

Morphology and Metallicity Evolution of the Circumgalactic Medium

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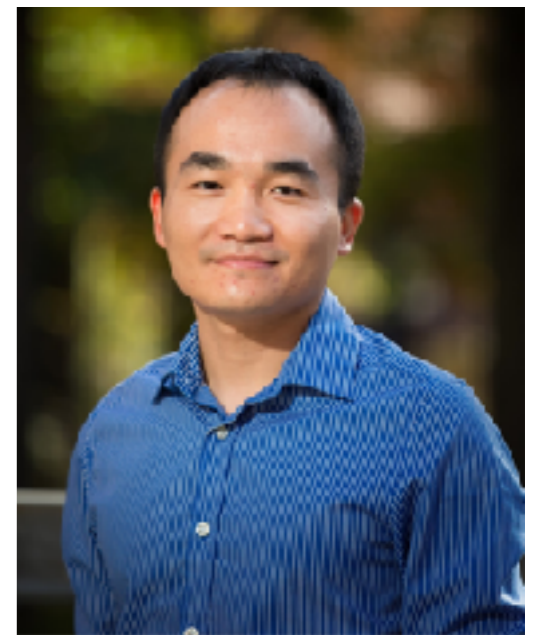
JHU
IPMU

Houjun Mo



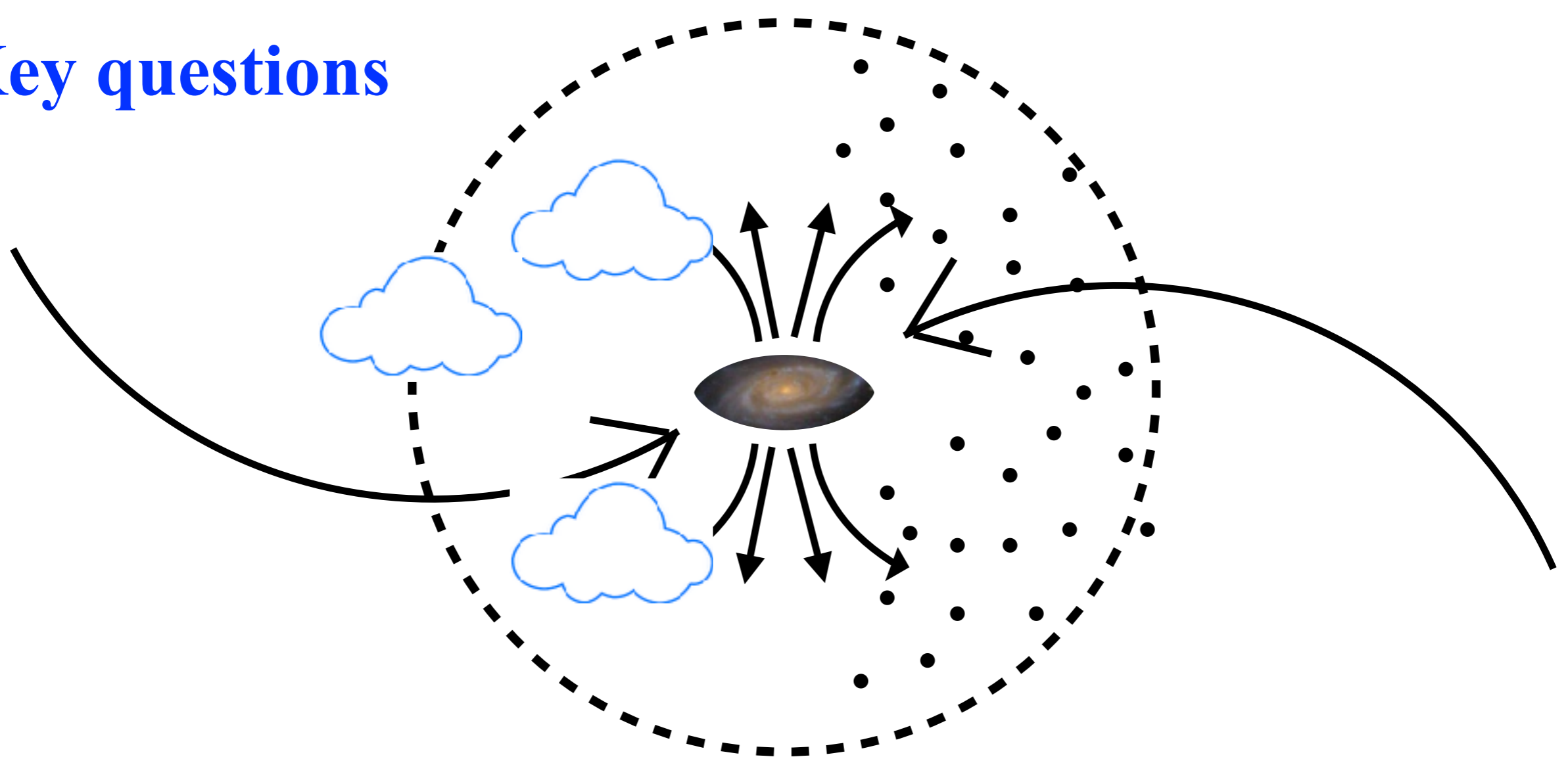
UMass
Tsinghua University

Guangtun Zhu



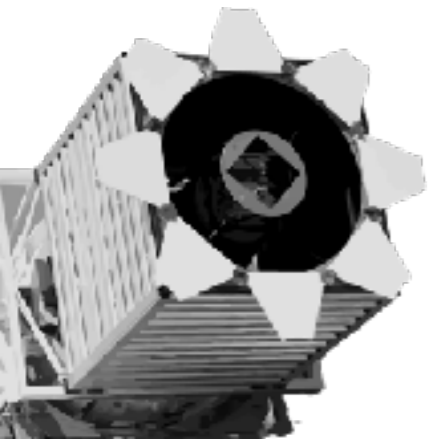
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Key questions

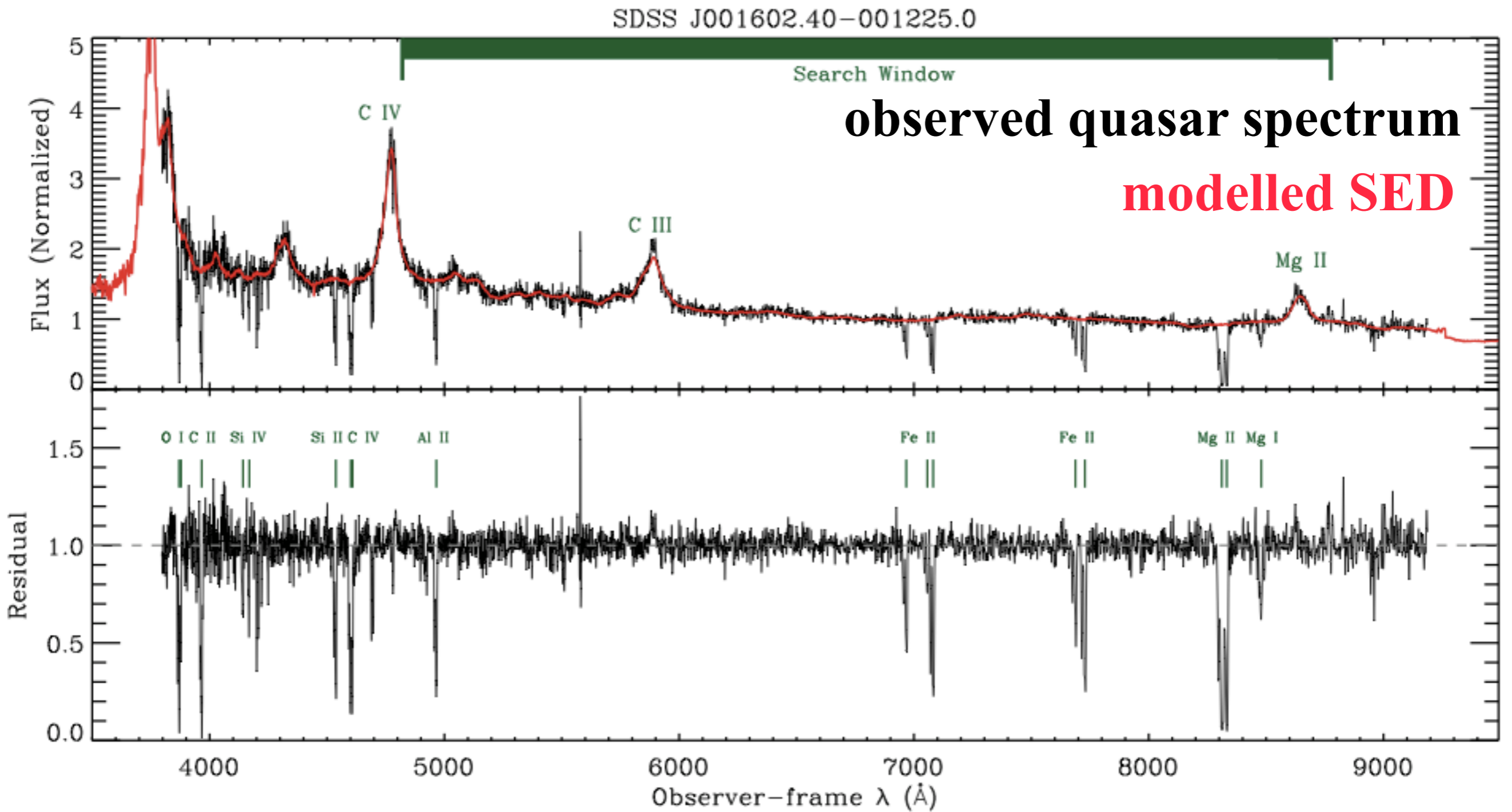


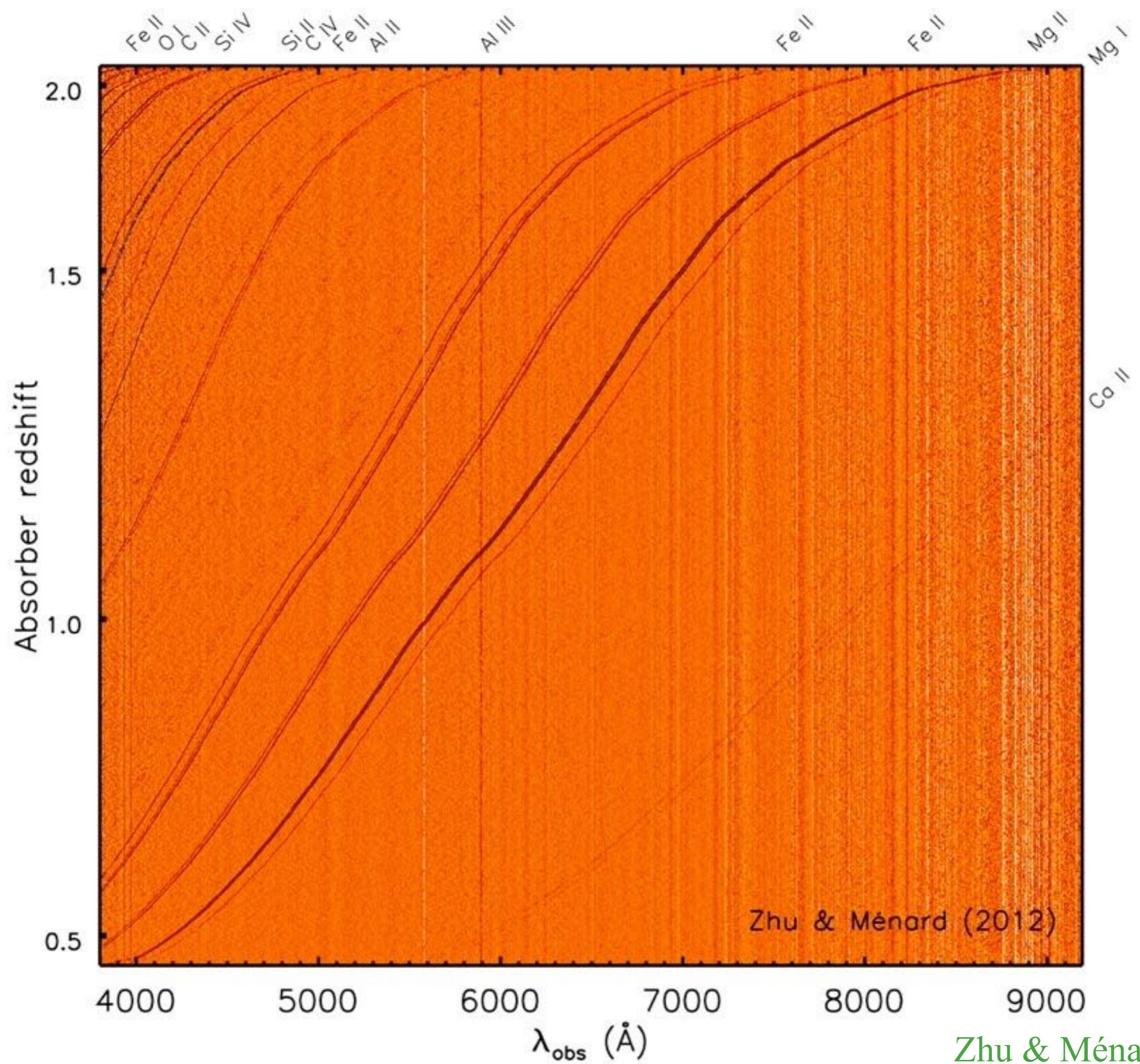
How does the metallicity of the CGM evolve?

What is the morphology of the CGM?

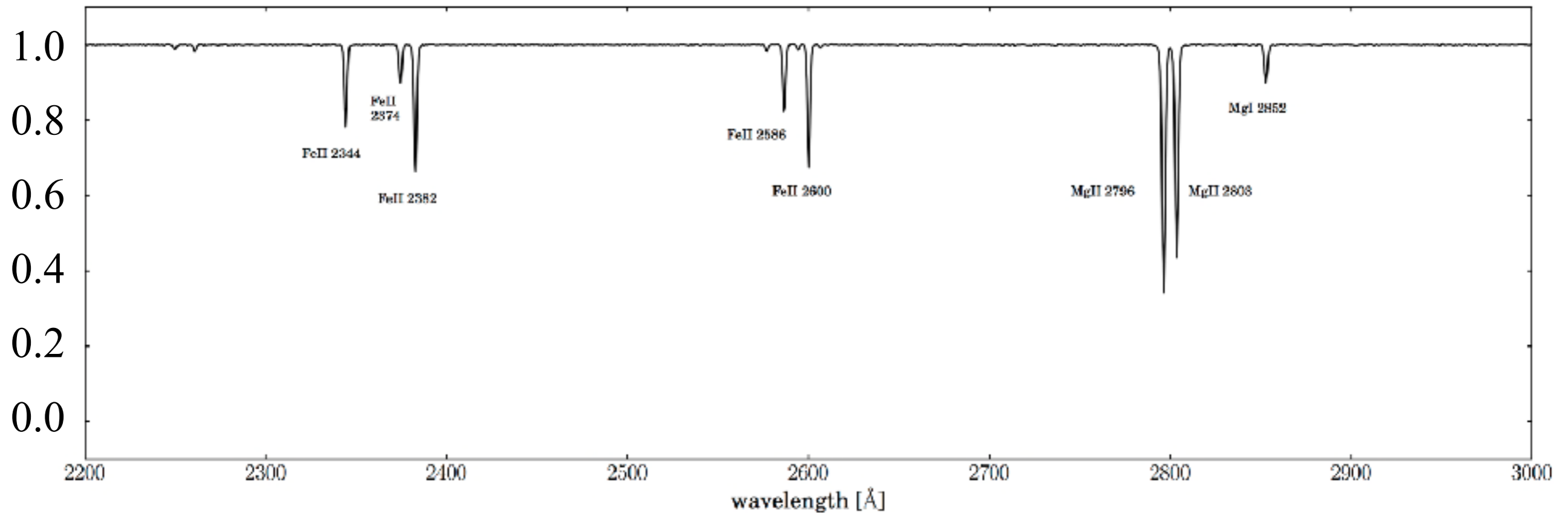
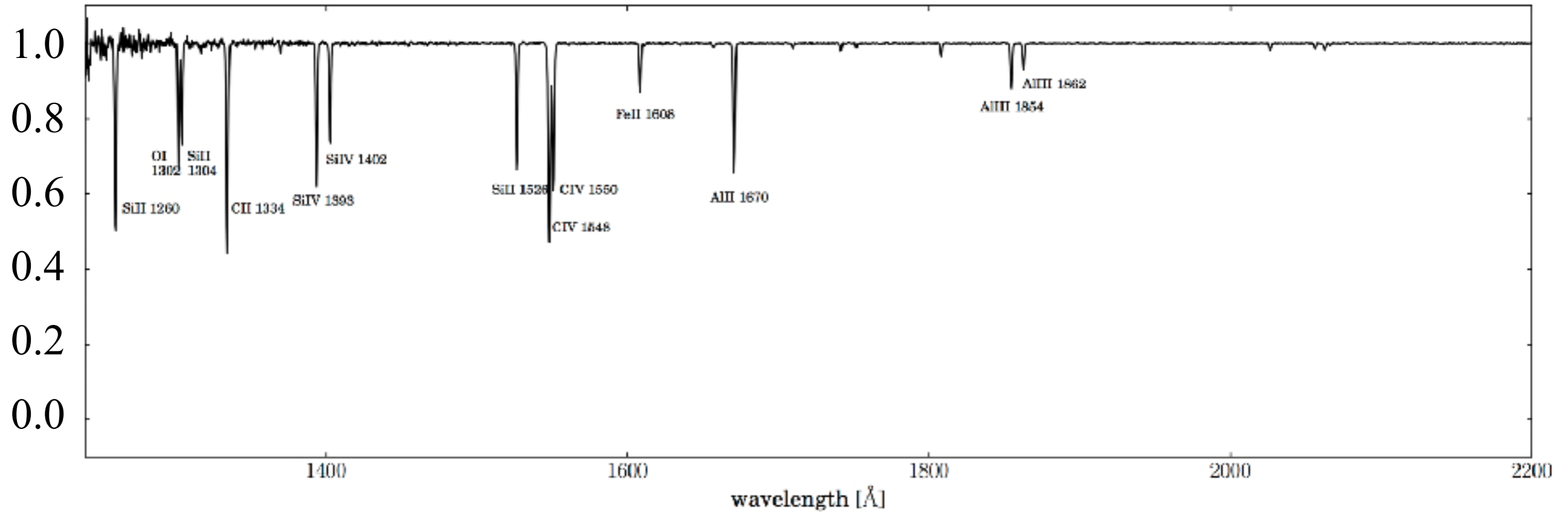


Detecting MgII absorbers in SDSS quasar spectra

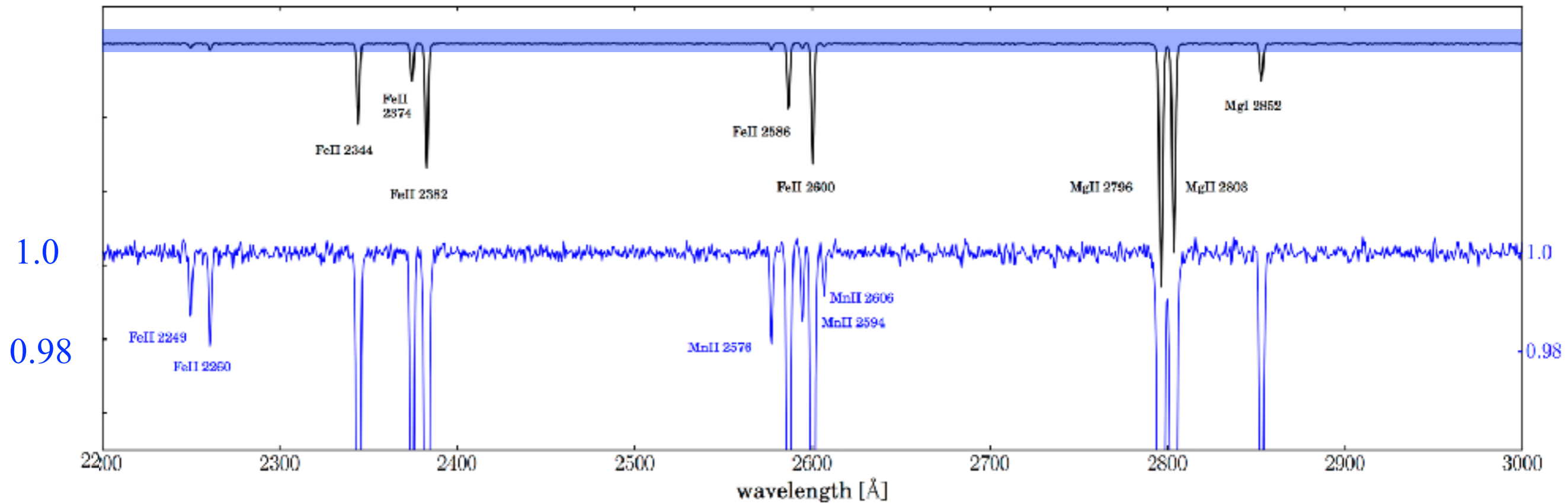
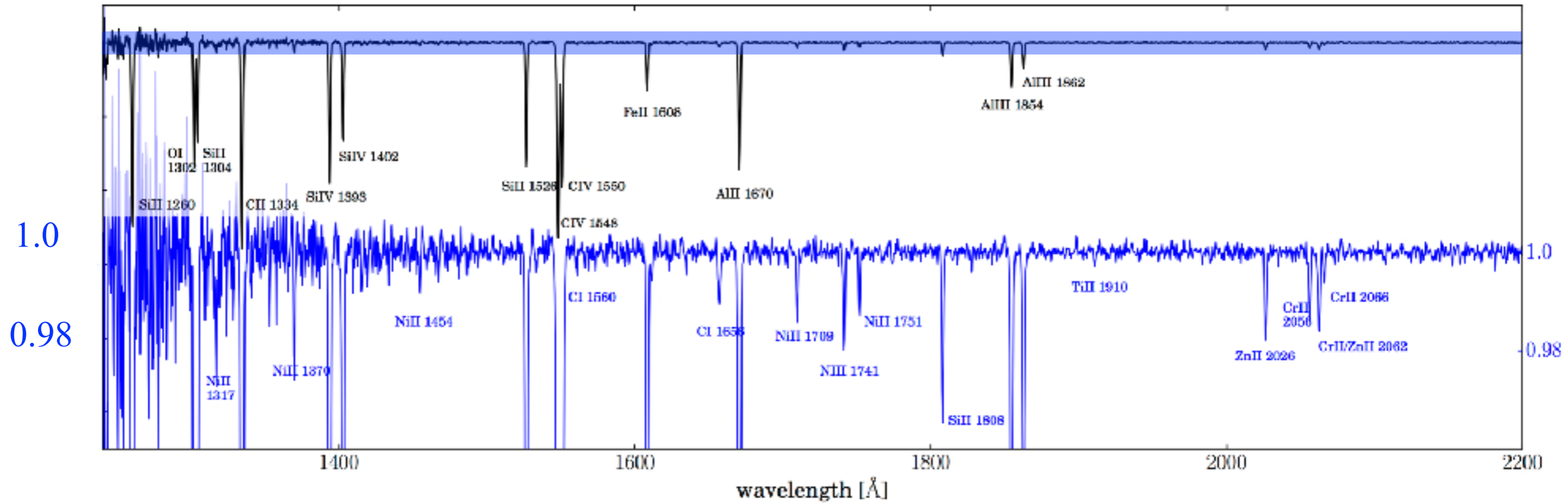




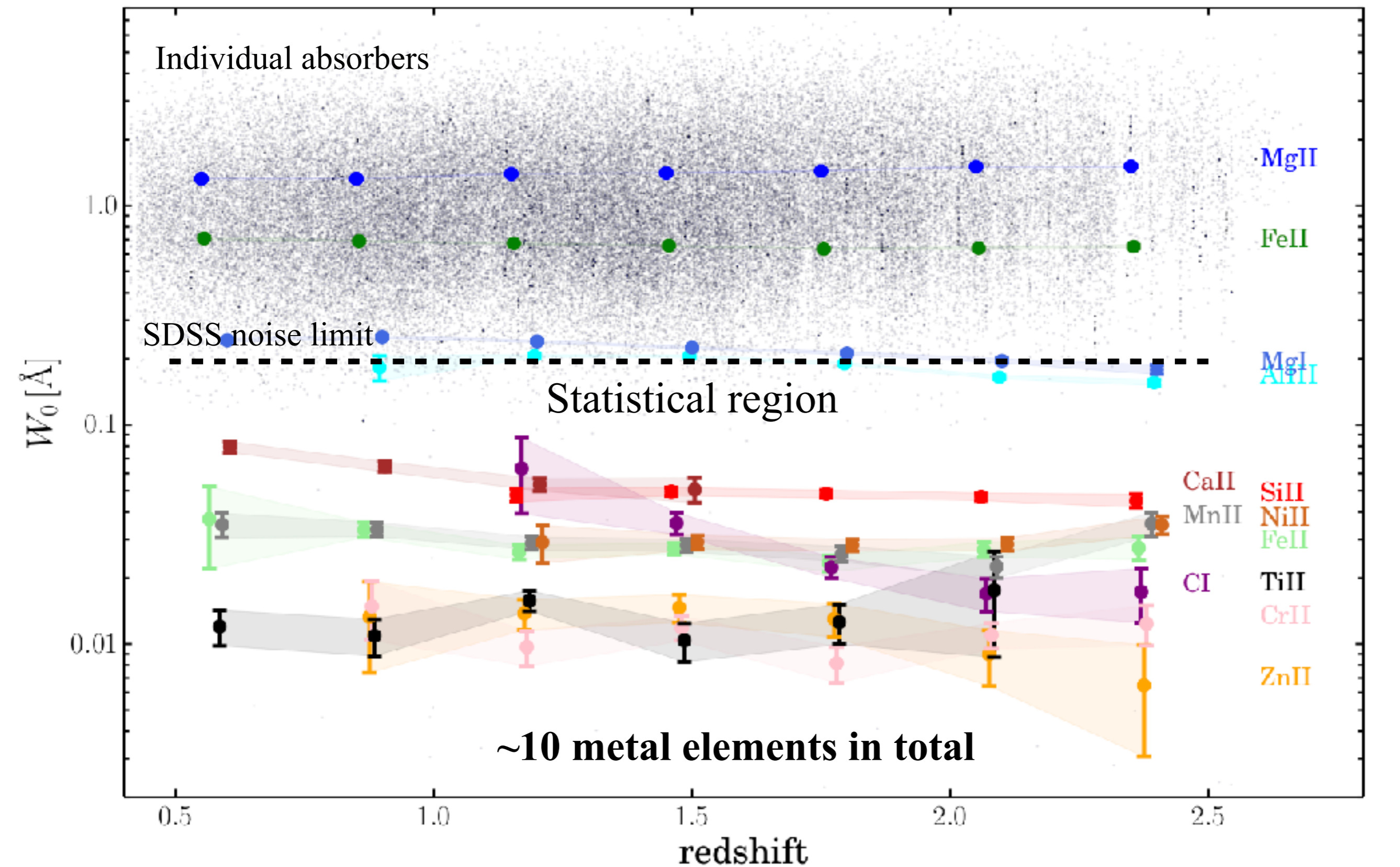
Metal composite spectrum



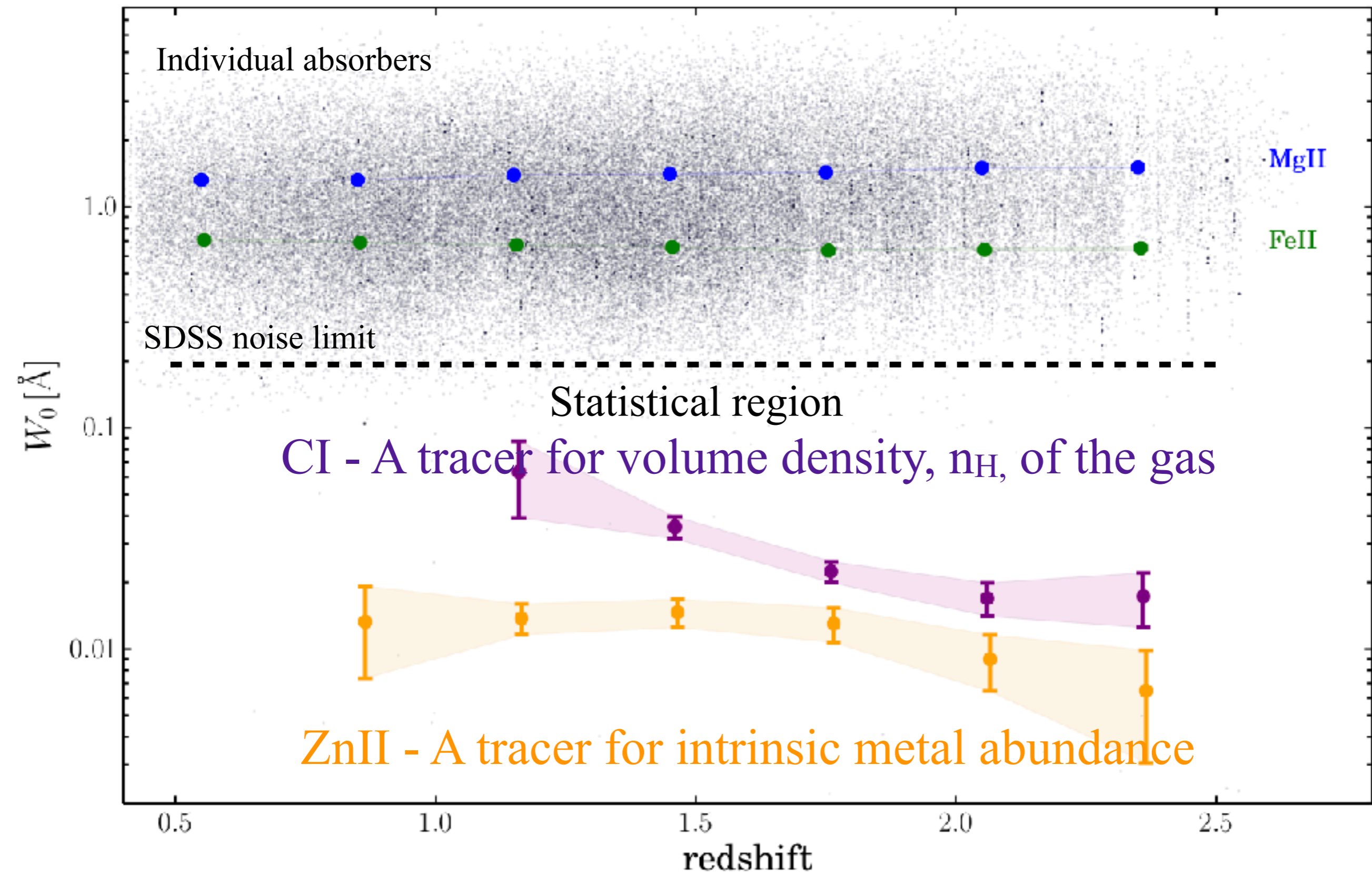
Metal composite spectrum



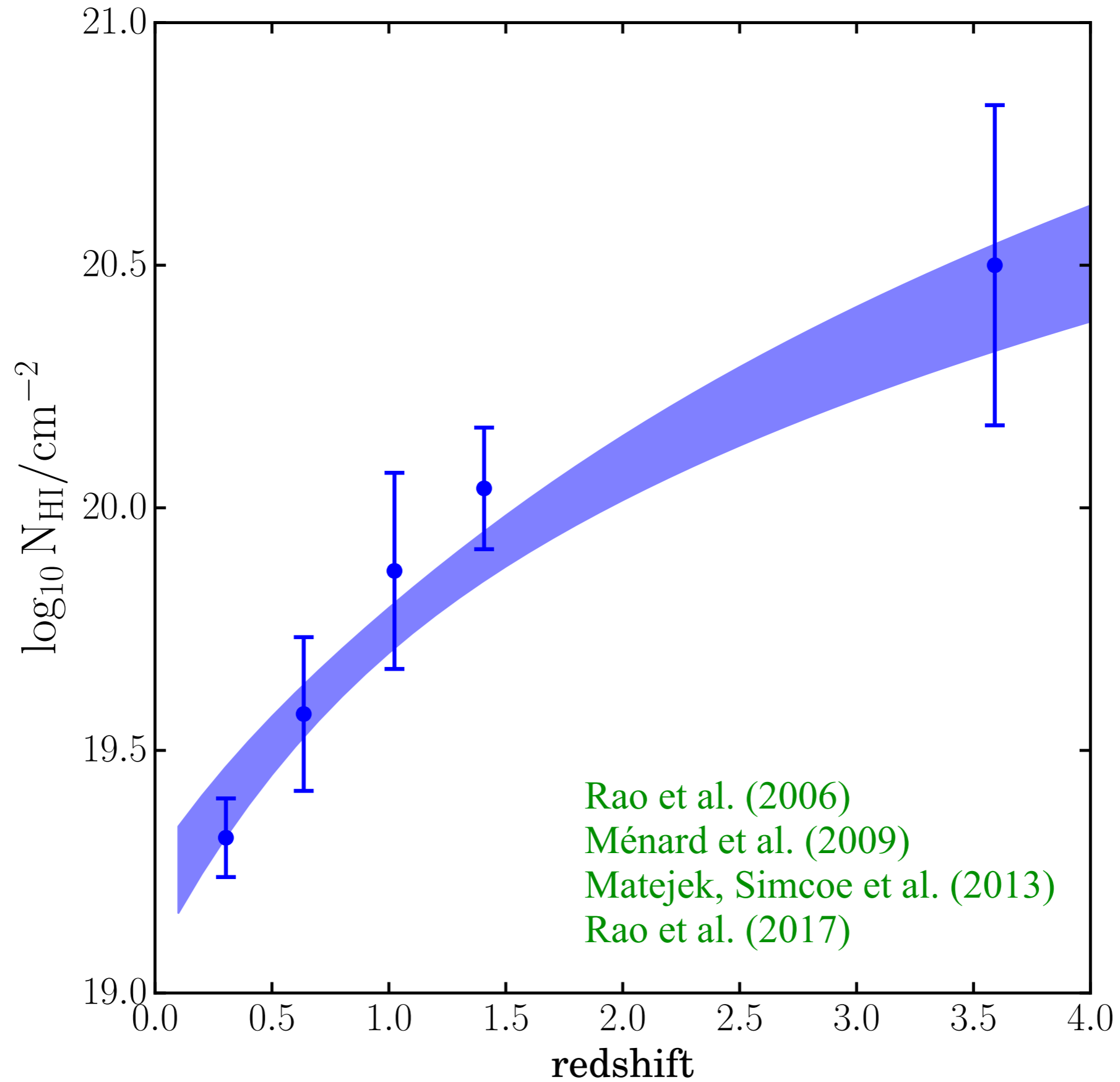
Probing weak absorption lines with SDSS



Probing weak absorption lines with SDSS



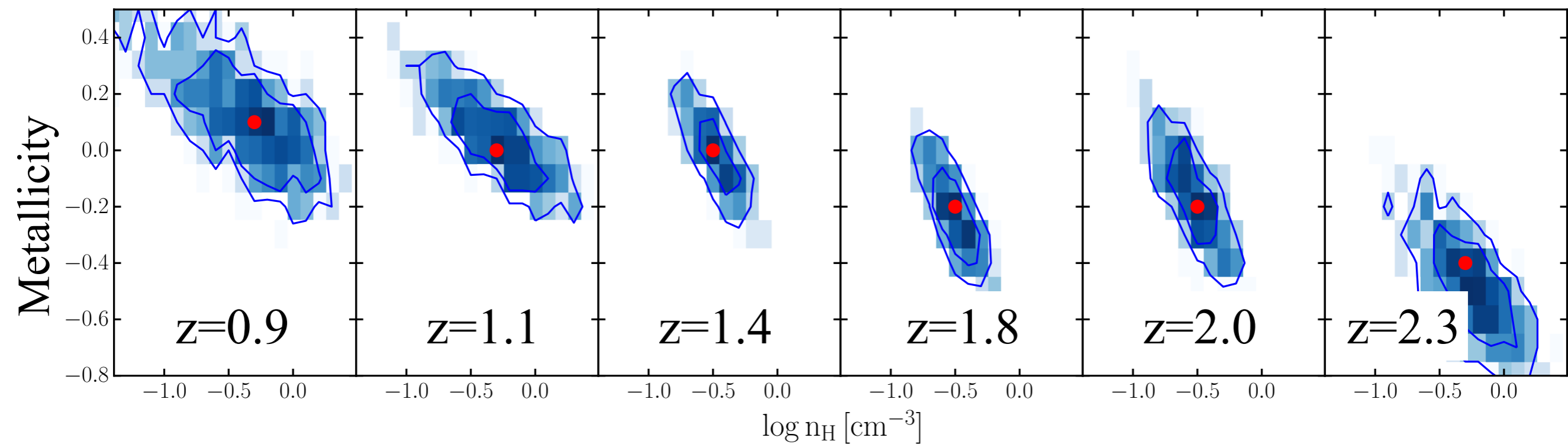
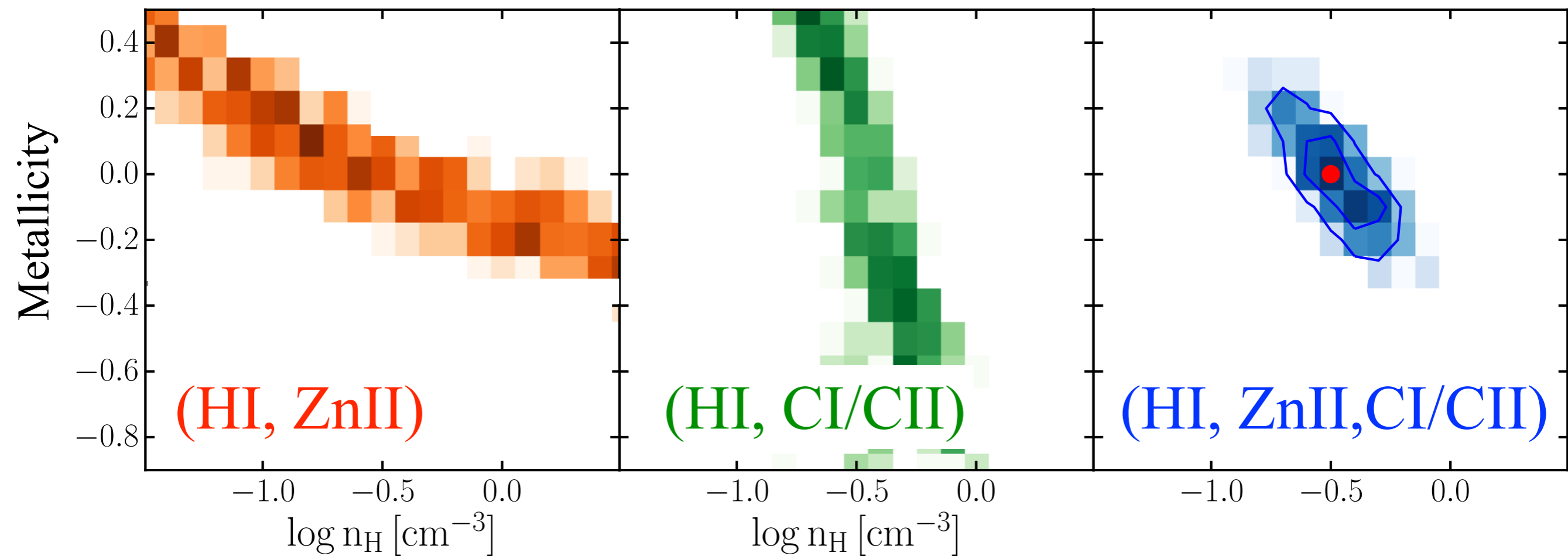
Neutral hydrogen column densities as a function of redshift



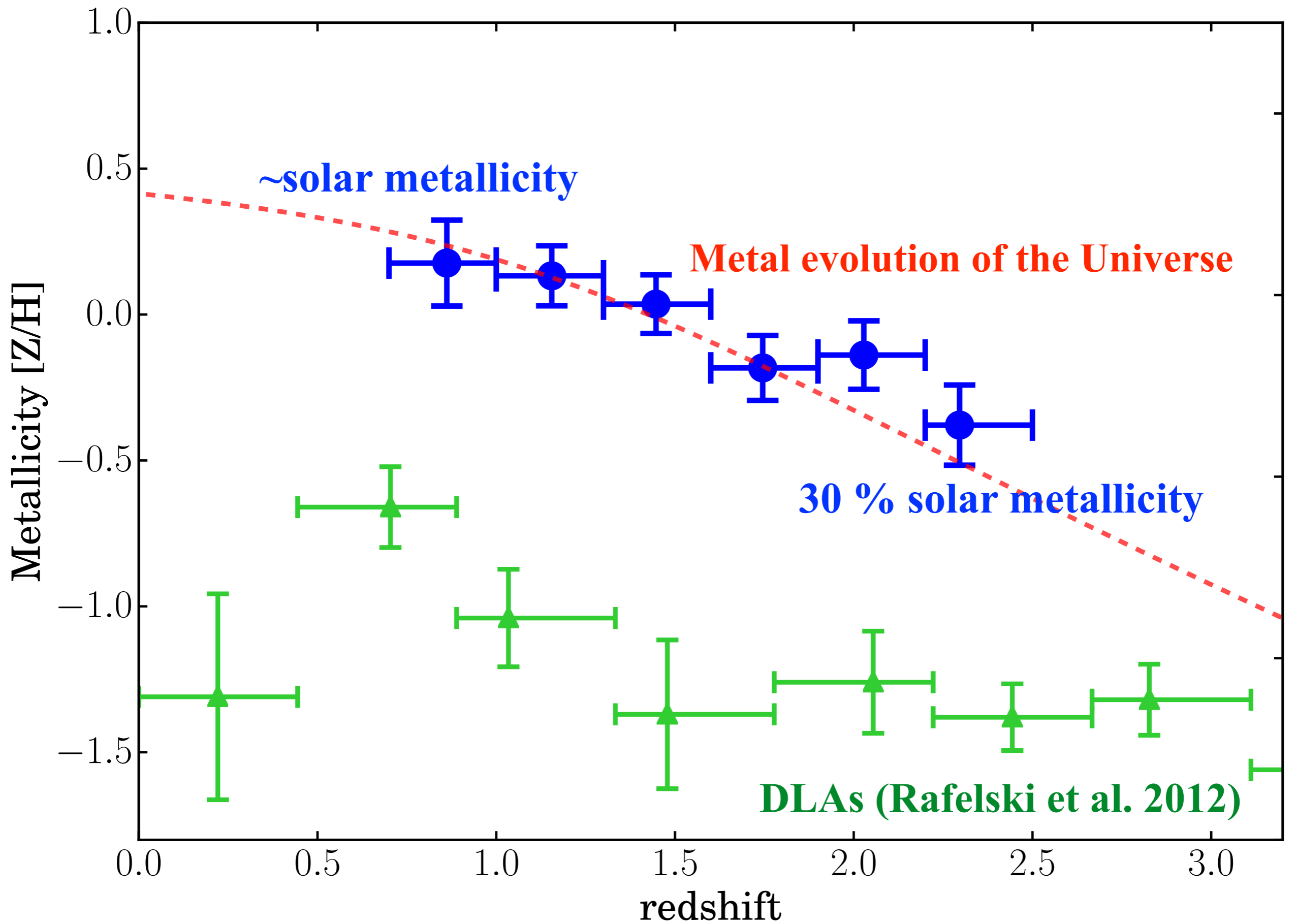
Rao et al. (2006)
Ménard et al. (2009)
Matejek, Simcoe et al. (2013)
Rao et al. (2017)

See also Matejek, Simcoe et al. (2013)

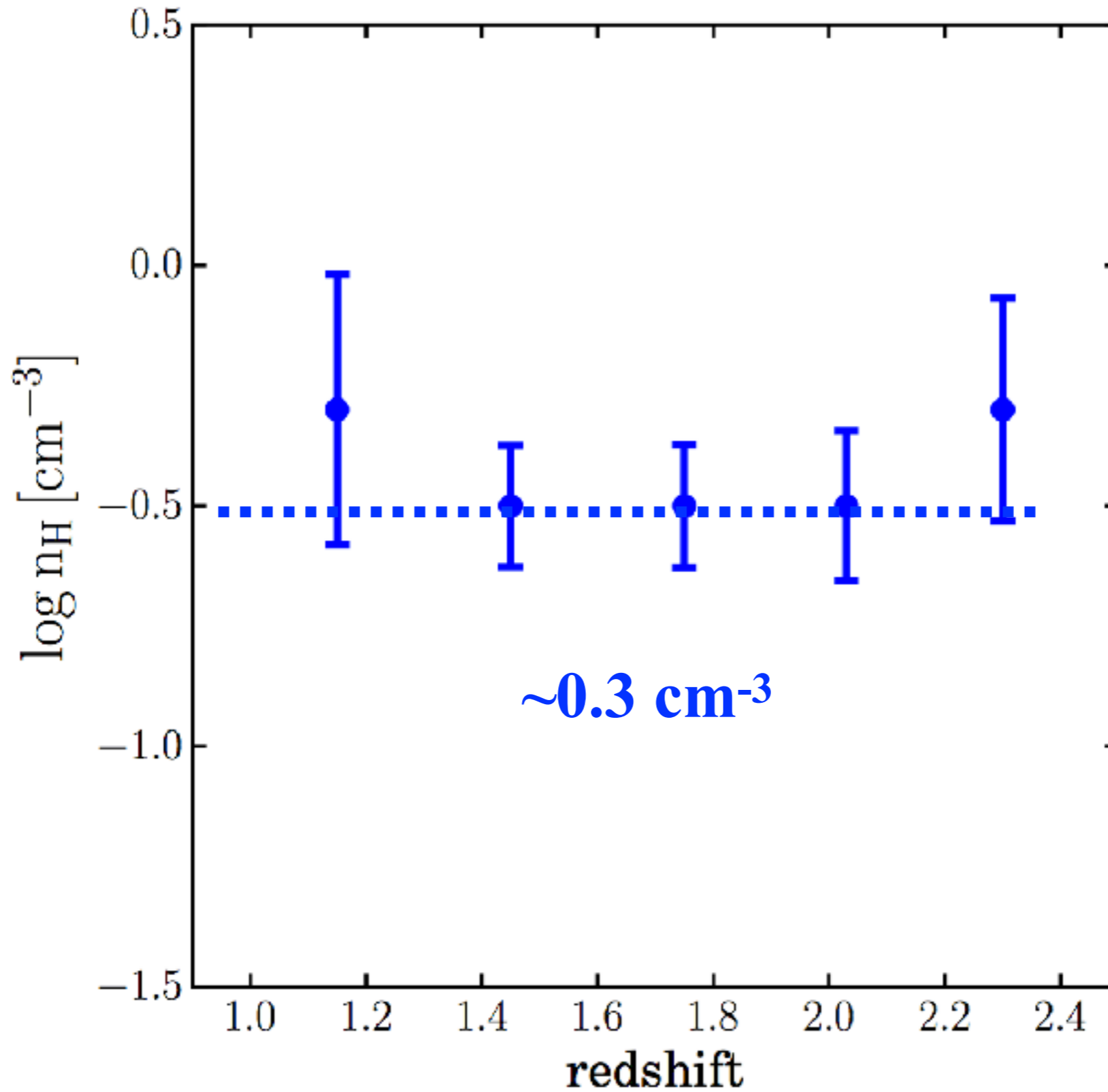
Constraining the physical properties of gas with CLOUDY



Metallicity evolution

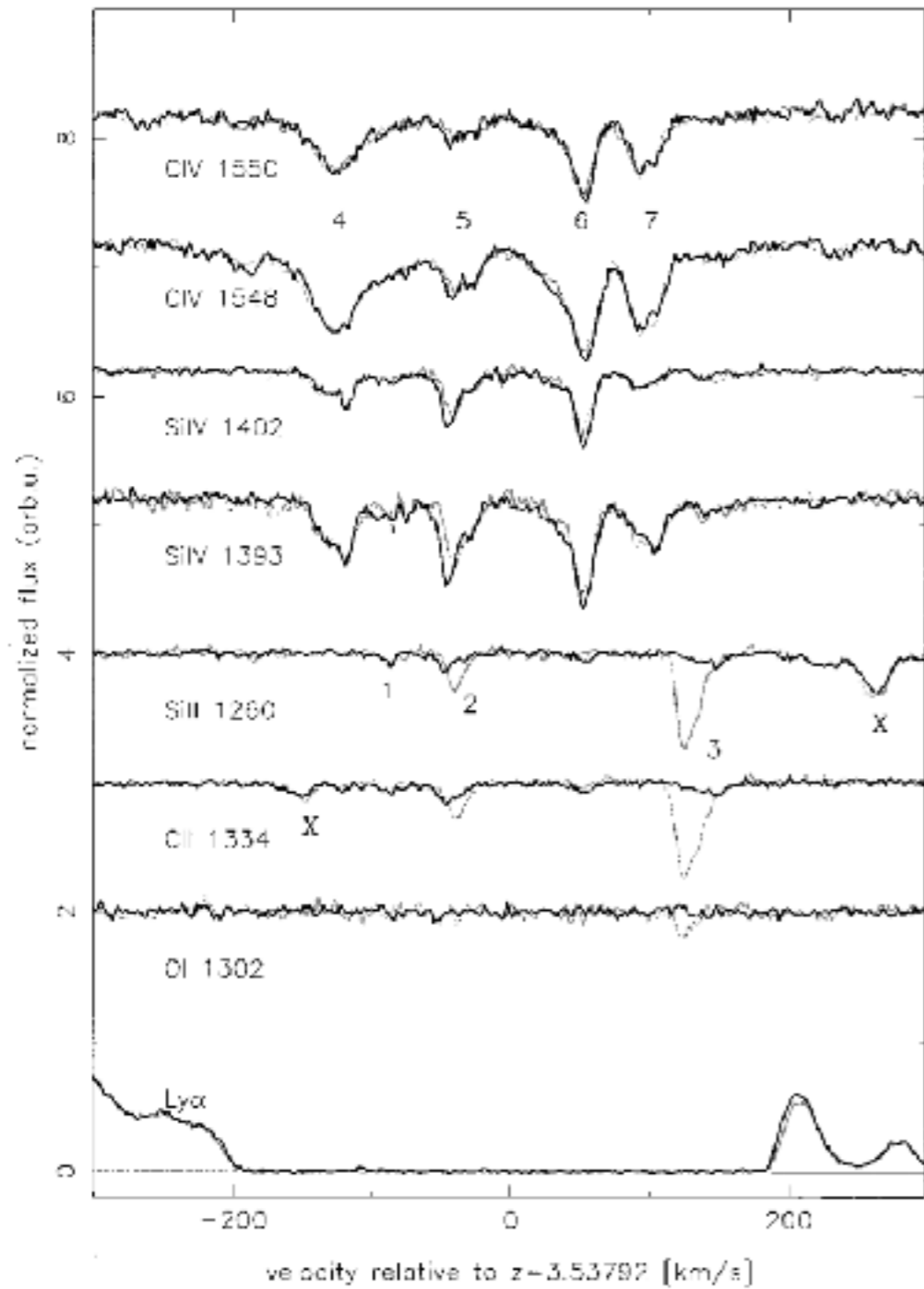


Gas cloud volume density



size of clouds $\sim N_{\text{H}} / n_{\text{H}} \sim 30 \text{ pc}$

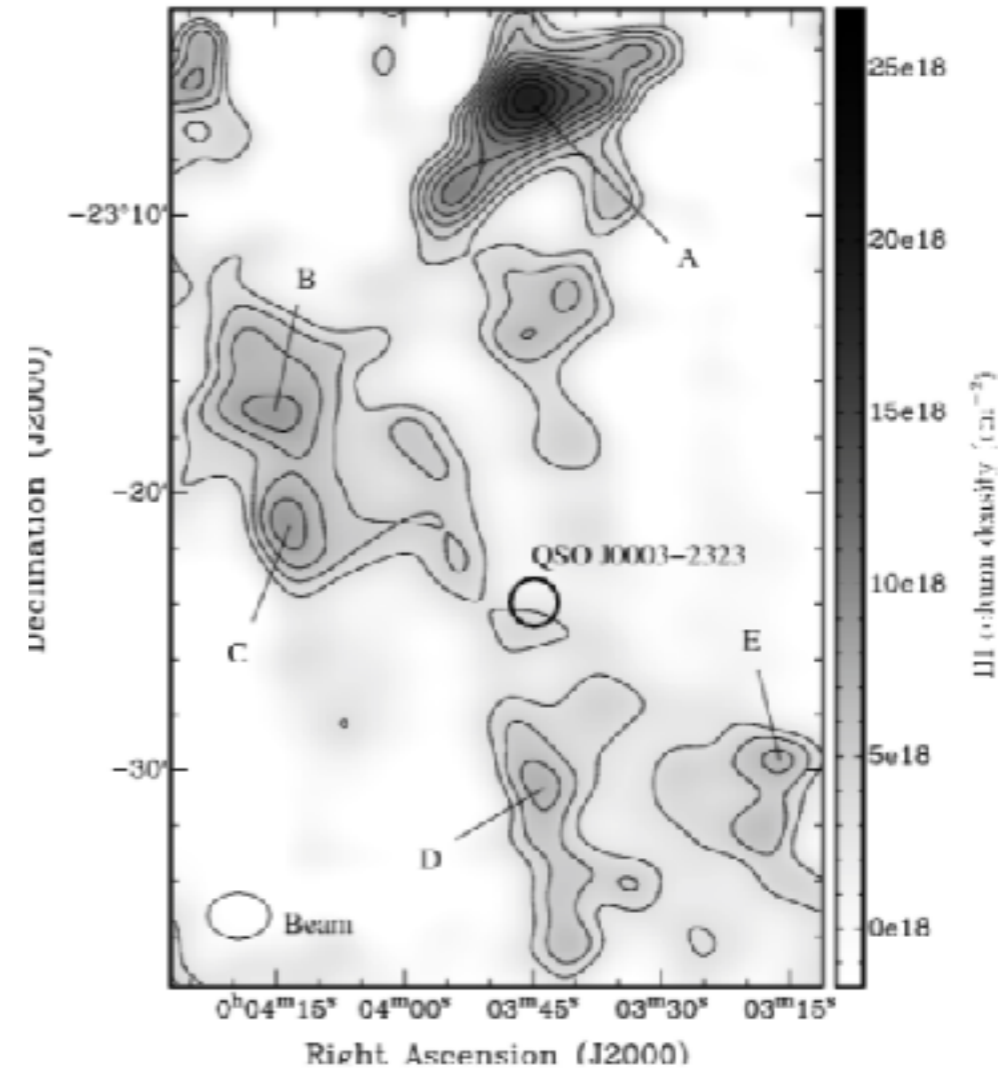
Size constrained by lensed background quasars



size ≤ 30 pc

Rauch et al. 1999

HVCs

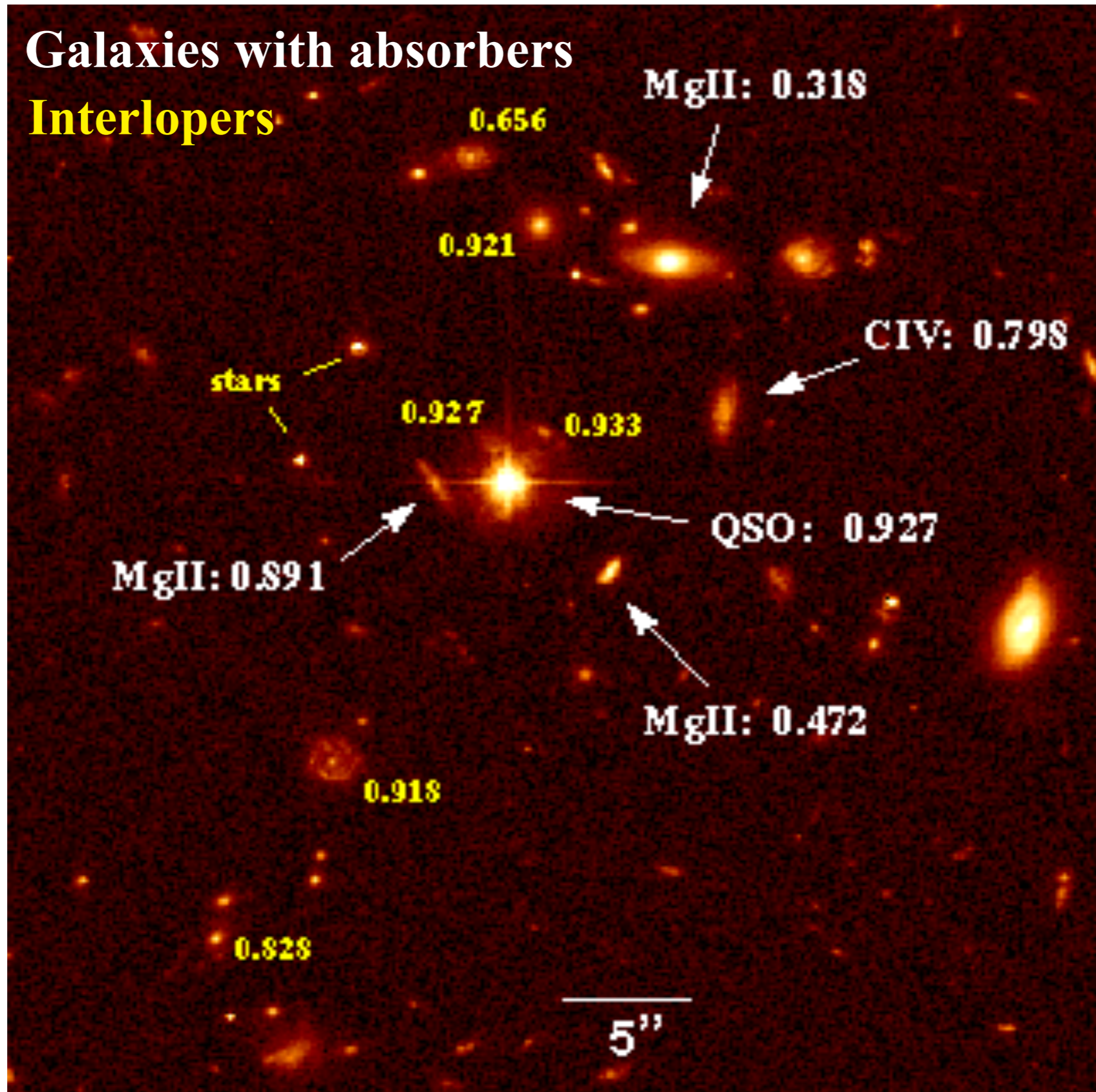


| clump | r [pc] | M_{HI} [M_{\odot}] | n_{HI} [cm^{-3}] |
|-------|-------------|------------------------------------|---|
| A | 45 | 470 | 0.14 |
| B | 45 | 280 | 0.06 |
| C | 49 | 160 | 0.06 |
| D | 36 | 150 | 0.06 |
| E | 32 | 160 | 0.07 |

size ~ 50 pc

Ben Bekhti et al. 2009

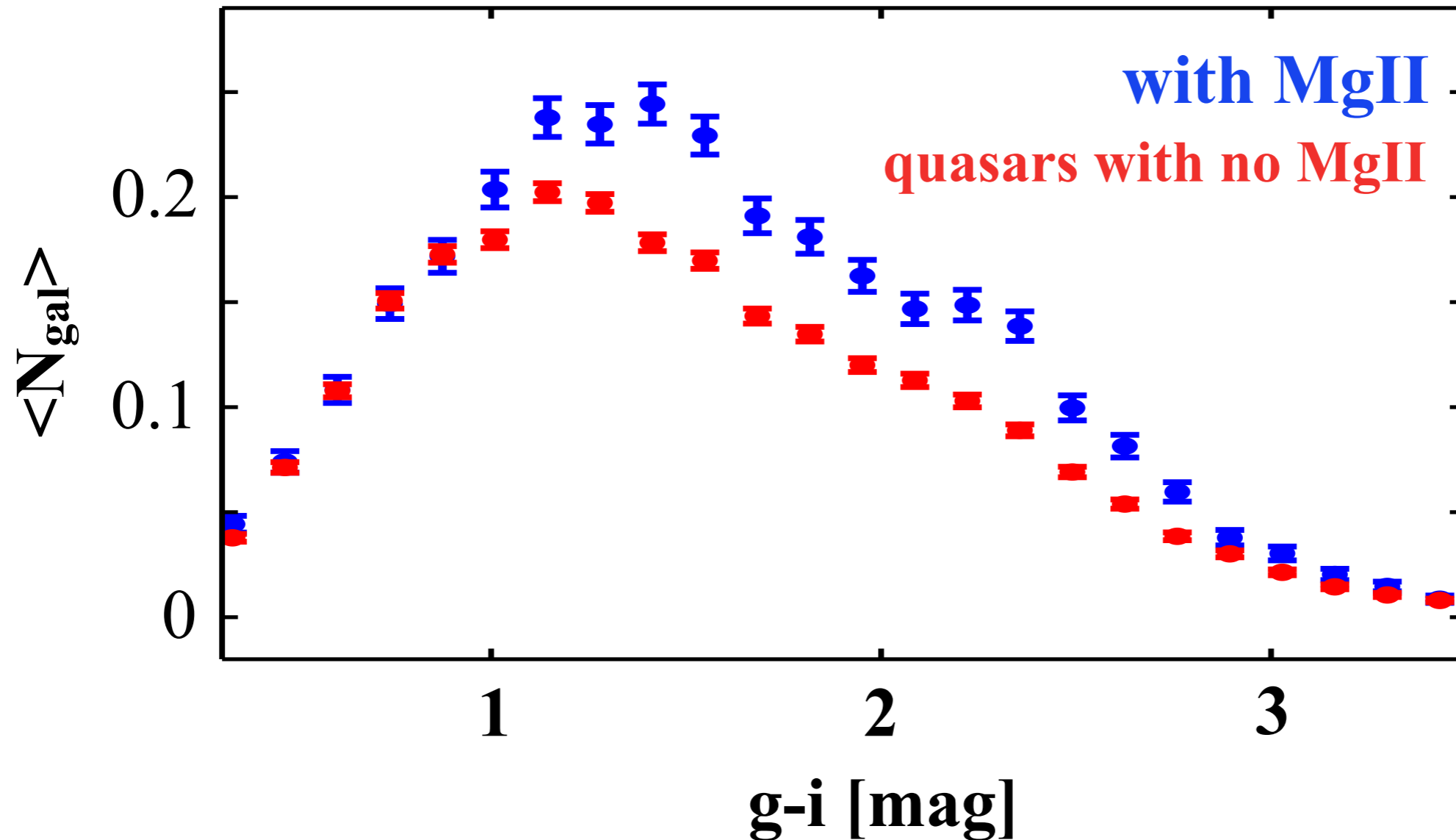
Searching for galaxy - absorber pairs



Steidel et al. (1997)

Probing the associated galaxies with a statistical approach

SDSS galaxies (<200 kpc) around 3,000 absorbers at $z \sim 0.5$



randomly-distributed
background galaxies

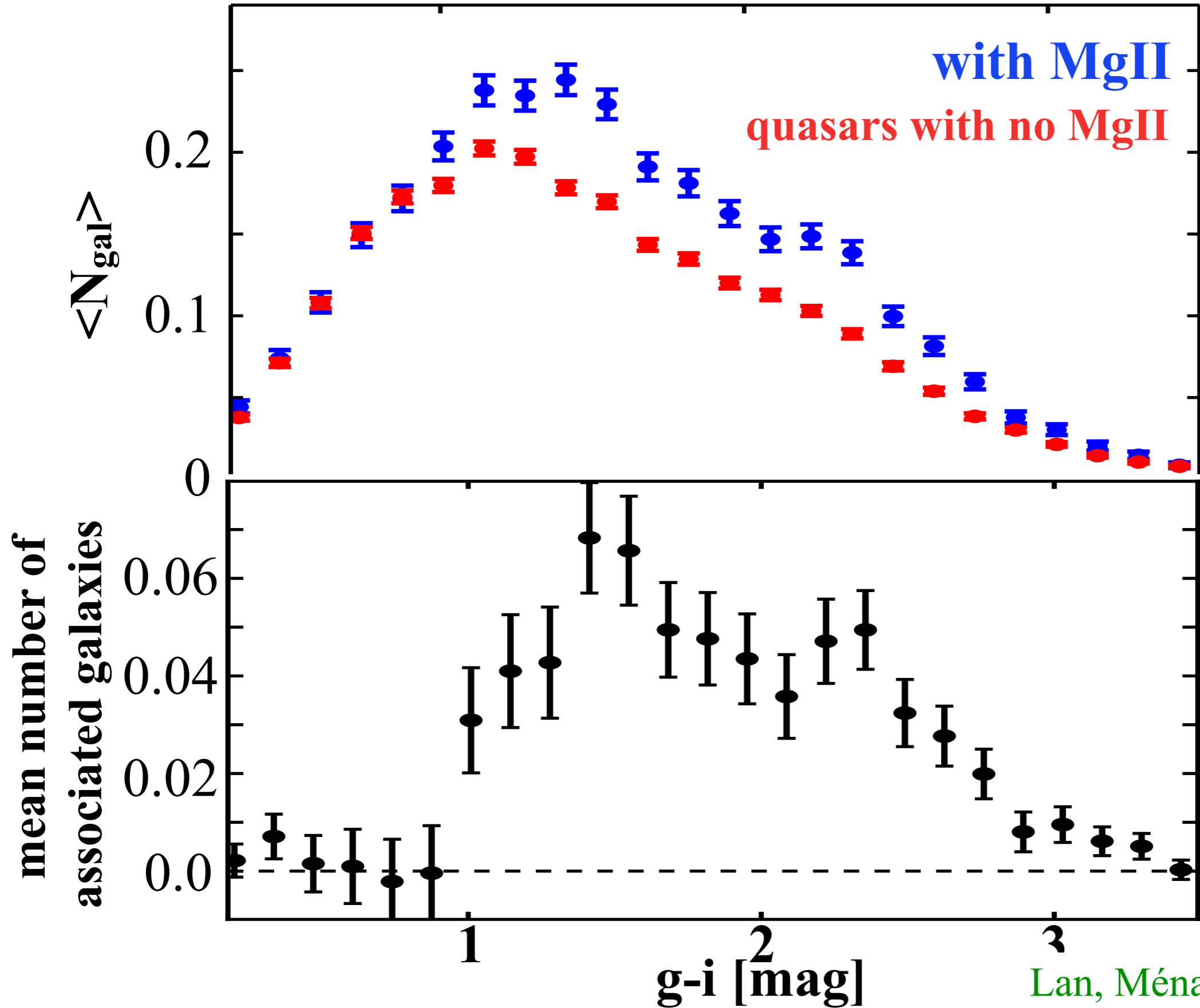
+

galaxies associated with MgII

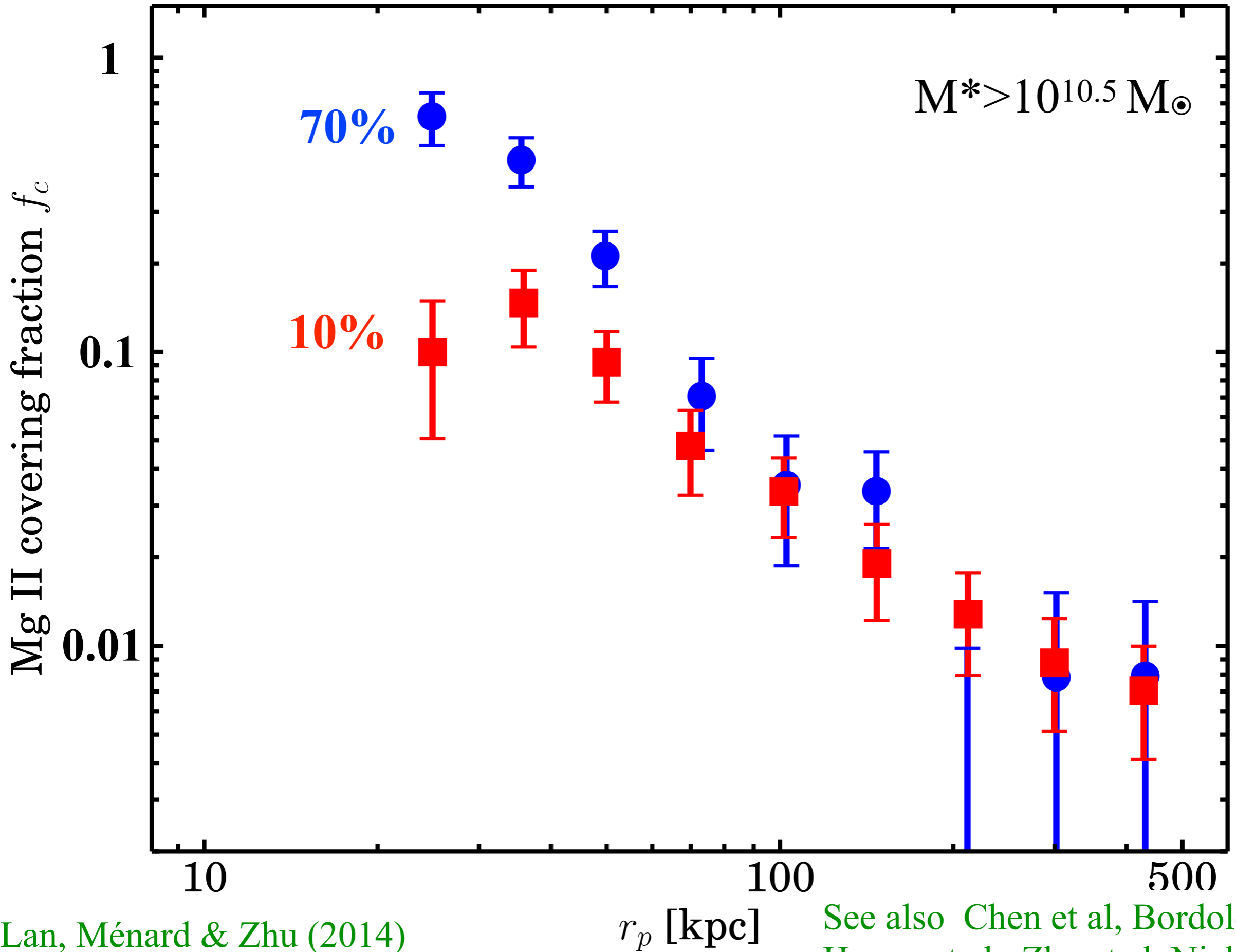
randomly-distributed
background galaxies

Probing the associated galaxies with a statistical approach

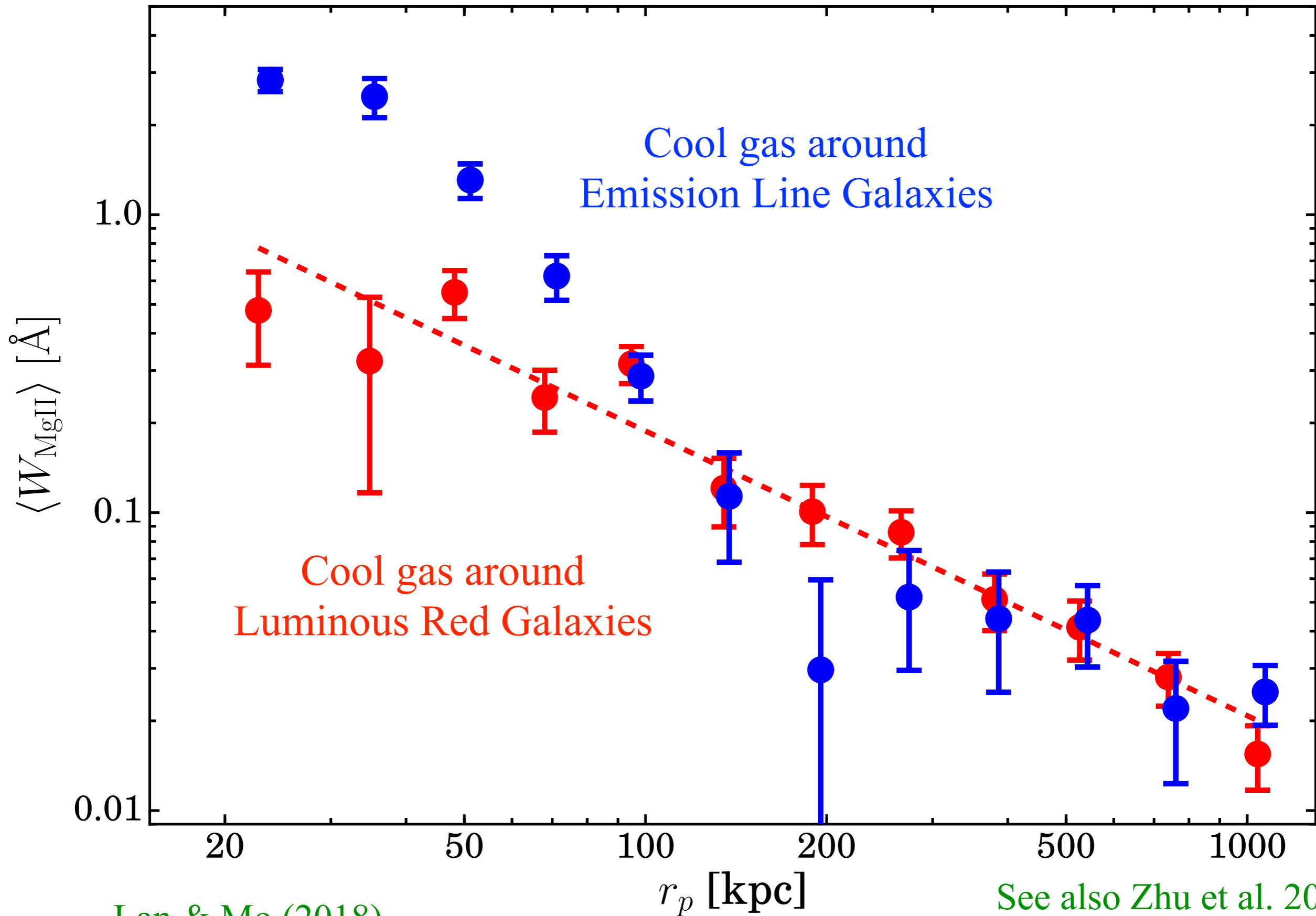
SDSS galaxies (<200 kpc) around 3,000 absorbers at $z \sim 0.5$



Mg II covering fraction



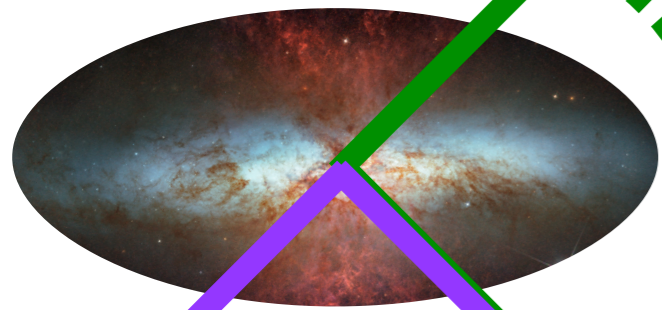
Gas distribution



Lan & Mo (2018)

See also Zhu et al. 2014,
Pérez-Ràfols et al. 2015

Azimuthal dependence

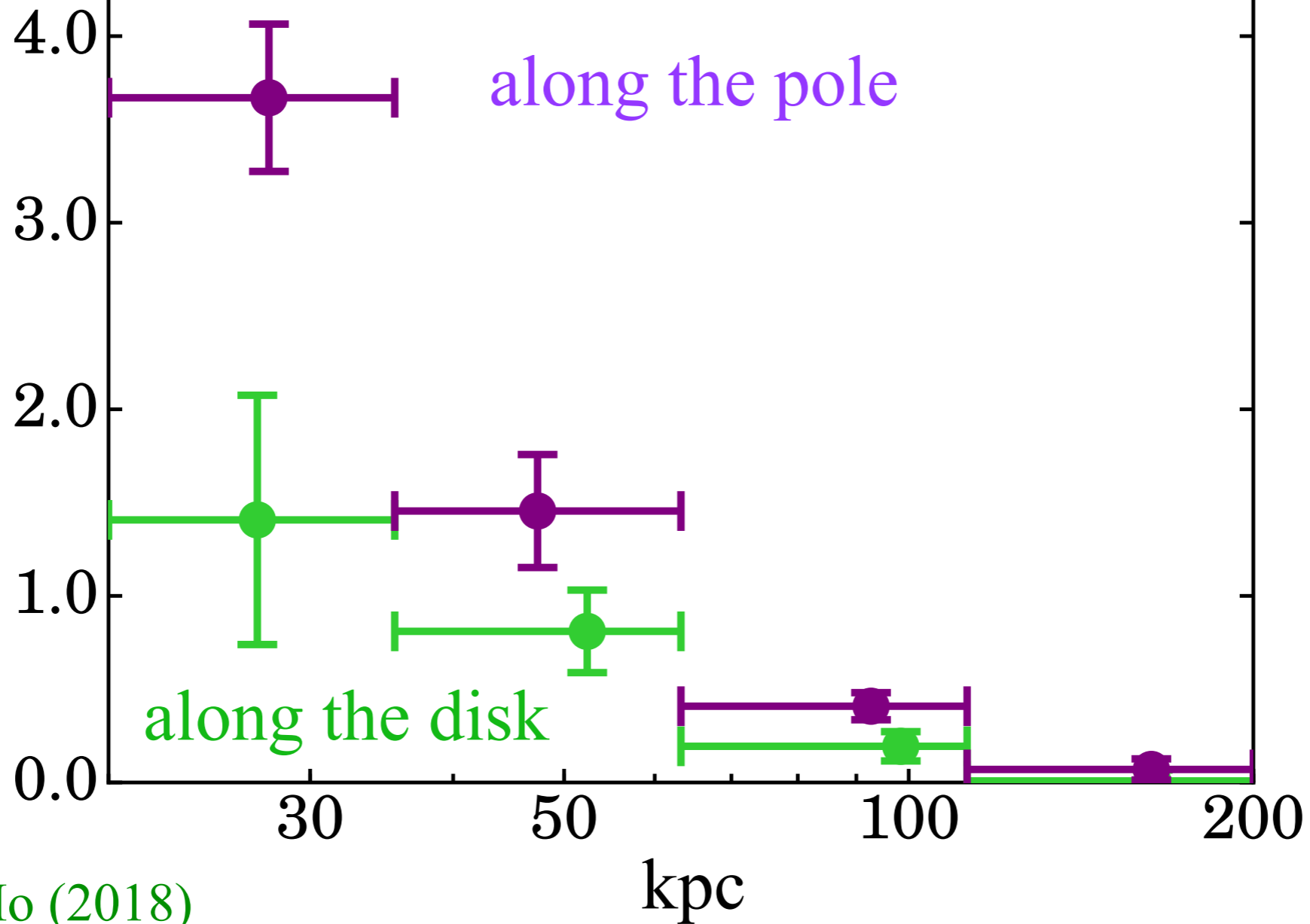


Absorption strength [\AA]

MgII

along the pole

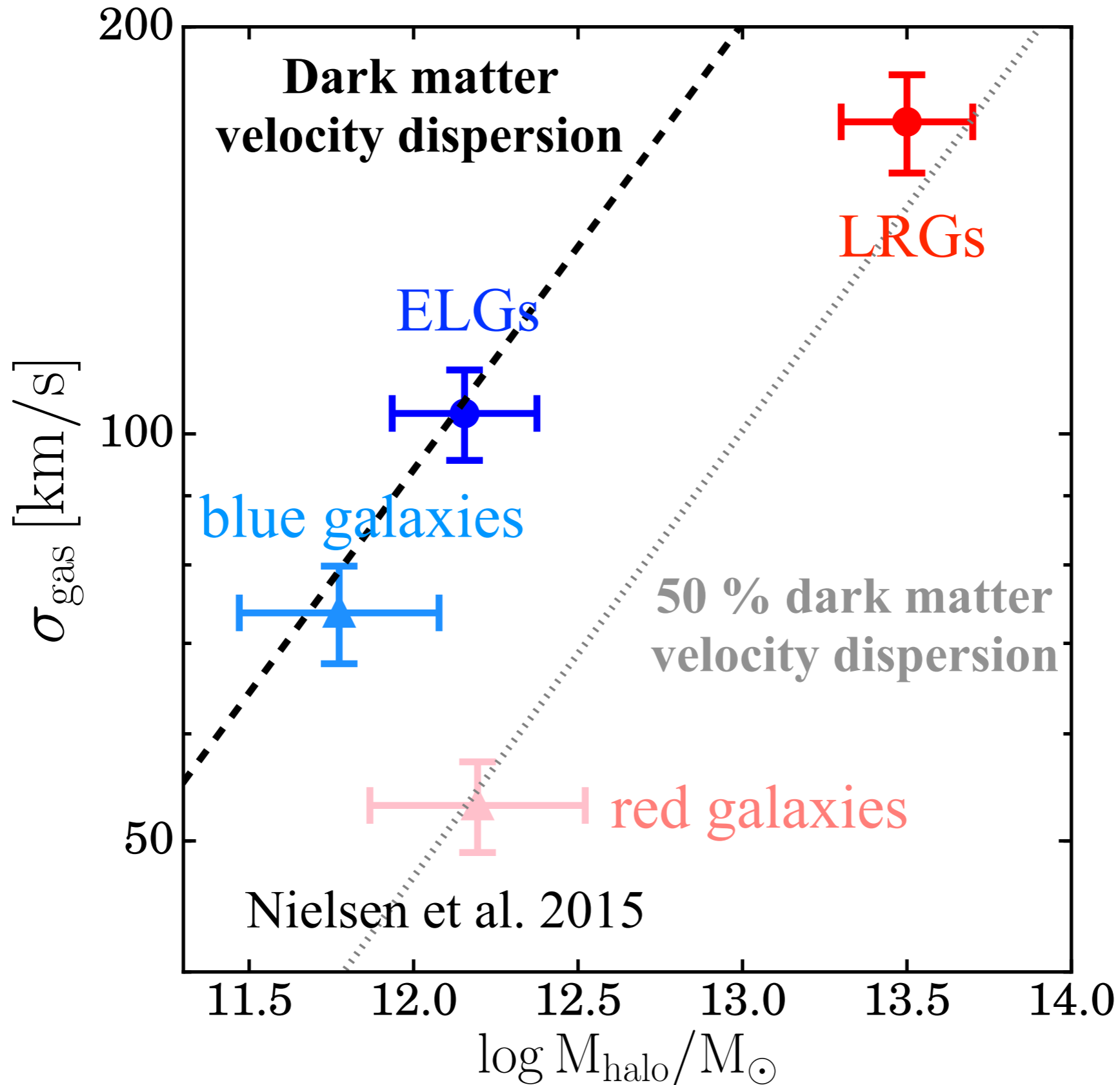
along the disk



Lan & Mo (2018)

See also Bordoloi et al. 2011, Kacprak et al. 2011, Bouche et al. 2012, Lan et al. 2014, Kacprak et al. 2015, Lundgren et al. 2018

Gas kinematics

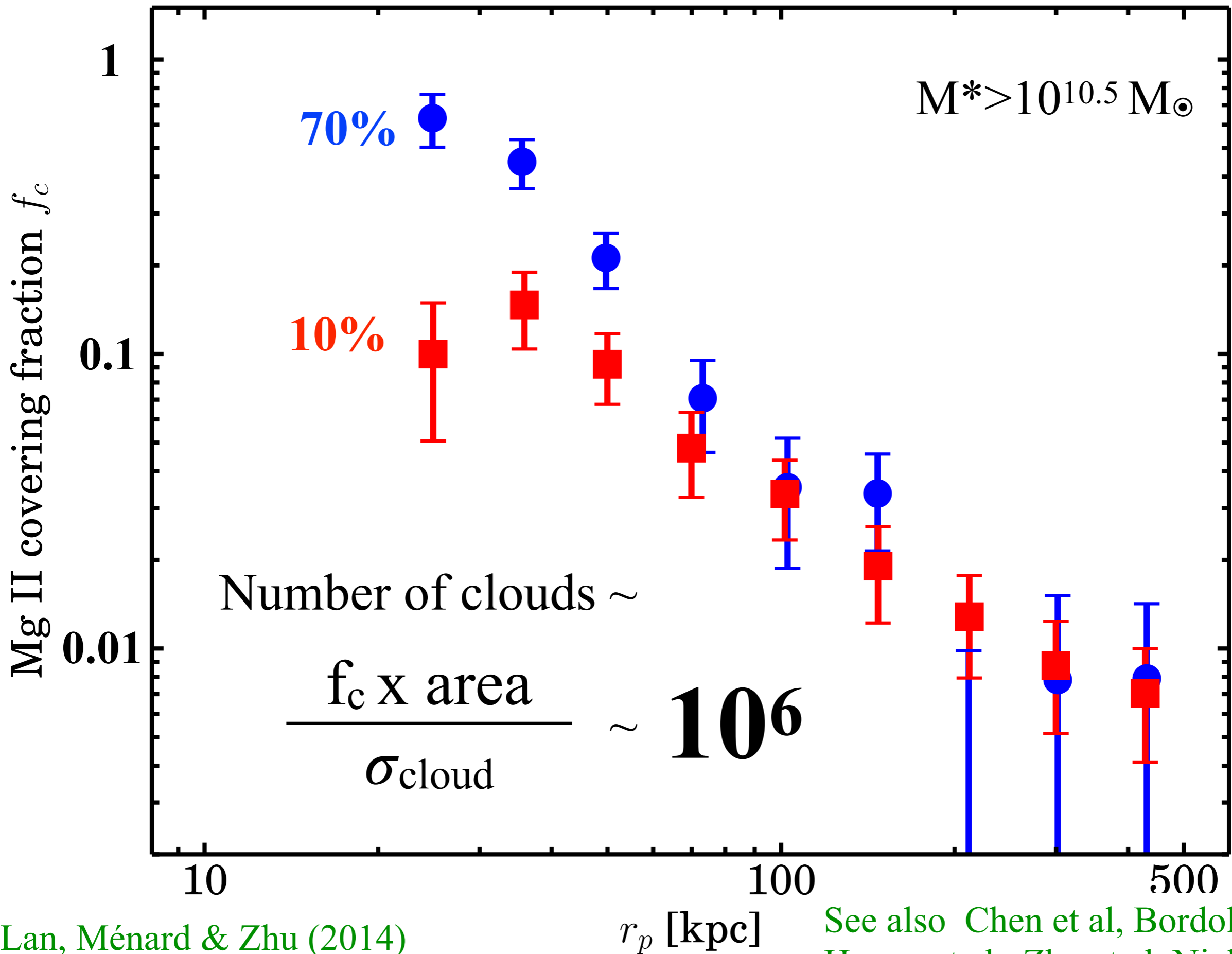


Lan & Mo (2018)

Nielsen et al. 2015

See also Nielsen et al. 2015, 2016

Mg II covering fraction

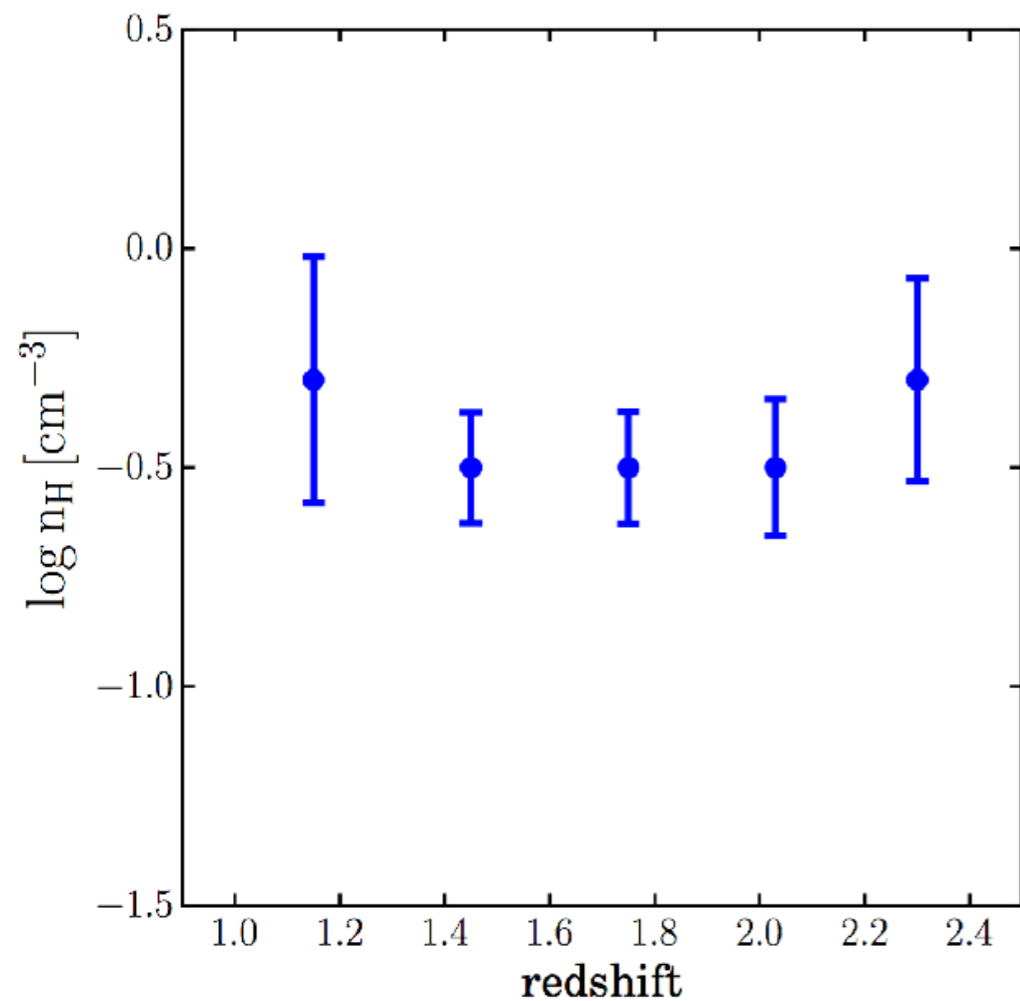
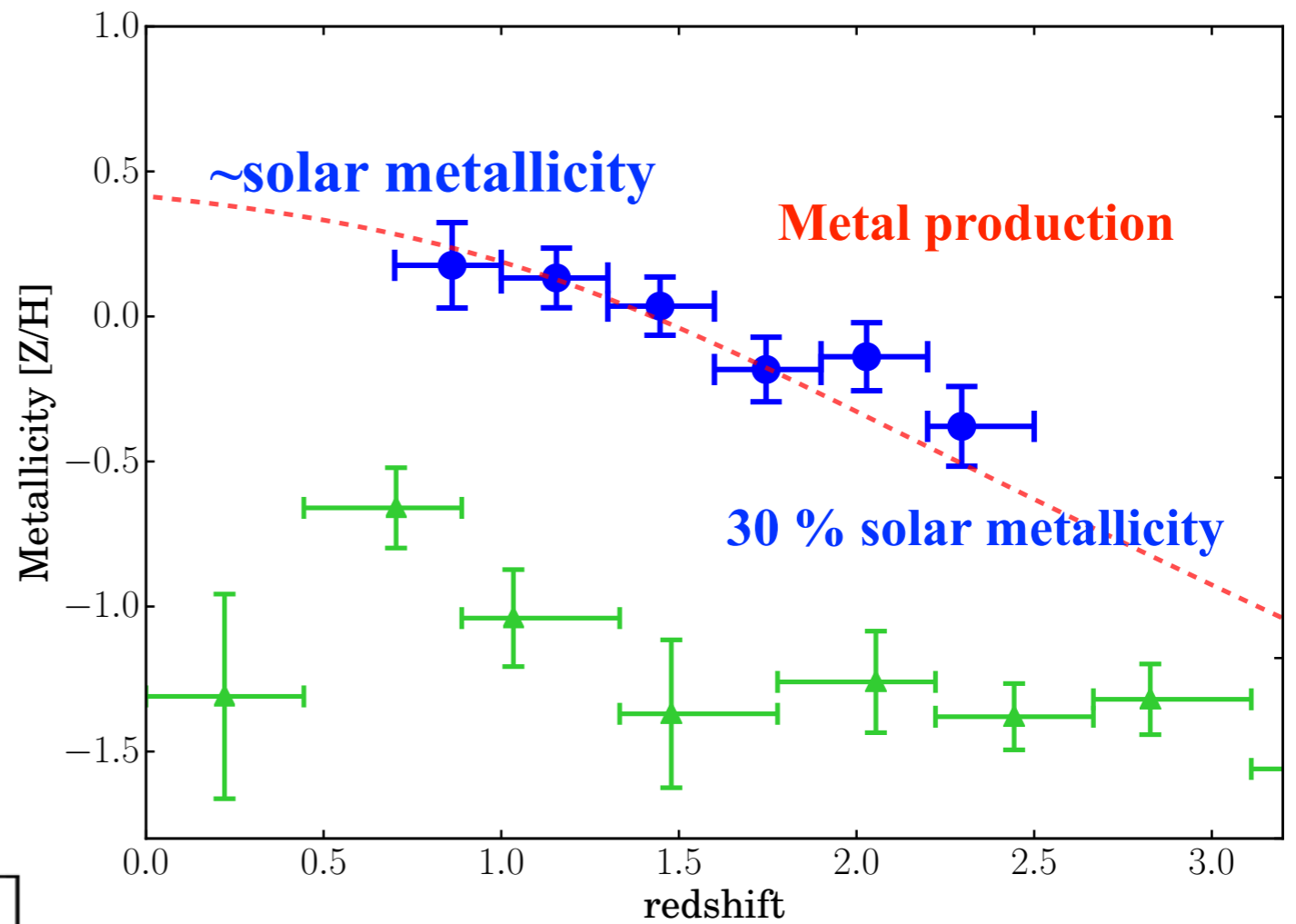


Lan, Ménard & Zhu (2014)

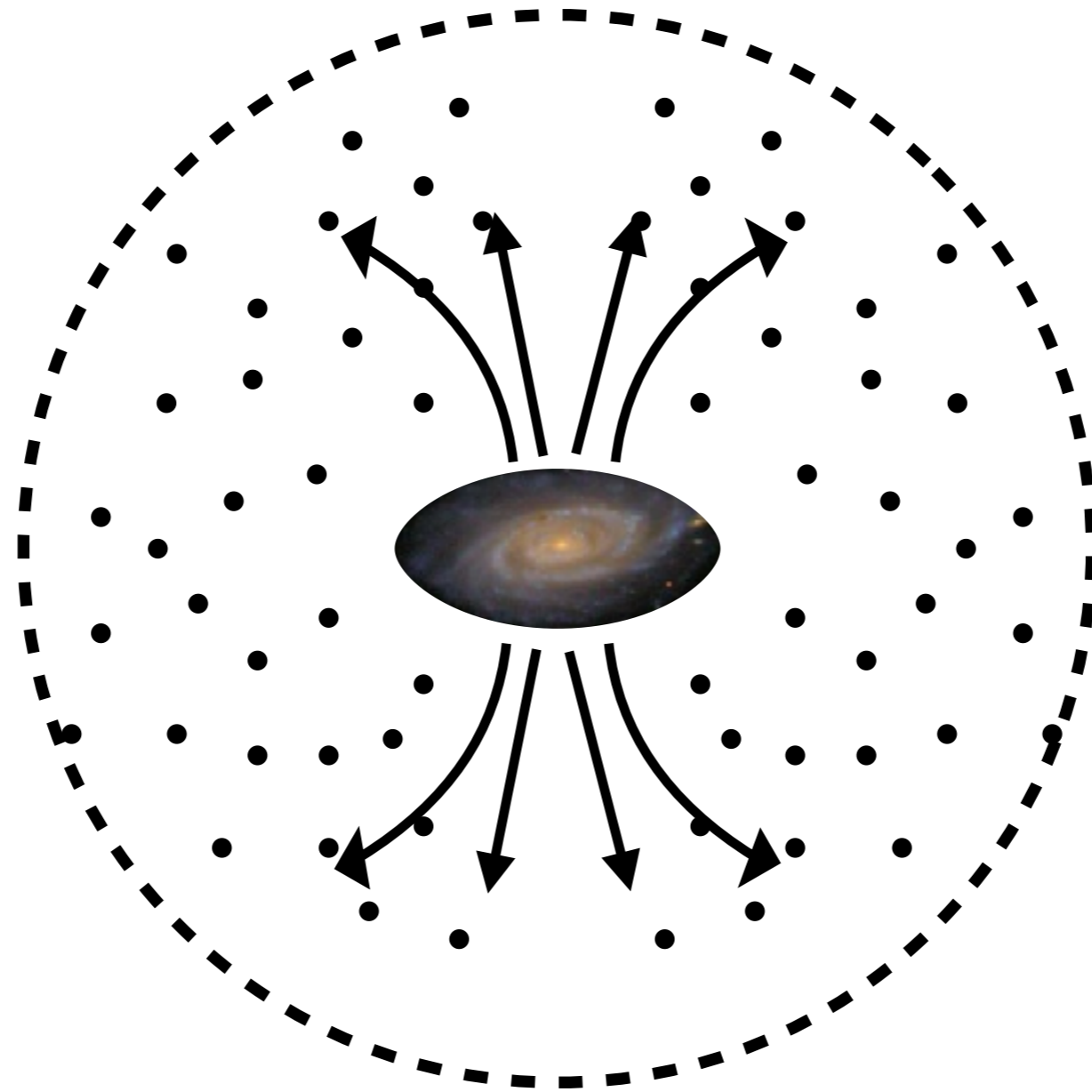
See also Chen et al, Bordoloi et al.
Huang et al., Zhu et al. Nielsen et al.

Summary

Metallicity evolution



volume density $\sim 0.3 \text{ cm}^{-3}$
cloud size $\sim 30 \text{ pc}$



The CGM is clumpy,

consisting of $\sim 10^6$ metal-rich clouds.