

Macro Roundup Article

Headline: [Astronomers Say They Have Spotted the Universe's First Stars](#)

Article Link: <https://www.quantamagazine.org/astrophysicists-say-they-have-spotted-the-universe-s-first-stars-20230130/>

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Summary: A group of astronomers poring over data from the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) has glimpsed light from ionized helium in a distant galaxy, which could indicate the presence of the universe's very first generation of stars. These long-sought, inaptly named "Population III" stars would have been very large balls of hydrogen and helium sculpted from the universe's primordial gas. Theorists started imagining these first fireballs in the 1970s, hypothesizing that, after short lifetimes, they exploded as supernovas, forging heavier elements and spewing them into the cosmos. Xin Wang, an astronomer at the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing, and his colleagues think they've found them. "It's really surreal," Wang said. Confirmation is still needed; the team's paper, posted on the preprint server arxiv.org on December 8, is awaiting peer review at Nature.

Primary Topic: Science

Topics: Factoid, News article, Science

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