

Molecules in absorption toward PKS1830-211

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The molecular absorber at $z=0.89$ in the line of sight of the lensed blazar PKS1830-211 is a unique source to investigate the physico-chemical properties of the ISM in the disk of a distant galaxy. I will present the latest ALMA results on this source (mostly focussing on hydride species), and show how the molecules can be used as powerful cosmological probes (temperature of the cosmic microwave background, evolution of isotopic ratios, constancy of fundamental constants).