

## Non-resolved Populations

- Galaxies formed by several SSPs, sometimes we only know their integrated light spectra.
- Integrated light of a galaxy: colours, SED, spectra

## Resolved Populations

- Resolved stars, CMD diagrams

## Isochrones of stellar populations vs. evolution tracks of individual stars

Fig 1.4 'Galaxies in the Universe' Sparke/Gallagher CUP 2007

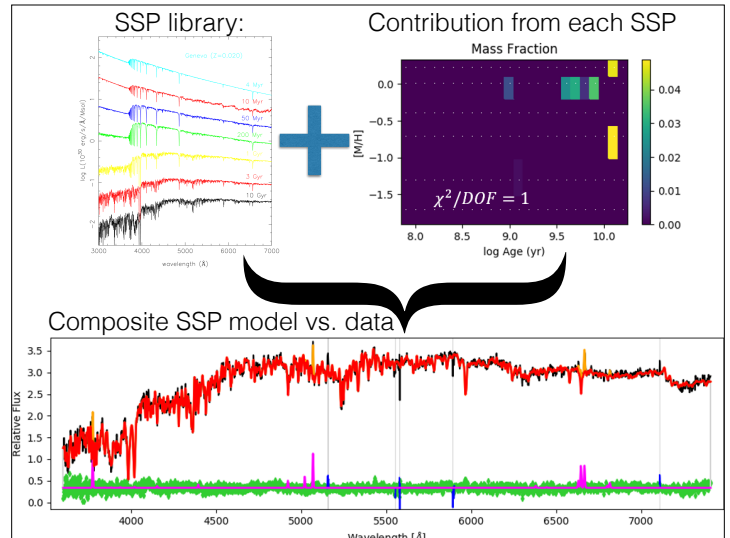
- Bressan+2012
- Th star cluster NGC 419
- The isochrones are for  $Z = 0.004$ , ages  $\log(t/\text{yr}) = 9.15, 9.20, 9.25, 9.30$

## single-age stellar populations (SSPs)

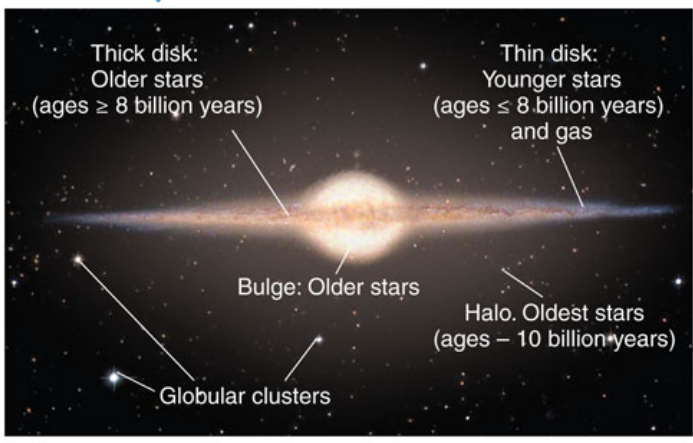
A bounded-variables linear least squares problem: solve for mass weights

$$\sum \text{SSP}(\lambda; t, Z) \times w(t, Z) \approx \text{Galaxy SED}(\lambda)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \times \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} \approx \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix}$$



**“Rome wasn’t built in a day”  
In fact, it’s still under construction!**



## Stellar Population Synthesis

- **Why?** For most external galaxies, individual stars cannot be spatially resolved. So the observer only gets the total integrated spectrum from all of the stars in the galaxy.
- **How?** By observing the stars in the MW, we have a library of stellar spectra from stars in different parts of the HR diagram. Given an IMF and an isochrone from stellar evolution models, one can add all of the stellar spectra together and compare this integrated spectrum with the observed spectrum. Such single-age stellar populations are called a single-age (simple) stellar populations (**SSPs**).
- It is unlikely that a galaxy is made of a single SSP. Instead, it may have a complicated history of star formation. So in practice, one usually has to add a number of different SSP weighted by the star-formation history (dM/dt vs. t)

## Challenges of Stellar Population Synthesis

- Stellar evolution models
- Dust extinction
  - extinction law depends on properties and distributions of dust grains
- Initial Mass Function (IMF)
- Stellar spectral libraries
- Metallicity evolution and distribution
- Degeneracy in star formation history

## Astro2020 Decadal Survey

### Key Scientific Challenges for the Next Decade

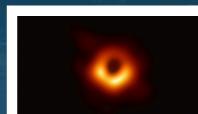


#### Worlds and Suns in Context

Priority Area: Pathways to Habitable Worlds

Understanding the connections between stars and the worlds that orbit them, from nascent disks of dust and gas through formation and evolution, is an important scientific goal for the next decade. The effort to identify habitable Earth-like worlds in other planetary systems and search for the biochemical signatures of life will play a critical role in determining whether life exists elsewhere in the universe.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS:

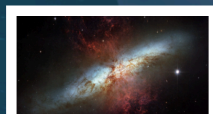


#### New Messengers and New Physics

Priority Area: New Windows on the Dynamic Universe

Over the next decade, a range of complementary observations—from radio to gamma rays, gravitational waves, neutrinos, and high-energy particles—will enable investigations into the most energetic processes in the universe and address larger questions about the nature of dark matter, dark energy, and cosmological inflation. These growing capabilities will enable closer study of neutron stars, white dwarfs, black hole collisions, stellar explosions, and the birth of our universe.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS:



#### Cosmic Ecosystems

Priority Area: Unveiling the Drivers of Galaxy Growth

Research in the coming decade will revolutionize our understanding of the origins and evolution of galaxies, from the cosmic webs of gas that feed them to the formation of stars. New observational capabilities across the electromagnetic spectrum along with computation and theory will help resolve the rich workings of galaxies on all scales.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS:



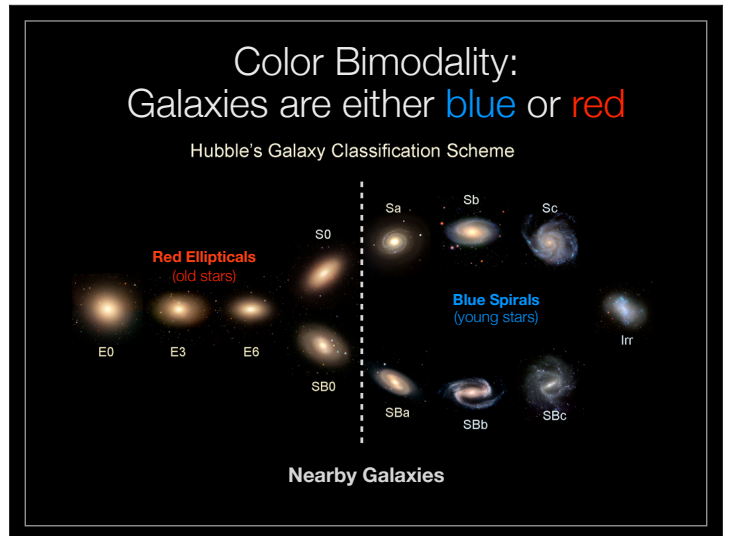
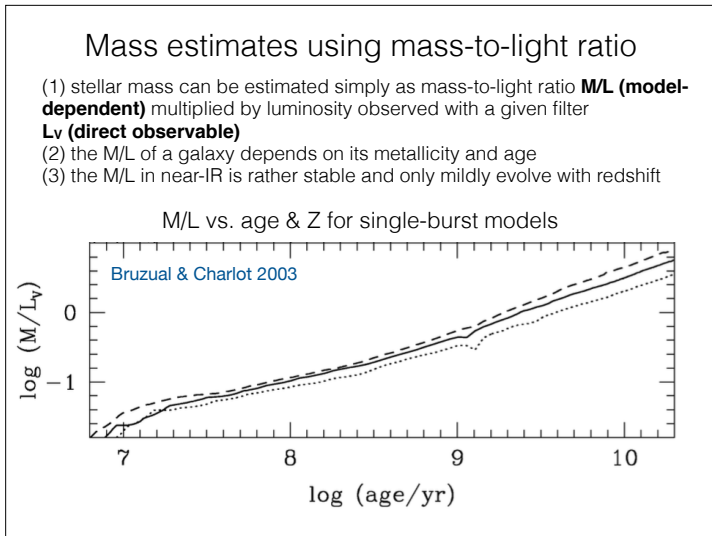
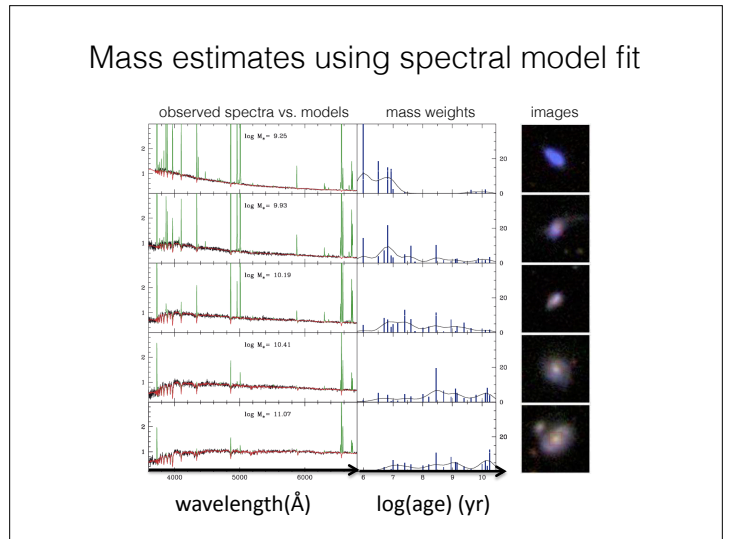
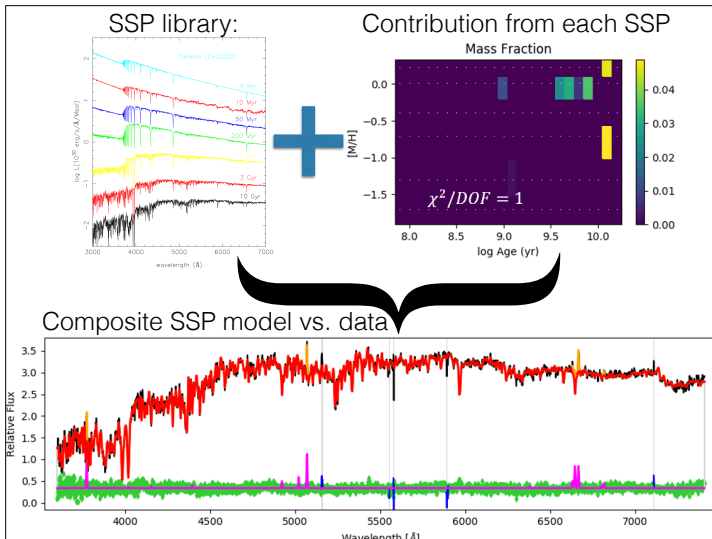


### Cosmic Ecosystems

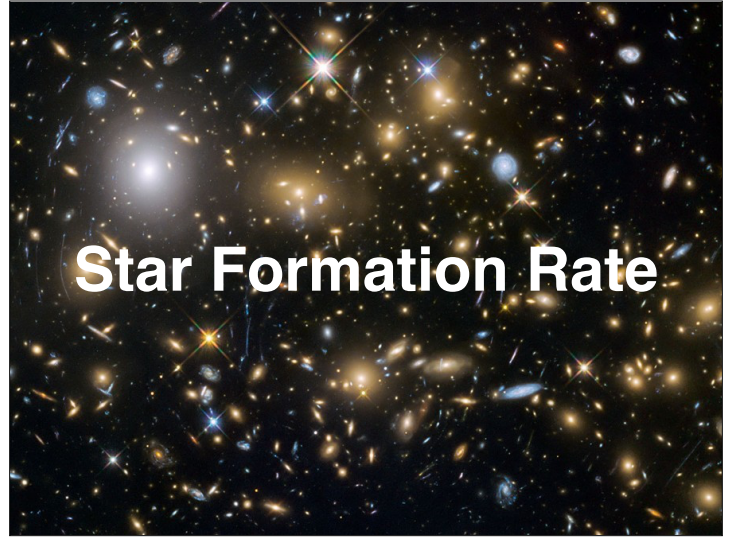
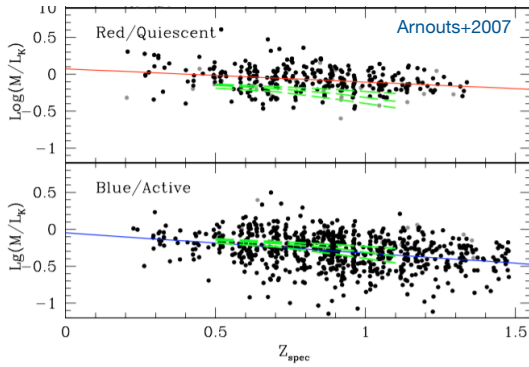
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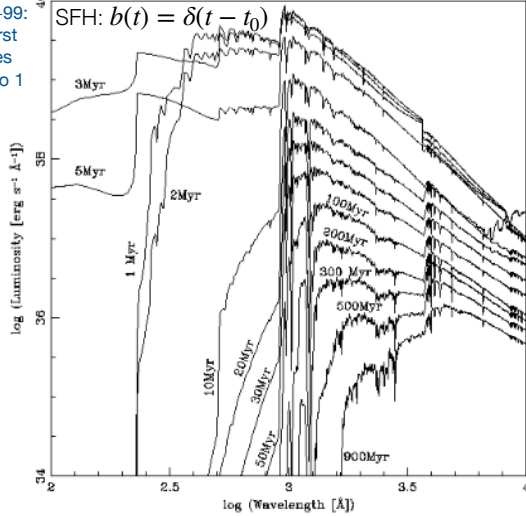
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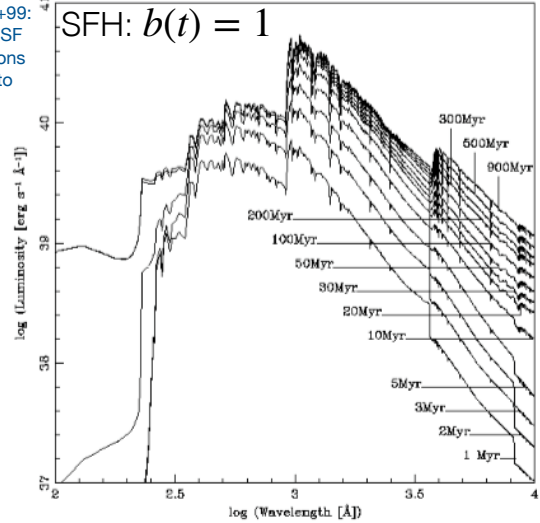
### Galaxy-integrated M/L<sub>K</sub> vs. redshift relation for red and blue galaxies



Leitherer+99: single-burst SF w/ ages of 1 Myr to 1 Gyr



Leitherer+99: constant SF w/ durations of 1 Myr to 1 Gyr



### SFR estimators

Murphy+11: using the Kroupa IMF and Starburst99 SPS models

the following relation between the SFR and production rate of ionizing photons,  $Q(H^0)$ , at an age of  $\sim 100$  Myr:

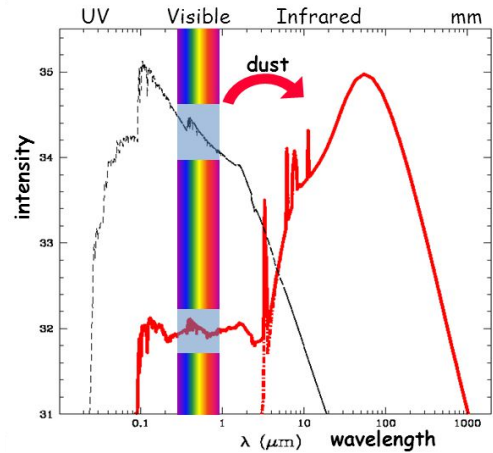
$$\left( \frac{\text{SFR}}{M_{\odot} \text{ yr}^{-1}} \right) = 7.29 \times 10^{-54} \left[ \frac{Q(H^0)}{\text{s}^{-1}} \right]. \quad (1)$$

$$\left\{ \begin{aligned} \left( \frac{\text{SFR}_{\text{H}\alpha}}{M_{\odot} \text{ yr}^{-1}} \right) &= 5.37 \times 10^{-42} \left( \frac{L_{\text{H}\alpha}}{\text{erg s}^{-1}} \right). \quad (2) \end{aligned} \right.$$

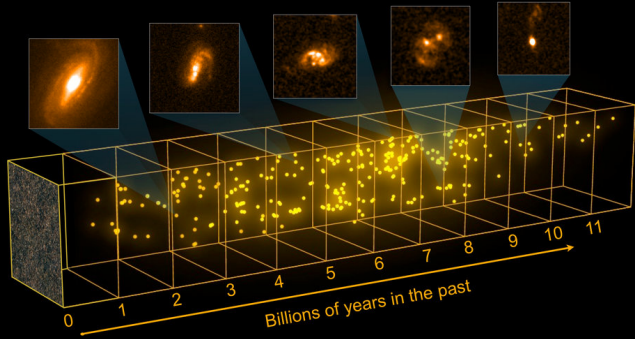
$$\left\{ \begin{aligned} \left( \frac{\text{SFR}_{\text{FUV}}}{M_{\odot} \text{ yr}^{-1}} \right) &= 4.42 \times 10^{-44} \left( \frac{L_{\text{FUV}}}{\text{erg s}^{-1}} \right). \quad (3) \end{aligned} \right.$$

$$\left\{ \begin{aligned} \left( \frac{\text{SFR}_{\text{IR}}}{M_{\odot} \text{ yr}^{-1}} \right) &= 3.88 \times 10^{-44} \left( \frac{L_{\text{IR}}}{\text{erg s}^{-1}} \right). \quad (4) \end{aligned} \right.$$

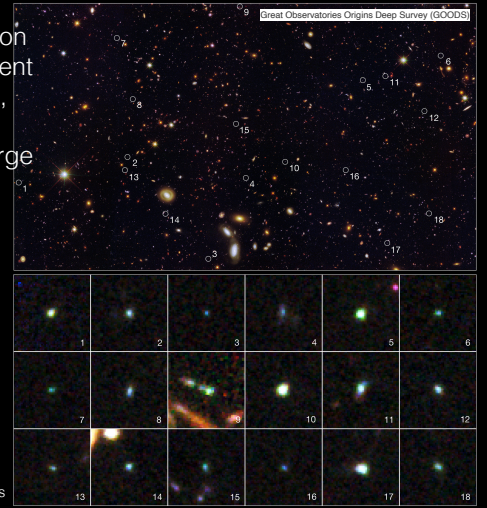
Dust attenuated galaxies: use UV + IR luminosities



# Observing the Evolution of Galaxies

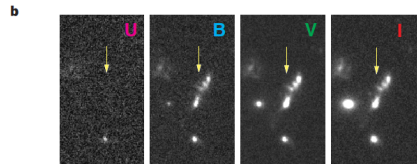
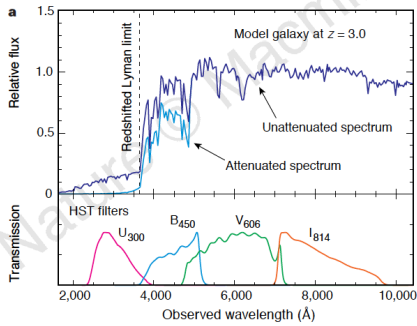


Photometric selection of galaxies at different redshifts is needed, because Spectroscopy of large samples of faint, distant galaxies is prohibitively expensive



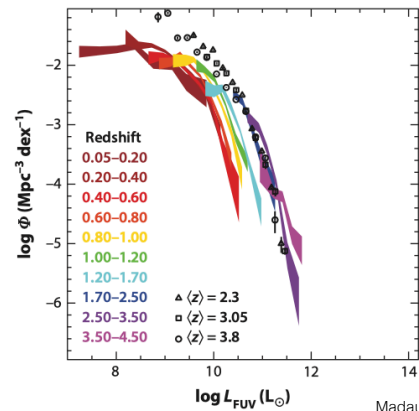
## The Lyman Break:

Most Lyman continuum photons ( $\lambda_{\text{rest}} < 912\text{\AA}$ ) are absorbed by either the ISM or the IGM



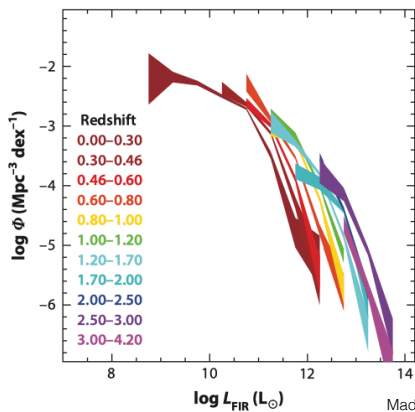
Steidel 98, 03  
Ellis 98  
Adelberger+04

## Evolution of LF and MF at $0 < z < 4$



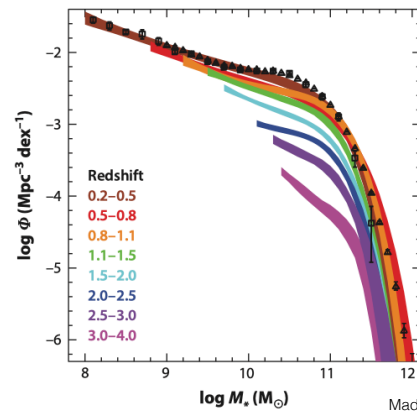
Madau & Dickinson 2014

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Madau & Dickinson 2014

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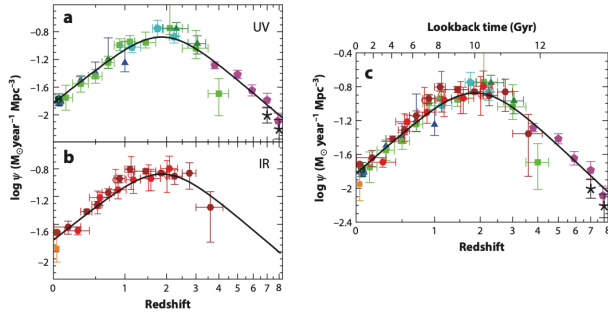


Madau & Dickinson 2014

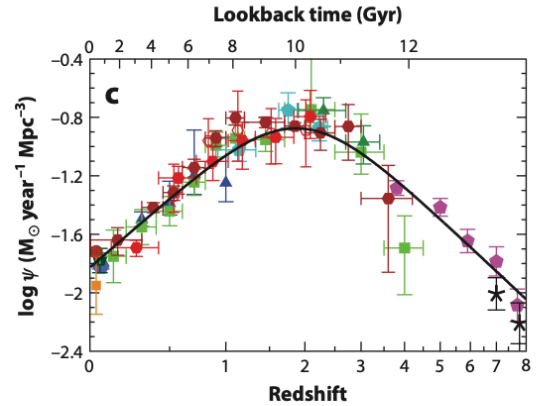
## Integrated LFs -> Cosmic SF History

$$\psi(z) = 0.015 \frac{(1+z)^{2.7}}{1 + [(1+z)/2.9]^{5.2}} \text{ M}_\odot \text{ year}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-3}. \quad (15)$$

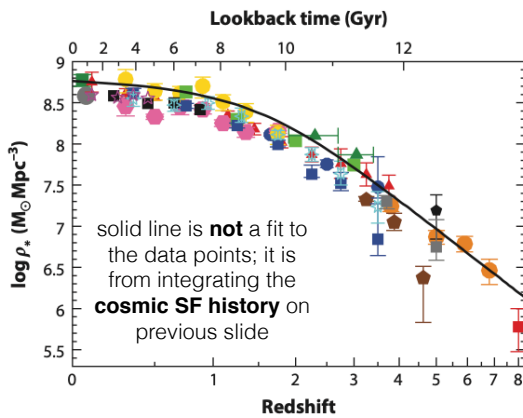
solid line is a fit to the data points



## Integrated LFs -> Cosmic SF History



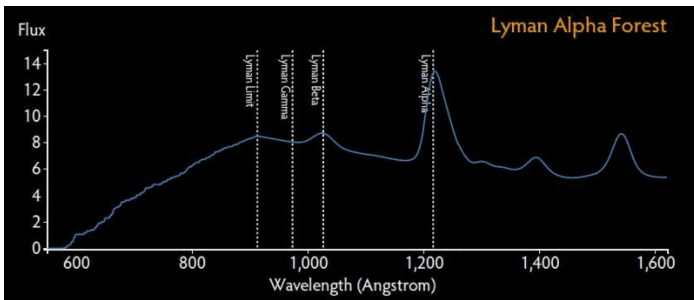
## Integrated MF -> Cosmic Mass Buildup



## The Reionization of the IGM

## Formation of Lyman alpha Forest in Quasar Spectrum

animation showing a quasar spectrum being continuously redshifted due to cosmic expansion, encountering various HI absorbers at different redshifts.



## Gunn-Peterson (1965): Optical Depth of Lyman alpha Photons

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \tau_{\text{GP}} = \int_0^{z_0} \sigma[\nu_\alpha(1+z)] n_{\text{HI}}(z) \frac{dl}{dz} dz, \quad \text{total integrated optical depth} \\ \tau_{\text{GP}}(z) = \left( \frac{\pi e^2 f}{m_e c \nu_\alpha} \right) \frac{n_{\text{HI}}}{(1+z)} \frac{dl}{dz}, \quad \text{optical depth per redshift} \\ dl/dz = c H_0^{-1} (1+z)^{-1} [\Omega_M (1+z)^3 + \Omega_\Lambda]^{-1/2} \quad \text{proper distance per redshift} \end{array} \right.$$

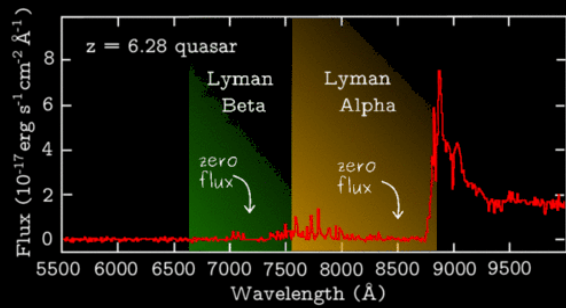
The Gunn-Peterson (1965) optical depth to Ly $\alpha$  photons is

$$\tau_{\text{GP}} = \frac{\pi e^2}{m_e c} f_\alpha \lambda_\alpha H^{-1}(z) n_{\text{HI}}, \quad (1)$$

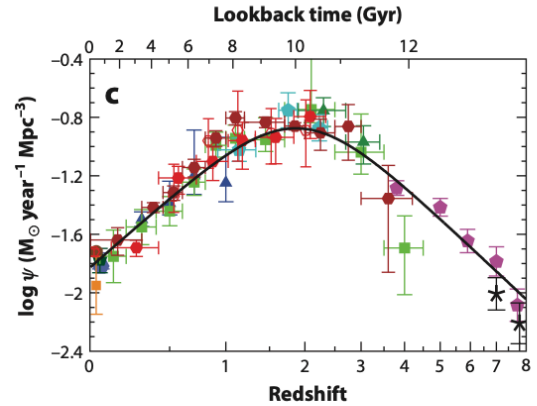
where  $f_\alpha$  is the oscillator strength of the Ly $\alpha$  transition,  $\lambda_\alpha = 1216 \text{ \AA}$ ,  $H(z)$  is the Hubble constant at redshift  $z$ , and  $n_{\text{HI}}$  is the density of neutral hydrogen in the IGM. At high redshifts,

$$\tau_{\text{GP}}(z) = 4.9 \times 10^5 \left( \frac{\Omega_m b^2}{0.13} \right)^{-1/2} \left( \frac{\Omega_b b^2}{0.02} \right) \left( \frac{1+z}{7} \right)^{3/2} \left( \frac{n_{\text{HI}}}{n_{\text{H}}} \right) \quad (2)$$

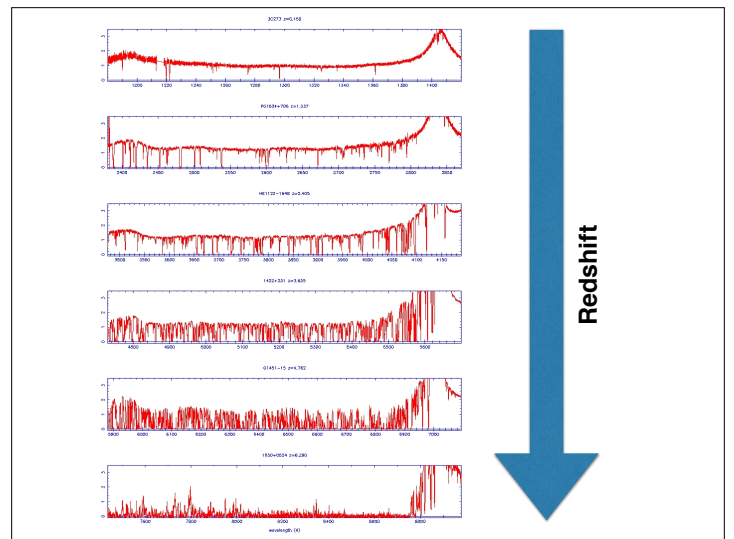
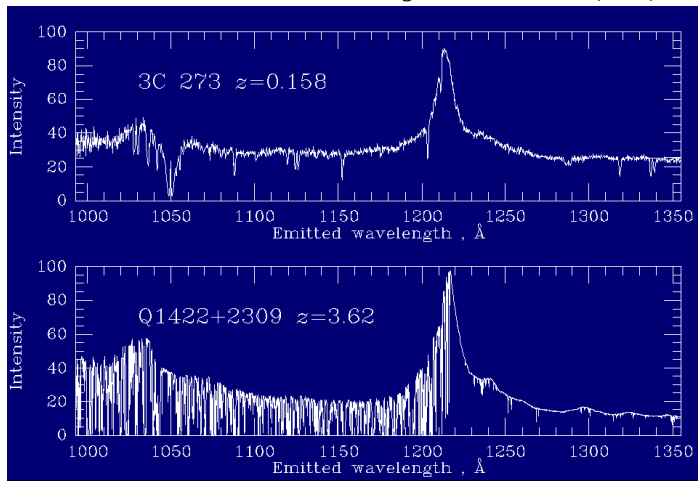
If the IGM stays mostly neutral, we expect complete absorption of photons with  $912 < \lambda_{rest} < 1216 \text{ \AA}$  for QSOs at all  $z$



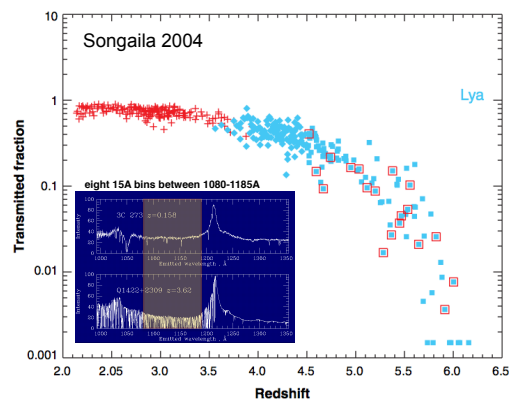
Can the IGM stay neutral given the increasing level of star formation?



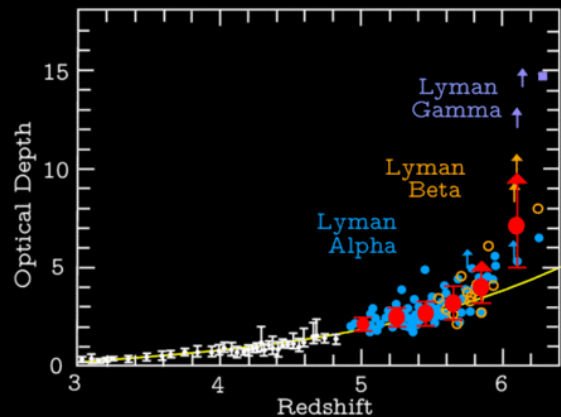
Quasars as a Probe of the Intergalactic Medium (IGM)



Observed evolution of Lyman-alpha Transmission Fraction



Observed evolution of optical depth



Fan et al. 2006



