

Plenary Talk

THE FIRST BILLION YEARS OF GALAXY EVOLUTION

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Recent years have seen enormous progress in studies of galaxies in the first billion years of the universe, during the epoch of reionization. I will review current state-of-the-art observations with HST, Spitzer, and groundbased facilities, focusing on how they are used to identify, spectroscopically confirm, and characterize distant galaxies. I will discuss insights into galaxy build up and reionization of the intergalactic medium inferred from the observations, highlighting several unresolved issues. Finally, I highlight how the James Webb Space Telescope stands to revolutionize studies of the earliest galaxies, by detecting sources to fainter limits and higher redshifts than possible now, while providing sensitive rest-frame ultraviolet-to-optical spectroscopy.