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Imaging black holes and horizonless compact objects

We present the theoretical and phenomenological basis of the imaging of astrophysical objects compact enough to hold a photon sphere, namely, an unstable bound light orbit. We discuss the features of the two most salient features of such an imaging (the photon rings and the shadow) for black holes and horizonless compact objects alike and comment on the possibilities and difficulties within this field as supplied by very-long baseline interferometry technologies.

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