

Invited Lecture

THE QUASAR MAIN SEQUENCE: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

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The last few years have seen the confirmation of several main trends associated with the quasar main sequence. The idea of a main sequence for quasars is relatively recent, and its full potential for the observational classification and contextualization of quasars’ properties has yet to be fully exploited. We briefly summarize developments that permit a less-inaccurate estimate of the supermassive black hole masses, inferences on the chemical composition of the broad line emitting gas, and on the nature of radio emission along the quasar main sequence. Last, we’ll relate the main sequence to other important scaling laws, such as the fundamental plane of black hole activity.