Star Formation & ALMA

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- Star Formation as a "local" process
- The extremes of SF as a testbed
- (Setting the stage for Planet Formation)







From Cores to Planetary Systems











From Clouds to Cores



- Filaments
 - \succ Turbulence (?)
- Cores
 - ➤ Gravity
- Core formation threshold related to filament instability





Gould Belt

schel

From Cores to Stars



> Matches IMF, with ~30% efficiency

- Spatial distribution of YSOs matches cores distribution
- Output of SF determined by cloud fragmentation



Is Star Formation a Local Process?



- Star Formation is consistent with high efficiency conversion of dense gas into stars
- Clouds -> Filaments -> Cores -> Stars



Check the Extremes

- Formation of Brown Dwarfs and Planetary mass objects
 Can BDs for as stars from isolated cores?
- ◆ Formation of massive stars and groups/clusters
 > Are clusters "needed" to form massive stars?
 > Are filaments and dense cores the right basic recipe?
- ◆ Formation of Young Massive Clusters
 ➢ Do the simple laws break down?
 ➢ Do YMCs require "different" conditions to form?





Formation of Brown Dwarfs



 Formation and Early Evolution of VLMS and BDs (<u>http://www.eso.org/sci/meetings/2011/vlms2011.html</u>)
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And EARLY EVOLUTION of VERY LOW MASS

STARS and

11–14 October 2011

Garching, Germany

 NIR hydrogen recombination lines NTT/VLT survey ρ-Oph vs σ-Ori
~0.5-1Myr vs
~3-5Myr 06: 8000



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D





Accuracy matters in the BDs domain...

















- Possible evidence for a change of slope with stellar mass
- possible evidence for a faster evolution at the low mass end



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Disk properties



Lessons and questions from BDs

- Young BDs can have similar characteristics as low mass stars
 - Consistent with same formation and evolution mechanisms
- Ejection/interaction pathways have to become important for the lowest mass objects
- Open questions for ALMA
 - Identification of pre-BDs cores?
 - Disk properties around young BDs?
 - Planet formation in the BDs regime?





Memories from a few yrs ago

(The clustered vs dispersed population debate)



- Low-mass stars in nearby associations are found in isolation or loose groups ($\rho_* \sim \text{few }*/\text{pc}^3$)
- High-mass stars are found in dense and well populated stellar clusters ($\rho_* \sim 10^4 */pc^3$)



Clustering properties of HAeBe and O stars







"Isolated" O-stars in 30Dor field

Dec (J2000)







 Candidate "isolated" O-stars from the VLT Tarantual Survey



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The birthplaces of O-stars



- ALMA Cycle 0 observations of deuterated species in IRDCs
- Dense massive cores in virial equilibrium



The filamentary structure of IRDCs



ALMA Cycle 0 observations of N₂H⁺(1-0)



Coherent kinematic structure of filaments

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Disk-outflow systems in high-mass YSO





- Evidence for interaction with other massive YSOs
- Evidence for interaction with surrounding cloud cores
- Are environment and interactions more important than initial conditions?
- High resolution of ALMA essential to expand sample





Young Massive Clusters precursors



Young Massive Clusters precursors

- Very dense and compact molecular clump
- Widespread SiO, little evidence for ongoing star formation
- Internal structure/filaments?
- Rosetta Stone for origin of Young Massive Clusters

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Velocity (km s'

HNC0 404

MOPRA

Lessons and questions from HM-YSOs

- Continuum distribution of stellar densities
 - No strong evidence (so far) of causal relationship between clusters and high-mass stars (!highly debated!)
 - > HM-stars may form as low mass stars
- Formation of cores from filaments is observed
- Open questions for ALMA
 - Structure of HM cores and relation with filaments?
 - Disk/outflow properties around young HMYSOs?
 - Formation of YMCs and Super Star Clusters?

Summary

- We think we have a "simple" framework for understanding star formation
- The complexity of star formation seems to be captured in the process of converting gas into dense cores
- Most of the "extremes" seem to fit in this overall framework
 - The path of more exotic formation mechanisms is open for a small minority of systems
 - These "minority systems" may be dominant SF modes in some peculiar environments

I have consciously avoided:

- The complex physics of the formation and evolution of a single object and multiple systems (and what this imply for the fate of disks and planetary systems)
- The effects that an object or a population has on other forming stars (and the fate of their disks)
- The processes within disks and of the disk-star interactions that set the stage for the formation of planetary systems
- How the formation of our own Solar System may fit into the overall picture

Slowing down radial drift: grain trapping

A problem of timescales

