



Tracing HI distribution and ionizing photon escape in star-forming galaxies across cosmic time

Floriane Leclercq

Marie S. Curie fellow @CRAL Lyon France

— The LzLCS and MUSE collaboration —

April 10, 2025, OAC, Kolymbari, Crete



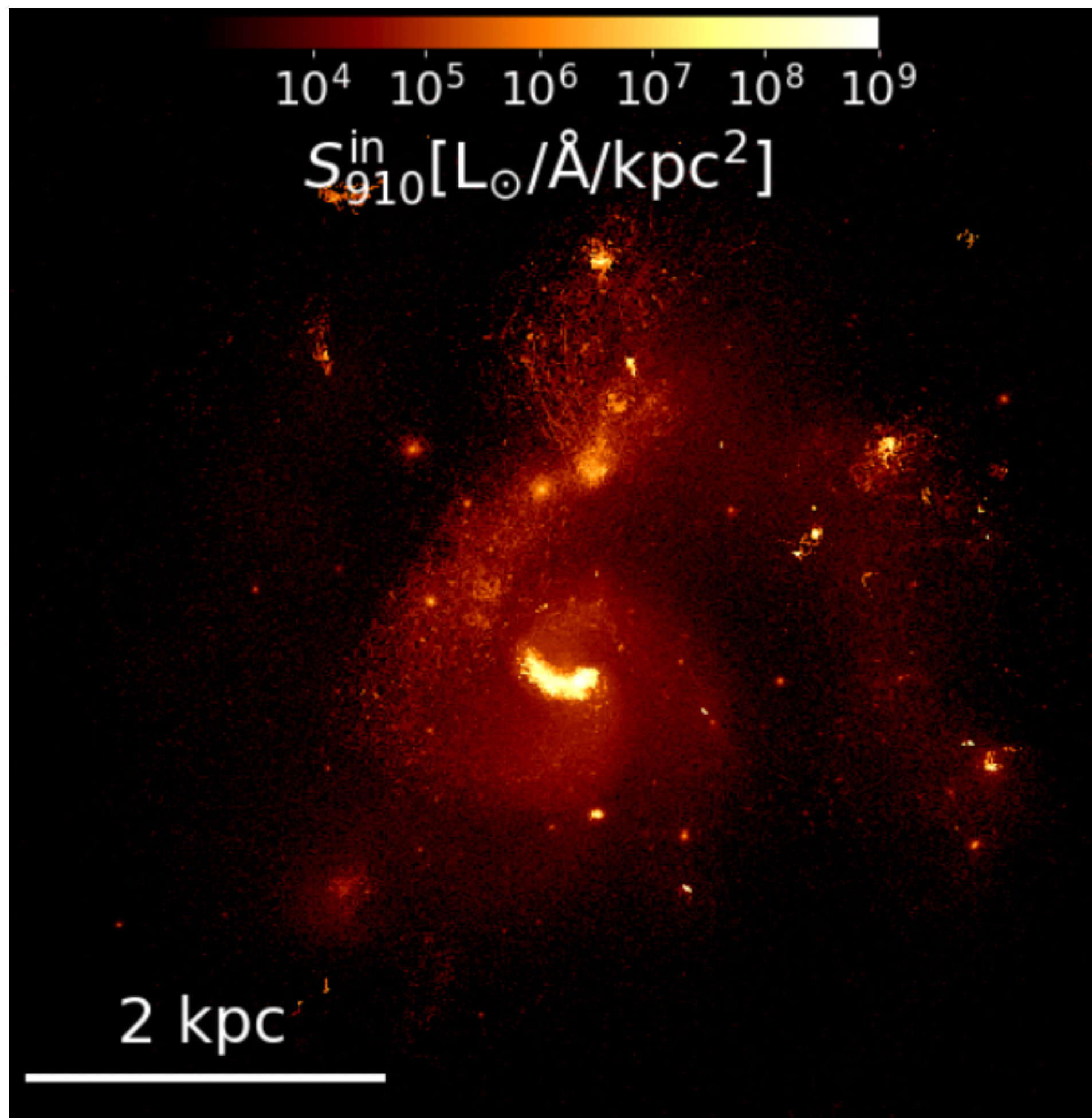
**Funded by
the European Union**



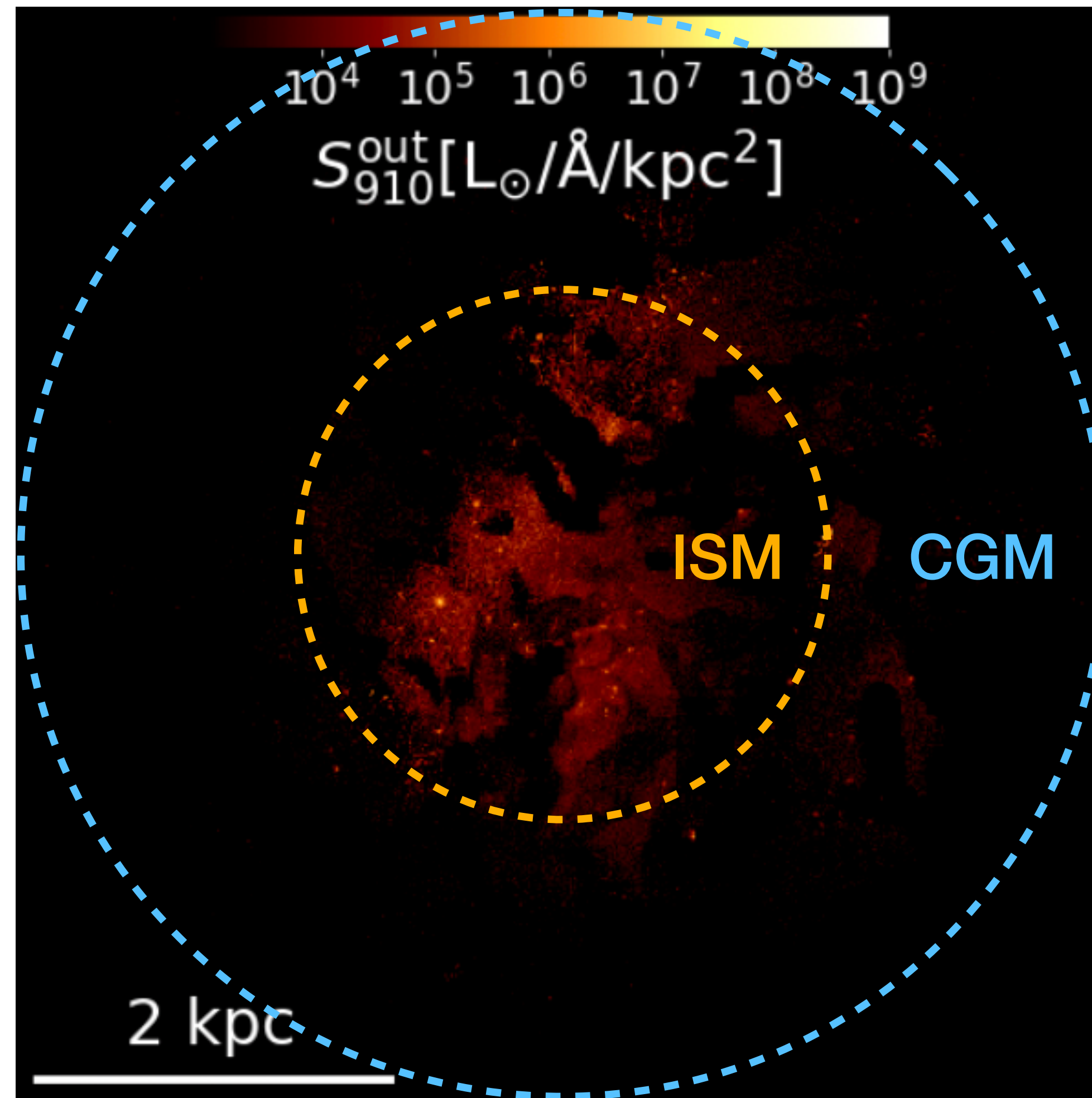
CENTRE DE RECHERCHE ASTROPHYSIQUE DE LYON

HI distribution and ionizing photons escape

Intrinsic LyC



Observed LyC



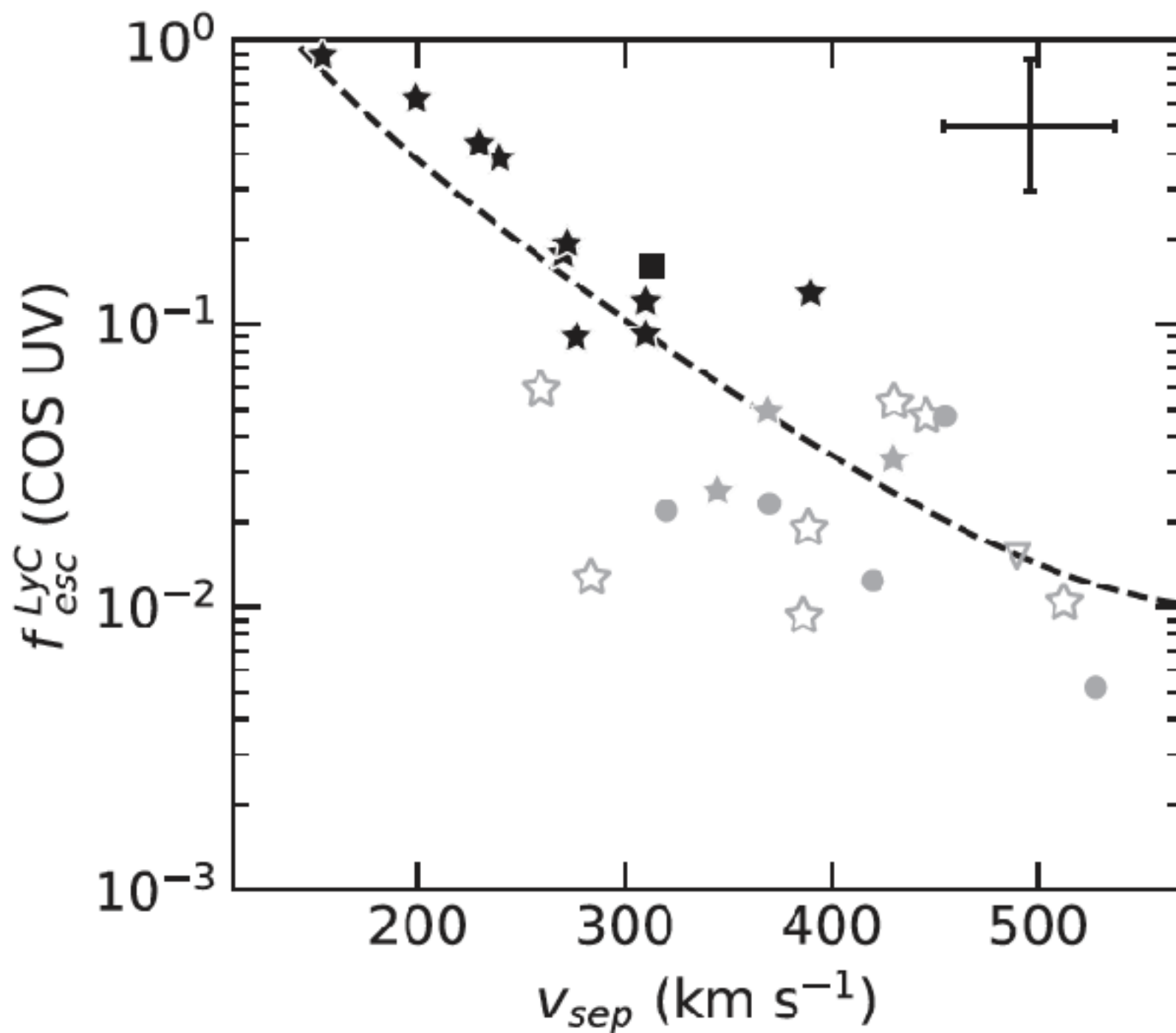
Two sinks for
LyC photons :

- 1) Neutral gas
- 2) Dust

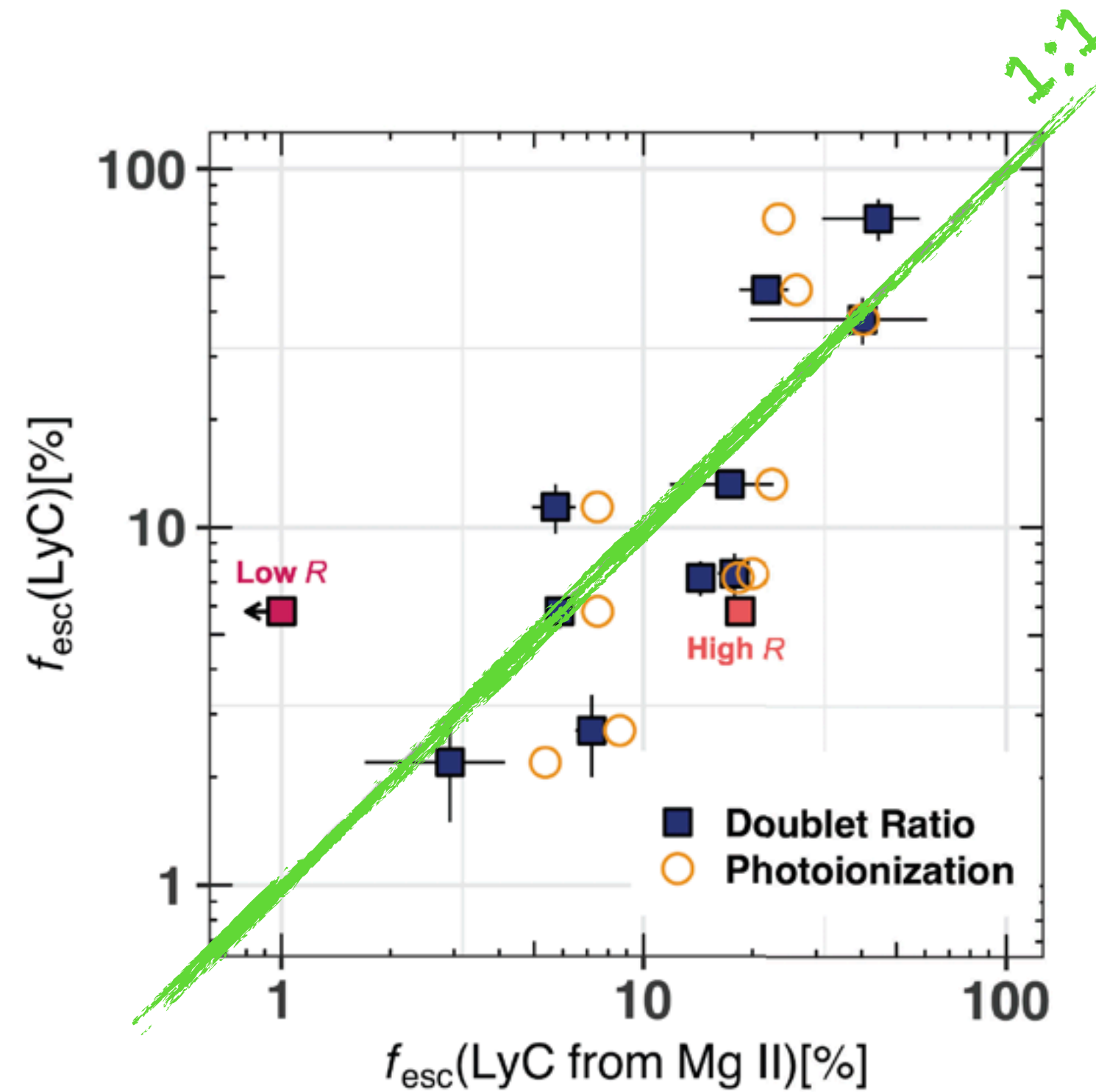
Probing the dust
and **HI geometry**
is important
to understand LyC
escape

HI distribution probes are the best f_{esc} indicators

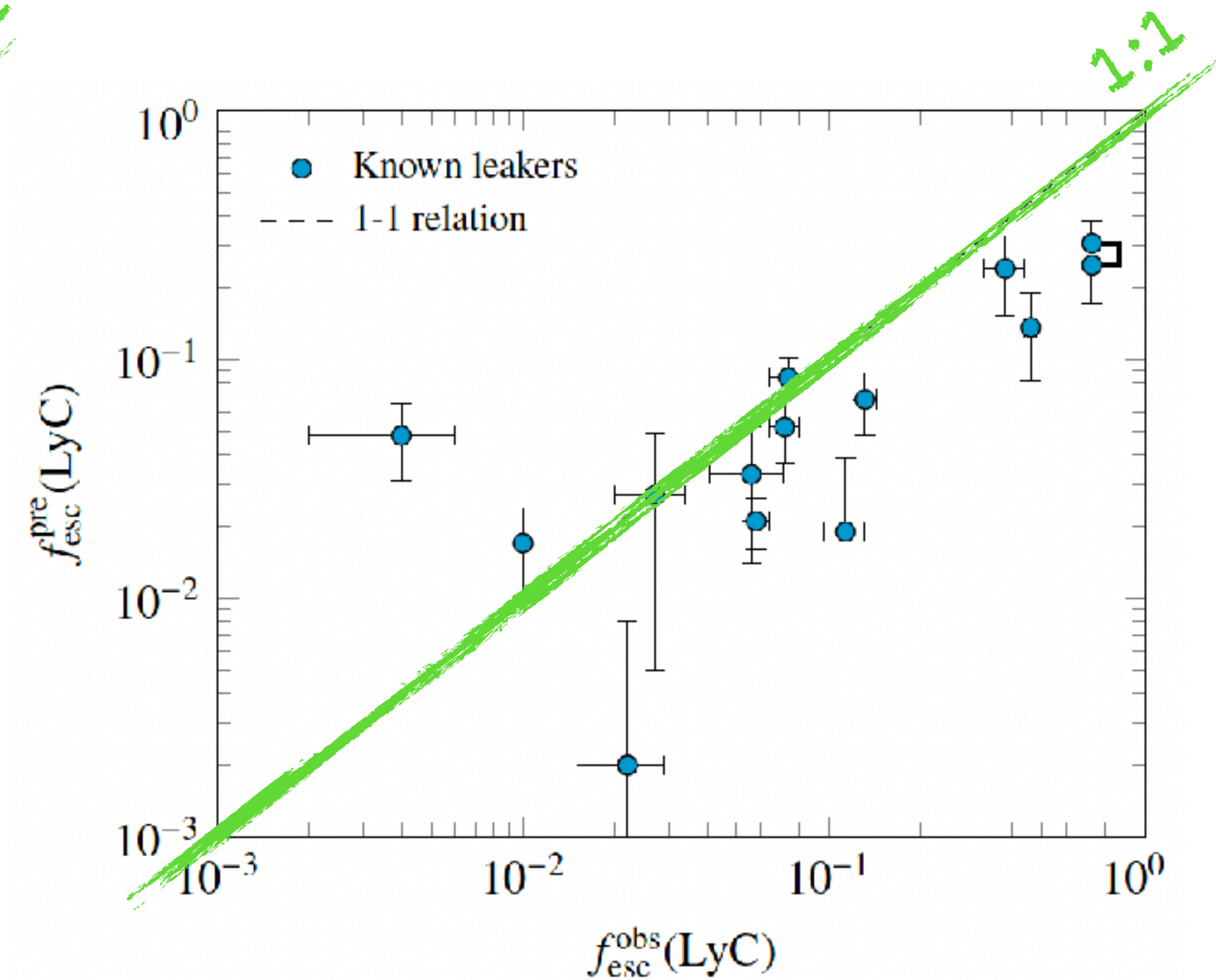
Ly α Line



MgII doublet



UV absorption lines



Probe of the global gas geometry
= **global f_{esc}** ?

Pencil beam probe
= **Line of sight f_{esc}**

Connecting f_{esc} to HI distribution in known (non-)leakers

- **IFU** observations of **22 galaxies** from the **LzLCS** and Izotov et al. 2022

Keck/**KCWI** @Hawaii



HET/**LRS2** @Texas



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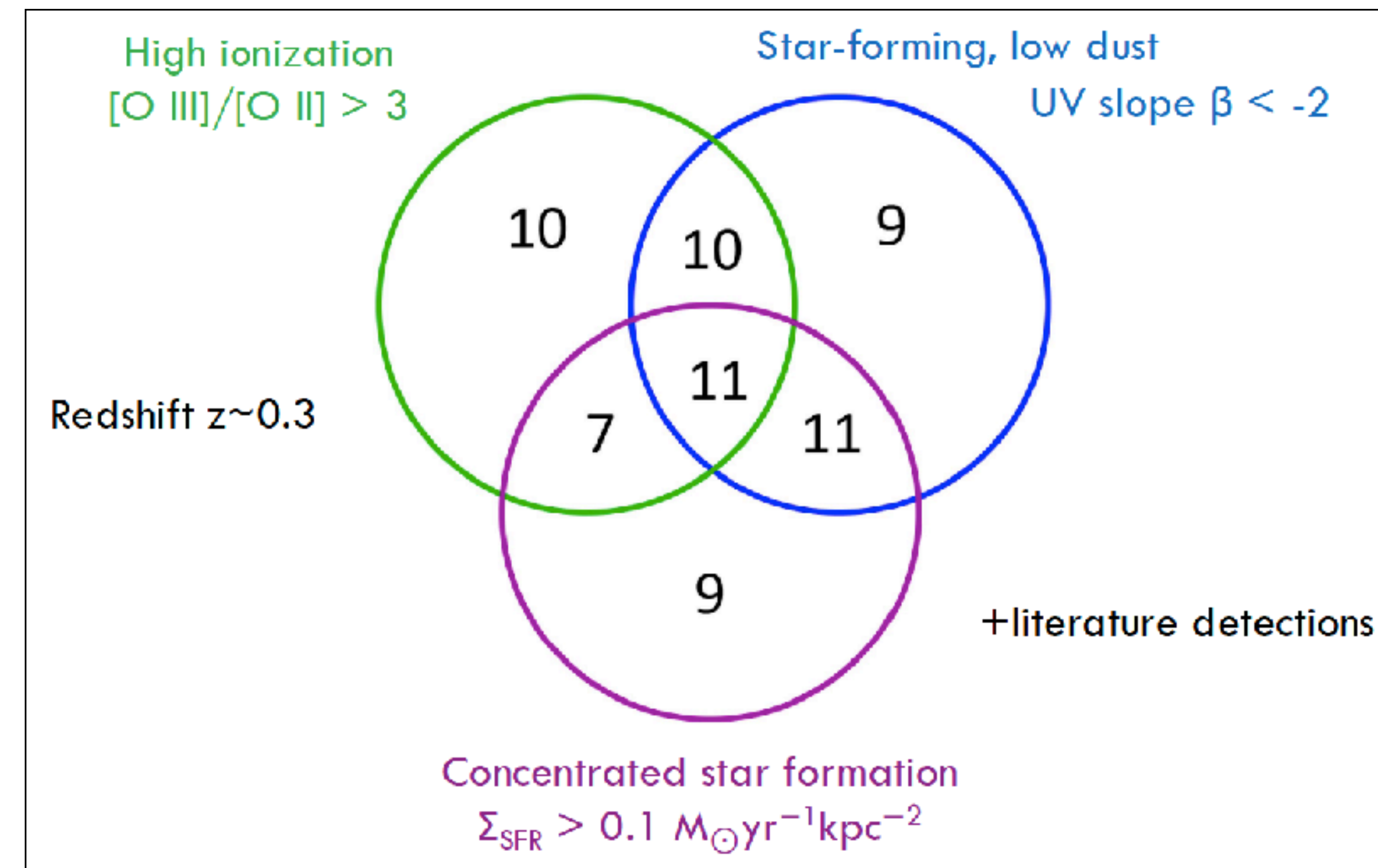


THE **LzLCS** SURVEY: LOW-REDSHIFT LYMAN CONTINUUM SURVEY

- HST/COS PID: 15626, PI: Anne Jaskot
- Sample of 66 star-forming galaxies at $z \sim 0.3$
- 35 new LyC detections
- **Statistical sample of 89 LyC leakers and non-leakers**

→ Sample with selection criteria to find LyC leakers

2 → Sophia's talk



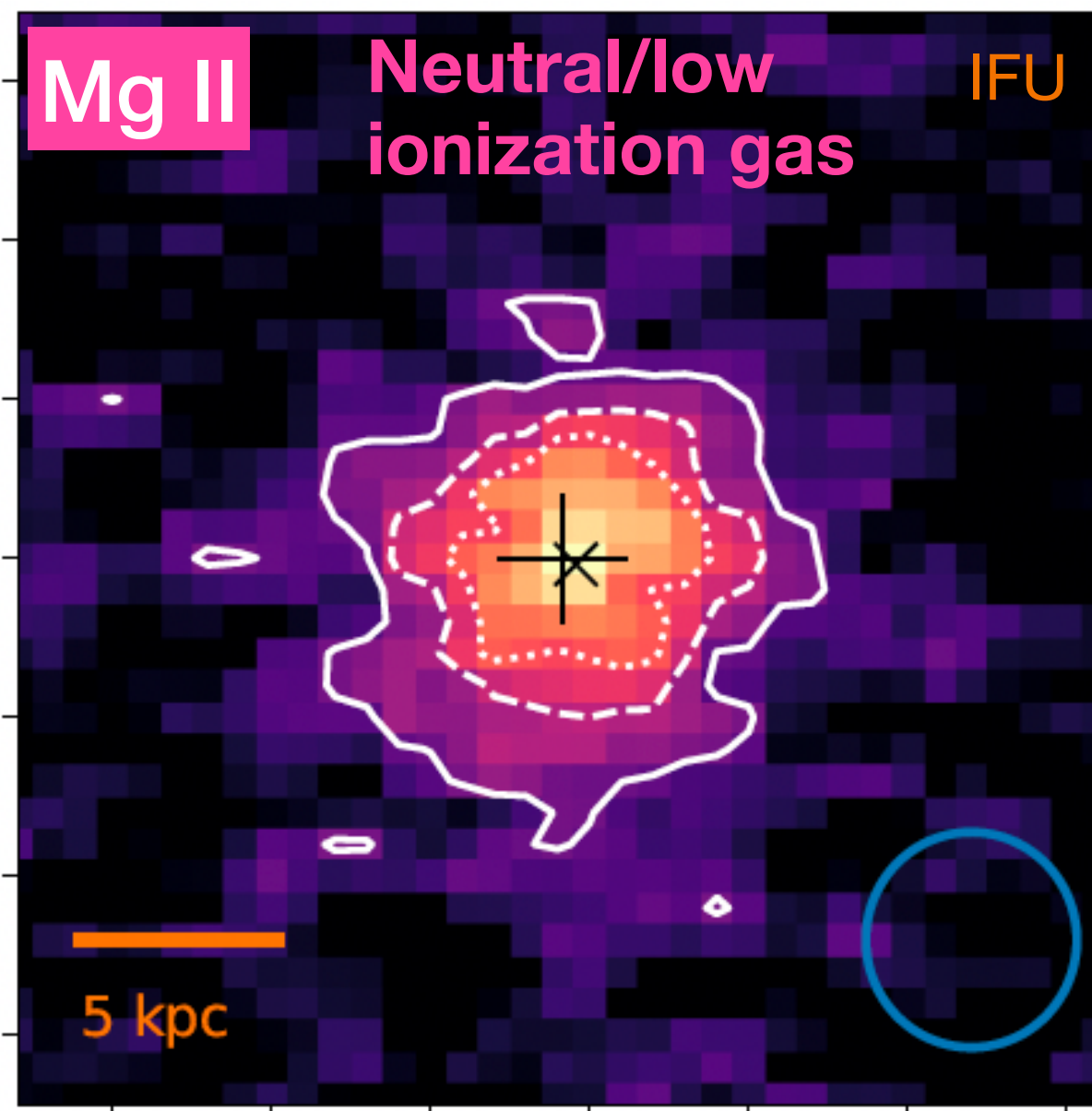
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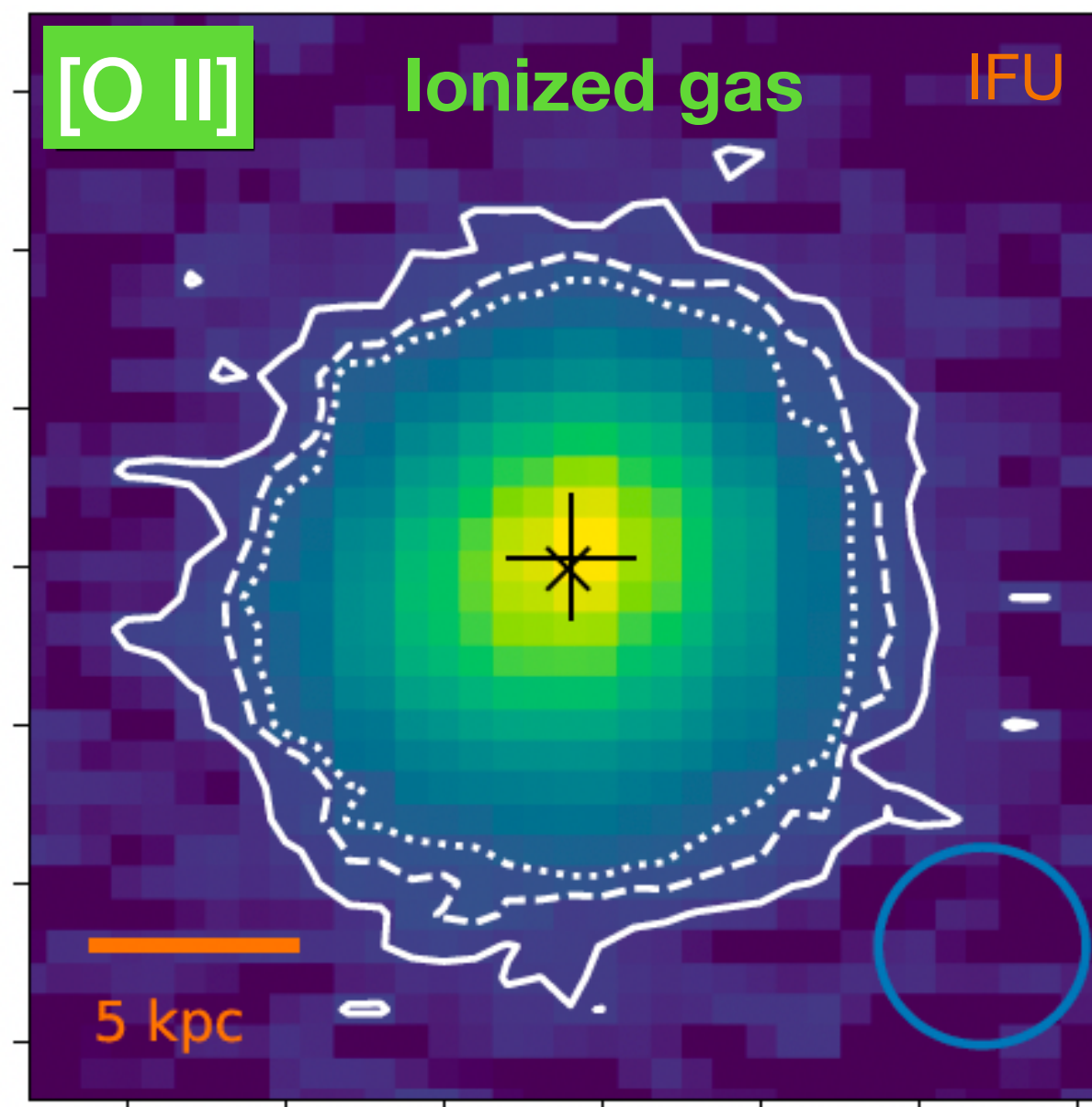
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$rS_{\text{Mg II}}$ $\Delta_{\text{Mg II-cont}}$



$rS_{[\text{O II}]}$ $\Delta_{[\text{O II}]\text{-cont}}$

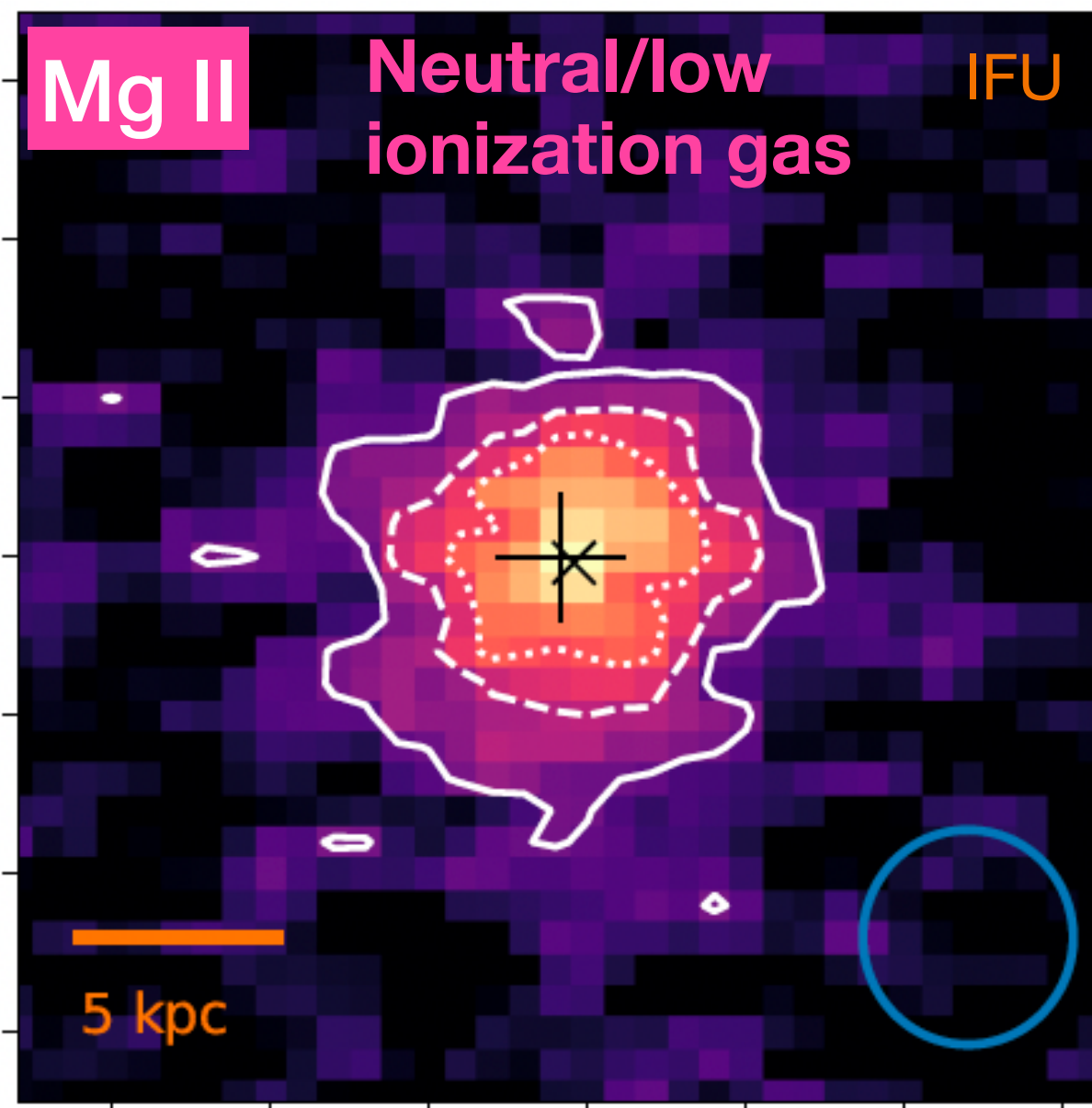
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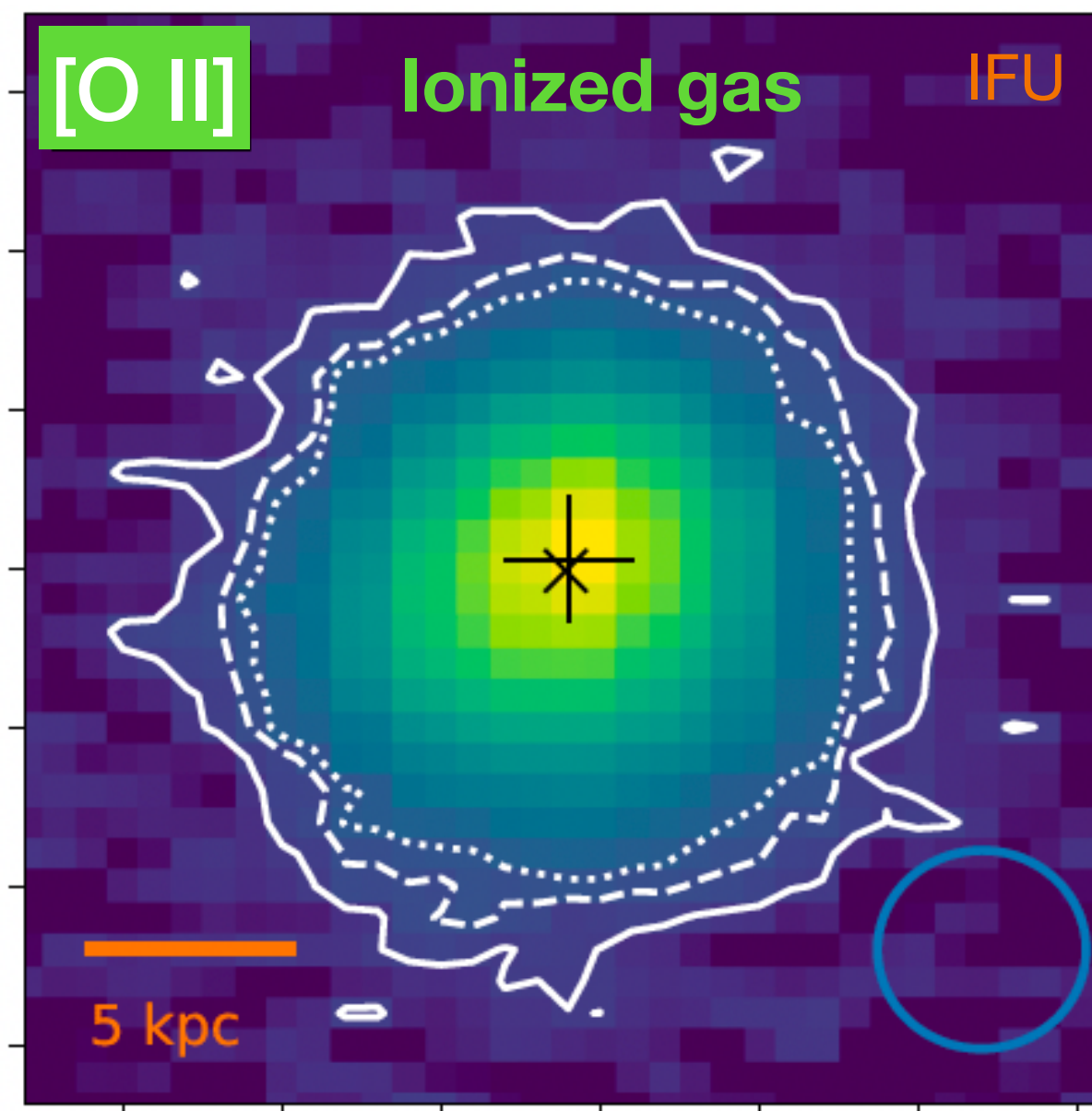


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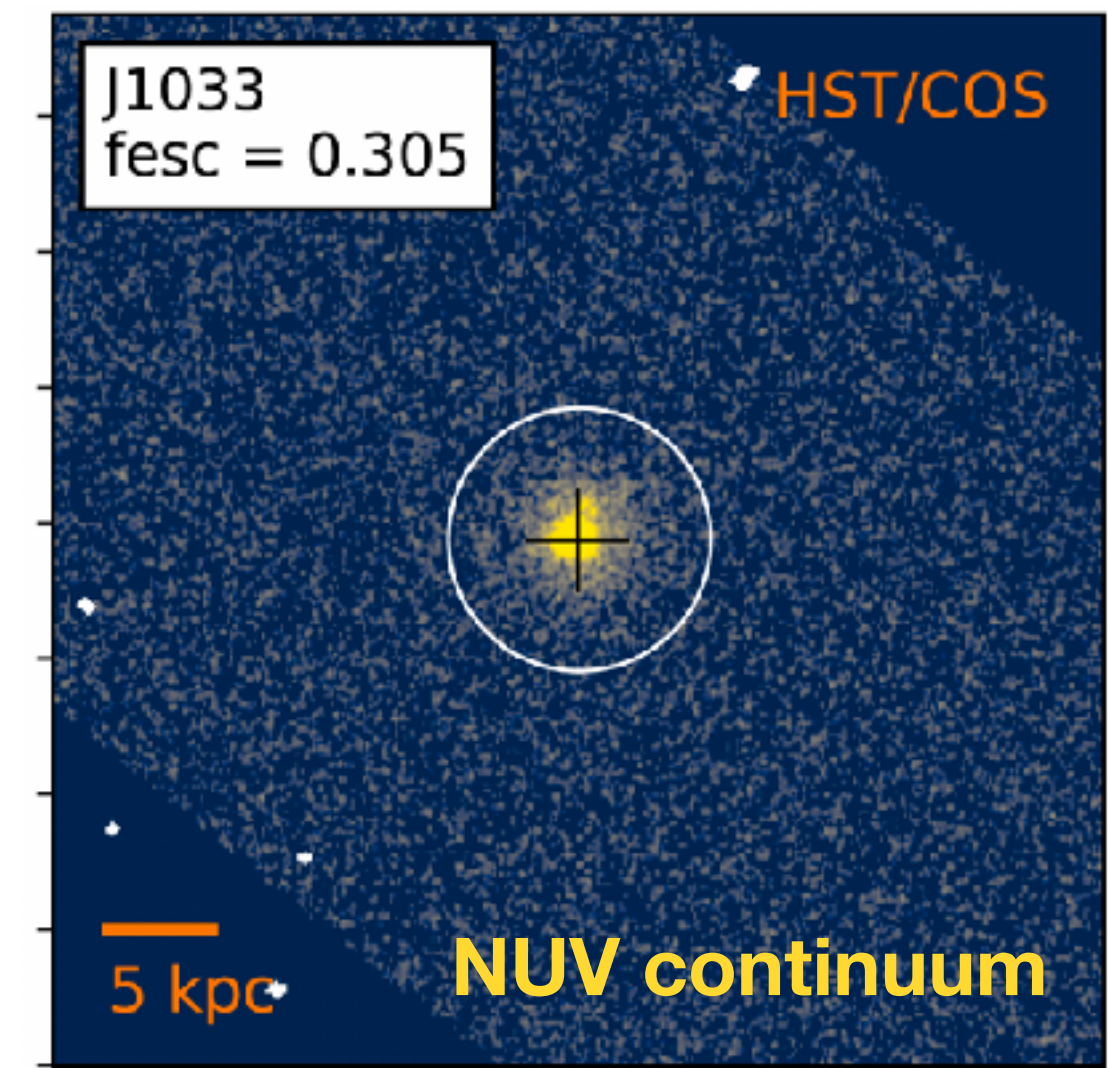
$rS_{\text{Mg II}}$

$\Delta_{\text{Mg II-cont}}$



$rS_{\text{[O II]}}$

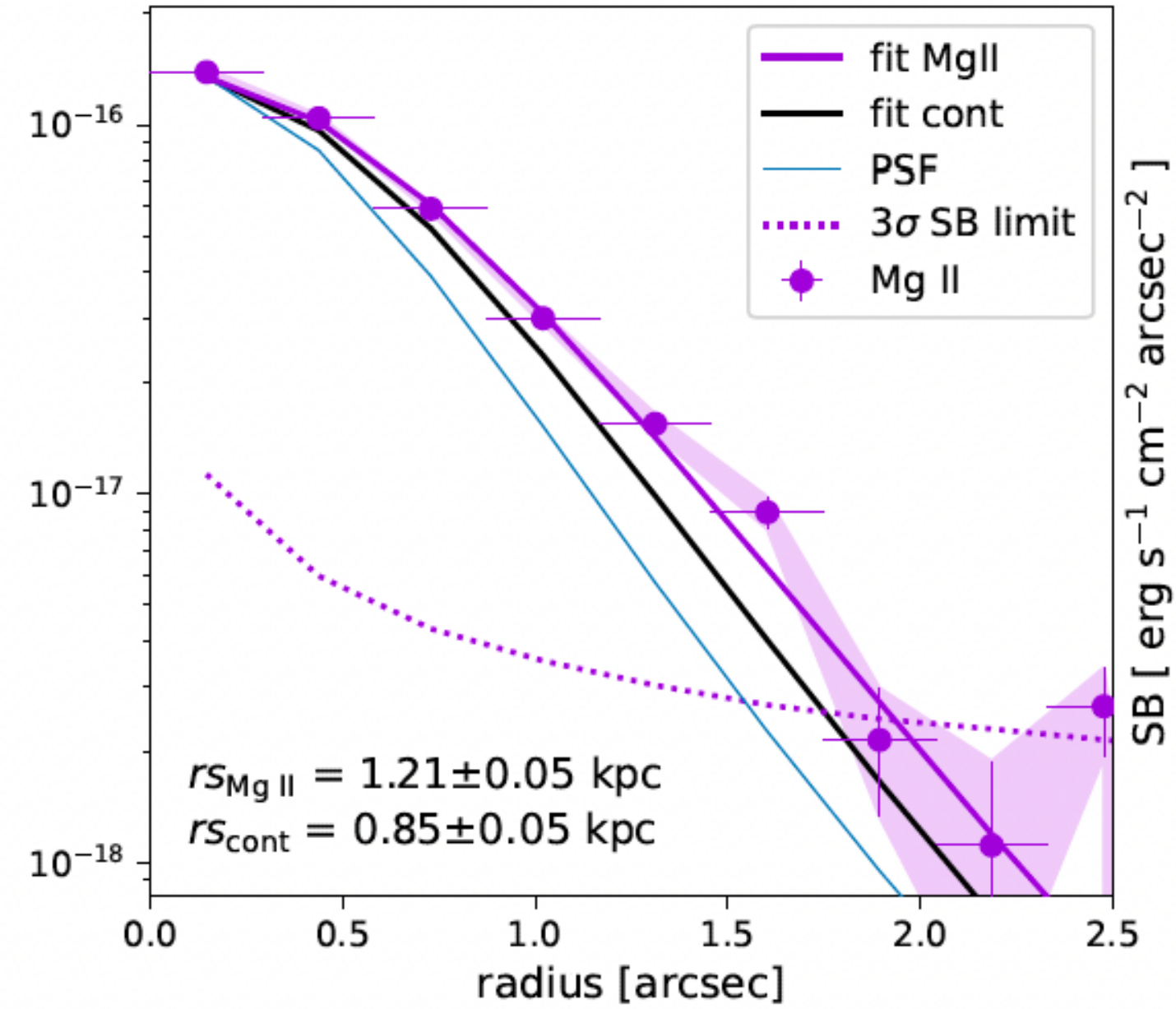
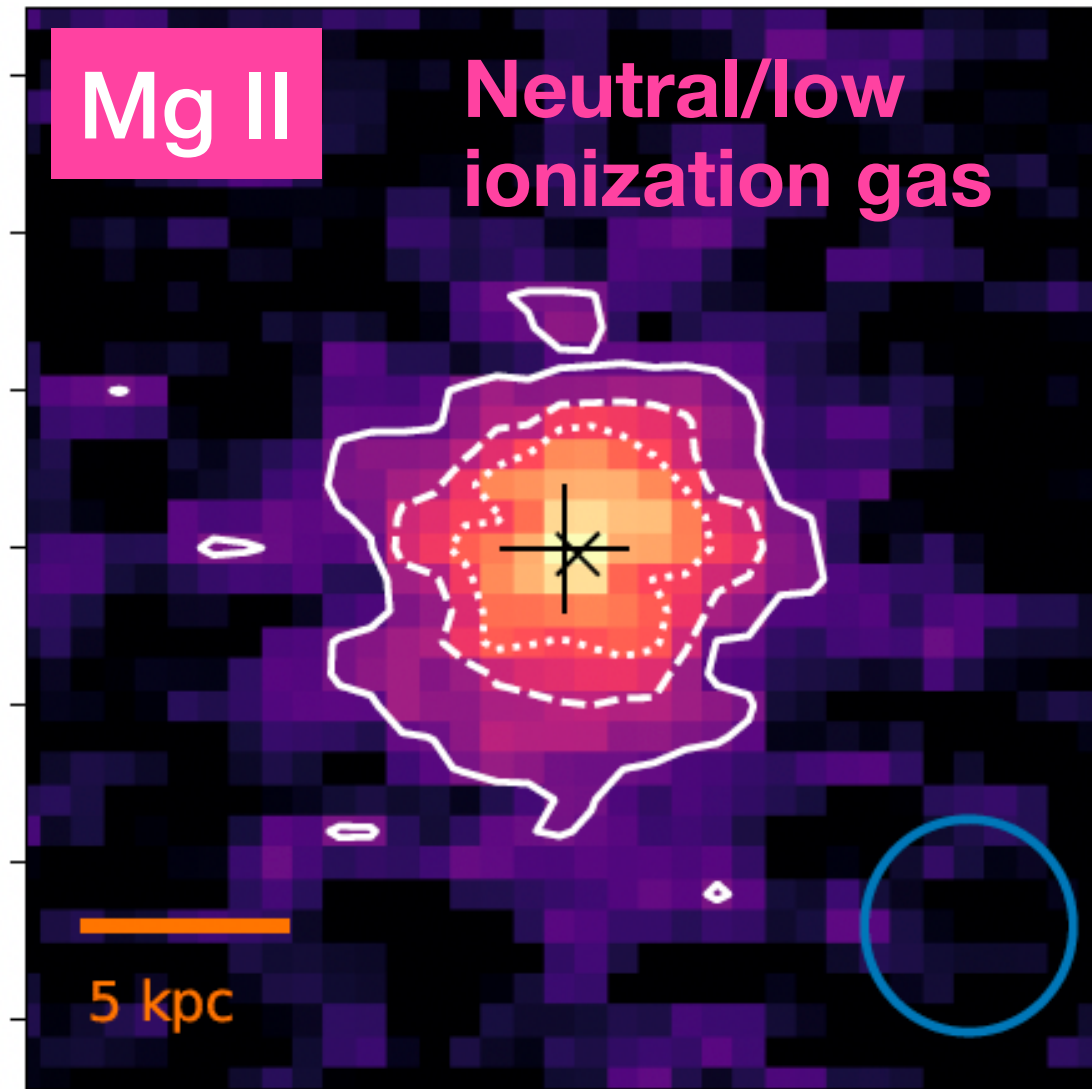
$\Delta_{\text{[O II]-cont}}$



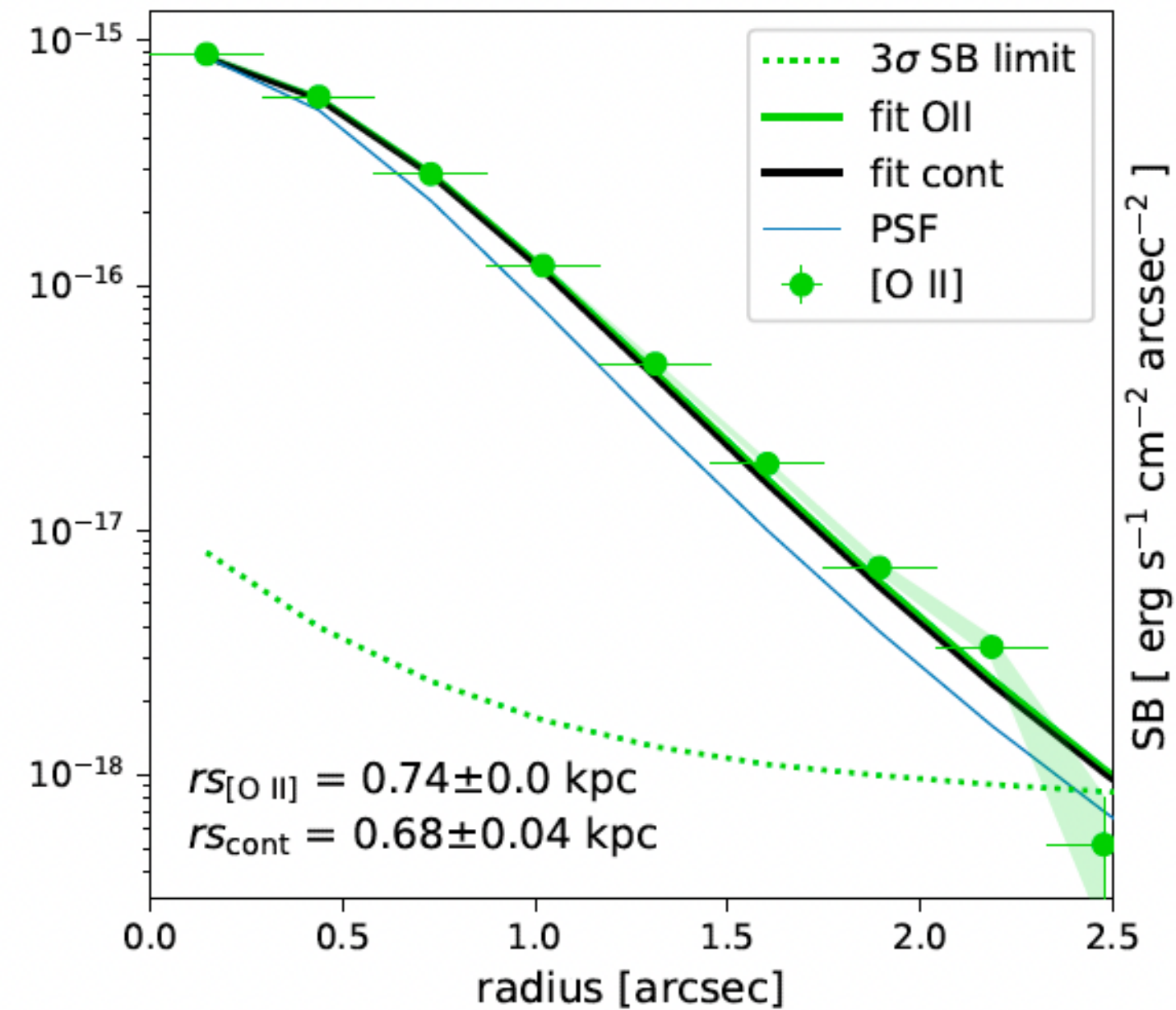
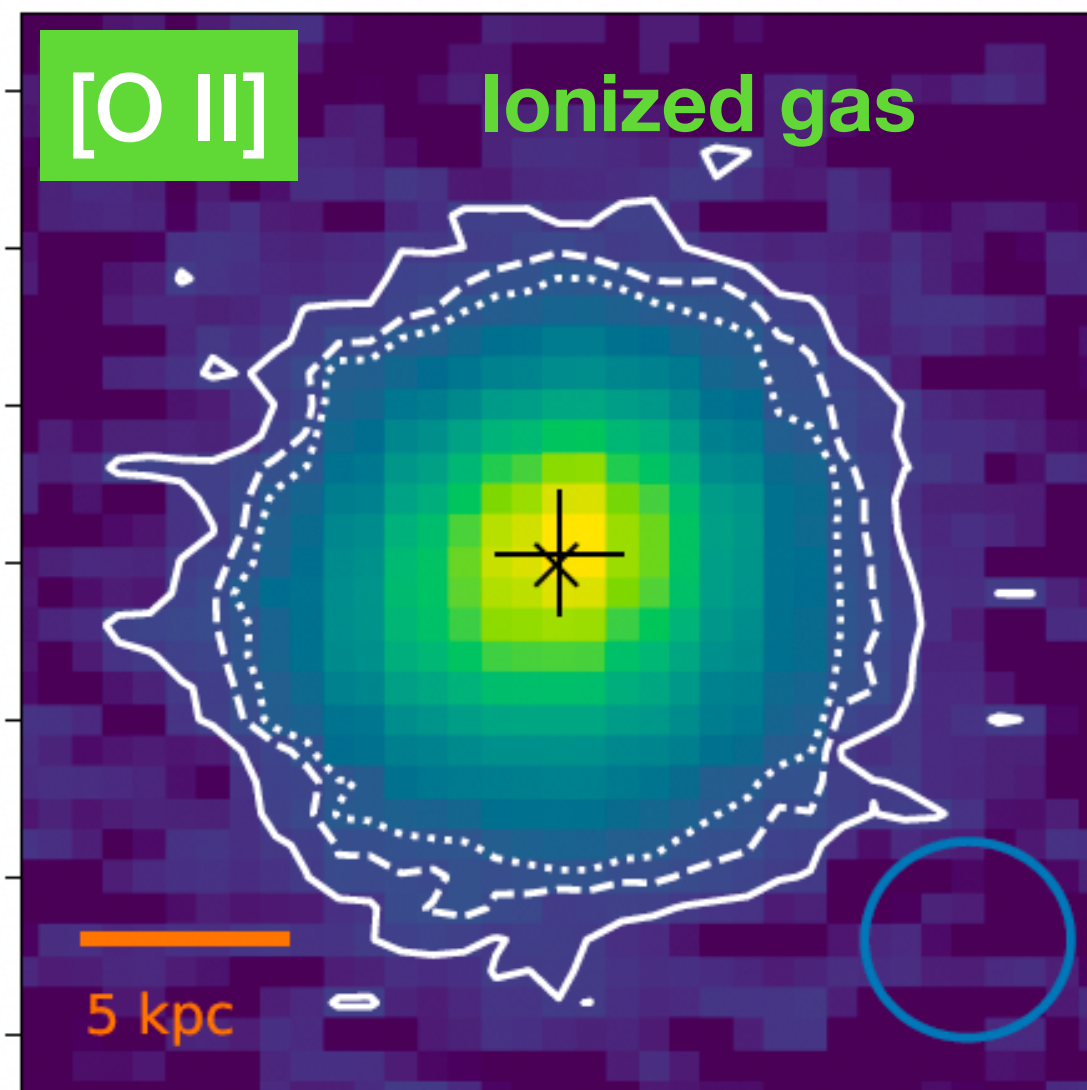
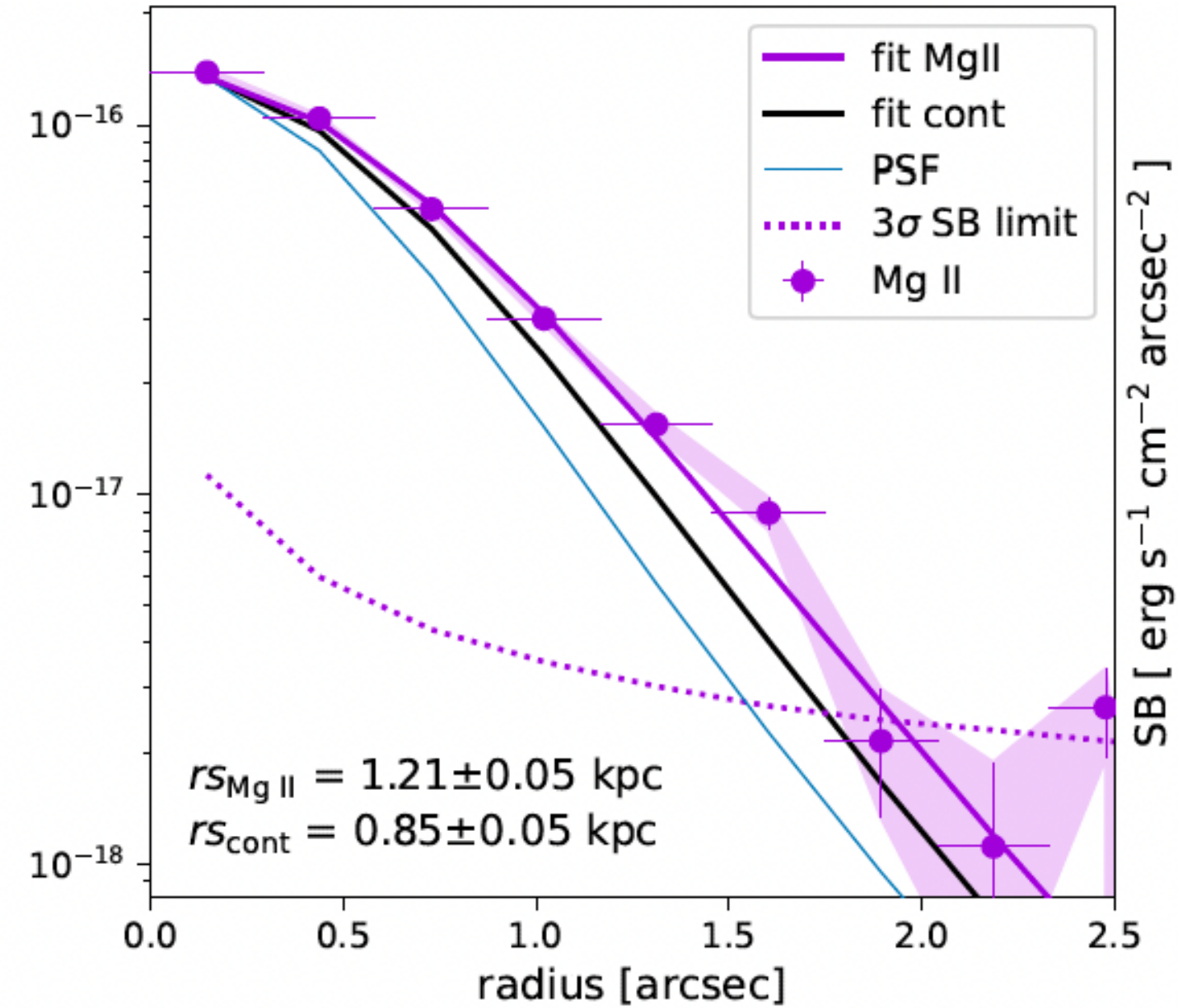
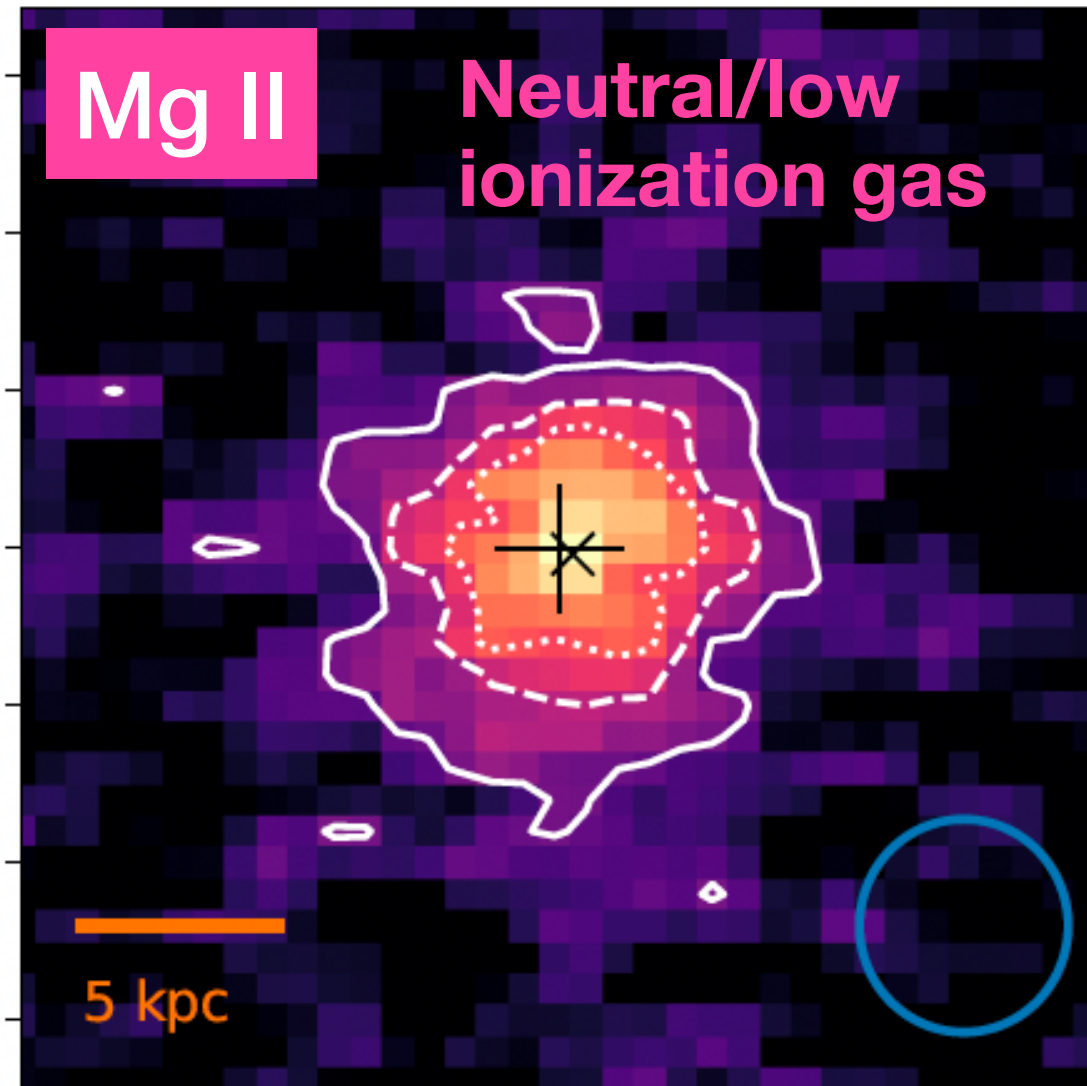
$f_{\text{esc}}^{\text{LyC}}(\text{UV})$ $\text{EW}(\text{H}\beta)$ $12+\log_{10}(\frac{\text{O}}{\text{H}})$ SFR $\beta_{\text{obs}}^{1550}$
 r_{50}^{UV} O_{32} $E(\text{B-V})$ M_*

Flury et al. 2022a,
Saldana-Lopez et al. 2022

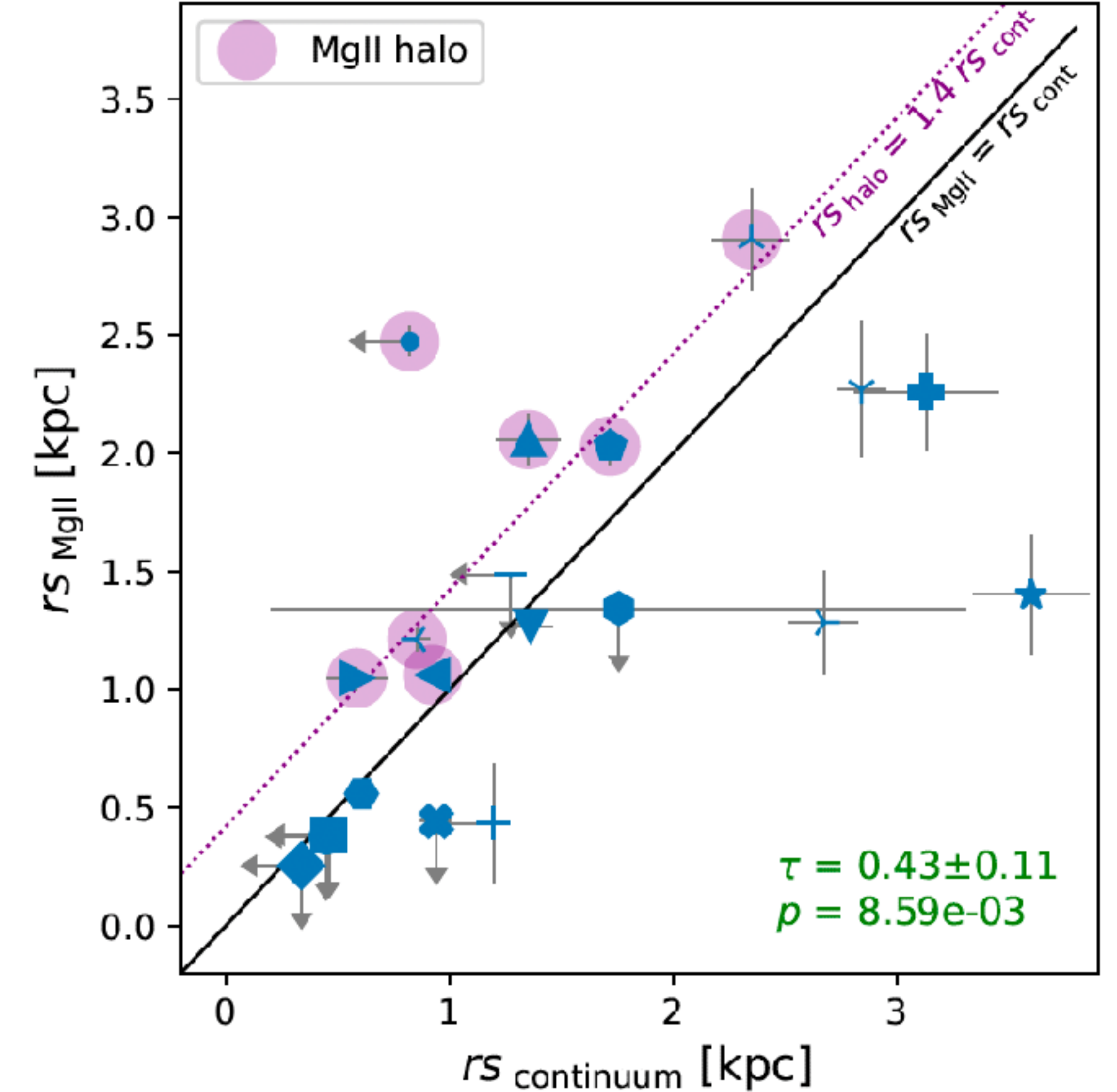
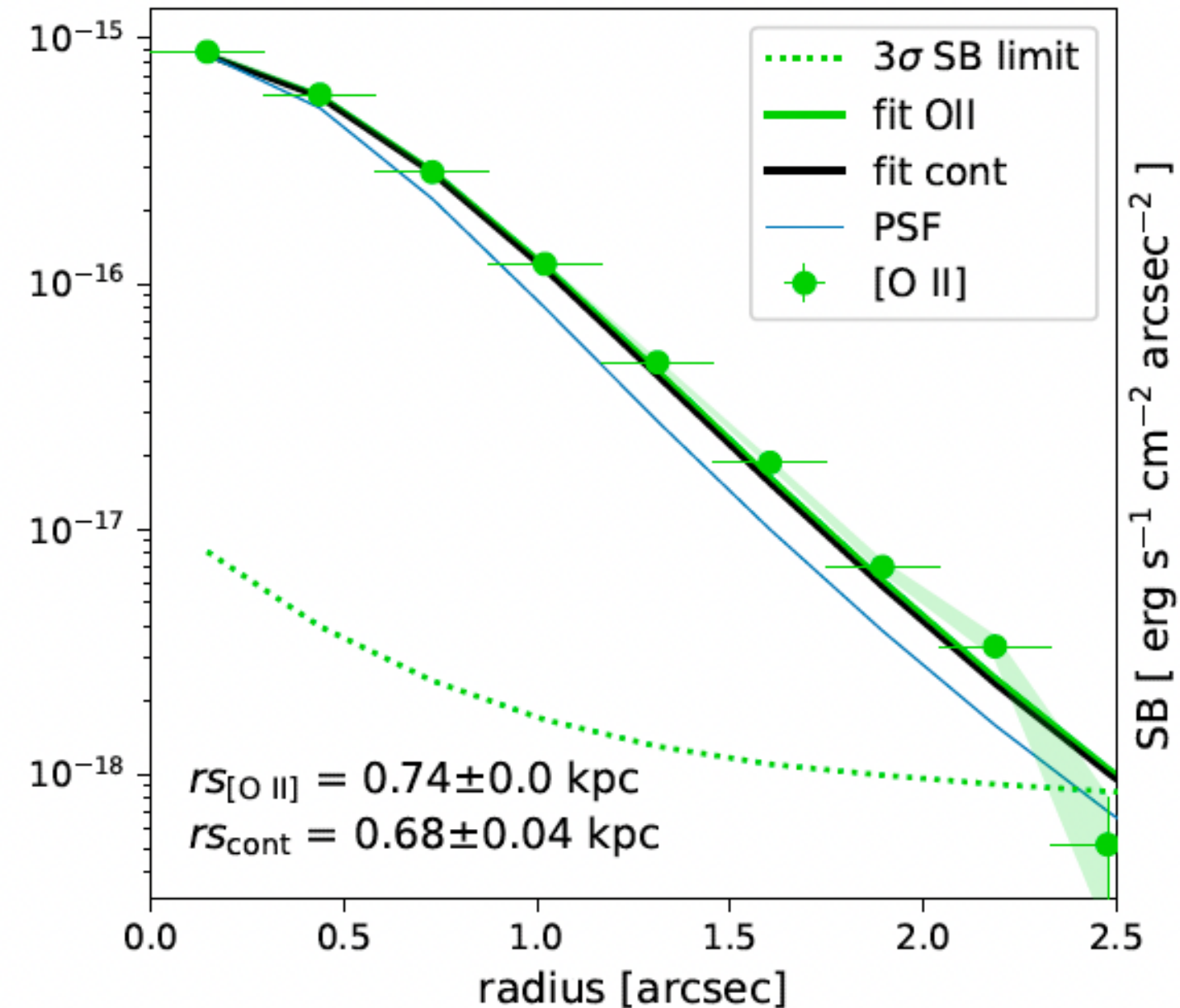
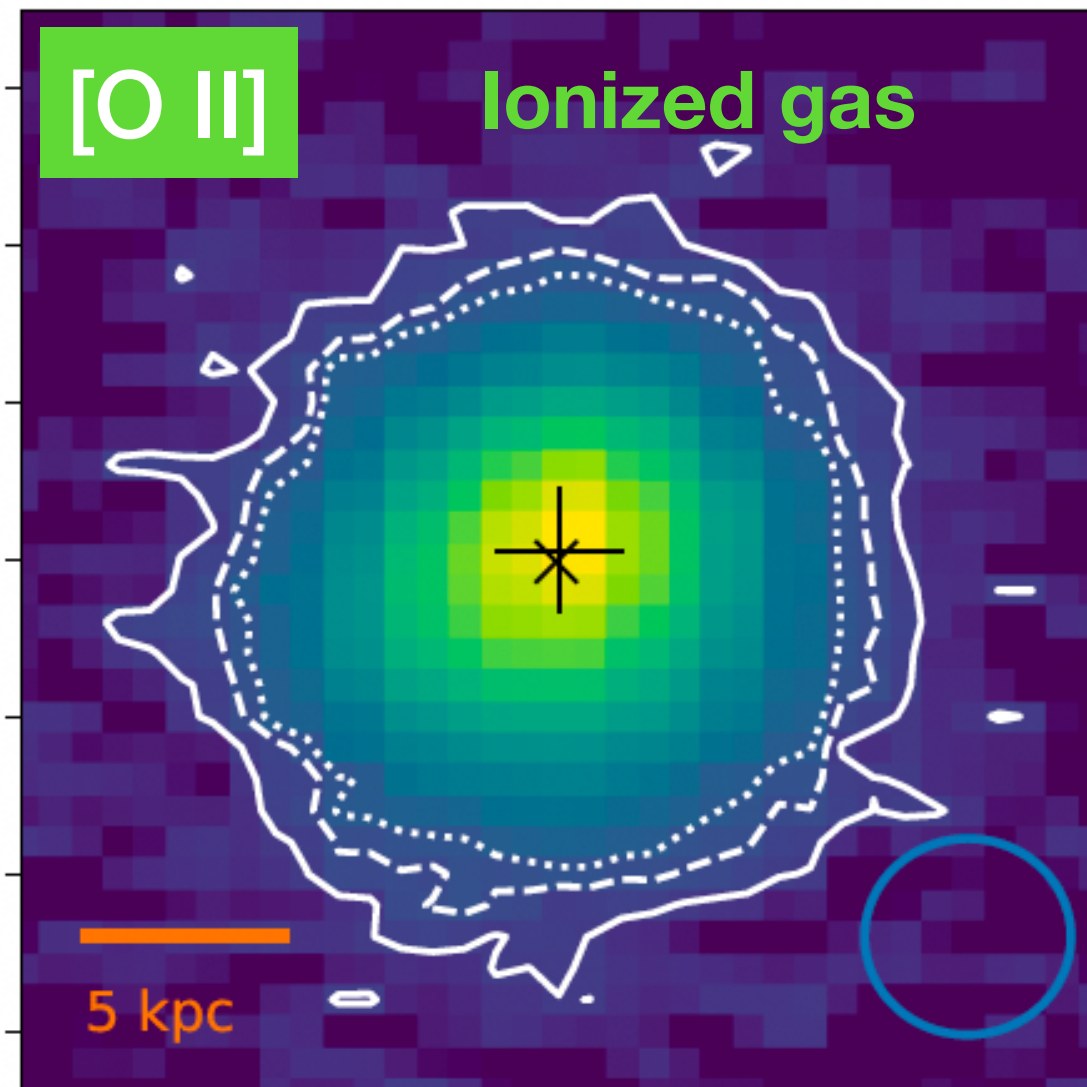
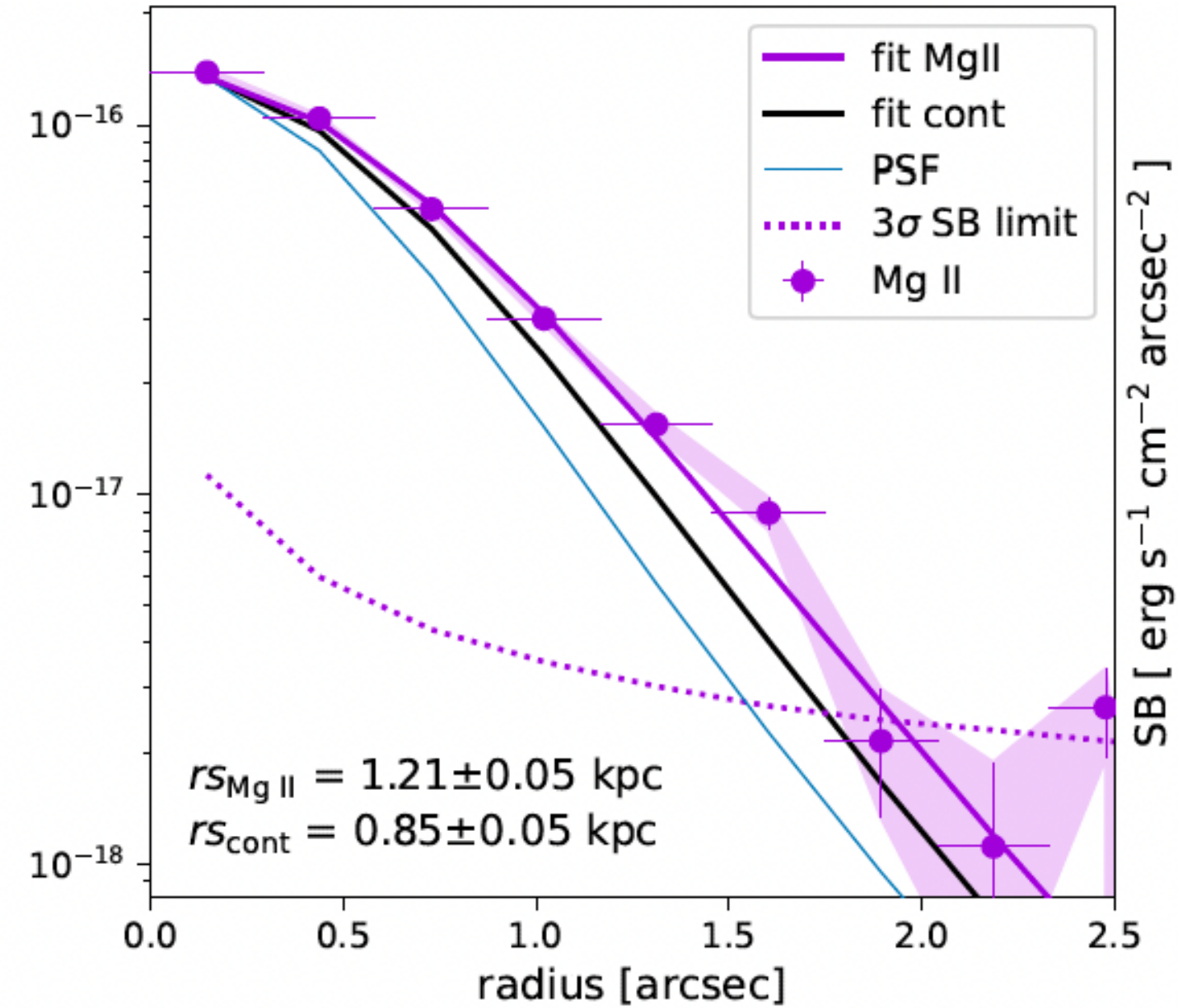
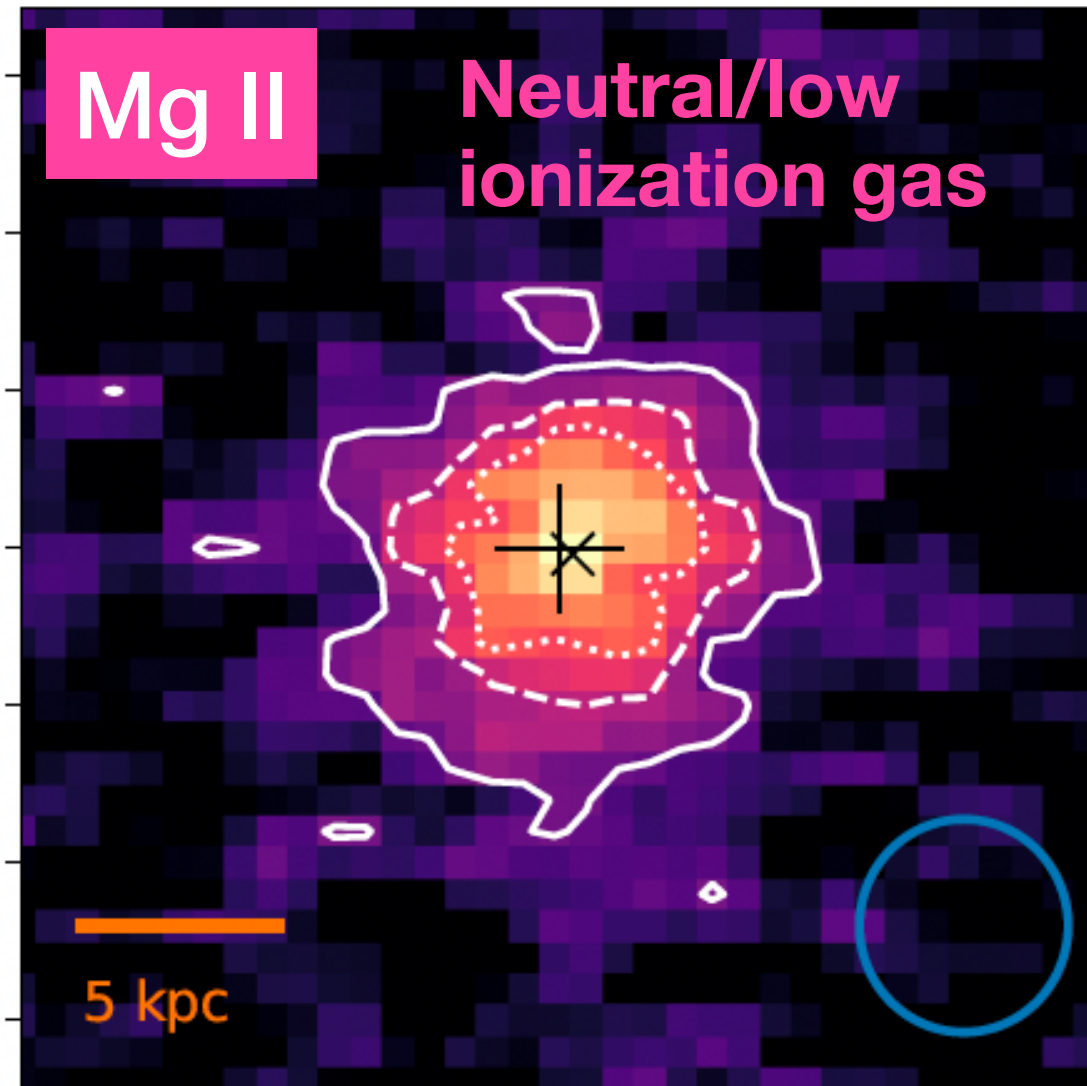
Spatial extent of the nebular emission



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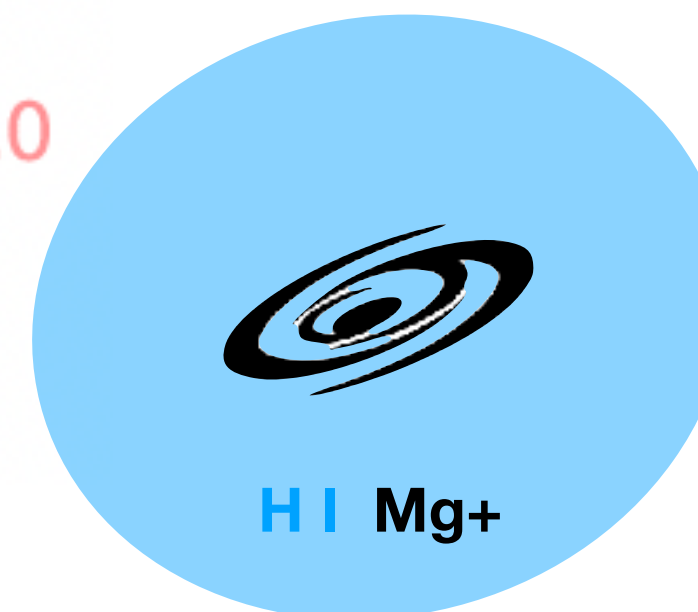
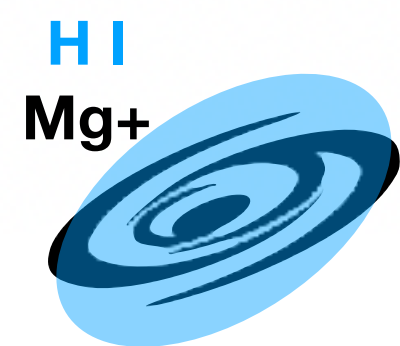
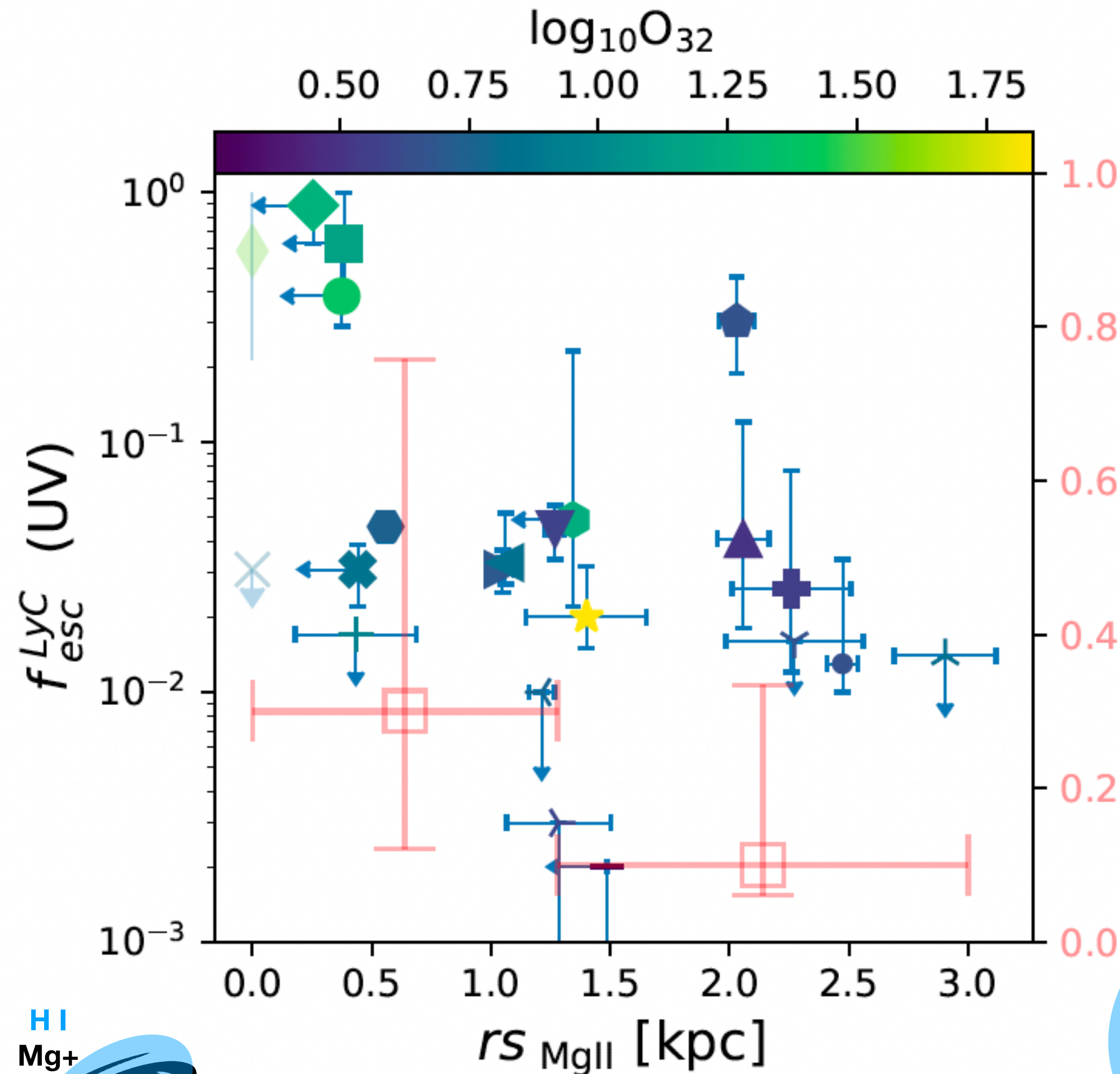


- 7 Mg II halos
- 10 [O II] halos

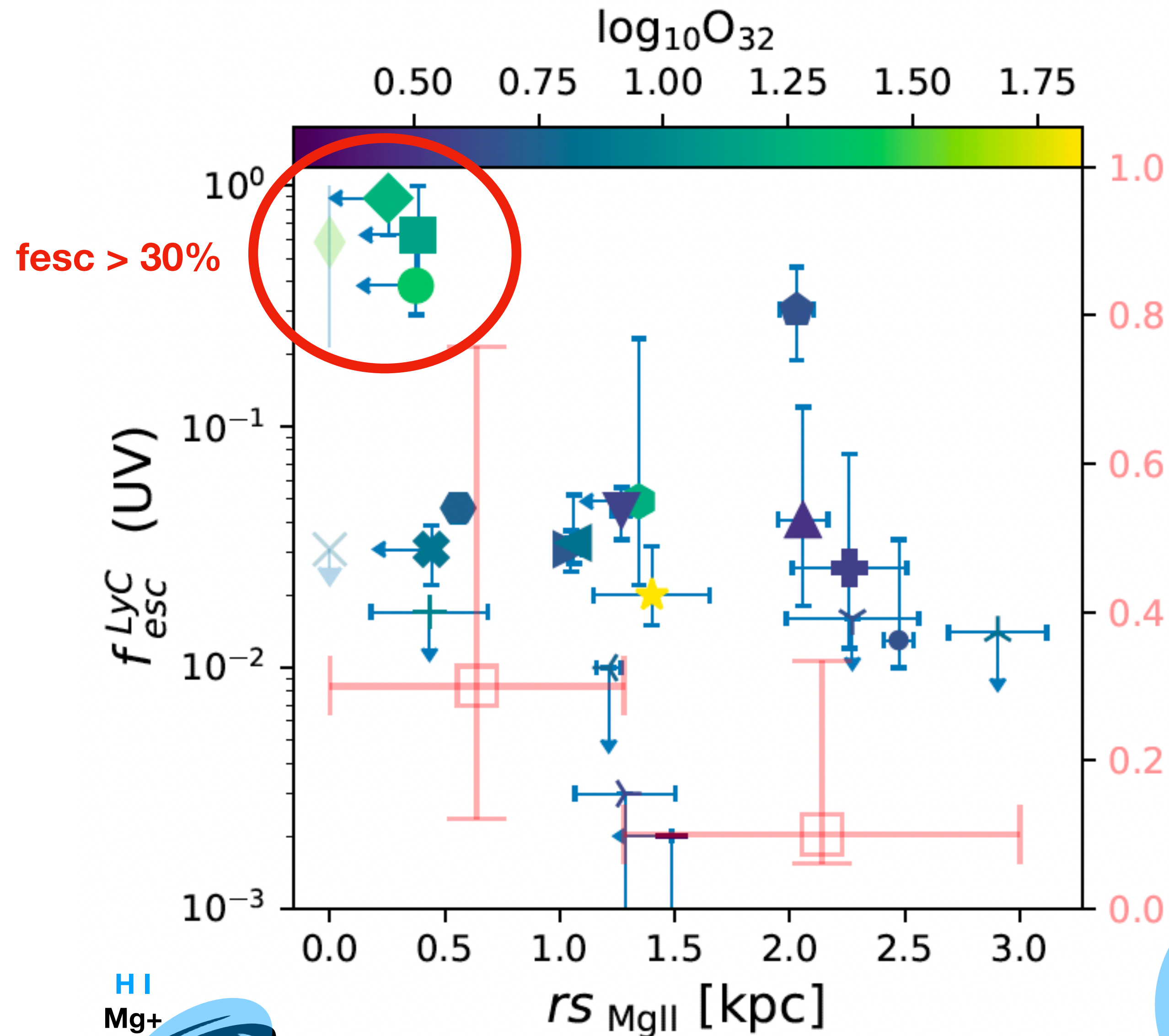
Nebular emission **~1.5 more extended** than the continuum

Connecting the gas distribution to the LyC escape

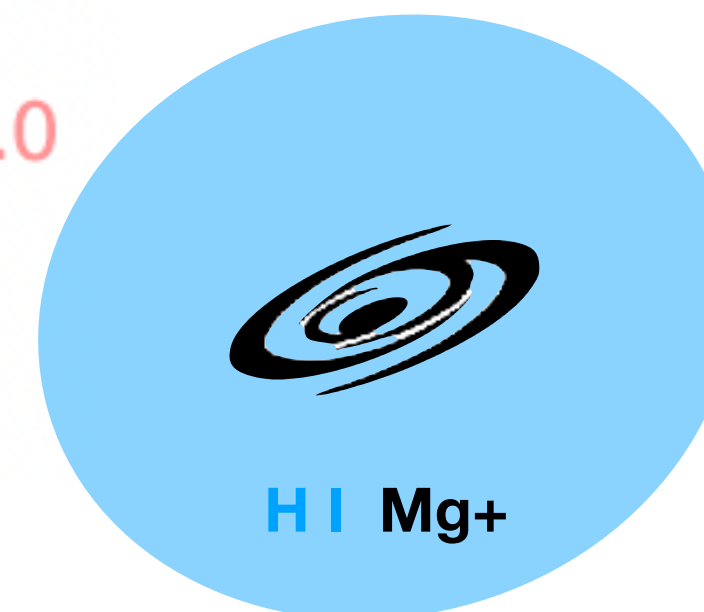
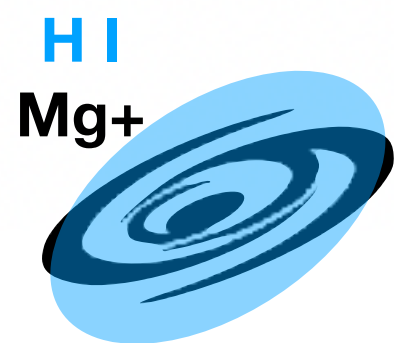
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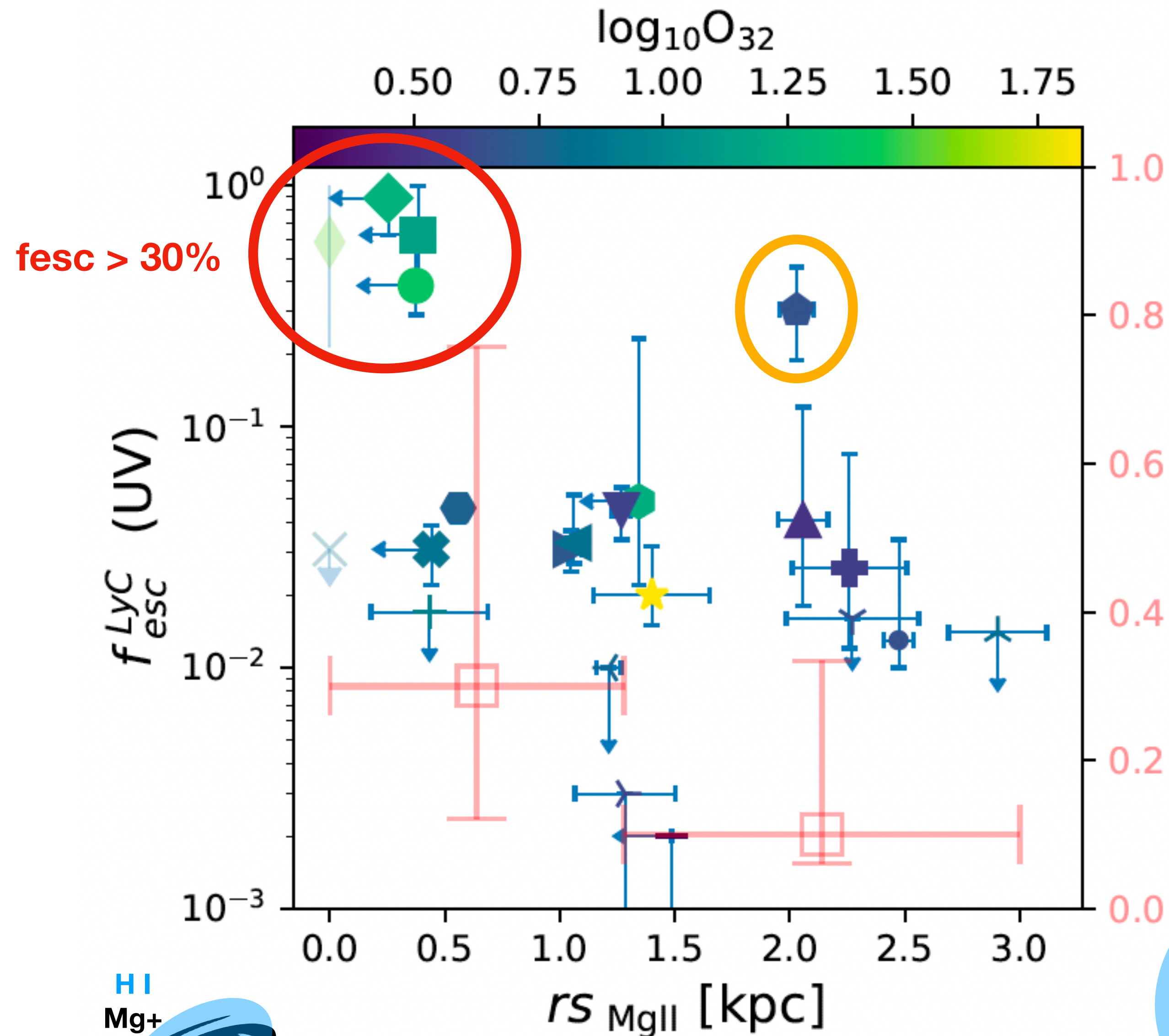
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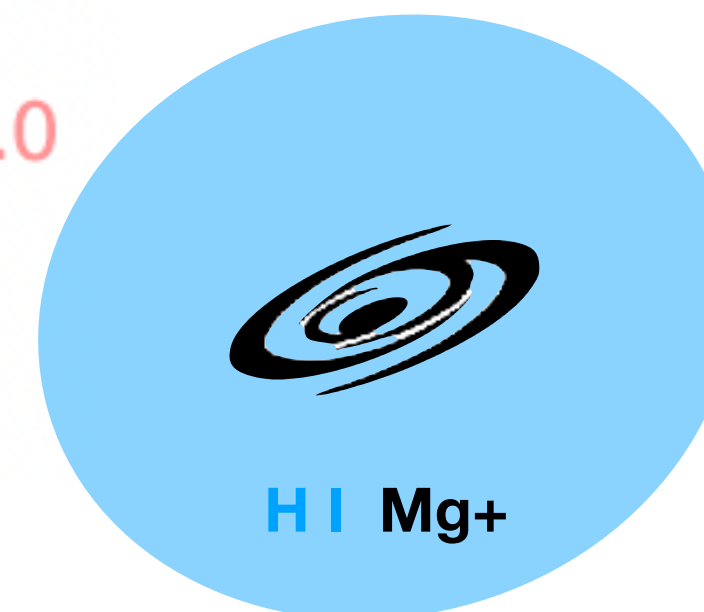
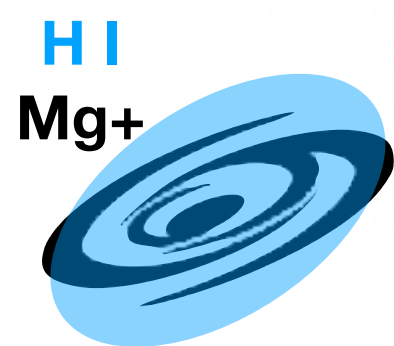
- ▶ **Strong leakers are compact** in both MgII and [O II], **except J1033**
- ▶ Weak/non leakers have **diverse** nebular configurations



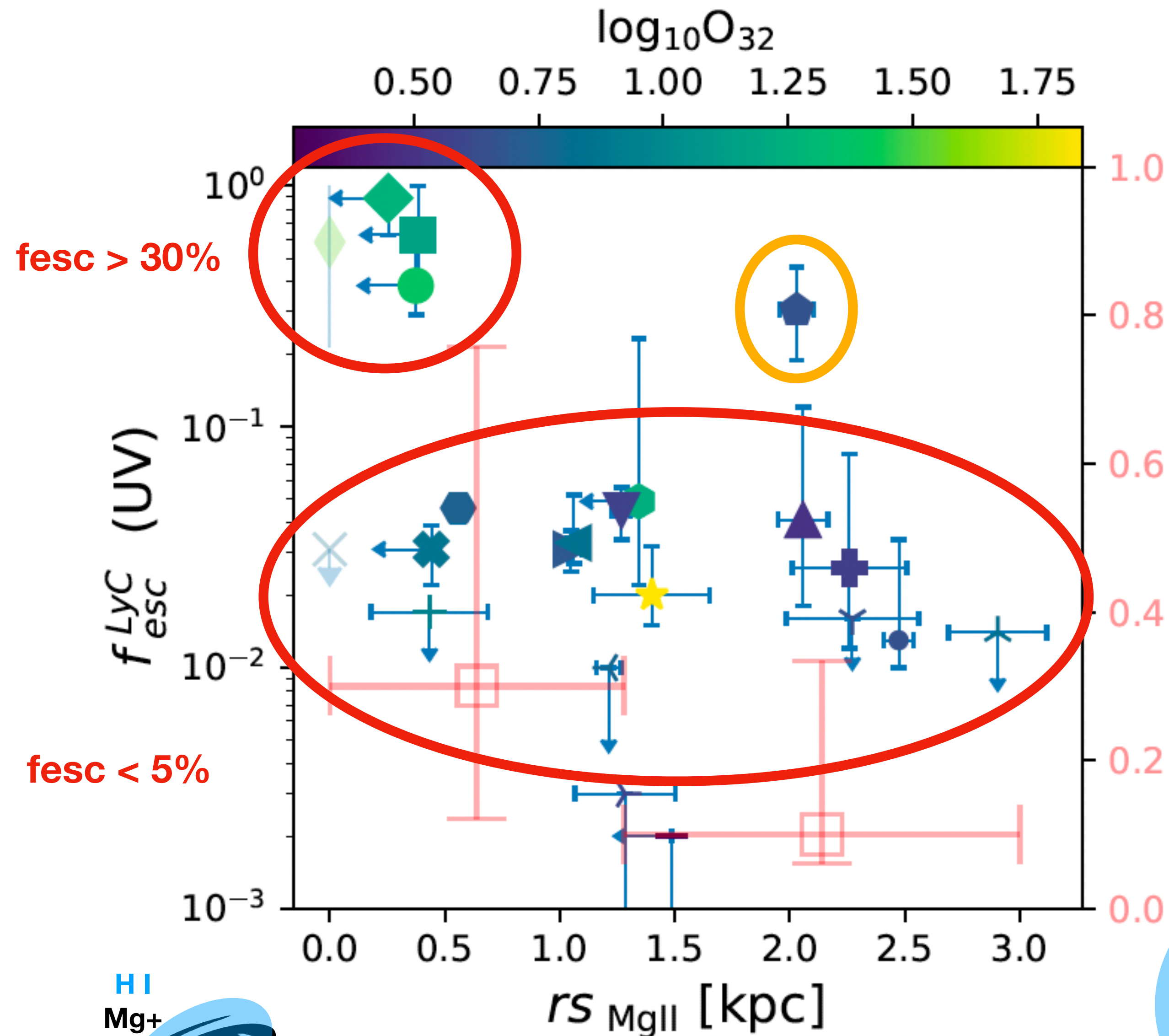
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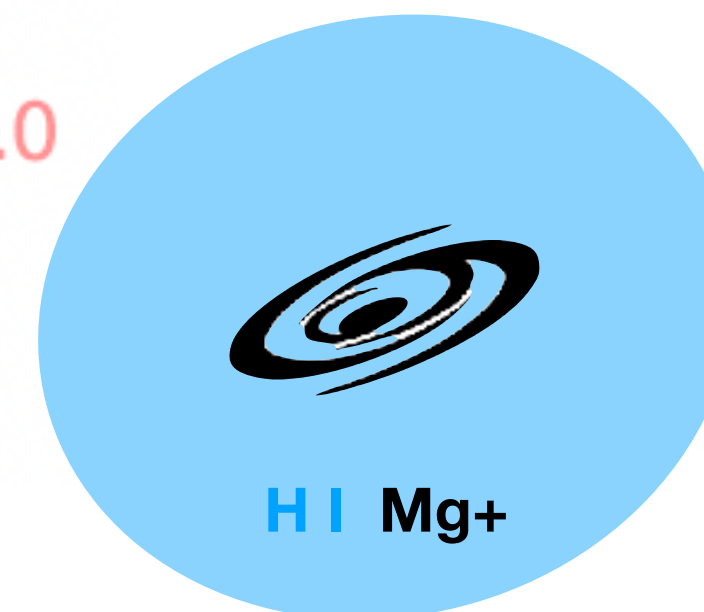
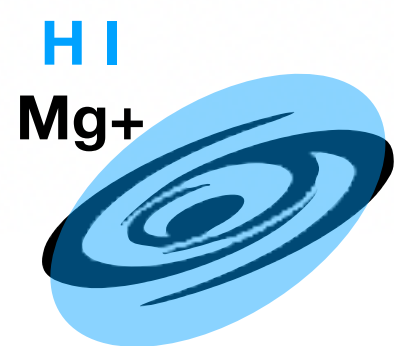


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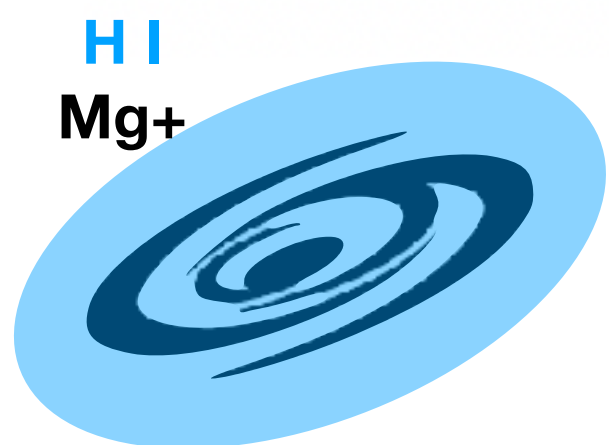
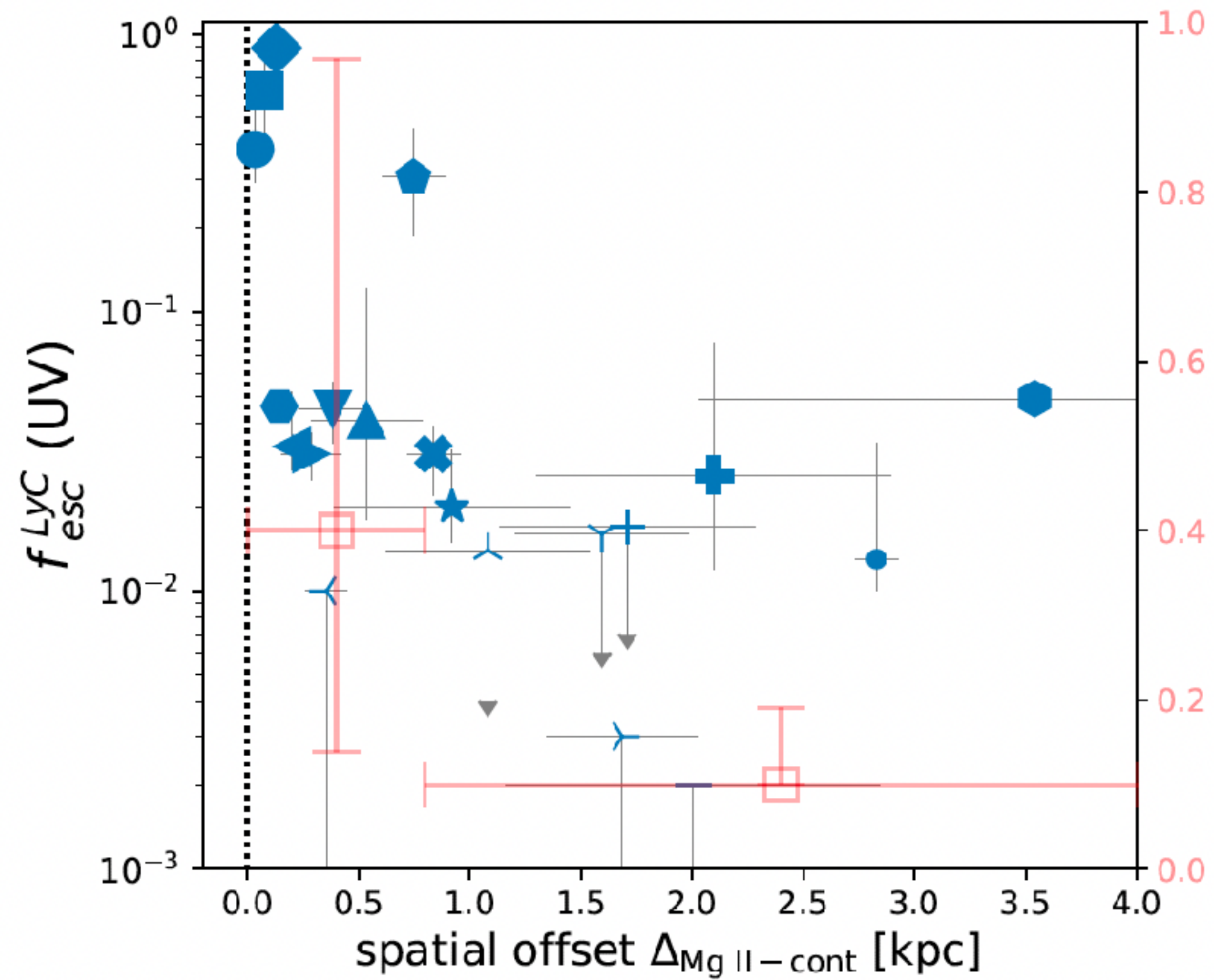


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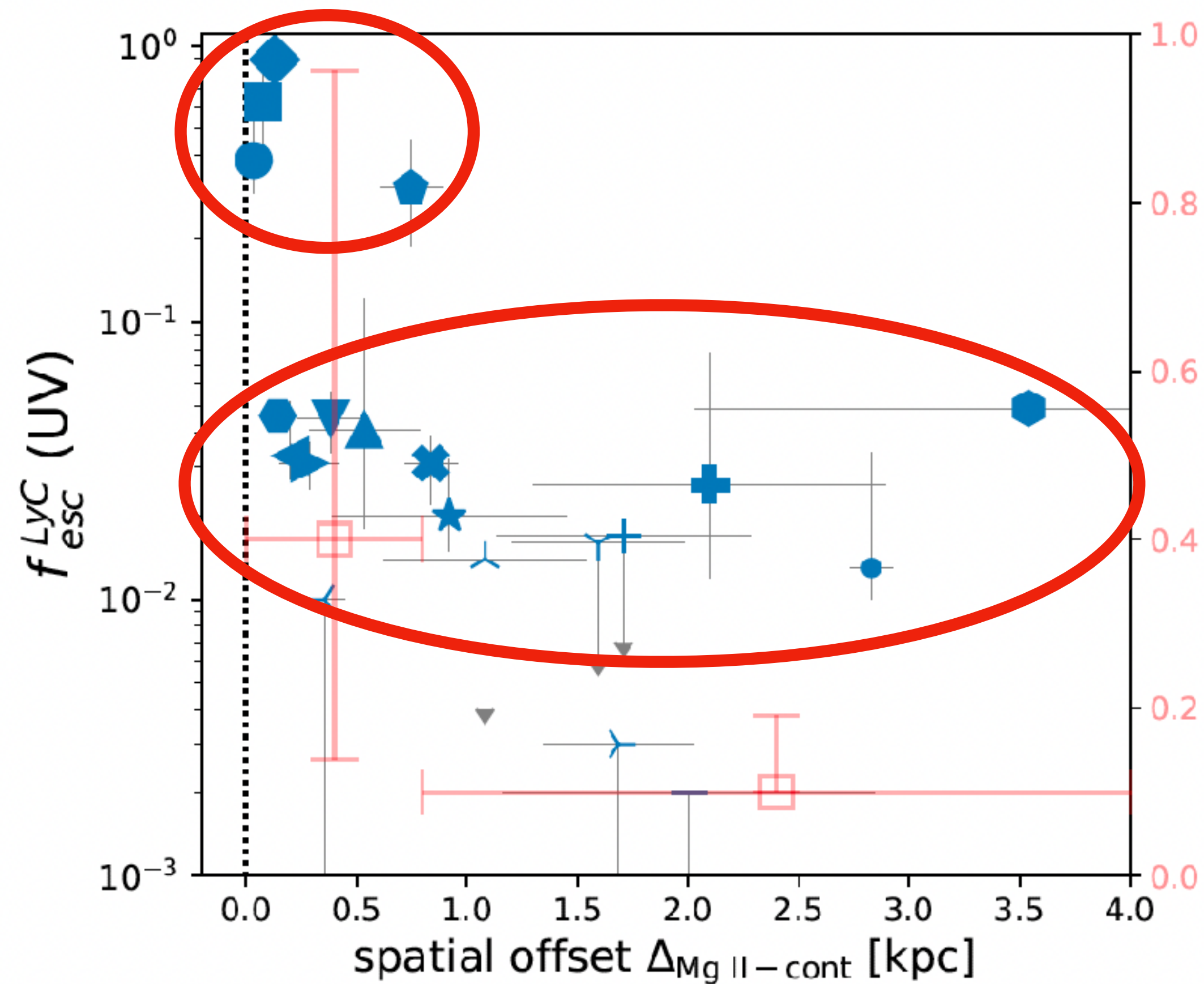
→ Nebular compactness + high O32 ratios = strong LyC leakage



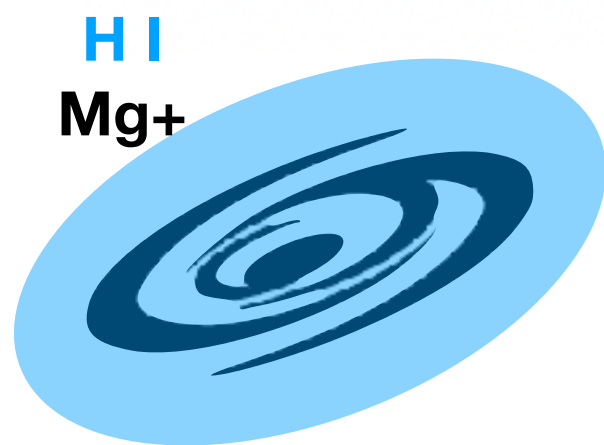
Connecting the gas distribution to the LyC escape



Connecting the gas distribution to the LyC escape



- ▶ **Strong LyC leakers show no or small (< 1 kpc) spatial offset** between Mg II and the stellar continuum
- ▶ Weak/non leakers are more diverse with offsets up to 4 kpc



Gas distribution vs. LyC escape in stacks

STACKING EXPERIMENTS



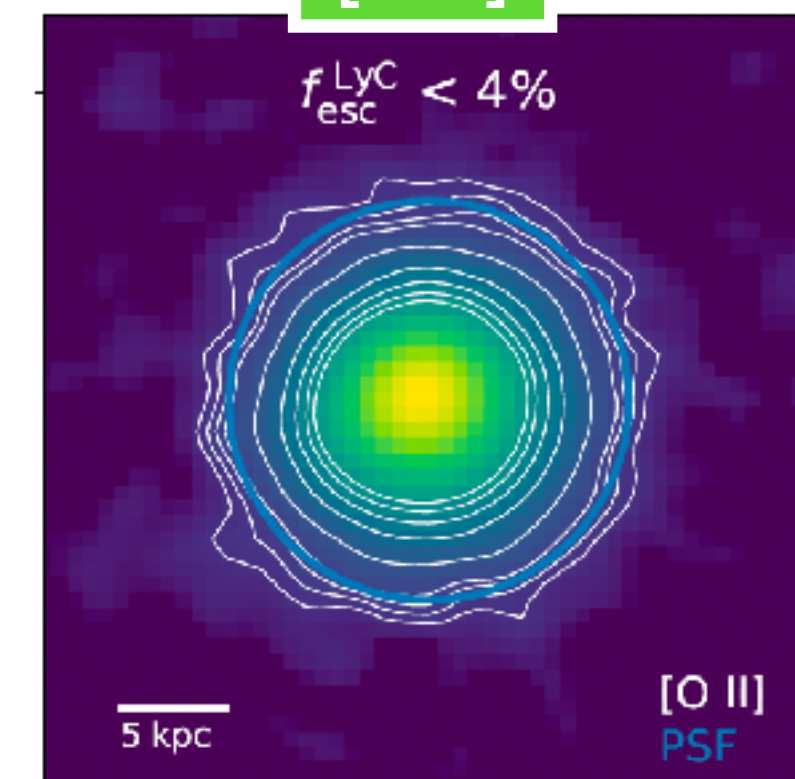
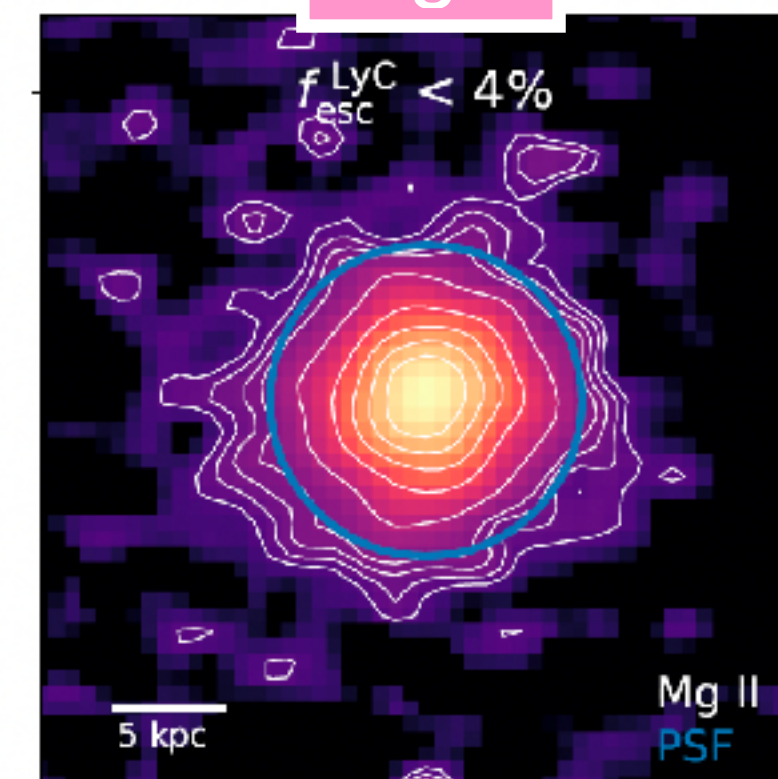
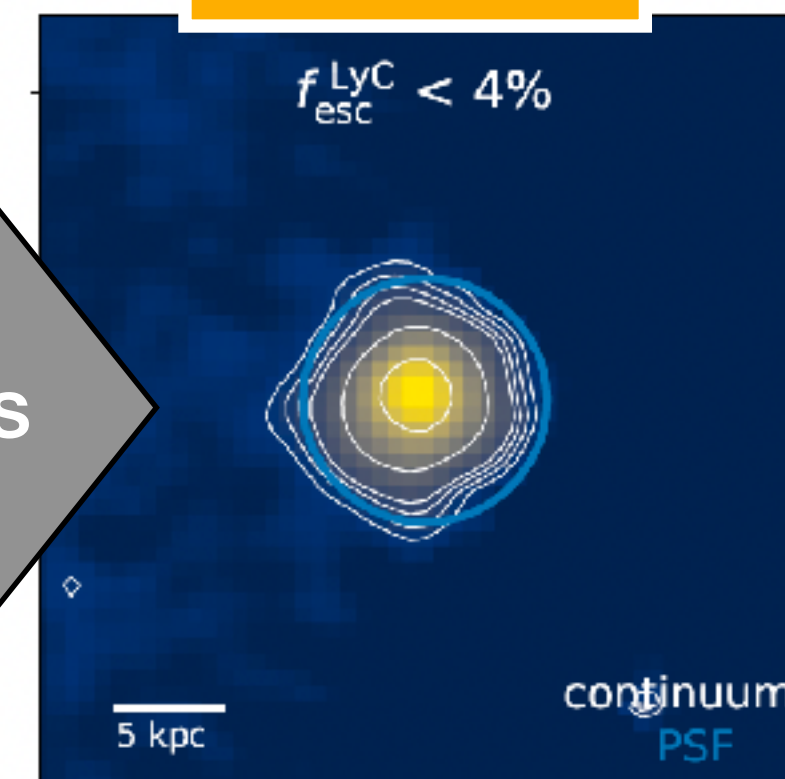
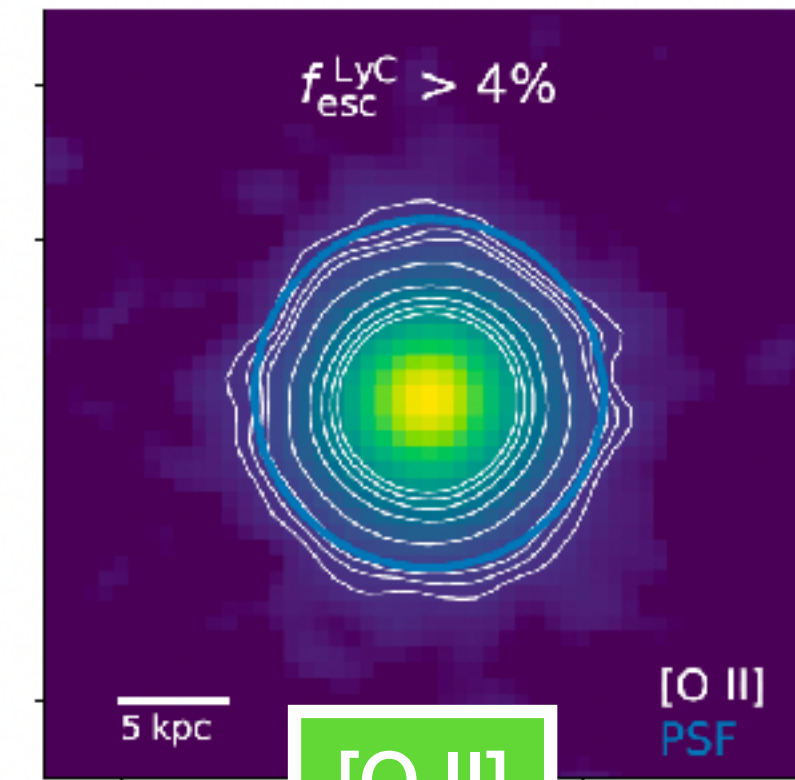
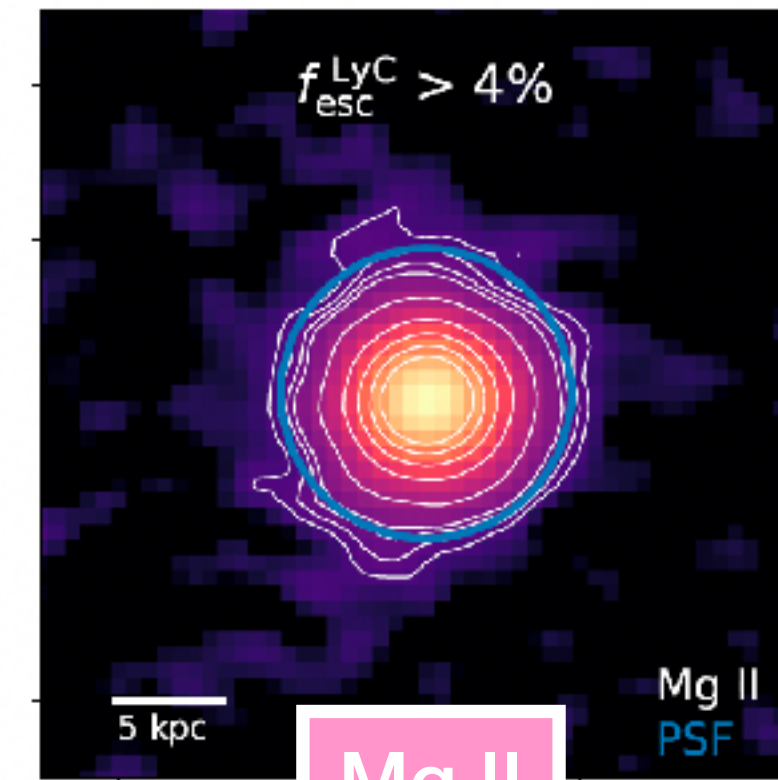
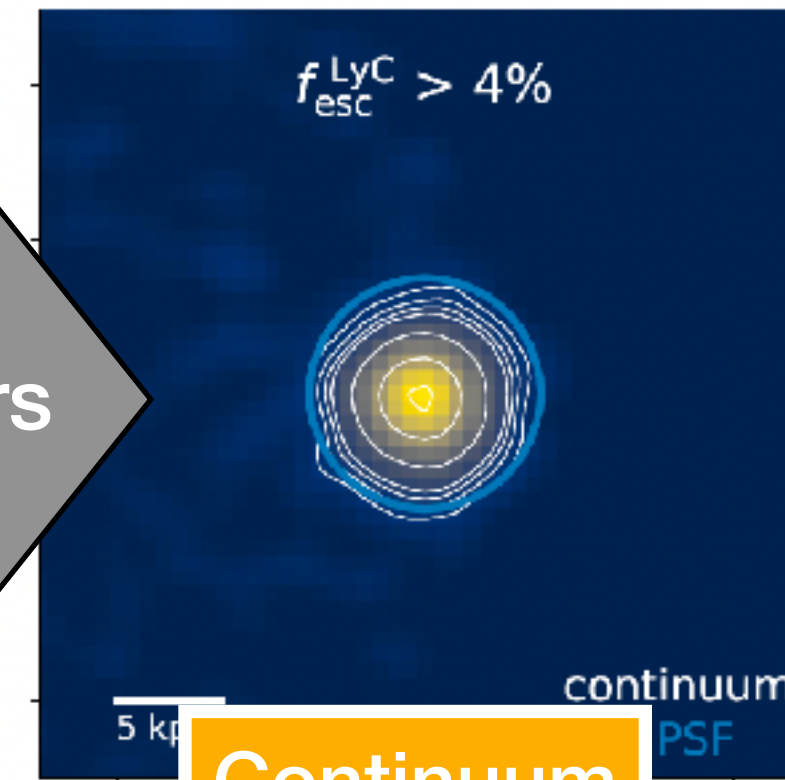
KCWI data only (seeing $\sim 1''$)

5 objects in each sub-samples

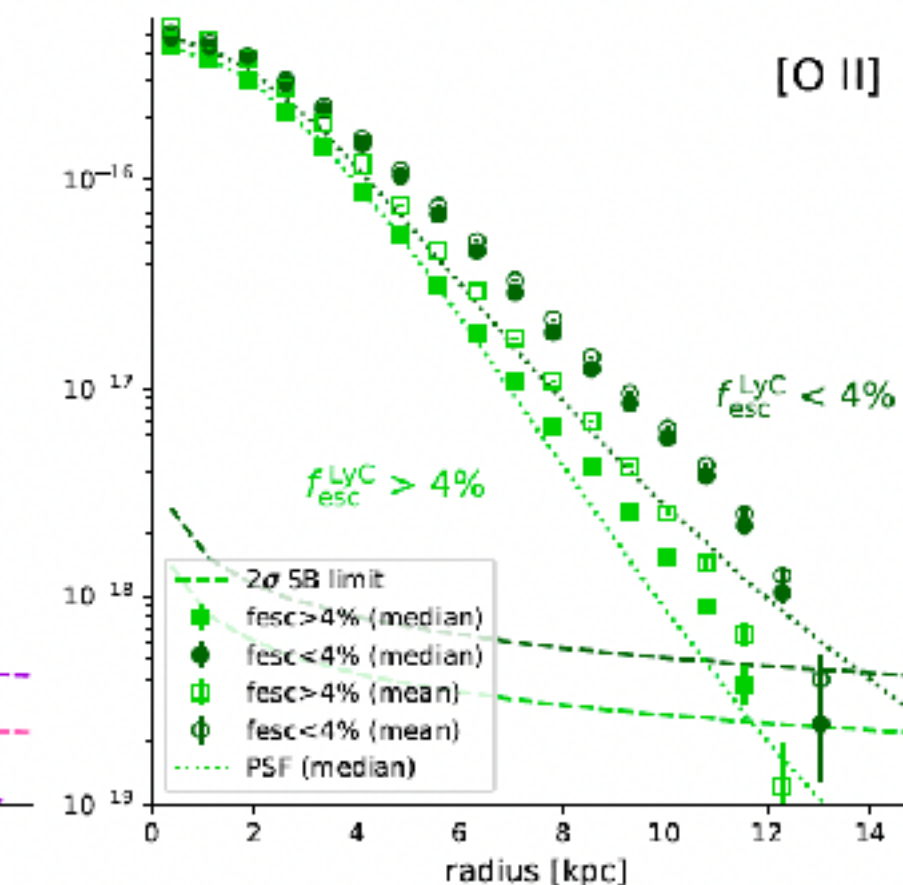
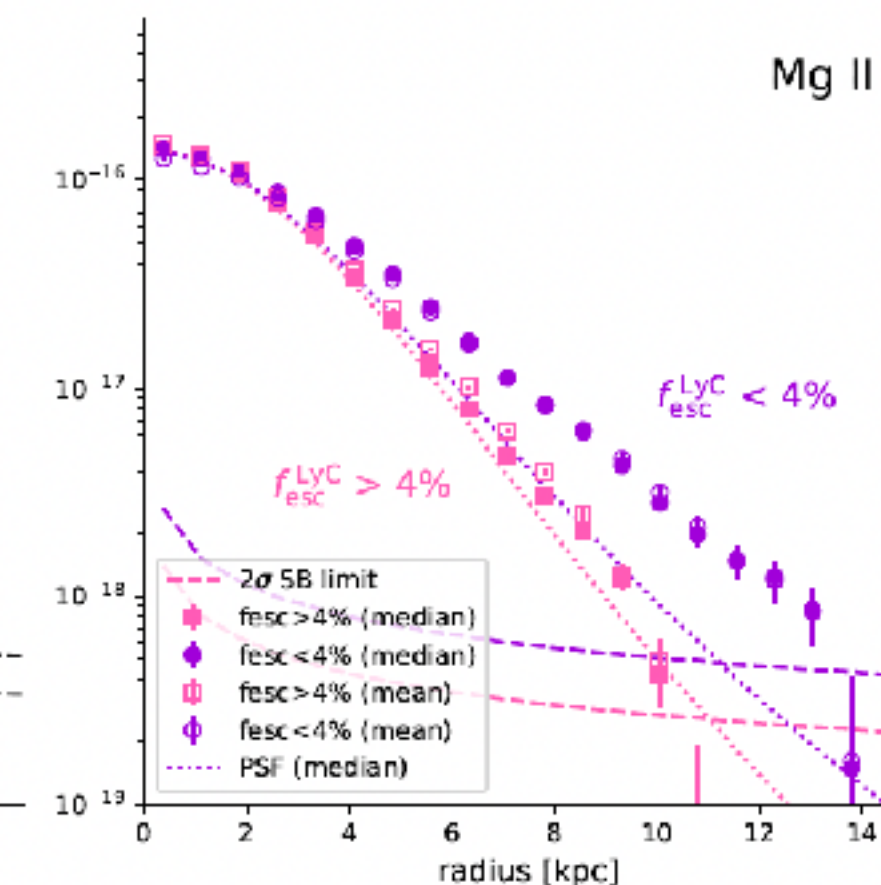
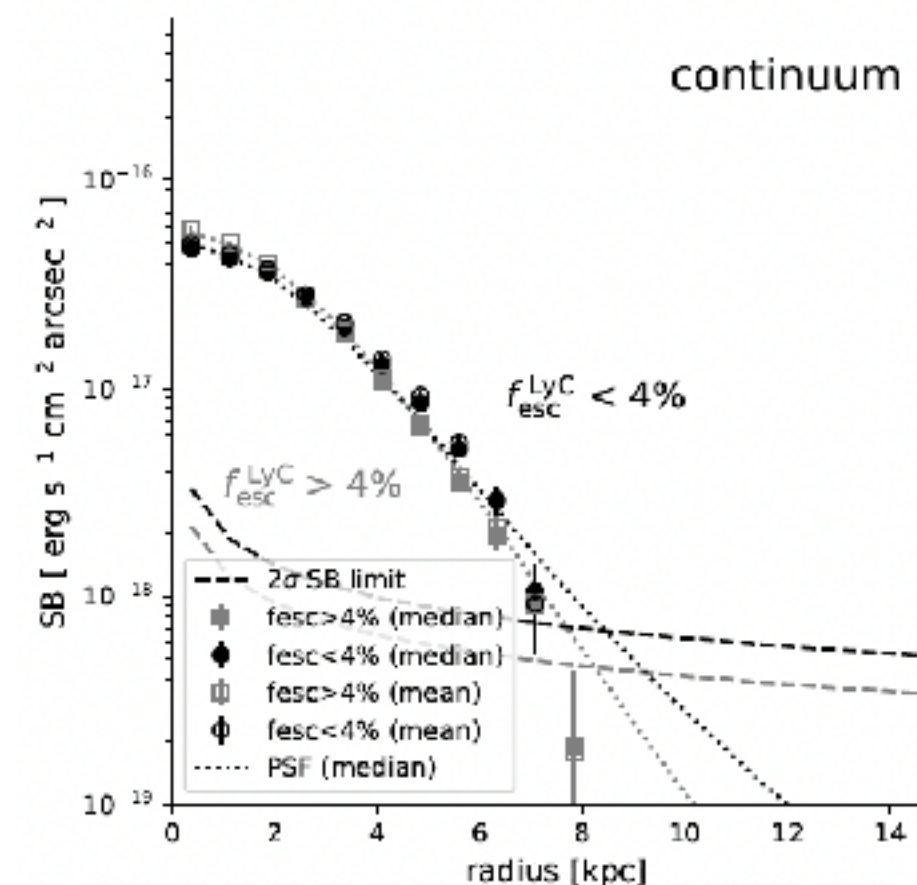
\rightarrow x 2.5 gain in SB limit ($1e-18$ cgs)

Strong leakers

Weak leakers

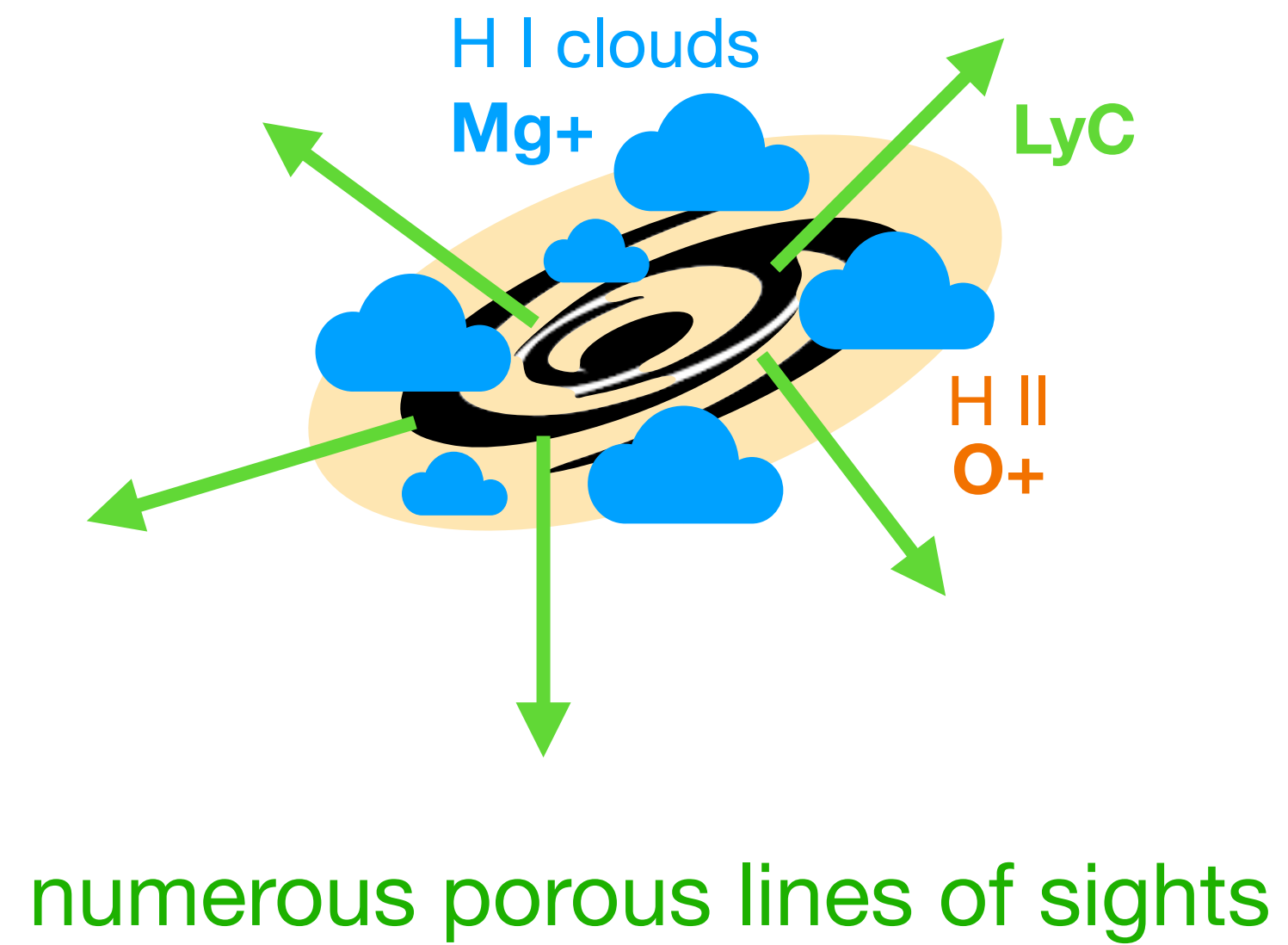
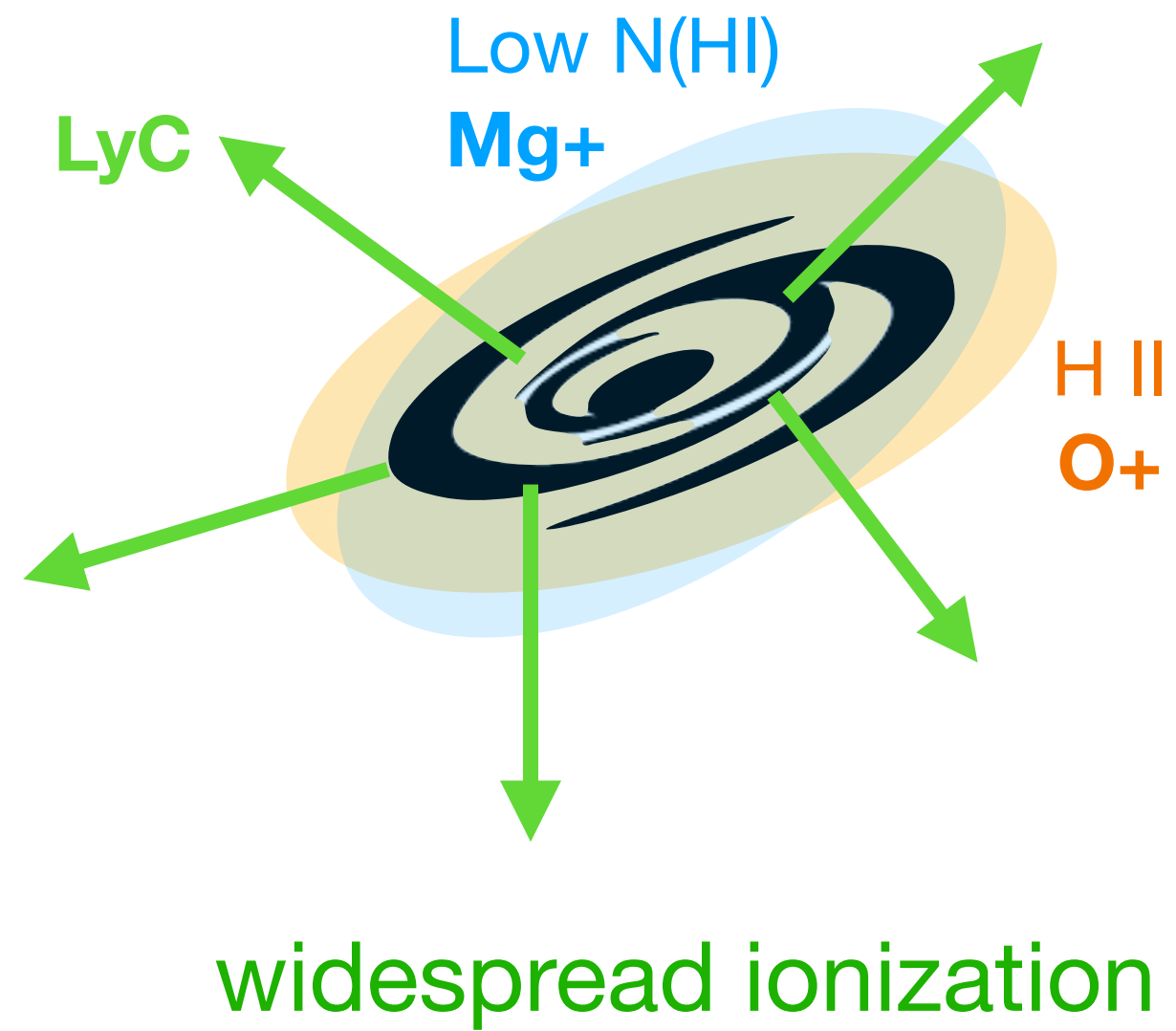


\rightarrow On average, **strong and weak LyC emitters** have **different nebular (neutral and ionized) configurations**



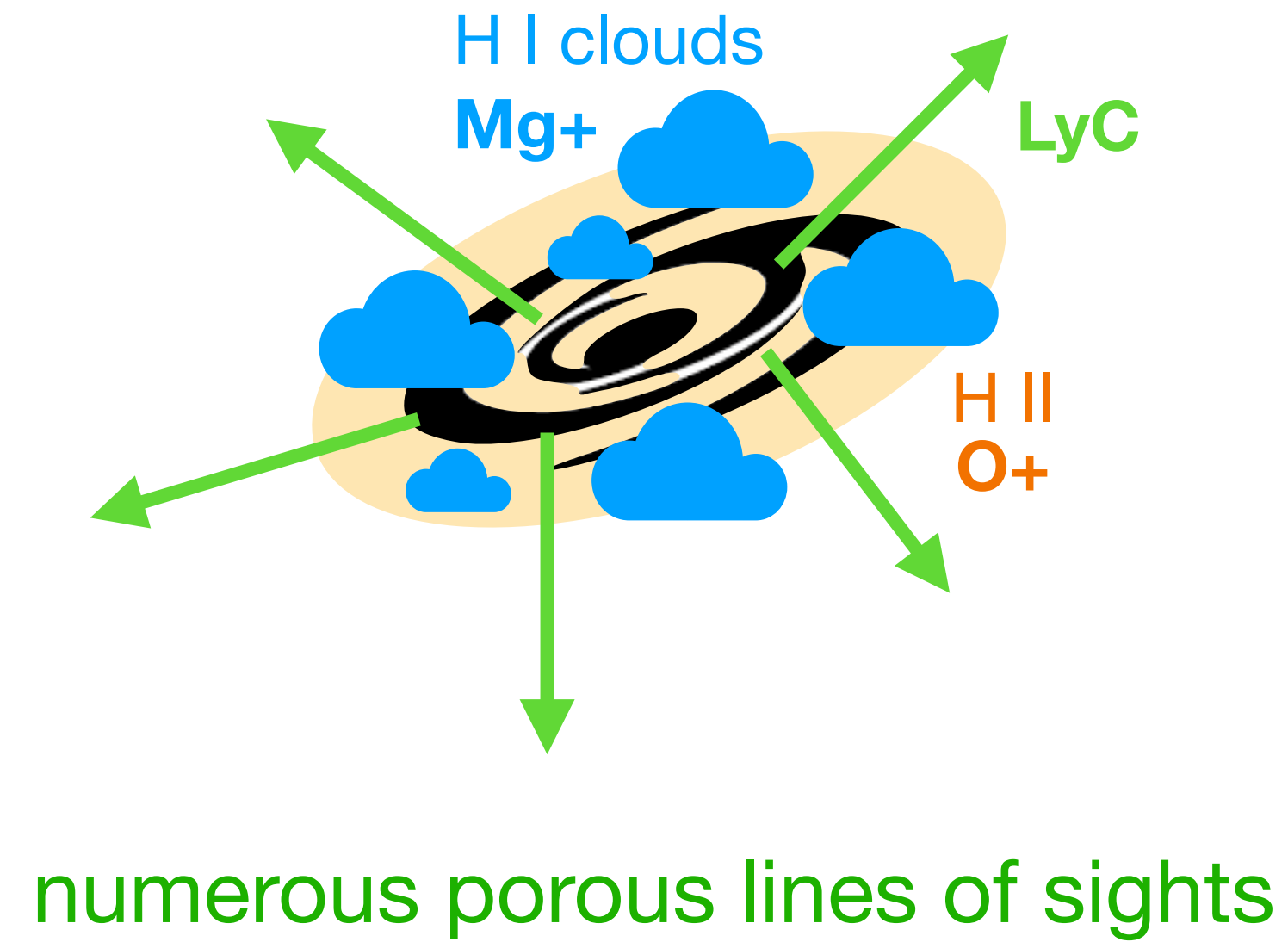
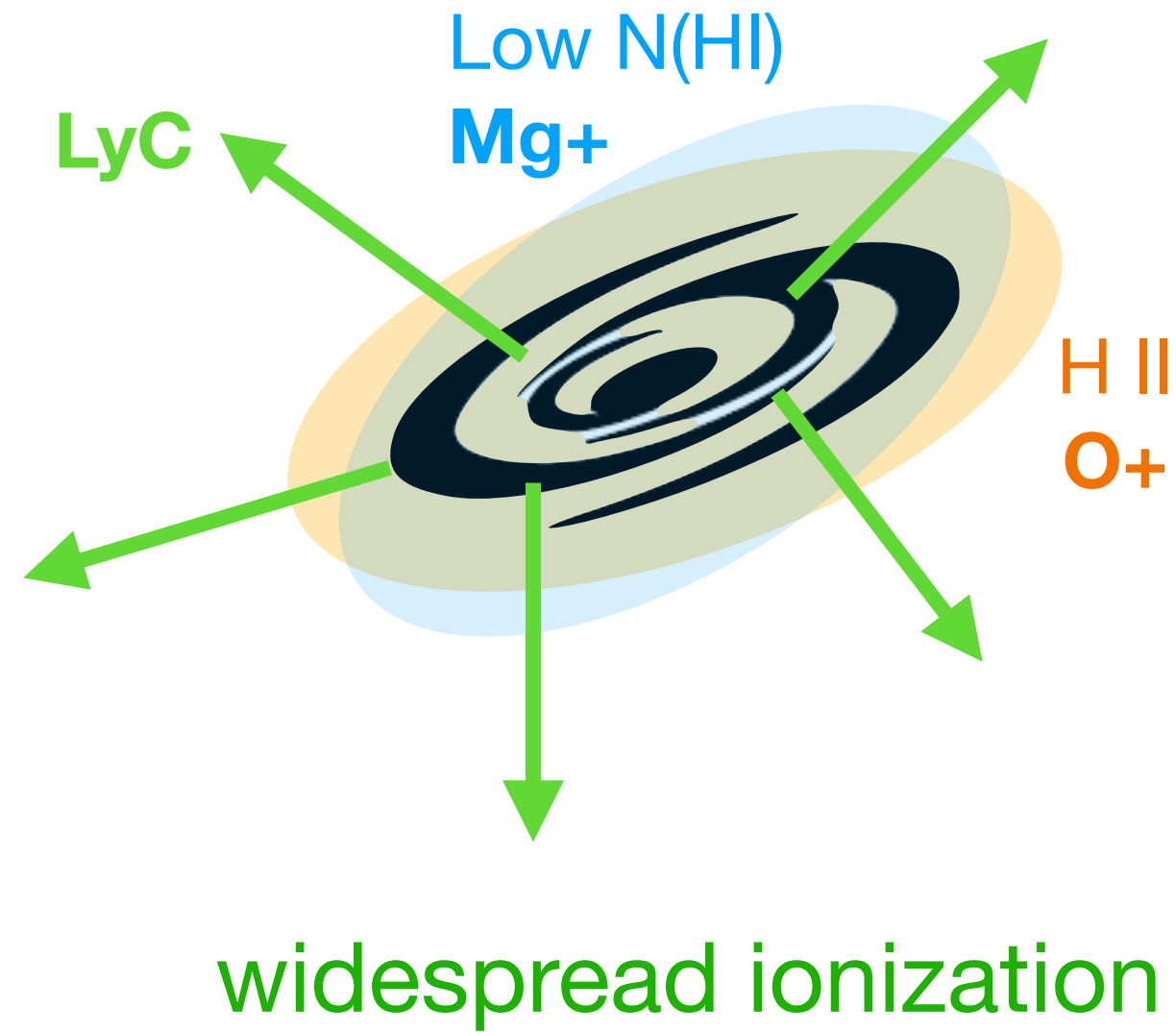
Different mechanisms for LyC escape

Highly ionized galaxies

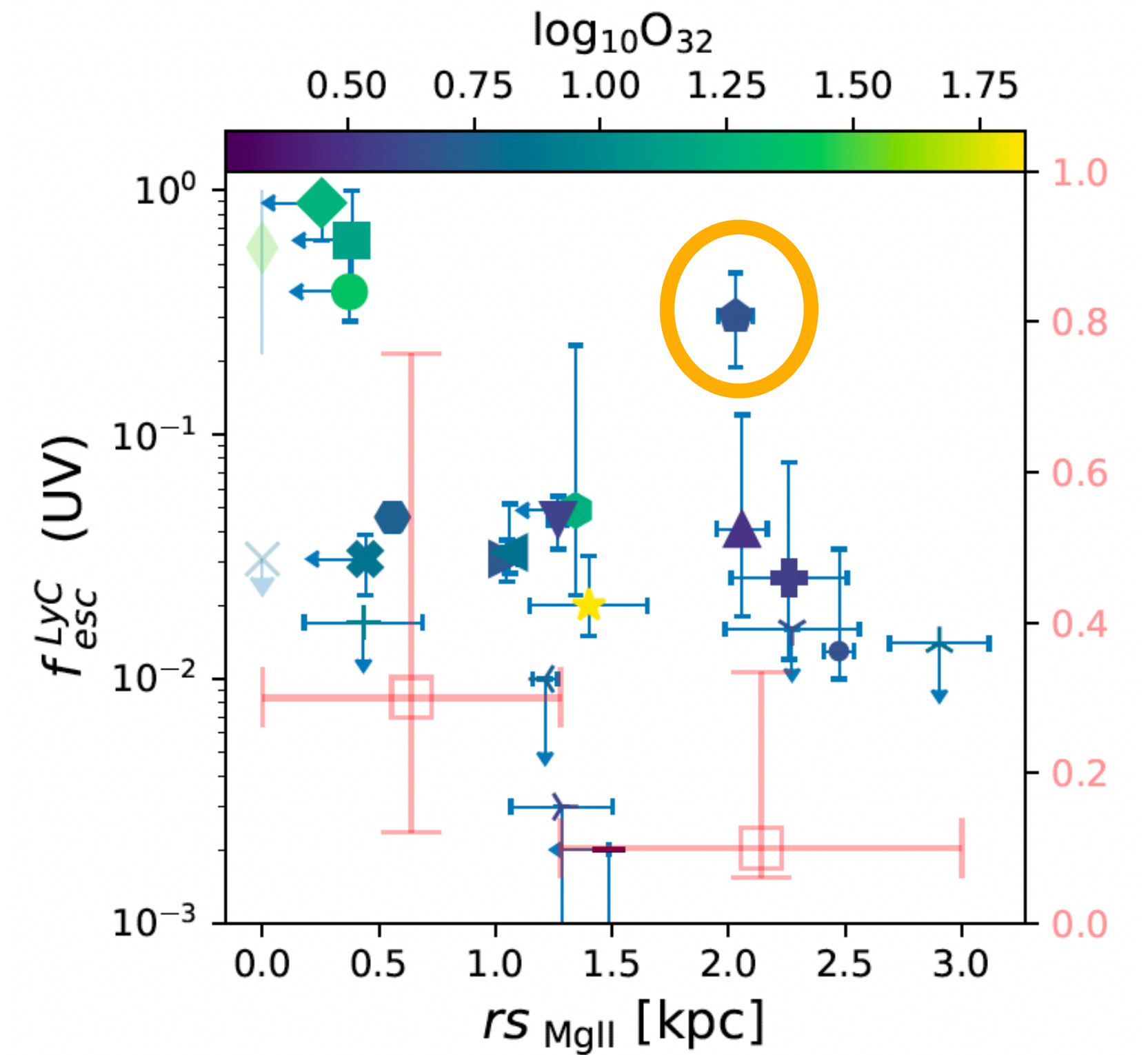


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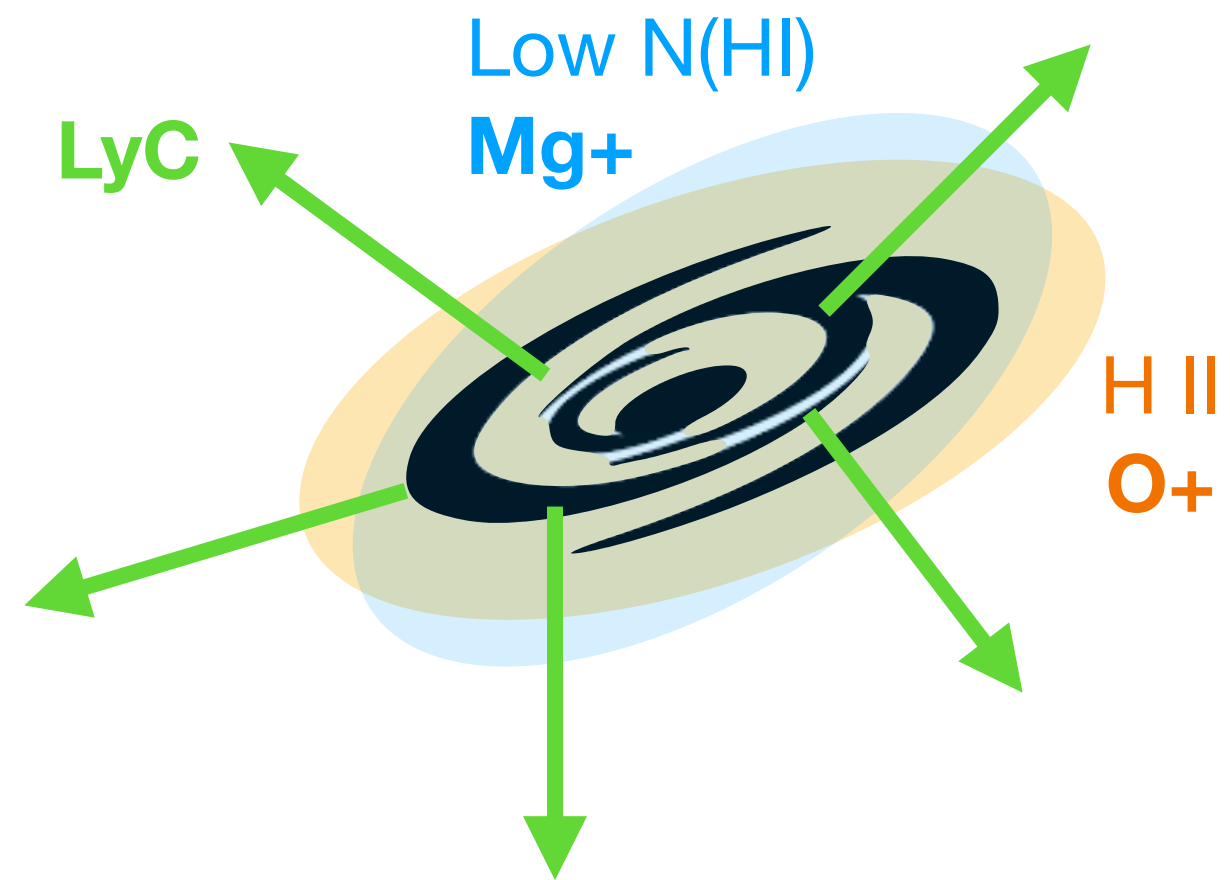


Low ionized galaxies

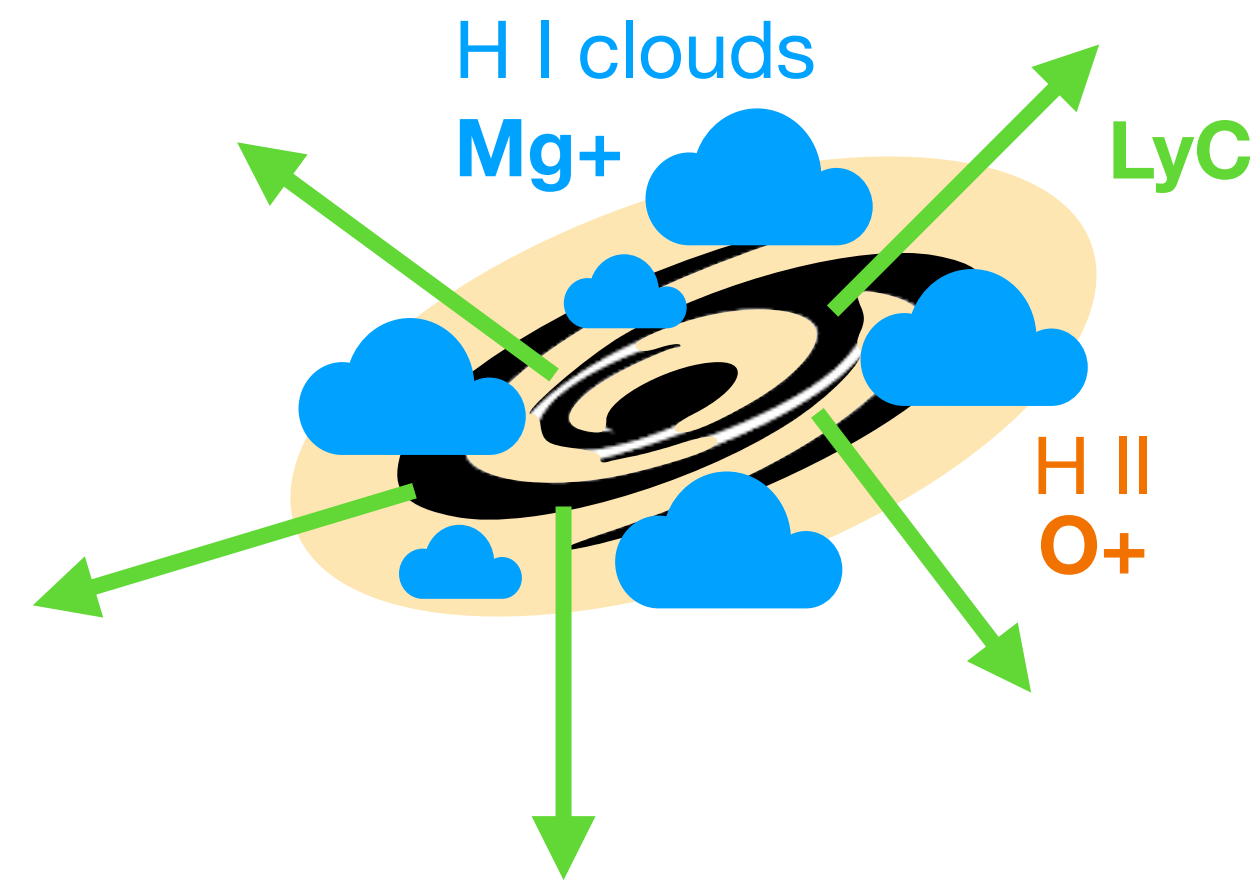


Different mechanisms for LyC escape

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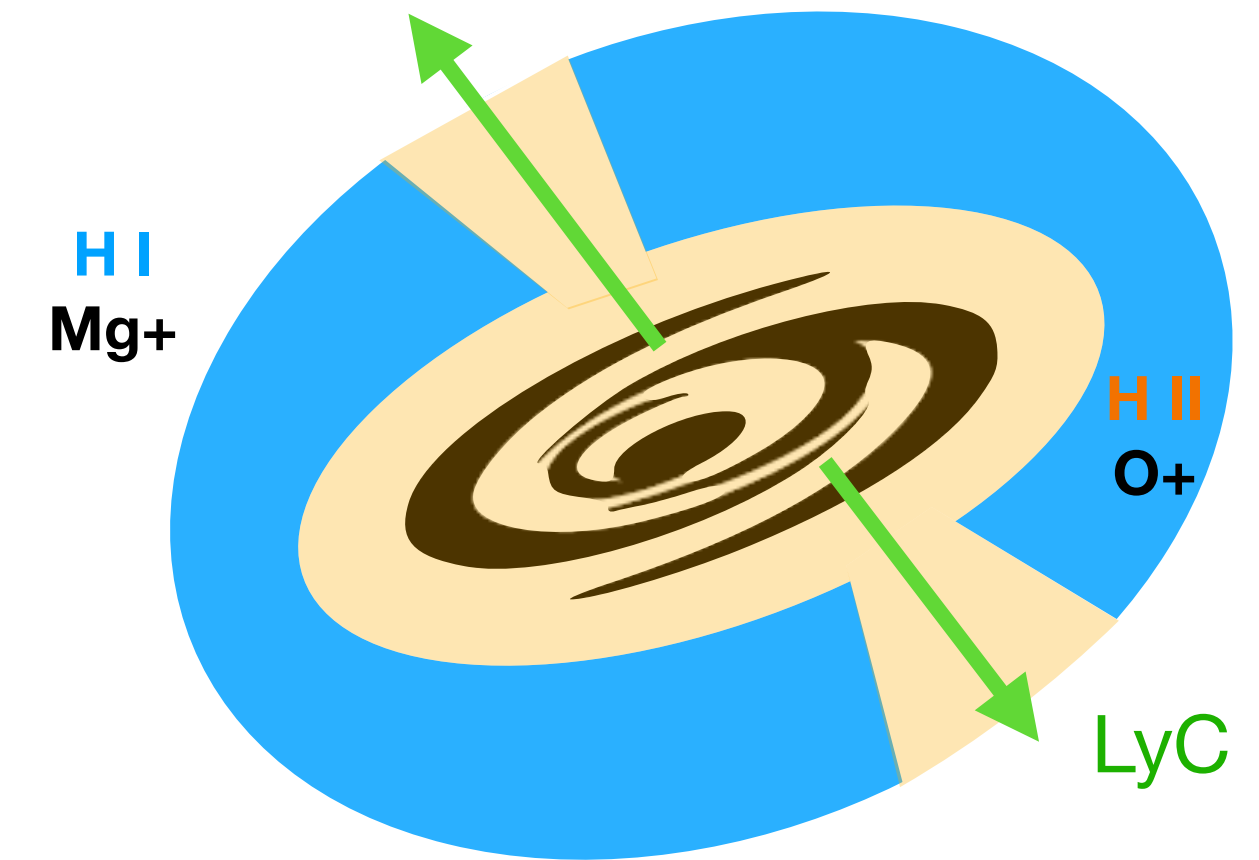


widespread ionization



numerous porous lines of sights

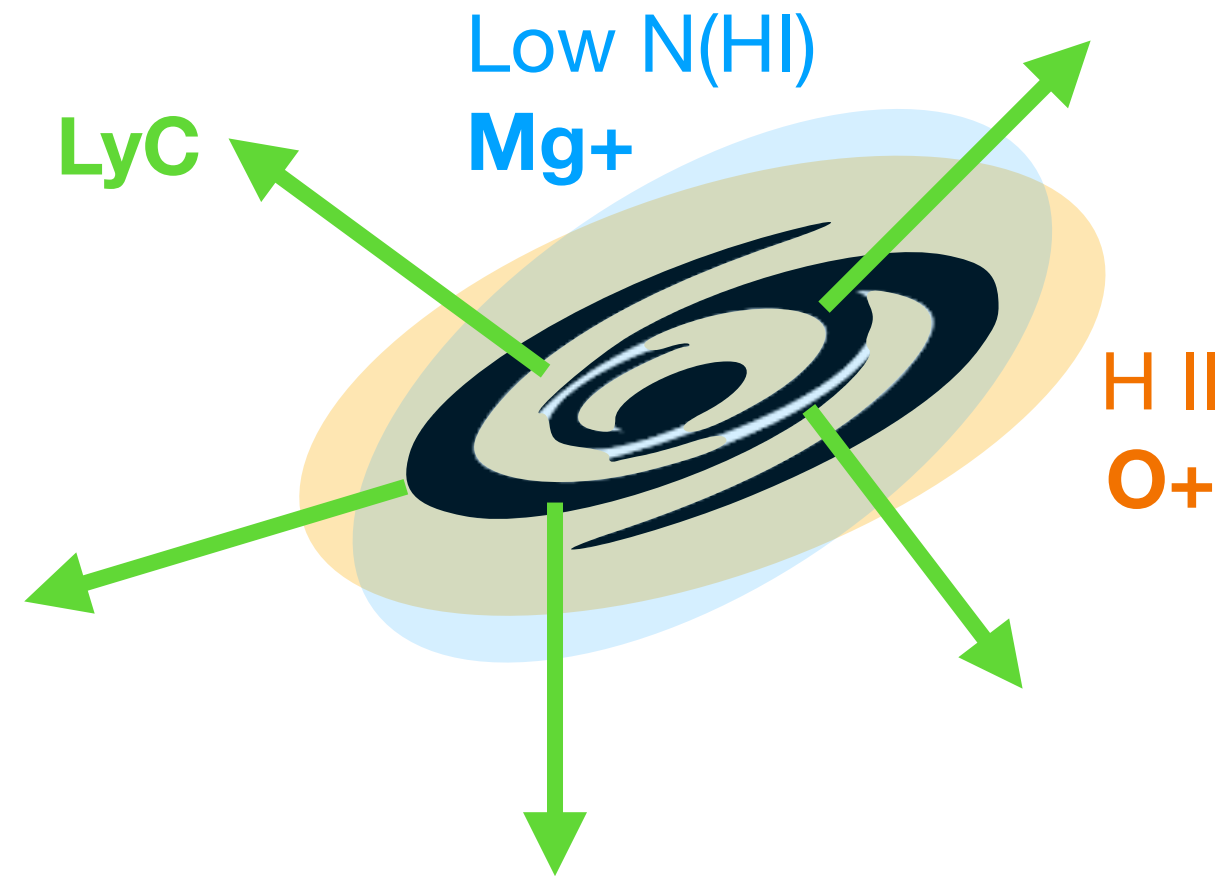
Low ionized galaxies



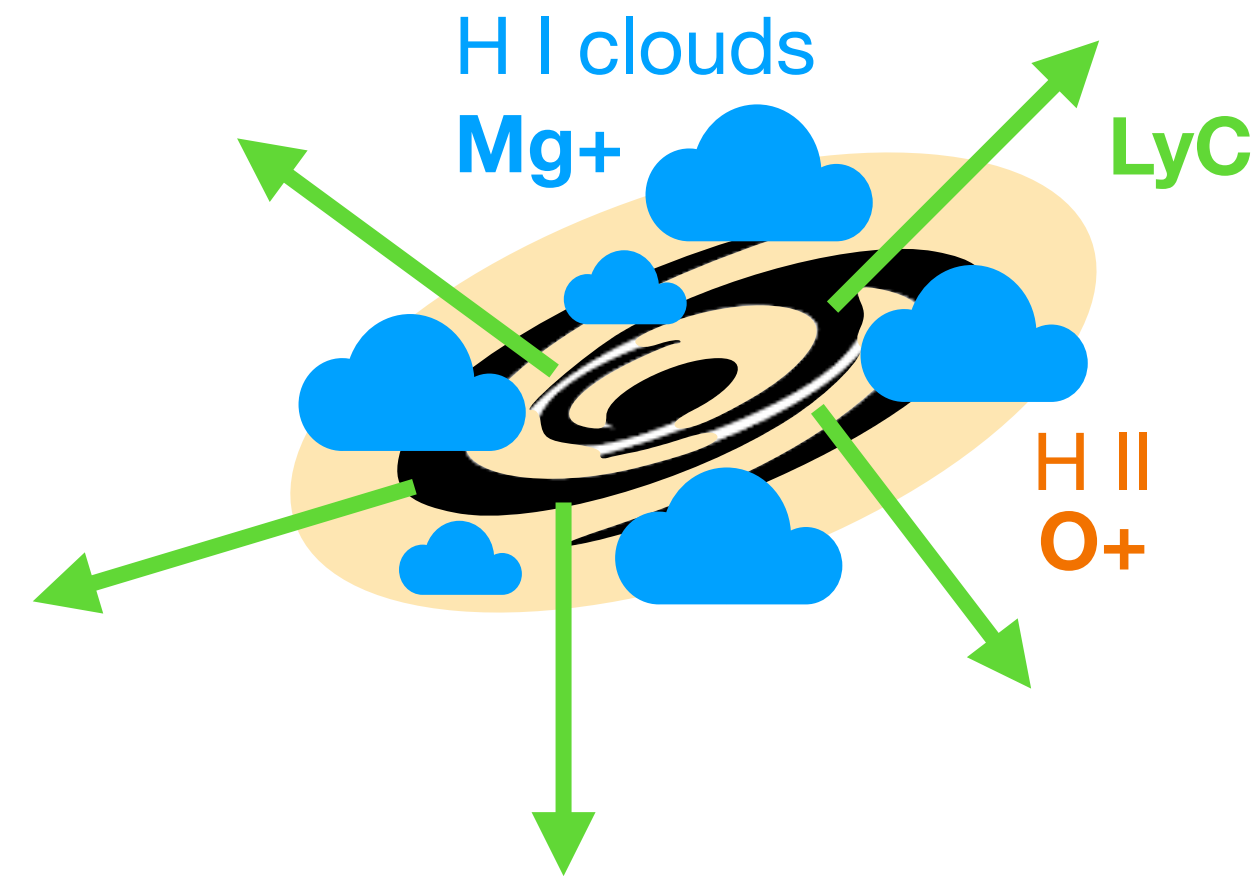
ionized channels in the ISM + CGM

Different mechanisms for LyC escape

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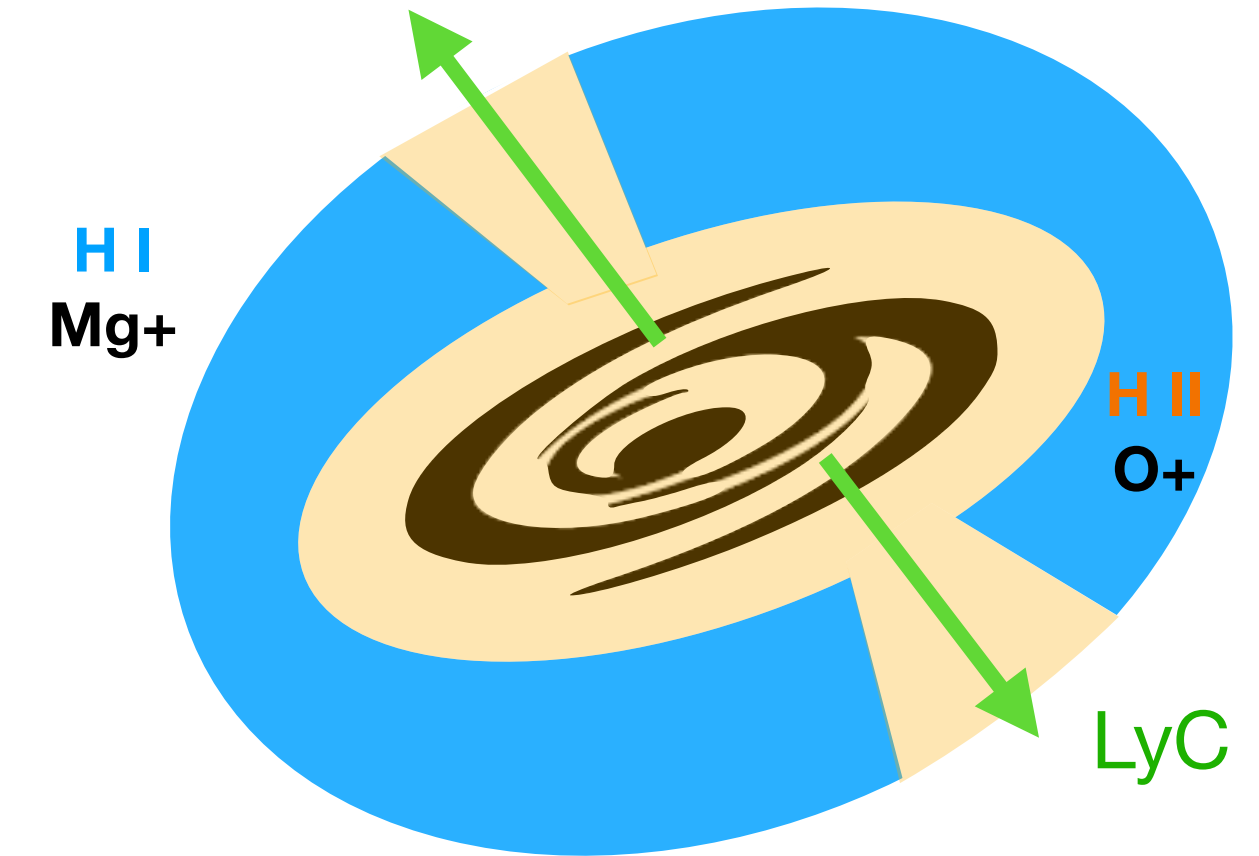


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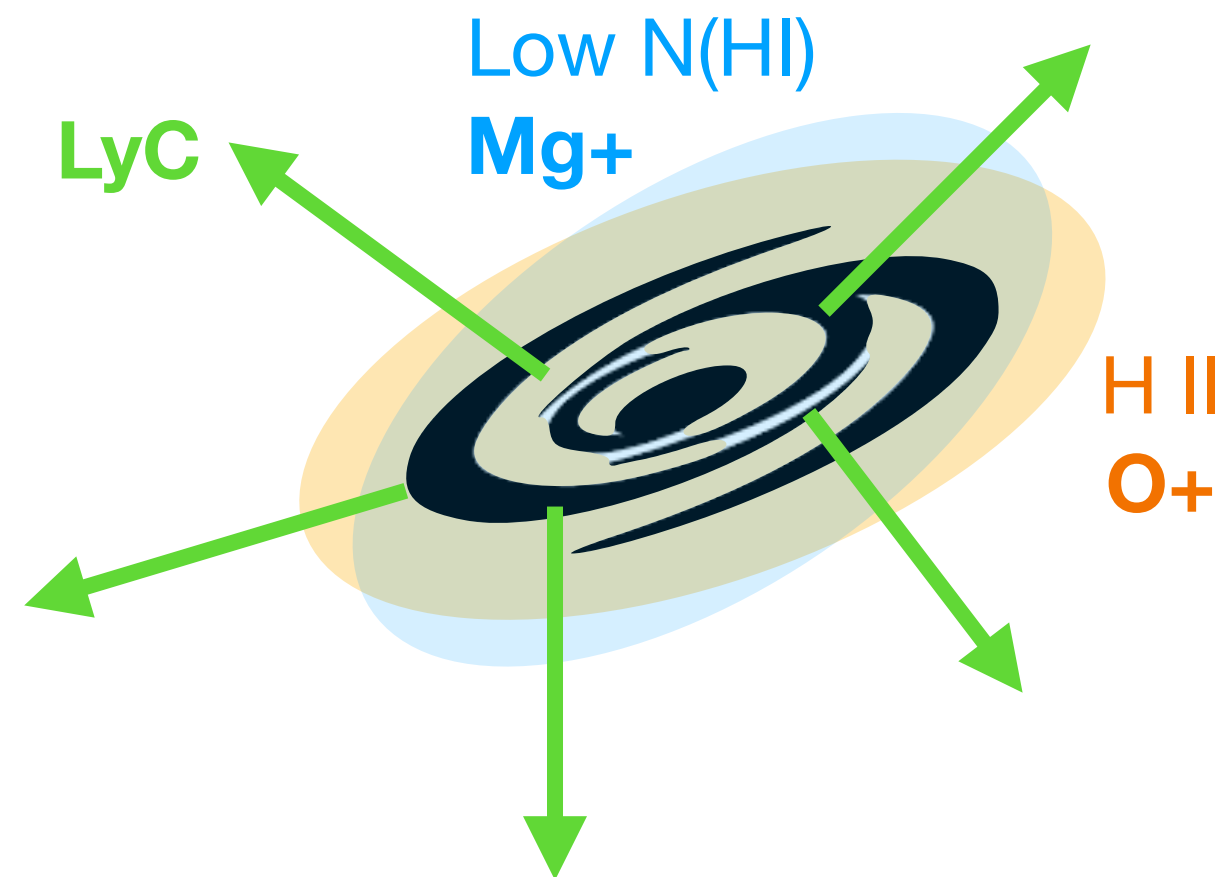
Stellar populations ionizing most of the neutral gas in the ISM/CGM

and

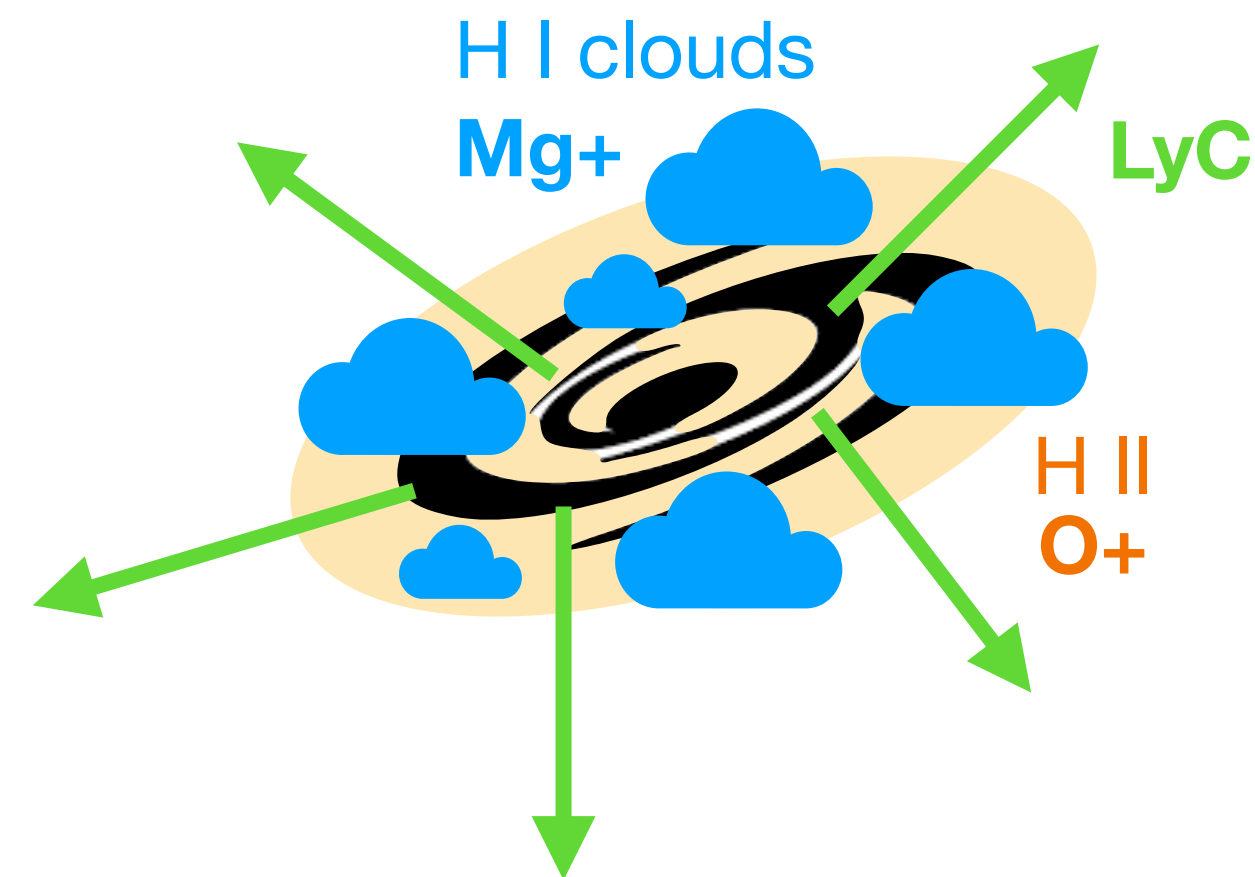
Powerful **outflows and feedback** effects clearing the galaxy surroundings

Different mechanisms for LyC escape

Highly ionized galaxies

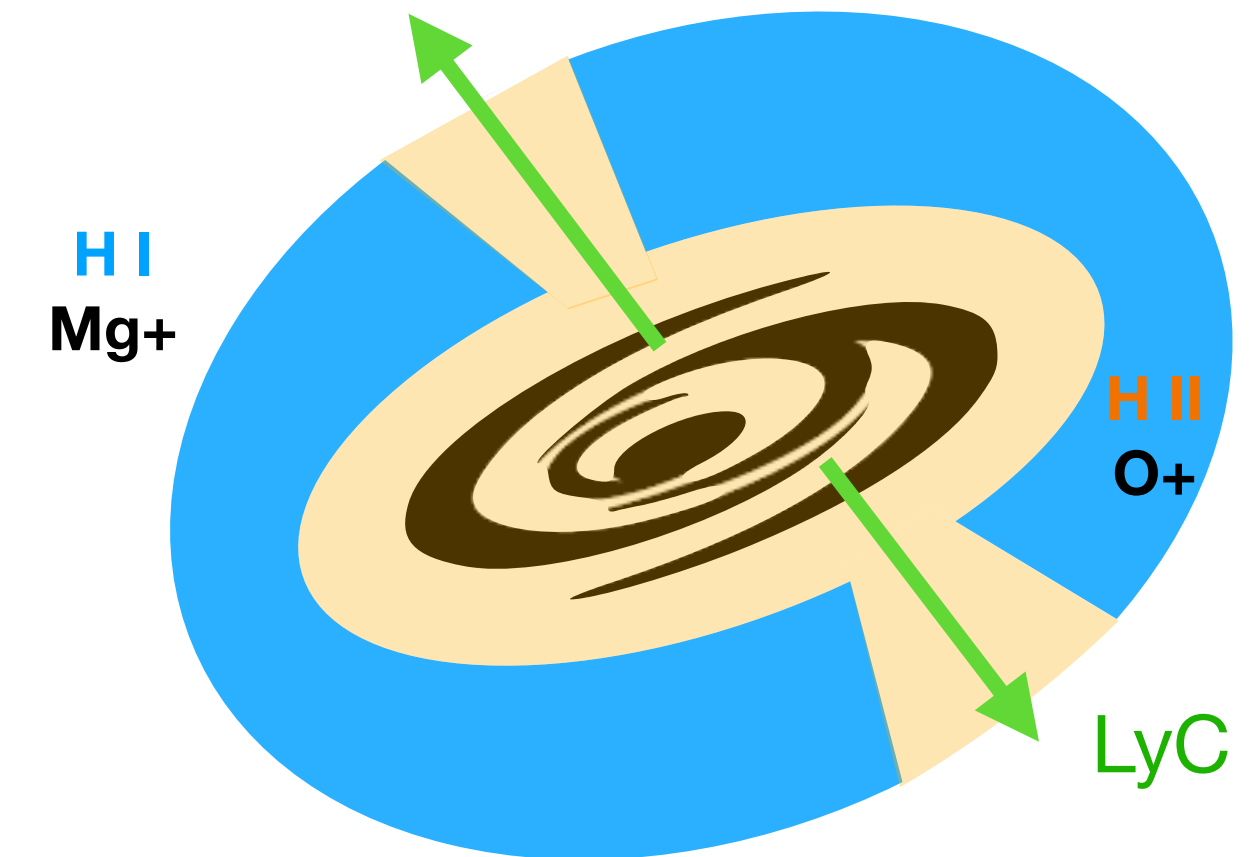


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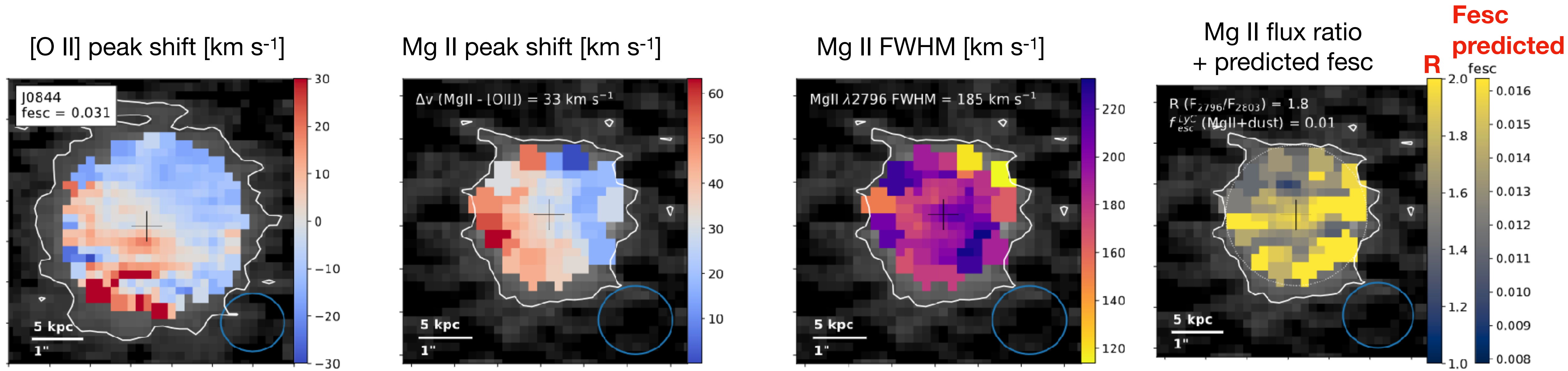
Nebular spatial compactness + high ionization = indicators of LyC escape in high-redshift galaxies

Spatially resolved spectral analysis

Preliminary

Spatially resolved spectral analysis

Preliminary

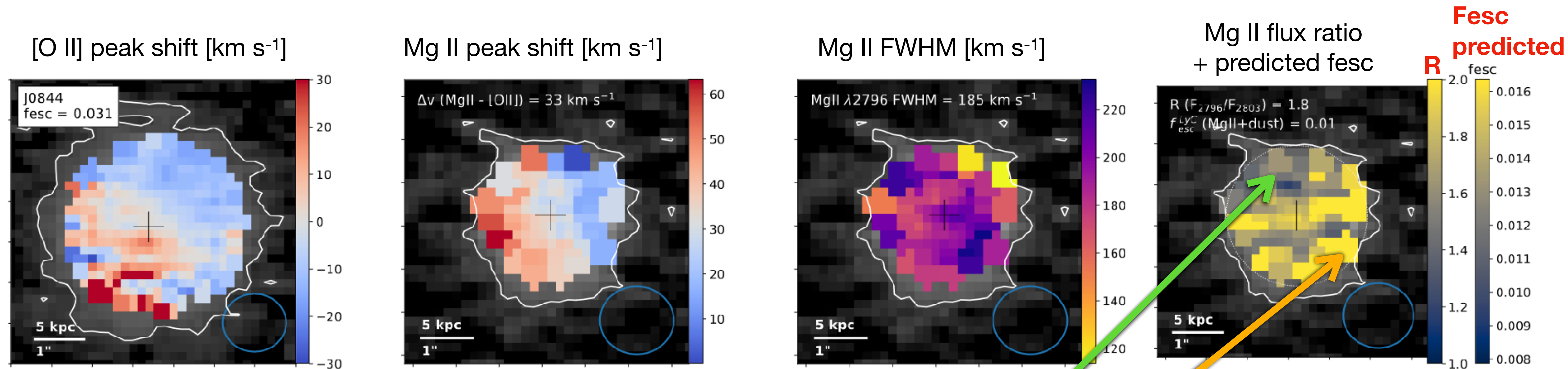


Sample: 12 objects with KCWI data

- [O II] : ionized gas kinematics
- Mg II : neutral gas kinematics
- Mg II flux ratio : predicted LyC f_{esc}

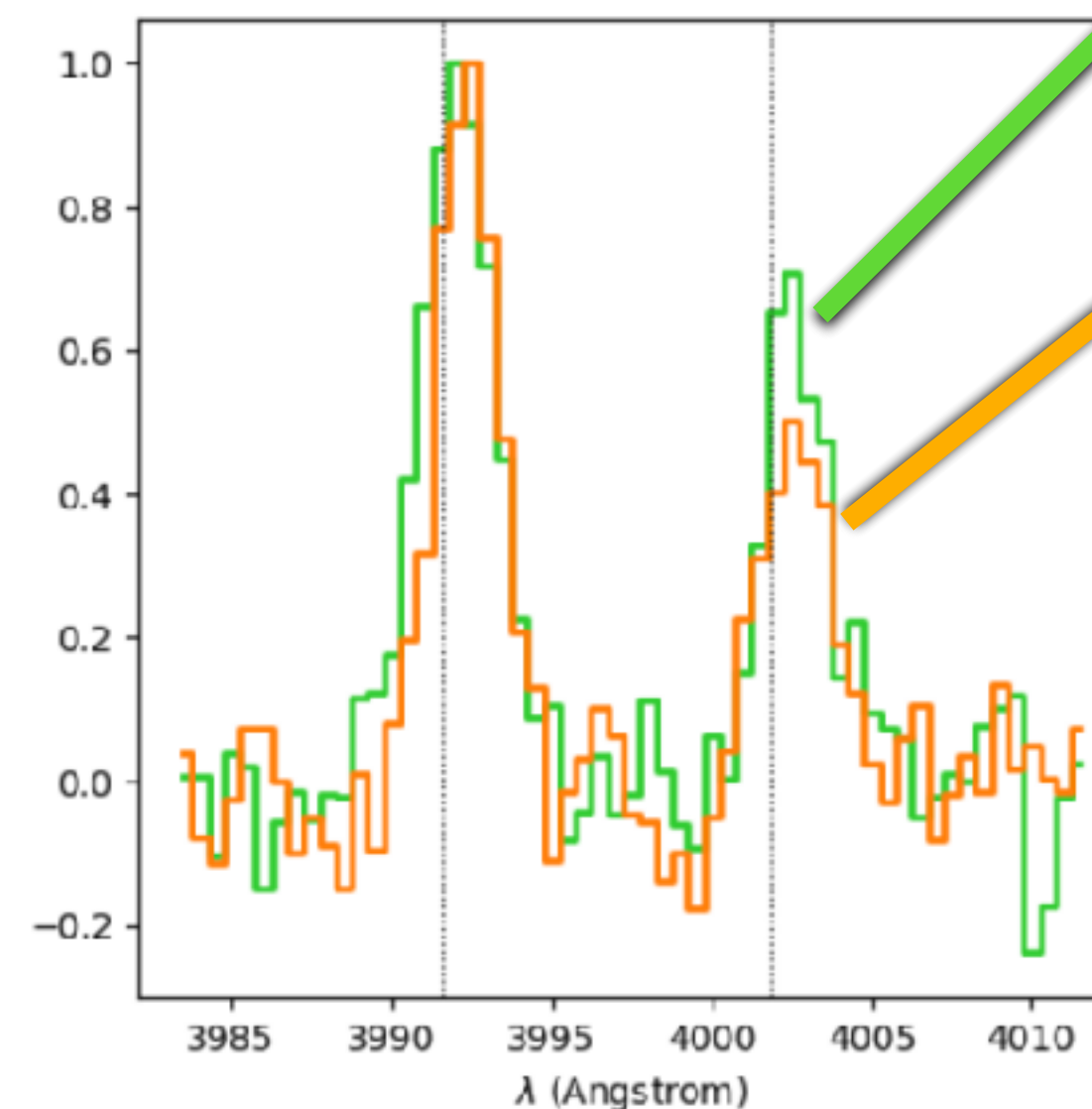
Spatially resolved spectral analysis

Preliminary



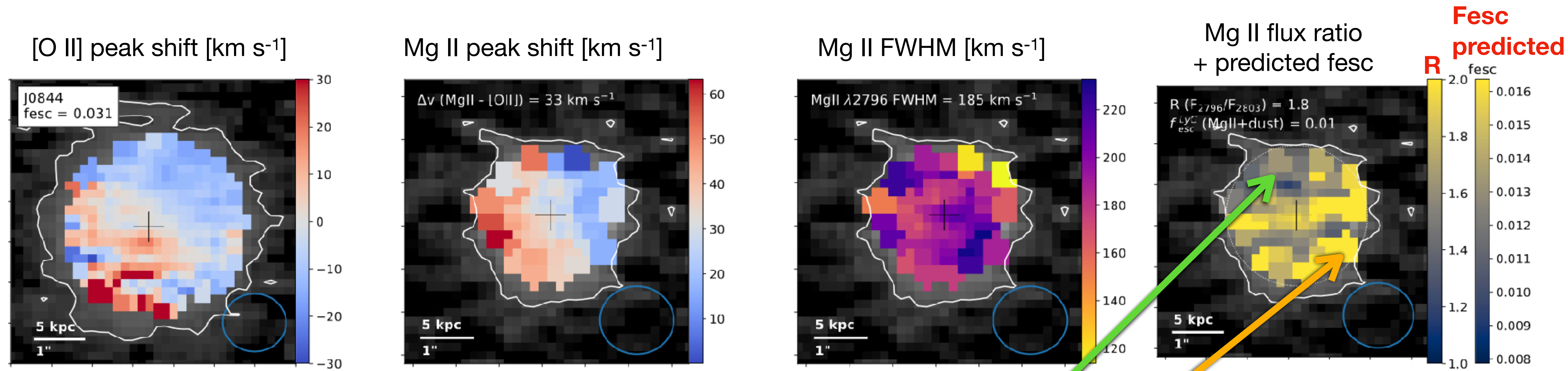
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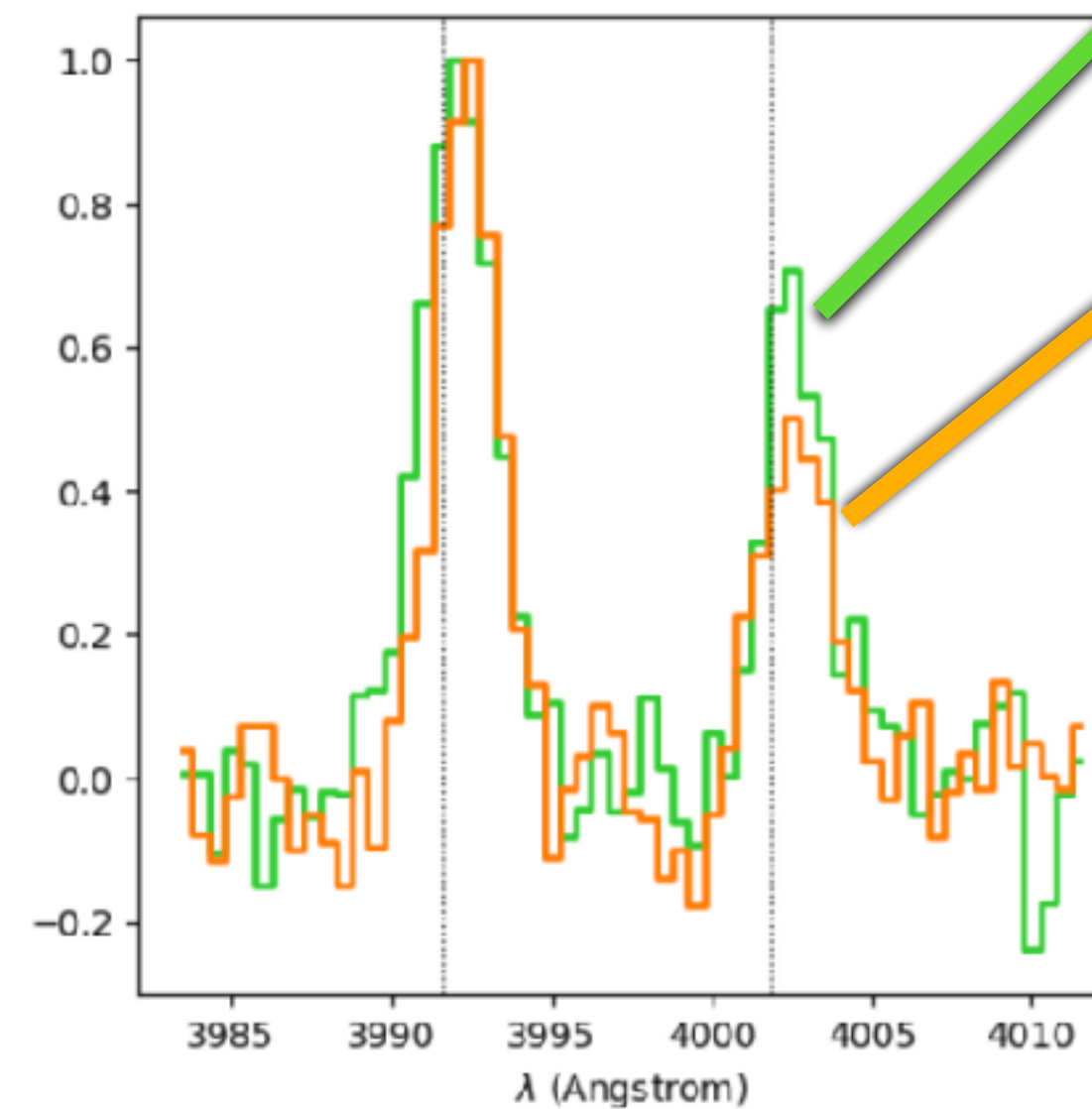
Spatially resolved spectral analysis

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$$R = F_{2796}/F_{2803}$$

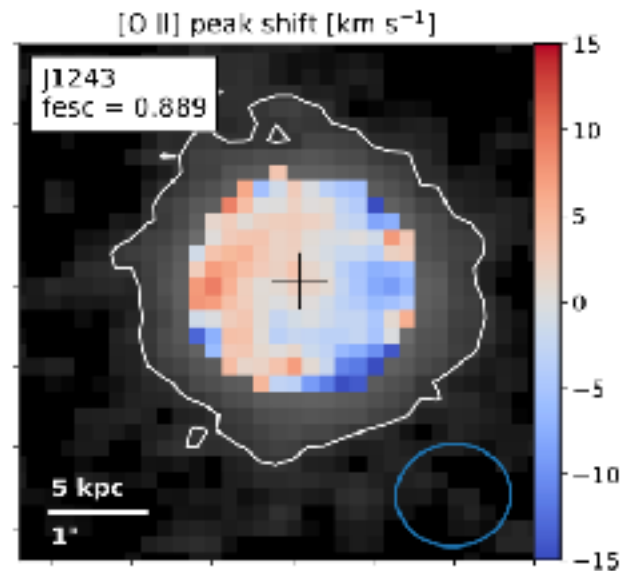
$$N_{\text{H}^0} = 5.1 \times 10^5 \text{ cm}^{-2} N_{\text{Mg}^+}$$

$$= -2.2 \times 10^{17} \text{ cm}^{-2} \ln(R/2).$$

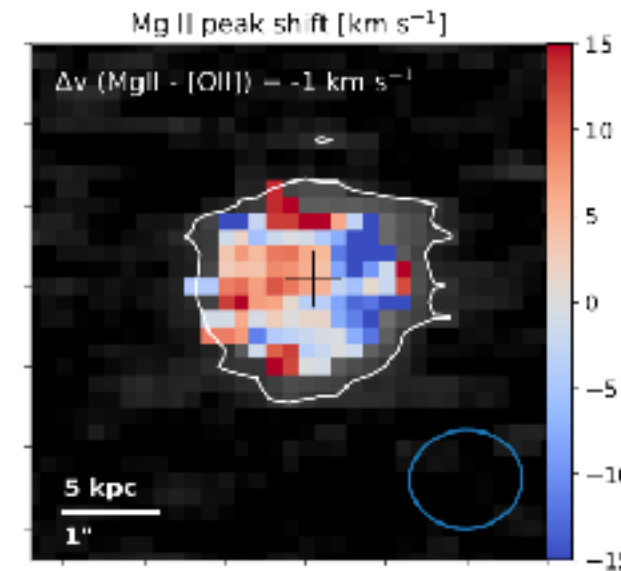
$$f_{\text{esc}} (\text{LyC}) = e^{-N_{\text{H}^0} \sigma_{\text{ph}}} \times 10^{-0.4 E(B-V) k(912)},$$

Spatially resolved spectral analysis

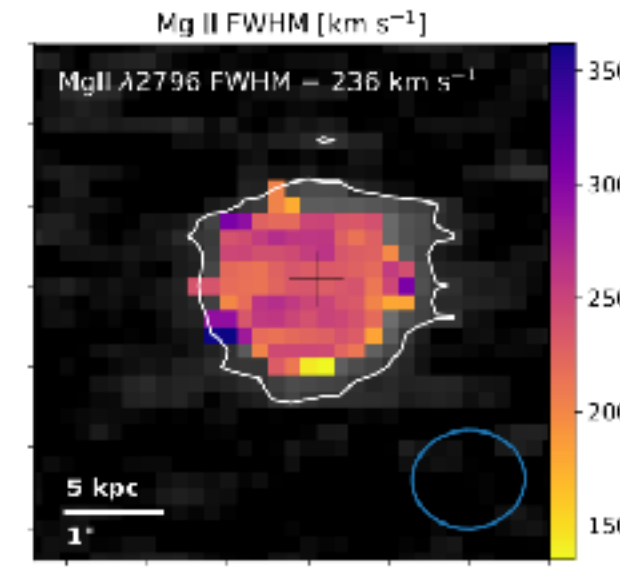
[O II] peak shift
[km s⁻¹]



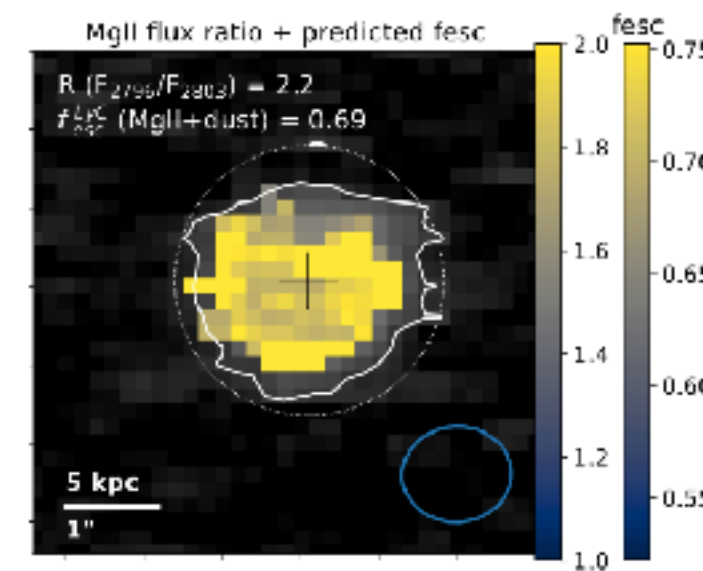
Mg II peak shift
[km s⁻¹]



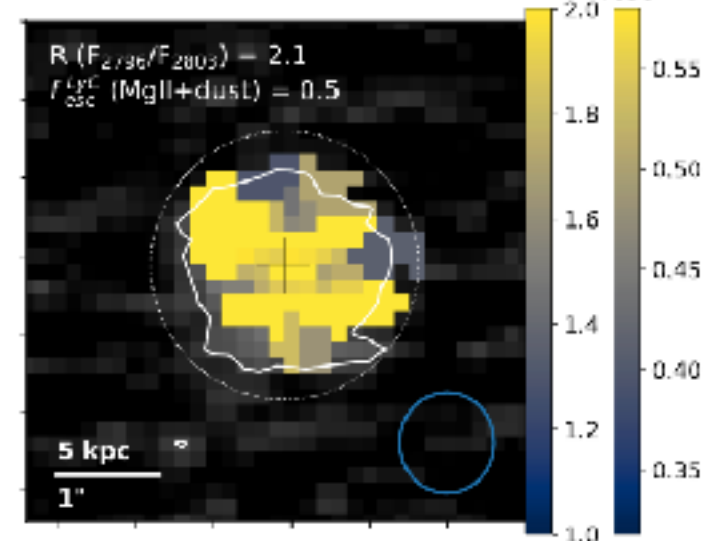
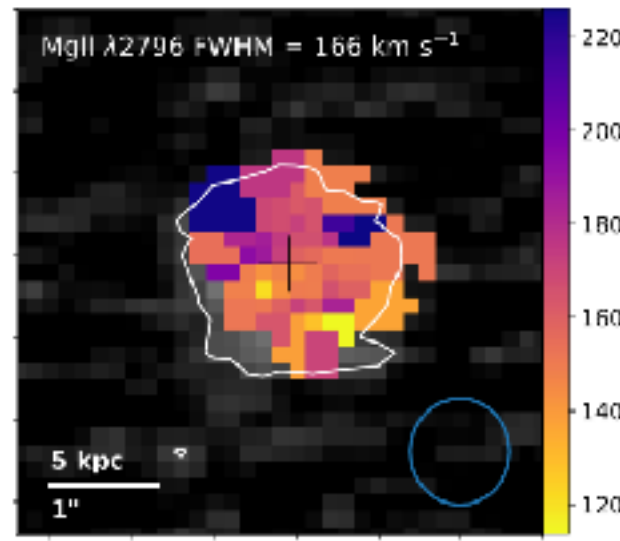
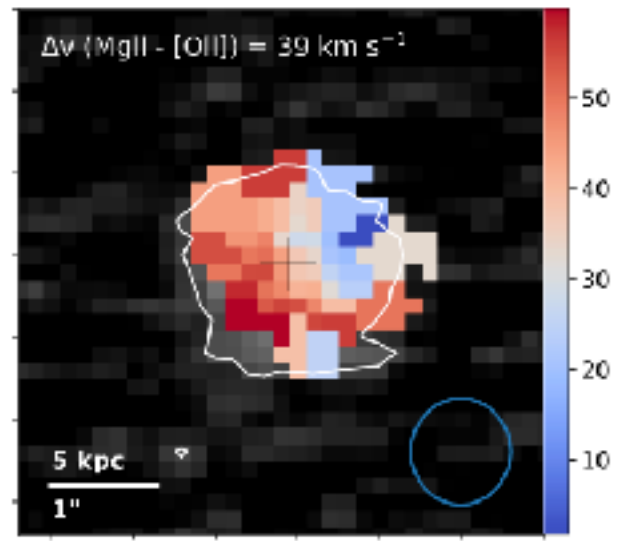
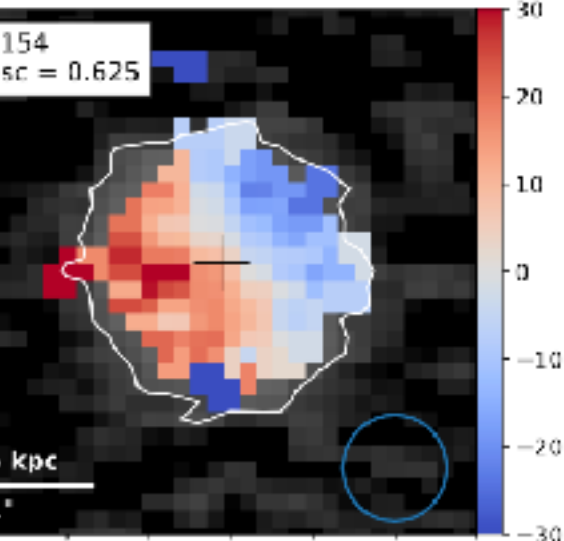
Mg II FWHM
[km s⁻¹]



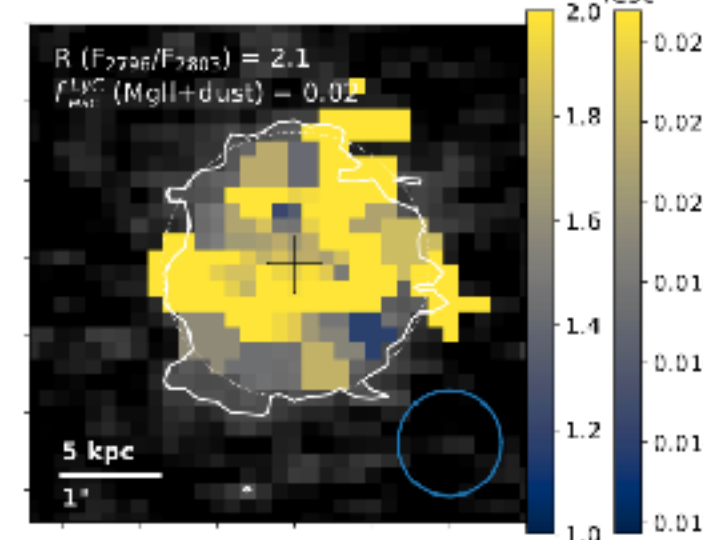
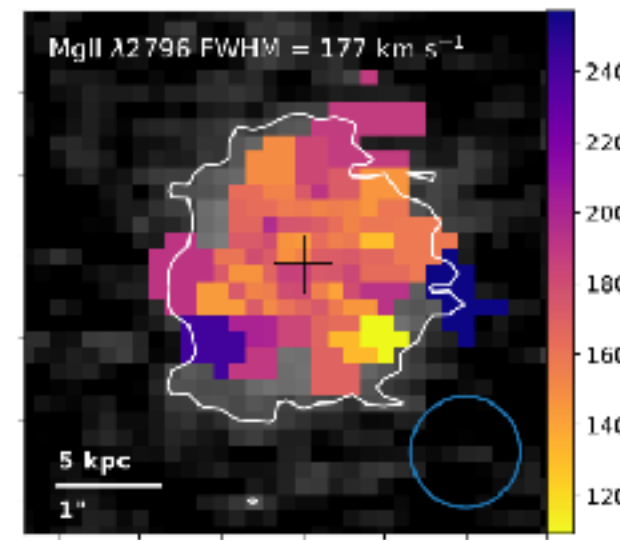
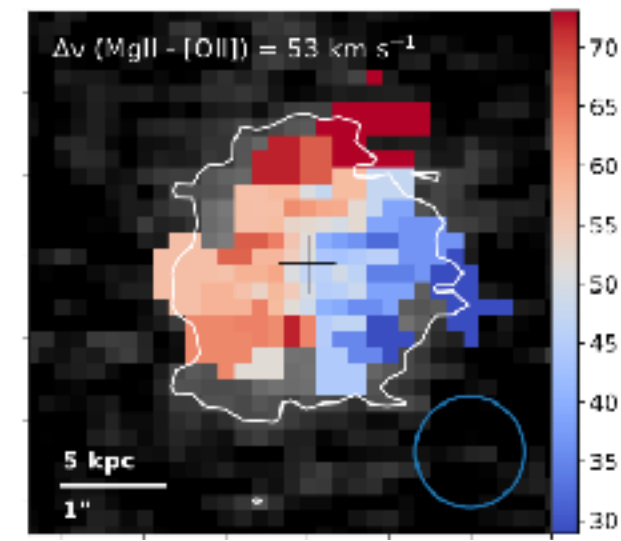
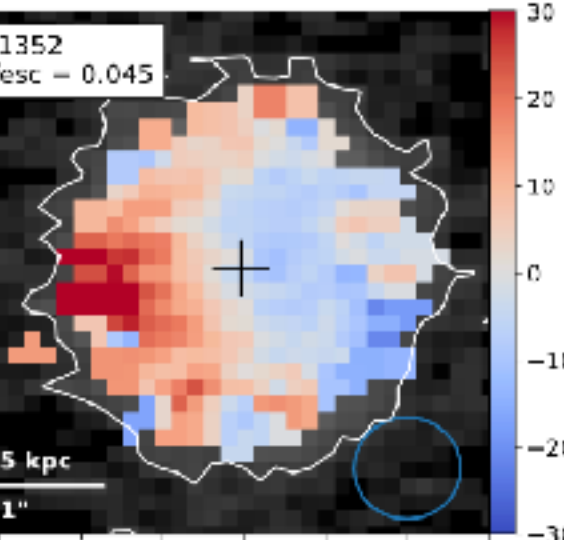
Mg II flux ratio
+ predicted fesc



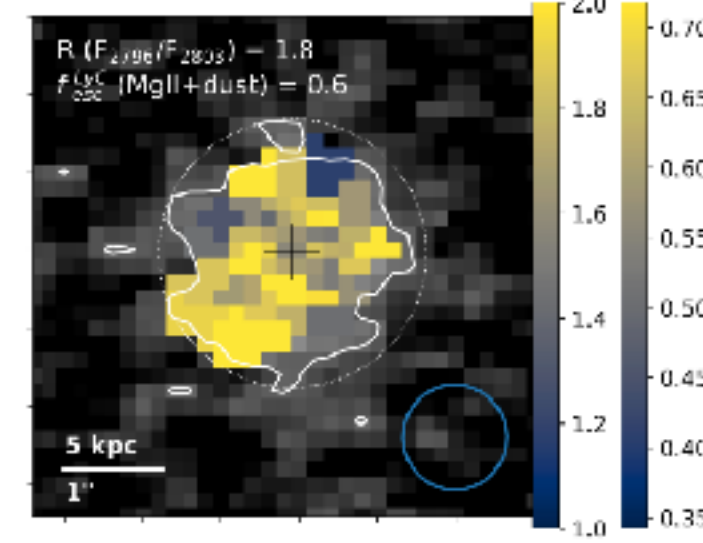
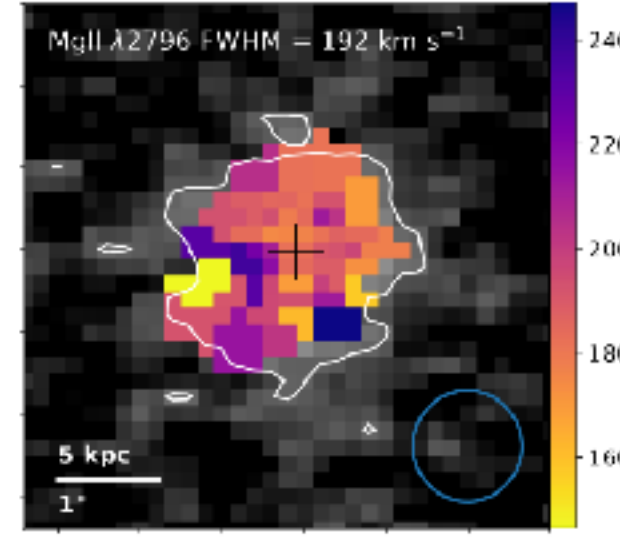
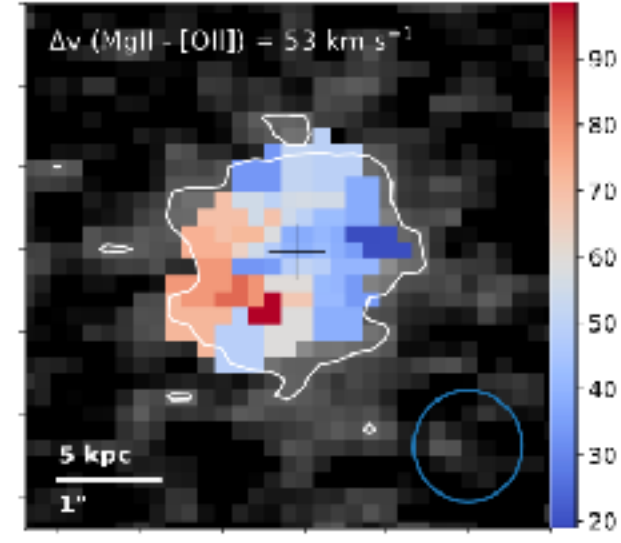
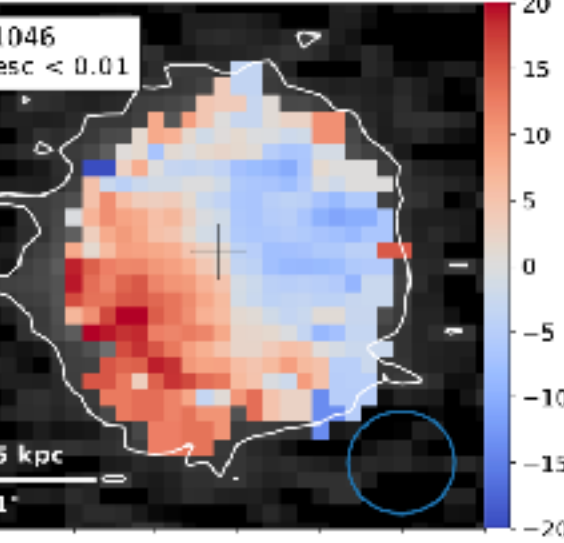
- [O II] velocity gradient in both leakers and non-leakers



- Mg II velocity gradient consistent with [O II] but shifted toward higher values (+40 km/s)



- Spatial variations in the doublet spectral properties



→ spatial variations of LyC escape

Ly α mapping of 41 LzLCS galaxies

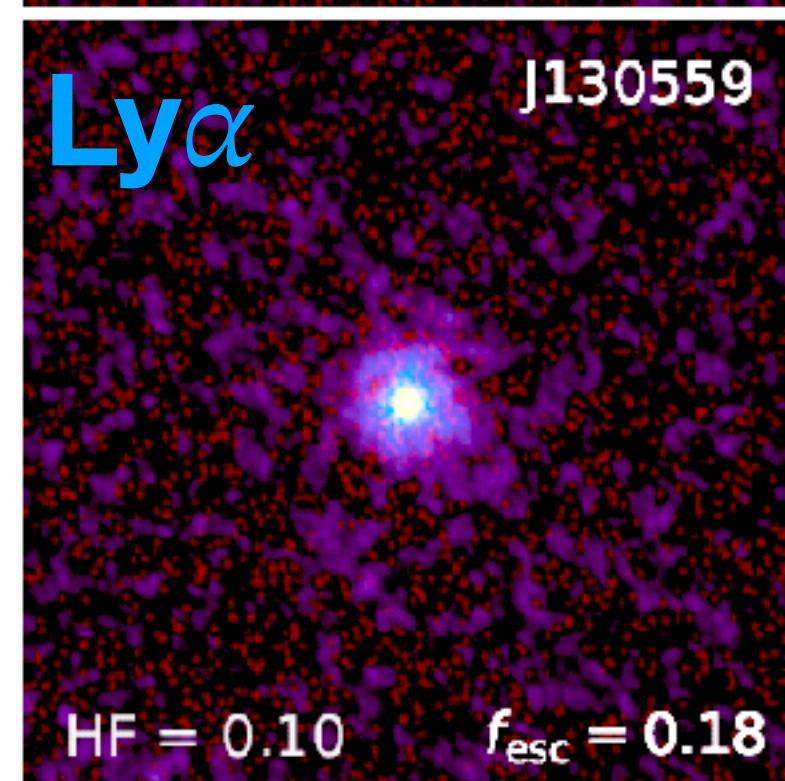
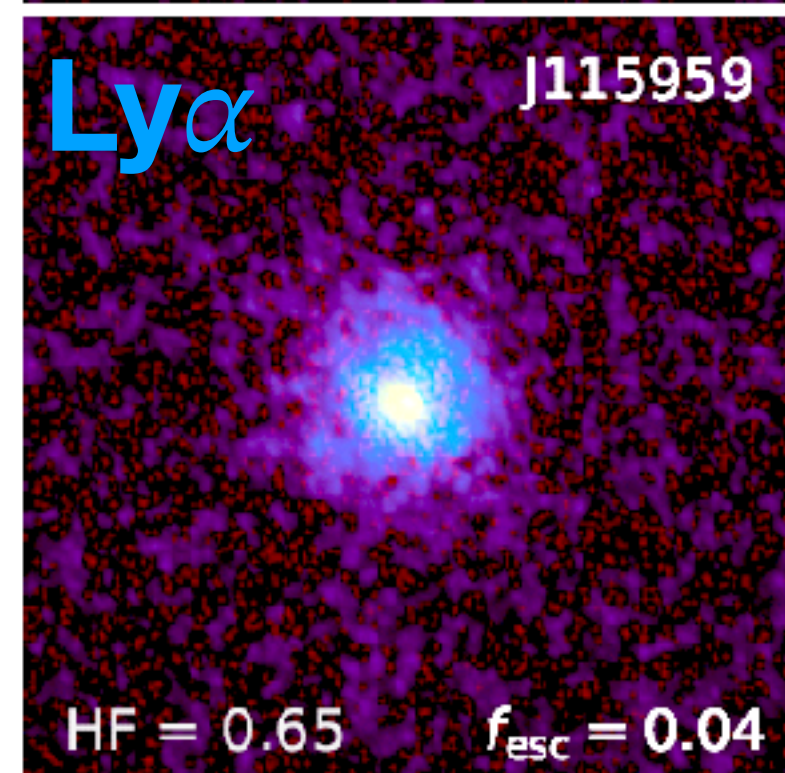
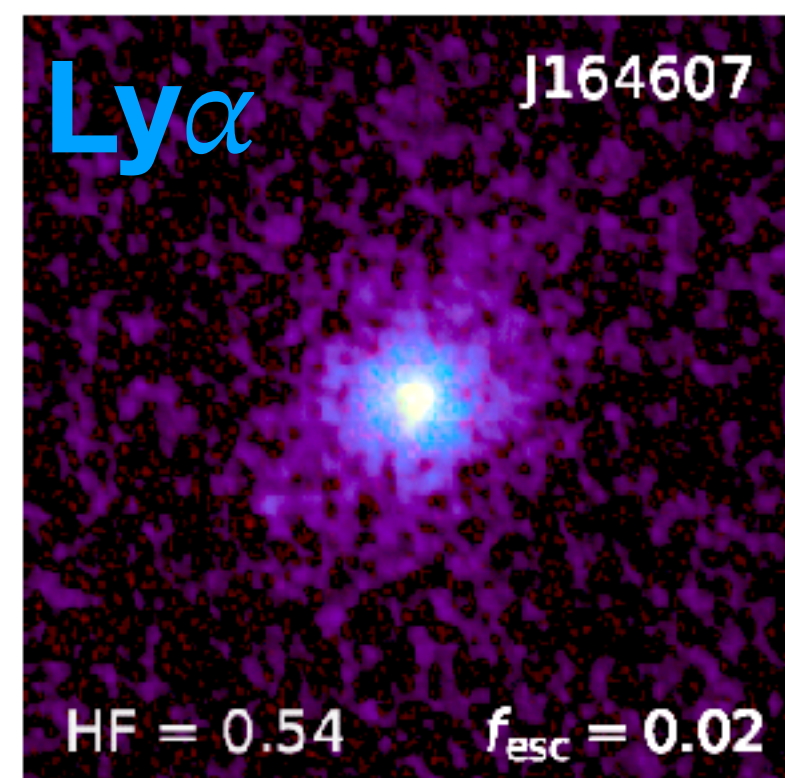
THE **LACOS** SURVEY: LYMAN ALPHA AND CONTINUUM ORIGINS SURVEY

 Alexandra's
talk

$\text{Ly}\alpha$ mapping of 41 LzLCS galaxies

THE **LACOS** SURVEY: LYMAN ALPHA AND CONTINUUM ORIGINS SURVEY

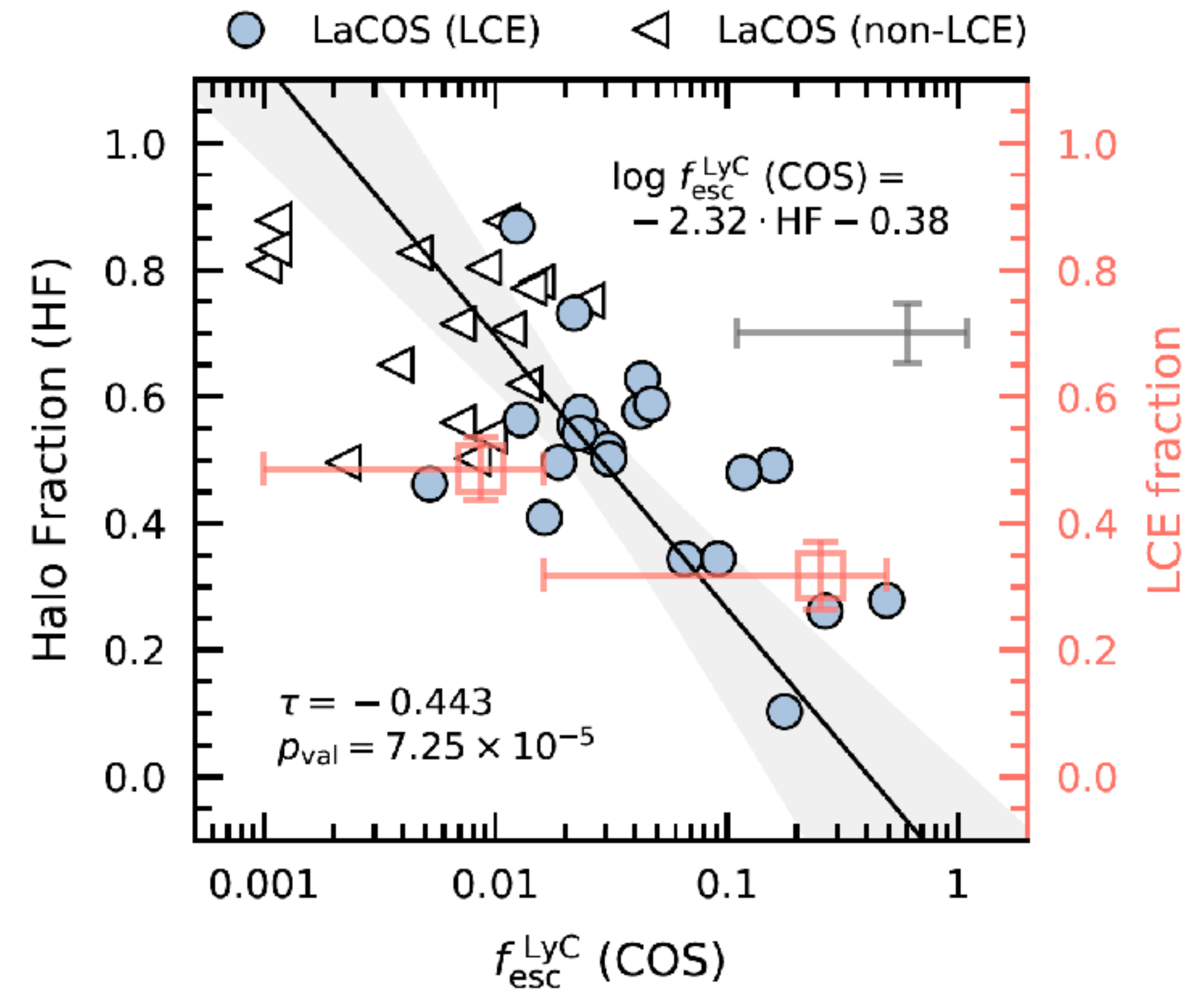
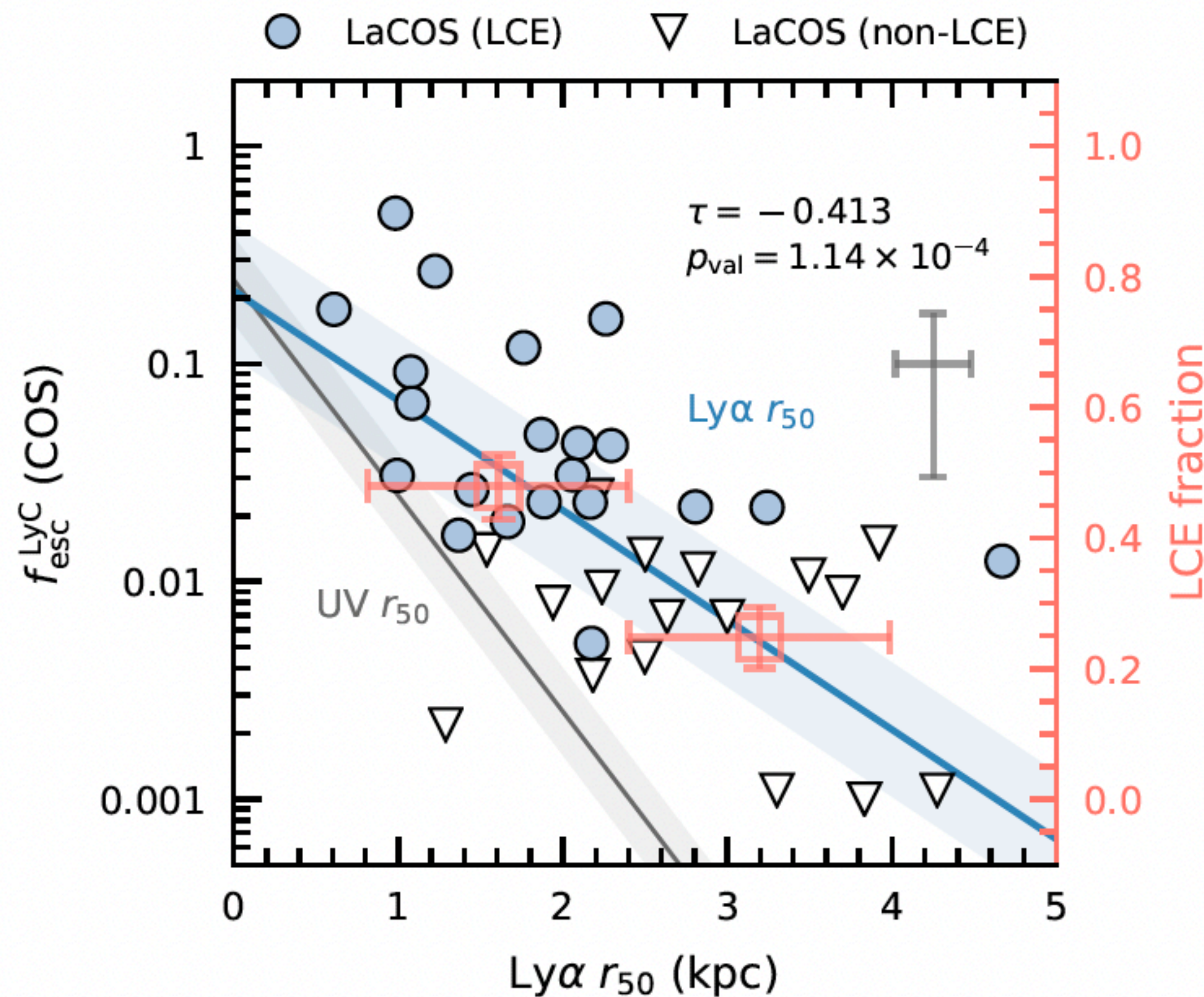
Alexandra's
talk



Ly α mapping of 41 LzLCS galaxies

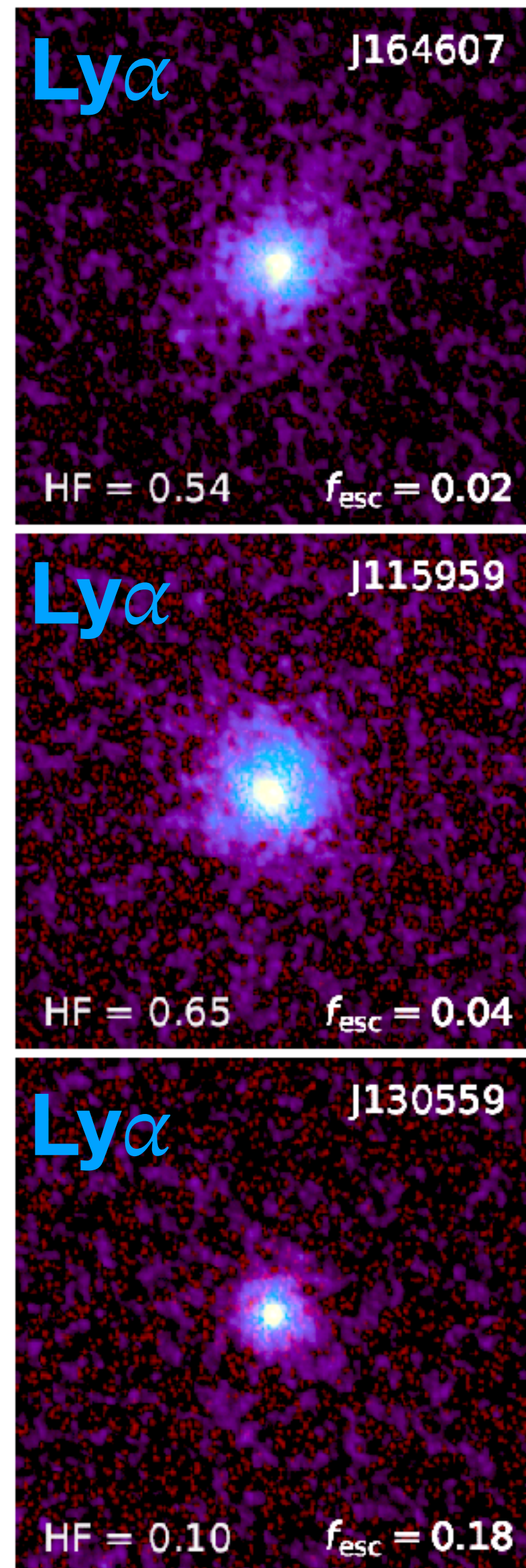
THE **LACOS** SURVEY: LYMAN ALPHA AND CONTINUUM ORIGINS SURVEY

Alexandra's talk



LyC emitters have more compact Ly α morphologies than non-LCEs

→ Good agreement with MgII study but not the same sample



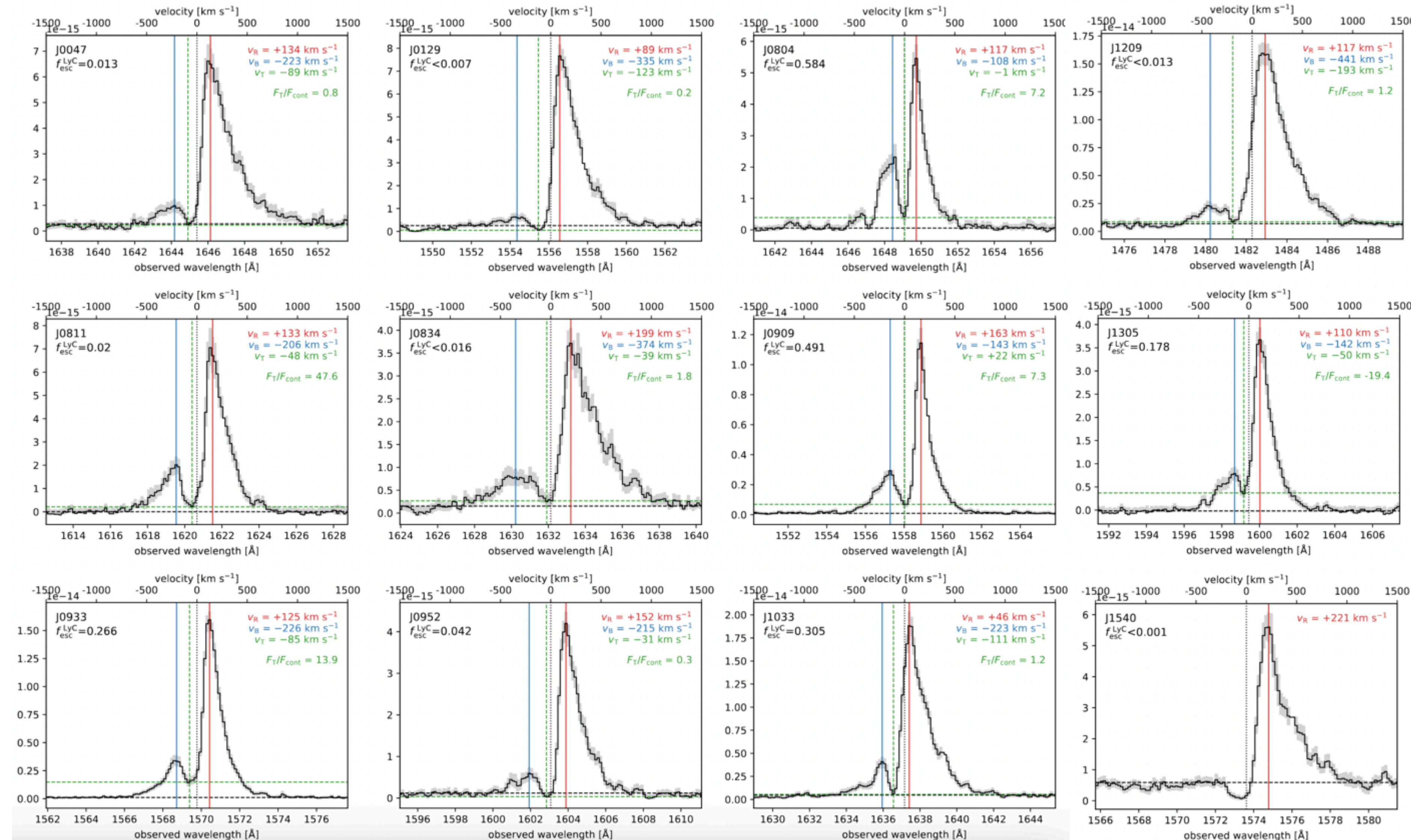
High resolution Ly α spectra of LyC leakers

Medium HST/COS program — PI: Leclercq — 49 orbits —> **15 LzLCS galaxies**

+ 27 archival objects

Henry et al. 2015,
Yang et al. 2017a,
Izotov et al. 2016a,b
Izotov et al. 18a,b
Izotov et al. 2021,

- 6 HST/COS programs
- Same data reduction
- Same spectral binning
- Same measurements



High resolution Ly α spectra of LyC leakers

Medium HST/COS program — PI: Leclercq — 49 orbits —> **15 LzLCS galaxies**

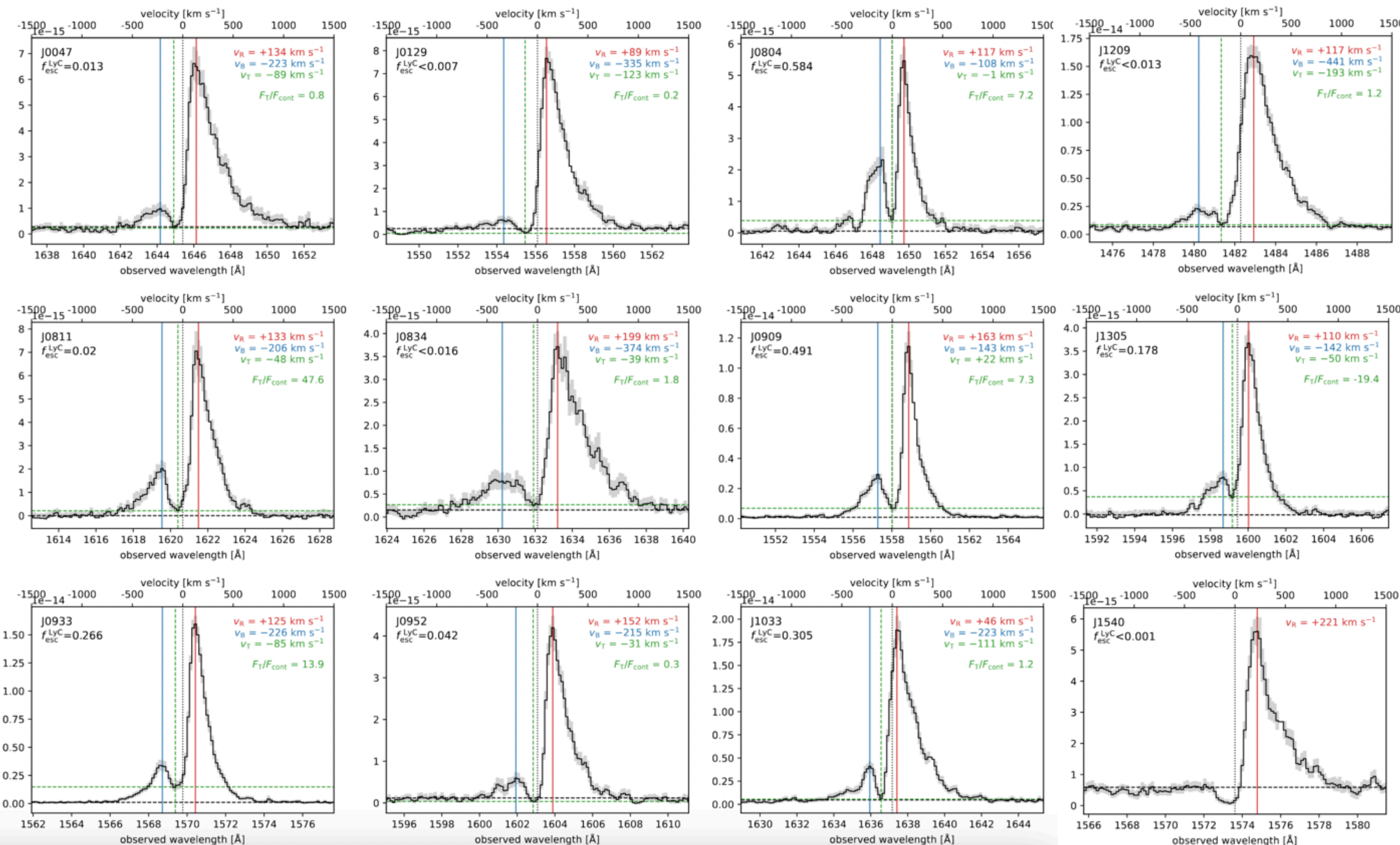
+ 27 archival objects

Henry et al. 2015,
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Izotov et al. 2016a,b
Izotov et al. 18a,b
Izotov et al. 2021,

- 6 HST/COS programs

- Same data reduction
- Same spectral binning
- Same measurements

→ First homogenous
and statistical sample
of **42 galaxies with
high-res LyA spectra**



Connecting LyC escape with LyA spatial and spectral properties

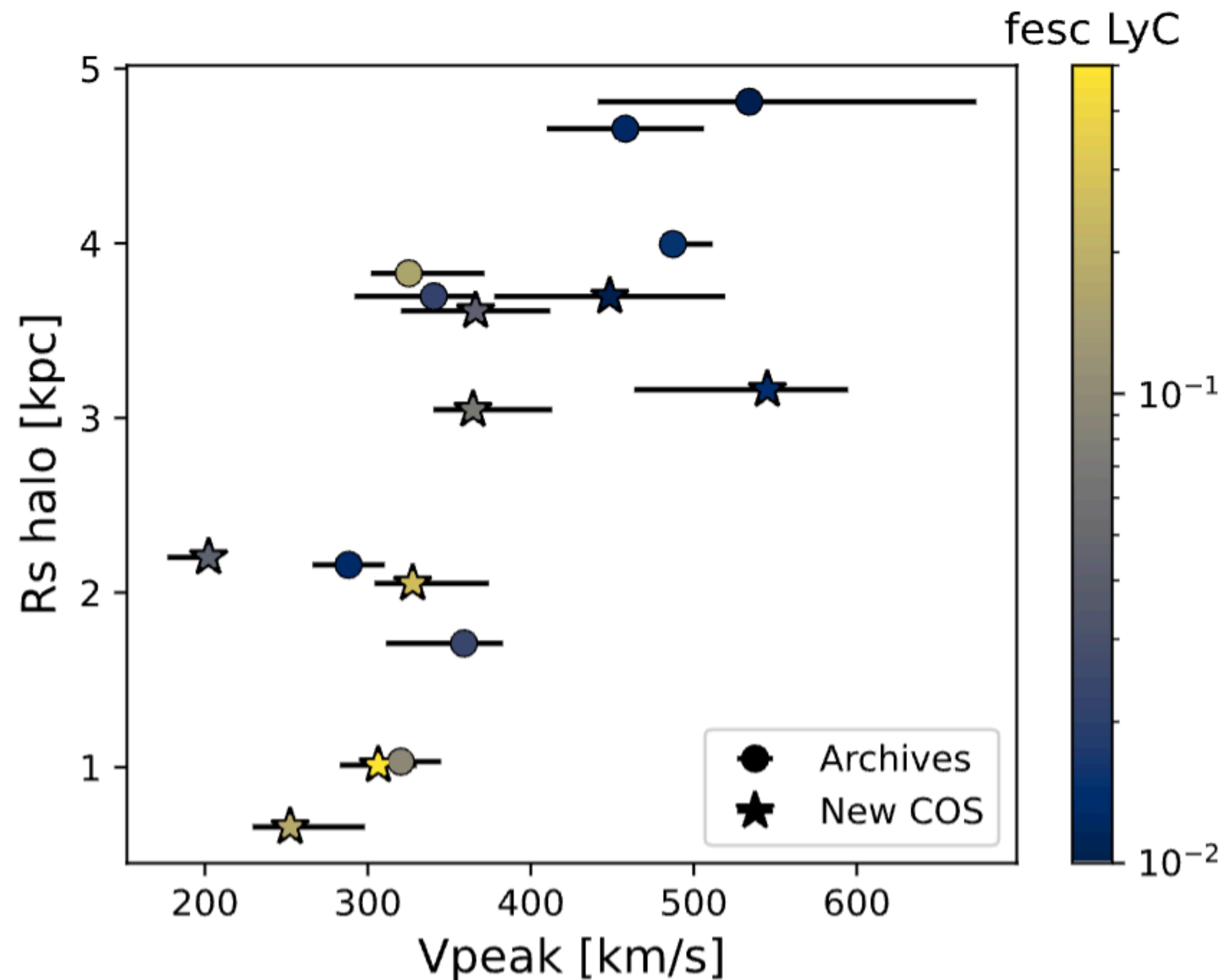
Preliminary

➡ **16** LzLCS galaxies with **both spatial and spectral LyA** observations

Connecting LyC escape with LyA spatial and spectral properties

Preliminary

➔ **16** LzLCS galaxies with **both spatial and spectral LyA** observations

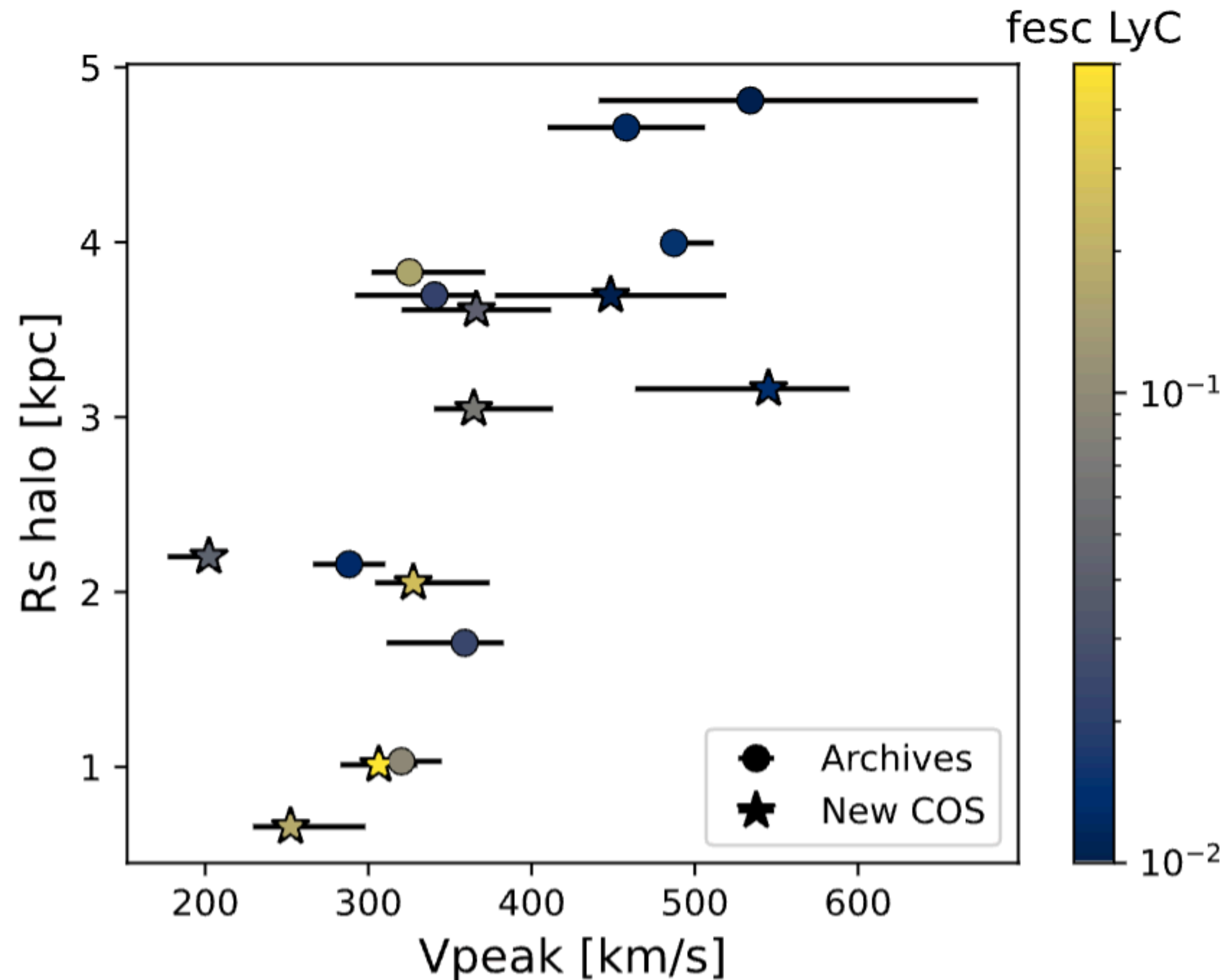


- LAH size and peak separation correlate
- Strong LCEs are more compact in LyA and have smaller peak separation

Connecting LyC escape with LyA spatial and spectral properties

Preliminary

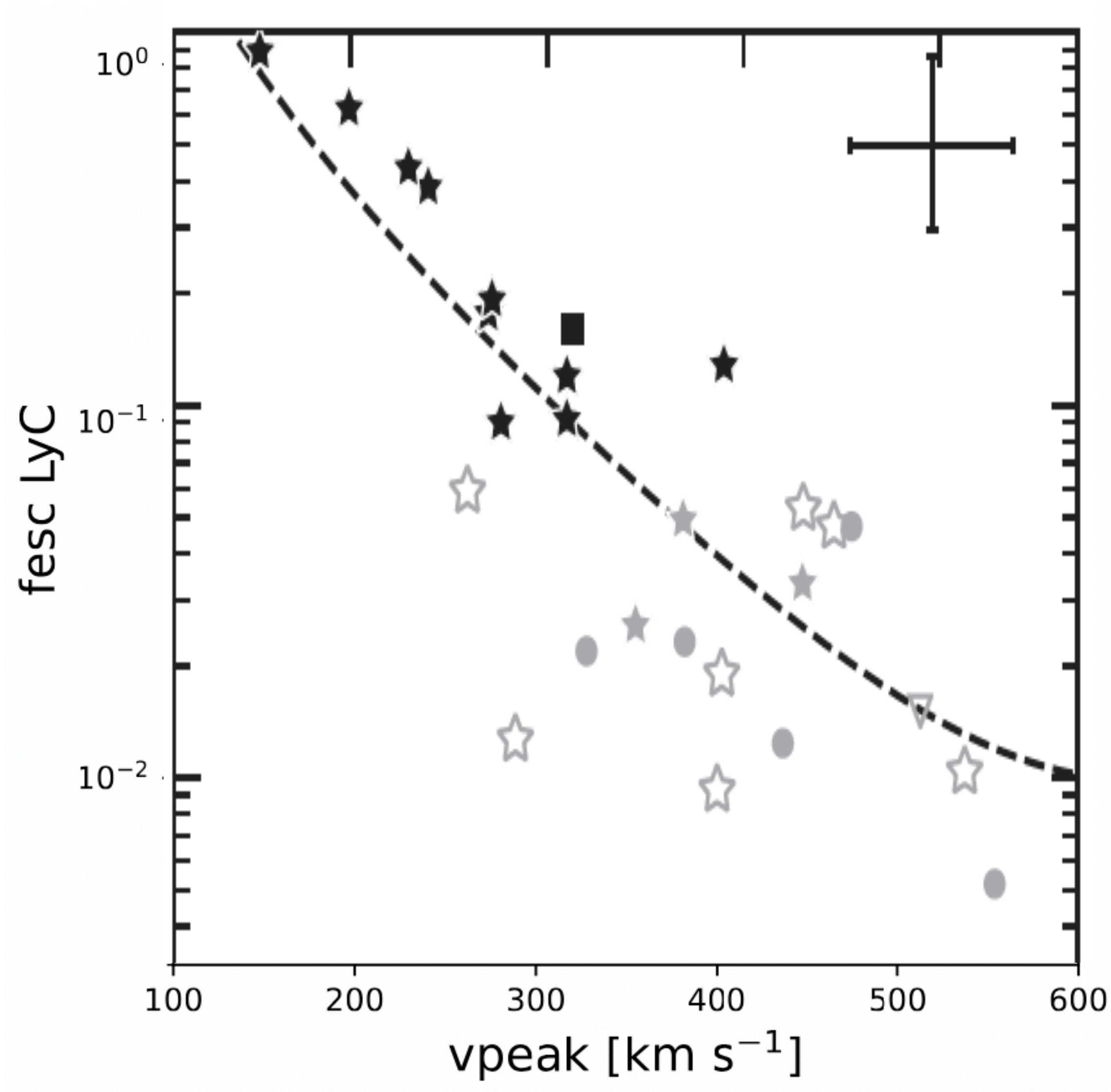
➔ **16** LzLCS galaxies with **both spatial and spectral LyA** observations



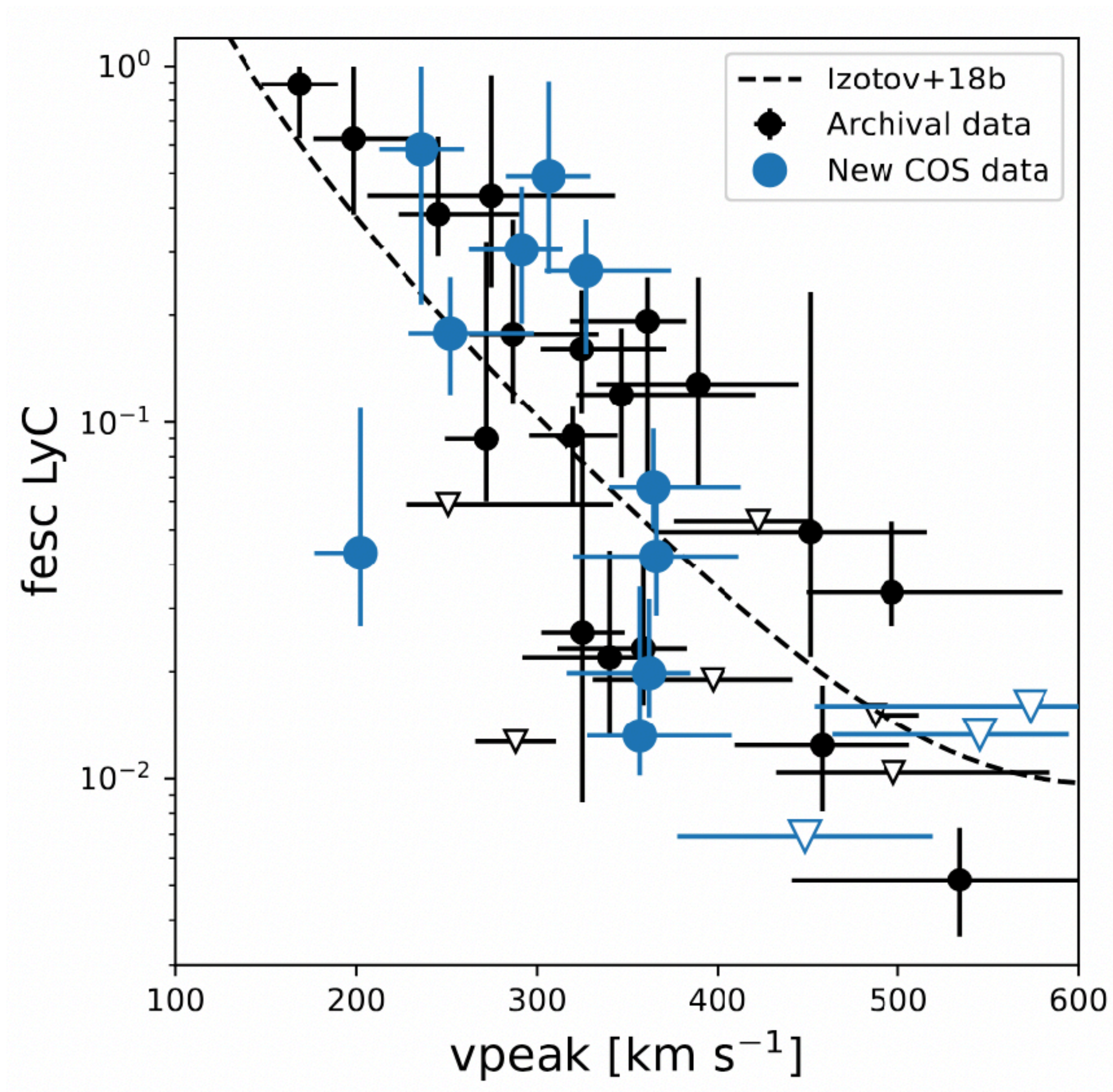
- LAH size and peak separation correlate
- Strong LCEs are more compact in LyA and have smaller peak separation

It's now possible to link **LyC** escape with both **LyA** spectral and spatial properties in **statistical sample**

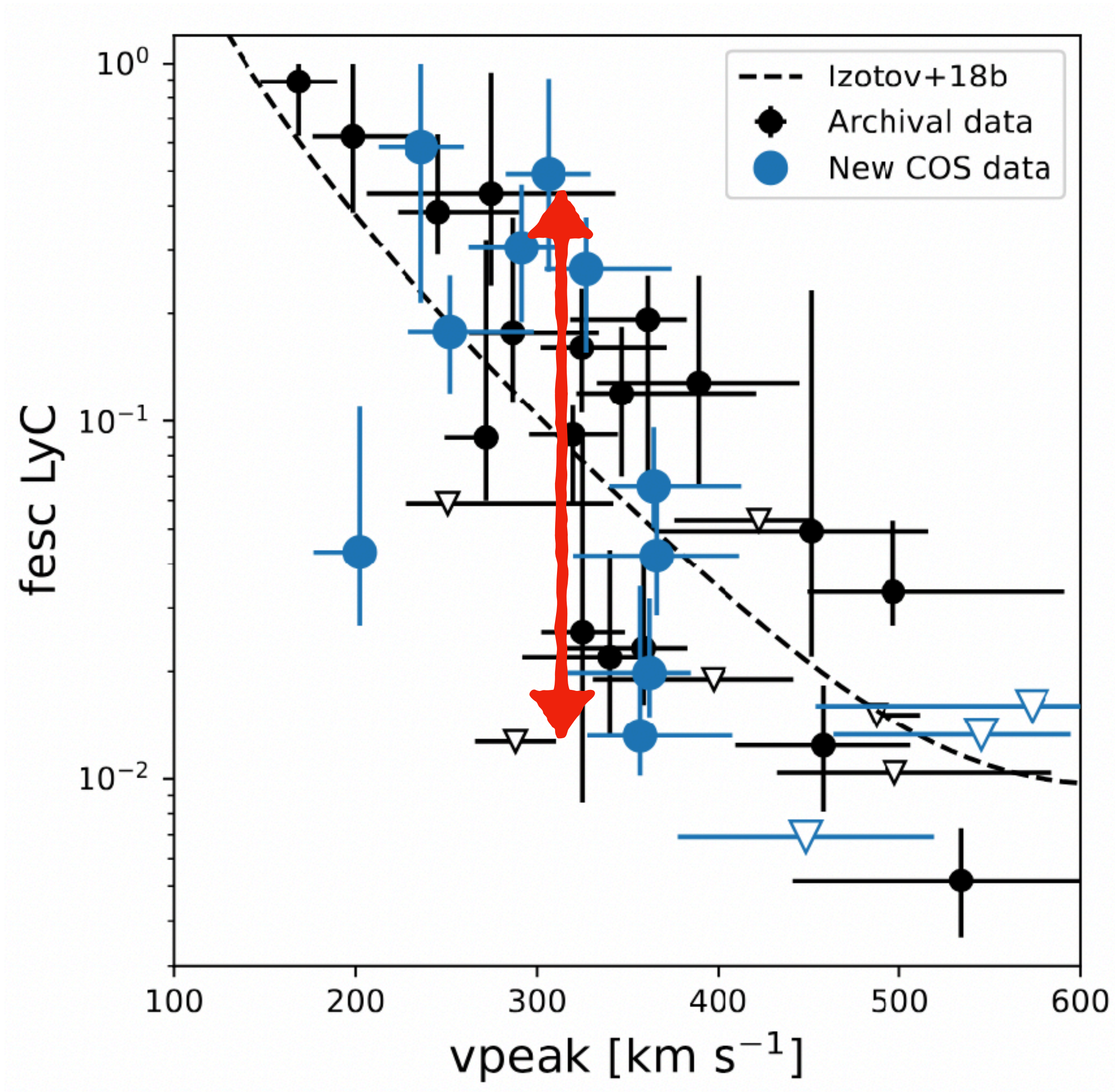
Updating the LyC fesc – LyA Vpeak relation



Updating the LyC fesc – LyA Vpeak relation



Updating the LyC fesc – LyA Vpeak relation

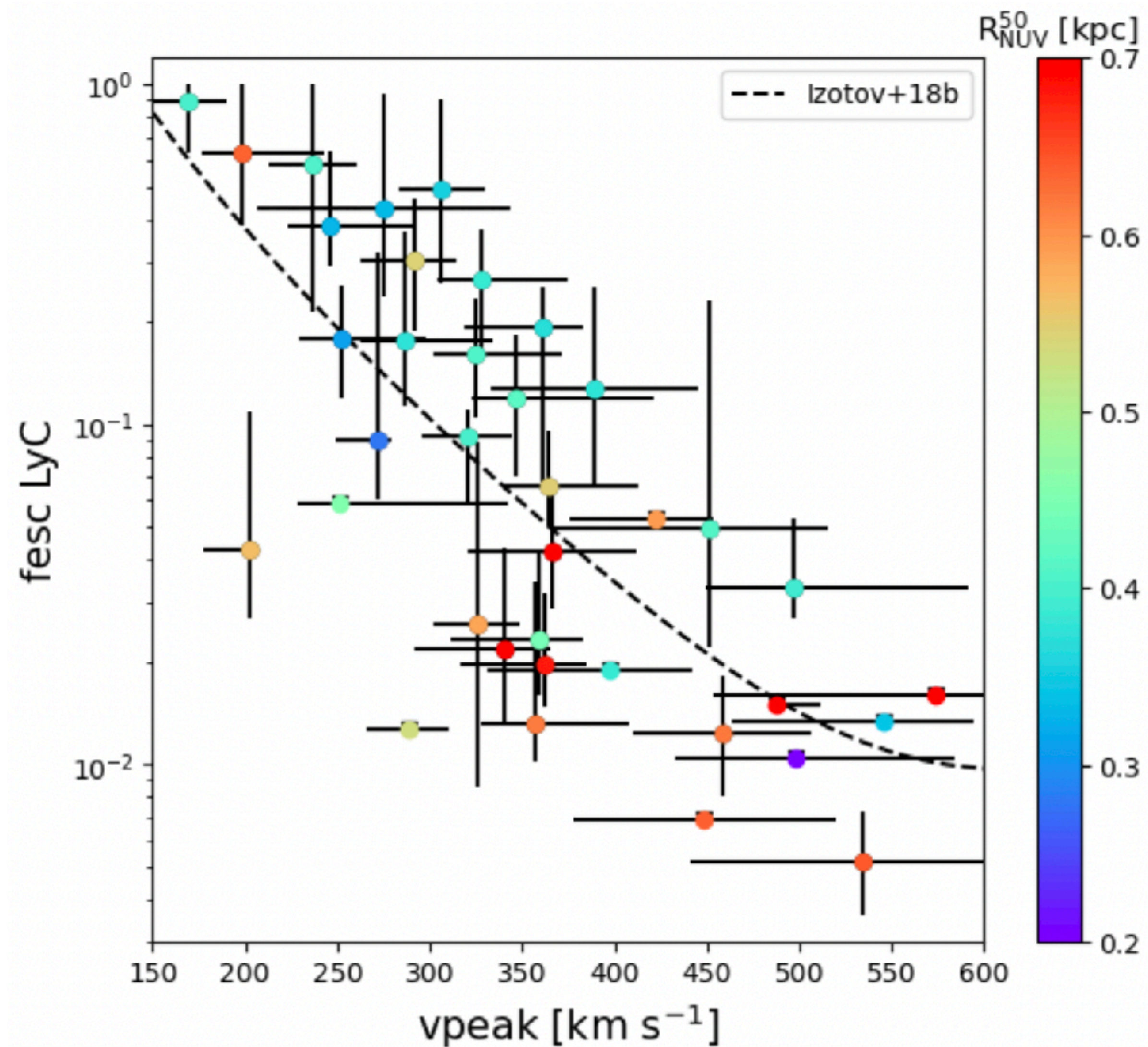


→ correlation between $f_{\text{esc}}(\text{LyC})$ and Lyman alpha peak separation holds

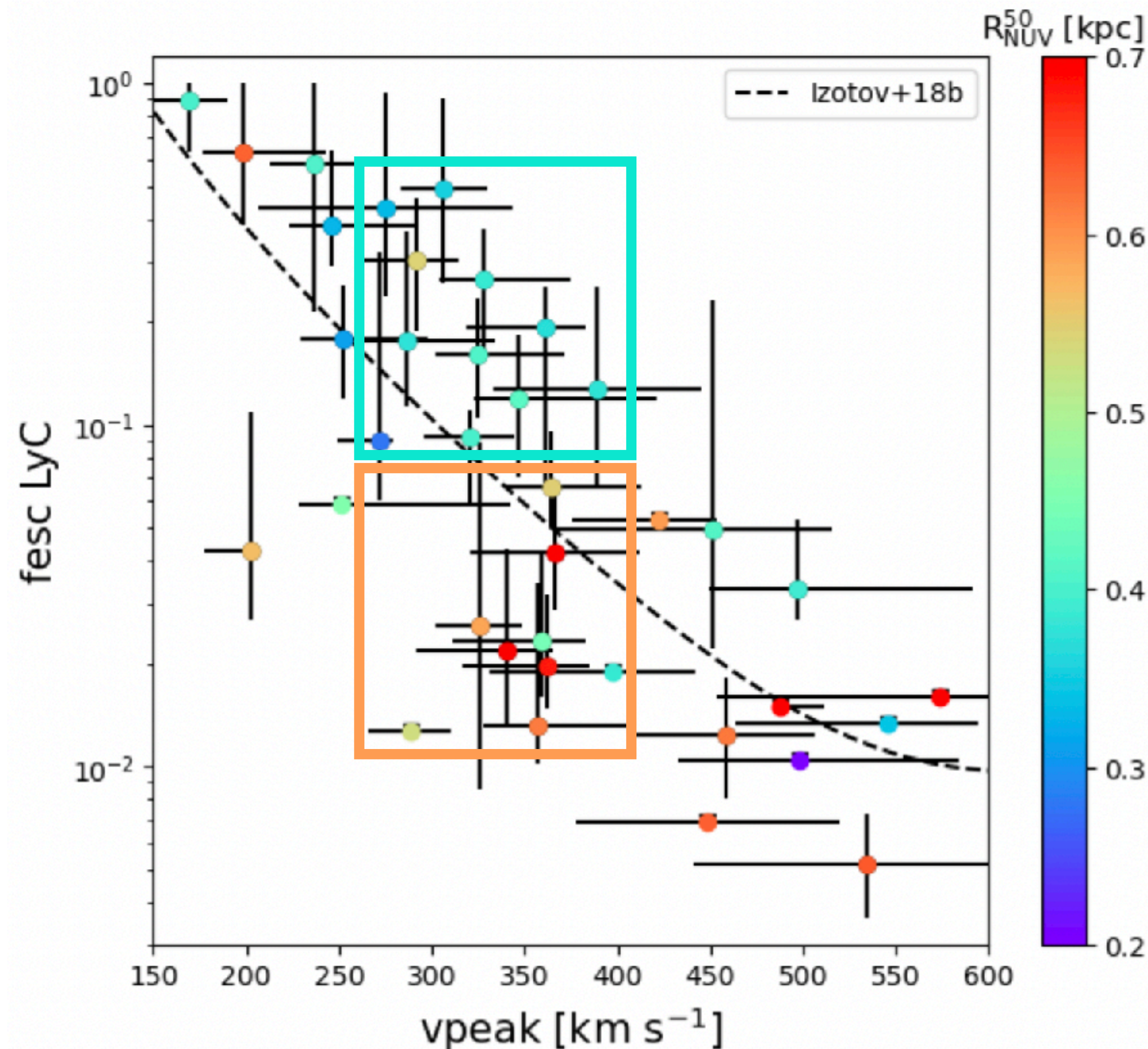
→ Scatter increased at $v_{\text{peak}} \sim 300 \text{ km/s}$

Is the scatter due to secondary parameters ?

Understanding the scatter in the LyC fesc – LyA Vpeak relation



Understanding the scatter in the LyC fesc – LyA Vpeak relation



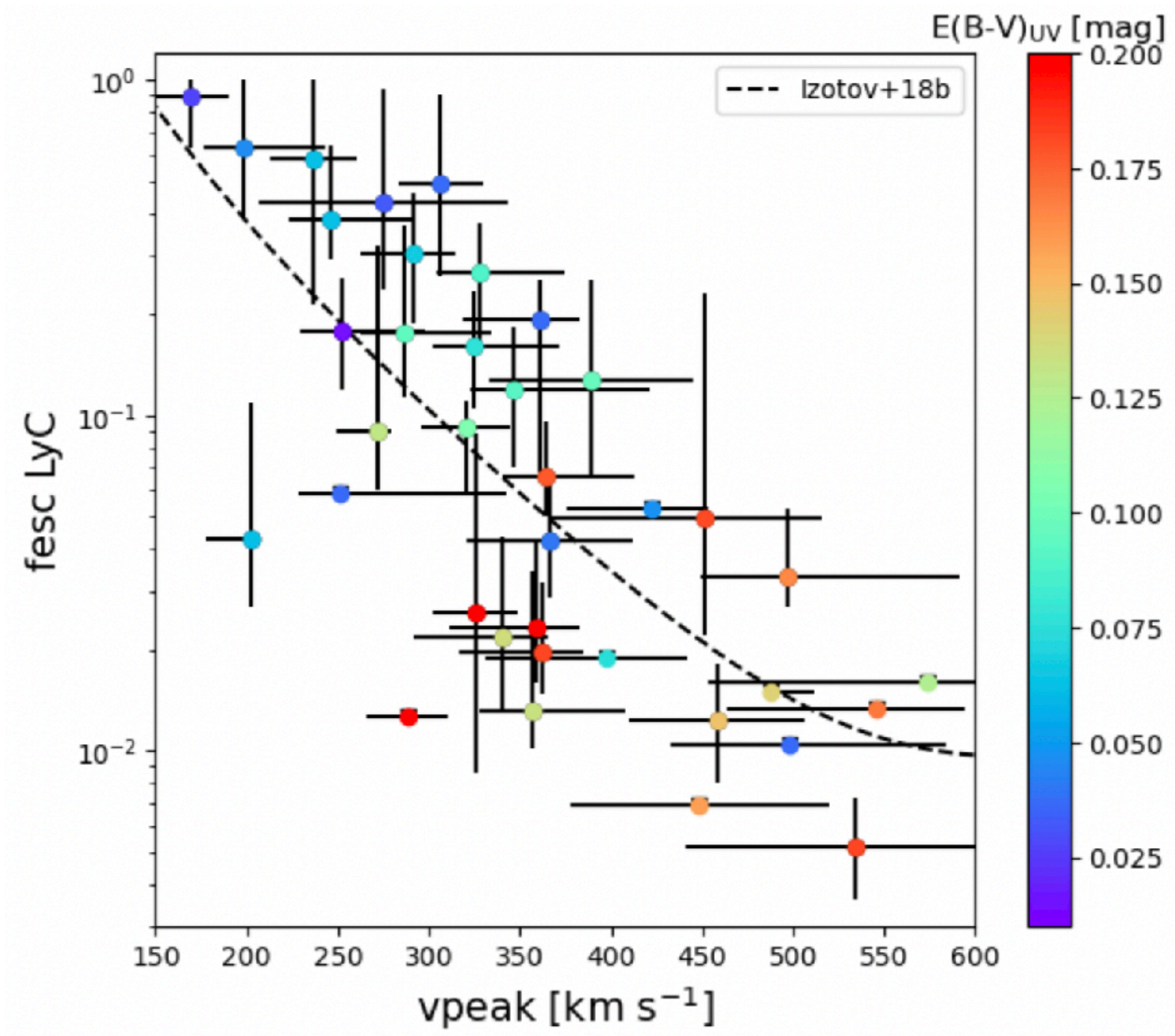
For $v_{\text{peak}} = [250 - 400] \text{ km/s}$:

$R_{\text{UV}} \lesssim 0.5 \text{ kpc} \rightarrow \text{fesc(LyC)} \gtrsim 8 \%$

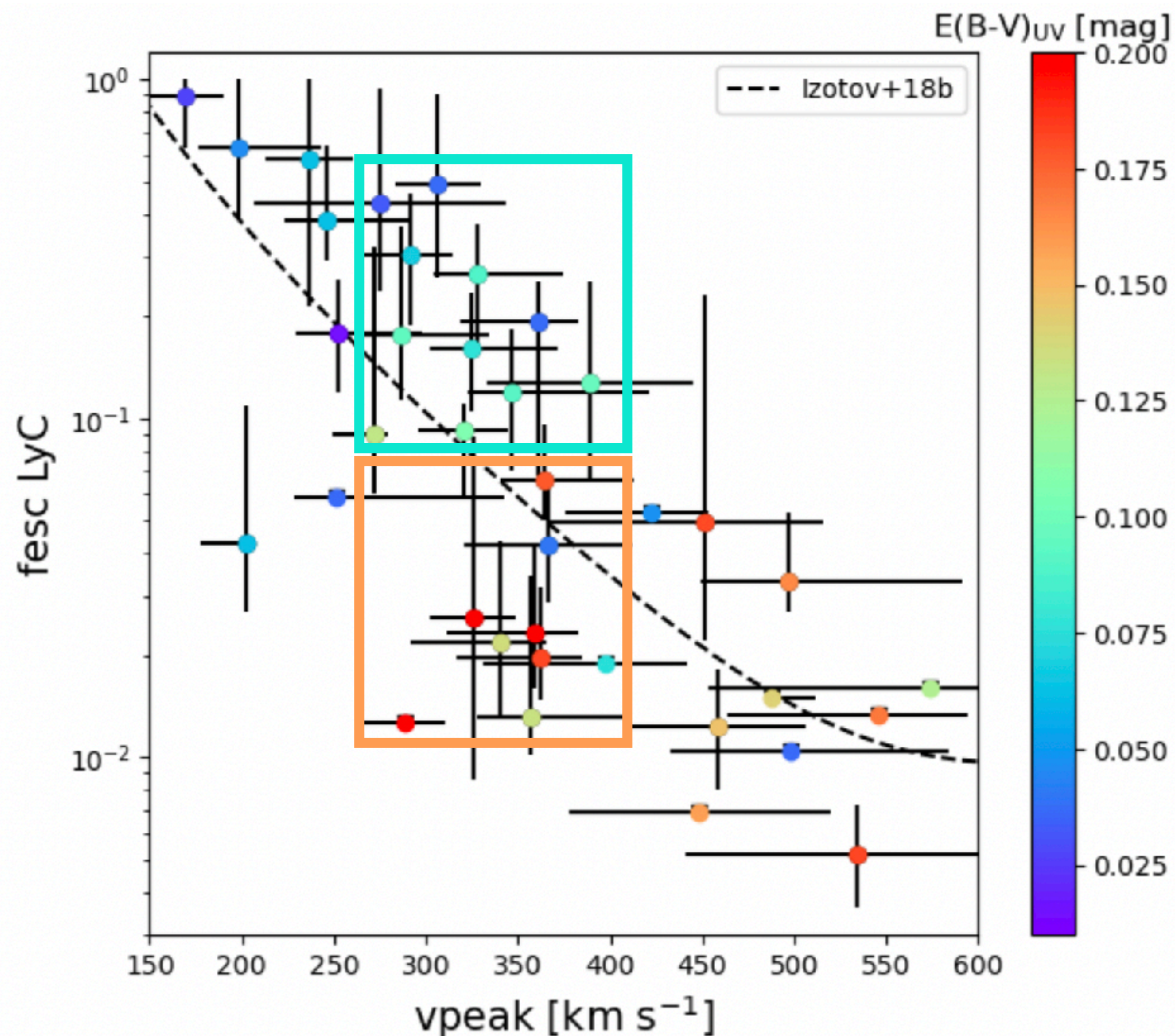
$R_{\text{UV}} \gtrsim 0.5 \text{ kpc} \rightarrow \text{fesc(LyC)} \lesssim 8 \%$

Our results suggest that the scatter is driven by the **galaxy UV size**

Understanding the scatter in the LyC fesc – LyA Vpeak relation



Understanding the scatter in the LyC fesc – LyA Vpeak relation



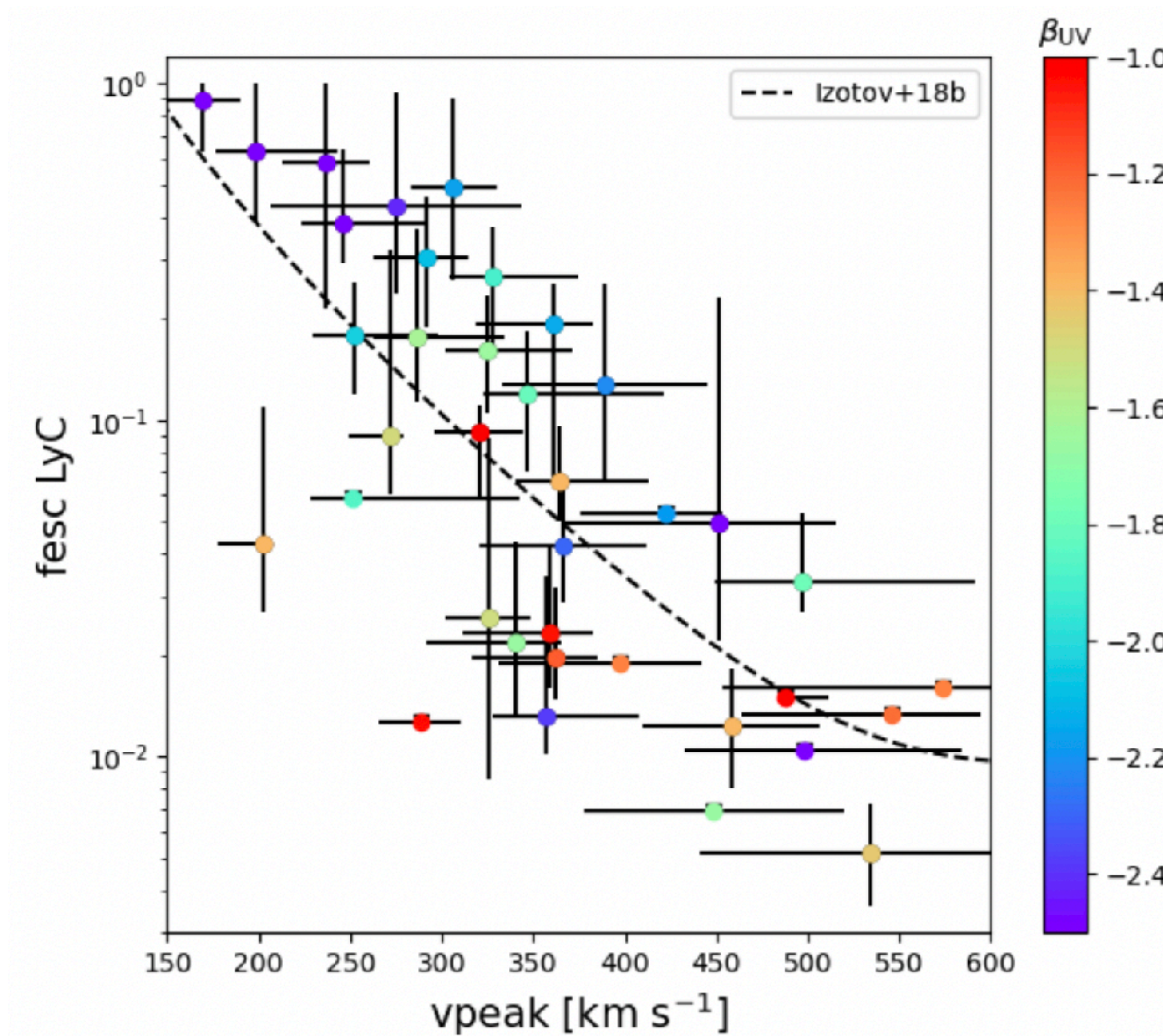
For vpeak = [250 - 400] km/s :

$E(B-V) \lesssim 0.1 \text{ mag} \rightarrow \text{fesc(LyC)} \gtrsim 5\%$

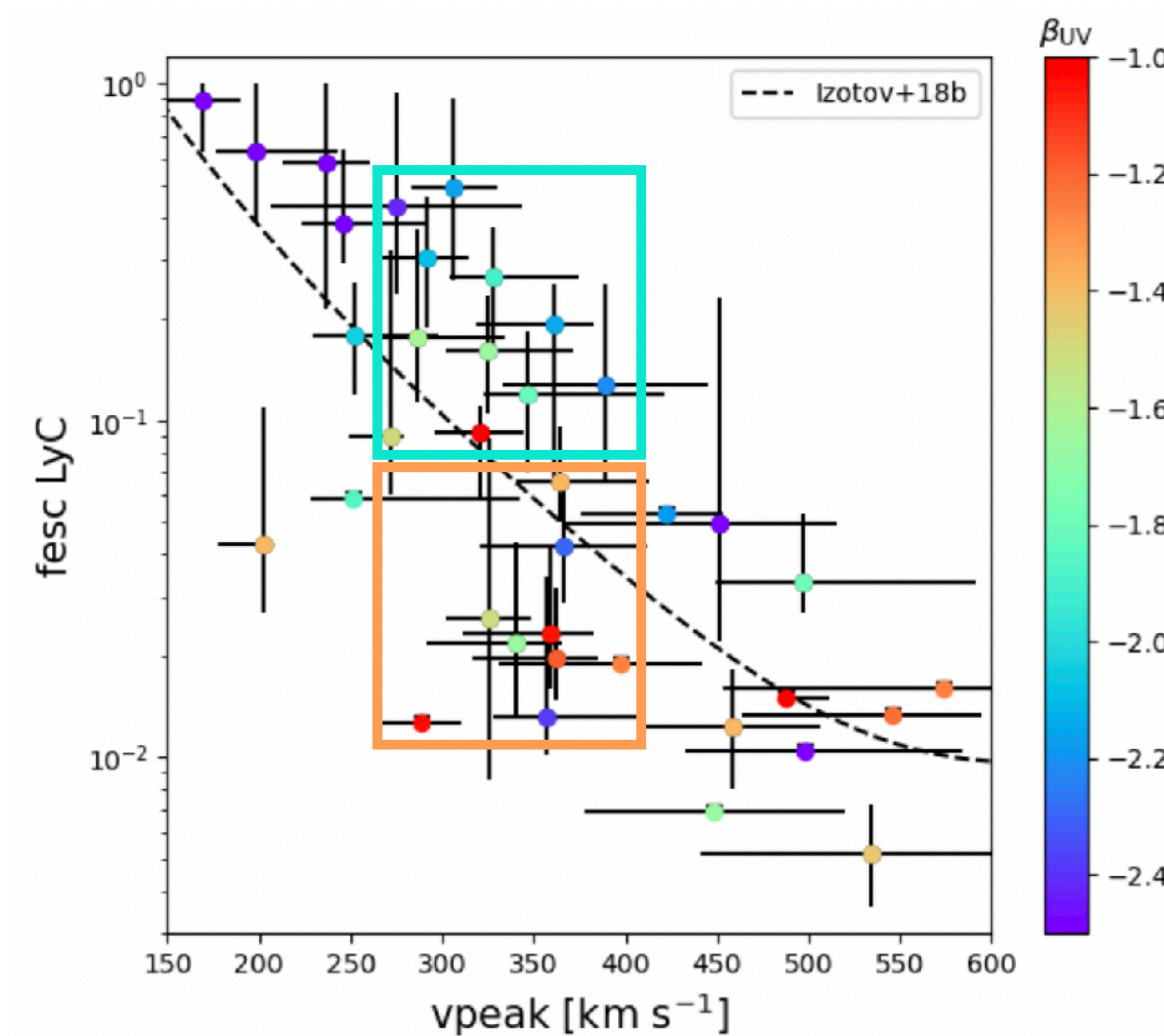
$E(B-V) \gtrsim 0.1 \text{ mag} \rightarrow \text{fesc(LyC)} \lesssim 5\%$

Our results suggest that the scatter is driven by the **dust extinction**

Understanding the scatter in the LyC fesc – LyA Vpeak relation



Understanding the scatter in the LyC fesc – LyA Vpeak relation



For LyA $v_{\text{peak}} = [250 - 400]$ km/s bin :

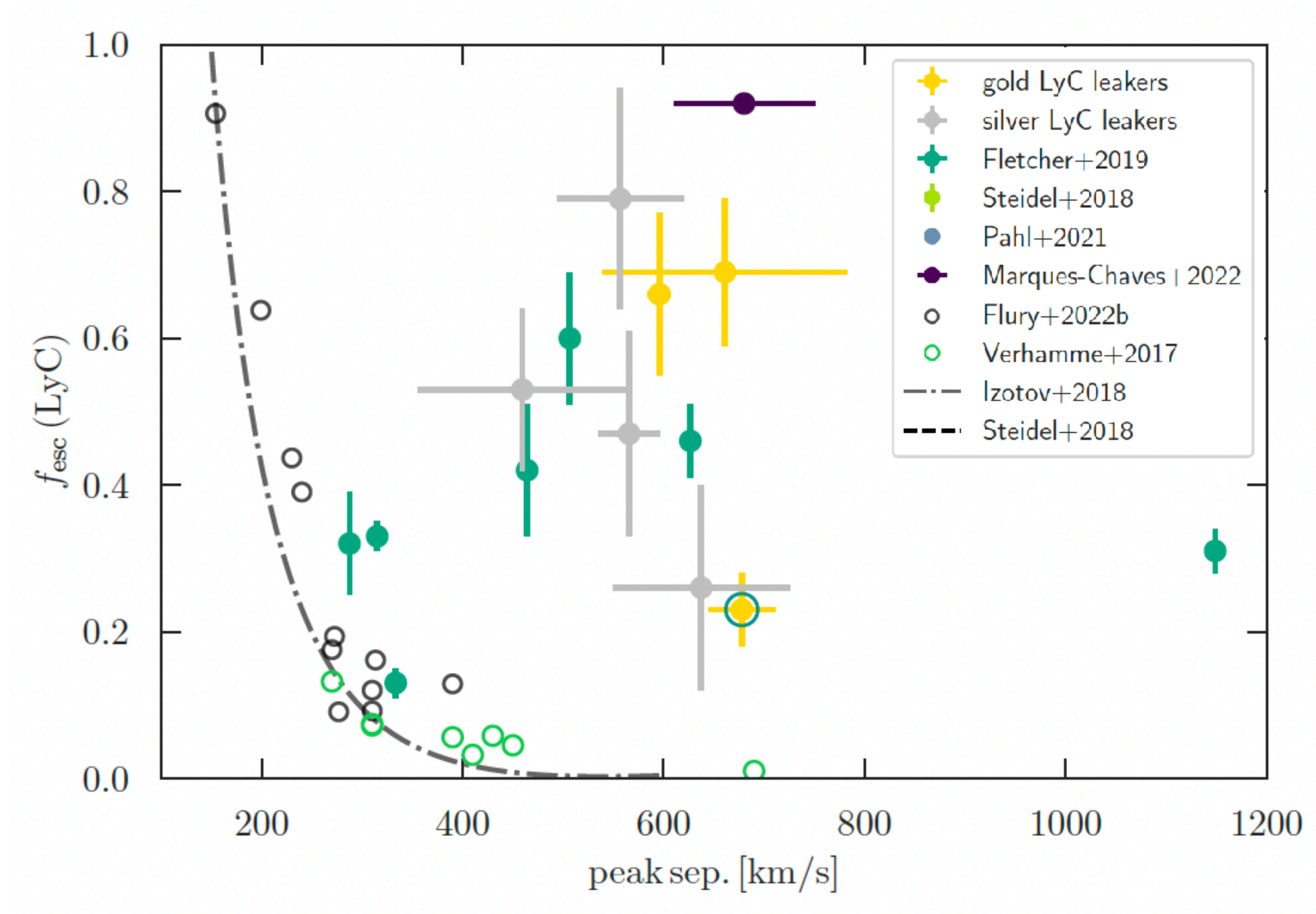
β slope $\lesssim -1.8 \rightarrow f_{\text{esc LyC}} \gtrsim 5\%$

β slope $\gtrsim -1.5 \rightarrow f_{\text{esc LyC}} \lesssim 5\%$

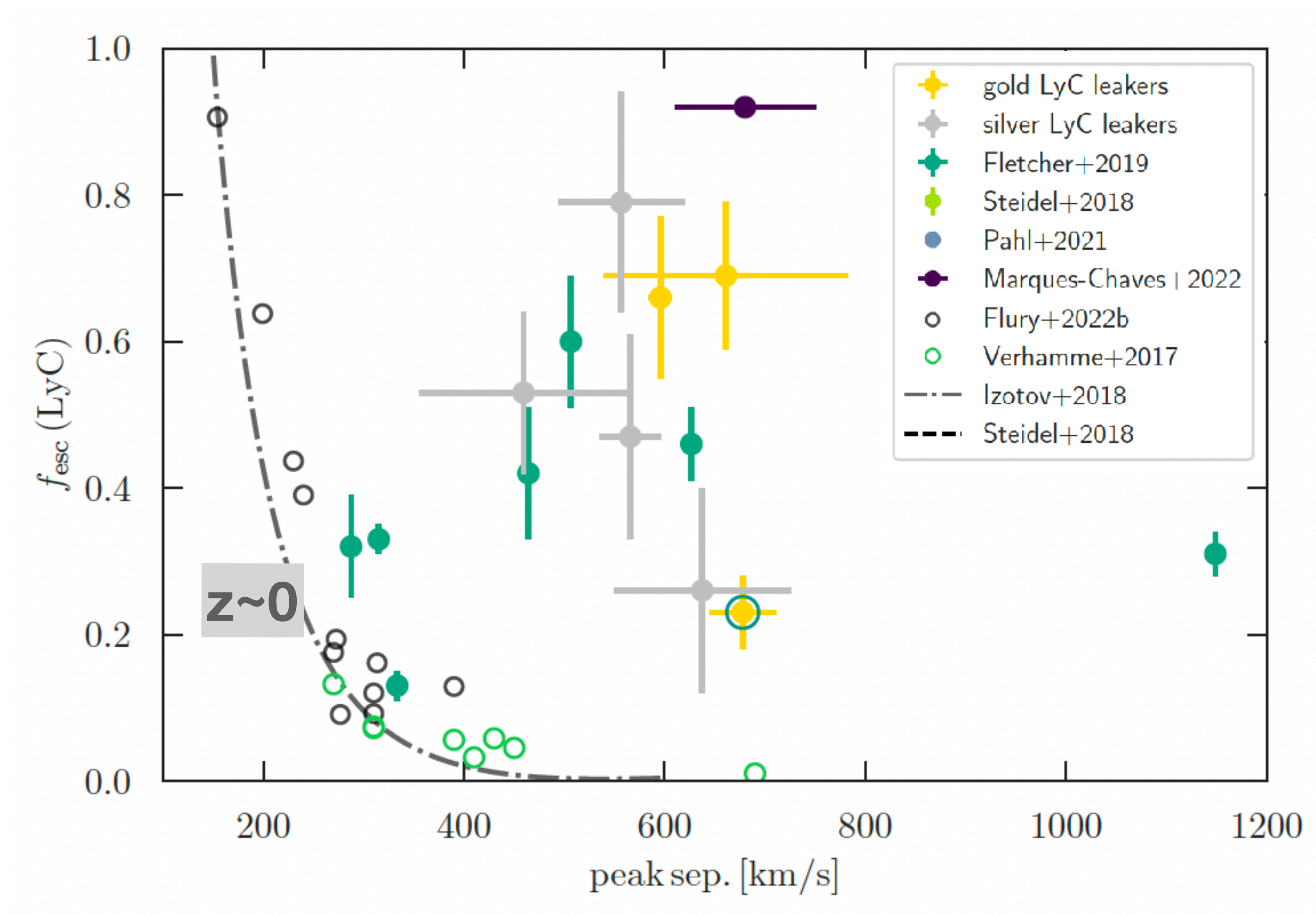
The scatter can also be due to the UV beta slope

**LyA peak separation + UV size + dust
= refining of the $f_{\text{esc LyC}}$ prediction**

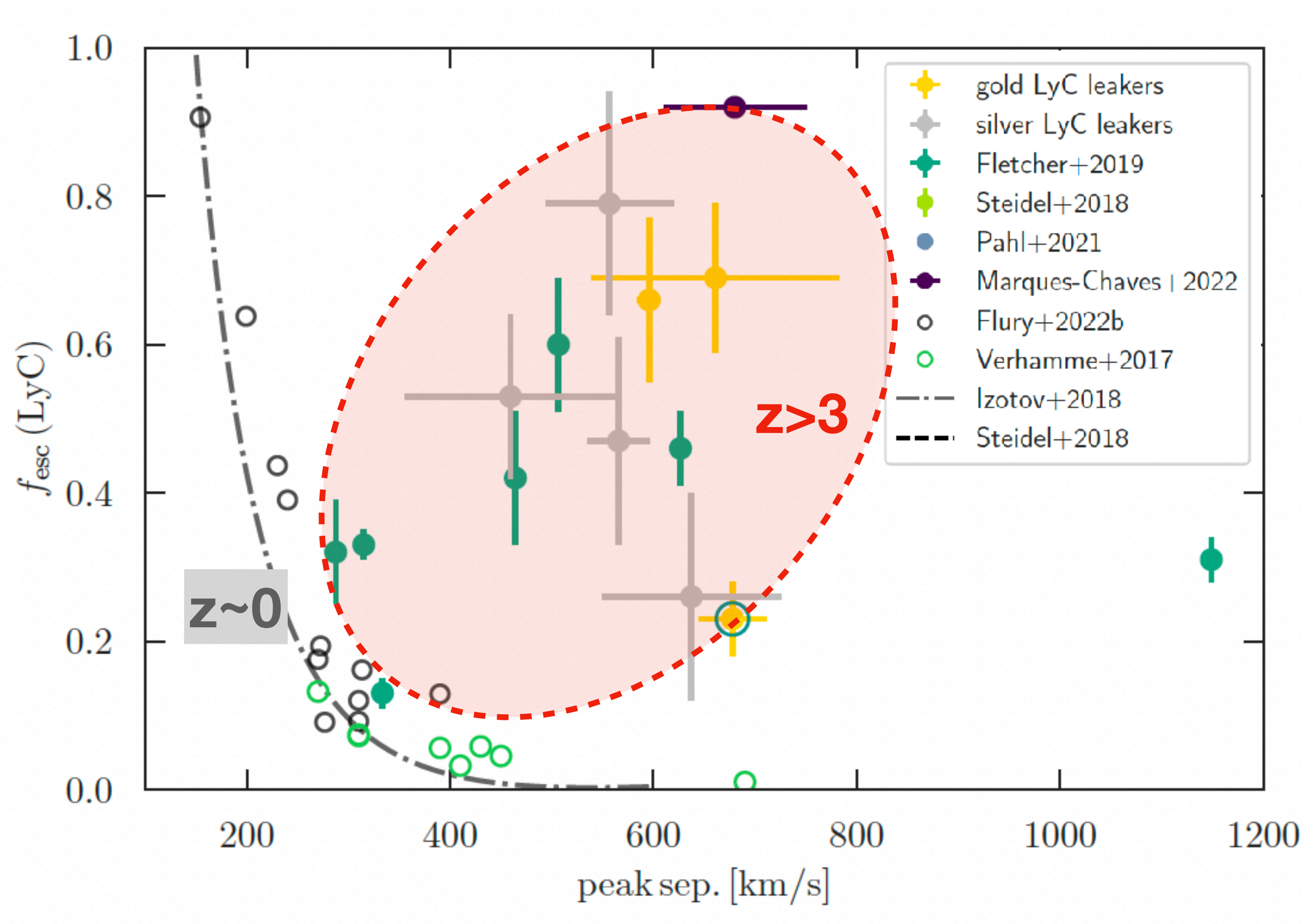
The LyC fesc – LyA Vpeak relation at high z



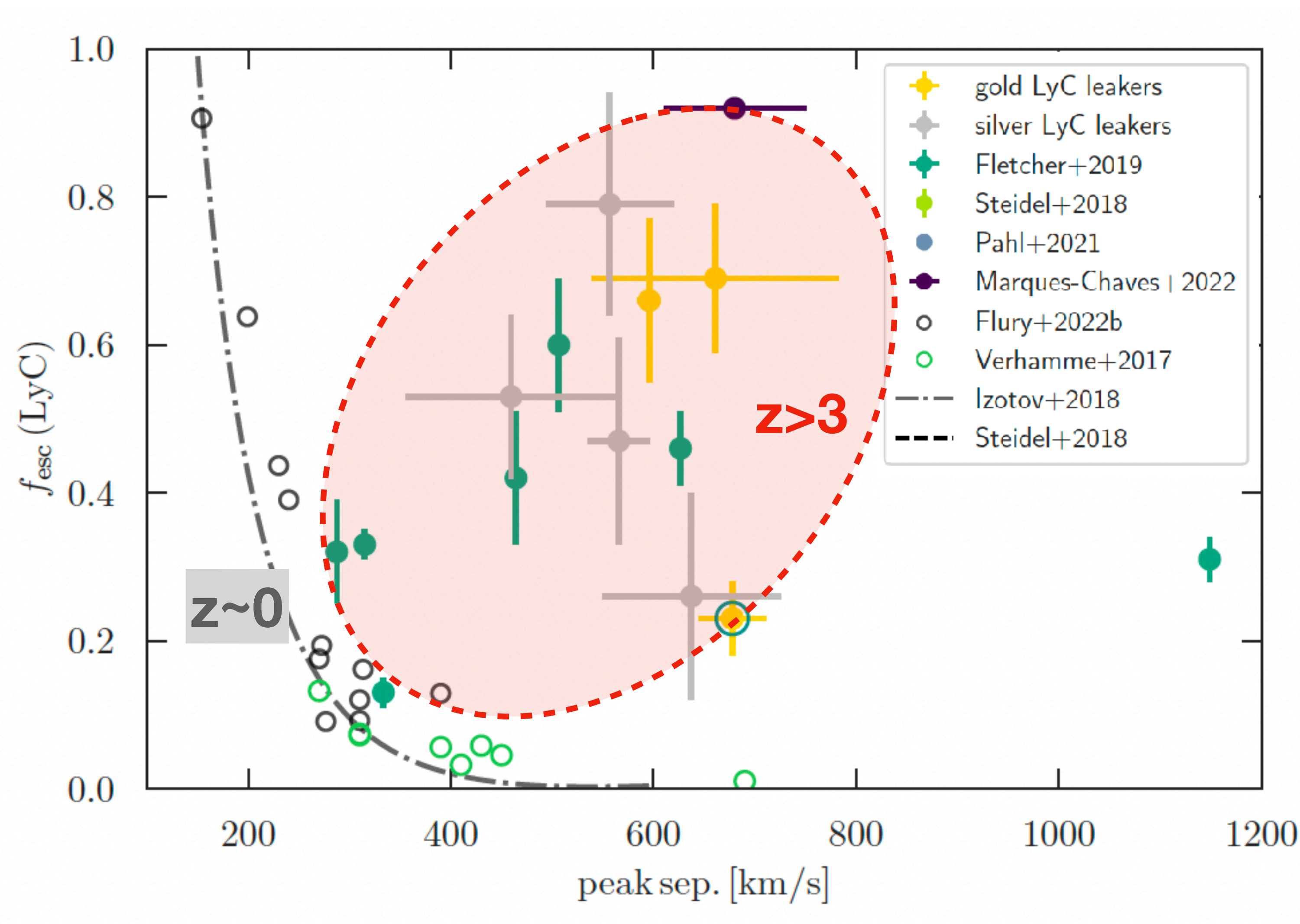
The LyC fesc – LyA Vpeak relation at high z



The LyC fesc – LyA Vpeak relation at high z



The LyC fesc – LyA Vpeak relation at high z



Redshift evolution
or selection effects ?

**Need larger and non-biased
samples at all z**

HI mapping with LyA **at high z**

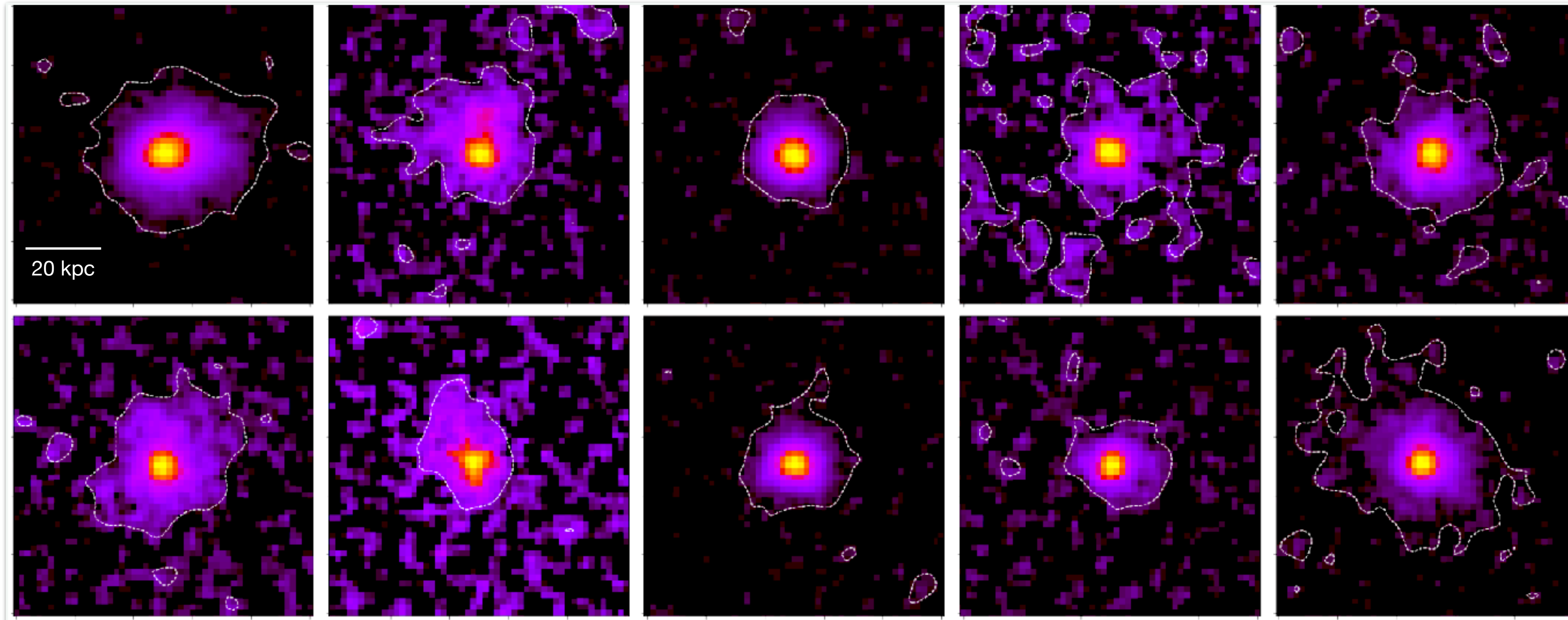


HI mapping with LyA at high z

MUSE GTO deep fields
($t_{\text{exp}} > 10\text{h}$) : UDF (Bacon et al. 2017)

Also Daniil and
John's talks

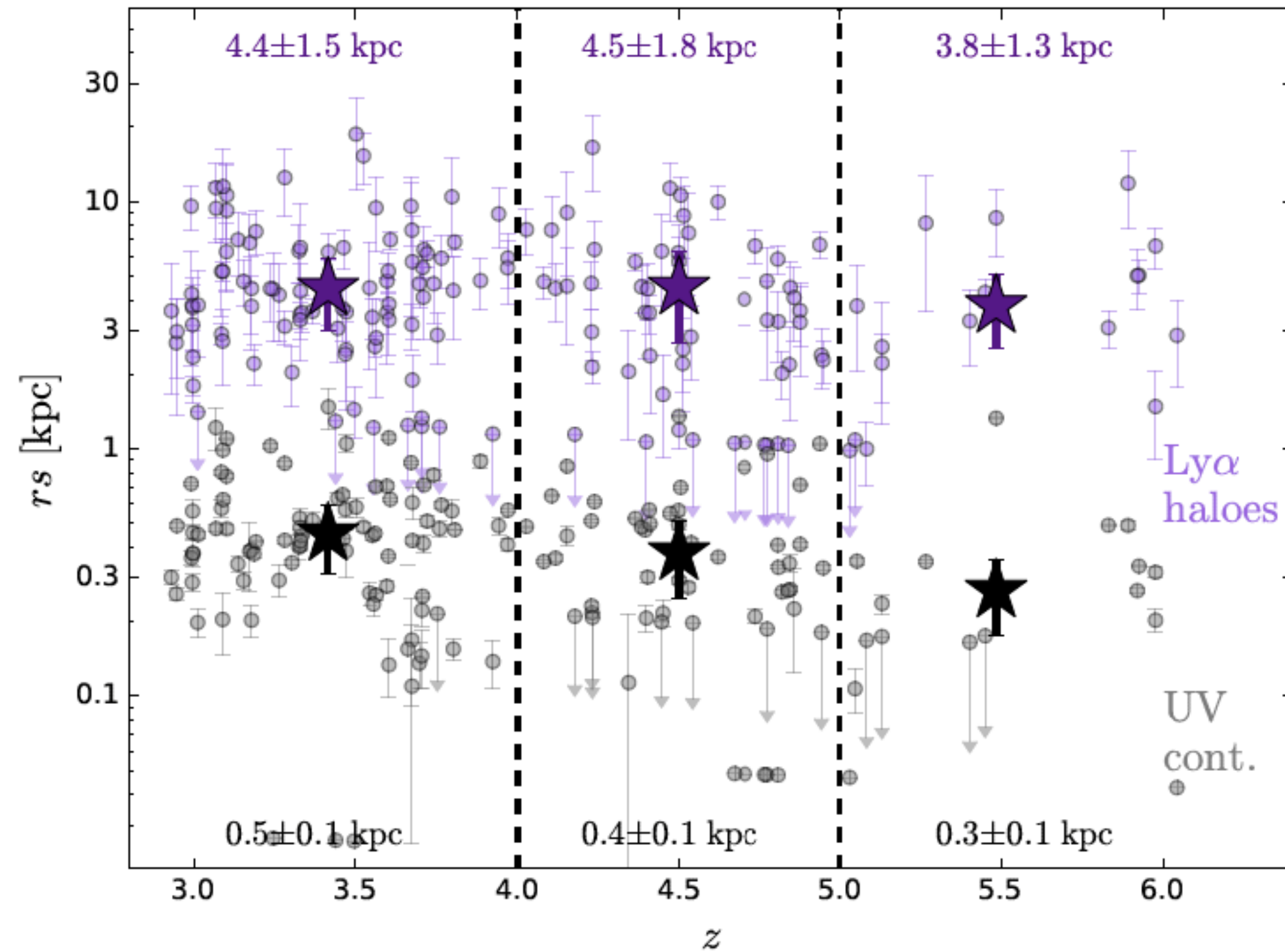
Leclercq et al. 2017
Wisotzki et al. 2016



**Ly α haloes are ubiquitous
around galaxies at $z > 3$**

- ▶ Extend over tens of pkpc (10-30)
- ▶ 10 times more extended than UV continuum
- ▶ 65% of the total Ly α flux is in the halo !

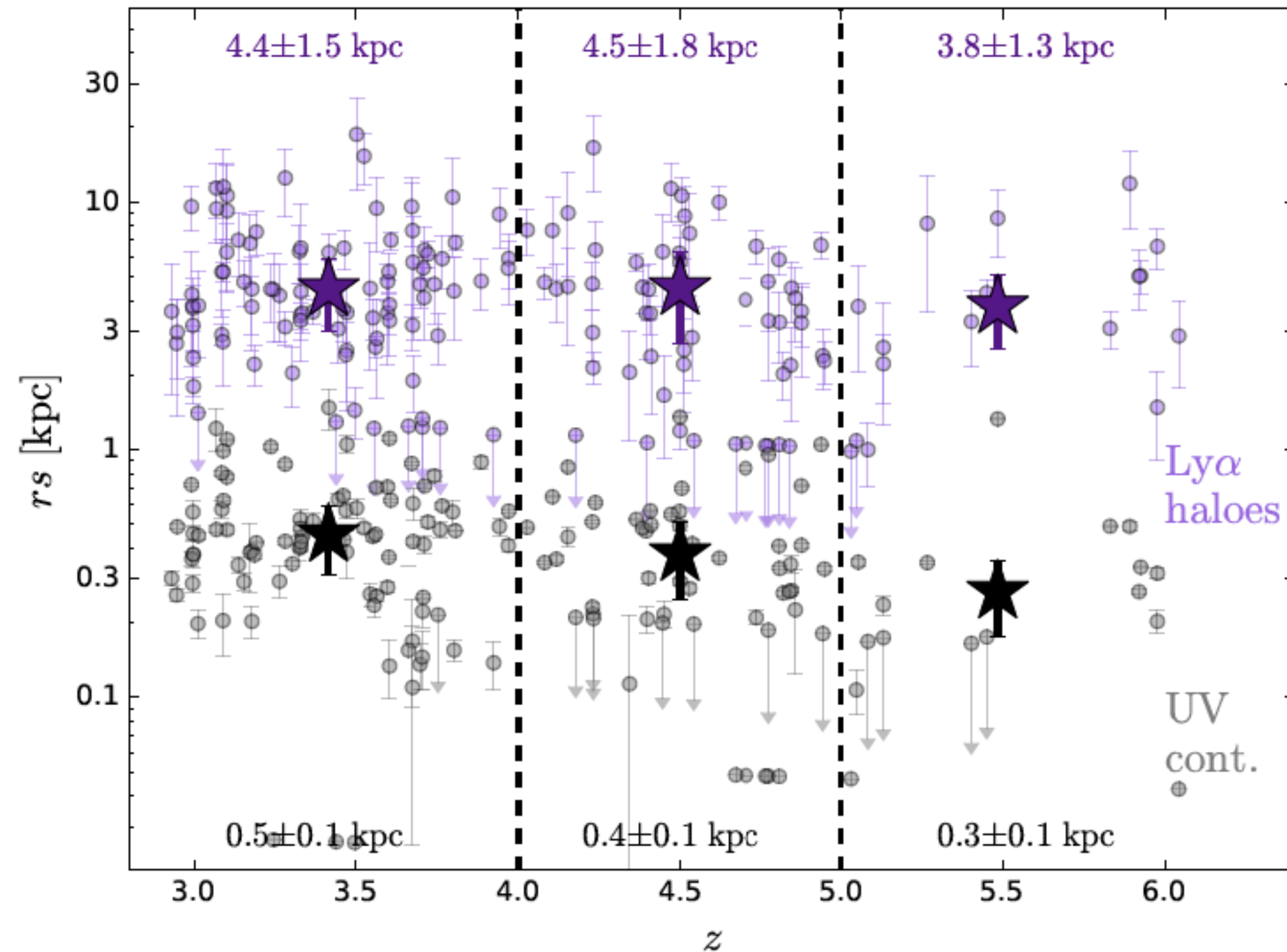
HI mapping with LyA at high z



Ly α haloes size does not evolve between $z=3$ and 6

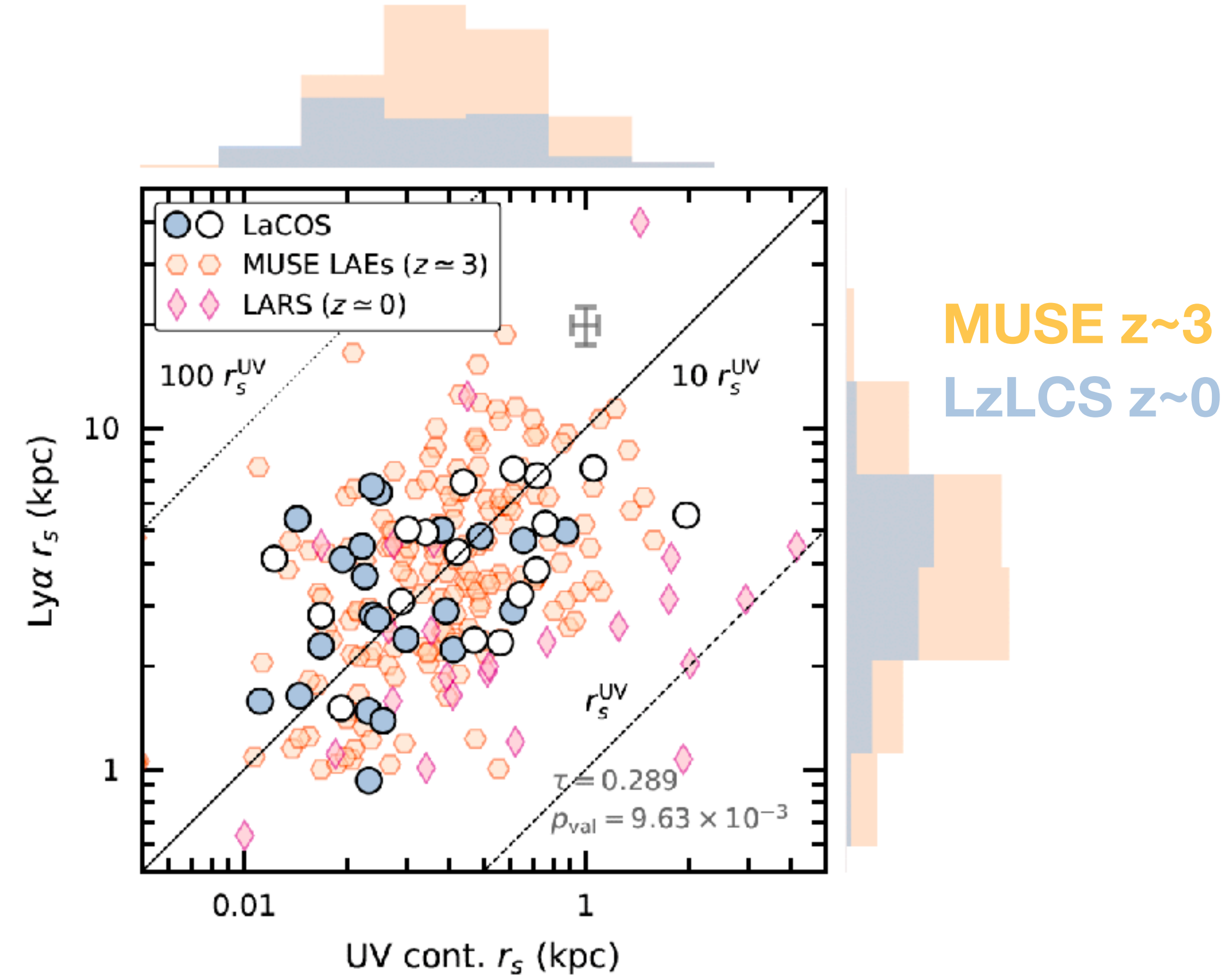
But see Daniil's talk !

HI mapping with LyA at high z



Ly-alpha haloes size does not evolve between $z=3$ and 6

But see Daniil's talk!



No evolution of the LAH extent with z

→ Is that OK to rely on the HI distribution properties to estimate fesc LyC at high z ?

Connecting the HI distribution to the LyC escape **at high z**



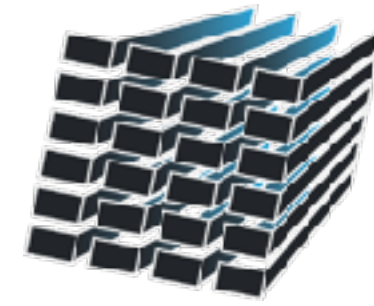
Nice review
by Sara

Connecting the HI distribution to the LyC escape **at high z**

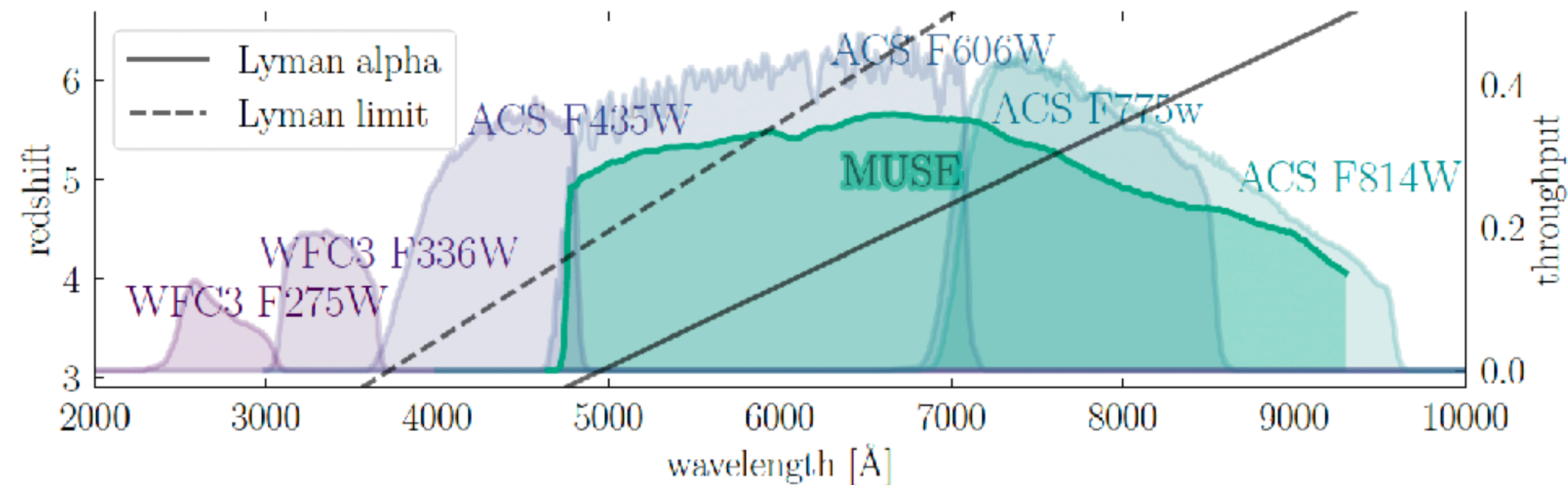
Nice review
by Sara



+



MUSE
multi unit spectroscopic explorer



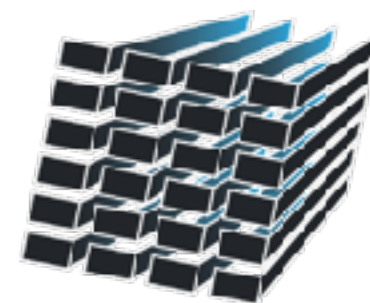
- ▶ 5 **very likely** LCE candidates
- ▶ 7 **potential** LCE candidates
- ▶ $F_{\text{esc}} > 20\%$

Connecting the HI distribution to the LyC escape **at high z**

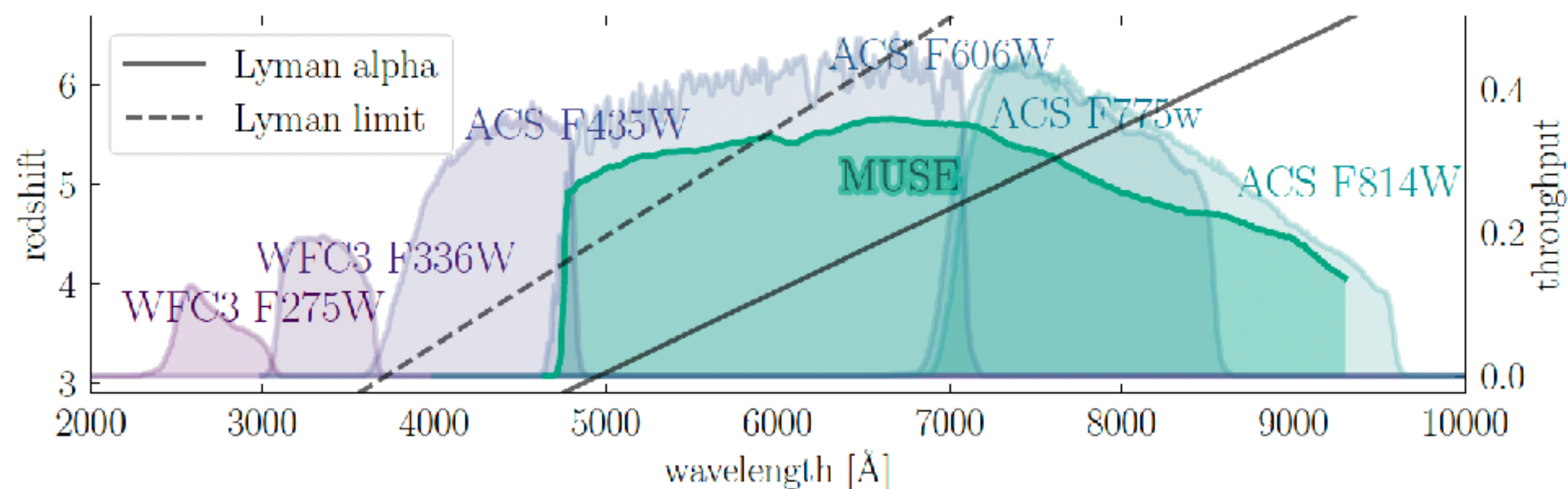
Nice review
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+



MUSE
multi unit spectroscopic explorer



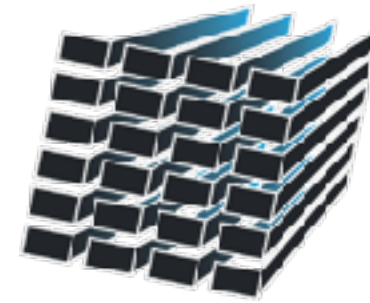
- ▶ 5 **very likely** LCE candidates
 - ▶ 7 **potential** LCE candidates
 - ▶ $F_{\text{esc}} > 20\%$
- 7 in the MUSE Deep fields
- 4 isolated LAEs with LAH measurements**



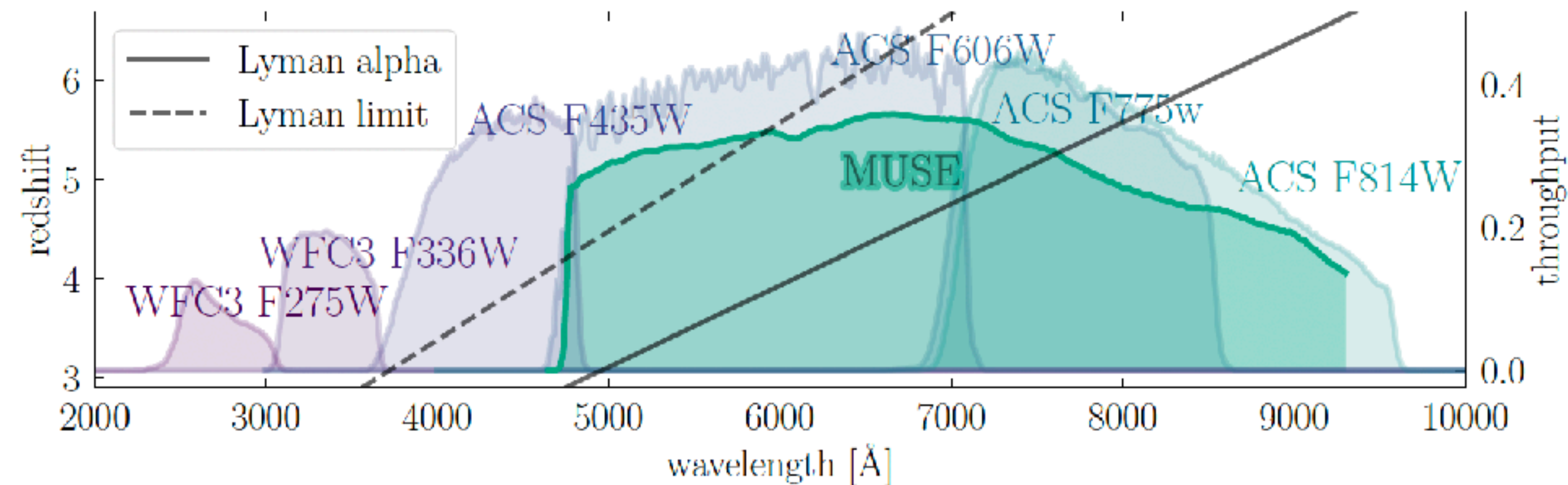
Connecting the HI distribution to the LyC escape **at high z** Nice review by Sara



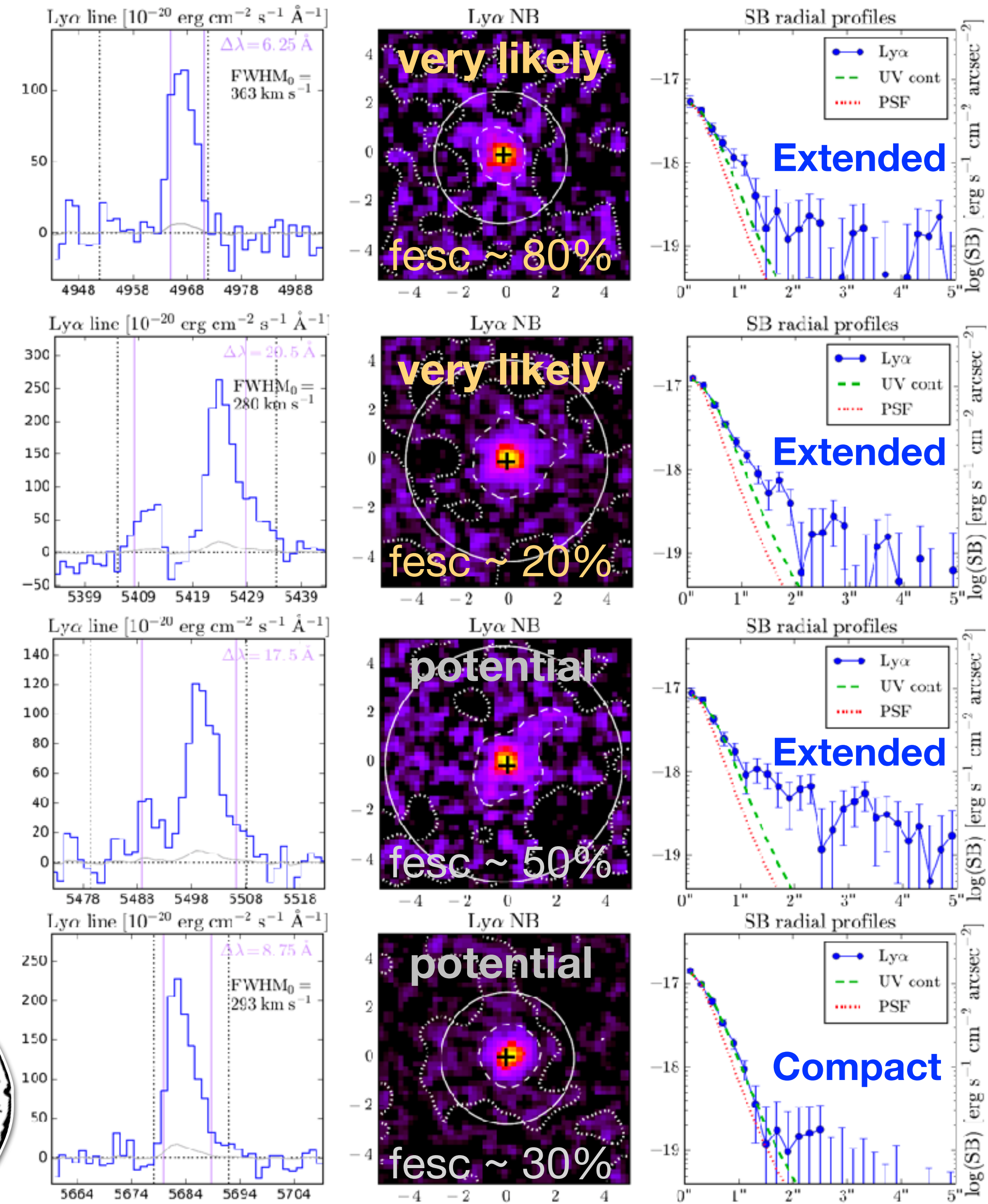
+



MUSE
multi unit spectroscopic explorer



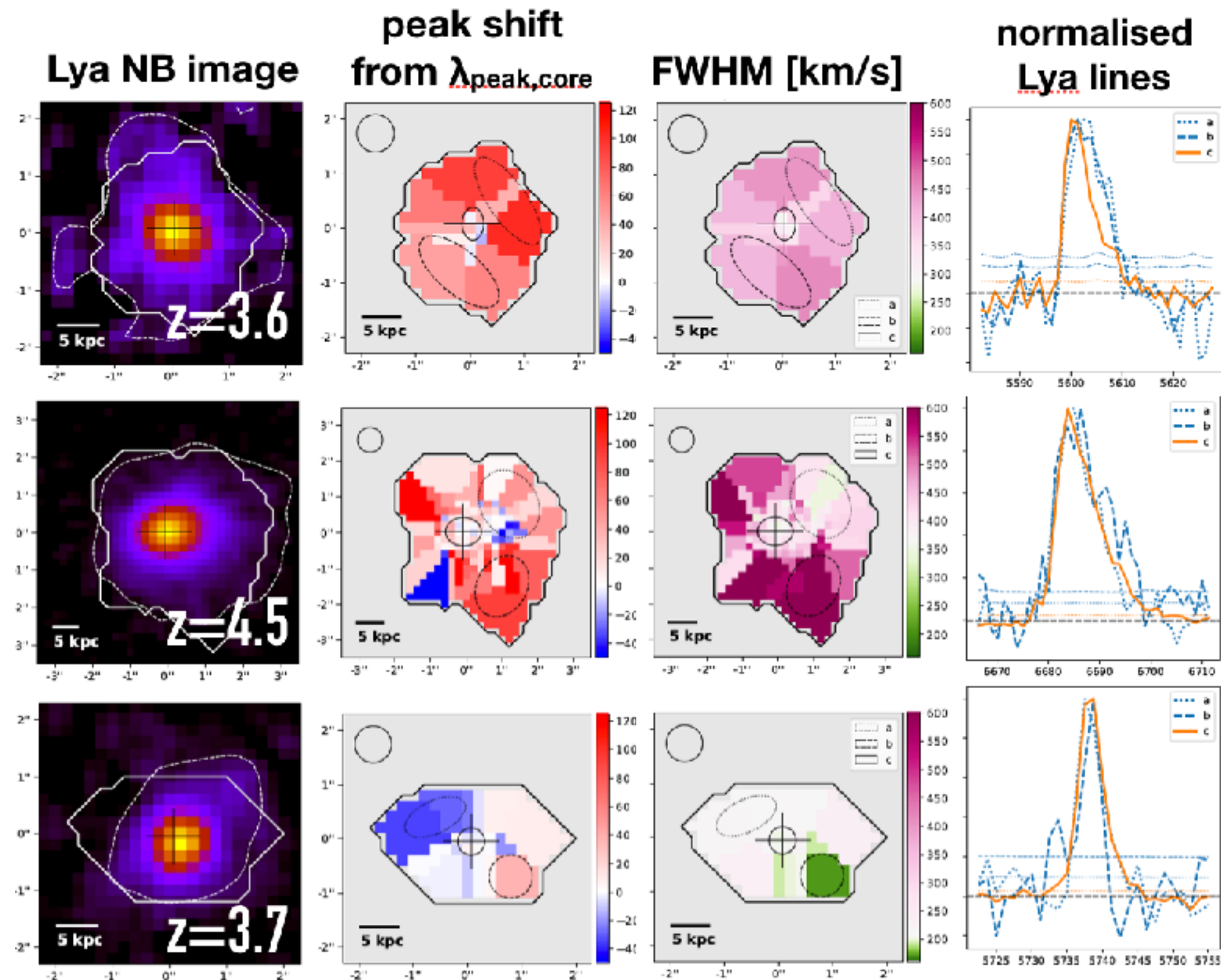
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LyA spectro-mapping at high z

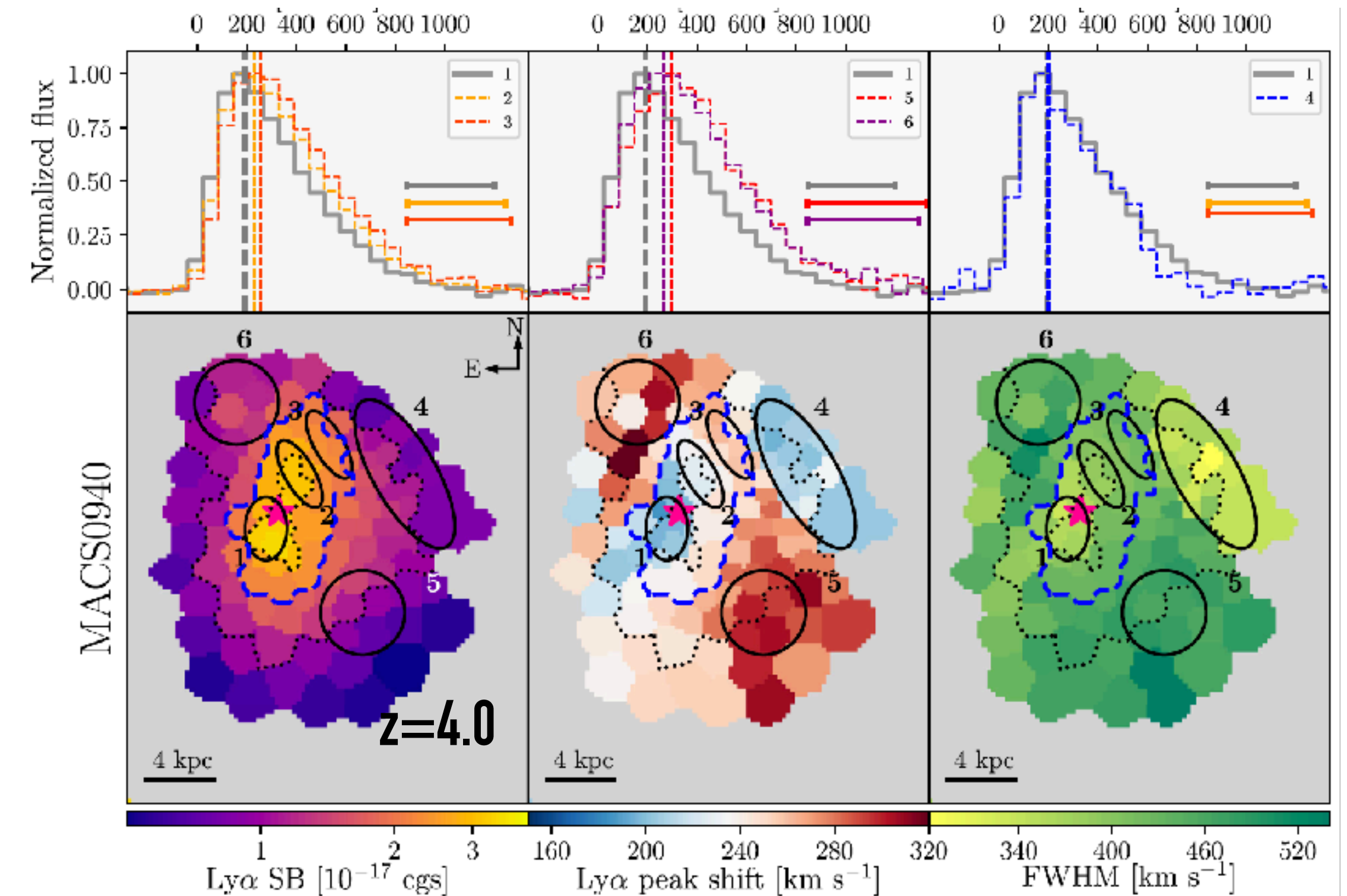
MUSE GTO deep fields

($t_{\text{exp}} > 10\text{h}$) : UDF (Bacon et al. 2017)



MUSE GTO lensed fields

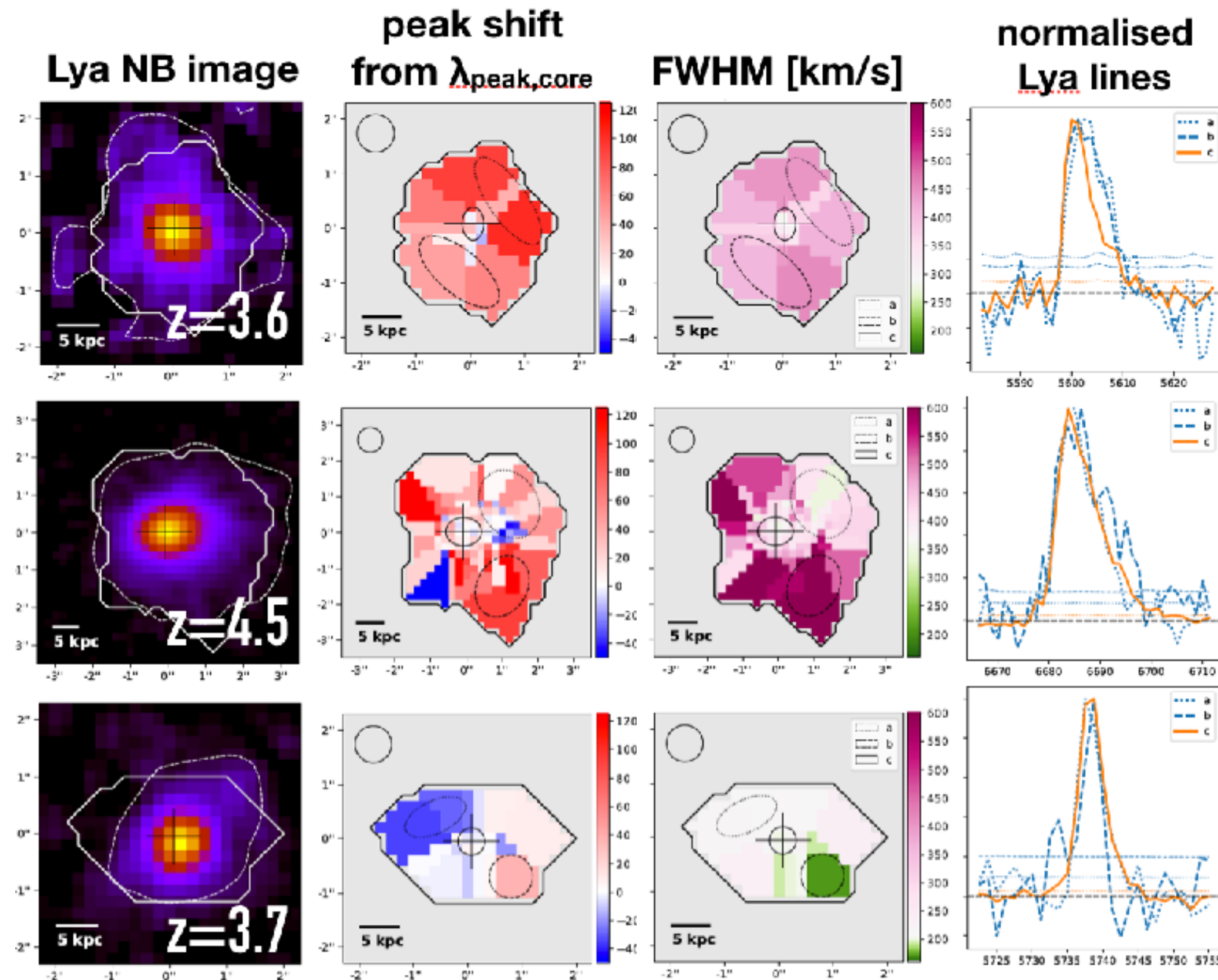
(Richard et al. 2020)



LyA spectro-mapping at high z

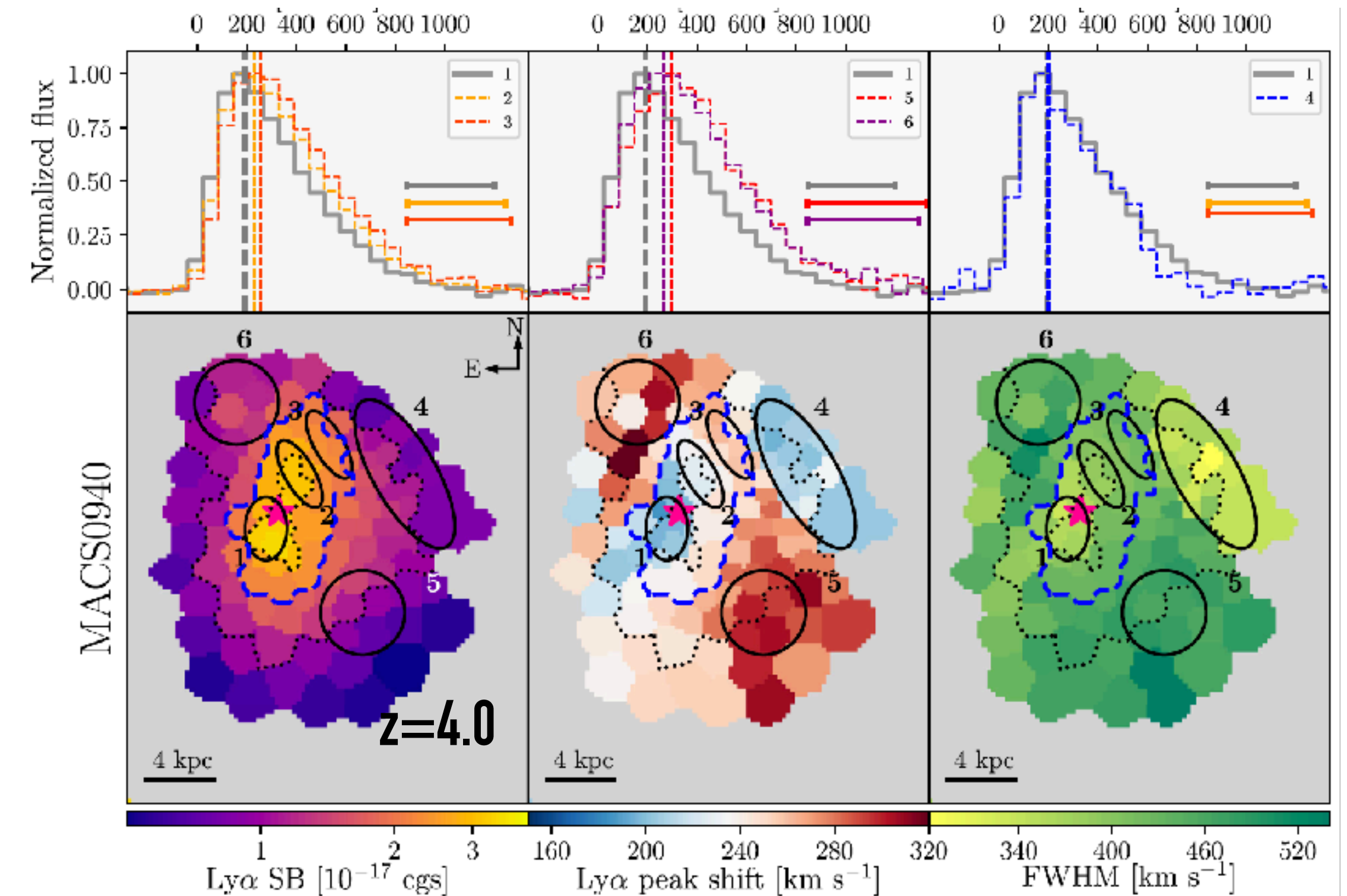
MUSE GTO deep fields

($t_{\text{exp}} > 10\text{h}$) : UDF (Bacon et al. 2017)



MUSE GTO lensed fields

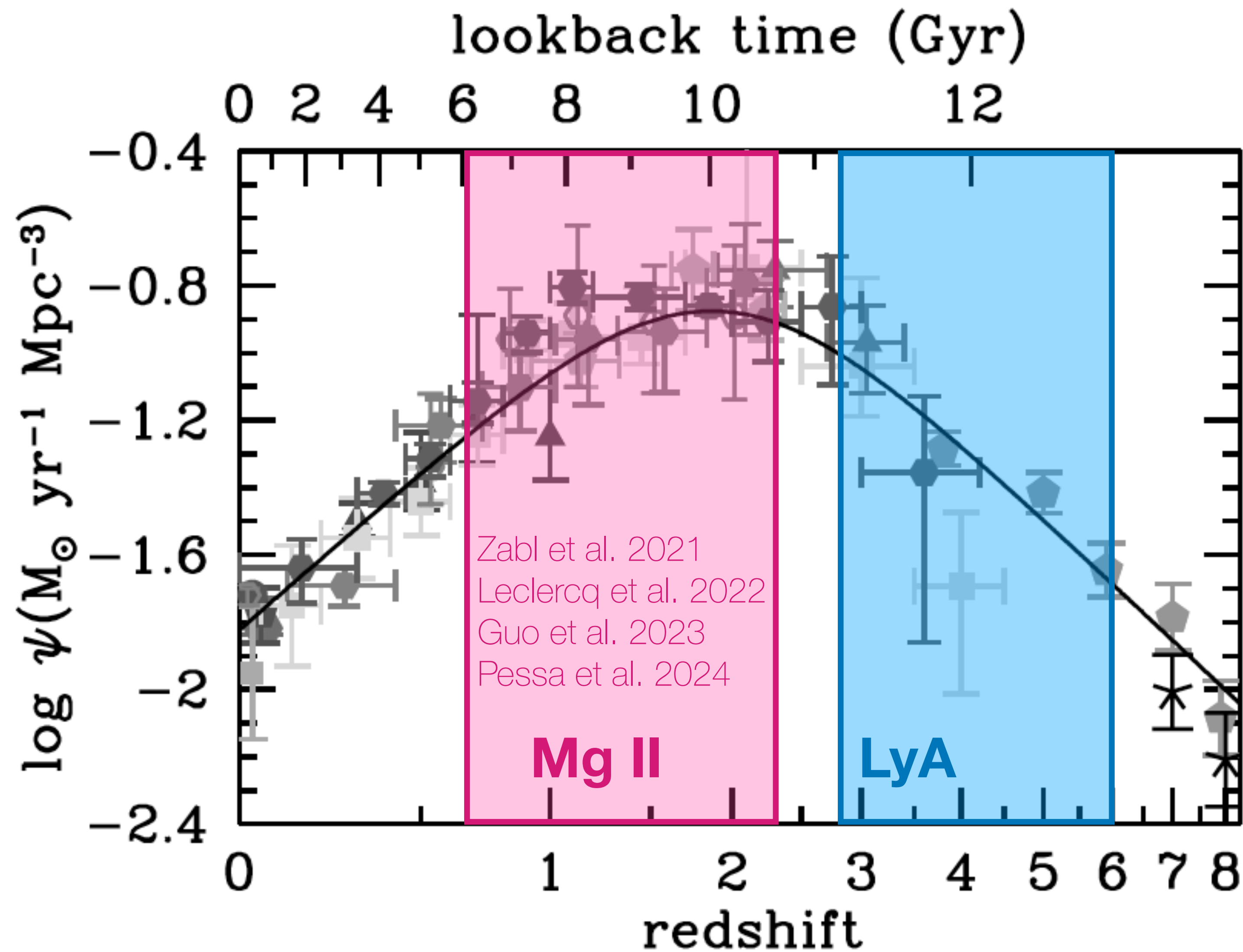
(Richard et al. 2020)



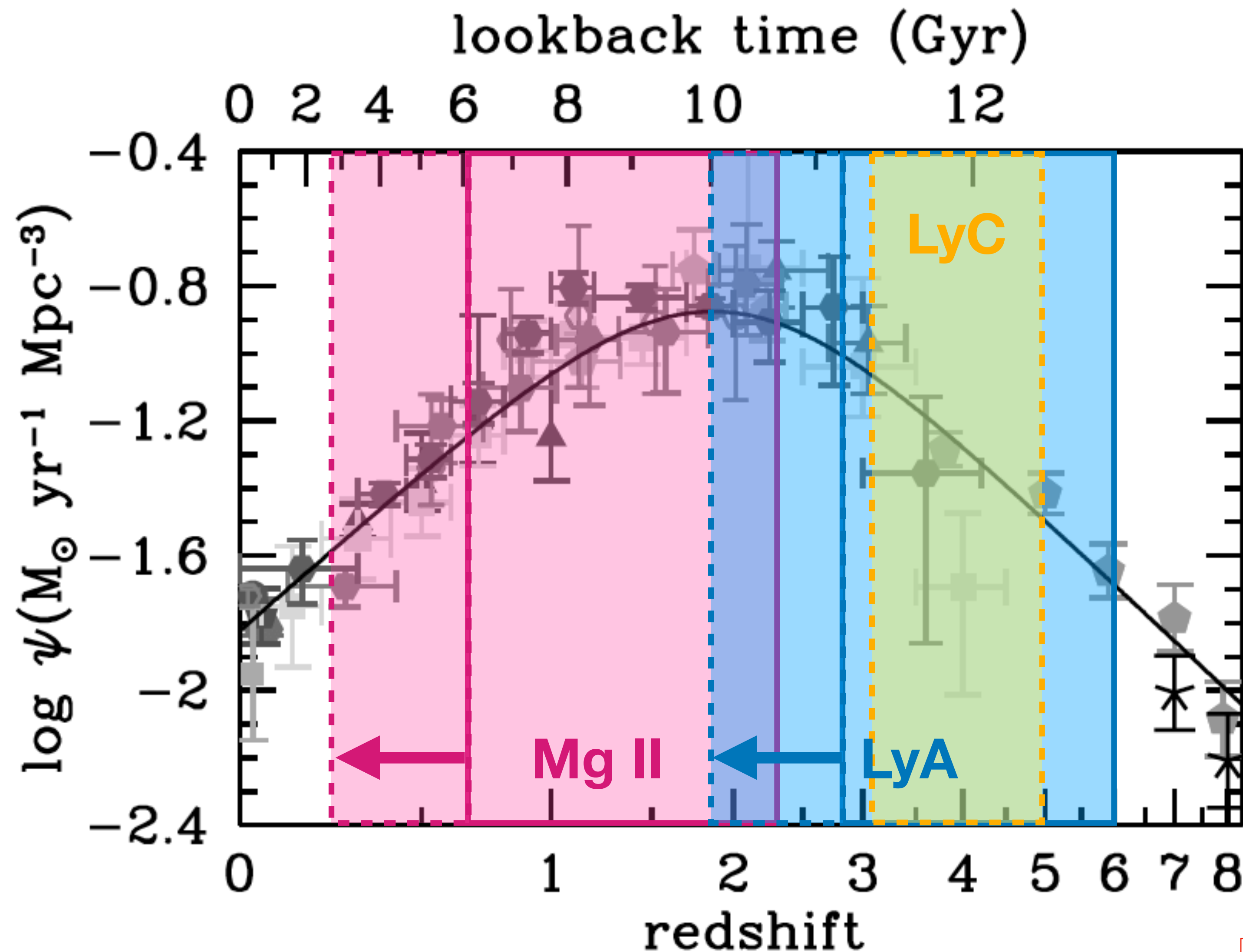
Small-scale variations in the LyA line profiles within LAH

➡ The HI gas has complex and diverse configurations = **complex LyC escape ?**

HI mapping across cosmic time with large FoV IFU



HI mapping across cosmic time with ground-based IFU



+



See Peter's talk on Friday

- ▶ HI maps over 11 billions years
- ▶ Overlap LyA / Mg II at $z \sim 2$
- ▶ new LCEs at $z \sim 3-4$?

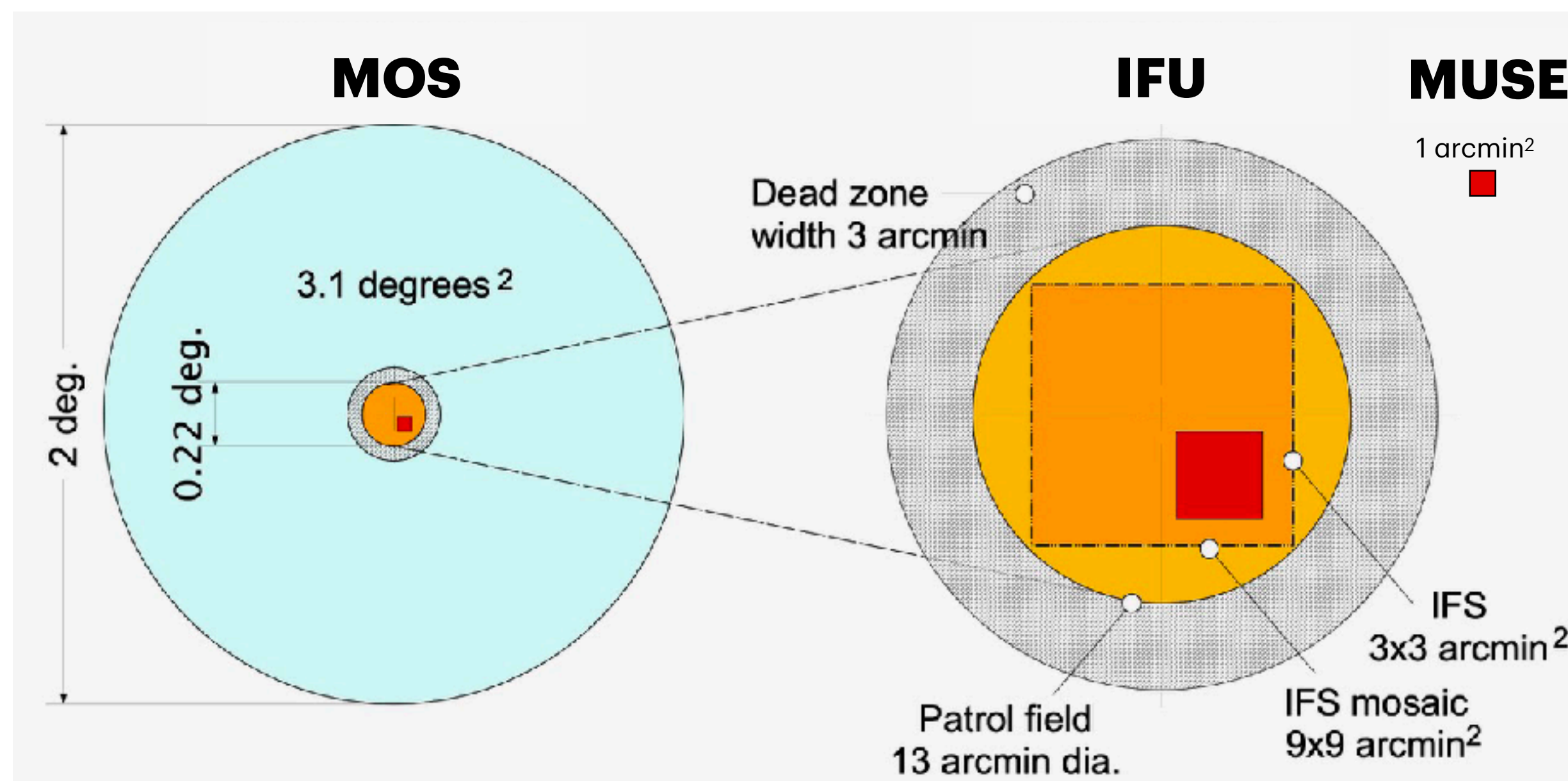
Large IFU samples with no pre-selection !

The statistical revolution with WST-like surveys



- ▶ **Mega IFU** $3 \times 3 \text{ arcmin}^2 + 3 \text{ deg}^2$ **MOS**
- ▶ $R \sim 3500$, $\lambda = 370\text{--}970\text{nm}$

Wide field **S**pectroscopic **T**elescope



- ➡ From few hundreds to **millions of HI maps !**
- ➡ Many more **LCEs** at high z ?

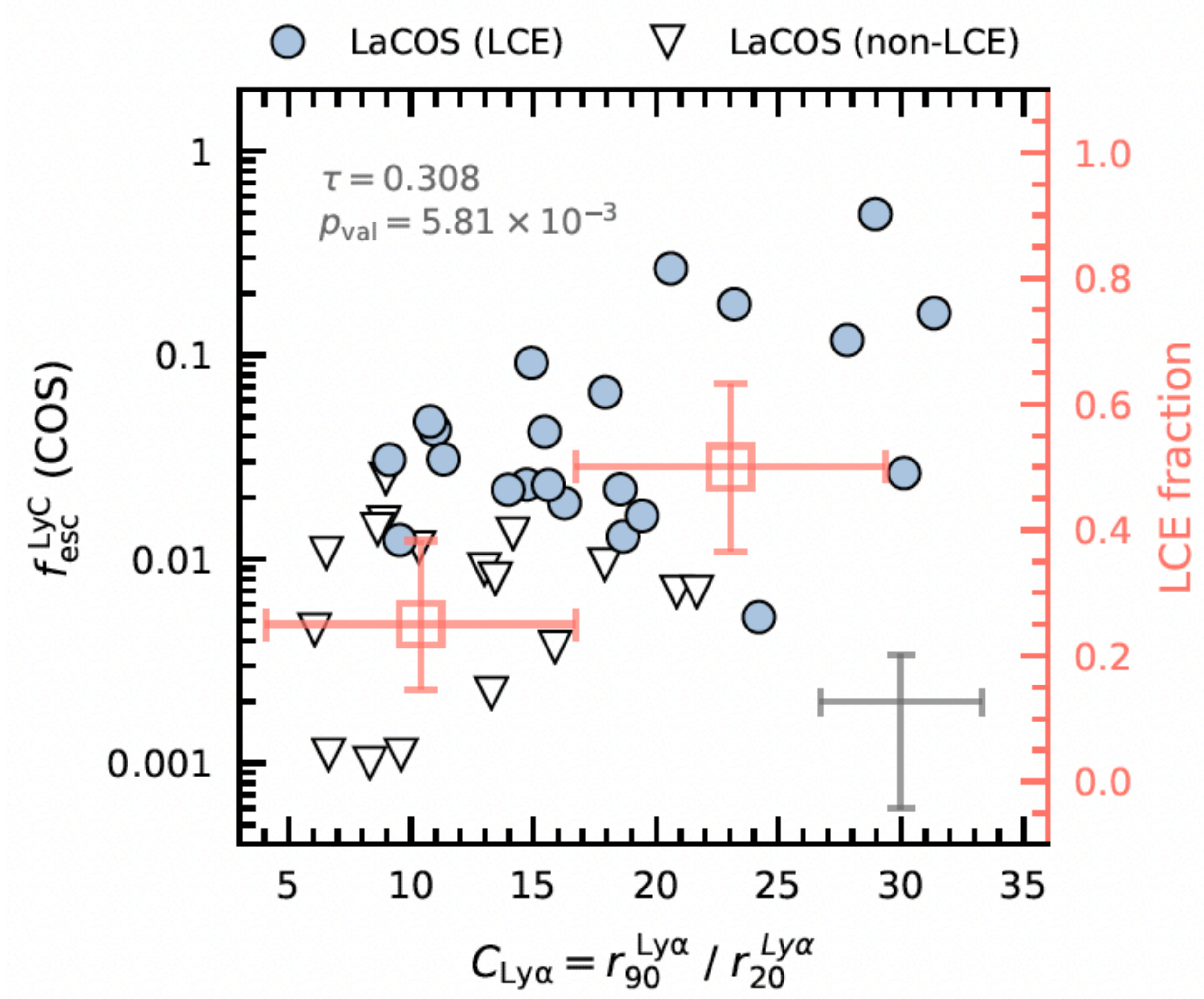
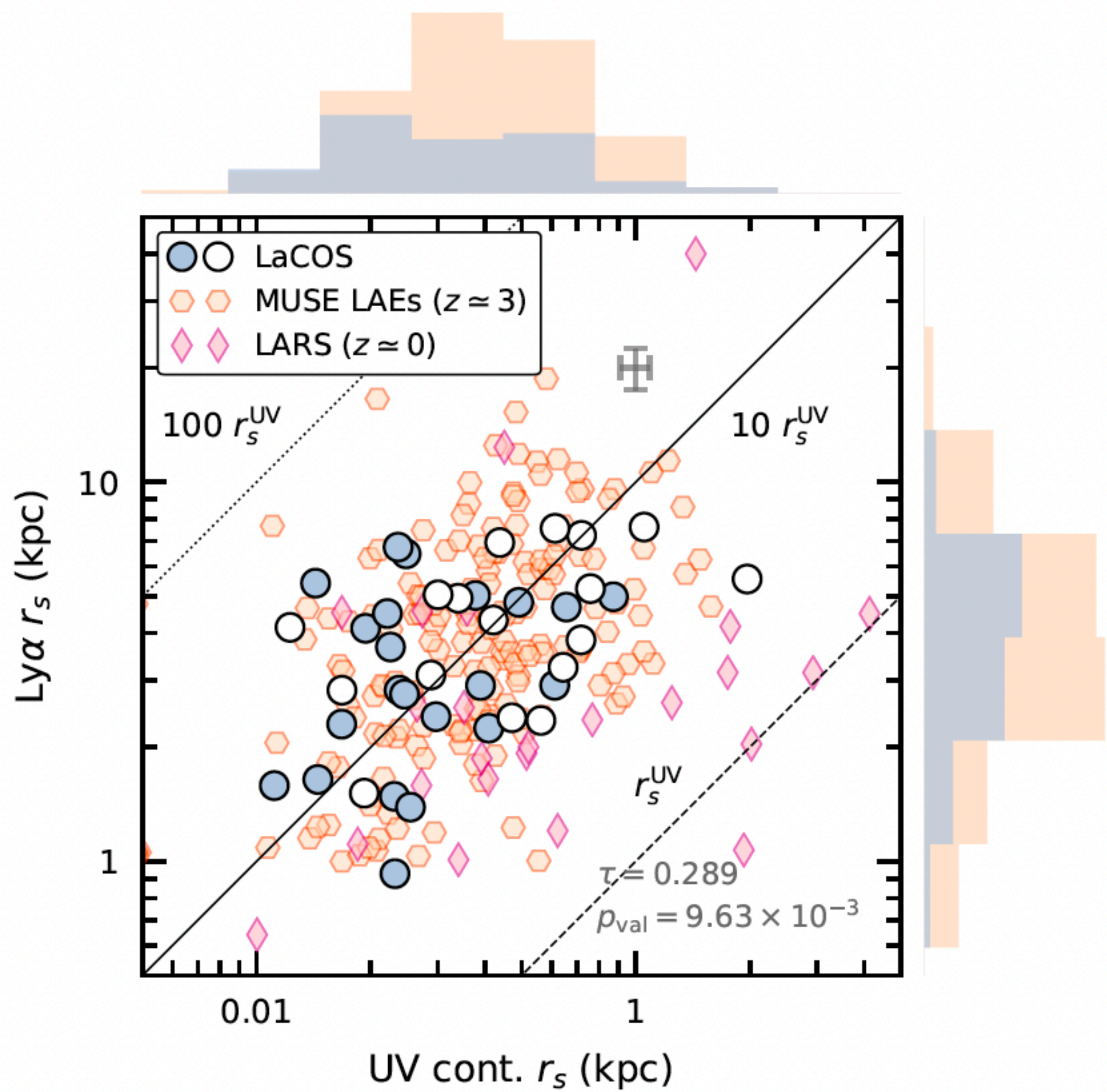
Summary

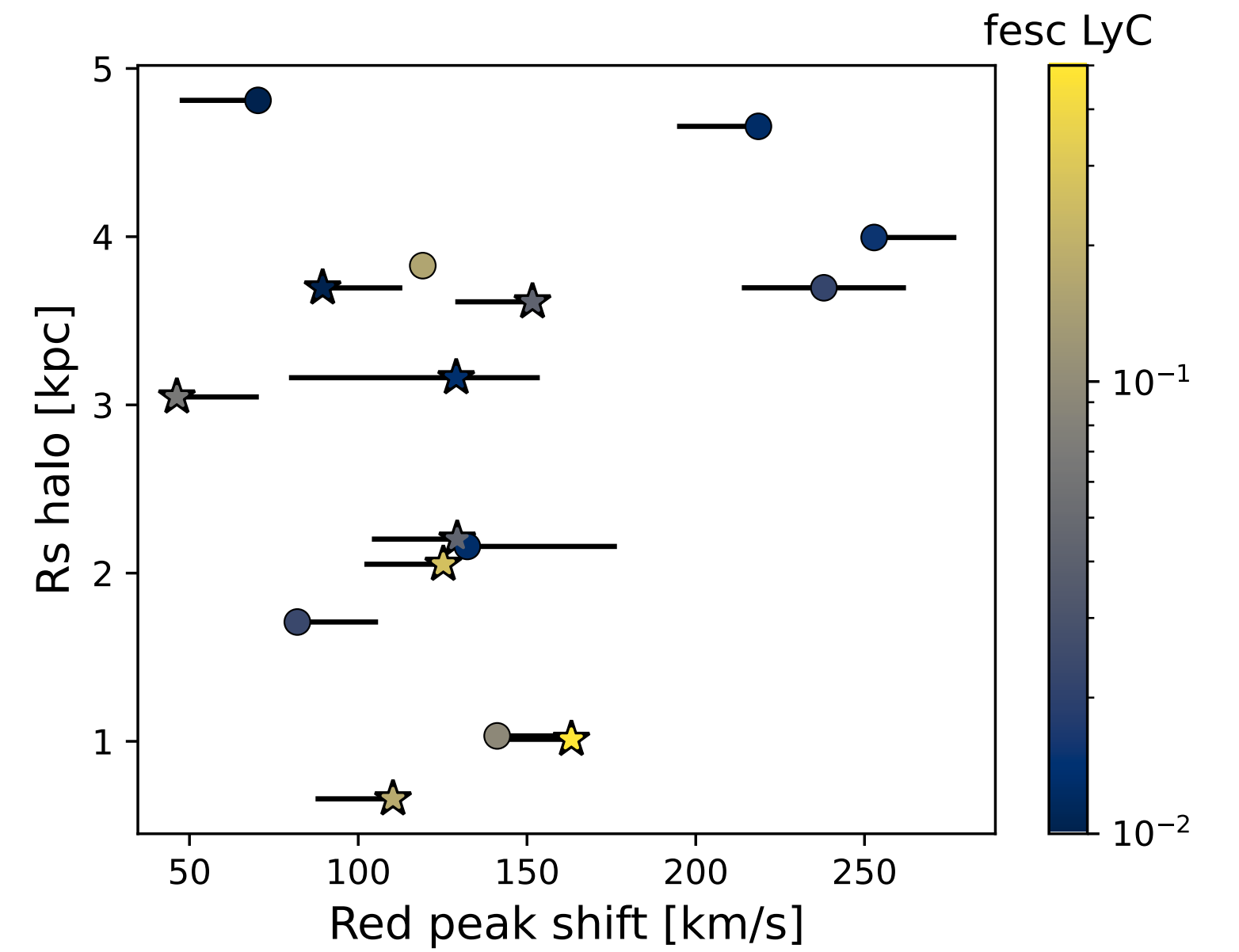
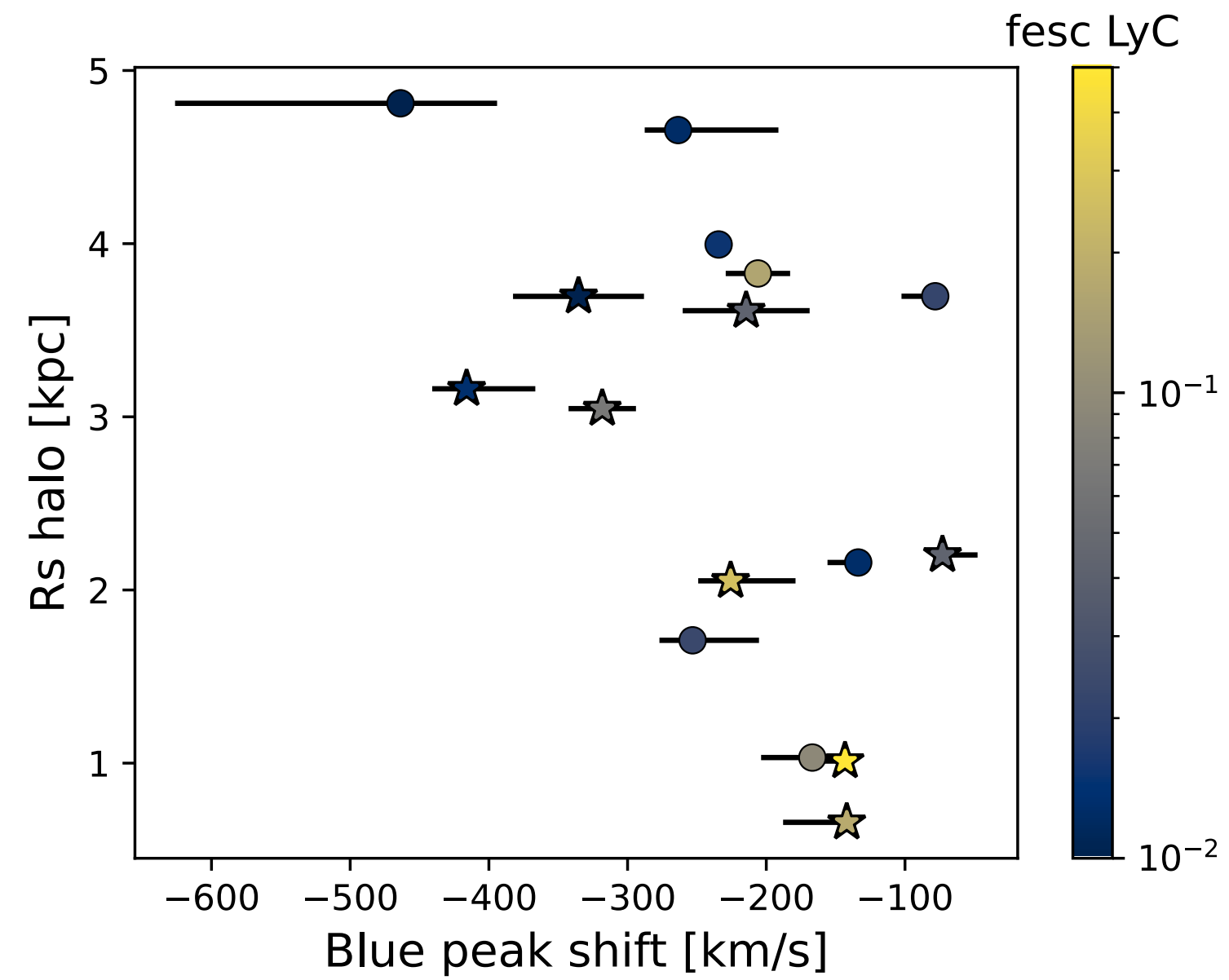
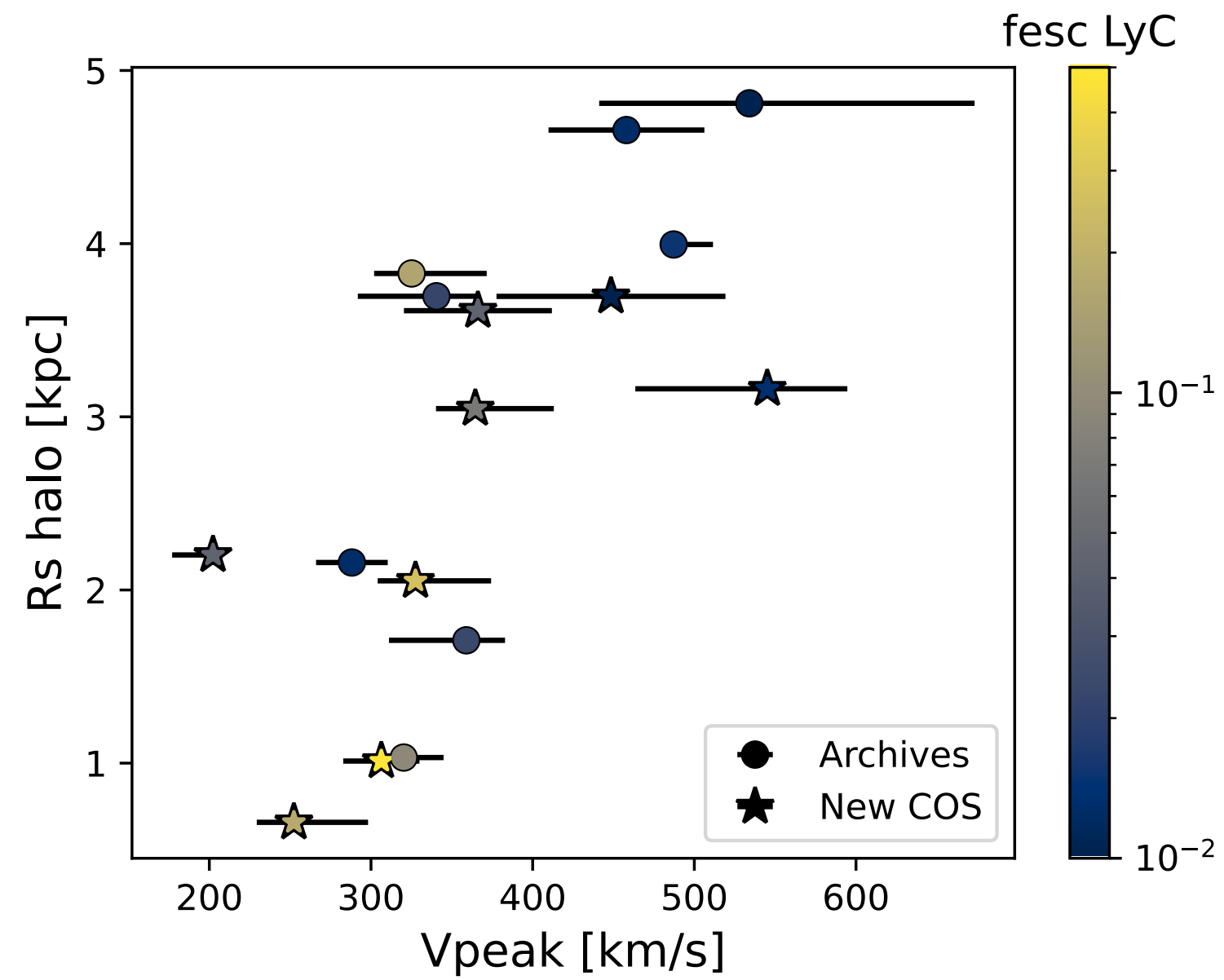
Summary

- ➡ The neutral gas is one of the main sink for LyC photons > important to map it to understand LyC escape !
- **From low- z LyC studies :**
 - IFU HI maps reveals that **LyC leakage at low- z depends on the nebular gas extent** in the ISM+CGM
 - Preliminary resolved Mg II maps show that **LyC escape is anisotropic** in the LzLCS sample
 - We can now link LyC with LyA spatial and spectral properties in tens of galaxies from the LzLCS
- **At higher redshift :**
 - LyC/LyA connection is difficult — very low statistics
 - **Trends look different** than the ones observed at lower z — redshift evolution or selection bias ?
 - We need to increase the statistics and work on representative samples
- **Future is bright :**
 - BlueMUSE+MUSE = blind and consistent analysis of LAH over 11 billions years + **new LCEs at $z \sim 3$!**
 - WST = statistical power with **millions of HI maps** and many more LCEs

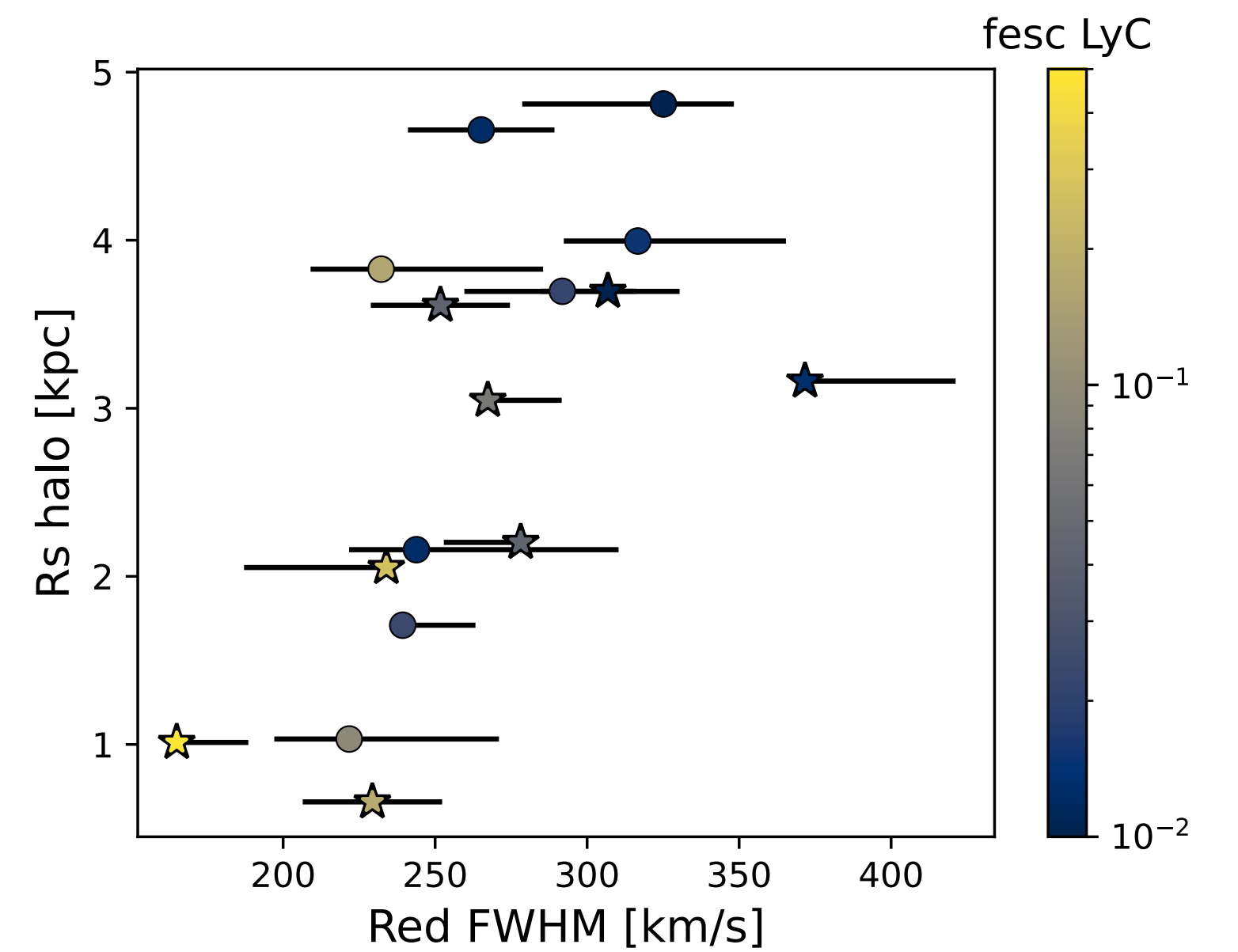
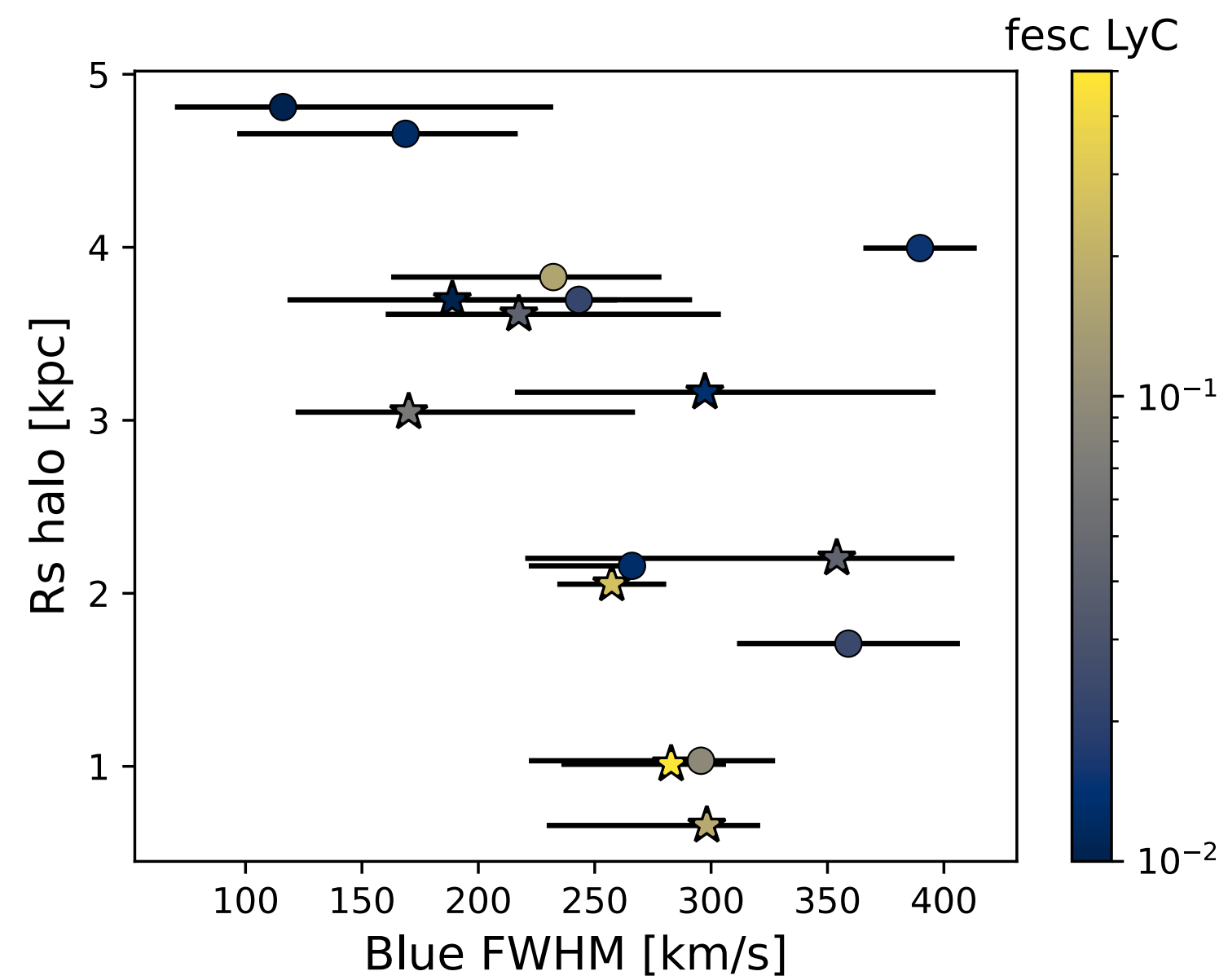
Bonus slides

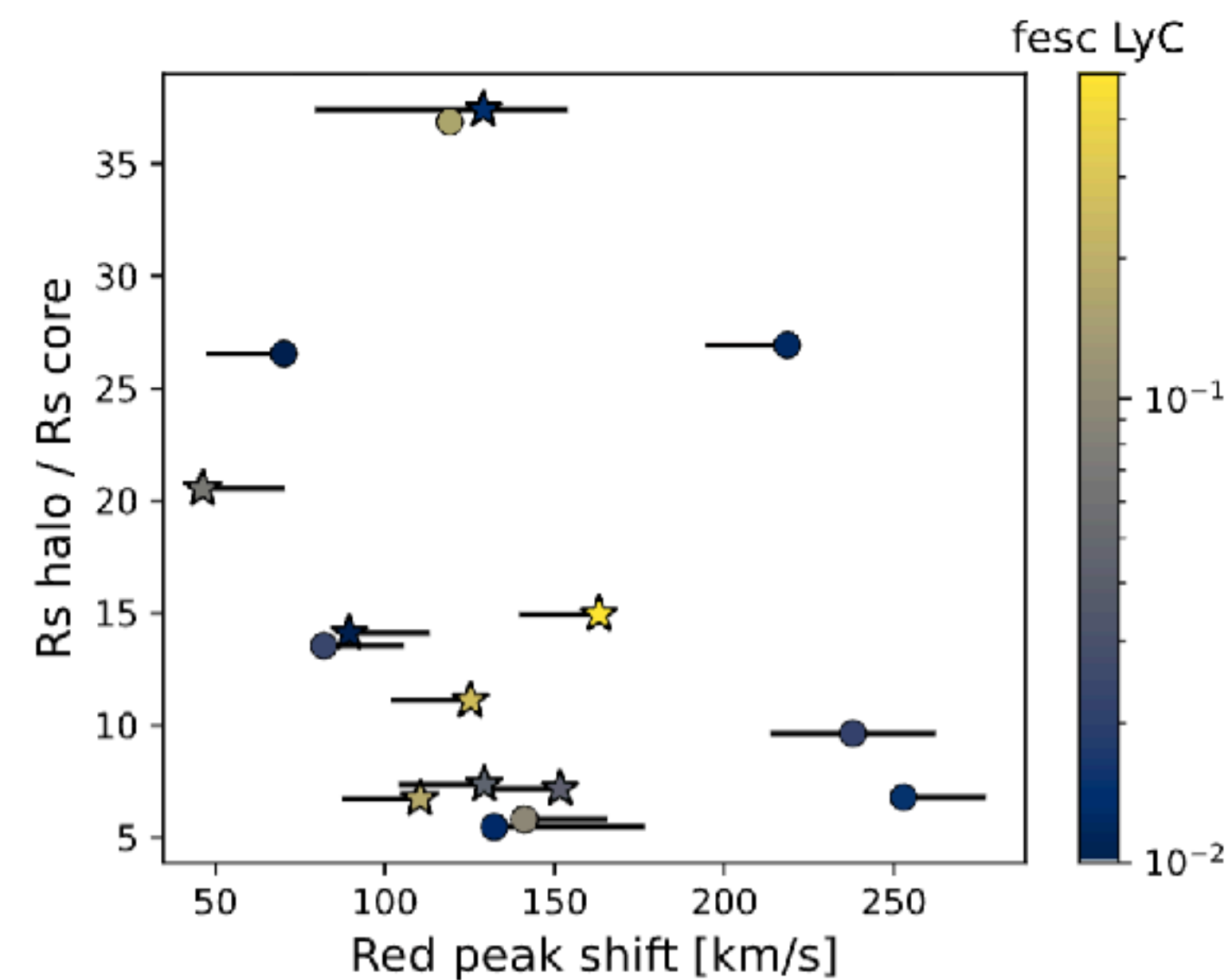
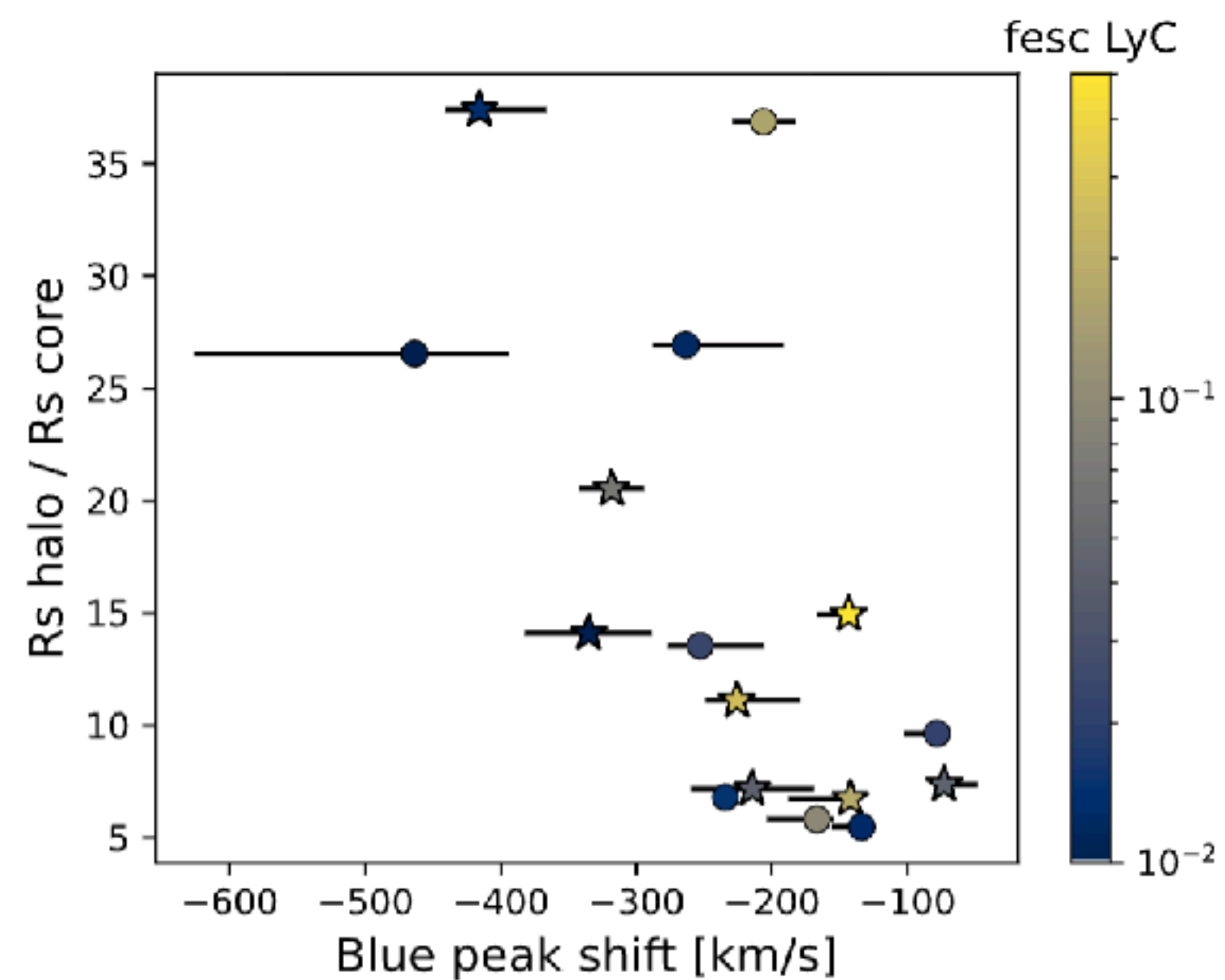
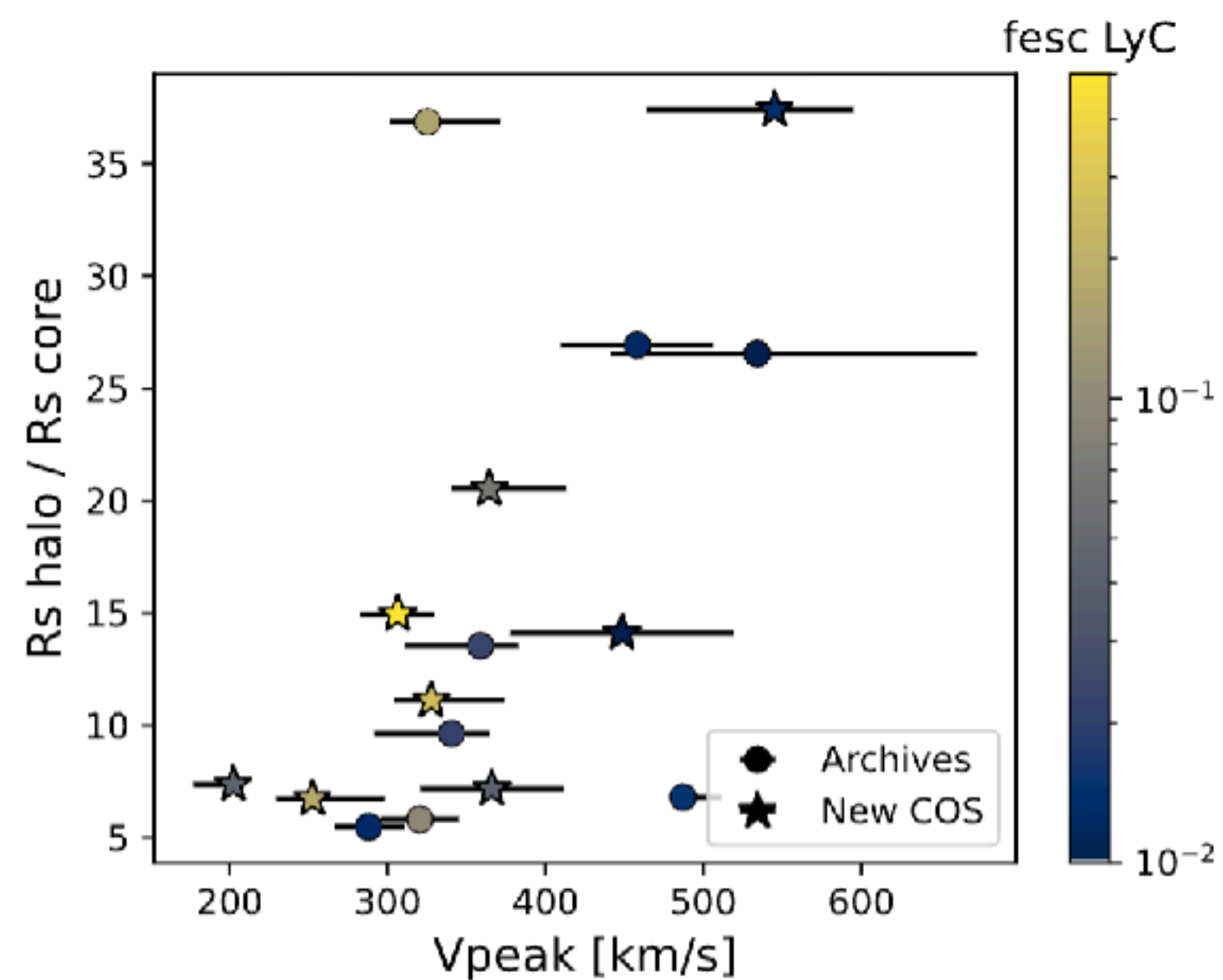
LaCOS LAHs



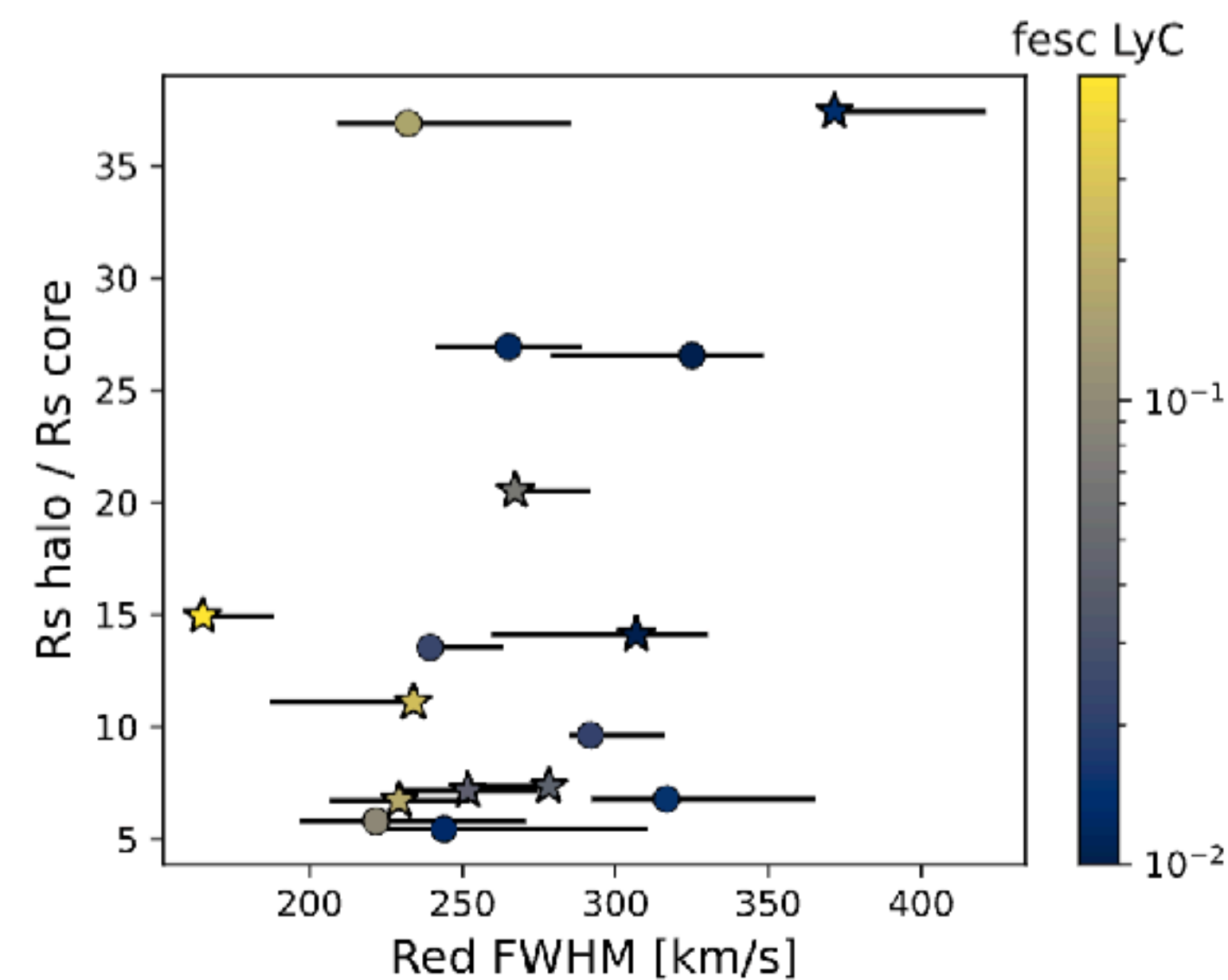
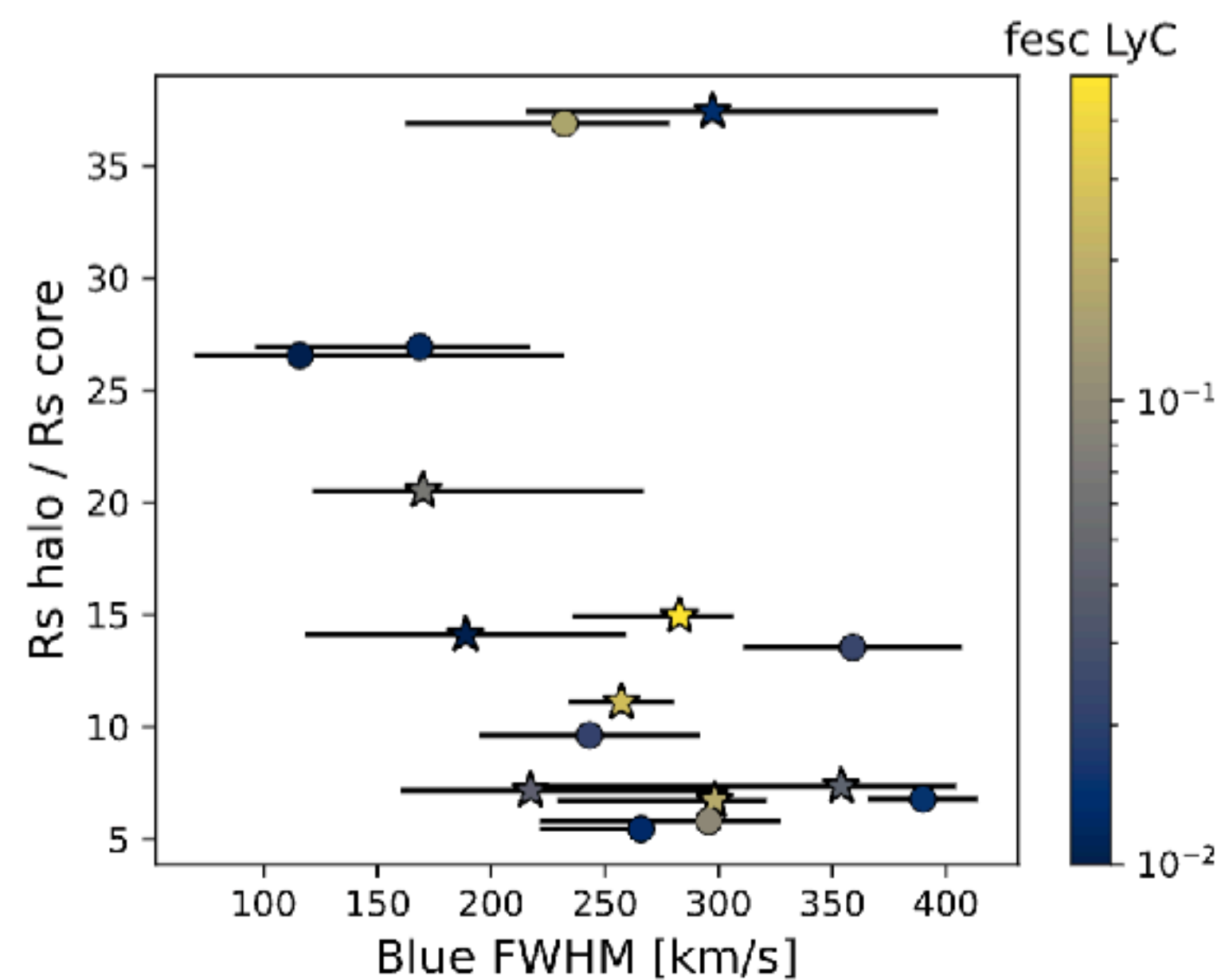


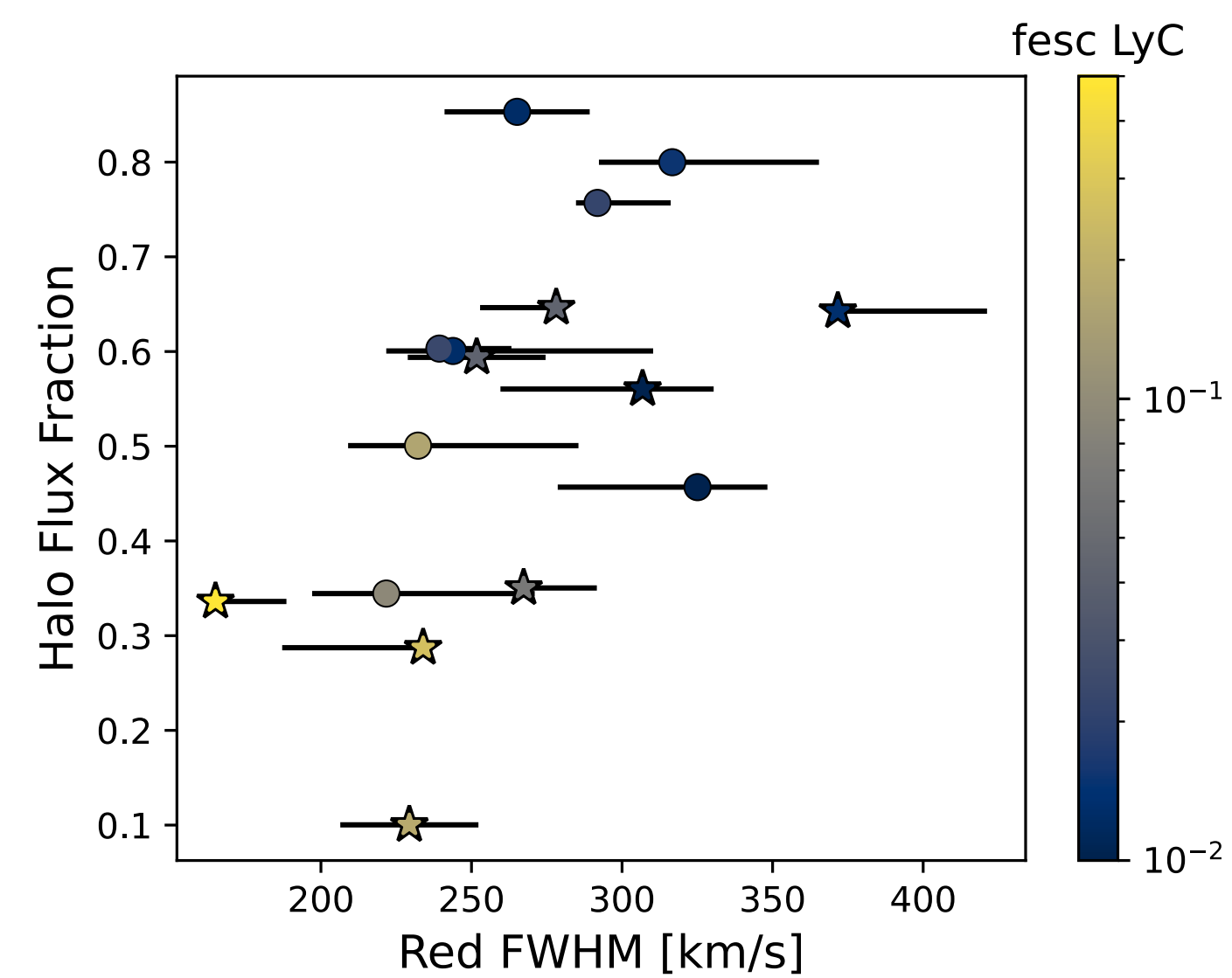
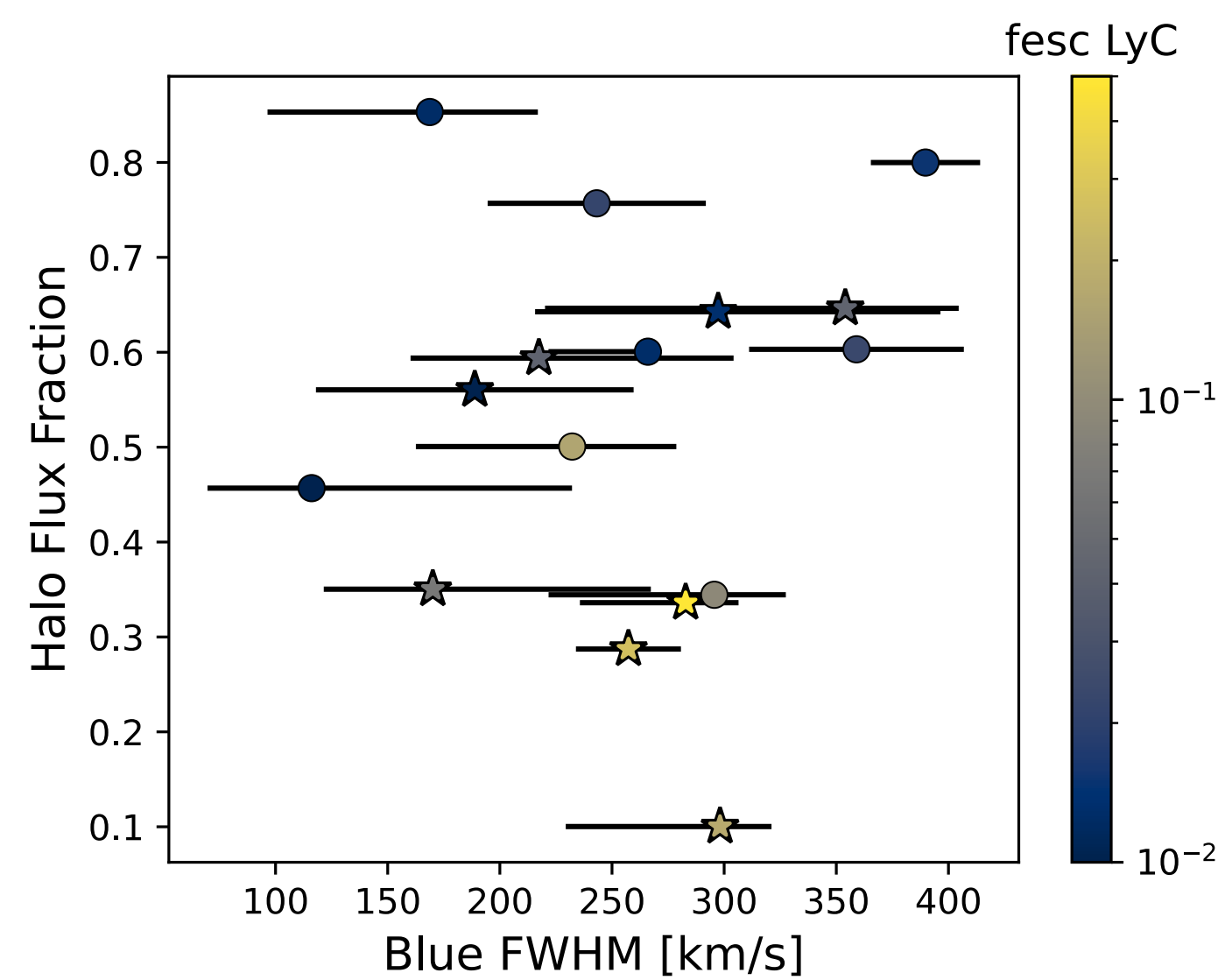
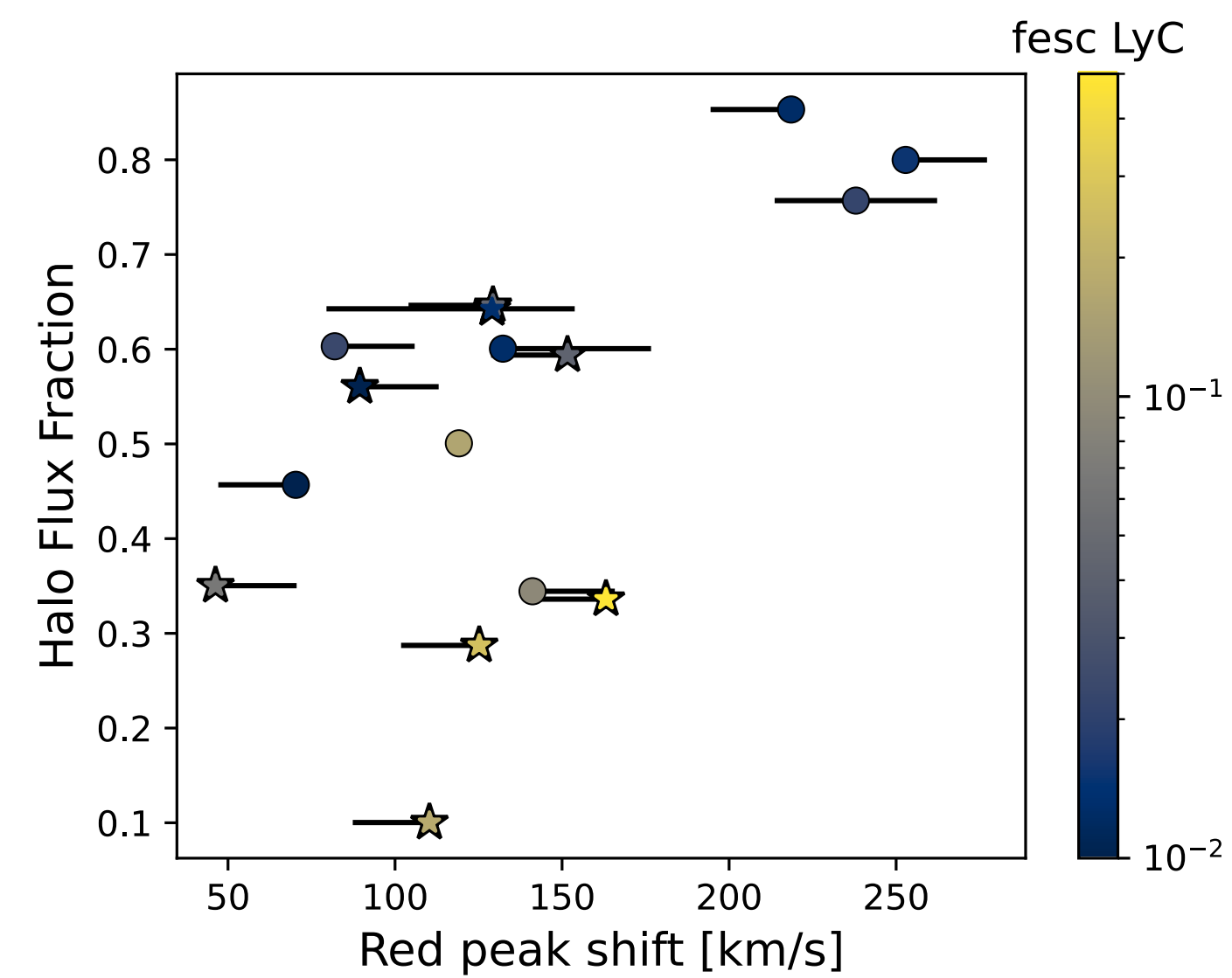
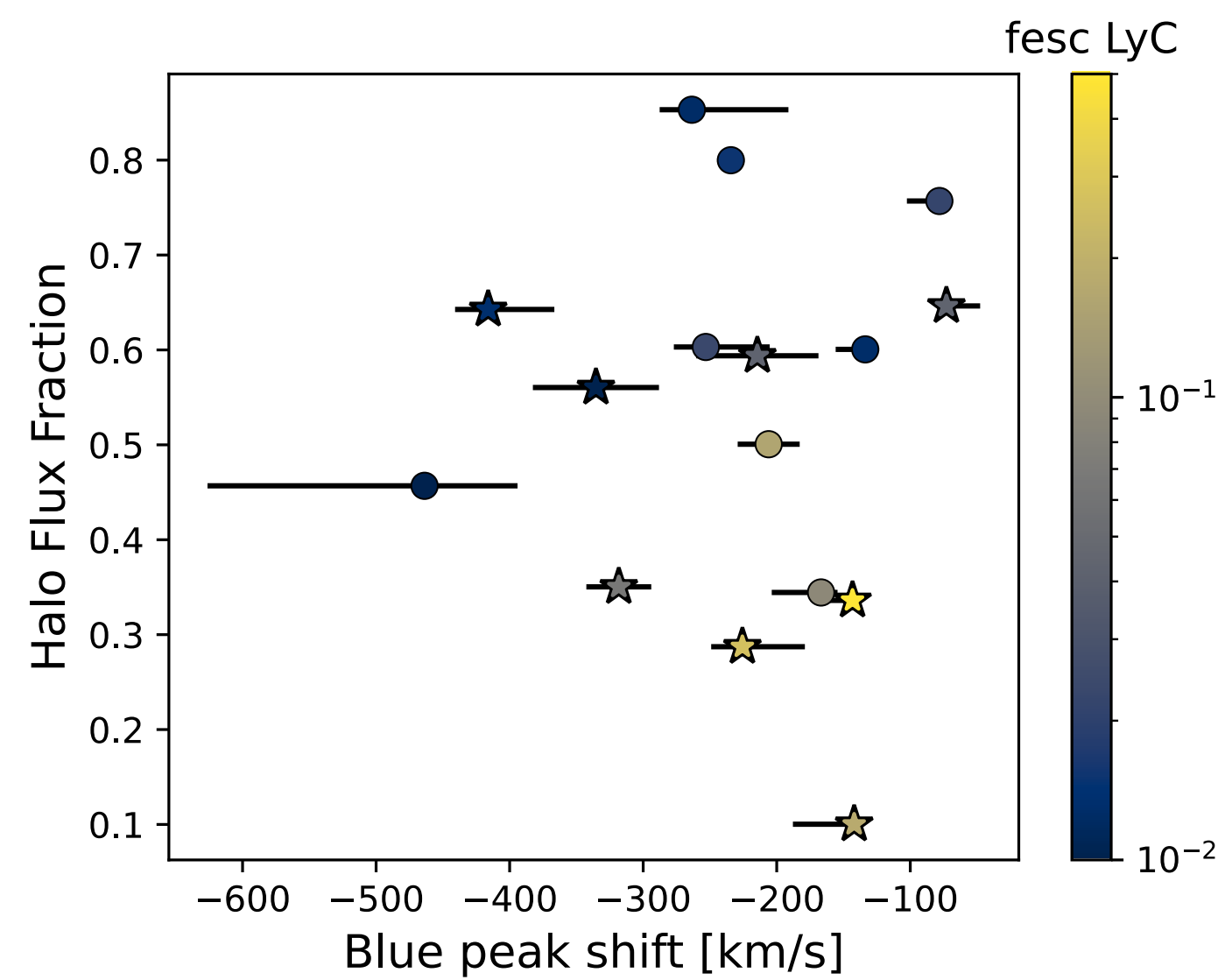
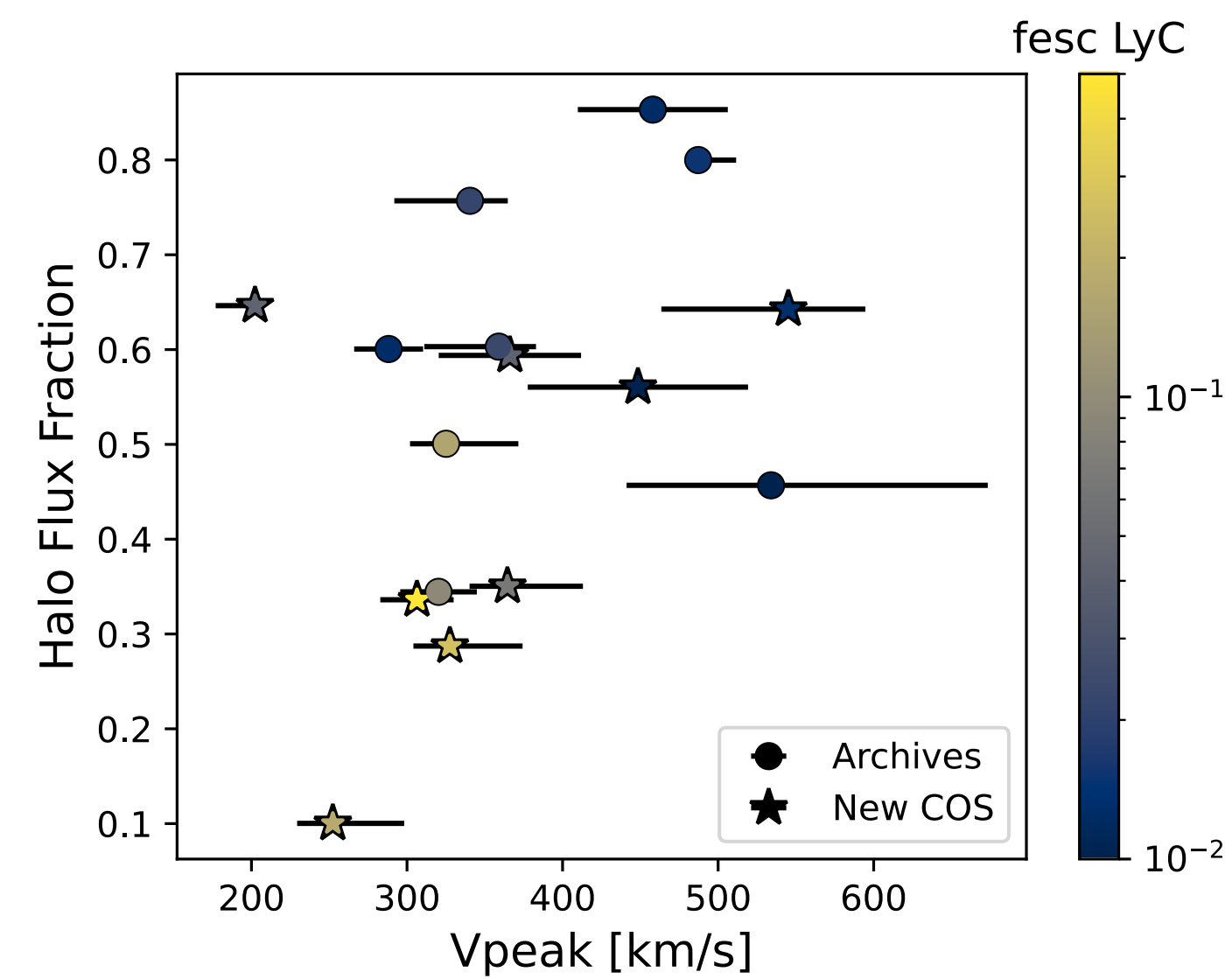
LaCOS LAHs
VS. Lya lines





LaCOS LAHs
VS. Ly α lines





LaCOS LAHs
VS. Ly α lines