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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Galaxy formation & evolution; Reionization; Intergalactic medium (IGM); Quasars; AI×JWST

EDUCATION

- Mar. 2024 **Ph.D. in Physics**; University of California, Riverside
Constraining the IGM during the Later Stages of Reionization using QSO Spectra
Advisor: Prof. George Becker
- Dec. 2019 **M.Sc. in Physics**; University of California, Riverside
- Jun. 2018 **B.Sc. in Astronomy**; University of Science and Technology of China
Testing Gravity Theories on Galactic Scales. Advisor: Prof. Xiao-Bo Dong

POSITIONS & PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- **JASPER Scholar** (University of Arizona) 2025–
- Mentors: Prof. Eiichi Egami & Prof. Xiaohui Fan
- Leading NIRCам/WFSS analysis in JWST SAPPHIRES quasar fields; Investigating gas–galaxy interactions across multiple scales using JWST data with machine learning.
- **Postdoctoral Research Associate** (University of Arizona) 2024–
- Mentors: Prof. Marcia Rieke & Prof. George Rieke
- Member of the JWST NIRCам Science Team and the MIRI U.S. Team.
- Analyzing multi-band imaging of galaxies from NIRCам.
- Built the first systematic sample of galaxies with extended emission lines and potential outflows using deep NIRCам medium-band imaging with machine learning.
- Leading the reduction and analysis of one of the largest JWST/NIRSpec MSA datasets targeting cosmic-noon galaxies and dust-obscured AGN candidates.
- Leading SMILES (JWST-GTO-1207) NIRSpec public data release.
- **Graduate Student Researcher** (UC Riverside) 2019–2024
- Mentor: Prof. George Becker
- Led Keck and ALMA observations of the IGM via high- z quasars.
- Modeled the Ly α and Ly β forest using cosmological simulations.
- Provided robust evidence that cosmic reionization ended significantly later than previously thought.
- **Teaching Assistant** (UC Riverside) 2018–2019
- Taught intensive summer review course for PhD students preparing for the Comprehensive Exam.

Classical Mechanics, Electromagnetism, Thermal and Statistical Physics

- Led undergraduate general physics laboratory courses.

- **Teaching Assistant (USTC)** 2016
- Taught computer programming in C/C++, including data structures and algorithms.
- **Peer Reviewer:**
The Astrophysical Journal, The Astrophysical Journal Letters, Open Research Europe, Journal of Cosmology and Astroparticle Physics; telescope proposals (ALMA, Gemini).
- **Collaborations:** JADES, SAPPHIRES, XQR-30, COSMOS-3D, Roman Science Collaboration, EREBUS

SELECTED GRANTS & AWARDS

- NSF | NRAO Student Observing Support Award (\$40k) 2023
- UCR | HEERF Dissertation Year Program Award (\$7.2k) 2022
- Benjamin C. Shen Memorial Award
for Outstanding Achievement by a First Year Graduate Student Researcher, UCR 2019
- Dean's Distinguished Fellowship, UCR 2018
- Xingquan Fund Scholarship, USTC 2017
- Outstanding Student Scholarship, USTC 2015, 2017
- Student PI, "Properties of Barred Galaxies in Numerical Simulations" 2017
Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS)
Innovation Training Programs for Undergraduates (1 yr, CNY 10k)
- First Prize in China Undergraduate Physics Tournament (USTC Competition Area). 2016
- Student PI, "Testing Gravity Theories on Galactic Scales" 2015–2017
- National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC)
for Fostering Talented Students in Basic Sciences (2 yr, CNY 20k)
- Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS)
Innovation Training Programs for Undergraduates (1 yr, CNY 10k)

OBSERVING EXPERIENCE & PROPOSAL INVOLVEMENT

*PI/leading

person[†]

Selected projects:

- *ALMA - Cycle 11 – *Galaxy over/under-densities around IGM transmission at $z=5.7$: a robust constraint on reionization*
- *MMT-6.5m/Binospec IFU - 2024B – *Ionization and Enrichment in the Reionization Epoch: A Pilot Study with Binospec IFU*

- *ALMA - Cycle 9 – *The Mean Free Path of Ionizing Photons at $z = 5.6$: A Robust Constraint on Reionization*
- JWST/NIRCam WFSS - Cycle 2 (PI: Becker): *How Does Reionization End? A Search for [O III] Emitters in the Most Transparent Regions of the IGM Near Redshift Six*
- †Keck/ESI: [2021B_U036, 2022A_U035, 2022B_U042, 2023B_U049, 2023B_U049, 2024A_U281] *The Mean Free Path at $z = 5.6$: Insights into Ultra-Late Reionization*

Selected previous allocations:

- Keck/ESI: [2019A_U014, 2020A_U121, 2021A_U039] *Giant Ly α Troughs at $z < 6$: A Signature of Very Late Reionization?* (PI: Becker) **Zhu, Y.**, et al. 2021, ApJ, 923, 223; **Zhu, Y.** et al. 2022, ApJ, 932, 76.
- Keck/LRIS [2019A_U147, 2019B_U147] *The Mean Free Path at $z = 5$: A Key Constraint on Reionization Models* (PI: Becker) Becker, G. D., et al. 2021; **Zhu, Y.** et al. 2023, ApJ, 955, 115

Other allocations include Keck/ESI [2021A, 2021B], Keck/DEIMOS [2020A], Keck/LRIS [2023B], Subaru/HSC [2020B, 2021A, 2021B, 2023B]

† UC students cannot serve as Keck PIs; proposals were written and led by the author.

Other JWST programs as Co-I:

- 8544 - Rest-Frame Optical Nebular Emission Lines at Cosmic Dawn: MIRI/LRS Follow-Up for JADES-GS-z14-0
- 8060 - JWST Multi-Cycle Deep Transient Survey in GOODS-S
- 8018 - DIVER: Deep Insights into UV Spectroscopy at the Epoch of Reionization
- 7935 - Efficient Measurement of the Emergence Rate of AGN in Legacy Deep Field
- 7436 - The Last Neutral Islands at the End of Reionization? Characterizing the Nature of the Longest Dark Gaps in IGM Transmission at $z \sim 5.3$
- 7390 - Probing Pair-Instability Supernovae through the Triply-lensed MACS0647-JD at $z=10.17$
- 7345 - The Dragon survey: A Direct Probe of the Early Stellar Luminosity Function and Dark Matter through Multi-cycle Multi-cadence Microlensing at $z=0.73$
- 7336 - Commission a new R ~ 2500 IFU on JWST: Calibrating second-order spectra of NIRCam/WFSS through Hubble Ultra Deep Field
- 7335 - Forever Blowing Bubbles: What Powers a 24-kpc Ionized Gas Nebula Around a Normal Galaxy at $z=6$?

SELECTED SEMINARS / COLLOQUIA / CONFERENCE TALKS * invited

- Galaxy Origins in the JWST Era, Toledo

May 2025

- NIRCam Science Meeting, Biosphere 2 March 2025
- * SO/NSF's NOIRLab Joint Colloquium, **University of Arizona** February 27, 2025
- * Cosmology Seminar, **Arizona State University** February 19, 2025
- Lyman-alpha Forest Workshop, **Ohio State University** October 2024
- JWST MIRI Science Meeting, Biosphere 2 October 2024
- The First Gigayear(s), Hilo, Hawai'i September 2024
- JADES Collaboration Meeting, **University of Copenhagen** April 2024
- * Galaxy Group Talk, **University of Arizona** March 2024
- * Galaxy Seminar, **University of Michigan** November 2023
- Galaxy Formation and Evolution in Southern California September 2023
- * Special Kashiwa-Mitaka Meeting (KMM) Seminar, **U Tokyo** August 2023
- * Lightning Talk, First Light Conference, **MIT** June 2023
- Reionisation in the Summer Conference, **MPIA**, Heidelberg June 2023
- * Talk at Galaxy Formation Group, **Northwestern University** (CIERA) December 2022
- * FLASH Seminar, **University of California, Santa Cruz** November 2022
- * Astronomy Lunch Talk, **University of California, Los Angeles** October 2022
- * Astro Lunch Talk, **University of California, Santa Barbara** September 2022
- Reionization on a Blackboard Workshop, **CCA** September 2022
- * Special arXiv Coffee Meeting, **University of California, Davis** May 2022
- * Physics & Astronomy Student Seminar, **UC Riverside** April 2022
- * High-z Group Talk, **Tsinghua University** April 2022
- Reionization and Cosmic Dawn: Looking Forward to the Past, **UC Berkeley** March 2022
- European Astronomical Society Annual Meeting (EAS 2021) July 2021
- Summer All Zoom Epoch of Reionization Astronomy Conference (SAZERAC2) June 2021
- * EURECA Seminar, **University of Arizona** February 2021

MENTORING

- Graduate student mentored: Ms. Zheng Ma, Mr. Junyu Zhang (UArizona) 2025–

- Undergraduate student mentored:
 - Mr. Suprabhas Narisetty (UArizona) 2025–
 - Project: NIRSpec observations of cosmic-noon galaxies.
 - Ms. G. Hernandez (UC Riverside) 2021
 - Project: Measuring the redshift evolution of the IGM effective optical depth.
- Graduate student mentored as a peer mentor:
 - Mr. Seyedazim Hashemi (PhD student at UC Riverside)
 - Project: *Lyman-alpha visibility during the epoch of reionization*
- UCR International Students & Scholars Office:
 - 14 mentees with international backgrounds 2021–2023
- UCR GSMP / Graduate Student Mentorship Program: 2020
 - Dr. N. Ahvazi (Dark matter and galaxies)
 - Dr. Q. Wu (2D materials)

SERVICE & PUBLIC OUTREACH

- Instructor: Galactic Adventures, Flandrau Science Center & Planetarium June 2025
- Public tutorial: [Galaxy Morphology × Machine Learning](#) February 2025
- Stargazing outreach event, Home Gardens Library (Corona, CA) October 2023
- Co-organizer: UCR Physics & Astronomy Student Seminar 2022–2023
- UCR Camp Highlander instructor Summer 2022
- Outreach courses designed for K-12 students: 2022
 - *Multiwavelength Universe*
 - *Gravity Simulator*
- Virtual Stargazing (UCR & Riverside Astronomical Society)
 - monthly live public outreach on YouTube 2020–2021
- Serving for the Riverside County Science and Engineering Fair as a judge 2021–2023
- UCR Astronomy Public Outreach: Mercury Transit November 2019

SELECTED MEDIA COVERAGE

- “Astronomers Discover a Unique Quasi-Stellar Object-Dusty Star-Forming Galaxy System”, **Phys.org**
- “The End of the Cosmic Dawn: Settling a Two-Decade Debate”, **SciTechDaily**
- “Can You Explain These Long, Dark Gaps in Your Cosmological Resume?”, **AAS Nova**

YONGDA ZHU - PUBLICATION LIST

ORCID: [0000-0003-3307-7525](https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3307-7525)

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Google Scholar: <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=wDrSZWYAAAAJ>

As of October 2025: more than 2400 citations | *h*-index: 29

First-author:

12. **Zhu, Y.**, Becker, G. D., D'Aloisio, A., Endsley, R., Gangolli, N., Cain, C., Mason, C. A., Hashemi, S., and Hong, H., **2025**. *Galaxy Underdensities Host the Clear-est IGM Ly α Transmission and Indicate Anisotropic Reionization*, arXiv e-prints, arXiv:2510.09568.
11. **Zhu, Y.**, Egami, E., Fan, X., Sun, F., Becker, G. D., Cain, C., Chen, H., Eilers, A.-C., Fudamoto, Y., Helton, J. M., Jin, X., Pudoka, M., Bunker, A. J., Cai, Z., Champagne, J. B., Ji, Z., Lin, X., Liu, W., Ma, H.-X., Ma, Z., Maiolino, R., Rieke, G. H., Rieke, M. J., Rinaldi, P., Sun, Y., Tee, W. L., Wang, F., Yang, J., Yue, M., and Zhang, J., **2025**. *Quasar Radiative Feedback May Suppress Galaxy Growth on Intergalactic Scales at $z = 6.3$* , arXiv e-prints, arXiv:2509.00153.
10. **Zhu, Y.**, Bonaventura, N., Sun, Y., Rieke, G. H., Alberts, S., Lyu, J., Morrison, J. E., Ji, Z., Egami, E., Helton, J. M., Rieke, M. J., Rinaldi, P., Sun, F., and Willmer, C. N. A., **2025**. *SMILES Data Release II: Probing Galaxy Evolution during Cosmic Noon and Beyond with NIRSpec Medium-Resolution Spectra*, arXiv e-prints, arXiv:2508.12599.
9. **Zhu, Y.**, Rieke, M. J., Ji, Z., Simmonds, C., Sun, F., Sun, Y., Alberts, S., Bhatawdekar, R., Bunker, A. J., Cargile, P. A., Carniani, S., de Graaff, A., Hainline, K., Helton, J. M., Jones, G. C., Lyu, J., Rieke, G. H., Rinaldi, P., Robertson, B., Scholtz, J., Übler, H., Williams, C. C., and Willmer, C. N. A., **2025**. *A Systematic Search for Galaxies with Extended Emission Lines and Potential Outflows in JADES Medium-band Images*, The Astrophysical Journal, 986, 162.
8. **Zhu, Y.**, Alberts, S., Lyu, J., Morrison, J., Rieke, G. H., Sun, Y., Helton, J. M., Ji, Z., Bhatawdekar, R., Bonaventura, N., Bunker, A. J., Lin, X., Rieke, M. J., Rinaldi, P., Shivaiei, I., Willmer, C. N. A., and Zhang, J., **2025**. *SMILES: Potentially Higher Ion-izing Photon Production Efficiency in Overdense Regions*, The Astrophysical Journal, 986, 18.
7. **Zhu, Y.**, Rieke, M. J., Ho, L. C., Sun, Y., Rieke, G. H., Yuan, F., Bakx, T. J. L. C., Becker, G. D., Yang, J., Bañados, E., Bischetti, M., Cain, C., Fan, X., Fudamoto, Y., Hashemi, S., Ikeda, R., Ji, Z., Jin, X., Liu, W., Liu, Y., Lyu, J., Ma, H.-X., Takeuchi, T. T., Umehata, H., Wang, F., and Tee, W. L., **2025**. *Nuclear Winds Drive Cold Gas Outflows on Kiloparsec Scales in Reionization-Era Quasars*, arXiv e-prints, arXiv:2504.02305.

6. **Zhu, Y.**, Bakx, T. J. L. C., Ikeda, R., Umehata, H., Becker, G. D., Cain, C., Champagne, J. B., Fan, X., Fudamoto, Y., Jin, X., Ma, H.-X., Sun, Y., Takeuchi, T. T., and Tee, W. L., **2024**. *Discovery of a Unique Close Quasar–DSFG Pair Linked by a [C II] Bridge at $z = 5.63$* , Research Notes of the American Astronomical Society, 8, 284.
5. **Zhu, Y.**, Becker, G. D., Bosman, S. E. I., Cain, C., Keating, L. C., Nasir, F., D’Odorico, V., Bañados, E., Bian, F., Bischetti, M., Bolton, J. S., Chen, H., D’Aloisio, A., Davies, F. B., Davies, R. L., Eilers, A.-C., Fan, X., Gaikwad, P., Greig, B., Haehnelt, M. G., Kulkarni, G., Lai, S., Puchwein, E., Qin, Y., Ryan-Weber, E. V., Satyavolu, S., Spina, B., Walter, F., Wang, F., Wolfson, M., and Yang, J., **2024**. *Damping wing-like features in the stacked Ly α forest: Potential neutral hydrogen islands at $z < 6$* , Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, 533, L49.
4. **Zhu, Y.**, Becker, G. D., Christenson, H. M., D’Aloisio, A., Bosman, S. E. I., Bakx, T., D’Odorico, V., Bischetti, M., Cain, C., Davies, F. B., Davies, R. L., Eilers, A.-C., Fan, X., Gaikwad, P., Haehnelt, M. G., Keating, L. C., Kulkarni, G., Lai, S., Ma, H.-X., Mesinger, A., Qin, Y., Satyavolu, S., Takeuchi, T. T., Umehata, H., and Yang, J., **2023**. *Probing Ultralate Reionization: Direct Measurements of the Mean Free Path over $5 < z < 6$* , The Astrophysical Journal, 955, 115.
3. **Zhu, Y.**, Ma, H.-X., Dong, X.-B., Huang, Y., Mistele, T., Peng, B., Long, Q., Wang, T., Chang, L., and Jin, X., **2023**. *How close dark matter haloes and MOND are to each other: three-dimensional tests based on Gaia DR2*, Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, 519, 4479.
2. **Zhu, Y.**, Becker, G. D., Bosman, S. E. I., Keating, L. C., D’Odorico, V., Davies, R. L., Christenson, H. M., Bañados, E., Bian, F., Bischetti, M., Chen, H., Davies, F. B., Eilers, A.-C., Fan, X., Gaikwad, P., Greig, B., Haehnelt, M. G., Kulkarni, G., Lai, S., Pallottini, A., Qin, Y., Ryan-Weber, E. V., Walter, F., Wang, F., and Yang, J., **2022**. *Long Dark Gaps in the Ly β Forest at $z < 6$: Evidence of Ultra-late Reionization from XQR-30 Spectra*, The Astrophysical Journal, 932, 76.
1. **Zhu, Y.**, Becker, G. D., Bosman, S. E. I., Keating, L. C., Christenson, H. M., Bañados, E., Bian, F., Davies, F. B., D’Odorico, V., Eilers, A.-C., Fan, X., Haehnelt, M. G., Kulkarni, G., Pallottini, A., Qin, Y., Wang, F., and Yang, J., **2021**. *Chasing the Tail of Cosmic Reionization with Dark Gap Statistics in the Ly α Forest over $5 < z < 6$* , The Astrophysical Journal, 923, 223.

Co-author:

66. Rieke, G. H., Sun, Y., Lyu, J., Willmer, C. N. A., **Zhu, Y.**, Rinaldi, P., Stone, M. A., Hainline, K. N., and Perez-Gonzalez, P. G., **2025**. *Confirming Near- to Mid-IR Photometrically-Identified Obscured AGNs in the JWST era*, arXiv e-prints, arXiv:2510.07303.
65. Rinaldi, P., Bonaventura, N., Rieke, G. H., Alberts, S., Caputi, K. I., Baker, W. M., Baum, S., Bhatawdekar, R., Bunker, A. J., Carniani, S., Curtis-Lake, E., D’Eugenio, F., Egami, E., Ji, Z., Johnson, B. D., Hainline, K., Helton, J. M., Lin, X., Lyu, J., Ma, Z., Maiolino, R., Pérez-González, P. G., Rieke, M., Robertson, B. E., Shivaiei, I., Stone,

- M., Sun, Y., Tacchella, S., Übler, H., Williams, C. C., Willmer, C. N. A., Willott, C., Zhang, J., and **Zhu, Y.**, **2025**. *Not Just a Dot: The Complex UV Morphology and Underlying Properties of Little Red Dots*, The Astrophysical Journal, 992, 71.
64. Woodrum, C., Shivaiei, I., Witstok, J., Saxena, A., Simmonds, C., Scholtz, J., Bhatawdekar, R., Bunker, A. J., Carniani, S., Charlot, S., Curti, M., Curtis-Lake, E., Chevallard, J., D'Eugenio, F., Hainline, K., Helton, J. M., Maiolino, R., Perna, M., Rinaldi, P., Robertson, B., Straughn, A., Sun, Y., Tacchella, S., Williams, C. C., Willott, C., and **Zhu, Y.**, **2025**. *JADES: The Star Formation and Dust Attenuation Properties of Galaxies at $3 < z < 7$* , arXiv e-prints, arXiv:2510.00235.
63. Liu, W., Fan, X., Li, H., Green, R., Yang, J., Jin, X., Lyu, J., Pudoka, M., **Zhu, Y.**, Banados, E., Belladitta, S., Connor, T., Costa, T., Decarli, R., Eilers, A.-C., Jun, H., Marshall, M. A., Mazzucchelli, C., Schindler, J.-T., Shen, Y., Veilleux, S., Wolf, J., Zhang, H., Zhuang, M., Zou, S., and Li, M., **2025**. *Frequent Extreme Galaxy-scale Outflows among Luminous Early Quasars*, arXiv e-prints, arXiv:2509.08793.
62. Welsh, L., D'Odorico, V., Fontanot, F., Davies, R., Bosman, S. E. I., Cupani, G., Becker, G., Keating, L., Ryan-Weber, E., Bischetti, M., Haehnelt, M., Chen, H., **Zhu, Y.**, Lai, S., Hirschmann, M., Xie, L., and Qin, Y., **2025**. *The clustering of C IV and Si IV at the end of reionisation: A perspective from the E-XQR-30 survey*, arXiv e-prints, arXiv:2509.03585.
61. D'Eugenio, F., Helton, J. M., Hainline, K., Sun, F., Maiolino, R., Pérez-González, P. G., Juodžbalis, I., Arribas, S., Bunker, A. J., Carniani, S., Curtis-Lake, E., Egami, E., Eisenstein, D. J., Johnson, B. D., Robertson, B., Tacchella, S., Willmer, C. N. A., Willott, C., Baker, W. M., Danhaive, A. L., Duan, Q., Fudamoto, Y., Jones, G. C., Lin, X., Liu, W., Perna, M., Puskás, D., Rinaldi, P., Scholtz, J., Sun, Y., Trussler, J. A. A., Übler, H., Venturi, G., Williams, C. C., and **Zhu, Y.**, **2025**. *JADES and SAPPHIRES: galaxy metamorphosis amidst a huge, luminous emission-line region*, Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, 542, 960.
60. Hashemi, S., Becker, G. D., **Zhu, Y.**, and Hong, H., **2025**. *Ly α emission from [O III] emitters near reionization: the role of environment in galaxy Ly α detection*, Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, 542, 104.
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58. Ji, Z., Alberts, S., **Zhu, Y.**, Vanzella, E., Giavalisco, M., Hainline, K., Baker, W. M., Bunker, A. J., Helton, J. M., Lyu, J., Rinaldi, P., Robertson, B., Simmonds, C., Tacchella, S., Williams, C. C., Willmer, C. N. A., and Witstok, J., **2025**. *The Importance of Dust Distribution in Ionizing-photon Escape: NIRC*am* and MIRI Imaging of a Lyman Continuum-emitting Galaxy at $z \sim 3.8$* , The Astrophysical Journal, 988, L69.
57. Wu, Z., Eisenstein, D. J., Johnson, B. D., Jakobsen, P., Alberts, S., Arribas, S., Baker, W. M., Bunker, A. J., Carniani, S., Charlot, S., Chevallard, J., Curti, M., Curtis-Lake, E., D'Eugenio, F., Hainline, K., Helton, J. M., Hsiao, T. Y.-Y., Ji, X., Ji, Z.,

- Looser, T. J., Rieke, G., Rinaldi, P., Robertson, B., Scholtz, J., Sun, F., Tacchella, S., Trussler, J. A. A., Williams, C. C., Willmer, C. N. A., Willott, C., Witstok, J., and **Zhu, Y.**, **2025**. *JADES-GS-z14-1: A Compact, Faint Galaxy at $z \approx 14$ with Weak Metal Lines from Extremely Deep JWST MIRI, NIRCam, and NIRSpec Observations*, arXiv e-prints, arXiv:2507.22858.
56. Rinaldi, P., Rieke, G. H., Wu, Z., Gilbert, C. J. E., Pacucci, F., Barchiesi, L., Alberts, S., Carniani, S., Bunker, A. J., Bhatawdekar, R., D'Eugenio, F., Ji, Z., Johnson, B. D., Hainline, K., Kokorev, V., Kumari, N., Iani, E., Lyu, J., Maiolino, R., Parlanti, E., Robertson, B. E., Sun, Y., Vignali, C., Williams, C. C., Willmer, C. N. A., and **Zhu, Y.**, **2025**. *Beyond the Dot: an LRD-like nucleus at the Heart of an IR-Bright Galaxy and its implications for high-redshift LRDs*, arXiv e-prints, arXiv:2507.17738.
55. Stone, M. A., Rieke, G. H., Lyu, J., Florian, M. K., Hainline, K. N., Sun, Y., and **Zhu, Y.**, **2025**. *The $z = 7.08$ quasar ULAS J1120+0641 May Never Reach a "Normal" Black Hole to Stellar Mass Ratio*, arXiv e-prints, arXiv:2507.13489.
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