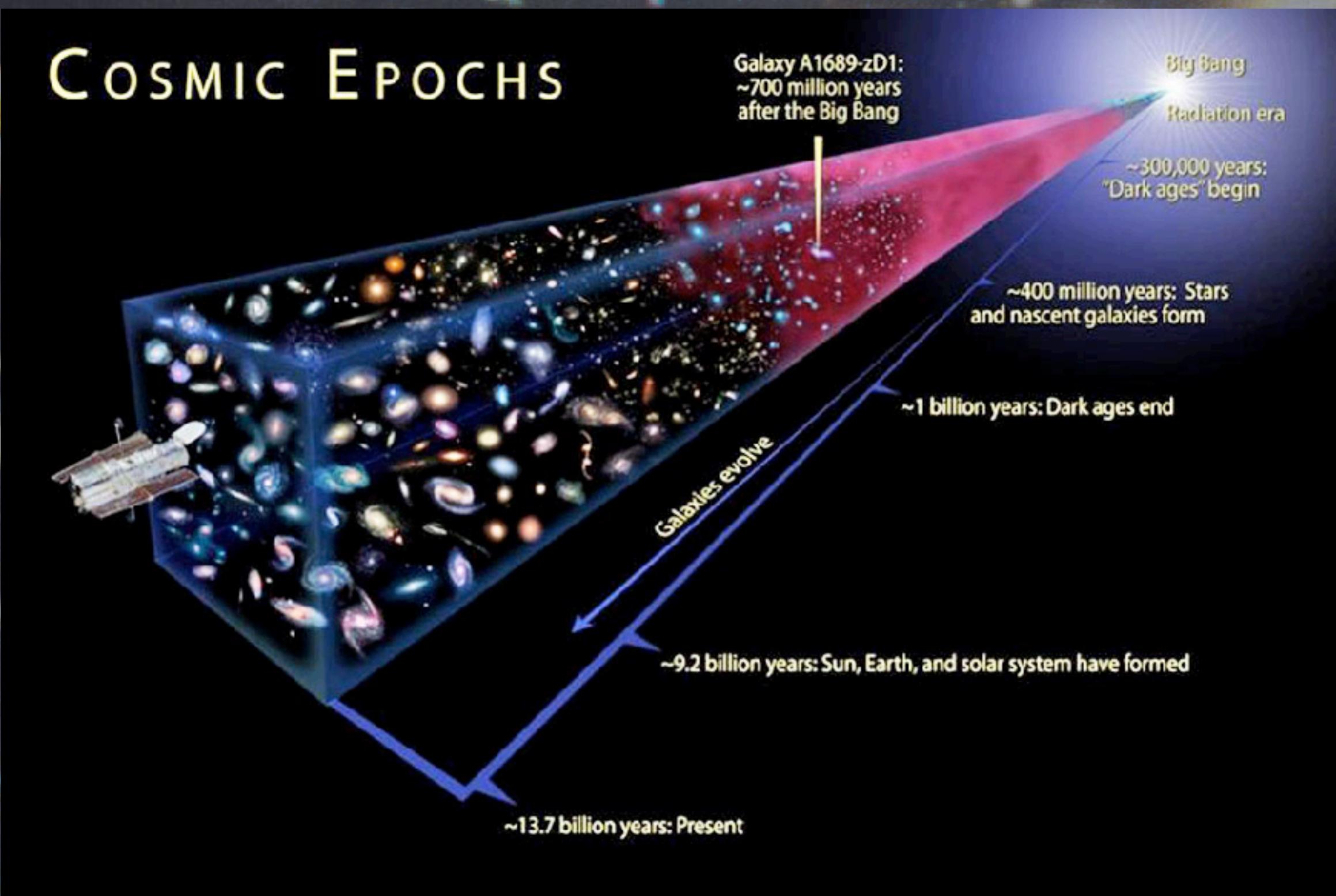


# High redshift galaxies under the microscope with future adaptive optics facilities



## Outline

High-z galaxies and cosmic reionization

Unveiling star-forming complexes and star clusters at high redshift

Extreme Adaptive Optics and cosmic telescopes

VLT/MAVIS: European and Australian participation

Eros Vanzella (INAF - OAS/Bologna)



**Collaborators:** M. Meneghetti, F. Calura, P. Rosati, A. Zanella, M. Castellano, U. Mestric, P. Bergamini, A. Mercurio, G.B. Caminha, M. Nonino, E. Sani, G. Cupani, G. Brammer et al.

# Motivation I: cosmic hydrogen (re)ionization

A major phase transition in the history of the Universe

Impact on galaxy formation and evolution

Robertson 2021, ARAA (arxiv: 211013160R)

## Motivation II: proto-GCs

Progenitors of the ancient and dense Globular Clusters

Volume filling factor:  
Volume(HII) / Volume Universe

$$Q_{\text{HII}} = 1 \quad z < 6$$

$$Q_{\text{HII}}(z) < 1 \quad z > 6$$

mean comoving hydrogen number density

IGM  
Physics

$$\dot{n}_{\text{ion}}^{\text{com}} = \int_{M_{\text{lim}}}^{\infty} dM_{\text{UV}} \phi(M_{\text{UV}}) \gamma_{\text{ion}}(M_{\text{UV}}) f_{\text{esc}}$$

$$\frac{dQ_{\text{HII}}}{dt} = \frac{\dot{n}_{\text{ion}}}{\bar{n}_{\text{H}}} - \frac{Q_{\text{HII}}}{\bar{t}_{\text{rec}}}$$

$$\bar{t}_{\text{rec}} = \frac{1}{C_{\text{HII}} \alpha_B(T_0) \bar{n}_{\text{H}} (1 + Y/4X) (1 + z)^3}$$

$$\approx 0.93 \text{ Gyr} \left( \frac{C_{\text{HII}}}{3} \right)^{-1} \left( \frac{T_0}{2 \times 10^4 \text{ K}} \right)^{0.7} \left( \frac{1 + z}{7} \right)^{-3}$$

Hui (2012)

$$C_{\text{HII}} \equiv \langle n_{\text{HII}}^2 \rangle / \langle n_{\text{HII}} \rangle^2$$

$$C_{\text{H}}(z) = (2.9) \left[ \frac{(1+z)}{6} \right]^{-1.1}$$

$z=150$

Shull et al. (2012)

Did reionization occurred at  $z \sim 6-8(10)$ ?

What's its topology?

What sources caused reionization?

Galaxies(AGNs) at  $z > 5(z < 5)$   
(e.g., Villasenor et al 2021)

Are SF mode and fesc evolving with redshift?

(bursty SF seems more frequent with increasing  $z$ , e.g., Boyett+21)

Push analysis to unprecedented low luminosities and small spatial scales at any cosmic epoch...

$z=5.8$

# Extreme Adaptive optics facilities at the focus of “cosmic telescopes”

Multi-conjugate-adaptive-optics-Assisted Visible Imager and Spectrograph @ VLT (MAVIS)  
Sky coverage > 50% in the South (see McDermid talk)

will open a new window to small angular scales and faint luminosities

Imager: ugriz bands, 7.4 mas/pixel, 30"×30" FoV, mag>29 (5sig) 1h integration  
Spectrograph IFU: 2.5" × 3.6" 25mas/spaxel; (5"×7.2" 50 mas/spaxel)



Australian  
National  
University

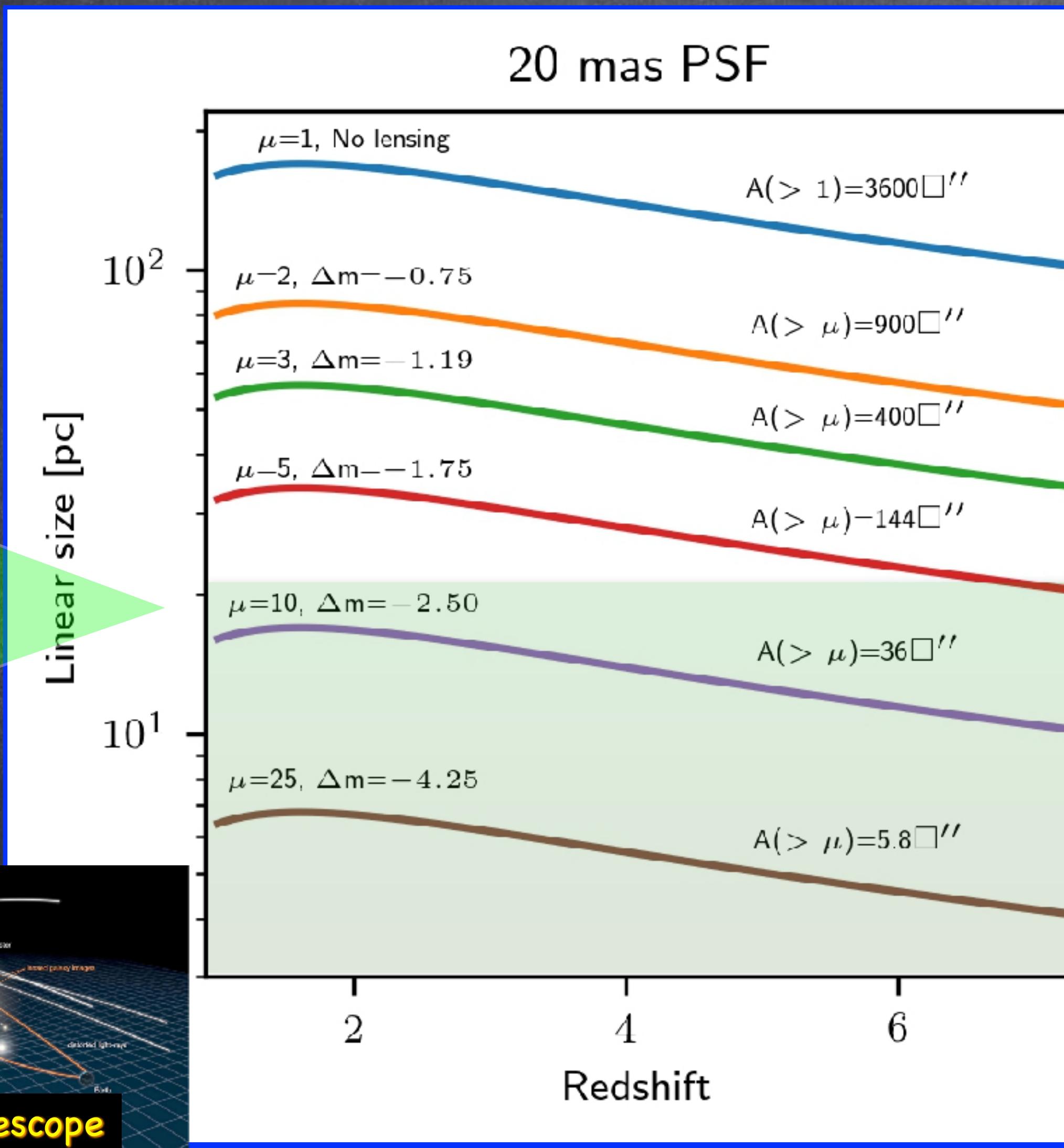
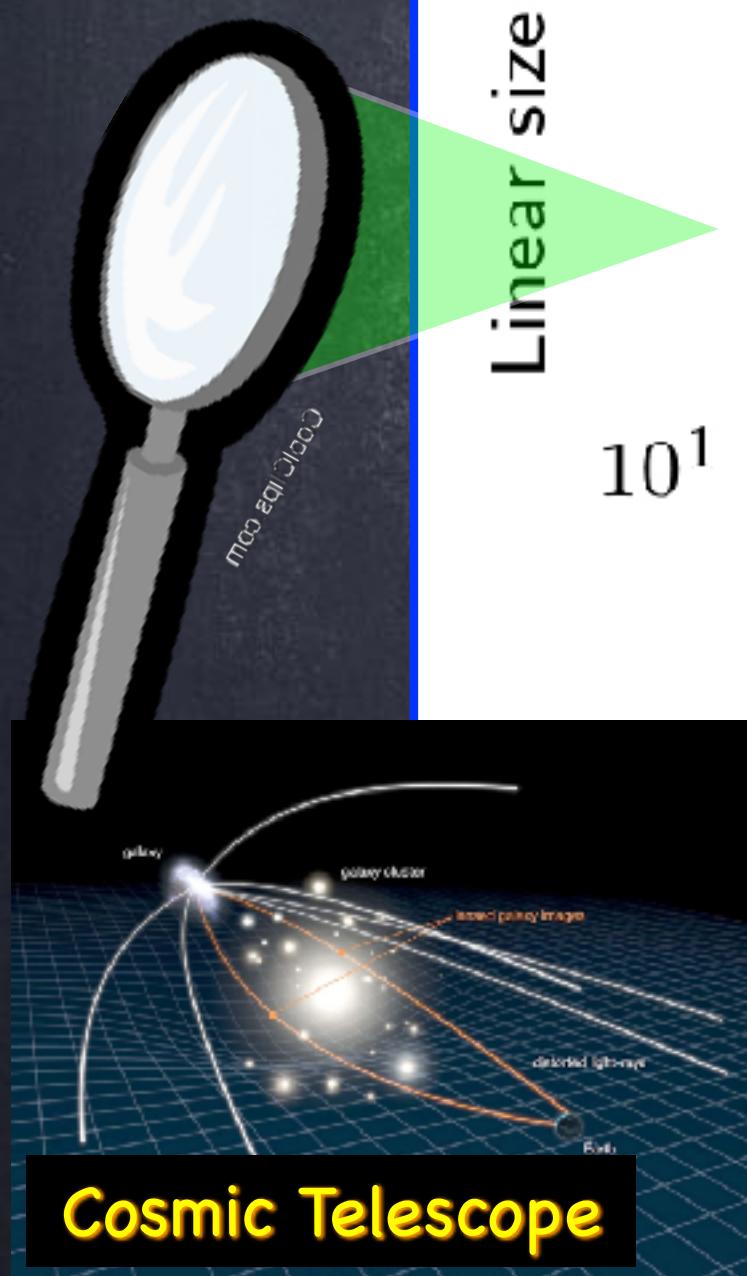


MACQUARIE  
University  
SYDNEY-AUSTRALIA



# Unveiling tiny star-forming complexes up to EoR (z<7.2) with VLT/MAVIS

## MAVIS + strong gravitational lensing



SF complex



Looking for grav. bound YMCs at high-z

The dynamical age  $\Pi$

**Age/Tcr =  $\Pi$**  , if  $\Pi > 1$  grav. bound

$$T_{\text{cr}} \equiv 10 \left( \frac{R_{\text{eff}}^3}{GM} \right)^{1/2}$$

Gieles+11, Ryon+17

Stellar agglomerates  
for which  
the age of the stars  
exceeds the crossing  
time are bound

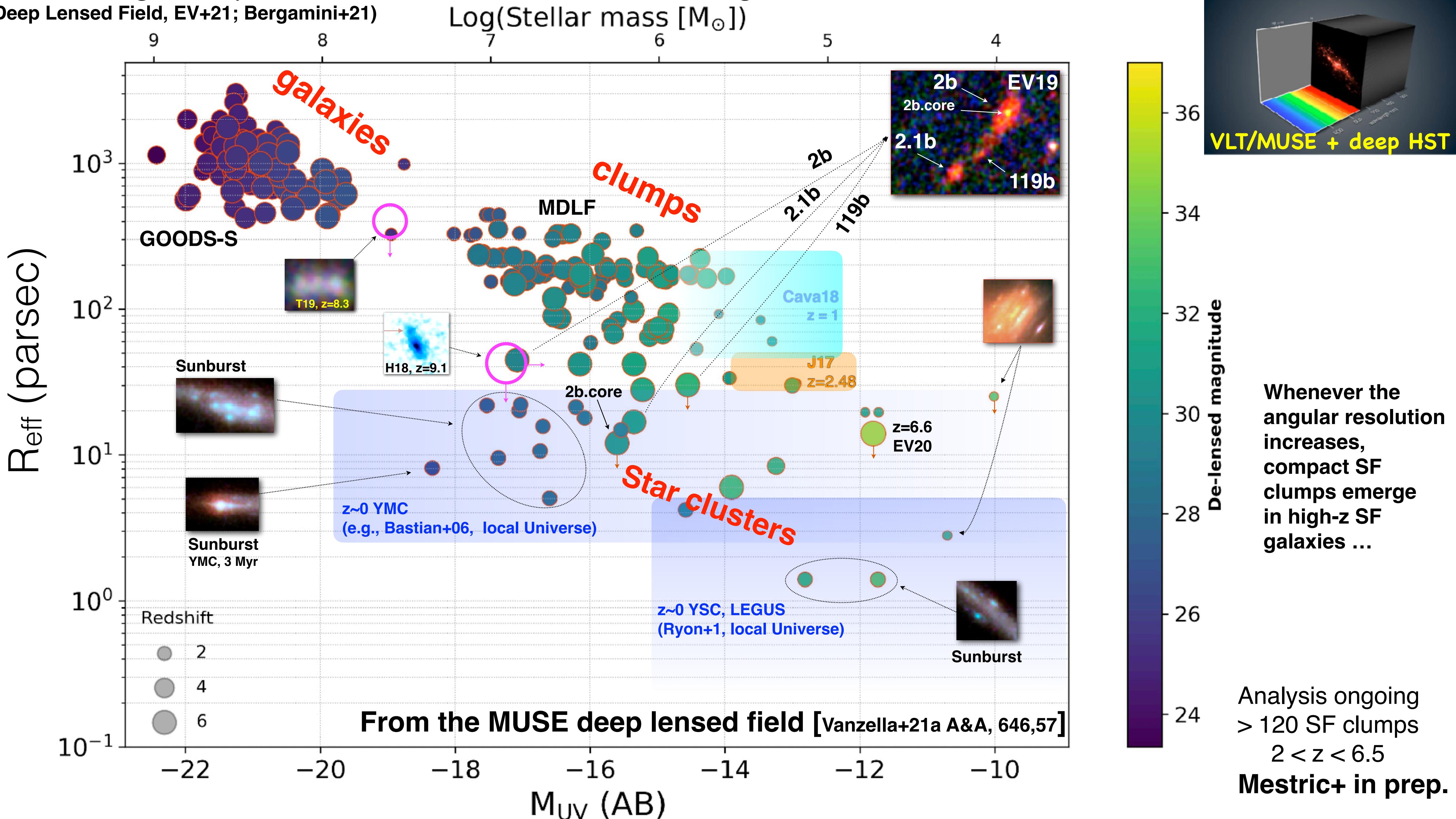
Star clusters

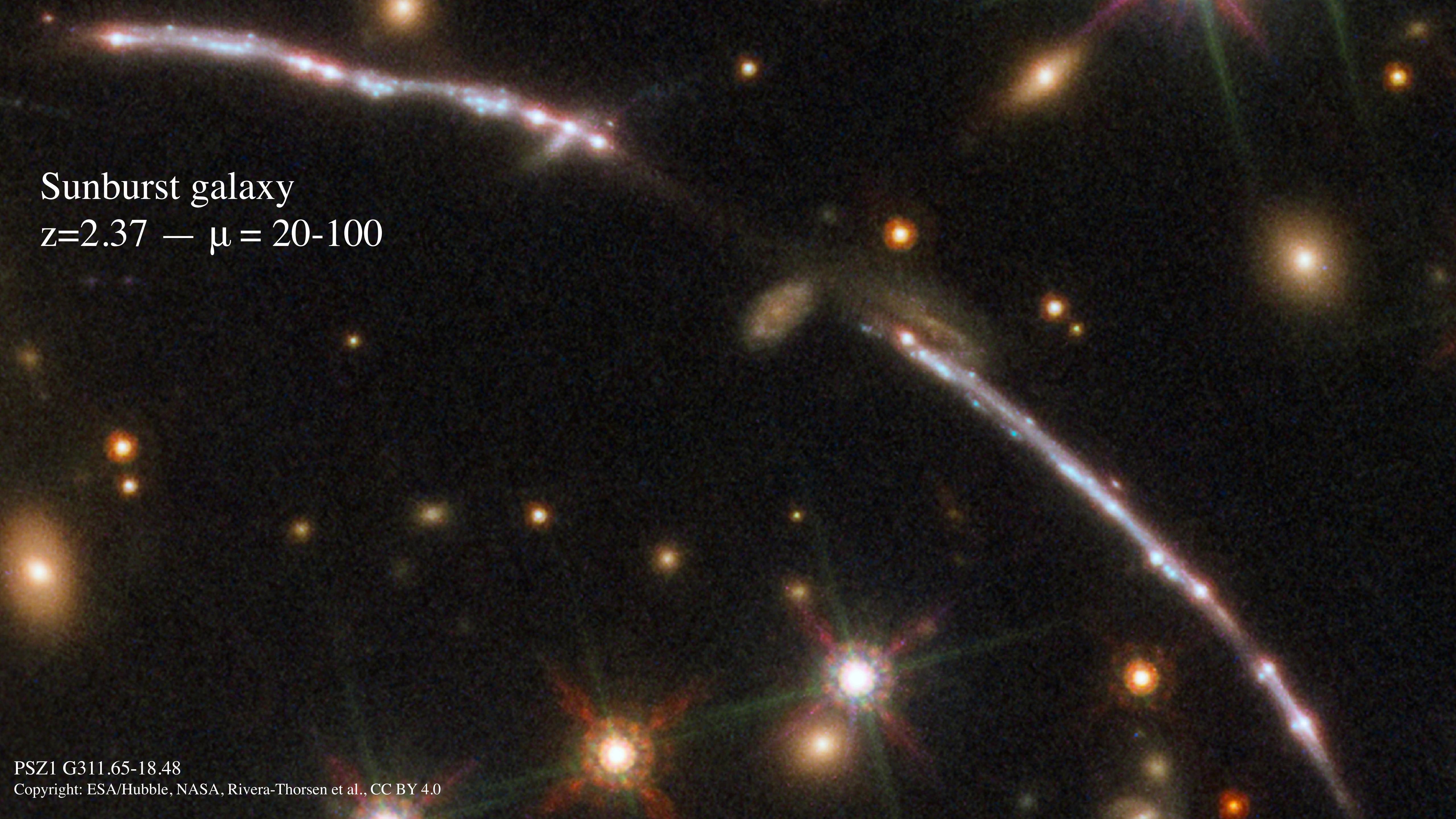


VLT/MAVIS + ELT: will probe tiny scales (Reff)  
JWST will provide Age/Masses

# Star-forming complexes and star cluster at high redshift with cosmic telescopes

(MUSE Deep Lensed Field, EV+21; Bergamini+21)





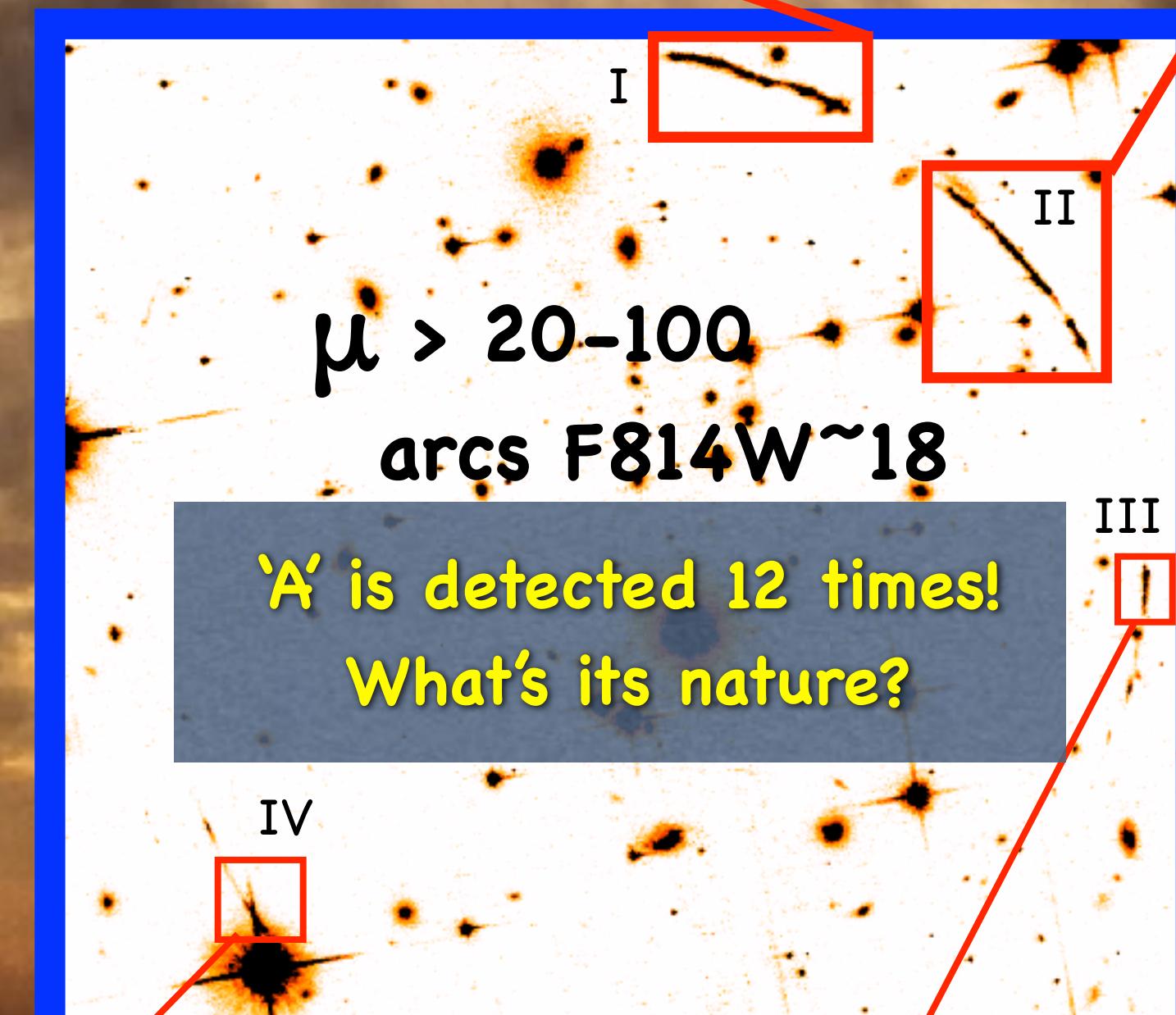
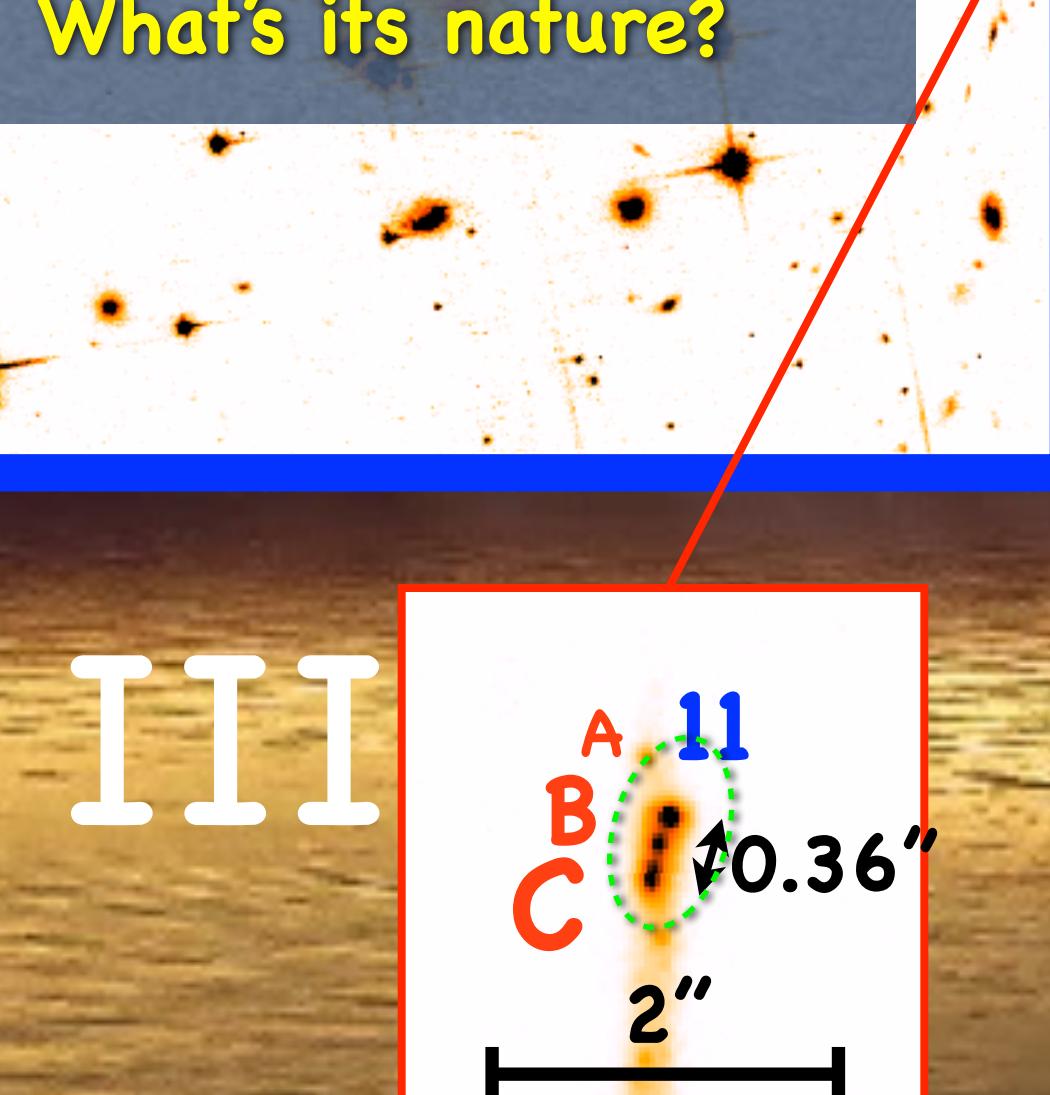
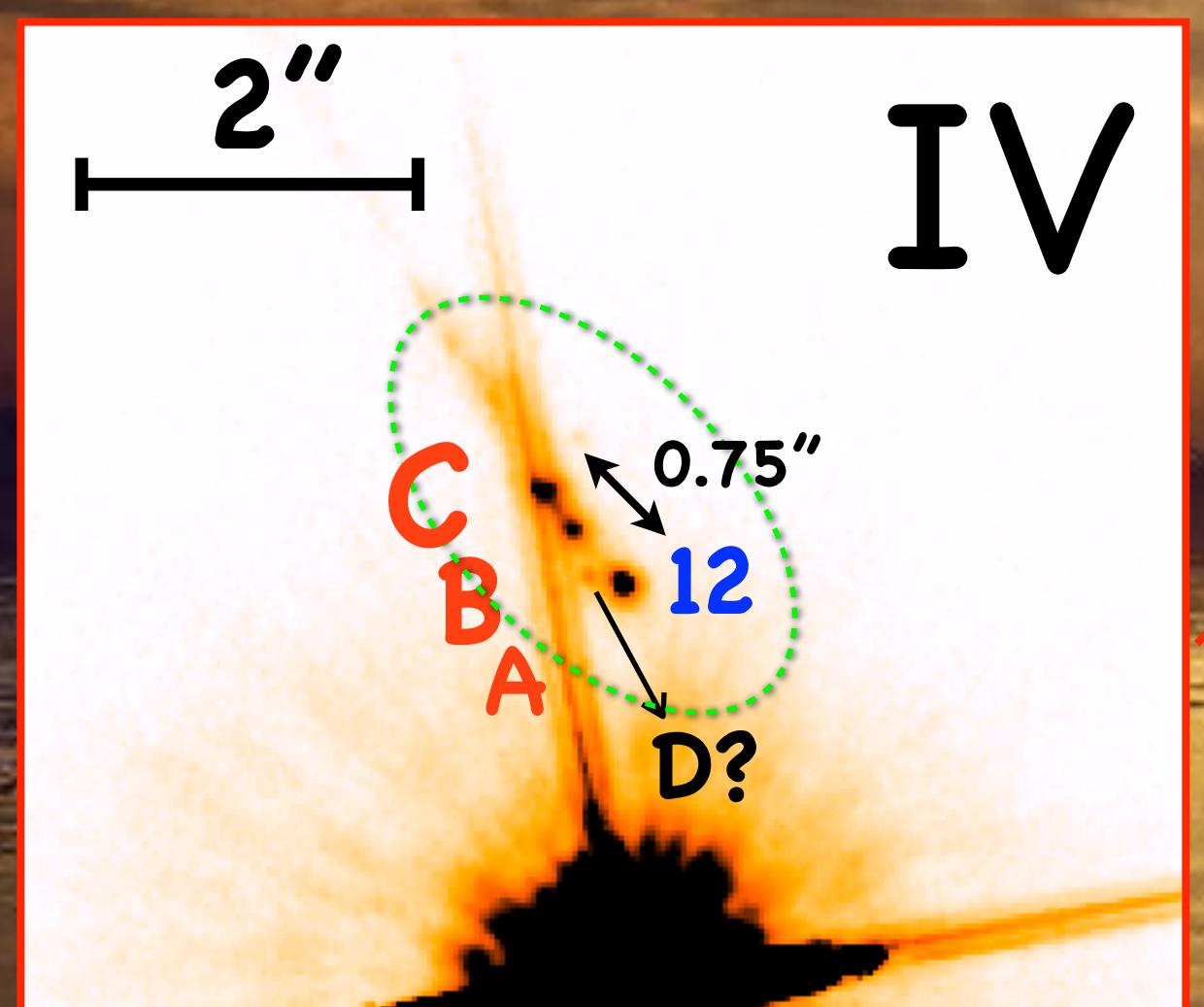
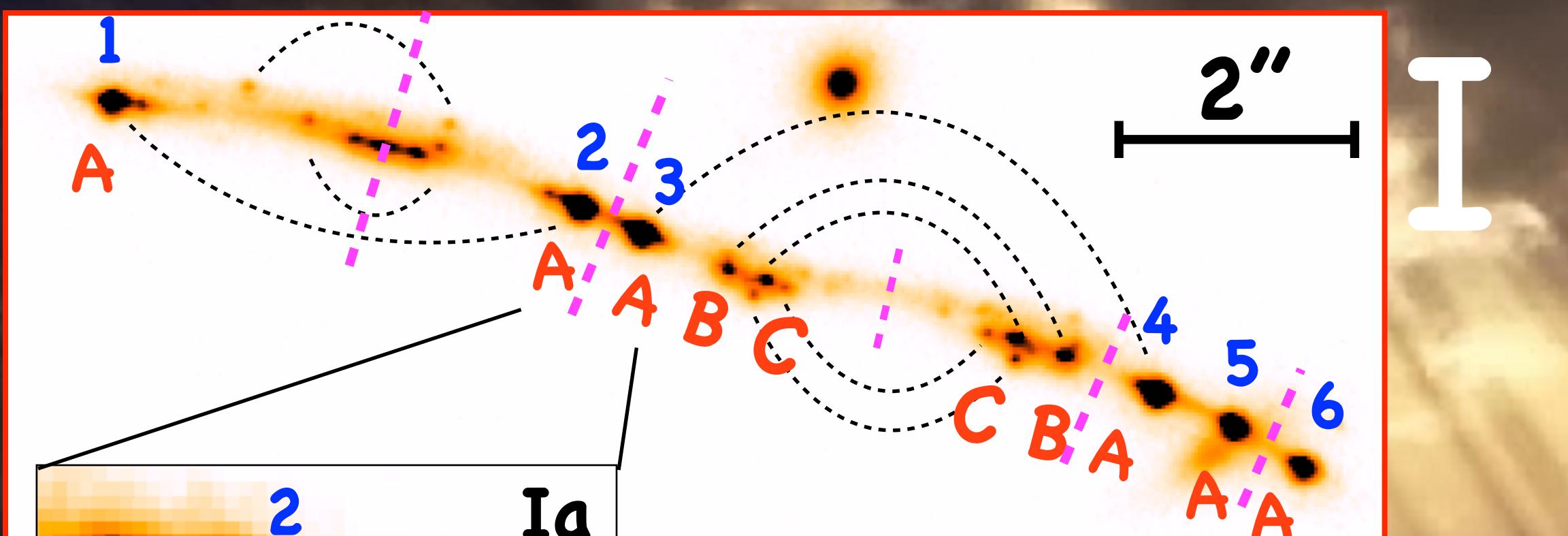
Sunburst galaxy  
 $z=2.37$  —  $\mu = 20-100$

PSZ1 G311.65-18.48

Copyright: ESA/Hubble, NASA, Rivera-Thorsen et al., CC BY 4.0

# Superlensed system

Sunburst,  $z=2.37$

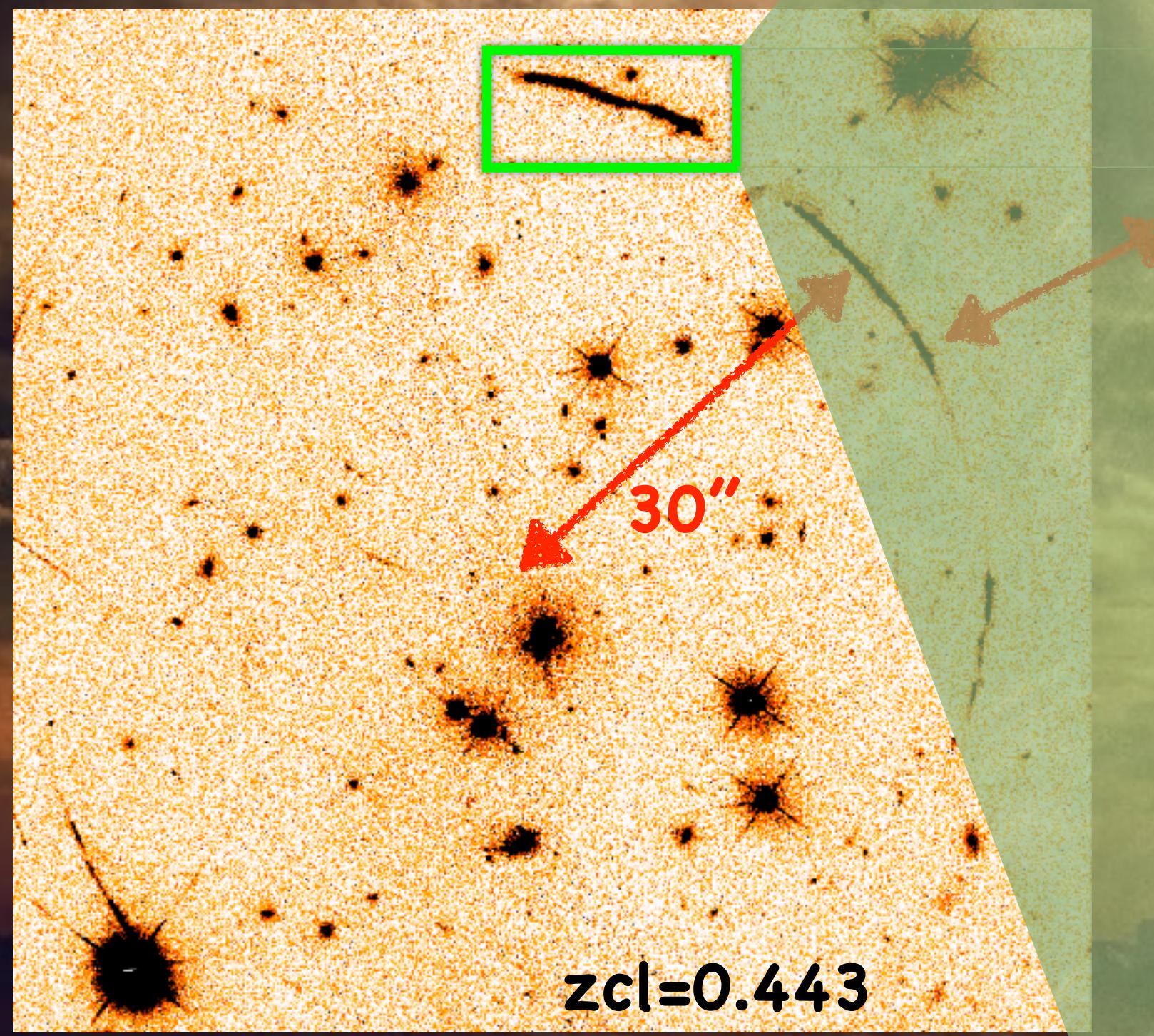


Vanzella+20 MNRAS 491, 1093 (LyC & YMC)  
Vanzella+21 arXiv/210610280 (CFE)  
Pignataro+21 arXiv:210610286 (lens model)  
Chisholm+19 ApJ, 882, 182  
Rivera-Thorsen+19, 366, 738 SCIENCE

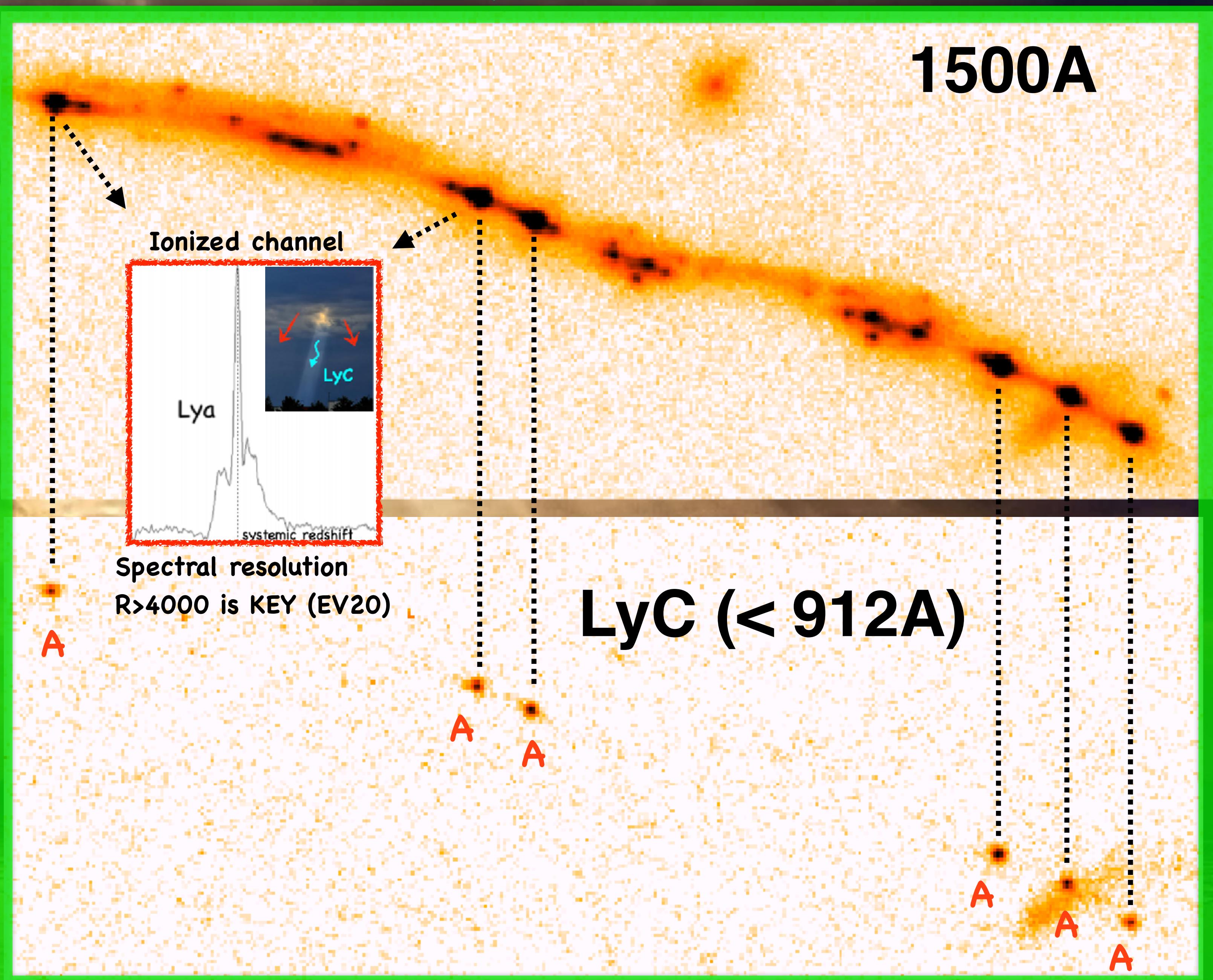
# Superlensed LyC galaxy:

Sunburst  $z=2.4$

(54 multiple  
images of SF knots)



Knot 'A' is a YMC with  $R_{\text{eff}} \sim 8 \text{ pc}$ ;  $10^7 M_\odot$ ; 3 Myr old, and powerful ionizer



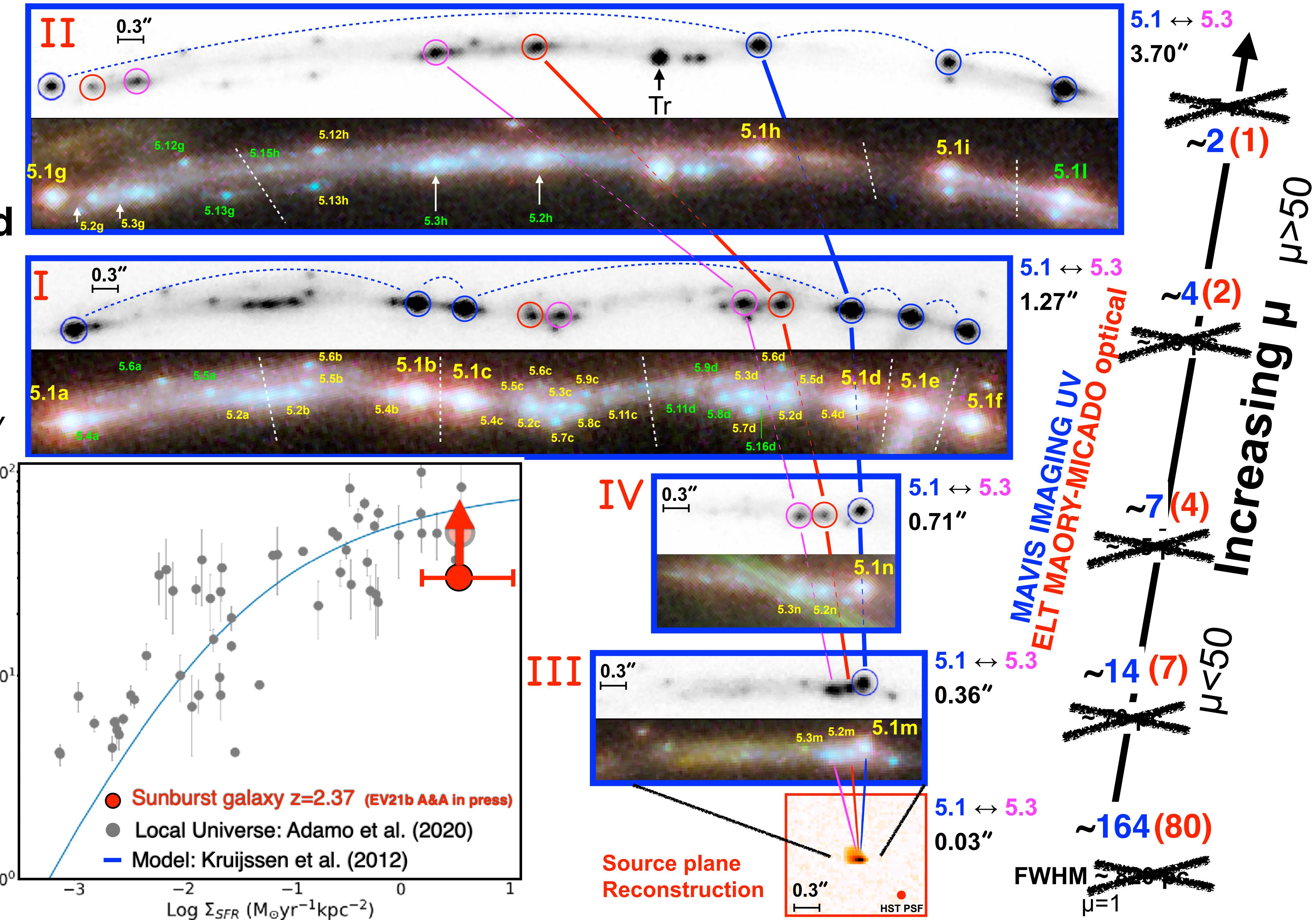
# ANATOMY of the Sunburst galaxy, $z=2.37$

Many unresolved  
knots (HST)

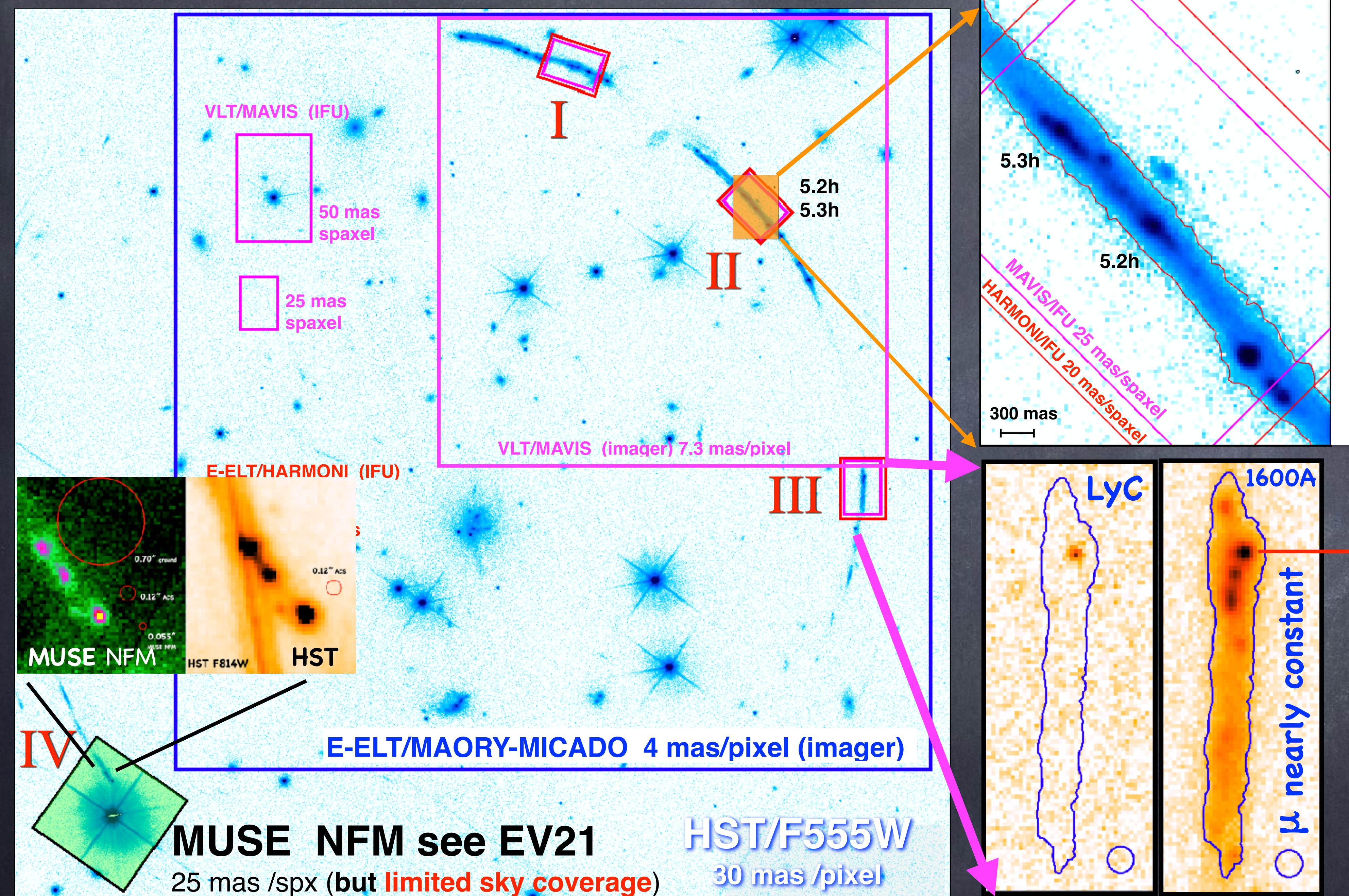
*The first attempt to measure  
the cluster formation efficiency  
at cosmological distance  
(Vanzella+21b A&A sub.  
arXiv:210610280)*

Likely hosts  $> 13$  gravit.  
bound young star clusters

40-60% of total UV light  
of the galaxy is located  
In star clusters  
[  $T_L(\text{UV})$  parameter ]



# Star-clusters at high-z: the Sunburst example with extreme AO (v21 A&A)

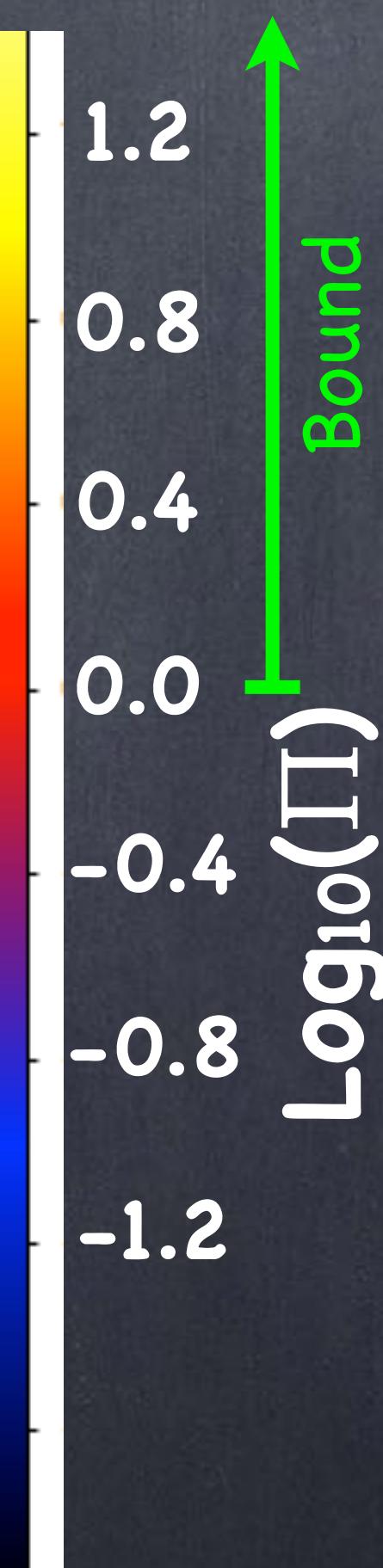
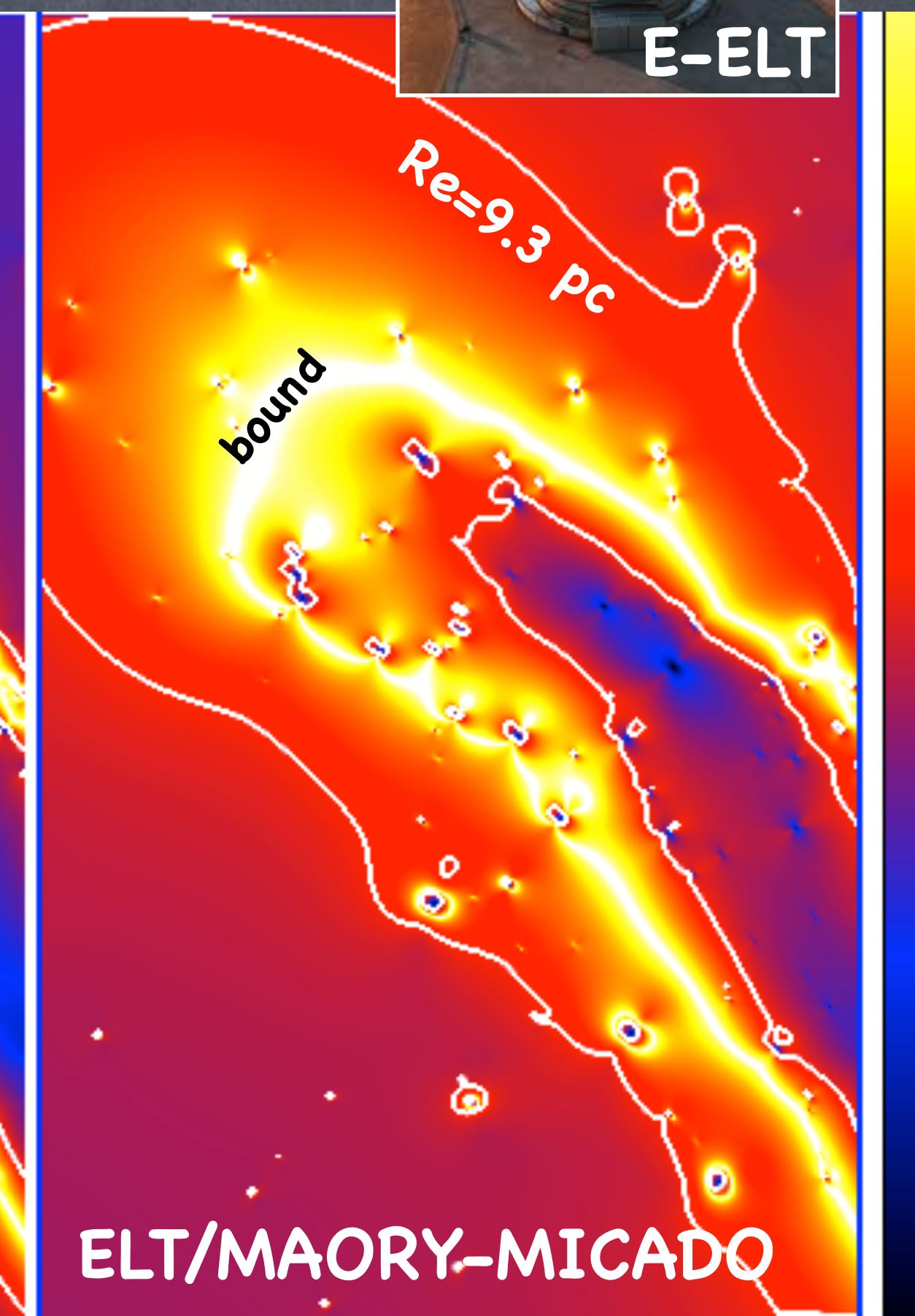
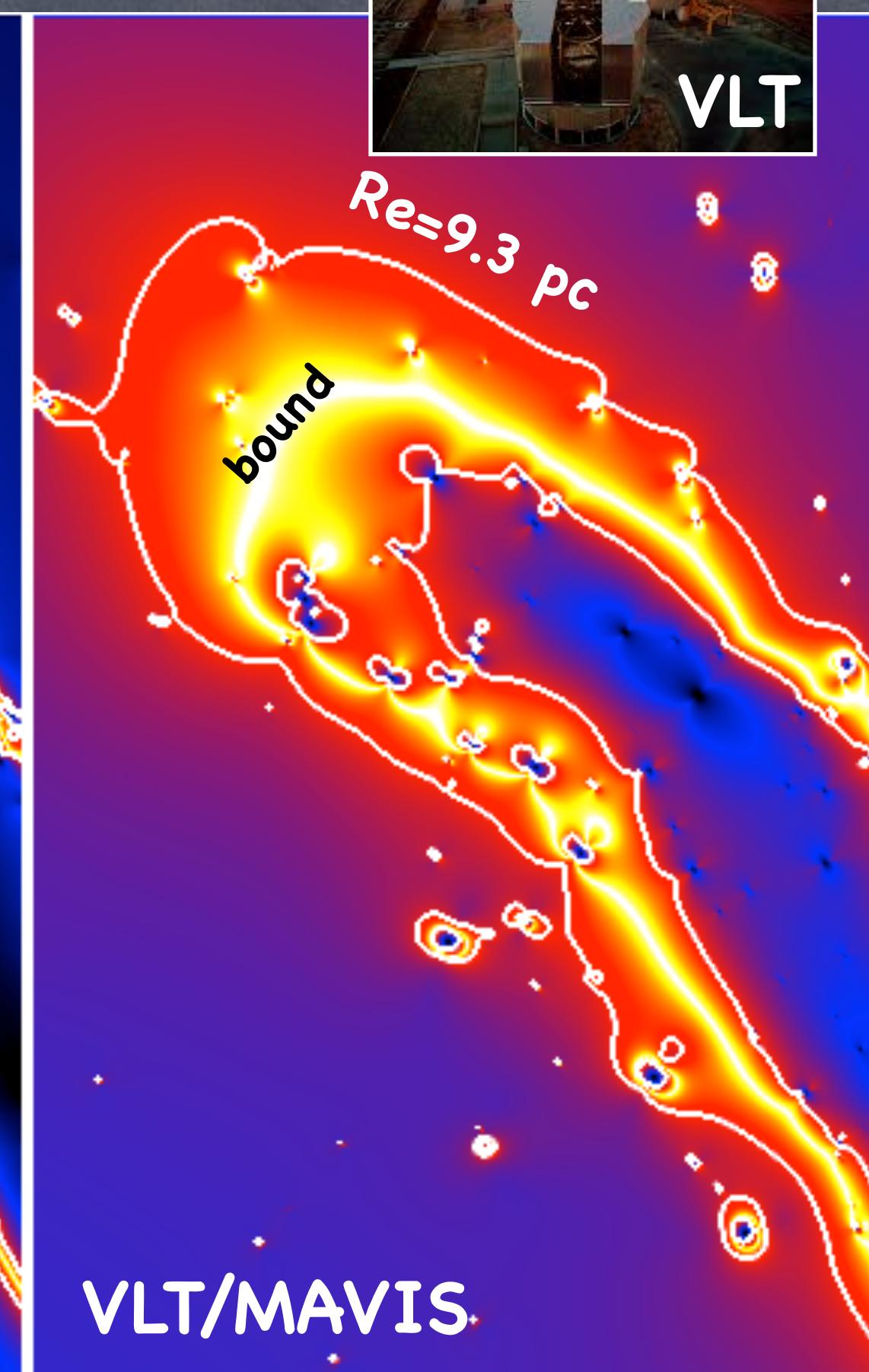
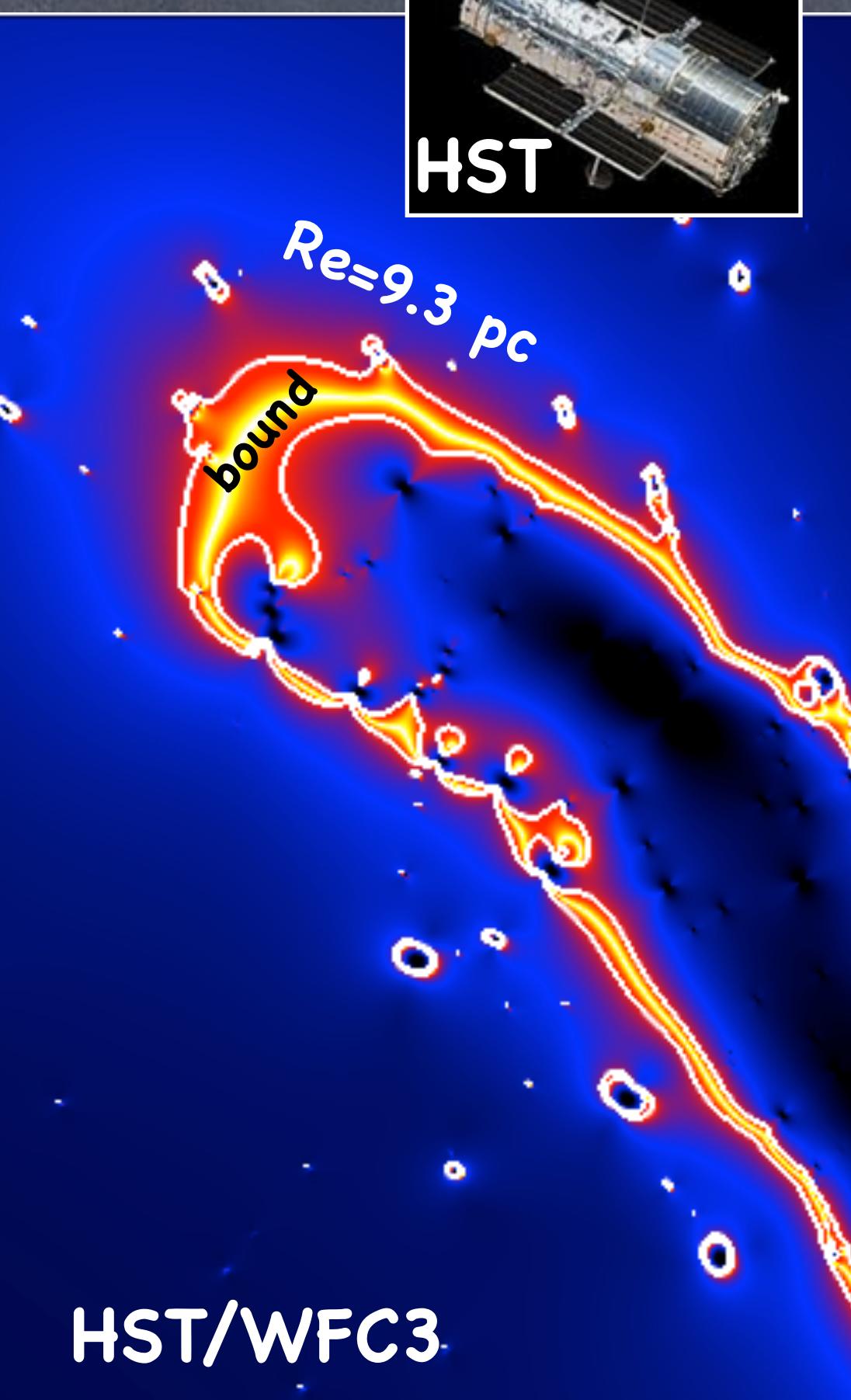
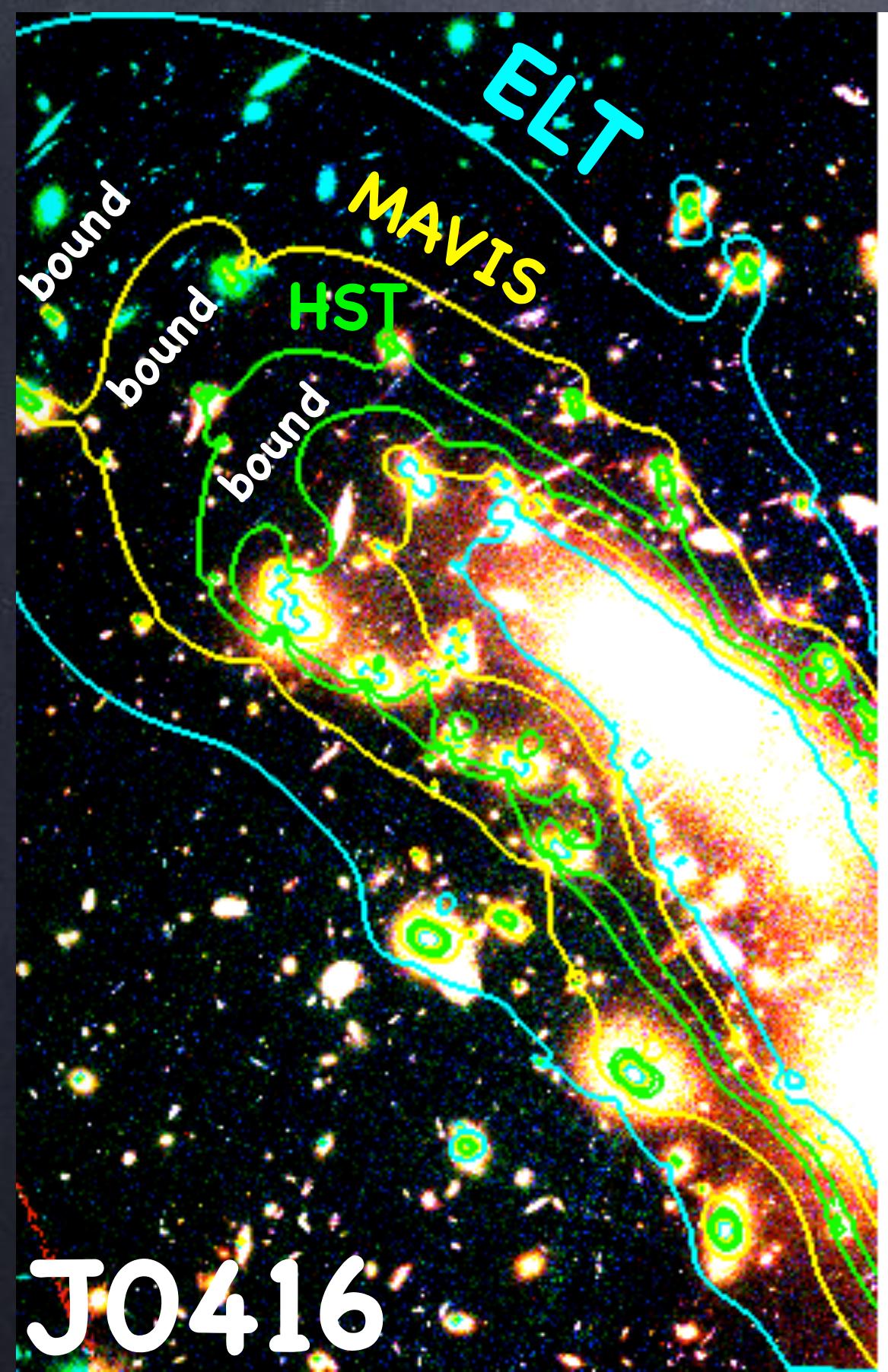


Extreme AO will allow to relax the required lensing amplification

Assumed star cluster properties (YMC):

$M = 2 \times 10^6 \text{ Msun}$   
 $\text{Age} = 3 \times 10^6 \text{ Myr}$   
 $M_{1500} = -17 \text{ (29.7)}$

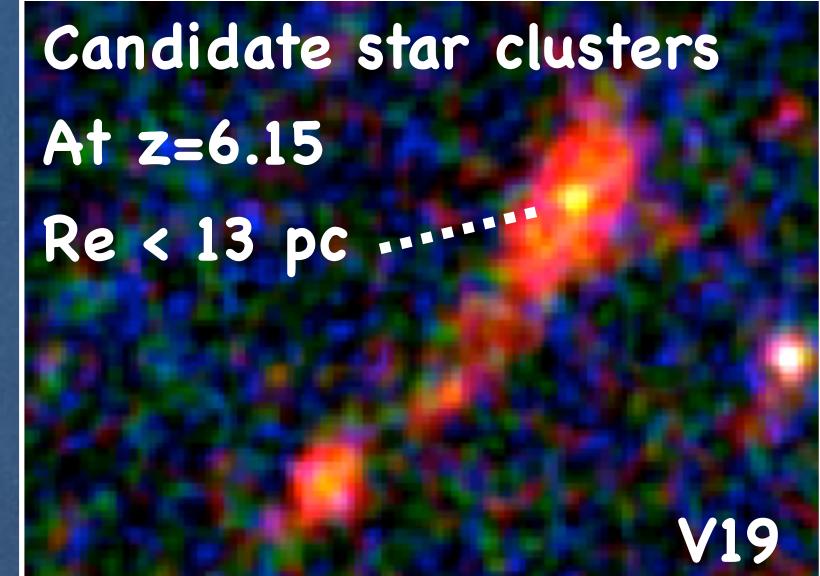
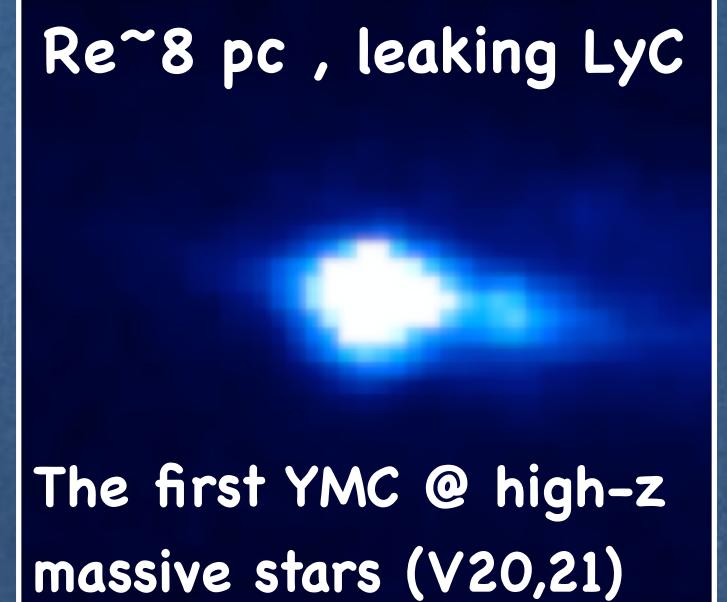
$\Pi > 1$  requires  $R_e < 9.3 \text{ pc}$



# Take-Home messages

- VLT/MAVIS will probe ultraviolet star-forming complexes (<200pc scale) at any cosmic time up to  $z < 7.2$  (ELT will do @  $z > 7$ )
- VLT/MAVIS + Strong Lensing will open a new window to unprecedented small spatial scales (< 20 pc) at  $0.3\text{um} < \lambda < 1\text{um}$ : star clusters

JWST + MAVIS + ELT will (routinely) probe stellar clusters up to EoR



Current studies need large  $\mu$  (>30-50)

Star formation and stellar mass located in star clusters were substantial at high- $z$  ( $z > 5$ , e.g., Renzini+17)

- Is the CFE & cluster mass function evolving with redshift ? [SF modes in high- $z$  galaxies]
- Star clusters & the host galaxy: ionization ? [feedback, massive stars  $\xi_{\text{ION}}$ , ionized channels, fesc]
- How/when globular clusters formed ? [proto-GC, extending UV LFs to faintest limits]
- How high- $z$  star clusters: connection with high- $z$  SF “clumps” ? [galaxy evolution]

