

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910438113103321
Titolo	Planets, Stars and Stellar Systems [[electronic resource]] : Volume 3: Solar and Stellar Planetary Systems // edited by Linda M. French, Paul Kalas
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Dordrecht : , : Springer Netherlands : , : Imprint : Springer, , 2013
ISBN	94-007-5606-2
Edizione	[1st ed. 2013.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (238 illus., 132 illus. in color. eReference.)
Disciplina	523.01
Soggetti	Astrophysics Planetology Astrobiology Observations, Astronomical Astronomy—Observations Astrophysics and Astroparticles Astronomy, Observations and Techniques
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
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Sommario/riassunto

This is volume 3 of Planets, Stars and Stellar Systems, a six-volume compendium of modern astronomical research covering subjects of key interest to the main fields of contemporary astronomy. This volume on "Solar and Stellar Planetary Systems" edited by Linda French and Paul Kalas presents accessible review chapters From Disks to Planets, Dynamical Evolution of Planetary Systems, The Terrestrial Planets, Gas and Ice Giant Interiors, Atmospheres of Jovian Planets, Planetary Magnetospheres, Planetary Rings, An Overview of the Asteroids and Meteorites, Dusty Planetary Systems and Exoplanet Detection Methods. All chapters of the handbook were written by practicing professionals. They include sufficient background material and references to the current literature to allow readers to learn enough about a specialty within astronomy, astrophysics and cosmology to get started on their own practical research projects. In the spirit of the series Stars and Stellar Systems published by Chicago University Press in the 1960s and 1970s, each chapter of Planets, Stars and Stellar Systems can stand on its own as a fundamental review of its respective sub-discipline, and each volume can be used as a textbook or recommended reference work for advanced undergraduate or postgraduate courses. Advanced students and professional astronomers in their roles as both lecturers and researchers will welcome Planets, Stars and Stellar Systems as a comprehensive and pedagogical reference work on astronomy, astrophysics and cosmology.
