

Quasars, Starbursts, and the Cosmic Energy Budget

A. Lawrence

Institute for Astronomy, University of Edinburgh

Royal Observatory, Blackford Hill

Edinburgh EH9 3HJ, Scotland, UK

al@roe.ac.uk

I will review the properties of AGN, their relation to starbursts, and how observations with FIRST can make an impact. Observations in the Far Infrared are the best way to make an unbiased survey of active galaxies in the loosest sense, but separating the true quasars from the surrounding starburst may prove difficult. There is in fact much evidence to suggest that starburst and AGN activity are intimately connected, and FIRST will help us explore this link. Since the last major FIRST conference in Grenoble, this issue has become even more central to modern astrophysics, with the realisation of the dominance of the FIR background, the discovery of high redshift SCUBA sources, and the emergence of the black hole mass deficit problem. What dominates the cosmic energy budget - nuclear fusion or accretion ?