

The dusty torus of the AGN unified model

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The small-scale ($<$ few tens of pc) characteristics of active galaxies form an important part of our picture of the growth of black holes and their effects on their host galaxies. One of the major small-scale components of an AGN is the dusty torus of the AGN unified model, and understanding the characteristics and behavior of dust in the torus is therefore a key part of understanding AGN as a whole. In this talk I will review current ideas about the torus: its possible roles in both inflow to and outflow from the nucleus; its chemical makeup; and evidence for dust destruction and formation that demonstrates the dynamical, changing nature of this structure.