WST - the Wide-field Spectroscopic Telescope: surveying the Universe in the 2040's and beyond



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## Young stellar populations: the origin of stars and planets

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Star and planet formation are complex phenomena, whose outcomes depend on physical processes occurring across a wide range of scales. This complexity is reflected in the diverse phenomena that characterize the early pre-main sequence phase of stars and their disks, including gas accretion onto the central star, rapid and collimated jets, steady and slow outflows, and intense, rapidly variable magnetic activity. Furthermore, the early evolution of pre-main sequence stars, the dispersal of their disks, and the planet formation process can be significantly influenced by the surrounding environment through mechanisms such as external photoevaporation and close stellar encounters.

In this talk, I will provide a brief overview of the properties of pre-main sequence stars and their disks, the impact of the star-forming environment on their evolution, and the importance of large-scale surveys for their study. Additionally, I will discuss how WST will contribute to the study of pre-main sequence stars and their disks across various star-forming regions in the Milky Way and nearby galaxies.

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