

MAGNETIC FIELDS IN THE STAR FORMATION PROCESS: THE OBSERVATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

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The magnetic field is the less known physical parameter in the star formation process. This is due to the difficulty of measuring its strength and direction, which is usually done by measuring the polarization of the dust and molecular emission at optical to radio wavelengths. In this talk I will review the status of polarimetric observations toward molecular clouds and discuss what these observations tell us about the role of the magnetic fields in the formation of stars.