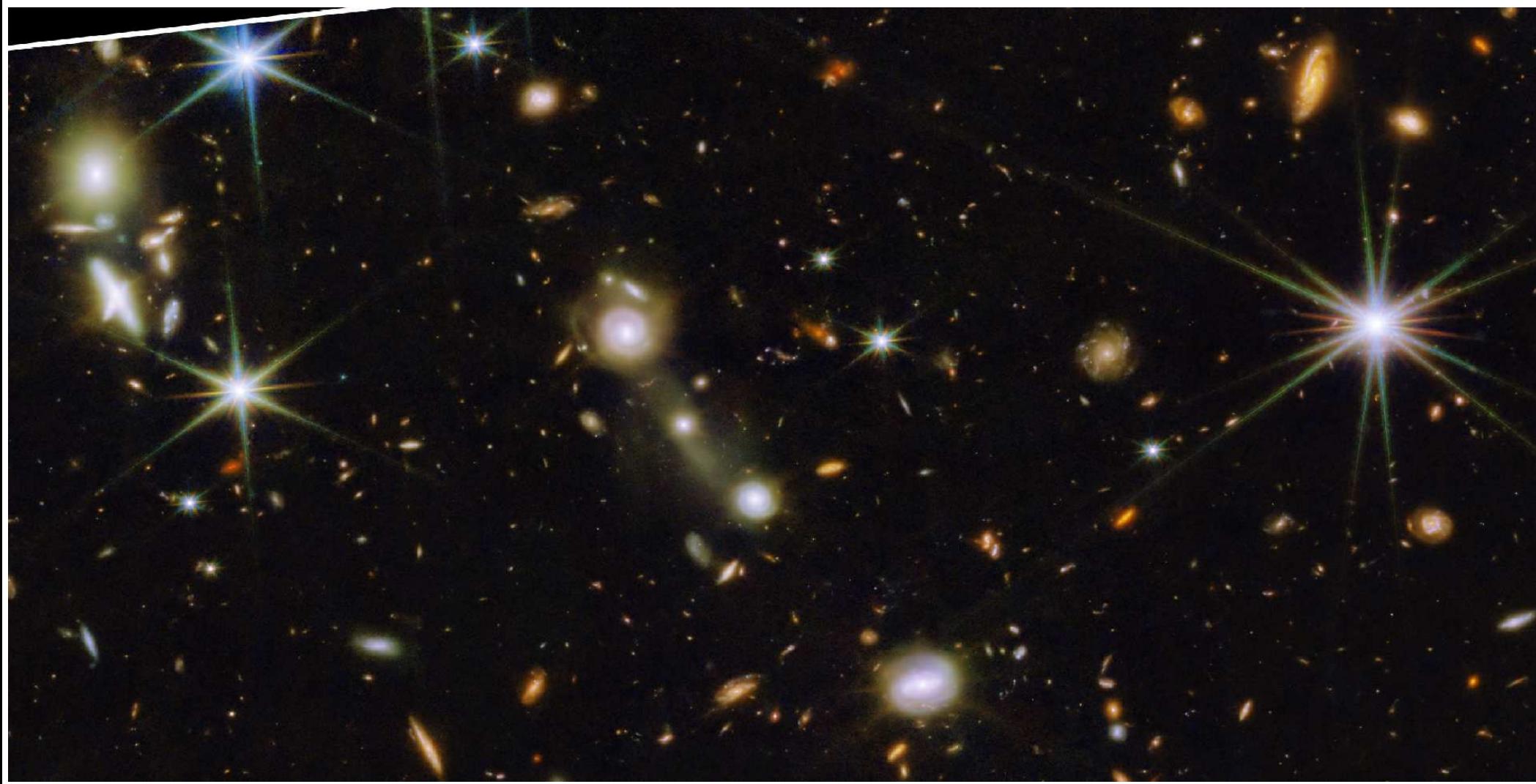


# Chasing the Reionizers of the Universe: Lyman Continuum Radiation with Hubble and the potential of Webb

Rogier Windhorst (ASU) — JWST Interdisciplinary Scientist

& the HST ALCATRAZ, UVCANDELS & JWST PEARLS teams: incl. B. Smith, A. Blanche, S. Cohen, R. Jansen, T. McCabe, C. Redshaw, H. Teplitz, X. Wang, A. Alavi, A. Grazian, V. Mehta, M. Rafelski, S. Scarlata, J. Summers, R. O'Brien, S. Tompkins, T. Carleton, C. Conselice, J. Diego, S. Driver, H. Yan, J. Berkheimer, D. Coe, B. Frye, N. Grogin, W. Keel, A. Koekemoer, M. Marshall, N. Pirzkal, A. Robotham, R. Ryan Jr., C. Willmer, M. Dijkstra, A. Inoue, L. Jiang, J. MacKenty, R. O'Connell, J. Silk et al.



*Plenary review at the North Carolina Astronomers Meeting*

*Saturday Sept. 23, 2023; Guilford Technical Community College; Jamestown, North Carolina*

# Outline

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- (1) The Power of Space- and Ground-based LyC Spectroscopy
- (2) Lyman Continuum (LyC;  $\lesssim 912 \text{ \AA}$ ) constraints from HST WFC3/UVIS
- (3) The Promise and Power of JWST for LyC constraints at High Redshift
- (4) Summary and Conclusions:

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- (1) The Power of Space- and Ground-based LyC Spectroscopy
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- (3) The Promise and Power of JWST for LyC constraints at High Redshift
- (4) Summary and Conclusions:
  - (Faint) Galaxies: Smaller ISM holes, somewhat lower  $f_{esc}$ -fraction.
  - (Weak) AGN: Bigger ISM holes, higher  $f_{esc}$  & dominate at  $z \sim 2-3$ .

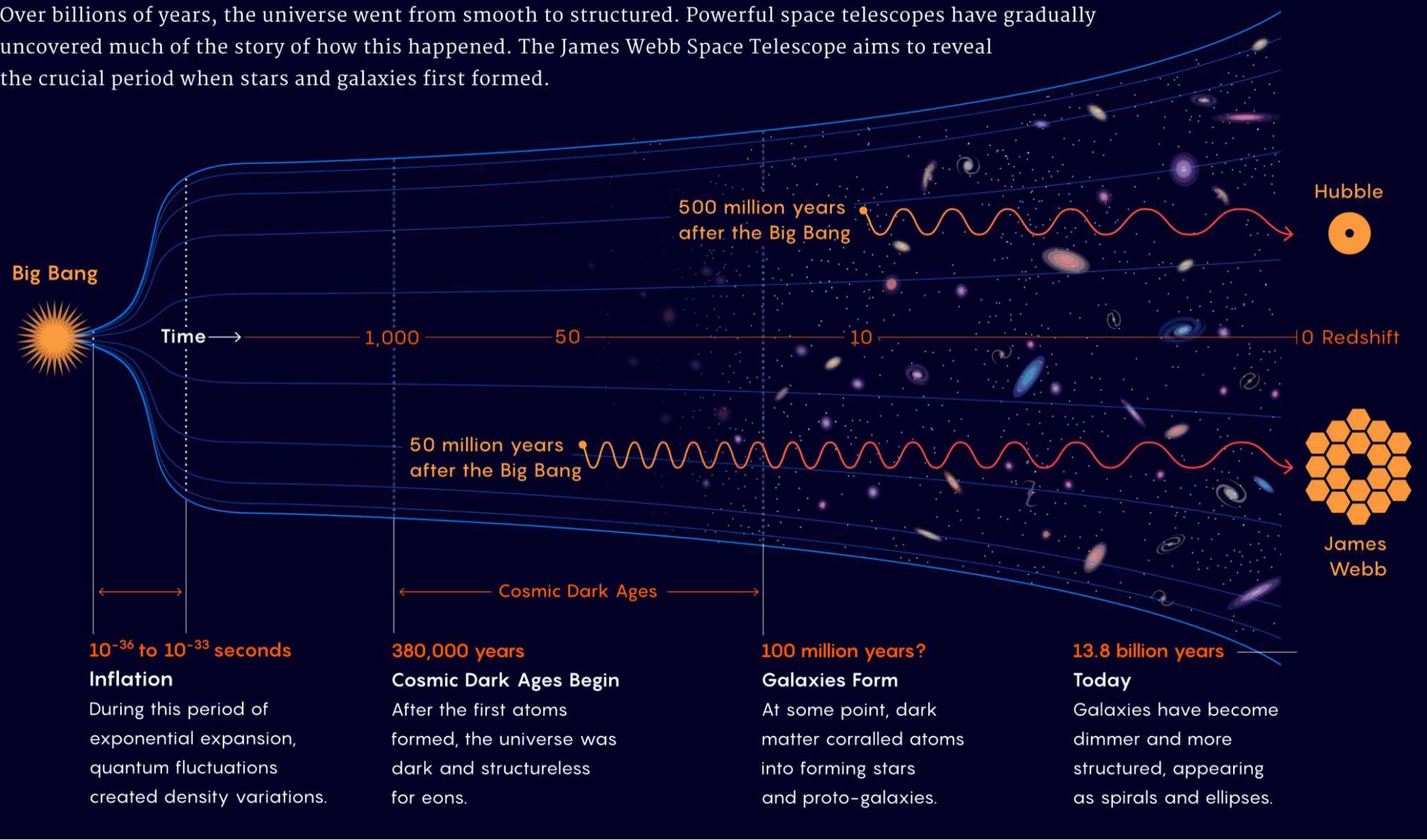


Sponsored by NASA/HST & JWST

Talk is on: [http://www.asu.edu/clas/hst/www/jwst/jwsttalks/nc23\\_guilfordTCC\\_lyc\\_sciencetalk.pdf](http://www.asu.edu/clas/hst/www/jwst/jwsttalks/nc23_guilfordTCC_lyc_sciencetalk.pdf)

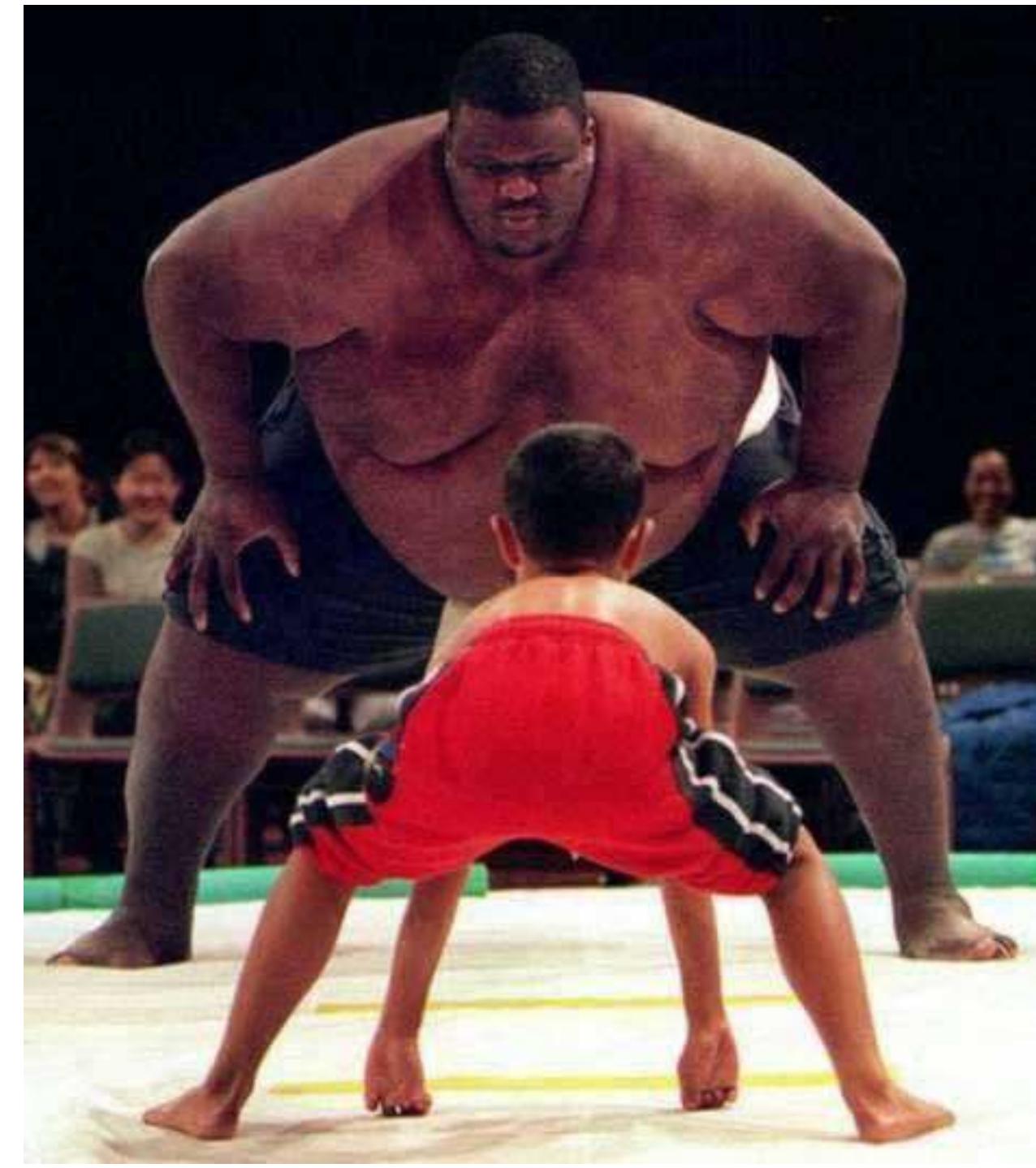
# The Growth of Cosmic Structure

Over billions of years, the universe went from smooth to structured. Powerful space telescopes have gradually uncovered much of the story of how this happened. The James Webb Space Telescope aims to reveal the crucial period when stars and galaxies first formed.



Cosmic Reionization: What caused the Universe's last major phase transition?:

- UV-light, but from Active Galactic Nuclei (AGN) and/or (dwarf) galaxies?

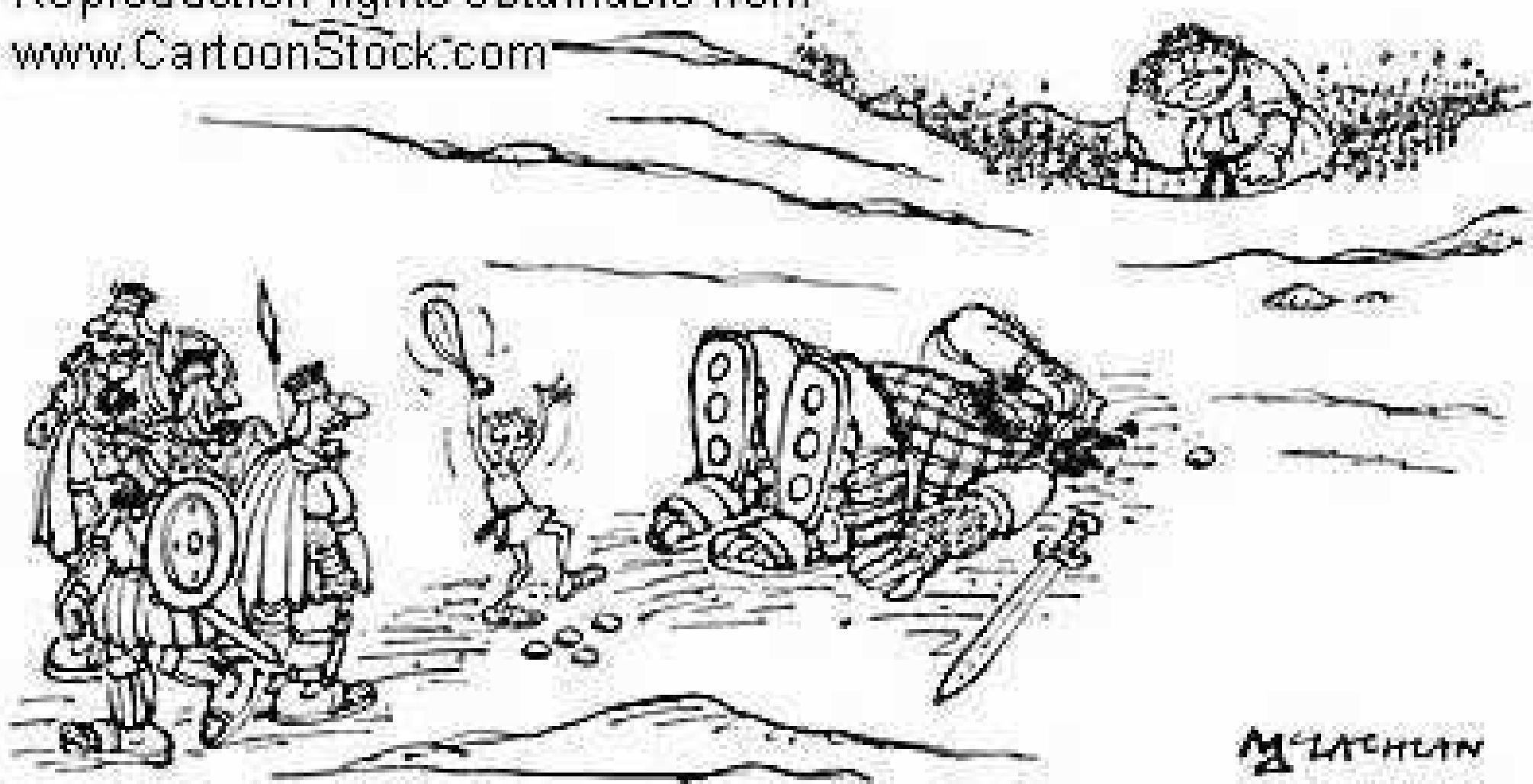


At the end of reionization, it seems dwarfs had beaten the Giants, but ...

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"You've done it now, David - Here comes his mother."

Hubble & Webb are telling us that Giants (AGN) outdid the dwarf (galaxies) ...

# The Smoking Guns of Cosmic Reionization: Galaxies and (weak) AGN



Bronze "Falcon" gun in Heraklion's Historical Museum:



Venetian fortress Spinalonga in Elounda, Crete:

- LyC is very hard to measure directly, so I reserve the right to speculate!
- My theory will be simple: big Galactic fortresses with small holes!

# The Smoking Guns of Cosmic Reionization: Galaxies and (weak) AGN



Bronze "Falcon" gun in Heraklion's Historical Museum:

- Active Galactic Nuclei (AGN) contribute LyC through powerful outflows.

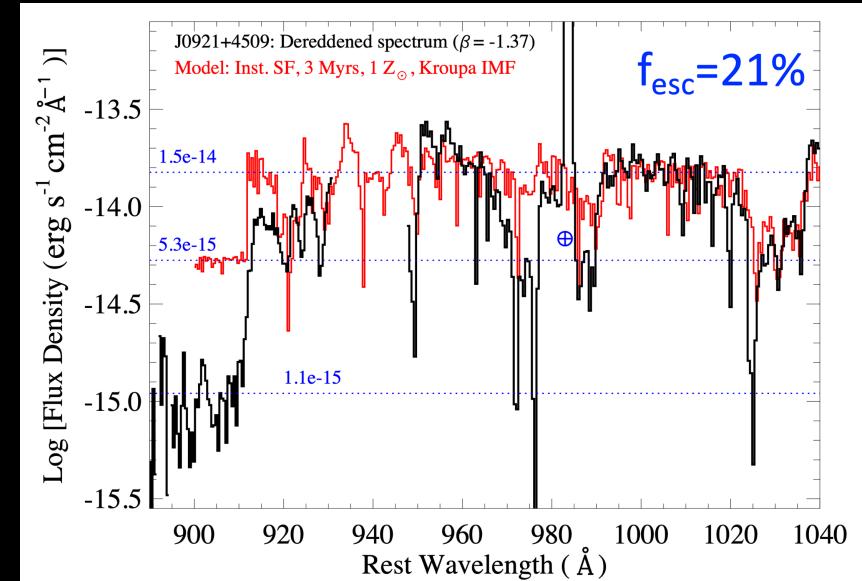
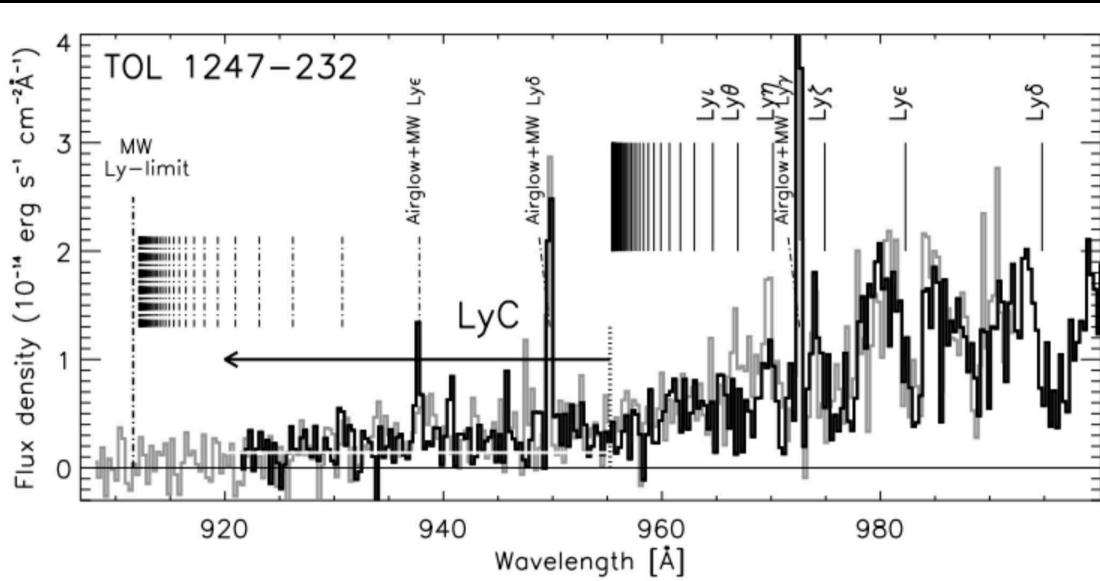


Venetian fortress Spinalonga in Elounda, Crete:

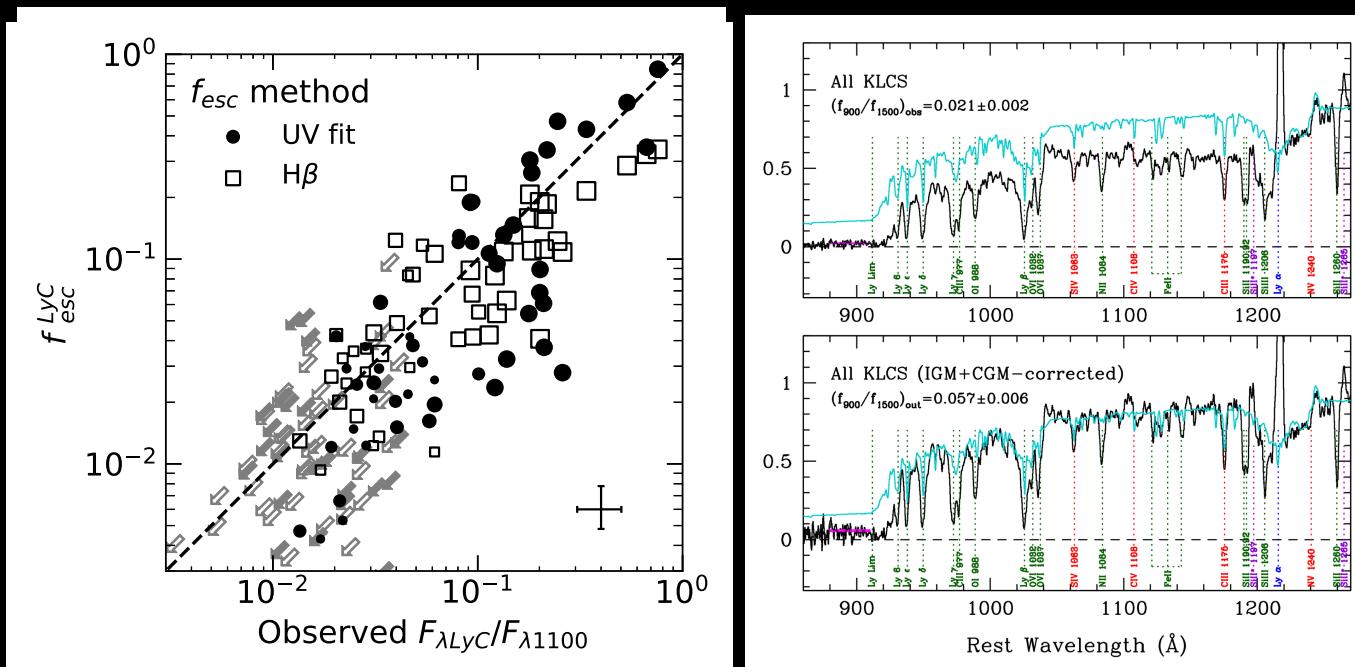
- (Dwarf) Galaxies contribute LyC flux through small holes in their ISM.

- Key question in reionization is: What is the LyC escape fraction  $f_{esc}$ ?
- $f_{esc}$  = fraction of emitted LyC light that escapes AGN or (dwarf) galaxy.

# (1) The Power of Space- and Ground-based LyC Spectroscopy



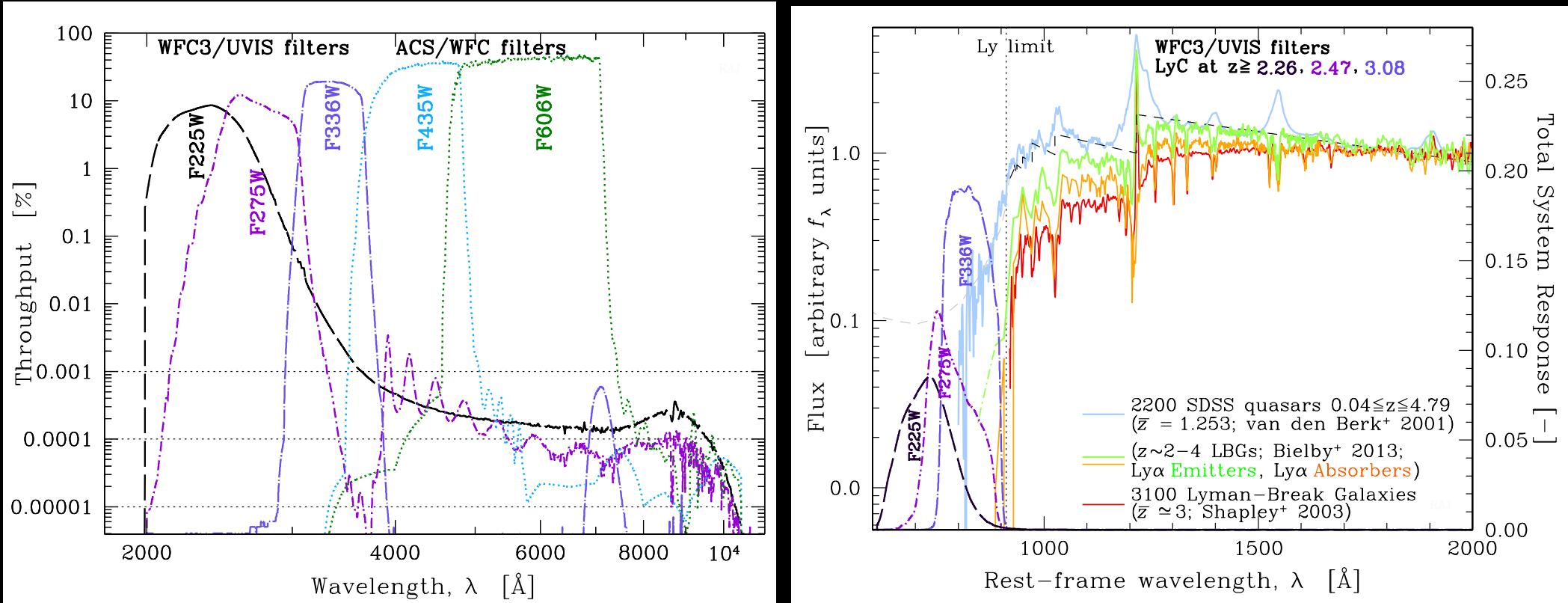
Low-z LyC: FUSE  $f_{\text{esc}} \approx 1.4\text{--}2.4\%$   $z \gtrsim 0.02$  (Leitet<sup>+13</sup>; Left) — COS  $f_{\text{esc}} \approx 21\%$   $z = 0.235$  (Borthakur<sup>+14</sup>; Right)



LyC samples: COS  $f_{\text{esc}} \approx 5\text{--}50\%$  at  $z \approx 0.2\text{--}0.4$  (Flury<sup>+22</sup>) — Keck  $f_{\text{esc}} \approx 6\text{--}9\%$  at  $z \approx 3.05$  (Steidel<sup>+18</sup>)

- Advantage: Spectral accuracy at  $\lambda \lesssim 912 \text{ \AA}$ ; Disadvantage: Contamination uncertain and limited z-range.

## (2) HST WFC3/UVIS Constraints of LyC at $z \sim 2.3$ – $3.5$ .



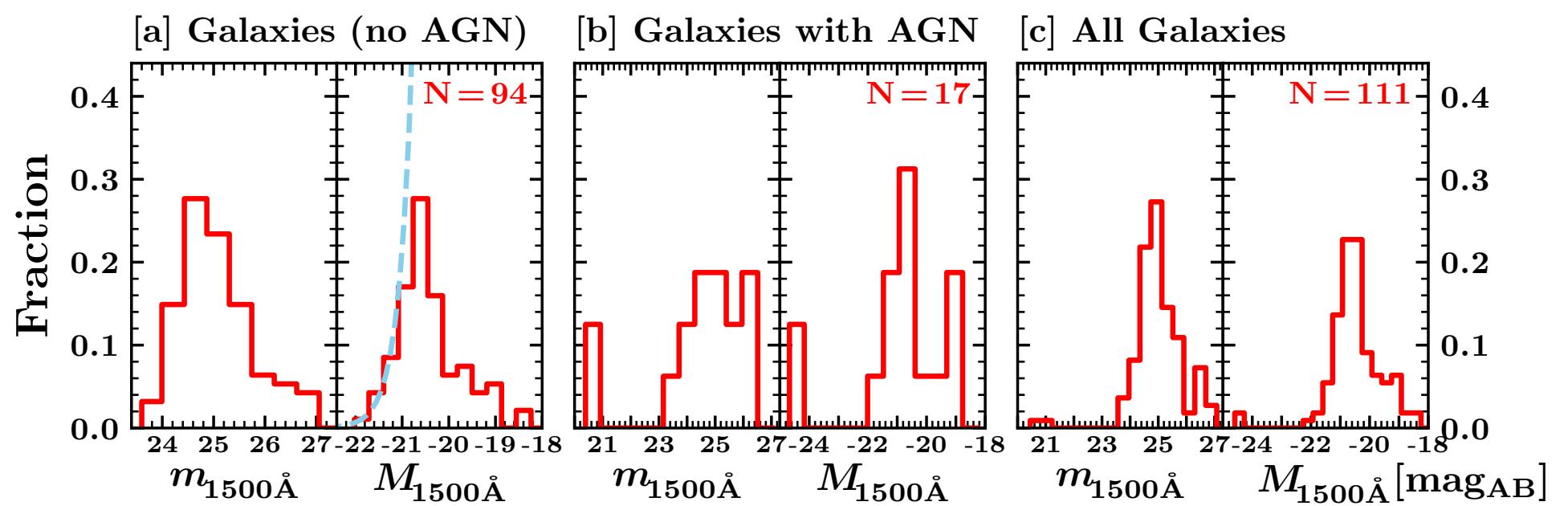
[Left] WFC3 designed to maximize throughput and minimize red-leak:

- Red-leaks  $\lesssim 3 \times 10^{-5}$  of peak transmission, or  $\lesssim 0.5\%$  of LyC signals.

[Right] Composite rest-frame far-UV spectra of: SDSS QSOs at  $z \approx 1.3$ ; LBGs at  $z \approx 2$ – $4$ : Ly $\alpha$  emitters, & absorbers; & LBGs at  $z \approx 3$ .

- WFC3/UVIS F225W, F275W, F336W filters sample LyC ( $\lambda < 912 \text{ \AA}$ ) at  $z \geq 2.26$ ,  $z \geq 2.47$ , and  $z \geq 3.08$  (best at low-end of each  $z$ -range).
- Lower  $z$ -bounds: *no*  $\lambda > 912 \text{ \AA}$  below filter's red-edge ( $\equiv 0.5\%$  of peak).

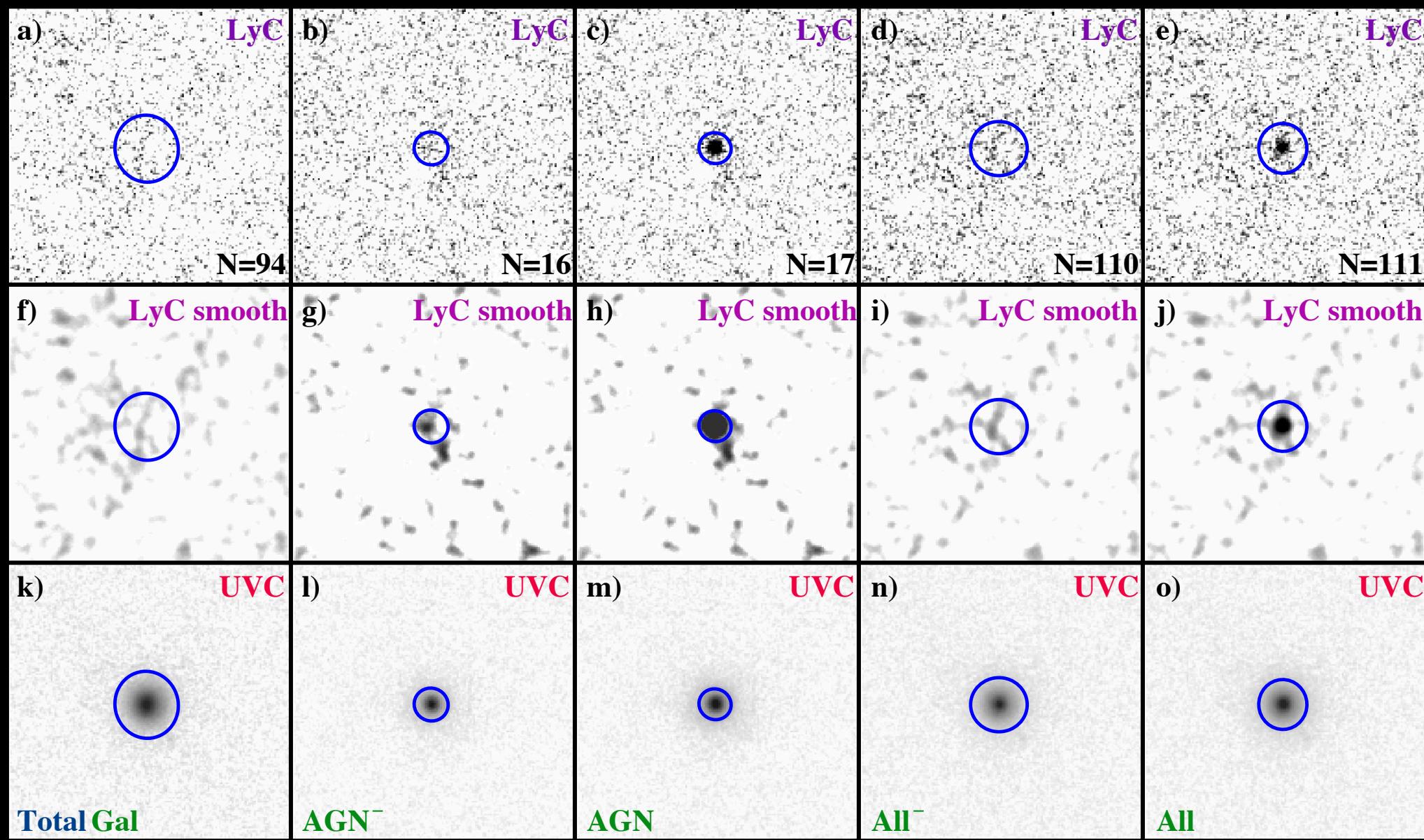
## (2) Hubble WFC3 — Selection of Reliable Spectroscopic Samples



Apparent and absolute magnitude distributions (restframe 1550 $\text{\AA}$ ) of the “Gold” ( $>99\%$  reliable  $z_{\text{spec}}$ ) galaxy & weak AGN (em. line) samples.

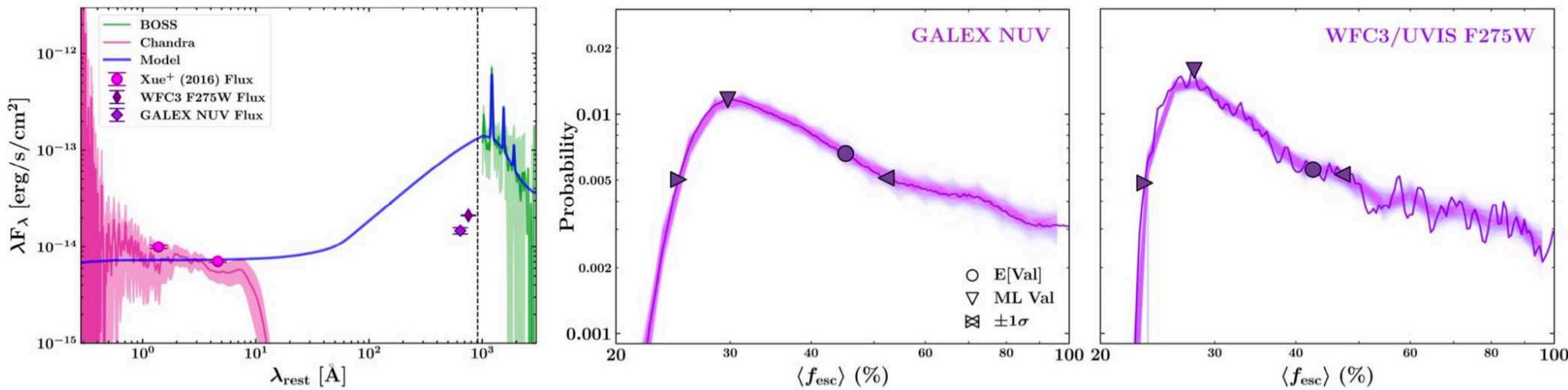
(Smith et al. 2018, ApJ, 853, 191; Smith et al. 2020, ApJ, 897, 41):

- Blue dotted: faint-end slope of gal counts & LF (Windhorst<sup>+</sup> 2011, ApJ, 193, 27).
- Sample incompleteness for AB  $\gtrsim 24.5$ -25, or  $M_{AB}$  (1650)  $\gtrsim -20.5$  mag.
- LyC AB-fluxes &  $f_{esc}$ -values only valid for these selected luminosities.
- Galaxies with weak AGN have same N( $M_{AB}$ ) as galaxies without AGN.

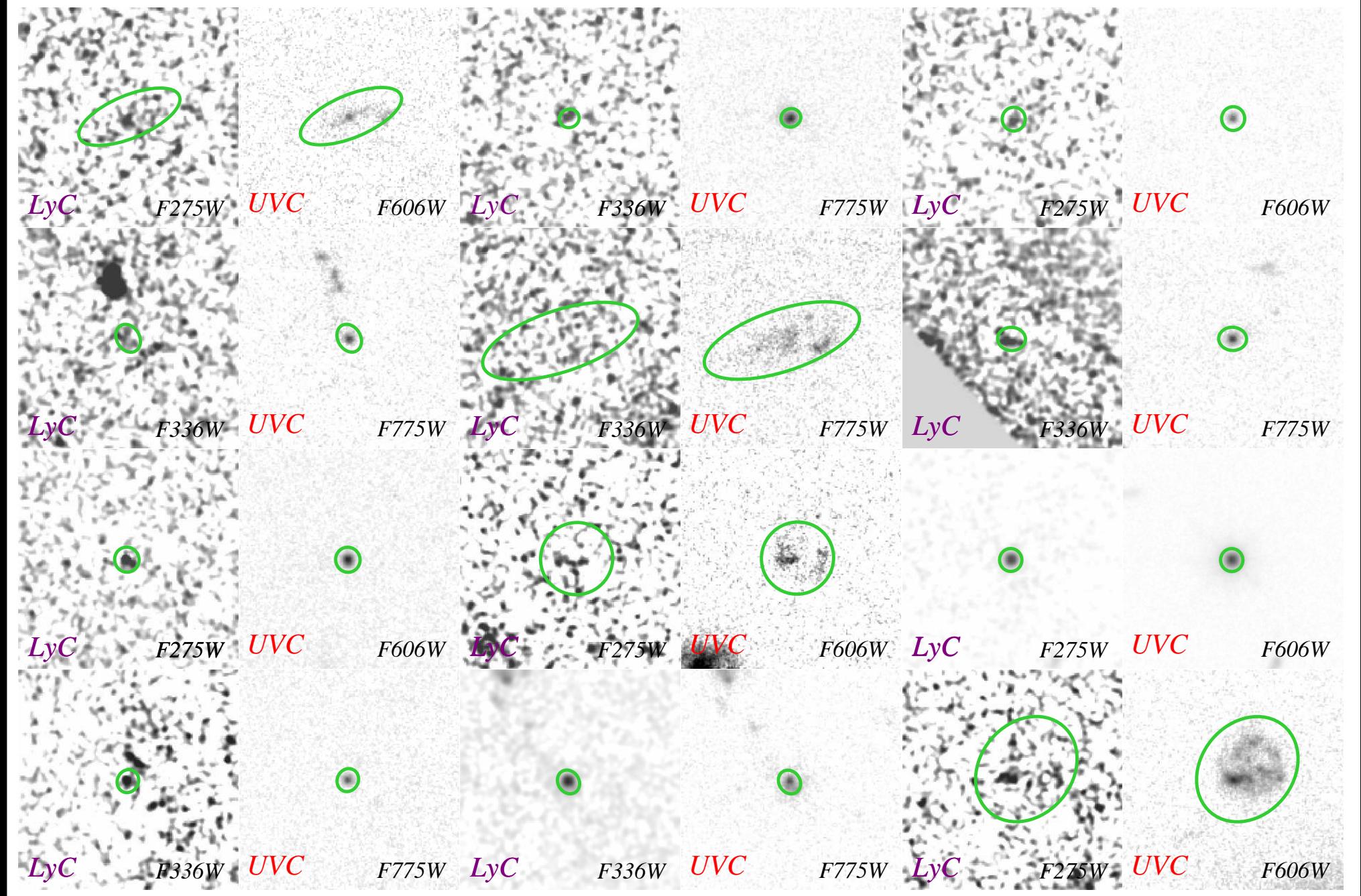


WFC3/ERS & HDUV AGN+Galaxy LyC stacking (Smith et al. 2018, ApJ, 853, 191; — 2020, ApJ, 897, 41).

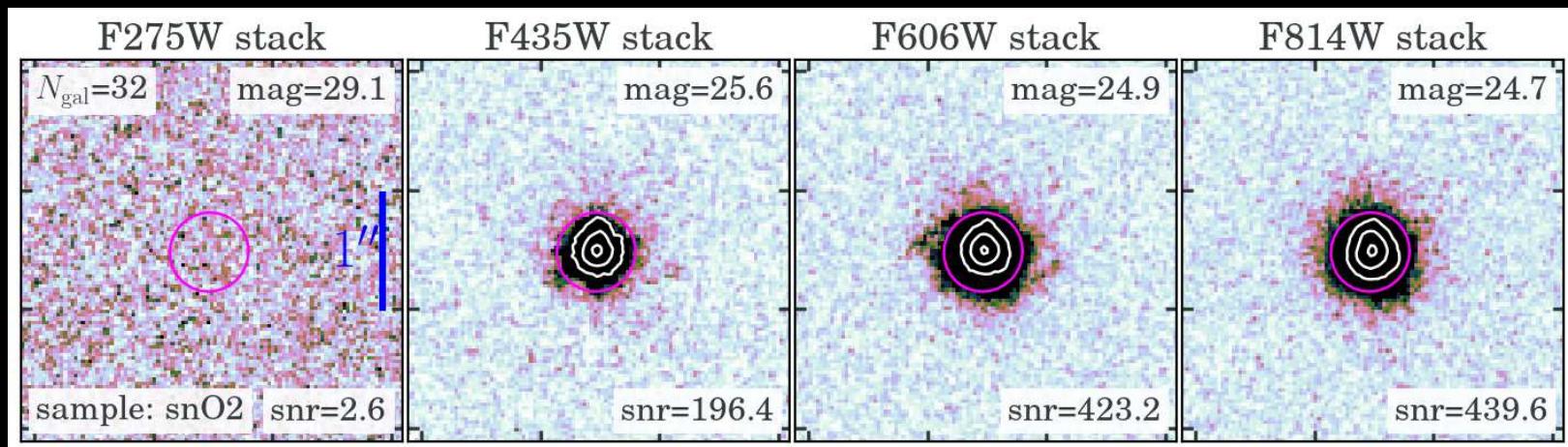
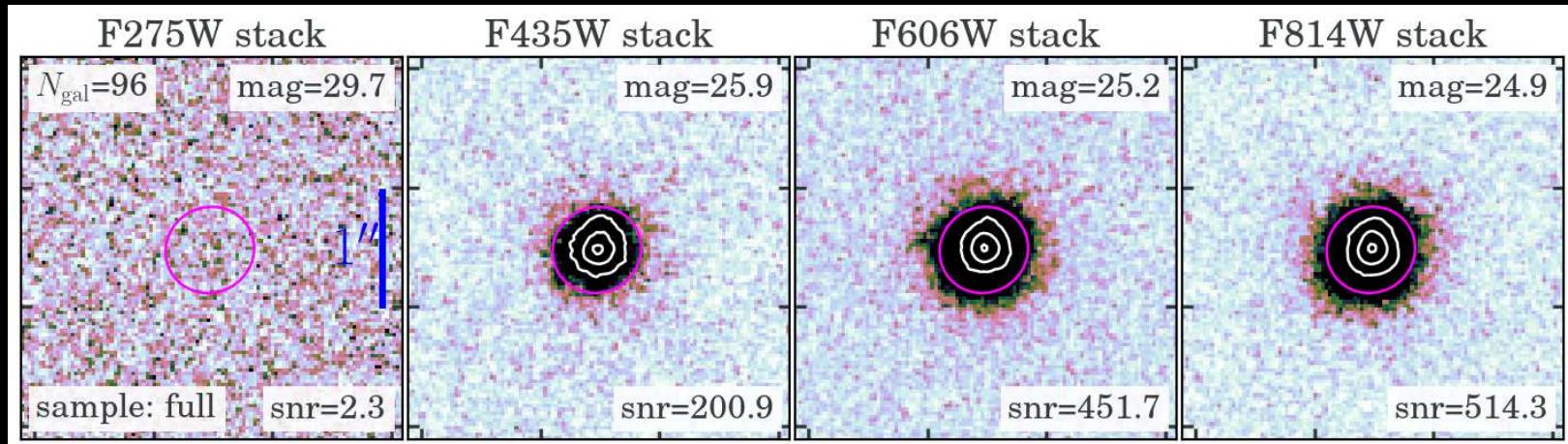
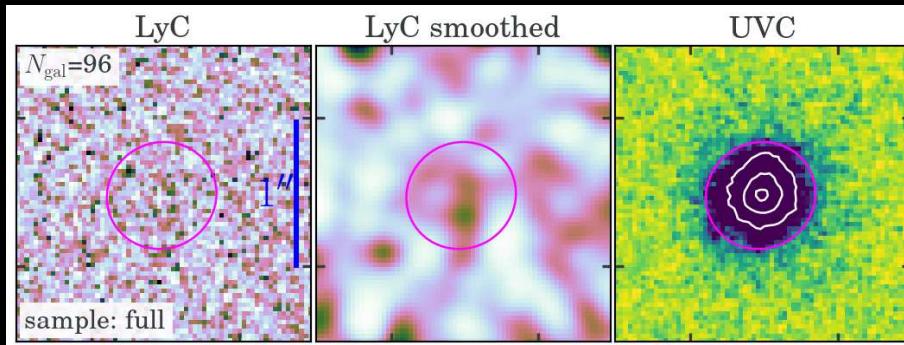
- Rare (weak) AGN with robust spectroscopic redshifts at  $z \simeq 2.3\text{--}3.5$  dominate reionizing LyC flux in stacked WFC3/UVIS images ( $\text{AB} \lesssim 29$  mag).
- Giants won: Need  $\simeq 0''.04$  WFC3 UV-PSF to remove all foreground interlopers at  $>> 99\%$  confidence!



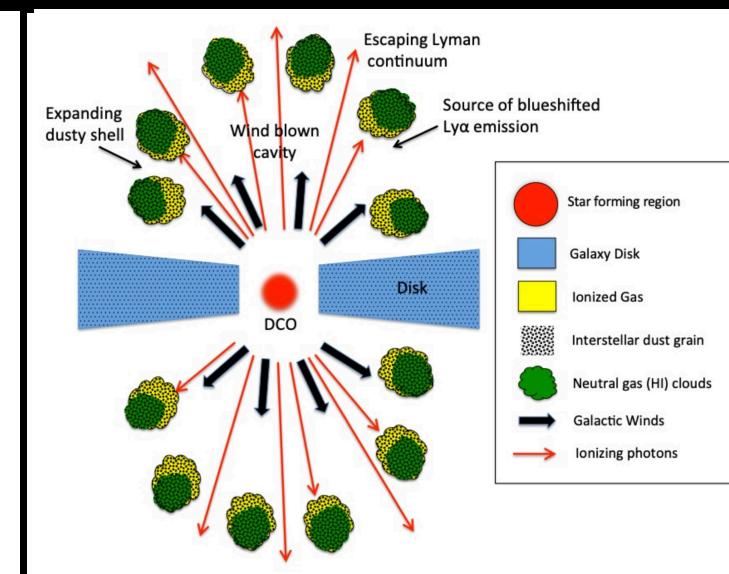
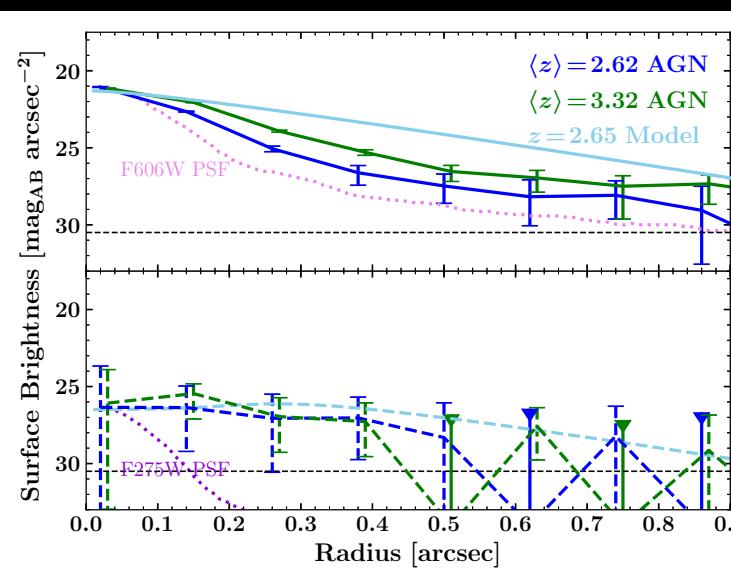
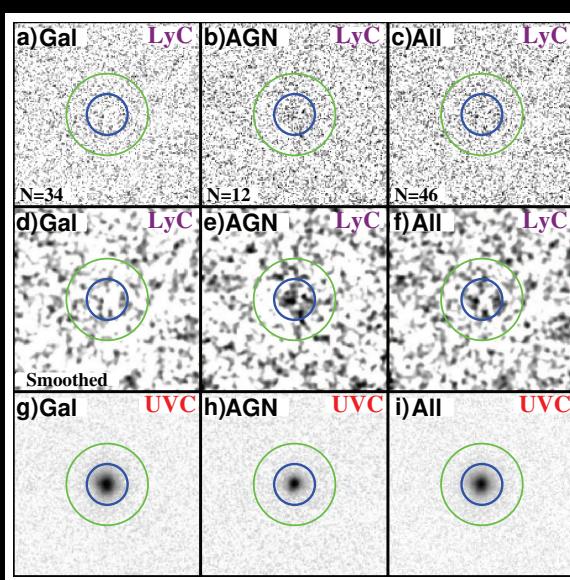
- CIGALE+XSpec SED fit to brightest LyC AGN at  $z=2.59$  with Chandra X-ray spectrum (Smith, B. et al. 2020, ApJ, 897, 41):
- Accurate LyC escape fraction from HST & GALEX:  $f_{\text{esc}} \simeq 28\text{--}30\%$ .
- If these AGN representative,  $f_{\text{esc}} \simeq 30\%$  enough for Giants to win at  $z \simeq 3$ !



- UVCANDELS AGN LyC detections AB $\simeq$ 23.4–28.5 mag:  $f_{esc} \simeq 30 \pm 25\%$ .
- 12/58 detections (21%):  $\langle \text{LyC opening angle} \rangle \lesssim 40^\circ$  (Smith, B. et al. 2023).



- UVCANDELS galaxy LyC detections AB $\simeq$ 25.5–26.6 mag, LyC stacks  $\sim$ 29.1–29.7 mag; resulting  $f_{\text{esc}} \simeq 6$ –10%. [1 $-\cos(\theta_h)$  $\equiv$ detected fraction]:
- 5/96 detections (5%):  $\langle \text{LyC opening angle} \rangle \lesssim 20^\circ$  (Wang, Teplitz<sup>+</sup> 23, ApJ, subm.)



[Left]: WFC3 LyC stack of Gals, weak AGN and All, +non-ionizing UVC:  
Clearly at  $z \approx 2.3\text{--}3.5$ , weak AGN dominate LyC flux!

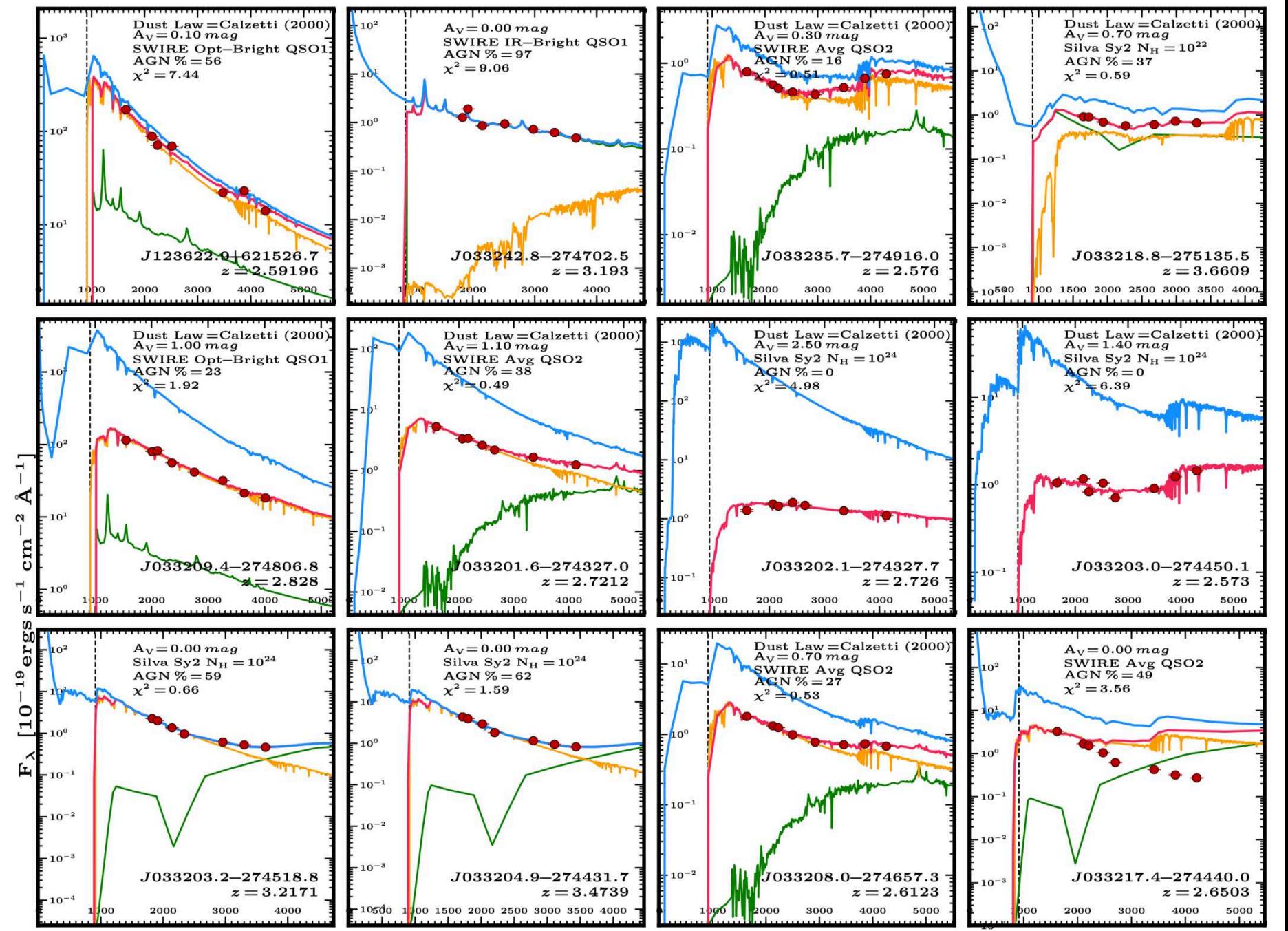
[Middle]: Radial SB-profiles of stacked UVC [Top]; LyC stack [Bottom]:

- LyC SB-profiles extended compared to PSFs, but very non-Sersic like!

Dashed: scattering model with ISM porosity+escaping LyC (Smith, B.+ 2018).

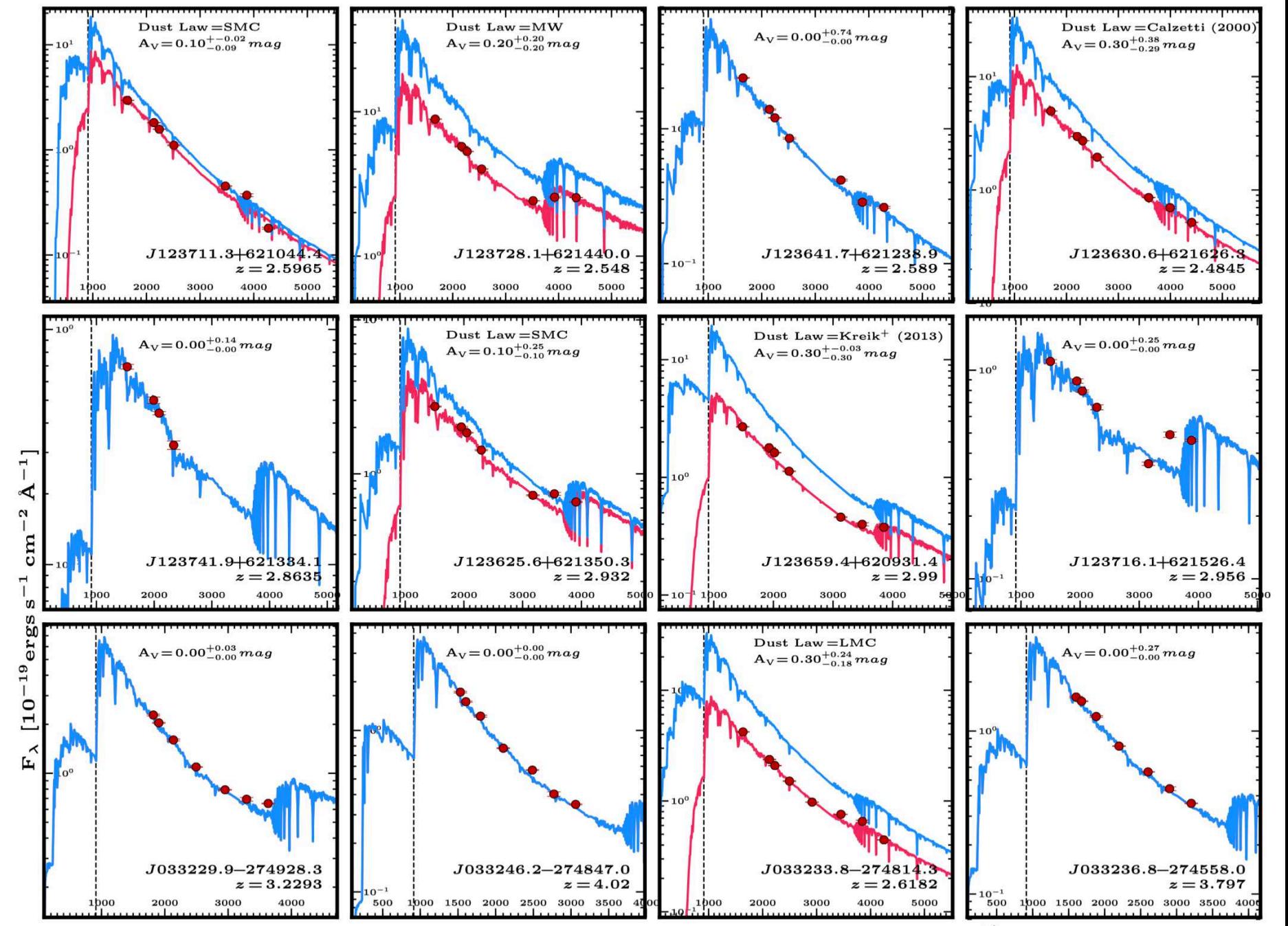
[Right]: Patchy ISM model of escaping LyC (& Ly $\alpha$ ) (Borthakur<sup>+</sup>14).

- WFC3 Galaxy and AGN  $\langle \text{LyC opening angle} \rangle \lesssim 20\text{--}40^\circ$ , respectively.
- Weak AGN more/bigger holes than Gals; LyC not always from accretion disk



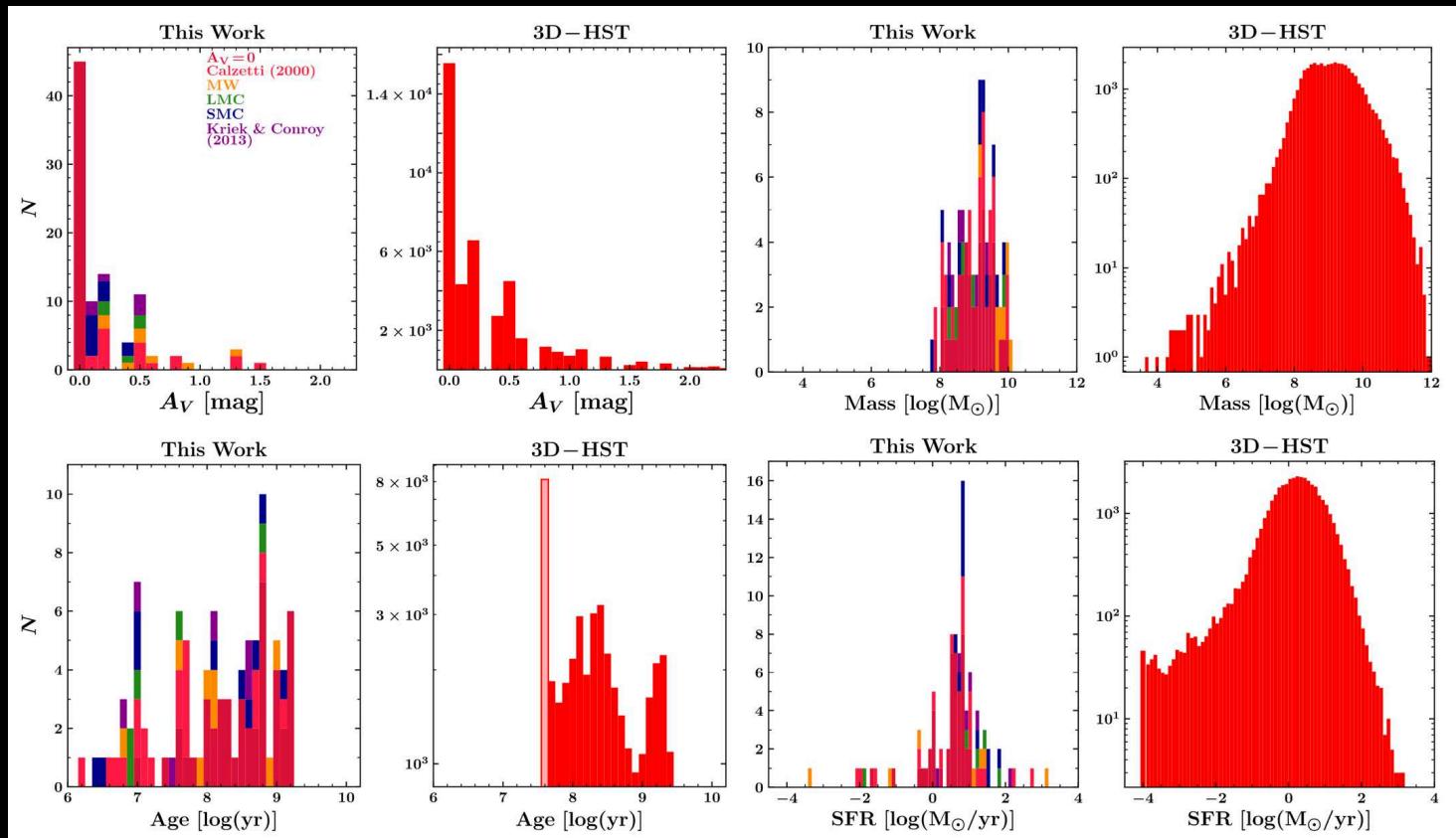
## ● AGN LyC stacking candidates with CIGALE+XSpec SED fits

(ALCATRAZ: Smith, B.+ 2020, ApJ, 897, 41; UVCANDELS: Smith, B., Wang, X., Teplitz, H.+ 2023).



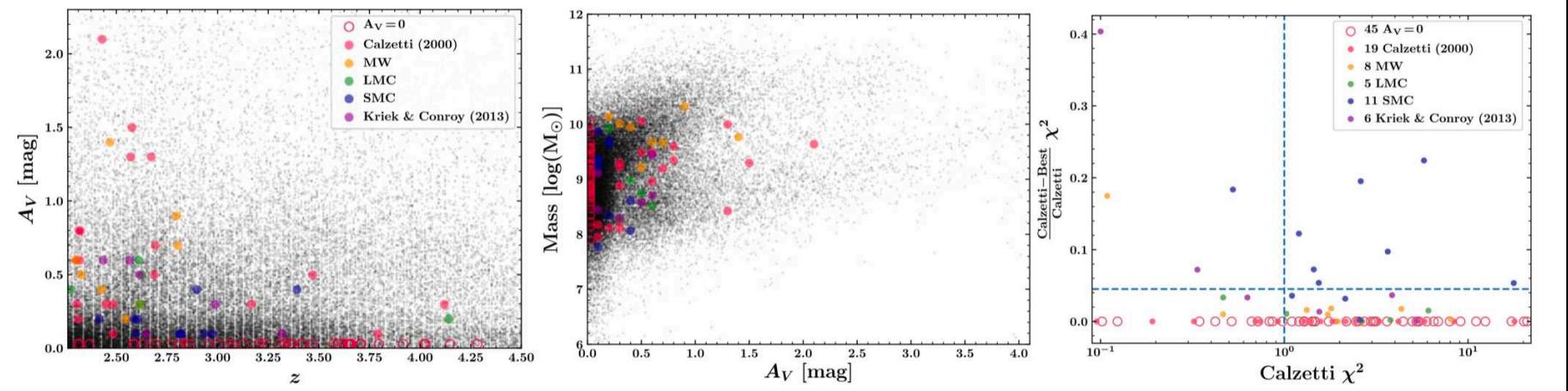
- Galaxy LyC stacking candidates with CIGALE SED fits

(ALCATRAZ: Smith, B., et al. 2020, ApJ, 897, 41; UVCANDELS: Wang, X., et al. 2023).



THE ASTROPHYSICAL JOURNAL, 897:41 (30pp), 2020 July 1

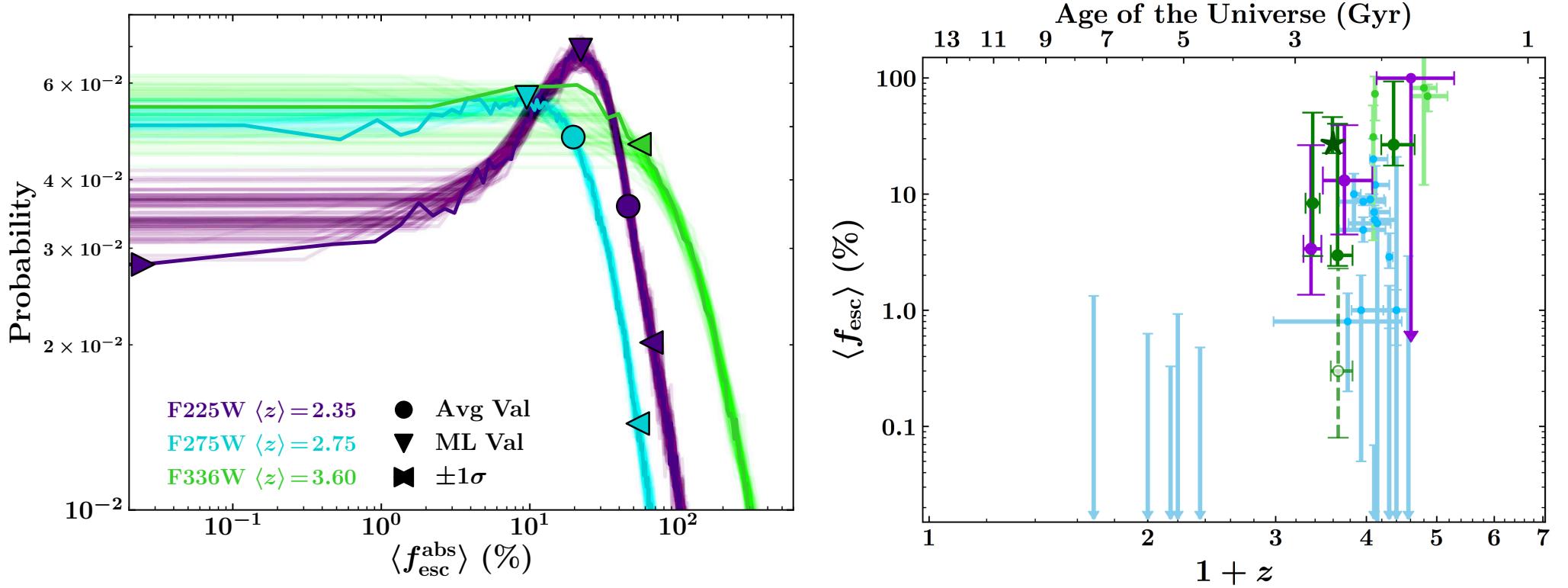
Smith et al.



## ERS & HDUV AGN+Galaxy CIGALE SED fits (Smith et al. 2020, ApJ, 897, 41):

- LyC SED parameters  $A_V$ , Mass, Age, SFR follow 3DHST sample: SMC extinction sometimes better fit.

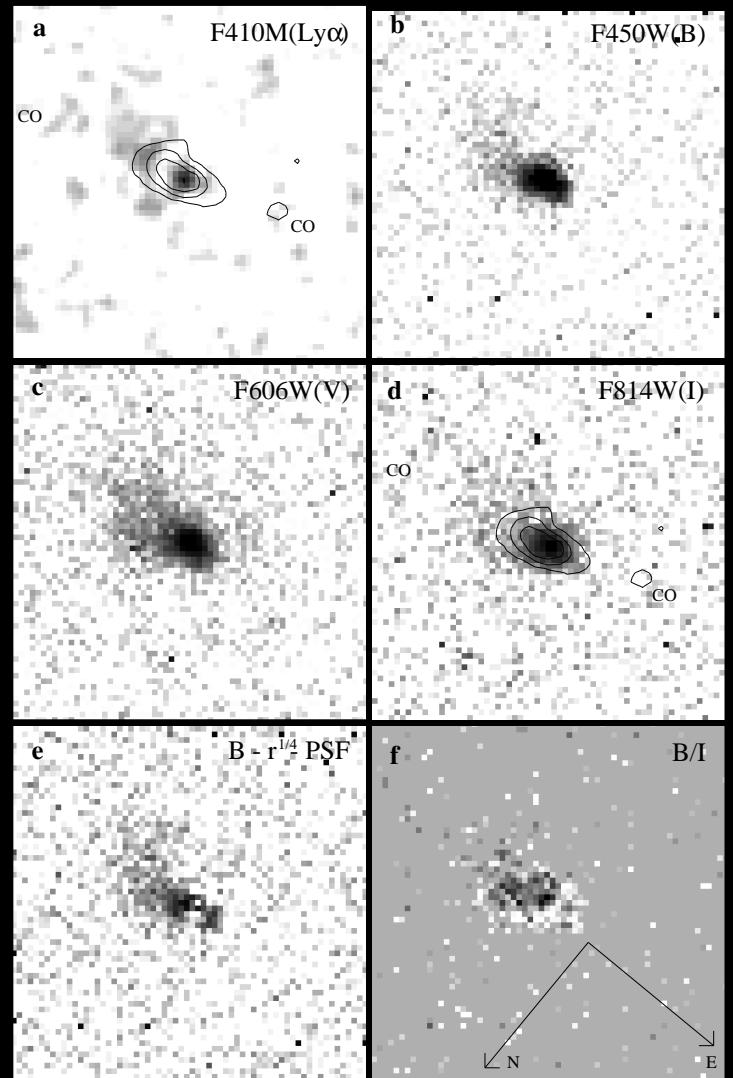
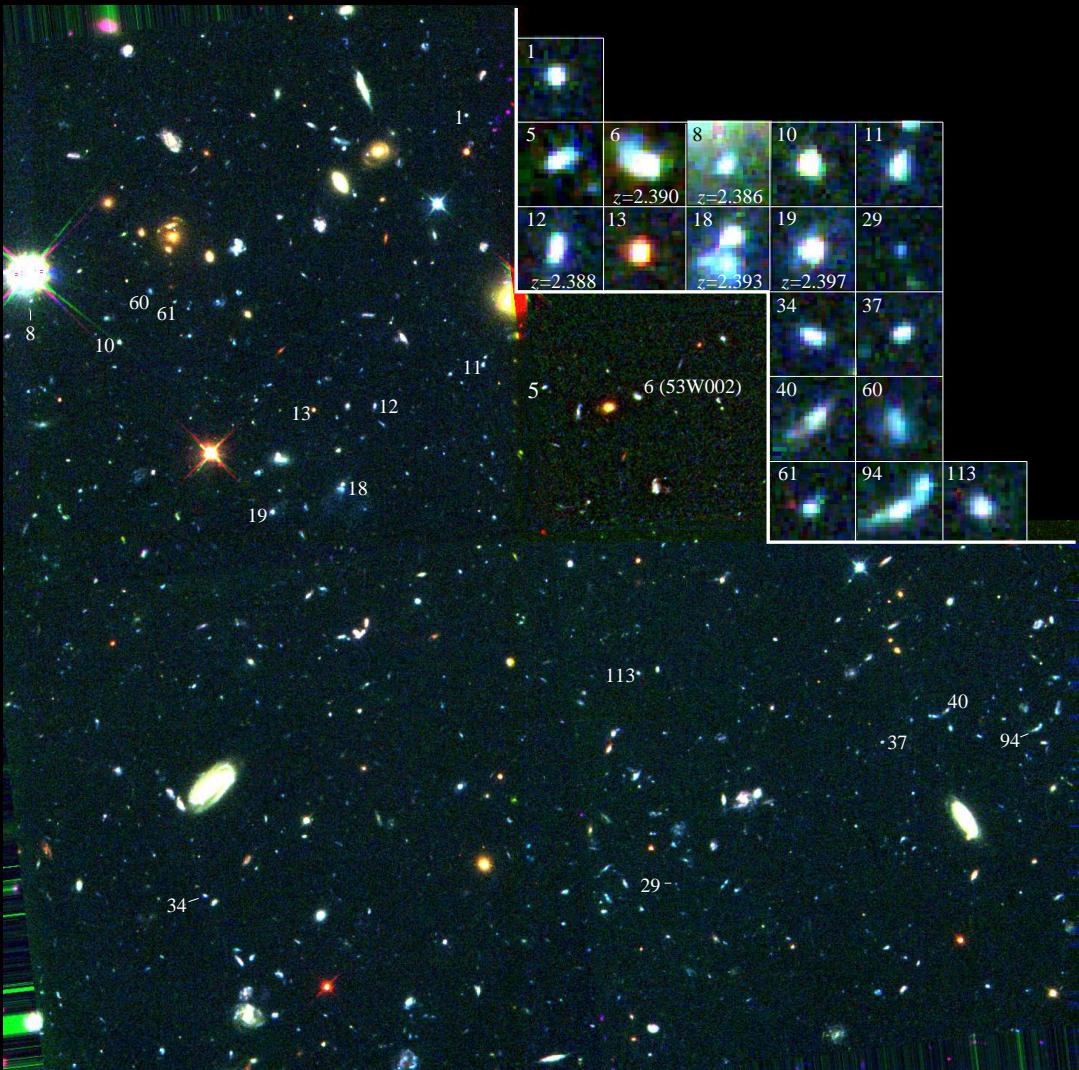
## (2) LyC Escape Fractions vs. z for Faint Galaxies & Weak AGN



[Left] PDF of absolute  $f_{\text{esc}}$ -values (Inoue<sup>+</sup> 2014), folding LyC fluxes + errors through  $10^9$  random LOS of IGM transmission (Smith+ 20, ApJ, 897, 41).

- Circles: average  $f_{\text{esc}}$ ; triangles: modal  $f_{\text{esc}}$  with  $\pm 1\sigma$  MC-range.
- [Right] Statistical samples: AGN & Galaxies  $f_{\text{esc}}$  high enough (5–30%) to maintain reionization at  $z \approx 2.3$ –3.5. Rare weak AGN dominate LyC.
- $f_{\text{esc}}$  errors dominated by low S/N, IGM-transmission & sample variance.

# Deep HST imaging of weak AGN outflow at $z=2.390$



(Left): WFPC2 BVI + F410M (Ly $\alpha$ ) on radio galaxy 53W002 + surrounding group of 17  $z=2.39$  Ly $\alpha$  candidates (Pascarelle+ 1996, Nature, 383, 45).

(Right): Radio galaxy 53W002 at  $z=2.390$  (Windhorst et al. 1998, ApJL, 494, 27): stellar  $r^{1/4}$ -law + Ly $\alpha$  & blue continuum AGN-cloud.

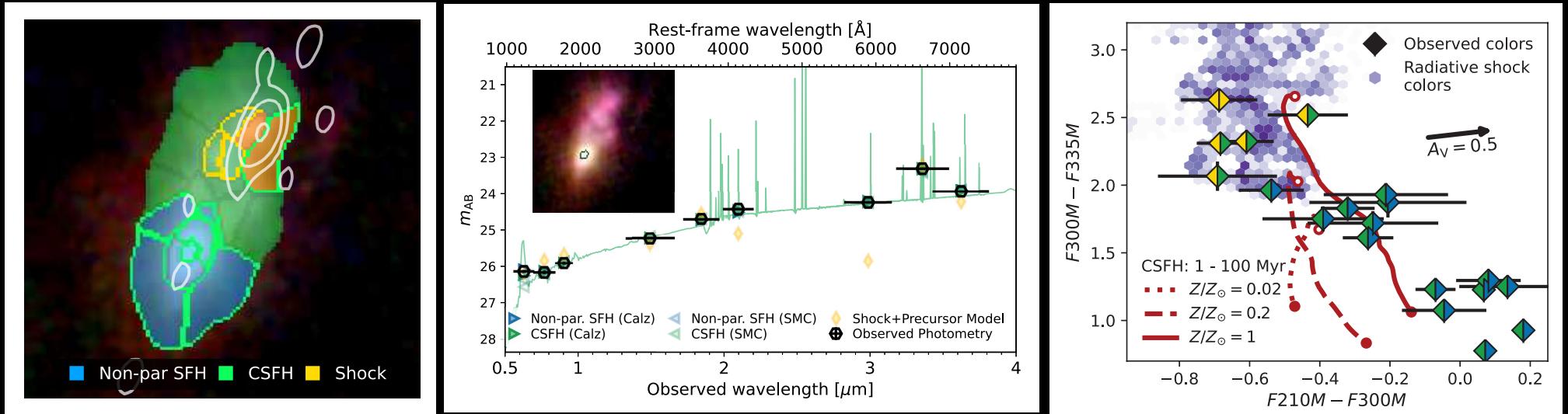
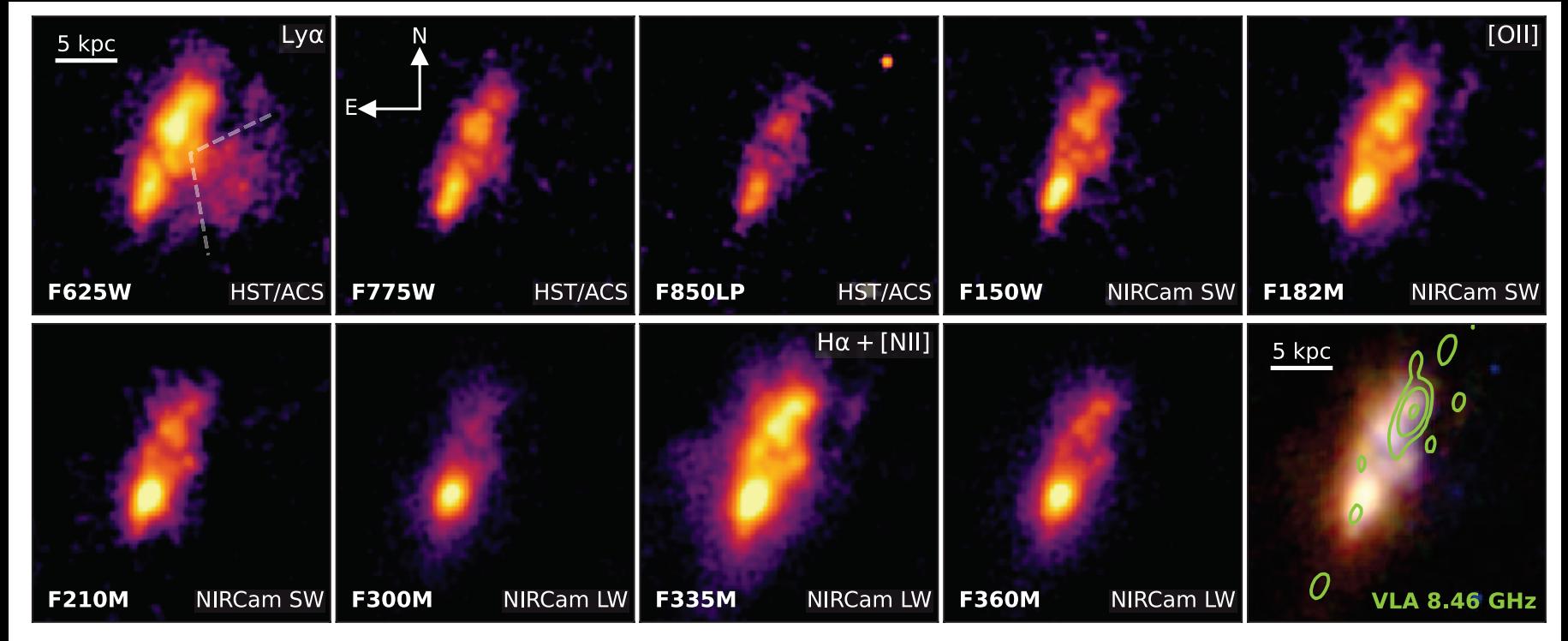
- Ly $\alpha$  may escape through outflow hole from radio jet ( $\theta_h \simeq 20^\circ$ ); LyC?

### (3) The Promise and Power of JWST for LyC Constraints at High Redshift



What LyC constraints can JWST provide at  $z \gtrsim 4$  where the IGM is opaque?

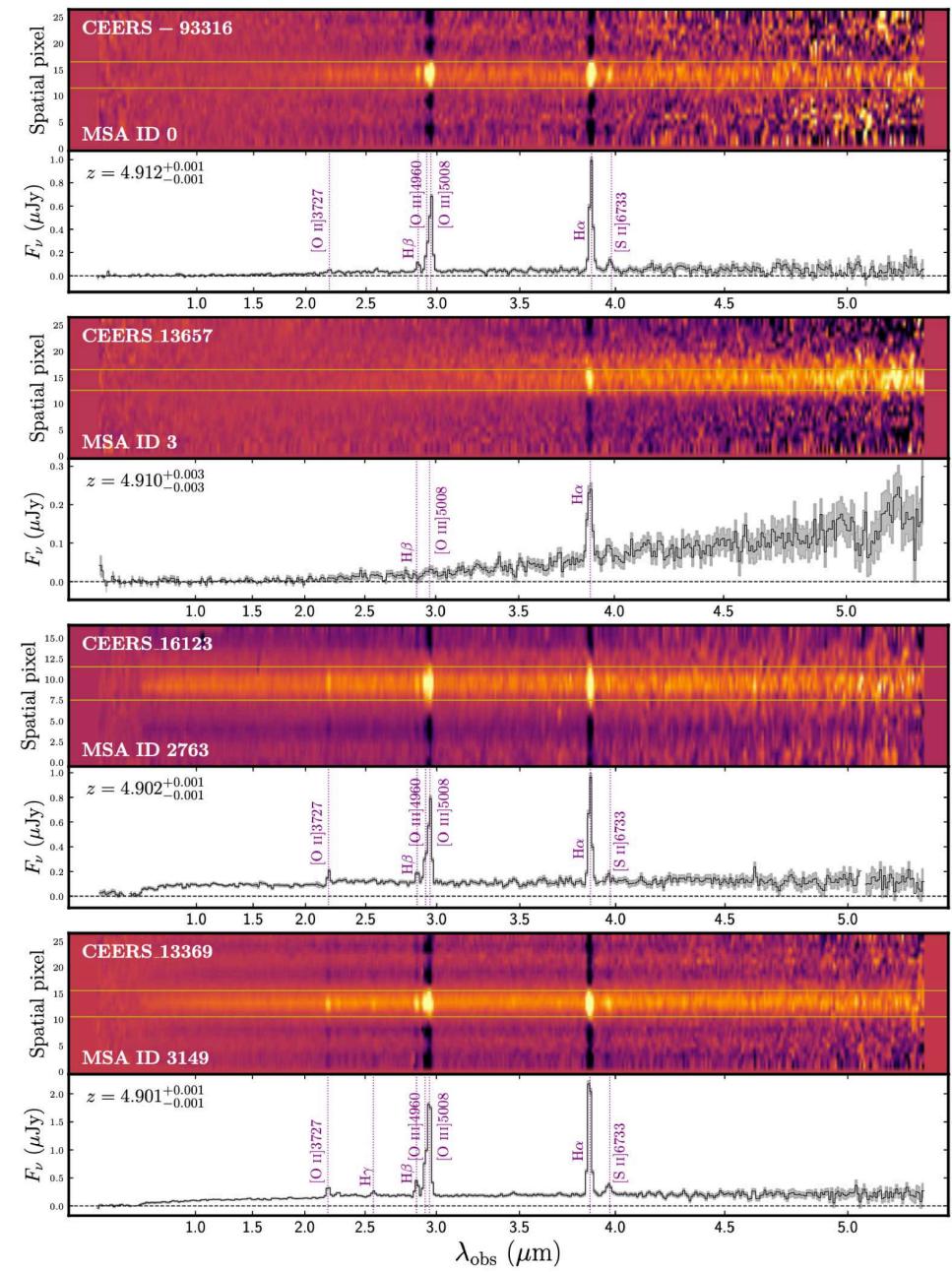
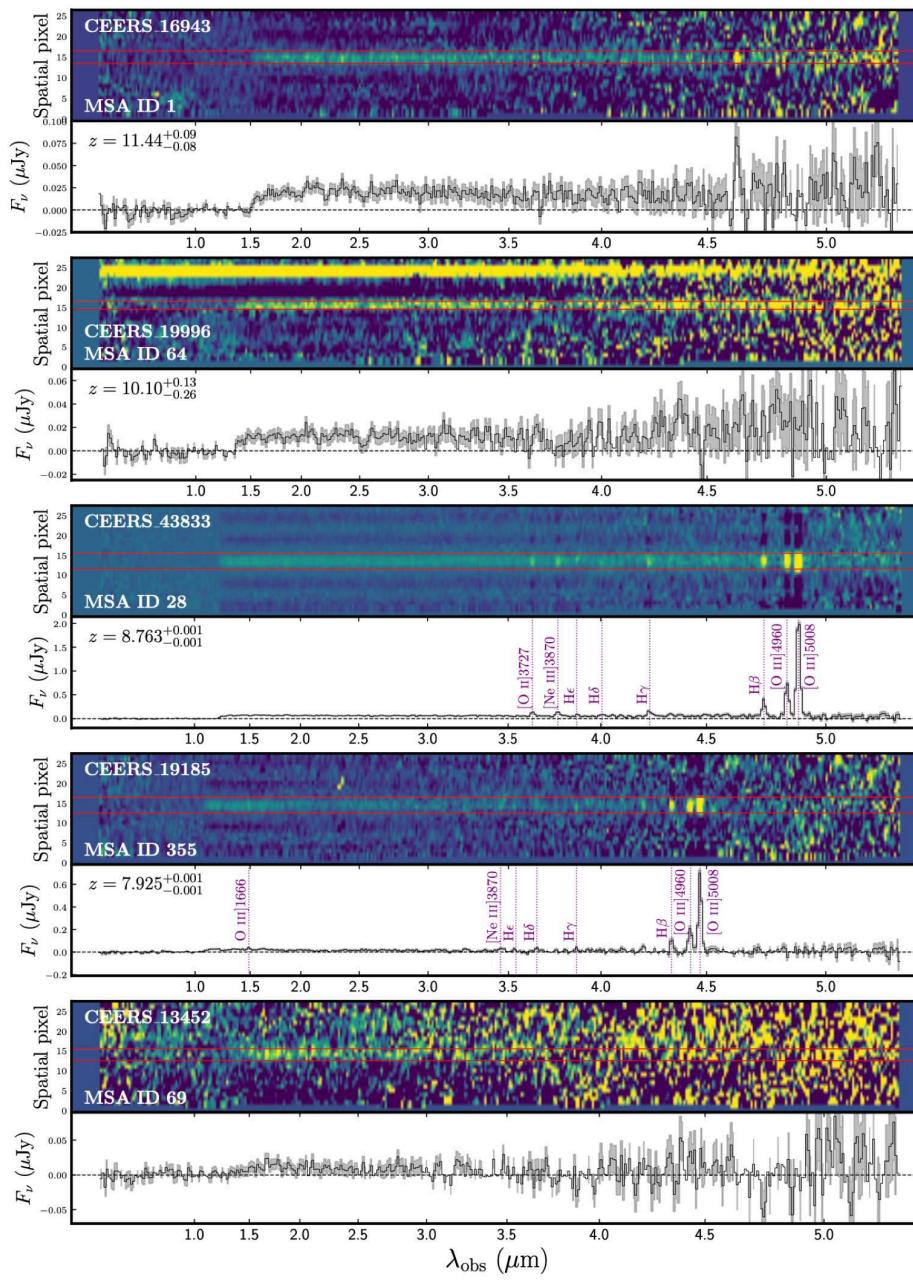
- HST has had  $\gtrsim 180,500$  sunrises + sunsets since its April 1990 launch;
- JWST has had only 1 sunrise + 1 sunset since its Dec. 2021 launch!
- JWST: a  $\gtrsim 10$ -year stable platform for very faint imaging & spectroscopy.



One of the most massive ( $10^{10.9} M_{\odot}$ ) high-z radio galaxies at  $z=4.11$ :

- TNJ1338: NIRCam medium-band SFR  $\sim 1600 M_{\odot}/\text{yr}$ ; extreme jet-induced SFR  $\gtrsim 500 M_{\odot}/\text{yr}$ ,  $t_{\text{SFR}} \simeq 4 \text{ Myr}$ .

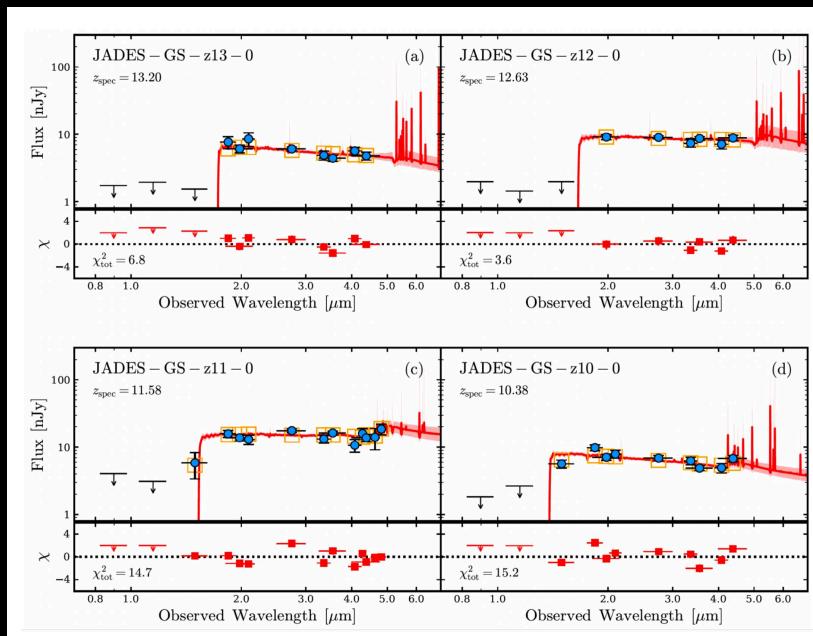
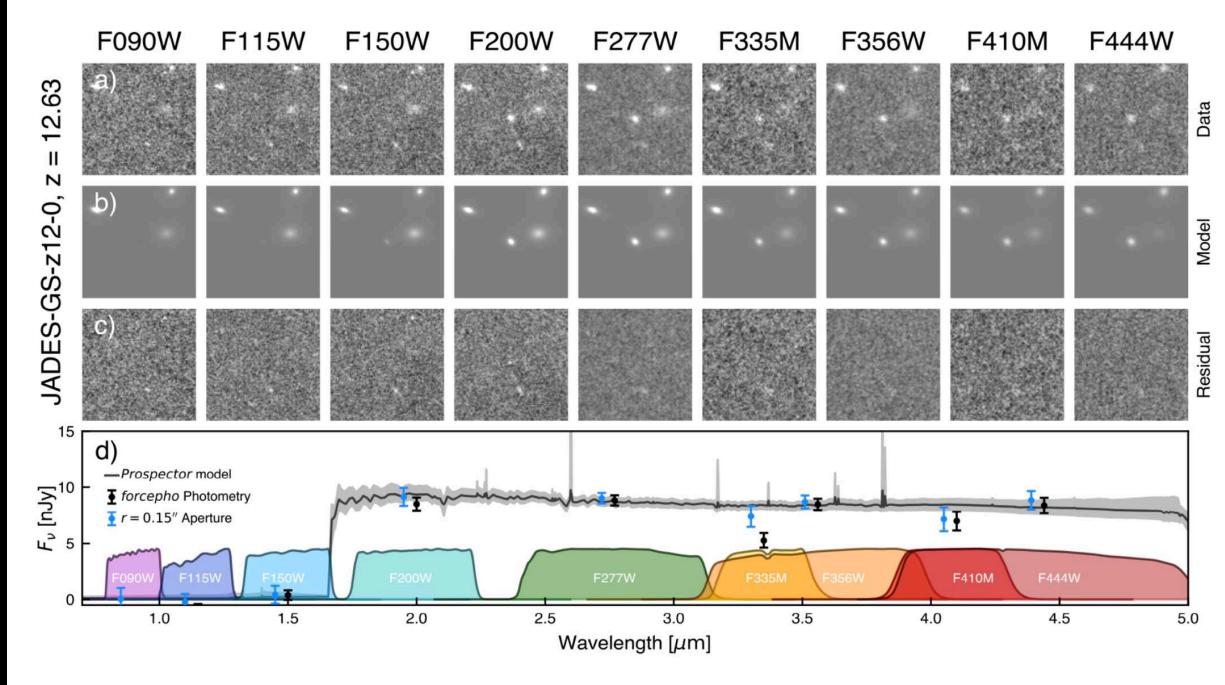
Opening angles: HST Ly $\alpha$   $\theta_h \lesssim 50^\circ$ ; NIRCam+VLA jet  $\theta_h \sim 10^\circ$  (Duncan<sup>+</sup> 2023, MNRAS, 522, 4548)



NIRSpec: CEERS-16943 now spectroscopically confirmed at  $z=11.44!$

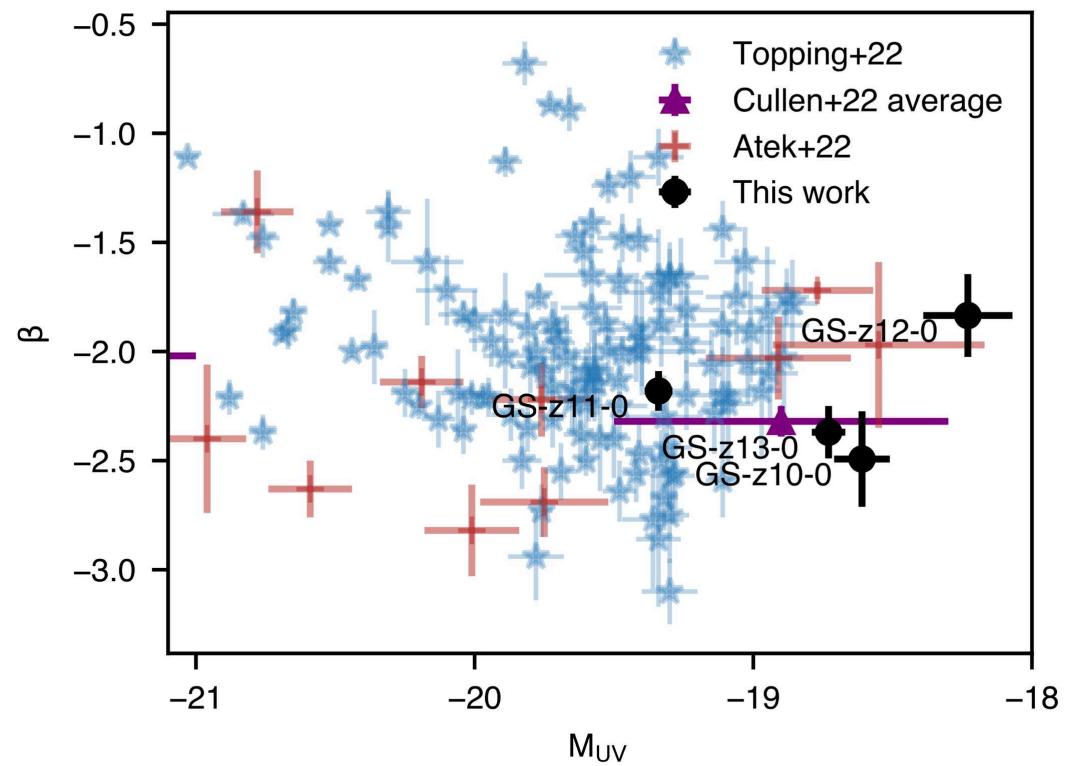
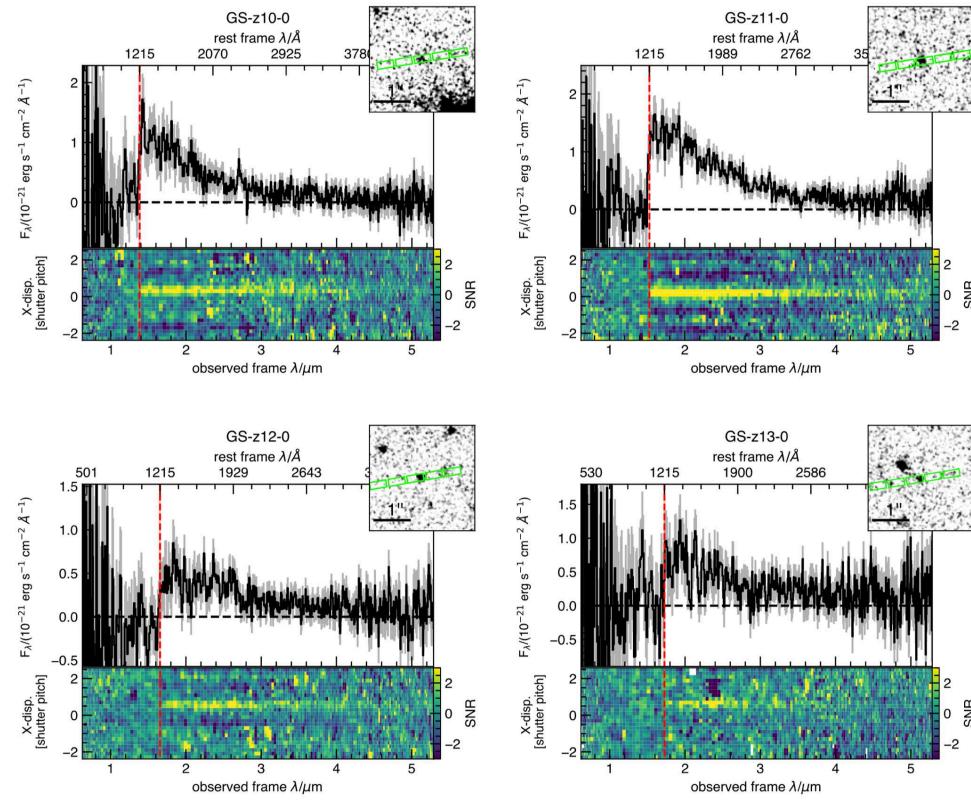
CEERS-93316 at  $z=4.912$  (overdensity), not  $z \sim 16$  ( $z_{\text{phot}}$  line-contaminated)!

(Haro et al. astro-ph/2303.15431; see also Naidu et al. astro-ph/2208.02794)



NIRSpec redshifts for four NIRCam  $z_{phot} \simeq 10-13$  candidates:

- $z_{phot} \simeq 10-13$  candidates indeed at NIRSpec  $z_{spec} = 10.38-13.20$ .
- SED-model yields  $f_{esc} \simeq 20-70\%$  (Robertson et al. 2023; astro-ph/2212.04480)

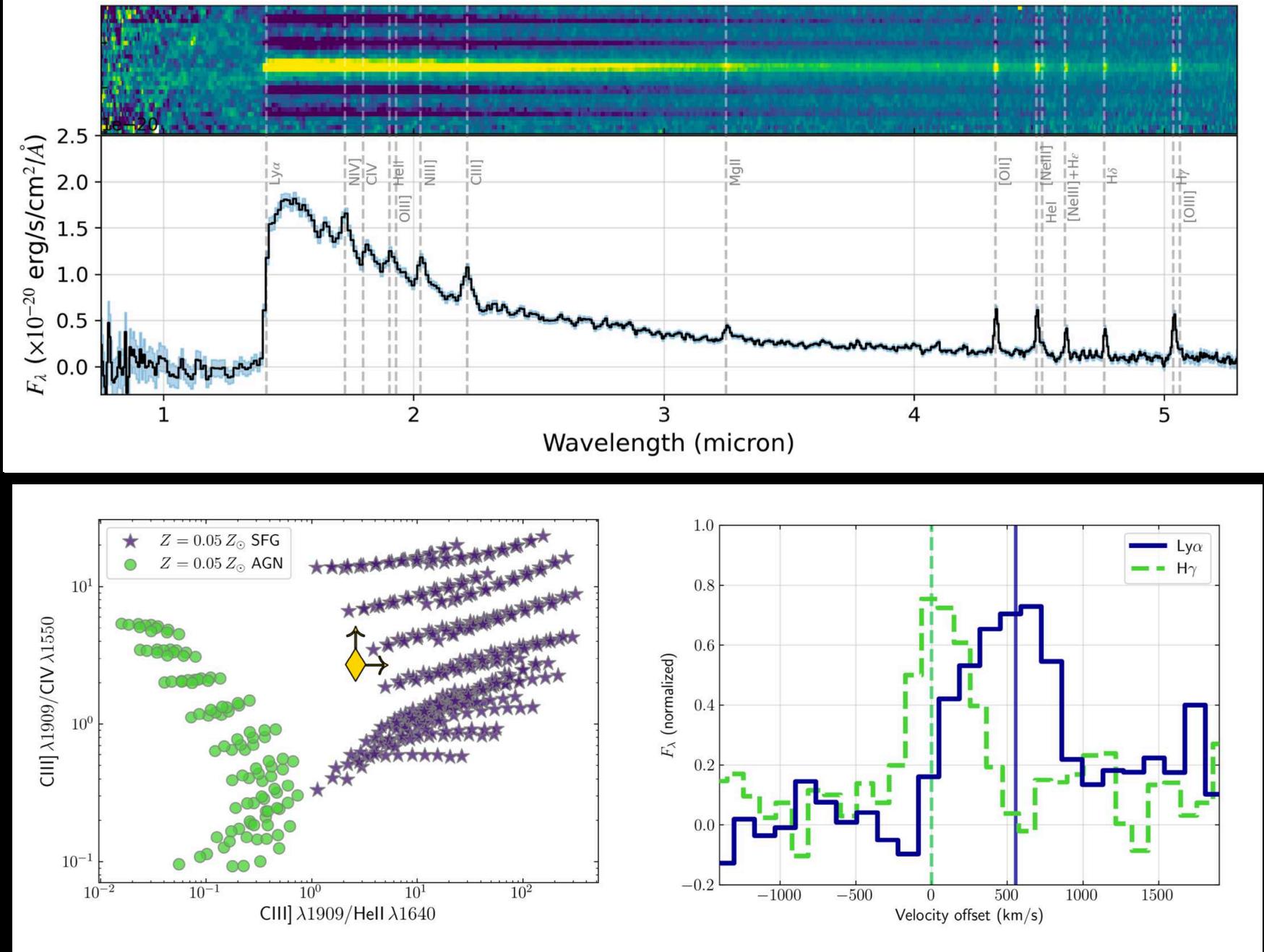


4 NIRCam-selected galaxies in GOODS-S with NIRSpec  $10.3 \lesssim z_{spec} \lesssim 13.2$ .

- Generally metal poor with masses  $\sim 10^7$ – $10^8 M_\odot$  and blue UV  $\beta$ -slopes.
- Significant Ly $\alpha$  -damping wings — good (future!) re-ionizers.

(Curtis-Lake, E. et al. 2023, astro-ph/2212.04568)

- These are not reionizers yet at  $z \gtrsim 10$ , but they will be by  $z \simeq 7$ – $8$ !

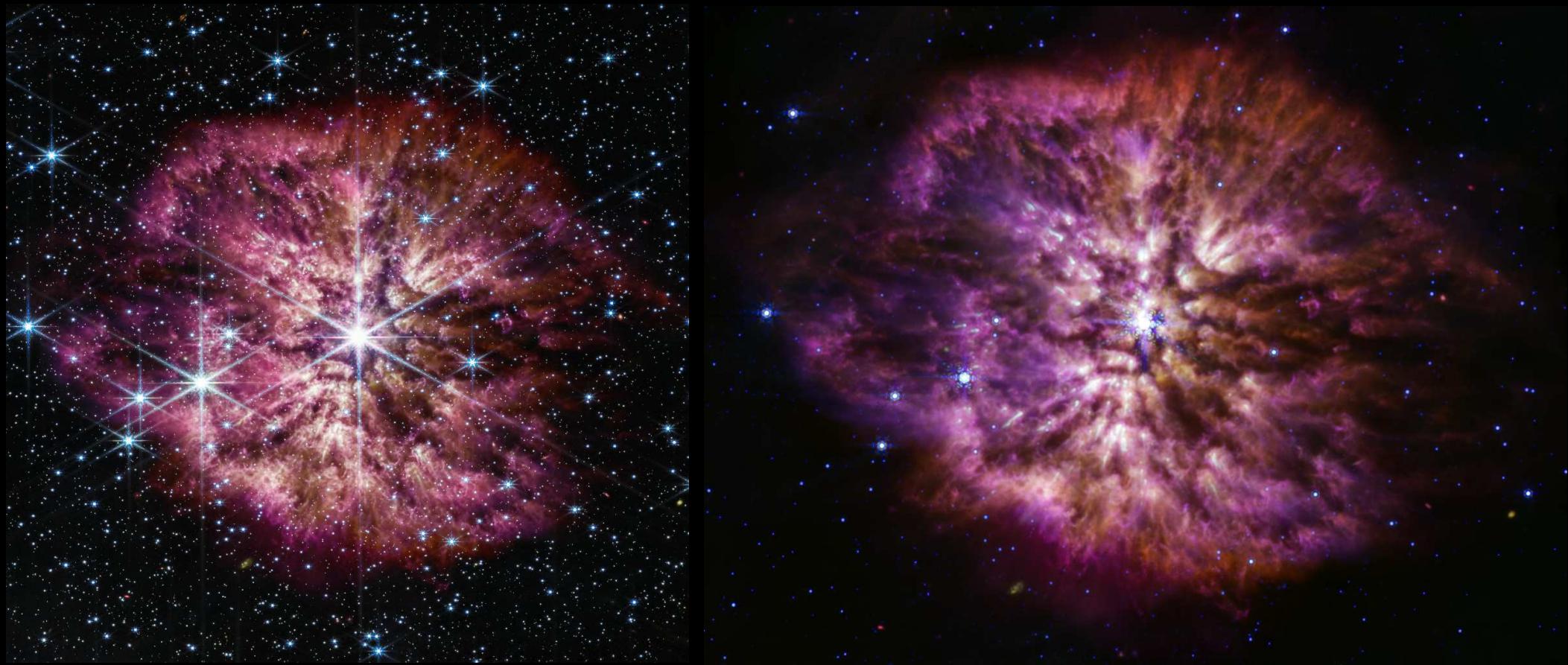


JWST NIRSpec spectrum of GN-z11;  $z_{spec}=10.603$  instead of  $z_{phot}=11.09!$

- UV  $\beta$ -slope  $\approx -2.4$ ; H, C, N, O, Mg em-lines/outflows: not AGN, but SFR  $\approx 20-40 M_\odot/\text{yr}$ .

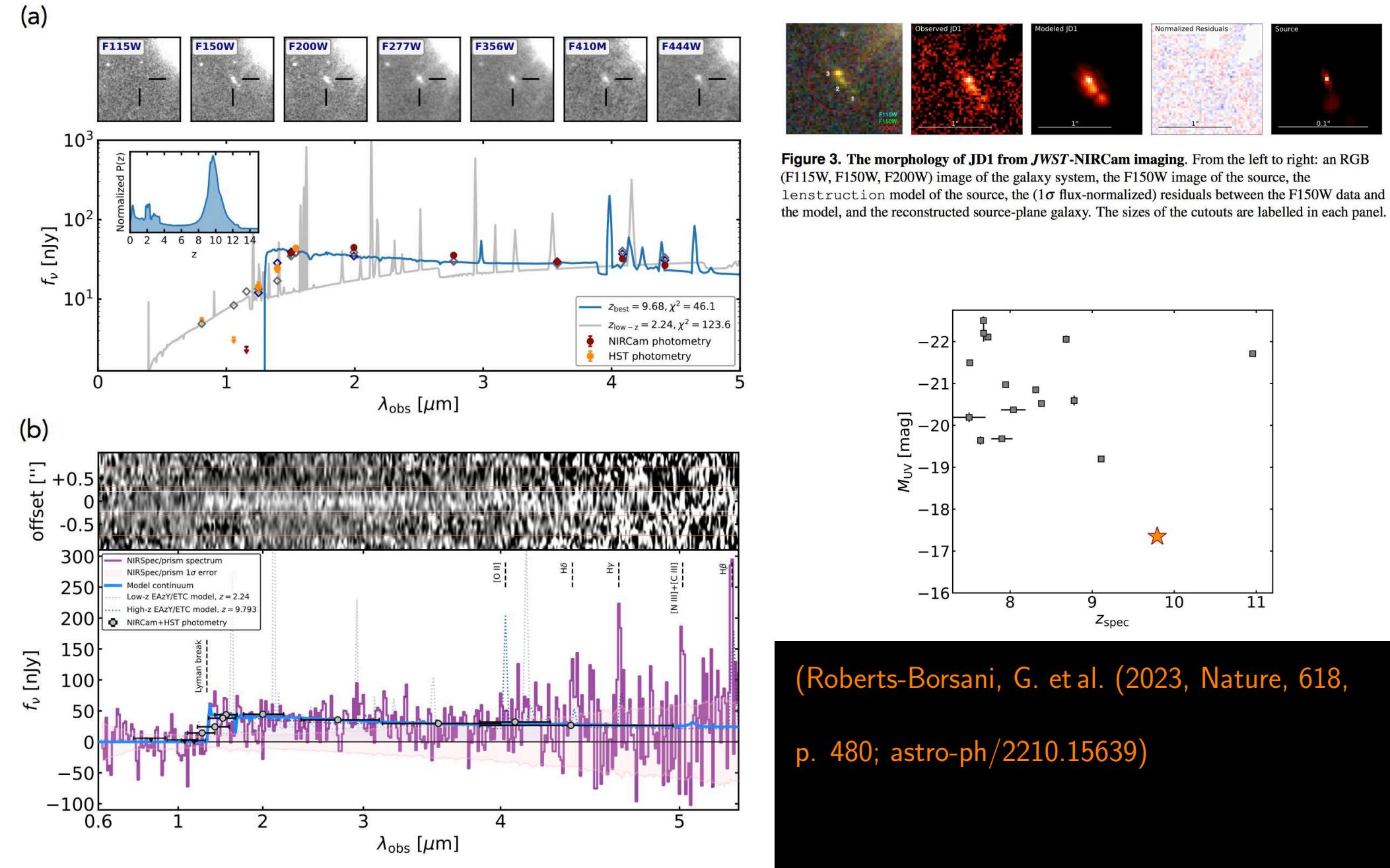
(Bunker et al. astro-ph/2302.09725v1). See my next musings on Nitrogen lines and Wolf Rayet stars.

## Galaxy Outflows with HST and JWST: Let's talk Wolf-Rayet stars:



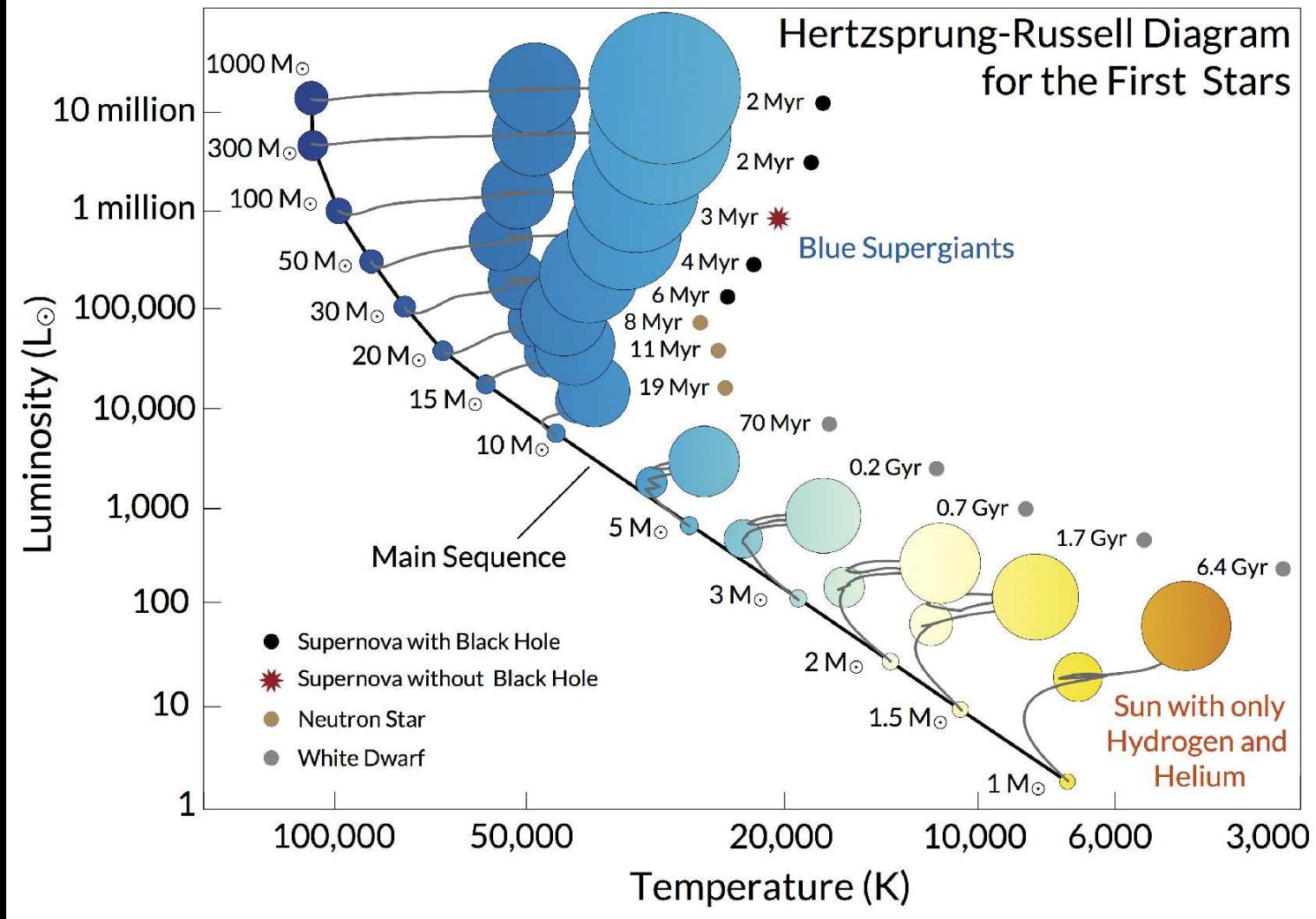
30  $M_{\odot}$  Wolf Rayet star WR124 shortly before it turns Supernova ...

- [Left] NIRCam and [Right] MIRI — both showing recent mass loss.
- Prelude stage to Supernova also releases  $\sim 10 M_{\odot}$  of (dusty) mass!
- “Cavities” at PA $\sim 75$  &  $255 \pm 15^{\circ}$  suggests rapid stellar rotation!
- Future Supernova may poke  $\theta_h \sim 15^{\circ}$  holes in ISM —→ use in  $f_{esc}$ -models!



Highly magnified dwarf galaxy behind A2744 is at NIRSpec  $z_{\text{spec}}=9.793!$

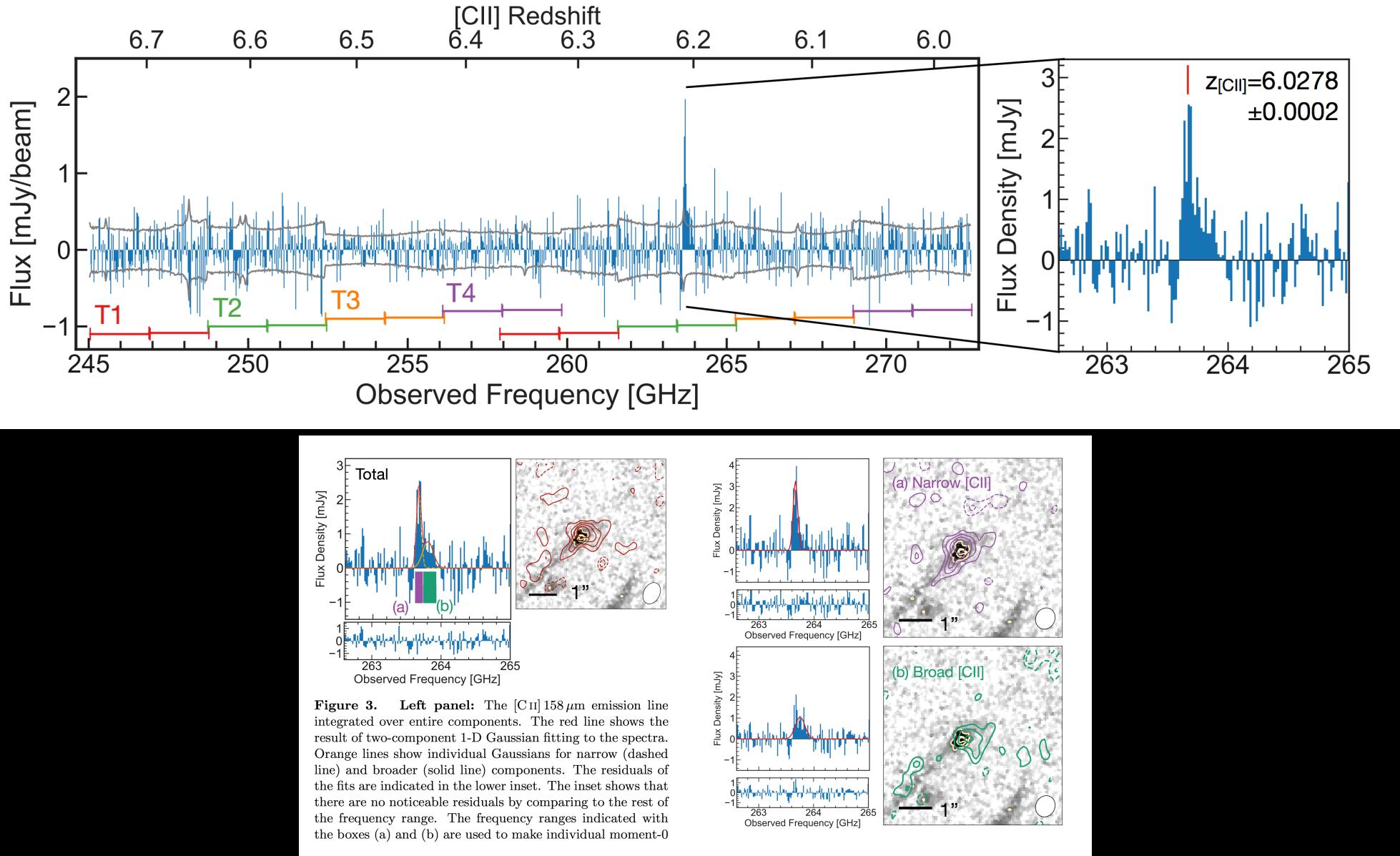
- $M_{\text{UV}} \simeq -17.35$  mag,  $r_e = 150$  pc, lowest known dwarf galaxy mass =  $10^{7.19} M_{\odot}$  at  $z \simeq 10$ !
- Presence of  $H\beta$ ,  $H\gamma$ ,  $H\delta$ , N-III but no C, O suggests pristine object with WR stars of  $\gtrsim 30 M_{\odot}$ .



Pop III star HR-diagram: MESA stellar evolution models for  $Z=0.0 Z_{\odot}$ .

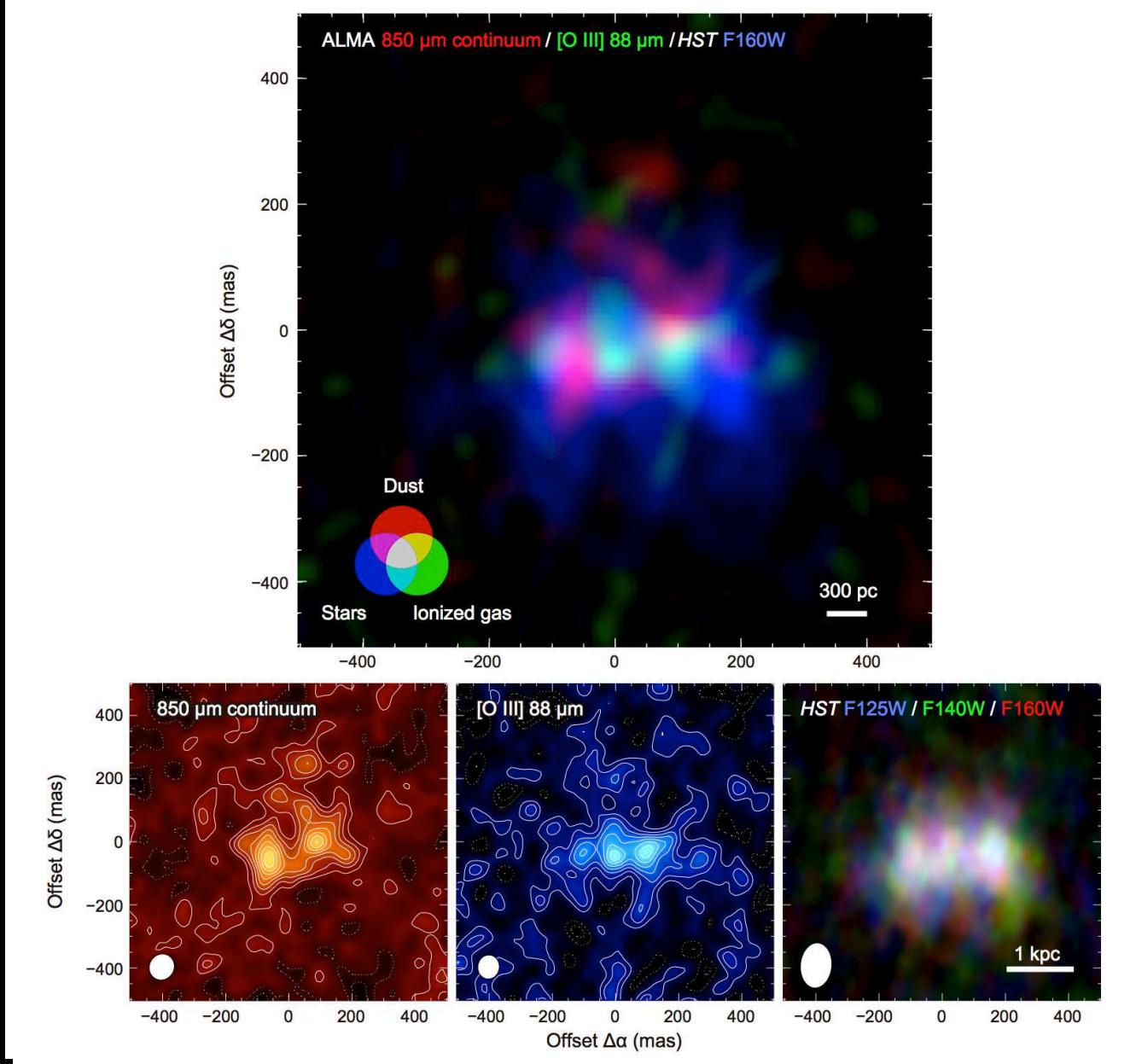
(Windhorst, Timmes, Wyithe et al. 2018, ApJS, 234, 41).

- WR stars come from  $M \gtrsim 20-30 M_{\odot}$  stars, which live  $\sim 6-8$  Myrs.
- SN-driven outflows come from  $M \gtrsim 8 M_{\odot}$  stars, which live  $\lesssim 30$  Myrs.
- A 100 Myr starburst at  $z \sim 10$  will have SN-driven outflows for another  $\sim 140$  Myrs, *i.e.*, till  $z \sim 8$  maximizing ISM holes for LyC-escape by then.



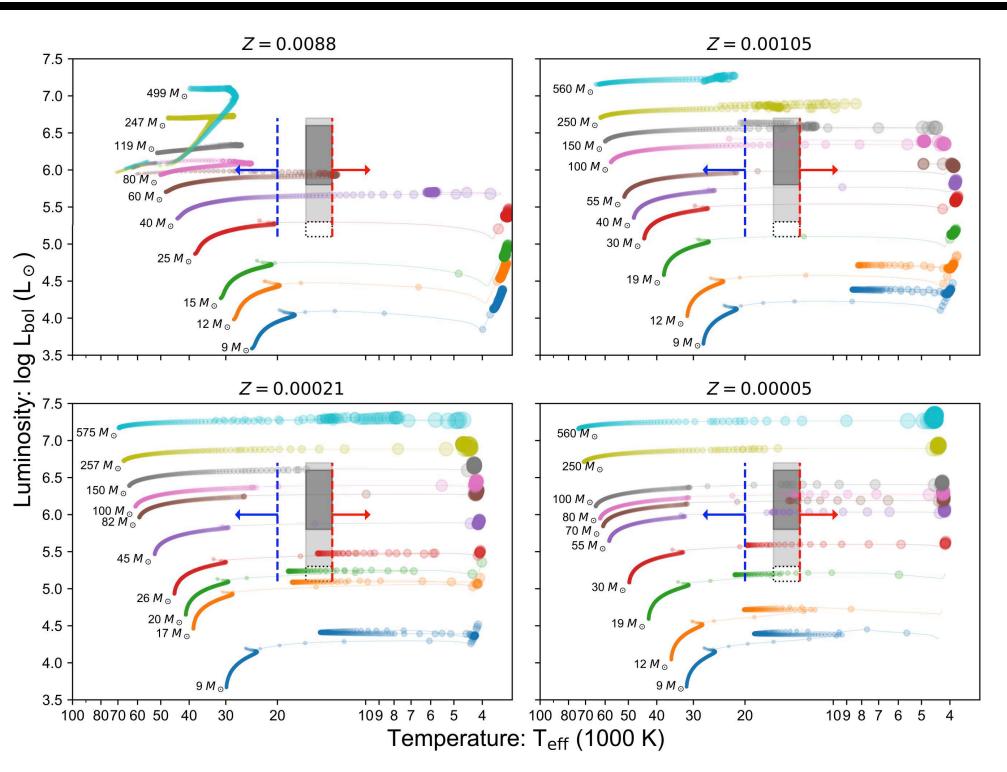
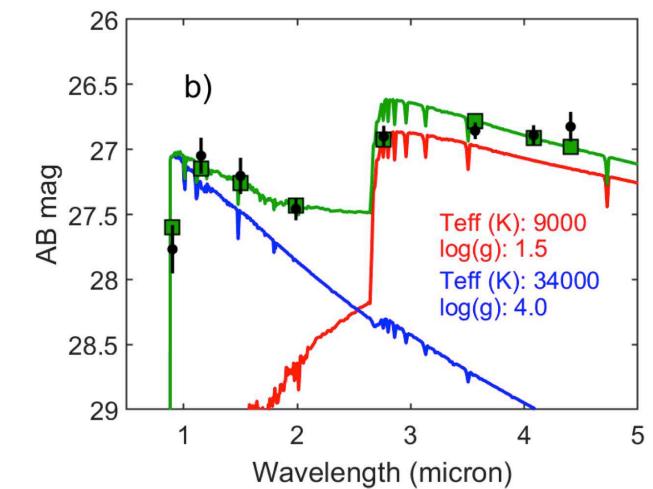
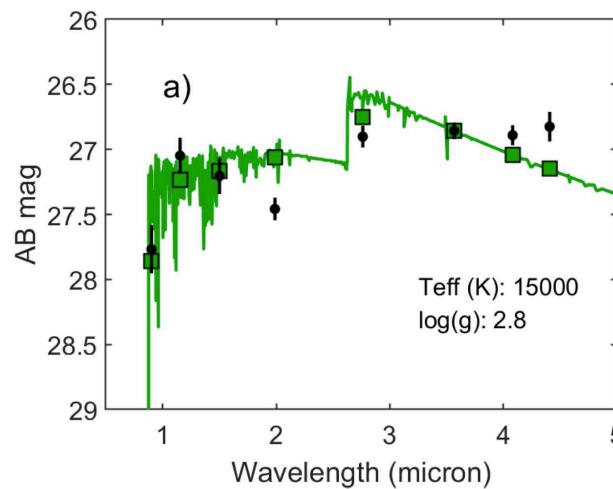
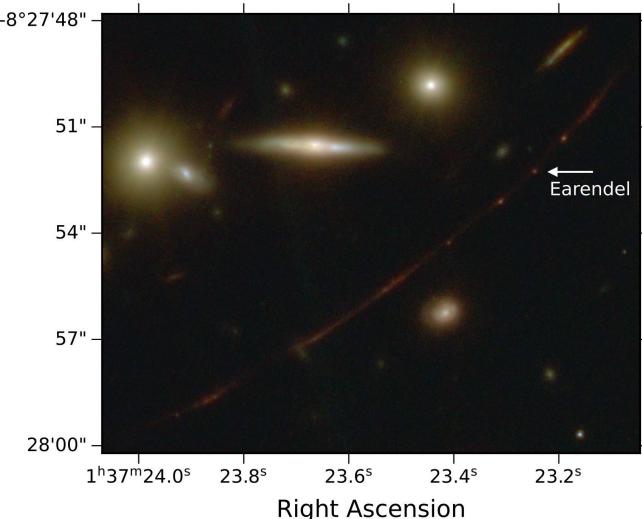
## Highly magnified galaxy behind MACS0308 at ALMA redshift $z_{spec}=6.2078$

- Asymmetric ALMA [CII]-line suggests carbon outflow at  $v \simeq -230$  km/s.
  - Lack of detected  $158\mu\text{m}$  dust continuum: SF in dust-free environment.  
 $f_{esc}$  SED-modeling needed at  $z=6$ ! (Fudamoto, Y. et al.; astro-ph/astro-ph/2303.07513)



Highly magnified galaxy behind MACS0416 at ALMA redshift  $z_{spec}=8.312$ :

- Superbubbles produce galaxy-scale outflows + bulk-motion of ionized gas.
- $f_{esc}$  SED-modeling needed at  $z=8!$  (Tamura et al. 2023, astro-ph/2303.11539)



Welch, B., et al. 2022, ApJ, 940, L1 (astro-ph/2208.09007);

Welch, B., et al. 2023, ApJ, 943, 2 (astro-ph/2207.03532);

Vanzella, E., et al. 2023, ApJ, 945, 53 (astro-ph/2211.09839).

Highly magnified star ( $\mu \sim 9000$ ) Earendel, behind cluster WHL0137, at  $z_{phot} = 6.2 \pm 0.1$ :

- Best SED-fit: low  $Z/Z_\odot$  double star,  $T_{eff} = 9000 + 34,000$  K, and  $L \sim 10^{5.3} + 10^{5.9} L_\odot$ .
- JWST has the potential to study individual (binary) stars that contribute to reionization!

## (4) Summary and Conclusions

(1) Space- and ground-based LyC spectroscopy has a unique role in LyC:

- Spectral accuracy at  $\lambda \lesssim 912 \text{ \AA}$ ; Contamination more uncertain and more limited z-range.

(2) WFC3 can measure LyC for galaxies + weak AGN at  $z \simeq 2.3\text{--}3.5$ :

- WFC3 filters designed with low-enough redleak to enable this.
- Deepest 10-band HST images mask all foreground interlopers to  $AB \lesssim 28$ .
- Weak AGN  $\sim 3\times$  brighter in LyC, but  $\sim 2\times$  less numerous than Gals.
- LyC SB-profiles much flatter than UVC, and very non-Sersic like.
- LyC escapes along few sight-lines offset from galaxy center: Outflows?  
Does ISM-porosity increase with galaxy radius?
- $f_{esc}$  just large enough (AGN  $\sim 30 \pm 25\%$ ; Gals: 5–10%) for reionization.

(3) JWST provides many smoking guns for reionization at  $z \simeq 4\text{--}13$ :

- Many cases of (AGN, Gal) outflows, with  $\langle \text{opening angles} \rangle \theta_h \lesssim 20\text{--}40^\circ$ .
- Expect many NIRSpec analyses of potential LyC emitters at  $z \simeq 4\text{--}13$ .

# SPARE CHARTS

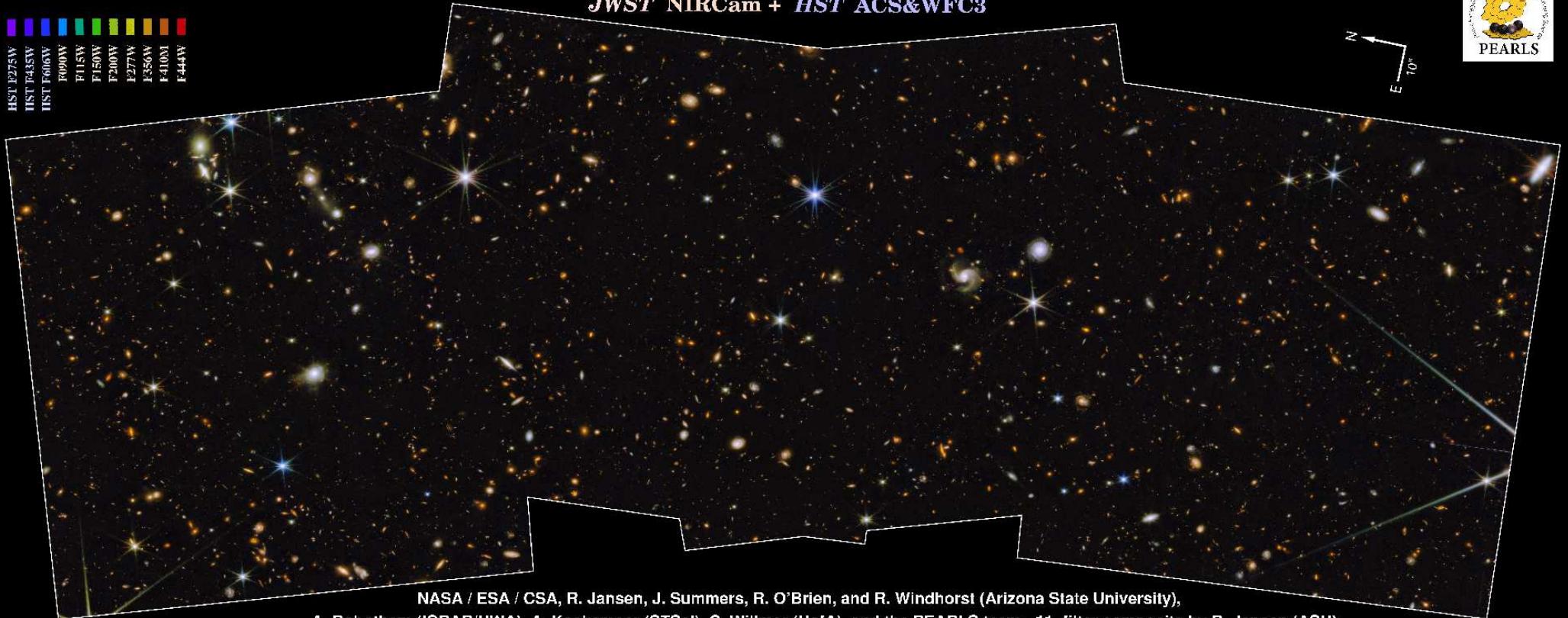
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# JWST North Ecliptic Pole Time Domain Field – Spoke 1

JWST NIRCam + HST ACS&WFC3



HST F275W  
HST F435W  
HST F606W  
HST F690W  
F115W  
F150W  
F200W  
F277W  
F356W  
F410M  
F444W



NASA / ESA / CSA, R. Jansen, J. Summers, R. O'Brien, and R. Windhorst (Arizona State University),  
A. Robotham (ICRAR/UWA), A. Koekemoer (STScI), C. Willmer (UofA), and the PEARLS team; 11-filter composite by R. Jansen (ASU);  
additional image processing by A. Pagan (STScI)

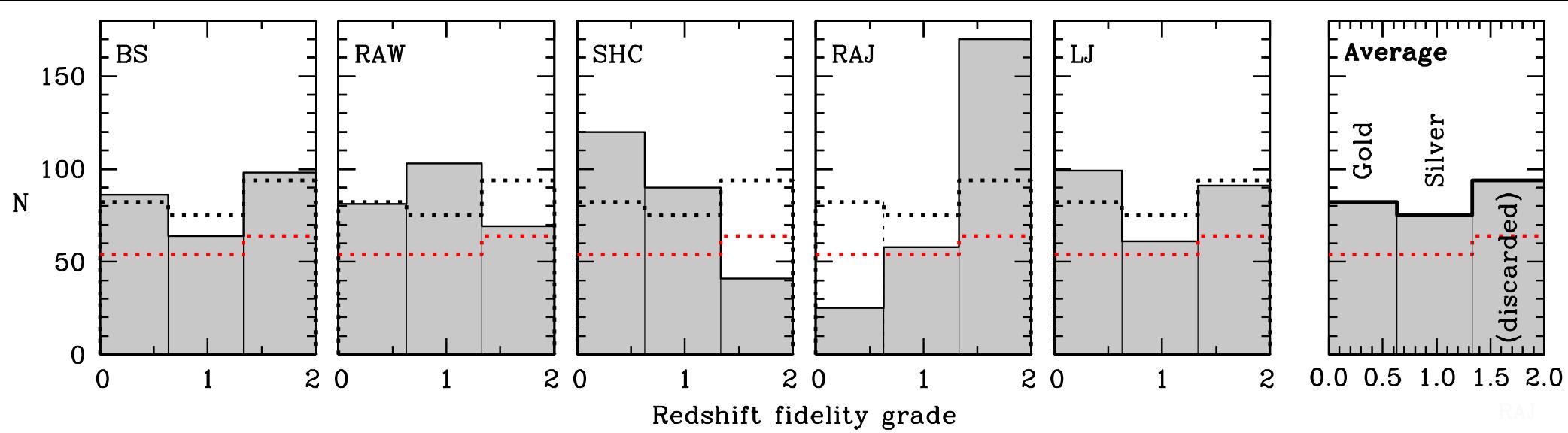
Dec 10 2022

## North Ecliptic Pole (NEP) Time Domain Field (TDF) from PEARLS project:

(PEARLS = Prime Extragalactic Areas for Reionization and Lensing Science; Windhorst et al. 2023, Astron. J., 165, 13; astro-ph/2209.04119)

- The NEP TDF is unique: Webb can observe it 365 days per year!
- Some remarkable results in PEARLS and other recent JWST projects:
- Seyferts and spirals with weak AGN seen abundantly in the images.
- (Old SED) tidal tails everywhere. Abundance of red (dusty) spirals.

## (2b) Hubble WFC3 ERS — Spectroscopic Sample Selection



Comparison of redshift reliability (spectrum quality) assessments, from best (0.0) to poorest (2.0), by five co-authors [BS, RAW, SHC, RAJ, and LJ]:

- Measuring LyC escape fractions of  $f_{esc} \simeq 6.0\%$  at  $\gtrsim 3\sigma$  requires very low interloper fraction (Siana<sup>+</sup> 2015; Vanzella<sup>+</sup> 2015).
- Mask-out all interlopers from 10-band ERS mosaics to AB  $\lesssim 28$  mag.
- Use all VLT, Keck, & HST grism spectra to get most reliable samples:
- “Gold” sample: highest fidelity (grades=0–0.63):  $z_{sp}$ ’s very likely correct.

# What critical aspects does JWST add to HST's LyC Escape studies?



JWST FGS+NIRCam:  $R \simeq 150$ ,  $0.8\text{--}5.0\mu\text{m}$  grism spectra to AB  $\lesssim 28\text{--}29$ :

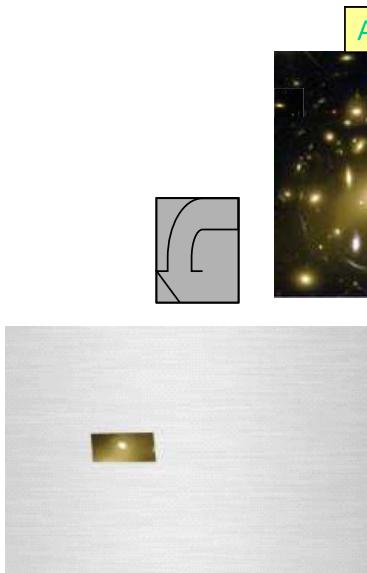
- Larger, fainter SED+ $z_{spec}$ -samples of LyC candidates in HST UV fields.

NIRSpec: JWST's short-wavelength ( $\lambda \simeq 1\text{--}5.0\mu\text{m}$ ) spectrograph:

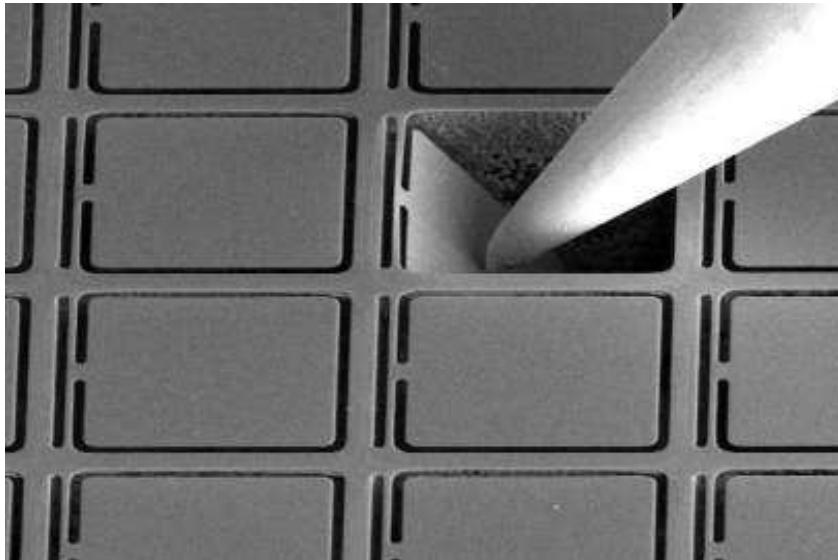
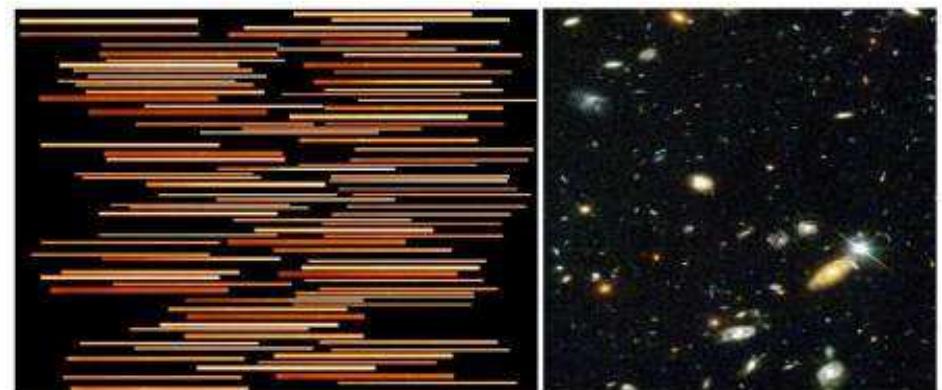
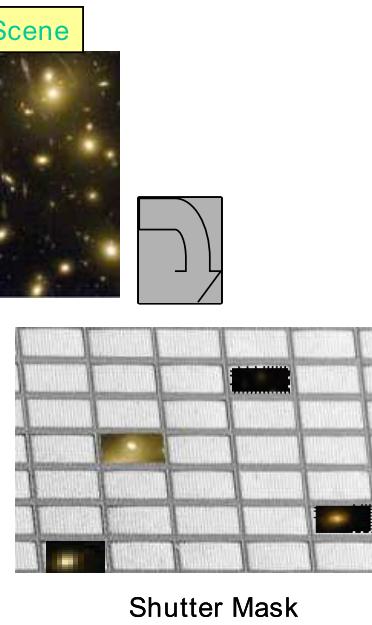
- 100's of simultaneous faint-object spectra of LyC candidates to AB  $\lesssim 28$ .

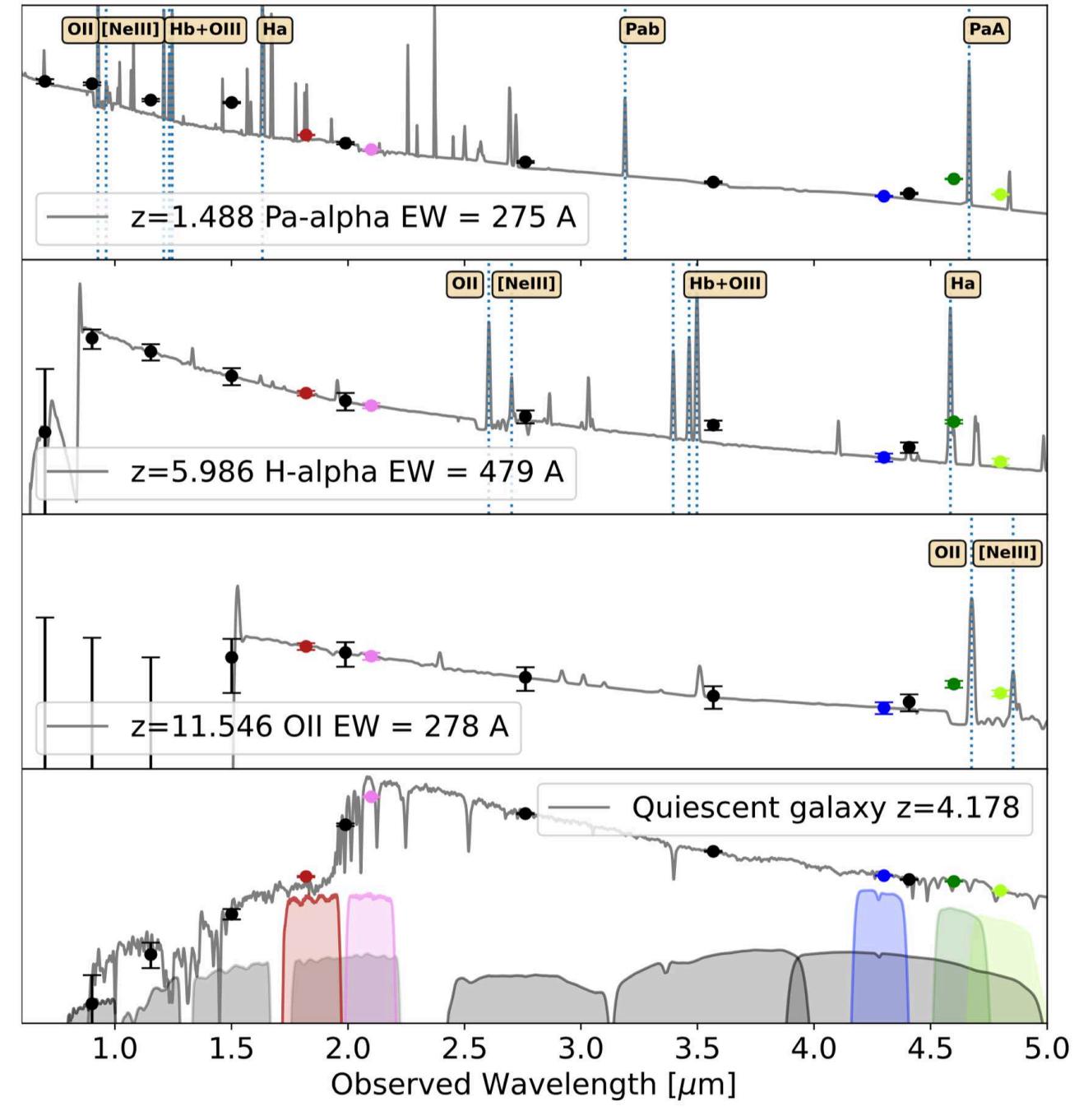
Concentrate on the most dusty (far-IR selected)  $A_V \gtrsim 1$  objects at  $z \gtrsim 2.3$ !

# Micro Shutters

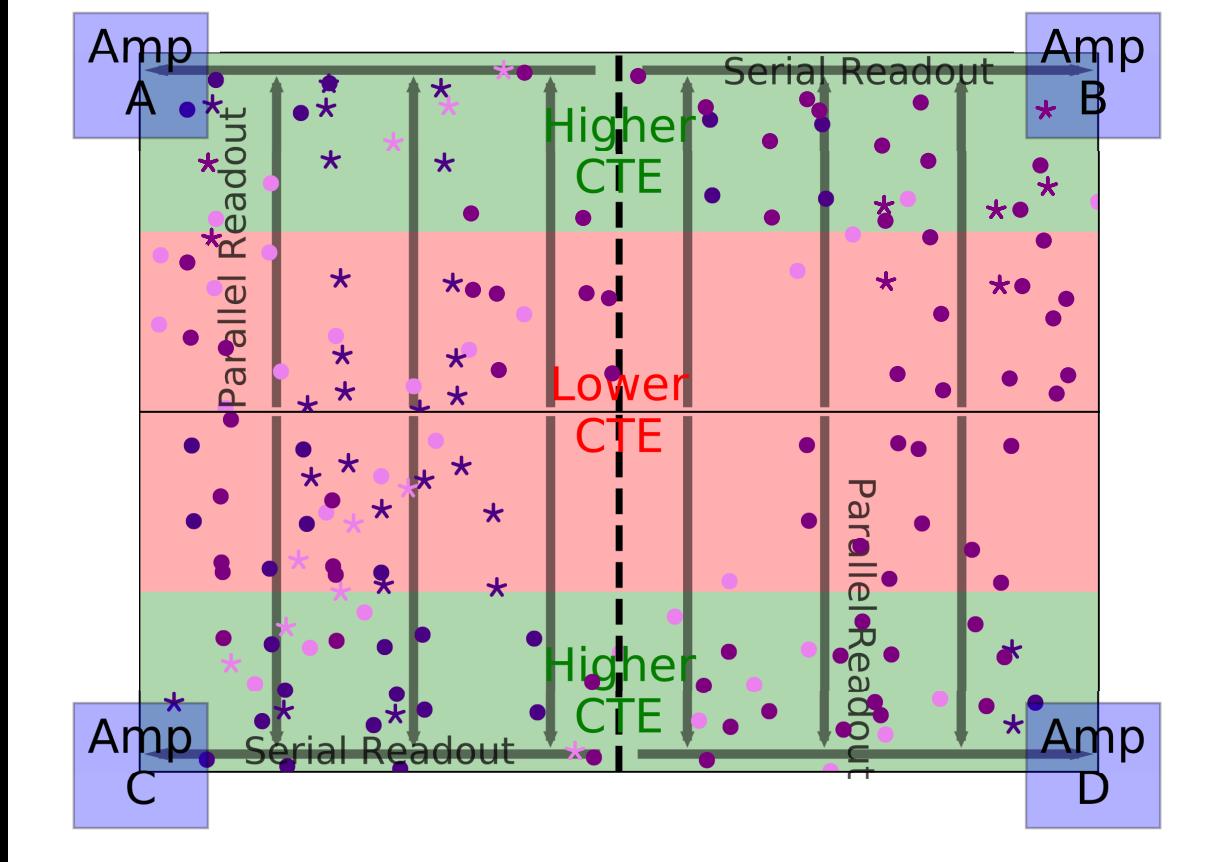


Metal Mask/Fixed Slit





JWST Medium-band Survey of HUDF: strong line-emitting candidates at  $1.5 \lesssim z \lesssim 11$  (Williams et al. 2023; astro-ph/2301.09780).



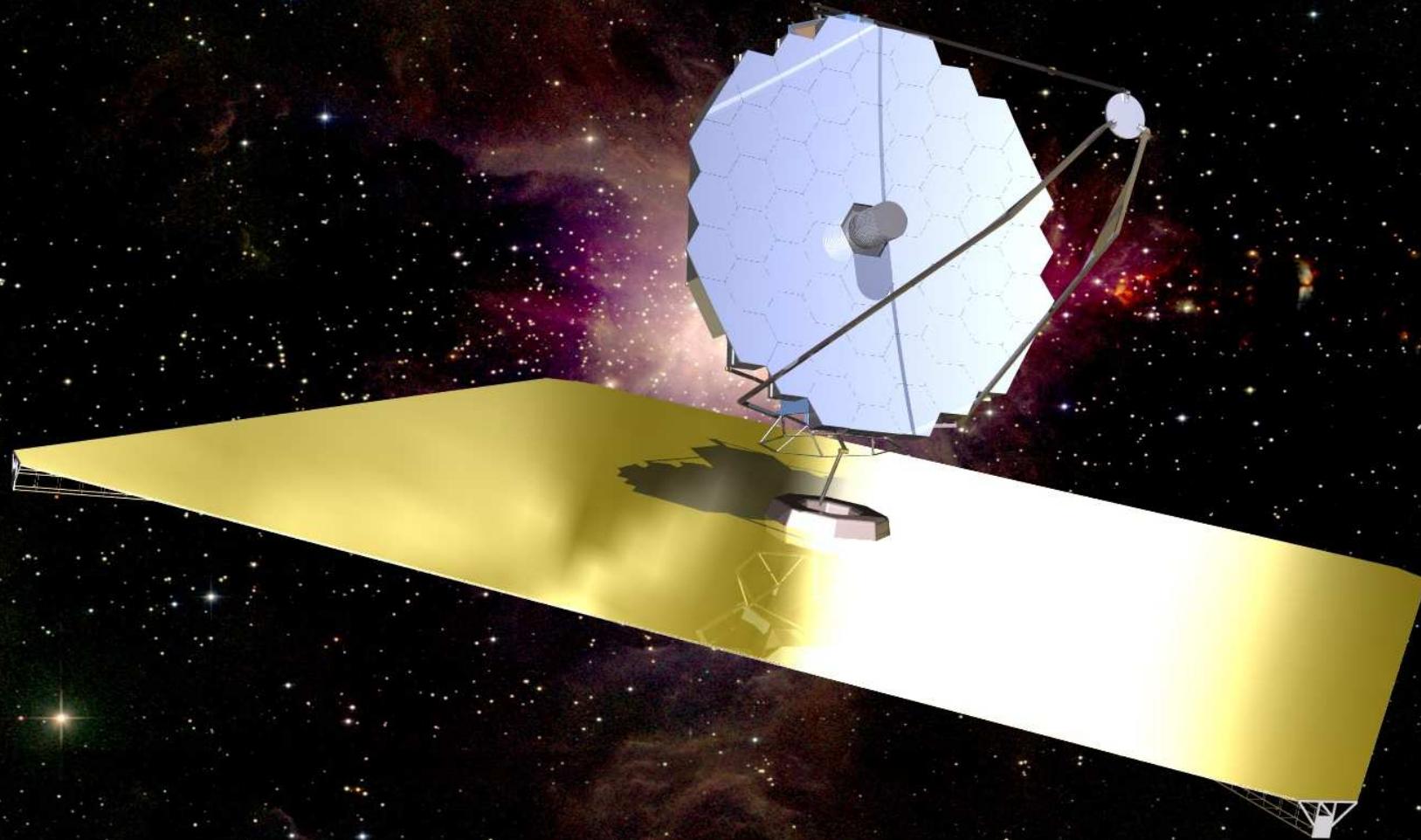
Main CCD LyC limitation: Charge-Transfer Efficiency (CTE) degradation.  
 “Higher-CTE” & “Lower-CTE” sub-samples for WFC3/UV filters:

- Green regions are closest to parallel read-out amplifier. Red regions are furthest from amplifiers, and may suffer more from CTE-degradation.

- Filled circles: objects w/ marginal LyC signal fairly uniformly distributed.

Average LyC diff:  $\Delta(\text{Lower-CTE} - \text{Higher-CTE}) \lesssim 0.3$  mag.

⇒ Less than four months after WFC3’s launch, CTE-induced systematics are not yet larger than the random errors in the LyC signal.



- Next generation  $\gtrsim$ 6-meter UV-optical space telescope (HWO) essential for AB $\lesssim$ 30 detections and AB $\sim$ 32 mag for LyC stacks ( $N \gtrsim 10^4$ ).
- Need: L2 servicing, periodic CCD replacement, or wide-field UV IFU.

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<https://archive.stsci.edu/hlsp/uvcandels/>, & <https://sites.google.com/view/jwstpearls>

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