The 13th Torino Workshop on AGB stars & the 3rd Perugia Workshop on Nuclear Astrophysics



Contribution ID: 36

Type: Oral (in presence)

Chemistry around AGB stars: a theoretical sensitivity study (R)

Friday, 24 June 2022 11:35 (25 minutes)

The outflows of AGB stars are rich astrochemical laboratories, with close to a 100 chemical species and some 15 newly formed dust grains detected so far. They host interesting and unique chemical regimes thanks to the large gradients in temperature and density throughout the outflow. Moreover, chemistry and dynamics are closely linked throughout the outflow, making the study of molecules especially interesting to retrieve the specific physical conditions within AGB outflows.

In this talk I will present the results of the first sensitivity study of chemistry in AGB outflows, using a 1D chemical kinetics framework. More specifically, we investigated the effect of the dynamics of the outflow, given by its density and temperature profile, on the chemistry of both C-rich and O-rich environments. I will focus on the envelope extents of parent species and compare to relations from the literature resulting from observational studies. We find that specific combinations of chemical species can help constrain the temperature profile throughout the AGB outflow in observations, an often uncertain parameter.

Session

Galactic Chemical Evolution

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Session Classification: Galactic Chemical Evolution