Active Galactic Nuclei



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Broad Band Spectrum, I



Active Galactic Nuclei: Emission over many decades in energy

Türler et al. (1999): Spectral Energy Distribution of 3C 273

Reminder: νf_{ν} -plot gives energy per frequency decade



Optical/UV spectrum of NGC 5548: a Seyfert 1 Galaxy: broad lines!

AGN

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Seyfert Galaxies

Seyfert 2 spectrum and sources with similar spectra: narrow lines

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Seyfert Galaxies

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 Center of AGN is copious source of optical emission lines, lines are indicative of the presence of many elemental ionization stages
Doppler effect: Line width corresponds to velocity dispersion:

$$\frac{\Delta\lambda}{\lambda} = \frac{\Delta v}{c} \tag{10.1}$$

"radio-quiet" AGN:

Seyfert 1: • strong continuum from IR to X,

- broad allowed lines (HI, HeI, HeII, line width: 1000...5000 km/s),
- narrow forbidden lines (O III, N II, S II, line width \sim 500 km/s).

Seyfert 2: • weak continuum,

 \bullet both forbidden and allowed lines have line width ~ 500 km/s.

"forbidden lines": emission lines caused by higher than dipole transitions (see later)

Similar behavior also for objects with jets ("radio-loud AGN").

Classification in gory detail: Lawrence (1987), Urry & Padovani (1995)



Urry & Padovani

Line Diagnostics

Two types of AGN lines:

broad lines: FWHM: $\Delta \lambda / \lambda = \Delta \nu / \nu \sim 0.05 \dots 0.1$, i.e. $1000 \dots 10000 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ narrow lines: FWHM: $\Delta \Lambda / \lambda = \Delta \nu / \nu \sim 0.002 \dots 0.1$, i.e. $\leq 100 \text{ km s}^{-1}$

Big questions: What are the physical conditions in the absorbing gas?

- Temperature?
- Density?
- Elemental Abundances?

 \implies Line diagnostics!

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