

# The early phase of environmental effects on galaxy properties unveiled by near-infrared spectroscopy of protocluster galaxies at $z > 2$

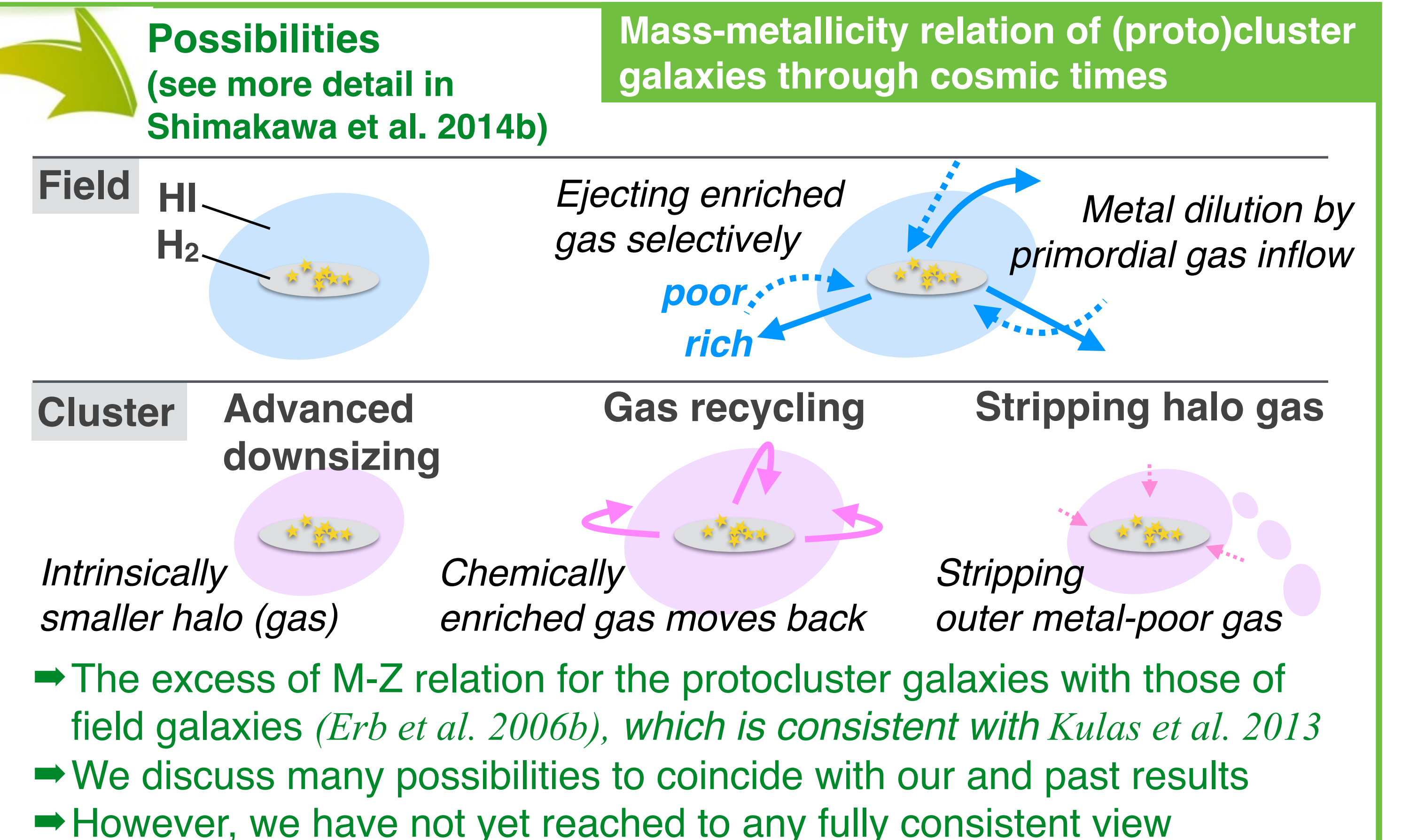
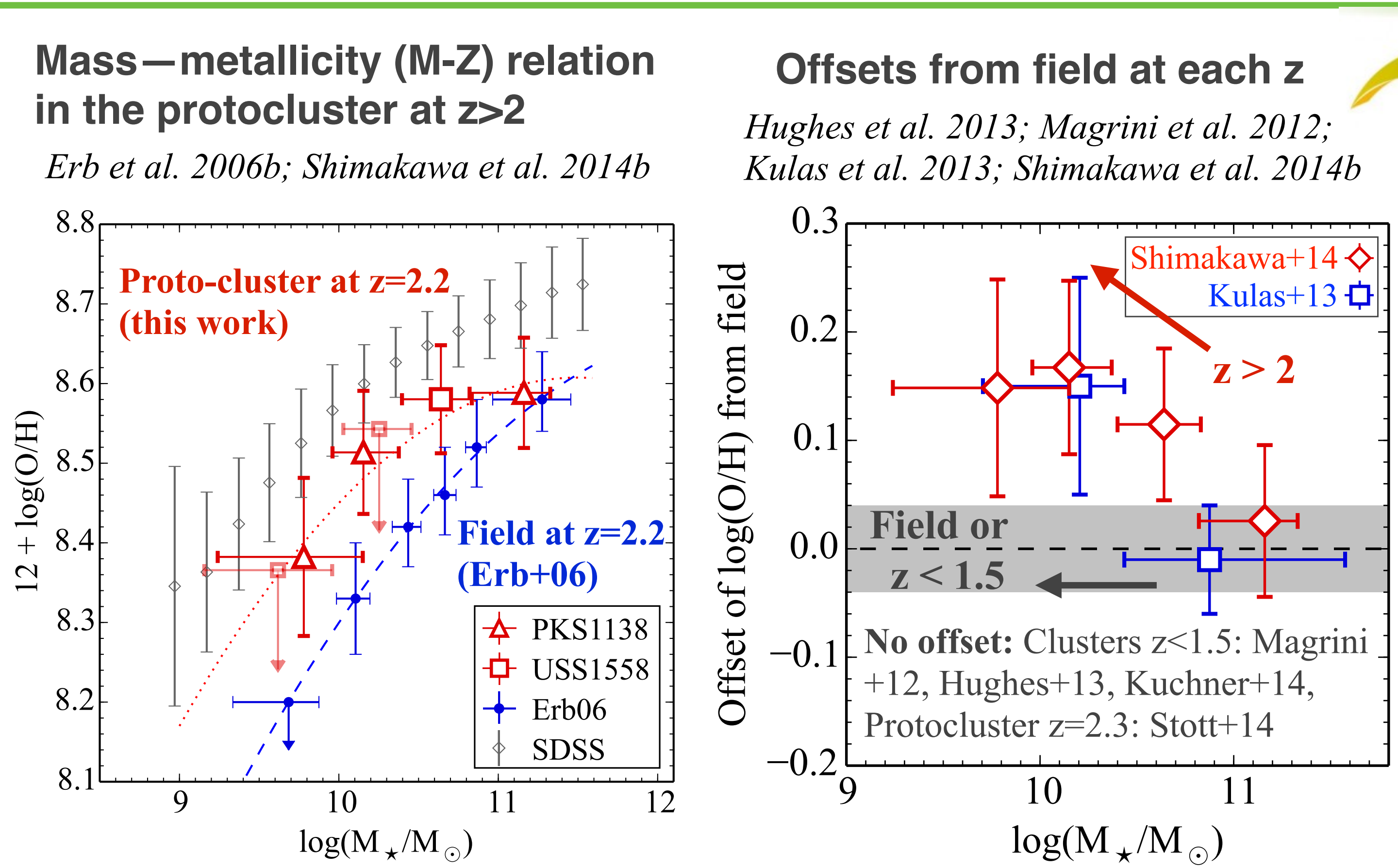
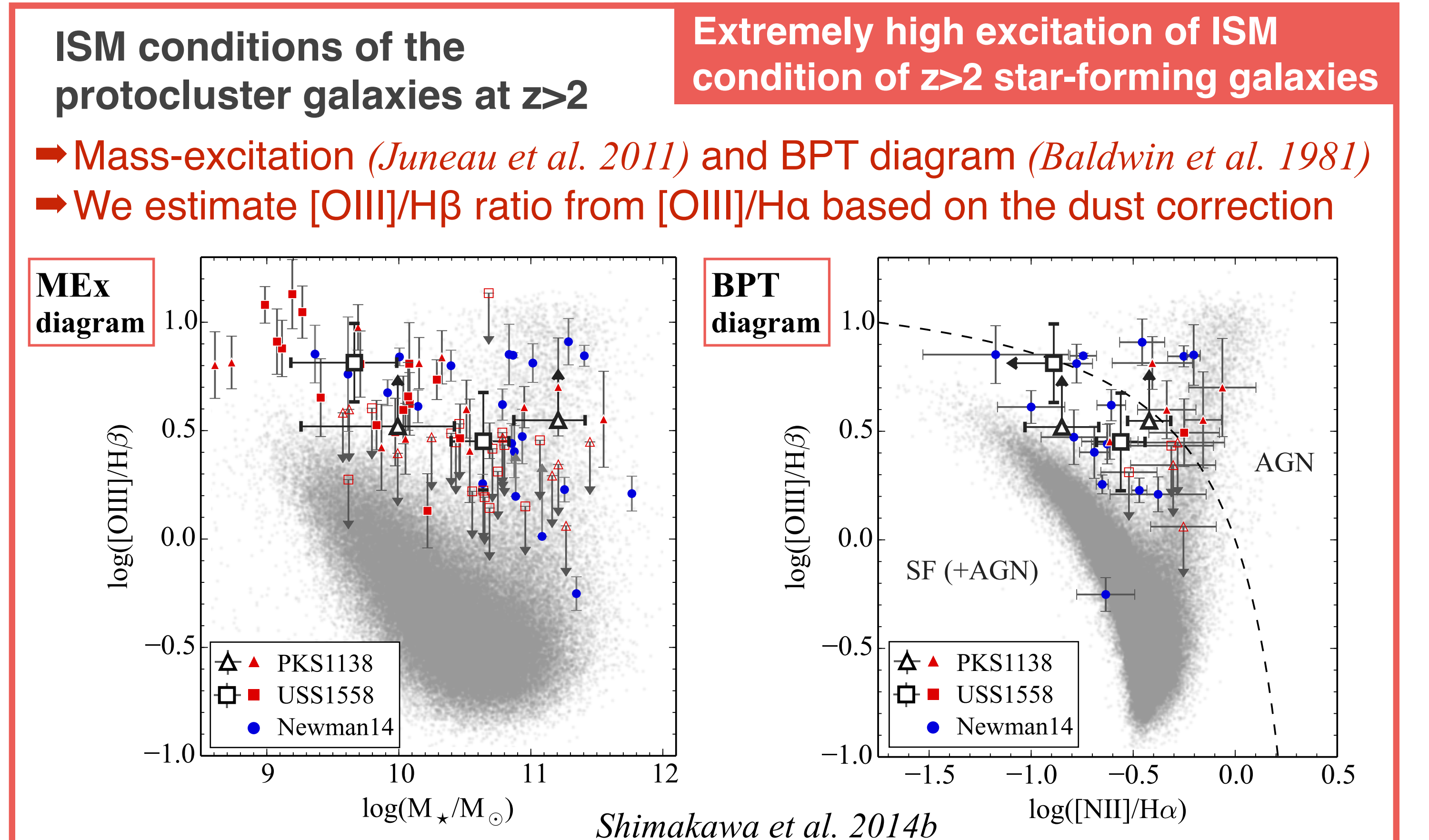
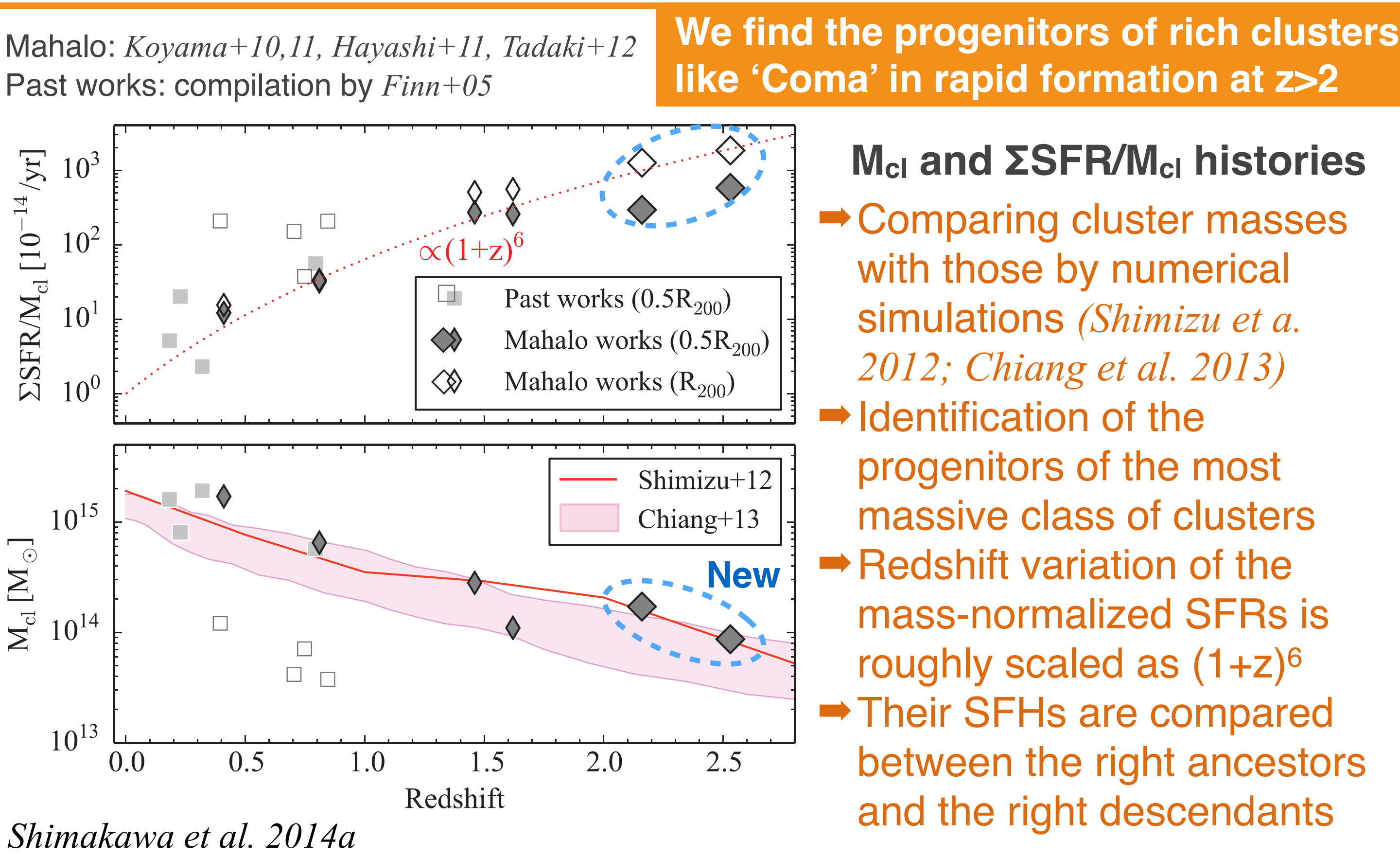
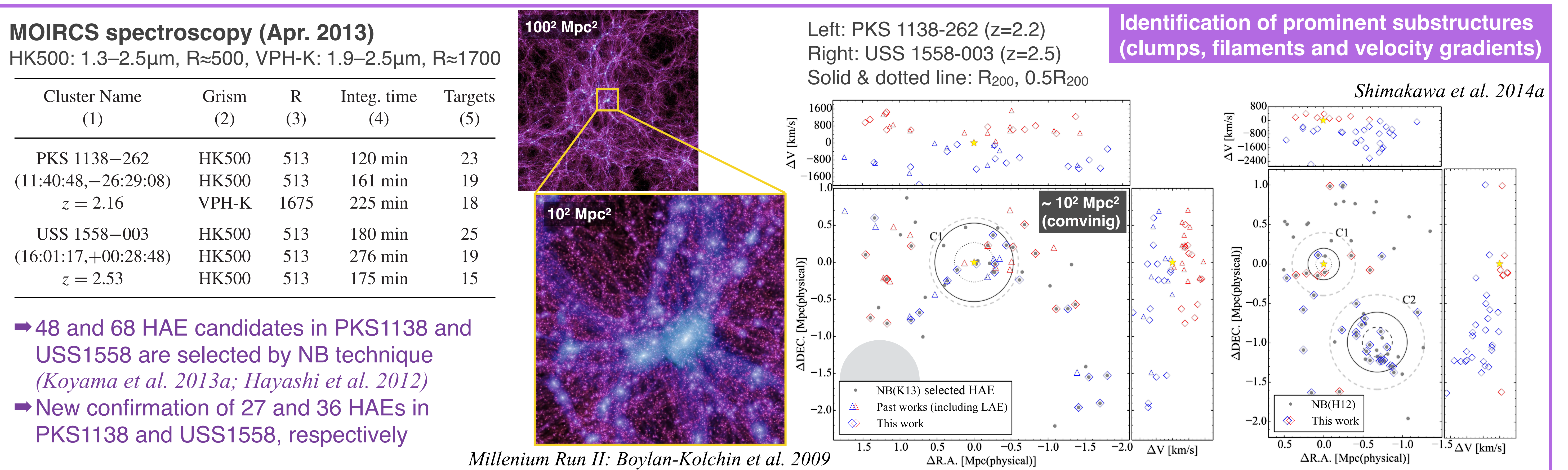
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**Abstract** We present the results of near-infrared spectroscopy of H $\alpha$  emitters (HAEs) associated with two protoclusters around radio galaxies (PKS 1138–262 at  $z=2.2$  and USS 1558–003 at  $z=2.5$ ) with the Multi-Object Infrared Camera and Spectrograph (MOIRCS) on the Subaru telescope. Among the HAE candidates constructed from our narrow-band imaging, we have confirmed membership of 27 and 36 HAEs for the respective protoclusters. The clusters show prominent substructures, suggesting that they are still in the midst of rapid building. We calculate the dynamical masses of the clusters and substructures, assuming their local virialization. The inferred masses ( $\sim 1E14 M_{\odot}$ ) of the protocluster cores are consistent with their being typical progenitors of the present-day most massive class of clusters ( $\sim 1E15 M_{\odot}$ ) if we take into account the typical mass growth history of clusters. We then estimate the integrated star formation rates (SFRs) of the protocluster cores normalized by their dynamical masses and compare these with lower redshift descendants. We see a marked increase of star-forming activities in the cluster cores as we go back in time to 11 billion years ago.

Also, the identified HAEs show very high excitation levels as characterized by much higher [OIII]/H $\beta$  line ratios than those of low- $z$  galaxies. Such a high excitation level is qualitatively driven by their high specific SFRs (sSFRs) and lower gaseous metallicities. Furthermore, we investigate the environmental dependence of gaseous metallicities by comparing the HAEs in the protoclusters with those in the general field at similar redshifts. We find that the gaseous metallicities of protocluster galaxies are more chemically enriched than those of field galaxies at a given stellar mass in the range of  $M_{\text{star}} \leq 1E11 M_{\odot}$ . This can be attributed to many processes, such as intrinsic (or nature) effects, external (or nurture) effects, and some systematic effects (sampling bias). Although, none of the interpretation is perfect, the external effects such as gas recycling or stripping seem to be favored.



**Future work** We are now studying the characteristics of the 'individual' galaxies with MOSFIRE on Keck. It is essential towards understanding the environmental dependence of galaxy formation. However, these current works are limited with only the integrated or averaged features in each galaxy. As a next step, we need to know their spatially resolved physical properties. The 3D spectroscopy such as SINFONI and KMOS mounted on VLT will spatially resolve radial gradients of the gaseous metallicity and ionization states directly as well as dust extinctions and specific star-formation rates.