright interlopers
- In rare cases, the minimization algorithm may accidentally “lock” on some bright, non-galaxy feature



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Results on simulations



simulations

fitted models

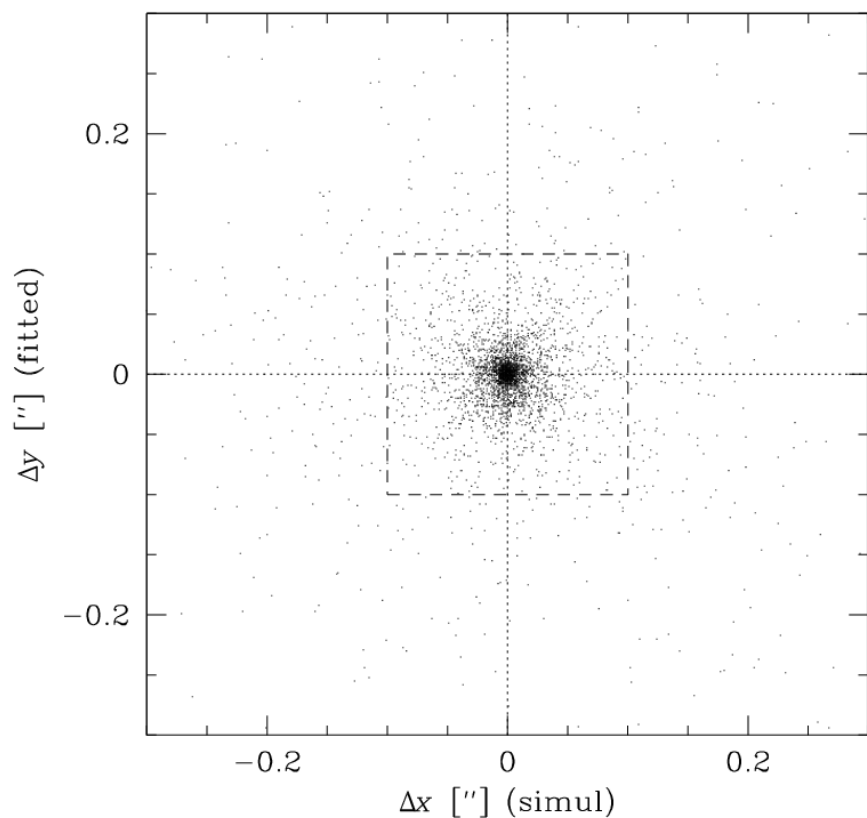
difference

- Catalog simulated with Stuff
 - $\sim 4\times$ true galaxy density
- Images created with SkyMaker
 - i band, 4m-class, 13000s, 50% comp.limit i \sim 25
 - seeing=0.63", pixel=0.2"
- 11,500 detected galaxies
- PSF model was derived from stars in the image (no trick!)

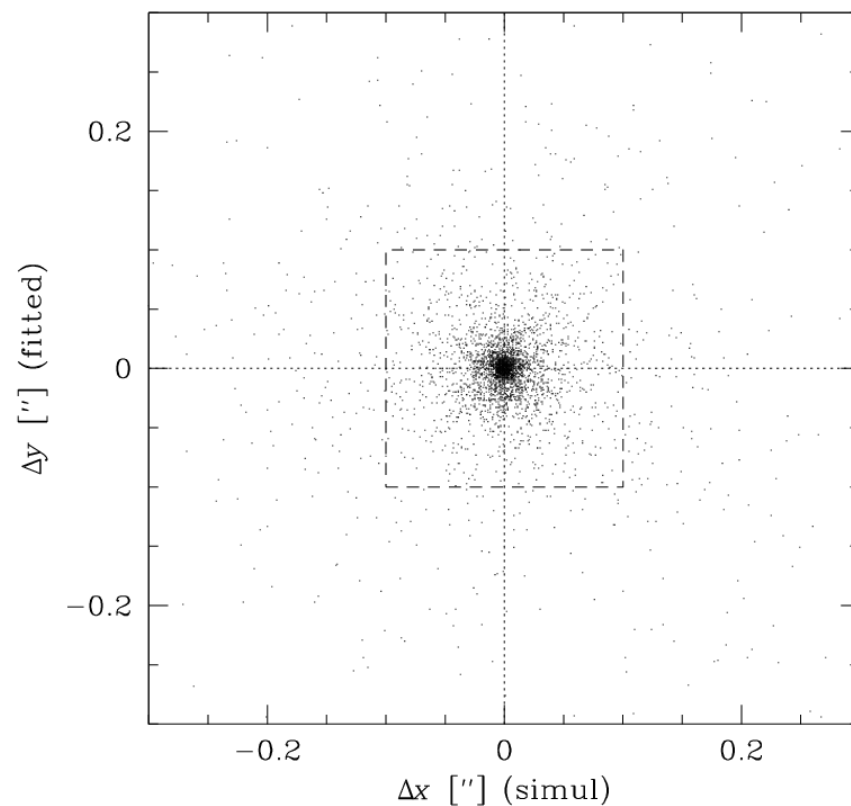


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Positional accuracy



Sersic + Exponential fit ($i < 23$)

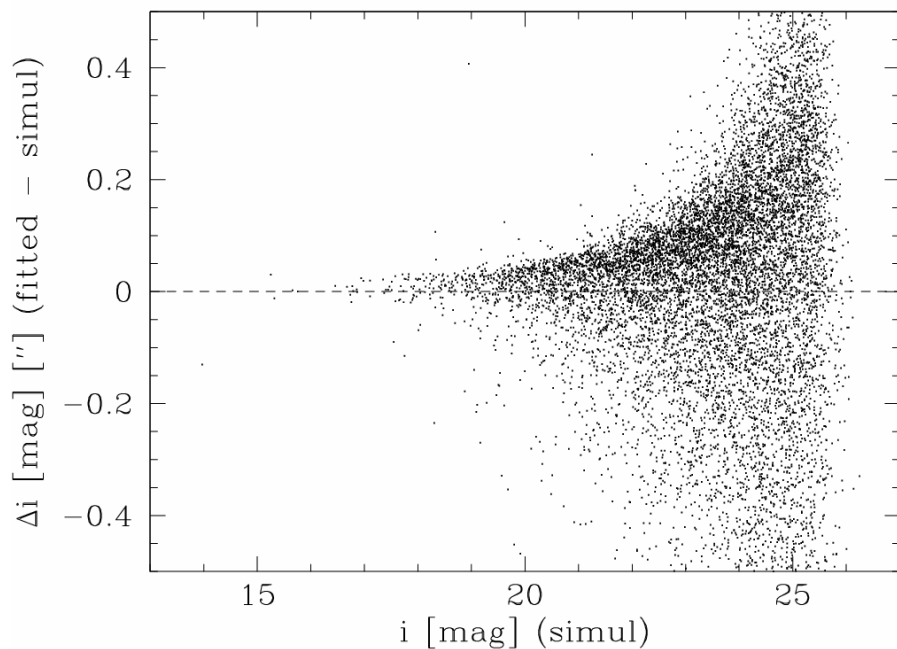


X/YWIN ($i < 23$)

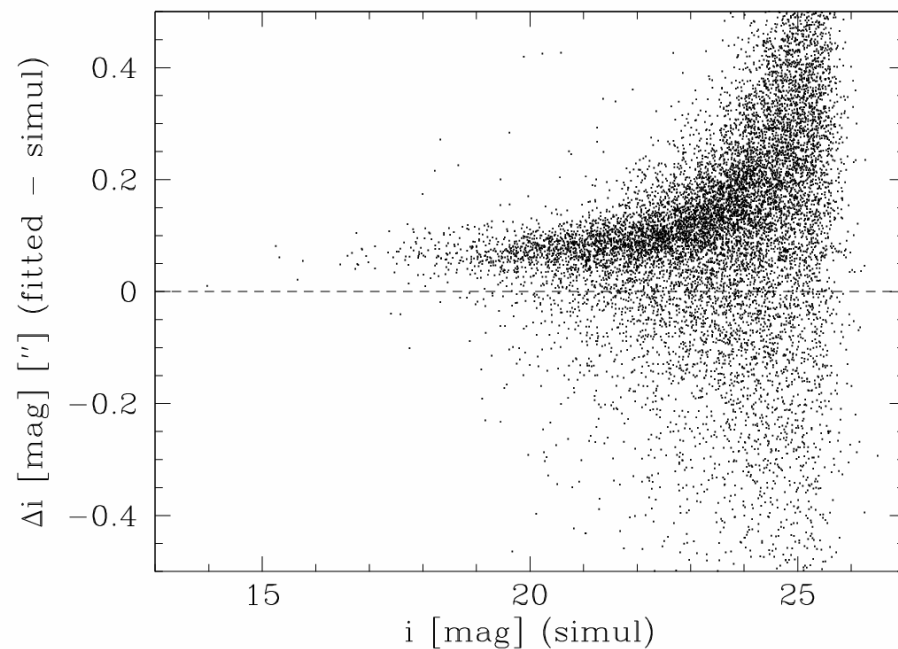


EFIGI

“Total” magnitudes



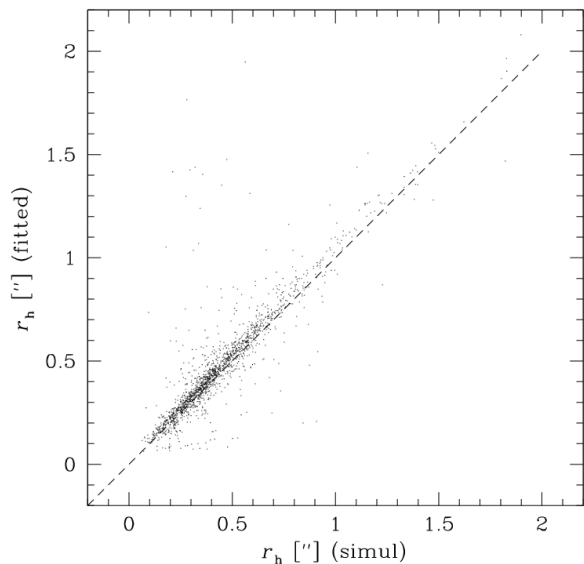
Asymptotic from Sersic+Exponential fit



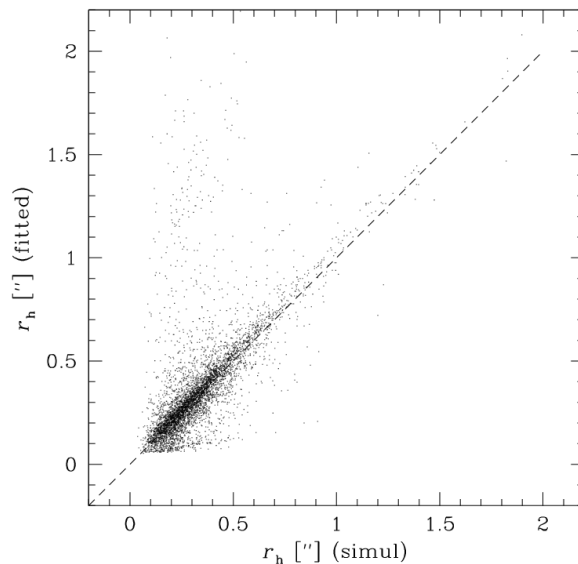
MAG_AUTO (Kron-like)



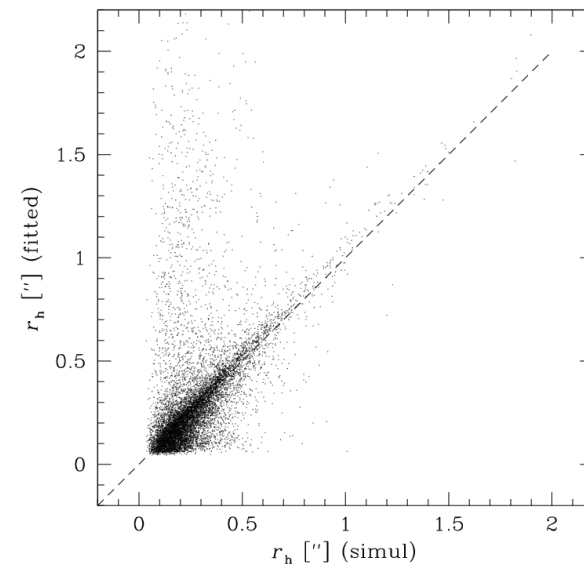
Disk scalelengths



$i < 22$



$i < 24$



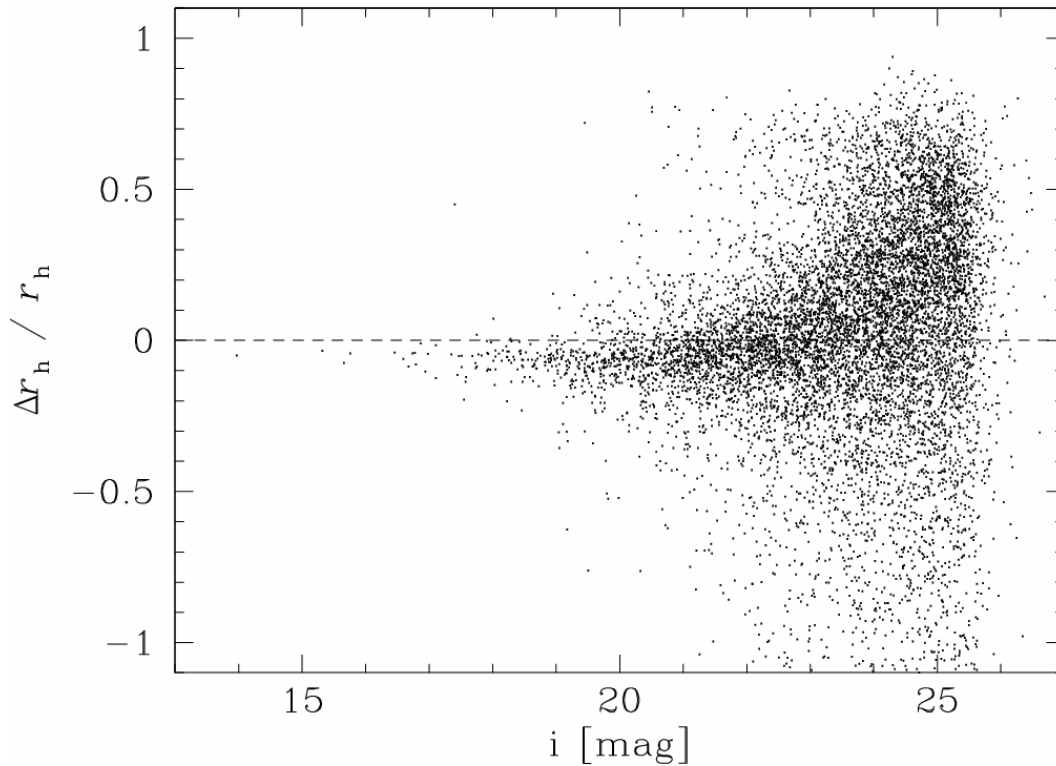
all

Sersic + exponential fit

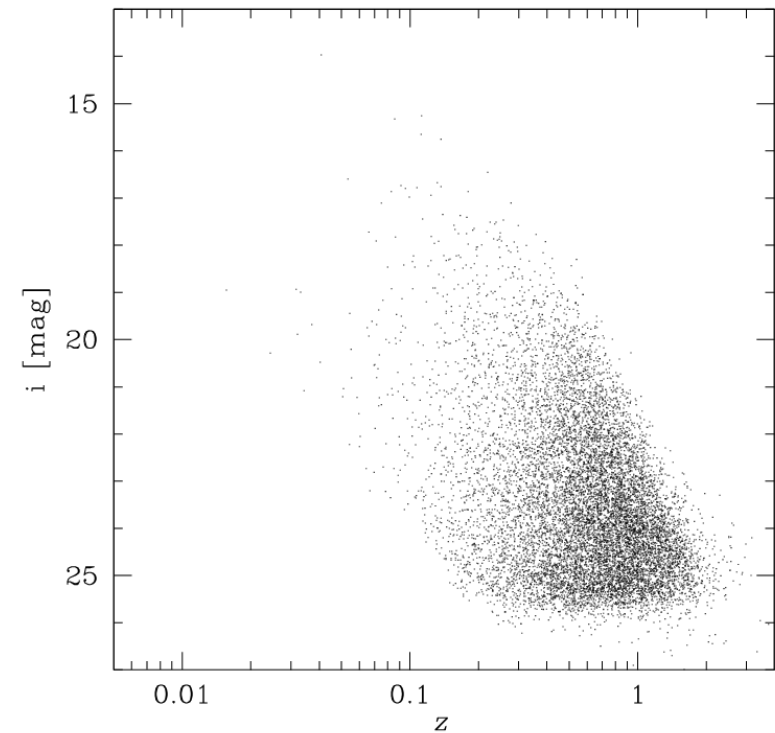


EFIGI

Disk scalelengths (cont.)



Fractional error as a function of magnitude

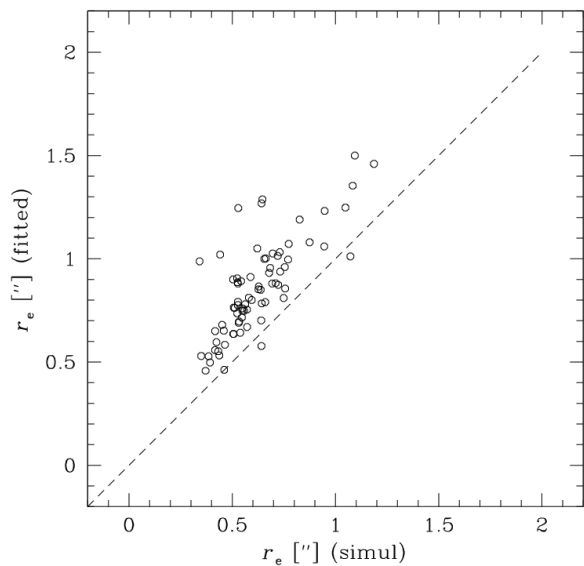


Hubble diagram of the simulation

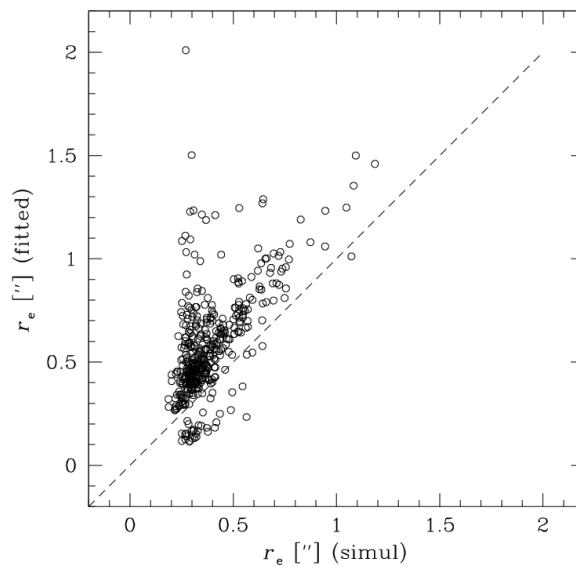


EFIGI

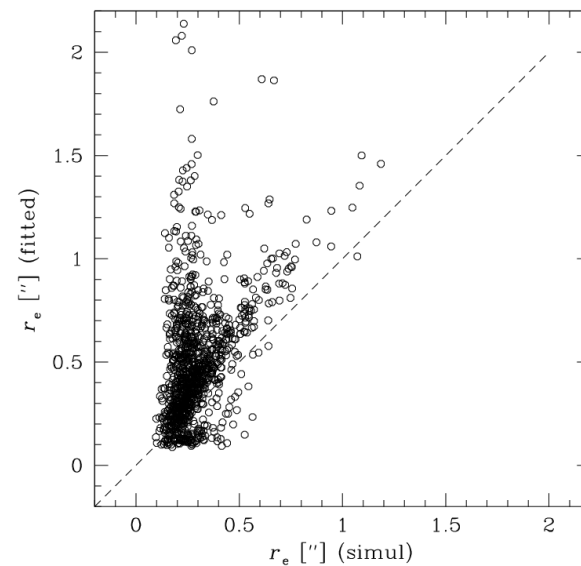
Bulge equivalent radii



$i < 19$ and $B/T > 0.5$



$i < 21$ and $B/T > 0.5$



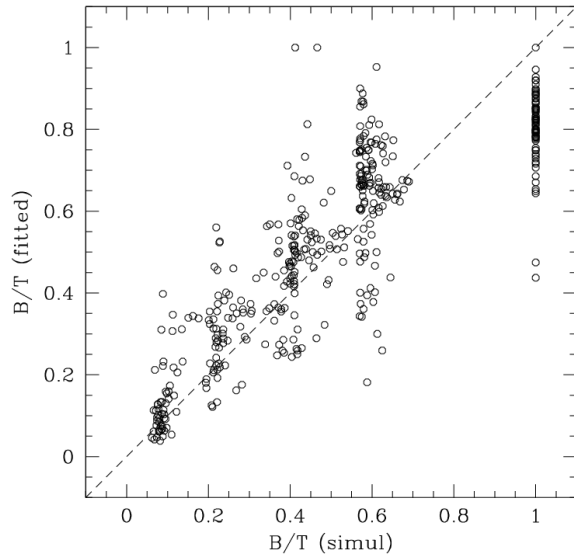
$i < 23$ and $B/T > 0.5$

Sersic + exponential fit

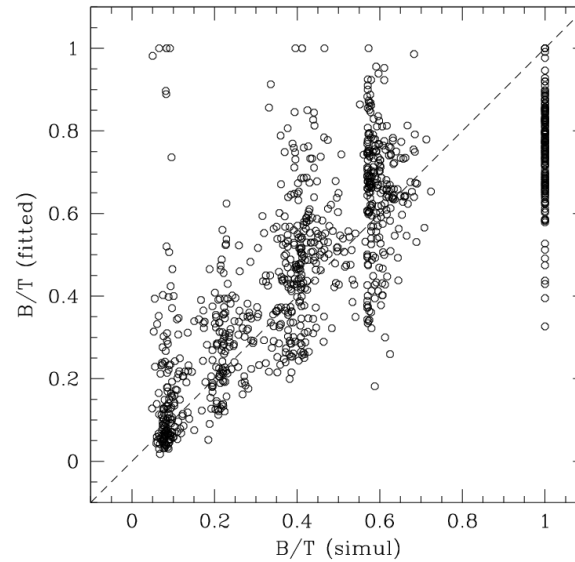


EFIGI

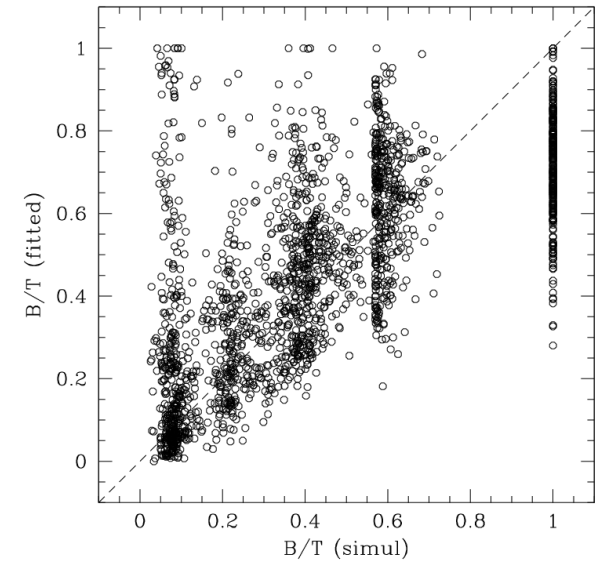
Bulge to Total ratio



$i < 20$



$i < 21$



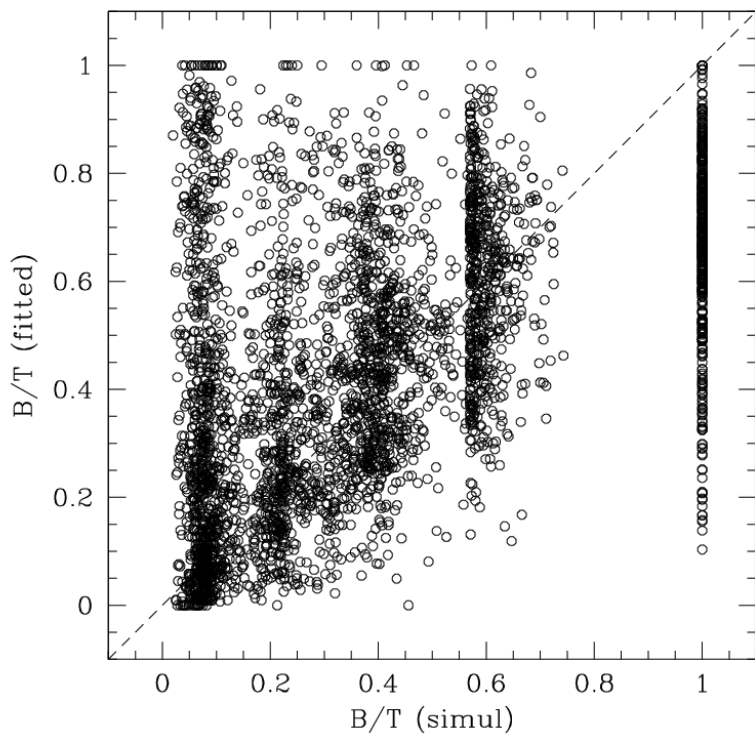
$i < 22$

Sersic + exponential fit

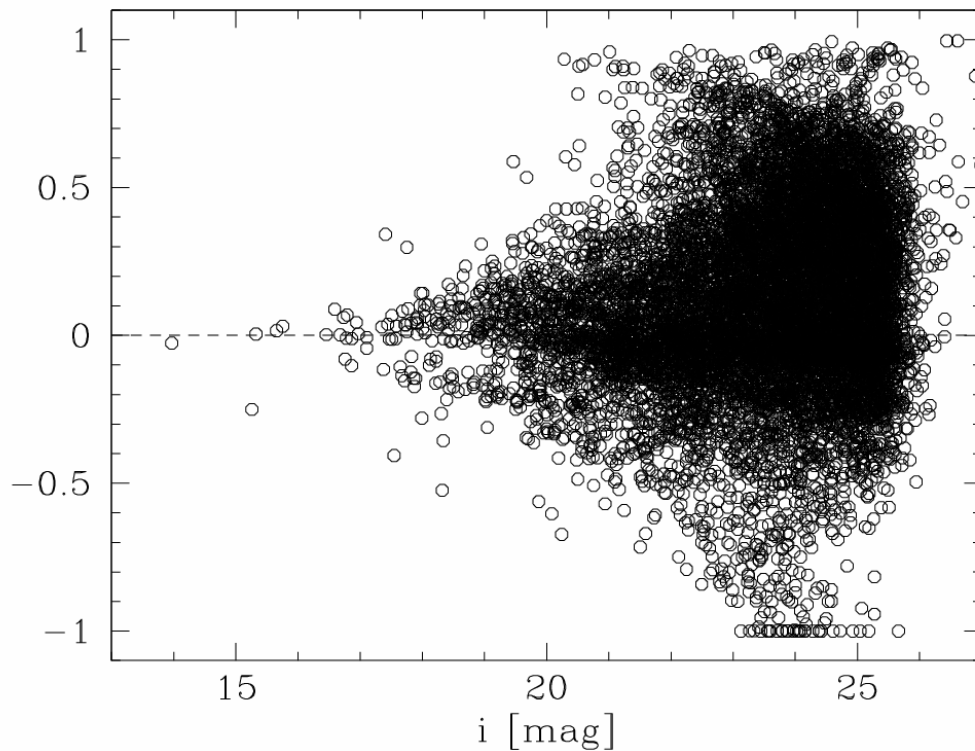


EFIGI

Bulge to Total ratio (cont.)



$i < 23$

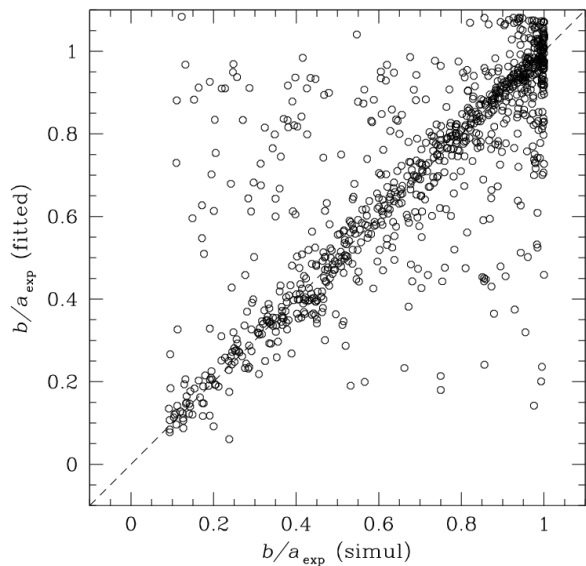


error as a function of magnitude

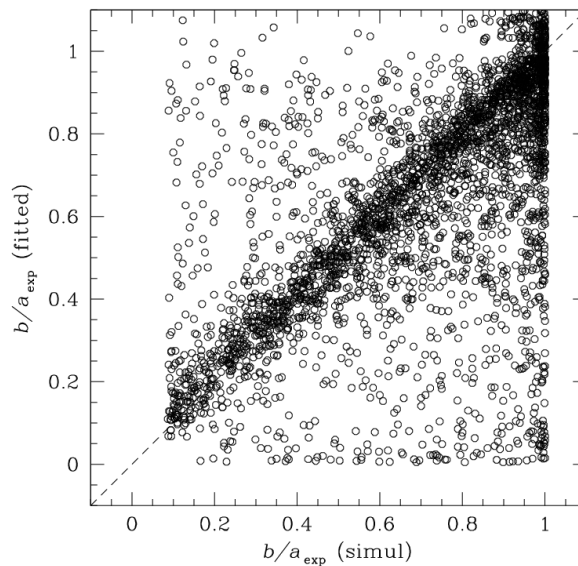


EFIGI

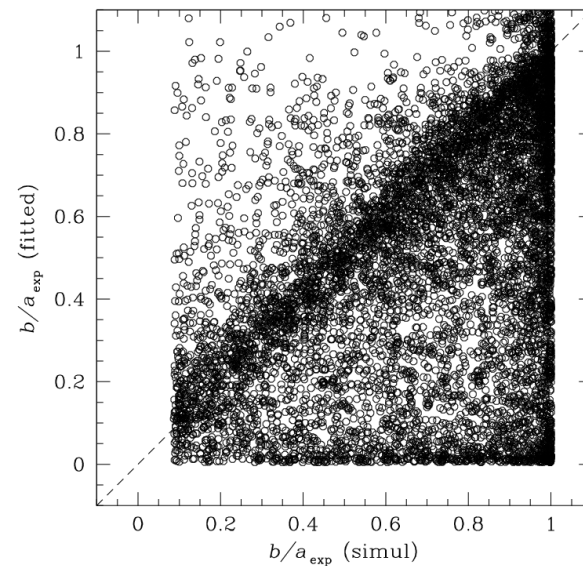
Disk aspect ratio



$i < 21$



$i < 23$



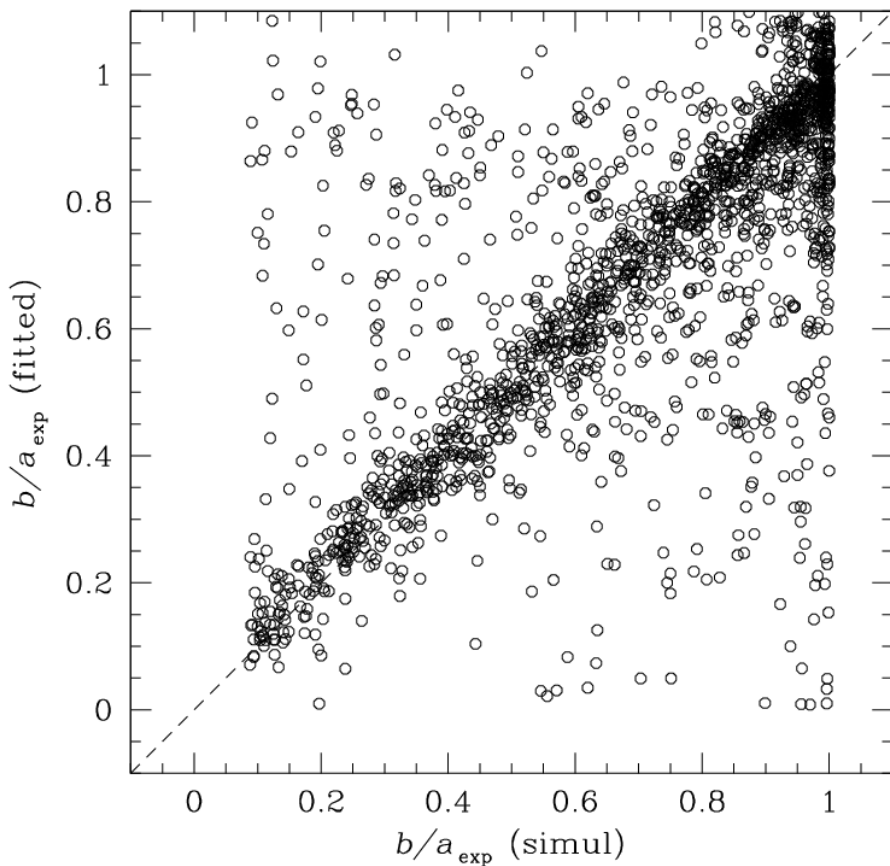
all

Sersic + exponential fit

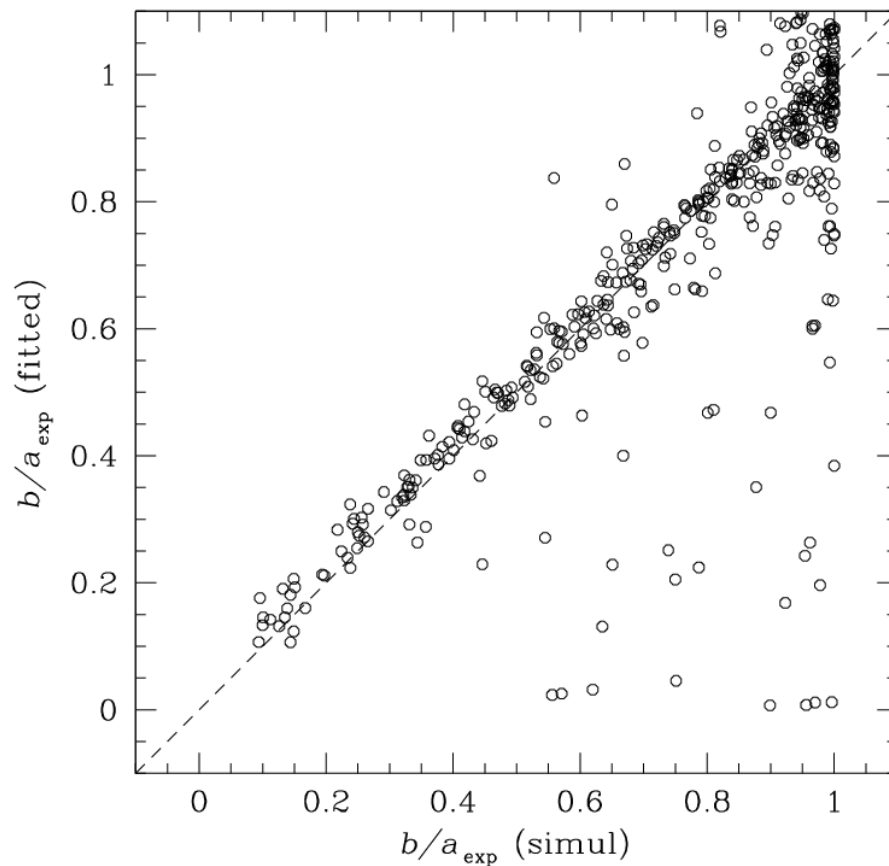


EFIGI

Disk aspect ratio (cont.)



$i < 22$

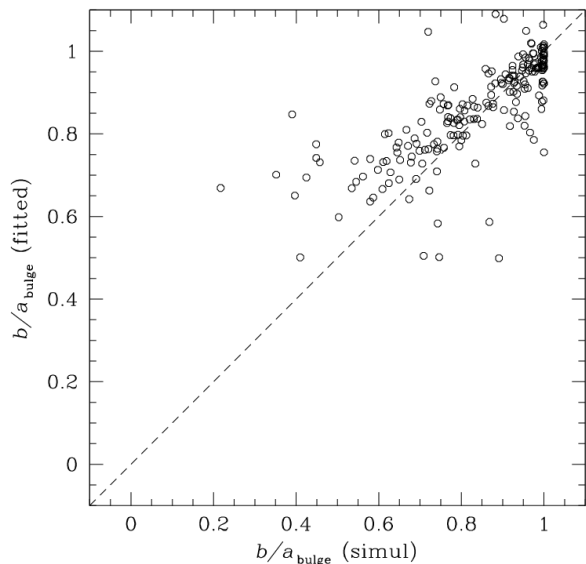


$i < 22$ and $B/T < 0.2$

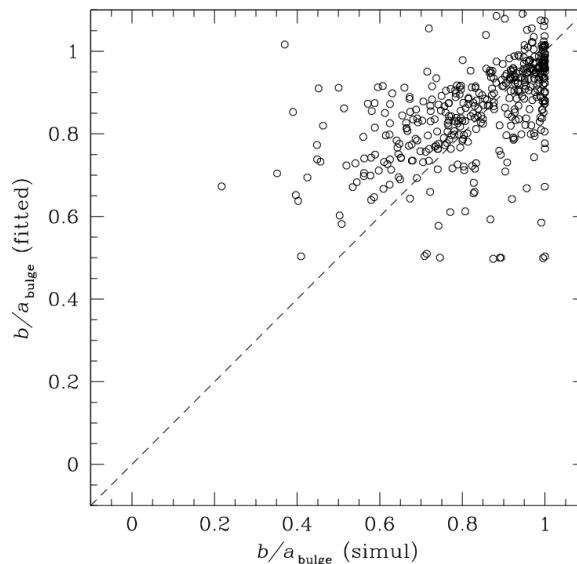


EFIGI

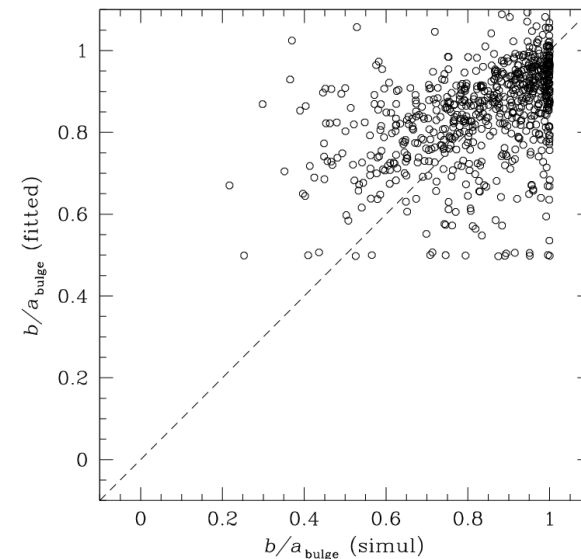
Bulge aspect ratio



$i < 20$ and $B/T > 0.5$



$i < 21$ and $B/T > 0.5$



$i < 22$ and $B/T > 0.5$

Sersic + exponential fit



EFIGI

Adding arms and bars

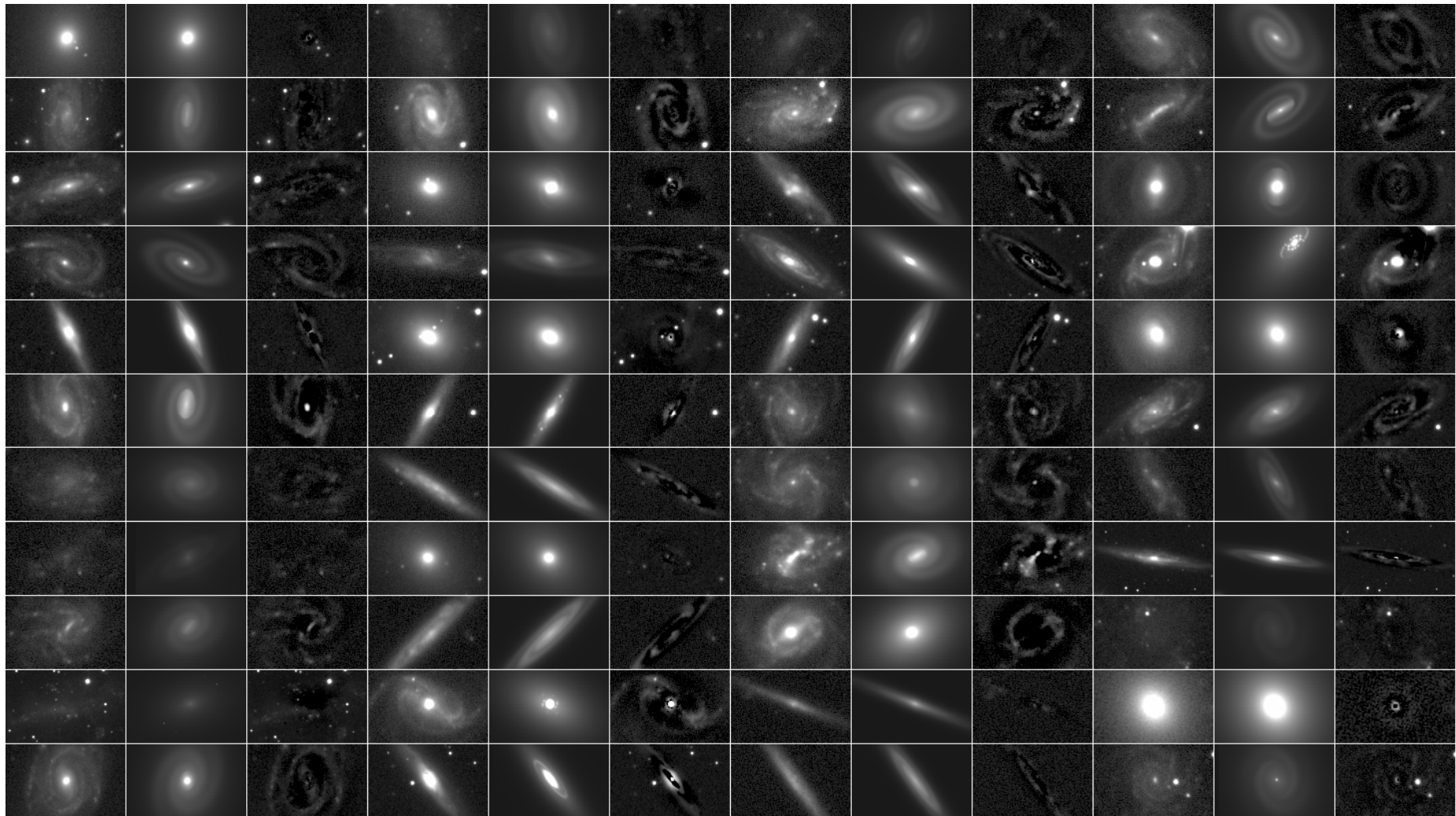
- The next step: a logarithmic spiral and a bar
 - Most spirals have 2 or 4 arms (or are of the flocculent type)
 - In at least half of the cases (at current times, in the visible), a central bar can be seen.
- Models currently implemented
 - spiral arms: 2D exponential ellipse multiplied by $\cos^2\theta$ (mode $m=2$). Mode $m=4$ has not yet been tested.
 - Free parameters: amplitudes of $m=2$ and $m=4$ modes, scalelength (with respect to disk), pitch angle, position angle, arm width and start radius (as a fraction of scalelength),
 - bar: rectangle with exponential cross-section
 - Free parameters: amplitude, aspect ratio and position angle





EFIGI

Adding arms and bars (cont.)





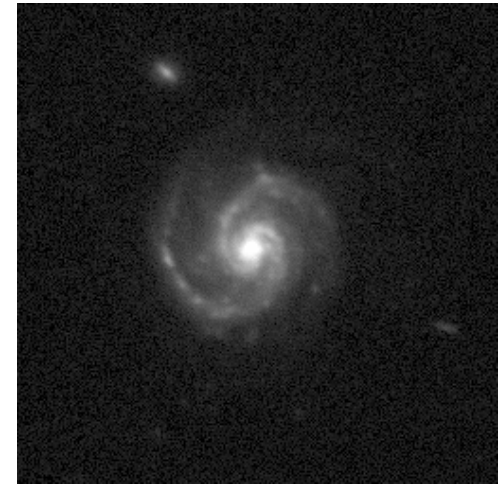
EFIGI

Initial guesses and convergence

- The spiral pattern happens to converge fairly rapidly provided that the model has the right « chirality »
 - The estimator used for the PCA decomposition is found to be quite unreliable

$$\int_{\text{profile}} w(r, \theta) \frac{\partial I}{r \partial \theta} \frac{\partial I}{\partial r} r dr d\theta$$

- The safer alternative is to make one minimization for each orientation
 - doubling of computation time
- Fitting the bar is not yet very reliable

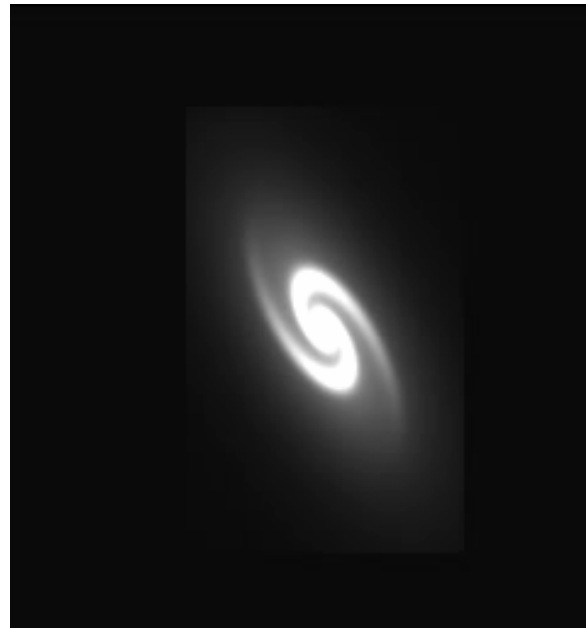
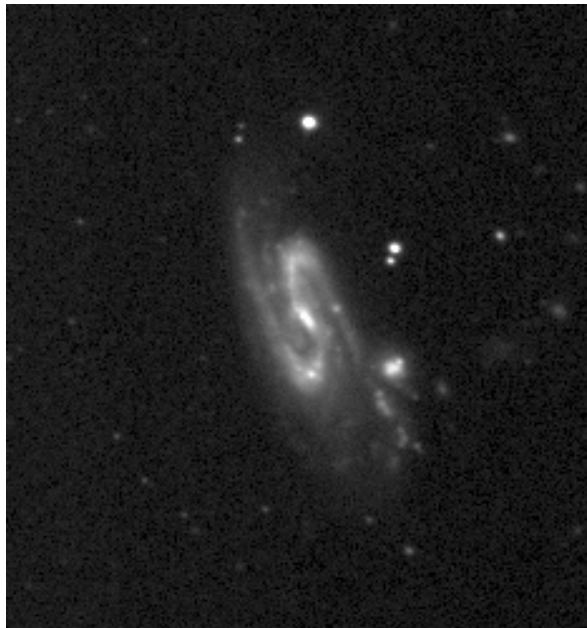




EFIGI

Convergence with levmar and Imfit

- Computing times and solution are comparable:
 - typically 1-4 Sersic+exponential fits/s for faint galaxies on a 2GHz core
 - typically 2×15 s for a full Sersic+exponential+arms+bar profile fitting (21 free parameters).



levmar



Imfit



Conclusions and future plans

- Sersic + exponential profile fitting is now operational in SExtractor. What has still to be done:
 - Oversampling requires some tuning to represent accurately models with high Sersic index.
 - Optimization of profile and residual calculations
 - Cleaning up of the interface to parameters
 - Investigate
 - simultaneous fitting of two overlapping profiles
 - simultaneous bulge+disk fitting in two bands
- Arms+bar fitting still requires extensive testing and tuning
 - Preliminary results are encouraging
 - Need to check what happens at very low resolutions
 - Compare with measurements made by astronomers on the PGC
- Additional attributes will be added this summer: $m=4$ spiral mode, spiral asymmetries, dust lane and rings.
- [Implementation as a web-service](#)