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Title: Stellar Population MIR Spectroscopy in the E-ELT era

Abstract: In this talk we will discuss the impact of the first-light ELT instruments on the stellar population studies.

A focus will be given to what we can learn by observing asymptotic giant branch stars (AGBs) with mid-infared high spectral resolution.

These objects play a crucial role in the cosmic-matter cycle, and they are tracers of stellar population in the external galaxies.

We will undertake a journey through the mid-infared spectrum of AGBs, populated by ionised gas, many rotation-vibrational bands of abundant molecules (CO, OH, CiO, C3, C2H2, HCN, CS,..),

and prominent bands with amorphous and crystalline silicates. We will discuss how the various molecular, dust,

and gaseous features can be used (i) to derive stellar parameters; (ii) for kinematic studies;

(iii) and to investigate the mass-loss process, one of the most important event during the life-time of a star.