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Investigating the origin of stars with the Habitable World Observatory

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Understanding the processes that lead to star formation is essential for addressing key questions in modern astronomy, from the origin of the Solar System to the evolution of galaxies. While a broad framework for star formation in the Milky Way has been established, several critical aspects remain unresolved. In particular, the influence of the

environment properties, such as stellar density and metallicity, is still not well understood. In this talk, I will highlight these open questions and discuss how the field is expected to evolve over the next two decades. I will also explore the potential contributions of the Habitable Worlds Observatory in advancing our understanding of star formation, and how its capabilities will complement those of the ELT.

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