

MOLECULAR CLOUDS AND STAR FORMATION IN THE MILKY WAY

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Tuesday, July 13, 2021, 15:45-17:30 (CEST)

In this lecture, I will first describe where clouds and star-forming regions are located in our Galaxy. I will then present the basic properties of molecular clouds and various statistical tools developed to characterize them. I will also discuss the current theories on cloud formation and how clouds properties can impact the process of star formation.