

Towards a statistical understanding of the star formation process

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– Institute of Space Sciences (ICE-CSIC) –

in collaboration with:

Mitra Aghababaei – Flavia Amaral – Maite Beltrán – Henrik Beuther – Gemma Busquet
Riccardo Cesaroni – Asunción Fuente – Gary Fuller – Adam Ginsburg – Josep Miquel Girart
Fanyi Meng – Thomas Möller – Sergio Molinari – Wiebke Riedel – Mahya Sadaghiani
Peter Schilke – Andreas Schwörer – Jose Maria Torrelles – Tianwei Zhang – Qizhou Zhang
the ALMAGAL consortium – and many others

Institute of
Space Sciences



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Stars do not form in isolation

Star (cluster) formation

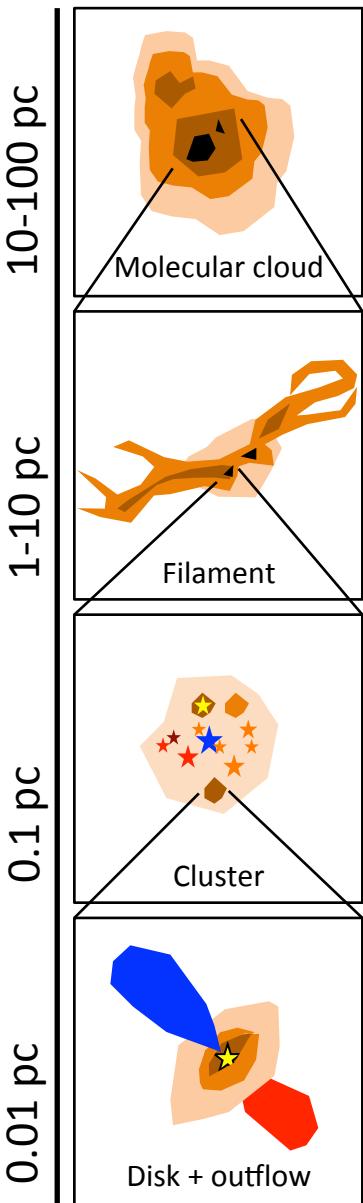
Super star clusters: 100+ high-mass stars



Clusters with 1000 members contain already a $10 M_{\odot}$ star
50% of stars have formed in a cluster containing at least a $10 M_{\odot}$ star !

Adams 2010, ARA&A, 48, 47

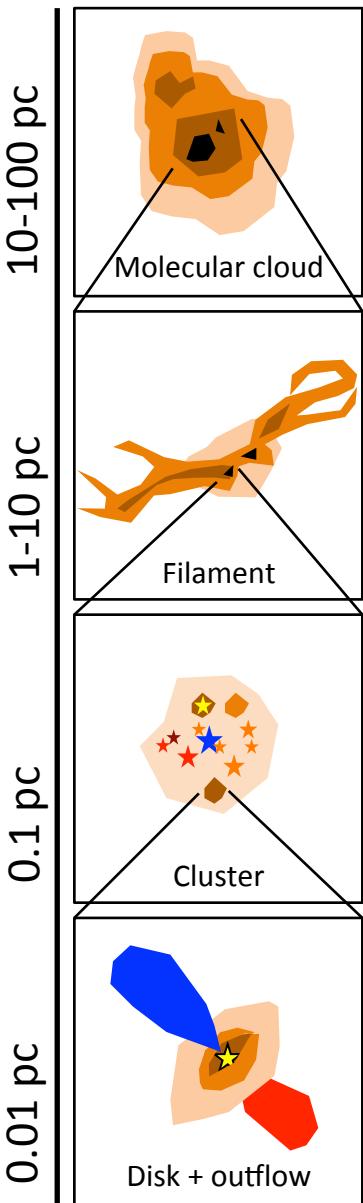
From clouds to stars



Questions on Star (Cluster) Formation

- Q. How do molecular clouds fragment into stellar clusters?
- Q. Do all stellar clusters form in the same way?
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- Q. What is the role of proto-stellar/planetary disks?
- Q. How does chemistry evolve from simple to organic/pre-biotic?

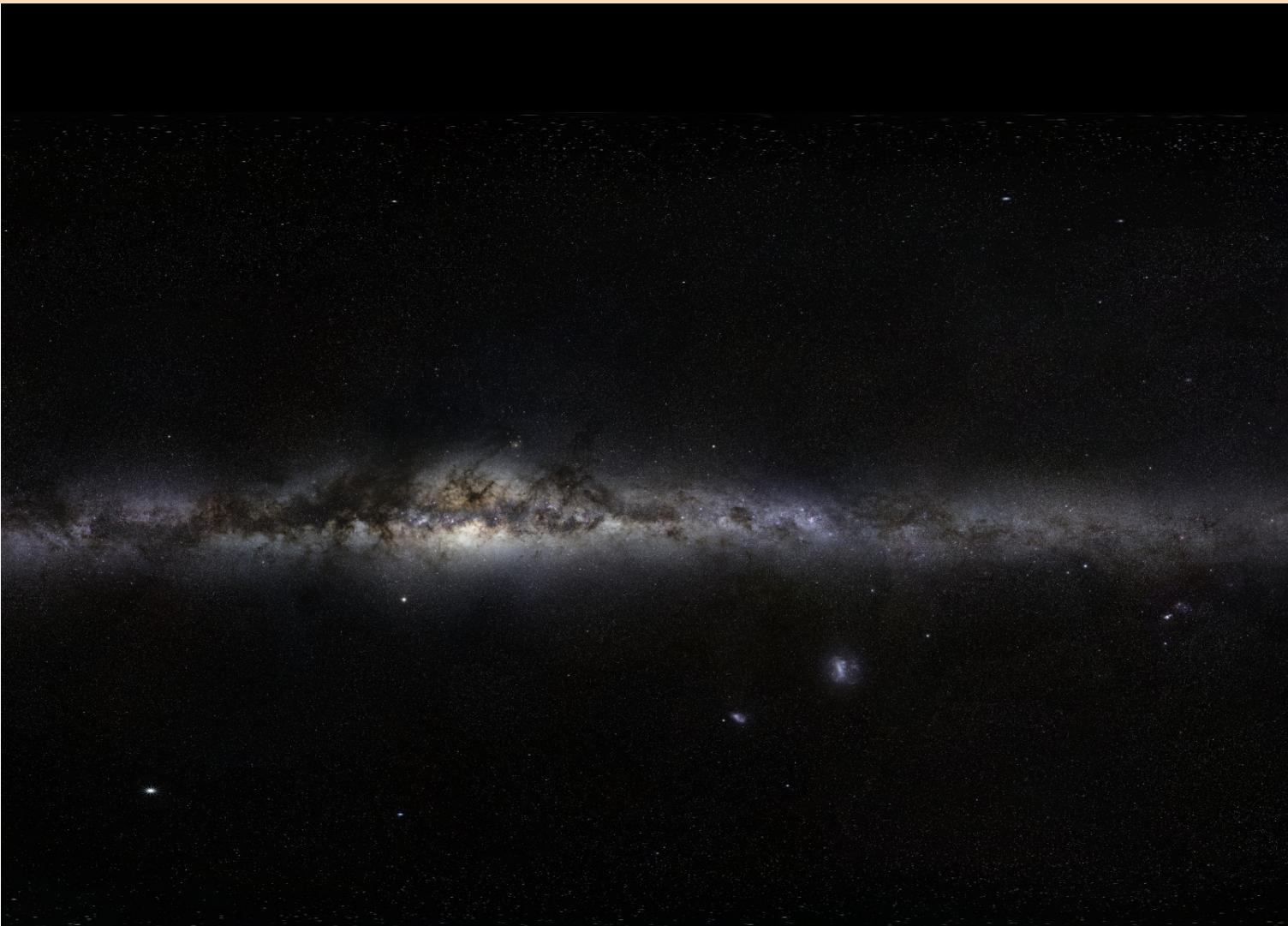
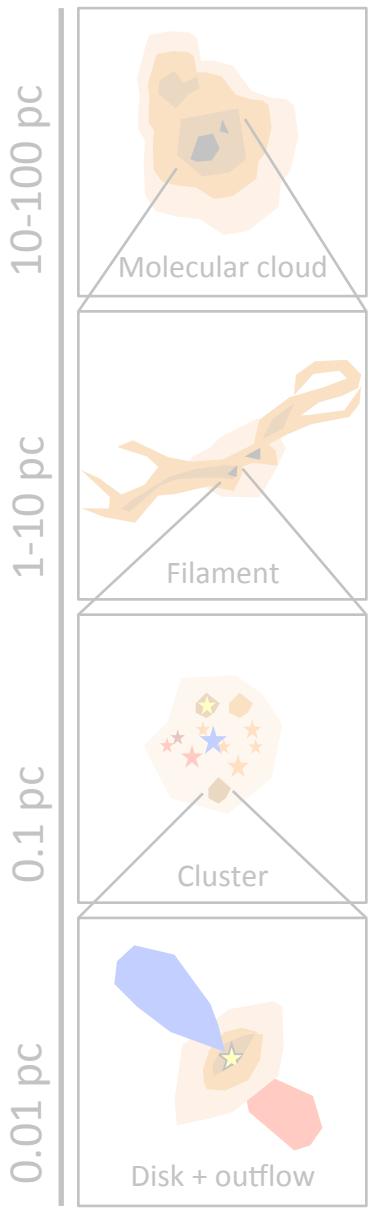
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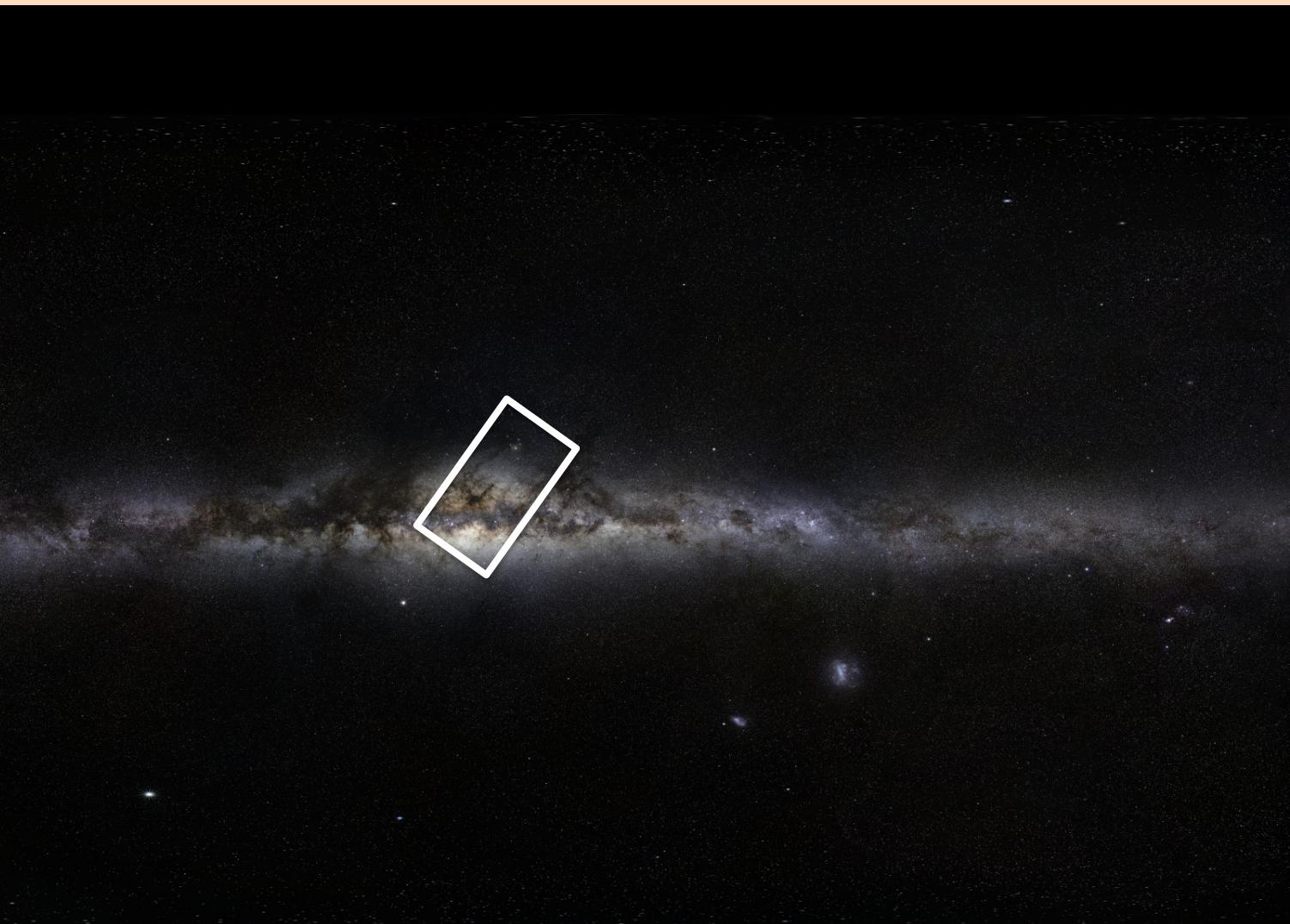
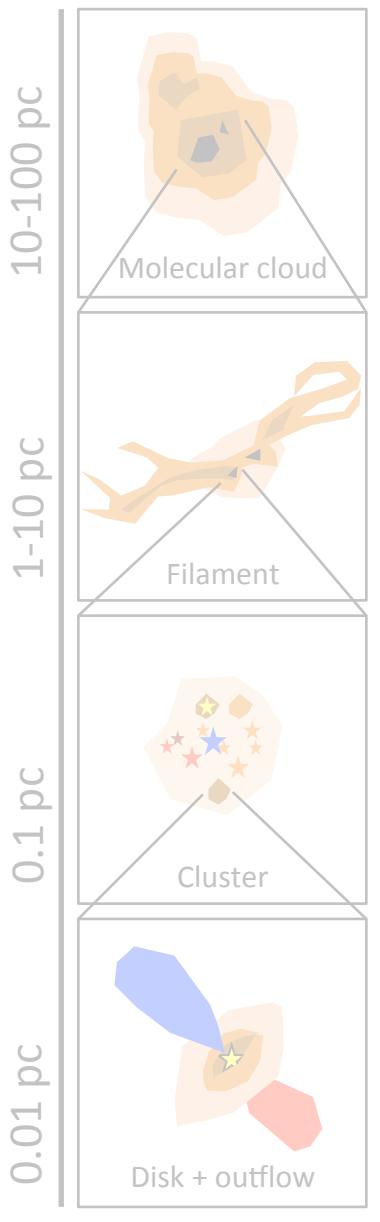
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Mass transport through filaments



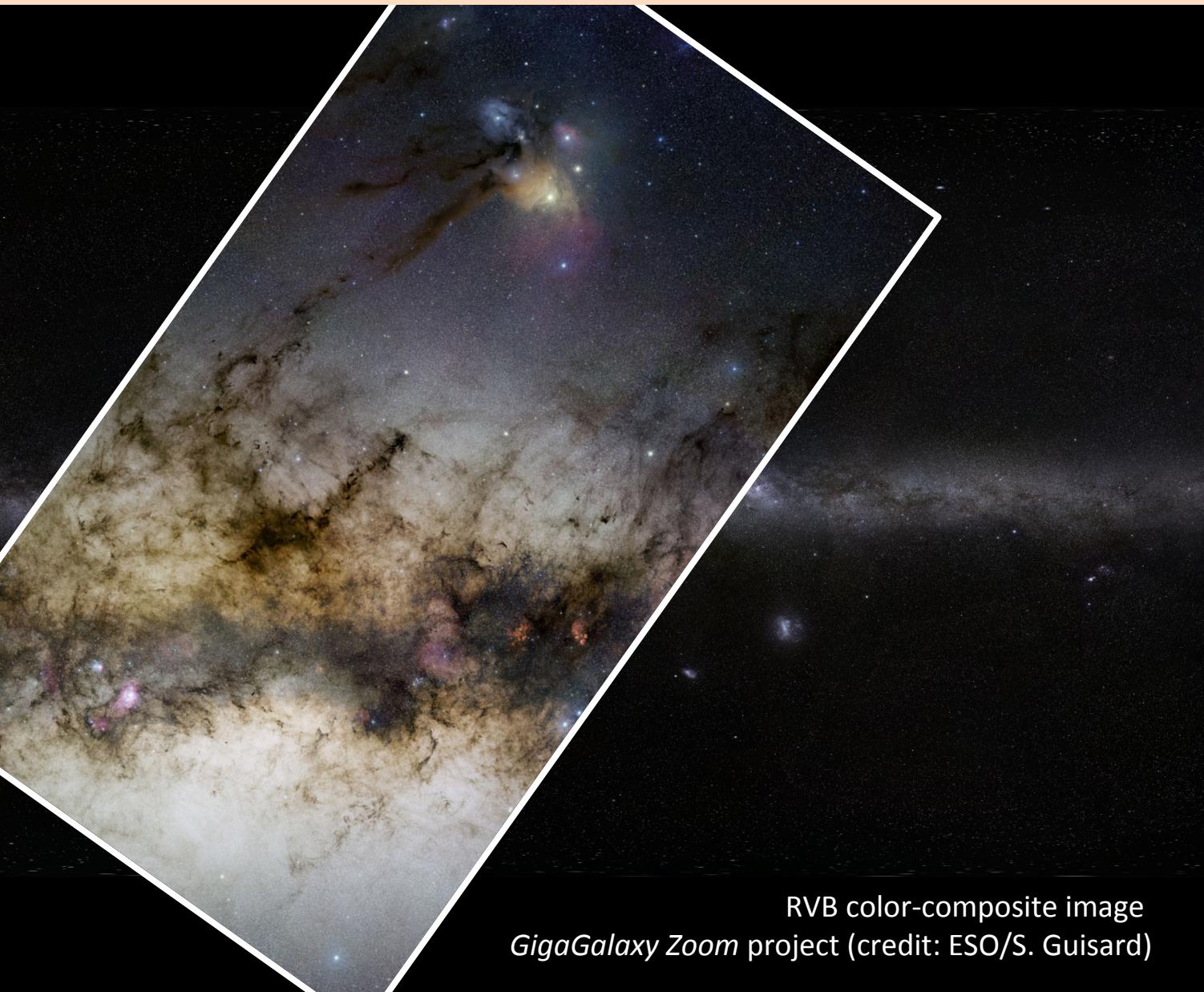
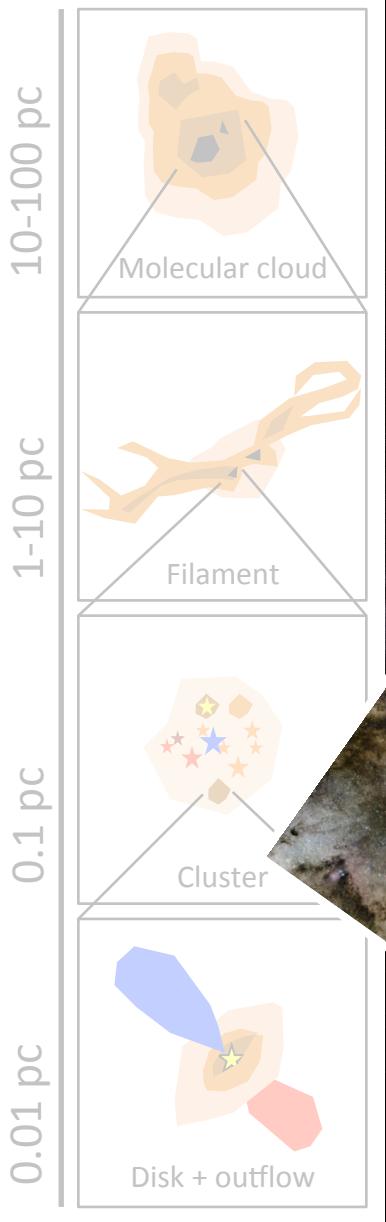
Milky Way as seen in the *GigaGalaxy Zoom* project (credit: ESO/S. Bruiner)

Mass transport through filaments



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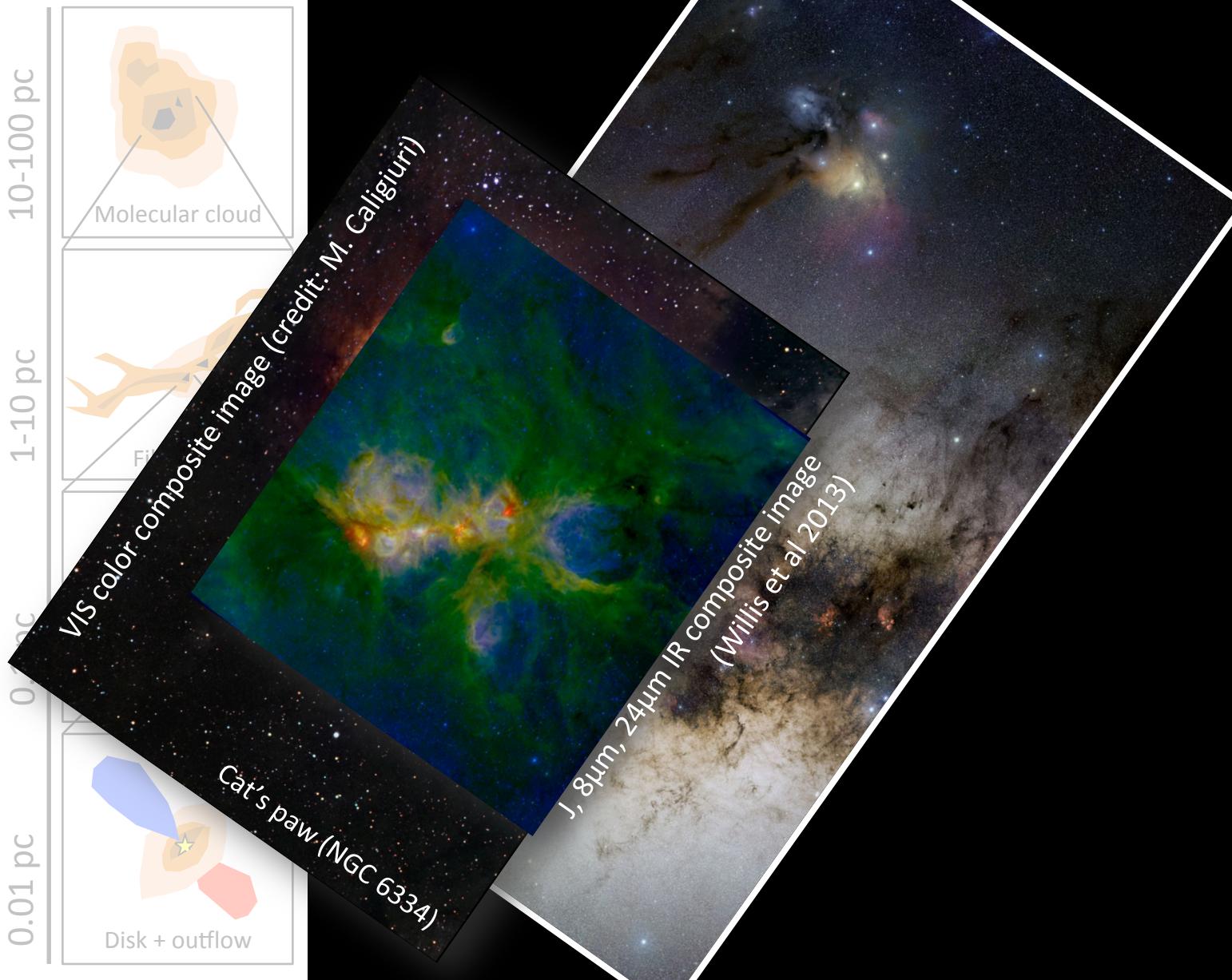
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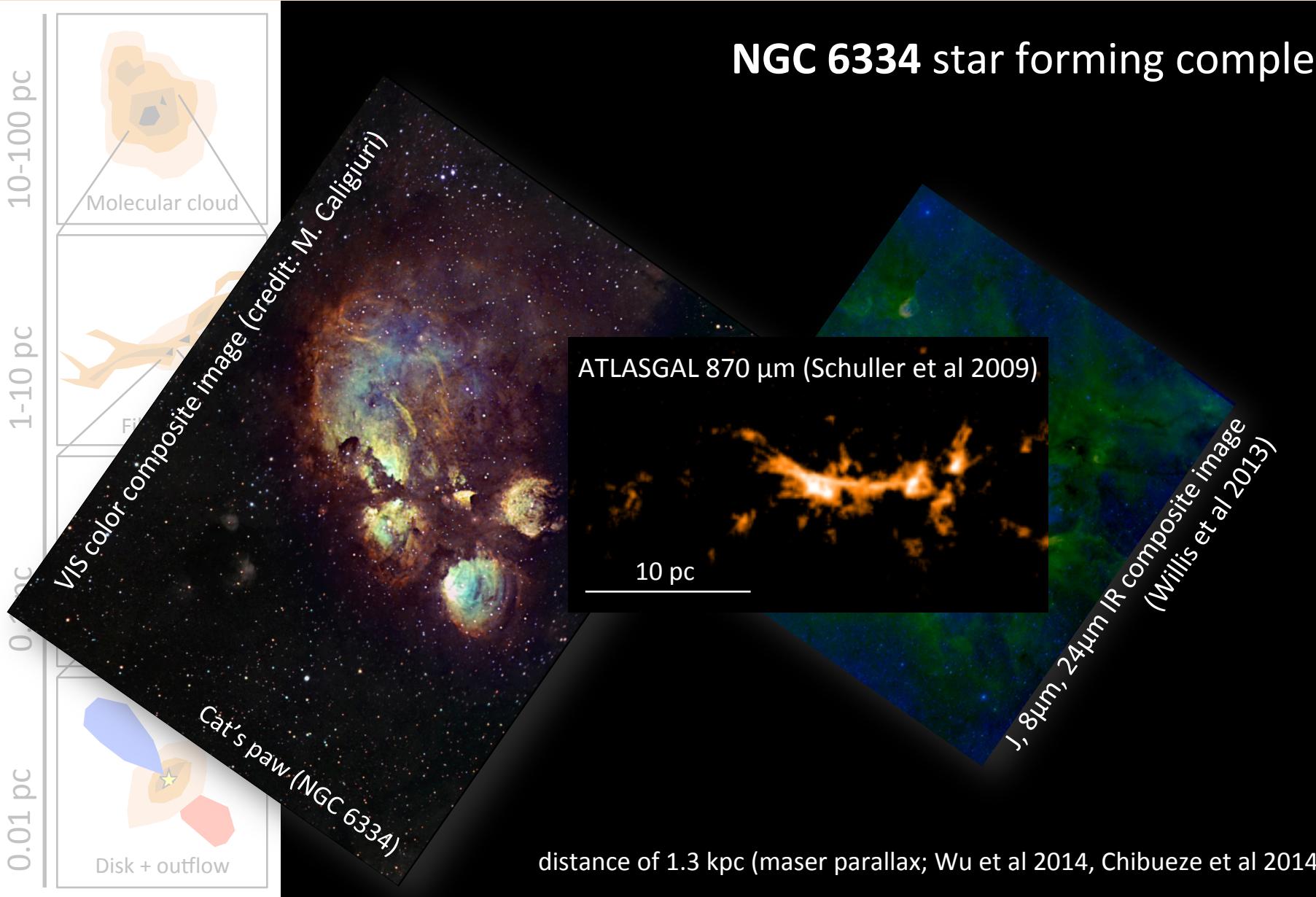
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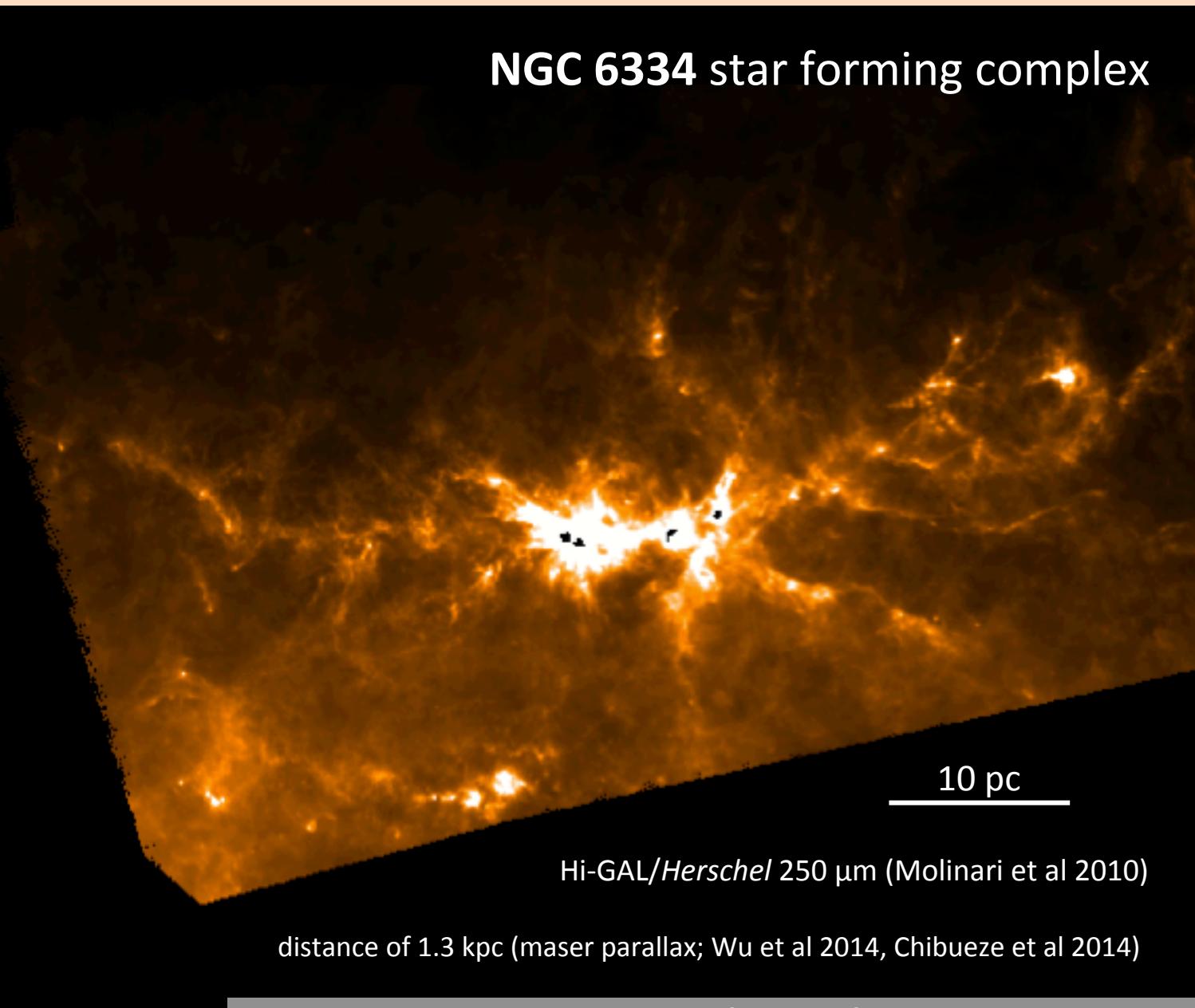
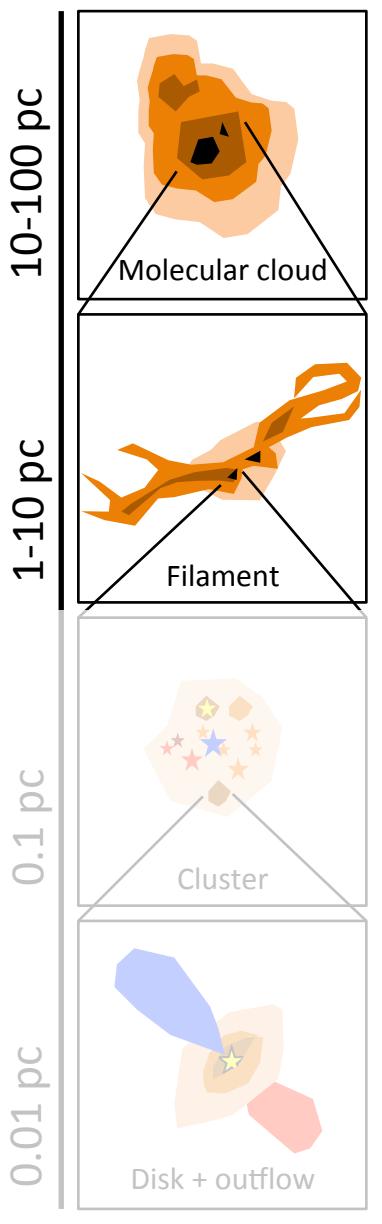
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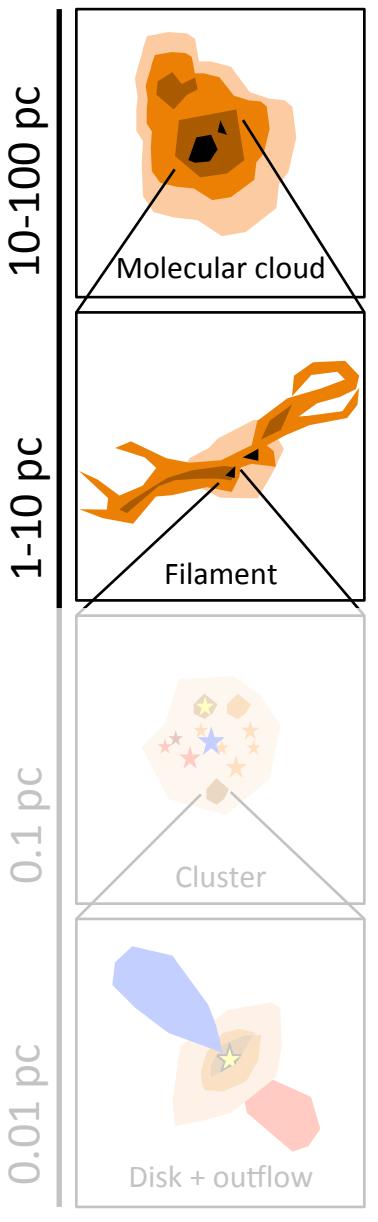
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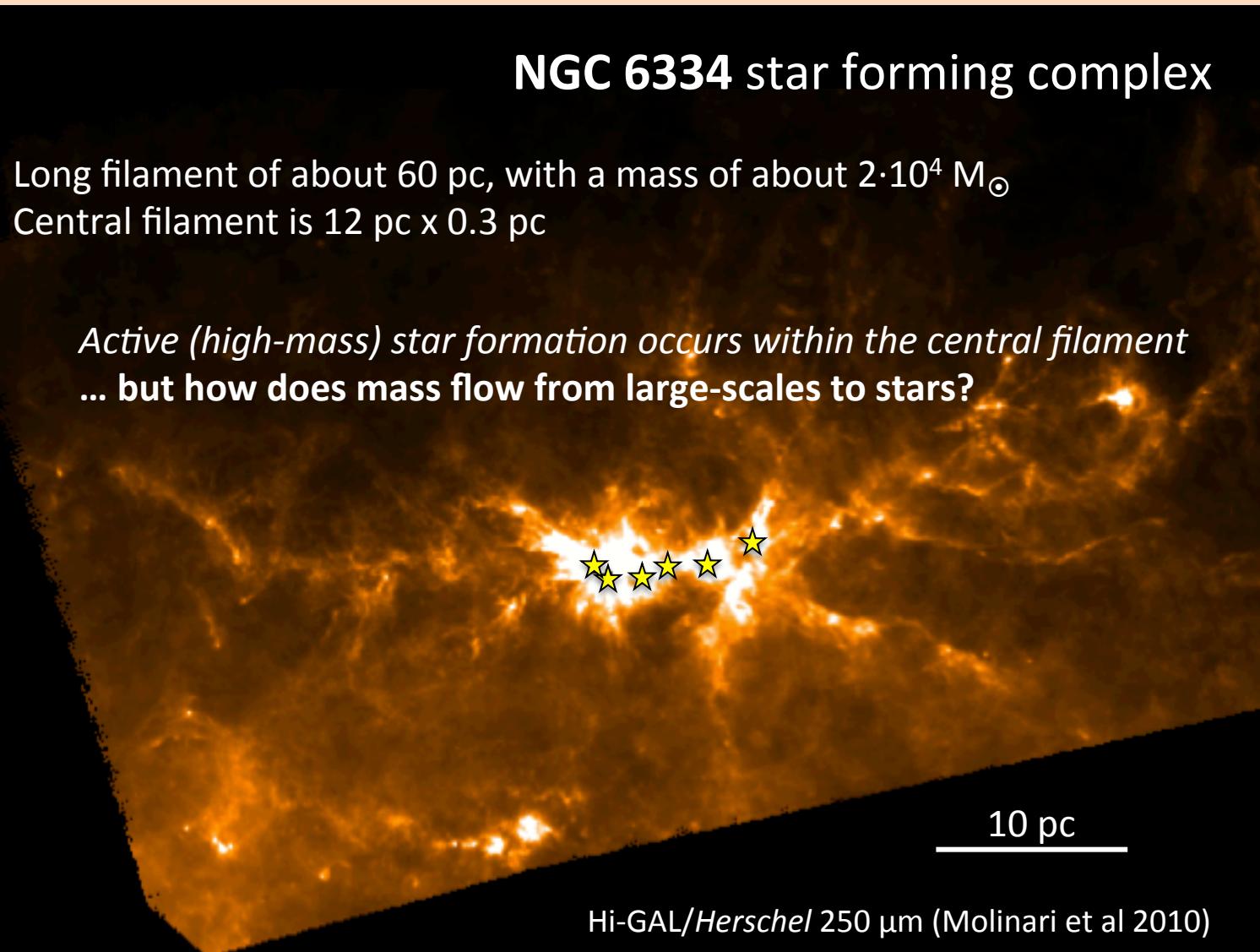
Mass transport through filaments



NGC 6334 star forming complex

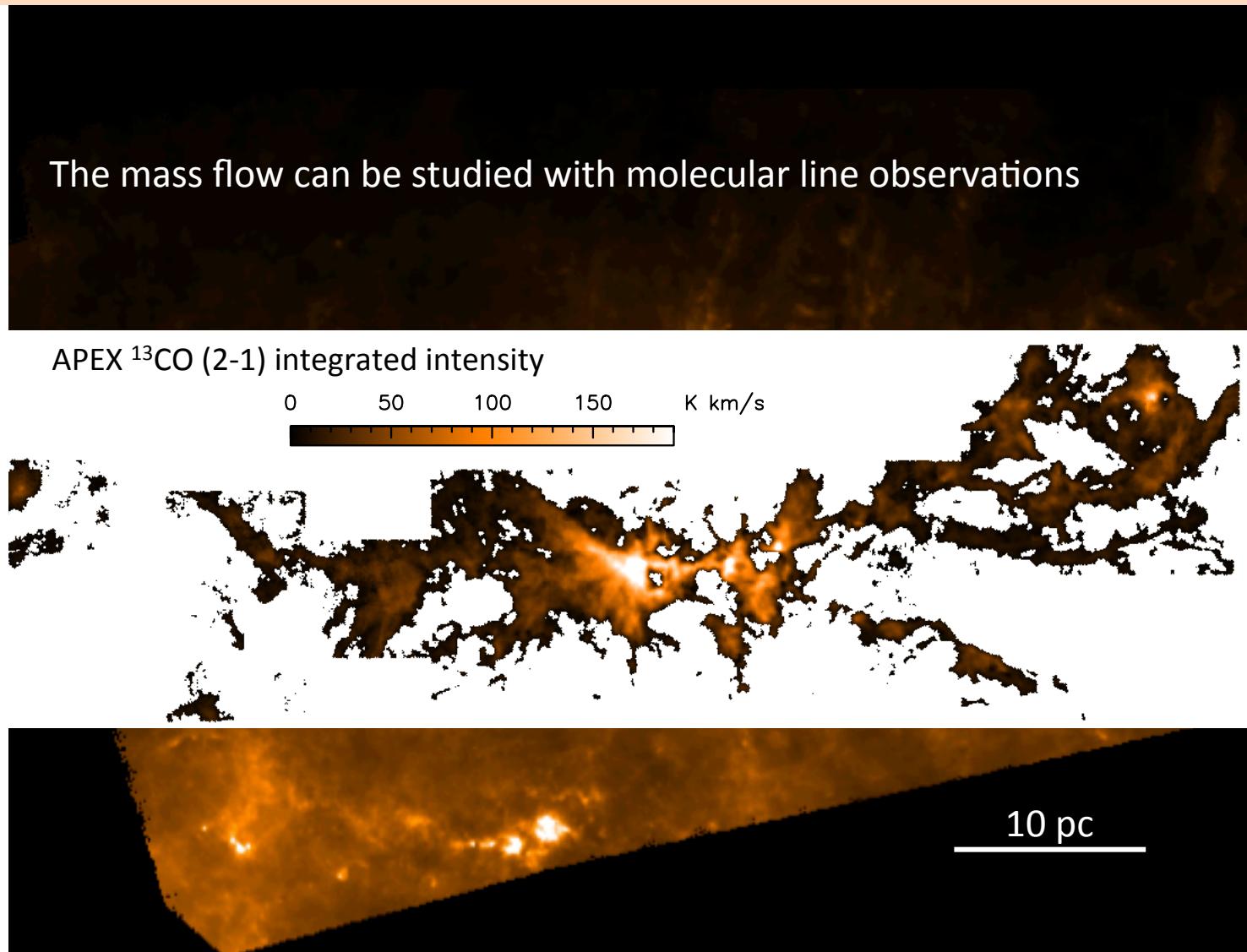
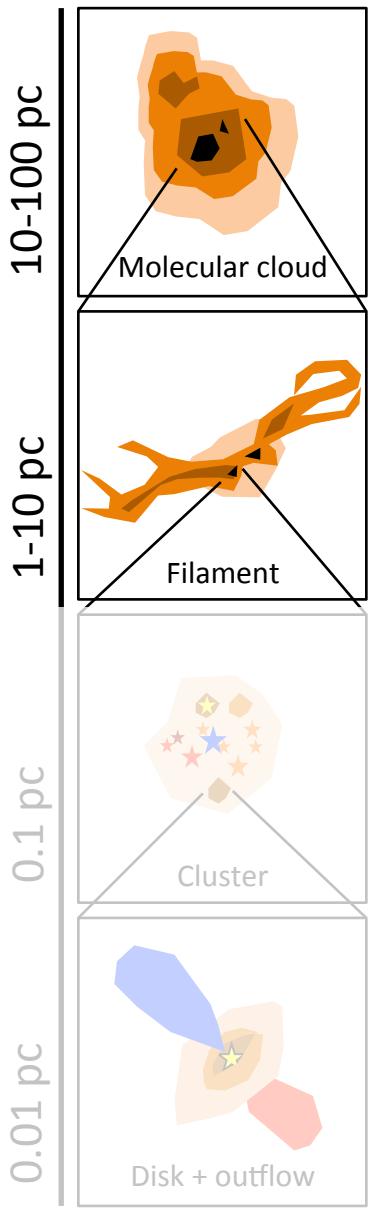
Long filament of about 60 pc, with a mass of about $2 \cdot 10^4 M_{\odot}$
Central filament is 12 pc x 0.3 pc

*Active (high-mass) star formation occurs within the central filament
... but how does mass flow from large-scales to stars?*



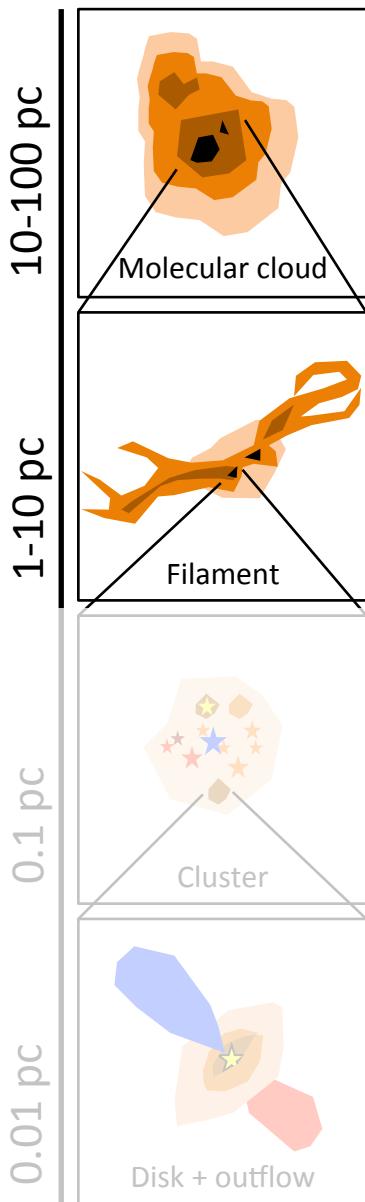
distance of 1.3 kpc (maser parallax; Wu et al 2014, Chibueze et al 2014)

Mass transport through filaments

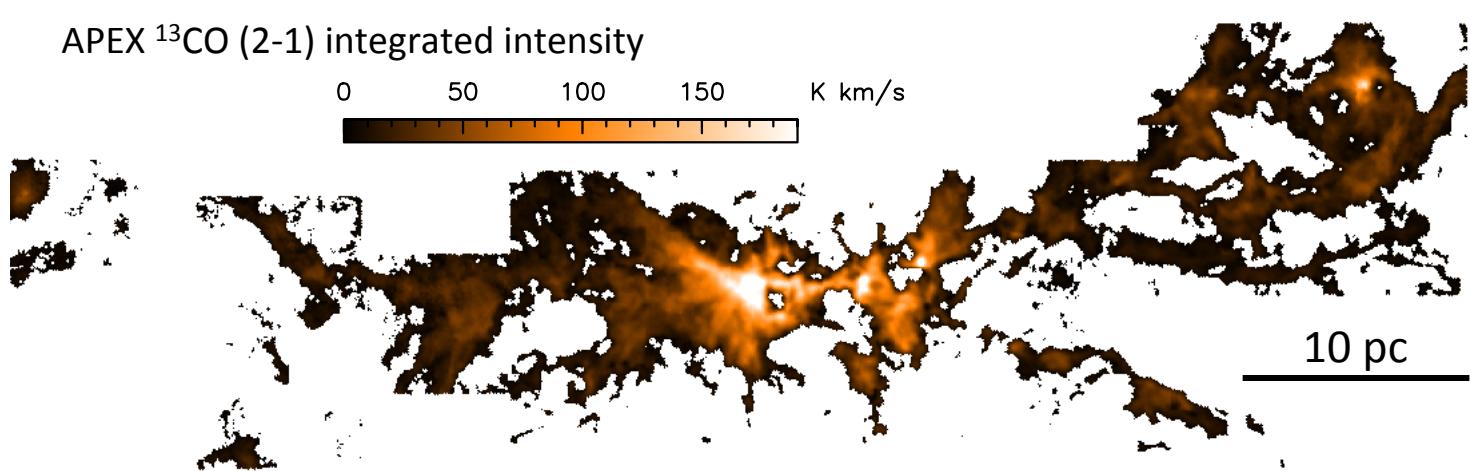


Zernickel et al. (2013) / Zernickel (2015, PhD) / Sánchez-Monge et al (2015) / Arzoumanian, ... Sánchez-Monge et al. (2022)

Mass transport through filaments

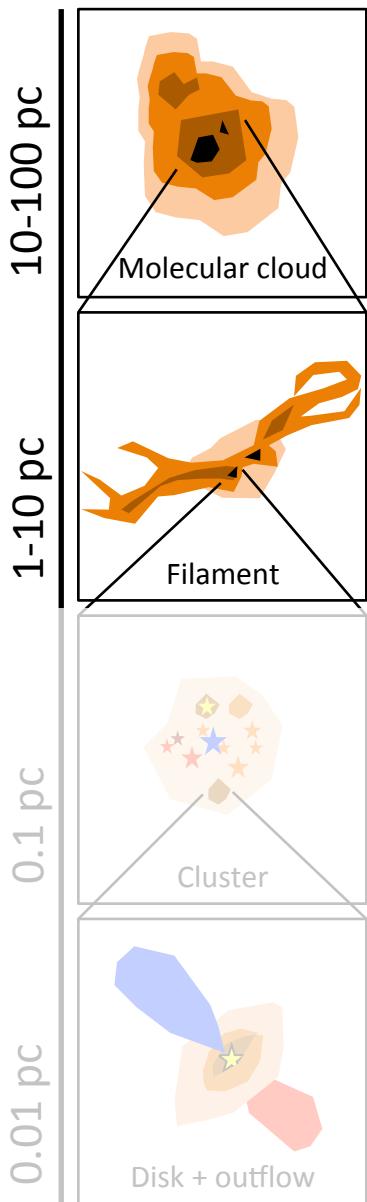


The mass flow can be studied with molecular line observations



Zernickel et al. (2013) / Zernickel (2015, PhD) / Sánchez-Monge et al (2015) / Arzoumanian, ... Sánchez-Monge et al. (2022)

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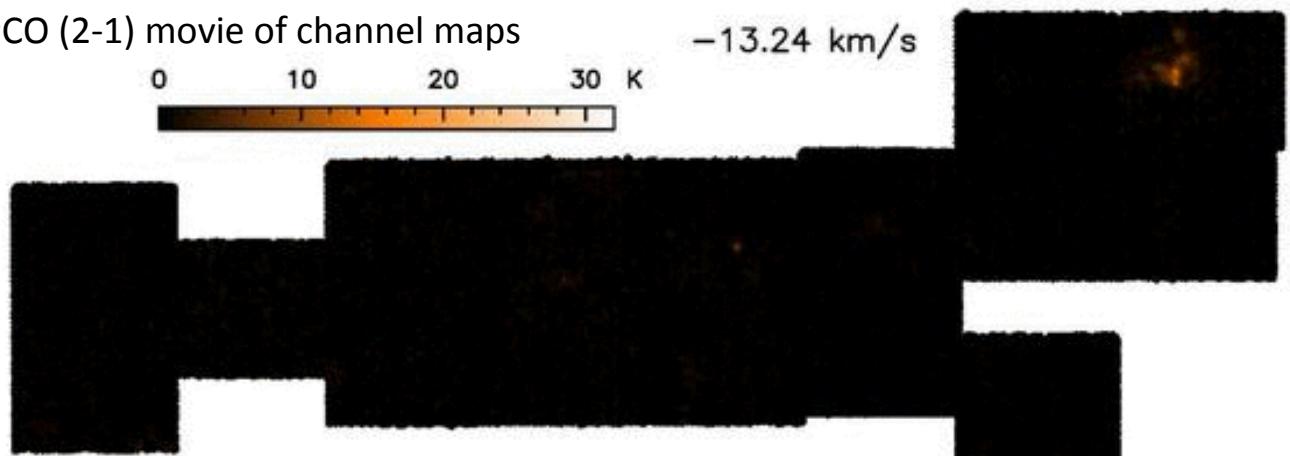


The mass flow can be studied with molecular line observations

APEX ^{13}CO (2-1) movie of channel maps



-13.24 km/s

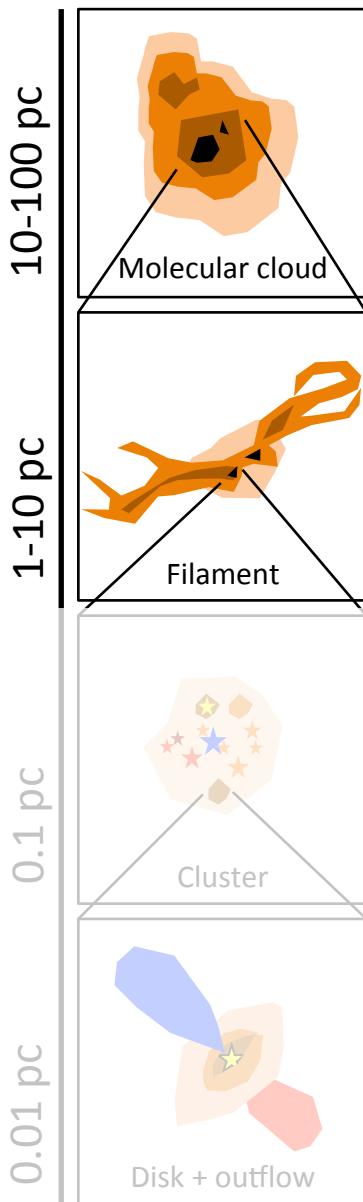


Velocity gradient on large scales

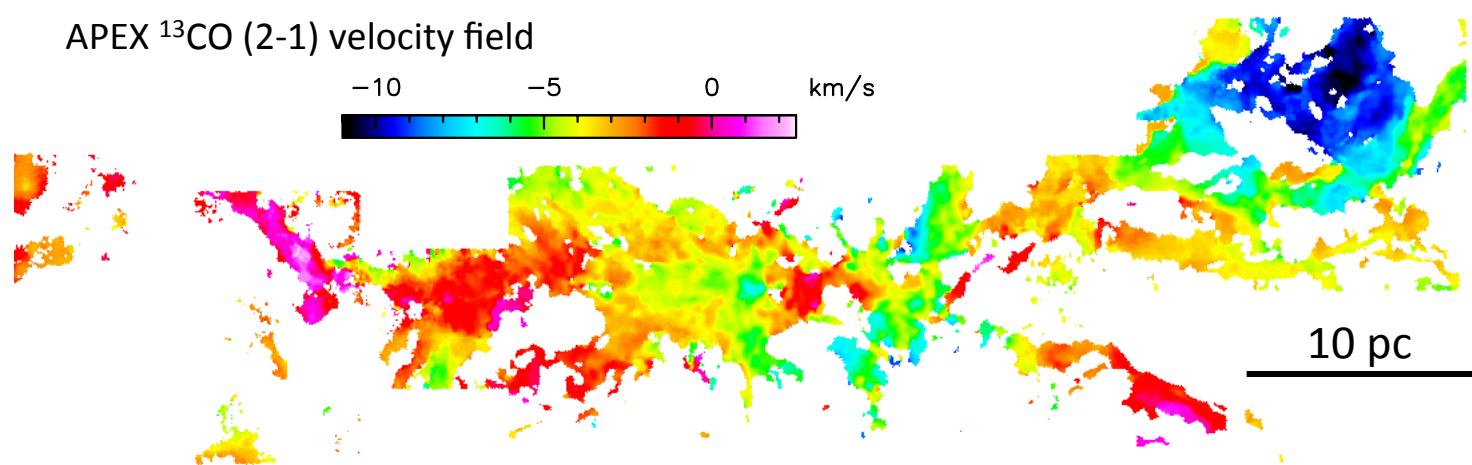
... and along filamentary structures

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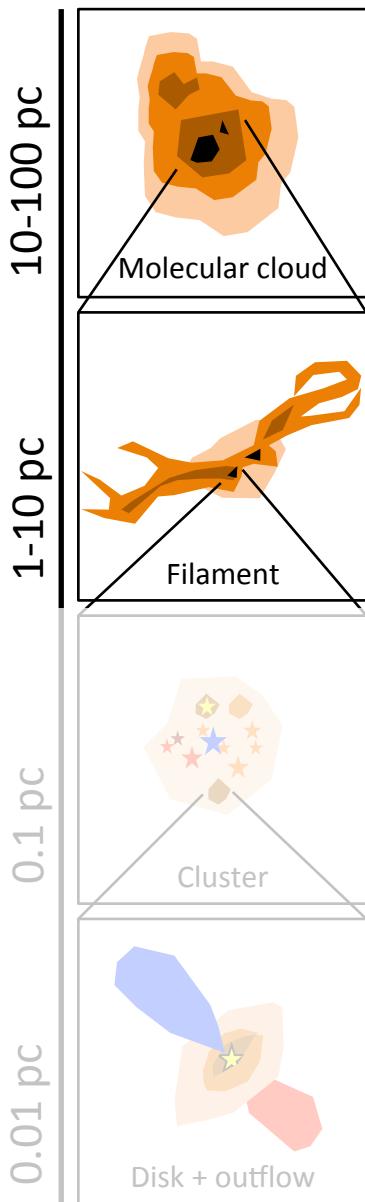


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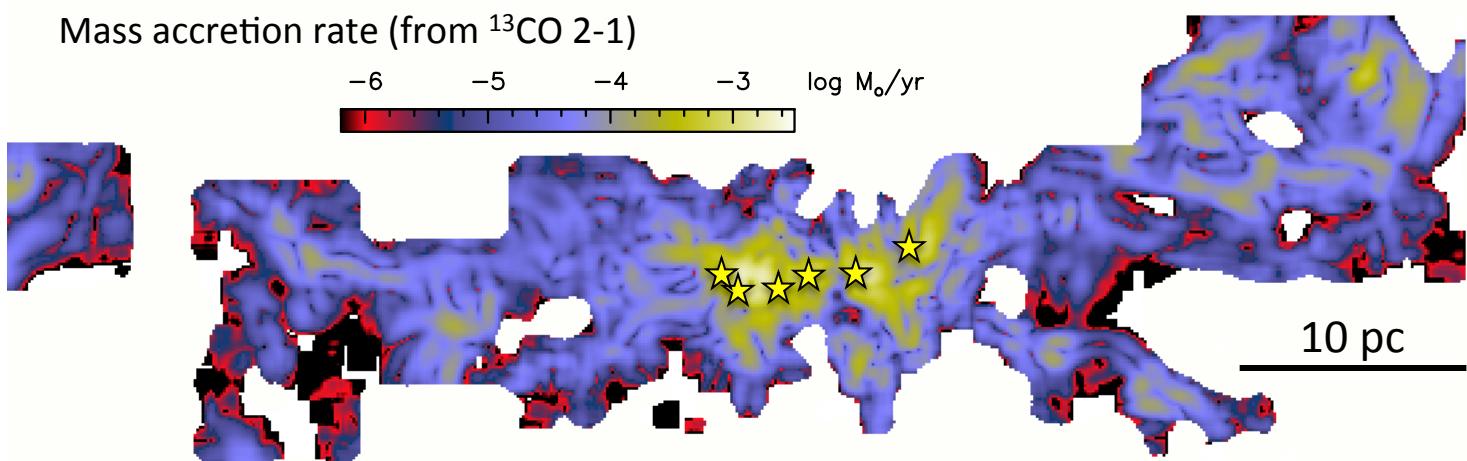
Average velocity gradient : **1 km/s/pc**

... and along filamentary structures

Mass transport through filaments



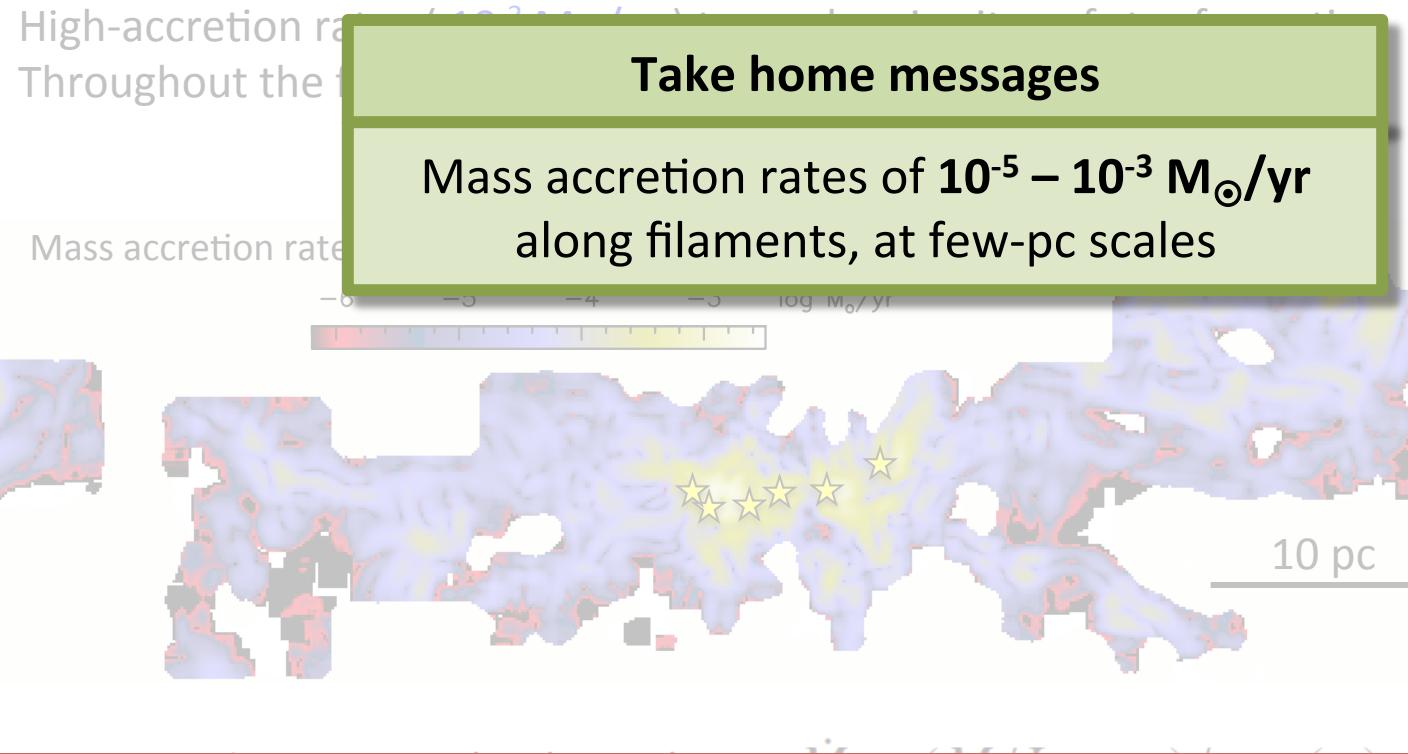
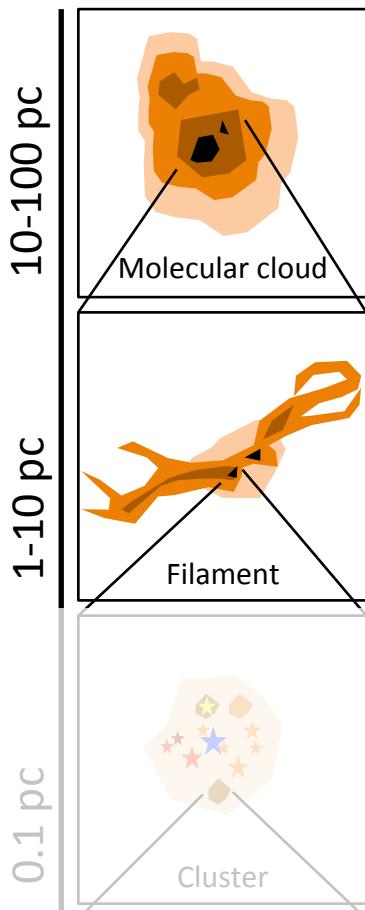
High accretion rates ($10^{-3} M_{\odot}/\text{yr}$) with toward filament sites of star formation
Throughout the filament, accretion rates about $10^{-5} - 10^{-4} M_{\odot}/\text{yr}$



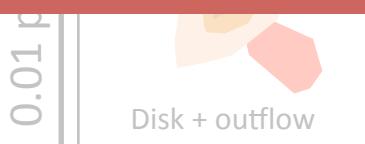
Mass accretion rate can be derived as: $\dot{M} = (M/L \times v_{||}) / \tan(\alpha)$
with: $v_{||}$ velocity gradient parallel to the filament, M/L mass per line density, and $\alpha = 45^{\circ}$

Zernickel et al. (2013) / Zernickel (2015, PhD) / Sánchez-Monge et al (2015) / Arzoumanian, ... Sánchez-Monge et al. (2022)

Mass transport through filaments

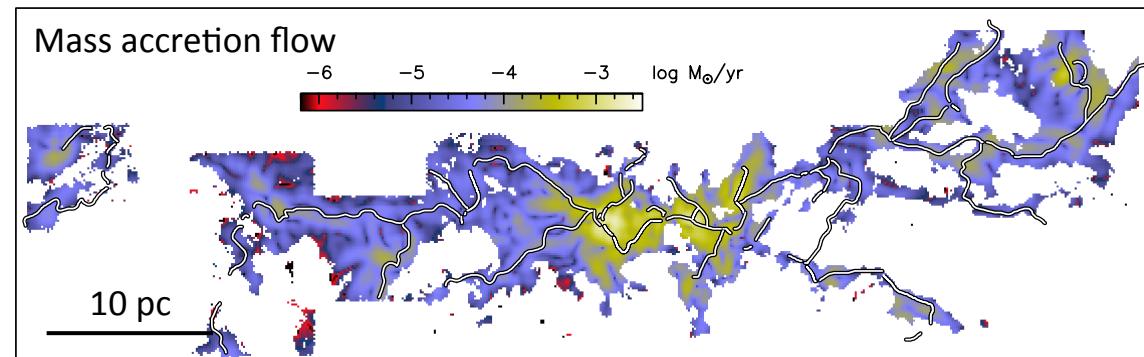
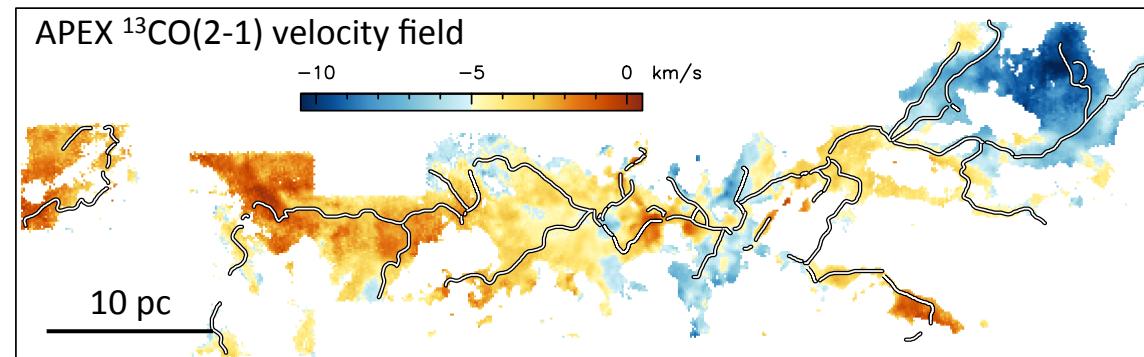
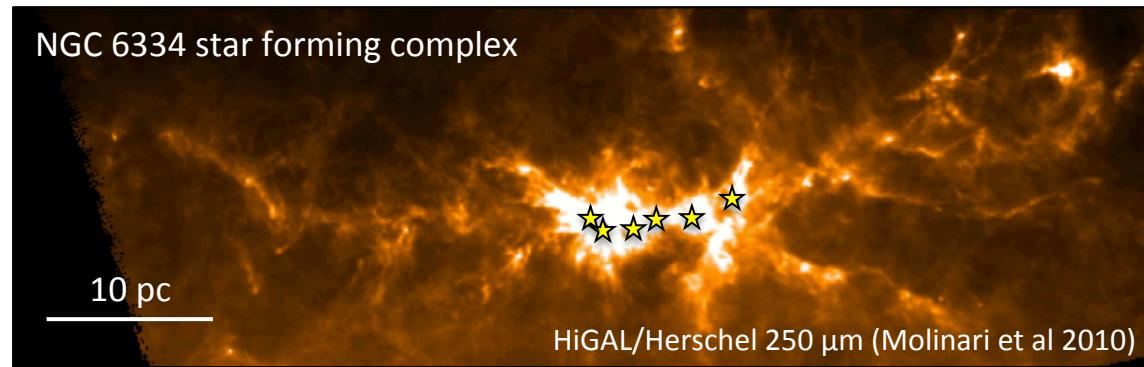
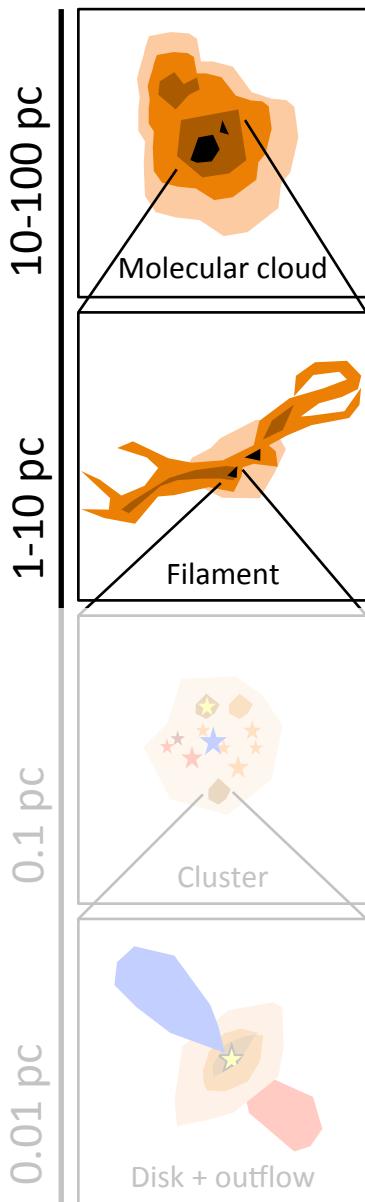


see talks by Emma Mannfors, Mika Juvela, Dana Makarova, Jonathan Oers, ...
(on filament properties, hub-filament systems and column density estimates)



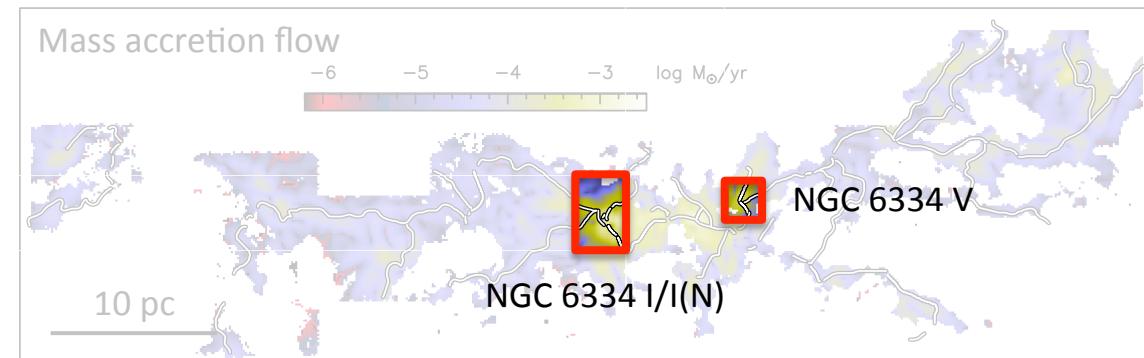
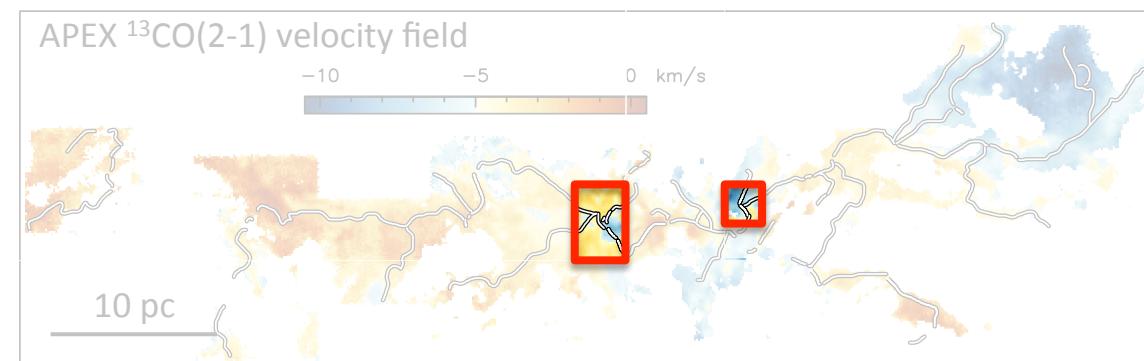
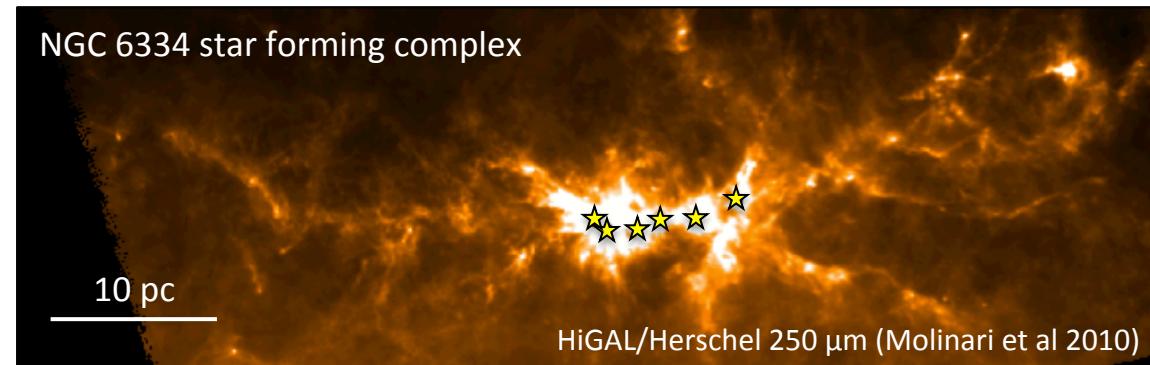
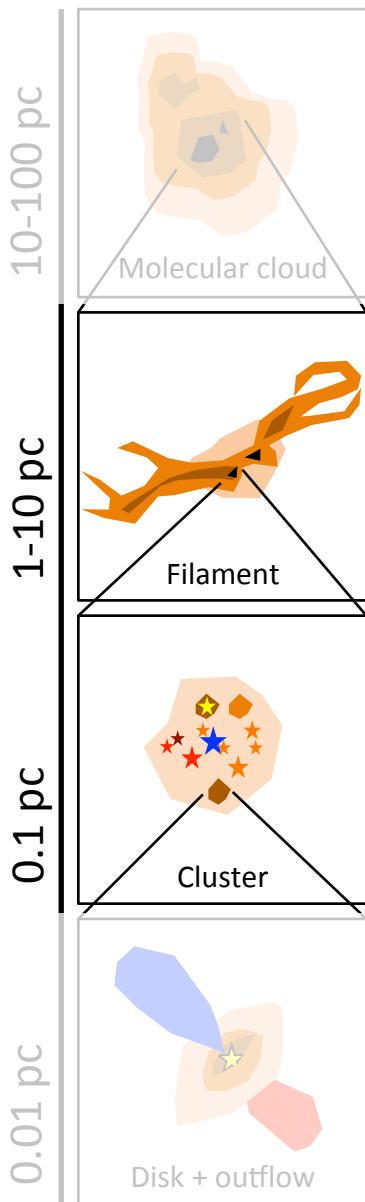
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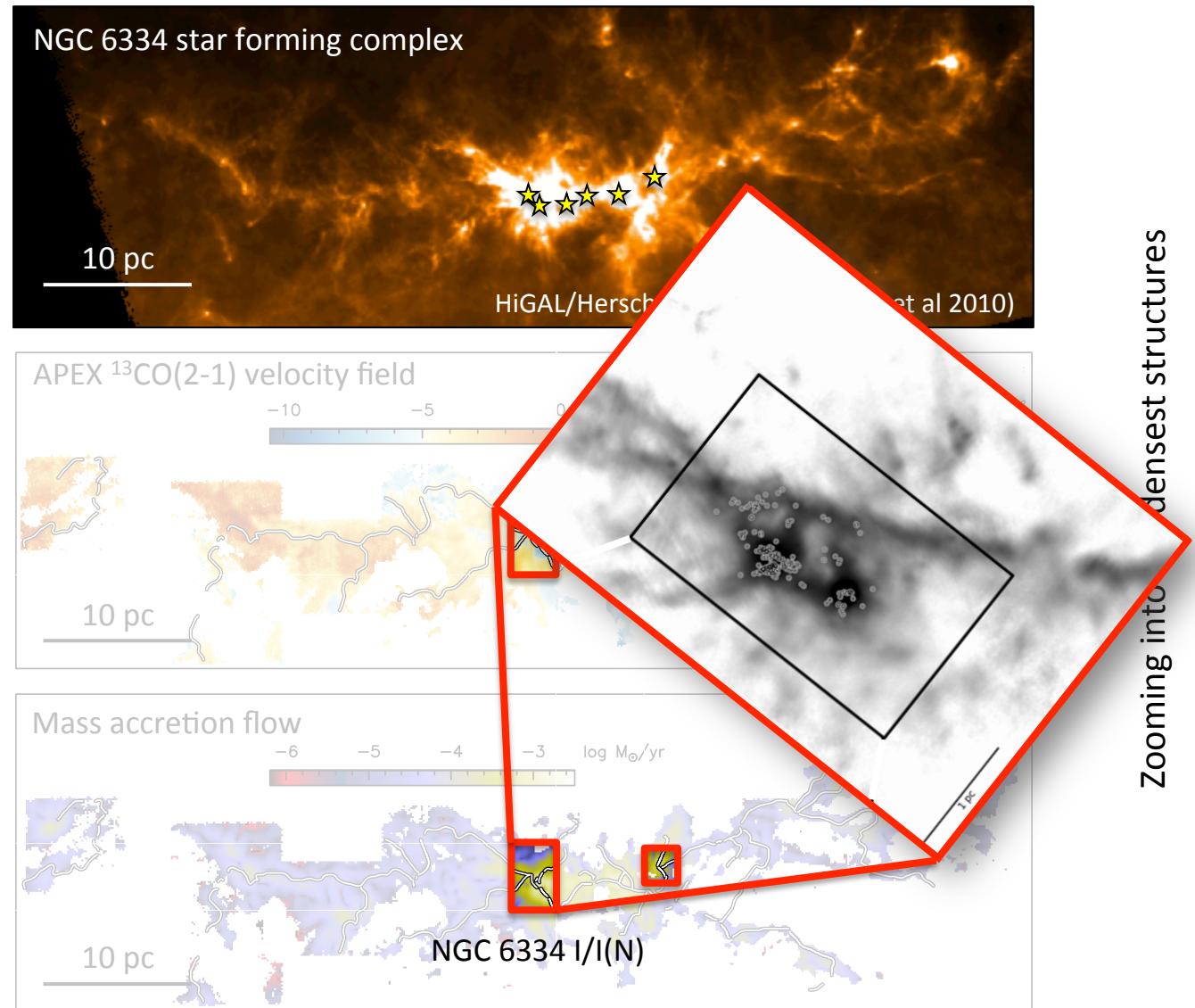
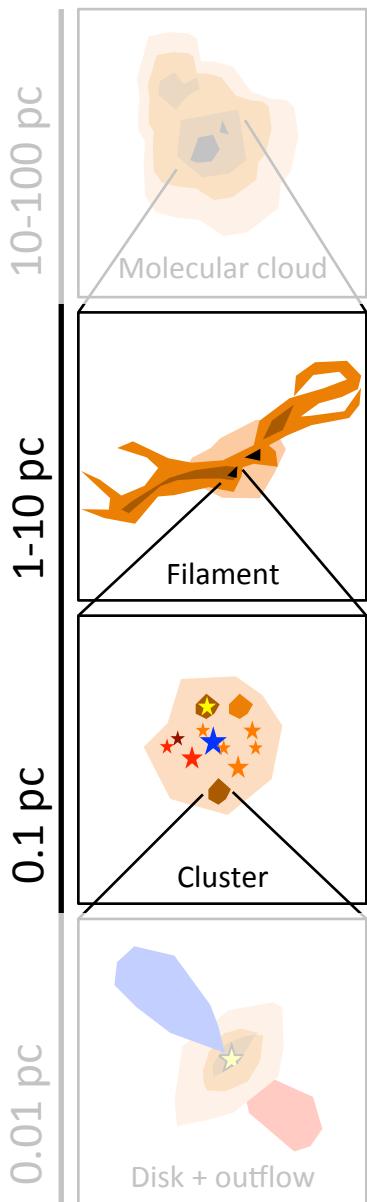
Accretion of material – from large clouds to clusters and stars

Formation of clusters and their properties



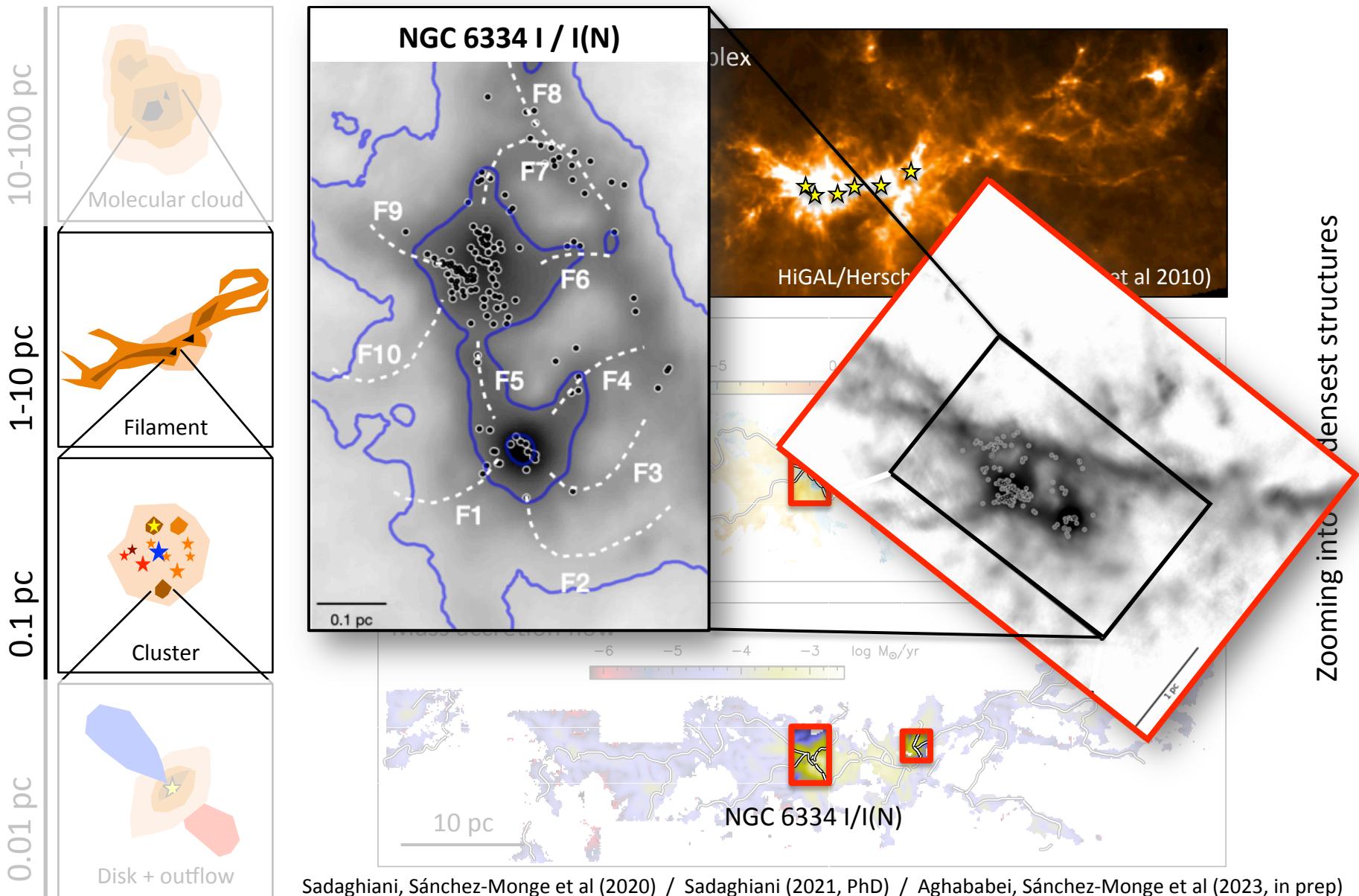
Zooming into the densest structures

Formation of clusters and their properties



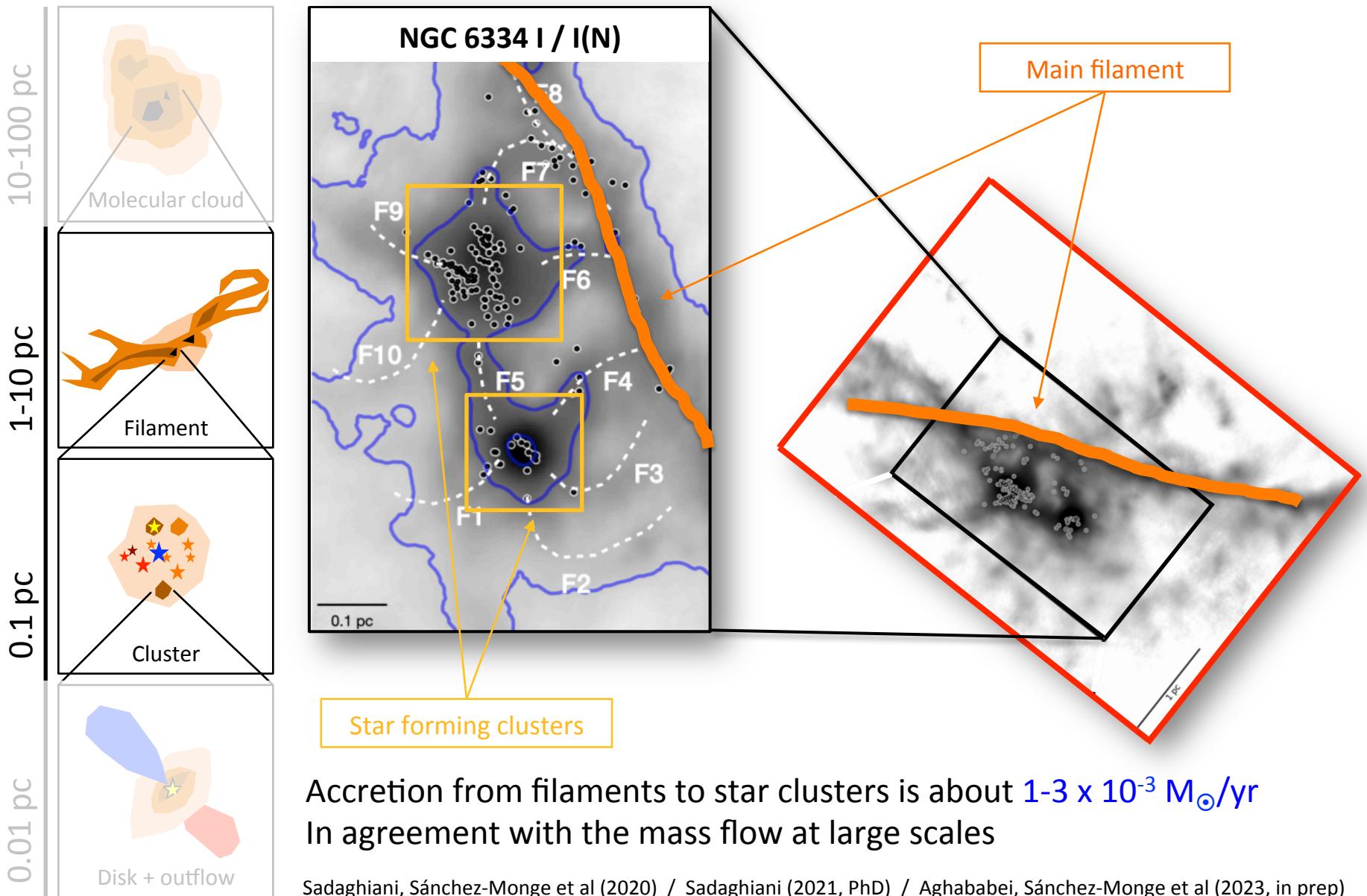
Sadaghiani, Sánchez-Monge et al (2020) / Sadaghiani (2021, PhD) / Aghababei, Sánchez-Monge et al (2023, in prep)

Formation of clusters and their properties

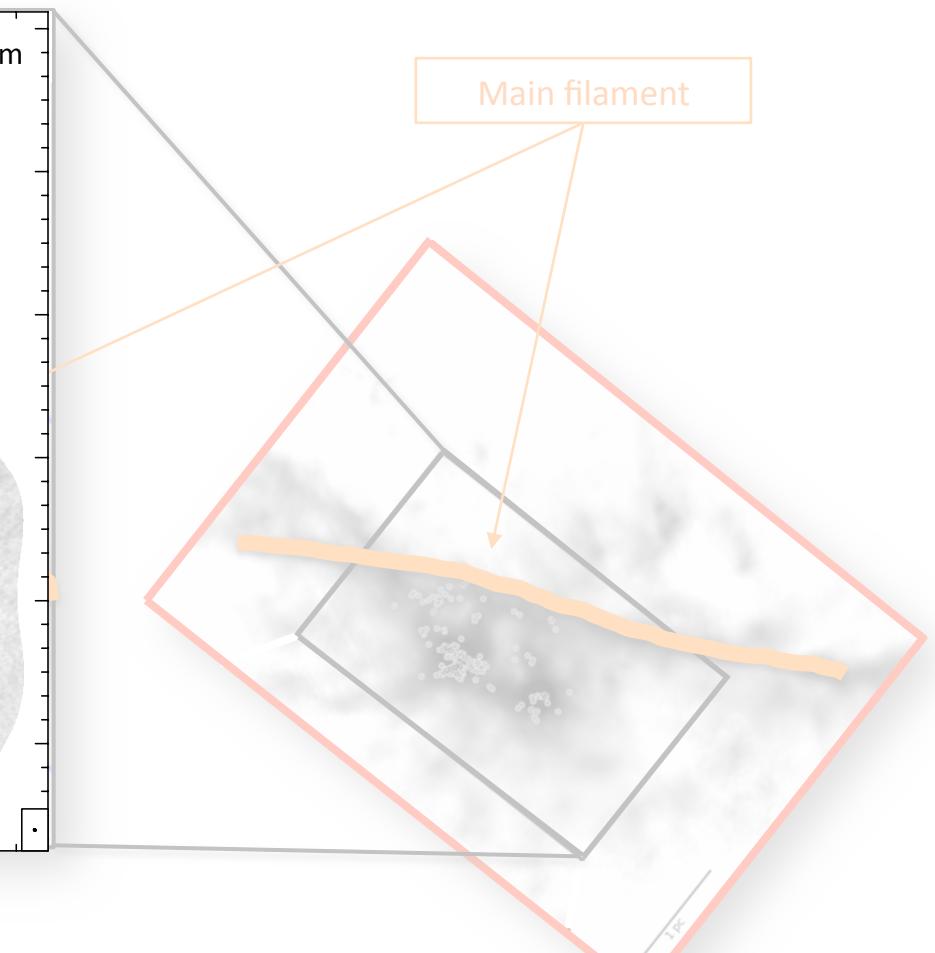
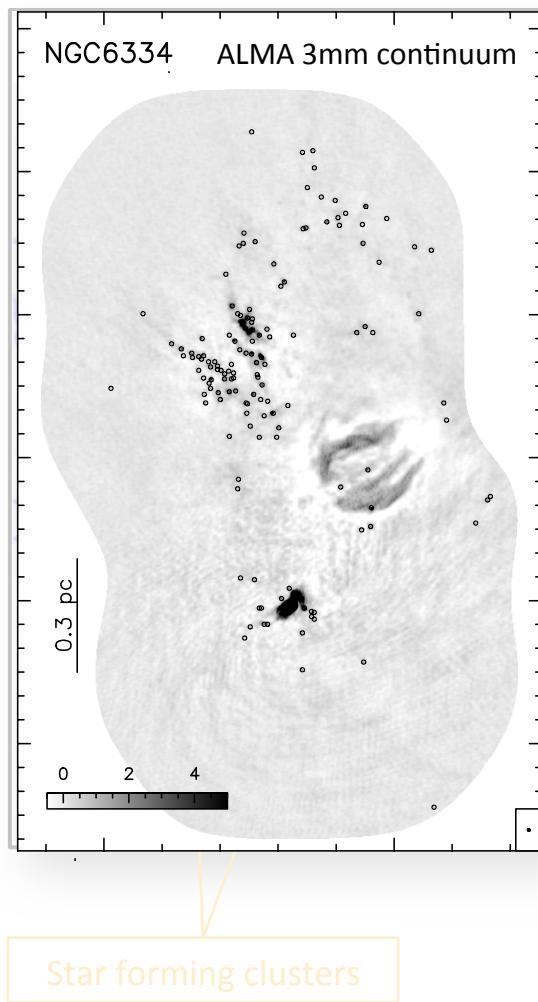
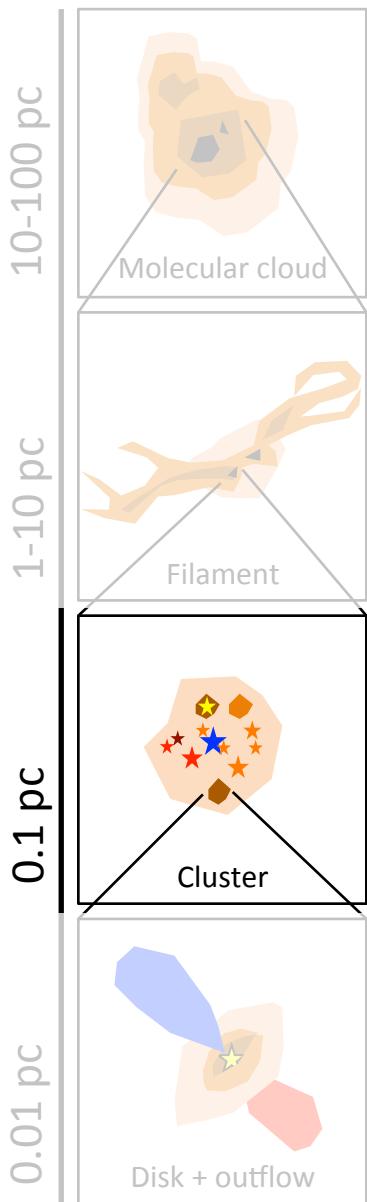


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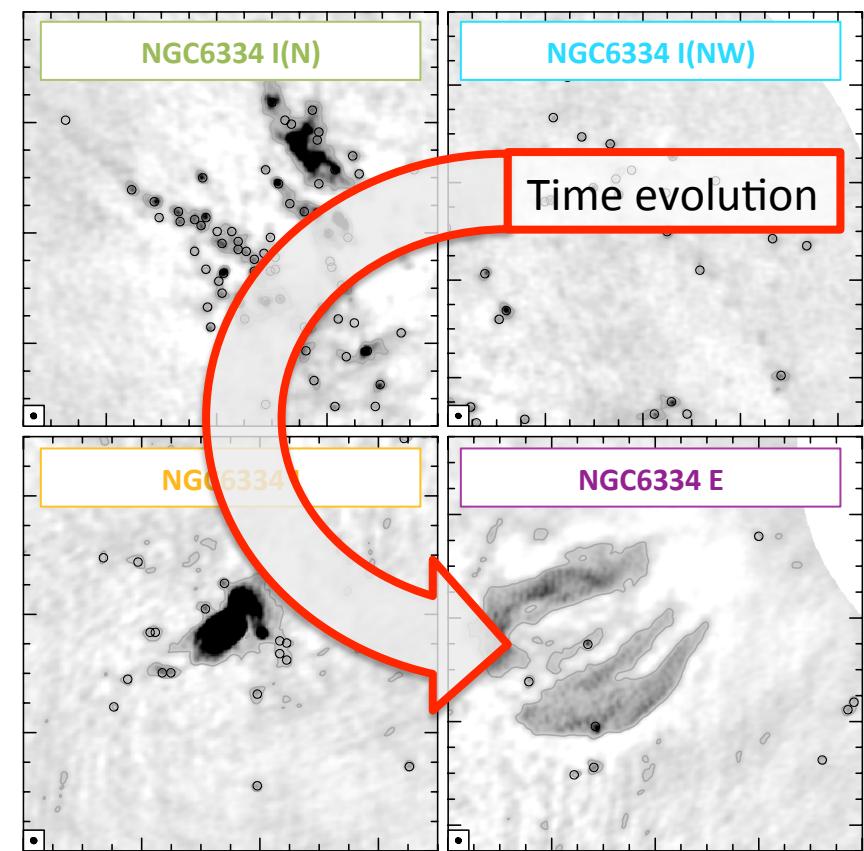
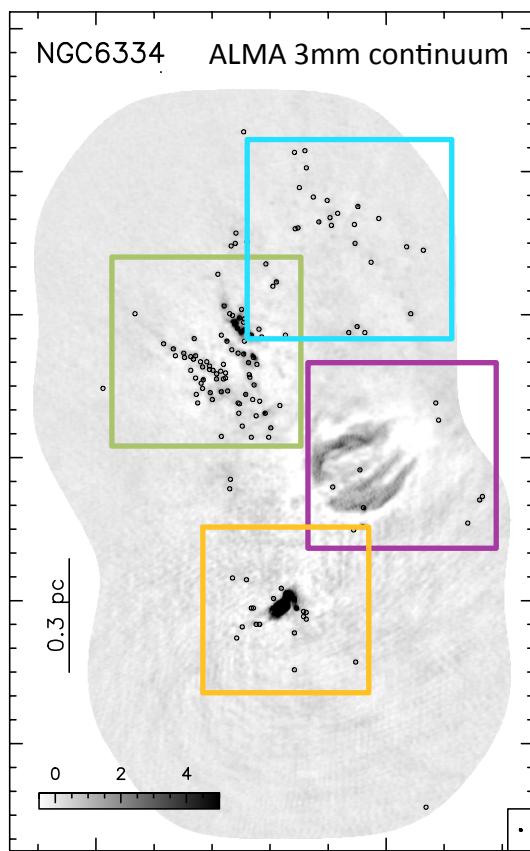
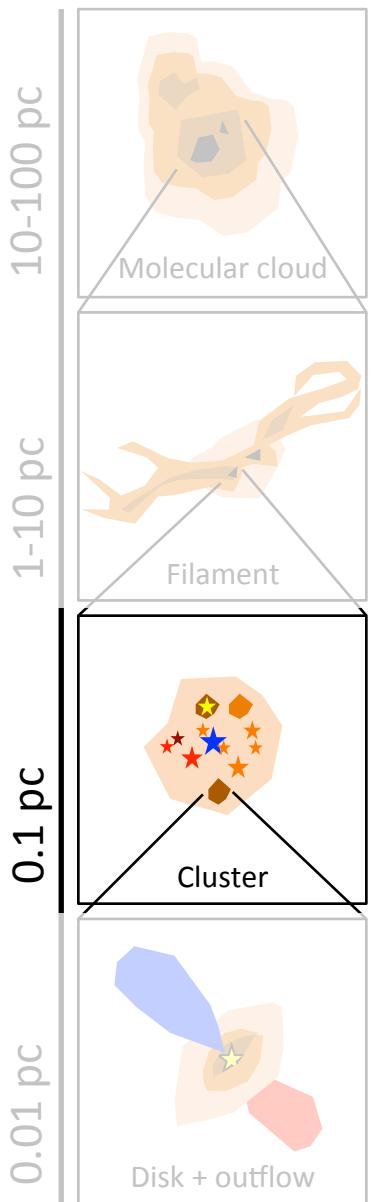
Formation of clusters and their properties



What are the properties of the forming clusters?

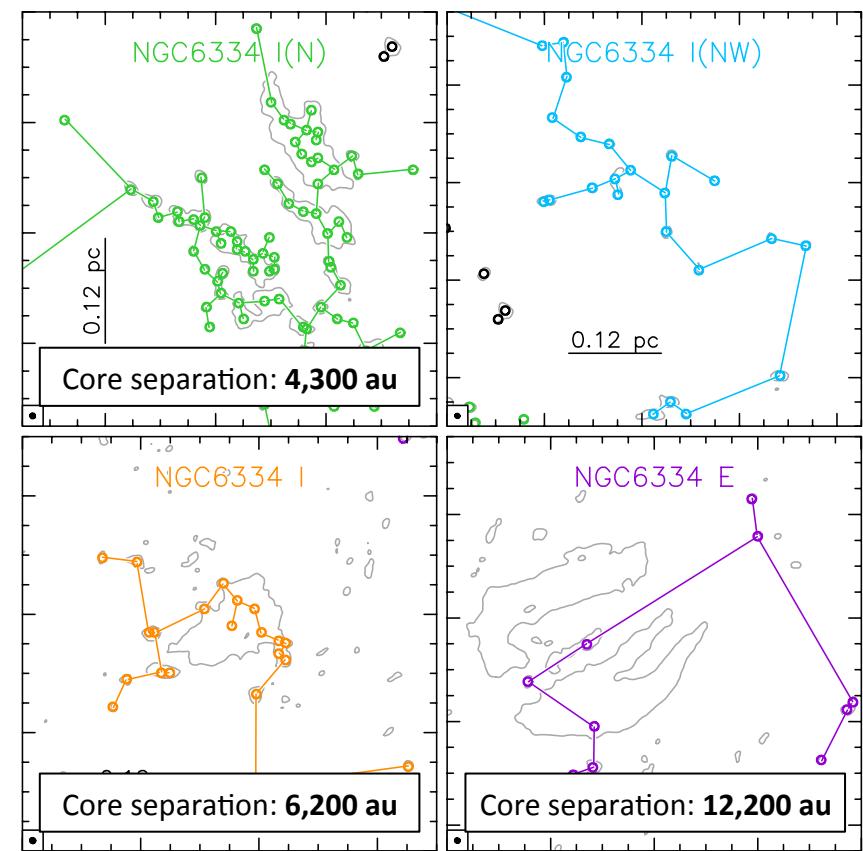
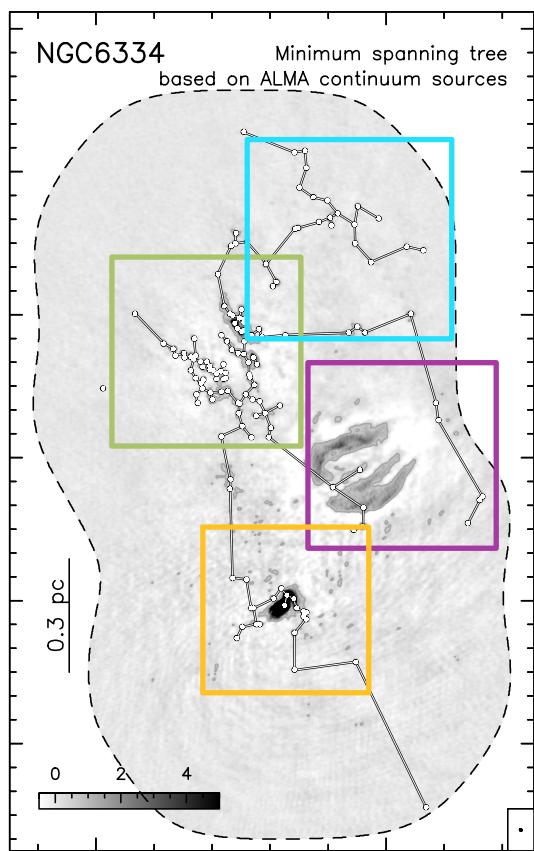
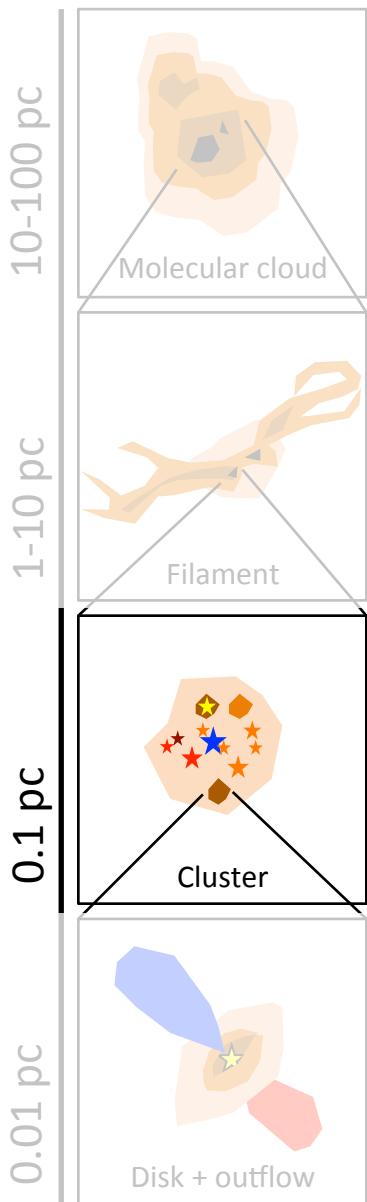
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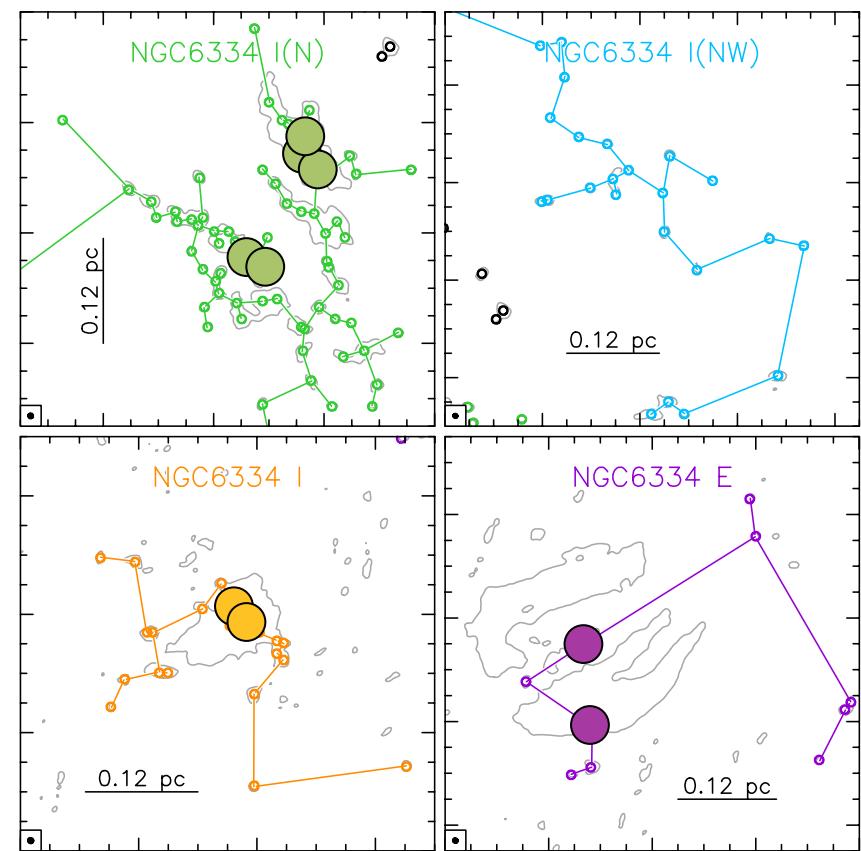
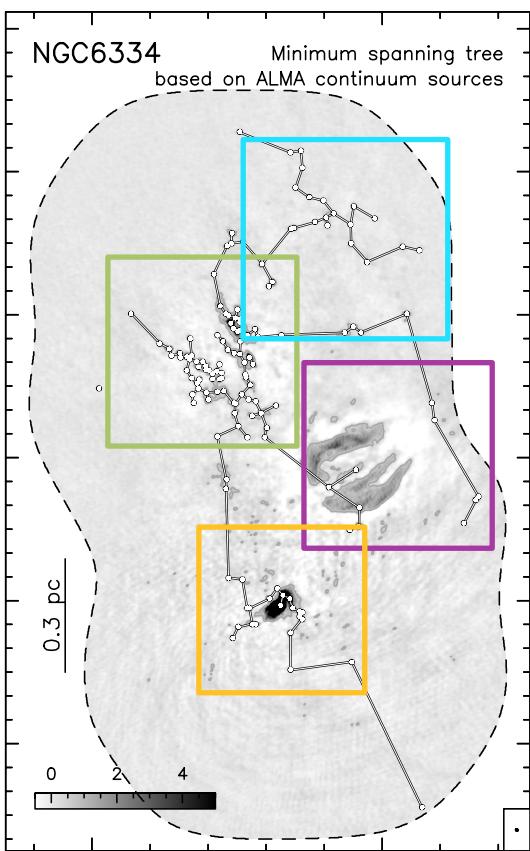
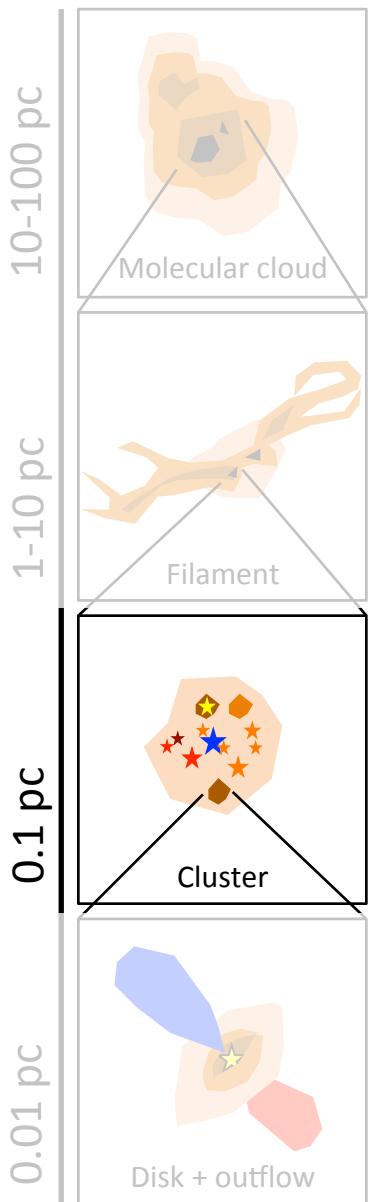
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Formation of clusters and their properties



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- **Spatial distribution:** cores drift away with time (e.g., due to dynamic effects)

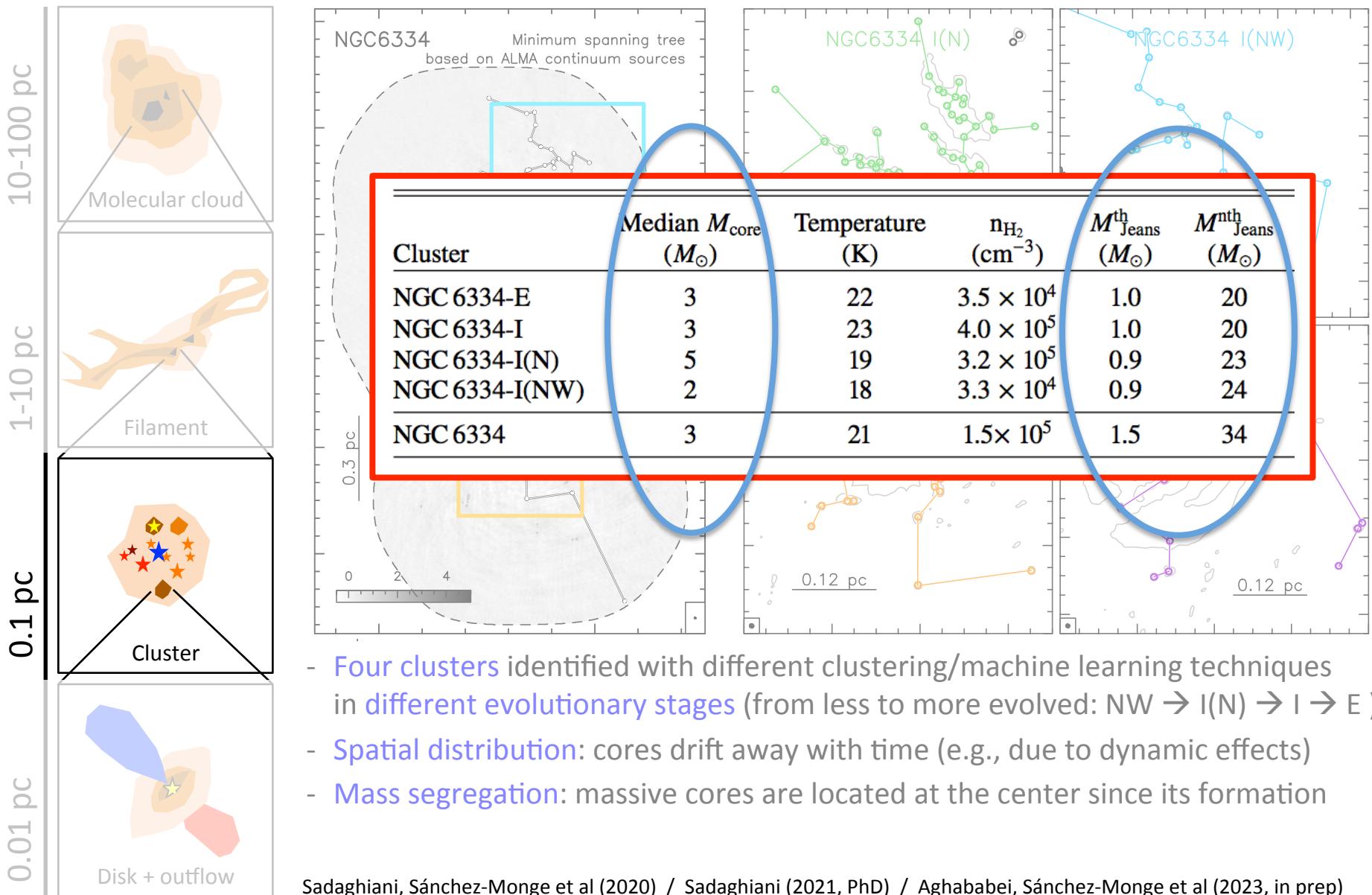
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Sadaghiani, Sánchez-Monge et al (2020) / Sadaghiani (2021, PhD) / Aghababei, Sánchez-Monge et al (2023, in prep)

Formation of clusters and their properties



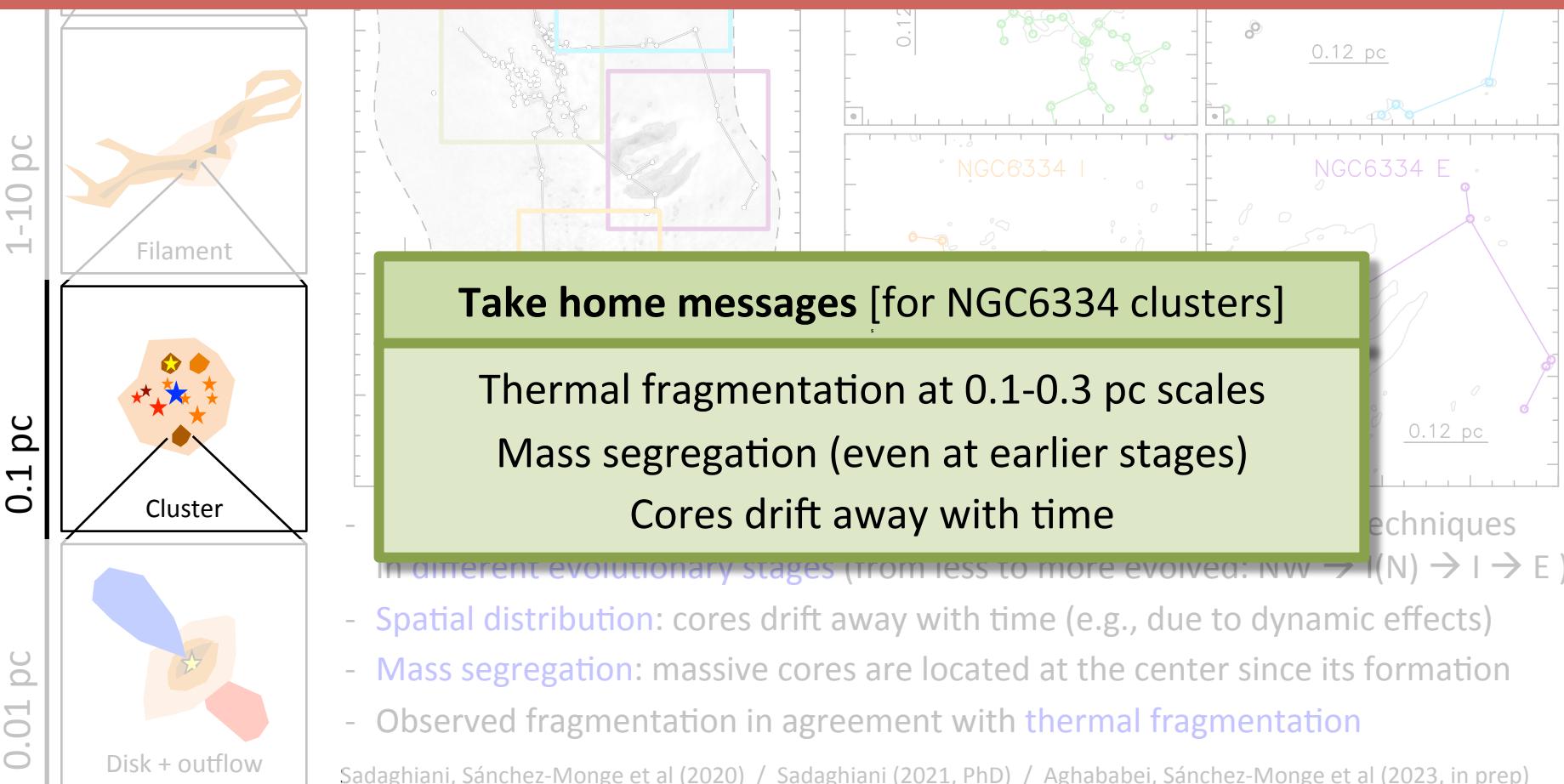
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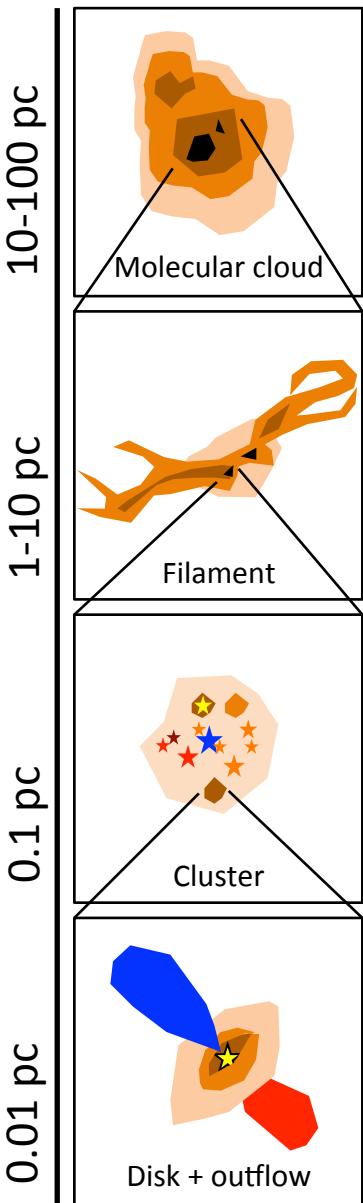
Formation of clusters and their properties



see talks by Gemma Busquet, Paolo Padoan, ...
(on young stellar clusters, core mass function and cluster properties)



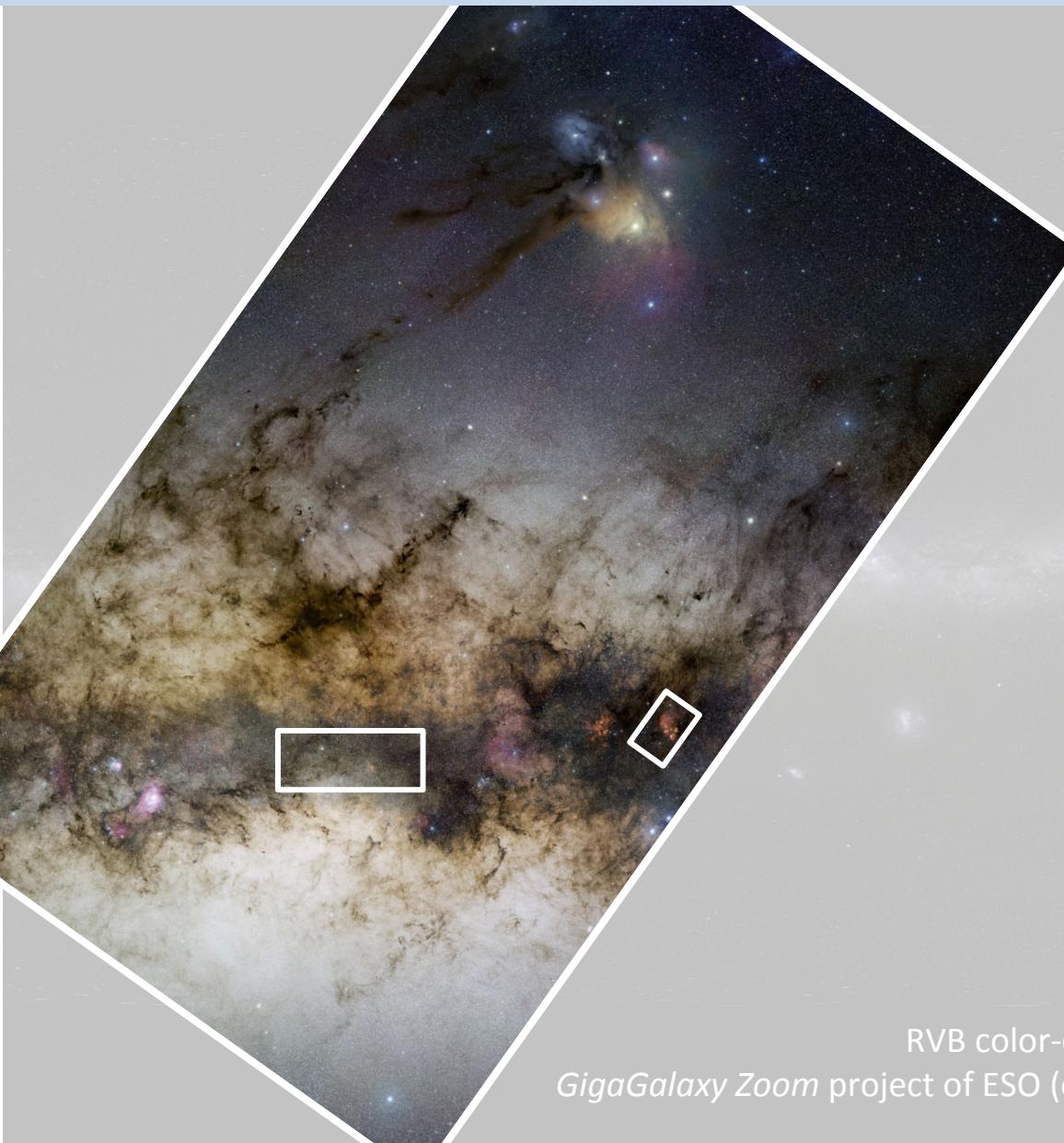
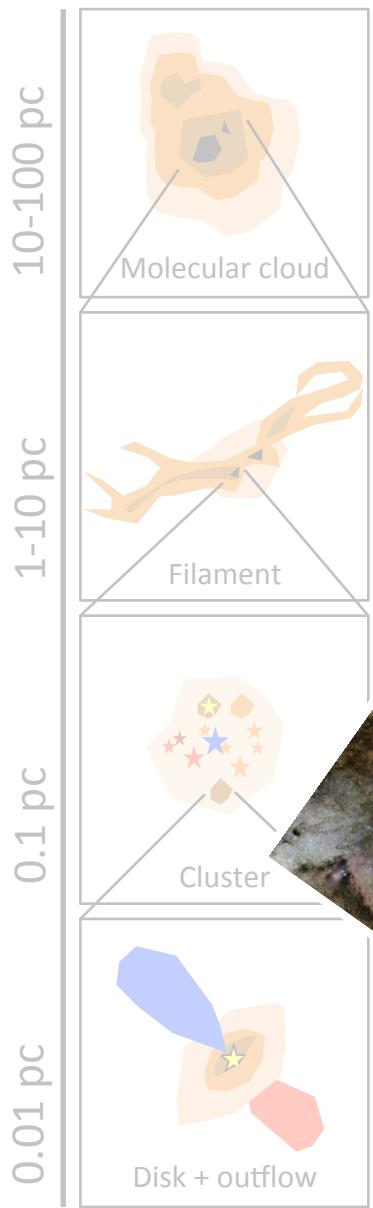
From clouds to stars



Questions on Star (Cluster) Formation

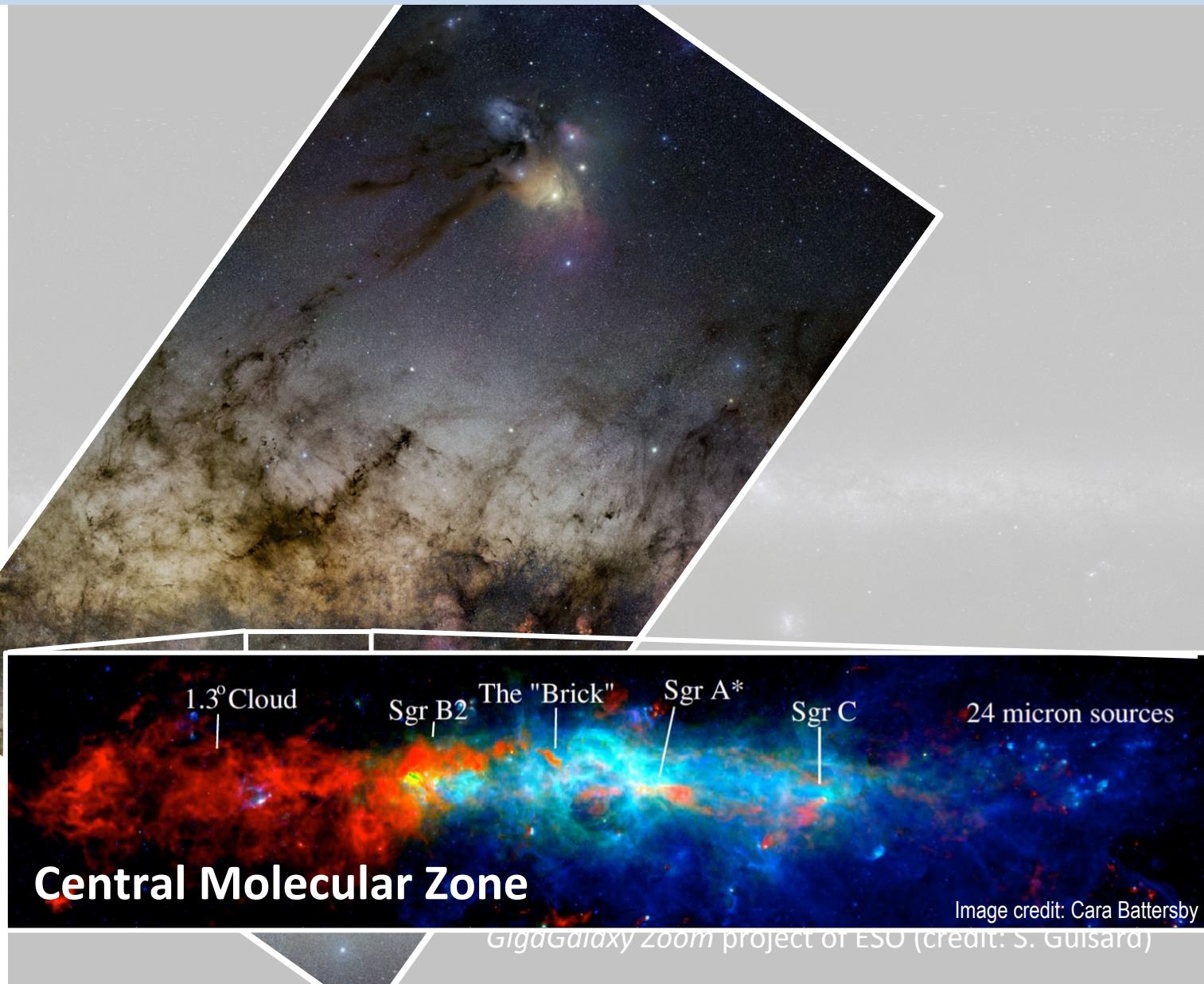
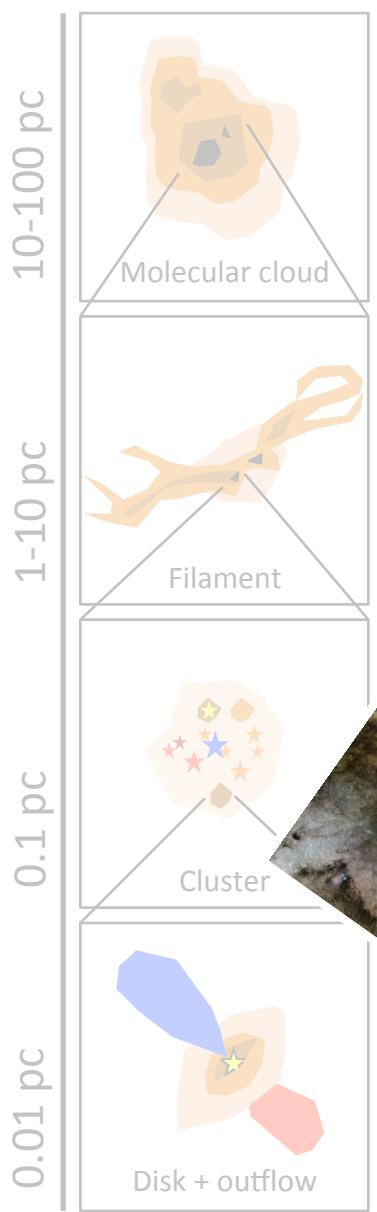
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Formation of super-stellar clusters

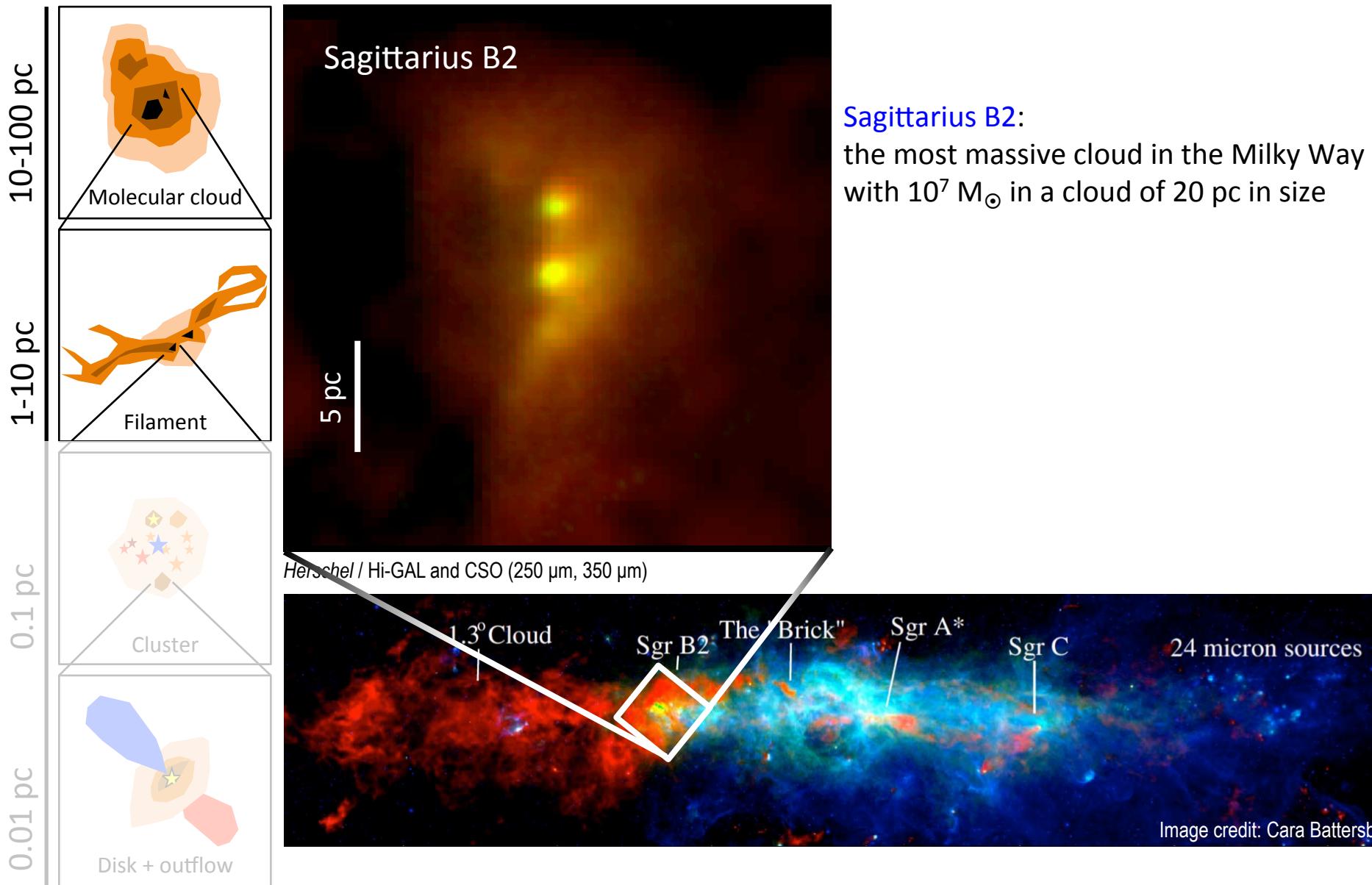


RVB color-composite image
GigaGalaxy Zoom project of ESO (credit: S. Guisard)

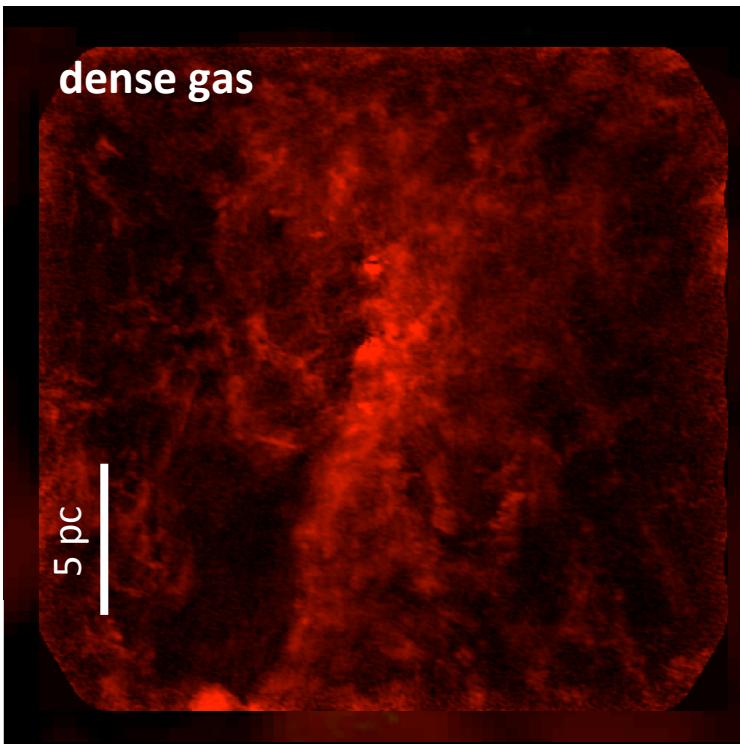
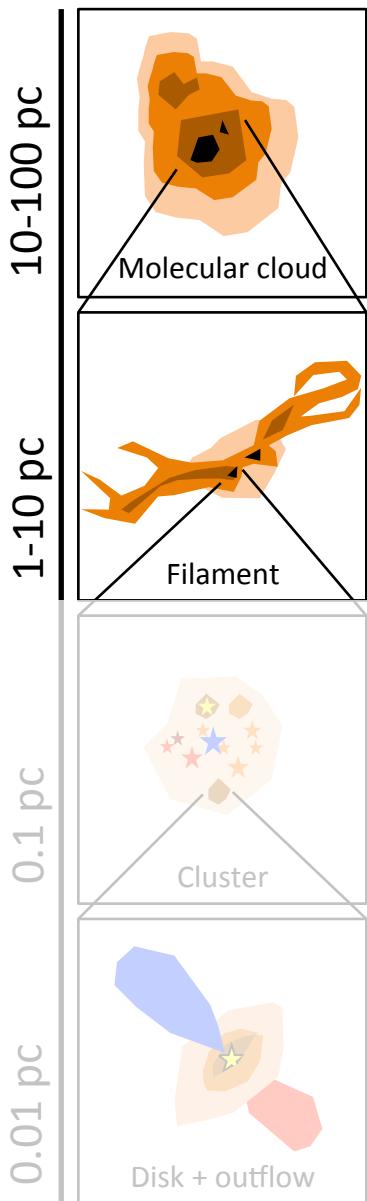
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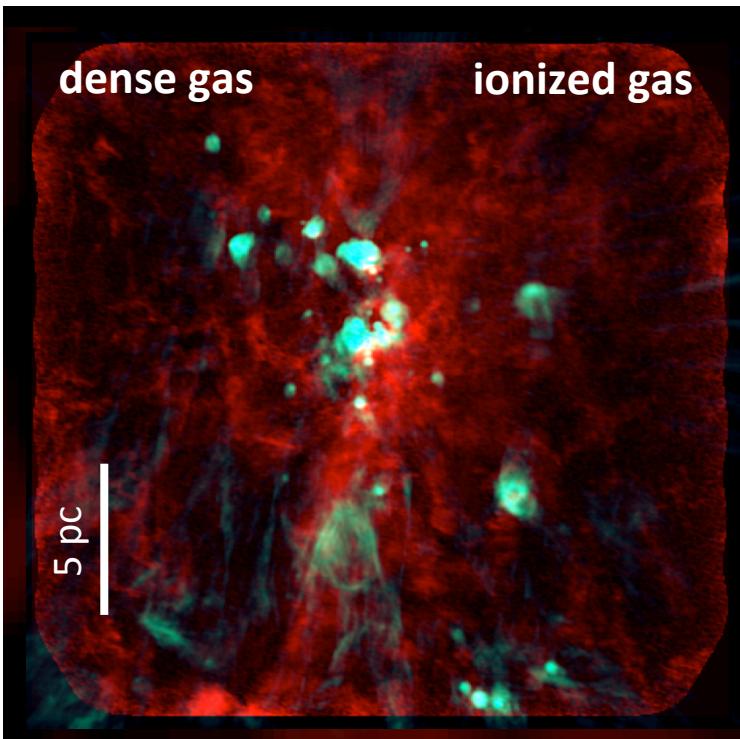
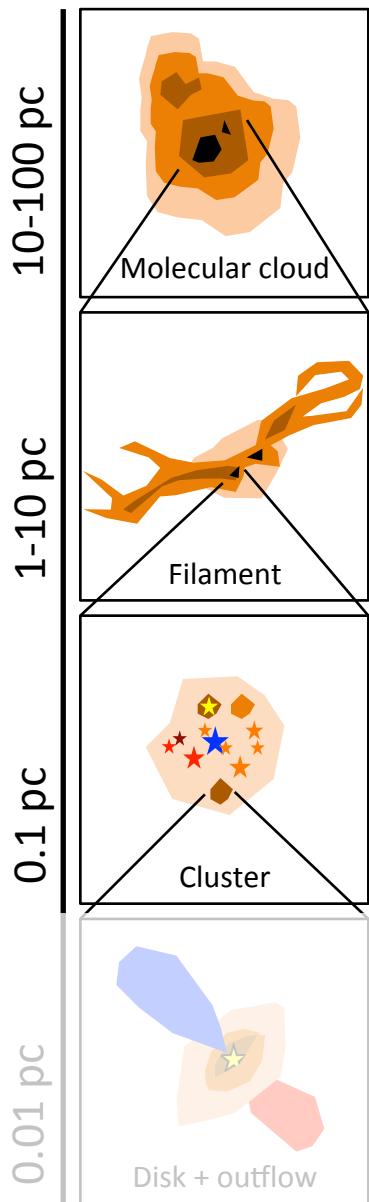
Formation of super-stellar clusters



Sagittarius B2 molecular cloud
distributed star formation
300+ dense cores identified
filamentary structures in dense gas

Sánchez-Monge et al (2017, 2018) / Schwörer, Sánchez-Monge et al (2019) / Meng, Sánchez-Monge et al (2019, 2022)
Schmiedeke et al (2016) / Pols et al (2018) / Ginsburg et al (2018) / Meng (2020, PhD) / Schwörer (2020, PhD)

Formation of super-stellar clusters

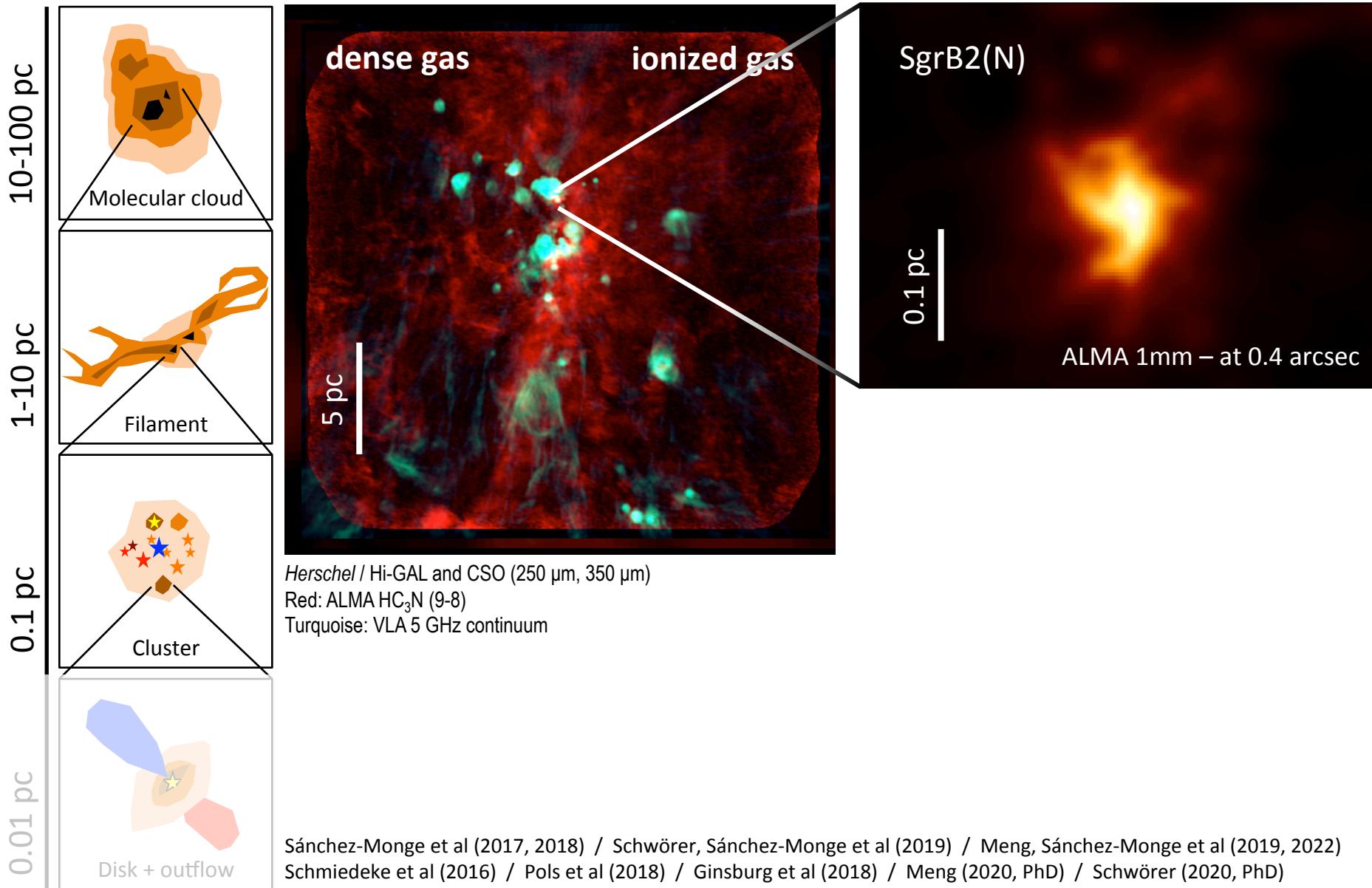


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300+ dense cores identified
filamentary structures in dense gas

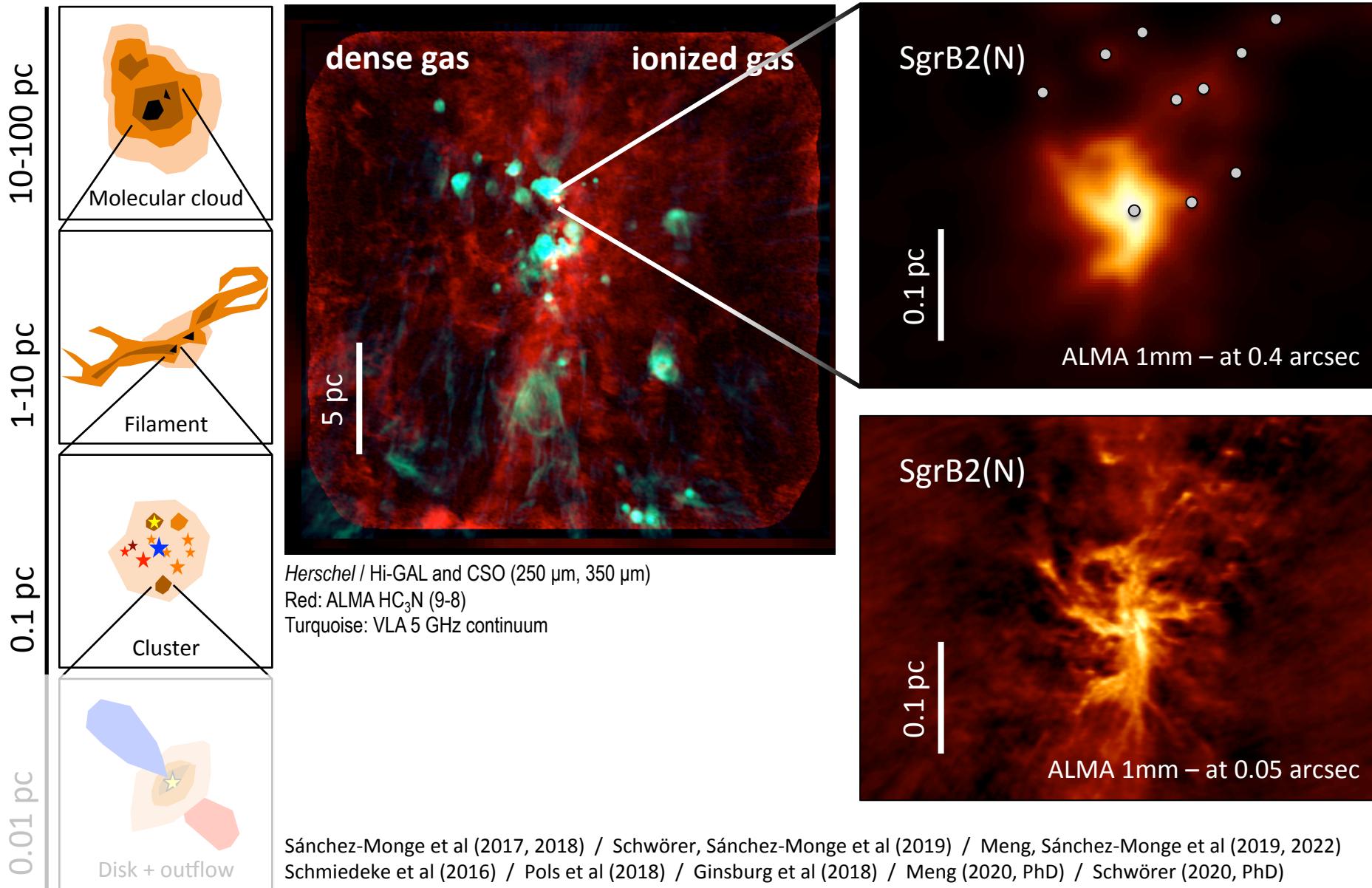
90+ massive stars with HII regions
(some with synchrotron radiation)

Sánchez-Monge et al (2017, 2018) / Schwörer, Sánchez-Monge et al (2019) / Meng, Sánchez-Monge et al (2019, 2022)
Schmiedeke et al (2016) / Pols et al (2018) / Ginsburg et al (2018) / Meng (2020, PhD) / Schwörer (2020, PhD)

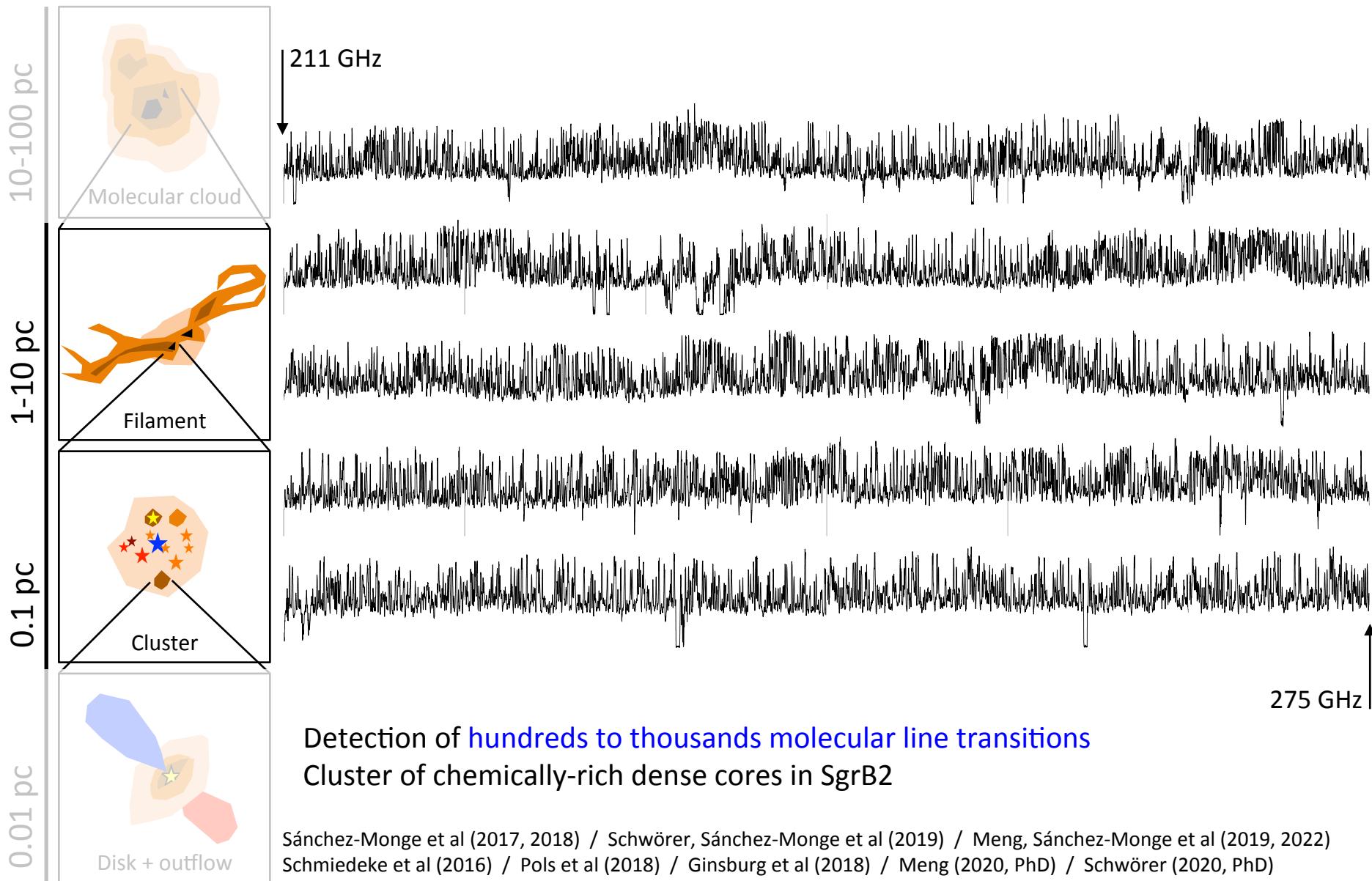
Formation of super-stellar clusters



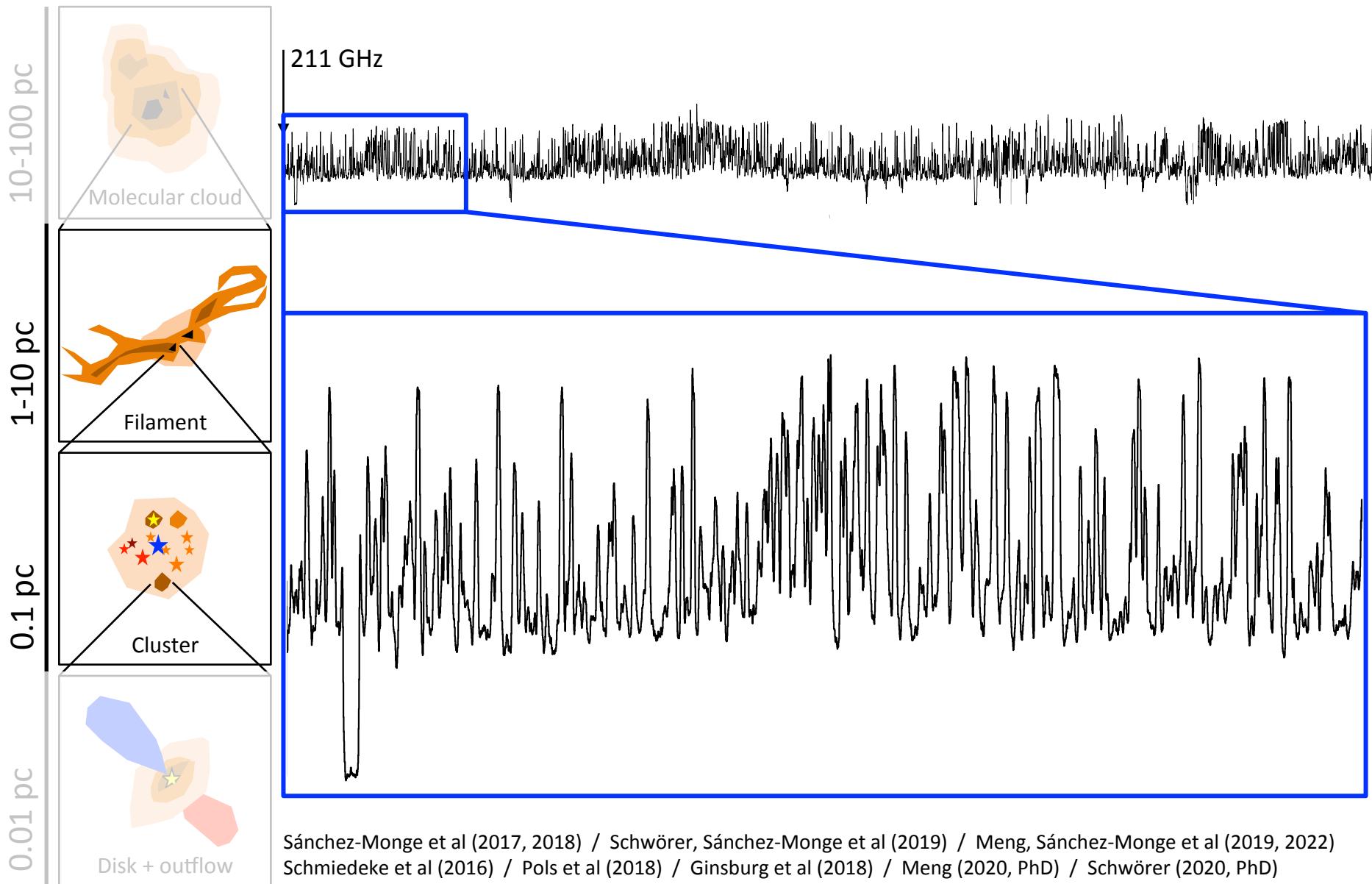
Formation of super-stellar clusters



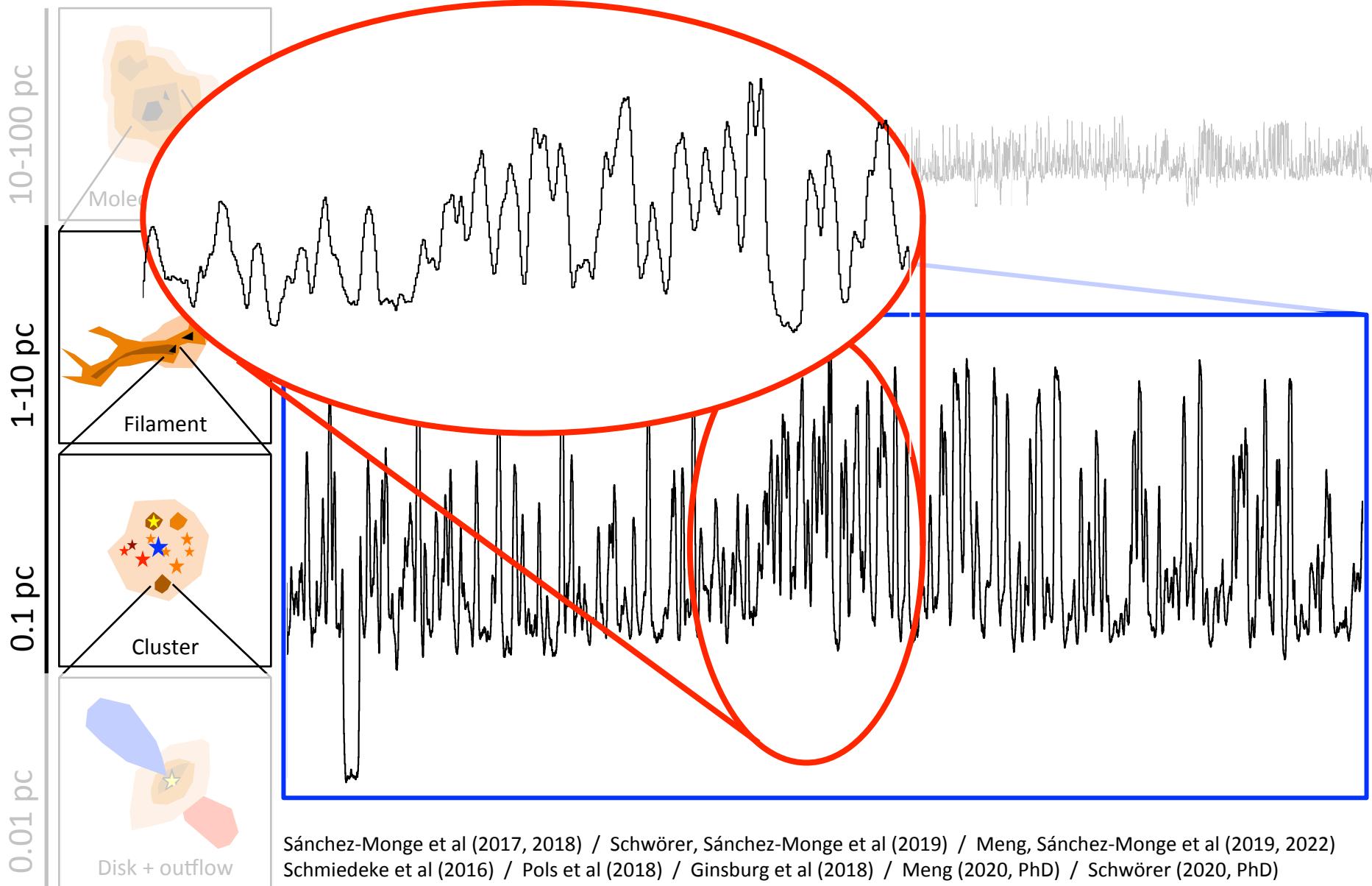
Formation of super-stellar clusters



Formation of super-stellar clusters

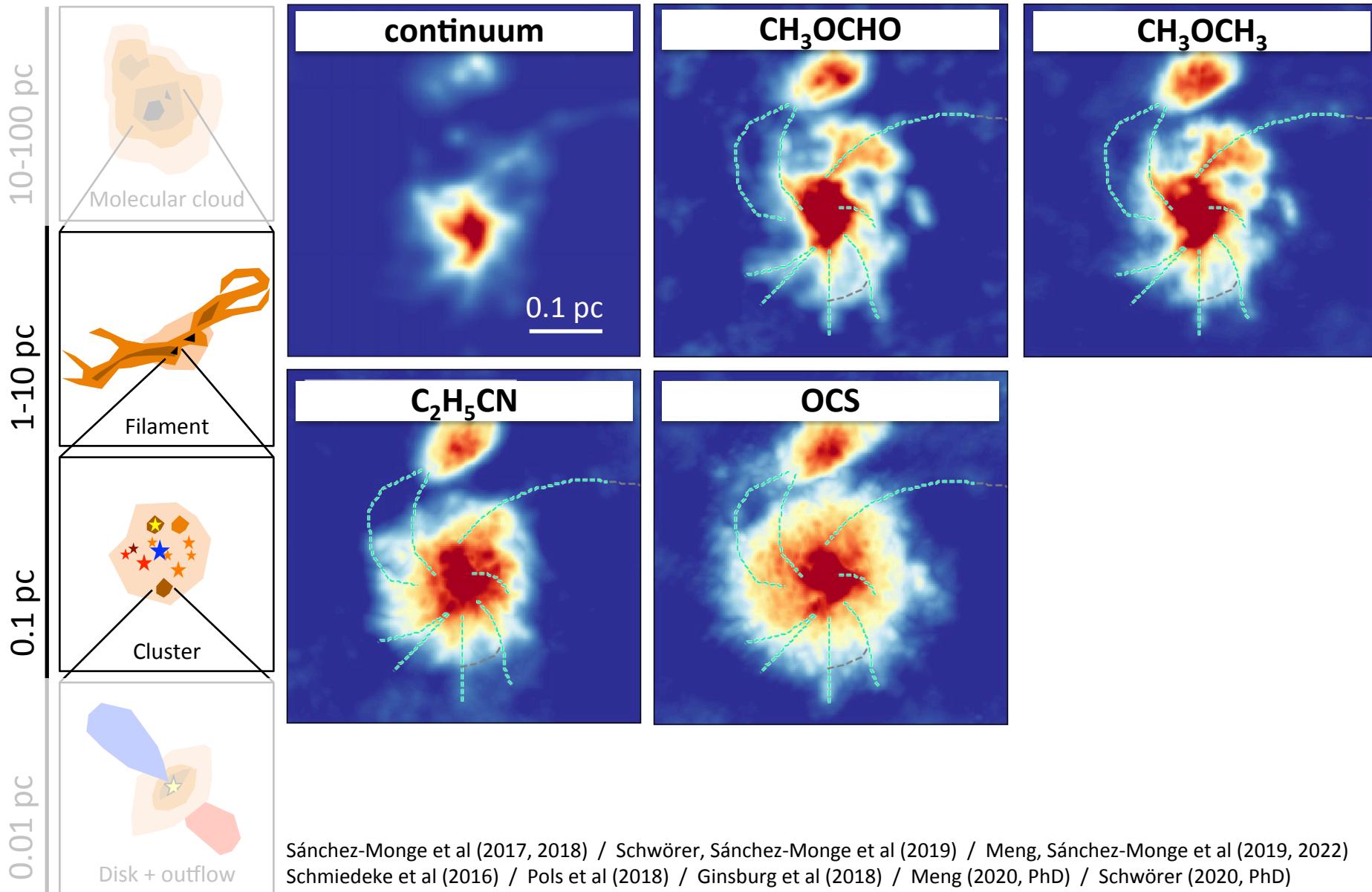


Formation of super-stellar clusters

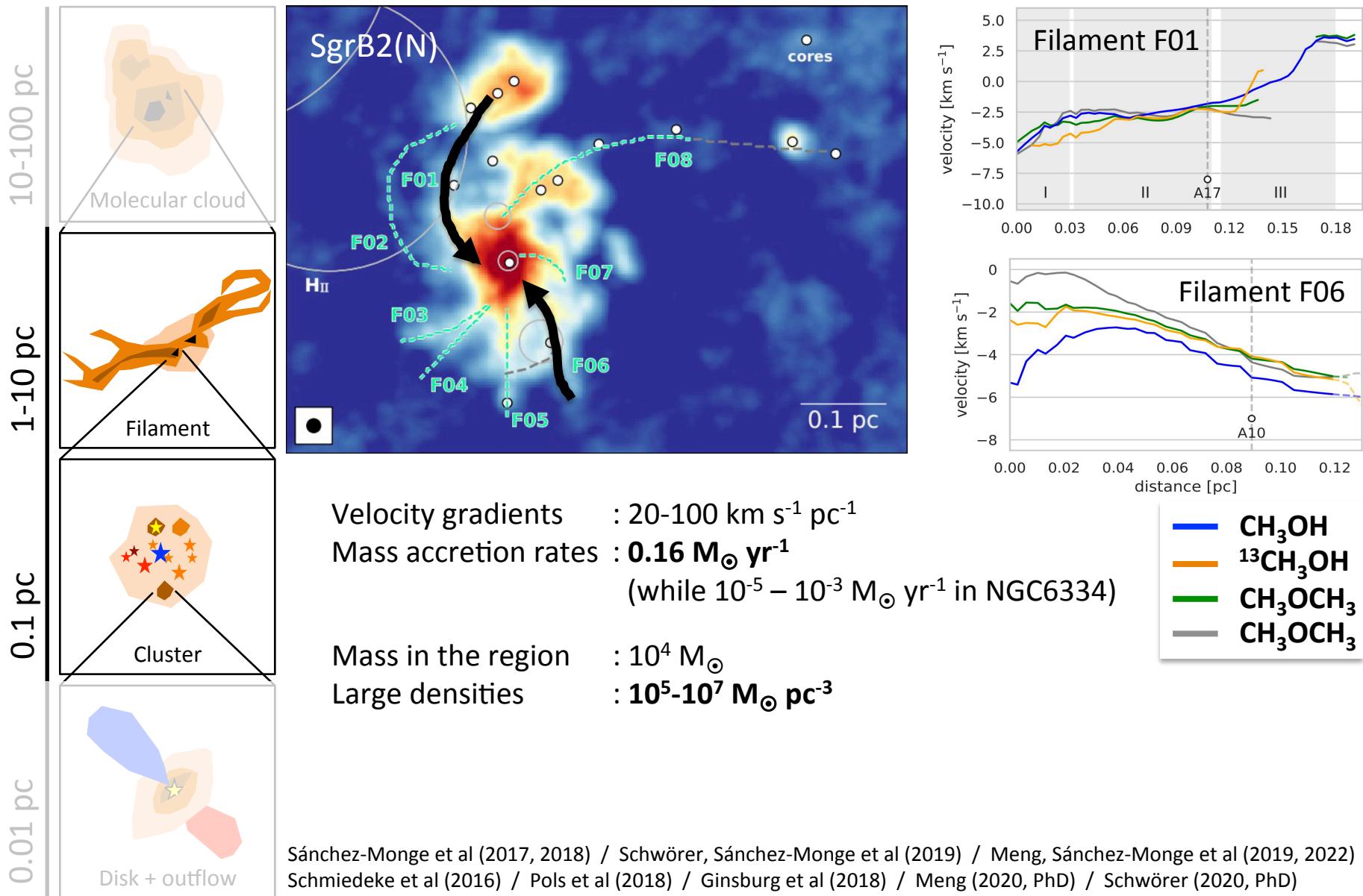


Sánchez-Monge et al (2017, 2018) / Schwörer, Sánchez-Monge et al (2019) / Meng, Sánchez-Monge et al (2019, 2022)
Schmiedeke et al (2016) / Pols et al (2018) / Ginsburg et al (2018) / Meng (2020, PhD) / Schwörer (2020, PhD)

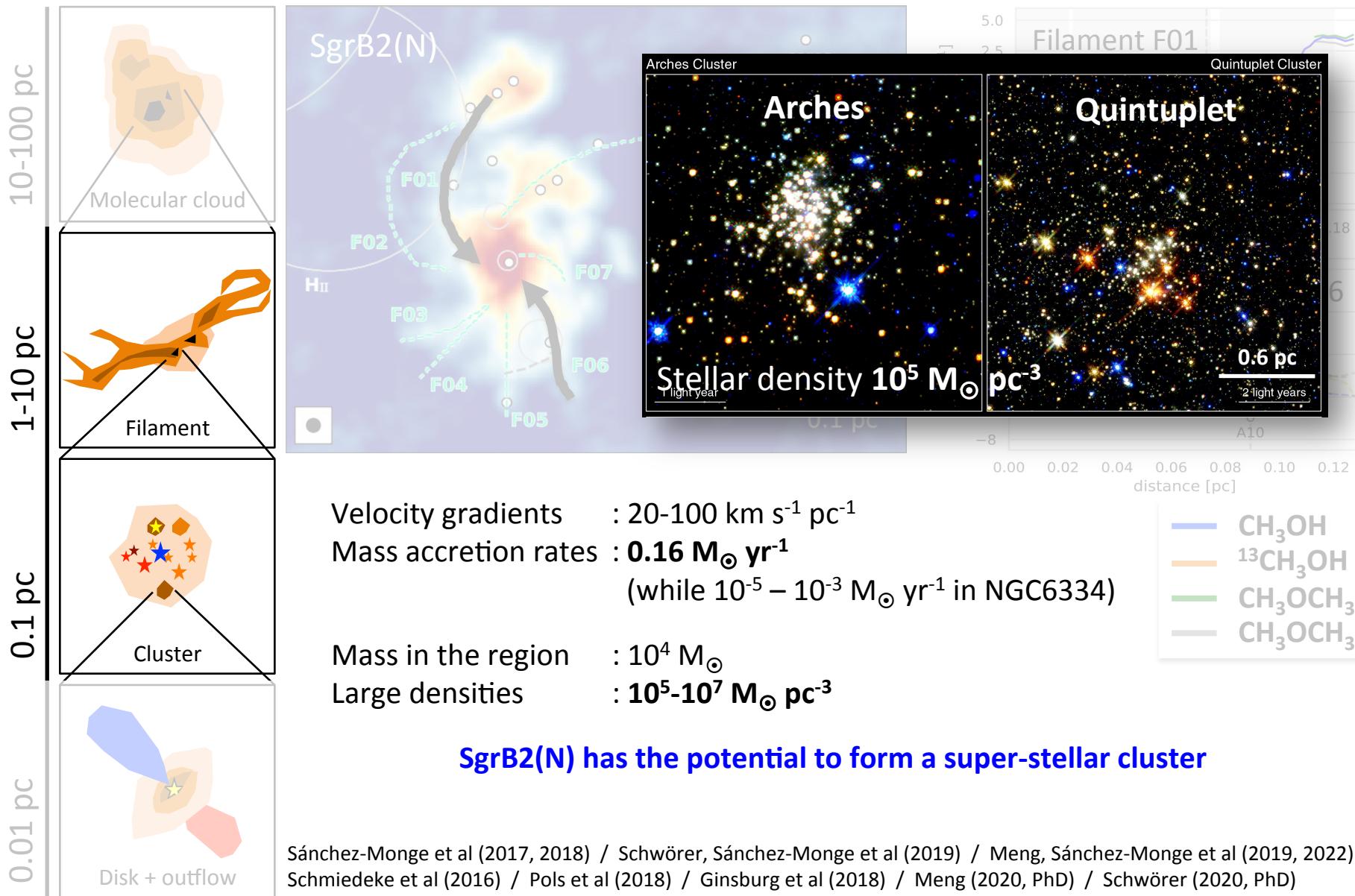
Formation of super-stellar clusters



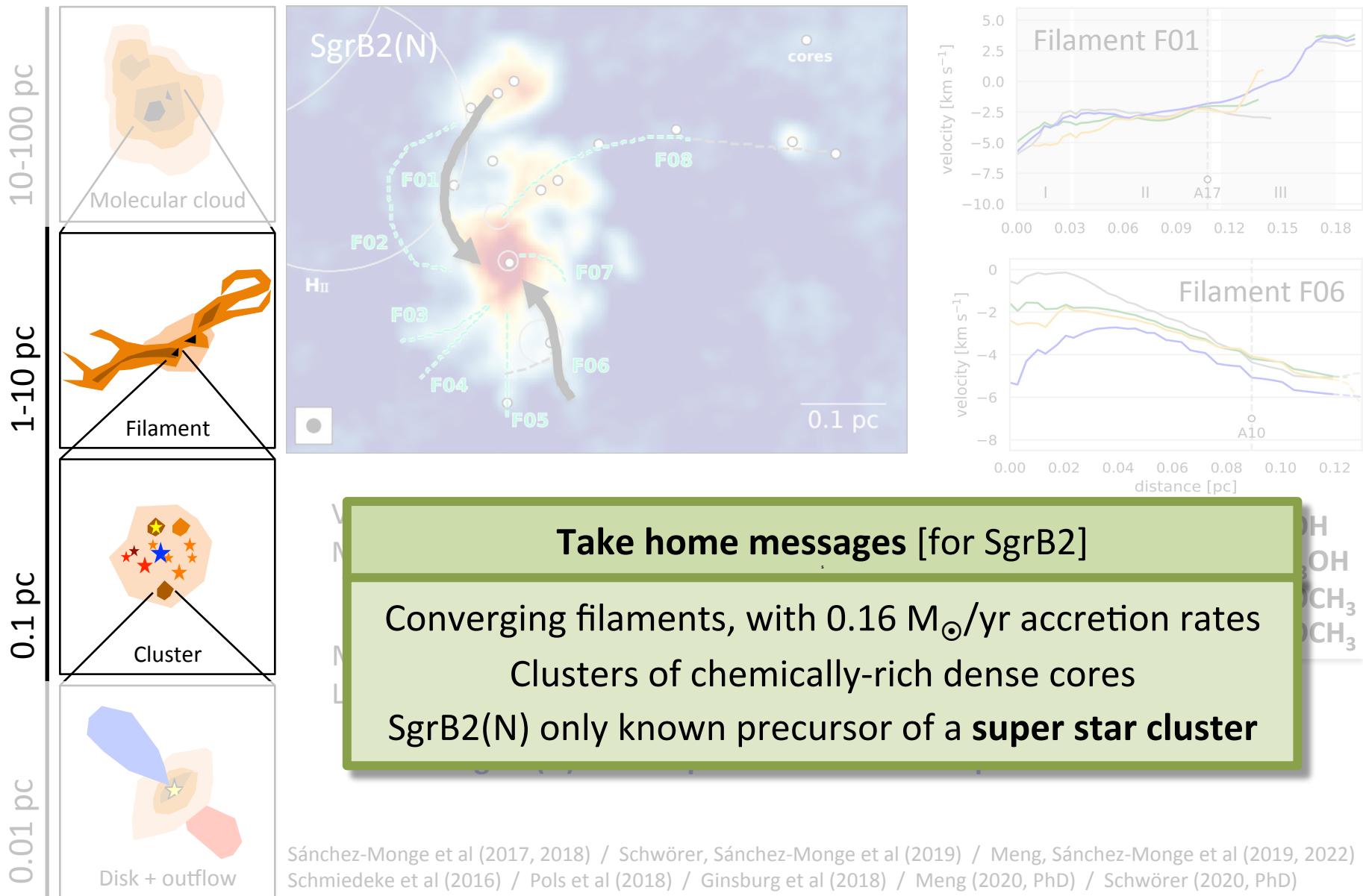
Formation of super-stellar clusters



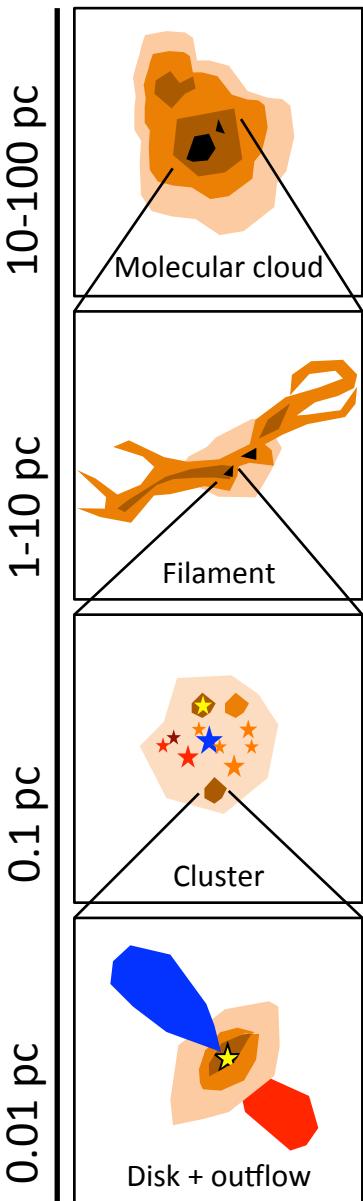
Formation of super-stellar clusters



Formation of super-stellar clusters



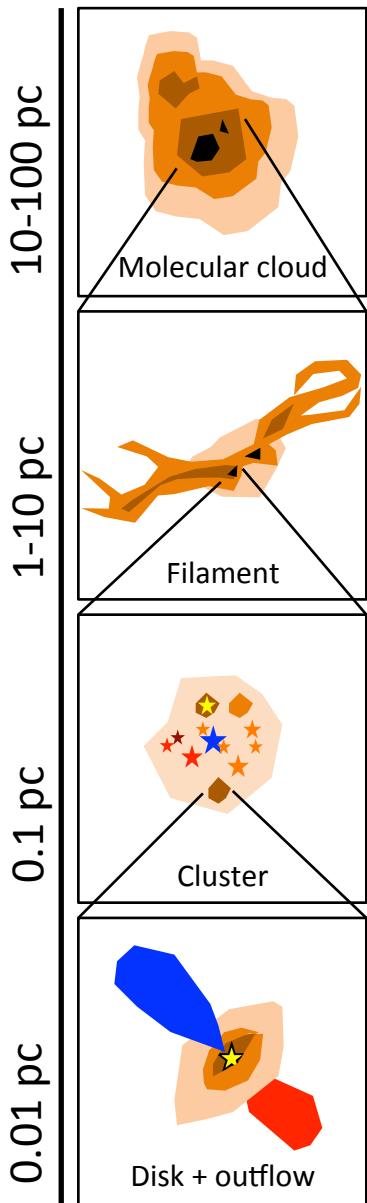
From clouds to stars



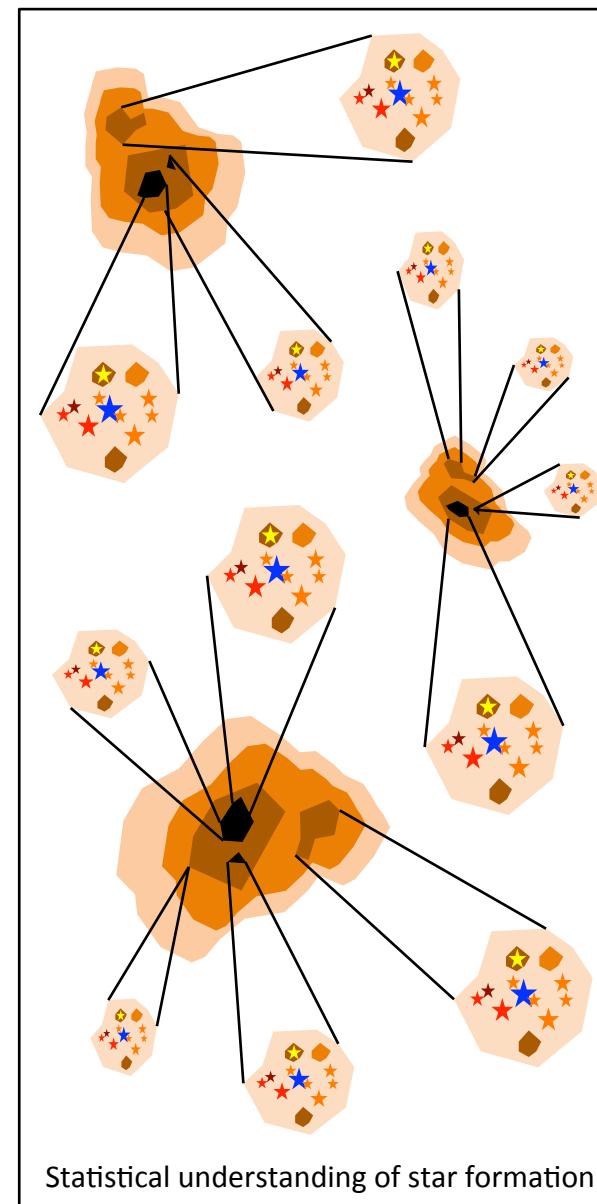
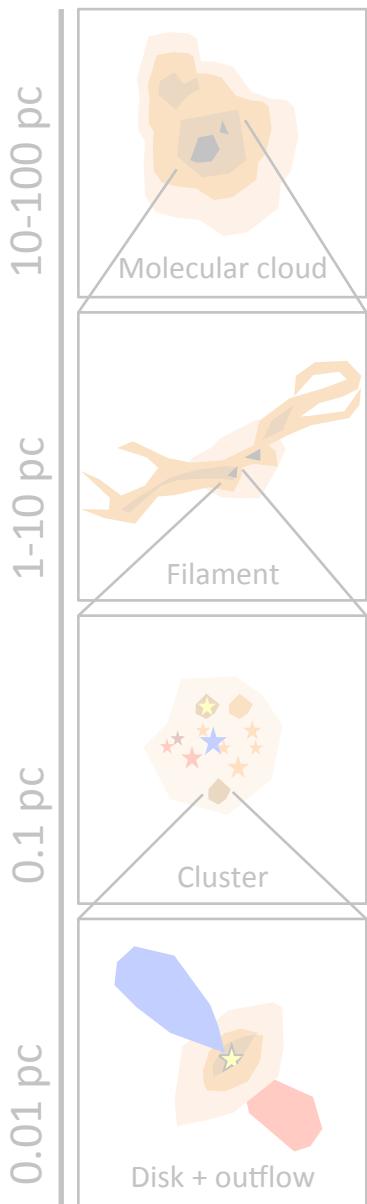
Questions on Star (Cluster) Formation

- Q. How do molecular clouds fragment into stellar clusters?
- Q. Do all stellar clusters form in the same way?
- Q. How do (proto-)stellar clusters **evolve** with time?
- Q. How is mass transported from the large clouds down to stars?
- Q. What is the role of gravity, turbulence and magnetic fields?
- Q. How does feedback originate and affect the whole process?
- Q. What is the role of proto-stellar/planetary disks?
- Q. How does chemistry **evolve** from simple to organic/pre-biotic?

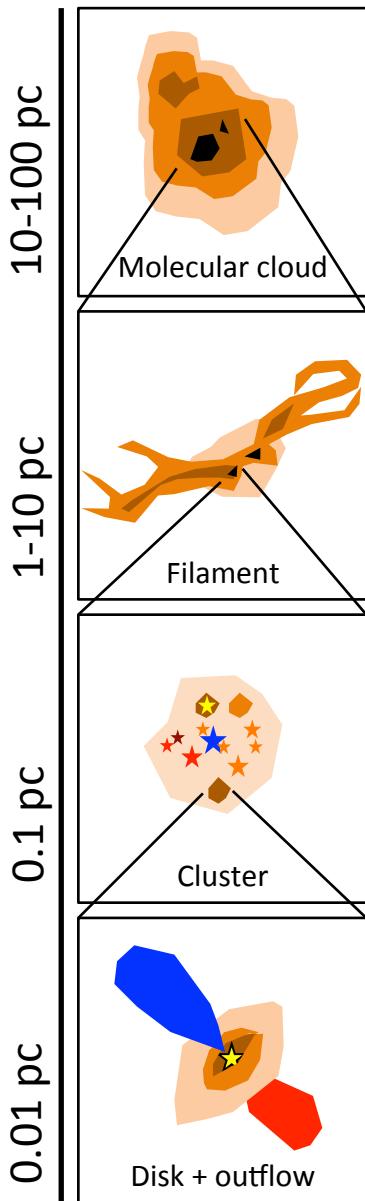
Statistical characterization of star formation



Statistical characterization of star formation



Statistical characterization of star formation



Towards a statistical characterization of star formation

15 regions – Sánchez-Monge et al 2013, MNRAS, 432, 3288

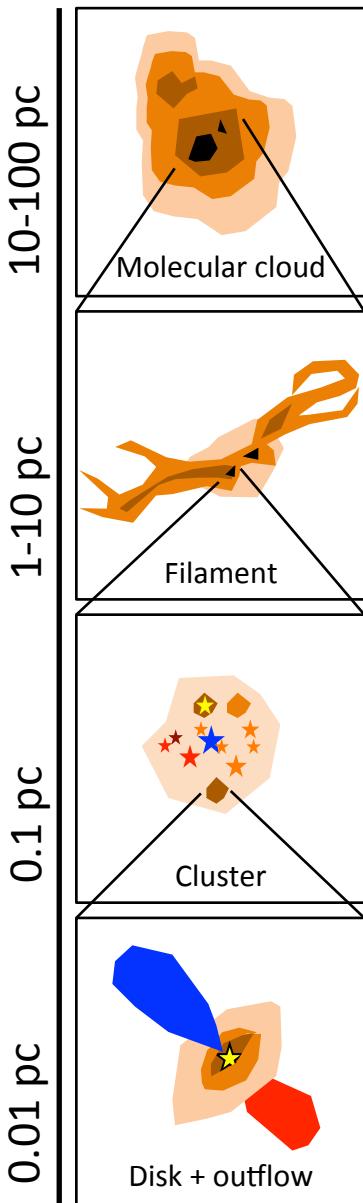
19 regions – Palau, ... Sánchez-Monge et al 2014, ApJ, 785, 42

19 regions – Palau, ... Sánchez-Monge et al 2015, MNRAS, 453, 3785

20 regions – Beuther, ... Sánchez-Monge et al 2018, A&A, 617, A100

35 regions – Csengeri et al 2018, A&A, 617, A89

Statistical characterization of star formation



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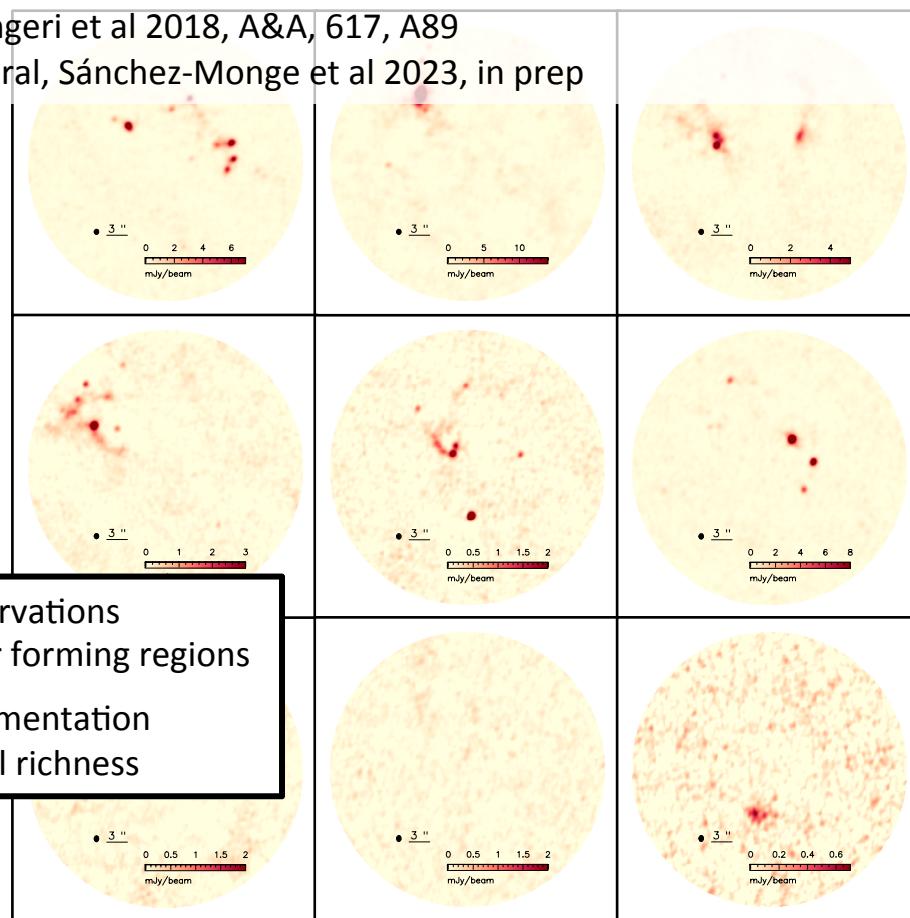
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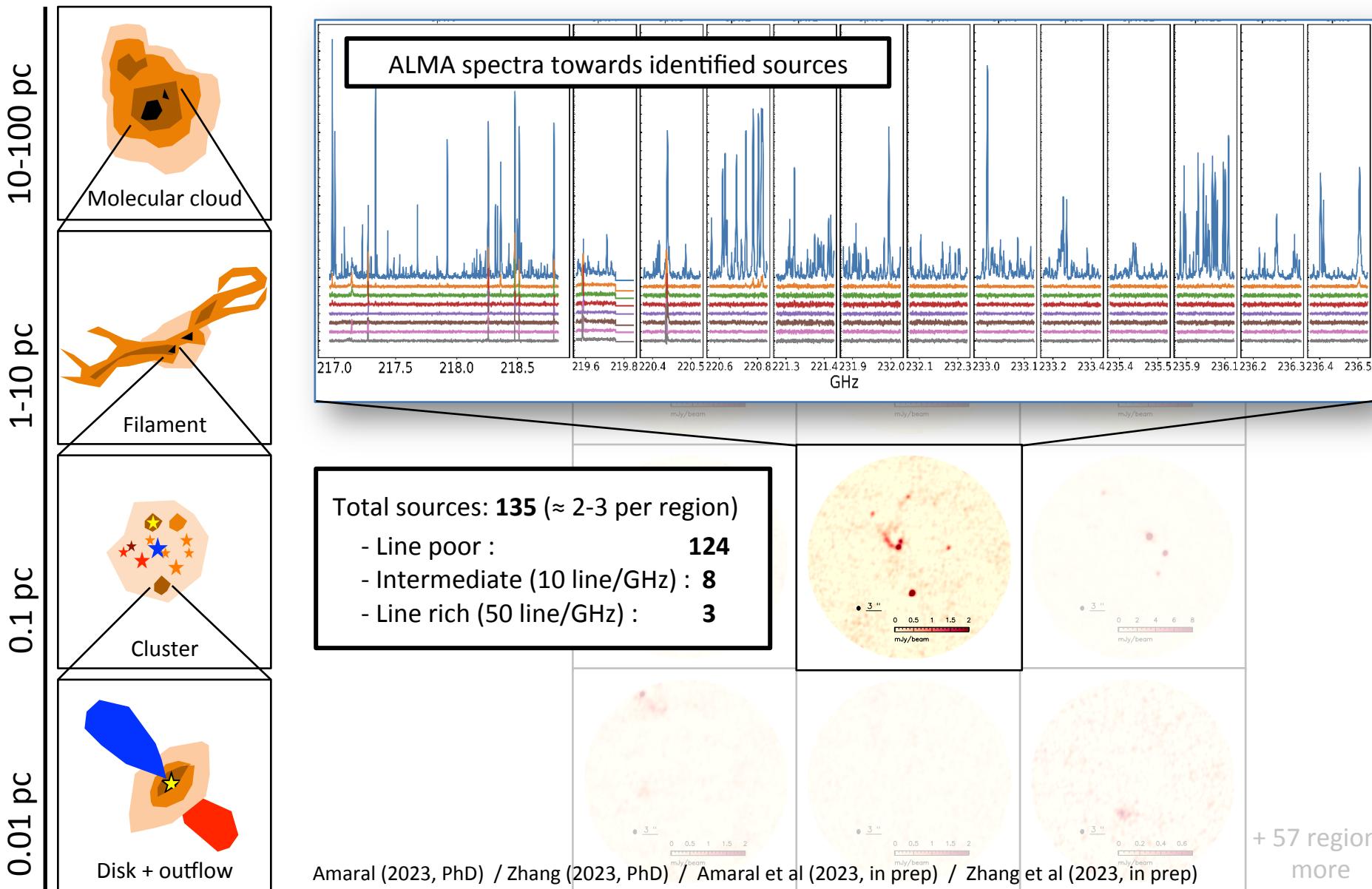
35 regions – Csengeri et al 2018, A&A, 617, A89

66 regions – Amaral, Sánchez-Monge et al 2023, in prep

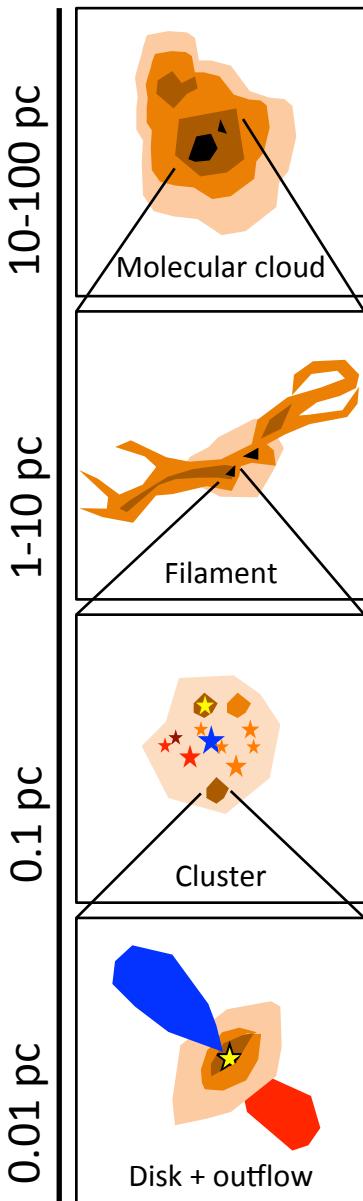
ALMA observations
of **66** high-mass star forming regions
studying fragmentation
and chemical richness



Statistical characterization of star formation



Statistical characterization of star formation



Towards a statistical characterization of star formation

15 regions – Sánchez-Monge et al 2013, MNRAS, 432, 3288

19 regions – Palau, ... Sánchez-Monge et al 2014, ApJ, 785, 42

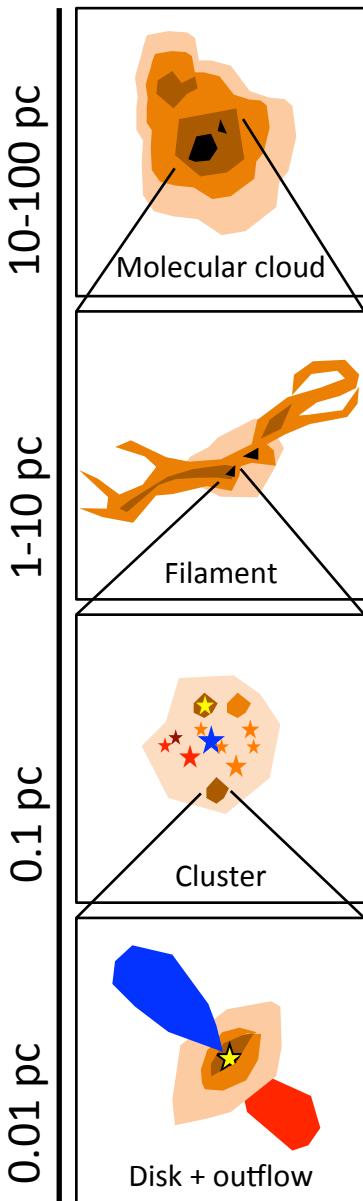
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66 regions – Amaral, Sánchez-Monge et al 2023, in prep

Statistical characterization of star formation



Towards a statistical characterization of star formation

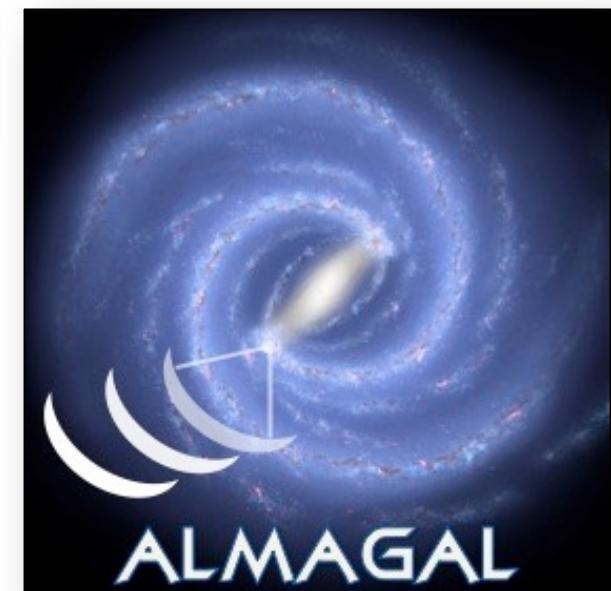
- 15 regions – Sánchez-Monge et al 2013, MNRAS, 432, 3288
- 19 regions – Palau, ... Sánchez-Monge et al 2014, ApJ, 785, 42
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- 20 regions – Beuther, ... Sánchez-Monge et al 2018, A&A, 617, A100
- 35 regions – Csengeri et al 2018, A&A, 617, A89
- 66 regions – Amaral, Sánchez-Monge et al 2023, in prep
- 146 regions – ATOMS Large Program
- 1017 regions – ALMAGAL Large Program**

ALMA evolutionary study of high-mass proto-cluster formation in the Galaxy

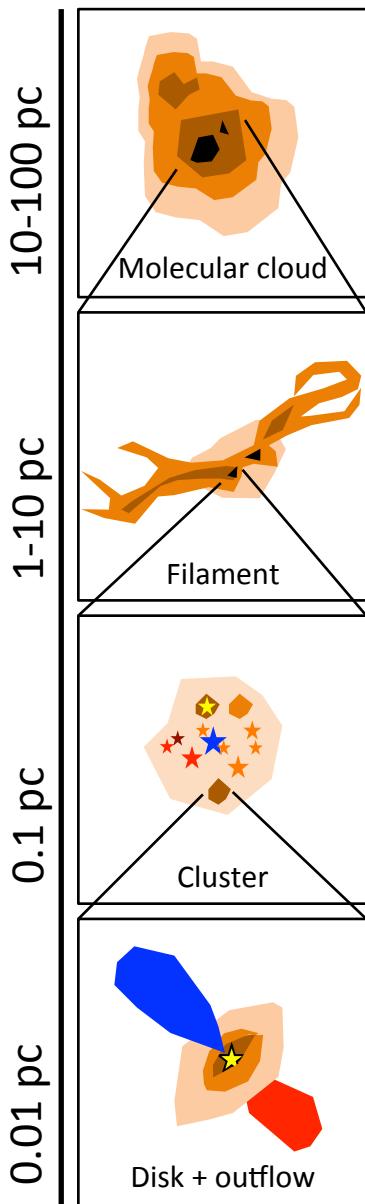
Main scientific goals:

- Cluster fragmentation
- Accretion and feedback processes
- Physical and chemical evolution
- Disk properties

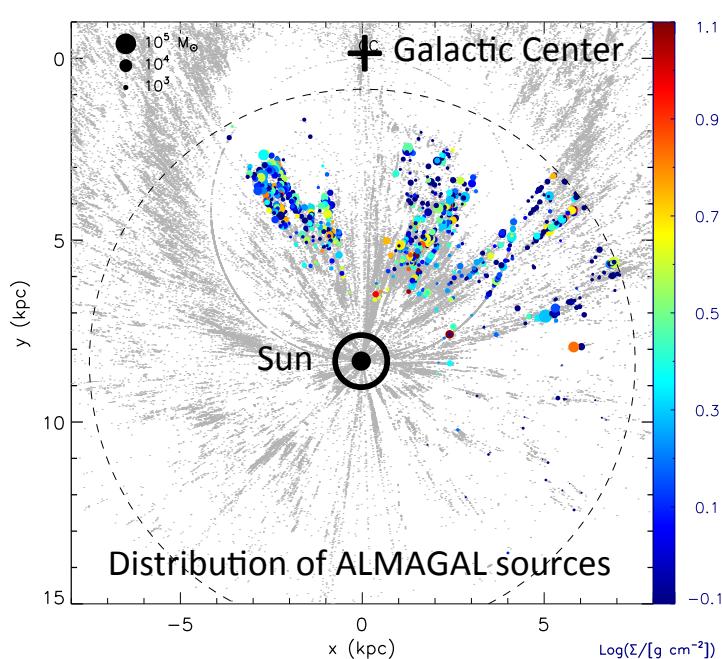
ALMAGAL consortium
75+ people from 13 countries



Statistical characterization of star formation



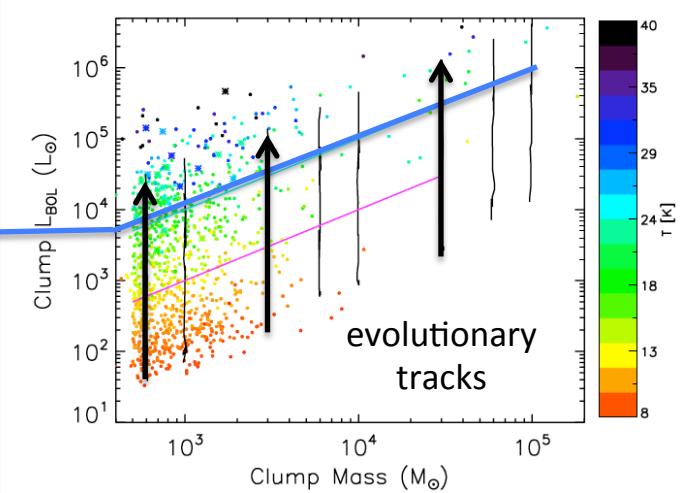
ALMAGAL
ALMA evolutionary study of high-mass proto-cluster formation in the Galaxy



1017 observed sources...
... distributed throughout the Galaxy

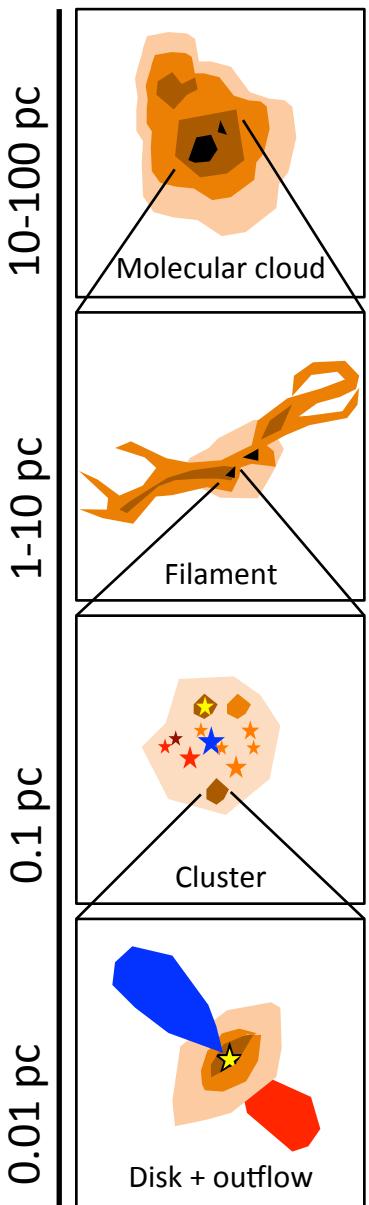
Star cluster formation in:

- inner / outer Galaxy
- within/ outside spiral arms
- ...



... in different evolutionary stages

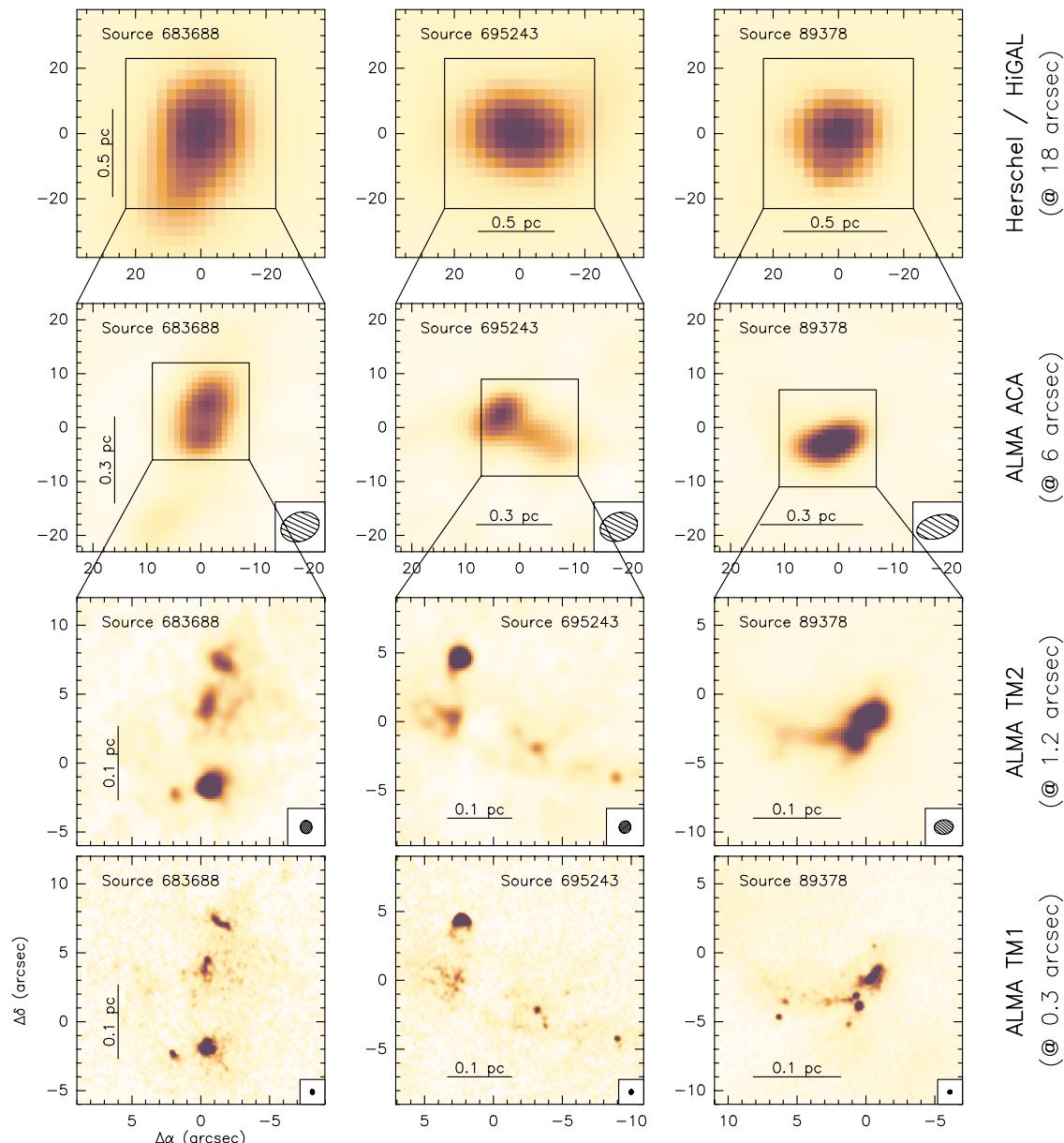
Statistical characterization of star formation



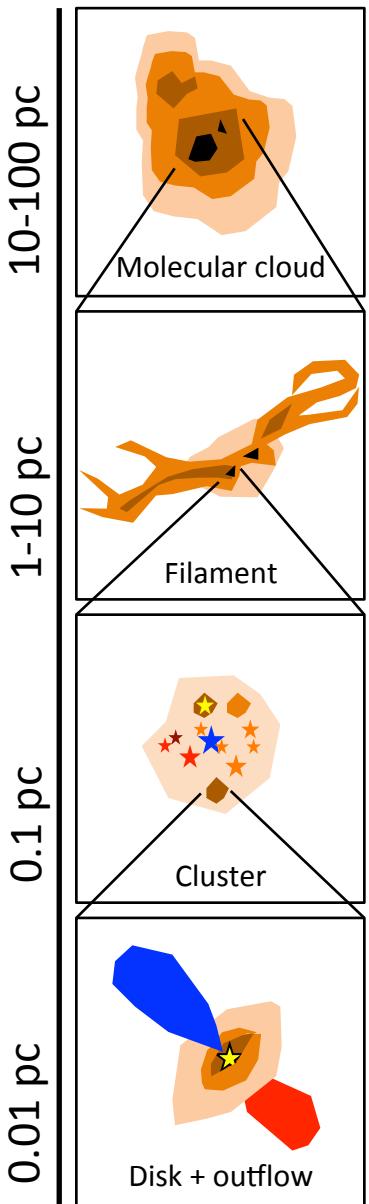
+ 1013 regions
more

Spatial resolution
1000 au

Mass sensitivity
 $0.1 M_{\odot}$



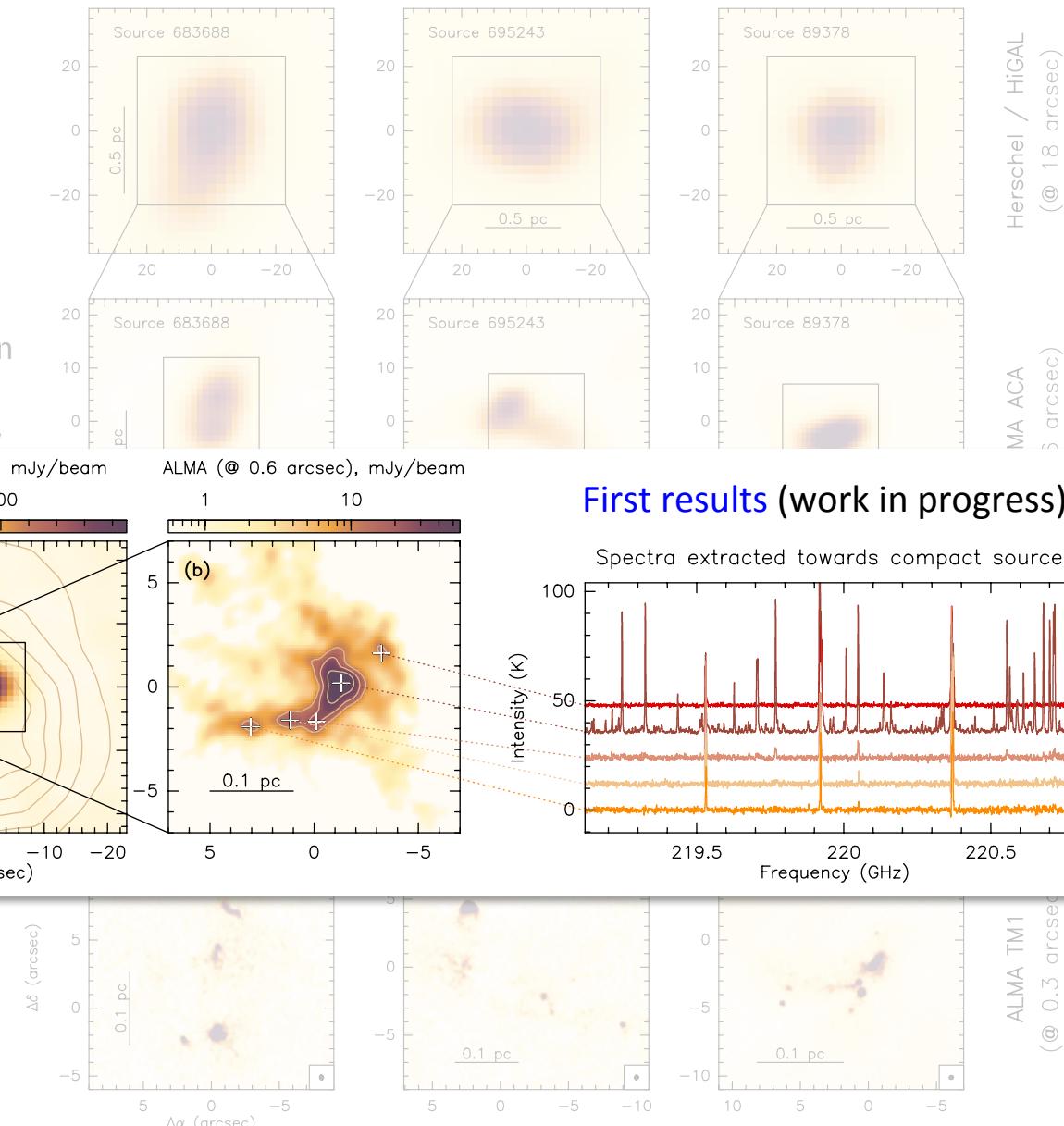
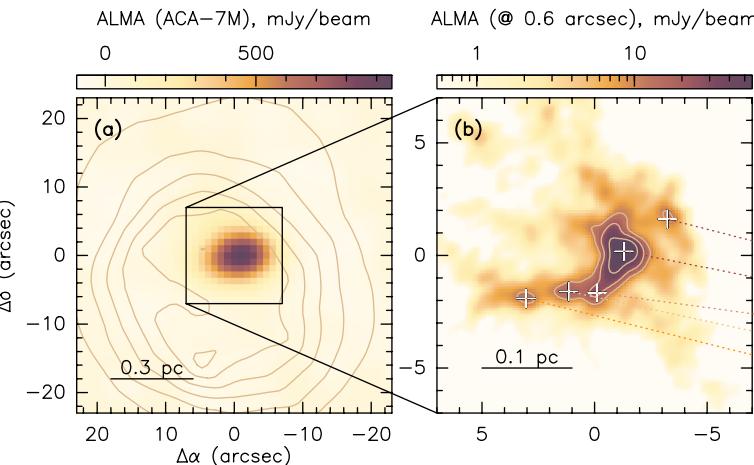
Statistical characterization of star formation



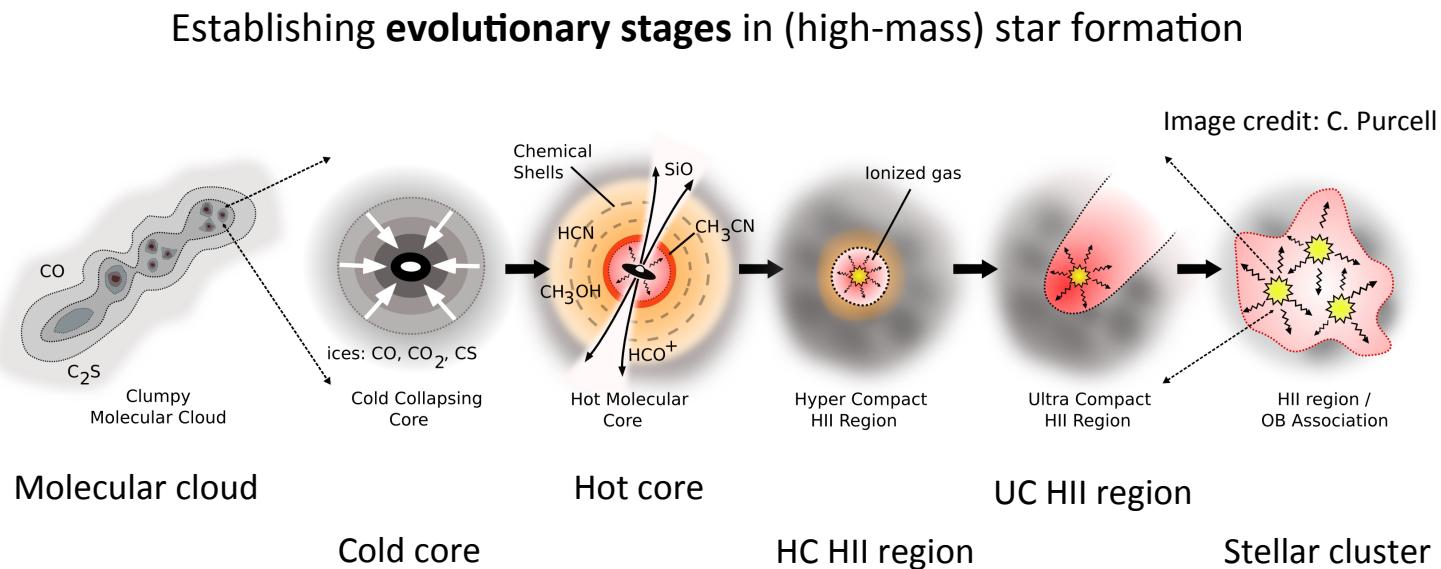
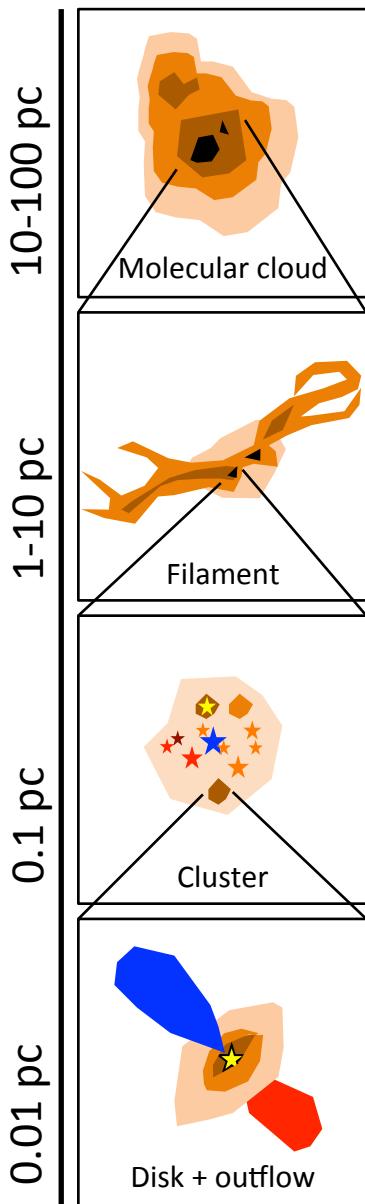
+ 1013 regions more

Spatial resolution
1000 au

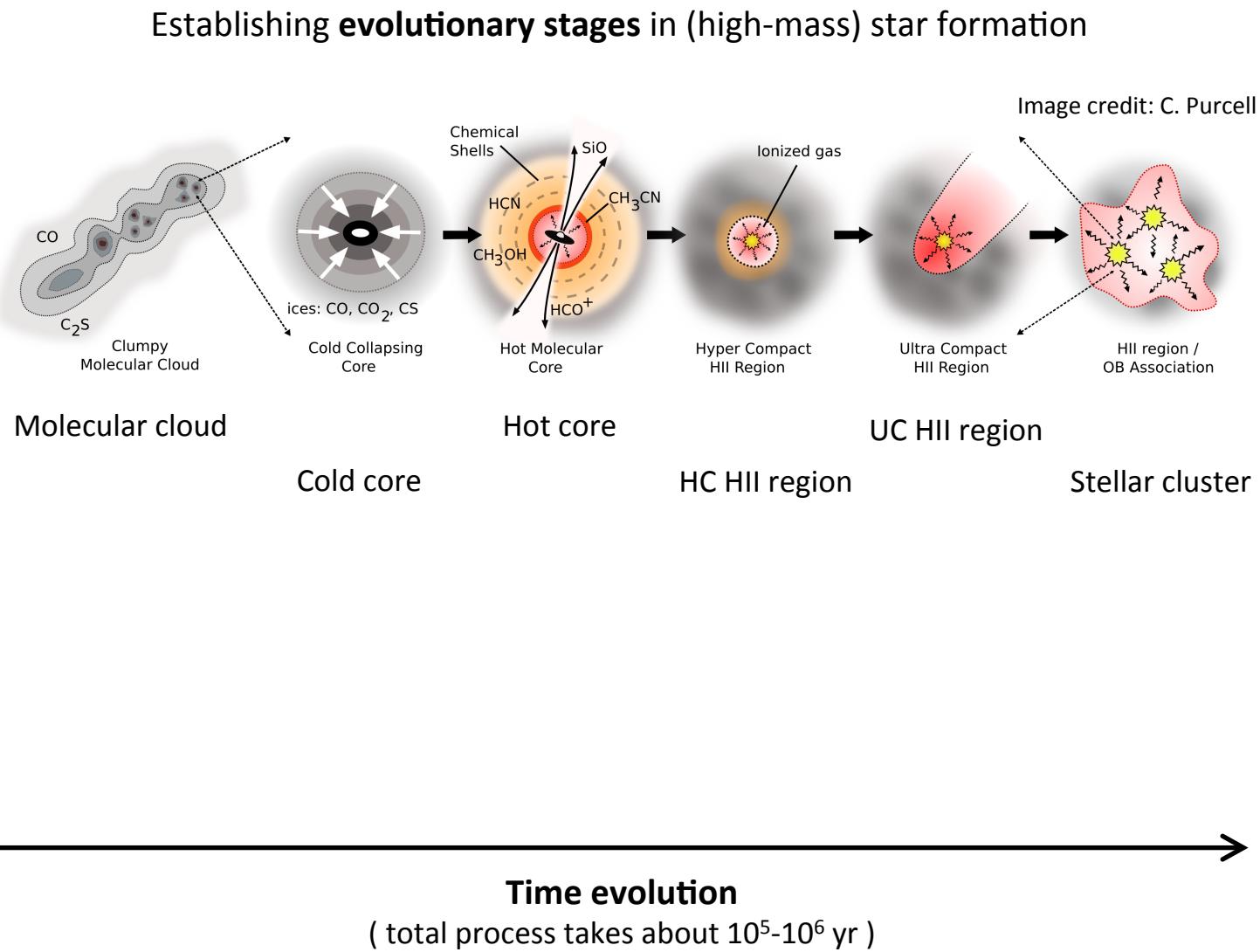
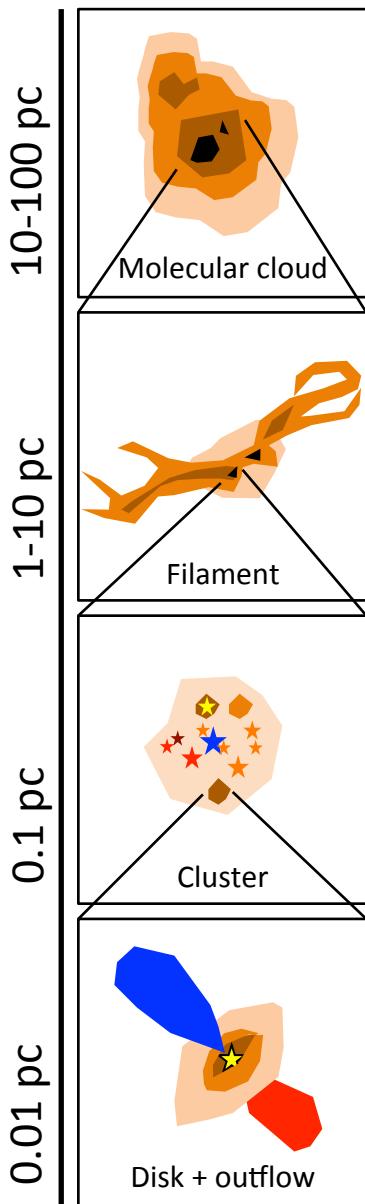
Mass sensitivity



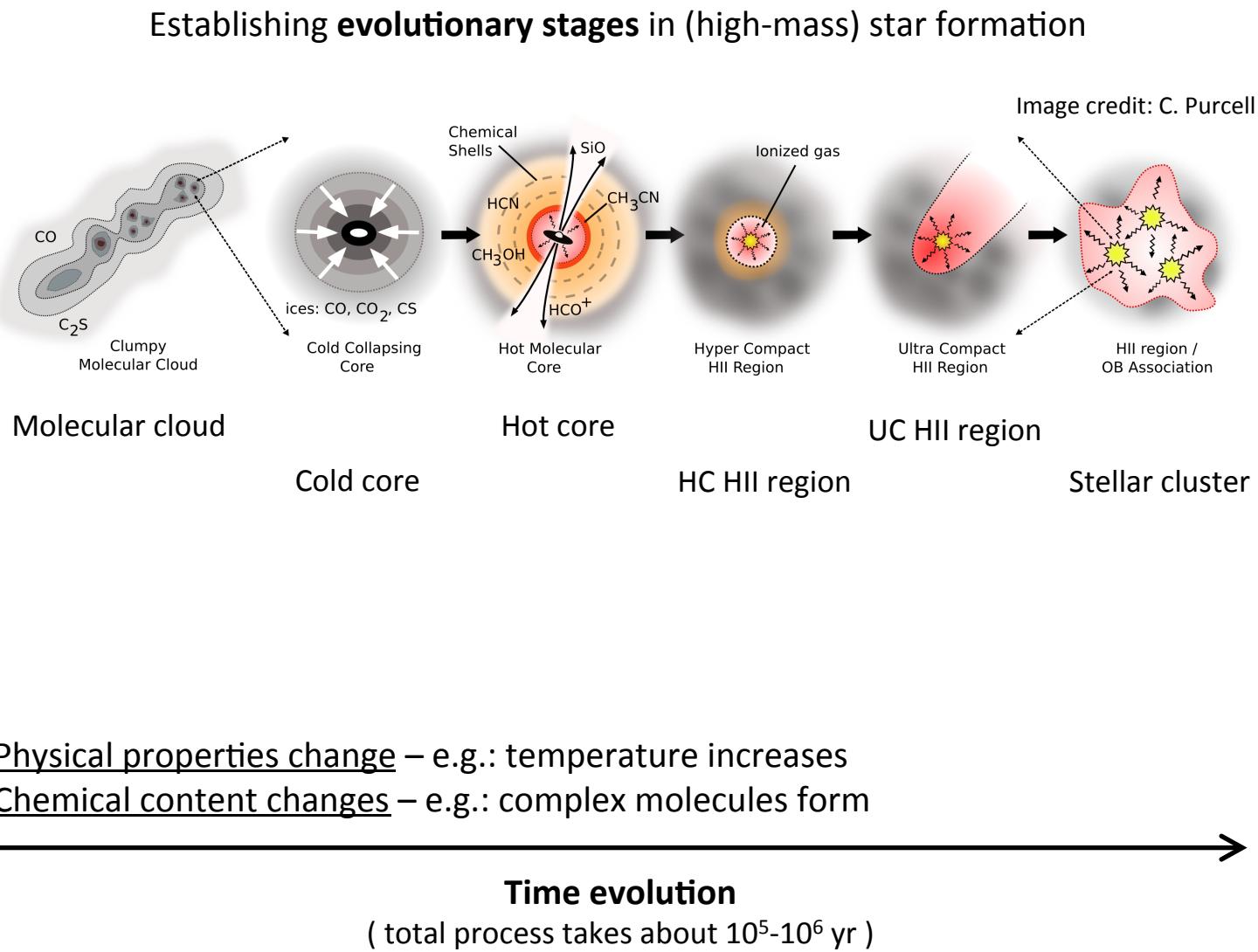
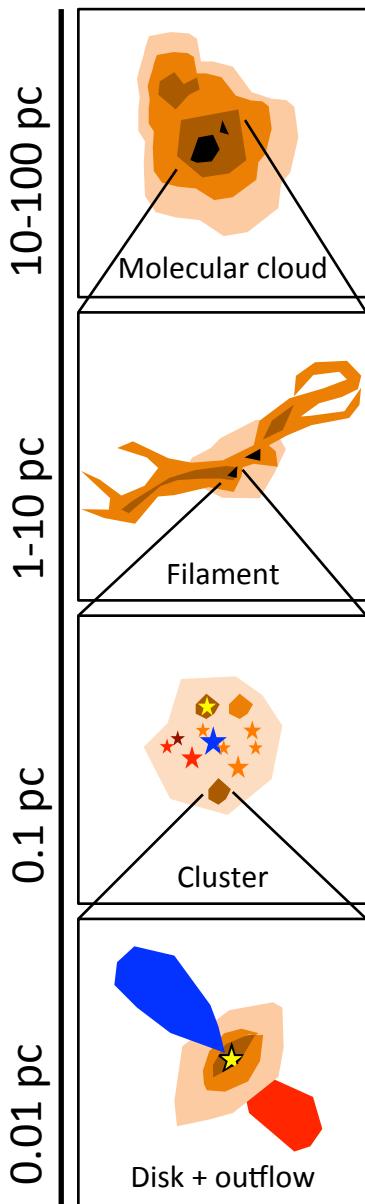
Evolutionary stages in star formation



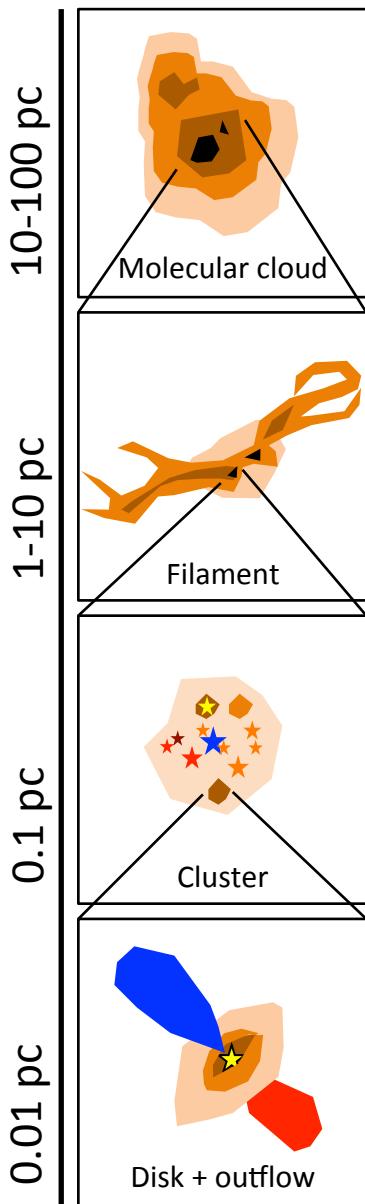
Evolutionary stages in star formation



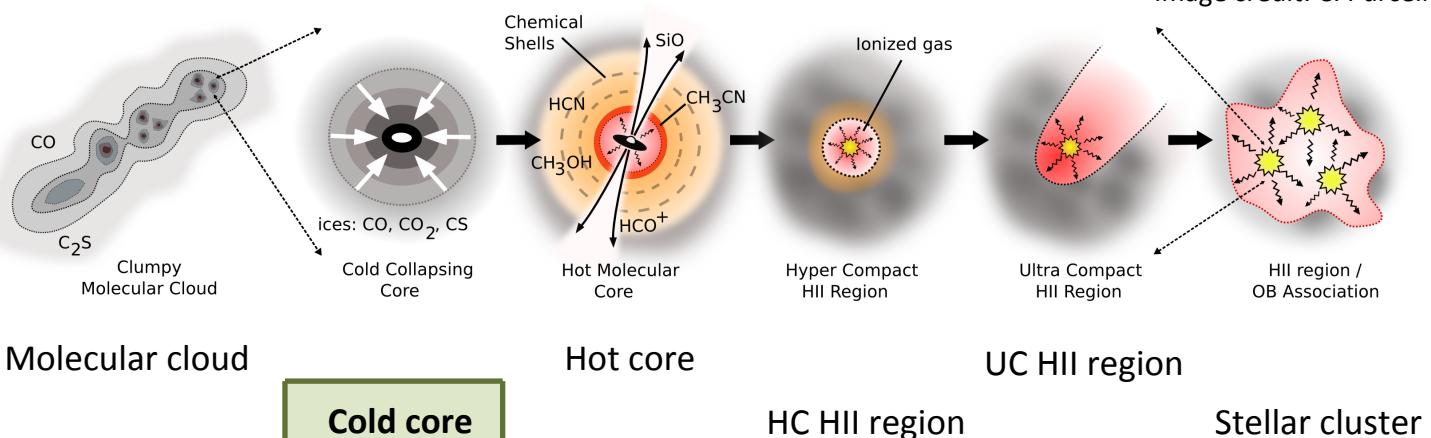
Evolutionary stages in star formation



Evolutionary stages in star formation



Establishing **evolutionary stages** in (high-mass) star formation

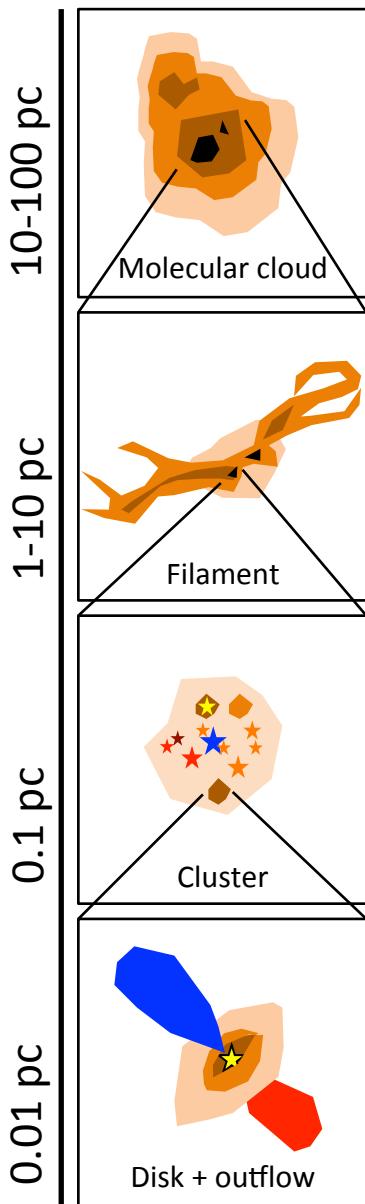


Cold core
Temperatures \approx 20-40 K
Chemistry: Deuterated, N₂H⁺, CCS

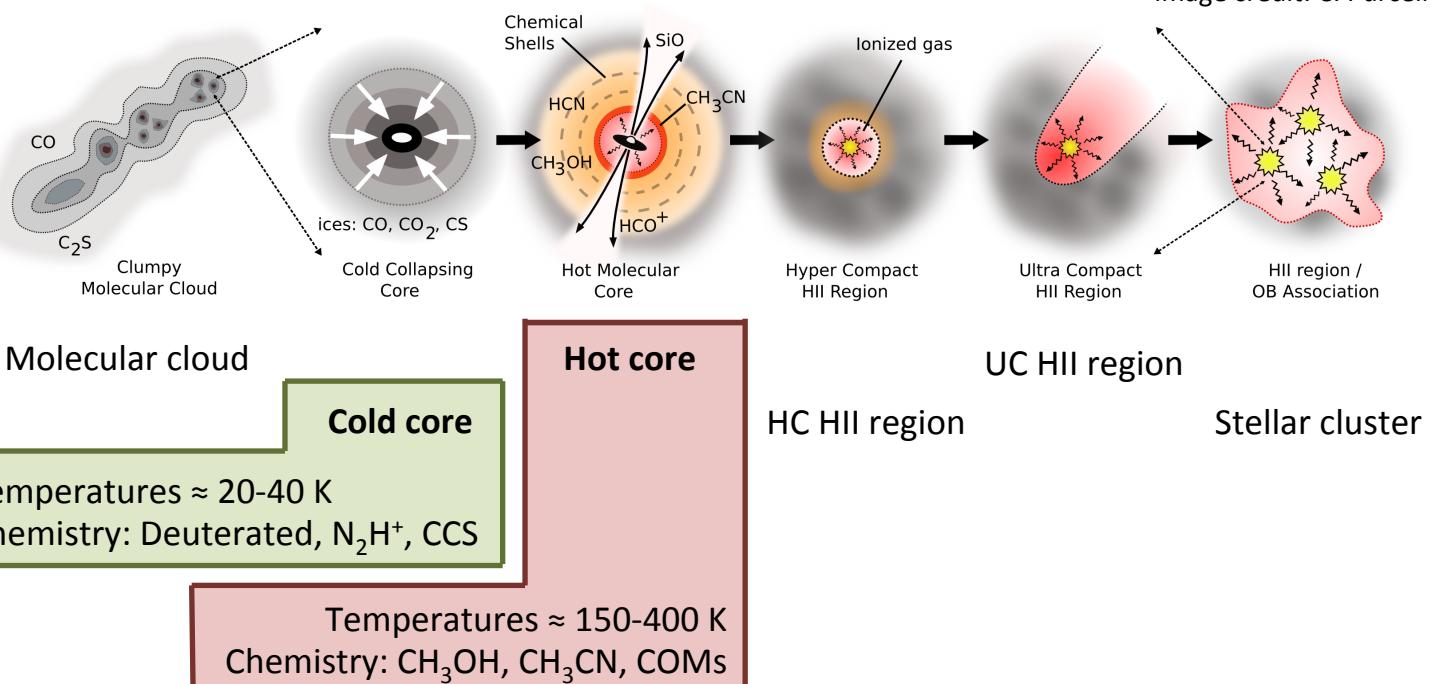
Physical properties change – e.g.: temperature increases
Chemical content changes – e.g.: complex molecules form

Time evolution
(total process takes about 10⁵-10⁶ yr)

Evolutionary stages in star formation



Establishing **evolutionary stages** in (high-mass) star formation

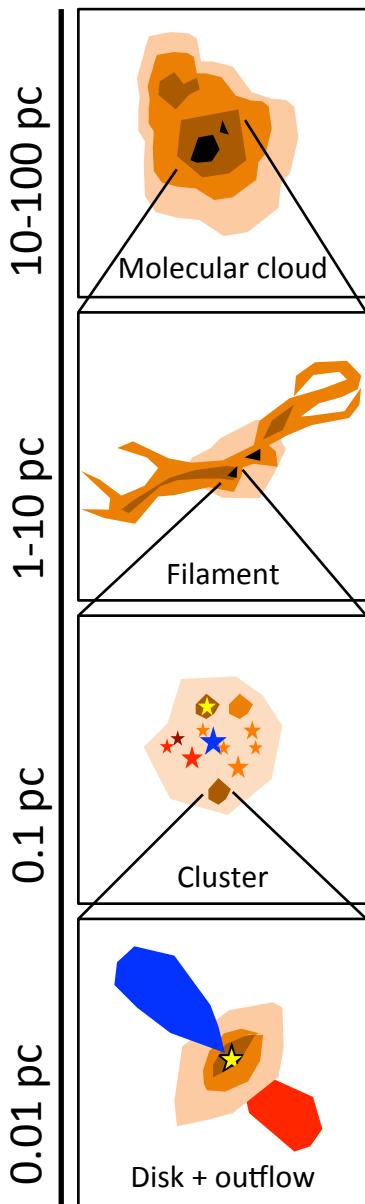


Physical properties change – e.g.: temperature increases
Chemical content changes – e.g.: complex molecules form

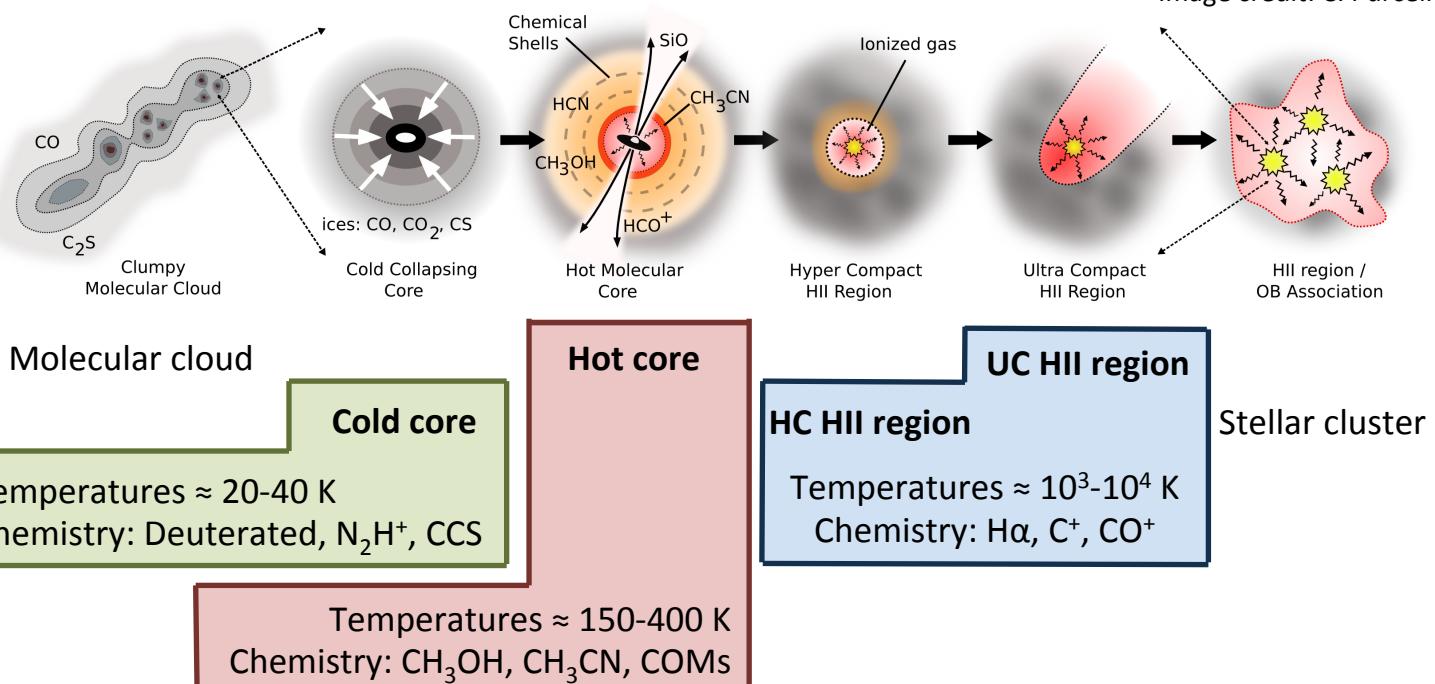
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Evolutionary stages in star formation



Establishing **evolutionary stages** in (high-mass) star formation



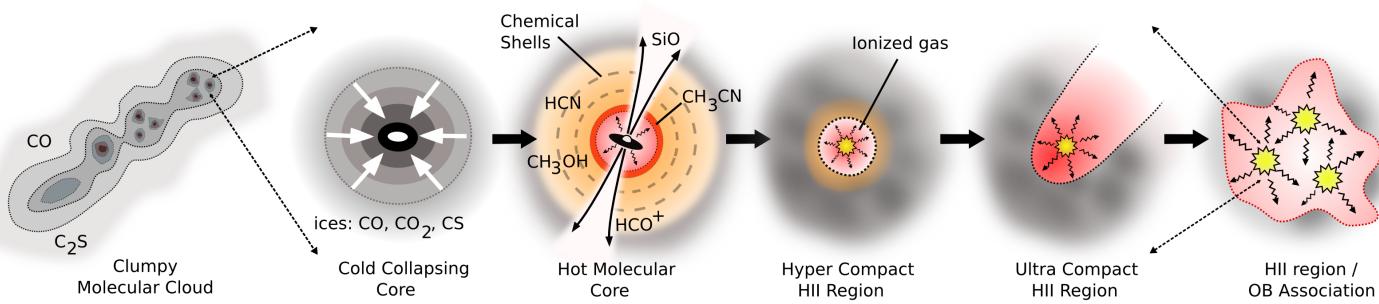
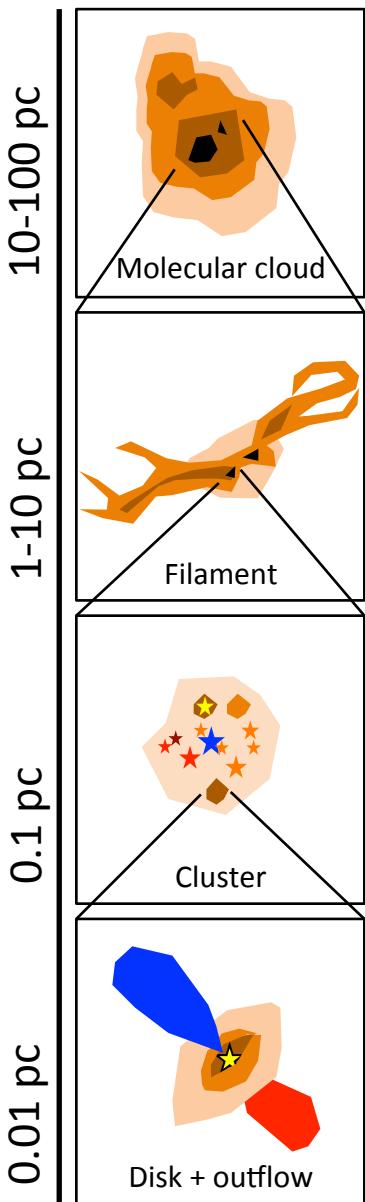
Physical properties change – e.g.: temperature increases

Chemical content changes – e.g.: complex molecules form

Time evolution

(total process takes about 10⁵-10⁶ yr)

Molecular fingerprints of evolution



Scientific goals:

- Understanding the chemical evolution in the formation of a (high-mass) star
- Searching for molecular fingerprints of the evolution process

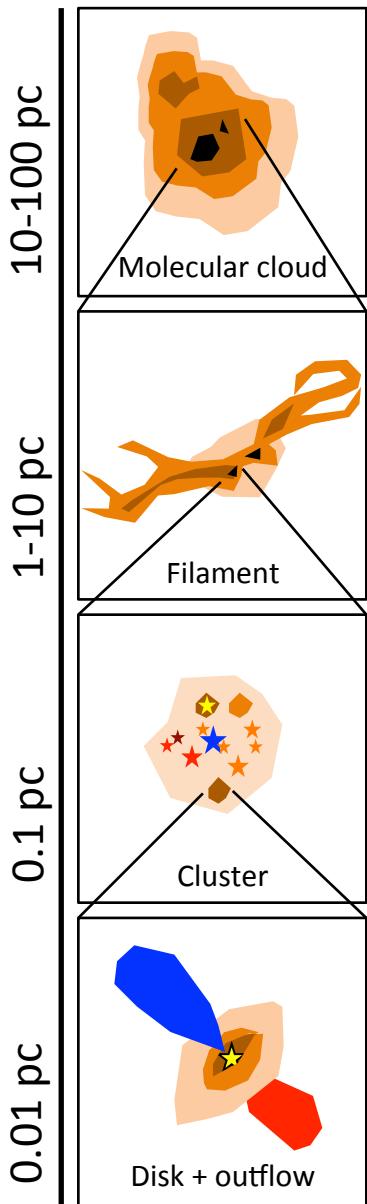
Model setup:

Simple physical model,
which enables to [generate a large set of different models](#)
and to [produce synthetic spectra](#) that is directly comparable to observations

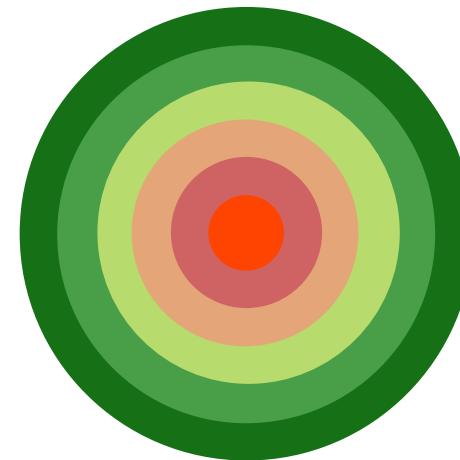
Choudhury et al (2015) / Stéphan et al (2018) / Riedel (2021, Master thesis) / Ngo (2022, PhD)

Molecular fingerprints of evolution

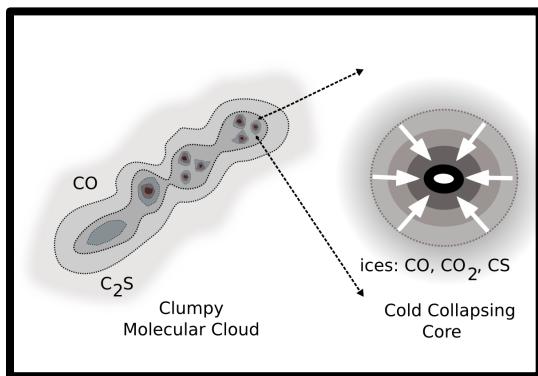
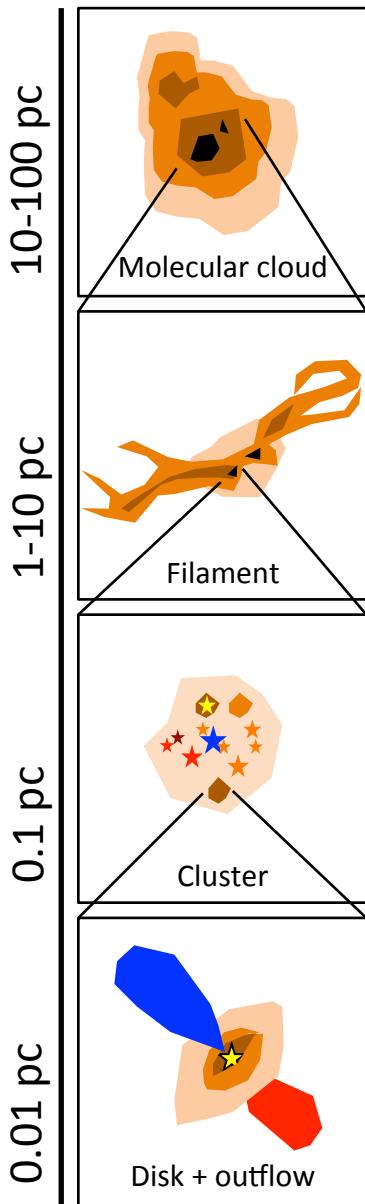
Riedel (2021, Master thesis)



Sketch of the dense core model



Molecular fingerprints of evolution

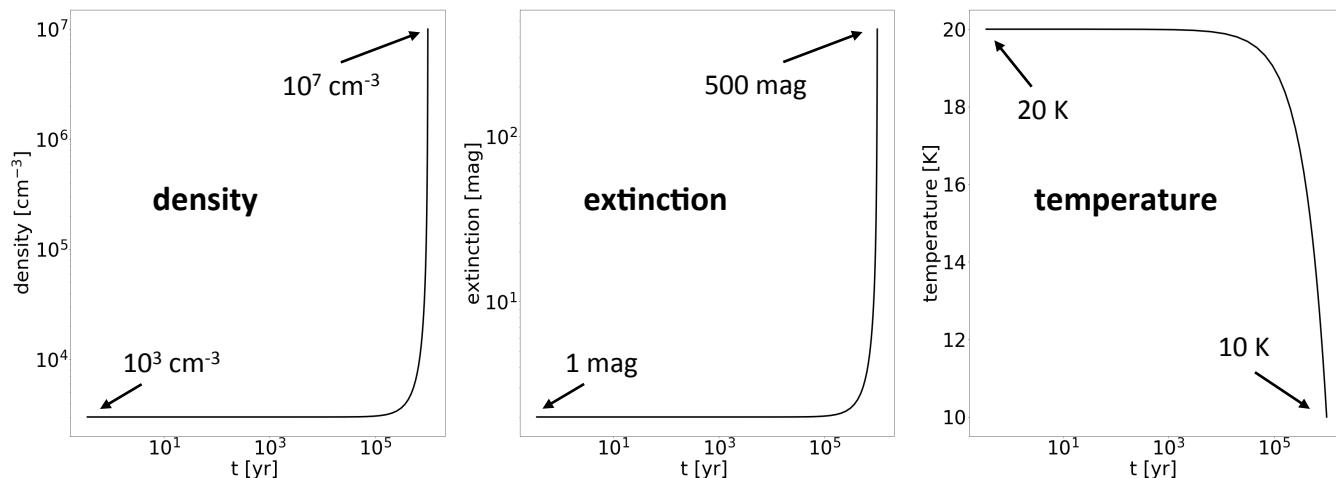
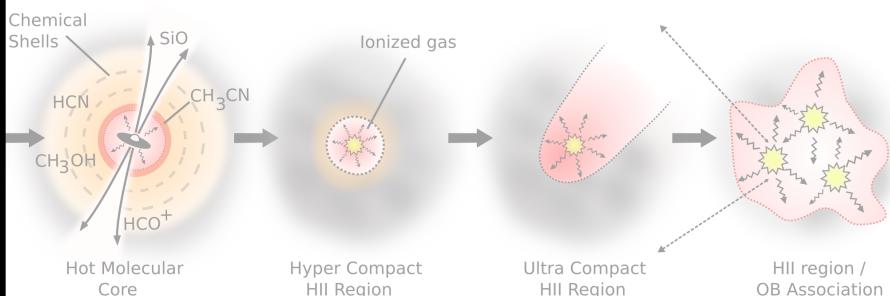


Cold collapse phase

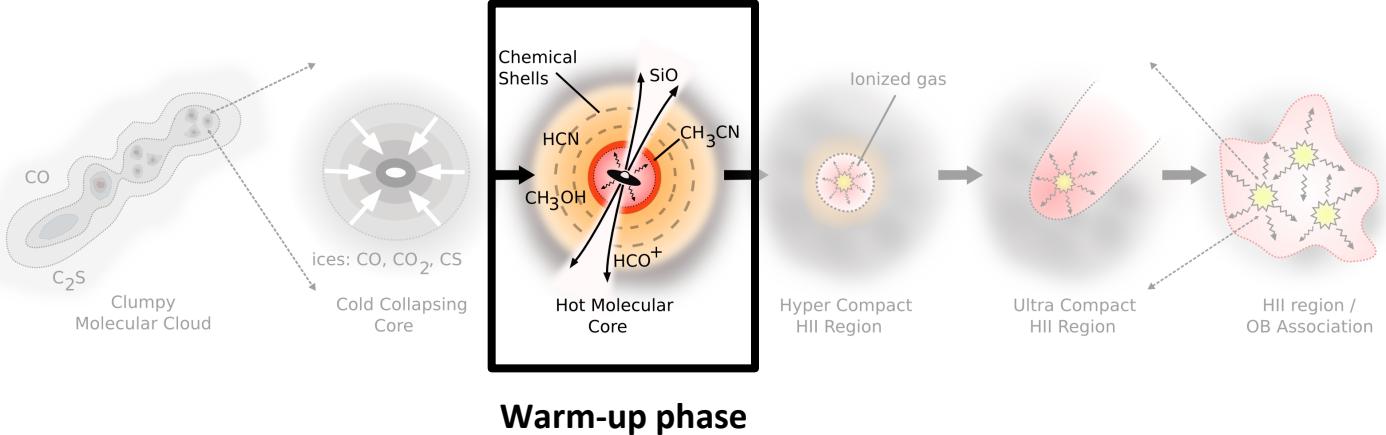
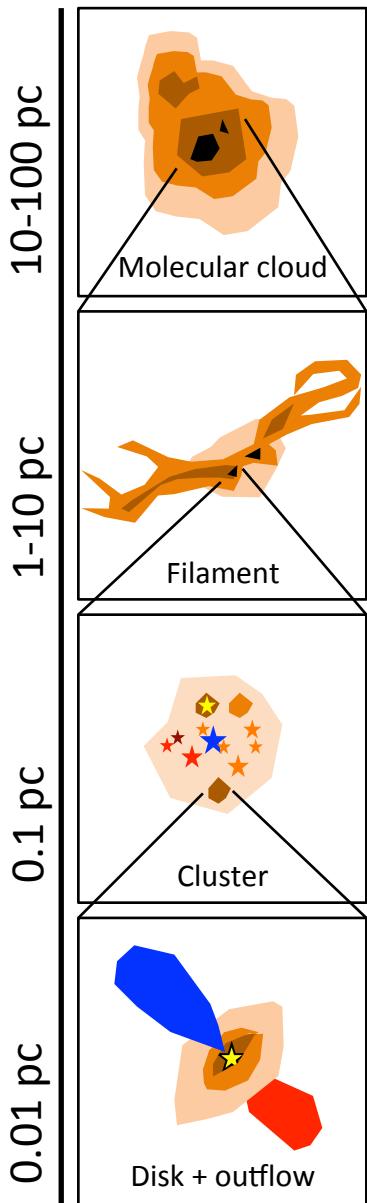
Molecular cloud collapses to a central density of 10^7 cm^{-3} (within 1 Myr)

Collapse can be slowed down (e.g., rotation, magnetic fields)

- Parametrized by a retardation factor

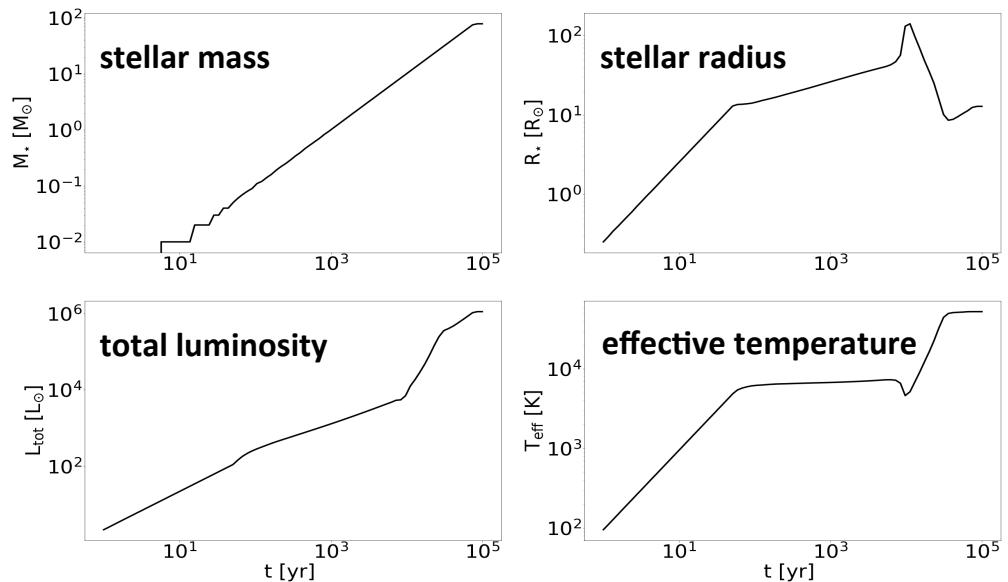


Molecular fingerprints of evolution



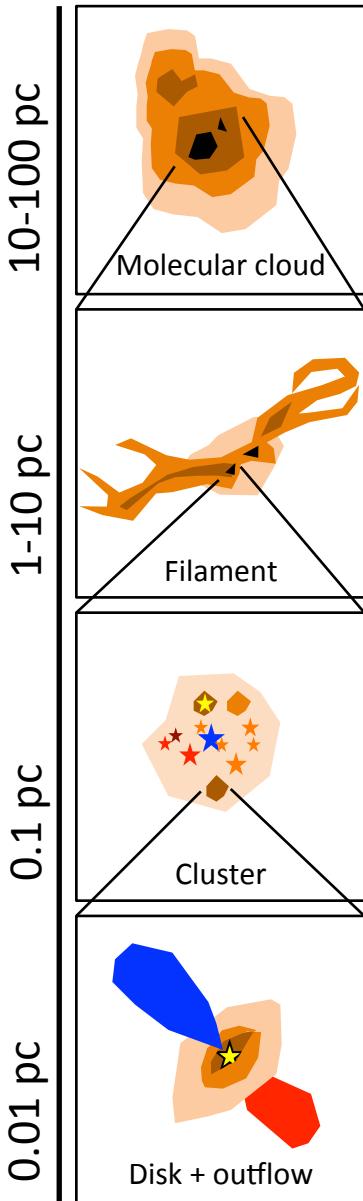
Riedel (2021, Master thesis)

Luminosity evolution of a high-mass protostar accreting at $10^{-3} M_{\odot} \text{ yr}^{-1}$
- Stellar evolution taken from numerical simulations by Hosokawa et al 2009



The Saptarsy[⌘] chemical code

[⌘] from Sanskrit, the seven sages (see also Ursa Major and Pleiades)



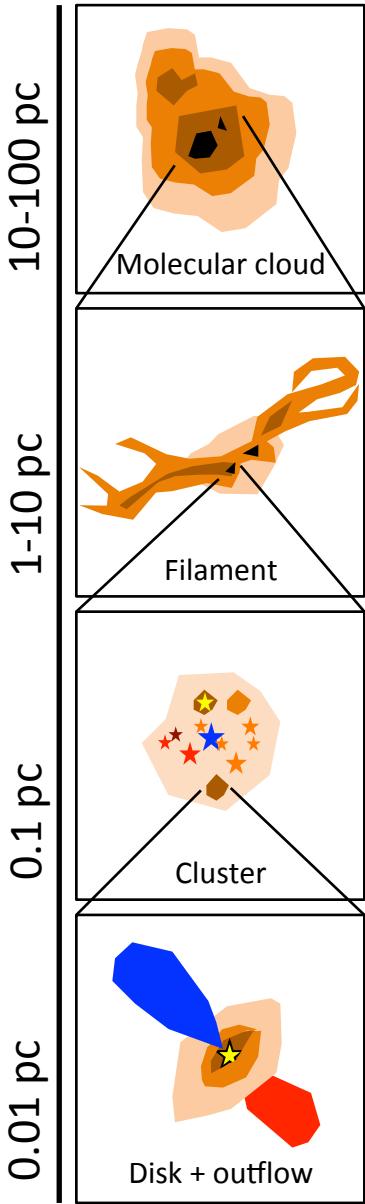
Saptarsy: spatial and temporal variations
in the chemical structure of star forming cores

See details at:

- Choudhury et al 2015, A&A, 575, A68
- Dirk Schäfer 2017, Master Thesis
- Stéphan, et al 2018, A&A, 617, A60

The Saptarsy[⌘] chemical code

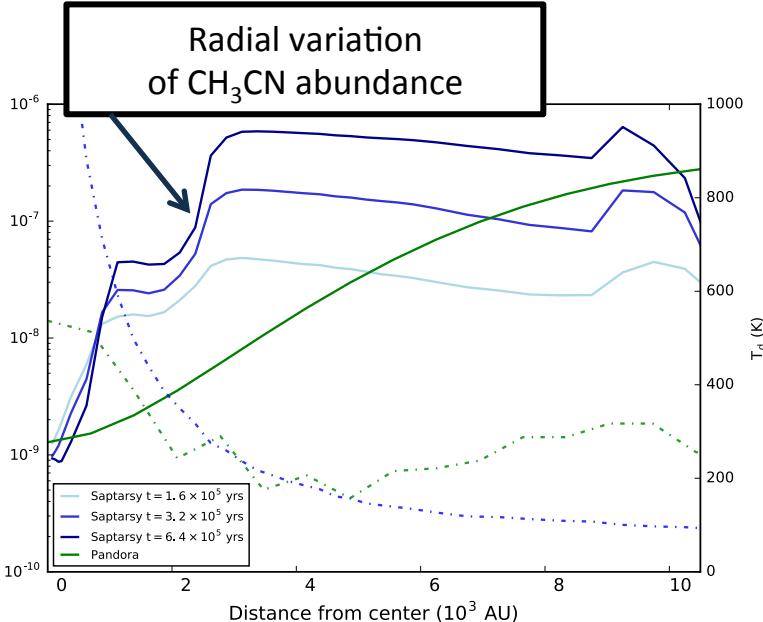
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Saptarsy: spatial and temporal variations
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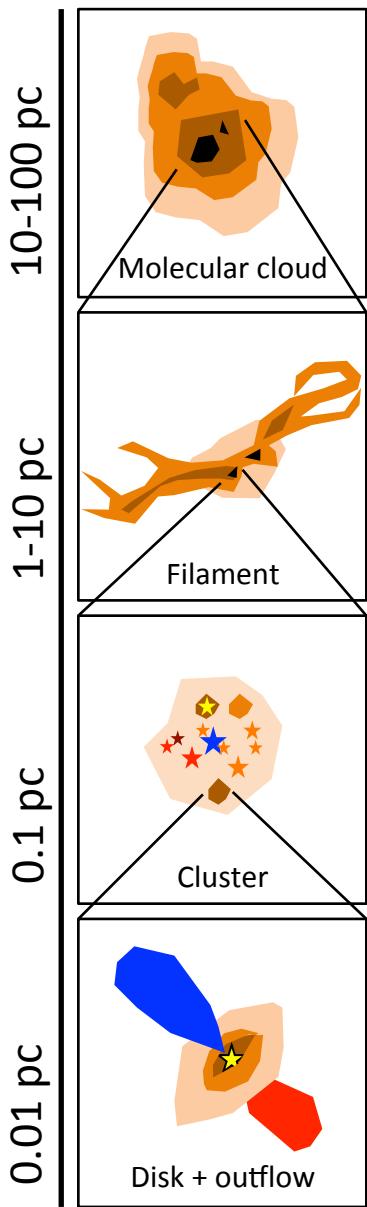
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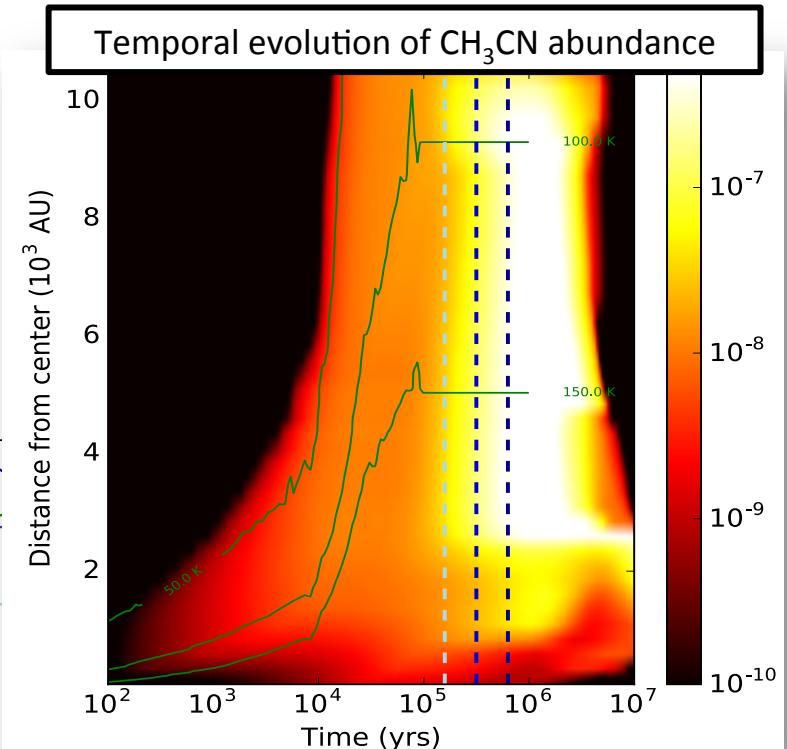
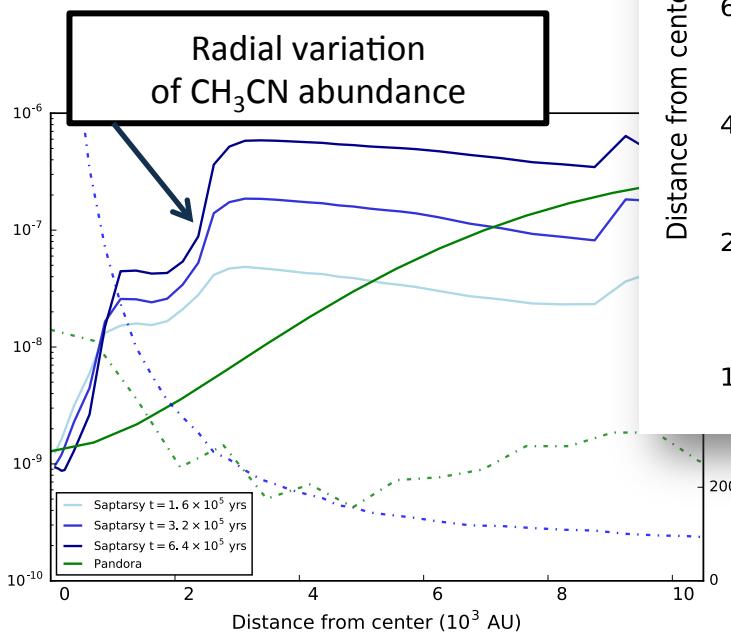
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Saptarsy: spatial and temporal variations
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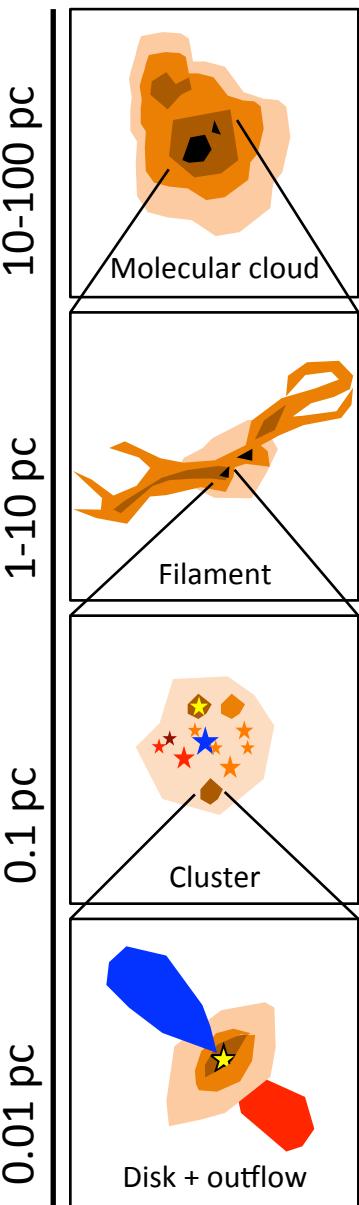
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The Saptarsy[⌘] chemical code

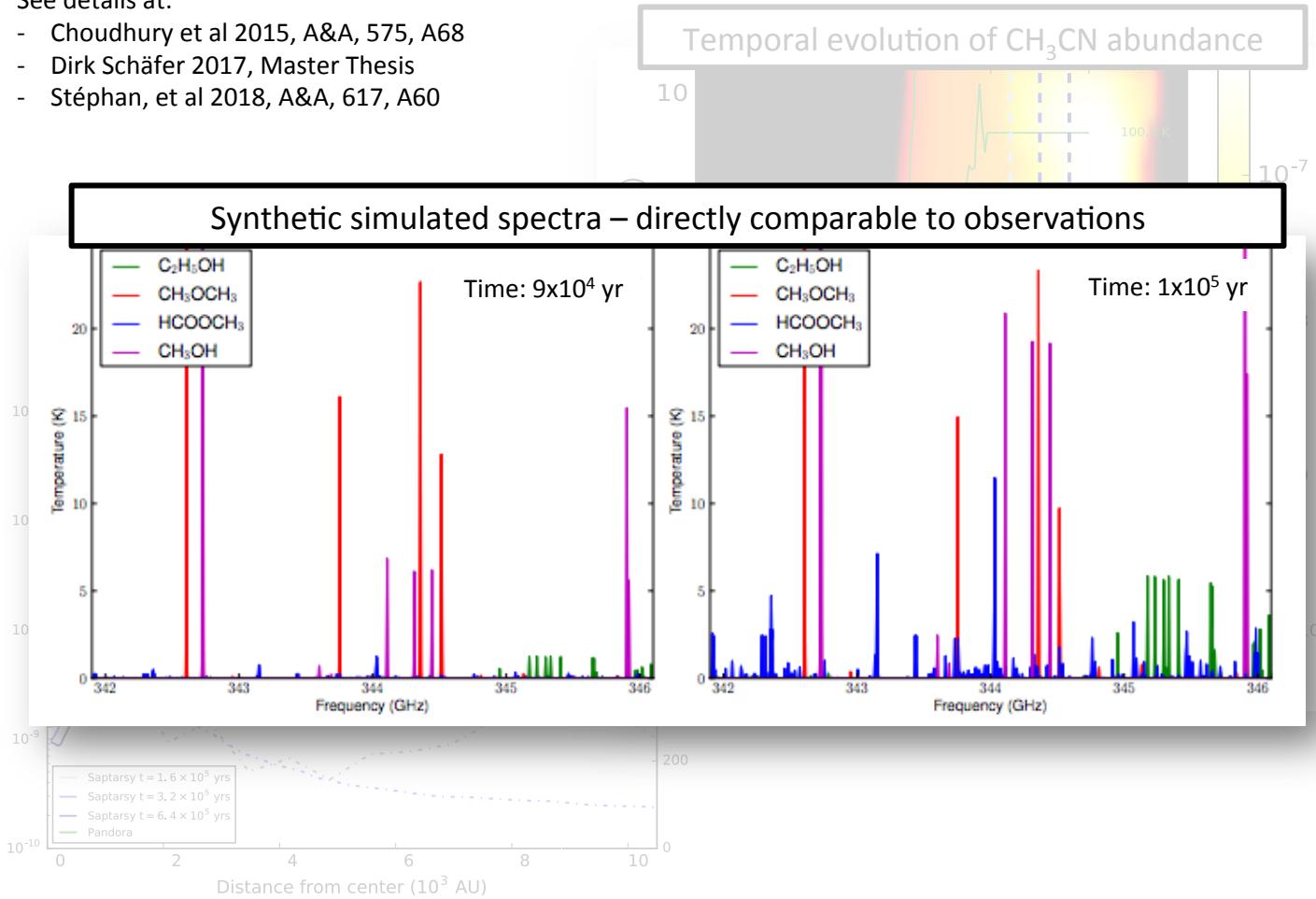
[⌘] from Sanskrit, the seven sages (see also Ursa Major and Pleiades)



Saptarsy: spatial and temporal variations
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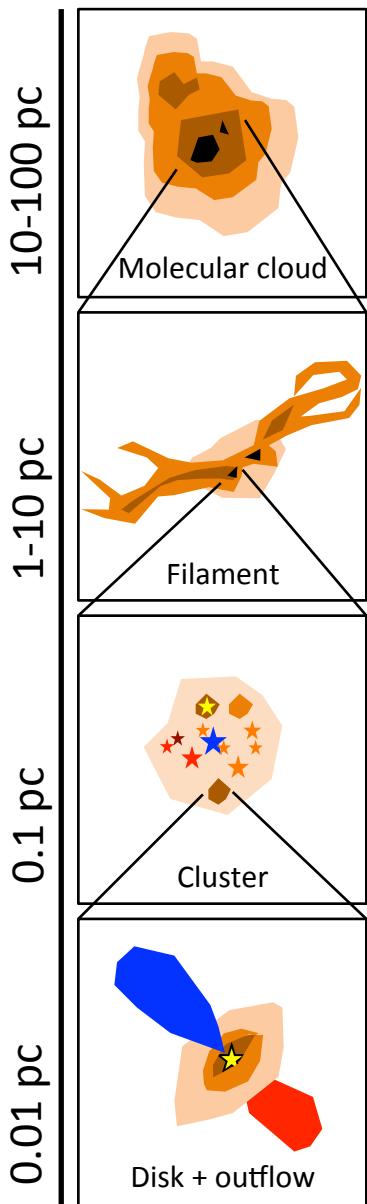
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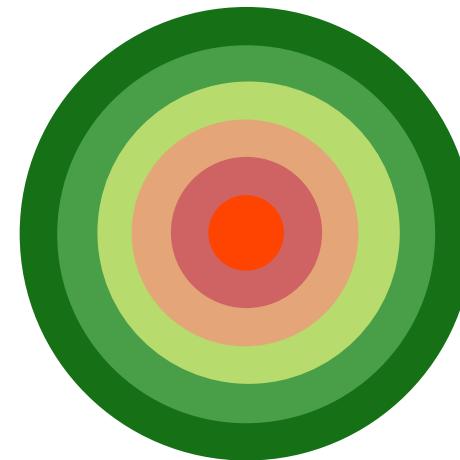


Molecular fingerprints of evolution

Riedel (2021, Master thesis)

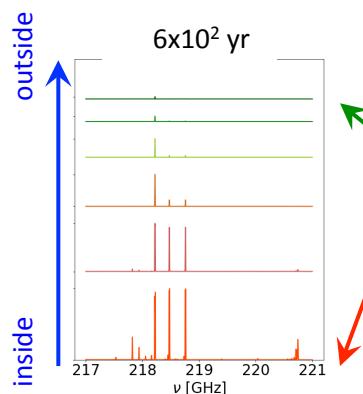
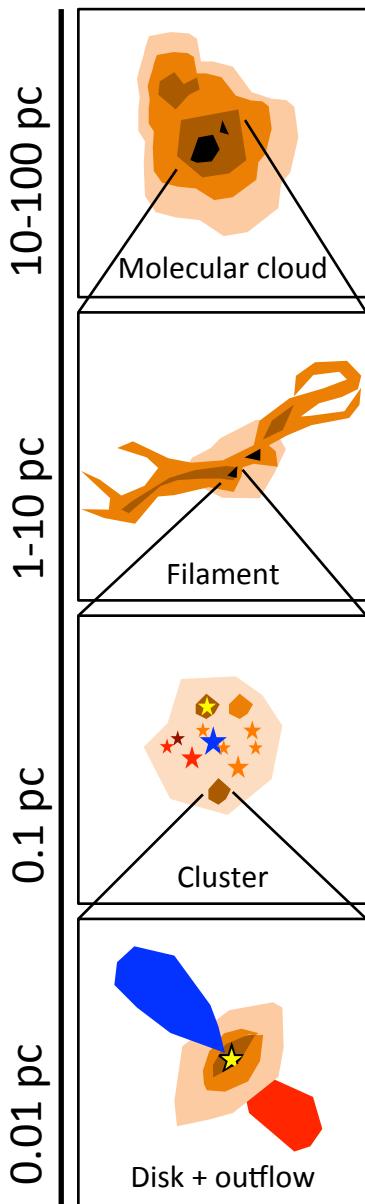


Sketch of the dense core model

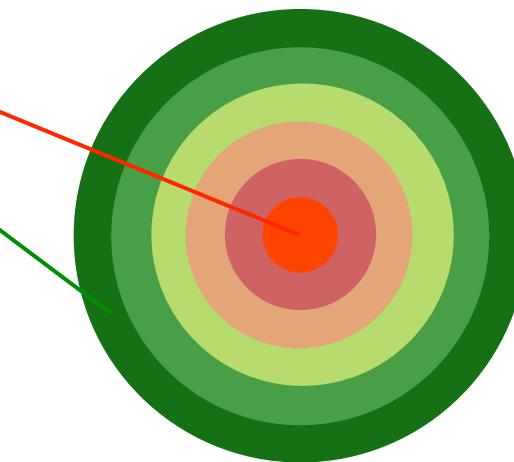


Molecular fingerprints of evolution

Riedel (2021, Master thesis)



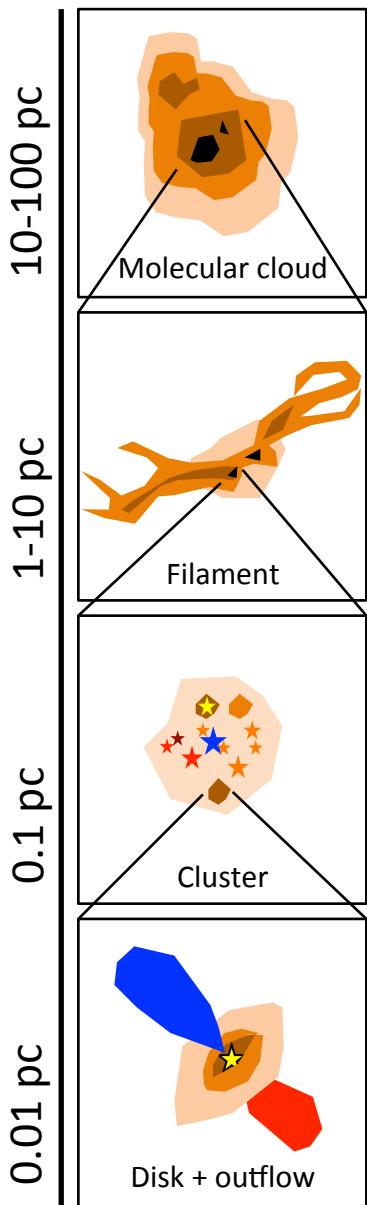
Sketch of the dense core model



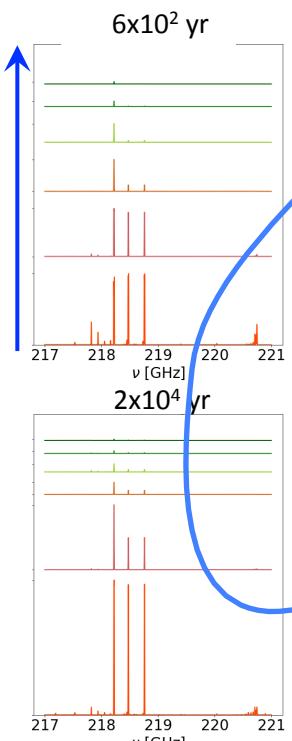
For one model, we generate synthetic spectra
- at **different radii (positions)** at a given time

Molecular fingerprints of evolution

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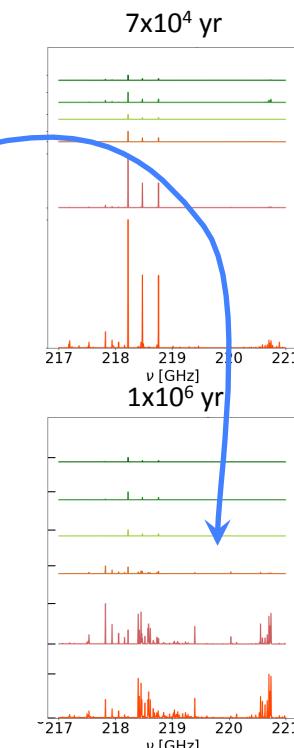


outside
inside



time evolution

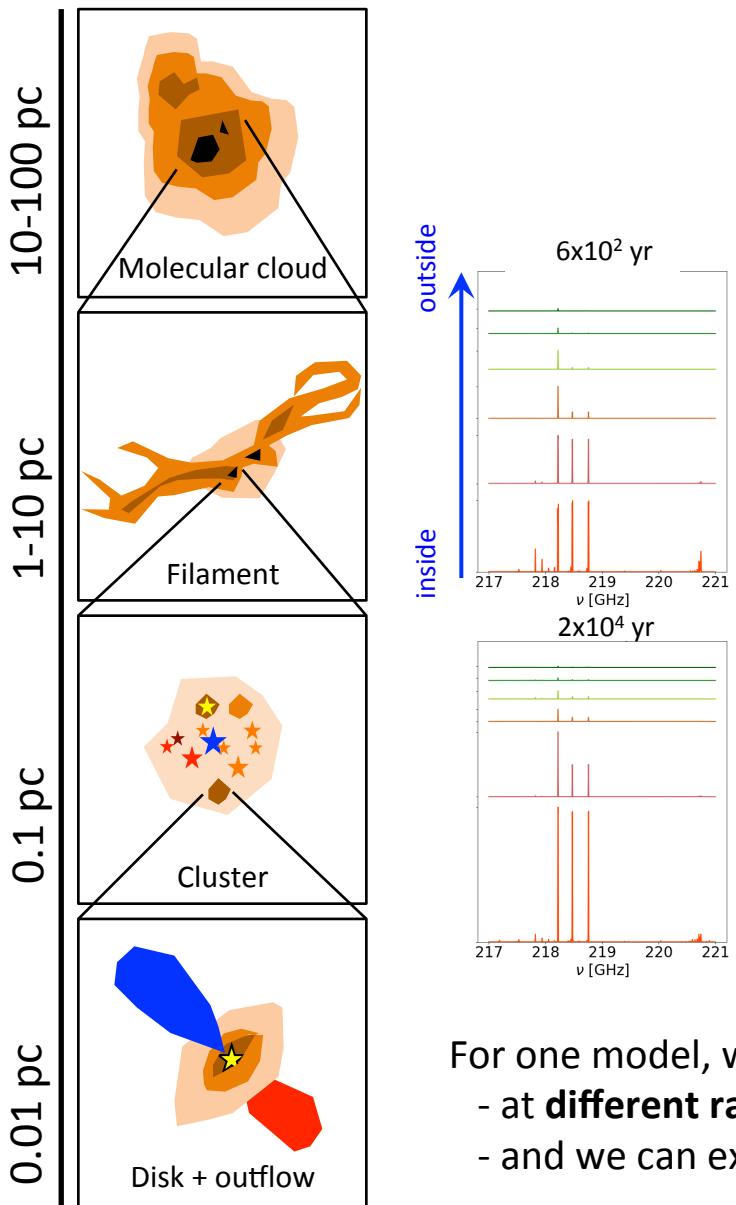
- 80 AU
- 3920 AU
- 7920 AU
- 11920 AU
- 15920 AU
- 19920 AU



For one model, we generate synthetic spectra
- at **different radii (positions)** at a given time
- and we can explore **different times**

Molecular fingerprints of evolution

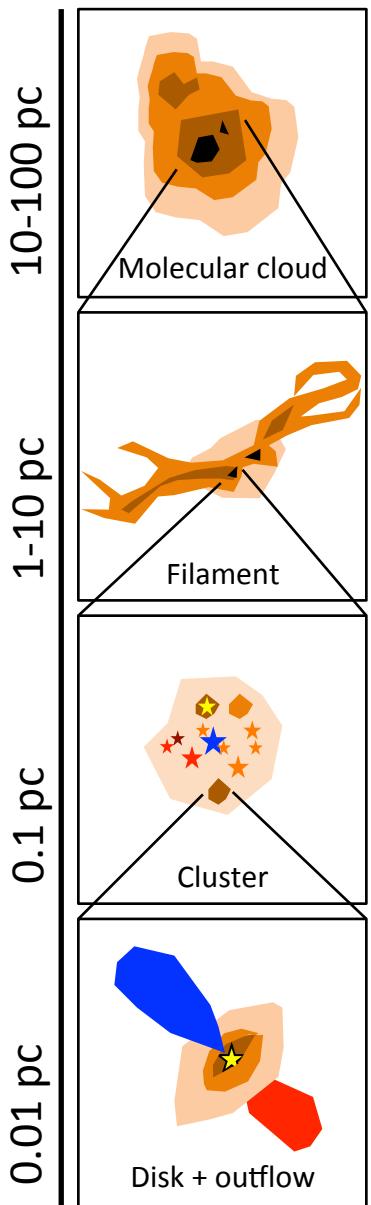
Riedel (2021, Master thesis)



**For one model, we generate
100+ spectra with 1000+ channels**

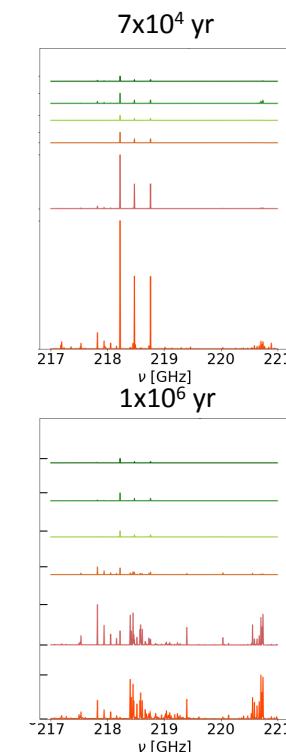
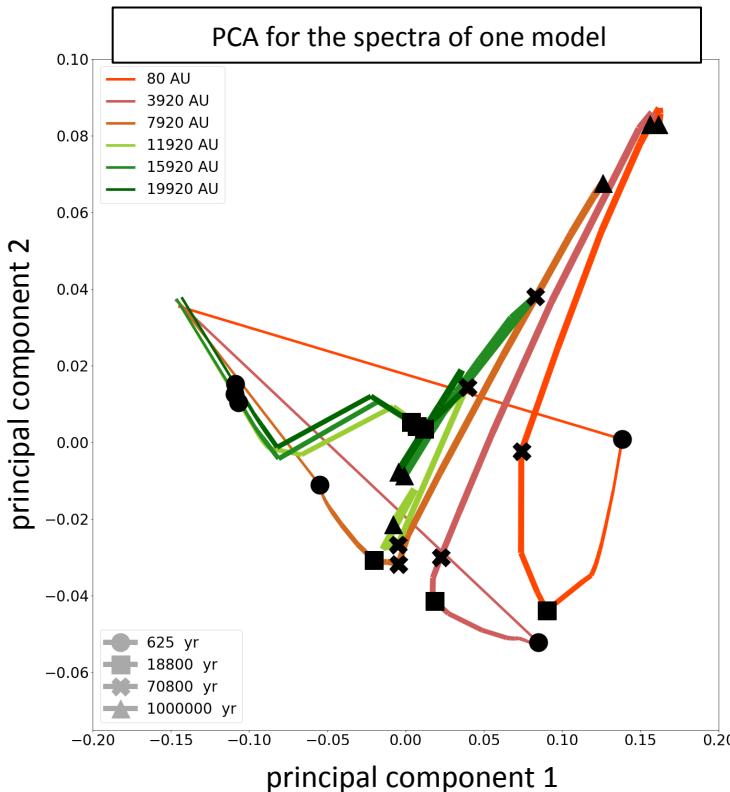
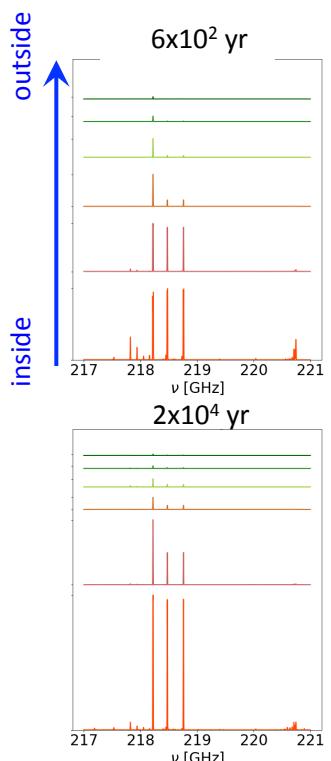
For one model, we generate synthetic spectra
- at **different radii (positions)** at a given time
- and we can explore **different times**

Molecular fingerprints of evolution



Principal Component Analysis (PCA) to reduce dimensionality

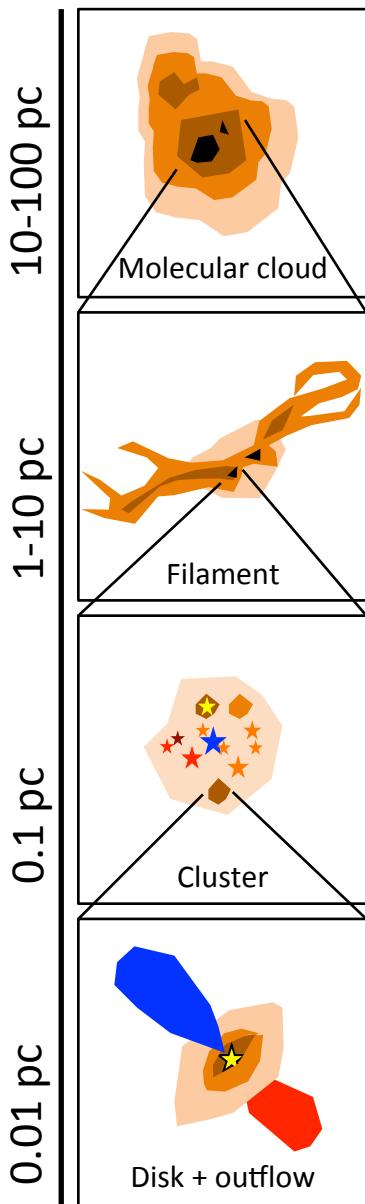
→ We use PCA on the synthetic spectra



For one model, we generate synthetic spectra
- at **different radii (positions)** at a given time
- and we can explore **different times**

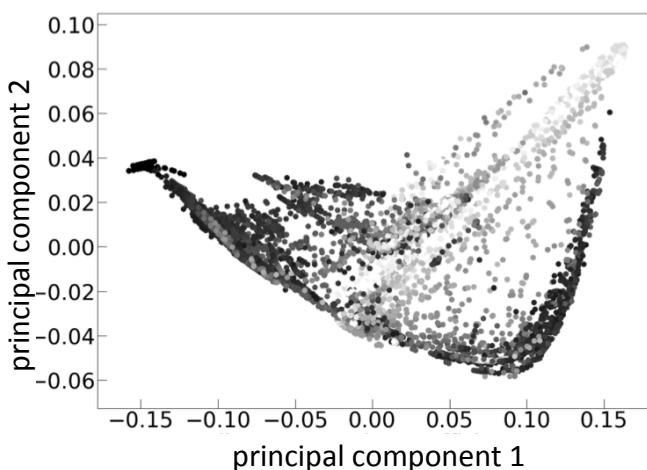
Molecular fingerprints of evolution

Riedel (2021, Master thesis)



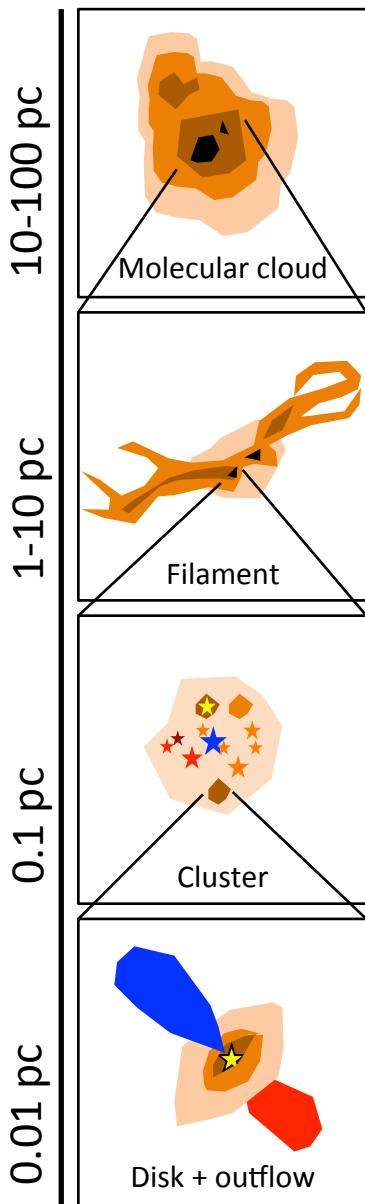
Principal Component Analysis (PCA) to reduce dimensionality

Including the synthetic spectra for the **50 different models**
2D-representation of the first 5 principal components



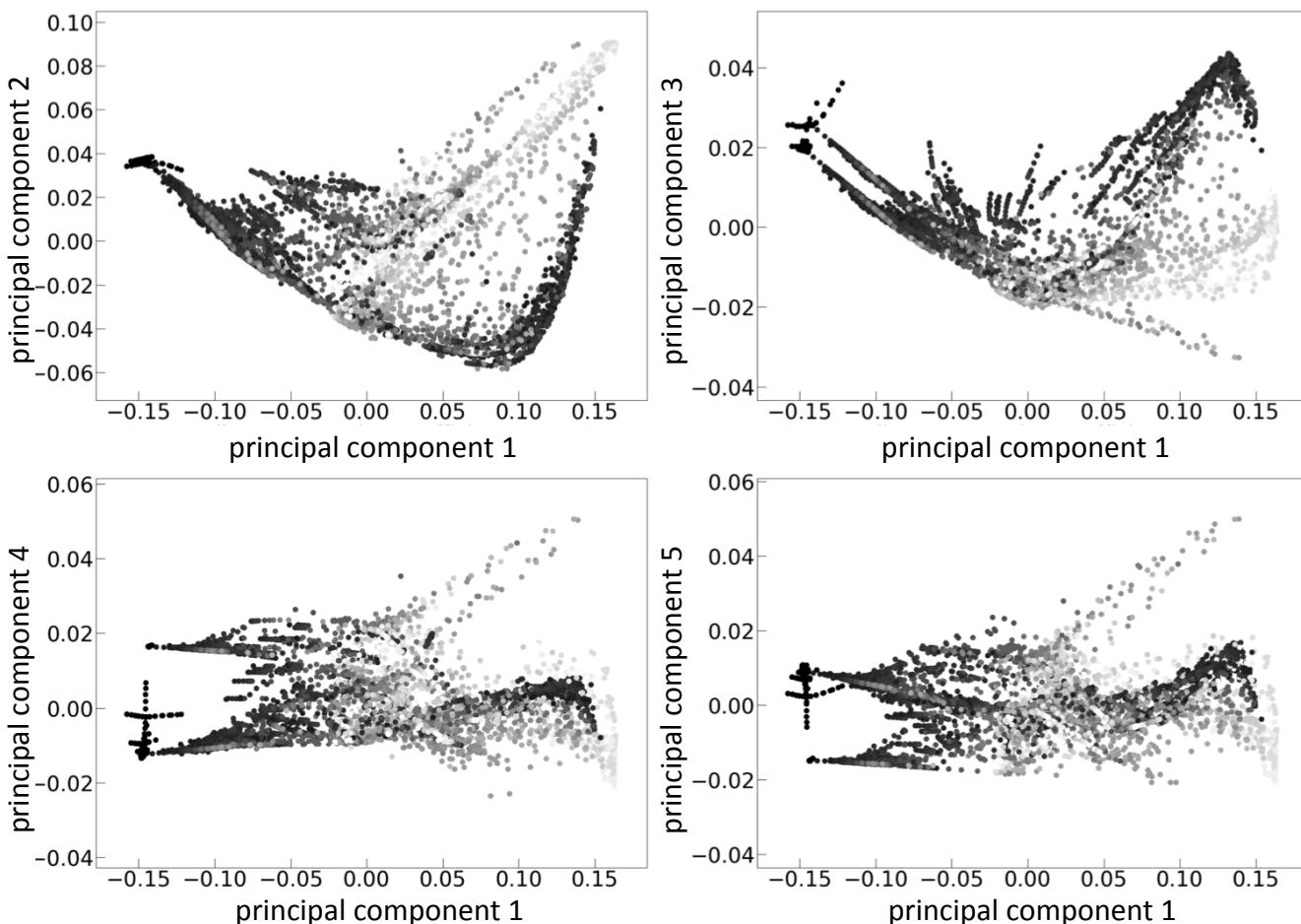
Molecular fingerprints of evolution

Riedel (2021, Master thesis)



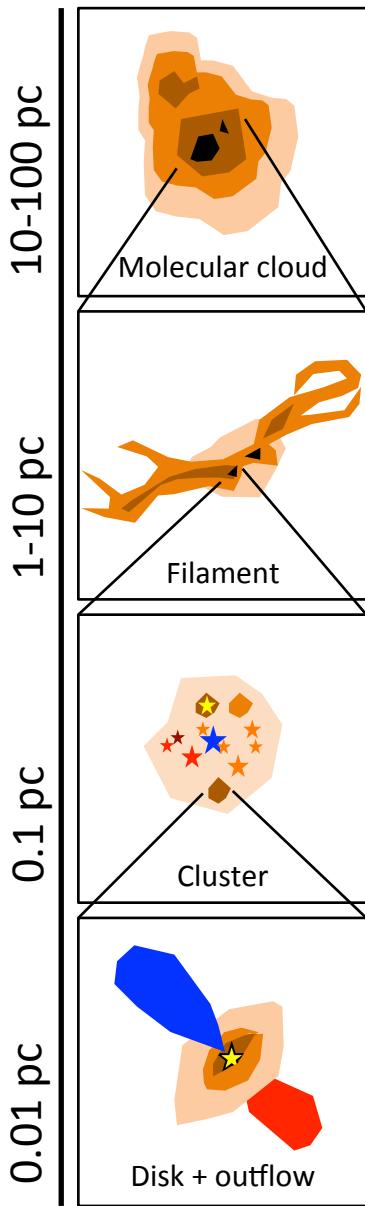
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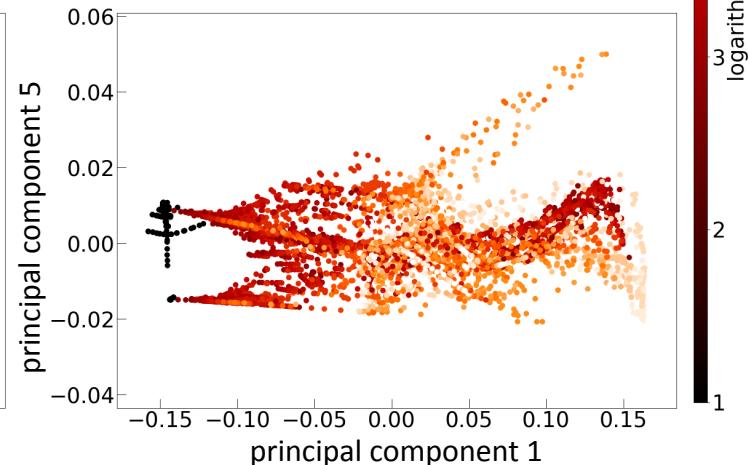
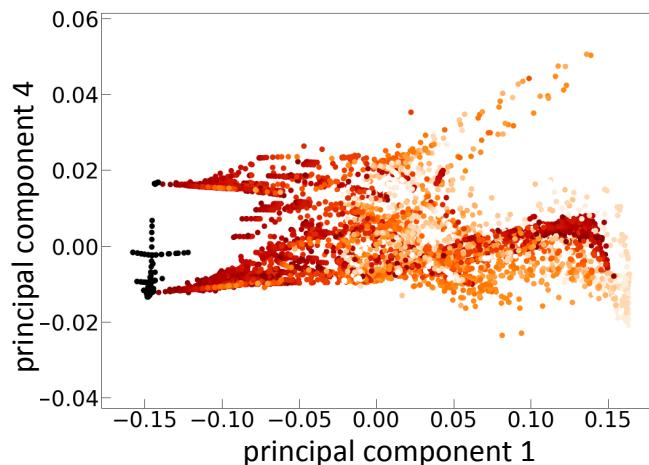
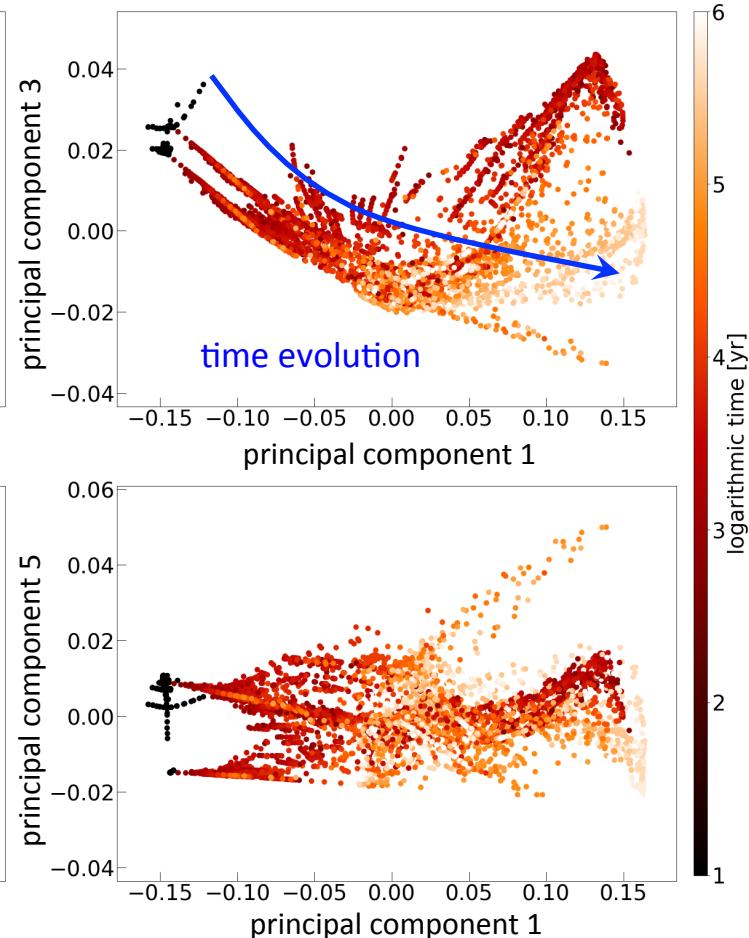
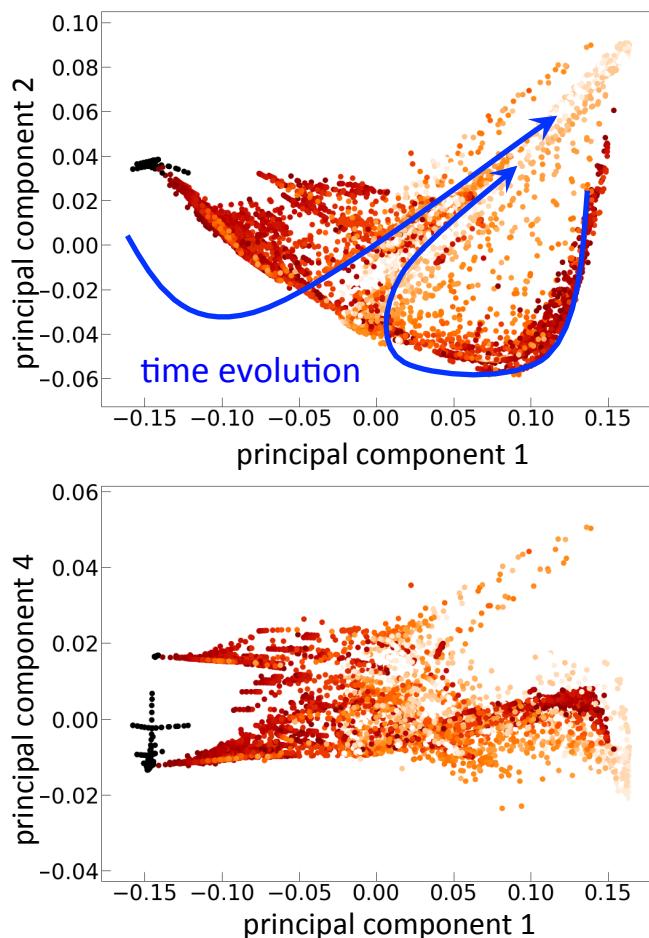
Molecular fingerprints of evolution

Riedel (2021, Master thesis)



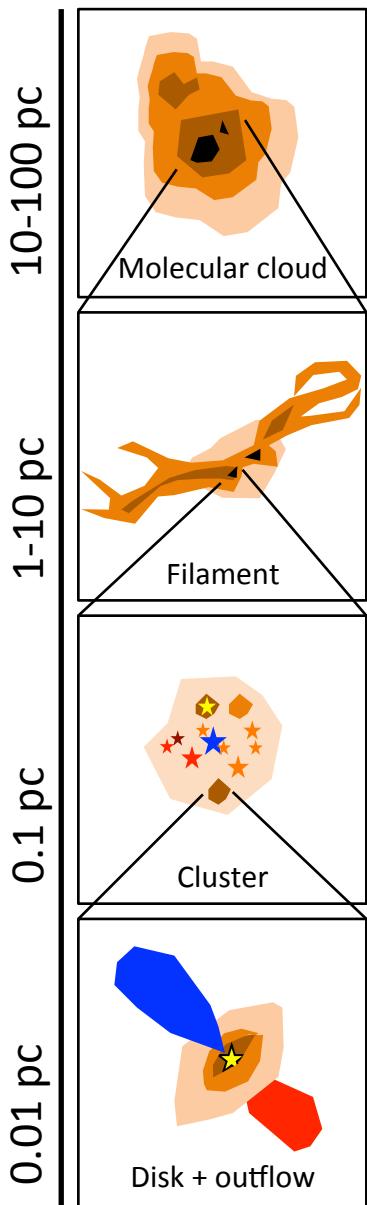
Principal Component Analysis (PCA) to reduce dimensionality

PCAs : Colored as a function of time (**evolution**)



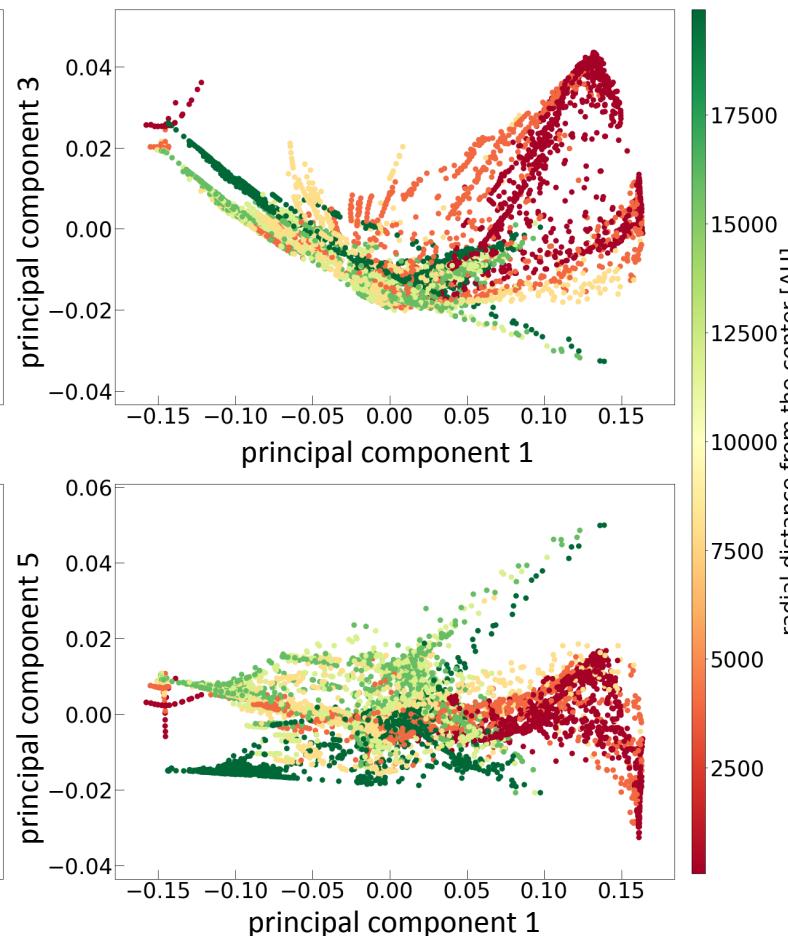
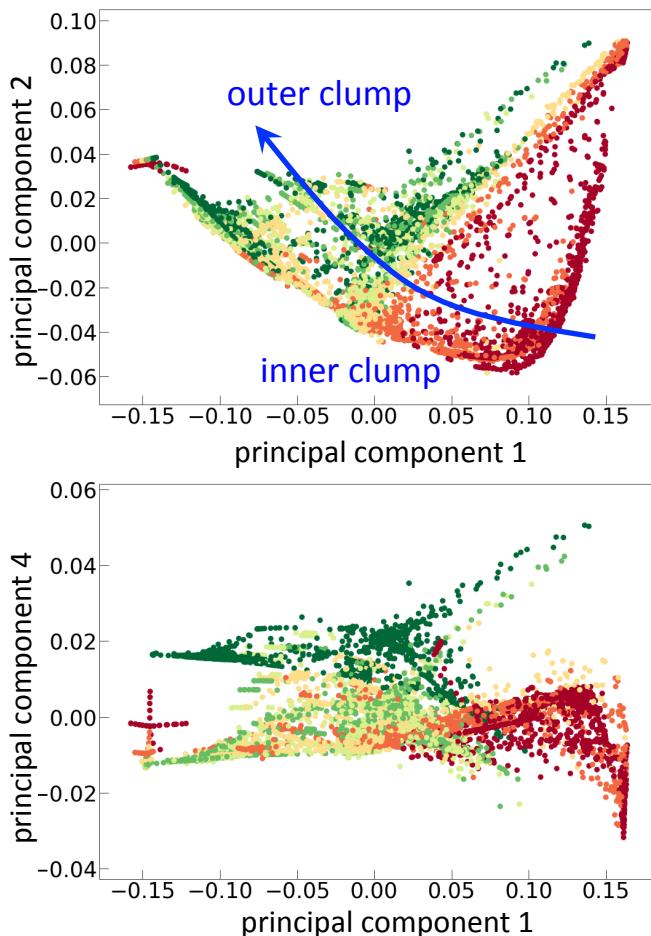
Molecular fingerprints of evolution

Riedel (2021, Master thesis)



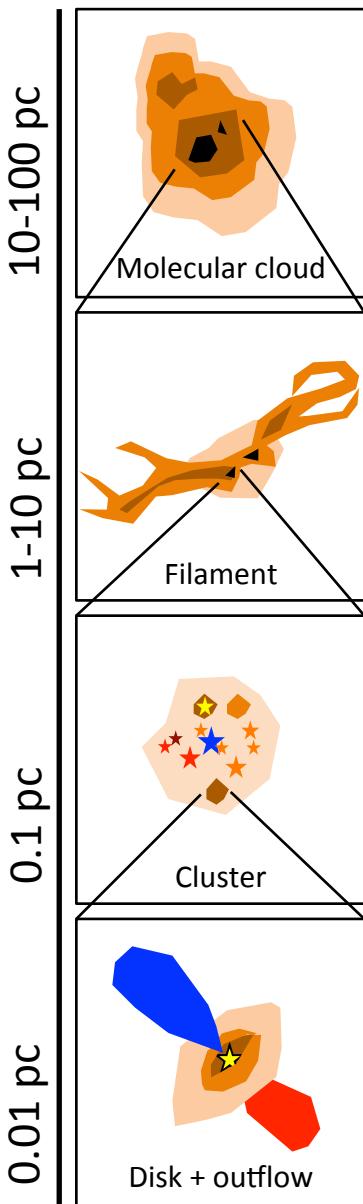
Principal Component Analysis (PCA) to reduce dimensionality

PCAs : Colored as **spatial location** within the clump



Molecular fingerprints of evolution

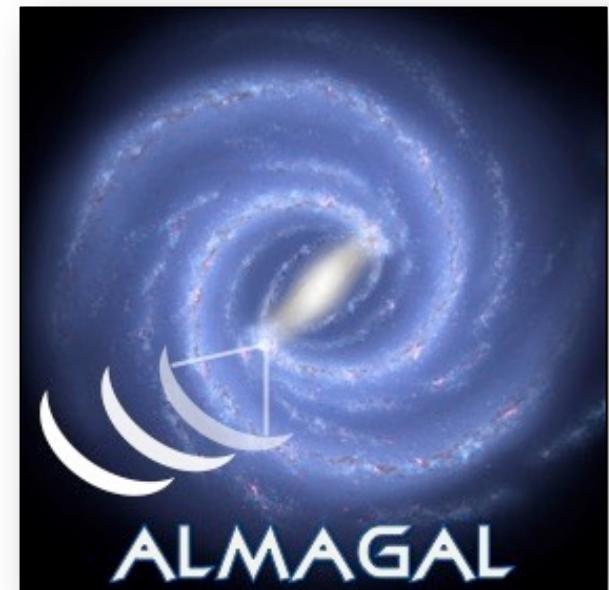
Riedel (2021, Master thesis)



We can **compare** the modeled synthetic spectra
with large sets of observations

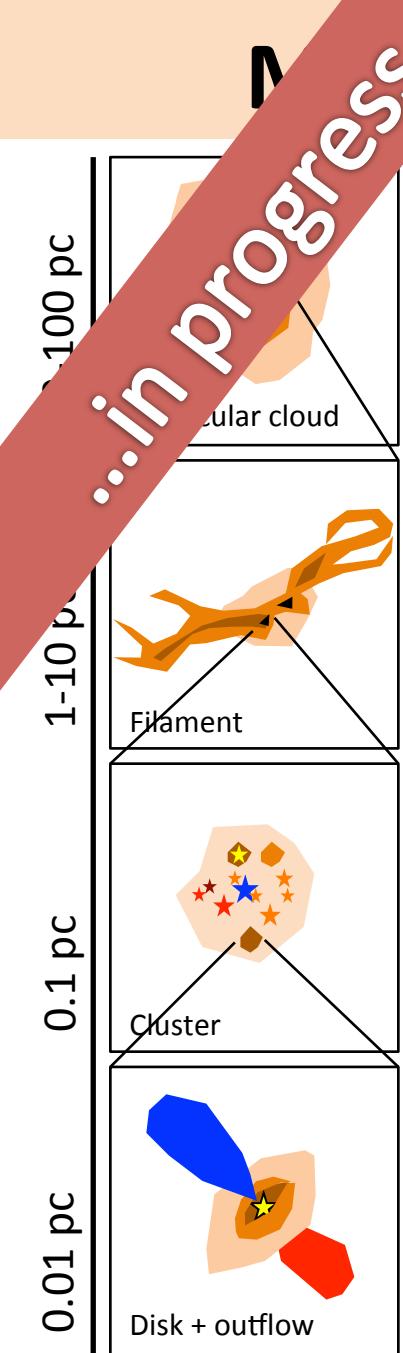
**ALMA evolutionary study of high-mass
proto-cluster formation in the Galaxy**

1017 star-forming clusters
catalogue of about **10,000 dense cores**
at different **evolutionary stages**

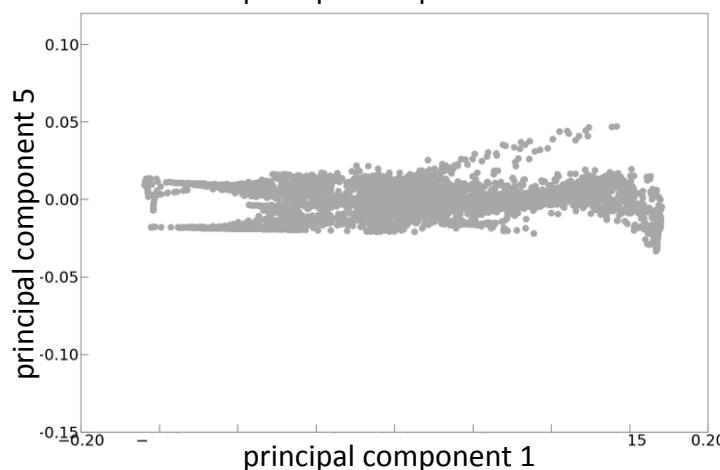
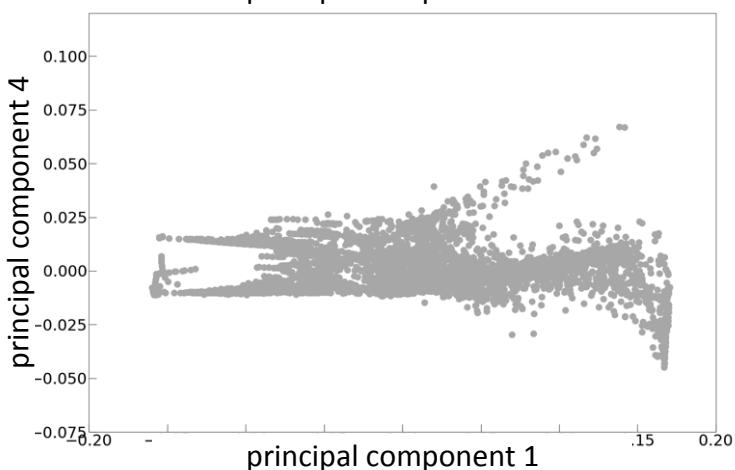
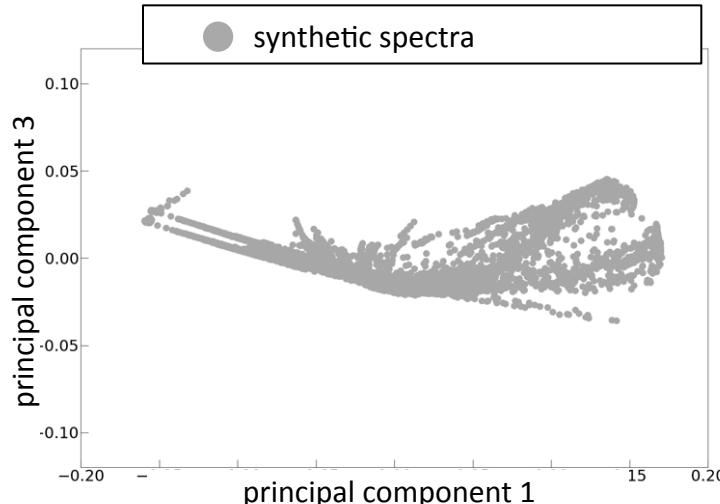
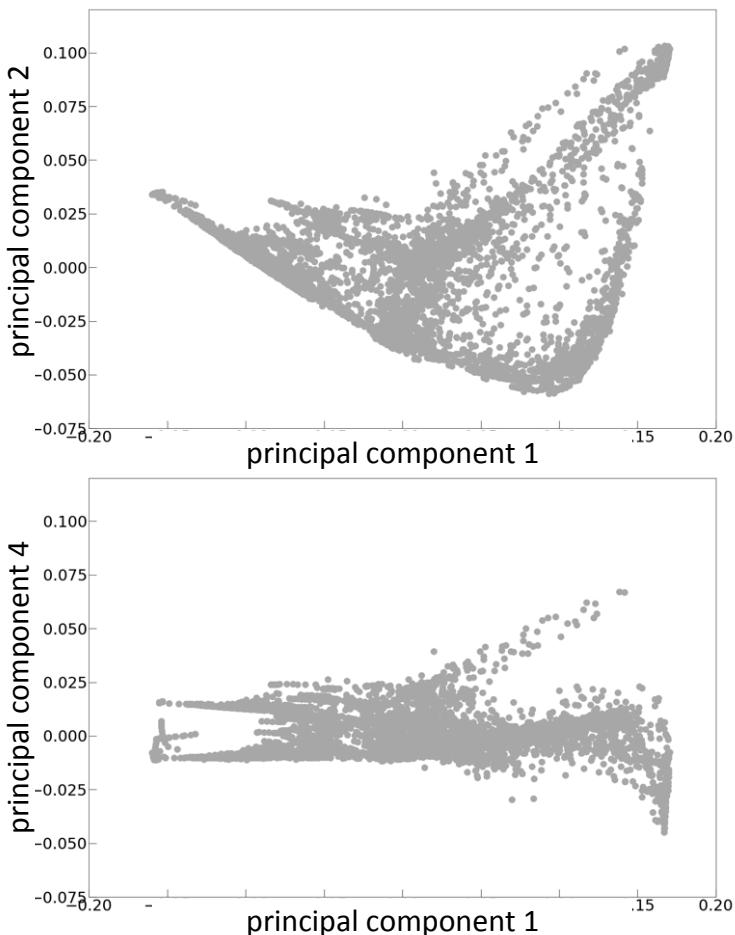


Molecular fingerprints of evolution

Riedel (2021, Master thesis)

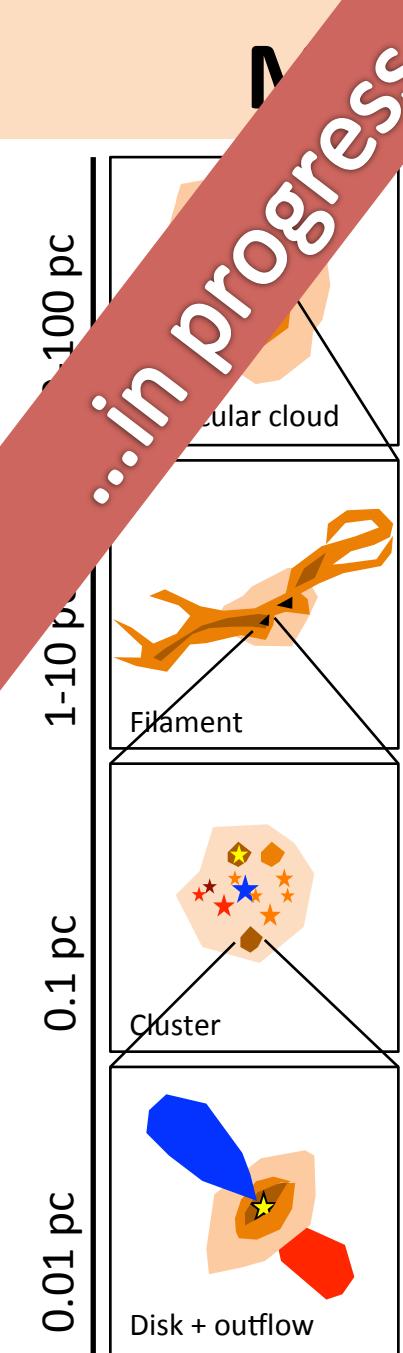


Comparison of PCA from synthetic spectra and observed spectra



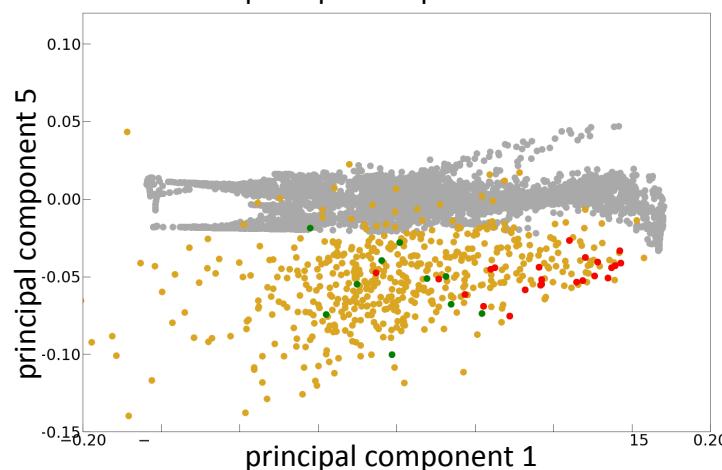
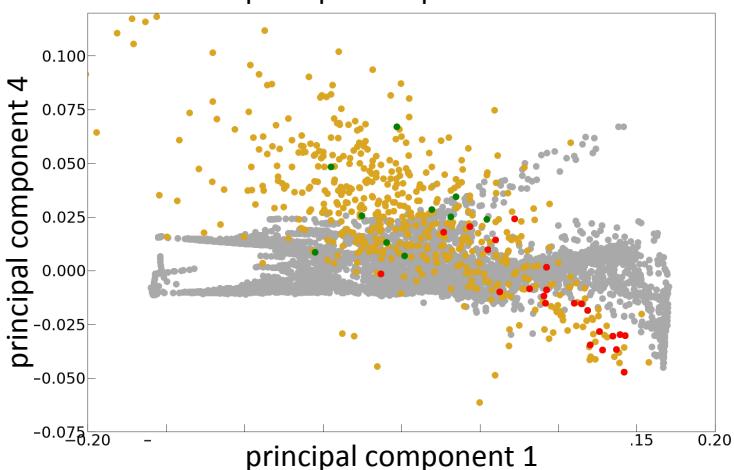
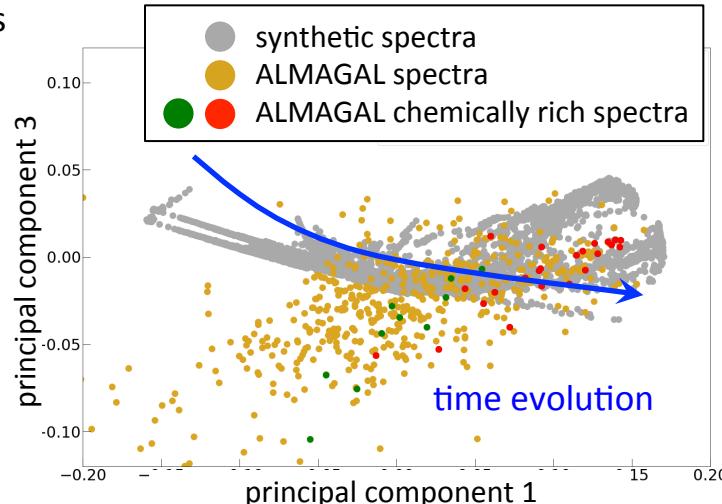
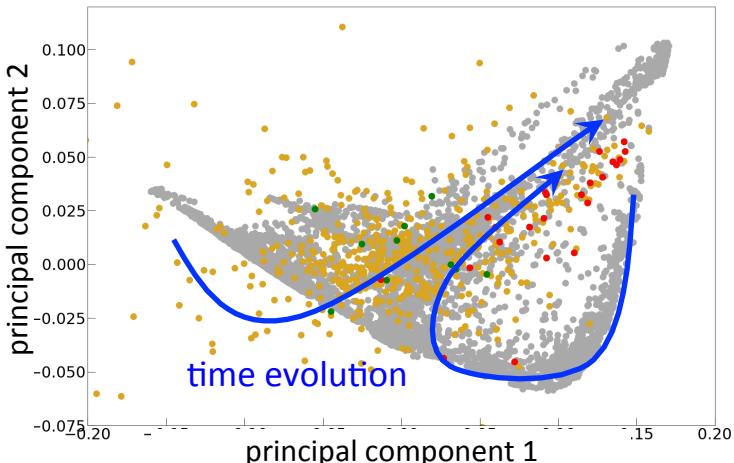
Molecular fingerprints of evolution

Riedel (2021, Master thesis)



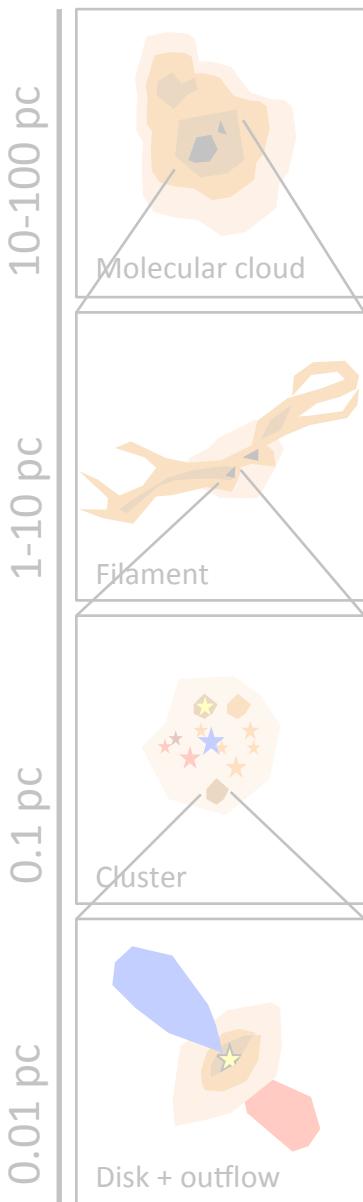
Comparison of PCA from synthetic spectra and observed spectra

ALMAGAL observed spectra projected onto the PCA dimensionality defined with the models



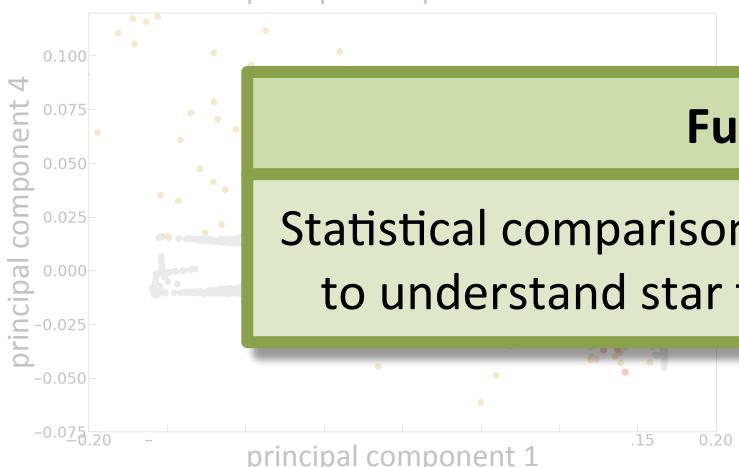
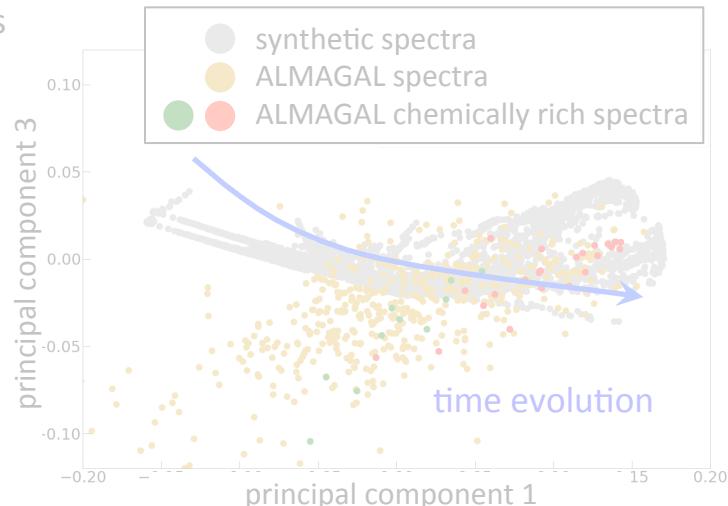
Molecular fingerprints of evolution

Riedel (2021, Master thesis)



Comparison of PCA from synthetic spectra and observed spectra

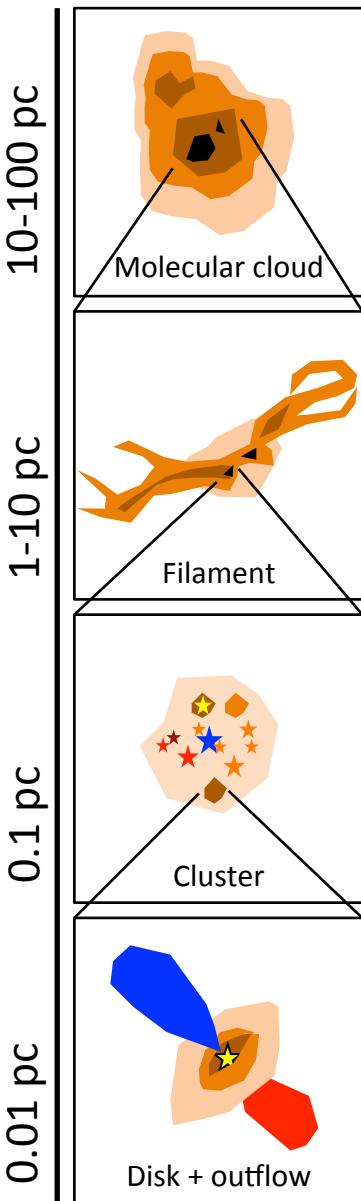
ALMAGAL observed spectra projected onto the PCA dimensionality defined with the models



Future steps

Statistical comparison of observations and models
to understand star formation and its evolution

From clouds to stars



Statistics in star formation

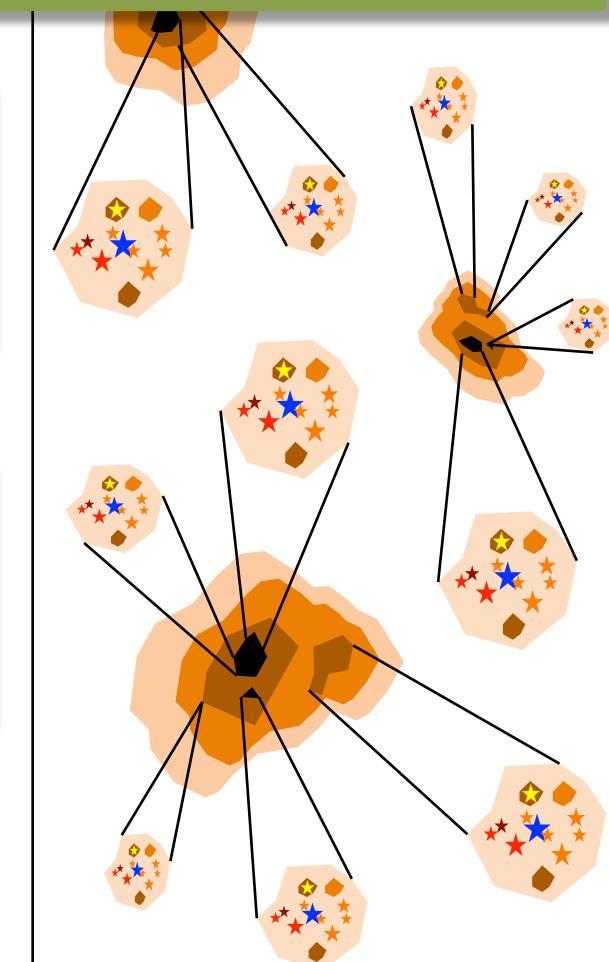
Large surveys enable new analysis techniques

Mass accretion rates

Low-density regions: $10^{-5} - 10^{-4} M_{\odot}/\text{yr}$

Massive clusters: $10^{-3} M_{\odot}/\text{yr}$

Super-star clusters: $10^{-1} M_{\odot}/\text{yr}$



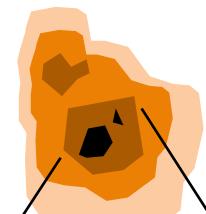
Clusters

Thermal fragmentation at 0.1-0.3 pc

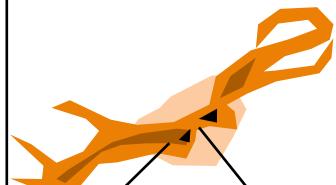
Mass segregation (even primordial)

Cores drift away with time

Statistical understanding of star formation



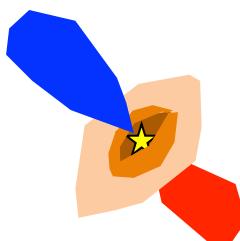
Molecular cloud



Filament



Cluster



Disk + outflow

Thank you for your attention

Institute of
Space Sciences



EXCELENCIA
MARÍA
DE MAEZTU



CSIC



MINISTERIO
DE CIENCIA
E INNOVACIÓN



Financiado por
la Unión Europea
NextGenerationEU

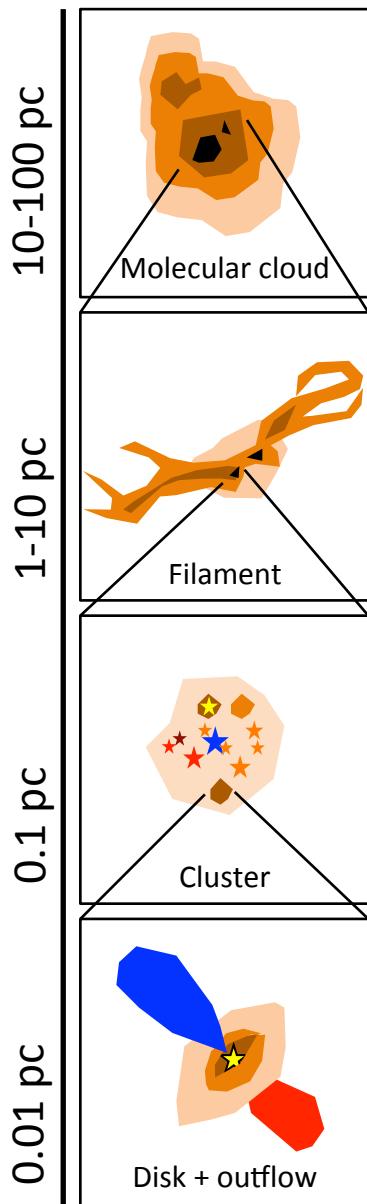


Plan de Recuperación,
Transformación y
Resiliencia

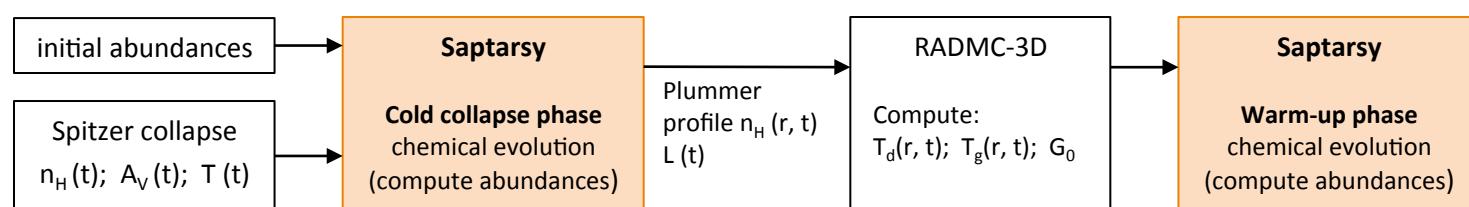


AGENCIA
ESTATAL DE
INVESTIGACIÓN

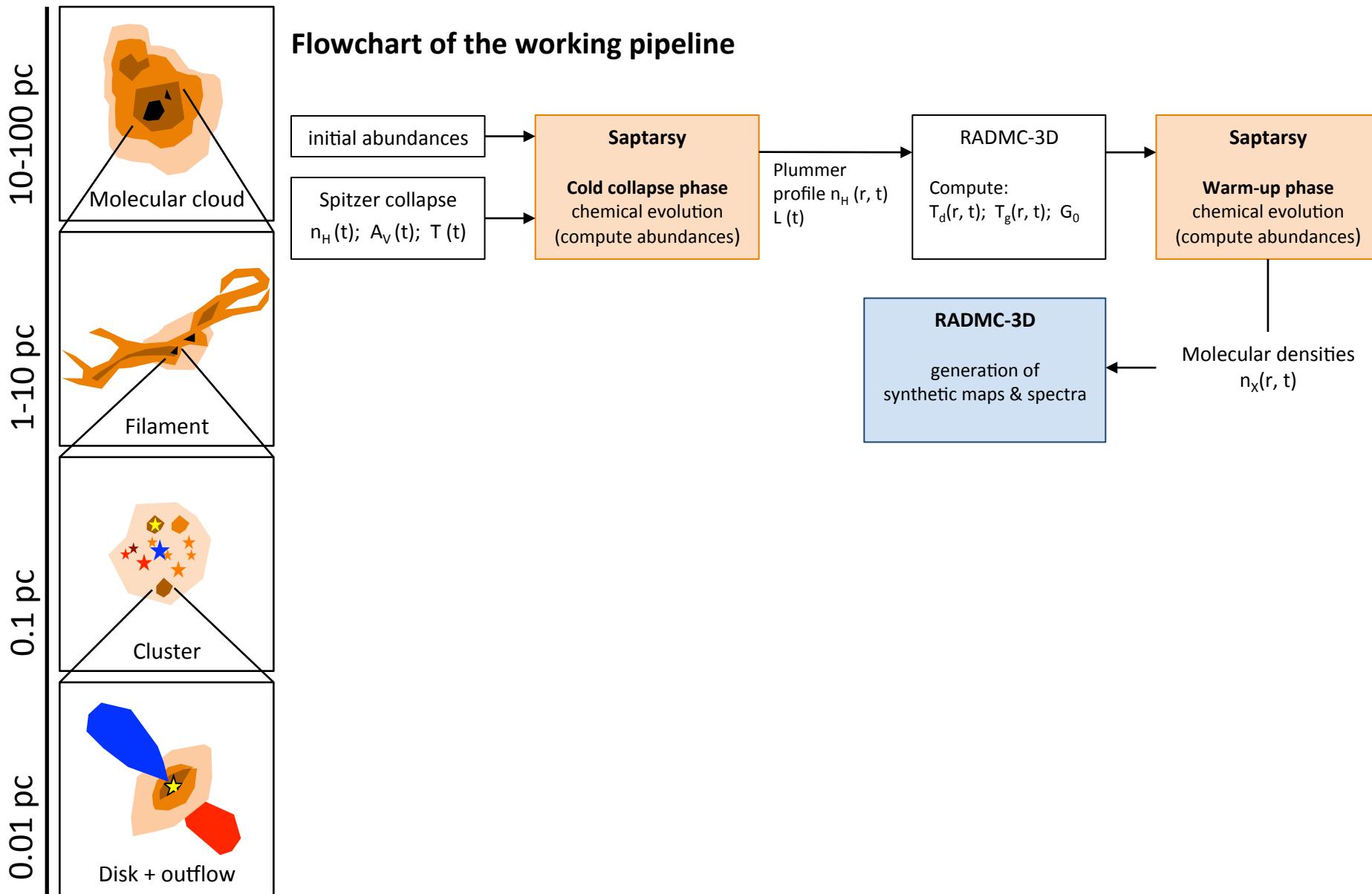
Molecular fingerprints – model setup



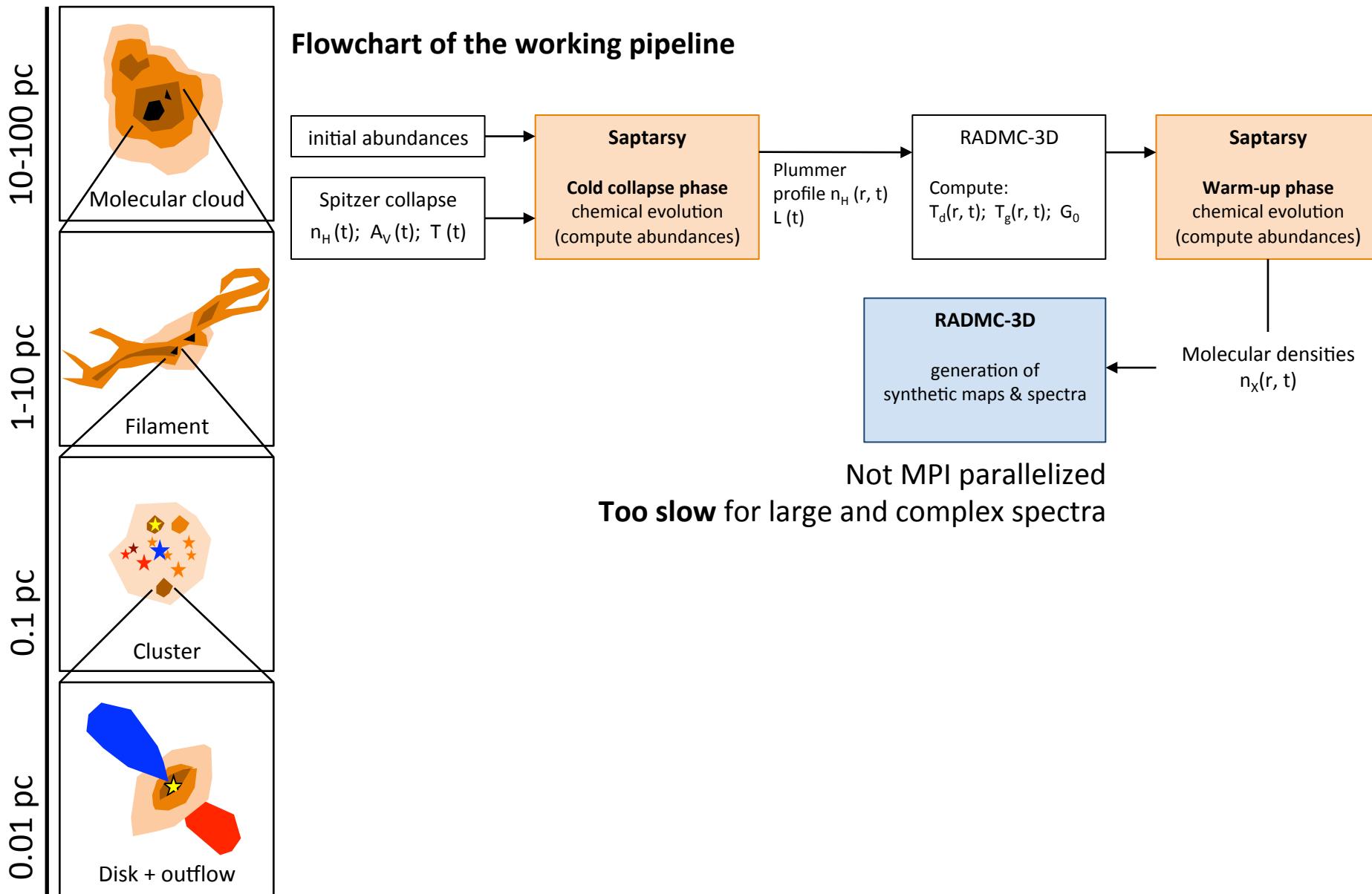
Flowchart of the working pipeline



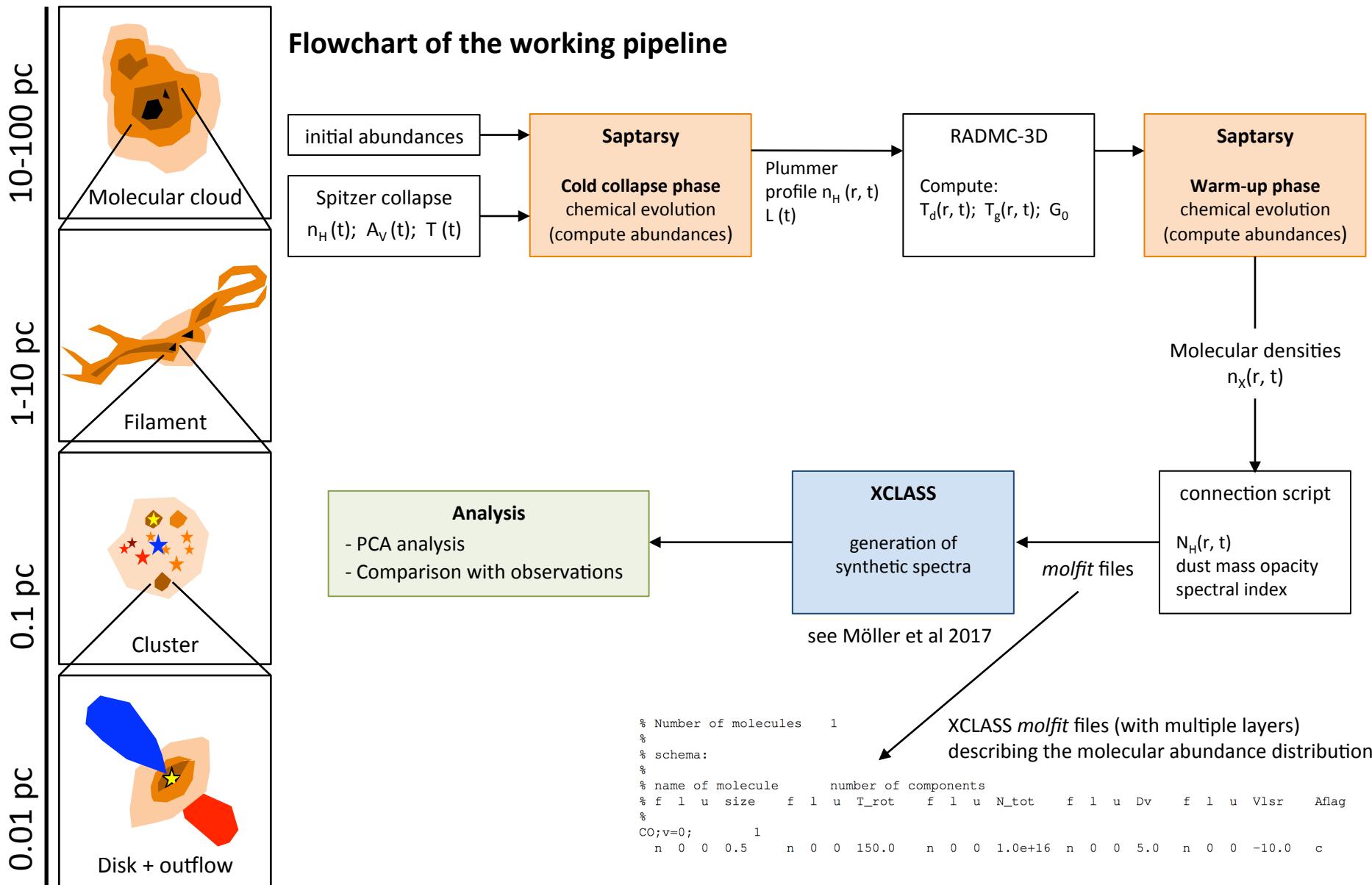
Molecular fingerprints – model setup



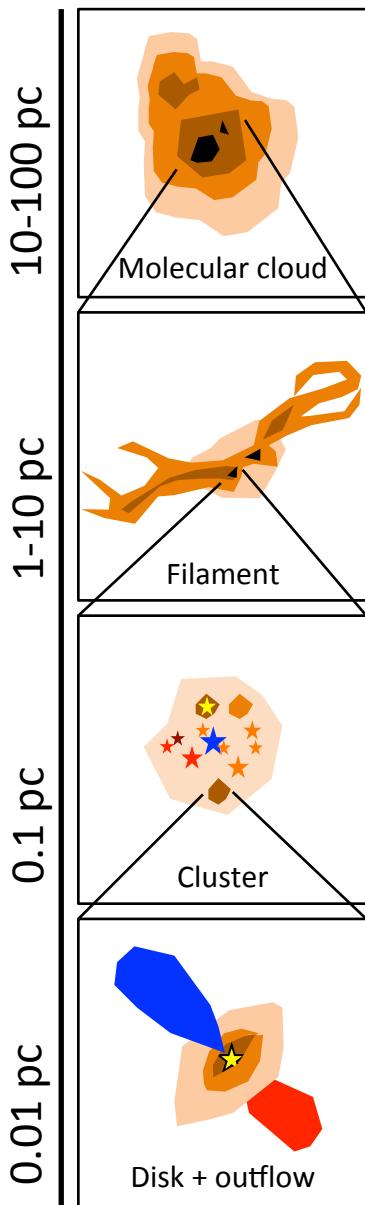
Molecular fingerprints – model setup



Molecular fingerprints – model setup



Molecular fingerprints – creation of models



49 different models considered:

- 1 reference model
- 10 models with different **total luminosity**
- 8 models with different **density distribution profile**
- 10 models with different **maximum density**
- 10 models with different **retardation factor** (slow-down collapse)
- 10 models with different **rate of luminosity increase**

