

# **Little Red Dots: A Key Building Block of the Massive BH Population at Cosmic Dawn**

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JWST CEERS/COSMOS-Web collaborations

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**Tenure Associate Prof. (2024.8.1~)**

**Thank you all for your continuous supports  
in the past 15 years, especially to Kyoto colleagues**



# Outline

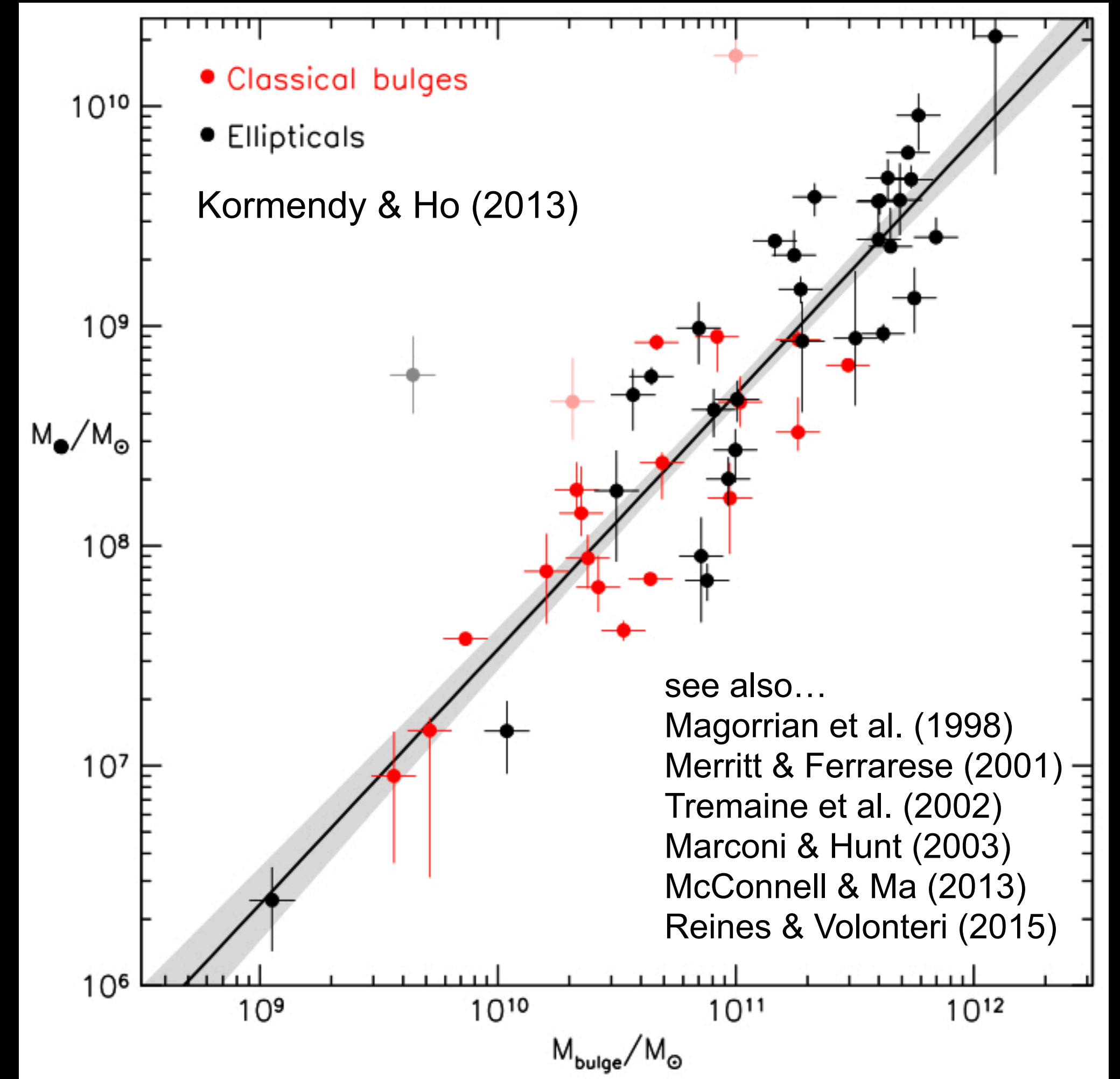
1. Overviews of JWST observations
2. Little red dots — AGNs hypothesis
3. Applications — BH growth, spin, TDEs

# **1. Overview of JWST observations**

# Supermassive Black Holes (SMBH)



Black Hole mass



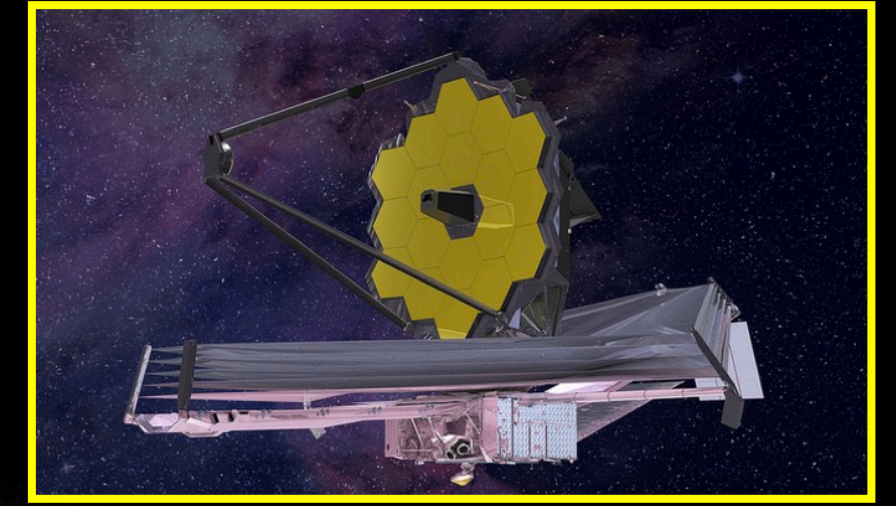
Galaxy mass

Key questions:

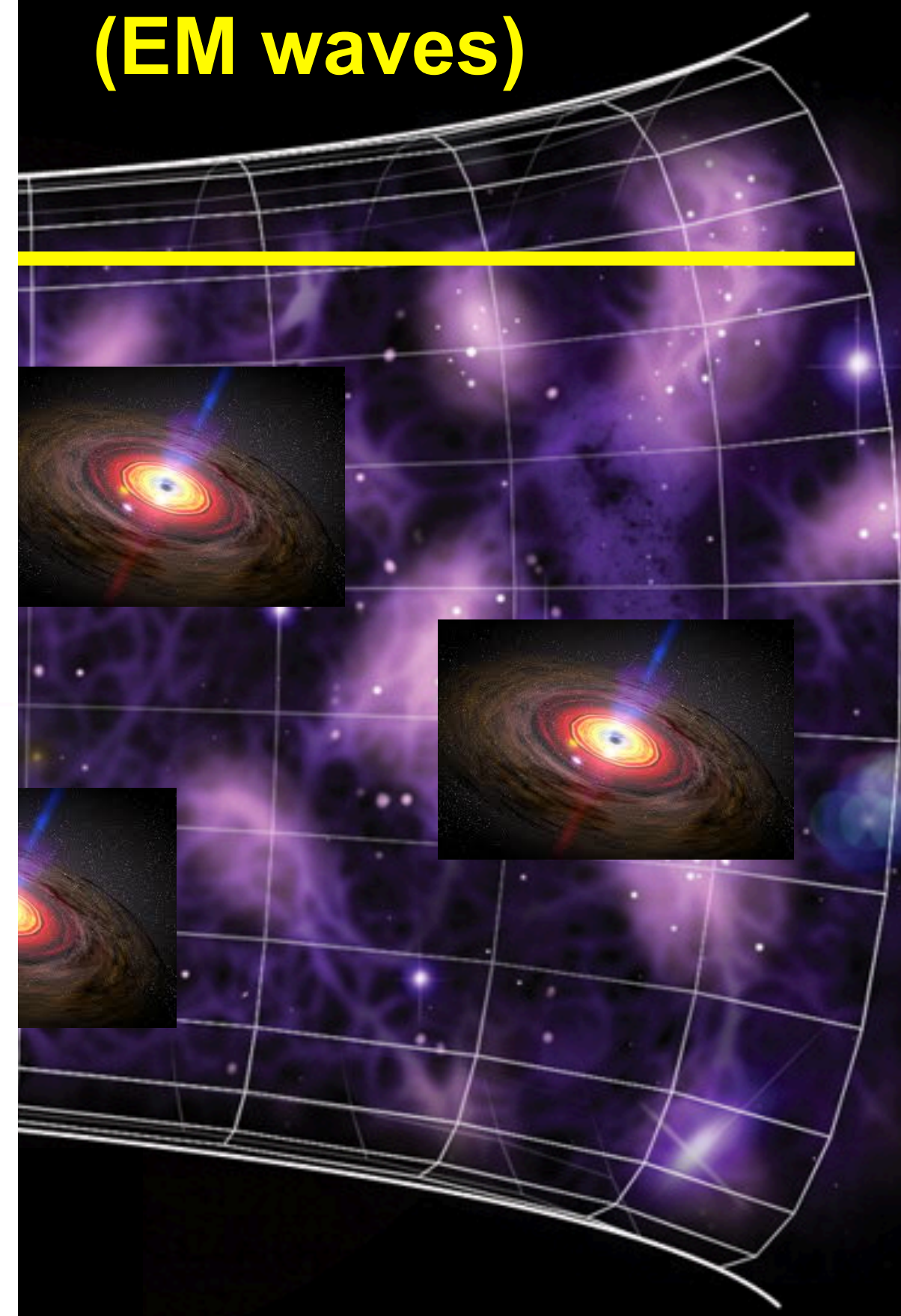
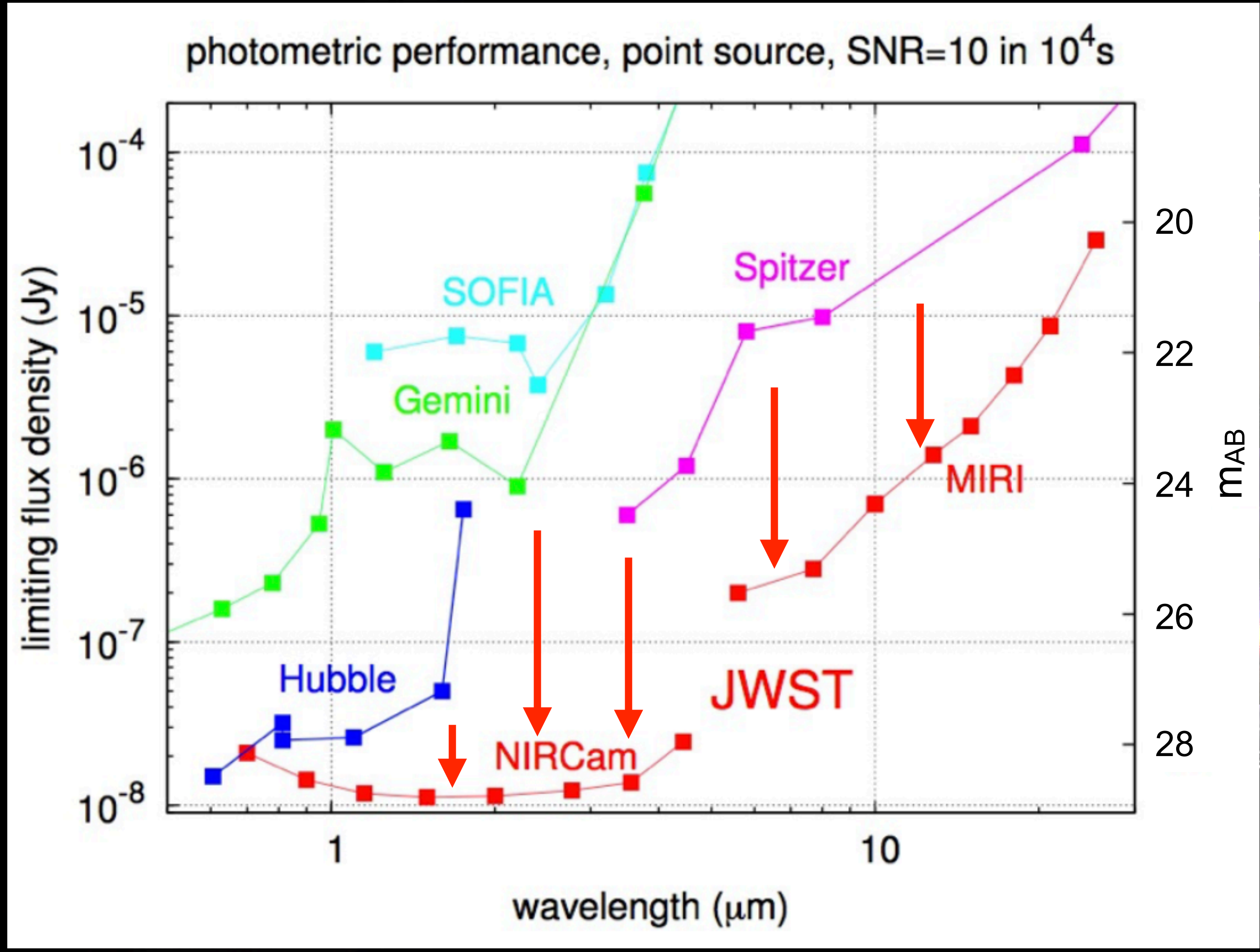
- 1) What is the origin of SMBHs?
- 2) How did BHs and galaxies interact?
- 3) Cosmological coevolution & high-z?

# History of the Universe

**JWST**



**servable universe  
(EM waves)**



**z=0 (today)**

**[redshift]**

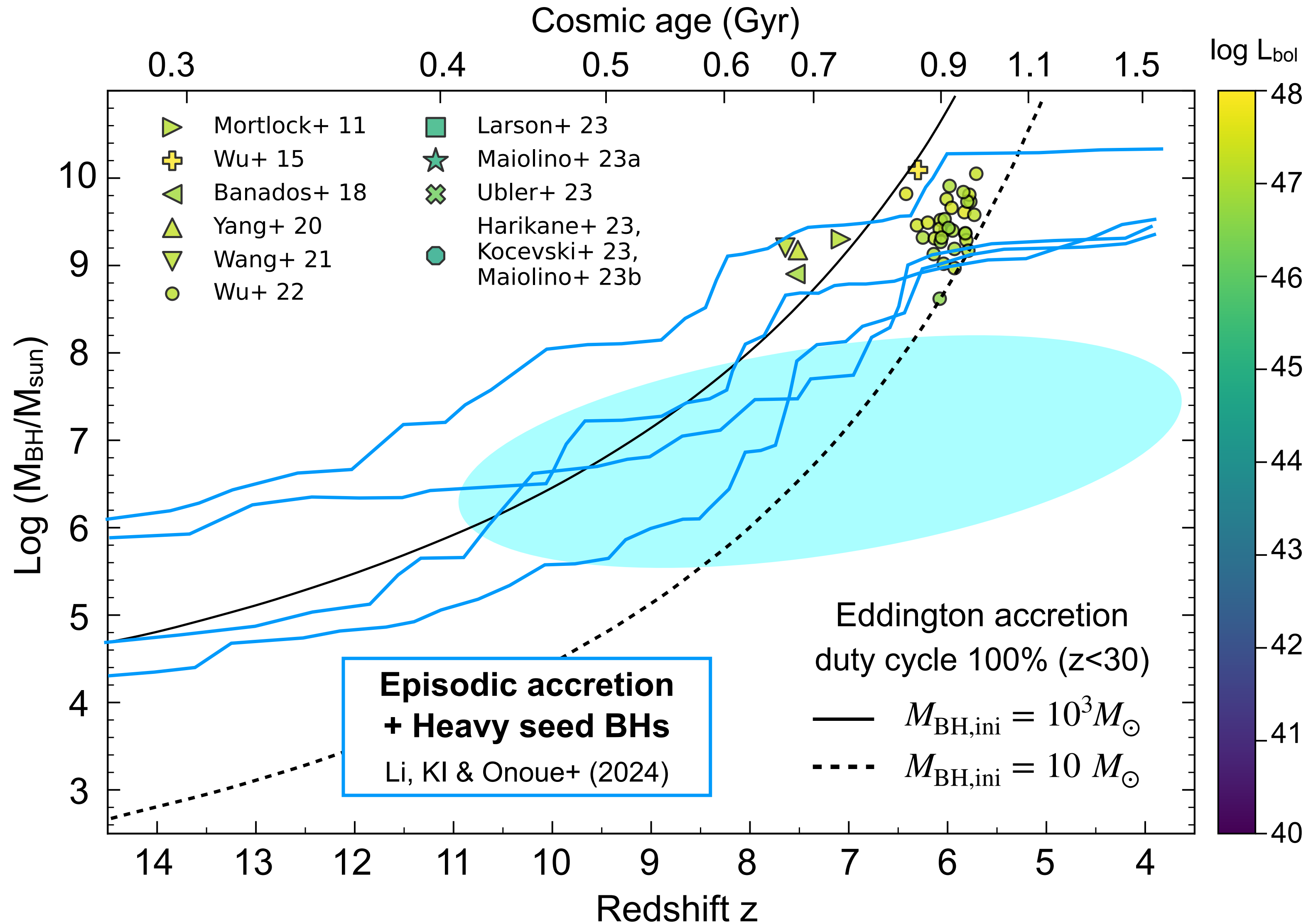
**13.7 Gyrs**

**[age]**

**0.1-0.5 Gyrs**

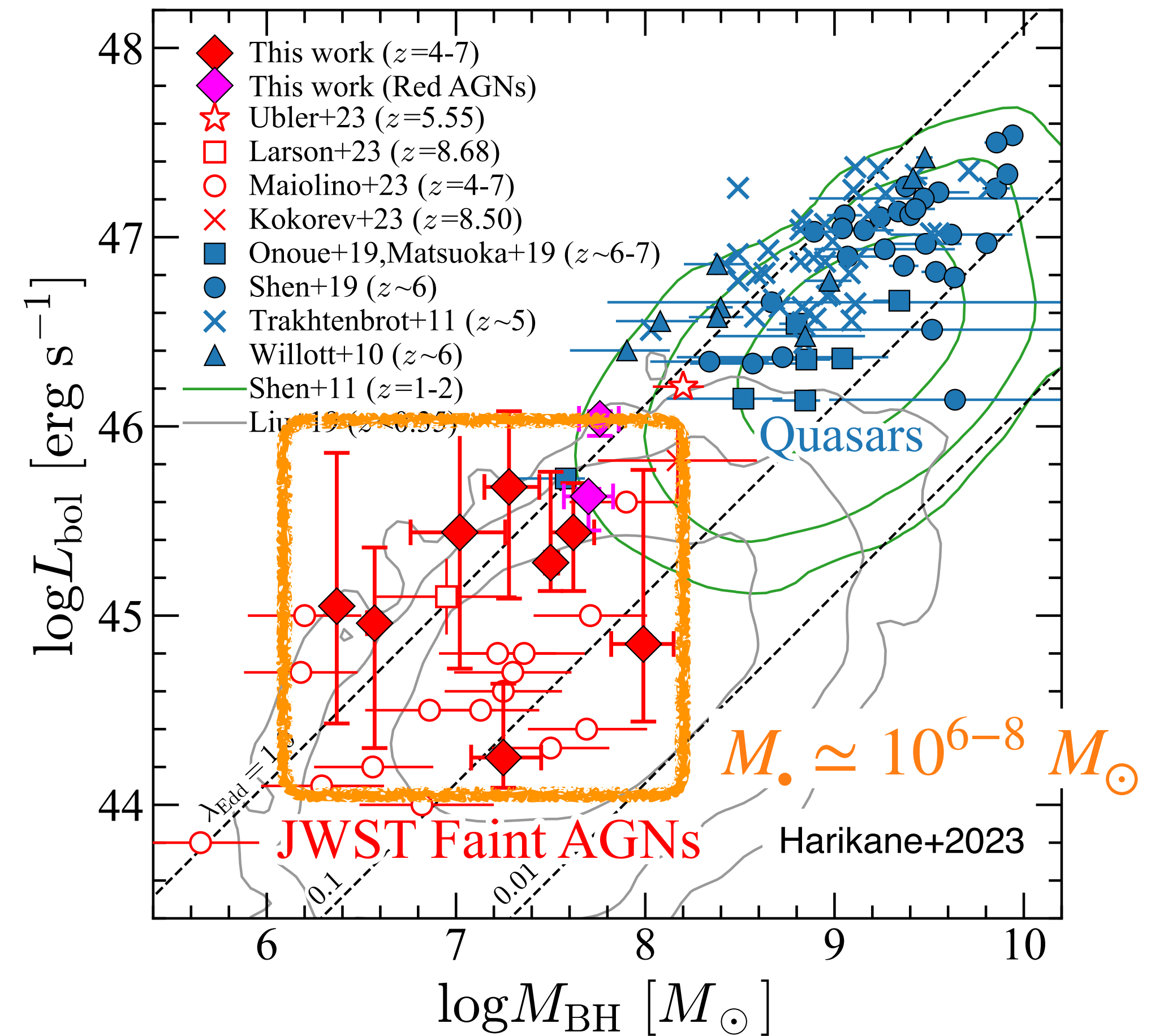
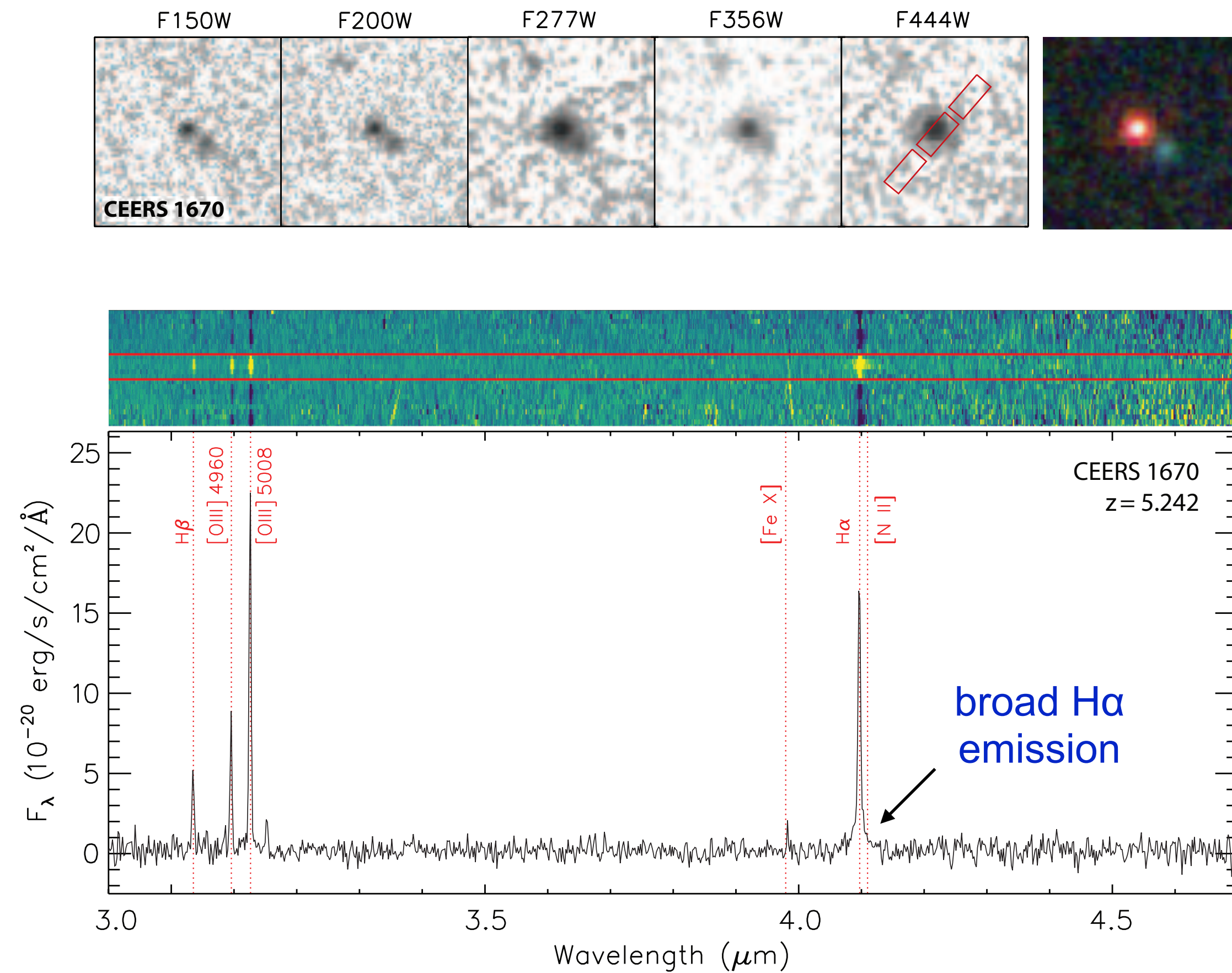
**1 Gyrs**

# High-z SMBH population



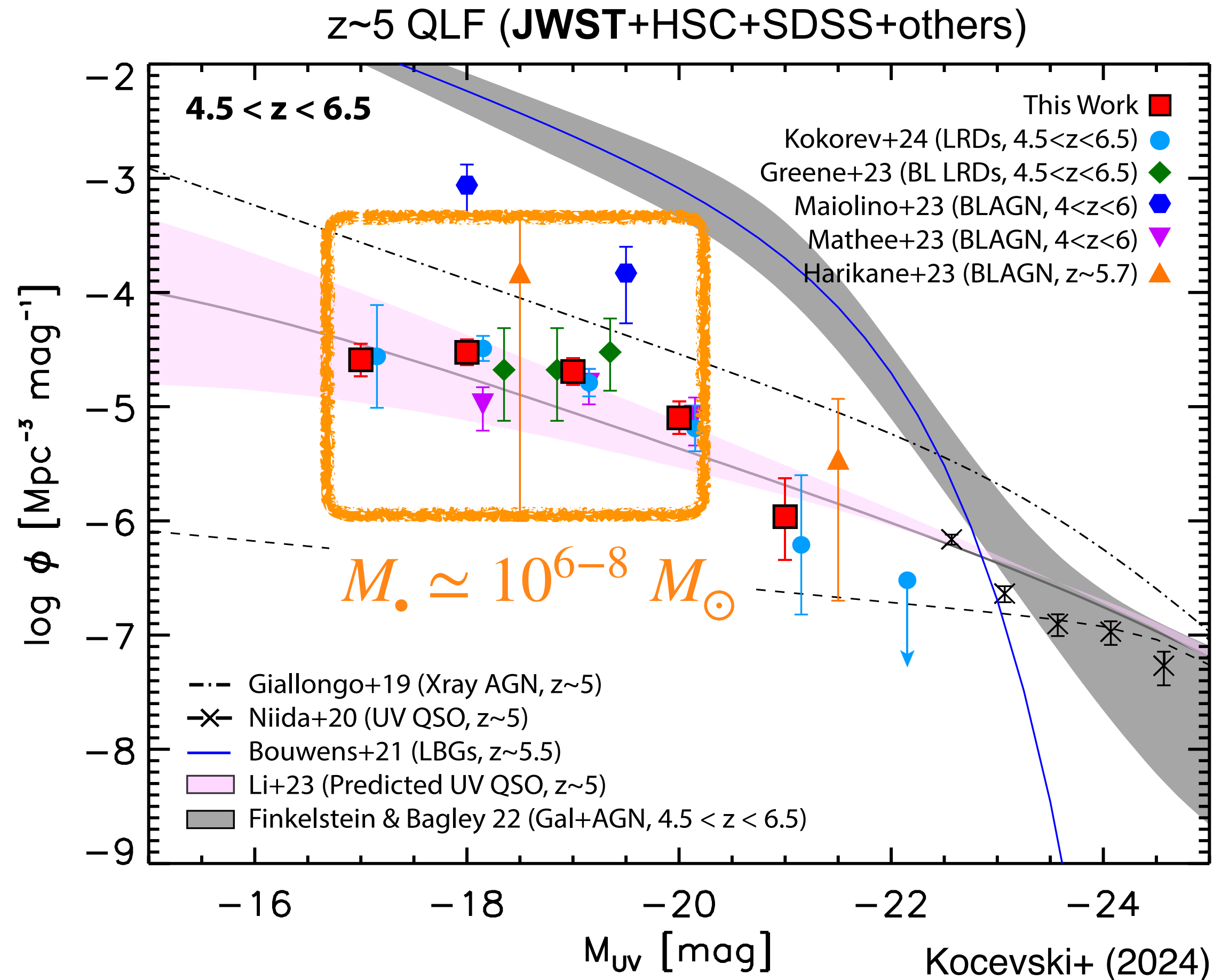
# Hidden little monsters uncovered by JWST

- A Candidate for the Least-massive Black Hole in the First 1.1 Billion Years of the Universe
- Hidden Little Monsters: Spectroscopic Identification of Low-Mass, Broad-Line AGN at  $z > 5$  with CEERS





# Abundant fainter AGNs



Star-forming galaxies

$$\Phi \sim 10^{-3} - 10^{-2} \text{ Mpc}^{-3} \text{ mag}^{-1}$$

e.g., Finkelstein+15, Bouwens+21, Harikane+22

**JWST broad-line AGNs**

$$\Phi \sim 10^{-5} - 10^{-4} \text{ Mpc}^{-3} \text{ mag}^{-1}$$

e.g., Onoue+23, Kocevski+23, Harikane+23, Maiolino+23, Mathee+24, Greene+24, Kokorev+24

Bright QSOs (ground-based surveys)

$$\Phi \lesssim 10^{-8} - 10^{-7} \text{ Mpc}^{-3} \text{ mag}^{-1}$$

Jiang+18, Matsuoka+18, McGreer+18, Niida+20

**Abundant & low-luminosity AGNs (low-mass BHs) detected with JWST**

# Early BH-galaxy coevolution

- **Overmassive BHs** relative to the local relation

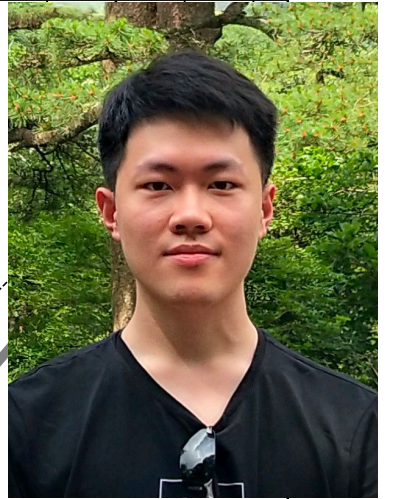
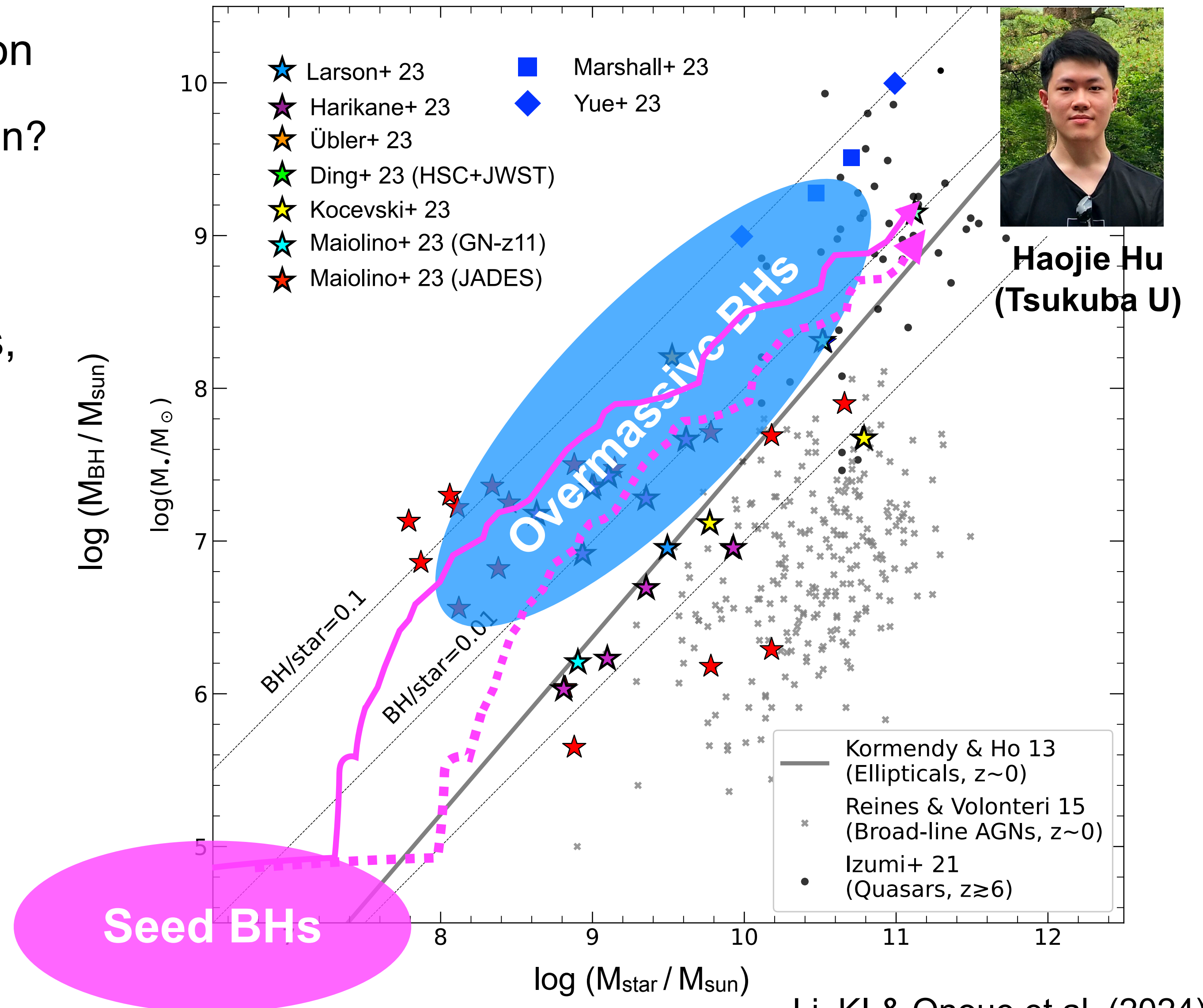
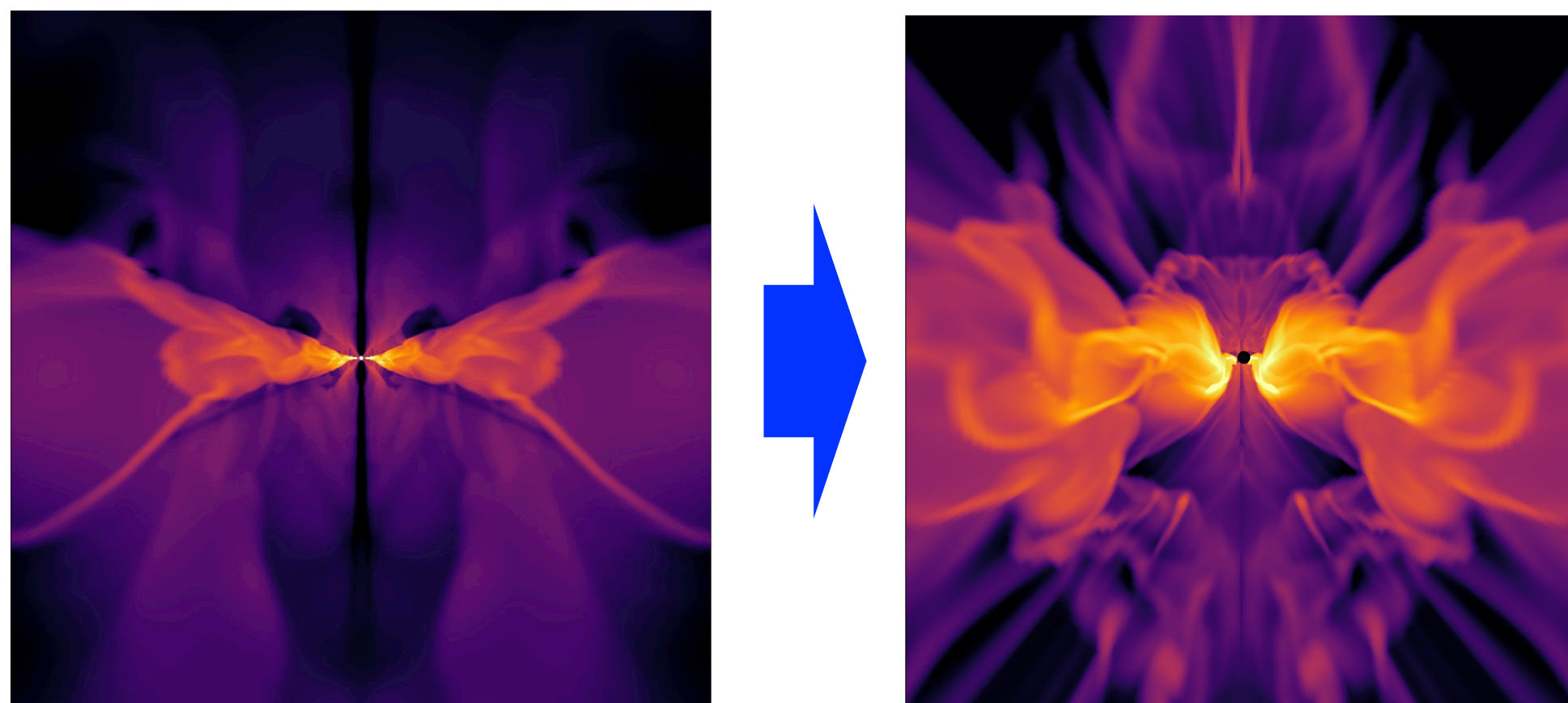
Intrinsically overmassive or just biased distribution?

(Pacucci+23, Li, Silverman & Shen +24, Kormendy & Ho 2013)

- Transient **super-Eddington** accretion of BHs, which are also detectable with JWST

RHD simulations (KI+22a,b; **Hu+22a,b**)

Semi-analytical models (Scoggins+23; Schneider+23)

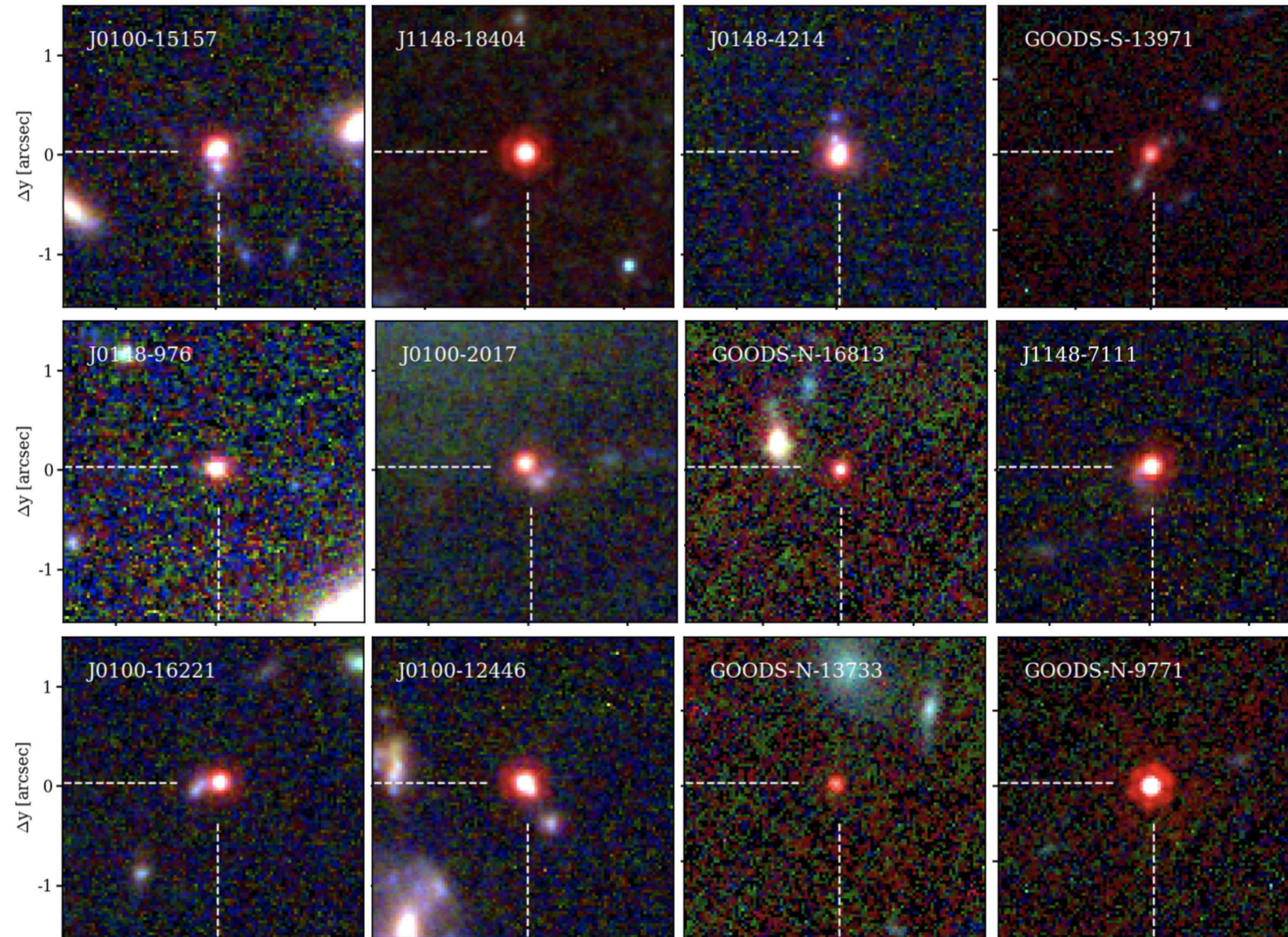


**Haojie Hu**  
(Tsukuba U)

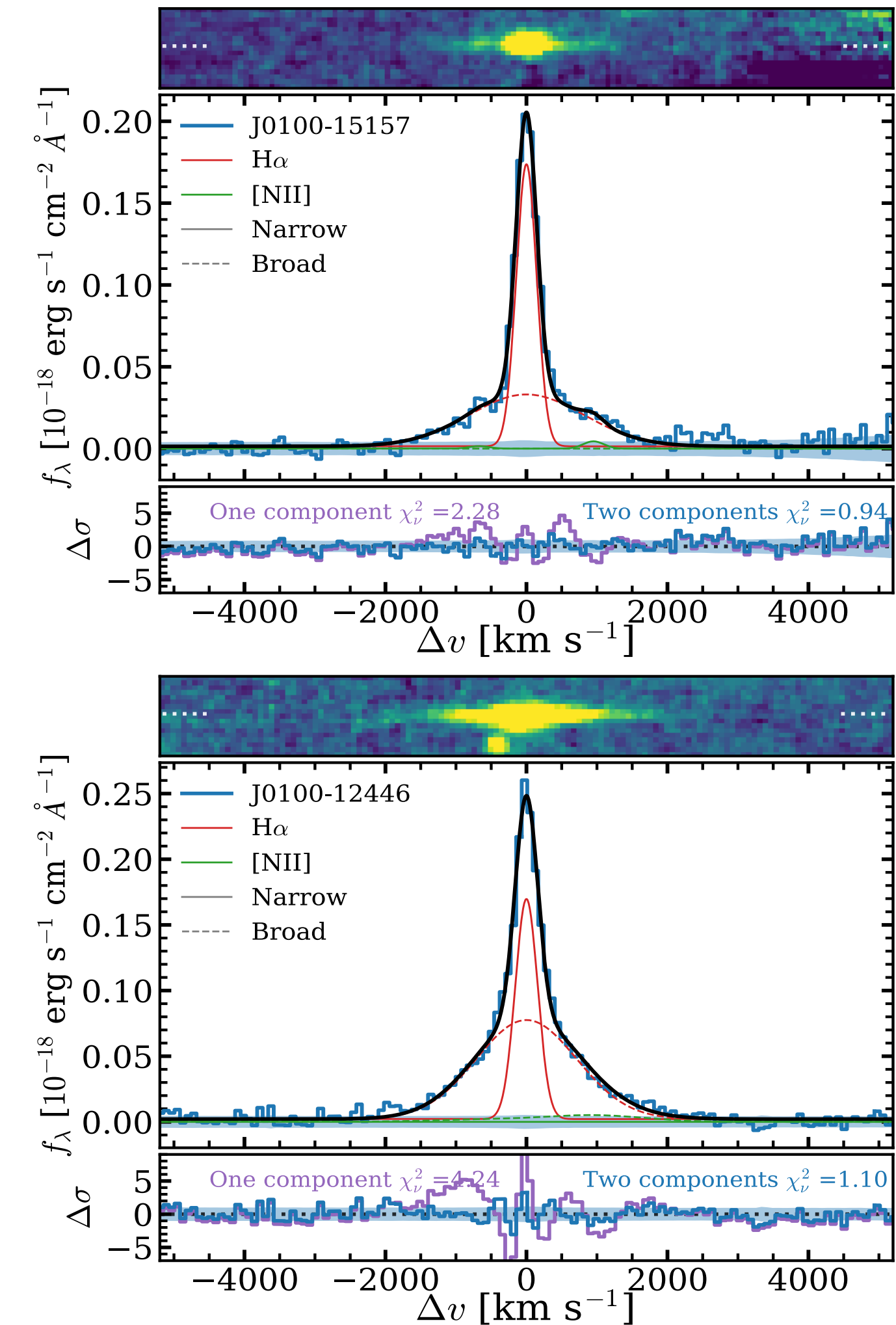
## **2-1. Little Red Dots (observations)**

NOTE: they seem a new population at high-z sources. We haven't reached a conclusion. Thus, I might talk about some chaos...

# Little Red Dots

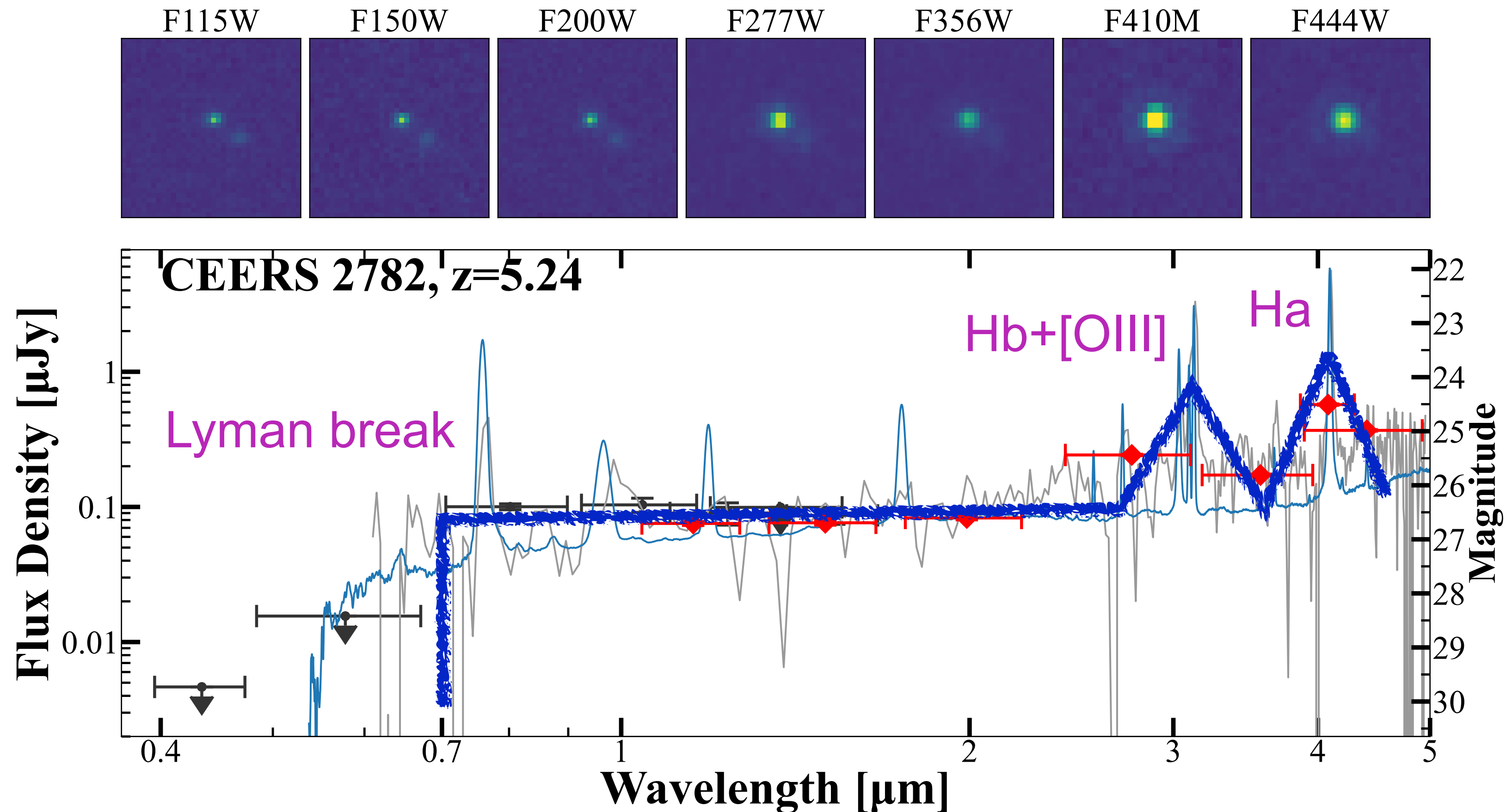


- Very compact & red sources (in JWST NIRCam)
- **Broad-component** of Balmer lines (Ha/Hb)



e.g., Kocevski+23,24, Labbe+24, Greene+24, Kokorev+24,

# Normal (unobscured) AGNs seen by JWST

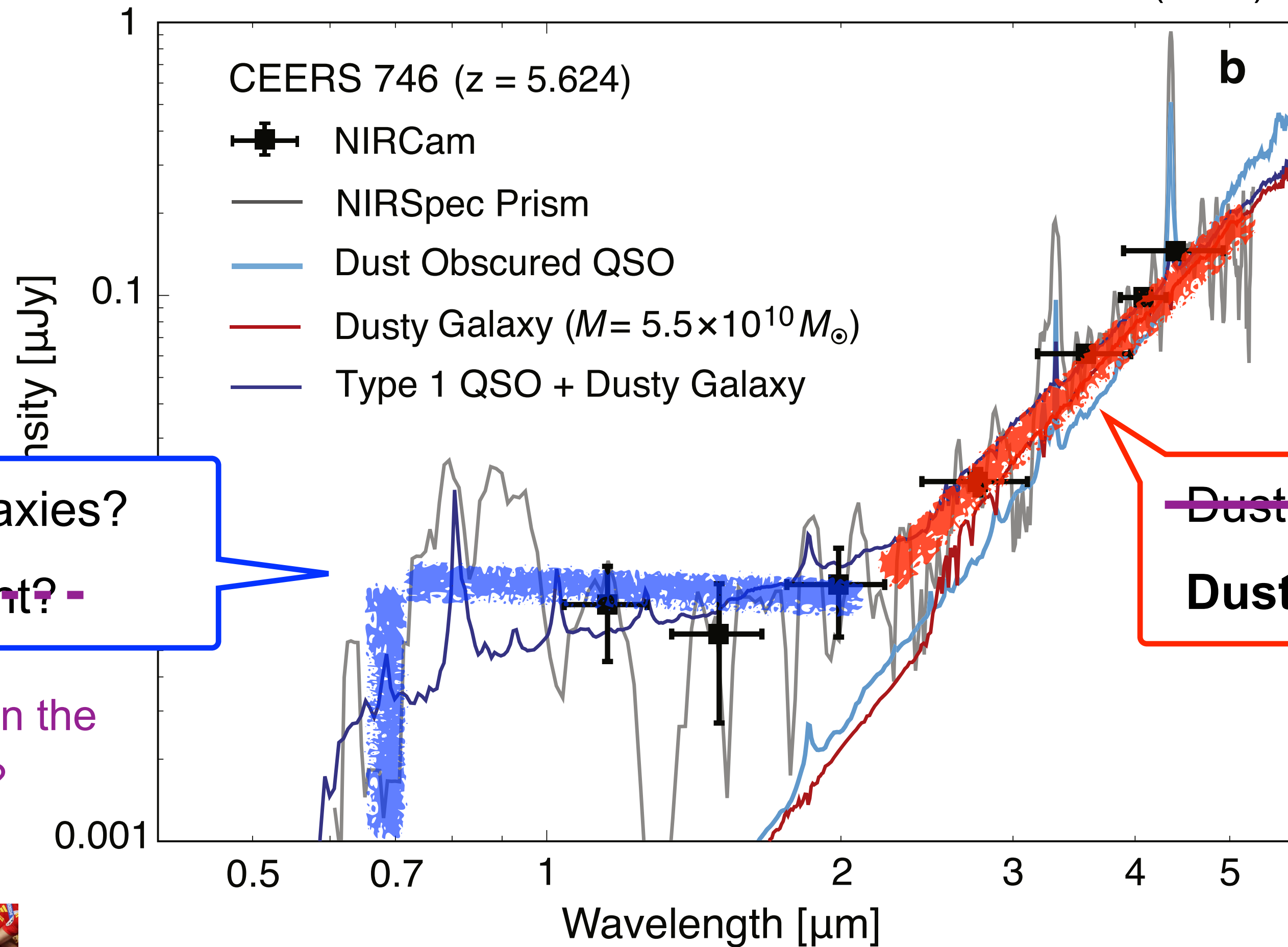


Onoue+23,  
Kocevski+23,  
Guo+24 in prep

- Very compact (unless galaxy light dominates)
- **Flat SED** in  $F_{\nu}$  (NIRCam) + **broad** Balmer lines (NIRSpec)

# Characteristic v-shape SEDs

Kocevski et al. (2023)



huge stellar mass ( $\sim 10^{11} M_{\text{sun}}$ )  
in compact scales ( $< 100 \text{ pc}$ )...

Unobscured galaxies?  
~~Scattered AGN light?~~

~~Dust obscured galaxies?~~  
**Dust obscured AGNs?**

can coincident events explain the  
uniformity of v-shape SEDs?

If it's an AGN,  
 $L_{\text{bol}} \sim 10^{46} \text{ erg/s}$

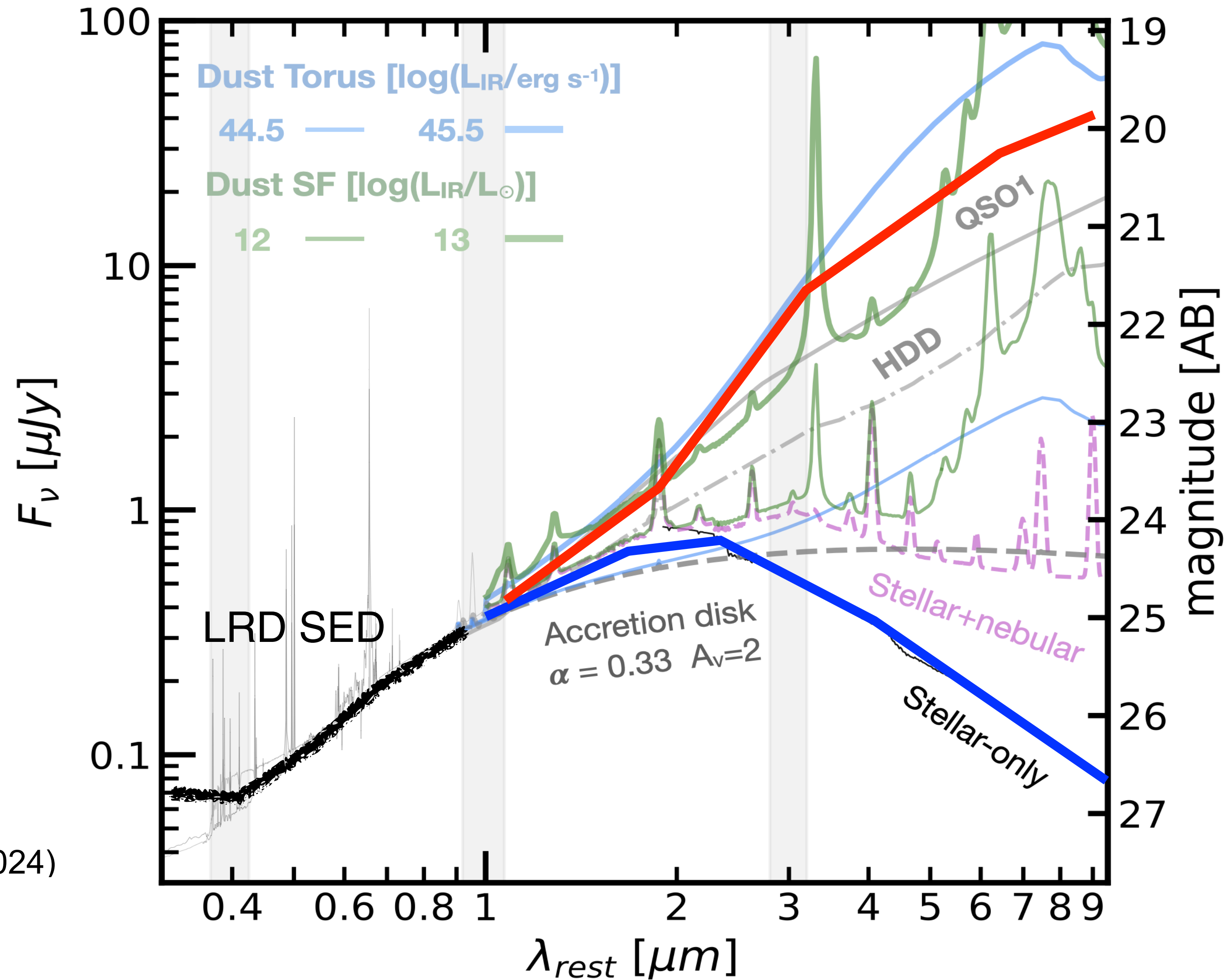


Two components!!

really? simpler is better...



# LRD's SED at near IR



Pérez-González+ (2024)

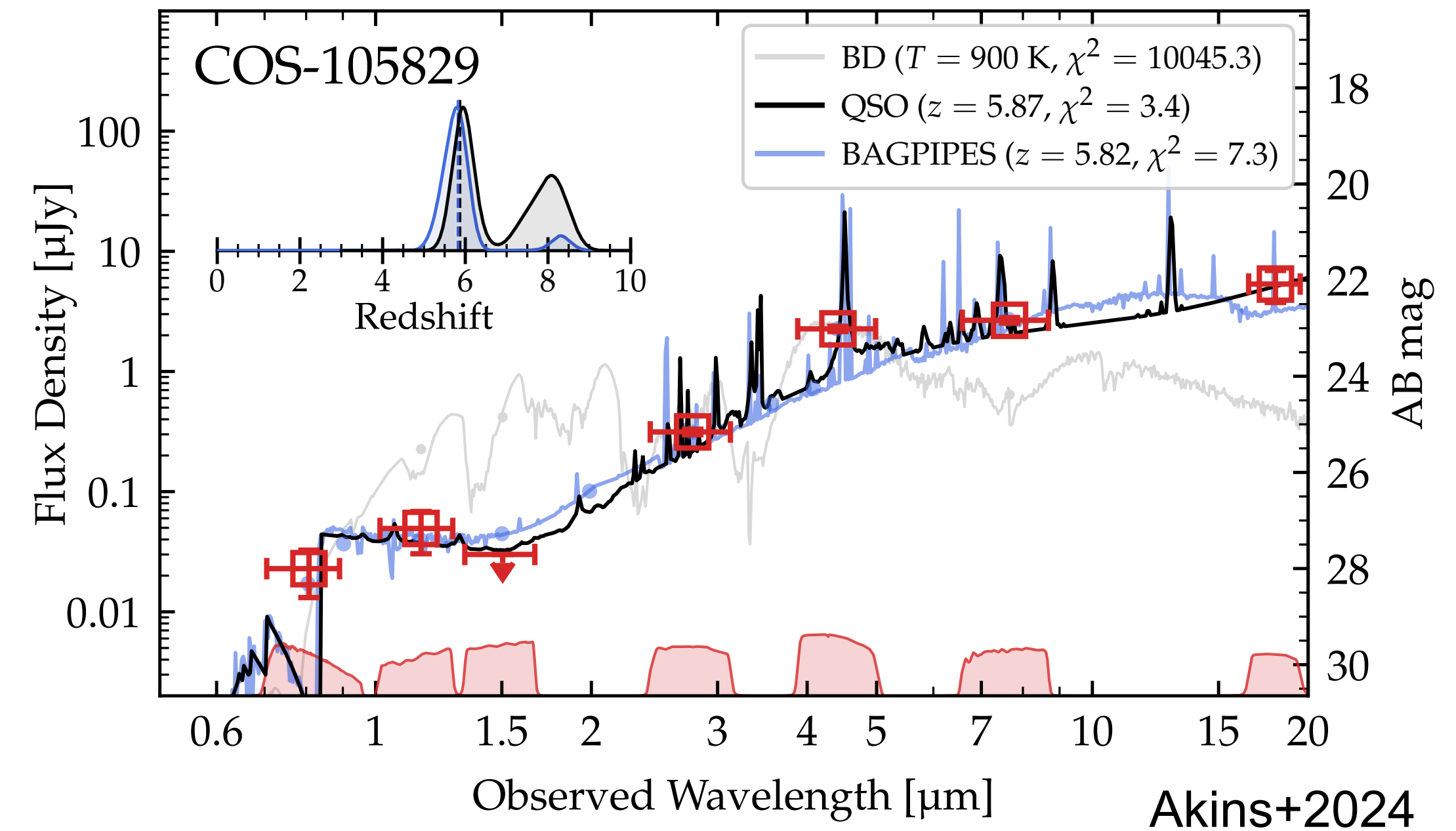
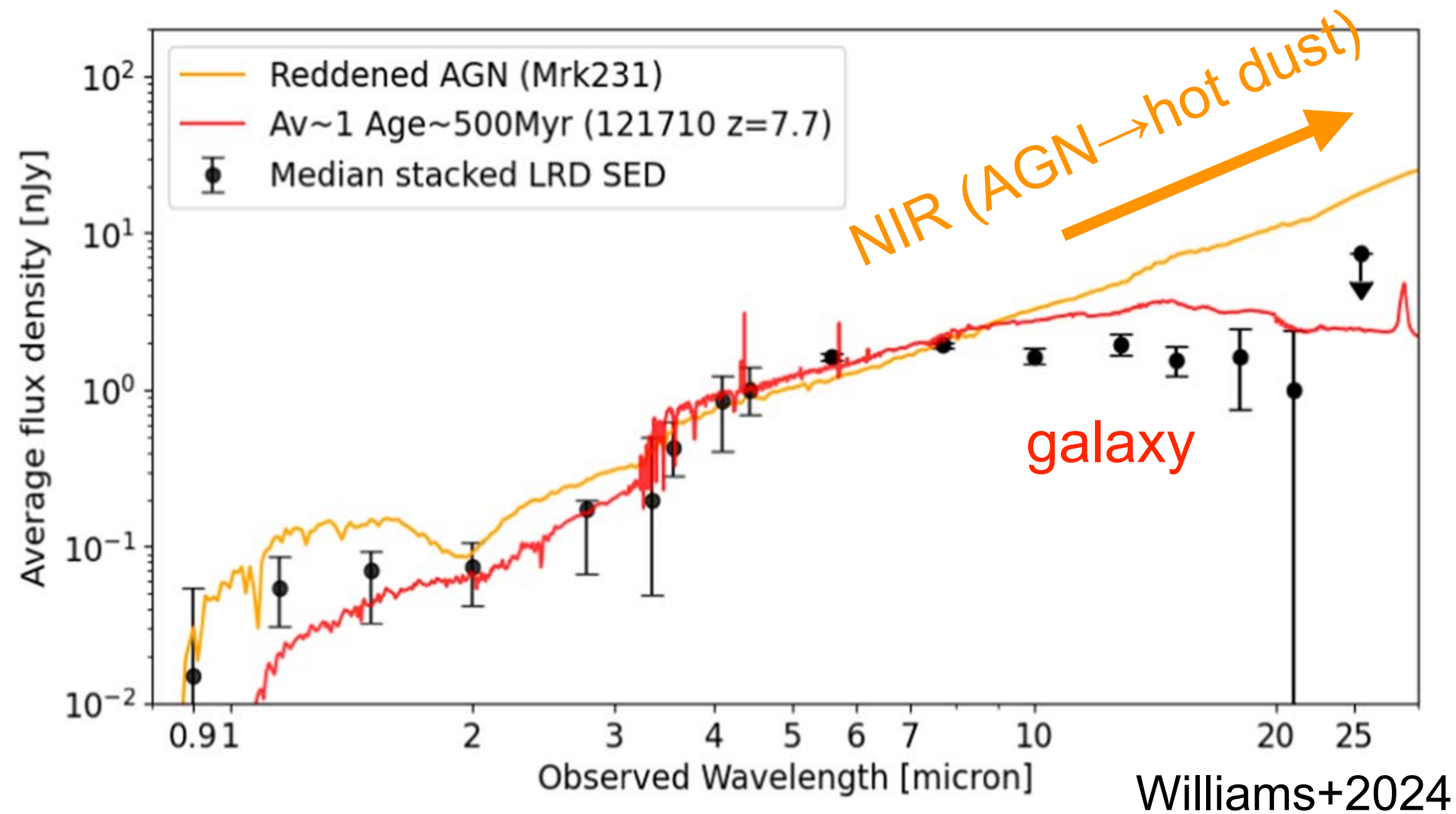
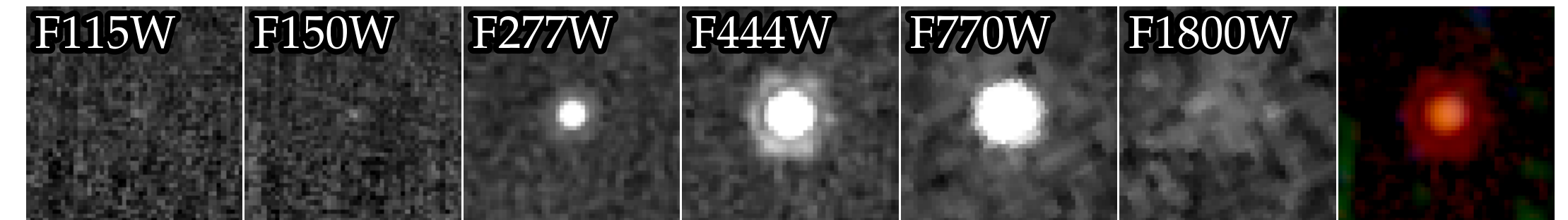
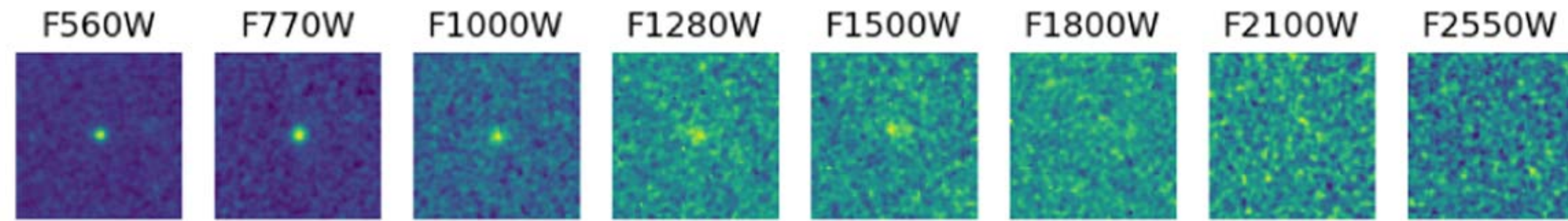
Obscured AGNs  
(hot dust)



Obscured galaxy



# LRD's SED at near IR

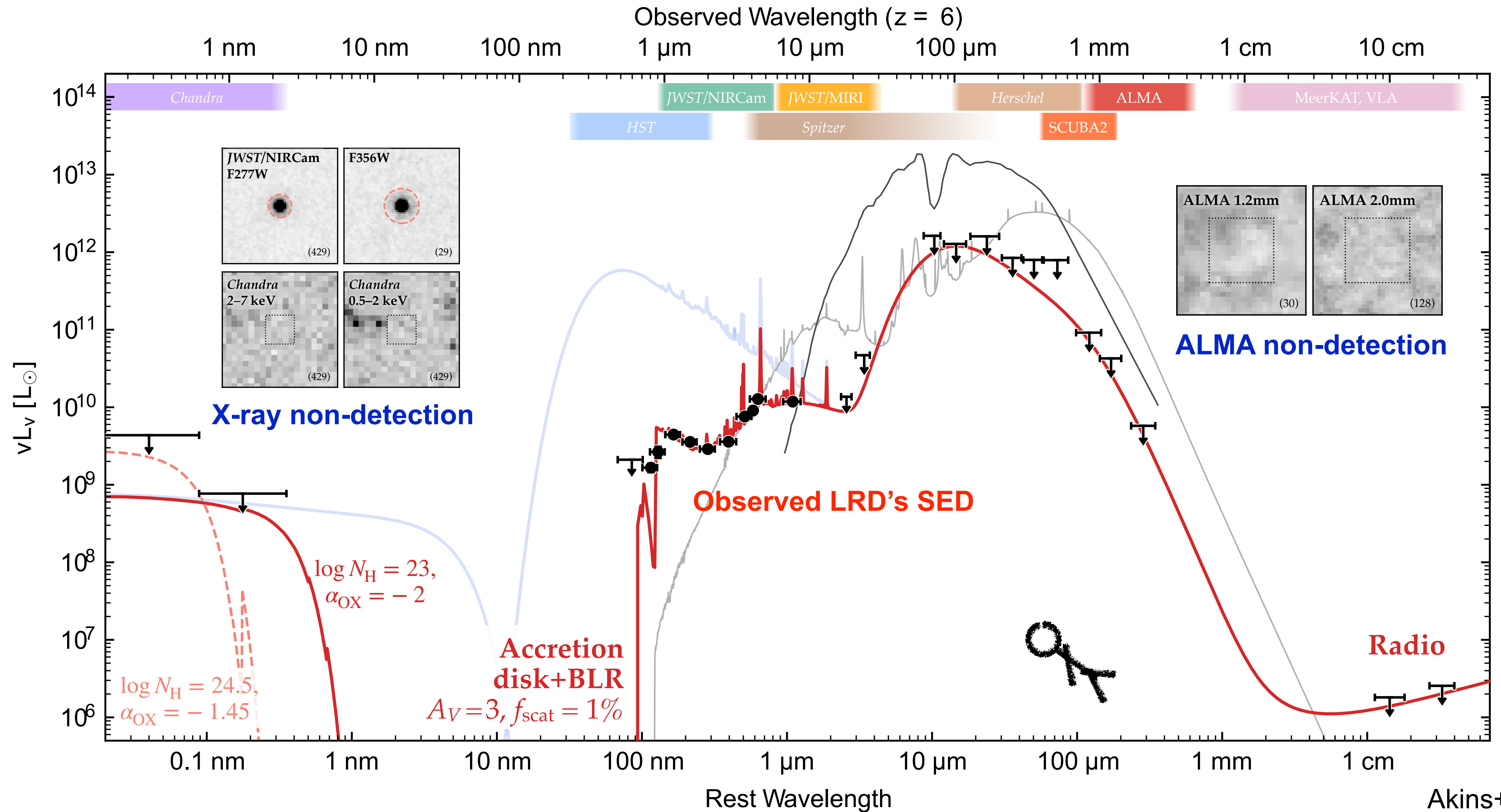


- JWST MIRI data disfavors AGN models for optical continuum
- No hot dust heated by AGNs (otherwise, very red in NIR)





# A short summary of observations



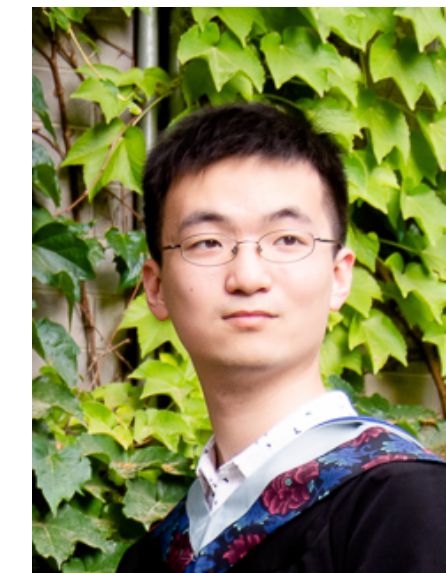
# A short summary of observations

	AGN hypothesis	Galaxy hypothesis
Image	○ Compact	△ No robust host detection*
Broad-line emission	○ The best explanation	✗ Stellar origin (WRs/SNe)?
Red optical	○ Dust-reddened AGN	✗ dust-reddened galaxy (require too massive galaxy)
Blue UV	✗ Unknown (the host galaxy?)	✗ Unknown
Faint NIR	△ No hot dust heated by AGN?	○ Consistent
X-ray weak	✗ Unknown (super-Edd?)	○ Consistent
ALMA no detection	○ No problem	△ No cold dust heated by star bursts?

# 2-2. Little Red Dots (SED model)

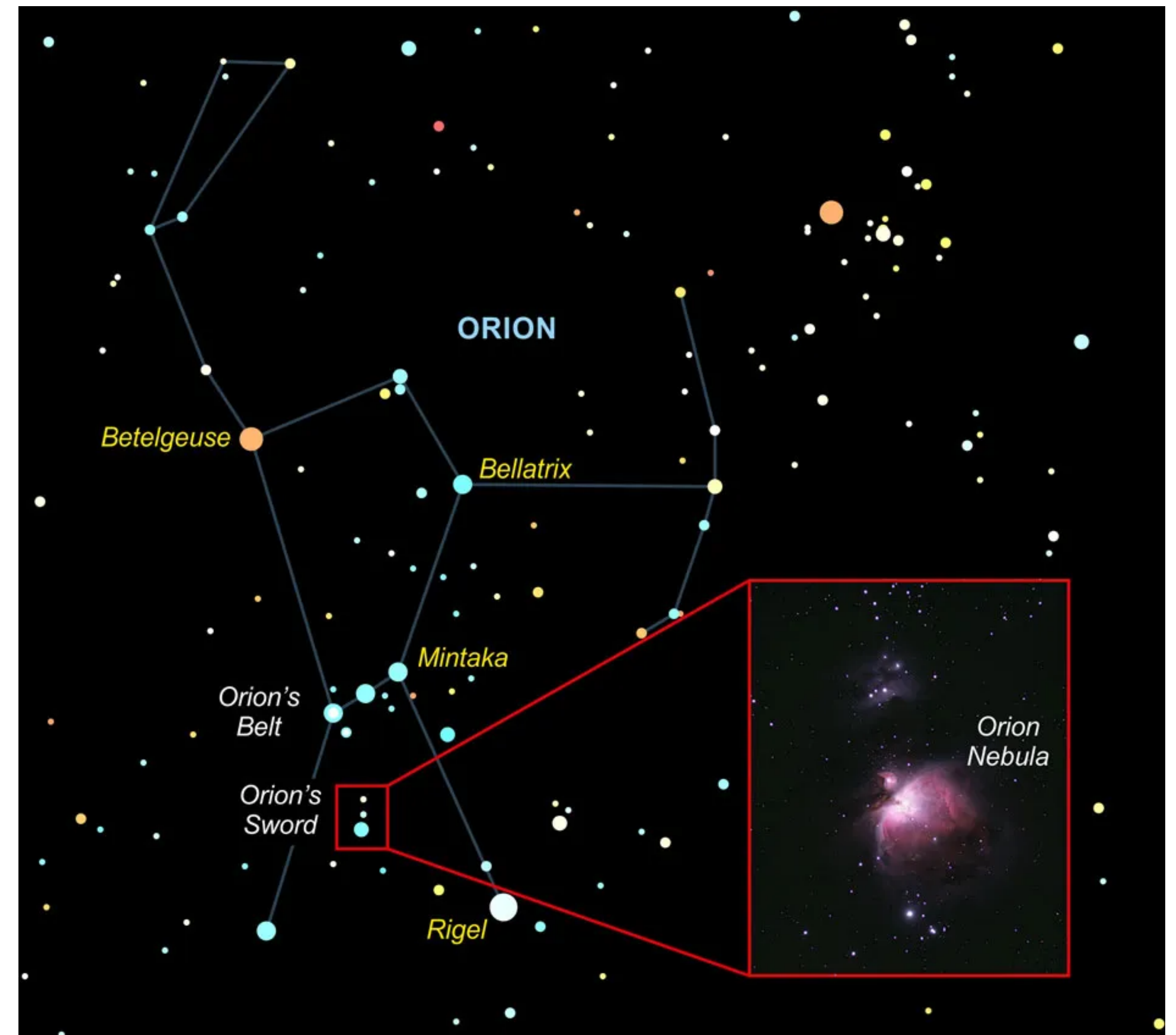
Solutions for UV/NIR parts of LRD's SED

Li, KI, Chen, Ichikawa & Ho (2024)  
arXiv:2407.10760

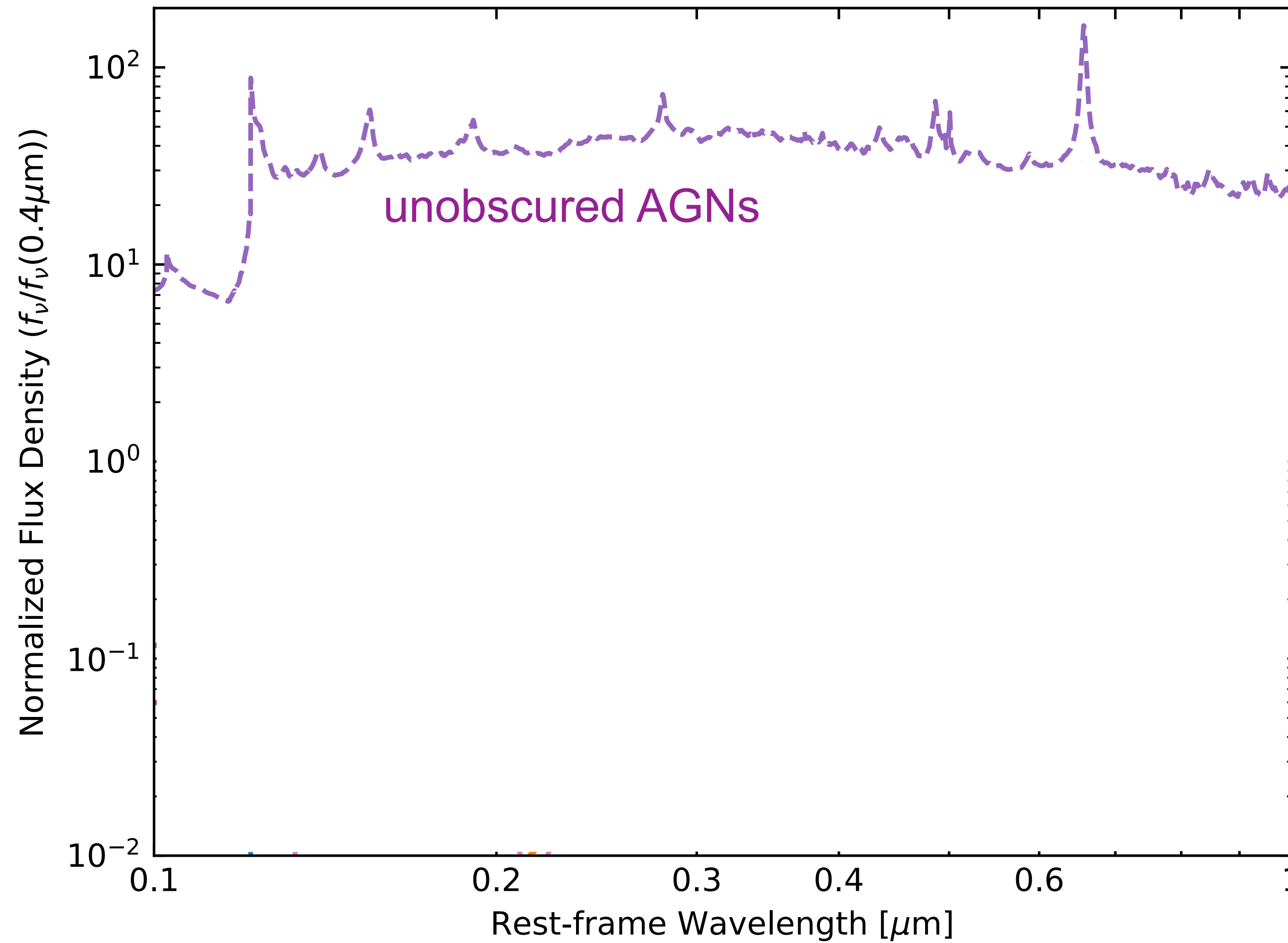


# Extinction laws in dense systems

- Heavier extinction from optical to UV
  - SMC / Calzetti's laws (everyone uses)
  - ISM extinction laws (see text book)
- **Gray extinction** at UV ranges ( $<3000\text{\AA}$ )  
due to the deficit of small-size grains;  
 $a < \lambda/2\pi \sim 0.06 \mu\text{m}$ 
  - Orion Nebula (everyone knows)
  - Composite AGN spectra
  - High-z galaxies ( $6 < z < 13$ )

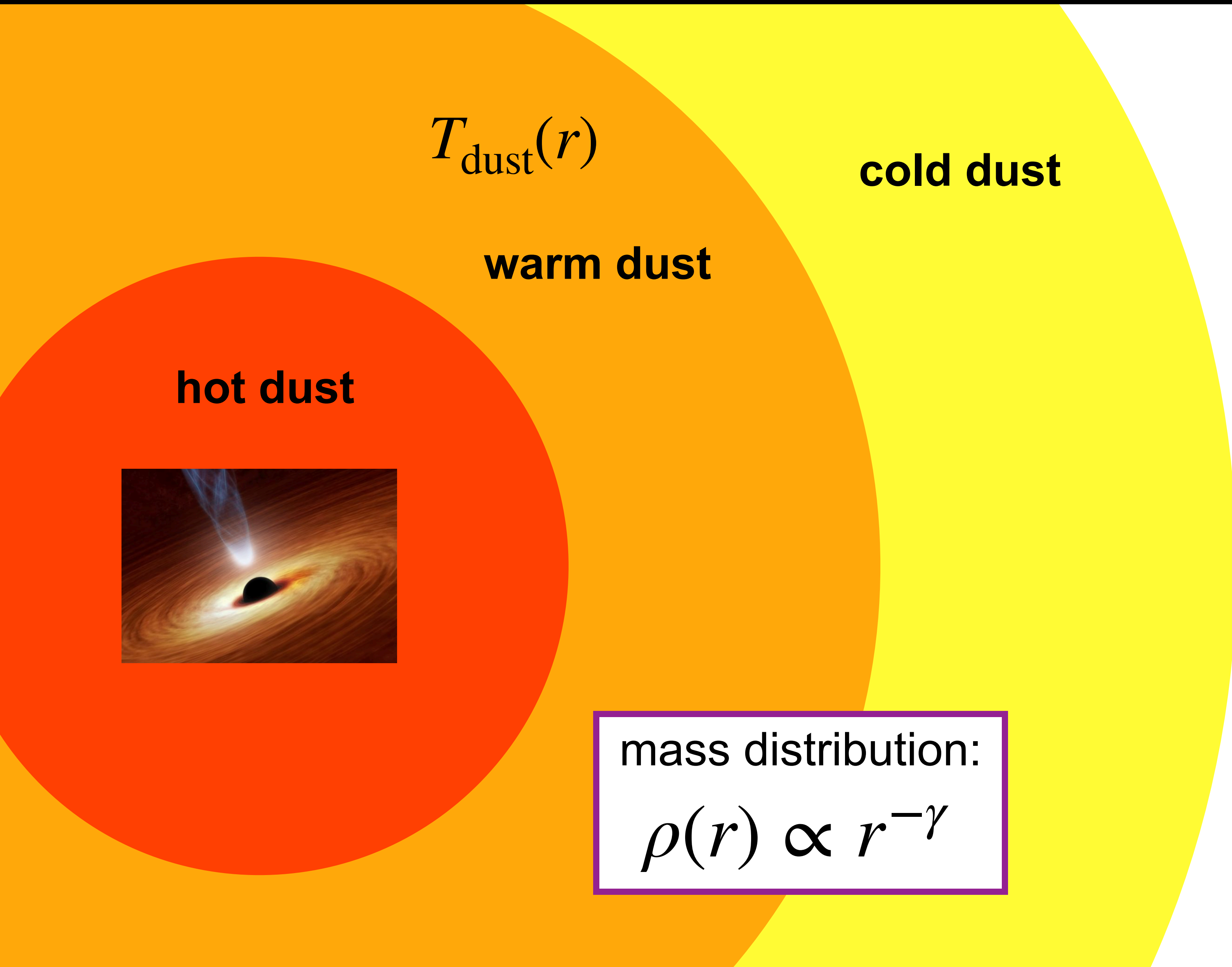


# AGN SED + Extinction



**Gray extinction** maintains the v-shaped SED of LRDs

# Re-emitted IR energy

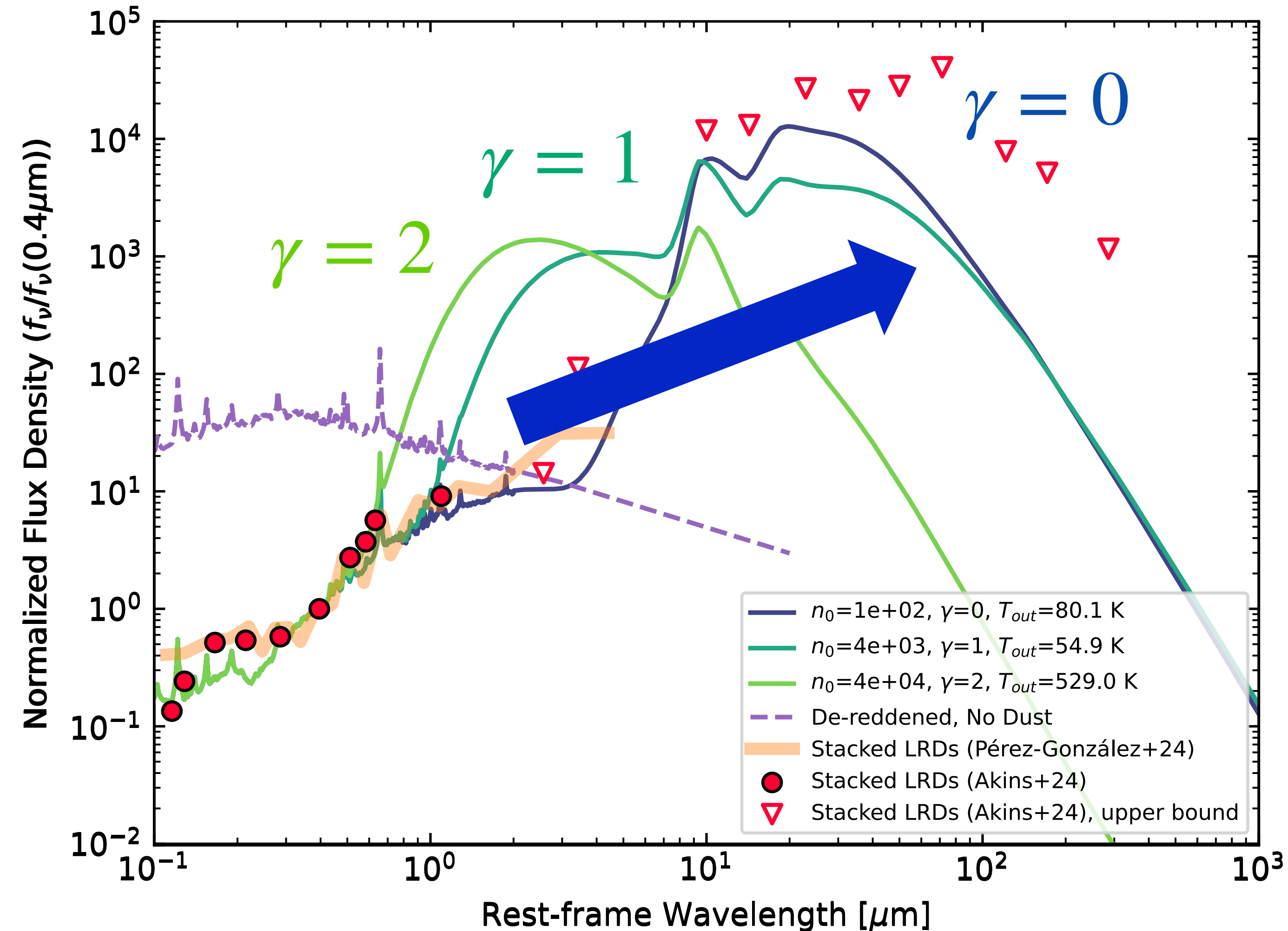


- Torus model  $\gamma > 1$   
centrally concentrated density  
IR emission from **hot** dust

- Our model  $0 < \gamma < 1$   
less concentrated density  
IR emission from relatively **cooler** dust

see also e.g.,  
Barvainis (1987),  
Hönig & Kishimoto (2017)

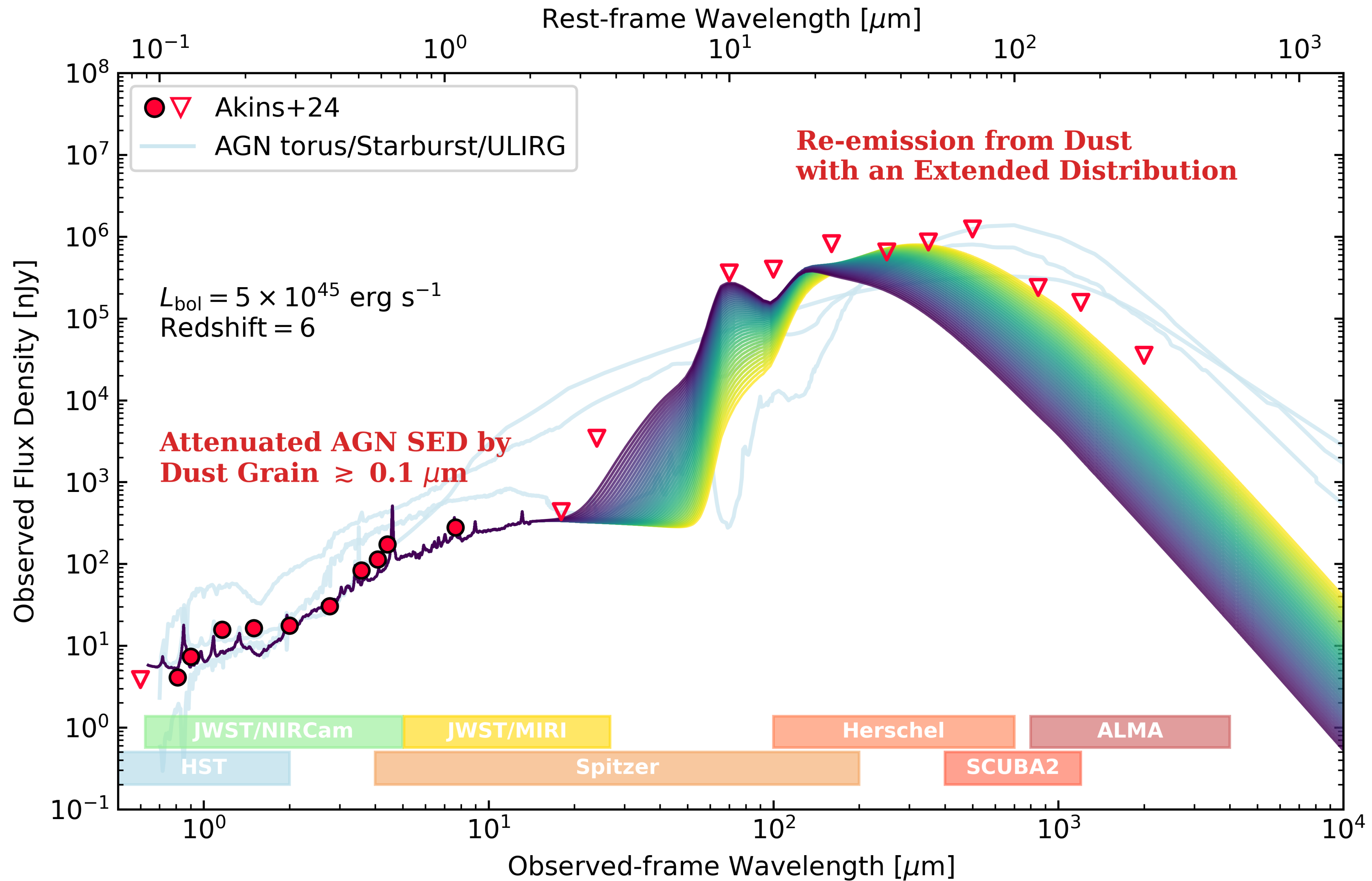
# IR SED depending on density gradients



Li, Kl, Chen+ 2024

Energy transfer from NIR to MIR with **extended** dust distribution

# Multi-wavelength SED of LRDs (only AGN)



Li, KI, Chen+ 2024





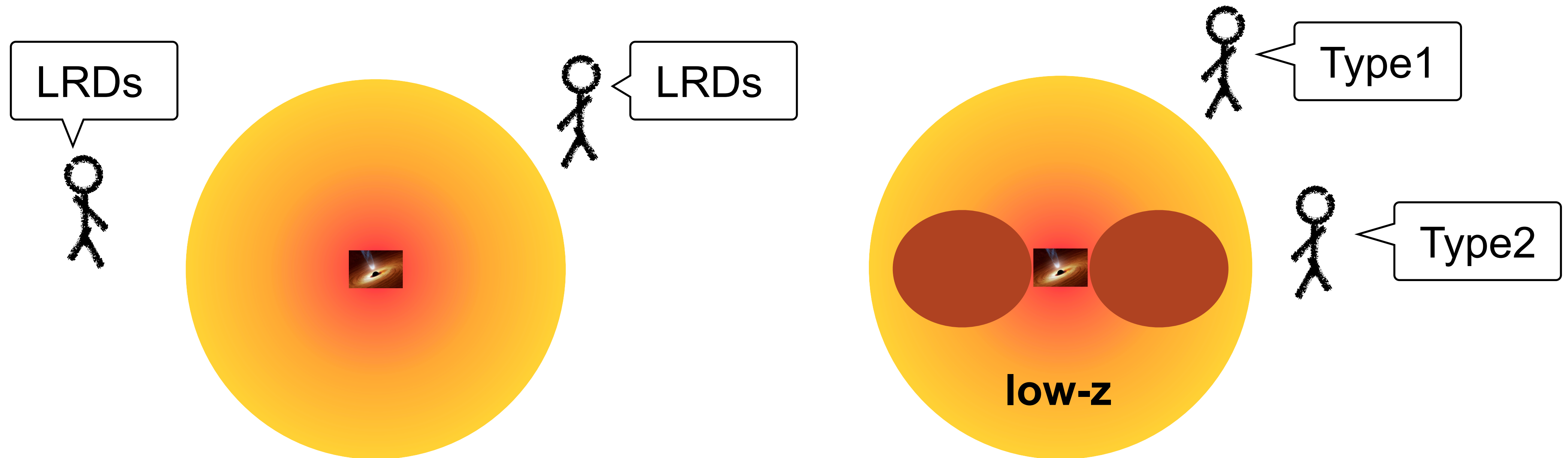
# New AGN unified model

- **Classical unified model:**

Clear classification of low-z AGNs (type 1 vs 2), depending on the viewing angle due to the presence of dense dusty tori

- **Intermediate stage (LRDs):**

Dynamically unsettled & extended gas/dust at higher redshifts, with a higher covering factor of BLRs



# 3-1. Applications

Sołtan-Paczyński argument (BH growth & spin)

KI & Ichikawa (2024)

arXiv:2402.14706

# Soltan argument for QSOs

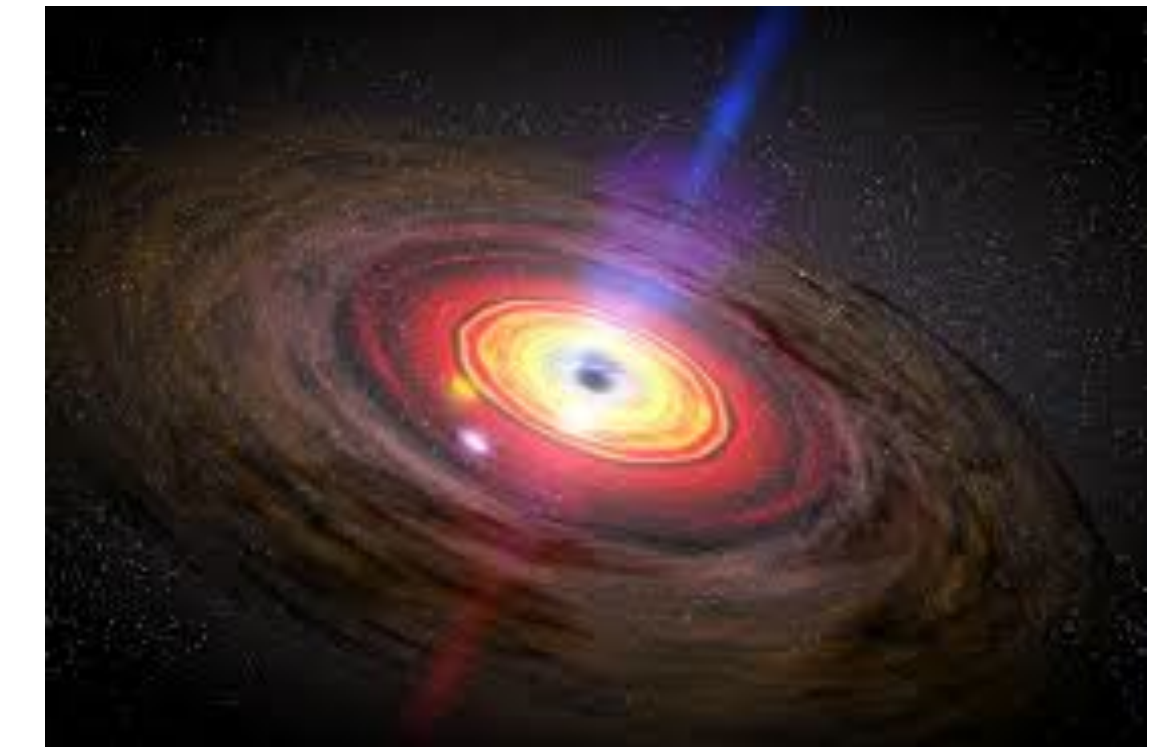
- Mass conservation law in accreting/illuminating BHs

Soltan 1982, Yu & Tremaine 2002

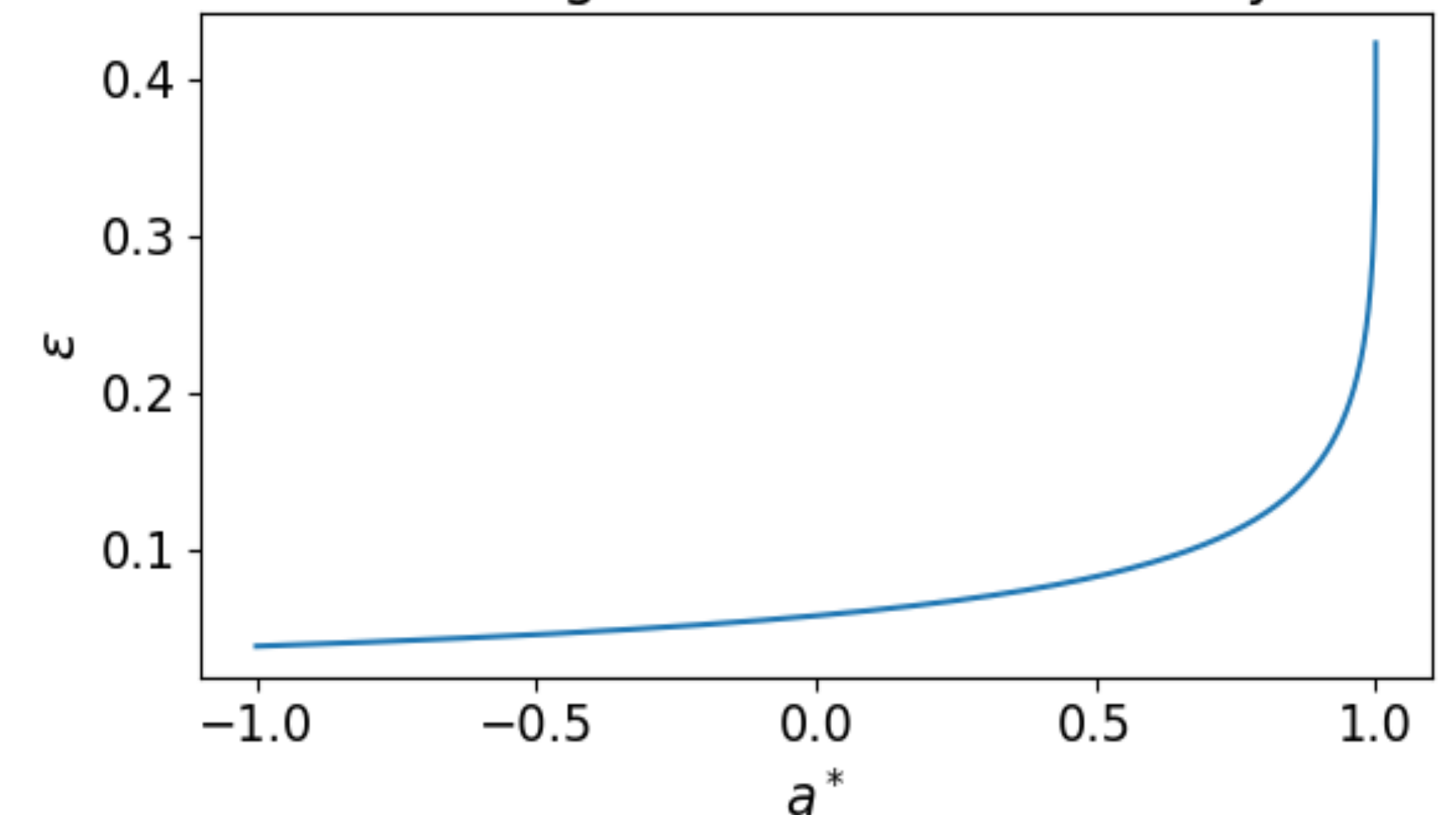
$$M_{\text{BH}}(z) = M_{\text{BH}}(z_s) + \Delta M_{\text{BH}}$$

$$\Delta M_{\text{BH}} = \int \dot{M}_{\text{BH}} dt = \int \frac{1 - \epsilon}{\epsilon} \cdot \frac{L}{c^2} dt$$

$\epsilon$  : radiative efficiency  $\sim 10\%$   
(disk model, BH spin)  
theoretical max  $\sim 42\%$



Rotating BH radiative efficiency



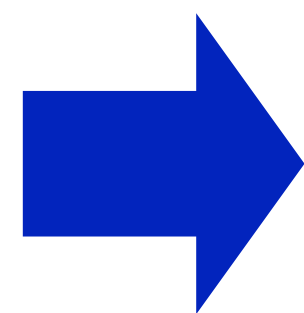
# Soltan argument for QSOs

- Mass conservation law in accreting/illuminating BHs

Soltan 1982, Yu & Tremaine 2002

$$\rho_{\text{BH}}(z) = \rho_{\text{BH}}(z_s) + \int \frac{1 - \epsilon}{\epsilon} \cdot \frac{\mathcal{L}}{c^2} \frac{dt}{dz} dz$$
$$\simeq \rho_{\text{BH}}(z_s) + \frac{1 - \bar{\epsilon}}{\bar{\epsilon} c^2} \int_{z_s}^z dz \frac{dt}{dz} \int_{L_{\text{min}}}^{L_{\text{max}}} L \frac{d\Phi_L(z)}{d \log L} d \log L$$

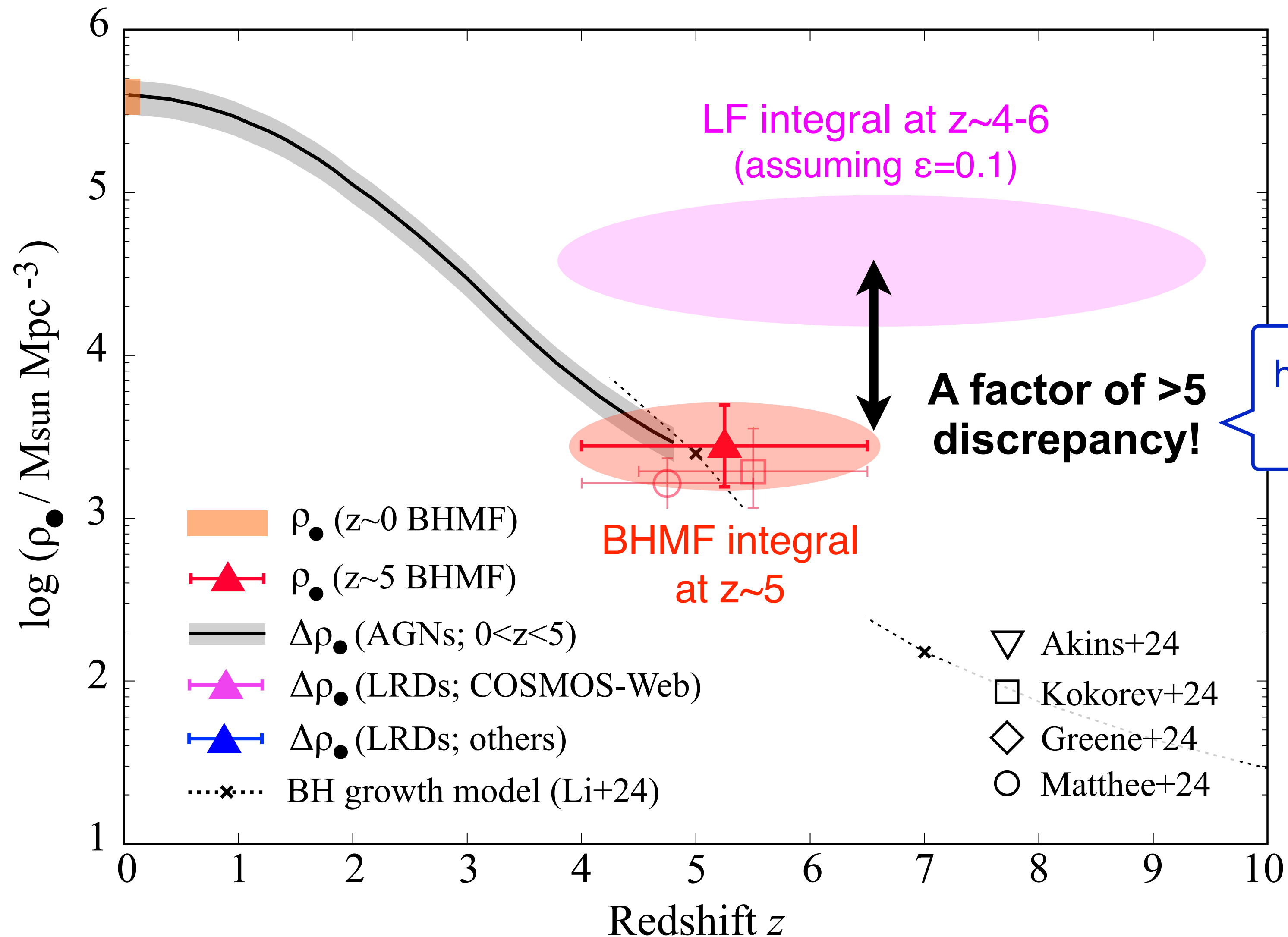
Mass density of local relic BHs = Mass accreted onto BHs over time



radiatively efficient accretion  
with moderate spins

$$\bar{\epsilon} \sim 0.1 \quad (a_{\bullet} \sim 0.7)$$

# Soltan argument for the earliest BHs



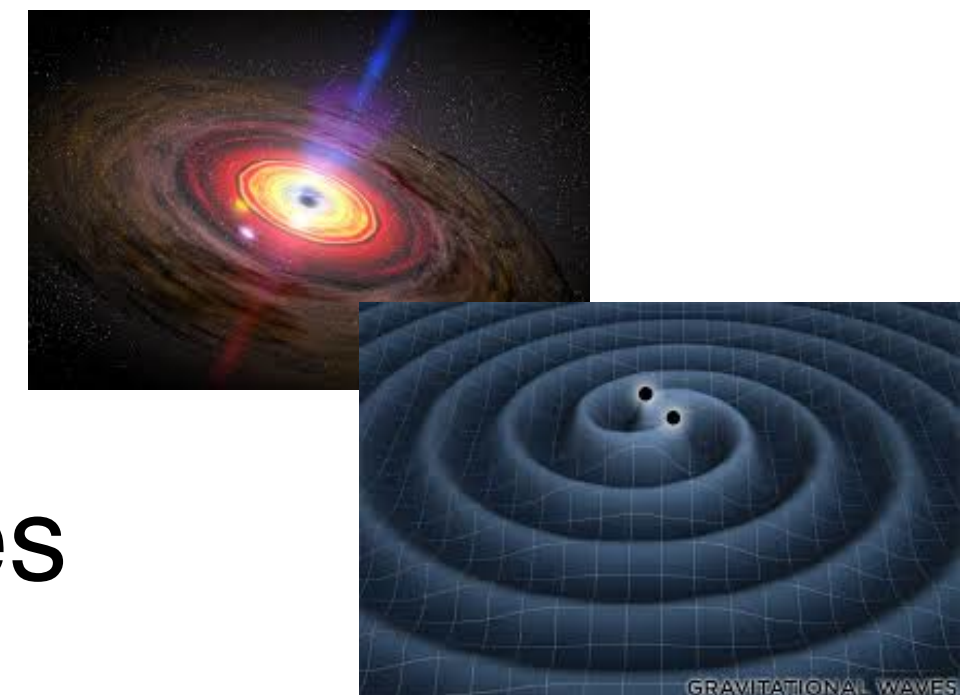
# Birth of rapidly spinning BHs at cosmic dawn

Radiative efficiency of **>30%** & rapid BH spins of  **$a > 0.99$**

Survey	Redshift	$\log_{10} \Delta\rho_{\bullet}$	$p$ -value			
			$\epsilon_{\text{rad}} = 0.1$ $a_{\bullet} \simeq 0.674$	$\epsilon_{\text{rad}} = 0.2$ $a_{\bullet} \simeq 0.960$	$\epsilon_{\text{rad}} = 0.3$ $a_{\bullet} \simeq 0.996$	$\epsilon_{\text{rad}} = 0.42$ $a_{\bullet} \simeq 1.00$
COSMOS-Web	$5 < z < 9$	$4.82^{+0.29}_{-0.19}$	0.00204	0.00569	0.0132	0.0350
Other surveys	$4.5 < z < 8.5$	$4.48^{+0.24}_{-0.22}$	0.00291	0.0115	0.0378	0.151

KI & Ichikawa 24

- Radio jets (BZ mechanisms) from early BHs
- Prolonged disk accretion vs. chaotic accretion
- **GW waveform modulation** by BH spins in their coalescences



# **3-2. Applications**

TDEs from LRDs

KI, Kashiya, Li, Harikane, Ichikawa & Onoue (2024)

# High-z TDEs from JWST AGNs

Rapid BHs spins allow

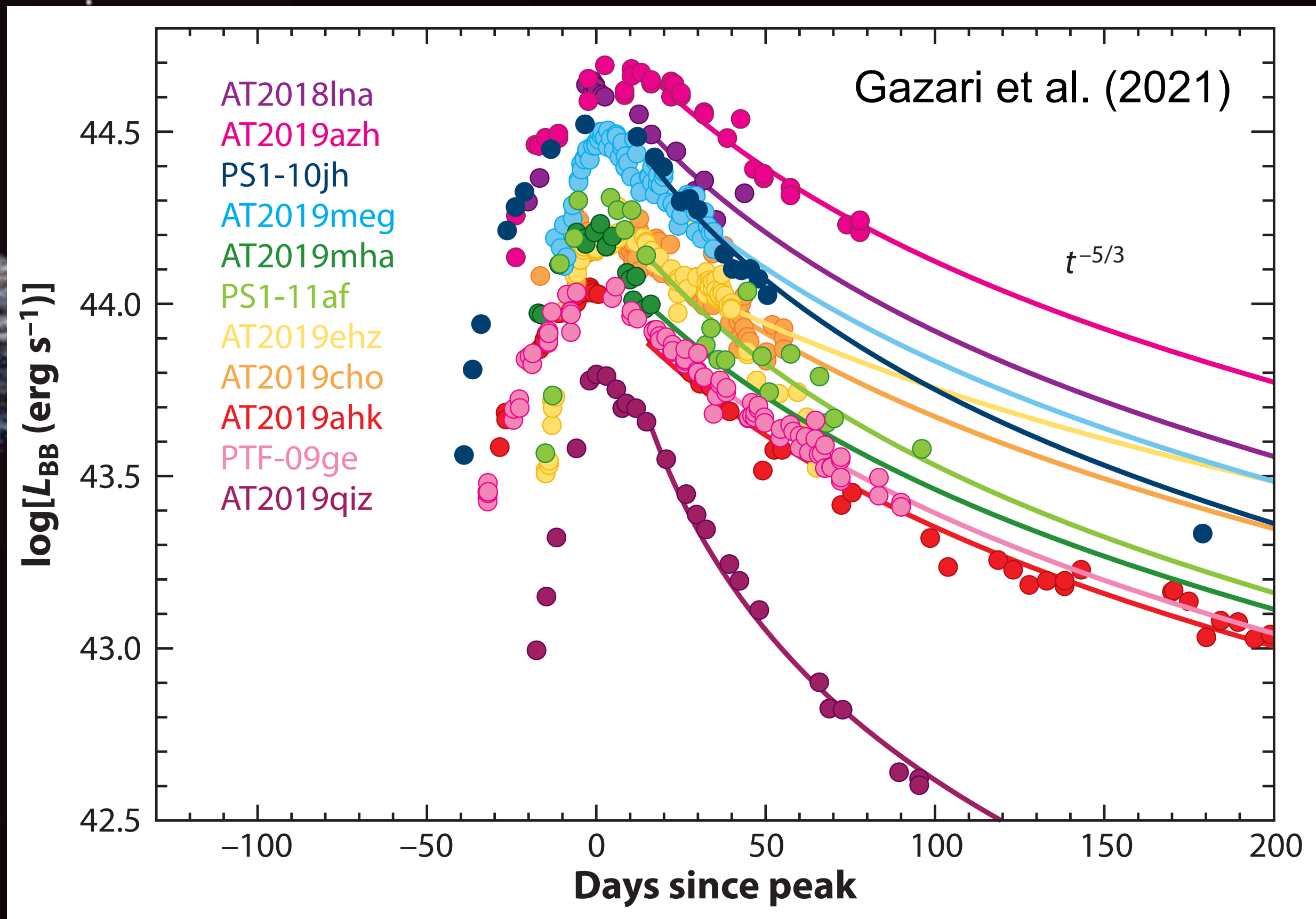
1. TDEs by  $M > 10^8 M_{\text{sun}}$

2. Brighter jets,

3. ....

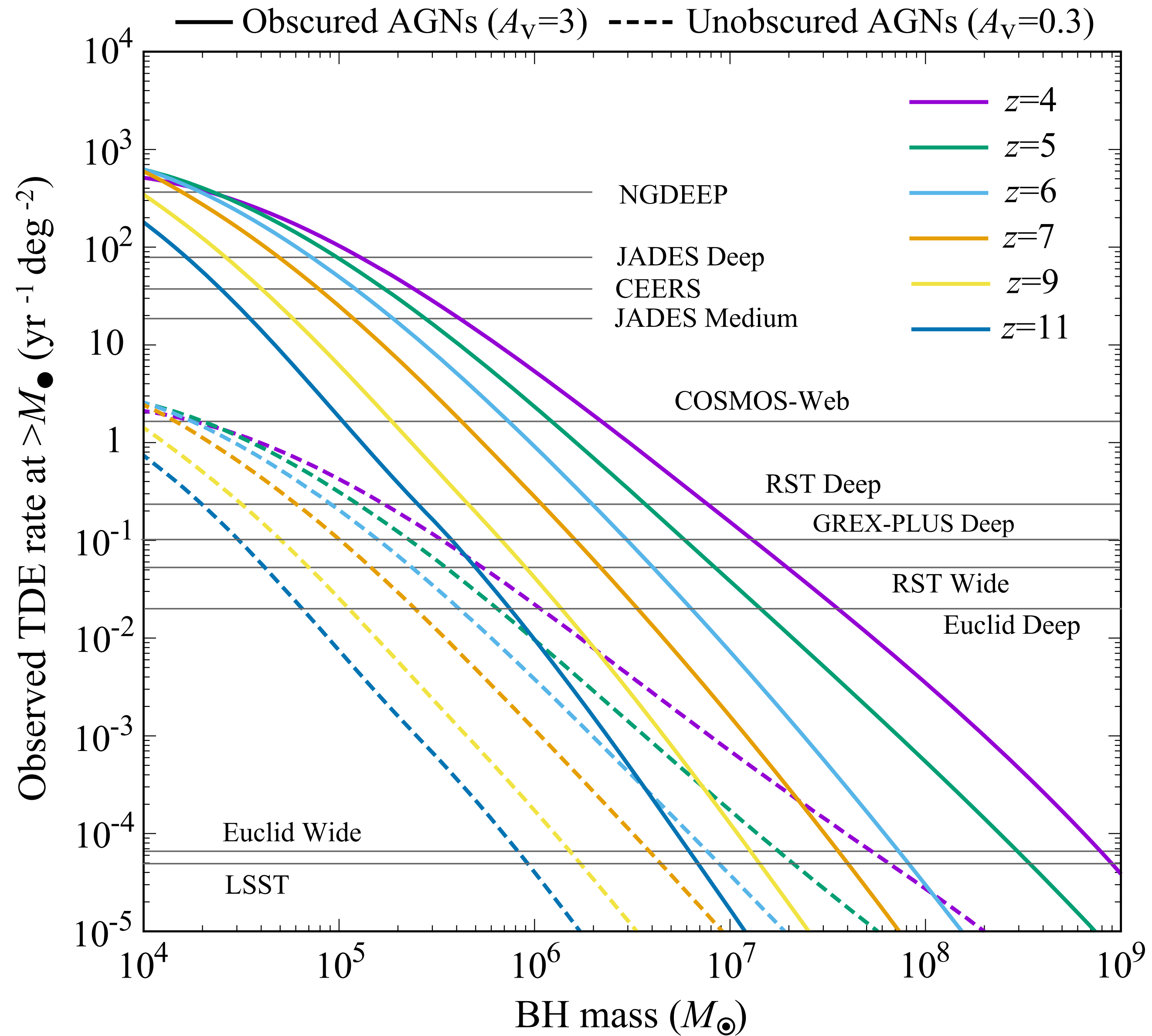
BH !

disrupted stellar debris

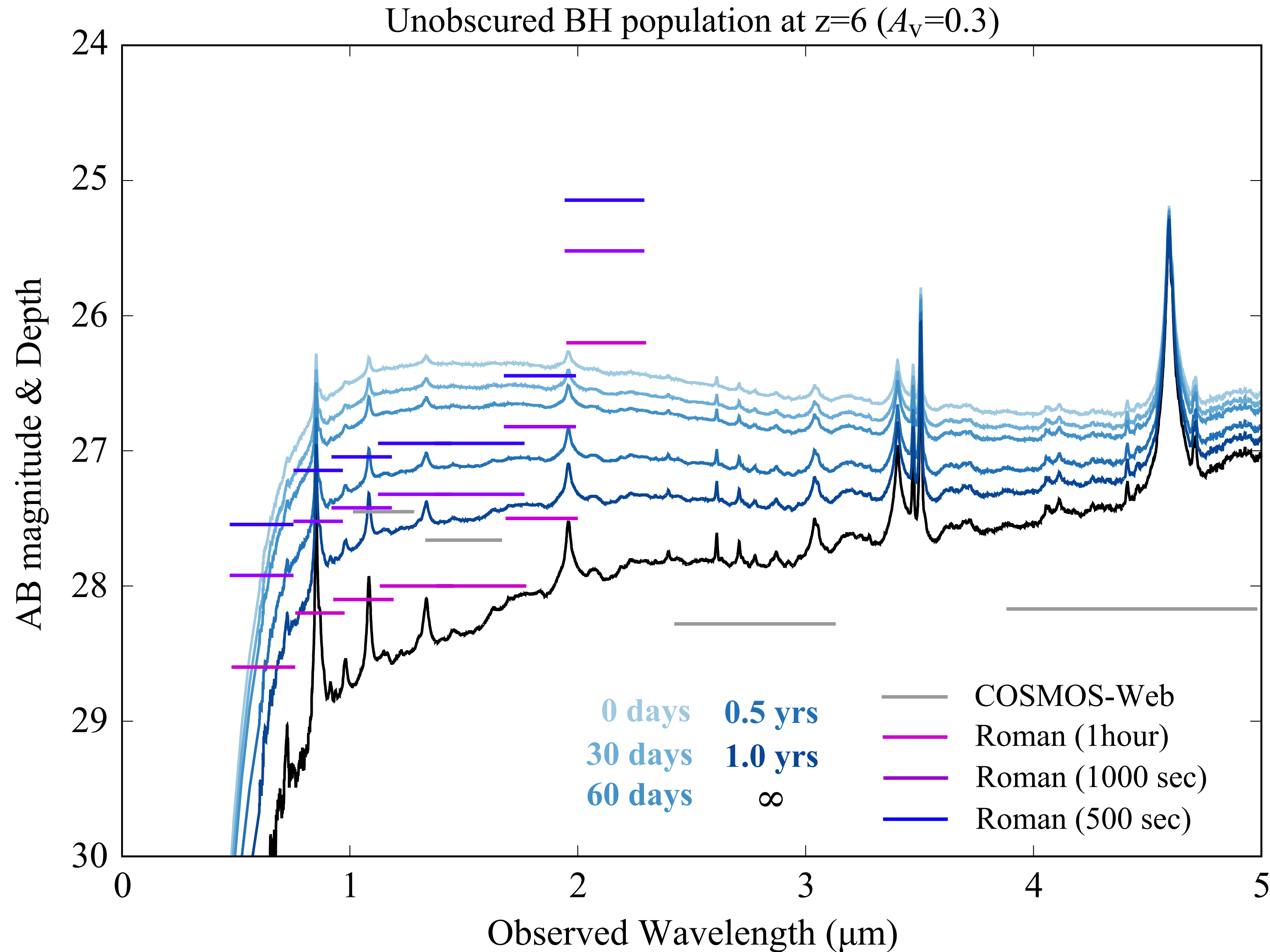




# TDE rate vs. BHMF shape



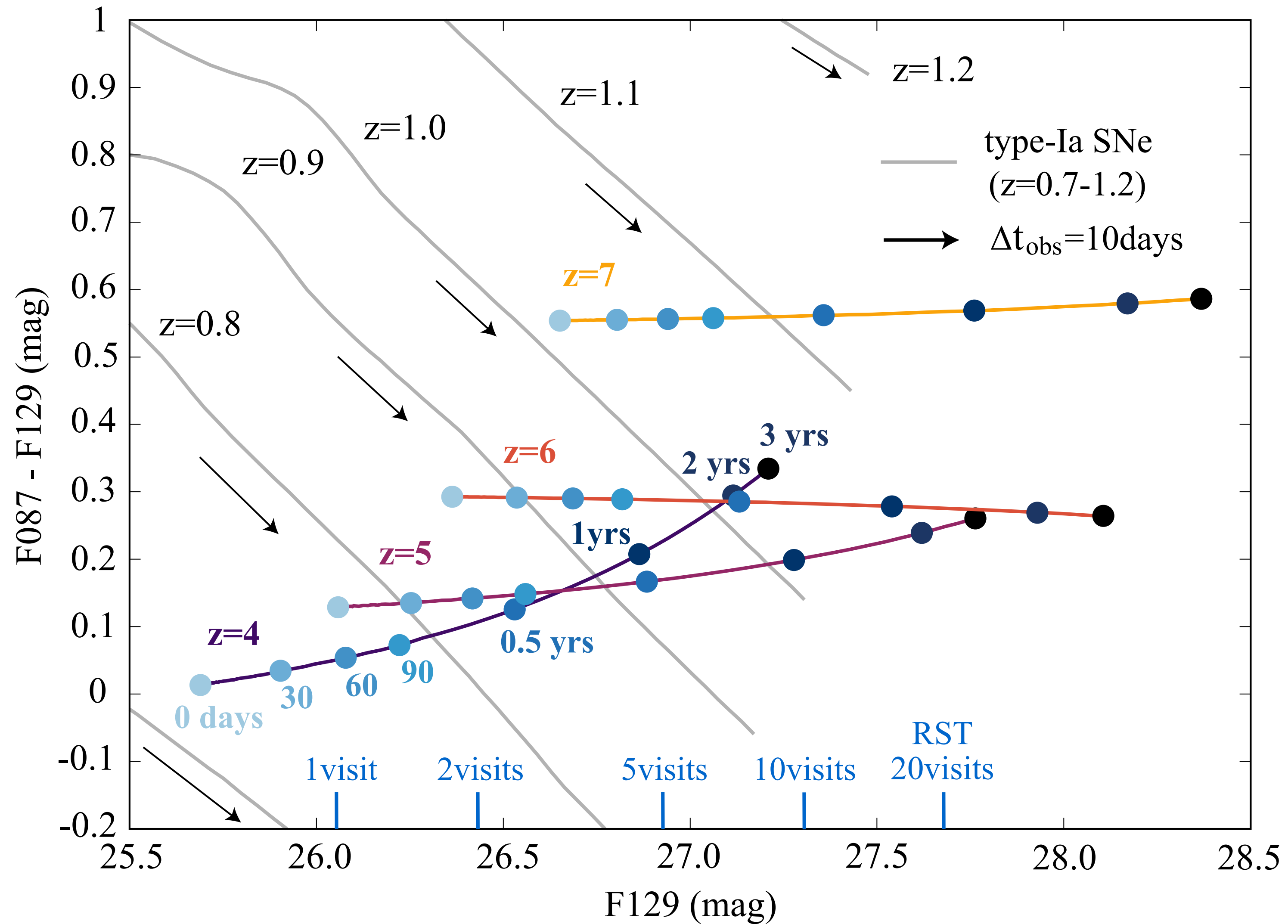
# SED evolution of high-z TDEs



SED model  
||  
composite SED of  
low-z quasars  
+  
TDE (Black body)  
PS1-10jh

KI+ (2024)

# Color-magnitude diagram for high- $z$ TDEs



Exp. Time / Visit  
= 160 sec

KI+ (2024)

# Questions?

