

# Observations of Short GRBs: Beaming, Energetics & Environments

**Wen-fai Fong**  
**Harvard University**



*Edo Berger*



*B. Ashley  
Zauderer*

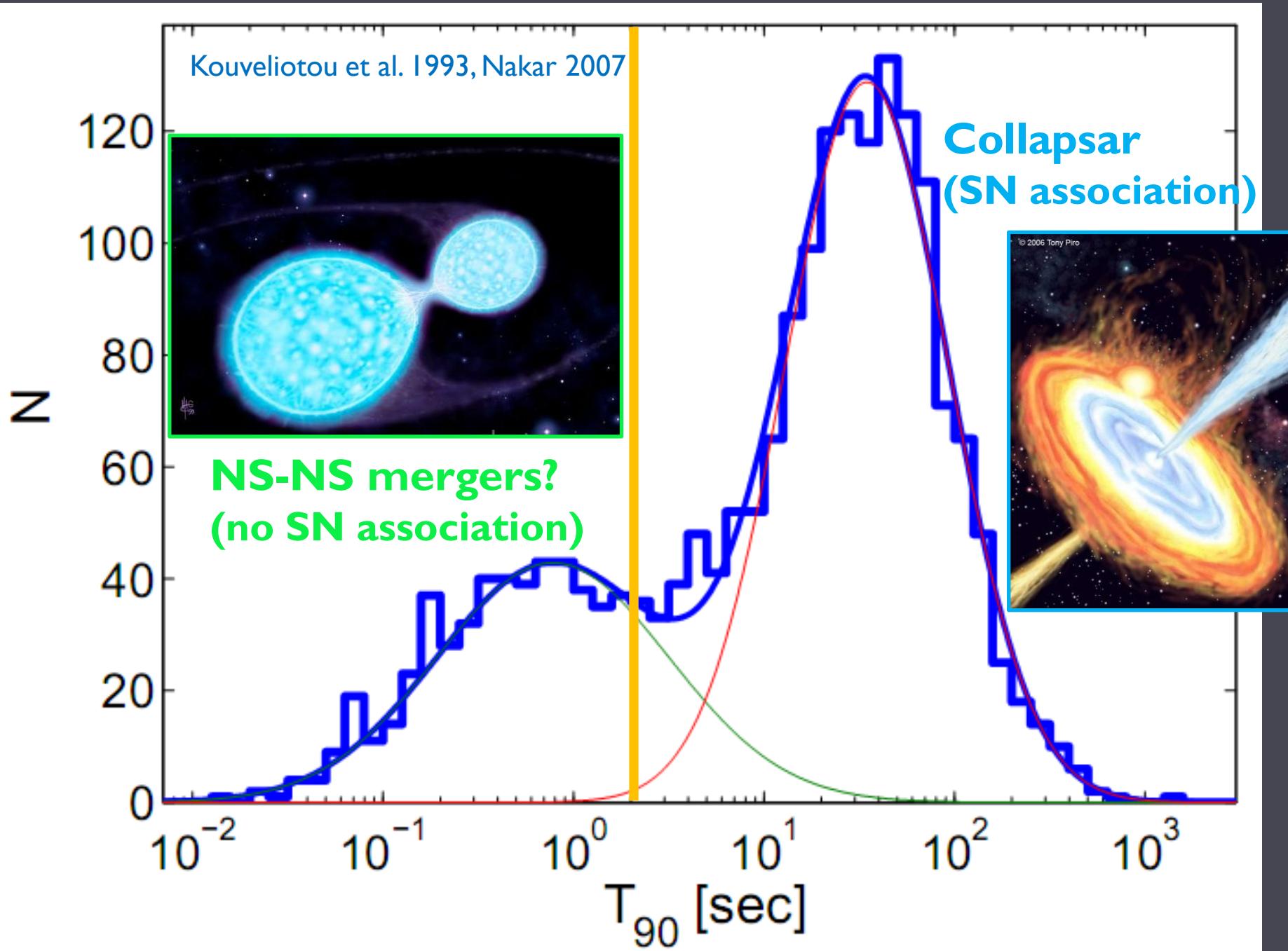


*Raffaella  
Margutti*

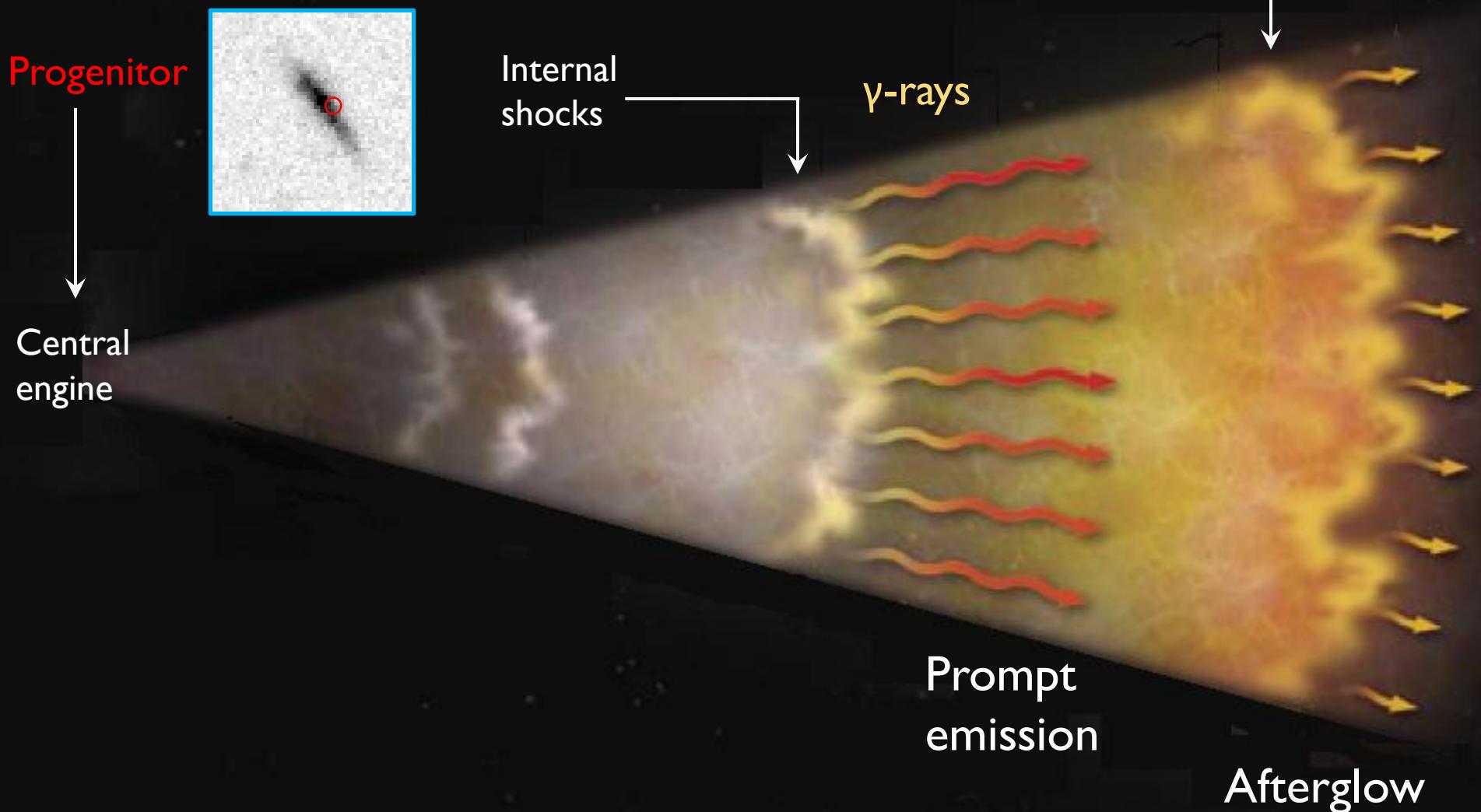


*Ryan Chornock*

*Rattle & Shine, KITP, 08.01.2012*

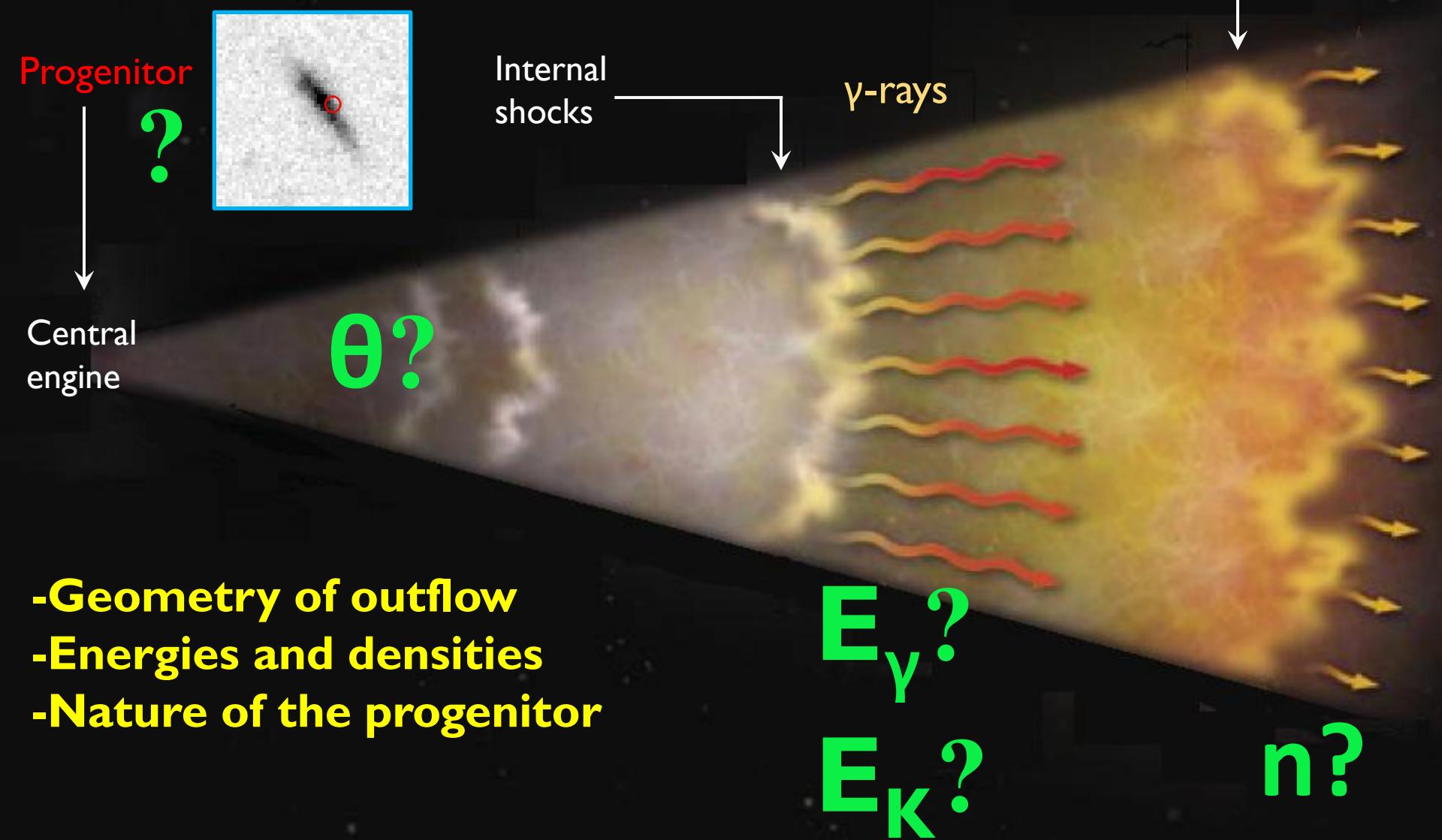


# Physics of GRBs: The Big Picture



# Physics of GRBs: Open Questions

X-ray  
Optical  
NIR  
Radio



Adapted from Gehrels et al. 2007

- Geometry of outflow
- Energies and densities
- Nature of the progenitor

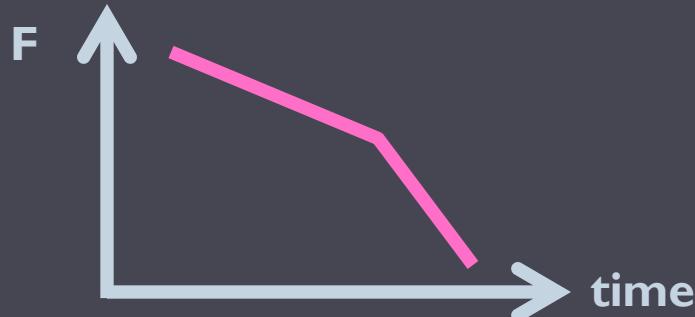
$E_\gamma?$

$E_K?$

$n?$

# What can we learn from observations?

## I. Geometry of outflow

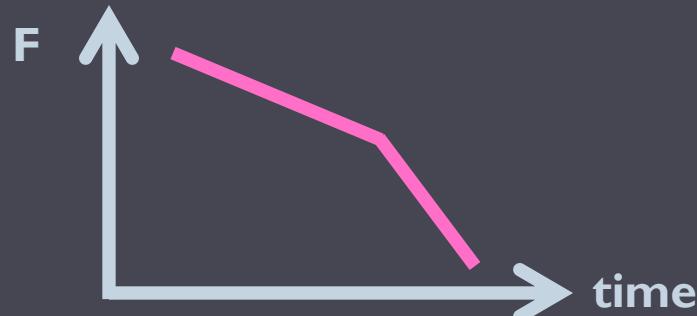


**True energy scale**

**Rates**

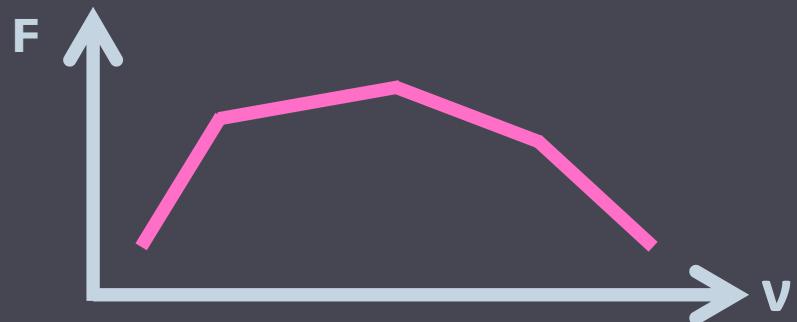
# What can we learn from observations?

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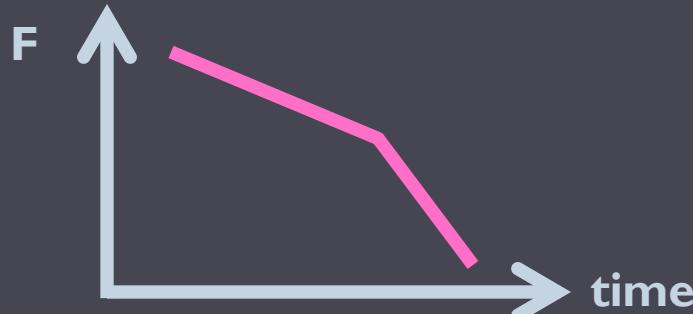
**True energy scale**  
**Rates**

## 2. Energies and densities



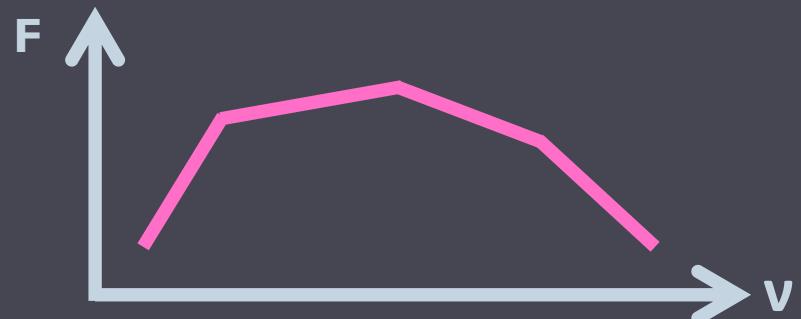
# What can we learn from observations?

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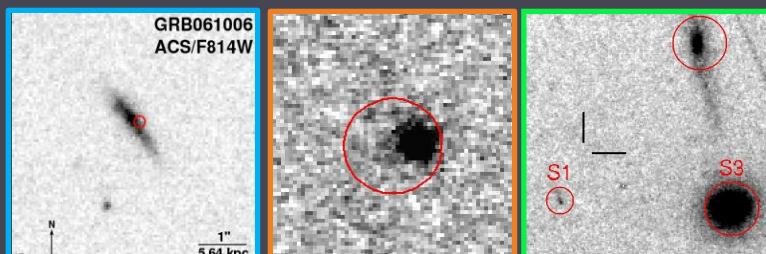


**True energy scale**  
**Rates**

## 2. Energies and densities



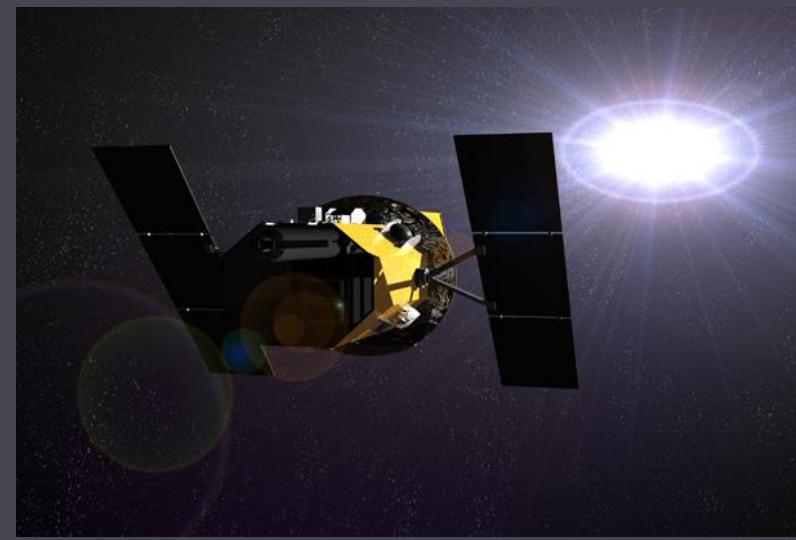
## 3. Nature of the progenitor



**Demographics**  
**Stellar pop. characteristics**  
**Burst locations (kicks?)**

# The multi-wavelength Target-of-Opportunity afterglow chase

Swift discovers a burst...



Magellan (Chile)



Chandra



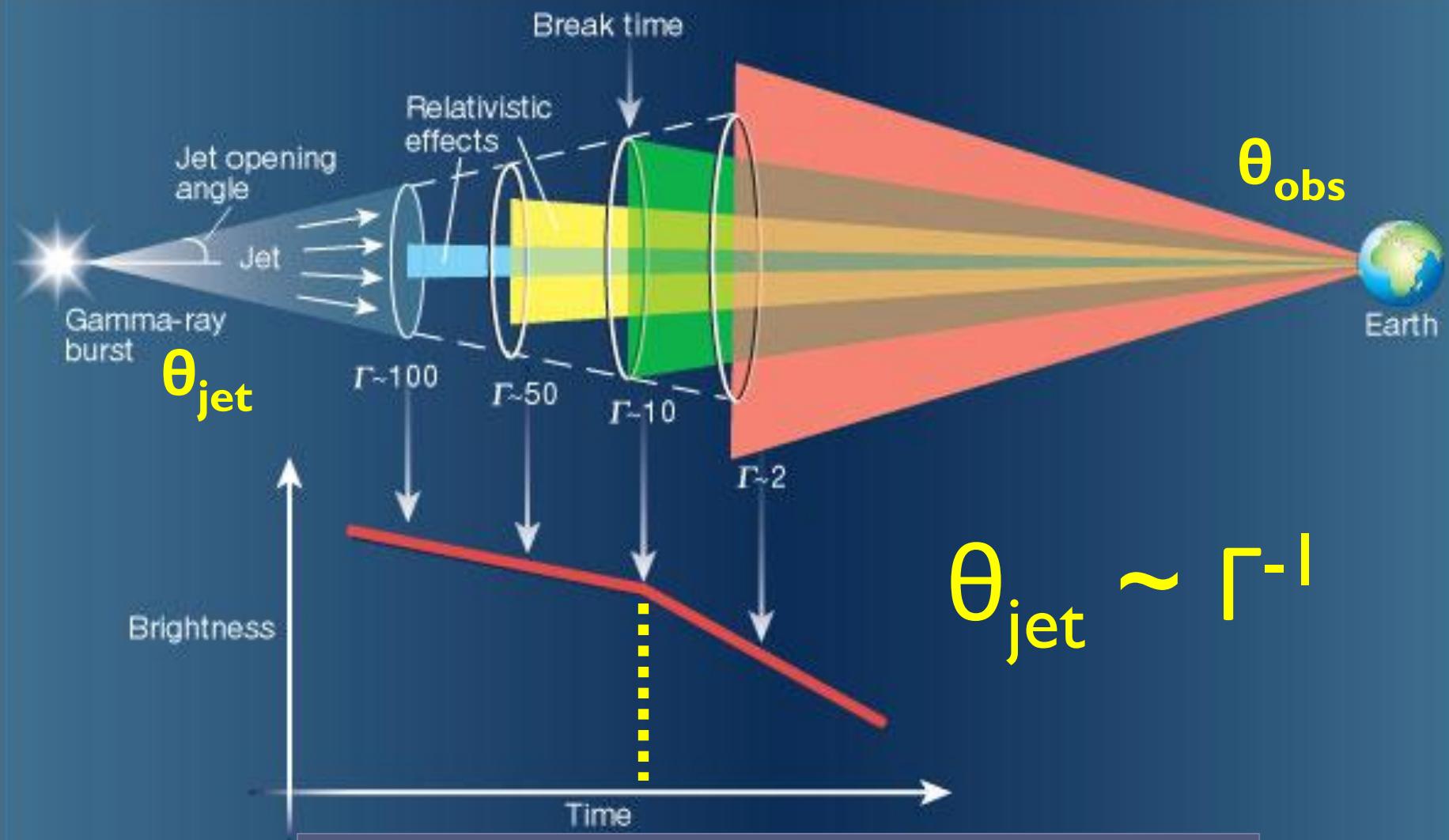
Gemini-North (HI) and South (Chile)

EVLA (New Mexico)

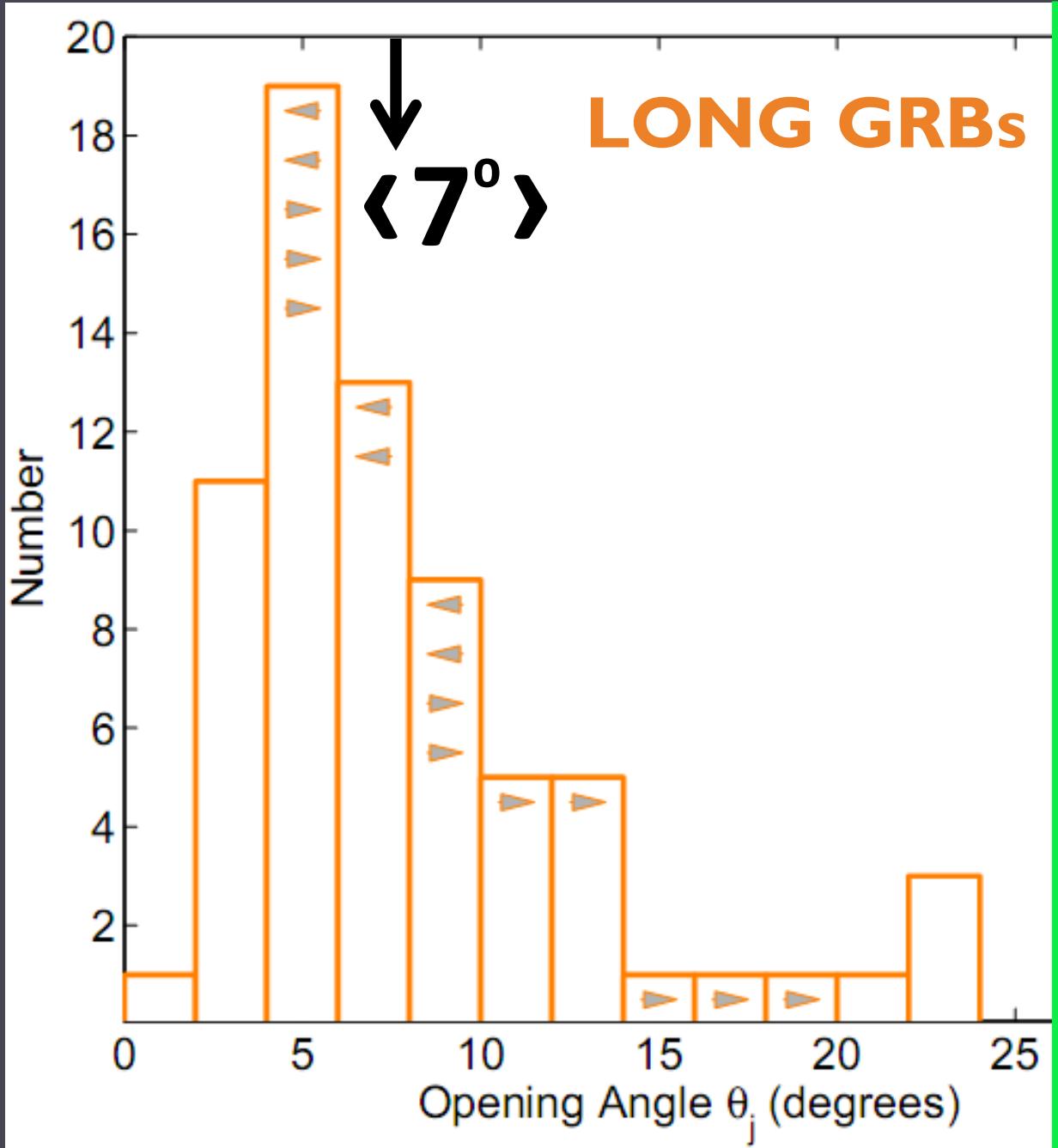


...and we diligently chase the  
afterglow (and eventually host)!

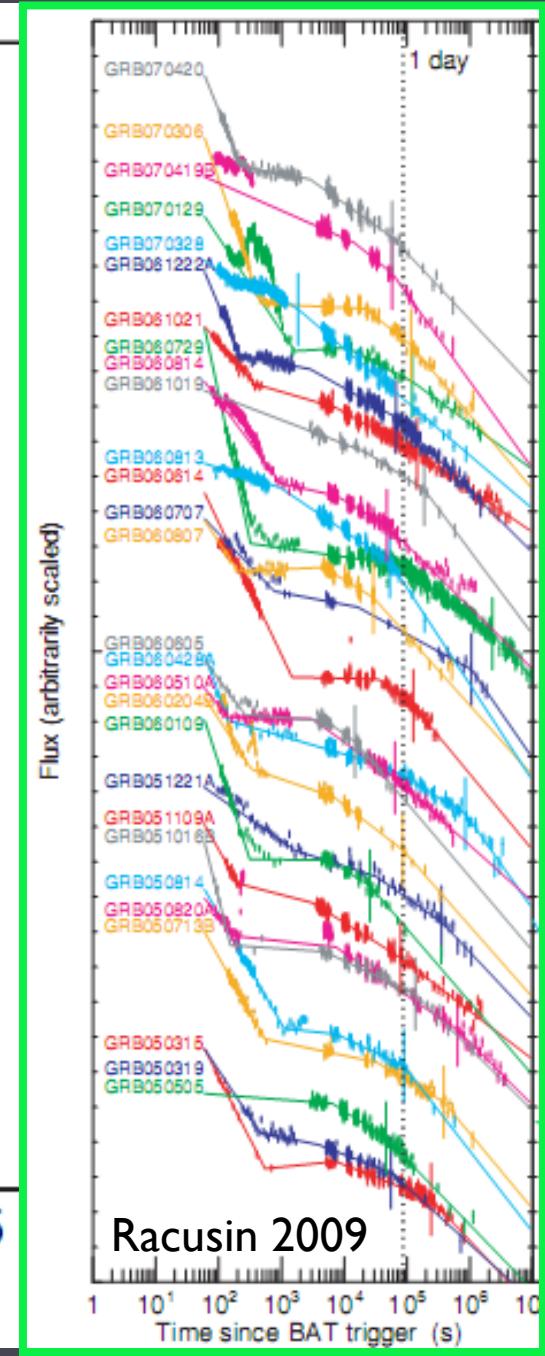
# I. Geometry of outflow



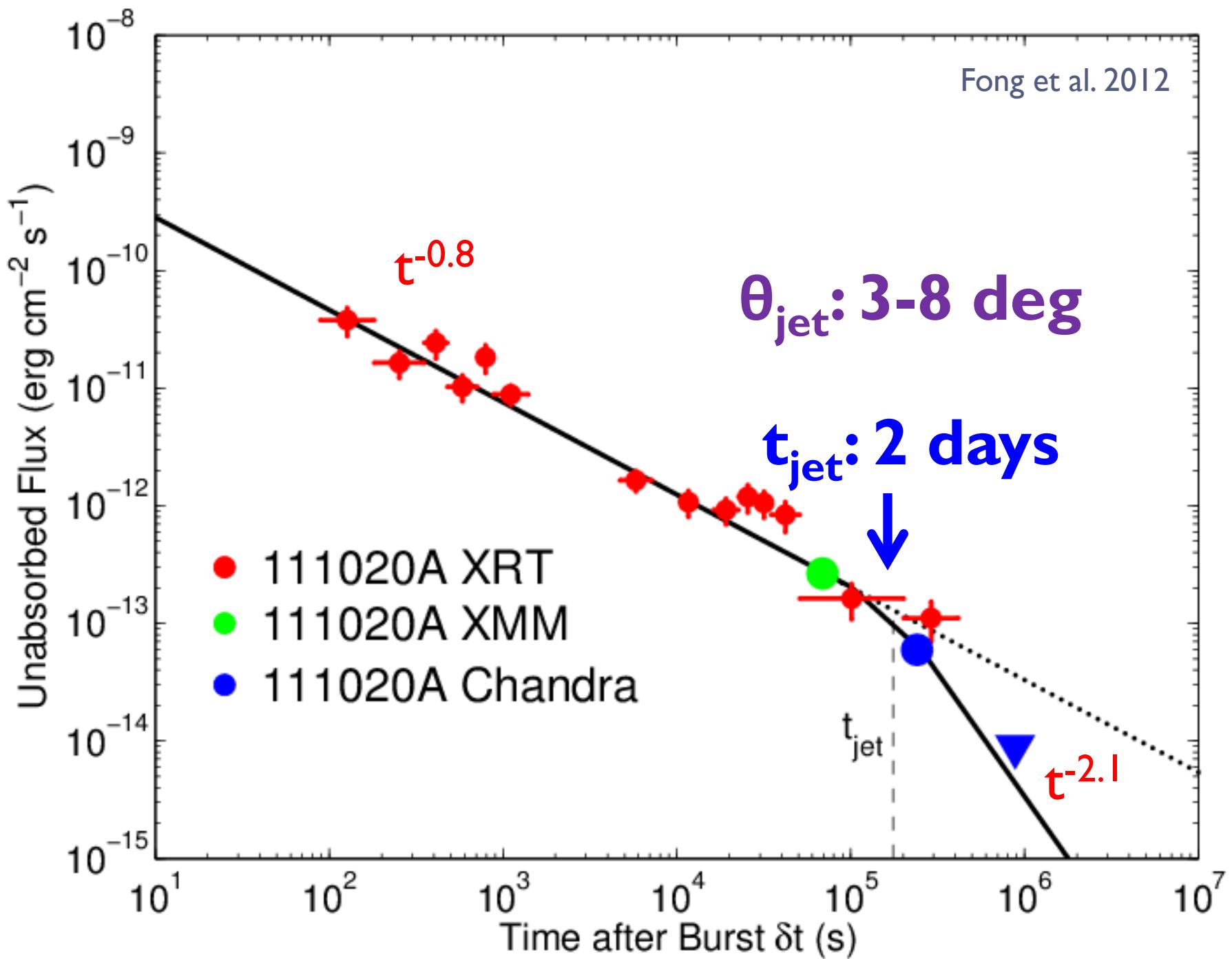
$$\theta_{jet} \propto t_{jet}^{3/8} (1+z)^{-3/8} E^{-1/8} n^{1/8}$$

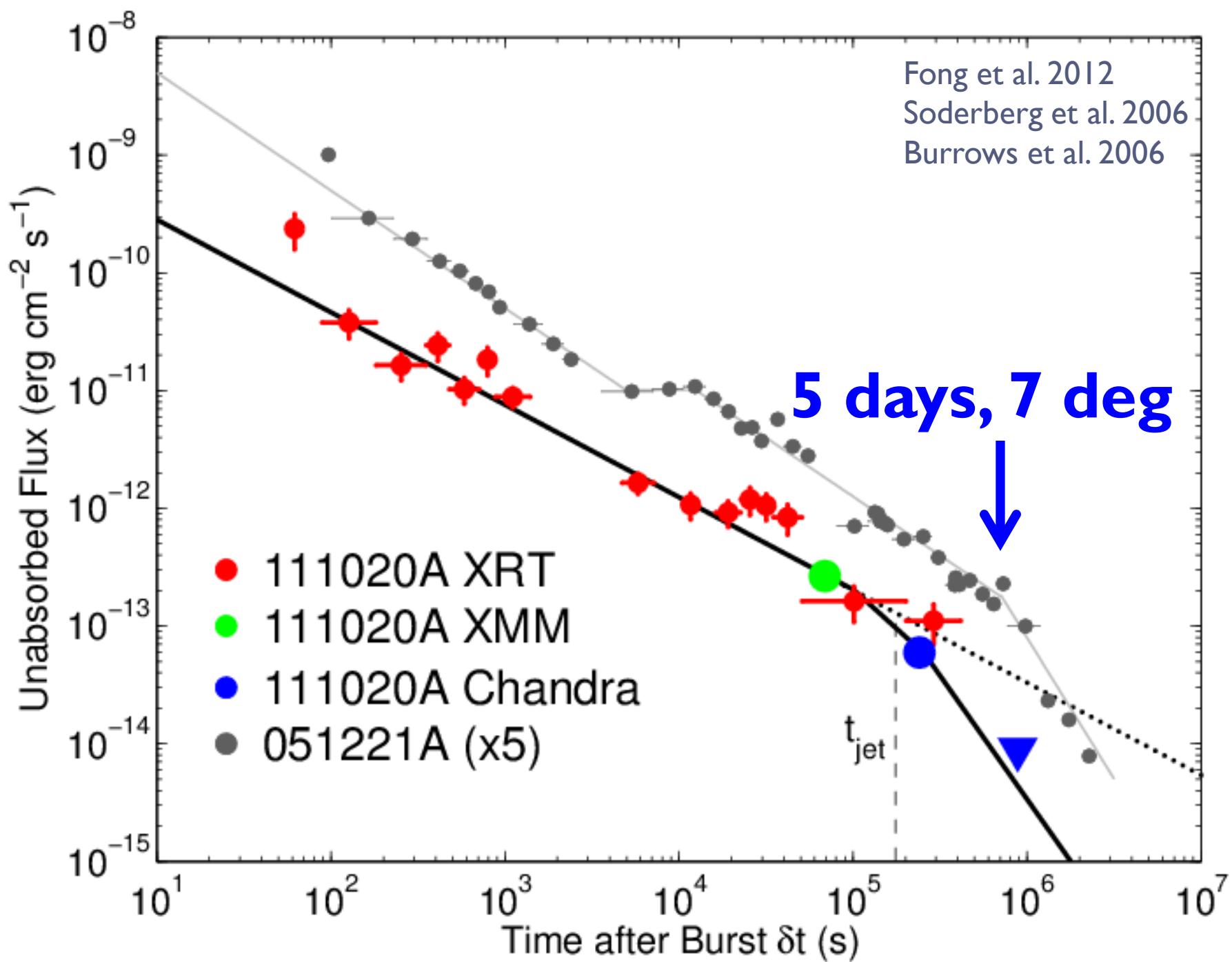


# LONG GRBs

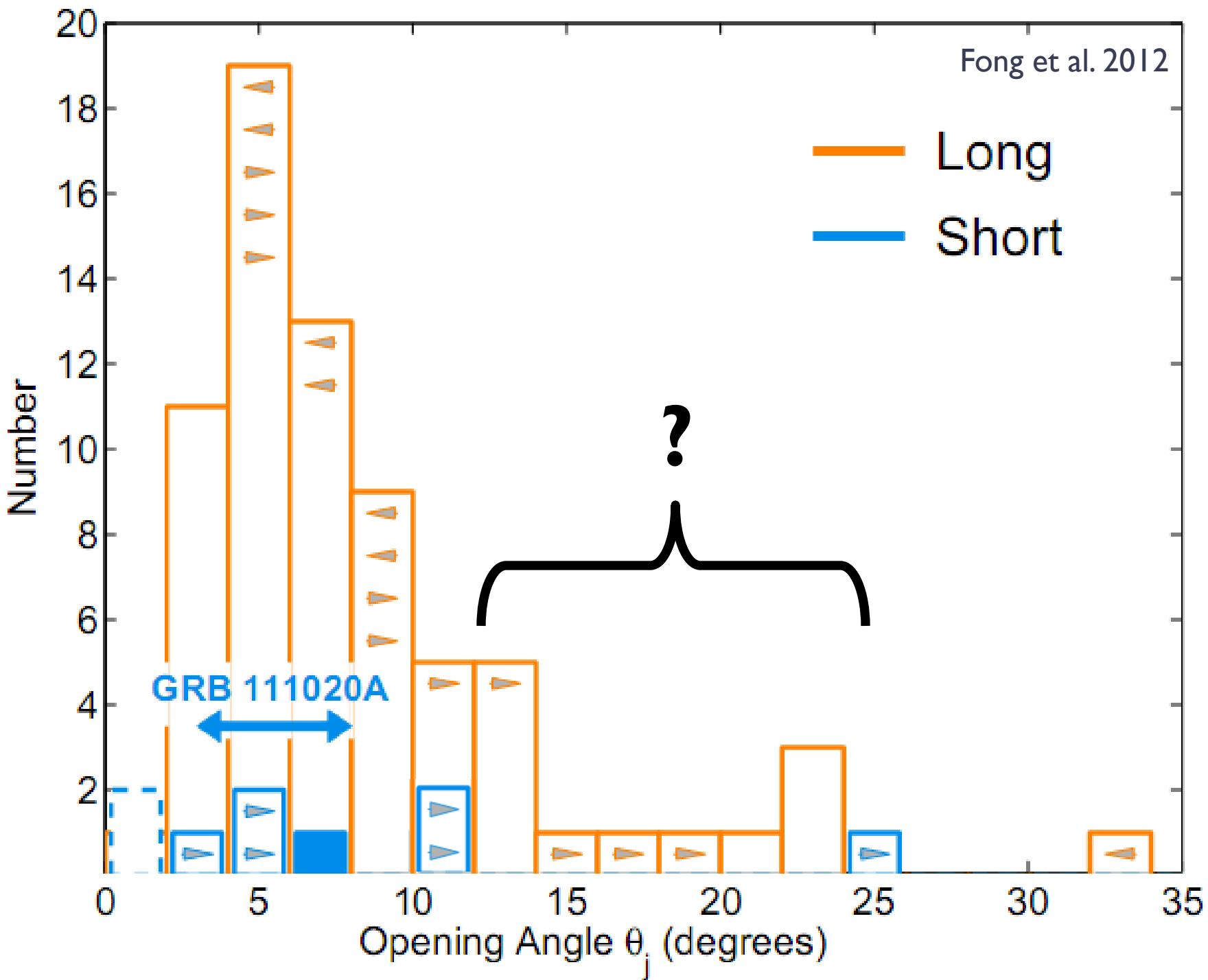


Fong et al. 2012

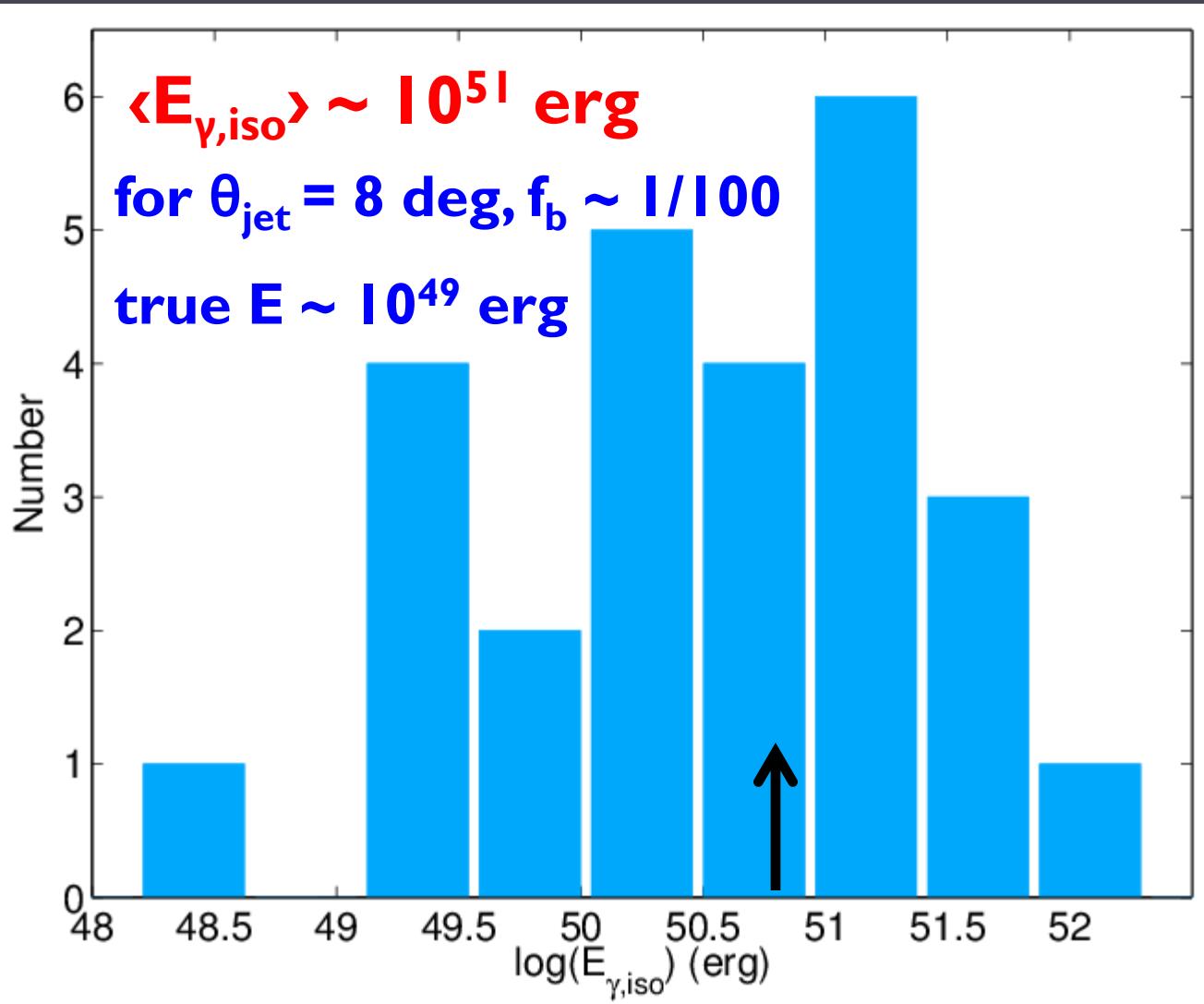




Fong et al. 2012



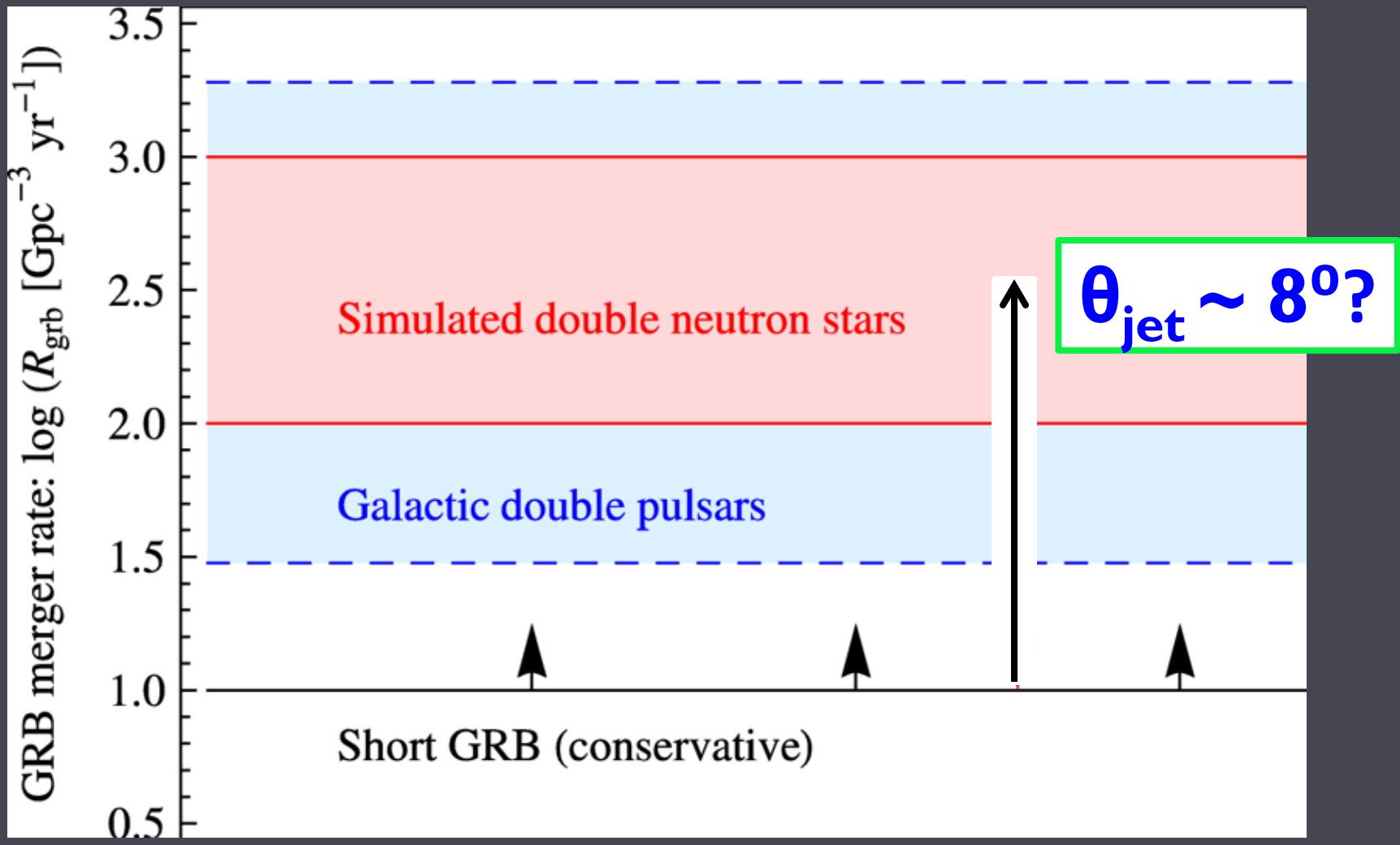
# Implications: Energy Scale



E extraction  
predictions:  
 $\bar{v}v: 10^{48}-10^{49} \text{ erg}$   
MHD:  $> 10^{49} \text{ erg}$

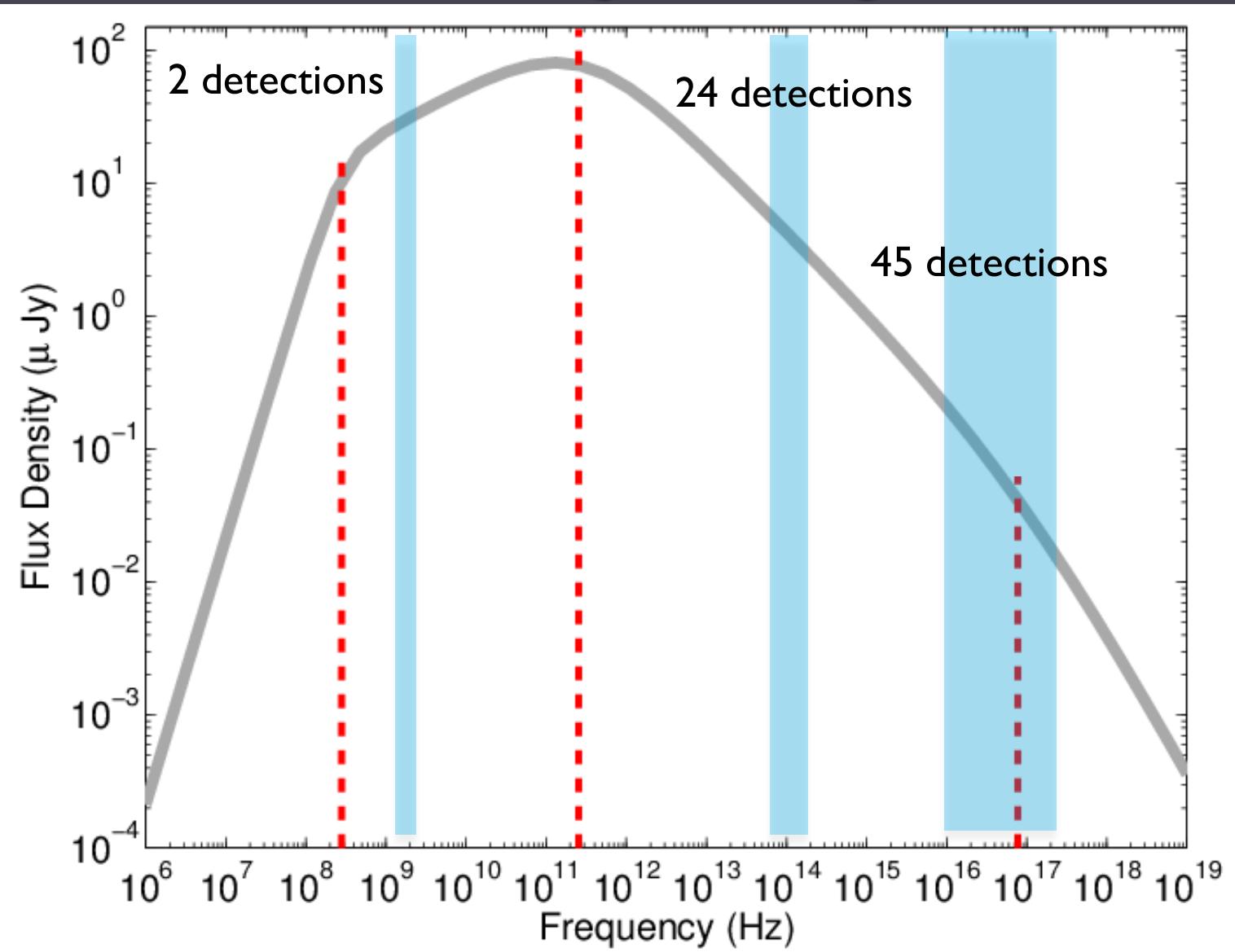
Rosswog et al. 2003, Rosswog  
2005, Birkl et al. 2007, Lee &  
Ramirez-Ruiz 2007

# Implications: Rates

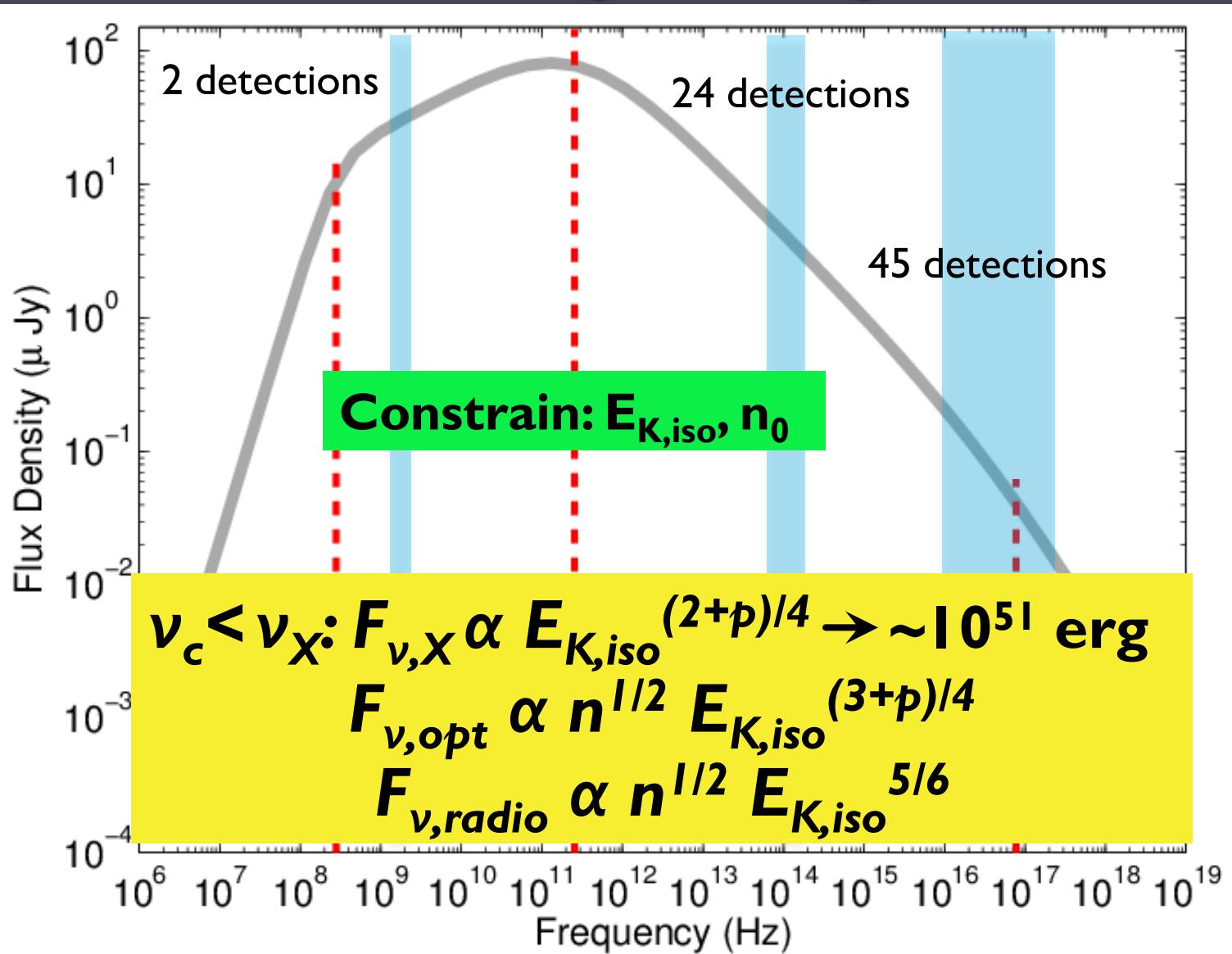


created using models from Granot & Sari 2002

## 2. Energies & Densities: Multi-wavelength Afterglows

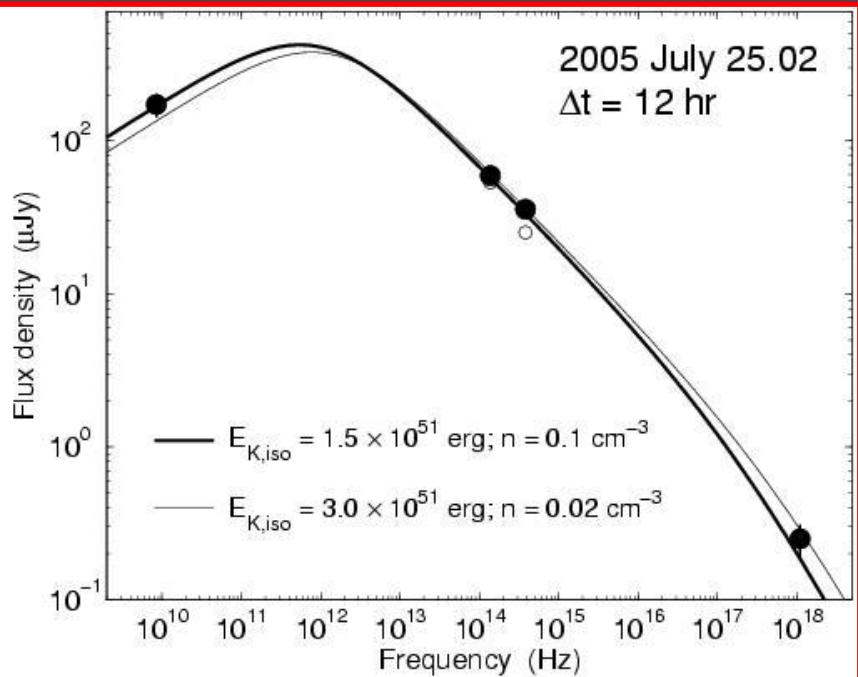


## 2. Energies & Densities: Multi-wavelength Afterglows



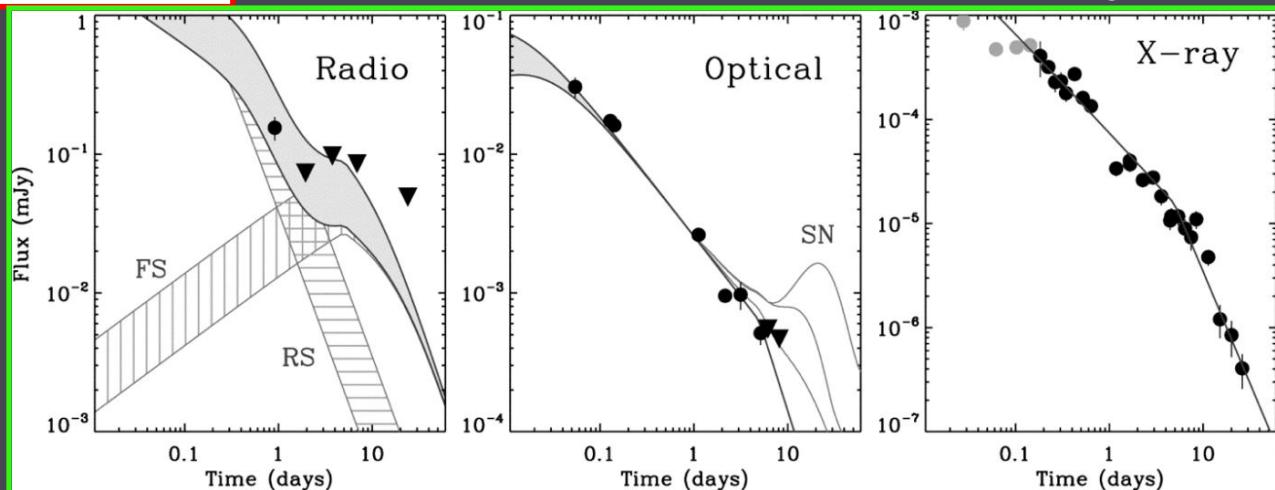
# Golden examples: GRBs 050724 and 051221A

GRB 050724A; Berger et al. 2005



$\theta_j > 25 \text{ deg}$   
 $E_{\gamma,\text{iso}} \approx 4 \times 10^{50} \text{ erg}$   
 $E_{K,\text{iso}} \approx (2-3) \times 10^{51} \text{ erg}$   
 $n \approx 0.01-0.1 \text{ cm}^{-3}$

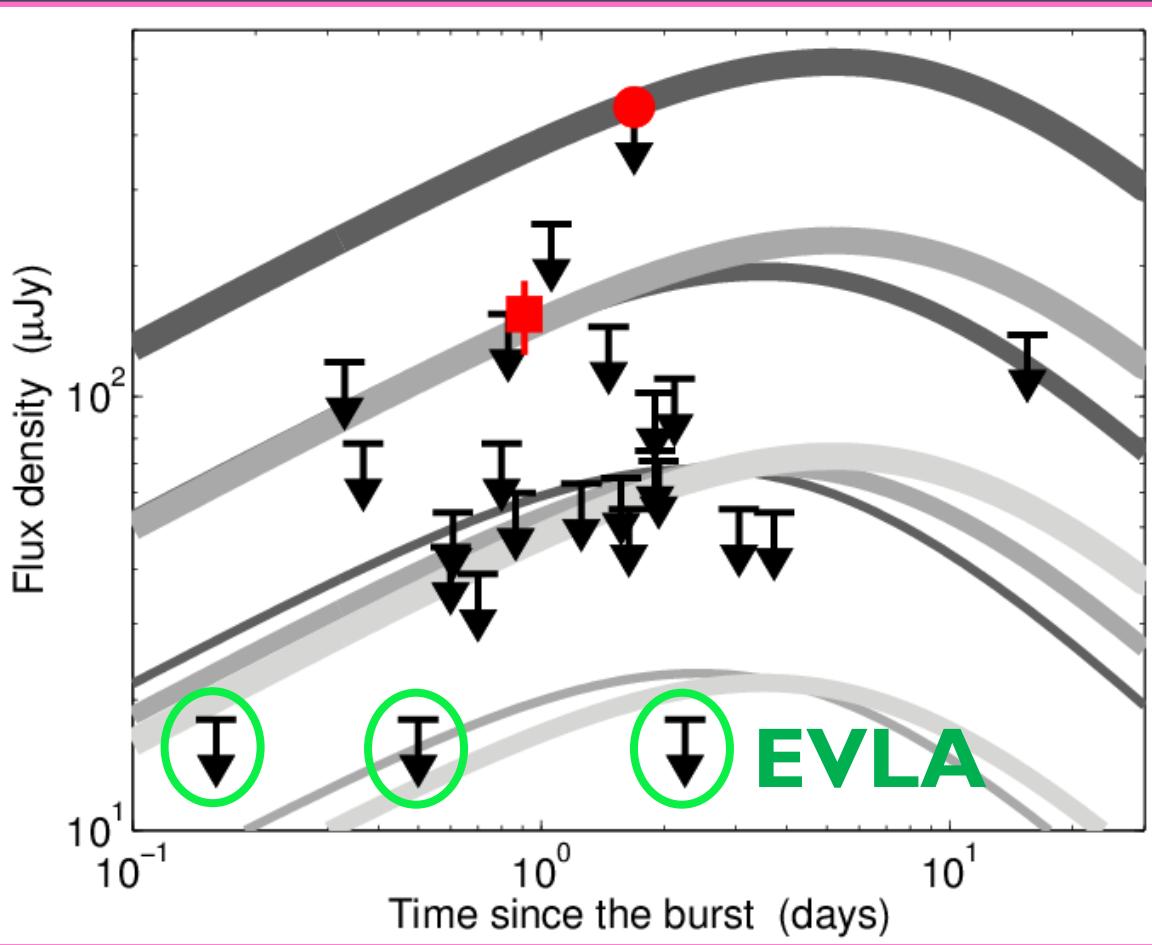
$\theta_j \approx 7 \text{ deg}$   
 $E_{\gamma} \approx 1.5 \times 10^{49} \text{ erg}$   
 $E_K \approx 0.8 \times 10^{49} \text{ erg}$   
 $n \approx 1.5 \times 10^{-3} \text{ cm}^{-3}$



GRB 051221A; Soderberg et al. 2006

# Radio afterglows

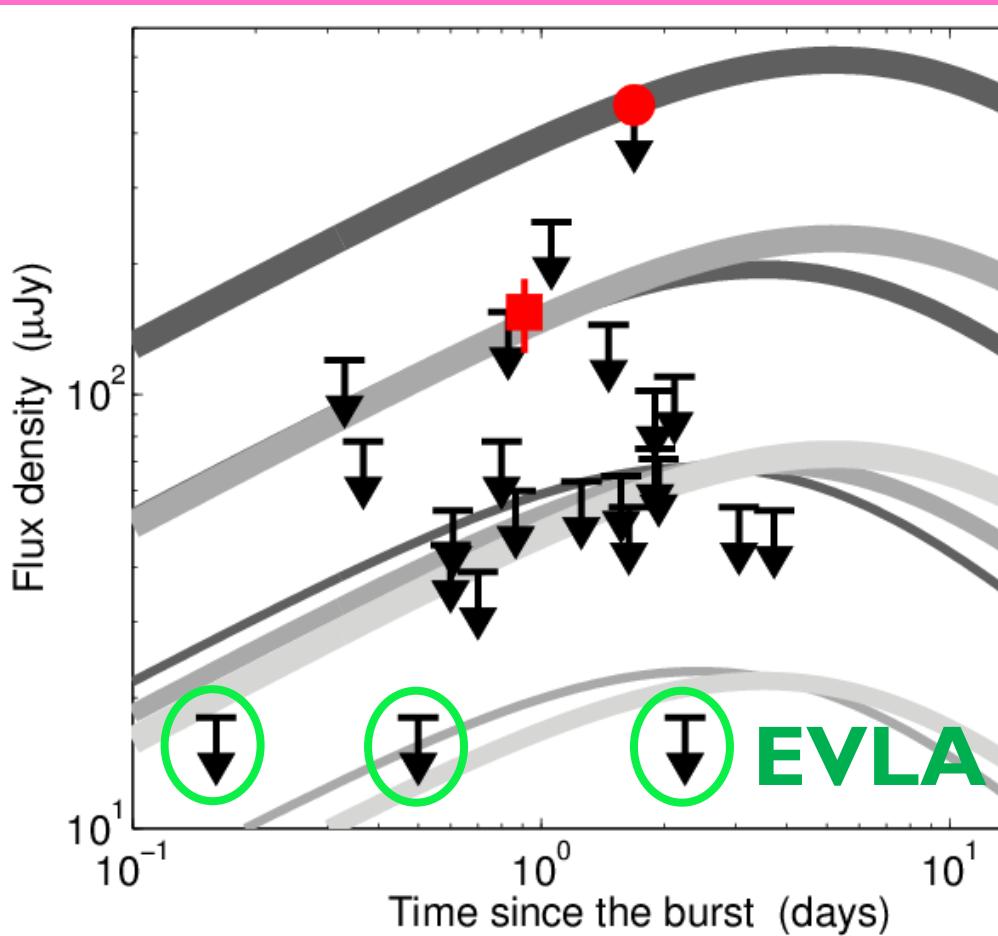
Fong+ in prep



$$F_{v, \text{radio}} \propto n^{1/2} E_{K,\text{iso}}^{5/6}$$

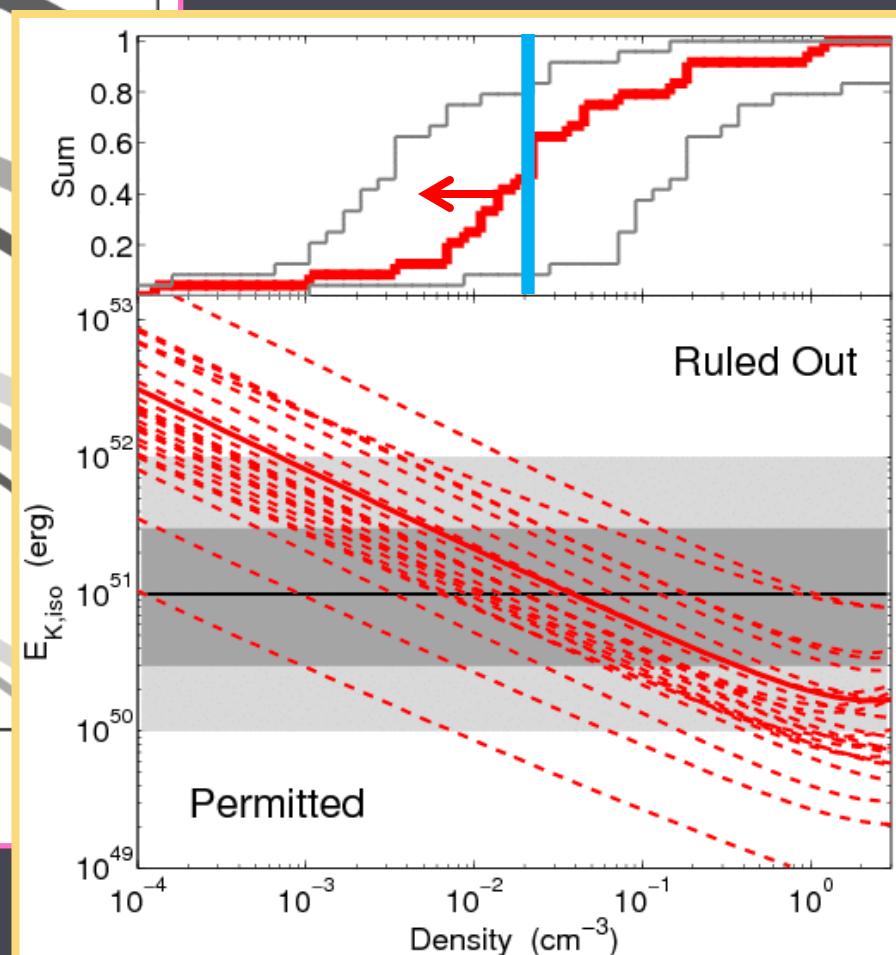
# Radio afterglows

Fong+ in prep



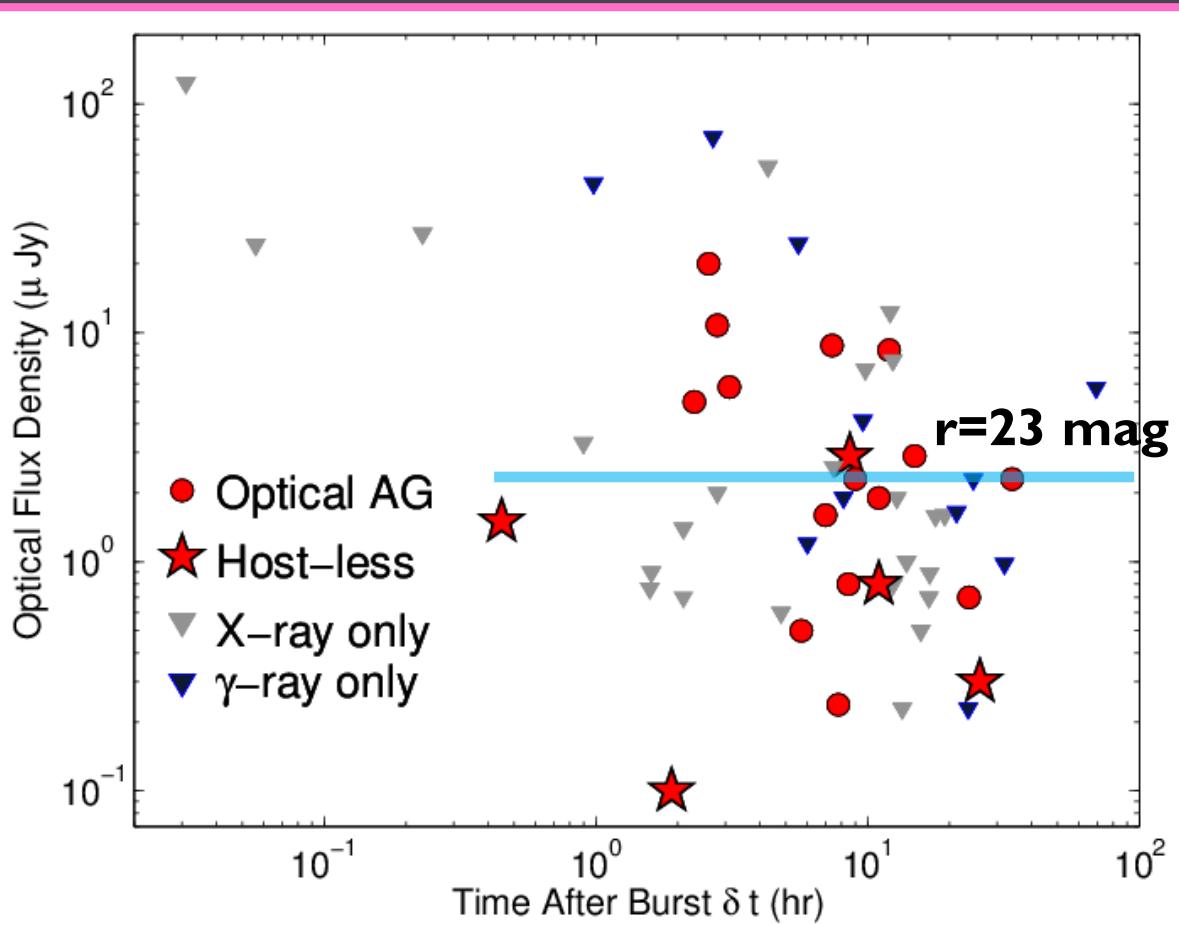
$$F_{v, \text{radio}} \propto n^{1/2} E_{K,\text{iso}}^{5/6}$$

from UL and detections:  $\langle n \rangle \leq 0.02 \text{ cm}^{-3}$



# Optical afterglows

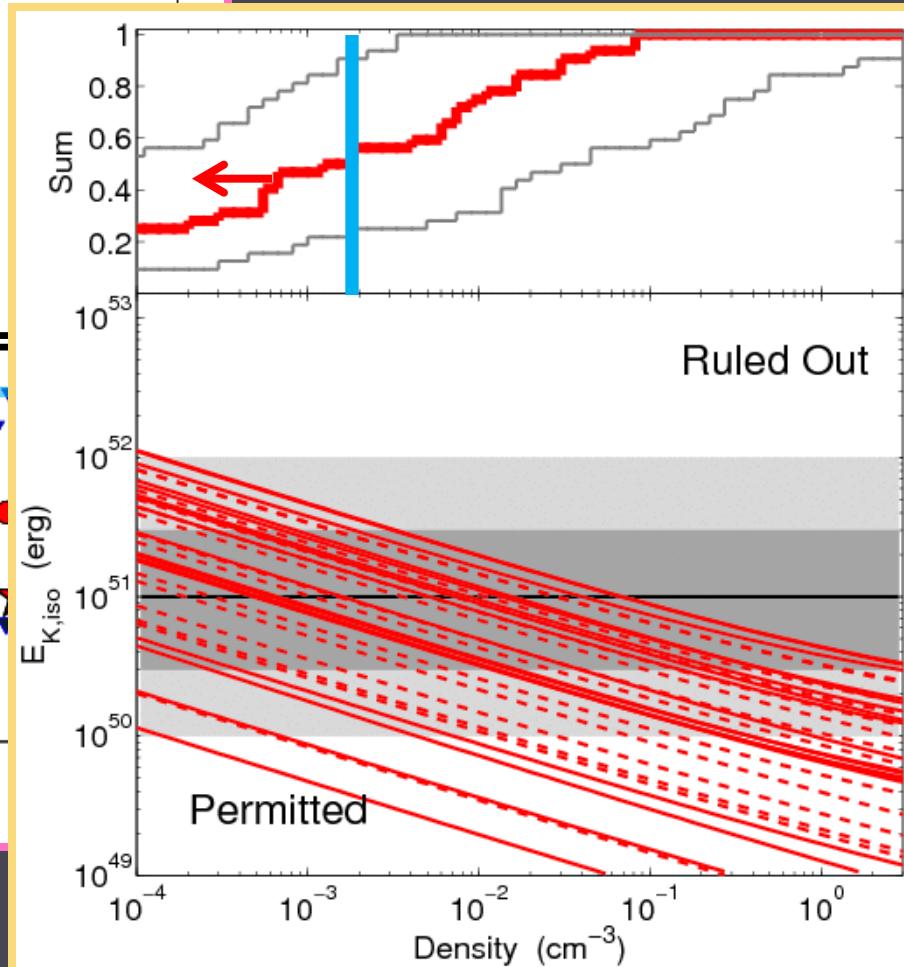
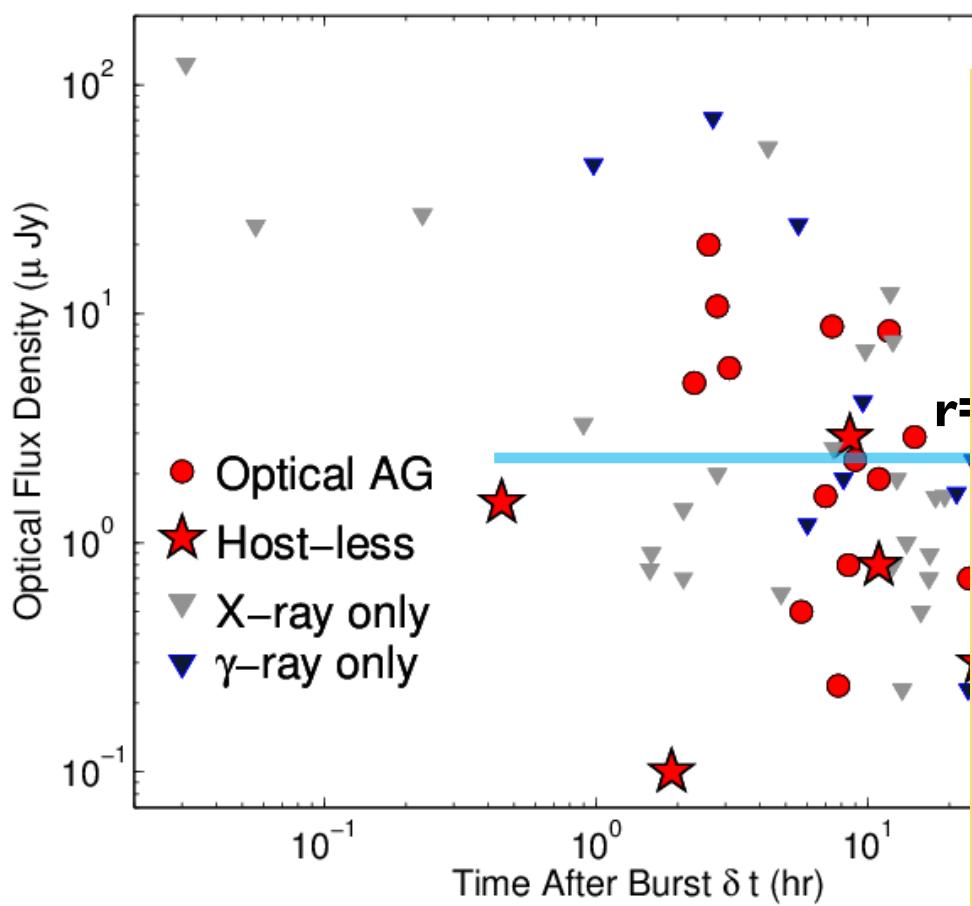
Fong+ in prep



$$F_{\nu, opt} \propto n^{1/2} E_{K, iso}^{(3+p)/4}$$

# Optical afterglows

Fong+ in prep



$$F_{v,\text{opt}} \propto n^{1/2} E_{K,\text{iso}}^{(3+p)/4}$$

*from UL and detections:  $\langle n \rangle \leq 0.002 \text{ cm}^{-3}$*



# [pause]

## Afterglows

Fraction are collimated

$$\theta_{\text{jet}} \sim 8 \text{ deg} \quad (f_b = 1/100)$$

Isotropic-equivalent energies:

$$E_{\text{iso,tot}} \sim 10^{51} \text{ erg} \quad (10^{48}-10^{52} \text{ erg})$$

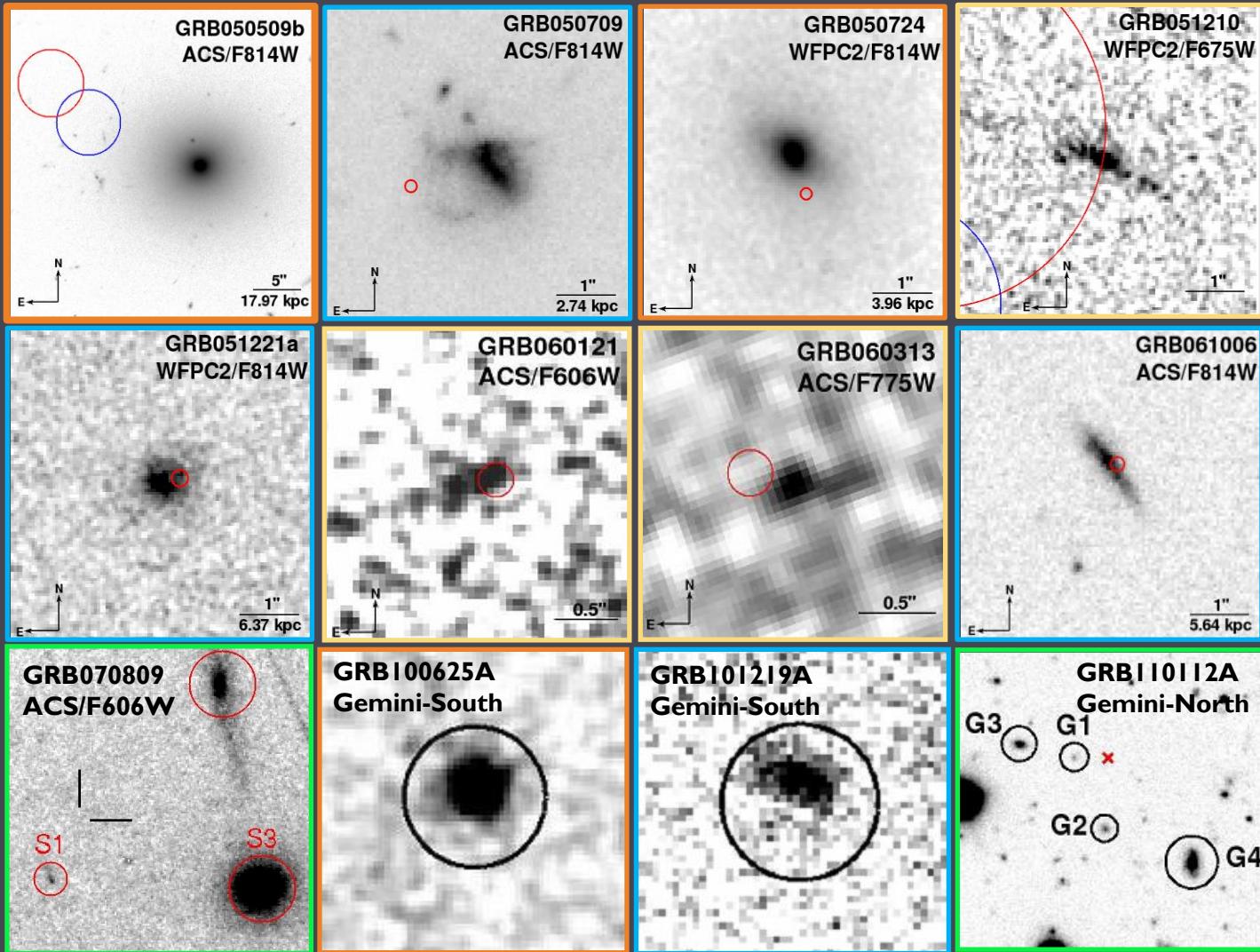
Beaming-corrected energies:

$$E_{\text{tot}} \sim 10^{49} \text{ erg}$$

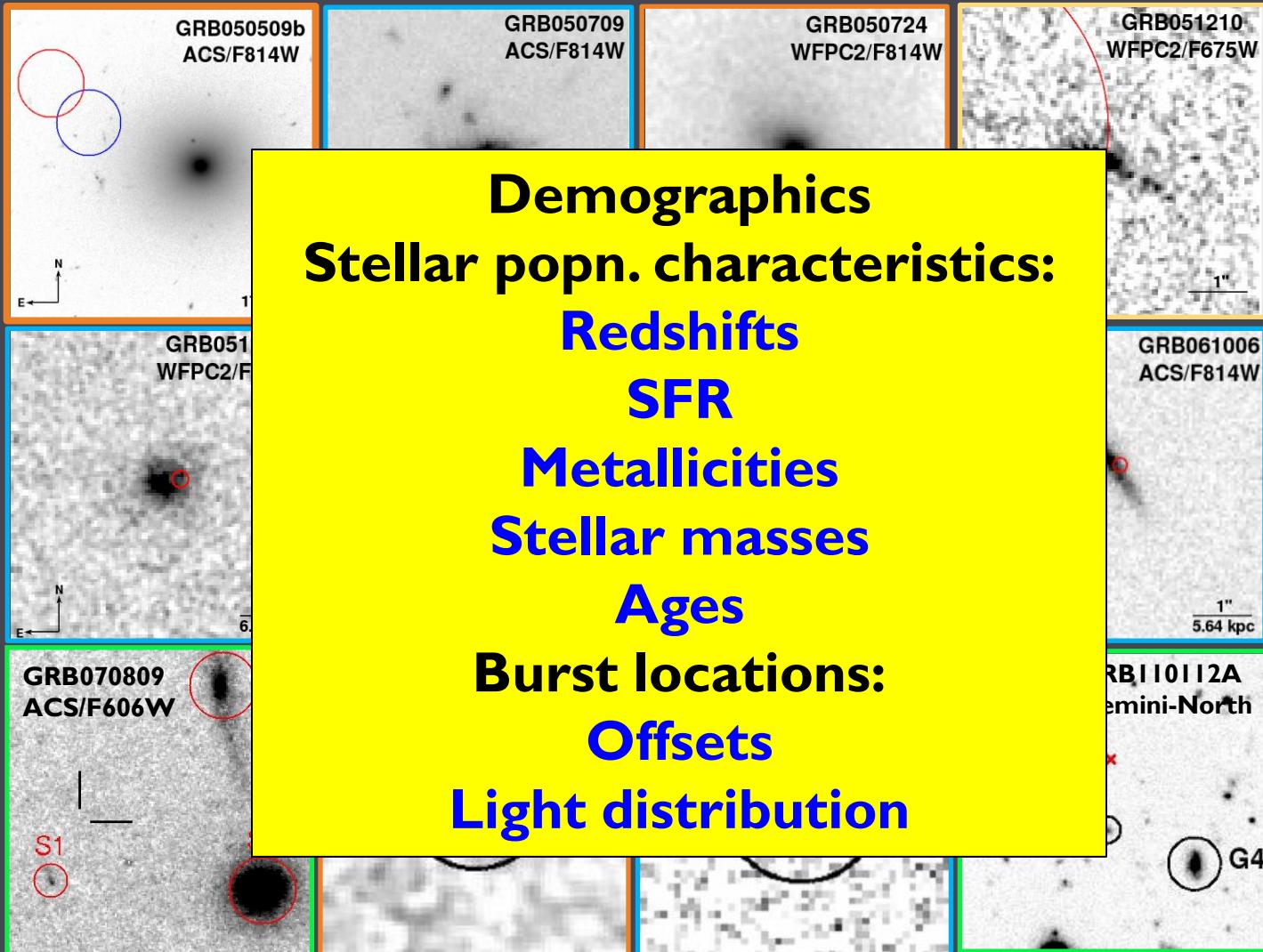
Rates  $100-1000 \text{ Gpc}^{-3} \text{ yr}^{-1}$

Typical density is low:  $\langle n_0 \rangle \leq 10^{-2}-10^{-3} \text{ cm}^{-3}$

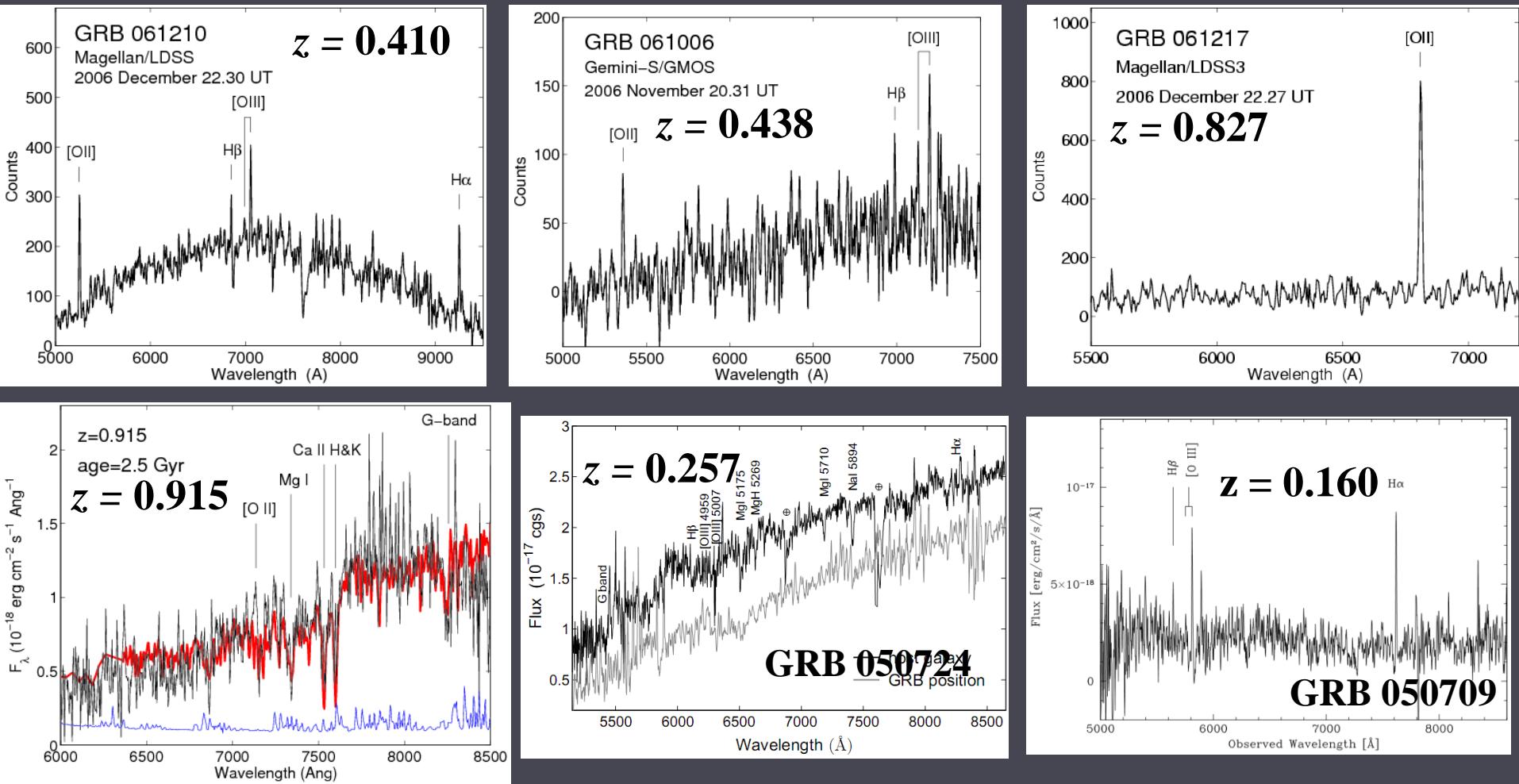
# 3. Nature of the progenitor Galactic-scale environments



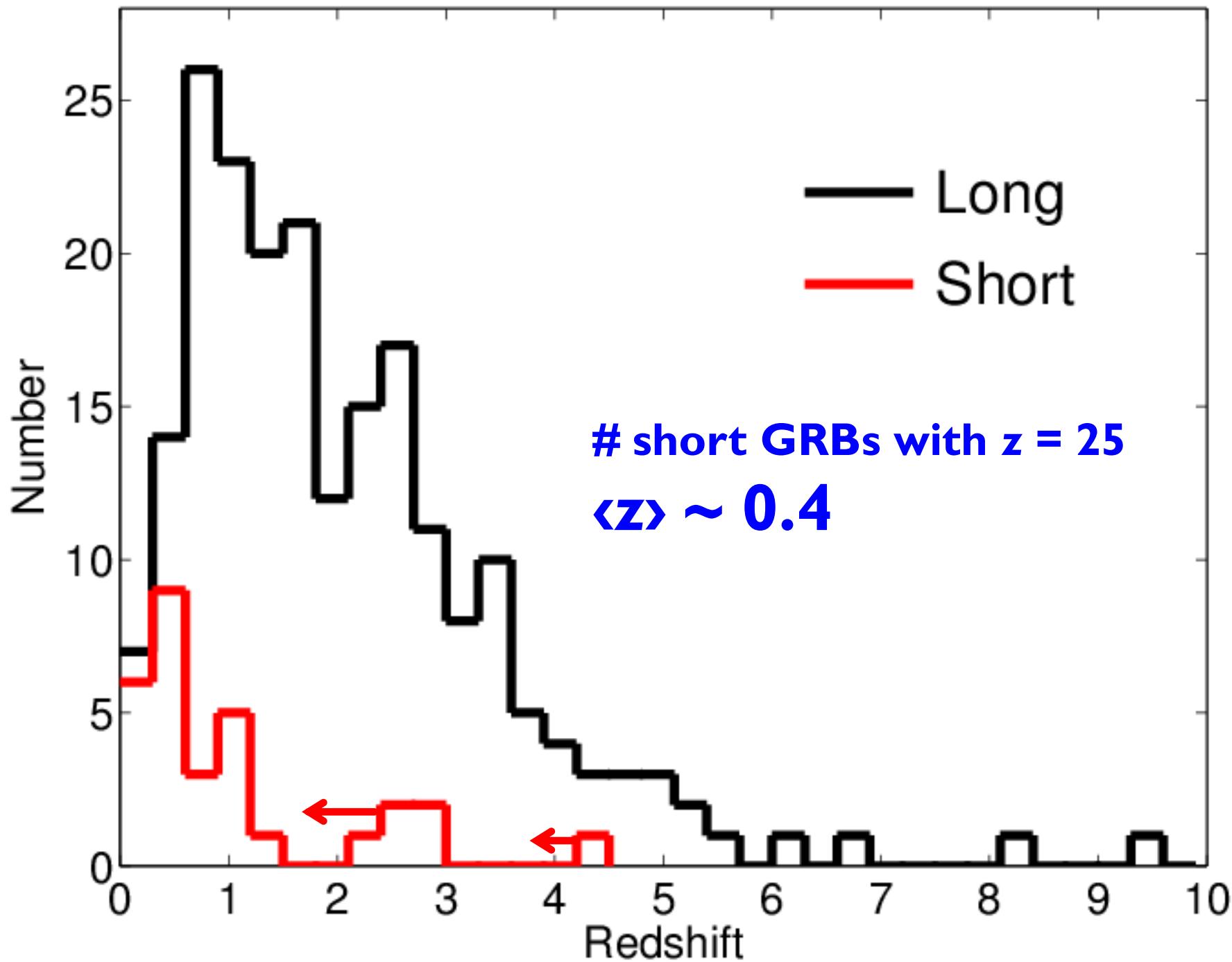
# 3. Nature of the progenitor Galactic-scale environments



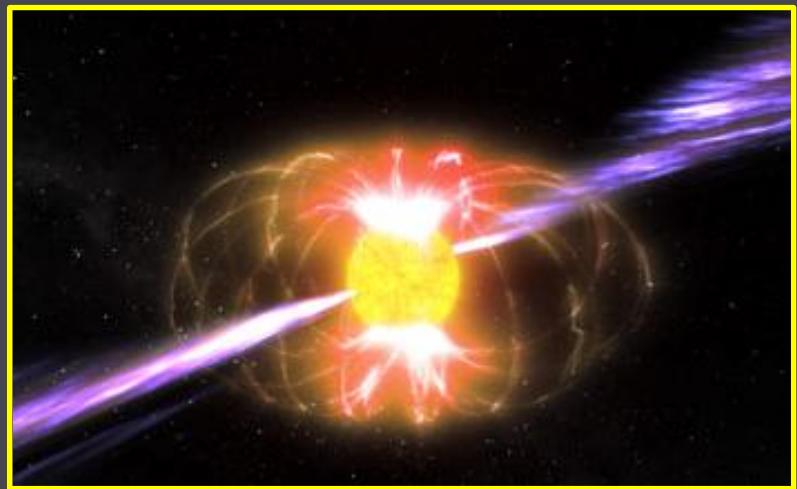
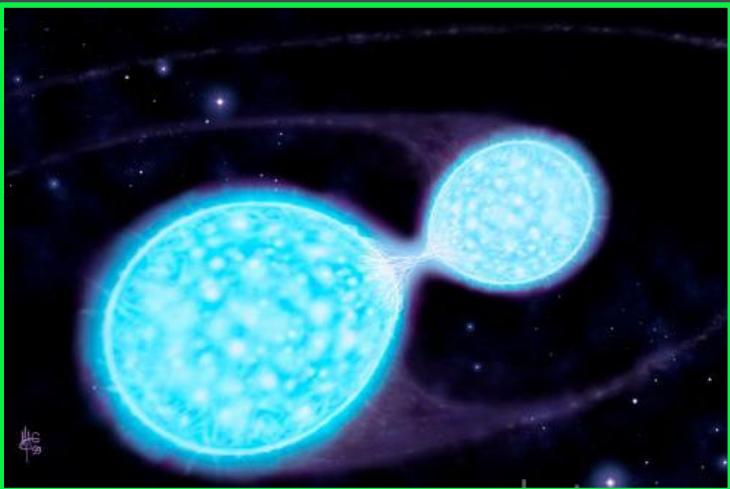
# Short GRB redshifts exclusively determined from association with a host galaxy



Berger et al. 2005; Fox et al. 2005; Berger et al. 2007; Berger 2009; Fong et al. 2011; Berger 2010



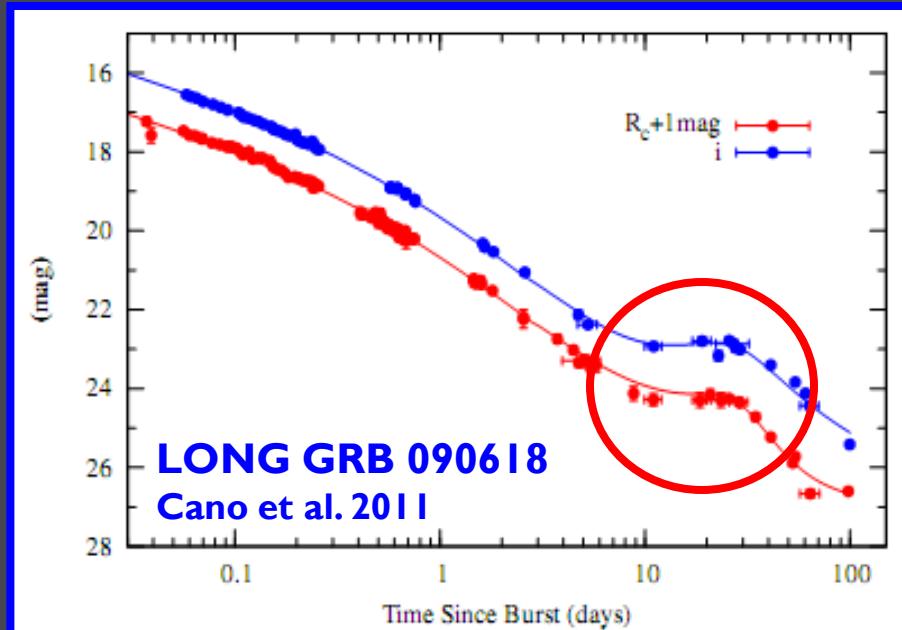
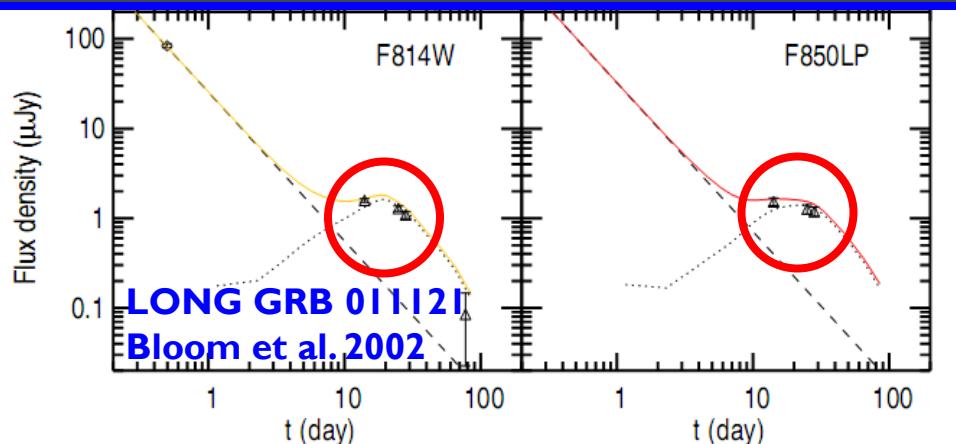
# Expectations



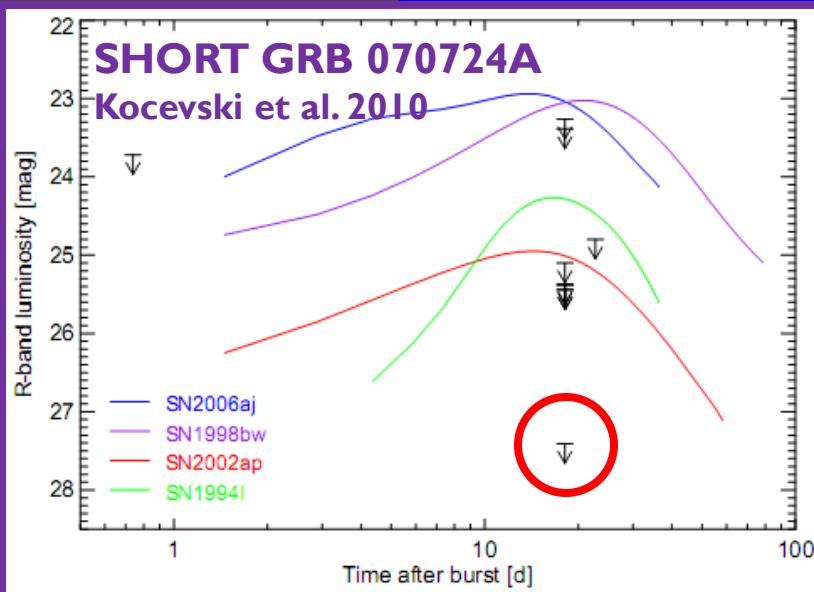
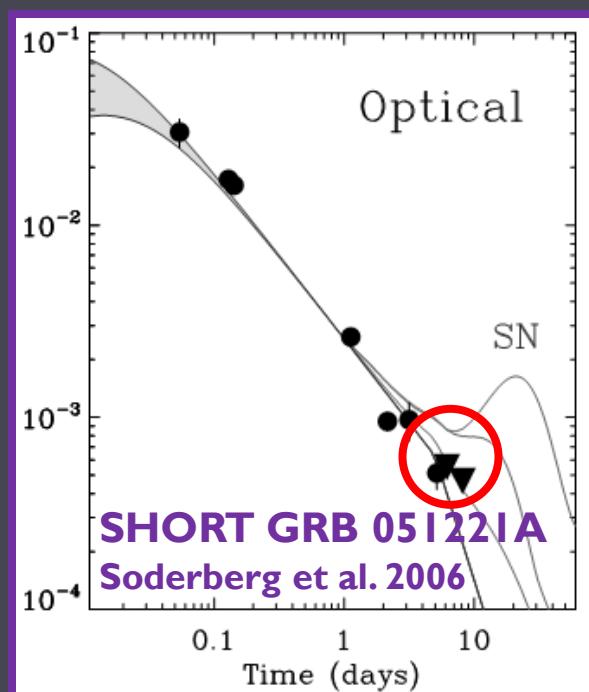
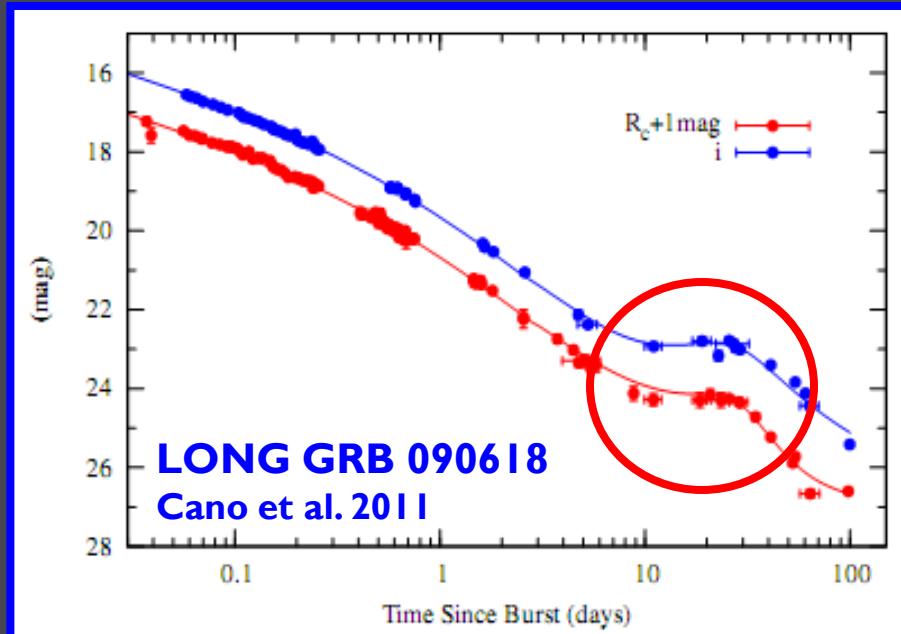
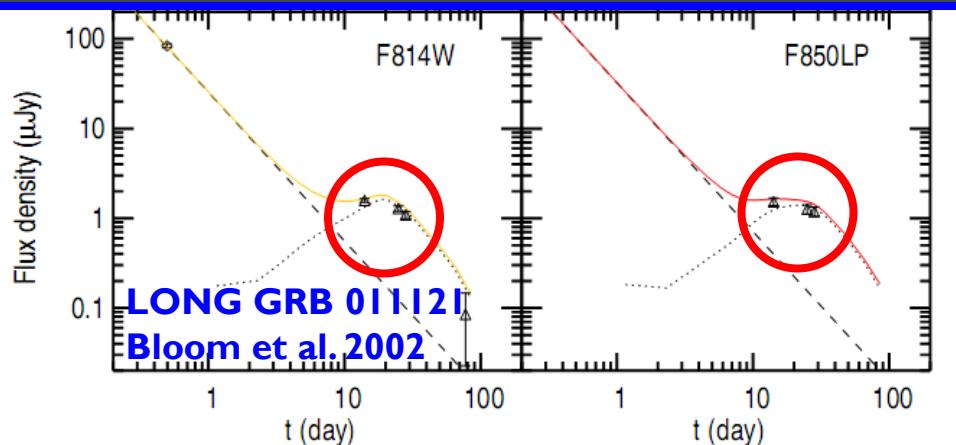
<b>Neutron Star-Neutron Star merger / Neutron Star-Black Hole merger</b>	<b>Massive Stars</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No association with SNe</li><li>• Little correlation with star formation</li><li>• Occur in older stellar populations</li><li>• Substantial offsets (potential kicks)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Association with SNe</li><li>• High correlation with star formation</li><li>• Occur in younger stellar populations</li><li>• Small or moderate offsets (no kicks)</li></ul>

*Environments are key to understanding the progenitor*

# Long GRBs have associated SNe...

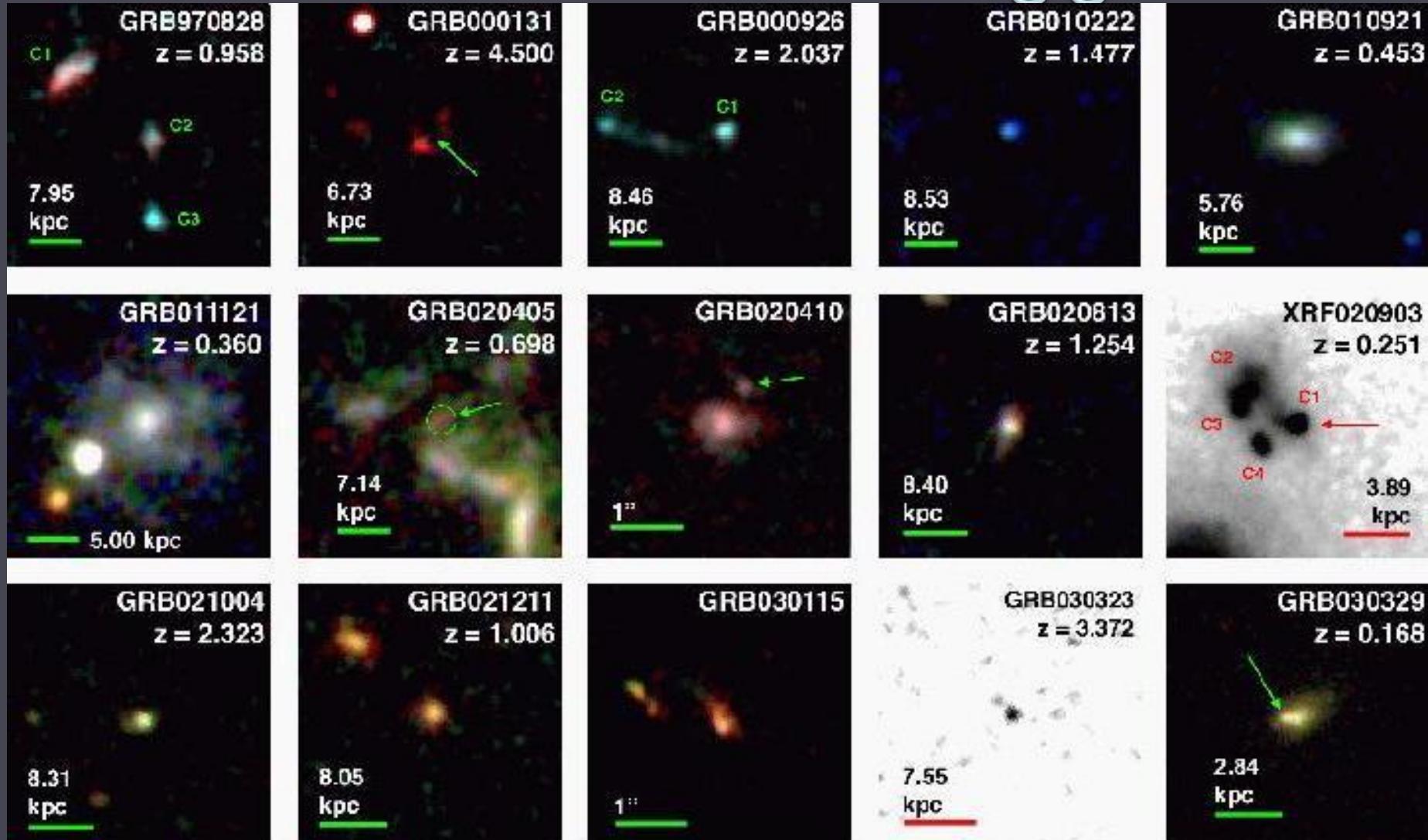


# Long GRBs have associated SNe...



...observed  
short GRBs  
do not

# Morphology: Long GRBs exclusively associated with star-forming galaxies



Bloom et al. 2006

GRB050509b  
ACS/F814W

# Short GRBs: A few elliptical hosts

Berger et al. 2005

**z=0.257**  
GRB050724  
WFPC2/F814W

**z=0.225**

5"  
17.97 kpc

**z=0.915**

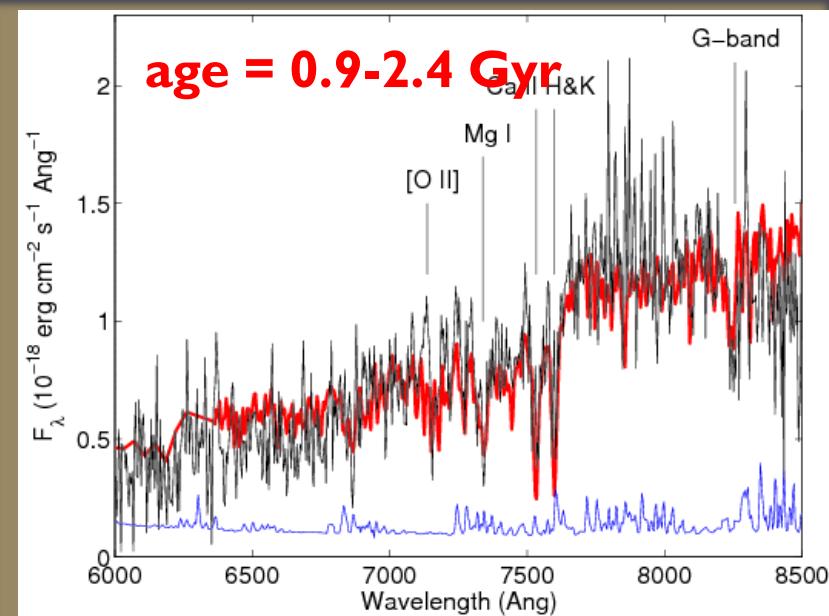
GRB 100625A  
Gemini/GMOS  
i-band

GRB 100117A  
Gemini/GMOS

**z=0.452**

Fong et al. 2011

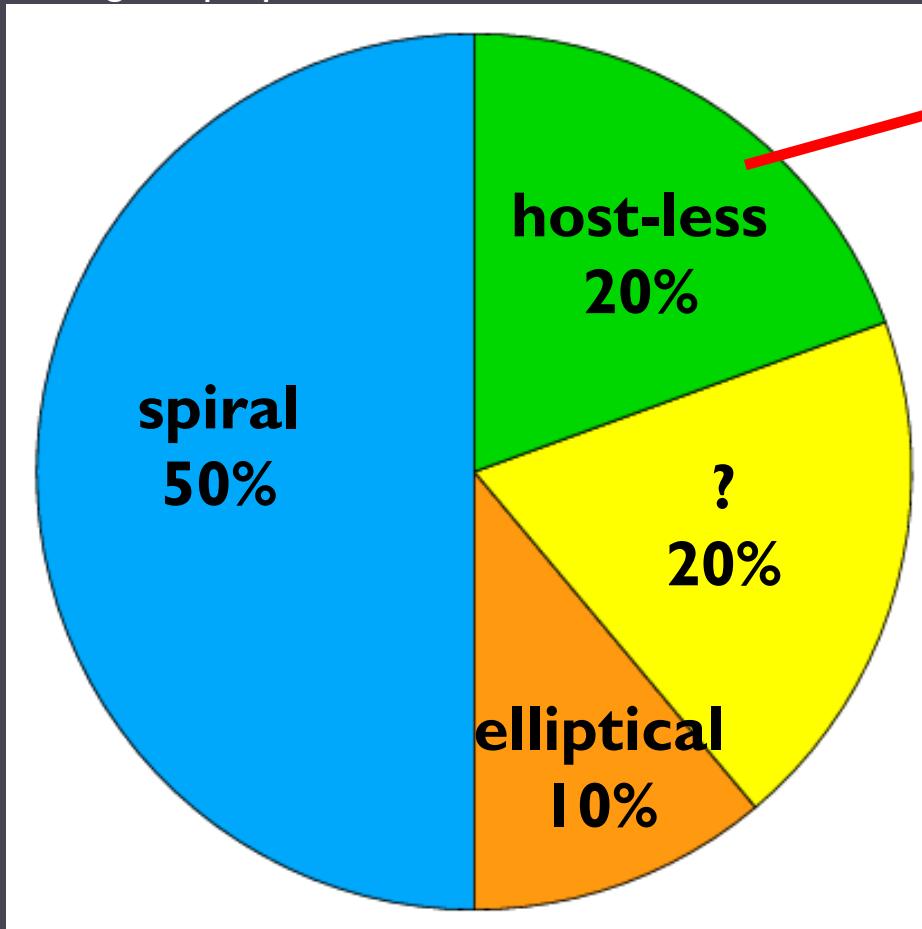
**age = 0.9-2.4 Gyr**



*Distinct environments from those of long GRBs*

# Morphology: Short GRBs found in *elliptical* and *spiral* galaxies

Fong+ in prep. 2012

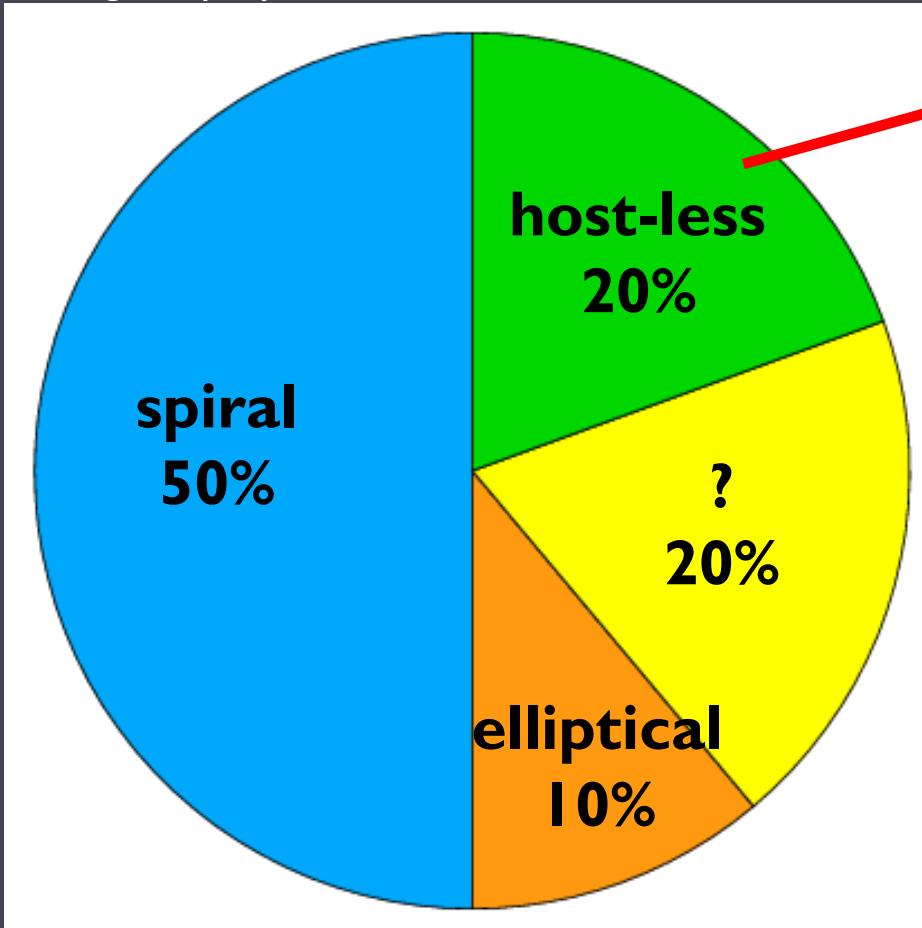


- 1 spiral
- 2 elliptical
- 3 faint/inconclusive

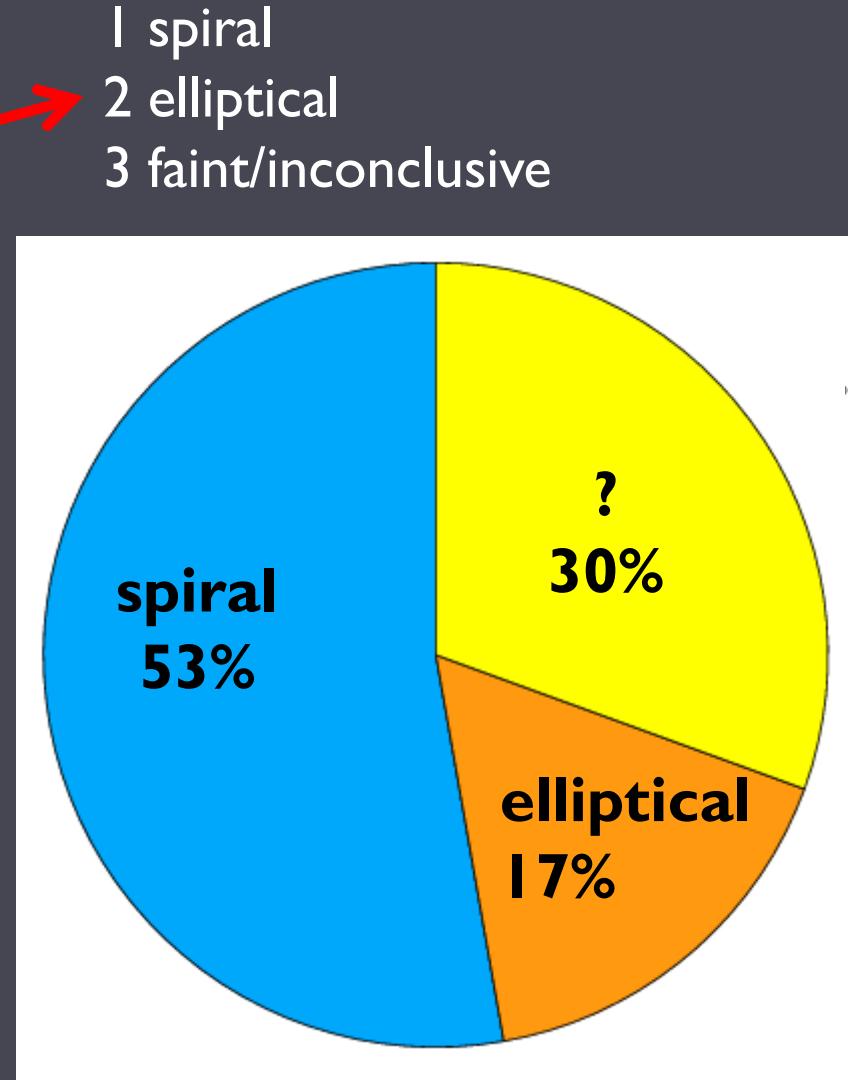
Sample: 36

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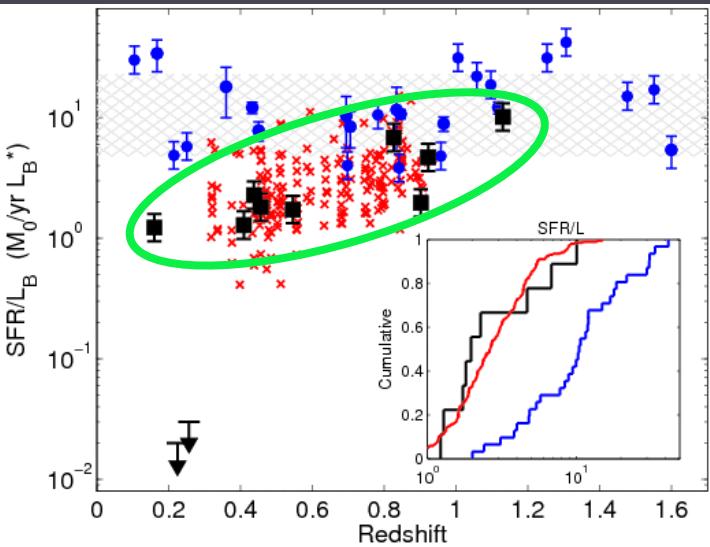
Sample: 36



I spiral  
2 elliptical  
3 faint/inconclusive

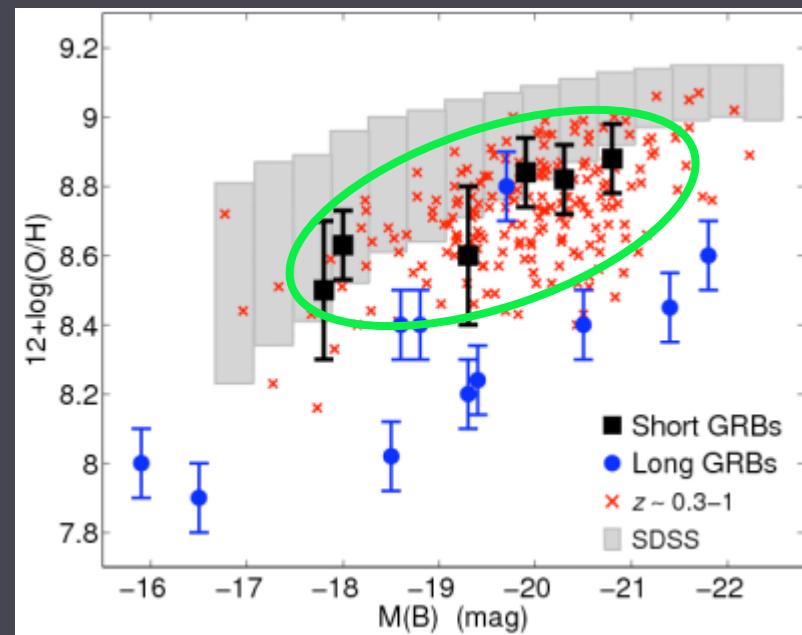
# Stellar population characteristics

Berger et al. 2009



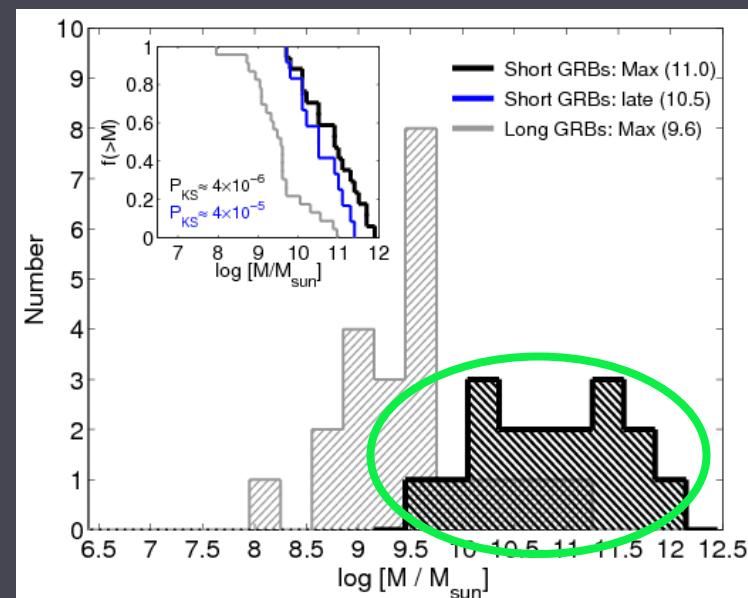
Lower specific star-forming rates...

Higher metallicities...



Berger et al. 2009

Higher stellar masses....

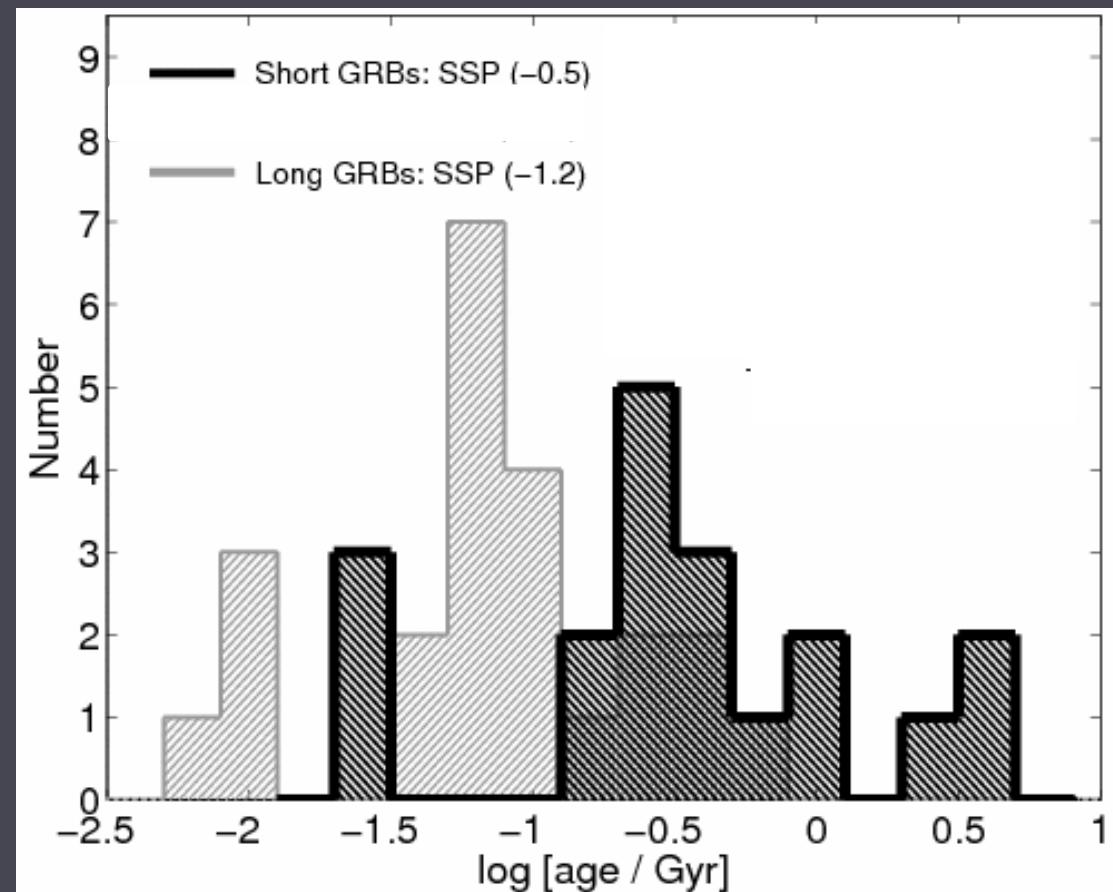


All point to a different origin!

Leibler & Berger 2010

# Stellar population ages

Leibler & Berger 2010



$$\tau_{\text{short,SF}} \sim 0.3 \text{ Gyr}$$

$$\tau_{\text{short,E}} \sim 3 \text{ Gyr}$$

$$\tau_{\text{long}} \sim 60 \text{ Myr}$$

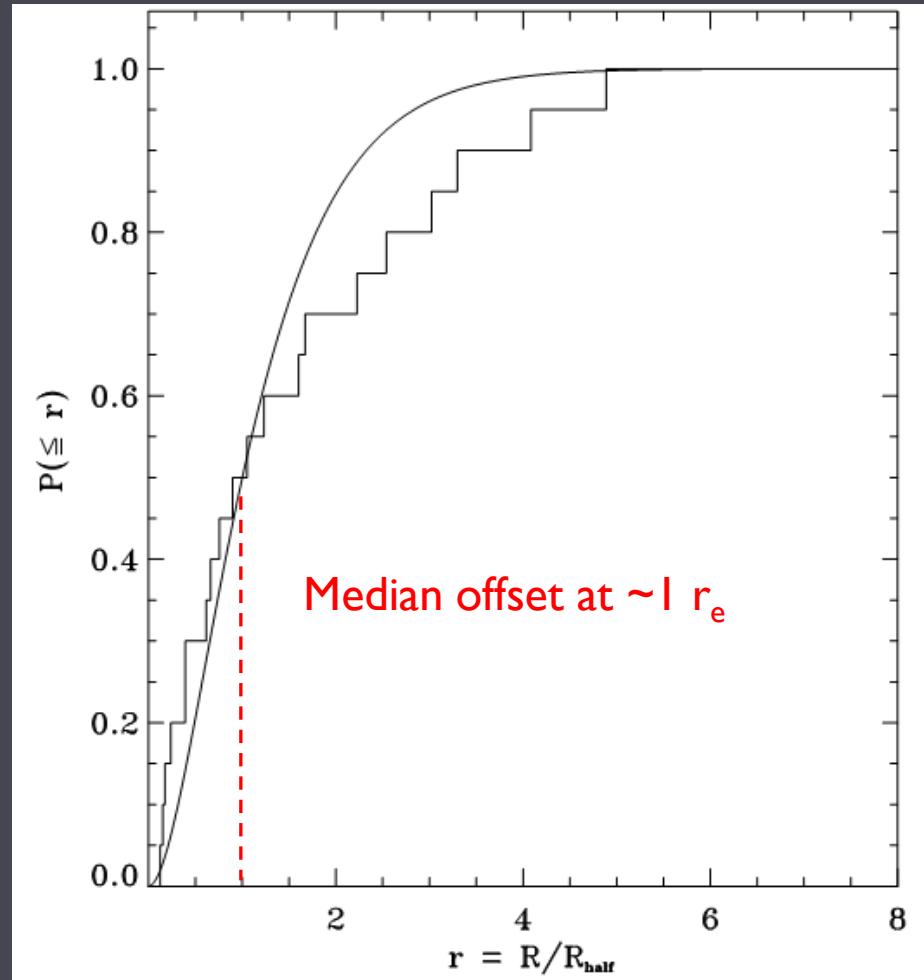
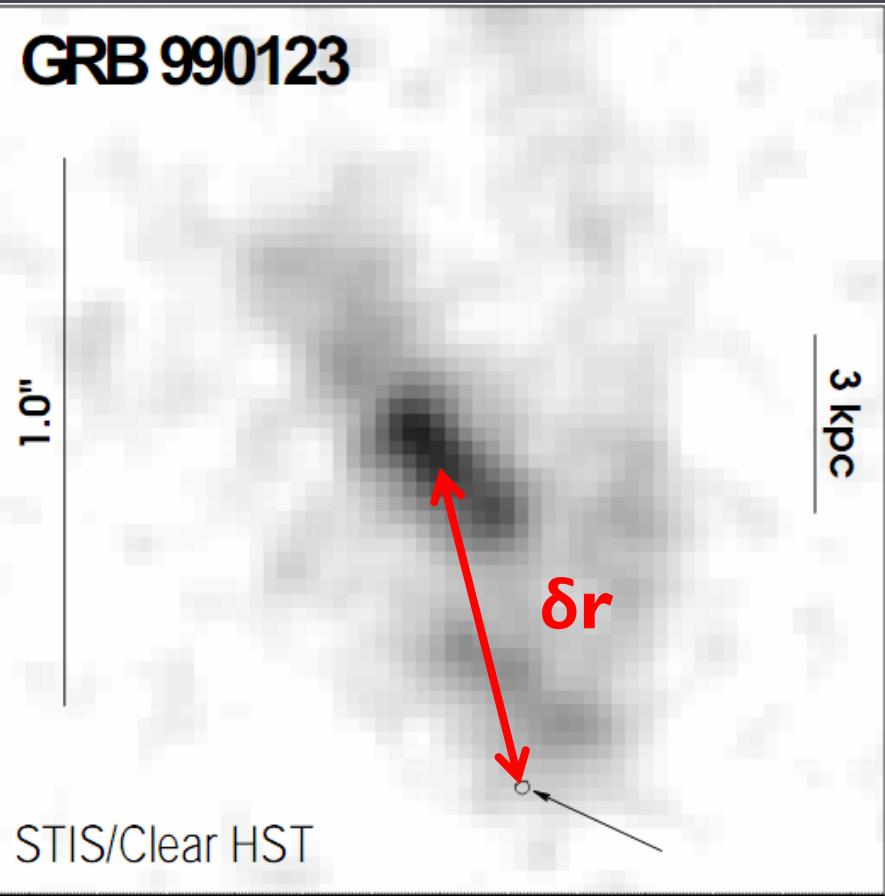
estimate of merger timescale

*Short GRB progenitors have older ages than long GRBs.*

# Long GRB locations: Consistent with a massive star origin

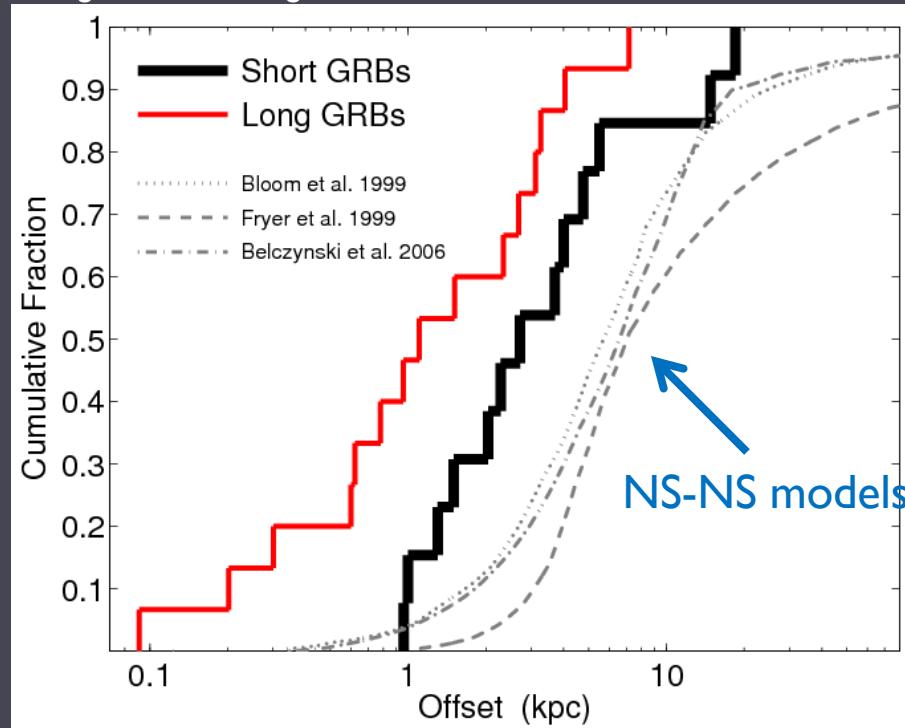
Bloom et al. 2002

**GRB 990123**



# Locations: Offset and Light Distributions

Fong et al. 2010; long GRBs from Bloom et al. 2002

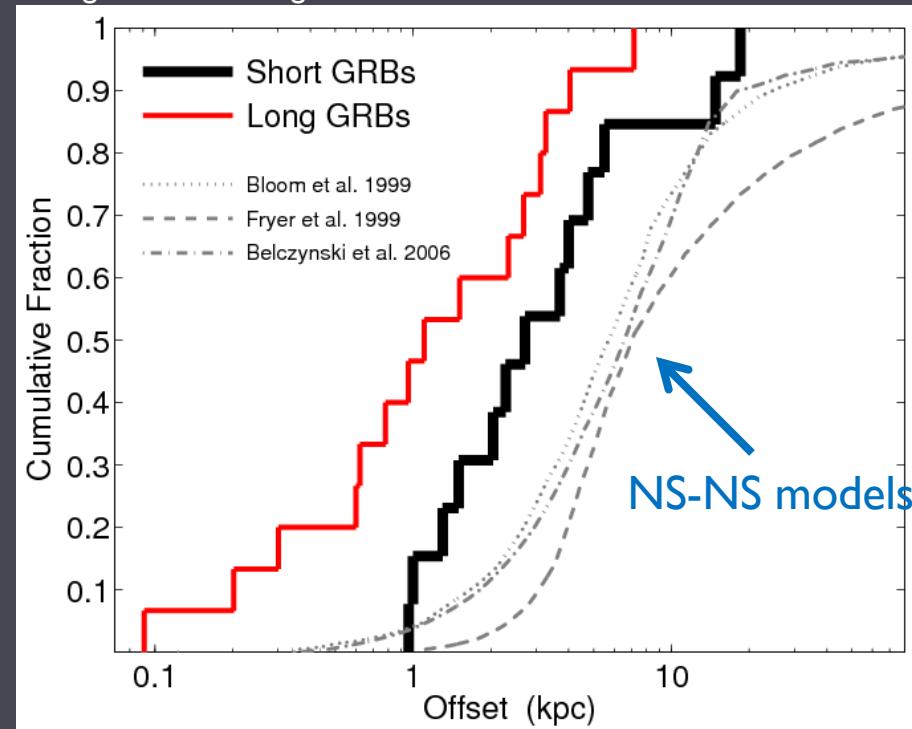


Short GRB offset  $\sim 5$  kpc

Long GRB offset  $\sim 1$  kpc

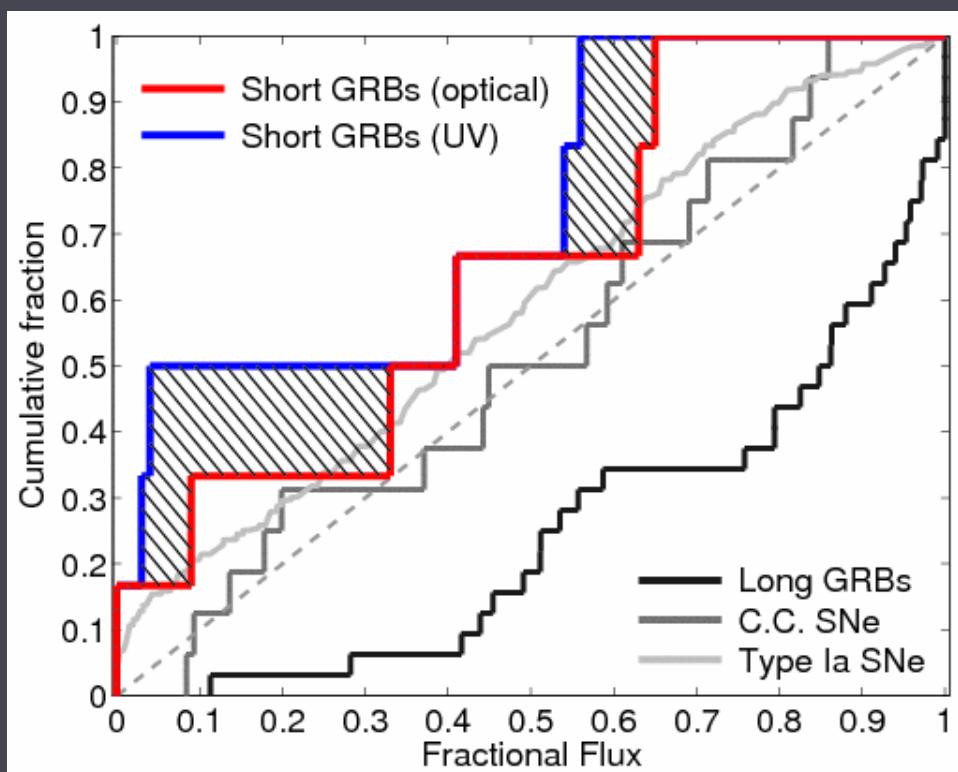
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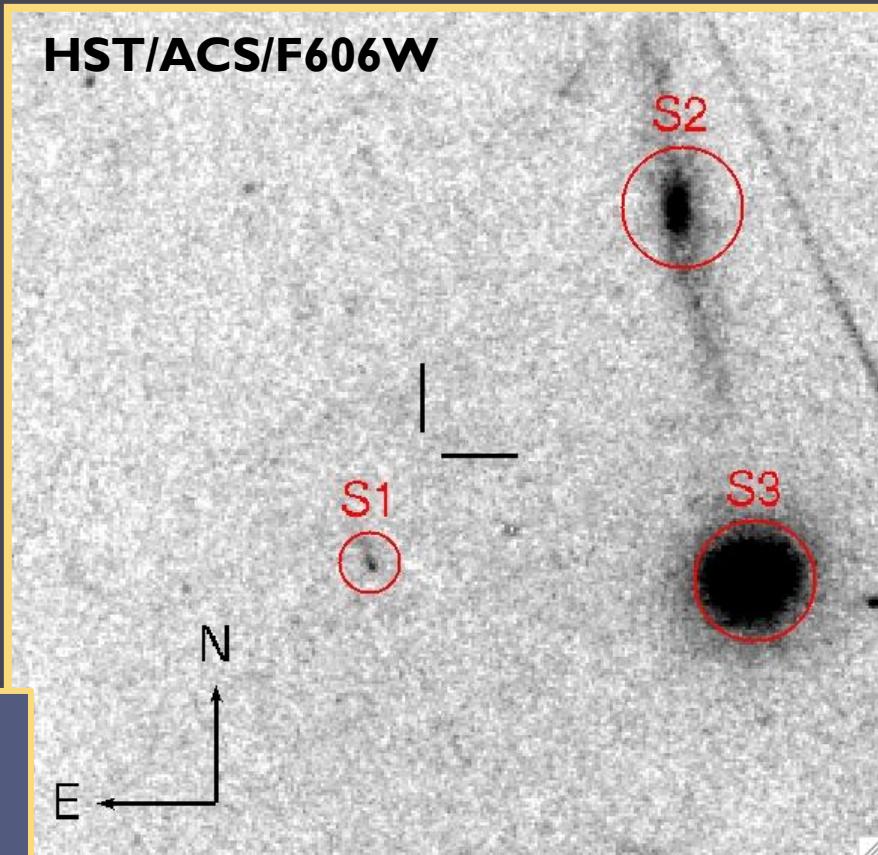
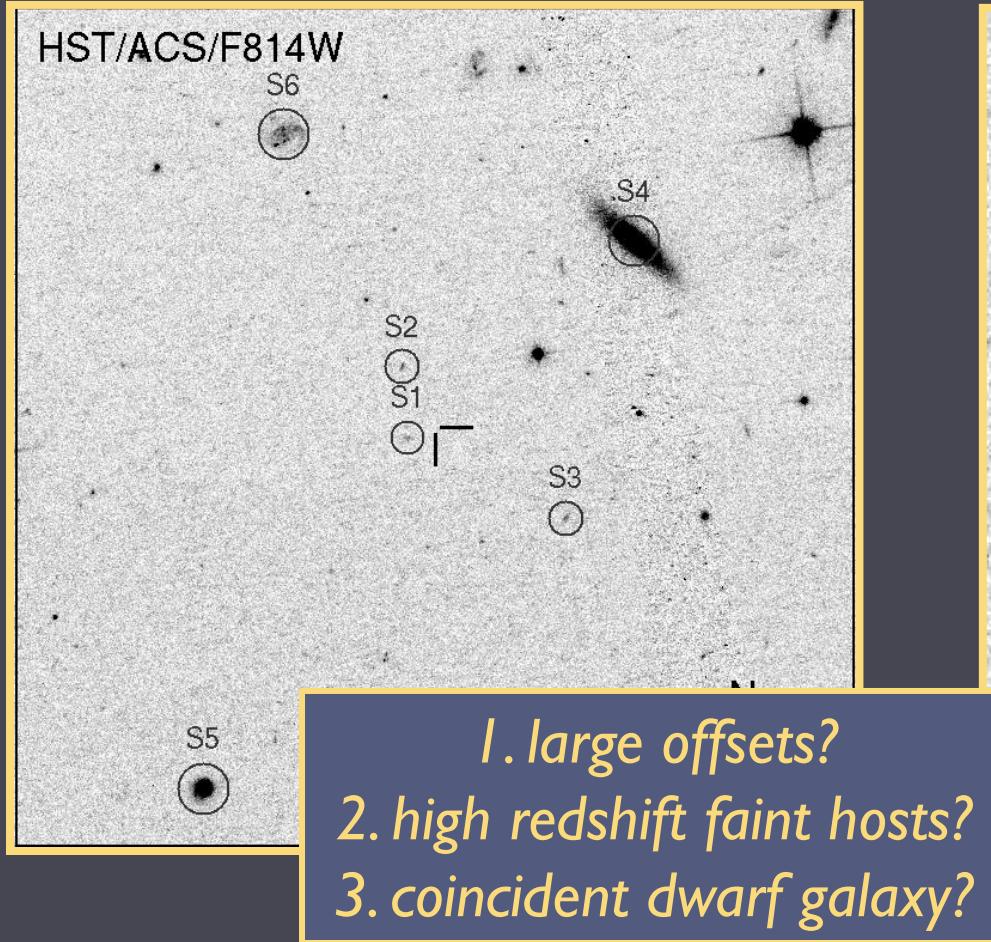
Short GRB offset  $\sim 5$  kpc  
Long GRB offset  $\sim 1$  kpc

*Short GRBs correlated with diffuse UV regions (no ongoing star formation)*



# Evidence for kicks? “Host-less” bursts

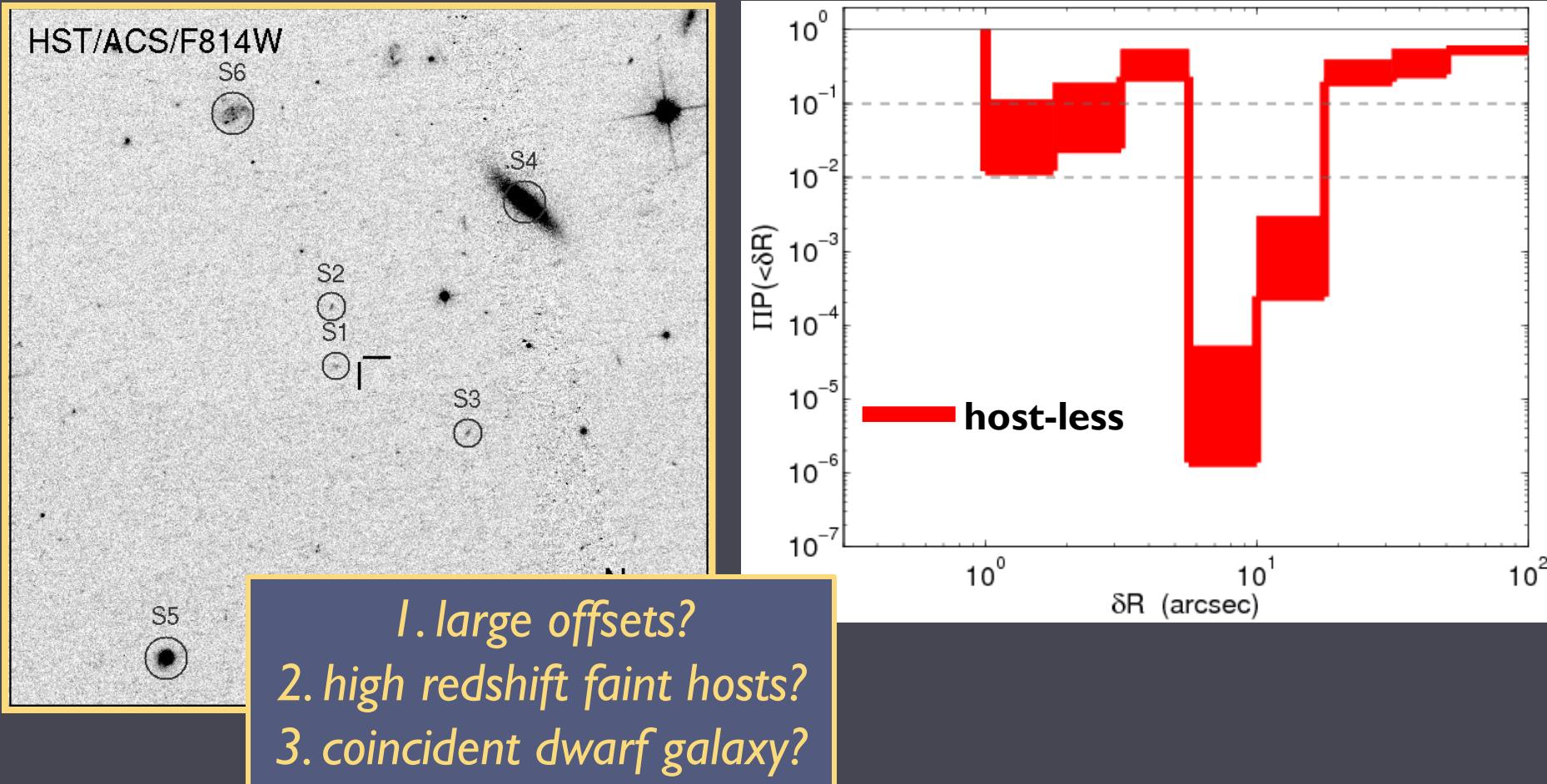
**GRB 061201** Berger 2010; Stratta et al. 2006; Fong et al. 2010



What is the likelihood of finding an unrelated galaxy?

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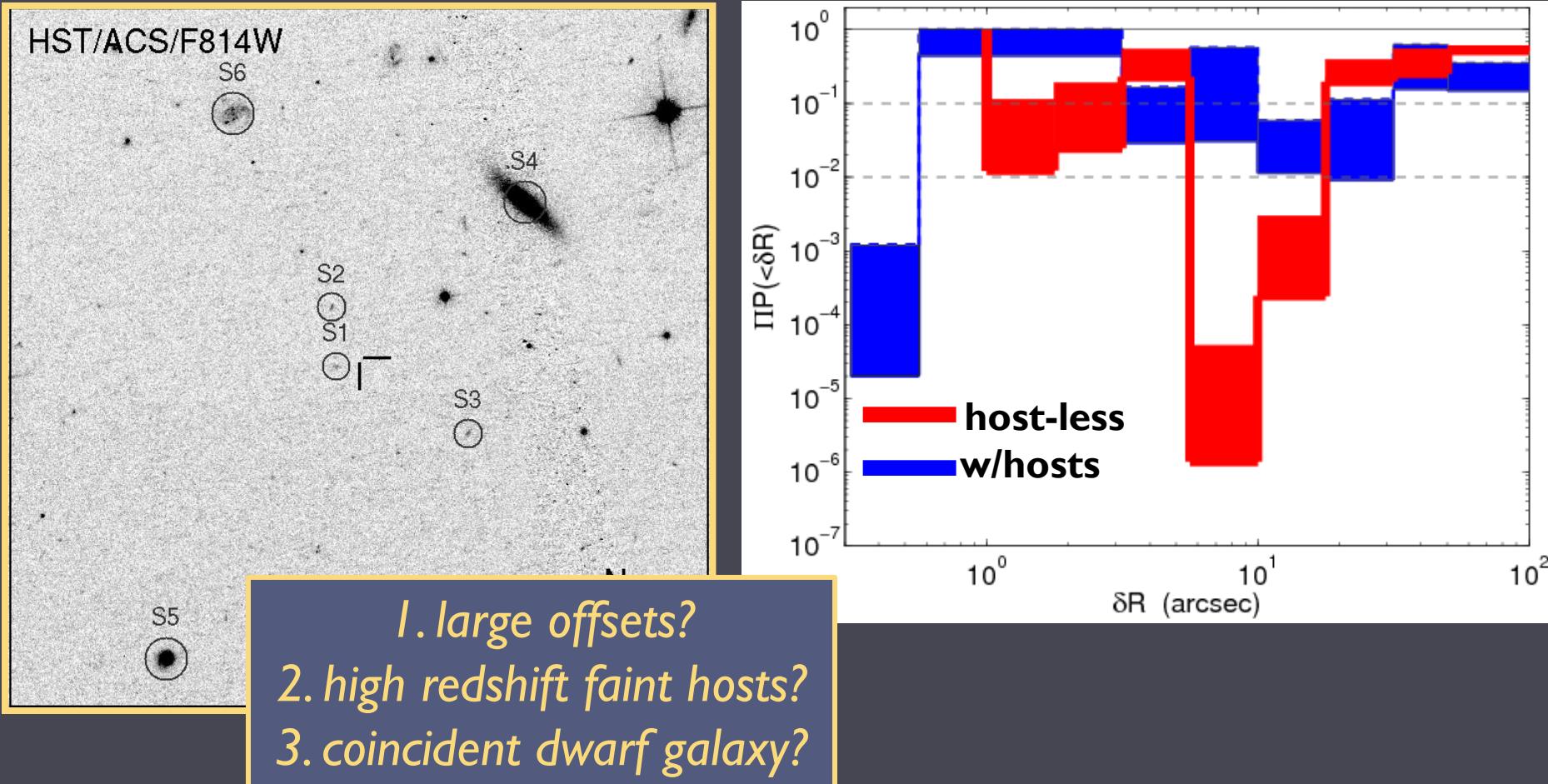
**GRB 061201** Berger 2010; Stratta et al. 2006; Fong et al. 2010



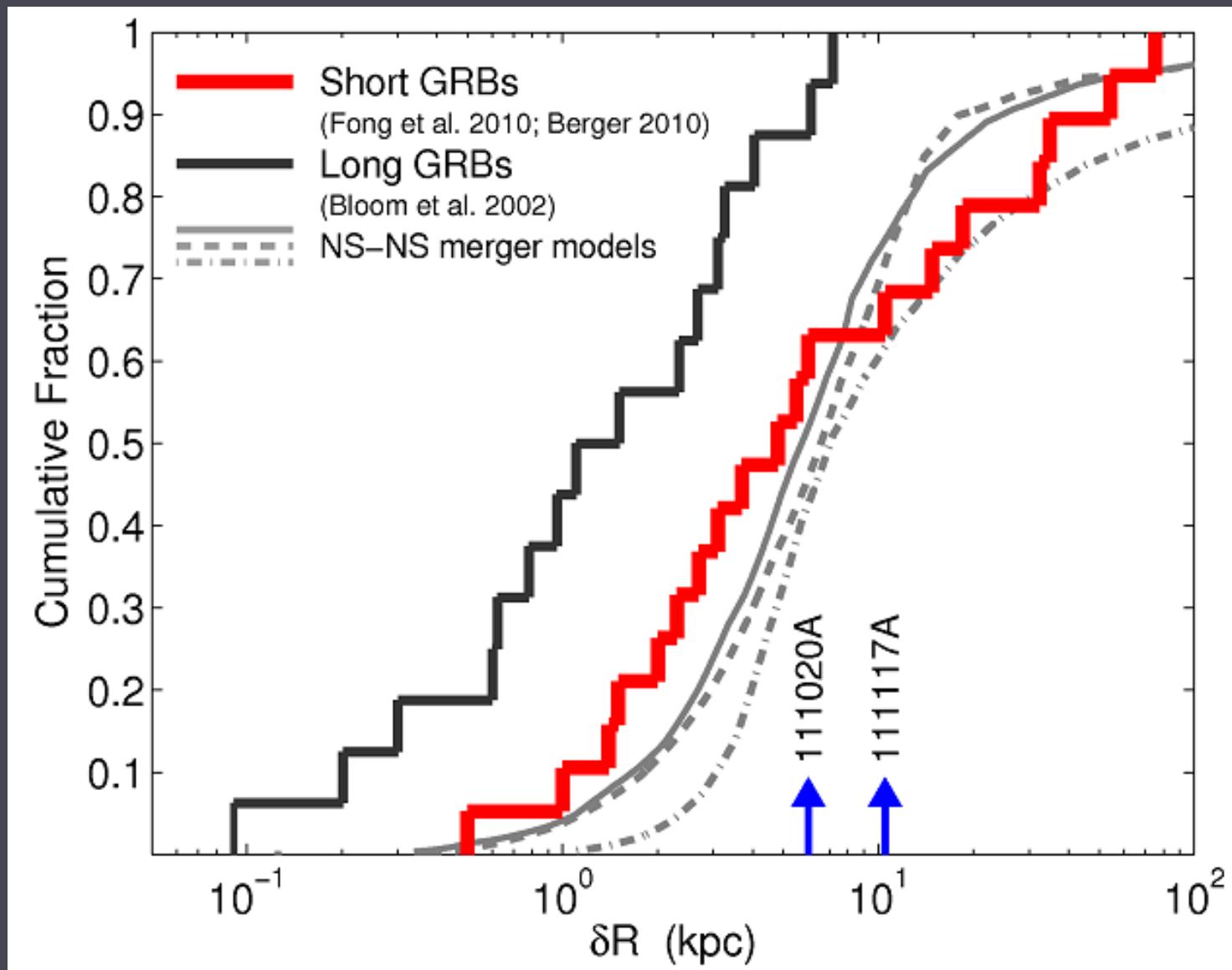
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**GRB 061201** Berger 2010; Stratta et al. 2006; Fong et al. 2010



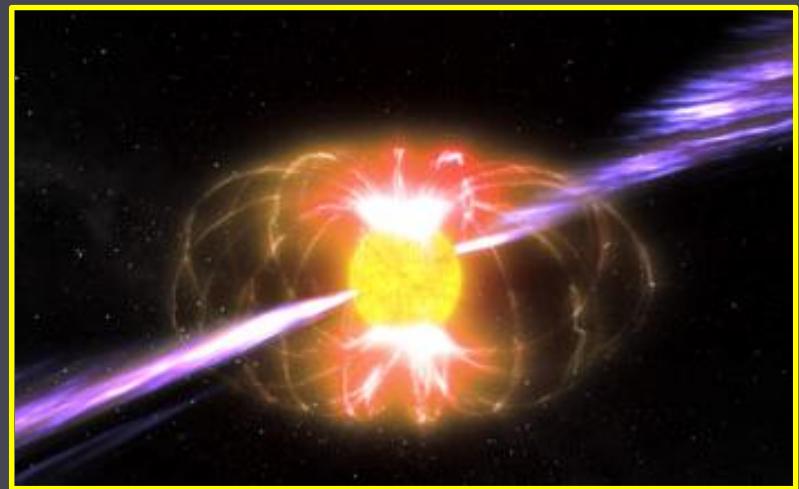
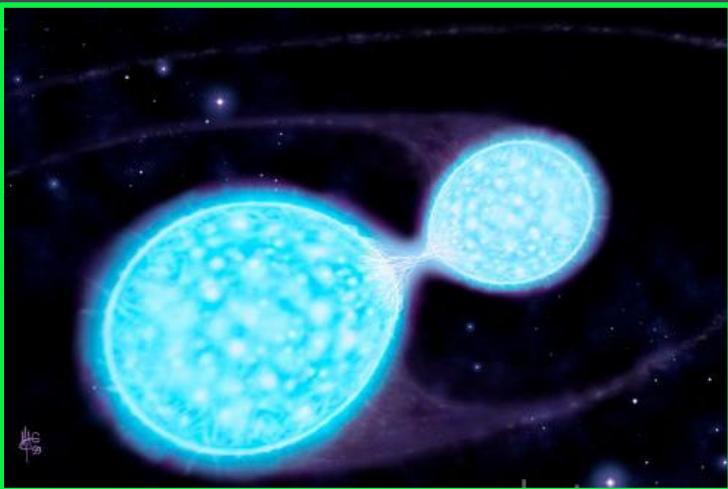
*Strong evidence for a highly-kicked progenitor system?*



Margutti, Berger, Fong+ 2012; models: Fryer/Bloom 1999, Belczynski et al. 2006

*Provide best agreement with NS-NS models to date*

# Revisiting the expectations



<b>Neutron Star-Neutron Star merger / Neutron Star-Black Hole merger</b>	<b>Massive Stars</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No association with SNe</li><li>• Little correlation with star formation</li><li>• Occur in older stellar populations</li><li>• Substantial offsets (potential kicks)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Association with SNe</li><li>• High correlation with star formation</li><li>• Occur in younger stellar populations</li><li>• Small or moderate offsets (no kicks)</li></ul>

**SHORT**

**LONG**

# The Story So far: Nature of the progenitor

Short GRBs reside in...

50% spiral galaxies, 20% host-less,  
10% elliptical, 20% inconclusive

Compared to long GRBs, short GRBs have...

lower specific SFRs  
higher metallicities  
higher stellar masses

Ages ~ merger timescale?

**0.3-3 Gyr**

Offsets with hosts: **~5 kpc**

Offsets of host-less: **30-70 kpc**