



cosmology with the massive black hole population

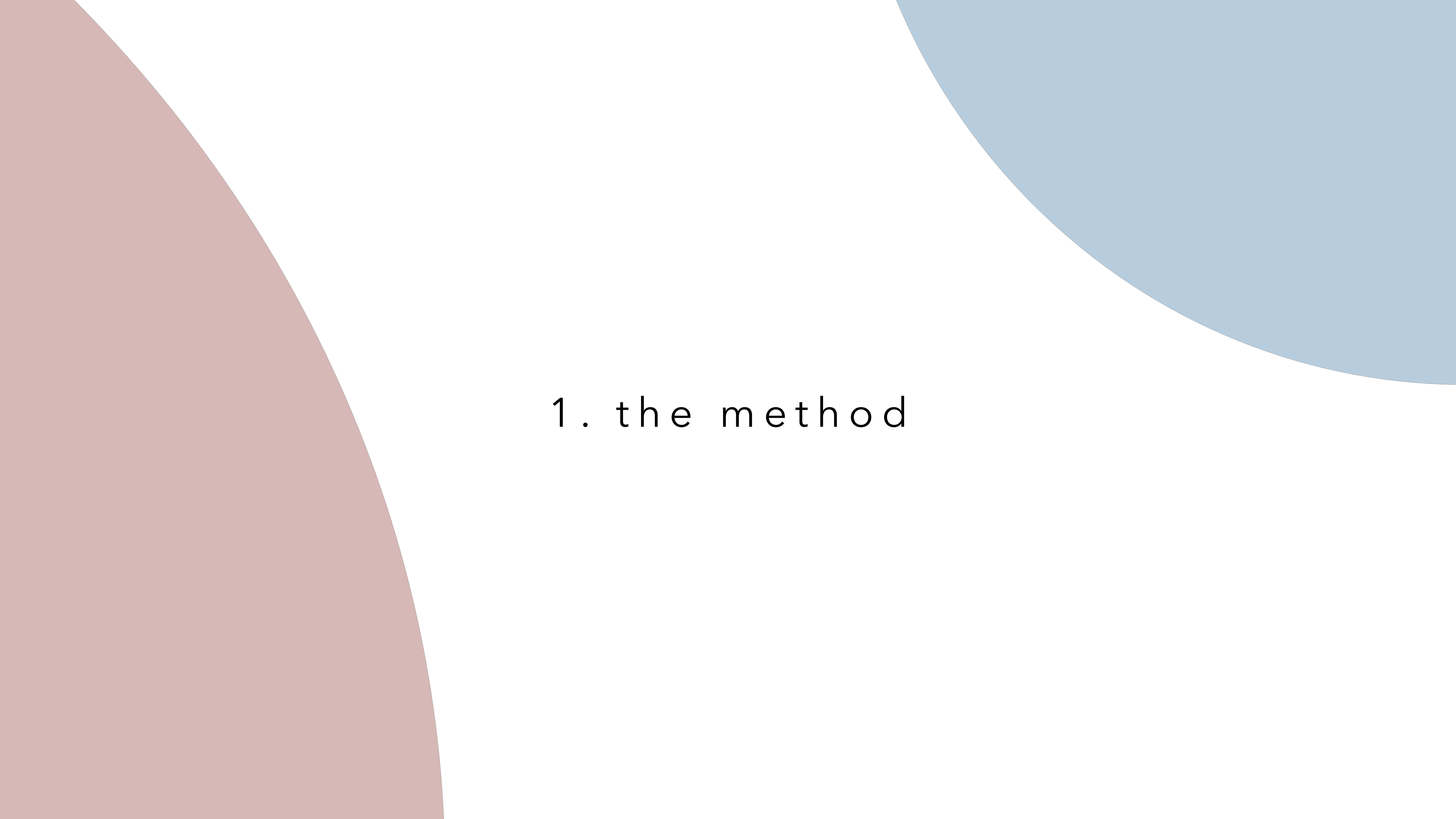
Vasco Gennari

and the LISA cosmology standard sirens group

Jun 20, 2025

Journée LISA à Toulouse, IRAP



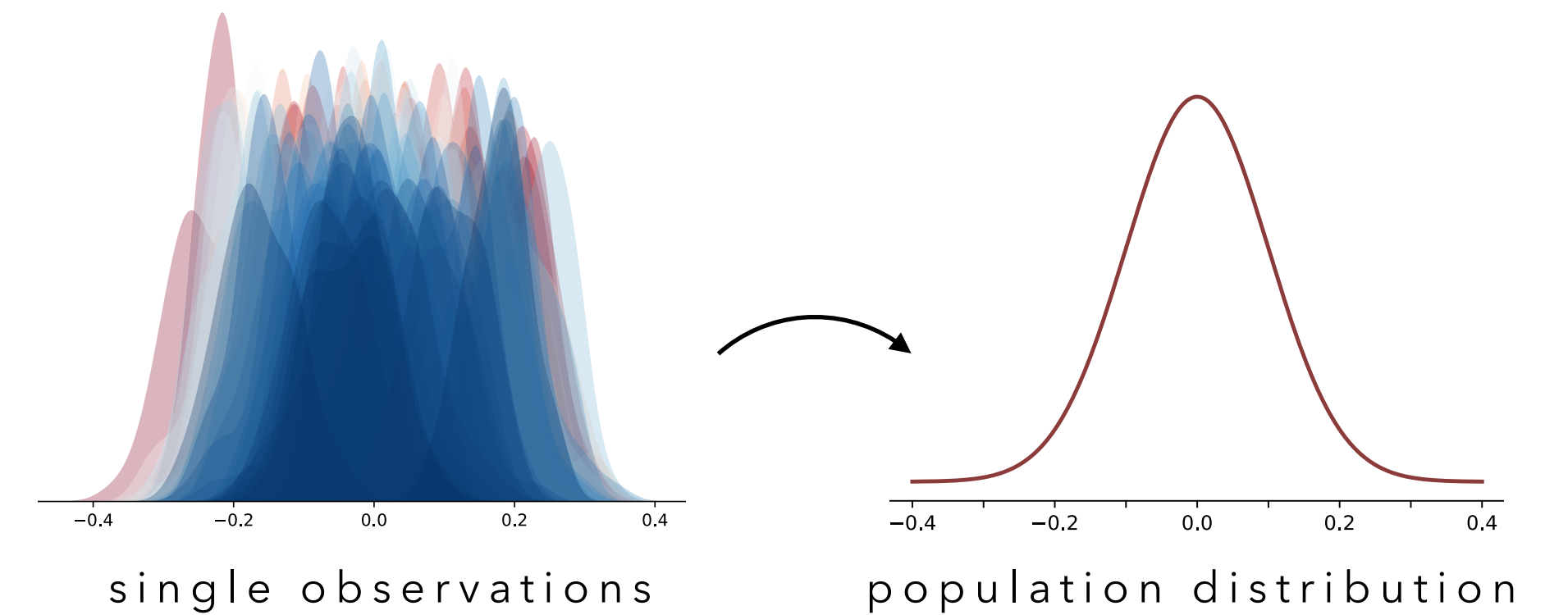


1 . t h e m e t h o d

HIERARCHICAL INFERENCE

[1809.02063, 2007.05579, 1809.03815]

combine multiple measurements to find the most likely intrinsic probability distribution from which the observed events are drawn



- we use Bayesian analysis

$$p(\textit{model} \mid \textit{data}) \longleftrightarrow p(\textit{data} \mid \textit{model})$$

functional form
for the BH
distribution

GW events
to be
combined

$$p(\mathbf{\Lambda} \mid \{\mathbf{d}\}) \propto \mathcal{L}_H(\{\mathbf{d}\} \mid \mathbf{\Lambda}) p(\mathbf{\Lambda})$$

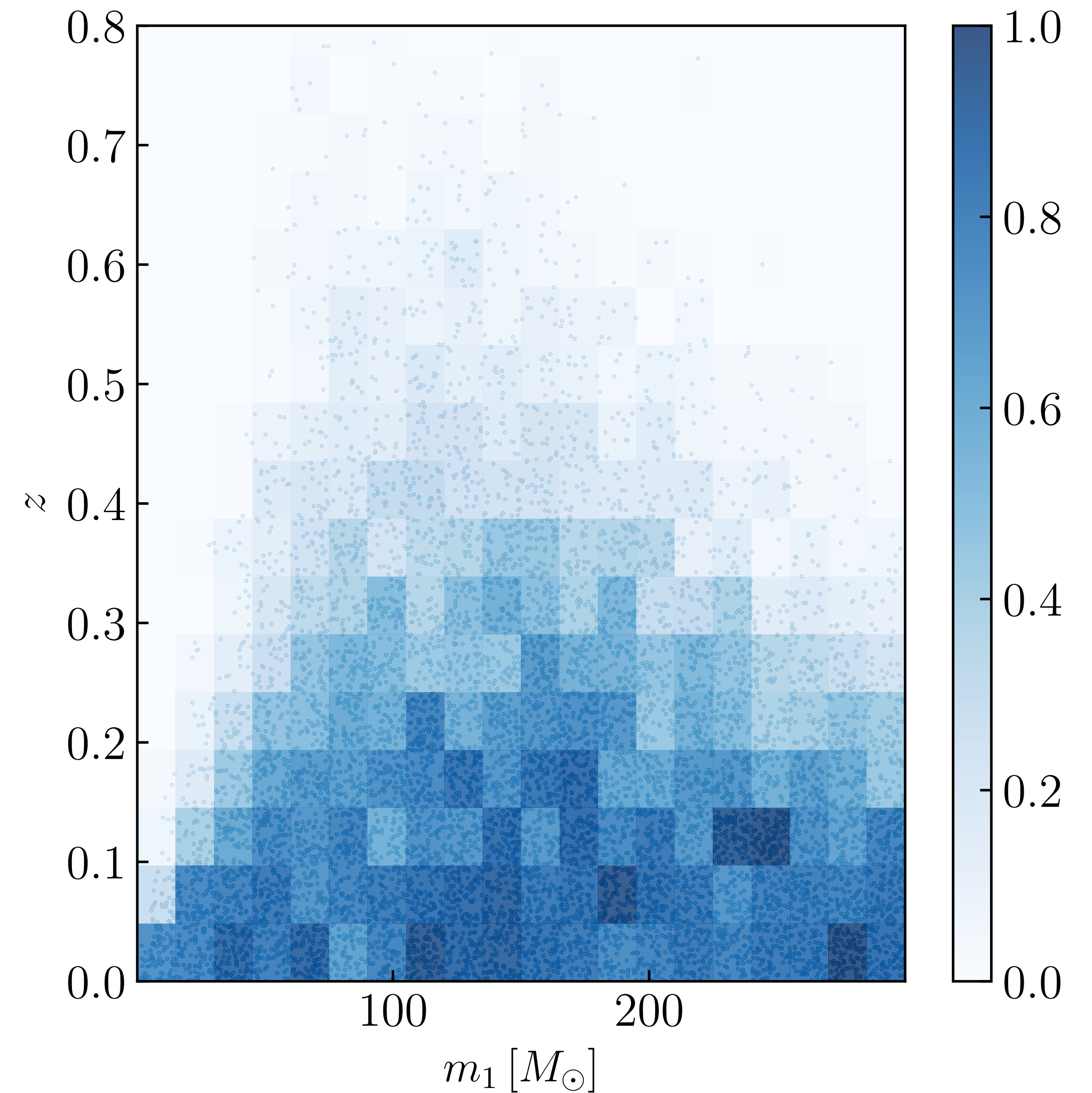
posterior

(hierarchical)
likelihood

prior

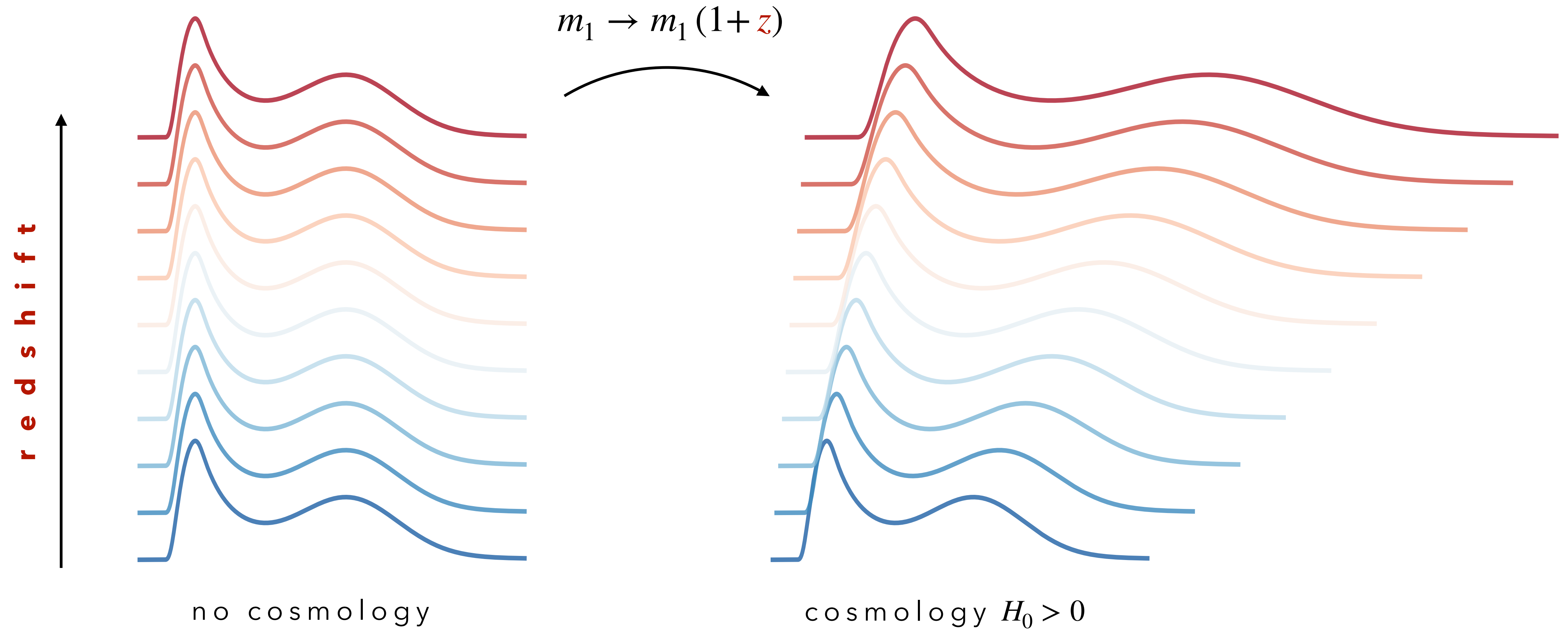
COMPLICATIONS

- our detector is not perfect
 - measurement uncertainty
 - selection effects
- we aim at reconstructing the *astrophysical distribution*
 - source frame distribution (not known in advance!)



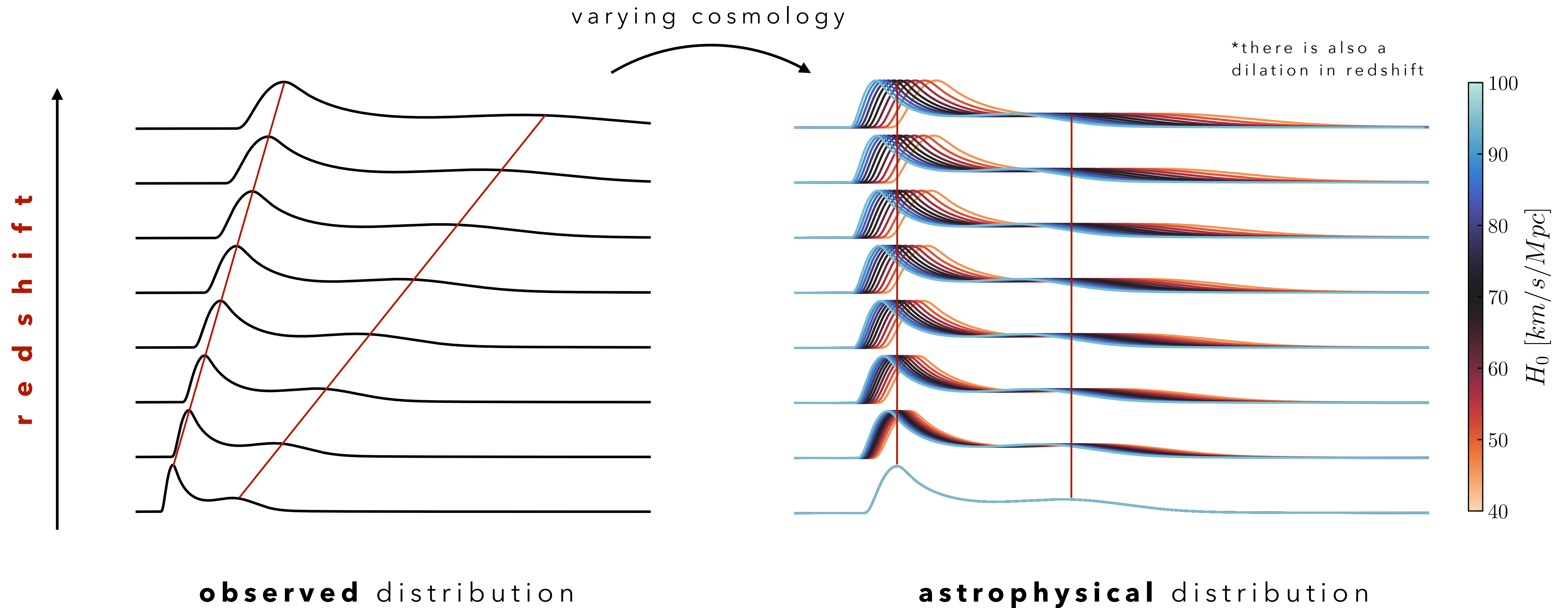
COSMOLOGY

*observed masses are **redshifted** because of cosmology*



SPECTRAL SIRENS

we can infer cosmology from the the population features



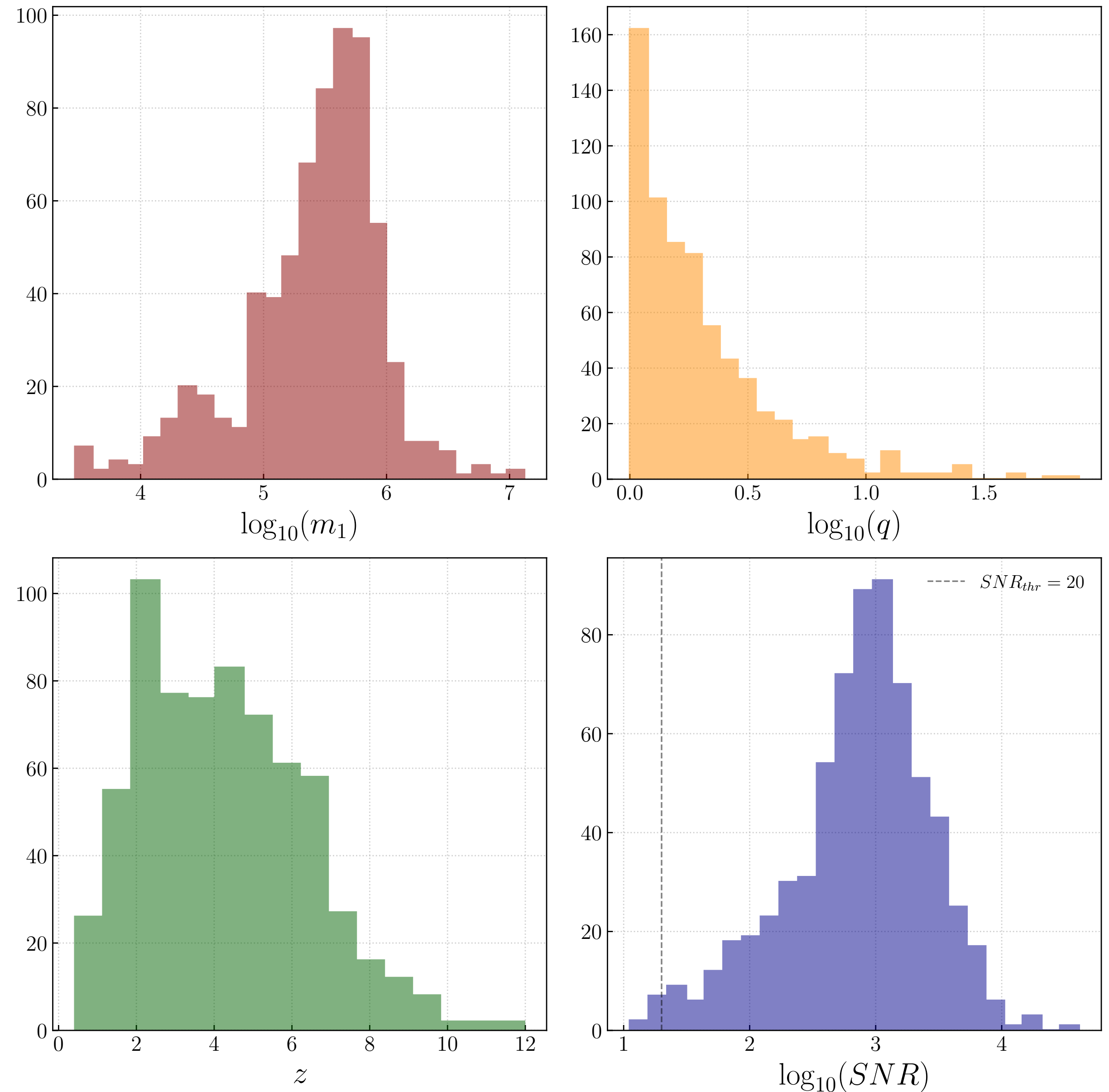


2. the catalog

THE Q3d CATALOG

- ~**700** events for 90yrs of LISA
- ~**30** events for a 4yrs mission
- masses spanning large range
- events up to very high redshift

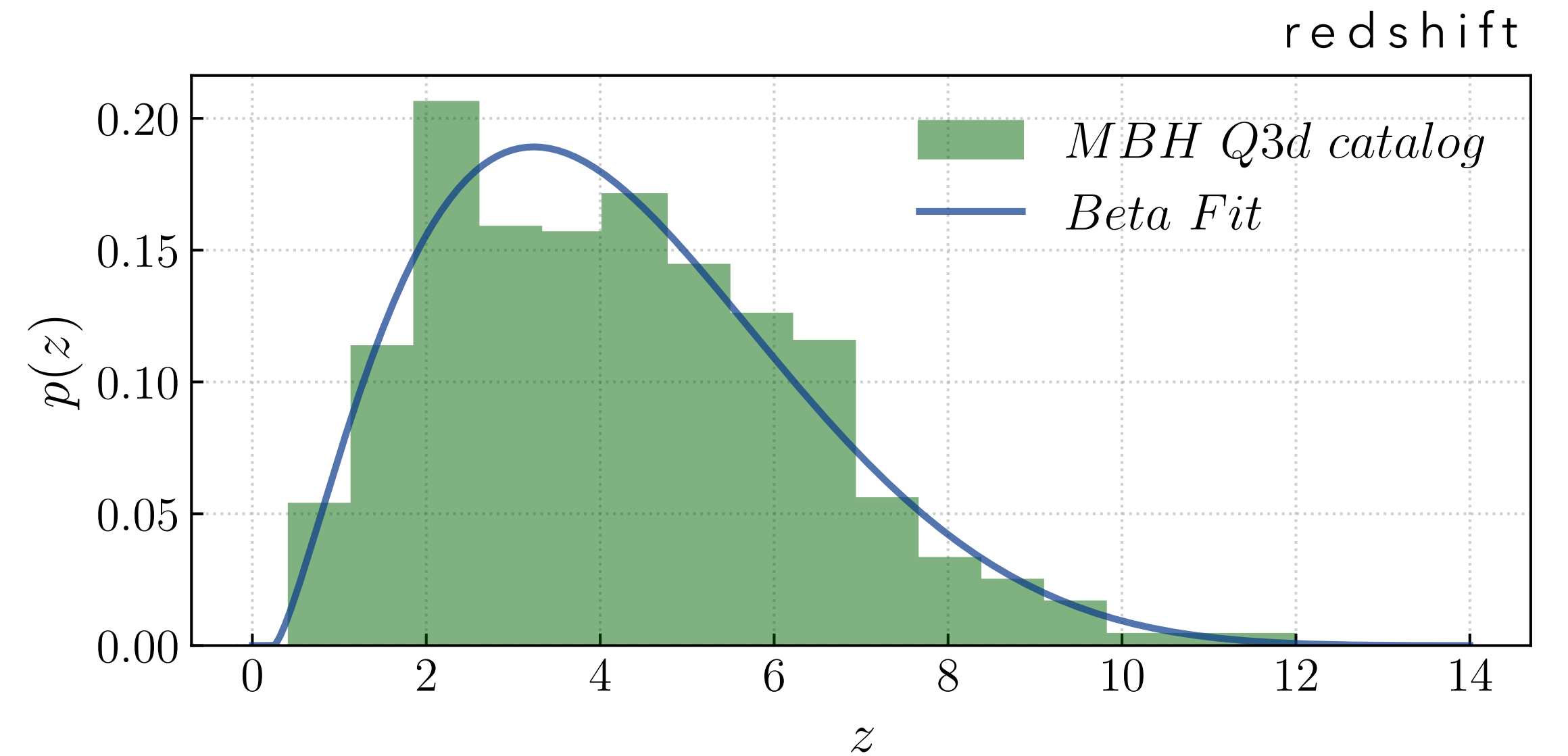
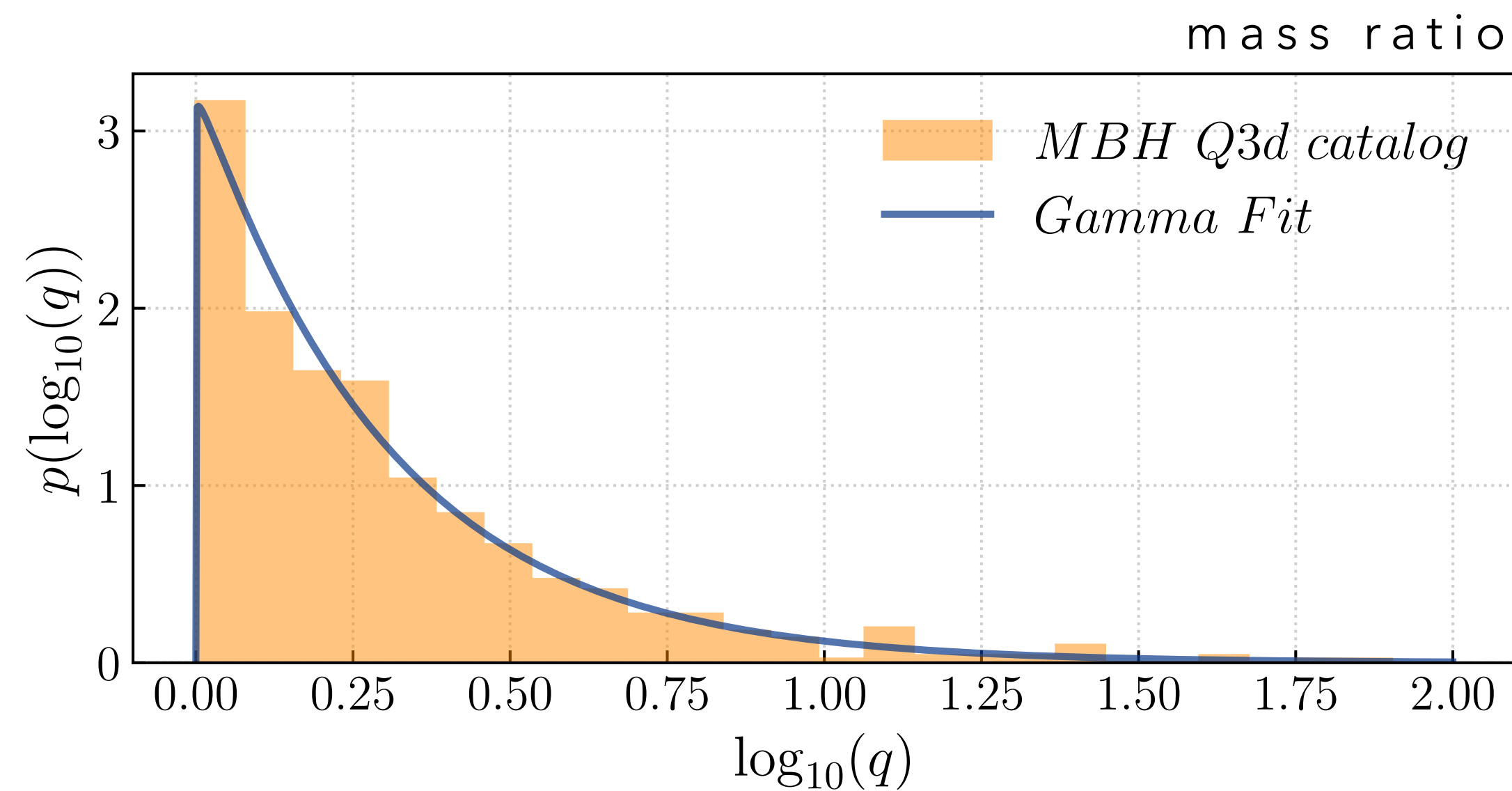
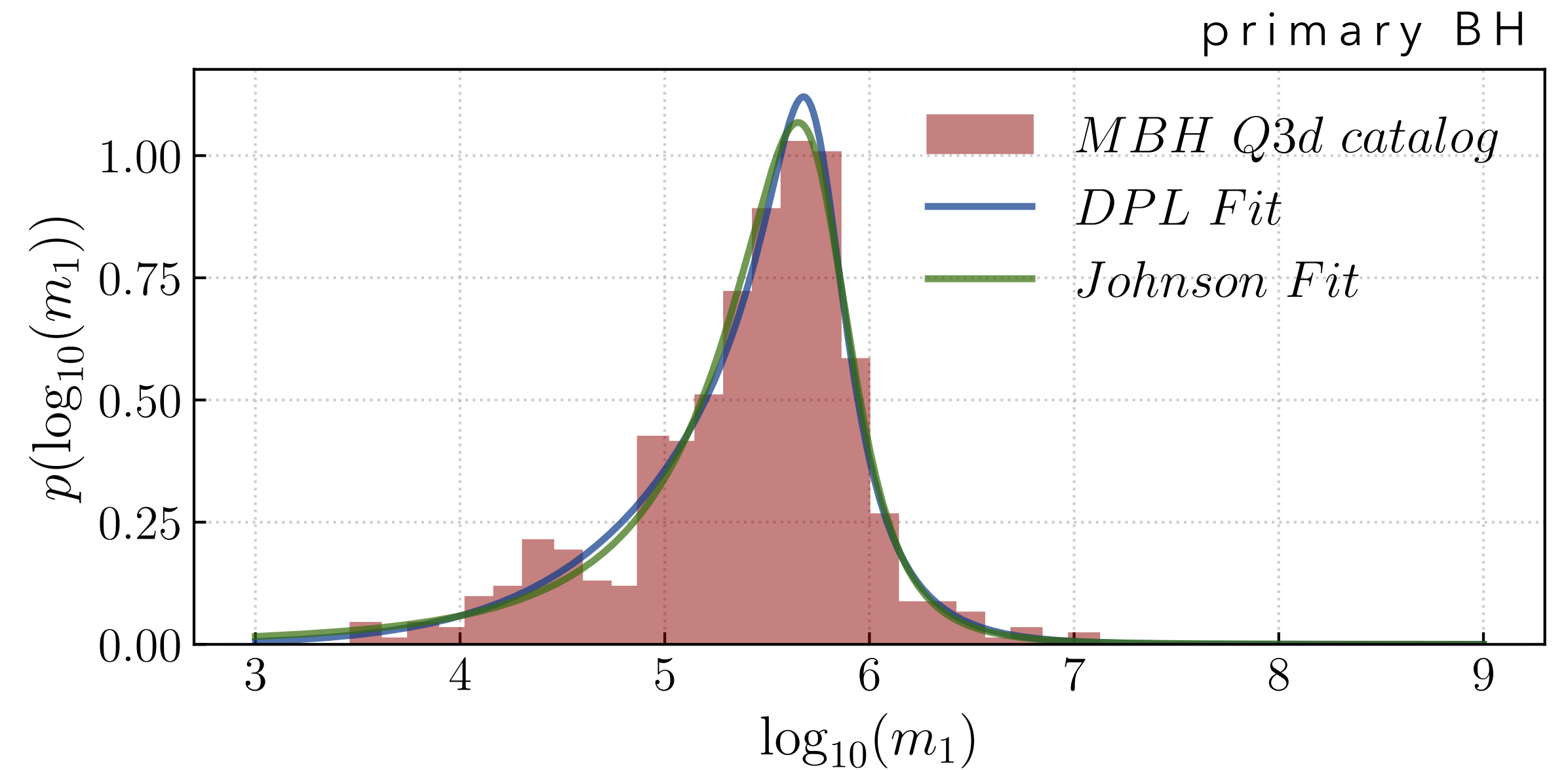
- hierarchical inference
 - well measured parameters
 - almost **no selection effects**
- (only 12 events with $\text{SNR} < 20$)



CHOOSING THE MODEL 1D fits of the data

need to find a suitable parametrization for the data

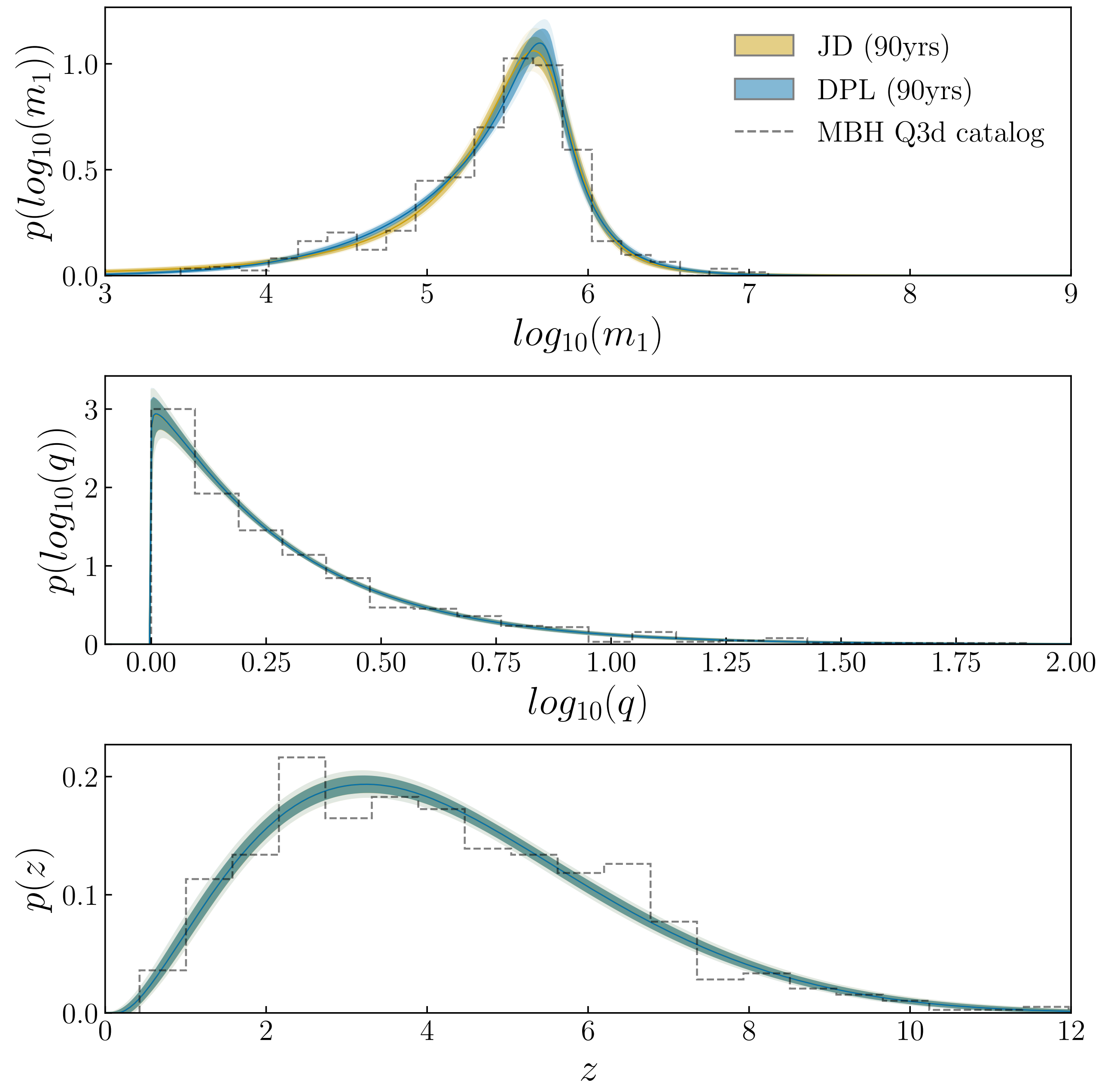
- don't know the model in advance
- it will never be perfect



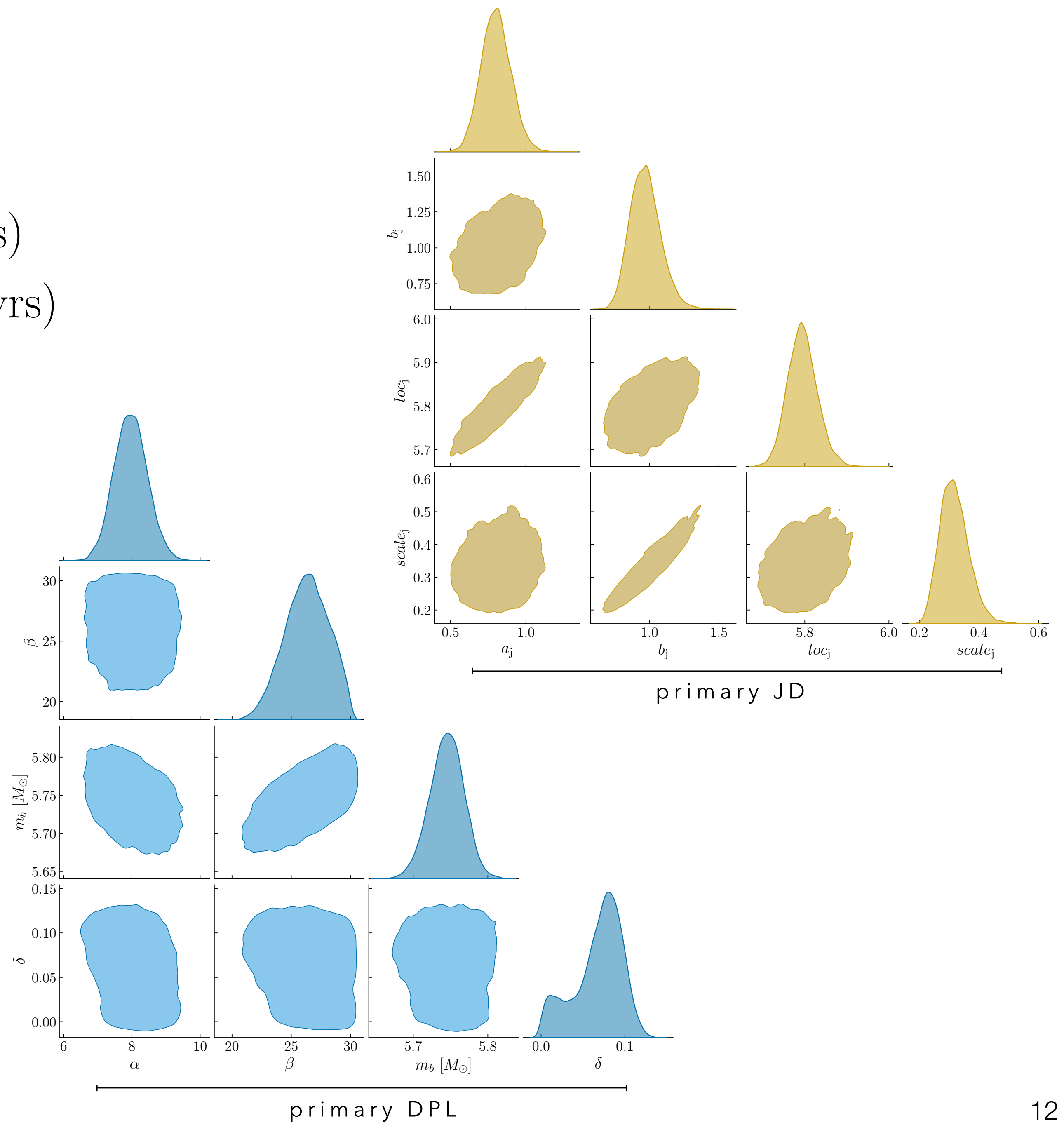
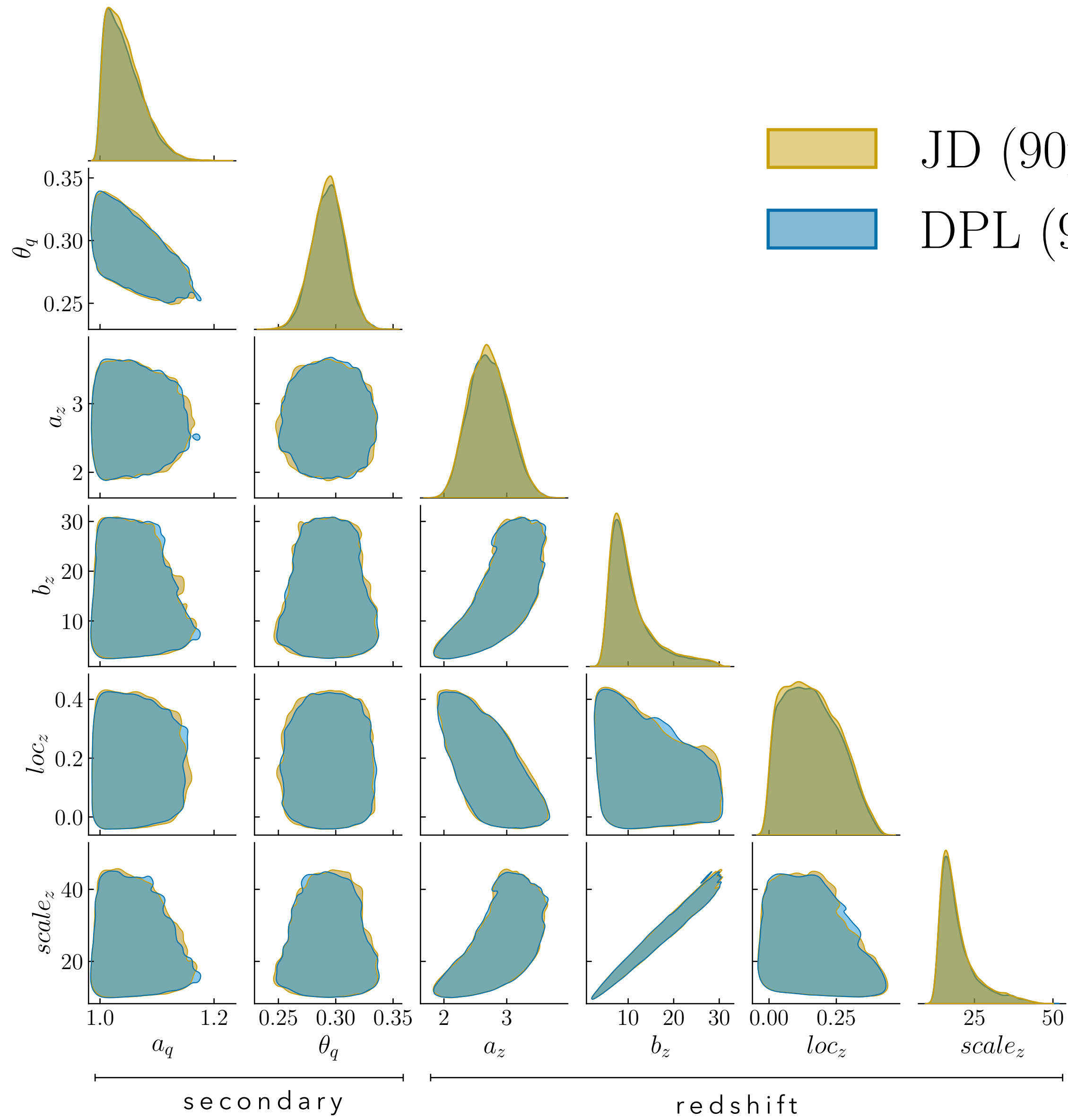
3. the inference

Q3d INFERENCE 90yrs

- reconstructed distributions agree with data
- population parameters agree with 1-dimensional fits
- posteriors well measured

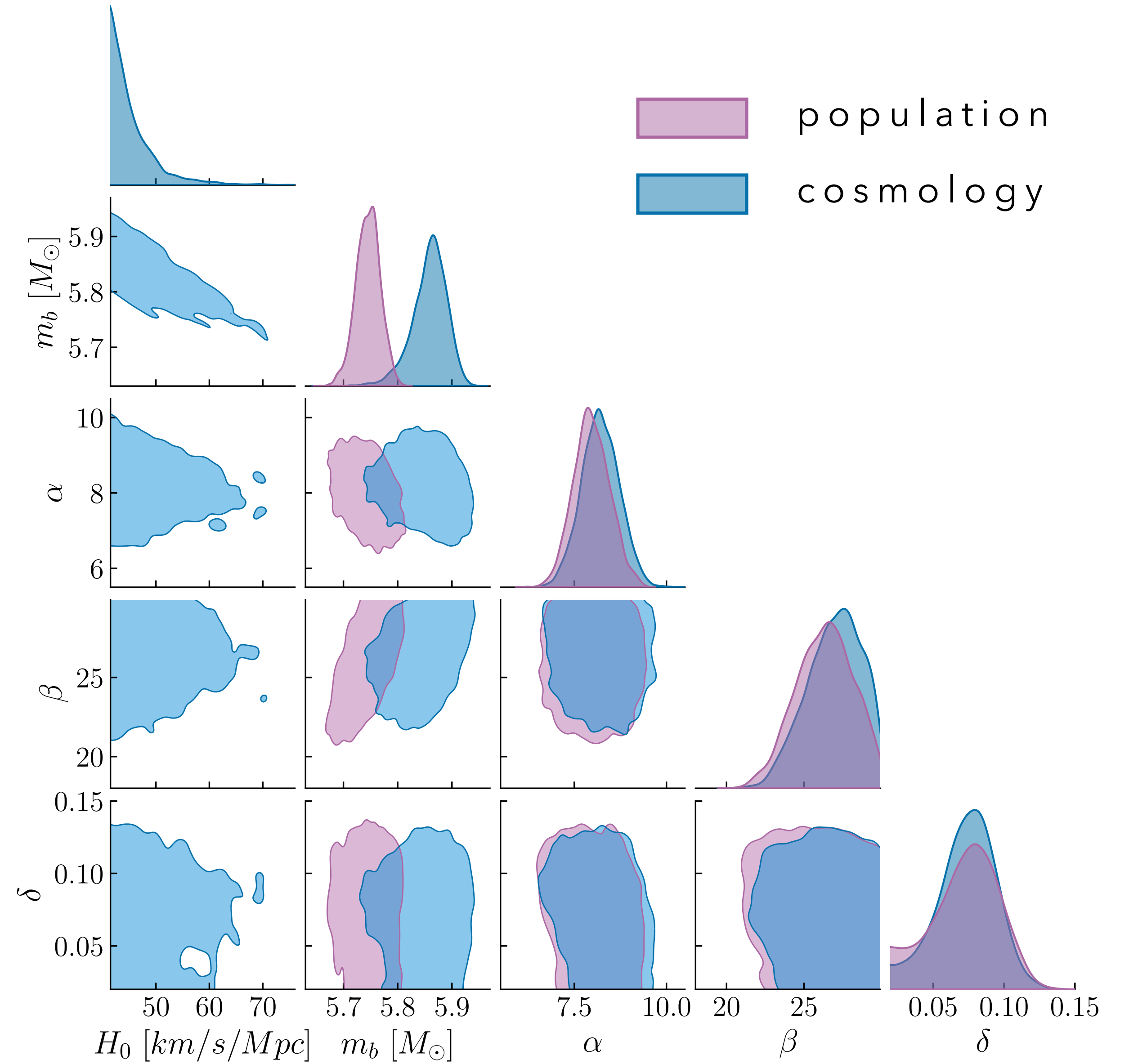
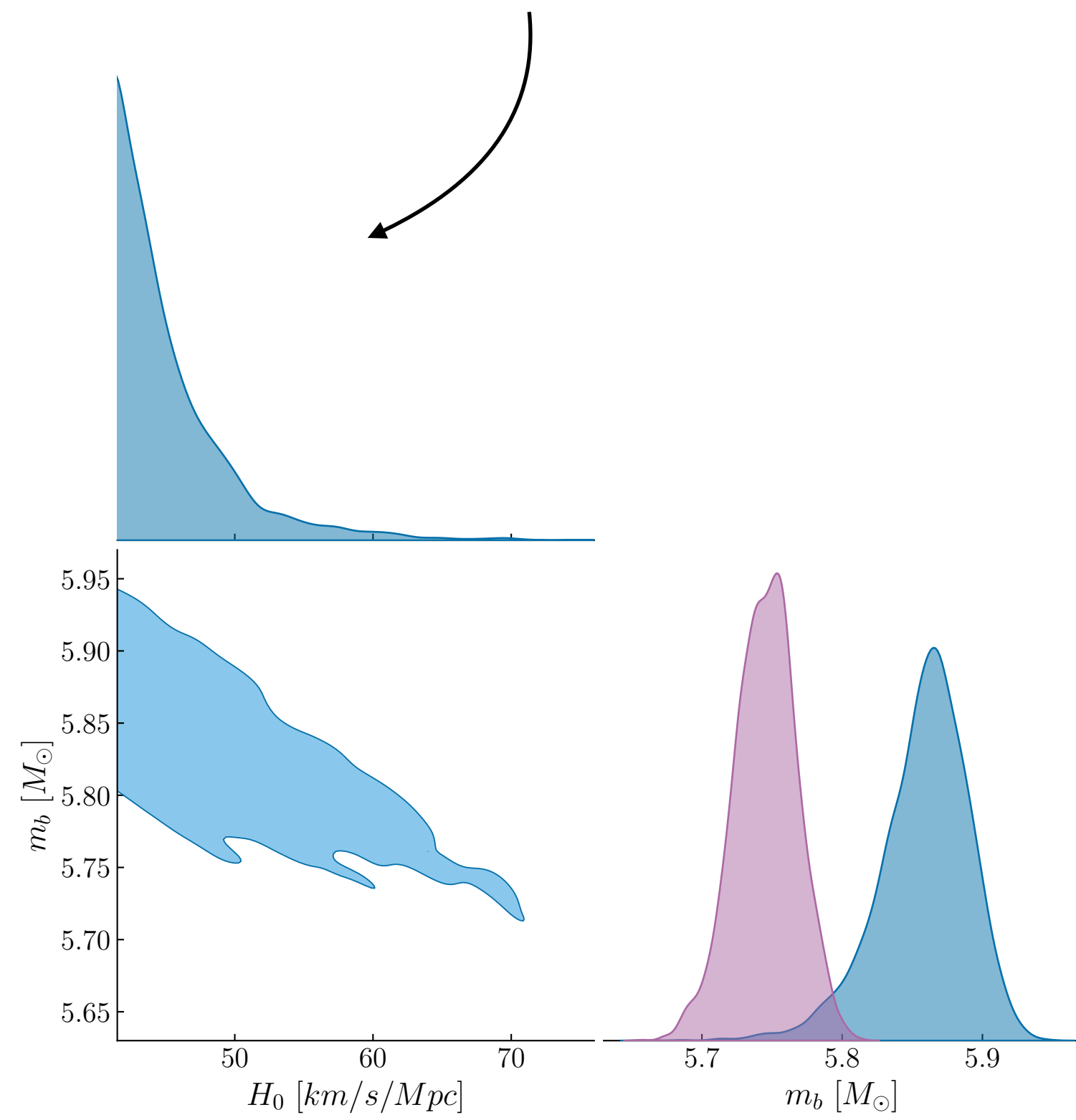


Q3d INFERENCE 90yrs



COSMOLOGY?

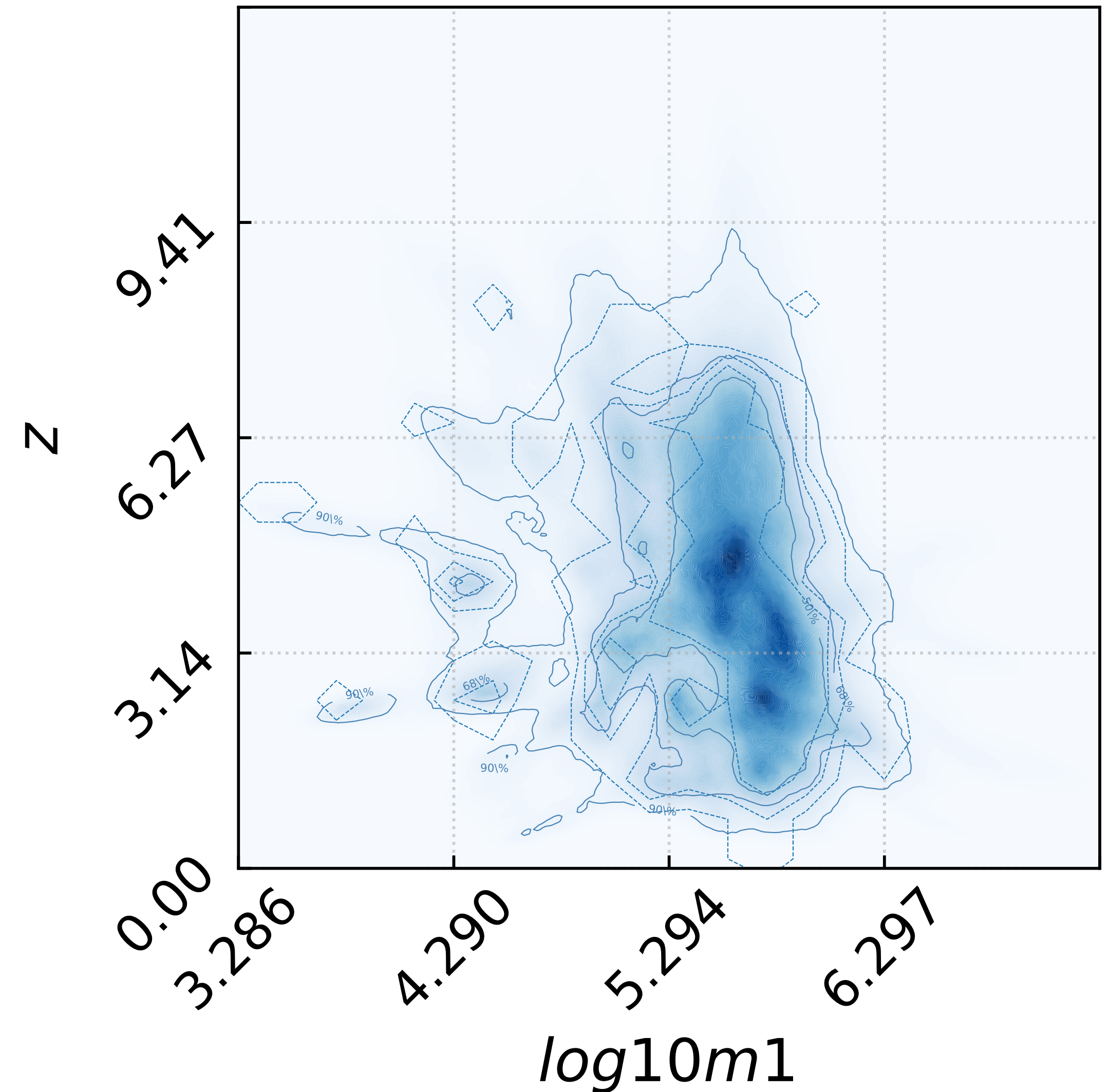
H0 railing against the prior

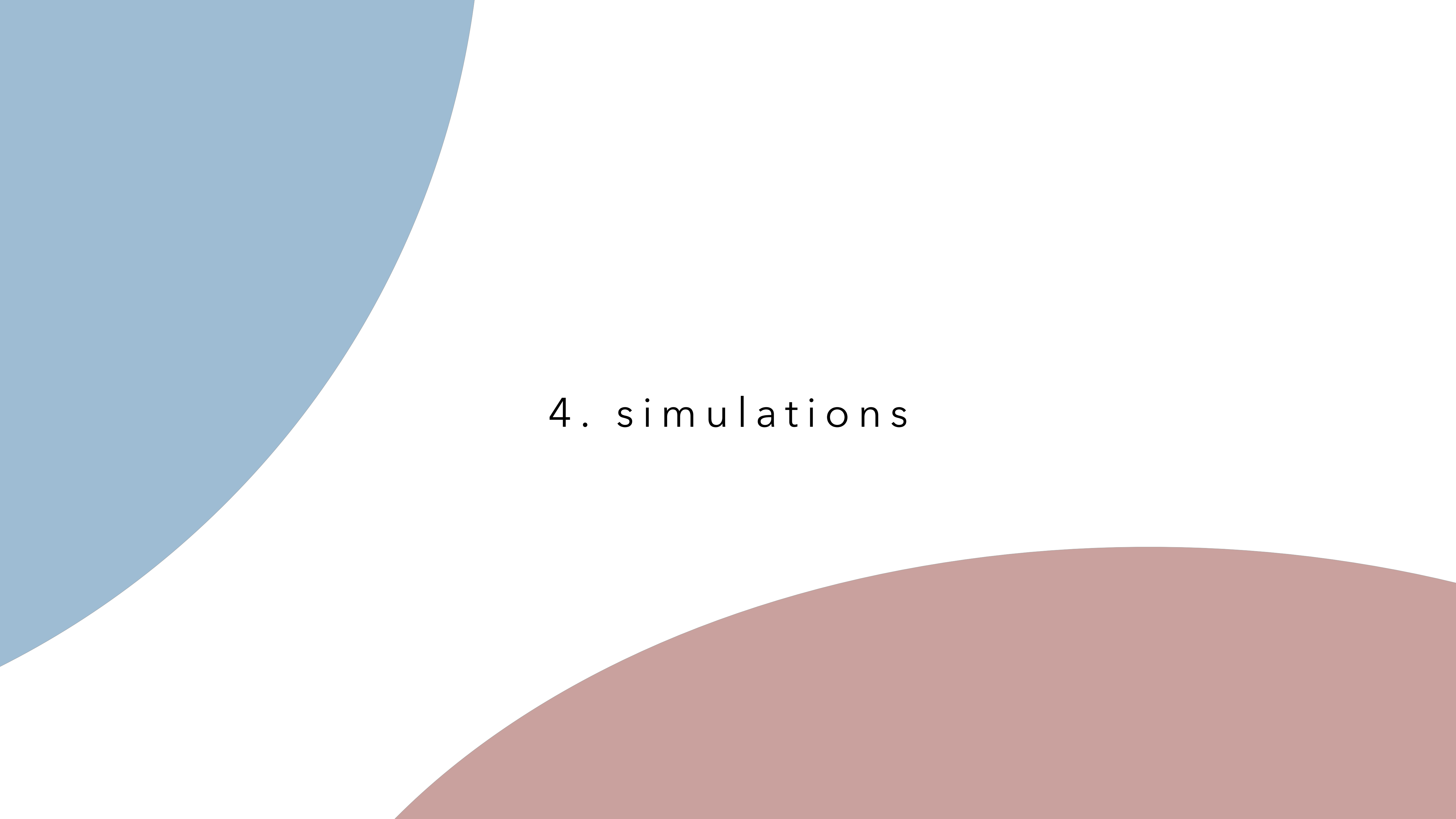


Q3d REDSHIFT EVOLUTION

nobody is perfect, especially our
parametrized model

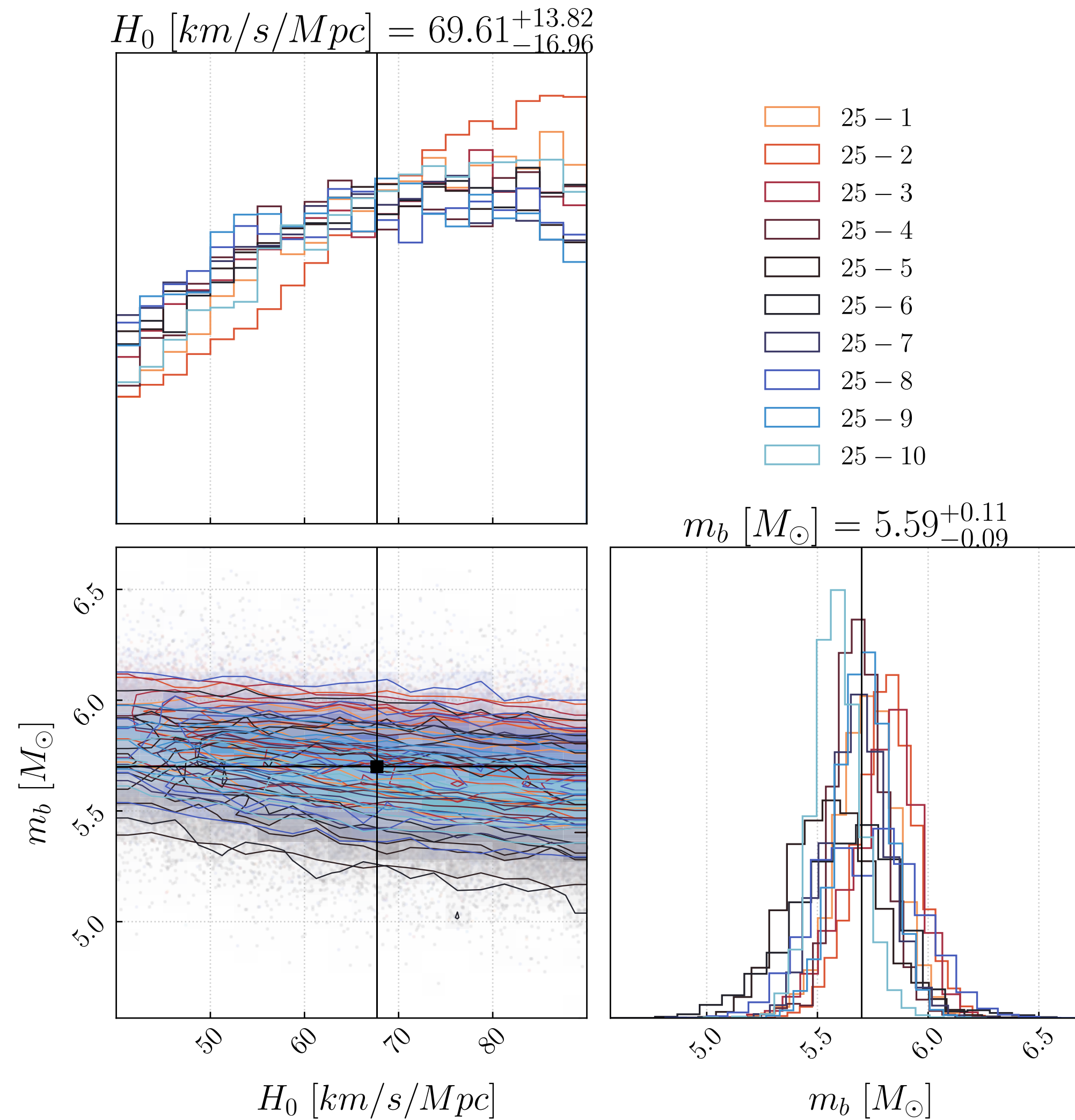
- richer unmodelled structure can
bias the inference
- probably need more flexible
methods



The background features two large, overlapping curved shapes. A blue shape is on the left, curving from the top-left towards the center. A red shape is at the bottom, curving from the bottom-left towards the right. The text is centered in the white space between these shapes.

4. simulations

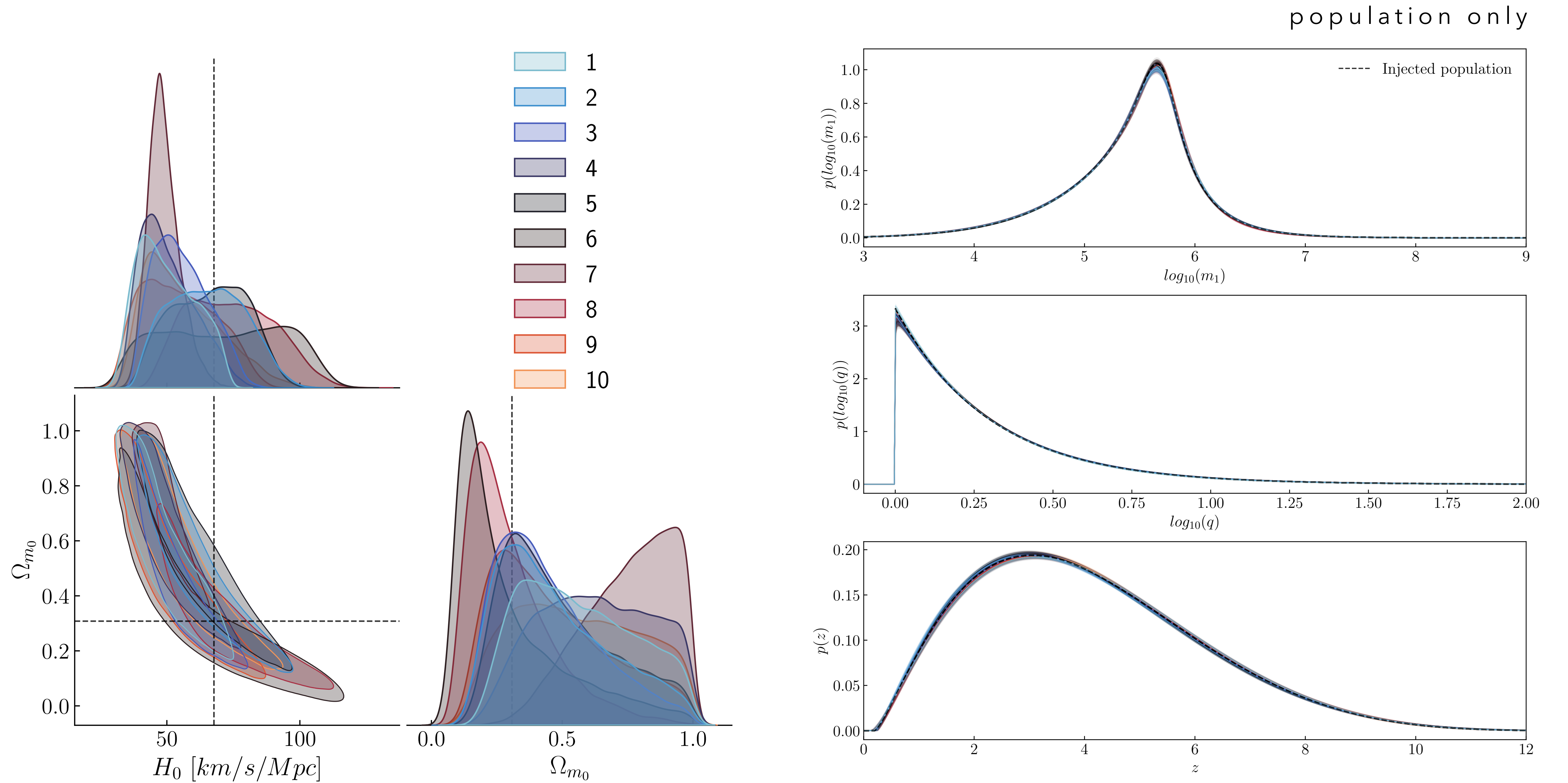
10 realizations of 4 years



uninformative constraints on H_0

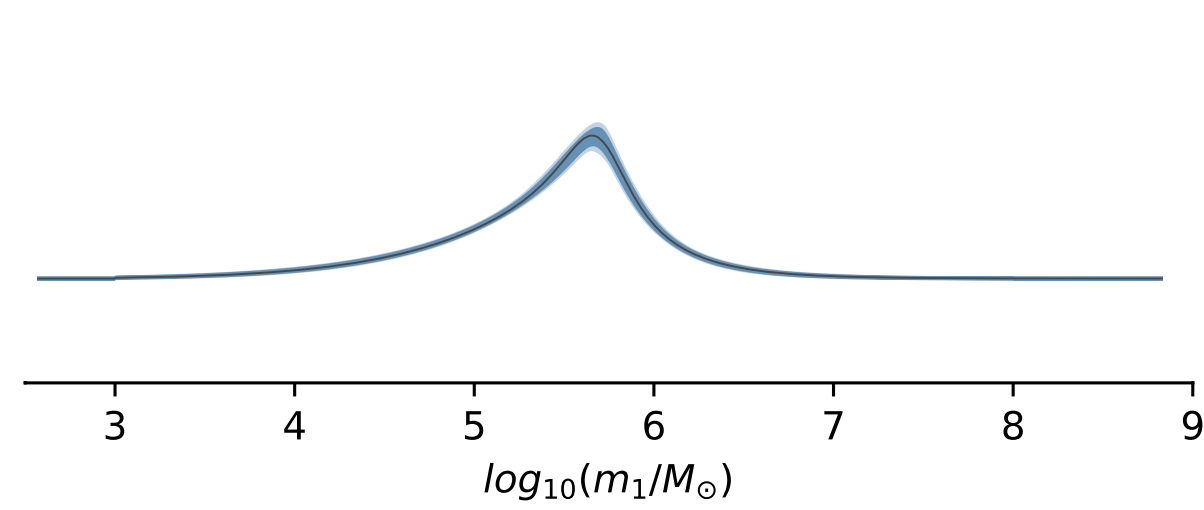
- very few events
- only one, very wide feature
- the distribution weakly depends on cosmology

10 realisations of 10000 events Q3d-like

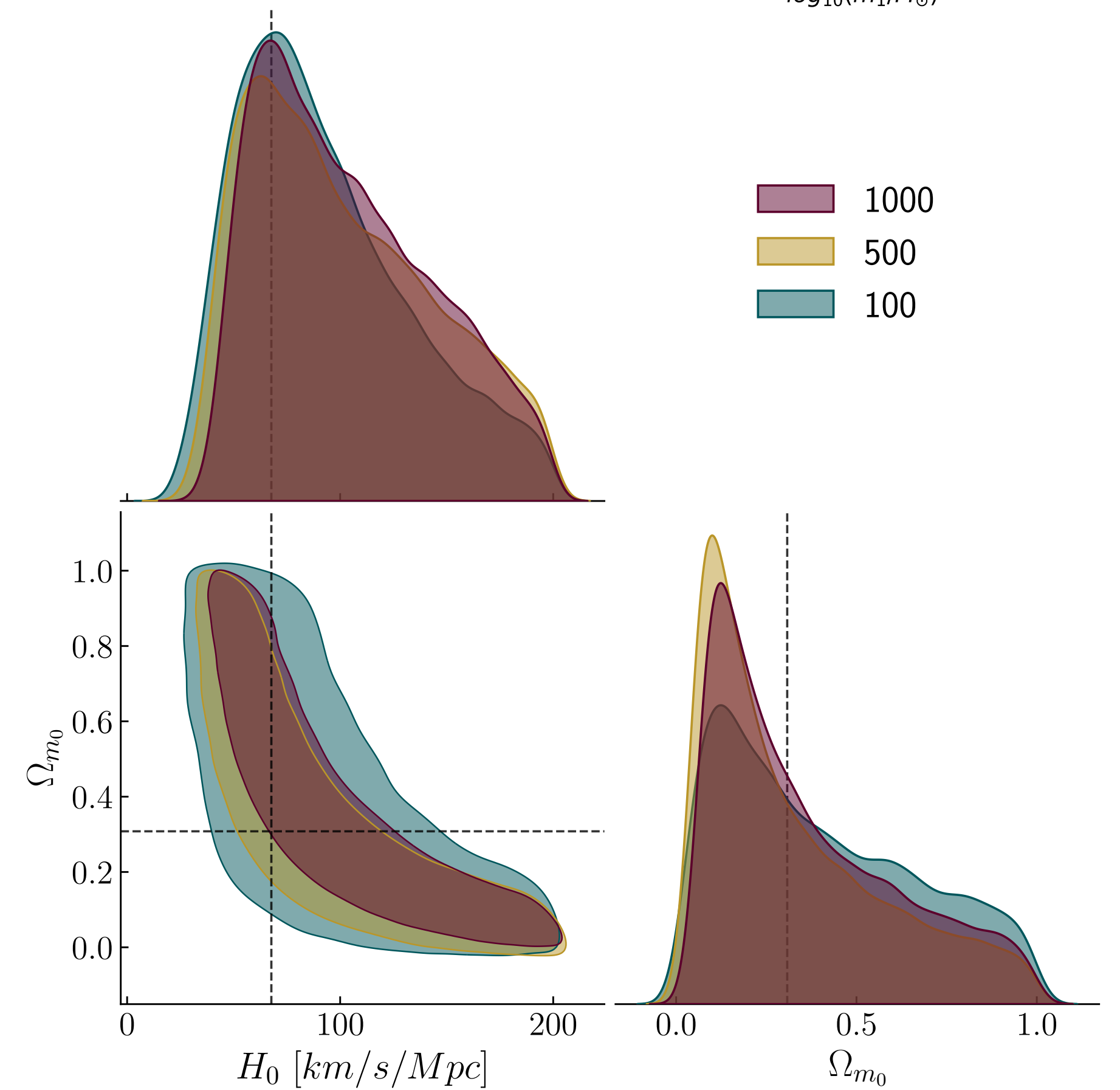
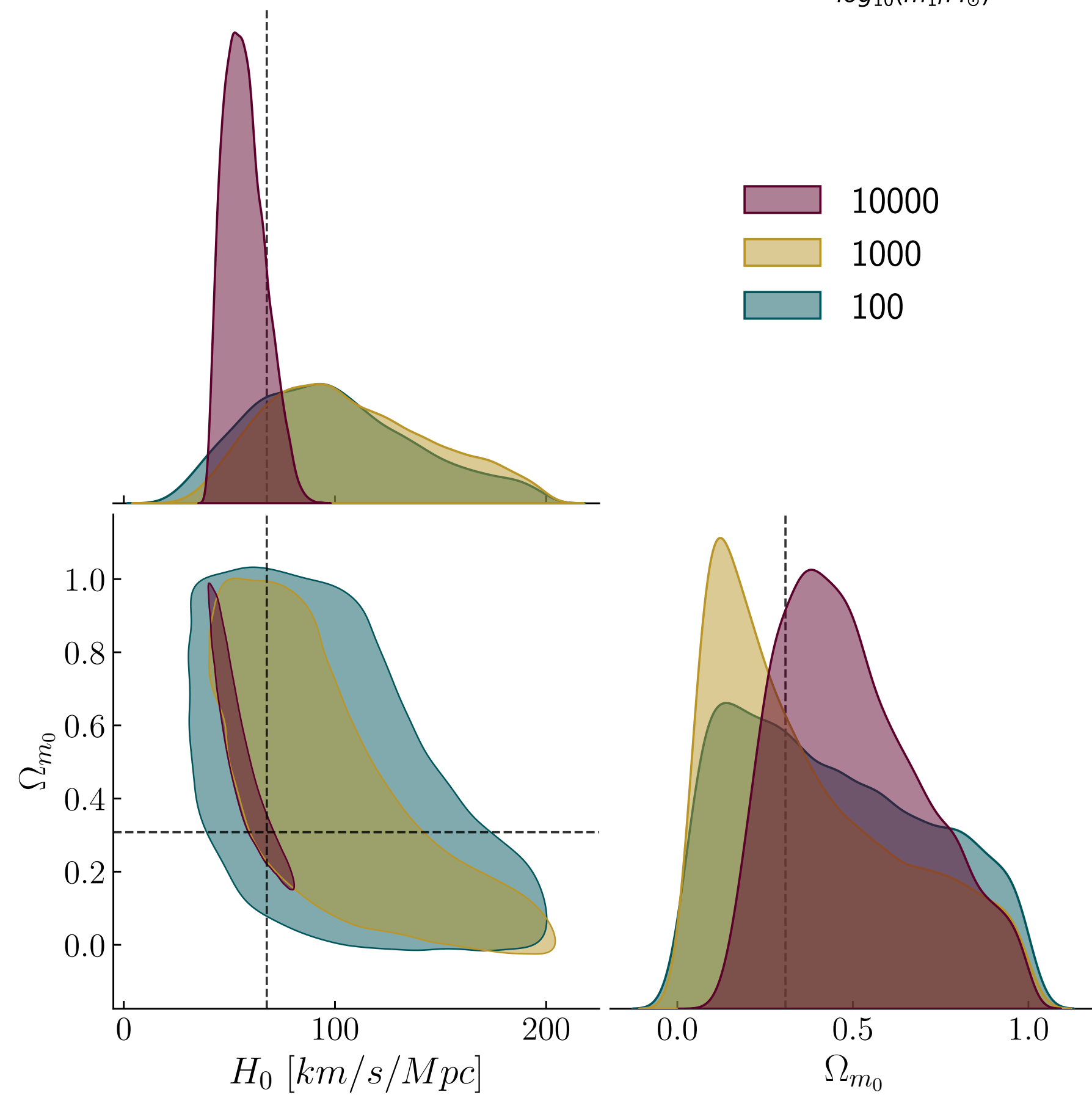
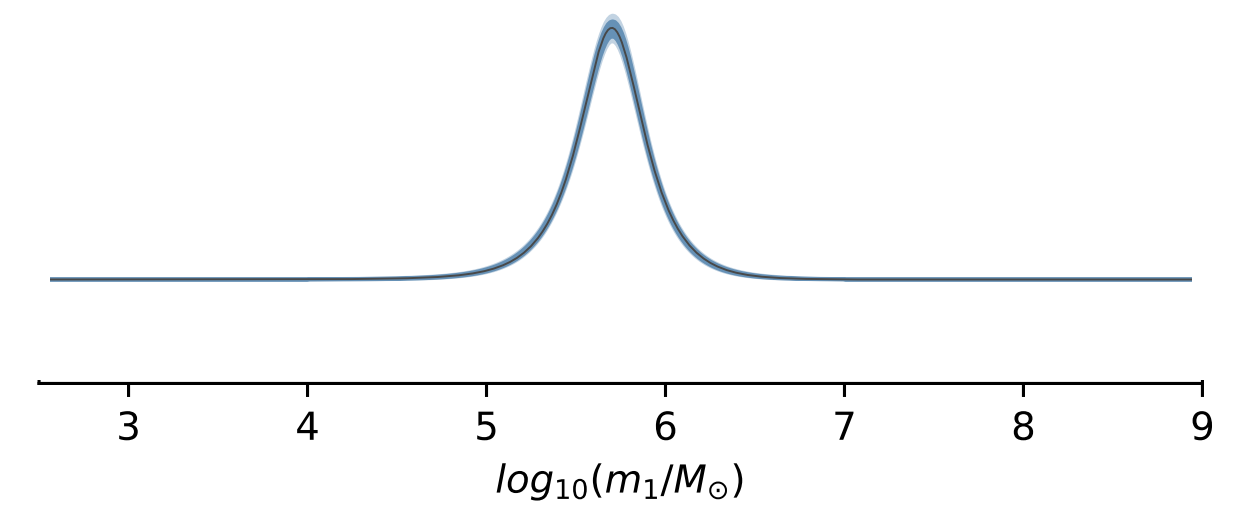


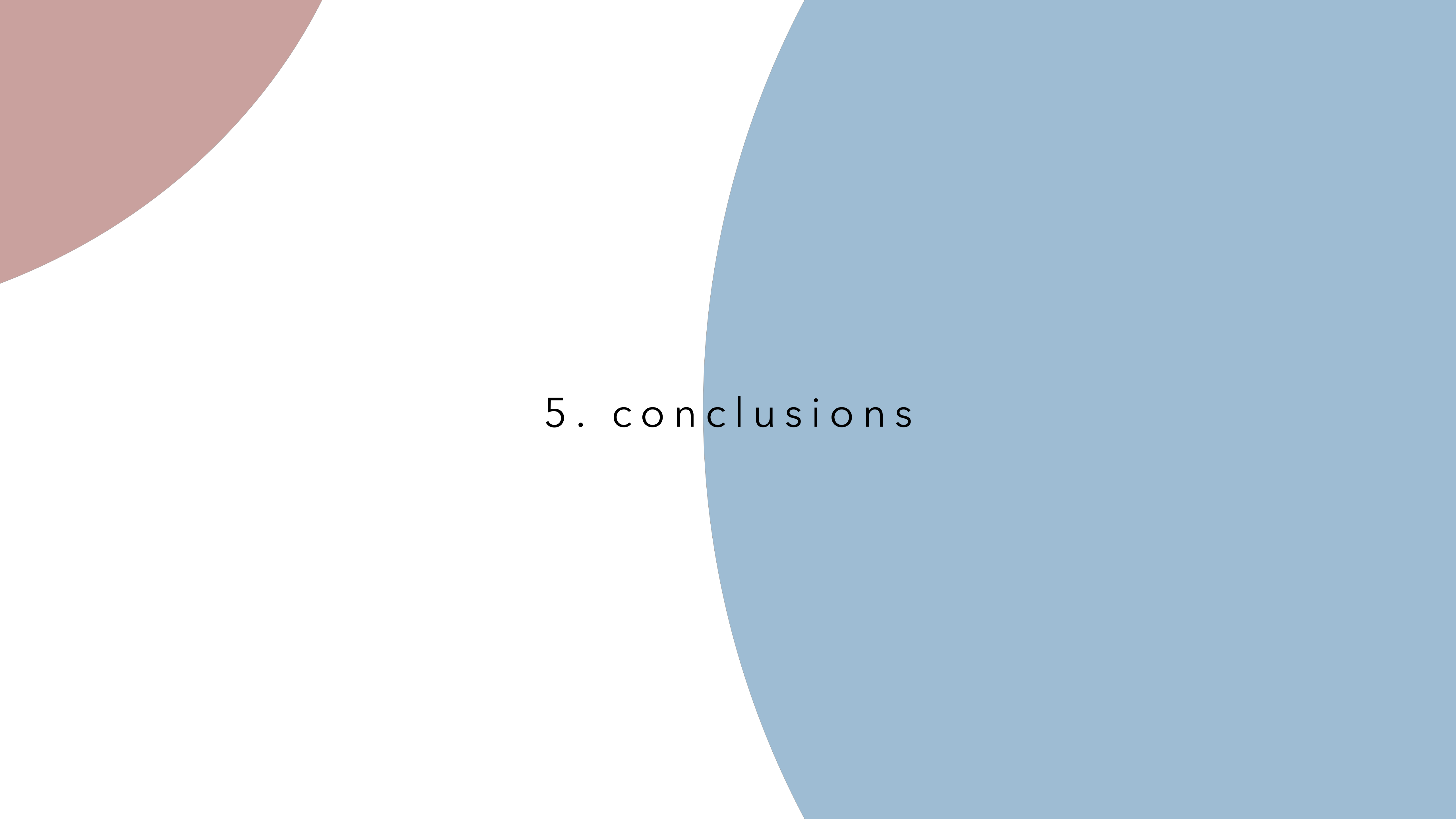
artificially narrowing the feature does improve the H_0 measurement

Q3d-like feature



narrow feature

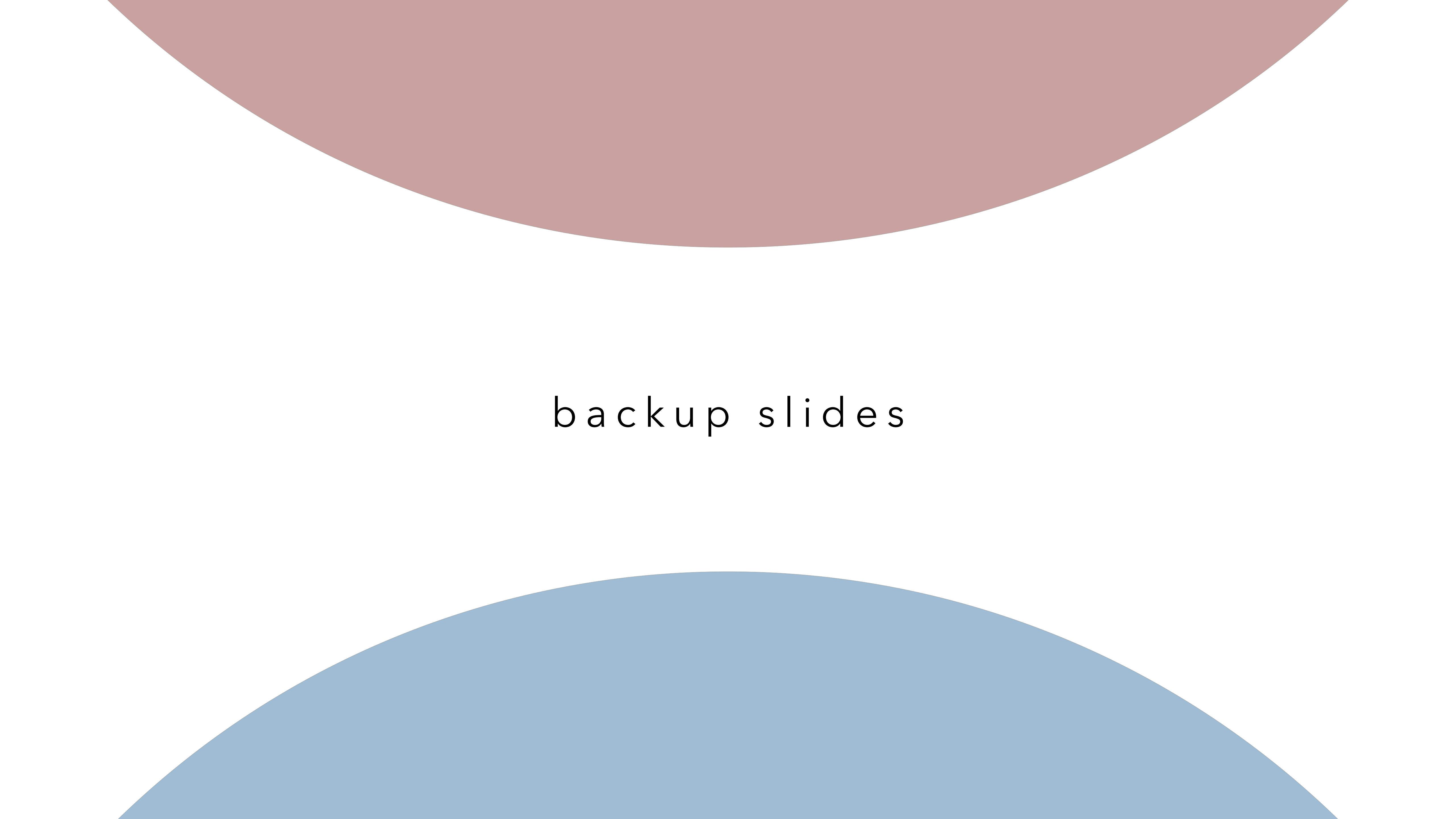




5. conclusions

CONCLUSIONS

- we implemented and tested population models for MBHs
 - first realistic population analysis
 - first realistic cosmological analysis from the population
- unable to measure H_0 with the realistic catalog
 - intrinsic structure prevent unbiased analysis
 - need to find develop more flexible strategies
- poor constraints on H_0 from simulations
 - intrinsic limitations due to the distribution shape
 - additional feature will make the analysis more informative



backup slides

HIERARCHICAL LIKELIHOOD

the hierarchical likelihood is

$$\mathcal{L}_H(\{\mathbf{d}\}|\Lambda) \propto \prod_i^{N_{\text{gw}}} \frac{\int d\boldsymbol{\theta} \mathcal{L}_{\text{gw}}(\mathbf{d}_i | \boldsymbol{\theta}, \Lambda) \frac{d\mathcal{N}}{d\boldsymbol{\theta}dt}(\Lambda)}{\int d\boldsymbol{\theta} p_{\text{det}}(\boldsymbol{\theta}, \Lambda) \frac{d\mathcal{N}}{d\boldsymbol{\theta}dt}(\Lambda)}$$

with **observed rate** in the *detector frame*

$$\frac{d\mathcal{N}}{d\boldsymbol{\theta}dt} = \frac{d\mathcal{N}}{dm_{1,d} dq dd_L dt_d} = \frac{d\mathcal{N}}{d \log m_{1,s} d \log q dz dt_d} \frac{1}{\left| \mathcal{J}_{(m_{1,d}, q, d_L) \rightarrow (\log m_{1,s}, \log q, z)} \right|} \quad \xrightarrow{(1+z) \frac{\partial d_L}{\partial z} \frac{m_{1,s} q}{(\log e)^2}}$$

$$\frac{d\mathcal{N}}{d \log m_{1,s} d \log q dz dt_d}(\Lambda) \propto \boxed{p(\log m_{1,s} | \Lambda) p(\log q | \Lambda) p(z | \Lambda)} \quad \text{population model}$$

$\swarrow$
primary

$\downarrow$
mass ratio

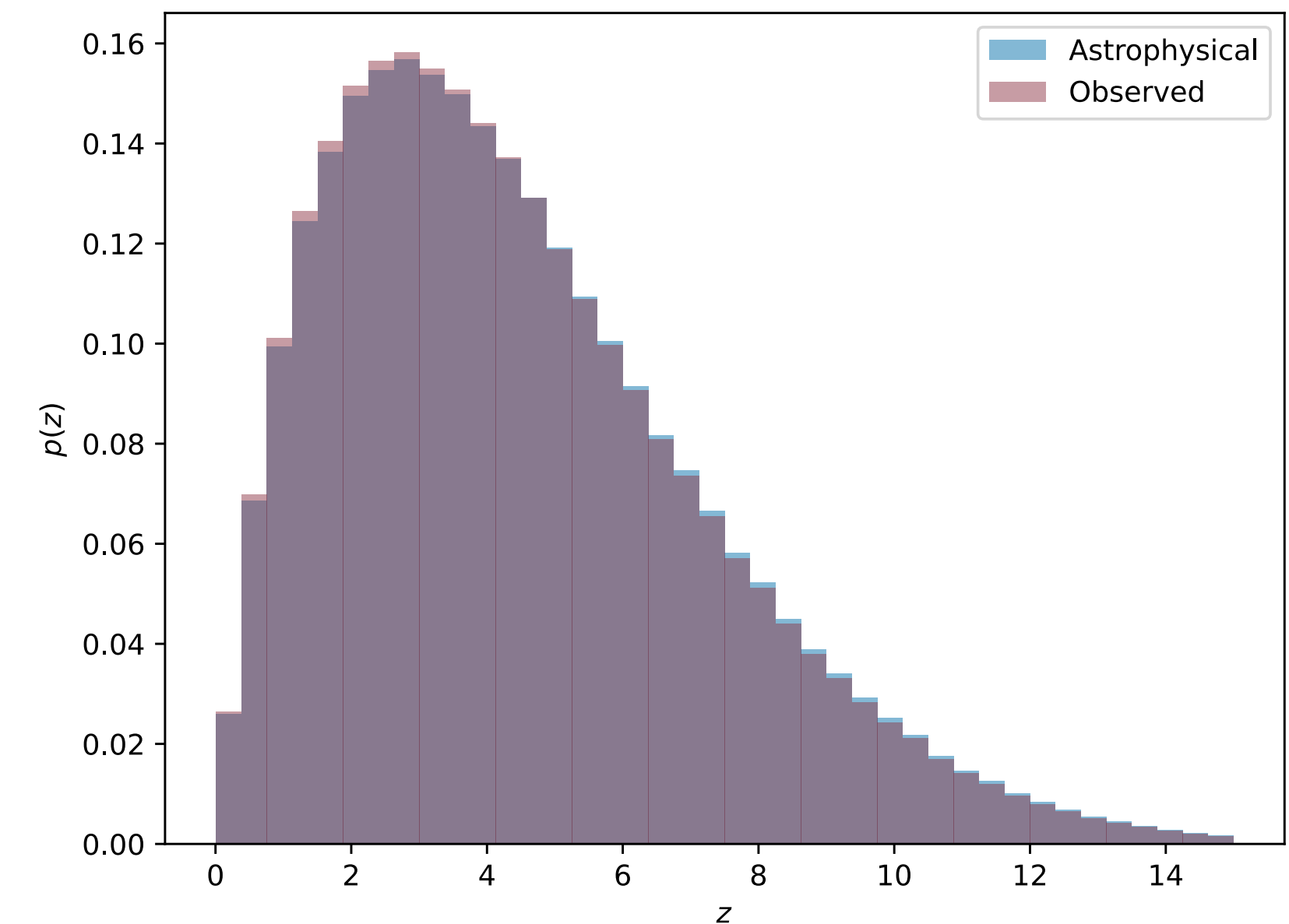
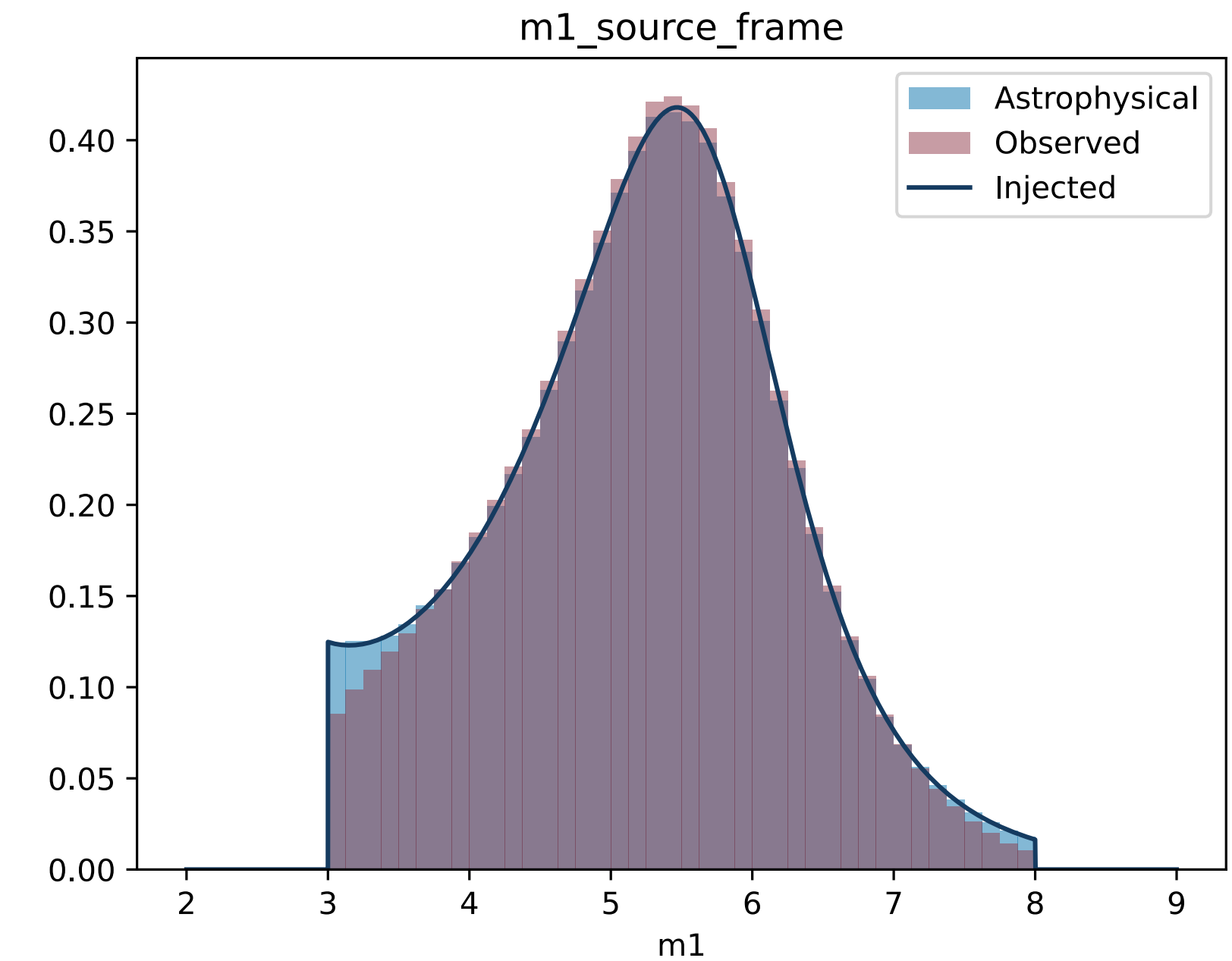
$\searrow$
redshift

IMPORTANT

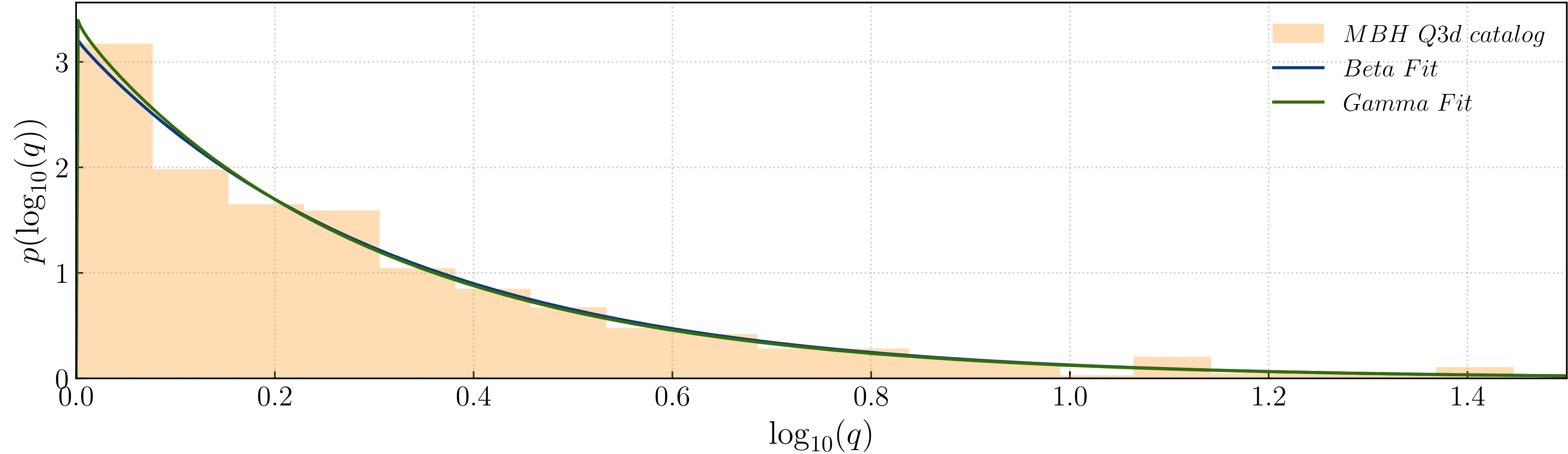
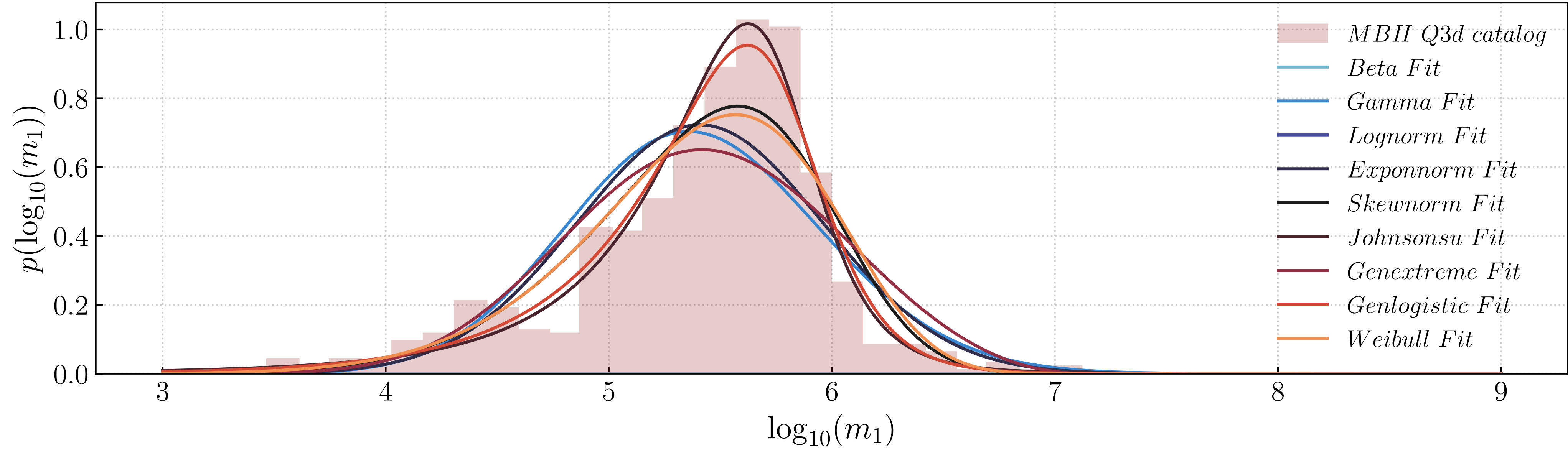
we assume (m_1, q, z) to be *uncorrelated* on a population level

ICAROGW SETTINGS

- **injections** (for selection effects)
 - 10^6 injections
 - $SNR > 20$ for detection
- **hierarchical analysis**
 - we use ICAROGW
 - sampler: nessai with 2000 live points
 - $N_{eff,inj}/(4 * N_{events}) > 1$ for numerical stability



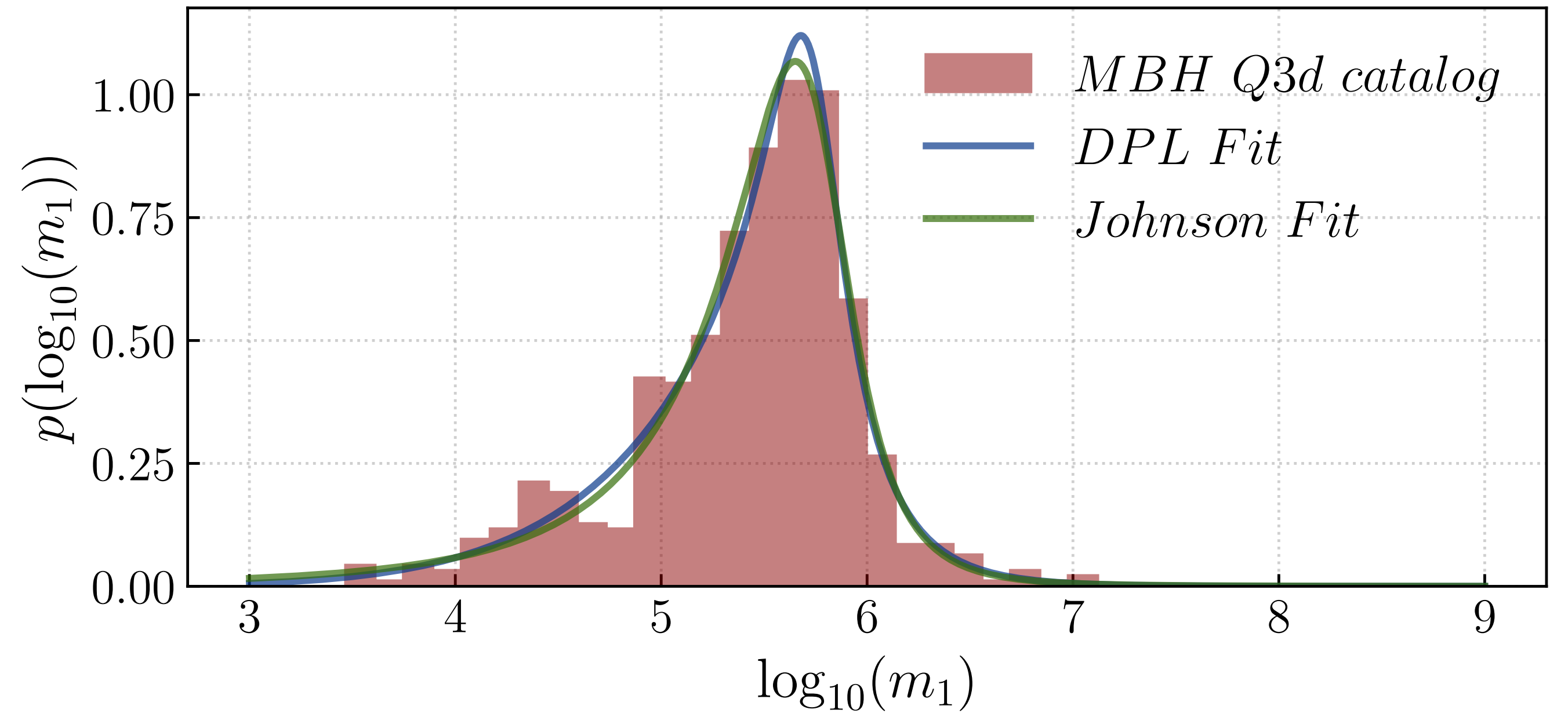
Q3d MODEL SELECTION



POPULATION MODEL

primary mass

$$p(\log_{10} m_{1,s})$$



- double powerlaw (DPL)

$$p(x, \alpha, \beta, m_b, \delta) = \frac{1}{norm} \{ [1 - \sigma(x)] x^\alpha + \sigma(x) x^{-\beta} m_b^{\alpha-\beta} \} \quad \sigma(x) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{\frac{m_b - x}{\delta}}}$$

$$\alpha = 8.07, \beta = 25.05, \\ m_b = 5.74, \delta = 0.08$$

$$a = 0.79, b = 1.03, \\ loc = 5.79, \lambda = 0.34$$

- johnson distribution (JD)

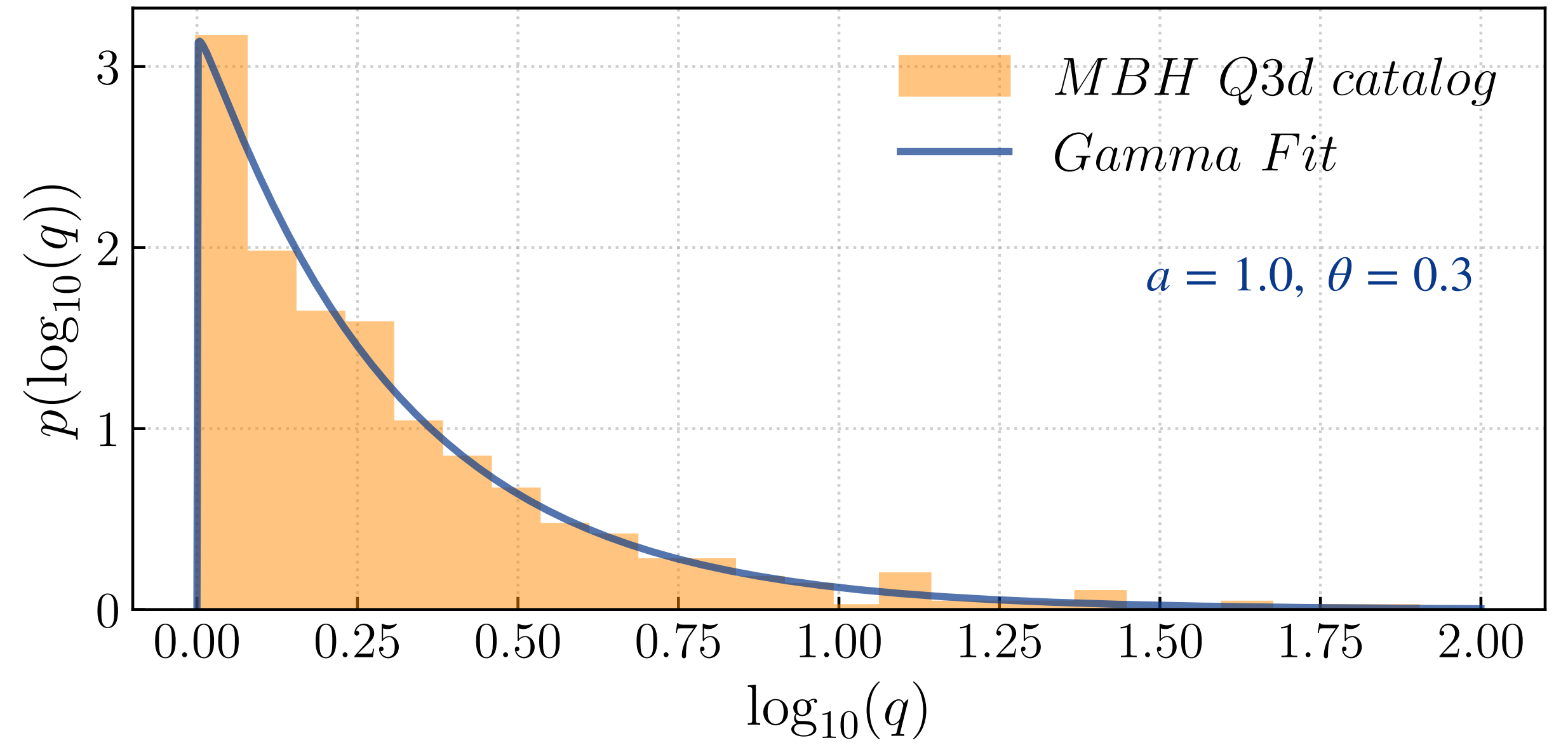
$$p(y, a, b, \lambda) = \frac{b}{\lambda \sqrt{y^2 + 1}} N(\xi(y), 0, 1) \quad N(\xi(y), 0, 1) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{\xi^2(y)}{2}}, \quad \xi(y) = a + b \ln(y + \sqrt{y^2 + 1}), \quad y = \frac{x - loc}{\lambda}$$

POPULATION MODEL

mass ratio $p(\log_{10} q)$

- gamma distribution

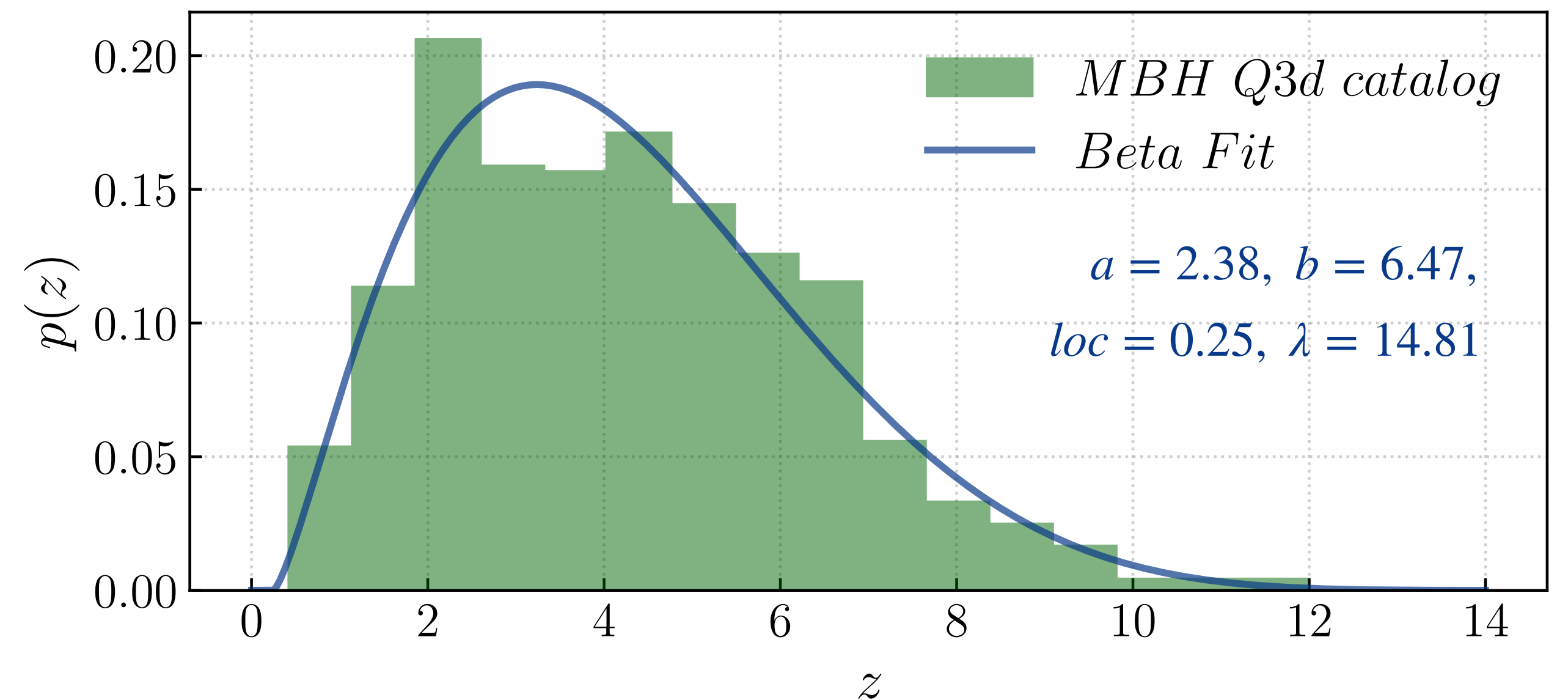
$$p(x, a, \theta) = \frac{\theta^a x^{a-1} e^{-\theta x}}{\Gamma(a)}$$



redshift $p(z)$

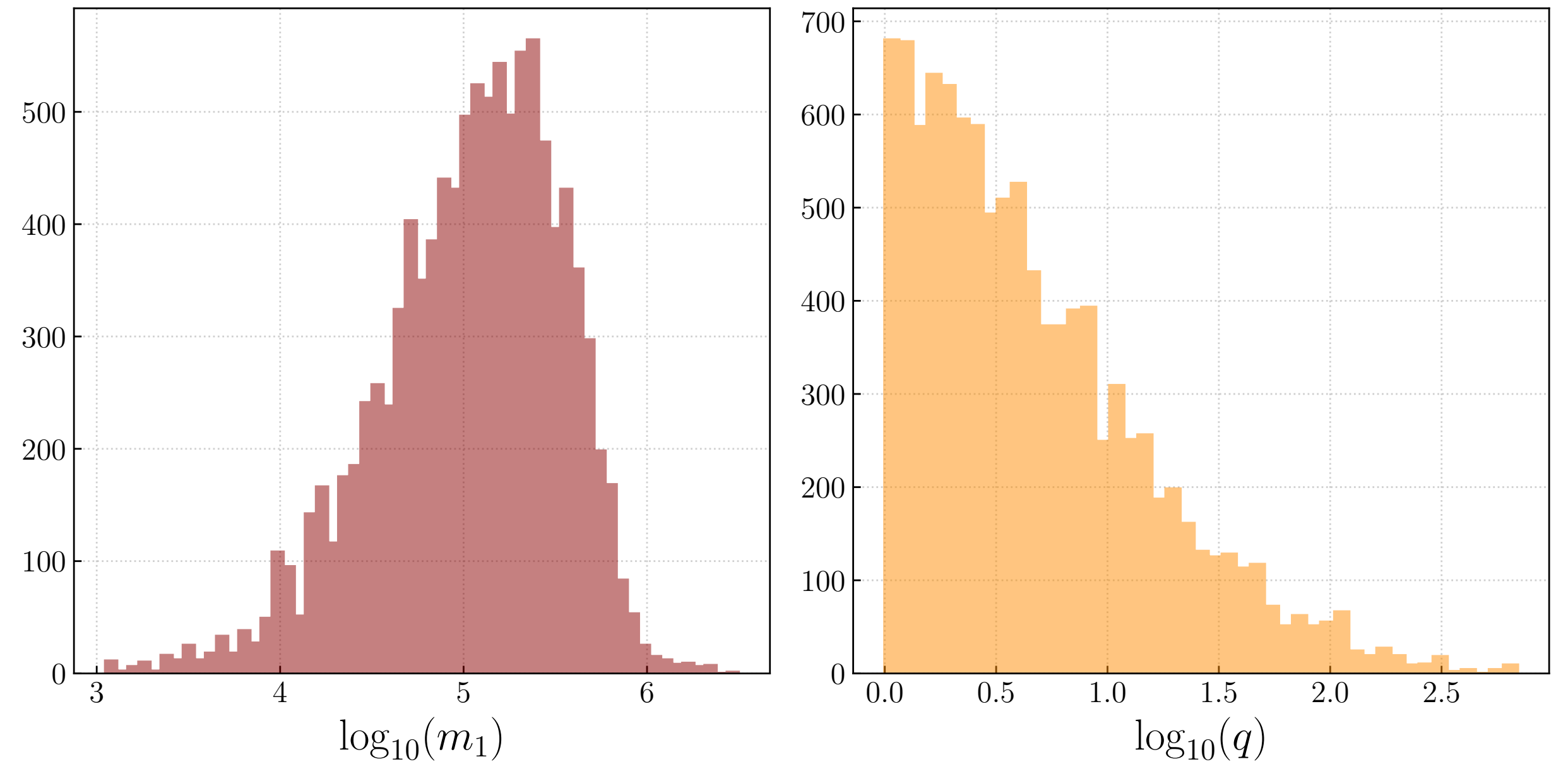
- beta distribution

$$p(y, a, b) = \frac{\Gamma(a+b) y^{a-1} (1-y)^{b-1}}{\Gamma(a)\Gamma(b)}$$

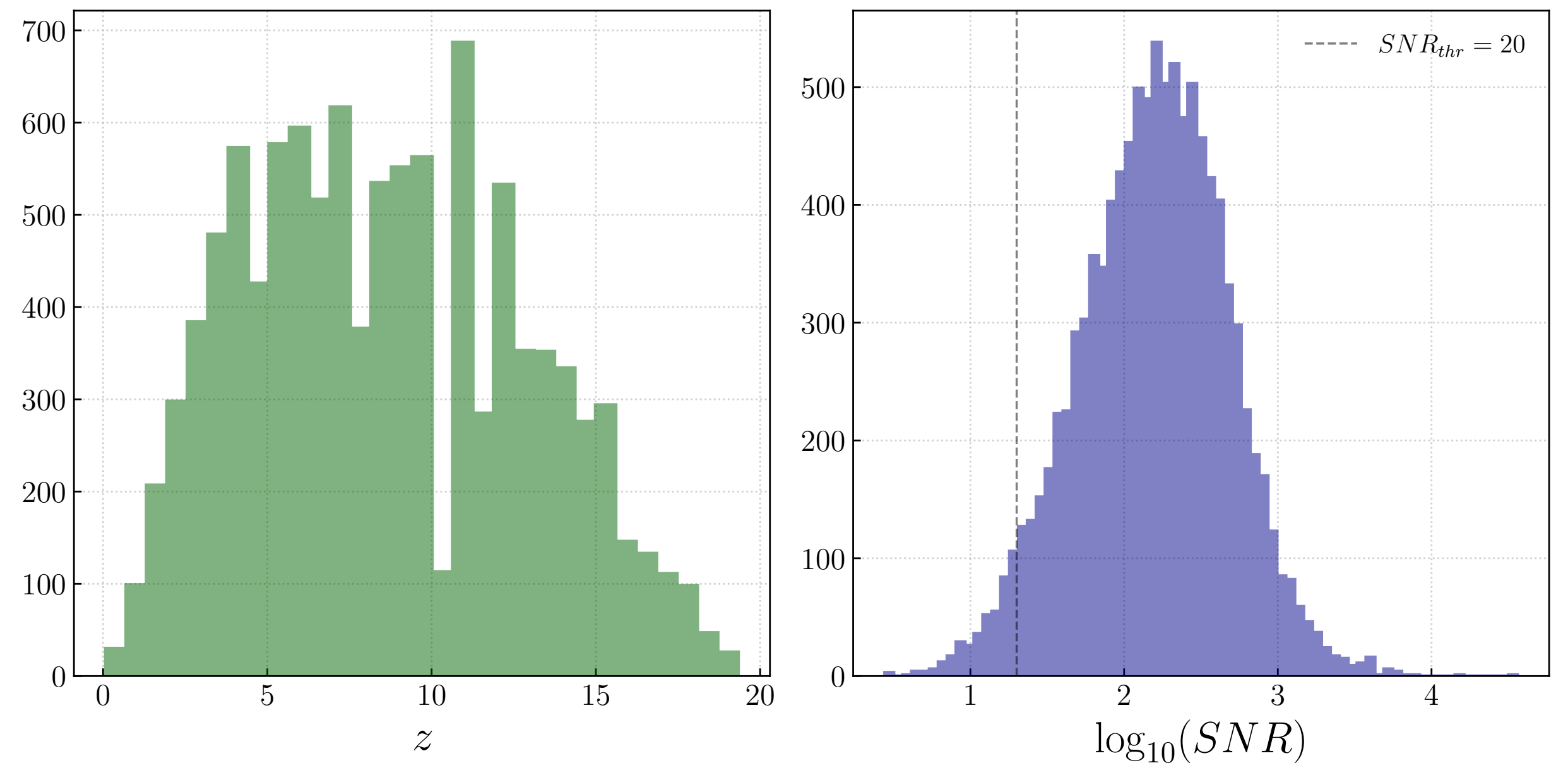


Q3nd CATALOG

- ~**10200** events for 90yrs of LISA
- ~**110** events for a 4yrs mission
- masses spanning large range
- events up to *extremely high* redshift

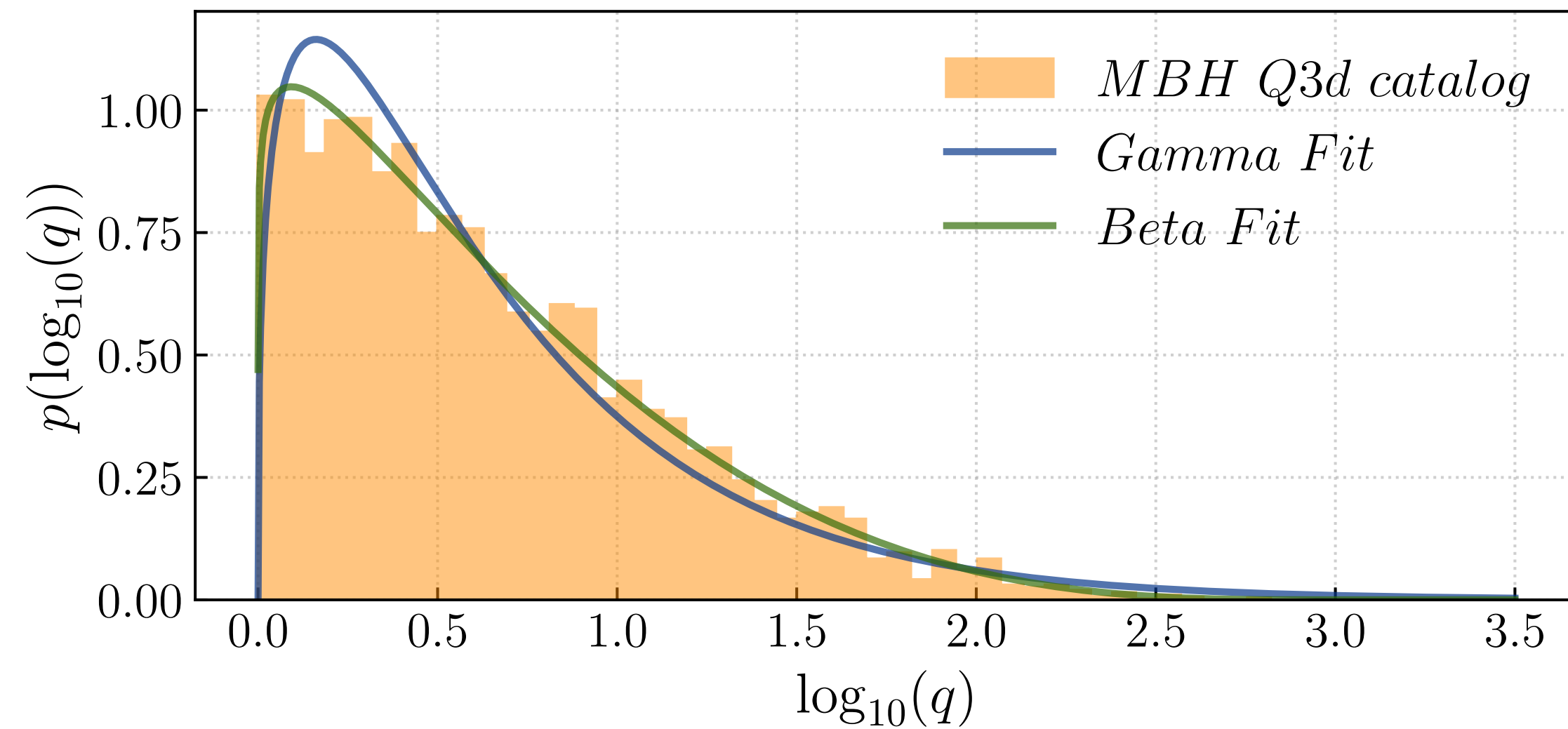


- hierarchical inference
 - well measured parameters
 - mild **selection effects**
- (434 events with $\text{SNR} < 20$, ~4%)

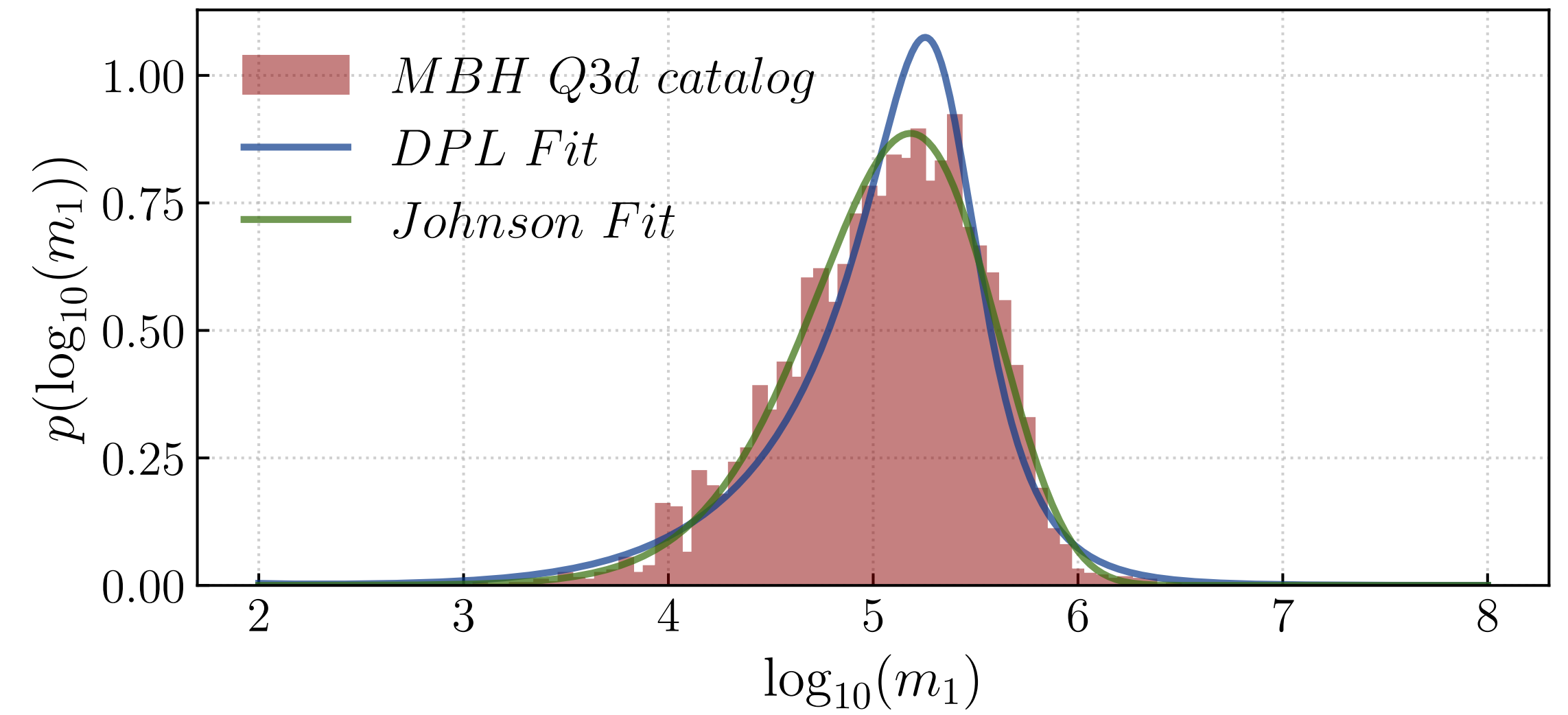


POPULATION MODEL Q3nd

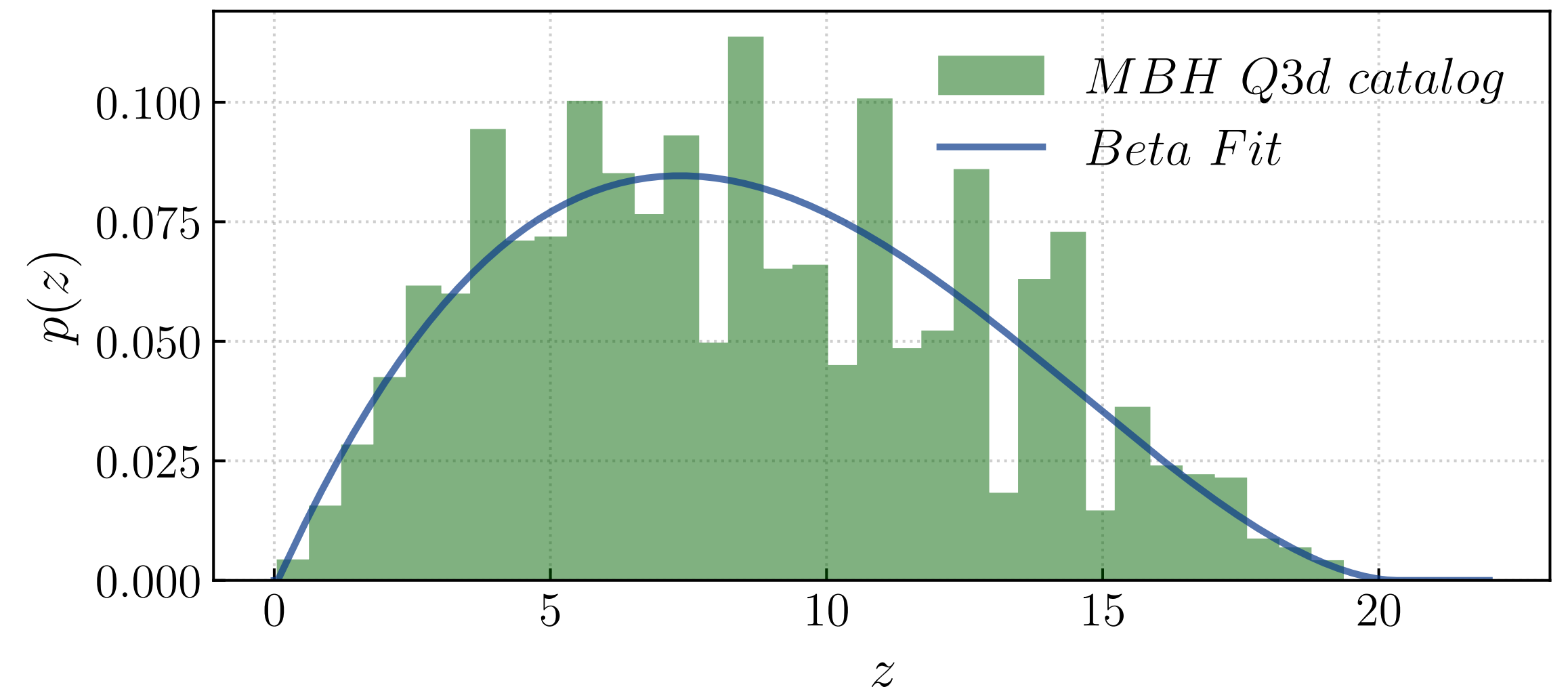
johnson preferred over DPL



same as Q3d with more spikes

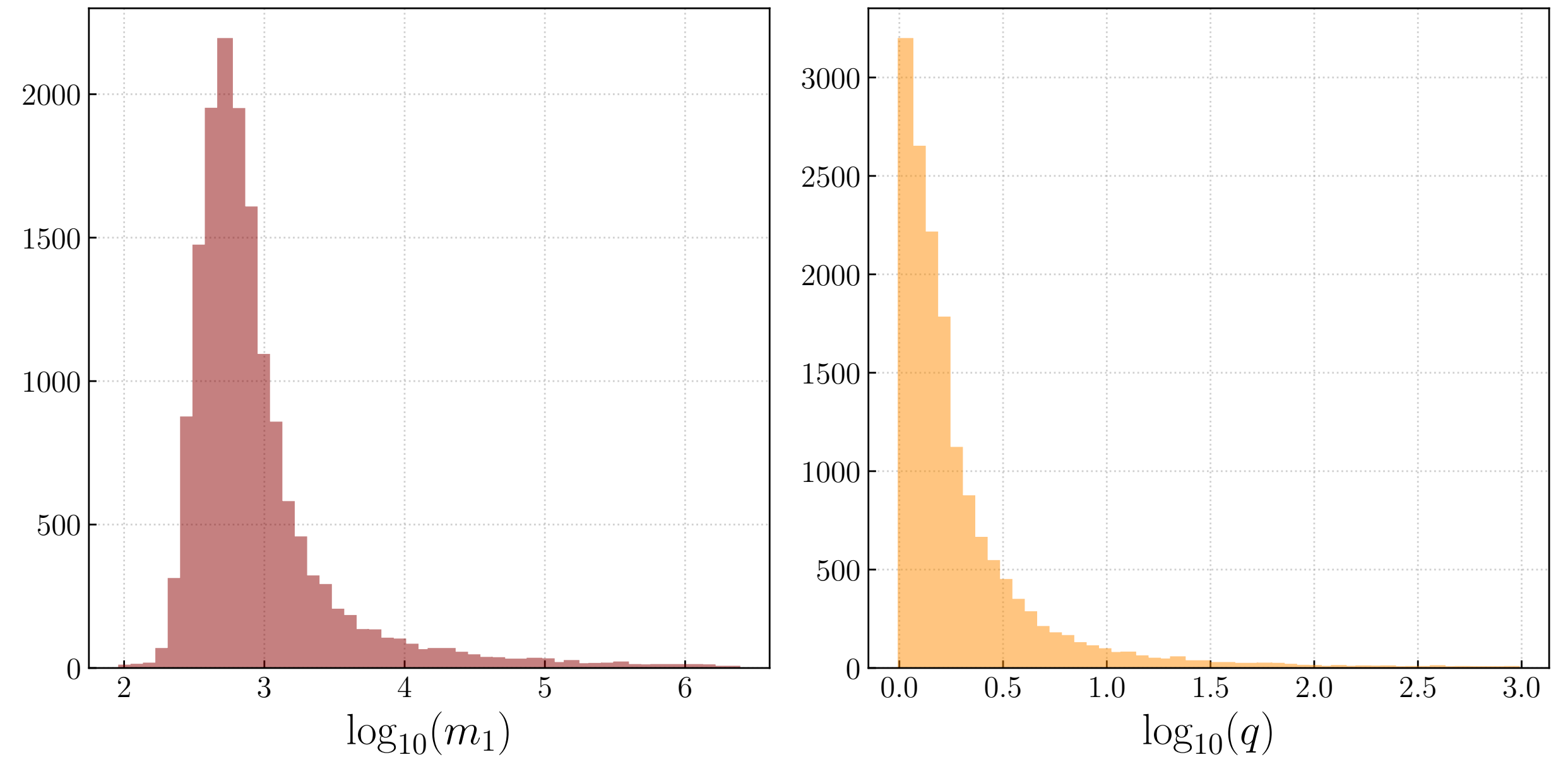


beta preferred over gamma



Pop3 CATALOG

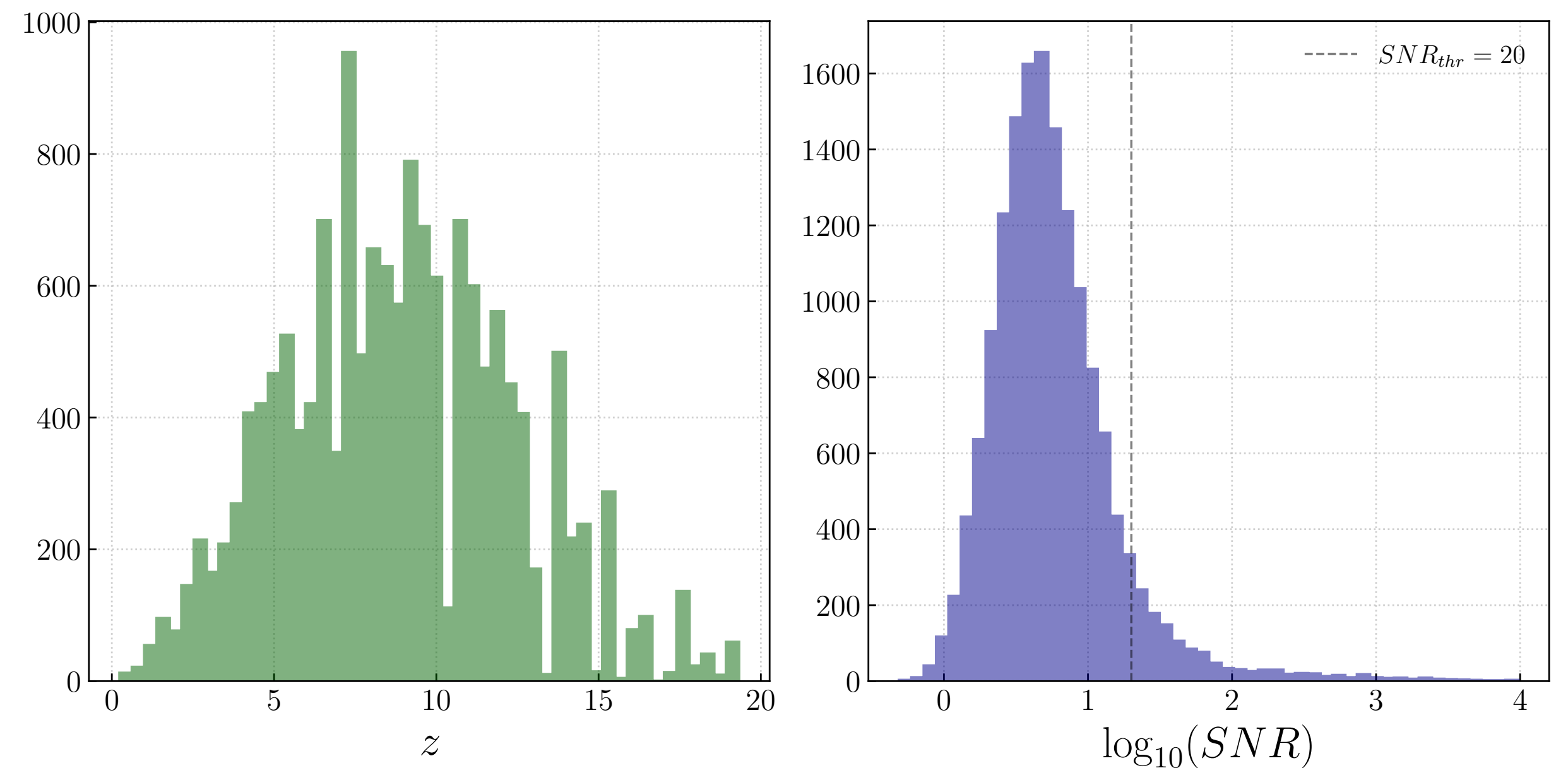
- ~**1200** events for 90yrs of LISA
- ~**50** events for a 4yrs mission
- low masses compared to Q3d/Q3nd
- events up to *extremely high* redshift



- hierarchical inference

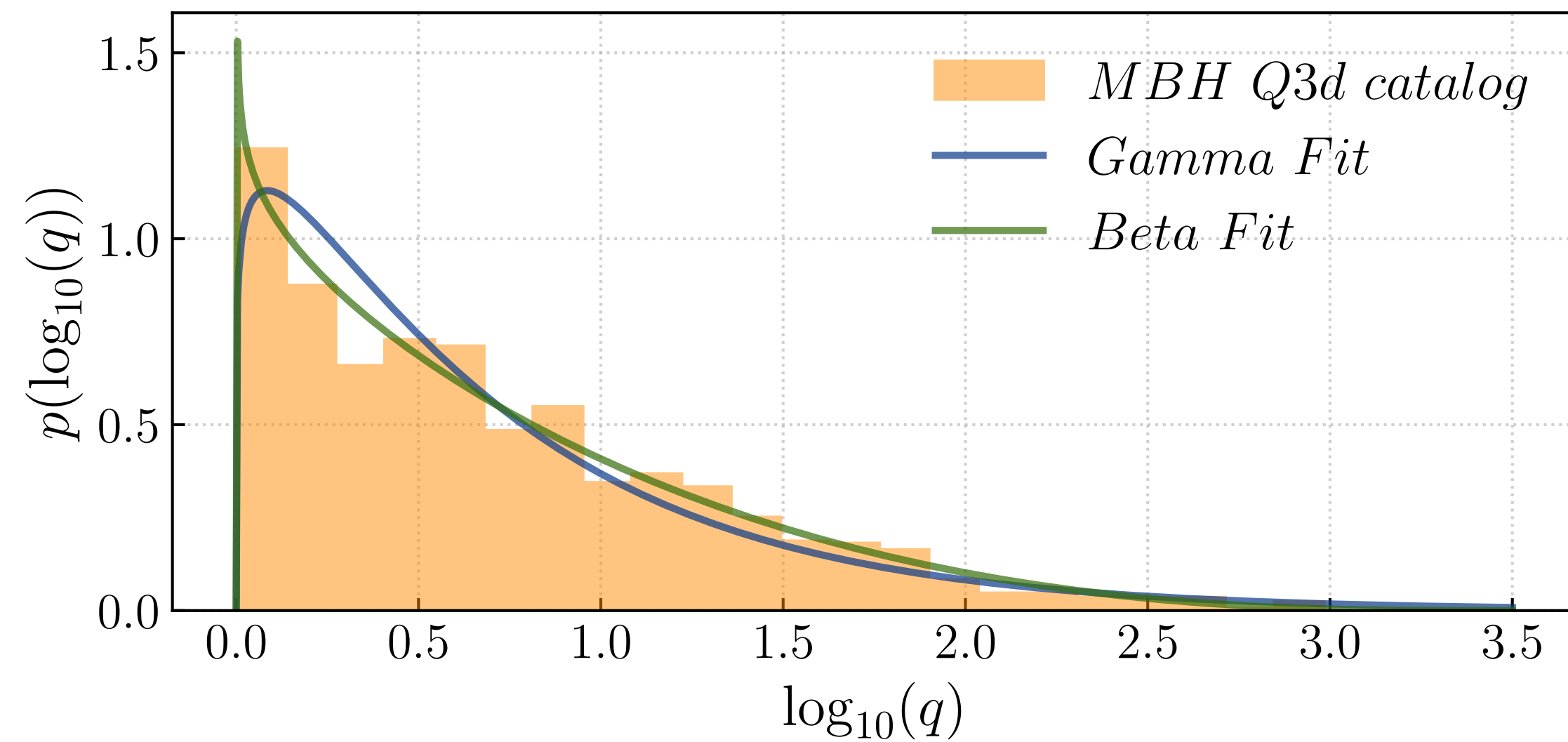
- problems at low masses
- *heavy* **selection effects**

(14000 events with $SNR < 20$, ~90%)

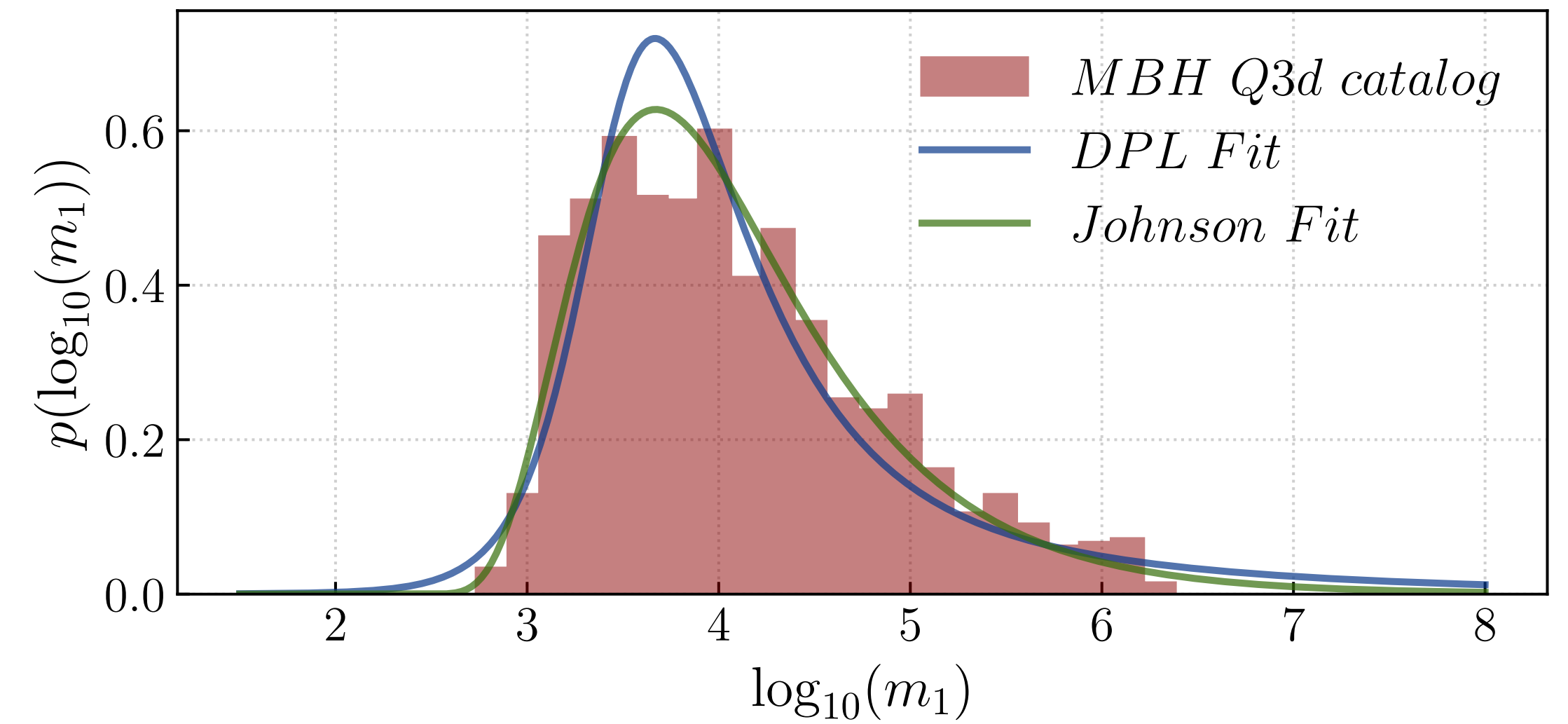


POPULATION MODEL Pop3

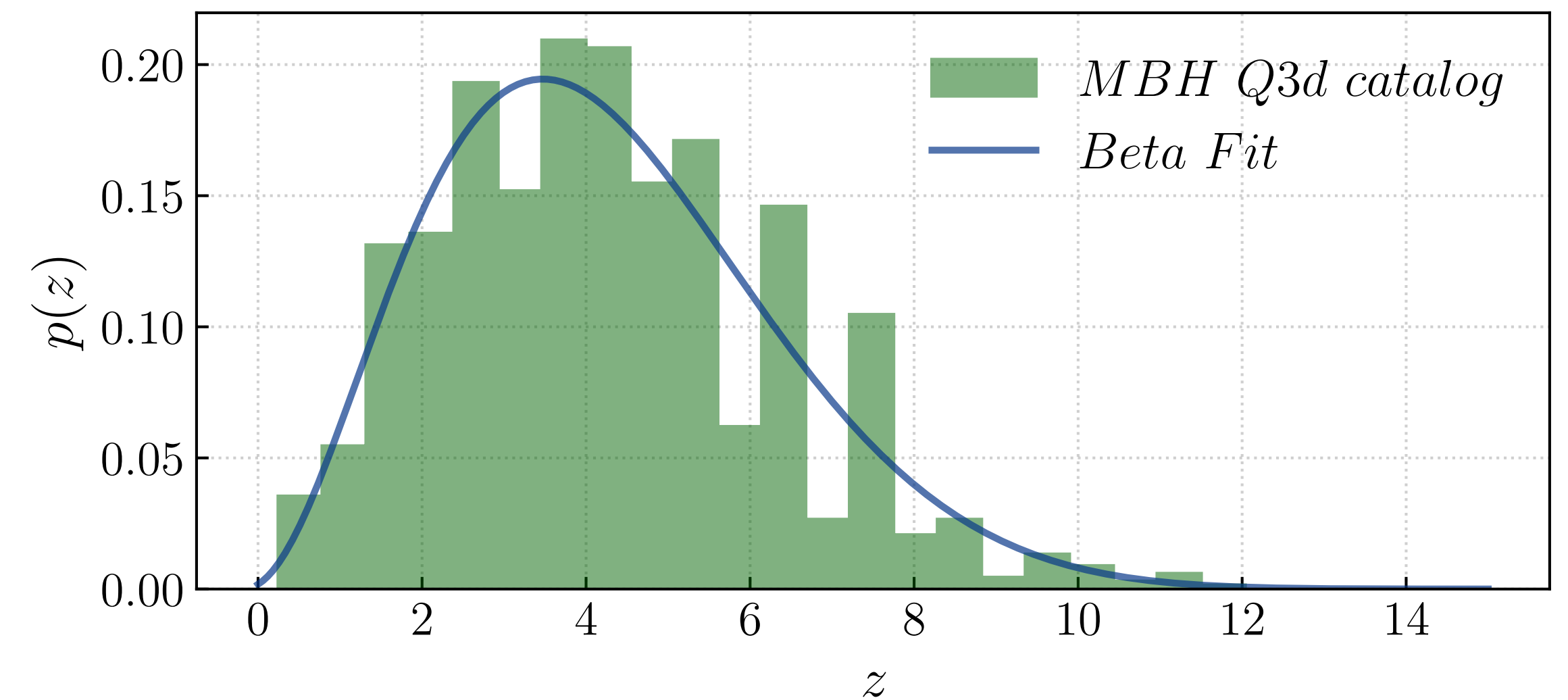
johnson preferred over DPL



same as Q3d with more spikes



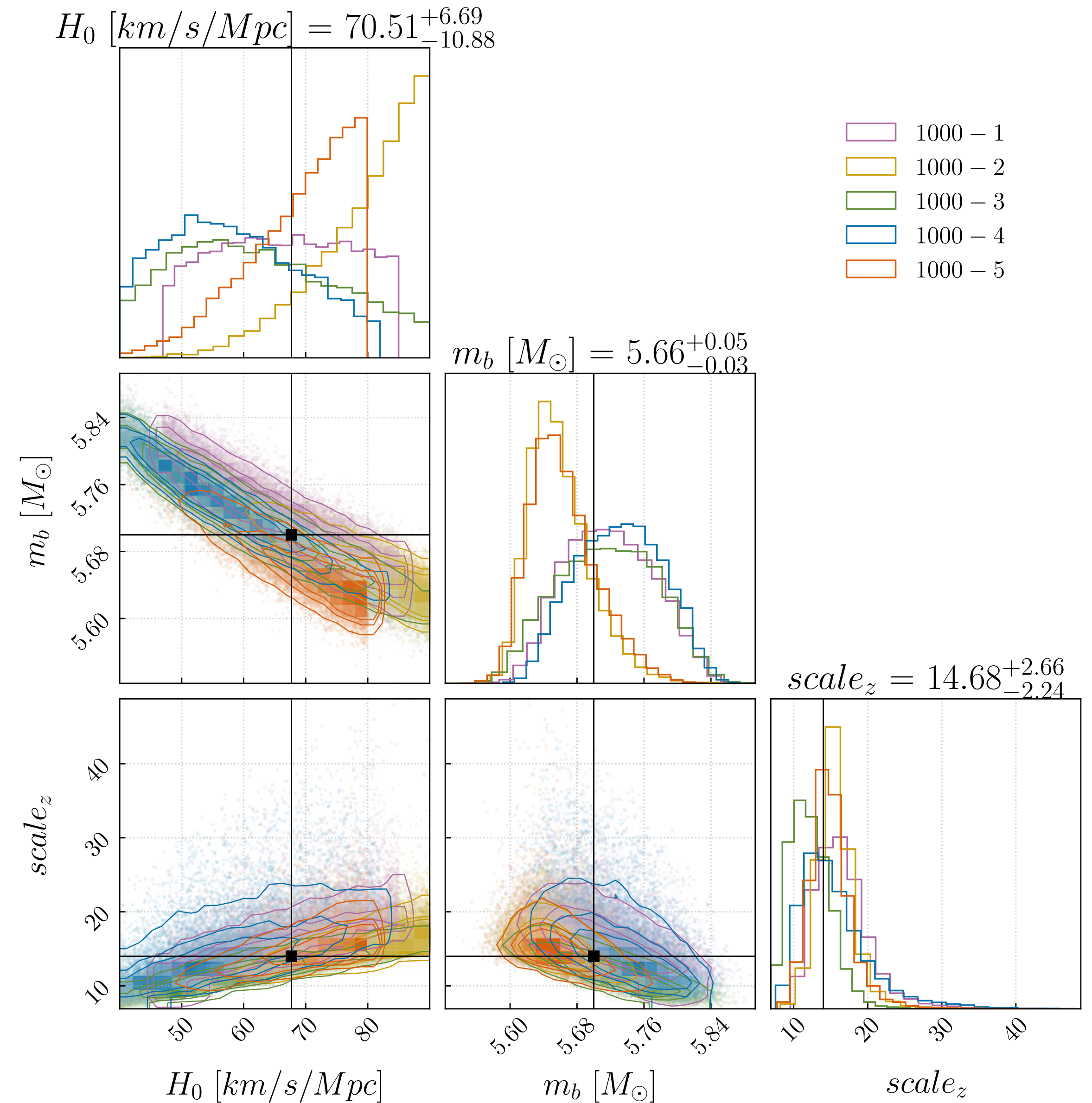
beta preferred over gamma



SIMULATIONS Q3d-like 1000 events

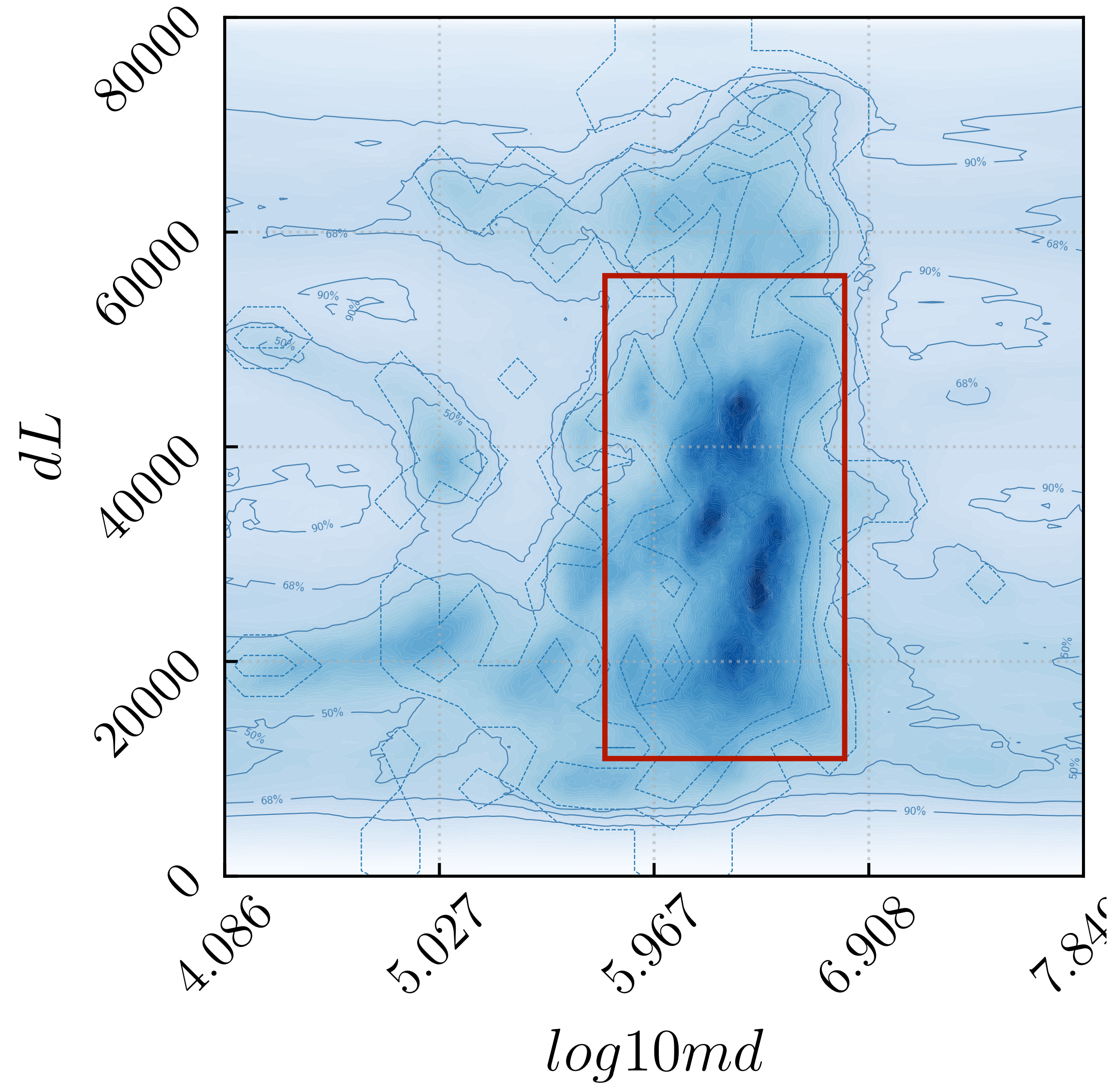
5 realisations of the same population
(**1000 events**)

- poor constraints on H_0
- increasing the number of simulations

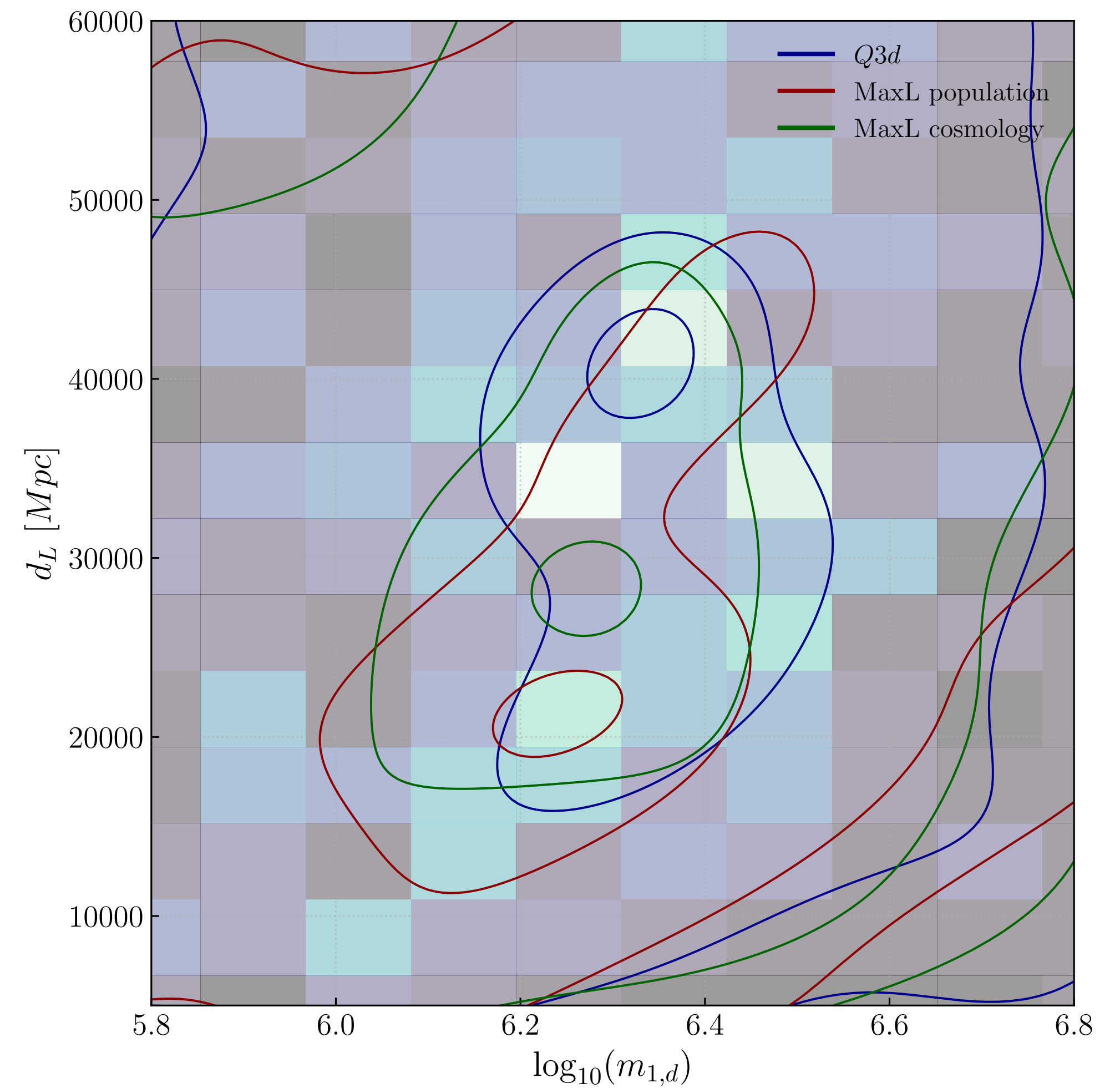


WHY H0 WITH Q3d IS BIASED?

Q3d non-parametric



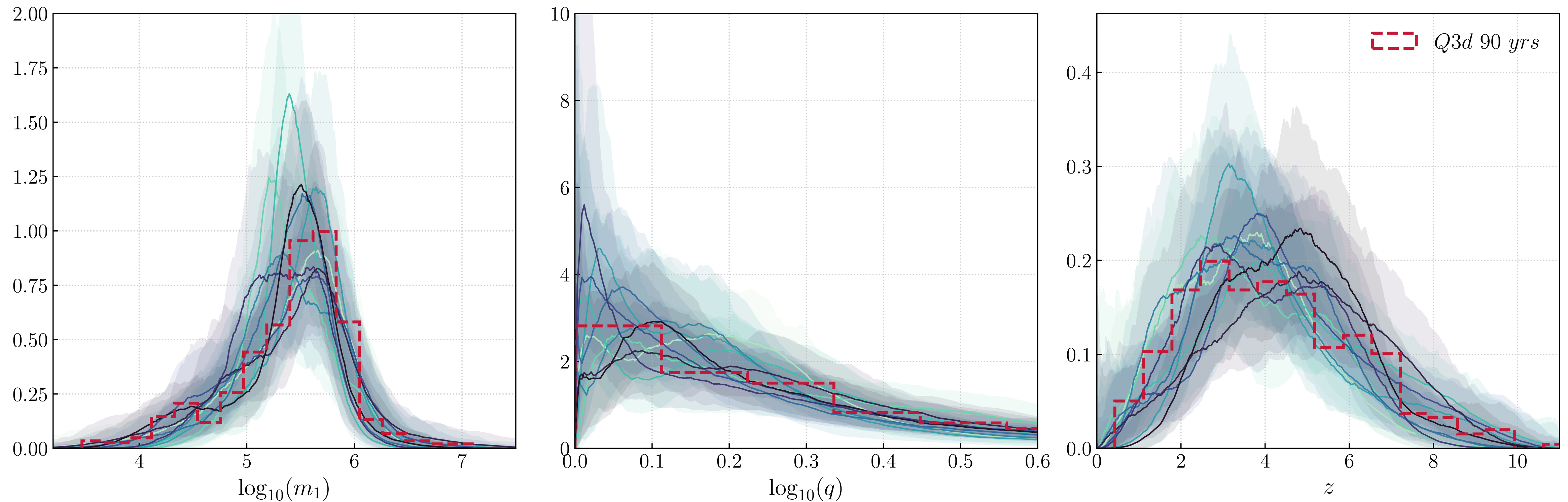
Q3d/inference comparison



possible impact of intrinsic redshift evolution

WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF HAVING FEW EVENTS?

Q3d 4yrs 10 realizations non-parametric



small dataset (~ 25 events), *large Poisson noise*

COSMOLOGY WITH BROAD FEATURES?

