Stalking Celestial Monsters: Monitoring Active Galactic Nuclei and the Black Holes They Contain

Leslie F. Brown

Dept. of Physics, Astronomy and Geophysics, Connecticut College

Active Galactic Nuclei or AGNs come in several flavors, some of which are among the brightest and most energetic objects in the known universe. This presentation will review the properties of AGNs and the evidence that leads one to conclude that AGNs harbor super-massive black holes. We will go on to discuss how we can deduce differences in the fundamental parameters between different type of AGNs, and what the environment about a galactic black hole is like, from long-term optical and multiwavelength observations.

Friday, November 10\textsuperscript{th} 2006, McCook Auditorium, 3:00 pm, Refreshments 2:45 pm