

Exploring large spectroscopic surveys using t-SNE reduction of spectral information

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What are peculiar objects ?

- Spectroscopic data (Gaia-ESO, RAVE, Galah)
- “Unbiased sample” ⇒ **peculiar stars + observational & reduction artefacts** (cosmic rays, weird continuum shapes, ...)
- Plethora of peculiarities: emission stars, chromospherically active stars, multiple systems, ...
- Peculiarity and unexpected issues ⇒ imprint on observational data!



How to handle them ?

- People (astronomers) are visual beings ⇒ **visual analytics**
- **Analytical reasoning** facilitated by **interactive visual interfaces**



- General unbiased discovery tool: **t-SNE** manifold learner
(**t**-distributed **S**tochastic **N**eighbour **E**mbedding)

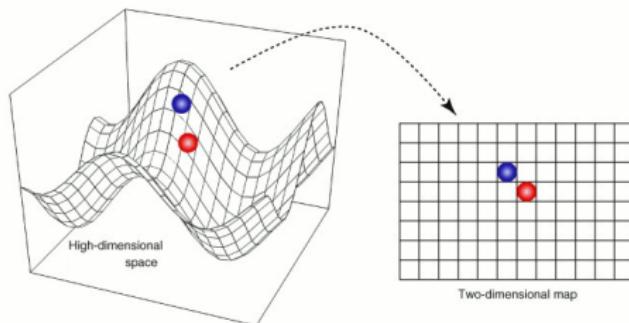
Laurens Van Der Matten ⇒ Gal Matijević (RAVE) ⇒ Gaia-ESO, Galah

Clustering - dimensionality reduction

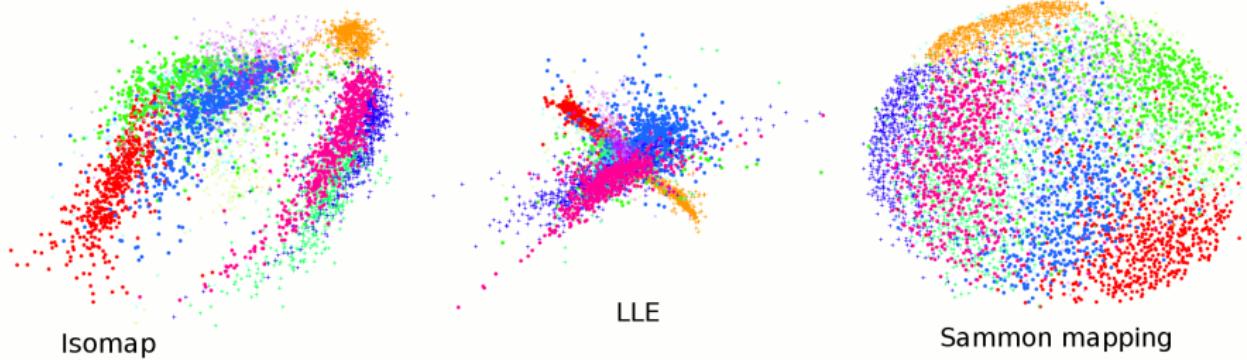
"Essentially, all models are wrong but some are useful"

George E.P. Box

- High dimensional (pixel) space A \Rightarrow low dimensional space B
- Dim. reduction \Rightarrow information loss
- Preserve important information \Rightarrow intrinsic dimensionality of the spectra (Teff, elemental abundances, chromospheric emission, etc.)
- Projection should retain structure of some low-D manifold on which our datapoints lie



MNIST database of 6000 handwritten digits



7210414959
0690159784
9665407401
3134727121
1742351244

Math of t-distributed Stochastic Neighbour Embedding

t-SNE objective: minimize divergence between distributions P_i and Q_i of pairwise similarities in A and B

- ❶ Euclidean distances in original space A \Rightarrow pairwise similarities ($p_{j|i}$)

$$p_{j|i} = \frac{\exp(-\|a_i - a_j\|^2/2\sigma_i^2)}{\sum_{k \neq i} \exp(-\|a_i - a_k\|^2/2\sigma_i^2)}, \quad p_{i|i} = 0, \quad p_{ij} = \frac{p_{j|i} + p_{i|j}}{2N}$$

$$\sigma_i \rightarrow P_i, \quad Perp(P_i) = 2^{H(P_i)}, \quad H(P_i) = -\sum_j p_{j|i} \log_2 p_{j|i}$$

- ❷ Pairwise similarities in projection space B with heavy-tailed Student-t

$$q_{ij} = \frac{(1 + \|b_i - b_j\|^2)^{-1}}{\sum_{k \neq l} (1 + \|b_k - b_l\|^2)^{-1}}$$

- ❸ Minimize the Kullback-Leibler divergence between the two distributions

$$C = KL(P\|Q) = \sum_i \sum_j p_{ij} \log \frac{p_{ij}}{q_{ij}}$$

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Math of t-distributed Stochastic Neighbour Embedding

$$\text{GRADIENT: } \frac{\partial C}{\partial b_i} = 4 \sum_j (p_{ij} - q_{ij})(b_i - b_j)(1 + \|b_i - b_j\|^2)^{-1}$$

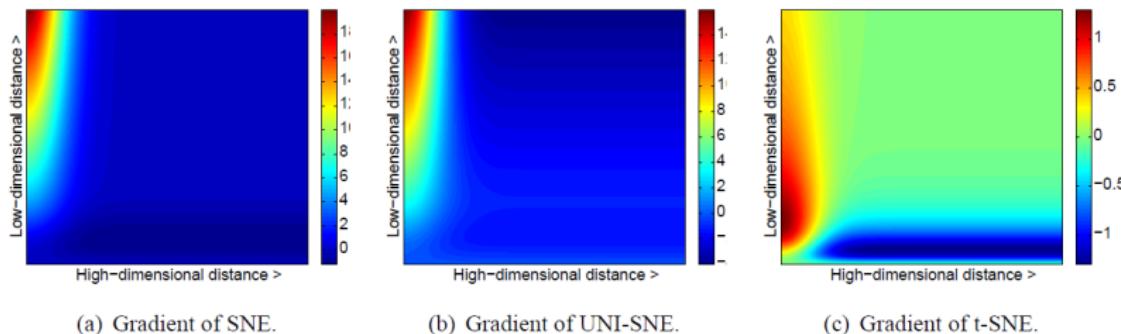


Figure : x: $\|a_i - a_j\|$, y: $\|b_i - b_j\|$, positive gradient: attraction

t-SNE advantage:

- ① model dissimilar datapoints with large pairwise distances
- ② model similar datapoints with small pairwise distances

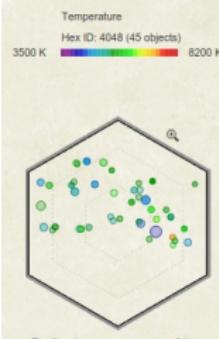


Galah Explorer v1.1

t-SNE projection of 214093 Galah spectra. [README](#)

FLAGS ALL FLAGS DBSCAN: ...

SETUP: 1 pass short range P 30



- * Temperature (GUESS)
- Gravity (GUESS)
- Metallicity (GUESS)
- S/N (Iraf dr5.1)
- S/N 2 (Iraf dr5.1)
- Radial vel. (GUESS)
- Gal. long. I
- Gal. int. b
- Class. cat.

date (Iraf dr5.1)
subject_id (Iraf dr5.1)
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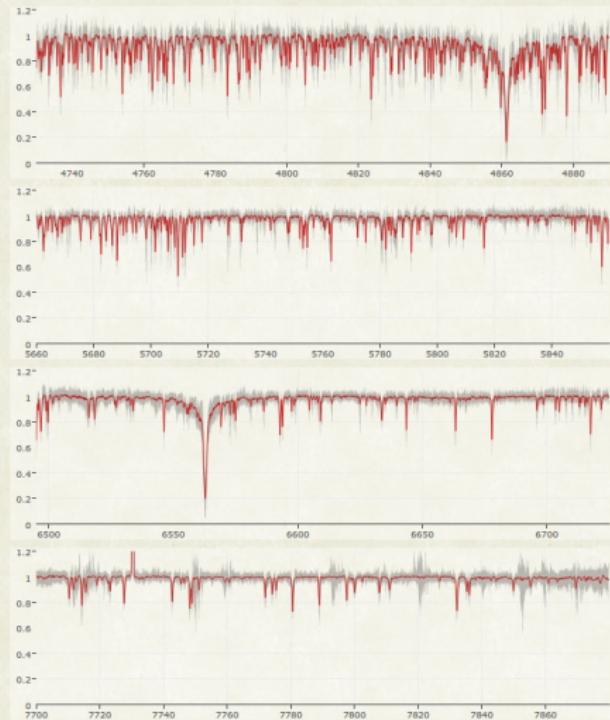
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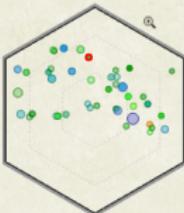
Galah Explorer v1.1

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FLAGS ALL FLAGS DBSCAN: ...

SETUP: 1 pass short range P 30

Temperature
Hex ID: 4048 (45 objects)
3500 K 8200 K

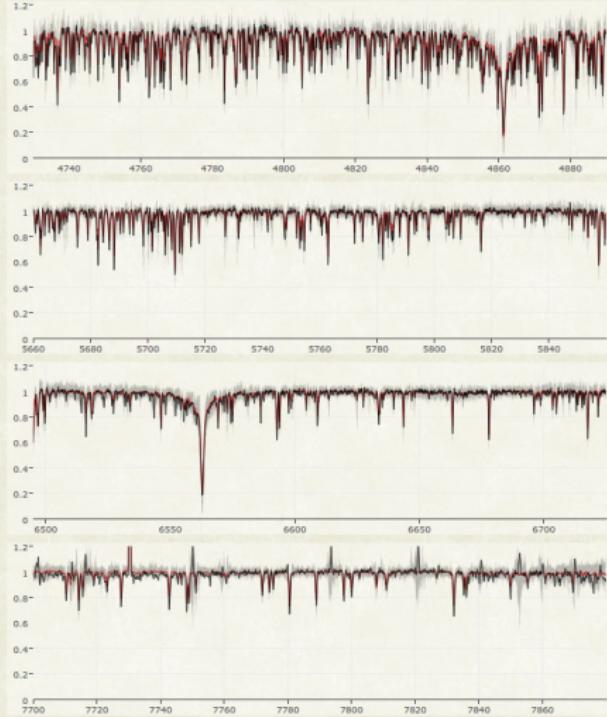
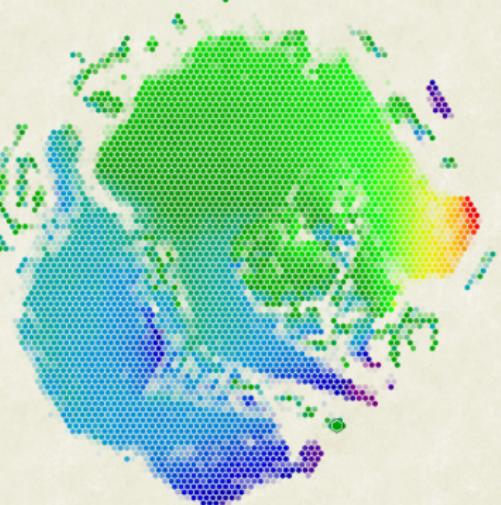


- * Temperature (GUESS) 5695.989
- Gravity (GUESS) 4.116
- Metallicity (GUESS) 0.196
- S/N (GUESS) 44.3
- S/N (iraf dr5.1) 56.869
- S/N 2 (iraf dr5.1) 46.869
- Radial vel. (GUESS) 4.344
- Gal. long. l 220.778
- Gal. lat. b 30.81
- Class. cat.

date (iraf dr5.1) 140310
subject_id (iraf dr5.1) 140310003301364

links [Vizier](#) [Simbad](#)

Search by GALAH ID 6224678 Search by COB ID 140310003301364
Search by subject_id 336





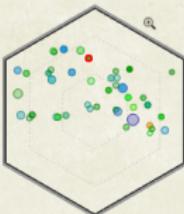
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SETUP: 1 pass short range P 30

Temperature (GUESS)
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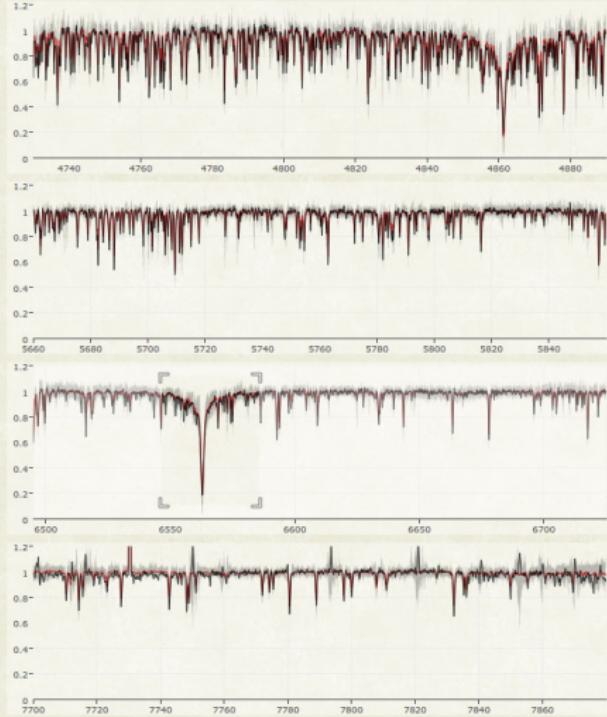
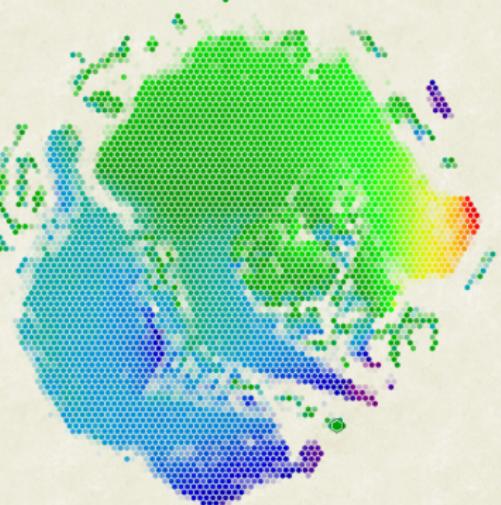


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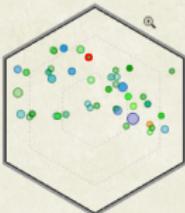
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t-SNE projection of 214093 Galah spectra. [README](#)

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3500 K Hex ID: 4048 (45 objects) 8200 K



Temperature (GUESS)	5695.989
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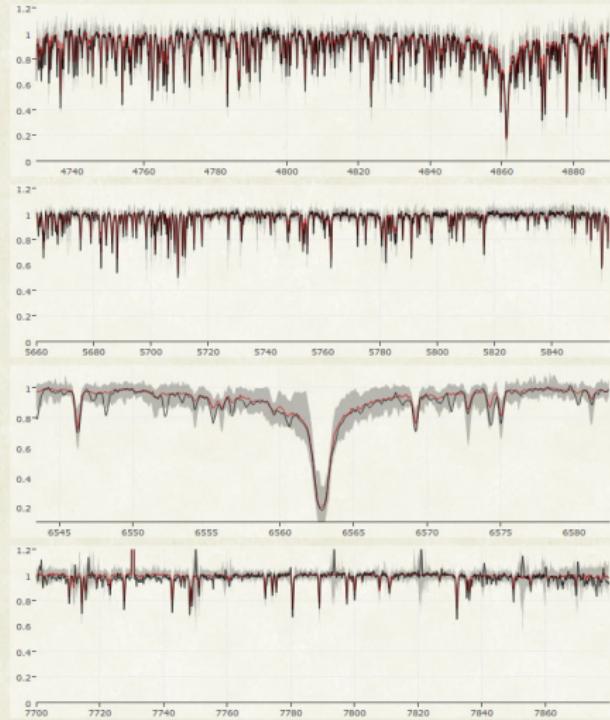
links [Vizier](#) [Simbad](#)

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336

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t-SNE projection of 214093 Galah spectra. [README](#)

FLAGS ALL FLAGS DBSCAN: ...

SETUP: 1 pass short range P 30

Gravity (GUESS)

Hex ID: 4048 (45 objects)
0.0 dex — 5.0 dex



- Gravity *
- Gravity (GUESS) 4.116
- Velocity (GUESS) 0.196
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- S/N 1 (S/N < 5.1) 56.869
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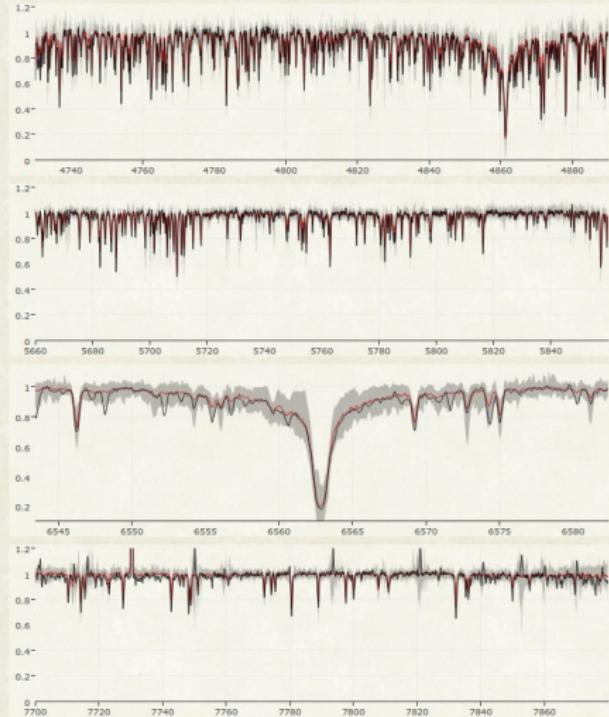
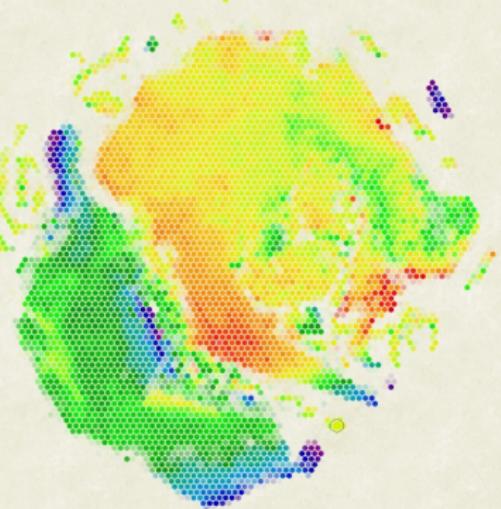
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Search by subject_id
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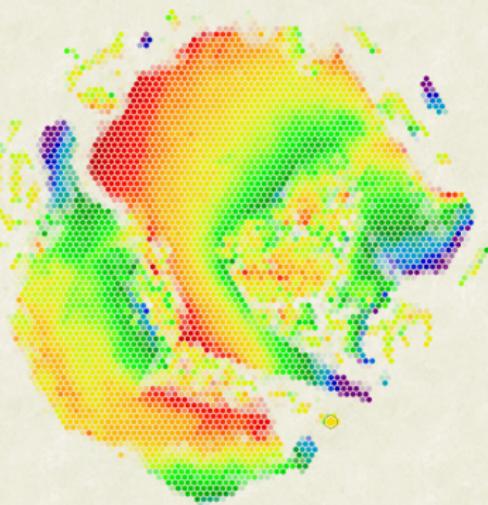
Galah Explorer v1.1

t-SNE projection of 214093 Galah spectra. [README](#)

FLAGS ALL FLAGS DBSCAN: ...

SETUP: 1 pass short range P 30

Metallicity (GUESS)
Hex ID: 4048 (45 objects)
-2.0 dex 0.3 dex

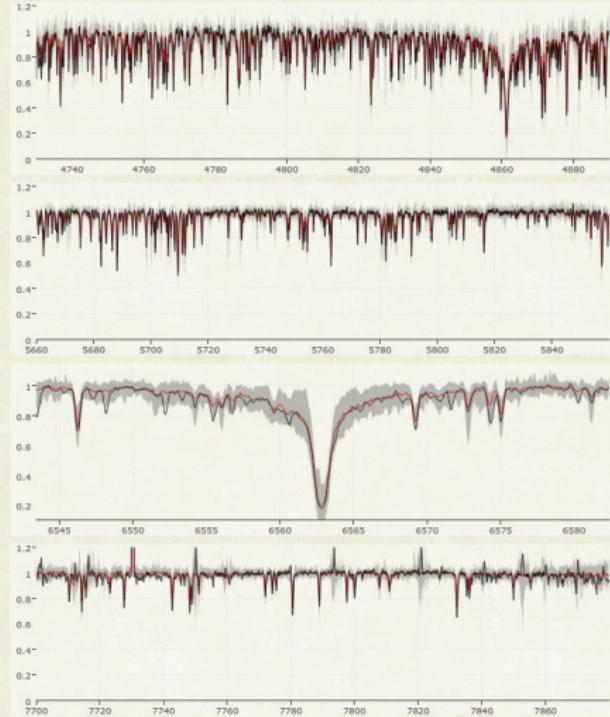


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subject_id (Iraf dr5.1) 140310003301364

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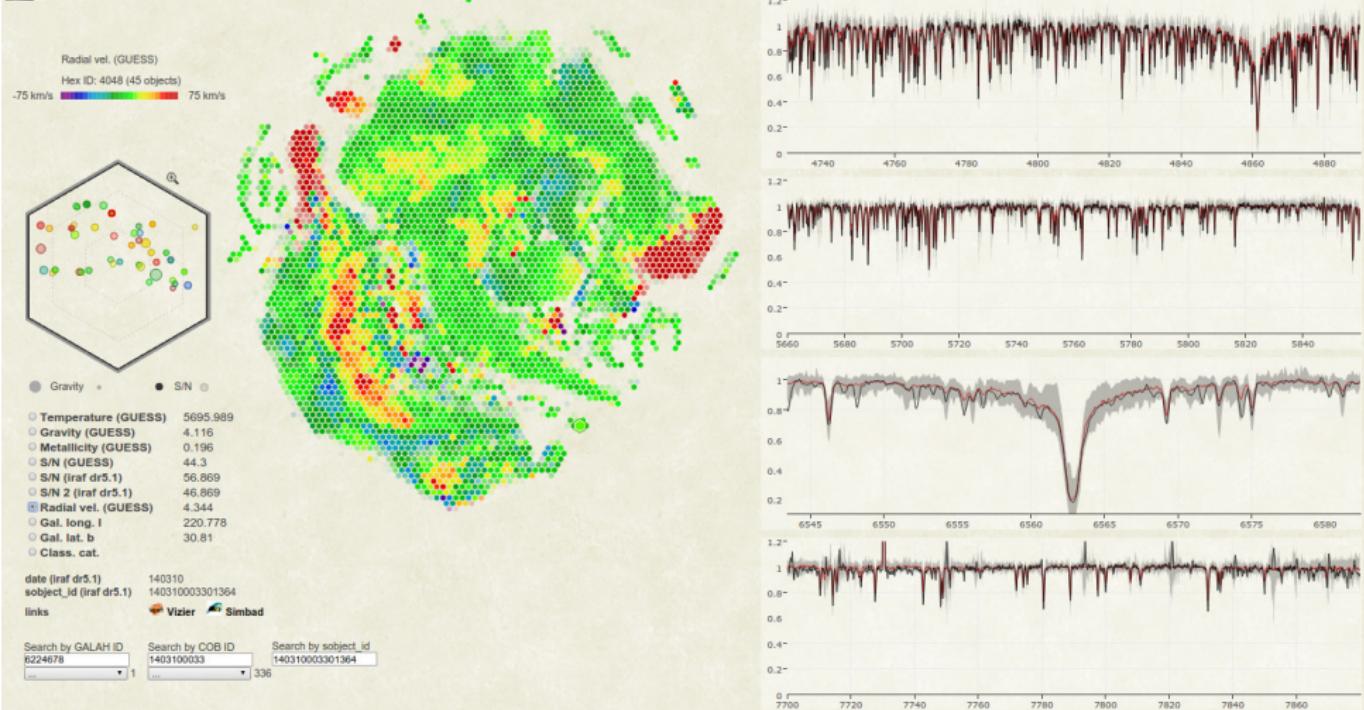


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FLAGS ALL FLAGS DBSCAN: ...

SETUP: 1 pass short range P 30





Galah Explorer v1.1

t-SNE projection of 76938 Galah spectra [README](#)

[FLAGS](#)[ALL FLAGS](#)[DBSCAN](#):

...

SETUP: [2 pass full range P 30](#)

Temperature

3500 K 8200 K



- Gravity *
- S/N ◊
- * Temperature (GUESS)
- ◊ Gravity (GUESS)
- ◊ Metallicity (GUESS)
- ◊ S/N (GUESS)
- ◊ S/N (iraf dr5.1)
- ◊ S/N 2 (iraf dr5.1)
- ◊ Radial vel. (GUESS)
- ◊ Gal. long. I
- ◊ Gal. int. b
- ◊ Class. cat.

date (iraf dr5.1)
subject_id (iraf dr5.1)
links

Search by GALAH ID Search by COB ID Search by subject_id



1.2°

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0.8°

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Galah Explorer v1.1

t-SNE projection of 76938 Galah spectra [README](#)

[FLAGS](#)[ALL FLAGS](#)[DBSCAN](#):

...

SETUP: [2 pass full range P 30](#)

- cool metal-poor giants [3532]
- emission spikes - cd3 cod3 [6873]
- oscillating continuum - cd3 [3009]
- binary [2229]
- emission spike(s) - cd4 [12946]
- reduction issue - cd4 [54]
- negative flux [3369]
- mol. absorption bands [1728]
- HaHb emission [348]
- hot stars [5101]

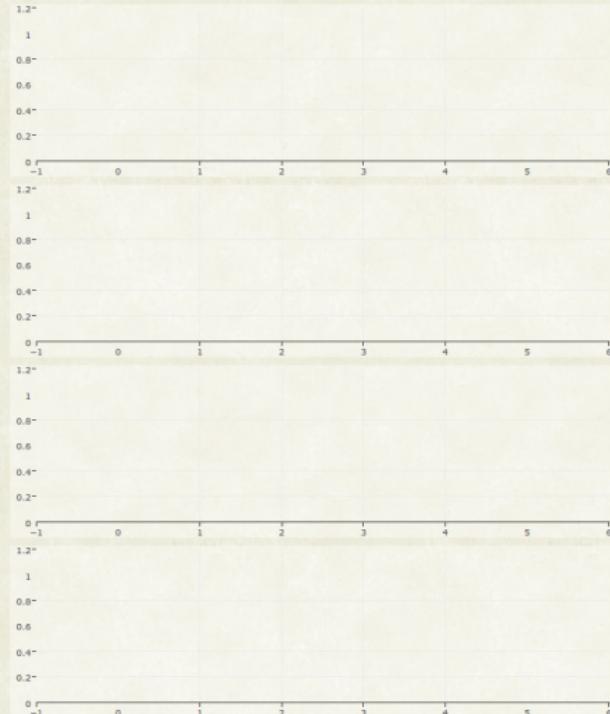
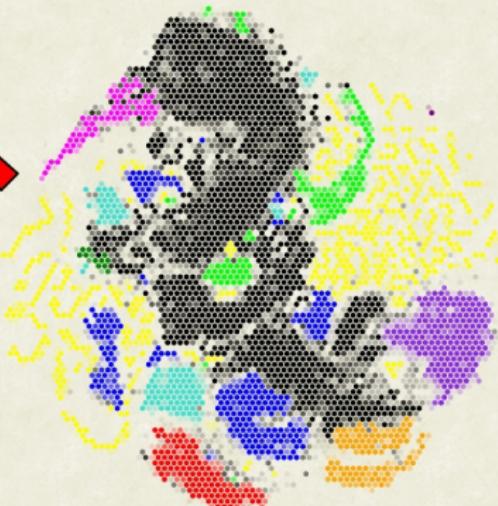


● Gravity *

● S/N ◊

- ◊ Temperature (GUESS)
- ◊ Gravity (GUESS)
- ◊ Metallicity (GUESS)
- ◊ S/N (GUESS)
- ◊ S/N (iraf dr5.1)
- ◊ S/N 2 (iraf dr5.1)
- ◊ Radial vel. (GUESS)
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- ◊ Gal. int. b
- ◊ Class. cat.

date (iraf dr5.1)
subject_id (iraf dr5.1)
links

[Search by GALAH ID](#)[Search by COB ID](#)[Search by subject_id](#)



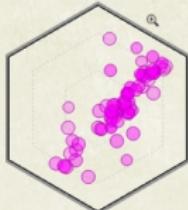
Galah Explorer v1.1

t-SNE projection of 76938 Galah spectra [README](#)

FLAGS ALL FLAGS DBSCAN: ...

SETUP: 2 pass full range P 30

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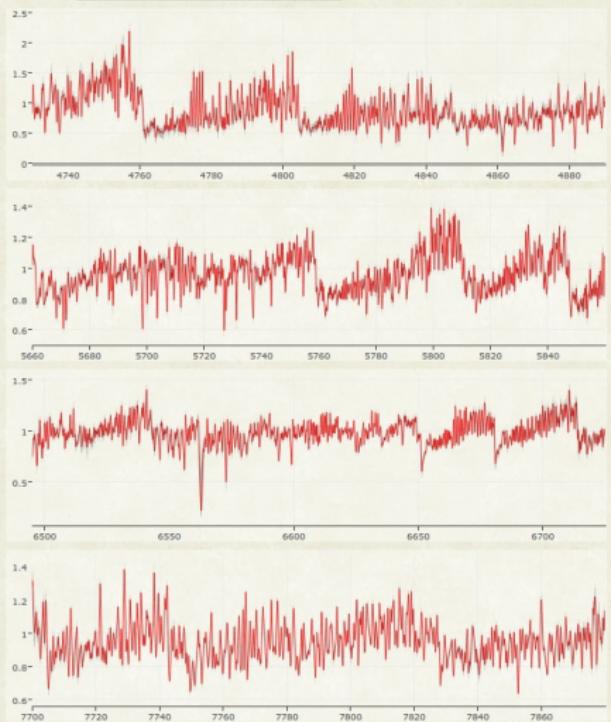
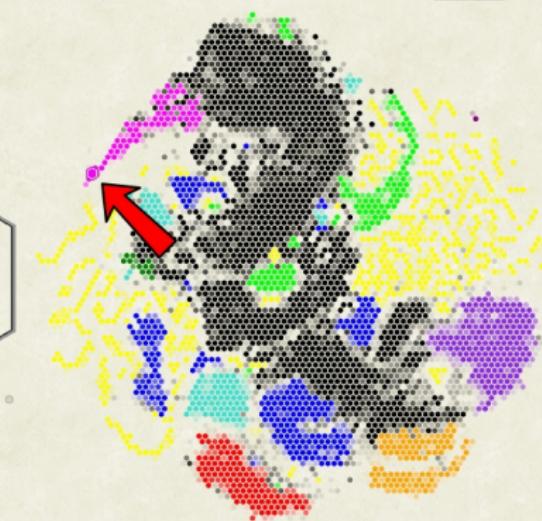


- Gravity *
- S/N ◦
- Temperature (GUESS)
- Gravity (GUESS)
- Metallicity (GUESS)
- S/N (GUESS)
- S/N (iraf dr5.1)
- S/N 2 (iraf dr5.1)
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- Gal. long. I
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- Class. cat.

mol. absorption bands

date (iraf dr5.1)
subject_id (iraf dr5.1)
links

Search by GALAH ID Search by COB ID Search by subject_id





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t-SNE projection of 76938 Galah spectra [README](#)

FLAGS ALL FLAGS DBSCAN: ...

SETUP: 2 pass full range P 30

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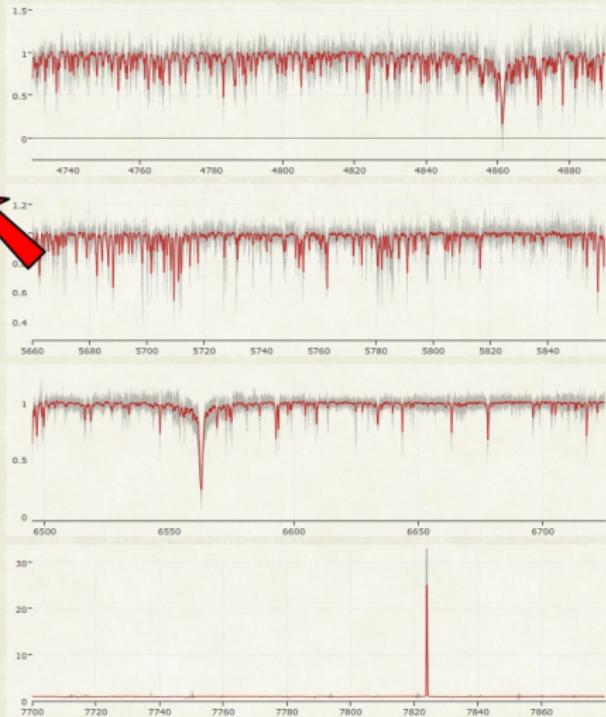
Gravity * S/N ◊

- Temperature (GUESS)
- Gravity (GUESS)
- Metallicity (GUESS)
- S/N (GUESS)
- S/N (iraf dr5.1)
- S/N 2 (iraf dr5.1)
- Radial vel. (GUESS)
- Gal. long. I
- Gal. int. b
- Class. cat.

emission spike(s) - ccd4

date (iraf dr5.1)
subject_id (iraf dr5.1)
links

Search by GALAH ID Search by COB ID Search by subject_id





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t-SNE projection of 76938 Galah spectra [README](#)

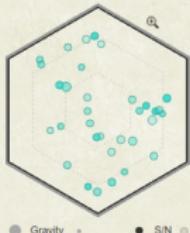
FLAGS

ALL FLAGS

DBSCAN: ...

SETUP: 2 pass full range P 30

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- Gravity
- S/N
- Temperature (GUESS)
- Gravity (GUESS)
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- S/N (GUESS)
- S/N (iraf dr5.1)
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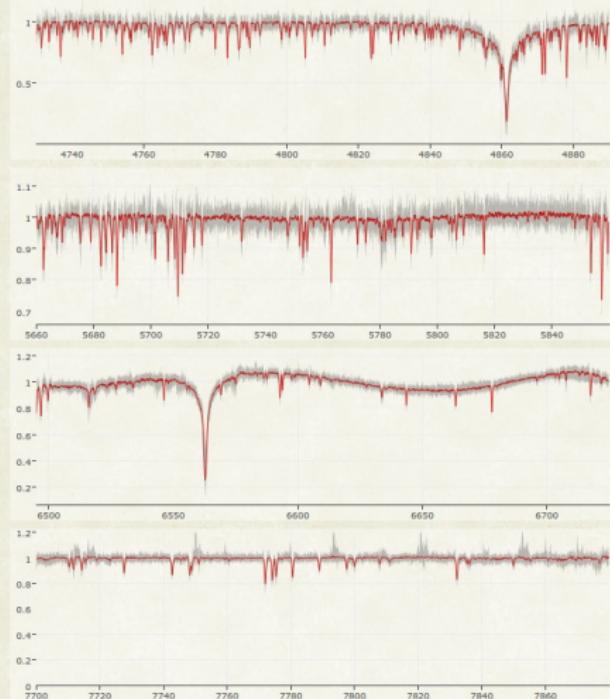
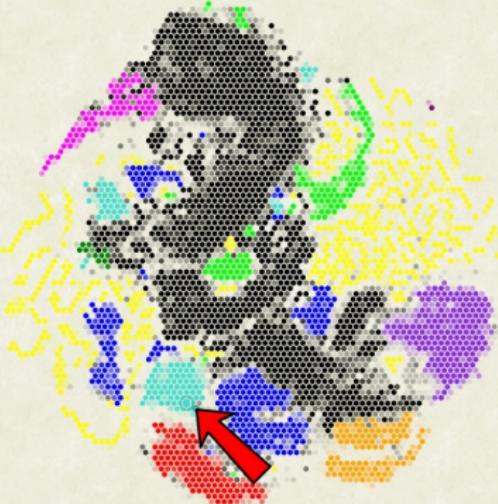
oscillating continuum - cod3

date (iraf dr5.1)
subject_id (iraf dr5.1)
links

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3373675
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Search by COB ID
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Search by subject_id
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Galah Explorer v1.1

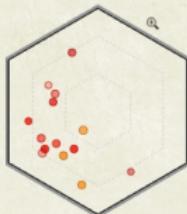
t-SNE projection of 76938 Galah spectra [README](#)

[FLAGS](#)[ALL FLAGS](#)[DBSCAN:](#)

...

SETUP: 2 pass full range P 30

Temperature (GUESS)

3500 K
Hex ID: 4136 (14 objects)
8200 K

● Gravity

● S/N

- Temperature (GUESS)
- Gravity (GUESS)
- Metallicity (GUESS)
- S/N (GUESS)
- S/N (iraf dr5.1)
- S/N 2 (iraf dr5.1)
- Radial vel. (GUESS)
- Gal. long. I
- Gal. int. b
- Class. cat.

hot stars

date (iraf dr5.1)

subject_id (iraf dr5.1)

links

Search by GALAH ID

3373675

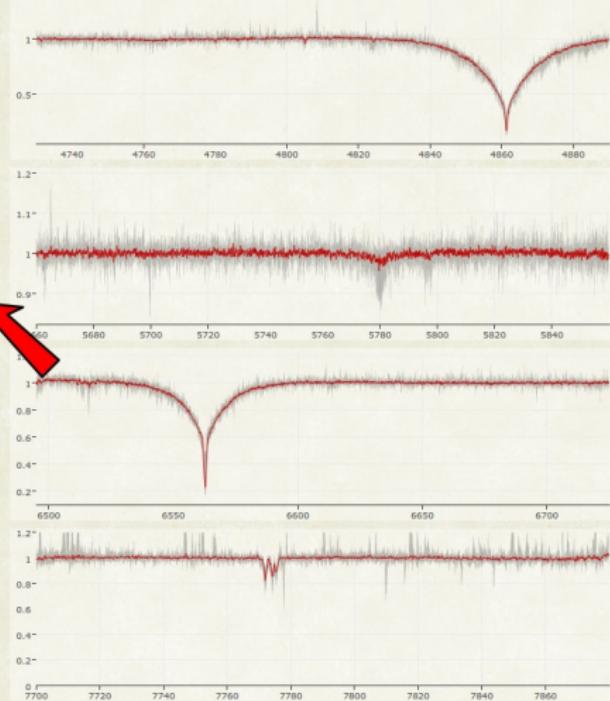
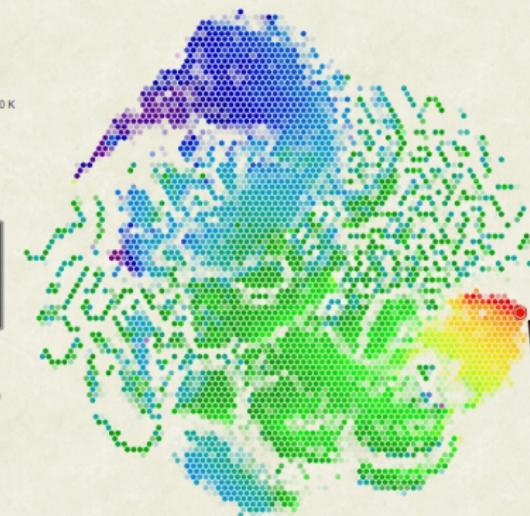
Search by COB ID

1501050028

Search by subject_id

150105002801017

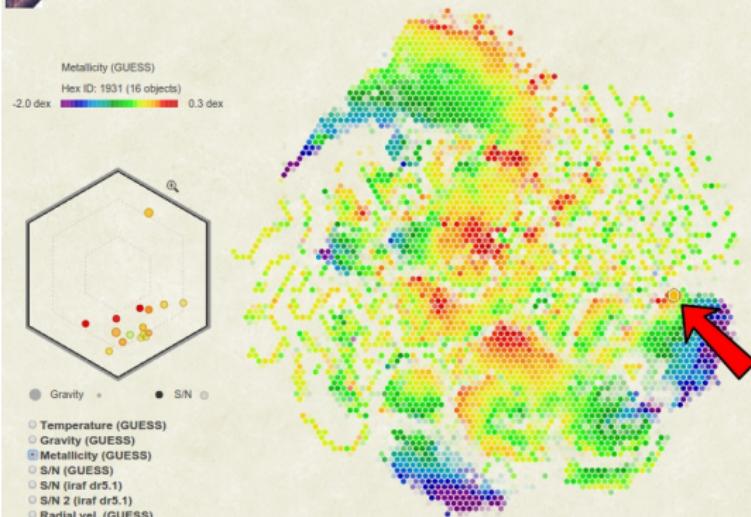
87





Galah Explorer v1.1

t-SNE projection of 76938 Galah spectra [README](#)

[FLAGS](#)[ALL FLAGS](#)[DBSCAN: ...](#)[SETUP: 2 pass full range P 30](#)

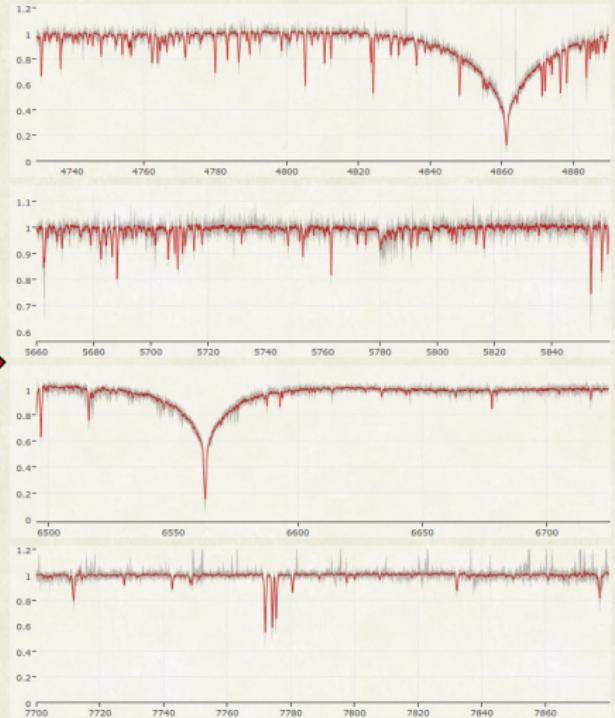
hot stars

date (iraf dr5.1)
subject_id (iraf dr5.1)
links

Search by GALAH ID
3373675
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Search by COB ID
1501050028
... 87

Search by subject_id
150105002801017





Galah Explorer v1.1

t-SNE projection of 76938 Galah spectra [README](#)

FLAGS ALL FLAGS DBSCAN: ...

SETUP: 2 pass full range P 30

- cool metal-poor giants [3532]
- emission spikes - ccd3 ccd5 [6873]
- oscillating continuum - ccd3 [3009]
- binary [2229]
- emission spike(s) - ccd4 [12946]
- reduction issue - ccd4 [54]
- negative flux [3369]
- mol. absorption bands [1728]
- HαHβ emission [348]
- hot stars [5101]



- Temperature (GUESS)
- Gravity (GUESS)
- Metallicity (GUESS)
- S/N (GUESS)
- S/N (iraf dr5.1)
- S/N 2 (iraf dr5.1)
- Radial vel. (GUESS)
- Gal. long. I
- Gal. lat. b
- Class. cat.

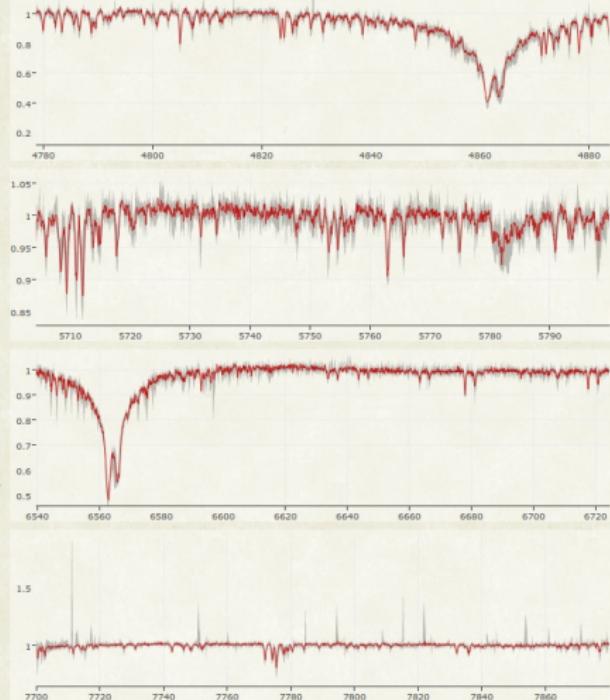
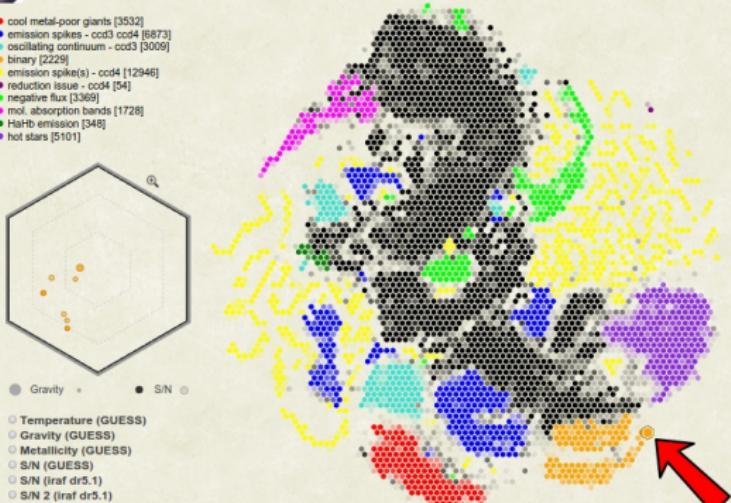
date (iraf dr5.1)
subject_id (iraf dr5.1)
links

Search by GALAH ID
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Galah Explorer v1.1

t-SNE projection of 76938 Galah spectra [README](#)

FLAGS ALL FLAGS DBSCAN: ...

SETUP: 2 pass full range P 30

- cool metal-poor giants [3532]
- emission spikes - ccd3 ccd4 [6873]
- oscillating continuum - ccd3 [3009]
- binary [2229]
- emission spike(s) - ccd4 [12946]
- reduction issue - ccd4 [54]
- negative flux [3369]
- mol. absorption bands [1728]
- HαHβ emission [348]
- hot stars [5101]



Gravity *

- Temperature (GUESS)
- Gravity (GUESS)
- Metallicity (GUESS)
- S/N (GUESS)
- S/N (iraf dr5.1)
- S/N 2 (iraf dr5.1)
- Radial vel. (GUESS)
- Gal. long. I
- Gal. lat. b
- Class. cat.

date (iraf dr5.1)
subject_id (iraf dr5.1)
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Search by GALAH ID

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Search by COB ID

1501050028

Search by subject_id

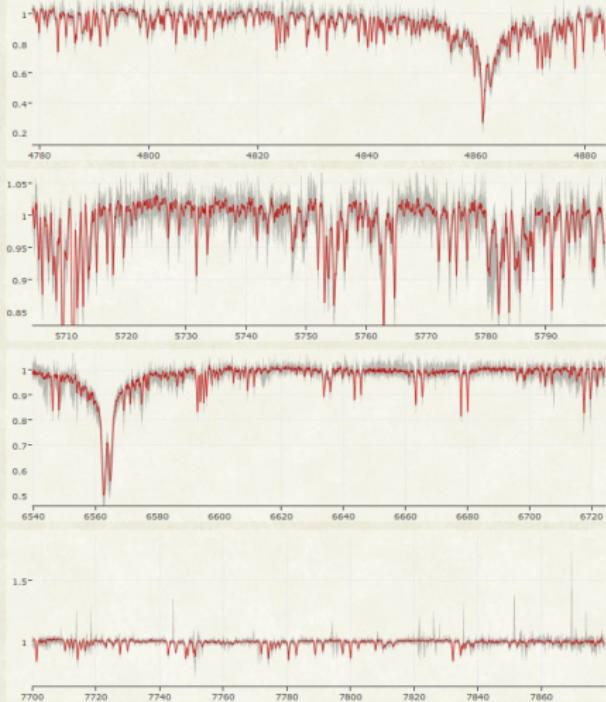
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Galah Explorer v1.1

t-SNE projection of 76938 Galah spectra [README](#)

FLAGS ALL FLAGS DBSCAN: ...

SETUP: 2 pass full range P 30

- cool metal-poor giants [3532]
- emission spikes - ccd3 ccd4 [6873]
- oscillating continuum - ccd3 [3009]
- binary [2229]
- emission spike(s) - ccd4 [12946]
- reduction issue - ccd4 [54]
- negative flux [3369]
- mol. absorption bands [1728]
- HαHβ emission [348]
- hot stars [5101]



Temperature (GUESS)

Gravity (GUESS)

Metallicity (GUESS)

S/N (GUESS)

S/N (iraf dr5.1)

S/N 2 (iraf dr5.1)

Radial vel. (GUESS)

Gal. long. I

Gal. int. b

Class. cat.

date (iraf dr5.1)

subject_id (iraf dr5.1)

links

Search by GALAH ID

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Search by subject_id

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Galah Explorer v1.1

t-SNE projection of 76938 Galah spectra. [README](#)

FLAGS

ALL FLAGS

DBSCAN: ...

SETUP: 2 pass full range P 30

- cool metal-poor giants [3532]
- emission spikes - ccd3 ccd4 [6873]
- oscillating continuum - ccd3 [3009]
- binary [2229]
- emission spike(s) - ccd4 [12946]
- reduction issue - ccd4 [54]
- negative flux [3369]
- mol. absorption bands [1728]
- HαHβ emission [348]
- hot stars [5101]



Temperature (GUESS)

Gravity (GUESS)

Metallicity (GUESS)

S/N (GUESS)

S/N (iraf dr5.1)

S/N 2 (iraf dr5.1)

Radial vel. (GUESS)

Gal. long. I

Gal. lat. b

Class. cat.

date (iraf dr5.1)

subject_id (iraf dr5.1)

links

Search by GALAH ID

Search by COB ID

Search by subject_id

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1503300017

150330001701026

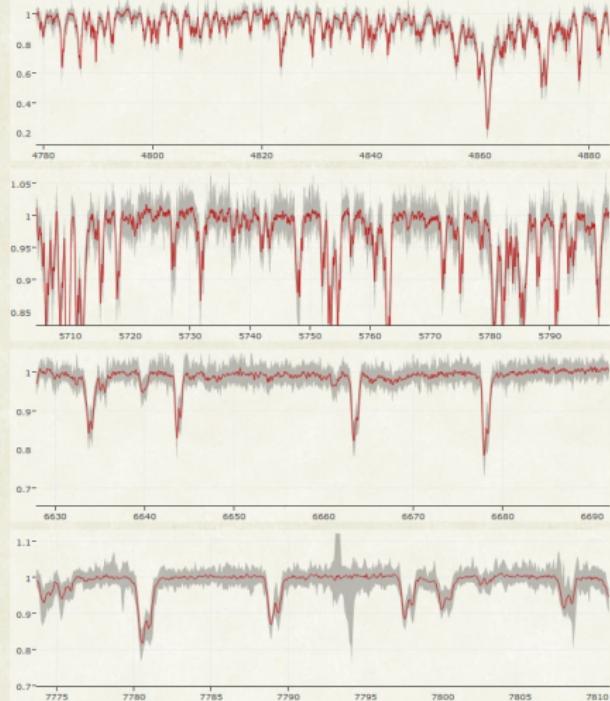
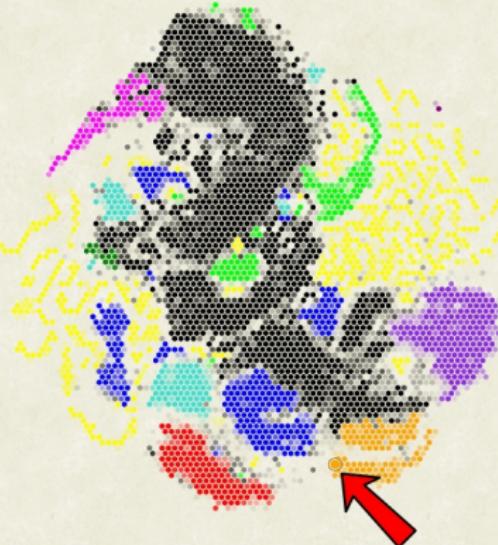
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binary





Galah Explorer v1.1

t-SNE projection of 45028 Galah spectra [README](#)

FLAGS

ALL FLAGS

DBSCAN: ...

SETUP: 2 pass HaHbLi 2AA P 15

- oscillating continuum - cod3 [2767]
- binary [1730]
- Li abs. - shallow [593]
- H α emission in abs. [549]
- H β negative flux [512]
- HaHb emission [214]
- HaHb inv. p-cygni [412]
- Ha negative flux [94]
- Li abs. - strong [276]
- Li abs. p-cygni [85]



● Gravity

● S/N

○ Temperature (GUESS)

○ Gravity (GUESS)

○ Metallicity (GUESS)

○ S/N (GUESS)

○ S/N (iraf dr5.1)

○ S/N 2 (iraf dr5.1)

○ Radial vel. (GUESS)

○ Gal. long. I

○ Gal. int. b

● Class. cat.

Li abs. - strong

date (iraf dr5.1)

subject_id (iraf dr5.1)

links

Search by GALAH ID

Search by COB ID

Search by subject_id

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Galah Explorer v1.1

t-SNE projection of 45028 Galah spectra [README](#)

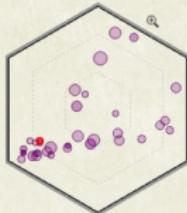
FLAGS

ALL FLAGS

DBSCAN: ...

SETUP: 2 pass HaHbLi 2AA P 15

- oscillating continuum - ccd3 [2767]
- binary [1730]
- Li abs. - shallow [593]
- H α emission in abs. [549]
- H α negative flux [512]
- HaHb emission [214]
- HaHb inv. p-cygni [412]
- Ha negative flux [94]
- Li abs. - strong [276]
- LiHb p-cygni [85]



Temperature (GUESS) 3170.037

Gravity (GUESS) 3.695

Metallicity (GUESS) -0.592

S/N (GUESS) 18

S/N (Iraf dr5.1) 18.411

S/N 2 (Iraf dr5.1) 12.389

Radial vel. (GUESS) -7.378

Gal. long. l 352.615

Gal. lat. b 24.418

* Class. cat. HaHb emission

date (Iraf dr5.1) 140707

subject_id (Iraf dr5.1) 140707000601365

links [Vizier](#) [Simbad](#)

Search by GALAH ID

Search by COB ID

Search by subject_id

4233894

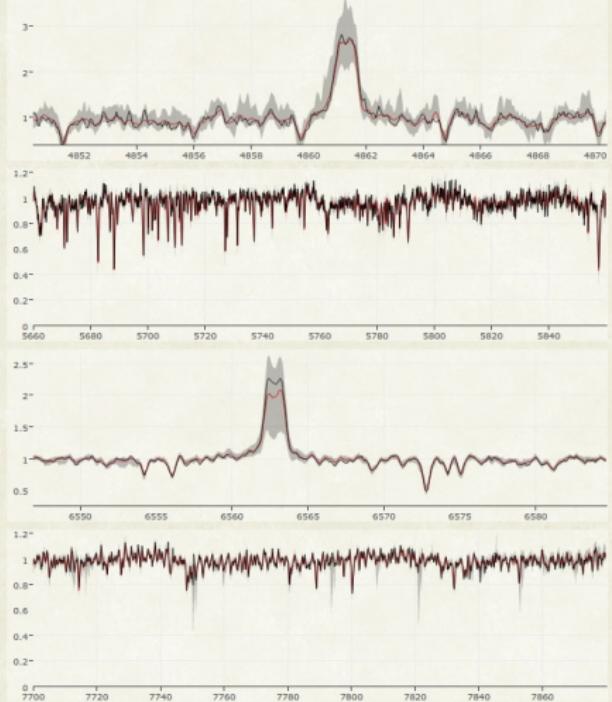
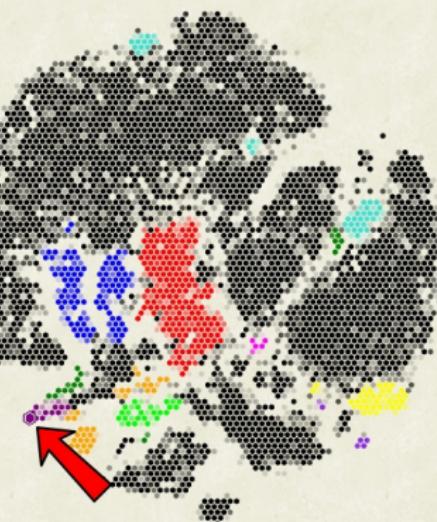
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83





Galah Explorer v1.1

t-SNE projection of 76938 Galah spectra [README](#)

FLAGS

ALL FLAGS

DBSCAN:

0.4,10

SETUP: 2 pass full range P 30



-1 231



Gravity ● S/N ○

- Temperature (GUESS)
- Gravity (GUESS)
- Metallicity (GUESS)
- S/N (GUESS)
- S/N (iraf dr5.1)
- S/N 2 (iraf dr5.1)
- Radial vel. (GUESS)
- Gal. long. I
- Gal. int. b
- Class. cat.

date (iraf dr5.1)
subject_id (iraf dr5.1)
links

Search by GALAH ID Search by COB ID Search by subject_id



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Galah Explorer v1.1

t-SNE projection of 76938 Galah spectra [README](#)

FLAGS ALL FLAGS

DBSCAN: 0.8,50

SETUP: 2 pass full range P 30

-1 105



- Gravity *
- S/N ●
- Temperature (GUESS)
- Gravity (GUESS)
- Metallicity (GUESS)
- S/N (GUESS)
- S/N (iraf dr5.1)
- S/N 2 (iraf dr5.1)
- Radial vel. (GUESS)
- Gal. long. I
- Gal. int. b
- Class. cat.

date (iraf dr5.1)
subject_id (iraf dr5.1)
links

Search by GALAH ID Search by COB ID Search by subject_id





Galah Explorer v1.1

t-SNE projection of 76938 Galah spectra [README](#)

[FLAGS](#)[ALL FLAGS](#)[DBSCAN:](#)

...

[SETUP:](#) 2 pass full range P 30

Temperature
Hex ID: 2058 (34 objects)
3500 K 8200 K



Gravity S/N

- * Temperature (GUESS)
- Gravity (GUESS)
- Metallicity (GUESS)
- S/N (GUESS)
- S/N (iraf dr5.1)
- S/N 2 (iraf dr5.1)
- Radial vel. (GUESS)
- Gal. long. I
- Gal. int. b
- Class. cat.

emission spike(s) - ccd4

date (iraf dr5.1)
subject_id (iraf dr5.1)
links

Search by GALAH ID Search by COB ID Search by subject_id





Galah Explorer v1.1

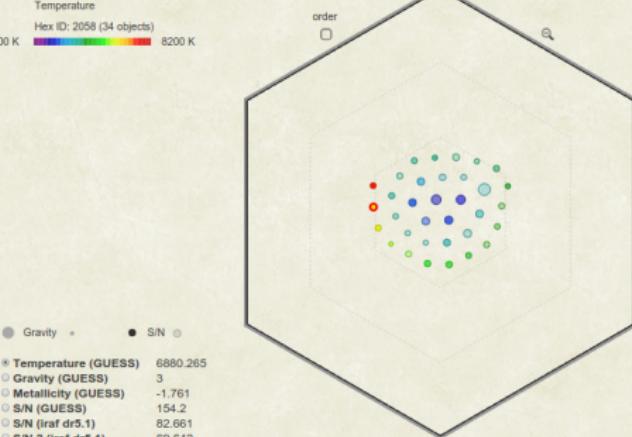
t-SNE projection of 76938 Galah spectra [README](#)

[FLAGS](#)[ALL FLAGS](#)[DBSCAN:](#)

...

[SETUP:](#) 2 pass full range P 30

Temperature
Hex ID: 2058 (34 objects)
3500 K 8200 K



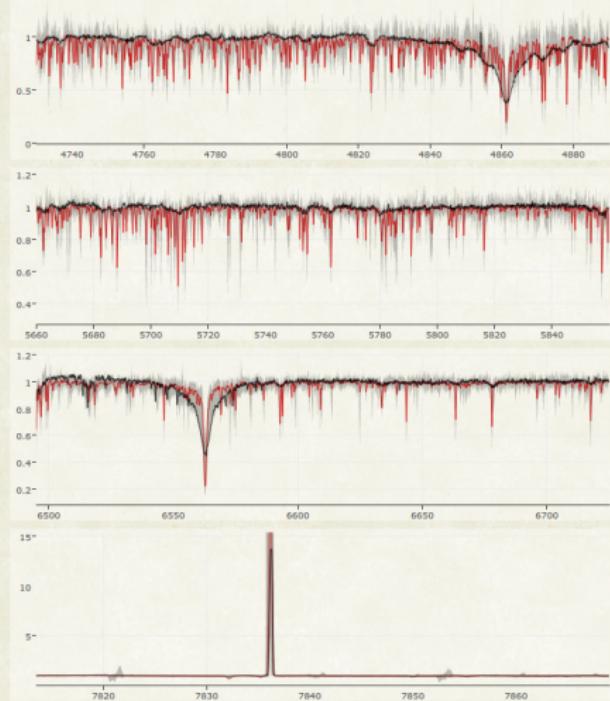
Gravity ● S/N ○

* Temperature (GUESS) 6880.265
○ Gravity (GUESS) 3
○ Metallicity (GUESS) -1.761
○ S/N (GUESS) 154.2
○ S/N (iraf dr5.1) 82.661
○ S/N 2 (iraf dr5.1) 69.642
○ Radial vel. (GUESS) 386.97
○ Gal. long. I 15.232
○ Gal. lat. b -17.27
○ Class. cat. emission spike(s) - ccd4

date (iraf dr5.1) 151009
subject_id (iraf dr5.1) 151009002101074

links [Vizier](#) [Simbad](#)

Search by GALAH ID: 3950937 Search by COB ID: 151009002101074 Search by subject_id: 151009002101074





Galah Explorer v1.1

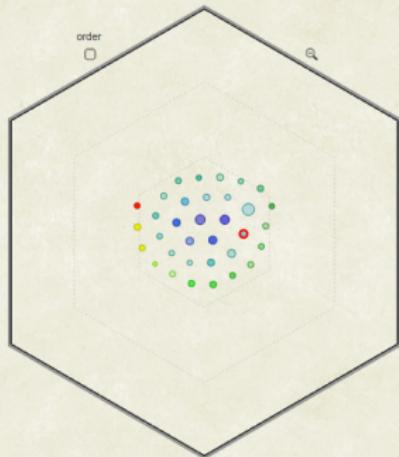
t-SNE projection of 76938 Galah spectra [README](#)

[FLAGS](#)[ALL FLAGS](#)[DBSCAN:](#)

...

[SETUP: 2 pass full range P 30](#)

Temperature
Hex ID: 2058 (34 objects)
3500 K 8200 K



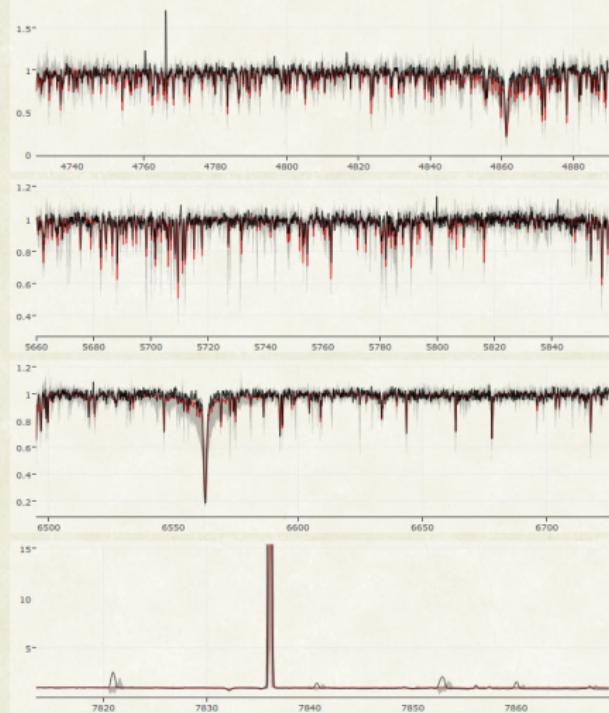
Gravity • S/N ◊

* Temperature (GUESS)	5023.015
◊ Gravity (GUESS)	2.316
◊ Metallicity (GUESS)	-0.977
◊ S/N (GUESS)	33.9
◊ S/N (iraf dr5.1)	36.903
◊ S/N 2 (iraf dr5.1)	38.224
◊ Radial vel. (GUESS)	11.857
◊ Gal. long. I	26.315
◊ Gal. lat. b	-47.157
◊ Class. cat.	emission spike(s) - ccd4

date (iraf dr5.1) 150901
object_id (iraf dr5.1) 150901001101084

links [Vizier](#) [Simbad](#)

Search by GALAH ID Search by COB ID Search by subject_id
7707043 1509010011 150901001101084
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Galah Explorer v1.1

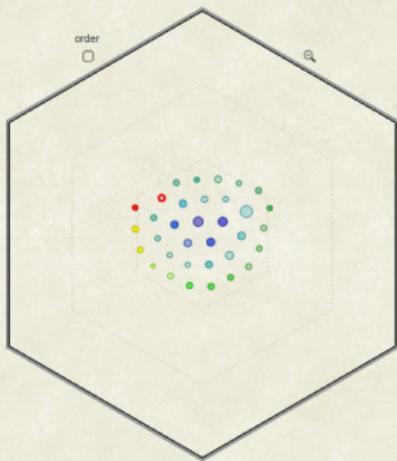
t-SNE projection of 76938 Galah spectra [README](#)

[FLAGS](#)[ALL FLAGS](#)[DBSCAN:](#)

...

[SETUP: 2 pass full range P 30](#)

Temperature
Hex ID: 2058 (34 objects)
3500 K 8200 K

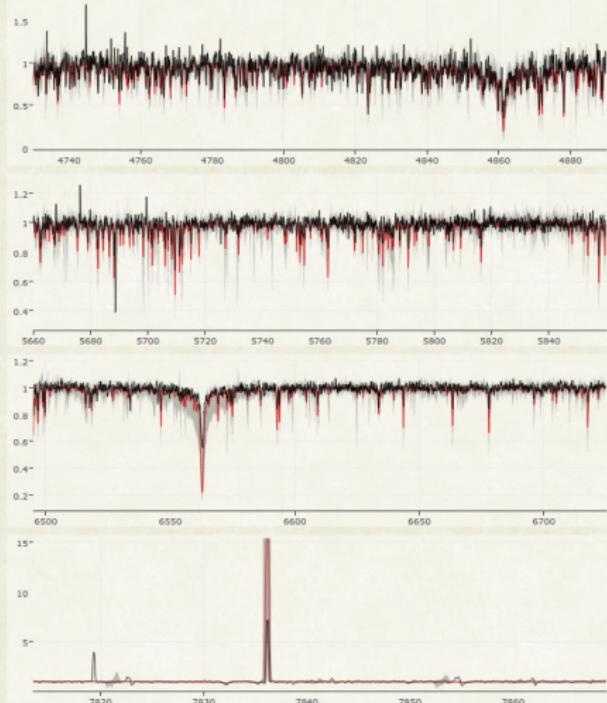


date (iraf dr5.1) 140309

subject_id (iraf dr5.1) 140309004101249

links

Search by GALAH ID Search by COB ID Search by subject_id





Galah Explorer v1.1

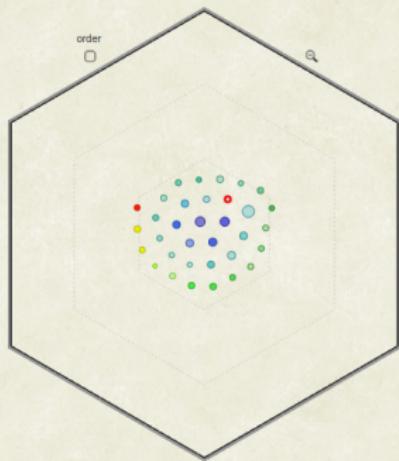
t-SNE projection of 76938 Galah spectra [README](#)

[FLAGS](#)[ALL FLAGS](#)[DBSCAN:](#)

...

SETUP: [2 pass full range P 30](#)

Temperature
Hex ID: 2058 (34 objects)
3500 K 8200 K



Gravity S/N

* Temperature (GUESS)	4948.801
○ Gravity (GUESS)	3.843
○ Metallicity (GUESS)	-0.551
○ S/N (GUESS)	14.4
○ S/N (iraf dr5.1)	22.308
○ S/N 2 (iraf dr5.1)	15.56
○ Radial vel. (GUESS)	38.396
○ Gal. long. I	261.707
○ Gal. int. b	-39.963
○ Class. cat.	emission spike(s) - ccd4

date (iraf dr5.1) 151228

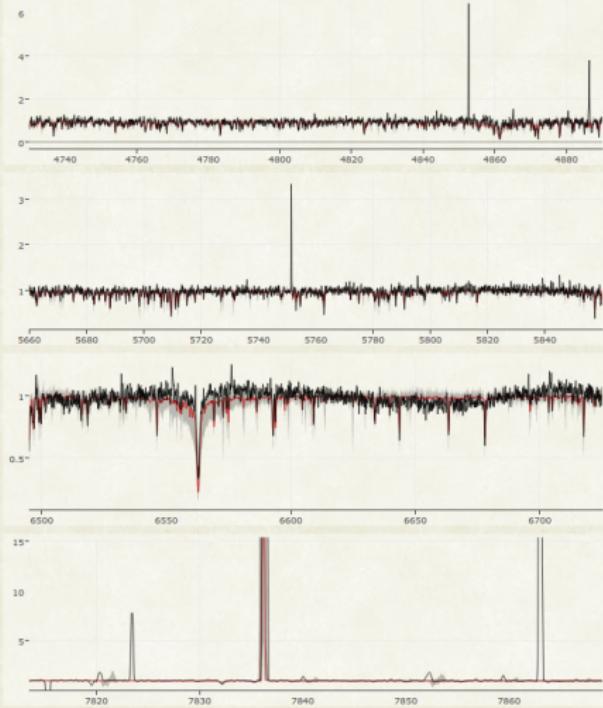
subject_id (iraf dr5.1) 151228002601062

links

Search by GALAH ID

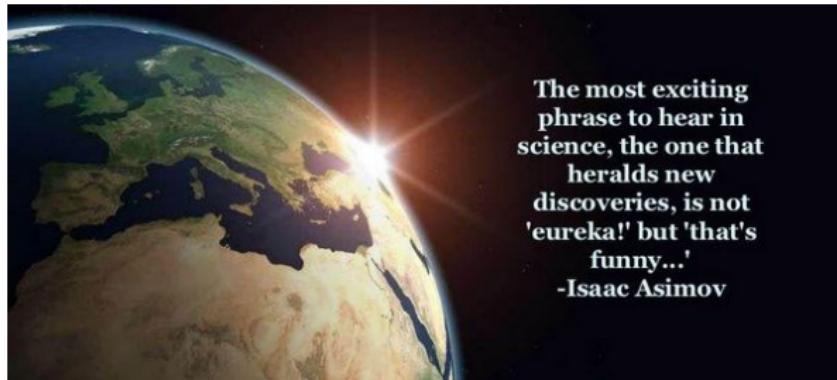
Search by COB ID

Search by subject_id



Summary

- Visualisation/discovery/diagnostic tool ⇒ t-SNE Explorer
- Detect outliers / homogenous groups
- Focus on special objects of interest / general overview and classification
- Any kind of survey / input dataset – RAVE, Gaia-ESO, Galah (Traven et al. 2017), Kepler (Kochoska et al. 2017), ...



The most exciting
phrase to hear in
science, the one that
heralds new
discoveries, is not
'eureka!' but 'that's
funny...' -Isaac Asimov