

SOFIA Lunch Talk

Date: April 10, 2006

Speaker: Matt Richter

Title: “Mid-IR Spectroscopy and Star Formation”

Abstract:

Mid-IR spectroscopy provides several avenues to investigate the process of star formation. I will concentrate on gas-phase investigations made possible by our high spectral resolution, ground-based instrument, TEXES. These include the evolution of collapsing envelopes, conditions within protoplanetary disks, and the impact of newly formed massive stars on their surroundings. I will also discuss the potential benefits of future observational tools - TEXES on Gemini, EXES on SOFIA, and MIRES on TMT - on these research areas.