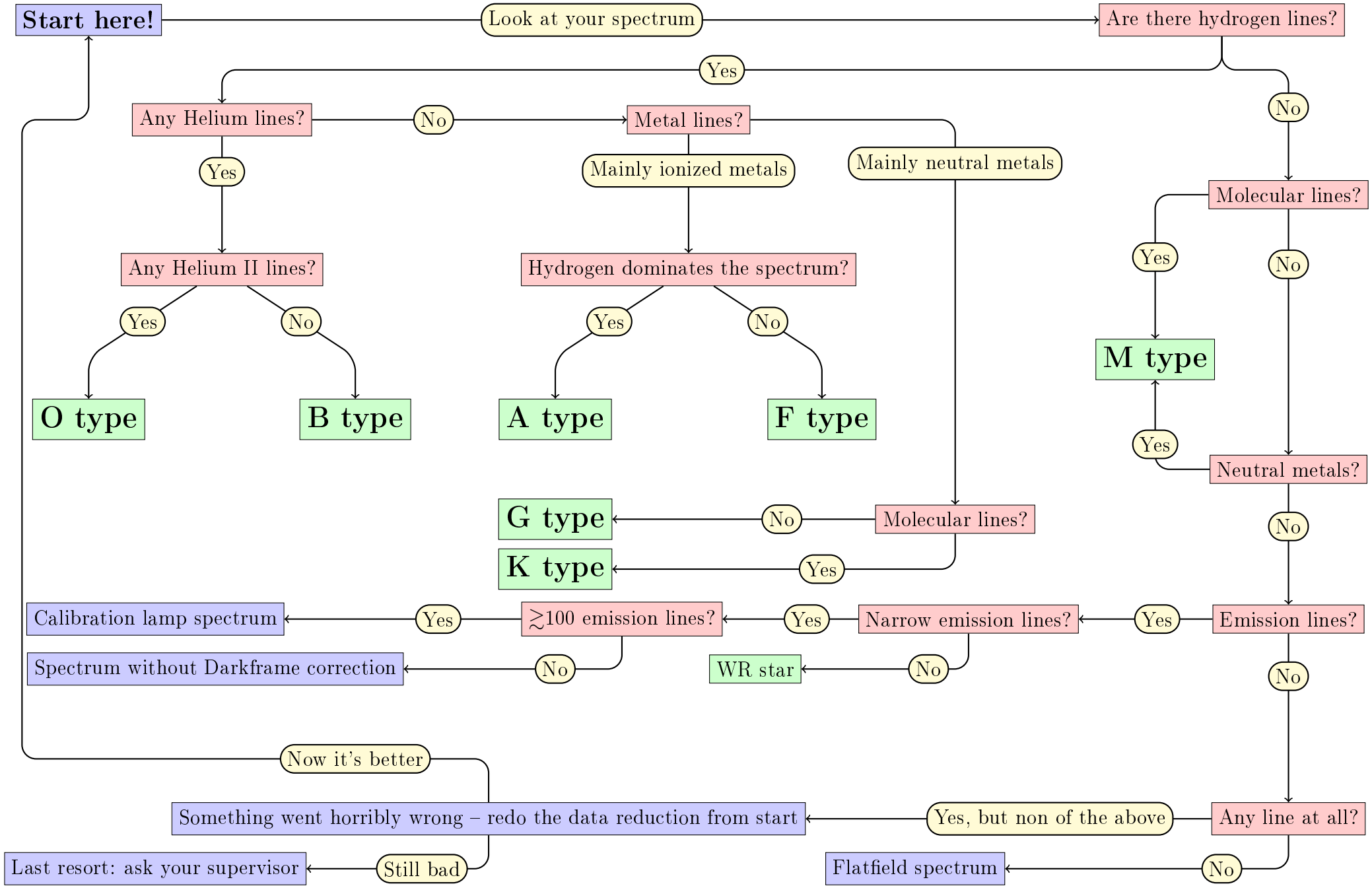How to classify a stellar spectrum