

## ABSTRACT

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Title: The Redshifts for Submillimeter Galaxies

A significant fraction of the energy emitted when the Universe was young came from very luminous galaxies largely hidden at optical wavelengths by shrouds of interstellar dust grains. Their energy now resides in cosmic background radiation at wavelengths near 1mm. These submillimeter (submm) galaxies were resolved from the background in 1997, but have been difficult to identify at other wavelengths of light due to the poor spatial resolution of submm instruments. This has impeded the determination of the redshifts to these submm galaxies, a crucial element to understanding their nature and evolution, and to put them in their correct cosmological context. I review the last six years of research on the redshifts of submm galaxies, since their discovery in 1997. The review will culminate in my recent spectroscopic measurement of redshifts in the restframe-UV using the Keck-10m telescope. The median redshift of these galaxies is 2.4, with a quartile range of  $z = 2.1$ -- $2.8$ , their activity thus peaks at the same cosmic epoch as quasars.