

X61a Ly α halos around quasars at $z > 6$

Rieko Momose (U. Tokyo), Tomotsugu Goto (NTHU), Yousuke Utsumi (Stanford/SLAC), Tetsuya Hashimoto, Chia-Ying Chiang, Seong-Jin Kim (NTHU), Nobunari Kashikawa, Kazuhiro Shimasaku (U. Tokyo), Satoshi Miyazaki (NAOJ)

The circumgalactic medium (CGM) of quasars is a key ingredient to understanding the evolutionary process of supermassive black holes (SMBHs) and its connection to host galaxies (“coevolution”: e.g. Kormendy & Ho 2013). Host galaxies form stars by acquiring gas from the intergalactic space through the CGM (e.g. Dekel et al. 2009a,b). During and subsequent to the star-formation activities, SMBHs grow in mass shining as quasars, and finally return a large amount of gas in the host galaxies to the CGM by negative feedbacks, thereby quenching the subsequent star formation (e.g. Scannapieco et al. 2005; Dave et al. 2011). Thus, the evolution of SMBHs and host galaxies through gas exchanges to/from the CGM is evident in the CGM. The spatial extent of quasars’ CGM is often traced by hydrogen Ly α emission, which is called Ly α halos. Recently, we have detected a very luminous $z > 6$ Ly α halo with > 30 pkpc extent around the quasar J2329-0301 (Momose et al. 2018 submitted). By combining another three $z > 6$ quasars’ Ly α halos (one small Ly α halo and two non-detections), we have found that J23290301 has the smallest dust mass $M_{\text{dust}} < 10^7 M_{\odot}$ and the least massive black hole $M_{\text{BH}} = 2.5 \times 10^8 M_{\odot}$ among the four quasars. It indicates that J2329-0301 is still in a growing phase of quasar activity. One possible explanation why this quasar has such a luminous Ly α halo invokes that a small dust content helps ionizing photons to escape from the host galaxy to the CGM.