



PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY SEMINAR

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“The Minor Merger History of the Most Massive Galaxies since $z = 1$ ”

Abstract

We present the first observational determination of the minor (mass ratio $1/4 < \mu < 1/10$) merger rate of massive galaxies by close pairs to $z = 1$. We search for close pairs of bright ($L_B > L_{B^*}$) and massive ($M_{\text{star}} > 10^{11} M_{\text{Sun}}$) galaxies in VVDS-Deep spectroscopic survey and in COSMOS field. We find that the minor merger rate of bright/massive galaxies is roughly constant with redshift, in contrast with the increase in the major (mass ratio higher than $1/4$) merger rate of the same galaxies. We discuss the implication of our measurements in the mass and size evolution of massive galaxies since $z = 1$, focusing in early-type ones.

Tuesday, December 06, 2011

1:30 p.m.

Elliott Building

Room 160