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2

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DAWN OF THE RED AND DEAD

STELLAR KINEMATICS OF MASSIVE QUIESCENT GALAXIES OUT TO $z\!=\!2$

The first massive elliptical galaxies were already in place when the Universe was only 3 billions years old. Surprisingly, they are more compact in comparison to their present-day counterparts.

In this thesis these recent findings are assessed by measuring the stellar kinematics of massive z=2 galaxies from spectra obtained with X-Shooter on the Very Large Telescope. This thesis work shows that high-redshift quiescent galaxies are truly very massive and structurally very different from present-day galaxies, yet they follow the same scaling relations.

DAWN OF THE REDAND DEAD STELLAR KINEMATICS OF MASSIVE QUIESCENT GALAXIES OUT TO Z = 2