

JWST View of the Earliest Supermassive Black Holes

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The formation and growth of the earliest supermassive black holes (SMBHs) and the assembly of early massive galaxies are among the most important open questions. As the most luminous non-transit objects, quasars at $z > 6$ are indispensable probes of the early Universe. The recent high- z quasar surveys have pushed quasar frontier to $z > 7.5$. The launch of JWST opens up a new era in the study of early quasars, with the unparalleled wavelength coverage, high sensitivity, and high spatial resolution. I will summarize recent studies of high-redshift ($z \sim 6$) quasars using JWST with regard to these early SMBHs and their host galaxies. These new results include measurements of BH masses, direct image of UV/optical emission in the quasar host galaxy, evidence of strong AGN feedback, detailed investigation of the quasar-galaxy merging system, and constraints on the quasar environment. All of these can provide us with a more comprehensive picture, helping to connect active SMBHs, their host galaxies, and large-scale environments as a whole in the early Universe. In addition, JWST offers the first chance to systematically search for obscured and faint AGN at high redshift, complementary to the findings from luminous quasars.

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