

## Passive galaxy candidates in the early Universe

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The selection of passive galaxies in the early ( $z>3$ ) Universe is very challenging, and crucial to constrain theoretical modelling of the processes responsible for their rapid assembly and abrupt shut-down of the star formation. I will describe the careful selection method which we developed to single out quiescent galaxies at high  $z$  in the CANDELS fields. I will present the resulting sample of 102 candidates at  $z>3$  and show how ALMA archival observations support and confirm their passive nature. Finally, I will discuss the contribution of adaptive optics in the study of early passive galaxies.

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