

Active Galactic Nuclei

Cosmic fireworks around supermassive black holes



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Sitting at the centre of almost every galaxy is a supermassive black hole, somewhere between a million and a billion times the mass of our Sun. In our galaxy, this black hole is thankfully relatively calm, but in others, it is feeding on vast quantities of matter and releasing enormous amounts of energy. These so-called "active galactic nuclei" are the brightest objects we see in the universe. What exactly is going on at the centres of galaxies? How are these exotic objects powered? What can we learn from studying them?

Image: Cosmos: A Spacetime Odessey

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