

AGB stars: dust factory of their host environment

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During the evolution through the Asymptotic Giant Branch, low-intermediate mass stars play a fundamental role as polluters of the interstellar medium. The advanced nucleosynthesis processes active in the internal regions together with episodes of deep convective mixing are responsible for a significant variations of the surface chemistry. Furthermore, the low effective temperatures and the high rates of mass loss experienced during the AGB phase favour the formation of cold and dense winds, suitable for the condensation of gas molecules into dust. In this presentation we will discuss the dust formation process coupled with the description of the AGB evolution and the impact of these stars as dust manufacturers for their host environment.
