

MAGIICAT: GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MGII ABSORBING CIRCUMGALACTIC MEDIUM

Nikole Nielsen

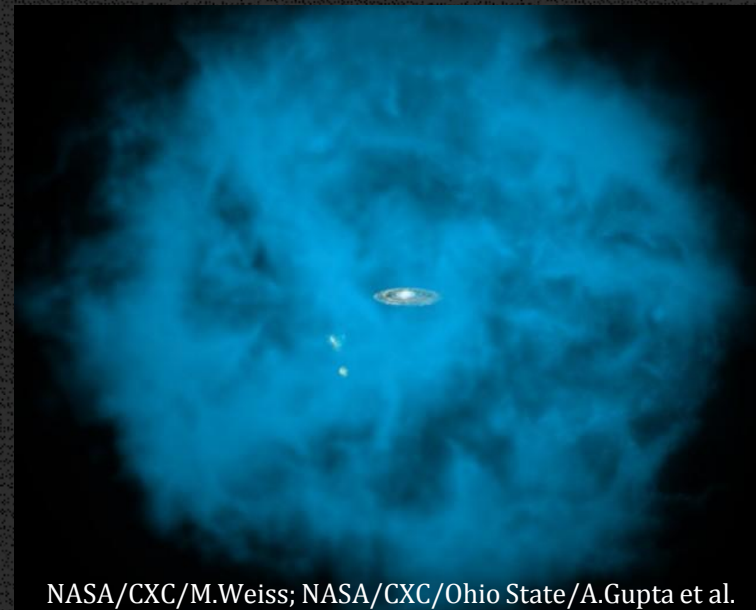
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The Circumgalactic Medium

- Reservoir of gas which feeds future star formation
- Material through which winds outflow, filaments accrete, & mergers are tidally stripped
- Harbors a gas mass rivaling that in galaxies
- What are the detailed physical characteristics of the CGM for galaxies of different masses, luminosities, & colors?
- COS-Halos for $z < 0.4$, KBSS for $z \sim 2.5$
 - Need to fill in this redshift gap!



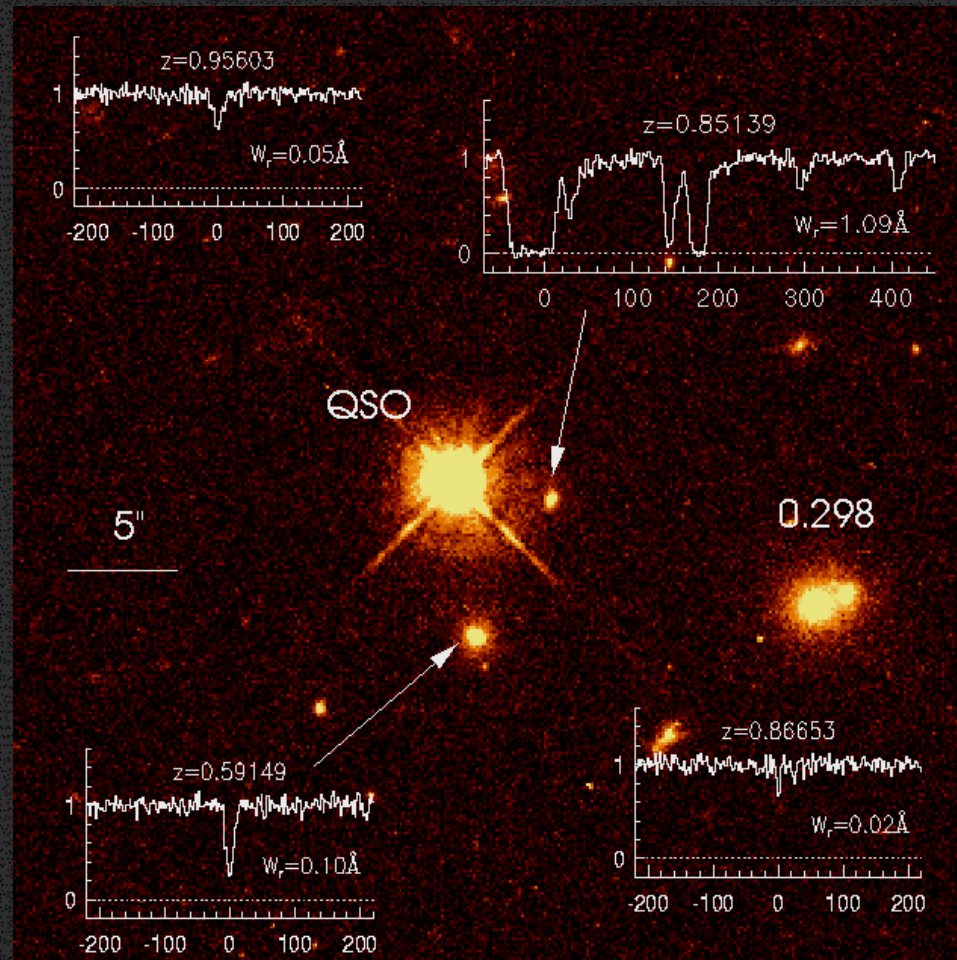
Quasar Absorption Lines - MgII

- Background QSO probes foreground galaxy through absorption – HI, CIV, OVI, MgII

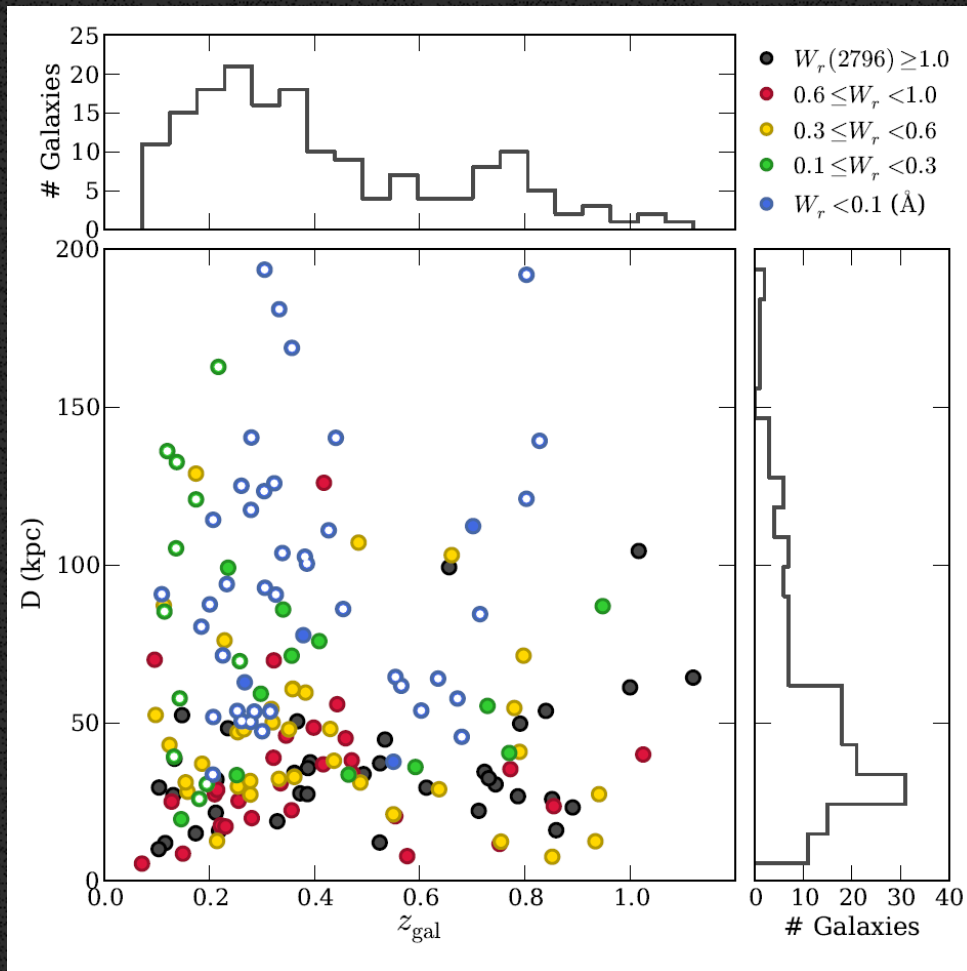
MgII

- Observed from the ground in the optical with high resolution
- Observe redshift region that COS-Halos and KBSS are not studying
- Cold gas (3.5×10^4 K)
- Traces HI column densities of $16.5 < \log N(\text{HI}) < 21.5+$
- Probes structures such as outflows, inflows

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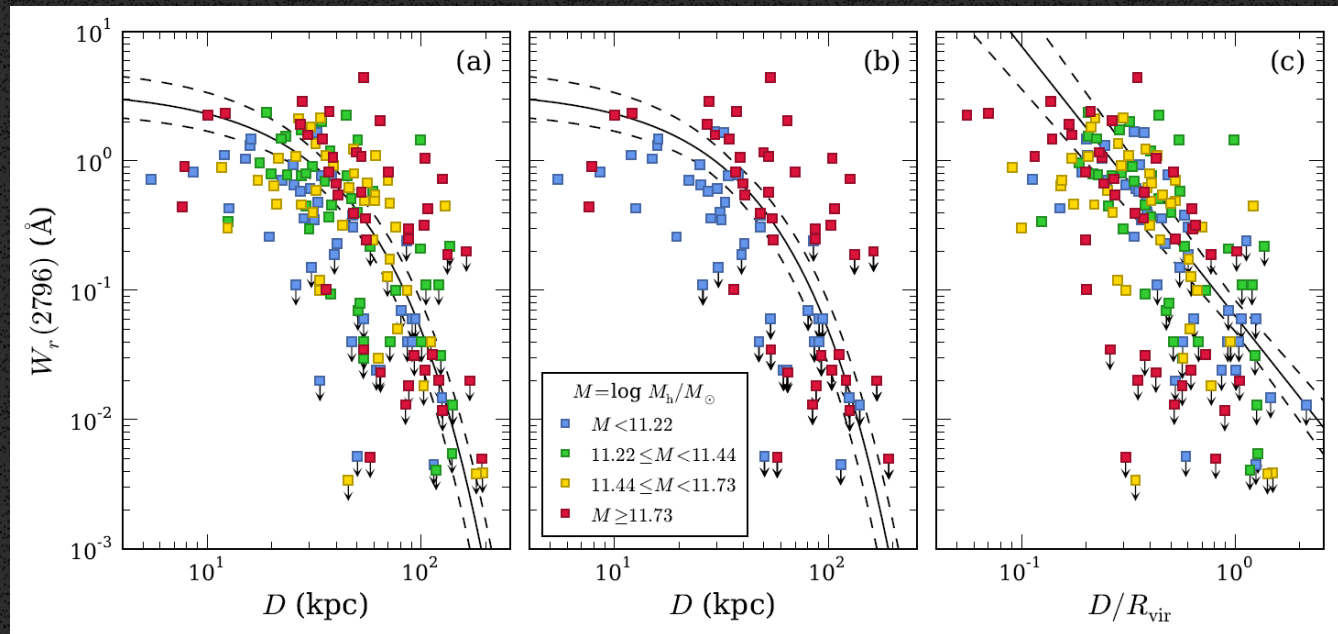
MAGIICAT – MgII Absorbing Galaxy Catalog



- 169 isolated MgII galaxies
- $0.1 < z < 1.1$
- $D < 200$ kpc
- $0.03 \text{ \AA} < W_r(2796) < 4.4 \text{ \AA}$
 - upper limits down to 0.003 \AA
- B- and K-band absolute magnitudes M_B, M_K
- Luminosities $L_B/L_B^*, L_K/L_K^*$
- B-K colors
- Halo masses (M_h) from halo abundance matching

$W_r(2796)$ vs D

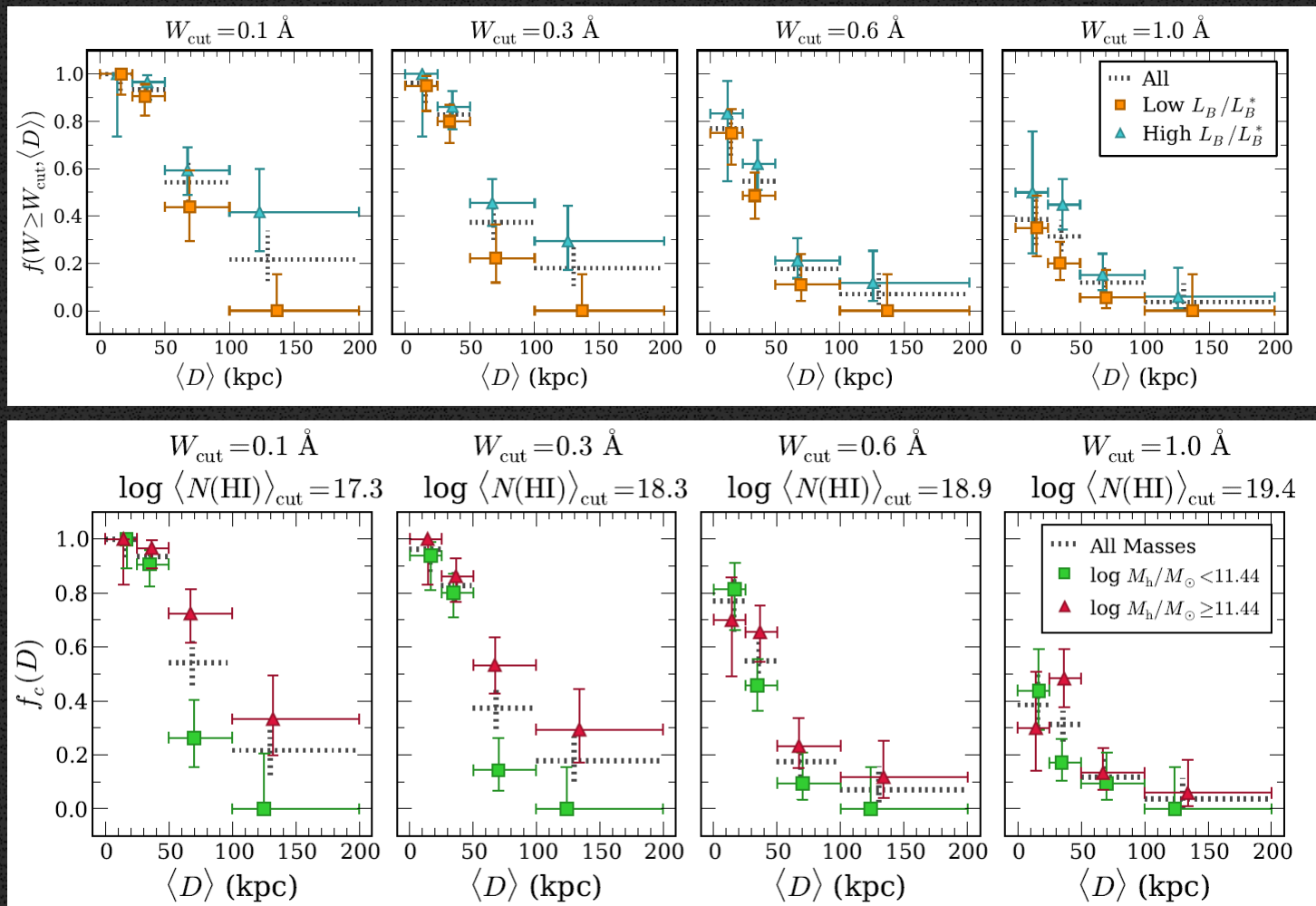
- Anti-correlation between $W_r(2796)$ and D – 8.2σ
- Highest mass galaxies have larger EW at a given D
- Mass segregation vanishes when normalizing by virial radius – 9.2σ anti-correlation



- Amount and extent of MgII gas depends strongly on mass

Covering Fractions

- Patchiness of the CGM depends on luminosity and mass



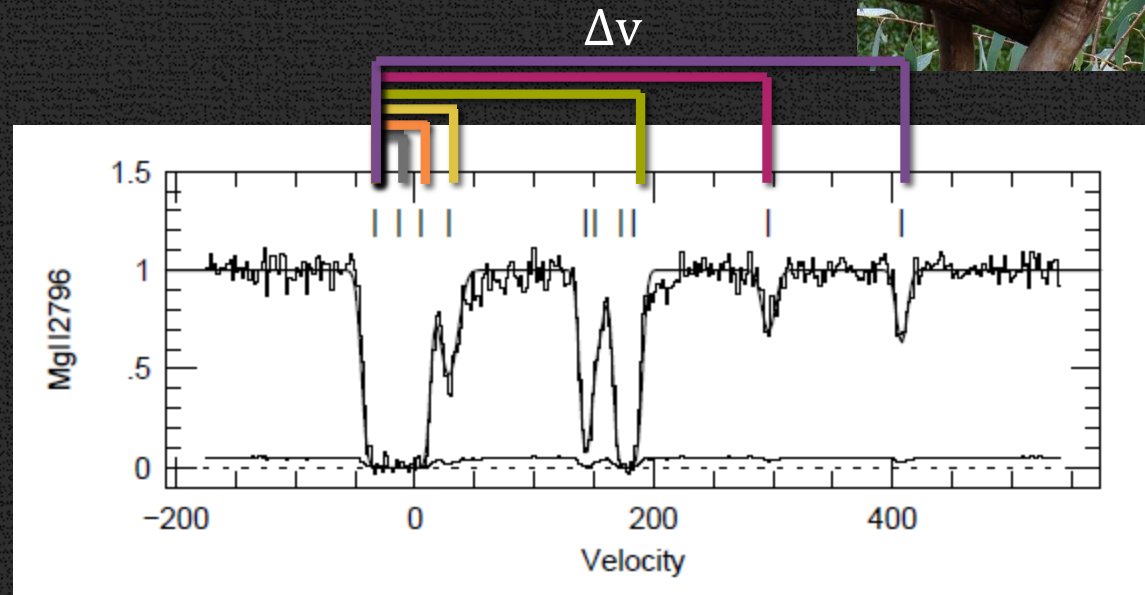
Two-Point Velocity Correlation Function

- Work conducted at Swinburne University of Technology in Australia through NSF EAPSI – 8 week summer program
- MgII cloud velocity probability distribution function
- Probability of finding any two clouds separated by Δv



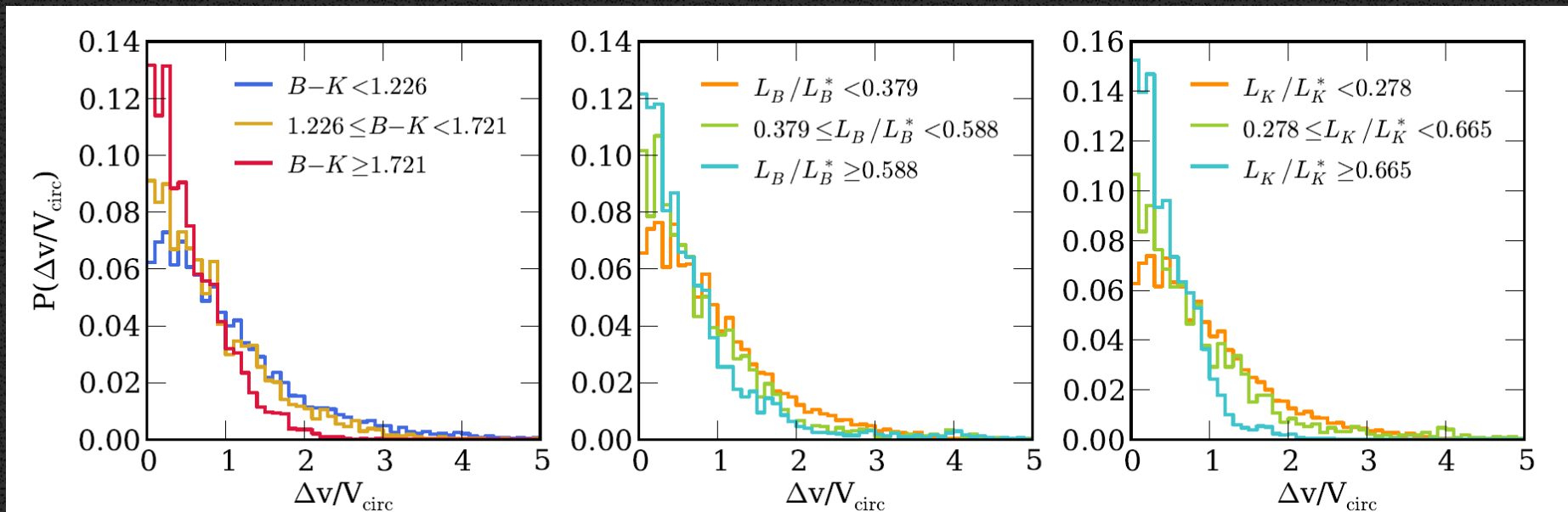
Absorption line Voigt profile fits by Dr. Jessica Evans (NMSU)

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Two-Point Velocity Correlation Function

- 3 equal number subsamples, cut by color and luminosity



- More chaotic processes likely found in the CGM of blue and low luminosity galaxies – galactic winds/outflows?

Conclusions

- Studying the CGM is crucial to understanding galaxy evolution
- MAGIICAT – Largest sample of MgII galaxies
- The properties of the CGM strongly depend on the host galaxy color, luminosity, and halo mass

