



# Spectral Energy Distribution Modeling $\gg 10^7$ DESI Spectra

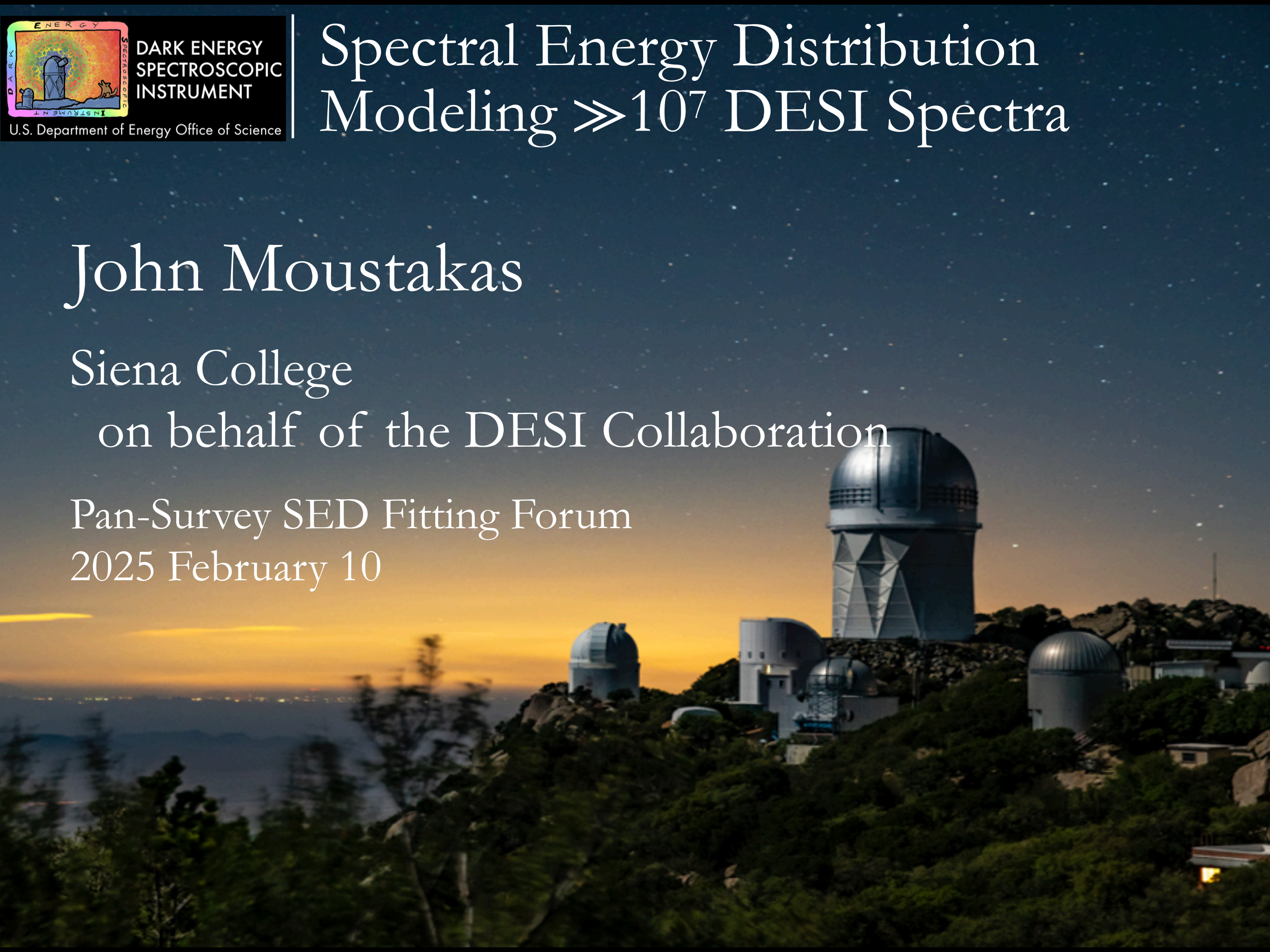
John Moustakas

Siena College

on behalf of the DESI Collaboration

Pan-Survey SED Fitting Forum

2025 February 10







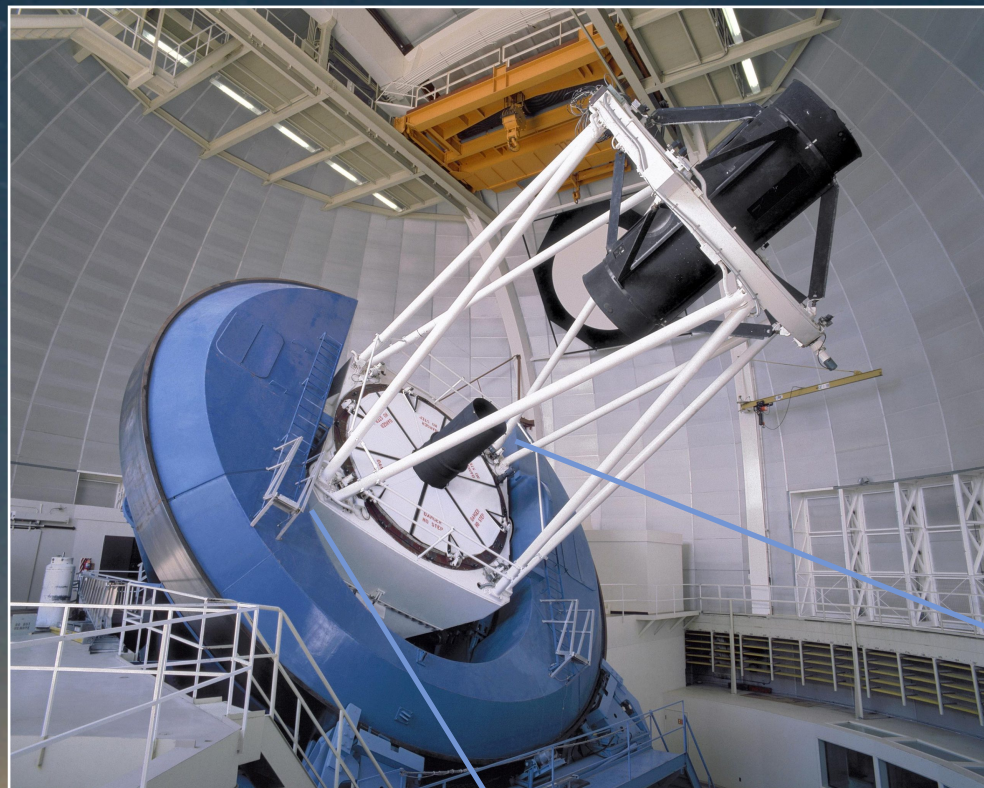
# Spectral Energy Distribution Modeling $\gg 10^7$ DESI Spectra



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72 participating institutions!



# Dark Energy Spectroscopic Instrument (DESI)



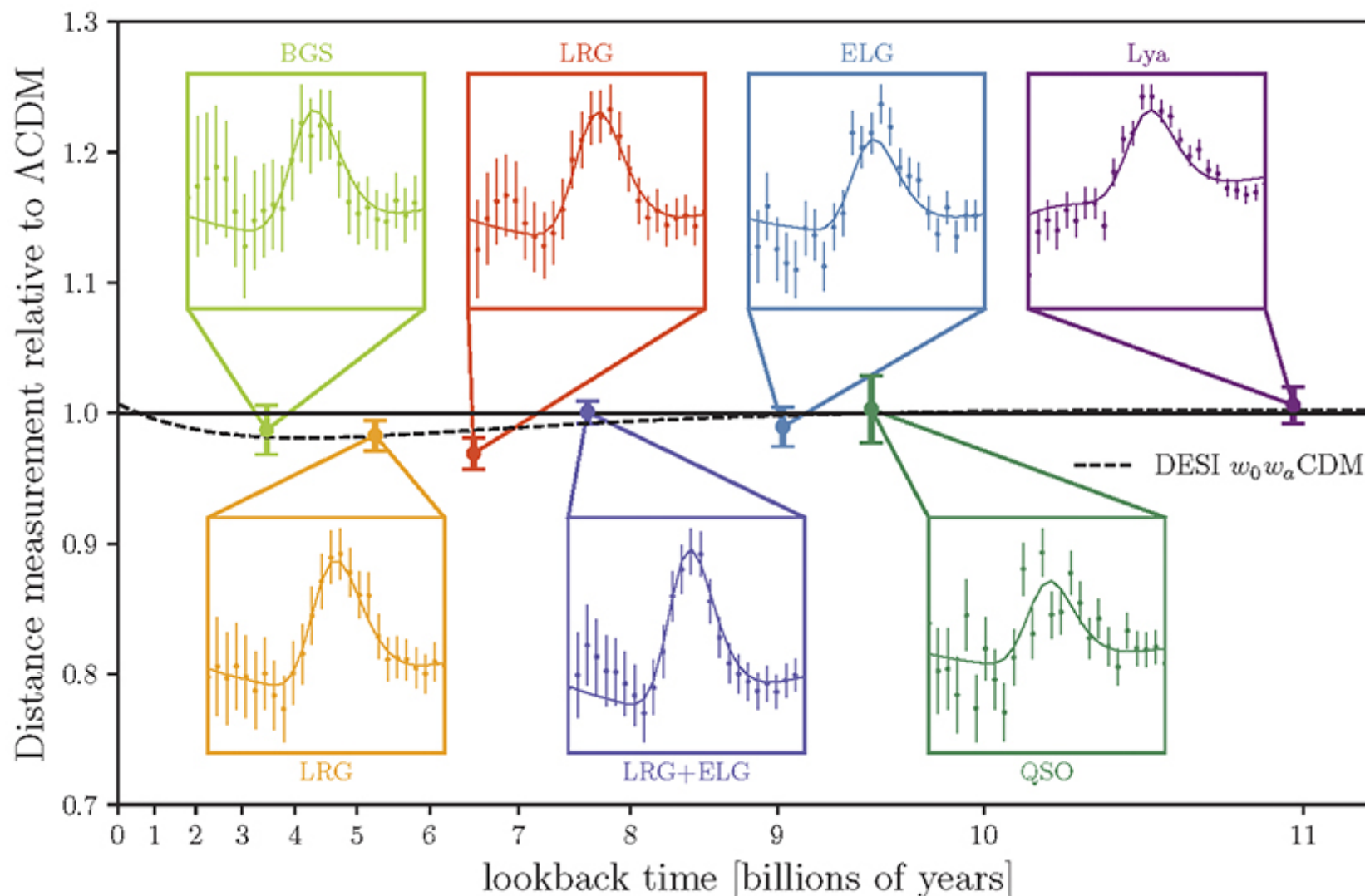
DESI is a highly multiplexed optical multi-fiber instrument installed at the 4-meter Mayall telescope at Kitt Peak, AZ.



<https://dkirkby.github.io/desipano>



As the first Stage-IV dark-energy experiment, DESI is already delivering transformational precision-cosmological results.



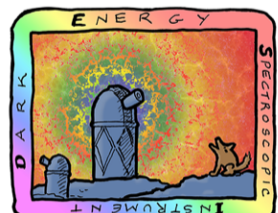
DESI Year-1 data favor (by  $2.5\text{--}3.9\sigma$ ) a time-dependent dark-energy equation of state and general relativity for the theory of gravity on cosmological scales.

Stay tuned for Year-3 BAO results on 2025 March 19!

<https://www.desi.lbl.gov/2024/04/04/desi-y1-results-april-4-guide>

- [DESI Collaboration et al., DESI 2024 II: Sample Definitions, Characteristics, and Two-point Clustering Statistics](#)
- [DESI Collaboration et al., DESI 2024 III: Baryon Acoustic Oscillations from Galaxies and Quasars](#)
- [DESI Collaboration et al., DESI 2024 IV: Baryon Acoustic Oscillations from the Lyman Alpha Forest](#)
- [DESI Collaboration et al., DESI 2024 V: Full-Shape Galaxy Clustering from Galaxies and Quasars](#)
- [DESI Collaboration et al., DESI 2024 VI: Cosmological Constraints from the Measurements of Baryon Acoustic Oscillations](#)
- [DESI Collaboration et al., DESI 2024 VII: Cosmological Constraints from the Full-Shape Modeling of Clustering Measurements](#)

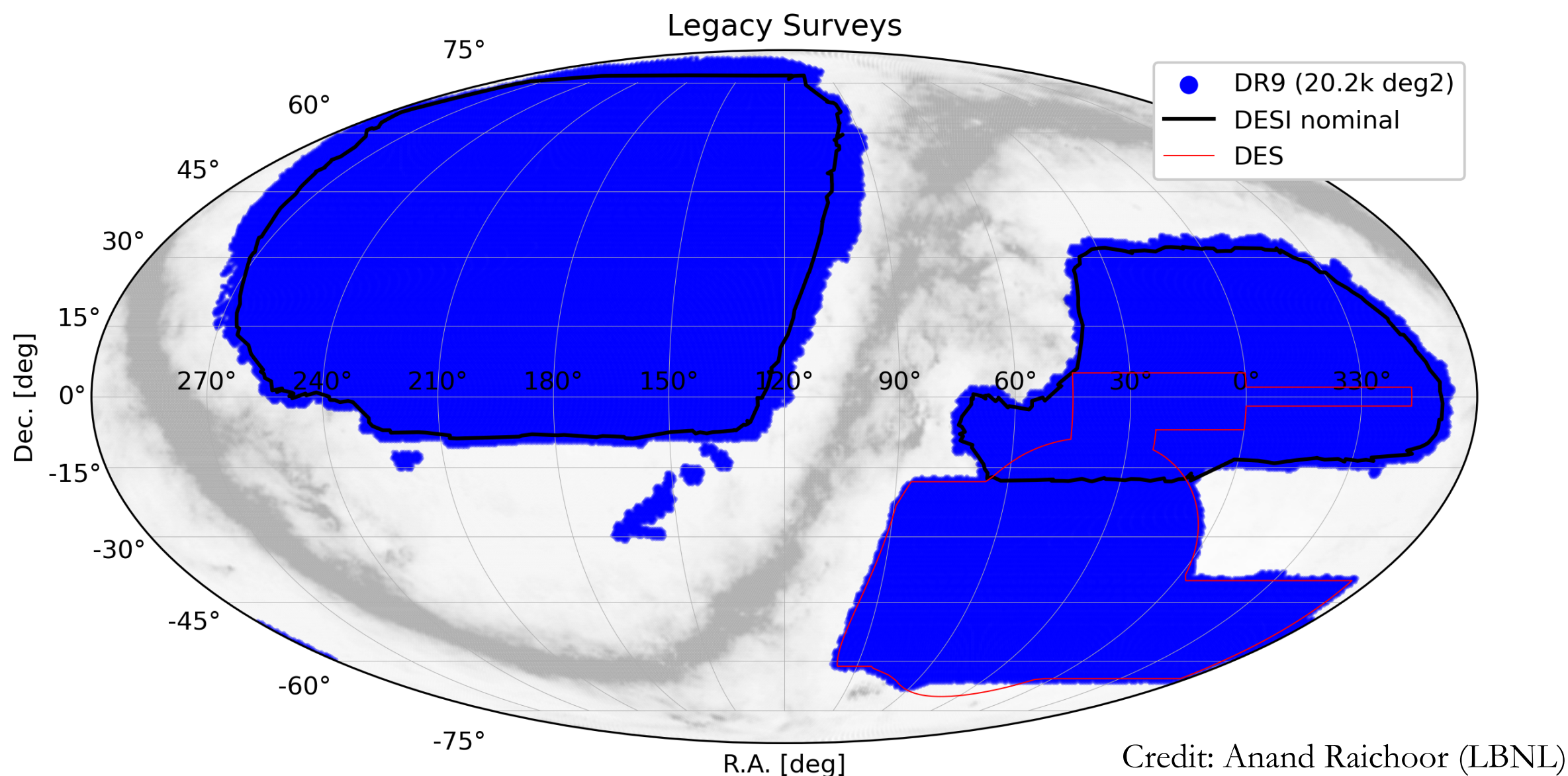




DARK ENERGY  
SPECTROSCOPIC  
INSTRUMENT

U.S. Department of Energy Office of Science

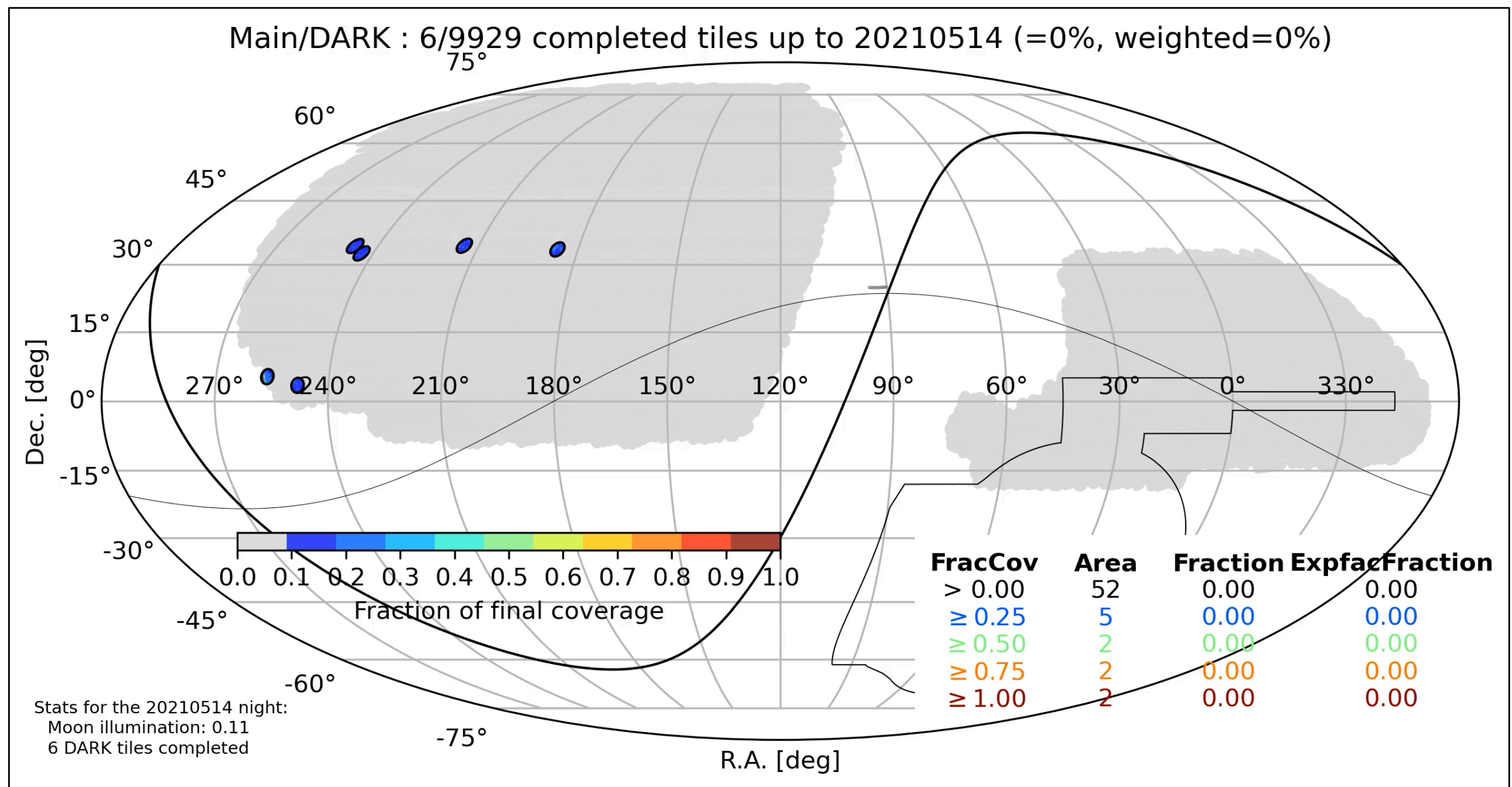
# DESI selects targets from $\sim 14,000 \text{ deg}^2$ of the Legacy Imaging Surveys Data Release 9.



- Data Release 9: <https://legacysurvey.org/dr9>  
*grz* + forced unWISE (W1-W4) photometry
- Interactive Sky Viewer: <https://legacysurvey.org/viewer>
- Siena Galaxy Atlas (SGA-2020): <https://sga.legacysurvey.org>



5-year DESI Main Survey began in May 2021  
and is currently ~6 months ahead of schedule!

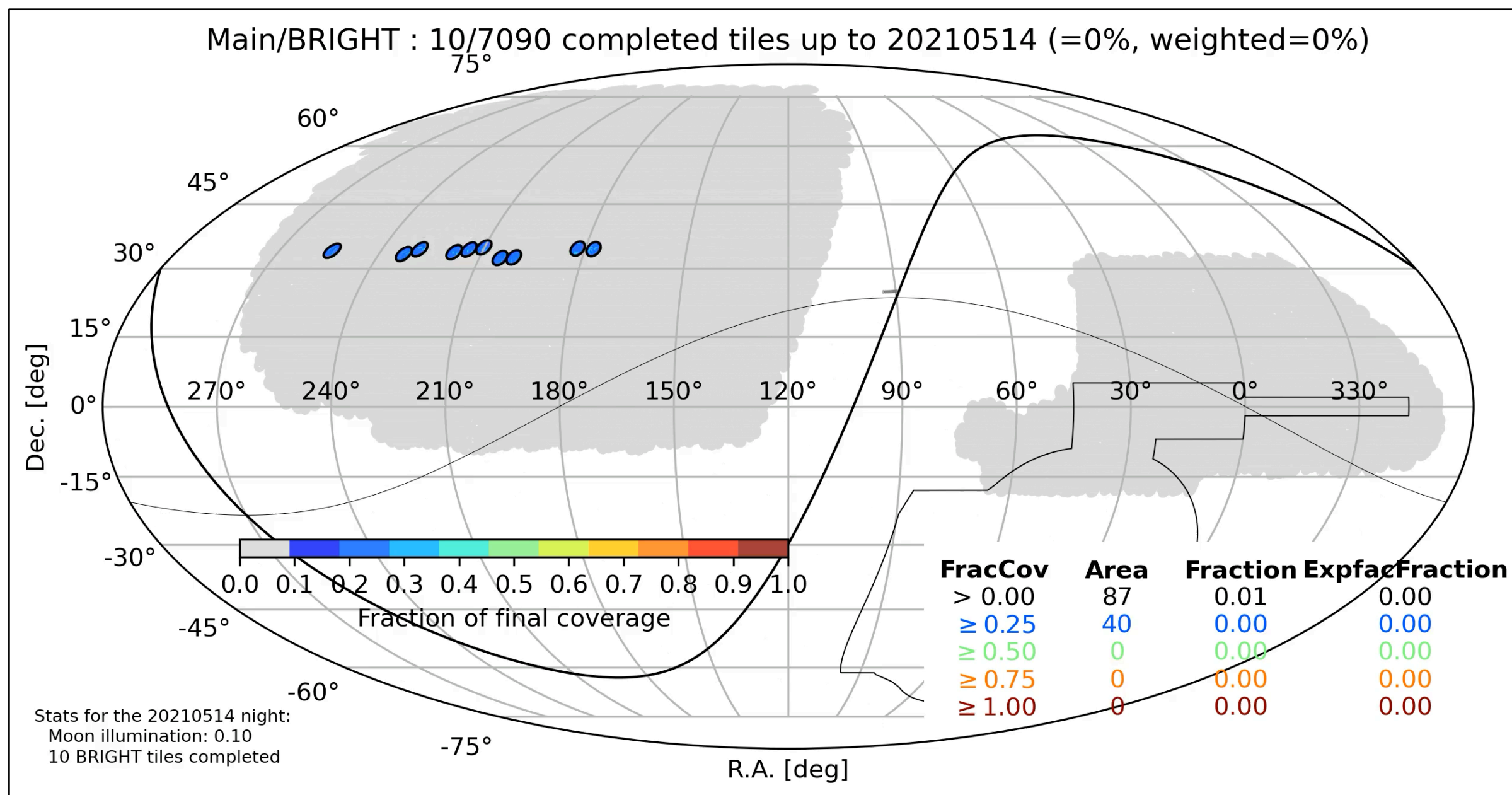


Credit: Anand Raichoor (LBNL)

Dark Program



5-year DESI Main Survey began in May 2021  
and is currently ~6 months ahead of schedule!

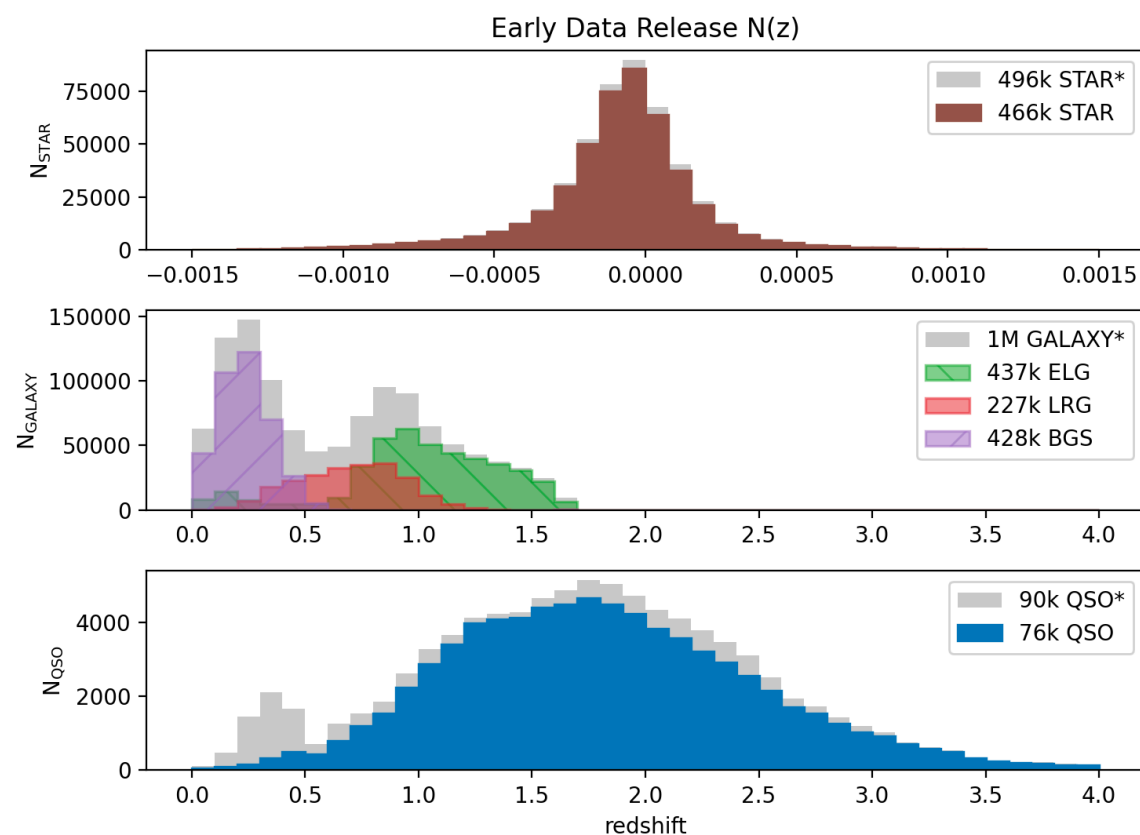


Credit: Anand Raichoor (LBNL)

Bright Program

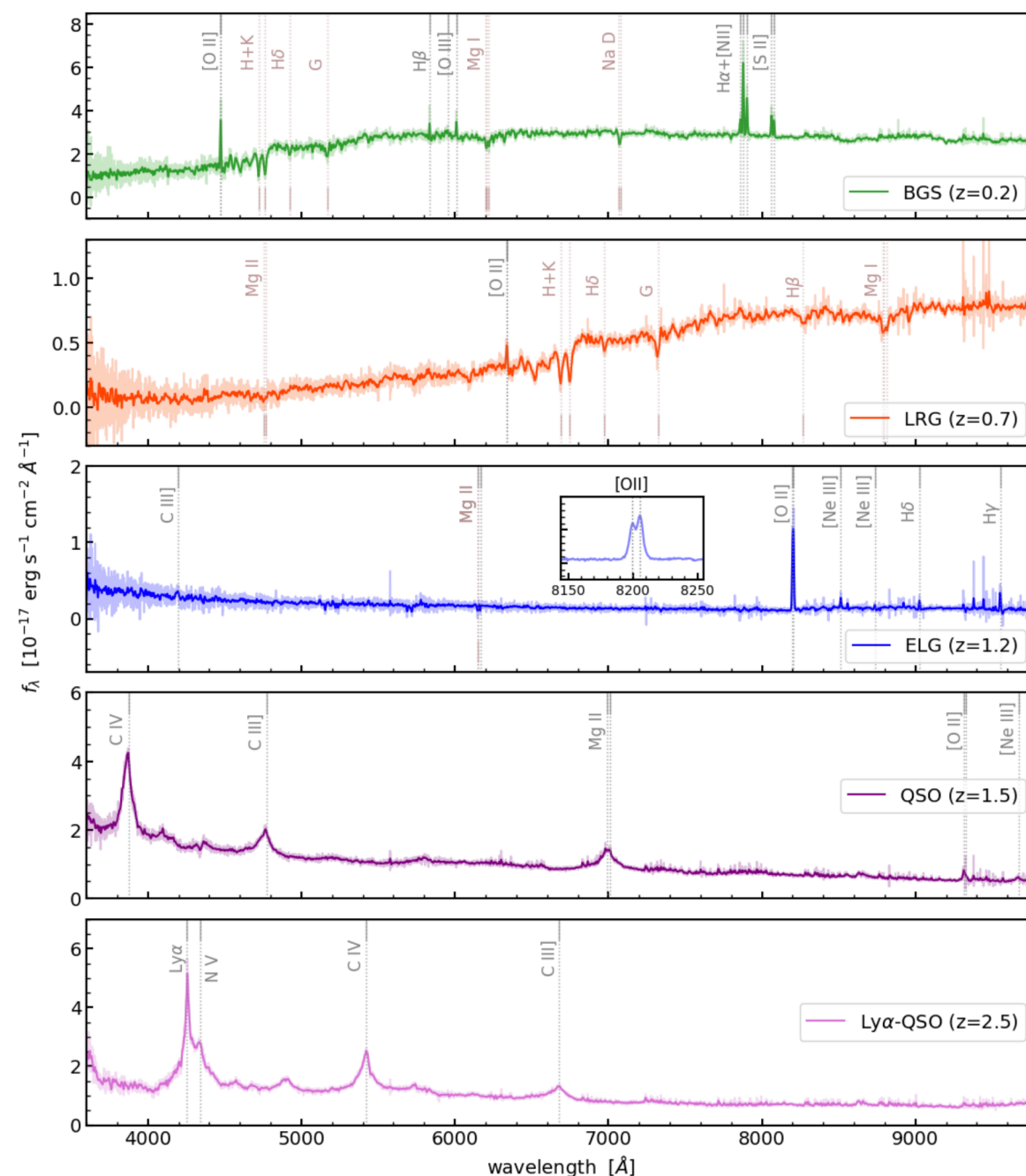


# DESI Early Data Release (EDR) has been publicly available since June 2023; roughly 1.5M spectra.



<https://data.desi.lbl.gov/doc/releases/edr>

Camera	Spectral Range	Resolution
B	3600-5800 Å	2000-3500
R	5760-7620 Å	3400-4800
Z	7520-9824 Å	3800-5200

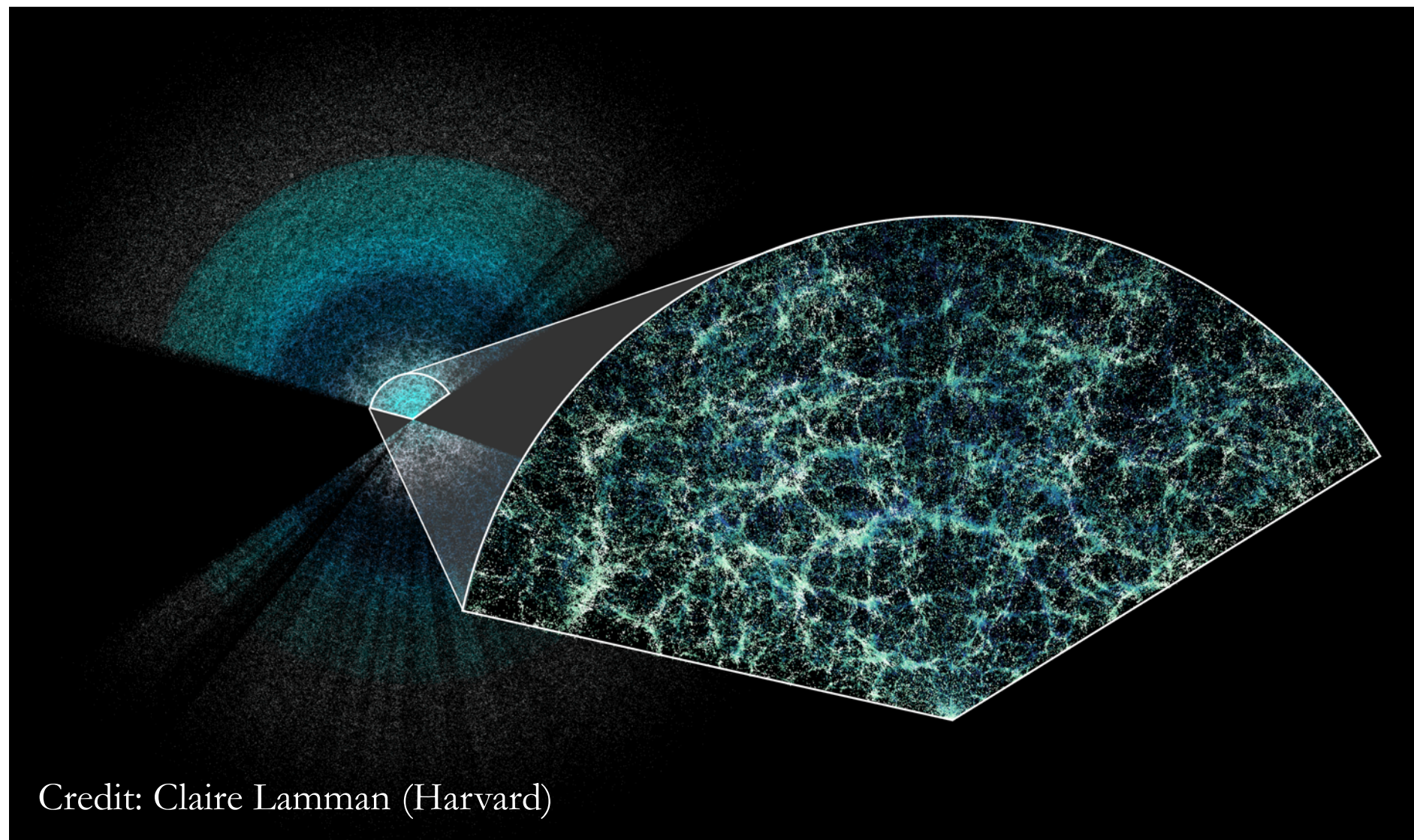


Credit: Stephanie Juneau (NOIRLab)

- [DESI Collaboration et al. 2024a: Validation of the Scientific Program for the Dark Energy Spectroscopic Instrument](#)
- [DESI Collaboration et al. 2024b: The Early Data Release of the Dark Energy Spectroscopic Instrument](#)



# DESI Data Release 1 will become public on 2025 March 19 at the March/April APS meeting.

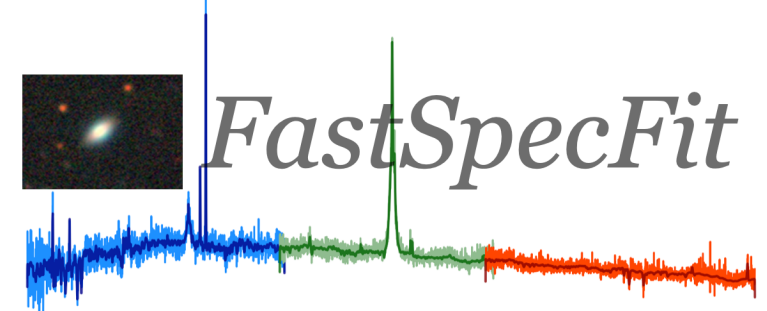


Sneak-peek: unique,  
high-confident  
redshifts for 18.7M  
objects, including  
13.1M galaxies,  
1.6M quasars, and  
4M stars!

- <https://data.desi.lbl.gov/doc/releases/dr1>  
(private until 2025 March 19).
- DESI Collaboration et al. 2025, Data Release 1 of  
the Dark Energy Spectroscopic Instrument, in prep.



# FastSpecFit—fast modeling of DESI spectrophotometry.



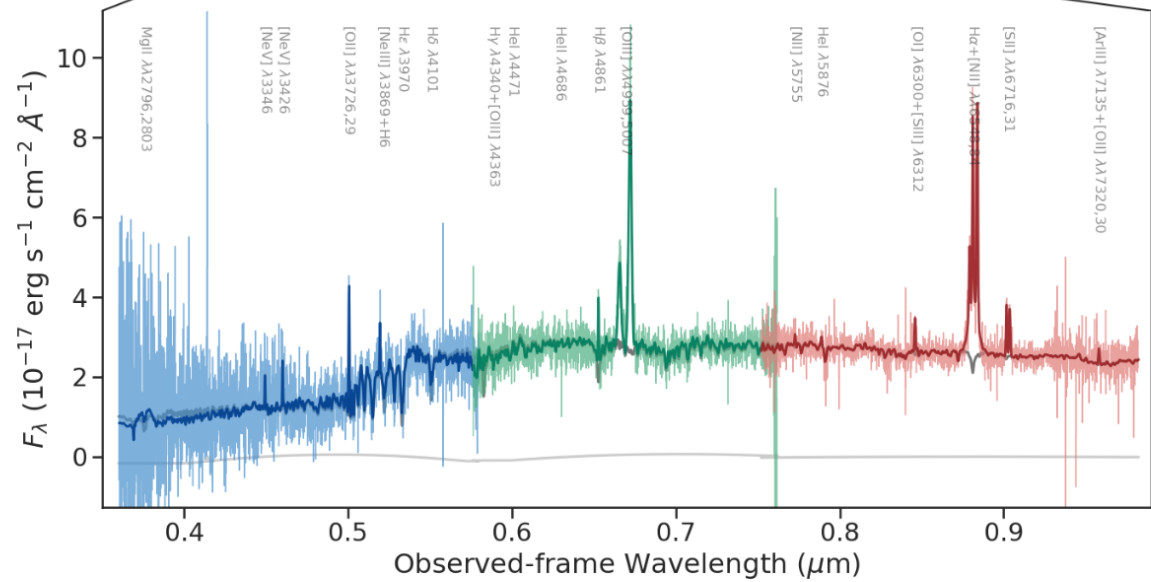
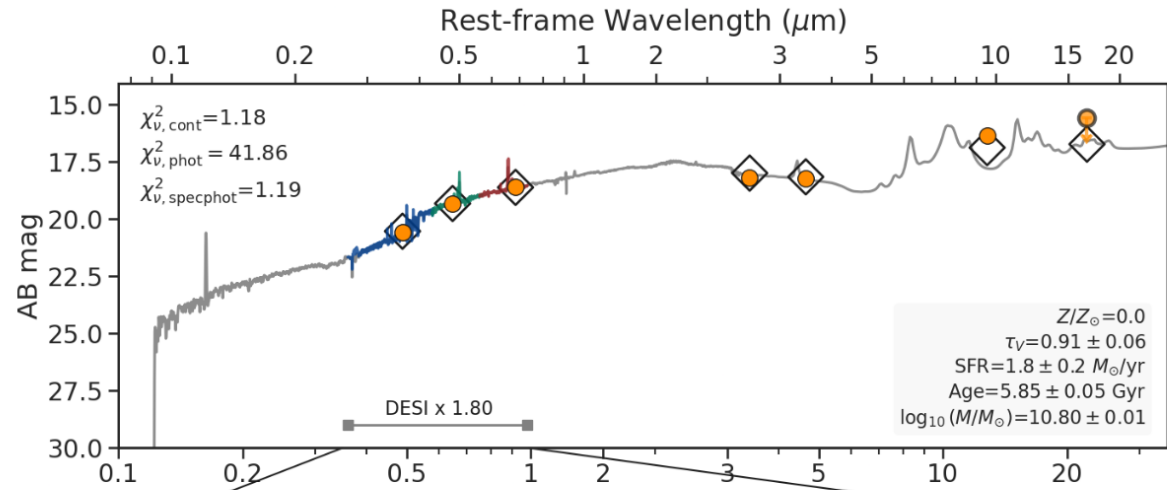
- FastSpecFit is a stellar continuum and emission-line modeling code for DESI which uses physically motivated stellar population synthesis and emission-line templates.
- It simultaneously models the three-camera optical spectrophotometry and the ultraviolet through infrared broadband photometry.
- The code is numba-accelerated and simply maximizes the likelihood given the data (no sampling), using Monte Carlo for simple uncertainty estimates.

Paper, public code, and EDR value-added catalog—

- Moustakas et al., in prep.
- <https://fastspecfit.readthedocs.io/en/latest>
- <https://fastspecfit.readthedocs.io/en/latest/fuji.html>



# A worked example—Bright Galaxy Survey (BGS) target at $z = 0.342$ .



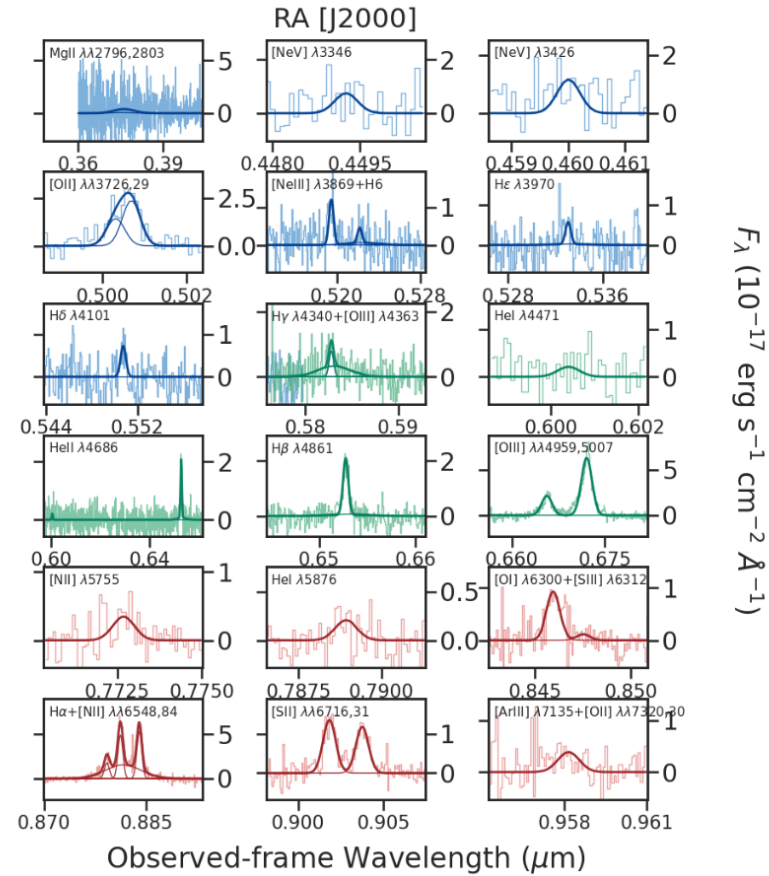
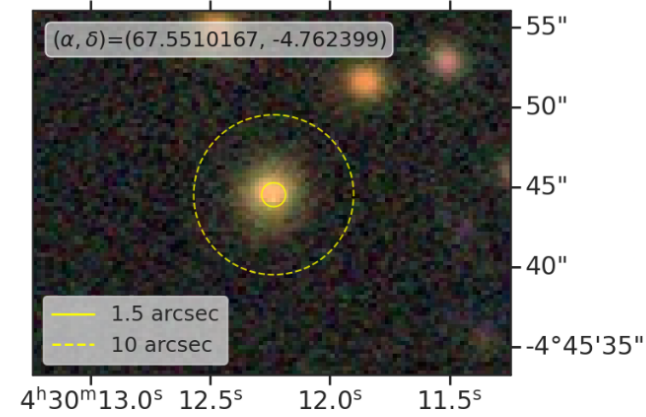
$z = 0.3423384$   
 $\sigma_{\text{star}} = 127 \pm 11 \text{ km/s}$   
 $\sigma_{\text{narrow}} = 144 \pm 73 \text{ km/s}$   
 $\Delta v_{\text{narrow}} = -2 \pm 31 \text{ km/s}$   
 $\sigma_{\text{UV}} = 2877 \text{ km/s}$   
 $\Delta v_{\text{UV}} = -65 \text{ km/s}$   
 $\sigma_{\text{broad}} = 887 \text{ km/s}$   
 $\Delta v_{\text{broad}} = 198 \text{ km/s}$

$M_{0.1r} = -21.20$   
 $M_{0.1g} - M_{0.1r} = 0.704$   
 $M_{0.1r} - M_{0.1z} = 0.624$   
 $D_n(4000)_{\text{model}} = 1.405$   
 $D_n(4000)_{\text{data}} = 1.364$

$\text{EW}([\text{OII}]) = 10.3 \text{ \AA}$   
 $\text{EW}([\text{OIII}]) = 35.1 \text{ \AA}$   
 $\text{EW}(\text{H}\alpha) = 12.8 \text{ \AA}$   
 $\text{H}\alpha/\text{H}\beta = 3.214$   
 $\log_{10}([\text{OIII}]/\text{H}\beta) = 0.987$   
 $\log_{10}([\text{NII}]/\text{H}\alpha) = 0.037$   
 $[\text{OII}] \lambda 3726/\lambda 3729 = 0.602$   
 $[\text{SII}] \lambda 6731/\lambda 6716 = 0.871$

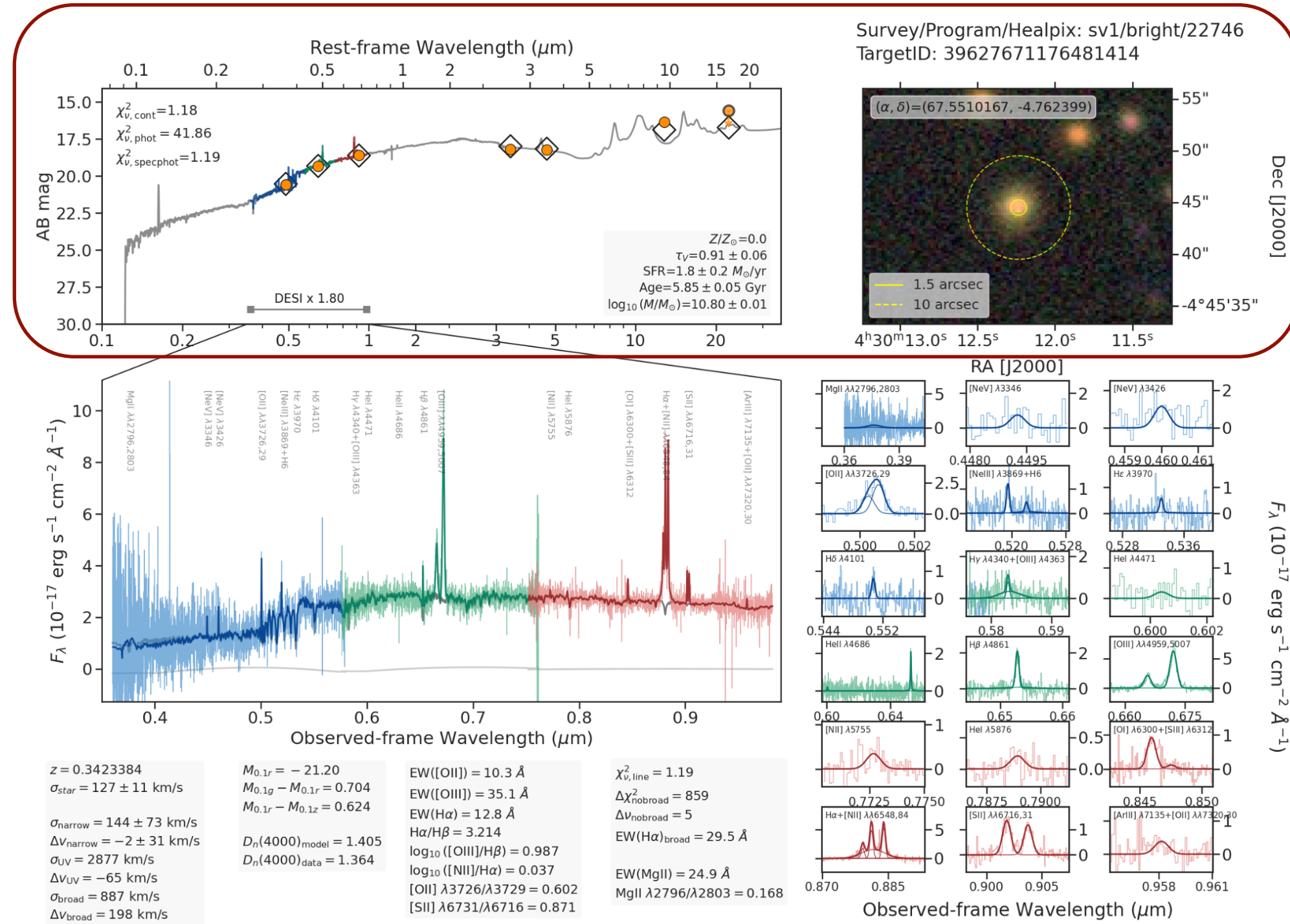
$\chi^2_{v,\text{line}} = 1.19$   
 $\Delta\chi^2_{\text{nbroad}} = 859$   
 $\Delta v_{\text{nbroad}} = 5$   
 $\text{EW}(\text{H}\alpha)_{\text{broad}} = 29.5 \text{ \AA}$   
 $\text{EW}(\text{MgII}) = 24.9 \text{ \AA}$   
 $\text{MgII} \lambda 2796/\lambda 2803 = 0.168$

Survey/Program/Healpix: sv1/bright/22746  
 TargetID: 39627671176481414





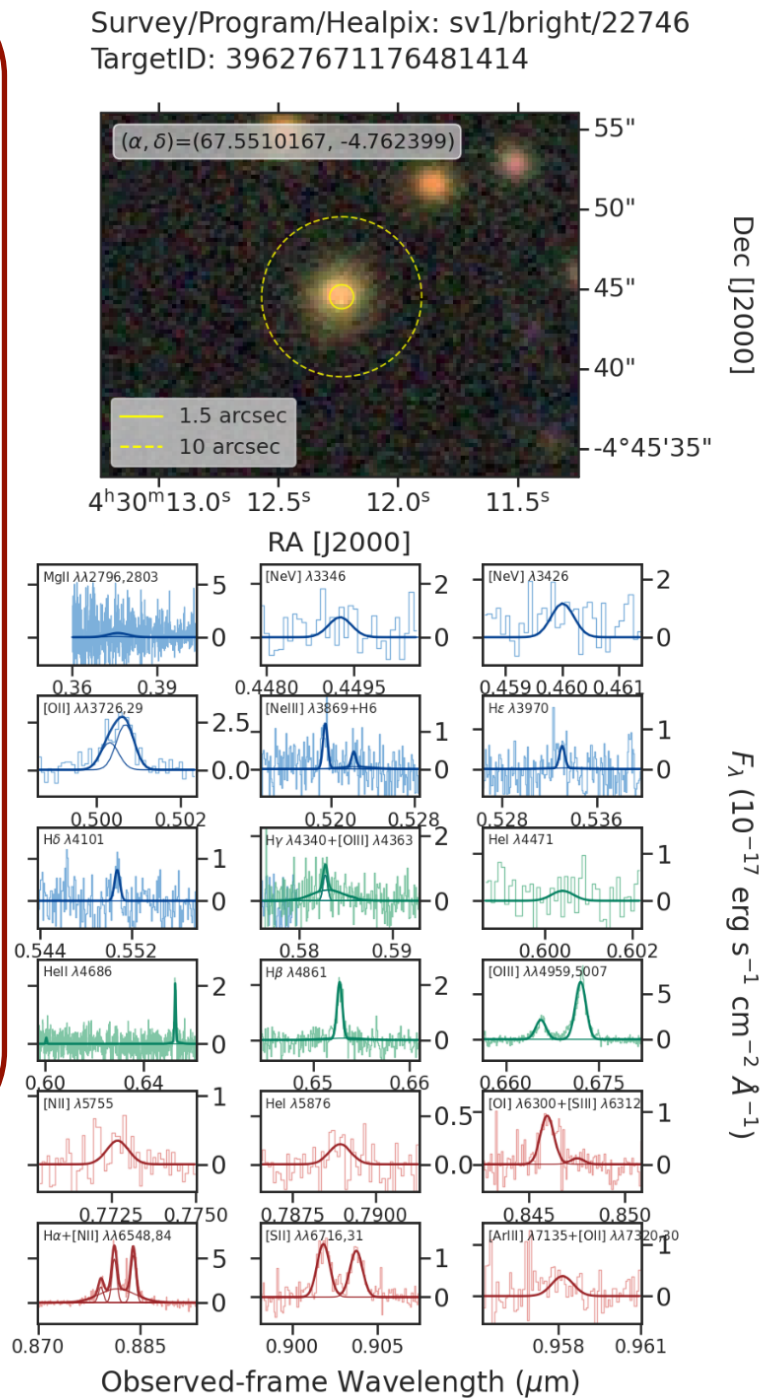
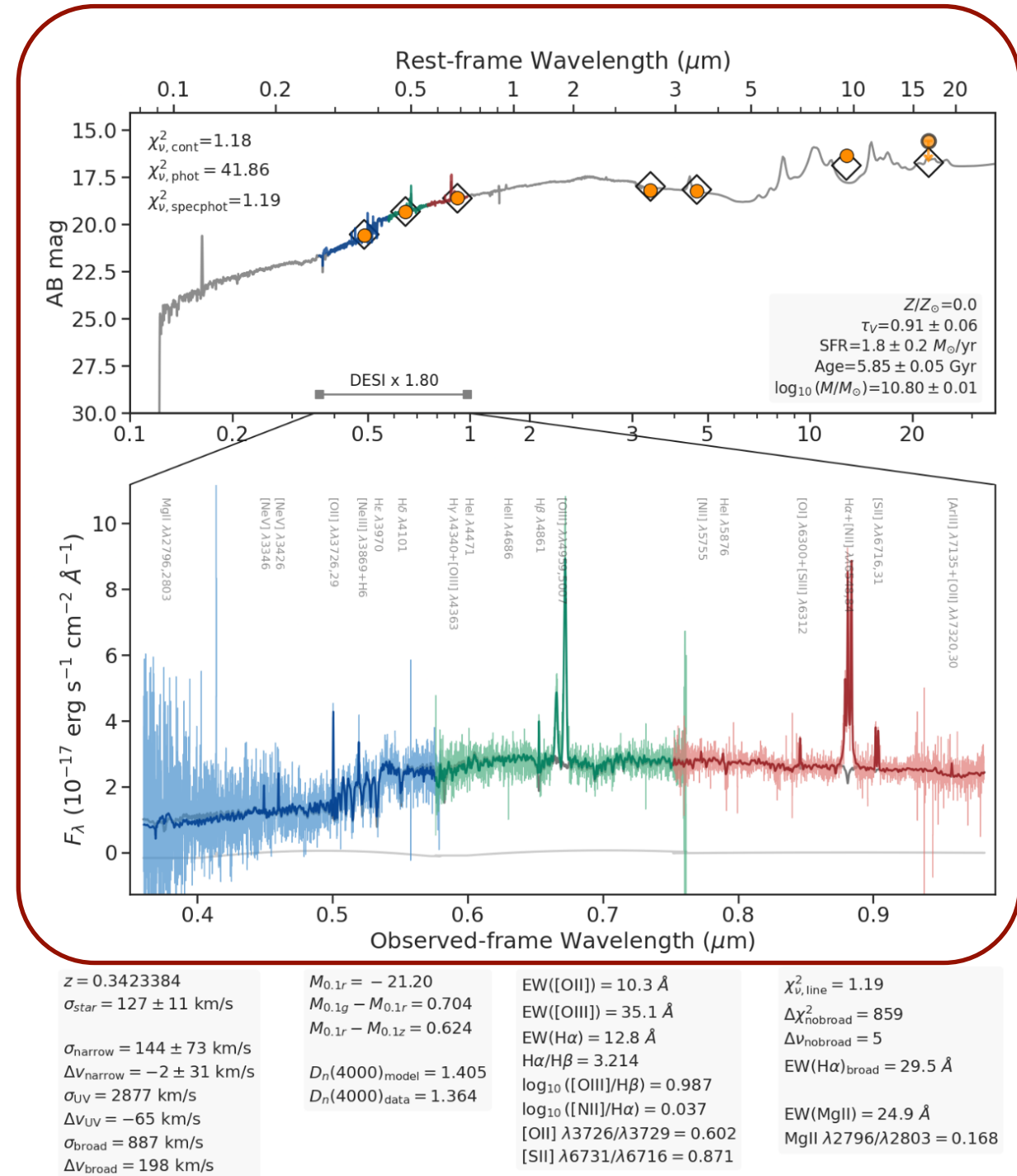
# A worked example—Bright Galaxy Survey (BGS) target at $z = 0.342$ .



- The 1.5" DESI fiber only captures the central light (aka aperture bias) over the observed-frame 0.36-0.98 micron wavelength range.
- Broadband photometry encodes a lot more information about the galaxy.



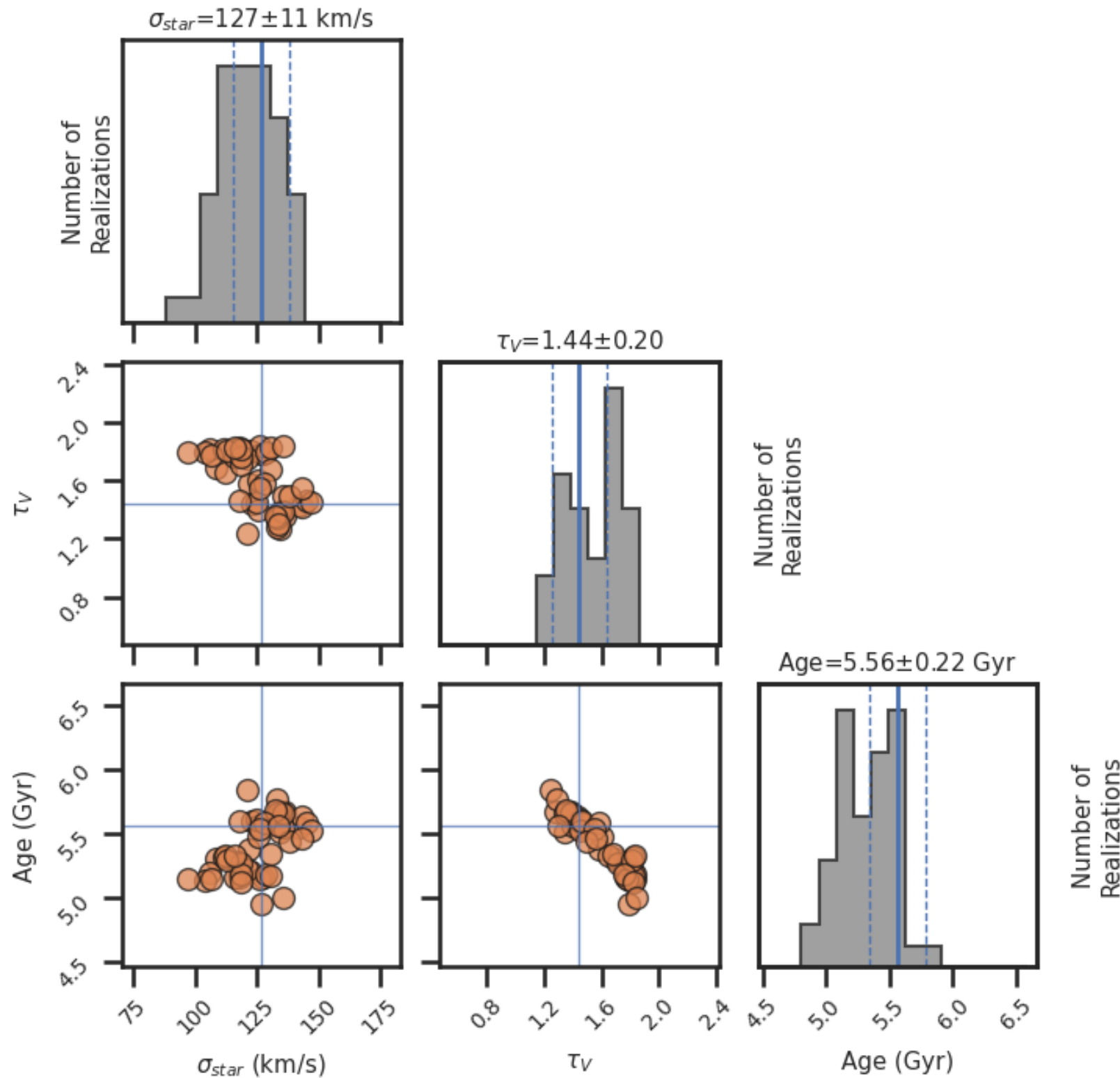
# A worked example—Bright Galaxy Survey (BGS) target at $z = 0.342$ .



- FastSpecFit simultaneously forward-models the broadband photometry and the three-camera spectrophotometry, making full use of the DESI resolution matrix.
- The continuum model consists of 5 variable-age stellar population synthesis (SPS) models and a simple (power-law) dust model; we compute the IR spectrum on-the-fly.
- An “AGN fitting mode” is in the works.



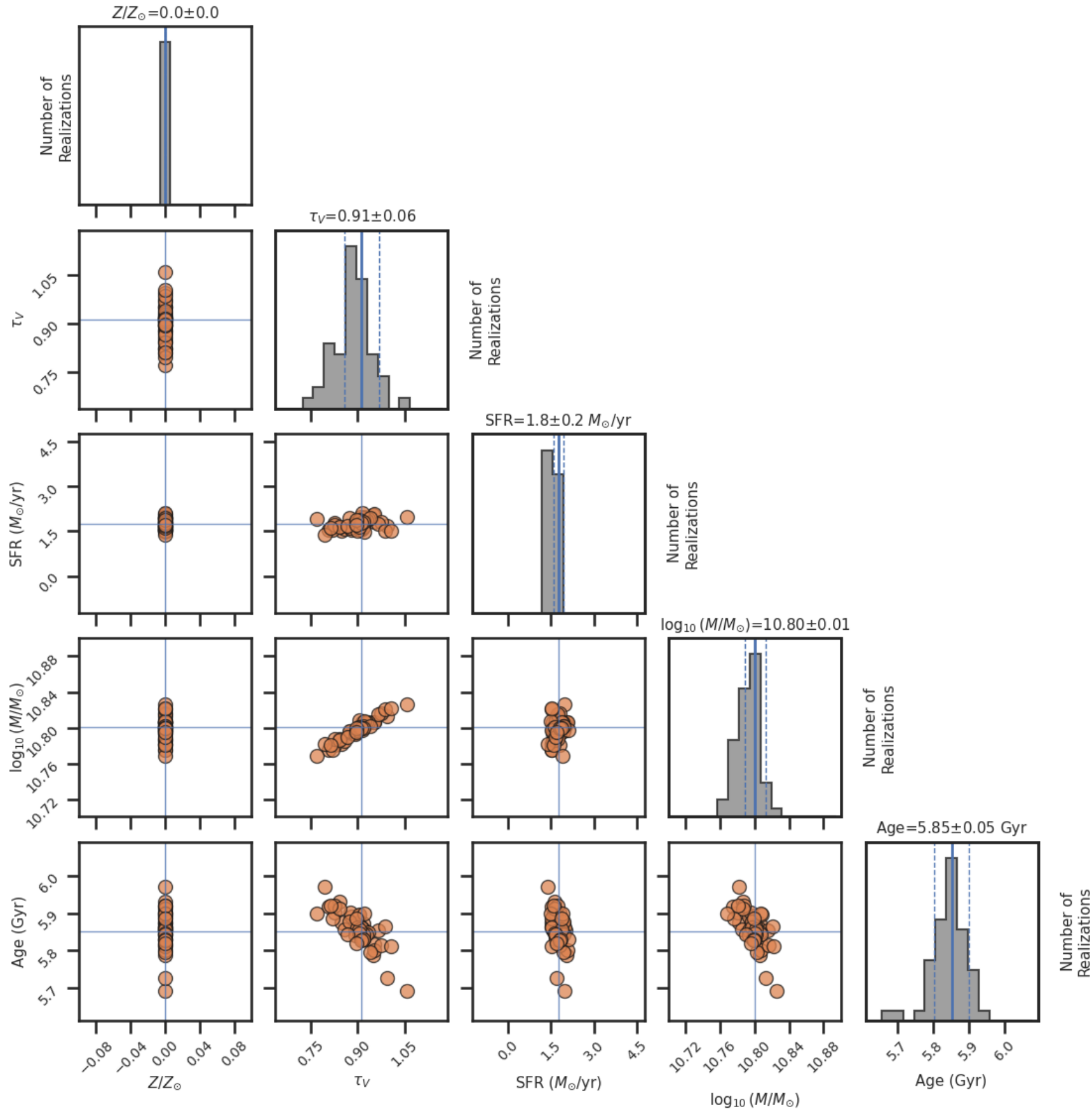
# A worked example—Bright Galaxy Survey (BGS) target at $z = 0.342$ .



- Where possible, we estimate the velocity dispersion as part of the maximum-likelihood fit.
- We infer the uncertainty in the velocity dispersion using a Monte Carlo approach, marginalizing over the covariance with dust and age.



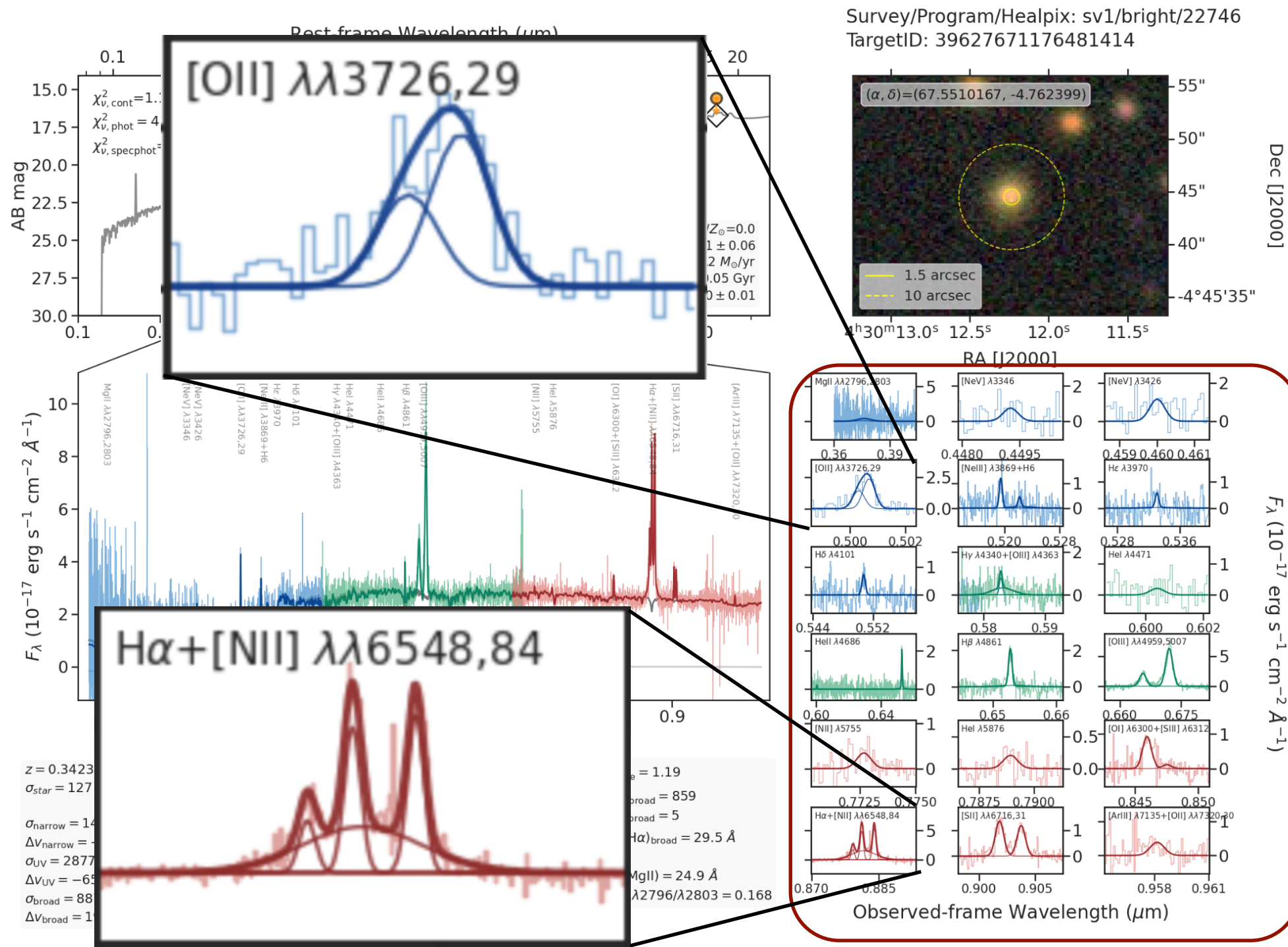
# A worked example—Bright Galaxy Survey (BGS) target at $z = 0.342$ .



- Monte Carlo fitting also delivers simple estimates of the stellar population synthesis (SPS) model uncertainties.



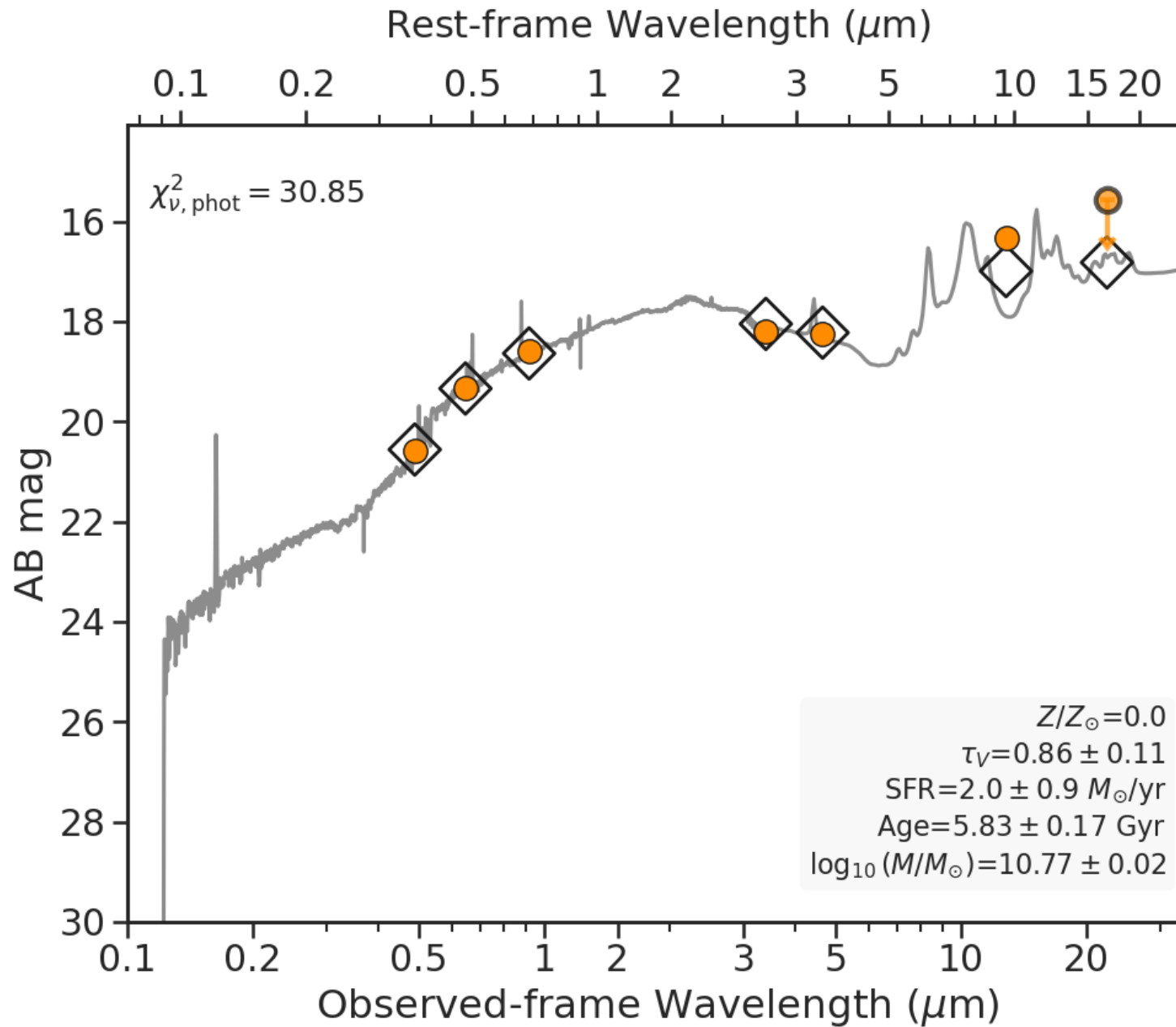
# A worked example—Bright Galaxy Survey (BGS) target at $z = 0.342$ .



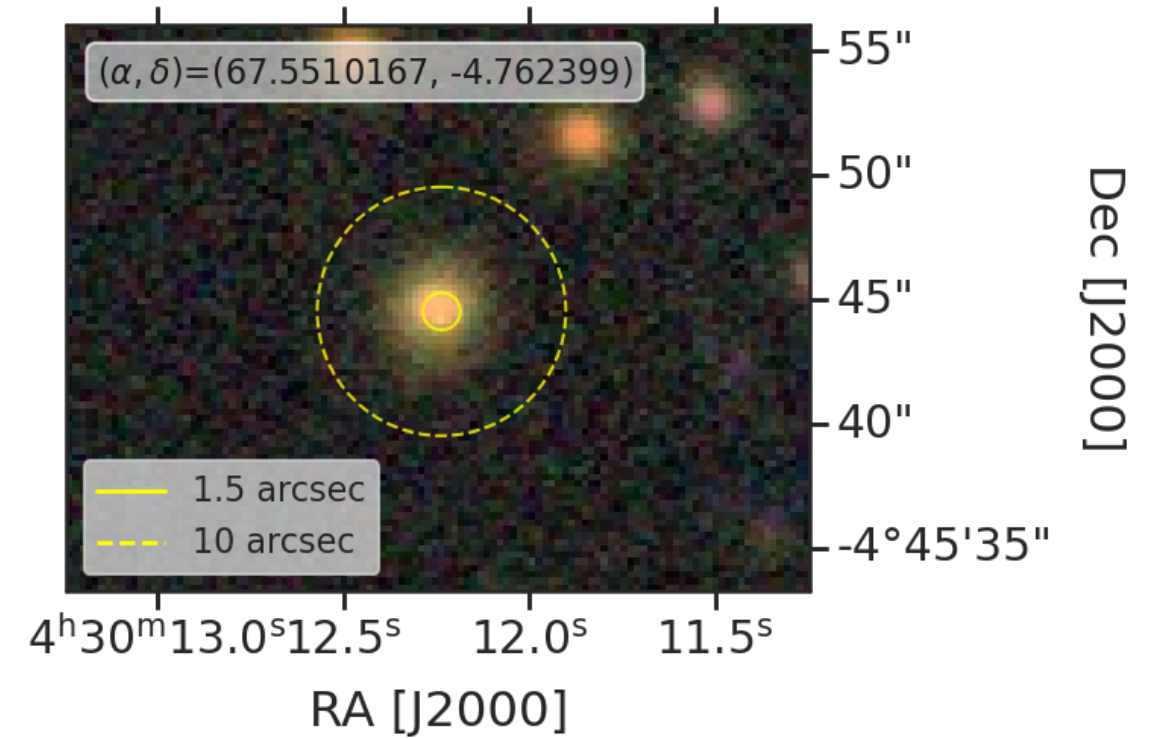
- We robustly fit the amplitudes of doublets like [OII]  $\lambda\lambda 3726, 29$  as one amplitude and a physically constrained doublet ratio.
- We attempt to decompose the Balmer lines into broad and narrow components, using a  $\Delta\chi^2$  test to choose between the two models.



FastSpecFit also includes a (fast) “photometry-only” fitting mode.



Survey/Program/Healpix: sv1/bright/22746  
TargetID: 39627671176481414



$z = 0.3423384$   
 $\sigma_{\text{star}} = 250 \text{ km/s}$   
 $D_n(4000)_{\text{model}} = 1.415$

$M_{0.1r} = -21.19$   
 $M_{0.1g} - M_{0.1r} = 0.703$   
 $M_{0.1r} - M_{0.1z} = 0.619$

# Summary, performance, and next steps.

- FastSpecFit is a new (public!) spectrophotometric fitting code written from the ground up for DESI.
- A value-added catalog (VAC) of 1.5M objects from the DESI/EDR is already public; the DR1 VAC (18M spectra!) will be released in 2025 March along with DR1.
- Fitting time is 0.5-3 seconds per object depending on the number of Monte Carlo realizations. Numba acceleration and extensive profiling has been used to achieve significant speed-ups (lesson: AstroPy is slow!)
- “Scale” (i.e., fitting of tens of millions of objects in finite time) is achieved using a combination of multiprocessing and MPI parallelization.
- Work in progress:
  - AGN-fitting mode with templates and priors optimized for quasars;
  - SDSS-fitting mode with plans to generate an SDSS VAC.
  - Nascent effort to use JAX/GPUs to achieve the next level of acceleration.

<https://fastspecfit.readthedocs.io/en/latest>