

# AGN Selection Opportunities and Challenges with the LSST

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# Short introduction



## Interests

- Formation & Evolution of high-redshift quasars
- Co-Evolution of AGN and hosts



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- very luminous quasars at  $z = 3 - 5$
- characterize their population
- near-IR color cut
- random forests (classification, photo-z)



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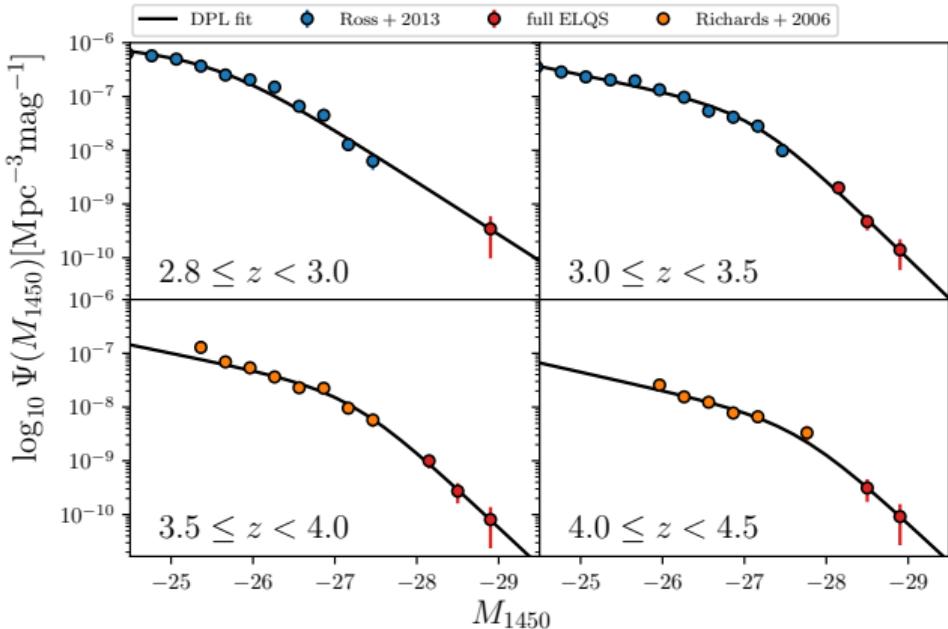


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Schindler+2017(ApJ, 851, 13), Schindler+2018a(arxiv:1806.03374),  
Schindler+2018b(in prep.)



## Motivation - The Quasar Luminosity Function



### Type-I QLF

- measurements at all redshifts  
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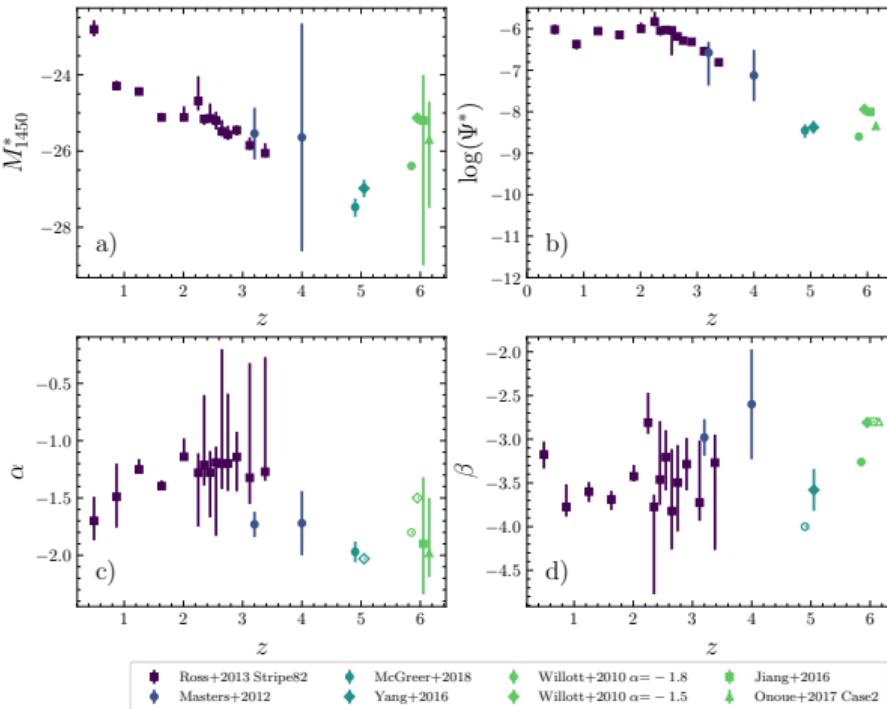


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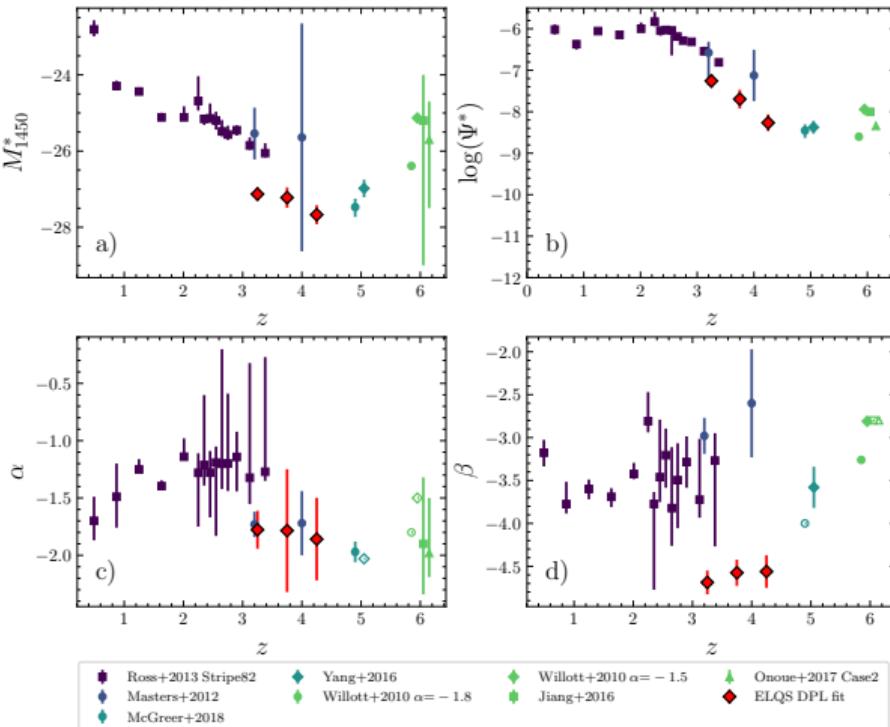


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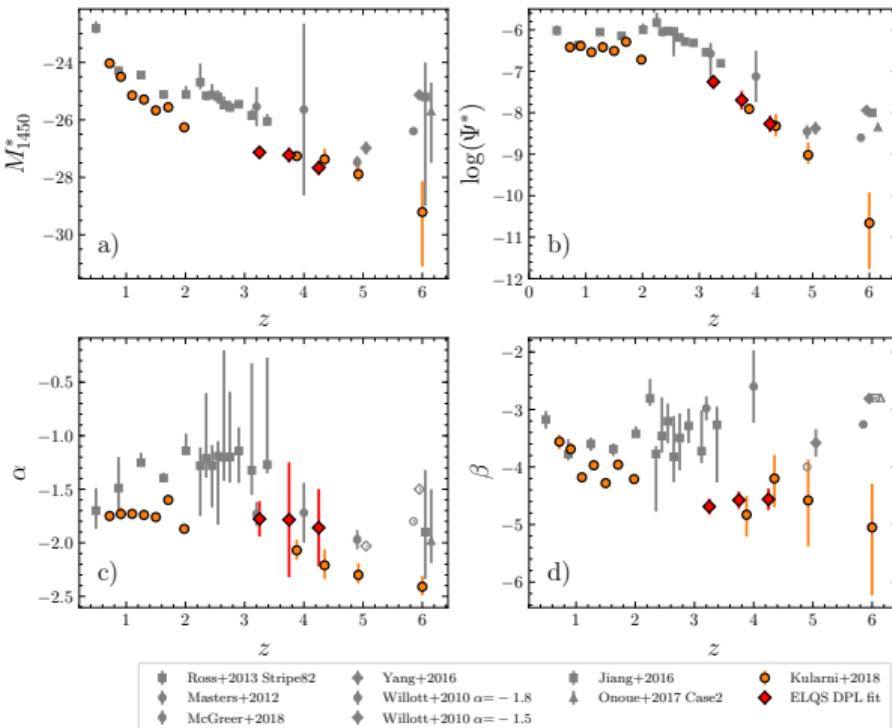


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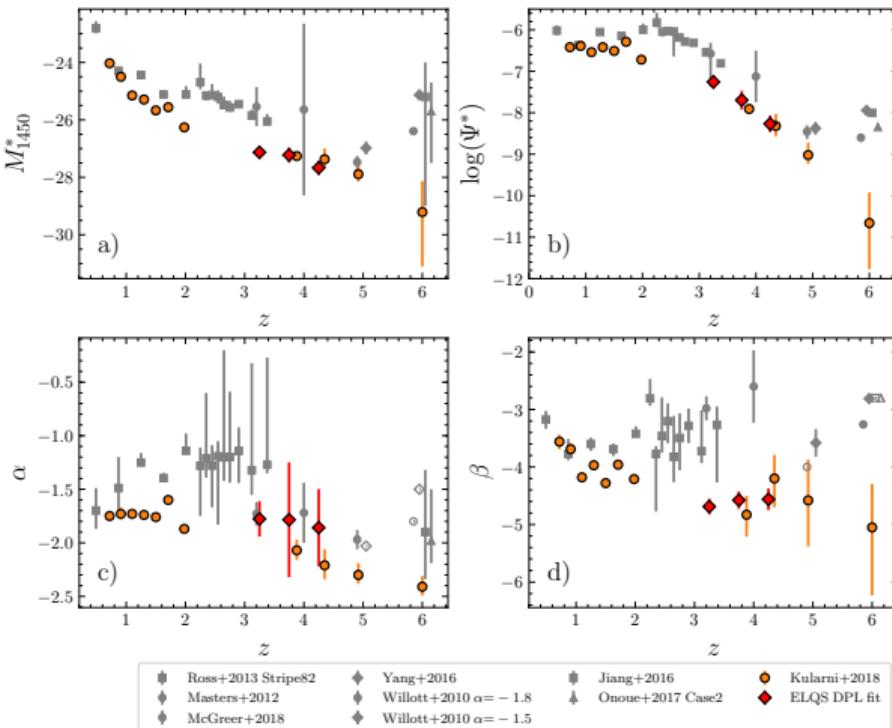


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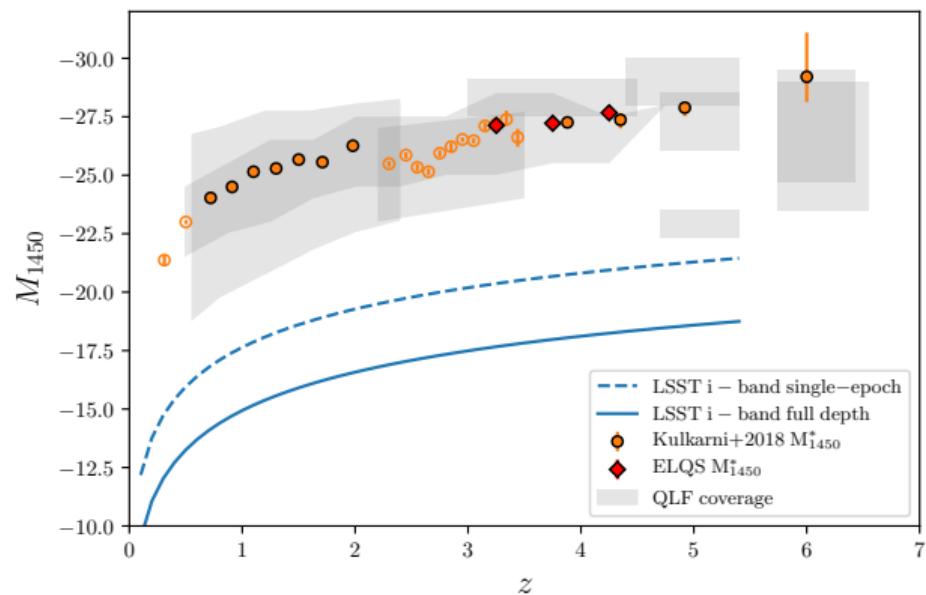
- measurements at all redshifts ( $z = 0.3$  to  $\sim 6$ )
  - best described by a broken double power law
  - $\Psi^*$ ,  $M^*$ ,  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$
- ⇒ There is currently no general consensus on redshift evolution.



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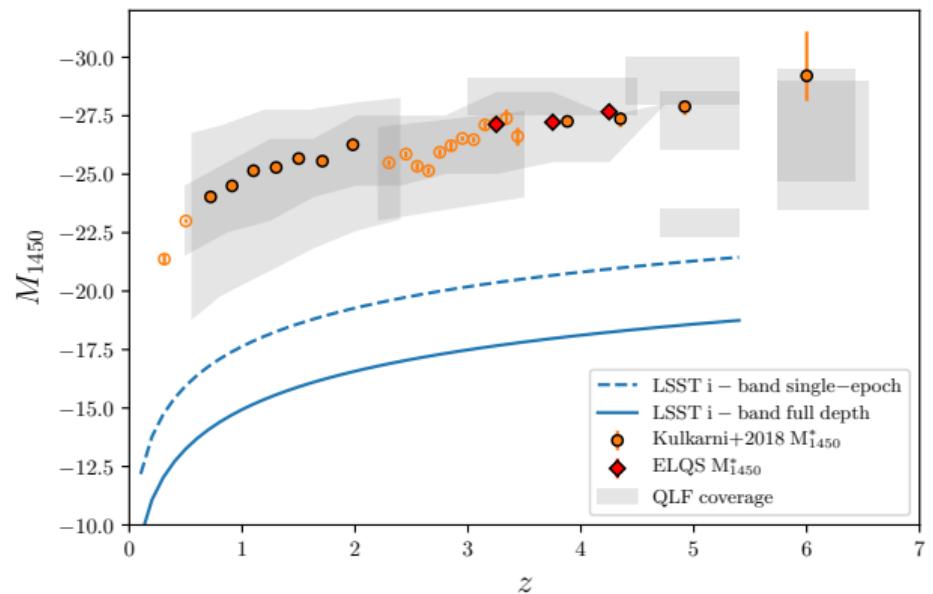


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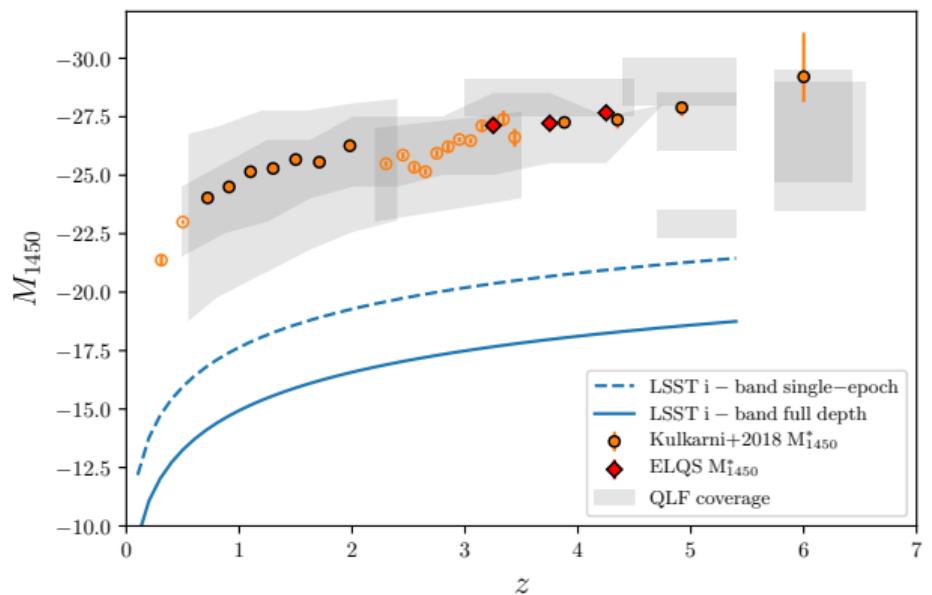


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- Exquisite deep photometry



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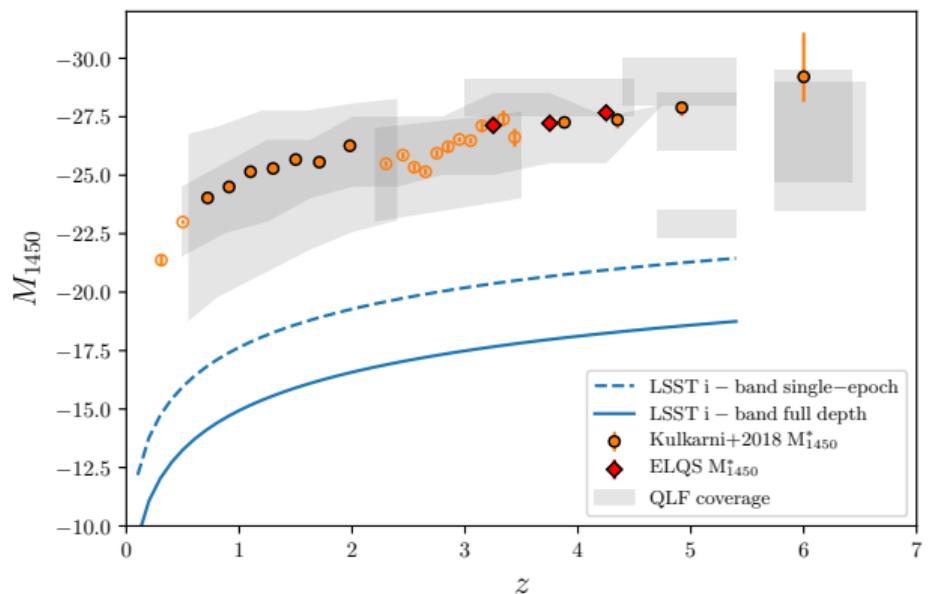


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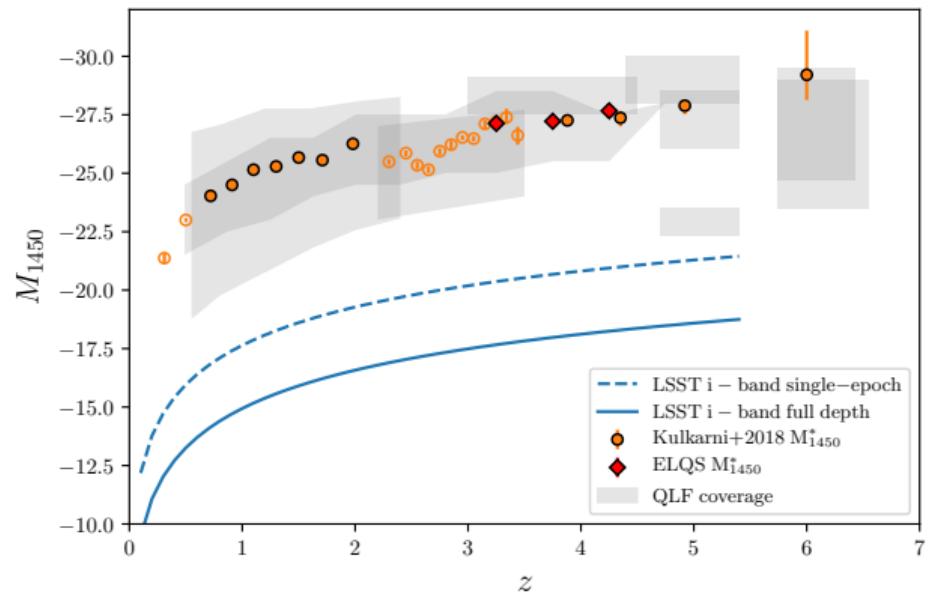


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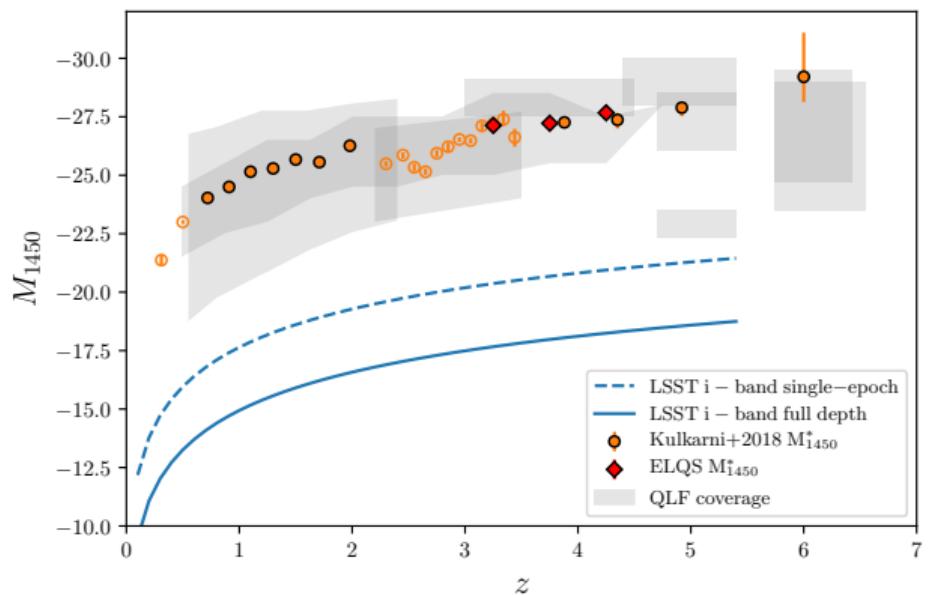


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## Potential for LSST

- Exquisite deep photometry
- ⇒ Faint-end ALF
- Homogeneous, large-area coverage
- ⇒ Bright-end ALF
- ⇒ **LSST allows us to determine the ALF and its evolution over the full luminosity range!**



## Is the source an AGN?

- Photometry - Mean Colors, Morphology, **Variability**
- **Astrometry**
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## Survey synergies

- Astrometry: GAIA
- Near-IR: VHS, EUCLID, WFIRST
- Radio: MIGHTEE, ASKAP, SKA
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## Challenge:

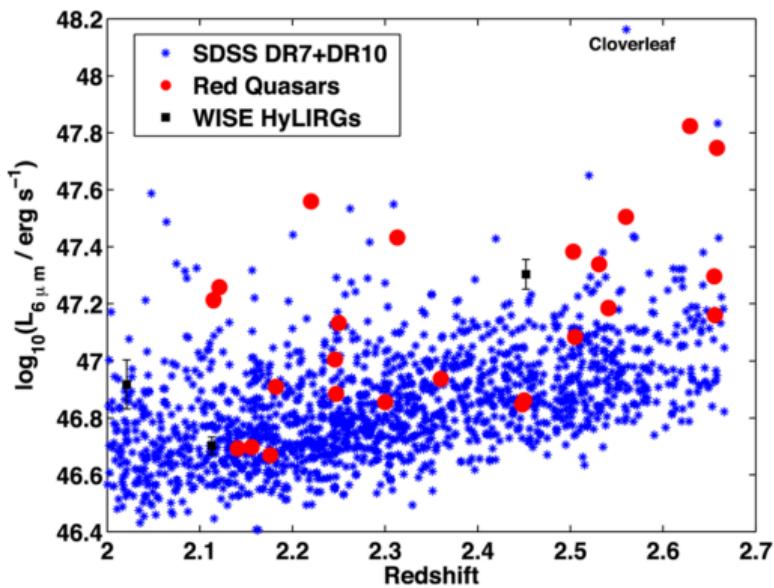
How complete (type/ redshift) are we?



# Challenges - Intrinsically obscured type I AGN



Luminous heavily reddened type I AGN  
(Banerji+2013/+2015, Glikman+2018)



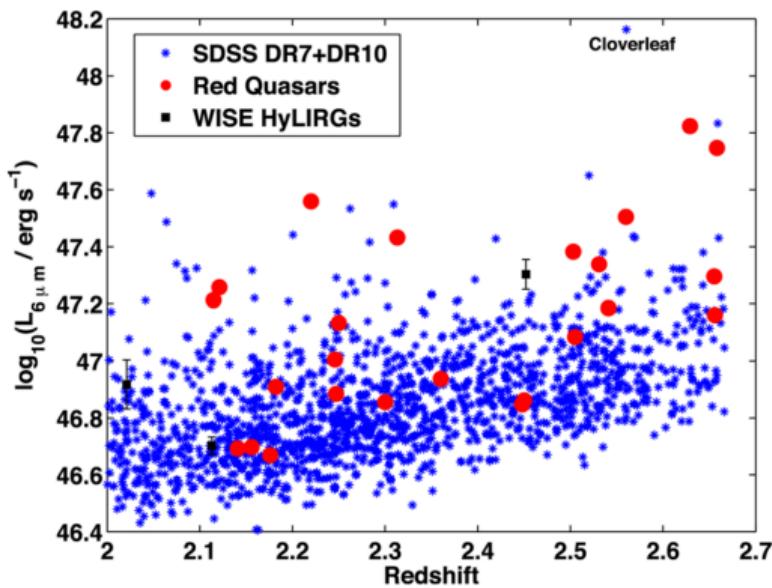
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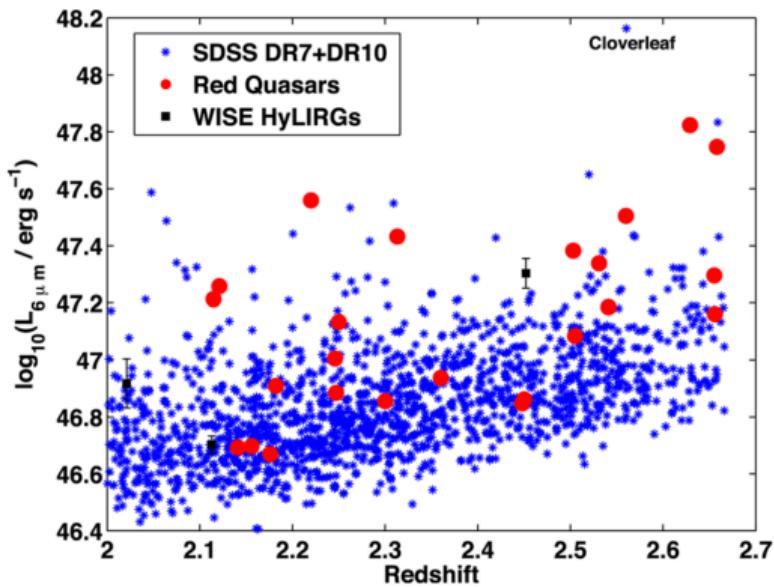


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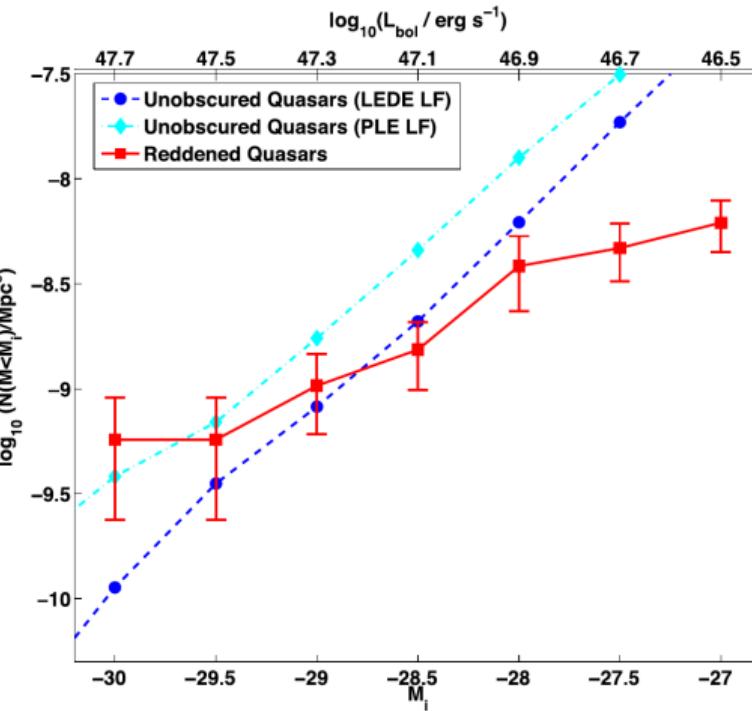


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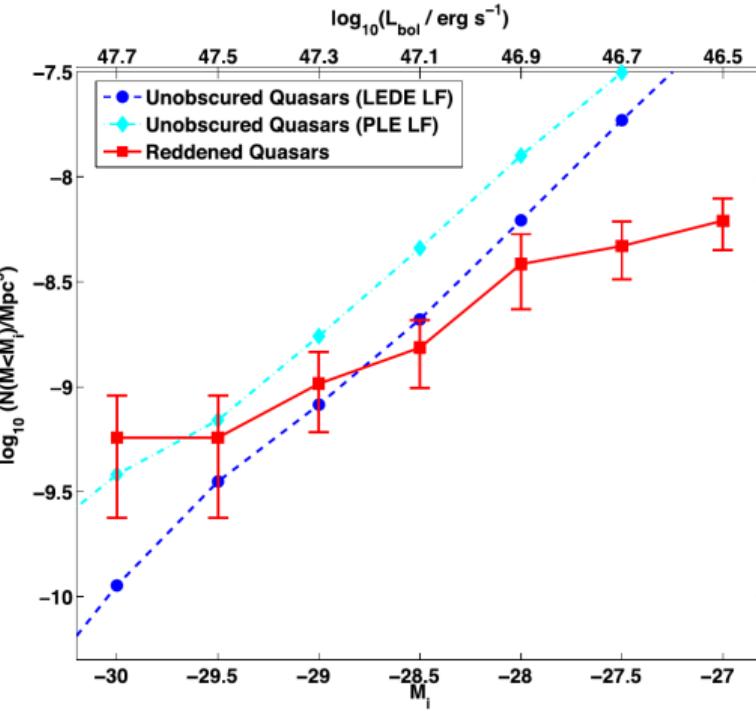


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- Reddened type-I AGNs dominate infrared luminosity output at higher redshifts
- Fraction of reddened type-I increase with increasing luminosity.
- Could this be a “blowout” phase?



Banerji+2015



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## Challenge:

Is the photo-z precision good enough?  
Can we avoid catastrophic failures?



# Challenges - Exotic AGN and photometric redshifts

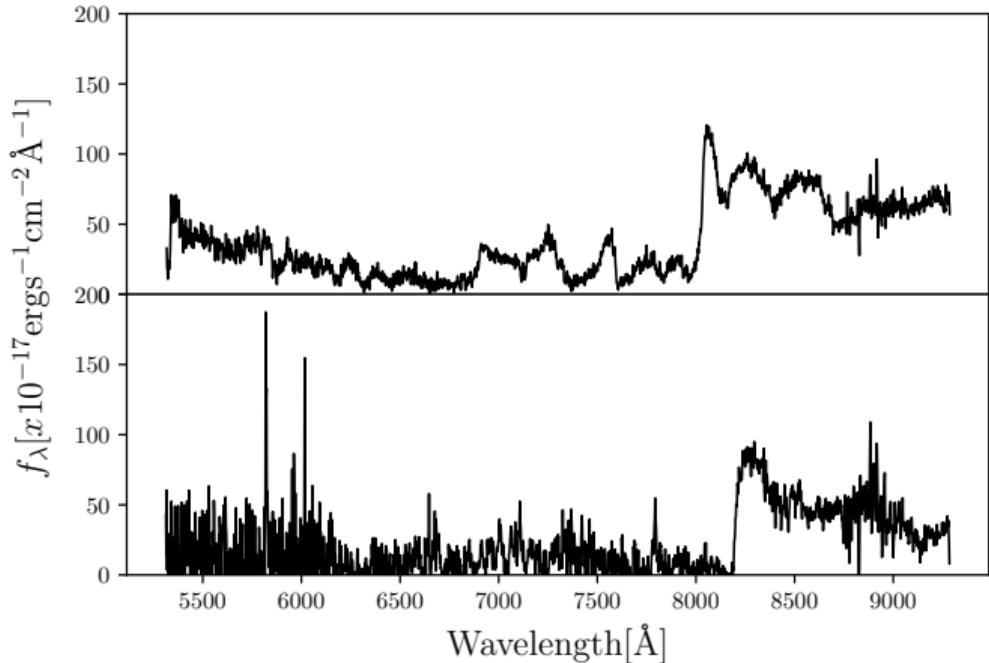
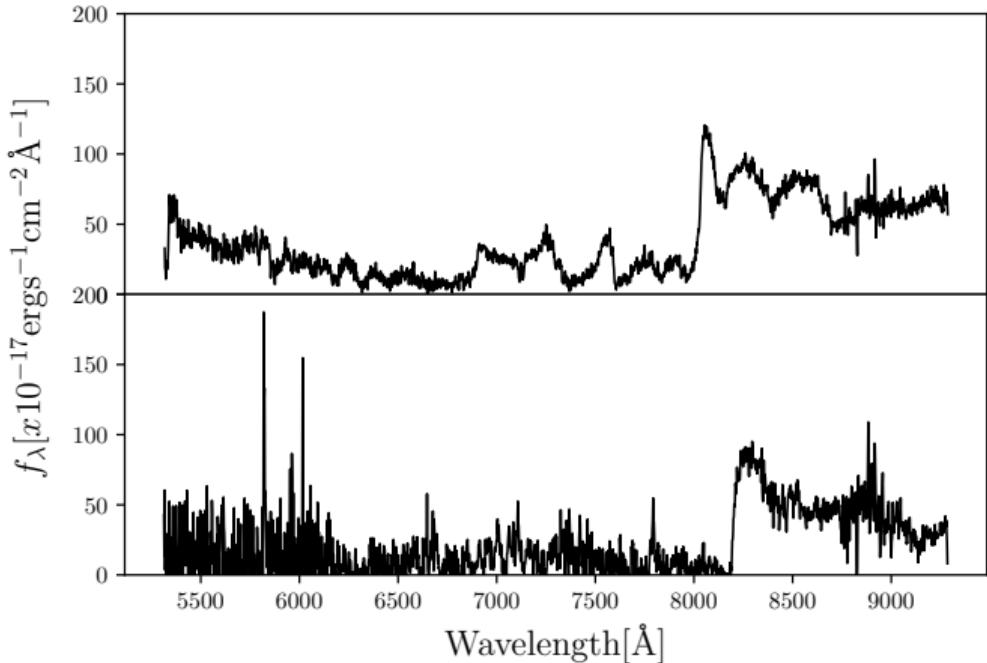


Photo-z for high-z AGN

Wenzl, JTS + in prep.



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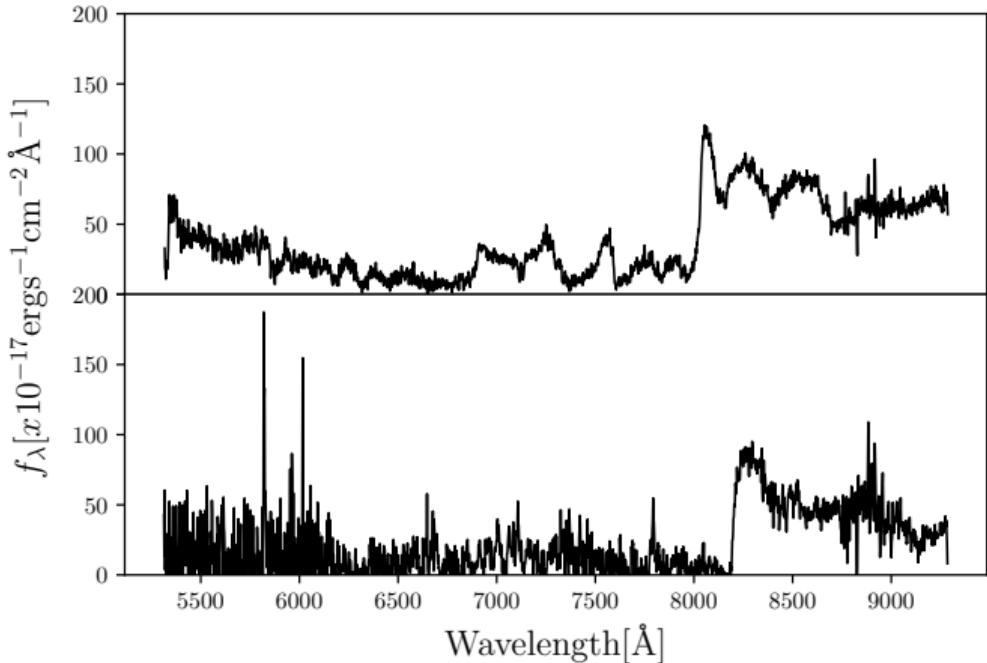
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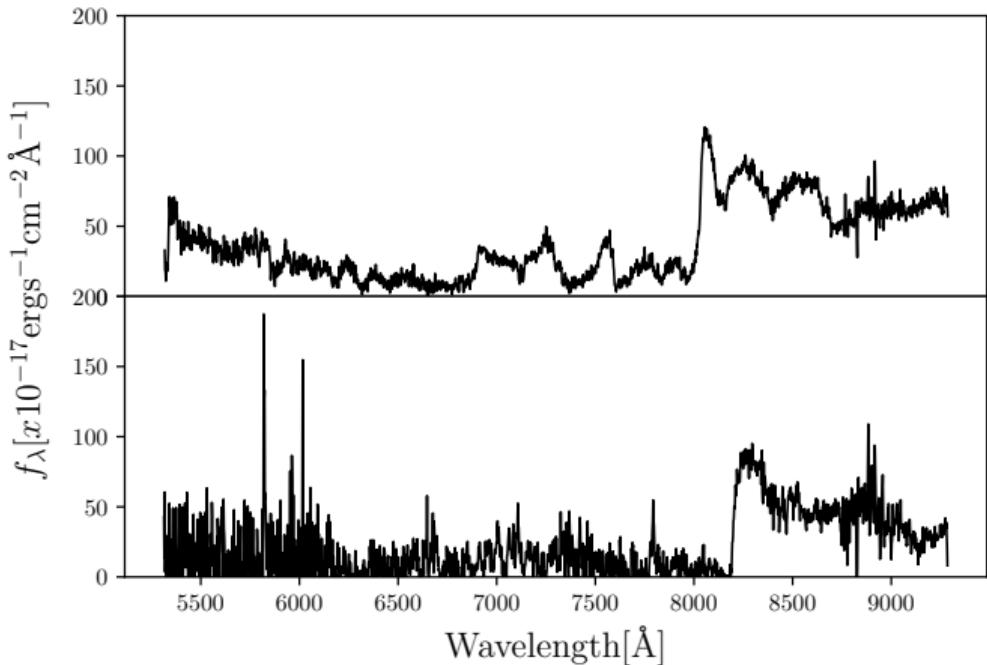
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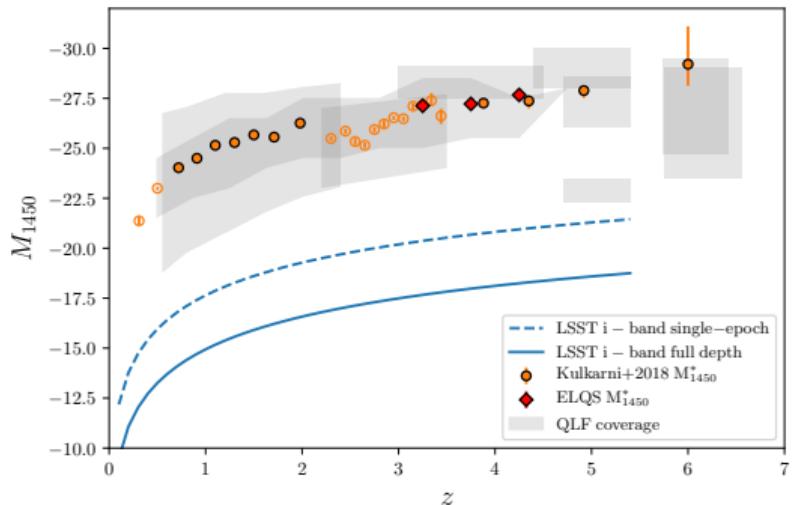
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## Photo-z for high-z AGN

- High-redshift quasars and FeLOBALS are both rare
- Their spectral features can be extremely similar
- Photo-z regression **fails** for the FeLOBAL

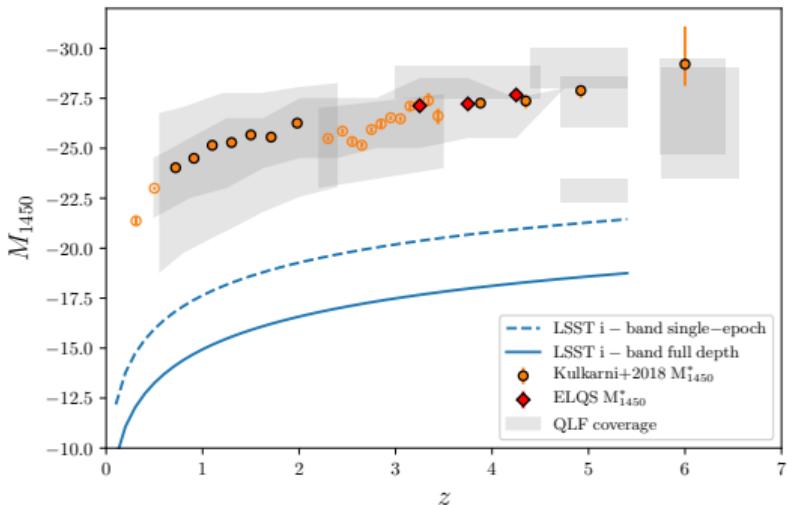


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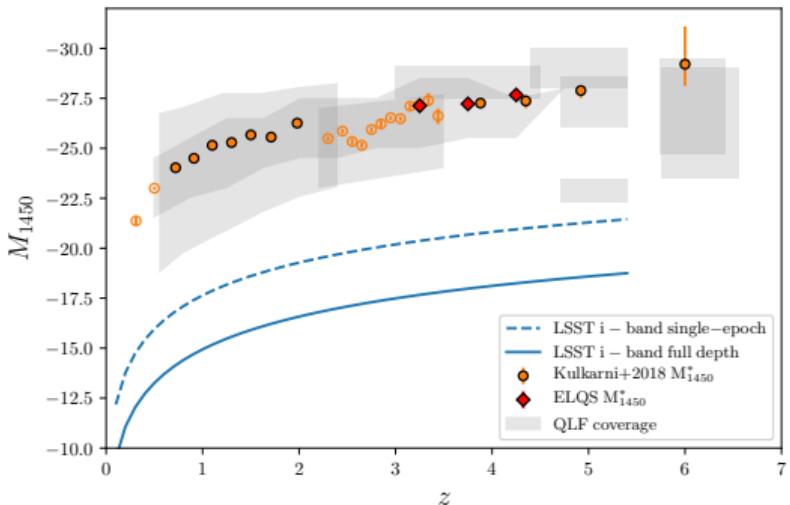


## Classification

- Galaxy vs. Seyfert
  - ⇒ Deblending the data?
  - ⇒ Blending models?
- How do we get rid of normal galaxies?  
(sersic index, etc.?)
  - ⇒ X-ray detections ?



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## Photo-z

- Both are at the same redshift!
- Confusion of galaxy/AGN signatures?



## Opportunities

- **Probe full dynamic range of AGN luminosities**
- **Astrometry** (Gaia, LSST) for AGN classification
- **Variability** for AGN classification
- Differential chromatic refraction for better photo-z's

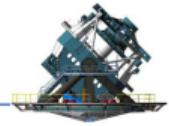


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## Challenges

- Biases and accuracy in classification and photo-z
  - ⇒ Representative Training and “Truth” data sets (number, luminosity, features)
  - ⇒ **Spectroscopic redshift survey** (in DDFs?)
  - Obscured AGN
  - ⇒ Multi-wavelength data synergies



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## Experimenting with LLAGN

We need a small test set (photometry + imaging) to play with methods on how to distinguish galaxies from LLAGN