Probing the earliest stages of massive star formation in cluster-forming clumps

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Flux

Density (mJy/13"-beam)

10²

10¹

Outline:

- Introduction: protocluster condensations
- Subvirial core-core motions
- Evidence of large-scale collapse in NGC 2264C

• Implications



NGC 2264

The Birth and Feedback of Massive Stars - NRAO Charlottesville - Sep. 25, 2008

The prestellar core mass function (CMF) in protoclustersresembles the IMFPrestellar Core Mass Function (CMF) in Orion



→ The IMF is at least partly determined by pre-collapse cloud fragmentation between $M_* \sim 0.1$ and ~ 5 M_{\odot} See also: Motte, André, Neri 1998; Testi & Sargent 1998; Johnstone et al. 2000, 2001; Beuther & Schilke 2004; Stanke et al. 2006; Enoch et al. 2006; Reid & Wilson 2006

→ One-to-one correspondence between core mass and stellar mass $M_* = \varepsilon M_{core}$ with $\varepsilon \sim 0.2-0.5$ (?) (cf. turbulent fragmentation scenario Padoan & Nordlund 2002, Hennebelle & Chabrier 2008)

Relative motions of prestellar condensations in protoclusters

NGC2068 - 850 µm continuum (JCMT)



Subvirial core-core velocity dispersion:

 $\sigma_{3D} \sim 0.65 \text{ km/s} < \sigma_{VIR} \sim 2.1 \text{ km/s}$ for both NGC 2068 and ρ Oph (25+41 objects)

→ Collision time ~ Crossing time: $D/\sigma_{3D} \sim 1-2 \ge 10^6 \text{ yr}$

>> condensation lifetime ~ $1-5 \times 10^5 \text{ yr}$

→ Not enough time for dynamical interactions
→ Global contraction of protoclusters ?

NGC2068 in N₂H⁺(1-0) (IRAM 30m)



Comparison with the competitive accretion picture



(e.g. Bonnell et al. 2001, Bate & Bonnell 2005)

 $\dot{M}_{acc} \sim \pi \rho_{back} v_{rel} R_{acc}^2 \quad (cf. Bonnell et al. 2001)$ $\rightarrow \dot{M}_{acc} \leq 10^{-6} M_o/yr < a_{eff}^3/G \text{ in } \rho \text{ Oph cluster} \quad \{ \begin{array}{l} n_{back} \sim 10^5 \text{ cm}^{-3} \\ v_{rel} \sim 0.3 \text{ km/s} \\ R_{acc} \sim 3000 \text{ AU} \end{array} \}$

• Unlikely to be dominant at protostellar stage (Class 0/I): \dot{M}_{acc} too low compared to \dot{M}_{inf} from collapse (see also Krumholz et al. 2005)

• May possibly govern the growth of starless condensations produced by gravoturbulent fragmentation toward an IMF-like mass spectrum

Global contraction and central interactions in protoclusters: The example of NGC2264-C in Mon OB1 (d~800 pc)



- Cluster-forming region (cf. Lada & Lada 2003)
- Has already formed massive stars (e.g. IRS1: B2 ZAMS)



Evidence of large-scale collapse and central dynamical interactions in the NGC2264-C protocluster



Model of large-scale axial collapse

Observed vs. synthetic spectra along the long axis of NGC2264-C



→ Estimated total infall inflow rate toward C-MM3: M_{inf}~3 x 10⁻³ M_O/yr (Peretto et al. 2006)

Collapse rather than rotation



Collapse rather than rotation





Comparison with SPH collapse simulations of a Jeans-unstable ellipsoidal clump

Peretto, Hennebelle, André 2007, A&A, 464, 983

Potential formation of massive $(M > 50 M_{o})$ core by merging of > 3 Class 0 objects

Total inflow rate: $M_{inf} \sim 3 \times 10^{-3} M_{O}/yr$

With ALMA: Similar studies possible in more distant, more massive protoclusters



Position offsets in arcseconds



Conclusions

- **Problem with turbulent core model (McKee & Tan 2003):**
- Direct evidence that some young protoclusters are far from virial equilibrium and in a state of large-scale, global contraction.
- **Problems with competitive accretion model (Bonnell et al. 04):**
- The core-core velocity dispersion observed in young, nearby protoclusters is small and not consistent with strong dynamical interactions in general, except at the very center of protoclusters.
- Competitive accretion is too slow to be the dominant mechanism once individual protostellar collapse sets in.
- → <u>A mixed scenario may be the solution:</u>

Formation of a massive, ultra-dense core through the merger of Class 0 objects in the center of a collapsing clump

<u>ArTéMiS : A large-format submm bolometer camera</u> <u>for APEX</u>



Placing massive protostars in the $M_{env} - L_{bol}$ evolutionary diagram



cf. Saraceno et al. 1996, Bontemps et al. 1996, André et al. 2000 (PPIV), André et al. 2008