

Peter Erwin

Outer Disks and Halos: Confusion and Coexistence

Poster Abstract: Approximately 1/3 of S0 and spiral galaxies show surface-brightness profiles (from moderate-depth imaging) with excess light at large radii, above a simple extrapolation of the exponential disk. These "antitruncations" are sometimes a continuation of the inner disk, and sometimes due to more spheroidal distributions of stars. I will discuss the relative frequency and distributions with Hubble type and other galaxy properties of these luminous outer spheroids, and whether they are simply continuations of the inner bulge or distinct stellar halos. I will also discuss recent claims that ubiquitous bright stellar halos around spiral galaxies can explain a (supposed) dichotomy between the surface-brightness profiles of edge-on and face-on spirals.