

Dust in Damped Lyman-alpha Absorbing galaxies

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The issue of dust in Damped Lyman-alpha Absorbing (DLA) galaxies at high redshifts has been discussed since the early Nineties where the first evidence was found by Pei et al. (1991). In this talk we show new observations of an interesting DLA galaxy with solar metallicity and with H_2 molecules at $z=2.58$. Furthermore, the background QSO is substantially reddened by dust in the DLA.

Using the Hubble Space Telescope we have identified the galaxy counterpart of the DLA at an impact parameter of 16 kpc. This demonstrates that metals, molecules and dust can be widespread in early galaxies. We also present preliminary results from a targeted search for more dusty DLA galaxies using SDSS and UKIDSS.

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