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X-ray spectroscopy: a ruler for Active Galactic Nuclei

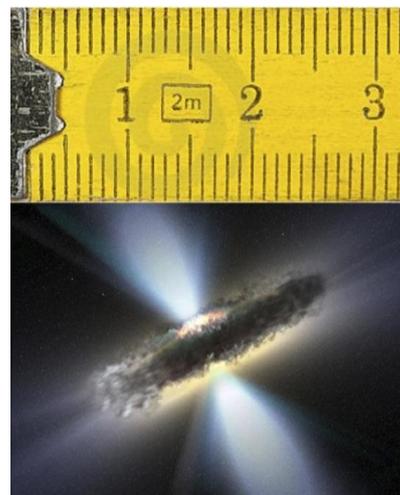
Dr. Matteo Guainazzi (ESAC)



Dr. Matteo Guainazzi is staff astronomer at the XMM-Newton Science Operations Centre of the European Space Agency (ESAC, Villafranca del Castillo, Spain). He is responsible for the calibration of the scientific payload on board this X-ray observatory. Since he got his Ph.D. in astrophysics at the University "La Sapienza" (Rome, Italy) in October 1996, his scientific interests has been geared toward the high-energy emission of Active Galactic Nuclei and X-ray binaries as a probe of the plasma flow onto accreting black holes, the gas and dust environment where this accretion takes place, and the ionisation mechanism of Narrow Line Regions. This talk is presented while Dr. Guainazzi is on his way to lecturing at the COSPAR Capacity Building Workshop on high-energy astrophysics to 35 young researchers from China and India.

Abstract

The formidable energy output of Active Galactic Nuclei (AGN) is produced in the innermost parsec from the accreting super-massive Black Hole. Most of the actions actually occurs within the innermost tens to hundreds gravitational radii. These scales are inaccessible even for the sharpest telescopes. X-ray spectroscopy provides us with a tool to characterize the accretion and ejection phenomena close to the BH event horizon, and therefore to estimate their spatial scale. In my talk I will review the status of these investigations. They allow us to characterize the AGN structure model down to the innermost stable orbit of the accretion flow, as well as (and, probably, more importantly), to establish the level of AGN radiative and mechanical feedback on the evolution of the host galaxies.



All are welcome! Tea, coffee, biscuits will be served at 2:15 P.M.

You are welcome to nominate speakers to Weimin Yuan (wmy@nao.cas.cn), Mei Zhang (zhangmei@bao.ac.cn), Licai Deng (licai@bao.ac.cn), Xuelei Chen (xuelei@cosmology.bao.ac.cn), Shude Mao (smao@nao.cas.cn)