

# The hunt for GRB host galaxies

**Andrea Rossi**  
INAF-OAS Bologna



# Outline

## **Long GRBs (IGRBs)**

1. low-mass star-forming galaxies with sub-solar metallicity
2. trace the evolution of the cosmic star-formation rate (at least at high redshift)
3. though very peculiar cases exist (e.g. dark GRBs).

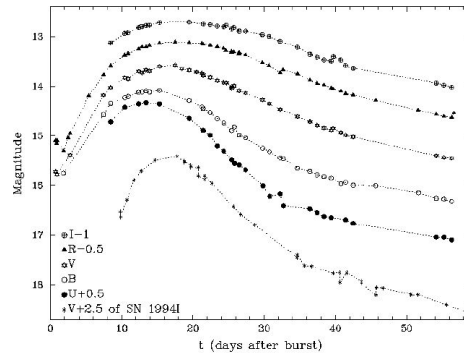
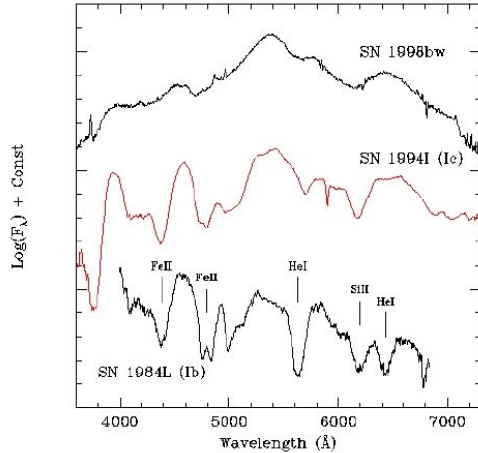
## **Short GRBs (sGRBs)**

1. afterglows are fainter
2. sGRBs have larger offsets from their hosts
3. Both faintness and large offsets makes the search for sGRB hosts much difficult or even impossible

**An enormous observational effort is necessary to understand the sGRB host population in a way comparable to the one of IGRBs**

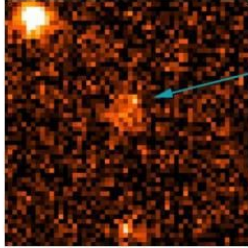
# Long GRBs -SN connection

GRB 980425-SN1998bw  
 $z=0.0085$

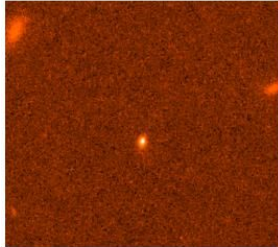


SN 1998bw in Spiral Galaxy ESO184-G82

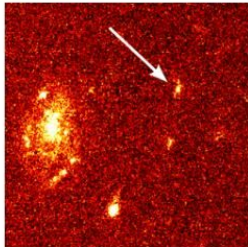
# GRB hosts are faint



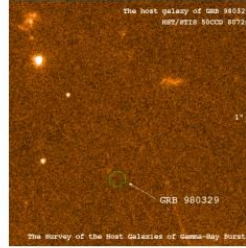
**GRB 970228**  
 $z = 0.695$   
Day 200  
 $R_{\text{host}} = 24.6$   
Scale: 1.37"/side



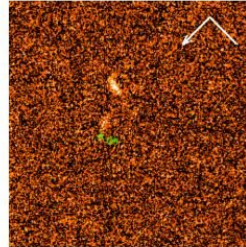
**GRB 970508**  
 $z = 0.835$   
Day 200  
 $R_{\text{host}} = 25.8$   
Nucleus-OT offset  
< 0.01"  
Scale: 9.3" x 10.5"



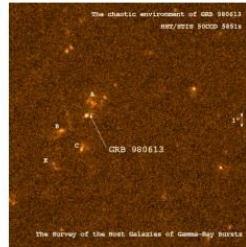
**GRB 971214**  
 $z = 3.418$   
Day 144  
 $R_{\text{host}} = 25.5$   
Nucleus-OT offset  
~ 0.06"  
Scale: 6.35"/side



**GRB 980329**  
 $z > 2$  (probable)  
Day 880  
 $R_{\text{host}} = 28.$   
Galaxy-radio  
offset ~ 0.75"  
Scale: 17.5"/side

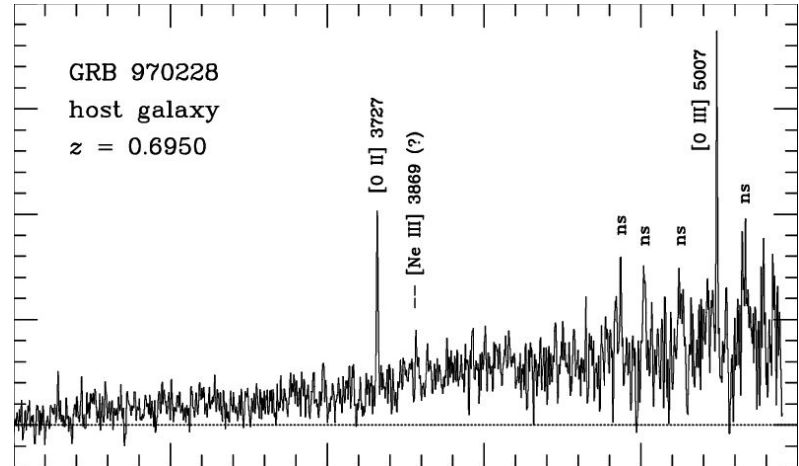
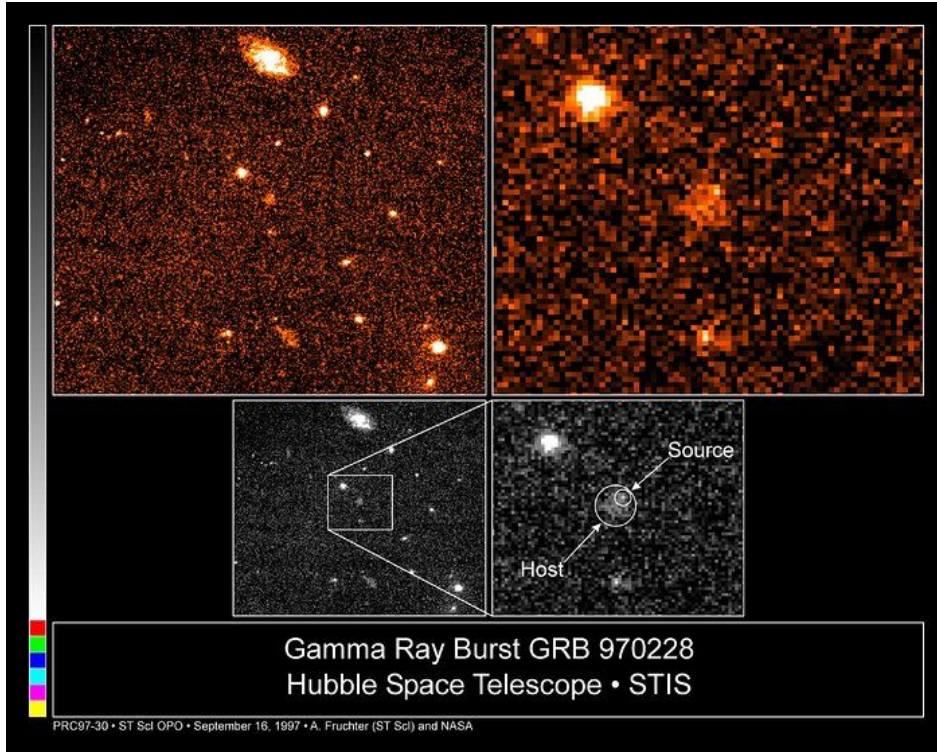


**GRB 980519**  
 $z$ : unknown  
Day 750  
 $R_{\text{host}} = 27.5$   
Galaxy-OT offset  
~ 1.5"  
Scale: 6.5"/side



**GRB 980613**  
 $z = 1.097$   
Day 799  
 $R_{\text{host}} = 26.$   
Field ~ 6 galaxies;  
tidal interactions  
Scale: 18.4"/side

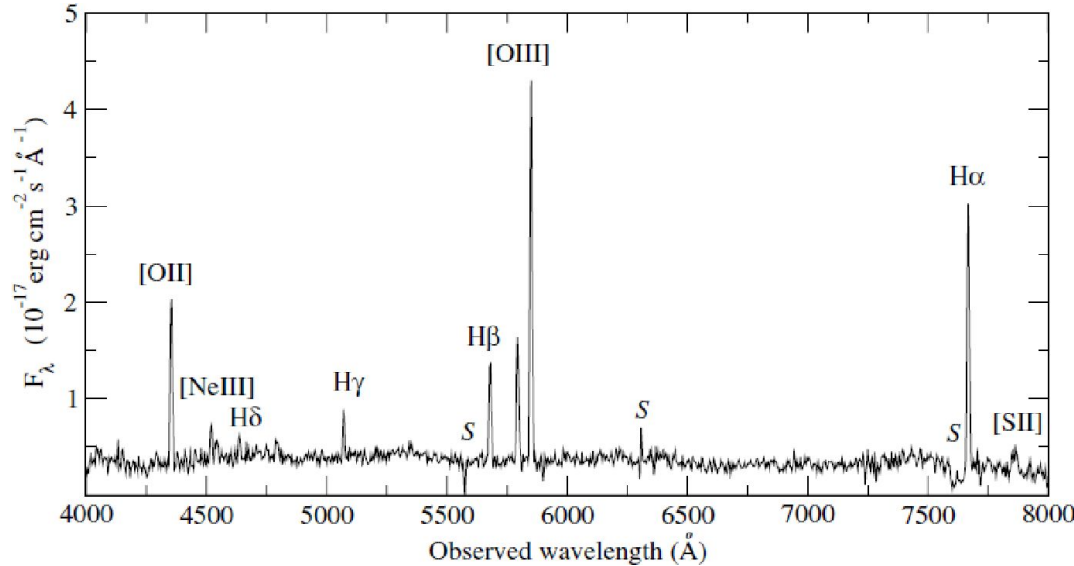
# Can provide redshift: GRB 970228



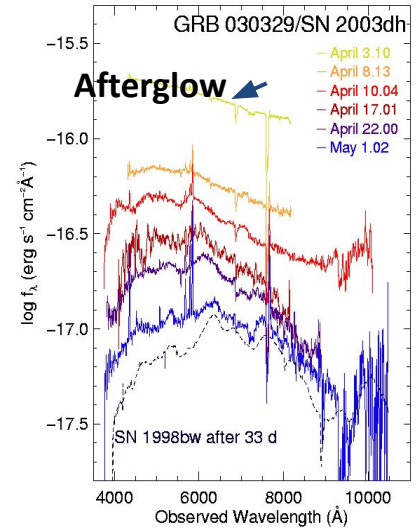
Fruchter+99

# Long GRB hosts are star-forming galaxies

Host GRB 030329, Gorosabel, et al., 2005

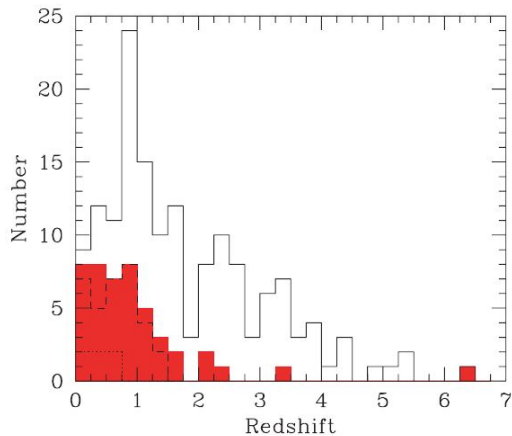


*Hjorth et al. 2003*



- Star formation, metallicity, global extinction

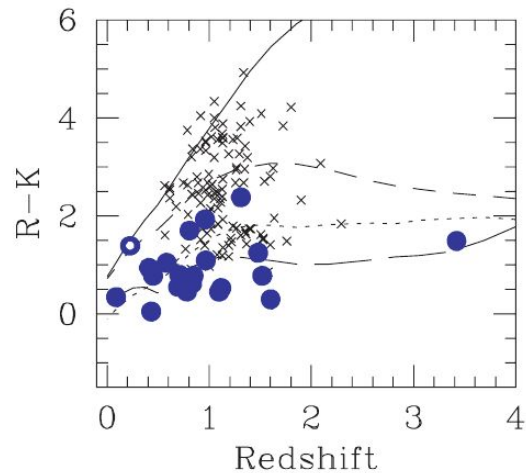
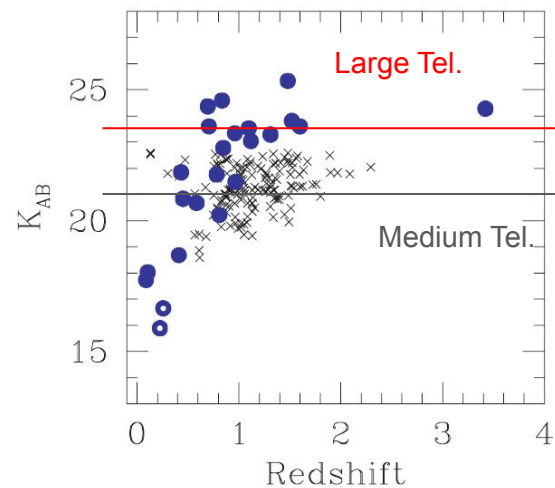
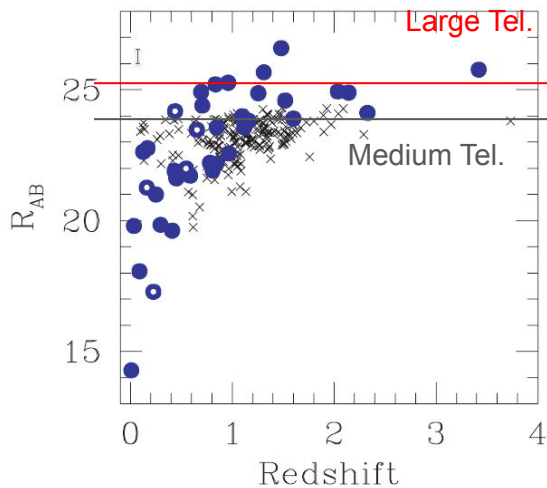
# Not an easy job



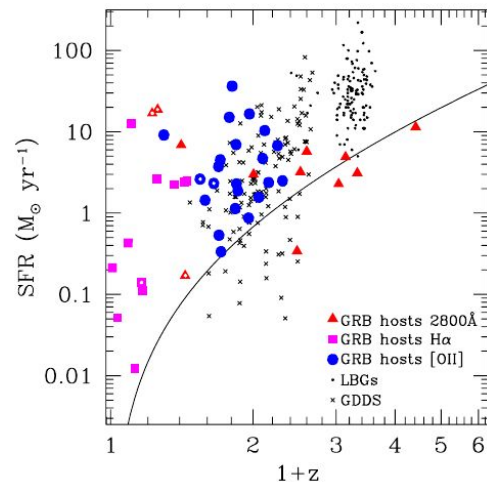
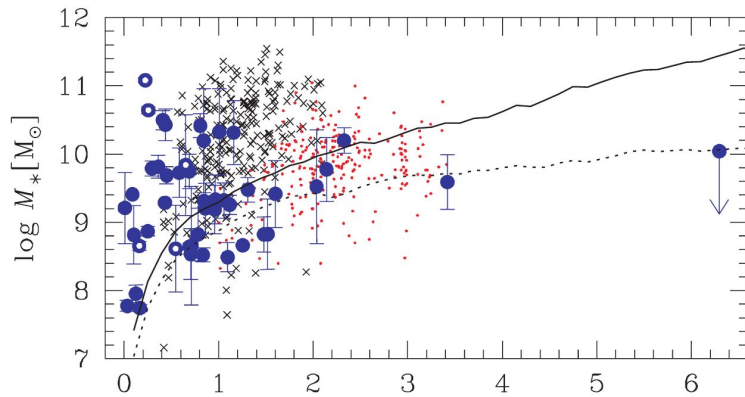
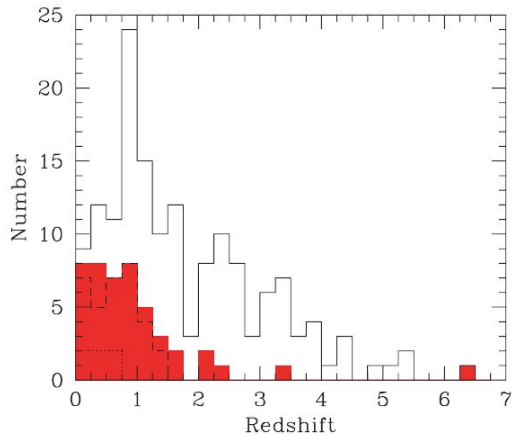
Savaglio+09

154 GRBs with redshift

Only 46 hosts (33 w em. lines)



# Not an easy job



Savaglio+09

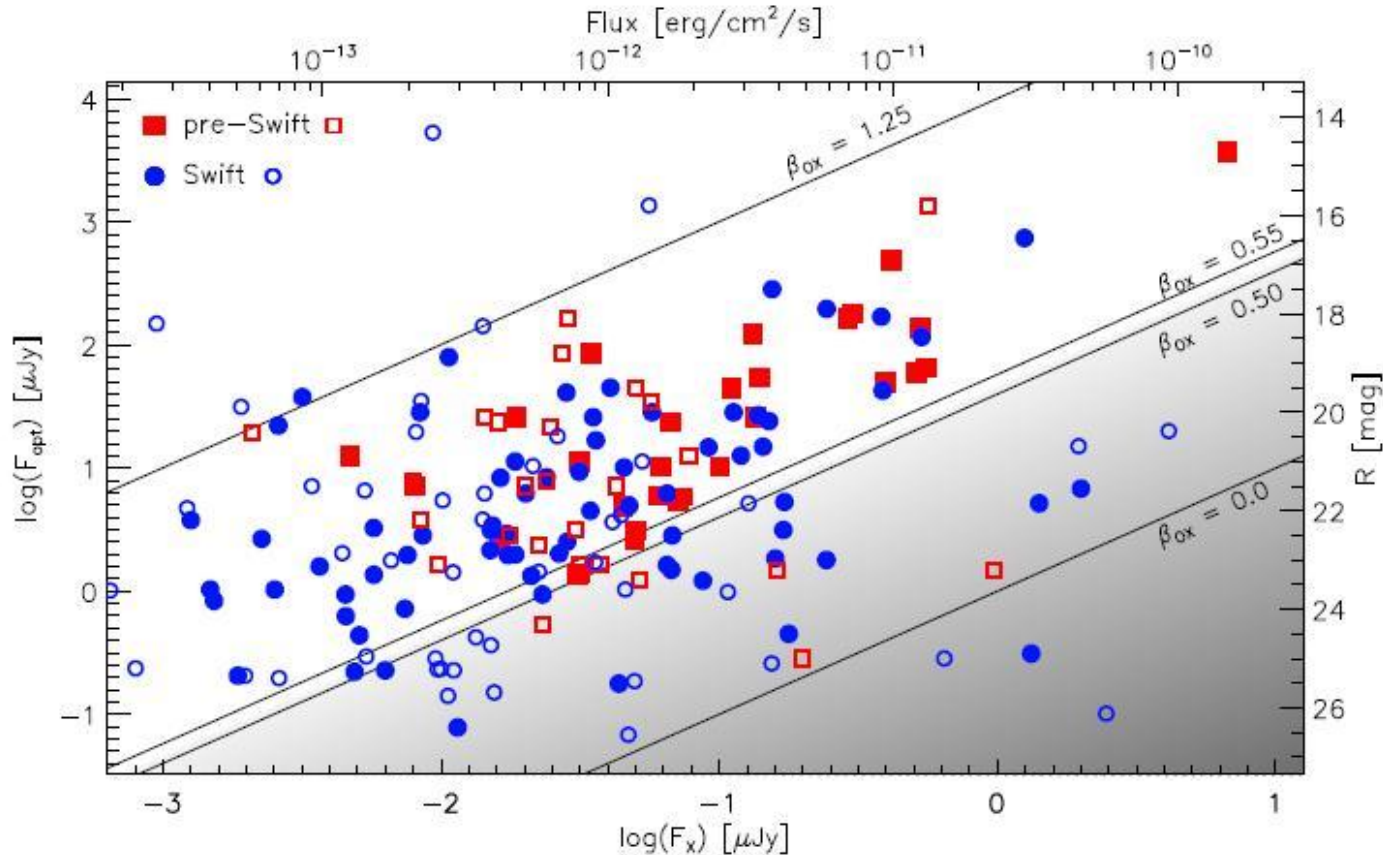
154 GRBs with redshift

Only 46 hosts (33 w em. lines)

**Most GRB hosts are faint blue  
star forming galaxies ... but ...**

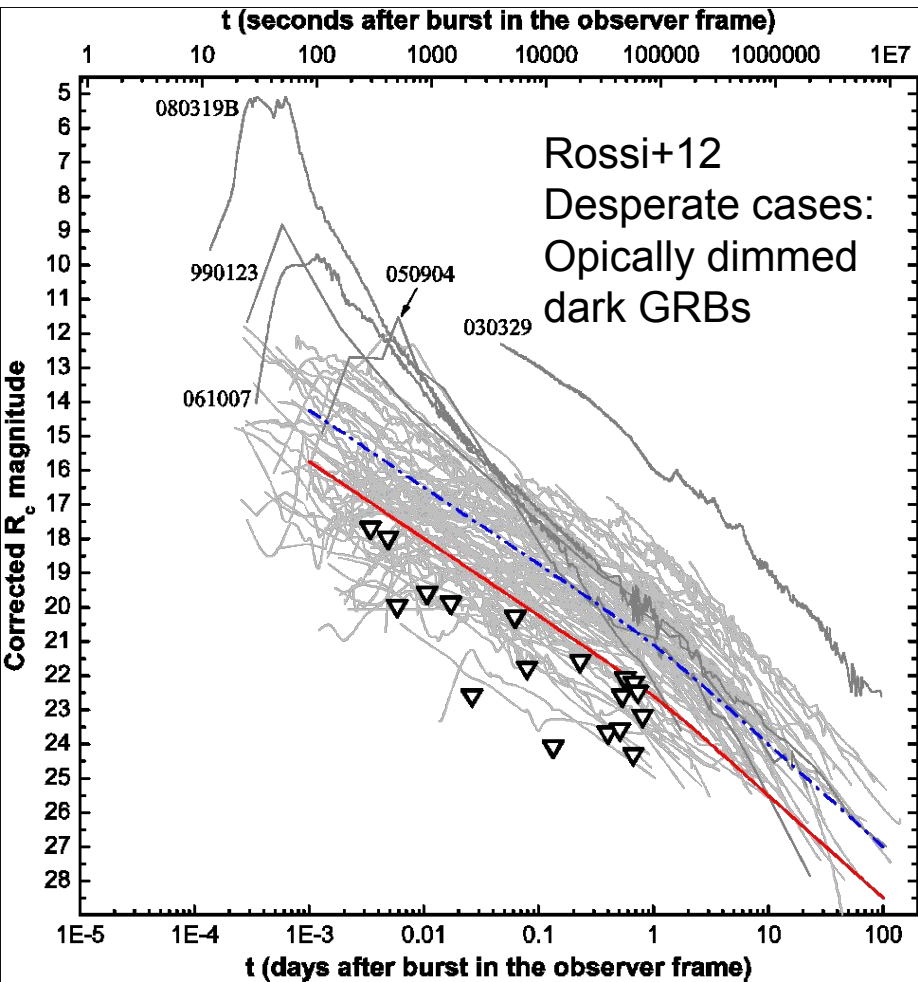


# Physical definition of dark bursts



Optically dim because of  
dust and/or  
moderate/high-redshift

See e.g Greiner+11,  
Melandri+12



Total: 17 targets

2.2 MPG-ESO: GROND  
g'r'i'z'JHK bands

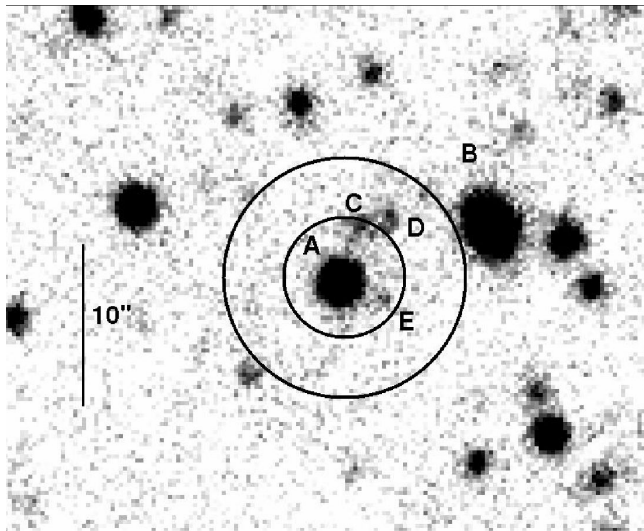
8m, ESO/VLT:  
R, K bands

40 hours  
observing time

# Selection of the host candidates

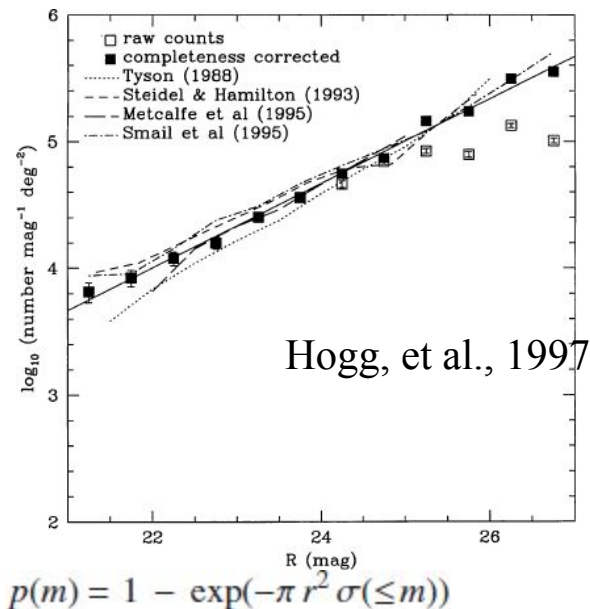
According to the position with respect to the Swift/XRT error circle

## (a) Distance criterion

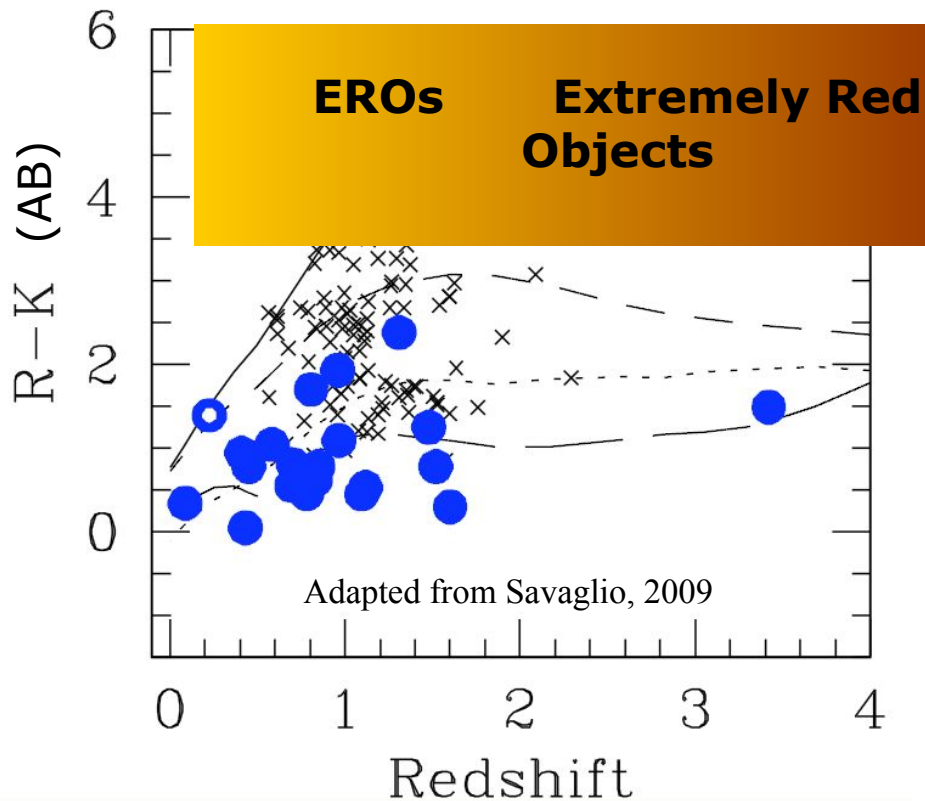
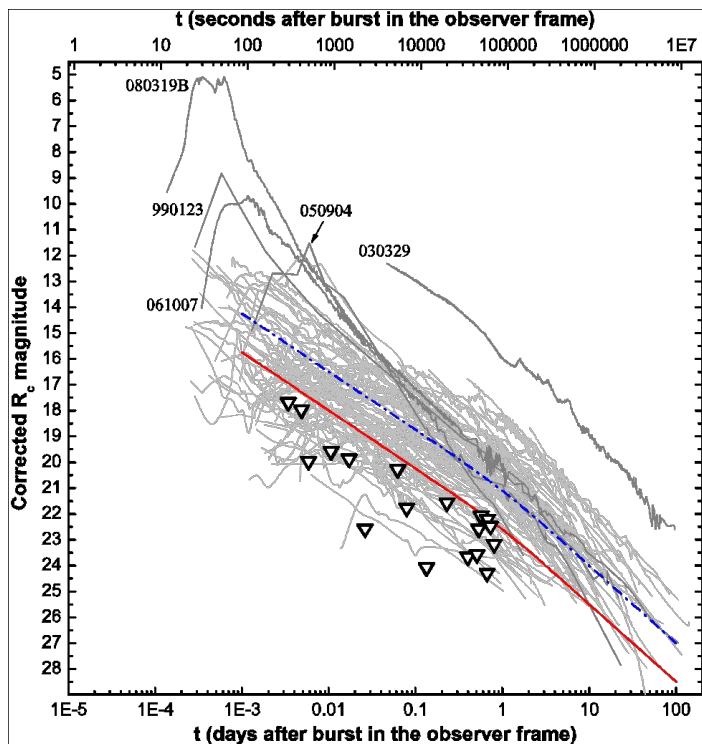


Bloom, et al., 2002 => AG-host distance

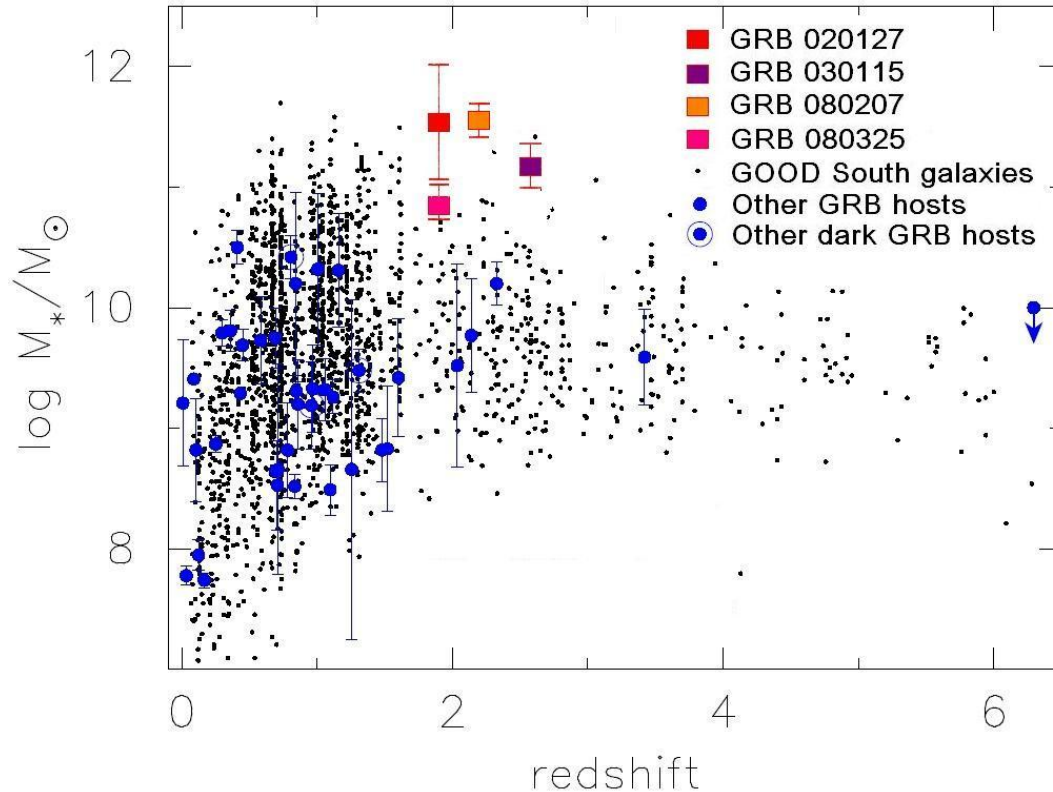
## (b) Statistical criterion



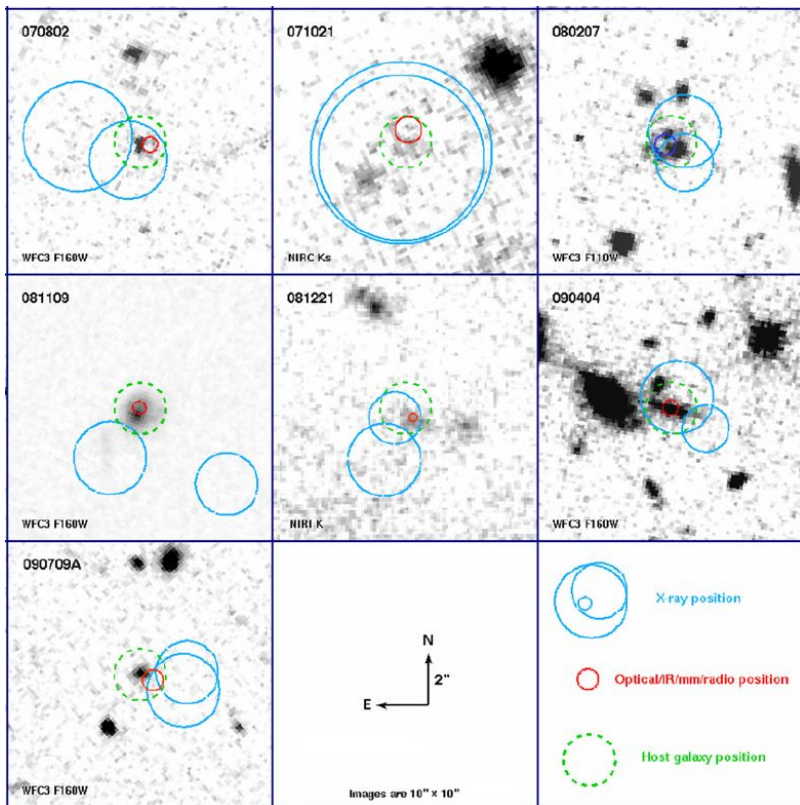
# Extremely red objects (EROs)



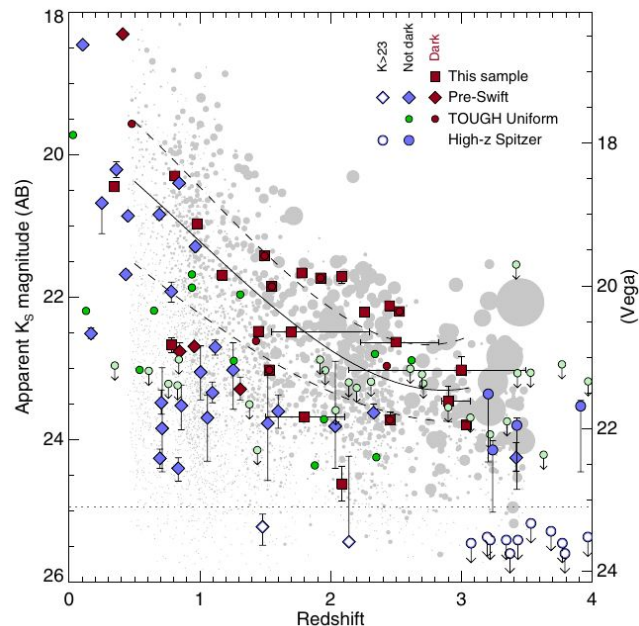
# GRB EROs are massive galaxies



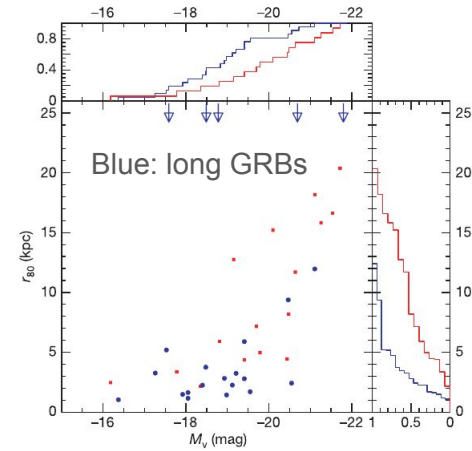
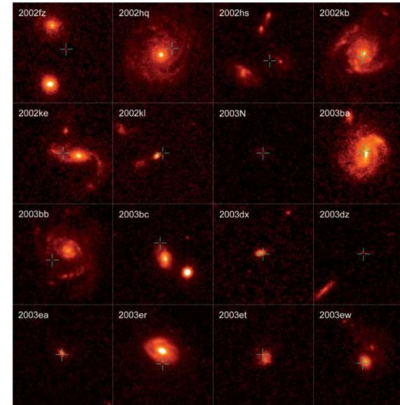
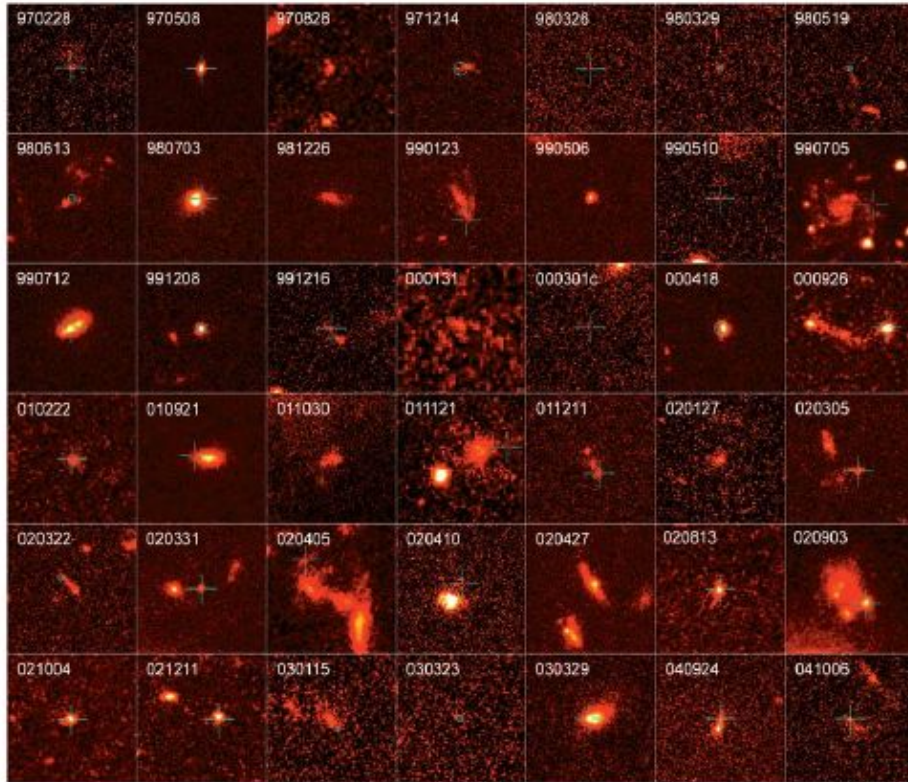
# A POPULATION OF MASSIVE, LUMINOUS HOSTS OF HEAVILY DUST-OBSCURED GRBs



Perley+13,  
 23 hosts of  $AV_{grb} > 1$  GRBs  
 A lot of time with the largest glasses: Keck, Gemini, VLT, HST, Spitzer



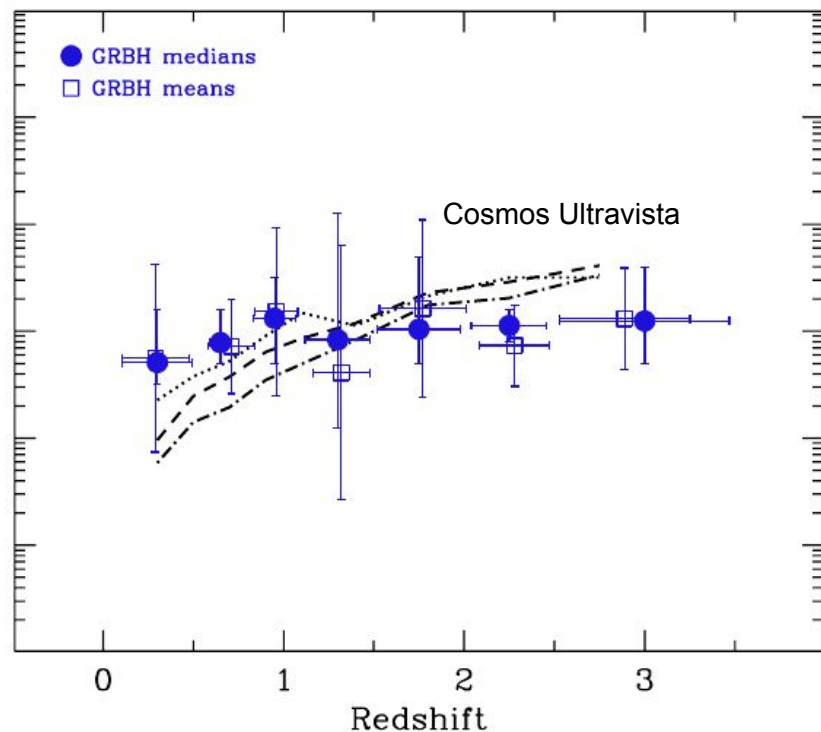
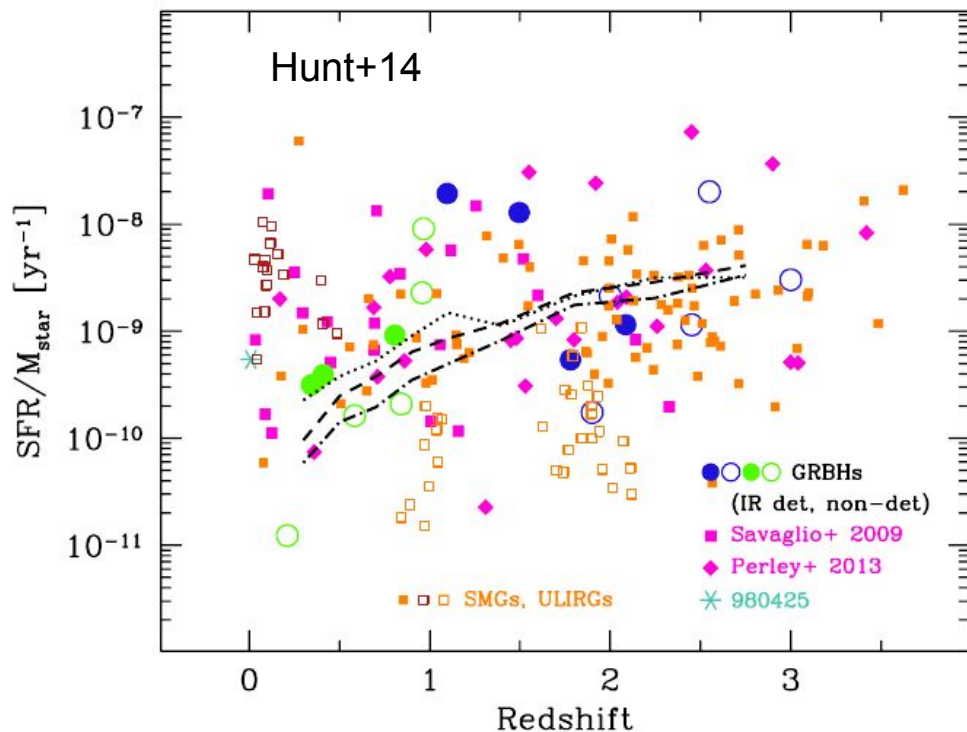
# Are long GRB hosts typical star forming galaxies?



Fruchter+06 (with HST!)

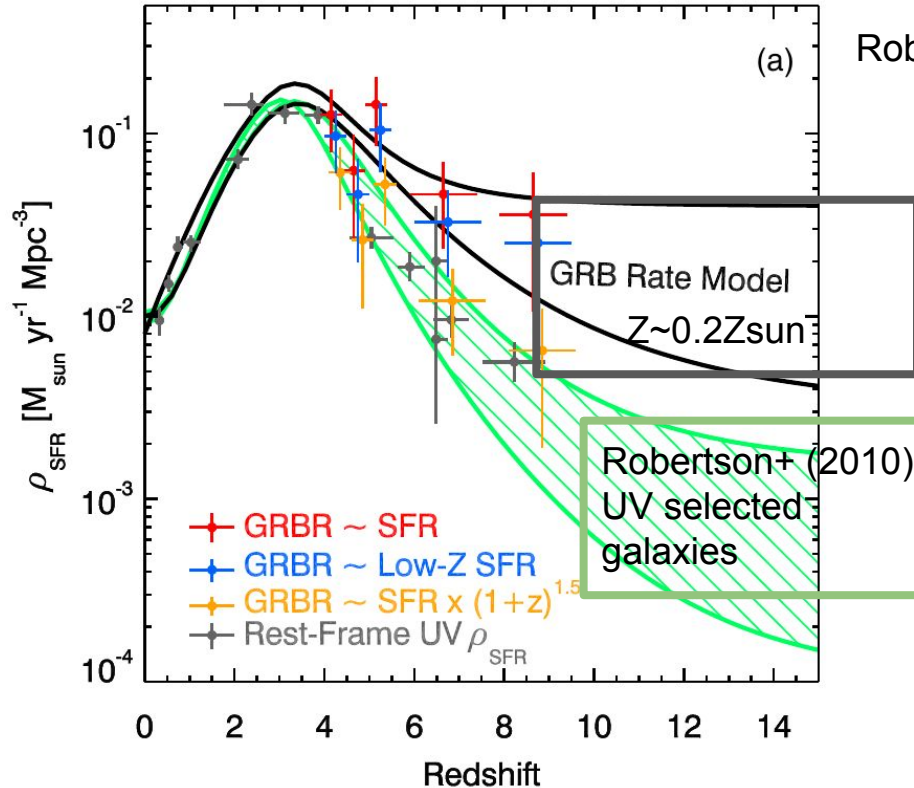
Long GRBs vs core-collapse supernovae

Not an easy job: to avoid dust try to use Herschel to measure SFR of dark GRB hosts





# GRBs can trace cosmic SFR density...



Using 112 GRBs above a fixed luminosity limit.  
taking into account various restrictions on GRB rates (GRBR).  
including a metallicity restriction.

Conclusions:  
only a modest metallicity threshold is required

# Metallicity bias

*NASA/Swift artist impression of naked-eye GRB080319B*



- To launch a jet one needs a sufficient angular momentum (necessary to launch collapsar jets)
- Rotating single-star progenitors
- Aided by metallicity dependence of massive stellar winds to expel the outer shell
  
- ... But the metallicity thresholds are expected to be low  $\approx 0.1 Z_{\text{sun}}$  (Woosley 1993, MacFadyen & Woosley 1999, Woosley & Bloom 2006)
- Yoon 2006  $Z < 0.3 Z_{\text{sun}}$
- Possibly binary metallicity-independent channels could overcome, at least partially, the metallicity aversion (see e.g., Trenti+ 2013, 2015, and Metha&Trenti 20) and raise the threshold metallicity

# Complete samples

year, hour-angle, and XRT-response  
time, AV, fluence cut+ some exception

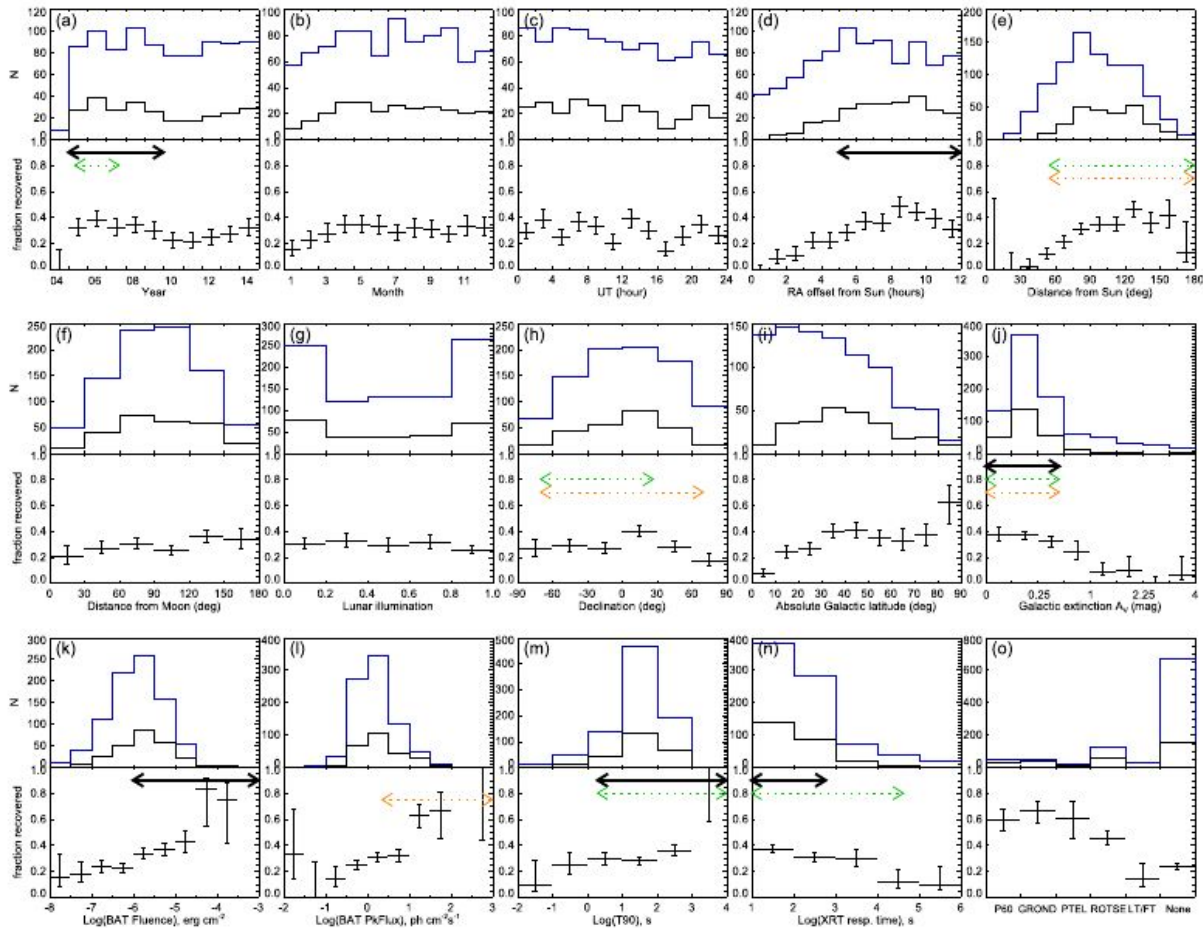
THOUGH, Hjorth+12 (69)

BAT6, Salvaterra+12 (58)

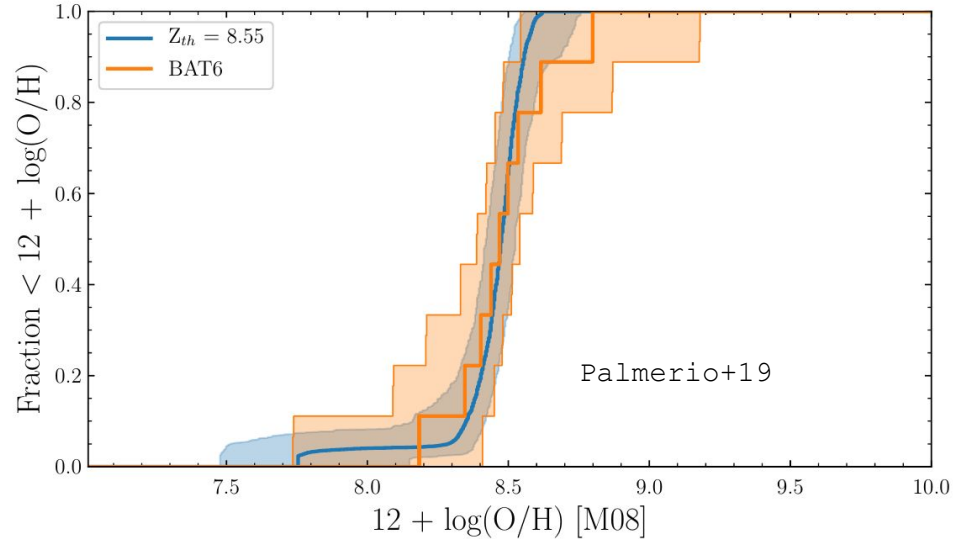
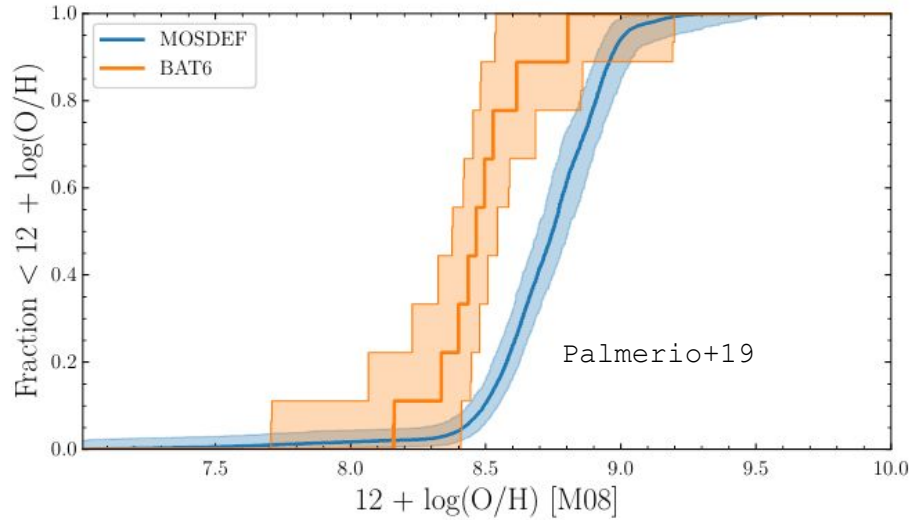
SHOALS, Perley+16

119 hosts

See also Truong+20 for a bias in parent  
Swift sample



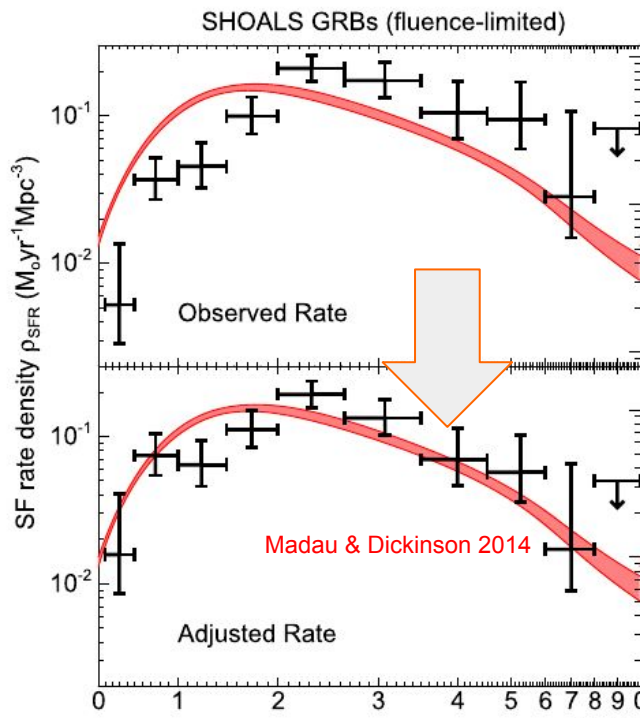
# Long GRB host population (metallicity threshold)



Palmerio+19, se also, Japeli+16, Schulze+15, Vergani+15,17, Trenti+15,17, Metha+20, ...

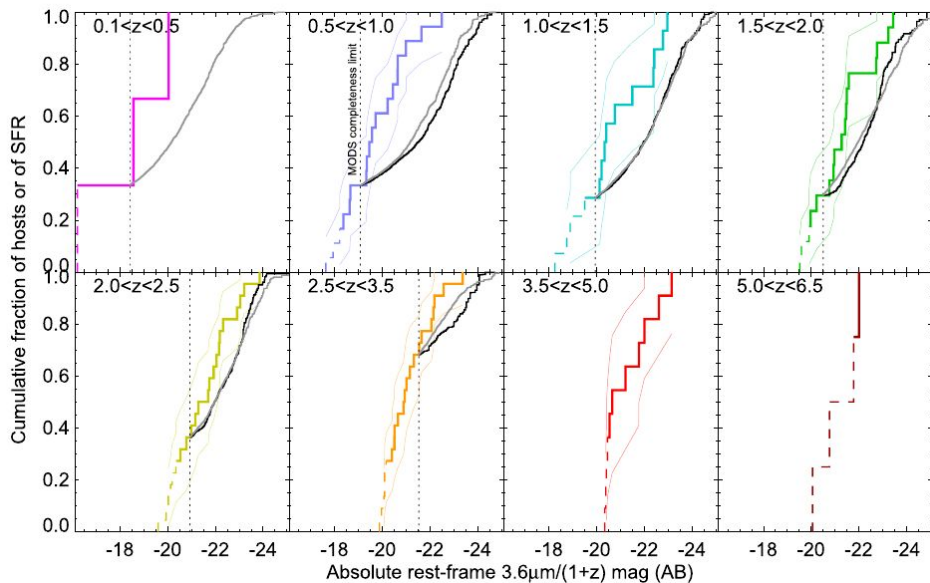
MOSDEF: a large program on the Keck I telescope, targeted the regions that are covered by CANDELS and 3D-HST

# Long GRB host population (metallicity threshold)



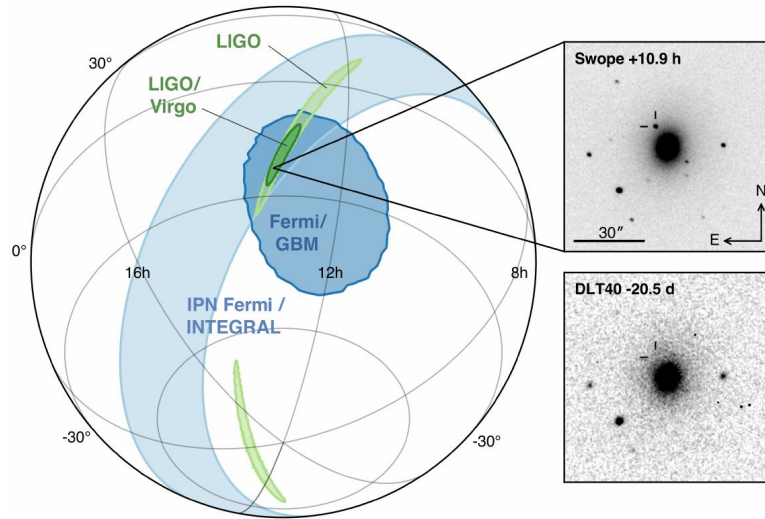
Perley+16

SHOALS/Perley+16  $\Rightarrow Z \sim 1$   $Z_{\text{sun}}$   
Comparison w GOODS North  
Correcting for fraction of missed SF



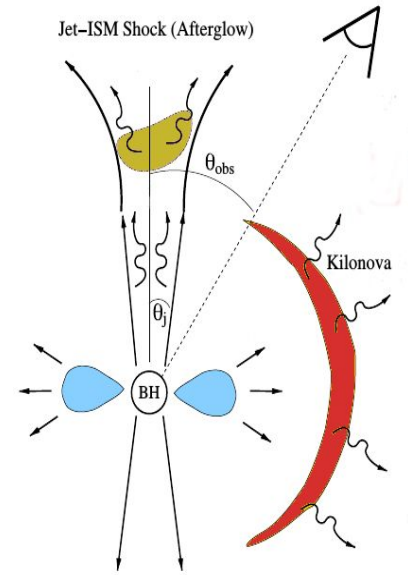
# Short GRB - merger origin

Three-In-One Event: GW 170817, a short GRB, and a kilonova



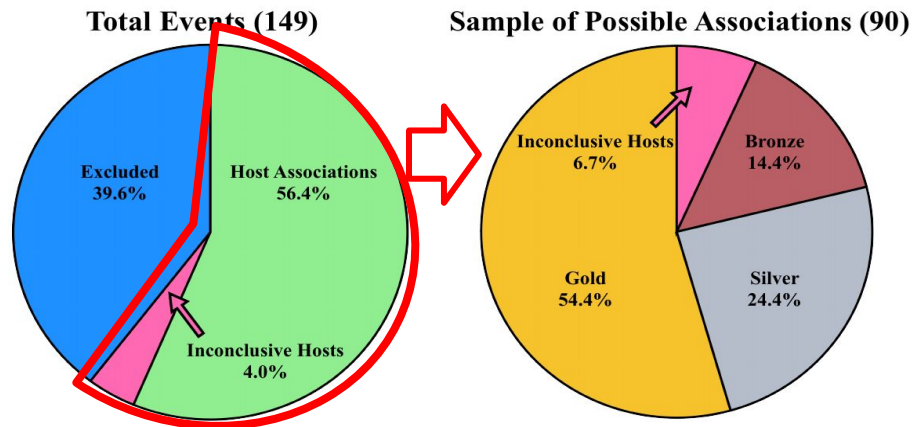
Abbot+17

Pian, et al., 2017, X-Shooter, FORS2

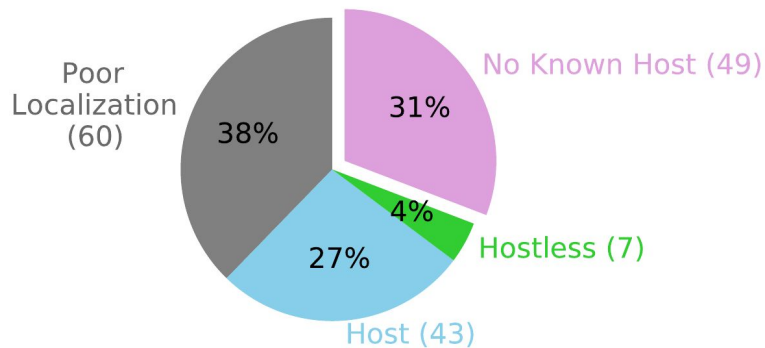


Metzger & Berger 2012

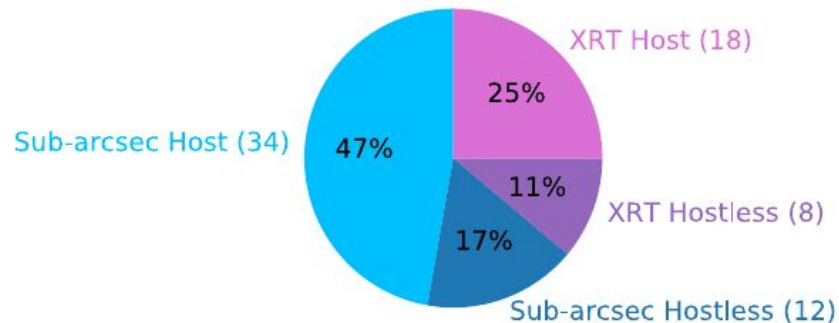
# Most recent developments: large samples doubled known redshifts



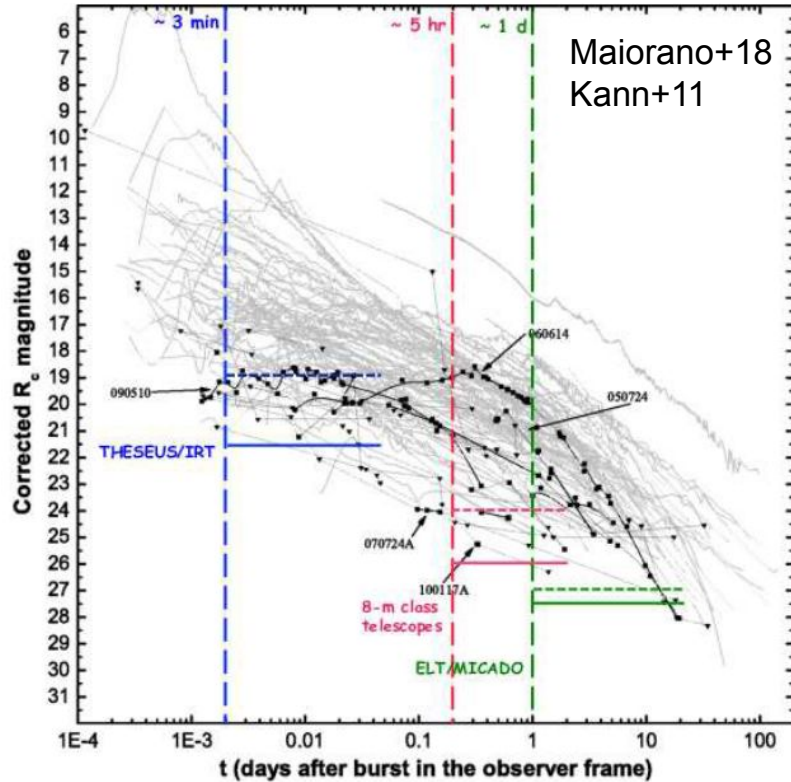
Fong+22  
Gold, bronze silver samples: **~70 events w redshift**  
Pcc<0.02,0.1,0.2



O'Connor+22  
**~70 events**

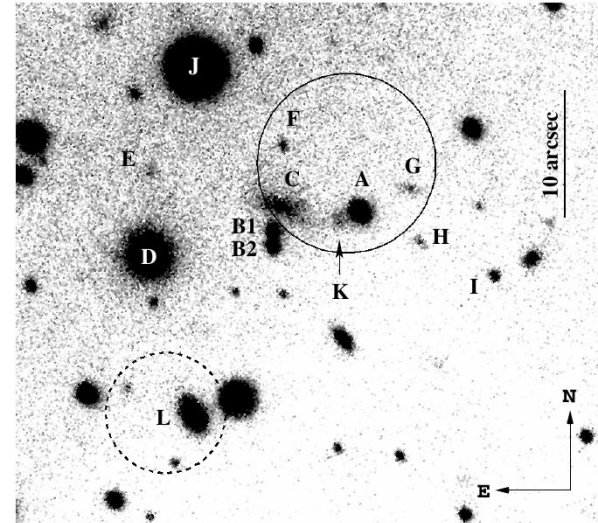


# Fainter afterglow, difficult localization



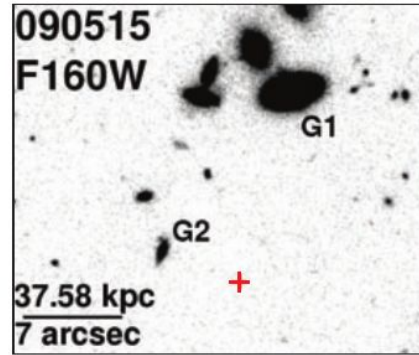
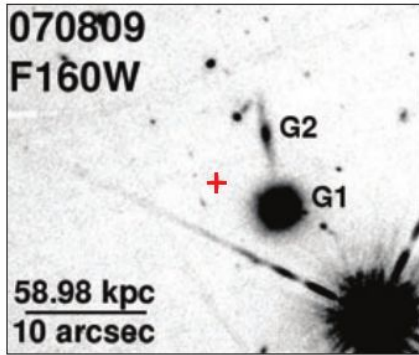
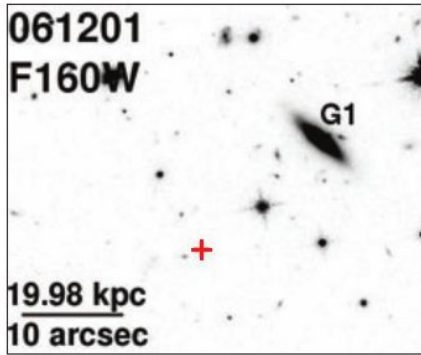
**Redshift measurements from afterglow spectroscopy are rarely successful**

GRB 100628A  
Nicuesa Guelbenzu+15



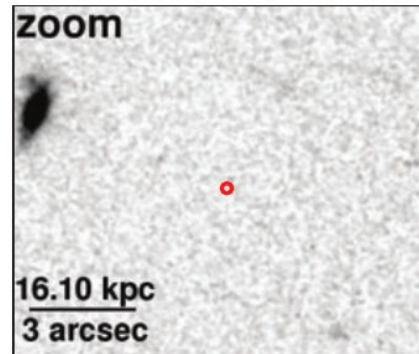
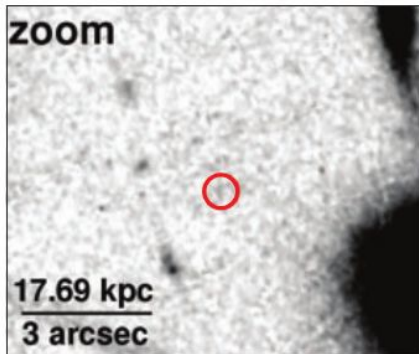
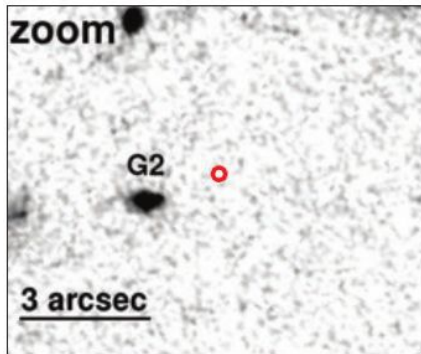


# A new problem: hostless (~10%)



HST WFC3 images  
of the locations of 3  
short GRBs

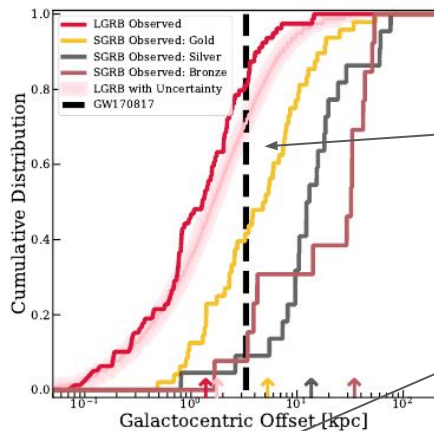
**Host-less bursts:**  
Subarcsecond positions  
no coincident host galaxies.



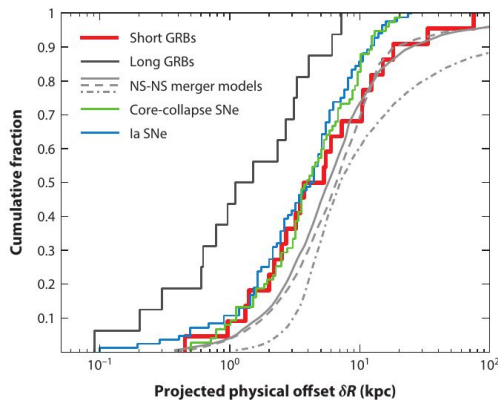
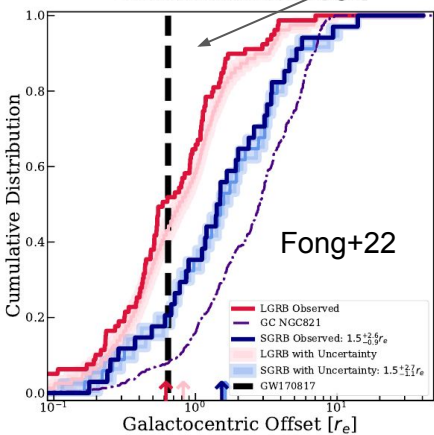
See Matteo Ferro talk

Berger, 14

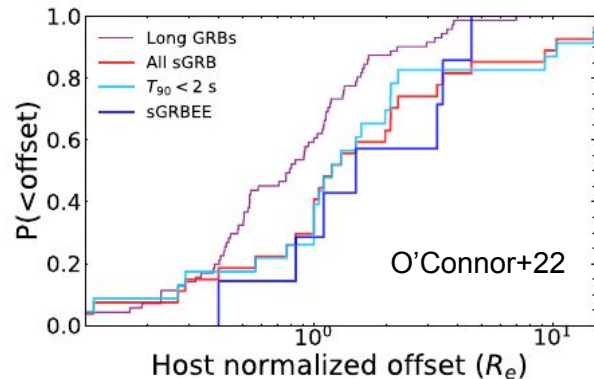
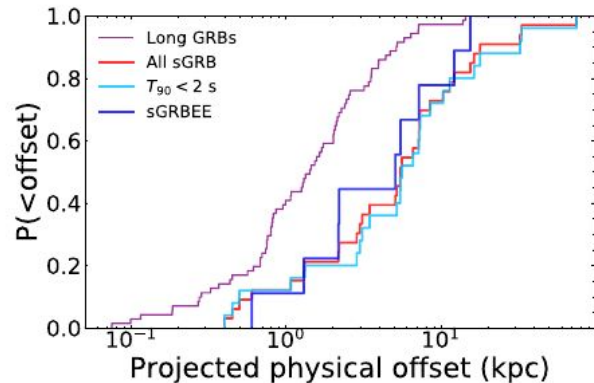
# Offsets confirmed



globular clusters in the elliptical galaxy NGC821



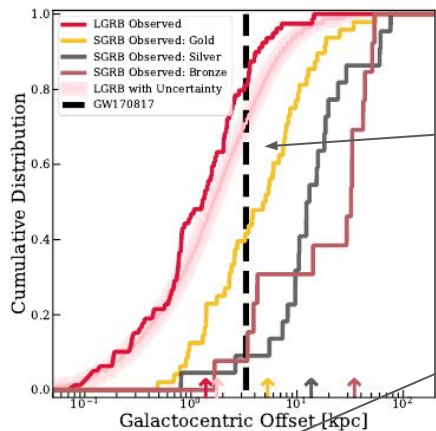
Berger+14, (Fong&Berger+13)



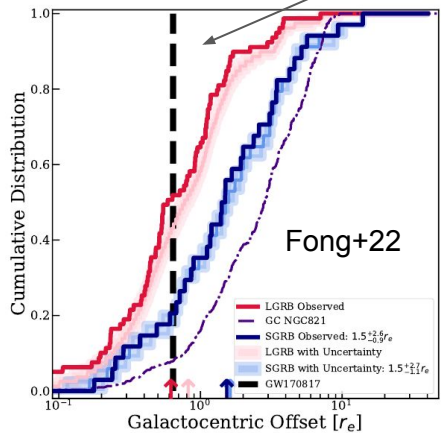
Long GRBs  $< 8 \text{ kpc} \sim 1''$  at  $z > 0.5$   
 $< 2 \text{ kpc}$  (within host)

Short GRBs 50%  $> \sim 5 \text{ kpc} \sim > 1''$  at  $z > 0.5$   
 30%  $> \sim 10 \text{ kpc} > 2''$  at  $z > 0.5$   
**Outside host**

# Offsets confirmed



globular clusters in the elliptical galaxy NGC821



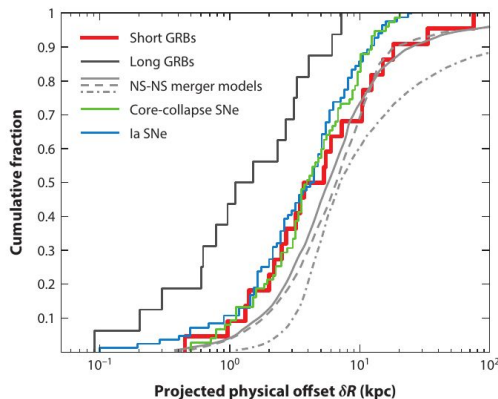
Fong+22

## Kicks:

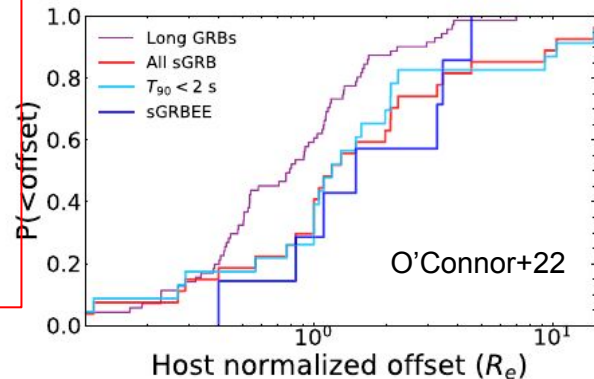
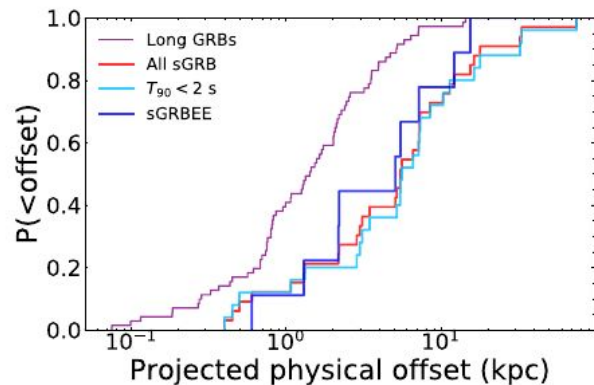
The remnants of core-collapse SNe can give a “kick”

Escape from the HG (birthsite) → **OFFSET!**  
(1 ~ 100 kpc)

See P. D’Avanzo talk



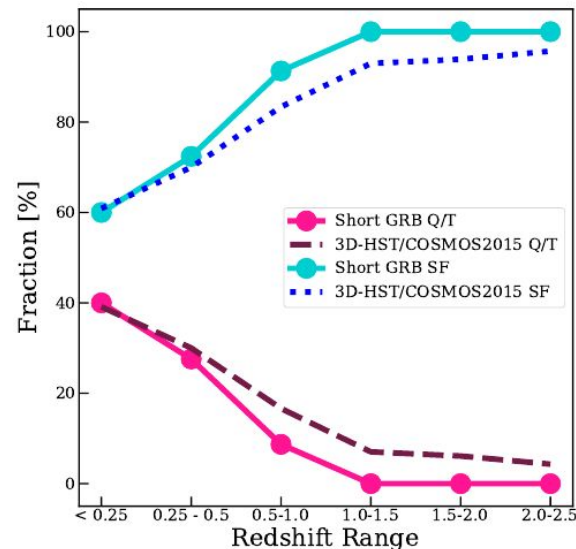
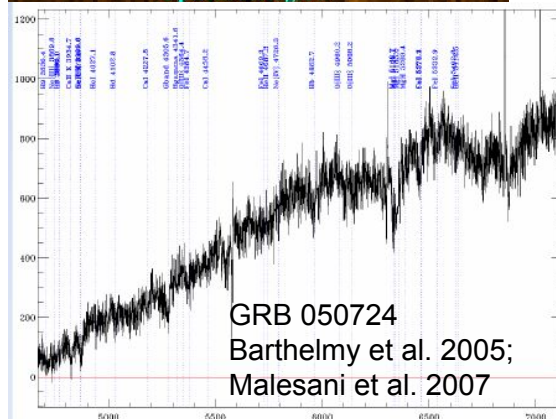
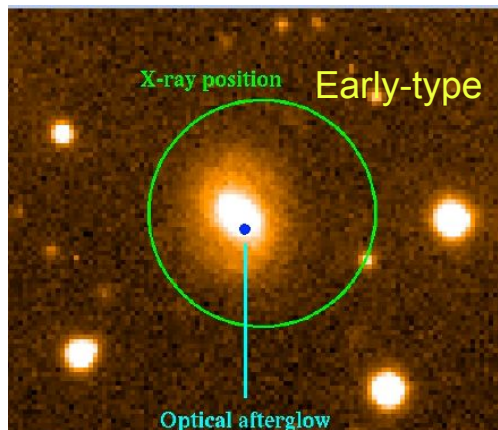
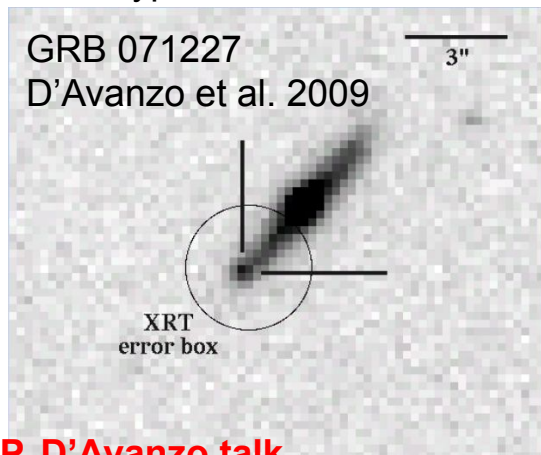
Berger+14, (Fong&Berger+13)



O’Connor+22

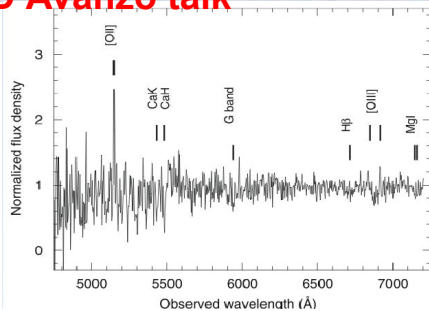
# Short GRB hosts are of different type: range of delay times

Late-type : emission lines, SFR

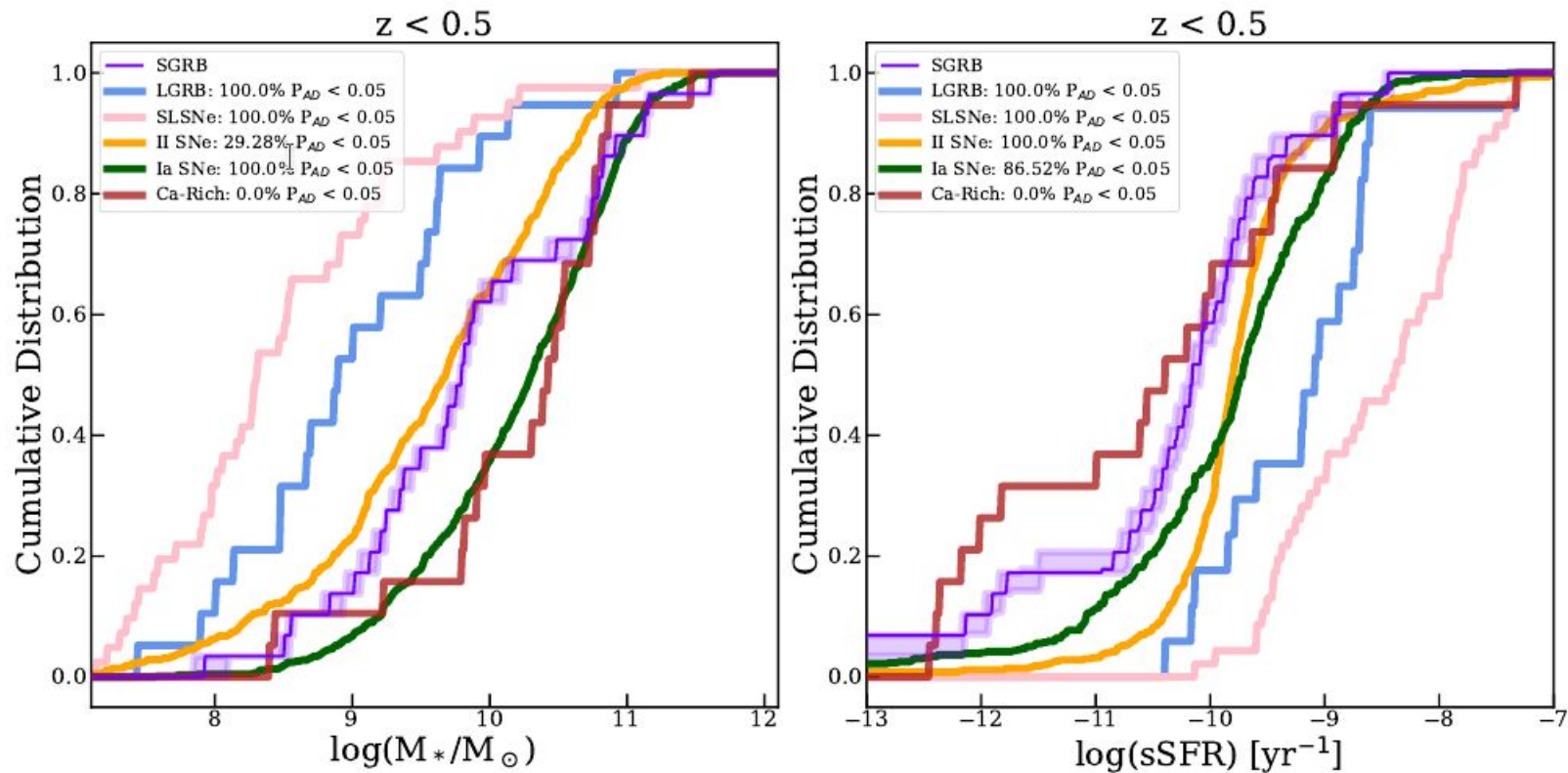


Nugent+22

See P. D'Avanzo talk

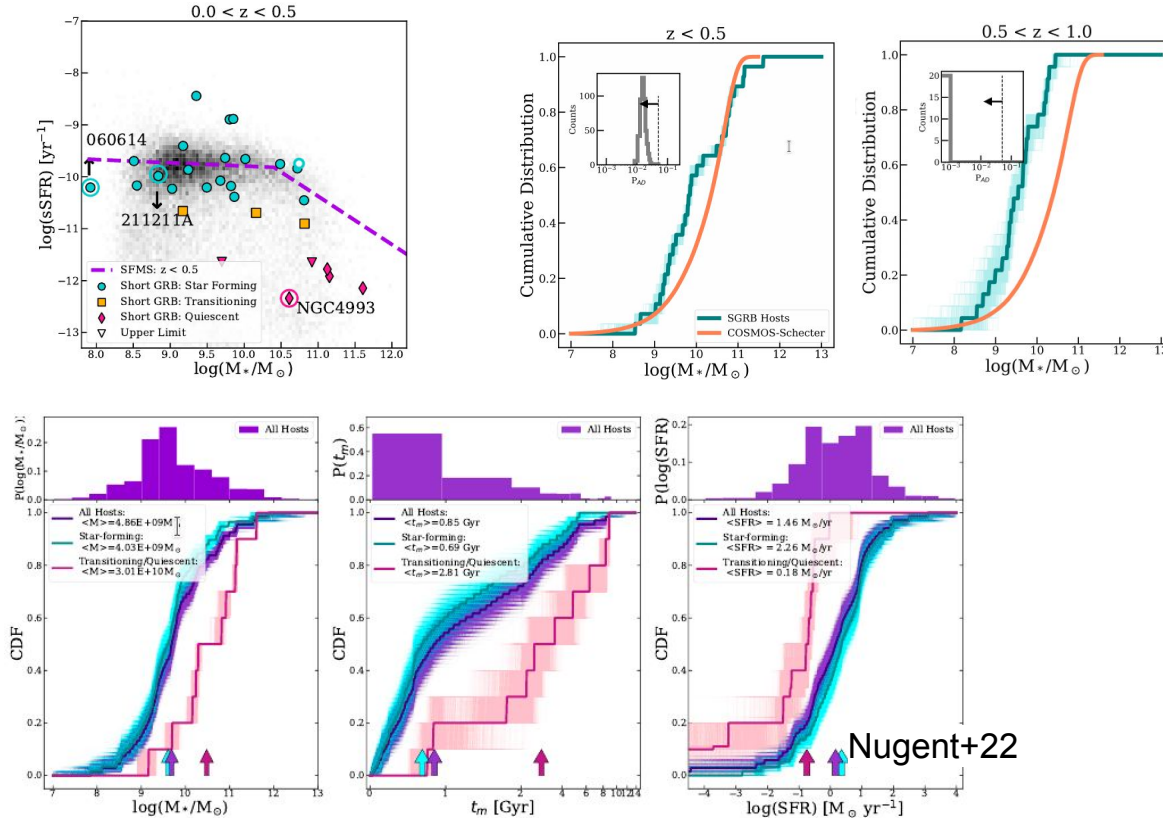


# Short and long GRB Hosts are different



Nugent+22

# Short GRB hosts are massive but ...



**86% of short GRB hosts are star-forming galaxies.**

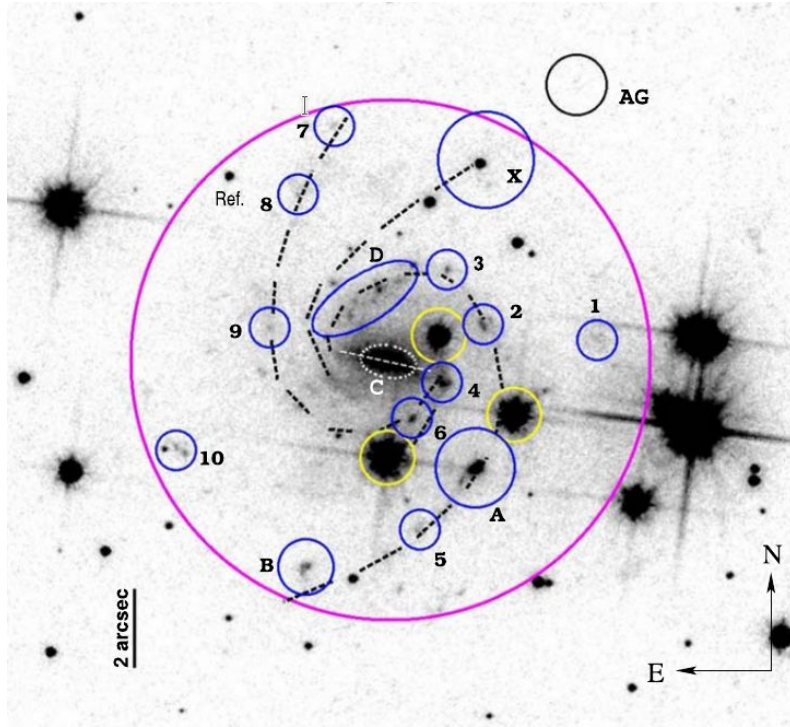
**Short GRBs trace a combination of recent star formation and stellar mass:**

SFR consistent w stellar mass and star formation MS  
they do not trace the stellar mass of field galaxies alone!

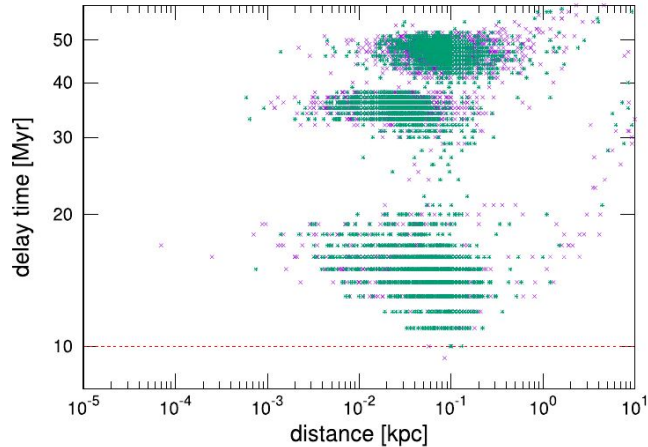
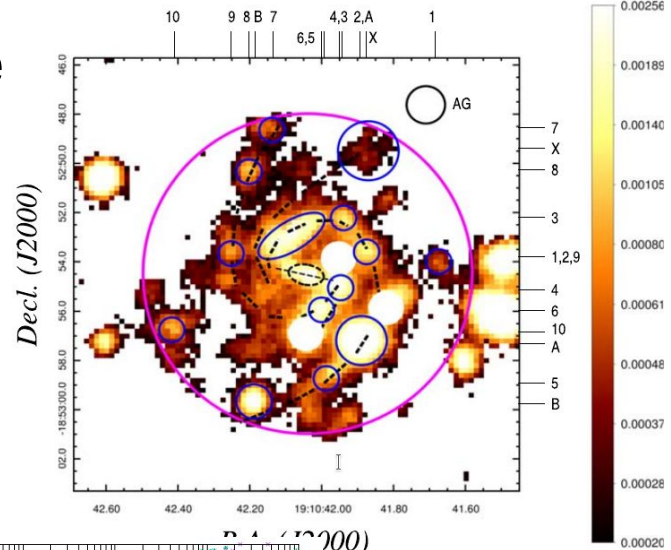
Wide range of ages ( $\approx 0.1 - 9 \text{ Gyr}$ ),  
-> wide range of progenitor delay times.

Nugent+22

# Explosion sites are not visible anymore



Nicuesa Guelbenzu+21,  
see also Klose+19 for radio non detections

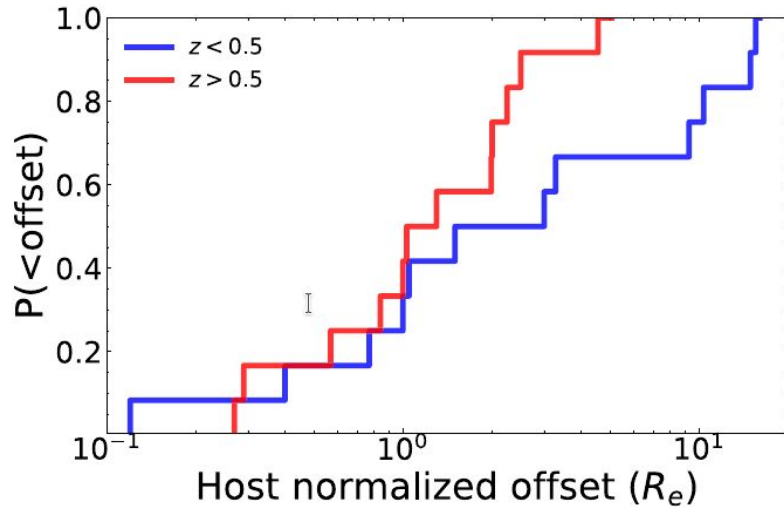


**The SF  
regions are  
too young for  
the possible  
delay times**

# Problem: robustness of the association

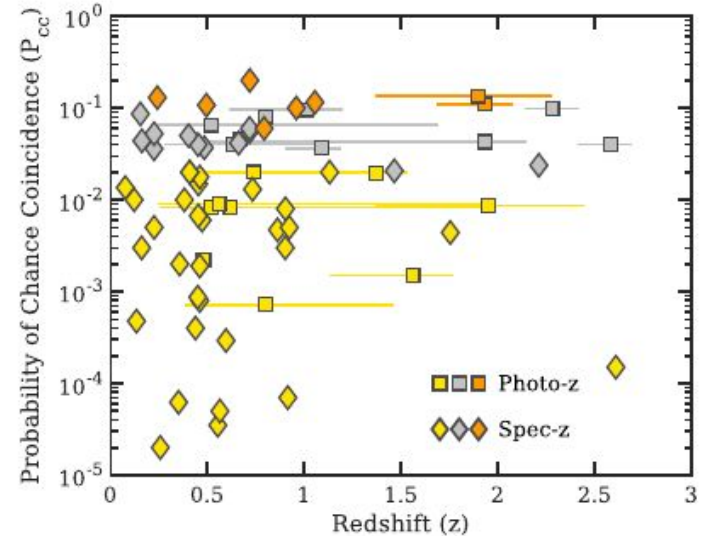
O'Connor+22

Offset evolution w redshift?



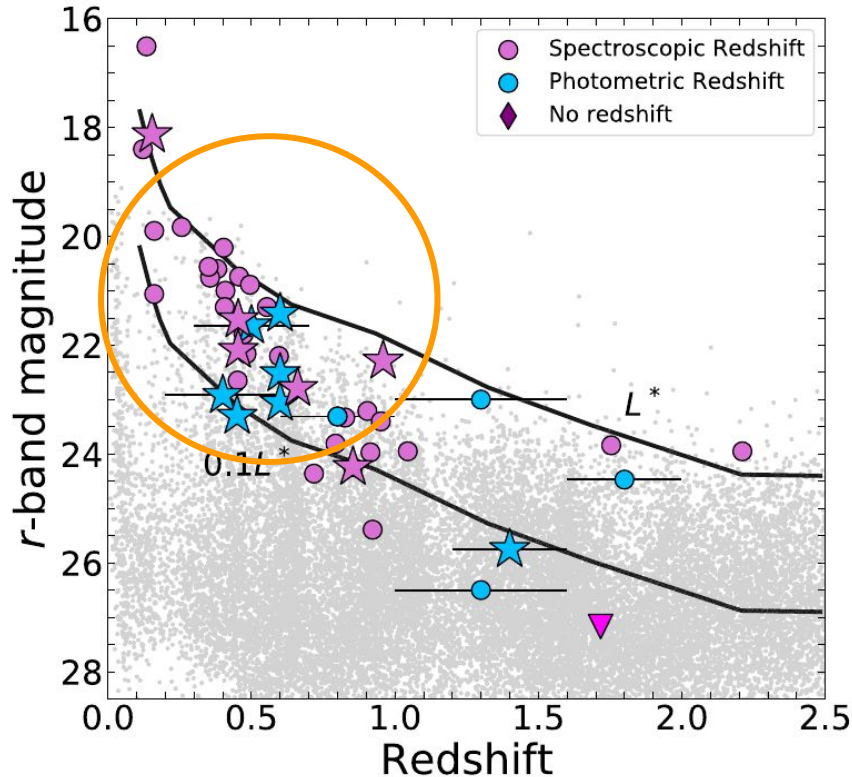
Fong+22

**the robustness of association decreases with increasing redshift.**





# Problem: robustness of the association



## O'Connor+22

- Decrease in host galaxy apparent magnitude with  $z$
- $z > 1$  the  $r > 23.5$  mag,
- In order to associate a GRB to such faint galaxies ( $P_{cc} < 0.1$ ) offset of  $\approx 3''$  (25 kpc,  $z \approx 1$ ).
- $P_{cc} < 0.5 \rightarrow 2.2''$

**It is difficult to associate high- $z$  sGRBs to galaxies at large physical offsets**

# Summary

**The search for GRB hosts galaxies is difficult task:** they can be faint, or dusty

**Sometimes we miss a precise localization** of their afterglows, especially in case of dark GRBs and **short GRBs**

Thanks to enormous observational effort (optical, NIR, FIR, radio, IFU, from space) we have a better of the properties of long and GRB hosts

**Careful sample selection is essential** to clarify the properties of long GRB hosts in comparison with field galaxies: **long GRBs trace low-metallicity cosmic SFR**

**Short GRBs trace a combination of recent star formation and stellar mass**

TBD:

Comparison with simulated BNS-NSBH hosts, events are selected simply based on their T90 (really a problem?), check Amati relation (see Ferro's Talk)?

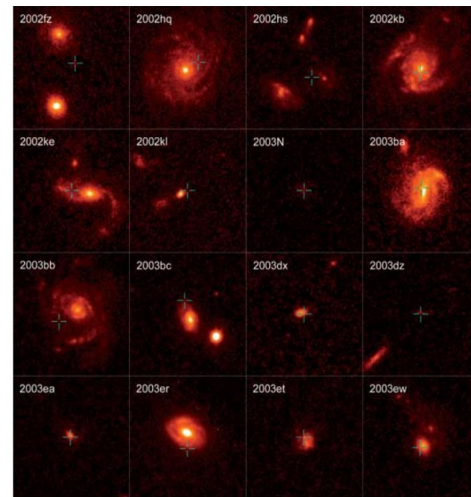
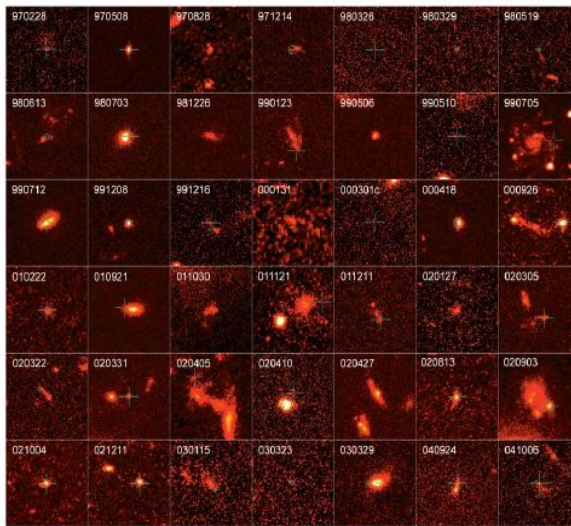
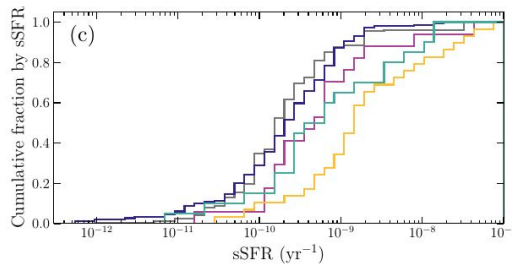
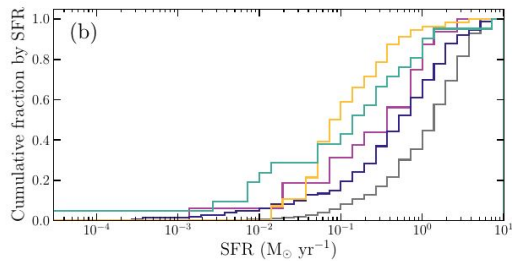
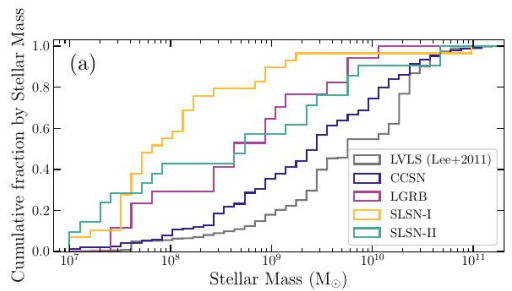
For short GRBs HOSTS(!): this is not yet been done (only 16->24 events, D'Avanzo talk!) and the large offsets introduce an additional problem for the correct host-association.

**GRAZIE !**

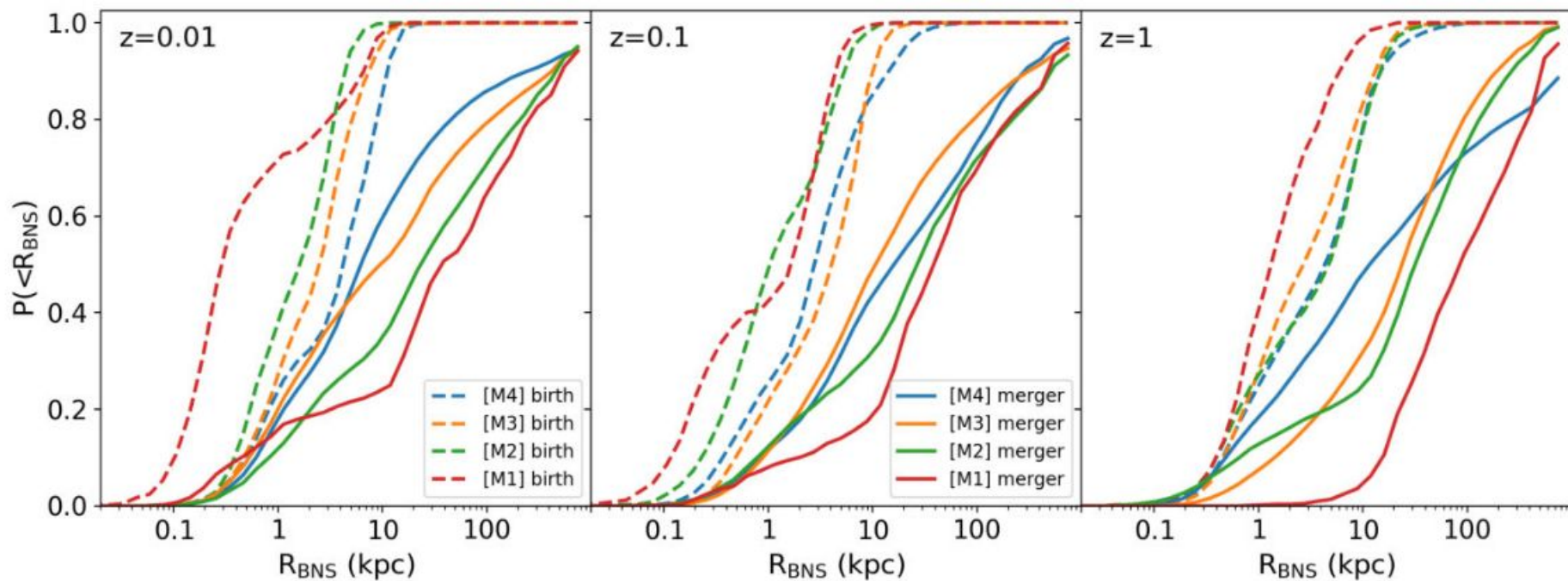


# Long GRBs do not easily trace cosmic star formation

Taggart & Perley, 2021



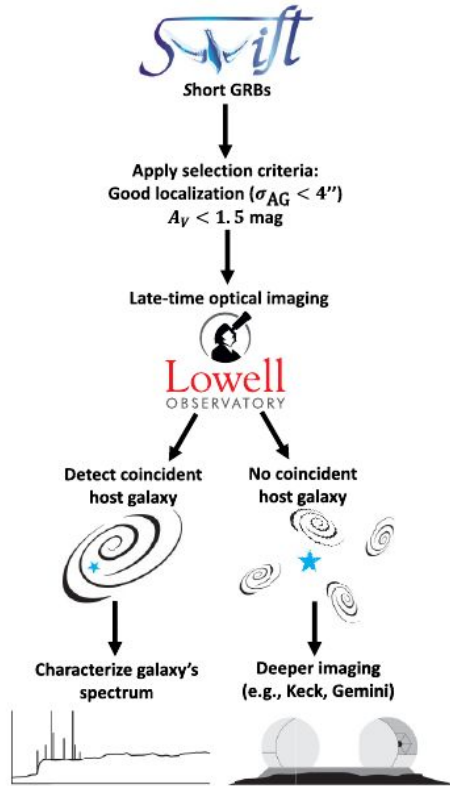
# Simulations?



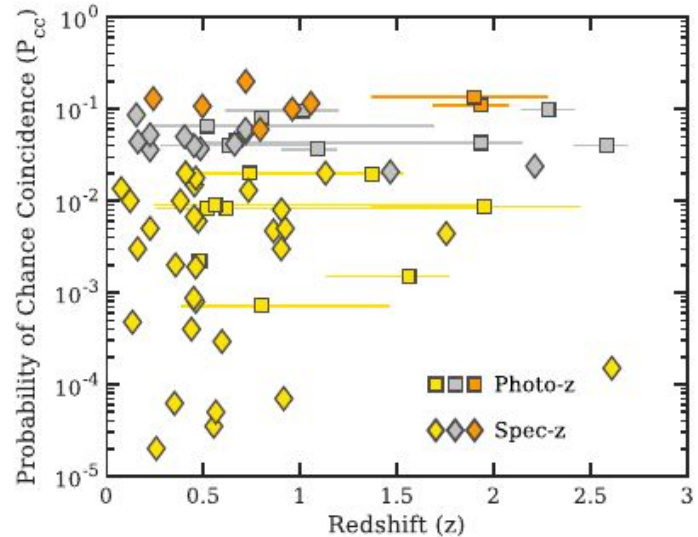
Perna+22

[M3]:  $9.5 < \log[M_{\text{gal},3} / M] < 10.25$ ,  
[M4]:  $10.25 < \log[M_{\text{gal},4} / M] < 11$

# Most recent developments: large samples



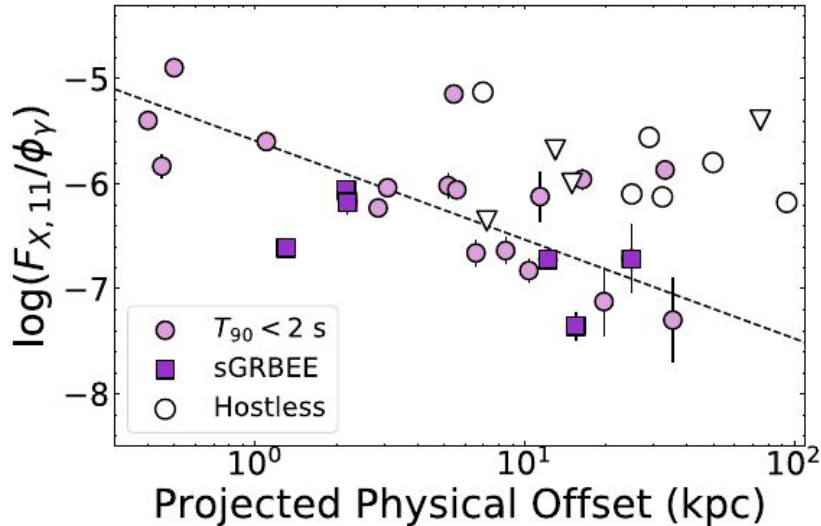
Very similar to search for hosts of dark long GRBs - optically dim ... but larger offsets



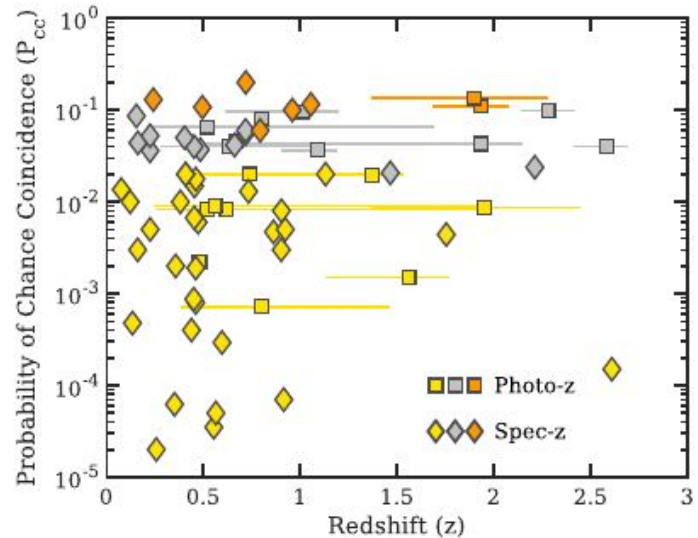
# Most recent developments: large samples

O'Connor+22

the ratio of the X-ray flux at 11-h to the prompt gamma-ray fluence

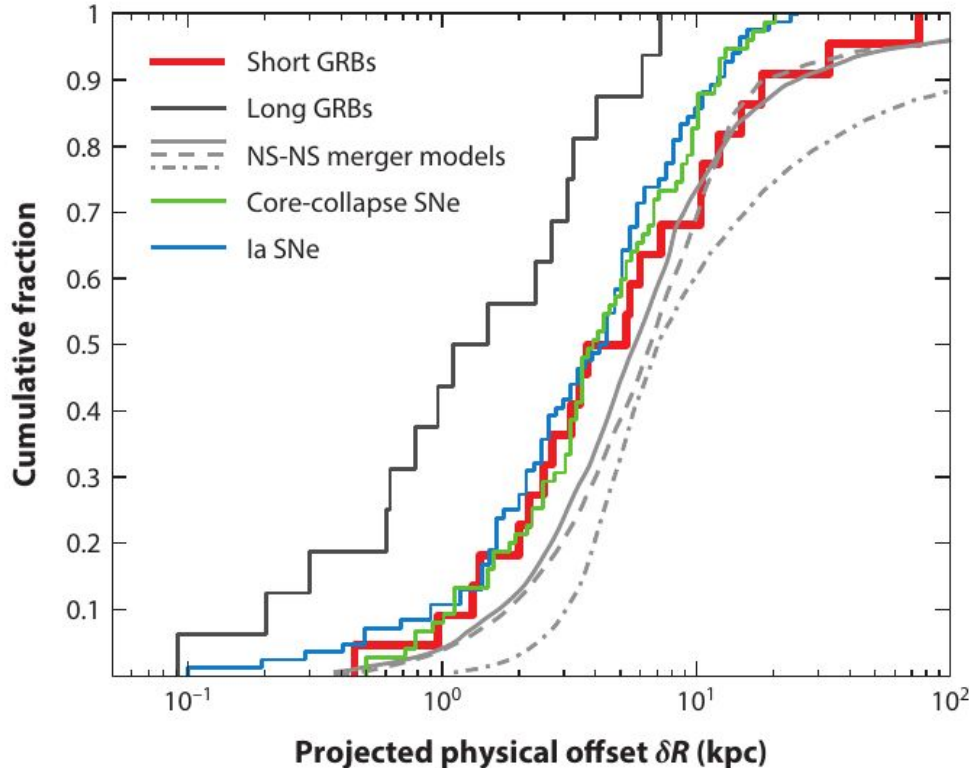


Very similar to search for hosts of dark long GRBs - optically dim  
... but larger offsets





# Offset distribution



Berger+14, (Fong&Berger+13)

Long GRBs  $< 8 \text{ kpc} \sim 1''$  at  $z > 0.5$   
 $< 2 \text{ kpc}$  (within/close host)

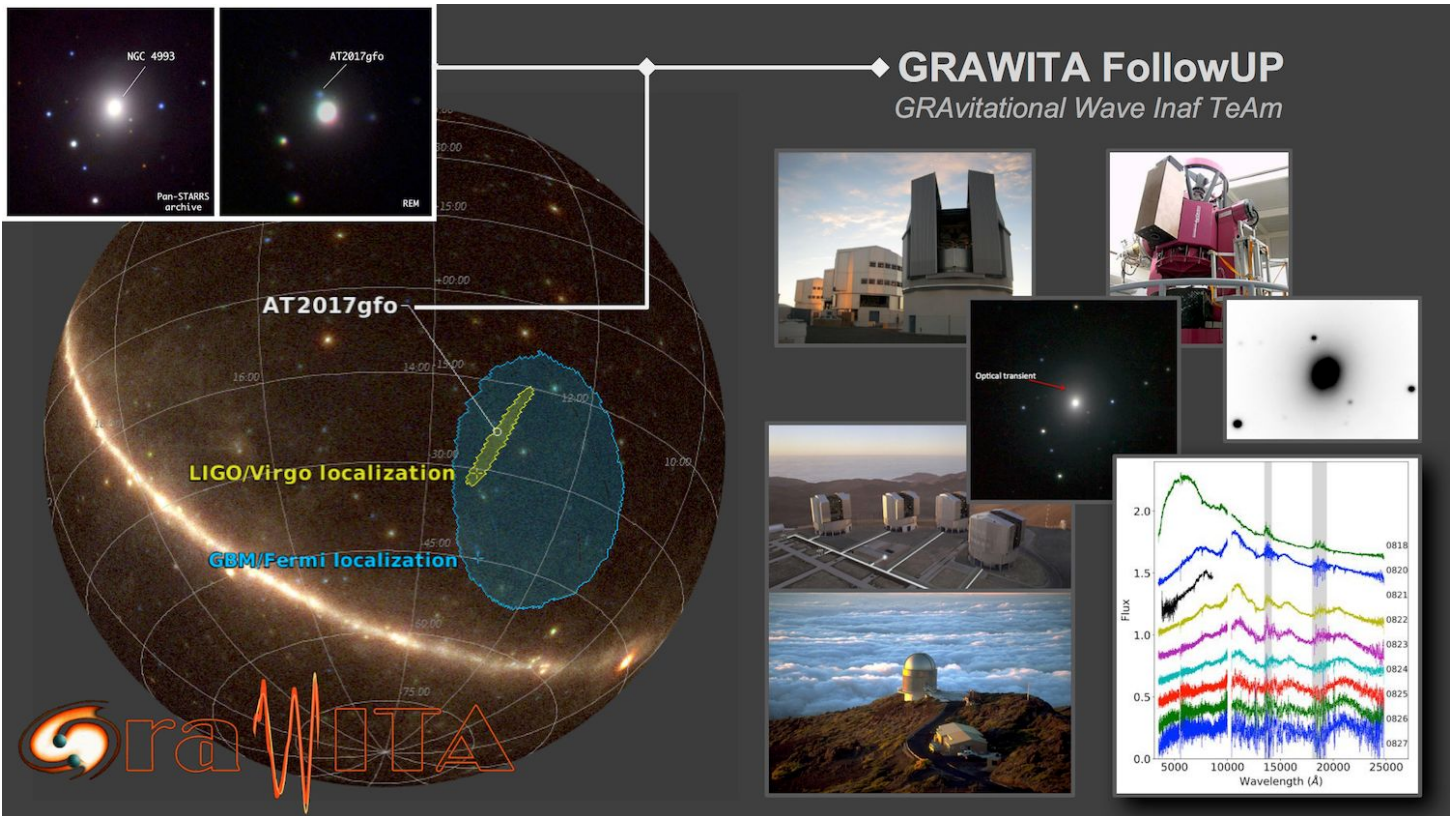
Short GRBs 50%  $> \sim 5 \text{ kpc} \sim > 1''$  at  $z > 0.5$   
30%  $> \sim 10 \text{ kpc} > 2''$  at  $z > 0.5$   
Outside host

## Kicks:

The remnants of core-collapse SNe can give a “kick”

Escape from the HG (birthsite)-> **OFFSET!**  
(1 ~ 100 kpc)

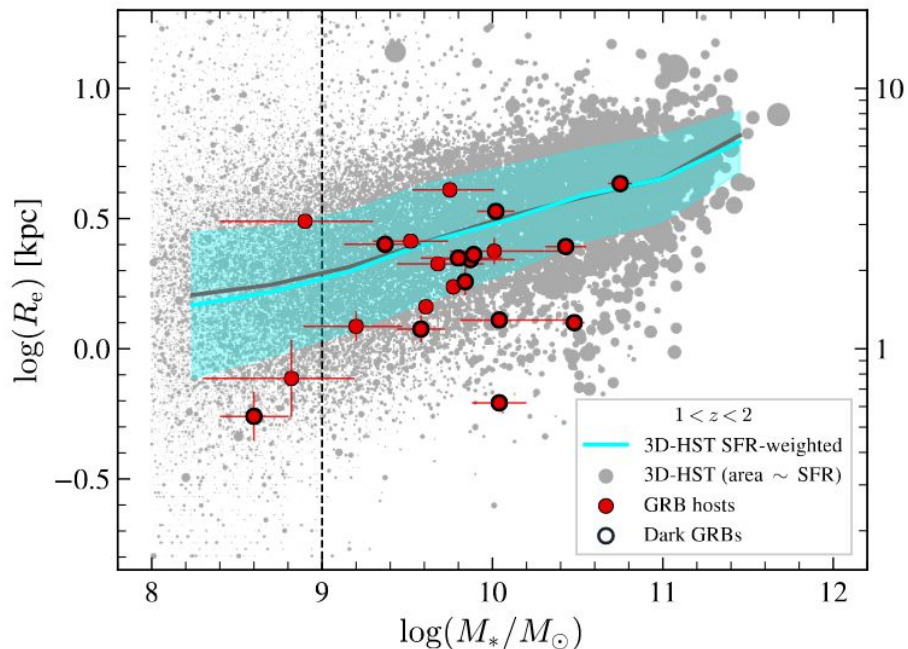
# GRAWITA



Pian, et al., 2017,  
X-Shooter, FORS2

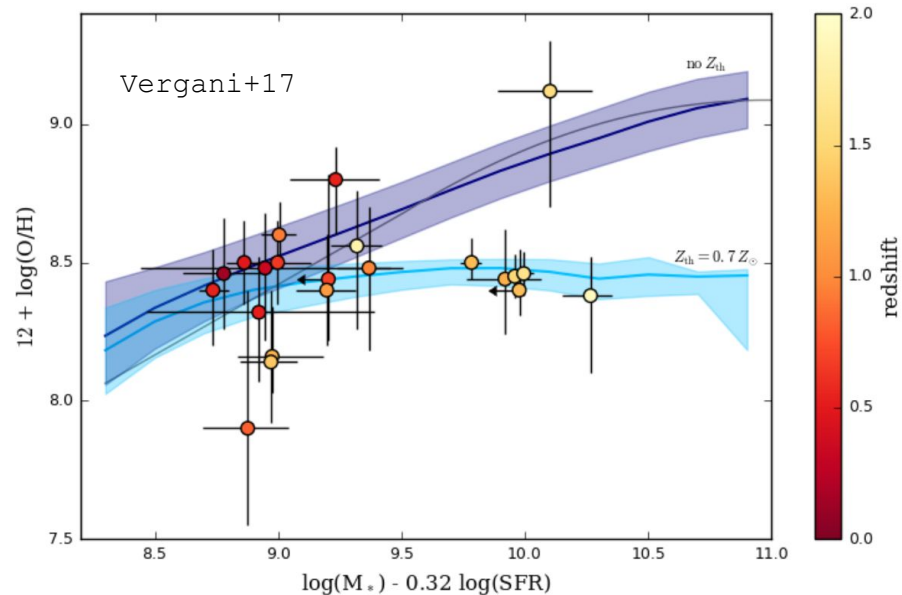
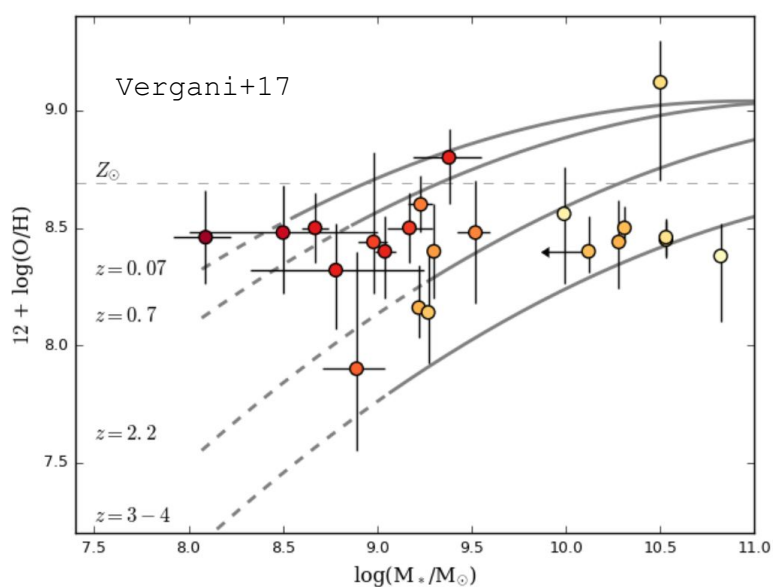
Recent developments:

# Are the hosts of Long GRBs more compact?



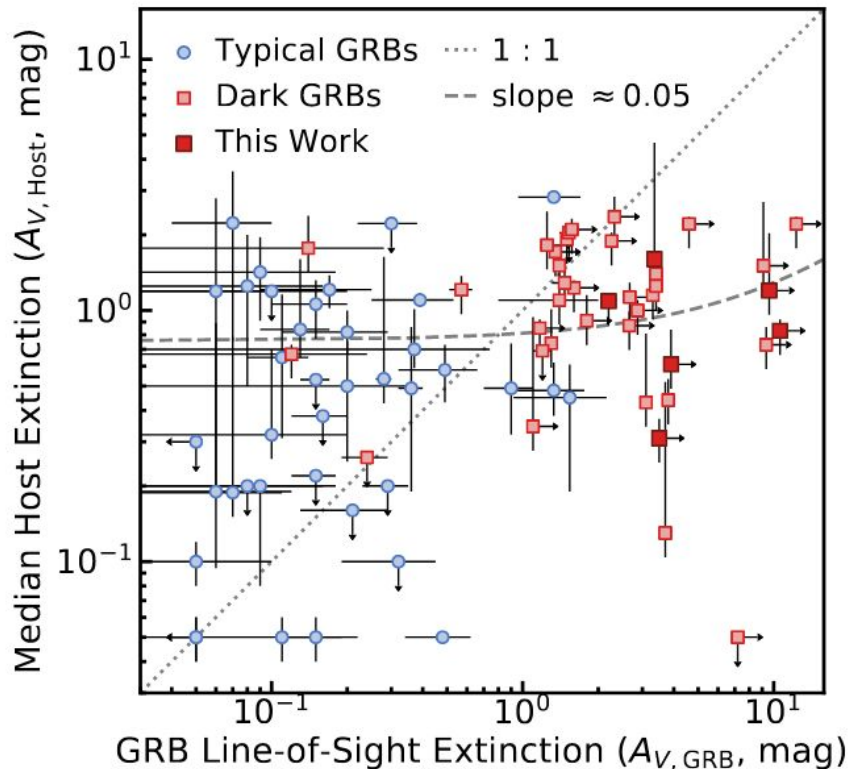
- **Schneider+22 arxiv: 2206.14873**
- HST GRB hosts, not complete sample, dominated by dark GRB hosts!
- 3D-HST survey (nir survey covers COSMOS GOODS ecc..)
- $z < 1$  GRB hosts are smaller in size (higher stellar mass and SFR surface densities than field galaxies)
- Not clear at larger redshifts (sample dominated by darkGRBs)
- GRBs require special environments to be produced?

# Long GRB host population (metallicity threshold)



FMR, see Mannucci+10,+11;  
simulation see Campisi+11

# Patchy dust

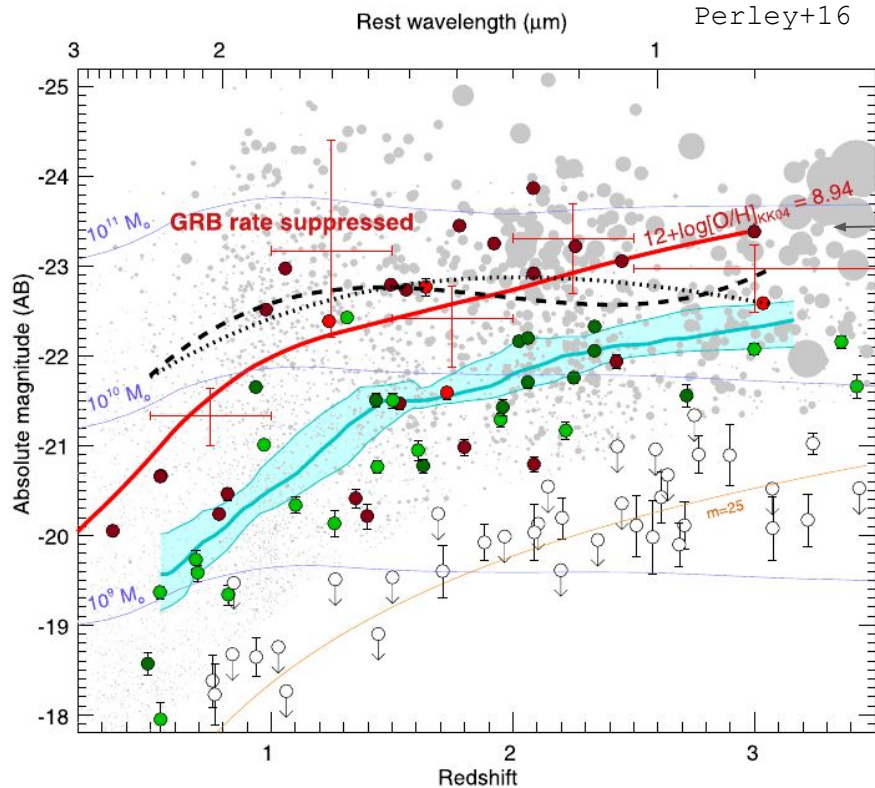


Schroeder+22

A Radio-selected Population of Dark, Long GRBs:

- $A_{V, \text{GRB}}$  is not related to  $A_{V, \text{Host}}$
- nor to the local environment:  $A_{V, \text{GRB}}$  does not correlate with density  $n$  !
- indicating that a large scale patchy dust distribution is the cause of the high line-of-sight extinction (see Kruheler+11)

# Long GRB host population (metallicity threshold)



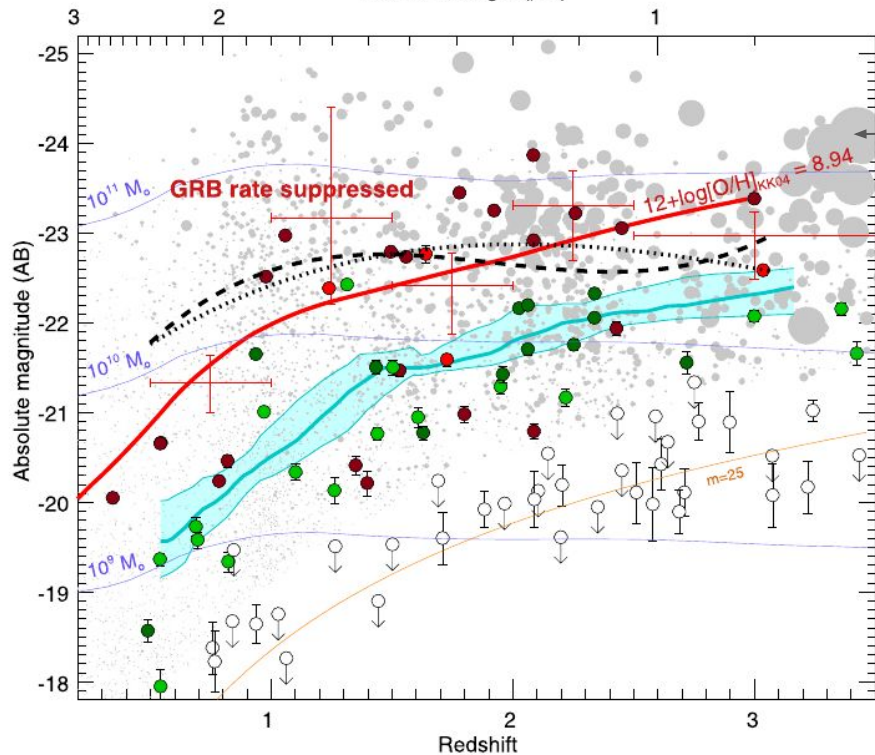
SHOALS/Perley+16 =>  $Z \sim 1 Z_{\text{sun}}$

GOODS North in gray - area scaled with SFR

A metallicity bias can be seen as a mass bias !

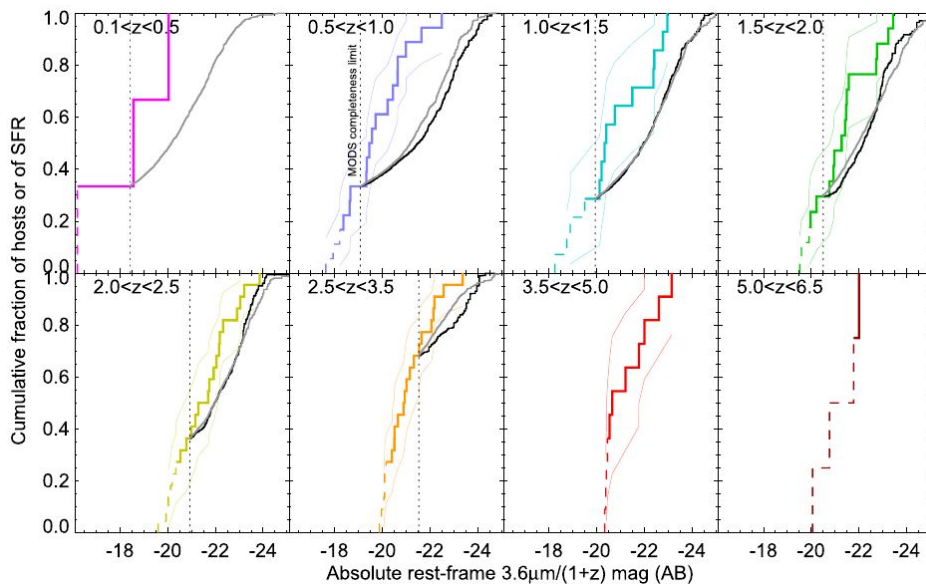
# Long GRB host population (metallicity threshold)

Rest wavelength ( $\mu\text{m}$ ) Perley+16 3.6 $\mu\text{m}$  survey w SPITZER



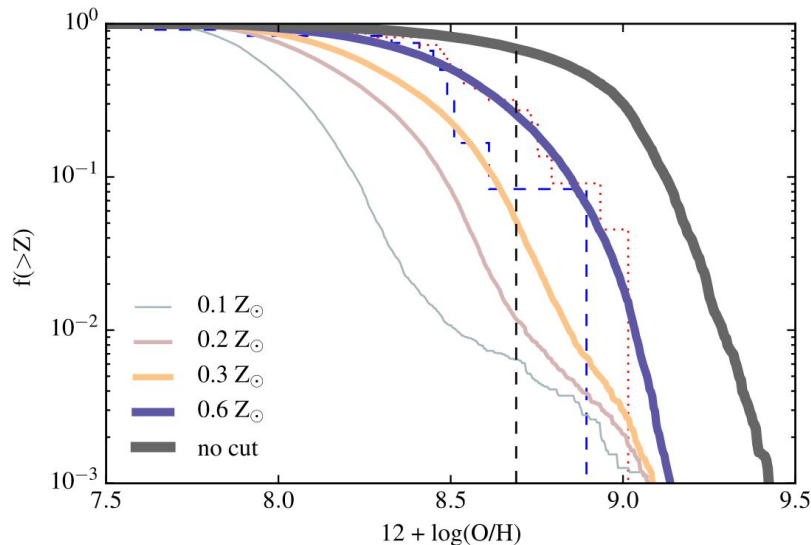
SHOALS/Perley+16  $\Rightarrow Z < \sim 1 Z_{\text{sun}}$

GOODS North in gray

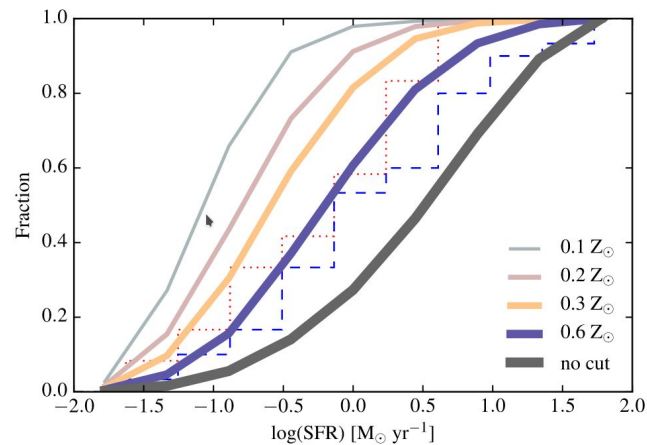
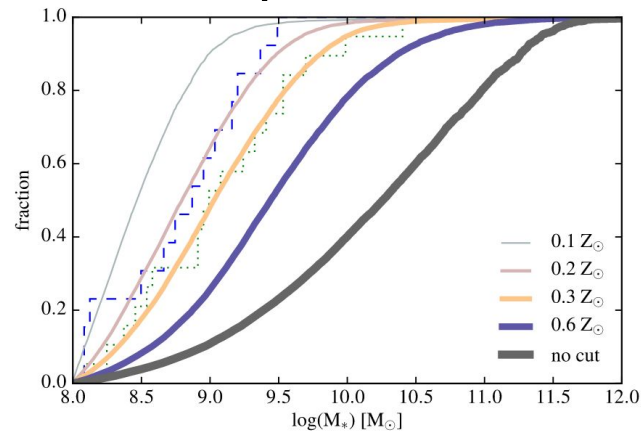


# Long GRB host population (metallicity threshold)

Bignone+17, ILLUSTRIS simulation with metallicity cut off

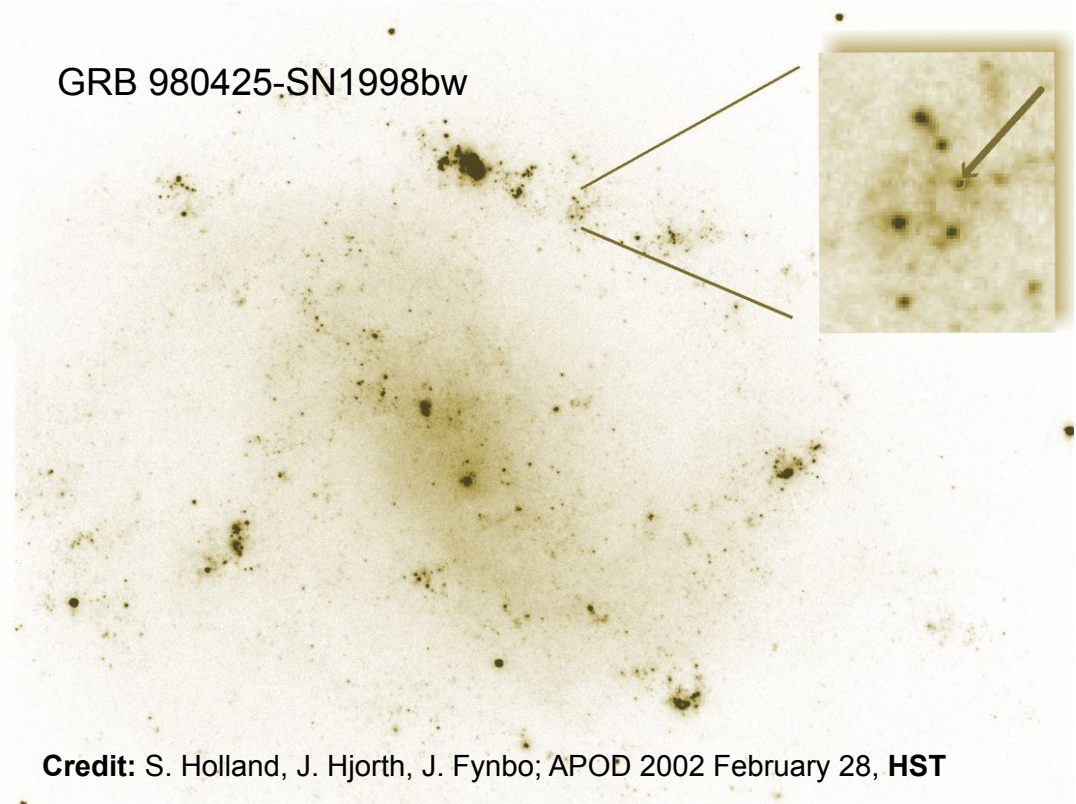
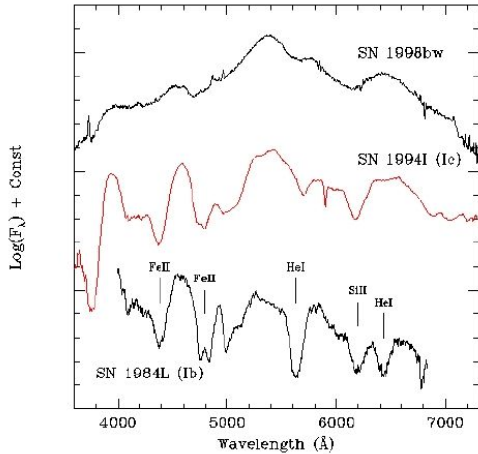
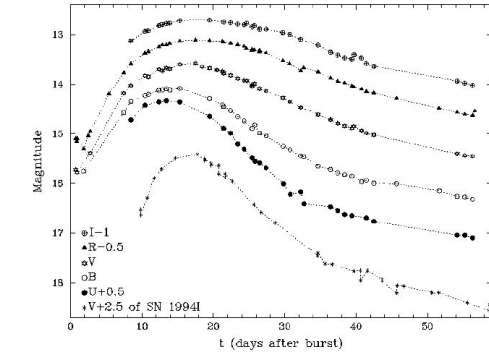


But see Metha+Trenti+20 ( $Z < 0.35$ ),  
based on IllustrisTNG in agreement with Yoon+06  
**Both need an increased sample of objects!**





# Long GRBs -SN connection



**Credit:** S. Holland, J. Hjorth, J. Fynbo; APOD 2002 February 28, HST

# Hosts of optically detected GRB afterglows

## • SELECTION:

- X-ray/optical afterglow detected
- Host detection in more than 1 filter
- $R < 25$
- Known redshift
  - (afterglow or host)



## • RESULTS:

- low-mass
- young
- star-forming
- blue
- low dust extinction

# A different approach: host galaxies of optically non-detected afterglows

## • SELECTION:

- X-ray afterglow detected
- DARK GRBs:  
no optical detection despite deep optical follow-up
- no host detected



## • GOALS:

- identify the host
- SED ?
- redshift ?

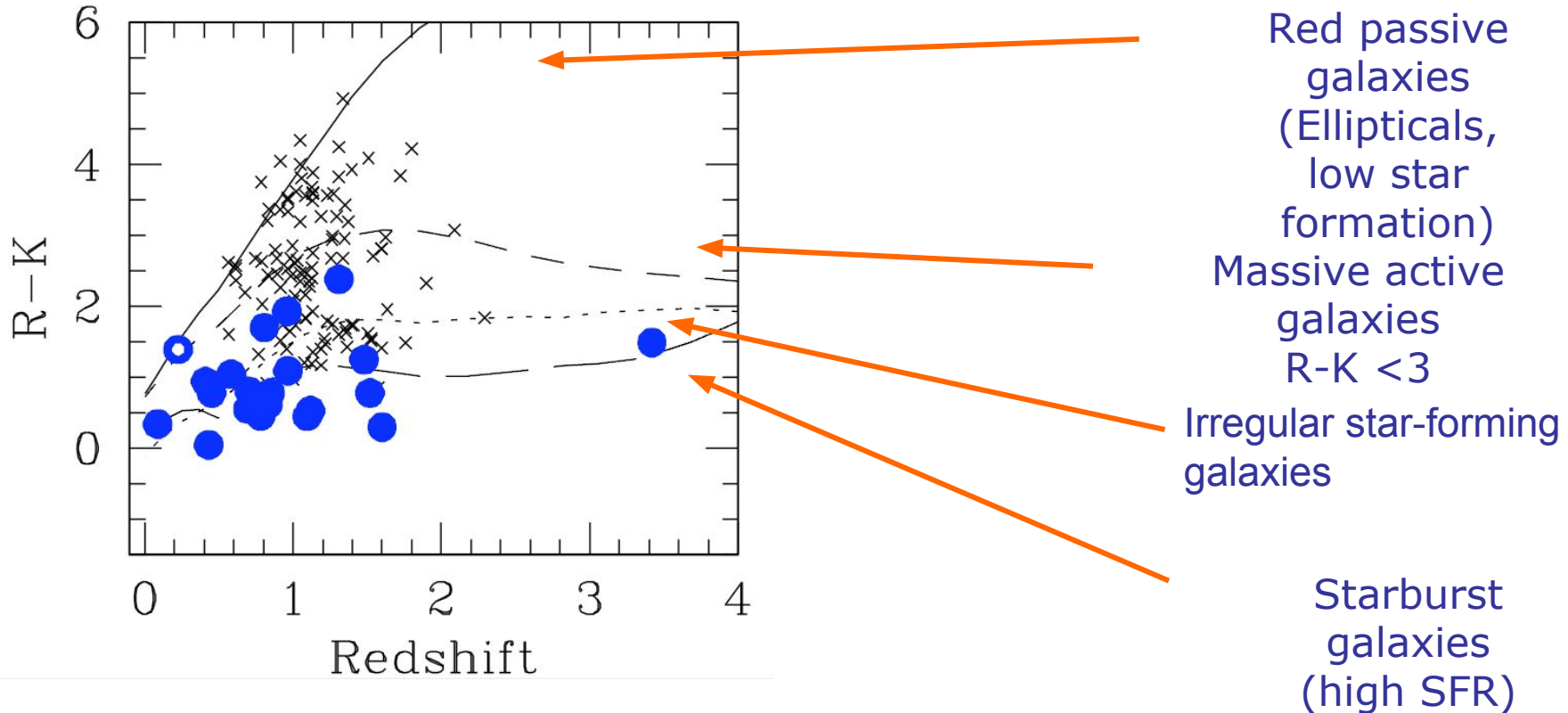


## • RESULTS:

- mass
- SFR
- AV

# Long GRB

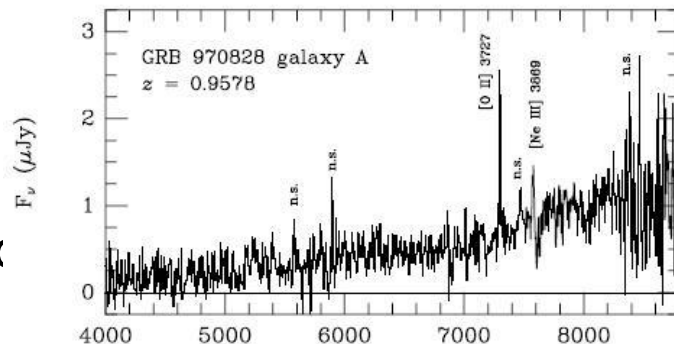
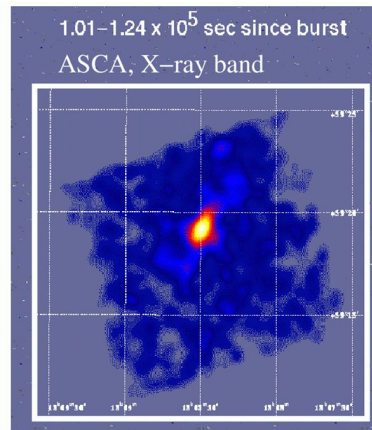
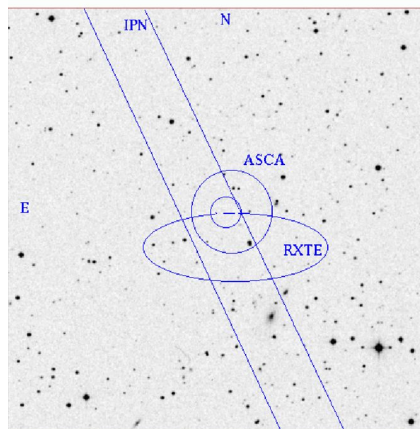
## Host galaxies: sub-luminous and blue



Adapted from Savaglio et al. 2009; GRBs HG and Gemini GDDS

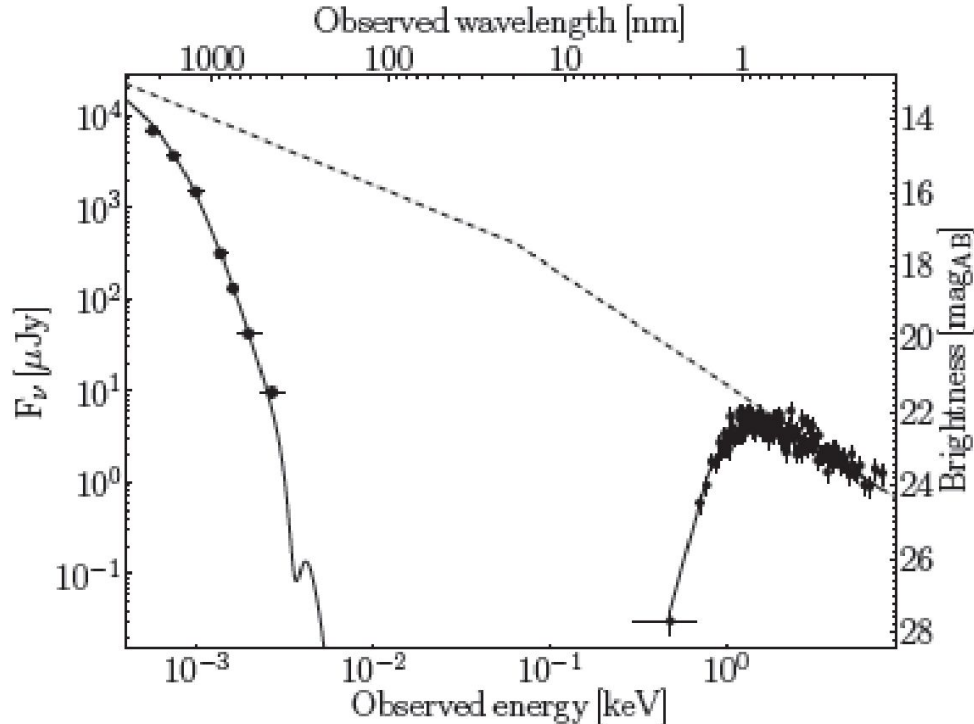
# • GRB 970828 – first obvious dark GRB

- No optical afterglow
  - $R > 24.5$  (dt=4 hours)
- Detection of radio flare:  
Precise position
- Identification of the host galaxy  
 $z = 0.9578$  (Djorgovski 2001);
- Upper limits explained by dust extinction within the host galaxy ( $A_V > 3.8$  mag)



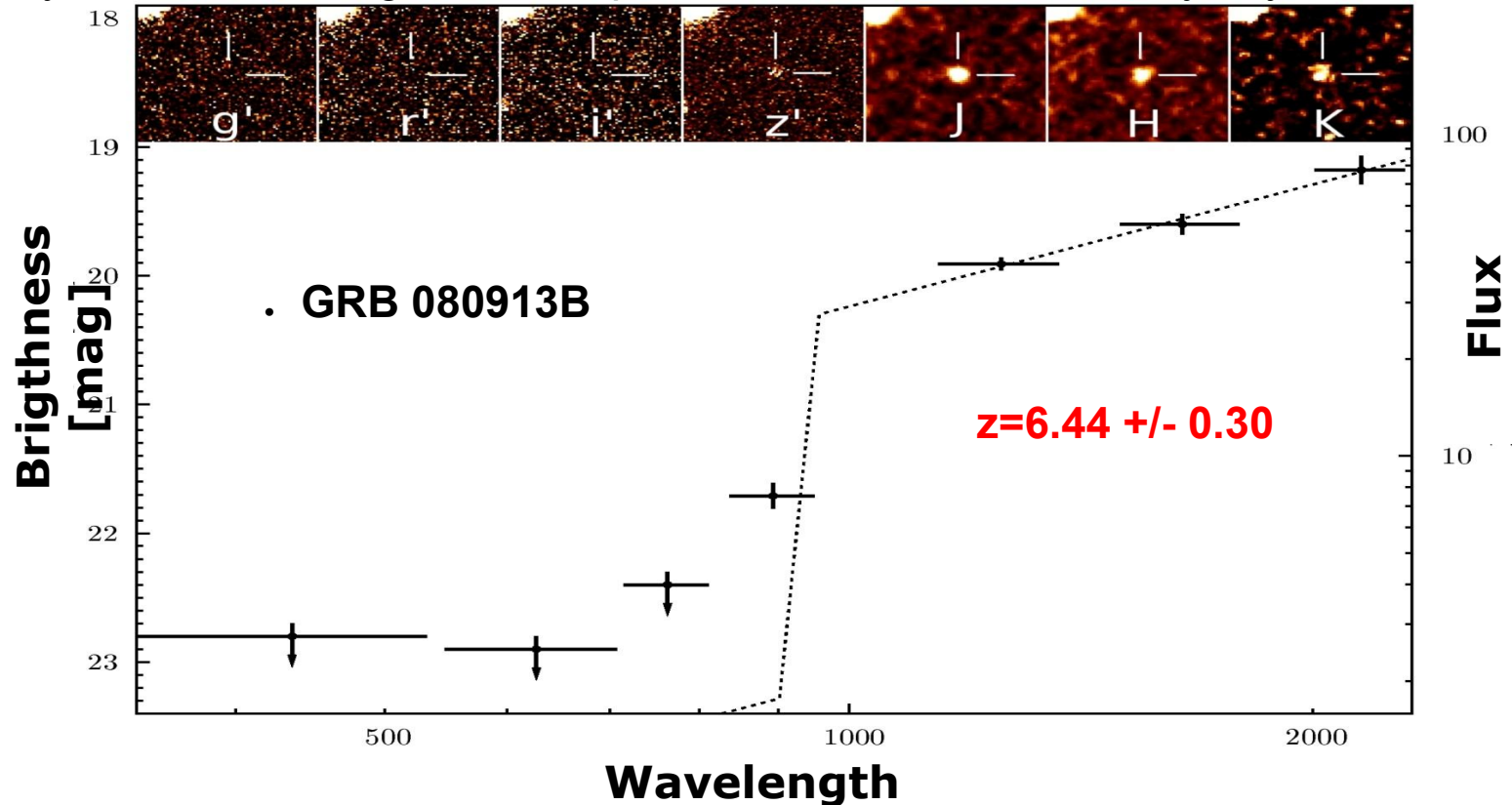
# • Dust absorption

- The local material in the GRB environment can strongly absorb the afterglow emission.



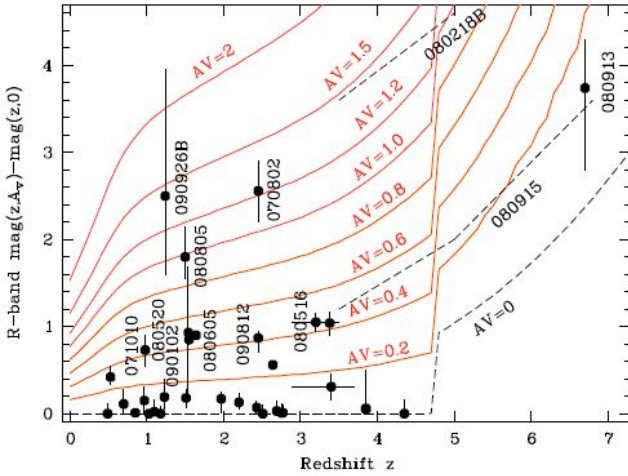
# High redshift

- The Lyman- $\alpha$  blanketing and absorption results in detections only beyond the R-I bands.

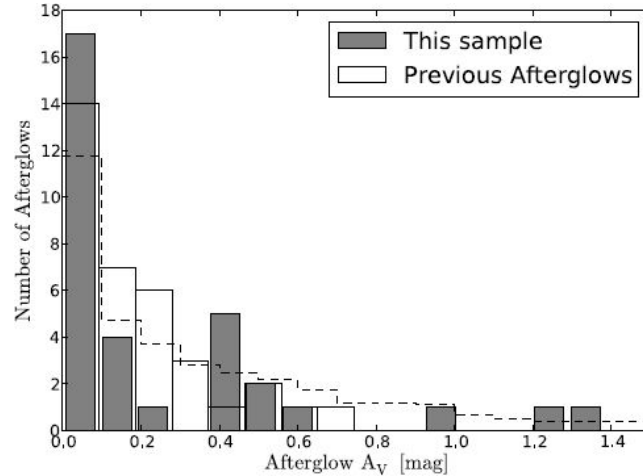


- GROND: SED of the afterglow of GRB 080913B, Rossi et al., 2008, Greiner et al., 2008

• It is the dust  
+  
the redshift

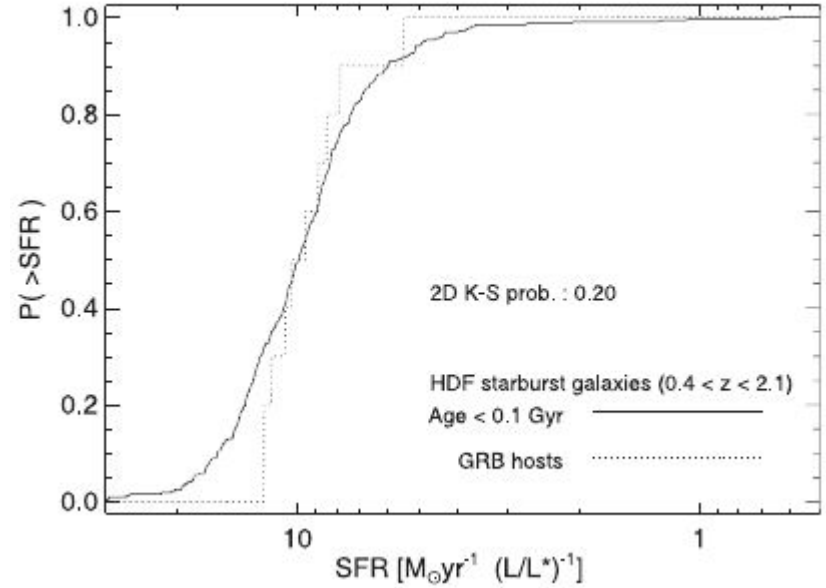
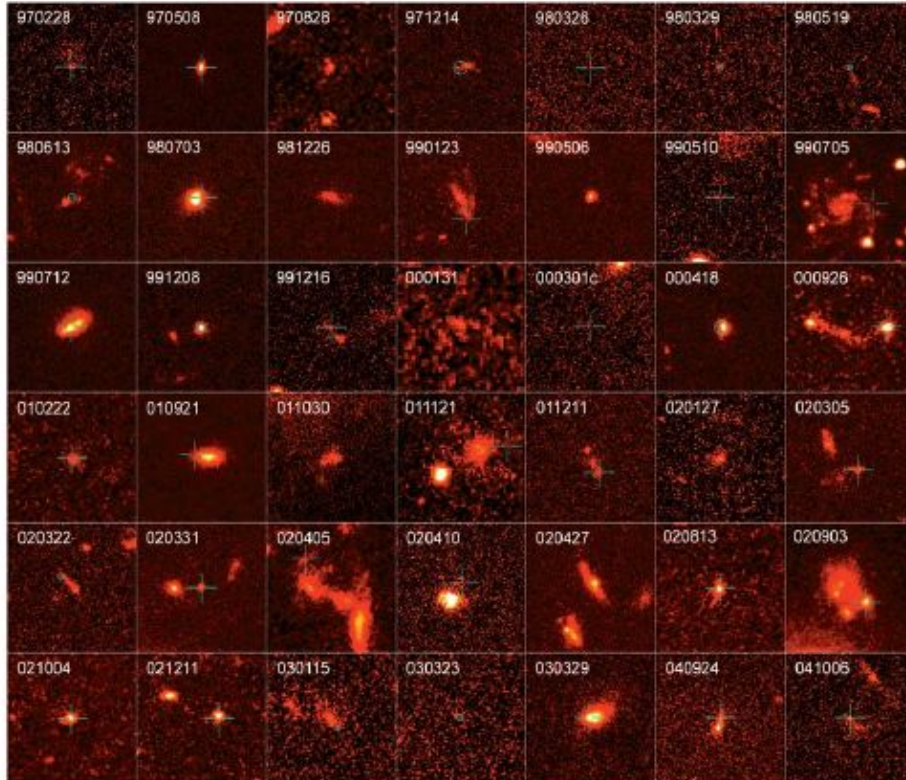


Greiner et al., 2011





# Not an easy job

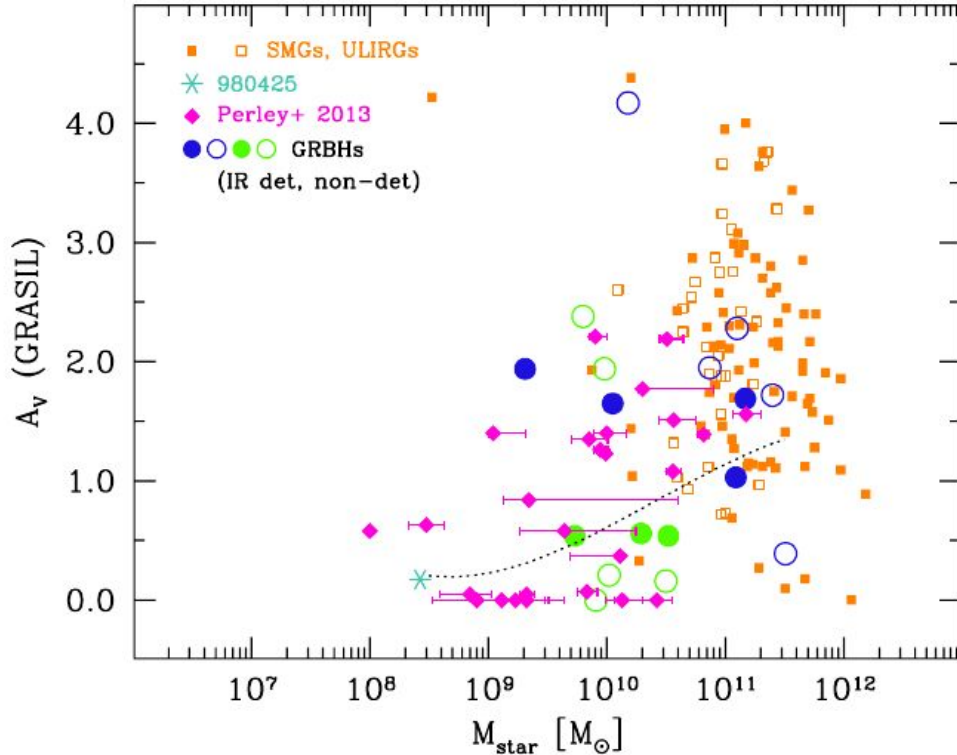


Christensen+04: 10 galaxies!

Fruchter+06

sSFR similar to young high-z hosts

Not an easy job: try to use Herschel ...  
... but on dark GRB hosts



Hunt+14

