

Research Highlights

Nature **460**, 154 (9 July 2009) | doi:10.1038/460154e; Published online 8 July 2009

Astronomy: A star is born

[*Astrophys. J.* **699**, 1300–1306 \(2009\)](#)

The birth of young stars is shrouded in mystery because they tend to form at the centre of giant clouds of dust and hydrogen gas. Only light in the millimetre- and infrared-wavelength range can pass through the clouds, and astronomers have historically lacked telescopes that are capable of clearly discerning those wavelengths.

Now, Jonathan Williams of the University of Hawaii and his colleagues have used the latest generation of telescopes to capture a high-resolution view of a nearby star-forming cluster. They found five objects in the cluster, including a bright protostar and a starless, collapsing core of gas. The observations show that a single cluster can give birth to a plethora of different protostellar types, and may help to give astronomers a better understanding of the birthing process.

Nature ISSN 0028-0836 EISSN 1476-4687

[About NPG](#)

[Contact NPG](#)

[RSS web feeds](#)

[Help](#)

[Privacy policy](#)

[Legal notice](#)

[Accessibility statement](#)

[Nature News](#)

[Naturejobs](#)

[Nature Asia](#)

[Nature Education](#)

Search:



© 2009 Nature Publishing Group, a division of Macmillan Publishers Limited. All Rights Reserved.
partner of AGORA, HINARI, OARE, INASP, CrossRef and COUNTER