Workshop

Stellar End Products: The Low Mass - High Mass Connection

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Title:

Shaping nebulae via disks in AGB stars

Abstract:

Theoretical and observational work have shown that asymmetries found in the post-AGB stars and planetary nebulae may start as early as during the AGB phase. I will present results of our aperture masking observations with the VLT of a sample of AGB stars that were known to present asymmetries at larger spatial scales (e.g. jets or torii). Disk-like structures within less than 20 stellar radii have been found in three of these stars. I will argue on the importance of these characteristics as indicators of binarity as a shaping agent and discuss future prospects for locating such binaries.