Workshop

Stellar End Products: The Low Mass - High Mass Connection

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Title:

Optical interferometry: current and future facilities

Abstract:

In the last decade optical interferometers have started to produce an increasing number of milli-arcsecond resolution images of circumstellar environments and stellar surfaces. At the same time the development of spectro-interferometry has permitted to probe mass loss and accretion phenomenon, dust and molecular production and evolution.

Building on the experienced gained by a first generation of instruments a second generation is will soon see its first light at VLTI: GRAVITY and MATISSE. With these new tools and PIONIER available at VLTI the evolved star community will have access with a unique capability for spectro imaging from 1.5 to 10 micron at unmatched angular resolutions.

In this presentation I will review the soon-to come capabilities at VLTI and other facilities. I will also try to explore possible avenues for the development of optical interferometry and explain how the evolved stars community should play a central role in defining the path.