

# Rethinking data-driven point spread function modelling with a differentiable optical model

---

Tobias I. Liaudat  
3rd year PhD student  
[tobias-liaudat.github.io](https://tobias-liaudat.github.io)

In collaboration with  
Jean-Luc Starck, Martin Kilbinger and Pierre-Antoine Frugier



Journée de lancement de l'axe Astrophysique de  
la Graduate School Physique

16th November 2021

Why do we care  
about the PSF?



# Euclid Space mission



Launch: 2023

Optimised for **weak lensing**, a main science goal.

The PSF model is a crucial part of the mission.

Main source of systematic error.

Going to observe a vast part of the sky.

A lot of data to process → **Processing time** is an issue.

More **complex diffraction-limited PSFs**.

Observations are **under-sampled**.

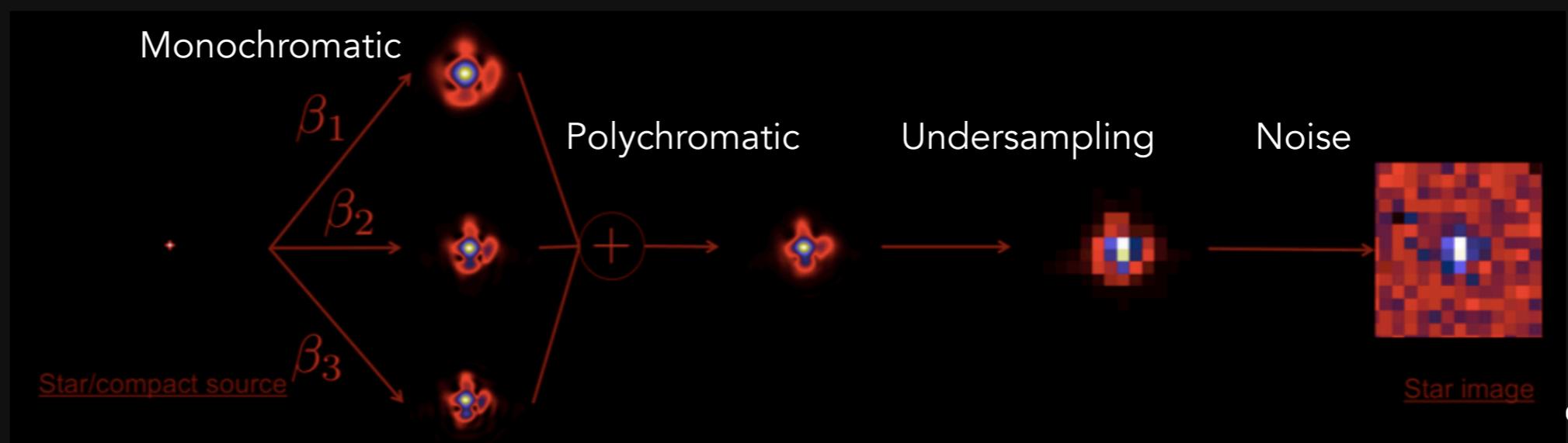
Observations are in a single broad band [550,900]nm.

Necessary to **model spectral variations**.

Very low error requirements.



**Several new challenges arising.**

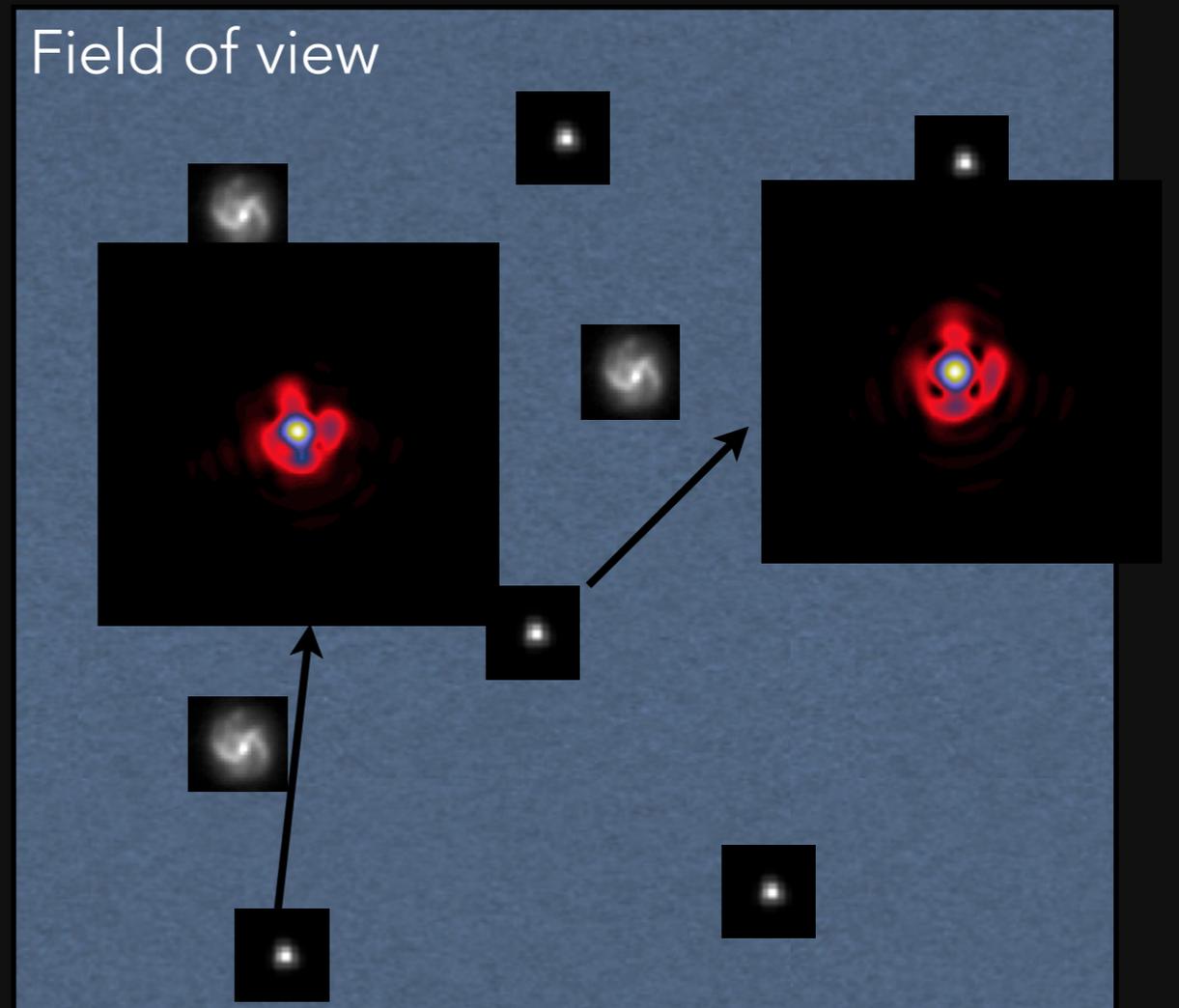


# PSF modelling

Need of a PSF model to correct the telescope's observations.

We can consider some star observations as samples of the PSF field.

Use them to build a model to infer the PSF at galaxy positions.



Inputs

PSFs at star positions

Train/fit

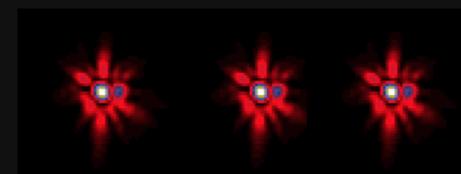
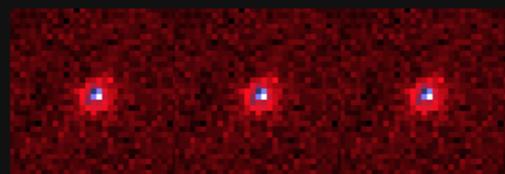
PSF model

Infer

PSFs at galaxy positions

Stellar SEDs

+

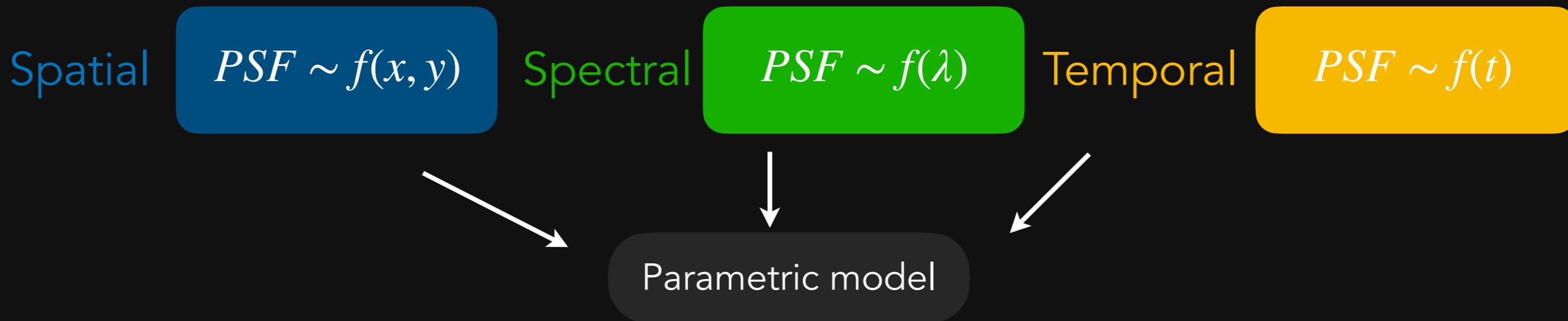


How do we model  
the PSF field?



# Modelling the PSF field

## What variations we need to model?



Completely model the telescope's optical system.

Express high variability with a small number of parameters.

Degenerate optimization problem.

The model is built in the wavefront-error space (WFE).

Only done for the Hubble Space Telescope [Tiny Tim model].

**Very sensible** to any mismatch between the model and the observations.

Data-driven approaches led to better results [Hoffman & Anderson, 2017]

Need special  
calibration data.

# Modelling the PSF field

Data-driven model

What variations we need to model?

Spatial

$$PSF \sim f(x, y)$$

Spectral

$$PSF \sim f(\lambda)$$

Temporal

$$PSF \sim f(t)$$

↓  
Use observations at a given time  
Limits the number of available stars

# Modelling the PSF field

Data-driven model

What variations we need to model?

Spatial

$$PSF \sim f(x, y)$$



Use a constrained matrix factorisation scheme.

Different constraints and optimisation procedures define different models.

Model built in the pixel space  $\rightarrow$  Linear combination of features.

Usually done independently on each CCD.

$$H = \mathcal{F} \{S A\}$$

↑  
Observations

↑  
Degradation  
operator

↑  
PSF features

↑  
Weights (spatial  
variations)

State-of-the-art examples:

- *MCCD*, Liaudat et al. A&A 646:A27
- *RCA*, Schmitz et al. A&A 636:A78  
(Euclid consortium paper)
- *PSFEx*, Bertin. ASPC, 442, 435

Most of the used data-driven PSF models are built in a similar fashion.

# Modelling the PSF field

Data-driven model

What variations we need to model?

Spectral

$$PSF \sim f(\lambda)$$



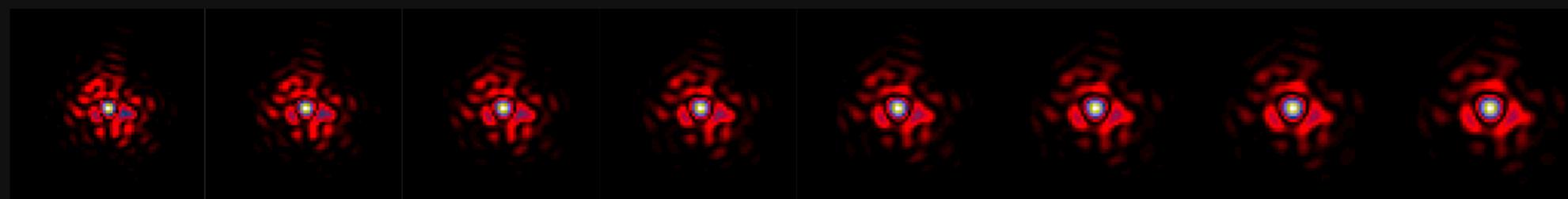
Very hard to model spectral variations with a data-driven approach.

Efforts in this directions included using [Optimal Transport](#) to interpolate between the two extreme wavelength PSFs. [Schmitz, PhD thesis, 2019]

Assumes [spectral variations are smooth](#), but in real instruments this **is not the case**.

Better approach: **include the physics of the problem while remaining data-driven.**

Optical system



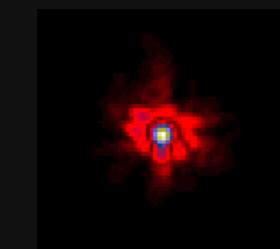
550nm



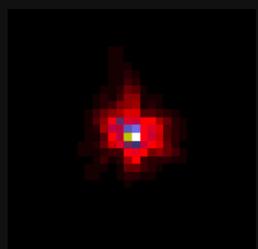
$\lambda$



900nm



Polychromatic Super-resolved



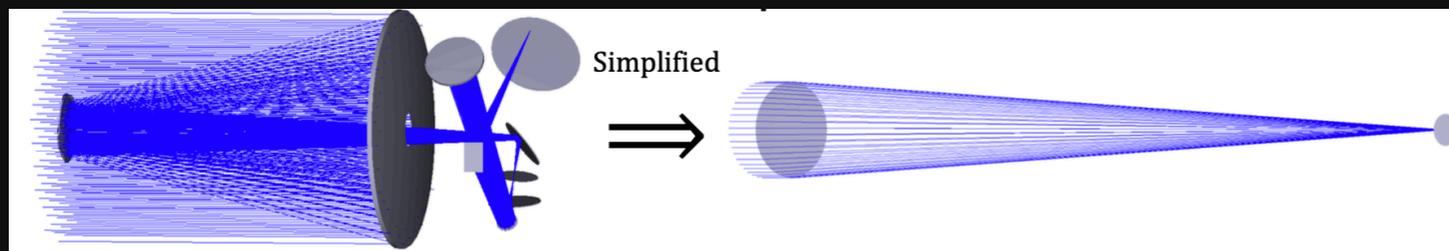
Polychromatic under-sampled

Tobias Liaudat

# Changing the PSF model representation space

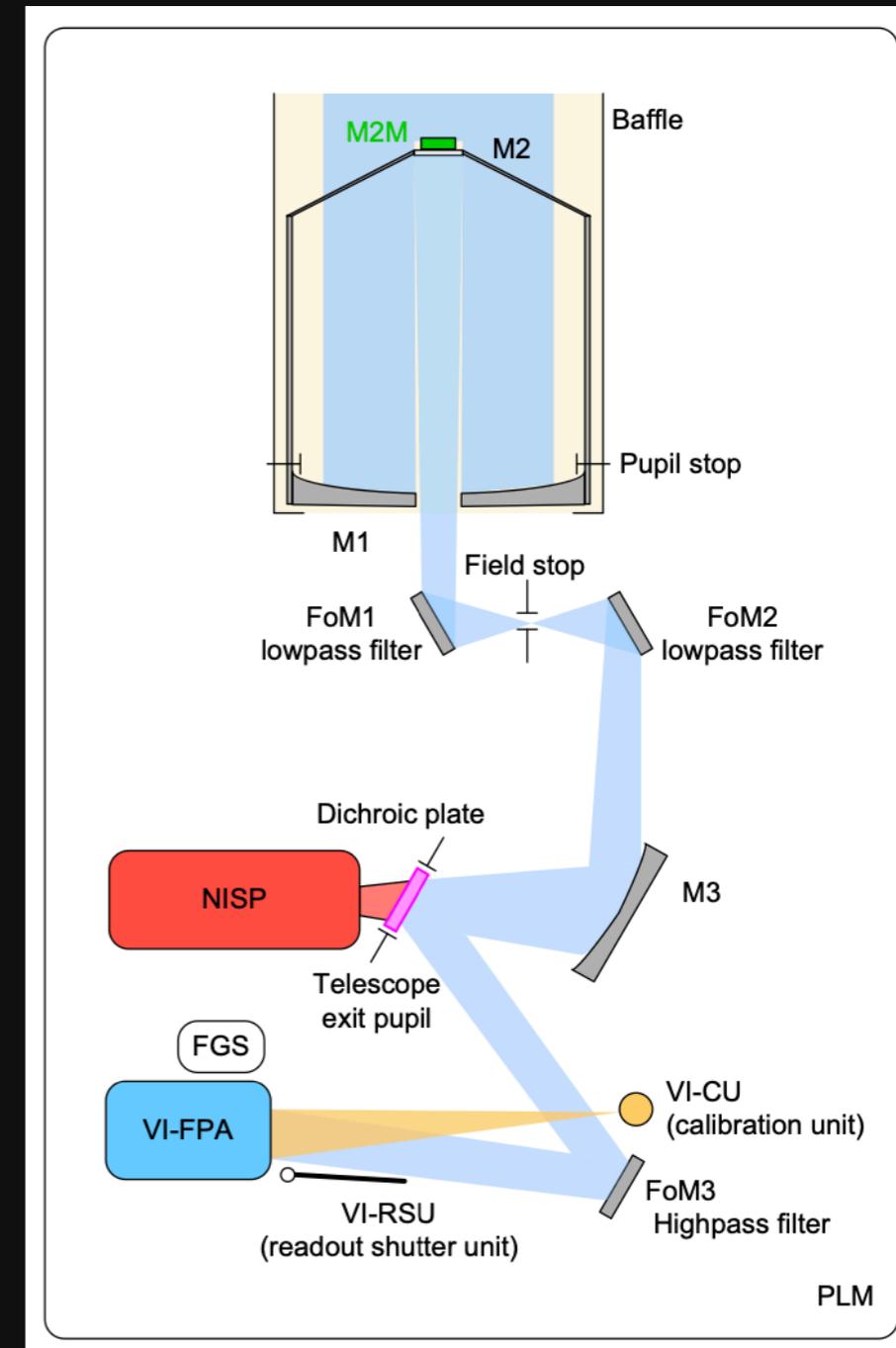
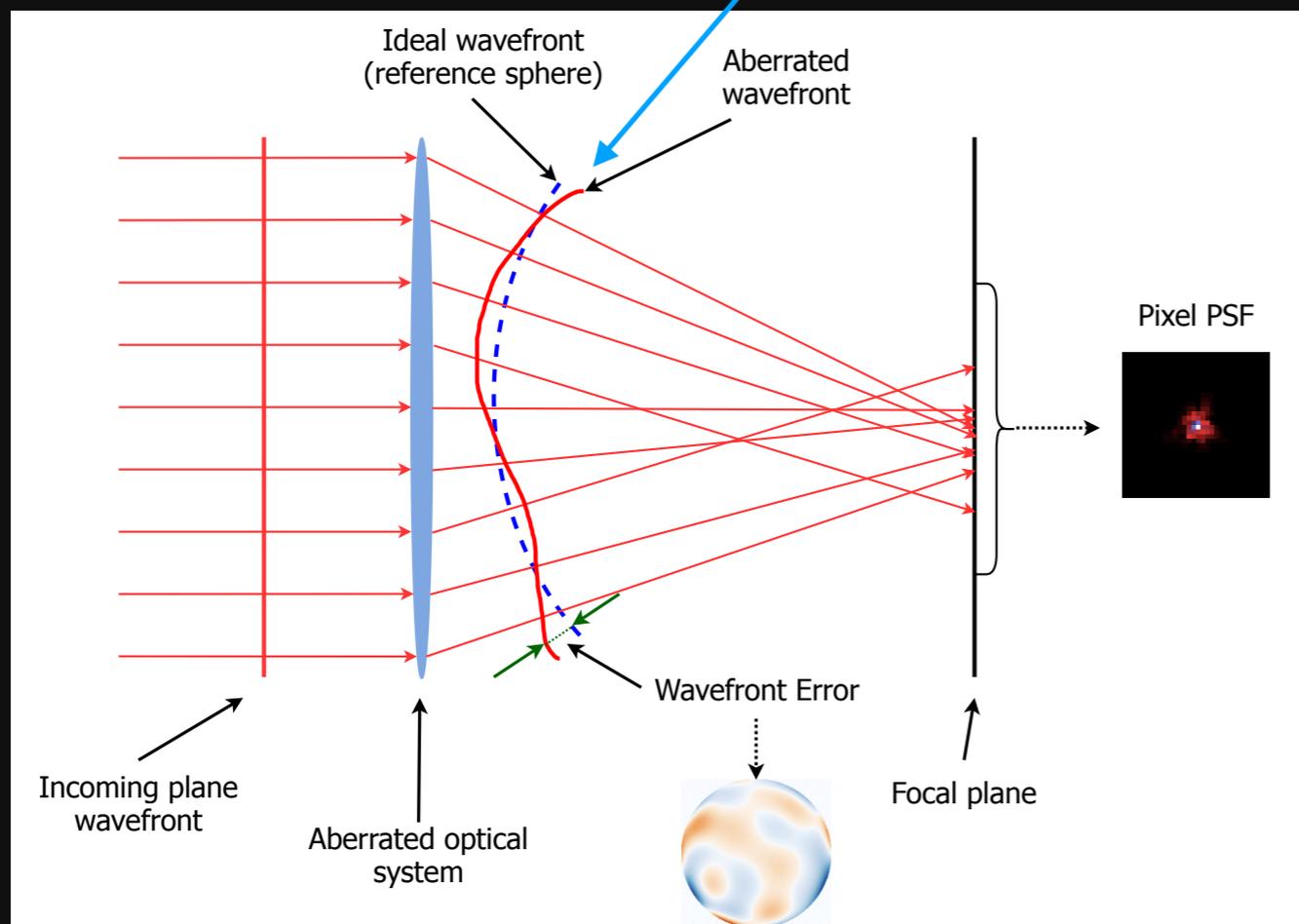
Euclid optic model

Simplified optic model



Credit: P.A. Frugier

PSF model in WFE space



Credit: G. Racca et al, 2016

Tobias Liaudat

# Modelling the PSF in the WFE space

$$\text{WFE} = \text{Parametric part} + \text{Non-Parametric part}$$

The non-parametric (*data-driven*) part helps to **correct the mismatch** between the selected parametric model and the observations.

Easier to model **chromatic variations** and still be **data-driven**.

**Harder to constraint** from star observations, it's a degenerate optimization problem.

We aim to avoid the use of special calibration data.

Build a **forward model** based on the telescope's optics, WFE  $\rightarrow$  pixels

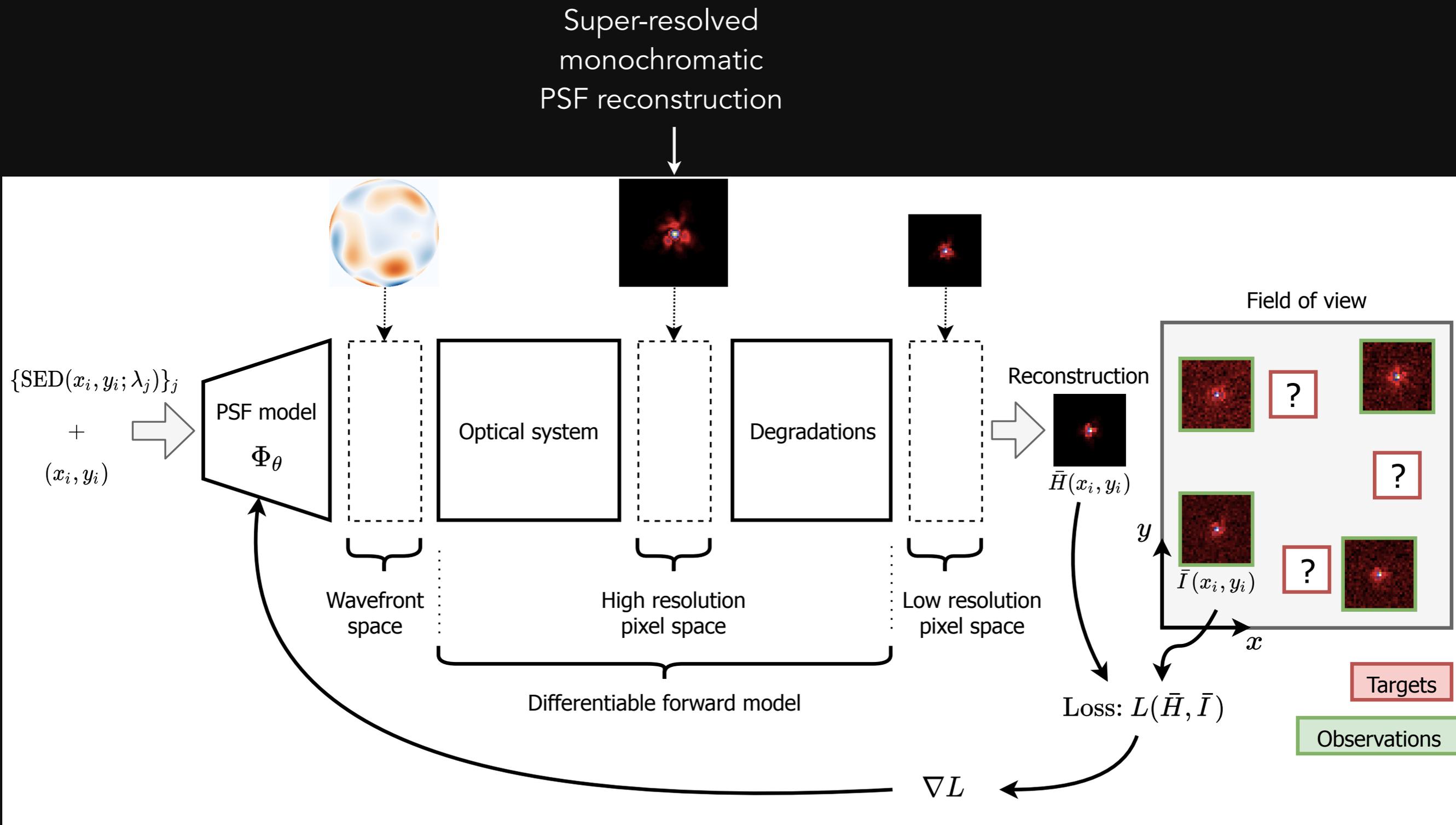
Includes diffraction phenomena (Fraunhofer approx.), obscuration, downsampling, etc..

**End-to-end differentiable!**

Based on an automatic differentiation framework  $\rightarrow$  TensorFlow.

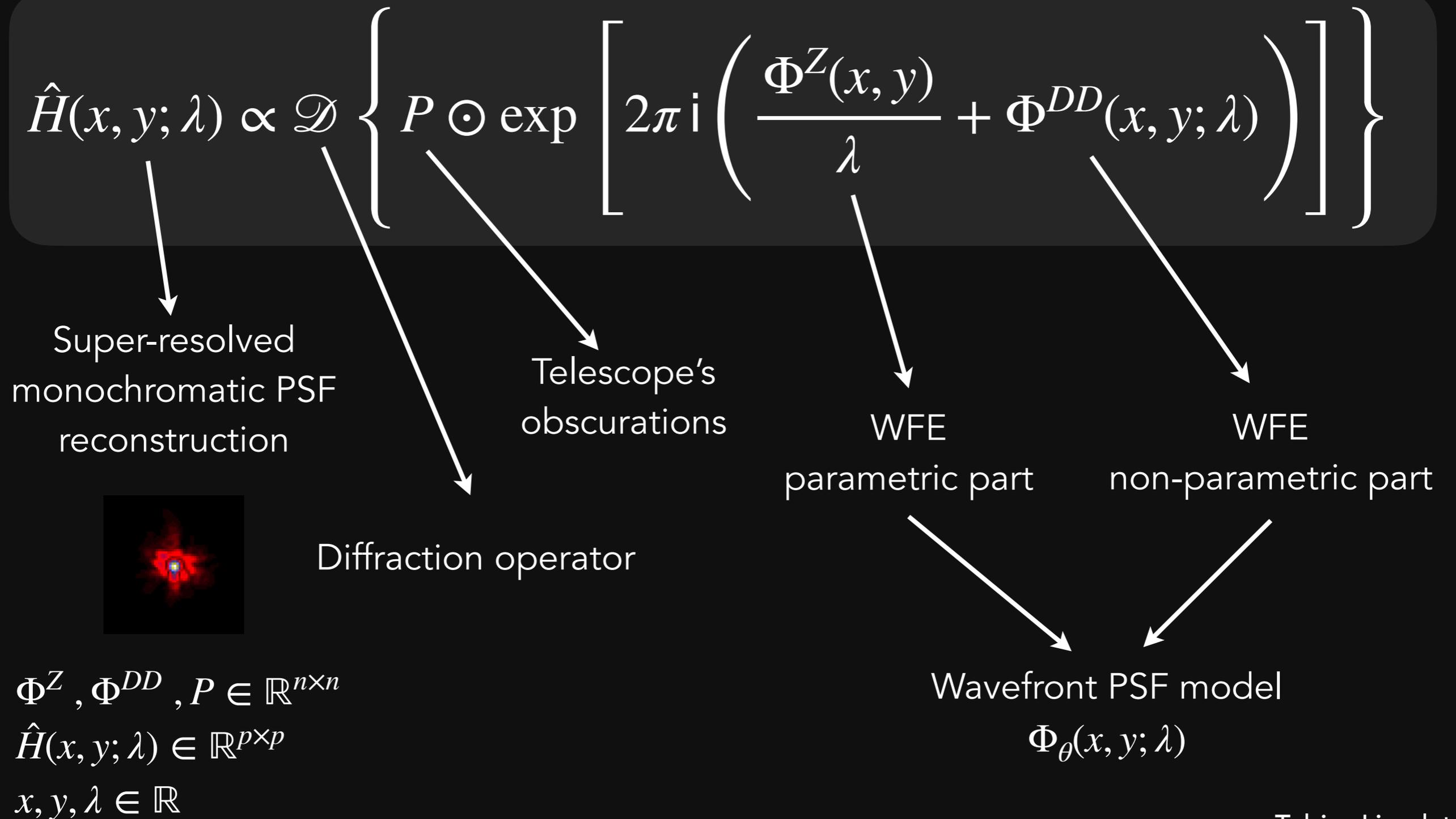
Fast computations on GPU.

# Overview of the proposed approach



# Modelling the PSF in the WFE space

## Differentiable optical forward model

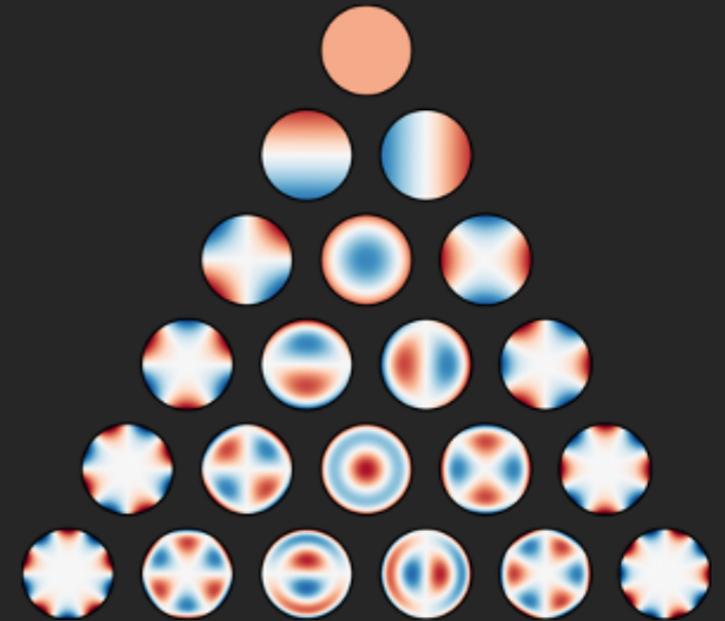


# WFE parametric part

$$\Phi^Z(x, y) = \sum_{j=1}^{N^Z} f_j^Z(x, y) S_j^Z$$

e.g.  $f_j^Z(x, y) = c_0^j + c_1^j x + c_2^j y$

Zernike Polynomials  $S_j^Z$



Based on **Zernike polynomials** up to mode  $N^Z$ .

Orthogonal in the unit disk.

Widely used in optics.

$$\Phi^Z \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$$

$$S_j^Z \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$$

$$x, y \in \mathbb{R}$$

FoV variations based on **FoV position polynomials** of Zernike coefficients.

Chromatic variations follow the  $1/\lambda$  dependence of **diffraction**.

Small number of parameters to represent all the variability.

# WFE non-parametric part

Based on a matrix factorisation scheme

Diffraction-based wavelength dependence

Number of PSF features

$$\Phi^{DD} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$$
$$S_l^{DD} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$$

$$\Phi^{DD}(x, y; \lambda) = \frac{1}{\lambda} \sum_{l=1}^{N^{DD}} f_l^{DD}(x, y) S_l^{DD}$$

PSF features weights

Data-driven WFE  
PSF features

PSF wavefront features are completely **data-driven**.

Different choices for the PSF feature weights will define different flavours of the model.

We present one using **polynomials of FoV positions**.

We could use the graph constraint for localised variations from the RCA method.

For the moment, we use a diffraction-based wavelength dependence.

We could **easily add more sophisticated chromatic functions** (e.g. refractive elements).

# Optimisation and inference

## Optimisation

Using weighted **Mean Squared Error loss** function over the star observations.

Add a regulariser of the model's parameters  $R_\theta$  depending on the model's flavour.

Use a noise std dev estimator for the weights.

$$L(\theta) \propto \sum_i \frac{1}{\hat{\sigma}_i} \|\bar{I}_i - \bar{H}_i(\Phi_\theta)\|_F^2 + R(\Phi_\theta)$$

Optimising with **Rectified Adam** (advanced stochastic gradient descend method).

Allowed by the **automatic differentiation** framework.

## Inference - PSF recovery

Straightforward and fast

Evaluate  $\Phi_\theta(x, y)$  on the new position and propagate through the forward model.

# Numerical experiments



# Experiment set-up

Simulating one FoV with 2000 stars for training and 400 stars for testing.

Simulations at Euclid resolution (under-sampled), images 32 x 32.

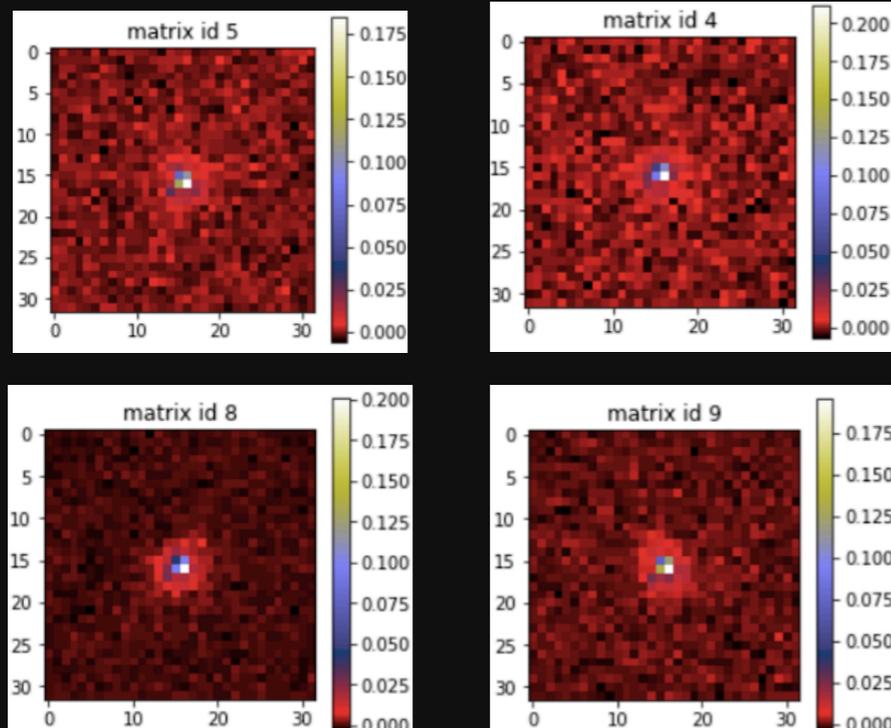
Using real stellar SEDs for star observations.

Added Gaussian noise to achieve flat distribution of random SNRs.

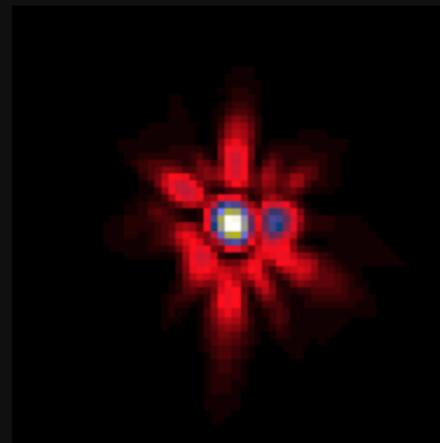
PSF field simulated using parametric part:

2D position polynomials of degree 2 and 45 Zernike modes.

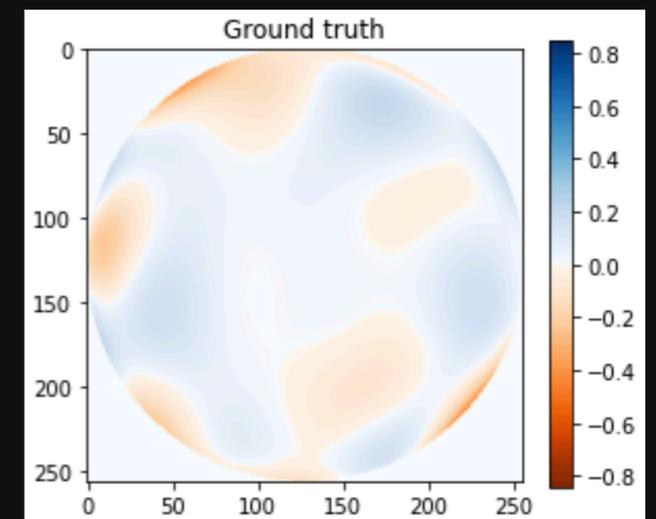
Observations



Ground truth PSF at 3x observation resolution



Ground truth  $\Phi(x_i, y_i)$



# Model comparison

## - Slightly imperfect parametric PSF model

Almost the same model as the simulation.

Using 40 Zernike modes.

## - Imperfect parametric PSF model

Only 15 Zernike modes used.

(Instead of 45)

## - Resolved Component Analysis (RCA)

State-of-the-art, designed for Euclid

*RCA*, Schmitz et al. *A&A* 636:A78

## - Proposed data-driven WFE PSF model

Badly specified parametric part

Only 15 Zernike modes used.

Non-parametric part with 21 PSF features.

Position polynomial of degree 5.

## - PSFEx

Widely used state-of-the-art model

*PSFEx*, Bertin. *ASPC*, 442, 435

All of them are given the true stellar SEDs as input.

No calibration data used.

# Pixel reconstruction results

Reconstruction of test stars at x1 and x3 observation resolution.

Super-Resolution  
(SR) task

**Performance gap in SR** between models with forward model and previous SOTA.

PSF model	RMSE [ $\times 10^{-5}$ ] (relative)	
	Resolution x1	Resolution x3
i) Zernike 15	72.3 (10.0%)	18.3 (12.4%)
ii) Zernike 40	22.2 (3.0%)	5.75 (3.9%)
<b>iii) Zernike 15 + DD</b>	<b>8.34 (1.1%)</b>	<b>4.47 (3.0%)</b>
iv) PSFEx	69.2 (9.5%)	66.3 (43.0%)
v) RCA	39.6 (5.4%)	85.3 (55.5%)

Even if the parametric part lacks complexity the Z15+DD is the best performing.

Importance of the **data-driven** part in the model.

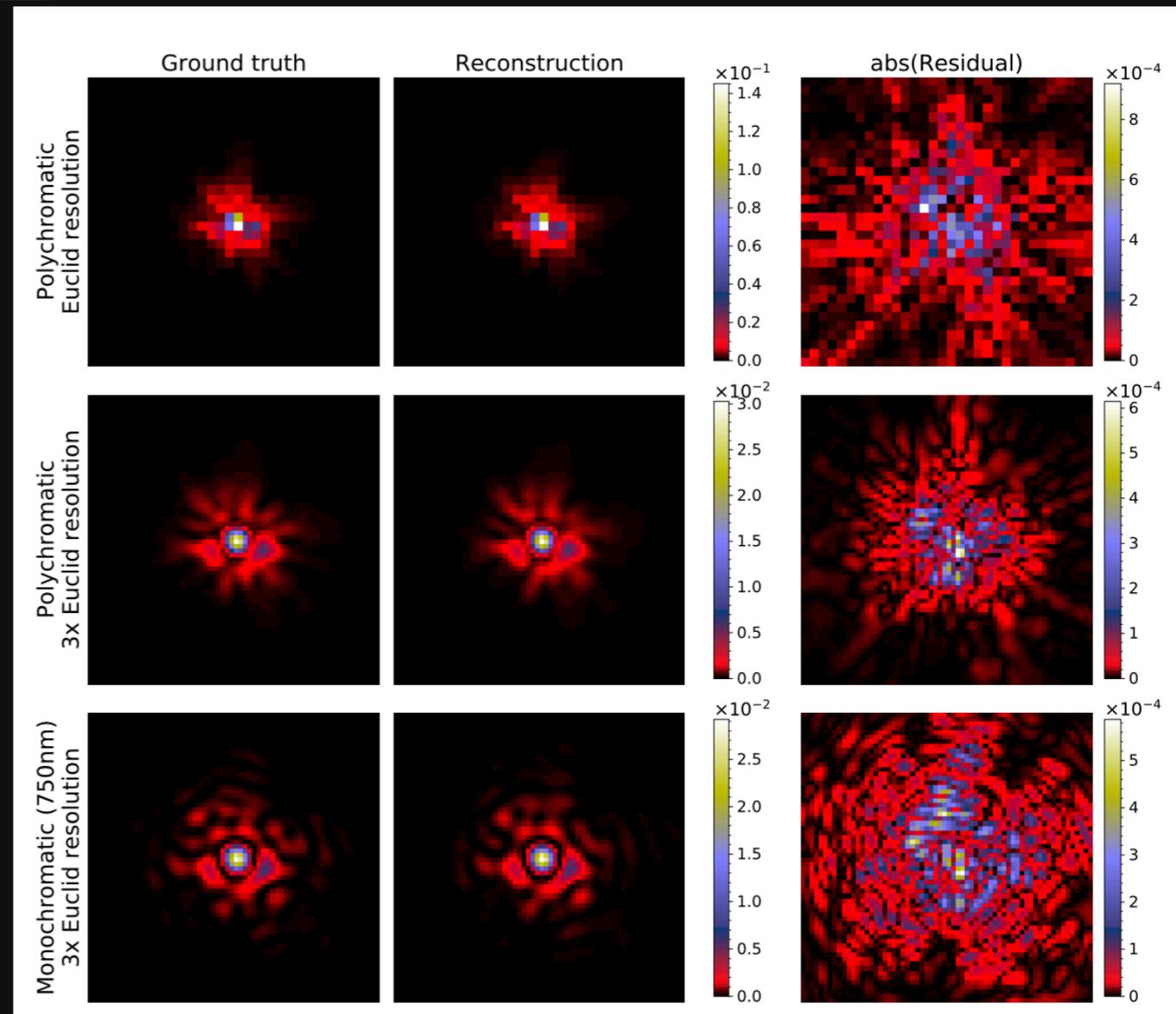
**Breakthrough in performance** w.r.t. current SOTA models.

# Pixel reconstruction results

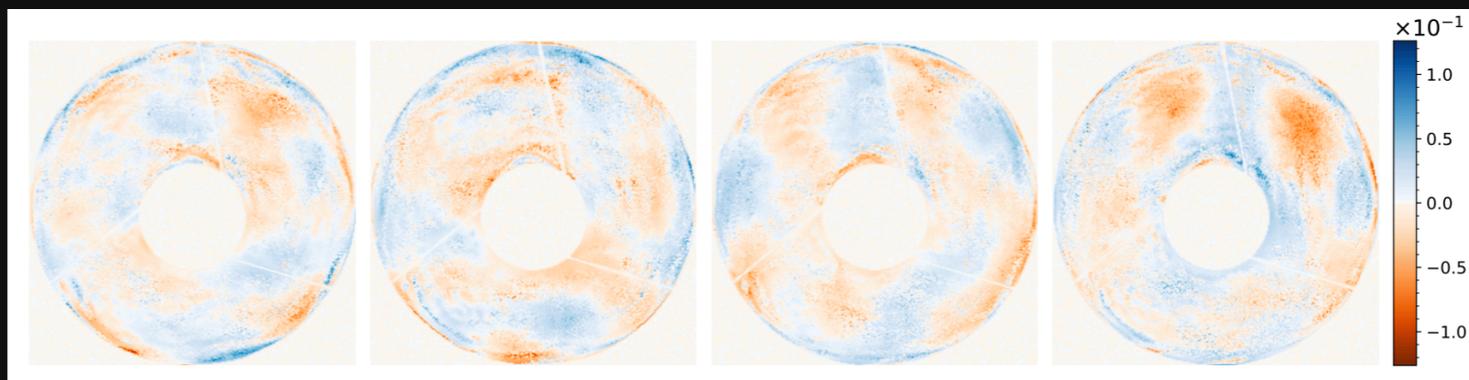
Zernike15+DD PSF model reconstruction examples:

Very good pixel reconstruction.

@750nm

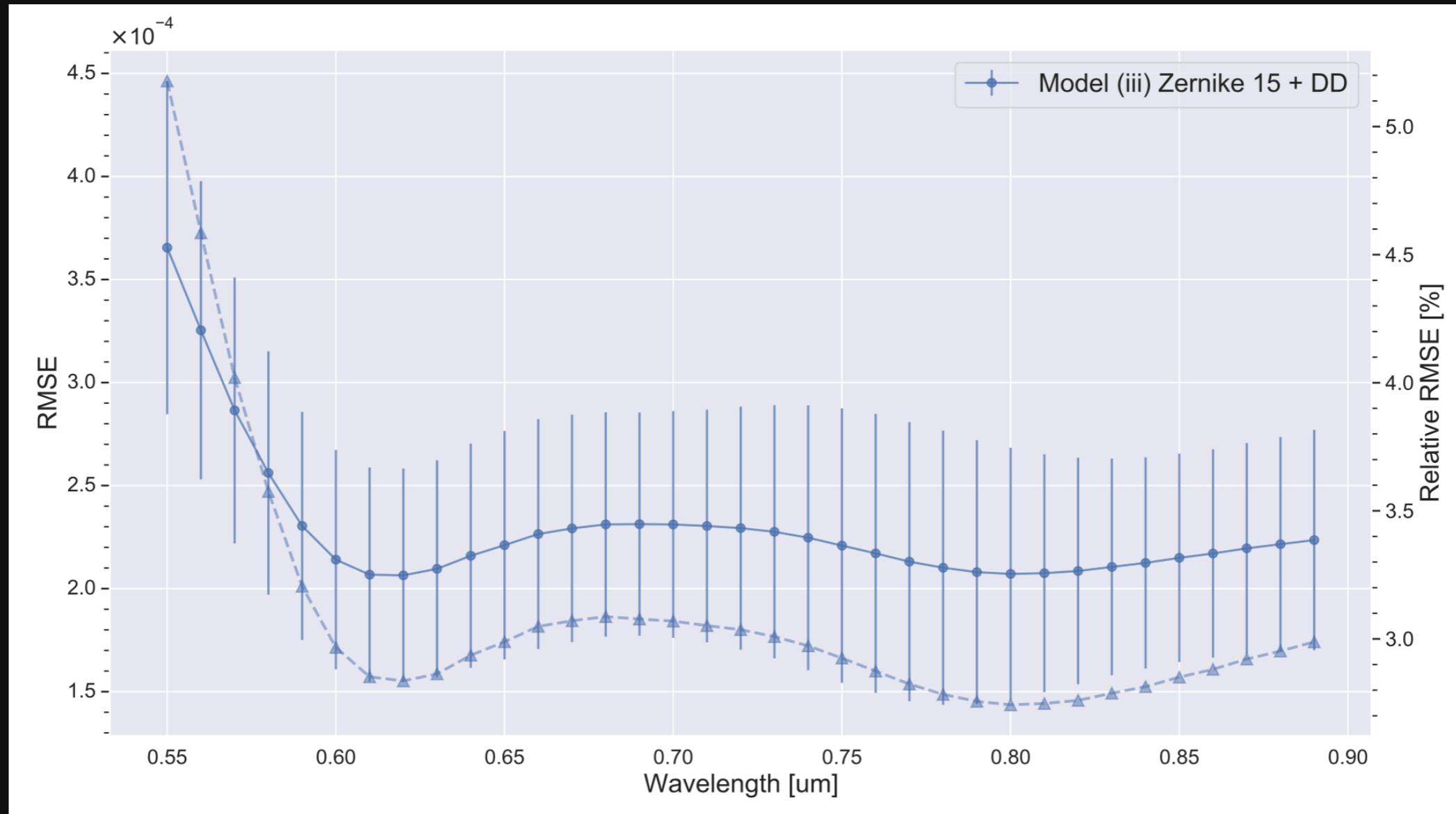


Examples of learned WFE data-driven features:



# Monochromatic pixel reconstruction

Test star reconstruction as a function of wavelength at 3x observation resolution.



**First data-driven model to effectively model chromatic variations!**

The estimated model is not degenerating w.r.t. wavelength.

# Conclusions

First **data-driven model** built in the **WFE space** up to my knowledge.

Able to model **spectral variations!**

Obtained a **very low pixel error** even with an incomplete parametric part.

The non-parametric part is effective in **capturing the mismatches** of the parametric part.

Better results than the slightly imperfect parametric model.

Does **not require special calibration data**.

Good results on a realistic dataset.

Built over the **Tensorflow** framework → **end-to-end differentiable**.

Allows for **fast GPU calculations**.

Could be easily used to introduce physics into Neural Networks.

**Promising approach for the Euclid mission!**

Thank you!