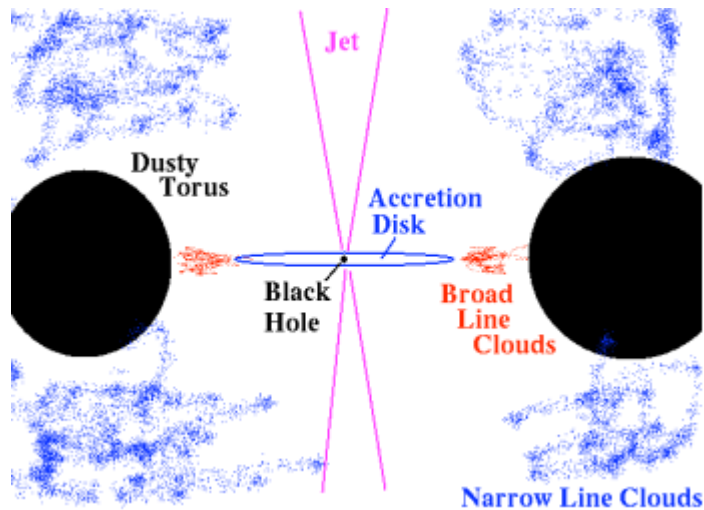


Answer on Question #69706, Physics / Astronomy | Astrophysics

With the help of a diagram, explain the unified scheme for understanding active galactic nuclei.

Answer:

The unified scheme assumes that in all active galactic nucleus the same physical components are involved.



All components are motivated by observational facts. The broad-line-region, which emits the broad lines and jets, are seen in nearly every source. As shown above, a black hole, or in case of the high energies reached by the jets a super massive black hole (SMBH) is needed. Beside this SMBH lies an accretion disk, which literally feeds the SMBH with material. On the outer side of this disk lies a dusty torus, which consist mostly of dust from the mother galaxy. A not drawn part of a typical active galactic nucleus are the radio lobes and hot spots, which have a huge distance to the core and optically emitting regions.

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