

Star Formation in our Extreme Galactic Center: Results from the CMZoom Survey

- Cara Battersby

The inner few hundred parsecs of the Milky Way, the Central Molecular Zone (CMZ), is our closest laboratory for understanding star formation in the extreme environments (hot, dense, turbulent gas) that once dominated the universe. We present an update on the first large-area survey to expose the sites of star formation across the CMZ at high-resolution in submillimeter wavelengths: the CMZoom survey with the Submillimeter Array (SMA). We identify the locations of dense cores and search for signatures of embedded star formation. CMZoom is a four-year survey, completed this year, and has mapped out the highest column density regions of the CMZ in dust continuum and a variety of spectral lines around 1.3 mm. We report on the first results from CMZoom, including the dense core catalog and what we've learned about star formation in this extreme environment.

Galactic Scale