

On the origin of stars and their planets: A holistic view

KEYWORDS: Stars: formation - Accretion disks - Protoplanetary disks - planets and satellites: formative interactions

SUMMARY: Stars are the building blocks of galaxies and the hosts of planetary systems. To unravel the intricate processes governing the birth of stars and planets, a comprehensive and interconnected approach is essential. Under the right conditions, stars form as a result of gravitational collapse of interstellar clouds and filaments of gas and dust. This process is characterized by the development of a protostar-disk system, playing a fundamental role regulating the accretion and ejection of material, and providing the building blocks of planetary systems. Thanks to the advent of modern telescopes and ultra-sensitive radio interferometers, as well as developments in radiative transfer models and numerical simulations, we are able to decipher with increasing detail the physico-chemical properties and phenomena (protostellar envelopes, disks, and jets) associated with each stage of the star formation process. In addition, we are now able to observe protoplanetary disks with exquisite angular resolution, revealing the beginning of the planet formation process through azimuthal asymmetries, central cavities, gaps, bright rings, and spirals, thought to be produced by protoplanets frequently observed. Indeed, infrared and mm point sources, which could be tracing planetary embryos, have been detected inside the cavities and gaps of some disks. All this indicates that planetary formation is consubstantial with the star formation process, suggesting a large abundance of planets comparable to the number of stars in the Universe. However, essentially all exoplanets have been found around mature stars, while solid detections of forming planets in protoplanetary disks remain very scarce. This abrupt observational gap between protoplanetary disks, on the one hand, and exoplanets, on the other, is a handicap in our understanding of the planetary formation process and the diversity of planetary systems. Thus, a fundamental task to fill this gap is to increase the number of detections of exoplanets around increasingly younger stars, with particular focus on detecting forming planets in protoplanetary disks.

The aim of this symposium is to bring together experts on the star and planet formation fields to discuss the latest progress recently on the theoretical and observational fronts. This symposium will also serve to promote collaboration between different communities aiming to understand the origin of planets, in line with the recently approved "PLANETS" "The birth of solar systems", an EU-funded, interdisciplinary research network.

SOC: Mayra Osorio (chair/IAA-CSIC, Spain); Ignacio Mendigutía (chair/Centro de Astrobiología, CSIC-Huélamo); Rubén Fedriani (chair/IAA-CSIC, Spain); Josep Masque (chair/IAA-CSIC+Guanajuato University, Mexico); Jorge Lillo-Box (co-chair/Centro de Astrobiología, CSIC-Huélamo); Martti Valtonen (co-chair/Instituto de Astrofísica de Andalucía); Matilde Fernández (co-chair/Instituto de Astrofísica de Andalucía); Roi Alonso (co-chair/Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias); Itziar Garate-Lopez (co-chair/Univ. del País Vasco UPV/EHU); Amelia Stutz (Concepcion University, Chile); Miguel Vioque (European Southern Observatory, Germany); Asunción Fuente (CAB, CSIC-INTA, Spain); Josep Martí (Jaen University, Spain)

WEBSITE: <https://indico.iaa.csic.es/event/13/overview>

CONTACT: imendigutia@cab.inta-csic.es osorio@iaa.es fedriani@iaa.es jmasque@iaa.es

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