

Astrophysics Seminar

Tuesday, October 14, 2014

The Formation of Massive Stars and Clusters: From Big to Small, Dynamic to Extreme

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Abstract:

The universe around us is illuminated by the light of young star clusters and the massive stars within them. Their immense ionizing radiation, explosive supernovae, and powerful winds move and shape the Galaxy around them. But where and how are these clusters formed? Our standard model depicts slowly collapsing dense knots of molecular gas, but an emerging paradigm suggests a more dynamic, chaotic picture for the birth of massive stars and clusters. In this talk, I will give a brief overview of some observations and ideas about the formation of massive stars and star clusters and how new evidence for dynamic collapse during their formation shapes our understanding. I will also present a glimpse of how this process may take place in the extreme environment at the center of our Galaxy.

Next Week (Tuesday, 10/14)

- Greg Stinson
MPIA
- A Critical Mass Scale in
Galaxy Formation

