

LAGER: Lyman Alpha Galaxies in the Epoch of Reionization

Probing Reionization at $z \sim 7$ with the **First Narrowband Filter** on DECam

Zhenya Zheng (SHAO)

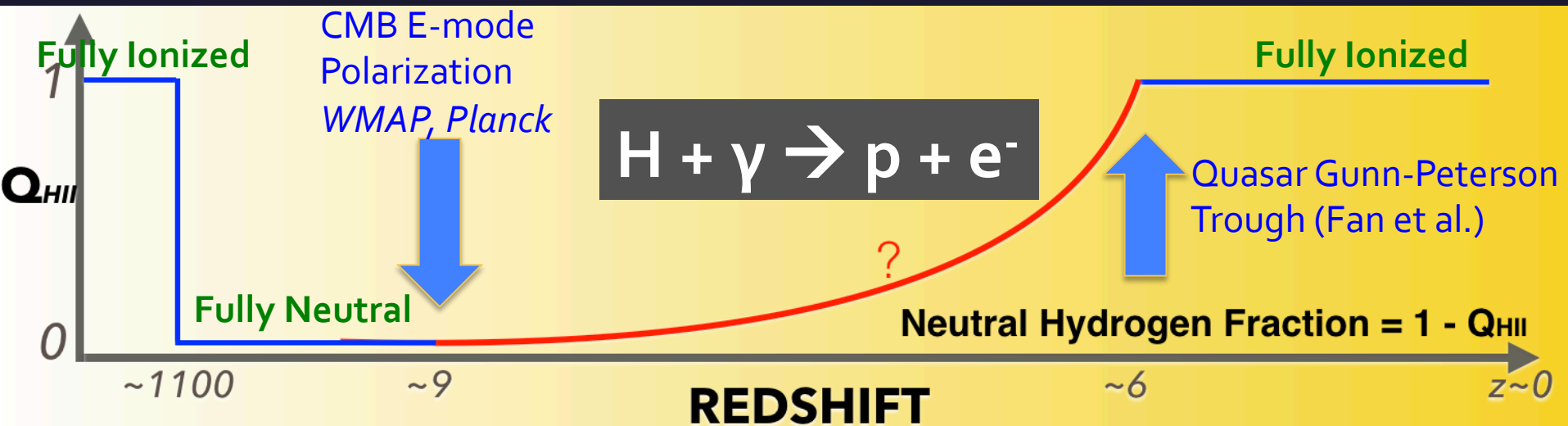
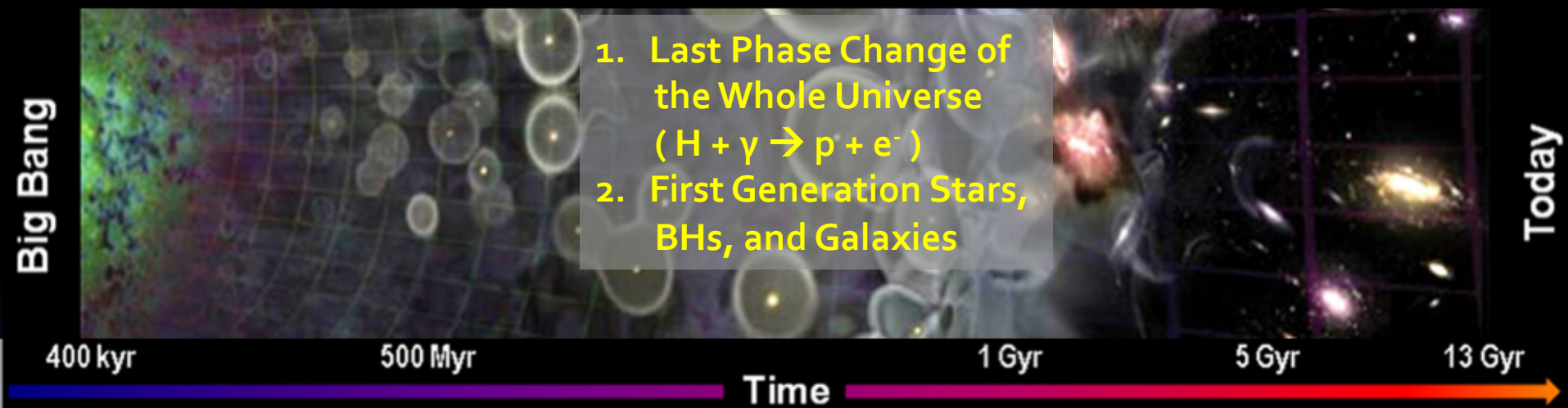
on behalf of the LAGER Team



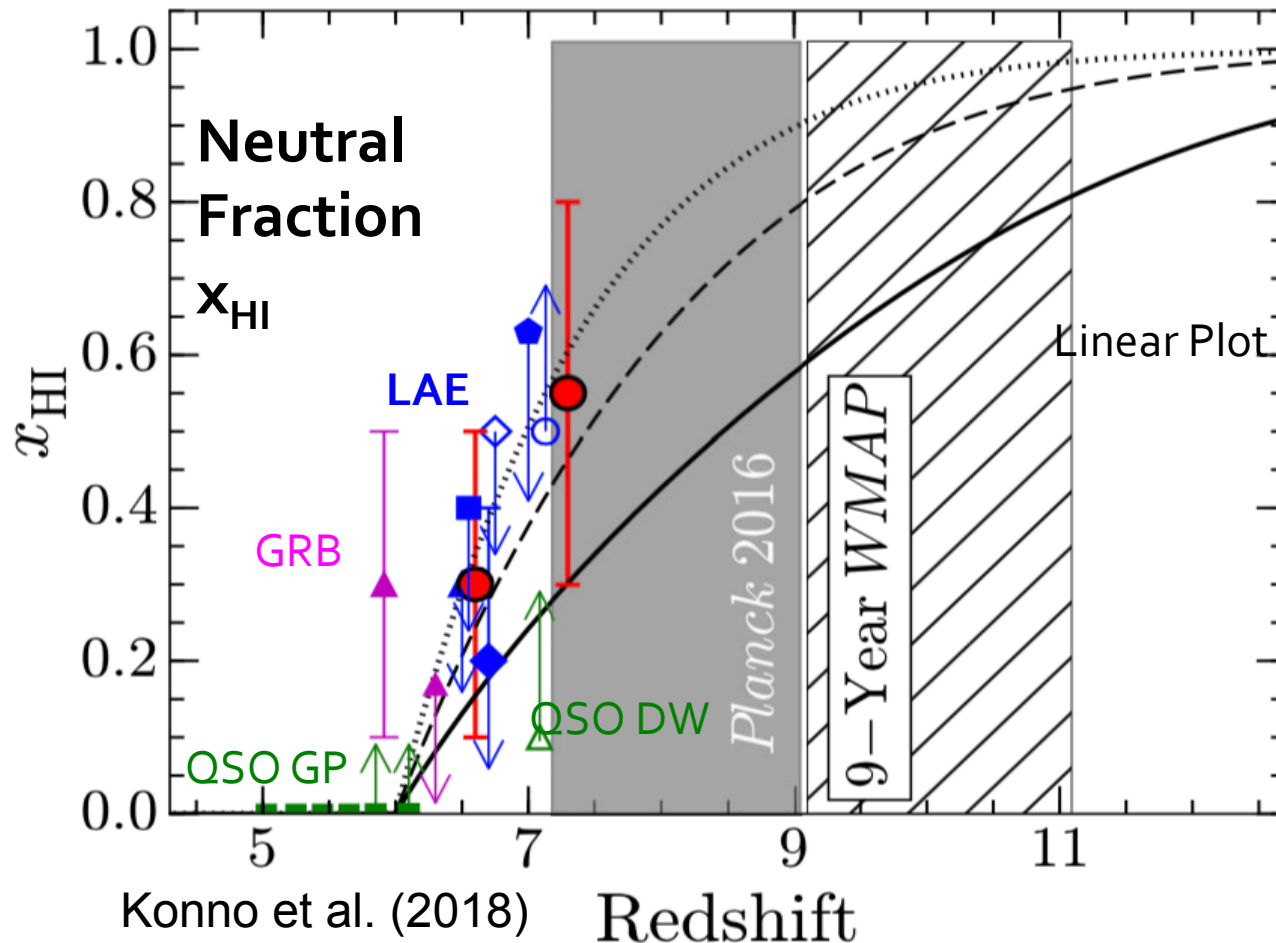
Outline

- **Introduction of LAGER Survey**
 - Survey Background
 - LAGER Project (2015 Dec. -2018 Mar.)
- **LAGER's First Results**
 - $z \sim 7$ LFs of Ly α galaxies
 - $z \sim 7$ Bubbles (See Sangeeta's talk)
- **Recent Updates with LAGER**
 - Data & Science
- **Comparison with HSC-NB: DECam-NB is Unique**
- **Conclusion**

Origin of CMB Dark Ages **Epoch of Reionization: First Stars & First Galaxies** Modern Universe



Global History of Reionization



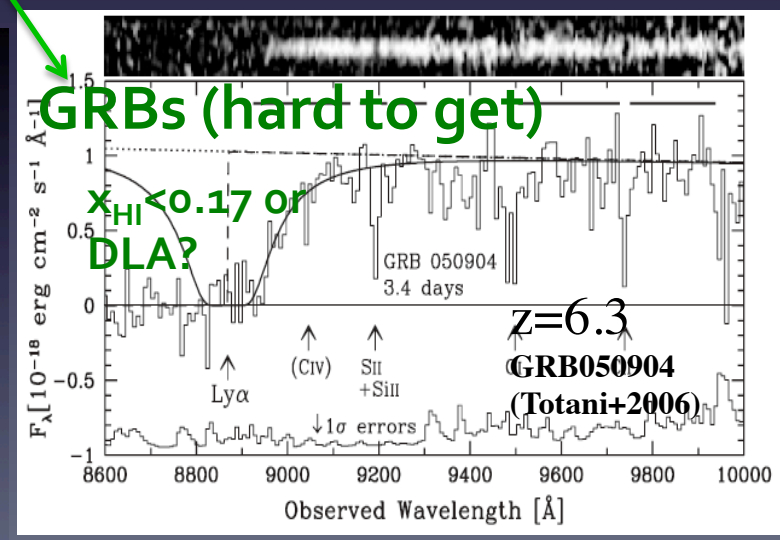
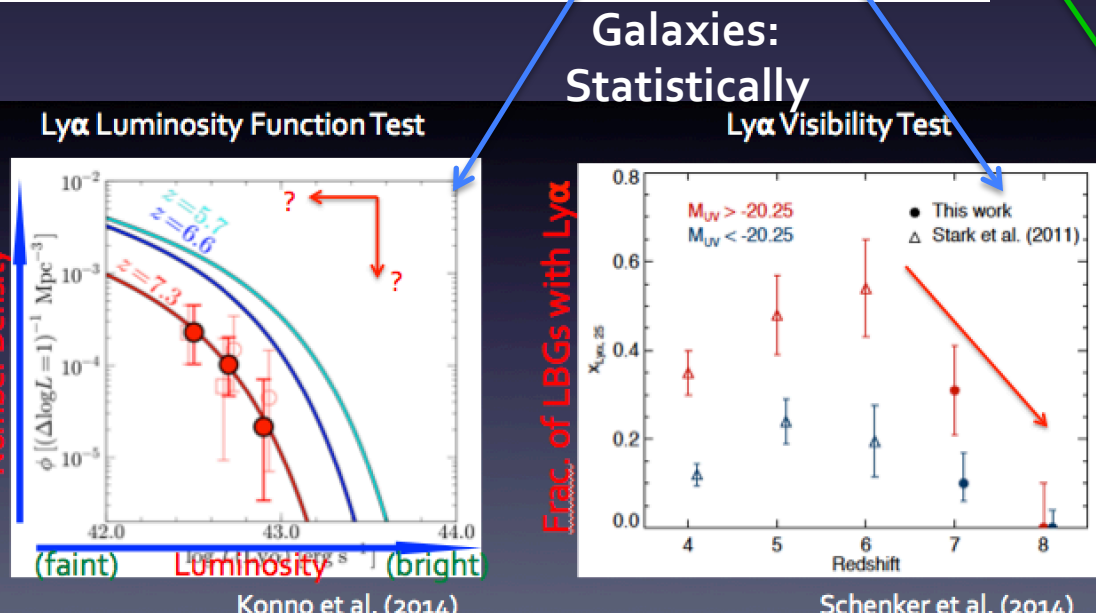
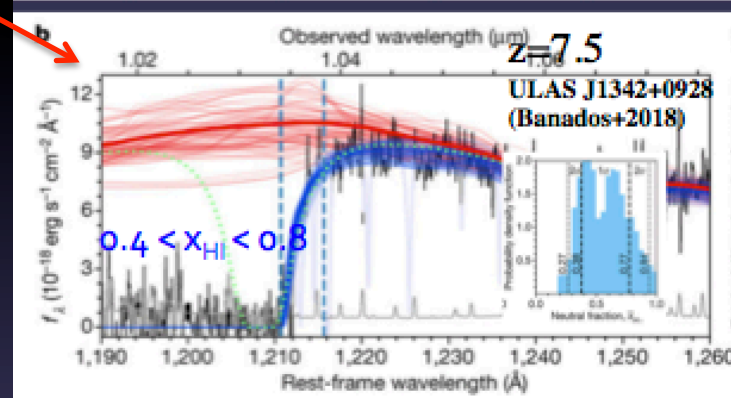
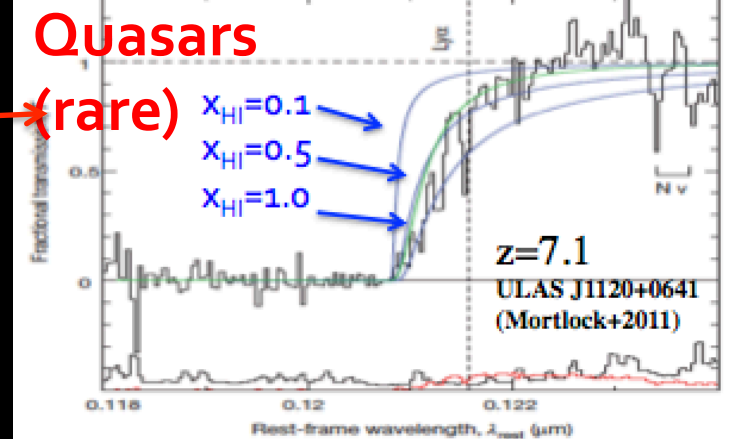
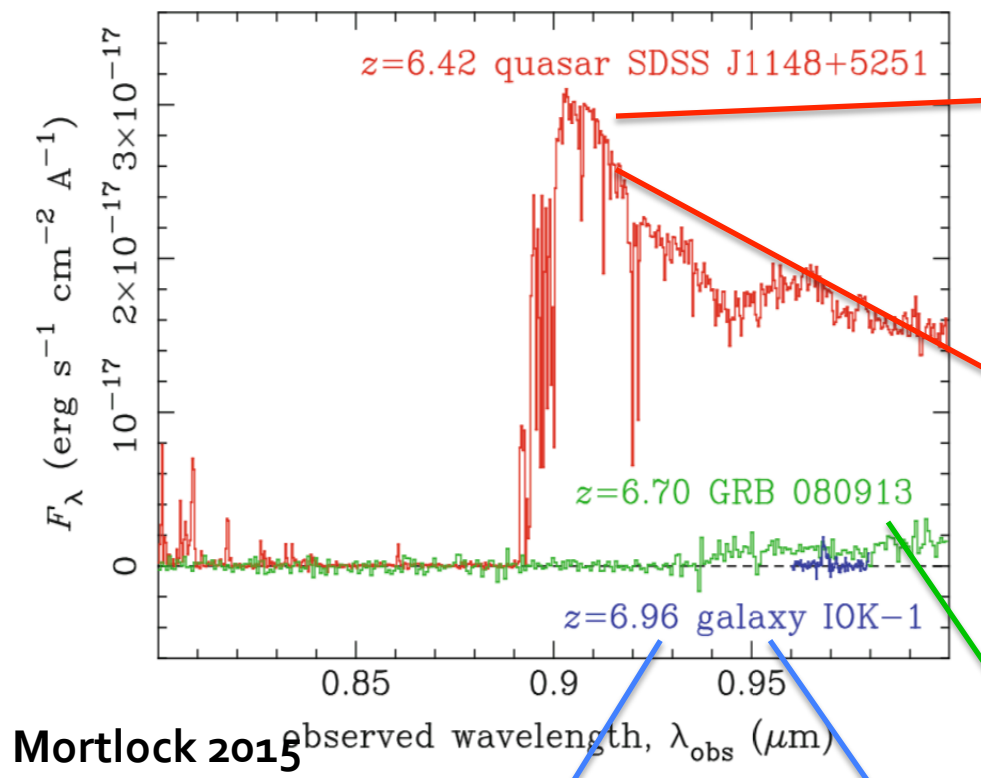
- Quasar Gunn-Peterson
- Quasar Damping Wing
- GRB Damping Wing

EoR Probes with Ly α Galaxies:

1. Ly α LF of Ly α Galaxies in EoR
2. Ly α Visibility
3. Clustering of Ly α Galaxies
4. Ionizing Volume

See also: Sharma+16,
Robertson+15, Mitra+15,
Bouwens+15, Kakiichi+16,
Greig & Mesinger17 ...

- x_{HI} increases from $z \sim 6$
- Large dispersion at $z > \sim 7 \rightarrow$
Reason: Limited galaxy sample at $z > \sim 7$

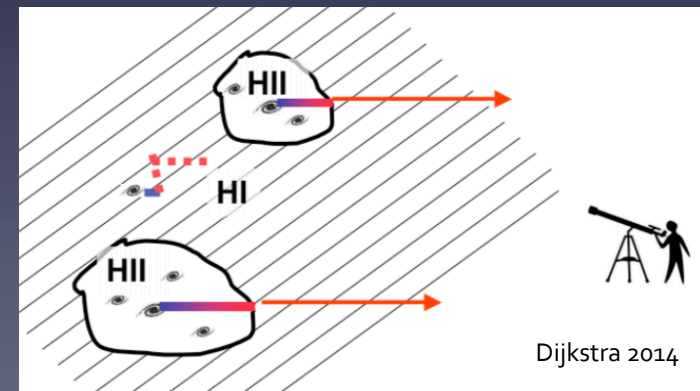
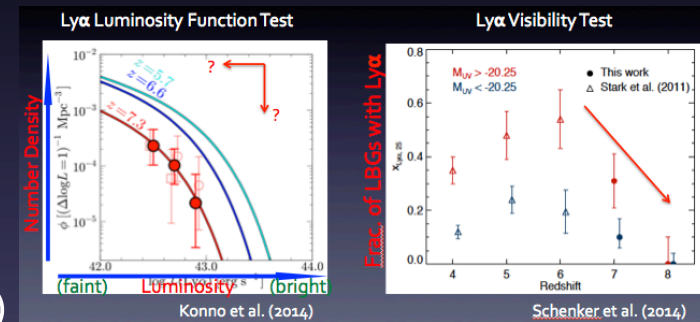
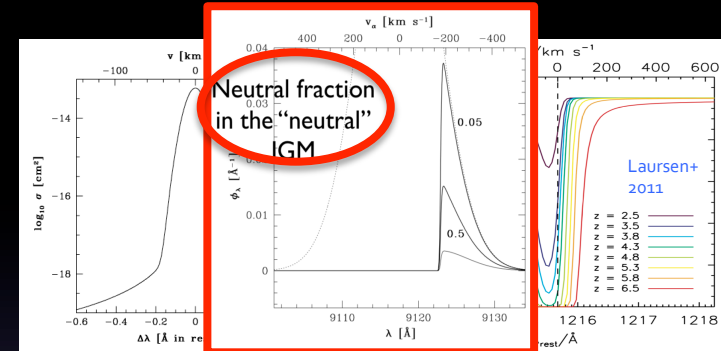


– Probing Reionization with Ly α Galaxies
(**EoR History & Topology**):

Reason: Damping Wing Absorption of Ly α Photons
by (partially) Neutral IGM

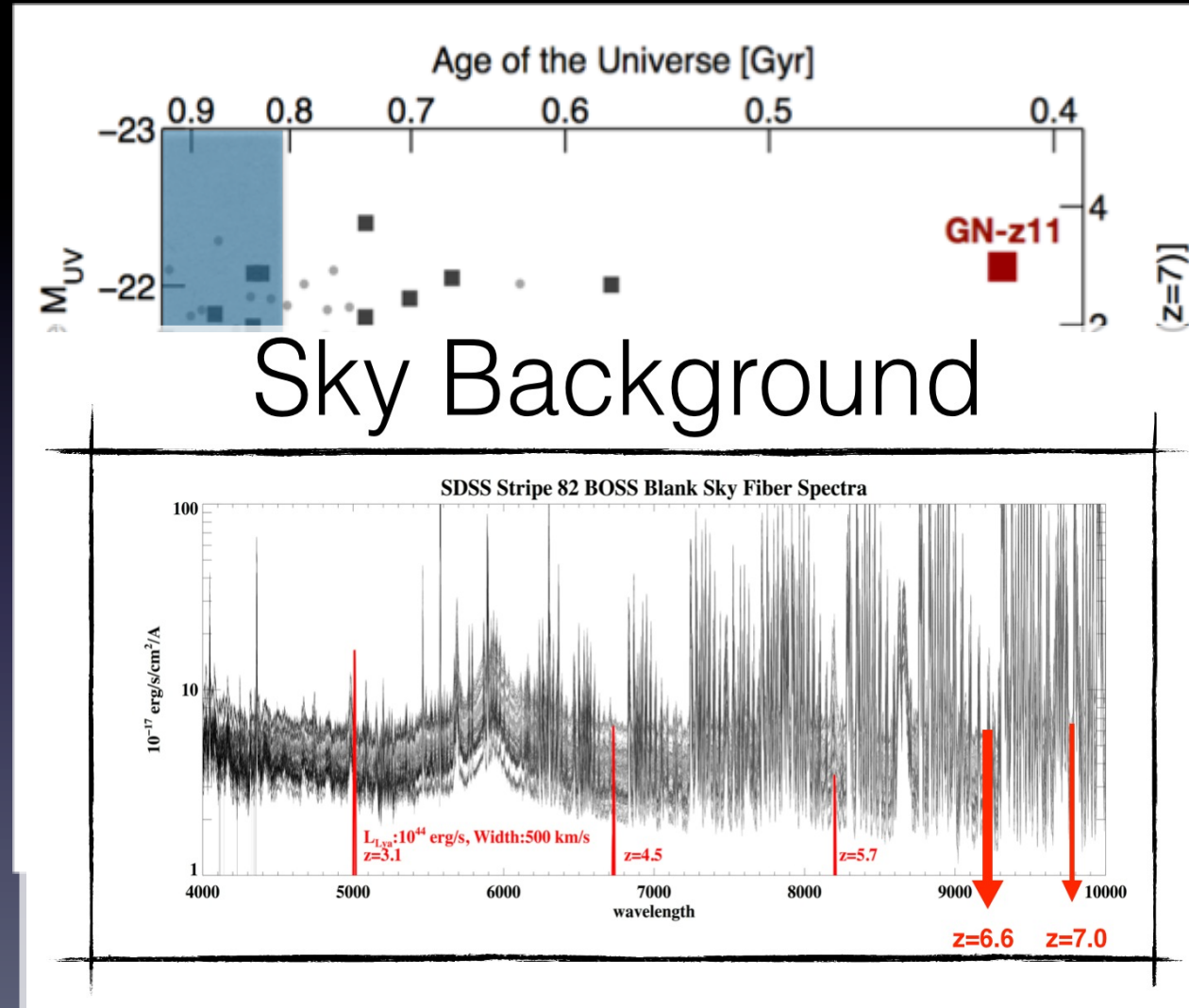
Probing EoR History: Comparing the Statistical
Properties of Ly α Galaxies in EoR and Post-
Reionization Epoch (Ly α LF Test, Ly α Visibility Test,...)

Mapping EoR Topology: IGM Environment on the
Apparent Distribution of Ly α Galaxies (Clustering
Analysis, Ionizing Volume, Ly α & 21cm CCF)

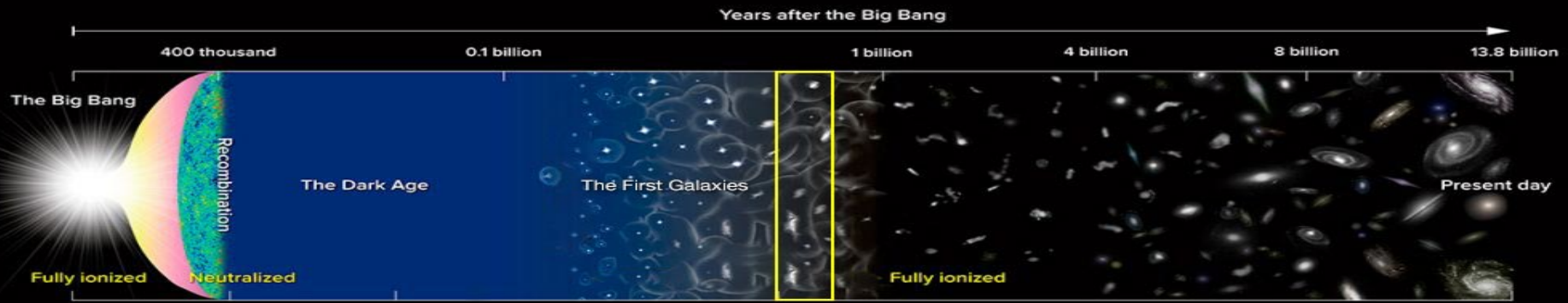


Observational Challenges at $z > \sim 7$

- Most of these $z > \sim 7$ candidate galaxies are selected from space: **Hundreds** of LBGs from HST vs. **$\sim 20+$** LAEs with ground NB before 2016;
- **12** galaxies (**3** LAEs) with spec. conformation at $z > \sim 7$ (2006-2016): 2 with HST grism, 1 with 6.5m Magellan, and others with 8-10m telescopes. Most of these are confirmed via their $\text{Ly}\alpha$ lines.



Need to increase the LAE sample at $z > \sim 7$



Lyman Alpha Galaxies in the Epoch of Reionization (LAGER)

CHINA

Junxian Wang (USTC)*,
Zhenya Zheng (SHAO)*,
Weida Hu (USTC),
Linhua Jiang (PKU/KIAA),
Chunyan Jiang (SHAO),
Xu Kong, Wenyong Kang (USTC),
Xianzhong Zheng (PMO) ...

USA

Sangeeta Malhotra (ASU, GSFC)*,
James Rhoads (ASU, GSFC)*,
Alistair Walker (NOAO/CTIO),
Francisco Valdes (NOAO)
Alicia Gonzalez (ASU),
Vithal Tilvi (ASU),
Steven Finkelstein (U. Texas), ...

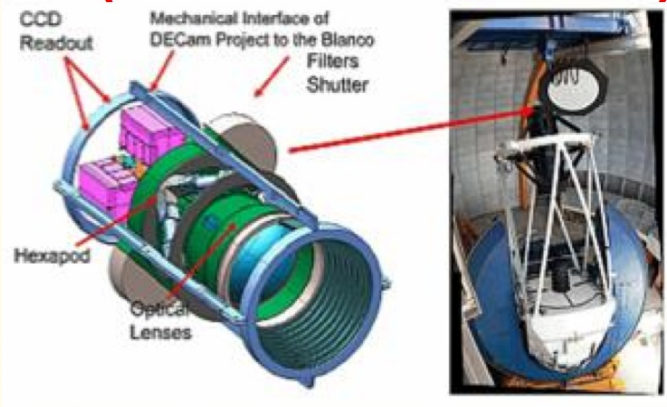
CHILE

Leopoldo Infante (LCO,PUC)*,
Felipe Barrientos (PUC),
Huan Yang (LCO),
Pascale Hibon (ESO),
Gaspar Galaz (PUC),
Franz Bauer (PUC), ...



The LAGER Project

CTIO 4m Blanco Telescope (Cerro Tololo, Chile)



Dark Energy Camera (FOV = 3 sq-deg)



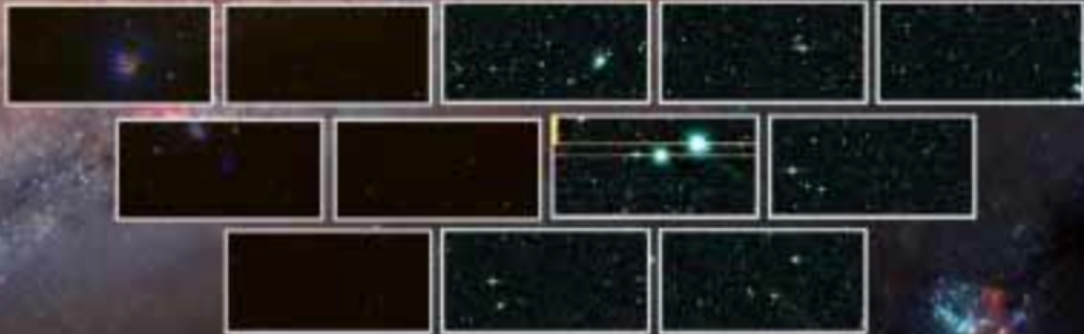
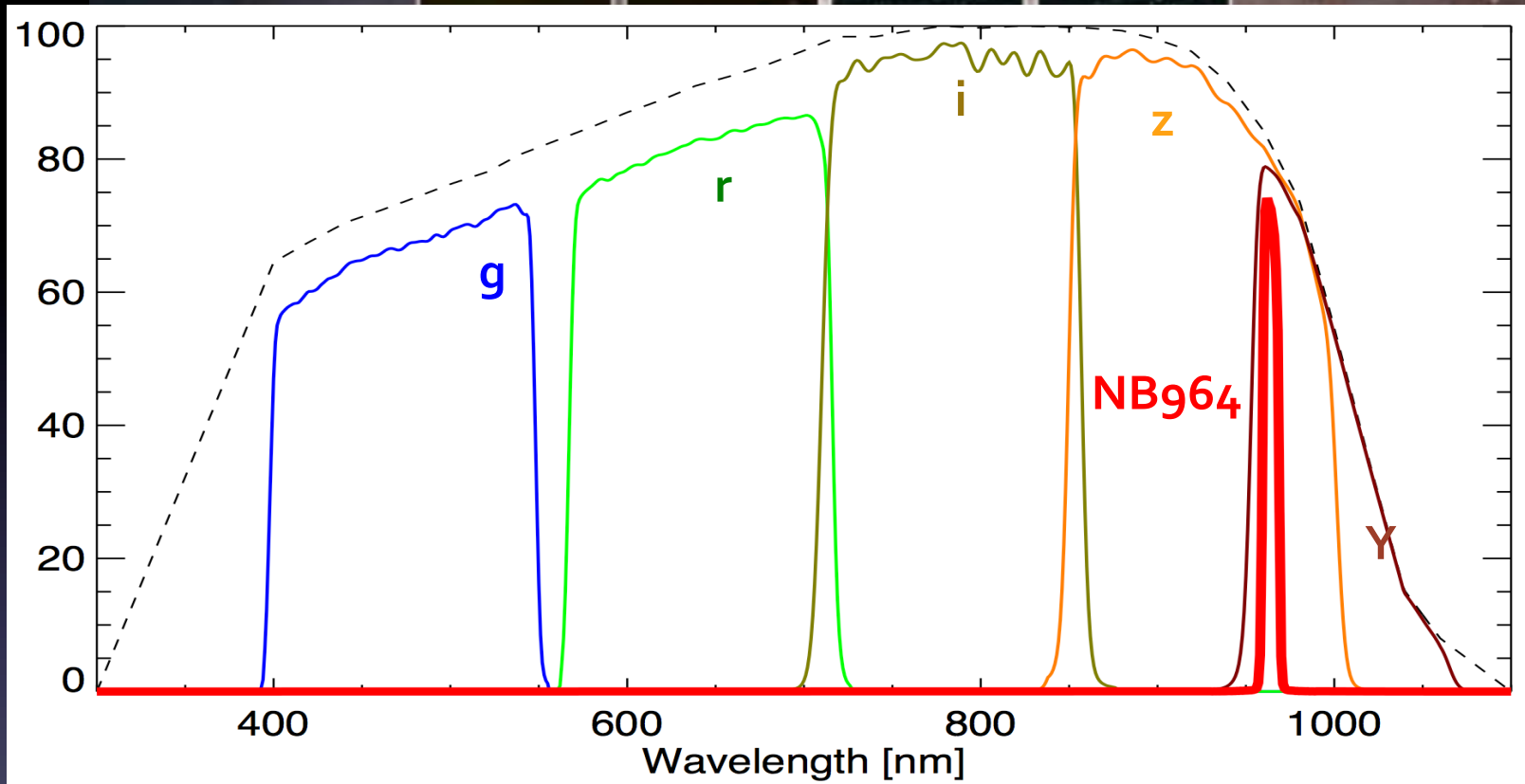
Lyman
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Galaxies in the
EPOCH of
Reionization



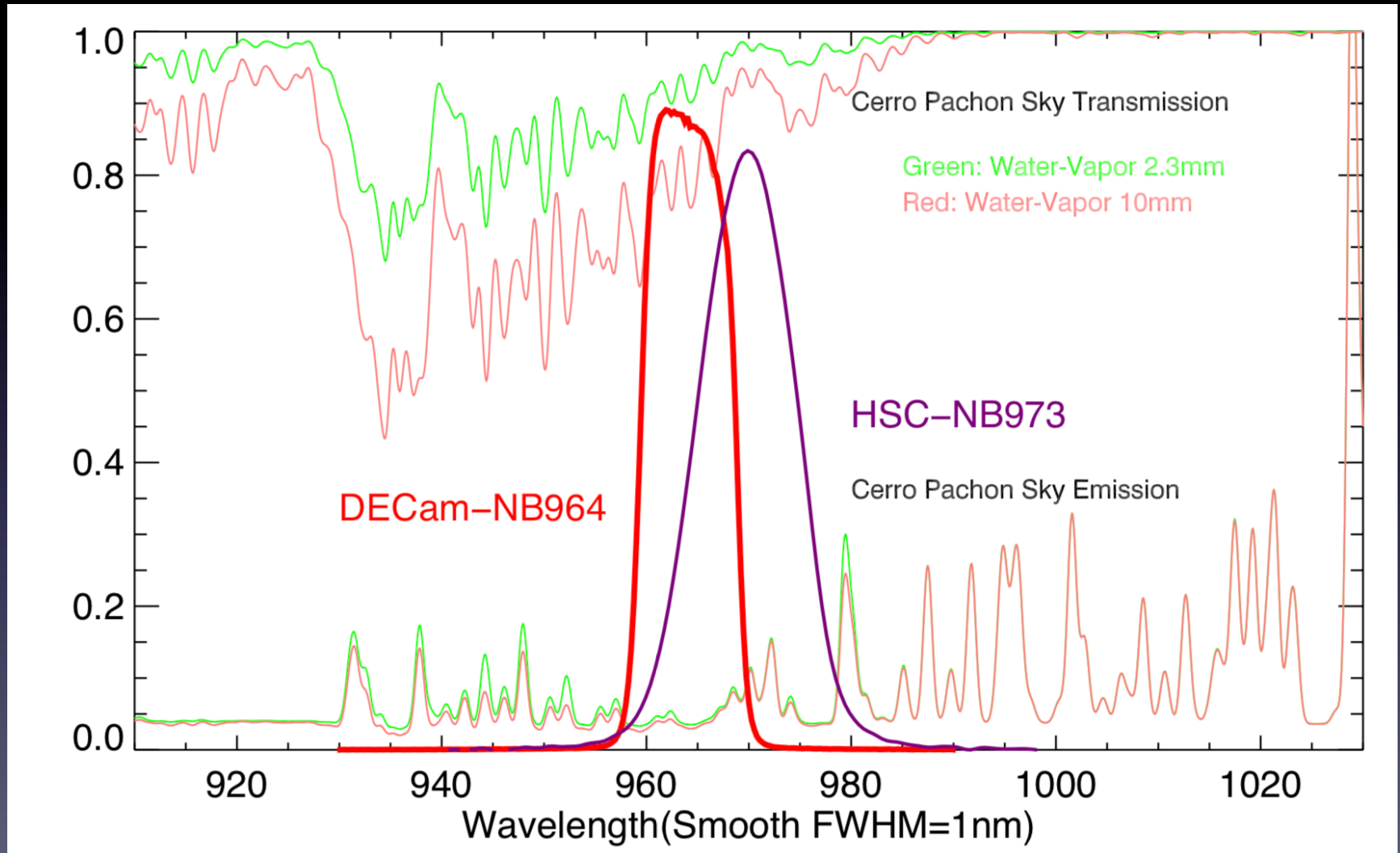
NB964 Narrowband Filter

$$W_c = 9642 \text{ \AA} \text{ \& FWHM} = 92 \text{ \AA} \\ \rightarrow z(\text{Ly}\alpha) = 6.93 \pm 0.04$$

Why DECam?



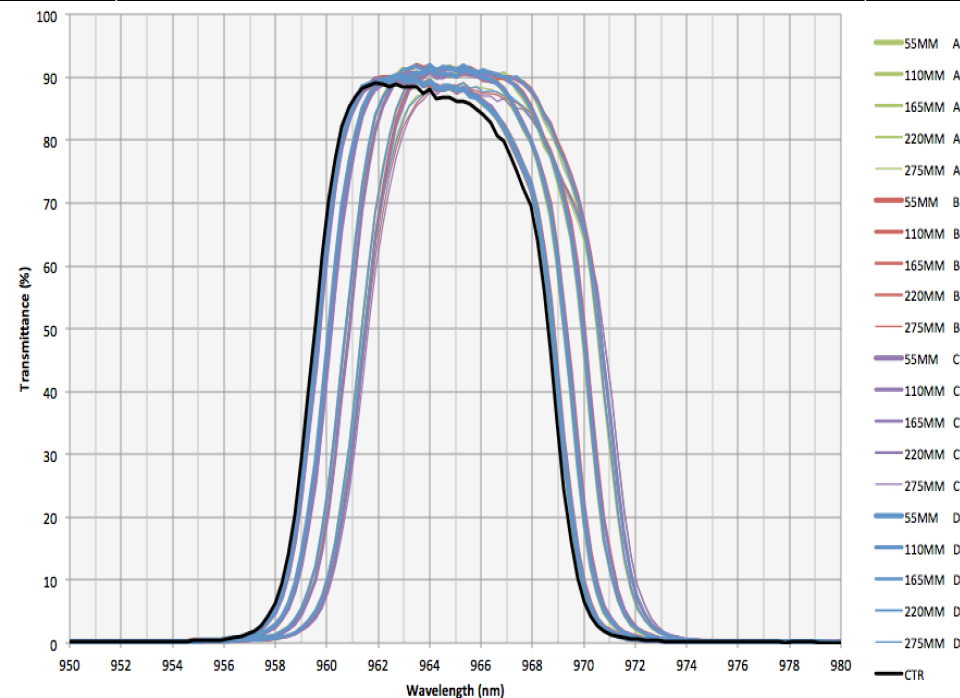
NB964 Filter Profile vs. Sky Lines



NB964 Filter Performance

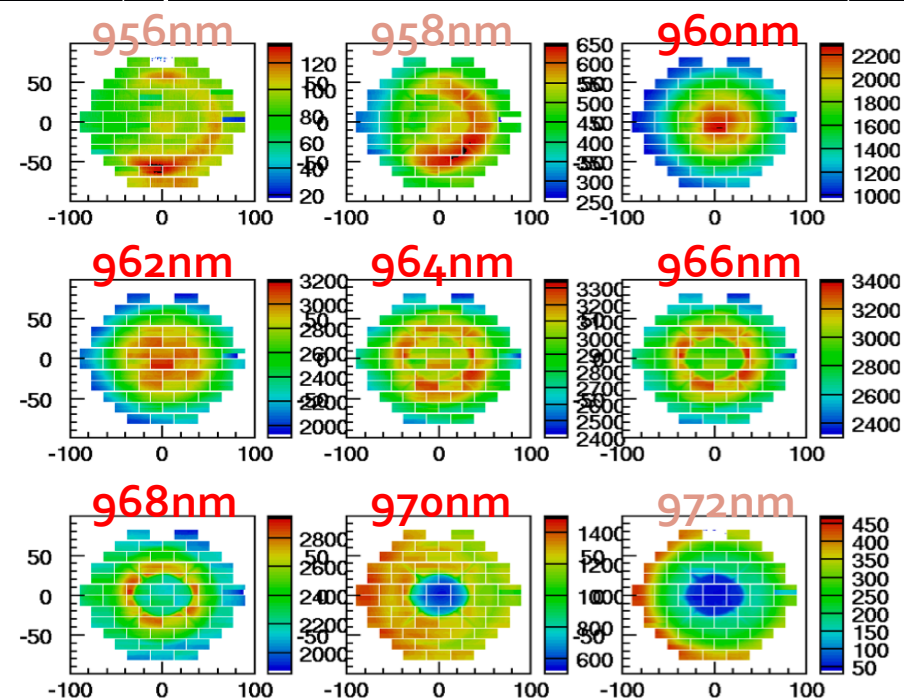
1. NB filter lab-test

(Multi-curves for different Radii)



2. NB filter on-site test

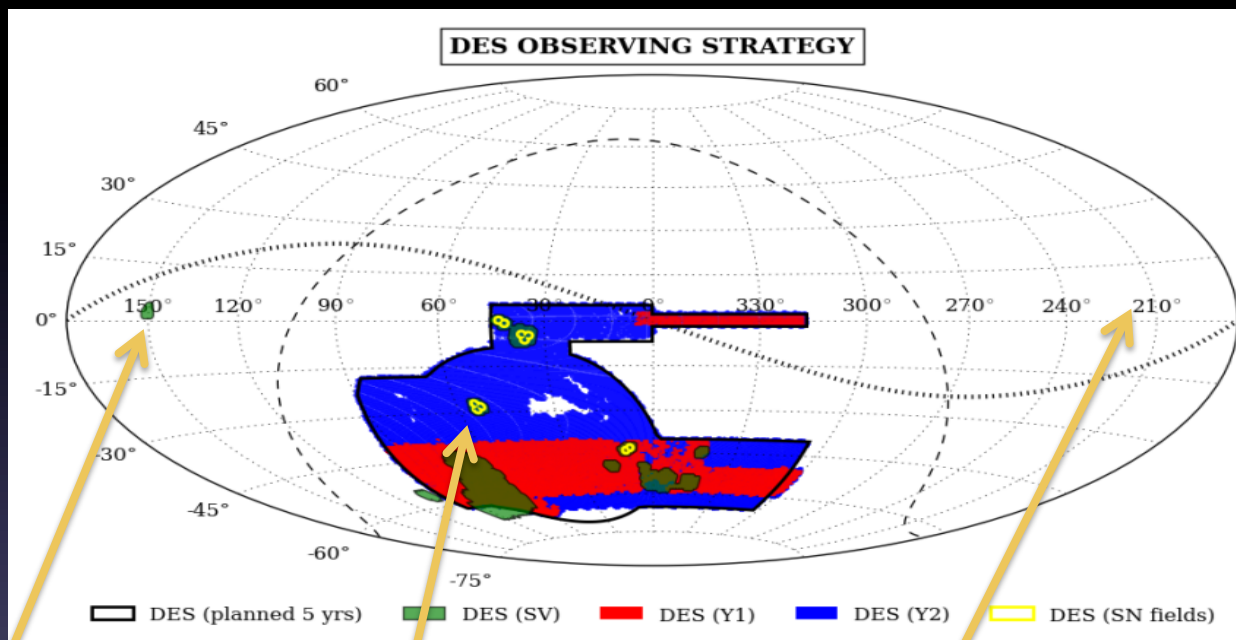
(Spatial dist. as a function of λ)



LAGER Runs

Summary (2015 Dec. – 2018 Mar.):

- **21 nights** awarded & Observed with DECam & NB964, but 5 with bad weather.
- **4 fields** with NB964
 $T_{\text{exp}} \sim 20\text{-}40$ hrs each.

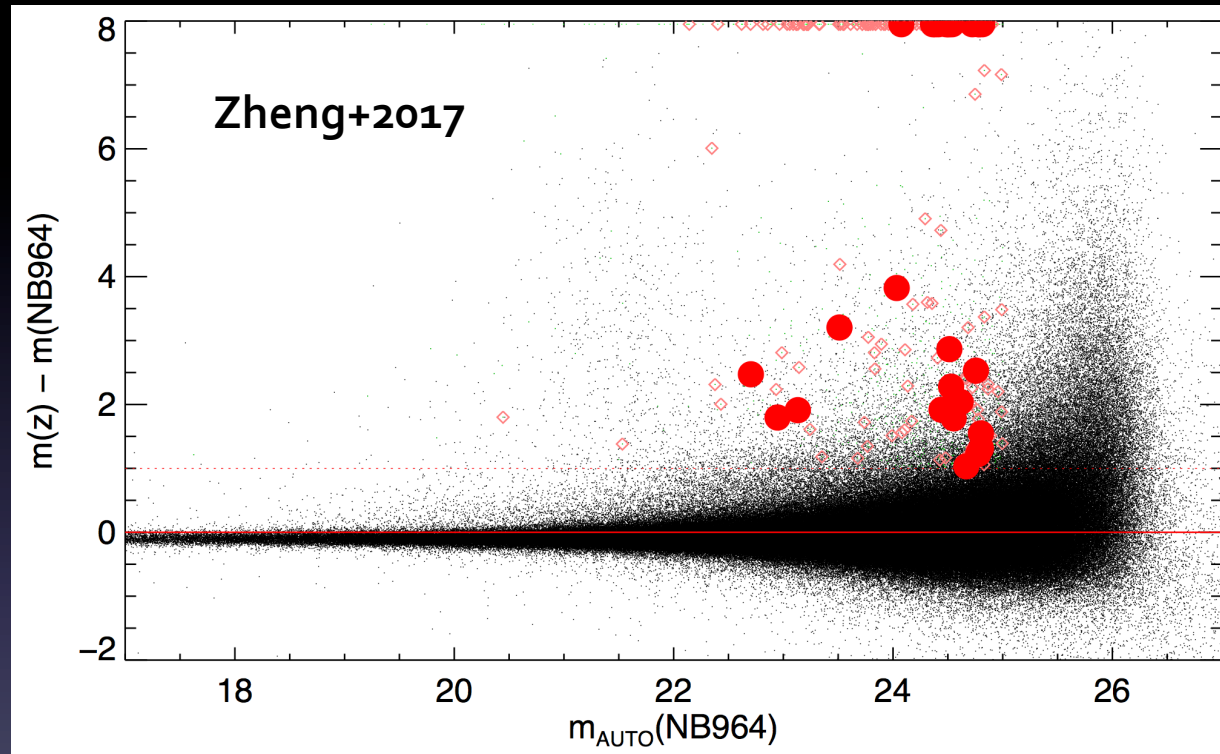


Fields	COSMOS	CDF-S	GAMA15a,b
NB Exp. Time	44 hrs	35 hrs	20 hrs x 2
Date Obs.	Dec. 7 15; Feb. 4-9 16; Mar. 9-12 16; Dec. 24-27 17	Dec. 7 15; Mar. 9-12 16; Nov. 25-26 16	May 24-29 17 (w. bad weather); Mar. 5-10 18

Candidate LAEs at $z \sim 7$

Selection Criteria:

- **Non-Detection in Blue Bands:**
DECam-ugri $< 3 \sigma$ & Subaru-BVgri $< 3 \sigma$ & Subaru-NB711, NB816, NB921 $< 3 \sigma$
- **NB Significant:**
NB964 ($> 5 \sigma$) < 25
- **Line Significant:**
DECam-z - NB964 ≥ 1
& EW_r(Ly α) $> 10 \text{ \AA}$



We find 23 (22 new) candidate LAEs at $z \sim 7$ in the COSMOS field.
Survey Volume = $1.26 \times 10^6 \text{ cMpc}^3$ ($> 4 V_{\text{other}_z7}$)

First Results from LAGER: LAGER-COSMOS in 34 hrs NB964

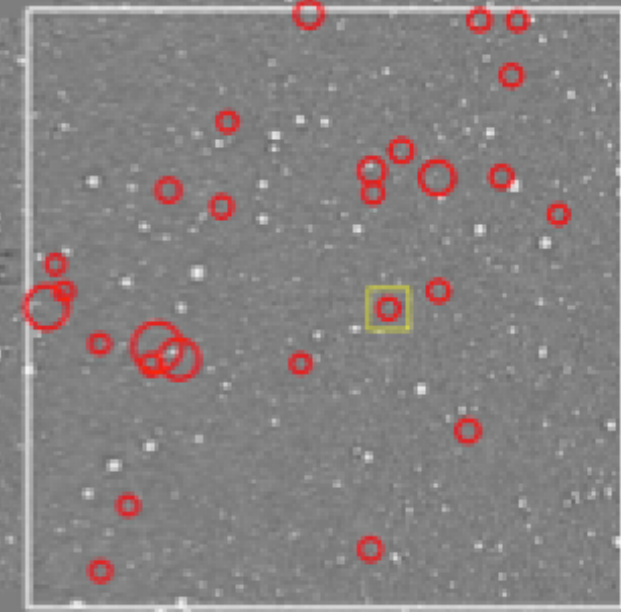
Inhomogeneous Distribution of
23 $z \sim 7$ LAEs (largest to date) in
LAGER-COSMOS:

Patchy Reionization?

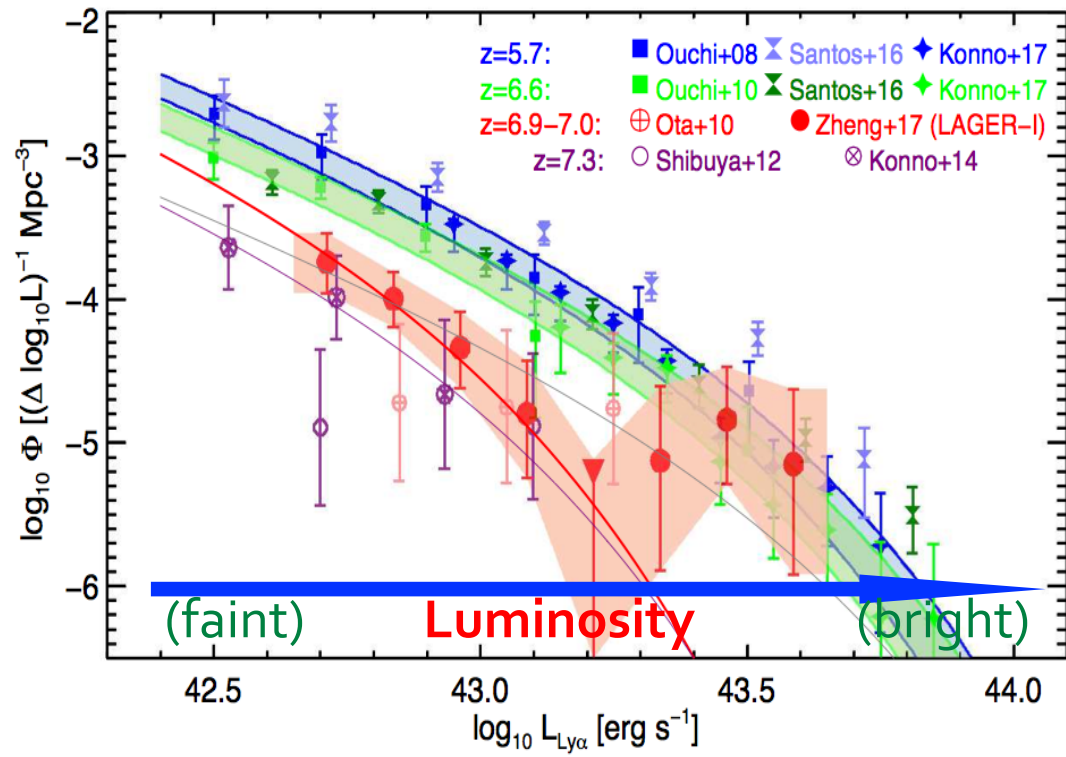
- Little Evolution of $\text{Ly}\alpha$ LF at $z \sim 3-6$:
(Ouchi+08, Faisst+2014, Zheng+2016, ..)

At $z \sim 7$ (Zheng+2017) :

1. Different Evolution at Bright & Faint Ends
2. Bright-End Excess

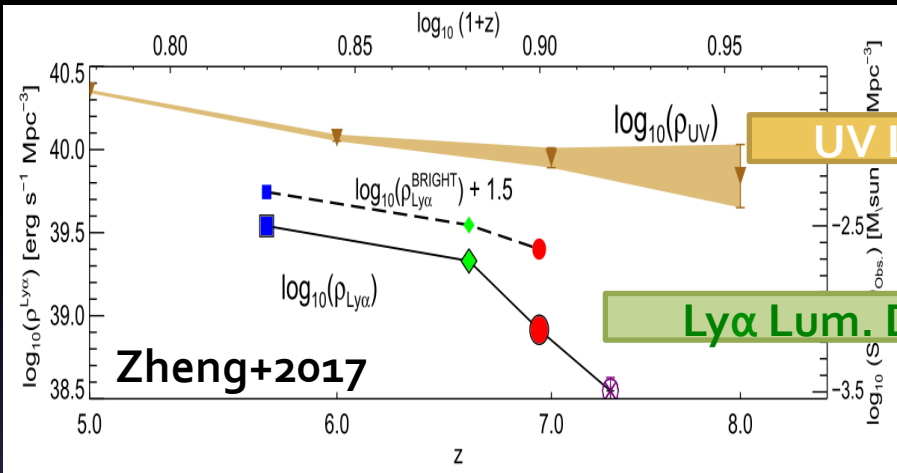


Ly α emitters at $z \sim 7$



Lyman- α Luminosity Function (LF) Test

Probing IGM Neutral Fraction at $z \sim 7$ with LAGER

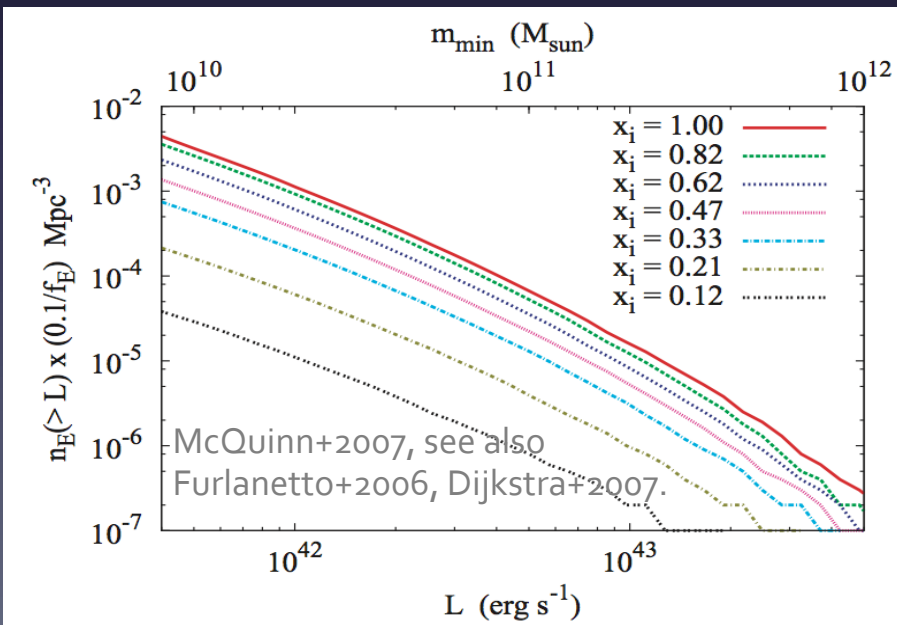


UV Lum. D.

UV LD Represents the Galaxy Evolution

Ly α Lum. Density

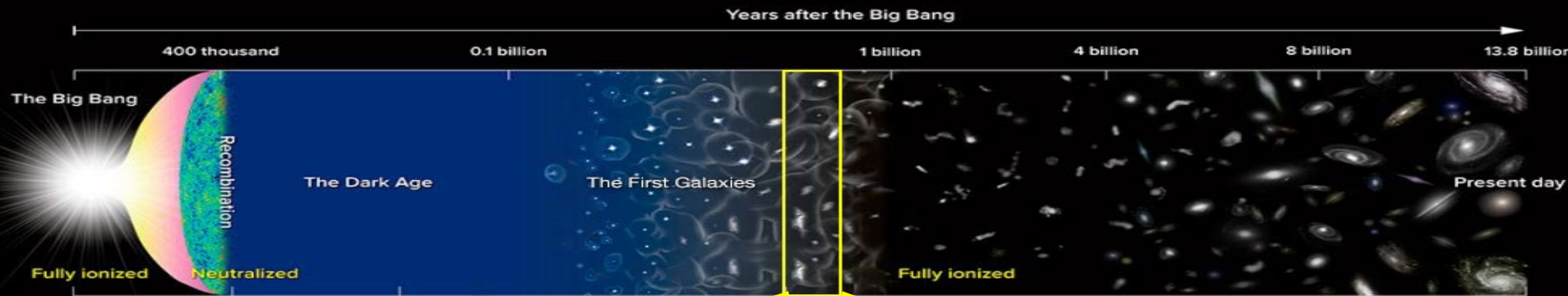
Ly α LD Represents the Joint Effect of
1) Galaxy Evolution &
2) Resonant Scattering by Neutral IGM



IGM Transmission Factor T' :
(UV from Finkelstein+15)

$$T'_{z=6.9} = \frac{T_{Ly\alpha, z=6.9}^{IGM}}{T_{Ly\alpha, z=5.7}^{IGM}} = \frac{\rho_{z=6.9}^{Ly\alpha, tot} / \rho_{z=5.7}^{Ly\alpha, tot}}{\rho_{z=6.9}^{UV} / \rho_{z=5.7}^{UV}}.$$

$T' = 0.37 \rightarrow$
 $x_{HI} \sim 0.4-0.6$ at $z \sim 7$



1. EoR Contributors
2. EoR History
3. EoR Topology

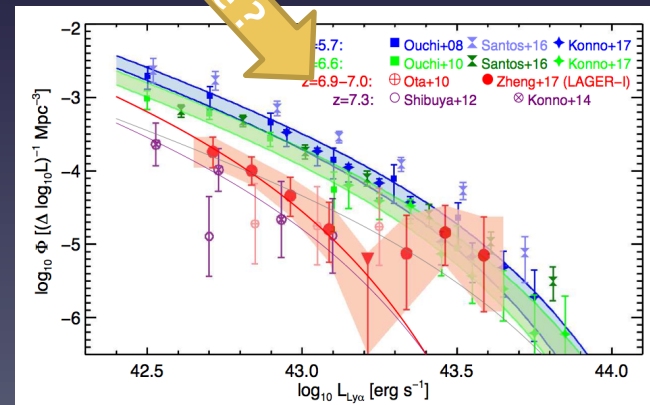
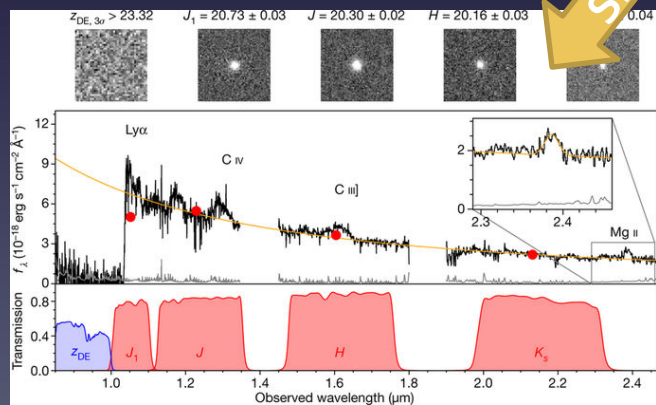
Banados+2017,
J1342+0928, $z=7.54$

Epoch of Reionization

Search for Bubbles



Zheng+2017, $z=6.94$
Bright-end Excess
LAGER-COSMOS



LAGER Bubbles at $z \sim 7$?
See Sangeeta's Talk

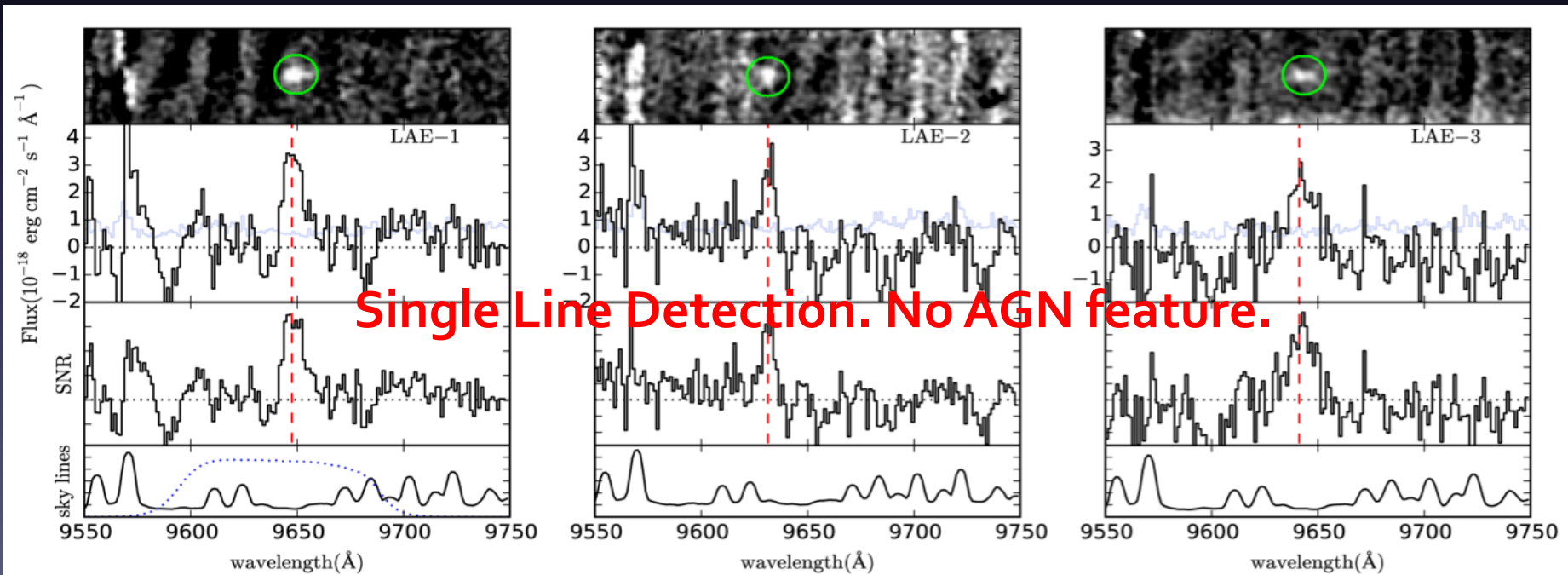
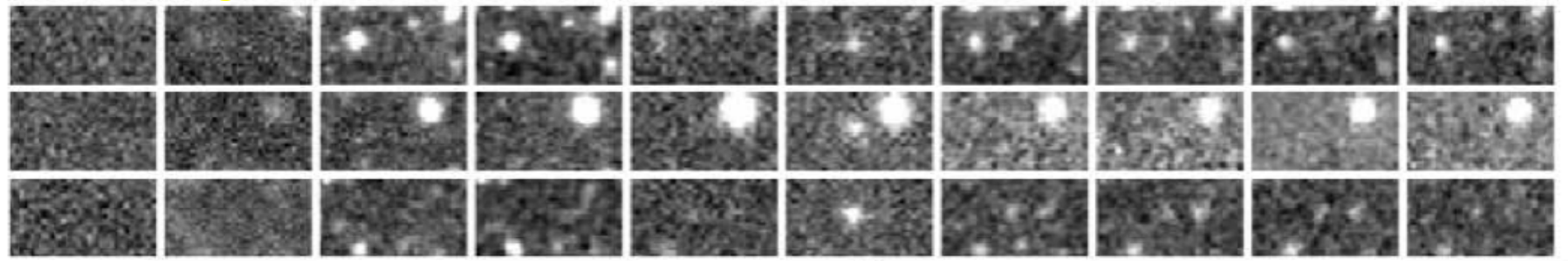
LAGER-COSMOS

2 sq-deg • 23 Ly- α galaxies at $z \sim 7$

Separation = 3.4 arcmin
(1 physical Mpc at $z \sim 7$)

Spec. Confirmation of the 3 Brightest LAEs

u g' r' i' z NB964 Y J H Ks

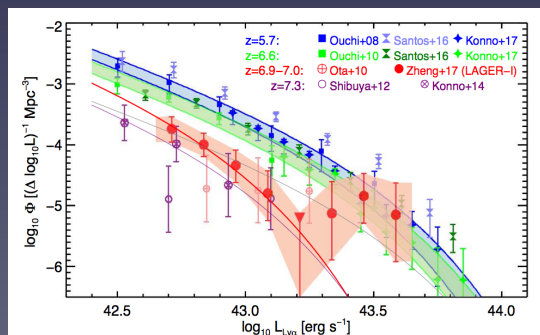


6 hrs Magellan/IMACS obs. on Feb 6-8, 2017 (FWHM~200-300 km/s)

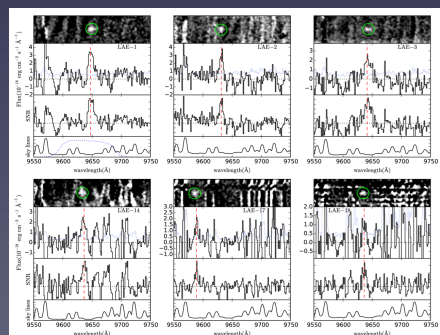
Hu et al., 2017, ApJL, 845, L16 (arXiv:1706.03586).

Summary of First LAGER Results

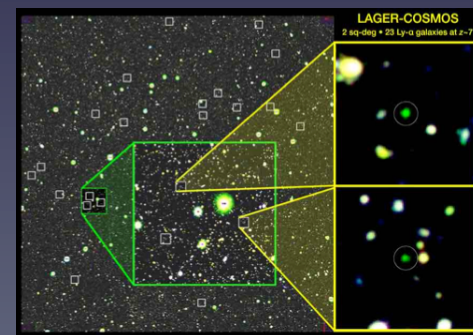
- LAGER is the largest narrowband survey for LAEs at $z \sim 7$ so far.
- The new $\text{Ly}\alpha$ LF from LAGER LAEs shows different evolution at the faint-end and at the bright-end $\rightarrow x_{\text{HI}} \sim 0.4\text{--}0.6$ at $z \sim 7$.
- LAGER helps us to find and confirm 3 most luminous LAEs at $z \sim 7$, of which 2 are likely to reside in an ionizing bubble.



Zheng, Wang, Rhoads et al. 2017



Hu, Wang, Zheng et al. 2017



NOAO Press Release 1703

LAGER Status Updates (2018-)

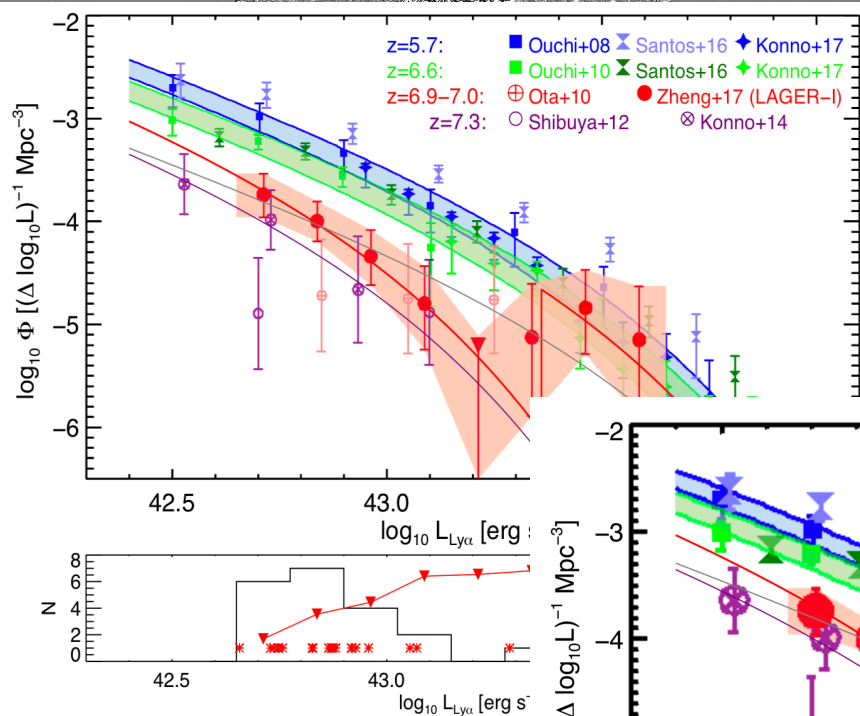
Data:

1. More NB964 imaging data;
2. Improved image stacking methods
(Sigma-clipping weighted coadding with Swarp; LSST pipeline coadding);
3. Better & deeper broadband images (HSC & DES)

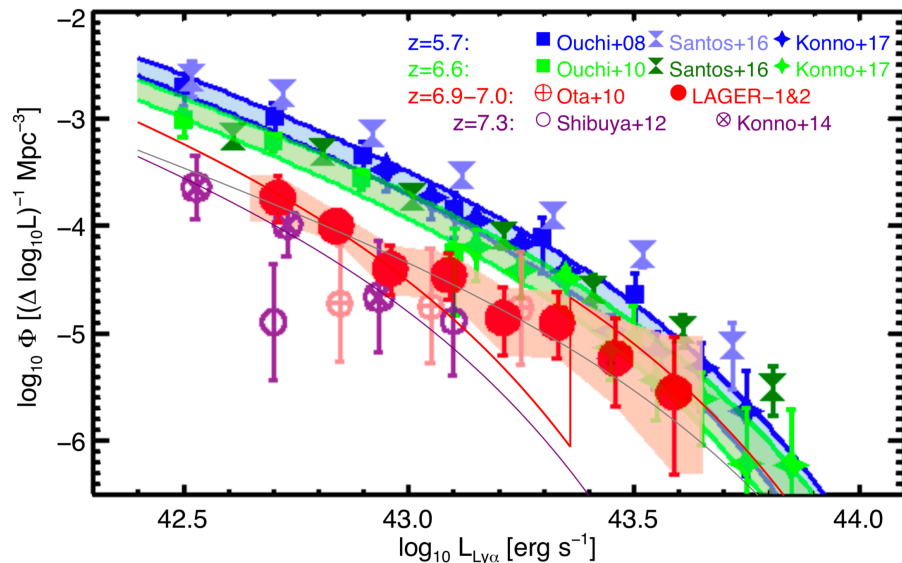
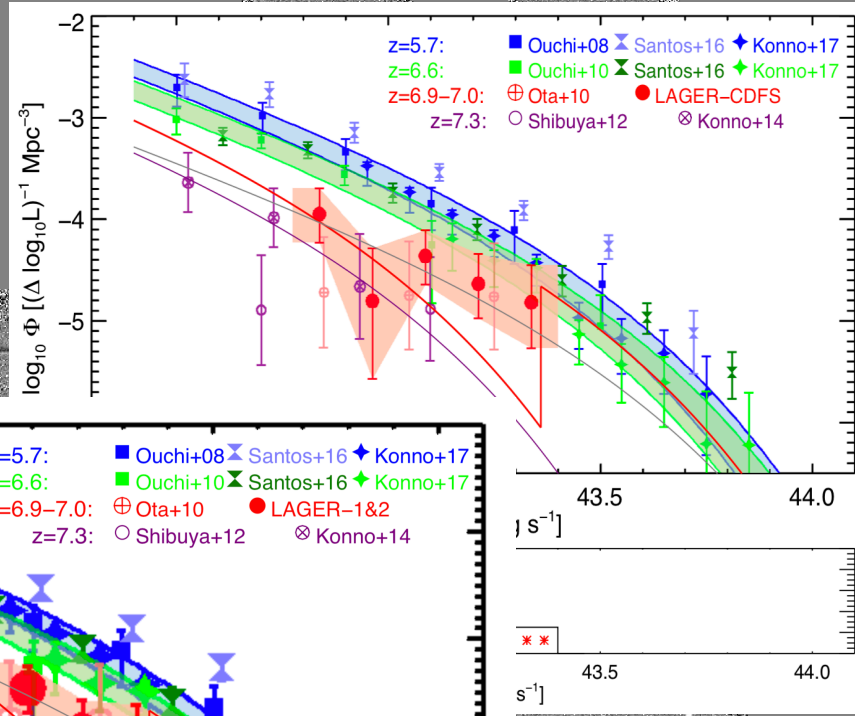
Science:

1. Opt. & IR spectroscopic followup (Magellan, VLT, Keck, Gemini, HET)
2. Ly α LFs in other fields
3. Clustering Analysis
4. 21cm & Ly α CCF
5. Low- z

COSMOS vs. CDFS



Zheng et al. 2017



Primary Results

Improve the Ly α LF at $z \sim 7$ to give better constraints on x_{HI}

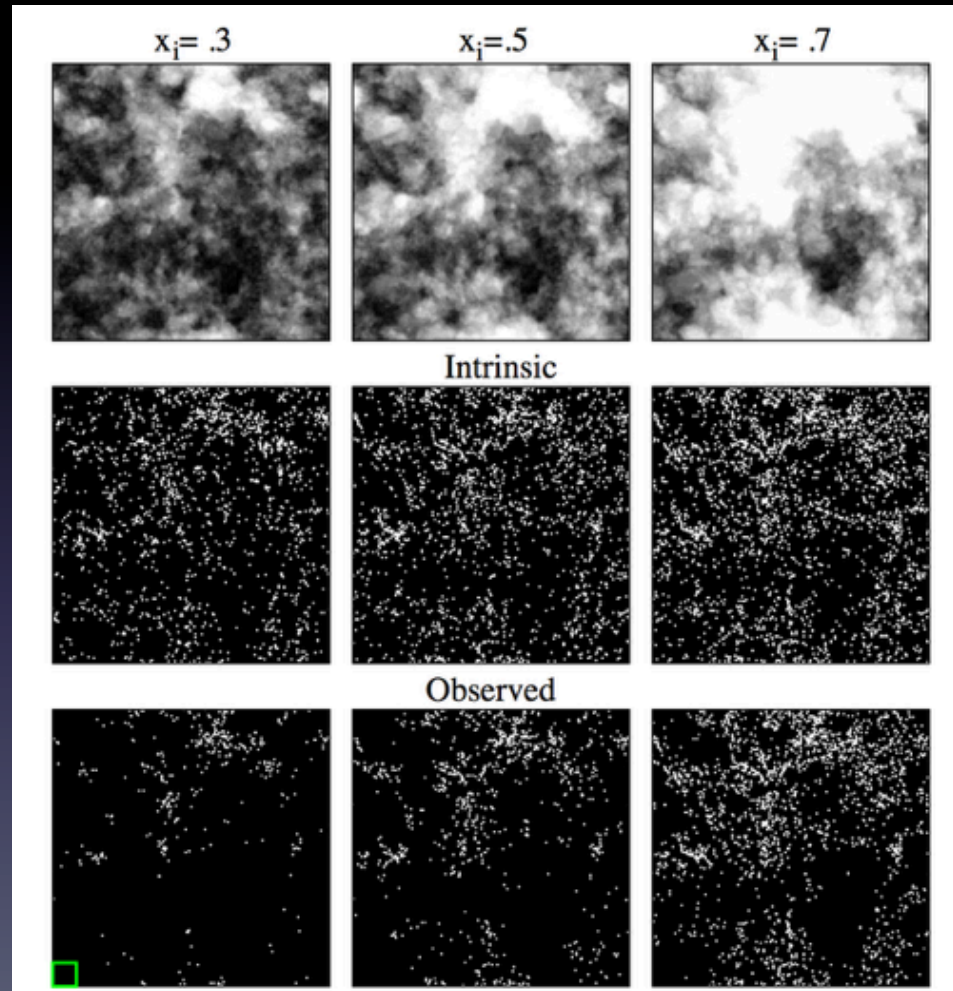
Clustering Test of Ly α Galaxies

Average ionization fraction

Distribution of ionized gas

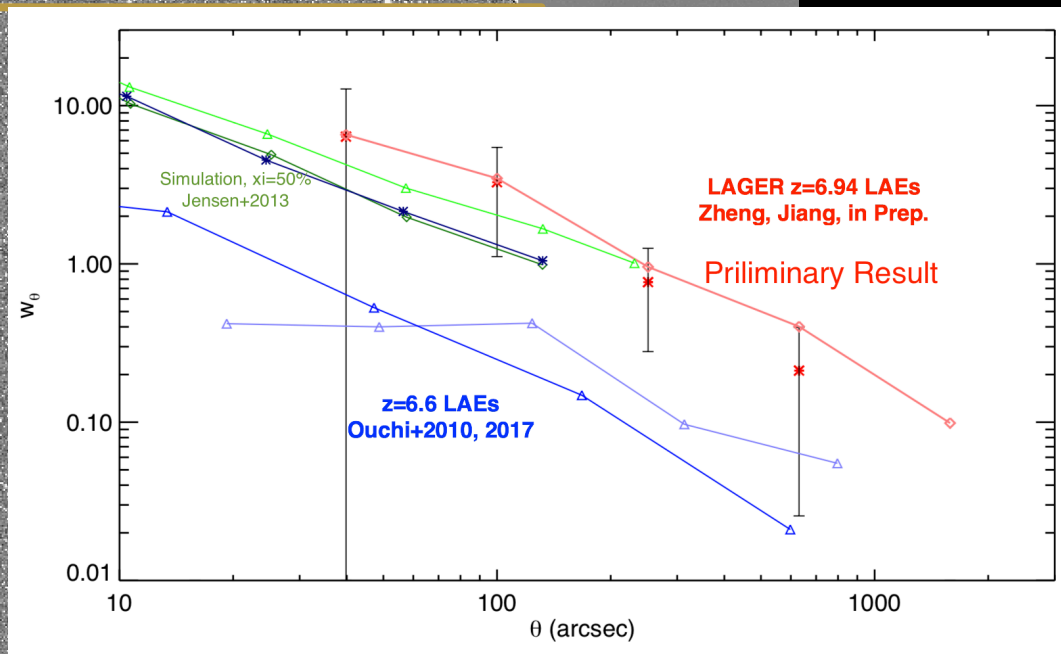
Intrinsic distribution of galaxies

Apparent distribution of galaxies



Improved COSMOS Sample

Clustering Test



Preliminary Results

Ly α & 21 cm Cross Correlation Test

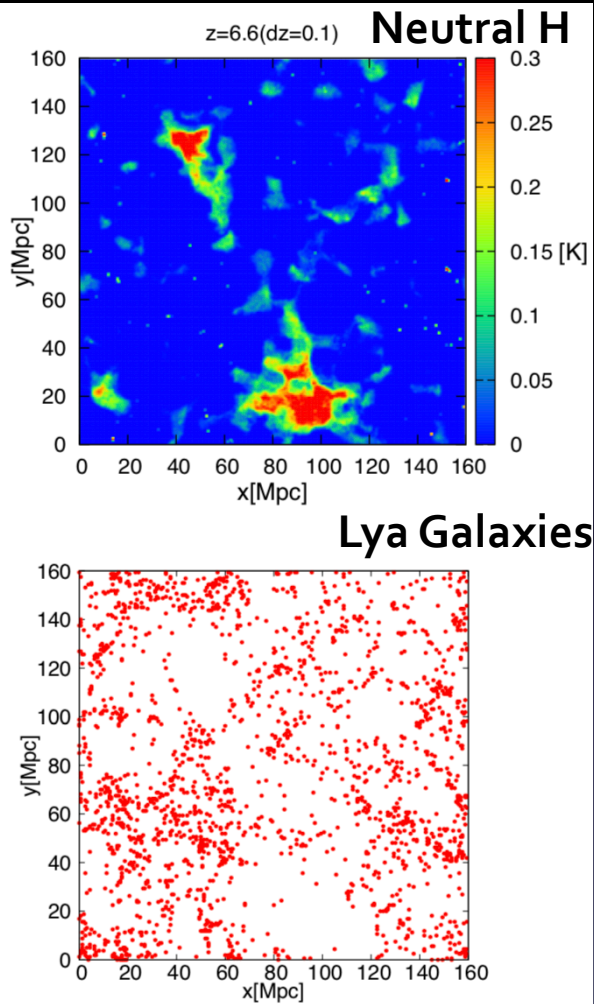
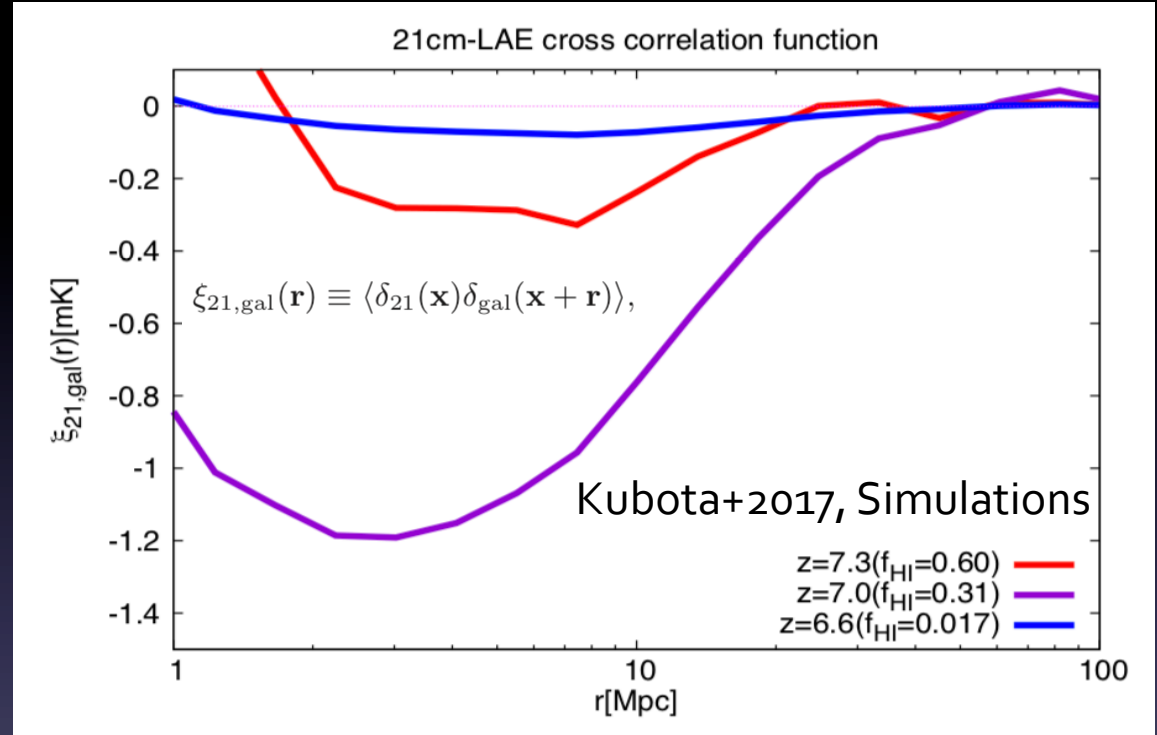


Figure 2. Top: the 21cm brightness temperature in mid model at redshift $z = 6.6$. In fully ionized region $\delta T_b \sim 0\text{mK}$. Bottom: the associated LAE distribution. The panels are maps integrated within $\Delta z = 0.1 \sim 40\text{Mpc}$.



$$\delta T_b(z) \approx 27 x_{\text{HI}} (1 + \delta_m) \left(\frac{1+z}{10} \frac{0.15}{\Omega_m h^2} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \left(\frac{\Omega_b h^2}{0.023} \right) [\text{mK}],$$

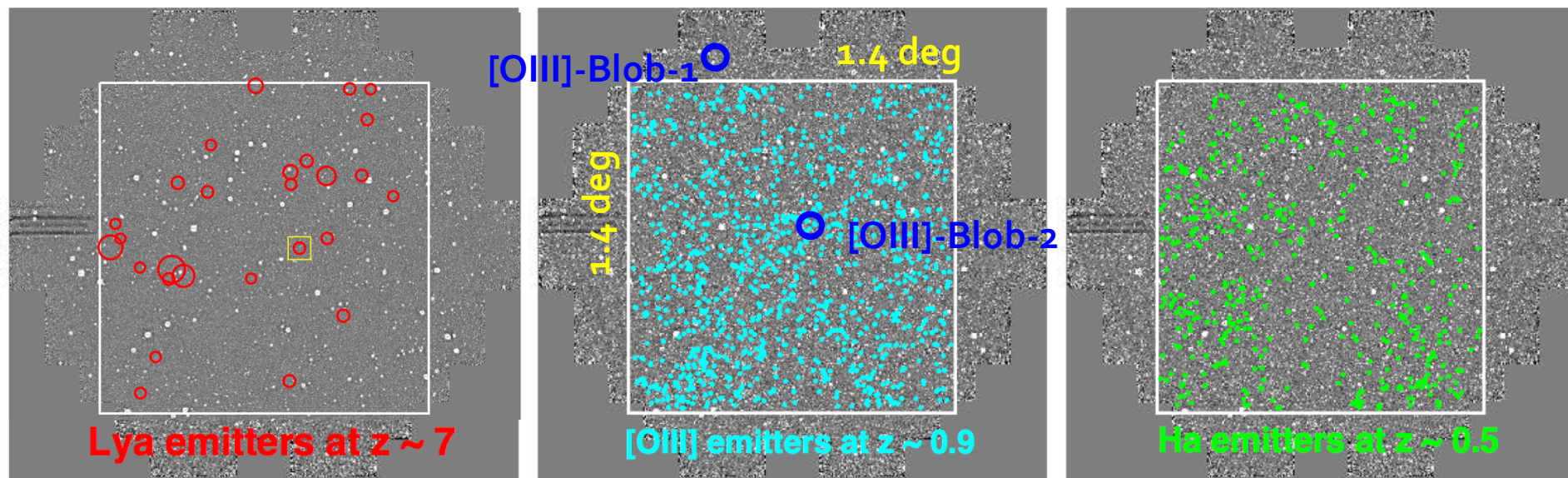
$$\delta_{21}(\mathbf{x}, z) \equiv \frac{\delta T_b(\mathbf{x}, z) - \overline{\delta T_b}(z)}{\overline{\delta T_b}(z)}, \quad \delta_{\text{gal}}(\mathbf{x}, z) \equiv \frac{n_{\text{gal}}(\mathbf{x}, z) - \bar{n}_{\text{gal}}(z)}{\bar{n}_{\text{gal}}(z)},$$

Available & Future 21cm arrays:

- PAPER (South Africa & WV)
- MWA (Australia) [we are preparing MWA proposal now]
- SKA (Australia & South Africa)

Low-z ELGs & Blobs from LAGER Survey

Giant Nebulae; Luminosity Functions;
Star-Formation History; Galaxy-BH Coevolution; ...

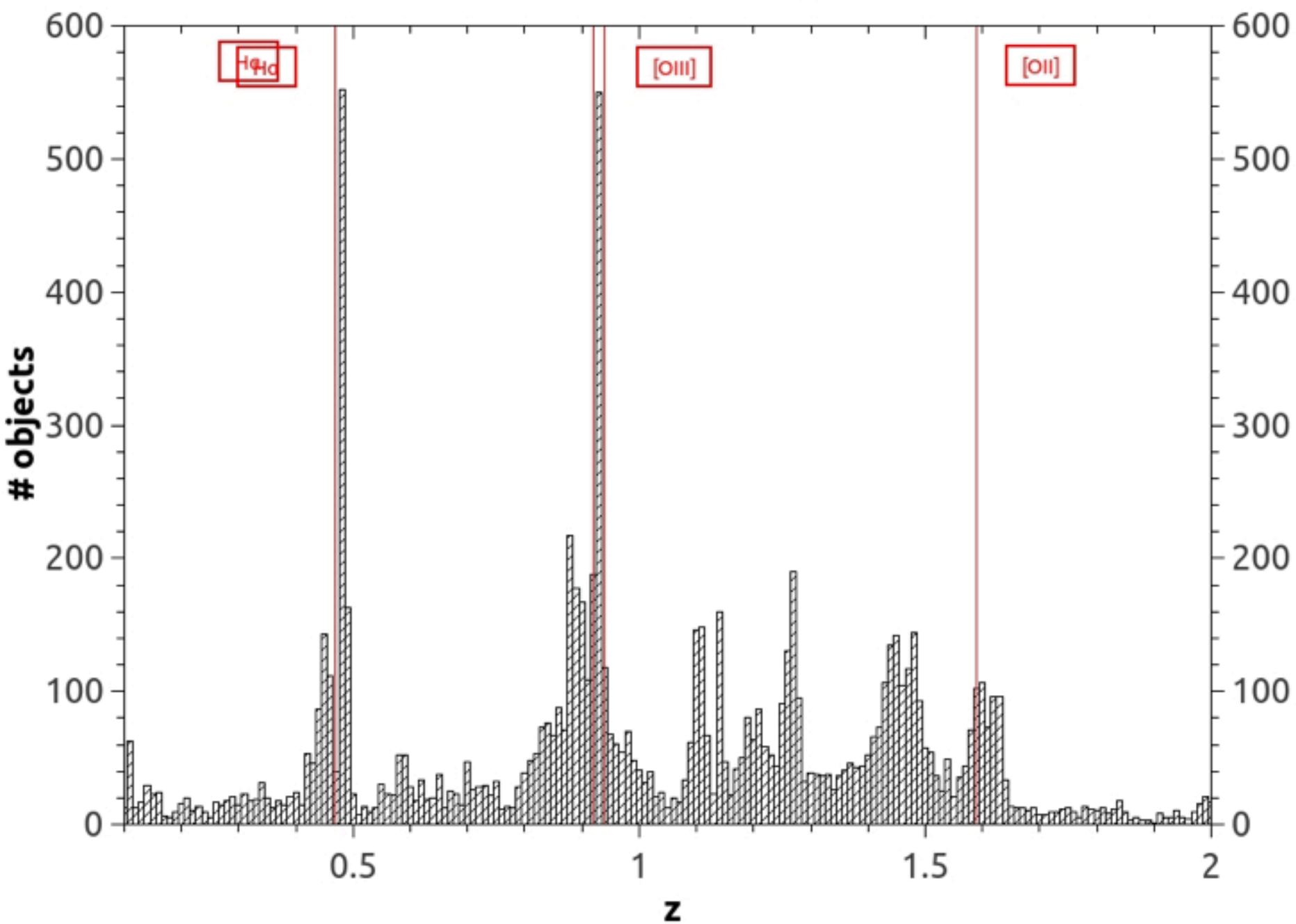


There are ~ 1300 OIII emitters at $z \sim 0.9$, and ~ 700 H α emitters at $z \sim 0.5$ selected with NB964 in the COSMOS field.

Most of the [OIII] emitters are similar to the Green Pea Galaxies (e.g., Yang+2016).

We also find two [OIII] Blobs, which are similar to the Green Bean Galaxies (e.g., Schirmer+2013).

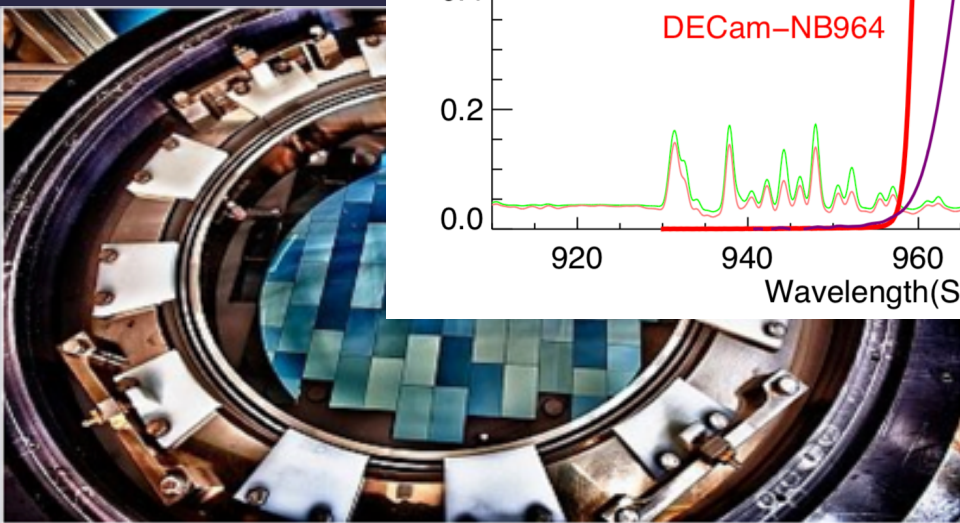
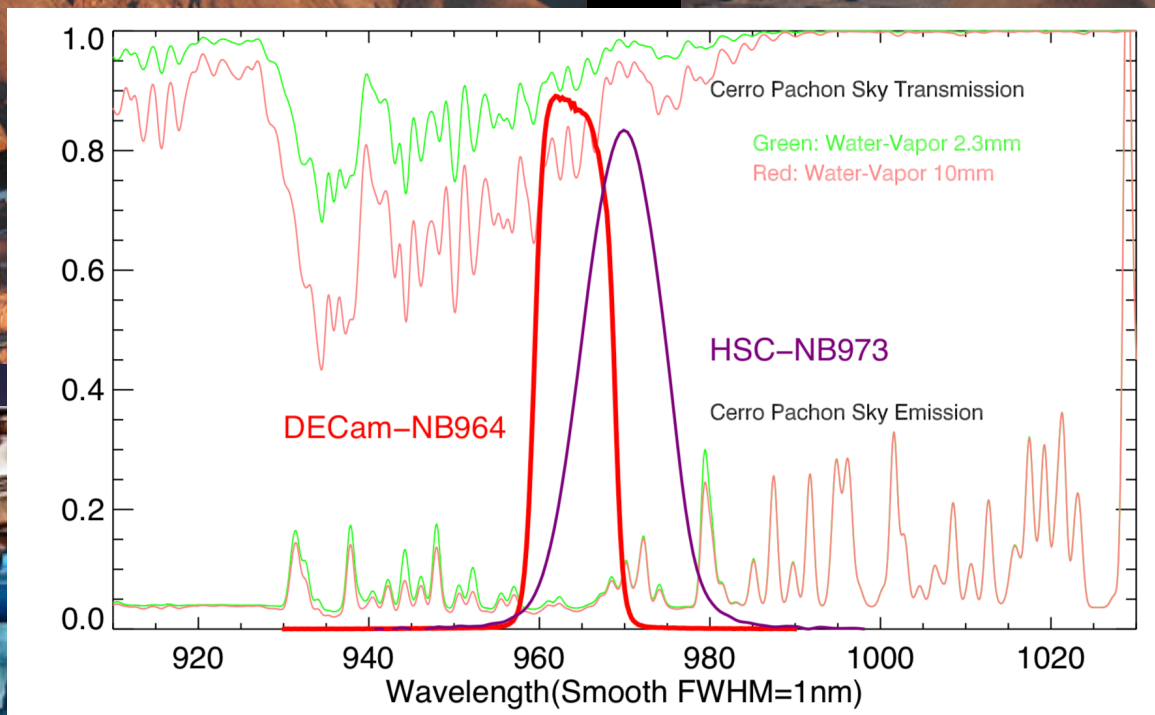
NB964 selected objects



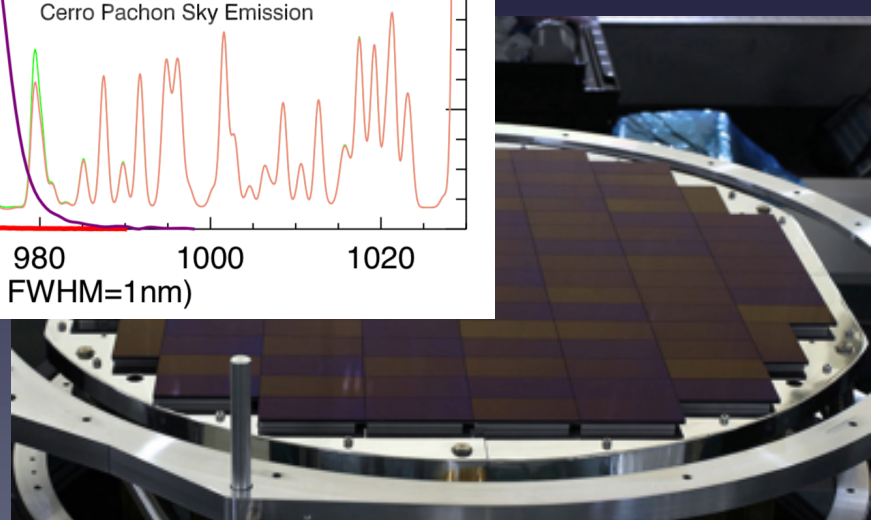
Comparison Between DECam NB964 & HSC NB973

Chile Blanco (4m)

Hawaii Subaru (8m)



DECam (3 sq-deg, f-ratio: 2.9)



HSC (1.7 sq-deg, f-ratio: 2.2)

Conclusion

- ⊙ LAGER is the largest narrowband survey for LAEs at $z \sim 7$ so far.
- ⊙ The $\text{Ly}\alpha$ LF from LAGER LAEs shows different evolution at the faint-end and at the bright-end $\rightarrow x_{\text{HI}} \sim 0.4\text{--}0.6$ at $z \sim 7$.
- ⊙ LAGER has helped us to find and confirm 3 most luminous LAEs at $z \sim 7$, of which 2 are likely to reside in an ionizing bubble.
- ⊙ More data have been collected through LAGER, based on which a series of works are on-going: new LFs, clustering analysis, $\text{Ly}\alpha$ -21 CCF, low- z ELGs ...
- ⊙ DECam/NB964 is better than HSC/NB973 at catching luminous $z \sim 7$ LAEs

A long-exposure photograph of a night sky featuring the Milky Way galaxy. Two large astronomical observatories with domes are illuminated from below, casting a warm glow. The foreground shows a dark, flat landscape with some faint white lines, possibly a road or parking lot. The sky is filled with numerous stars and the bright, hazy band of the Milky Way.

Thanks!

zhengzy@shao.ac.cn