



Universiteit Leiden

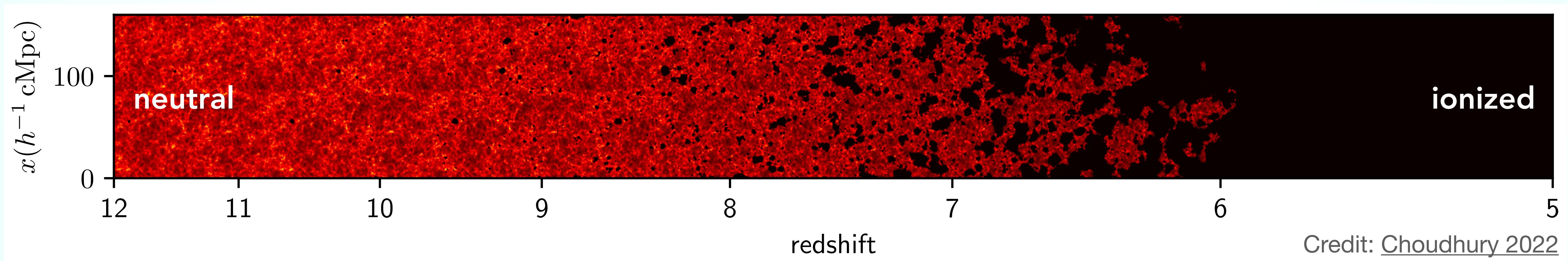
Sterrewacht
Leiden

Learning Reionization History with Quasar IGM Damping Wings

Timo Kist, PhD candidate at Leiden Observatory
Supervisor: Joseph F Hennawi

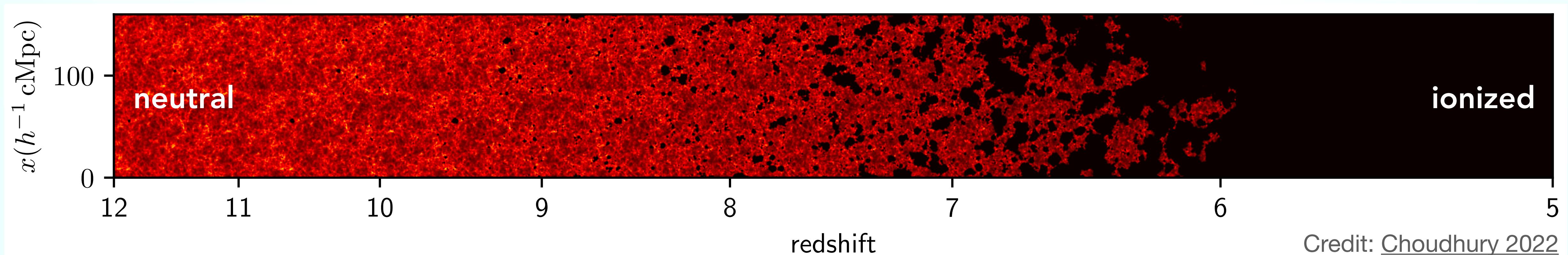
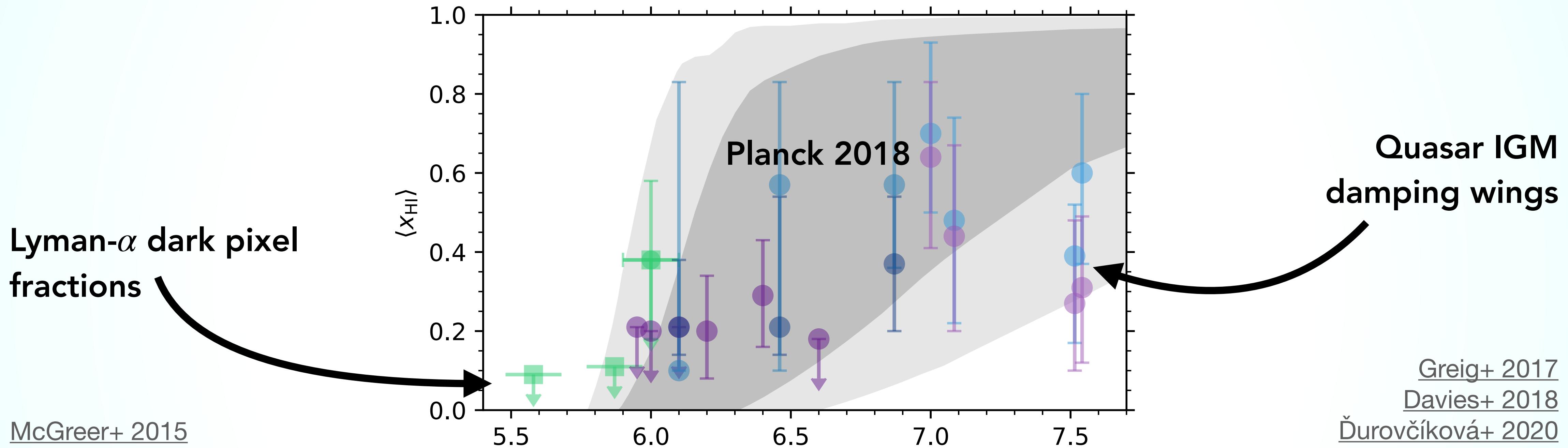
Quasars in a Reionizing Universe

Proximity Zones & IGM Damping Wings



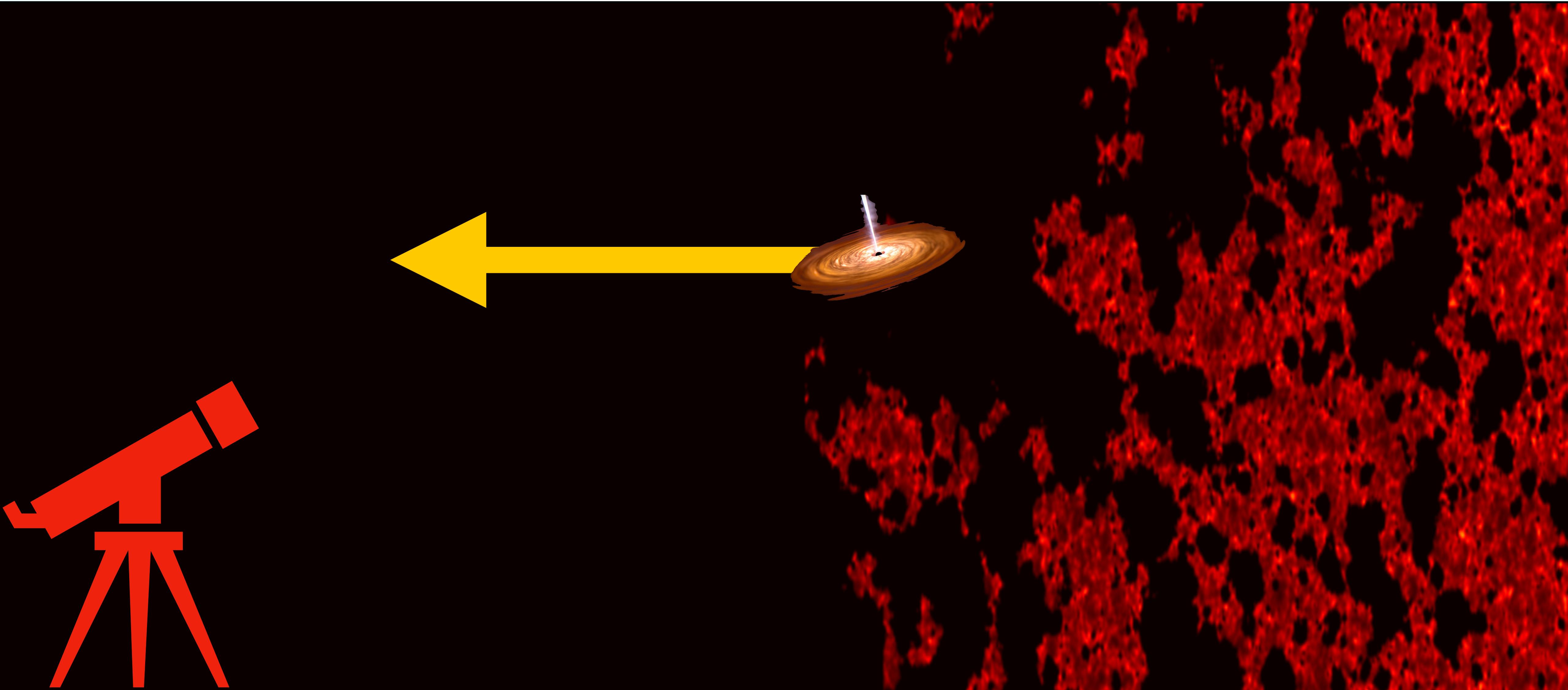
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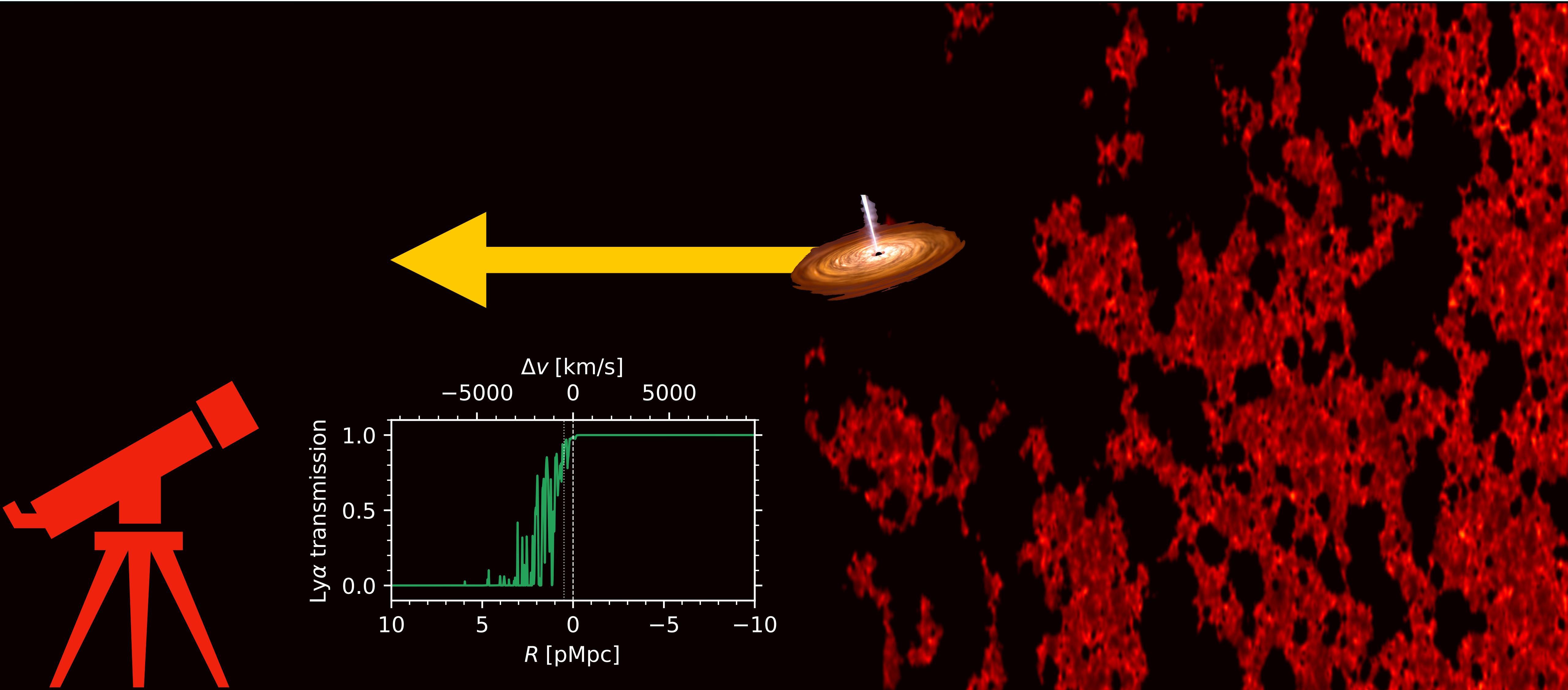
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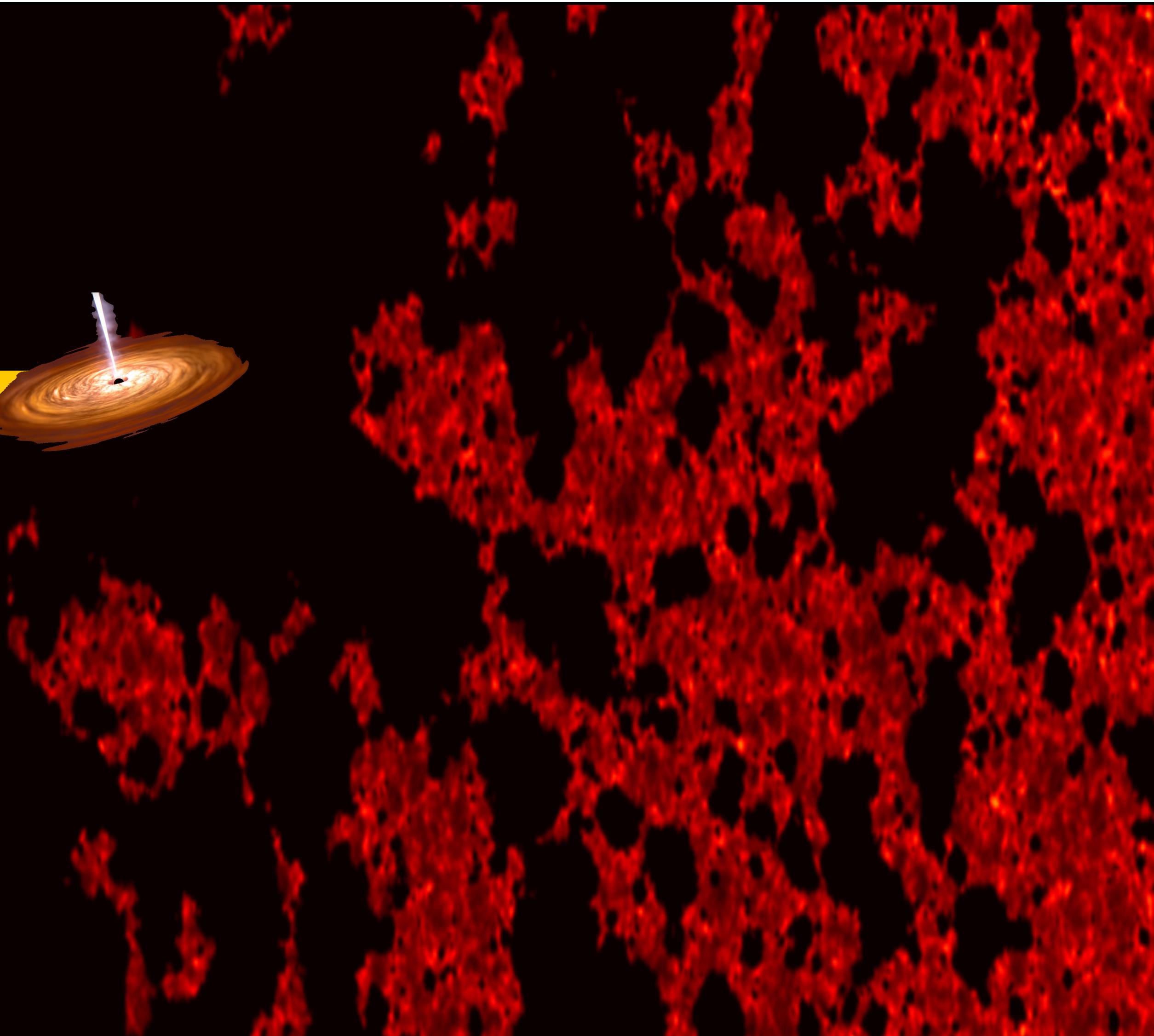
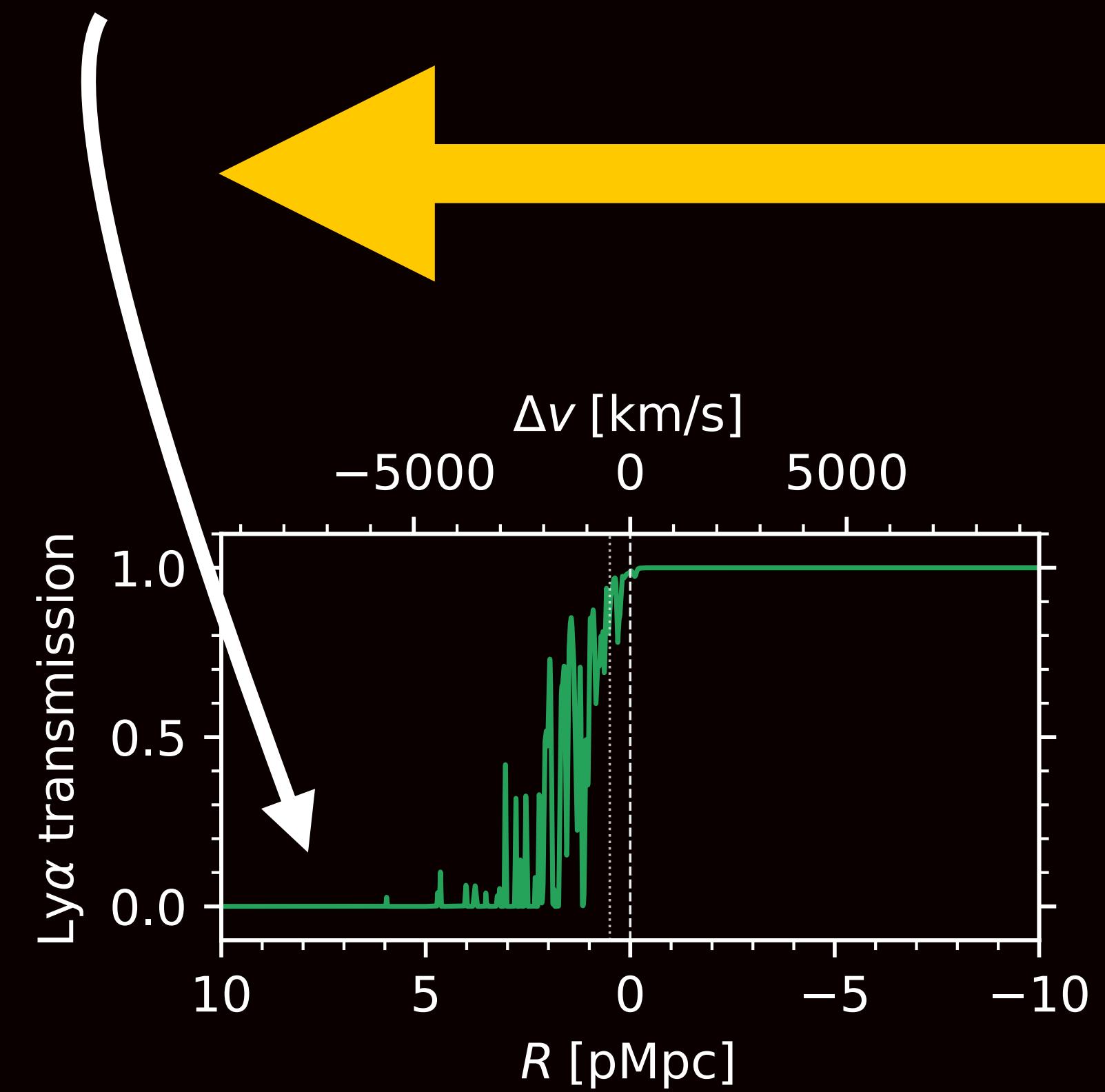


Quasars in a Reionizing Universe

Proximity Zones & IGM Damping Wings

Gunn-Peterson trough:

Complete absorption in the Ly- α forest region
starting at IGM neutral fractions $\langle x_{\text{HI}} \rangle \gtrsim 10^{-4}$

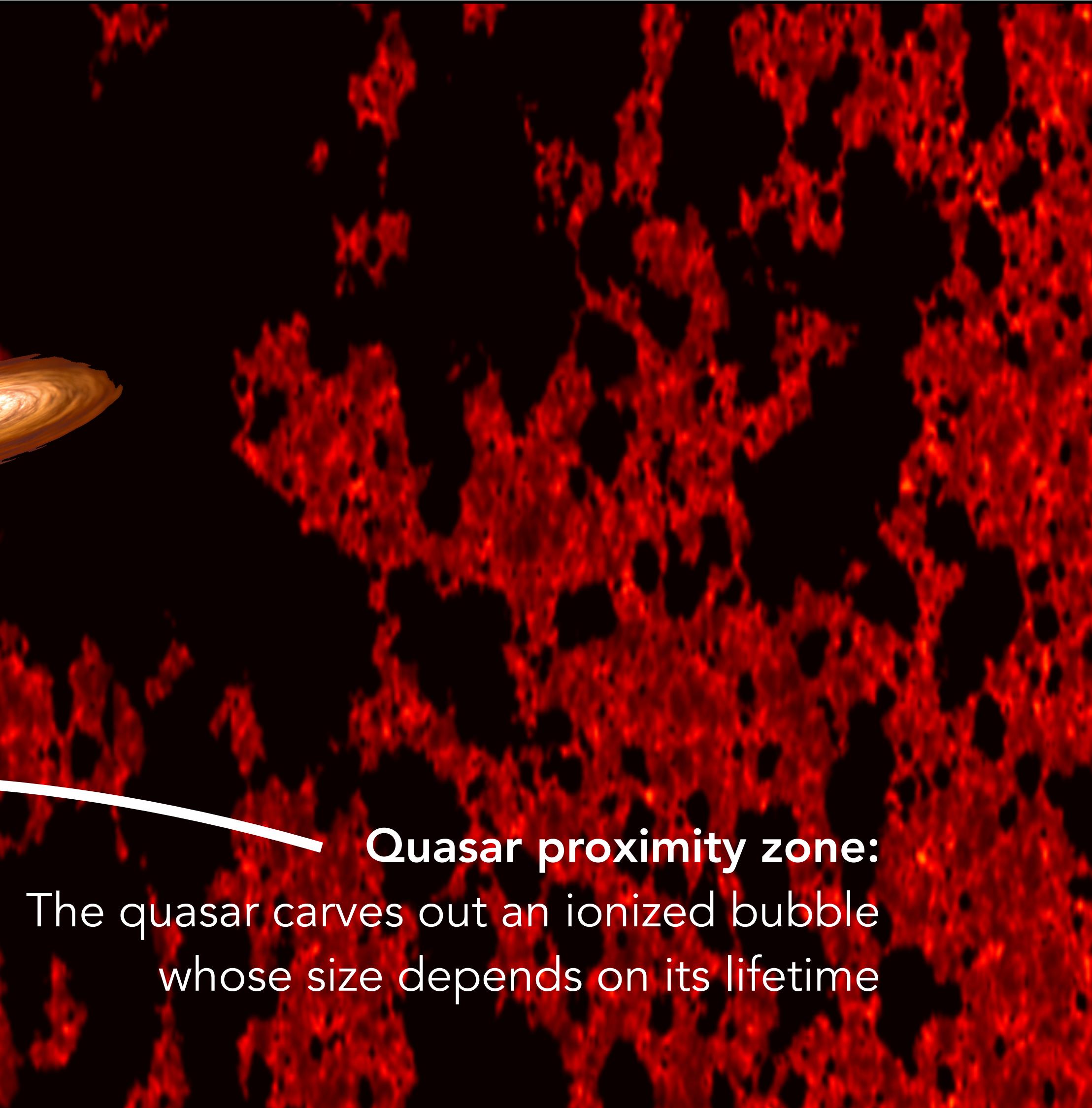
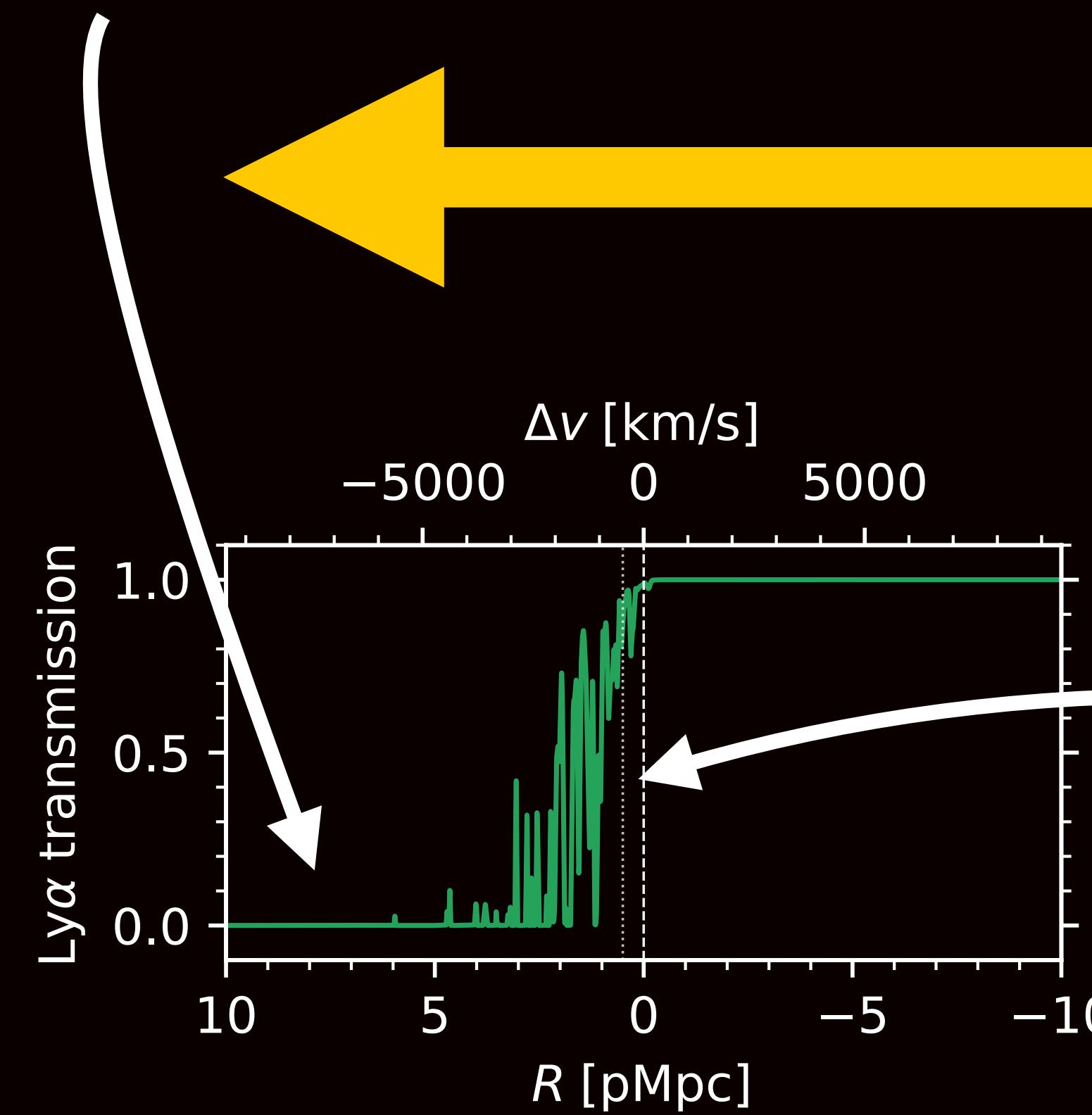


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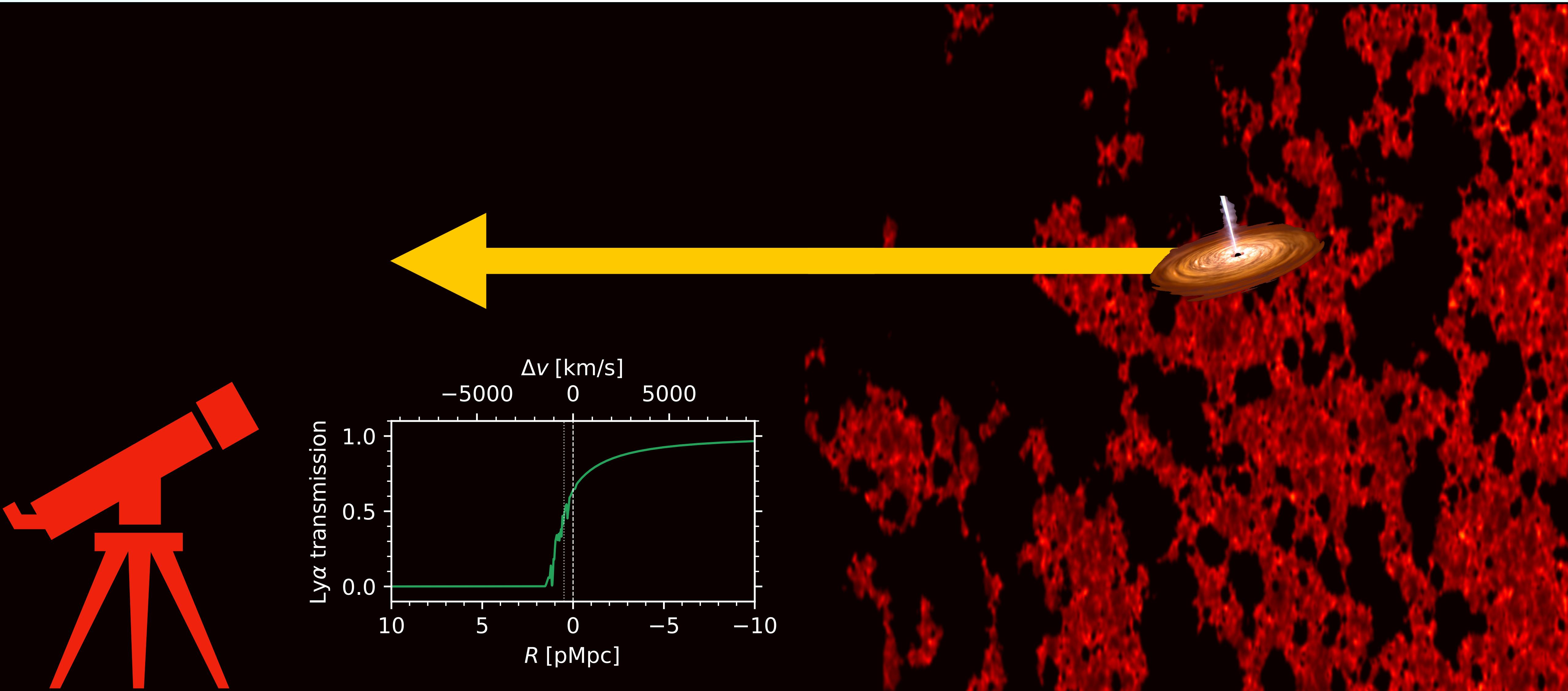
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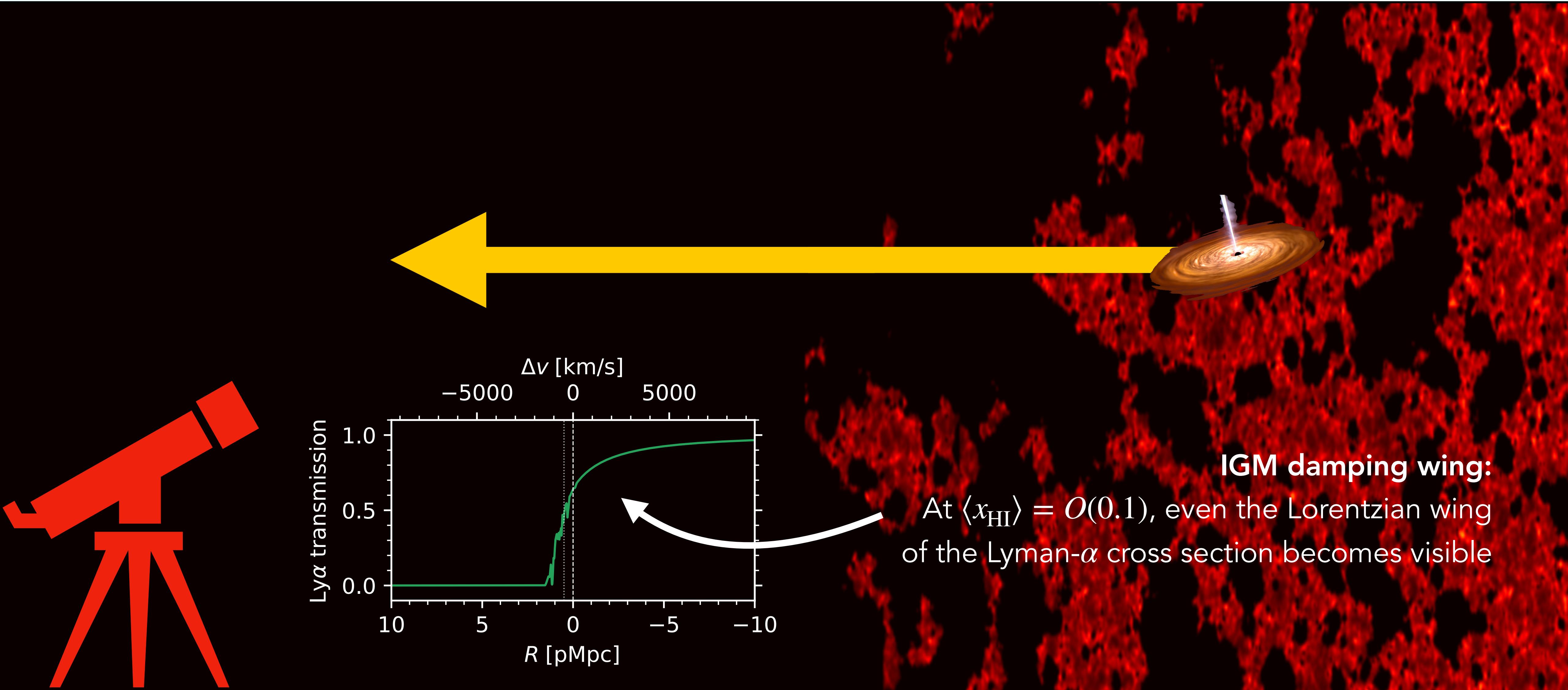
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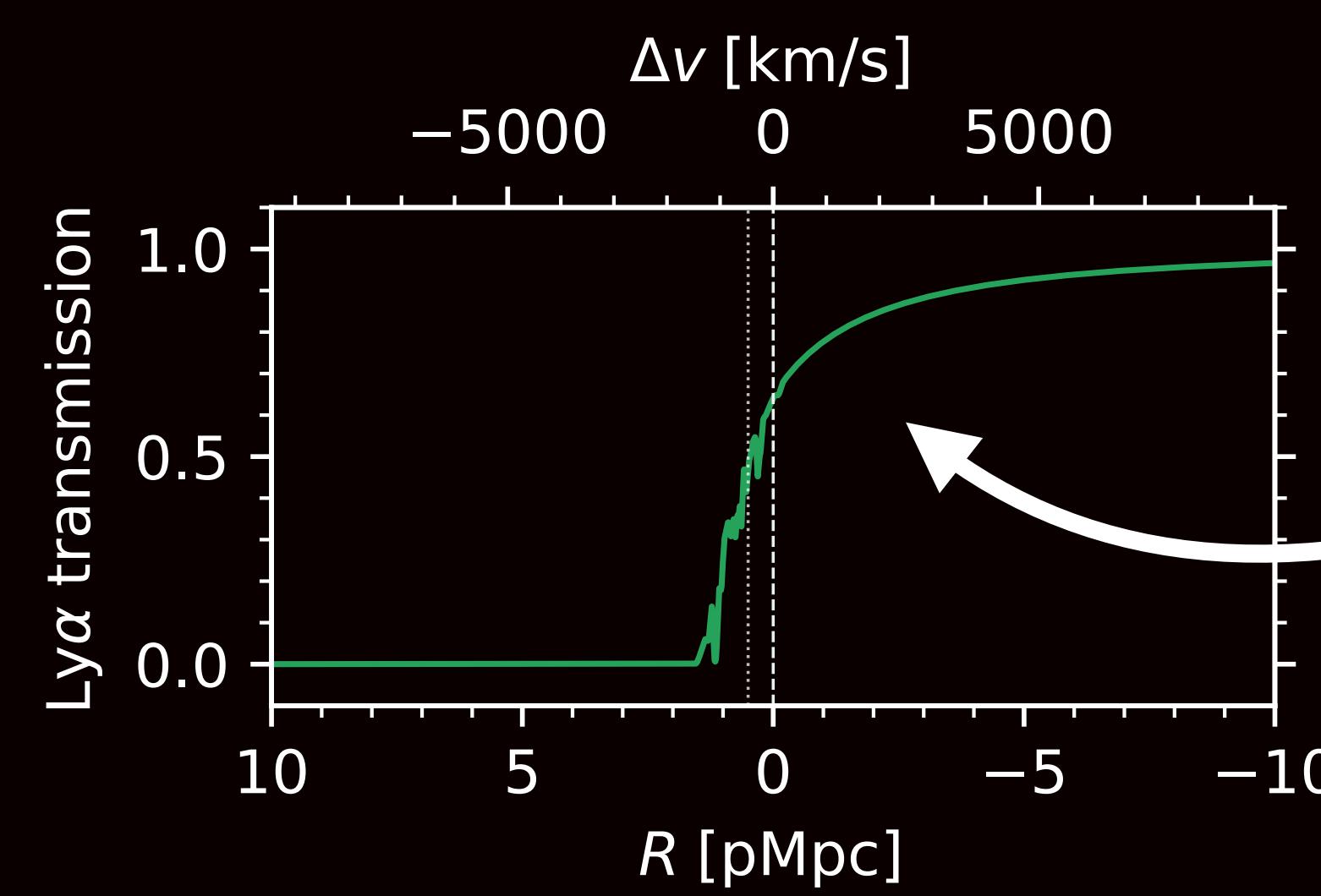
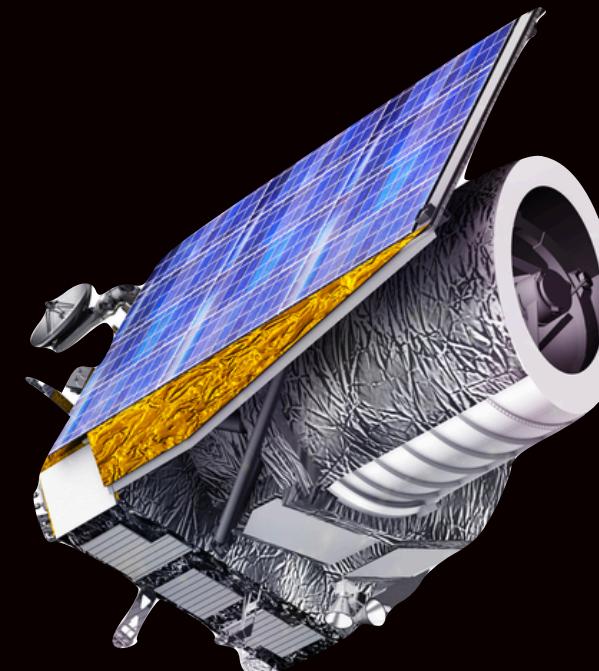
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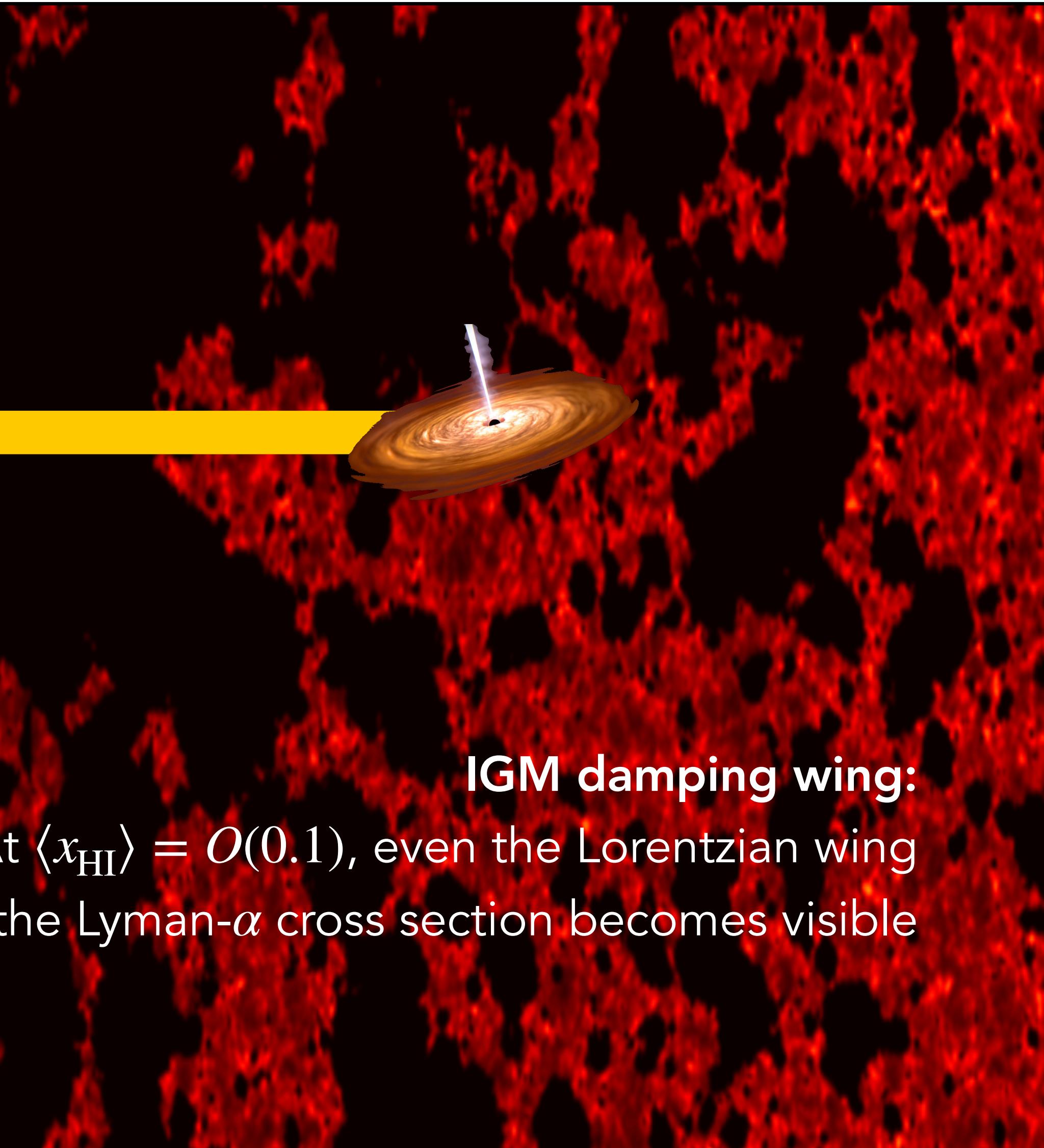
Quasars in a Reionizing Universe

Proximity Zones & IGM Damping Wings

Euclid will find
hundreds of QSOs at $z > 6$



IGM damping wing:
At $\langle x_{\text{HI}} \rangle = O(0.1)$, even the Lorentzian wing
of the Lyman- α cross section becomes visible



Forward-Modelling Damping Wing Absorption

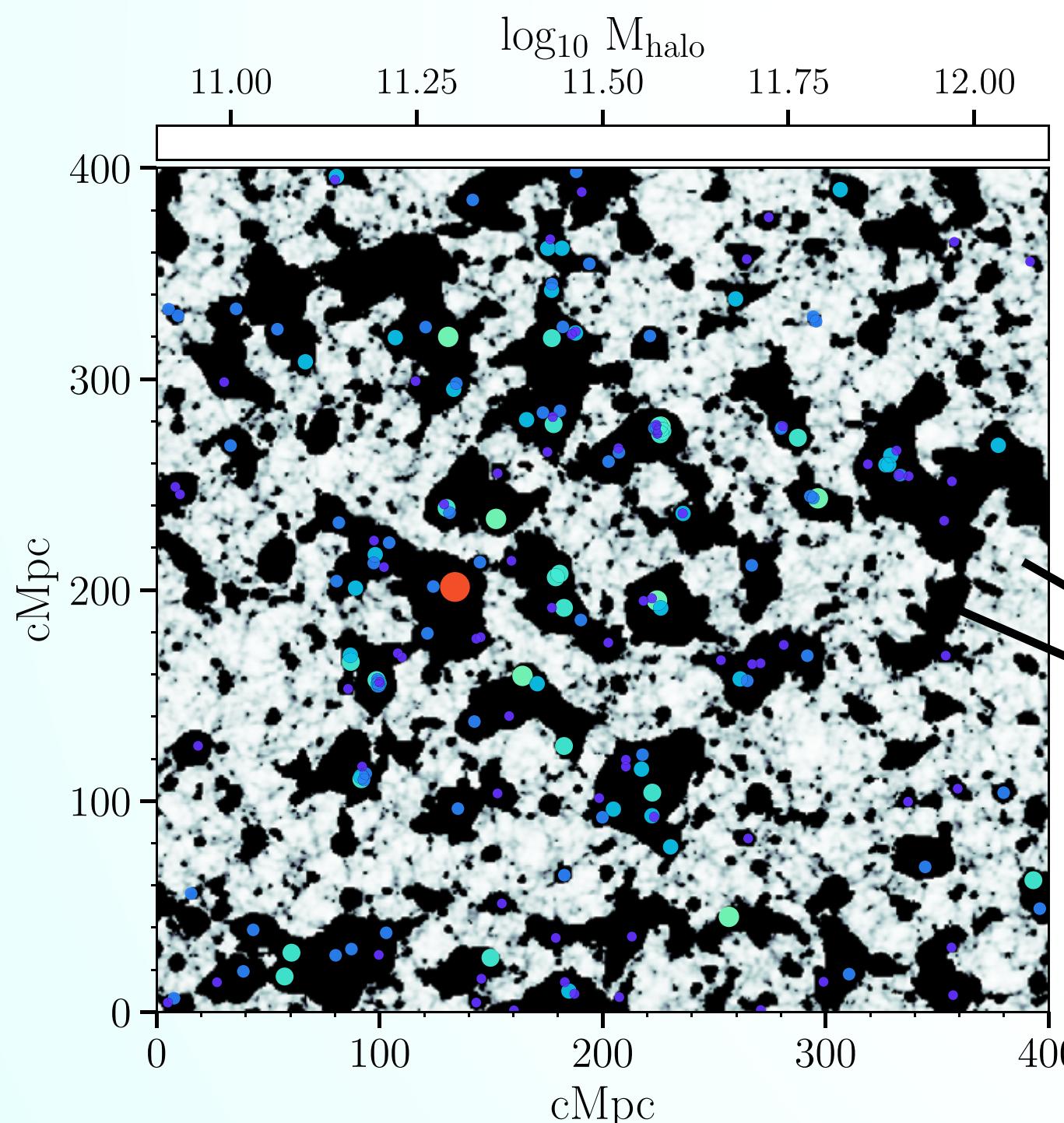
Constructing realistic skewers based on cosmological simulations

Nyx hydrodynamical simulations:

1200 density and temperature skewers
around the most massive DM halos

21cmFast:

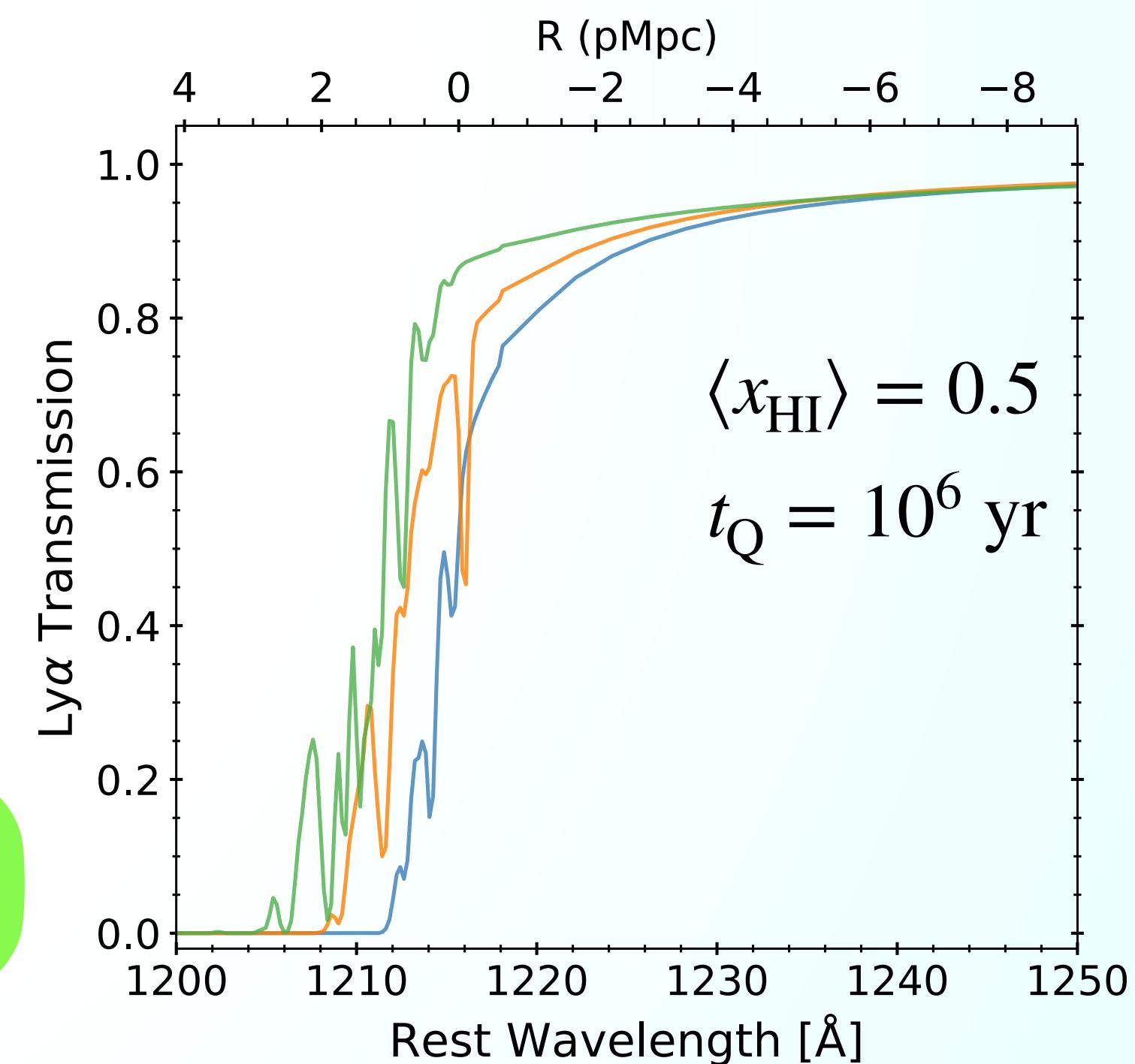
21 reionization topologies ($0 \leq \langle x_{\text{HI}} \rangle \leq 1$)
with 10 000 x_{HI} skewers each



1D Radiative Transfer

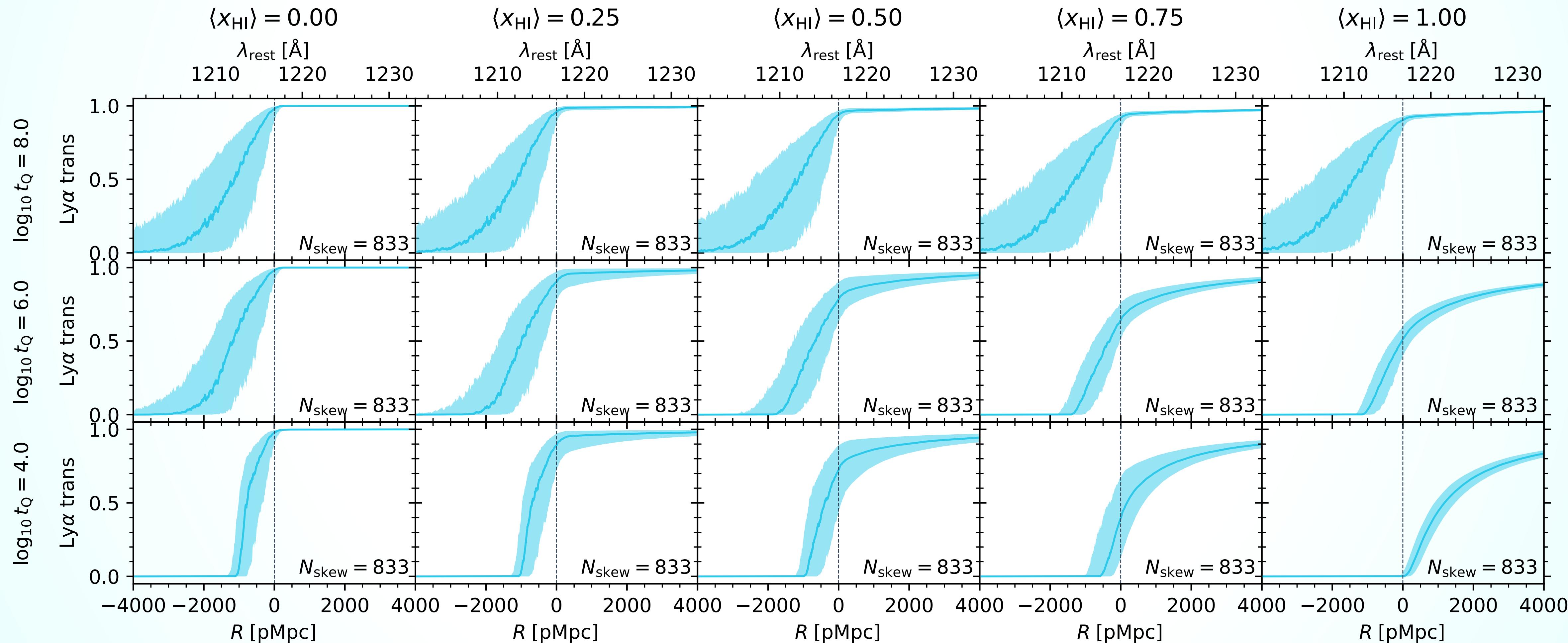
51 quasar lifetimes
between
 $10^3 \text{ yr} \leq t_Q \leq 10^8 \text{ yr}$

1200 x 21 x 51 grid of Ly- α transmission skewers



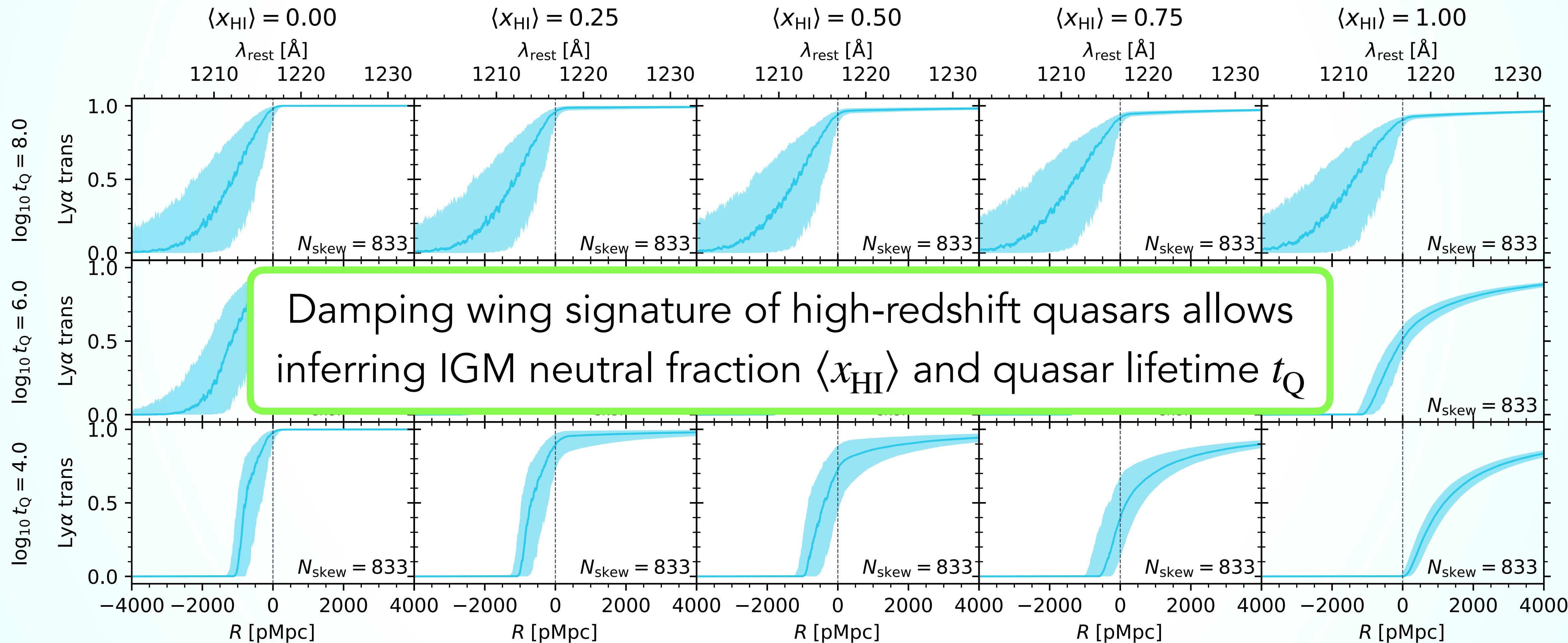
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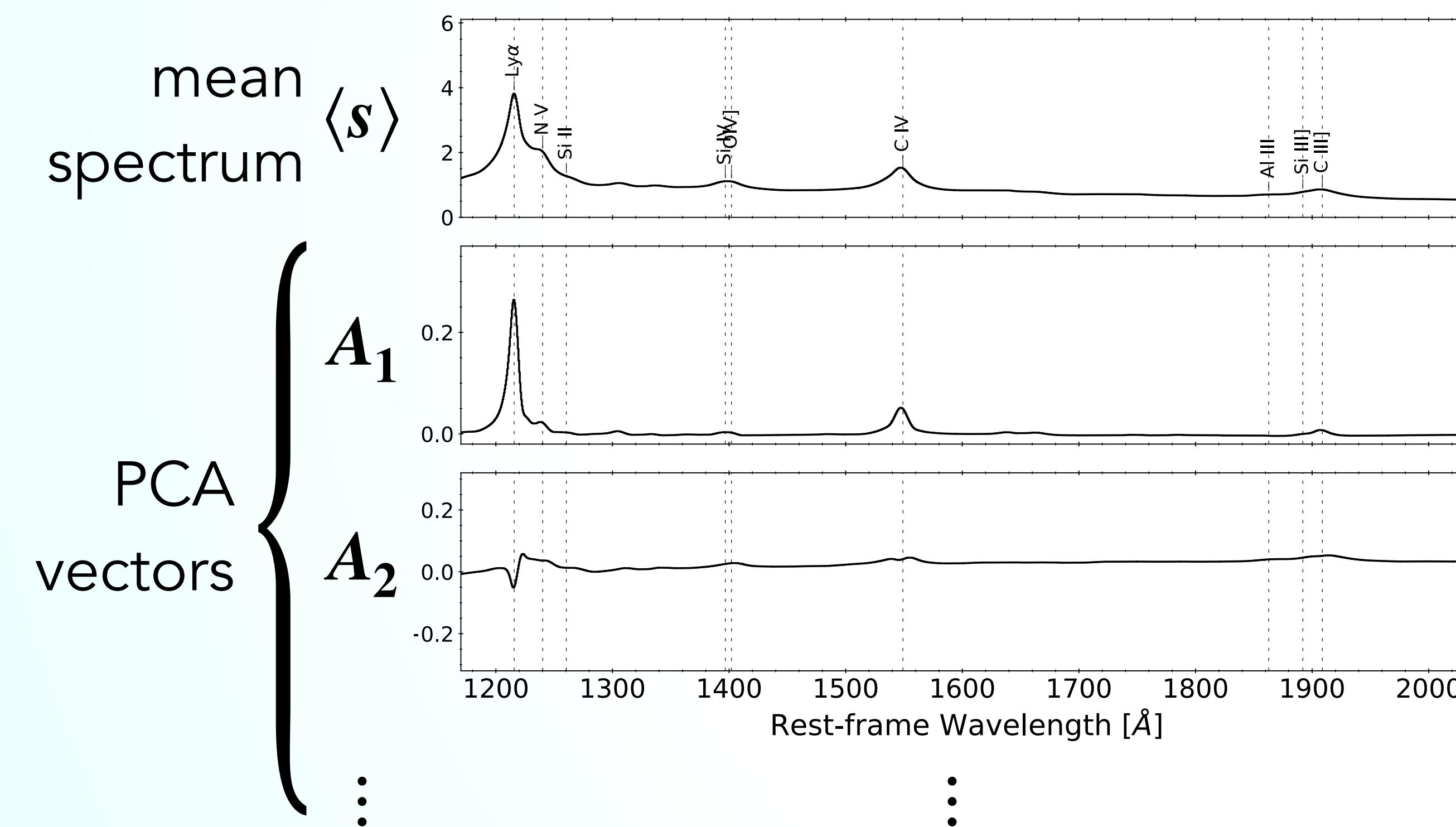
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Predicting the Quasar Continuum

A low-redshift PCA model

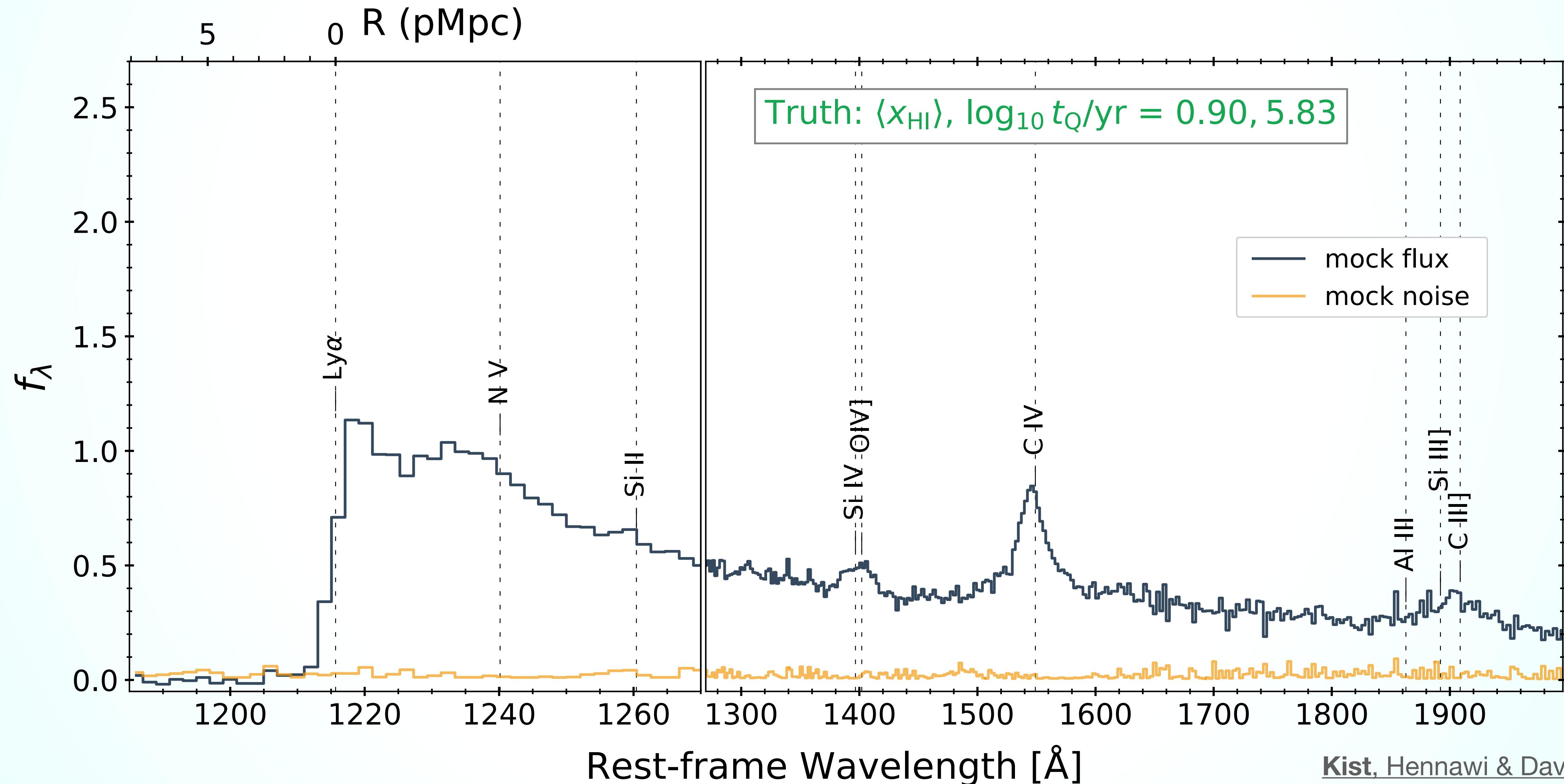
$$\text{PCA decomposed continuum: } s_{\text{DR}}(\xi) = \langle s \rangle + \xi \cdot A$$



- 15 559 SDSS-autofit spectra ($2.149 < z < 4$, $R \sim 2000$, S/N > 10)
- 95% - 5% training-test split:
 - Training set of 14 781 low-redshift spectra to build PCA model
 - Test set of 778 spectra to draw mock continua and estimate reconstruction error

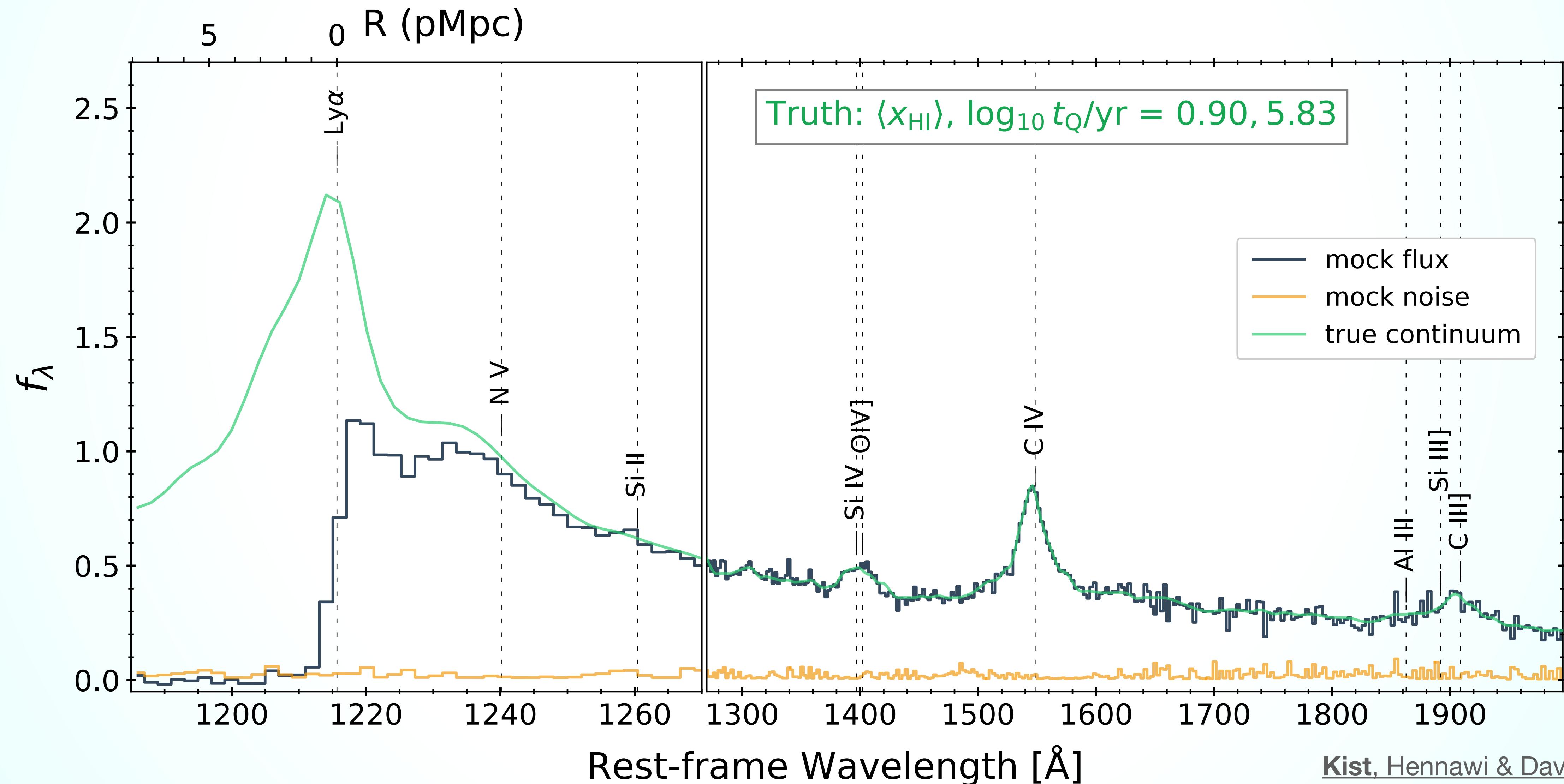
From an Observed Quasar Spectrum to $\langle x_{\text{HI}} \rangle$

A Quasar in a Neutral Environment



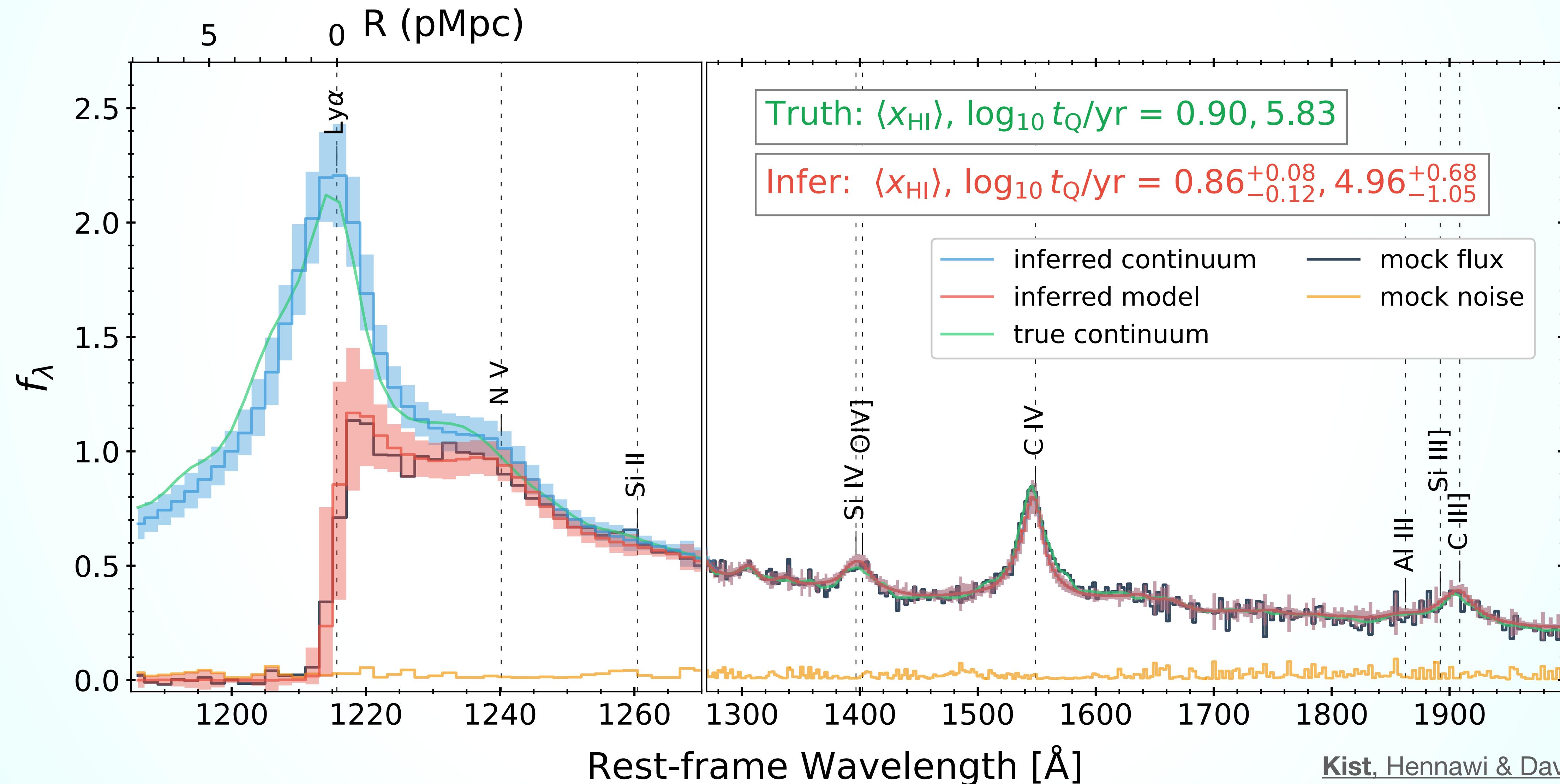
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From an Observed Quasar Spectrum to $\langle x_{\text{HI}} \rangle$

HMC Inference Pipeline

DATA

Real (or mock) quasar spectrum
with observational noise

MODEL

Quasar
continuum
model

Reconstruction
error stochastic
process



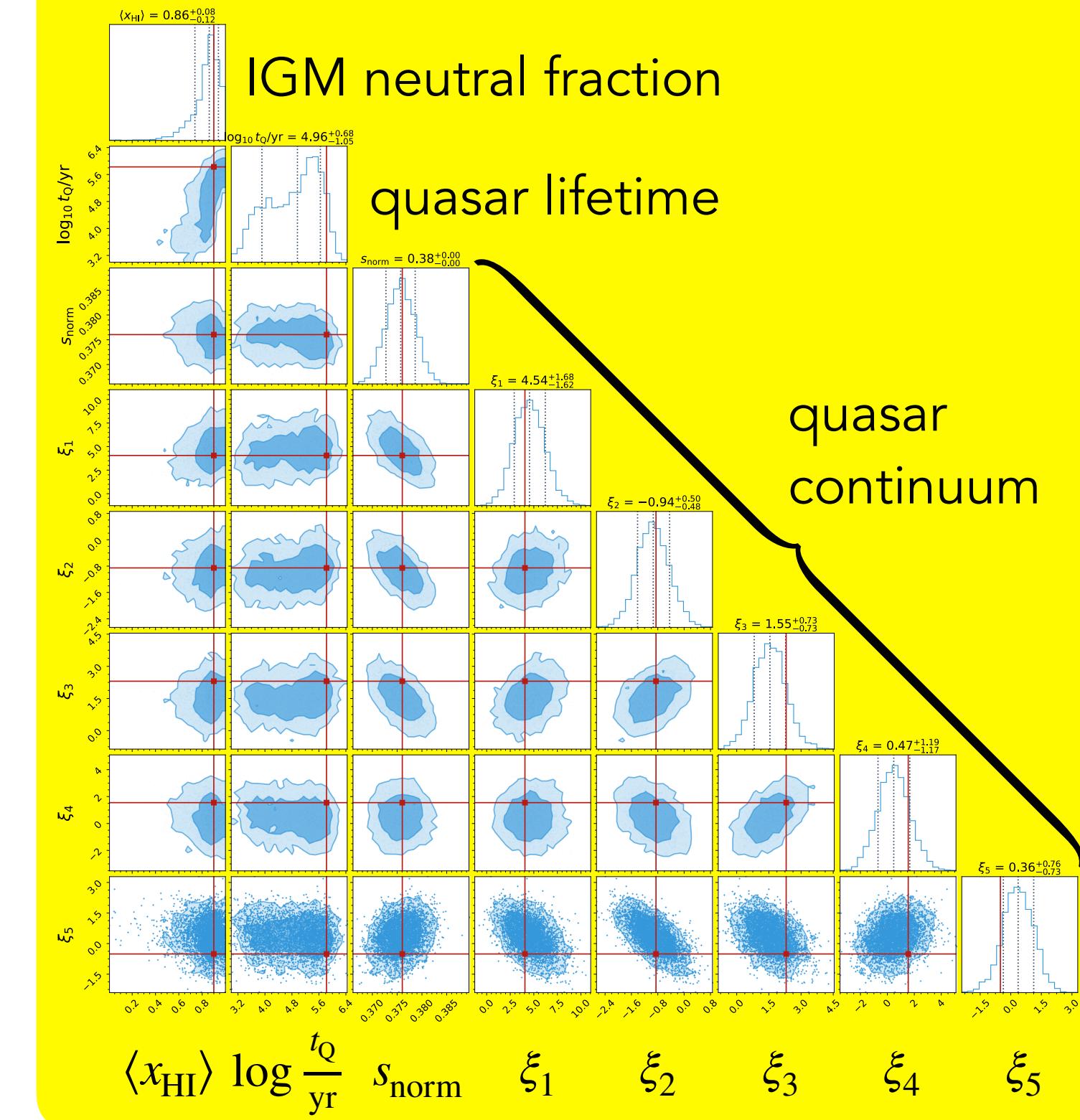
IGM transmission field
stochastic process

BAYESIAN INFERENCE

with a Gaussian likelihood approximation

- **Jointly** fitting the quasar continuum & IGM damping wing
- Likelihood operates on the **entire** spectrum (red- and blueward of Lyman- α)
- **Fast** GPU-accelerated JAX-based Hamiltonian Monte Carlo implementation (runtimes ~ 15 min)

POSTERIOR



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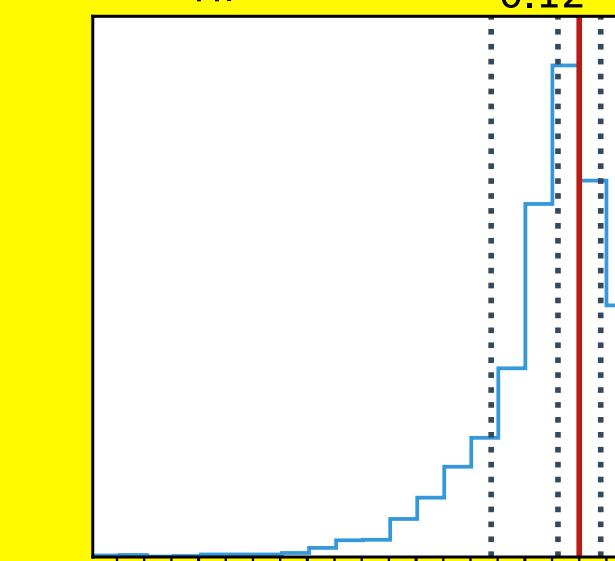
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IGM neutral fraction

$$\langle x_{\text{HI}} \rangle = 0.86^{+0.08}_{-0.12}$$



quasar lifetime

$$\log_{10} t_Q/\text{yr} = 4.96^{+0.68}_{-1.05}$$

$\log_{10} t_Q/\text{yr}$

$\langle x_{\text{HI}} \rangle$

$\log_{10} t_Q/\text{yr}$

Kist, Hennawi & Davies 2024a

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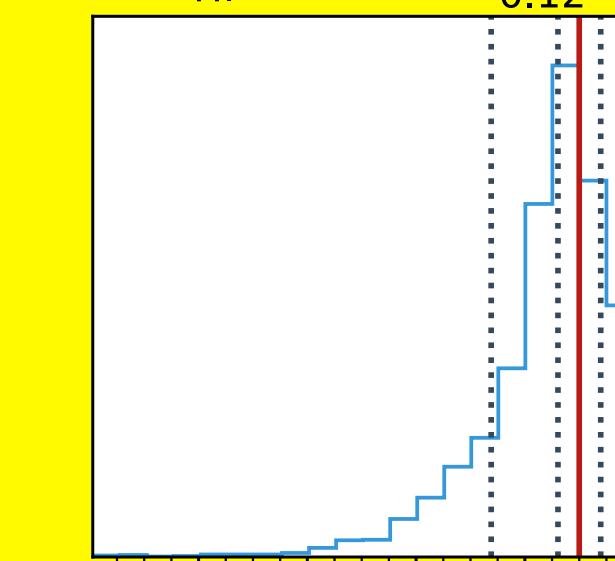
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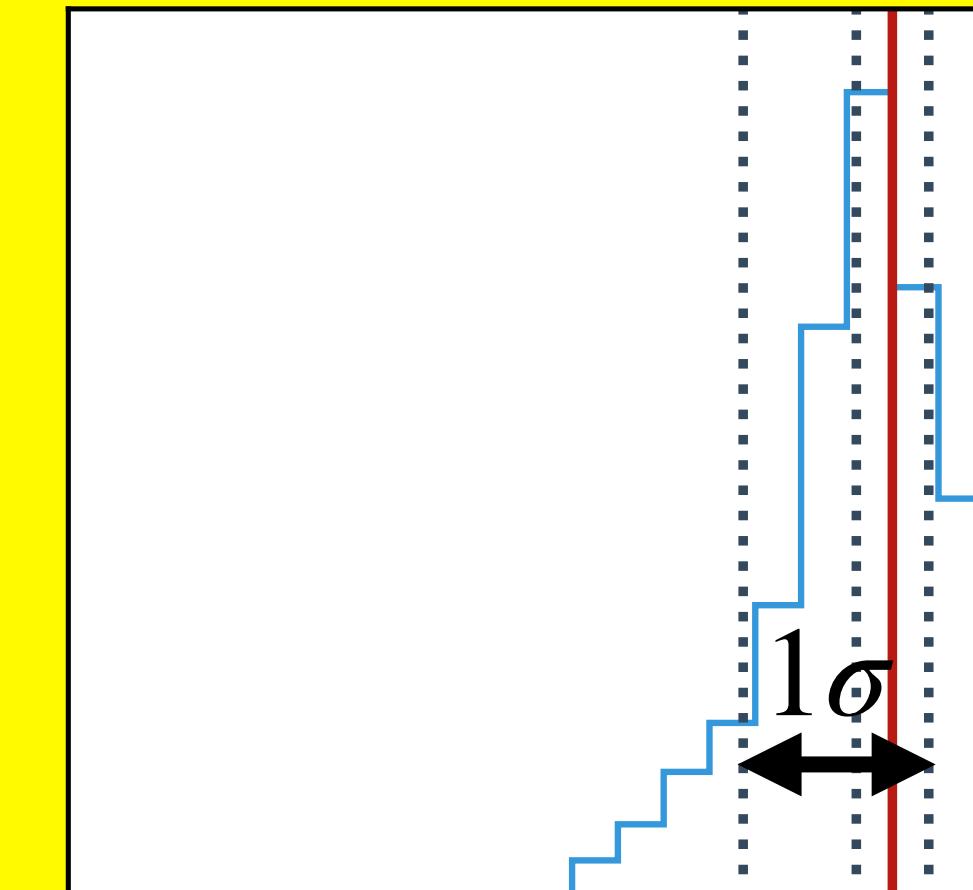
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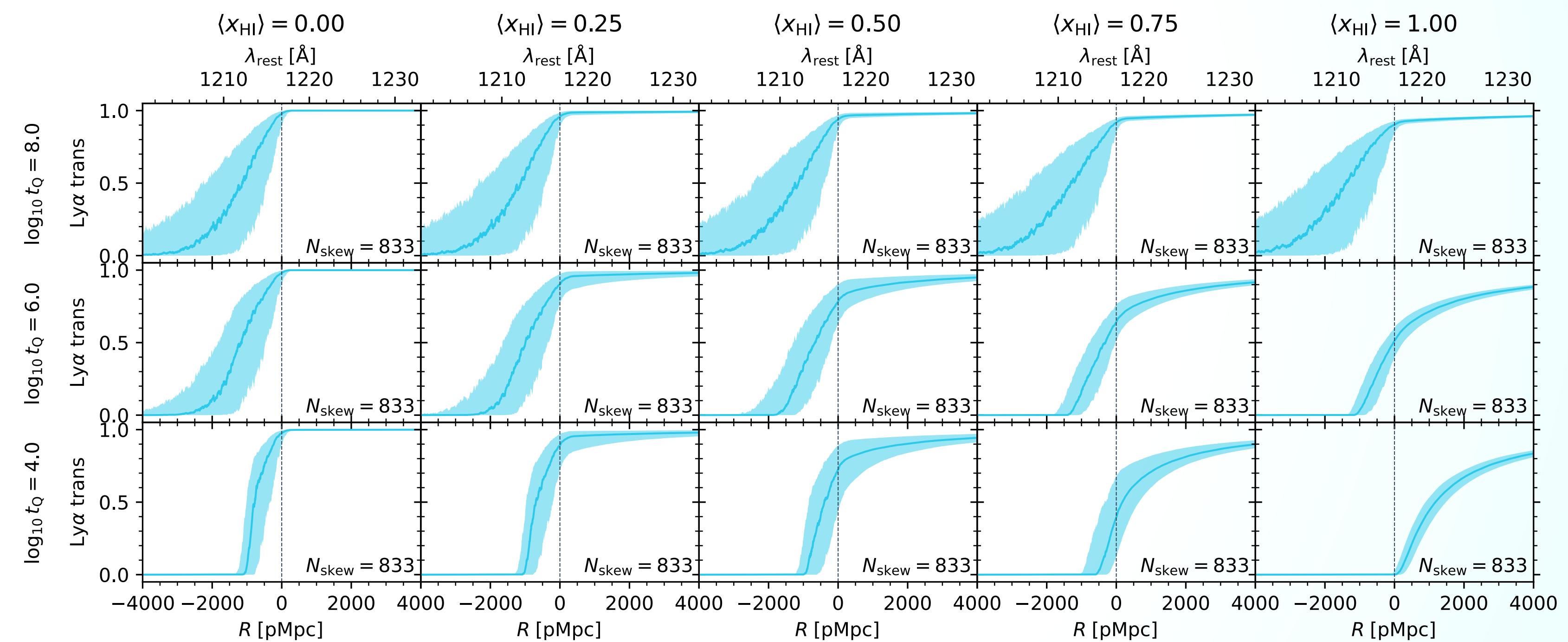
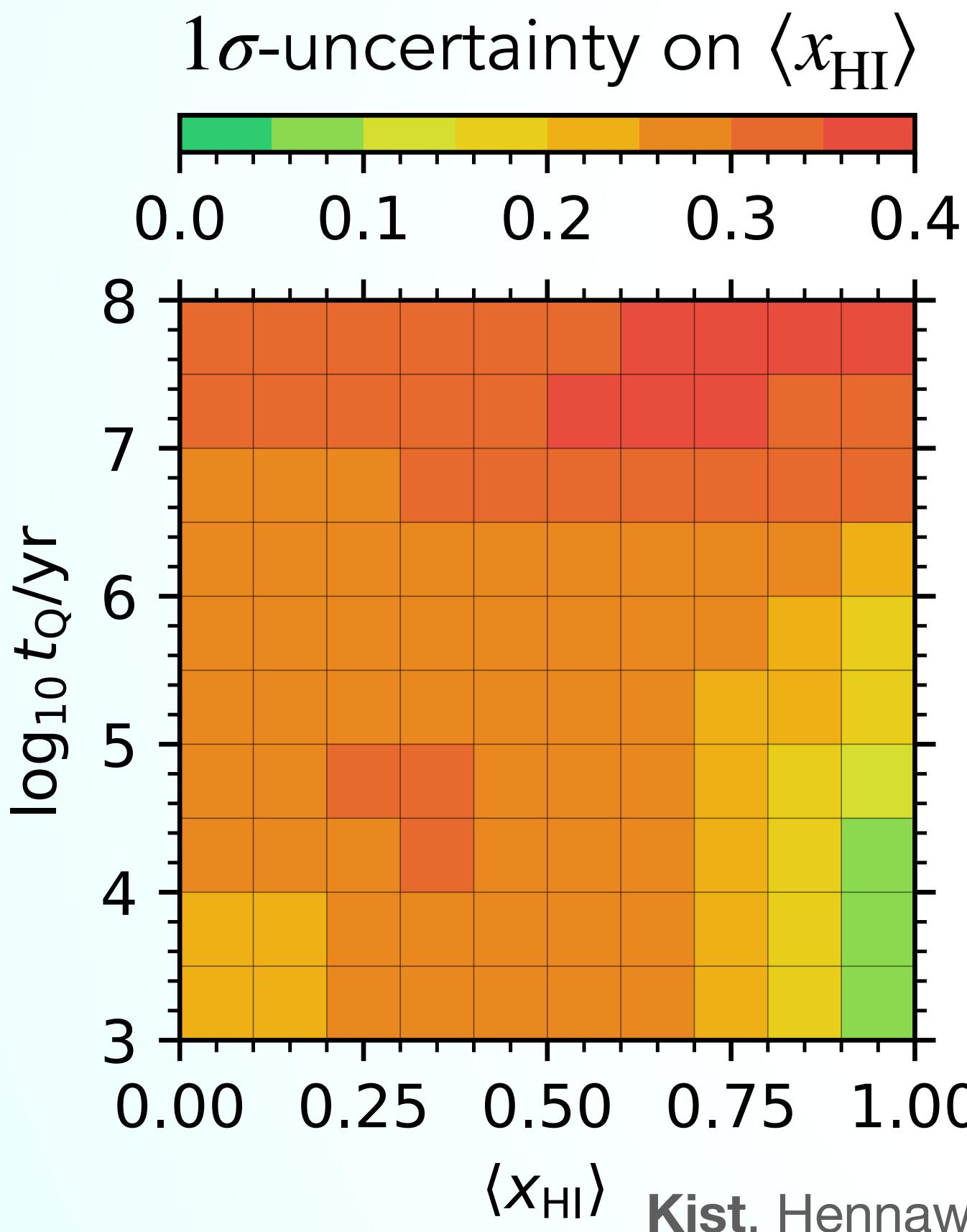
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$$\langle x_{\text{HI}} \rangle$$

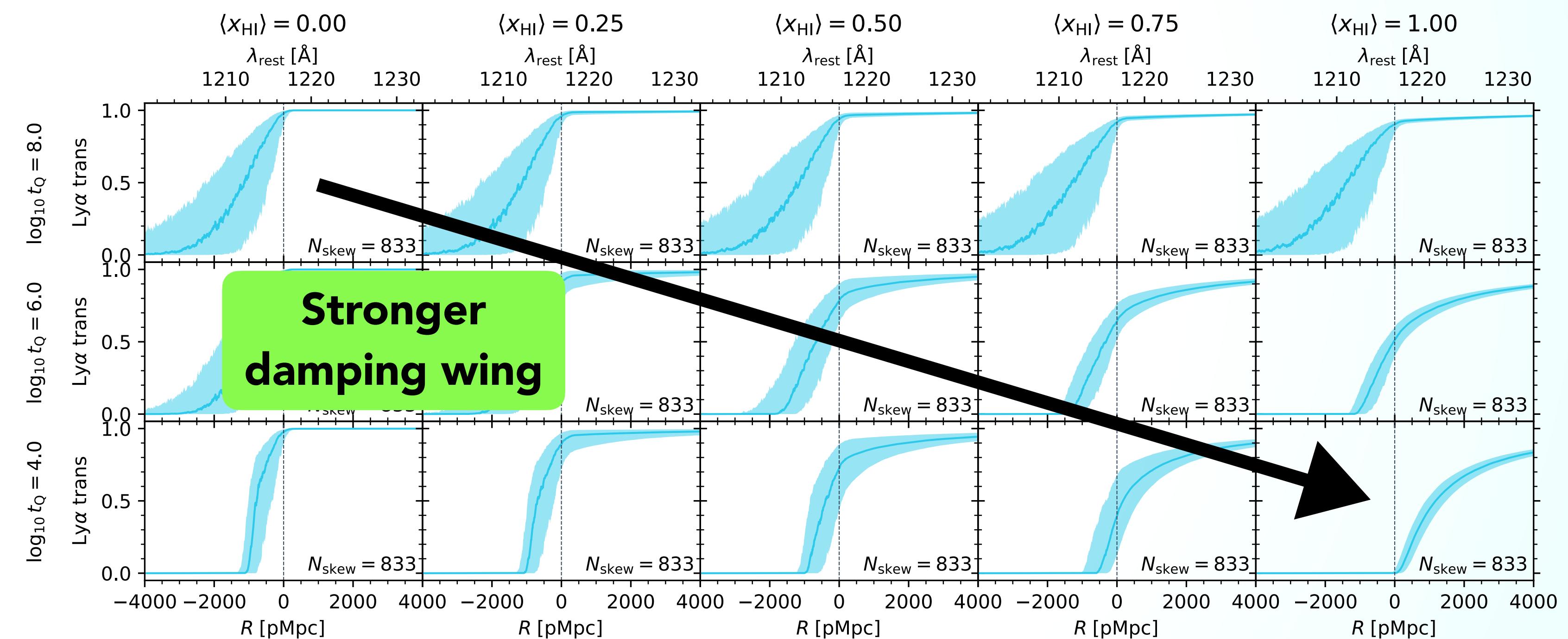
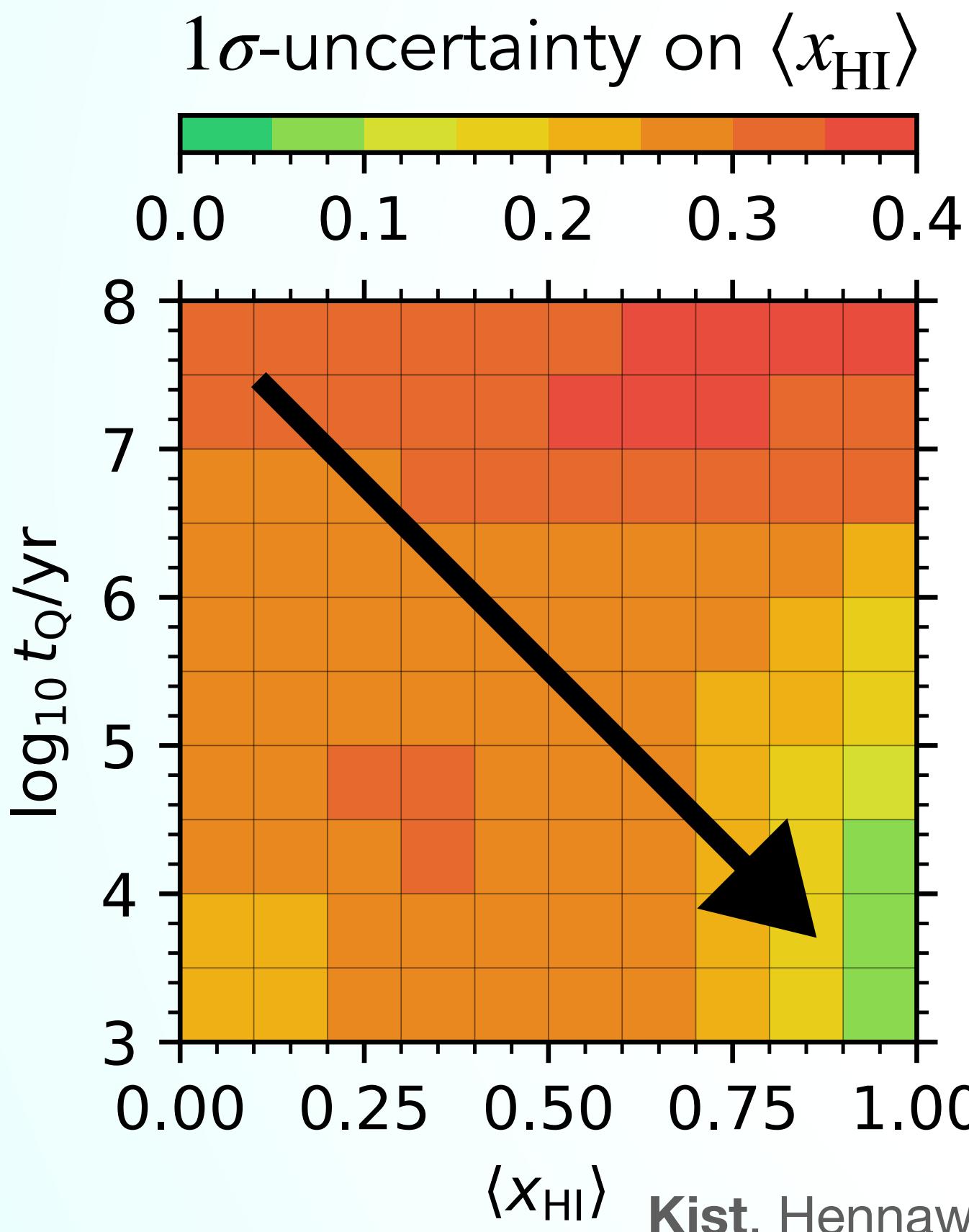
Quantifying $\langle x_{\text{HI}} \rangle$ Inference Precision

Variation across parameter space



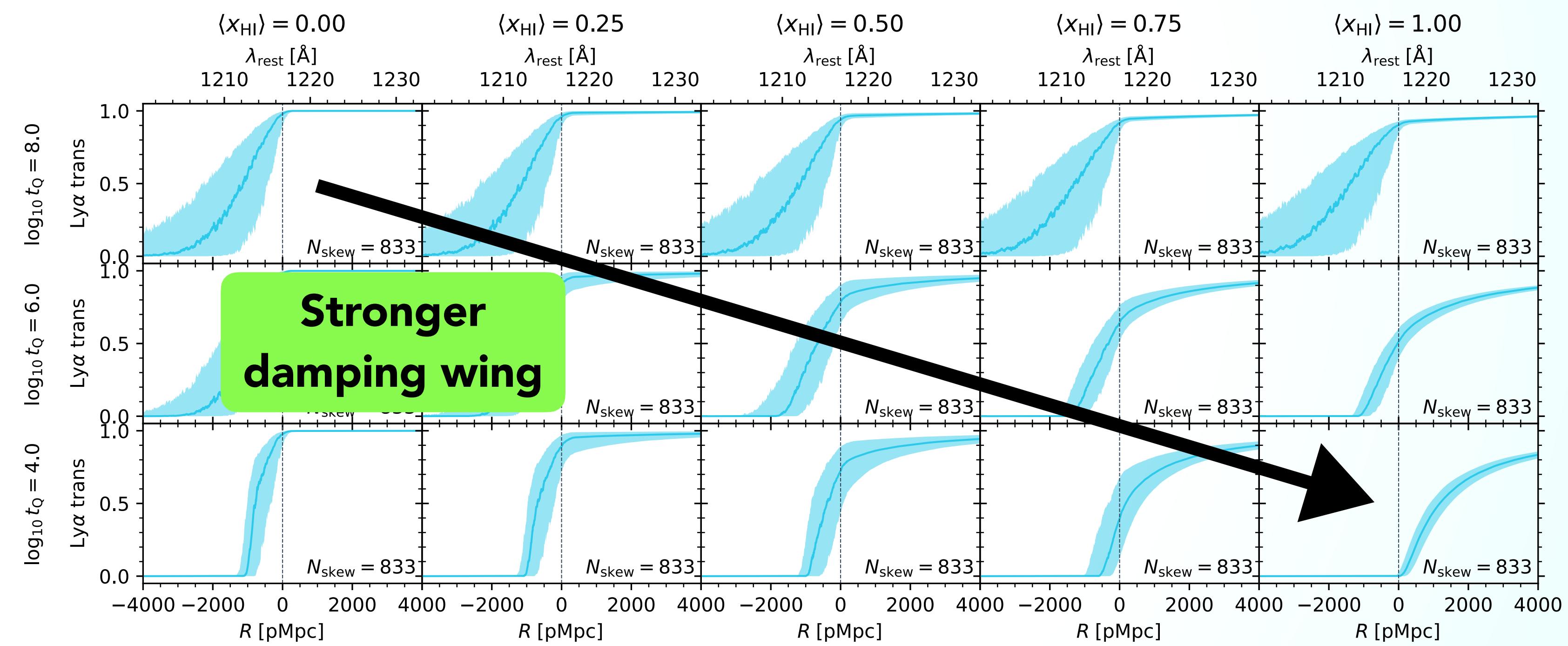
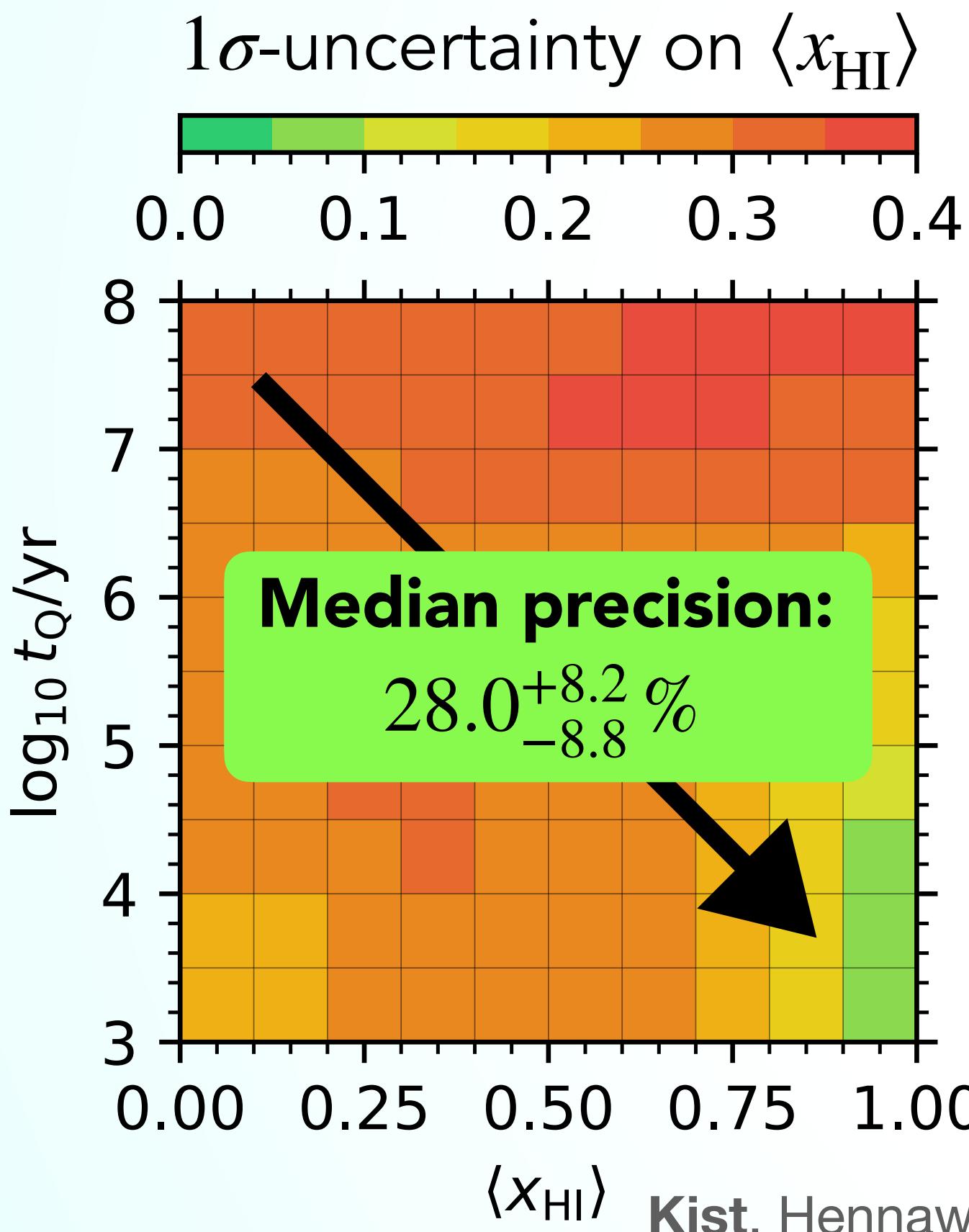
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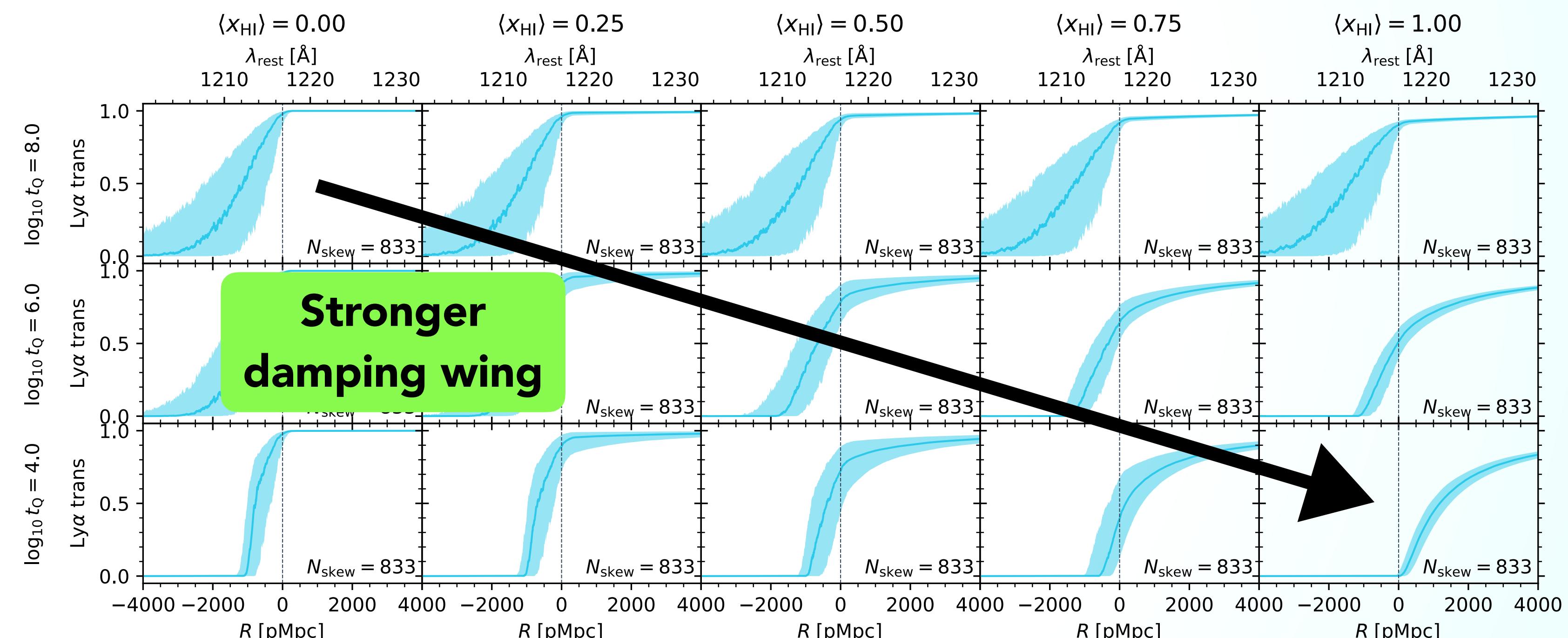
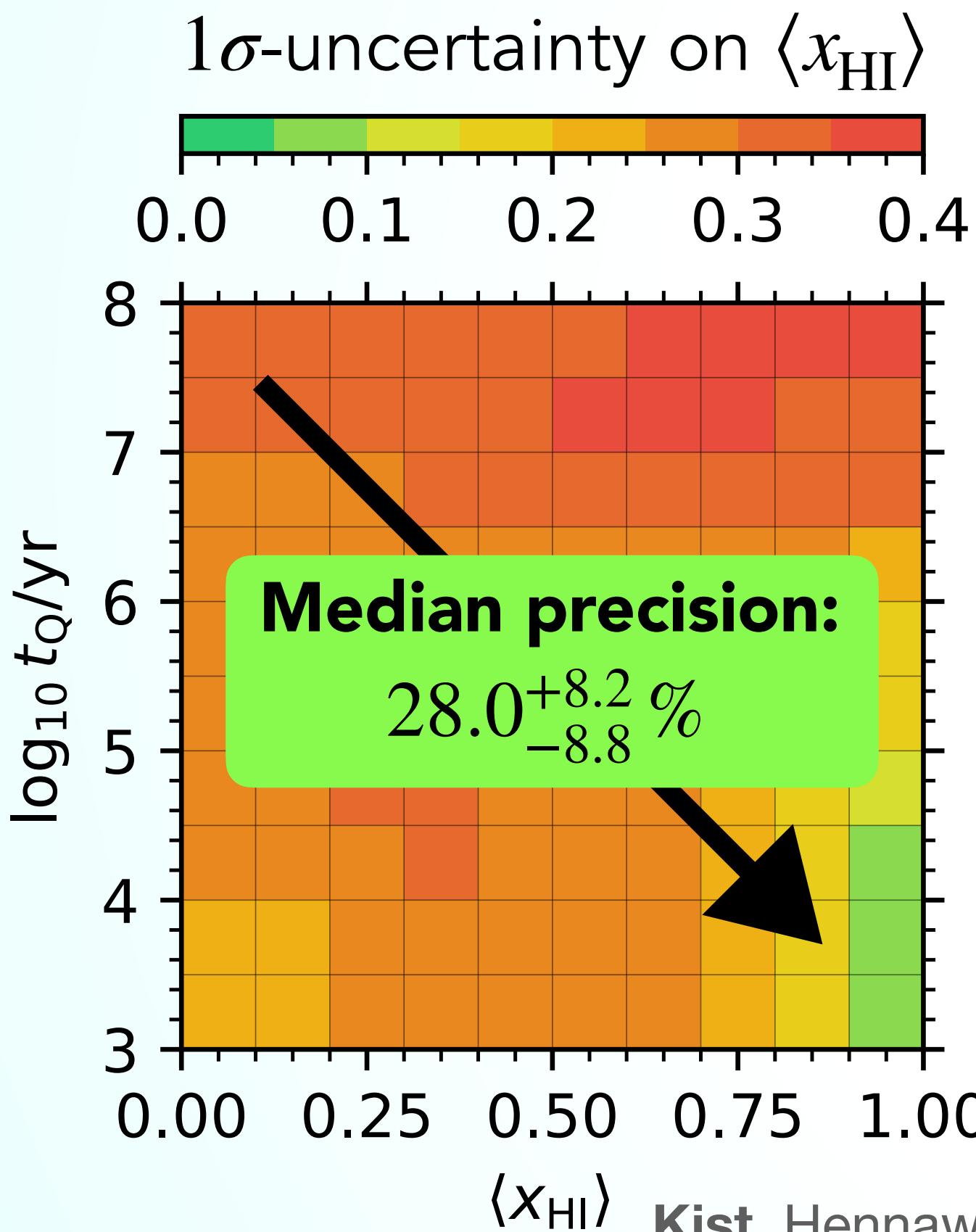


Kist, Hennawi & Davies 2024a

Kist, Hennawi & Davies 2024b (in prep.)

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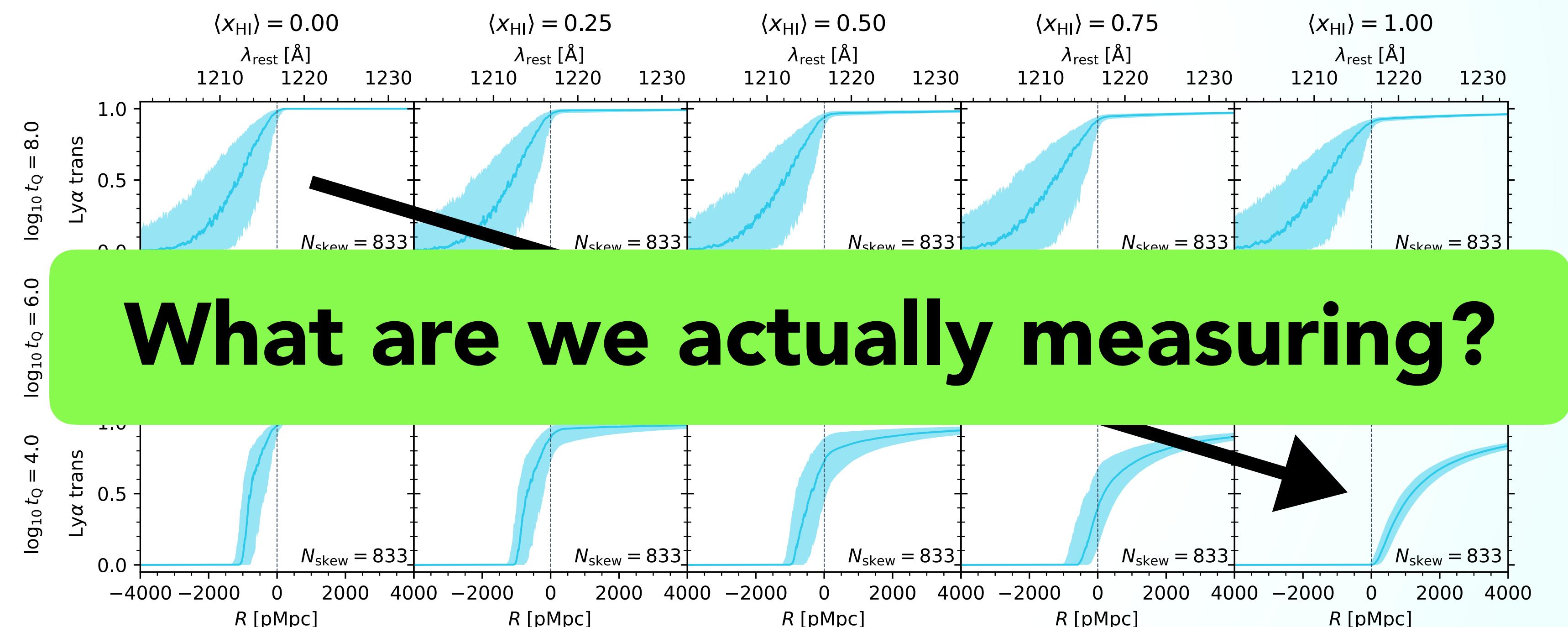
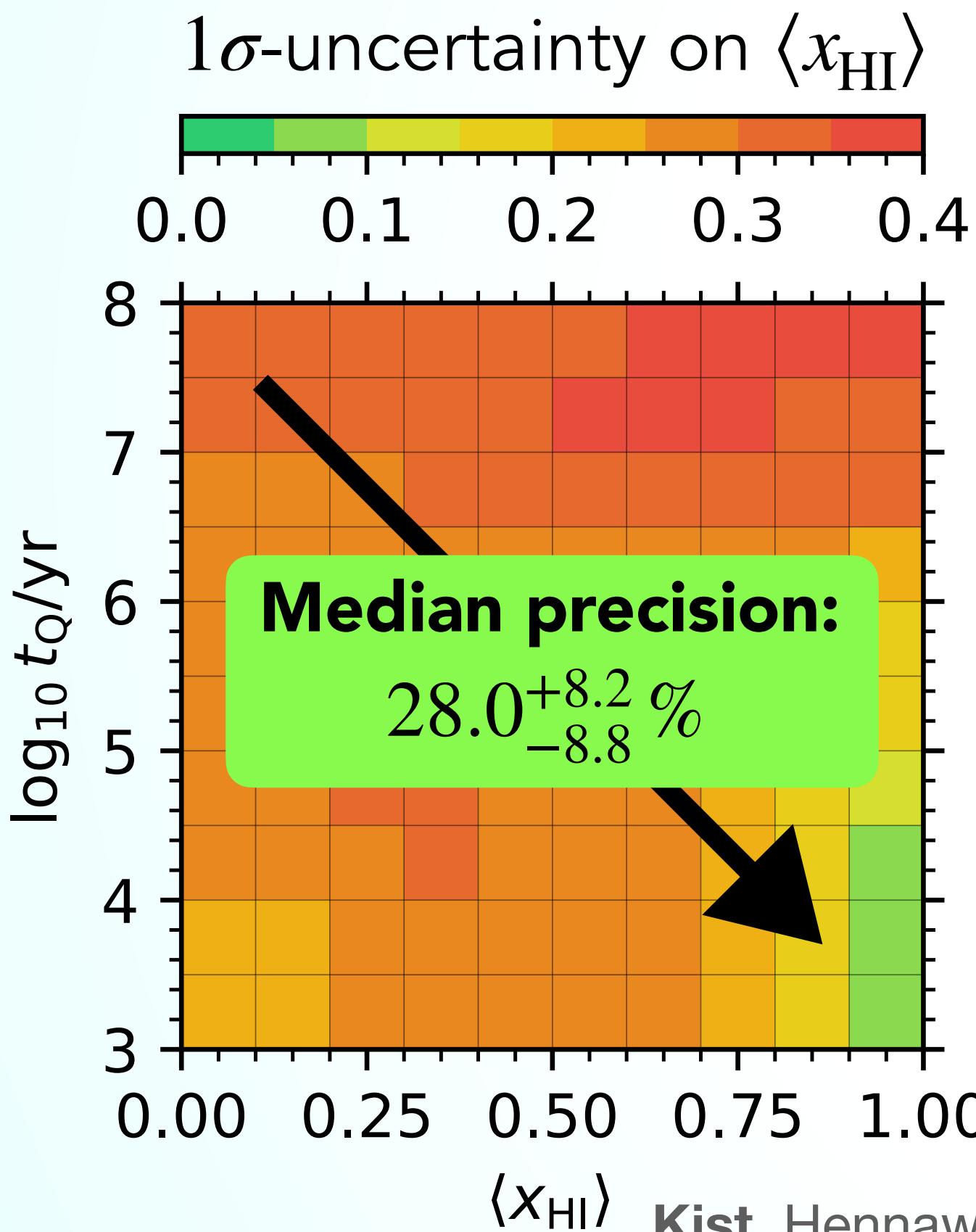
Main sources of uncertainty: continuum reconstruction and **stochasticity of ionized bubble sizes**

[Kist, Hennawi & Davies 2024a](#)

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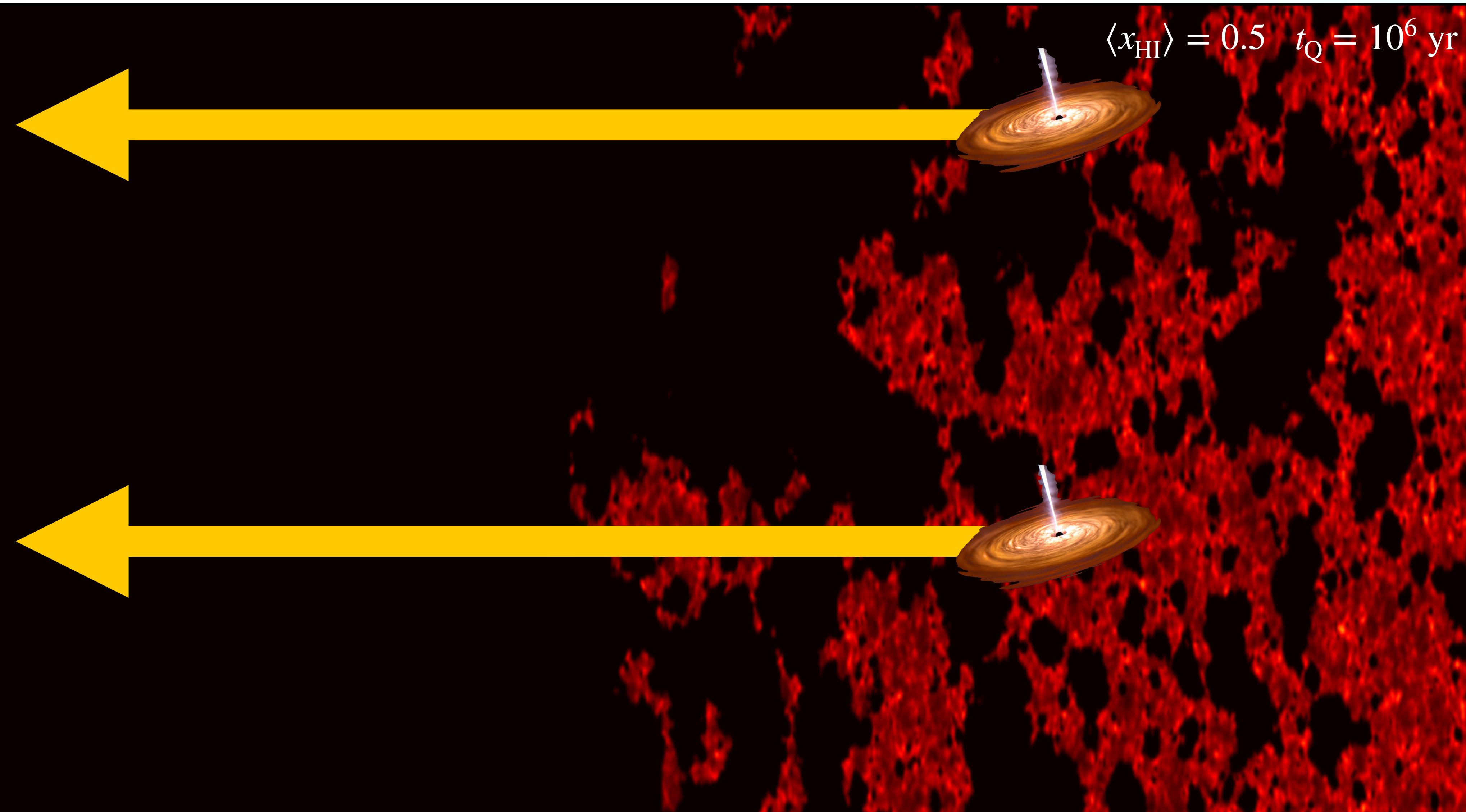
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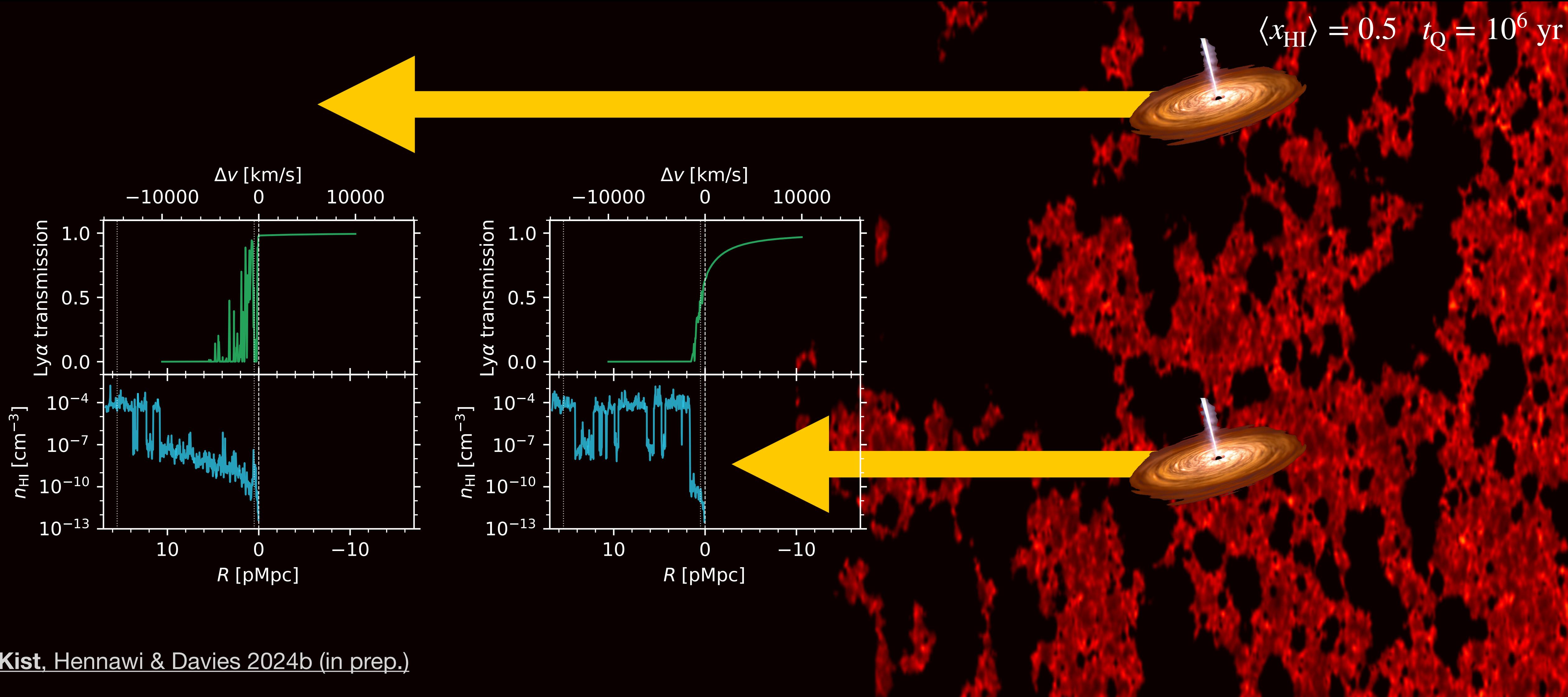
Measuring the local HI content in front of a quasar

Introducing a new label for the HI column density



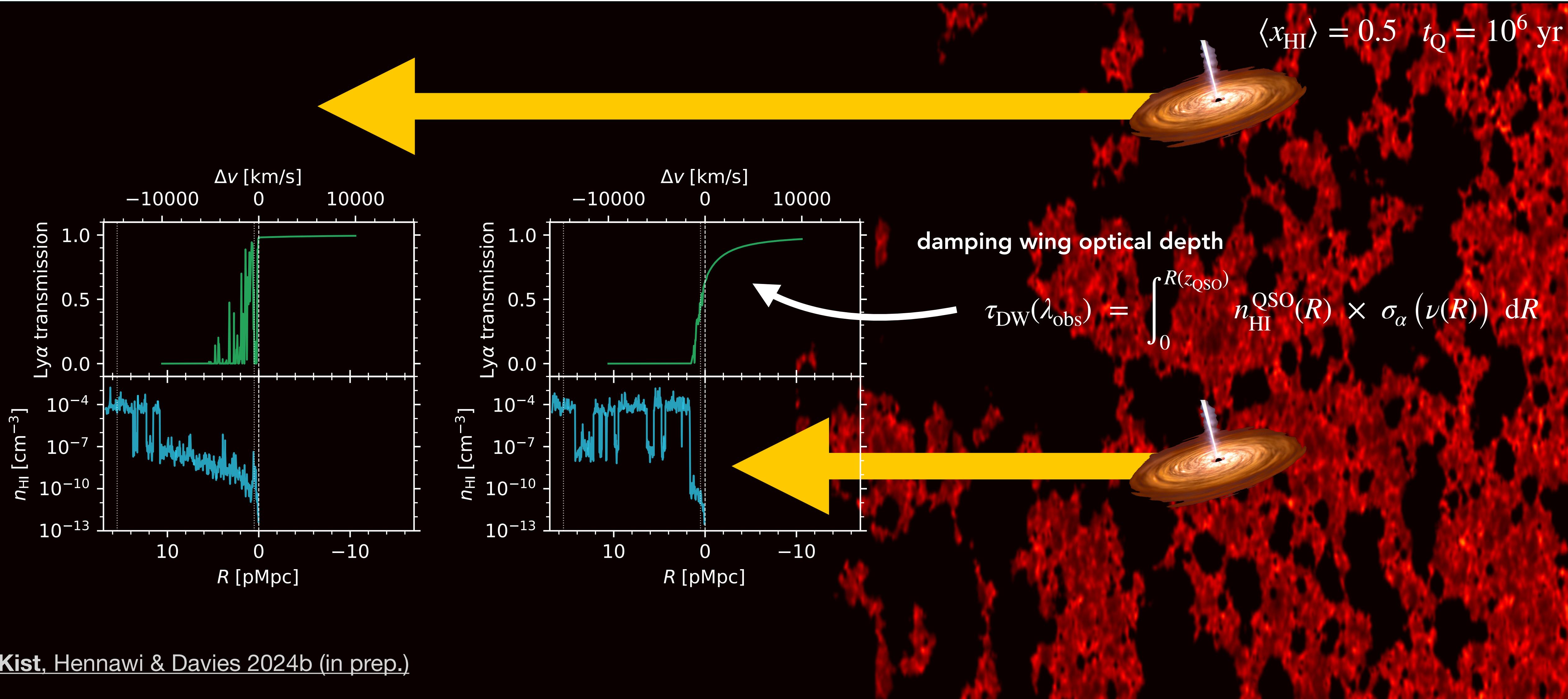
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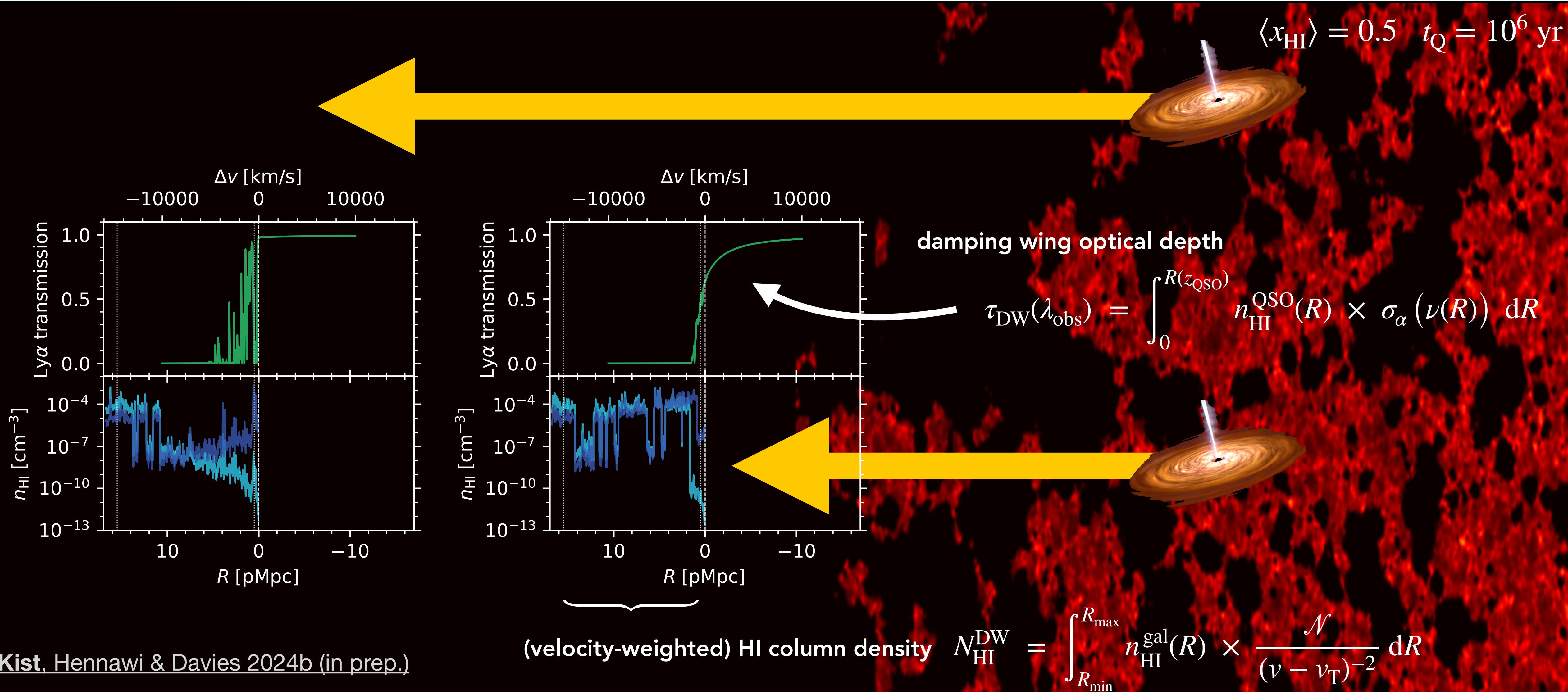
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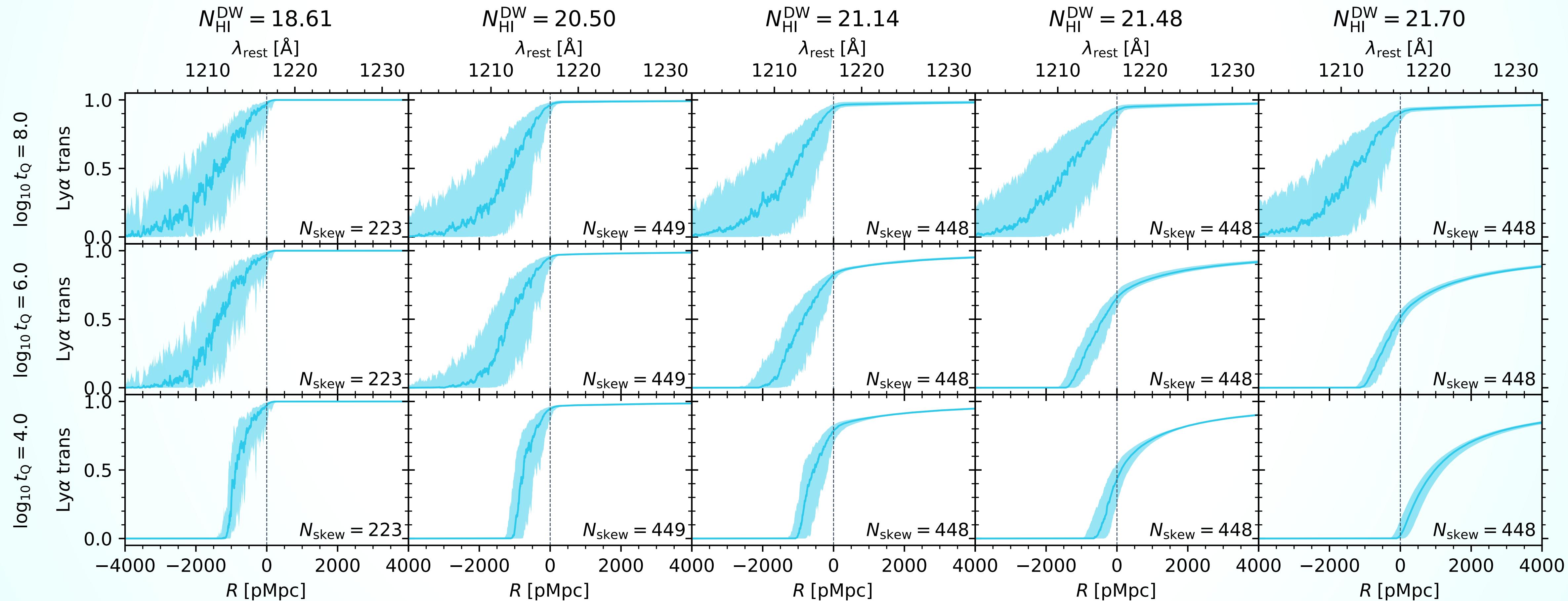
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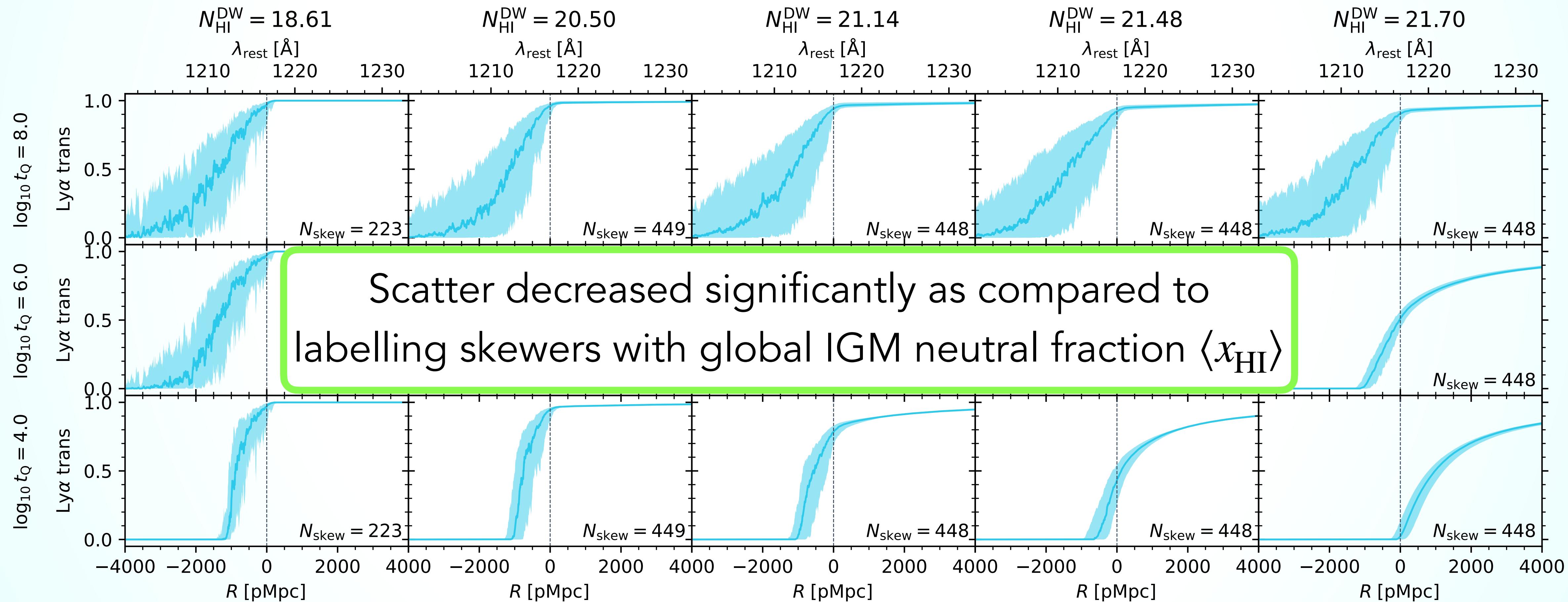
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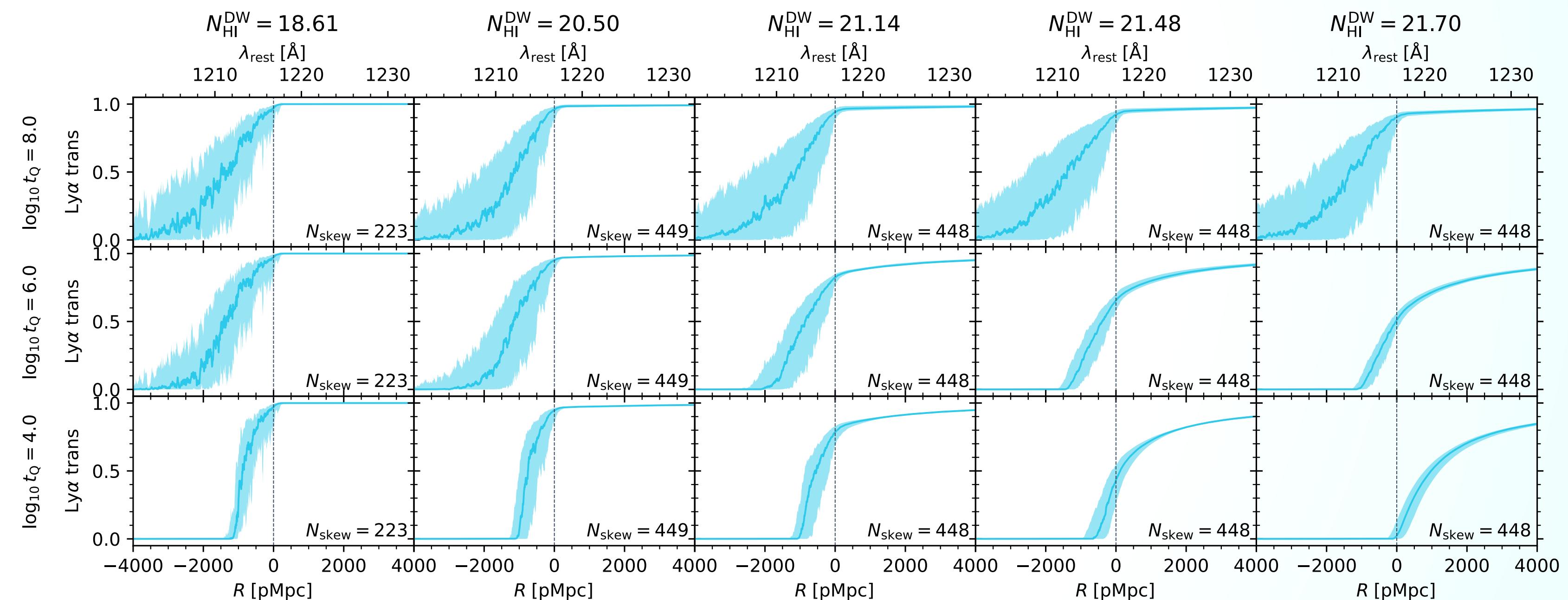
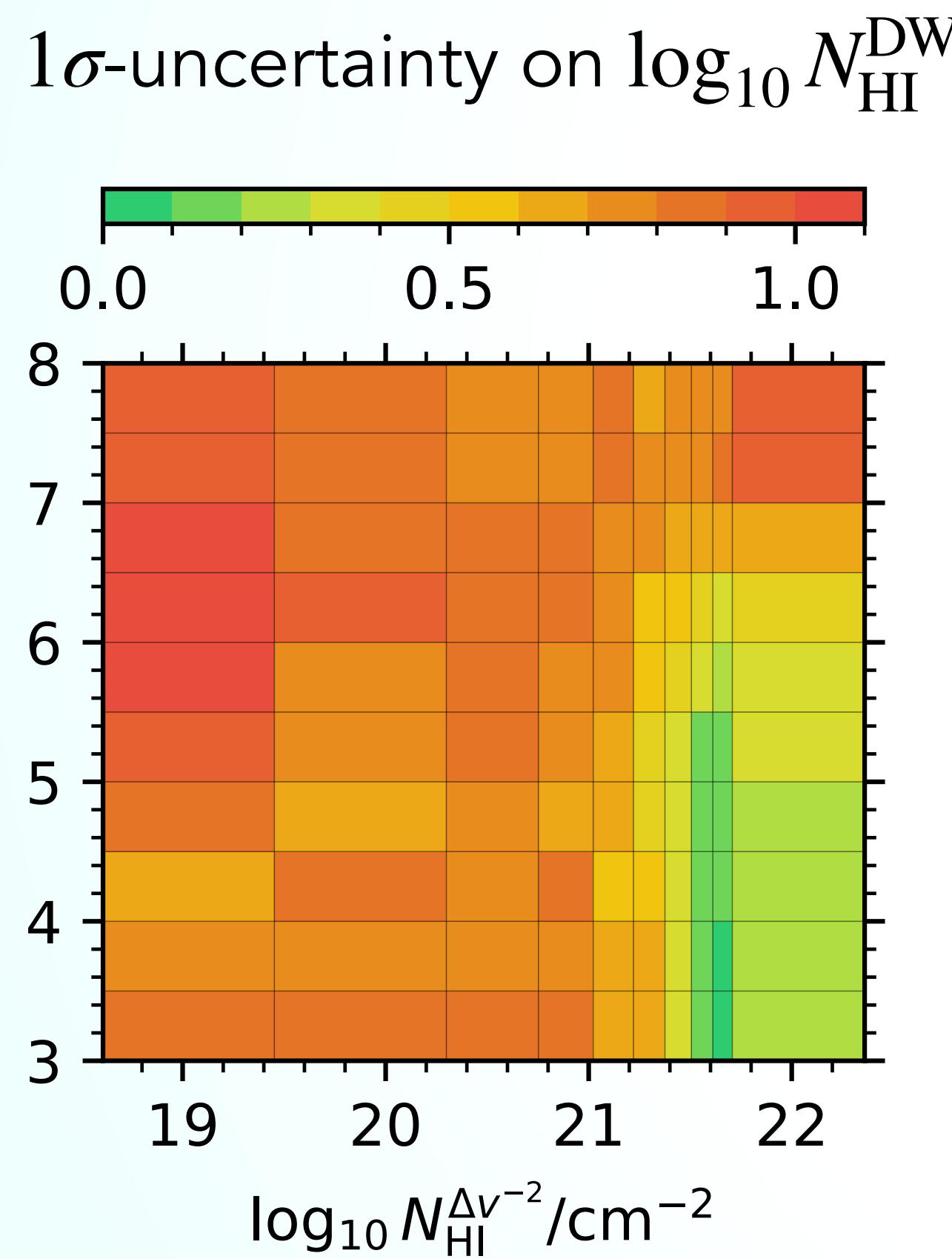
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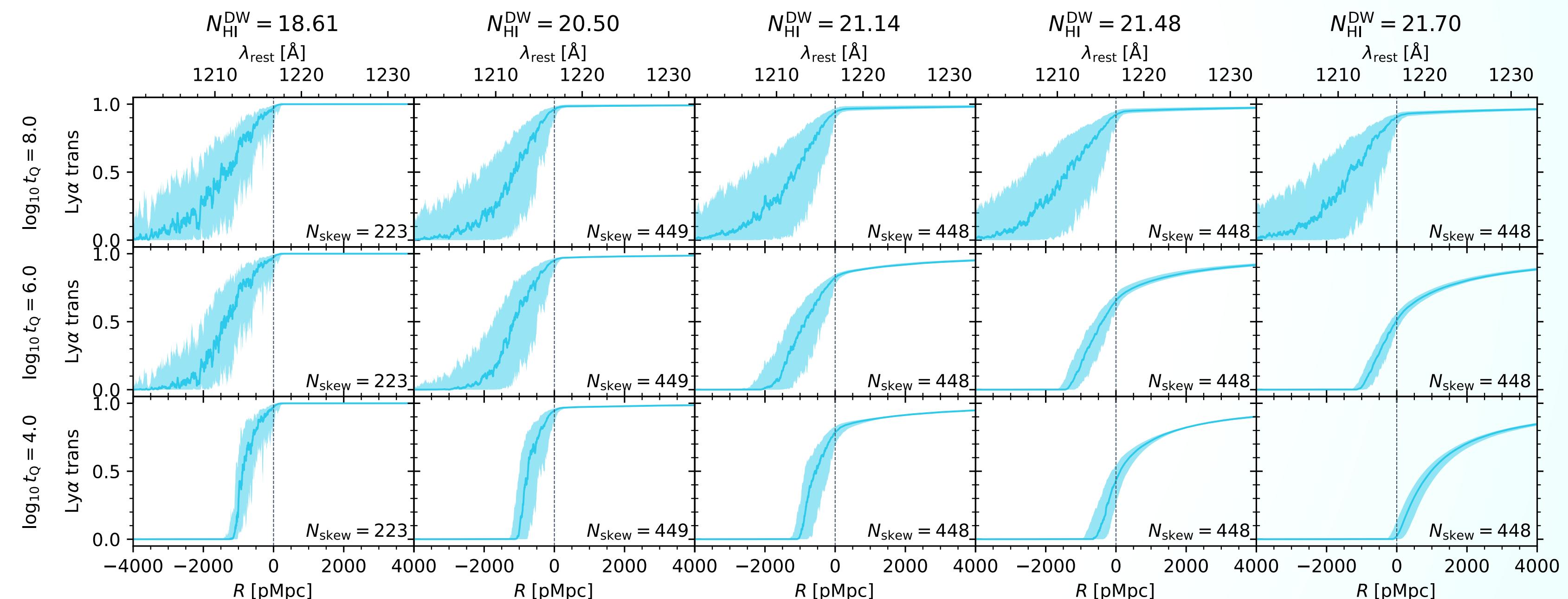
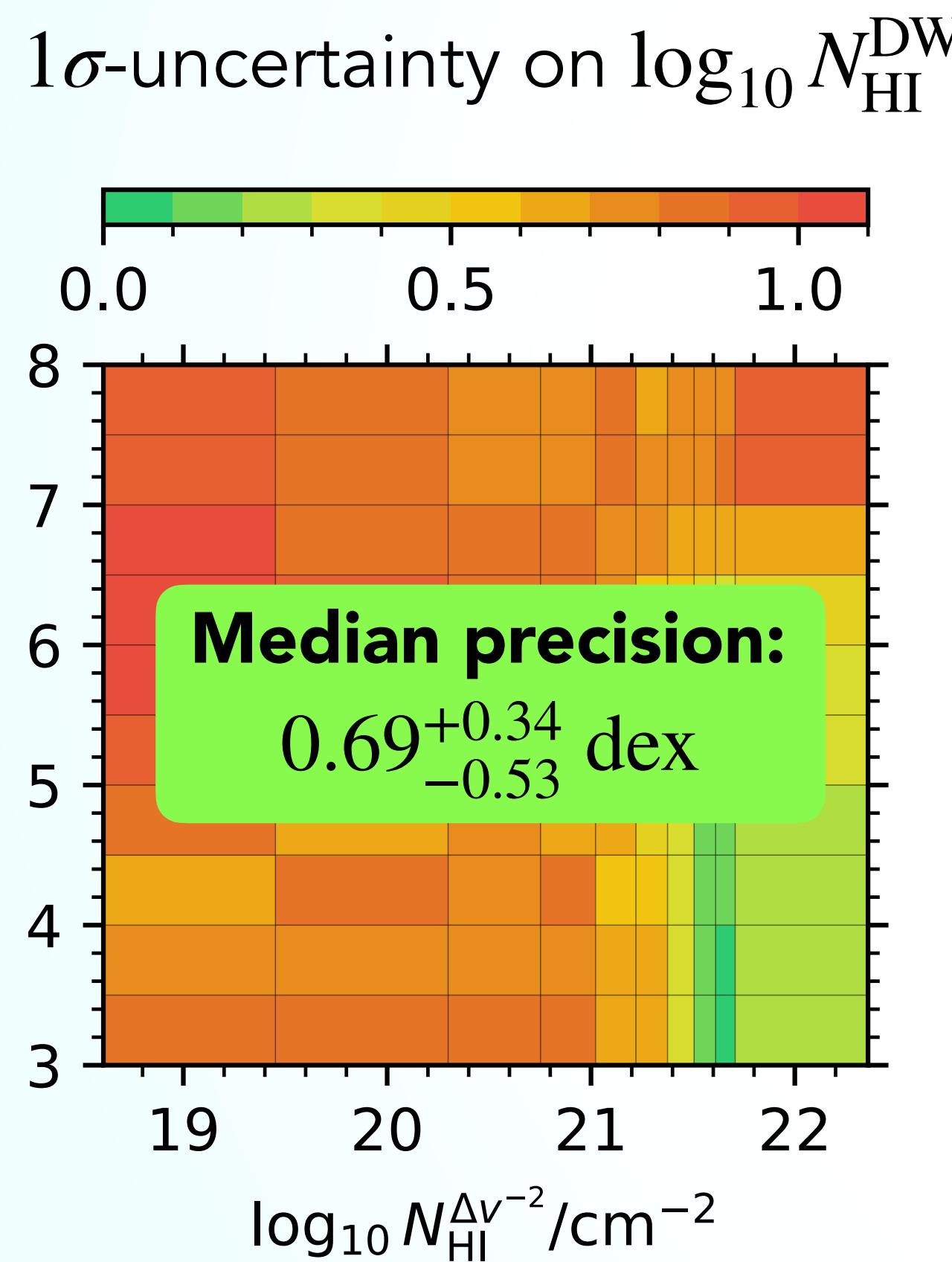
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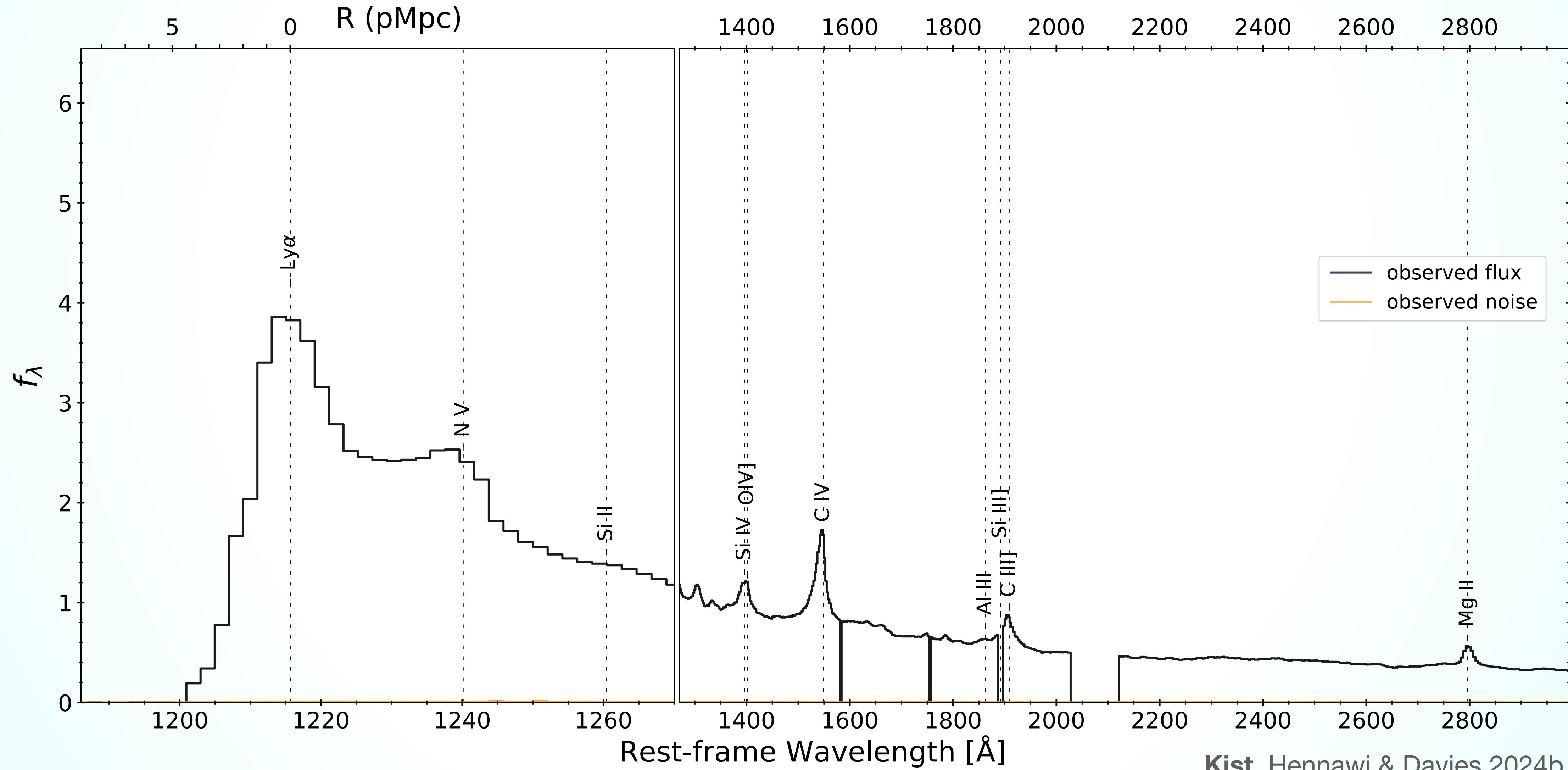
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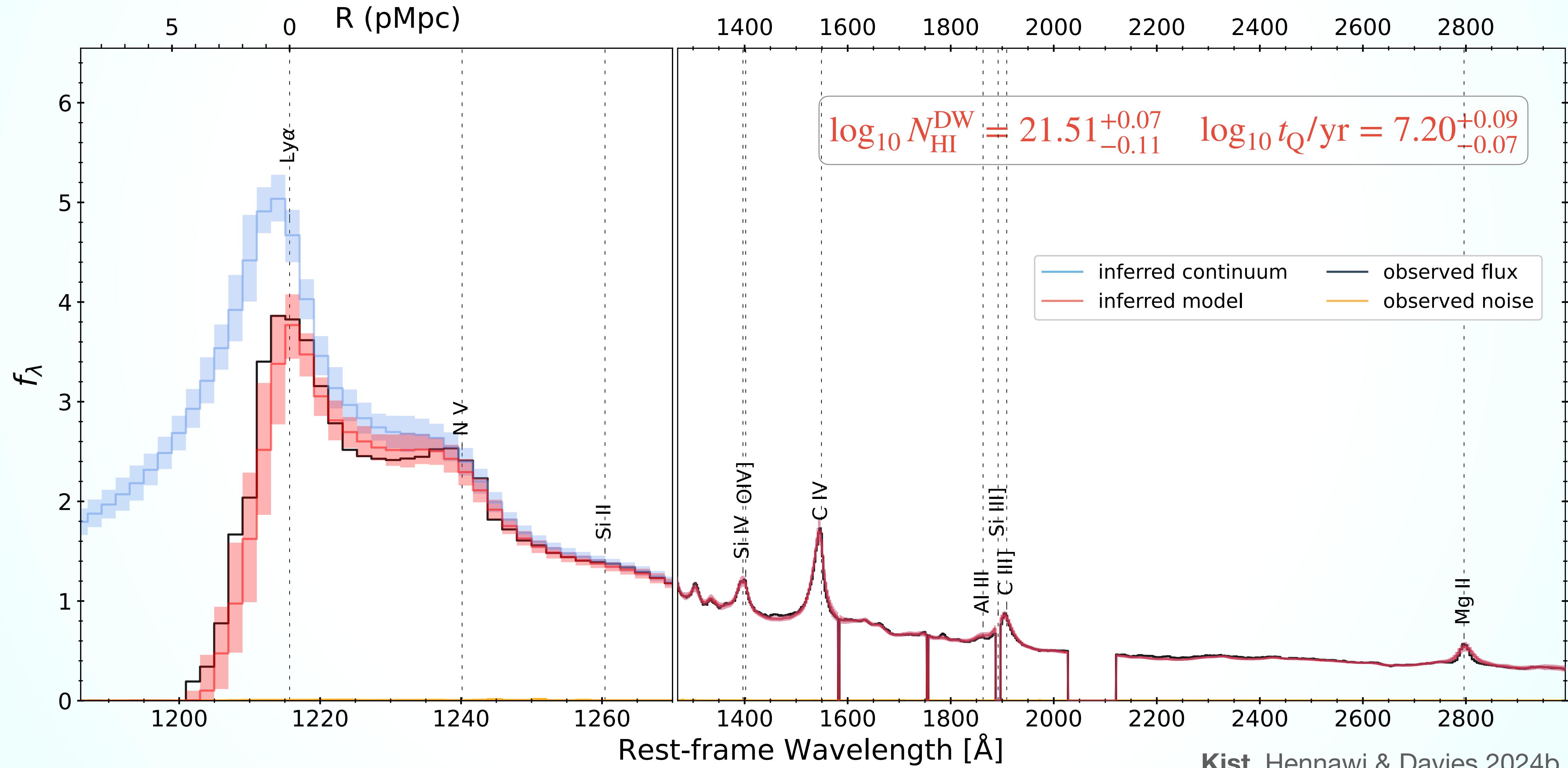
Inferring $N_{\text{HI}}^{\text{DW}}$ in front of a $z = 6.83$ quasar

A JWST spectrum of J0411-0907



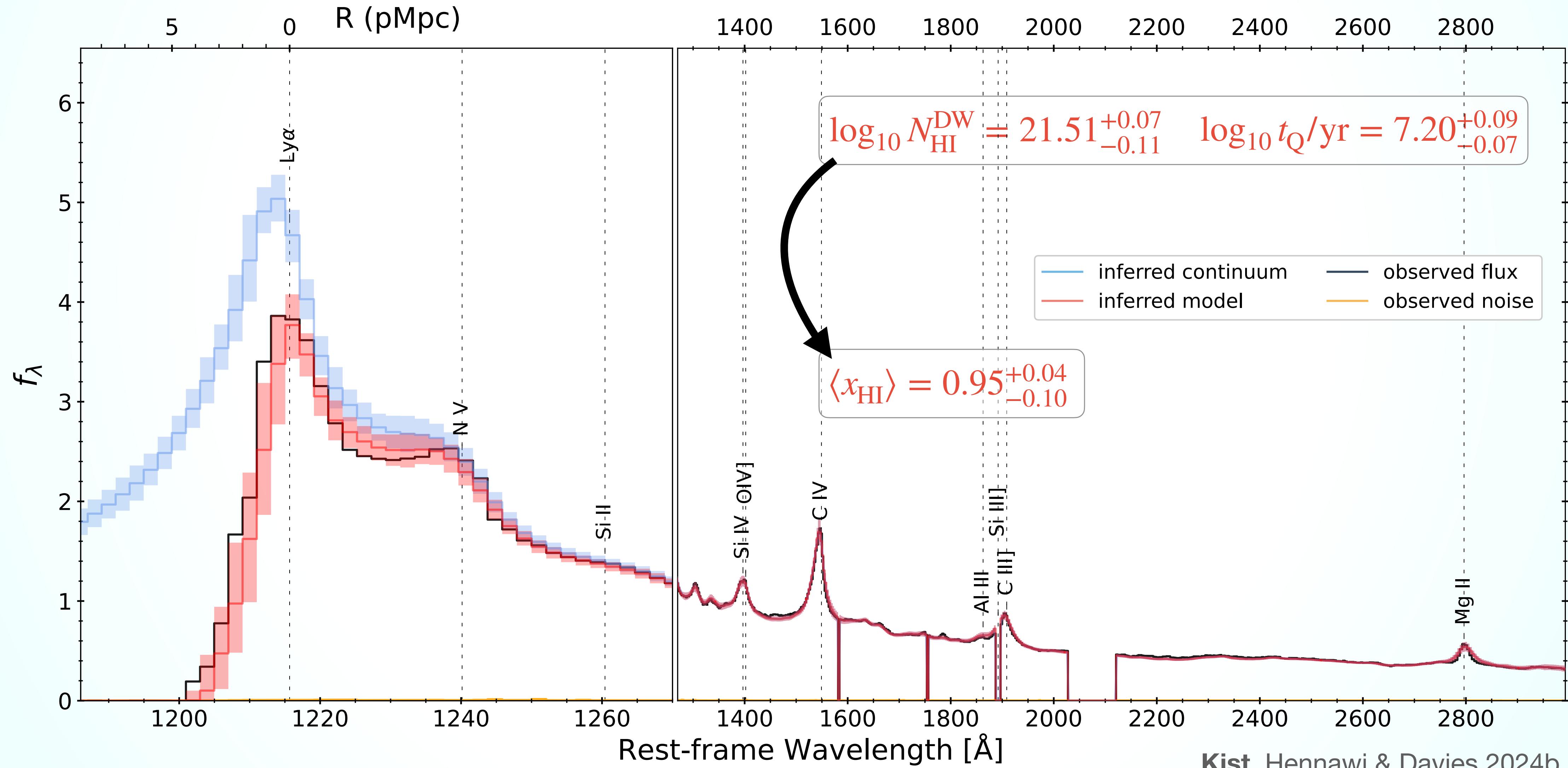
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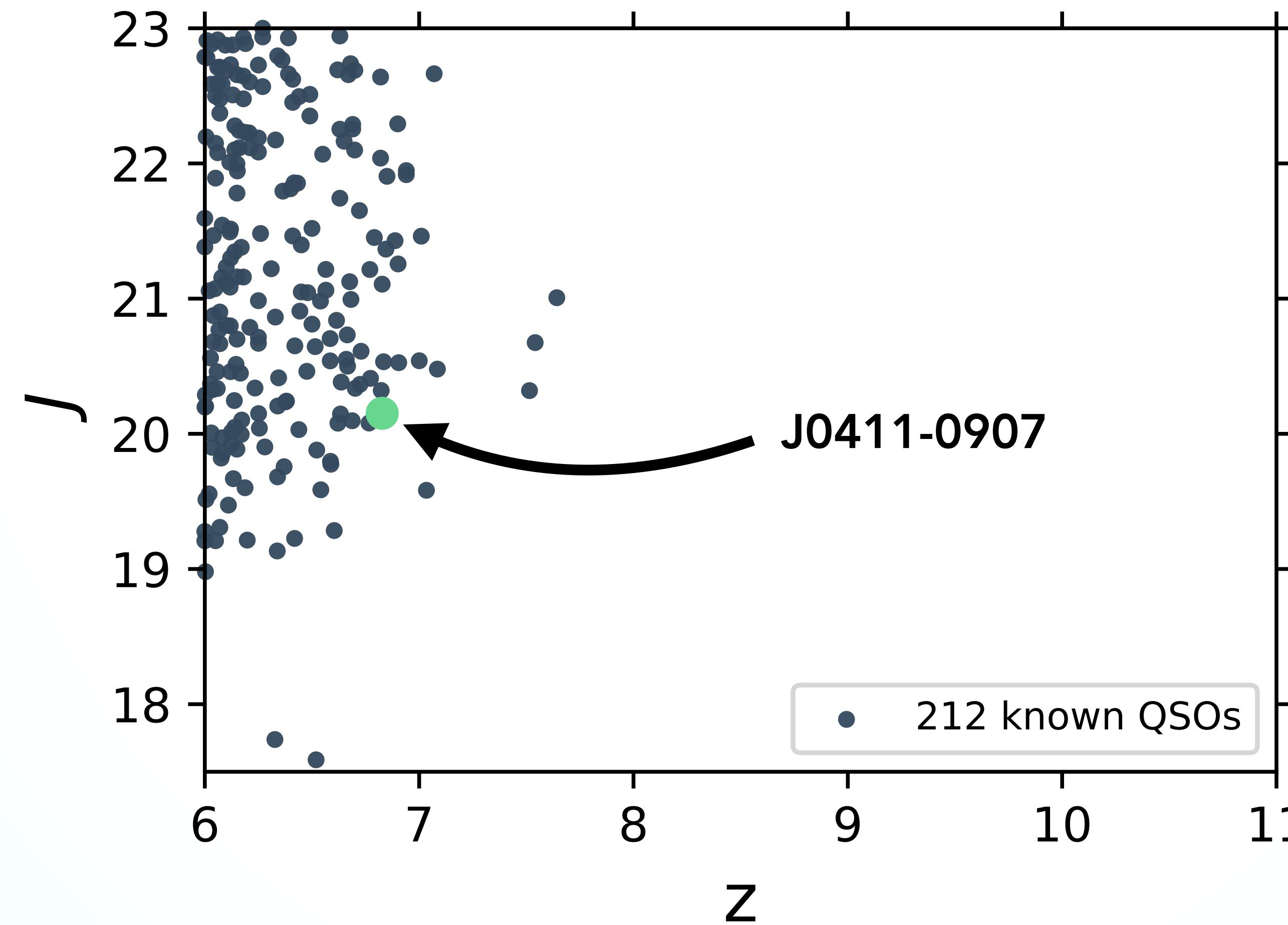
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EUCLID

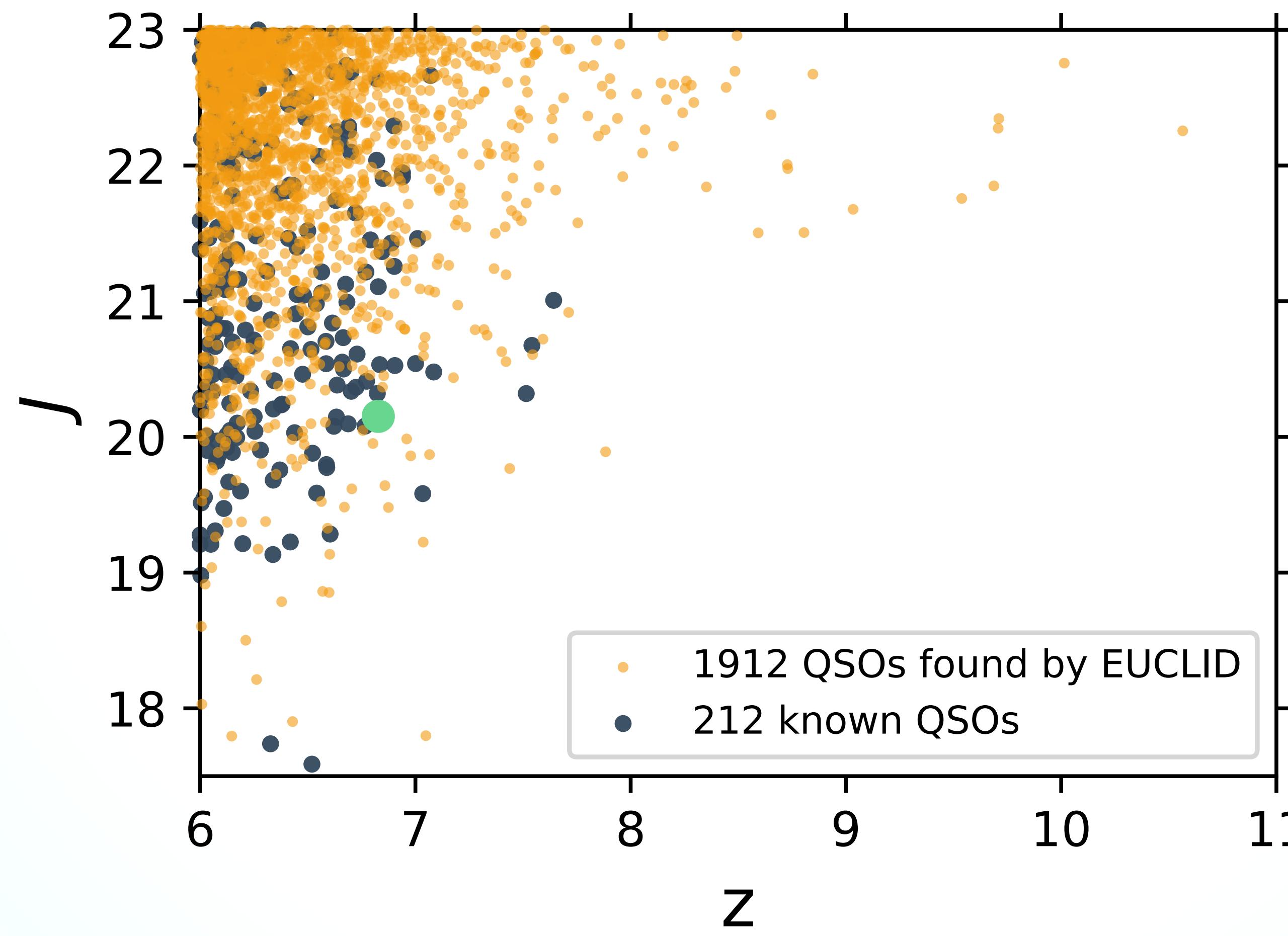
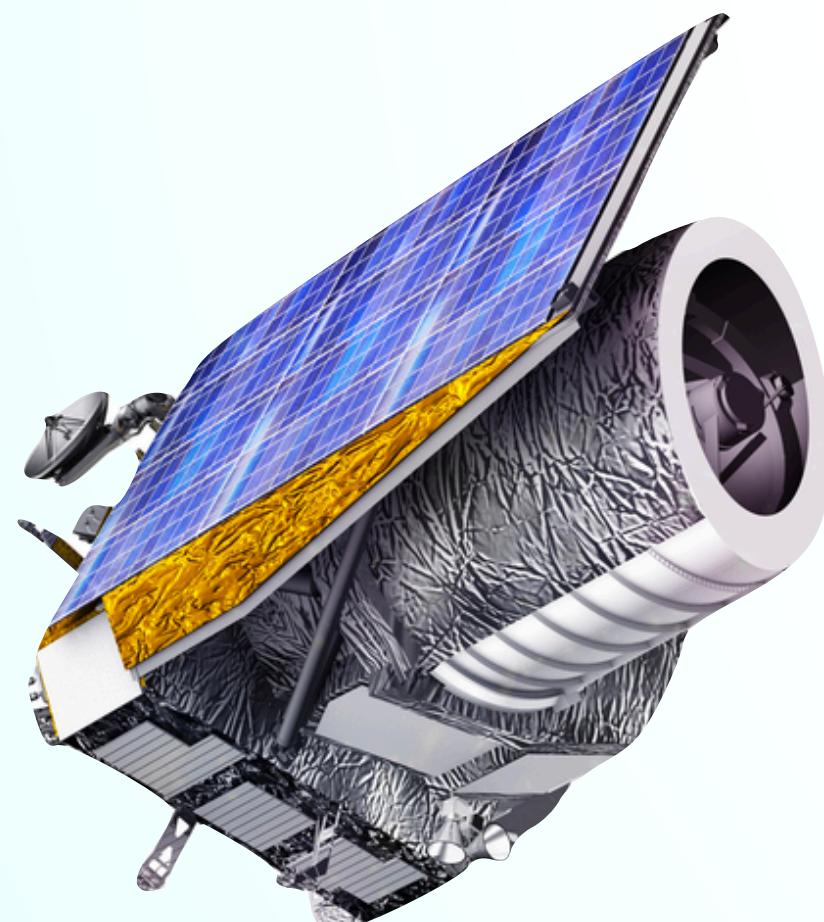
The Quasar Yield of the Wide-Field Survey



EUCLID

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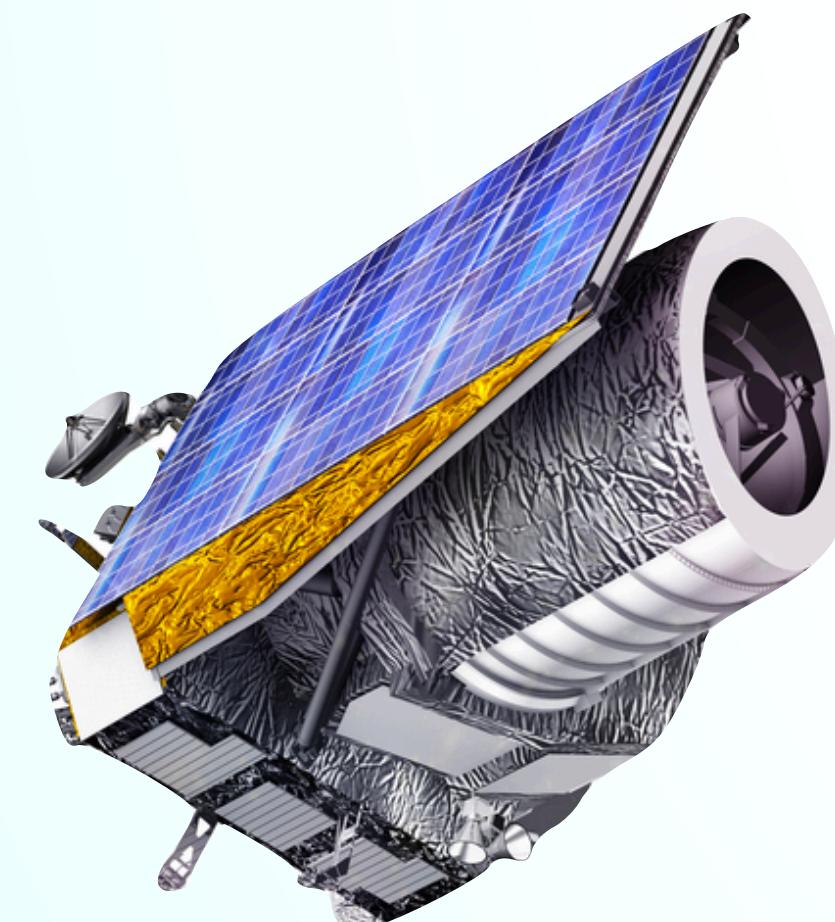
Samples from a [Wang+2019](#) quasar luminosity function



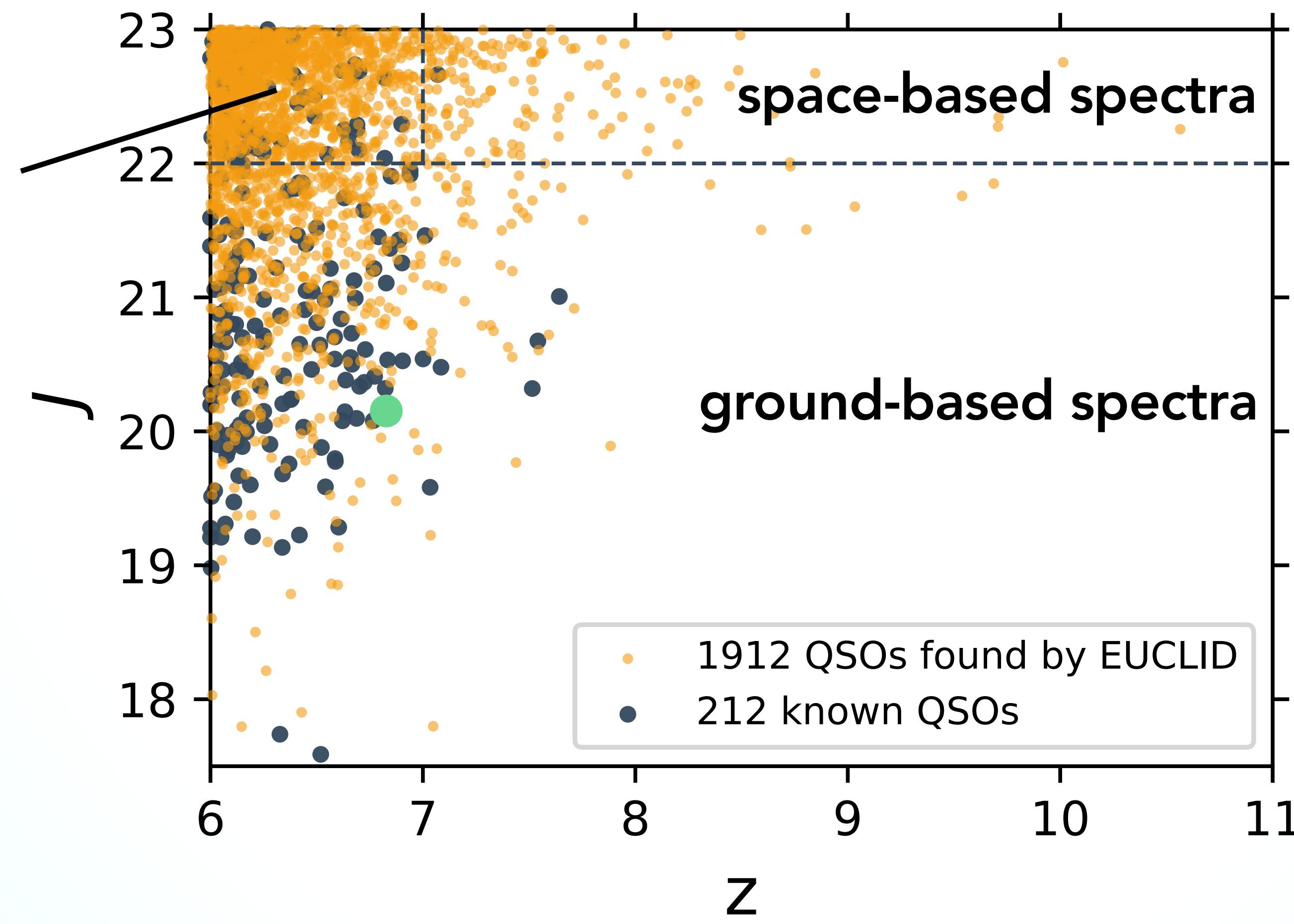
EUCLID

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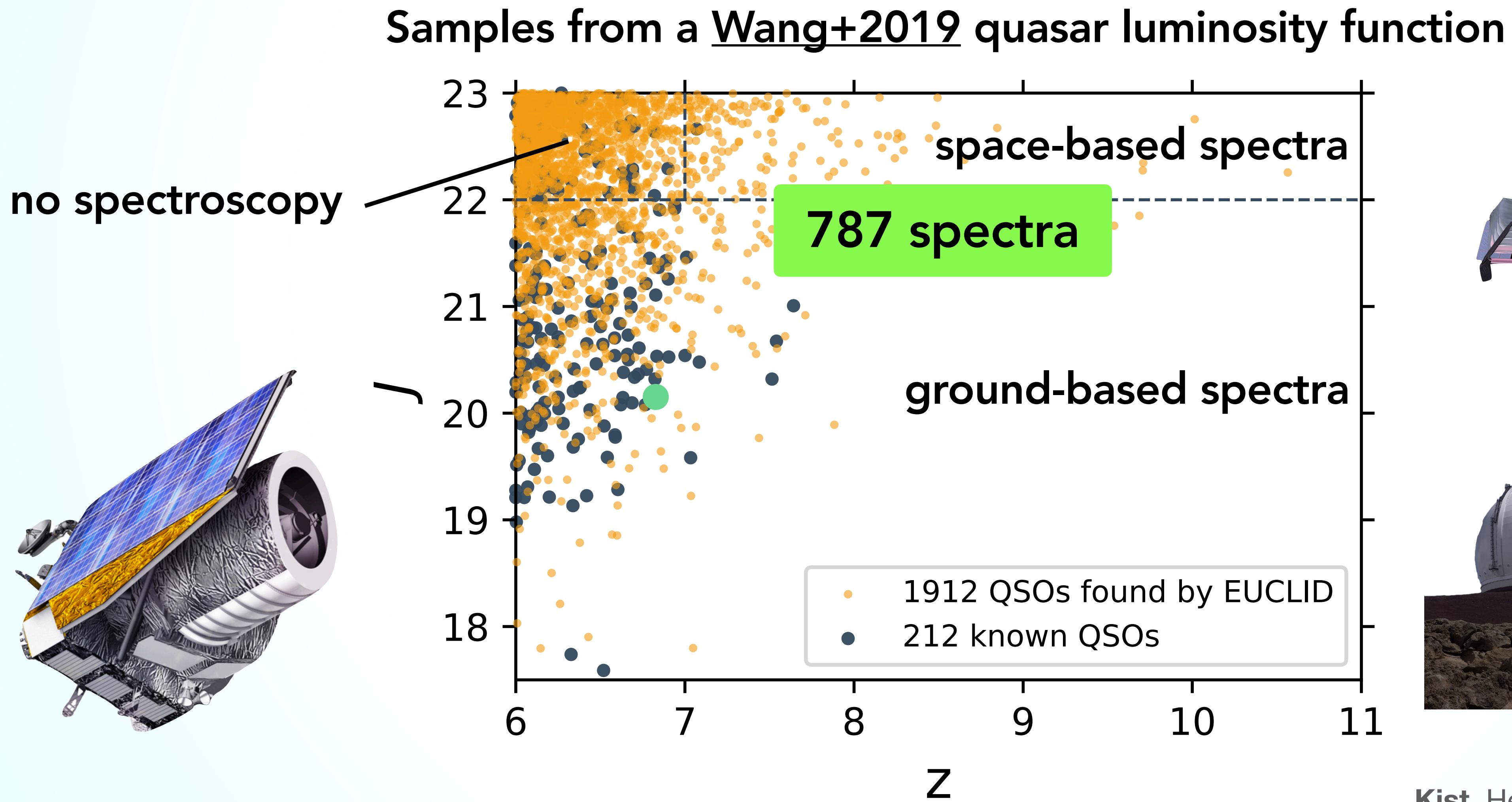


no spectroscopy



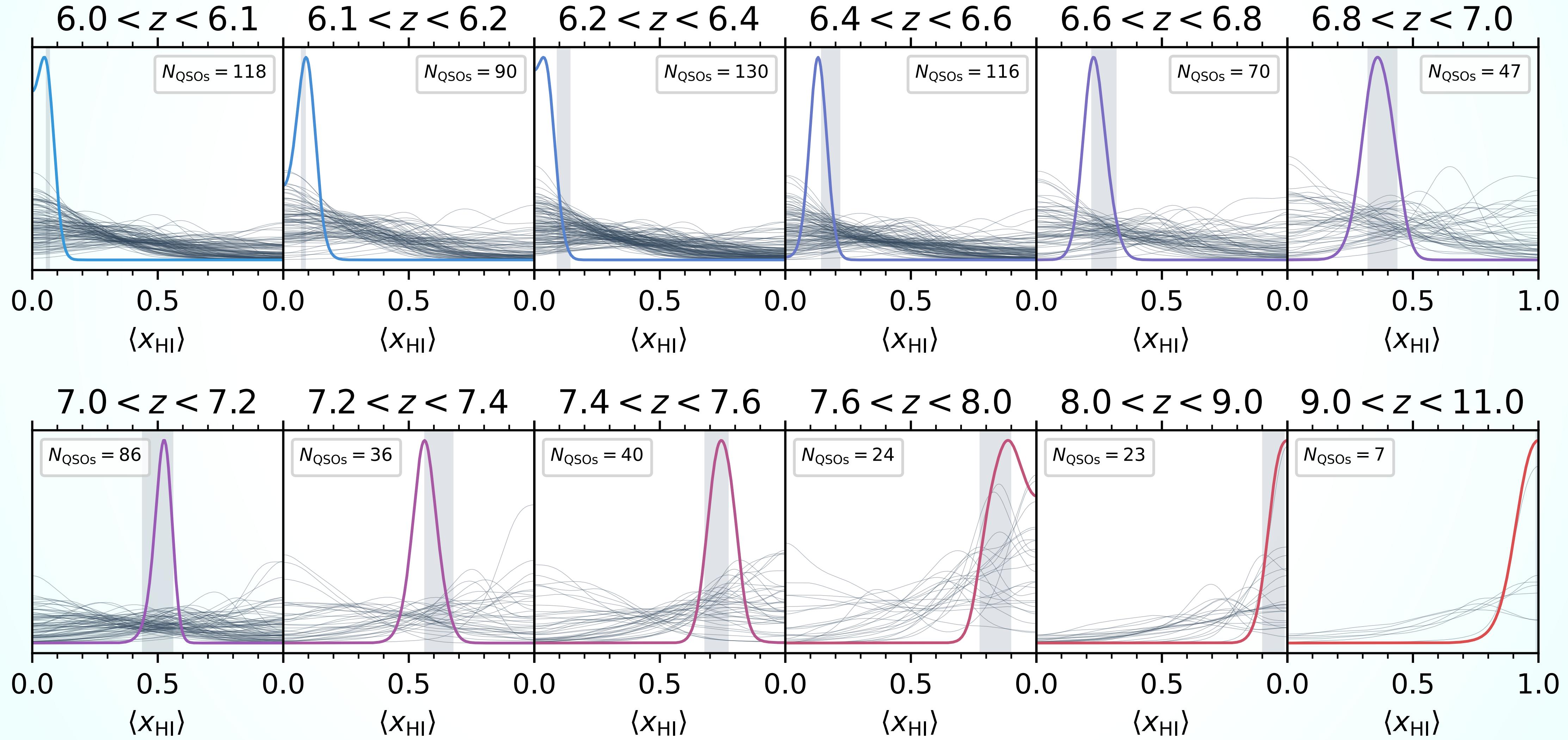
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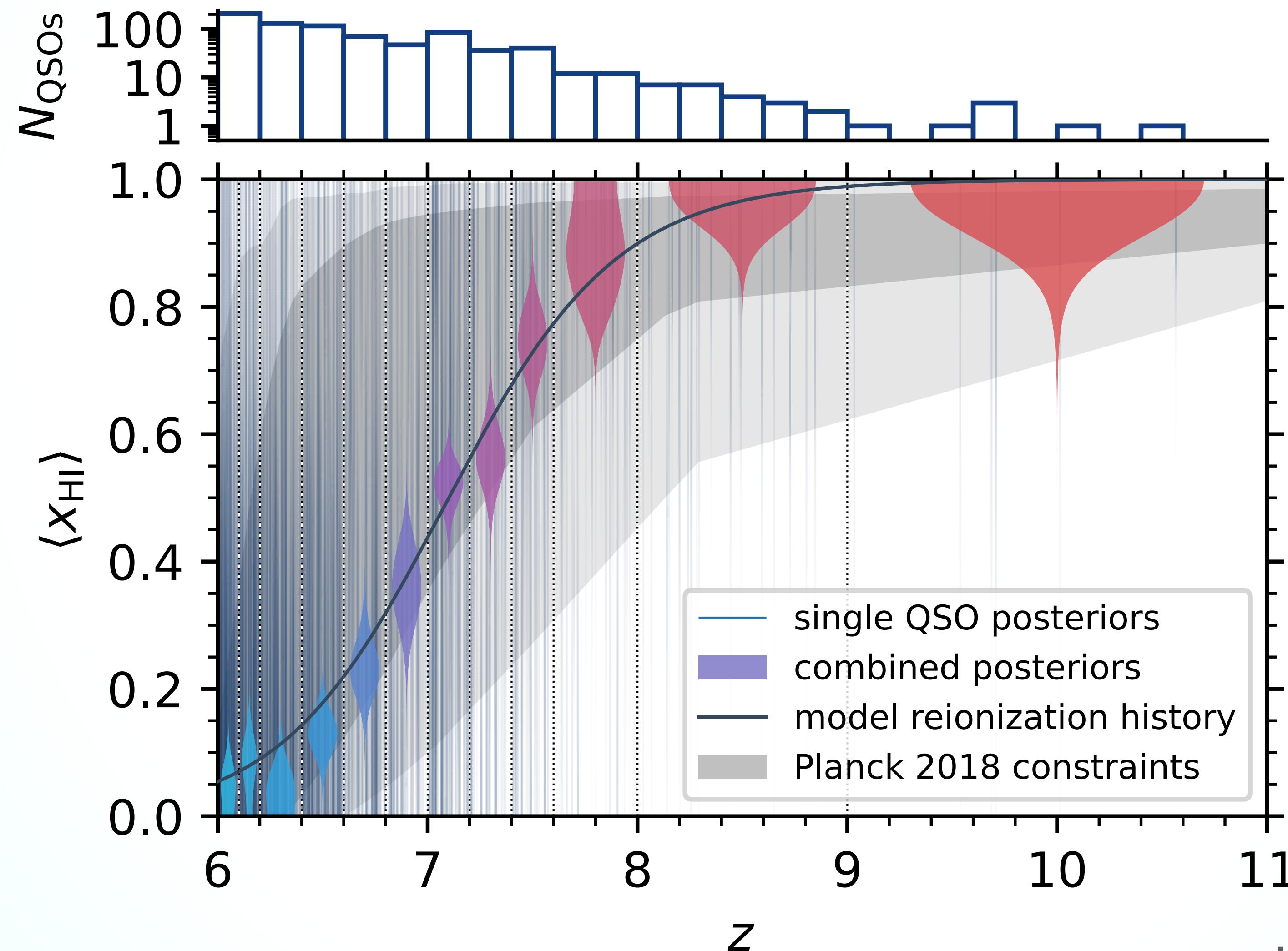
Constraining Reionization History with EUCLID & JWST

A forecast of upcoming IGM damping wing constraints



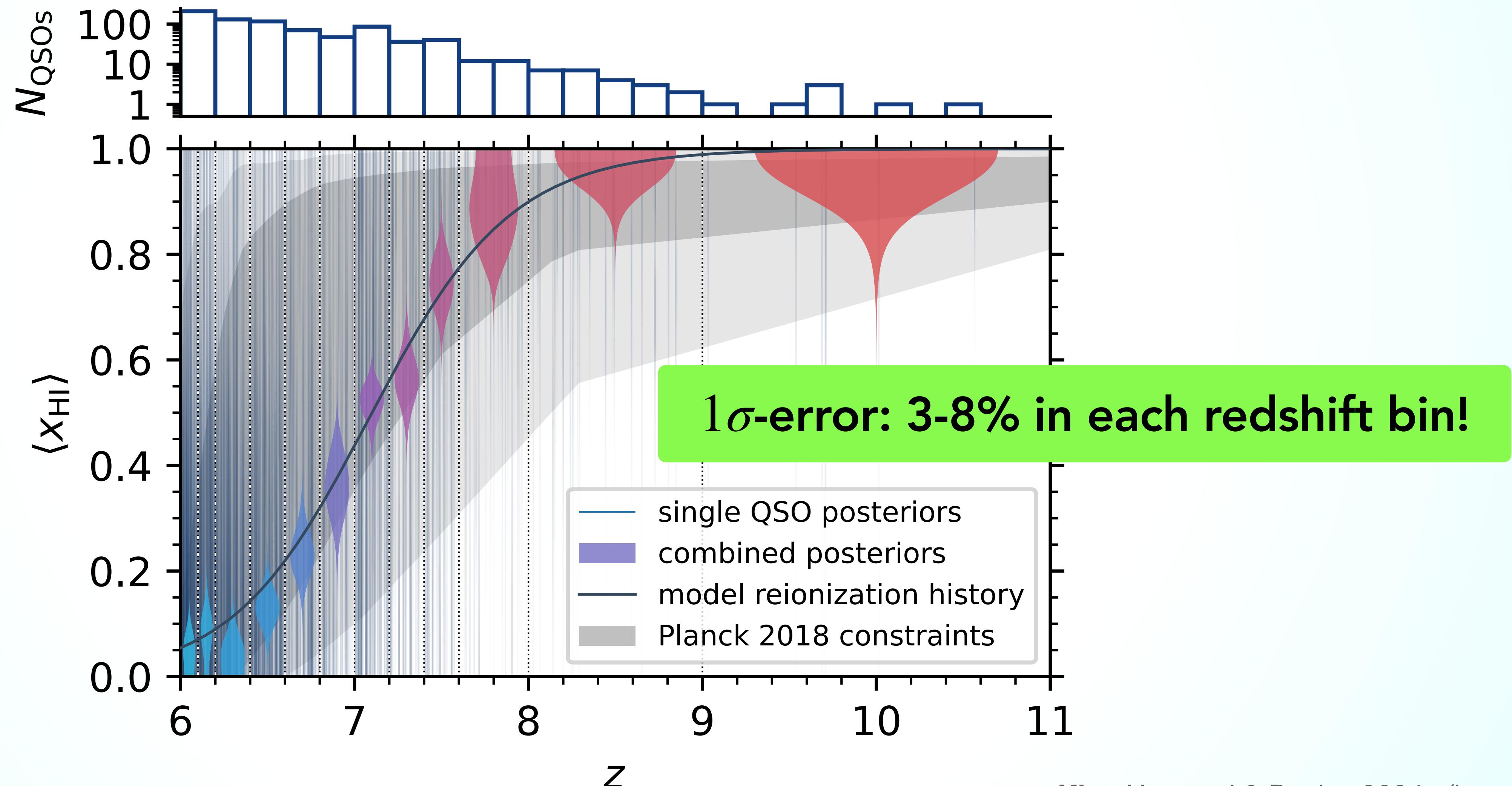
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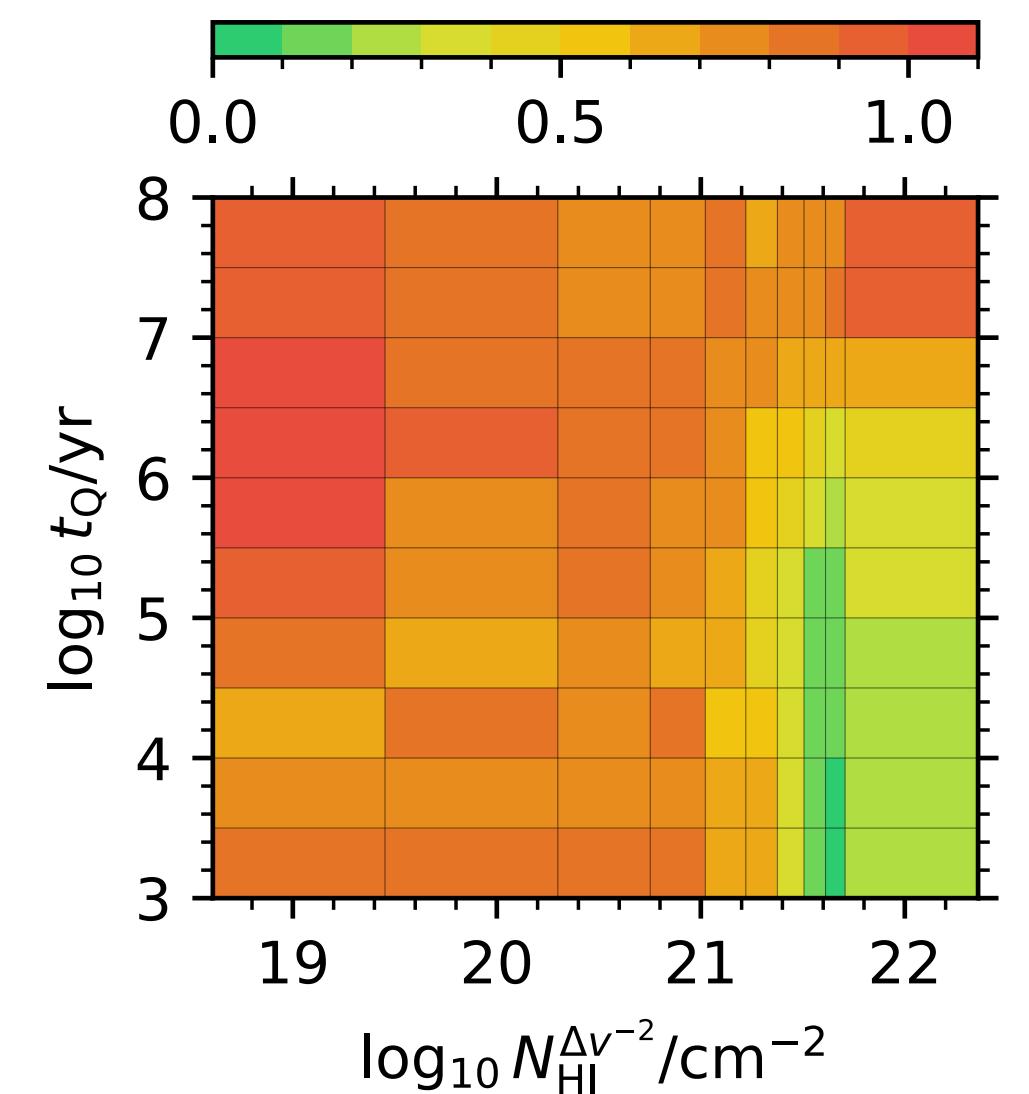
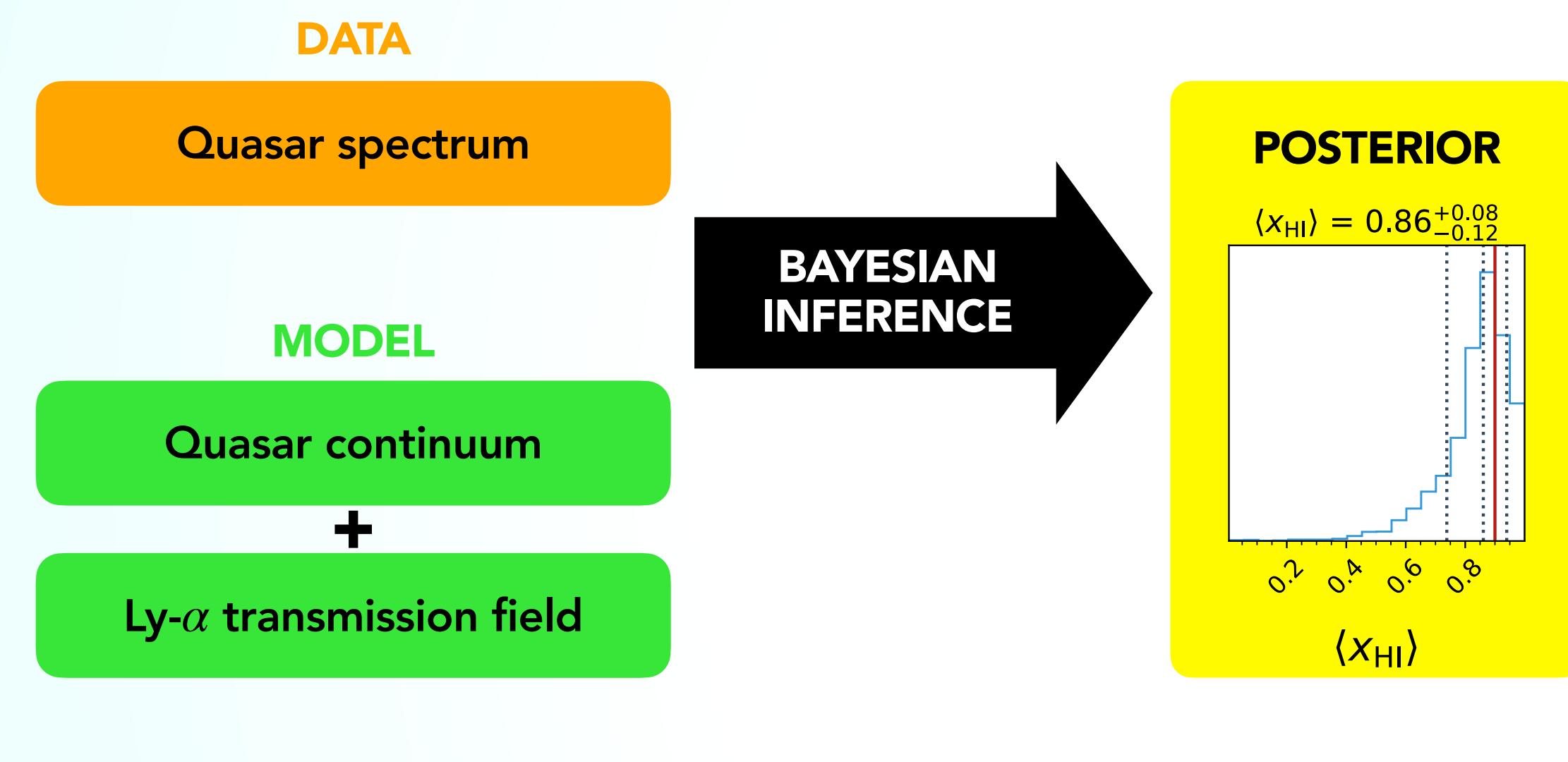


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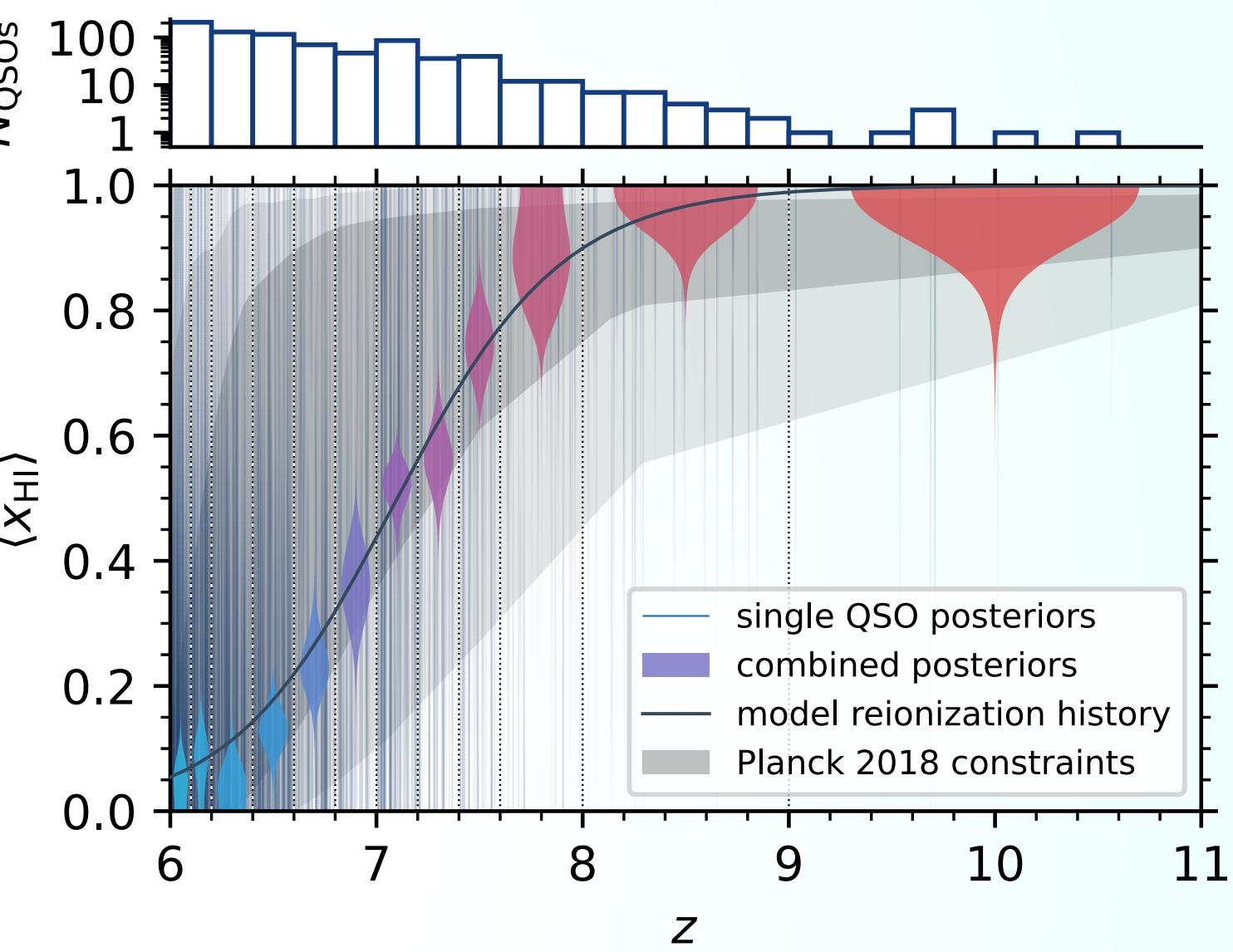


Summary



Fast HMC pipeline to infer $\langle x_{\text{HI}} \rangle$ and t_Q using the damping wing imprint of high-redshift quasars

Inferring $\langle x_{\text{HI}} \rangle$ at $28.0^{+8.2}_{-8.8}\%$ precision, or even the local HI column density at $0.69^{+0.34}_{-0.53}$ dex

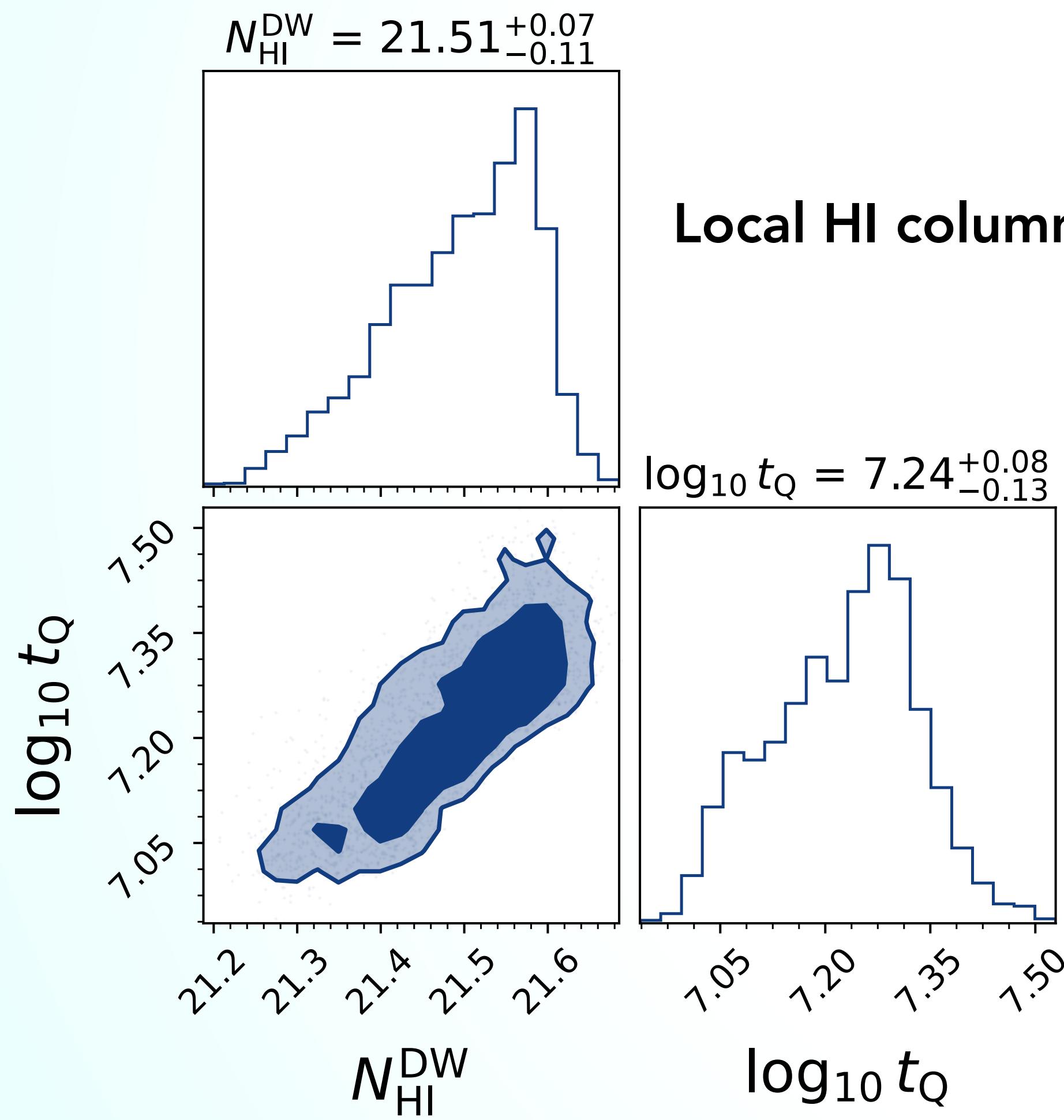


EUCLID & JWST:
3-8% constraints on $\langle x_{\text{HI}} \rangle(z)$ between $6 \lesssim z \lesssim 11$

Backup Slides

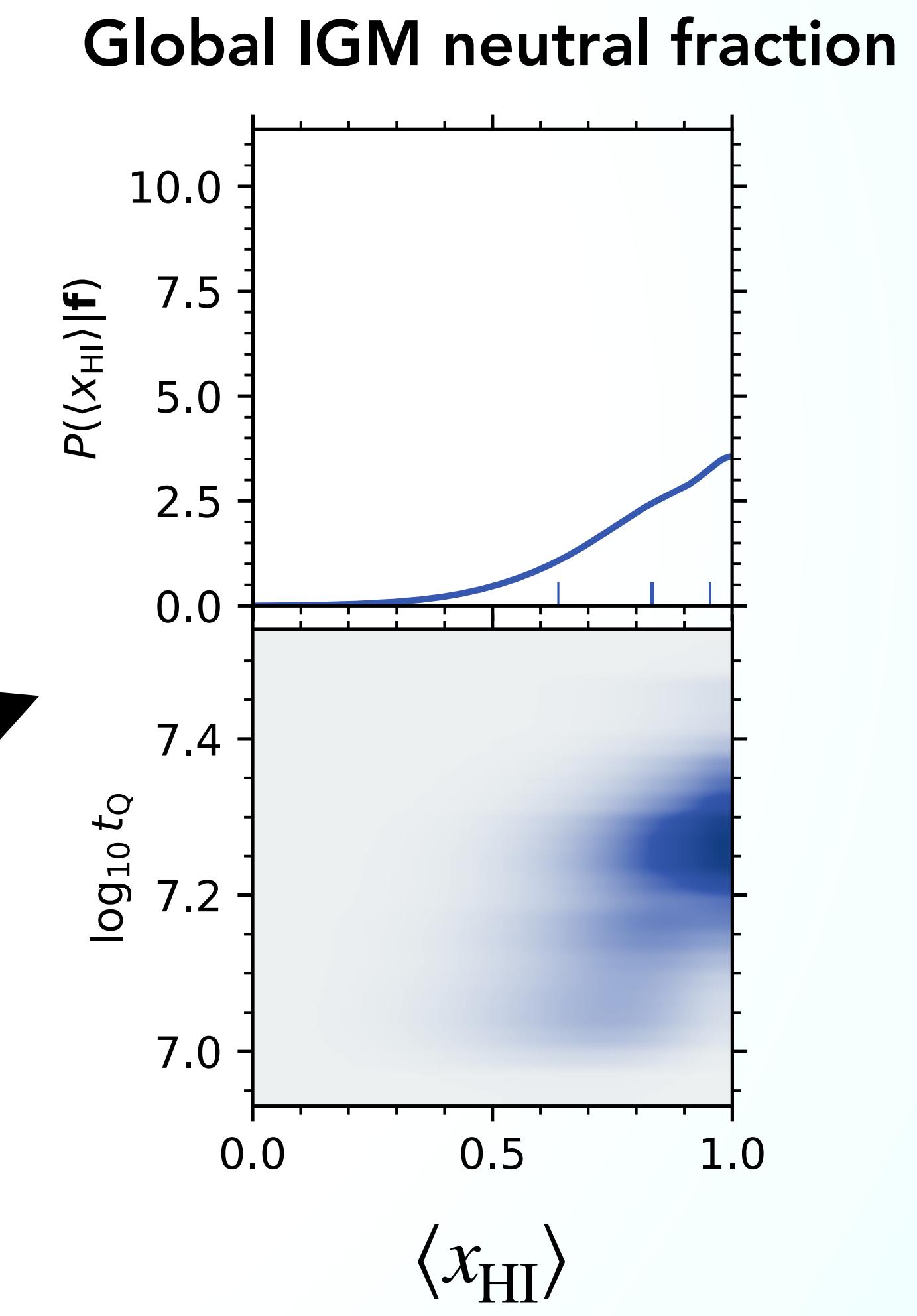
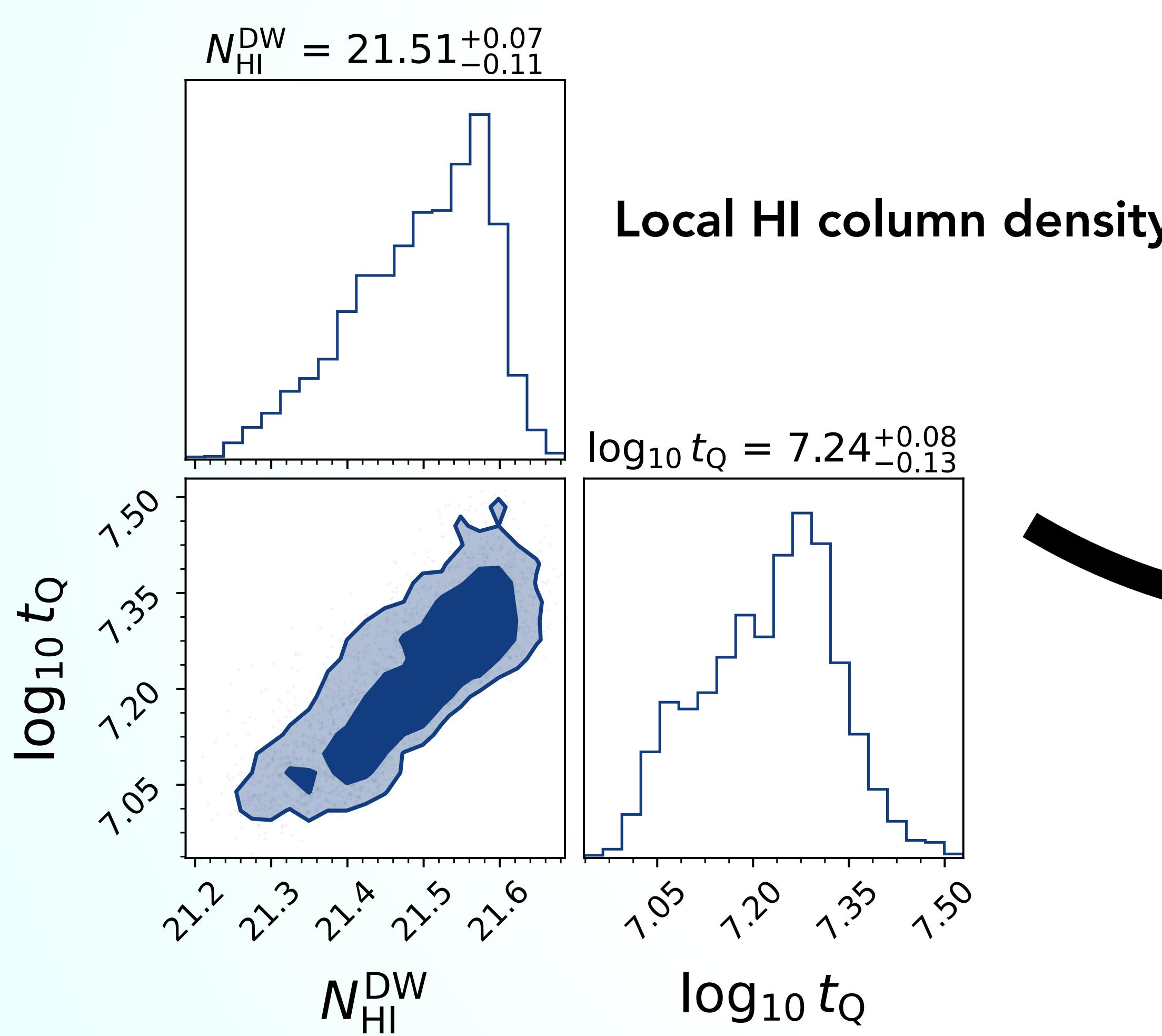
Converting the constraints

The *global* IGM neutral fraction inferred from J0411-0907



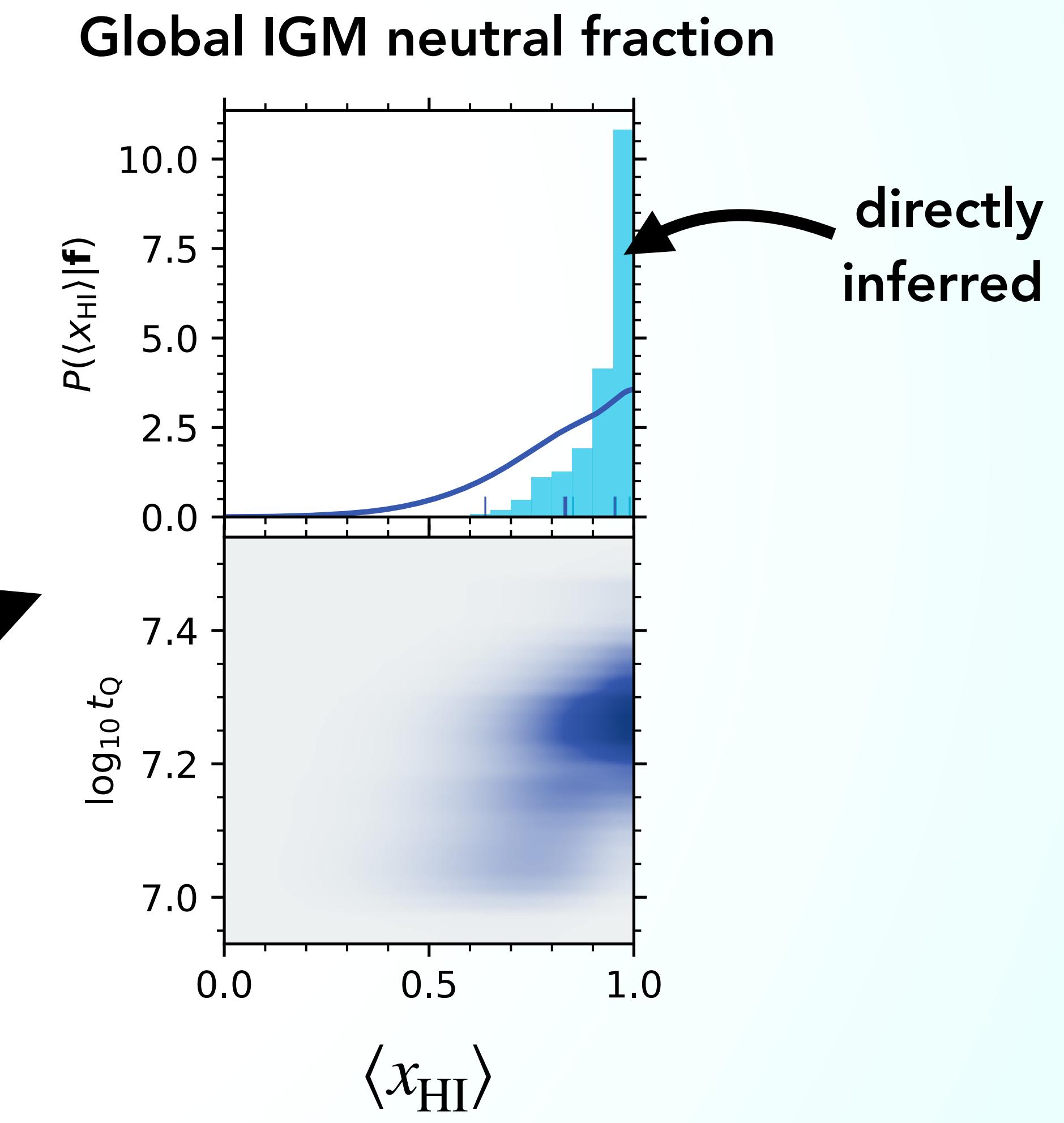
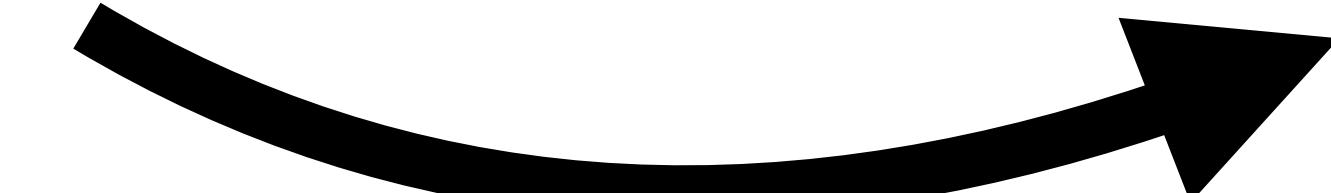
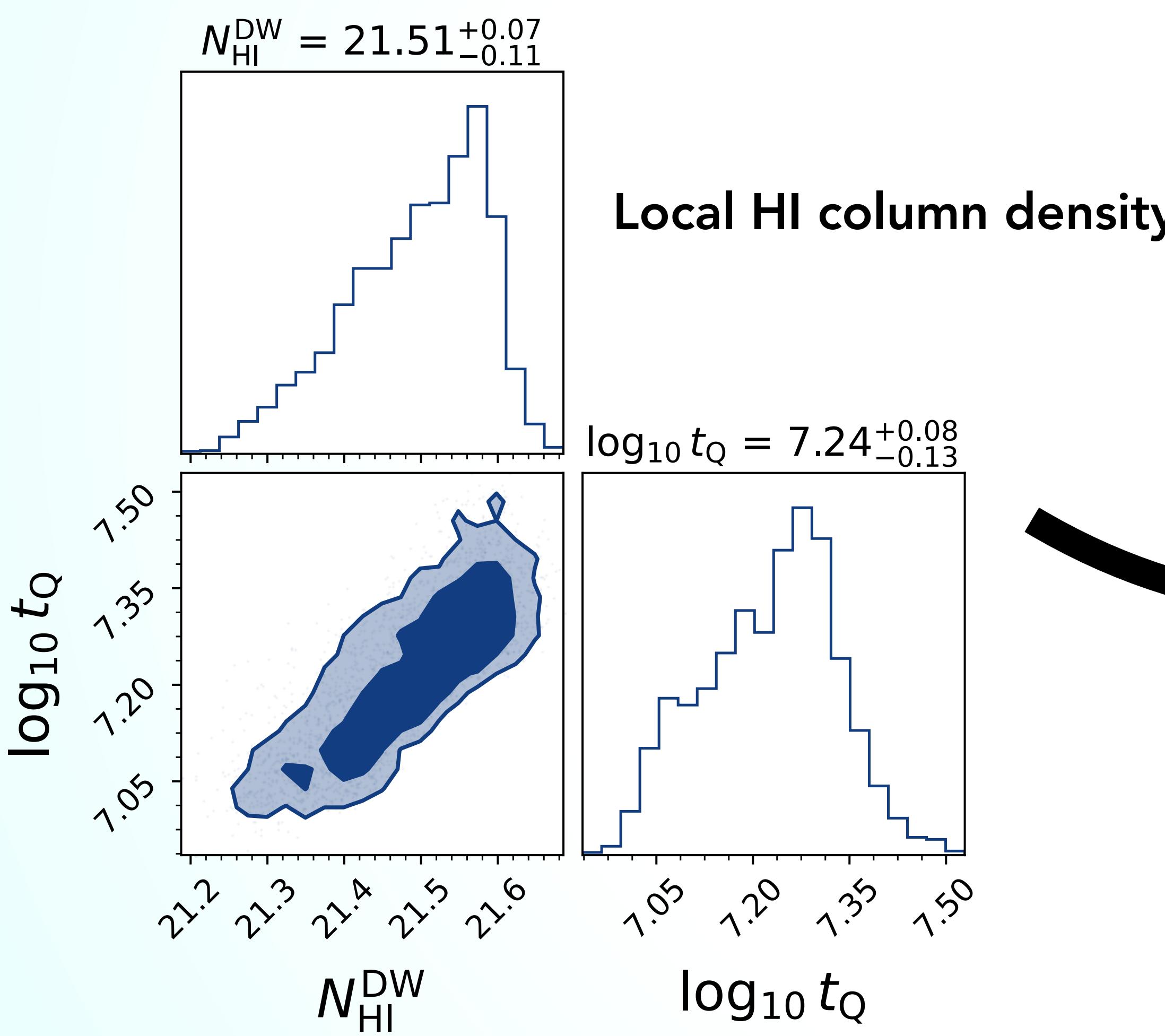
Converting the constraints

The *global* IGM neutral fraction inferred from J0411-0907



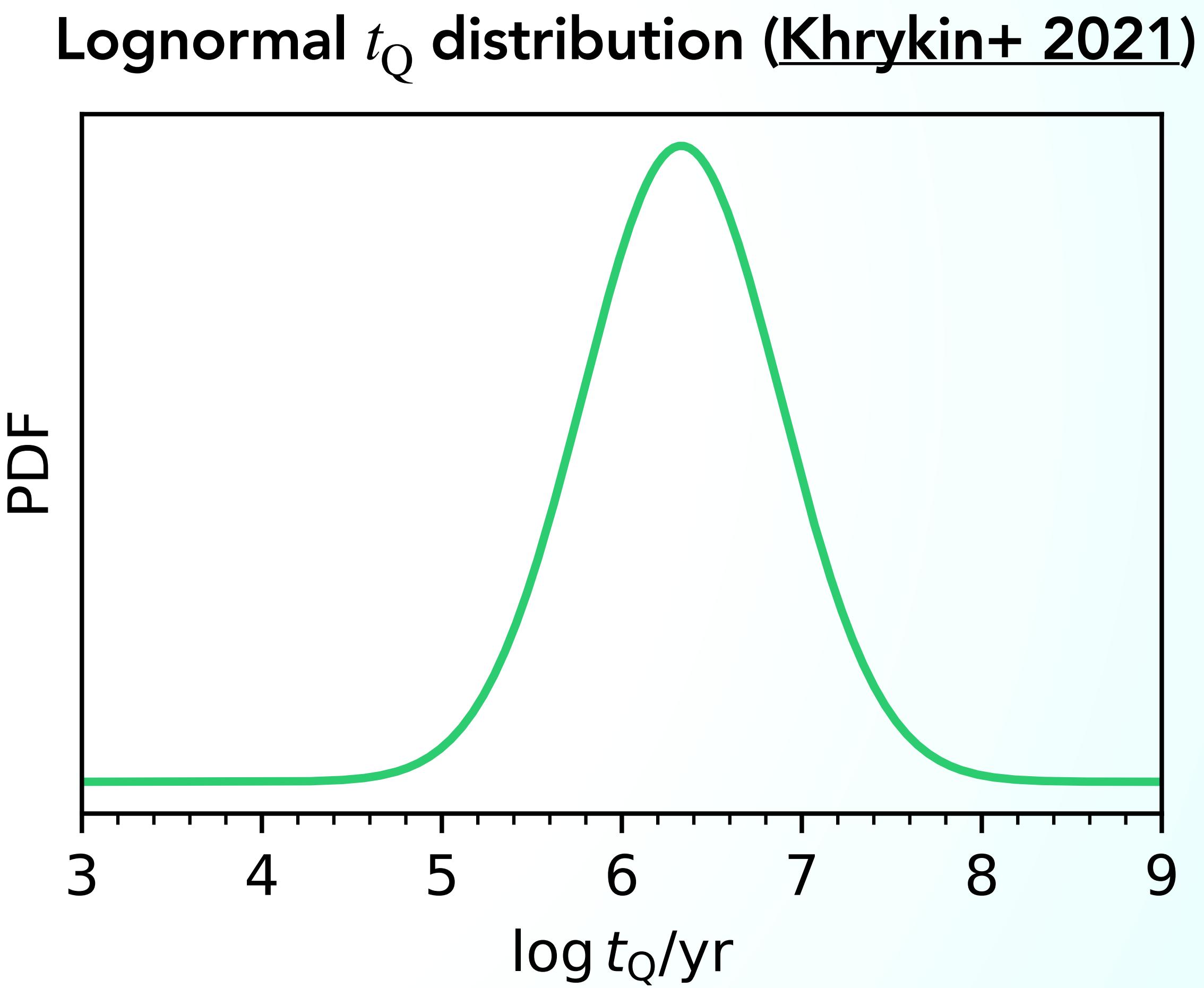
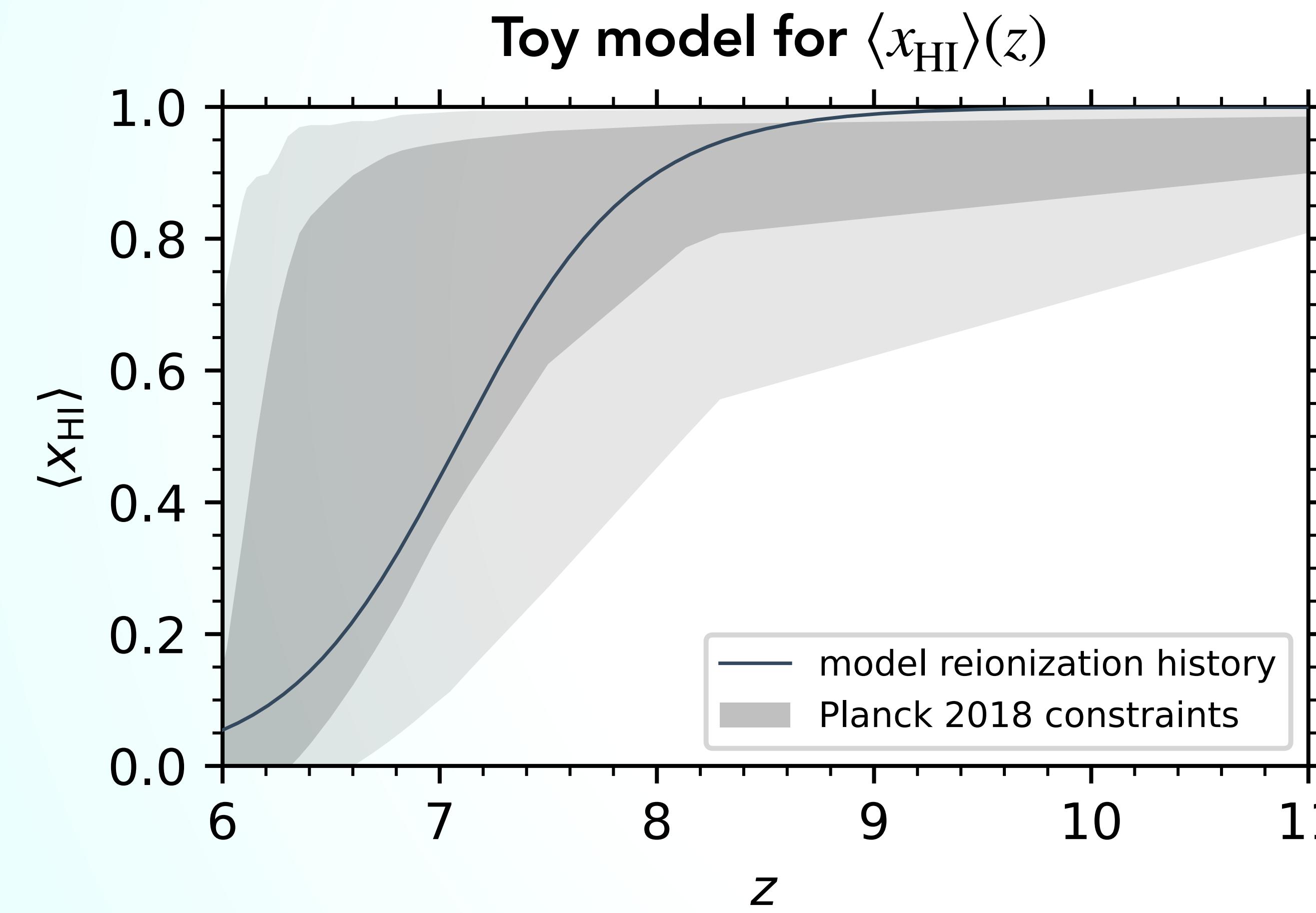
Converting the constraints

The *global* IGM neutral fraction inferred from J0411-0907



Constraining Reionization History with EUCLID & JWST

A forecast of upcoming IGM damping wing constraints

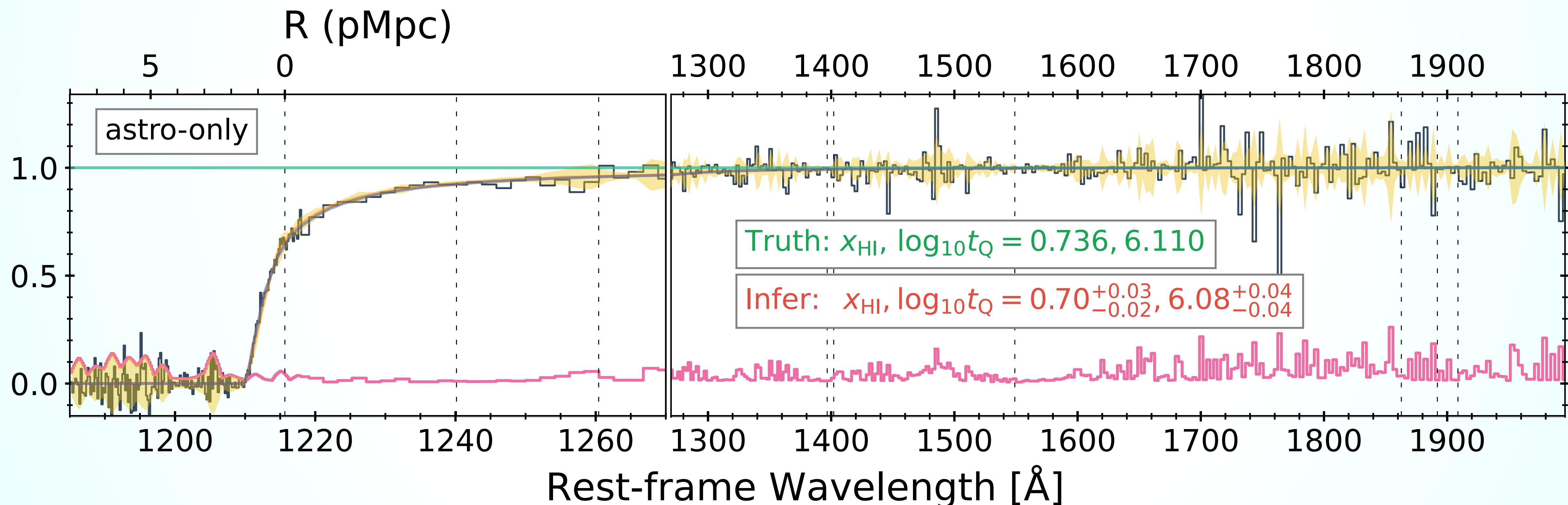


The PCA Continuum Model

Impact on Inference Precision

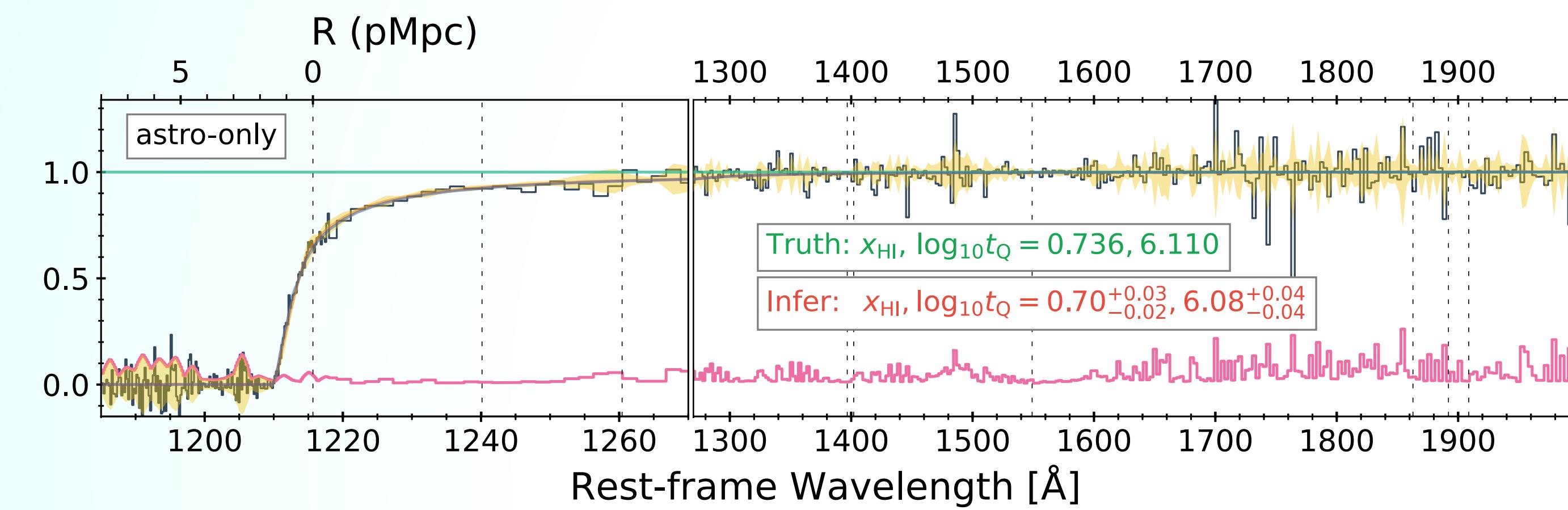
Continuum-normalized spectrum:

→ optimal bound on inferring $\langle x_{\text{HI}} \rangle$ and t_Q without nuisance parameters



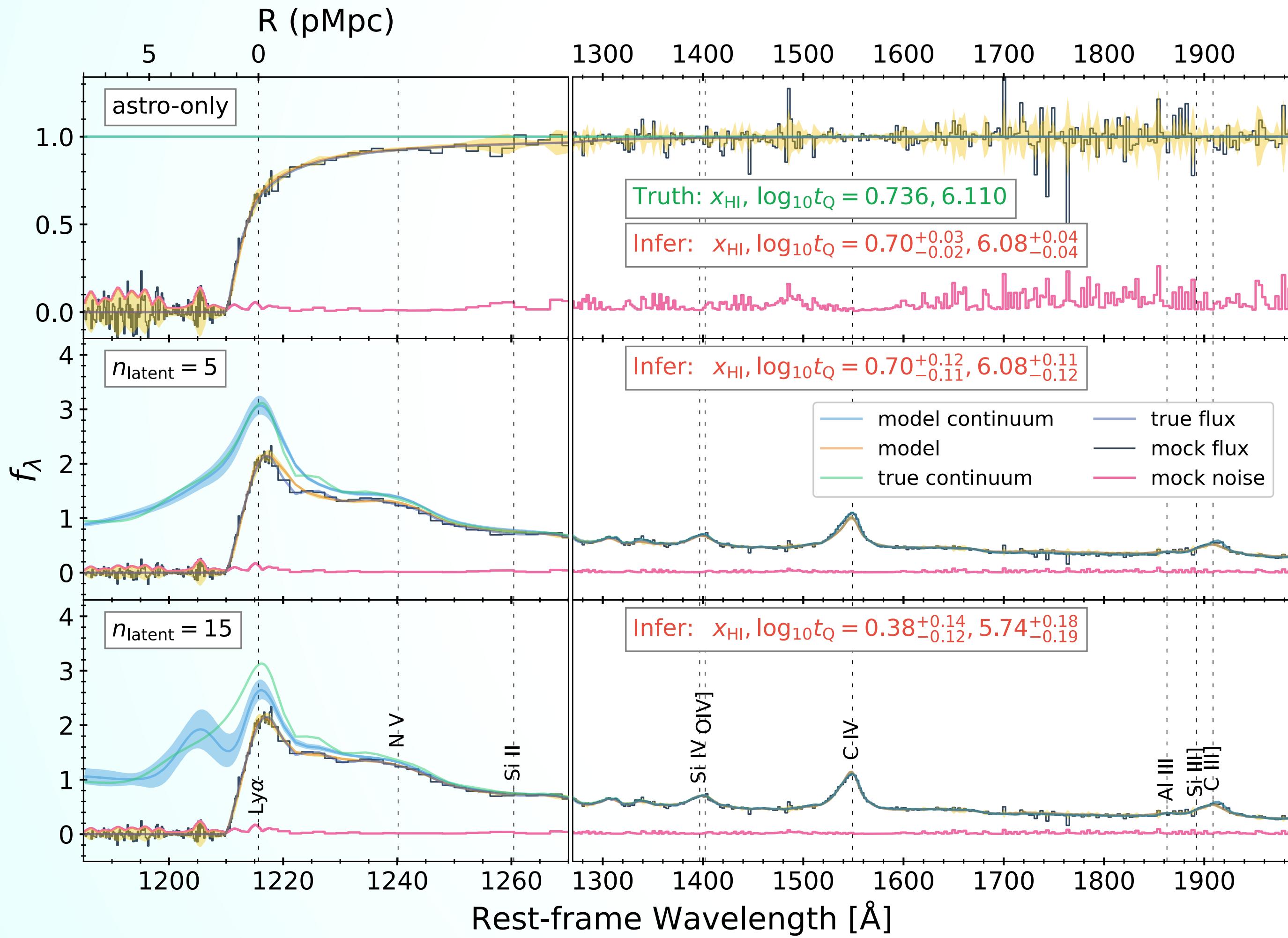
The PCA Continuum Model

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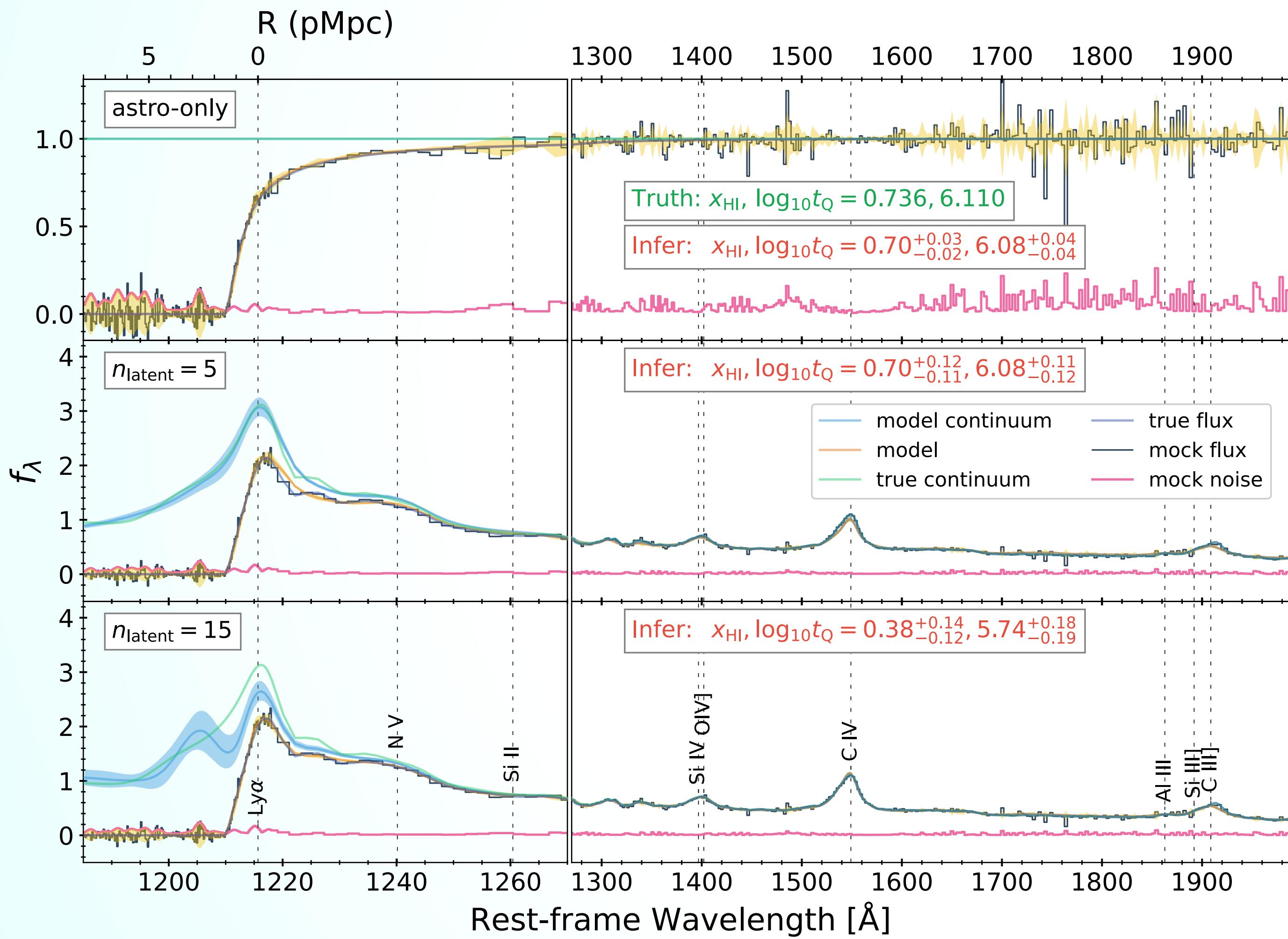
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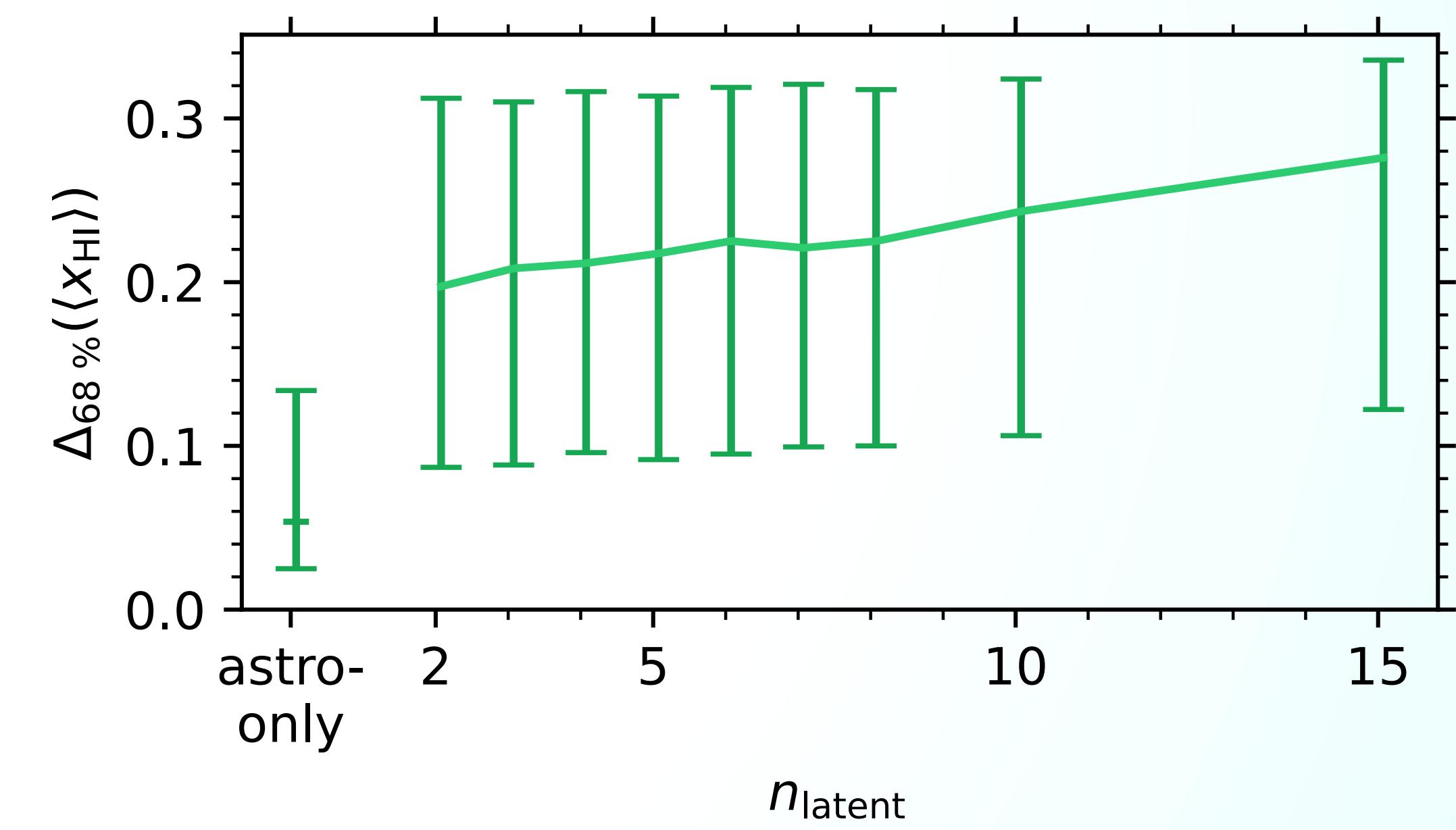


The PCA Continuum Model

Impact on Inference Precision

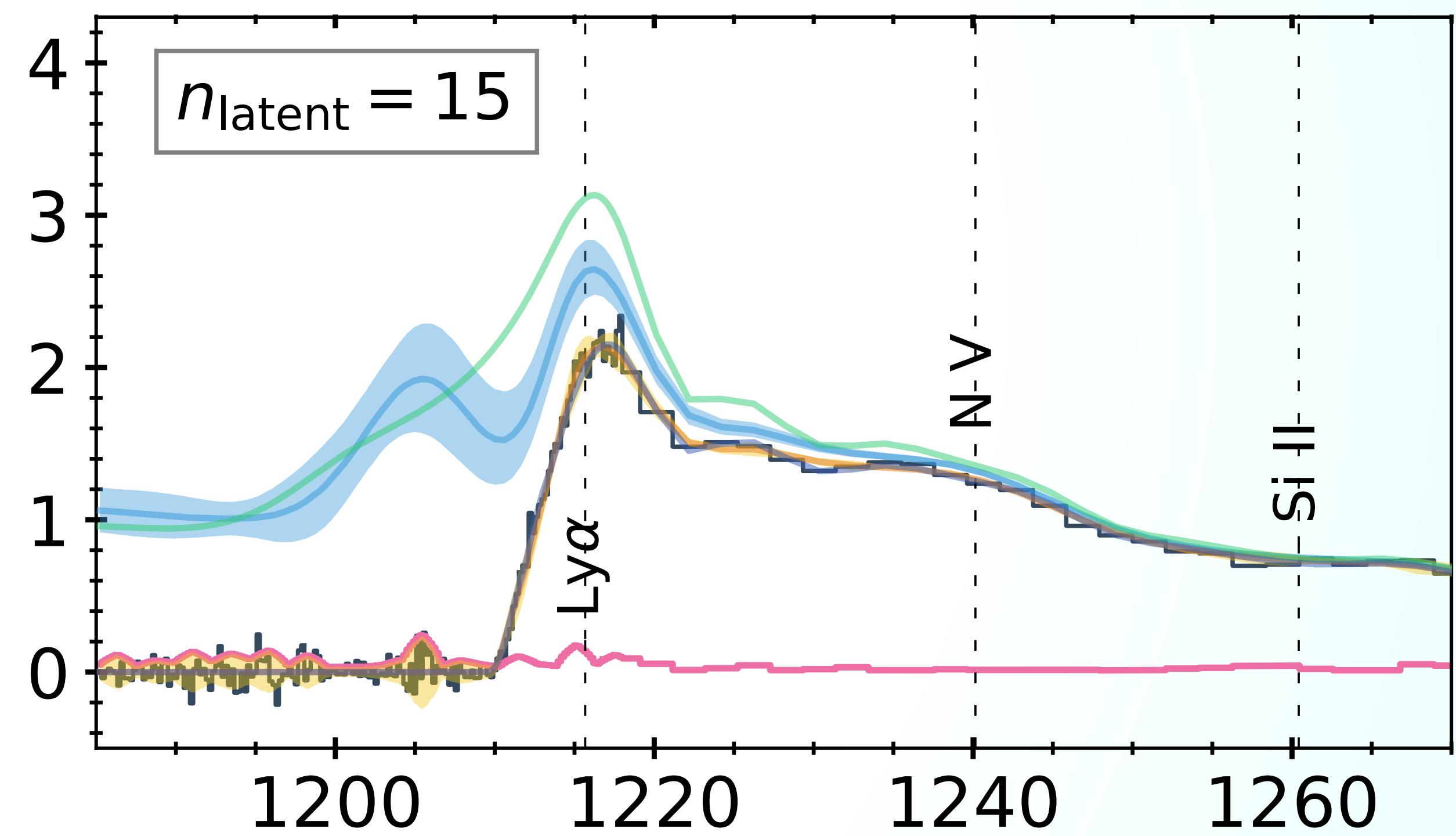


Average precision of 100 mock samples:



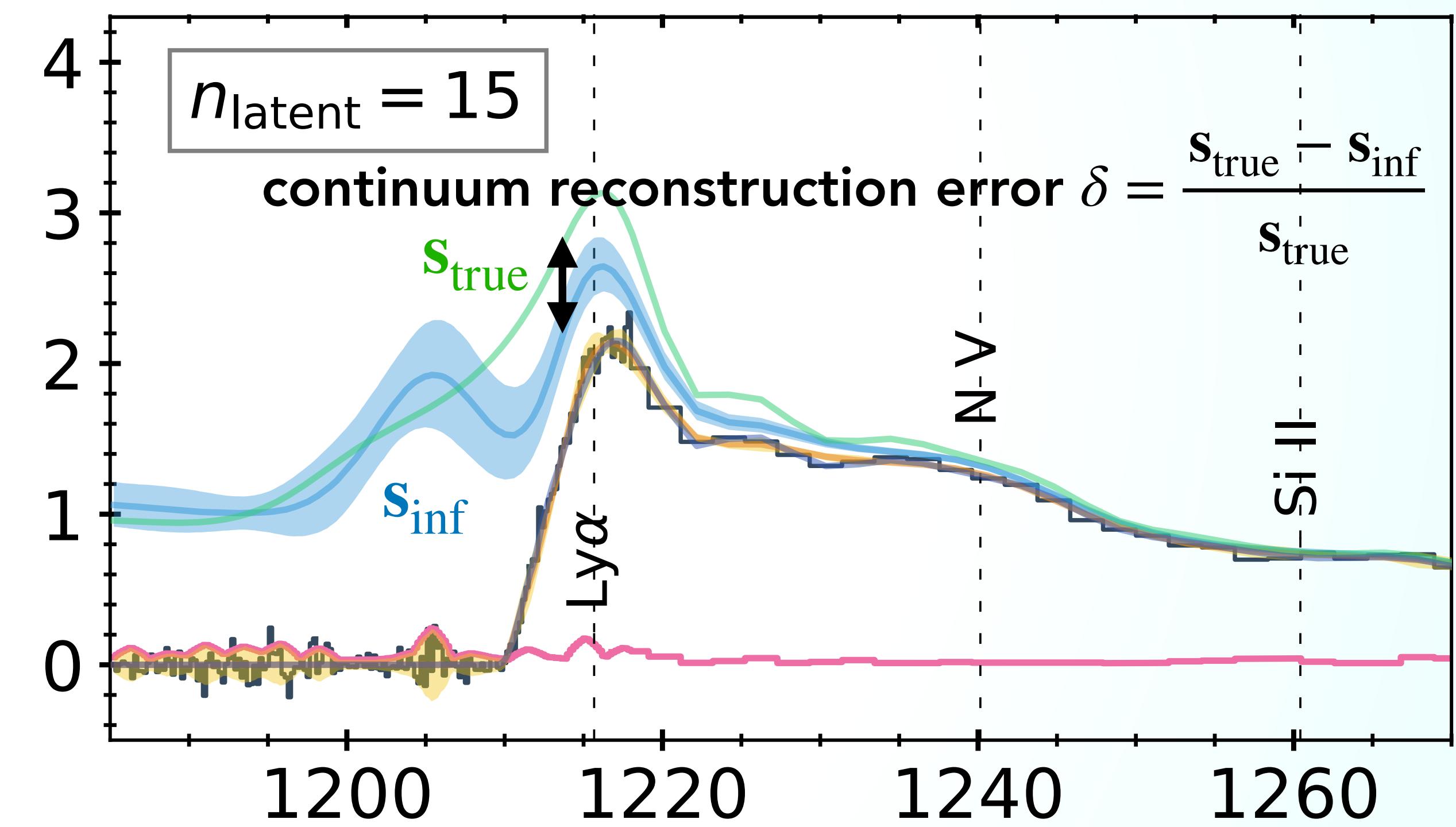
The PCA Continuum Model

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The PCA Continuum Model

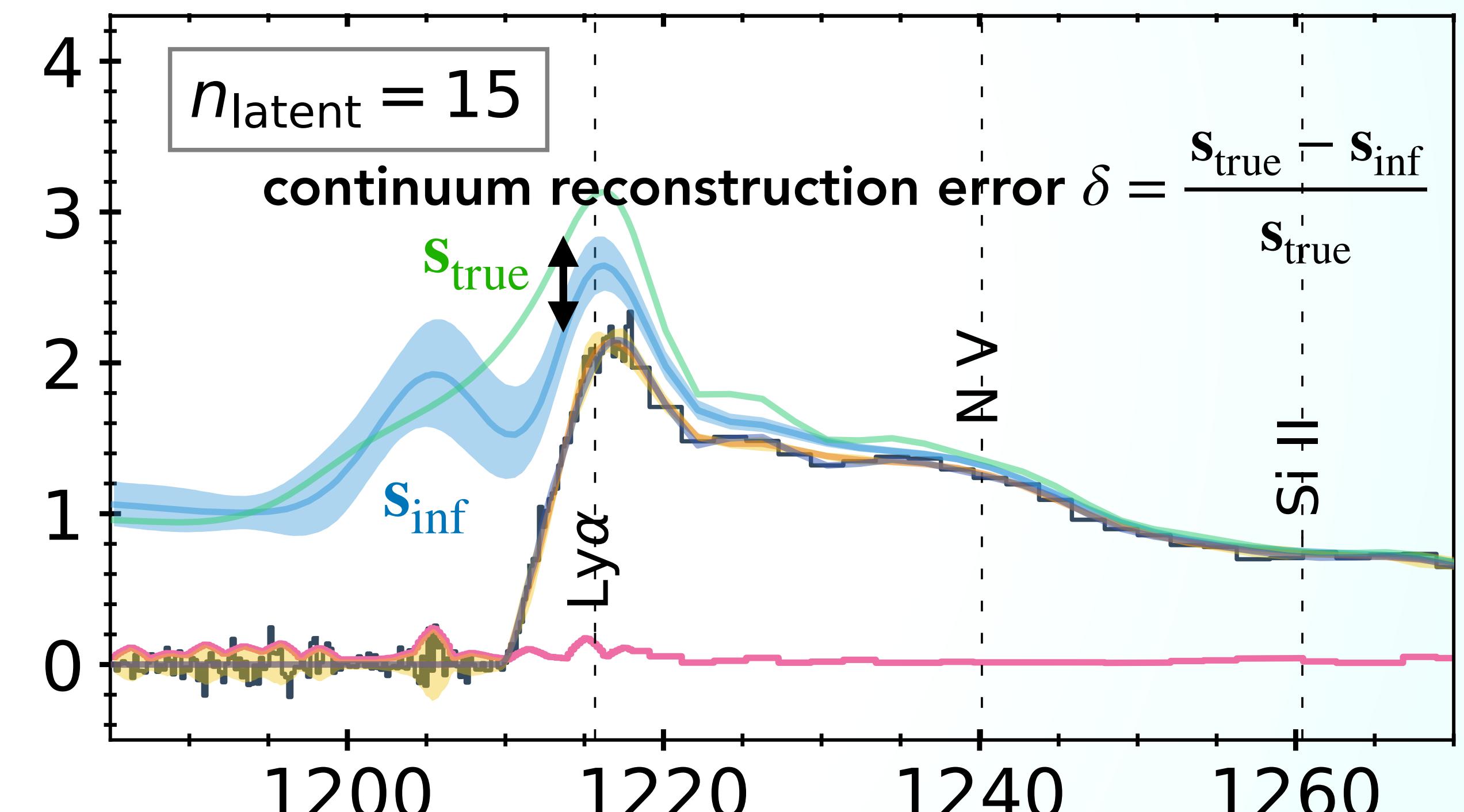
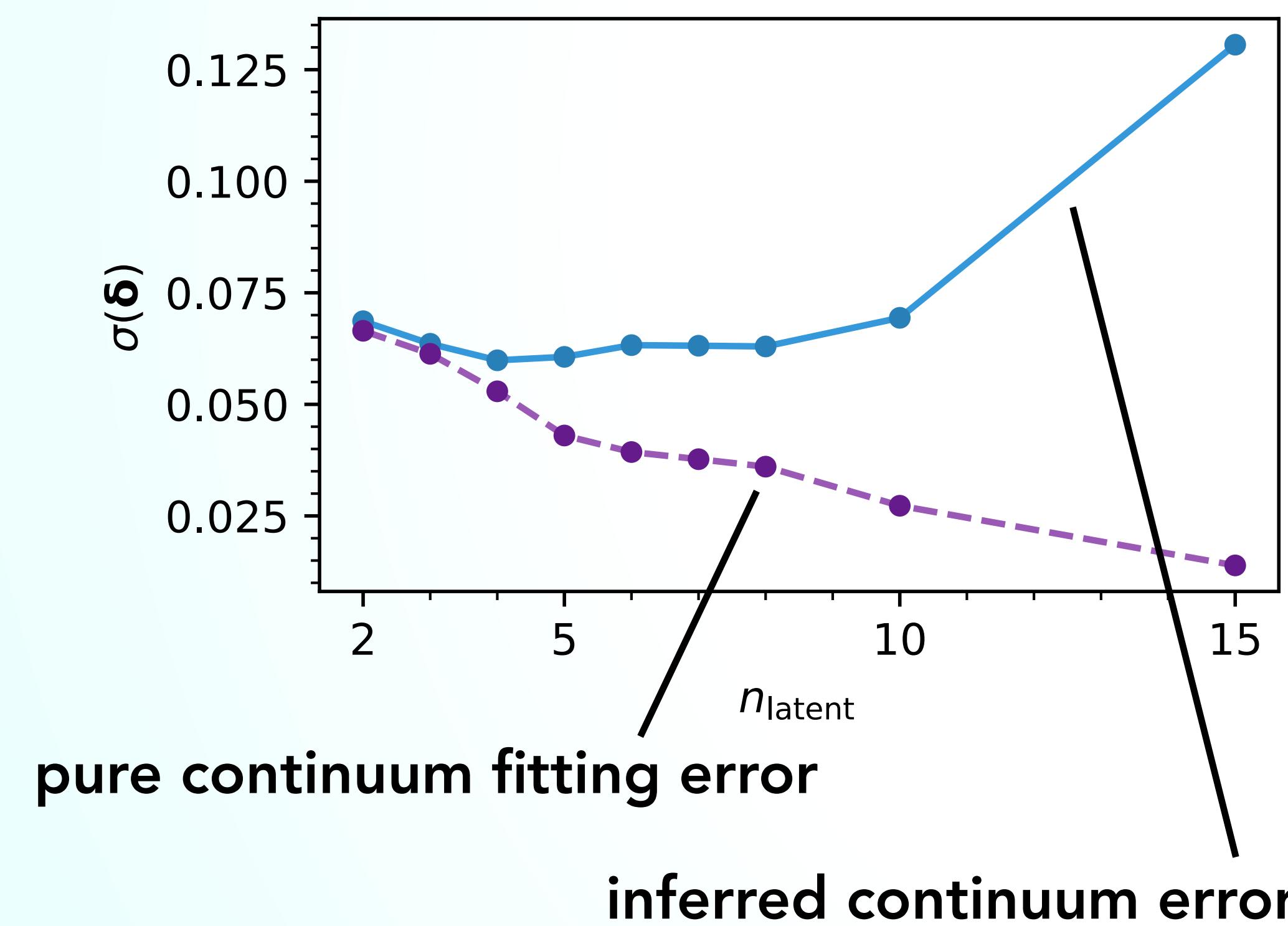
Impact on Inference Precision



The PCA Continuum Model

Impact on Inference Precision

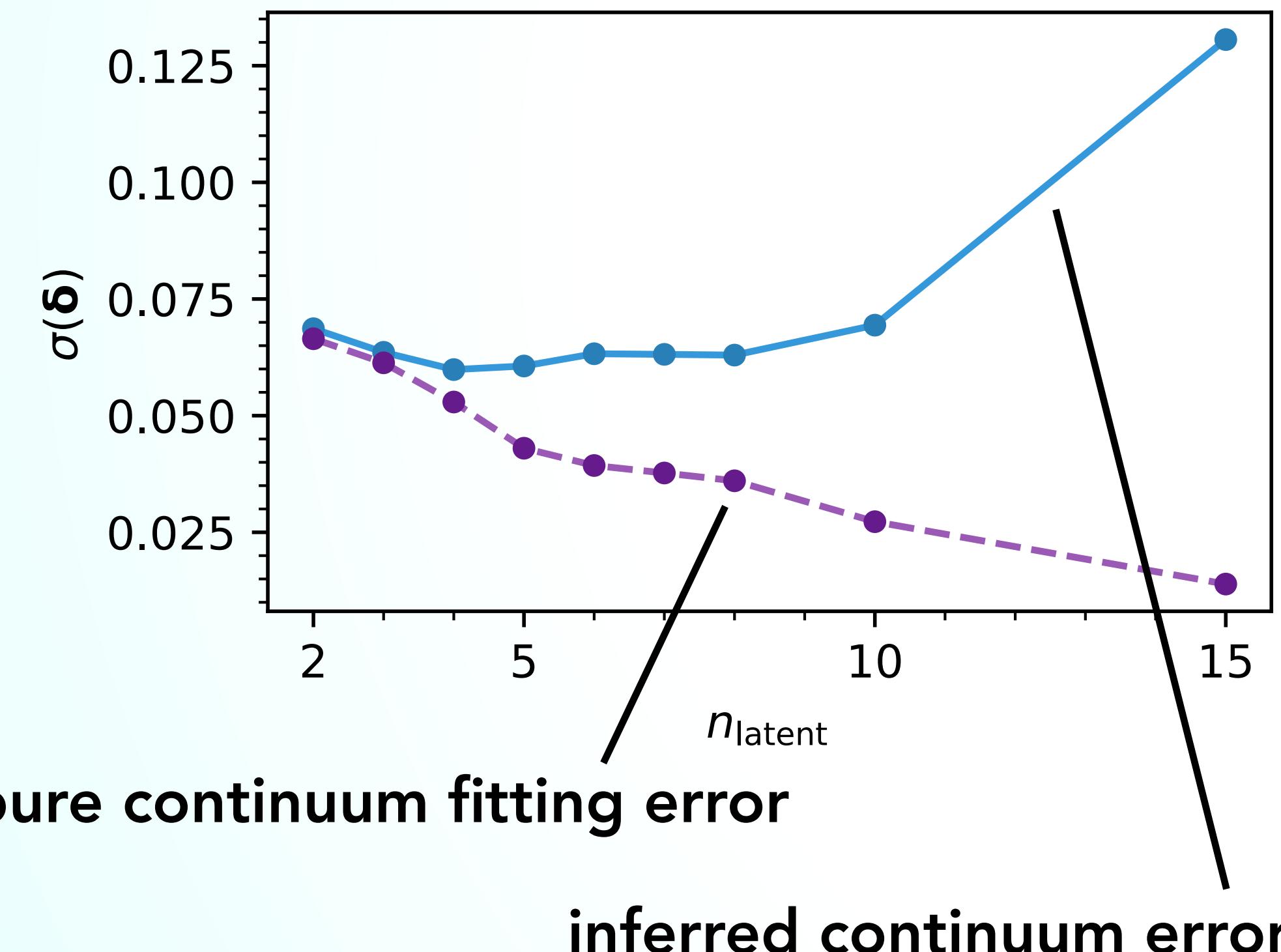
Variation of the continuum reconstruction error w.r.t. 100 mock samples



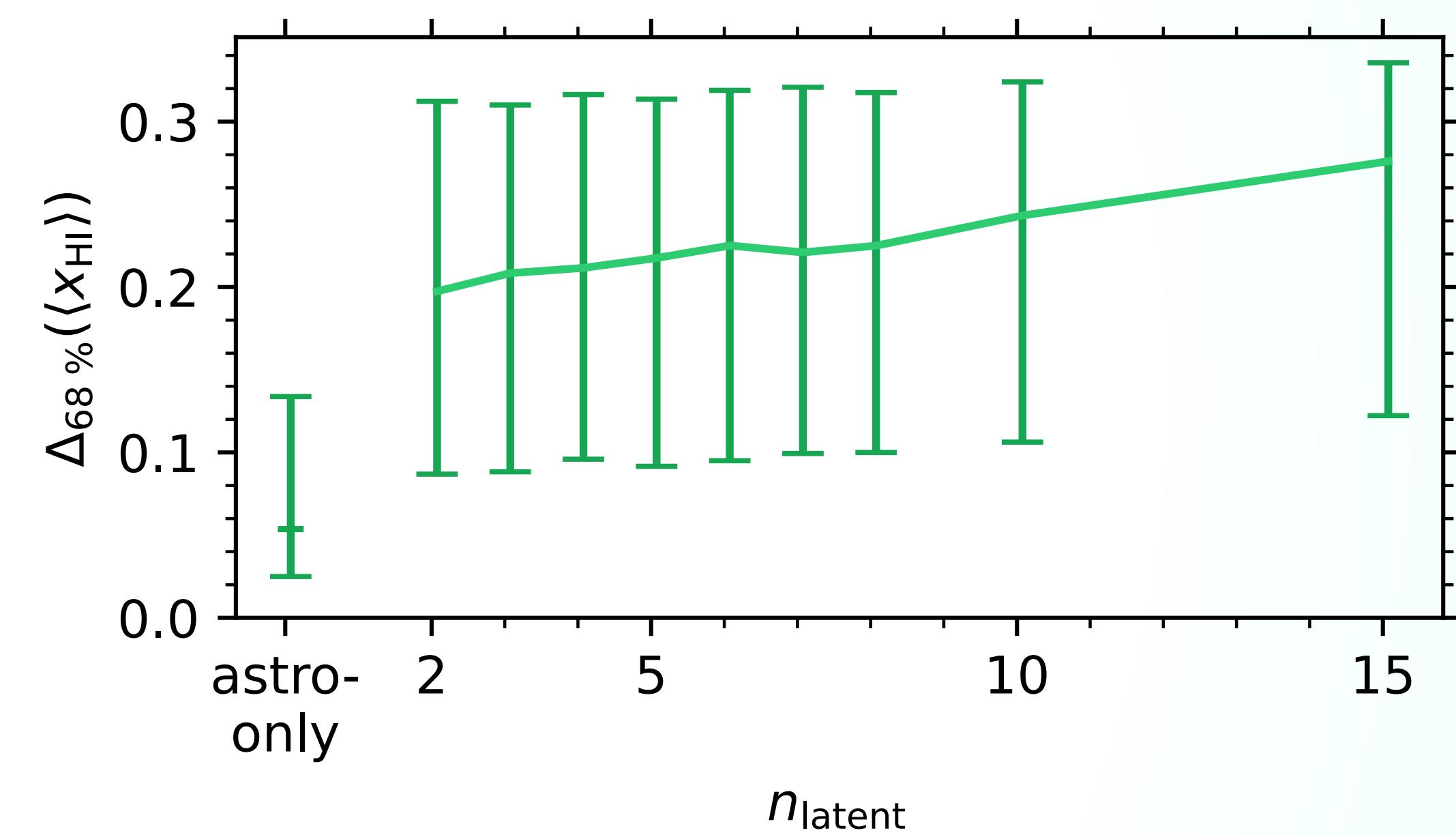
The PCA Continuum Model

Impact on Inference Precision

Variation of the continuum reconstruction error w.r.t. 100 mock samples



Average precision of 100 mock samples:

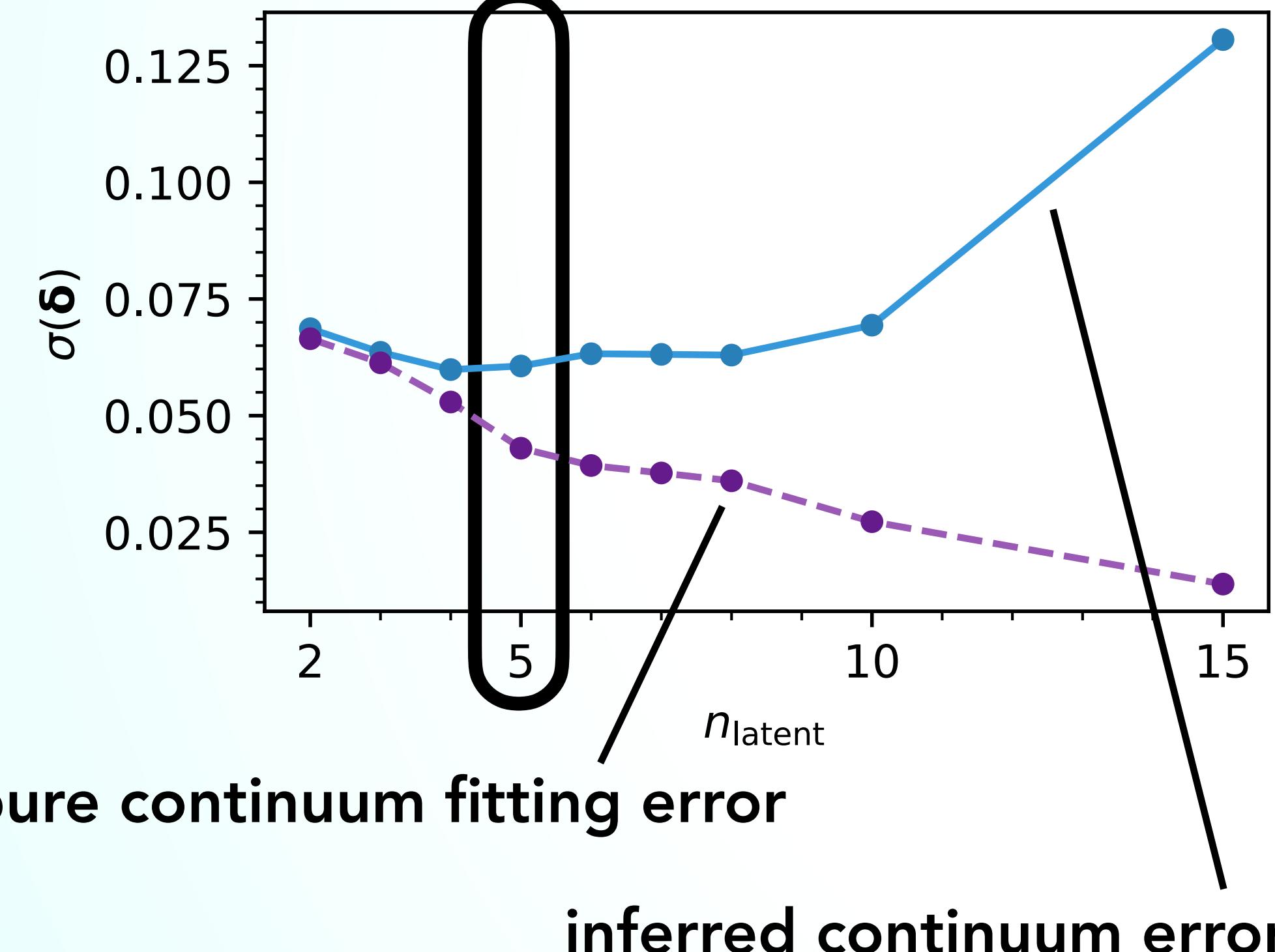


- All information about the Lyman- α forest is encoded in the first few PCA vectors
- Additional latent dimensions improve the continuum fit but lose constraining power

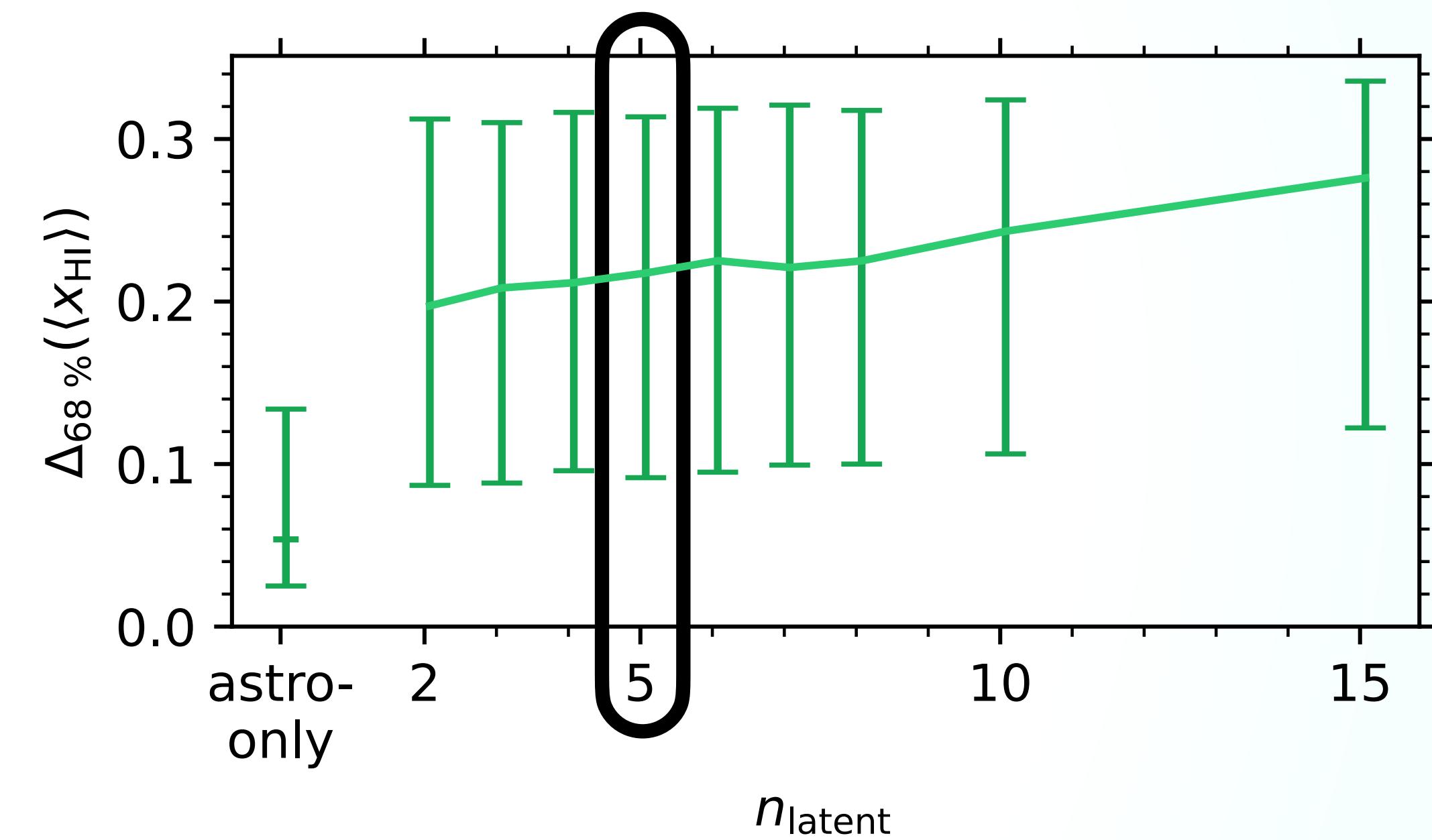
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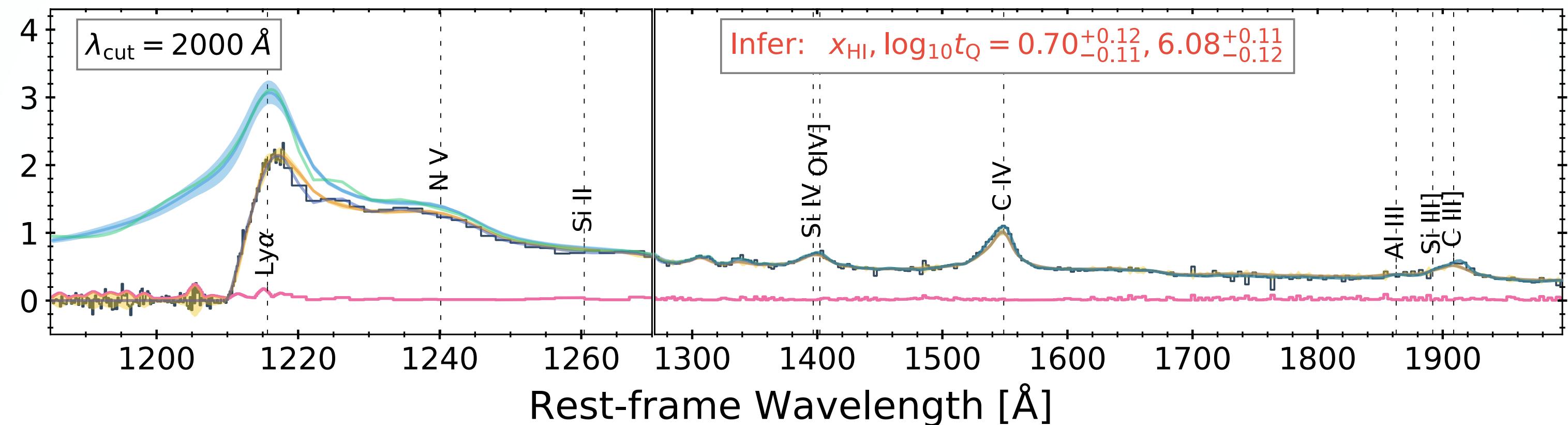
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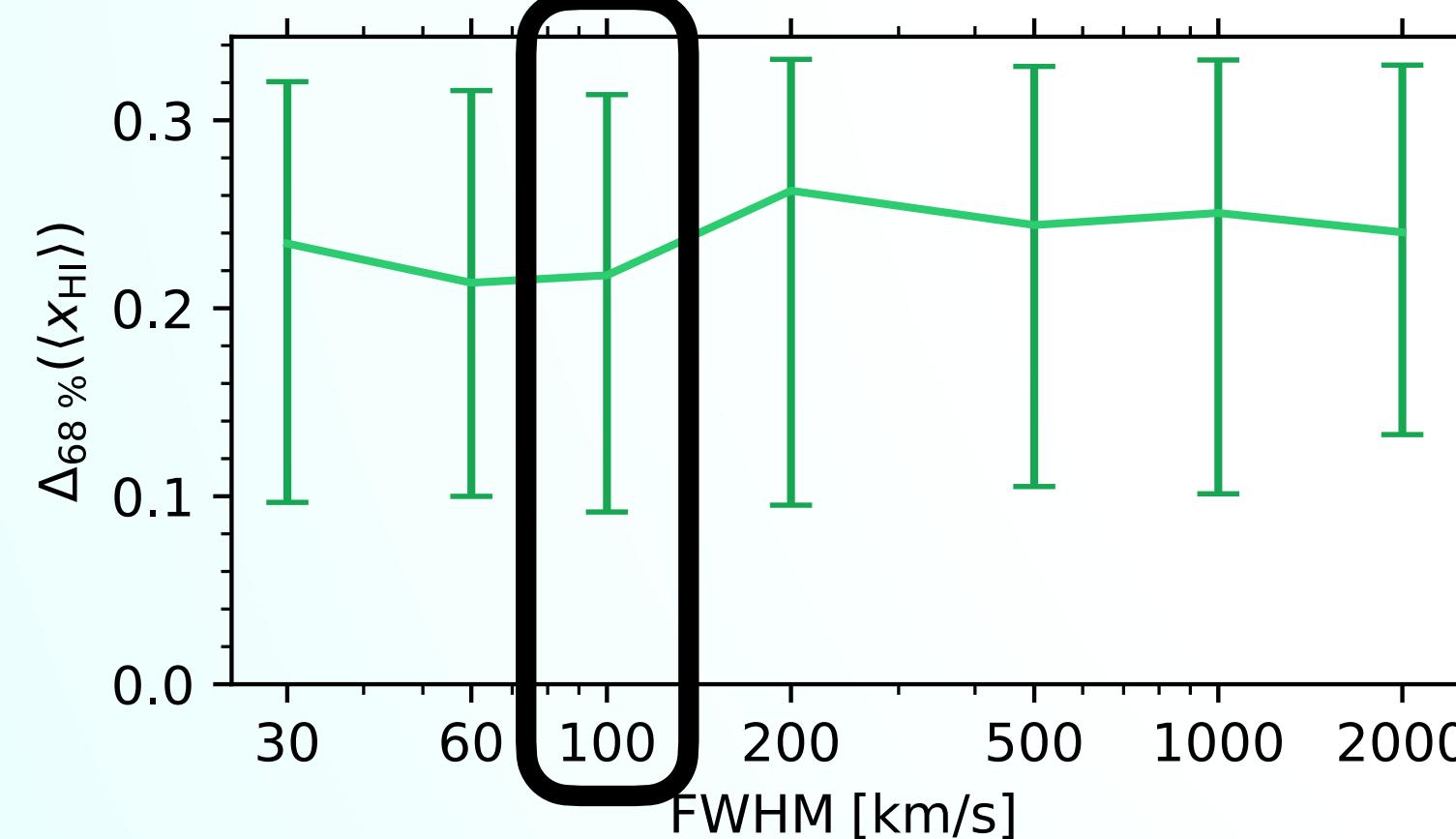
Observational Setup

Impact on Inference Precision



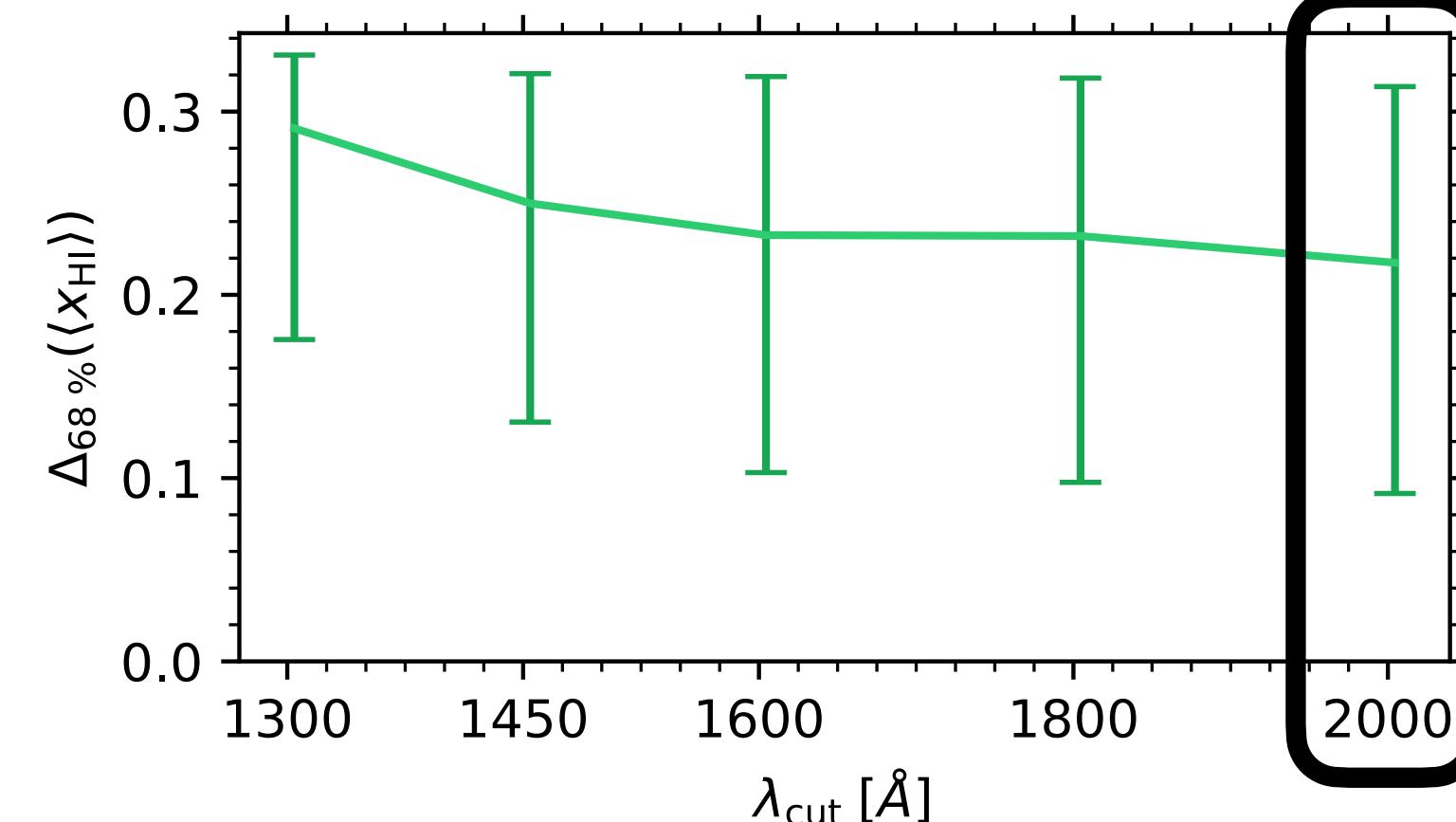
Hennawi, Kist, Davies+ 2023a
(in prep.)

Spectral resolution



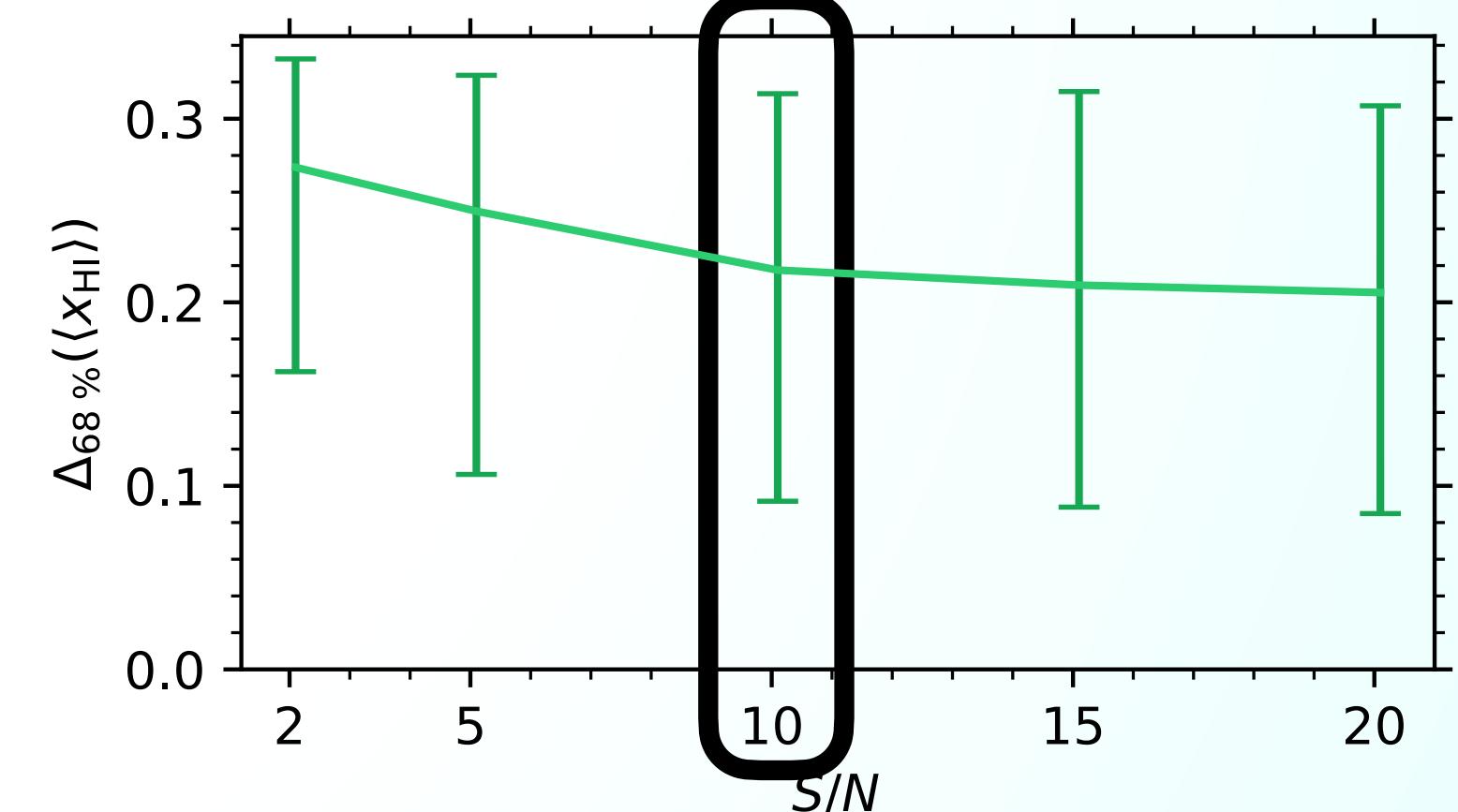
→ Precision does not vary significantly with spectral resolution

Red-side wavelength coverage



→ Covering major emission lines is important

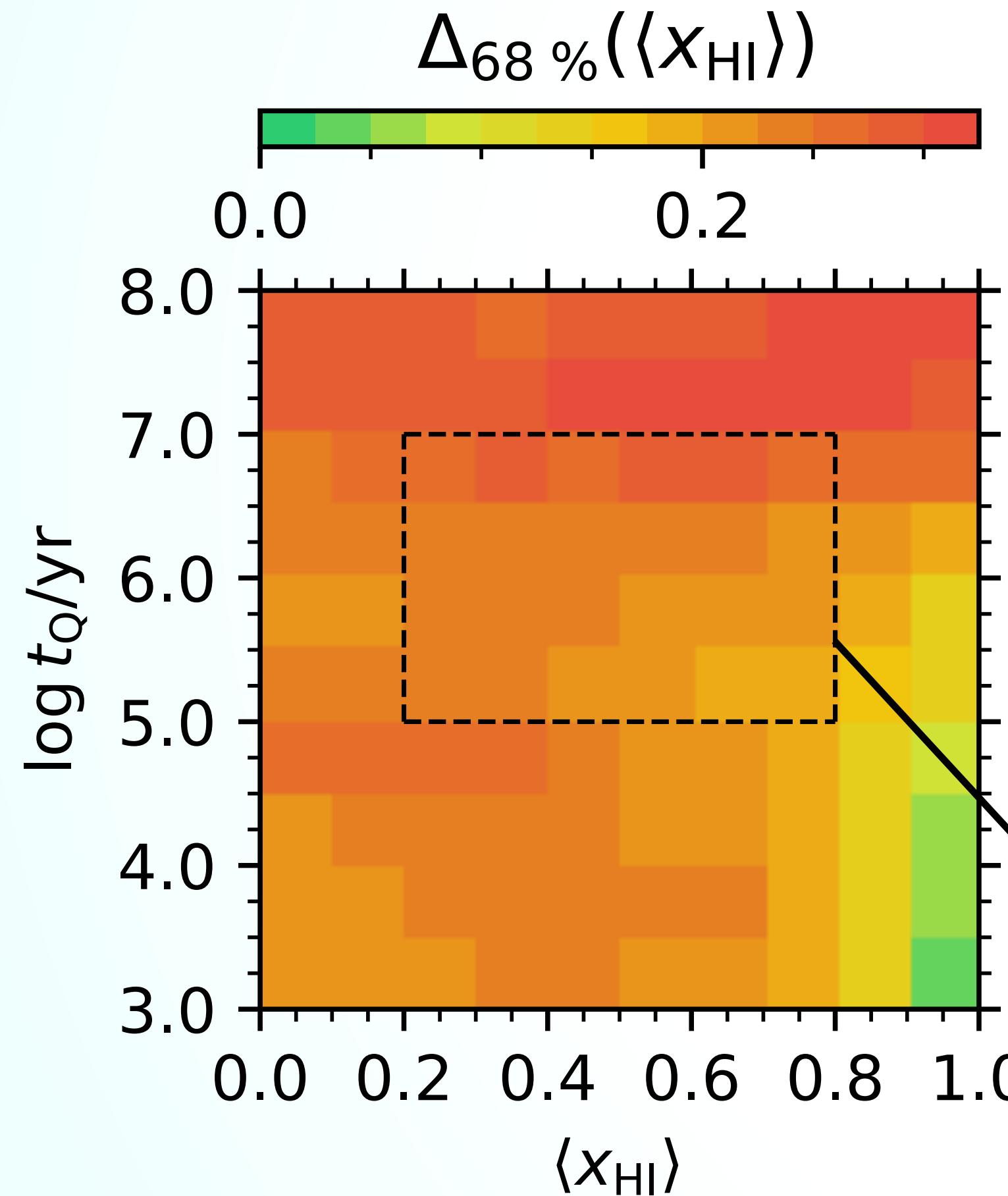
S/N per 100 km/s velocity interval



→ Covering major emission lines is important

Quantifying $\langle x_{\text{HI}} \rangle$ Inference Precision

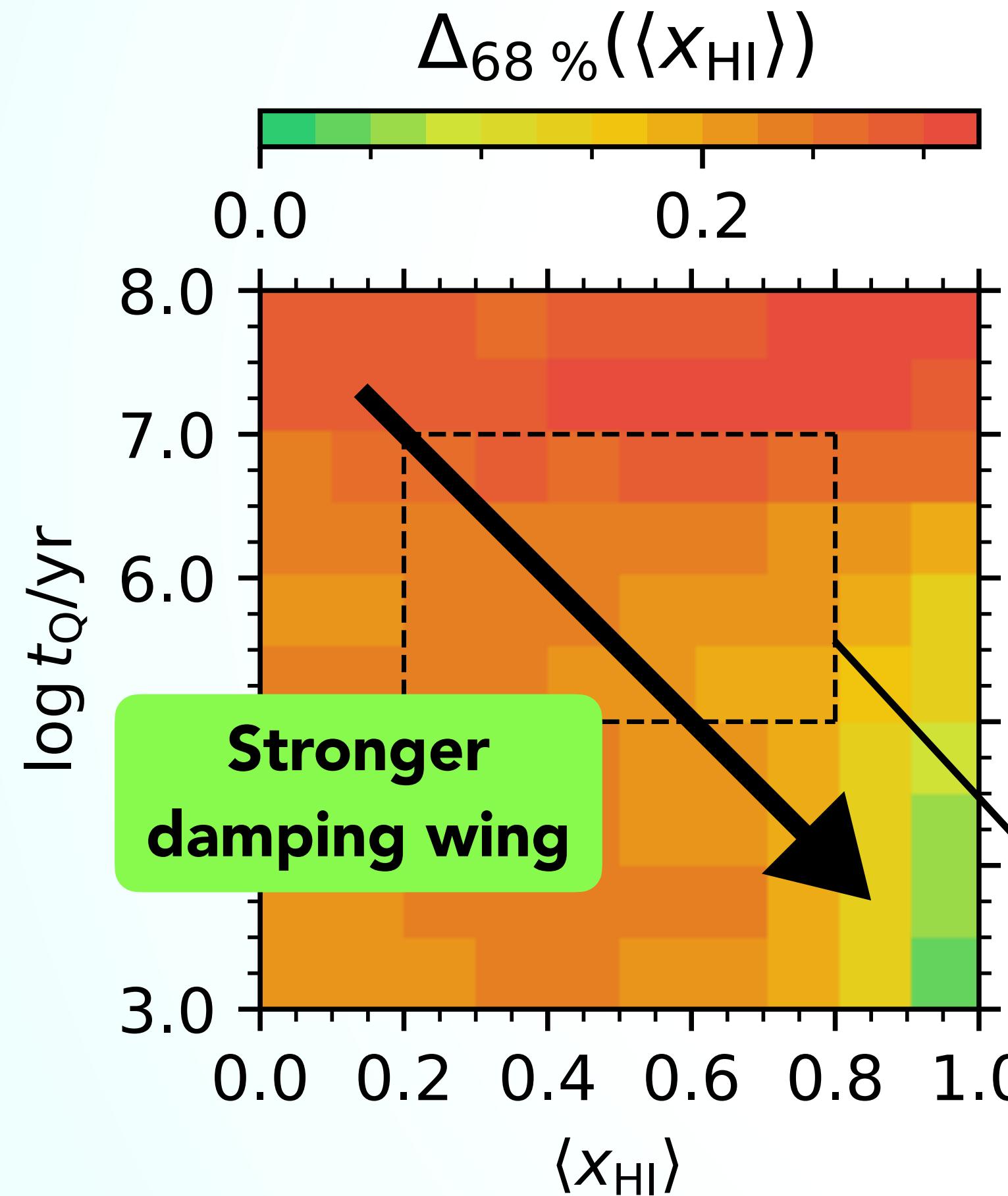
Variation across Model Components and Parameter Space



- Precision varies significantly across parameter space (between 2.6% and 39.3%)
 - Median precision: 23.4%
 - Stronger damping wing imprint (higher $\langle x_{\text{HI}} \rangle$, lower t_Q) improves precision
- “Fiducial” region of parameter space

Quantifying $\langle x_{\text{HI}} \rangle$ Inference Precision

Variation across Model Components and Parameter Space

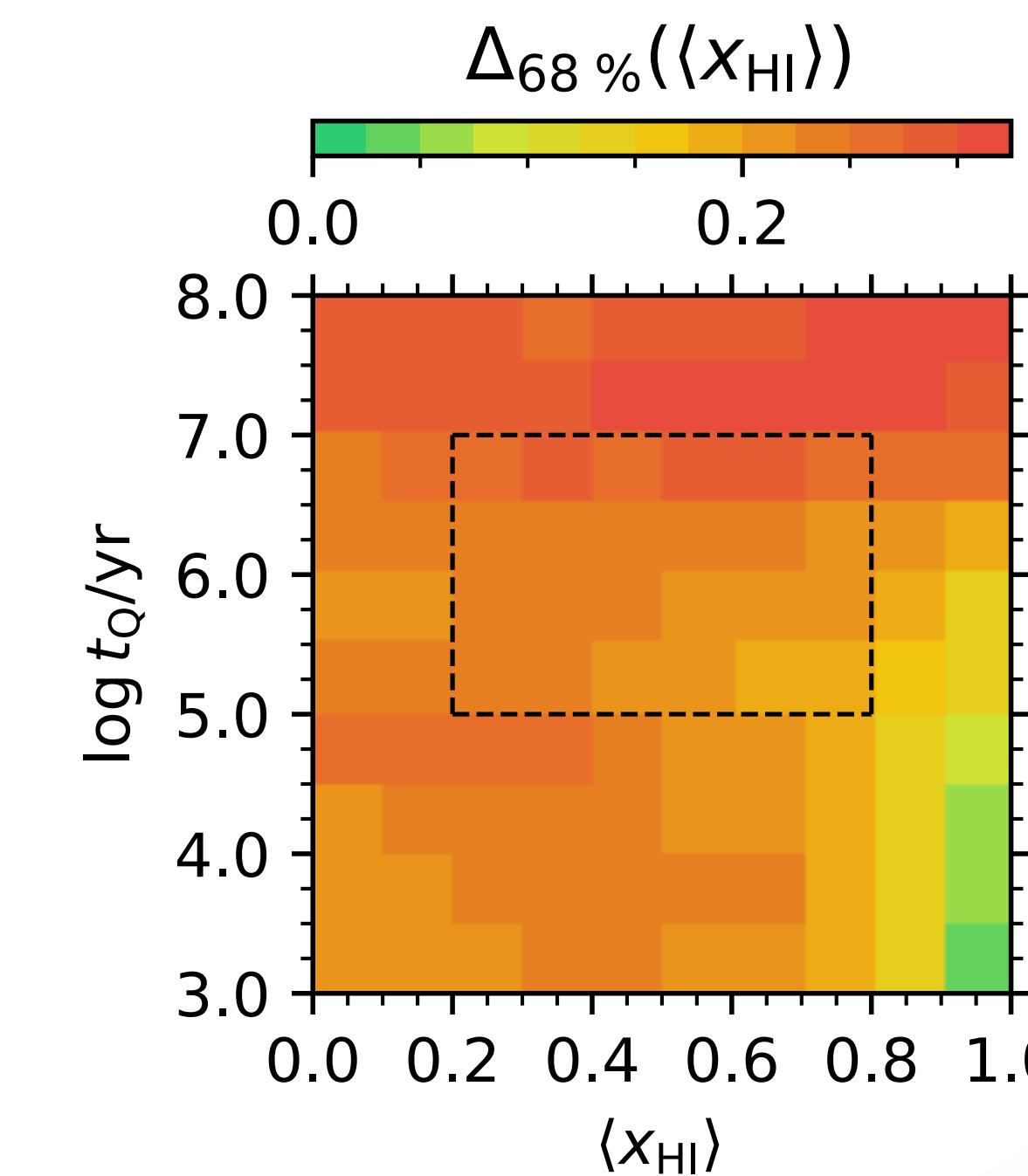


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Quantifying $\langle x_{\text{HI}} \rangle$ Inference Precision

Variation across Model Components and Parameter Space

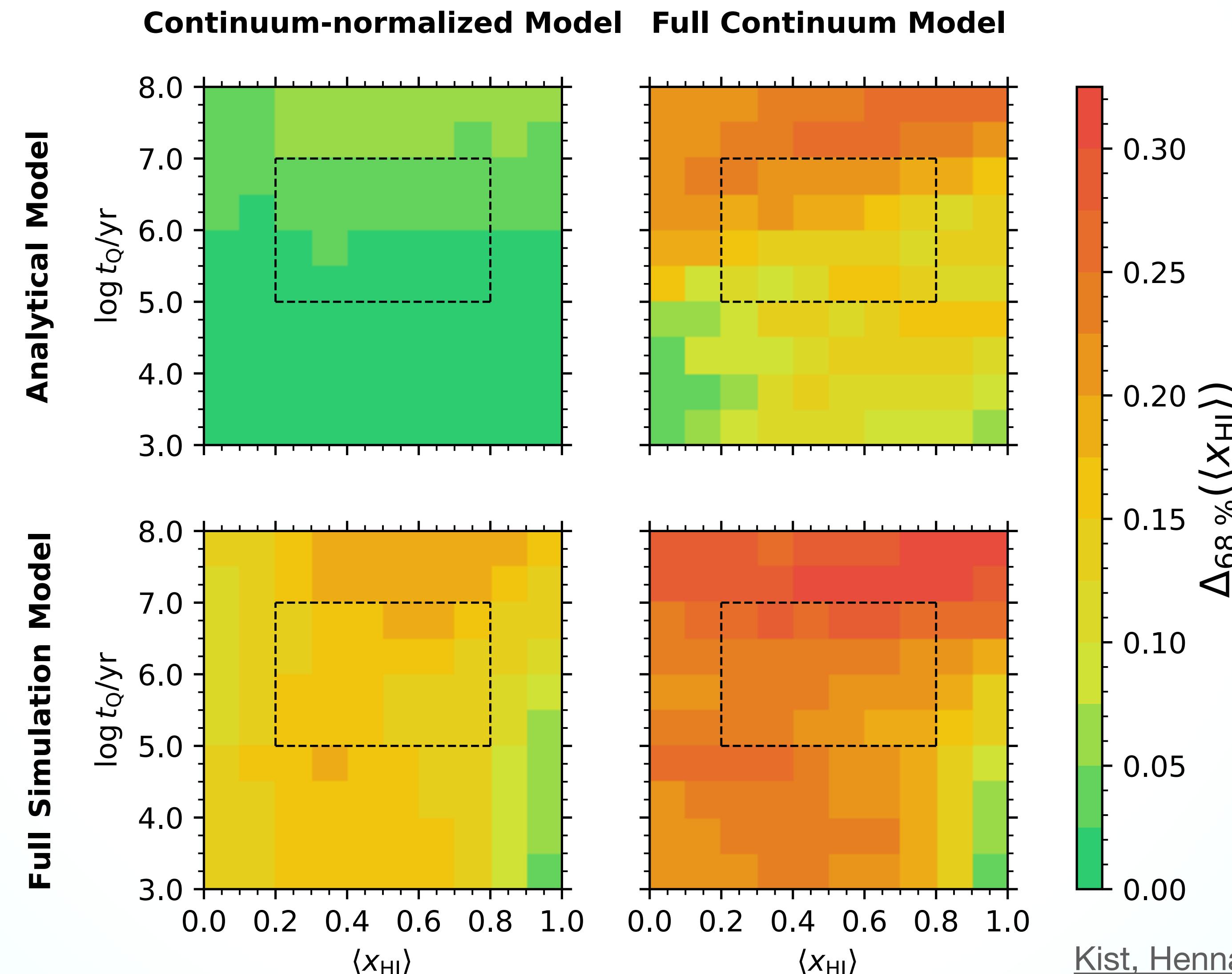


Quantifying $\langle x_{\text{HI}} \rangle$ Inference Precision

Variation across Model Components and Parameter Space

Overall median: 2.2%
 Fiducial median: 2.4%

Overall median: 14.9%
 Fiducial median: 15.3%

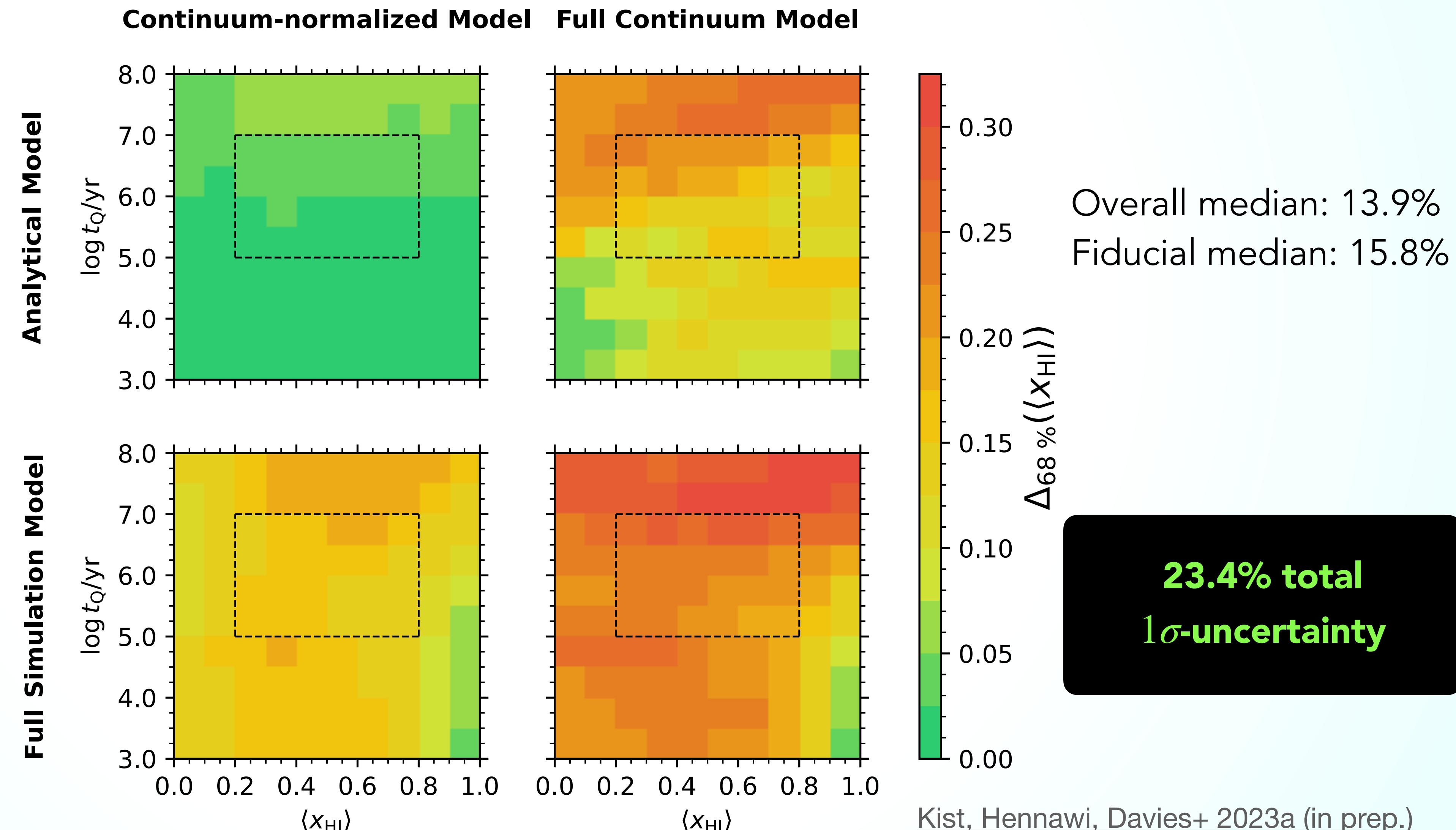


Quantifying $\langle x_{\text{HI}} \rangle$ Inference Precision

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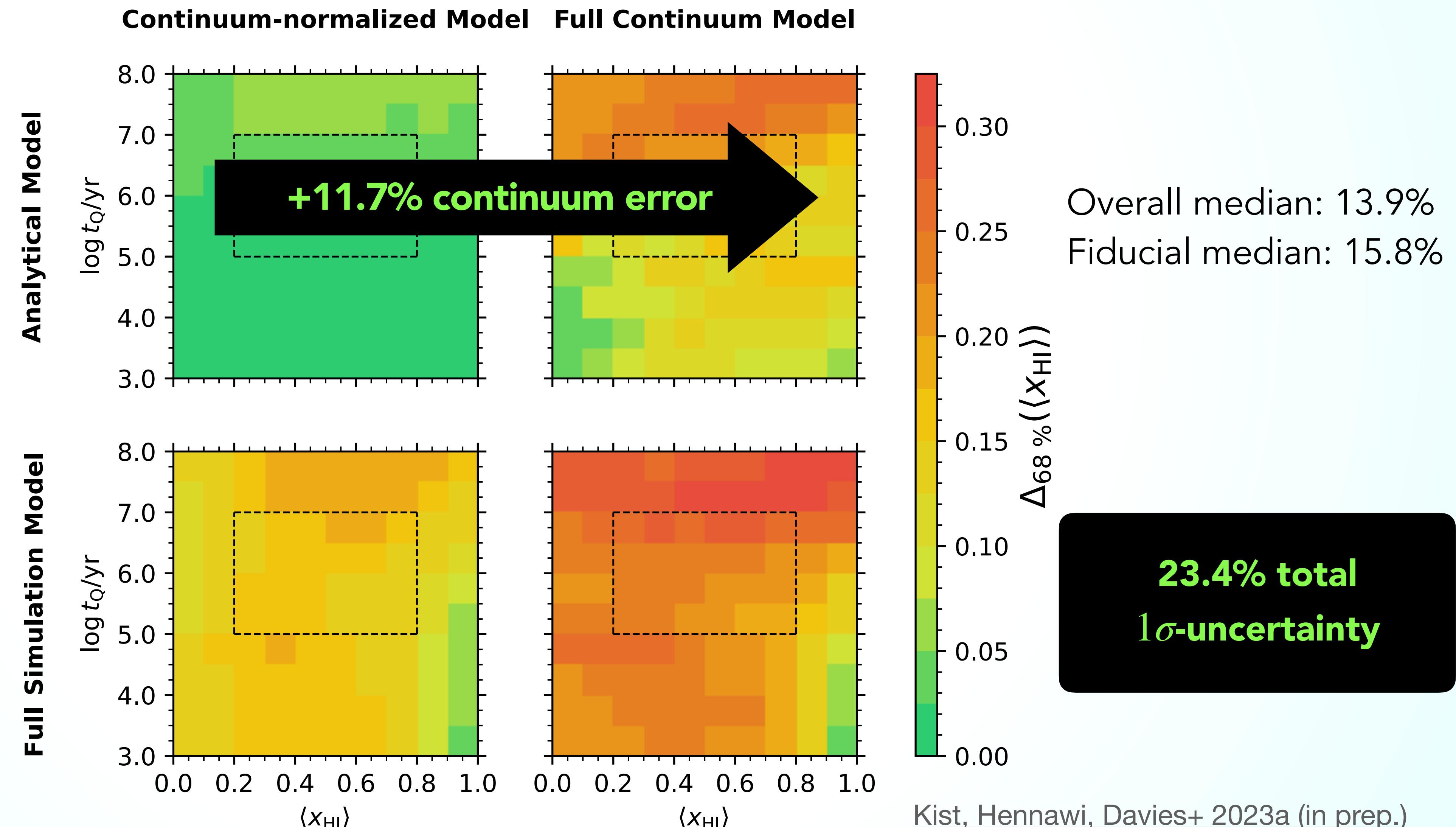


Quantifying $\langle x_{\text{HI}} \rangle$ Inference Precision

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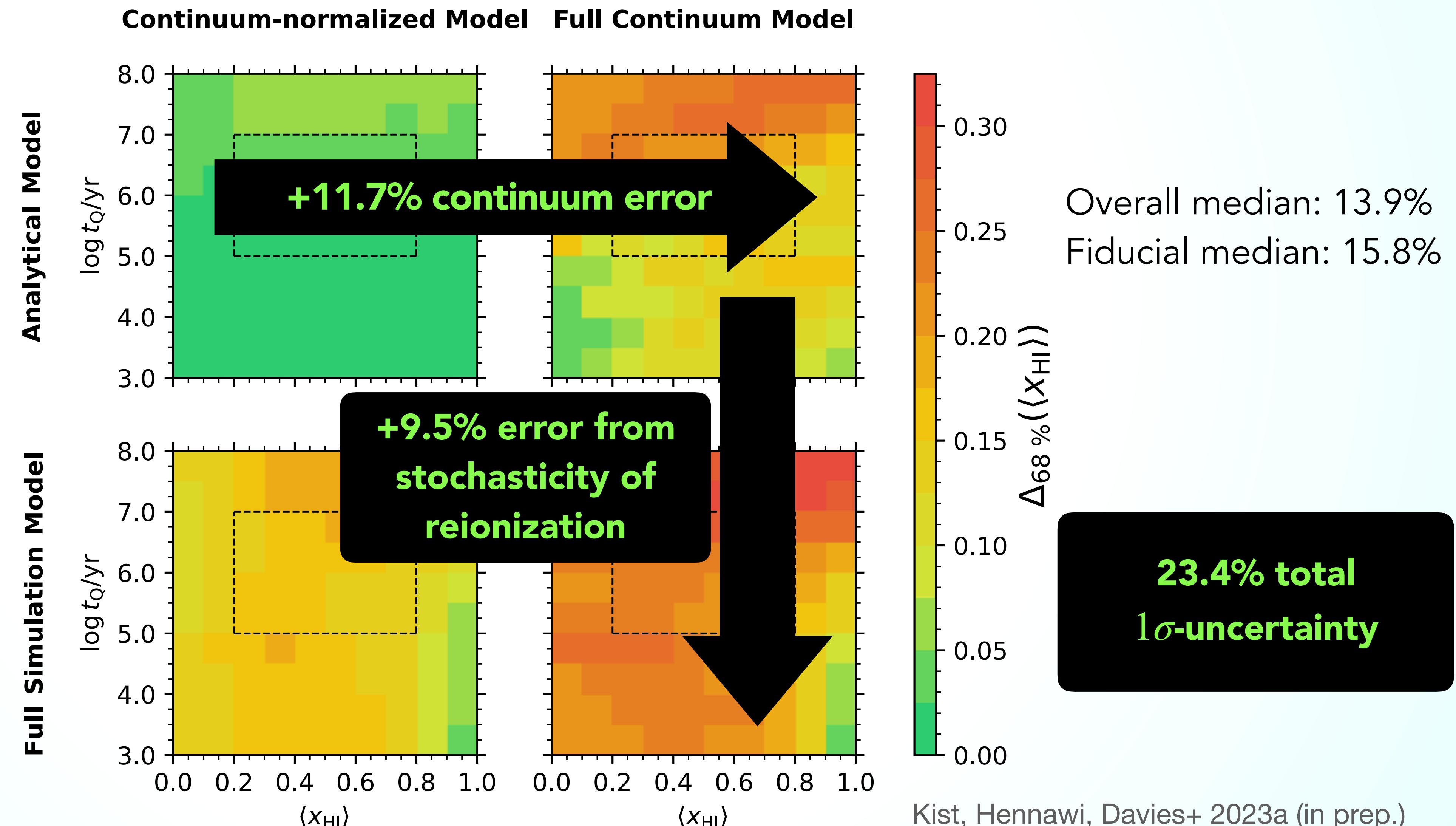


Quantifying $\langle x_{\text{HI}} \rangle$ Inference Precision

Variation across Model Components and Parameter Space

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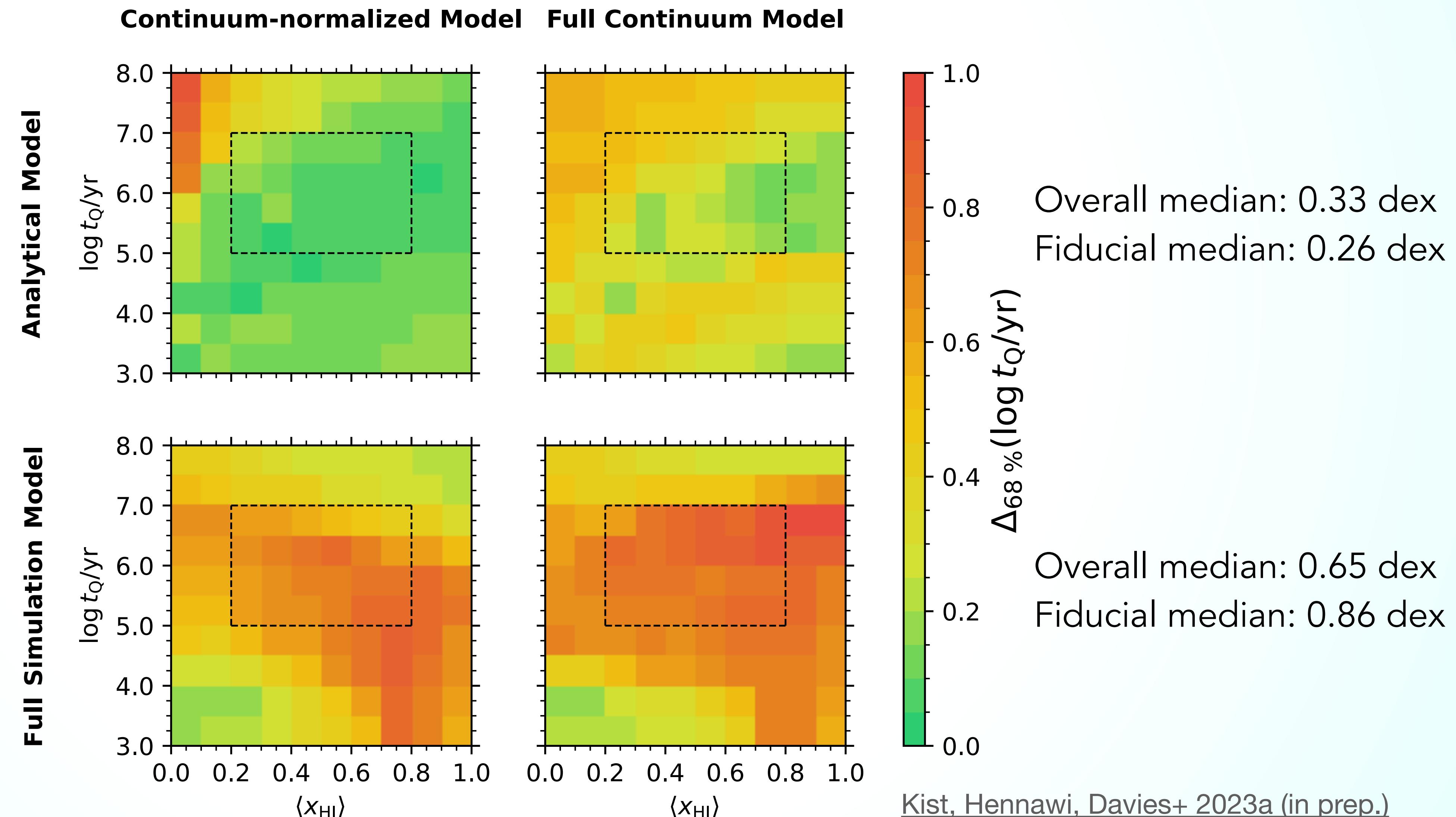
Overall median: 14.9%
 Fiducial median: 15.3%



Quantifying t_Q Inference Precision

Variation across Model Components and Parameter Space

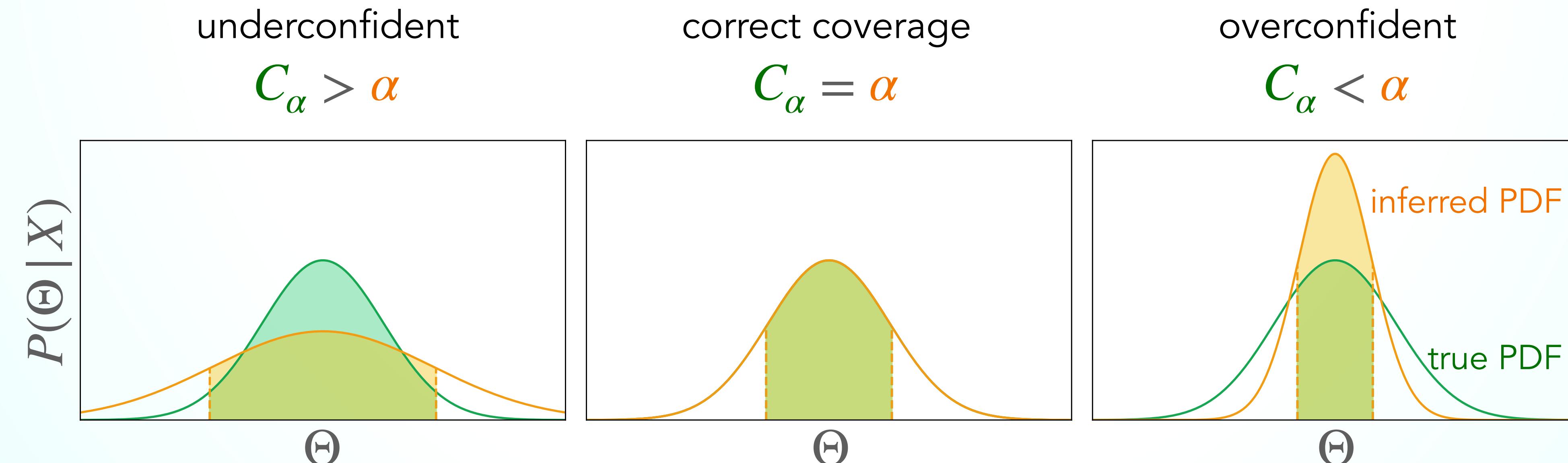
Overall median: 0.12 dex
 Fiducial median: 0.08 dex



Inference Tests

Expected coverage probability

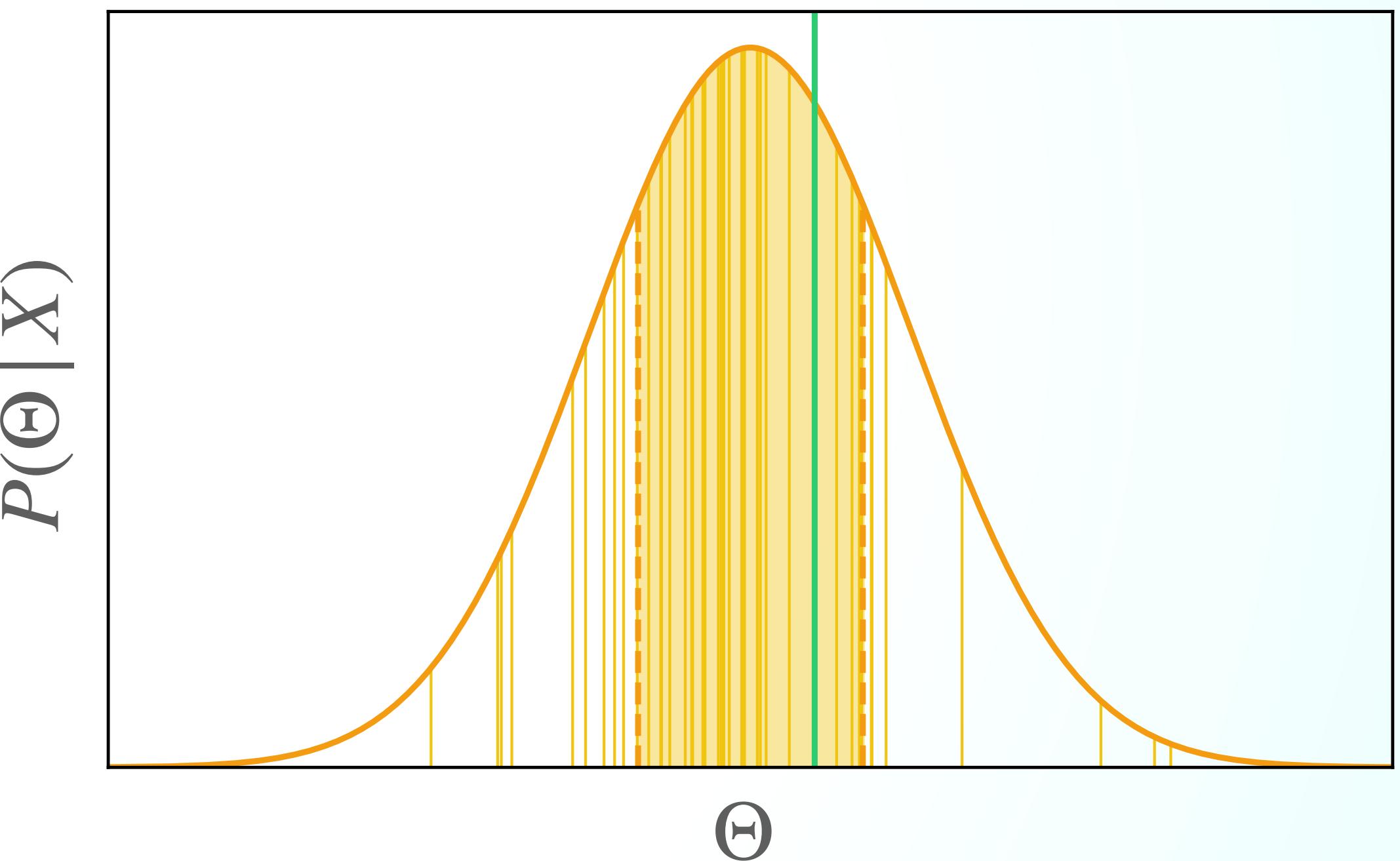
- testing if the inferred posterior represents the true distribution
 - select the α -th credibility level of the inferred posterior
 - compute the expected coverage probability C_α of the true distribution



Coverage Tests

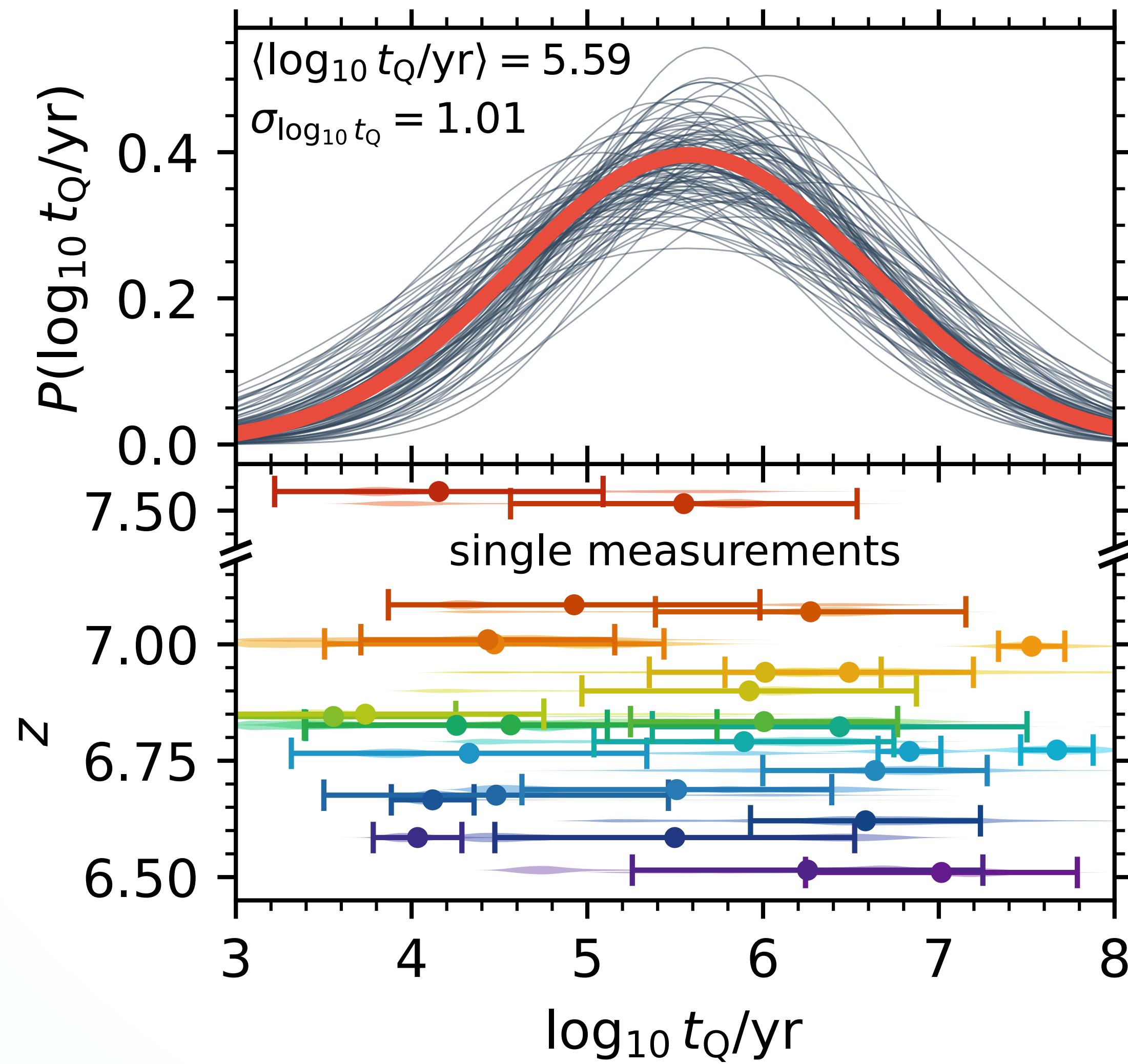
Practical computation

- for each quasar, order the MCMC samples by probability and choose the N highest ones, where $N = \alpha \cdot N_{\text{tot}}$
- test if the true probability is contained inside this region
- for each credibility level α determine the fraction of quasars C_α for which this is the case

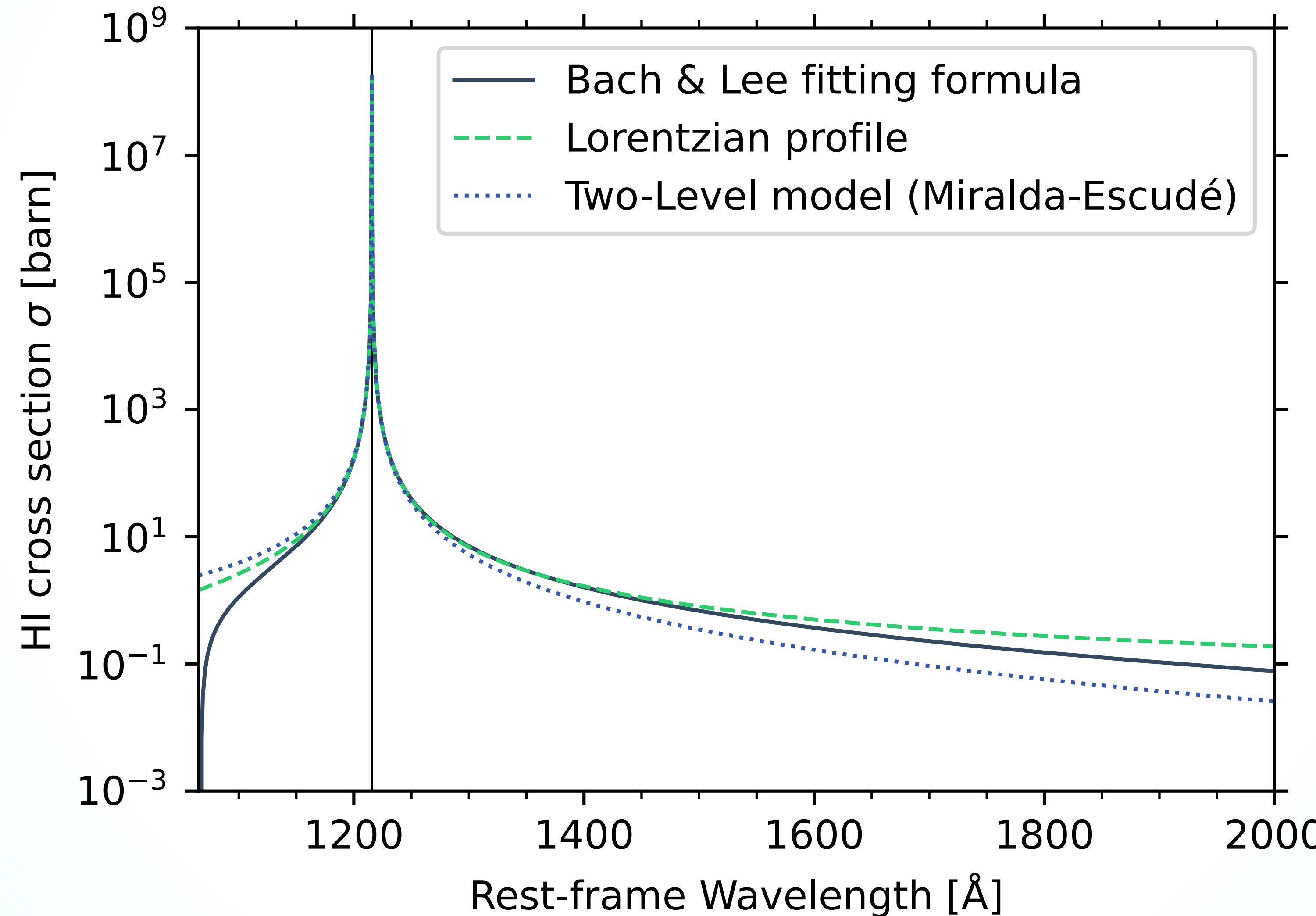


Ensemble inference

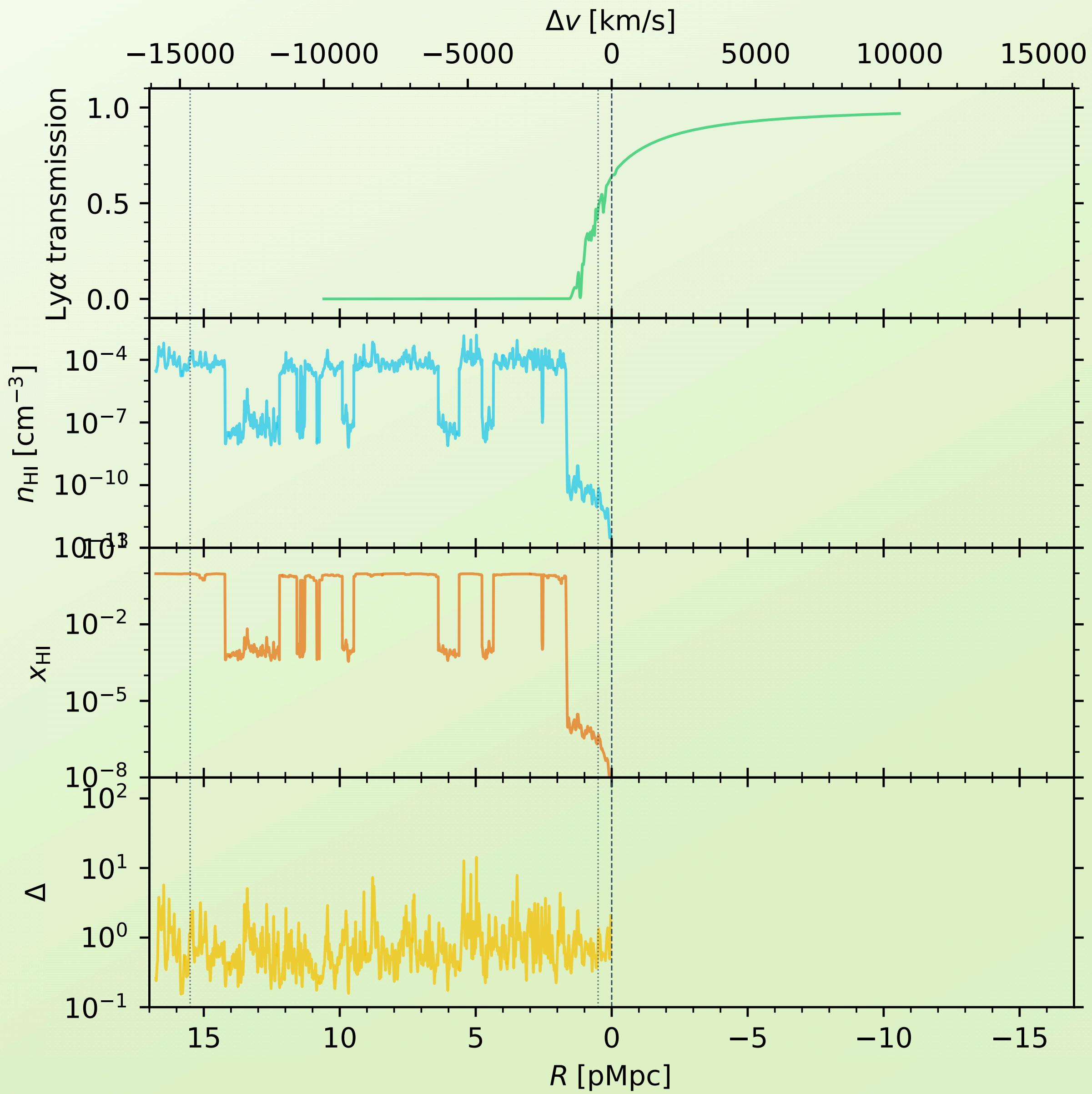
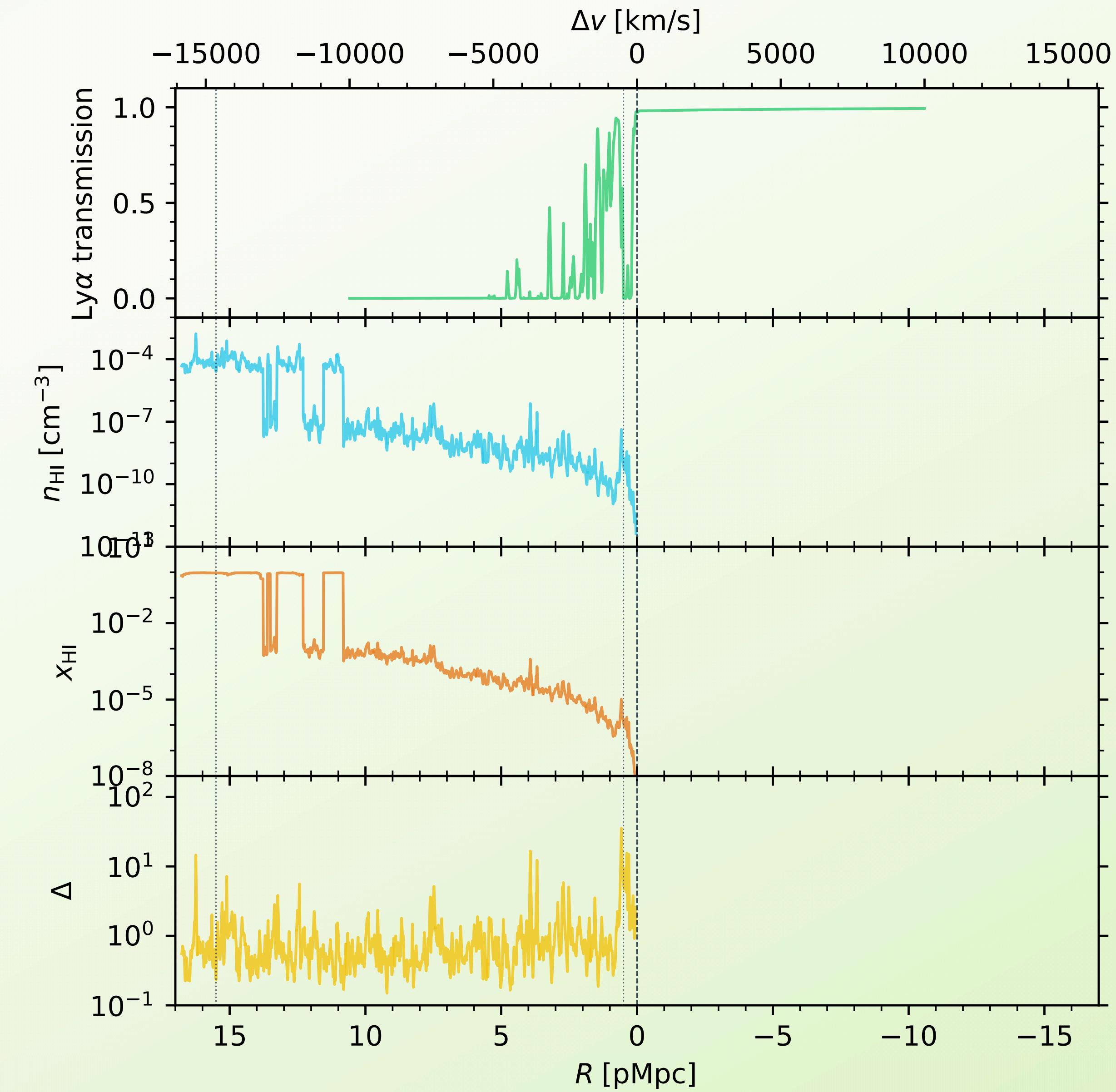
Constraints on the Distribution of Quasar Lifetimes



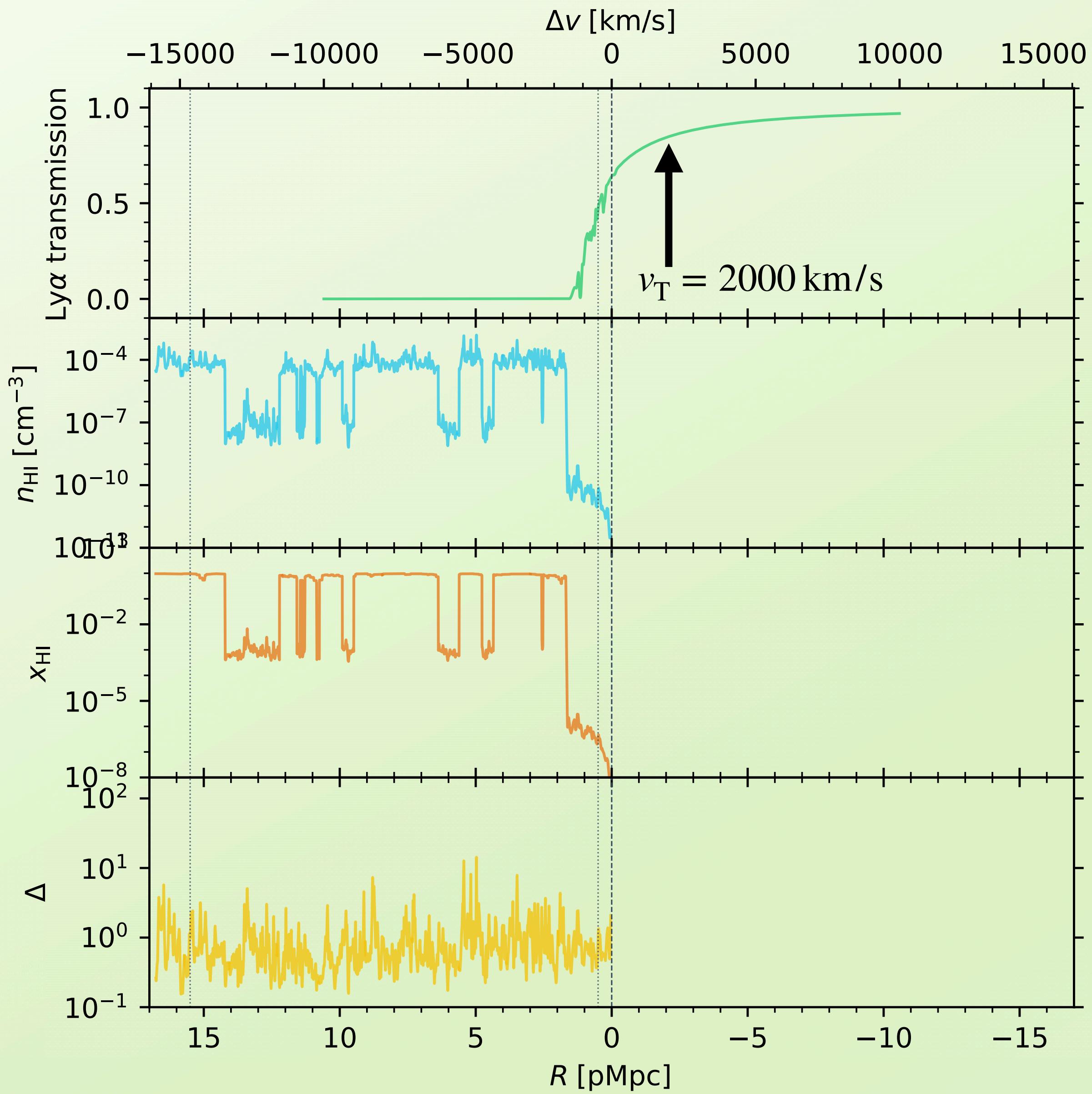
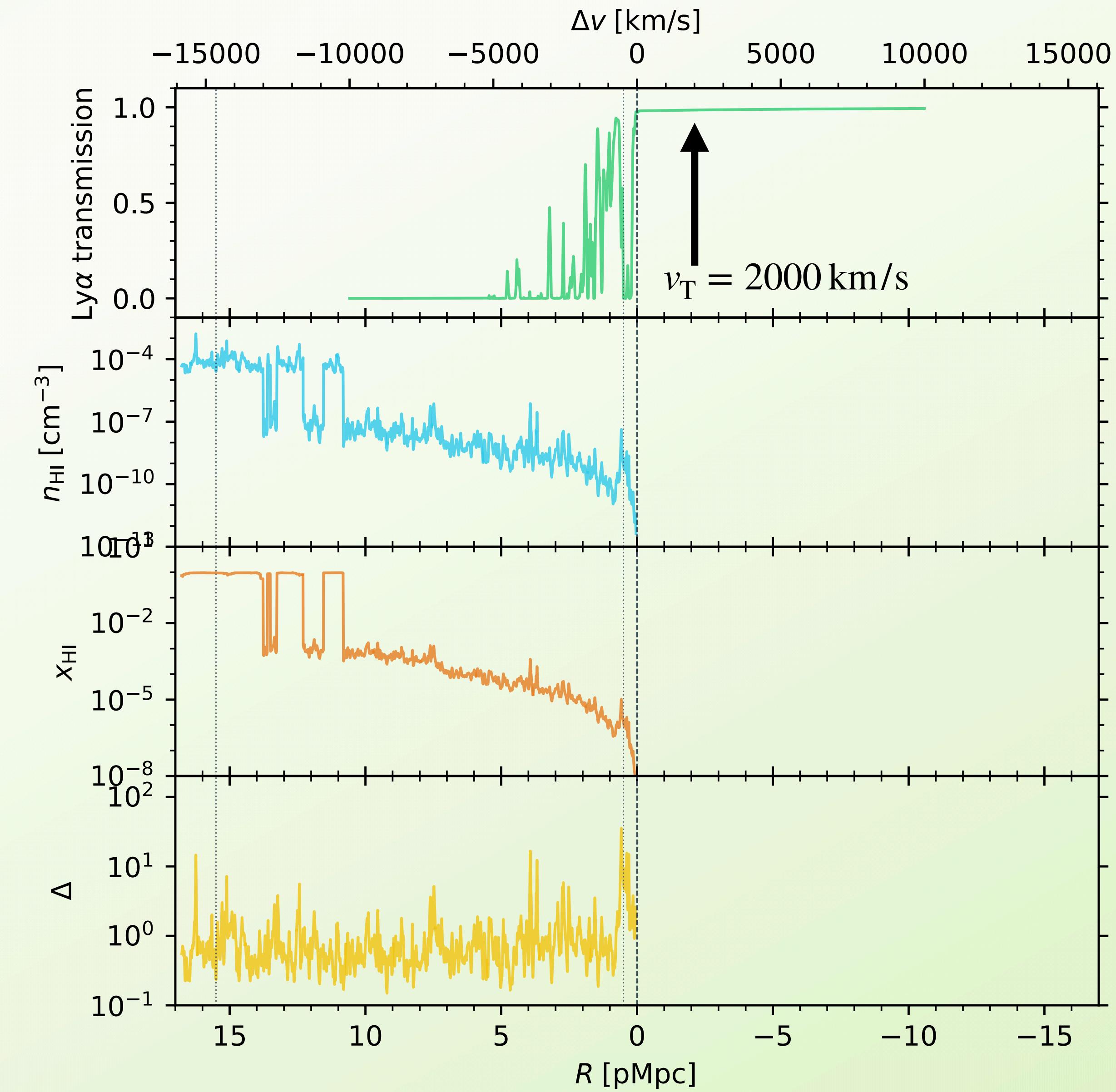
H_I absorption cross section



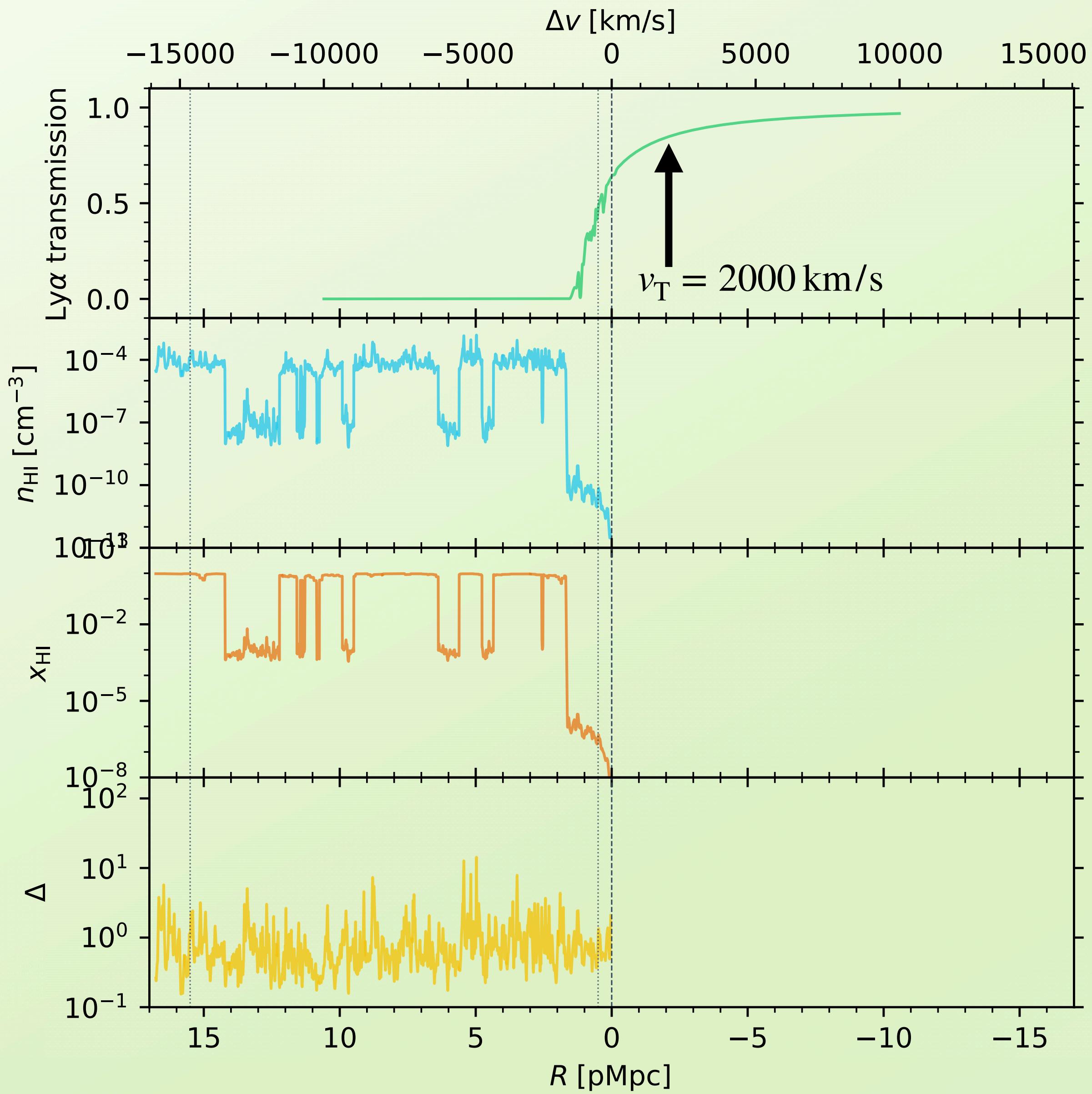
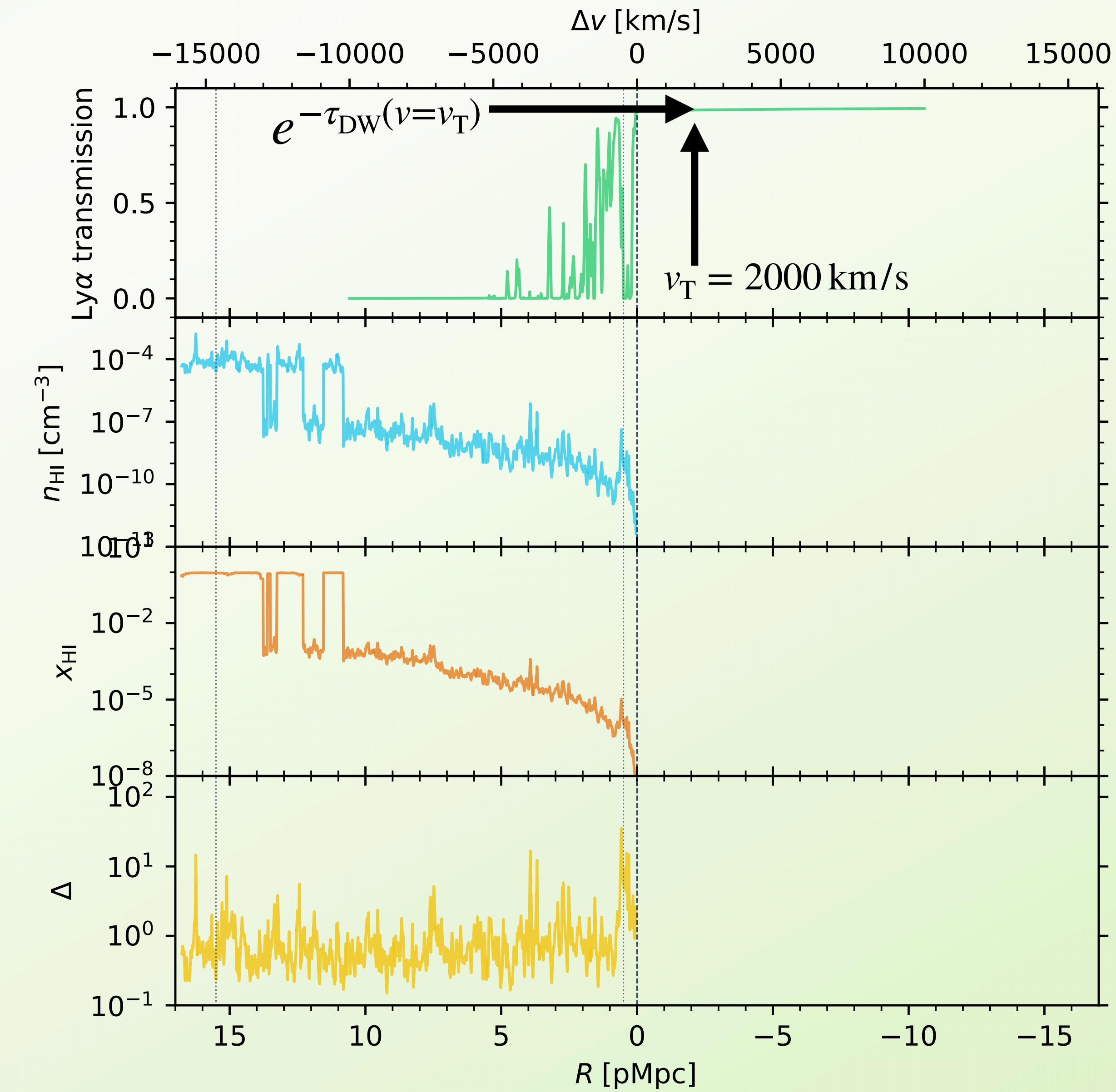
Constructing a new label that minimizes IGM transmission scatter



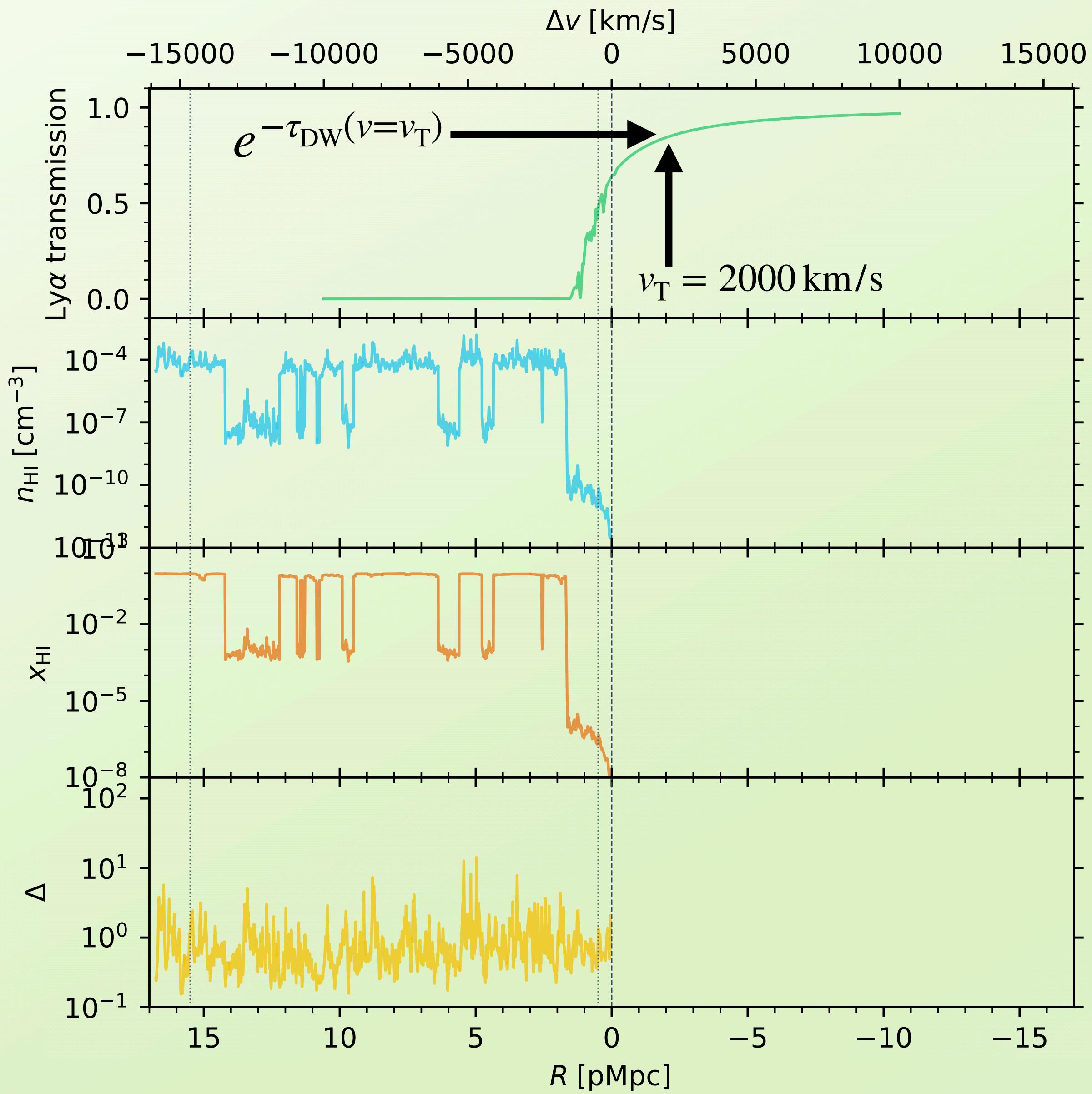
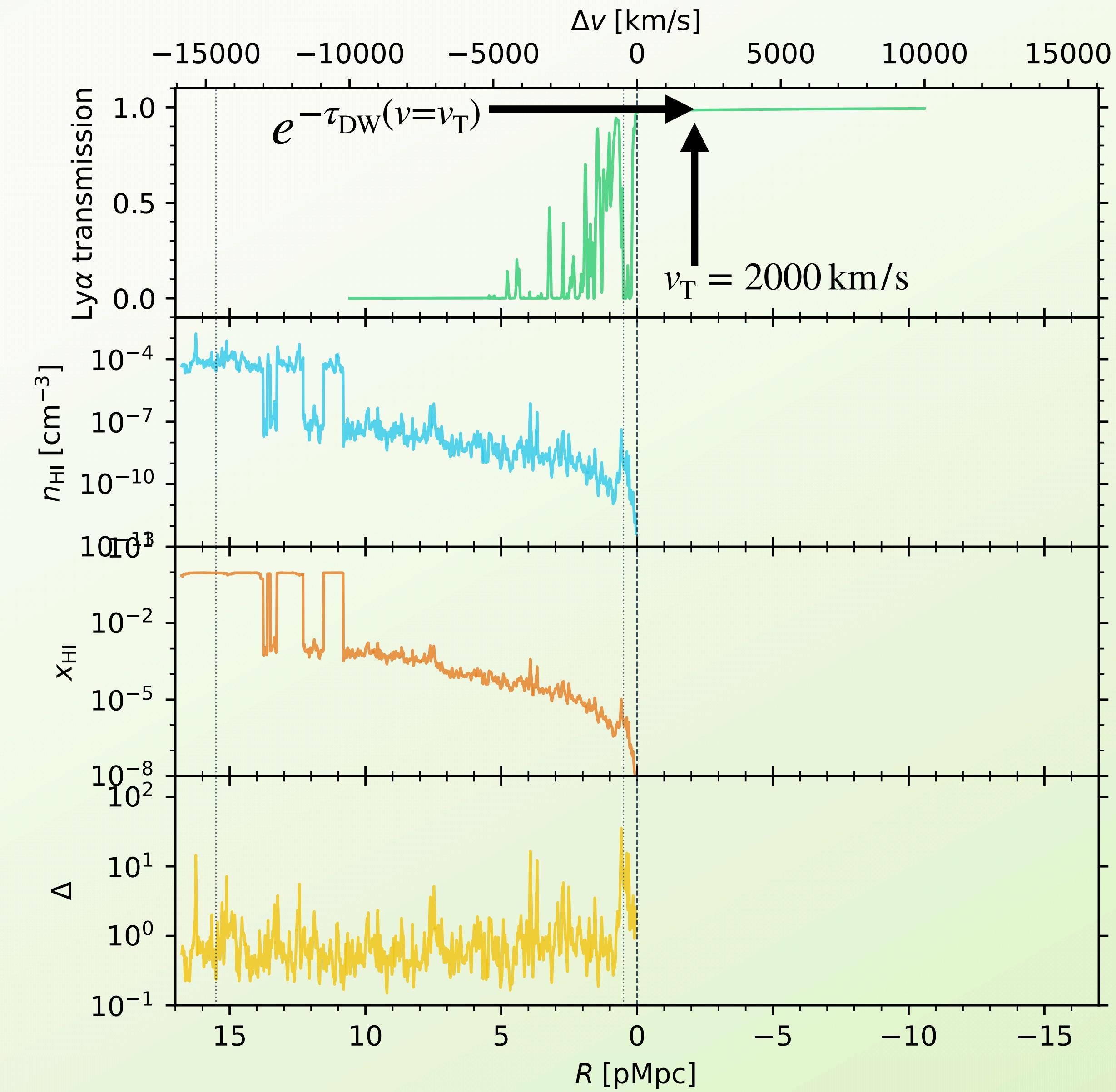
Constructing a new label that minimizes IGM transmission scatter



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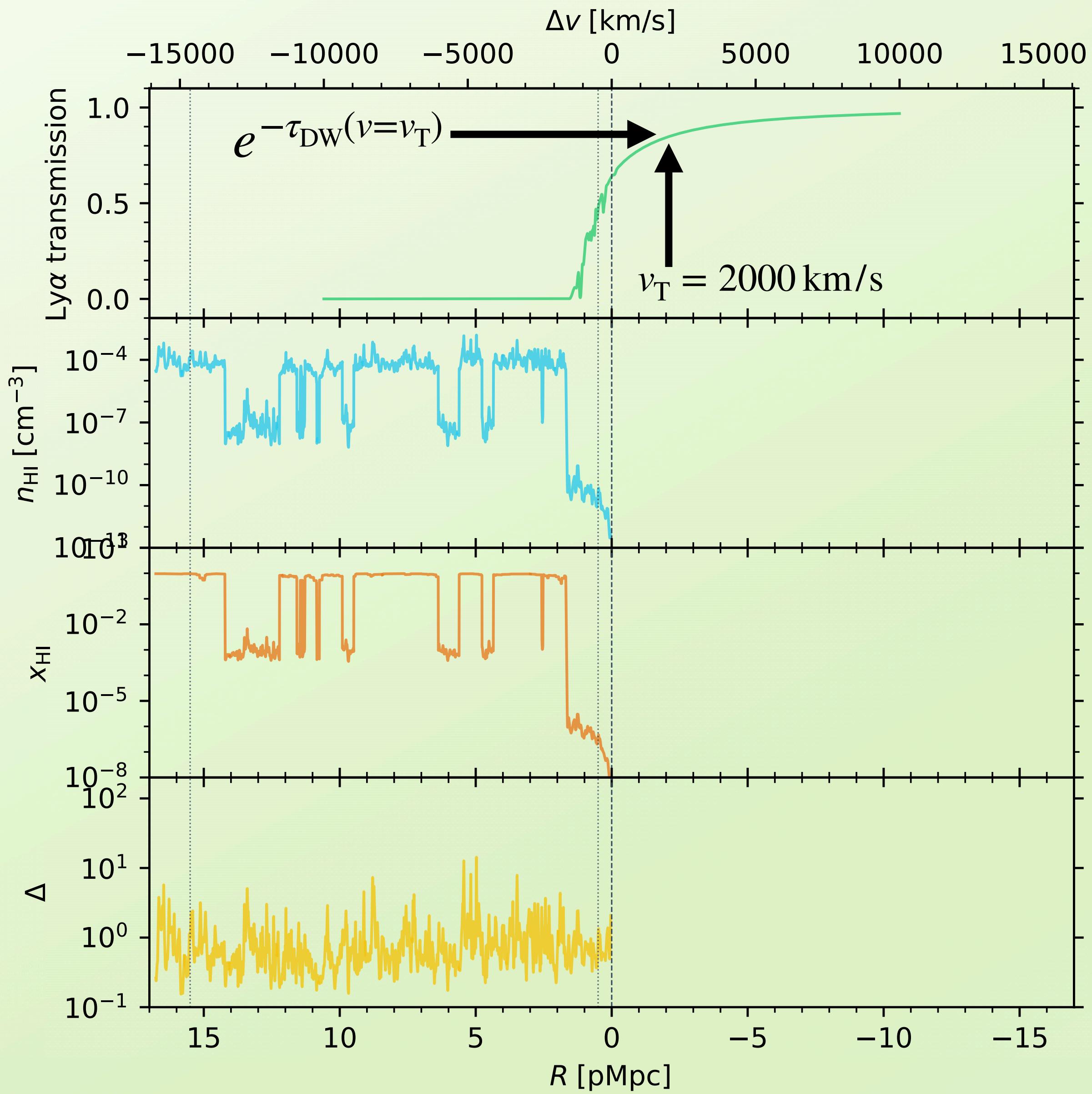
Constructing a new label that minimizes IGM transmission scatter



Constructing a new label that minimizes IGM transmission scatter

damping wing optical depth

$$\tau_{\text{DW}}(\lambda_{\text{obs}}) = \int_0^{R(z_{\text{QSO}})} n_{\text{HI}}^{\text{QSO}}(R) \times \sigma_{\alpha}(\nu(R)) \, dR$$

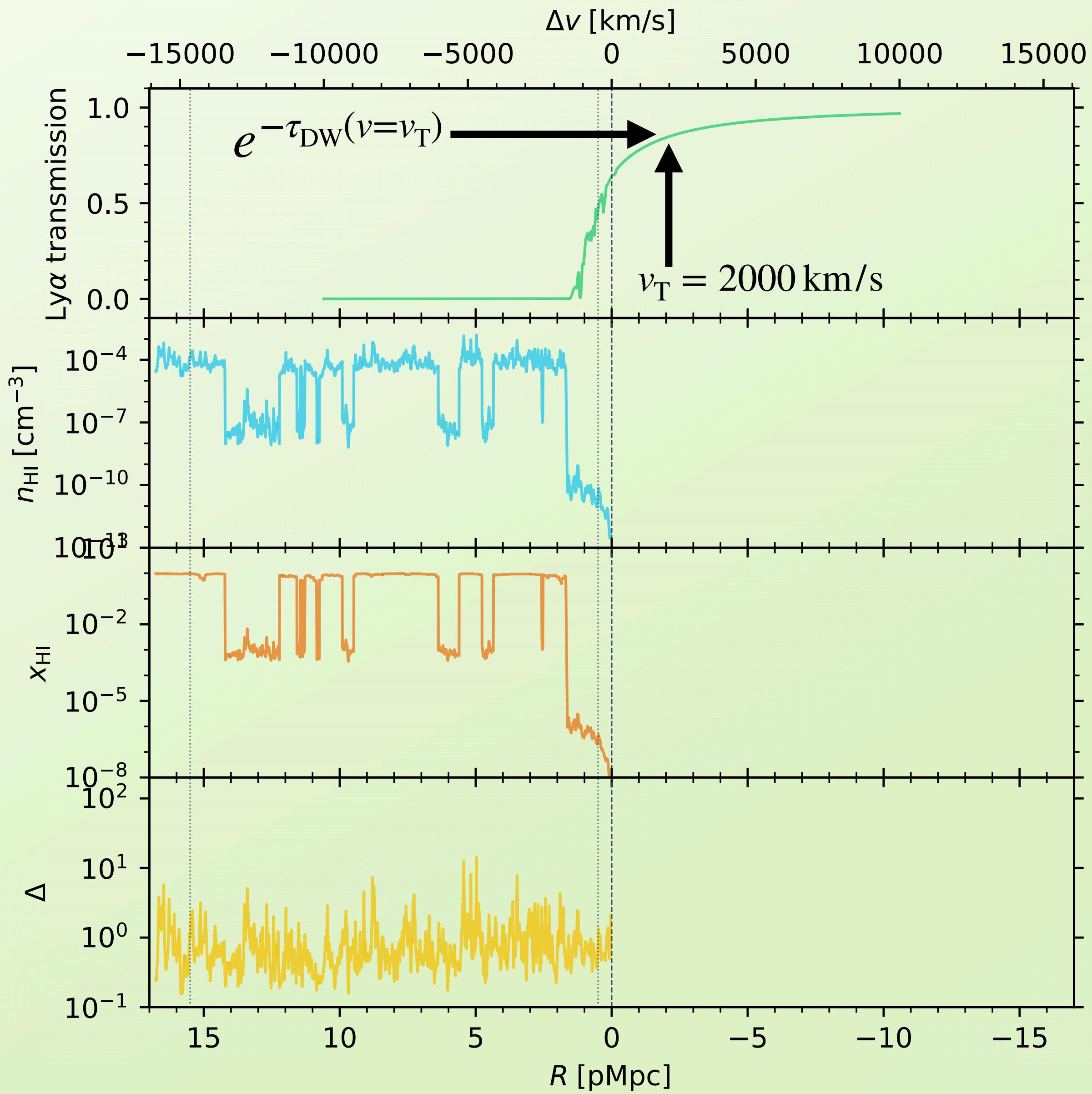


Constructing a new label that minimizes IGM transmission scatter

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post-quasar HI density field



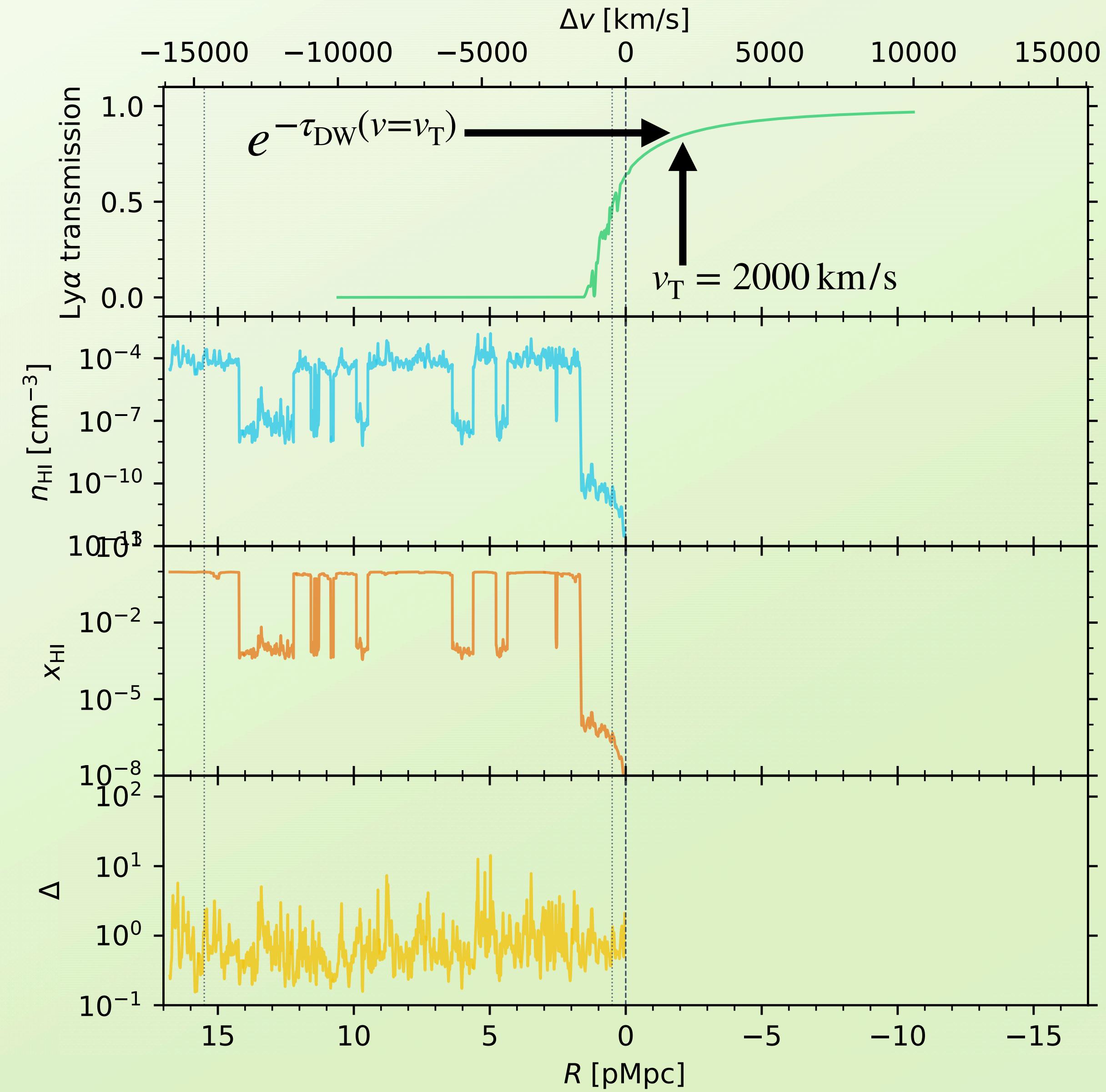
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post-quasar HI density field

$\text{Ly}\alpha$ cross section



Constructing a new label that minimizes IGM transmission scatter

damping wing optical depth

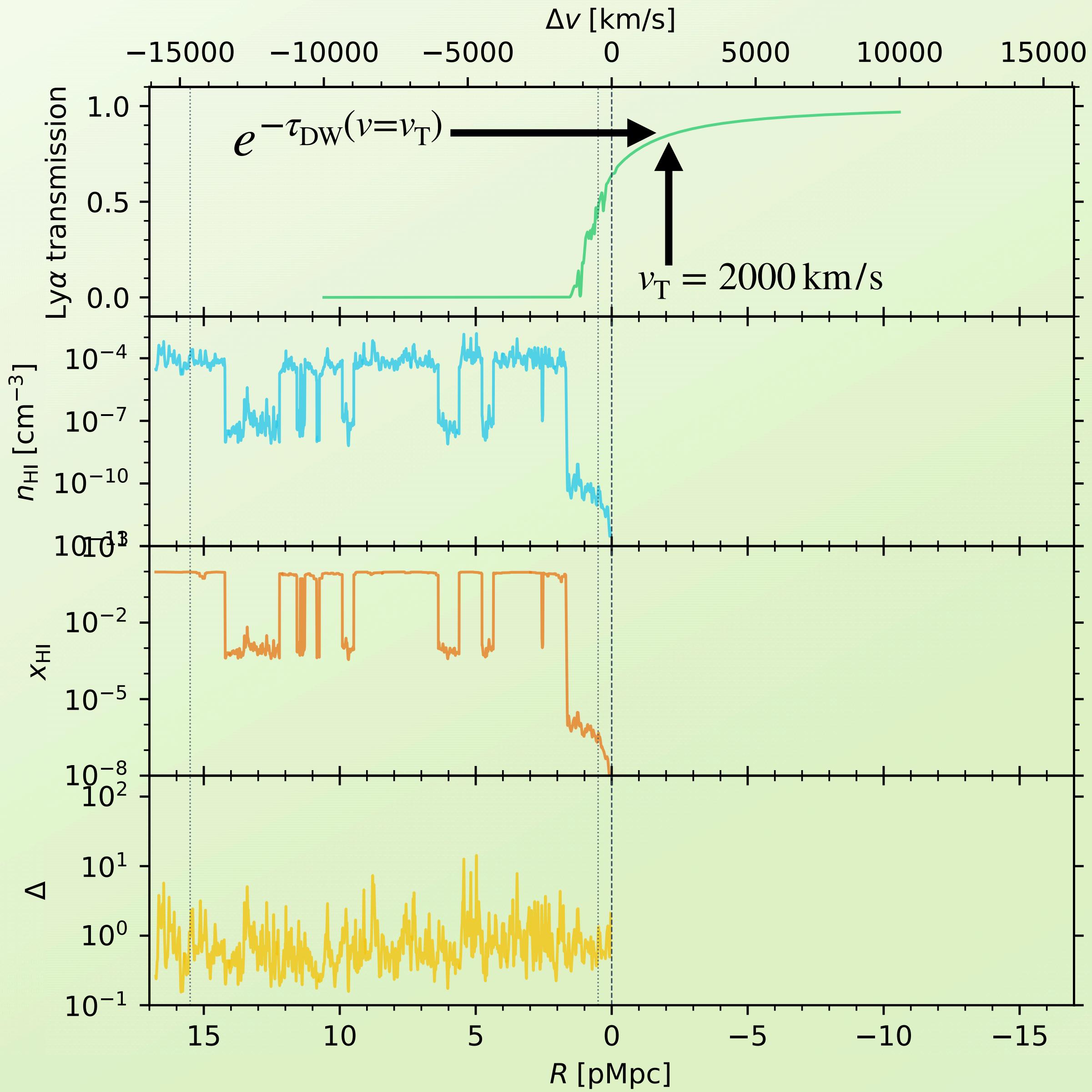
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↑
post-quasar HI density field

↑
Ly α cross section

(velocity-weighted) HI column density

$$(N_{\text{HI}})^w = \int_{R_{\min}}^{R_{\max}} n_{\text{HI}}^{\text{gal}}(R) \times w(R) dR$$



Constructing a new label that minimizes IGM transmission scatter

damping wing optical depth

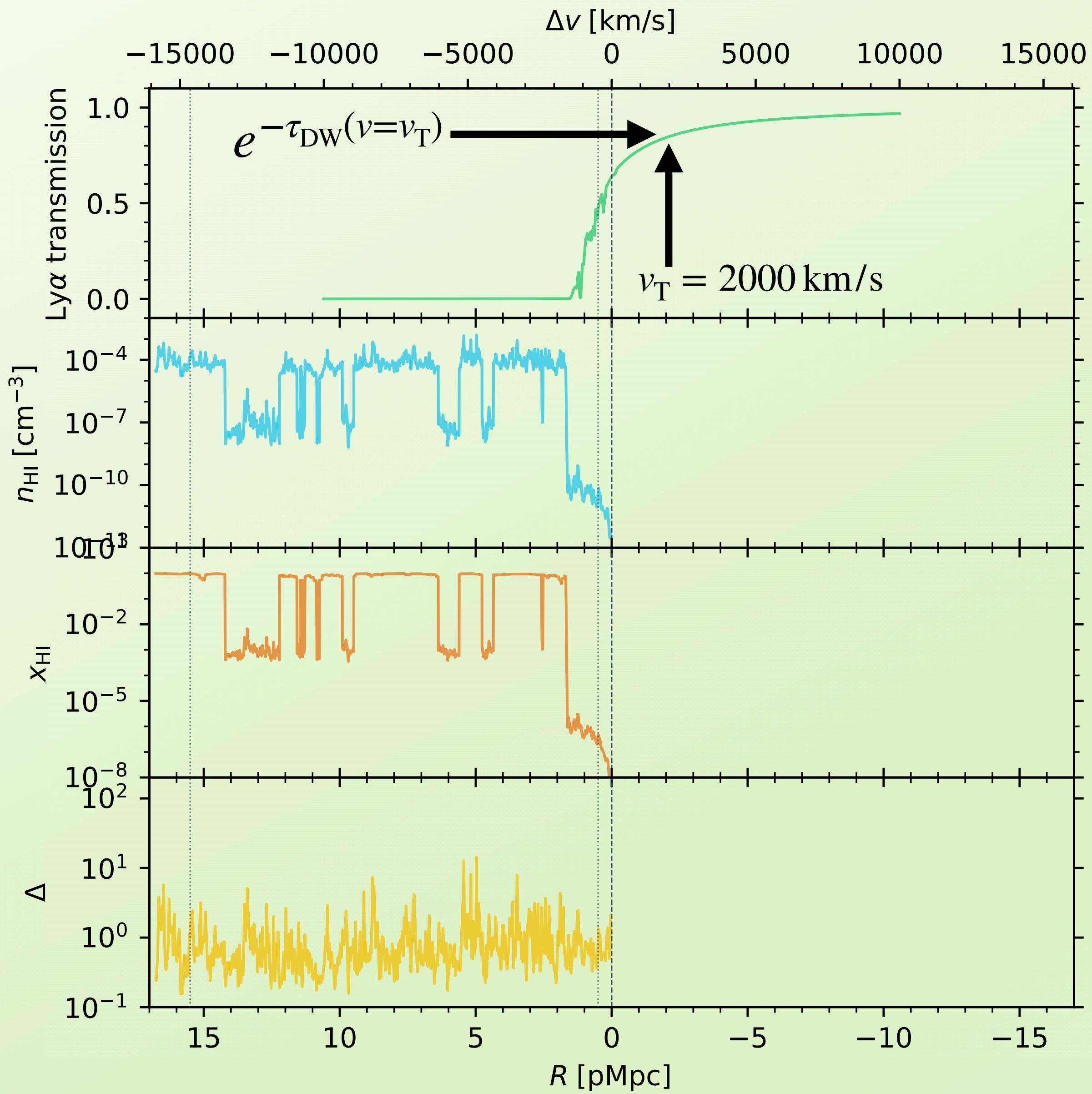
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post-quasar HI density field

Ly α cross section
 \simeq Lorentzian

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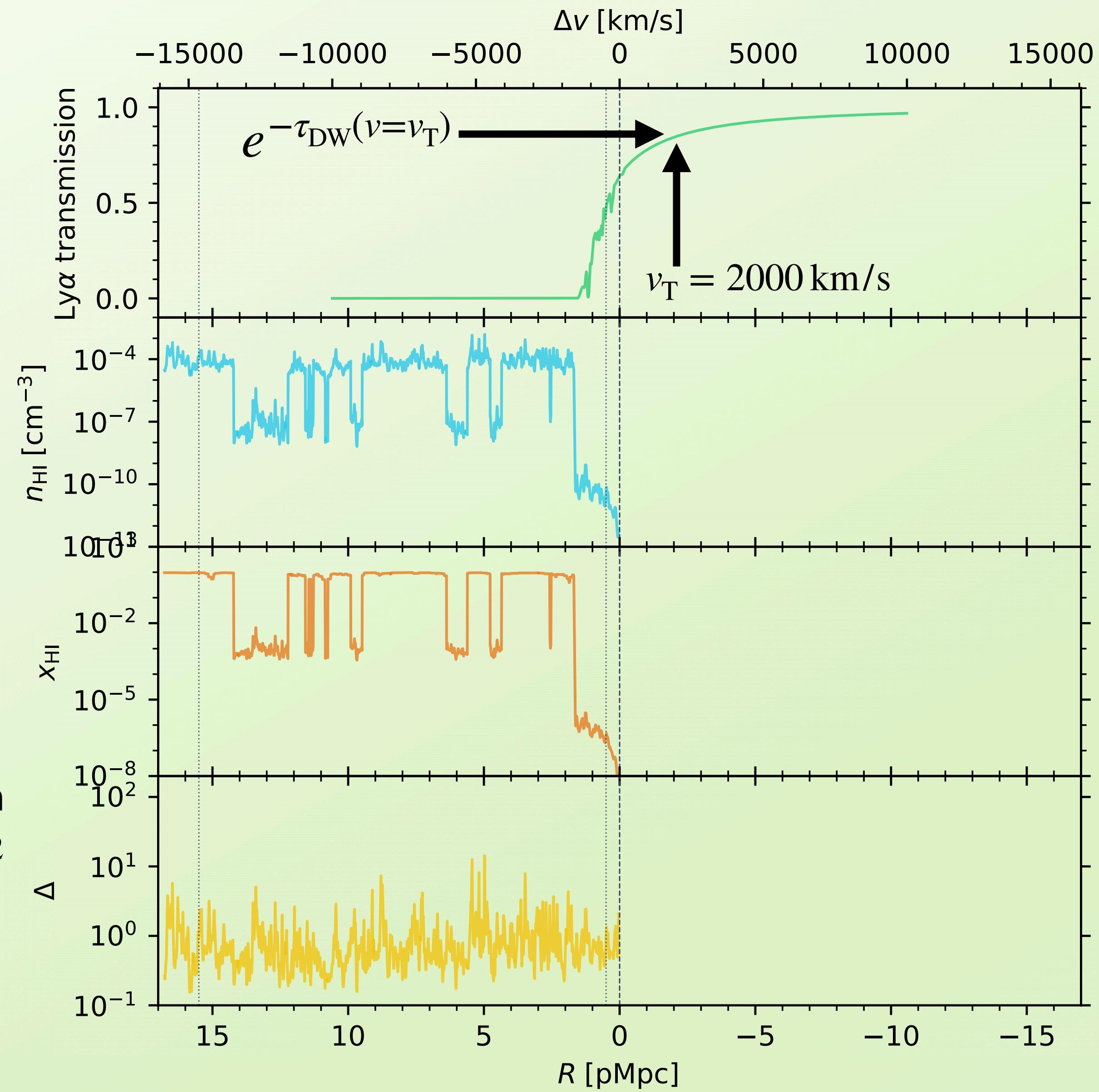
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weighting function
 $w(R) \equiv \mathcal{N} \times (\nu - \nu_T)^{-2}$



Constructing a new label that minimizes IGM transmission scatter

damping wing optical depth

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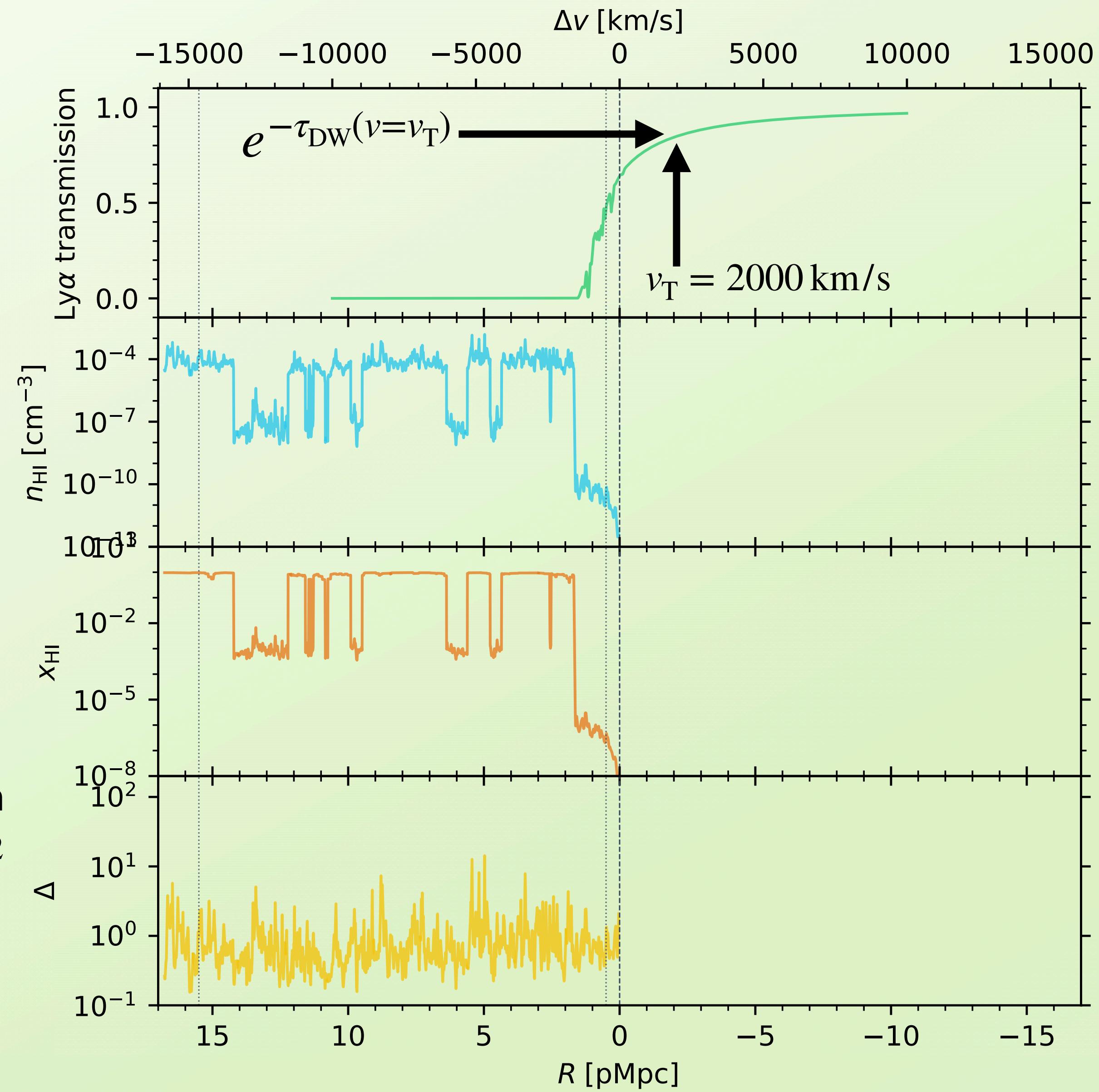
(velocity-weighted) HI column density

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0.5 pMpc

15.5 pMpc

weighting function
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Constructing a new label that minimizes IGM transmission scatter

damping wing optical depth

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post-quasar HI density field
 \simeq pre-quasar HI density field

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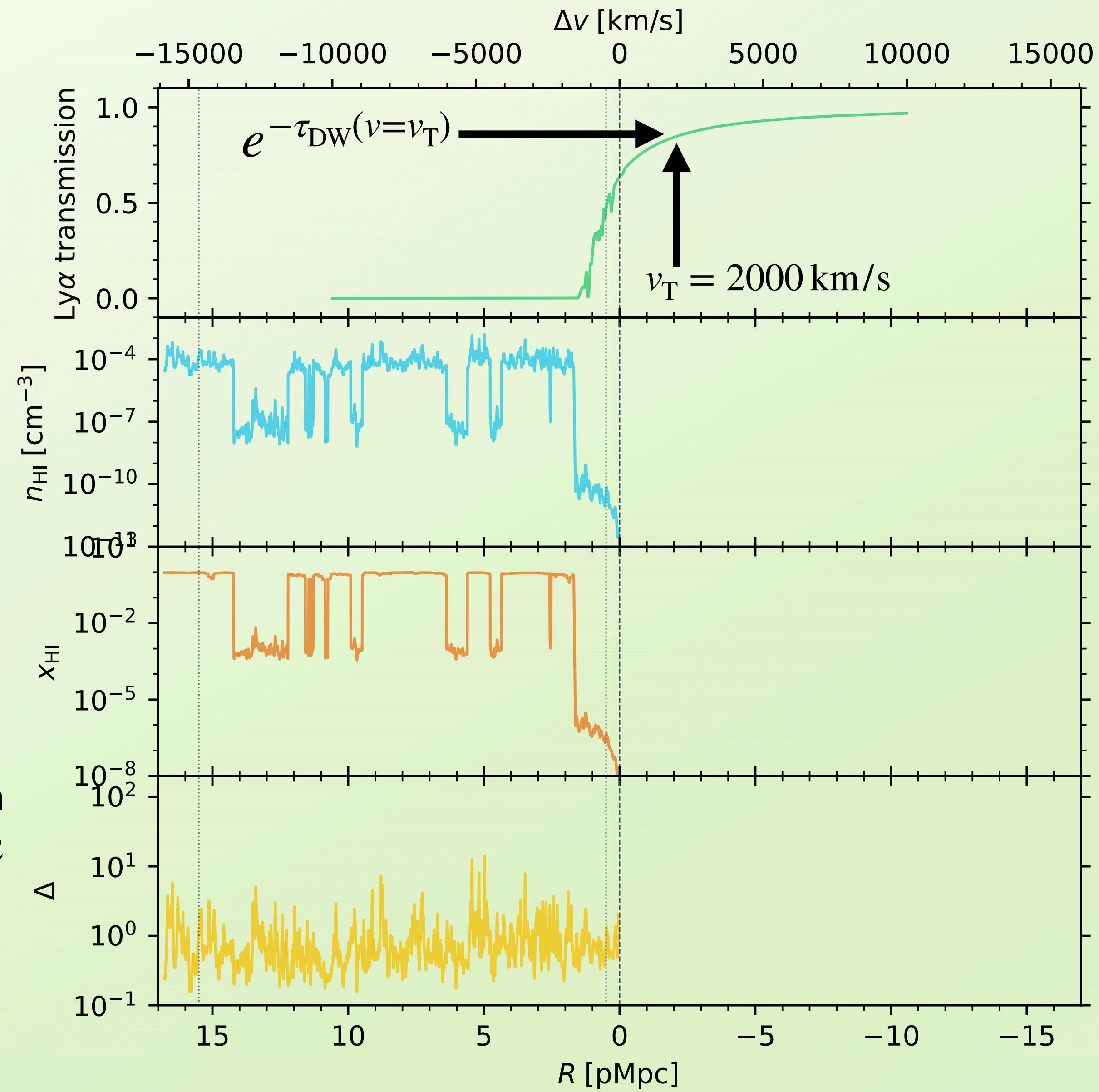
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post-quasar HI density field
 \simeq pre-quasar HI density field

Ly α cross section
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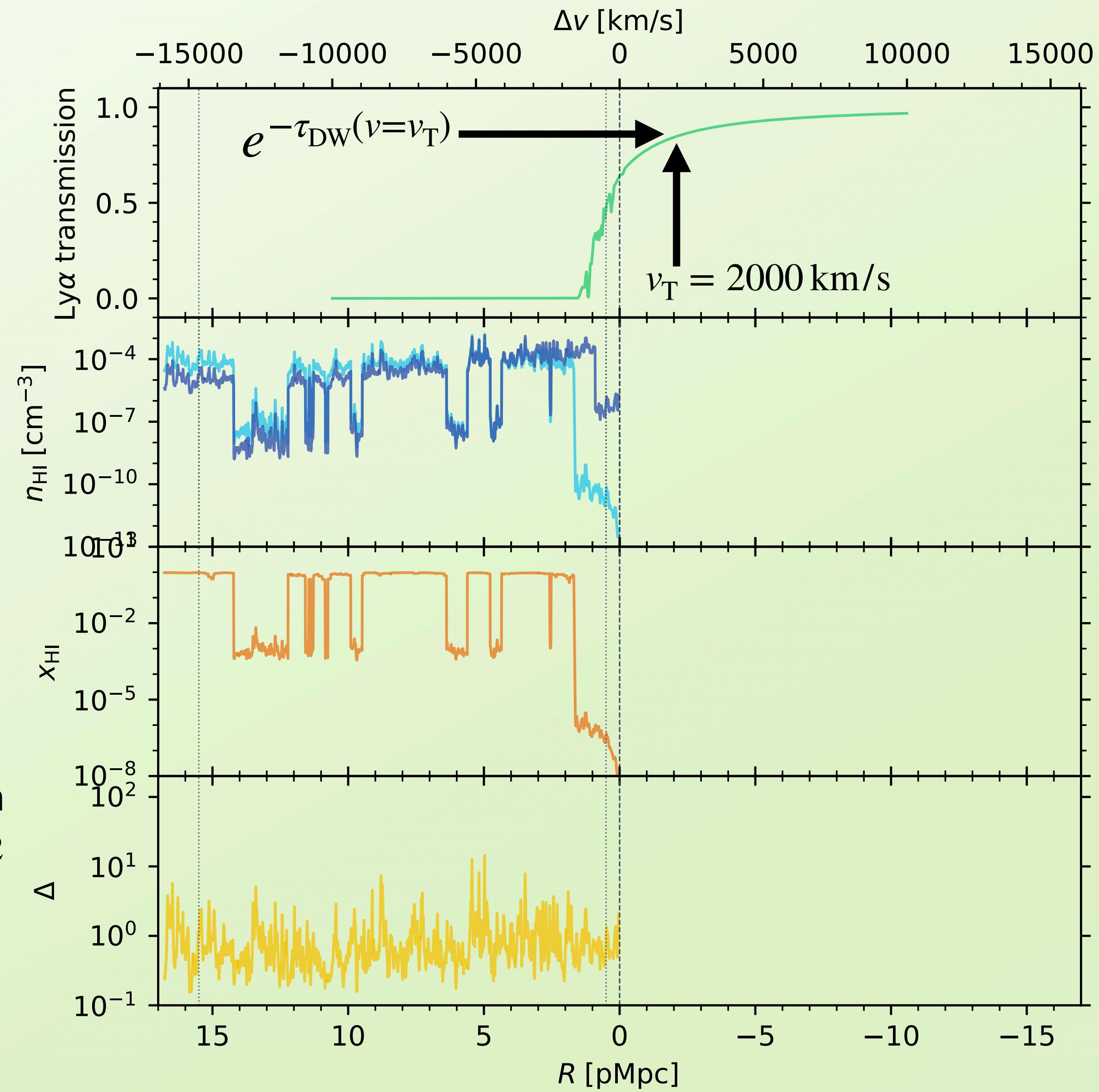
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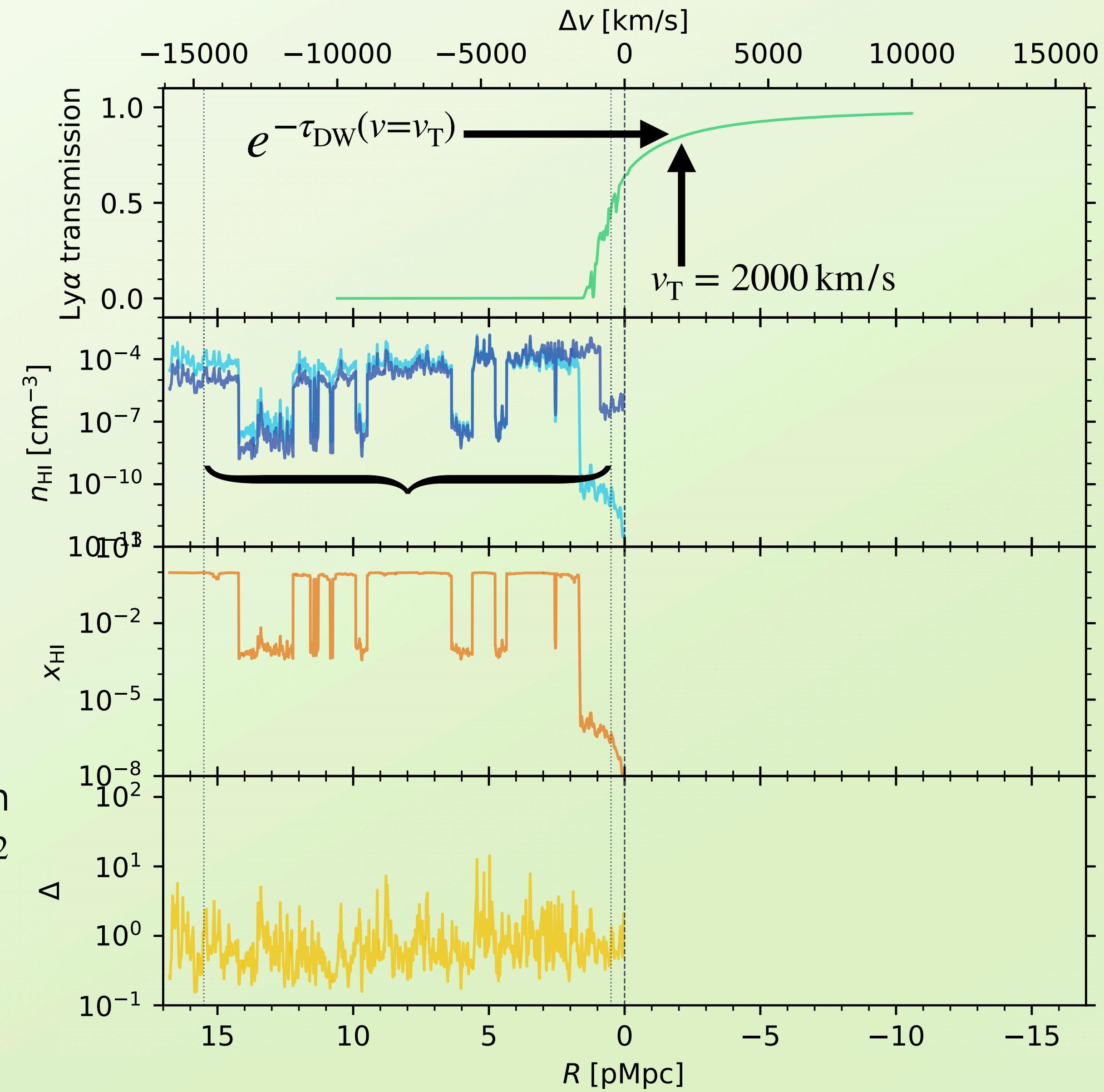
R_{\min}

weighting function

$$w(R) \equiv \mathcal{N} \times (\nu - \nu_T)^{-2}$$

R_{\max}

15.5 pMpc



Constructing a new label that minimizes IGM transmission scatter

damping wing optical depth

$$\tau_{\text{DW}}(\lambda_{\text{obs}}) = \int_0^{R(z_{\text{QSO}})} n_{\text{HI}}^{\text{QSO}}(R) \times \sigma_{\alpha}(\nu(R)) dR$$

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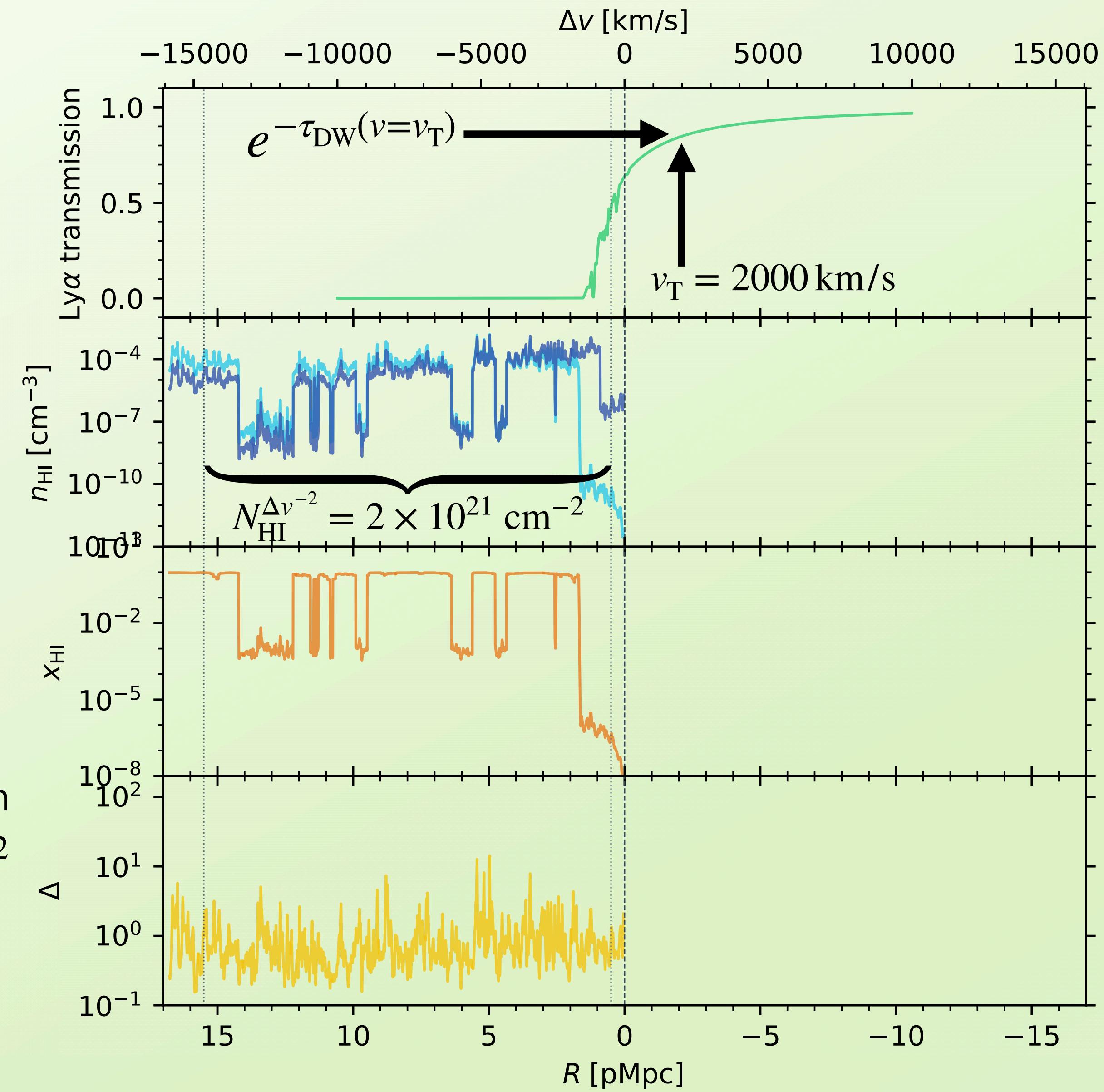
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 $w(R) \equiv \mathcal{N} \times (\nu - \nu_T)^{-2}$



Constructing a new label that minimizes IGM transmission scatter

damping wing optical depth

$$\tau_{\text{DW}}(\lambda_{\text{obs}}) = \int_0^{R(z_{\text{QSO}})} n_{\text{HI}}^{\text{QSO}}(R) \times \sigma_{\alpha}(\nu(R)) dR$$

post-quasar HI density field
 \simeq pre-quasar HI density field

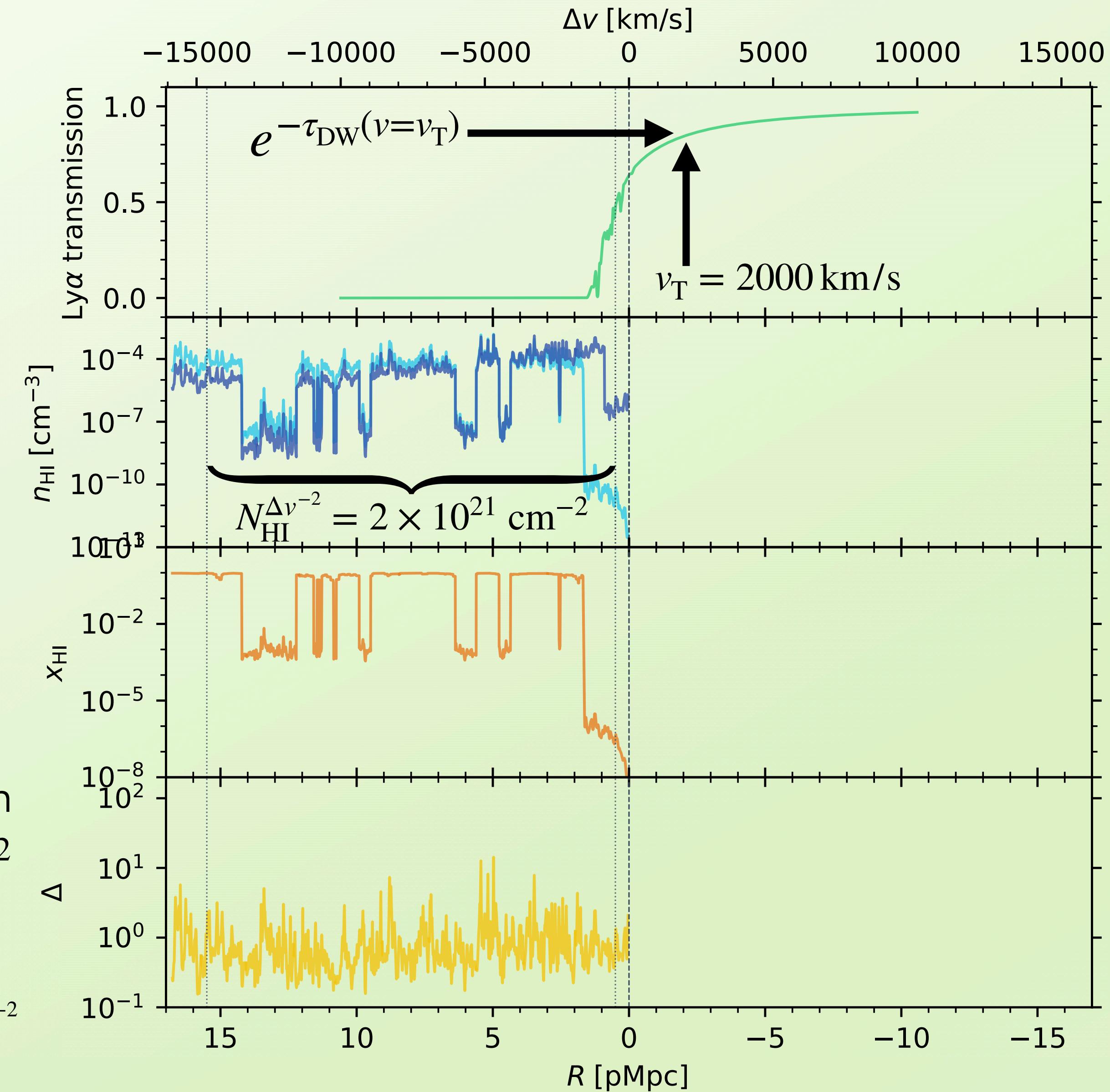
Ly α cross section
 \simeq Lorentzian

(velocity-weighted) HI column density

$$(N_{\text{HI}})^w = \int_{R_{\min}}^{R_{\max}} n_{\text{HI}}^{\text{gal}}(R) \times w(R) dR$$

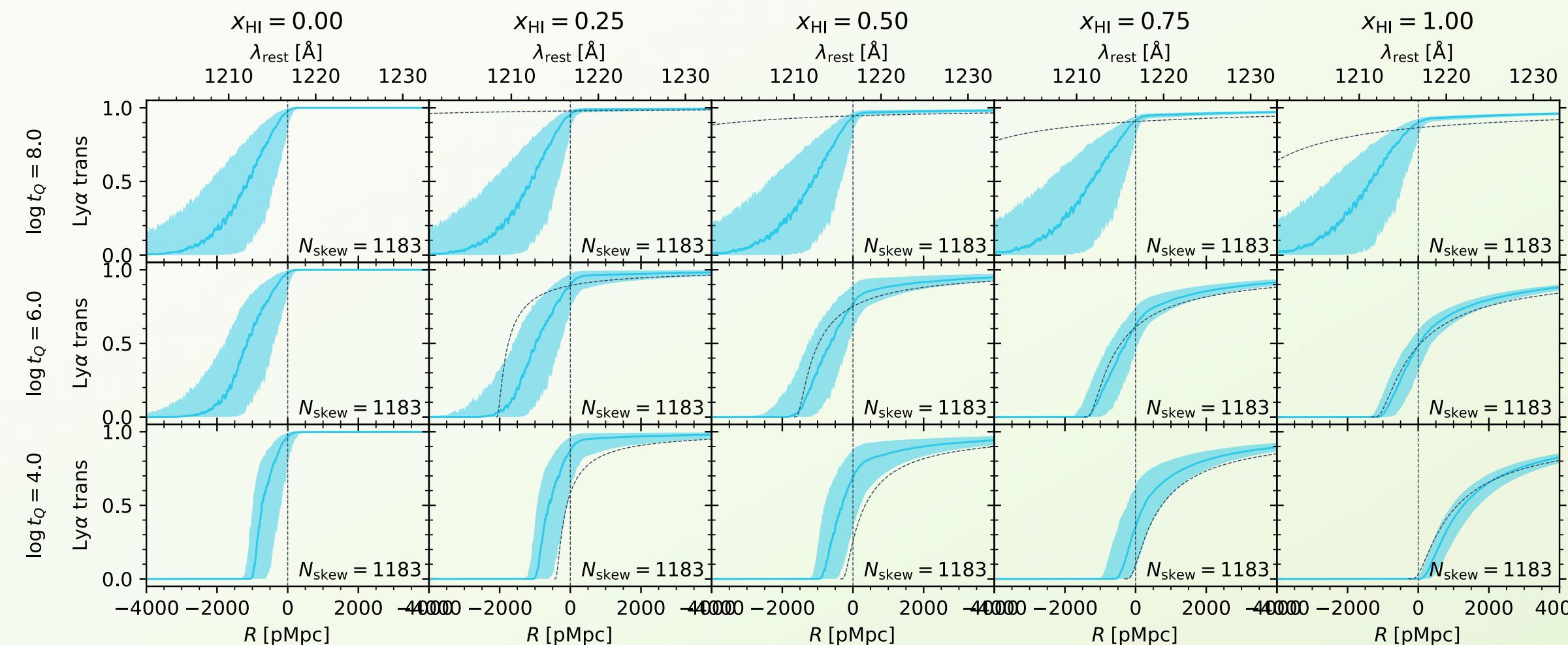
0.5 pMpc

$$\tau_{\text{DW}}(\nu = \nu_T) = \dots \simeq \frac{e^2}{m_e c} \frac{f_{\alpha} \gamma_{\alpha}}{\nu_{\alpha}} \frac{(c/H(z_{\text{QSO}}) - R_T)^2}{(R_{\max} + R_T)(R_{\min} + R_T)} \times N_{\text{HI}}^{\Delta\nu^{-2}}$$

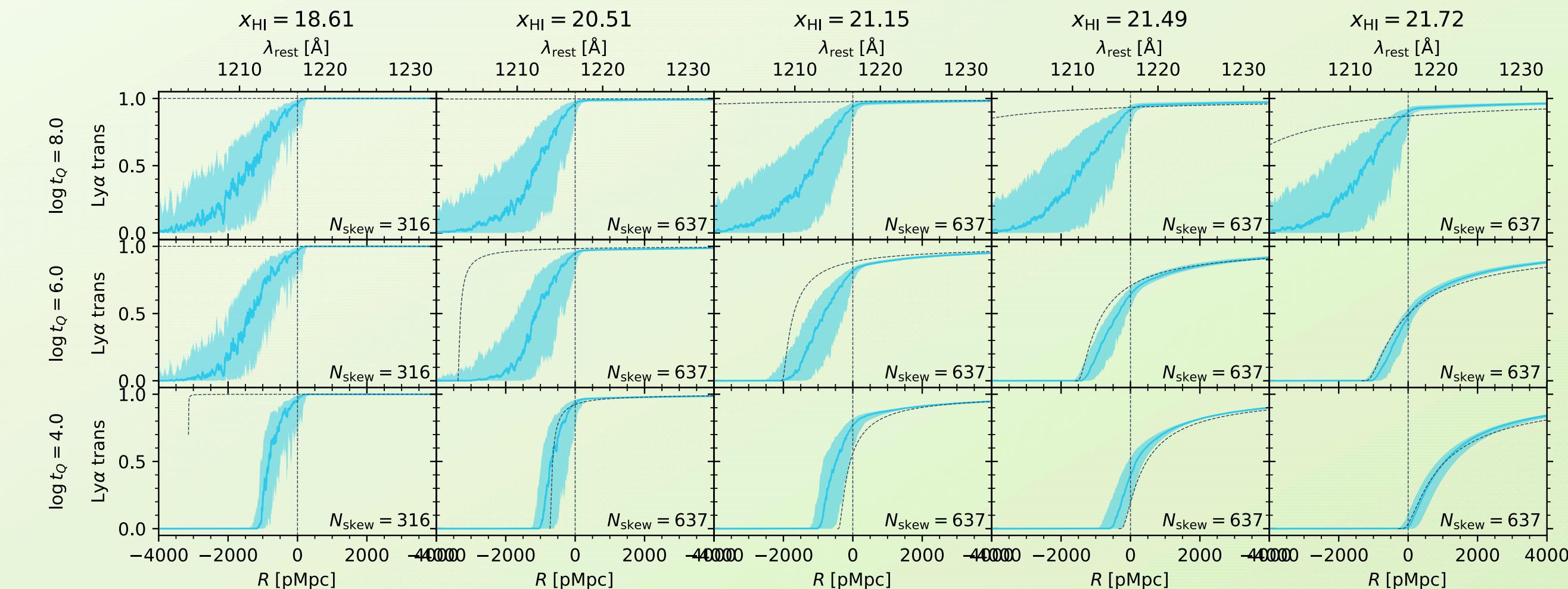


Comparing the old and new labels

Global IGM neutral fraction $\langle x_{\text{HI}} \rangle$

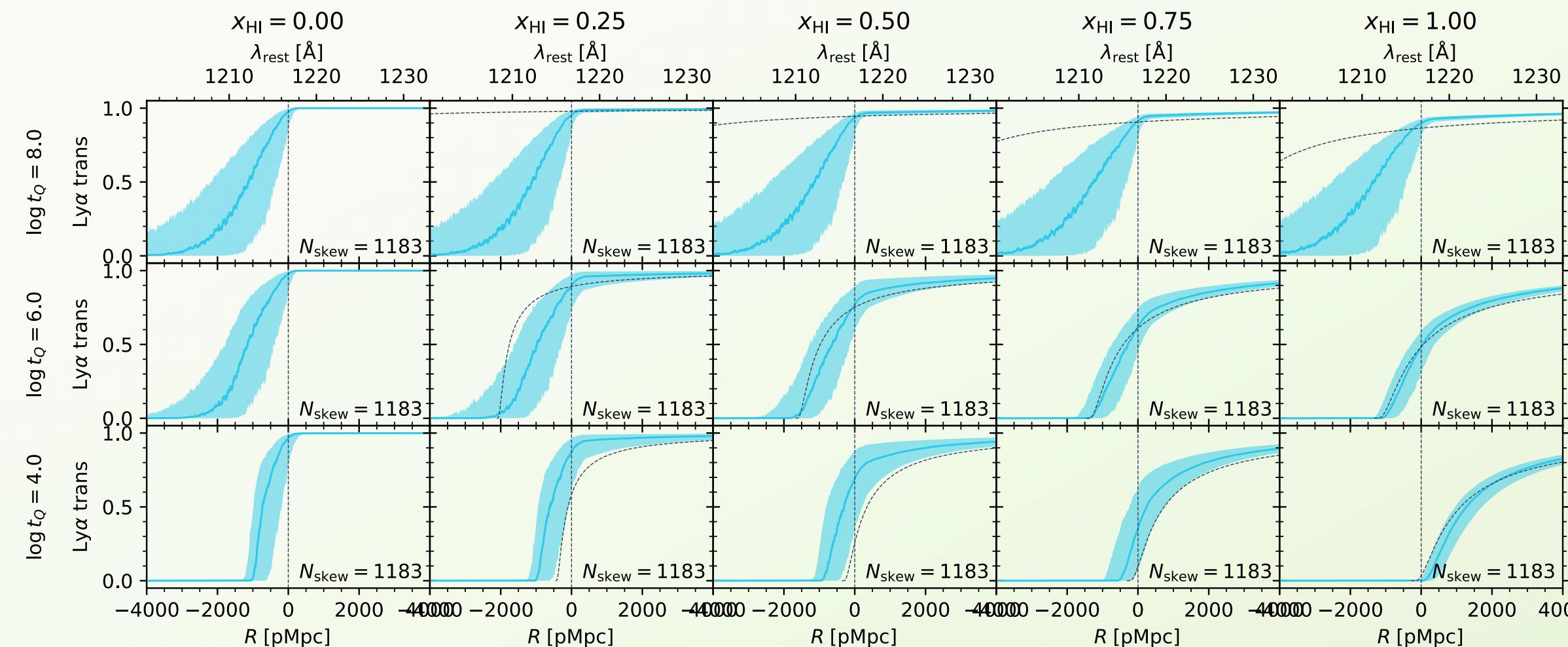


Local HI column density $N_{\text{HI}}^{\Delta v^{-2}}$

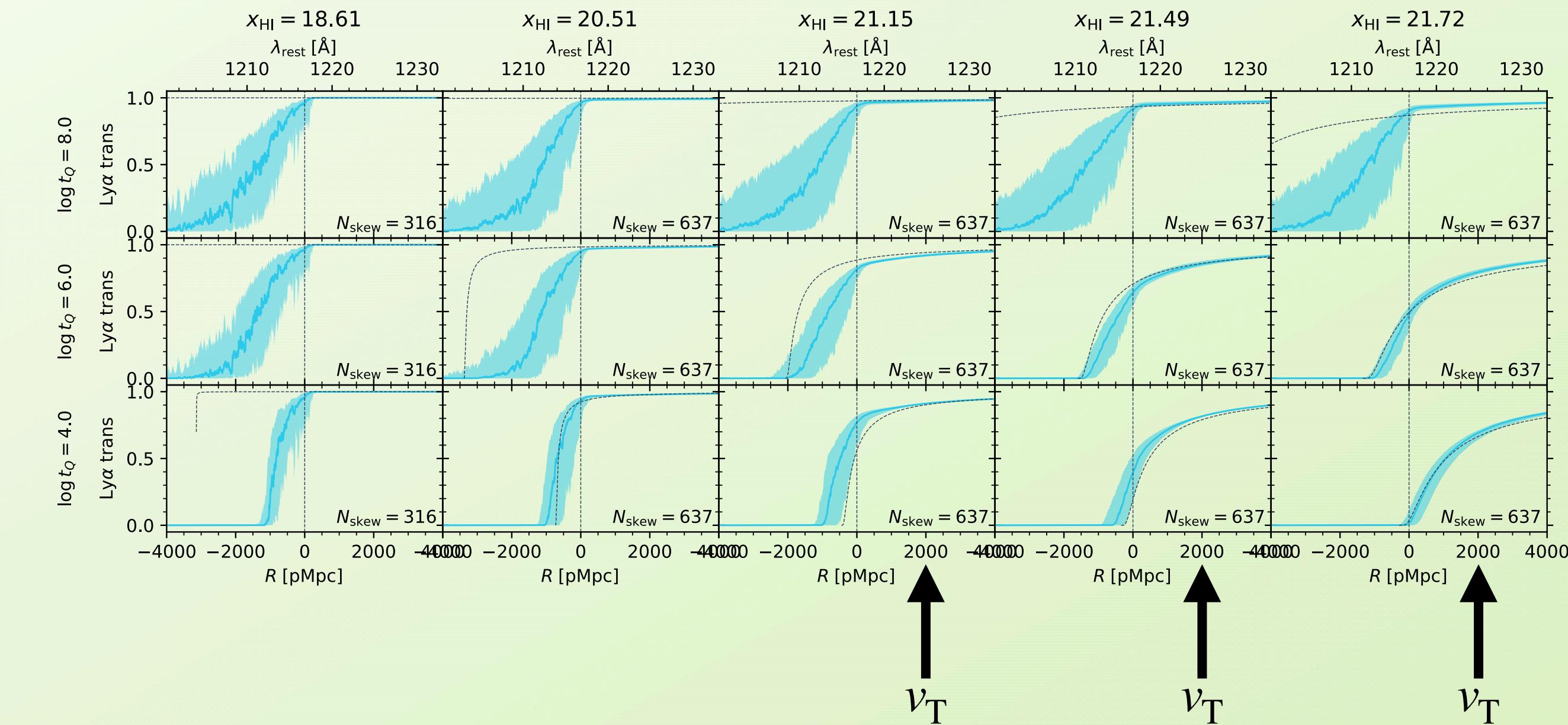


Comparing the old and new labels

Global IGM neutral fraction $\langle x_{\text{HI}} \rangle$

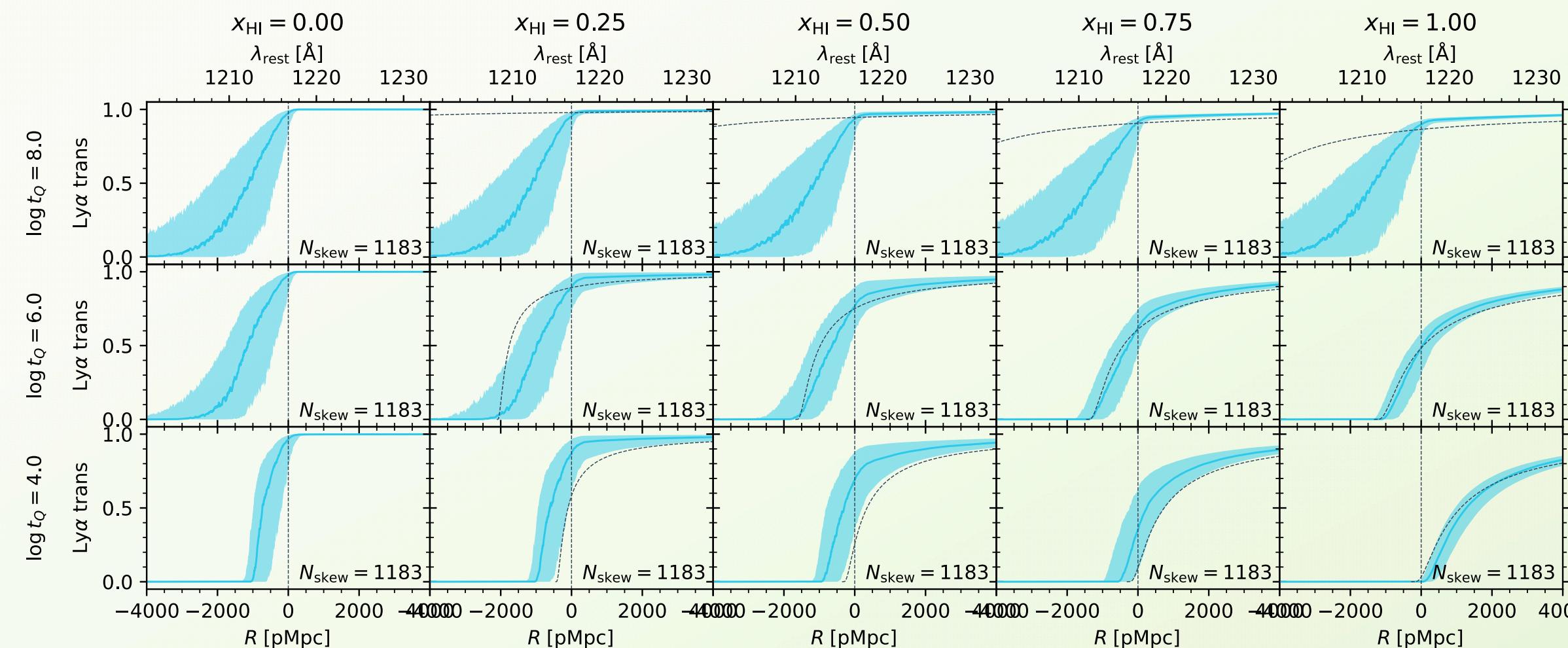


Local HI column density $N_{\text{HI}}^{\Delta v^{-2}}$

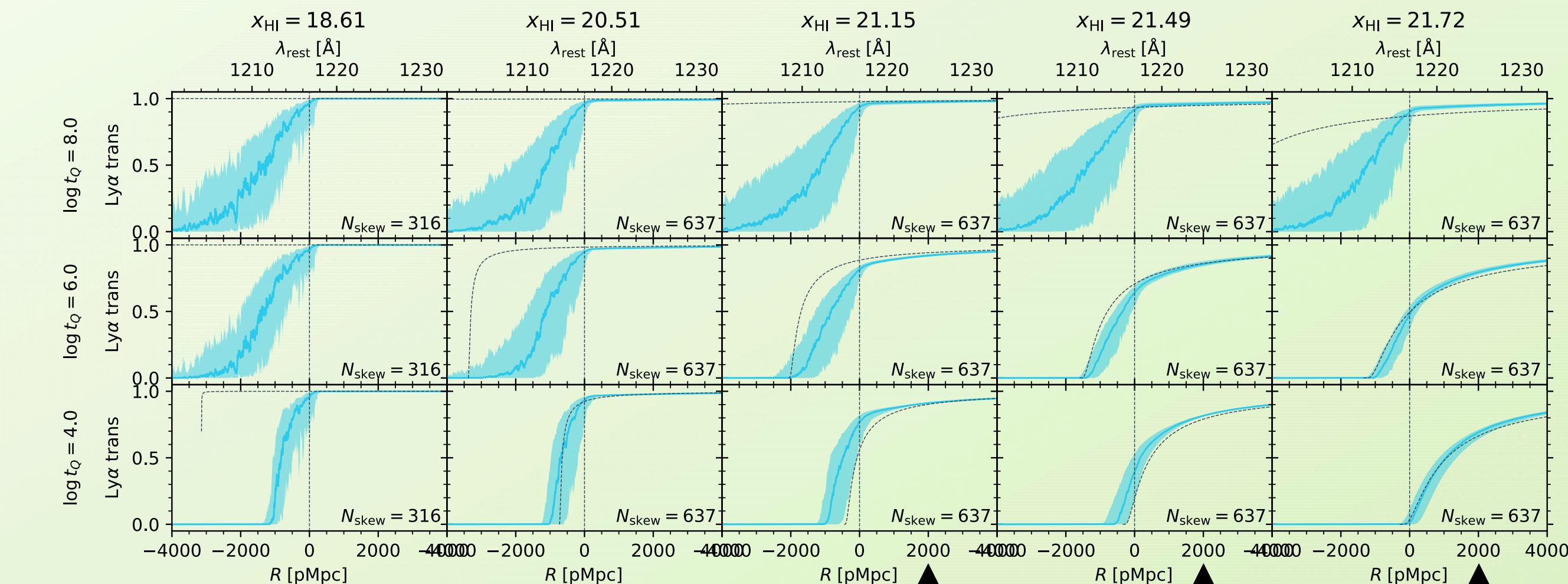


Comparing the old and new labels

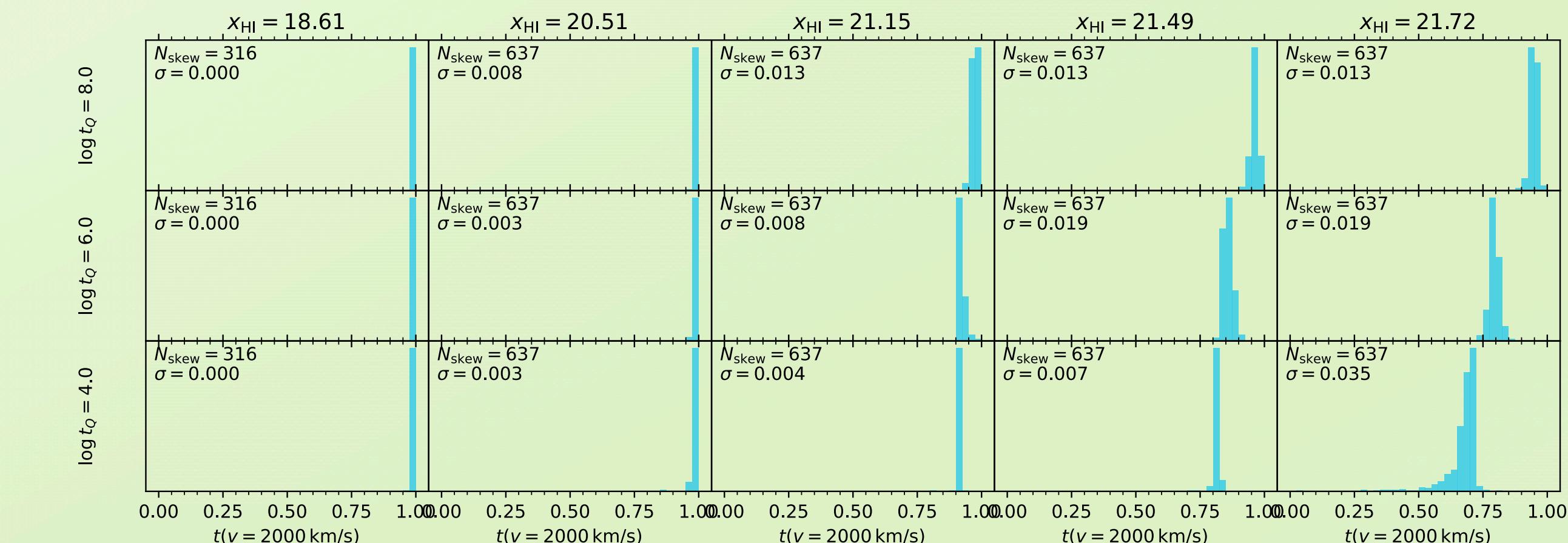
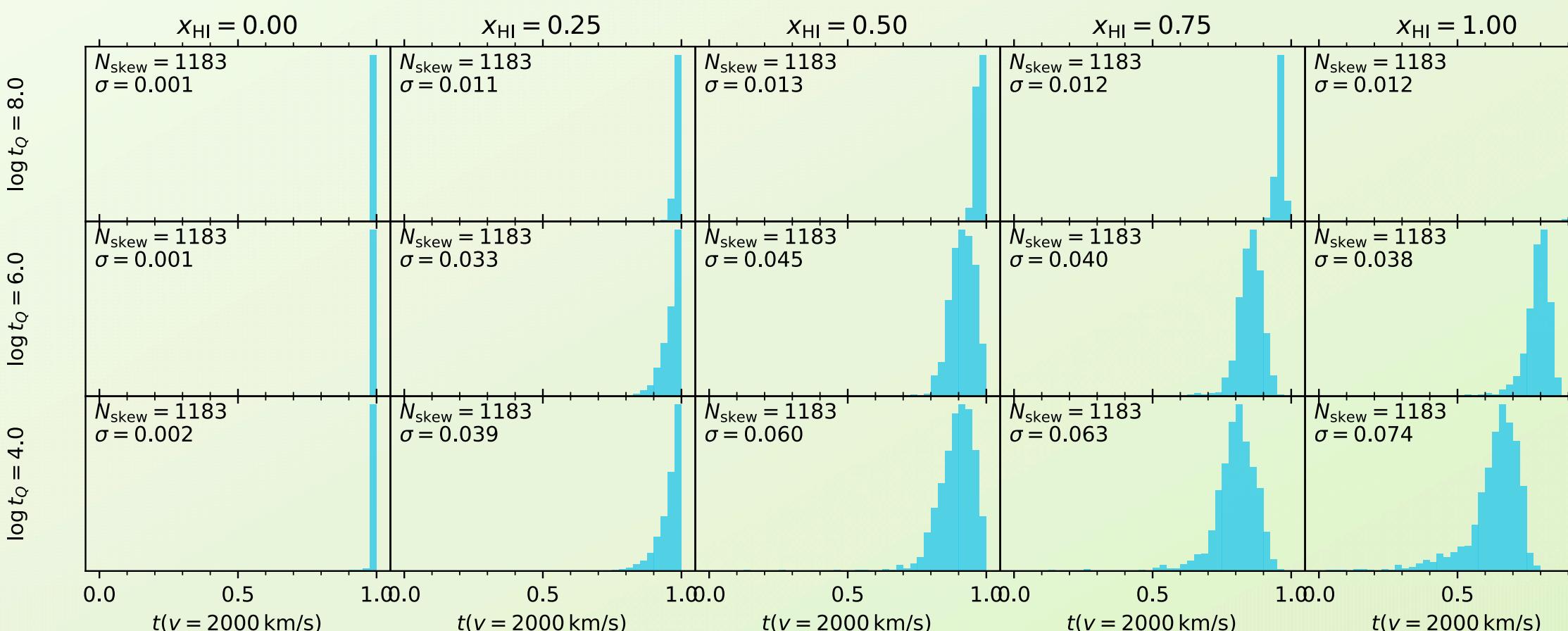
Global IGM neutral fraction $\langle x_{\text{HI}} \rangle$



Local HI column density $N_{\text{HI}}^{\Delta v^{-2}}$

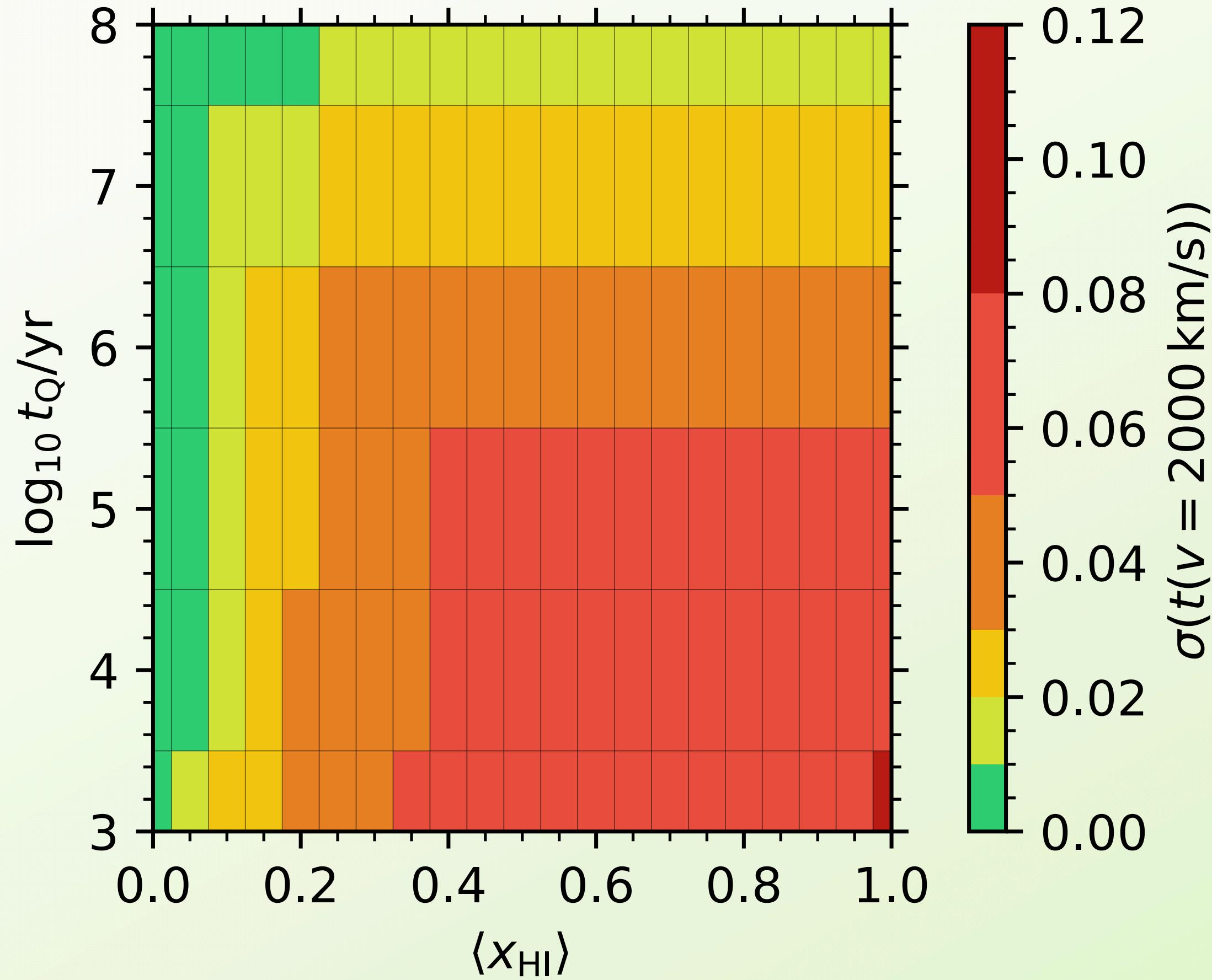


distribution of transmission values at $v_T = 2000 \text{ km/s}$

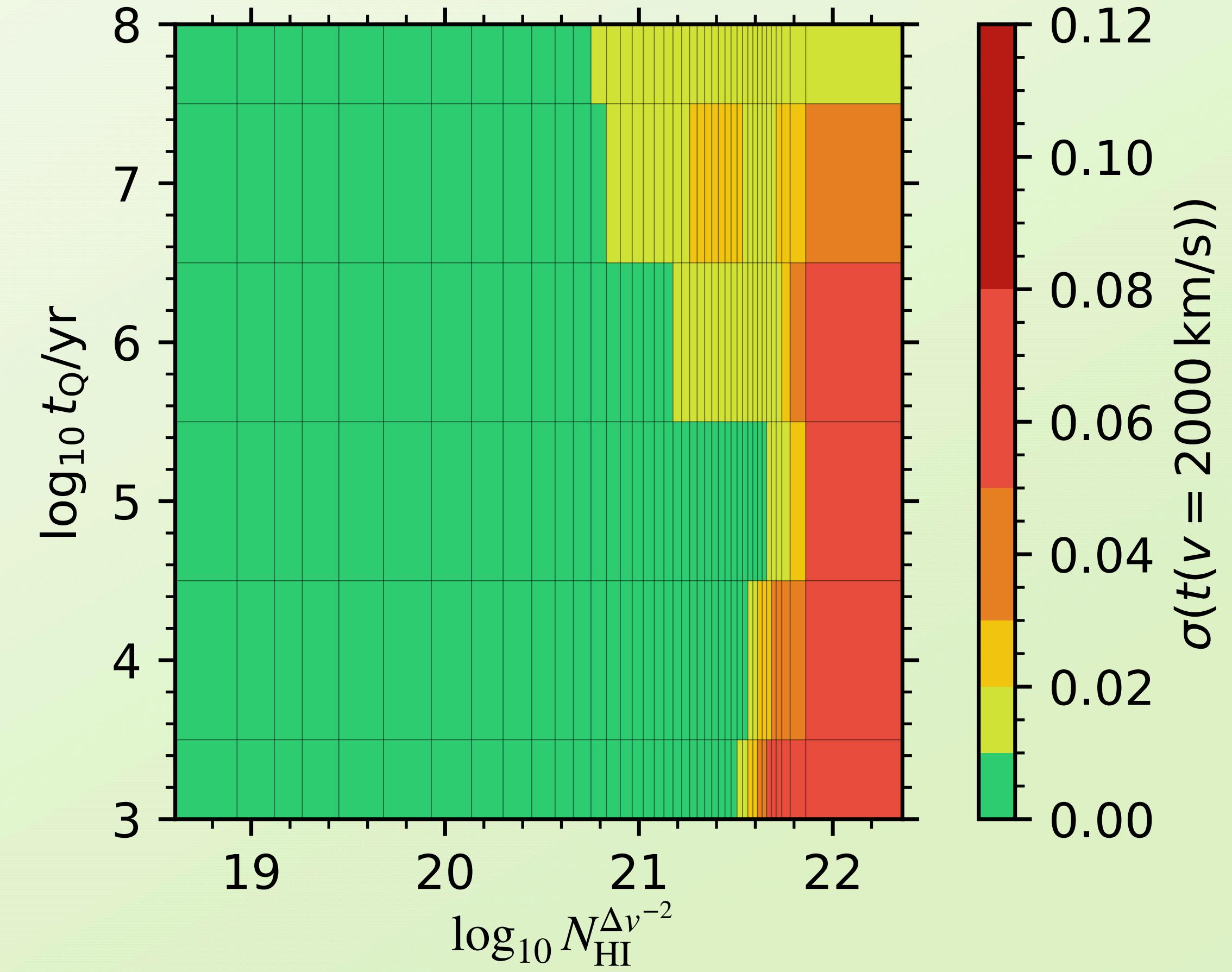


Comparing the old and new labels

Global IGM neutral fraction $\langle x_{\text{HI}} \rangle$

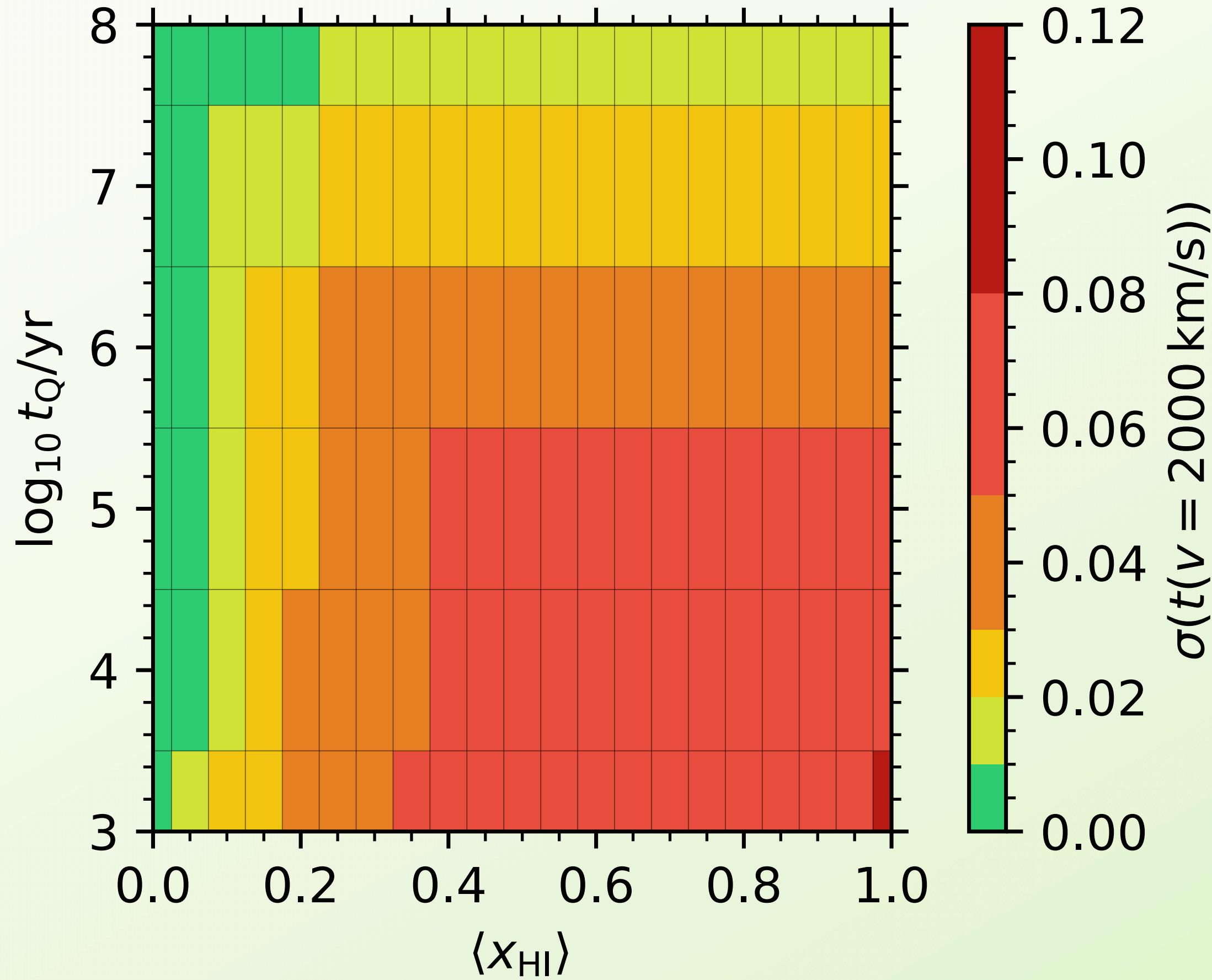


Local HI column density $N_{\text{HI}}^{\Delta v^{-2}}$

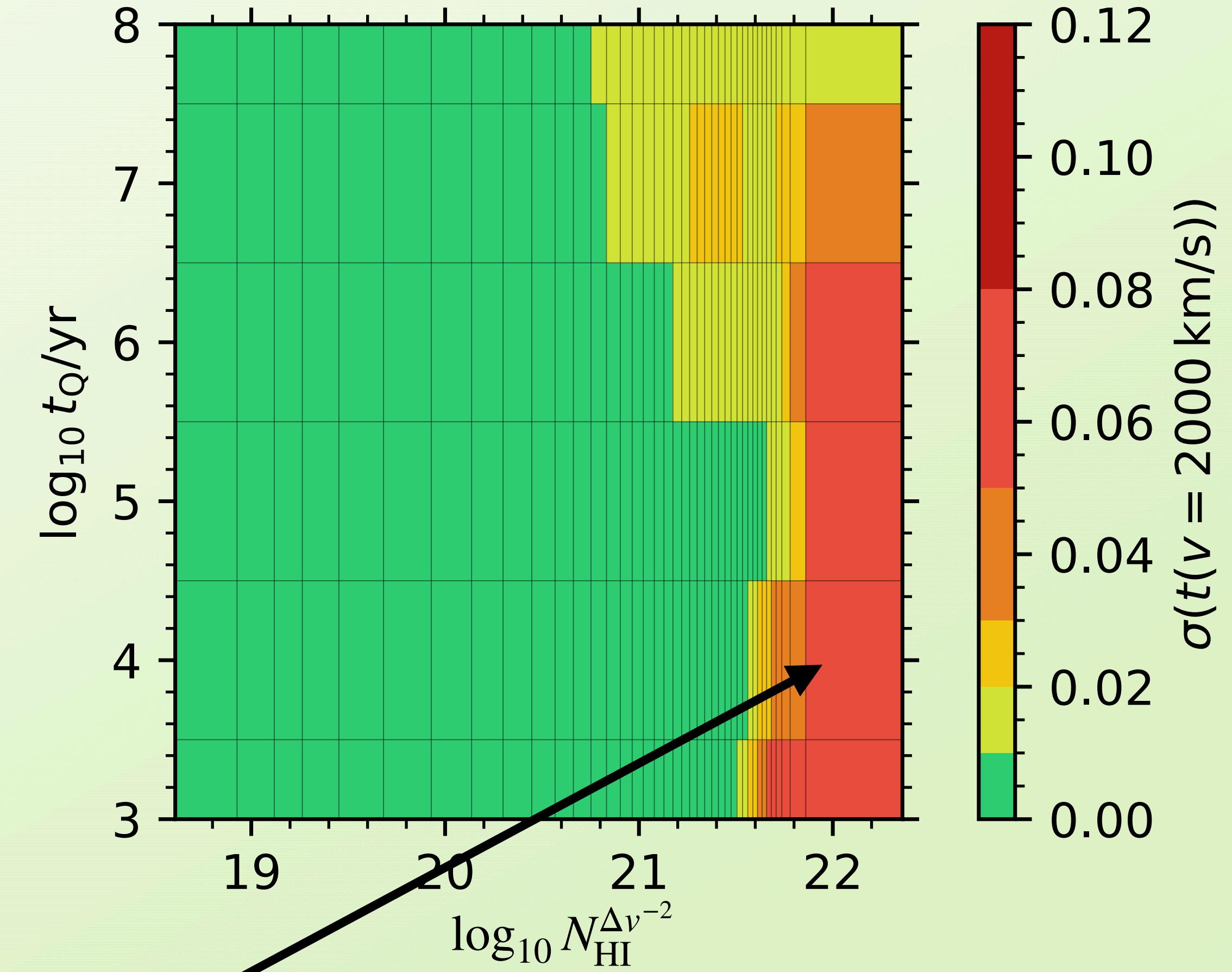


Comparing the old and new labels

Global IGM neutral fraction $\langle x_{\text{HI}} \rangle$

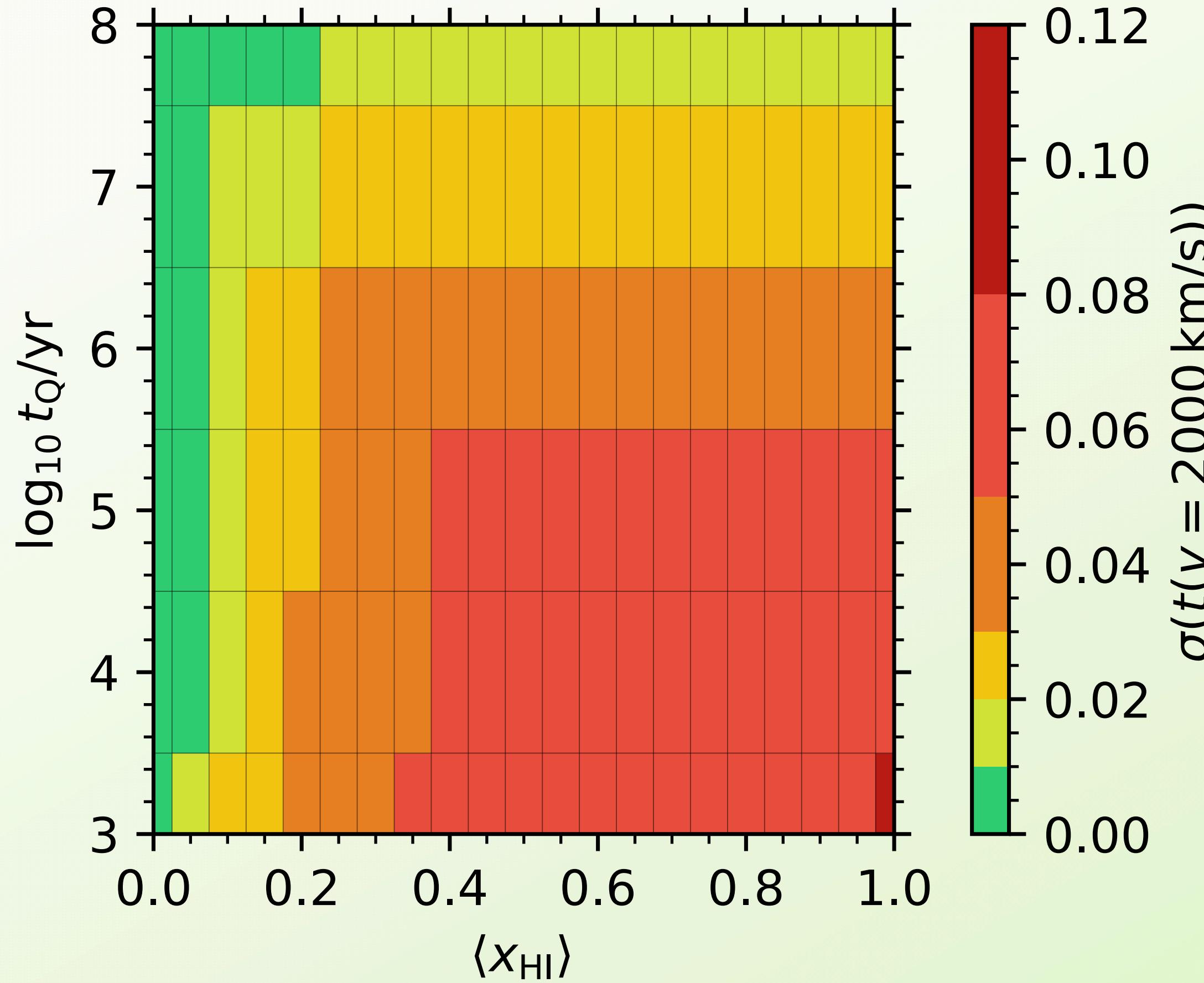


Local HI column density $N_{\text{HI}}^{\Delta v^{-2}}$

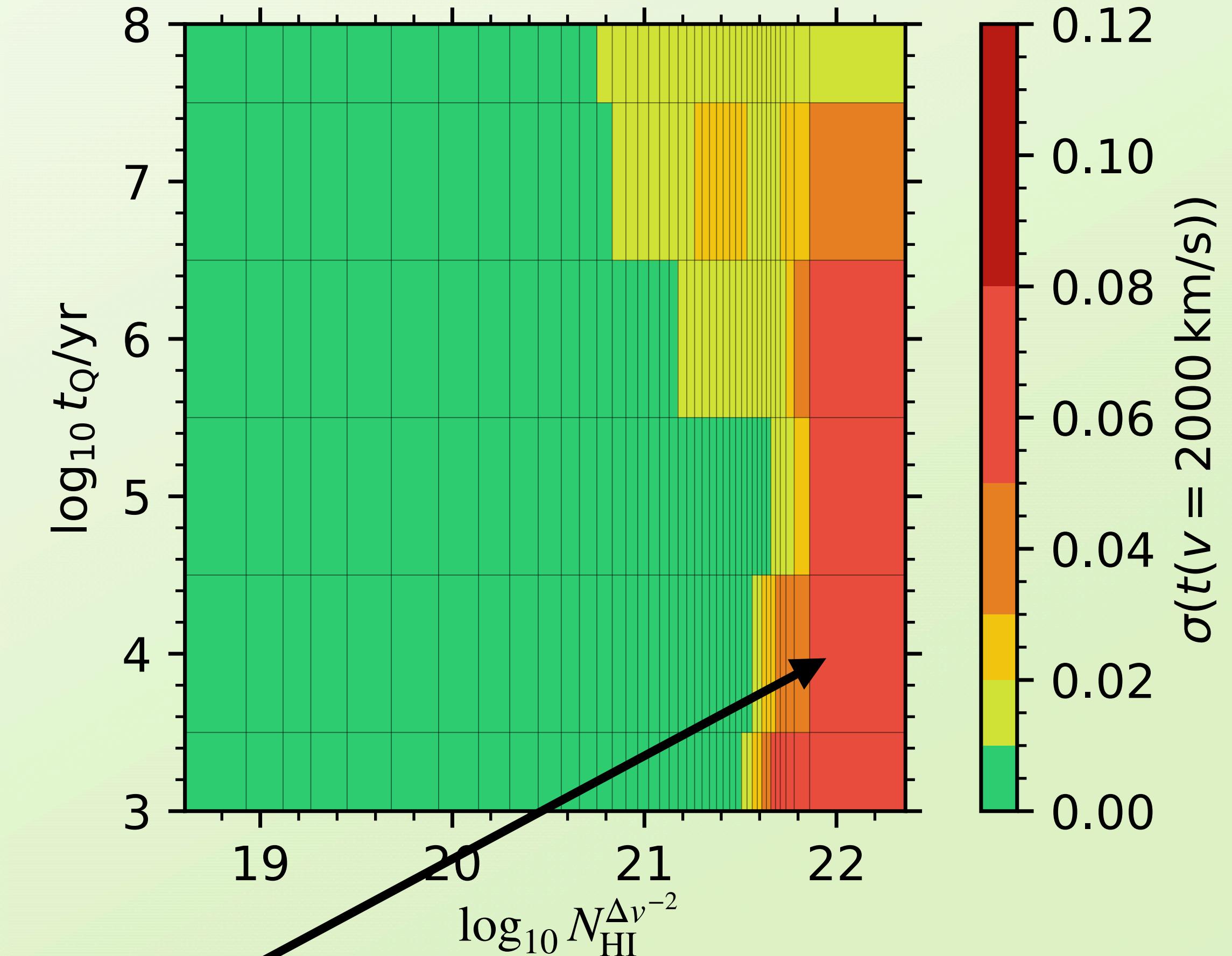


Comparing the old and new labels

Global IGM neutral fraction $\langle x_{\text{HI}} \rangle$



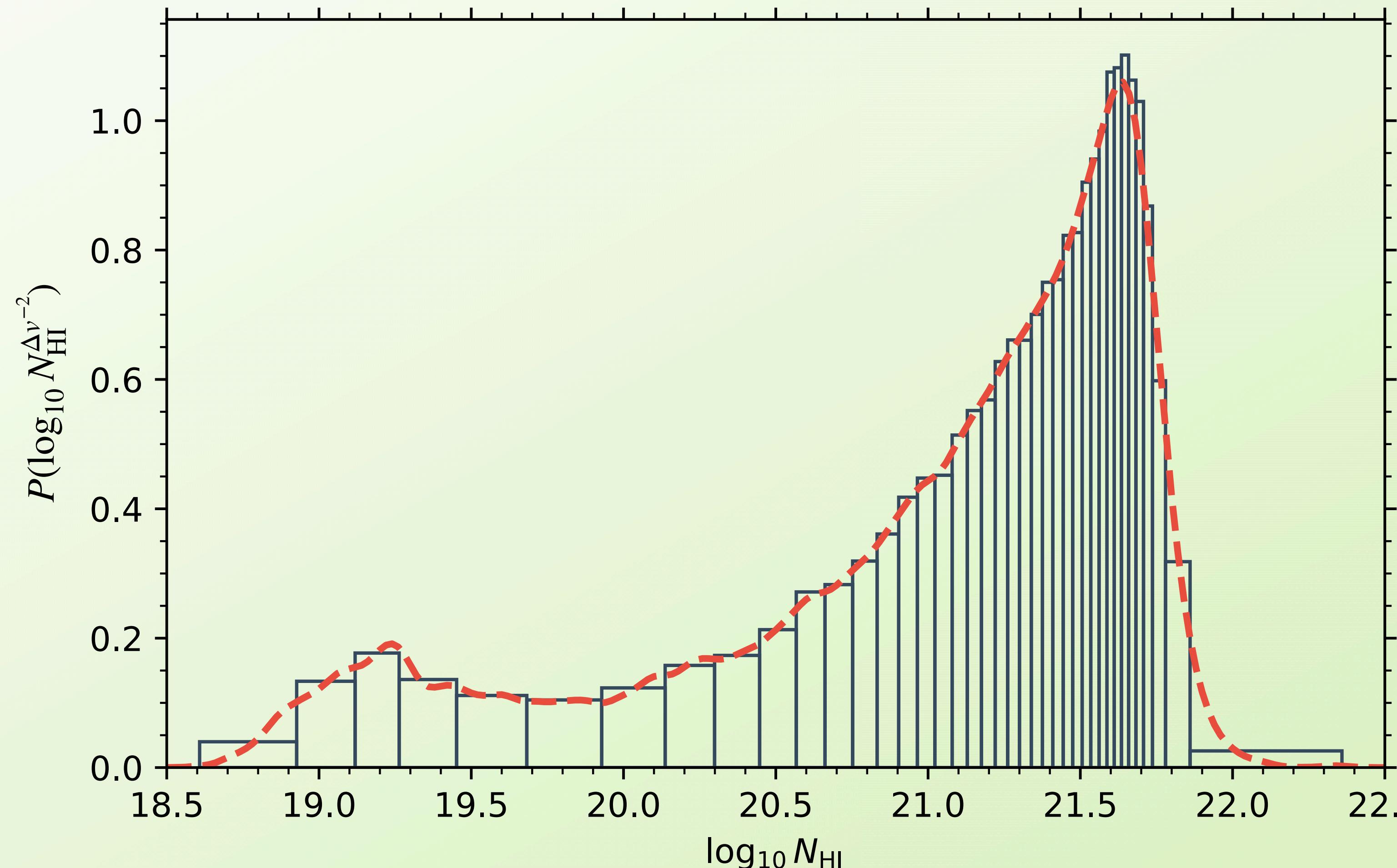
Local HI column density $N_{\text{HI}}^{\Delta\nu^{-2}}$



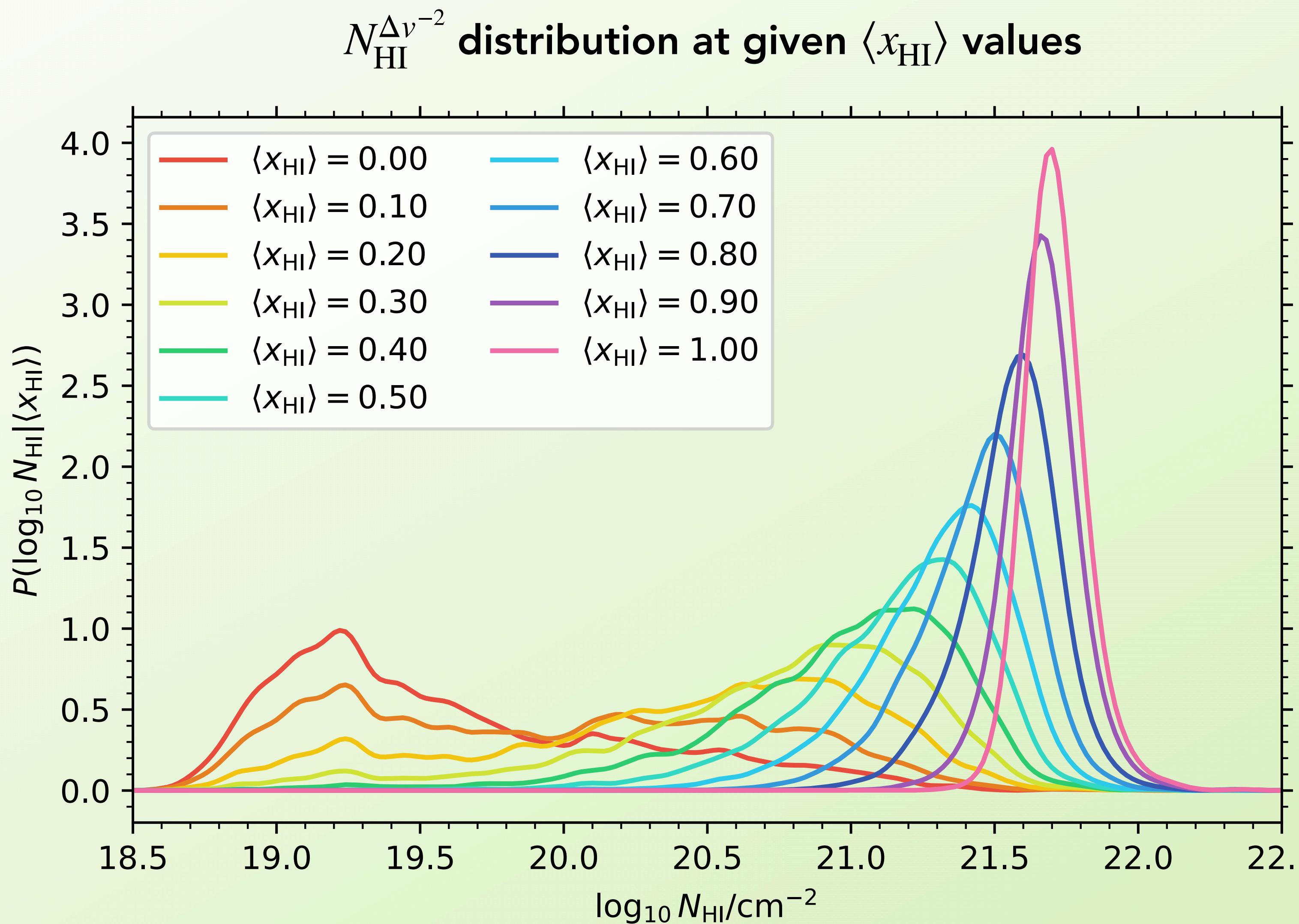
Strongest damping wings
→ impacted by structure at < 0.5 pMpc

Relating the old and new labels

$N_{\text{HI}}^{\Delta\nu^{-2}}$ distribution based on skewers extracted from a uniform grid covering $0 \leq \langle x_{\text{HI}} \rangle \leq 1$

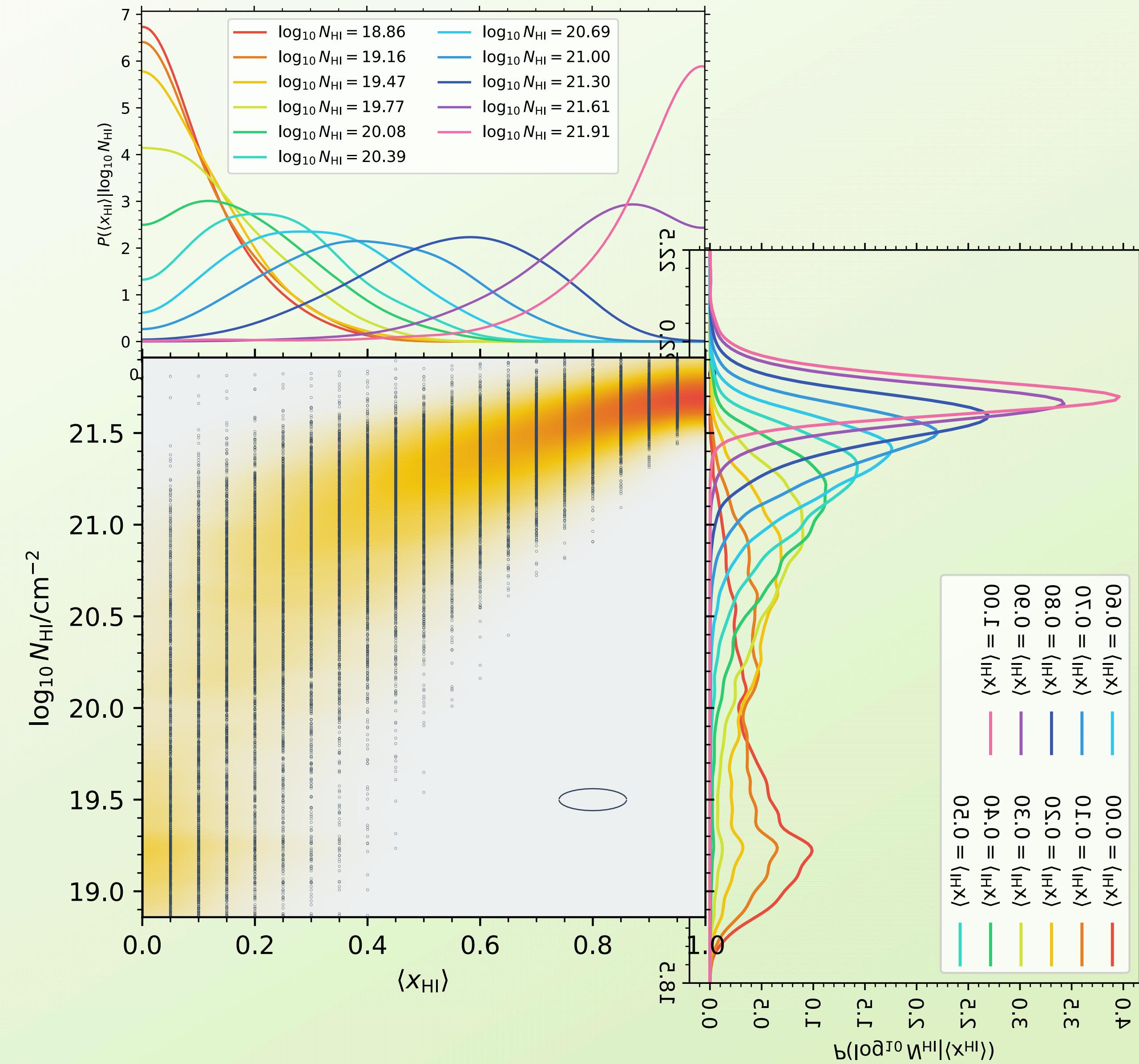


Relating the old and new labels



Relating the old and new labels

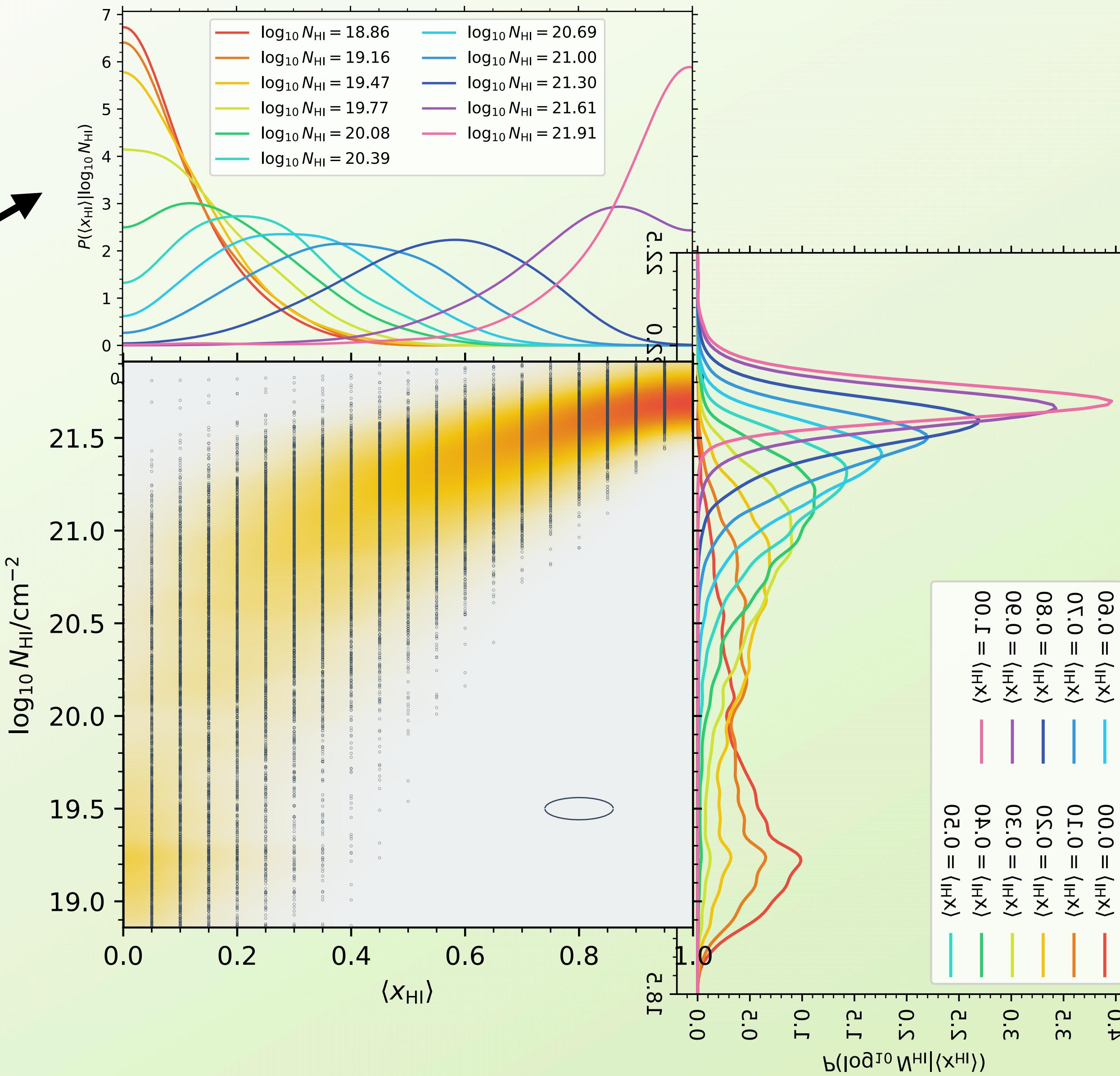
$$P \left(\langle x_{\text{HI}} \rangle | N_{\text{HI}}^{\Delta\nu^{-2}} \right)$$



$$P \left(N_{\text{HI}}^{\Delta\nu^{-2}} | \langle x_{\text{HI}} \rangle \right)$$

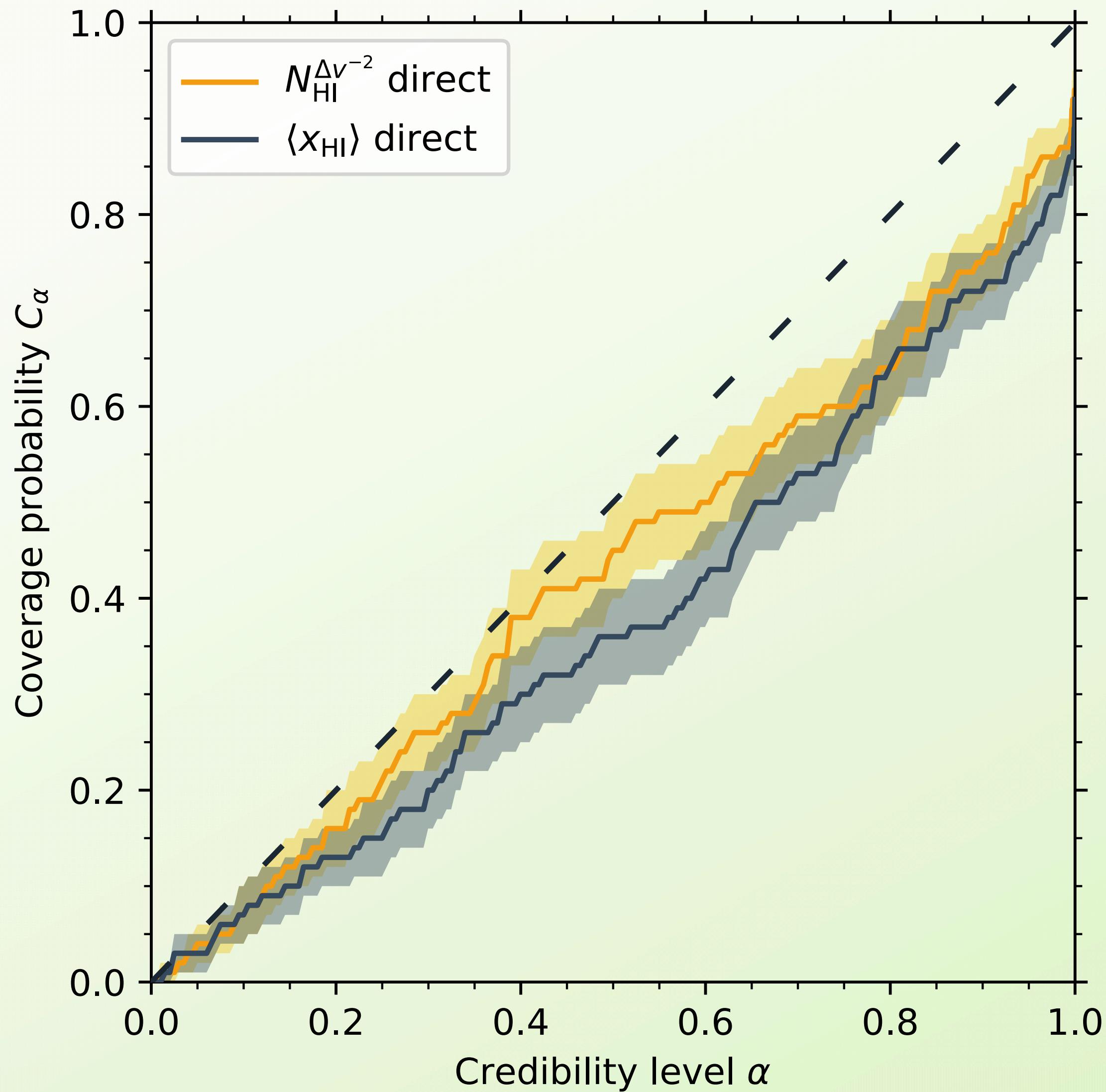
Relating the old and new labels

$$P \left(N_{\text{HI}}^{\Delta\nu^{-2}}, \langle x_{\text{HI}} \rangle \right)$$

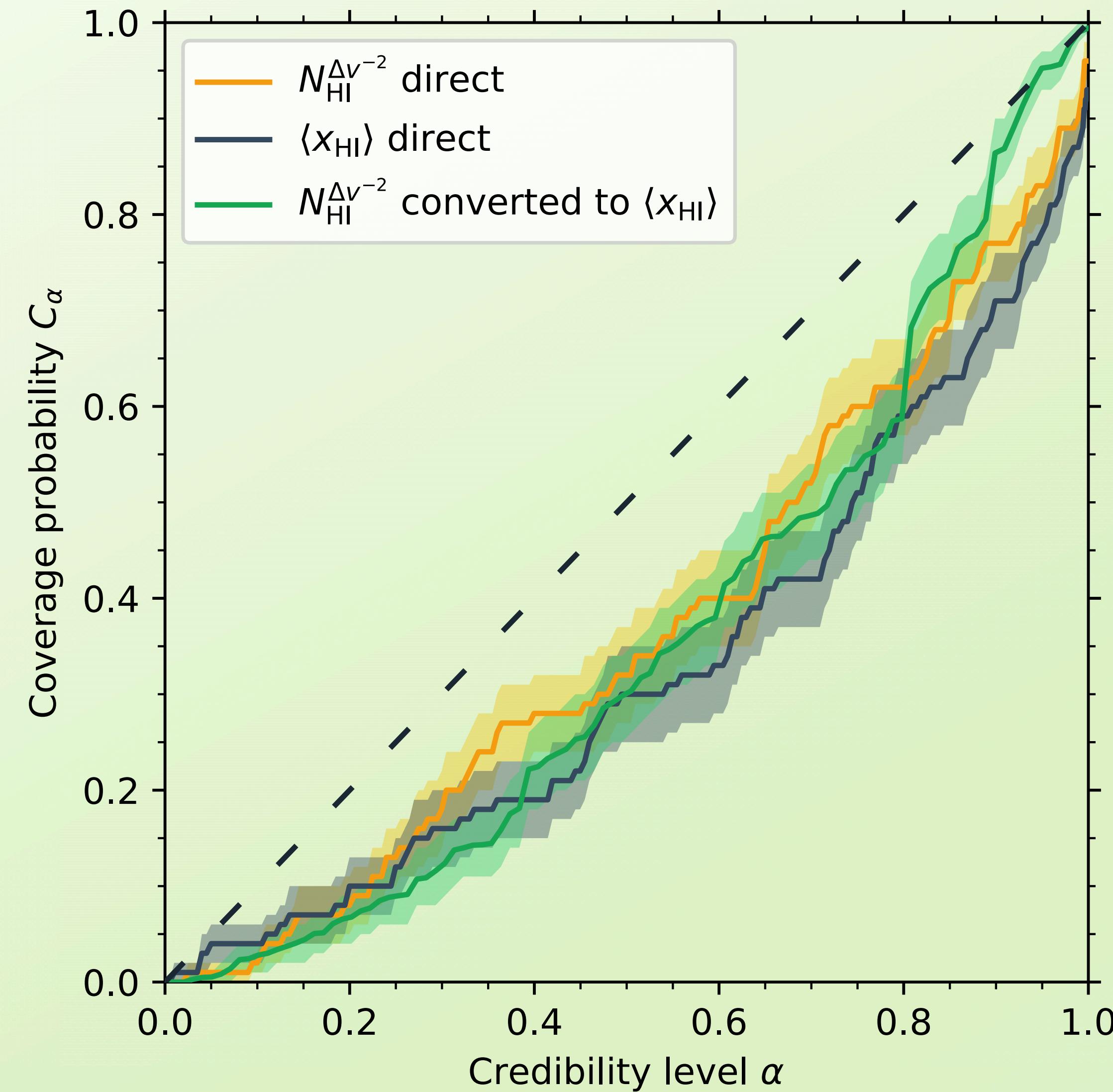


Inference Tests

Full Coverage



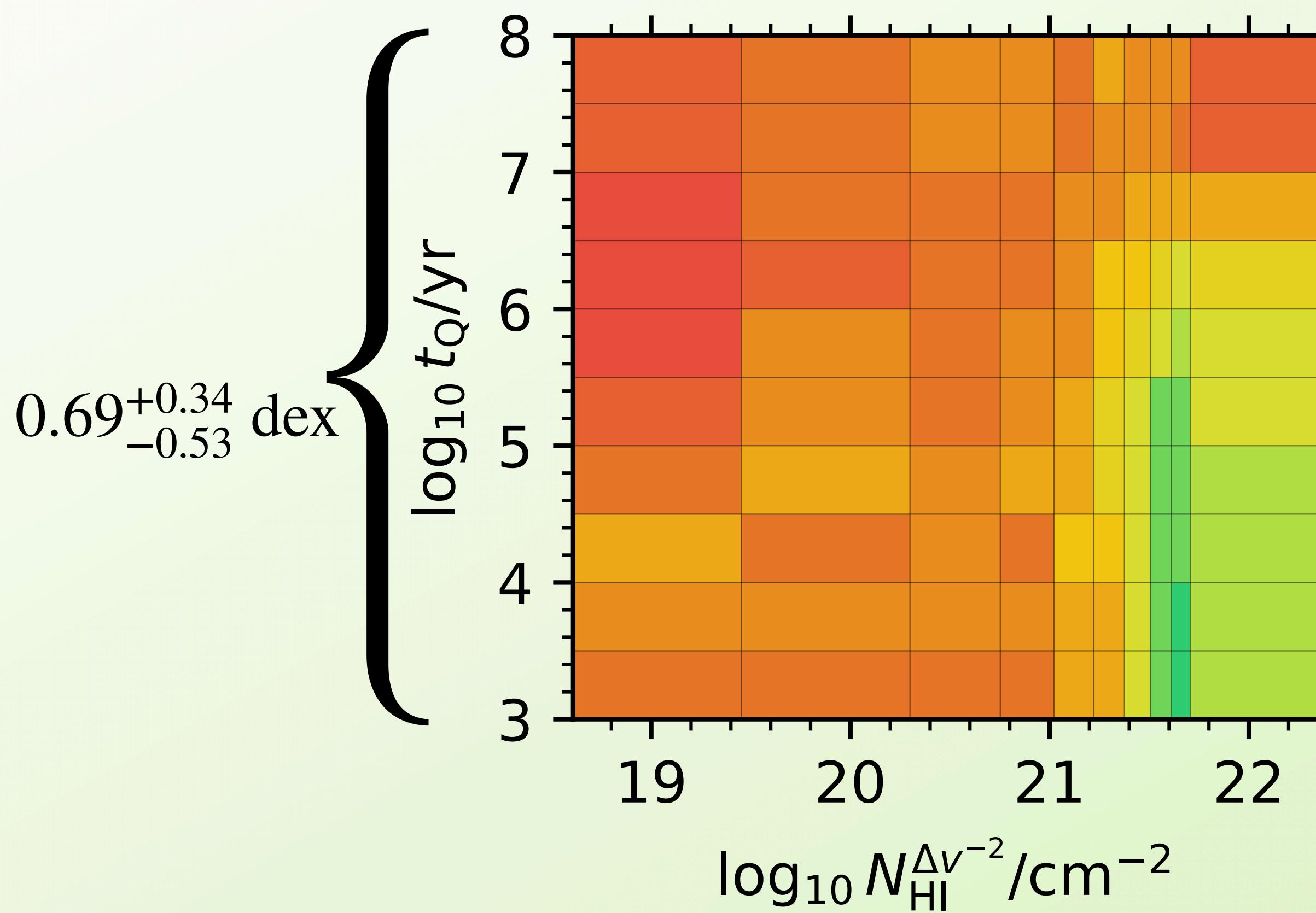
Marginal Coverage



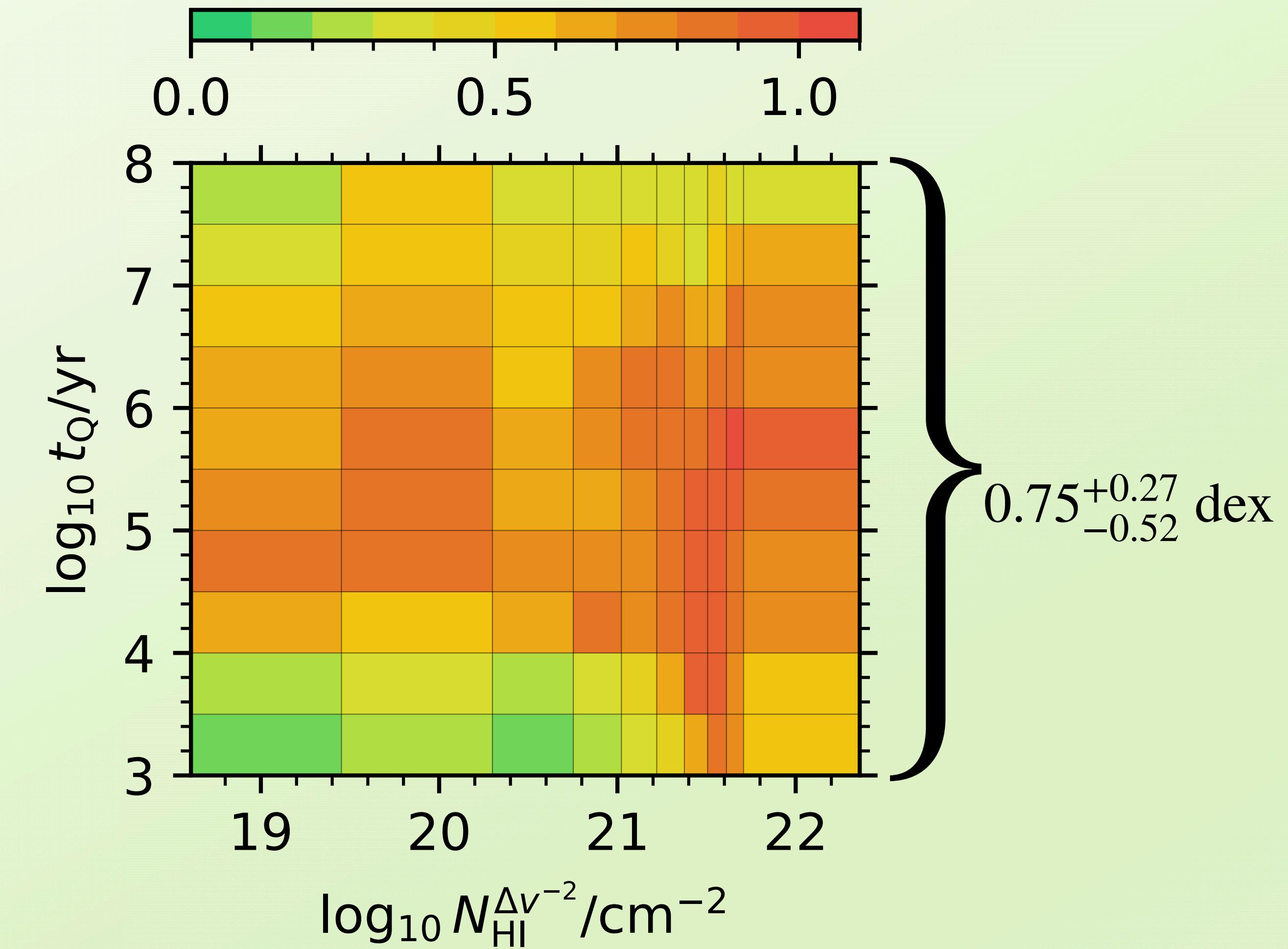
Comparing Inference Precision

Global IGM neutral fraction $\langle x_{\text{HI}} \rangle$

$$\Delta_{68\%}(\log_{10} N_{\text{HI}}^{\Delta\nu^{-2}})$$



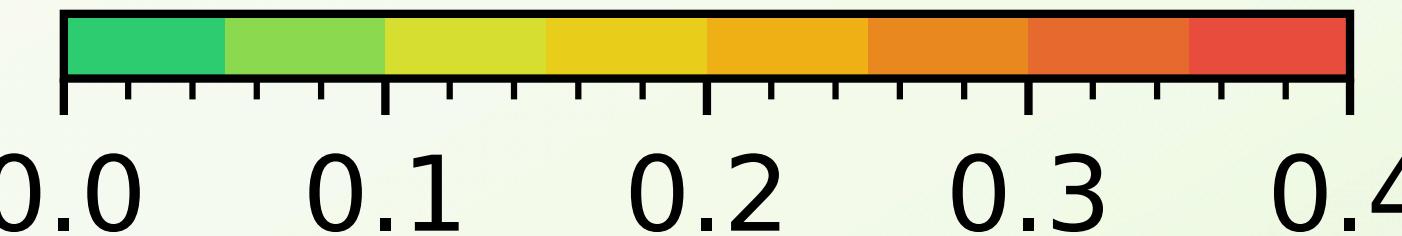
$$\Delta_{68\%}(\log_{10} t_{\text{Q}}/\text{yr})$$



Comparing Inference Precision

Global IGM neutral fraction $\langle x_{\text{HI}} \rangle$

$\Delta_{68 \%}(\langle x_{\text{HI}} \rangle)$



$\Delta_{68 \%}(\log_{10} t_Q/\text{yr})$

