

Evolved stars, Post-AGB Objects and Planetary Nebulae: Dust properties and energy distributions

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This review will address the potential of FIRST for advancing our understanding of the late stages of stellar evolution represented by AGB stars, post-AGB objects and planetary nebulae, whose copious mass loss leads to the enrichment of galaxies in dust and heavy elements. The advances made by ISO will be reviewed, including the discovery of the widespread presence of emission features due to crystalline silicates and water-ice at far-infrared wavelengths. Our current understanding of the relevant properties of the dust in these objects will be summarised, and the potential applications of the spectroscopic and mapping capabilities of FIRST to the study of these sources will be discussed.