

# THE ENVIRONMENTS & STAR FORMING PROPERTIES OF MGII ABSORBING GALAXIES AT $Z \sim 1$

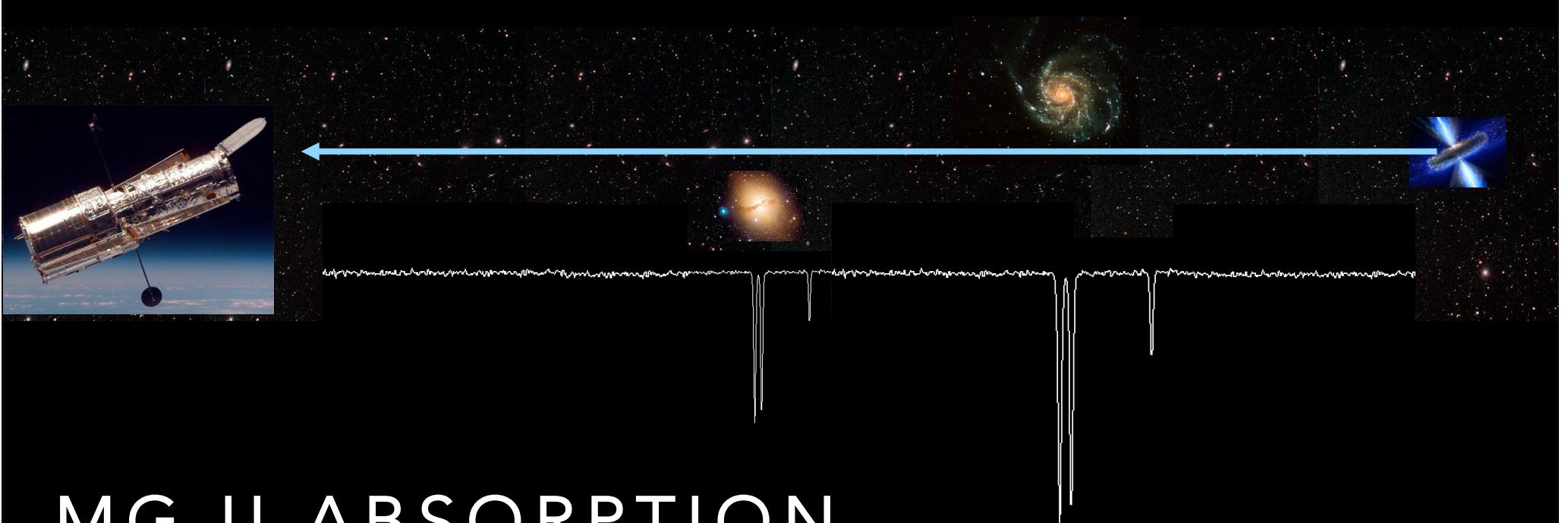


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**Samantha Creech, Matthew Peek, & Nathan Kirse (UNC-Asheville)**



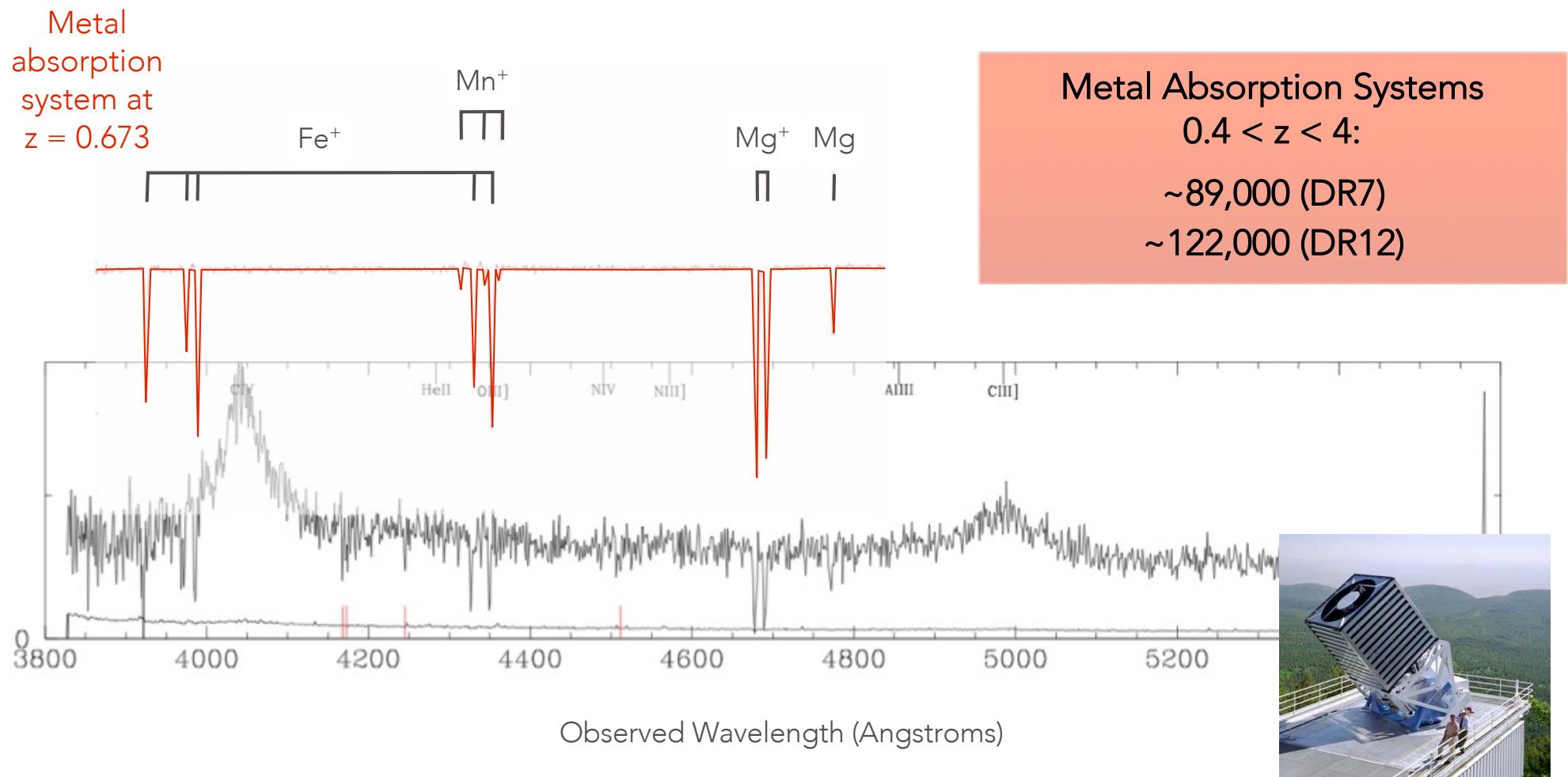


## MG II ABSORPTION

- Easily identifiable UV doublet (2796, 2803 Å)
- Common in optical QSO spectra at  $0.35 < z < 2$
- Arise in photo-ionized gas with  $T \sim 10,000\text{K}$
- Some association with DLAs ( $\log (N_{\text{HI}}) > 19 \text{ cm}^{-2}$ )
- Associated with luminous galaxies ( $\sim 0.7 L^*$ )
- Luminosity-independent tracer of cold, enriched gas in galaxies:  
disk & halo processes — inflows, outflows, stripped gas, etc.,

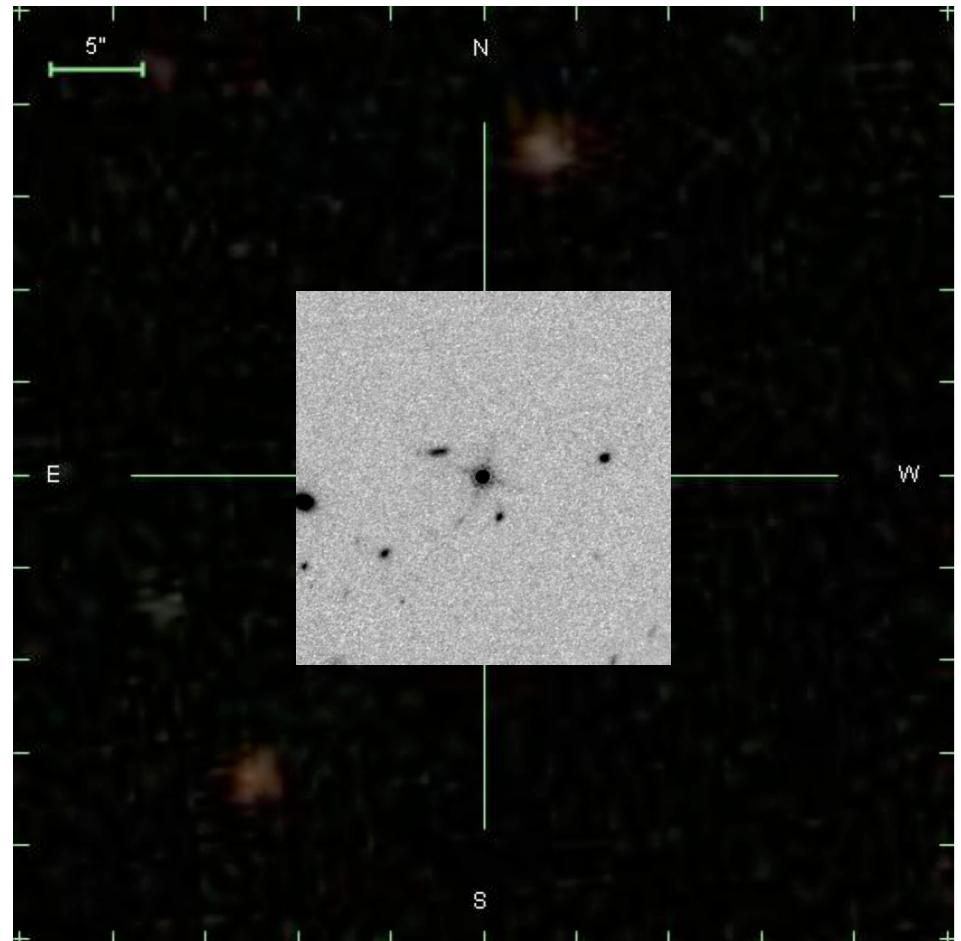
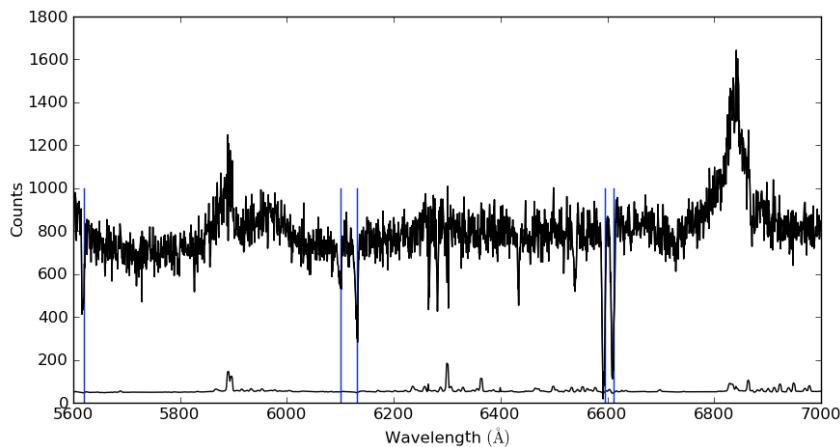
# SDSS I-IV METAL ABSORPTION DETECTION PIPELINE

York, Lundgren, Kulkarni, Alsayyad+2018, in prep



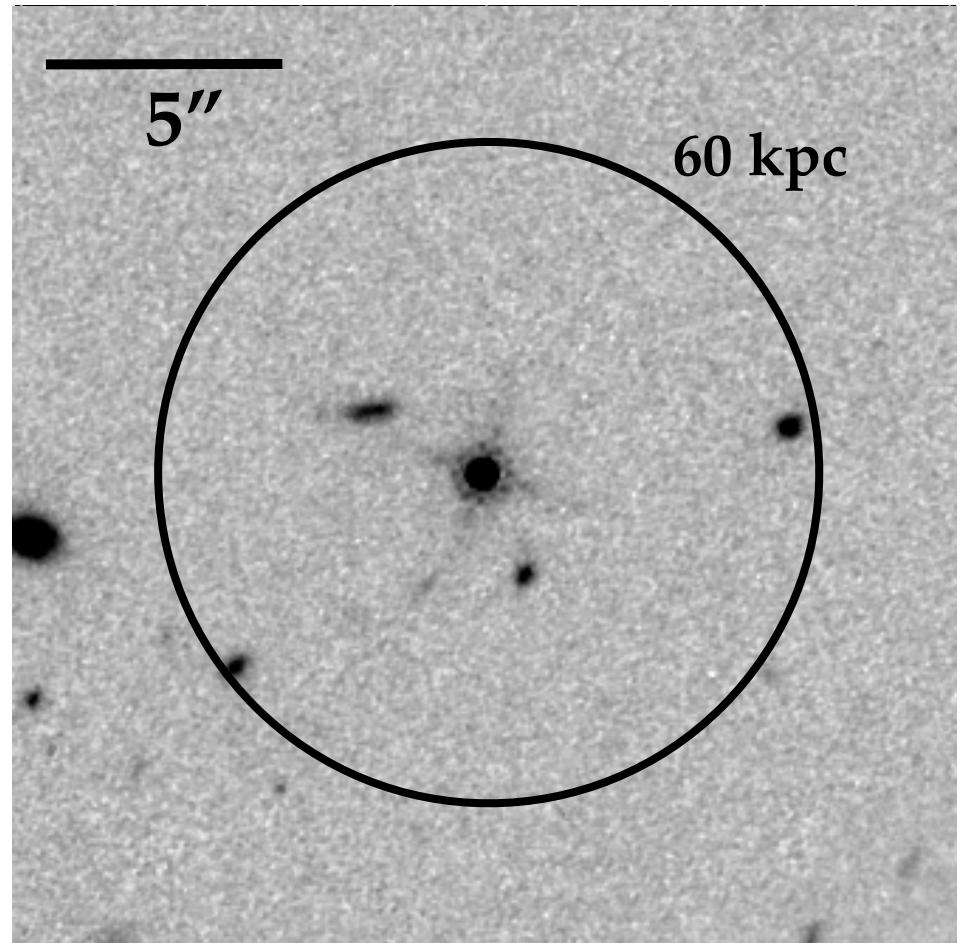
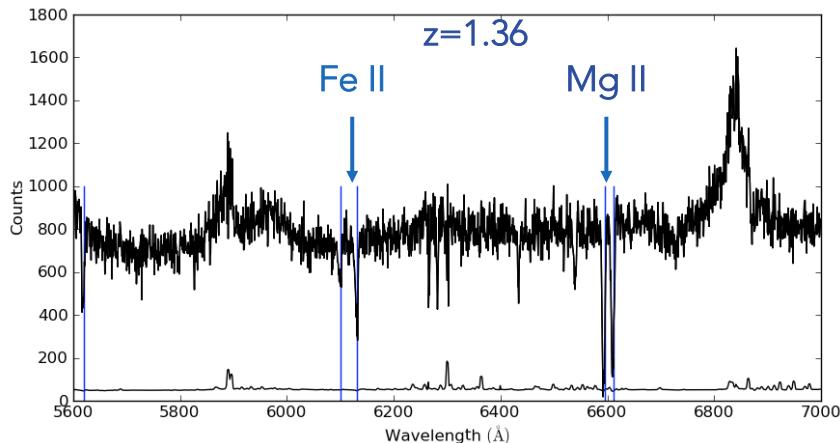
# PERSISTENT CHALLENGES

- >50,000 Mg II absorbers have been extracted to date from the SDSS I-III
- But linking the gas to the galaxies is difficult at  $z>0.4$ !
  - Requires deep, high-resolution imaging, and infrared spectroscopy



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# STATISTICAL STUDIES USING LARGE SAMPLES OF MGII

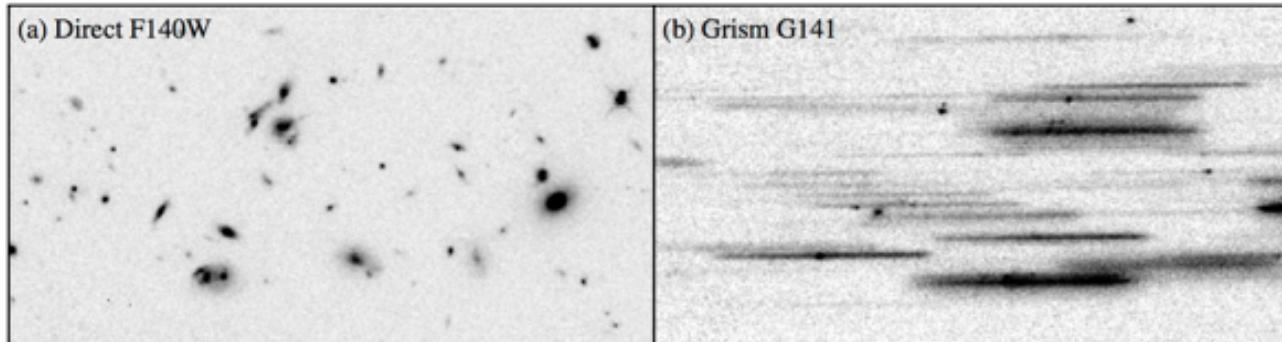
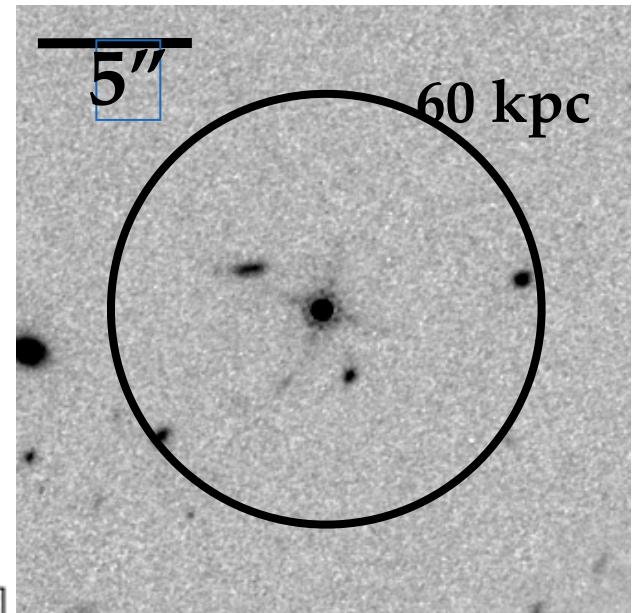
- Indirect evidence at  $z \sim 0.6$  points to correlations between strong Mg II absorbers and star-forming galaxies:
  - **large-scale clustering** (Bouché+ 2006; Lundgren+ 2009; Gauthier+ 2009; Lundgren+ 2011)
  - **stacking** (Zibetti+ 2005; York+2006; Noterdaeme & Srianand 2009; Menard+2009; Bordoloi+2011; Kacprzak+2011, 2012; Bouché+2012)
- But still unconfirmed with direct detections
  - Strong MgII hosts at  $z < 0.3$  not always star-forming (Chen+2010)
  - deep SINFONI searches at  $z = 1$  ( $z = 2$ ) fail to detect 34% (80)% of Mg II host galaxies (Bouché et al. 2007, 2013)



# DIRECT OBSERVATIONS OF MG II HOST GALAXIES AT HIGH-Z



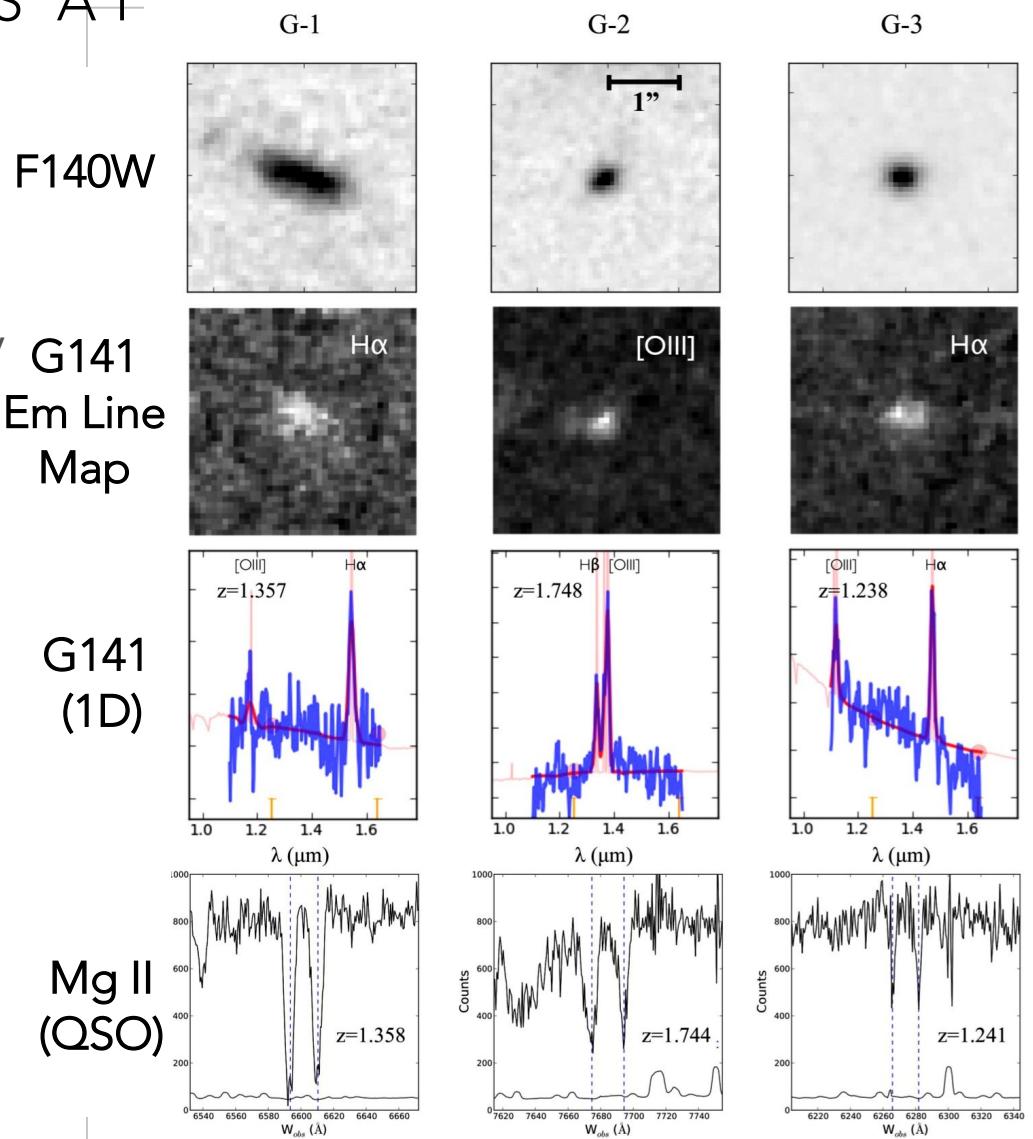
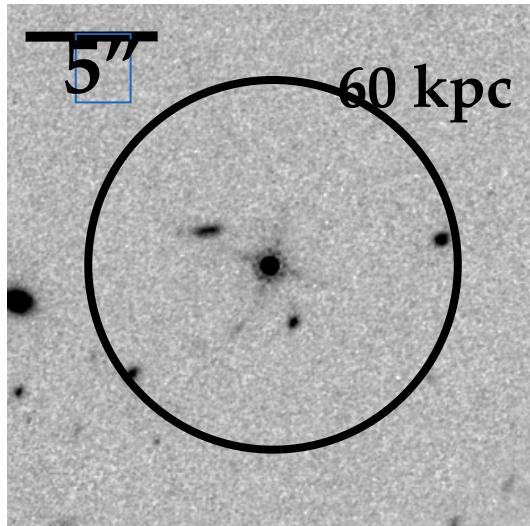
- Advantages of HST WFC3/IR observations for QAL science:
  - high sensitivity, resolving power ( $0.06''$  / pix)
  - large FOV for this depth, reaching impact parameters of 7-600 kpc
  - grism observations provide a highly complete galaxy redshift survey and spatially resolved spectroscopy ( $R=130$  @ 1400 nm)



# DIRECT HST OBSERVATIONS OF MG II HOST GALAXIES AT HIGH-Z

## Pilot study in the 3D-HST Survey

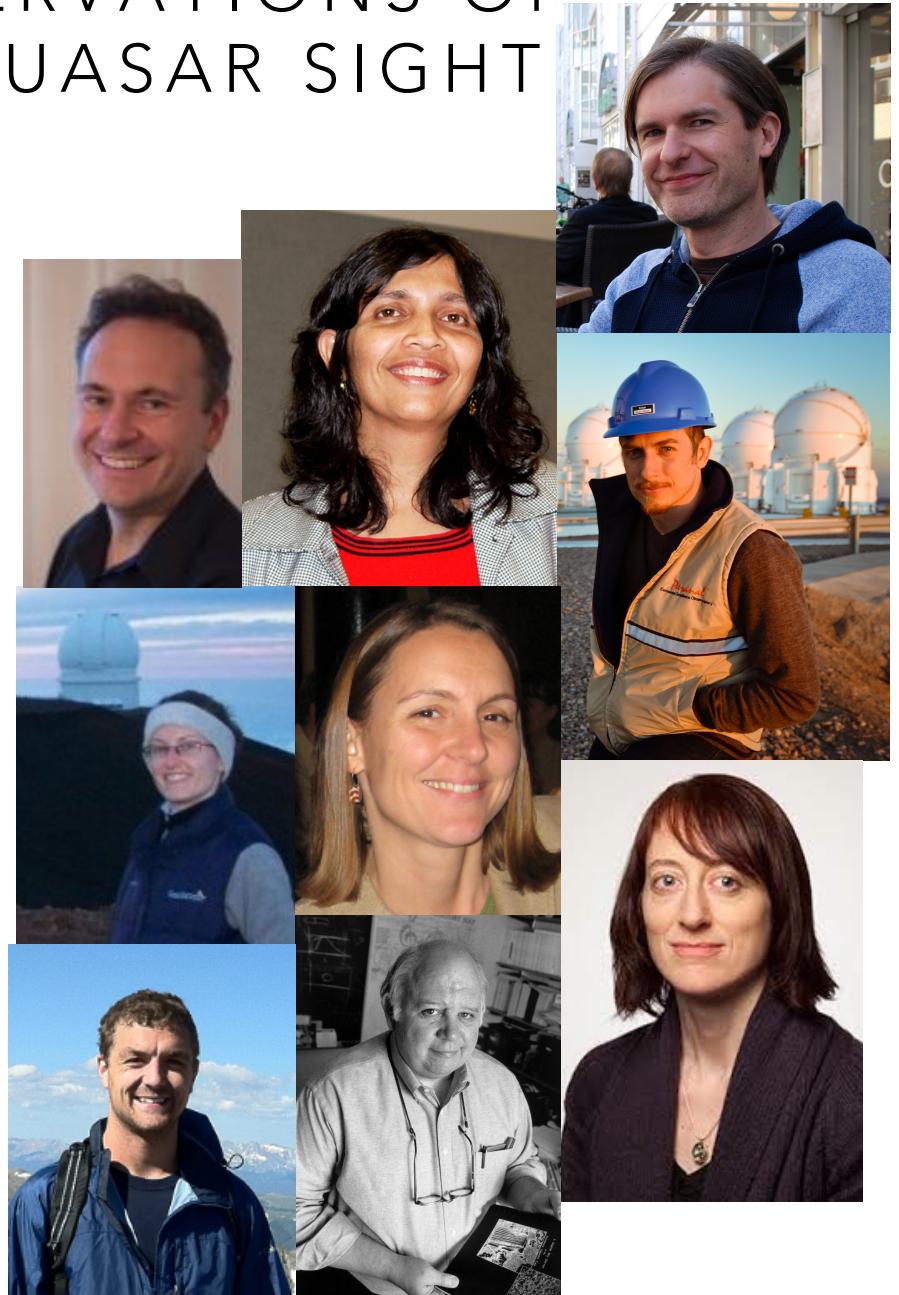
- Each identified Mg II absorption system matches to an isolated galaxy G141 at  $1 < z < 2$  identified with 3D-HST
- G141 grism observations with:
  - $\Delta z < 0.004$
  - $20 < \rho (\text{kpc}) < 60$



Lundgren et al. 2012

# HST WFC3/IR GRISM OBSERVATIONS OF THE MOST METAL-RICH QUASAR SIGHT LINES IN THE SDSS

- B. Lundgren (UNC Asheville)
- David Wake (UNC Asheville)
- Gabriel Brammer (ESA/AURA; STScI)
- John Chisholm (Geneva Observatory)
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- Varsha Kulkarni (U. South Carolina)
- Lorrie Straka (Leiden Observatory, NL)
- Christy Tremonti (U. Wisconsin)
- Pieter van Dokkum (Yale Univ.)
- Don York (U. Chicago)

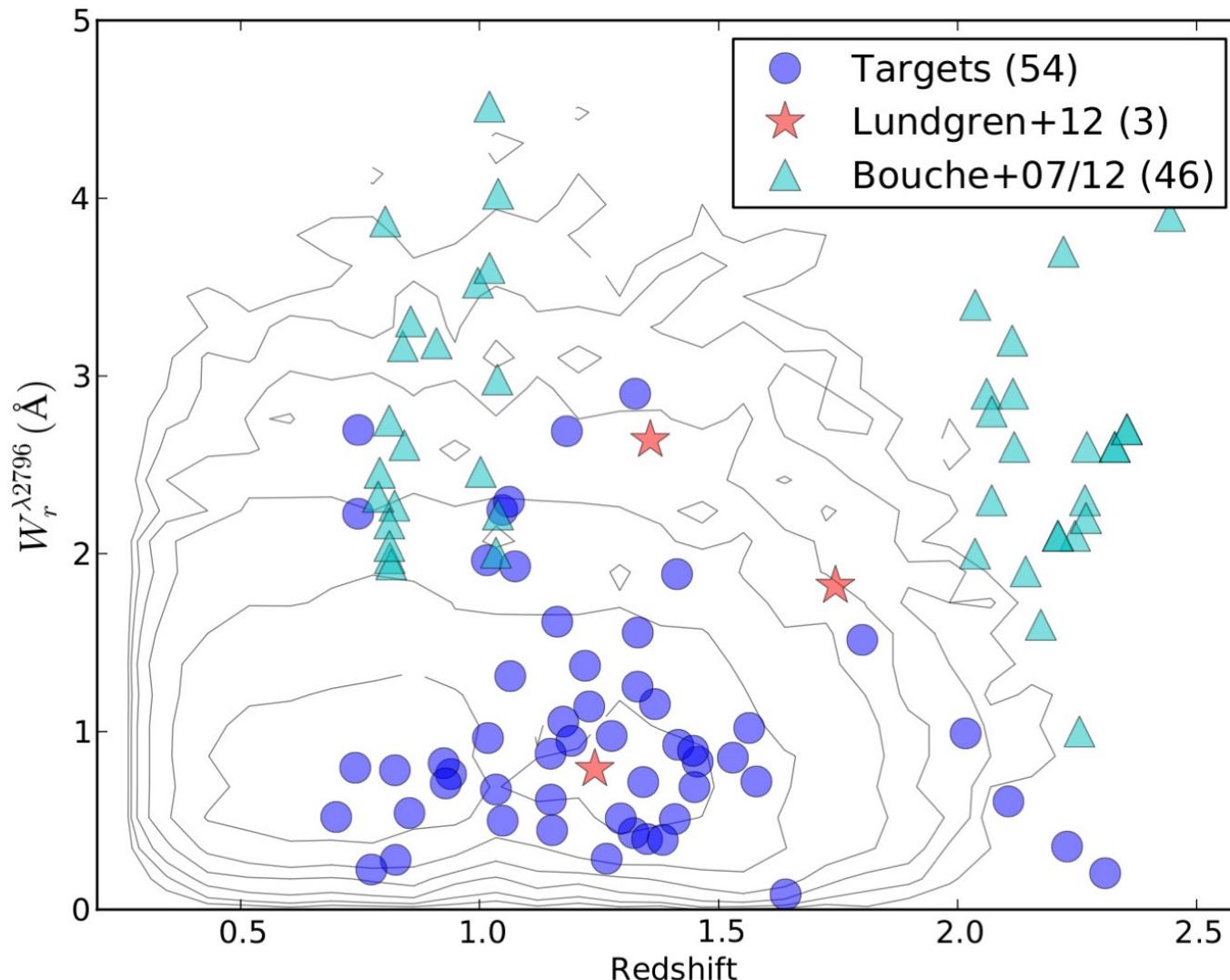


# HST WFC3/IR GRISM OBSERVATIONS OF THE MOST METAL-RICH QUASAR SIGHT LINES IN THE SDSS

## HST Cycle 21 Program:

- 9 SDSS QSO targets (2 HST orbits / each)
  - 44 absorbers with H-alpha observable ( $0.65 < z < 1.6$ ) in the G141 grism (1075-1700nm)
  - +12 absorbers with observable [O III] / H-beta
- A complete spectroscopic survey of galaxies with  $b > 7 \text{ kpc}$ ,  $F_{140} < 25.6$ ,  $\text{SFR} > 1.3 \text{ M}_\odot/\text{yr}$
- Measuring impact parameters, morphologies, inclinations, SFRs, &  $\sum \text{SFRs}$

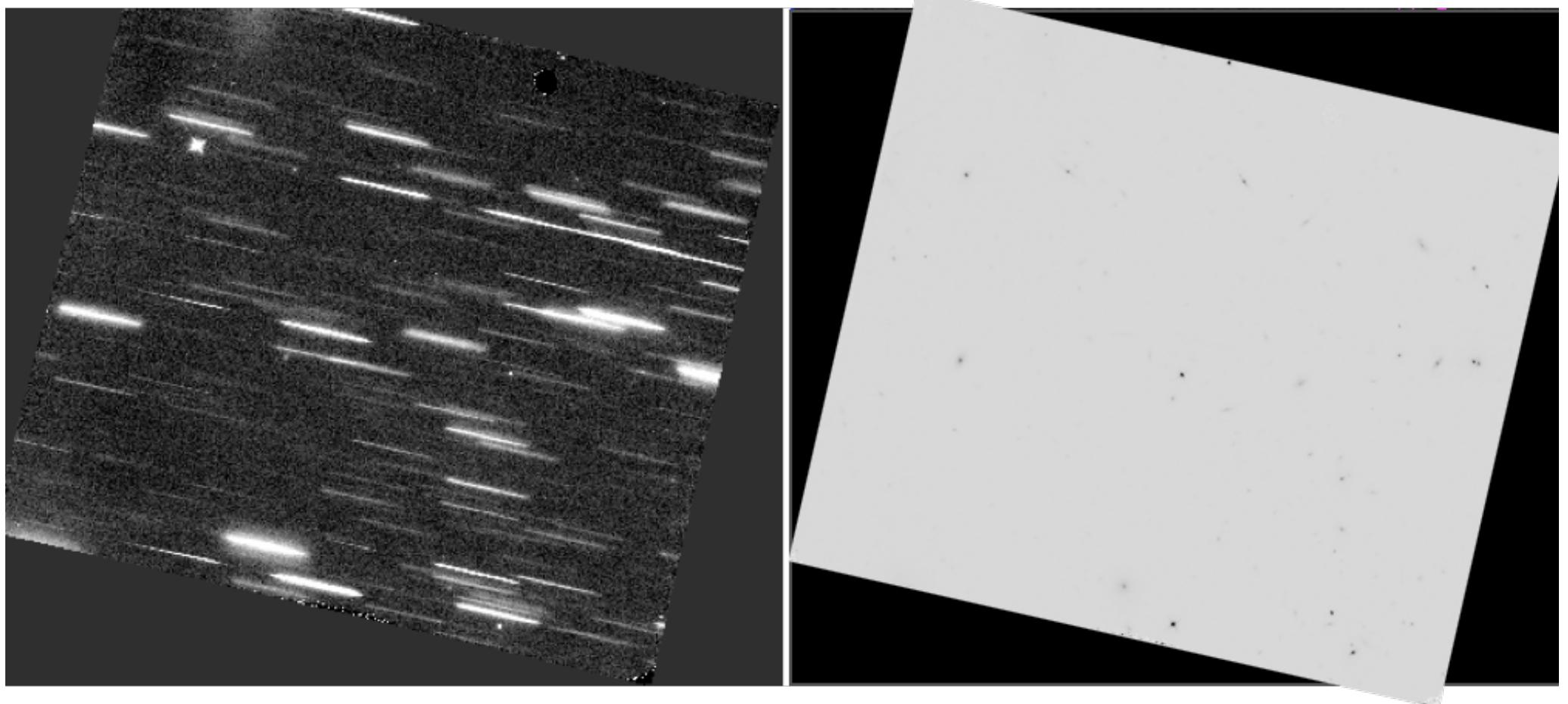
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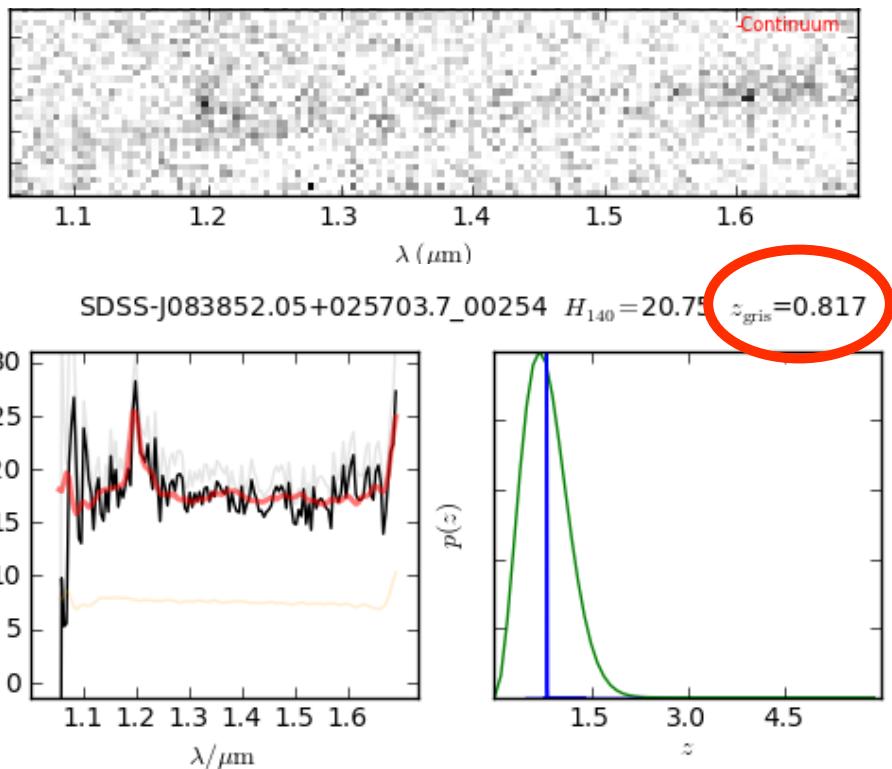
# SURVEY AIMS:

- Determining the fraction of host galaxies that are detectable at the survey limits.
- Determining the distribution of host galaxy SFR and SFR surface densities — Are Mg+ selected galaxies always capable of launching winds?
- Measuring galaxy morphologies and inclinations — Is there evidence of azimuthal symmetry about the semi-minor (rotation) axis?
- Determining environmental effects — How do the gas profiles of galaxies compare in *isolation* vs. *mergers*?

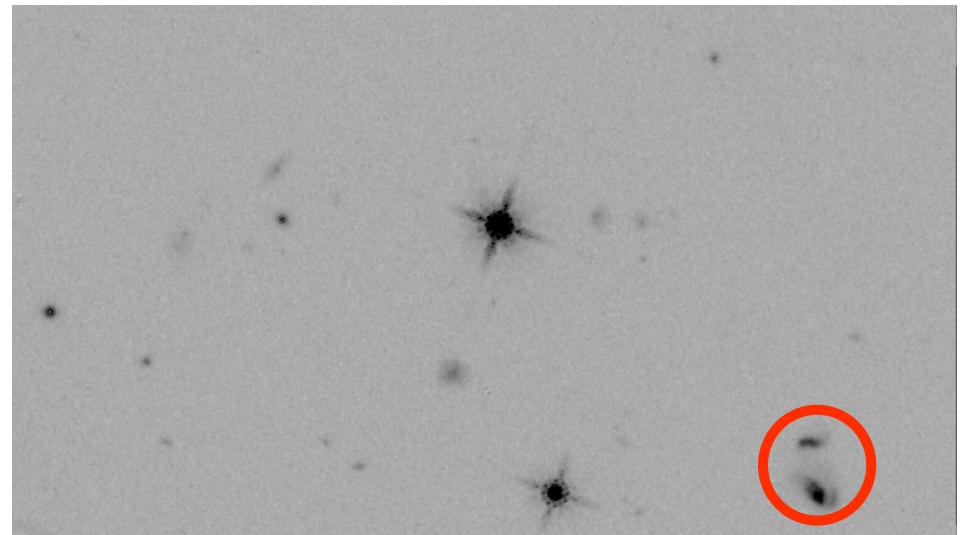
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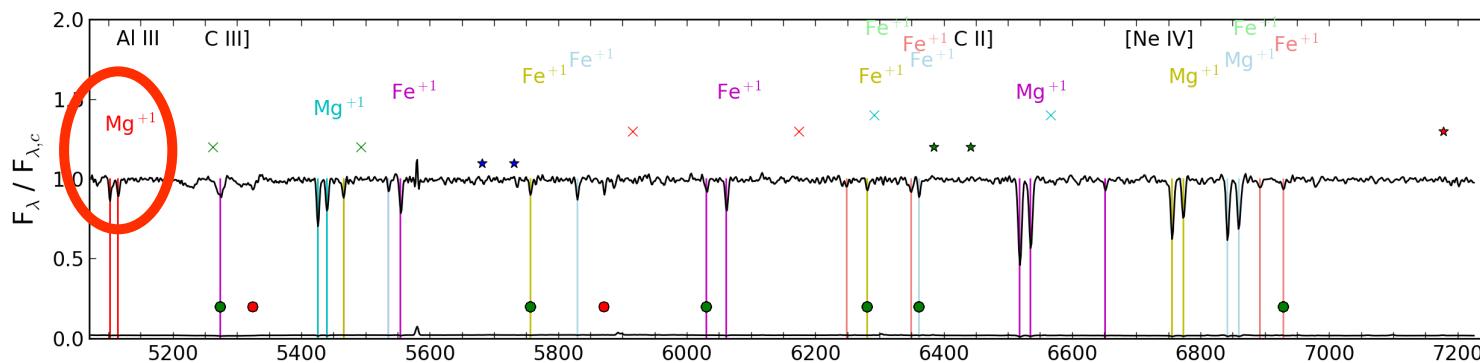
## HST IR Grism Spectrum



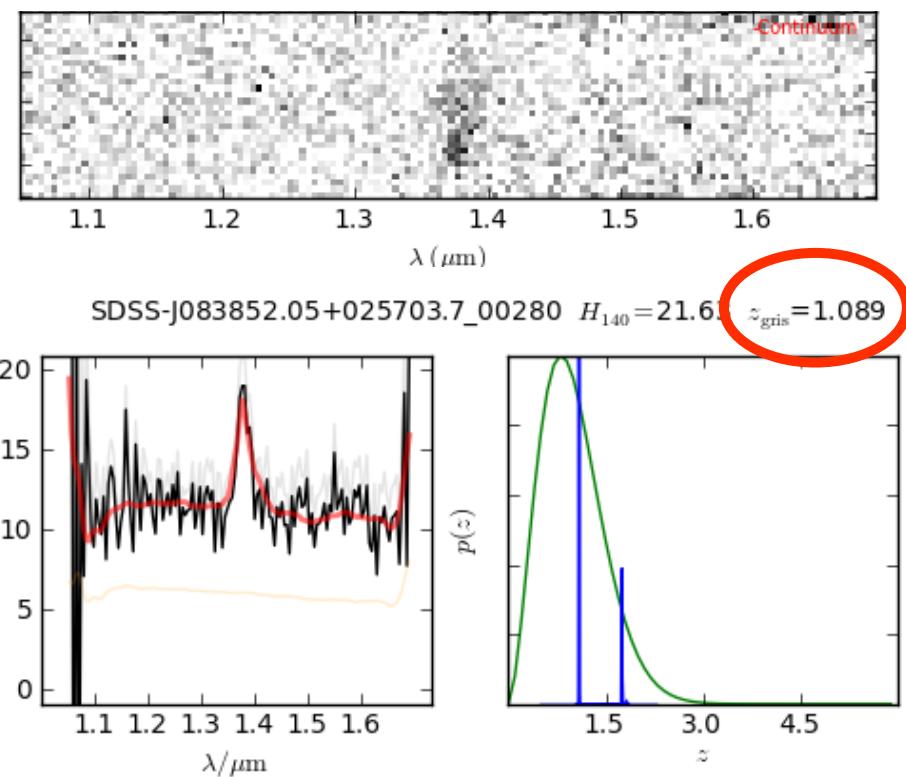
## HST IR Direct Image



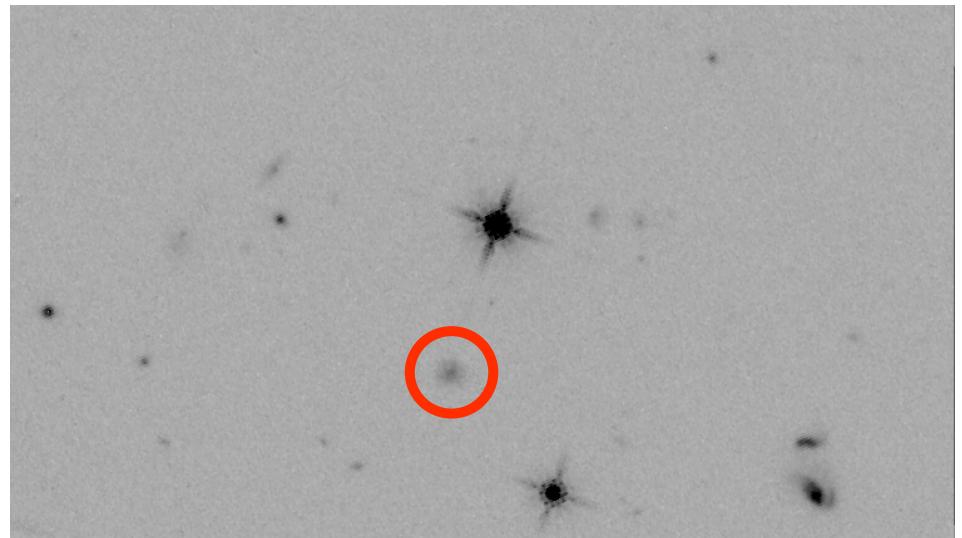
## SDSS Optical Quasar Spectrum



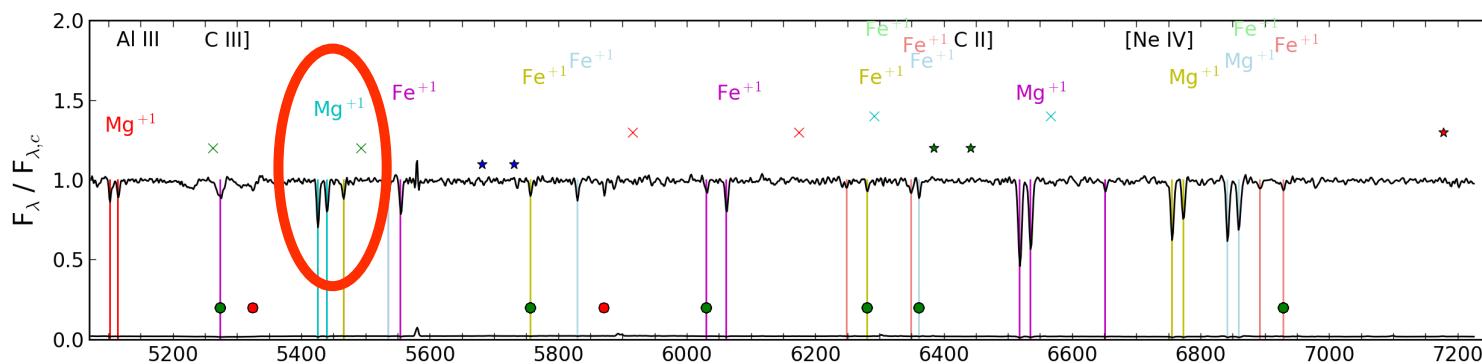
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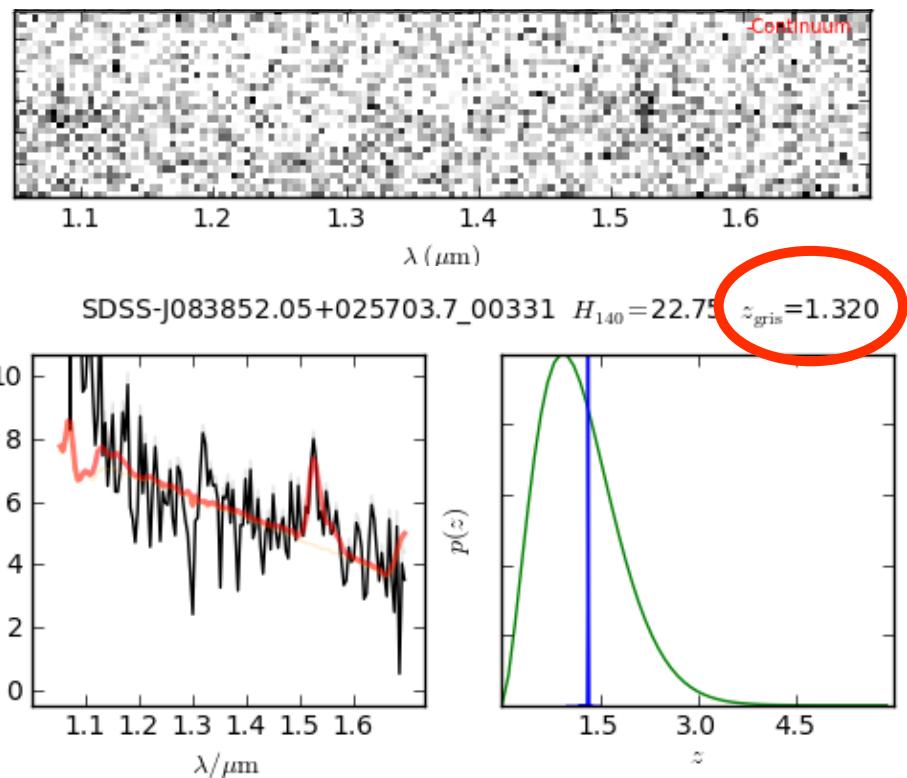
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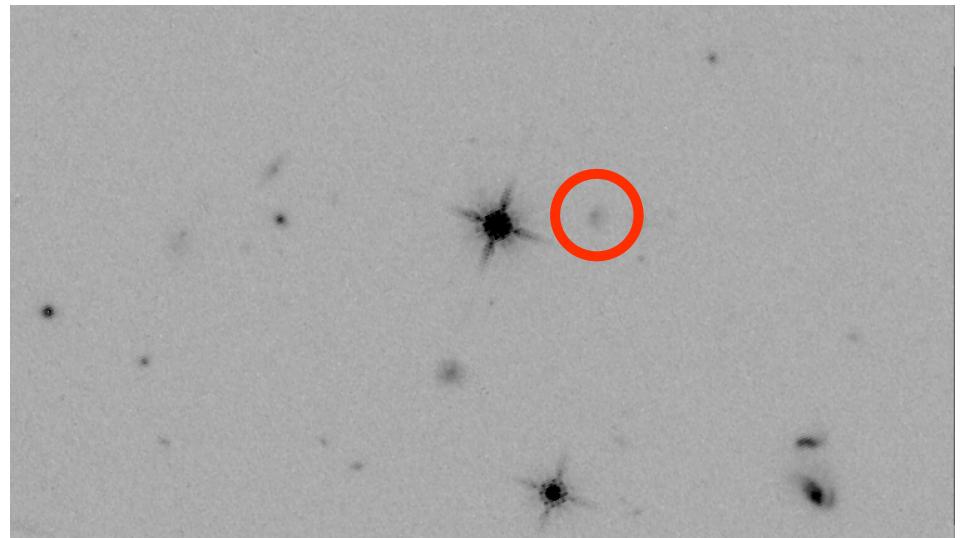
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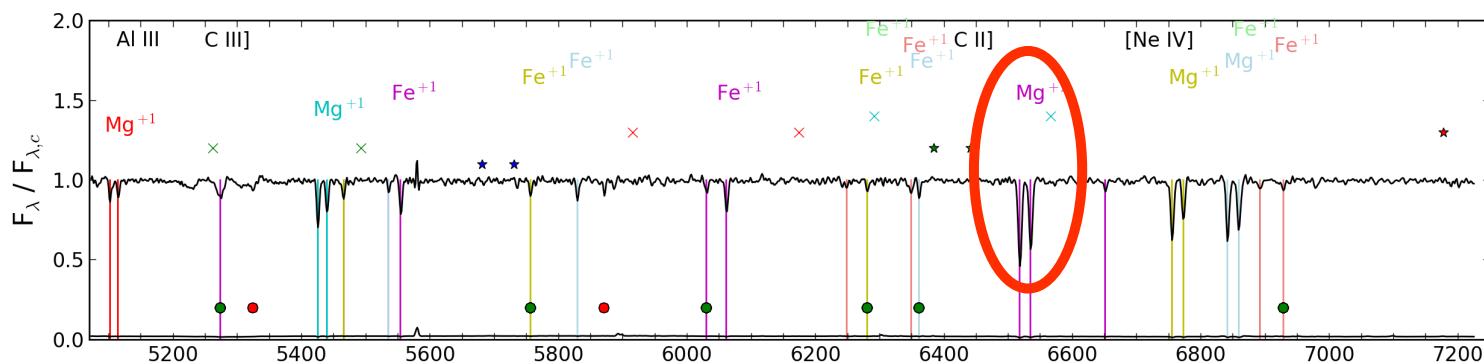
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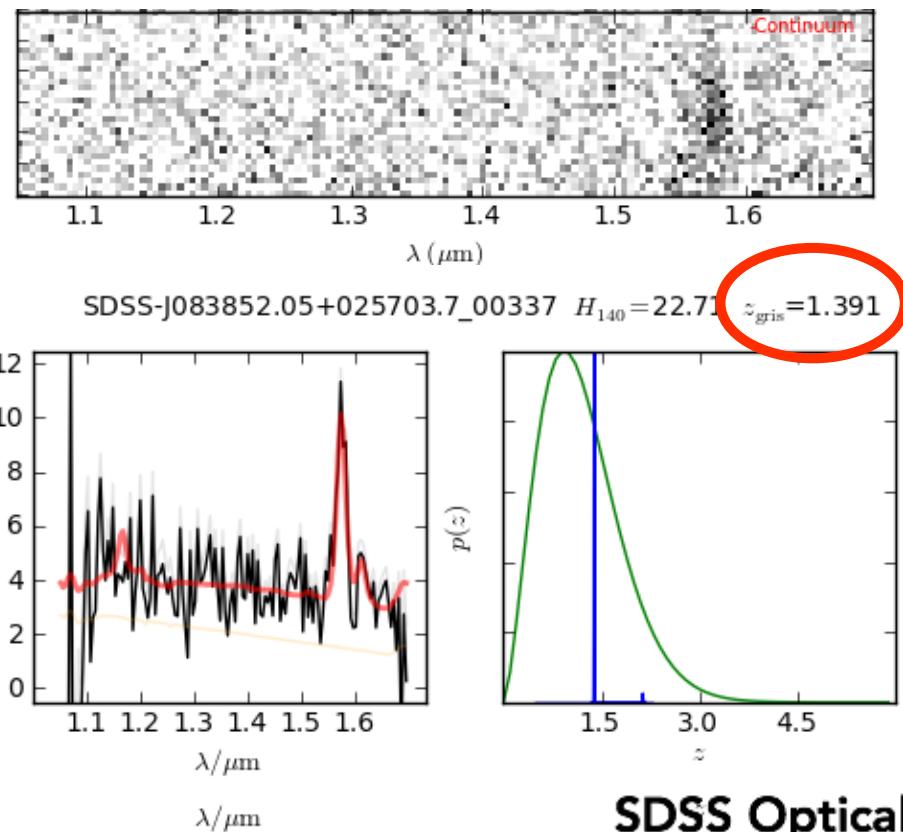
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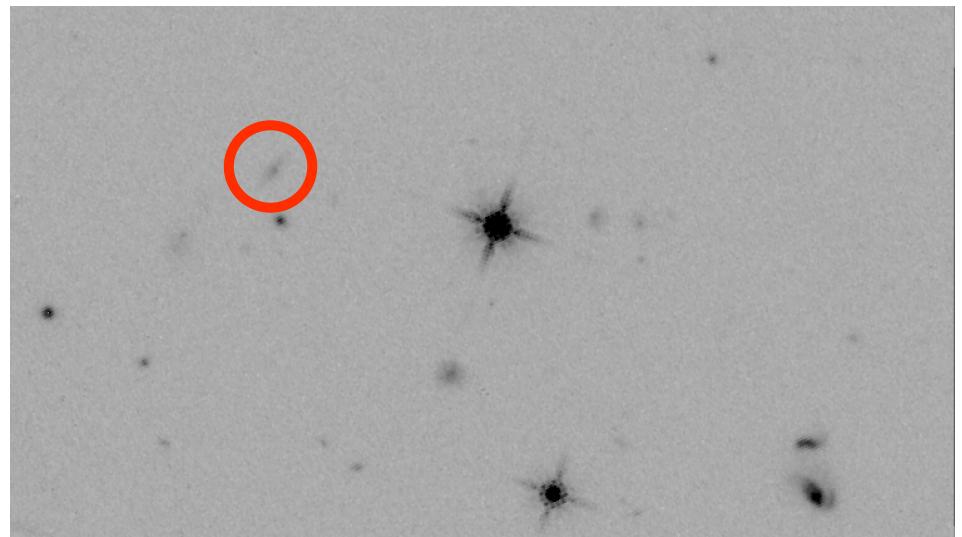
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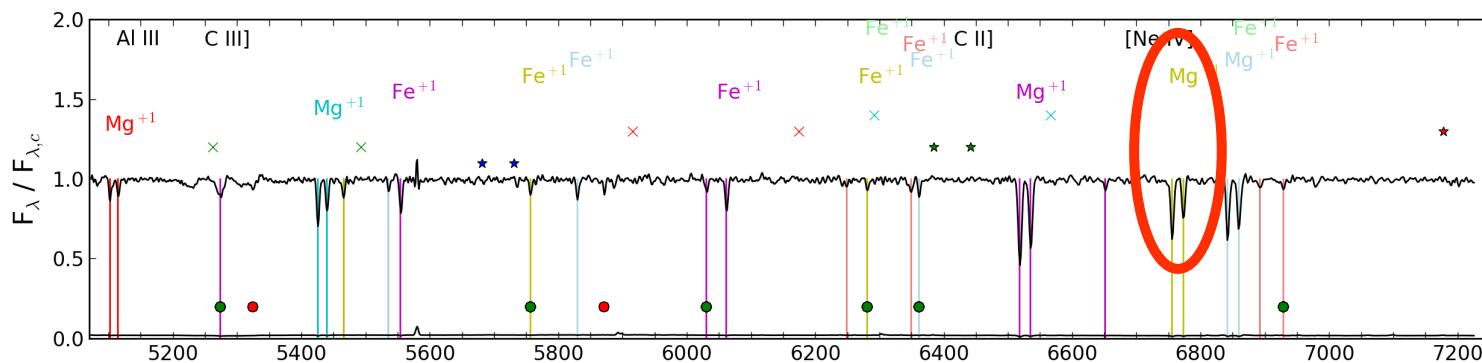
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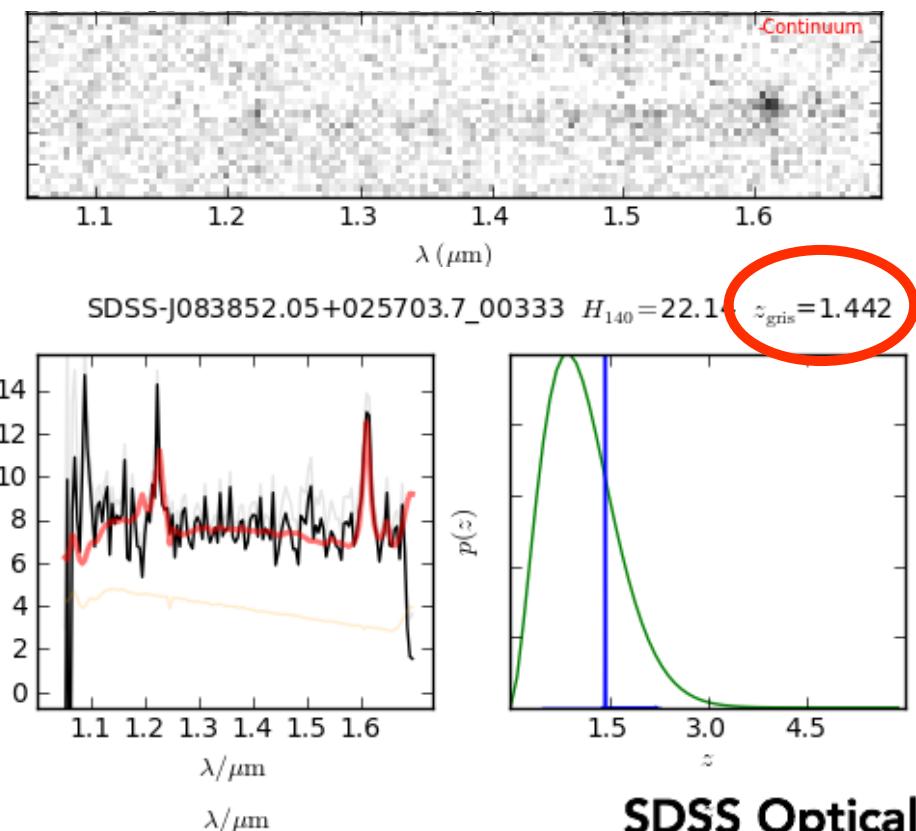
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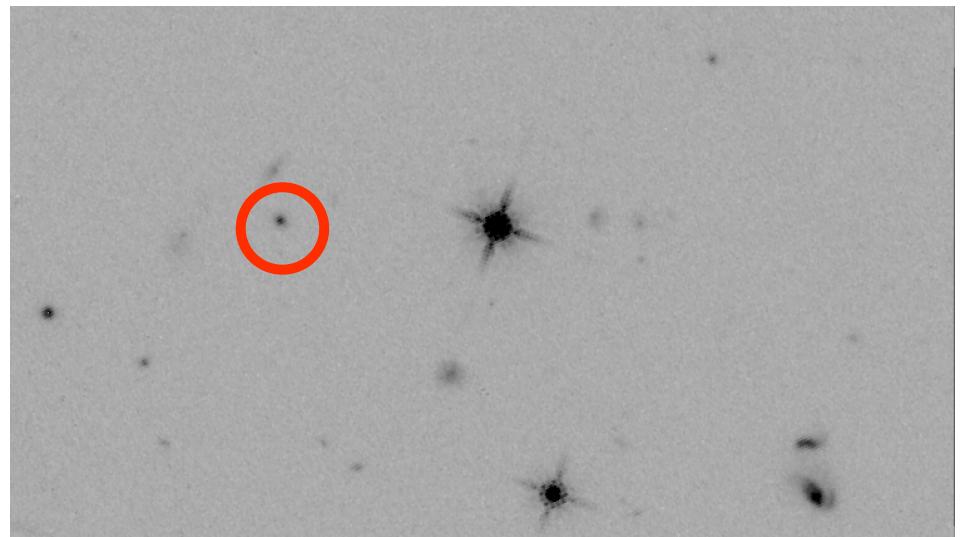
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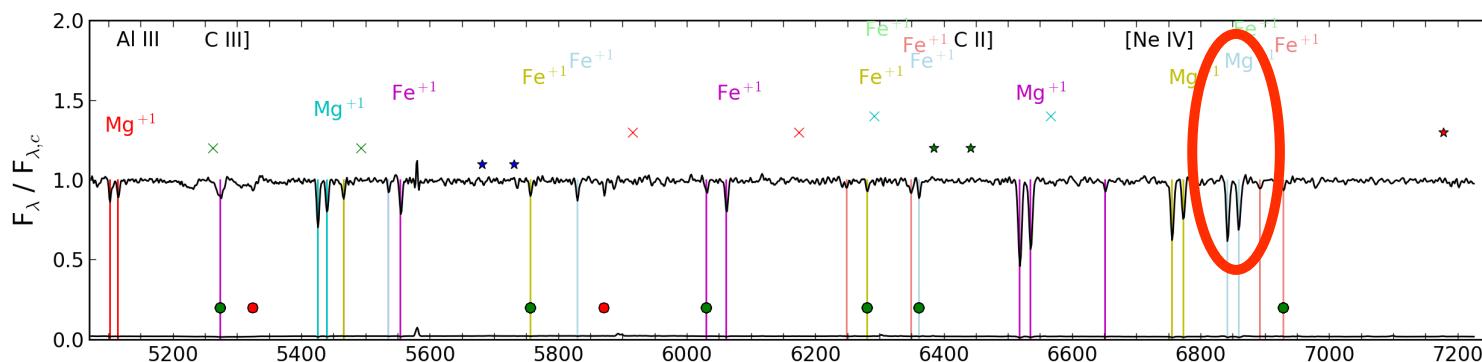
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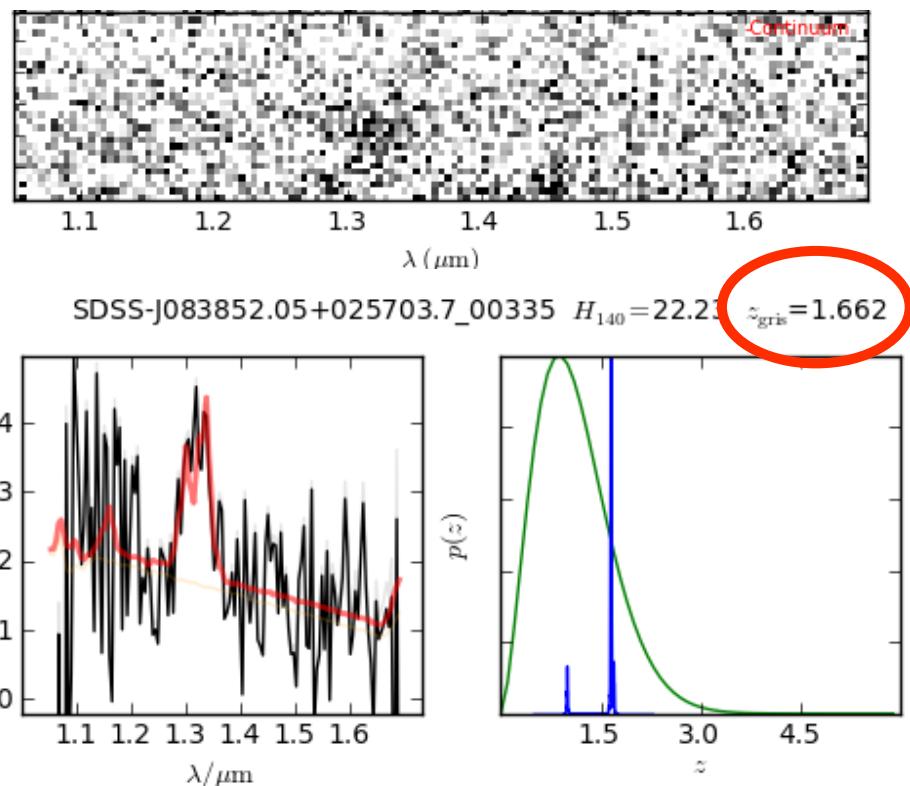
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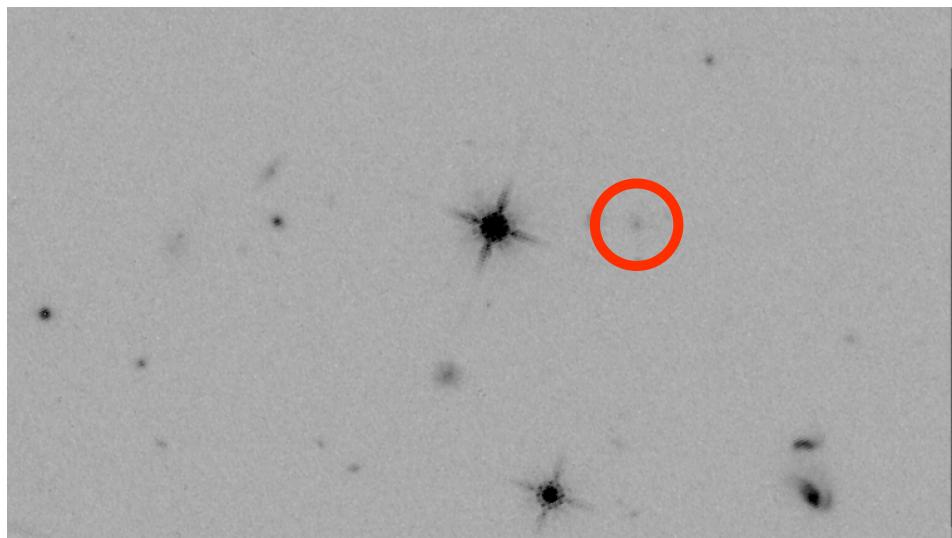
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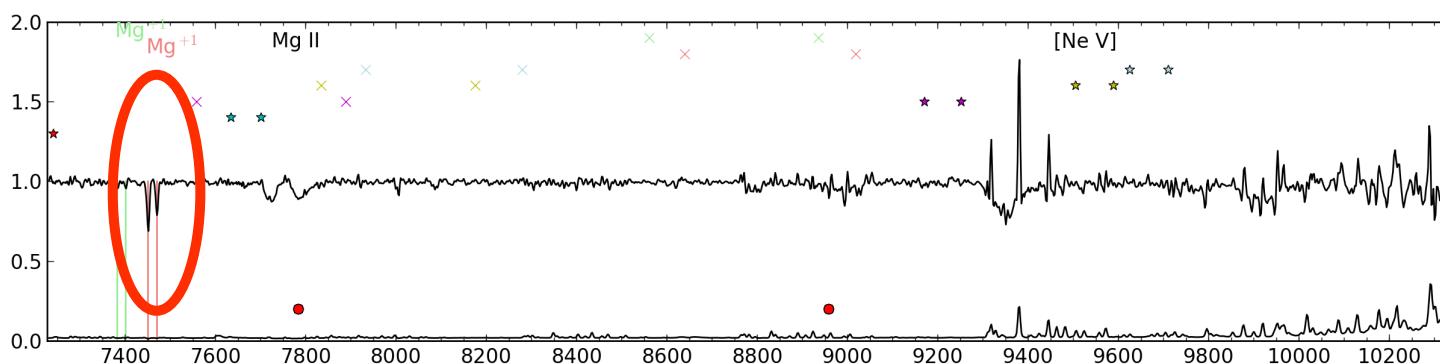
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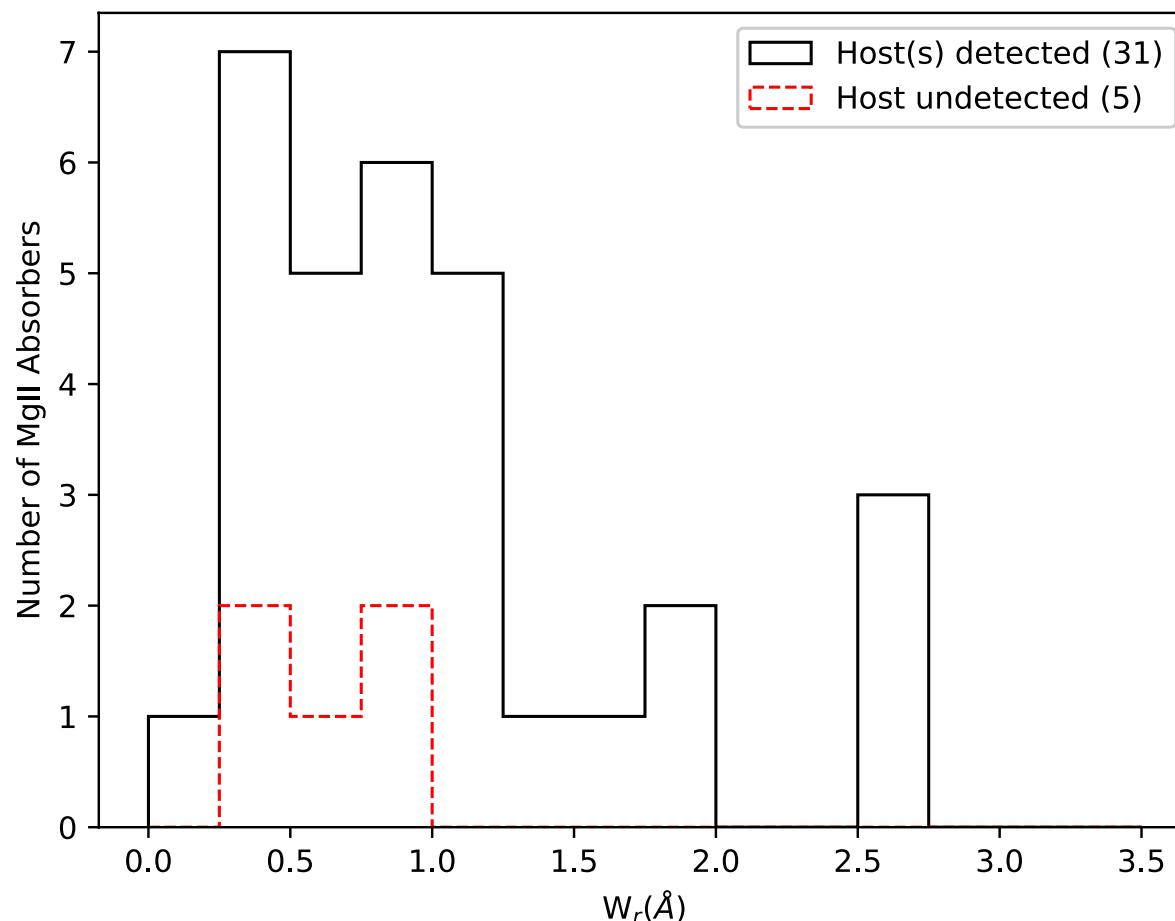


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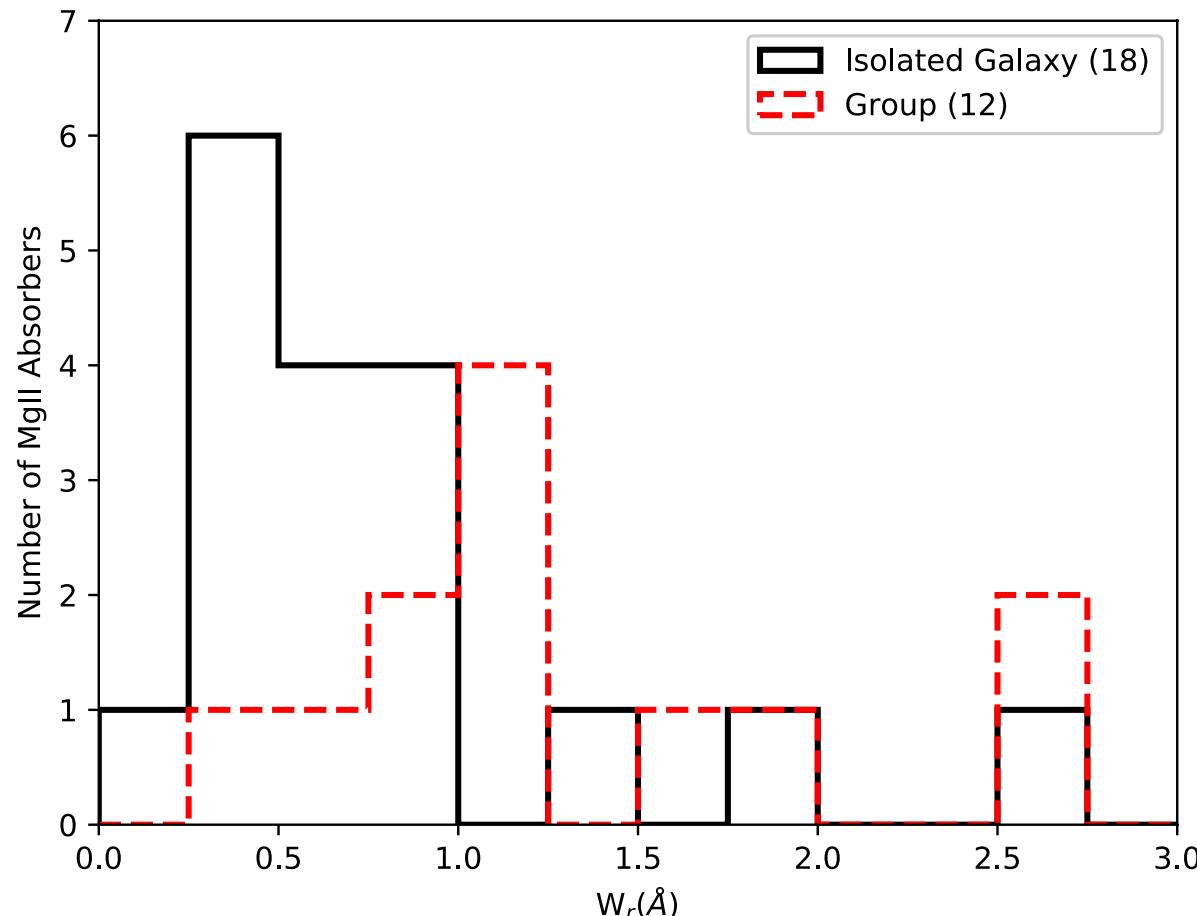
# FIRST RESULTS (LUNDGREN+2018 IN PREP)

- An unprecedented detection rate for high- $z$  Mg II-selected galaxies: 31/36 (86%) of  $0.65 < z < 1.6$  MgII absorbers matched to a galaxy within 150kpc and  $\langle \Delta z \rangle / z < 0.01$

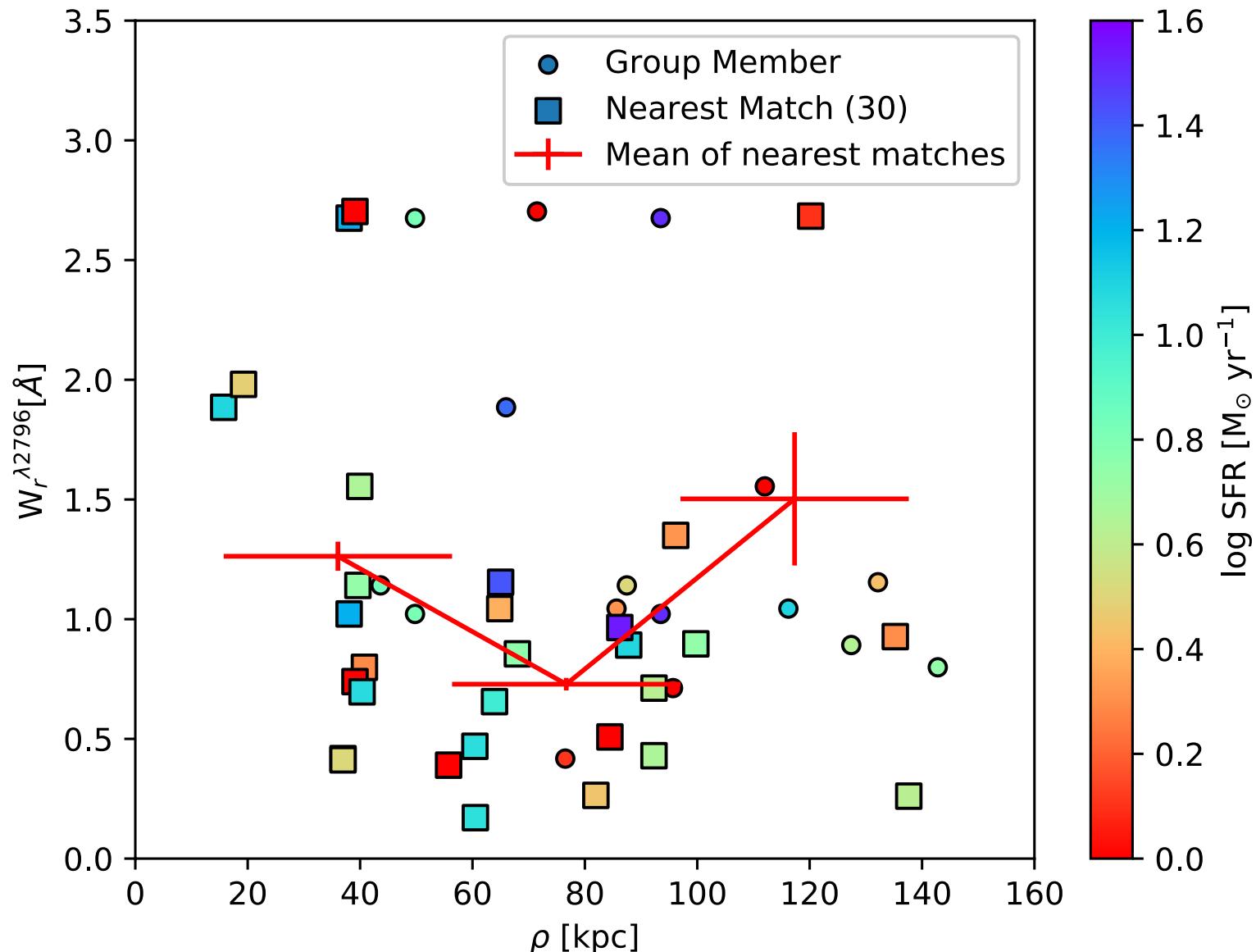


# FIRST RESULTS (LUNDGREN+2018 IN PREP)

- 40% of Mg II absorbers with  $0.65 < z < 1.6$  are matched to more than one galaxy within 150 kpc and with  $\langle \Delta z \rangle / z < 0.01$
- Mg II EW appears to correlate with environment

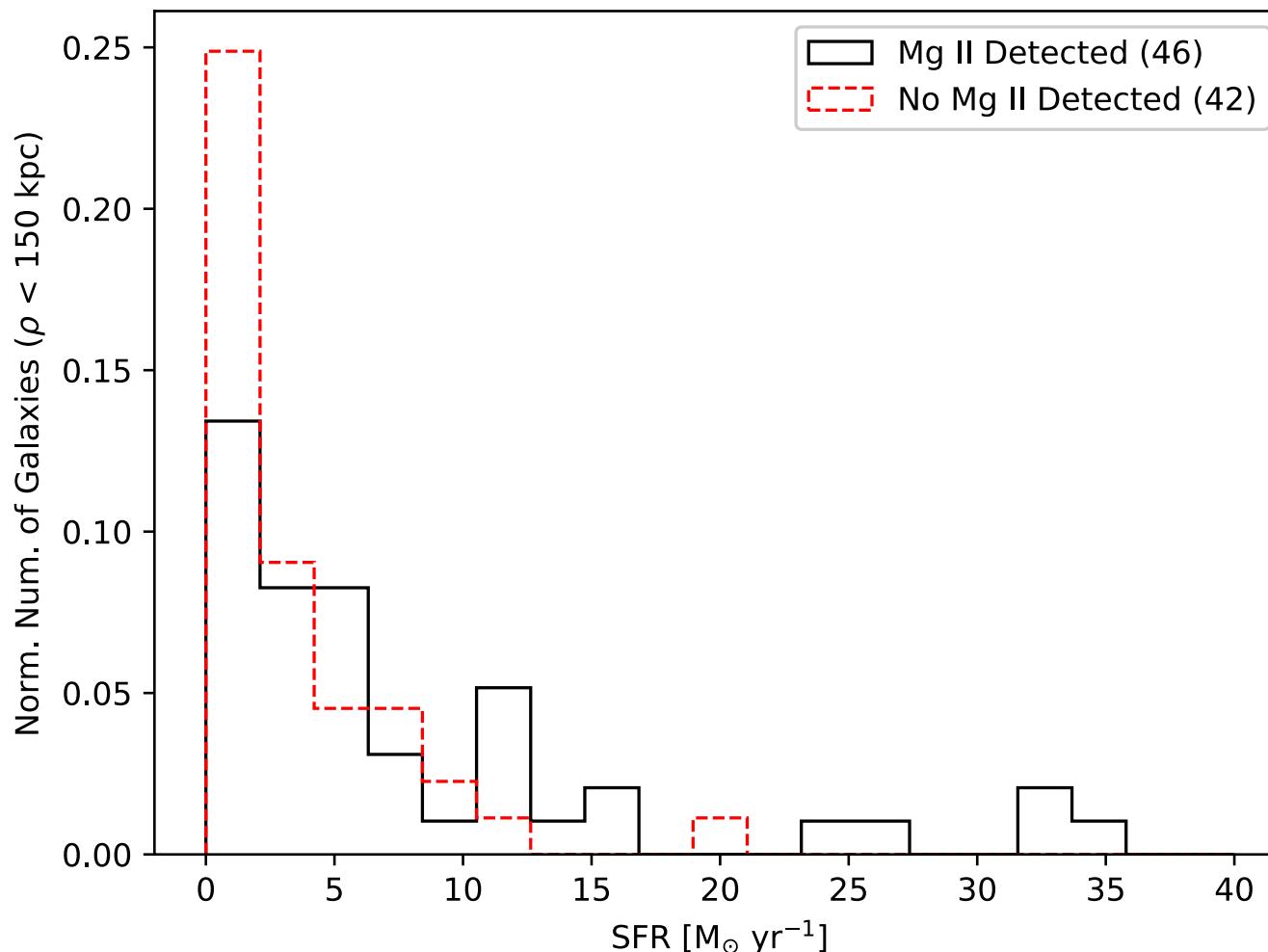


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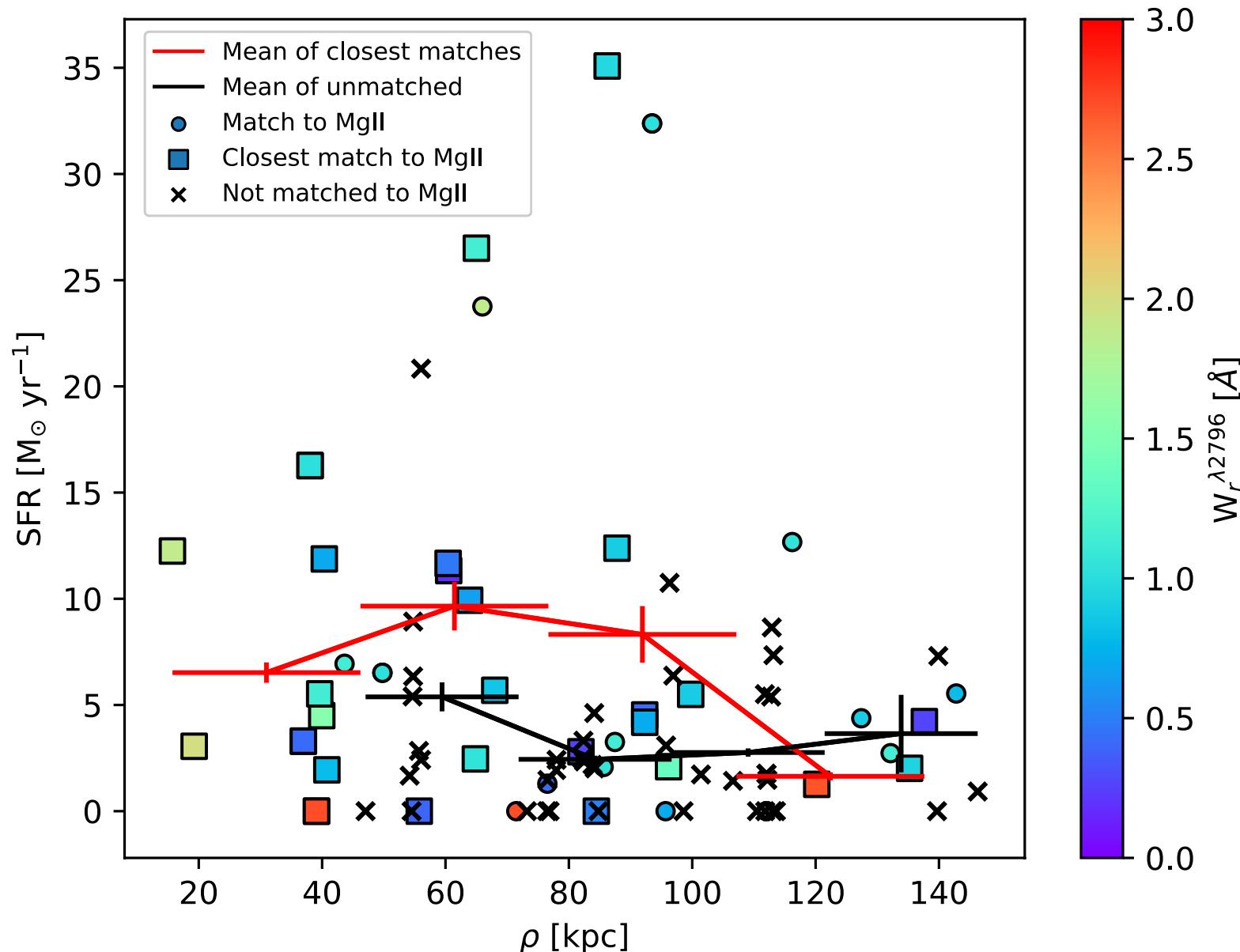


# FIRST RESULTS (LUNDGREN+2018 IN PREP)

- Galaxies with Mg II absorption have significantly higher SFRs than those without (KS p-value <1%)

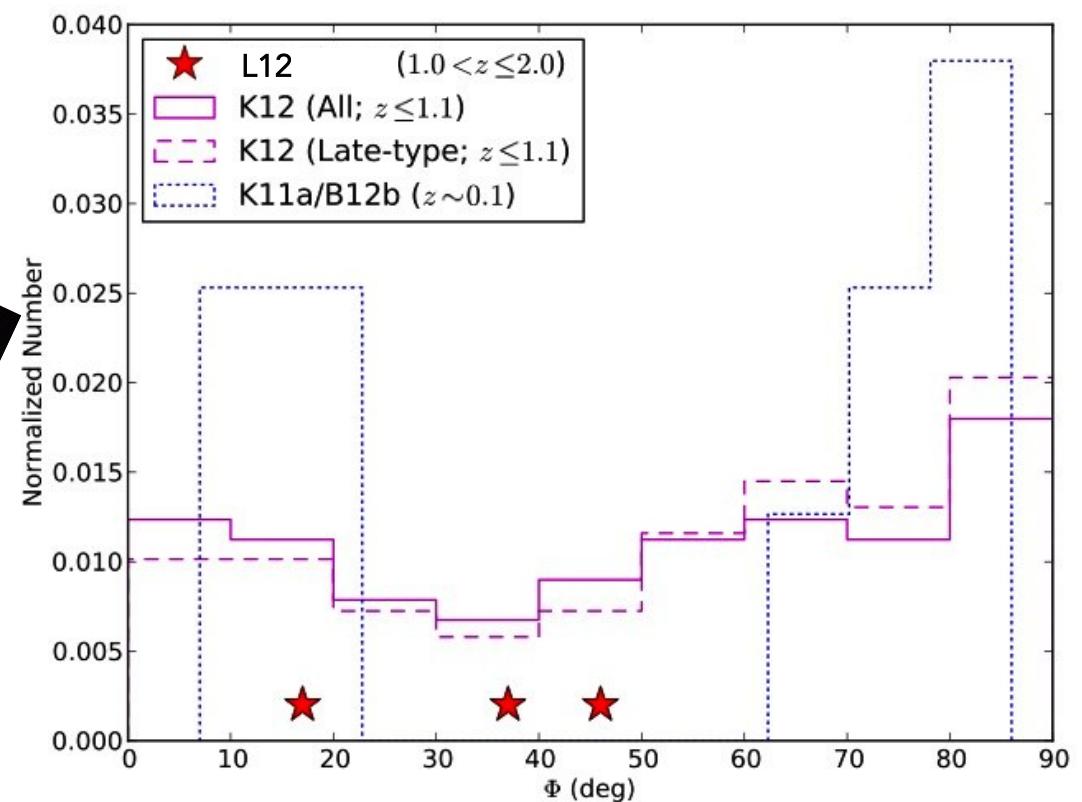
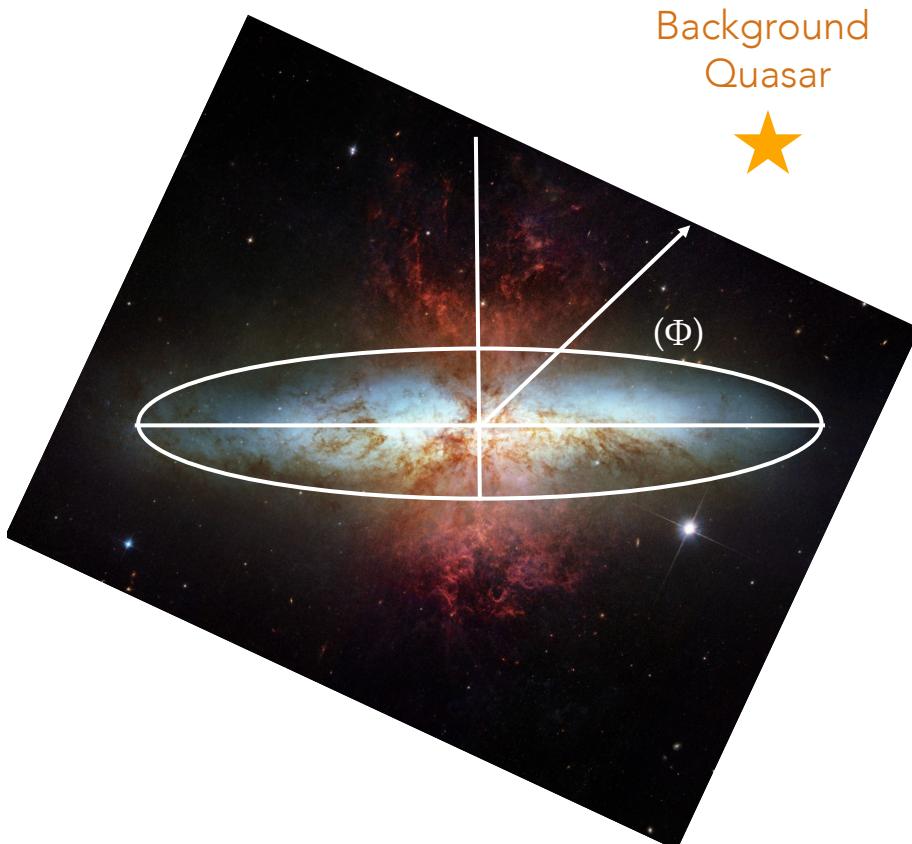


# FIRST RESULTS (LUNDGREN+2018 IN PREP)



# EVOLVING? AZIMUTHAL DISTRIBUTION OF MG II AROUND GALAXIES

- An evolving azimuthal distribution of Mg II around star forming galaxies from  $z \sim 2$ ?
- Consistent with an increasing collimation of outflows with time (Law et al. 2012)

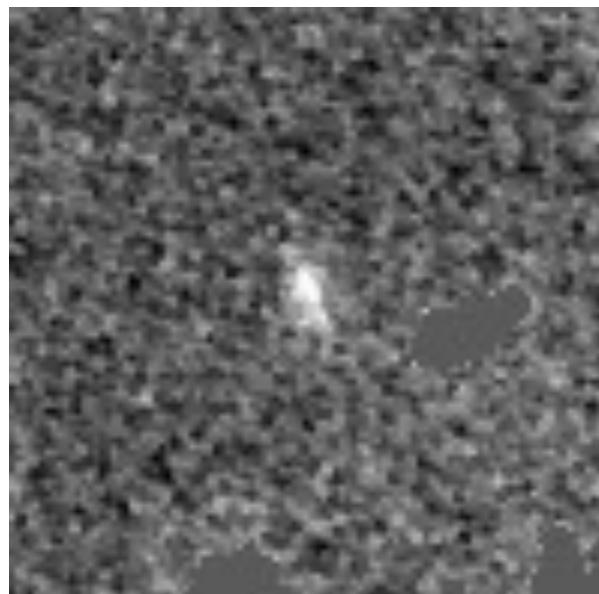


Kacprzak+2011a,2012; Bouche+2012b; Lundgren+2012

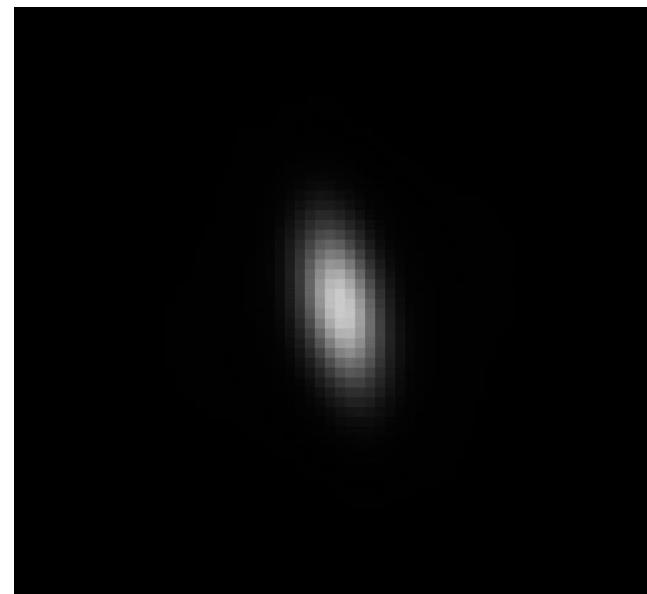
# INCLINATION OF MGII-ABSORBING GALAXIES RELATIVE TO THE QSO

UNCA undergraduates Nathan Kirse & Samantha Creech

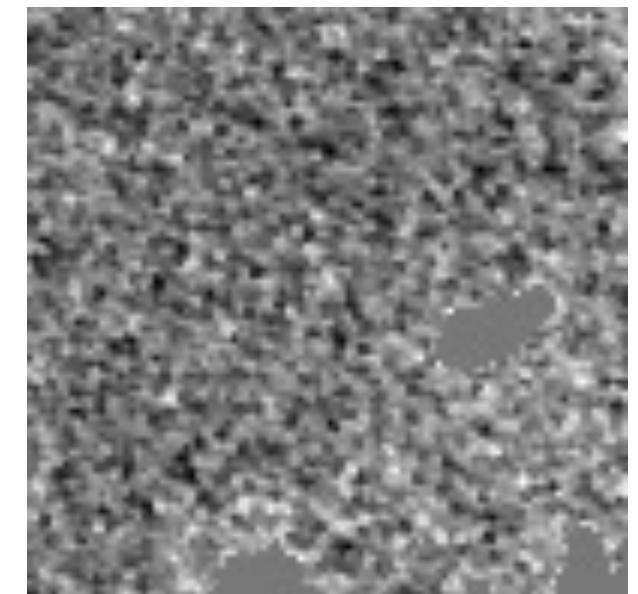
F140W Image



*Galfit* model

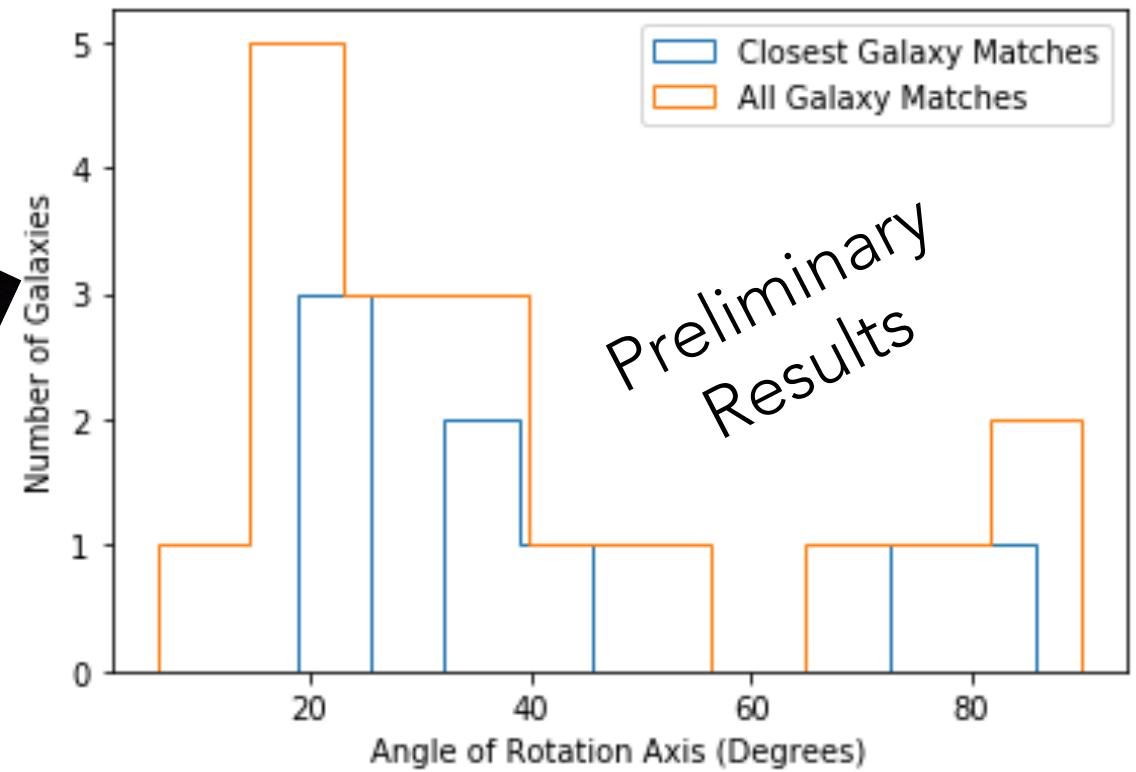
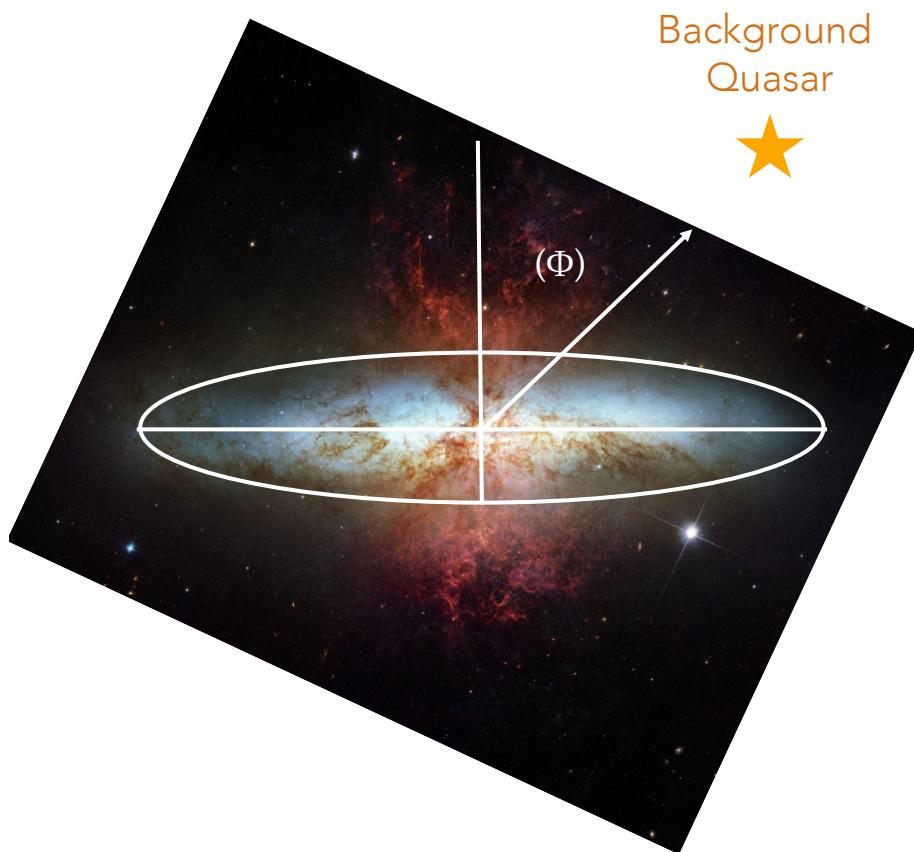


Residual



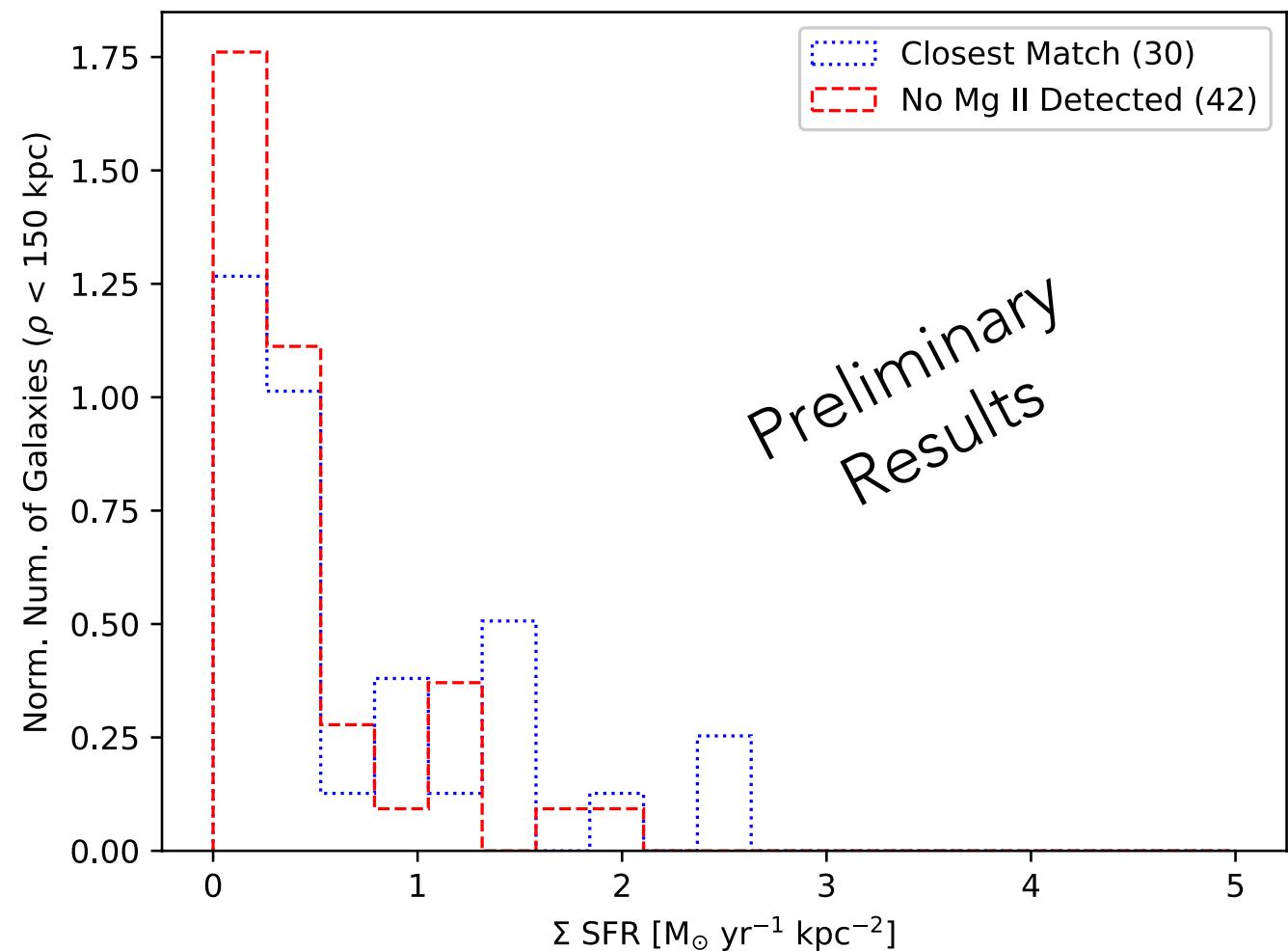
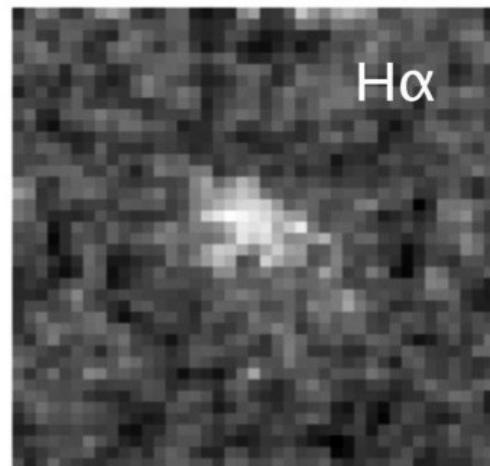
# INCLINATION OF MGII-ABSORBING GALAXIES RELATIVE TO THE QSO

UNCA undergraduate Samantha Creech



# STAR FORMATION RATE SURFACE DENSITIES

UNCA undergraduate Matthew Peek



# SUMMARY

18-orbit HST Cycle 21 WFC3/IR grism program to survey 56 Mg II host galaxies in the 9 most metal-rich SDSS quasar sight lines:

- ~90% detection rate in 8/9 fields
- All galaxies within 45kpc of a quasar sightline (13/13) exhibit MgII absorption
- Compared to other galaxies in the fields, Mg II absorbing galaxies have significantly higher SFRs
- 40% of Mg II absorbers match in redshift to multiple galaxies within 150 kpc
- Mg II equivalent width may correlate with environment
- Early results indicate a strong angular correlation of MgII absorption along the rotation axis of galaxies, suggestive of outflows.
- **More results to come! (SFR surface densities, SFR spatial distributions)**