

Inferring the position and size of individual HII regions using Lyman-alpha observations with JWST



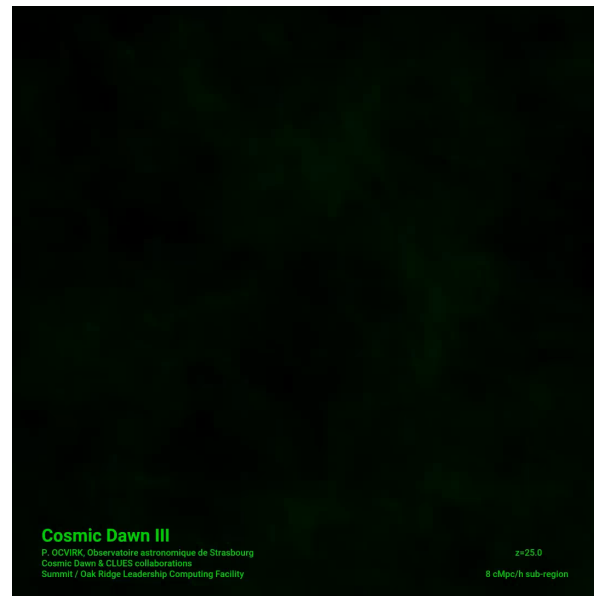
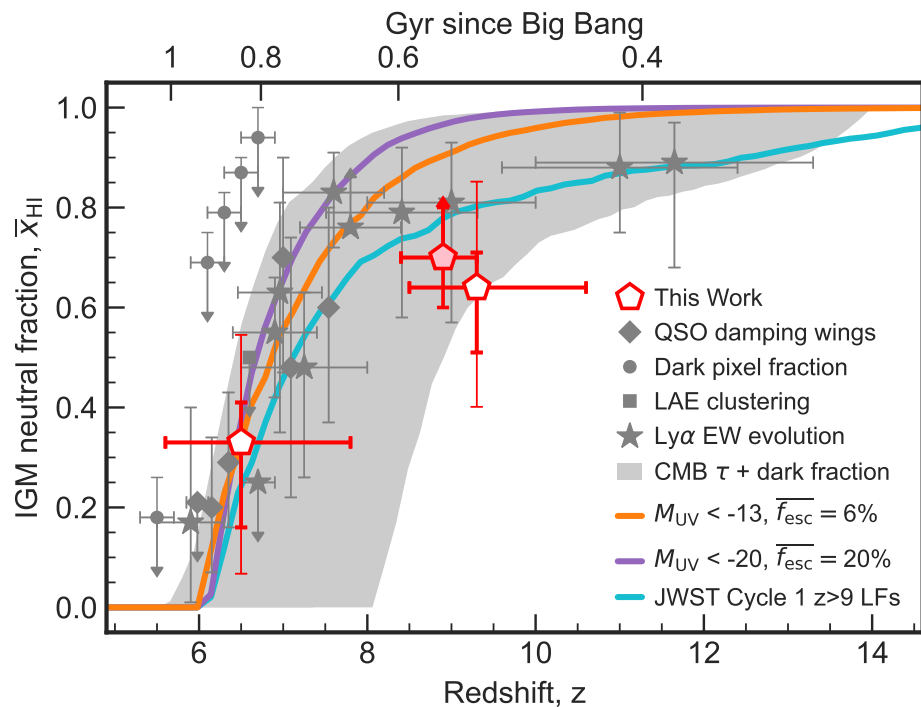
SCUOLA
NORMALE
SUPERIORE

Ivan Nikolić

09/04/25

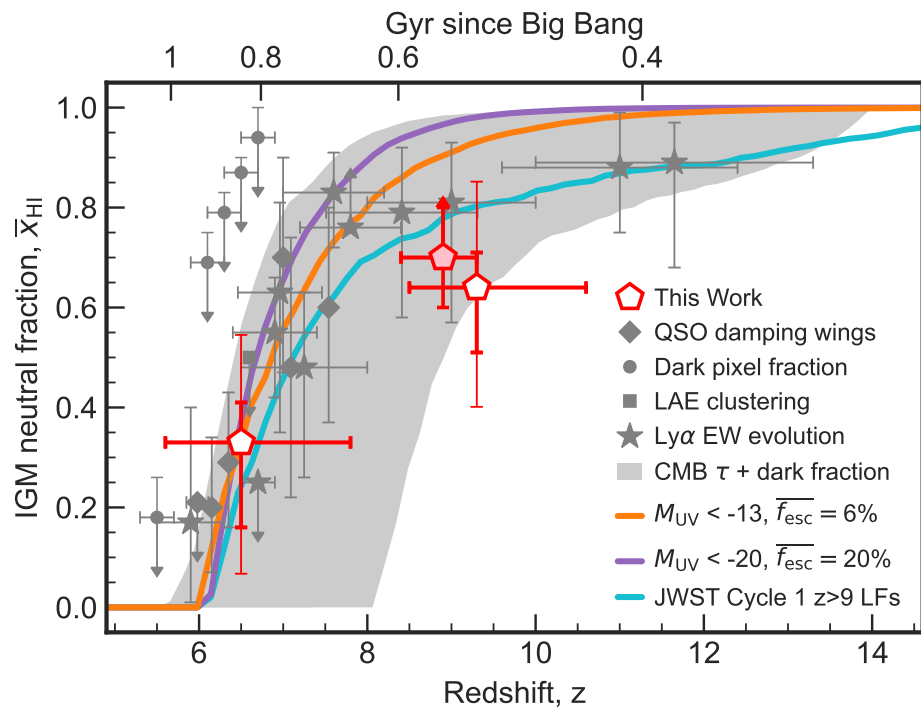
Scuola Normale Superiore Pisa

Importance of capturing morphology



Mason+25, Lewis+22,
CoDa III, credit: P. Ocvirk

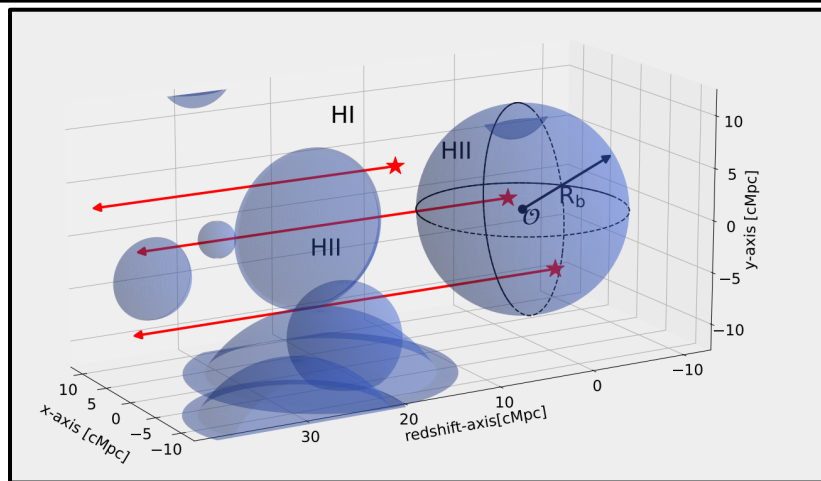
Importance of capturing morphology



- Connect the sources of reionization to their impact on the IGM
- Answer what galaxies reionize the Universe

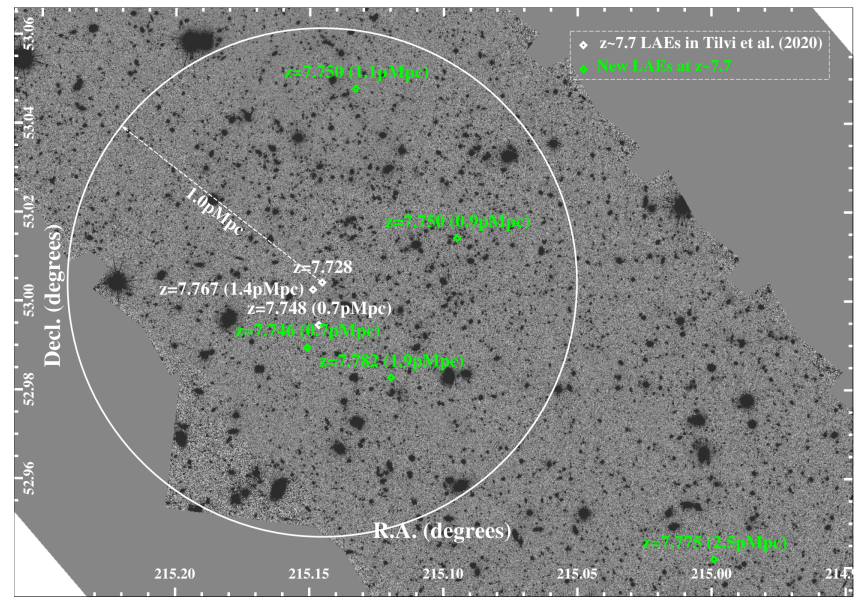
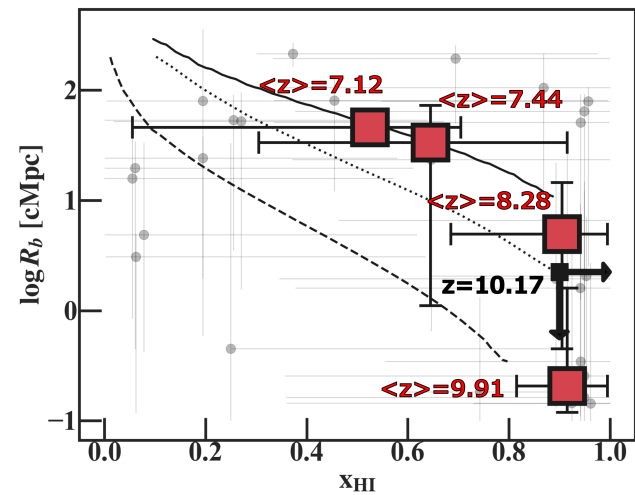
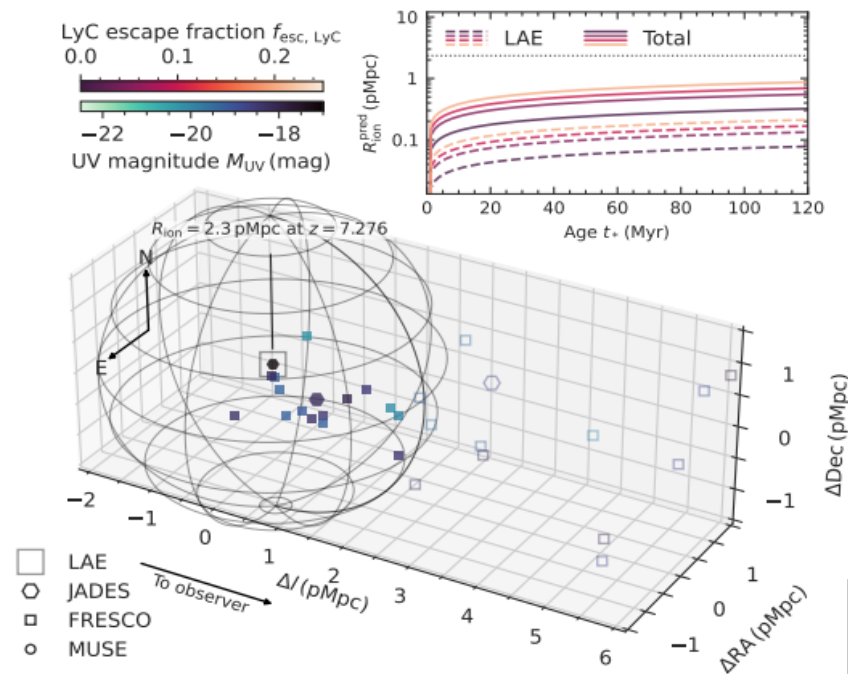
Importance of capturing morphology

We can capture the ionization state around galaxies using the Lyman- α emission



- Connect the sources of reionization to their impact on the IGM
- Answer what galaxies reionize the Universe

Mason+25, Lewis+22,
CoDa III, credit: P. Ocvirk



We can infer local HII regions **now** with JWST

See also:
 Tilvi+20, Endsley & Stark 20, Jung+22, Hayes & Scarlata 23, Saxena+23, Witstok+24a, Tang+23, +24, Chen+24, Umeda+24, Napolitano+24

But...

Analysis of surrounding HII morphology is approximate:

- **Galaxies are treated individually.**

But...

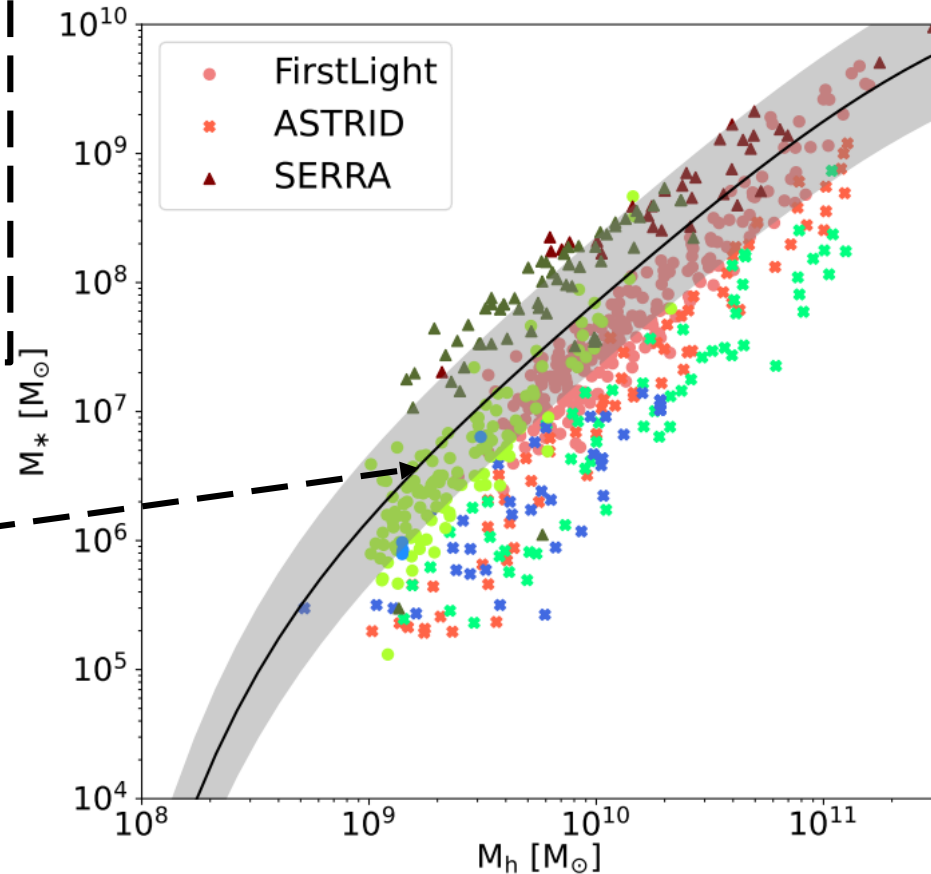
Analysis of surrounding HII morphology is approximate:

- **Galaxies are treated individually.**
- Many sources of stochasticity are ignored regarding galaxy properties

stochasticity at high redshifts

Scatter in
the stellar-
to-halo mass
relation

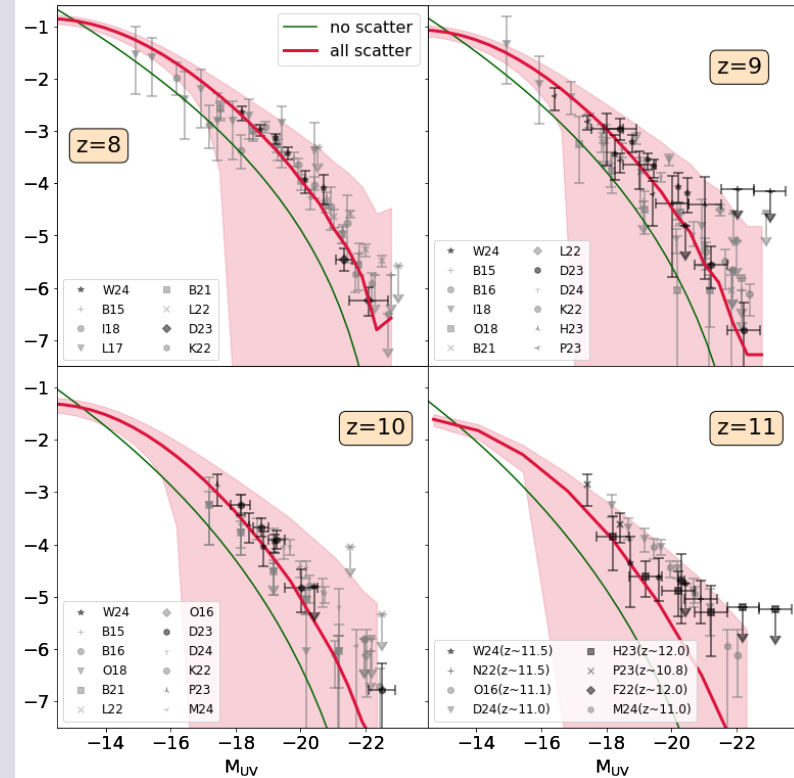
We cannot
ignore galaxy-
to-galaxy scatter



IN+24, Ceverino+18, Lovell+21,
Pallottini+22, Davies+23

Stochasticity is important

Galaxy-to-galaxy scatter is important in for global quantities during EoR (UV LF, EoR history ...), **but also locally on ionized bubble scales**



Current estimates of stochasticity can predict JWST UV LF only up to $z \lesssim 12$

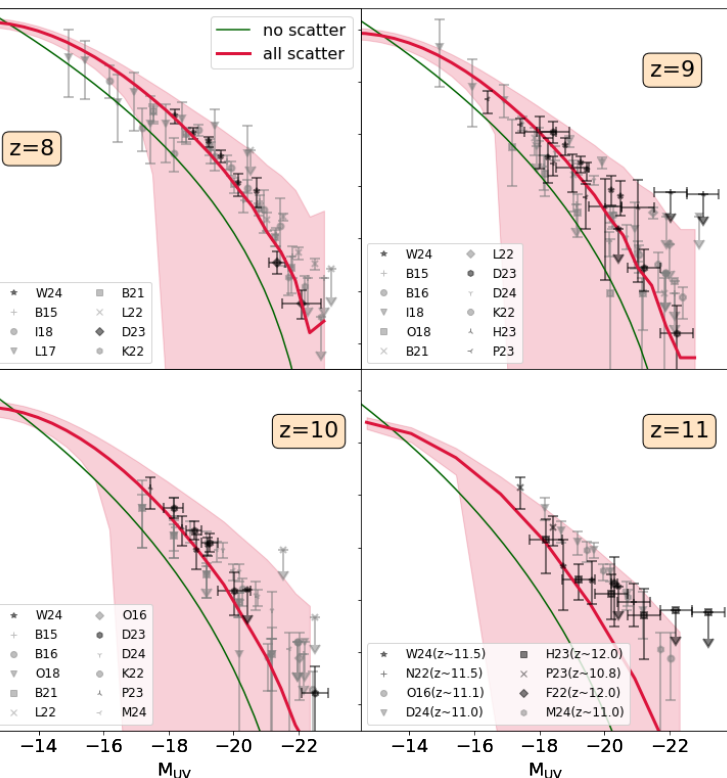
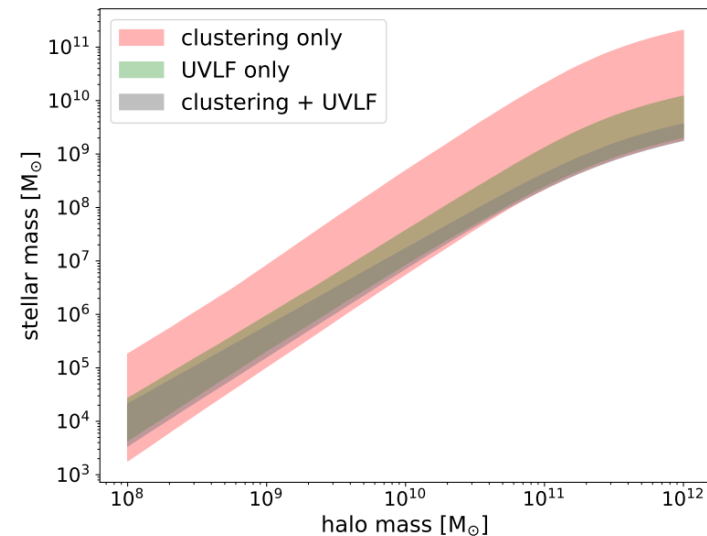
IN+24, +in prep

Stochasticity is important

Galaxy-to-galaxy scatter is important in for global quantities during EoR (UV LF, EoR history ...), **but also locally on ionized bubble scales**

We can use UV LF and clustering to predict stochasticity

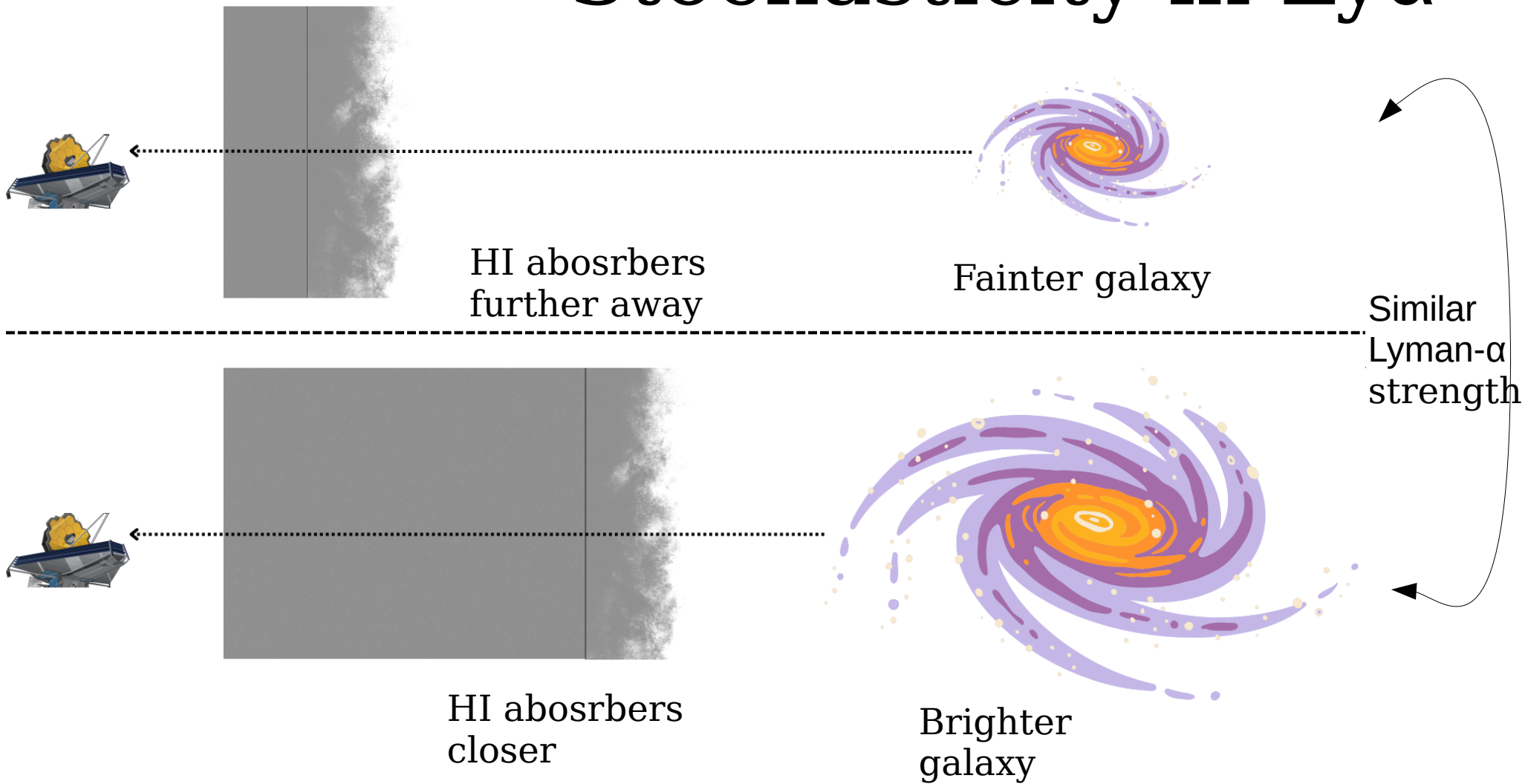
IN PREP



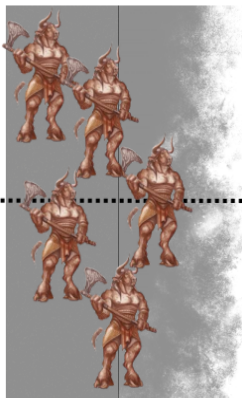
Current estimates of stochasticity can predict JWST UV LF only up to $z \lesssim 12$

IN+24, +in prep

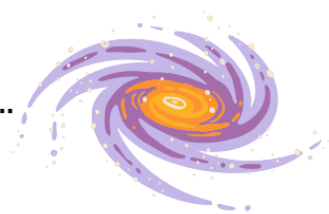
Stochasticity in Ly α



Stochasticity in Ly α

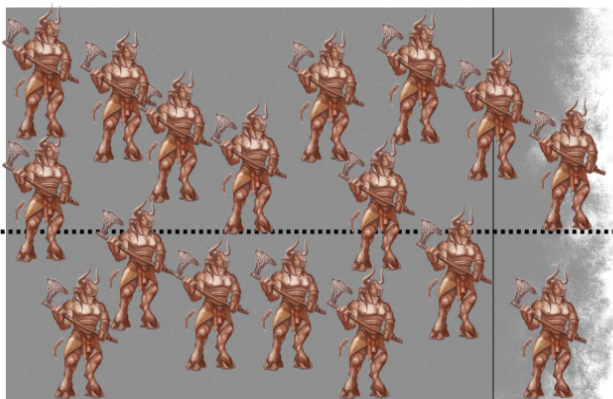


HI absorbers
further away

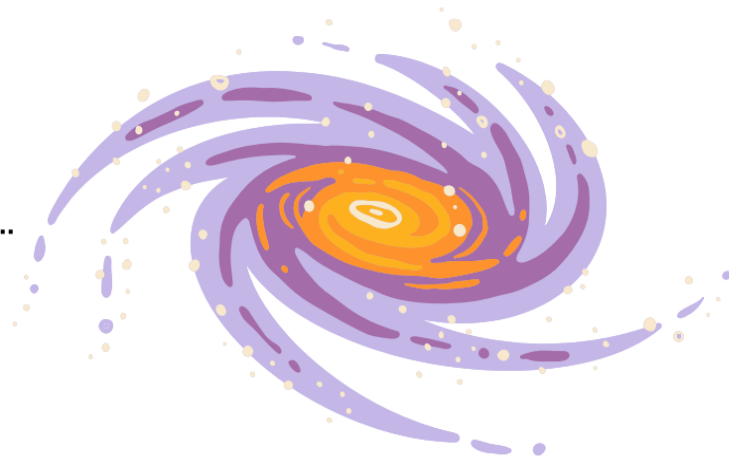


Fainter galaxy

Similar
Lyman- α
strength



HI absorbers
closer




Brighter
galaxy



Inferring bubbles around galaxies

Forward-model sources of stochasticity:

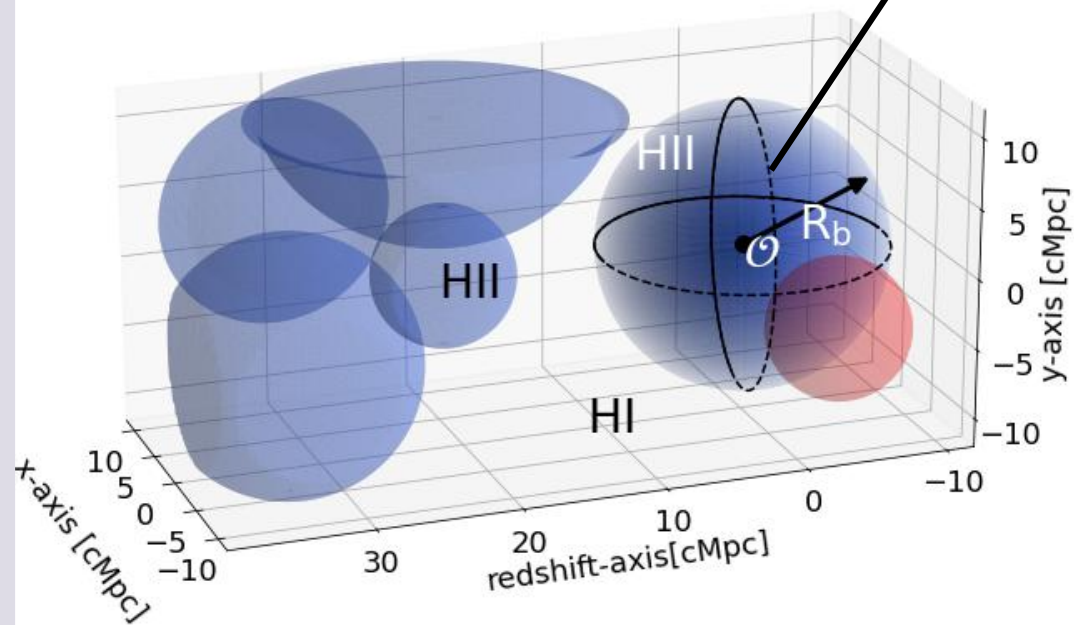
- global neutral fraction
- surrounding patchy EoR topology
- galaxy location
- M_{uv}
- Ly α intrinsic flux (Δv , EW)
- NIRSpec noise



Self-consistent modeling for a number of galaxies

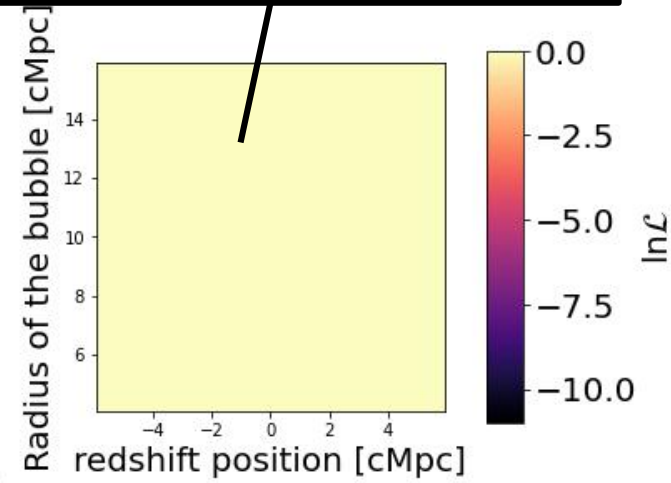
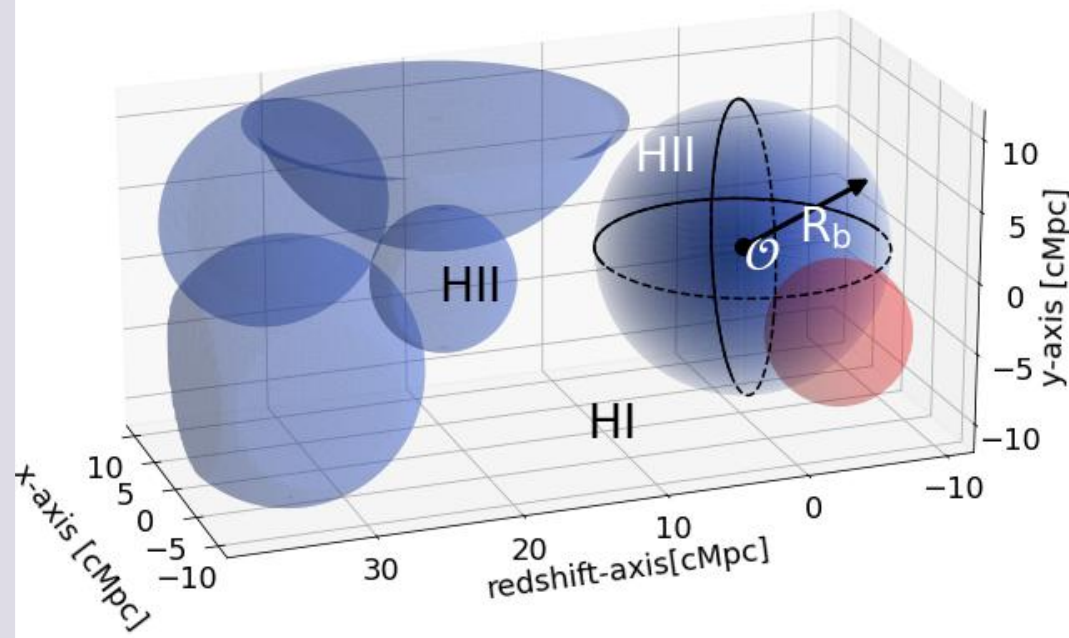
Inference of the position
and radius of the bubble

$N_{\text{gal}} = 0$
 $n_{\text{gal}} = 0.0000 [\text{cMpc}^{-3}]$



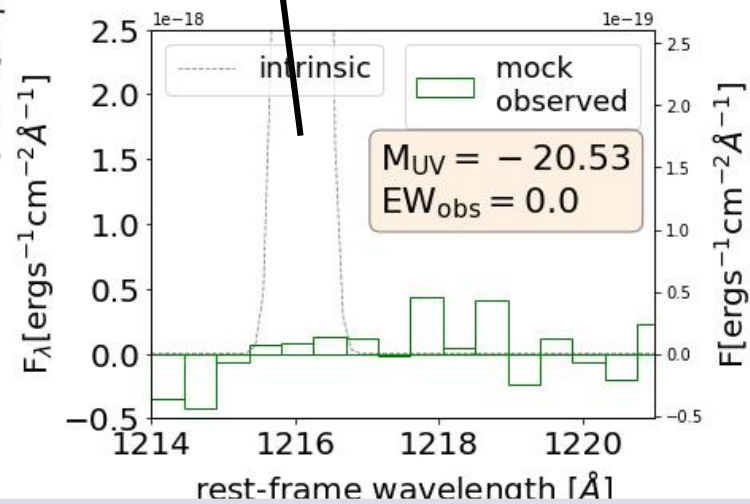
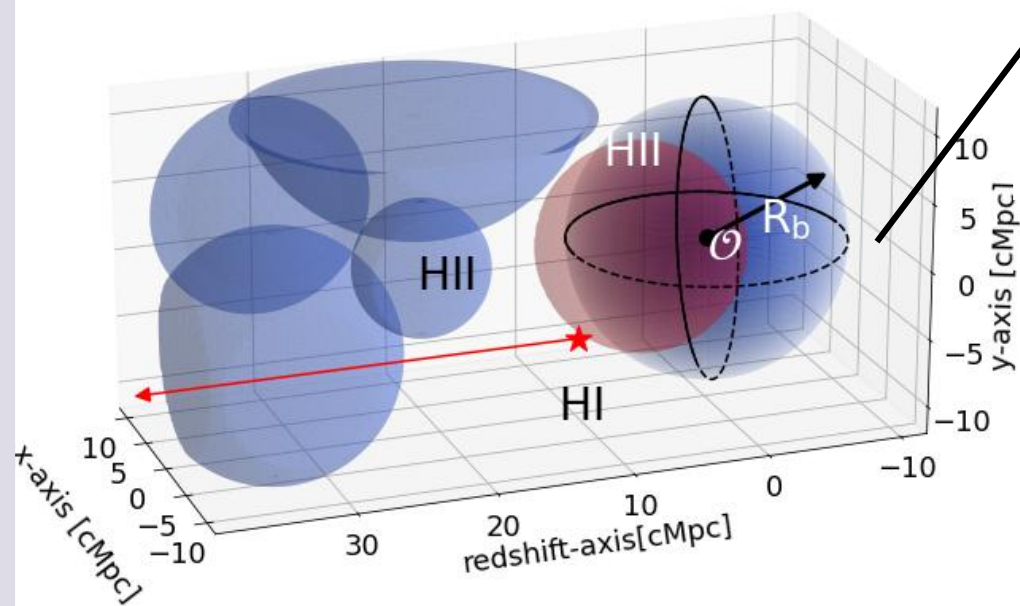
Situation with 0
galaxies observed

$N_{\text{gal}} = 0$
 $n_{\text{gal}} = 0.0000 [\text{cMpc}^{-3}]$



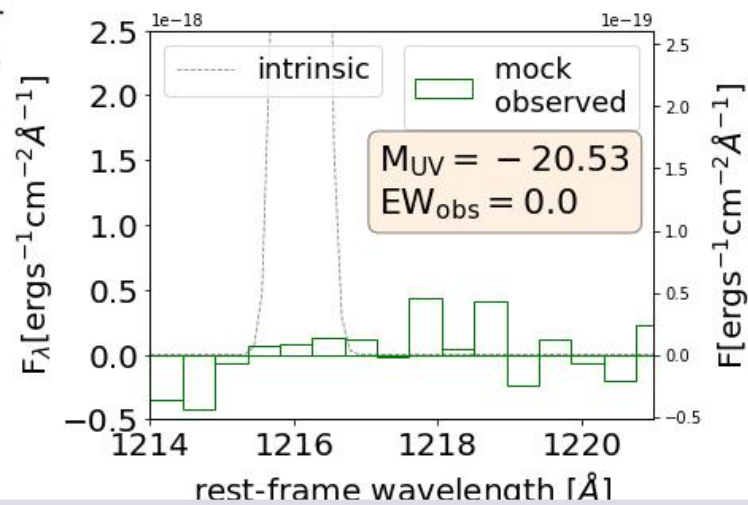
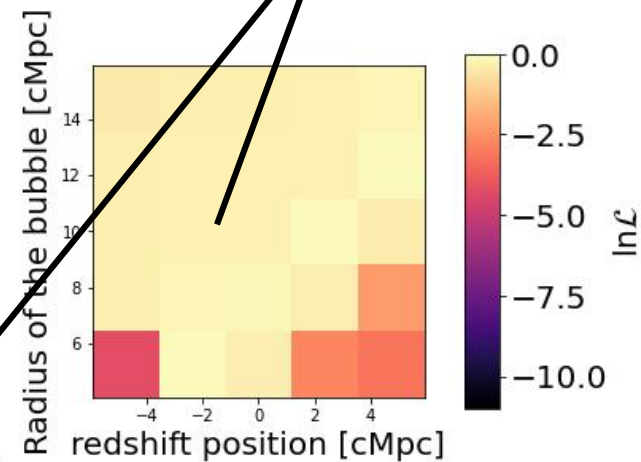
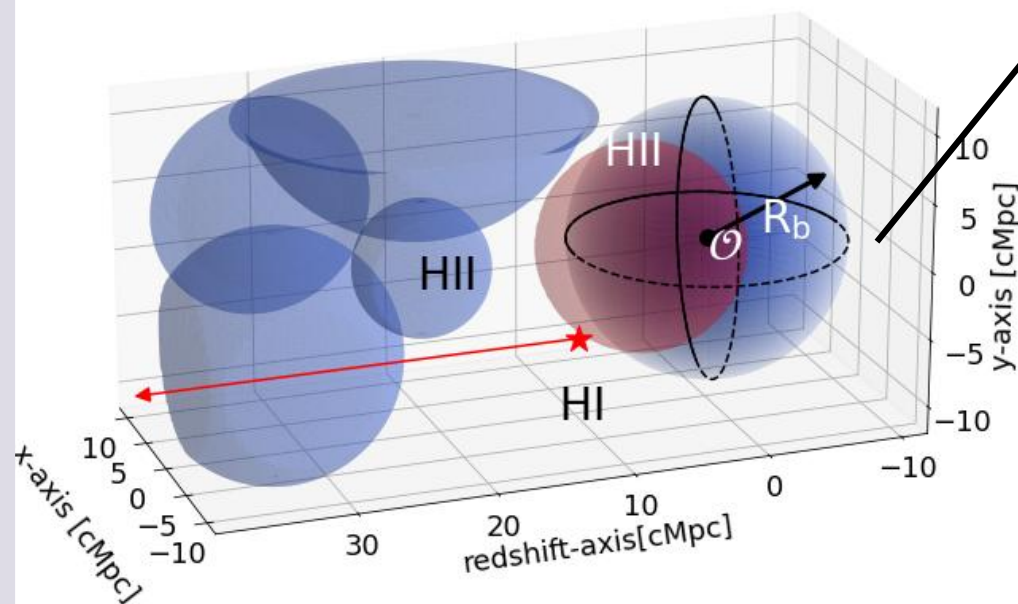
One galaxy observed
(non-emitter!)

$N_{\text{gal}} = 1$
 $n_{\text{gal}} = 0.0001 [\text{cMpc}^{-3}]$



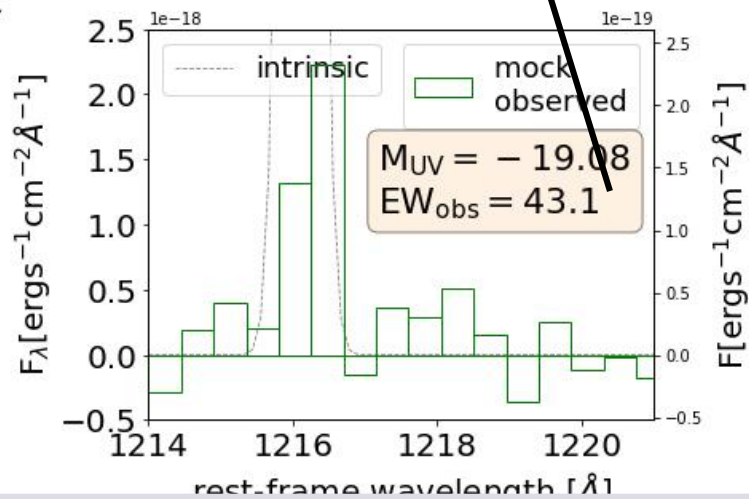
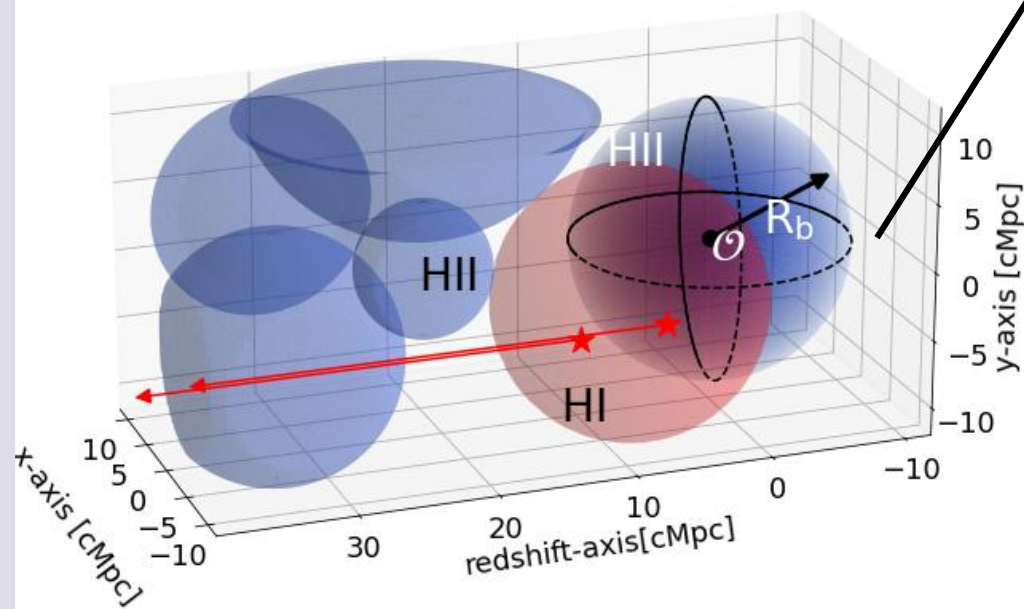
Very weak constraints

$$N_{\text{gal}} = 1$$
$$n_{\text{gal}} = 0.0001 [\text{cMpc}^{-3}]$$



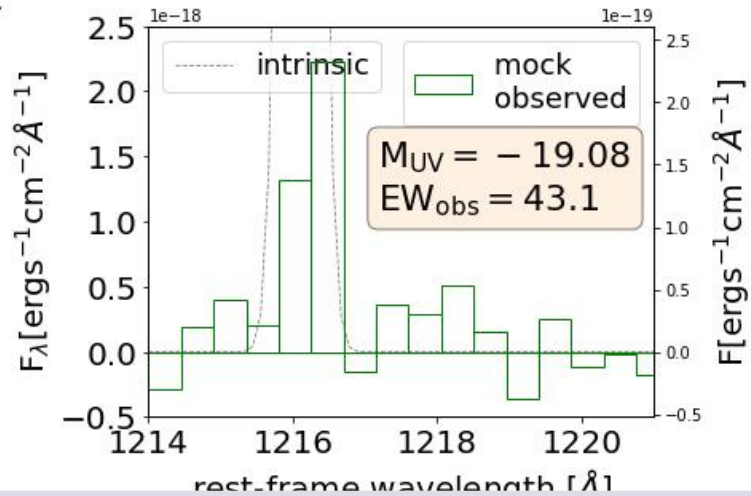
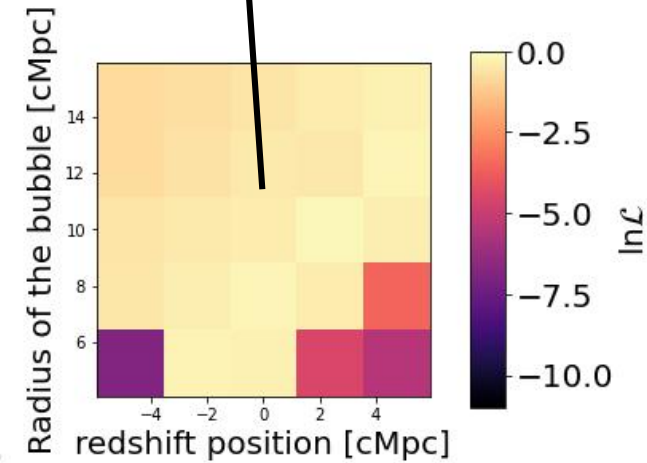
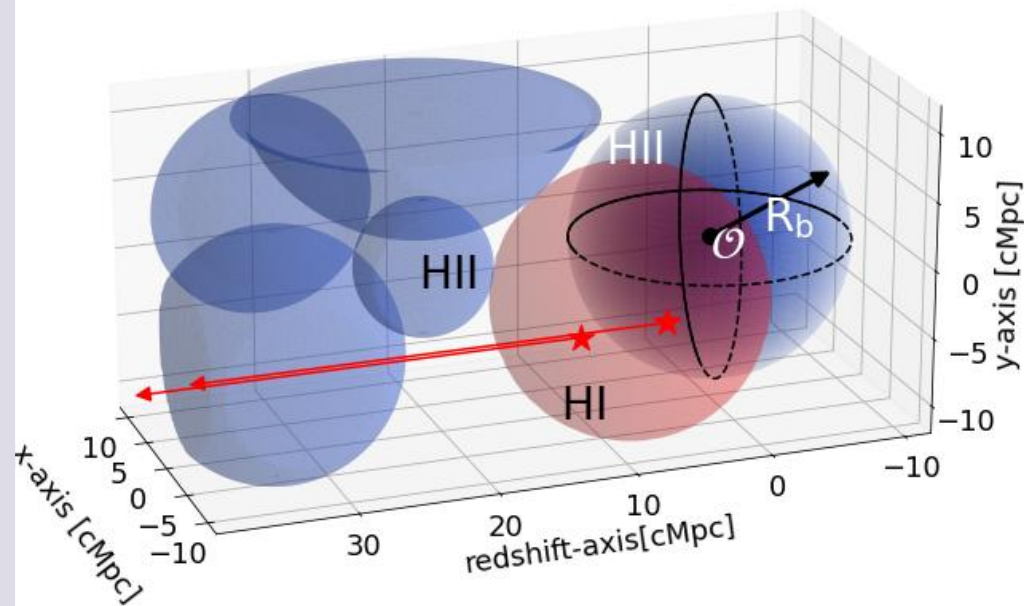
Second galaxy observed in the field of view

$N_{\text{gal}} = 2$
 $n_{\text{gal}} = 0.0003 [\text{cMpc}^{-3}]$



Additional constraints come by adding the second galaxy

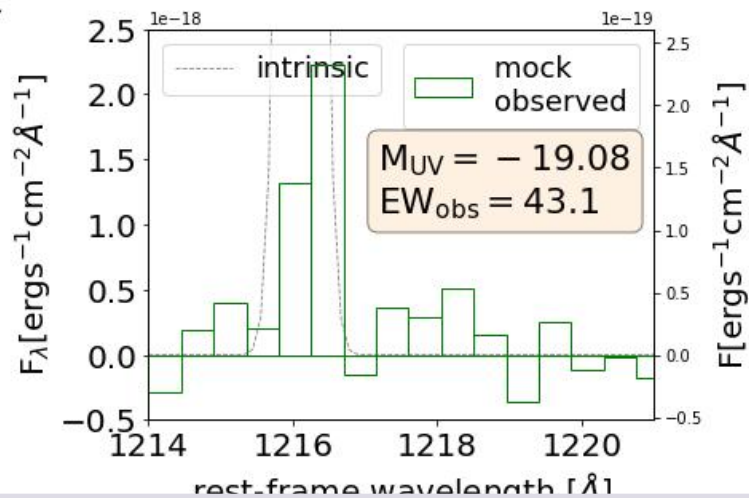
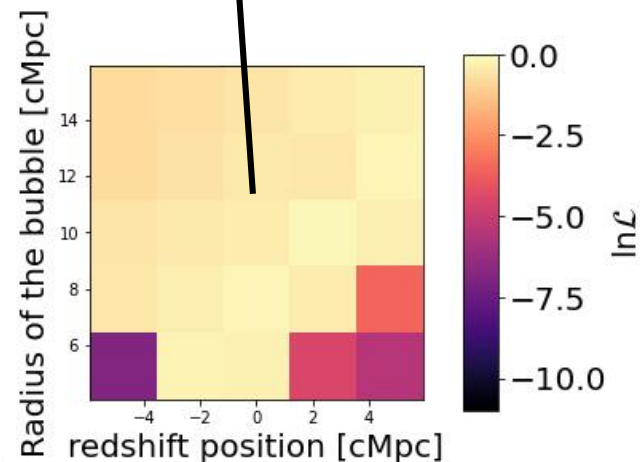
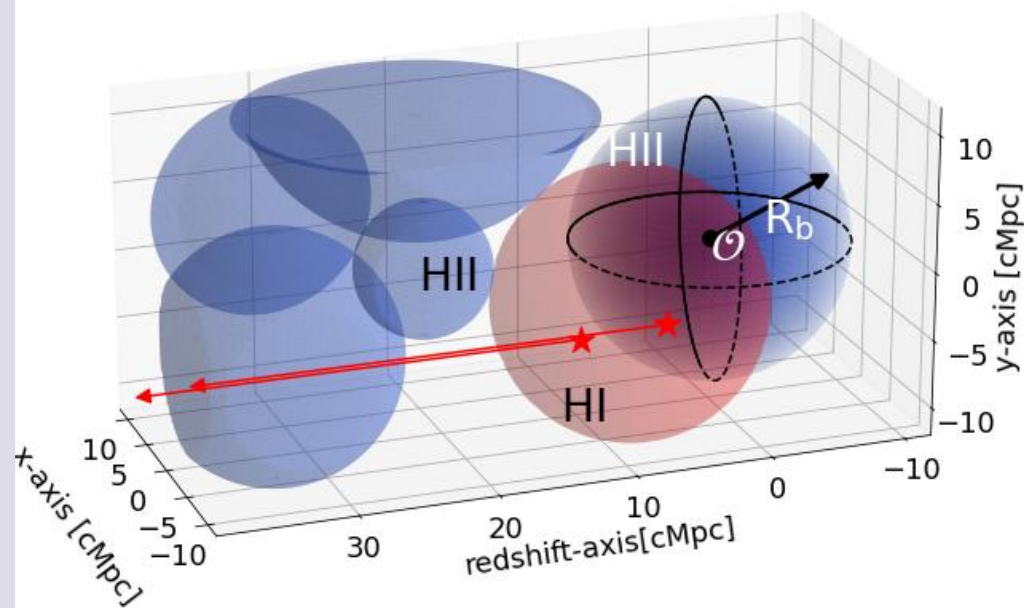
$N_{\text{gal}} = 2$
 $n_{\text{gal}} = 0.0003 [\text{cMpc}^{-3}]$



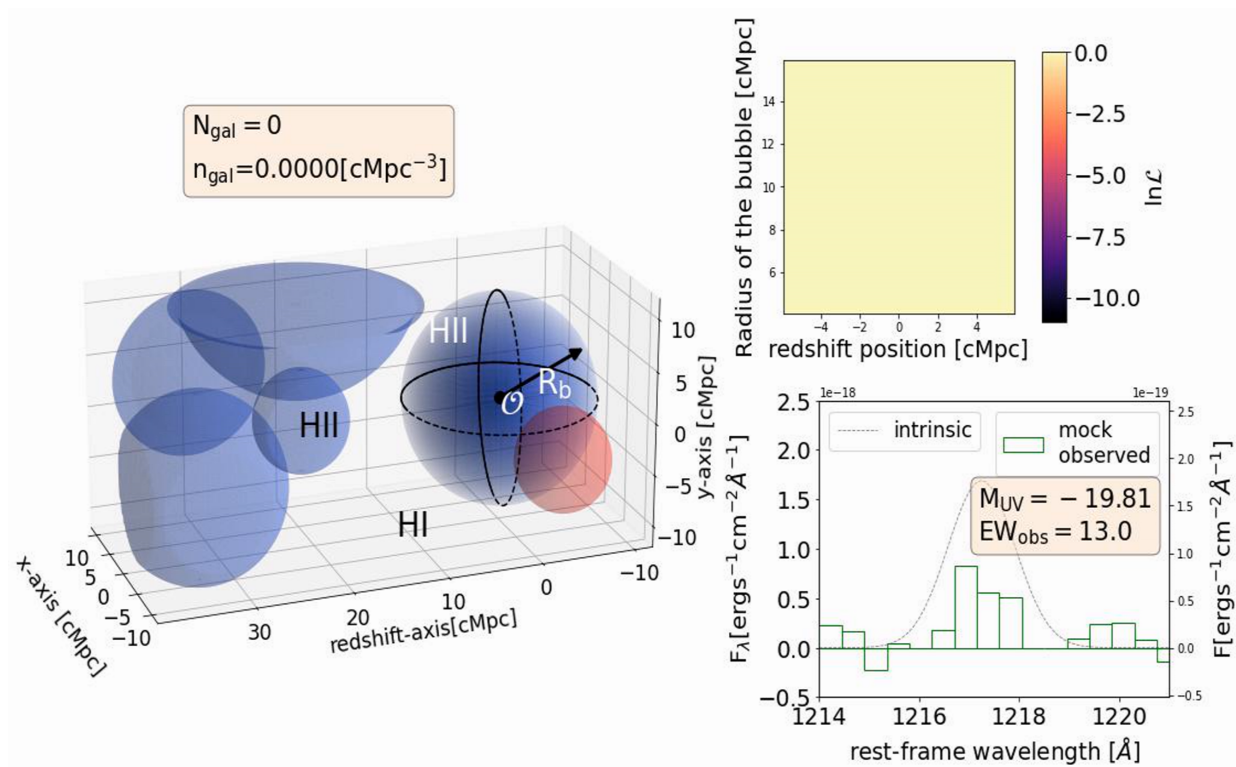
**But two galaxies
are not enough**

Additional constraints come
by adding the second galaxy

$N_{\text{gal}} = 2$
 $n_{\text{gal}} = 0.0003 [\text{cMpc}^{-3}]$



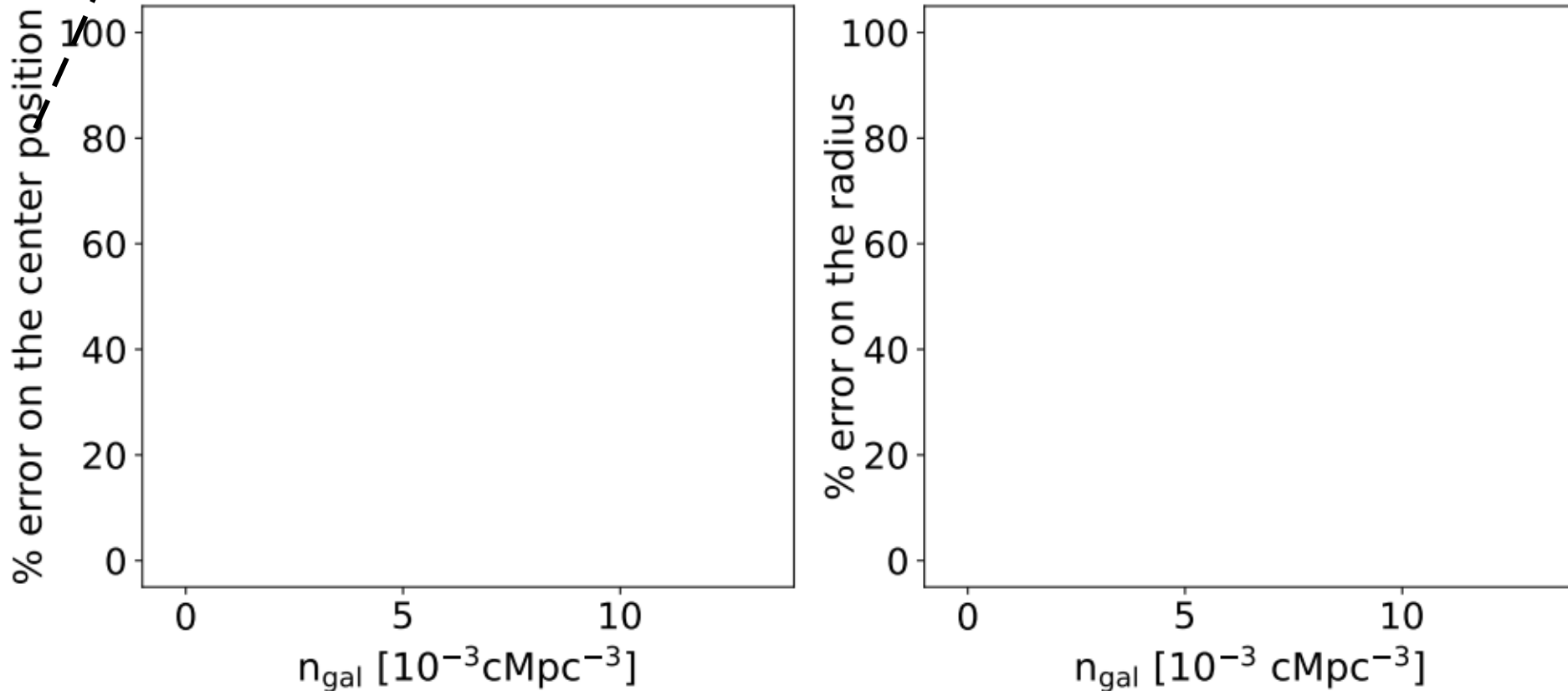
More galaxies -> better inference

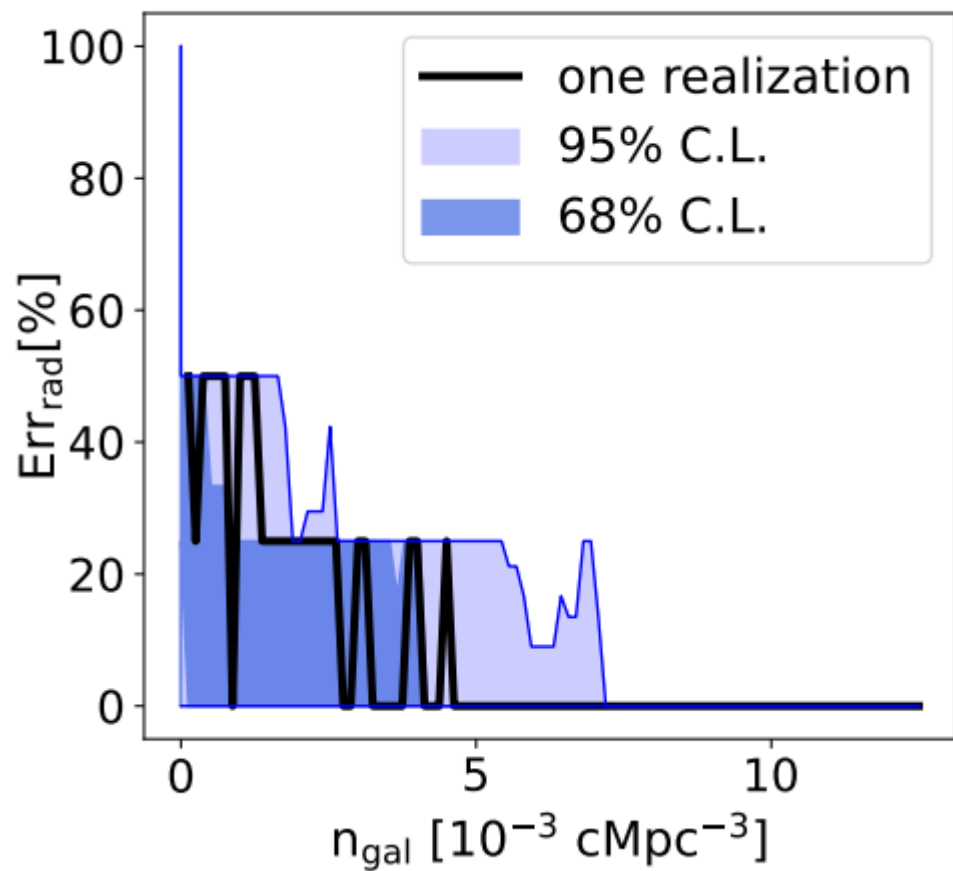
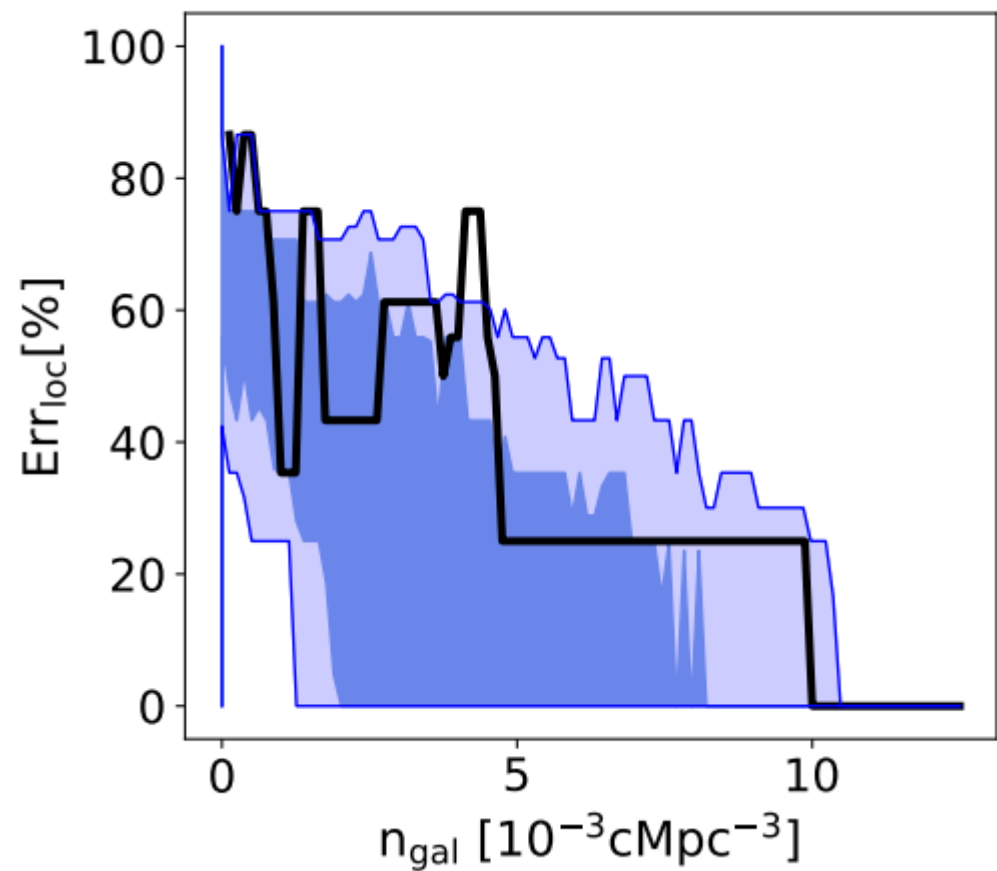


How many galaxies we need
to infer the bubble?

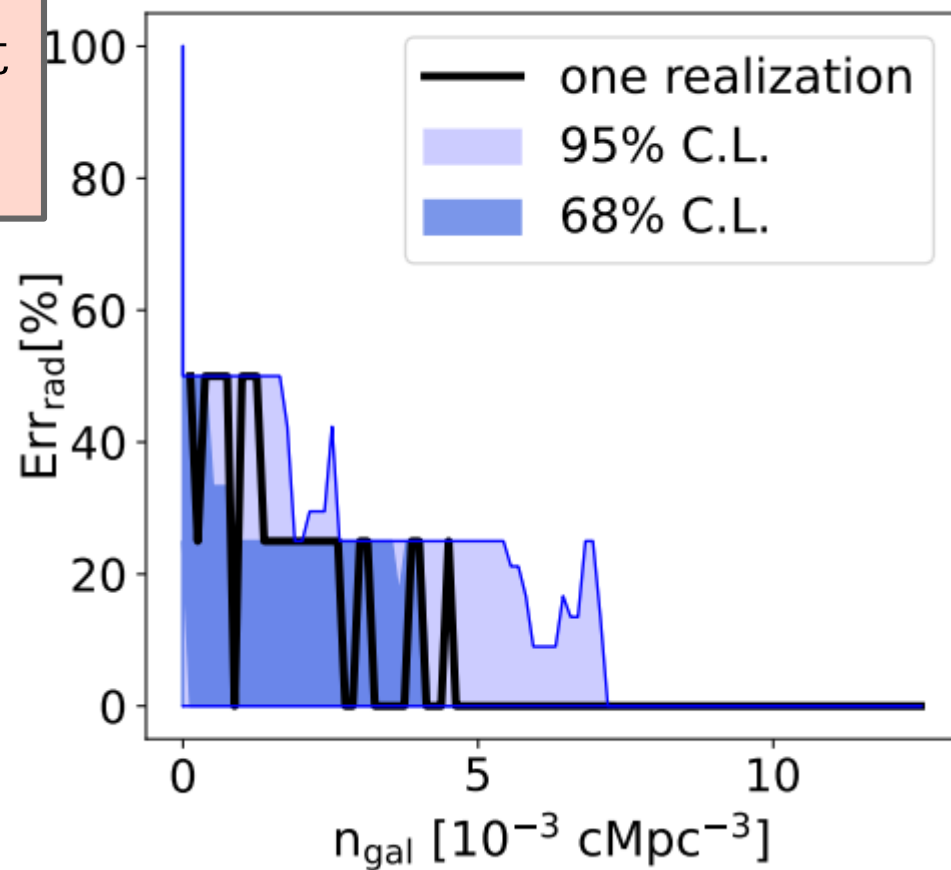
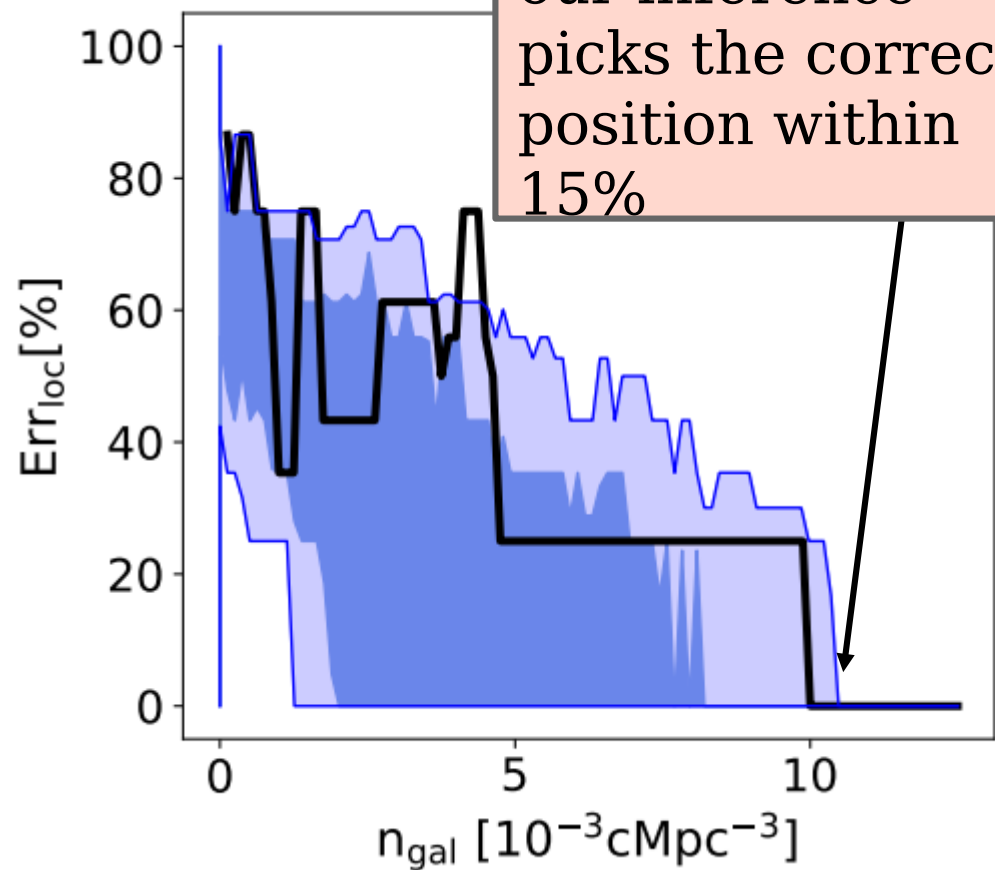
Distance between the inferred position of the bubble and the correct one normalized by the radius

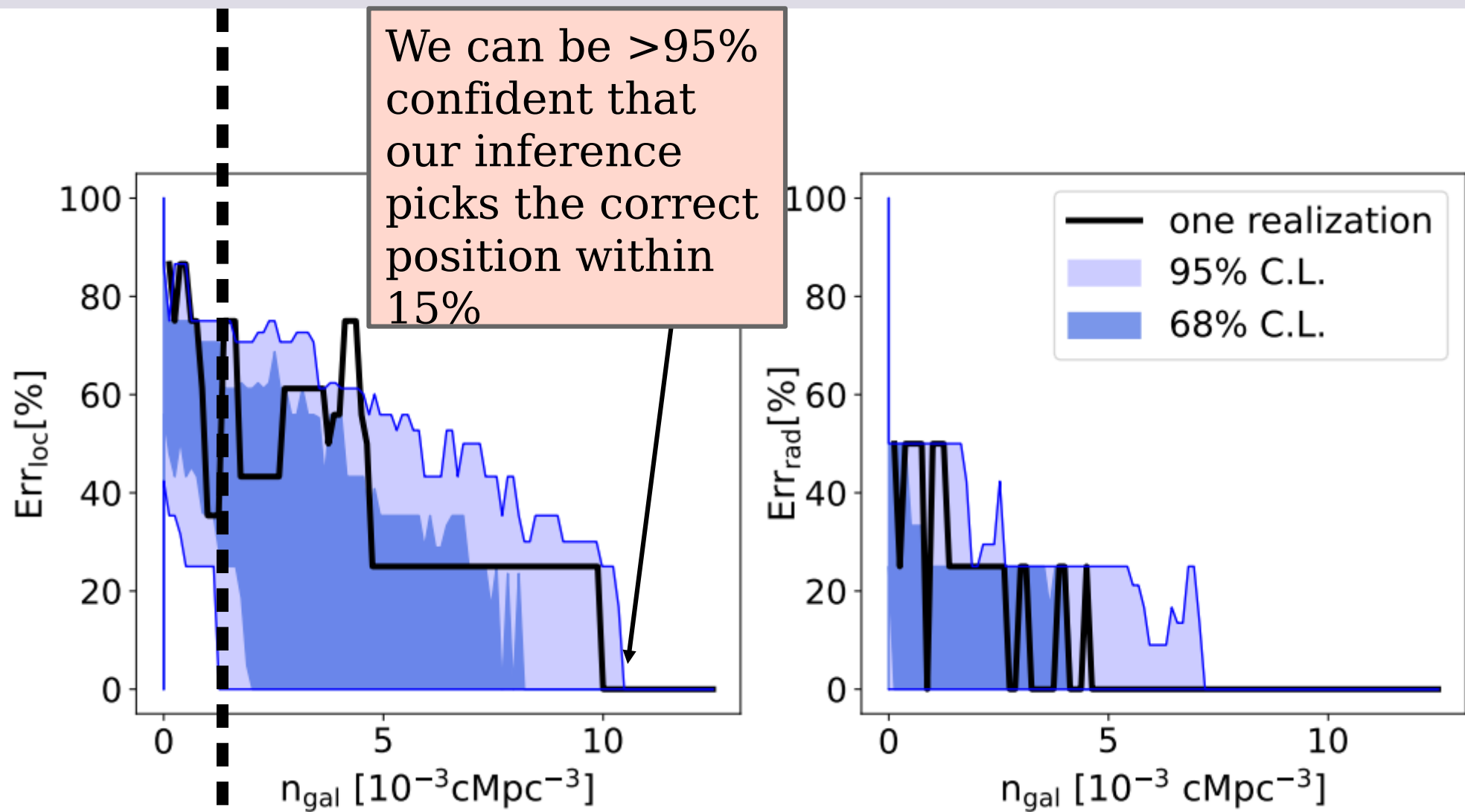
$R_{\text{fid}} = 10 \text{ cMpc}$, $\langle x_H \rangle = 0.8$, $z = 7.5$





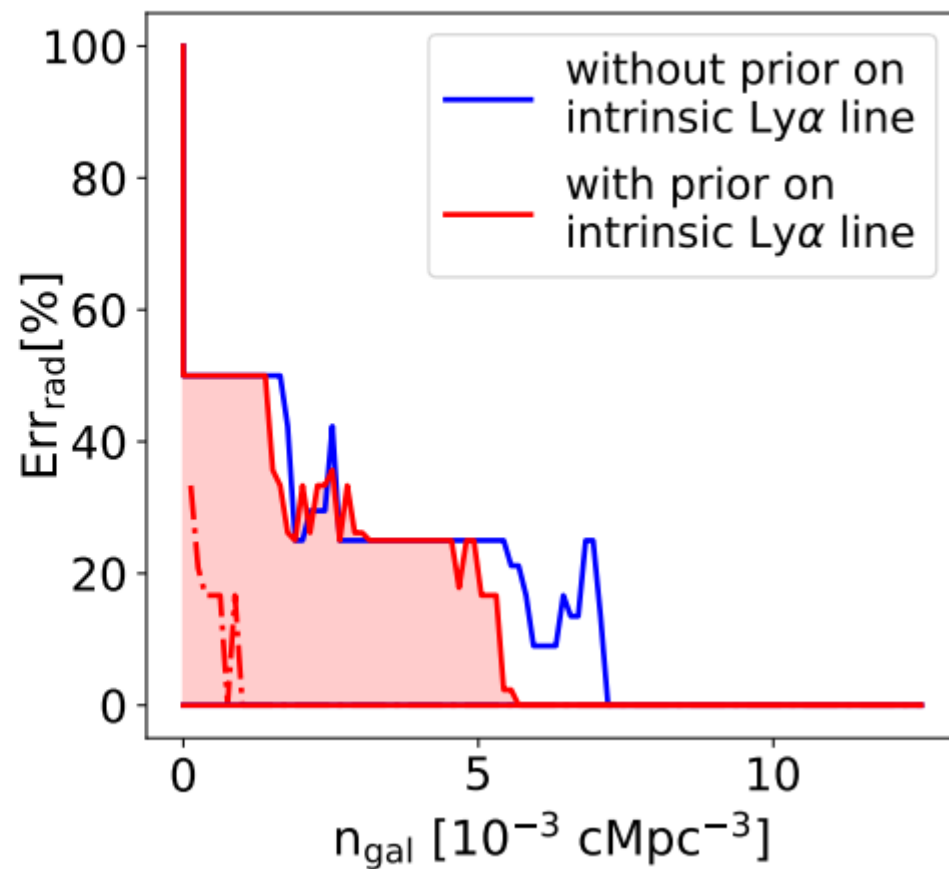
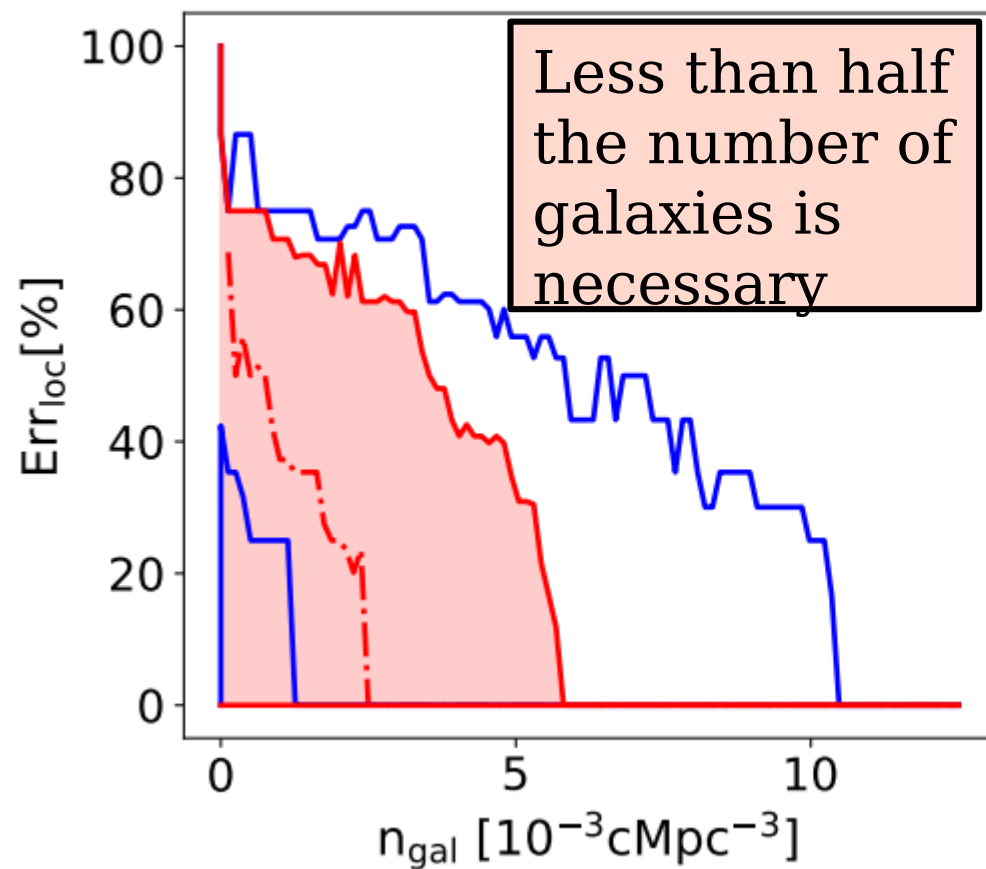
We can be >95% confident that our inference picks the correct position within 15%



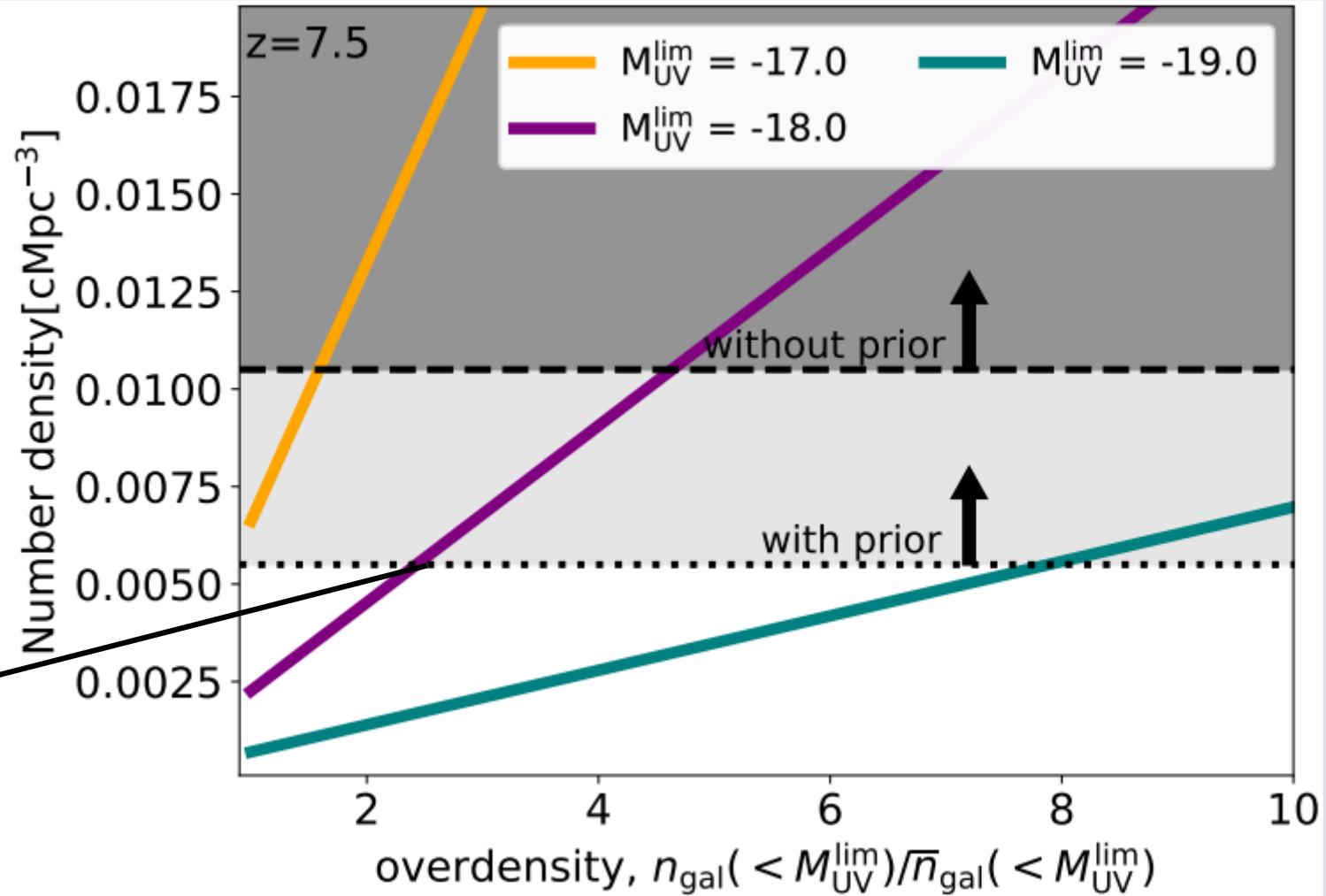


That's not all -> we can put a prior on the intrinsic Lyman-alpha emission from other lines, like $H\beta$

$$R_b^{\text{true}} = 10 \text{ cMpc}, \langle x_H \rangle = 0.65, z = 7.5$$

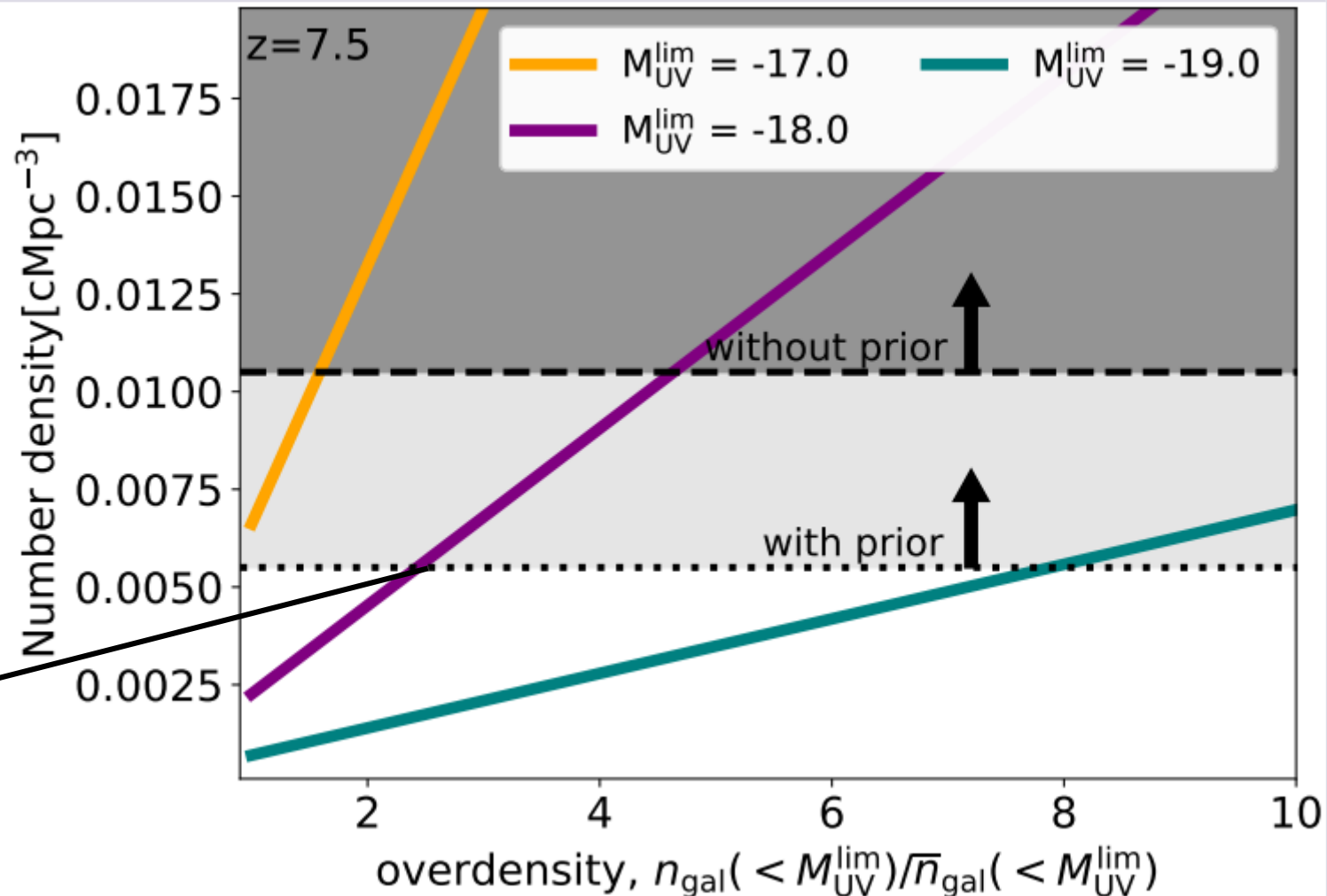


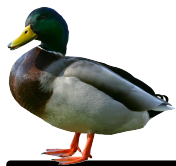
Expected
number
density
observed



**A dedicated
JWST
NIRSpec
survey can
reach those
numbers!**

Expected
number
density
observed





Conclusions

- stochasticity is important for modeling of both large-scales EoR observables, and galaxy observations
- synergy of observations from many galaxies is necessary to correctly infer EoR properties
- With JWST we can statistically detect ionized bubbles in the first half of EoR and constrain stochasticity in galaxies

Bubble
detection
paper:

ArXiv:
2406.15237

Contact:

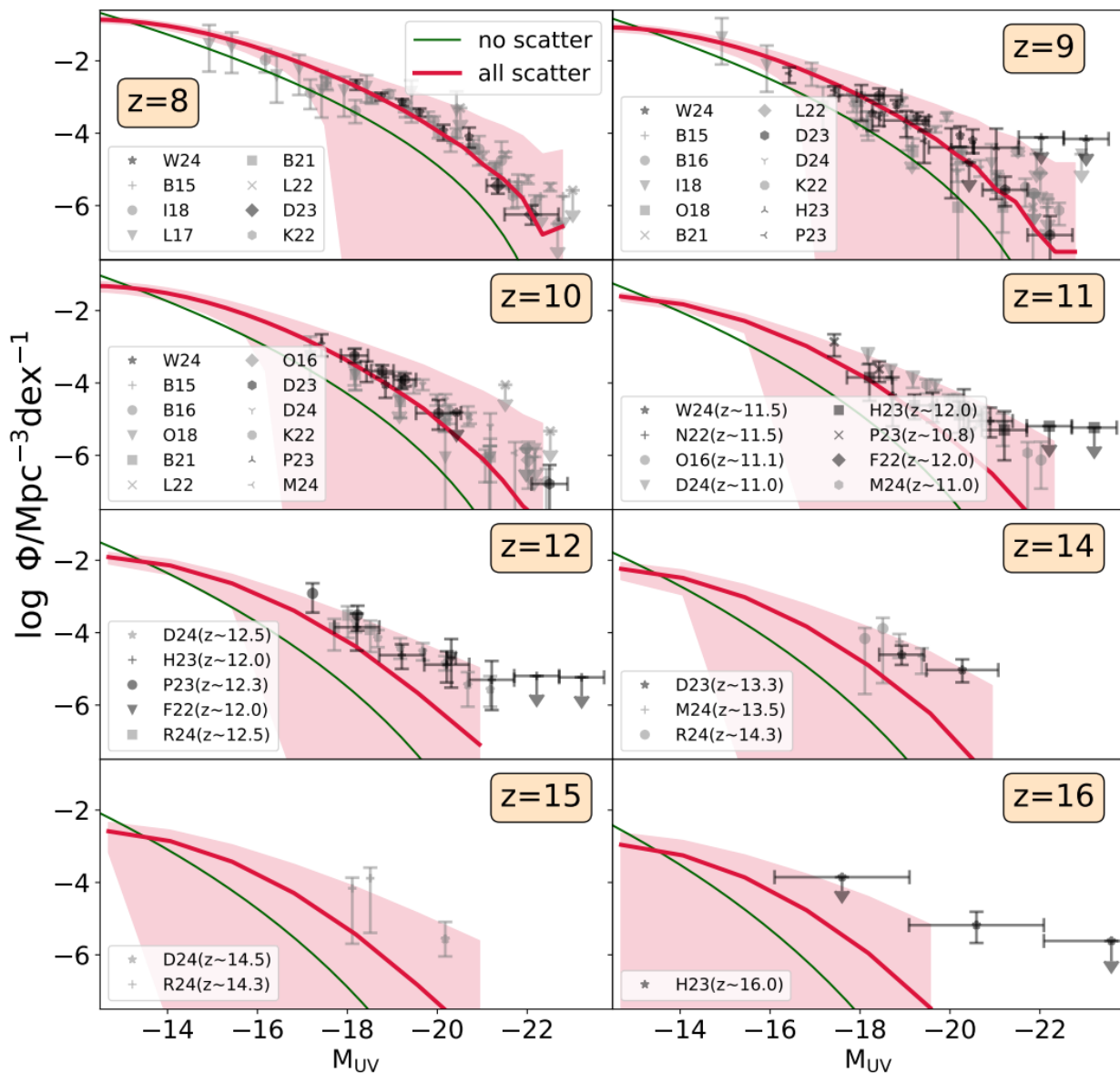
- ivan.nikolic@sns.it



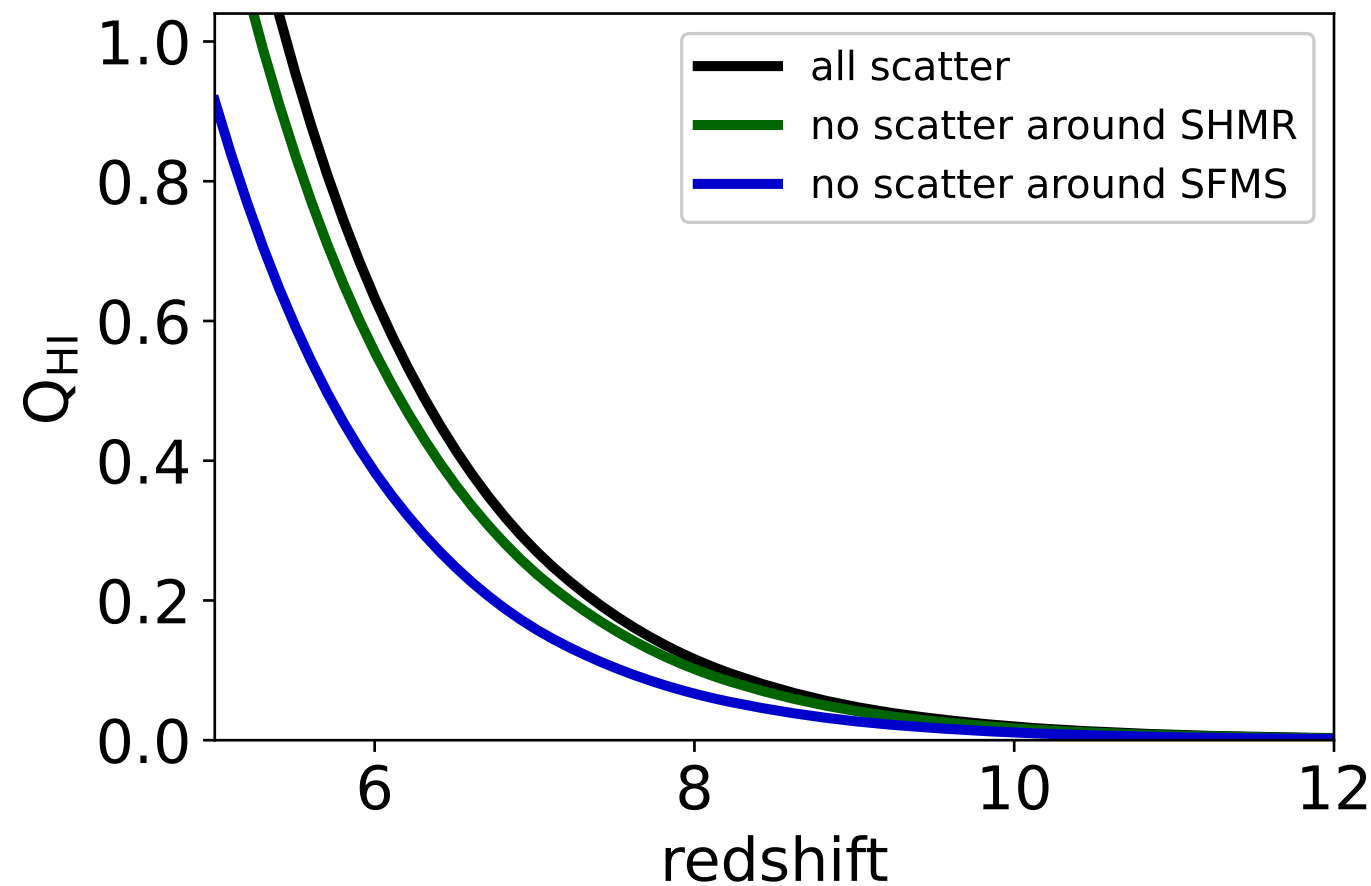
SCUOLA
NORMALE
SUPERIORE

EXTRA SLIDES

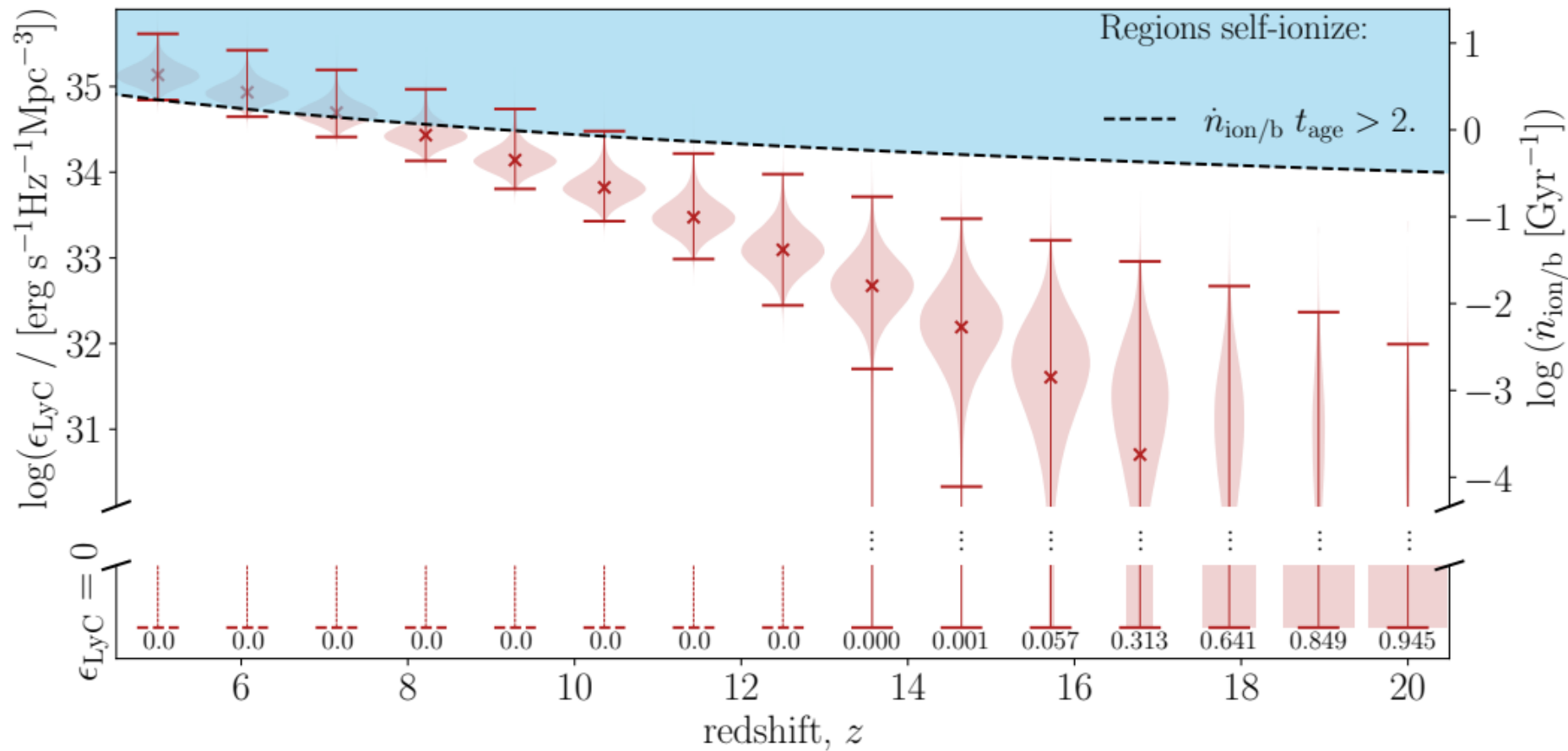
Full UVLF predictions



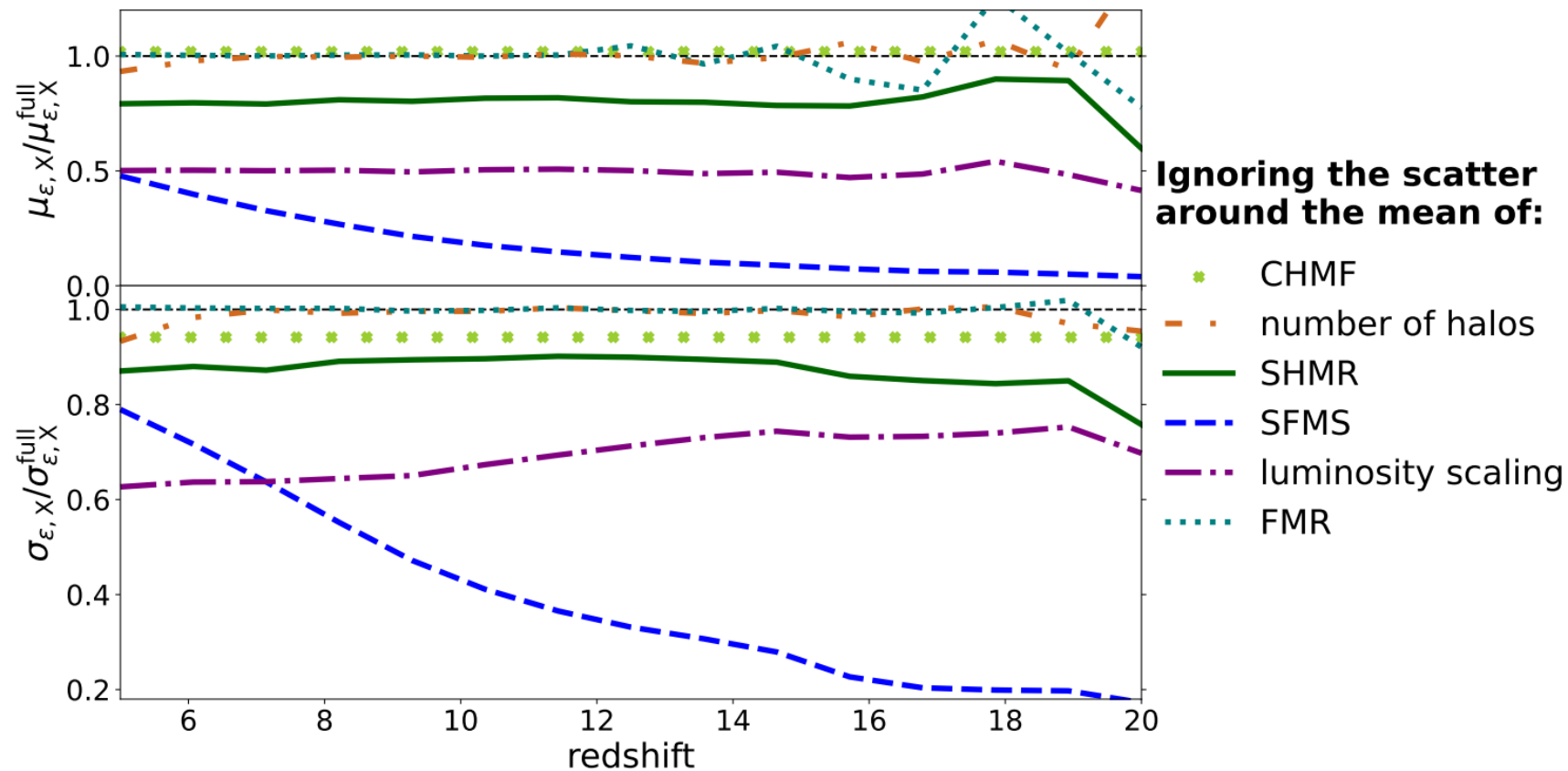
EoR history prediction



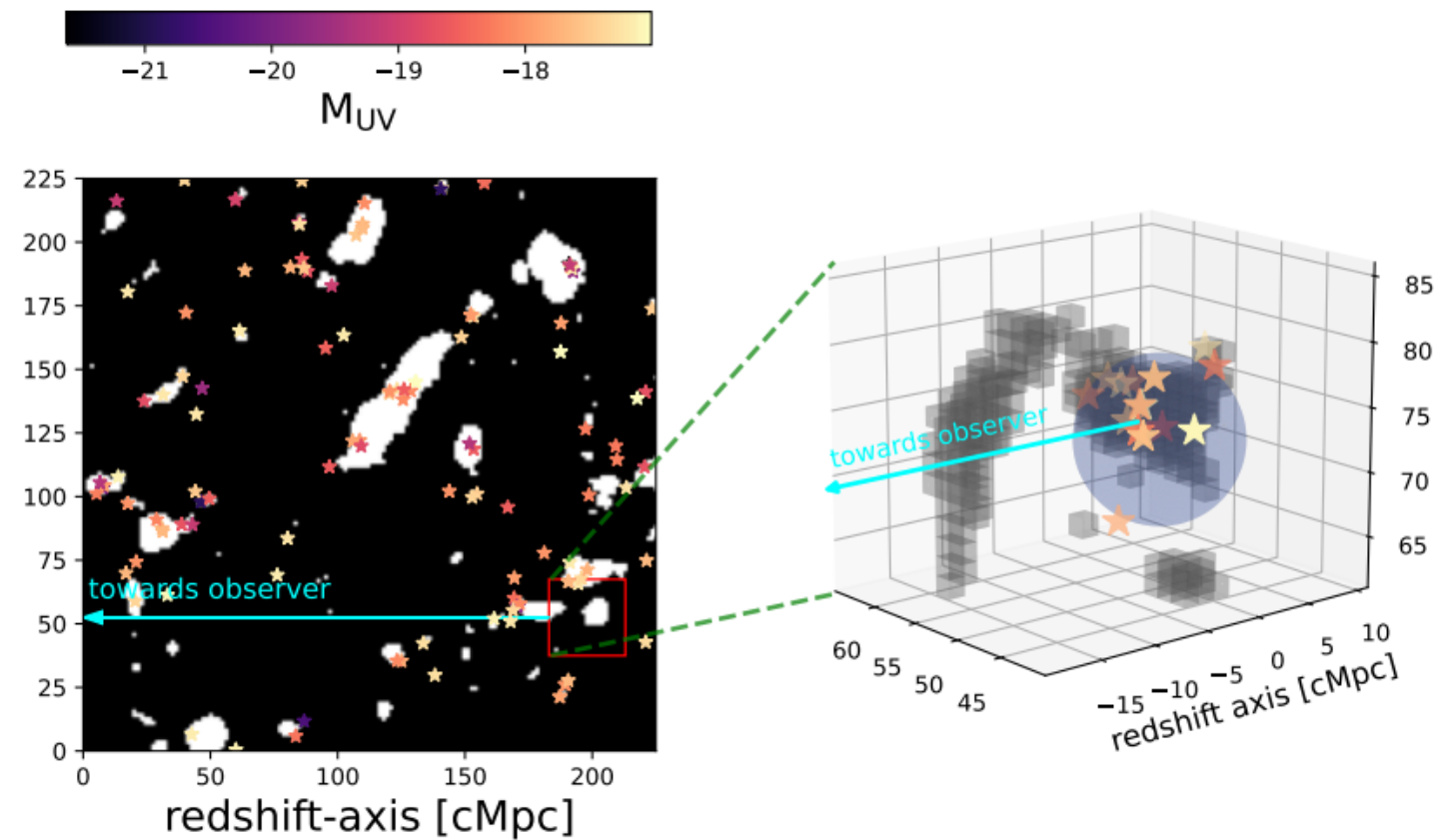
Ionizing emissivity stochastic prediction



X-ray emissivity stochasticity analysis



21cmFAST application



21cmFAST application

