
Physics Colloquium

University of Missouri-Kansas City

Department of Physics

Dr. Brian Wilhite
University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign

Studying the Effect of Black Holes on the Matter Around Them with Quasar Variability

Quasars, some of the brightest objects in the Universe, have light outputs that vary by large amounts on surprisingly short time scales. The exact mechanism for these variations is not known. However, by using multiple spectroscopic and photometric observations of thousands of quasars from the Sloan Digital Sky Survey, we have been able to characterize many aspects of their variability. Now, finally, we are on the brink of using these variations to learn more about the physics of quasars. We begin by looking at the relationship between a quasar's variability and the mass of the central black hole.

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Physics Department
Robert H. Flarsheim Science & Technology Hall
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****Coffee at 3:10: Colloquium at 3:30 in Room 310****