

ACCRETION DISKS ARE THE CENTER

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ABSTRACT

Accretion flows, observed as thin or slim accretion disks, are the center of activity in AGN. Some of their properties are mostly understood. Others are confirmed by recent observations but are still awaiting explanation.

In my talk, I will show how three observed properties of thin accretion disks, and a high-density BLR, can be combined into a comprehensive global picture of AGN: 1. Short-time-scale "continuum" variations. 2. Mass outflow episodes that change the disk SED on intermediate and long time-scales. 3. Variable ionizing disk luminosity which provides a more robust method to estimate BH mass in large AGN samples, especially at high redshift.