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Hagai Netzer

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THE PHYSICS AND EVOLUTION OF ACTIVE GALACTIC NUCLEI

Research into active galactic nuclei (AGNs) – the compact, luminous hearts of many galaxies – is at the forefront of modern astrophysics. Understanding these objects requires extensive knowledge in many different areas: accretion disks, the physics of dust and ionized gas, astronomical spectroscopy, star formation, and the cosmological evolution of galaxies and black holes. This new text by Hagai Netzer, a renowned astronomer and leader in the field, provides a comprehensive introduction to the theory underpinning our study of AGNs and the ways that we observe them. It emphasizes the basic physics underlying this phenomenon, the different types of active galaxies and their various components, and the complex interplay between them and other astronomical objects. Recent developments regarding the evolutionary connections between active and dormant black holes and star-forming galaxies are explained in detail. Both graduate students and researchers will benefit from Netzer's authoritative contributions to this exciting field of research.

PROFESSOR HAGAI NETZER is a world-class expert in the area of active galaxies and super-massive black holes. He has been at Tel Aviv University since 1977, was the director of the Wise Observatory and the Chair of the Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics, was a visiting professor at numerous other universities, and won several prizes and awards. He has written several advanced and introductory texts in astronomy, as well as a popular science book about the search for life in the universe.

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To my students and colleagues who helped me appreciate
the beauty and complexity of Astronomy.

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Contents

<i>Preface</i>	<i>page</i> xiii
1 Observations of active galactic nuclei	1
1.1 AGNs across the electromagnetic spectrum	3
1.1.1 Optical–UV observations of AGNs	3
1.1.2 Infrared–submillimeter observations of AGNs	7
1.1.3 X-ray observations of AGNs	8
1.1.4 Radio observations of AGNs	10
1.1.5 Gamma-ray observations of AGNs	11
1.2 AGN variability	12
1.3 Discovering AGNs	13
1.3.1 Discovery by optical–UV properties	14
1.3.2 Discovery by radio properties	15
1.3.3 Discovery by X-ray properties	16
1.3.4 Discovery by IR properties	17
1.3.5 Discovery by continuum variability	17
1.4 AGN samples and census	18
1.5 AGN terminology	20
1.6 Useful cosmological relationships	20
1.7 Further reading	22
2 Nonthermal radiation processes	23
2.1 Basic radiative transfer	23
2.2 Synchrotron radiation	24
2.2.1 Emission by a single electron in a magnetic field	24
2.2.2 Synchrotron emission by a power-law distribution of electrons	25
2.2.3 Synchrotron self-absorption	26
2.2.4 Polarization	27
2.2.5 Synchrotron sources in AGNs	27
	vii

viii	<i>Contents</i>	
2.3	Compton scattering	27
2.3.1	Comptonization	28
2.3.2	The Compton parameter	30
2.3.3	Inverse Compton emission	30
2.3.4	Synchrotron self-Compton	31
2.4	Annihilation and pair production	31
2.5	Bremsstrahlung (free–free) radiation	33
2.6	Further reading	34
3	Black holes	35
3.1	Active and dormant black holes in galactic nuclei	35
3.2	General black hole properties	36
3.3	Accretion onto black holes	39
3.3.1	The Eddington luminosity	39
3.3.2	Spherical accretion	41
3.4	Further reading	42
4	Accretion disks	43
4.1	Optically thick, geometrically thin accretion disks	44
4.1.1	Basic disk parameters	44
4.1.2	Luminosity emissivity and temperature	47
4.1.3	Viscosity	49
4.1.4	Important time scales	52
4.1.5	Disk geometry	53
4.1.6	The emitted spectrum	55
4.1.7	Viewing angle dependences	57
4.2	Real AGN disks	58
4.2.1	Comptonization and the disk corona	58
4.2.2	Irradiated disks	61
4.3	Slim and thick accretion disks	62
4.4	Radiatively inefficient accretion flows	64
4.5	Further reading	68
5	Physical processes in AGN gas and dust	70
5.1	Photoionized gas	70
5.2	Basic spectroscopy	75
5.2.1	Absorption and emission coefficients	75
5.2.2	Atomic transitions and selection rules	77
5.2.3	Energy-level diagrams	79
5.3	Thermal balance	84
5.4	The spectrum of ionized AGN gas	89
5.4.1	Ionization parameter	89

<i>Contents</i>	ix
5.4.2 Line and continuum emission processes	90
5.4.3 The hydrogen line spectrum	93
5.5 Gas composition	93
5.6 Clouds and confinement	95
5.7 Photoionization models	99
5.7.1 Photoionization models for a single cloud	99
5.7.2 Photoionization models for a system of clouds	99
5.8 Mechanical heating and collisionally ionized plasma	102
5.9 The motion of ionized gas	104
5.9.1 The equation of motion	104
5.9.2 Radiation pressure and gas outflows	105
5.10 Dust and reddening	108
5.10.1 General dust properties	108
5.10.2 Dust and ionized gas	112
5.10.3 Extinction curves	114
5.11 Further reading	115
6 The AGN family	116
6.1 How to classify AGNs	116
6.1.1 General and historical classification schemes	116
6.1.2 Diagnostic diagrams	118
6.2 Type-I and type-II AGNs	120
6.2.1 Central obscuration	120
6.2.2 Spectropolarimetry and scattered AGN radiation	122
6.2.3 X-ray observations and central obscuration	124
6.2.4 Ionization cones	125
6.2.5 “Real” type-II AGNs	126
6.3 Radio-loud and gamma-ray-loud AGNs	127
6.3.1 Radio-loud AGNs	127
6.3.2 Gamma-ray-loud AGNs	130
6.4 Lineless AGNs	132
6.5 Low-luminosity AGNs and LINERs	134
6.5.1 Spectral classification of LINERs	134
6.5.2 Accretion-driven LINERs and imposters	135
6.5.3 The infrared properties of LINERs	136
6.6 Broad-absorption-line AGNs	137
6.7 AGN unification	138
6.8 Further reading	141
7 Main components of AGNs	142
7.1 The broad-line region	142
7.1.1 The broad-line spectrum	143

x	<i>Contents</i>	
	7.1.2 Gas metallicity in the BLR	149
	7.1.3 Broad-emission-line profiles	151
	7.1.4 Eigenvector 1	154
	7.1.5 Bolometric corrections	157
	7.1.6 Emission-line variability and reverberation mapping	158
	7.1.7 The transfer function	159
	7.1.8 Reverberation mapping results	163
	7.1.9 What determines the BLR size?	167
	7.1.10 Black hole mass determination	168
	7.1.11 Line and continuum correlations	174
	7.1.12 BLR models	177
7.2	The narrow-line region	178
	7.2.1 The NLR spectrum	180
	7.2.2 The kinematics of the NLR gas	188
	7.2.3 Luminosity covering factor and accretion rate	188
	7.2.4 The NLR size and extended narrow-line regions	194
7.3	The highly ionized gas	195
	7.3.1 HIG spectrum and outflow	195
	7.3.2 Associated UV absorbers	200
7.4	Broad- and narrow-absorption-line regions	200
	7.4.1 Broad absorption lines (BALs)	200
	7.4.2 Narrow absorption lines	205
7.5	The central torus	205
	7.5.1 Obscuring structure in the inner 100 pc	205
	7.5.2 Dusty torus models	206
	7.5.3 The inner torus and the HIG connection	209
	7.5.4 The origin of the torus	212
	7.5.5 AGNs without a torus?	212
7.6	The megamaser molecular disk	213
7.7	Stars and starburst regions	216
	7.7.1 Stars as emission-line clouds	216
	7.7.2 Starburst regions in AGNs	217
7.8	The central accretion disk	219
	7.8.1 The optical–UV continuum of accretion disks	220
	7.8.2 The polarized signature of AGN disks	221
	7.8.3 The X-ray signature of AGN disks	223
	7.8.4 Analogy with black holes in X-ray binary systems	229
	7.8.5 Direct detection and size measurements via microlensing	231
7.9	The central jet	231
	7.9.1 Radio optical X-ray and gamma-ray jets	231
	7.9.2 The electromagnetic signature of relativistic jets	233

	<i>Contents</i>	xi
7.10	Multicomponent AGN models	236
7.11	Further reading	239
8	Host galaxies of AGNs	242
8.1	Observations of host galaxies	242
8.2	Galaxy interaction and AGN activity	244
8.3	Stellar mass and black hole mass	245
8.3.1	BH mass in nonactive galaxies	245
8.3.2	BH mass and emission-line width	252
8.4	Red and blue galaxies	254
8.5	Star-forming galaxies	257
8.5.1	Observed properties of SF galaxies	257
8.5.2	Highlights of SF theory	259
8.5.3	Estimating star formation rates	261
8.5.4	Various types of SF galaxies	269
8.5.5	The star formation sequence	270
8.5.6	The various modes of star formation	271
8.5.7	The star formation history of the universe	272
8.6	The AGN–starburst connection	274
8.7	A combined AGN–galaxy SED	279
8.8	Further reading	280
9	Formation and evolution of AGNs	282
9.1	The redshift sequence of AGNs	282
9.2	Highlights of galaxy evolution	282
9.2.1	Hierarchical structure formation	282
9.2.2	Formation and evolution of galaxies	284
9.2.3	Numerical and semianalytic models of galaxy formation and evolution	290
9.2.4	The role of supermassive BHs in galaxy evolution	291
9.3	Seed BHs	291
9.4	Feeding the monster	293
9.4.1	Angular momentum disk instability and secular evolution	293
9.4.2	Merger-driven BH accretion	295
9.4.3	Nuclear star clusters	295
9.5	The growth of supermassive BHs	296
9.5.1	General considerations	296
9.5.2	Merging galaxies	298
9.5.3	Binary BHs	300
9.5.4	Various accretion modes of active black holes	303
9.5.5	The fundamental plane and the kinetic power of AGN outflows	305

xii	<i>Contents</i>	
9.6	Mass and luminosity evolution of individual AGNs	307
9.7	Mass and luminosity evolution of the AGN population	309
9.7.1	The luminosity function of AGNs	309
9.7.2	The cosmological X-ray background	313
9.7.3	The total BH mass in the universe	315
9.7.4	The mass function of BHs	317
9.8	Coevolution of galaxies and supermassive BHs	320
9.8.1	BH evolutionary models	320
9.8.2	The relative growth rate of BH and stellar mass	321
9.8.3	Outflows and feedback	323
9.9	Further reading	328
10	Outstanding questions	330
10.1	Questions related to the central power house	330
10.1.1	Black hole mass and spin	330
10.1.2	Accretion disk	331
10.1.3	Radiatively inefficient flows and the nature of LINERs	332
10.1.4	The central radio and gamma-ray source	332
10.2	Questions related to the broad and narrow emission lines	332
10.2.1	BLR physics and size	332
10.2.2	Gas kinematics in the BLR	333
10.2.3	The narrow- and coronal-line regions	333
10.2.4	Gas metallicity	334
10.3	Questions related to outflow and feedback	334
10.3.1	Outflow physics	334
10.3.2	The physics of feedback	335
10.4	Questions related to AGN evolution	335
10.4.1	BH growth	335
10.4.2	Duty cycle luminosity function and mass function	335
10.4.3	Merger or secular evolution and completely obscured AGNs	336
10.4.4	$M-\sigma^*$ at high redshift	336
10.4.5	The AGN–starburst connection	337
	<i>References</i>	339
	<i>Index</i>	349
	<i>Color plates following page 178</i>	

Preface

The field of active galactic nuclei (AGNs) is exploding. From a narrow discipline dealing with massive active black holes (BHs) and their immediate surroundings, it now includes the host galaxies of such BHs, the correlated evolution of BHs and galaxies, and the physics of extremely energetic phenomena like γ -ray jets. More than 1000 articles are being published in refereed journals every year about this topic, and the numbers are still growing. The equivalent number in the mid-1970s was about 200.

This book, *The Physics and Evolution of Active Galactic Nuclei*, is an attempt to cover most of the central topics in this large field in a way that emphasizes the basic physics and the complex connections between AGNs and other astronomical objects. It grew from a graduate-level course taught at Tel Aviv University over many years and from numerous international schools on this topic where I participate as a lecturer, and it contains three main themes. The first is a comprehensive description of the more important physical processes associated with AGNs: the physics of photoionized gas; dust in AGNs; nonthermal processes; and various modes of accretion onto BHs, including accretion disks and accretion flows. The second is a detailed description of various subgroups of AGNs and the main components in individual sources. These include radio-loud and radio-quiet AGNs, type-I and type-II sources, LINERs, blazars, broad and narrow emission line regions, broad and narrow absorption lines, megamasers, dusty tori, and X-ray-emitting gas near the BH. The third part deals with the various connections, evolutionary and others, between BHs and their host galaxies, including star-forming galaxies.

The book is meant to be self-contained, an almost impossible mission given the nature of the field. There is no way to pay justice to all the papers that were used in writing this text – there are simply too many of them and, no doubt, others that are as important but escaped my notice. Instead, I chose to give itemized references at the end of each chapter to help guide the reader to other books, to important

review articles, and to central papers that were used in the writing. These lists are “references to references” and should be viewed as shortcuts to a more thorough study of this vast area of modern research.

Hagai Netzer
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