# Searching for AGN signatures in Mid-IR Spectra

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Infrared observations are essential in the understanding of the major powering sources in the central regions of galaxies which are often enshrouded by dust. In particular, distinct mid-infrared dust emission features offer us the possibility to distinguish active galactic nuclei (AGNs) from starbursts. I will describe the infrared properties of prototypical starburst (M82) and active galaxies (NGC1068). I will present and compare several mid-infrared diagnostic methods based on PAHs, emission lines, and continuum of galaxies observed with ISO. The consequences of these AGN/starburst criteria on utraluminous infrared galaxies will be discussed as well as the future observation capabilities with SIRTF and FIRST in the light of ISO results.