



A Model for $[NII] / H\alpha(M, z)$

Empirical Modeling of the Redshift Evolution of the $[NII] / H\alpha$ ratio
for Galaxy Redshift Surveys and Simulations

Andreas Faisst (Caltech / IPAC)

afaisst@caltech.edu

 [@astrofaisst](https://twitter.com/astrofaisst)

D. Masters (*JPL*), Y. Wang (*Caltech/IPAC*), A. Merson (*JPL*), P. Capak (*Caltech/IPAC*),
S. Malhotra (*Arizona SU*), J. Rhoads (*Arizona SU*)

Why do we care about the [NII] / H α ratio

- ▶ H α is (likely) the strongest optical emission line: used to probe cosmology and astrophysical properties of galaxies
- ▶ H α is blended with [NII] for $R < 800$ (*[NII] can be strong*)

Why do we care about the [NII] / H α ratio

- ▶ H α is (likely) the strongest optical emission line: used to probe cosmology and astrophysical properties of galaxies
- ▶ H α is blended with [NII] for $R < 800$ (*[NII] can be strong*)

COSMOLOGY & SIMULATIONS

- Realistic simulated observations for future surveys (*Euclid* and *WFIRST*)
(*A. Merson's talk*)
- Correct for systematic offset in redshift measurement from ([NII] + H α) for *Euclid*
(*many talks on Monday*)

Why do we care about the [NII] / H α ratio

- ▶ H α is (likely) the strongest optical emission line: used to probe cosmology and astrophysical properties of galaxies
- ▶ H α is blended with [NII] for $R < 800$ (*[NII] can be strong*)

COSMOLOGY & SIMULATIONS

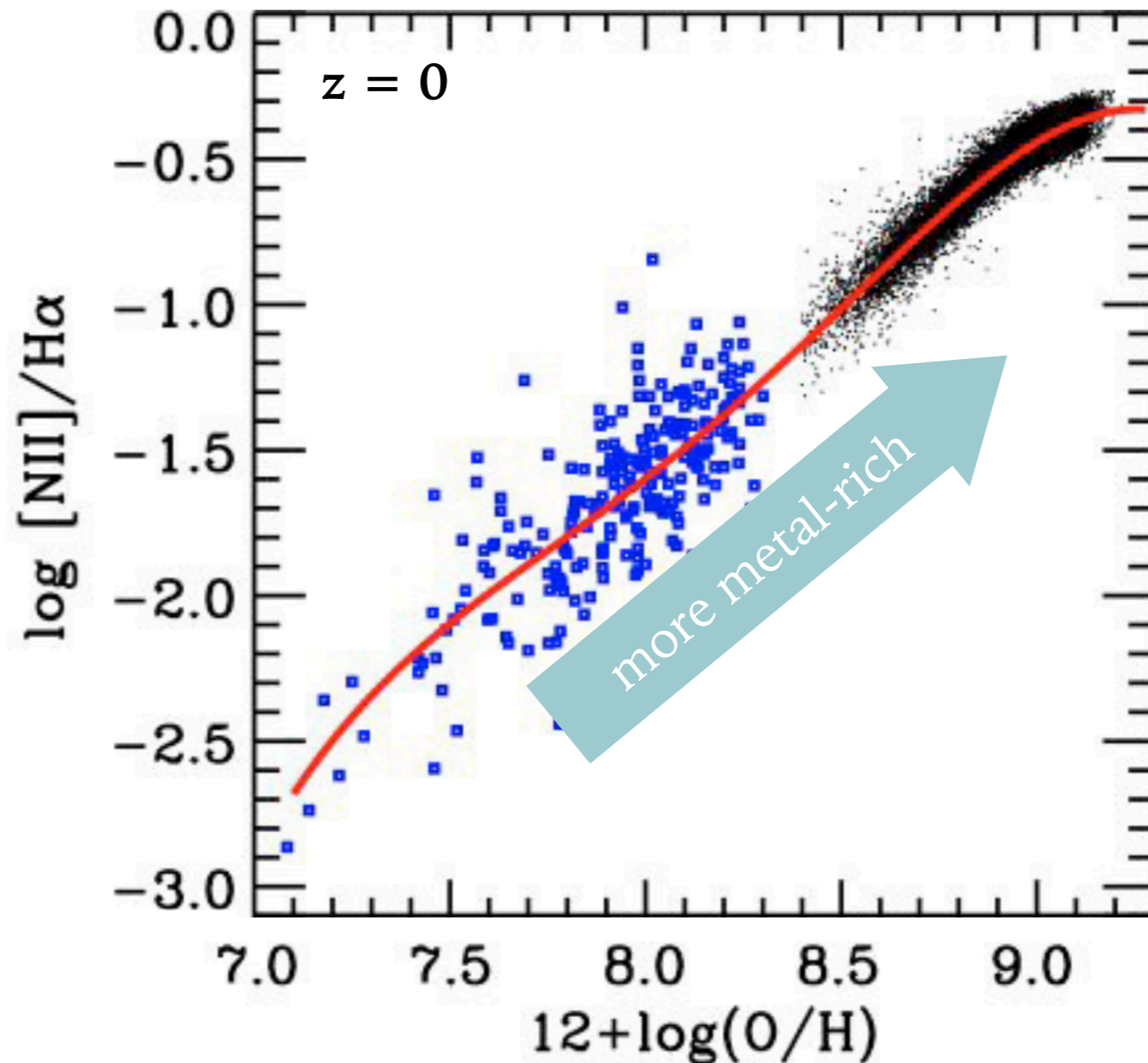
- Realistic simulated observations for future surveys (*Euclid* and *WFIRST*) (*A. Merson's talk*)
- Correct for systematic offset in redshift measurement from ([NII] + H α) for *Euclid* (*many talks on Monday*)

GENERAL ASTROPHYSICS

- Deblended intrinsic H α LF from low-resolution spectroscopic (grism) and narrow-band surveys
- Probe mass assembly with accurate star-formation rates from H α
- Plan future galaxy surveys

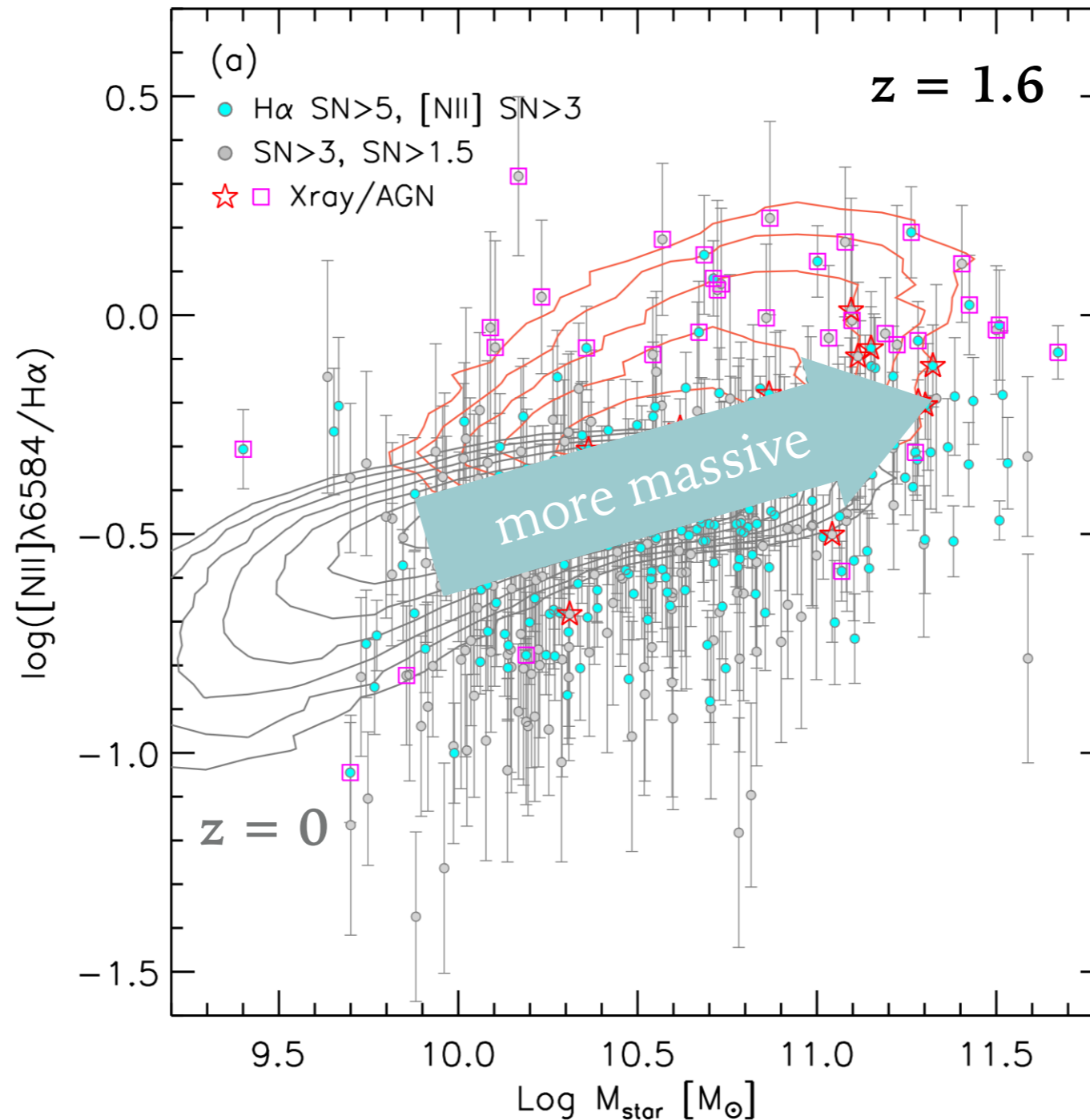
Dependencies of [NII]/H α ratio

- Depends on various galaxy properties such as metallicity, stellar mass, star-formation activity, ...



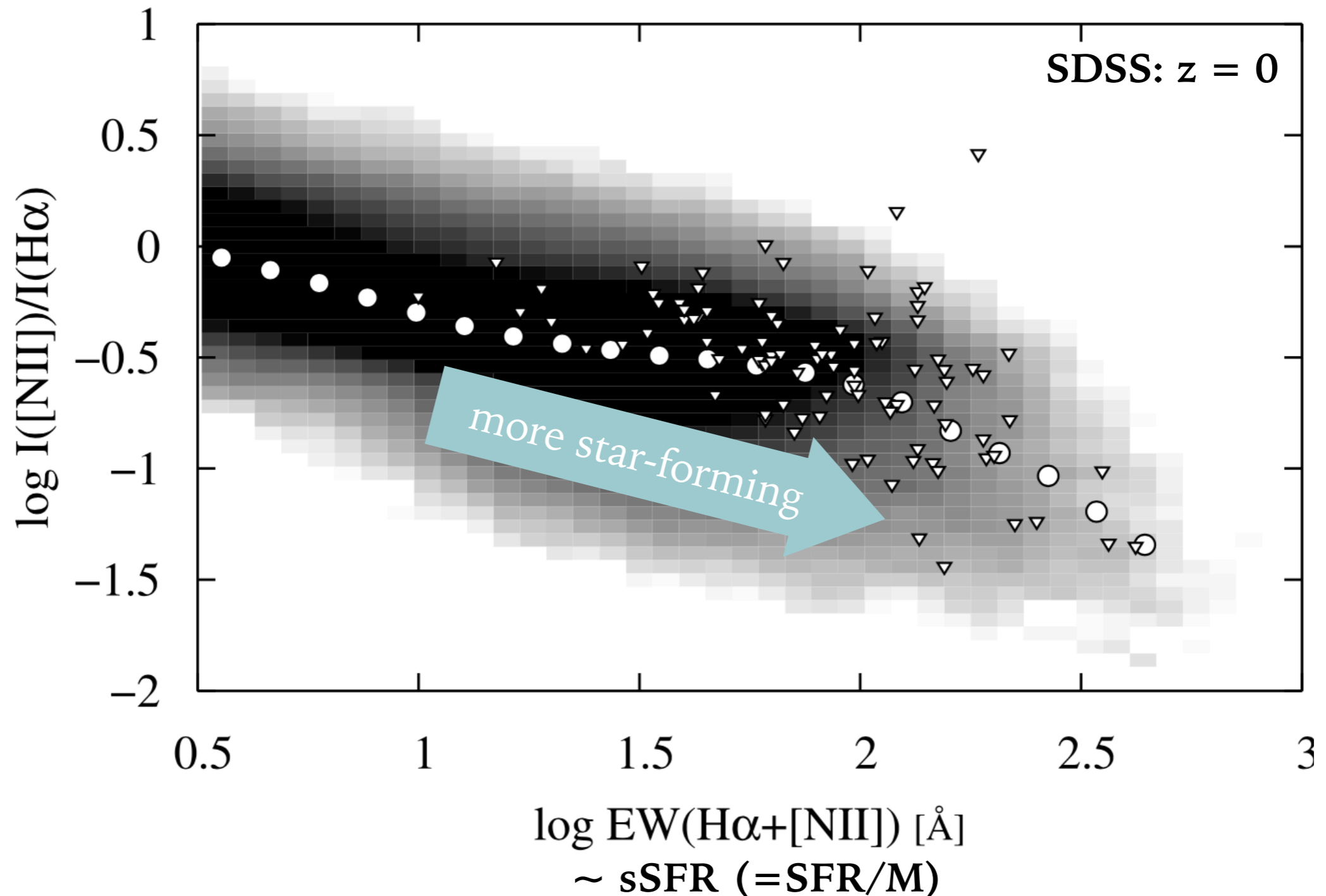
Dependencies of [NII]/H α ratio

- Depends on various galaxy properties such as metallicity, stellar mass, star-formation activity, ...



Dependencies of [NII]/H α ratio

- Depends on various galaxy properties such as **metallicity**, **stellar mass**, **star-formation activity**, ...



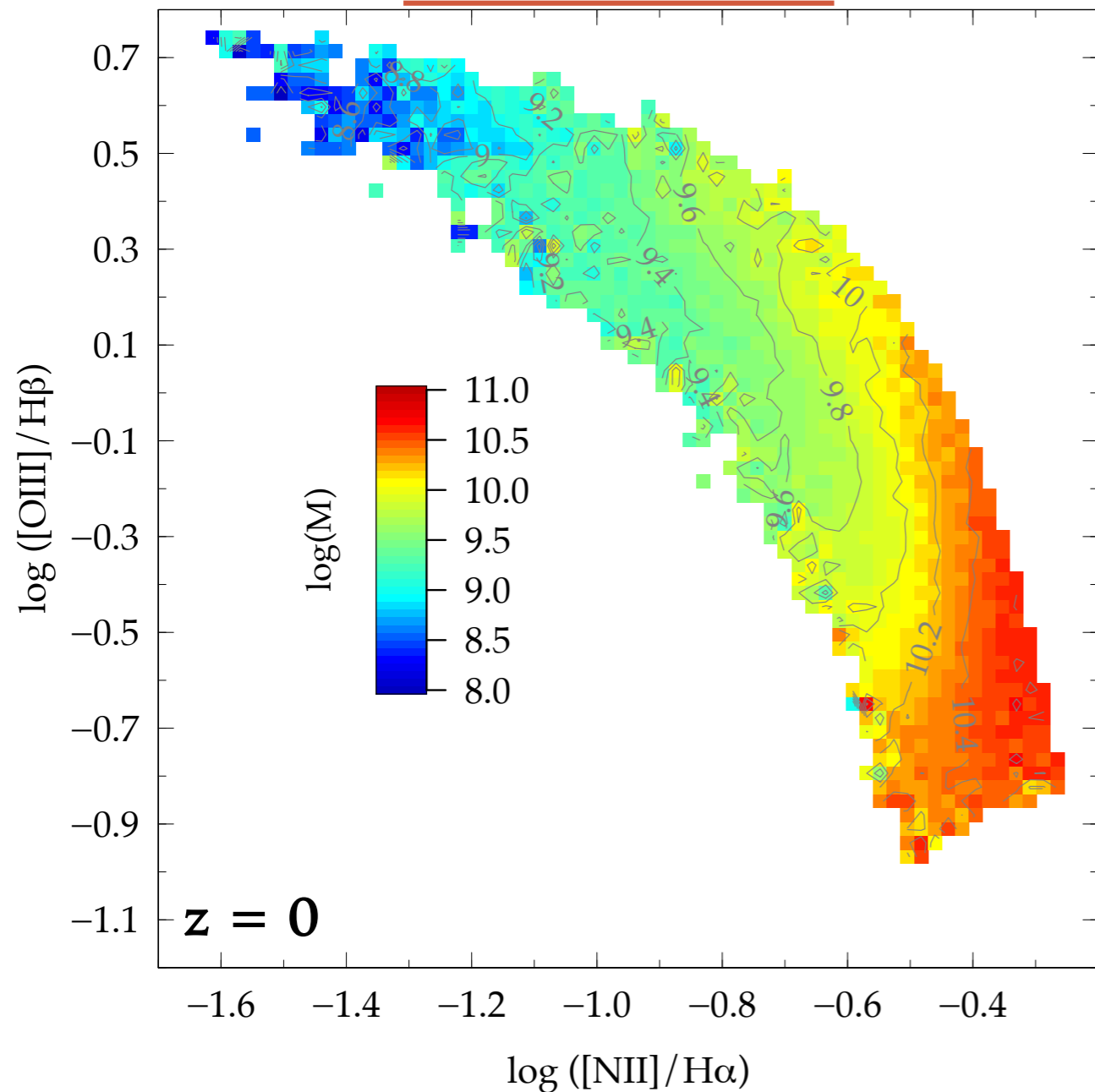
Dependencies of $[\text{NII}]/\text{H}\alpha$ ratio: the BPT-diagram

- ▶ The BPT-diagram combines dependencies of $[\text{NII}]/\text{H}\alpha$
- ▶ Strongest and perpendicular: stellar mass and sSFR!

Dependencies of $[\text{NII}]/\text{H}\alpha$ ratio: the BPT-diagram

- ▶ The BPT-diagram combines dependencies of $[\text{NII}]/\text{H}\alpha$
- ▶ Strongest and perpendicular: stellar mass and sSFR!

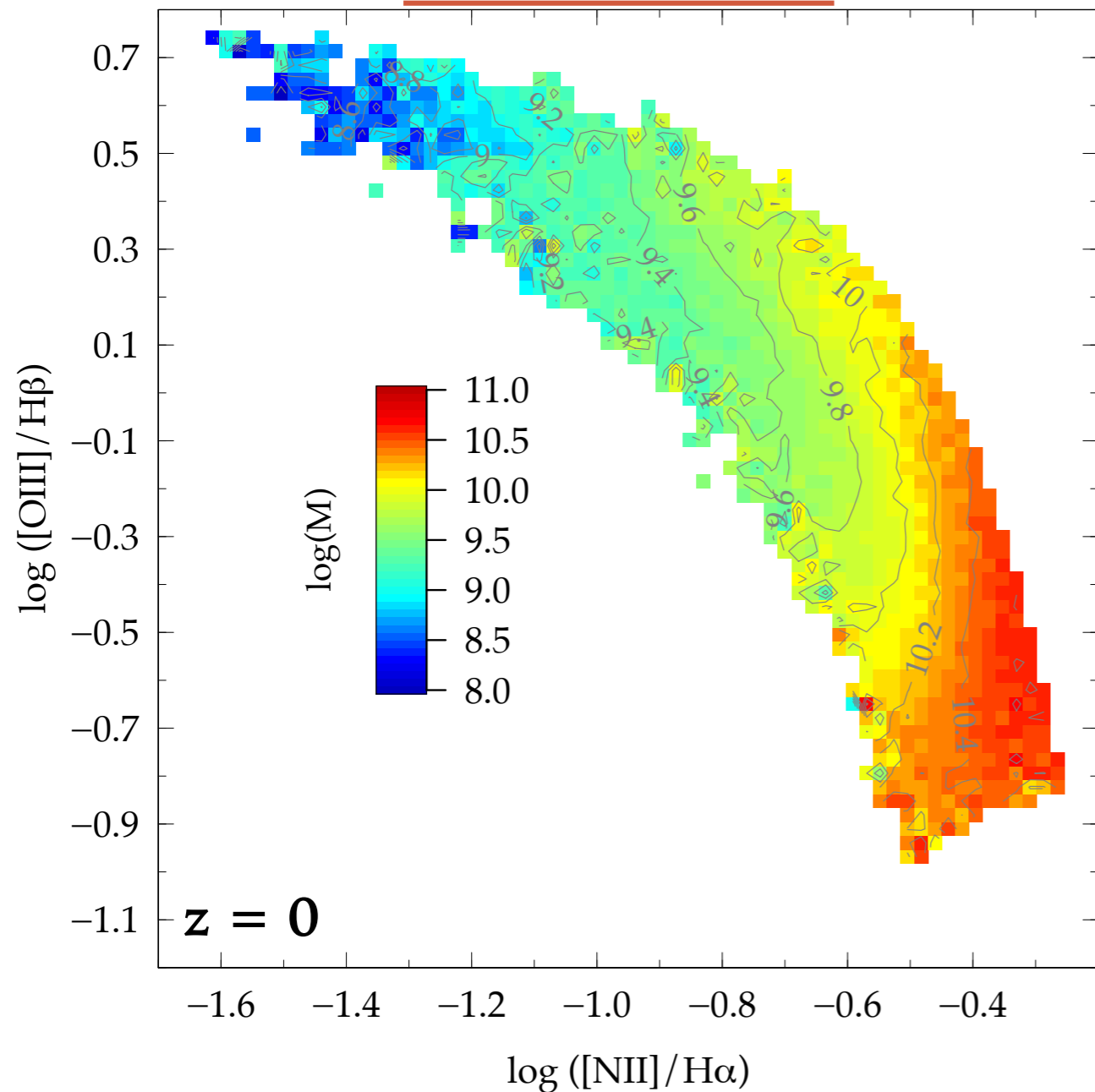
Stellar Mass



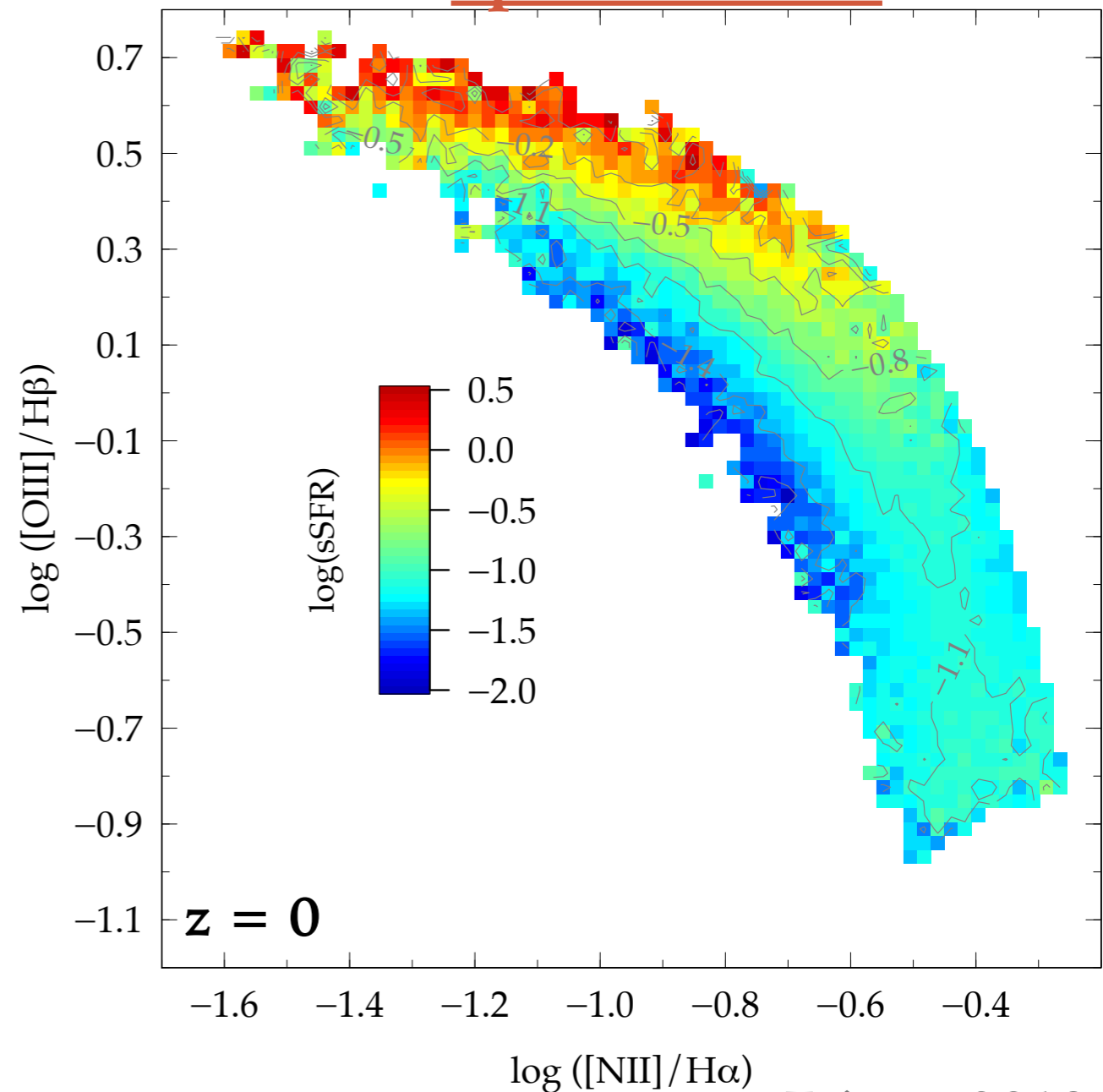
Dependencies of $[\text{NII}]/\text{H}\alpha$ ratio: the BPT-diagram

- ▶ The BPT-diagram combines dependencies of $[\text{NII}]/\text{H}\alpha$
- ▶ Strongest and perpendicular: stellar mass and sSFR!

Stellar Mass



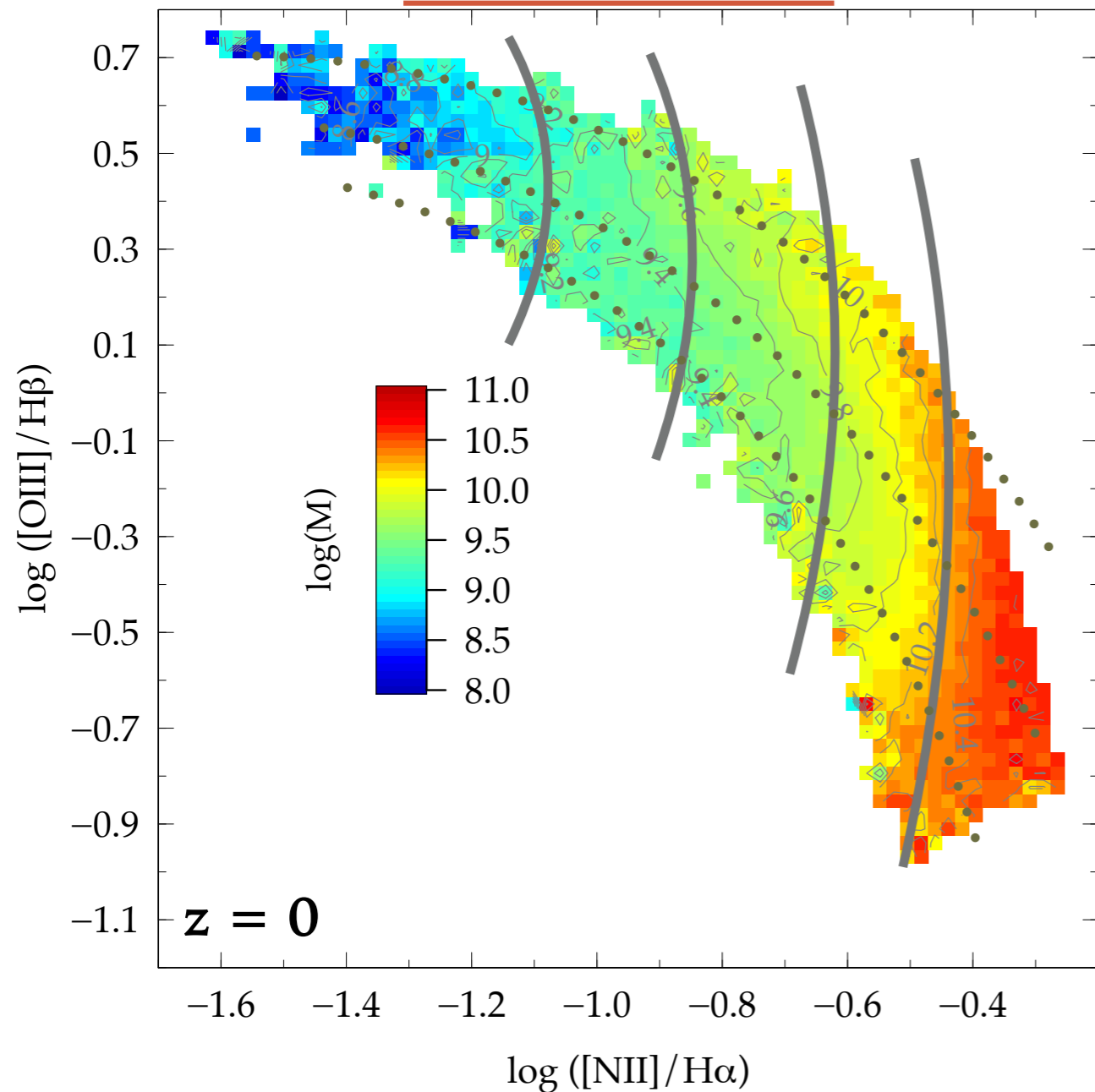
specific SFR



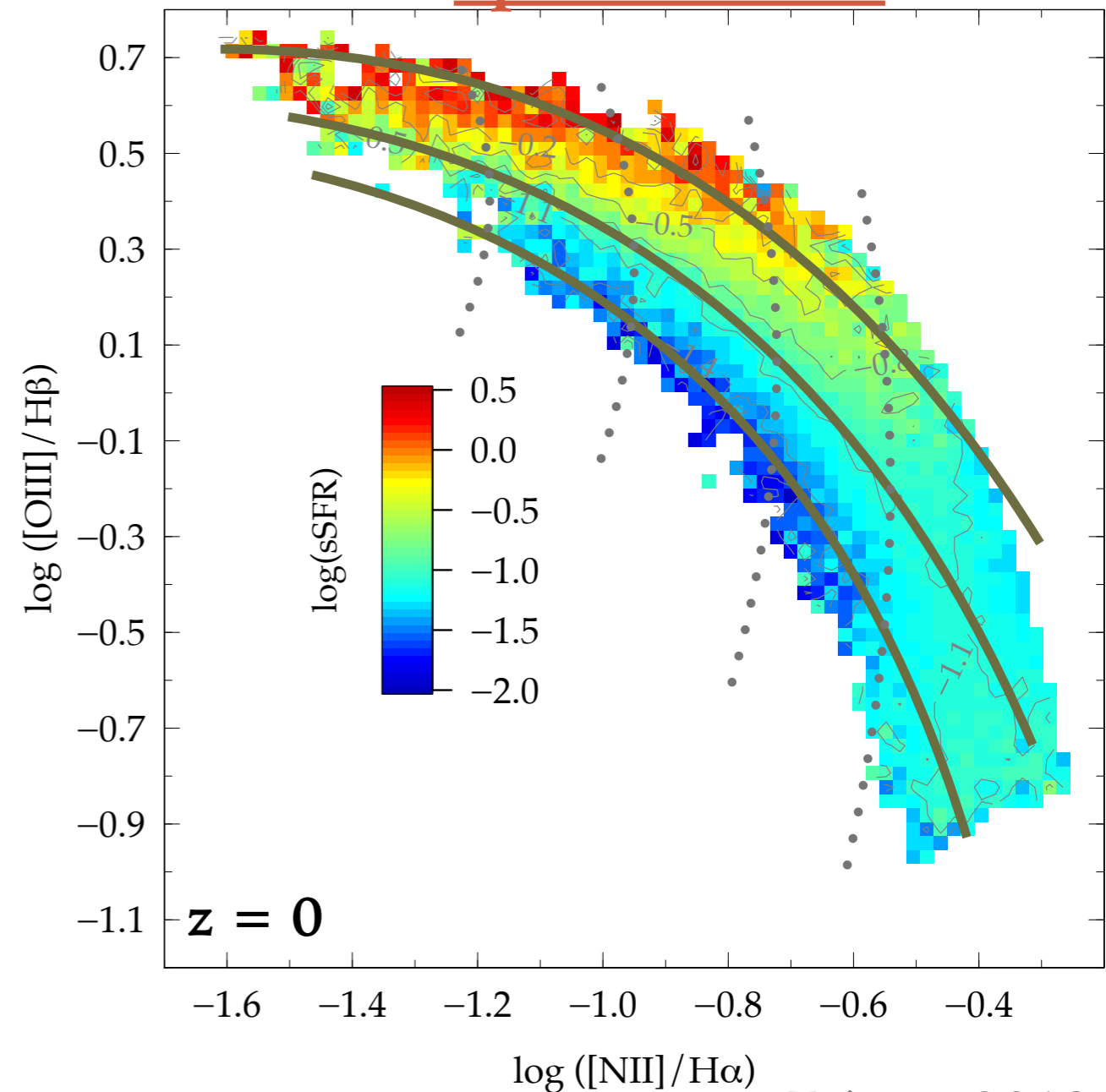
Dependencies of $[\text{NII}]/\text{H}\alpha$ ratio: the BPT-diagram

- ▶ The BPT-diagram combines dependencies of $[\text{NII}]/\text{H}\alpha$
- ▶ Strongest and perpendicular: stellar mass and sSFR!

Stellar Mass



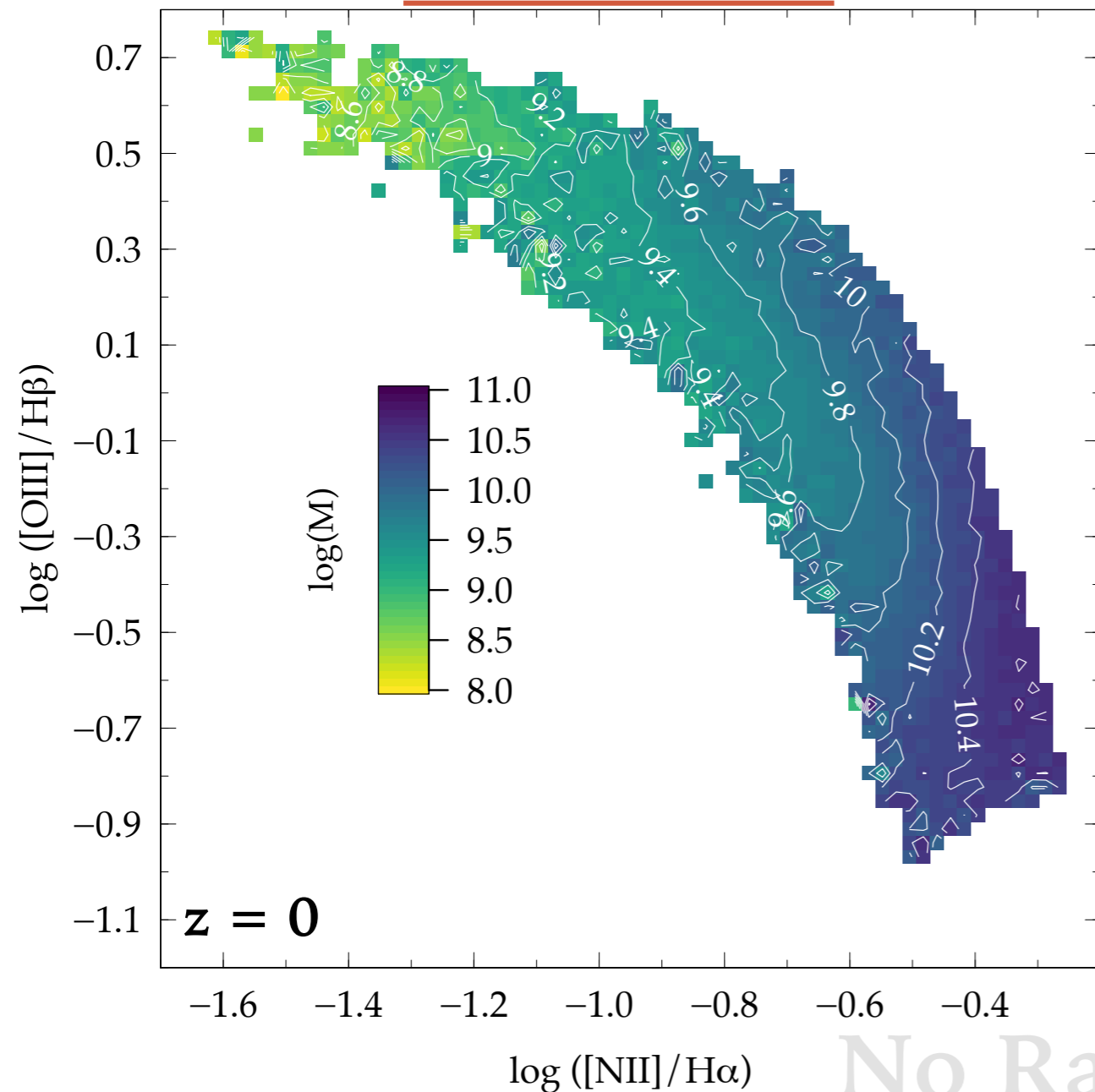
specific SFR



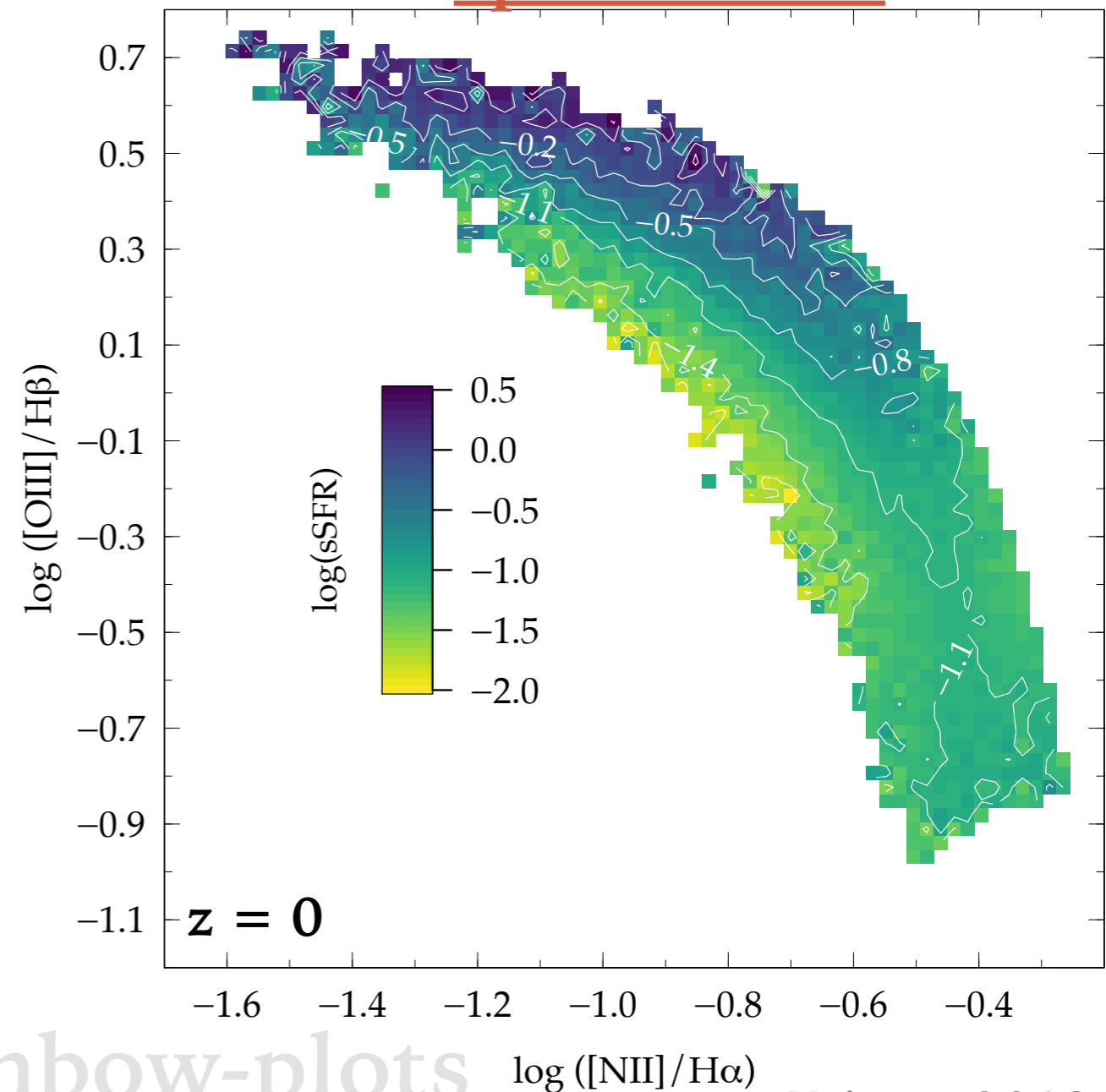
Dependencies of $[\text{NII}]/\text{H}\alpha$ ratio: the BPT-diagram

- ▶ The BPT-diagram combines dependencies of $[\text{NII}]/\text{H}\alpha$
- ▶ Strongest and perpendicular: stellar mass and sSFR!

Stellar Mass



specific SFR

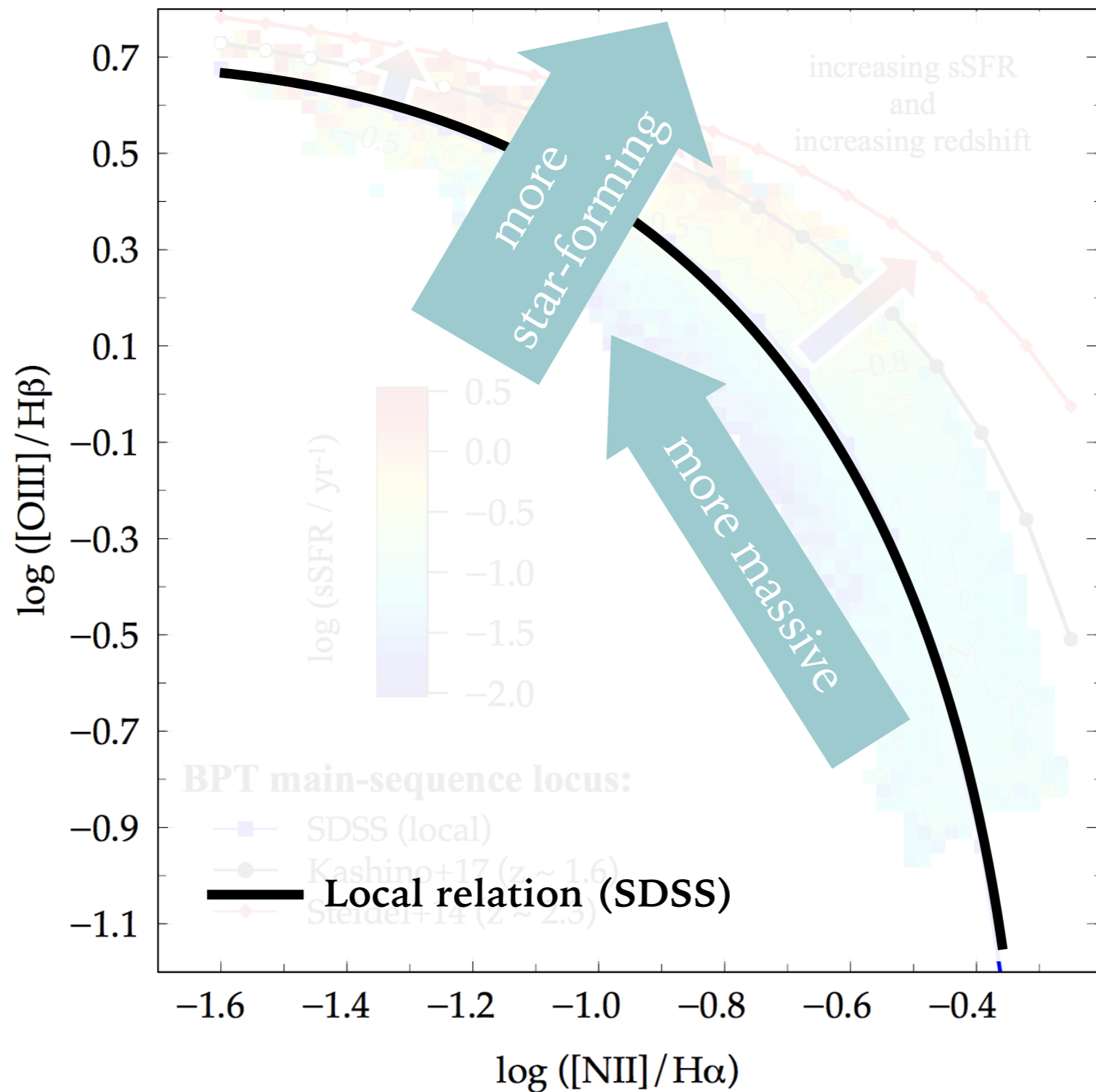


No Rainbow-plots

Faisst+2018

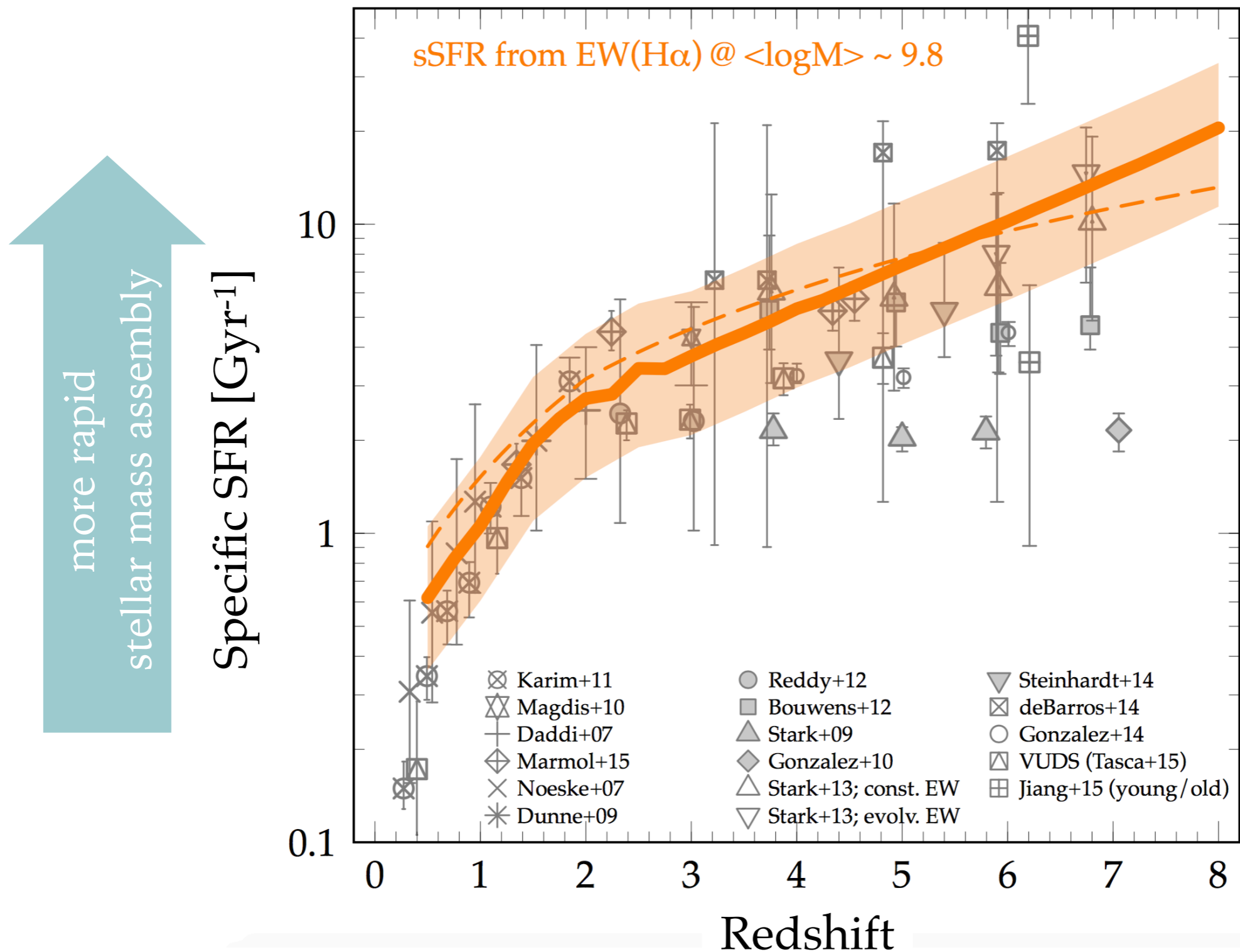
Dependencies of $[\text{NII}]/\text{H}\alpha$ ratio: the BPT-diagram

- The BPT-diagram combines dependencies of $[\text{NII}]/\text{H}\alpha$



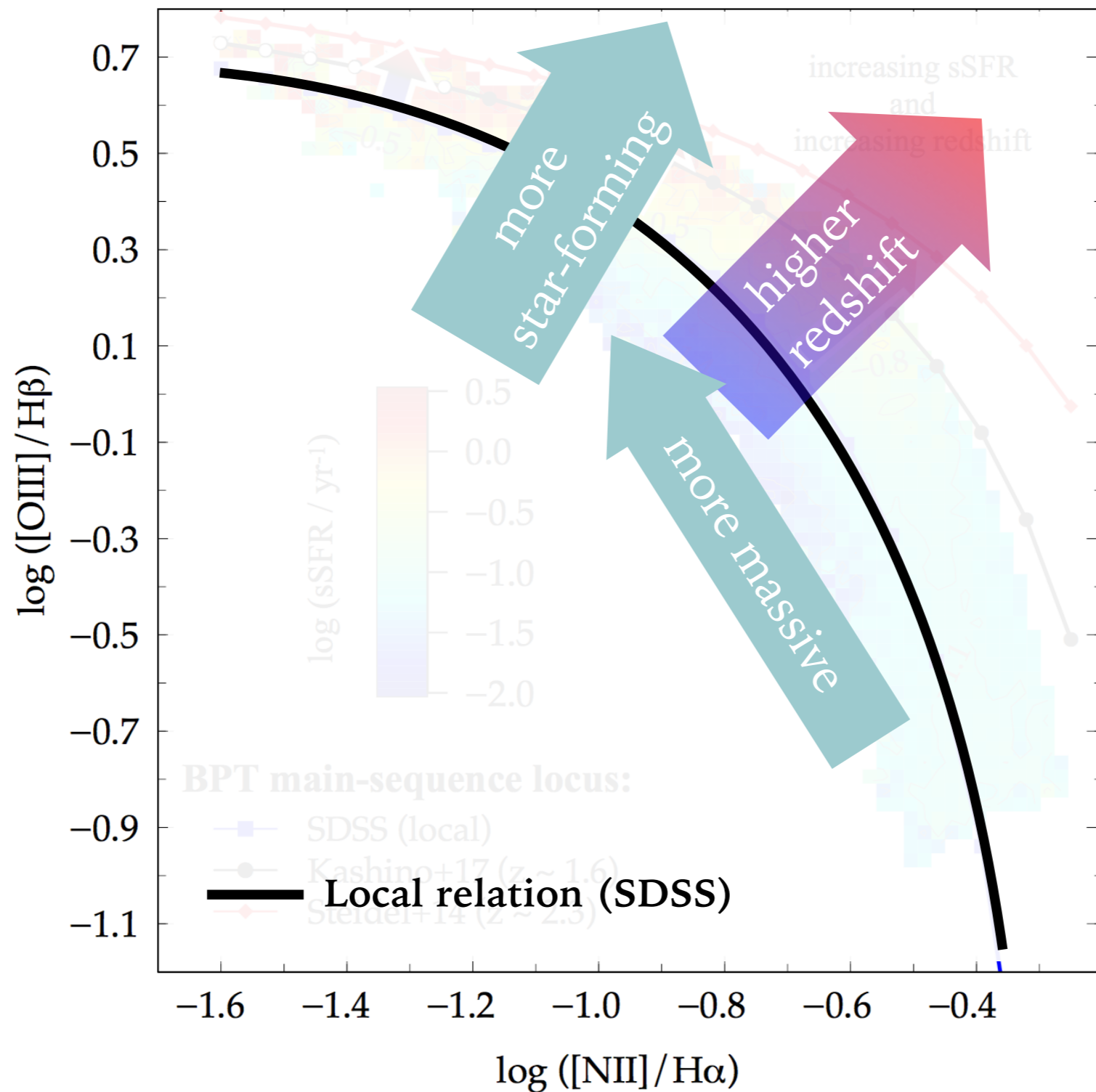
Redshift evolution of the specific SFR (sSFR)

- Significantly higher sSFR at high redshifts



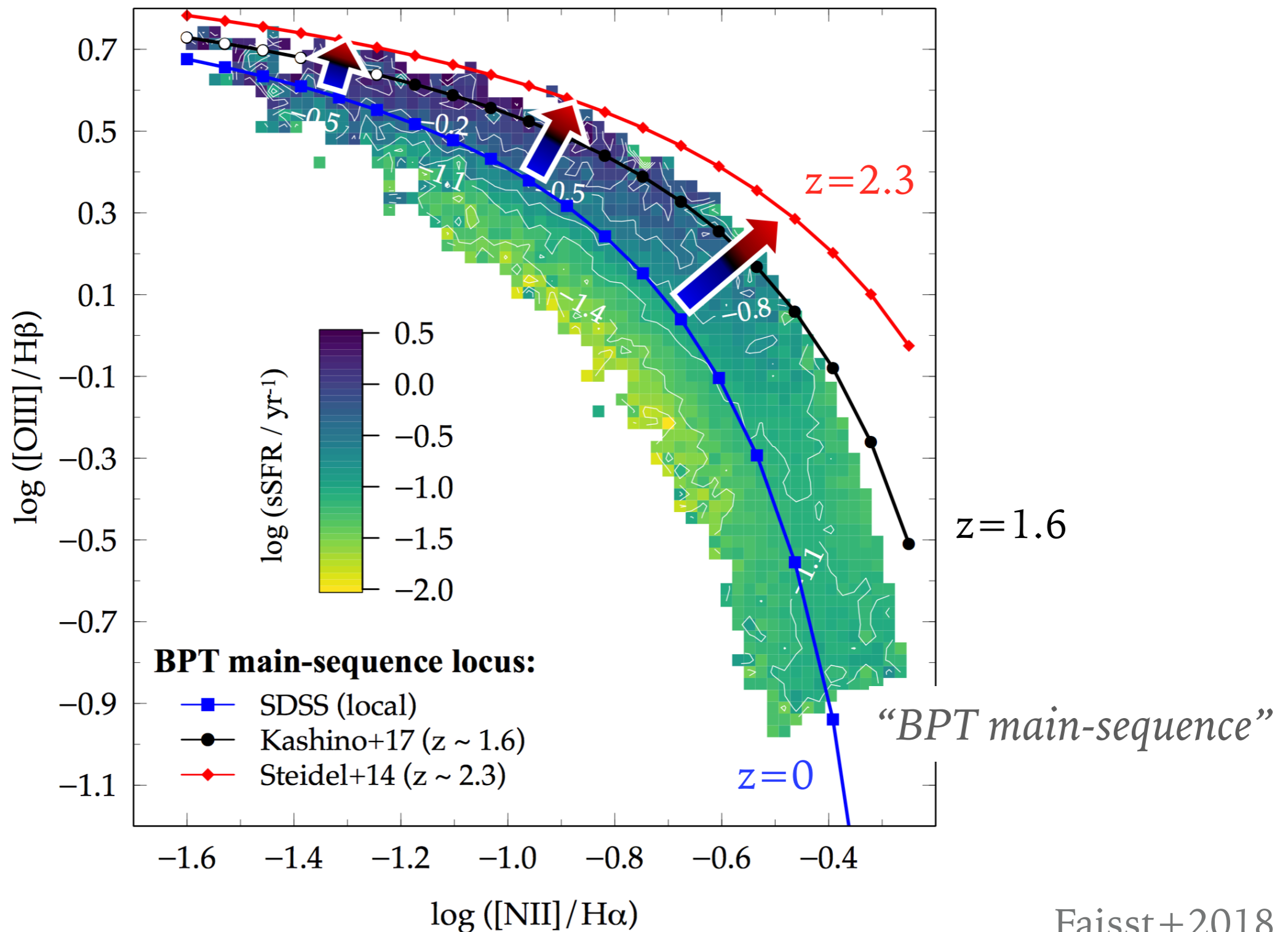
Dependencies of $[\text{NII}]/\text{H}\alpha$ ratio: the BPT-diagram

- The BPT-diagram combines dependencies of $[\text{NII}]/\text{H}\alpha$



Dependencies of $[\text{NII}]/\text{H}\alpha$ ratio: the BPT-diagram

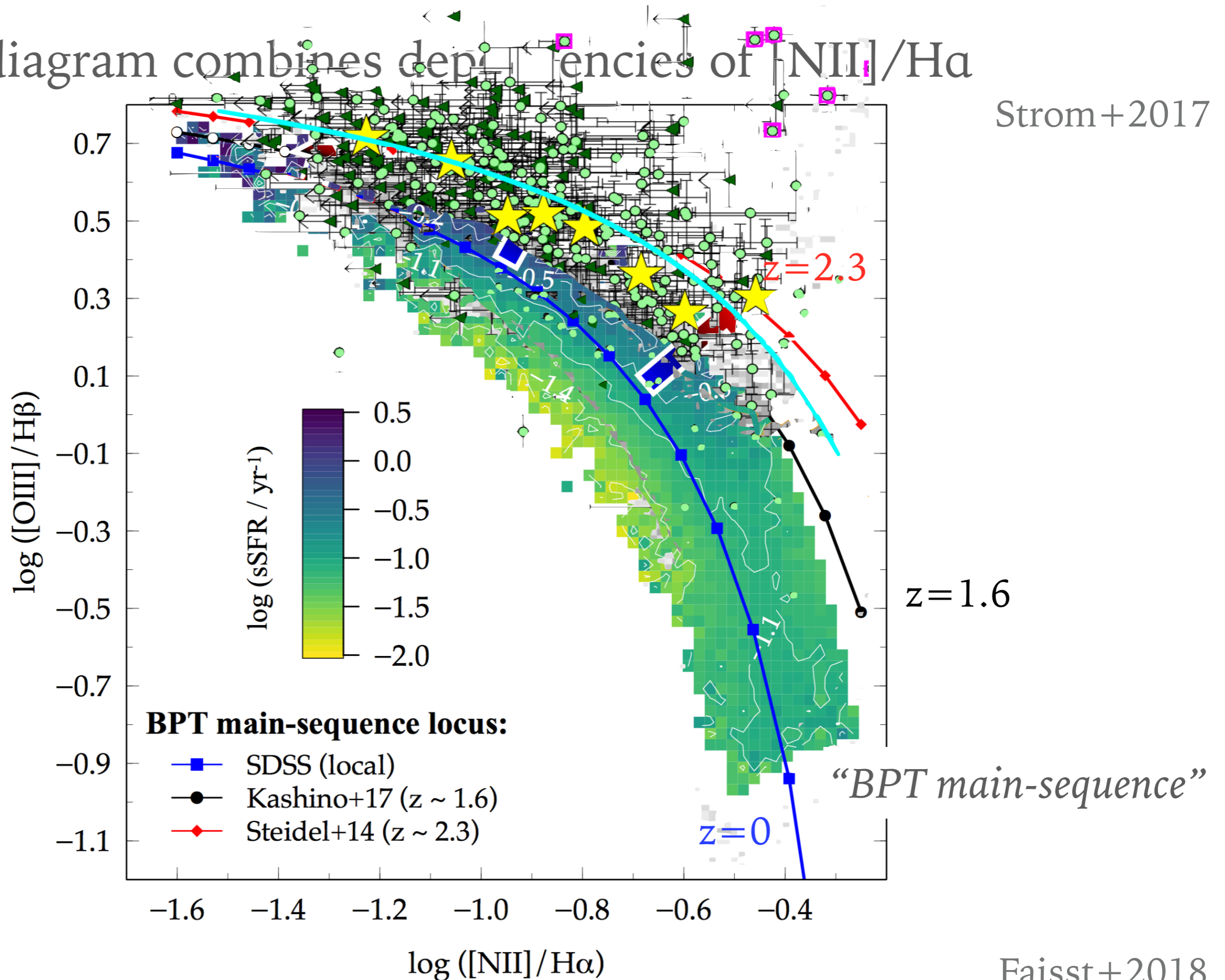
- The BPT-diagram combines dependencies of $[\text{NII}]/\text{H}\alpha$



see also:
Shapley+15,
Masters+16,
Strom+17

Dependencies of $[\text{NII}]/\text{H}\alpha$ ratio: the BPT-diagram

► The BPT-diagram combines dependencies of $[\text{NII}]/\text{H}\alpha$

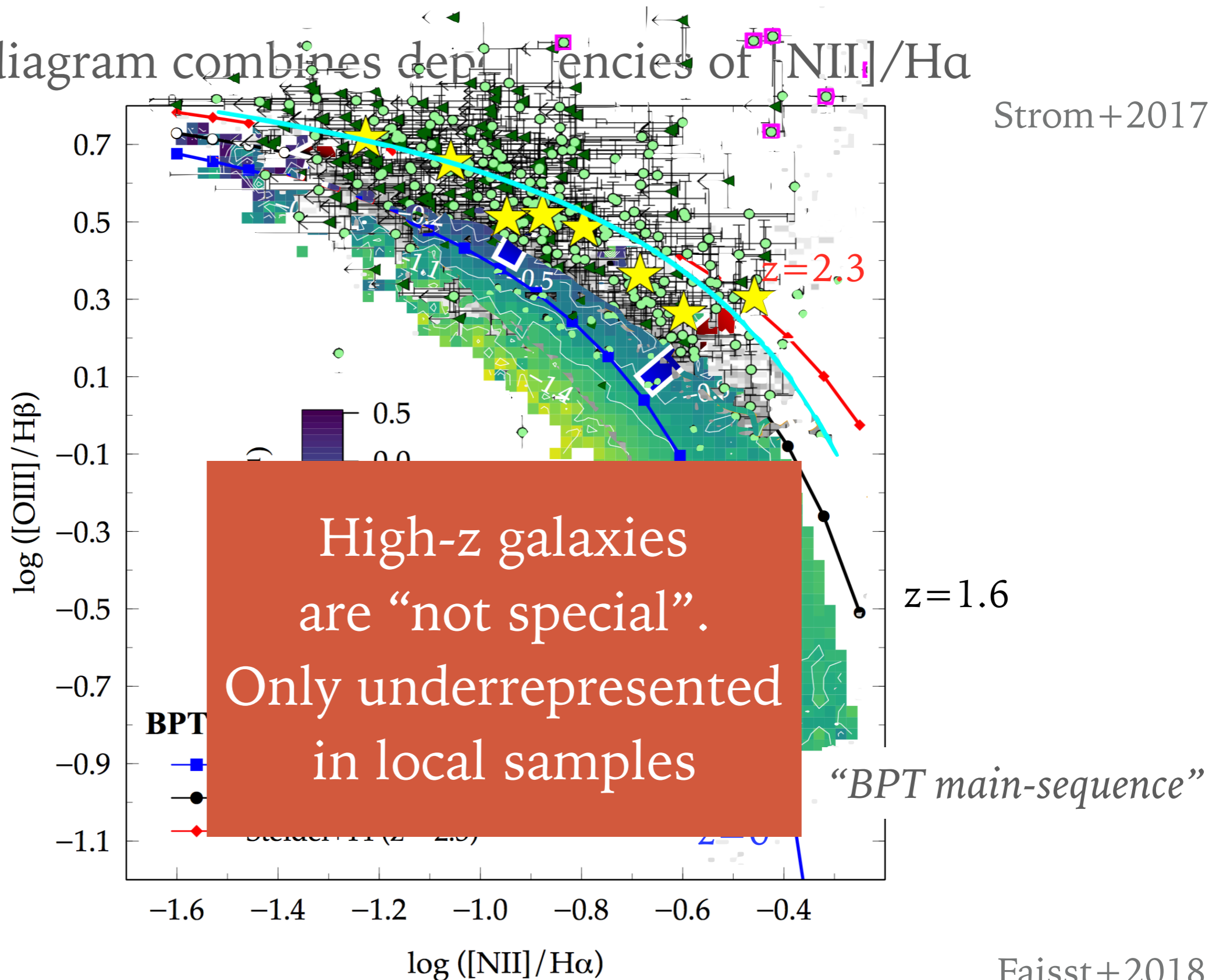


see also:

Shapley+15,
Masters+16,
Strom+17

Dependencies of $[\text{NII}]/\text{H}\alpha$ ratio: the BPT-diagram

- The BPT-diagram combines dependencies of $[\text{NII}]/\text{H}\alpha$



Strom+2017

High-z galaxies
are "not special".
Only underrepresented
in local samples

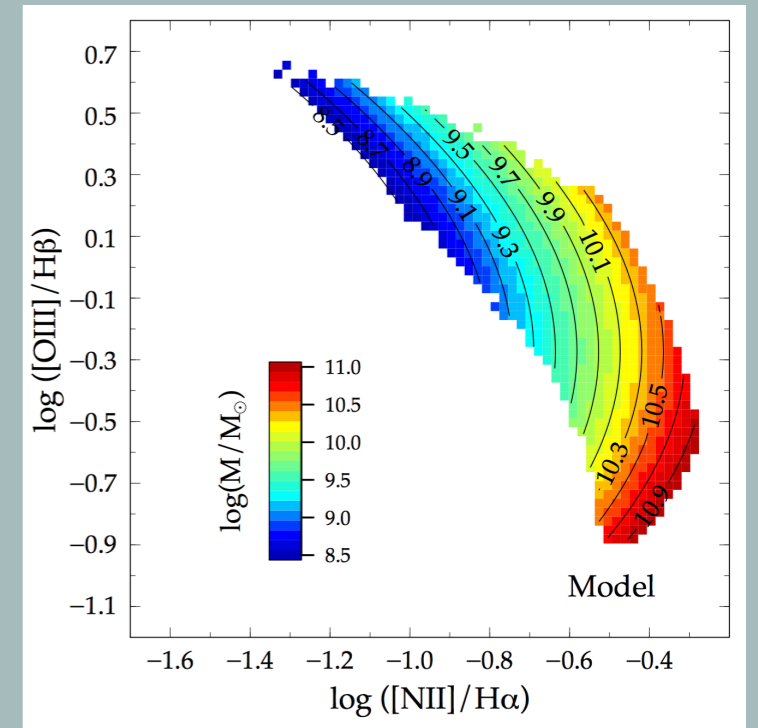
"BPT main-sequence"

see also:

Shapley+15,
Masters+16,
Strom+17

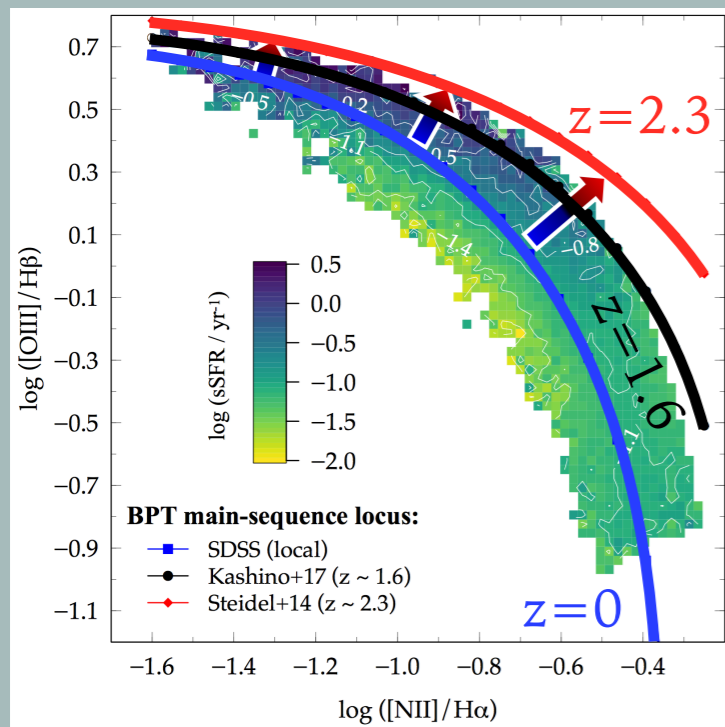
Faisst+2018

A Model for $[\text{NII}]/\text{H}\alpha$ based on Local Galaxies

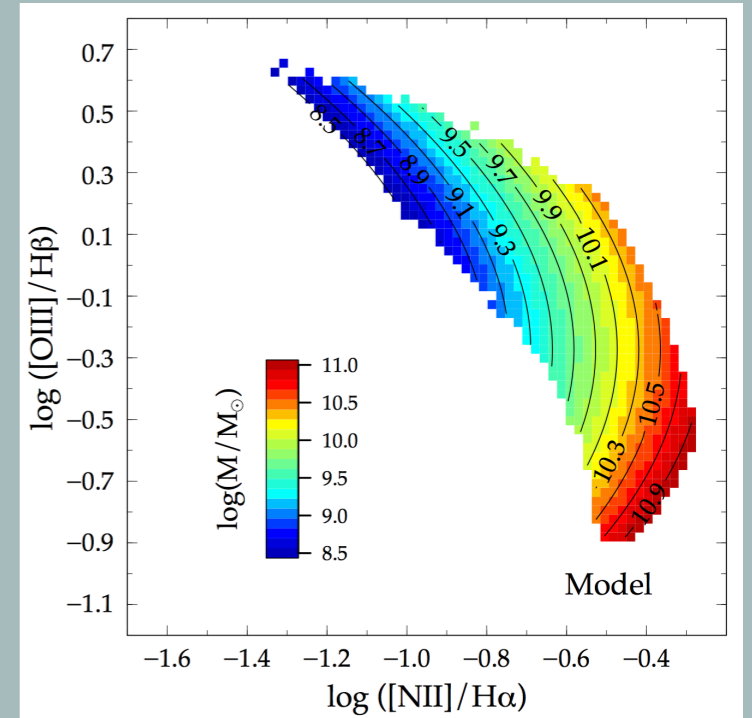


2-D fit of M dependence of BPT diagram at $z=0$

A Model for $[\text{NII}]/\text{H}\alpha$ based on Local Galaxies

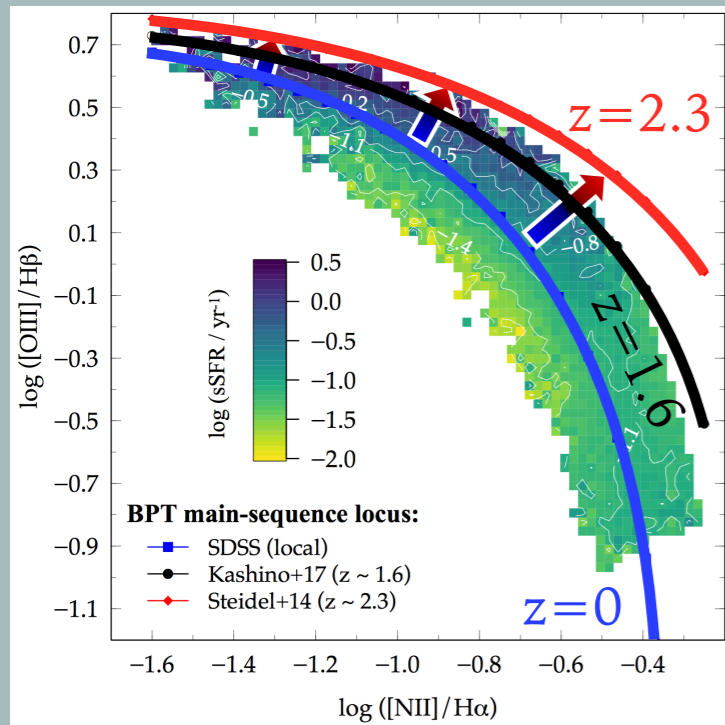


1-D fit of “BPT main-sequence”
as function of z at $0 < z < 2.3$



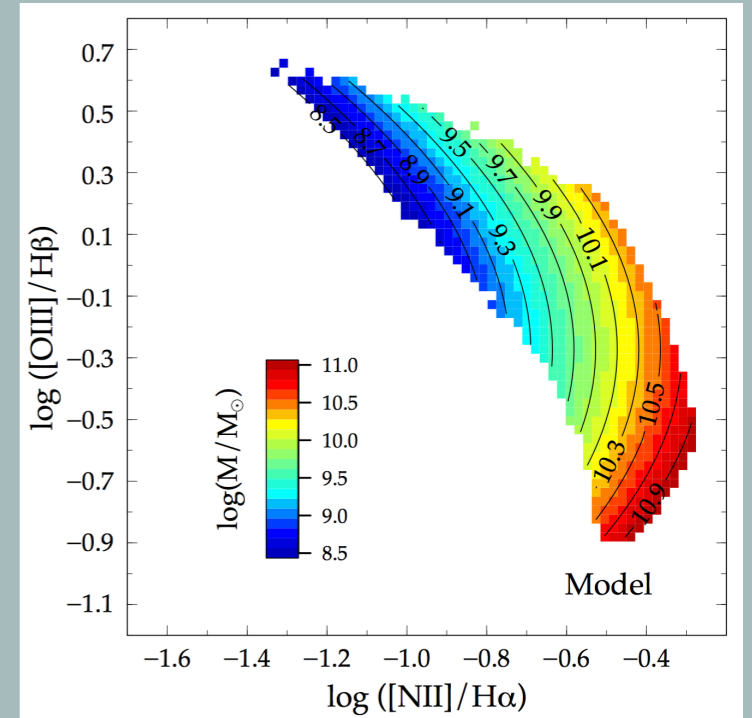
2-D fit of M dependence of BPT
diagram at $z=0$

A Model for $[\text{NII}]/\text{H}\alpha$ based on Local Galaxies



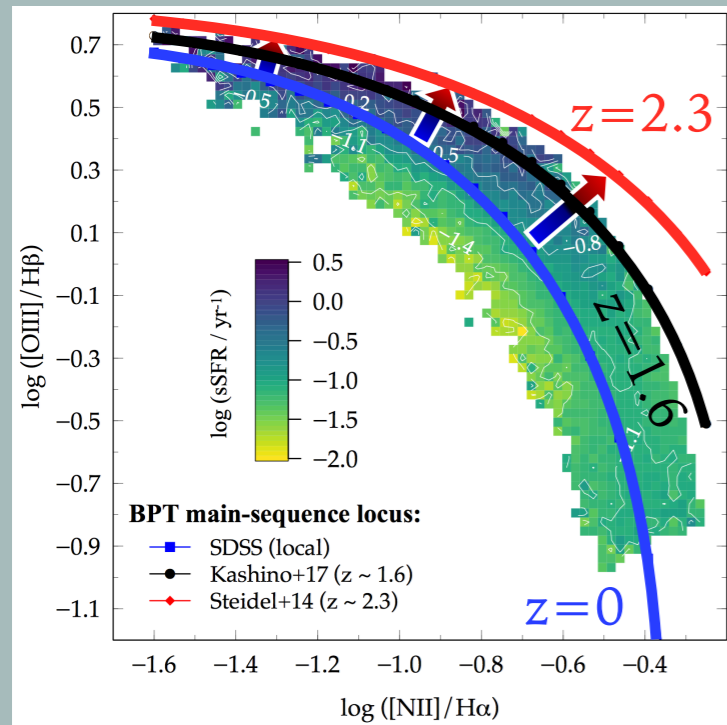
1-D fit of “BPT main-sequence”
as function of z at $0 < z < 2.3$

Math

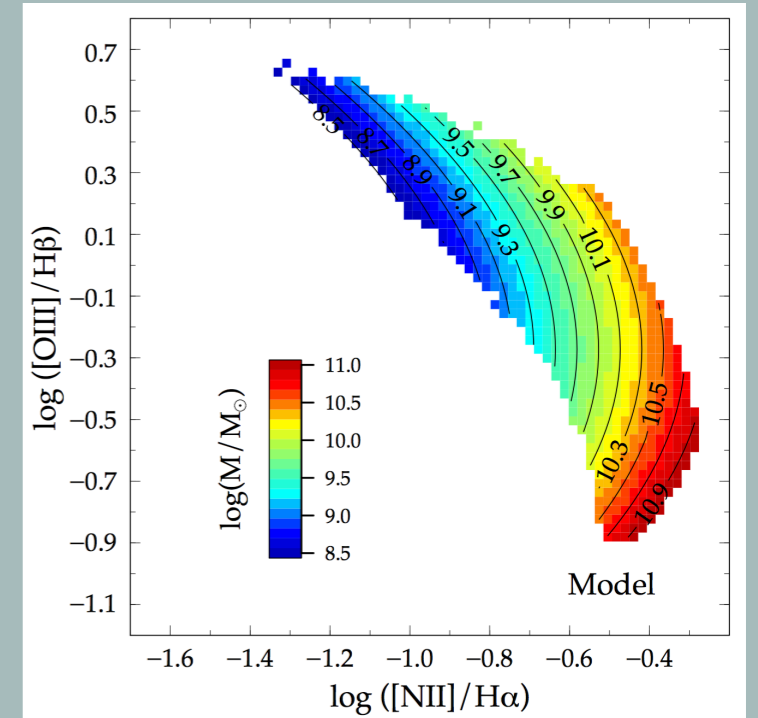
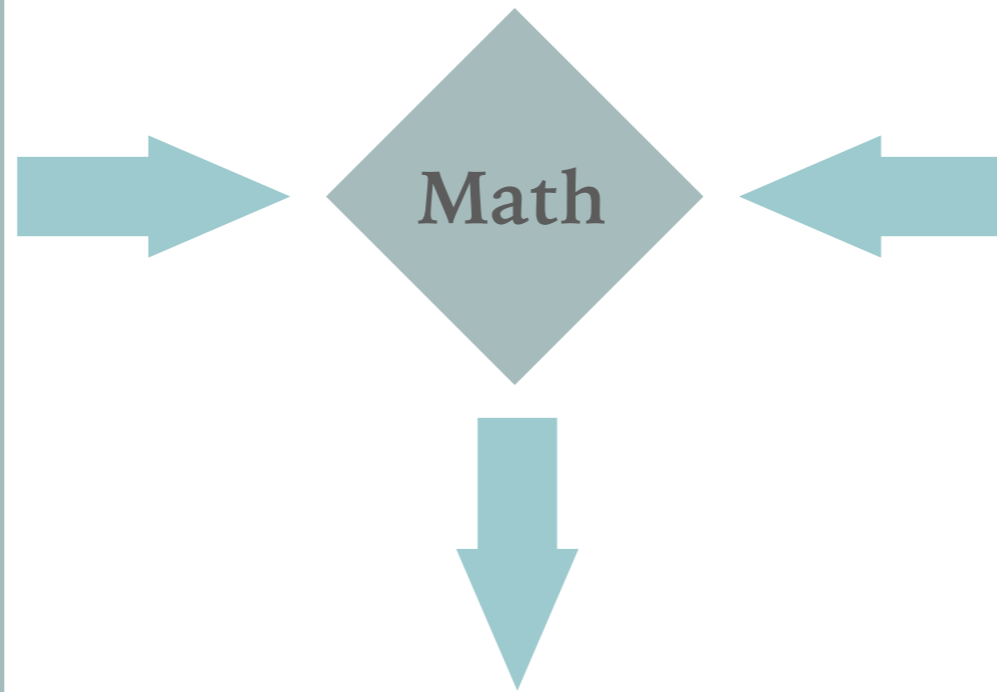


2-D fit of M dependence of BPT
diagram at $z=0$

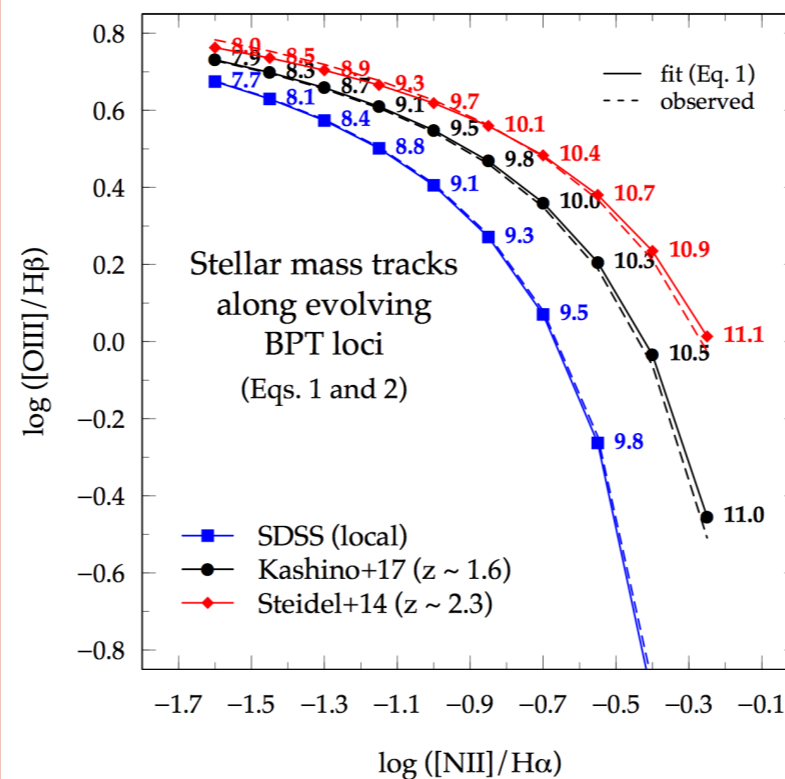
A Model for [NII]/H α based on Local Galaxies



1-D fit of “BPT main-sequence” as function of z at $0 < z < 2.3$

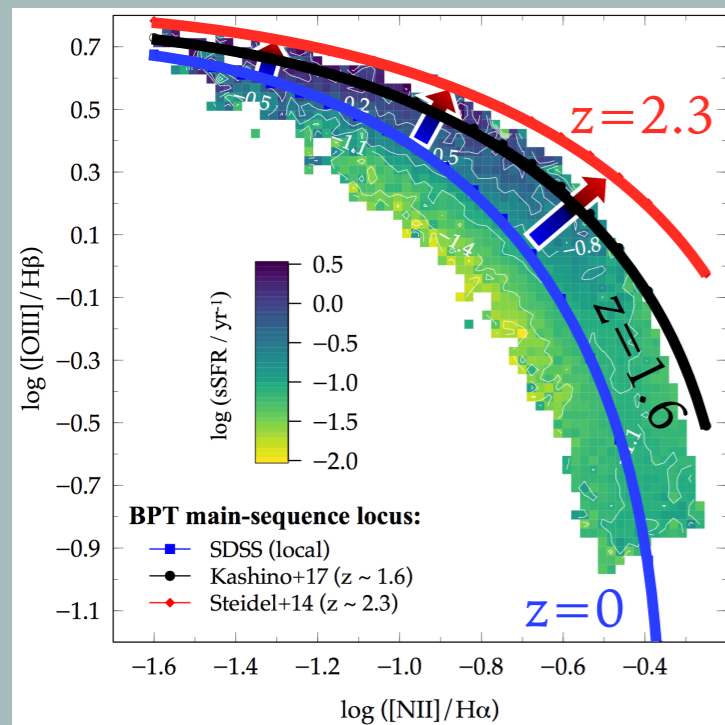


2-D fit of M dependence of BPT diagram at $z=0$

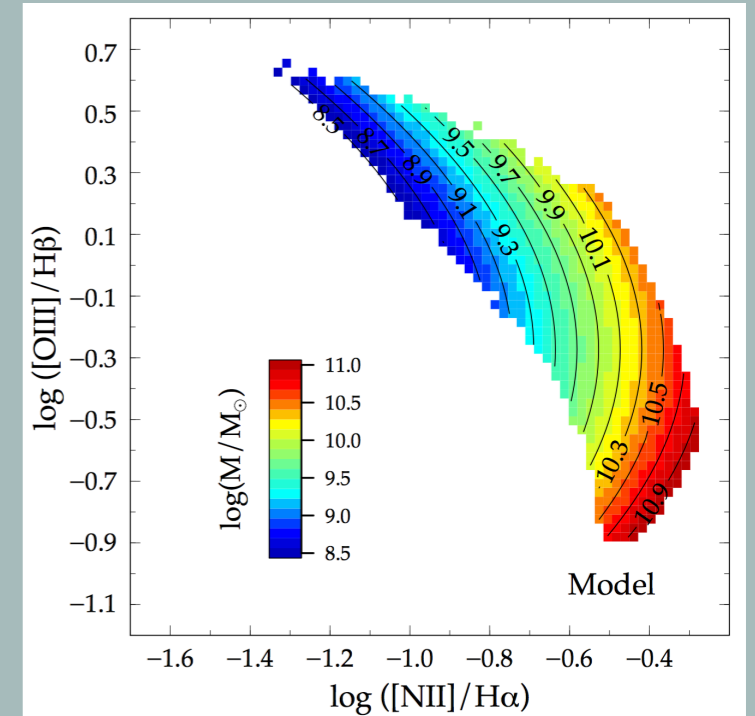
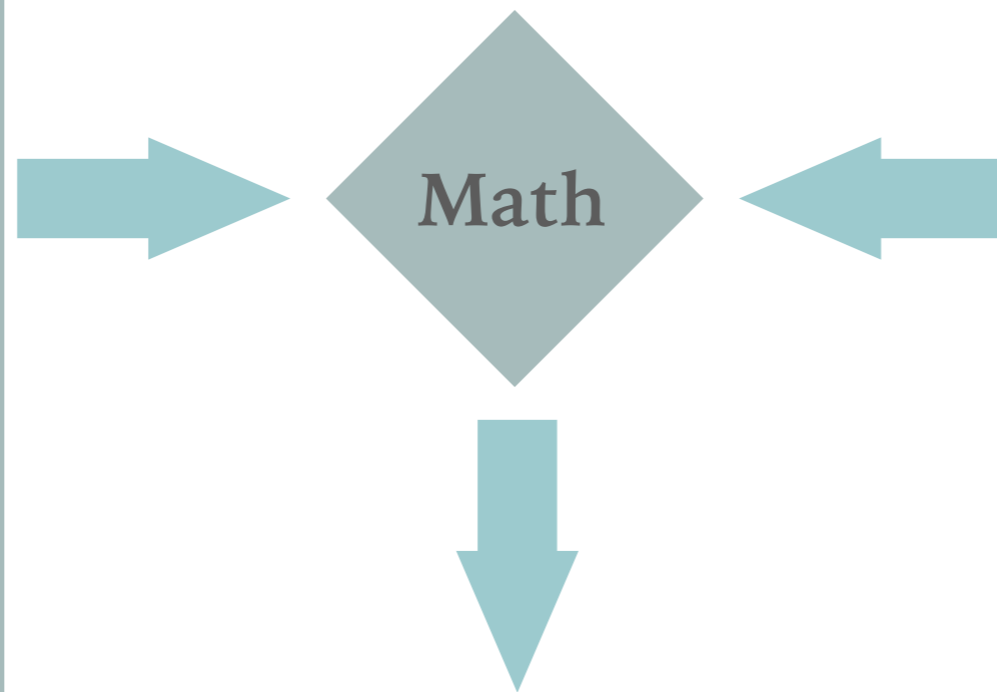


Empirical model for [NII]/H α ratio as function of M and z .
 $(0 < z < 2.5)$
 $(9 < \log M < 11)$

A Model for [NII]/H α based on Local Galaxies

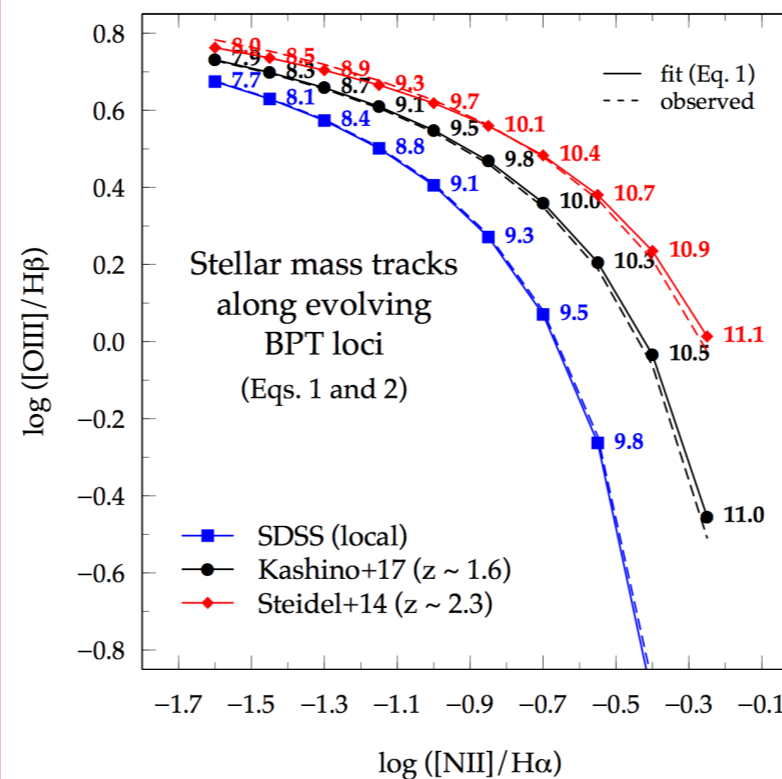


1-D fit of “BPT main-sequence” as function of z at $0 < z < 2.3$



2-D fit of M dependence of BPT diagram at $z=0$

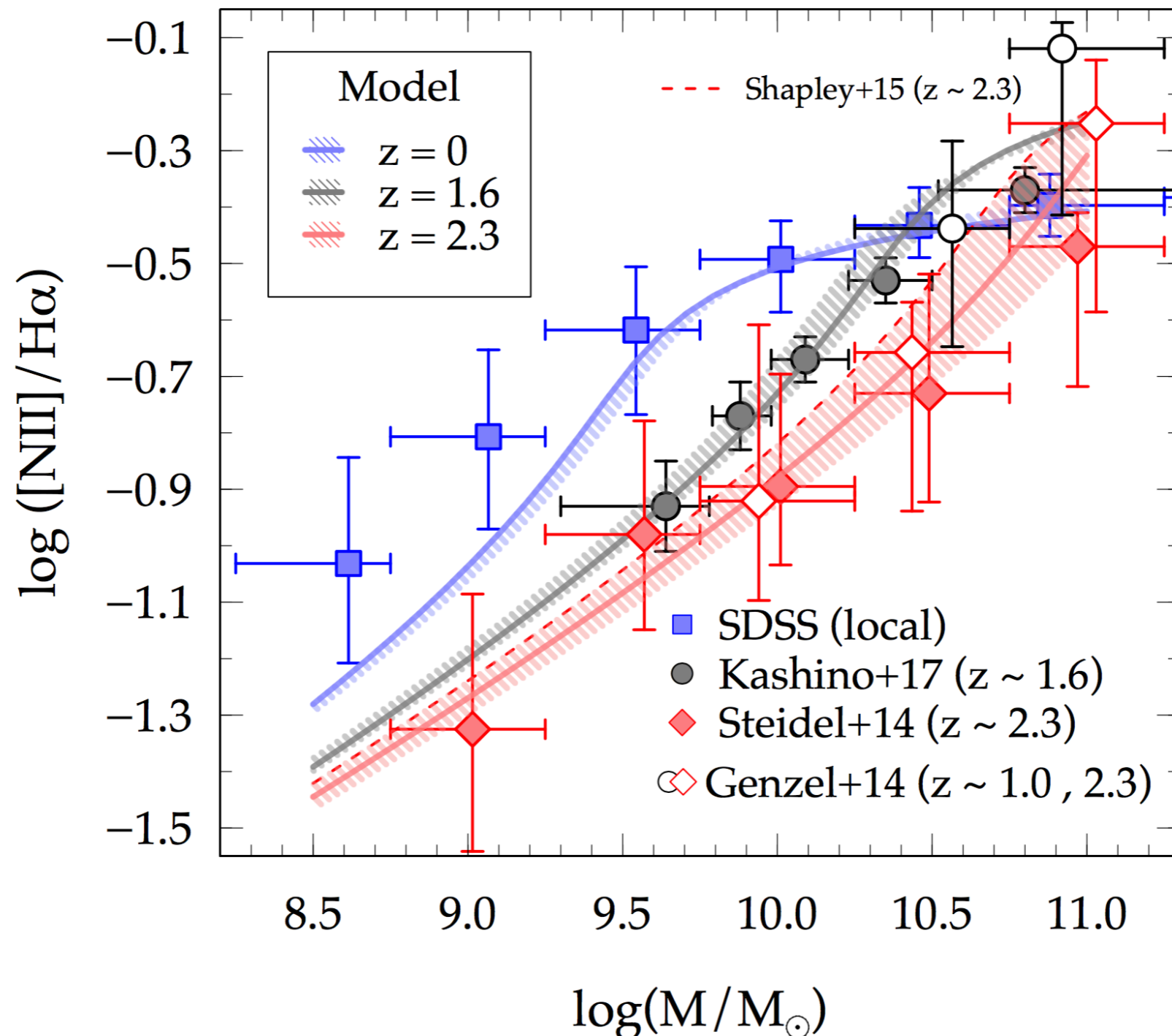
Also works for deriving [OIII]/H β



Empirical model for [NII]/H α ratio as function of M and z .
($0 < z < 2.5$)
($9 < \log M < 11$)

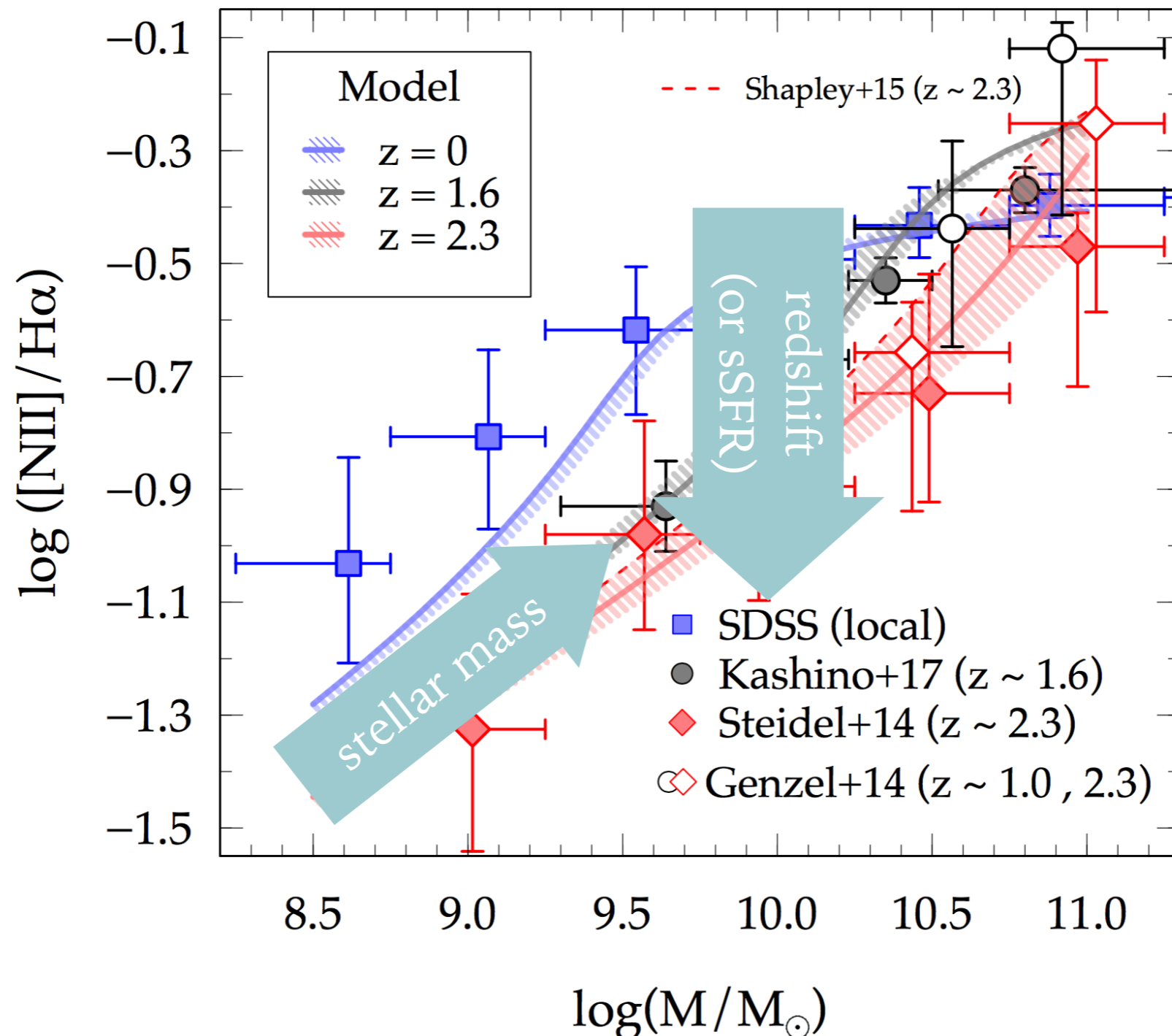
A Model for [NII]/H α based on Local Galaxies

- ▶ Model for the (M, z) dependence of [NII]/H α for $0 < z < 2.5$
- ▶ Recipe for **Simulators** and **Observers**



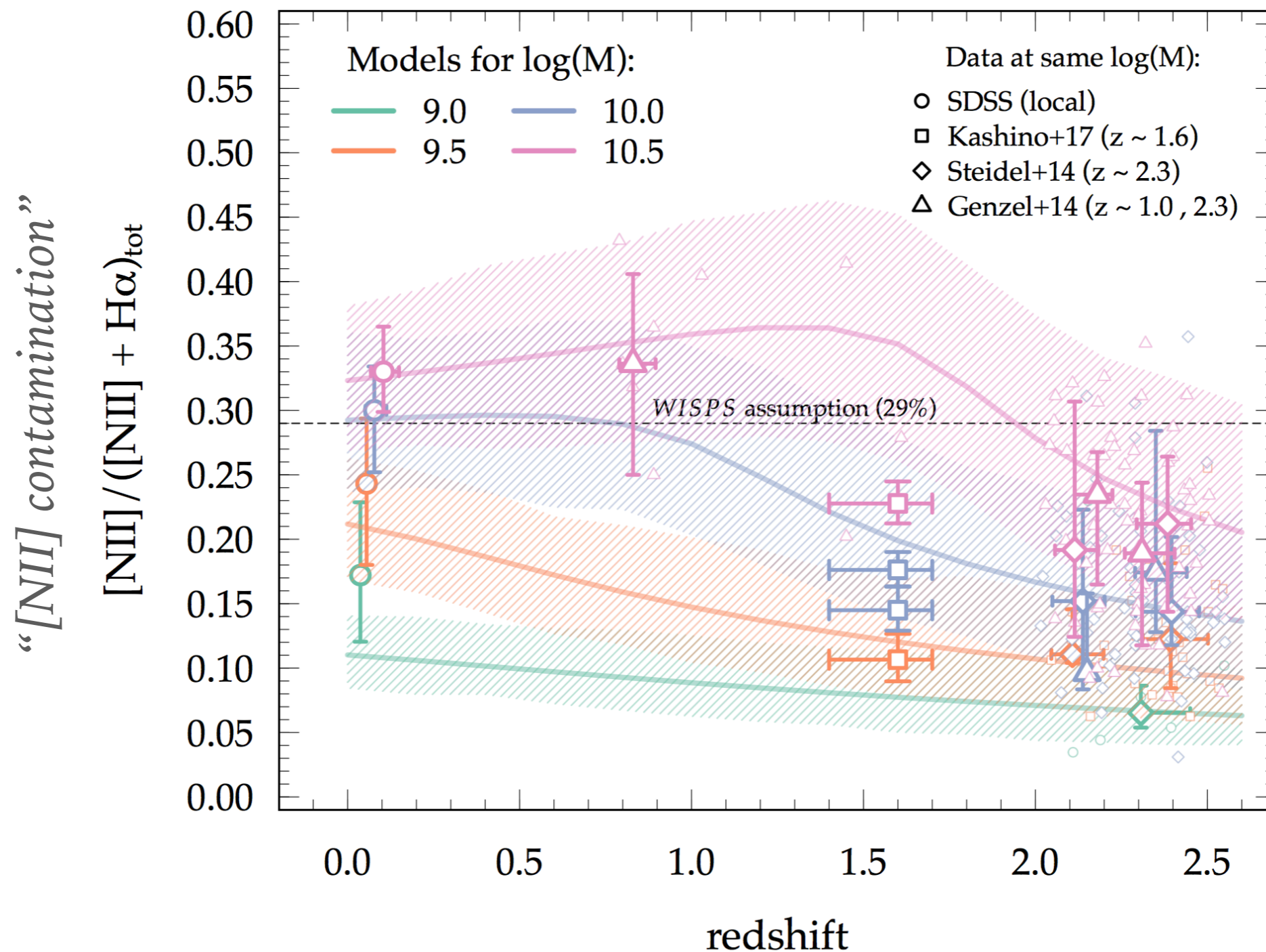
A Model for $[\text{NII}]/\text{H}\alpha$ based on Local Galaxies

- ▶ Model for the (M, z) dependence of $[\text{NII}]/\text{H}\alpha$ for $0 < z < 2.5$
- ▶ Recipe for **Simulators** and **Observers**



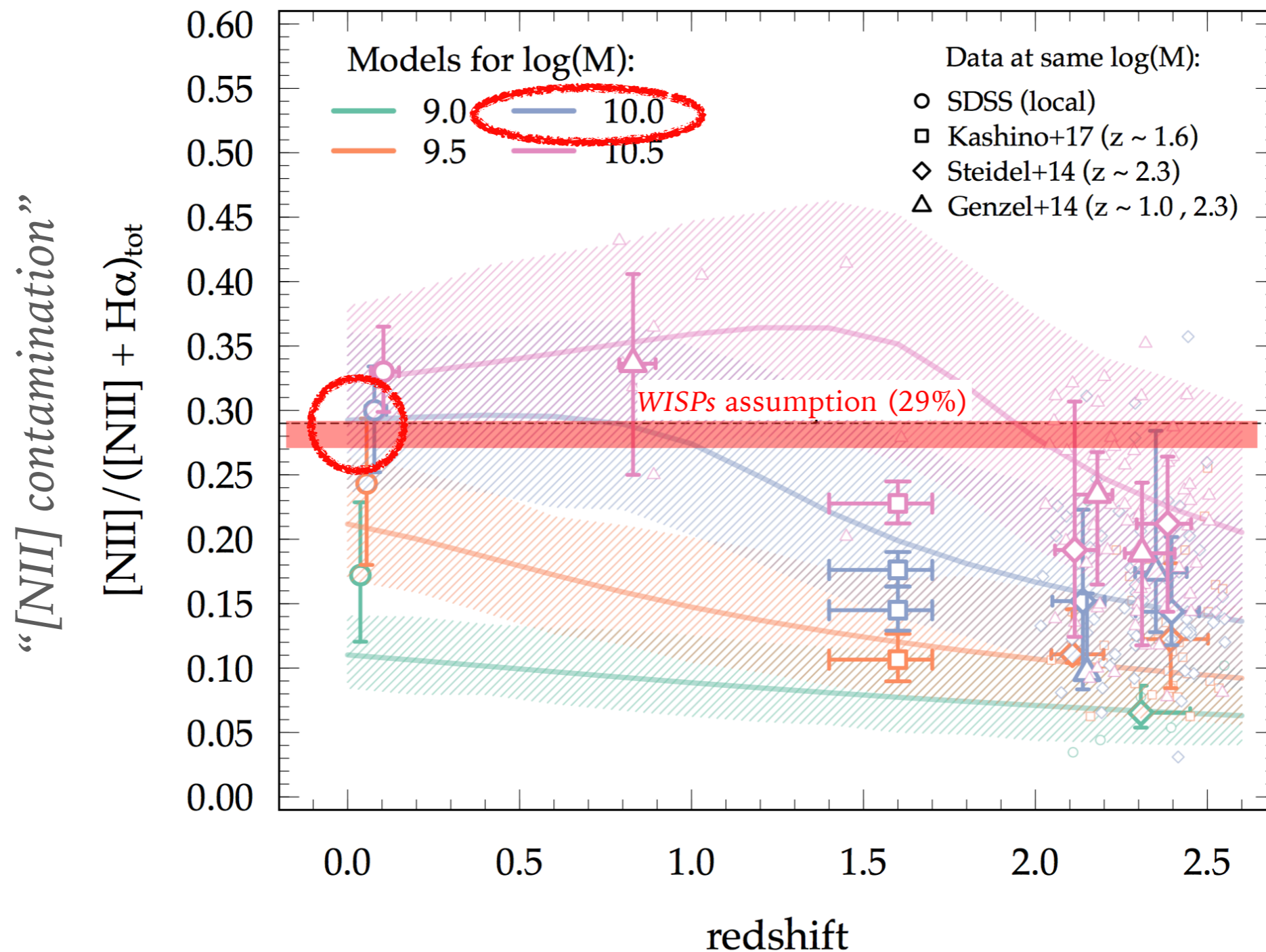
A Model for [NII] / H α based on Local Galaxies

- ▶ Model for the (M, z) dependence of [NII]/H α for $0 < z < 2.5$
- ▶ Recipe for **Simulators** and **Observers**



A Model for [NII]/H α based on Local Galaxies

- ▶ Model for the (M, z) dependence of [NII]/H α for $0 < z < 2.5$
- ▶ Recipe for **Simulators** and **Observers**



A Model for [NII]/H α based on Local Galaxies

- Model for the (M, z) dependence of [NII]/H α for $0 < z < 2.5$
- Recipe for **Simulators** and **Observers**

	$\log(M/M_{\odot})$	Redshift													
		0.0	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.8	1.0	1.2	1.4	1.6	1.8	2.0	2.2	2.4	2.6
WISPs assumption (29%)	8.5	0.07	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.04
	8.7	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.05	0.05	0.05
	8.9	0.10	0.10	0.09	0.09	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.06	0.06	0.06
	9.1	0.12	0.12	0.11	0.11	0.10	0.10	0.09	0.09	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.07	0.07	0.07
	9.3	0.16	0.15	0.14	0.13	0.13	0.12	0.11	0.11	0.10	0.10	0.09	0.09	0.08	0.08
	9.5	0.21	0.20	0.19	0.17	0.16	0.15	0.14	0.13	0.12	0.11	0.11	0.10	0.10	0.09
	9.7	0.26	0.25	0.24	0.23	0.21	0.19	0.17	0.16	0.15	0.14	0.13	0.12	0.11	0.11
	9.9	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.26	0.24	0.22	0.20	0.18	0.16	0.15	0.14	0.13	0.13
	10.1	0.30	0.30	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.30	0.28	0.25	0.22	0.20	0.18	0.17	0.16	0.15
	10.3	0.31	0.32	0.32	0.33	0.33	0.34	0.33	0.32	0.29	0.25	0.22	0.20	0.19	0.17
	10.5	0.32	0.33	0.34	0.34	0.35	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.35	0.32	0.28	0.25	0.22	0.21
	10.7	0.33	0.34	0.35	0.36	0.36	0.37	0.38	0.39	0.39	0.38	0.35	0.31	0.27	0.24
	10.9	0.34	0.35	0.35	0.36	0.37	0.39	0.40	0.41	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.38	0.33	0.29
	11.1	0.34	0.35	0.36	0.37	0.38	0.40	0.41	0.42	0.44	0.45	0.46	0.45	0.41	0.36

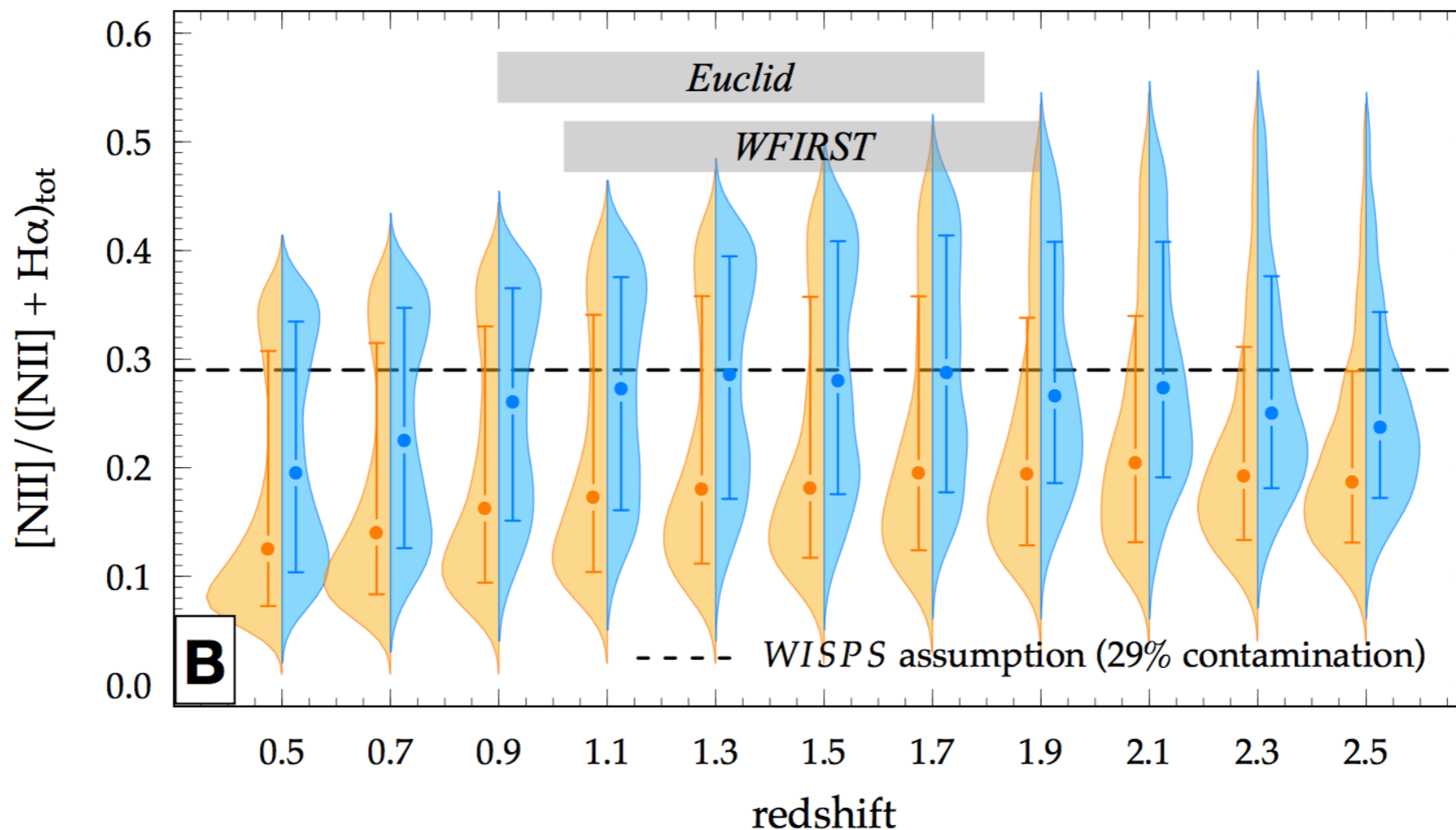
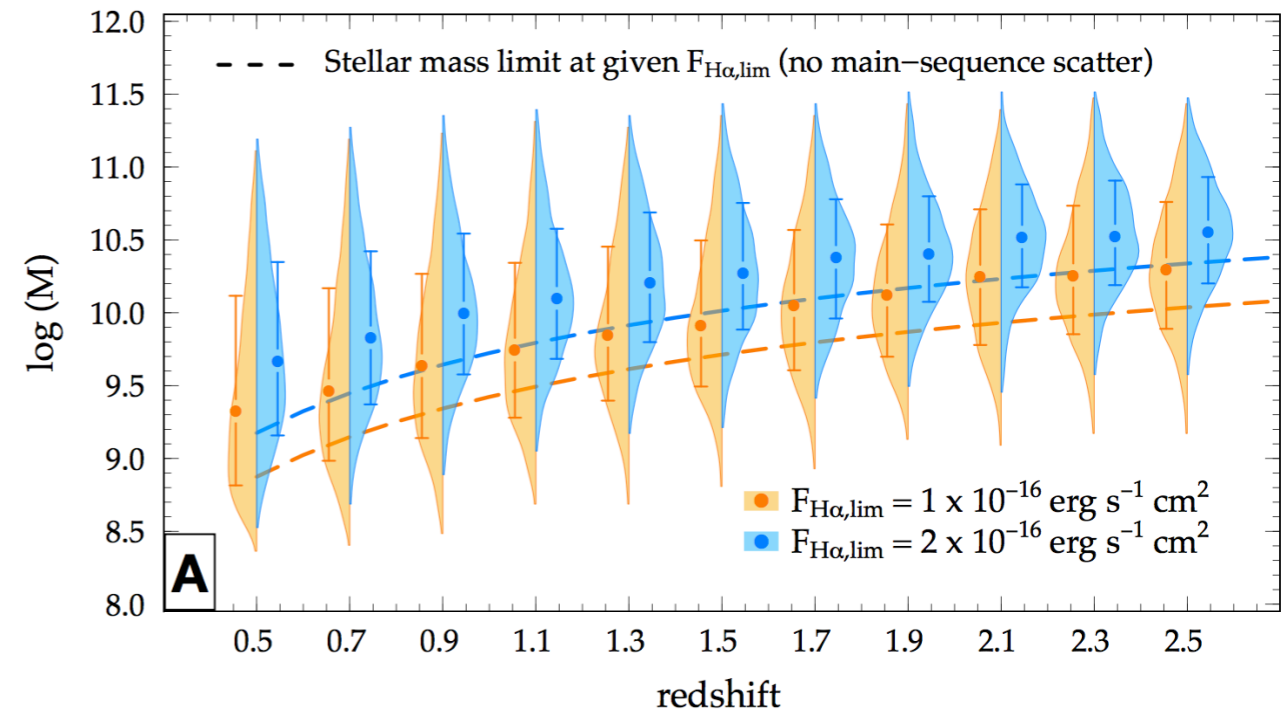
A Happy Swiss Cow

Almost Coffee time!



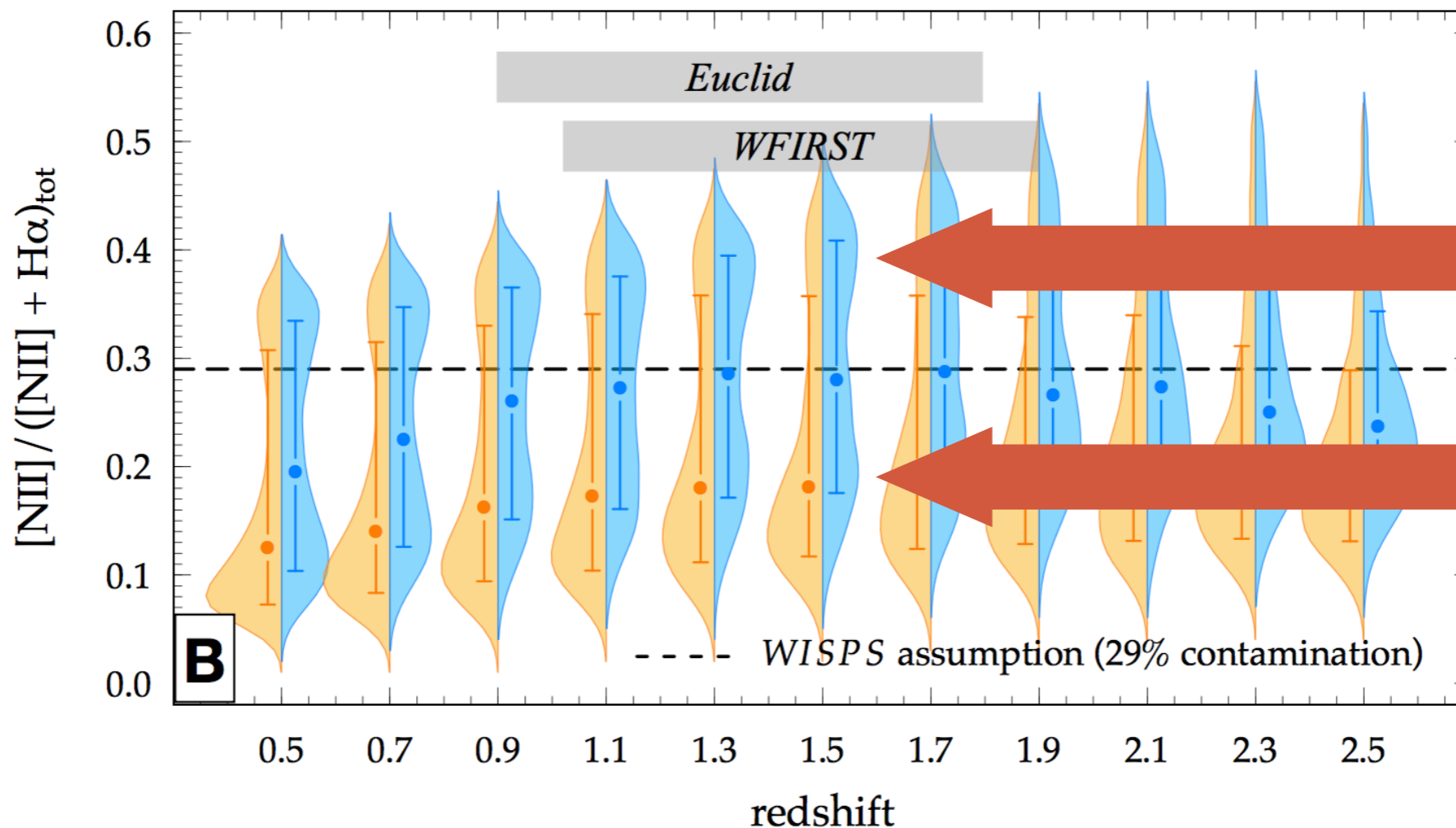
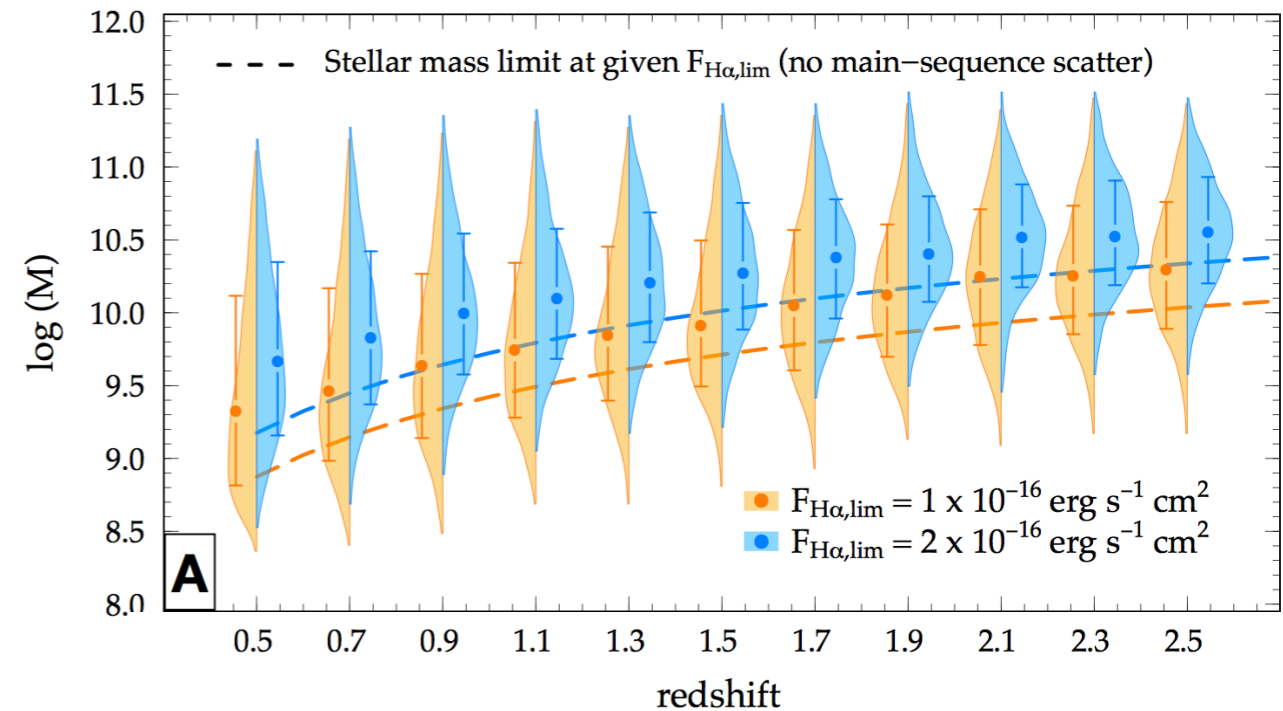
Use Case I: [NII] Contamination Distribution

- ▶ Based on realistic stellar mass distribution for *Euclid*/*WFIRST*
- ▶ On average 20% with large (factor 2) range
- ▶ Bimodal distribution!



Use Case I: [NII] Contamination Distribution

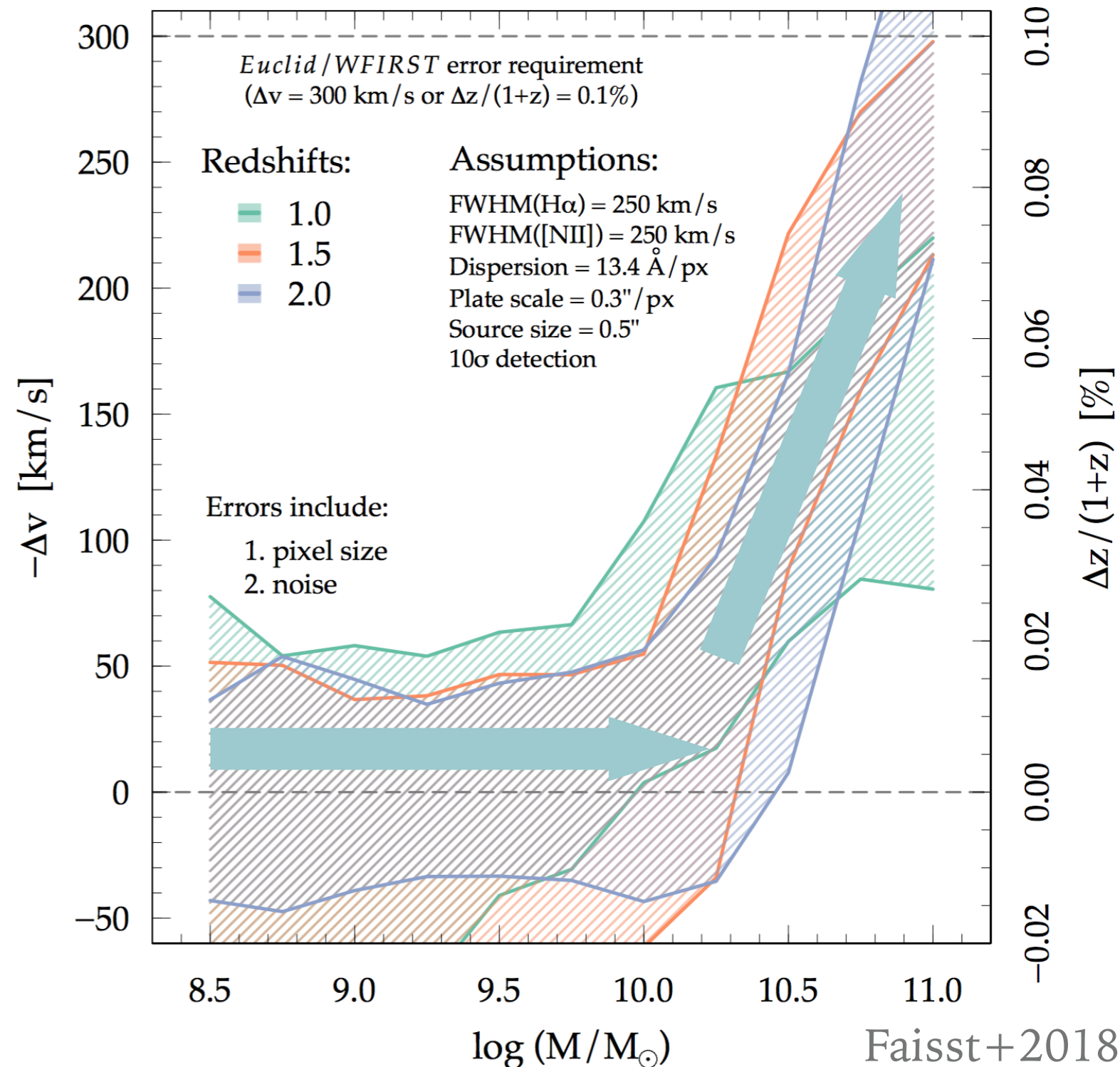
- ▶ Based on realistic stellar mass distribution for *Euclid*/*WFIRST*
- ▶ On average 20% with large (factor 2) range
- ▶ Bimodal distribution!



Bimodal distribution!

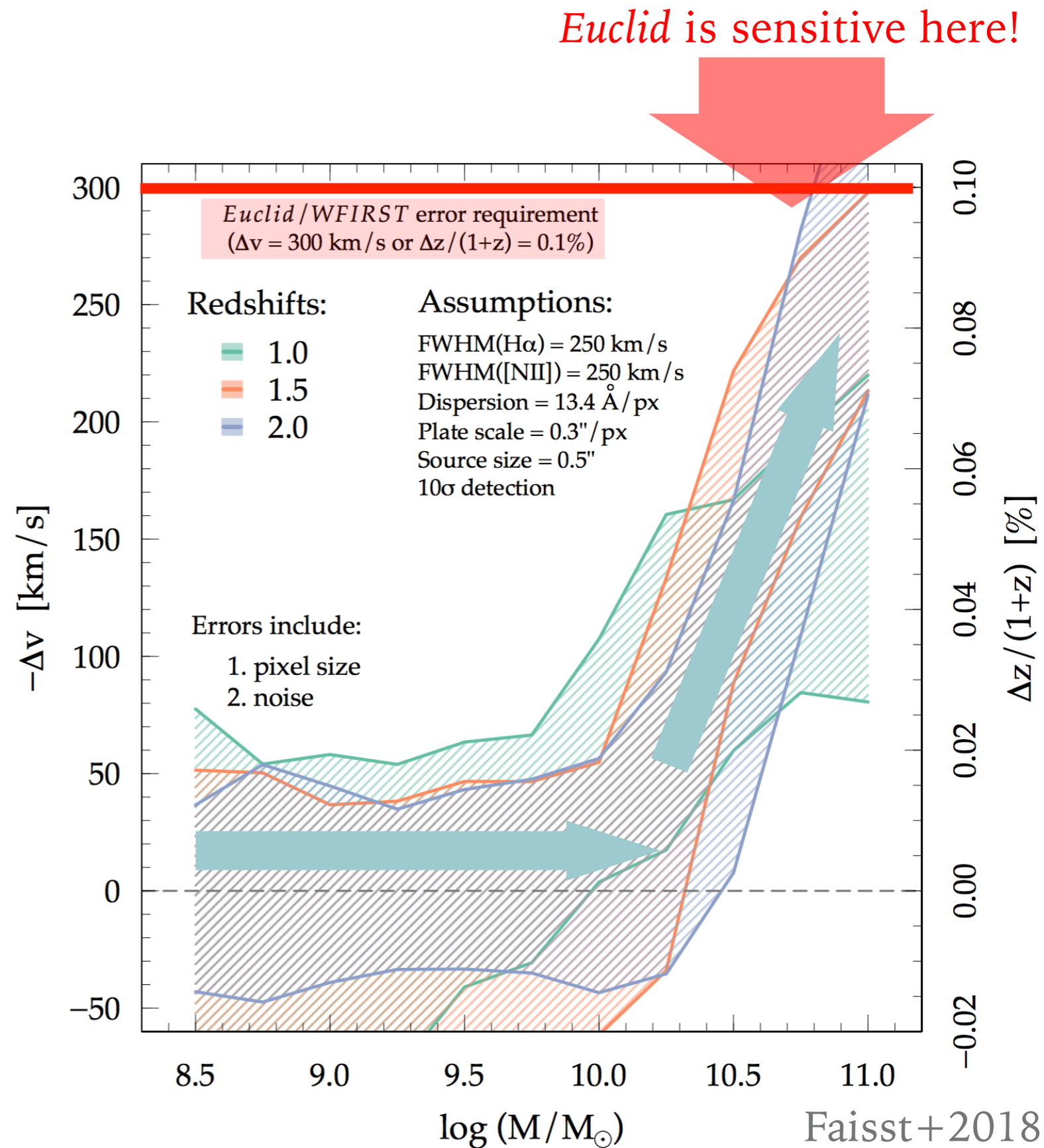
Use Case II: Systematic Redshift Bias

- ▶ Spectroscopic redshift bias from [NII] contamination
- ▶ Increasing with M and decreasing with z
- ▶ Becomes important at $\log(M) > 10.3$
- ▶ Up to 300 km/s (0.1%) for $\log(M) = 11.0$ (still better than required)



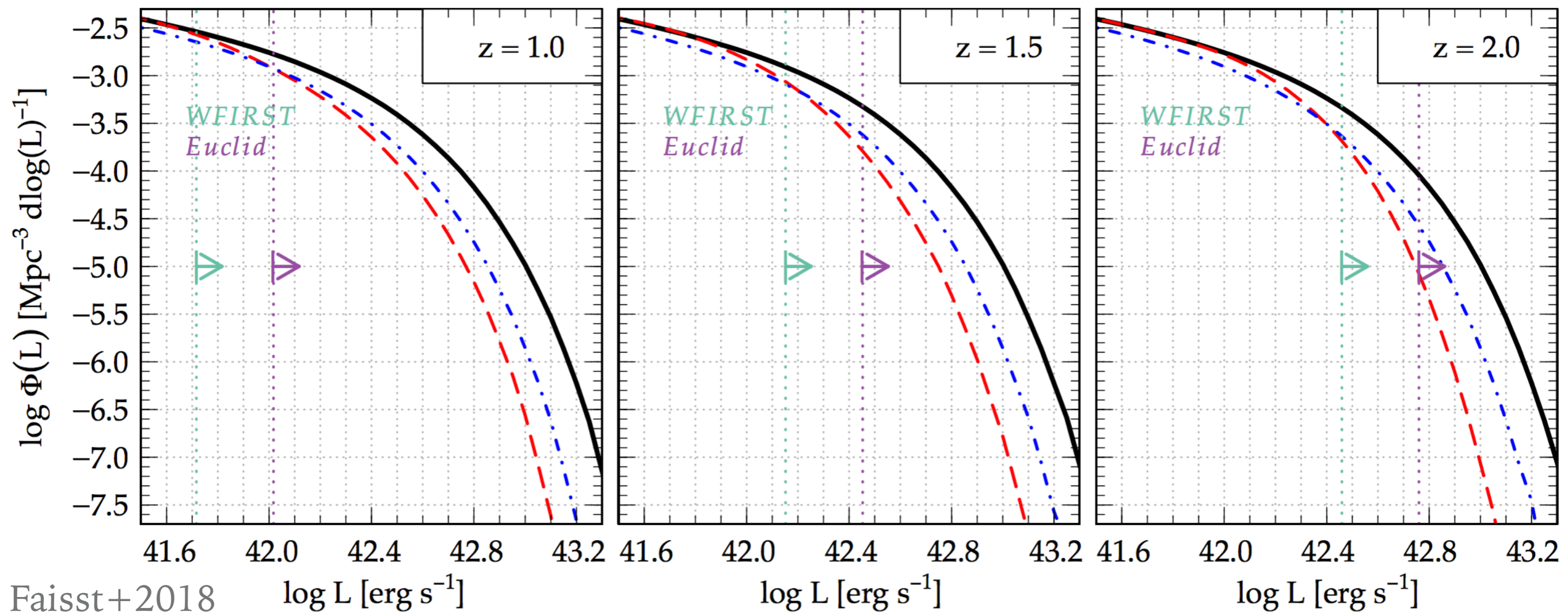
Use Case II: Systematic Redshift Bias

- ▶ Spectroscopic redshift bias from [NII] contamination
- ▶ Increasing with M and decreasing with z
- ▶ Becomes important at $\log(M) > 10.3$
- ▶ Up to 300 km/s (0.1%) for $\log(M) = 11.0$ (still better than required)



Use Case III: Impact on H α Luminosity Function

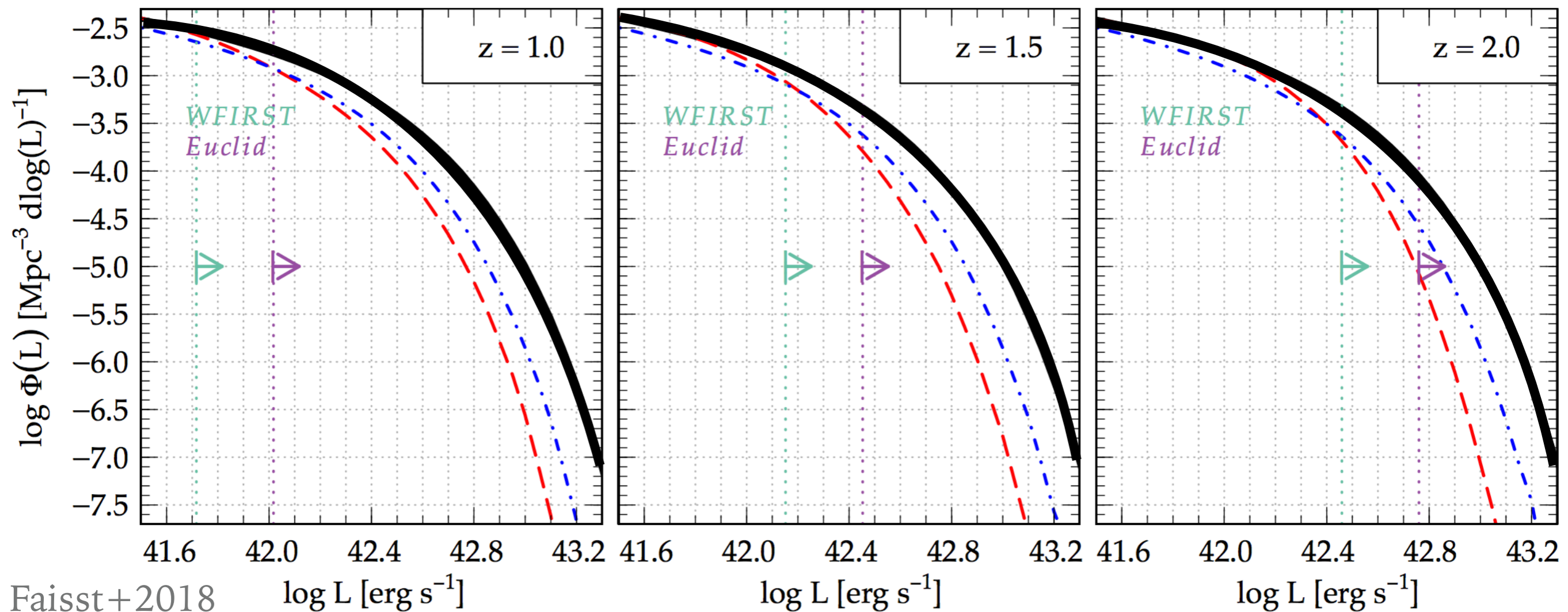
- ▶ Large impact on steep bright (= massive) end of H α LF
- ▶ Stronger [NII] in massive galaxies requires larger correction



Use Case III: Impact on H α Luminosity Function

- ▶ Large impact on steep bright (= massive) end of H α LF
- ▶ Stronger [NII] in massive galaxies requires larger correction

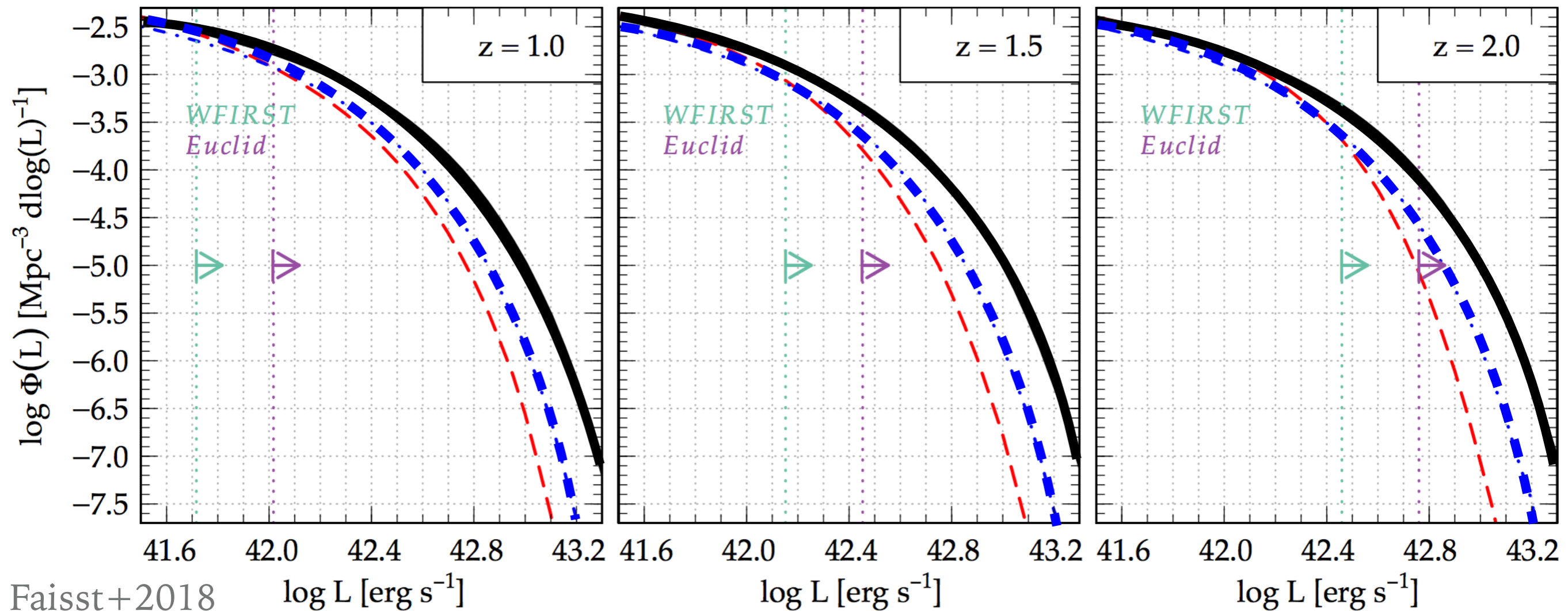
— Observed ([NII]+H α) LF (Colbert+13)



Use Case III: Impact on H α Luminosity Function

- ▶ Large impact on steep bright (= massive) end of H α LF
- ▶ Stronger [NII] in massive galaxies requires larger correction

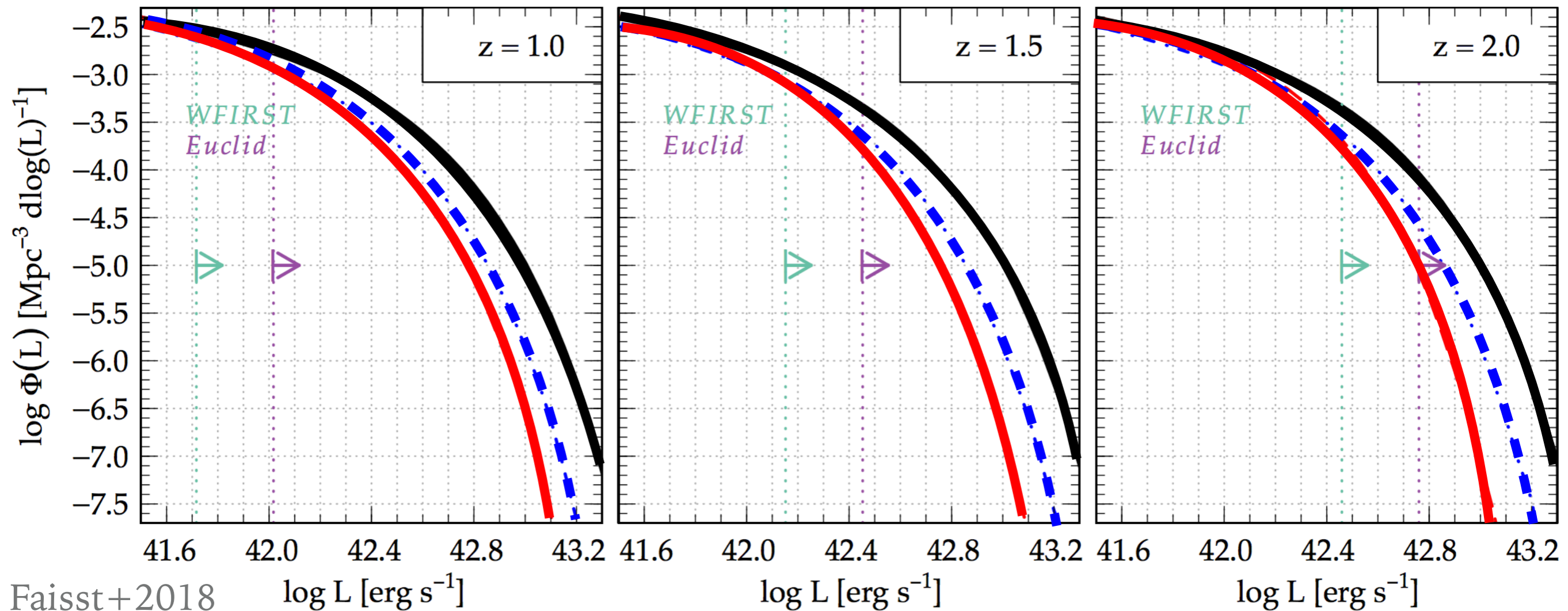
- Observed ([NII]+H α) LF (Colbert+13)
- - - Intrinsic H α LF (constant 29% [NII] cont.)



Use Case III: Impact on H α Luminosity Function

- ▶ Large impact on steep bright (= massive) end of H α LF
- ▶ Stronger [NII] in massive galaxies requires larger correction

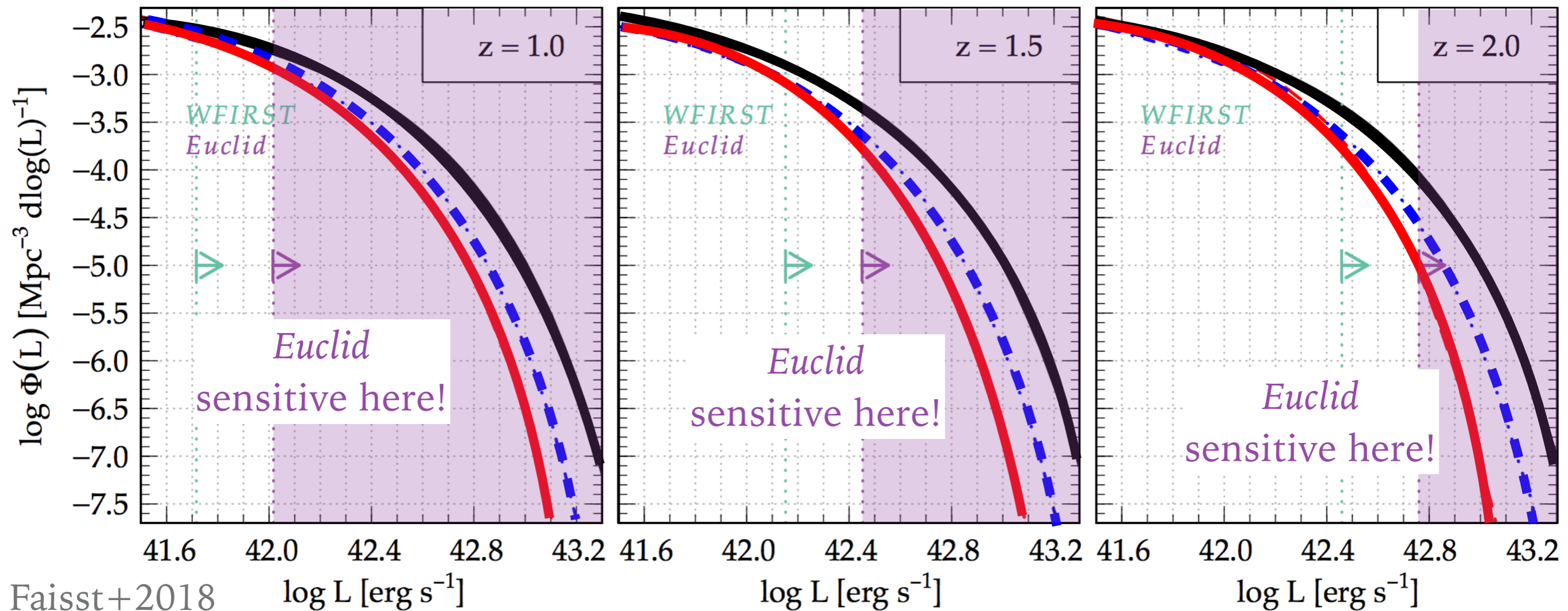
- Observed ([NII] + H α) LF (Colbert+13)
- - - Intrinsic H α LF (constant 29% [NII] cont.)
- Intrinsic H α LF (M , z dependent [NII] cont.)



Use Case III: Impact on H α Luminosity Function

- ▶ Large impact on steep bright (= massive) end of H α LF
- ▶ Stronger [NII] in massive galaxies requires larger correction

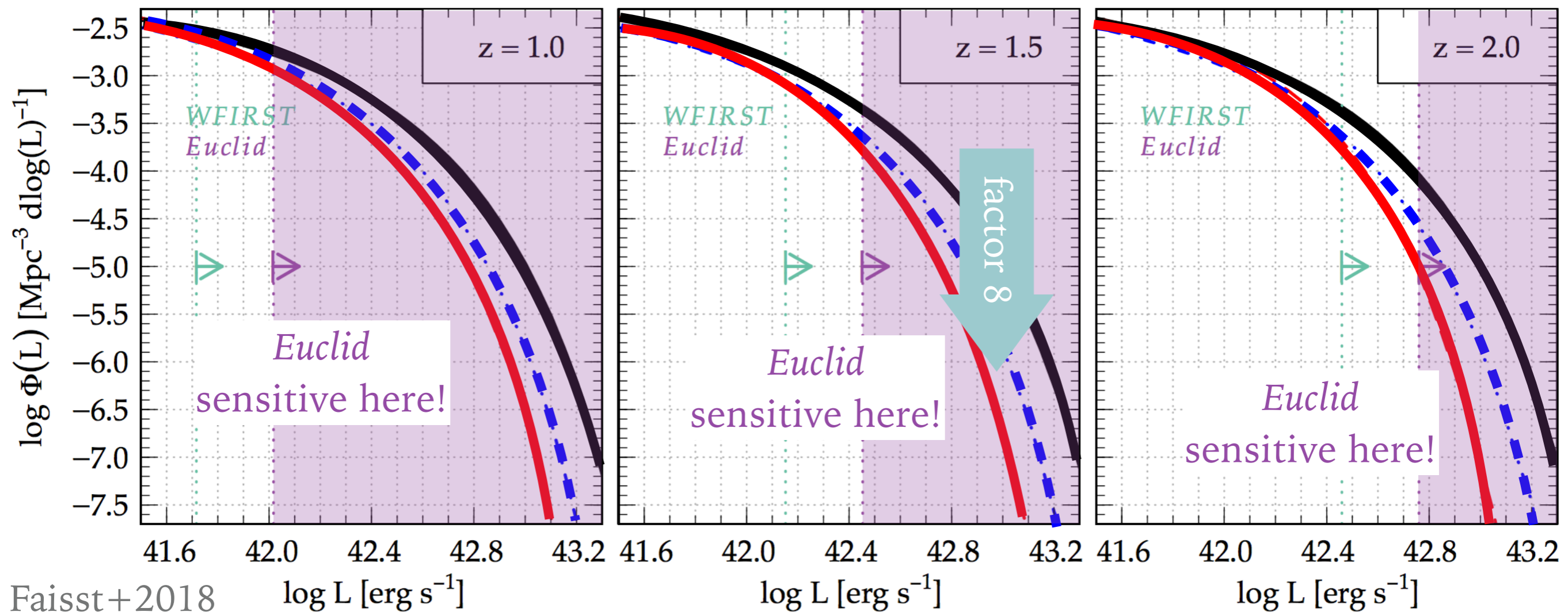
- Observed ([NII] + H α) LF (Colbert+13)
- - - Intrinsic H α LF (constant 29% [NII] cont.)
- Intrinsic H α LF (M , z dependent [NII] cont.)



Use Case III: Impact on H α Luminosity Function

- ▶ Large impact on steep bright (= massive) end of H α LF
- ▶ Stronger [NII] in massive galaxies requires larger correction

- Observed ([NII] + H α) LF (Colbert+13)
- - - Intrinsic H α LF (constant 29% [NII] cont.)
- Intrinsic H α LF (M , z dependent [NII] cont.)



Summary

- **Faisst et al. 2018:** Empirical model for $[\text{NII}]/\text{H}\alpha(M,z)$:
Can be used by simulators and observers!
 - Simple to use (M and z straightforward to determine)
 - Accurate (incorporates many physical relations naturally)
- Redshift and stellar mass dependence of $[\text{NII}]/\text{H}\alpha$ ratio has to be taken into account: For massive galaxies and low redshifts.
 - Correct redshift bias due to $[\text{NII}]$ contamination
 - Use in simulations to derive $([\text{NII}]+\text{H}\alpha)$ number densities
 - Derive deblended $\text{H}\alpha$ LF from observations

