

The formation of stars in our Galaxy and beyond

F. van der Tak

SRON Netherlands Institute for Space Research; Kapteyn Astronomical Institute, University of Groningen, The Netherlands

The formation of stars is one of the central themes of modern astrophysics, with ramifications ranging from planet formation and astrobiology to galaxy evolution in the early Universe. This talk gives an overview of our current understanding of how stars form, with an emphasis on recent results from the Herschel and ALMA telescopes. Specific topics include: the role of filaments in star formation, differences between high- and low-mass star formation, and the properties of circumstellar disks. After focussing on Galactic star formation, I will discuss recent results on nearby galaxies and conclude with some comments on the universality of star formation processes, both in space and in cosmic time.