

SOC/LOC:

Romain Meyer, Pascal Oesch, Michaela Hirschmann



Observations of early black holes

before and after JWST

Eduardo Bañados

Max Planck Institute for Astronomy, Heidelberg



Observations of early black holes – some warnings



- Observationally focused

- Only scratch the surface and likely influenced by my own biases

- Main ideas, pointing to more literature and some anecdotes

Observations of early black holes – three lectures



1.- Introduction to AGN and Quasars

2.- Quasars in the first billion years: What we knew before JWST

3.- JWST insights into Quasars in the early Universe

Quasars in the first Gyr: What we knew before JWST



- Historical Overview Redshift frontier
- Key pre-JWST observational results
- Key open questions

Most distant galaxies known pre-JWST





Zitrin+ 2015

Most distant galaxies known pre-JWST

Even confirmation is hard!

z=8.6 candidate



5 hours VLT and 11 hours Subaru

Bunker+ 2013

Even confirmation is hard!

A 52 hours VLT/FORS2 spectrum of a bright $z \sim 7$ HUDF galaxy: no Ly- α emission*

E. Vanzella¹, A. Fontana², L. Pentericci², M. Castellano², A. Grazian², M. Giavalisco³, M. Nonino⁴, S. Cristiani⁴, G. Zamorani¹, and C. Vignali⁵



Vanzella+ 2014

Quasars are bright!



Multiwavelength is key

- X-ray: Hot corona/jets
- UV/optical: accretion disk
- Mid-infrared: hot dust
- Far-infrared: cold dust/ISM
- Radio: jets

z=7.54 "Pisco" quasar <mark>Bañados+ 2018</mark>a

z=7.54 quasar Bañados+ 2018b

X-rays

See also Connor, EB+ 2019, 2020, 2021 Vito+ 2021 (incl. EB) Wang+ 2021 (incl. EB) Zappacosta+2023

Key Differences at a Glance

Aspect	AGN	Quasars	
Definition	A broad category of active galactic centers.	A highly luminous type of AGN.	
Luminosity	Covers a wide range, from faint to bright.	Among the brightest AGN, often outshining hosts.	
Host Galaxy Visibility	Usually visible in lower- luminosity AGN.	Often invisible due to the quasar's brightness.	Schmidt 1963 "The first guasa
Distance (Redshift)	Found both locally and at high redshift.	Primarily at high redshift (early universe).	•
Examples	Seyfert galaxies, radio galaxies, LINERs.	3C 273, ULAS J1342+0928 (z ≈ 7.54).	Bañados+2018 "The Pisco quasa

Quasars are bright!



- Discovery and demographics
- SMBH → ~pc scales
- Galaxy / Close envs. \rightarrow ~kpc scales
- Environments /IGM \rightarrow ~Mpc scales
- Obscured quasars/AGN?



2000 - The first quasar in the first Gyr of the Universe

THE ASTRONOMICAL JOURNAL, 120:1167–1174, 2000 September © 2000. The American Astronomical Society. All rights reserved. Printed in U.S.A.

THE DISCOVERY OF A LUMINOUS z = 5.80 QUASAR FROM THE SLOAN DIGITAL SKY SURVEY¹

XIAOHUI FAN,² RICHARD L. WHITE,³ MARC DAVIS,⁴ ROBERT H. BECKER,^{5,6} MICHAEL A. STRAUSS,² ZOLTAN HAIMAN,² DONALD P. SCHNEIDER,⁷ MICHAEL D. GREGG,^{5,6} JAMES E. GUNN,² G. R. KNAPP,² ROBERT H. LUPTON,² JOHN E. ANDERSON, JR.,⁸ SCOTT F. ANDERSON,⁹ JAMES ANNIS,⁸ NETA A. BAHCALL,² WILLIAM N. BOROSKI,⁸ ROBERT J. BRUNNER,¹⁰ BING CHEN,¹¹ ANDREW J. CONNOLLY,¹² ISTVÁN CSABAI,¹¹ MAMORU DOI,¹³ MASATAKA FUKUGITA,^{14,15} G. S. HENNESSY,¹⁶ ROBERT B. HINDSLEY,¹⁷ TAKASHI ICHIKAWA,¹⁸ ŽELJKO IVEZIĆ,²
JON LOVEDAY,¹⁹ AVERY MEIKSIN,²⁰ TIMOTHY A. MCKAY,²¹ JEFFREY A. MUNN,²² HEIDI JO NEWBERG,²³ ROBERT NICHOL,²⁴ SADANORI OKAMURA,¹³ JEFFREY R. PIER,²² MAKI SEKIGUCHI,¹⁴ KAZUHIRO SHIMASAKU,¹³ CHRIS STOUGHTON,⁸ ALEXANDER S. SZALAY,¹¹ GYULA P. SZOKOLY,²⁵ ANIRUDDHA R. THAKAR,¹¹ MICHAEL S. VOGELEY,²⁶ AND



2006 – First SDSS sample of z~6 quasars

A ANNUAL REVIEWS

Observational Constraints on Cosmic Reionization

Xiaohui Fan,¹ C.L. Carilli,² and B. Keating³

¹Steward Observatory, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona 85721; email: fan@sancerre.as.arizona.edu
 ²National Radio Astronomy Observatory, Socorro, New Mexico 87801; email: ccarilli@nrao.edu
 ³Department of Physics, University of California, San Diego, California 92093; email: bkeating@ucsd.edu



λ**(Å)**

Extragalactic seminar – Assignment: 30 min talk sumarising this *recent* review

A ANNUAL R REVIEWS

Observational Constraints on Cosmic Reionization

Xiaohui Fan,¹ C.L. Carilli,² and B. Keating³

¹Steward Observatory, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona 85721; email: fan@sancerre.as.arizona.edu
 ²National Radio Astronomy Observatory, Socorro, New Mexico 87801; email: ccarilli@nrao.edu
 ³Department of Physics, University of California, San Diego, California 92093; email: bkeating@ucsd.edu







A ANNUAL R REVIEWS

Observational Constraints on Cosmic Reionization

Xiaohui Fan,¹ C.L. Carilli,² and B. Keating³

¹Steward Observatory, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona 85721; email: fan@sancerre.as.arizona.edu
 ²National Radio Astronomy Observatory, Socorro, New Mexico 87801; email: ccarilli@nrao.edu
 ³Department of Physics, University of California, San Diego, California 92093; email: bkeating@ucsd.edu



2018



A ANNUAL REVIEWS





https://doi.org/10.3847/2041-8213/aac511

Observational Constraints on Cosmic Reionization

Xiaohui Fan,¹ C.L. Carilli,² and B. Keating³

¹Steward Observatory, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona 85721; email: fan@sancerre.as.arizona.edu
 ²National Radio Astronomy Observatory, Socorro, New Mexico 87801; email: ccarilli@nrao.edu
 ³Department of Physics, University of California, San Diego, California 92093; email: bkeating@ucsd.edu

A Powerful Radio-loud Quasar at the End of Cosmic Reionization

Eduardo Bañados^{1,7}⁽ⁱ⁾, Chris Carilli^{2,3}⁽ⁱ⁾, Fabian Walter^{2,4}⁽ⁱ⁾, Emmanuel Momjian²⁽ⁱ⁾, Roberto Decarli⁵⁽ⁱ⁾, Emanuele P. Farina⁶⁽ⁱ⁾, Chiara Mazzucchelli⁴⁽ⁱ⁾, and Bram P. Venemans⁴⁽ⁱ⁾ ¹ The Observatories of the Carnegie Institution for Science, 813 Santa Barbara Street, Pasadena, CA 91101, USA; ebanados@carnegiescience.edu ² National Radio Astronomy Observatory, Pete V. Domenici Array Science Center, P.O. Box 0, Socorro, NM 87801, USA



Motivation for this lecture



2006

A ANNUAL R REVIEWS

Observational Constraints on Cosmic Reionization

Xiaohui Fan,¹ C.L. Carilli,² and B. Keating³

¹Steward Observatory, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona 85721; email: fan@sancerre.as.arizona.edu
 ²National Radio Astronomy Observatory, Socorro, New Mexico 87801; email: ccarilli@nrao.edu
 ³Department of Physics, University of California, San Diego, California 92093; email: bkeating@ucsd.edu

2023 Reviews

Annual Review of Astronomy and Astrophysics Quasars and the Intergalactic Medium at Cosmic Dawn

Xiaohui Fan,¹ Eduardo Bañados,² and Robert A. Simcoe³

¹ Steward Observatory, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona, USA; email: xfan@arizona.edu
 ² Max-Planck-Institut für Astronomie, Heidelberg, Germany; email: banados@mpia.de
 ³ MIT Kavli Institute for Astrophysics and Space Research, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA; email: simcoe@space.mit.edu





Outline



A ANNUAL R REVIEWS

Annual Review of Astronomy and Astrophysics Quasars and the Intergalactic Medium at Cosmic Dawn

Xiaohui Fan,¹ Eduardo Bañados,² and Robert A. Simcoe³

¹Steward Observatory, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona, USA; email: xfan@arizona.edu ²Max-Planck-Institut für Astronomie, Heidelberg, Germany; email: banados@mpia.de ³MIT Kavli Institute for Astrophysics and Space Research, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA; email: simcoe@space.mit.edu

> Fan, **Bañados** & Simcoe 2023 ARA&A 61, 373



- Unobscured quasars at z>5.3
- IGM studies based only on quasars
- Status of the field pre-JWST



- Discovery and demographics
- SMBH → ~pc scales
- Galaxy / Close envs. \rightarrow ~kpc scales
- Environments /IGM \rightarrow ~Mpc scales
- (Obscured and jetted quasars/AGN?)



Quasar selection



Quasar selection







Euclid preparation V: Barnett+2019







Fan+ 2000-2006 Jiang+ 2008-2009 Willott+ 2007-2010

LETTER

doi:10.1038/nature10159

A luminous quasar at a redshift of z = 7.085

Daniel J. Mortlock¹, Stephen J. Warren¹, Bram P. Venemans², Mitesh Patel¹, Paul C. Hewett³, Richard G. McMahon³, Chris Simpson⁴, Tom Theuns^{5,6}, Eduardo A. Gonzáles-Solares³, Andy Adamson⁷, Simon Dye⁸, Nigel C. Hambly⁹, Paul Hirst¹⁰, Mike J. Irwin³, Ernst Kuiper¹¹, Andy Lawrence⁹ & Huub J. A. Röttgering¹¹







Fig. 1 Fan, Bañados, Simcoe 2023











Reionization-era quasars

Fan+06 ARAA review



Fan+23 ARAA review [draft]



>500 Reionization-era quasars



~300 at z>6 8 at z>7 3 at z>7.5

Database with properties published with the review

Coordinates, redshifts, UV magnitudes, Black Hole Masses, references ...

> Fig. 3 Fan, Bañados, Simcoe 2023

Identifying and confirming quasars is not trivial

Identifying and confirming quasars is not trivial

Recent claim of a new z~7.5 quasar

Dense nitrogen-enriched circumnuclear region of the new high-redshift quasar ULAS J0816+2134 at
z = 7.46EKATERINA KOPTELOVA¹ AND CHORNG-YUAN HWANG¹ \blacksquare VIEWPapers that cite

Dense nitrogen-enriched circumnuclear region of the new high-redshift quasar ULAS J0816+2134 at z=7.46

Q view this list in a search results page

	1	2024Natur.62759M	2024/03			
		A small and vigo	rous black hole	in the early Universe		
		Maiolino, Roberto;	Scholtz, Jan; Wit	stok, Joris and 36 more		
	2	2023ApJ954210A	2023/09			
Subaru High-z Exploration of Low-luminosity Quasars (SHELLQs XVIII. The Dark Matter Halo Mass of Quasars at z 6						
		Arita, Junya; Kashi	ikawa, Nobunari; I	Matsuoka, Yoshiki and 10 r	more	
	3	2023RNAAS772B	2023/04			
On the Discovery Claim of a New z > 7 Quasar						
		Bosman, Sarah E.	.; Davies, Frederic	k B.; Bañados, Eduardo		



:= -----

Graphics

Metrics

Abstract

Citations (3)

Co-Reads

References (99)

Similar Papers

Volume Content

Export Citation

Identifying and confirming quasars is not trivial

Recent claim of a new z~7.5 quasar

RNAAS RESEARCH NOTES OF THE AAS

OPEN ACCESS

On the Discovery Claim of a New z > 7 Quasar Sarah E. I. Bosman¹, Frederick B. Davies¹, and Eduardo Bañados¹ Published April 2023 • © 2023. The Author(s). Published by the American Astronomical Society. Research Notes of the AAS, Volume 7, Number 4 Citation Sarah E. I. Bosman *et al* 2023 *Res. Notes AAS* 7 72 DOI 10.3847/2515-5172/accb5b

Figures - References -

+ Article and author information

Abstract

Koptelova & Hwang (K22) recently claimed a new quasar discovery at z = 7.46. After careful consideration of the publicly available data underlying K22's claim, we find that the observations were contaminated by a moving solar system object, likely a main-belt asteroid. In the absence of the contaminated photometry, there is no evidence for the nearby, persistent WISE source being a high-redshift object; in fact, a detection of the source in DESI Legacy Imaging Surveys *z*-band rules out a redshift *z* > 7.3. We present our findings as a cautionary tale of the dangers of passing asteroids for photometric selections.

the new high-redshift quasar ULAS J0816+2134 at 7.46

ND CHORNG-YUAN HWANG¹

It's an asteroid!

(#43838) 1993 FW49



Bosman, Davies & Bañados 2023

Quasars at the reionization frontier



What does it take to make a Pisco Sour?



Credits: M. Novak

What does it take to make a Pisco Sour?

High-z quasars in the JWST era



The most distant quasars Where we are and where we are going

Eduardo Bañados

Carnegie-Princeton Fellow

Feb 15, 2017
In 2016 ... testing Magellan telescope capabilities



How to push to z>8? FIRE

Semester:	2017a					
Investigator:	Eduardo Banados					
Department:	CIW					
Email:	ebanados@carnegiescience.edu					
Telephone:	626 3040 236					

Project No. 1:	The Carnegie search for the first QSOs: pushing the redshift barrier
Priority:	1
Co-Investigators:	Bram Venemans (MPIA), Fabian Walter (MPIA), Chiara Mazzucchelli (MPIA)

Observing Runs:

No.	Blocks	Nights	Max Moon	Telescope	Instr. One	Instr. Two	Service	Observers
1	2017_D02 (2017_D02-2	2 017_D03	8 })	Baade	FIRE	FourStar	No	Eduardo Banados
2	2017_D04 (2017_D04-2	2 017_D05	8 5)	Baade	FIRE	FourStar	No	Eduardo Banados

The PI has discussed these projects with the following TAC members: Dr. John Mulchaey and Dr. Gwen Rudie.

Who wants to observe with me?

(observations in ~1 month)

~5 am of the last night ... a new redshift-record was born ...



Eduardo Banados March 10, 2017 at 3:22 AM Q To: Fabian Walter, Venemans Bram, Roberto Decarli, Chiara Mazzucchelli, Xiaohui Fan, Feige Wang, and 2 more... pisco sour quasar Dear all. We are concluding the last night at Magellan. We observed more than 100 objects and we are happy to tell you that we have a winner! See attached the 'pisco sour' z>7.2 guasar. Now is pisco sour time. Cheers, Eduardo & Dan Redshift 5.6 5.8 6.0 6.2 6.4 6.6 6.8 7.0 7.2 7.47.6 10000 9000 11000 13000 15000 18000 22000 8000 8500 9500 Wavelength (Å)

Slide from Xiaohui Fan

Pisco sour time





Wikipedia page in <1 hour

ULAS J1342+0928

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

ULAS J1342+0928 is the most distant known quasar detected and contains the most distant supermassive black hole, [1][5][6][7] at a reported redshift of z = 7.54, surpassing the redshift of 7 for the previously known most distant quasar ULAS J1120+0641.^[1] The ULAS J1342+0928 quasar is 13.1 billion light-years away from Earth^{[5][8]} in the Boötes constellation.^[3] The related supermassive black hole is reported to be "800 million times the mass of the sun".^[5]



Dawn of time? Oldest monster black hole ever found could 'prove Big Bang NEVER happened'

A SUPERMASSIVE black hole has left scientists questioning beginning of life.

f Share Y Tweet G 📿

By Jamie Micklethwaite / Published 7th December 2017

Big Bang theory wrong: Black hole found that's so big and old it makes Big Bang IMPOSSIBLE

ASTRONOMERS have spotted a black hole that is almost as old as the universe itself, putting a huge question mark over the Big Bang theory.

By SEAN MARTIN

22 (

PUBLISHED: 11:07, Mon, Dec 11, 2017 | UPDATED: 11:30, Mon, Dec 11, 2017





>500 Reionization-era quasars



~300 at z>6 8 at z>7 3 at z>7.5

Database with properties published with the review

Coordinates, redshifts, UV magnitudes, Black Hole Masses, references ...

> Fig. 3 Fan, Bañados, Simcoe 2023

Outline

• Discovery and demographics

SMBH → ~pc scales

 Lyα
 CP
 C





Galaxy / Close envs. → ~kpc scales

• Environments /IGM \rightarrow ~Mpc scales

Quasars look the same across cosmic time



*See also Schindler+2020 (incl. EB), Onoue, Bañados+2020

Composite spectra at z~2, z~6, and z~6.6

No evolution of the Broad Line Region metal enrichment up to z~7.5

Fig. 5 Fan, Bañados, Simcoe 2023 Adapted from Yang+2021

The growth of supermassive black holes



All MgII-based black hole mass measurements at z>5.9

Eddington ratios 0.08 – 2.70 Mean: 0.92 Median: 0.79

> Fig. 6 Fan, Bañados, Simcoe 2023

What were the "seeds" of supermassive black holes?



Fig 7. Fan, Bañados, Simcoe 2023

Mass growth of a black hole



HOMEWORK: Derive the following equation:

$$M_{\rm BH}(t) = M_{\rm BH,seed} \times \exp\left[(1-\epsilon_r)\lambda_{\rm Edd}\frac{t}{t_{\rm Sal}}\right],$$
7.

where ϵ_r is the radiative efficiency, which is the efficiency of converting mass to energy, and the Salpeter time is defined as

$$t_{\rm Sal} = \frac{\epsilon_r \sigma_{\rm T} c}{4\pi \, Gm_{\rm p}} \approx \epsilon_r \, 450 \, {\rm Myr}.$$
 8.

Assuming $\lambda_{Edd} = 1$ and $\epsilon_r = 0.1$, Equation 7 is equal to

$$M_{\rm BH}(t) = M_{\rm BH,seed} \times \exp\left[\frac{t}{50\,{\rm Myr}}\right].$$
 9.

What were the "seeds" of supermassive black holes?



Fig 7. Fan, Bañados, Simcoe 2023

Outline

• Discovery and demographics

• SMBH \rightarrow ~pc scales

Galaxy / Close envs. → ~kpc scales

• Environments /IGM \rightarrow ~Mpc scales







Quasar as a phase of a galaxy



Quasar as a phase of a galaxy



Local black hole – bulge mass relation



What came first, black holes or galaxies?

Observational test: In which galaxies do black holes live?

Simulations diverge at high redshift



Habouzit, Onoue, Bañados+2022

Where is the stellar light in z>6 quasars?

Extremely hard in the UV/Optical even with HST



Quasar

PSF model

Quasar - PSF

See also Decarli+2012

Quasar host galaxies

The host galaxies dominate at rest-frame FIR

- Dust continuum
- Interstellar medium (ISM) lines: [CII], [OIII], CO, ...



First [CII] on a z>6 quasar. - 2005

A&A 440, L51–L54 (2005) DOI: 10.1051/0004-6361:200500165 © ESO 2005

First detection of [CII]158 μ m at high redshift: vigorous star formation in the early universe

R. Maiolino¹, P. Cox², P. Caselli¹, A. Beelen³, F. Bertoldi⁴, C. L. Carilli⁵, M. J. Kaufman⁶, K. M. Menten³, T. Nagao^{1,7}, A. Omont⁸, A. Weiß^{9,3}, C. M. Walmsley¹, and F. Walter¹⁰

¹ INAF – Osservatorio Astrofisico di Arcetri, L.go E. Fermi 5, 50125 Firenze, Italy e-mail: maiolino@arcetri.astro.it

What was the highest redshift [CII] detection before?



12.4 hours with IRAM/30m telescope



Second [CII] on a z>6 quasar - 2012

THE ASTROPHYSICAL JOURNAL LETTERS, 751:L25 (5pp), 2012 June 1 © 2012. The American Astronomical Society. All rights reserved. Printed in the U.S.A.

doi:10.1088/2041-8205/751/2/L25

DETECTION OF ATOMIC CARBON [C II] 158 μ m AND DUST EMISSION FROM A z = 7.1 QUASAR HOST GALAXY

B. P. VENEMANS^{1,2}, R. G. McMahon^{3,4}, F. Walter¹, R. Decarli¹, P. Cox⁵, R. Neri⁵, P. Hewett³, D. J. Mortlock^{6,7}, C. Simpson⁸, and S. J. Warren⁶

¹ Max-Planck Institute for Astronomy, Königstuhl 17, 69117 Heidelberg, Germany; venemans@mpia.de ² European Southern Observatory, Karl-Schwarzschild Strasse 2, 85748 Garching bei München, Germany



6.3 hours with IRAM/PdBI

Quasar host galaxies



ALMA/NOEMA make it look "easy"

Before 2013: Only two [CII] detections at z>6

(Maiolino+2005, Venemans+2012; See review by Carilli & Walter 2013)

Now: More than 90 [CII] detections at z>6

(see e.g., Andika+2019; Bañados 2015, 2019, 2024, Decarli+ 2018-2022, Eilers+2020, Venemas+2020, Yang+2021, Khusanova+2022, Izumi+ 2018-2021, Pensabene+ 2021)

Quasar host galaxies – a diverse population







Morphology

- 1/3 dispersion dominated
- 1/3 rotating disk
- 1/3 disturbed, merger/companion

General properties

- [CII] Sizes: 1 5 kpc (average ~2kpc)
- SFRs = $50 1500 M_{SUN} yr^{-1}$
- - $M_{DYN} = 1 10 \times 10^{10} M_{SUN}$
- $M_{GAS} = 4 40 \times 10^9 M_{SUN}$
- $M_{DUST} = 0.5 5 \times 10^8 M_{SUN}$

Fig. 9 Fan, Bañados, Simcoe 2023 Adapted from Neeleman+2021

Galaxy/Black Hole co-evolution



Current measurements ~10 times above local M-sigma relation

Fig. 10 Fan, Bañados, Simcoe 2023 Adapted from Neeleman+2021

Pushing ALMA resolution to the limits

z=6.6 Quasar host



400 pc resolution

Outline

• Discovery and demographics

• SMBH → ~pc scales

Galaxy / Close envs. → ~kpc scales

Environments / IGM → ~Mpc scales









Overdensities around high-z quasars?



Observations (*before JWST*) are still inconclusive ...

Overdensities around high-z quasars?





No overdensity

Willott+ 2005 Kim+ 2009 Bañados+ 2013 Husband+ 2013 Simpson+ 2013 Mazzucchelli, Bañados+ 2017 Goto+ 2017 Ota+ 2017

Before JWST: Two confirmed Mpc overdensities





Fig. 11 Fan, Bañados, Simcoe 2023 Adapted from Overzier+2022 and Mignoli+2020

J0836+0054 at z=5.8

A recent interesting result



Search for LAE over 3 deg² centred on a z=6.9 quasar

< 5 Mpc – Nothing >10 Mpc – Overdensity!

Argue previous experiments had FOV too small

Lambert+24 (incl EB)

Outline

• Discovery and demographics

• SMBH → ~pc scales

Galaxy / Close envs. → ~kpc scales

Environments /IGM → ~Mpc scales









Mapping reionization with quasars



Quasar damping wings ...

THE ASTROPHYSICAL JOURNAL, 501:15–22, 1998 July 1 © 1998. The American Astronomical Society. All rights reserved. Printed in U.S.A.

REIONIZATION OF THE INTERGALACTIC MEDIUM AND THE DAMPING WING OF THE GUNN-PETERSON TROUGH

JORDI MIRALDA-ESCUDÉ¹

University of Pennsylvania, Department of Physics and Astronomy, David Rittenhouse Laboratory, 209 South 33d Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104; jordi@llull.physics.upenn.edu Received 1997 August 27; accepted 1998 February 6

ABSTRACT

Observations of high-redshift quasars show that the intergalactic medium (IGM) must have been reionized at some redshift z > 5. If a source of radiation could be observed at the rest-frame Ly α wavelength, at a sufficiently high redshift where some of the IGM in the line of sight was not yet reionized, the Gunn-Peterson trough should be present. Longward of the Ly α wavelength, a damping wing should be observed, caused by the neutral IGM whose absorption profile can be predicted. Measuring the shape of this damping wing would provide irrefutable evidence of the observation of the IGM before reionization and a determination of the density of the neutral IGM. This measurement might be hindered by the possible presence of a dense absorption system associated with the source.

Quasar damping wings ...

Sensitive to neutral IGM: $f_{HI} > 0.1$

Example with a QSO at z=7.5



Miralda-Escude 1998

Quasar damping wings ...

Sensitive to neutral IGM: $f_{HI} > 0.1$



Miralda-Escude 1998
Quasar damping wings ...

Sensitive to neutral IGM: $f_{HI} > 0.1$



Miralda-Escude 1998

Did I find an IGM damping wing at z=6.4??



Bañados+ 2019b

Proximate DLA at z=6.4



z=6.4 (15% of cosmic time)

Bañados+ 2019b

*PDLAs are rare: <1% of quasars at z=3

Proximate DLA at z=6.4

No indications of Pop III yields yet (cosmic age: 850 Myr)



See also D'Odorico+18 for a similar result on a z=6.0 quasar Sodini+24 for "a sample"

Bañados+ 2019b

IGM damping wings at z>7



E Eduardo Banados <ebanados@c... Tue, Mar 14, 2017, 1:53 AM 🛠 😳 4 i to Fabian, Xiaohui, Venemans 🗸

This is the combined spectrum from both nights, and probably our final FIRE spectrum for the paper. It shows a clear damping wing and I can't identify metals at a similar redshift.

IGM damping wings at z>7



See also Greig, Mesinger & Bañados 2019 Davies, Hennawi, Bañados+ 2019 Ďurovčíková+2020, Reiman+2020

We need more quasars at z>7

All z>7 quasars show IGM damping wing signatures*



Fig. 16 Fan, Bañados, Simcoe 2023 Adapted from Jin+2022

*All that have a good S/N spectrum and are not Broad Absorption line quasars

Future is bright





 5
 5.4
 5.8
 6.2
 6.6
 7
 7.4
 7.8

 GP Trough
 0.1
 Silv
 Cv

 Lyα
 GP
 0.1
 Silv
 Cv

 Lyα
 Silv
 Cv
 Cv
 Cv

 Transmission
 900
 900
 1000
 Observed wavelength (Å)

• SMBH \rightarrow ~pc scales

• Discovery and demographics

• Galaxy / Close envs. \rightarrow ~kpc scales

• Environments /IGM \rightarrow ~Mpc scales





