

[초IT-02] On the formation of massive galaxies

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The mass growth of massive, in particular elliptical, galaxies is a key issue in modern astrophysics. The apparent simplicity in the observed properties of massive ellipticals may appear as challenges to the widely-discussed hierarchical galaxy formation theory. This is because massive galaxies grow in complex manners in the hierarchical universe through frequent galaxy and halo mergers which cause critical changes to galaxy properties. I will present recent observational results that suggest a much more episodic history of stellar mass growth in massive galaxies than previously believed. I attempt to present improved understanding on the massive galaxy evolution based on the empirical findings.