

Spectro-imaging of the Mira variable W Hya with MIDI/VLTI

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Asymptotic giant branch stars are among the most important distributors of dust into the interstellar medium. However, the dust formation process and in particular the importance of asymmetric mass-loss are not fully understood. Image reconstruction techniques can then be used to model non-simple source morphologies. Images for one of the closest and best studied oxygen-rich evolved star, W Hya, could be obtained in 25 wavelengths bins in the dust sensitive mid-IR. The appearance is clearly non-symmetric and wavelengths dependent. The photosphere, molecular layers and inner dust formation zone, where aluminum oxide condensates, could be resolved. The dust forms only along certain outflow directions.