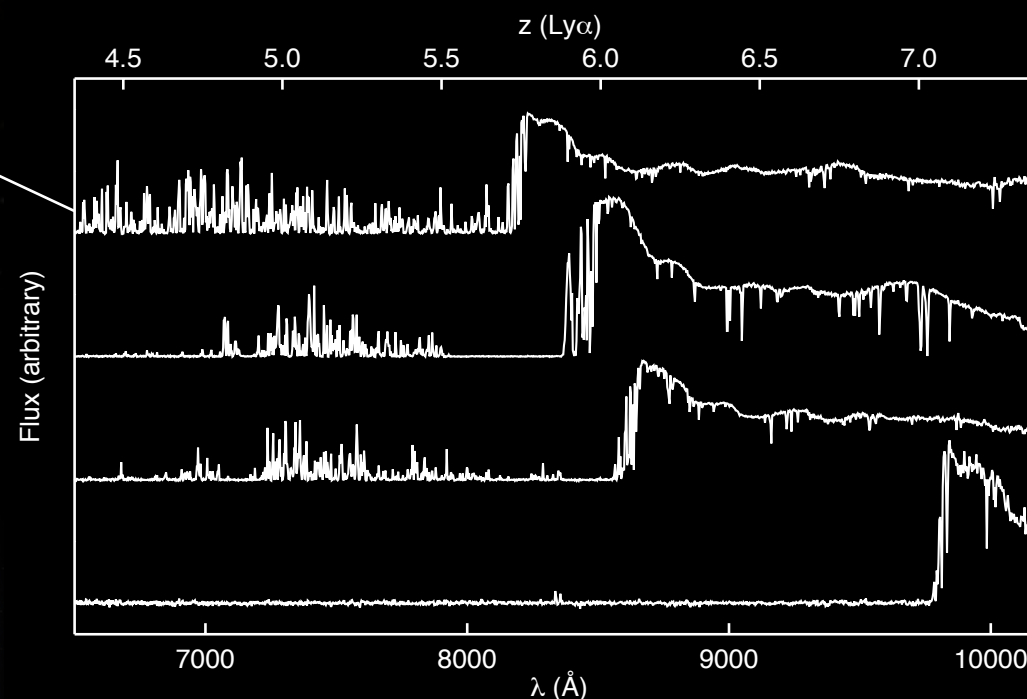


# A Consensus Picture of Reionization?

George Becker

STScI  
3.10.2015



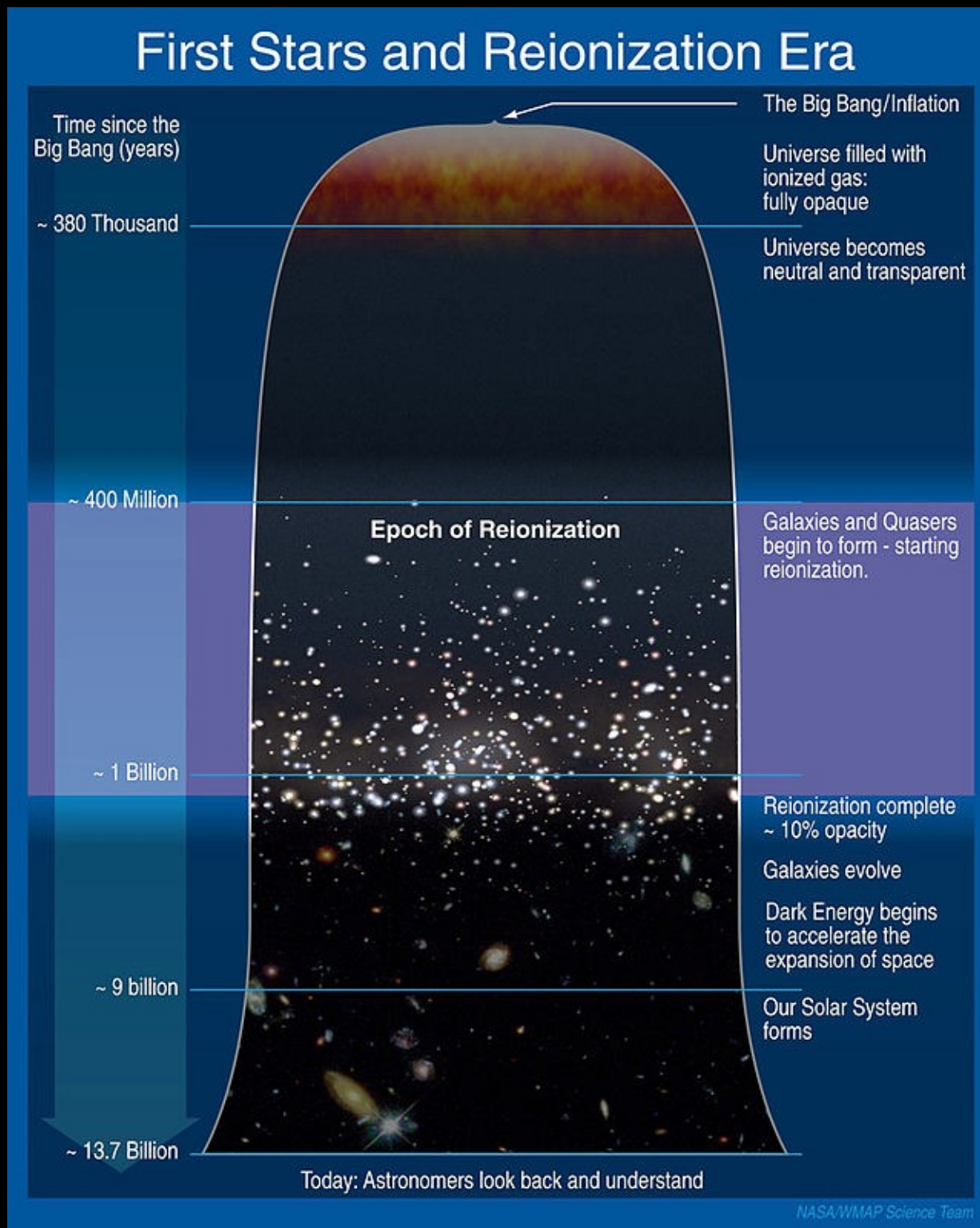


# Outline

- New results from Planck — Problem solved?
- The ionizing photon budget over  $2 < z < 6$
- Have we detected reionization at  $z \sim 6$ ?  $z \sim 7$ ?



# Reionization



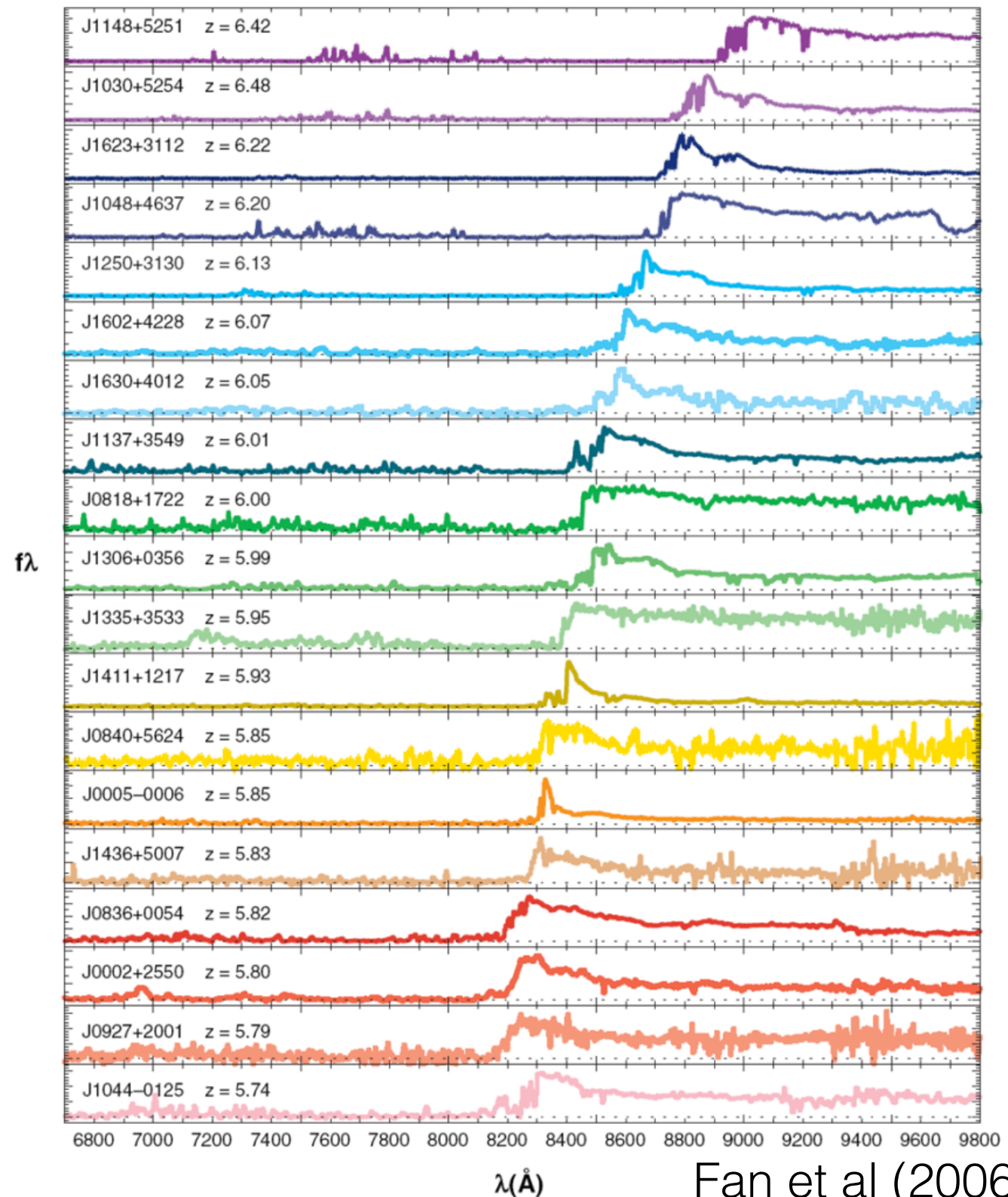
- What are the first stars like?
- When do the first galaxies form?
- What are the properties of the earliest galaxies, and how do they evolve?
- How and when do the first super-massive black holes form?
- How does non-linear structure evolve in the IGM?
- How do galaxies and the IGM interact?

# Boundary condition: Ly $\alpha$ Forest

IGM Ly $\alpha$  opacity:

$$\tau_{\text{Ly}\alpha} \sim 10^5 f_{\text{HI}}$$

Transmission at  $z \sim 6$  means reionization *largely* complete within 1 Gyr (but see later in the talk).



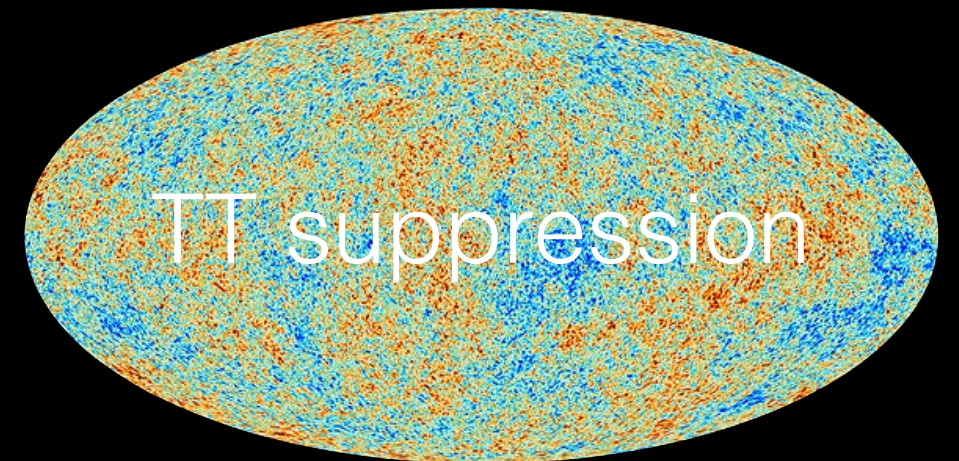
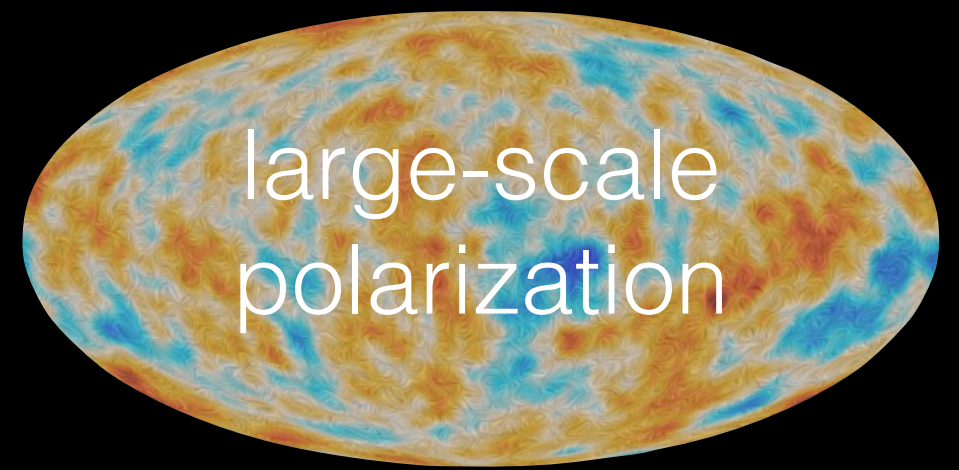
Fan et al (2006)



# Planck 2015

Electron optical depth:  $\tau_e \propto N_e$

earlier reionization  $\rightarrow$  higher  $\tau_e$



WMAP1  $\tau_e = 0.17 \pm 0.06$   $z_{\text{reion}} = 17 \pm 5$

*required “non-standard”  
star-formation history*

WMAP9  $\tau_e = 0.089 \pm 0.014$   $z_{\text{reion}} = 10.6 \pm 1.1$

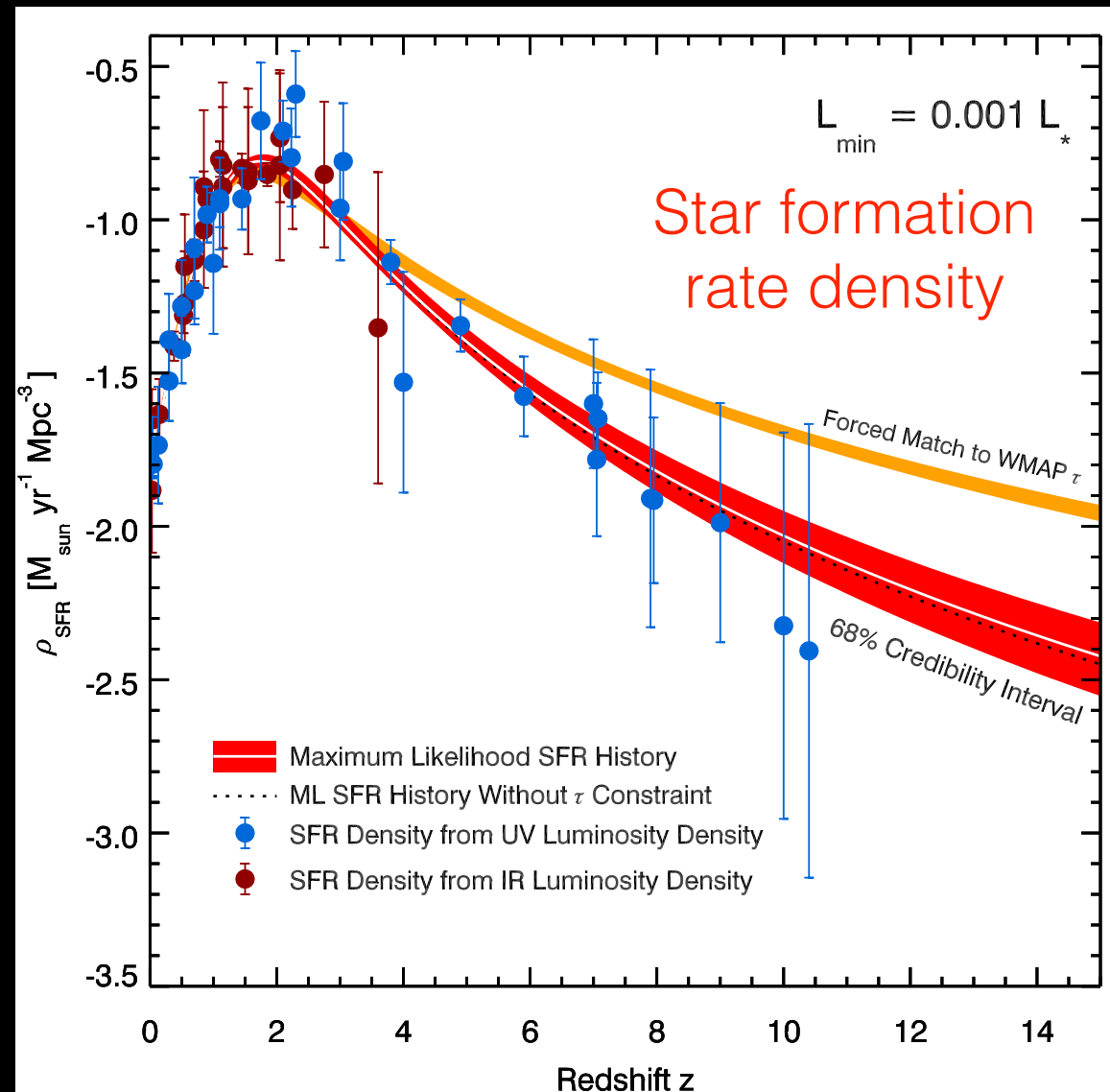
*still uncomfortably high*

Planck 2015  $\tau_e = 0.066 \pm 0.016$   $z_{\text{reion}} = 8.8^{+1.7}_{-1.4}$

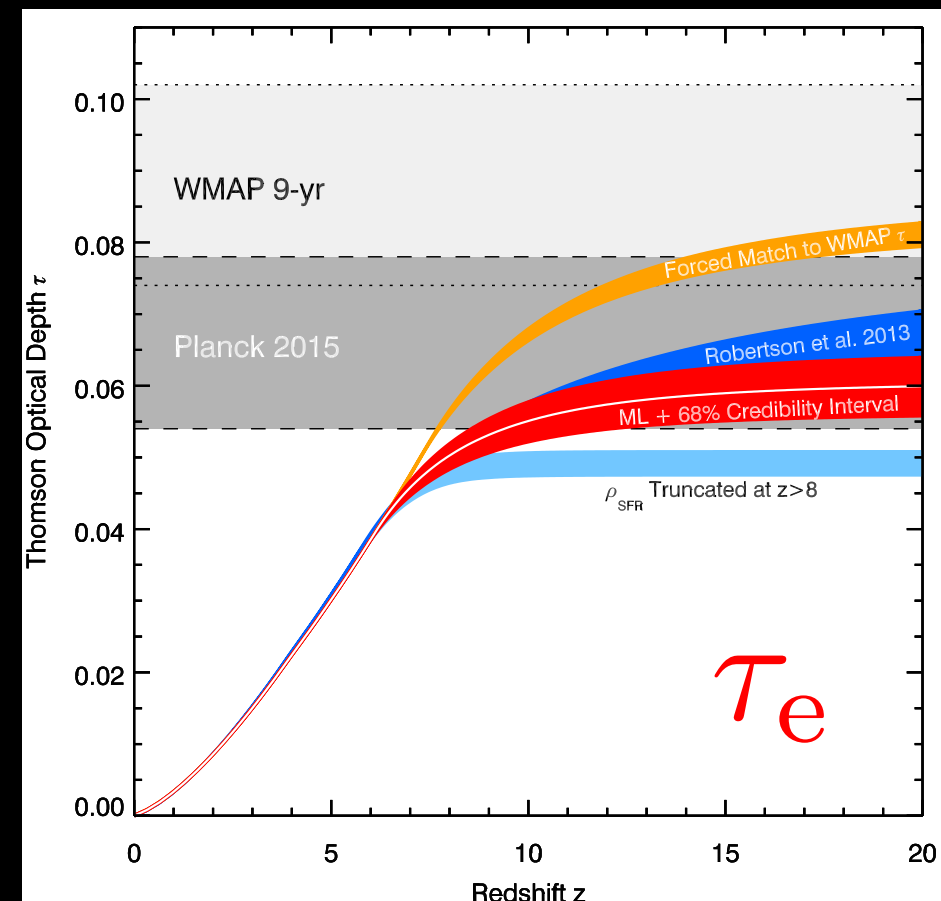
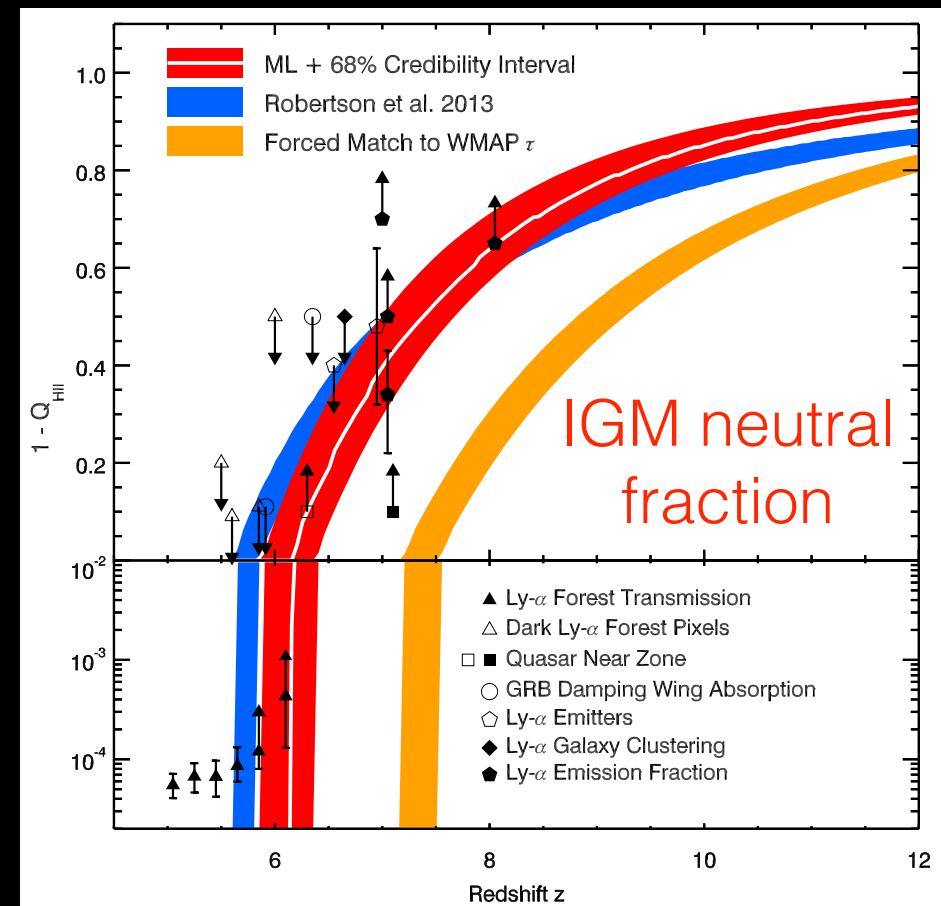
*better dust maps +  
constraints from CMB  
lensing*

# A consensus model?

Robertson+2015



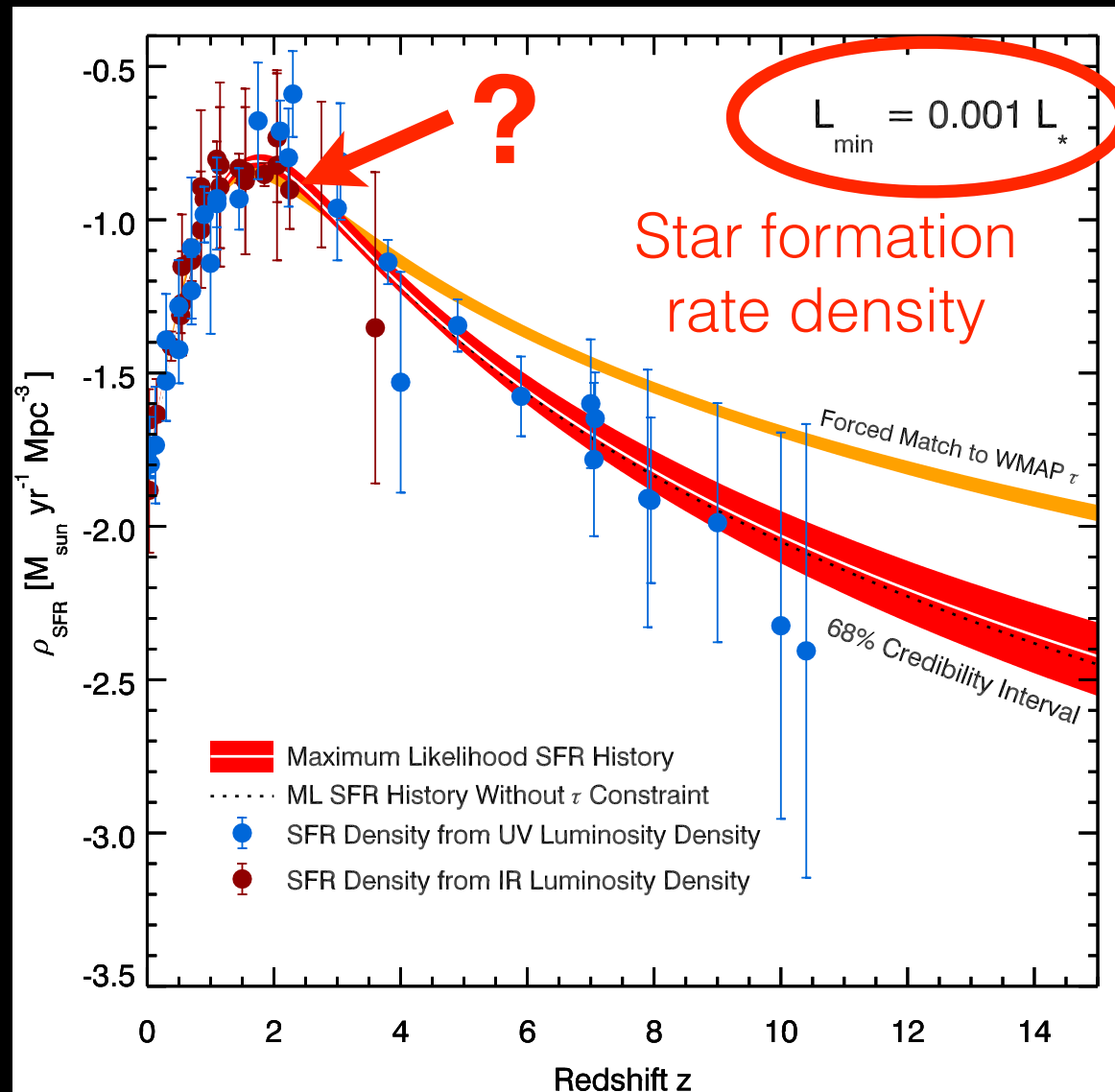
Lower  $\tau_e$  from Planck reconciles reionization with high- $z$  star formation rate. Right?





# Consistency?

Robertson+2015



To complete reionization, need  
~3 ionizing photons/atom.

Ionizing emissivity:

$$\dot{N}_{\text{ion}} = f_{\text{esc}} \xi_{\text{ion}} \rho_{\text{SFR}}$$

Escape  
fraction

ionizing  
photons /  
unit SFR

Star formation  
rate density

Model assumes  $f_{\text{esc}} = 0.2$ , fixed  $\xi_{\text{ion}}$

Model @  $z=2.5$



$$\dot{N}_{\text{ion}} \simeq 19 \text{ LyC photons atom}^{-1} \text{ Gyr}^{-1}$$

*stars only*

Reality @  $z=2.5$

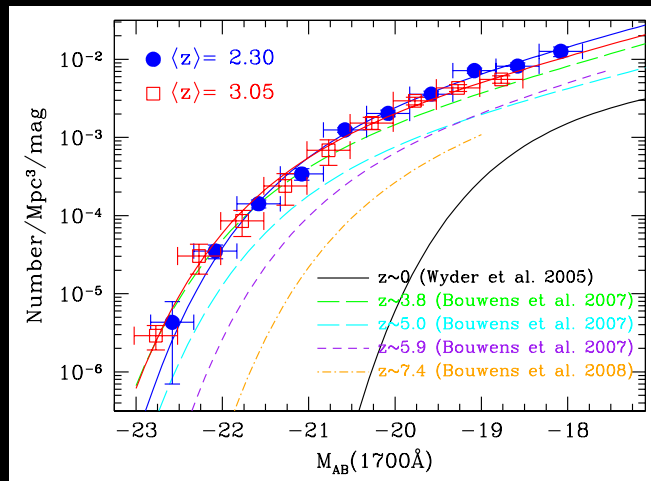
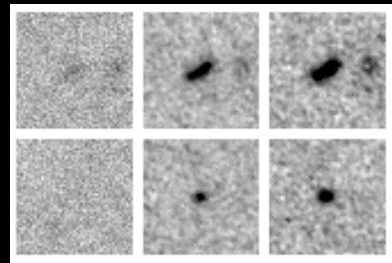


$$\dot{N}_{\text{ion}} \simeq 4 \text{ LyC photons atom}^{-1} \text{ Gyr}^{-1}$$

*stars + AGN!*

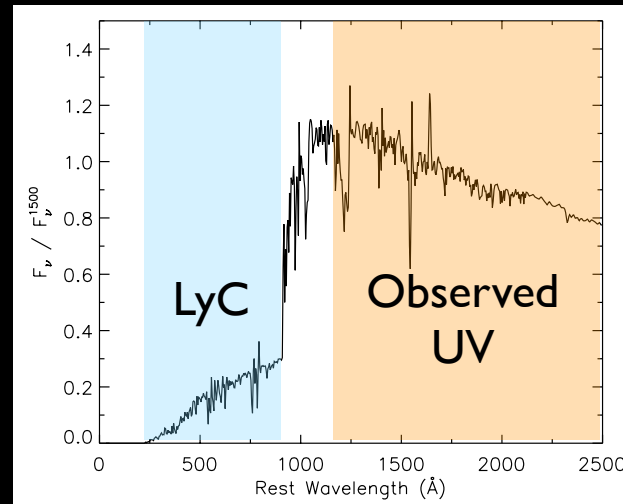
# Ionizing Emissivity

Galaxy UV Luminosity Fn



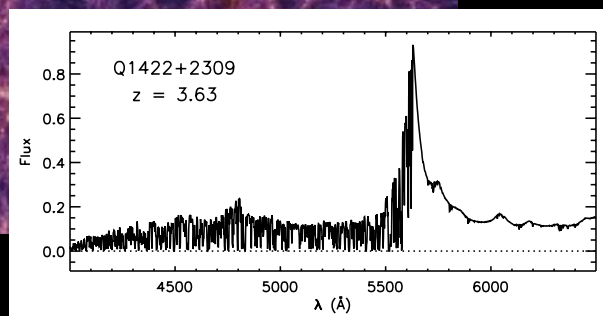
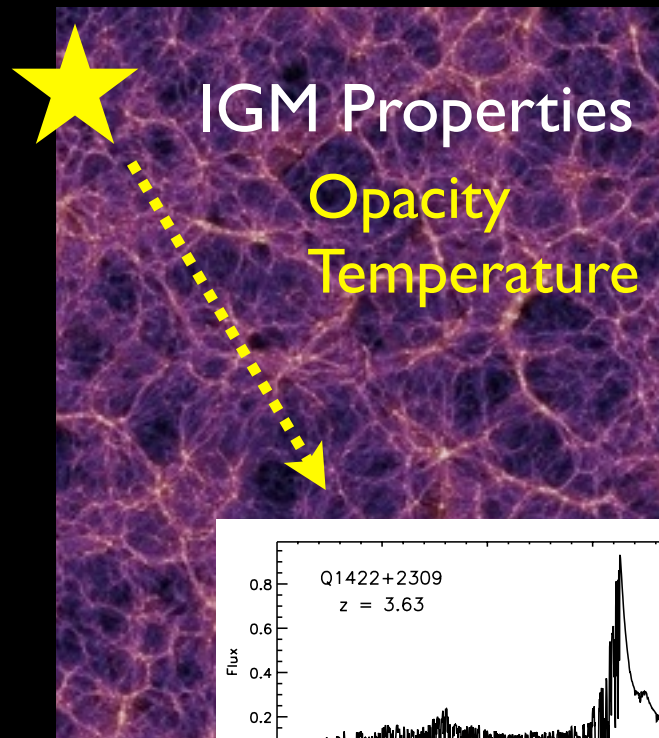
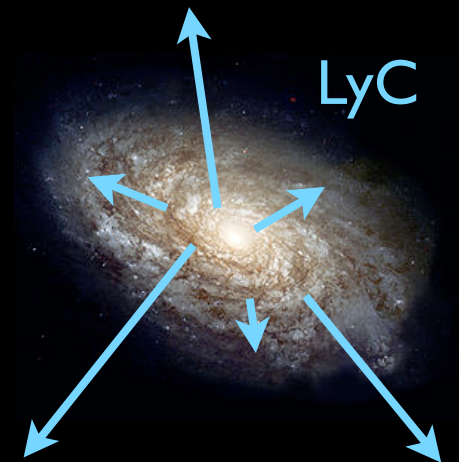
+

SED



+

Escape fraction

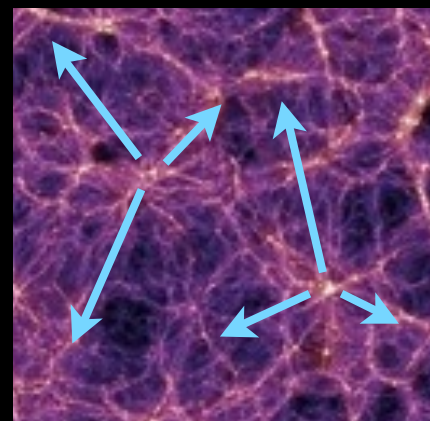


H I Ionization rate

$\Gamma$

+

IGM opacity



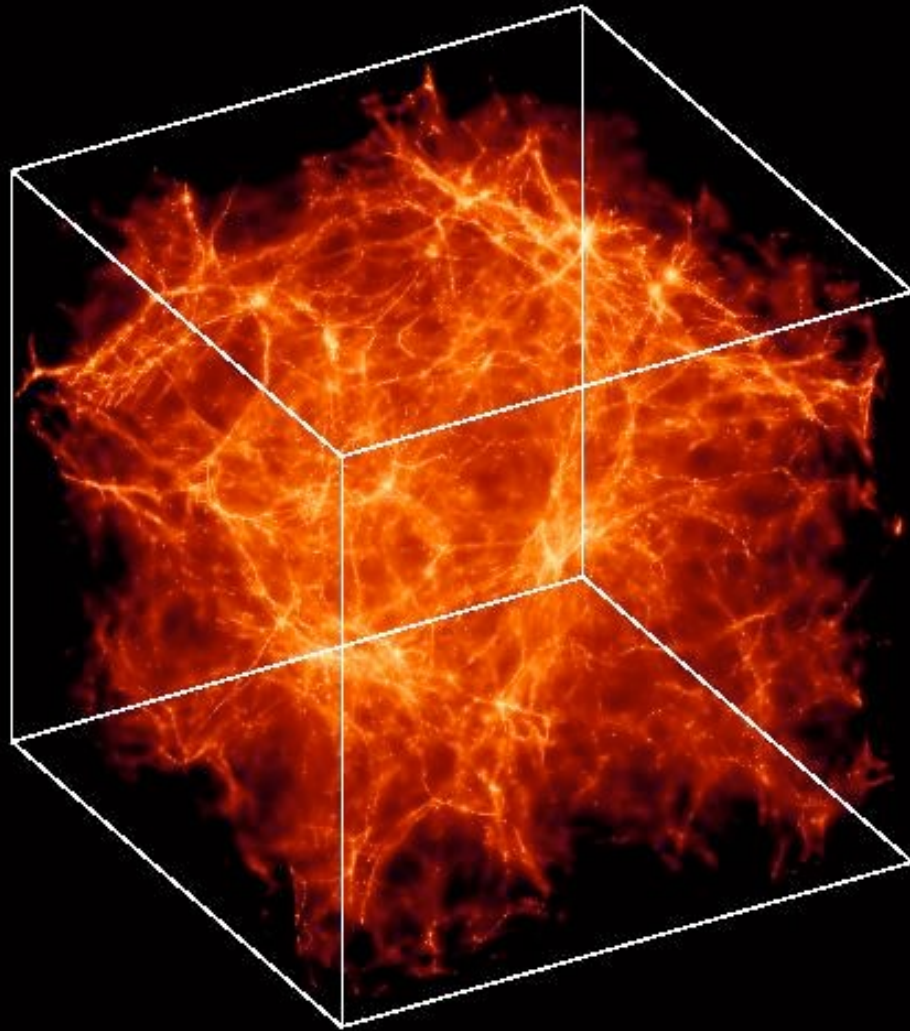
Emissivity

$\dot{N}_{\text{ion}}$

photons  $\text{s}^{-1} \text{Mpc}^{-3}$



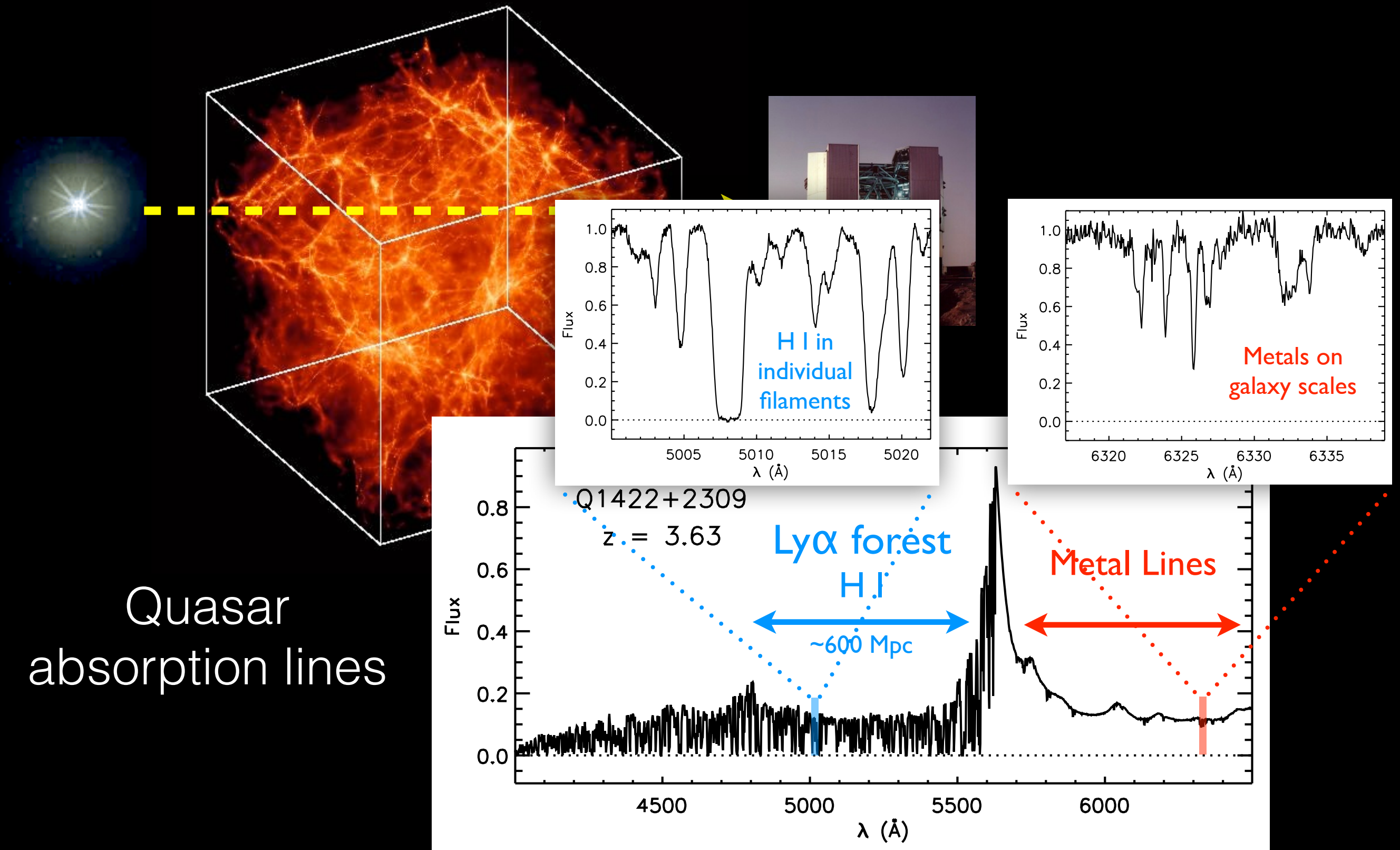
# The Intergalactic Medium



- Main reservoir of matter in the universe (>90% baryons)
- Low density  $0.1 \lesssim \rho/\bar{\rho} \lesssim 10$
- After reionization: warm, photo-ionized

$$T \sim 10^4 \text{ K}$$
$$f_{\text{HI}} \sim 10^{-5}$$

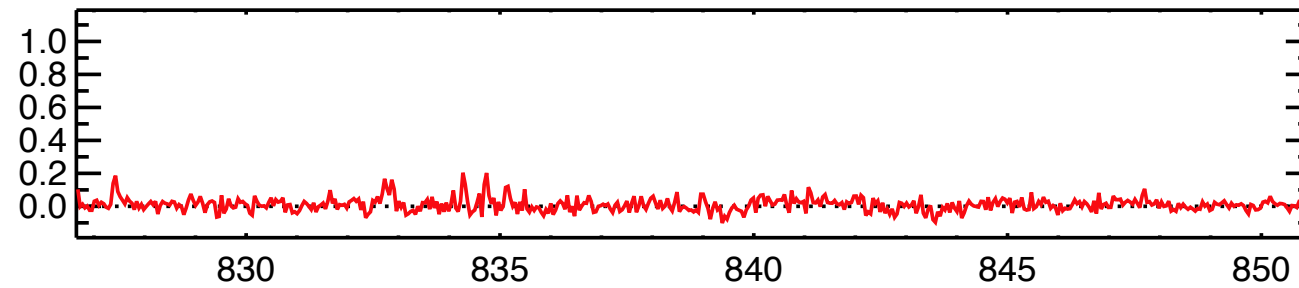
# The Intergalactic Medium



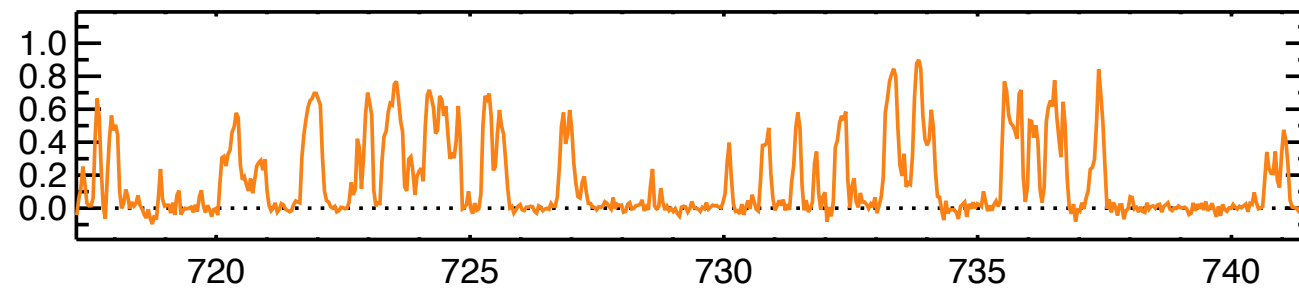


# Lya Forest

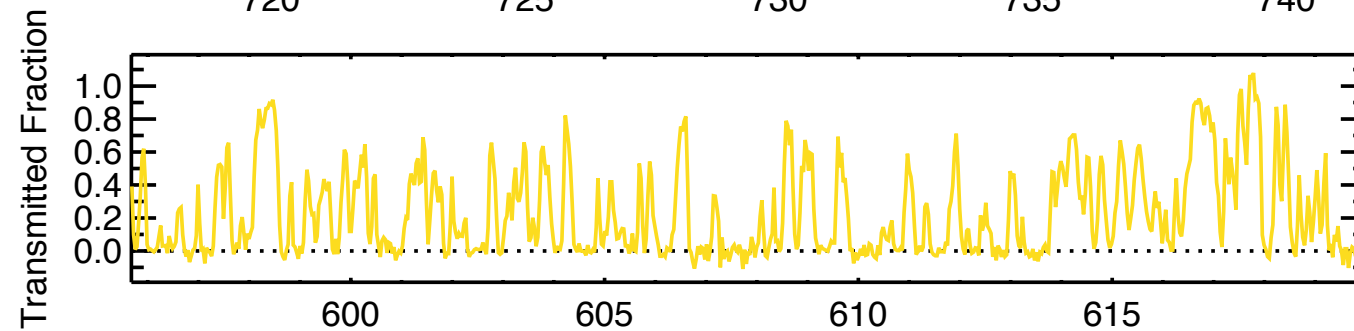
$z \sim 6$



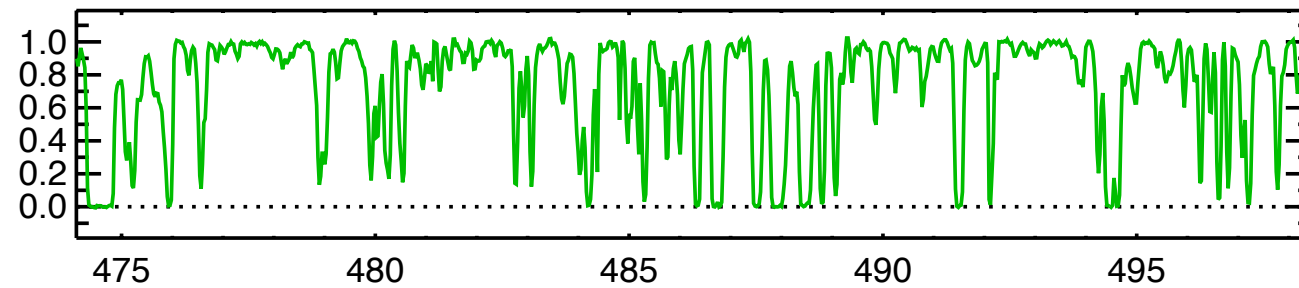
$z \sim 5$



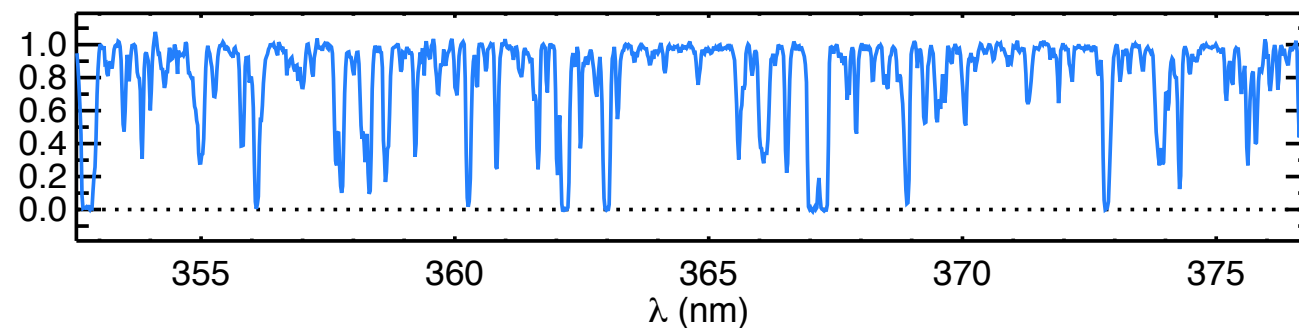
$z \sim 4$



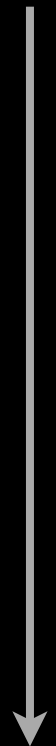
$z \sim 3$



$z \sim 2$



$\rho/\bar{\rho} \sim 1$   
(nearly linear)

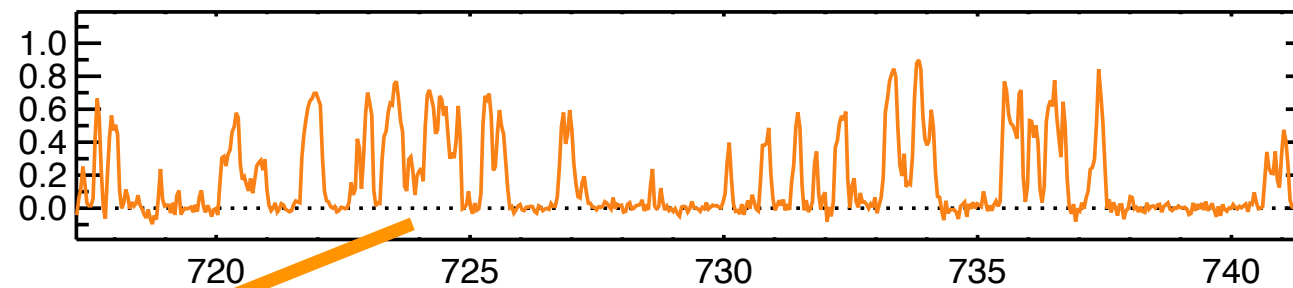
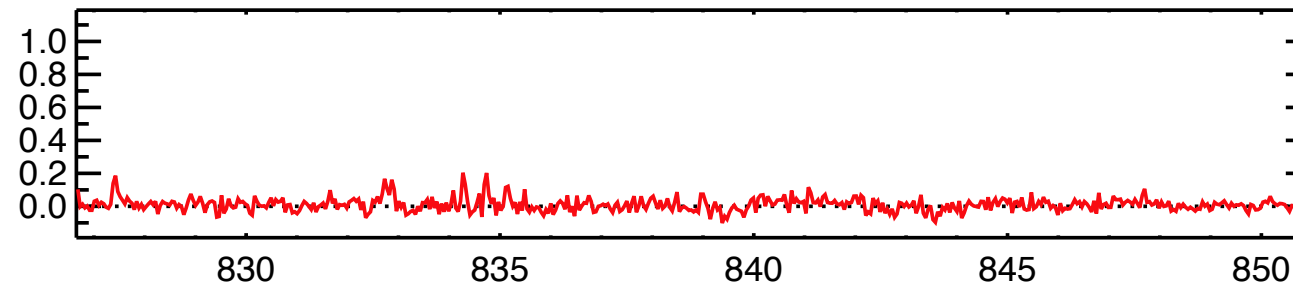


$\rho/\bar{\rho} \sim 10$   
(mildly non-linear)

# Lya Forest

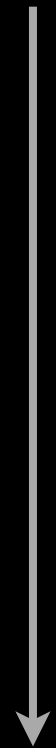
$z \sim 6$

$z \sim 5$



$$\rho/\bar{\rho} \sim 1$$

(nearly linear)

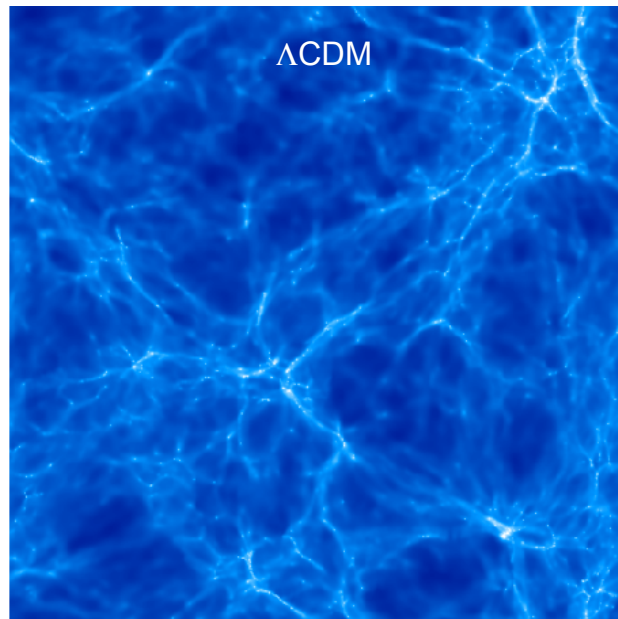


$$\rho/\bar{\rho} \sim 10$$

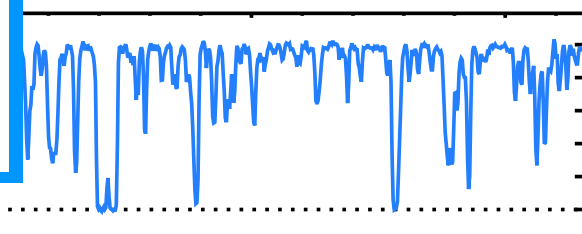
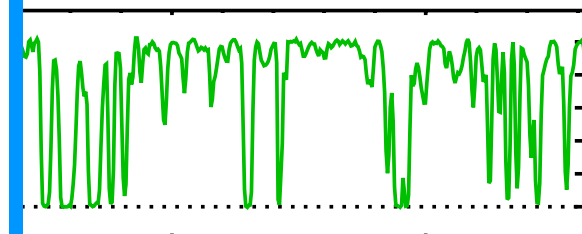
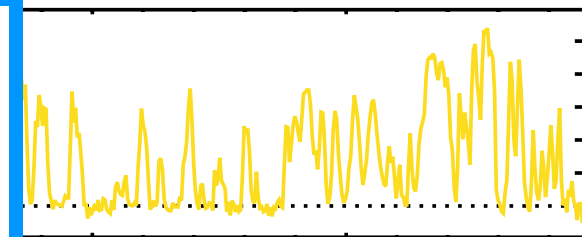
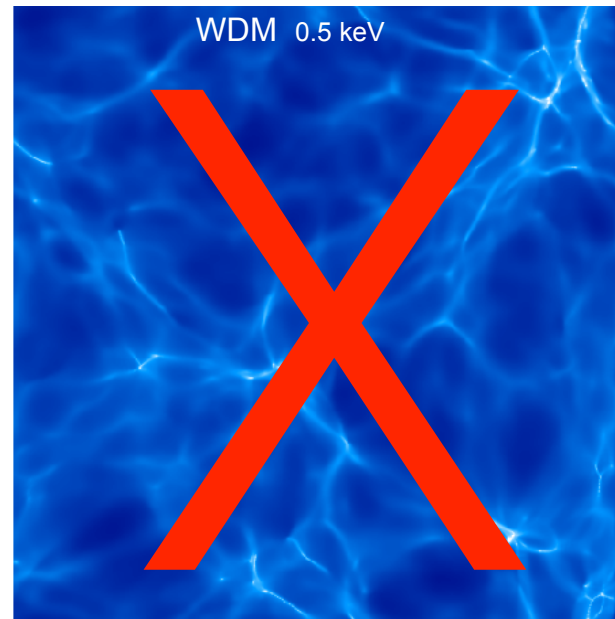
(mildly non-linear)

cold dark matter

warm dark matter



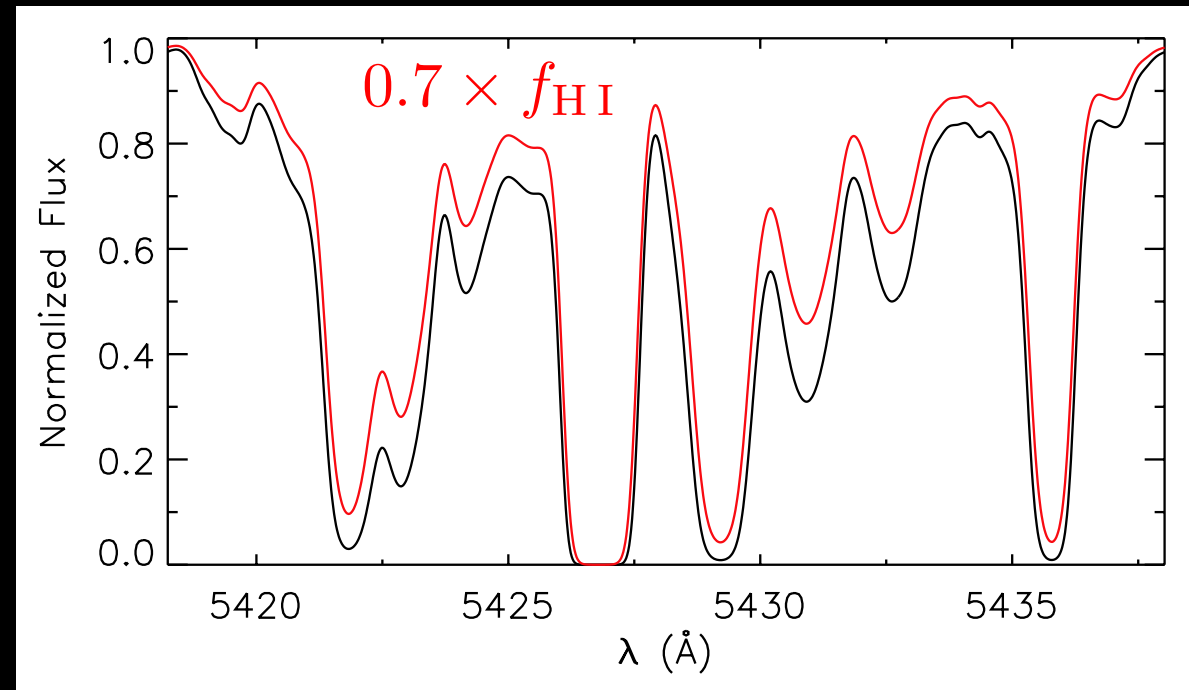
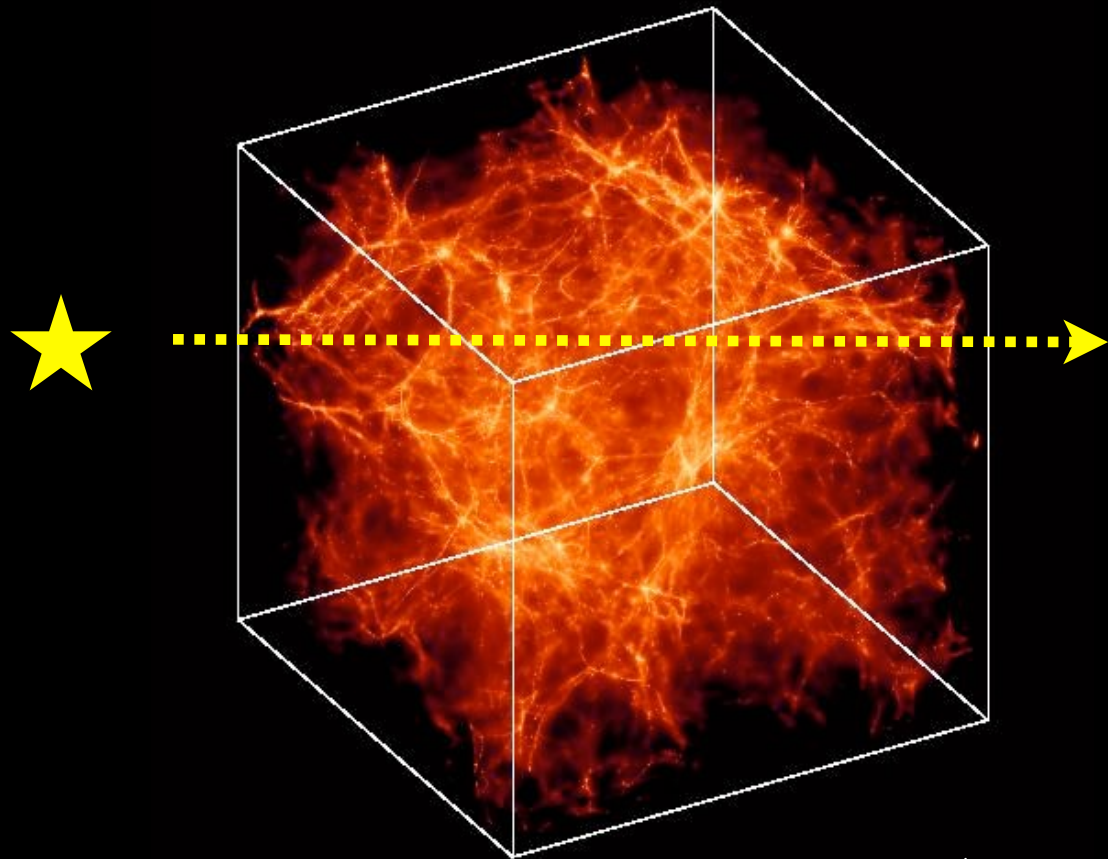
30 comoving Mpc/h  $z=3$



Viel, GB+2008,2013



# Counting photons



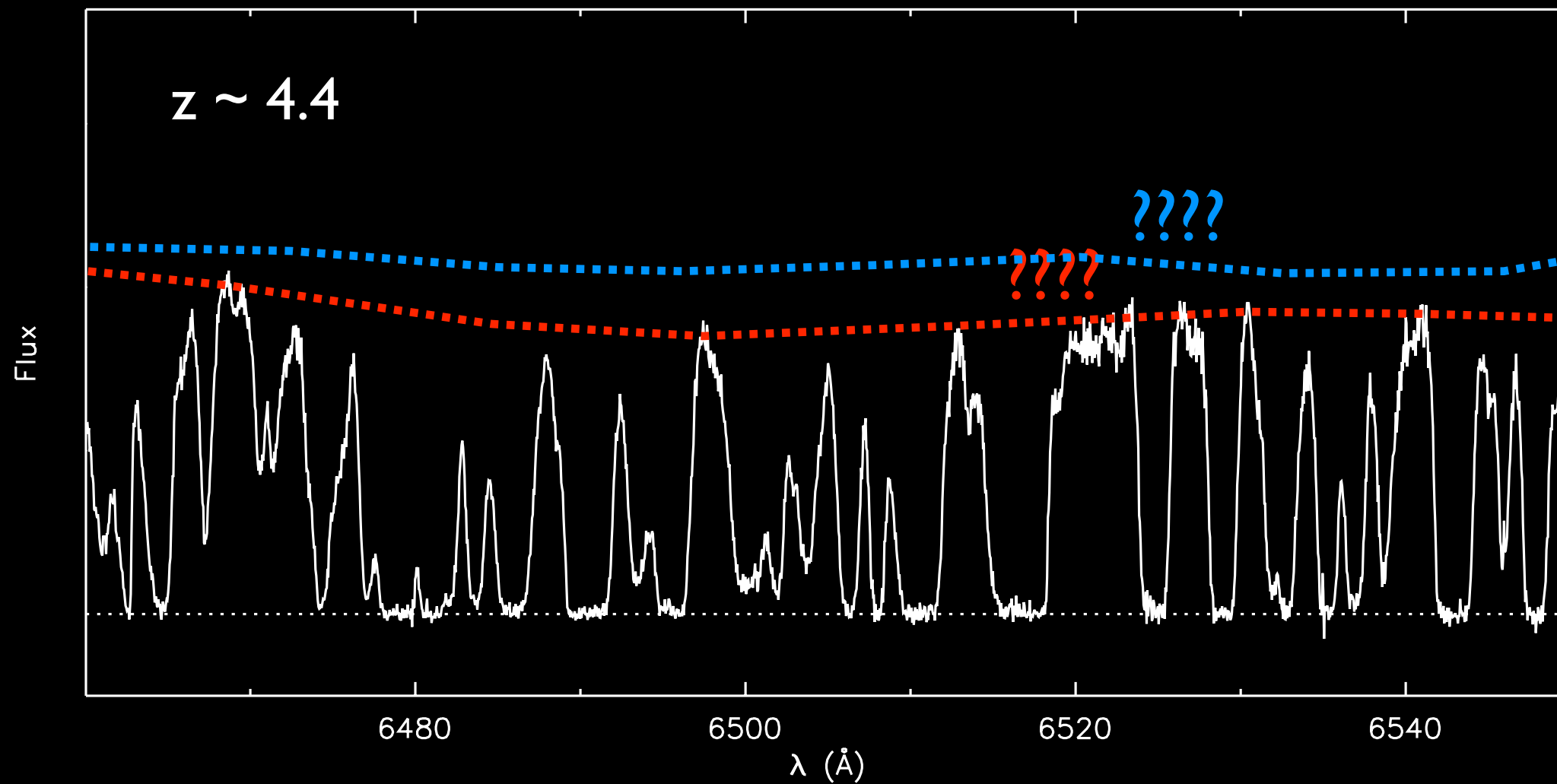
$$\tau \propto \frac{(\Omega_b h^2)^2 (1+z)^6}{T^{0.7} H(z) \Gamma(z)}$$

Recombination rate:  $\alpha_B \propto T^{-0.7}$

H I ionization rate  $s^{-1}$

# IGM Ly $\alpha$ Opacity

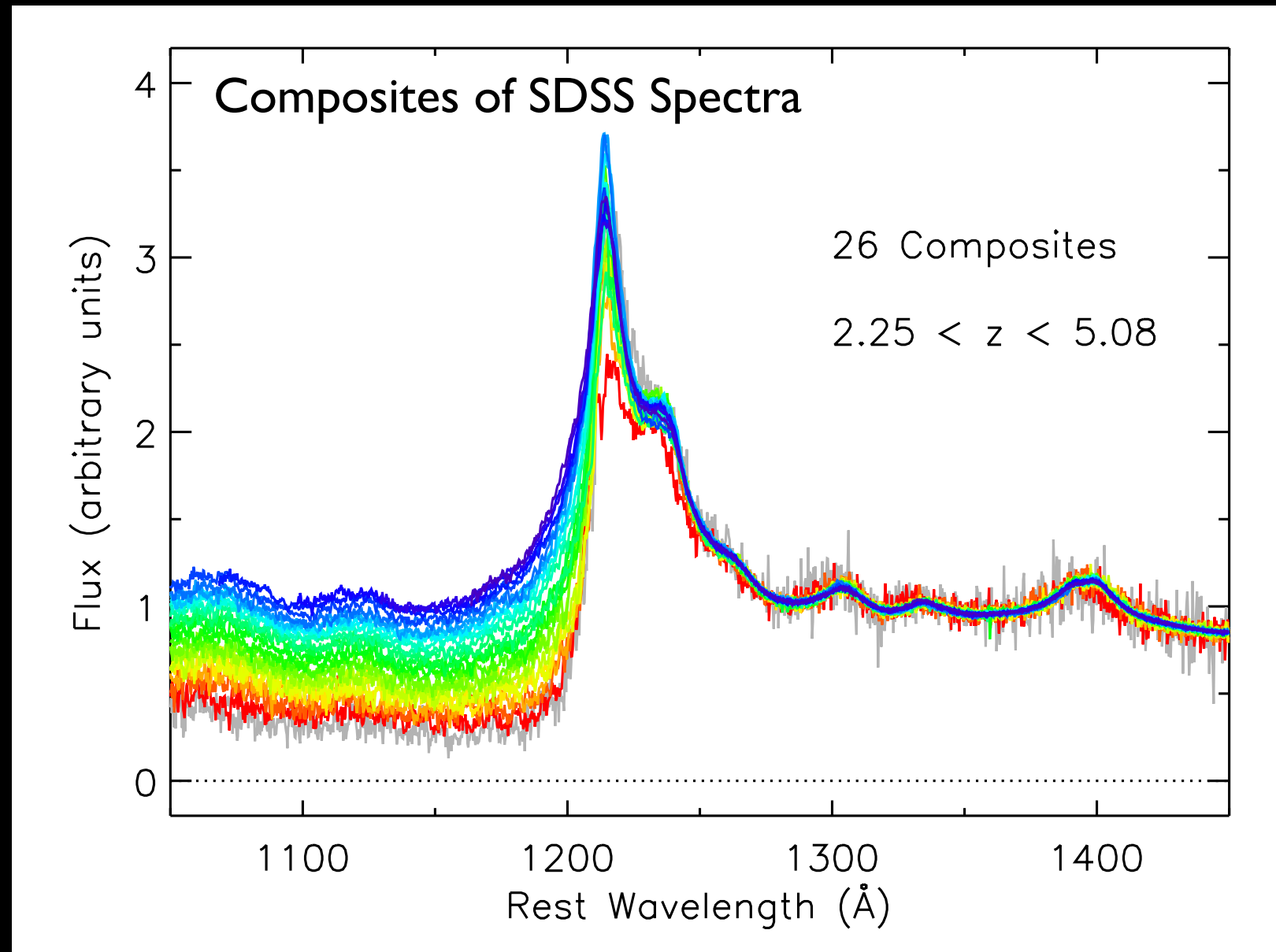
## The Continuum Problem





# Solution: Don't fit continua

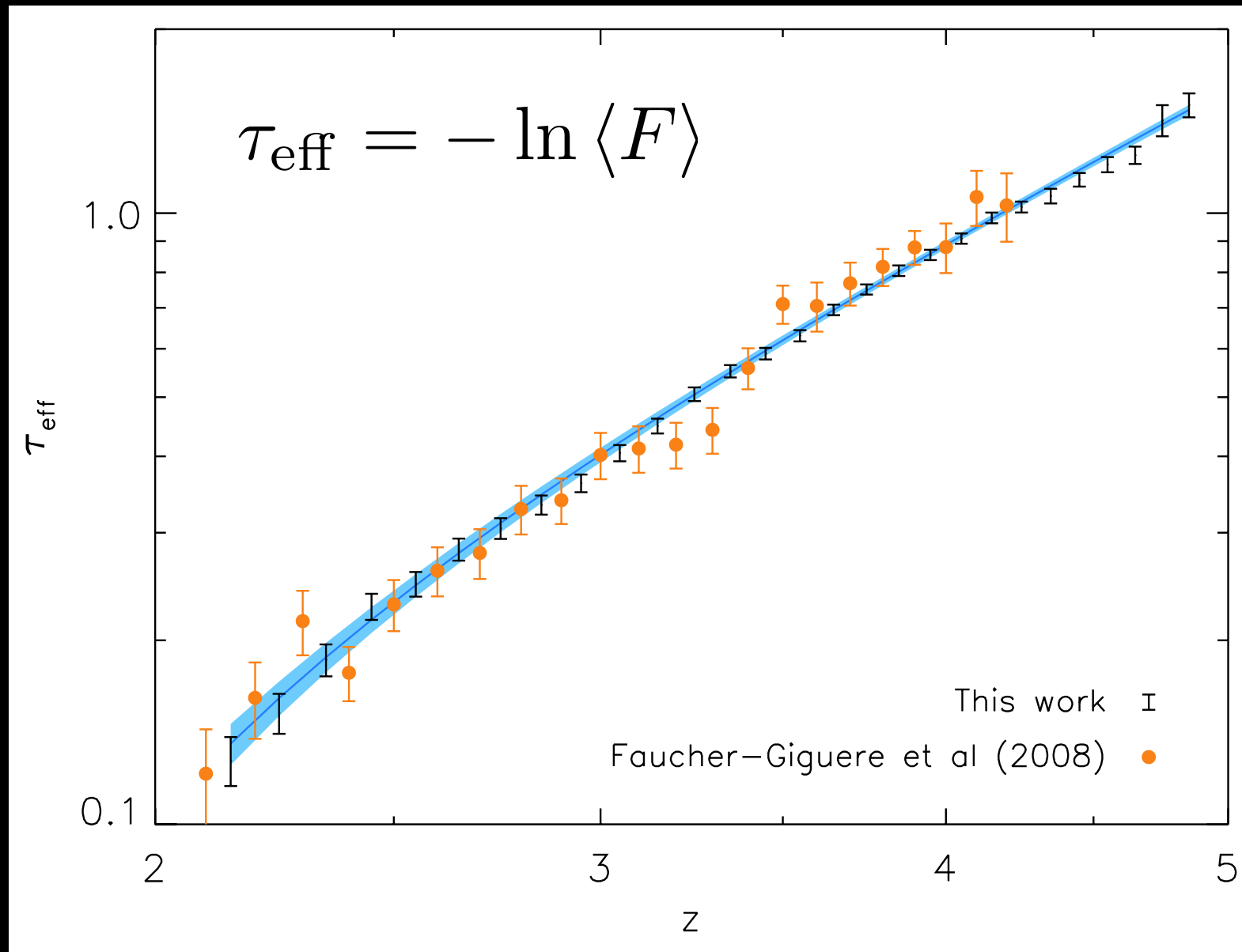
Use composites.



Becker+ 2013

Use flux ratios to get  $F(z)/F(z=2)$

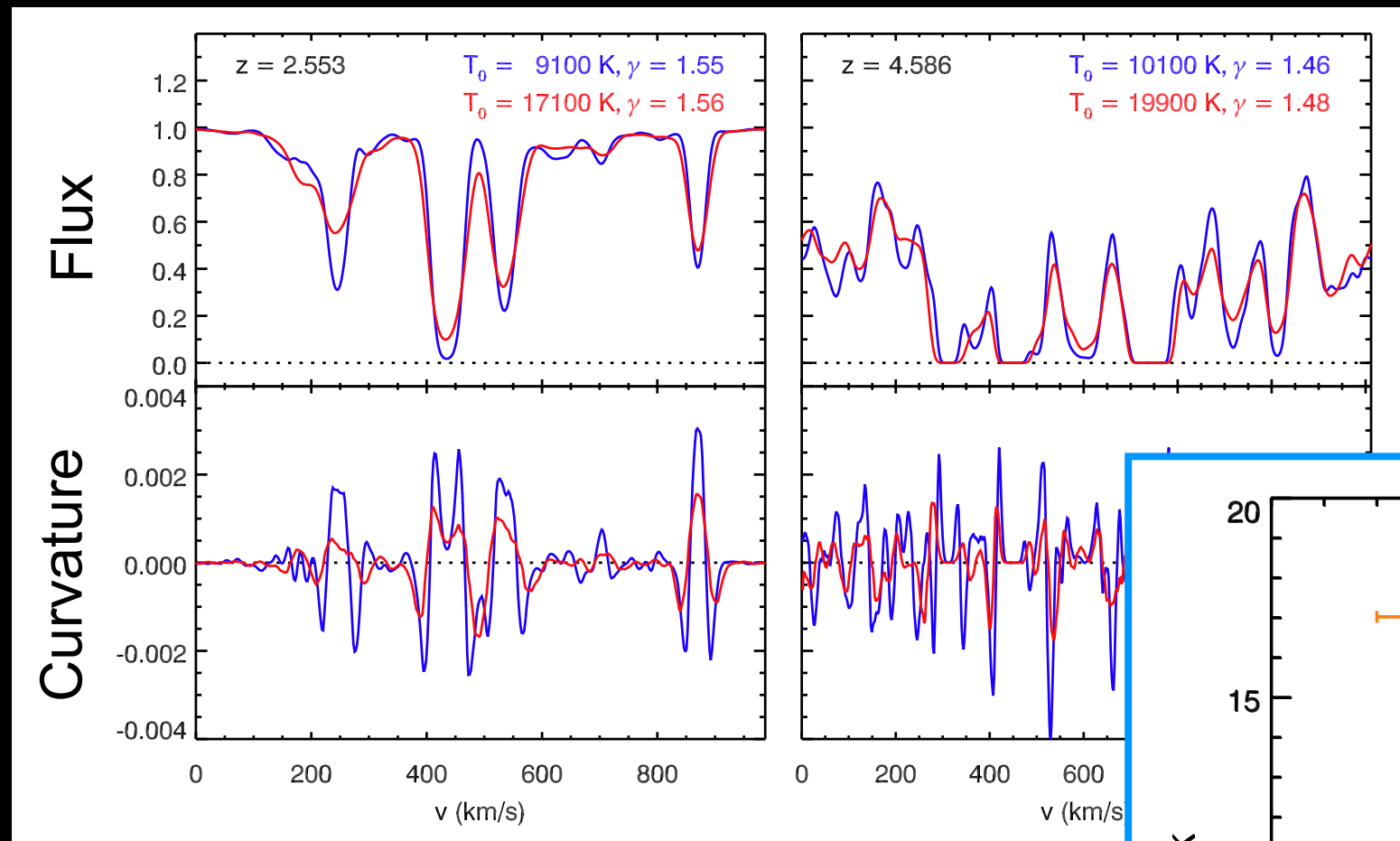
# Ly $\alpha$ Opacity



Becker+ 2013

1. Reduced errors
2. Extends to  $z=5$
3. No bump at  $z=3$

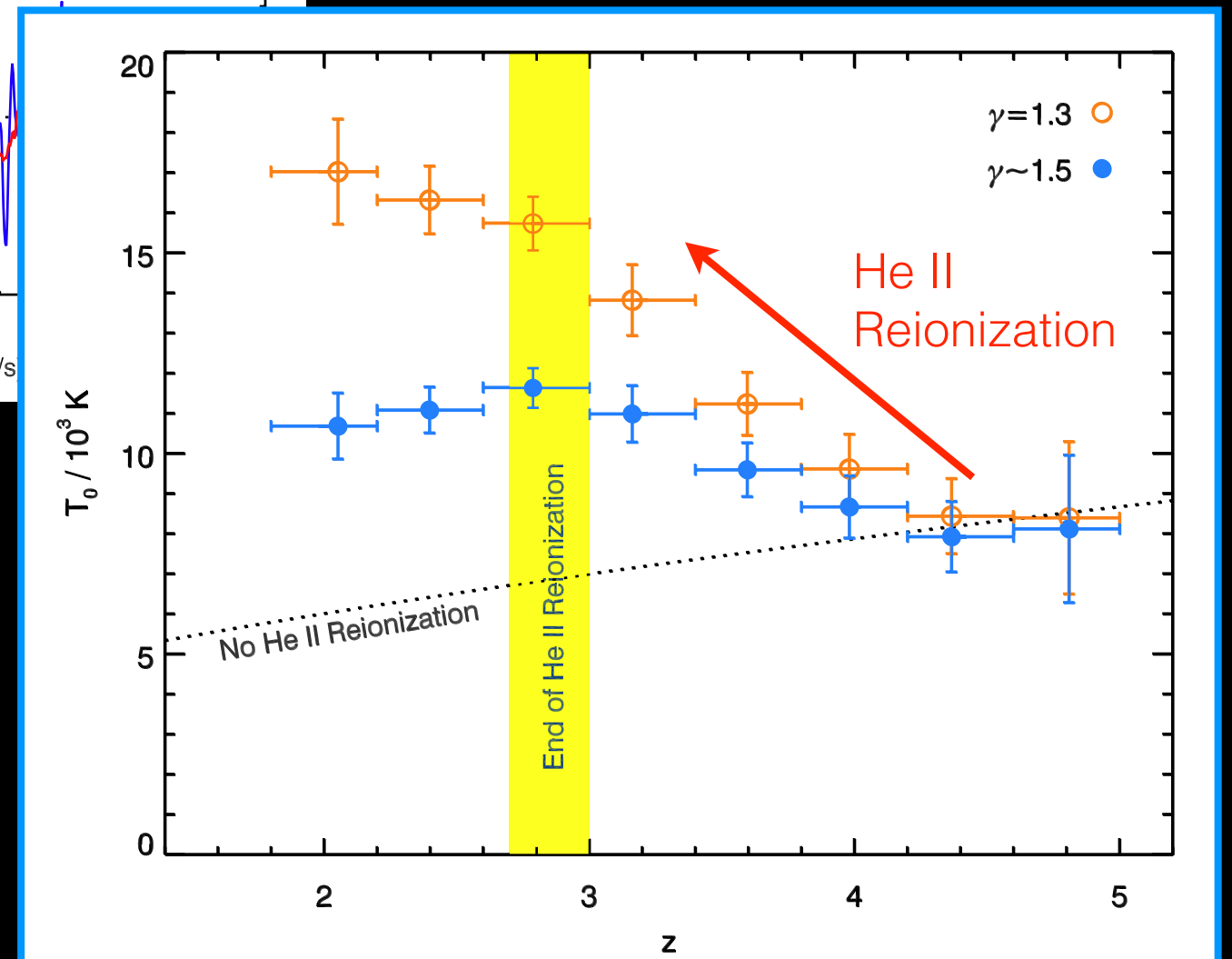
# IGM Temperatures



Temperature at  
mean density

Curvature  $\approx F''$   
Higher curvature = *Colder*

Becker+ 2011a



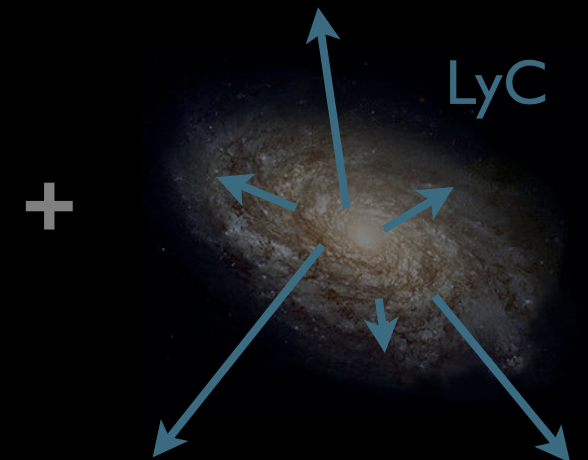
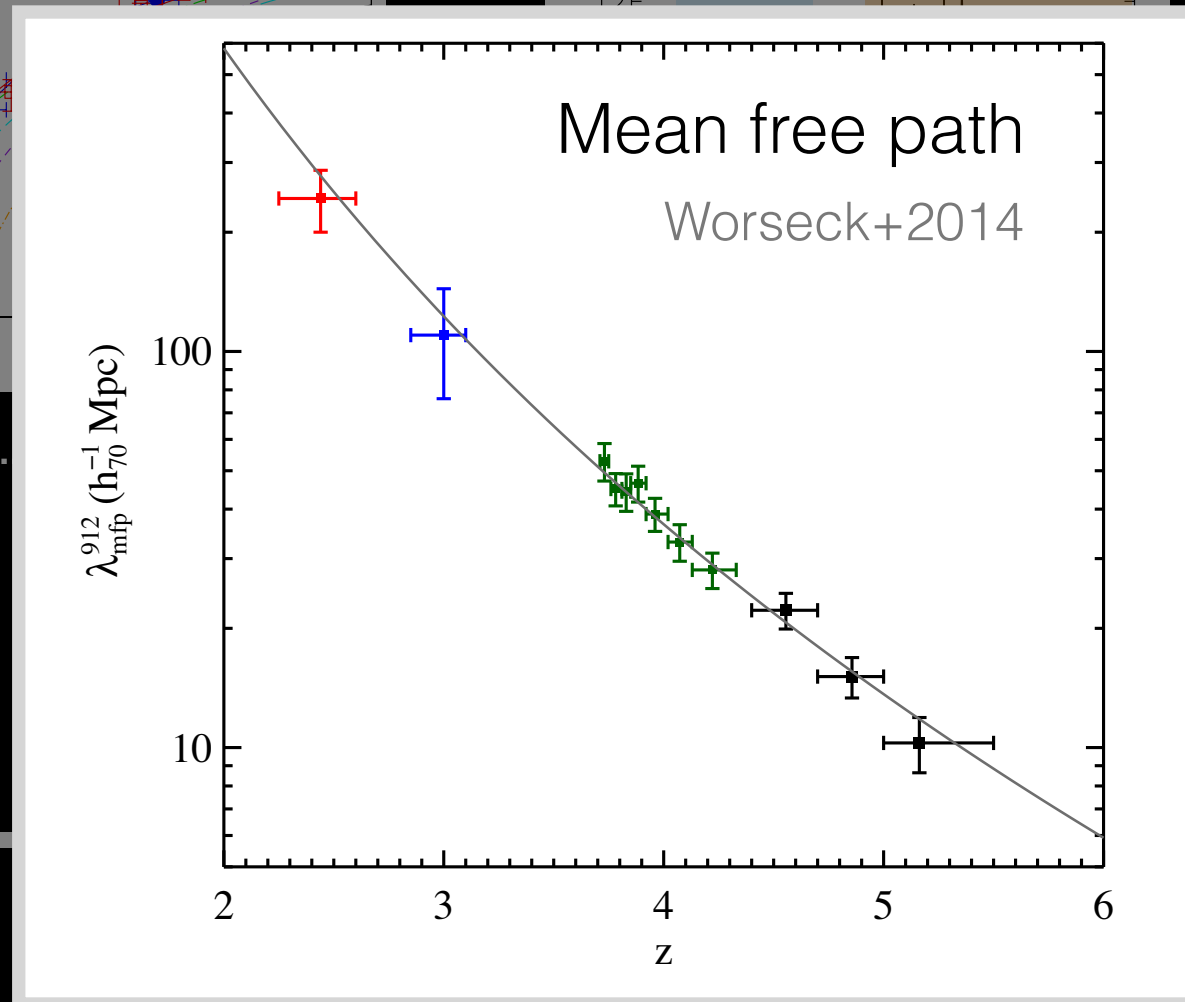
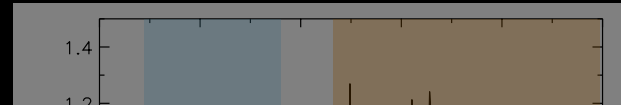
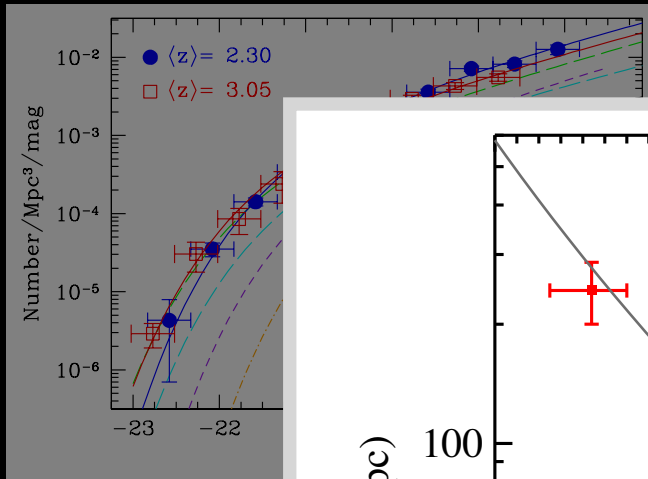
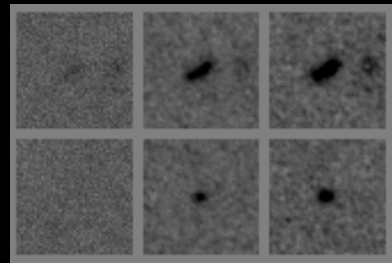


# Ionizing Emissivity

Galaxy UV Luminosity Fn

SED

Escape fraction

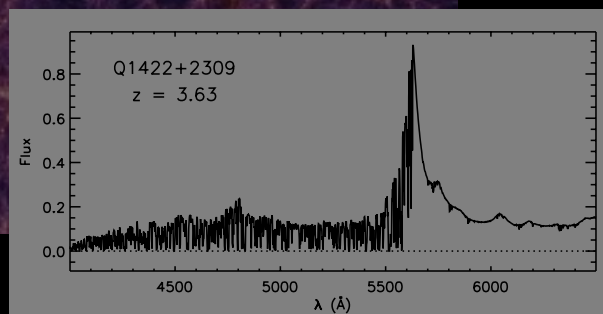
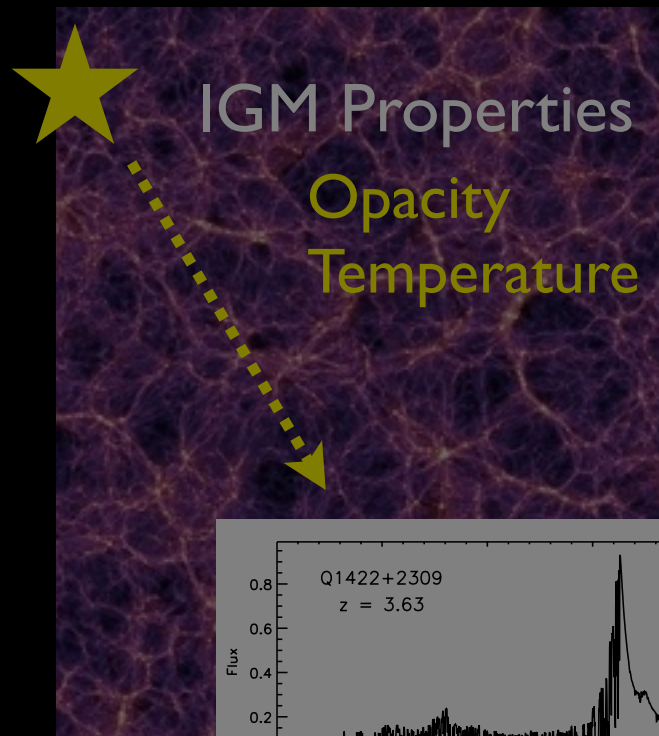


+

Emissivity

$\dot{N}_{\text{ion}}$

photons  $\text{s}^{-1} \text{Mpc}^{-3}$

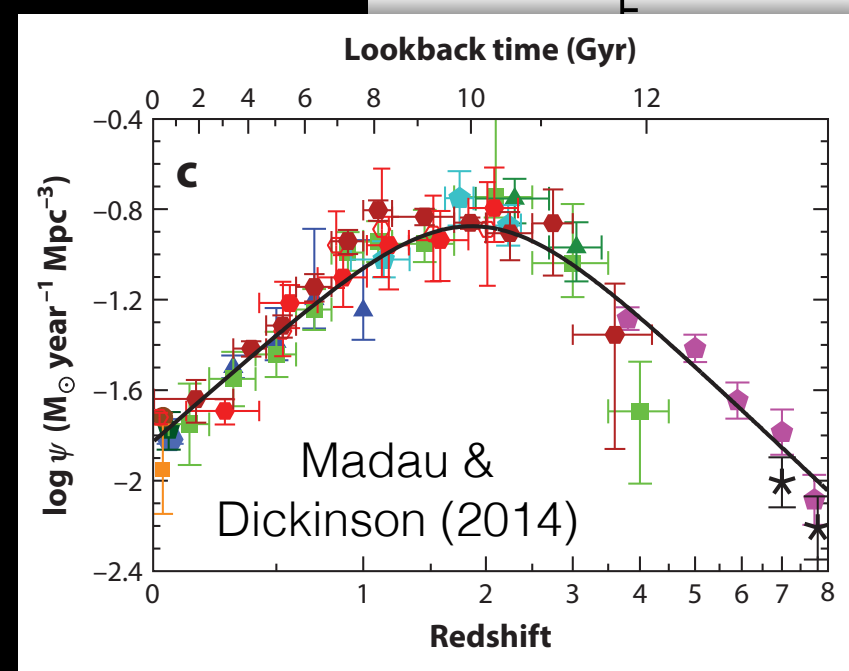
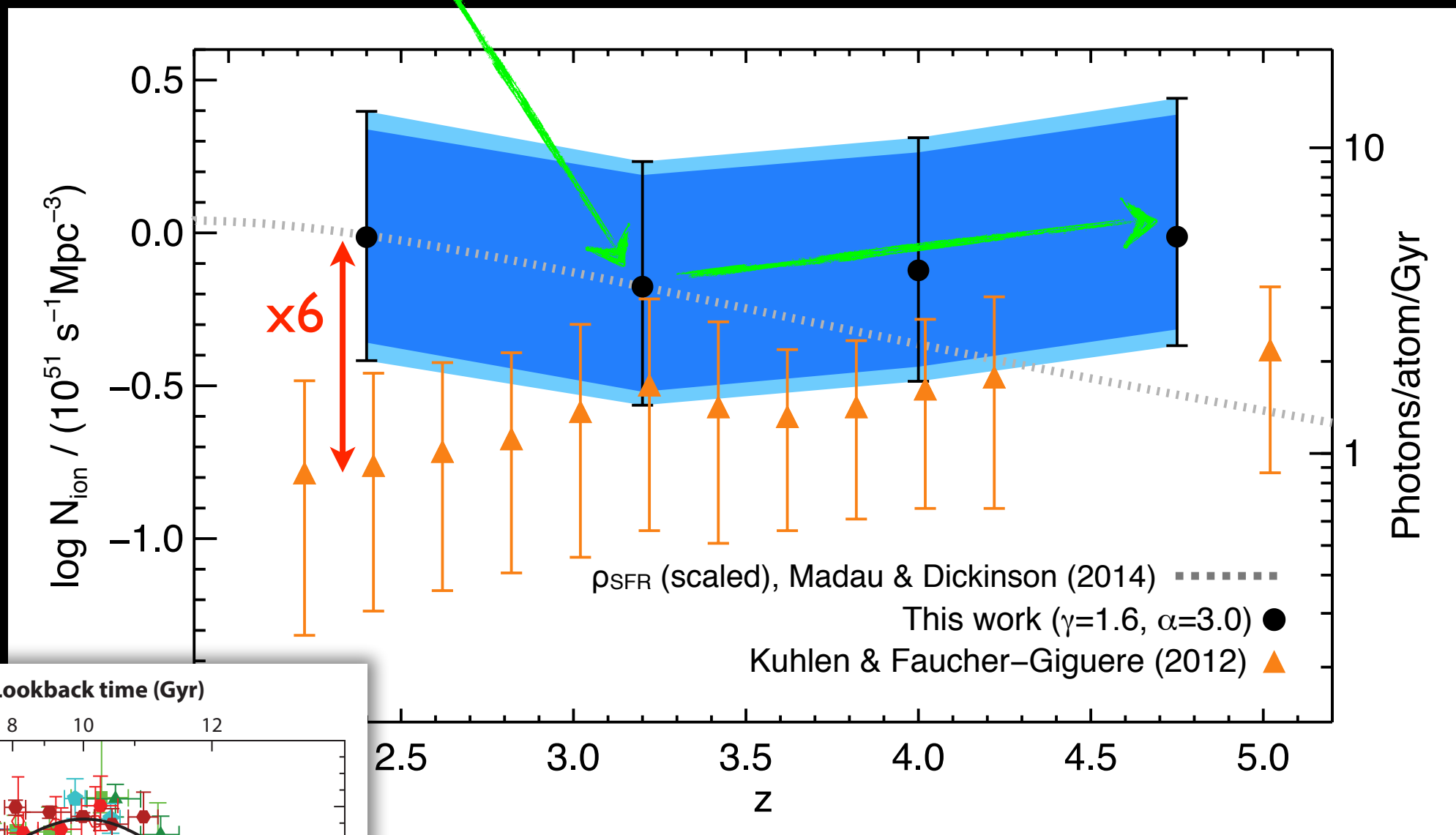


$\text{s}^{-1}$

# Emissivity Results

Modest emissivity at  $z \sim 3$

Rising as SFR density decreases?



Higher ionizing emissivity from

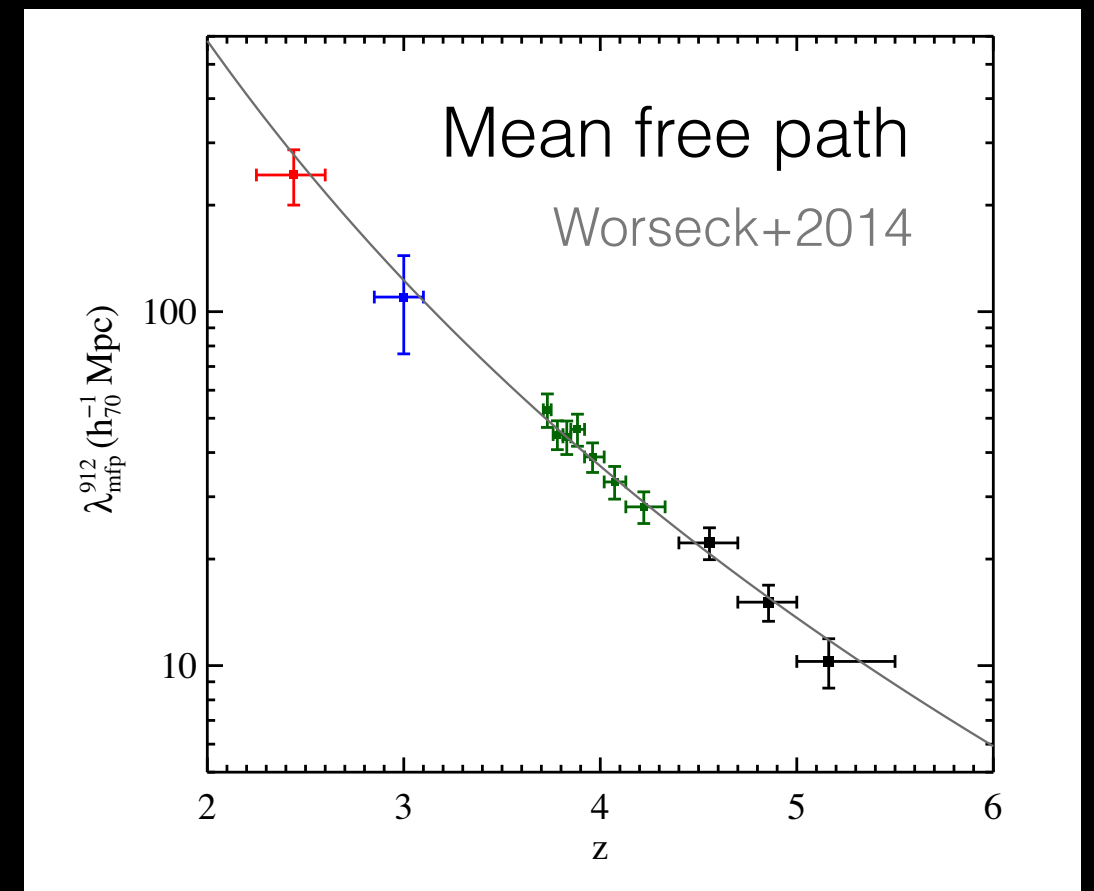
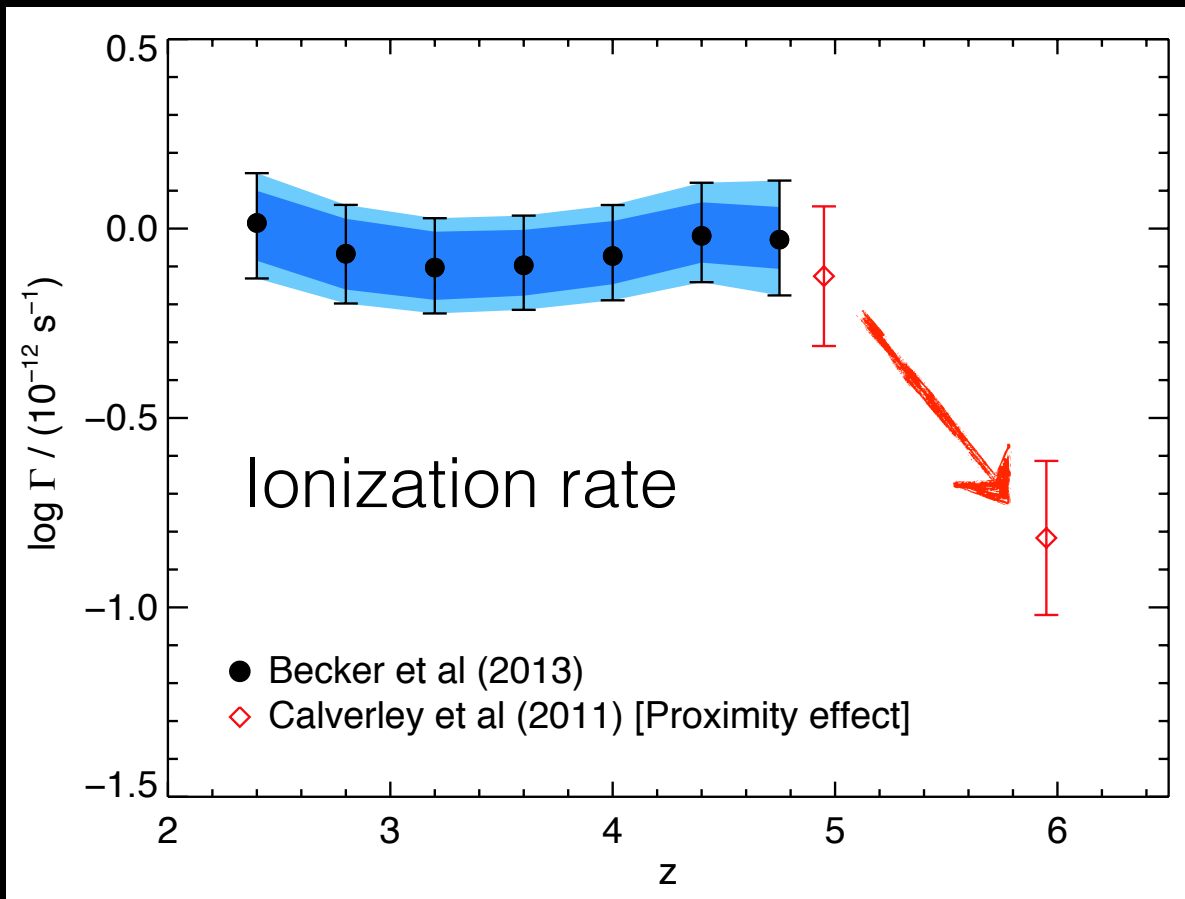
1. Lower temperatures
2. Radiative transfer
3. Shorter mean free path

Becker \& Bolton (2013)

# But a problem at $z \sim 6$ ...



$$\dot{N}_{\text{ion}} \propto \Gamma / \lambda_{\text{mfp}}$$

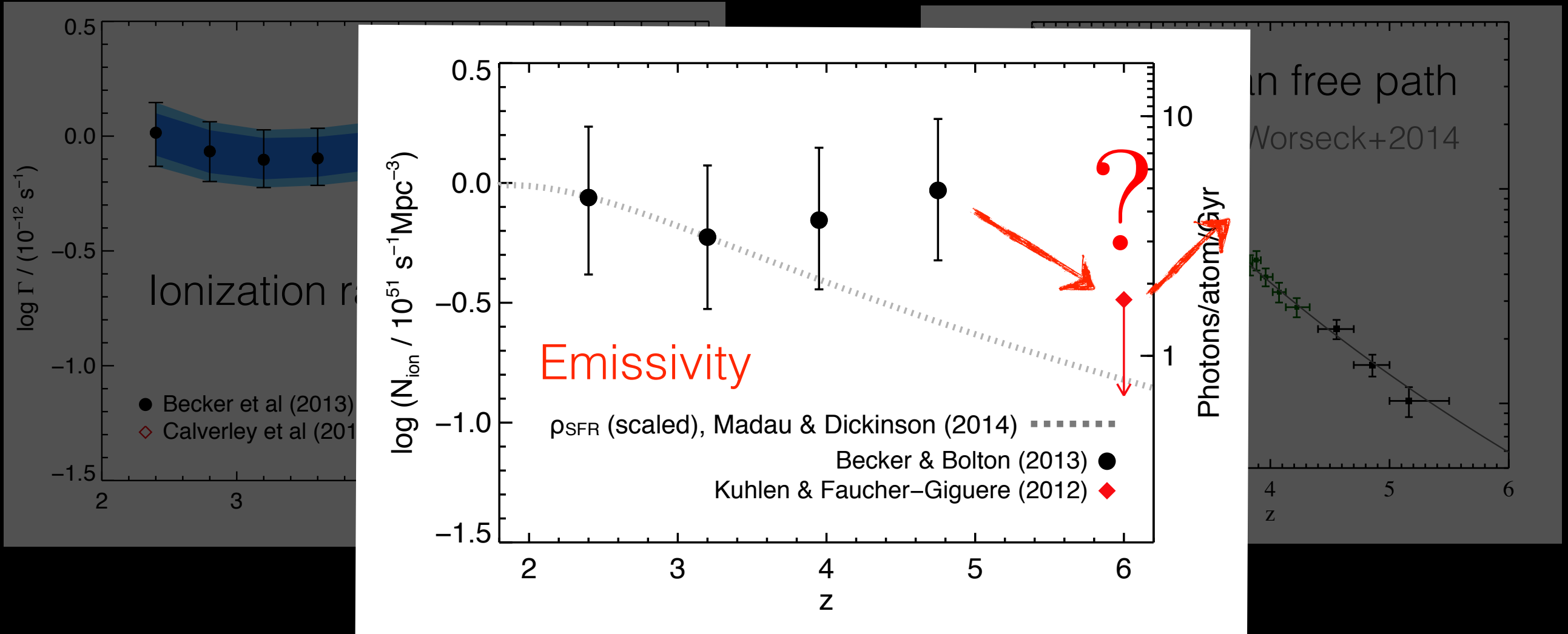






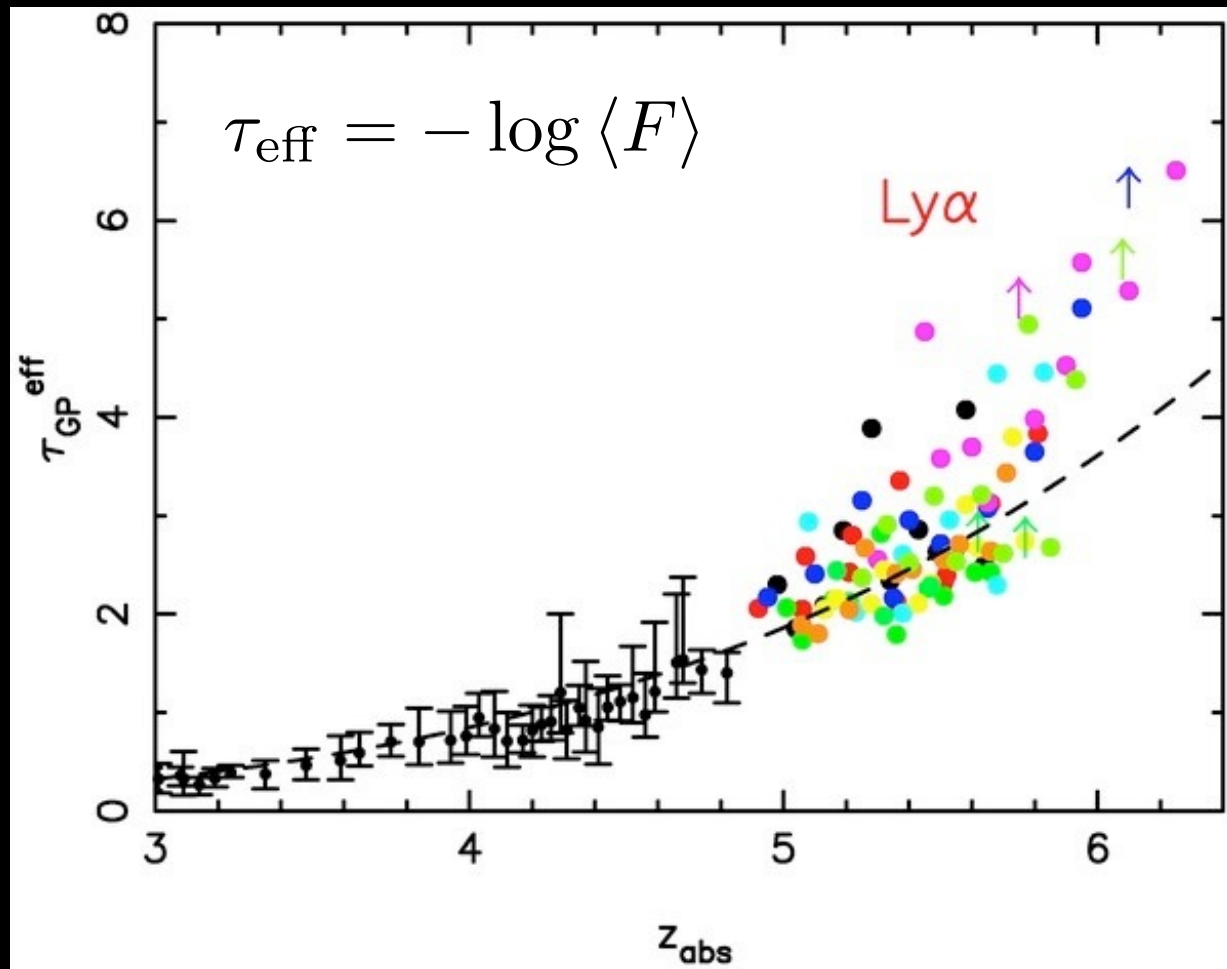
But a problem at  $z \sim 6$ ...

$$\dot{N}_{\text{ion}} \propto \Gamma / \lambda_{\text{mfp}}$$

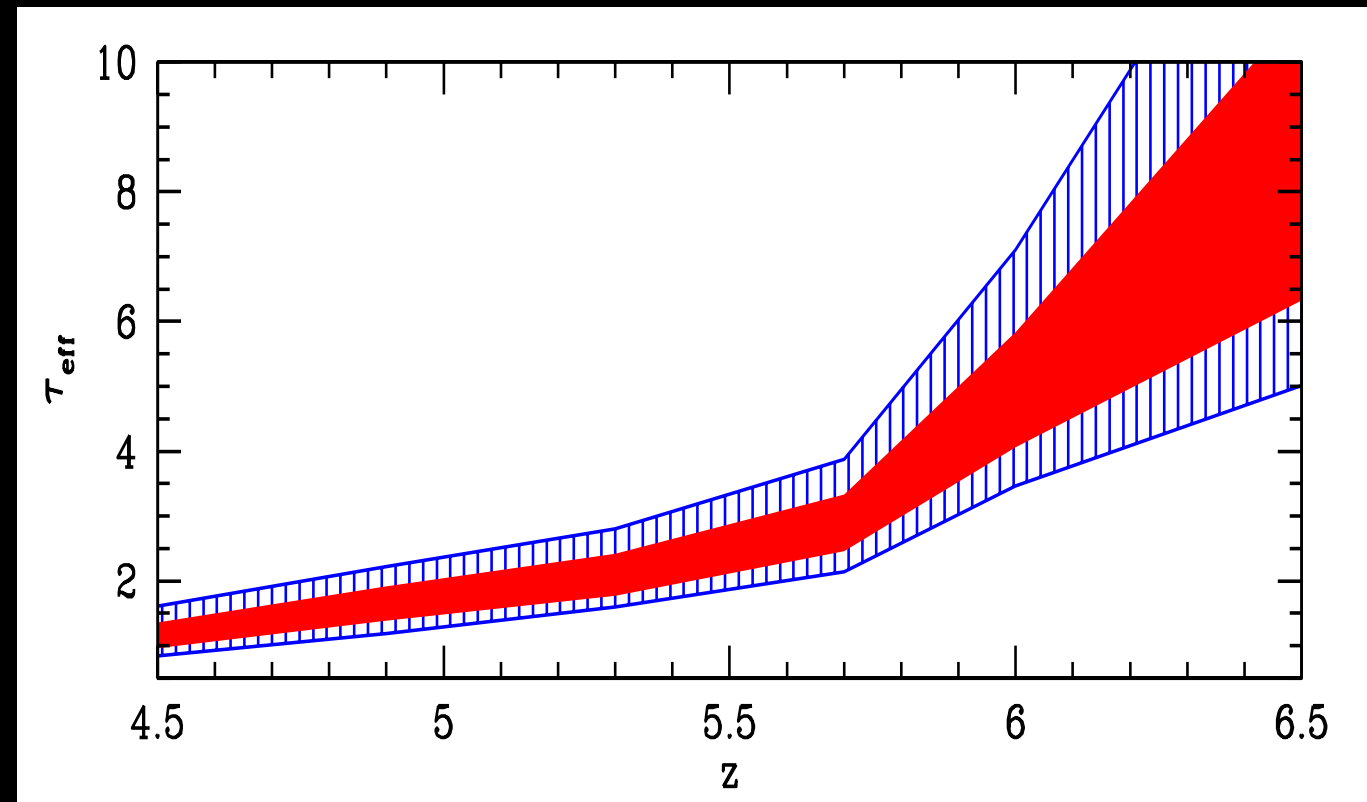


Does the emissivity have to rise at  $z > 6$ ?

# Scatter in Ly $\alpha$ opacity



Fan et al (2006)



Lidz et al (2006)

Get large scatter in Ly $\alpha$  opacity from the density field alone.

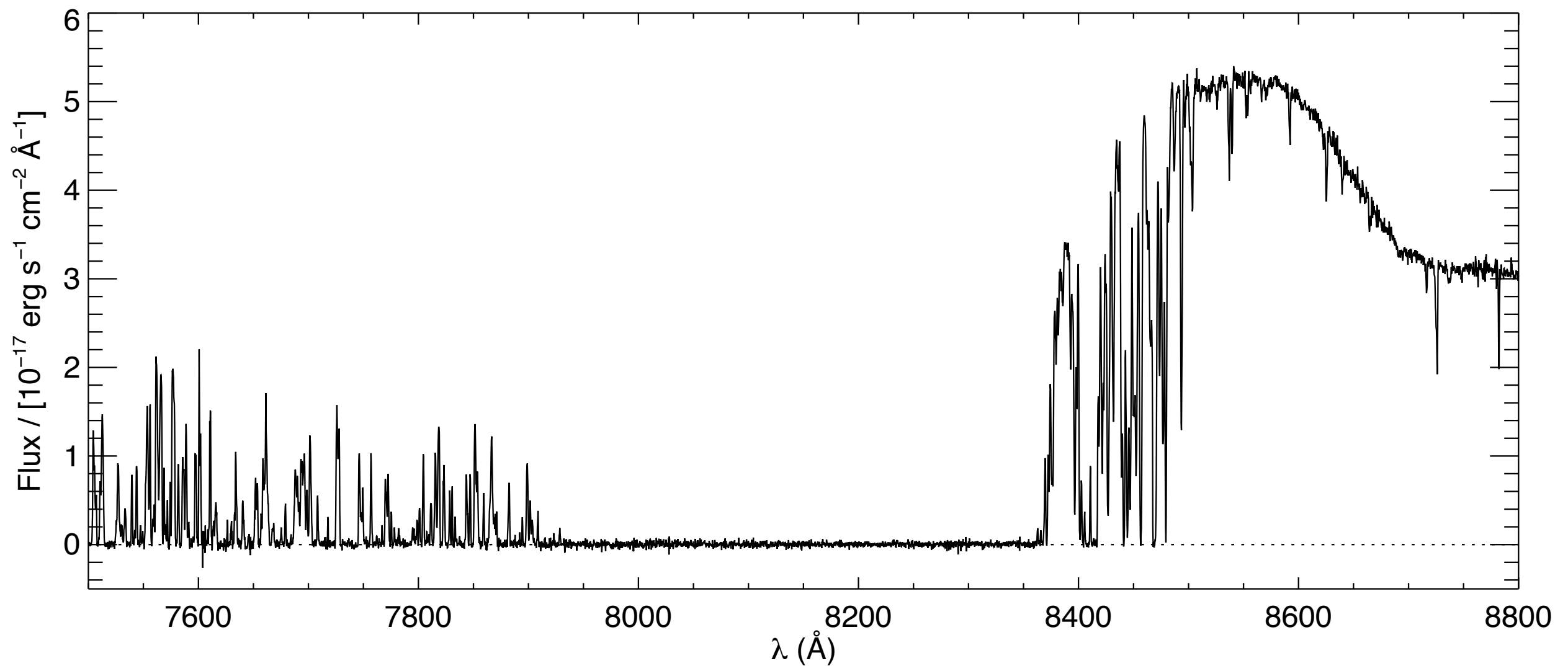
HAVE WE DETECTED PATCHY REIONIZATION IN QUASAR SPECTRA?

ADAM LIDZ,<sup>1</sup> S. PENG OH,<sup>2</sup> AND STEVEN R. FURLANETTO<sup>3</sup>

*Received 2005 December 15; accepted 2006 January 26; published 2006 February 14*

# ULAS J0148+0600

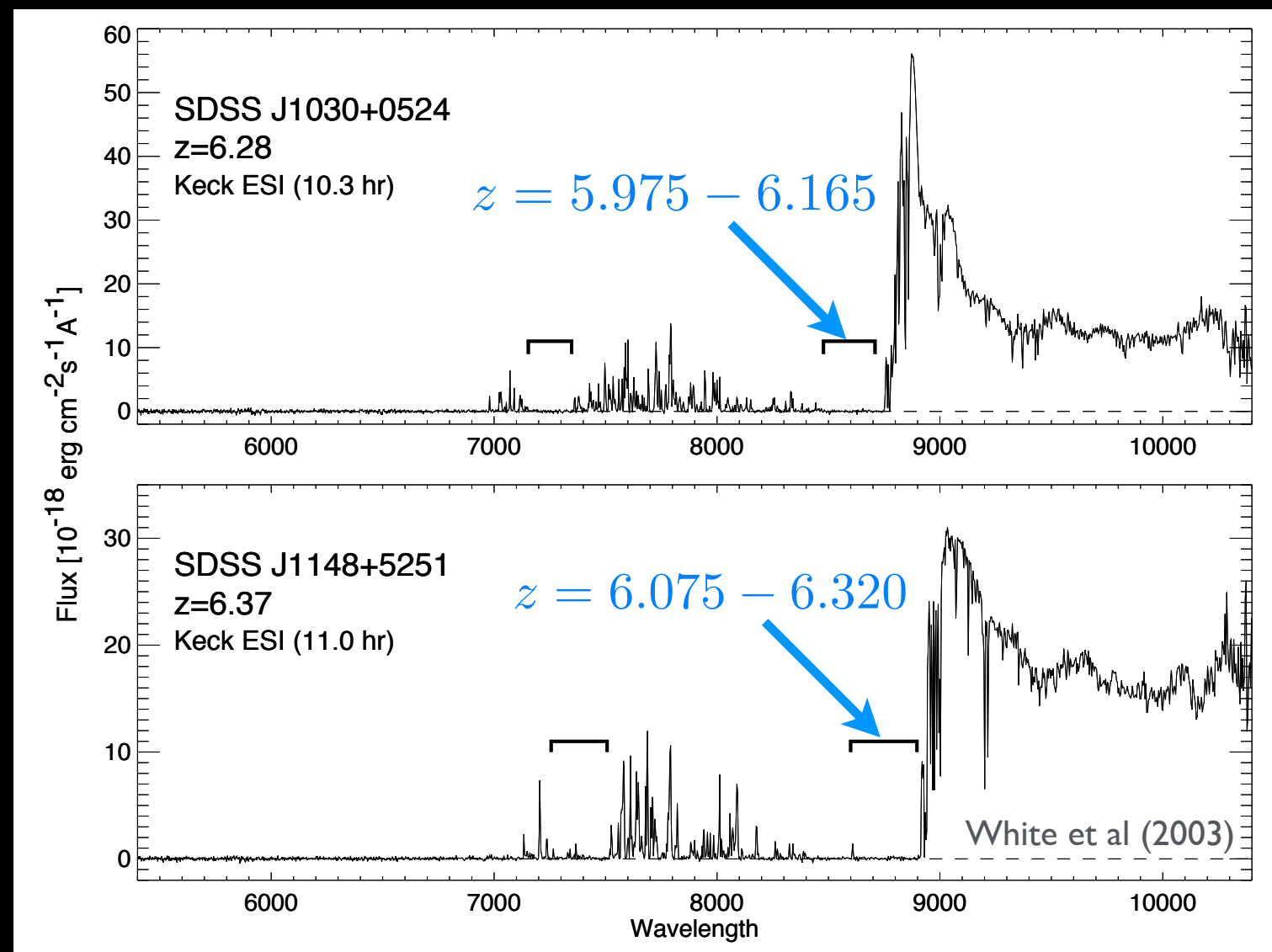
$$z_{\text{em}} = 5.98$$



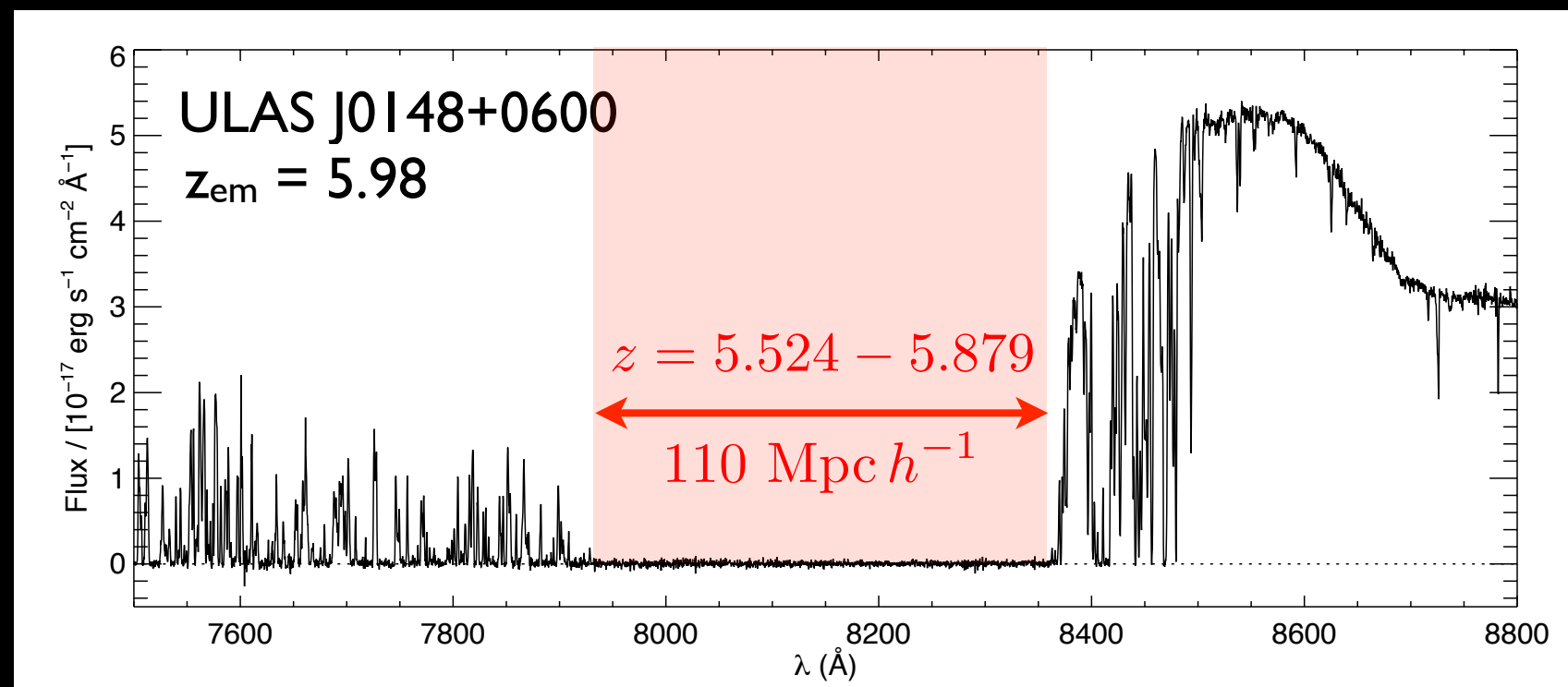
10 hr VLT/X-Shooter Spectrum



Compared to other  
Ly $\alpha$  troughs...

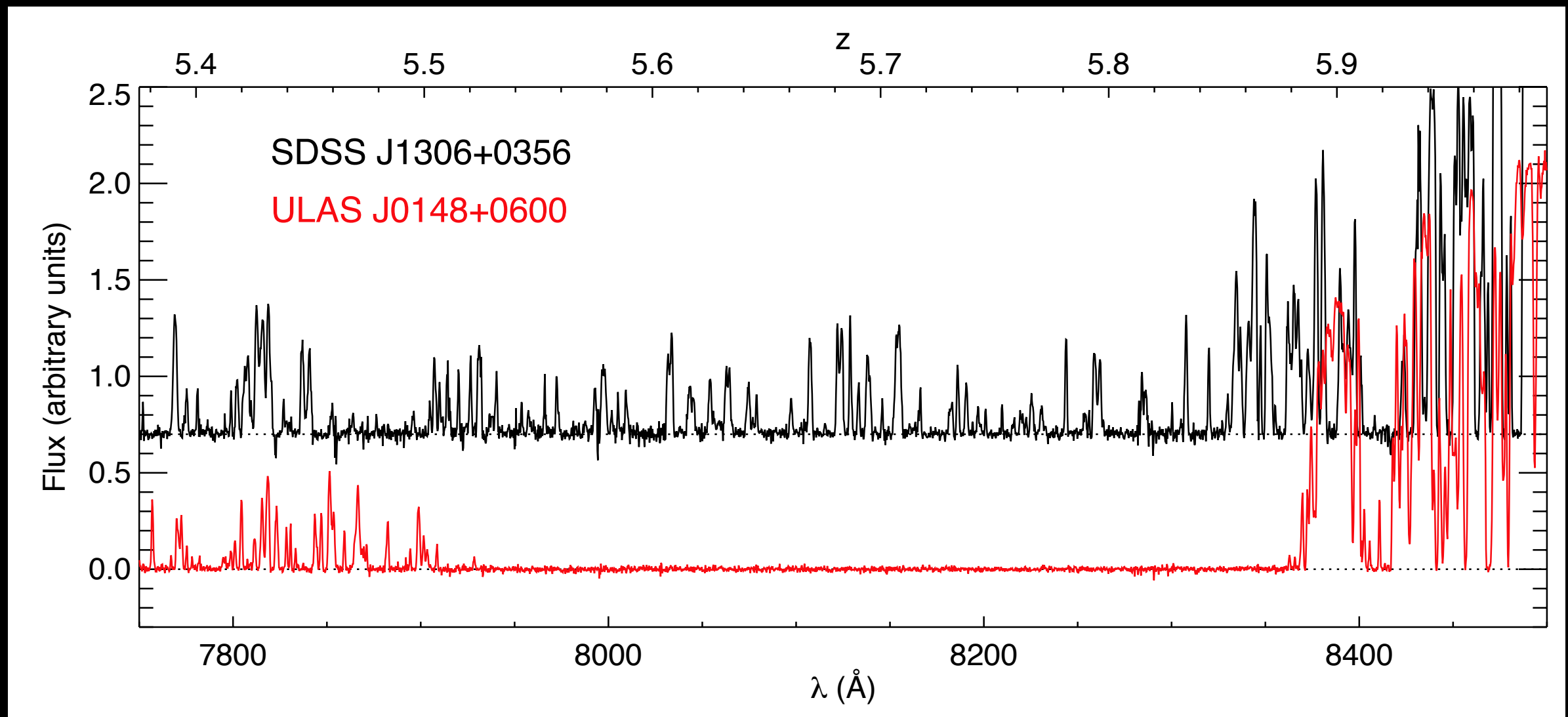


ULAS J0148 trough is  
longer and at substantially  
lower redshifts.



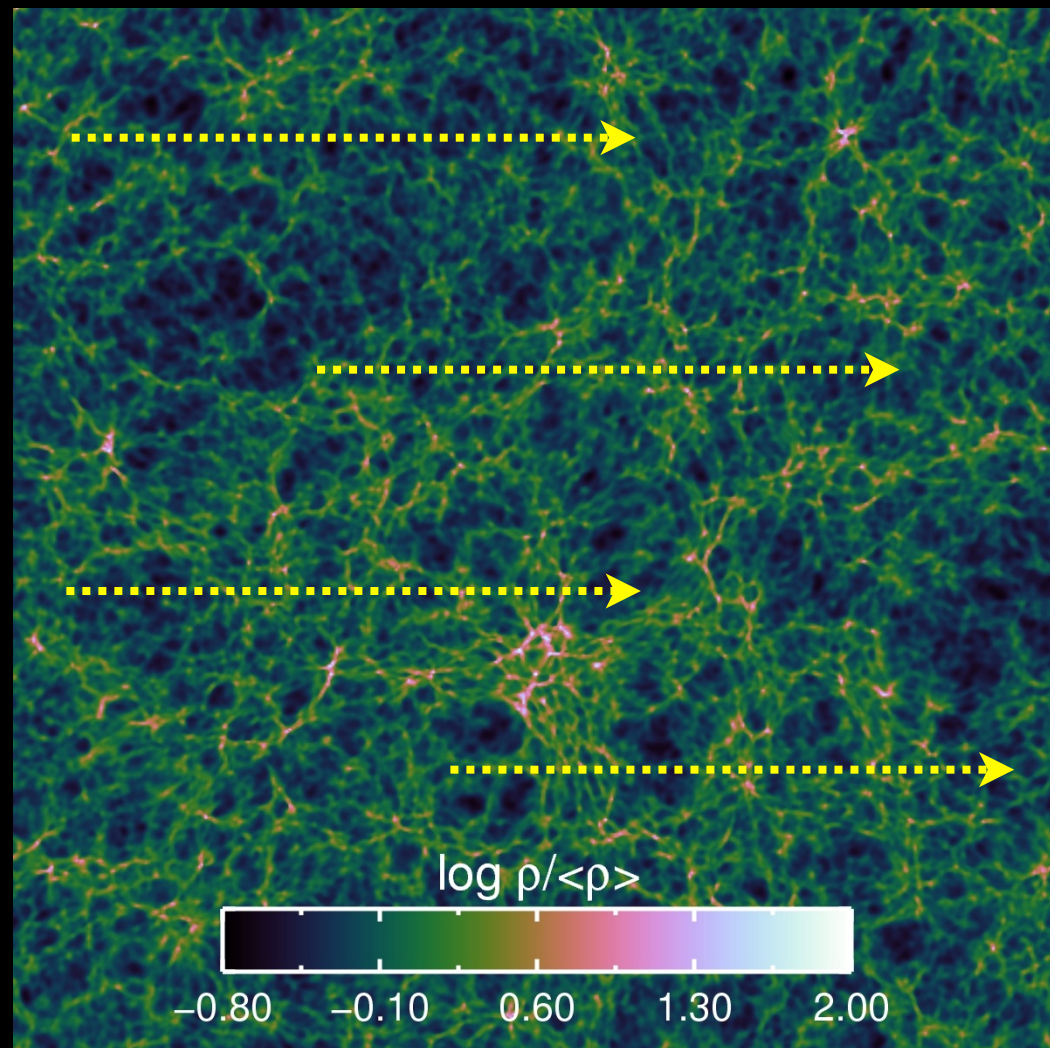
Becker+2015

# How can these live in the same universe?

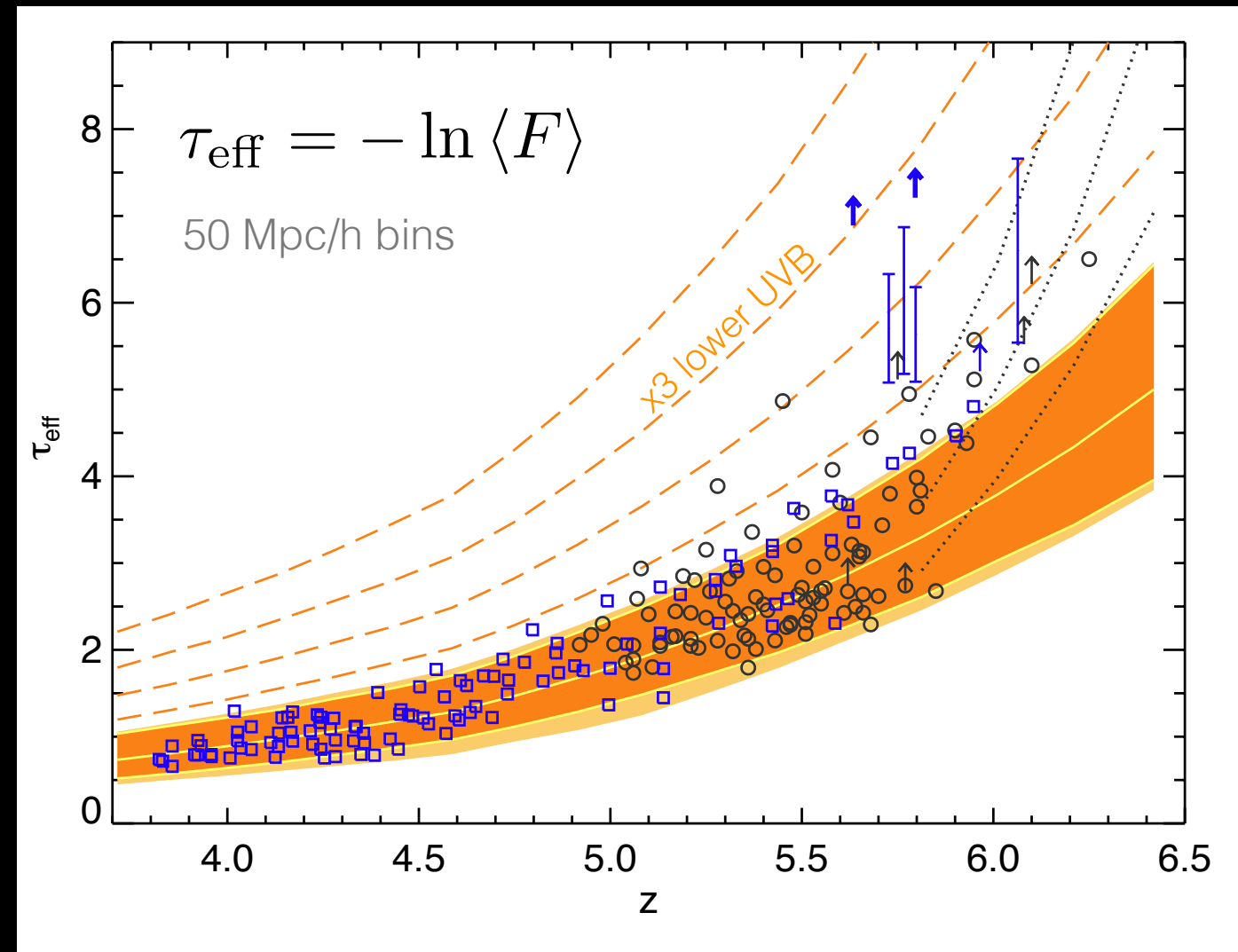


# The problem: Assumption of a uniform UVB

## Ly $\alpha$ forest opacities



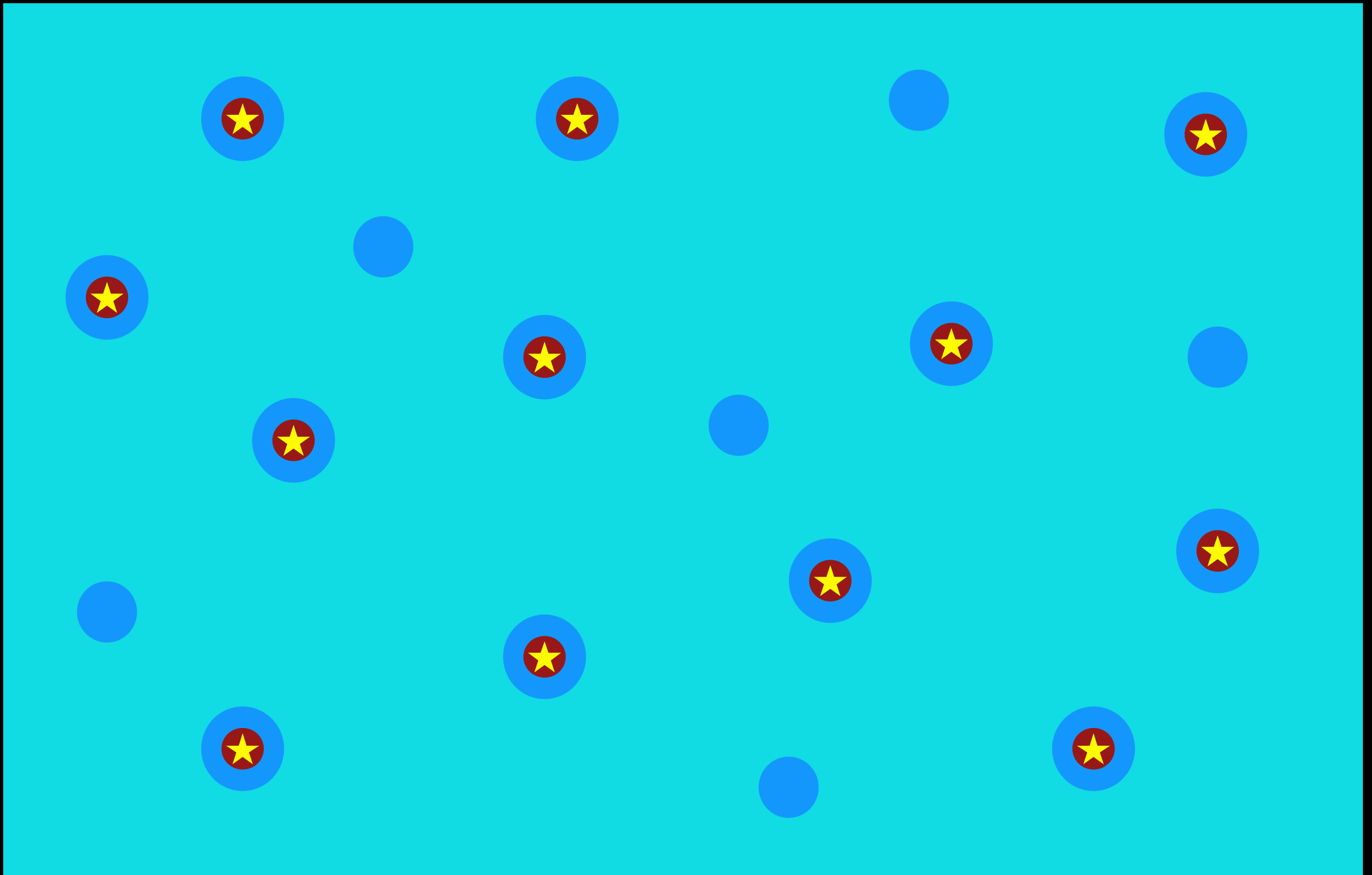
$100 \text{ Mpc } h^{-1}$



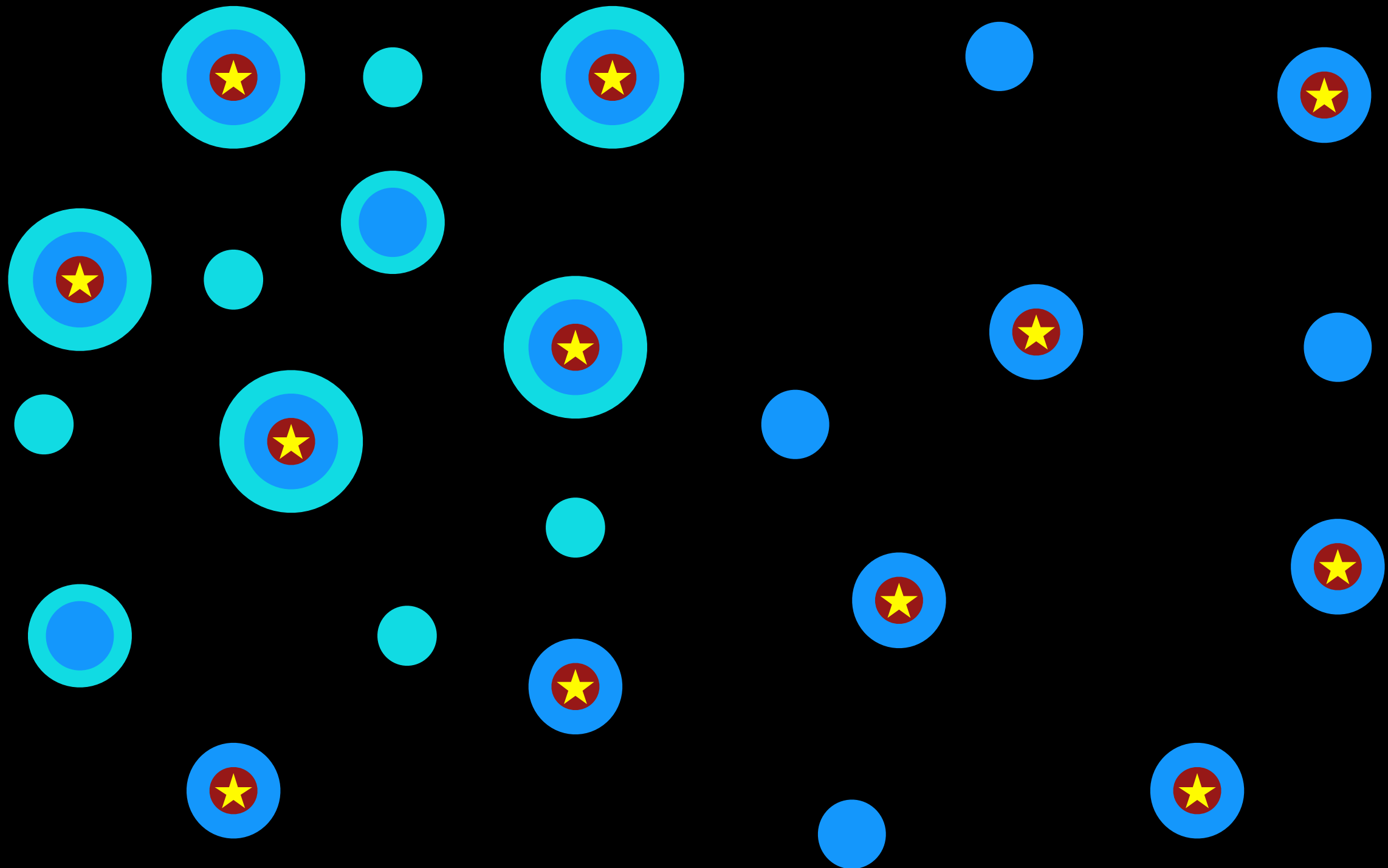
*Uniform UVB does not reproduce  
observed IGM Ly $\alpha$  opacities at  $z > 5$*



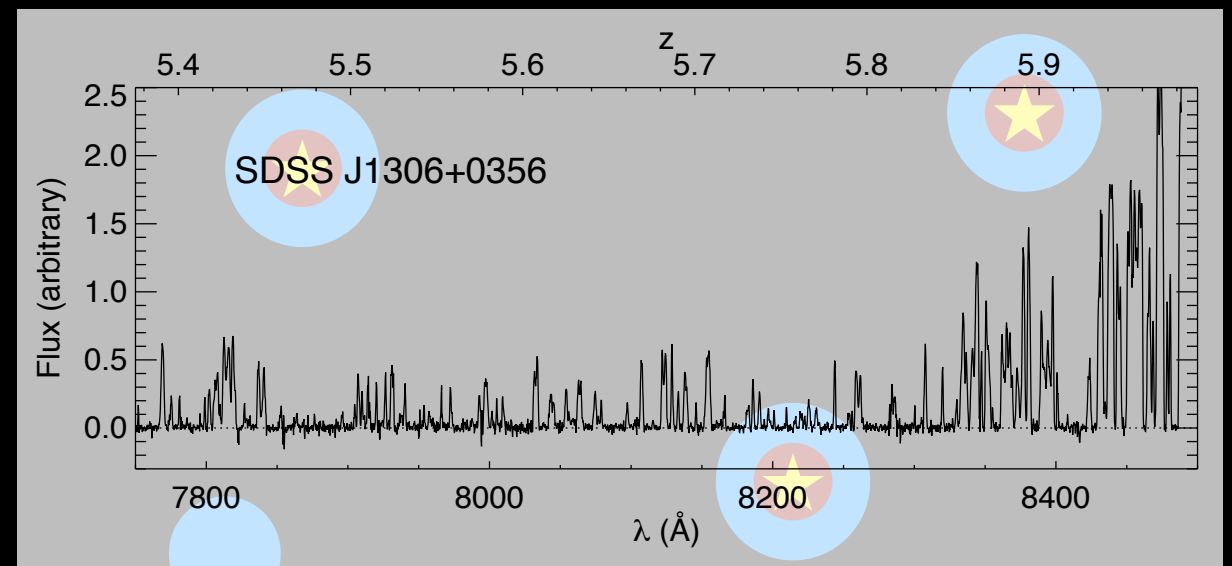
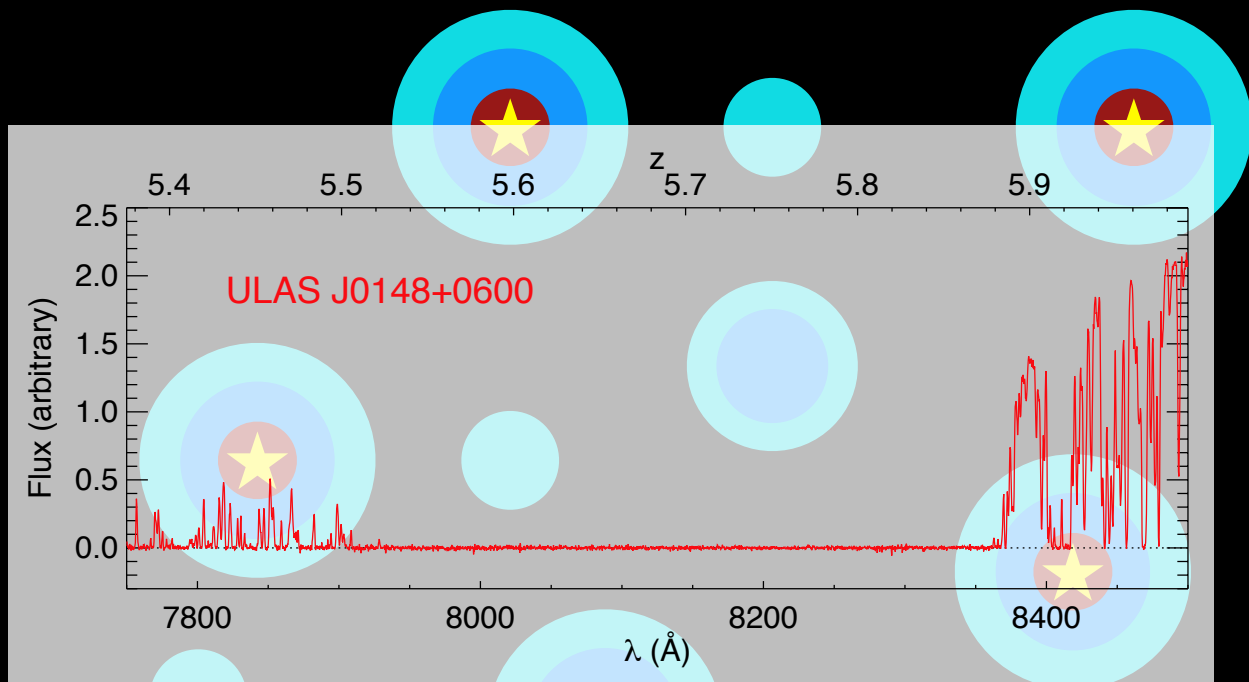
# “Post-Overlap” phase of Reionization



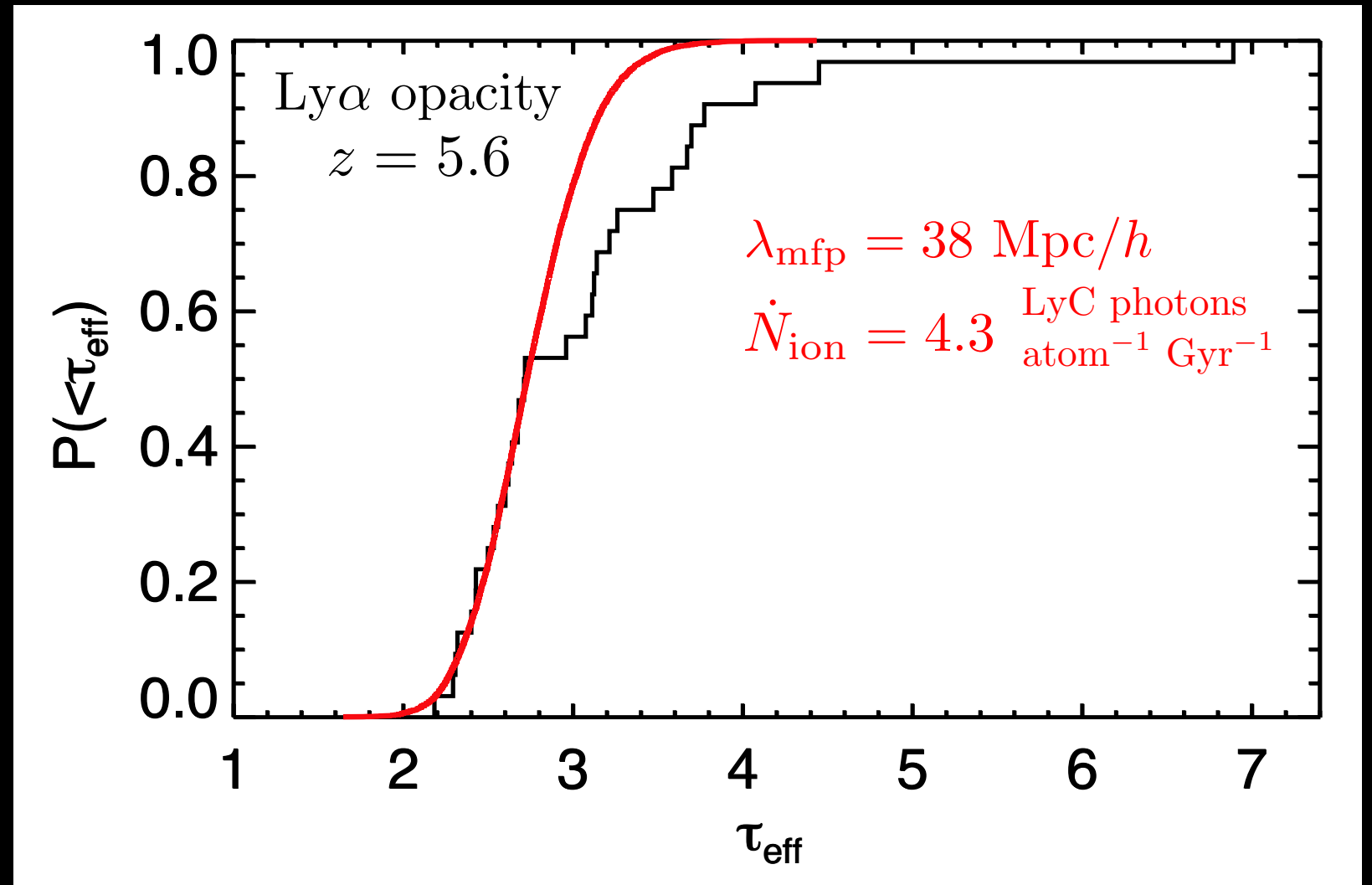
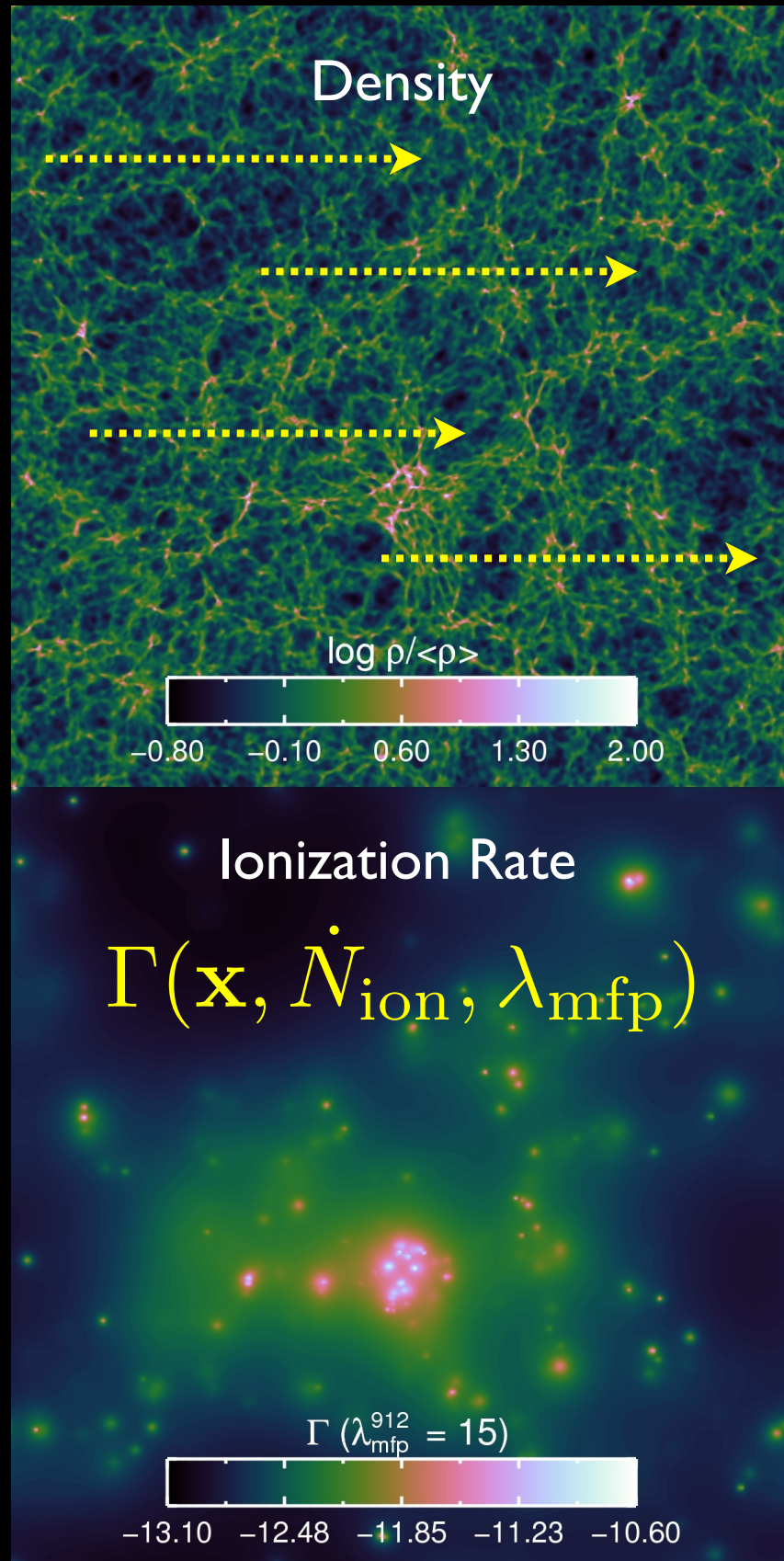
# “Post-Overlap” phase of Reionization



# “Post-Overlap” phase of Reionization



# Galaxy UV background



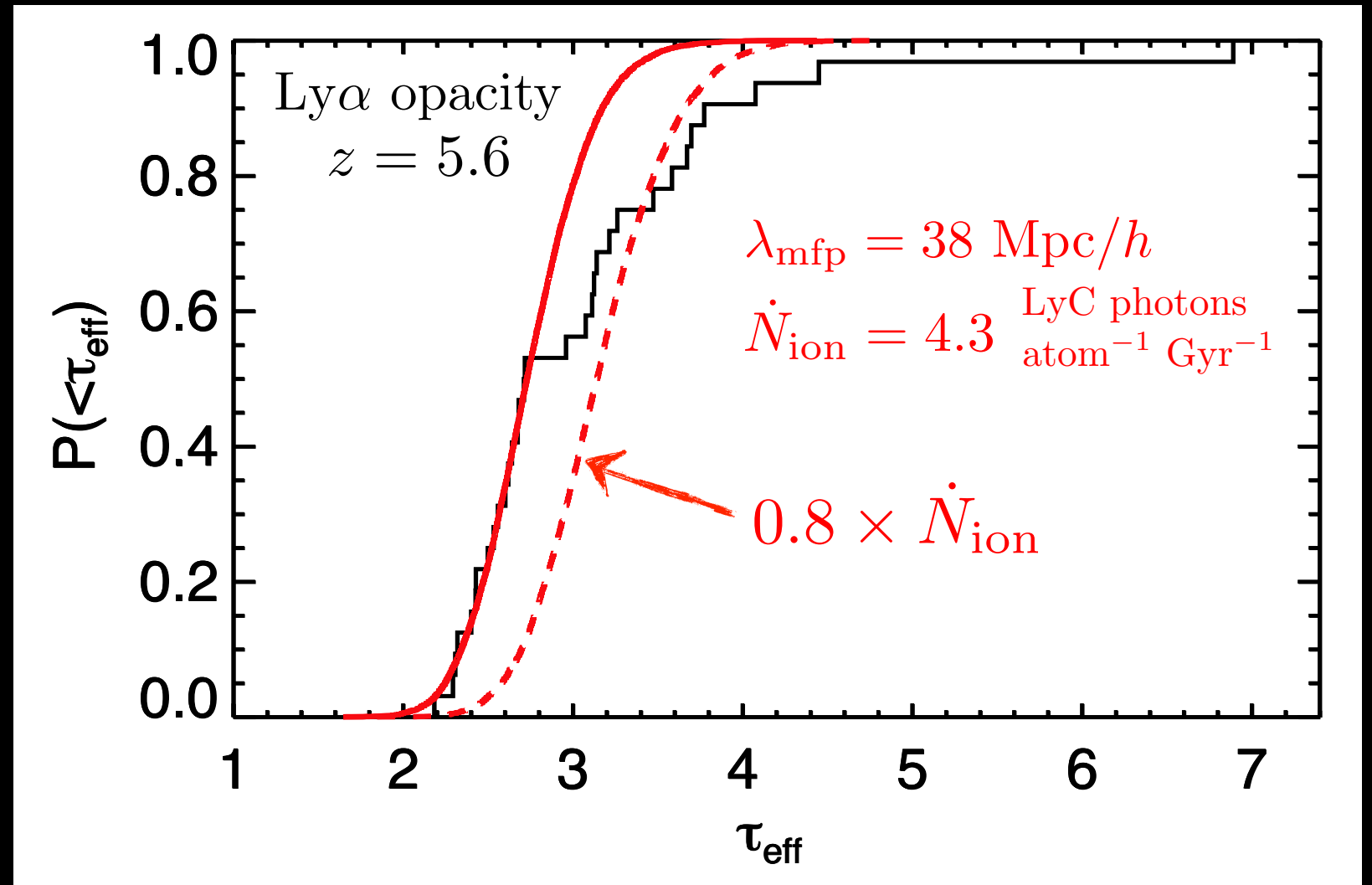
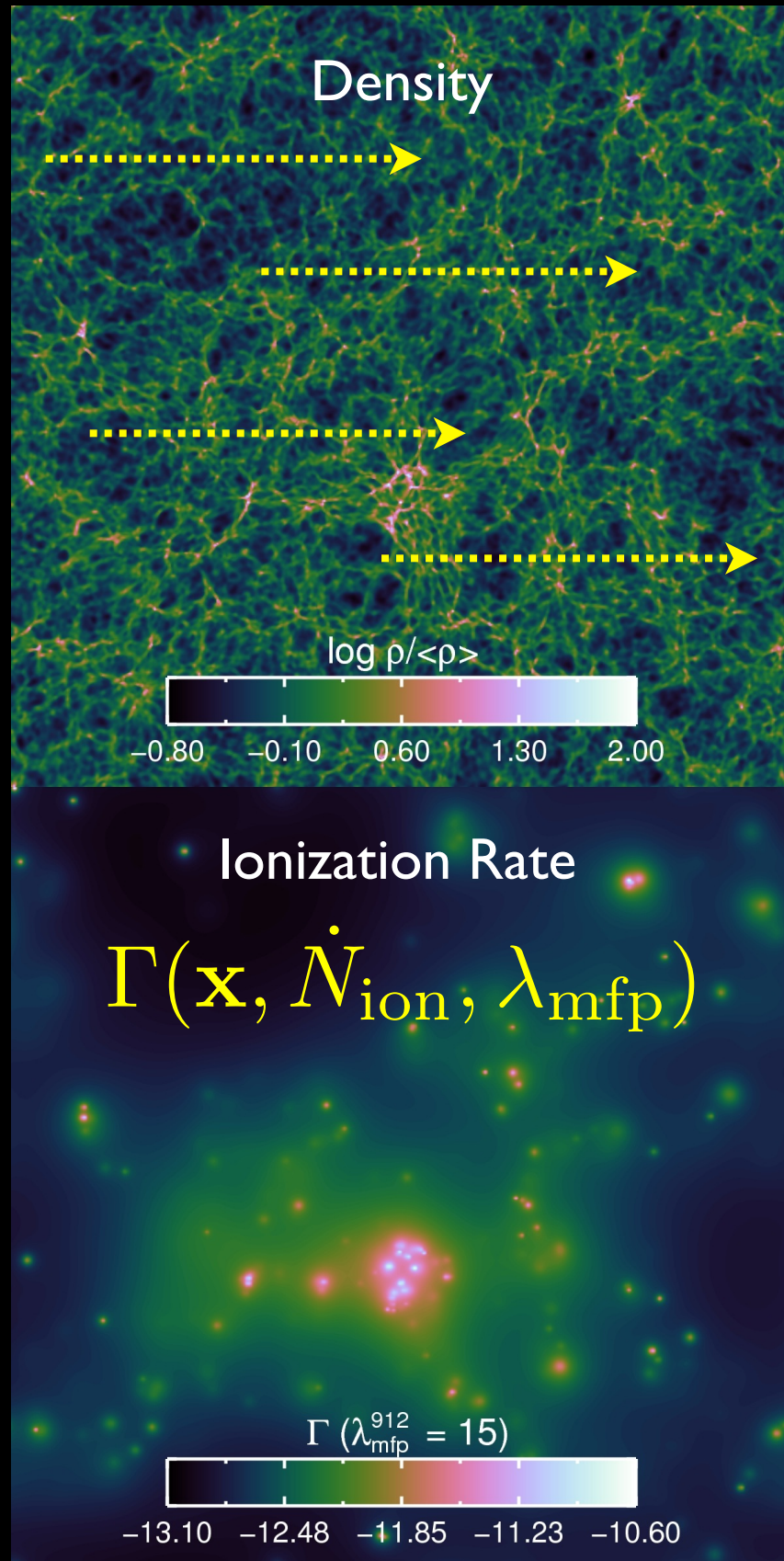
$$\tau_{\text{eff}} = -\ln \langle F \rangle$$

50 Mpc/h regions

Becker & Bolton, in prep



# Galaxy UV background

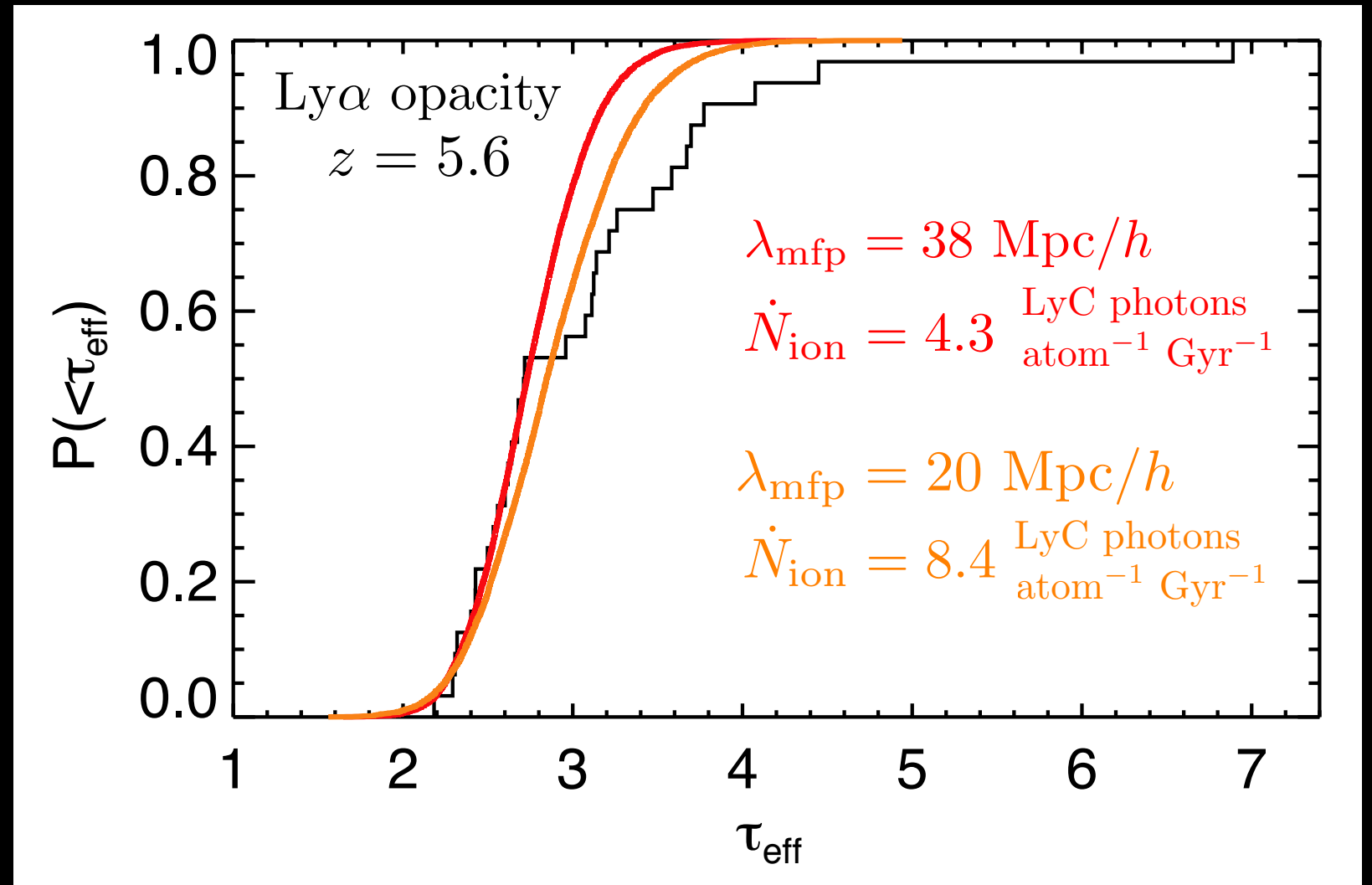
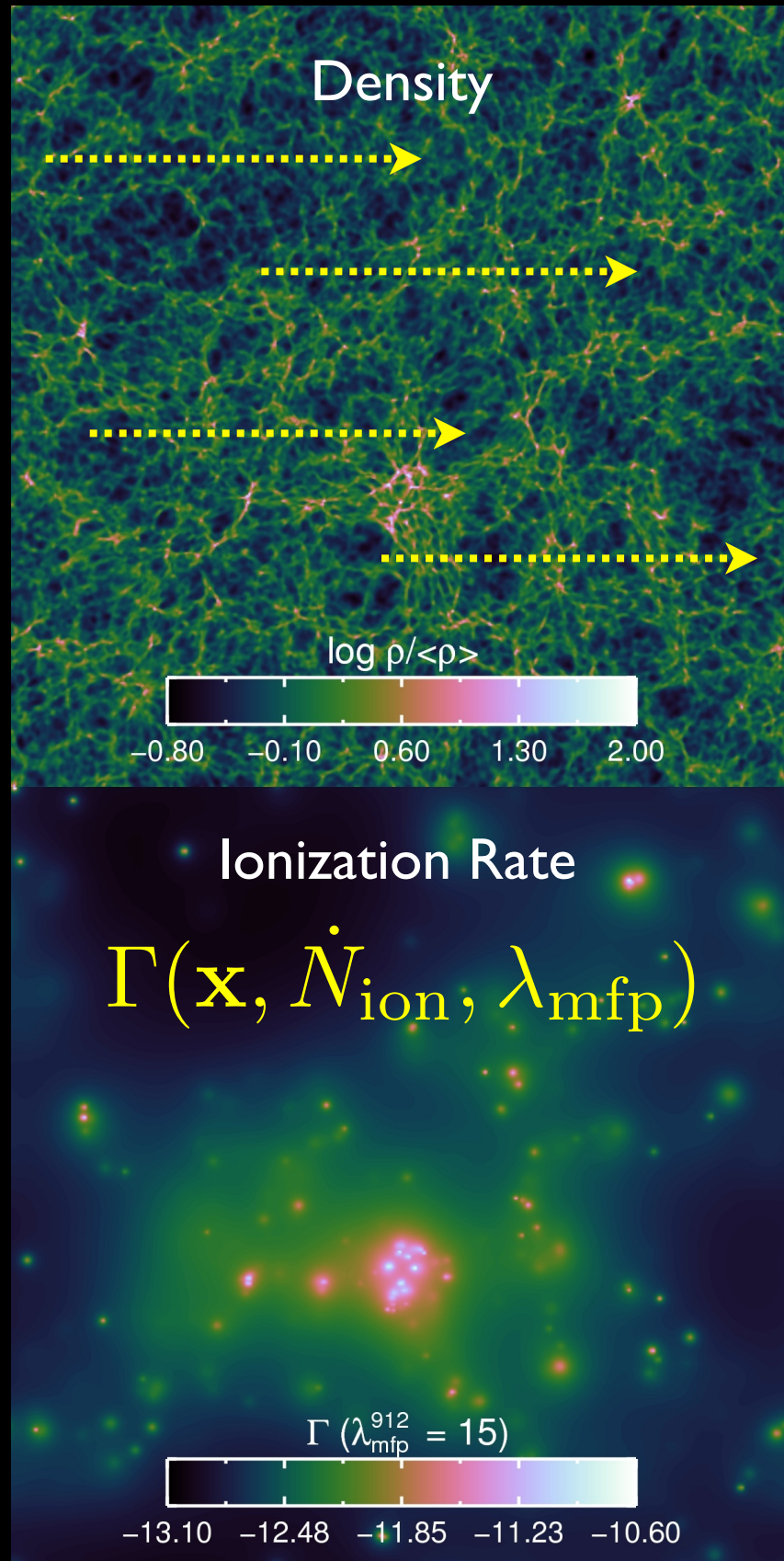


$$\tau_{\text{eff}} = -\ln \langle F \rangle$$

50 Mpc/h regions

Becker & Bolton, in prep

# Galaxy UV background



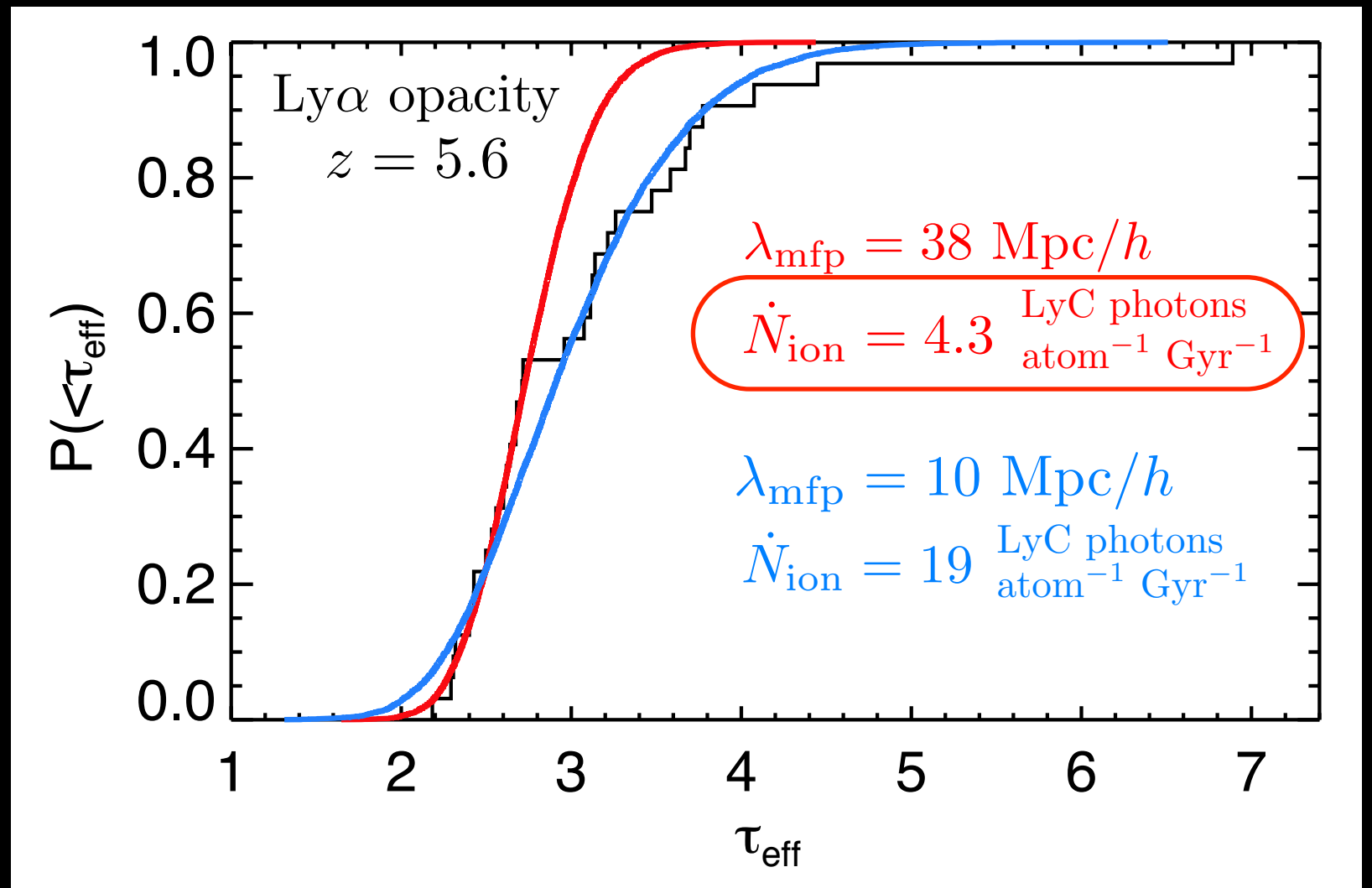
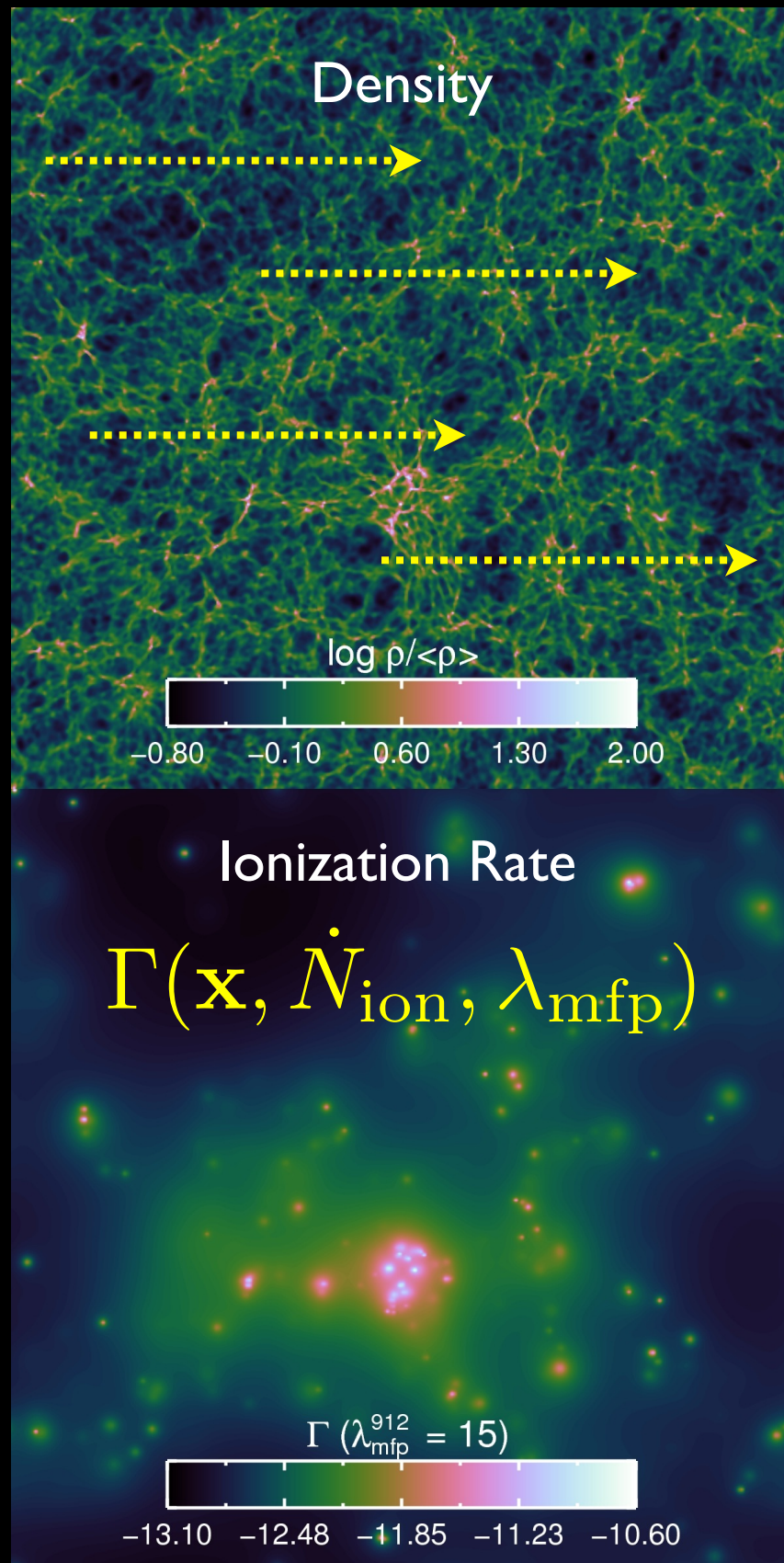
$$\tau_{\text{eff}} = -\ln \langle F \rangle$$

50 Mpc/h regions

Becker & Bolton, in prep



# Galaxy UV background



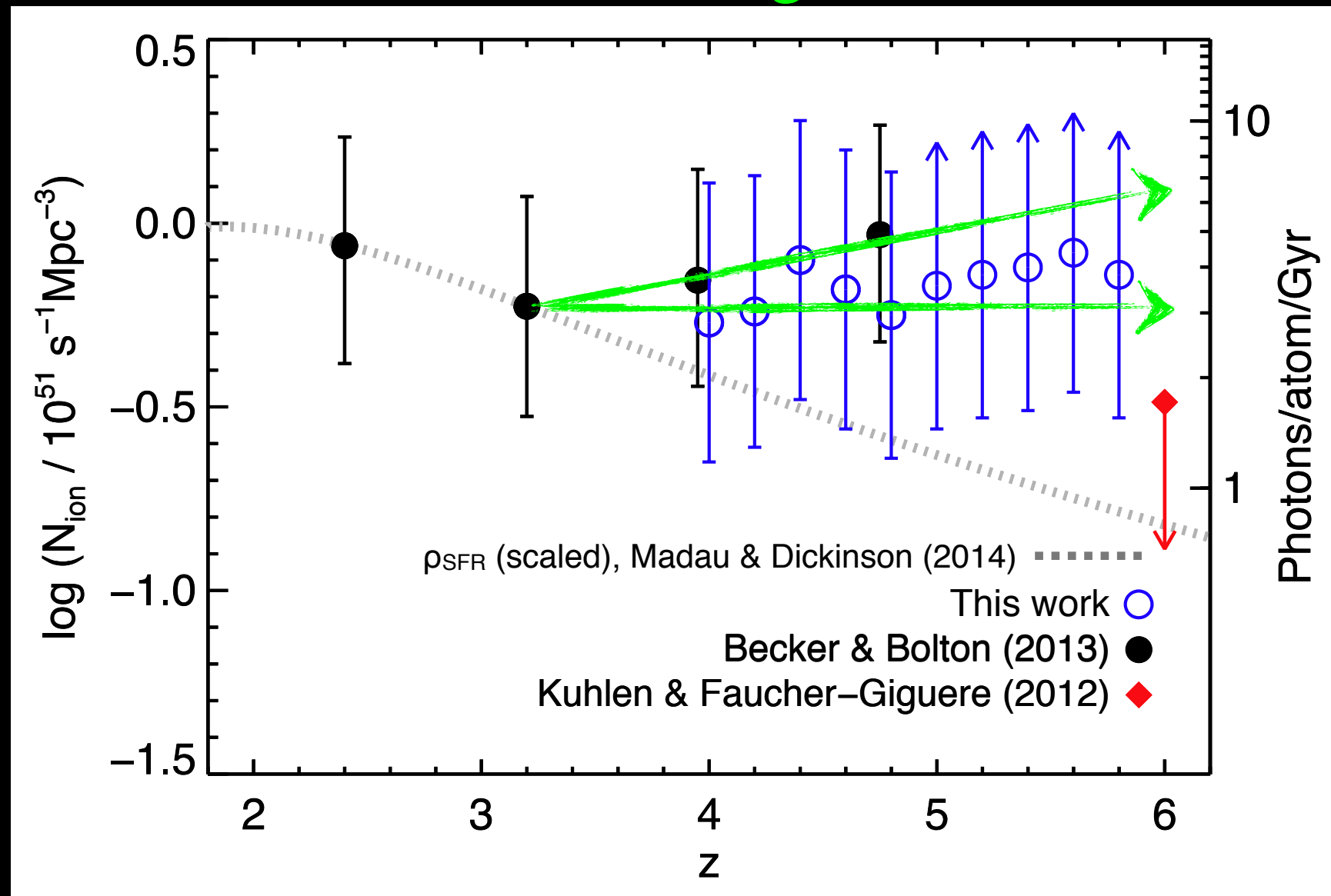
$$\tau_{\text{eff}} = -\ln \langle F \rangle$$

50 Mpc/h regions

Becker & Bolton, in prep

# Ionizing Emissivity

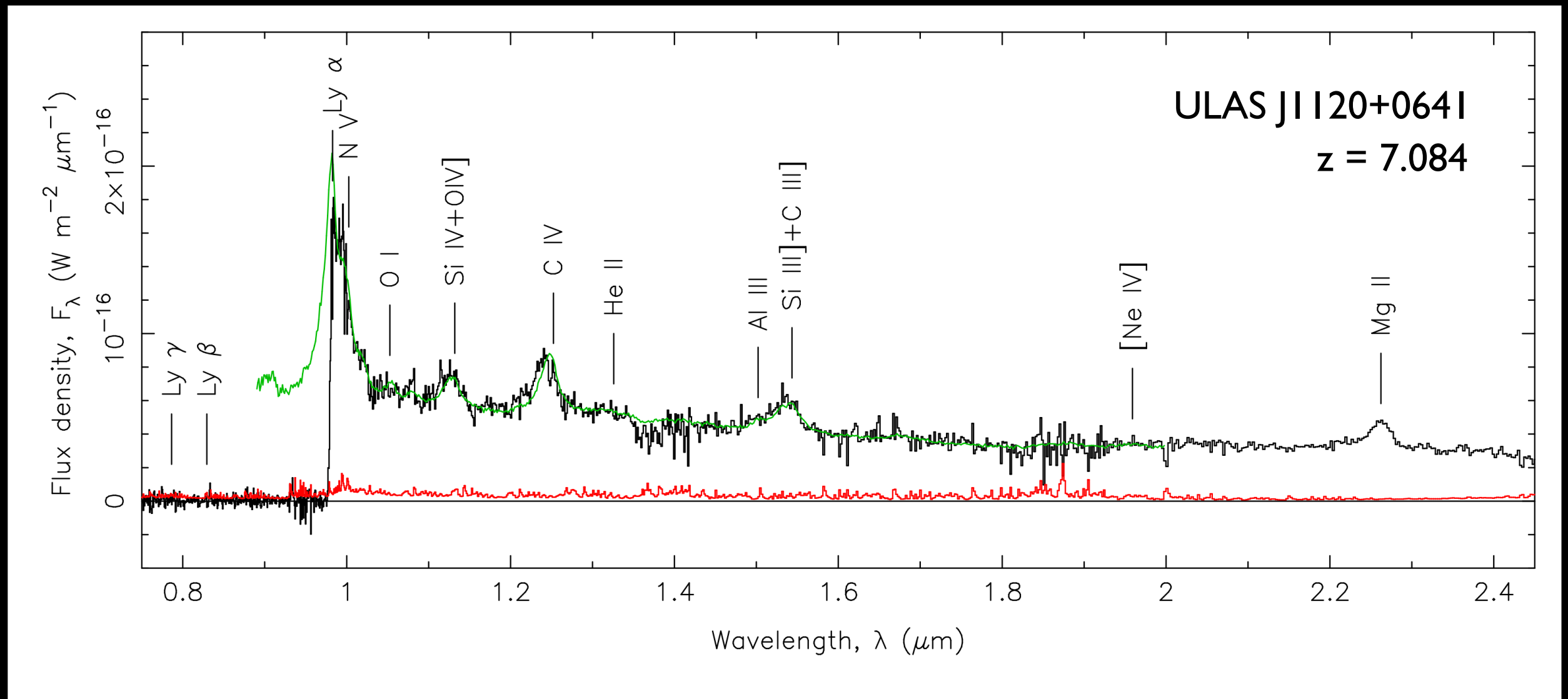
*Flat or rising over  $3 < z < 6$*



1. Abundant photons for reionization.
2. Galaxy ionizing efficiency ( $f_{\text{esc}} * \xi_{\text{ion}}$ ) must increase with redshift

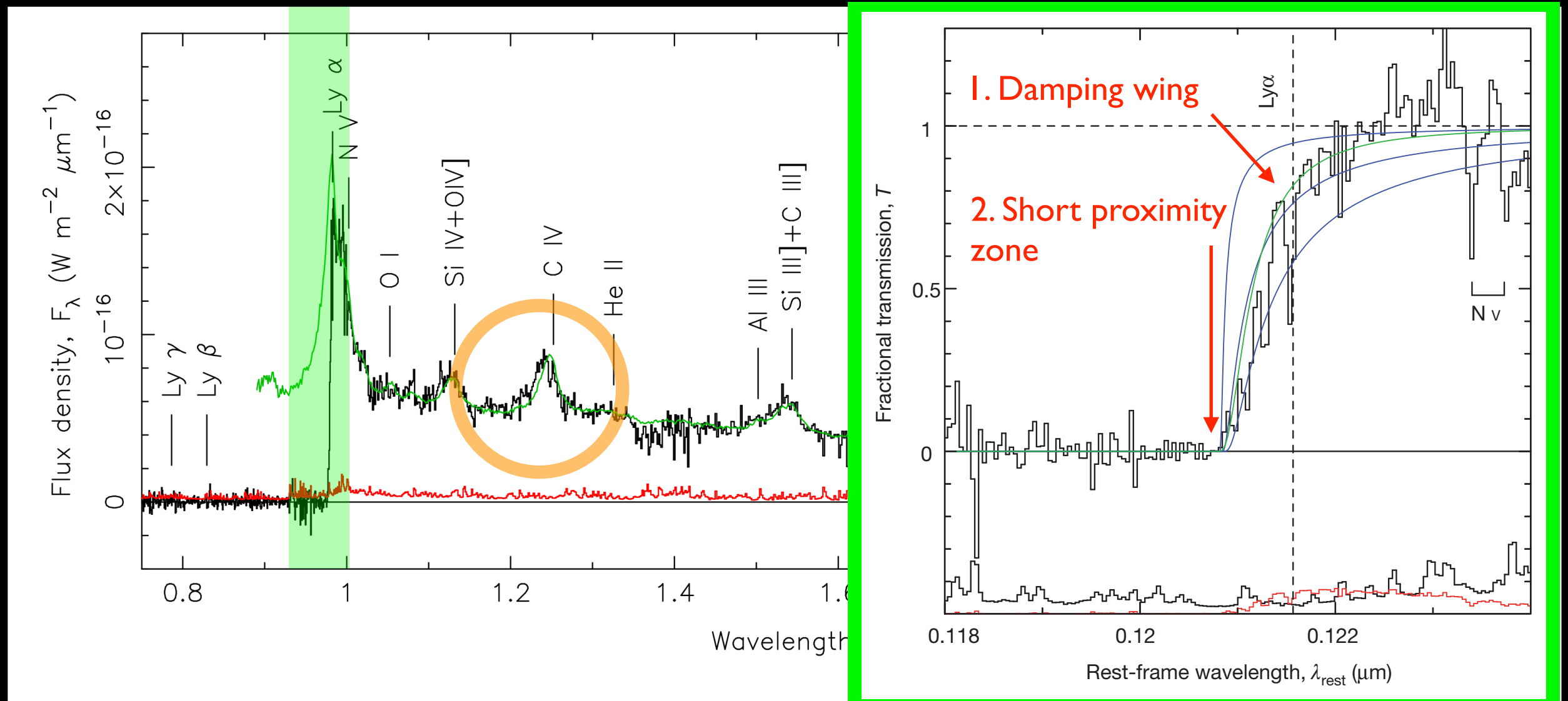


# Constraints from $z \sim 7$ quasar?



Proximity zone suggests  $>10\%$  neutral IGM (Mortlock+2011, Bolton+2011)

# Constraints from $z \sim 7$ quasar?



Proximity zone suggests  $>10\%$  neutral IGM (Mortlock+2011, Bolton+2011)

Reasons to be skeptical...

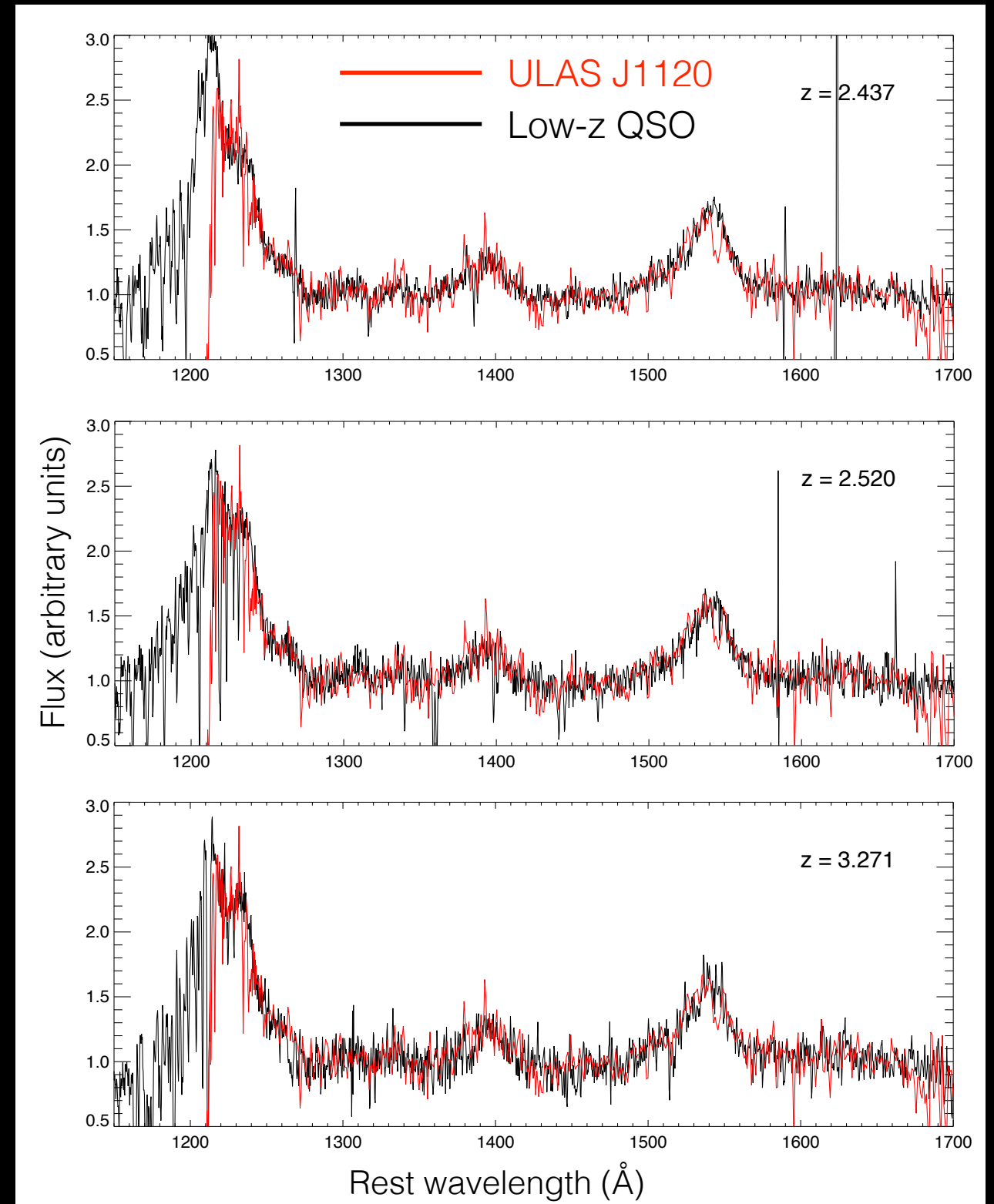


Sarah  
Bosman

# $z \sim 7$ Damping Wing?

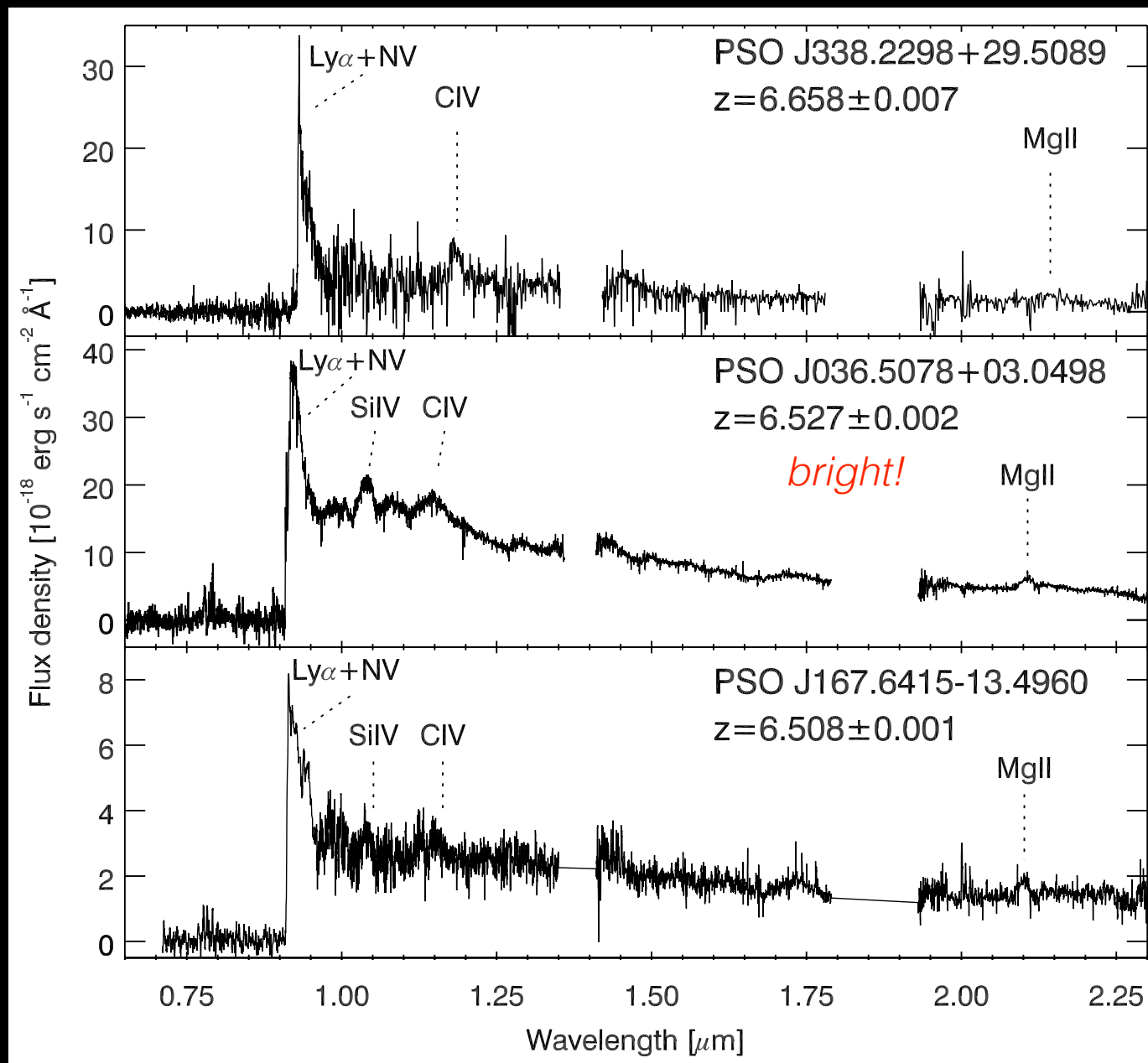
- Among objects that match in C IV, ULAS J1120 is not a strong outlier
- Easy to find similar lower-redshift objects *without damping wings*
- No need for neutral IGM

Bosman & Becker, submitted



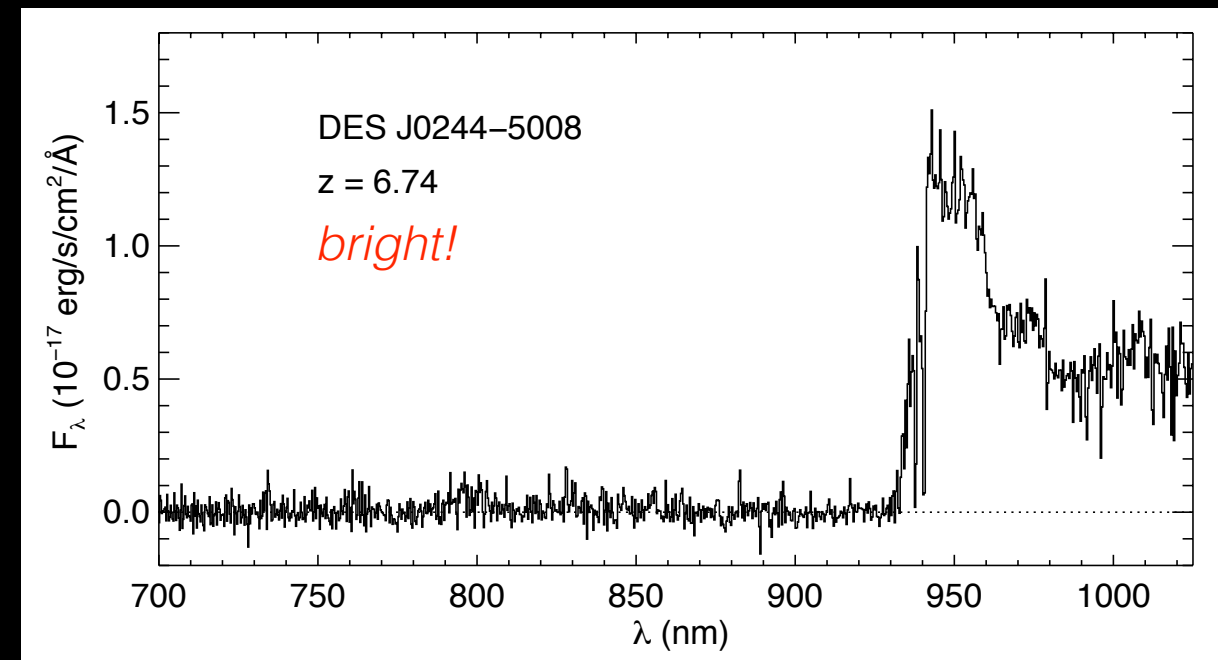
# New $z > 6.5$ quasars!

Pan-STARRS



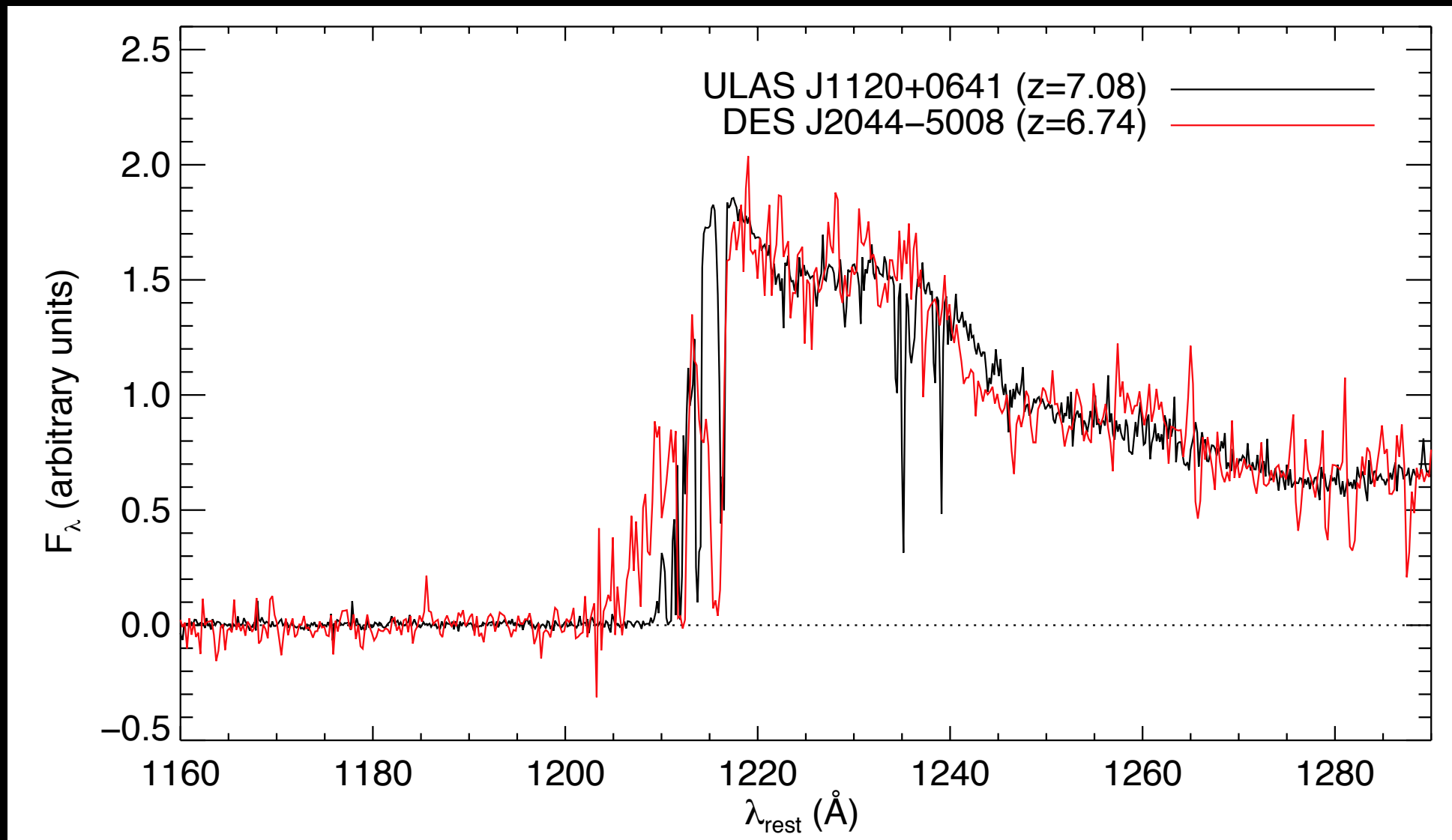
Venemans+2015

DES+VISTA





# The latest DES quasar



More extended proximity zone than J1120,  
consistent with an ionized IGM near  $z \sim 7$ .

# Summary

- Planck data suggest a somewhat later reionization than WMAP, but a consensus model remains elusive
- Ionizing emissivity remains flat or increases with redshift over  $2 < z < 6$ , even as global star formation rate declines — escape fractions, IMF may evolve
- Ly $\alpha$  forest shows evidence of large-scale UVB fluctuations near  $z \sim 6$ , consistent with patchy reionization
- Neutral fraction at  $z \sim 7$  still unclear, but larger  $z > 6.5$  quasar samples becoming available

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