

# New insights on the evolution of EW(H $\alpha$ ) and sSFR up to $z \sim 5$

---

Esther Mármol-Queraltó

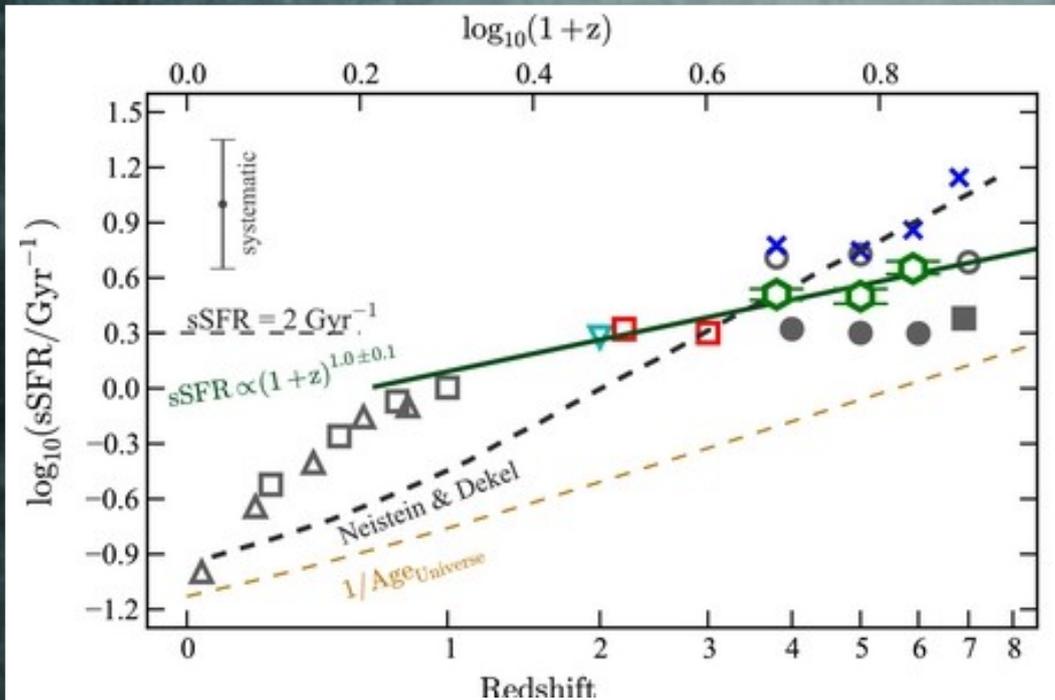
with Ross McLure  
Fergus Cullen



Institute for Astronomy  
University of Edinburgh

# Motivation: about sSFR

Gonzalez+2014



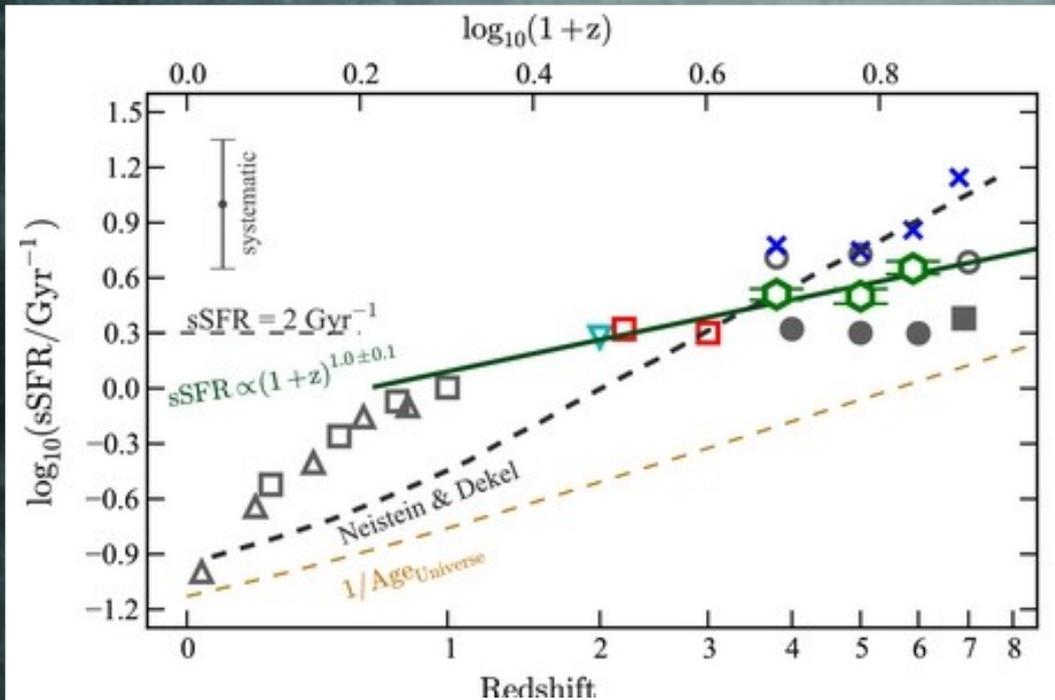
Numerical simulations and semi-analytic models predict that the sSFR should closely match the inflow rate of baryonic material:  $\propto (1+z)^{2.25}$  (e.g Dekel+2009)



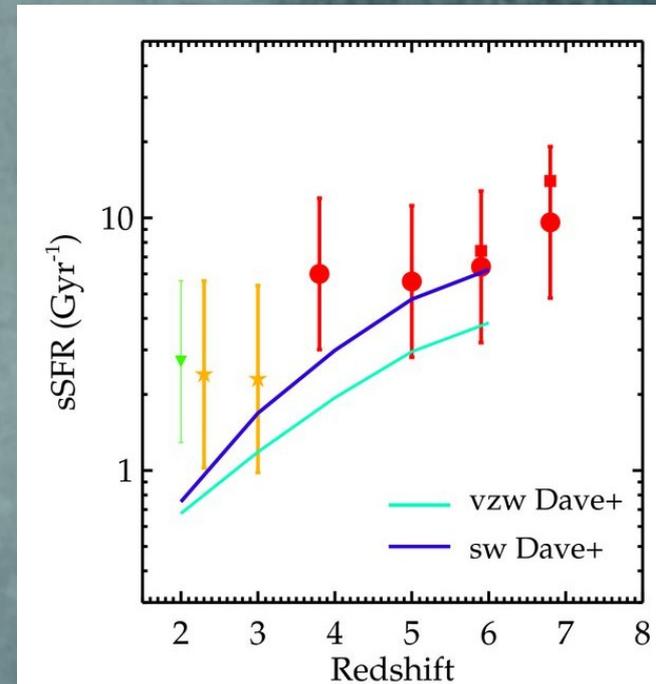
Expected increase of 10x in sSFR in galaxies of fixed stellar mass over  $2 < z < 7$

# Motivation: about sSFR

Gonzalez+2014



Stark+2013

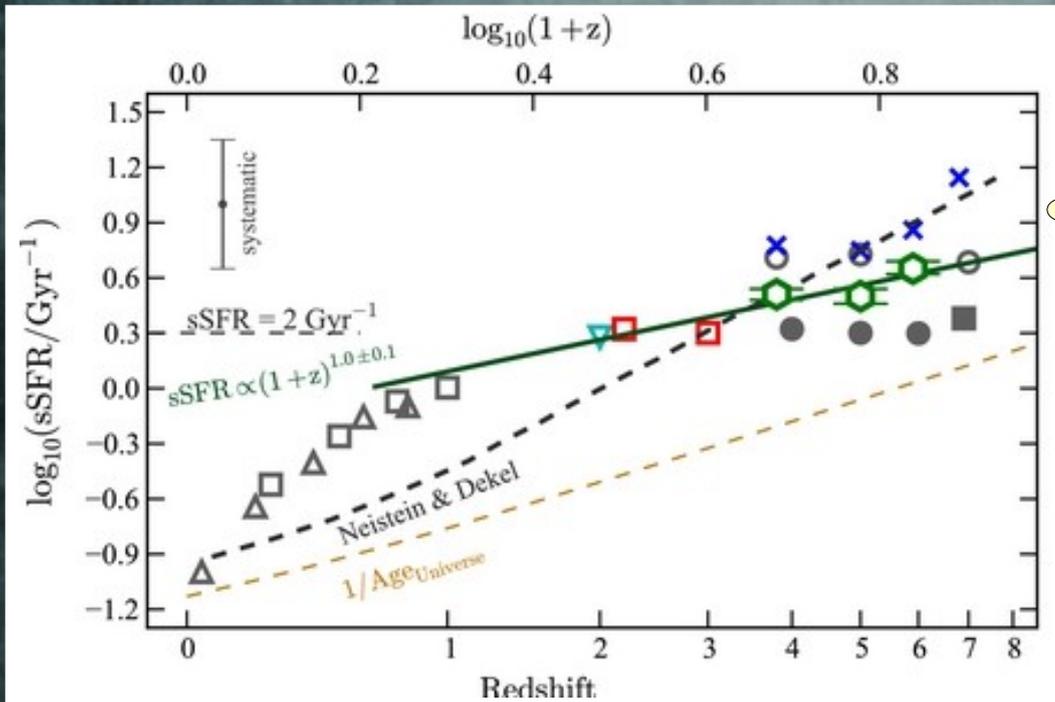


Dave+2011 models including feedback: better constrains at high  $z$  but fail at lower  $z$

See also Lehnert+2015

# Motivation: about sSFR

Gonzalez+2014



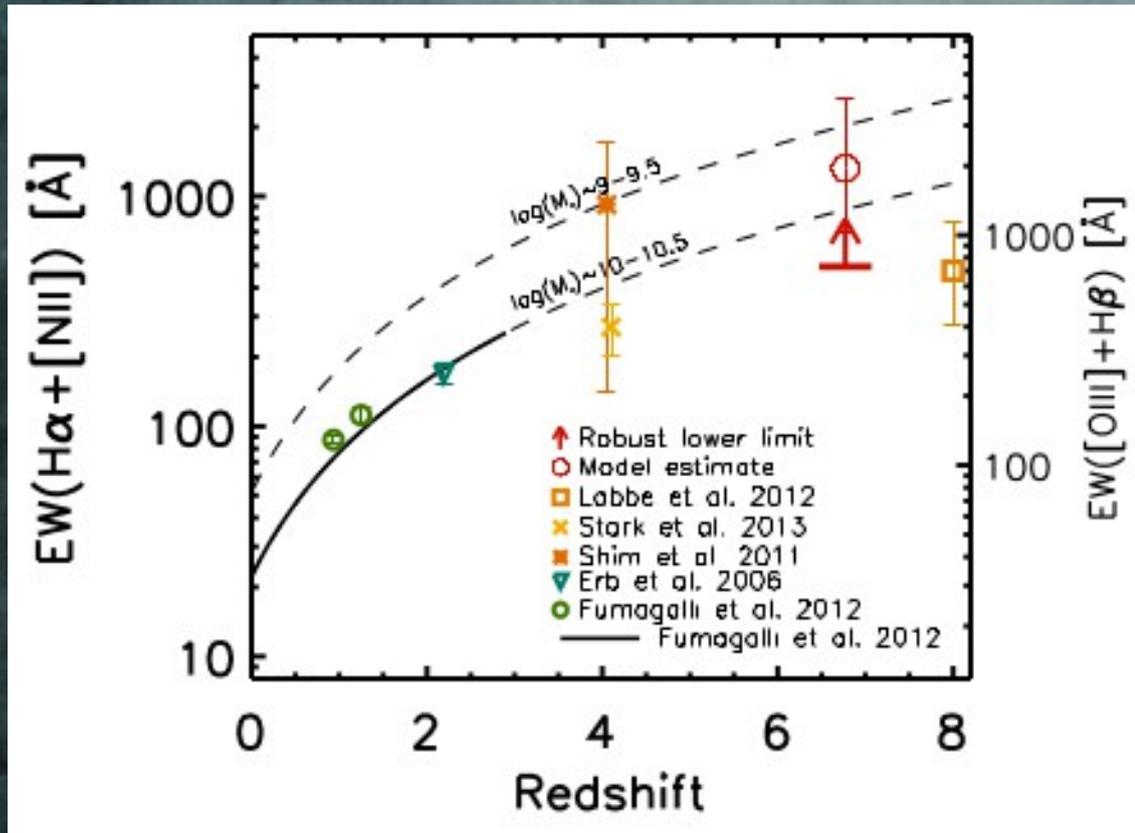
$\text{sSFR} = \text{SFR}/M$   
 $M_{\text{stellar}}, \text{SFR}:$   
SED fitting?

SFR  
Stellar population models  
IMF  
Dust attenuation

**Nebular emission**

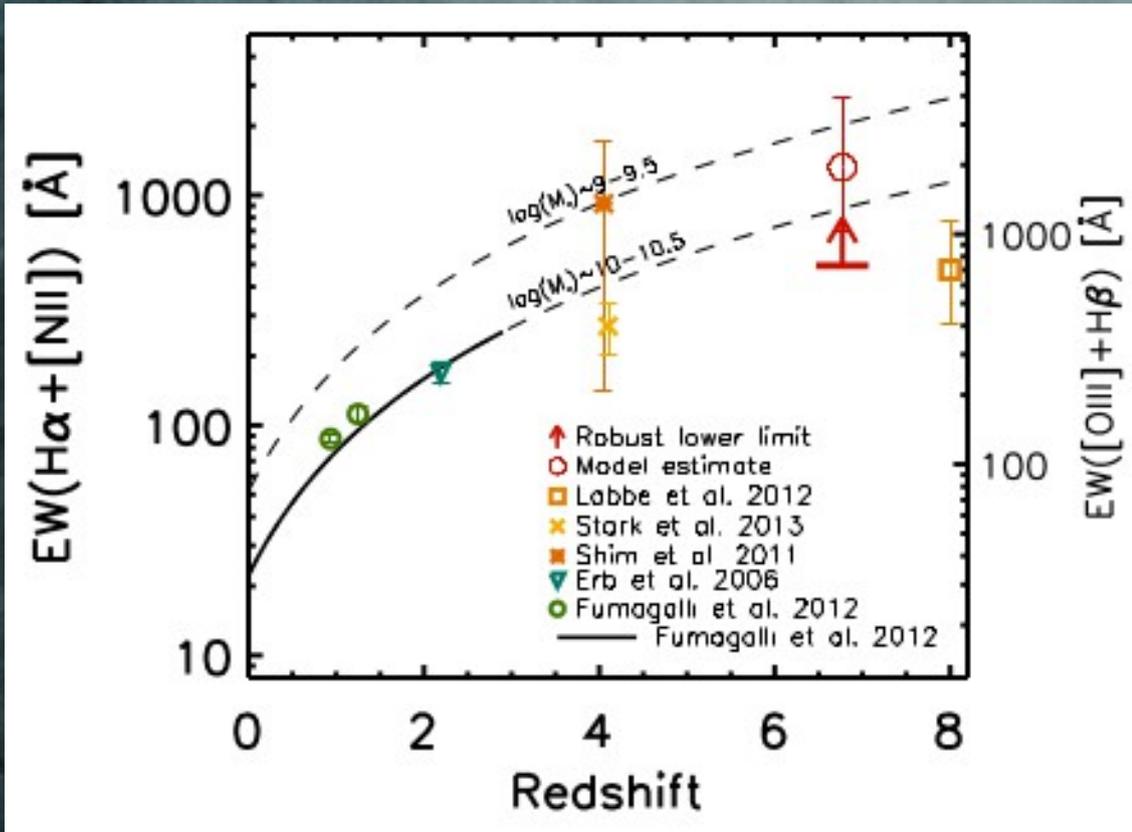
# Motivation: about EW(H $\alpha$ )

Smit+2014



# Motivation: about EW(H $\alpha$ ).

Smit+2014



$$EW = F(H\alpha) / f_{\text{cont}}$$

$$F(H\alpha) \sim \text{SFR}$$

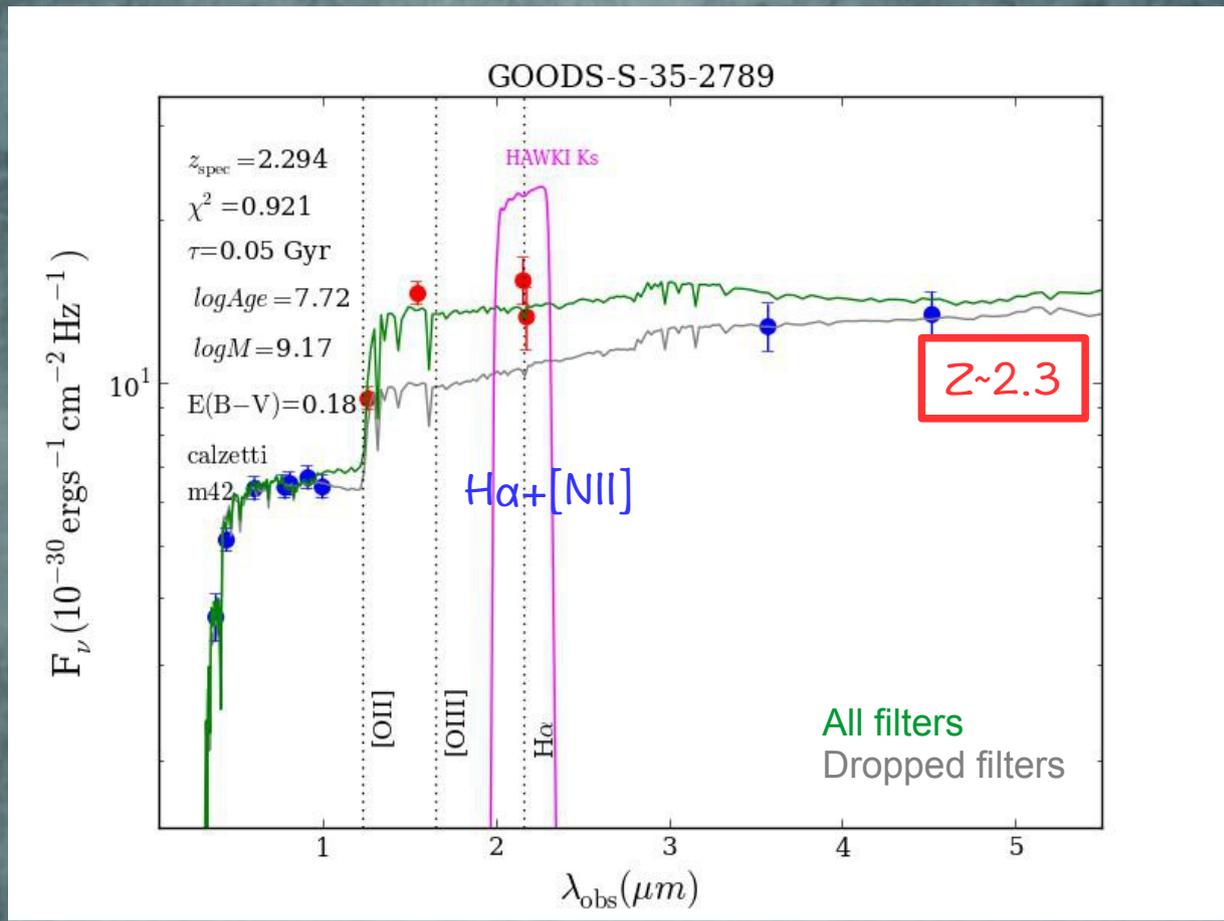
$$f_{\text{cont}} \sim M_{\text{stellar}}$$

EW(H $\alpha$ ) a reasonably proxy for the sSFR

Observed increase of 5x

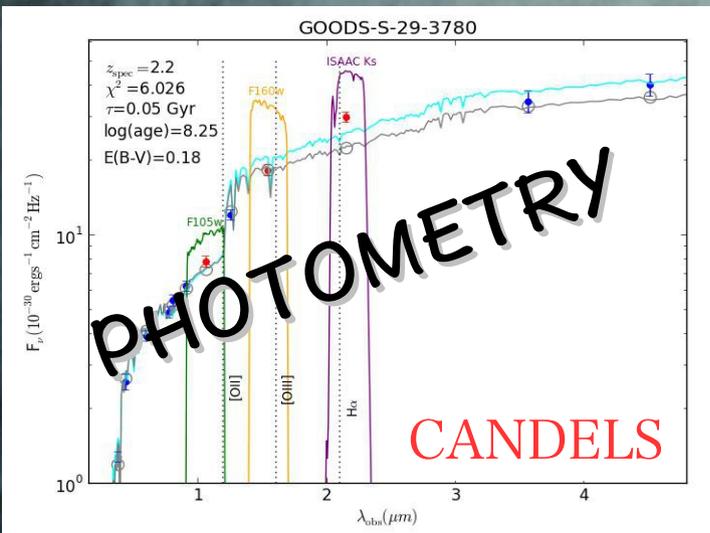
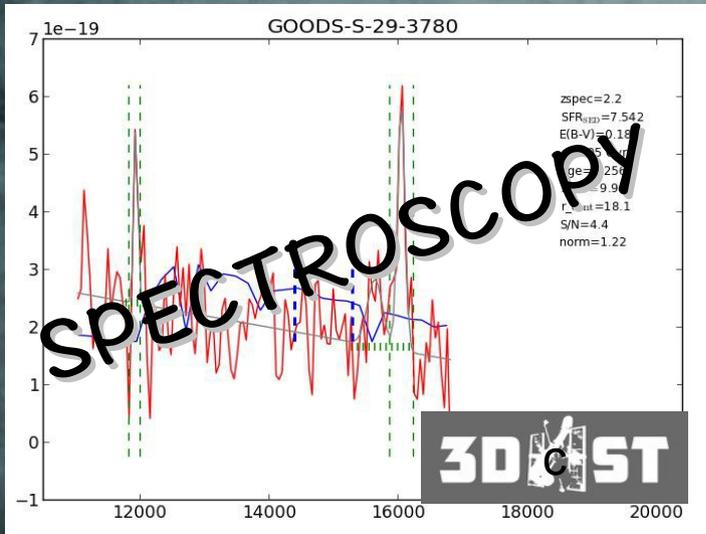
>> Compatible with the evolution at  $z < 2$

>> Incompatible with sSFR



A clear flux excess is detected in the photometric bands where the nebular emission lines are expected: flux in the continuum from the SED

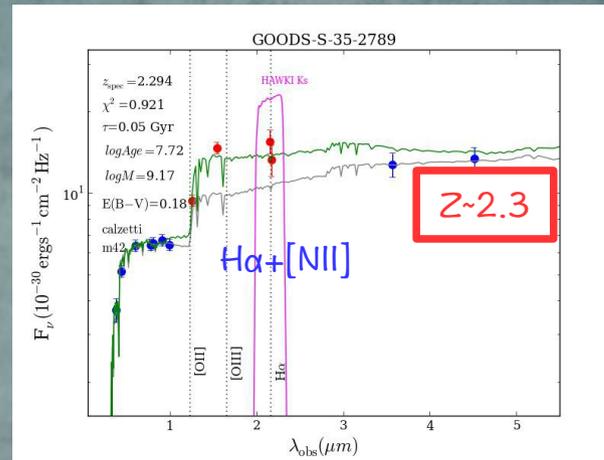
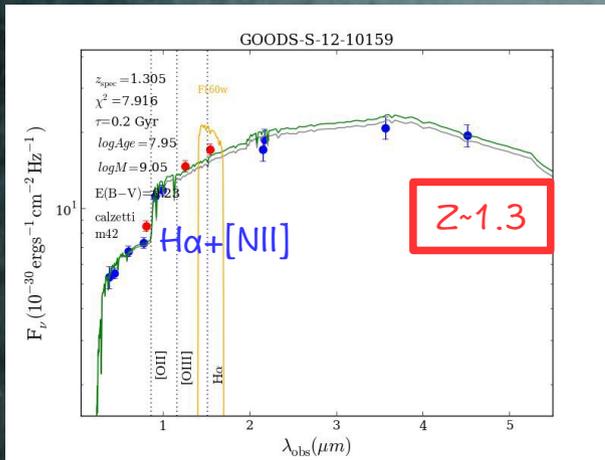
# Aim of this work



Can we infer EWs?

# Photometric data: CANDELS

GOODS-S: Guo+2013  
UDS: Galametz+2013

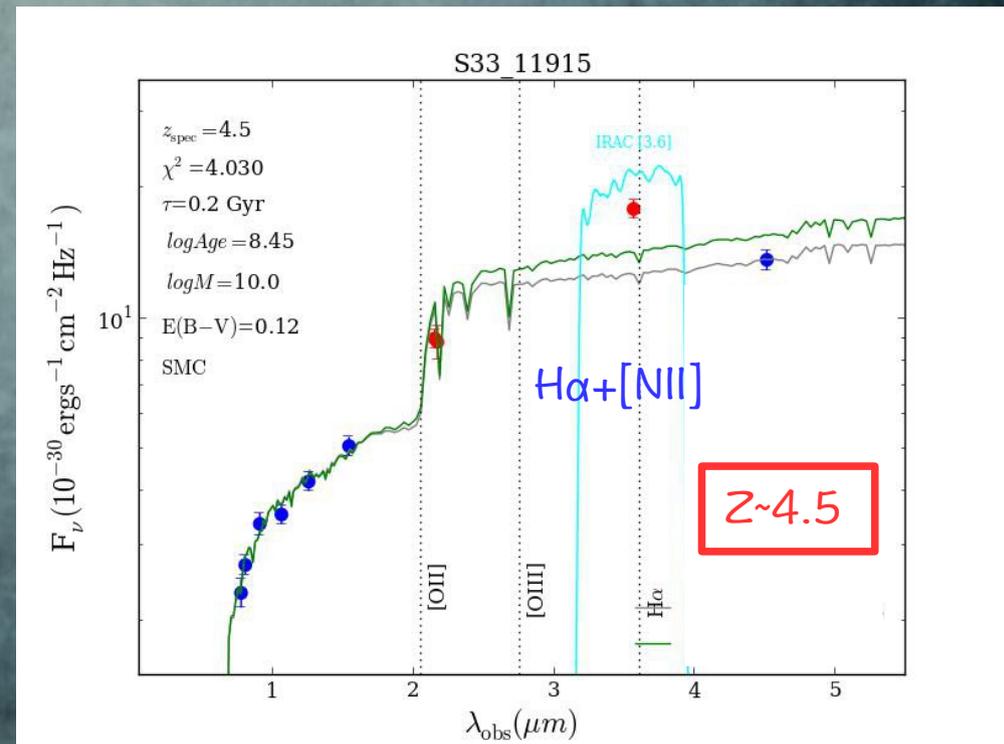


LePhare (Ilbert+2009)

Bruzual & Charlot 2003  
Chabrier IMF  
Exponential declining  $\tau$  SFH  
Solar/subsolar metallicity  
Calzetti/SMC attenuation  
Spectroscopic redshifts <<<

>>> Deep HAWKI-Ks data from the HUGS survey (Fontana+2014)

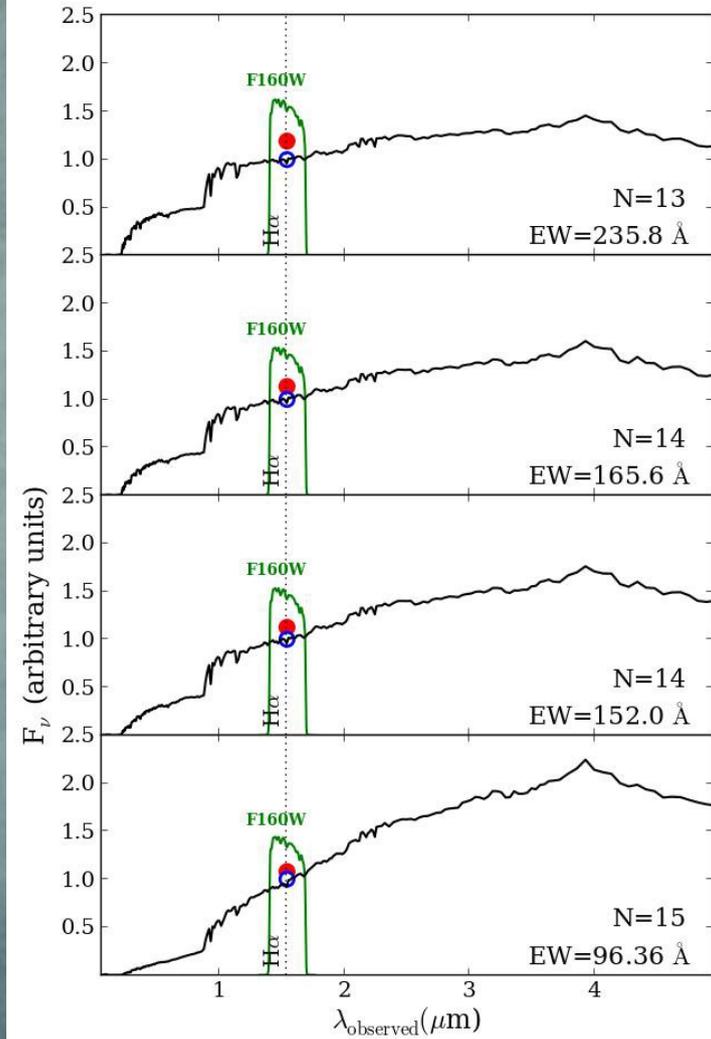
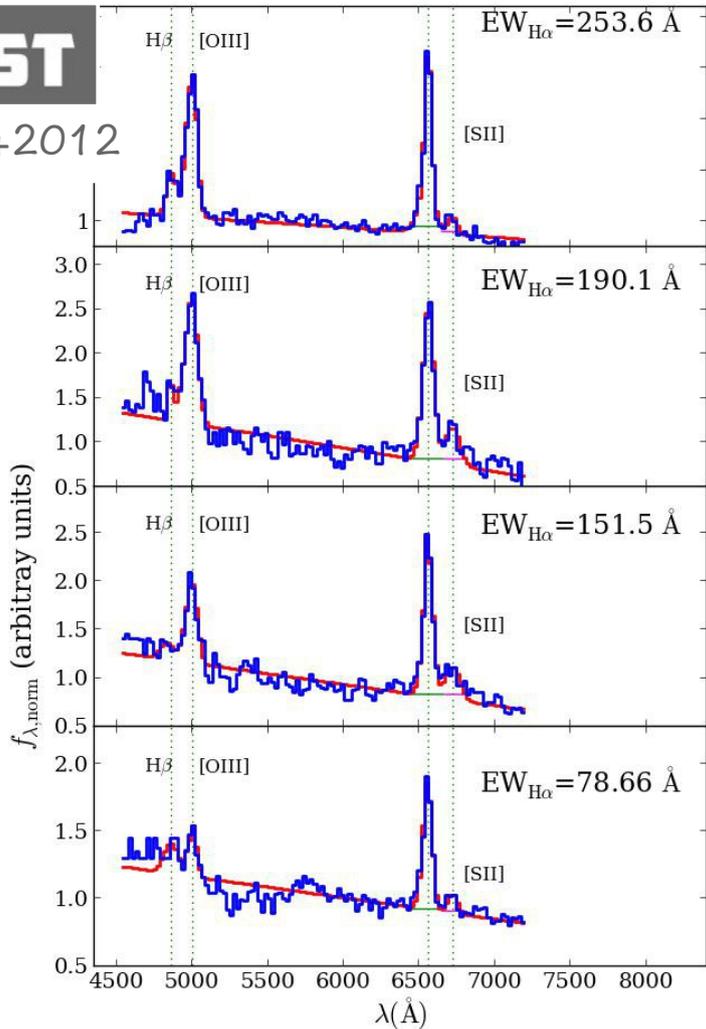
Redshift	Band
Z~1.3	H
Z~2.2	K
Z~4.5	IRAC-CH1



# Testing with SF galaxies at $z \sim 1.3$

3D C ST

Brammer+2012

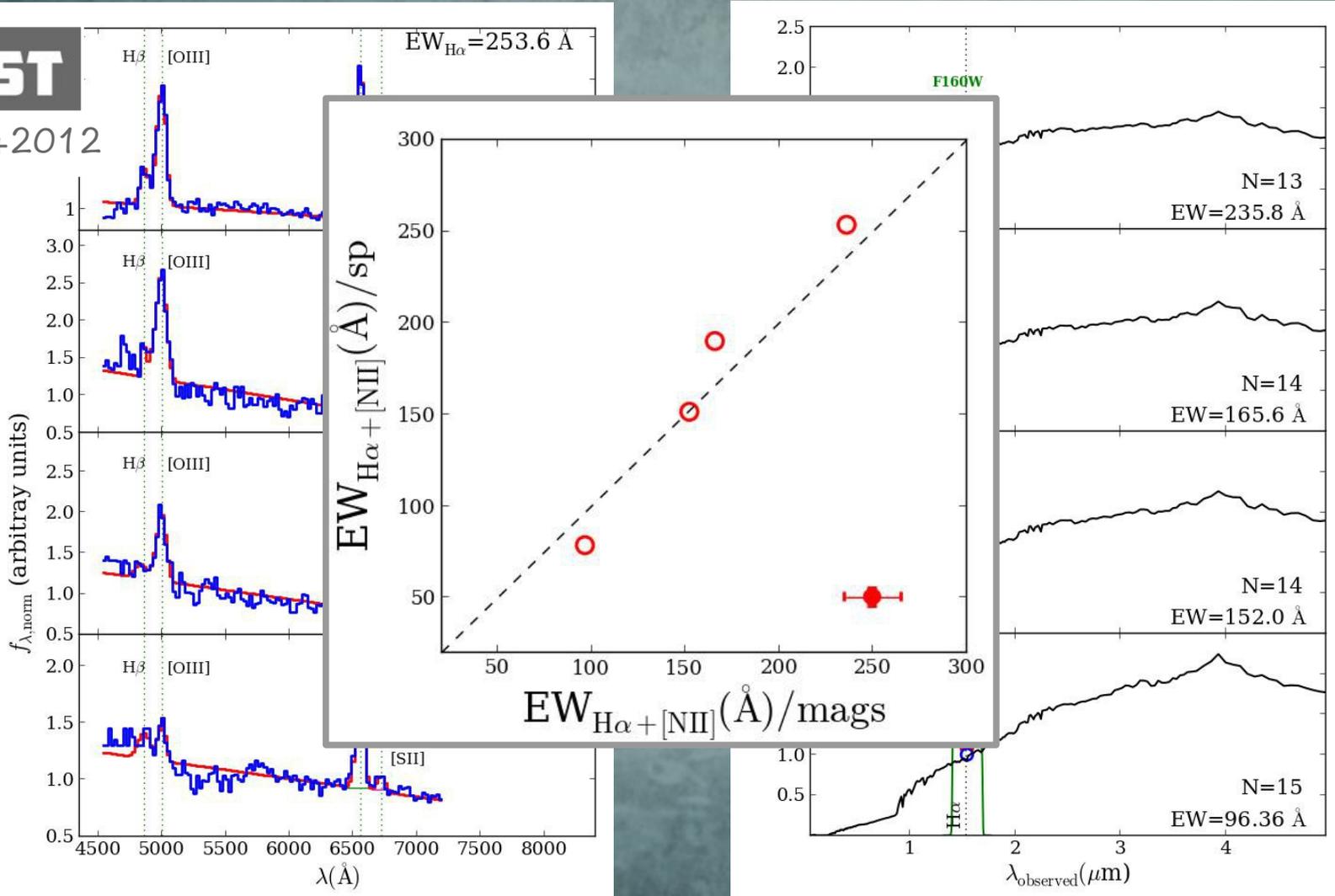


Low-resolution nIR spectra with the WFC3 G141 grism on the HST

# Testing with SF galaxies at $z \sim 1.3$

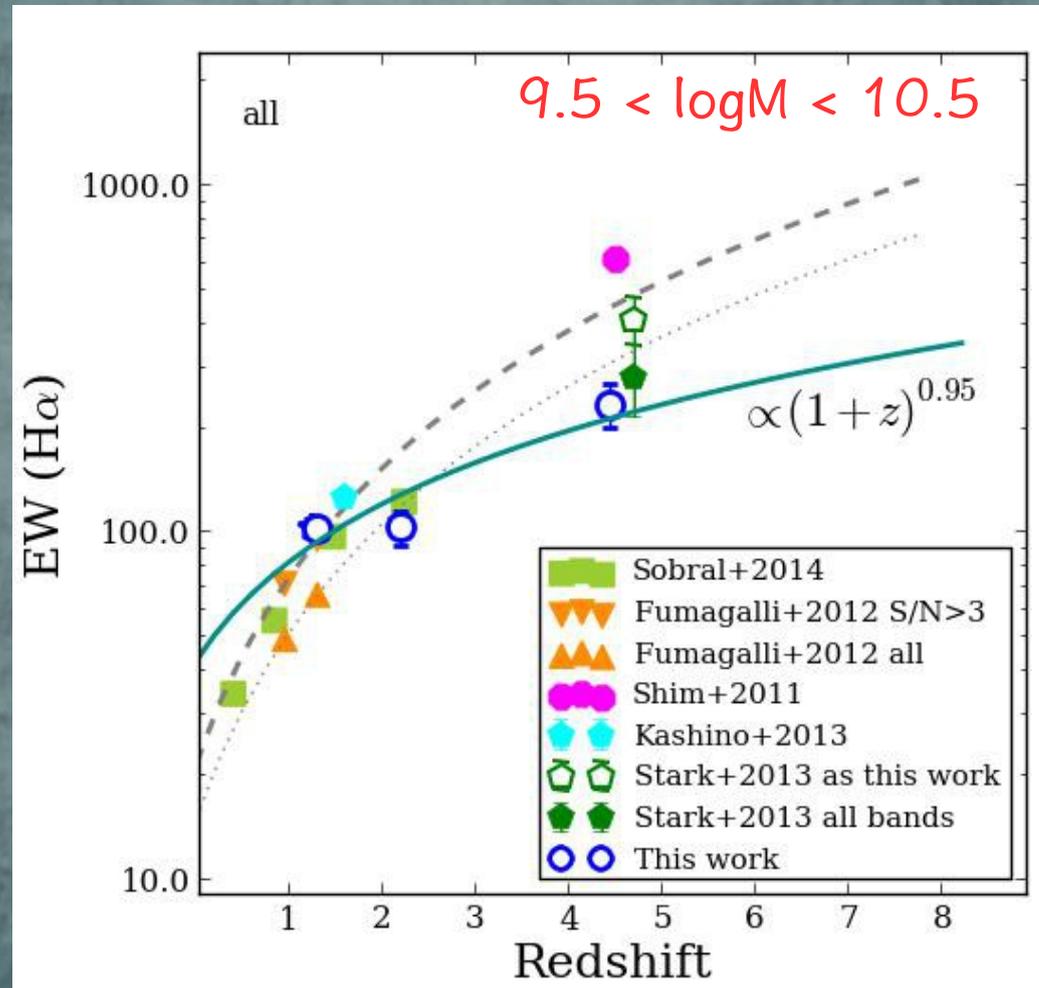
3D CIST

Brammer+2012

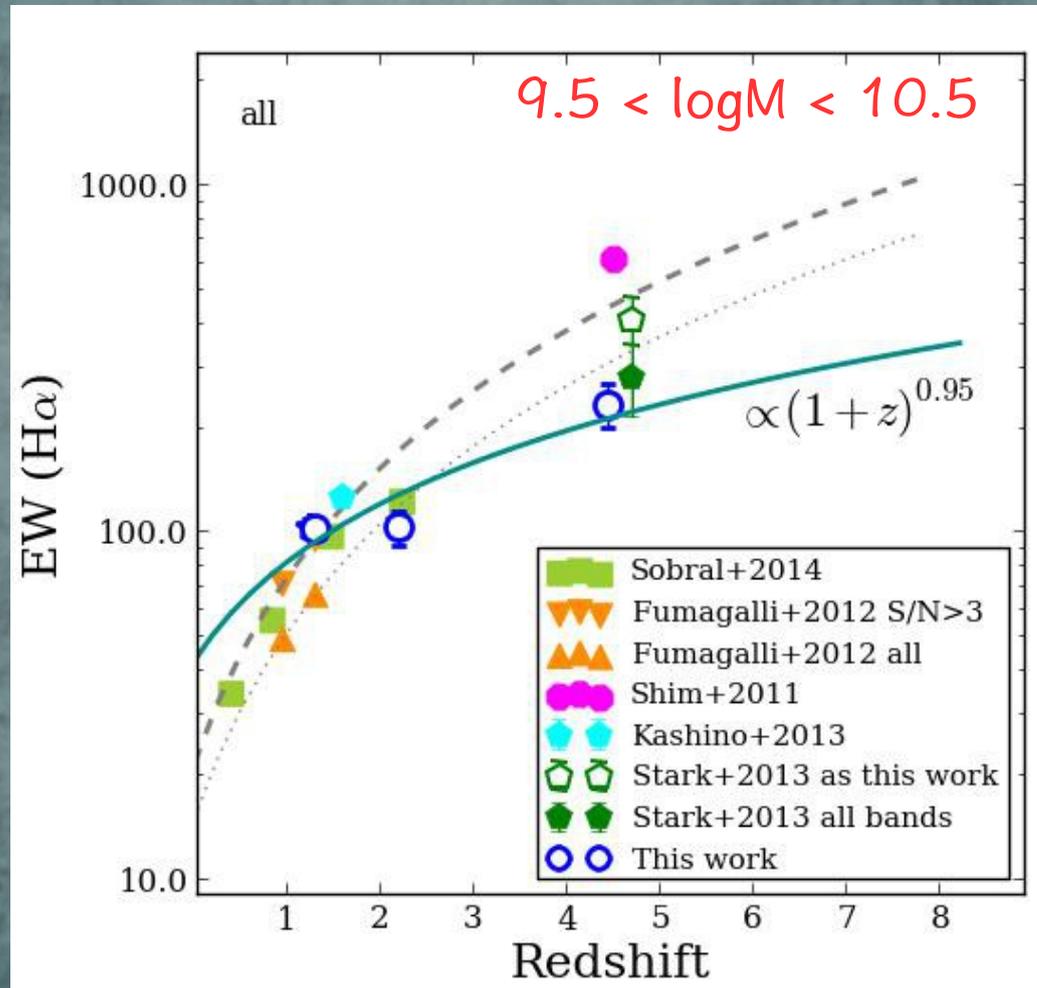


Low-resolution NIR spectra with the WFC3 G141 grism on the HST

# EW(H $\alpha$ ) vs redshift

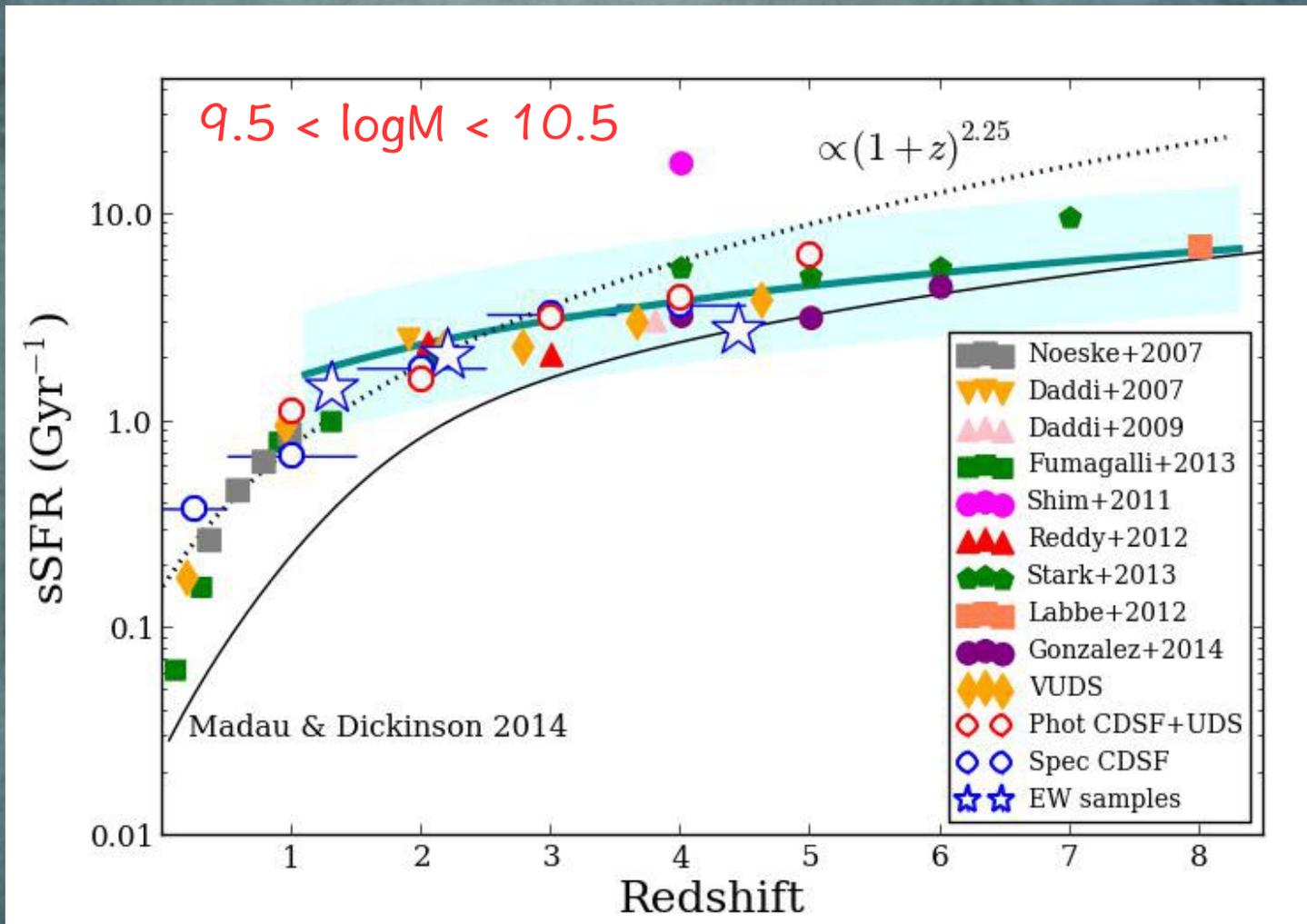


# EW(H $\alpha$ ) vs redshift

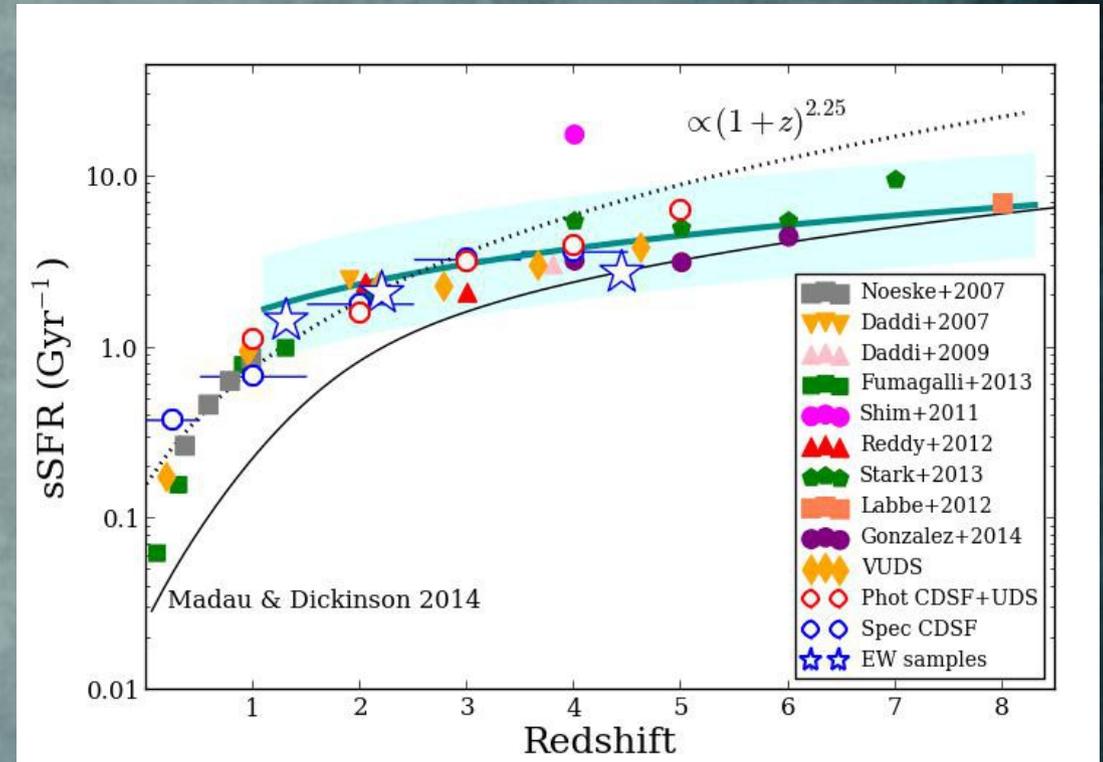
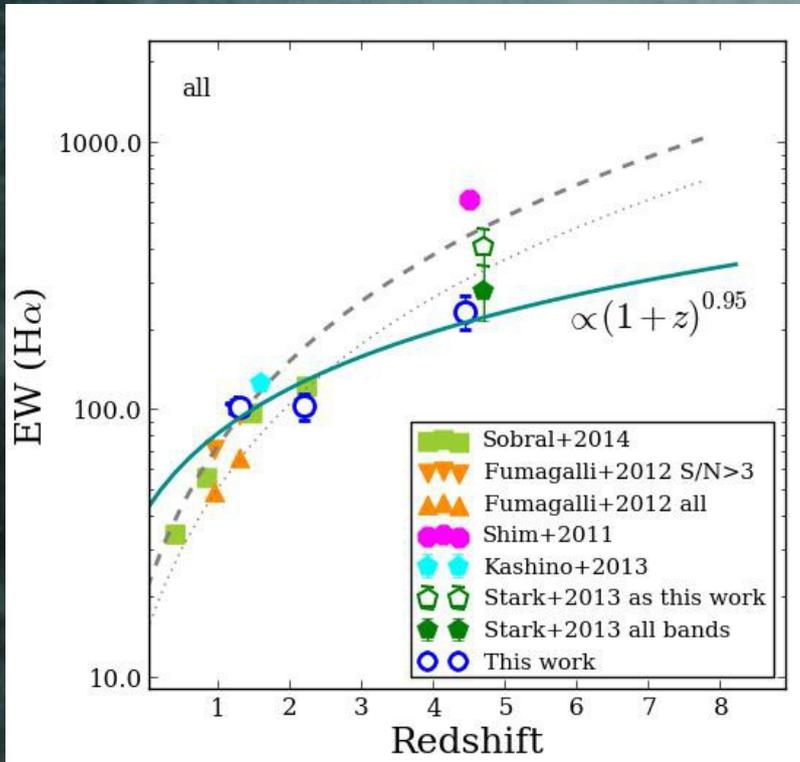


Shim+2011  
~0.2dex brighter  
IRAC [3.6]

# sSFR vs redshift



# Evolution with redshift



# Summary

We have combined spectroscopic and photometric data in a sample of galaxies at redshifts  $z \sim 1.3$  to recover:

Fluxes of the continuum and the emission lines

SFRs

EW(H $\alpha$ )

The evolution of the EW(H $\alpha$ ) and sSFR with  $z$  is similar and

$\propto (1+z)^{-2.2}$  for galaxies at  $z < 3$

$\propto (1+z)^{-1.0}$  for galaxies at  $z > 3$



# Star-forming galaxies

