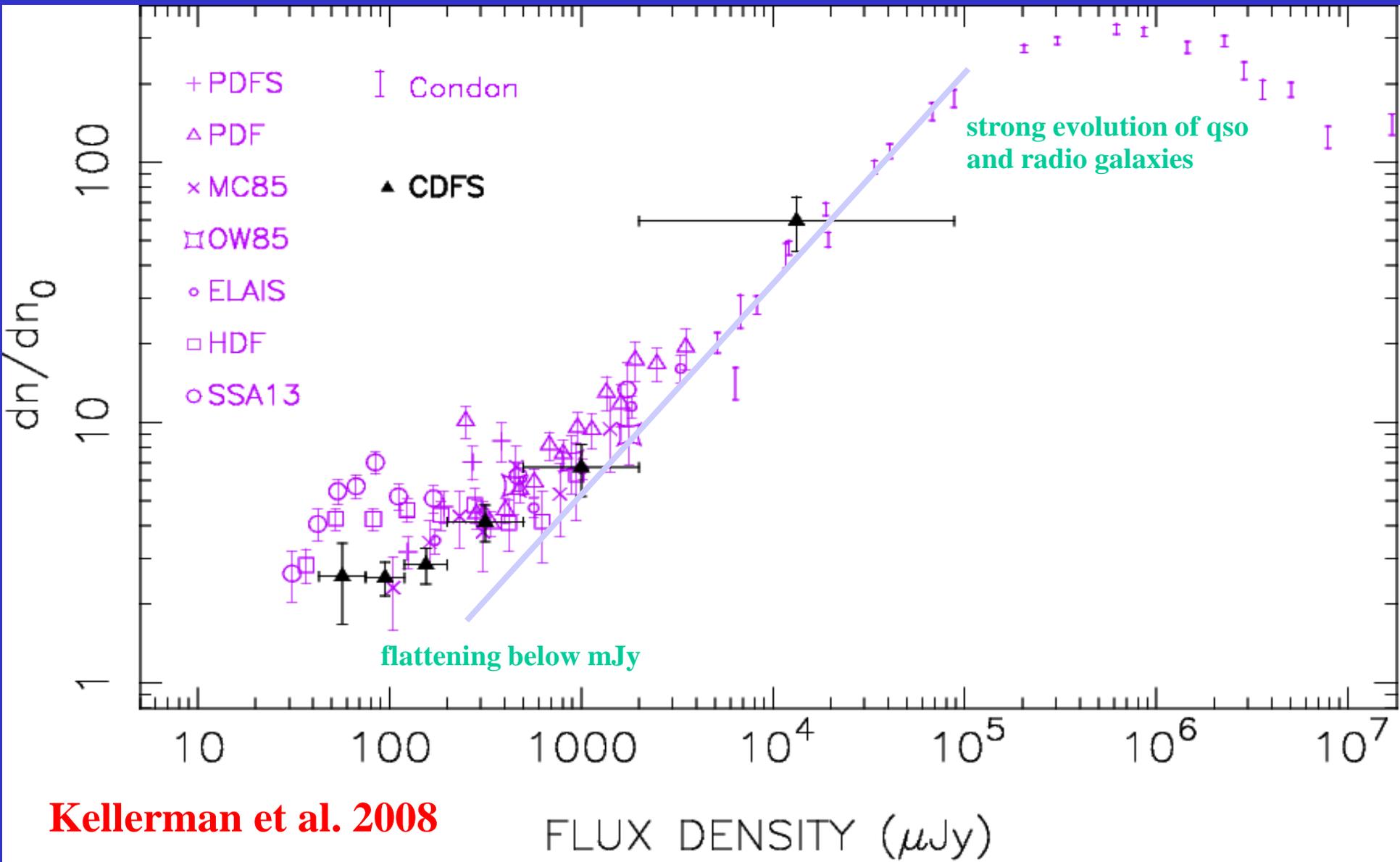


# The micro- and nano-Jy sky

Paolo Padovani, ESO, Germany

- The sub-mJy source population
- Which type of sources will SKA see at micro-Jy and nano-Jy flux densities? How many of them and how faint?
- Which multi-wavelength properties will they have? How will we identify them?

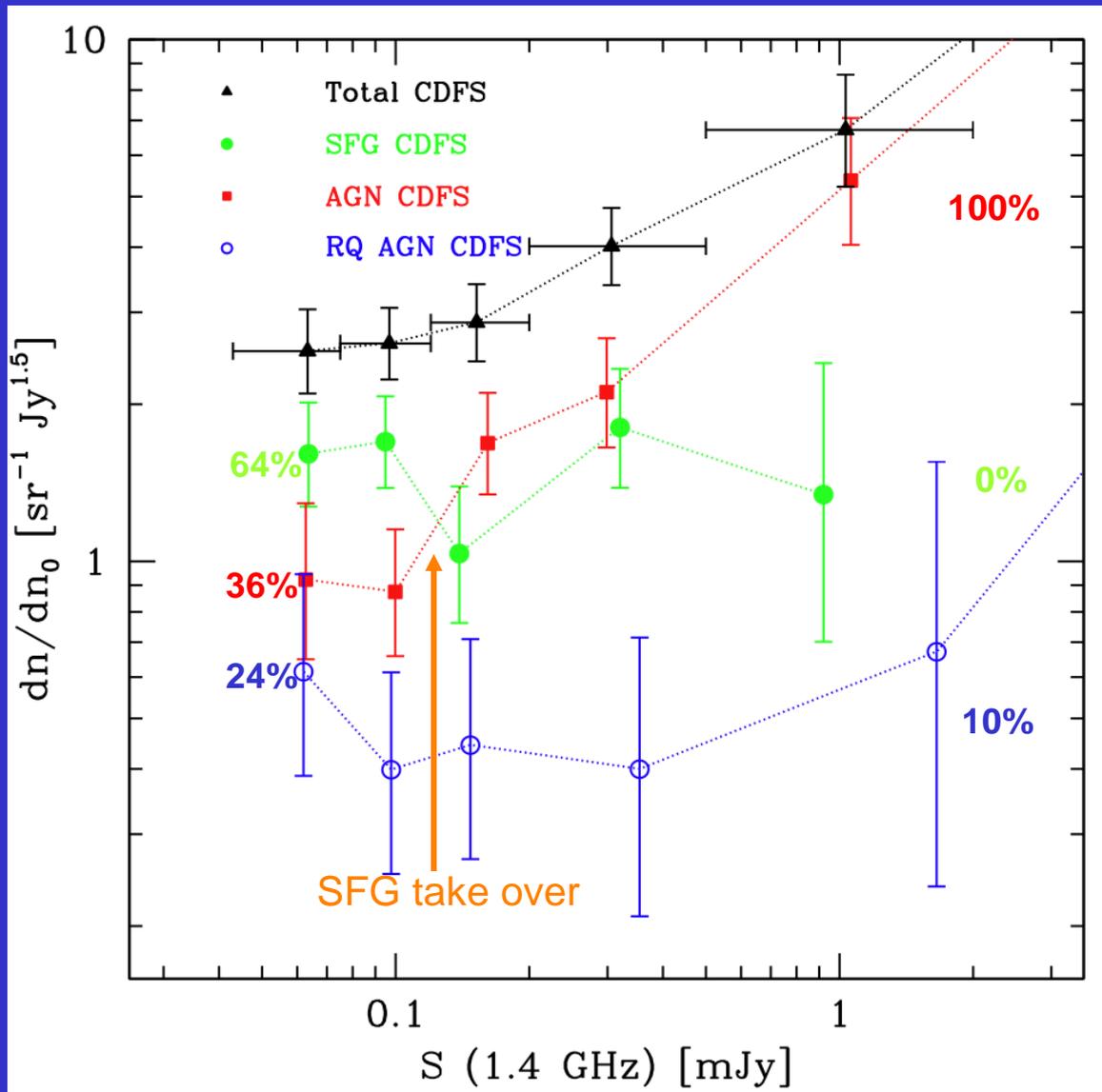
# Radio (1.4 GHz) number counts



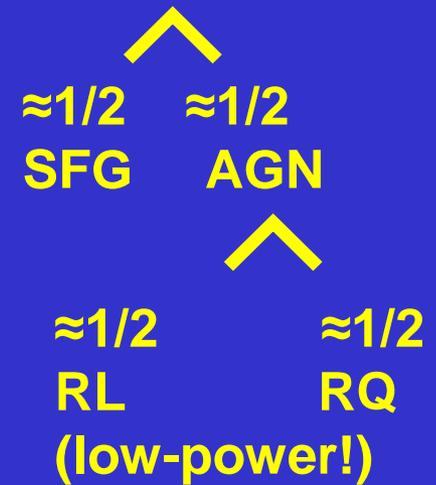
# The sub-mJy population: a “hot” topic

- The composition of the sub-mJy population has been debated over the past ~ 25 years
- More than 200 refereed papers in the ADS including: Mitchell & Condon 1985; Windhorst et al. 1985; Danese et al. 1987; Benn et al. 1993; Hopkins et al. 1998; Gruppioni et al. 1999; Richards 2000; Bondi et al. 2003; Ciliegi et al. 2003; Hopkins et al. 2003; Jackson 2004; Seymour et al. 2004, 2008; Huynh et al. 2005, 2008; Prandoni et al. 2006; Fomalont et al. 2006; Simpson et al. 2006; Bondi et al. 2007; Ivison et al. 2007; Bondi et al. 2008; Owen & Morrison 2008; Smolčić et al. 2008; Wilman et al. 2008; Padovani et al. 2009; Massardi et al. 2010
- Most accepted paradigm until recently: star-forming galaxies

# Sub-mJy populations

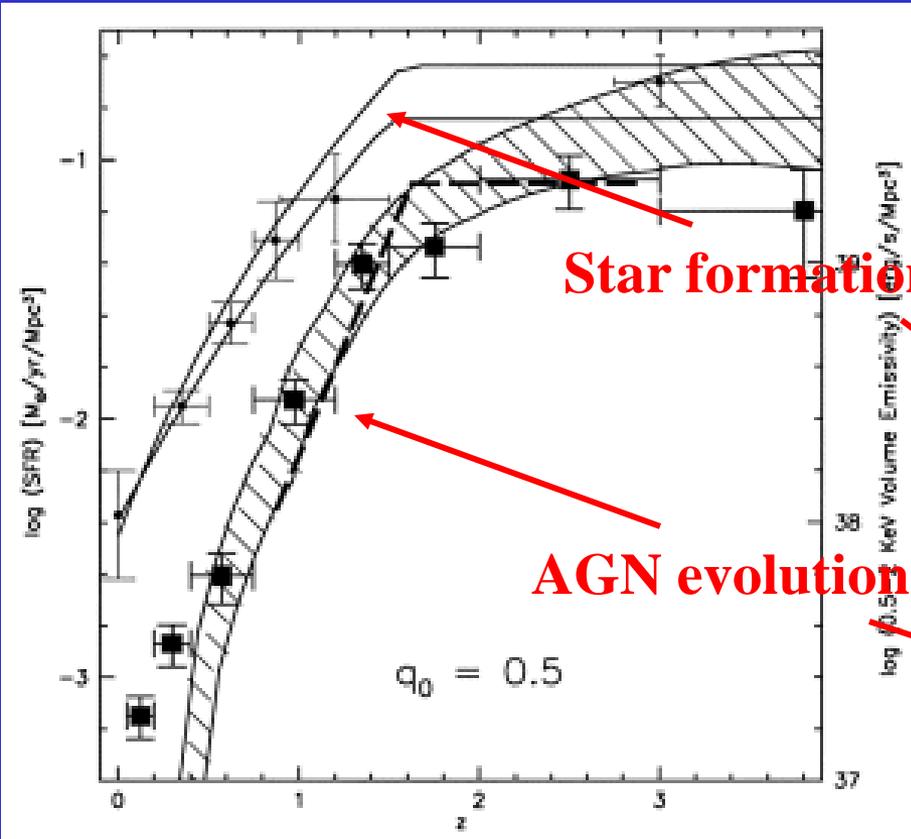


Sub-mJy sources:  
 $57 \pm 8\%$  SFG  
 $41 \pm 6\%$  AGN  
 $19 \pm 5\%$  RQ AGN  
 (46% of all AGN)



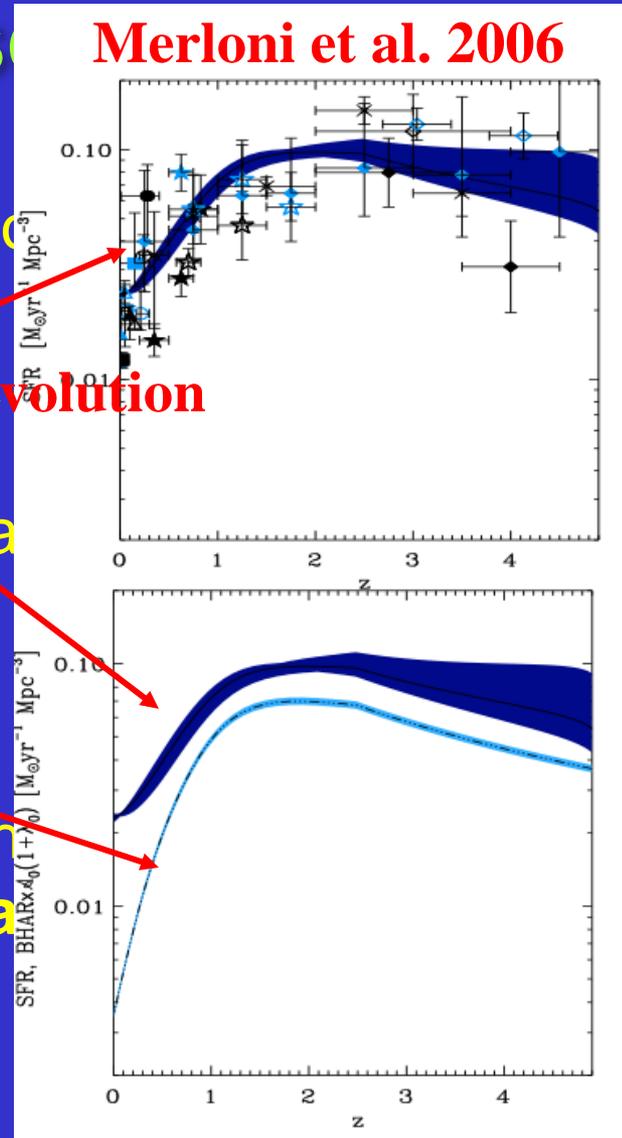
Broadly consistent with, e.g.,  
 Smolčić et al. 2008 and  
 Seymour et al. 2008

# AGN and star formation in the Universe

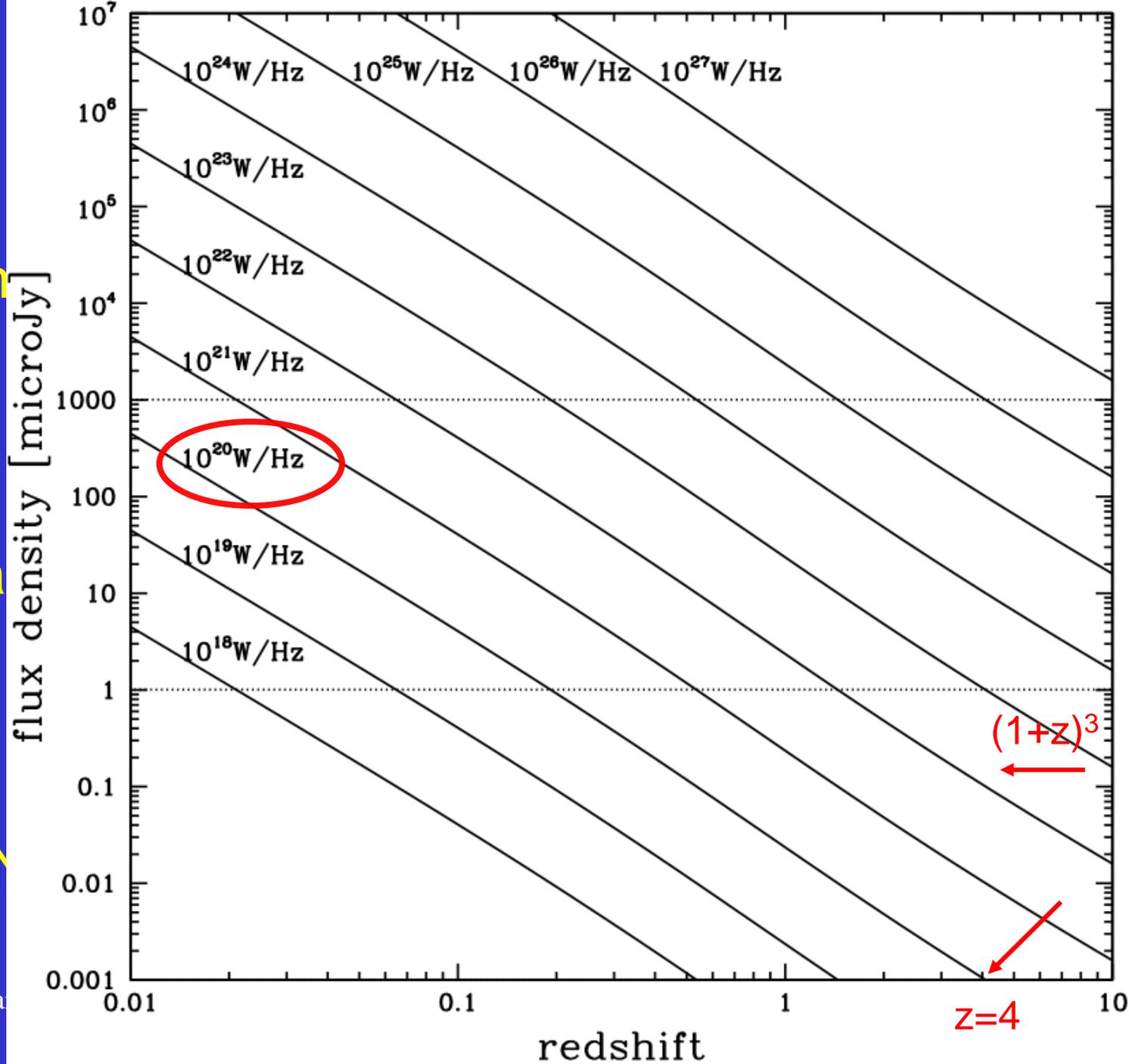


(e.g., Cattaneo et al. 2009)

Franceschini et al. 1999



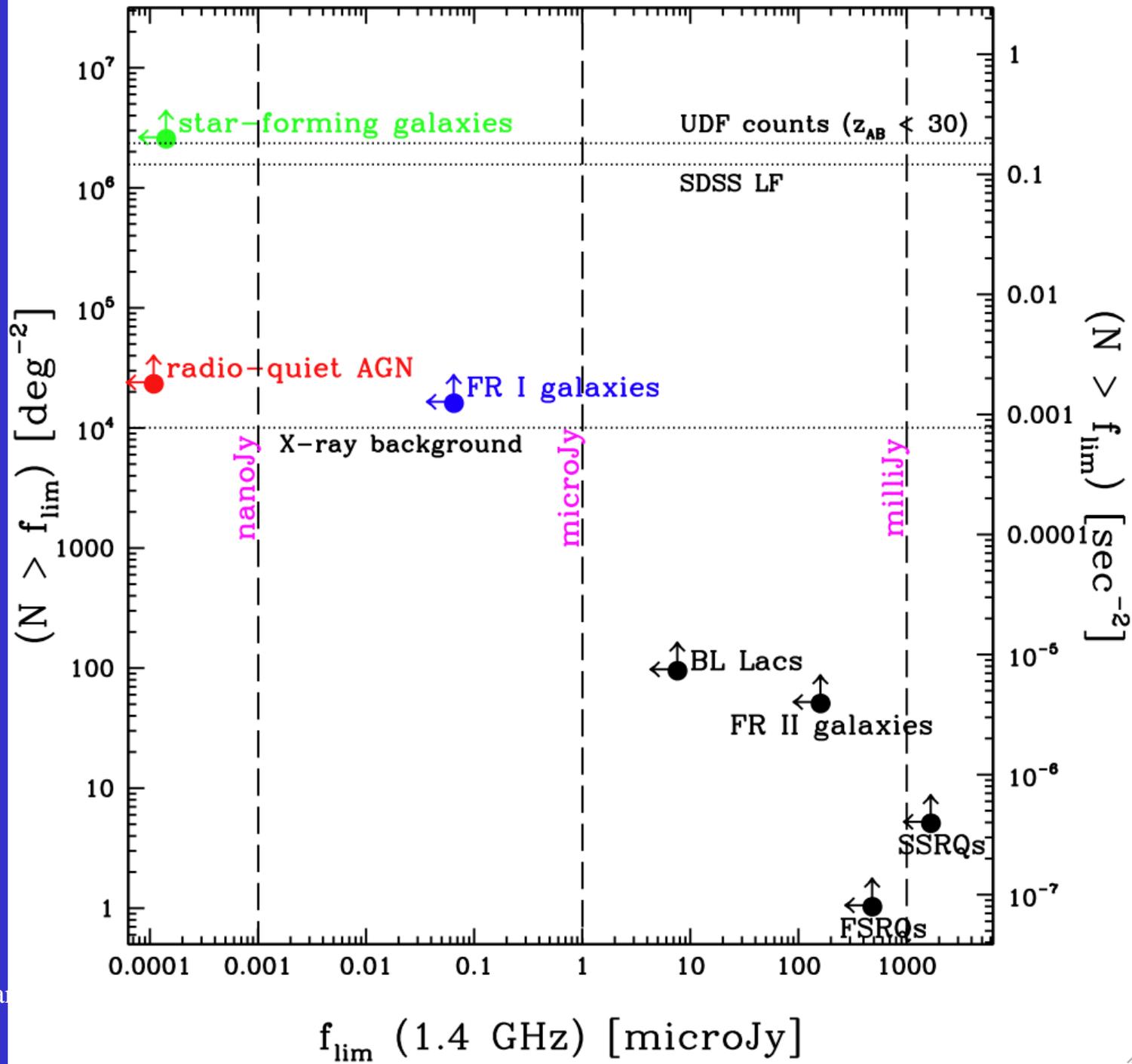
black hole  
 star formation rate evolution  
 star formation rate  
 way all  
 though  
 feedback



- Sn
- ✓
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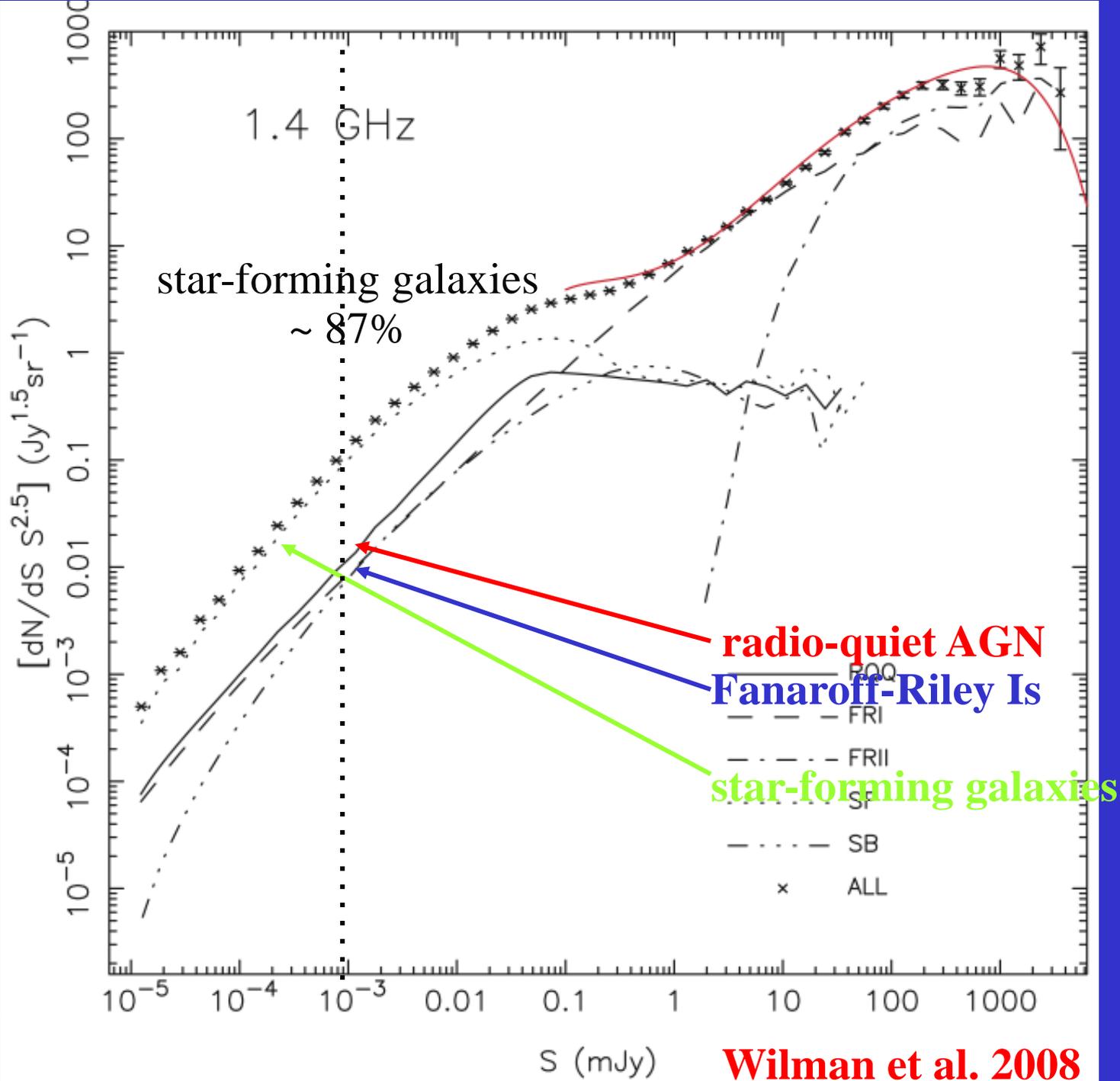


# Going fainter: a more complex approach

- Assume/derive luminosity function for the *relevant populations*
- Assume/derive evolution
- Assume cosmology
- Calculate number counts:

$$\frac{N(S)}{4\pi} = 4\pi \frac{c}{H_0} \int_{z_{\min}(S)}^{z_{\max}(S)} \frac{\phi[L(S, z), z] D_L^4(z) dz}{(1+z)^{(3-\alpha)} \sqrt{(1+z)^2(1+\Omega_m z) - z(z+2)\Omega_\Lambda}}$$

- Previous modelling work reaching flux densities  $< 1 \mu\text{Jy}$  include Hopkins et al. (2000), Windhorst (2003), Jackson (2004), Jarvis & Rawlings (2004), and Wilman et al. (2008) [SKA Design Study]



# Open Issues

- Extrapolations; samples used typically have:
  - ✓ flux densities much larger than those of interest (e.g., equiv.  $f_{1.4\text{GHz}} \approx 0.1$  Jy for radio-loud AGN)
  - ✓ lower redshifts and higher powers
  - ✓ different frequencies (requires spectral assumptions)
- Evolution is often not included self-consistently
- Radio-quiet AGN predictions (excluded by older calculations!) rely on X-ray – radio power correlation

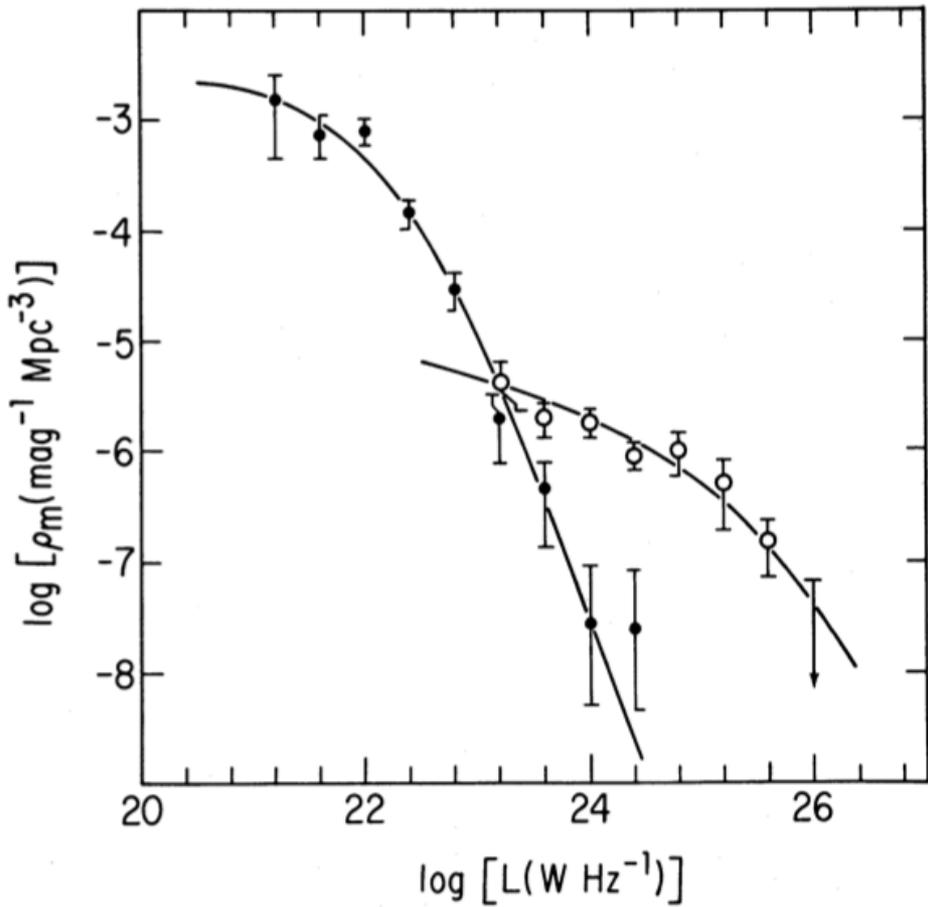


FIG. 9

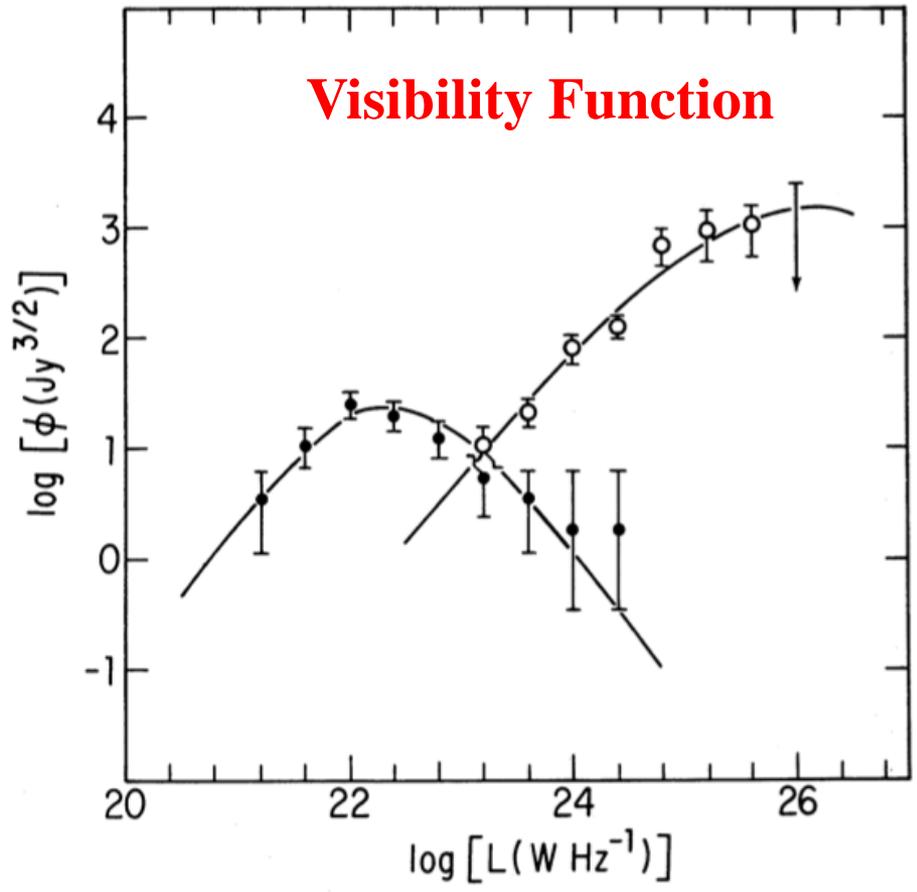
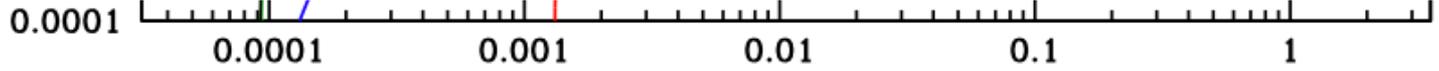


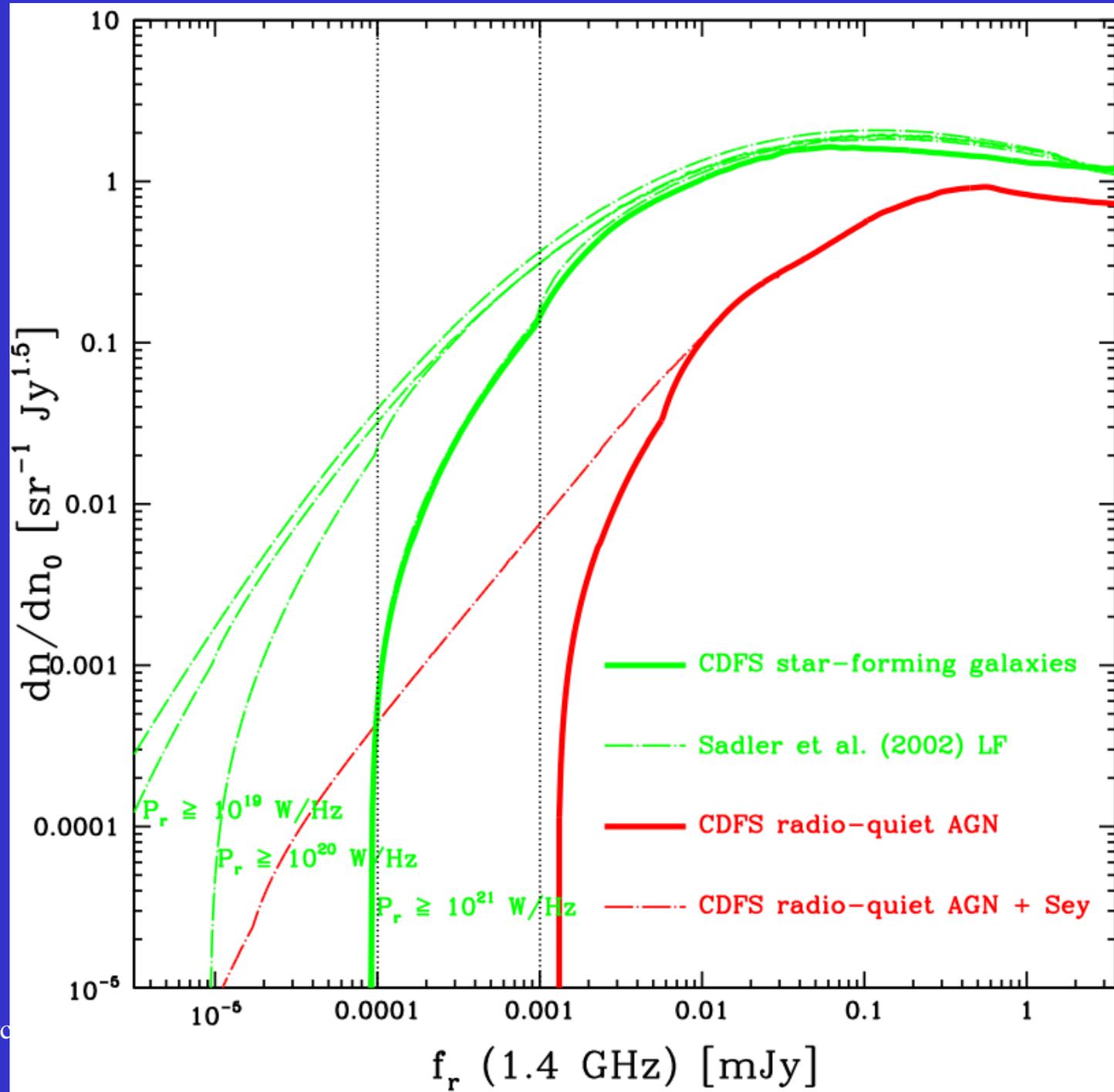
FIG. 10

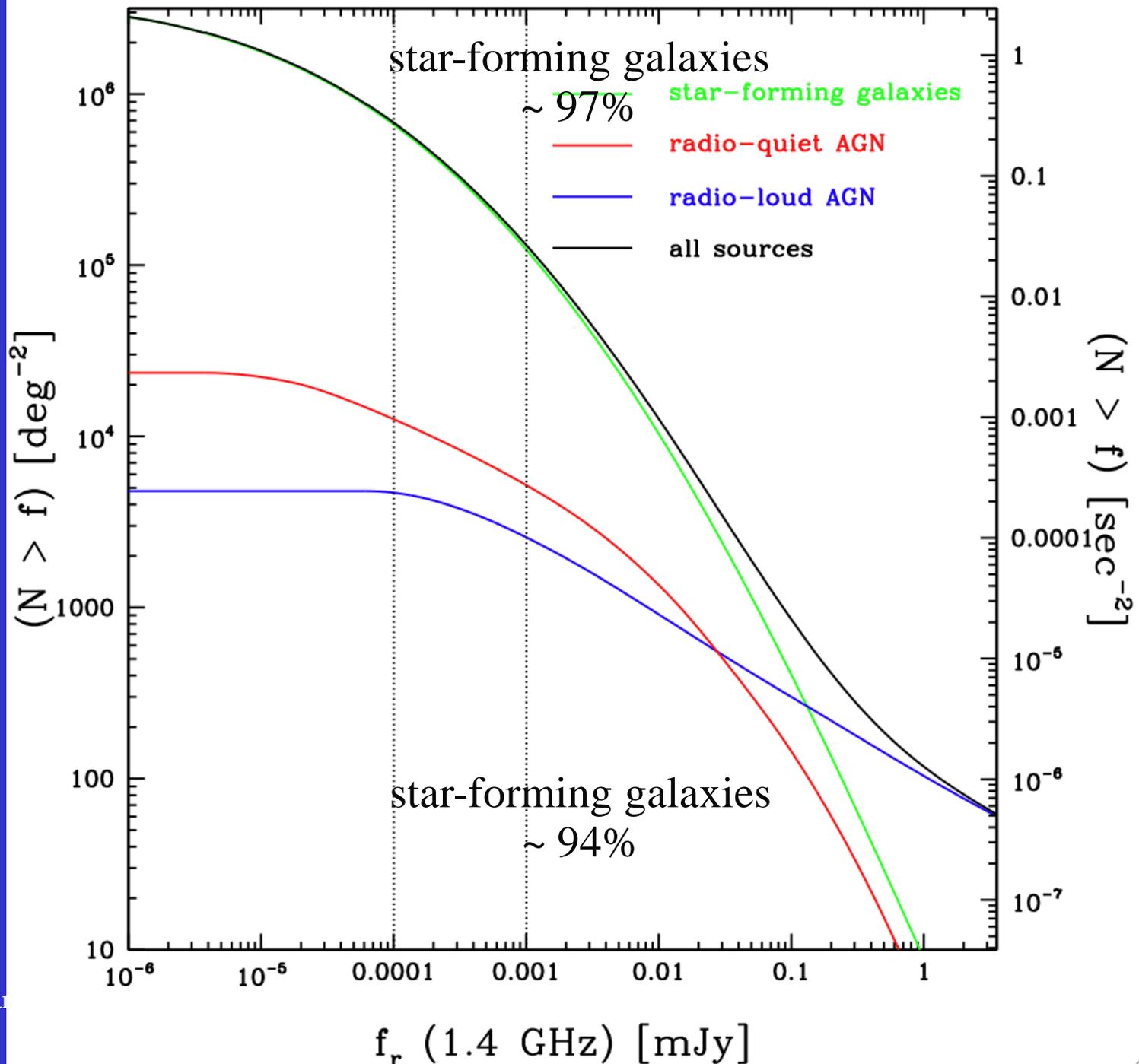
FIG. 9.—The local radio luminosity functions at  $\nu = 1.40$  GHz of galaxies with “starburst” (filled symbols) and “monster” (open symbols) energy sources. Abscissa: log luminosity ( $\text{W Hz}^{-1}$ ). Ordinate: log density ( $\text{mag}^{-1} \text{Mpc}^{-3}$ ).

FIG. 10.—The local radio visibility functions at  $\nu = 1.40$  GHz of galaxies with “starburst” (filled symbols) and “monster” (open symbols) energy sources. Abscissa: log luminosity ( $\text{W Hz}^{-1}$ ). Ordinate: log visibility ( $\text{Jy}^{3/2}$ ).

Condon 1989

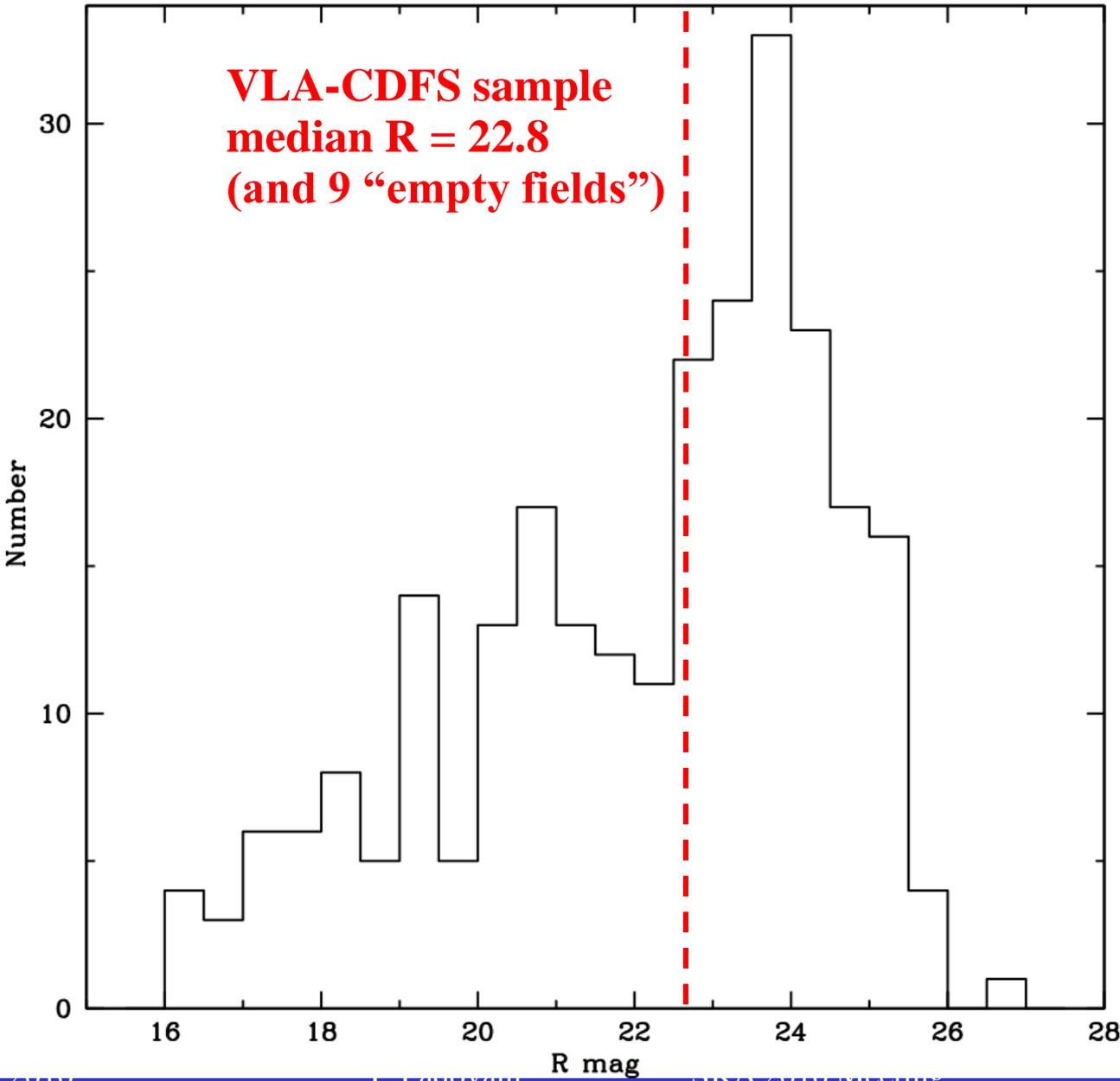








**VLA-CDFS sample  
median R = 22.8  
(and 9 “empty fields”)**



. (2009)

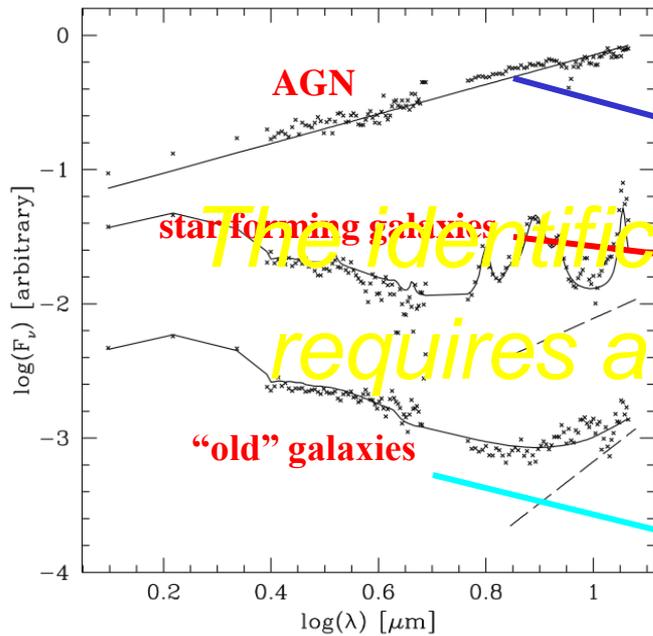
3000

6000

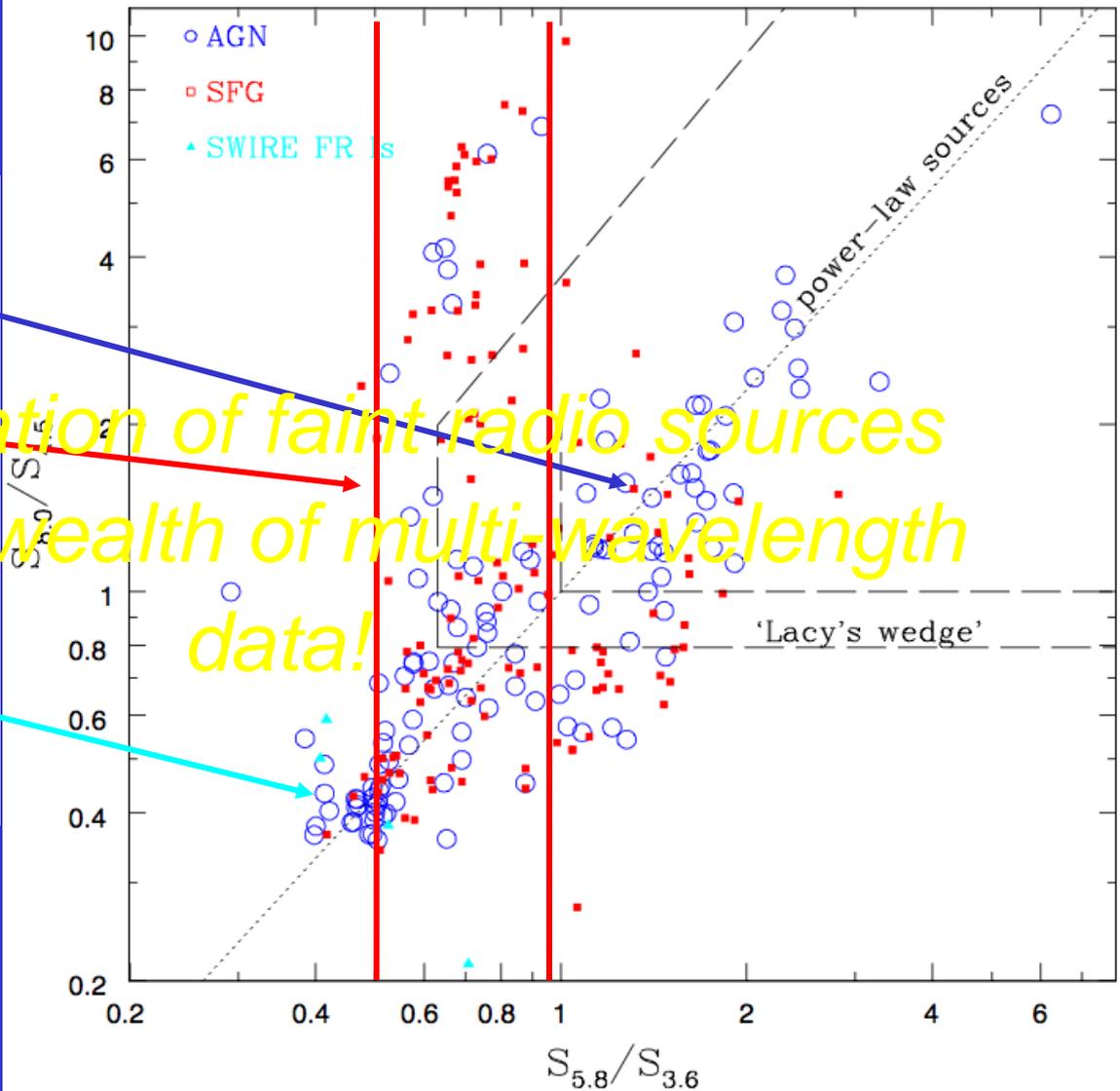
# Selecting star-forming galaxies (SFG) candidates

1. SFGs (at  $z \approx 1$ ) are typically **NOT** hosted by **ellipticals or lenticulars** → *optical morphology*
2. SFGs have relatively low radio powers [locally  $P_r < 10^{24}$  W/Hz]:  $P_r < 10^{24.5}$  W/Hz → *spectra or photometric redshifts*
3. SFGs have relatively low radio-to-optical luminosity ratios [locally  $R = \log(P_r/L_{\text{opt}}) < 1.4$ ]:  $R < 1.7$  → *optical data*
4. SFGs have relatively low X-ray powers:  $L_x < 10^{42}$  erg/s → *X-ray data (vital to separate SFGs from AGN)*

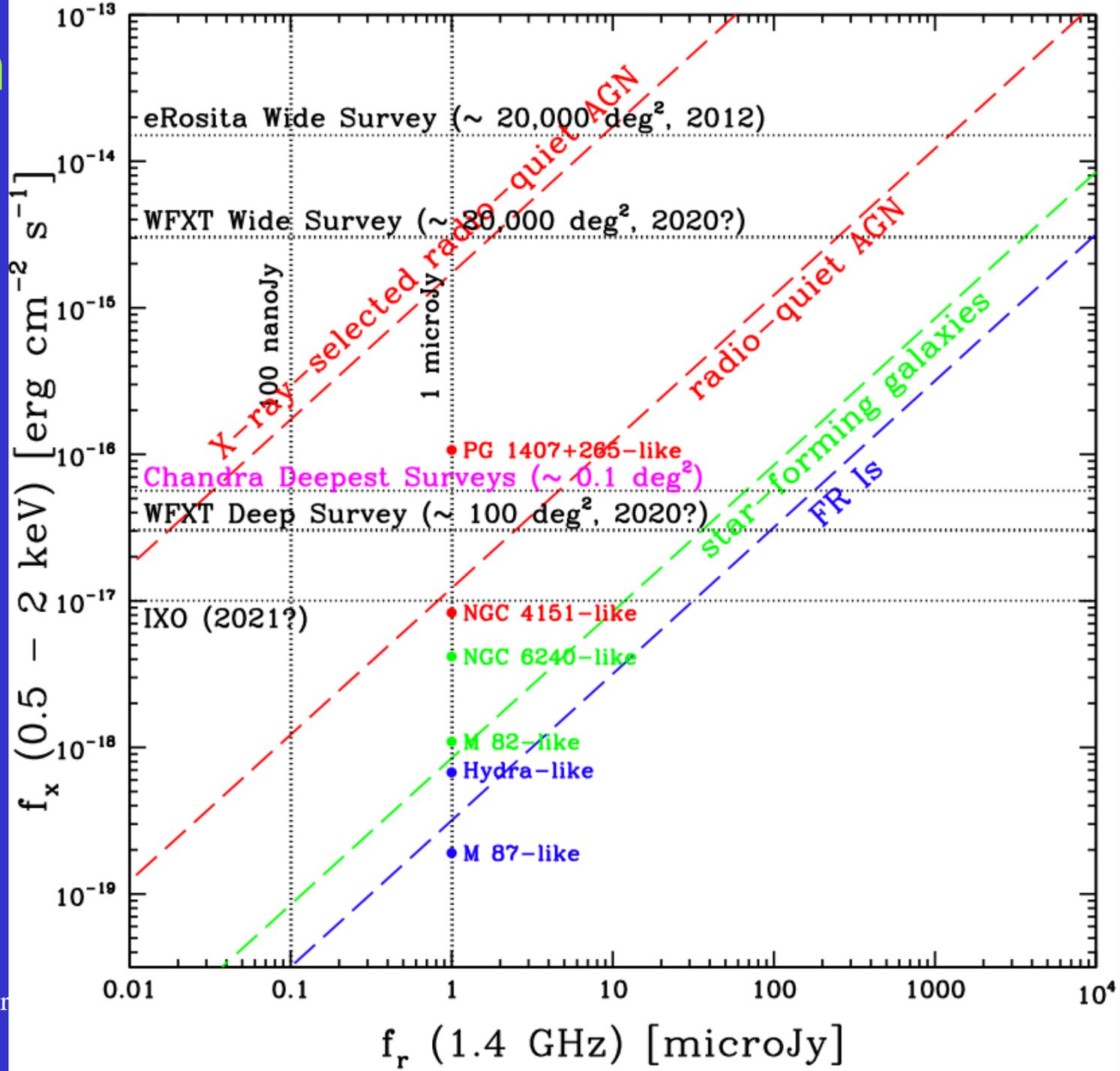
# Selecting star-forming galaxies (SFG)

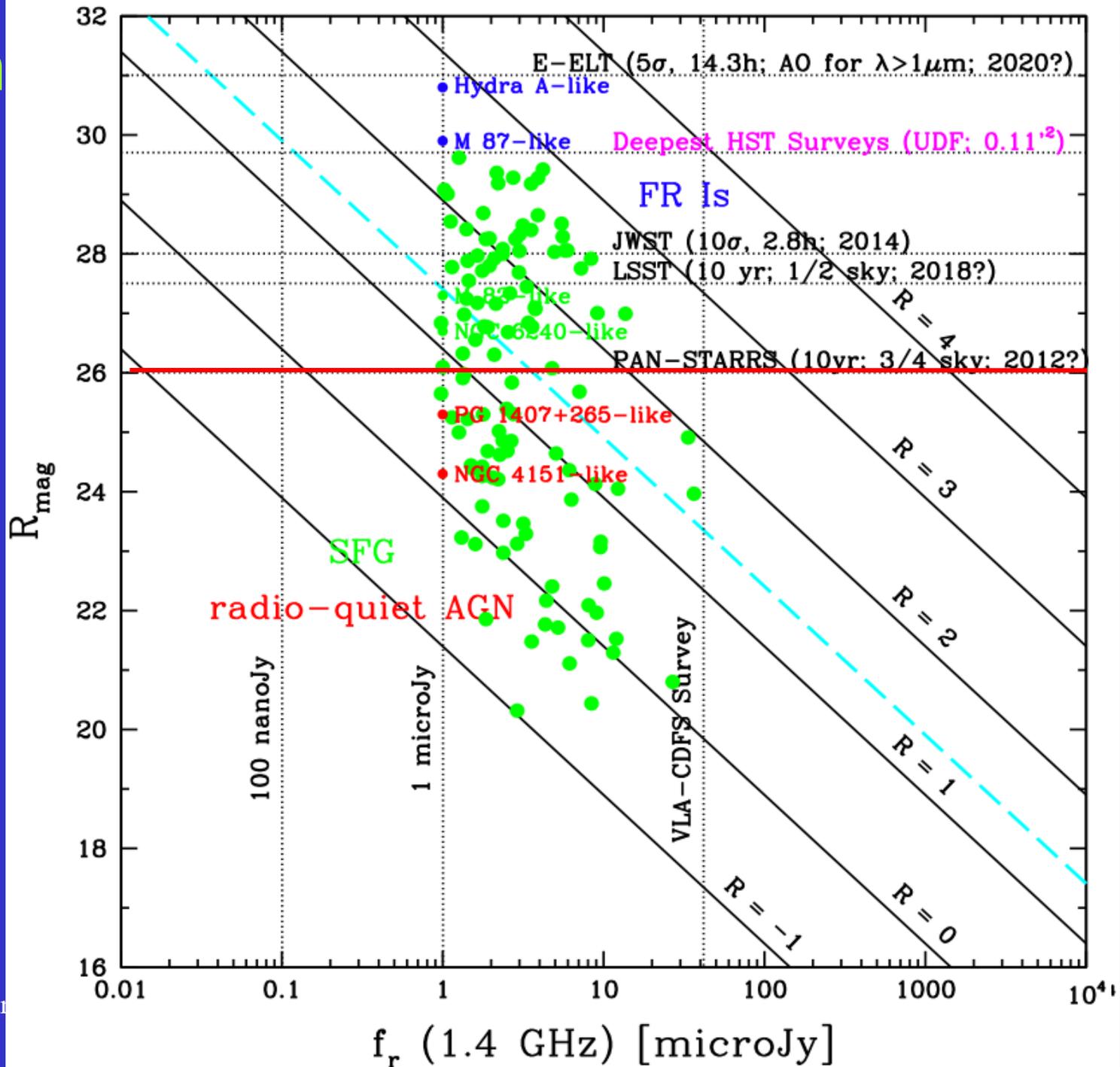


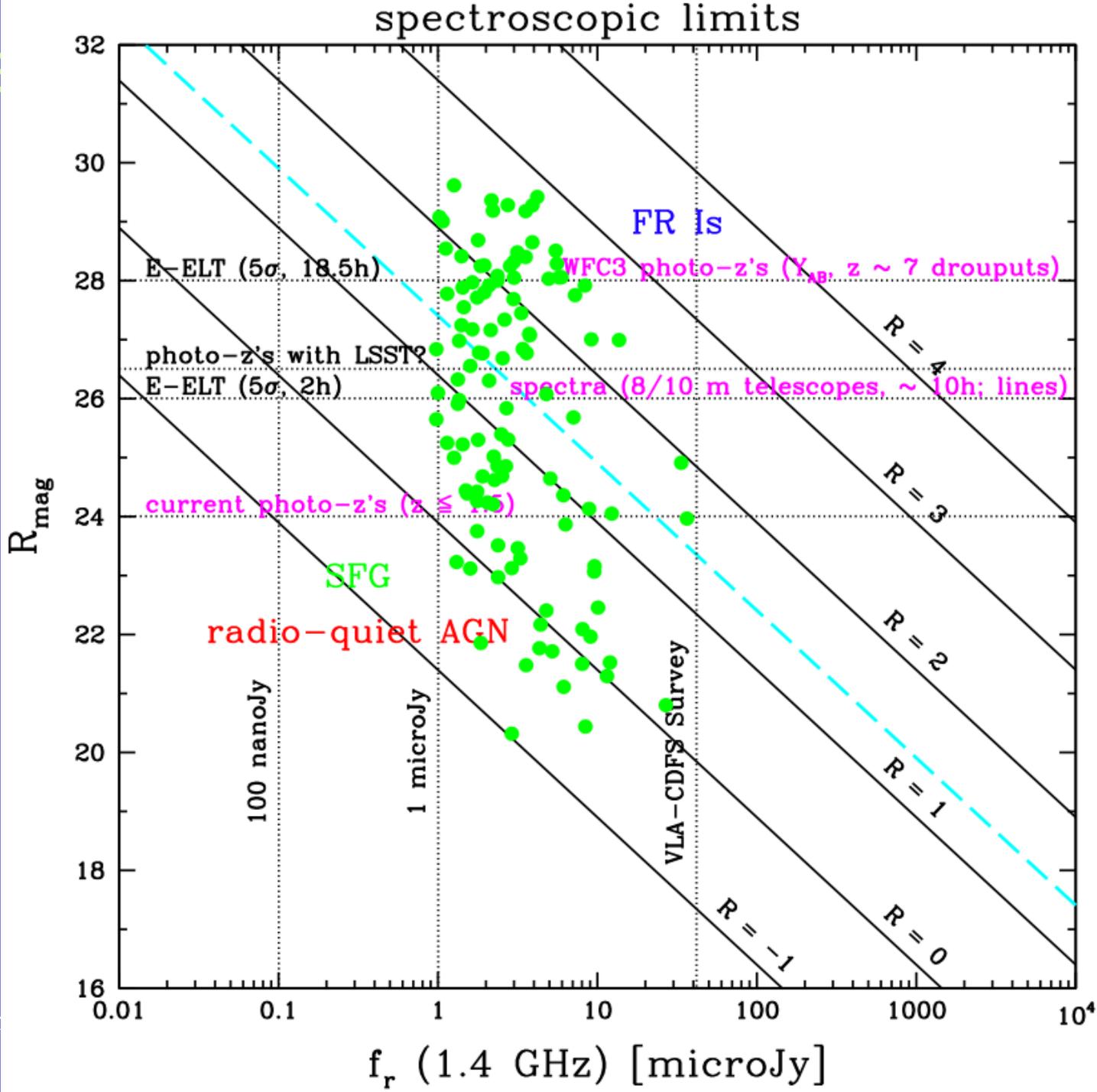
*The identification of faint radio sources requires a wealth of multi-wavelength data!*

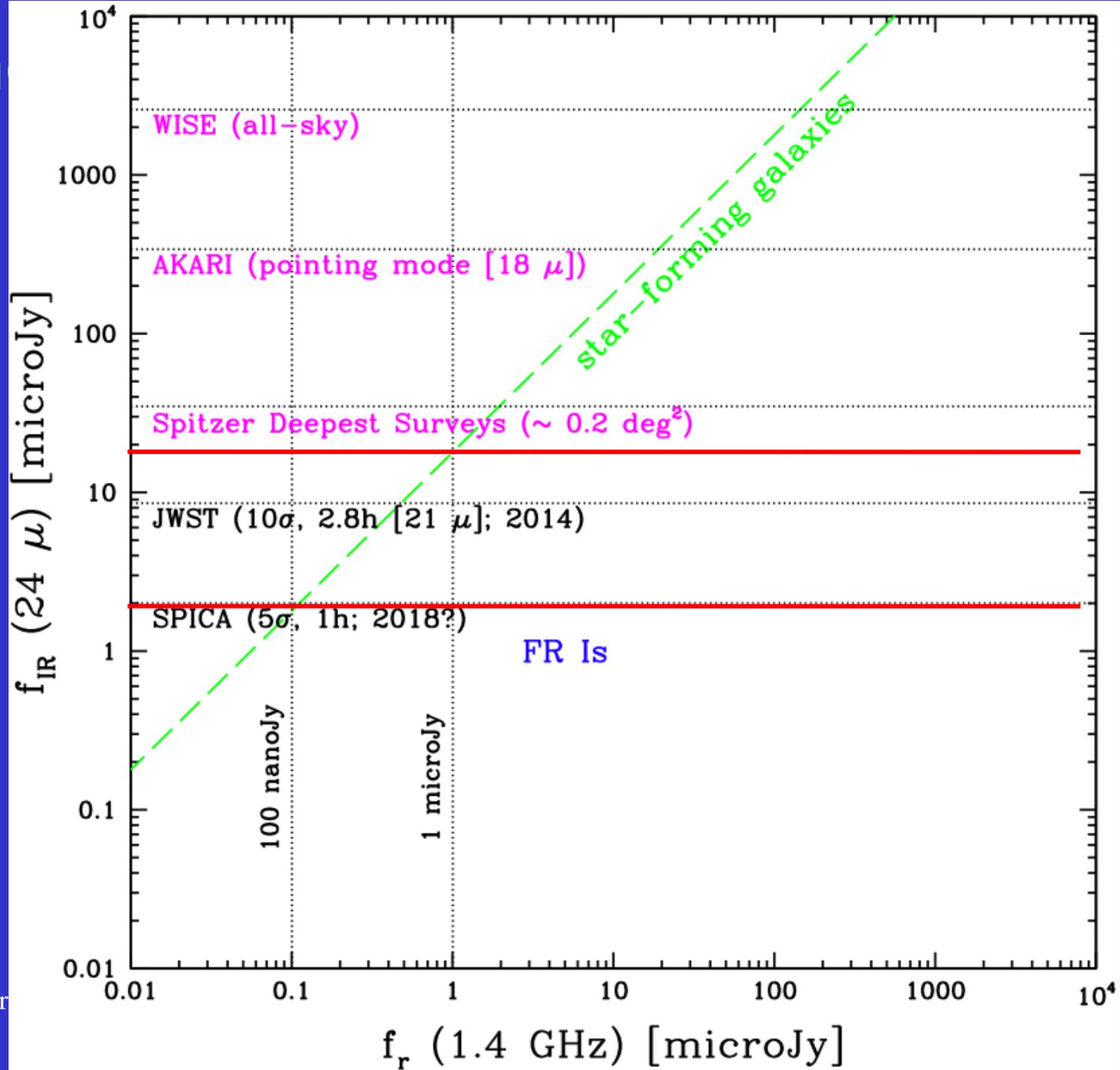


**Sajina et al. 2005**  
**(also: Lacy et al. 2004,**  
**Stern et al. 2005, and**  
**others)**









# Summary

Q. Which type of sources will SKA see at micro-Jy and nano-Jy flux densities?

A. SFGs, FR Is, and radio-quiet AGN; *plus* dwarf galaxies and low-power ( $P < 10^{21}$  W/Hz) ellipticals, which are *not* included in current models

Q. How many of them and how faint?

A. At least  $10^5/\text{deg}^2$  above 1  $\mu\text{Jy}$  and  $7 \cdot 10^5/\text{deg}^2$  above 100 nJy. Dwarfs and SFGs *should* be the most numerous classes, followed by low-power ellipticals (reaching, with radio-quiet AGN, below 0.1 nJy)

# Summary (continued)

Q. Which multi-wavelength properties will they have?

A. *X-ray*: very faint!

*Optical imaging*: most  $> 1 \mu\text{Jy}$  sources should be detected by LSST (“half-sky” survey); (some) fainter sources should be detectable with long exposures by JWST/E-ELT (small areas)

*Optical spectra/redshifts*: most  $> 1 \mu\text{Jy}$  sources will be beyond the capabilities of 8/10 m telescopes (photo-z’s with LSST?); some of them will be within reach of the E-ELT

*Near Infrared*: most  $> 1 \mu\text{Jy}$  sources will be below the limits of all-sky infrared surveys; SFGs will be detectable with JWST and especially with SPICA (down to 100 nJy)

# Summary (continued)

Q. How will we identify them?

A.

- ✓ On large areas of the sky SKA will be quite “alone” in the multi-wavelength arena (with the exception of the optical band and down to  $\approx 1 \mu\text{Jy}$ ). **However, most all-sky survey sources will have an SKA counterpart!**
- ✓ JWST, the E-ELT, and SPICA will match the SKA but only above  $\approx 0.1\text{-}1 \mu\text{Jy}$  and on small areas. At the 10 nano-Jy level it’s going to be pretty lonely ...
- ➔ need to use as much radio information (HI redshifts, size, morphology, spectral index, etc.) as possible (but I think it won’t be enough ...)!