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Presentation to be delivered at Georgia State University in Atlanta, GA on September 27, 2022

ABSTRACT

Title: A New Era of Astrophysics with NASA's JWST

JWST - launched December 25, 2021 - is poised to change the way we understand the universe, and we are already making some groundbreaking discoveries in just the first several months of operations. I will discuss the engineering milestones that made the mission possible, as well as the over-arching scientific themes/goals of the telescope: first galaxies around the time of cosmic reionization, galaxy assembly and evolution, the birth of stars & protoplanetary systems, and study of planets (both within the solar system and exoplanets). I will also discuss specific scientific programs approved for Cycle 1, as well as early results from the mission.