## Illuminating the Low Surface Brightness Galaxies in Dark Energy Survey with Transformers

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### Outline

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Introduction to galaxies. What are LSBG and the Importance of LSBGs 02

Current literature on searches for LSBGs and the role of ML. 03

Introduction to computer vision: CNNS and Transformers 04

Search for LSBGs from DES and properties of LSBGs identified in DES.



## Galaxies 101

#### Surface Brightness and Magnitude

The surface brightness is the amount of light in that patch of sky divided by its area (in arsec2).





### Sérsic Profile of Galaxies

The Sérsic profile is a mathematical function that describes how the surface brightness of a galaxy varies with distance r from its centre.

$$\mu(r) = \mu_e \exp\left[-b\left(\left(\frac{r}{r_e}\right)^{1/n} - 1\right)\right]$$

Sérsic index (n)

- n = 4 gives the de Vaucouleurs profile which is a rough approximation of ordinary elliptical galaxies.
- n = 1 gives the exponential profile which is a good approximation of spiral galaxy disks and a rough approximation of dwarf elliptical galaxies



### Half-light Radius of Galaxies

The half-light (or 'effective') radius is the radius from within which half of the galaxy light is contained.



Total light intensity (counts) half of all integrated light r<sub>e</sub> 

Distance from center (pixels)

Cumulative light integrated from center of galaxy outwards

### LOW SURFACE BRIGHTNESS GALAXIES

Image of UGC 477 taken by NASA/ESA Hubble Space Telescope. Image taken from: http://www.spacetelescope.org/images/potw1614a/

#### What is an LSBG ?

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Low-surface brightness galaxies (LSBGs) are conventionally defined as galaxies with a central surface brightness fainter than the night sky ( $\mu(g) > 22 \text{ mag/arcsec}^2$ ).



Examples of LSBGs from Dark Energy Survey (DES)





LSBGs can significantly contribute to our understanding of galaxy evolution.







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'Extremely dominated by dark matter, they may also be the location for at least some fraction of the missing matter in the Universe.



Image Credit: L Jaramillo and O Macias, Virginia Tech

### Missing Baryon Problem

The missing baryon problem is an observed discrepancy between the amount of baryonic matter detected from shortly after the Big Bang and from more recent epochs.



ESA/Planck; Shull et al. 2012

## Finding LSBGs

Why it is hard to detect LSBGs : Artefacts

Faint, compact objects blended in the diffuse light from nearby bright stars or giant elliptical galaxies;

Tidal ejecta connected to high-surface brightness host galaxies.

Eliminating the sky background to detect the LSBGs





#### Searches for LSBGs in Large Scale Surveys

Greco et al. (2018) identified 781 LSBGs (from ~ **200** deg<sup>2</sup>) from 1521 candidates (**50**% success rate) in HSC SSP with a galaxy modelling pipeline.

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Tanoglidis et al. (2021) identified 23,790 LSBGs (from ~ **5000** deg<sup>2</sup>) from to 44,979 candidates (**53**% success rate) in DES.

Visual inspection is the currently reliable way to confirm if it is an LSBG or not.

### LSST and EUCLID

The upcoming large-scale surveys, such as LSST and Euclid are expected to observe **10<sup>5</sup> LSBGs**.

With the current techniques it means ~ 10<sup>5</sup> artefacts.

**NCBJ** is also an active member of the LSST collaboration.



Image taken from https://astronomy.com/news/2017/12/the-Isstand-big-data-science

#### CLASSIFICATION OF QUASARS, GALAXIES, AND STARS USING MULTI-MODAL DEEP LEARNING

Astronomy & Astrophysics manuscript no. Revised December 27, 2022

#### Finding strong gravitational lenses through self-attention

#### Study based on the Bologna Lens Challenge

Hareesh Thuruthipilly<sup>1</sup>, Adam Zadrozny<sup>1</sup>, Agnieszka Pollo<sup>1,2</sup>, and Marek Biesiada<sup>1,3</sup>

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Astronomy

Astrophysics

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#### Distinguishing a planetary transit from false positives: a **Transformer-based classification for planetary transit signals**

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#### Discovering New Strong Gravitational Lenses in the DESI Legacy Imaging Surveys

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#### Abstract

We have conducted a search for new strong gravitational lensing systems in the Dark Energy Spectroscopic Instrument Legacy Imaging Surveys' Data Release 8. We use deep residual neural networks, building on previous work presented by Huang et al. These surveys together cover approximately one-third of the sky visible from the

A&A 657, A90 (2022) https://doi.org/10.1051/0004-6361/202141393 © Euclid Collaboration 2022

#### **Euclid** preparation

#### XIII. Forecasts for galaxy morphology with the Euclid Survey using deep generative models

Euclid Collaboration: H. Bretonnière<sup>1,2</sup>, M. Huertas-Company<sup>2,3,4,5</sup>, A. Boucaud<sup>2</sup>, F. Lanusse<sup>6</sup>, E. Jullo<sup>7</sup>, E. Merlin<sup>8</sup>, D. Tuccillo<sup>9</sup>, M. Castellano<sup>8</sup>, J. Brinchmann<sup>10,11</sup>, C. J. Conselice<sup>12</sup>, H. Dole<sup>1</sup>, R. Cabanac<sup>13</sup>, H. M. Courtois<sup>14</sup>, F. J. Castander<sup>15,16</sup>, P. A. Duc<sup>17</sup>, P. Fosalba<sup>15,16</sup>, D. Guinet<sup>14</sup>, S. Kruk<sup>18</sup>, U. Kuchner<sup>19</sup>, S. Serrano<sup>15,16</sup>, E. Soubrie<sup>1</sup>, A. Tramacere<sup>20</sup>, L. Wang<sup>21,22</sup>, A. Amara<sup>23</sup>, N. Auricchio<sup>24</sup>, R. Bender<sup>25,26</sup>, C. Bodendorf<sup>26</sup>, D. Bonino<sup>27</sup>, E. Branchini<sup>28,29</sup>, S. Brau-Nogue<sup>13</sup>, M. Brescia<sup>30</sup>, V. Capobianco<sup>27</sup>, C. Carbona<sup>31</sup>, J. Carretero<sup>32</sup>, S. Cavuoti<sup>30,33,34</sup>, A. Cimatti<sup>35,36</sup>, R. Cledassou<sup>37,38</sup>, G. Congedo<sup>39</sup>, L. Conversi<sup>40,41</sup>, Y. Copin<sup>42</sup>, L. Corcione<sup>27</sup>, A. Costille<sup>7</sup>, M. Cropper<sup>43</sup>, A. Da Silva<sup>44,45</sup>, H. Degaudenzi<sup>20</sup>, M. Douspis<sup>1</sup>, F. Dubath<sup>20</sup>, C. A. J. Duncan<sup>46</sup>, X. Dupac<sup>41</sup>, S. Dusini<sup>47</sup>, S. Farrens<sup>6</sup>, S. Ferriol<sup>42</sup>, M. Frailis<sup>48</sup>, E. Franceschi<sup>24</sup>, M. Fumana<sup>31</sup>,

#### Lenses In VoicE (LIVE): Searching for strong gravitational lenses in the **VOICE@VST survey using Convolutional Neural Networks**

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Astronomy Astrophysics

#### HOLISMOKES

#### II. Identifying galaxy-scale strong gravitational lenses in Pan-STARRS using convolutional neural networks\*

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#### New High-quality Strong Lens Candidates with Deep Learning in the Kilo-Degree Survey

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#### Capturing the Physics of MaNGA Galaxies with Self-supervised Machine Learning

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#### Abstract As available data sets grow in size and complexity, advanced visualization tools enabling their exploration and analysis become more important. In modern astronomy, integral field spectroscopic galaxy surveys are a clear

Deep Learning to the

## Rescue

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# Computer Vision



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### Convolutional Neural Networks

Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) use convolution operations to extract meaningful features from images or other structured data.



### Current Trend in Computer Vision







Image credits :https://theaisummer.com/self-attention/

Transformers and Self-Attention



### Attention in Action









### LSBG Detection Transformer (LSBG DETR)

We can assume that the Encoder model works in 3

phases.

- •CNN To extract the Features
- •Encoder To filter the relevant Features of the

image

 $\bullet \textbf{FFN}-\textbf{To}$  learn the relevant Features



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Image taken from Thuruthipilly et al. (2022)



### LSBG Vision Transformer

- The Vision Transformer (ViT) divides an image into a grid of patches and feed it to a transformer encoder layer.
- Flattened patches are processed through multiple transformer layers, and make predictions.





#### Ensemble Models

- Ensemble models in deep learning refer to combining multiple models to create a single model that performs better than the individual models.
- The idea behind ensemble models is to reduce the generalisation error and increase the stability of the system by taking into account multiple sources of information.



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Image taken from W. Jiang et al, (IEEE Access, vol. 7, pp. 120337-120349, 2019)





### Back to Astronomy from ML

Or are we ?



### Dark Energy Survey



The Dark Energy Survey (DES) is a sixyear observing program (2013-2019) covering ~ 5000 deg<sup>2</sup> of the sky.

- The DES has observed the sky in grizY photometric bands.
- Detected around **319 million** objects.
- Tanoglidis et al. (2021) identified 23,790 LSBGs from DES.

#### DeepShadows

DeepShadows is a CNN created by Tanoglidis et al. (2021b) to separate between LSBGs and artefacts.

DeepShadows achieved TP = 94% and an accuracy 92%.



1750

1500

Number of Examples 1000 220 220

500

250

0

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LSBGs

Artifacts

Image taken from Tanoglidis et al. (2021b)





# LSBG Detection 2.0

Thuruthipilly et al (2023) submitted in collaboration for reviewing.



### Results on Labelled Dataset - I

Model name	Accuracy (%)
LSBG VISION 1	93.55
LSBG VISION 2	93.79
LSBG VISION 3	93.47
LSBG VISION 4	93.51
LSBG VISION Ensemble	93.75
LSBG DETR 1	94.36
LSBG DETR 2	94.28
LSBG DETR 3	94.36
LSBG DETR 4	94.24
LSBG DETR Ensemble	94.60

Accuracy of DeepShadows CNN = 92.00%

+2.5 % accuracy for LSST means ≈

- +2,000 additional LSBGs (CNN).
- +8,000 additional LSBGs (noncomputer vision).
- -4,000 artefacts during visual inspection (CNN).
- -50,000 artefacts during visual inspection (non-computer vision).



#### Results on Labelled Dataset - II



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Transformer Models



### False Negatives of Transformers



Presence of a bright artefact nearby



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Too faint to be observed



#### False Positives of Transformers



Difficult to classify



Mislabelled LSBG



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Blended objects



### Search for New LSBGs from DES DR1







# Inspection





#### New LSBGs Identified



Coadd Object ID: 70739980 Coadd Object ID: 295747204

Coadd Object ID: 67813078

Coadd Object ID: 439755439



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#### Properties of New LSBGs - I





Mean Surface brightness distribution

Half-light radius distribution

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#### Properties of New LSBGs - II



#### Red and Blue LSBGs

- Blue galaxies are generally actively forming stars and are so named because they emit more light at shorter, bluer wavelengths, which is a hallmark of young, hot stars.
- Red galaxies, on the other hand, emit more light at longer, redder wavelengths, indicating red galaxies tend to have older, more evolved stars, and are therefore less active in terms of star formation.











Blue LSBGs

### Clustering of LSBGs

To measure the extent of we computed the angular two-point autocorrelation function,  $\omega(\theta)$ .

Generally, the angular correlation function for galaxies follows a power-law behavior,  $\omega(\theta) \propto \theta^{\gamma}$  where  $\gamma$  represents the strength of the clustering.

$$(\theta)m_{10}$$

Surprisingly, there is a significant difference in the value of  $\gamma$  for LSBGs compared to HSBGs (-0.7 to -0.8).





### Number Density of LSBGs

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Greco et al. (2018)	Tanoglidis et al. (2021)	Thuruthipilly et al. (2023)
Number density reported by Greco et al. (2018) ~ <b>3.9</b> deg^2 in HSC SSP.	Number density reported by Tanoglidis et al. (2021) ~ <b>4.5</b> deg^2 in DES DR1.	New number density ~ <b>4.9</b> deg^2 (expected to increase more.)

Total Sky area is 41,253 degree^2 and increase in 0.4 in number density ~ +16500 LSBGs. Making LSBGs a potential candidate for the missing baryon problem.



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# What is an LSBG ?

Definitions of an LSBGs are based on the surface brightness magnitudes, which is an observation-dependent quantity leading to discrepancies.

One possible solution is to define an LSBG based on the stellar mass density of the galaxy\*.

 $\Sigma_{star} \lesssim 10^7 \, M_{\odot} \, kpc^{-2}$ 

(\*Carleton et al. 2023)



10 % of LSBGs from DES and 15 % of LSBGs from HSC will be eliminated with the new definition.



## Methodology



### Future ?

Problems ?

Bonus Sample of 3913 candidates remains + 1260 candidates needed to be refitted.

Number density ~ 6 deg^2 forecasting around 120,000 new LSBGs from LSST.

Transfer learning to HSC SSP survey to look for new LSBGs in different part of the sky.

Search for LSBGs in DES DR2.

**Visual Inspection** impossible for confirmation.

### Solutions ?

- Crowd Science for confirmation.
- Accept a small number of FP in the data.



## Scientific Perspective



H1 spectroscopic follow up of the identified LSBGs to estimate redshift.

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Analyze the clustering of LSBGs and its difference with HSBGs.





**Definition** of an LSBG based on better statistics.



#### Summary



Transformer models can effectively identify LSBs from the current and the upcoming large scale surveys.

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We have identified 4083 new LSBGs from DES DR1 increasing the numbers of LSBGs in DES by ~17%.



Increased number density of LSBGs to 5.5 per deg<sup>2</sup>



## Thank You Questions ?



#### Completeness of Survey

The LSBGs found are local since the value of the slope ~ 0.6.

Surveys with better completeness will increase the angular number density of the LSBGs further.

![](_page_48_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_48_Picture_4.jpeg)