

The importance of AGB stars as gas and dust polluters of the Universe

I will discuss the recent advances in the studies of low- and intermediate-mass stars in advanced evolutionary phases, focusing on AGB stars which are among the most *important* gas and dust polluters of the *Universe* .

I will describe the uncertainties that affect the predictive power of the models connected mainly with AGB modelling and dust condensation process.

Since one of the big unknown of the AGB phase is the mass loss I will describe a new approach that takes into account the effects of the radiation pressure on dust particles recently proposed to explain the existence of extreme stars in the global cluster NGC2808