


# Sub-percent precision in the primordial abundance of

**D**

**1**

2.014



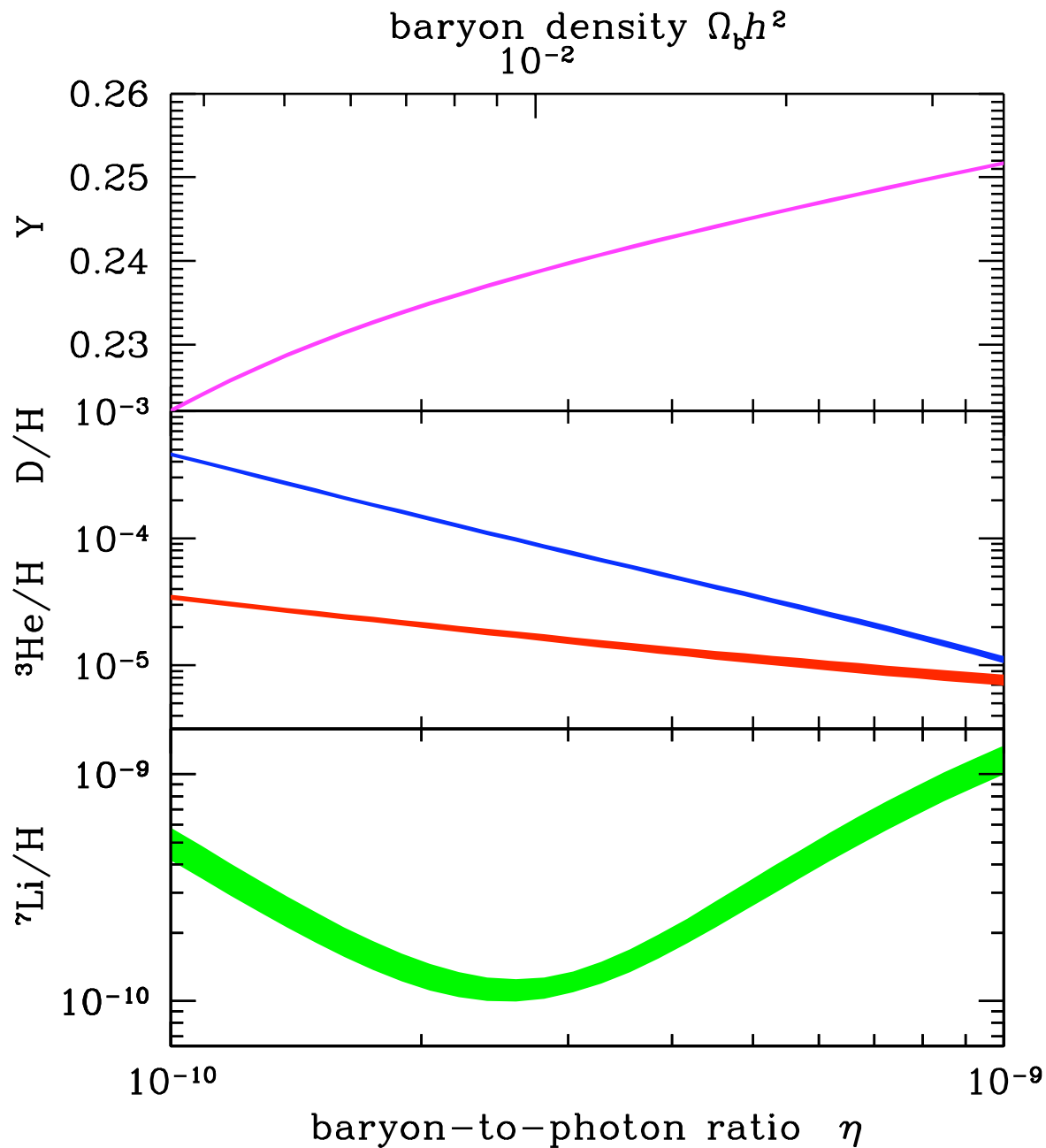
**Deuterium**

The image shows a glass flask containing a clear liquid, likely deuterium oxide. The flask has a stopper and a label that reads "DEUTERIUM OXIDE" and "STUART OXYGEN CO. Street, San Francisco". There are handwritten numbers "299" and "87" on the label. The flask is positioned in the center of a dark background.

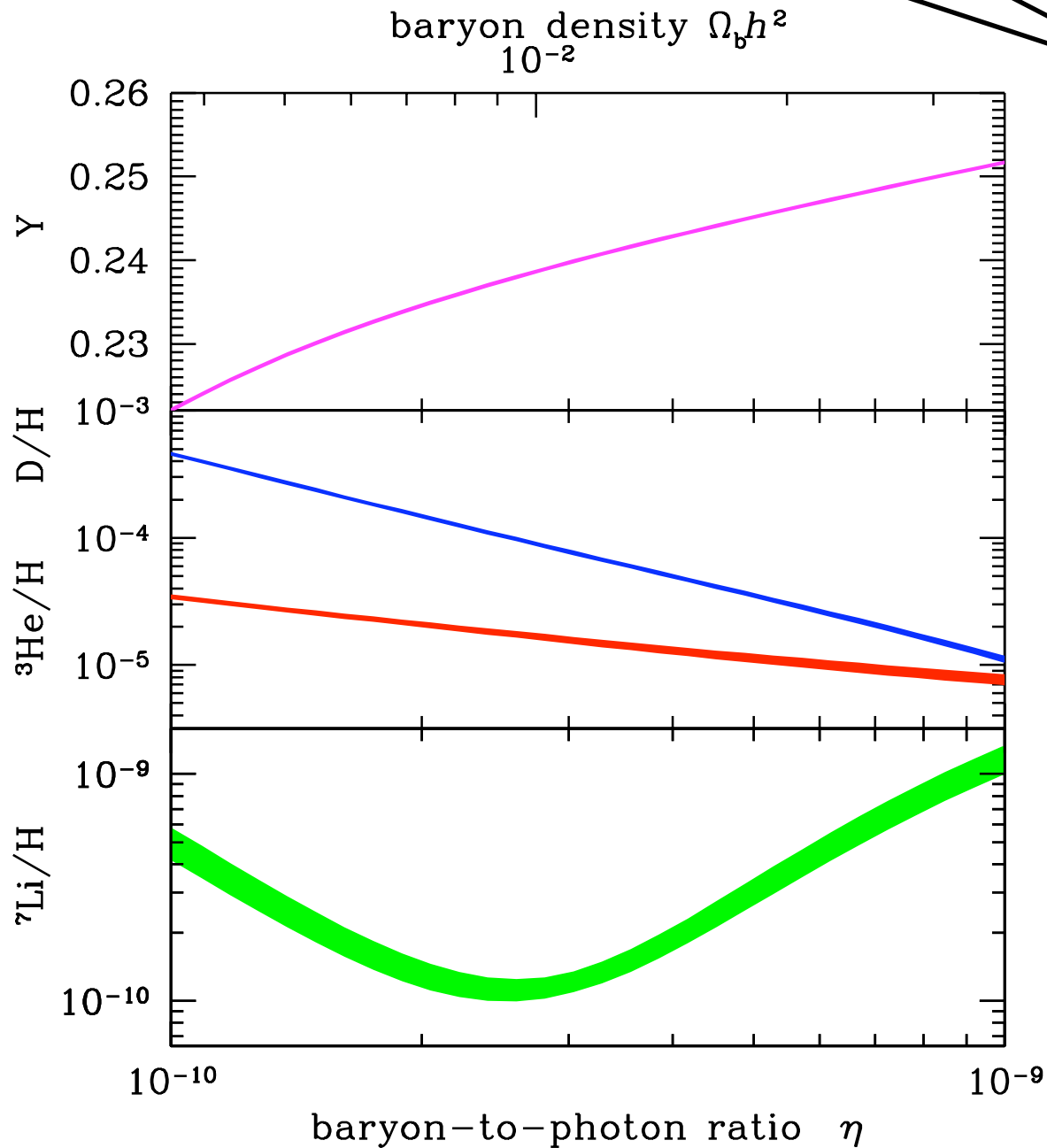
Max Pettini

Ryan Cooke

# Deuterium is the baryometer of choice



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## INTERSTELLAR DEUTERIUM ABUNDANCE IN THE DIRECTION OF BETA CENTAURI

JOHN B. ROGERSON, JR., AND DONALD G. YORK

Princeton University Observatory

*Received 1973 September 21; revised 1973 October 18*

### ABSTRACT

Interstellar absorption lines due to the Lyman series transitions in hydrogen and deuterium have been observed in the spectrum of  $\beta$  Cen. From these, a ratio of deuterium to hydrogen, by number, of  $1.4 \pm 0.2$  (m.e.)  $\times 10^{-5}$  has been obtained. If one assumes that the present deuterium abundance is a relic of the big-bang element synthesis, a value of  $1.5 \times 10^{-31}$  g cm $^{-3}$  for the present density of the Universe is derived.

*Subject headings:* abundances — cosmology — interstellar matter — spectra, ultraviolet

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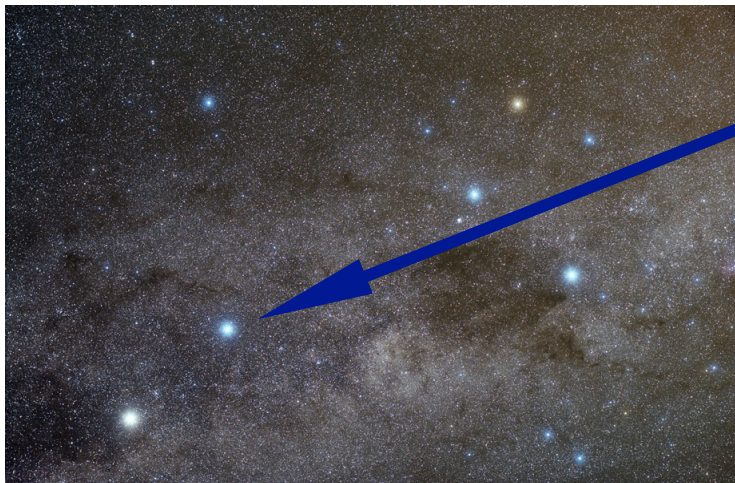
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$\beta$  Cen

B1 III

$V = 0.61$

$d = 120$  pc

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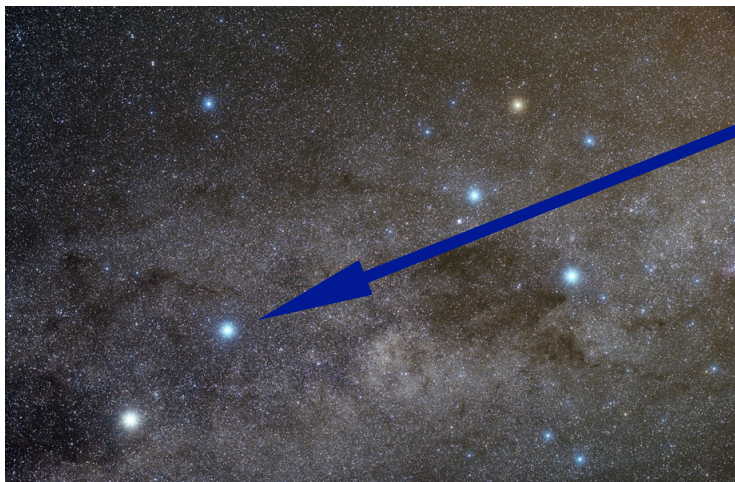
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$\beta$  Cen

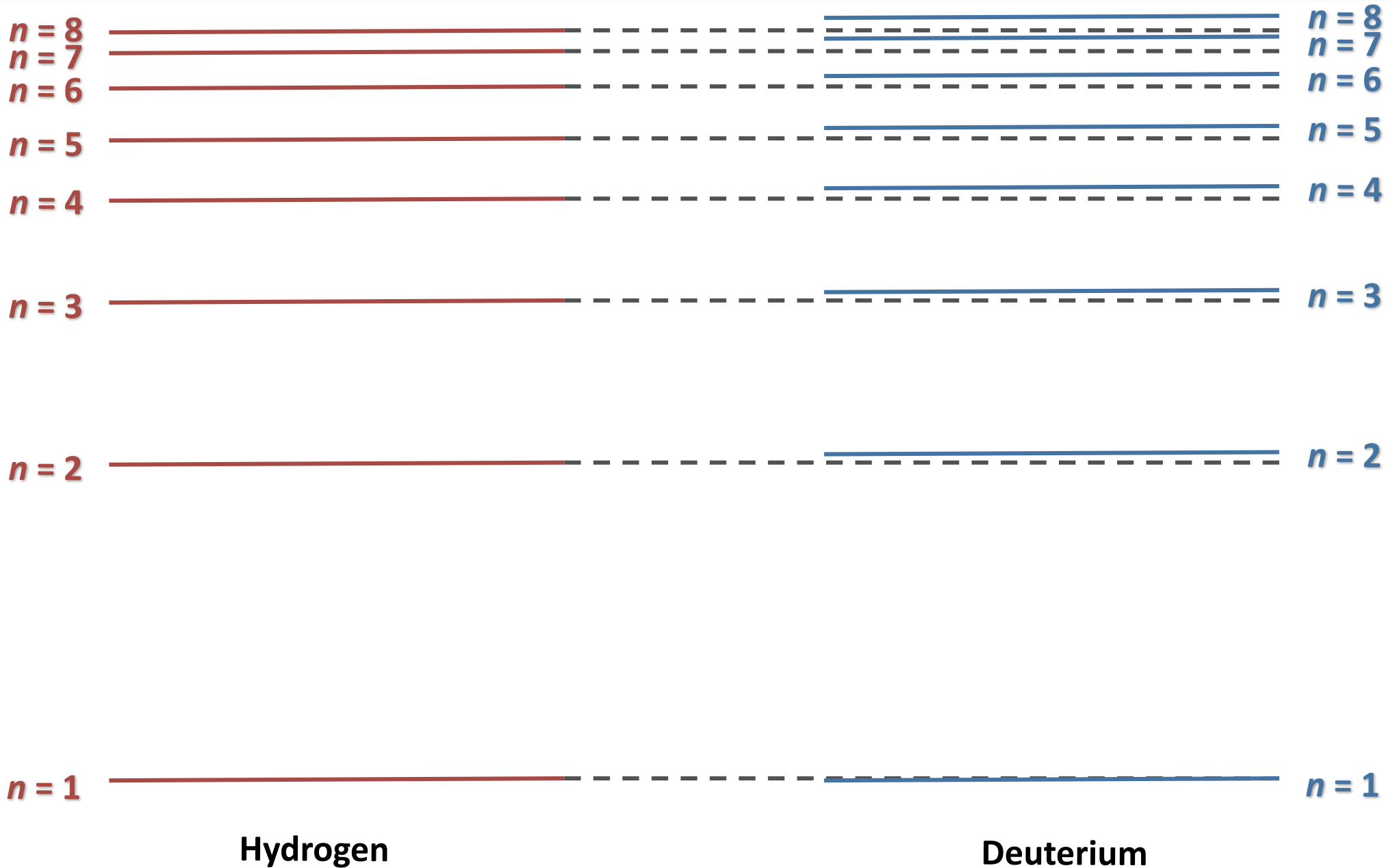
B1 III

$V = 0.61$

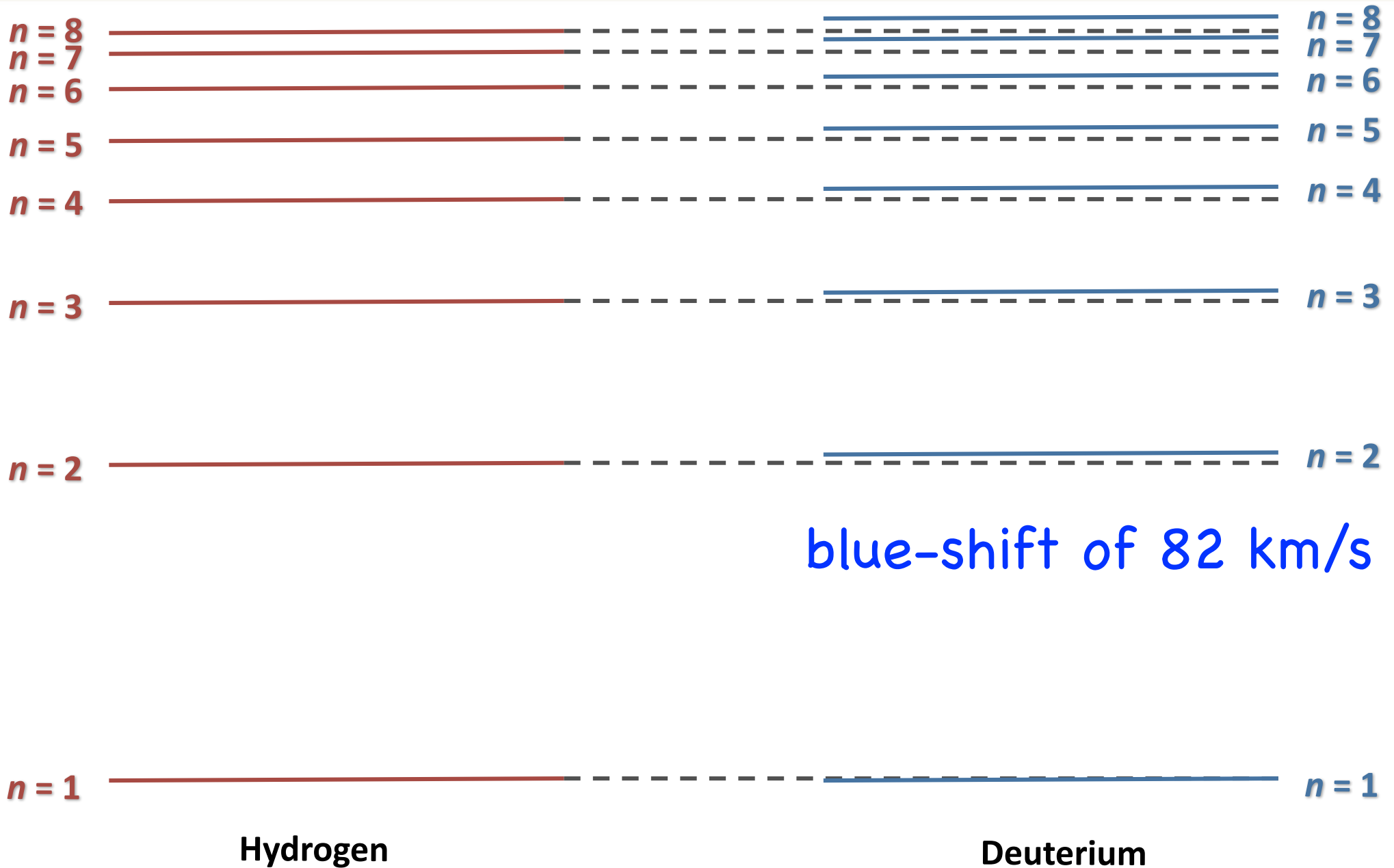
$d = 120$  pc

$$\Omega_b < 0.067$$

# Energy Levels



# Energy Levels





*Research Note*

**The Detectability of Deuterium Lyman Alpha in QSOs**

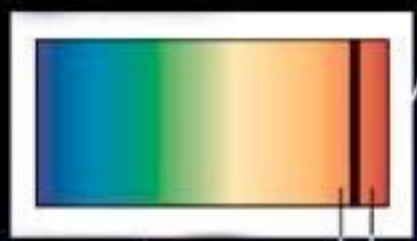
Thomas F. Adams

Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics, University of Chicago, 1100-14E. 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60637, USA

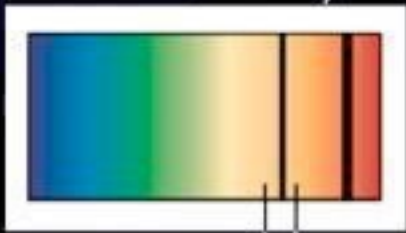
Received March 22, 1976

**Summary.** Blended line profiles are calculated for the deuterium and hydrogen Lyman alpha lines that might be produced by QSO absorbing clouds. It is shown that in suitable clouds the deuterium Lyman alpha line should be detectable, even if the abundance of deuterium is the same as in the interstellar medium. Observers should be alert for the deuterium Lyman alpha line since its detection would have important cosmological implications.

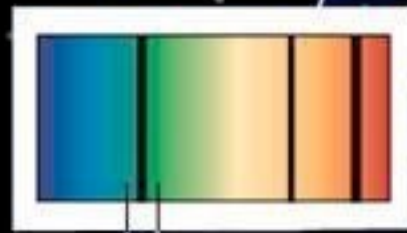
Quasar



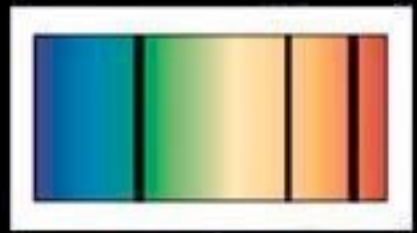
A



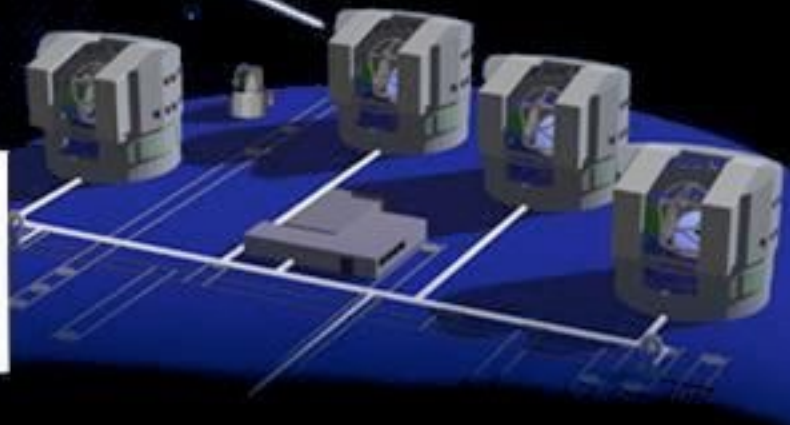
B



C



D





10m Keck telescope + HIRES



10m Keck telescope + HIRES



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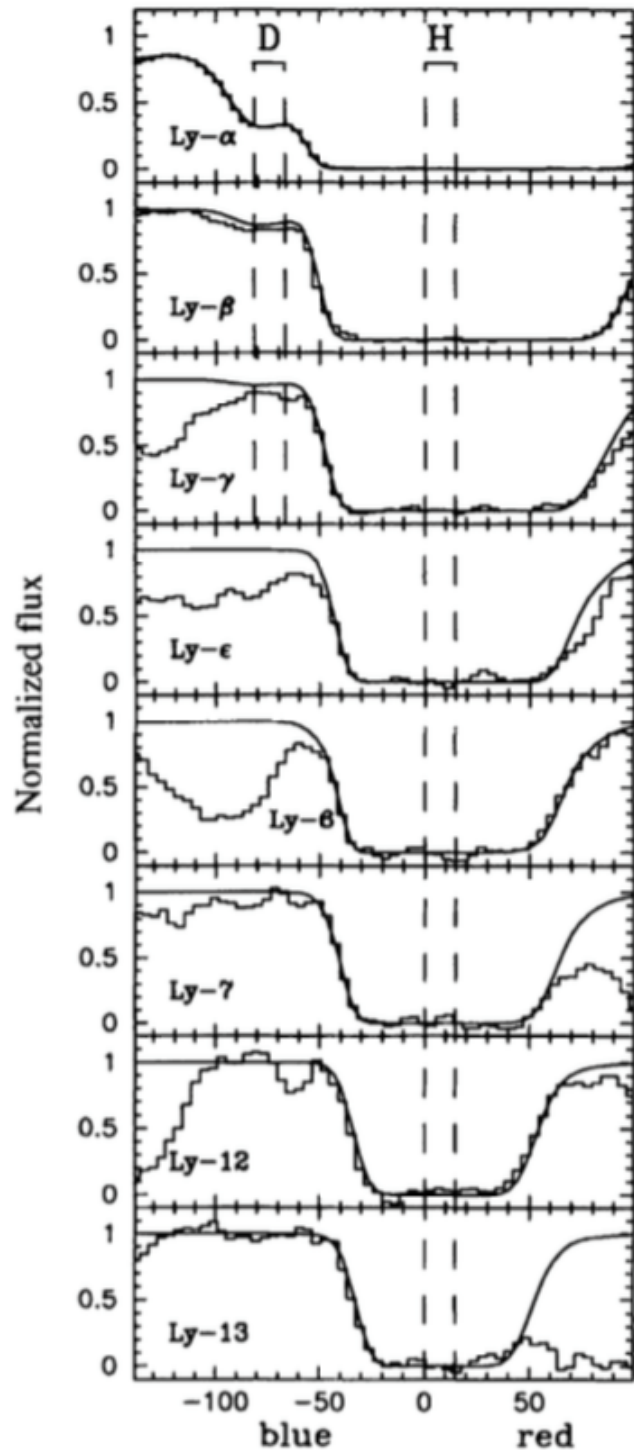
## **Cosmological baryon density derived from the deuterium abundance at redshift $z = 3.57$**

**David Tytler, Xiao-Ming Fan & Scott Burles**

Department of Physics, and Center for Astrophysics and Space Sciences,  
University of California, San Diego, C0111, La Jolla,  
California 92093-0111, USA

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NATURE · VOL 381 · 16 MAY 1996



10m Keck telescope + HIRES



## Cosmological baryon density derived from the deuterium abundance at redshift $z = 3.57$

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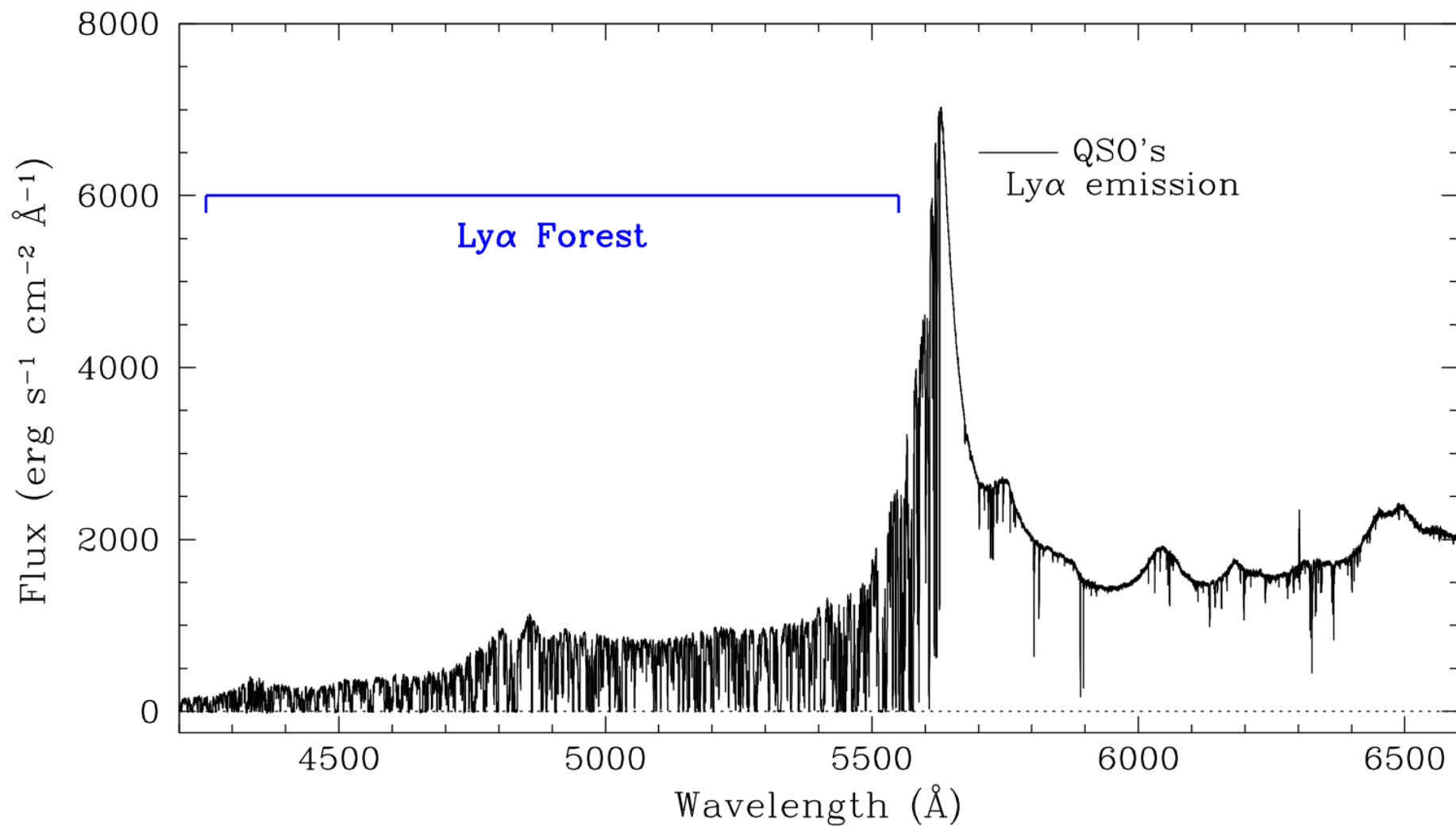
Department of Physics, and Center for Astrophysics and Space Sciences,  
University of California, San Diego, CO111, La Jolla,  
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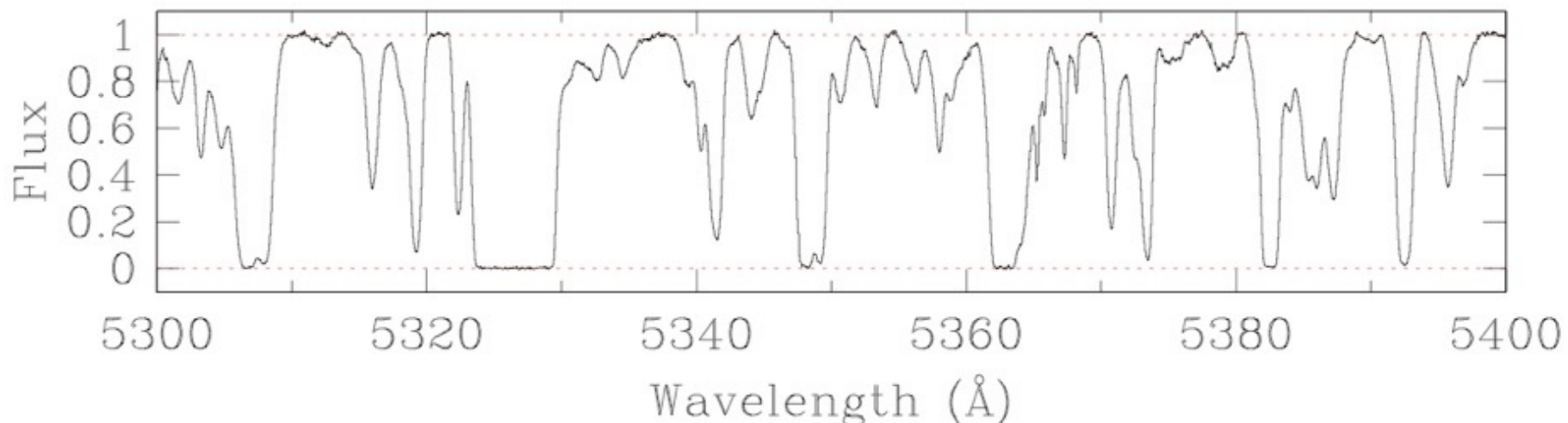
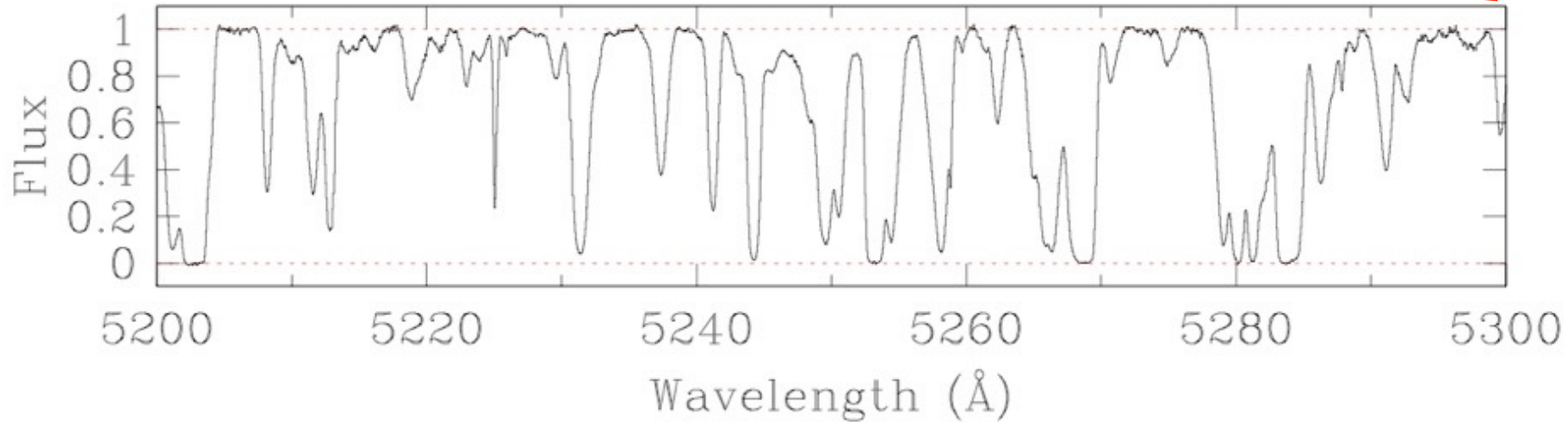
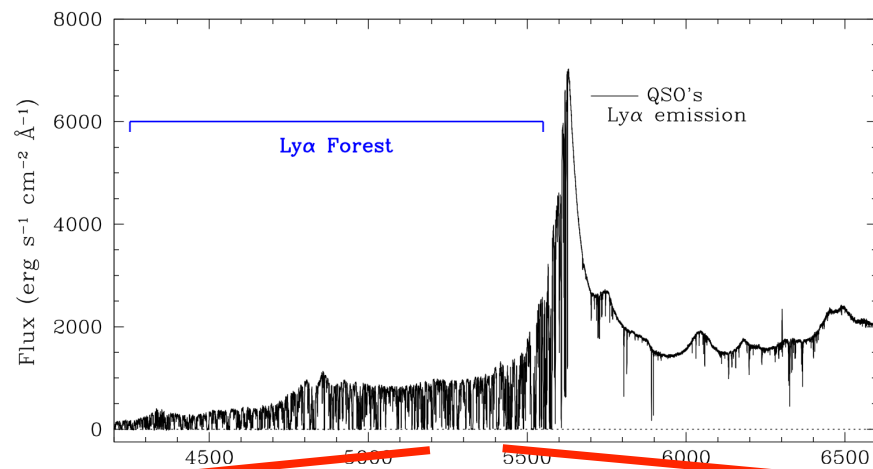




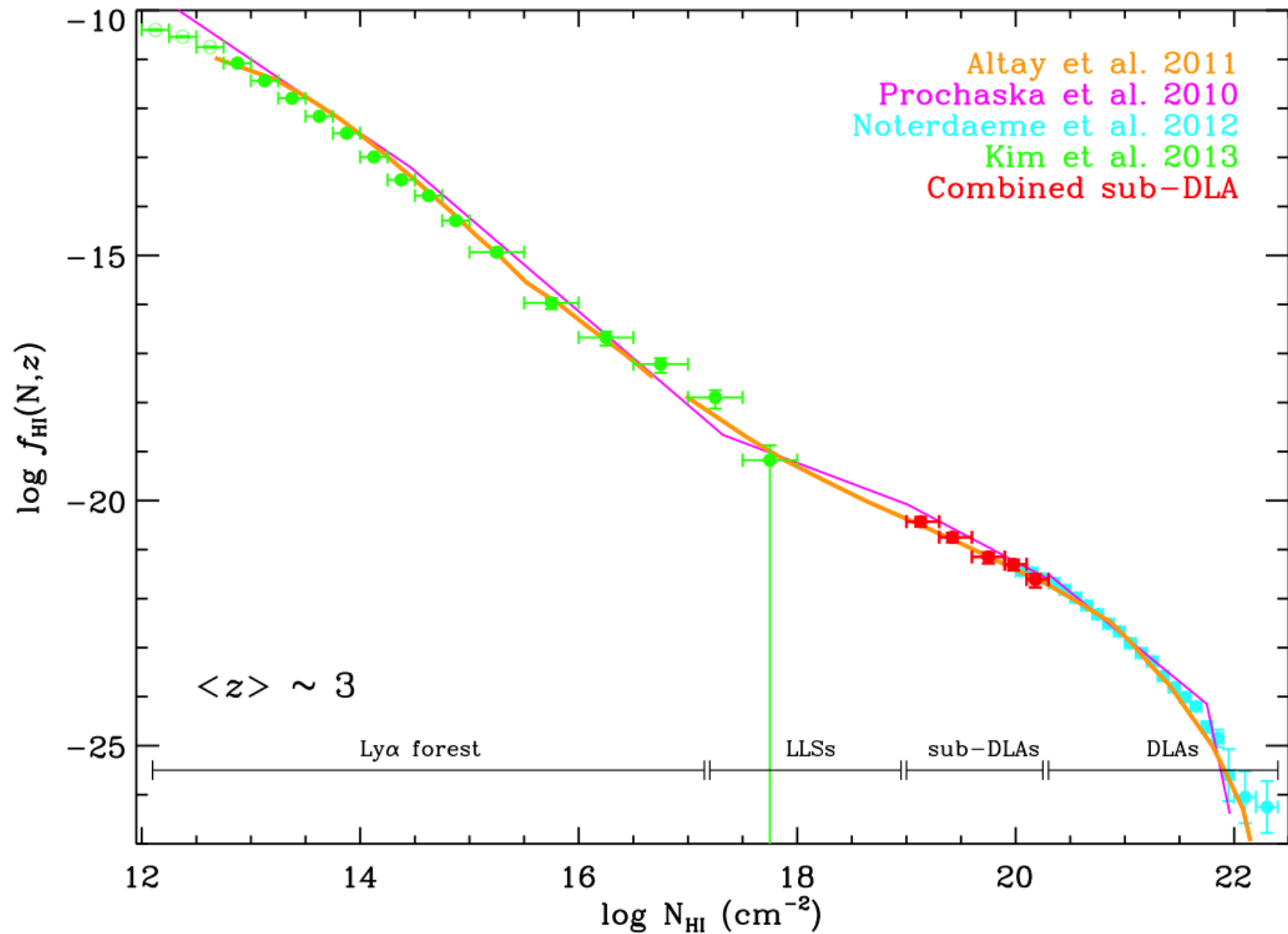
Q1422+231  $z_{\text{em}} = 3.625$

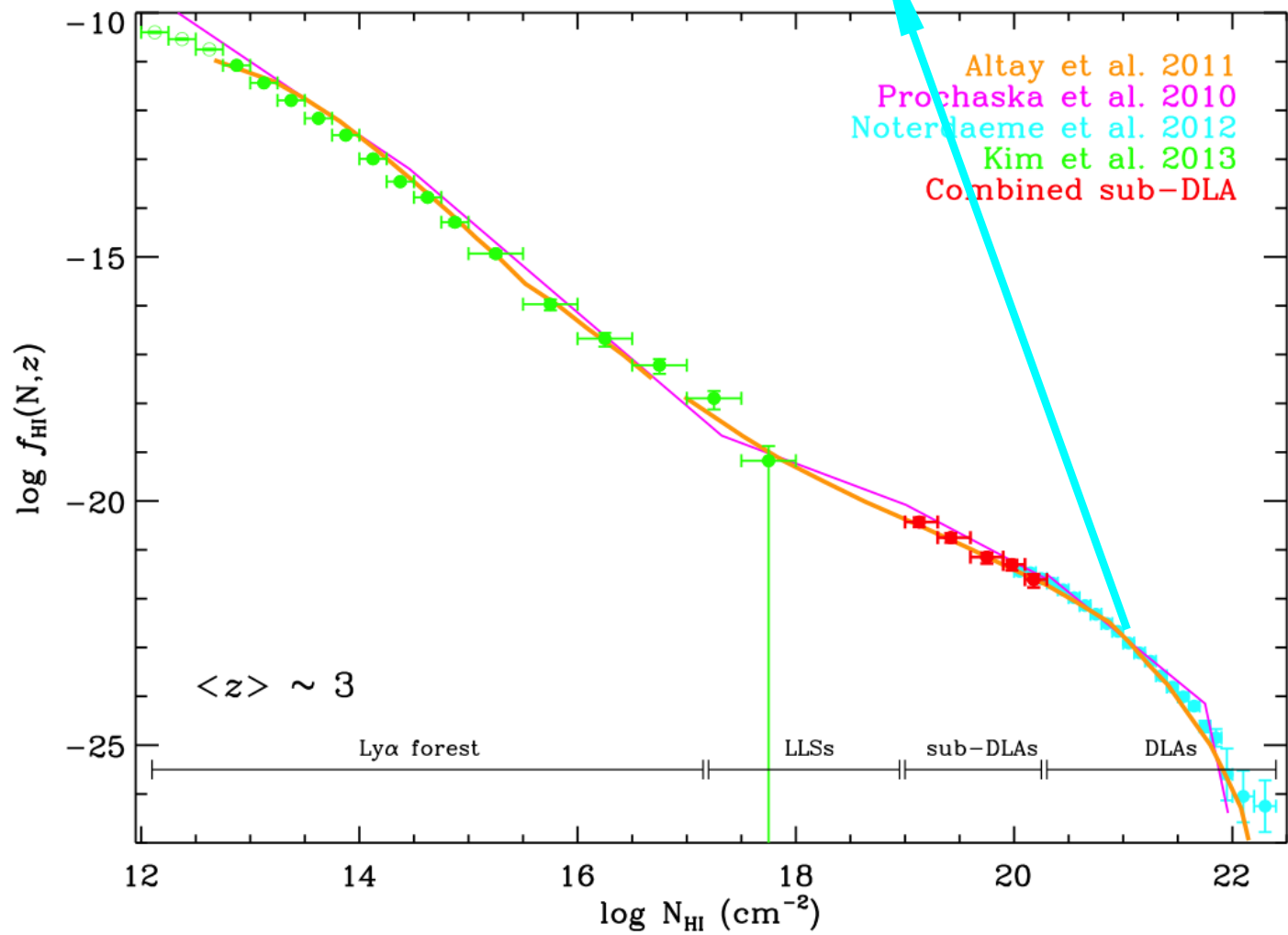
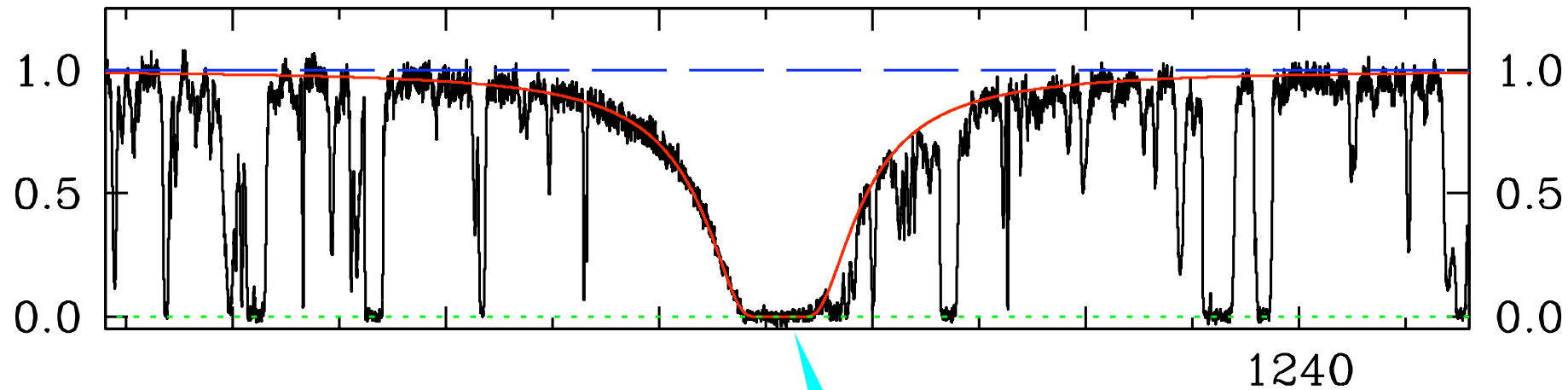


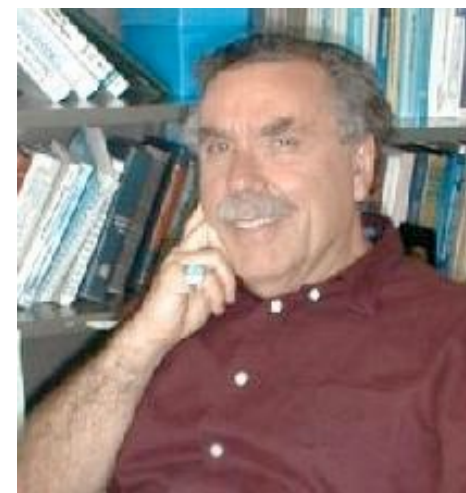
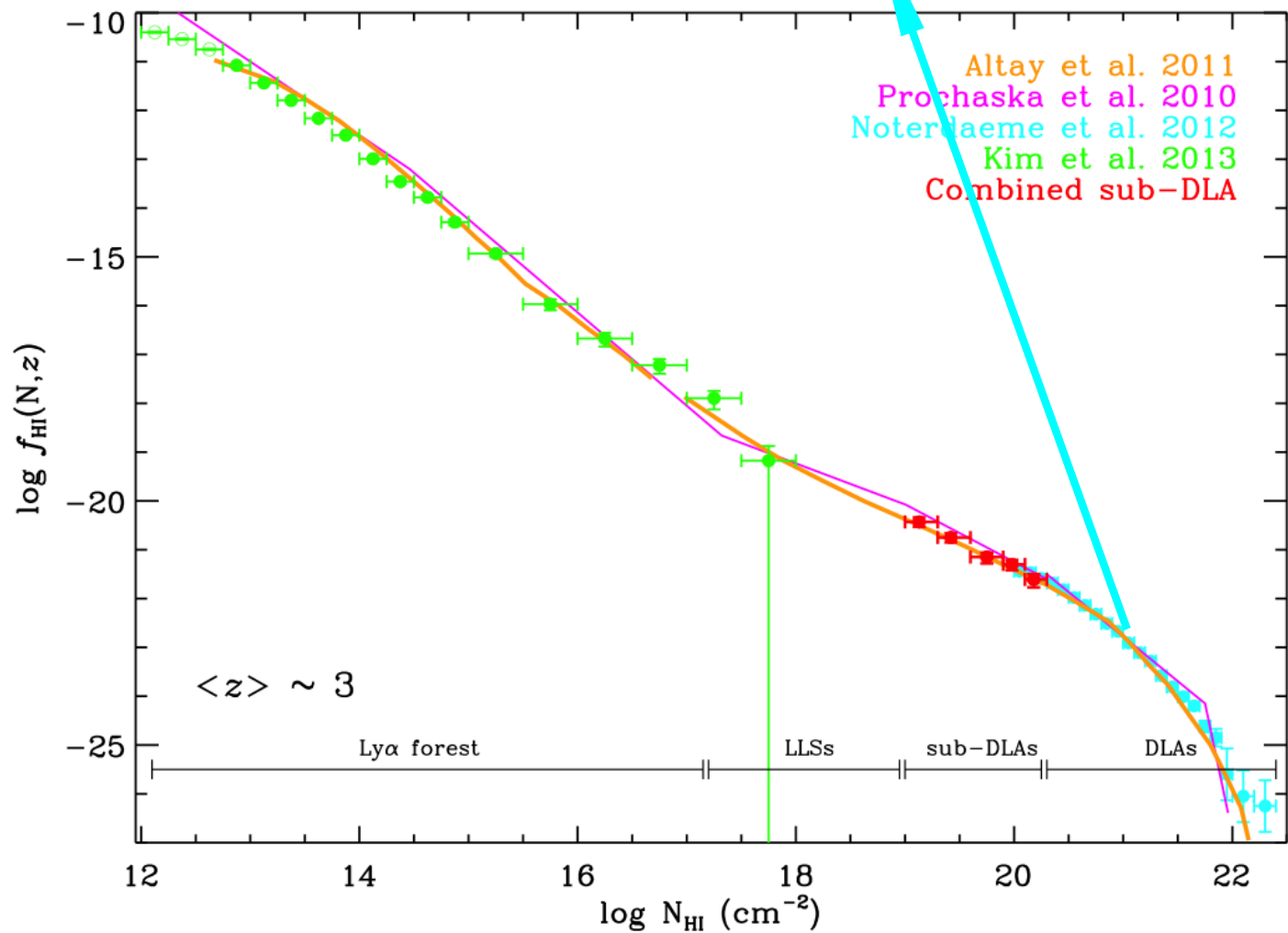
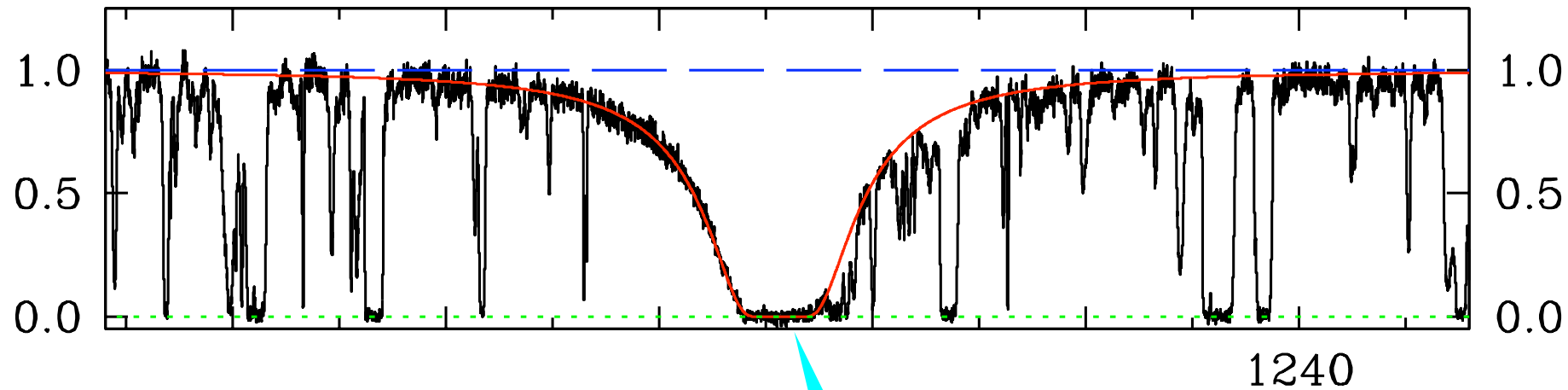




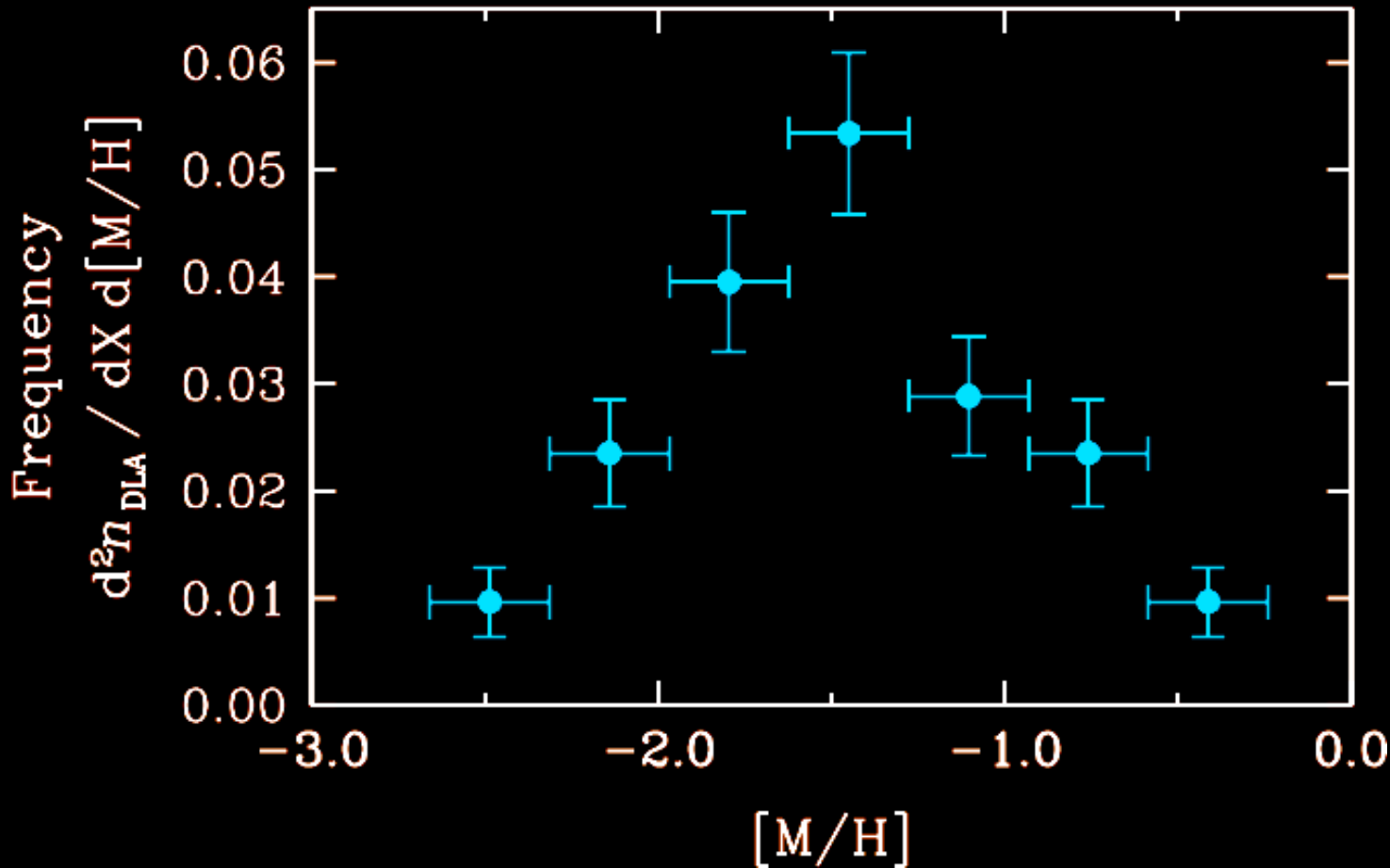
# Column Density Distribution of Ly $\alpha$ forest lines





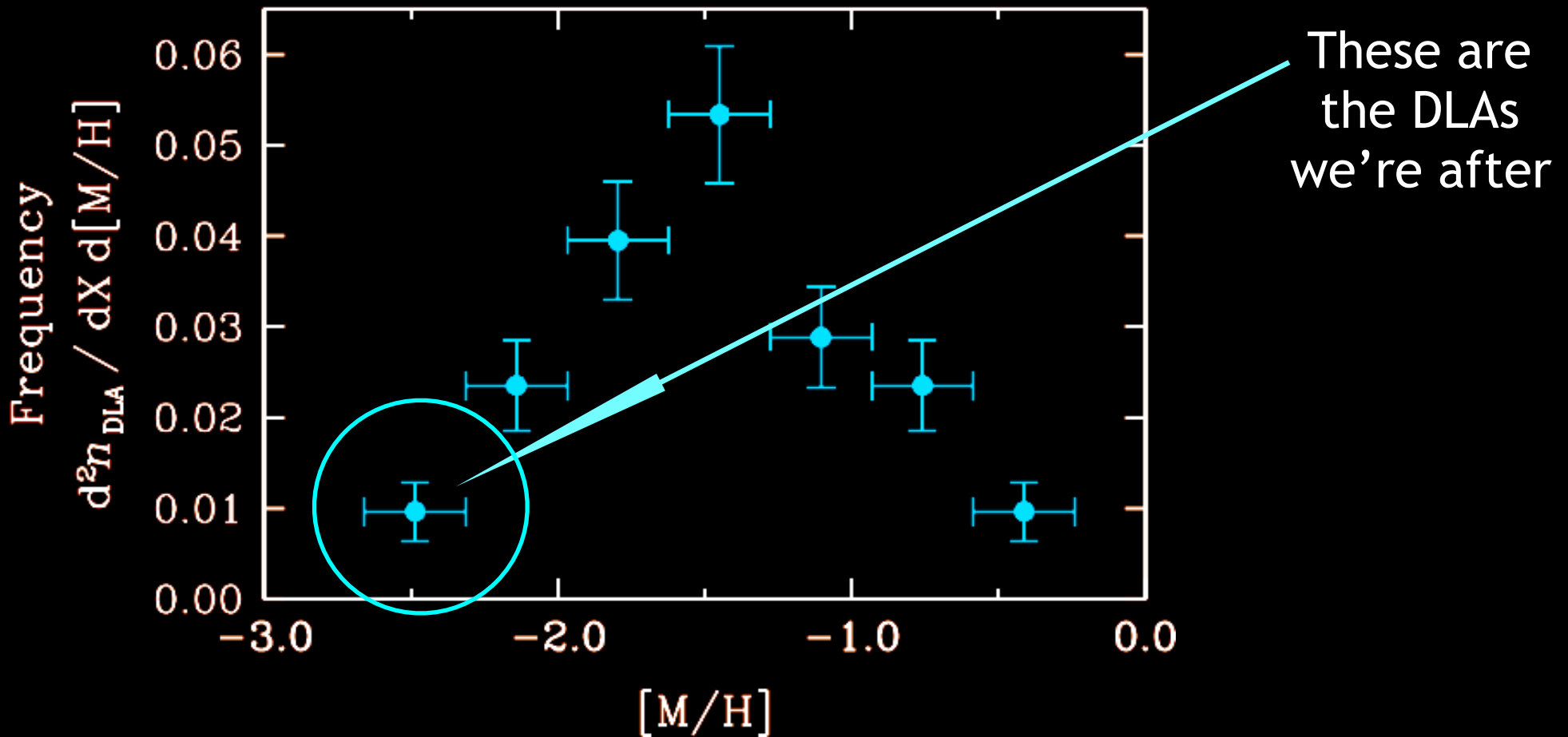


# Metallicity Distribution



Rafelski et al. 2012

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Very Metal Poor DLAs are **the** choice  
astrophysical environments for measuring  
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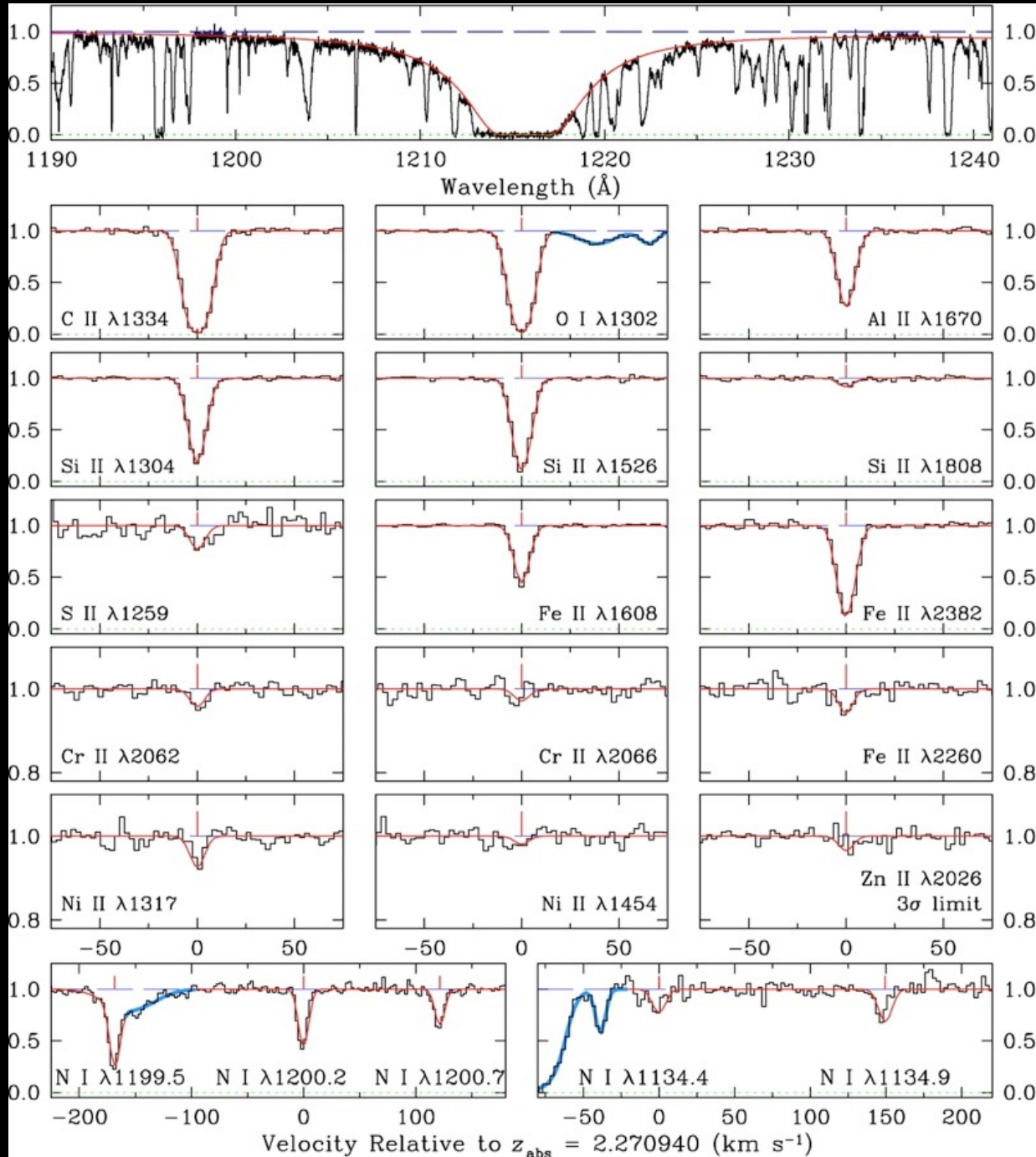
Low metallicities imply negligible astration of D



Very Metal Poor DLAs are **the** choice astrophysical environments for measuring the primordial abundance of deuterium

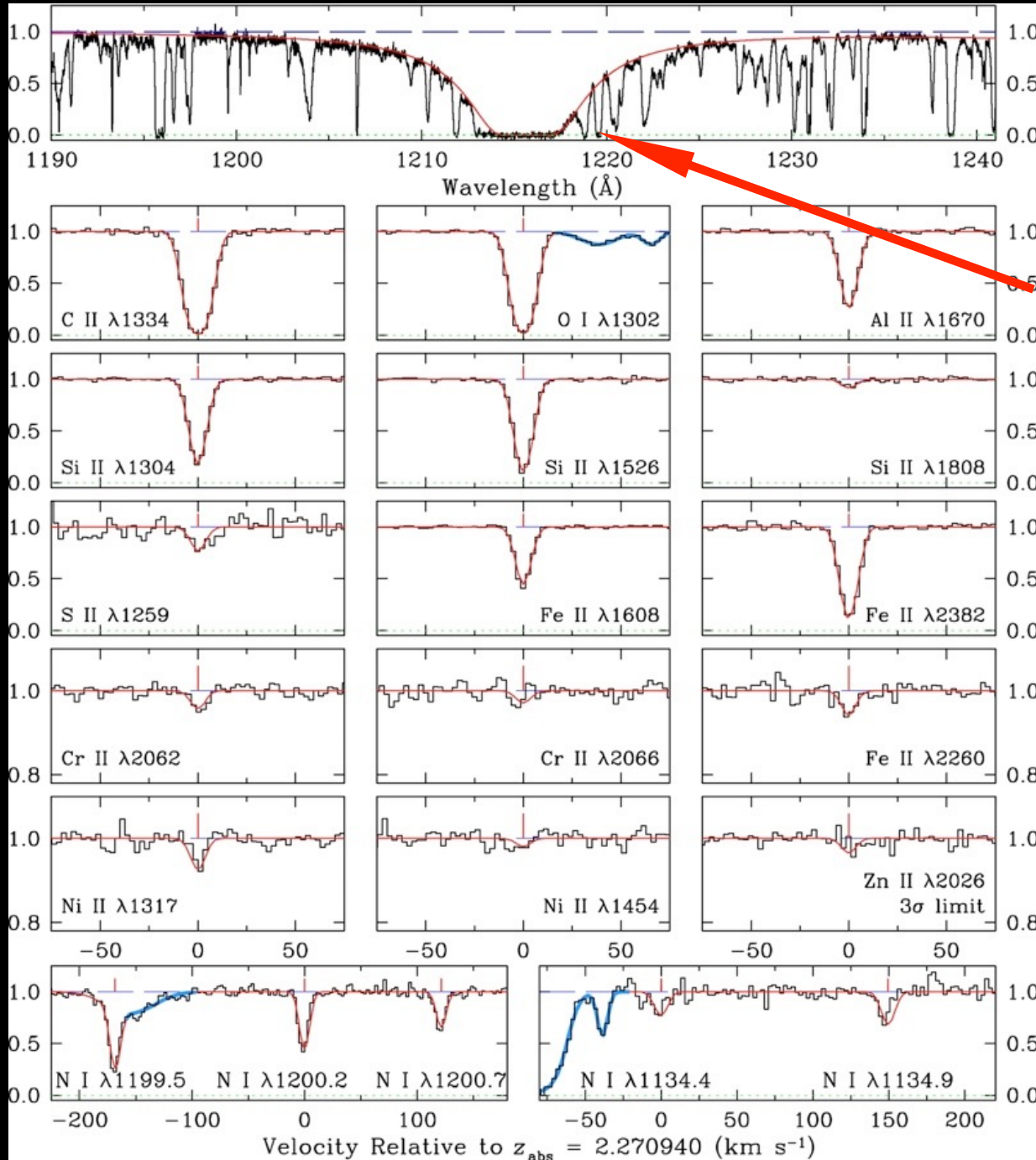
- ✓ Low metallicities imply negligible astration of D
- ✓ Narrow absorption lines make it possible to resolve the  $-82$  km/s isotope shift between D and H

# J1111+1332



Cooke+ 2015

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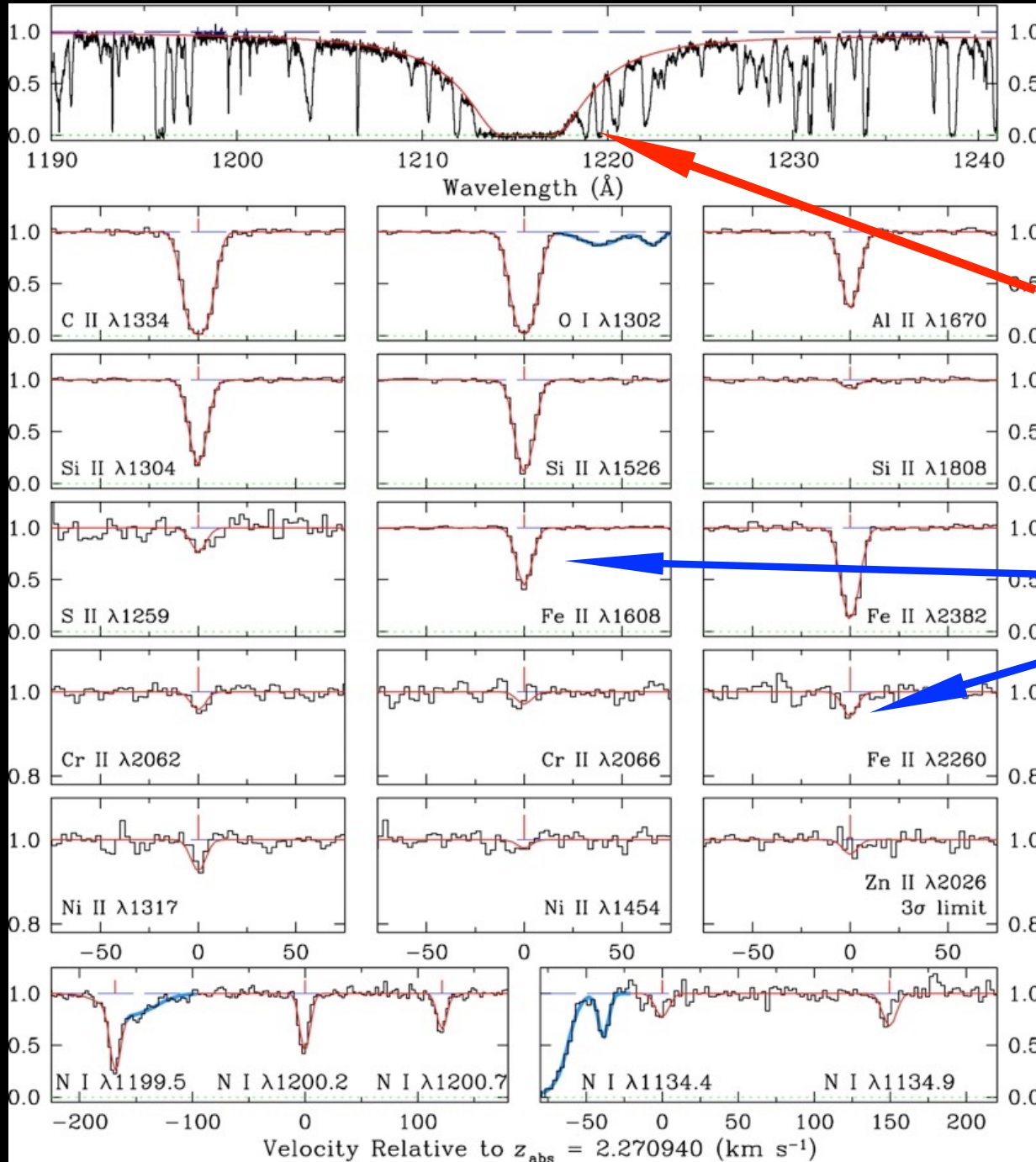


DLA at  $z = 2.270940$

$$N(\text{HI}) = 2.5 \times 10^{20} \text{ cm}^{-2}$$

Cooke+ 2015

# J1111+1332



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Fe/H = 1/200 solar

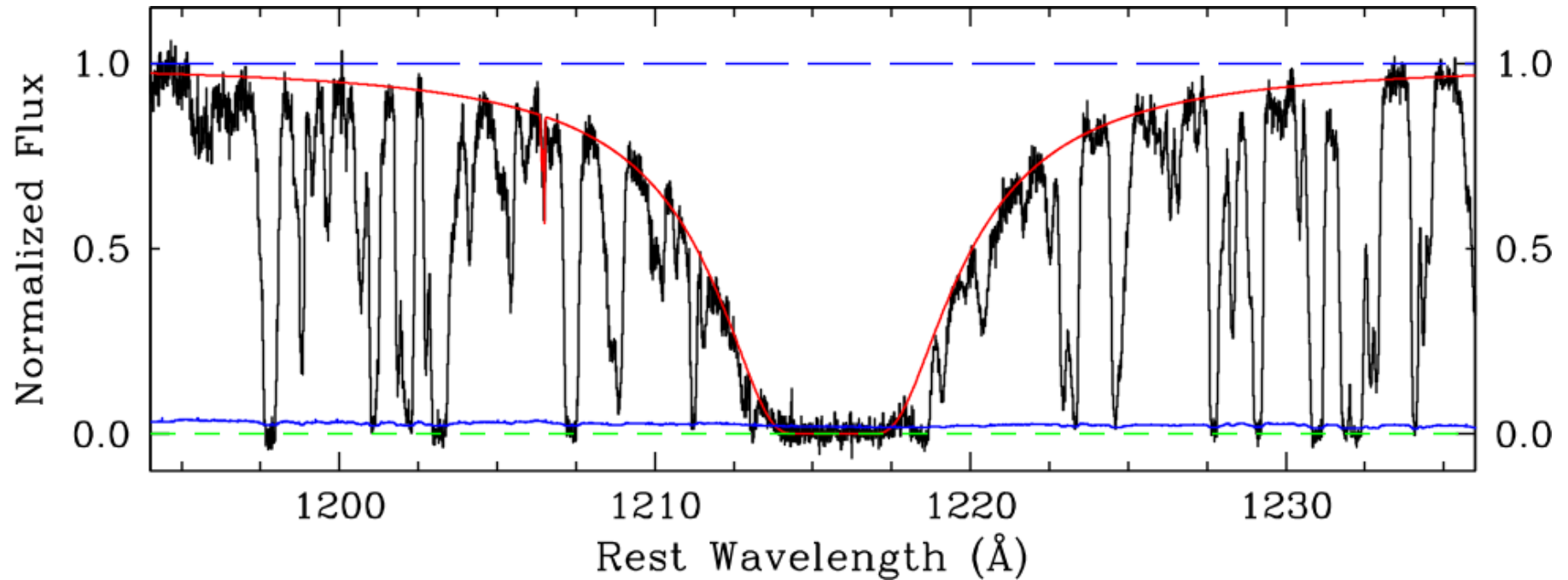
Cooke+ 2015

Very Metal Poor DLAs are **the** choice astrophysical environments for measuring the primordial abundance of deuterium

- ✓ Low metallicities imply negligible astration of D
- ✓ Narrow absorption lines make it possible to resolve the  $-82$  km/s isotope shift between D and H
- ✓ High H I column densities give detectable D I lines in **many** transitions of the Lyman series

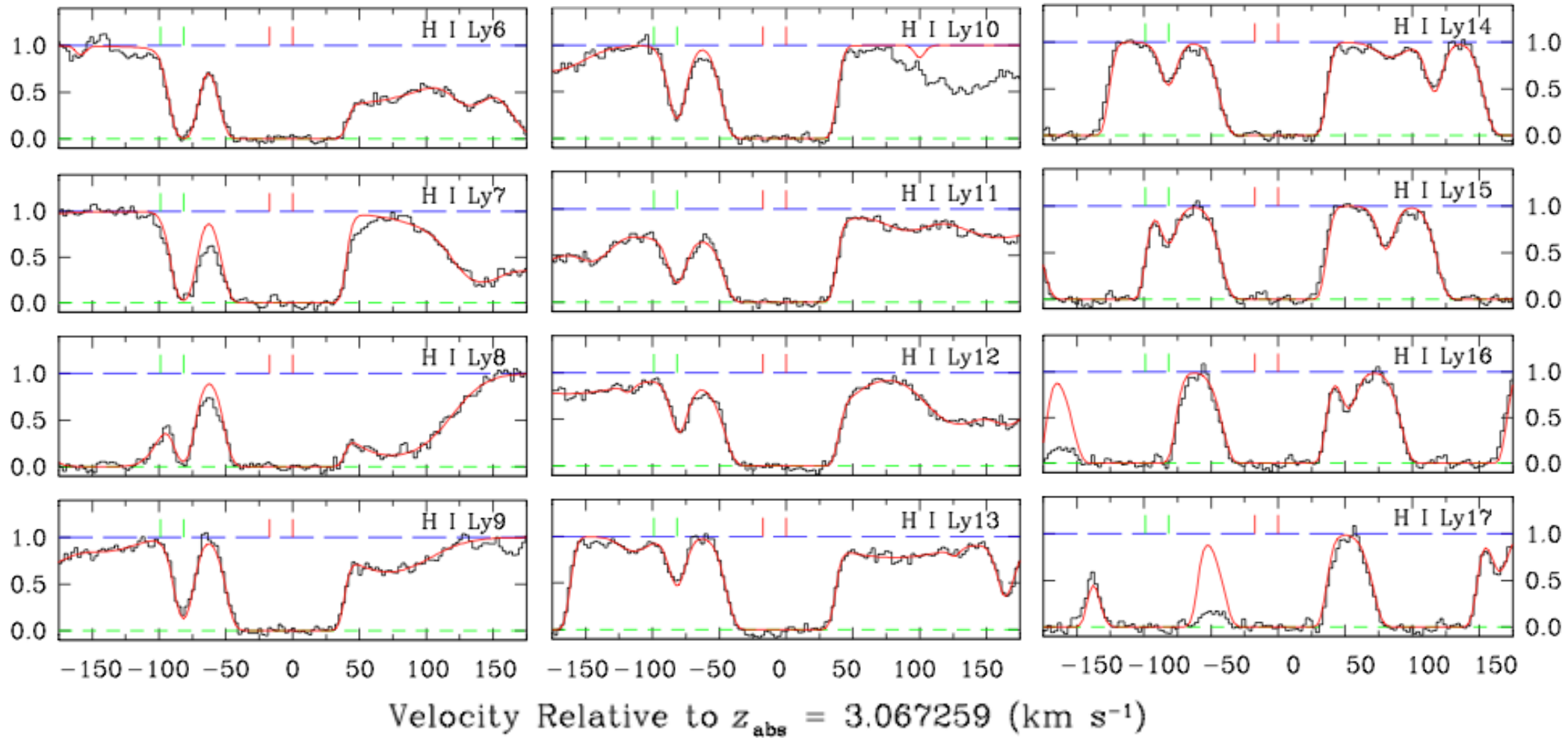
J1358+6522,  $z = 3.0673$ ,  $\text{Fe}/\text{H} = 1/750$  solar

$$N(\text{HI}) = 3.1 \times 10^{20} \text{ cm}^{-2}$$

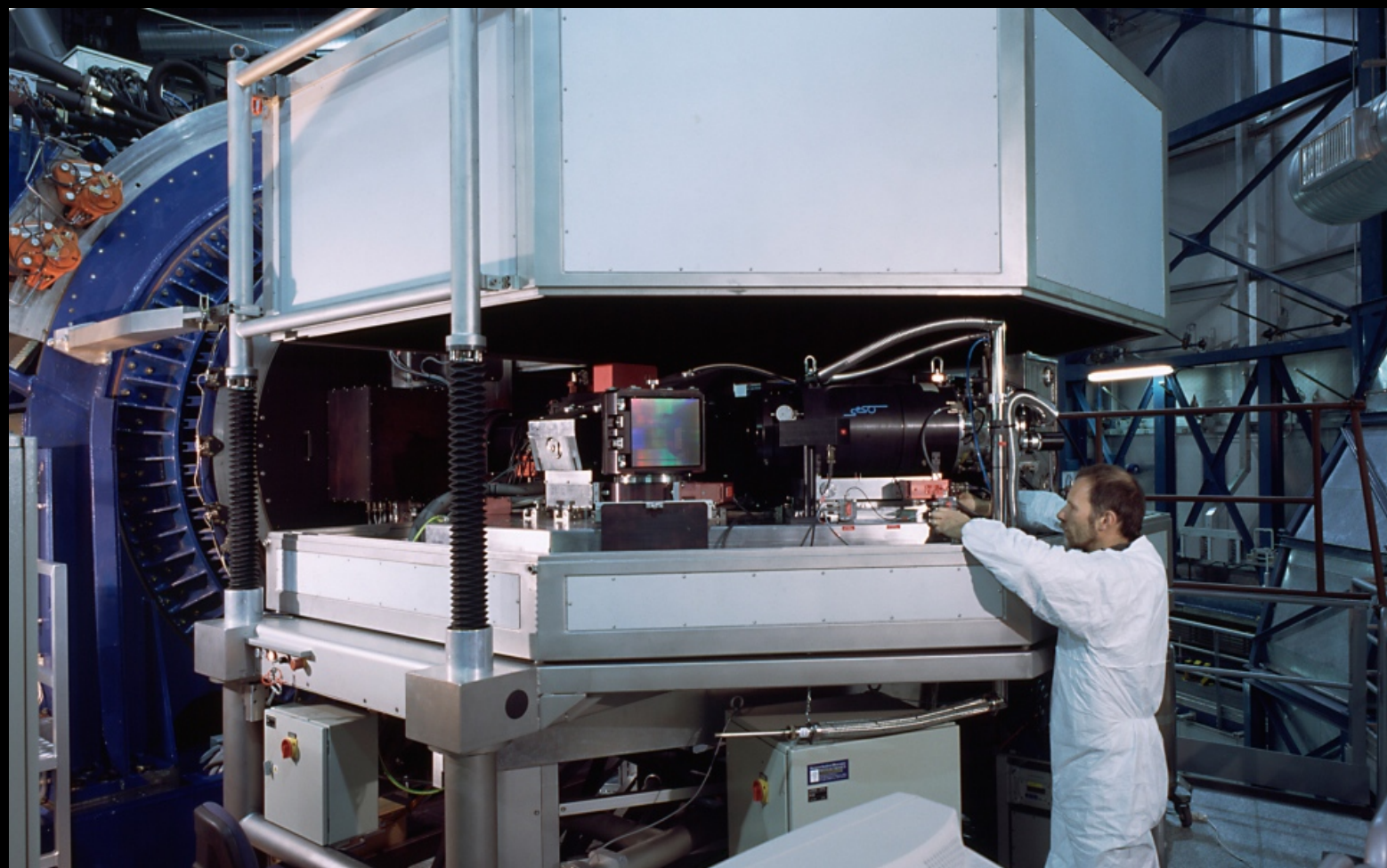


Cooke+ 2014

# J1358+6522, $z = 3.0673$ , $\text{Fe}/\text{H} = 1/750$ solar



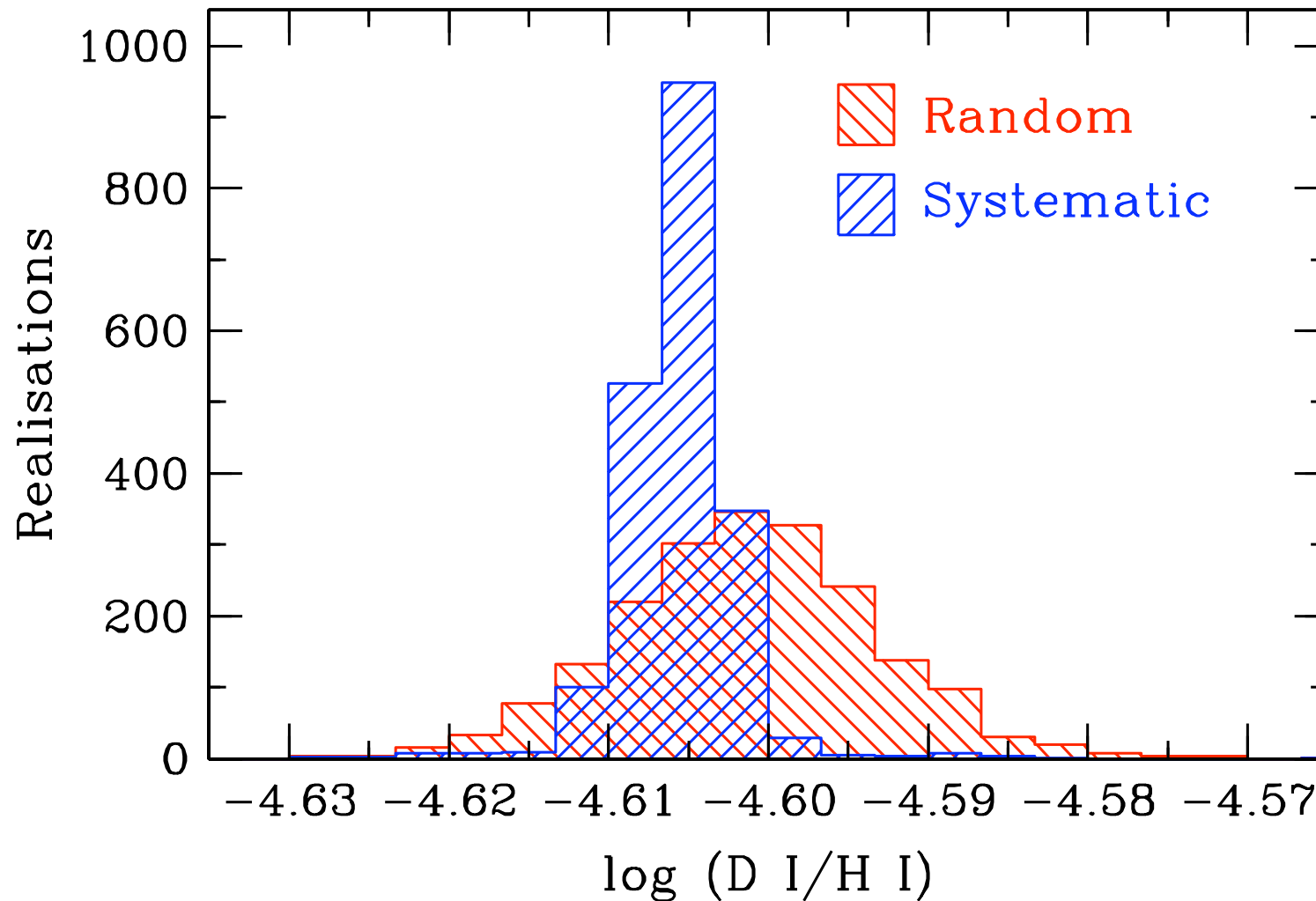
Cooke+ 2014



30,000 s  
integration  
with UVES  
on VLT-2

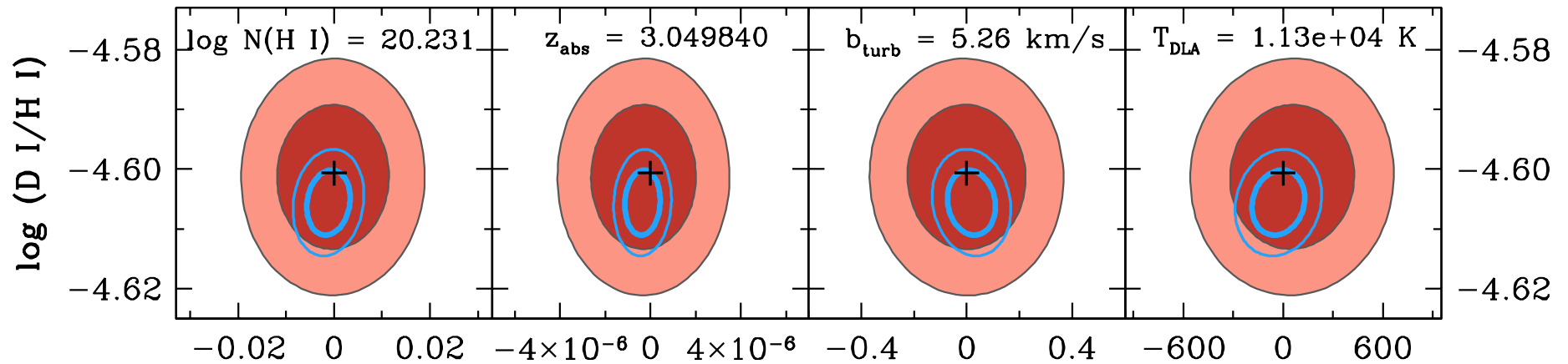


# Spectral analysis tailored specifically to the determination of D/H and its error

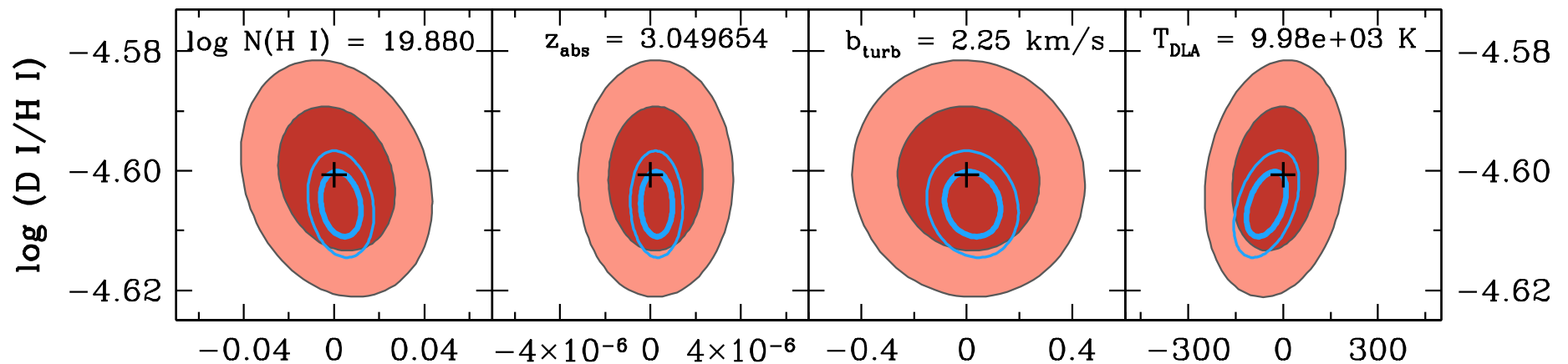


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Component 1

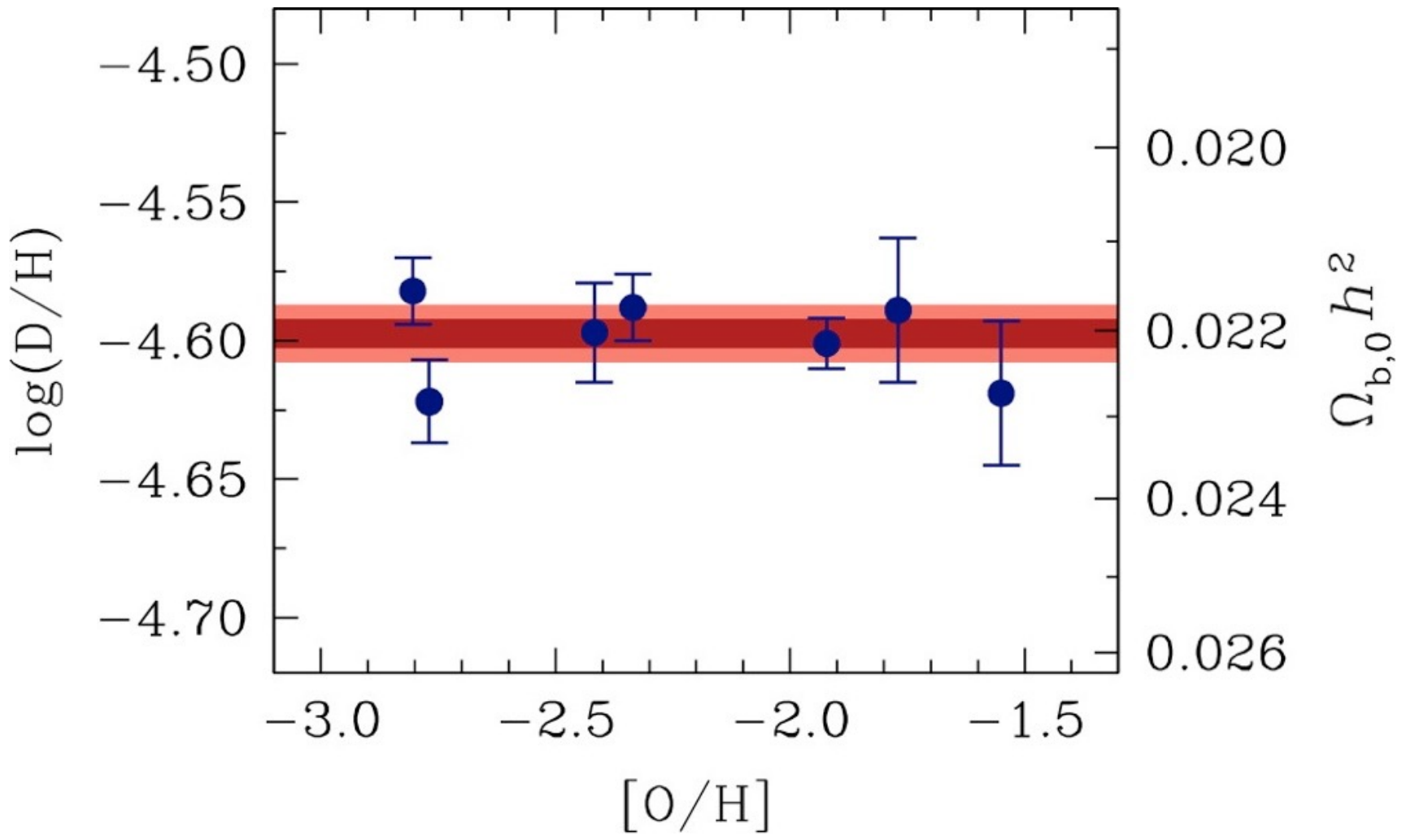


Component 2



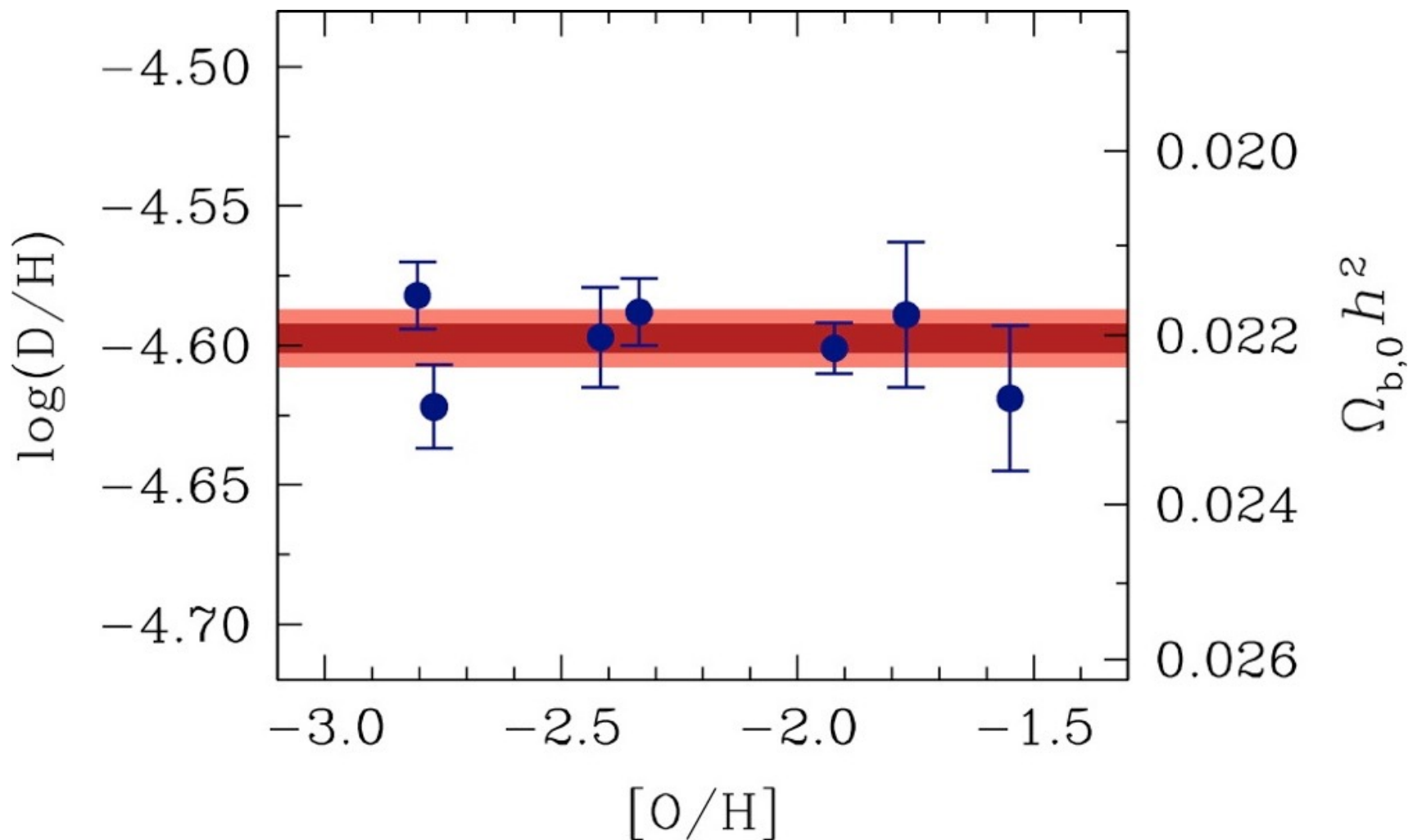


# Percent Measure of (D/H) [Cooke et al. 2018]



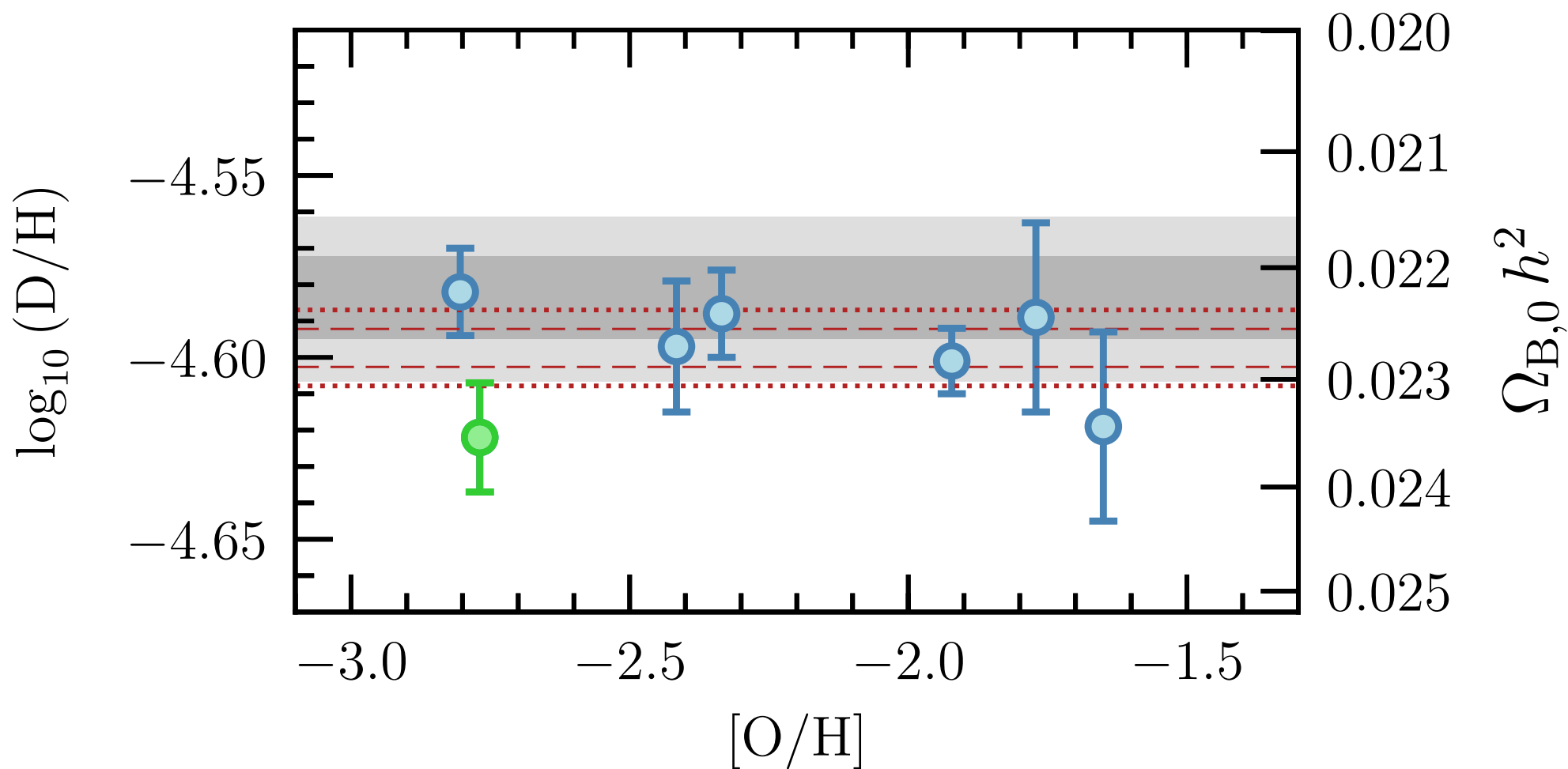
# Percent Measure of (D/H) [Cooke et al. 2018]

$$10^5 \text{ D/H} = 2.527 \pm 0.030$$



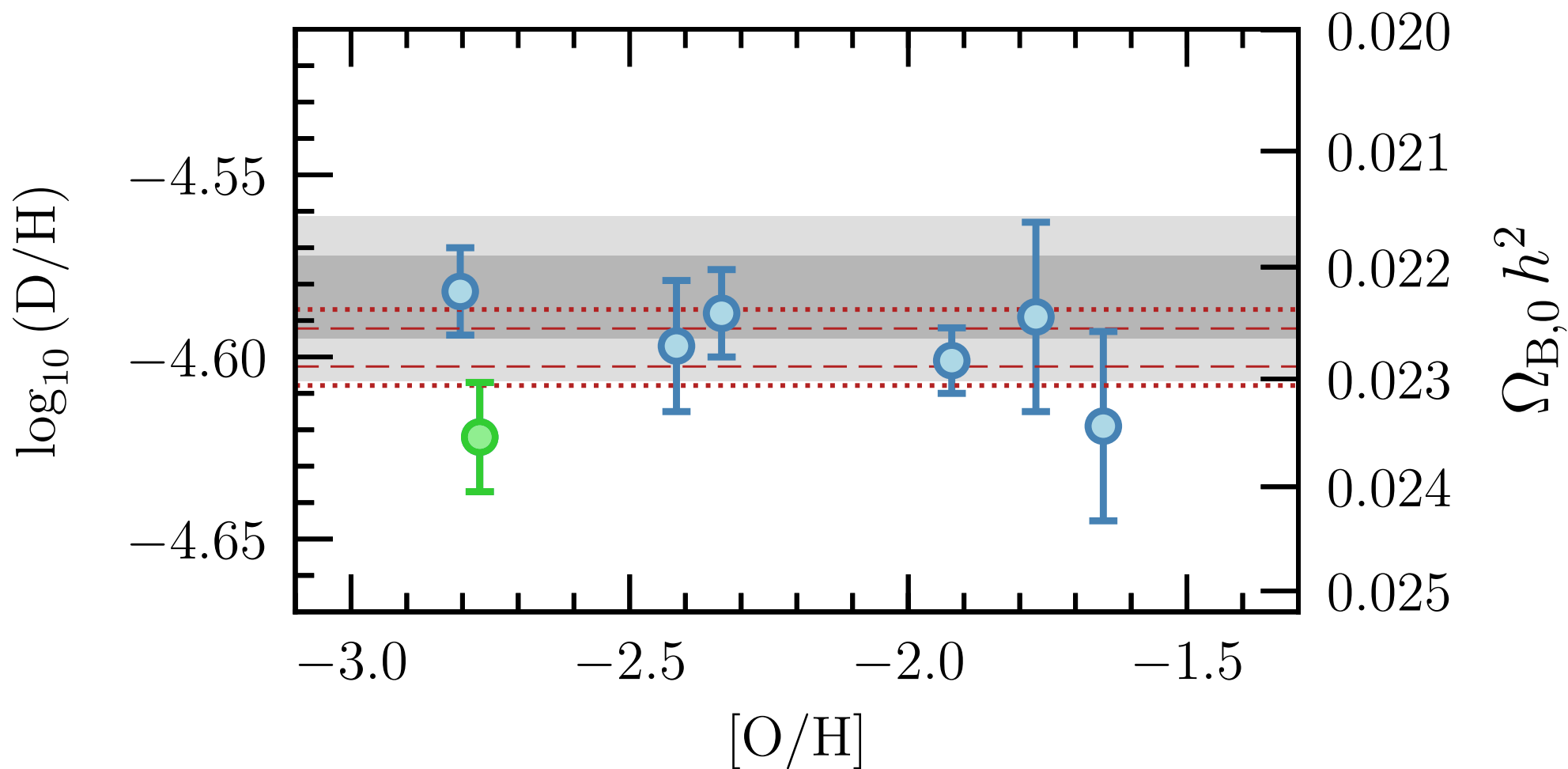
$$100\Omega_b h^2 (\text{BBN}) = 2.235 \pm 0.016 \pm 0.033$$

Cooke+ 2018



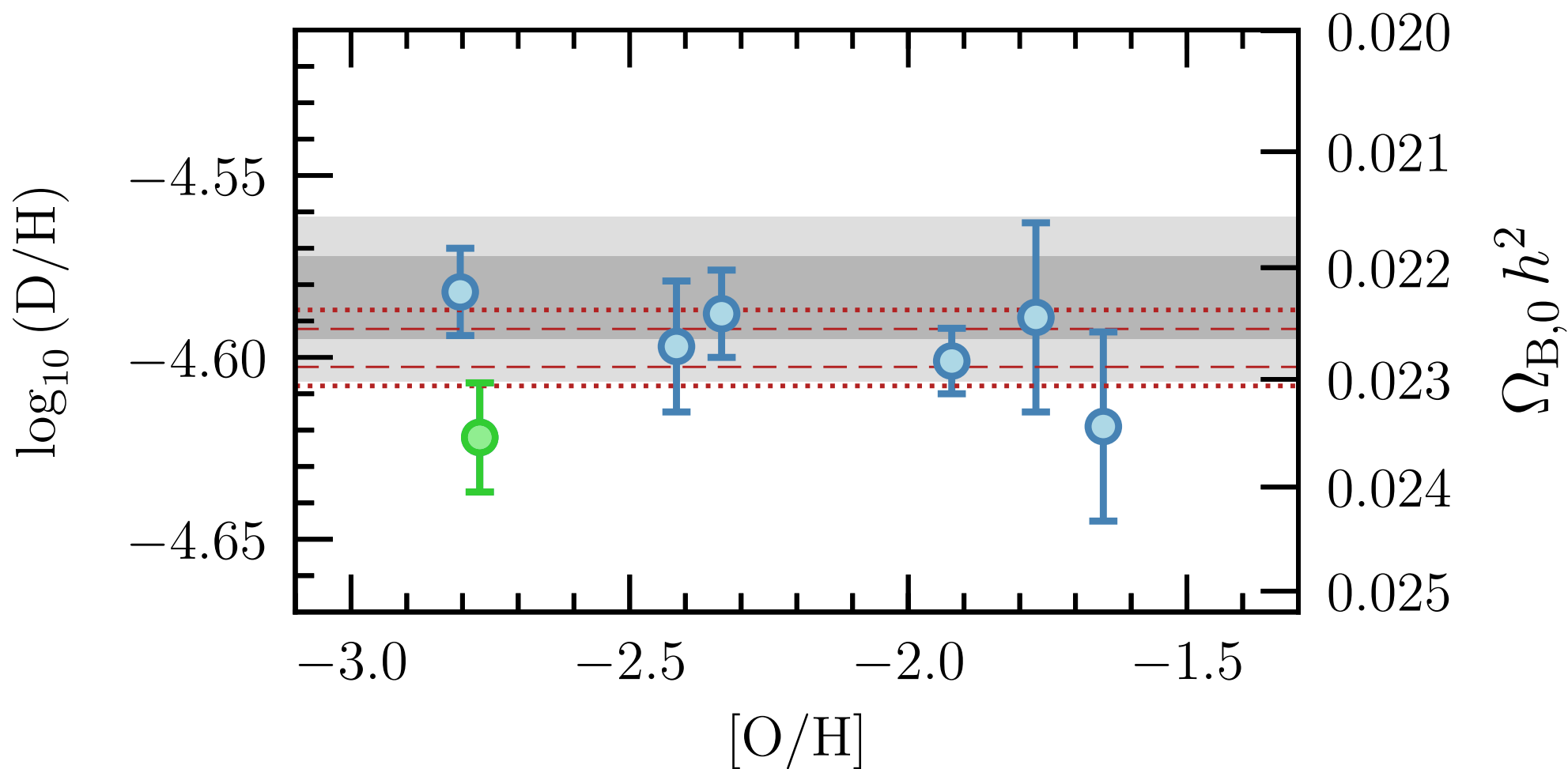
$$100\Omega_b h^2 (\text{CMB}) = 2.226 \pm 0.023$$

Planck Coll. 2015

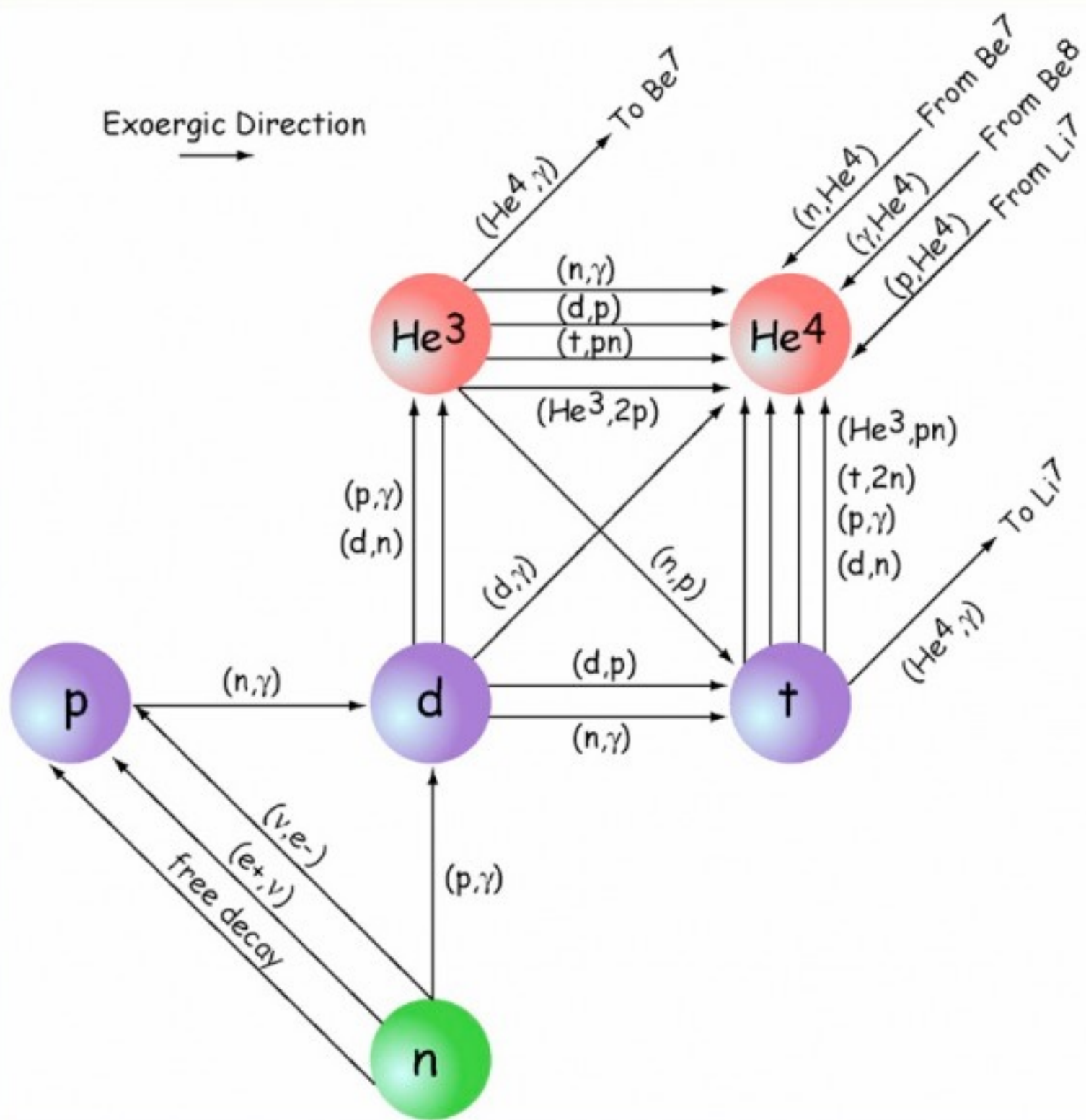


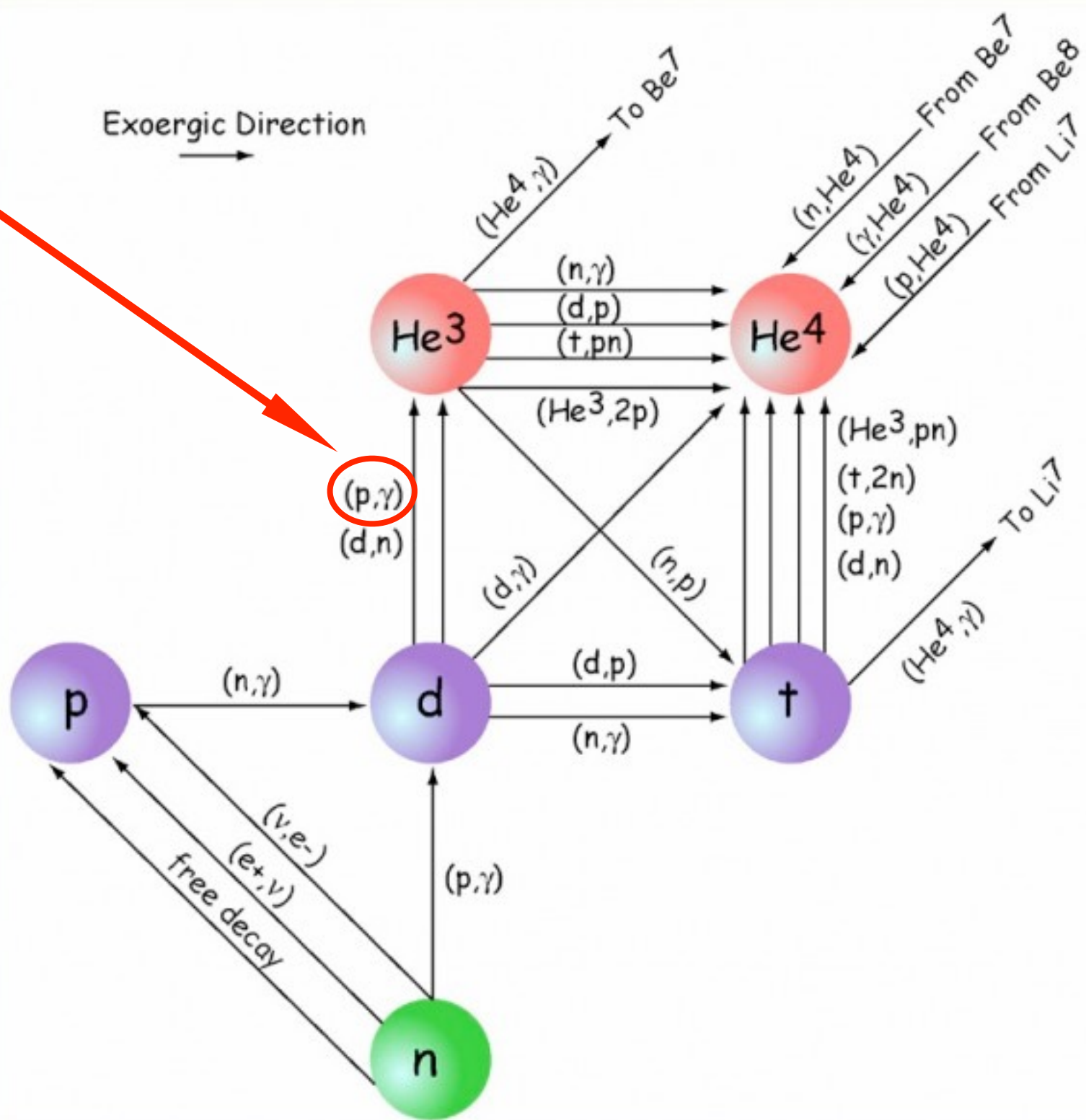
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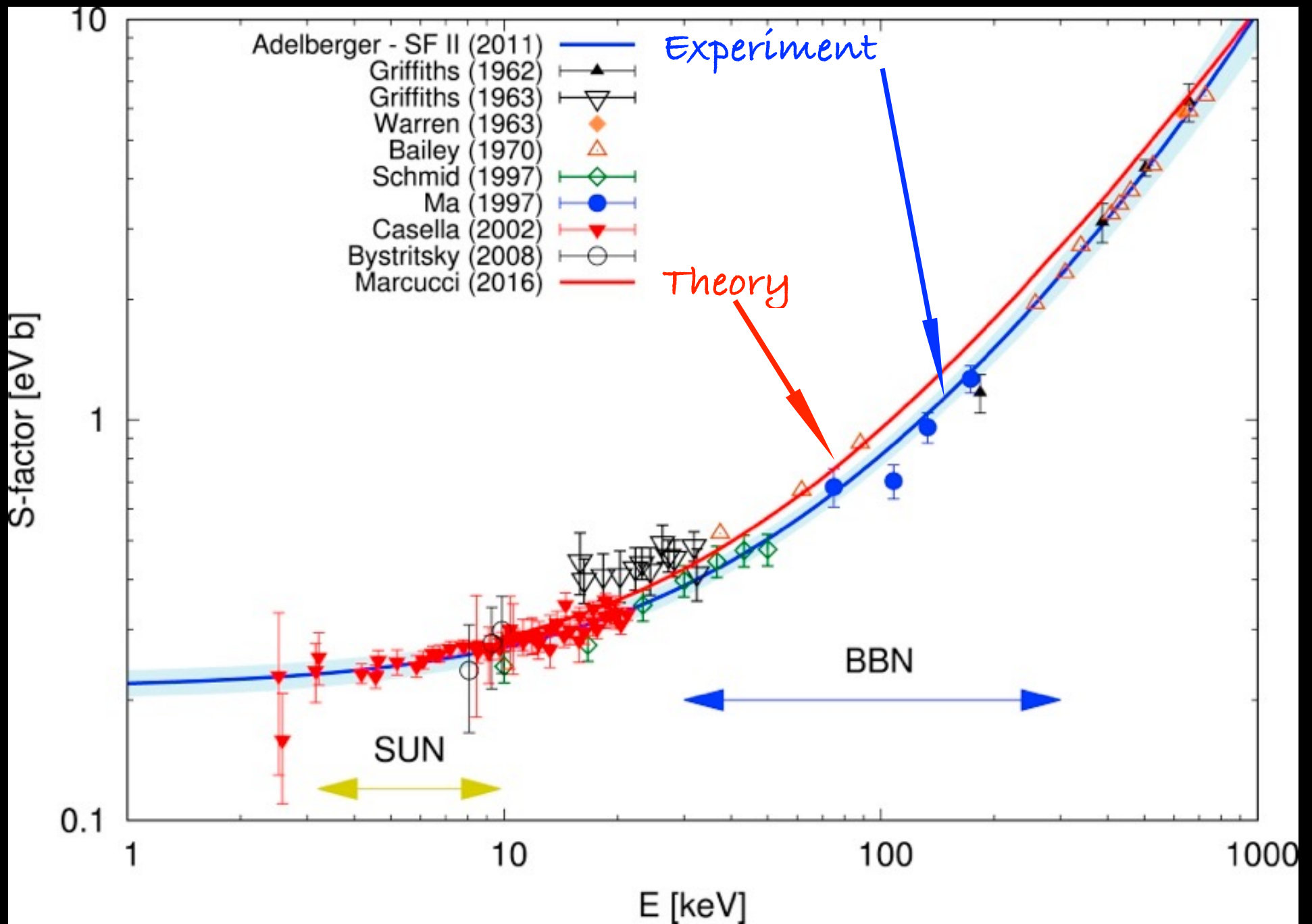
Cooke+ 2018





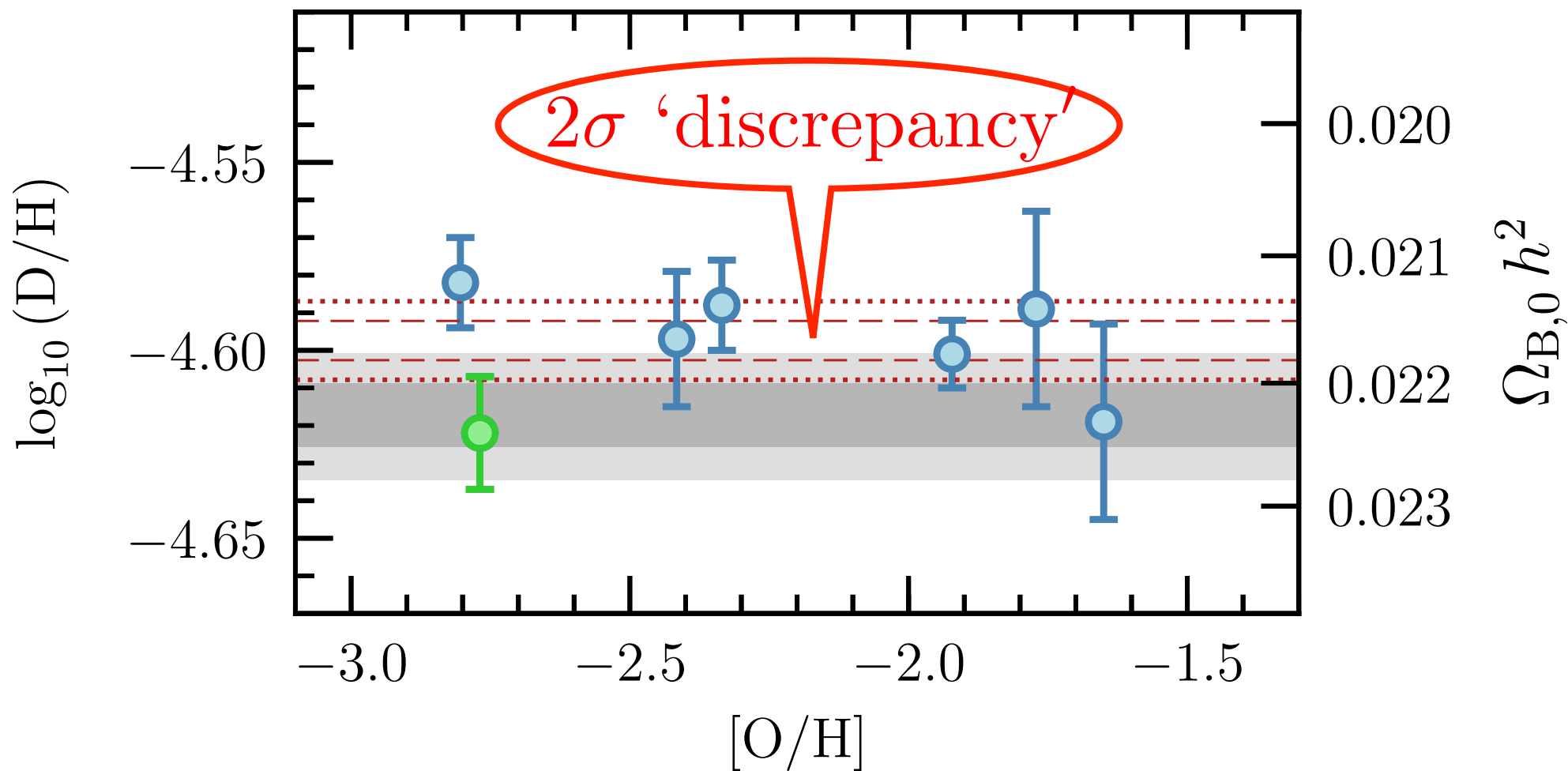






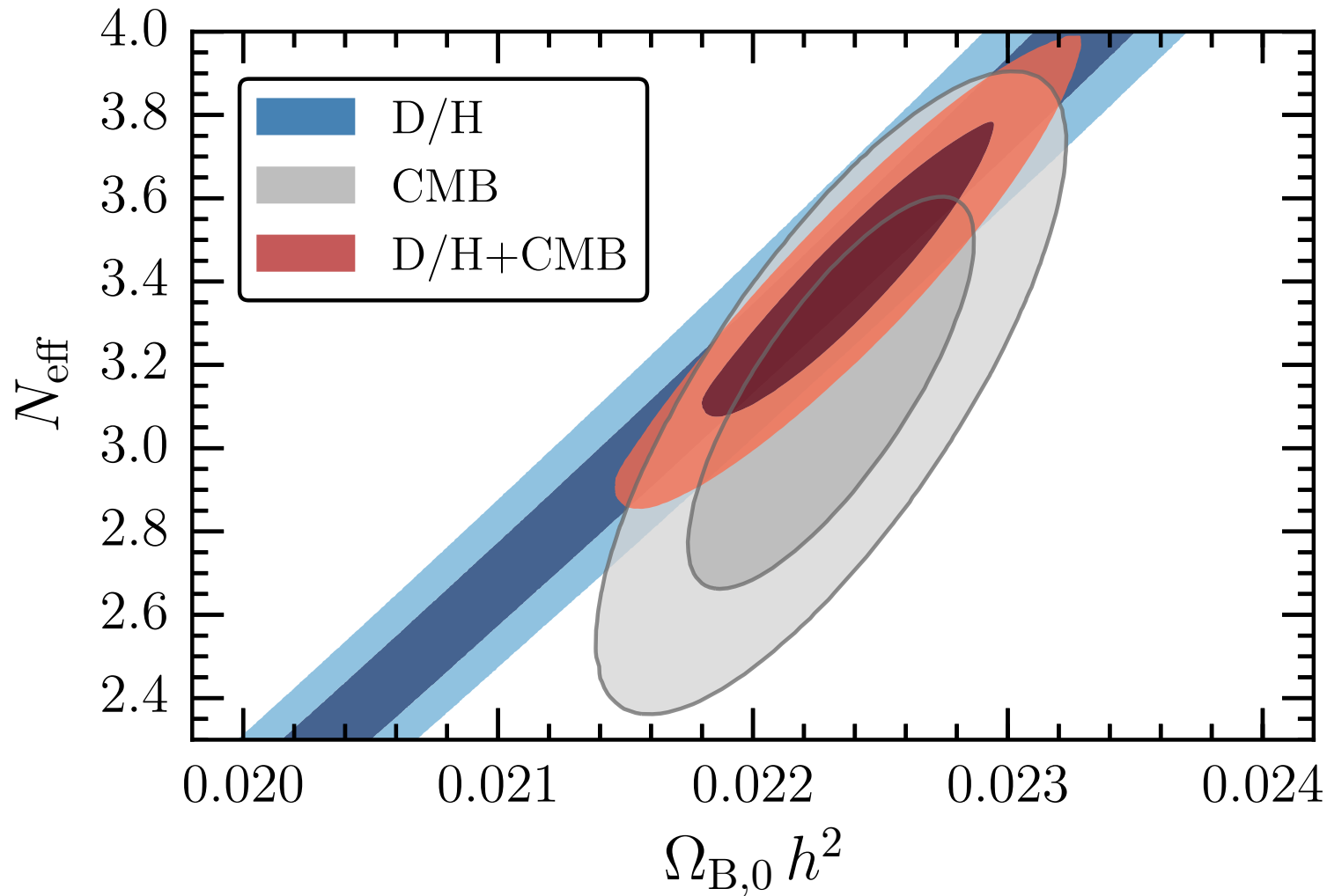
$$100\Omega_b h^2 (\text{BBN}) = 2.166 \pm 0.015 \pm 0.011$$

Cooke+ 2018



# Joint D/H and CMB Constraints on 'dark radiation'

$$N_{\text{eff}} = 3.41 \pm 0.45$$



Looking to the future...



Good prospects for further improvements in  
the near/medium term future

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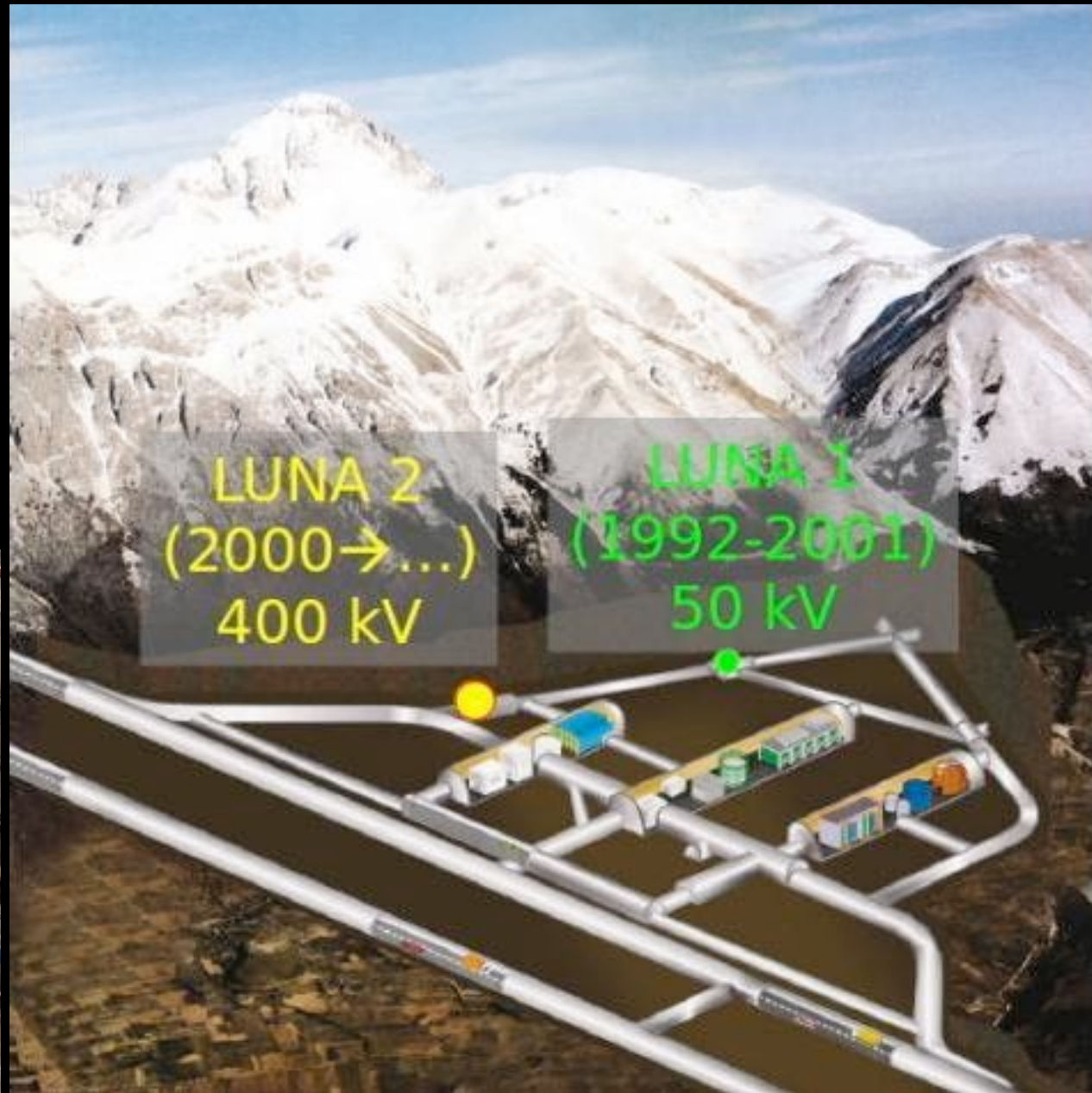
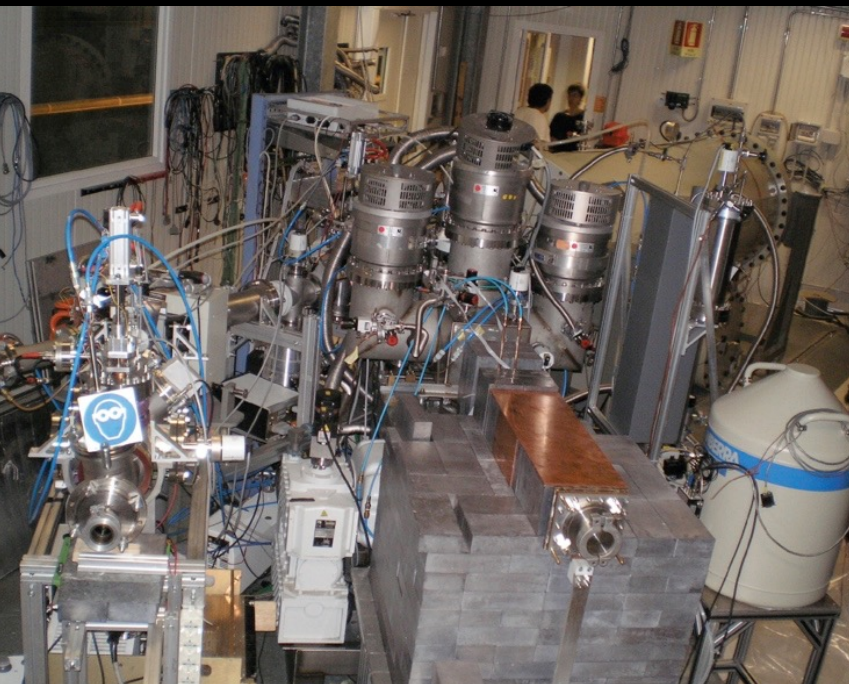
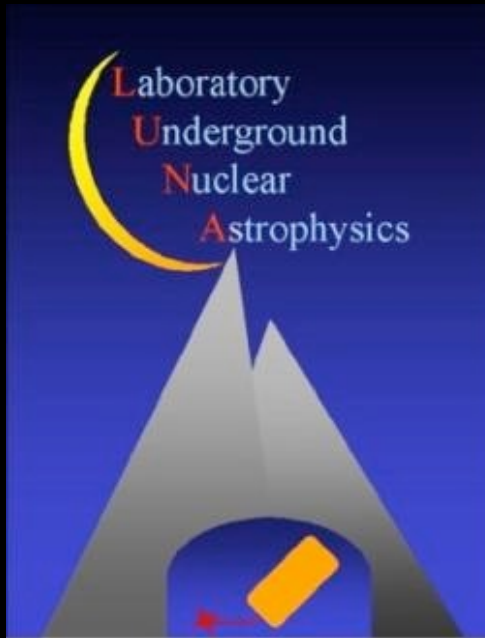
- ✓ Three more metal-poor DLAs in the bag,  
bringing the total sample of high precision  
measures to 10 by the end of 2018.



# Good prospects for further improvements in the near/medium term future

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- ✓ Modern laboratory measurement of the cross-section for  ${}^2\text{H} + \text{p} \rightarrow {}^3\text{He} + \gamma$  by the end of 2018.

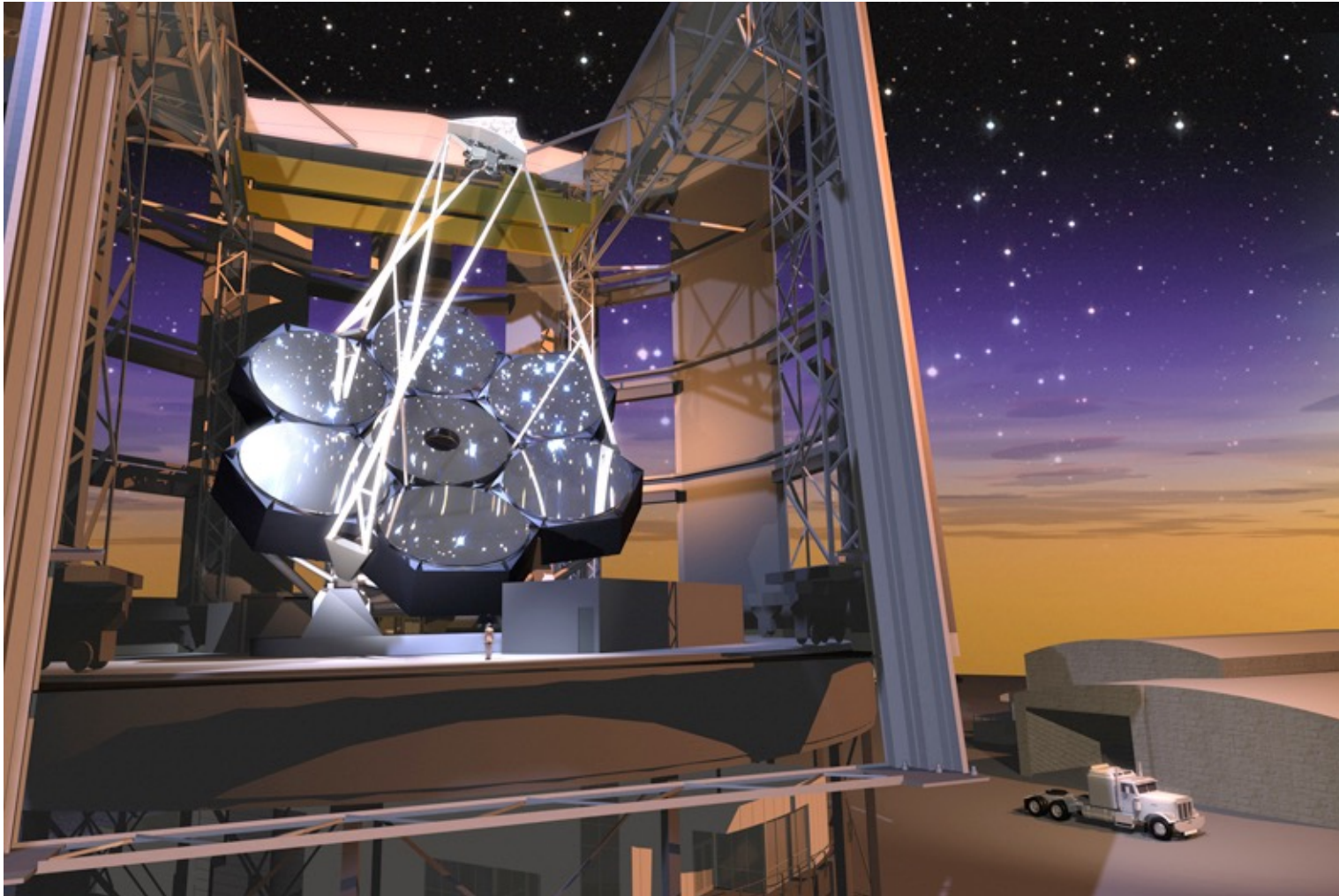
# The LUNA Accelerator at Gran Sasso



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- ✓ 30m telescopes in mid-2020s

Good prospects for further improvements in  
the near/medium term future



30m telescopes in mid-2020s

# Summary



With modern astronomical instrumentation, we can now verify experimentally the framework of Big-Bang nucleosynthesis which has its origin in ideas first put forward in the 1950s

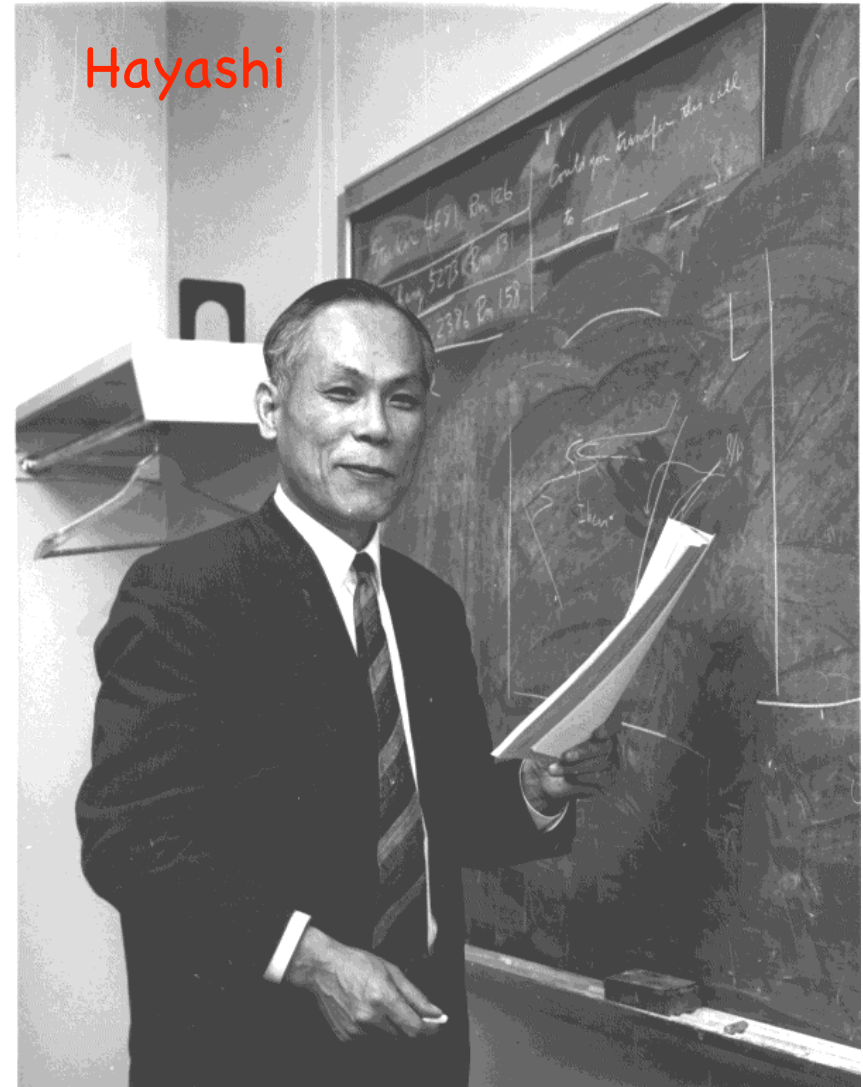
Herman

Gamow

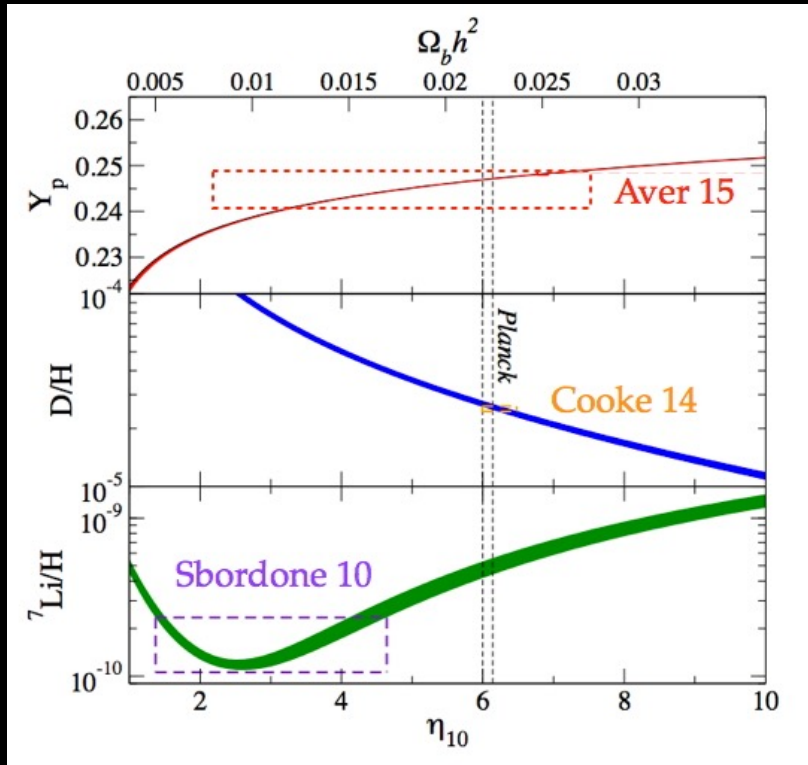
Alpher



Hayashi

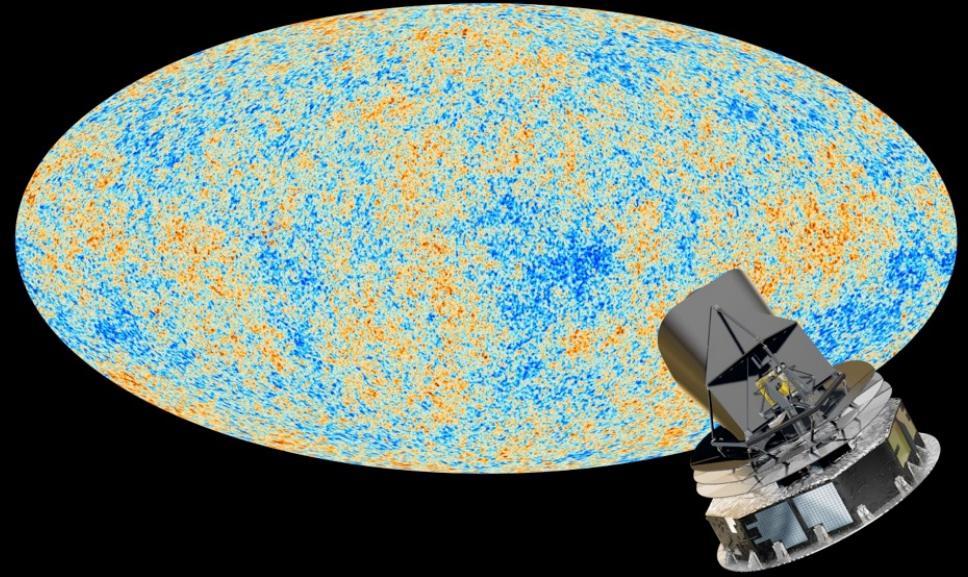


# BBN



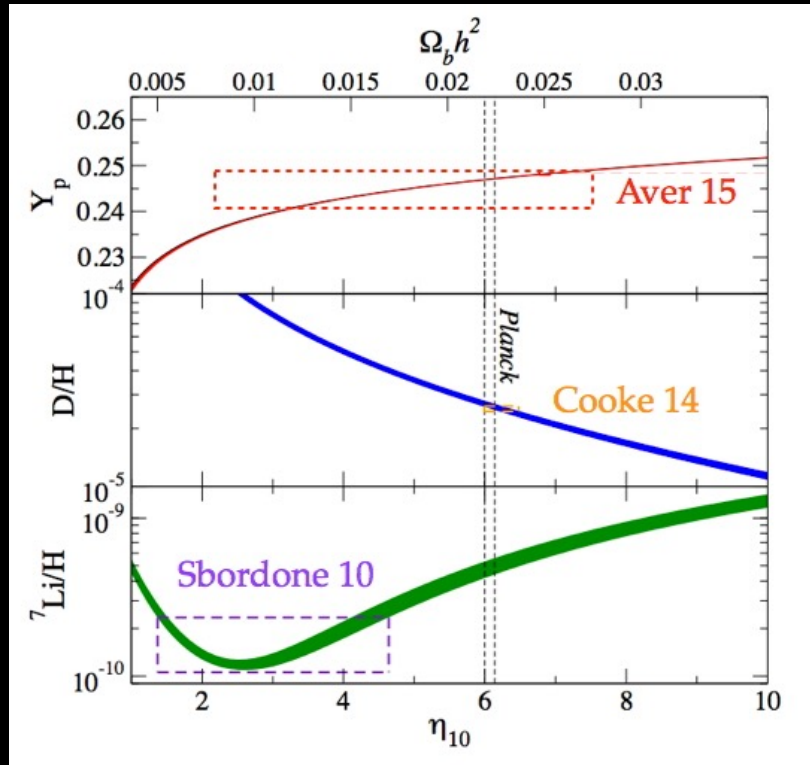
# CMB

+



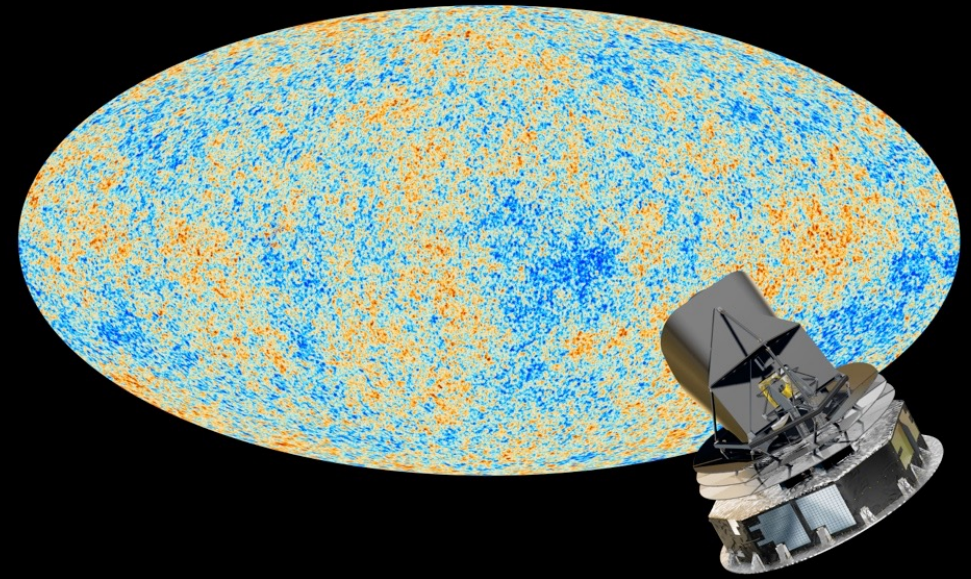
= New Physics?

# BBN



# CMB

+



= New Physics? Not yet..