Characterizing the Contamination in High-Redshift Dropout Samples

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Abstract

Photometric selection of high-redshift galaxy candidates from broad band imaging is widely used to construct samples of objects at the highest redshift in all deep surveys. Up to now, a detailed characterization of the contamination in the selection is still missing. We will present our investigation on the contamination of $z \geq 5$ galaxy samples from lower redshift interlopers based on analysis of GOODS/CANDELS data and extrapolated to deeper observations. In particular, we will discuss the intrinsic properties of the contaminants, which represent an interesting class galaxies at intermediate redshift ($z \sim 1-2$).