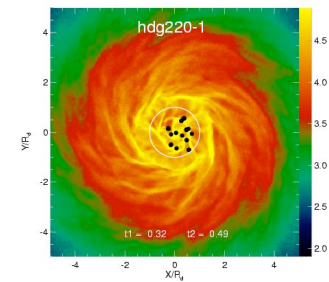
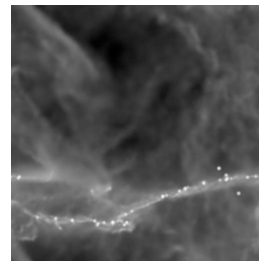
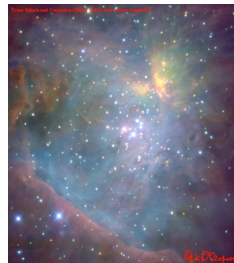
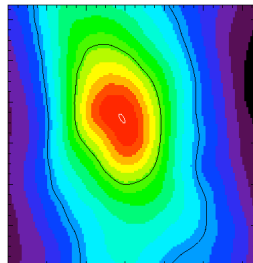
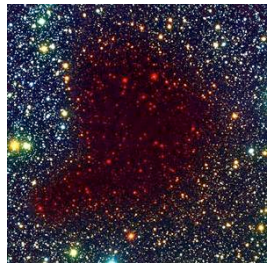


# Star Formation



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# Collaborators

*many thanks to...*

- Javier Ballesteros-Paredes (UNAM, Morelia)
- Peter Bodenheimer (UC Santa Cruz)
- Andreas Burkert (Uni. München)
- Simon Glover (AIP, Potsdam)
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- Dirk Froebrich (Dublin University)
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- Richard Larson (Yale University)
- Yuexing Li (CfA)
- Doug Lin (UC Santa Cruz)
- Mordecai Mac Low (ANMH, New York)
- Stefan Schmeja (AIP, Potsdam)
- Michael Smith (Kent University)
- Marco Spaans (Kapteyn Institute)
- Enrique Vazquez-Semadeni (Morelia)
- Hans Zinnecker (AIP, Potsdam)



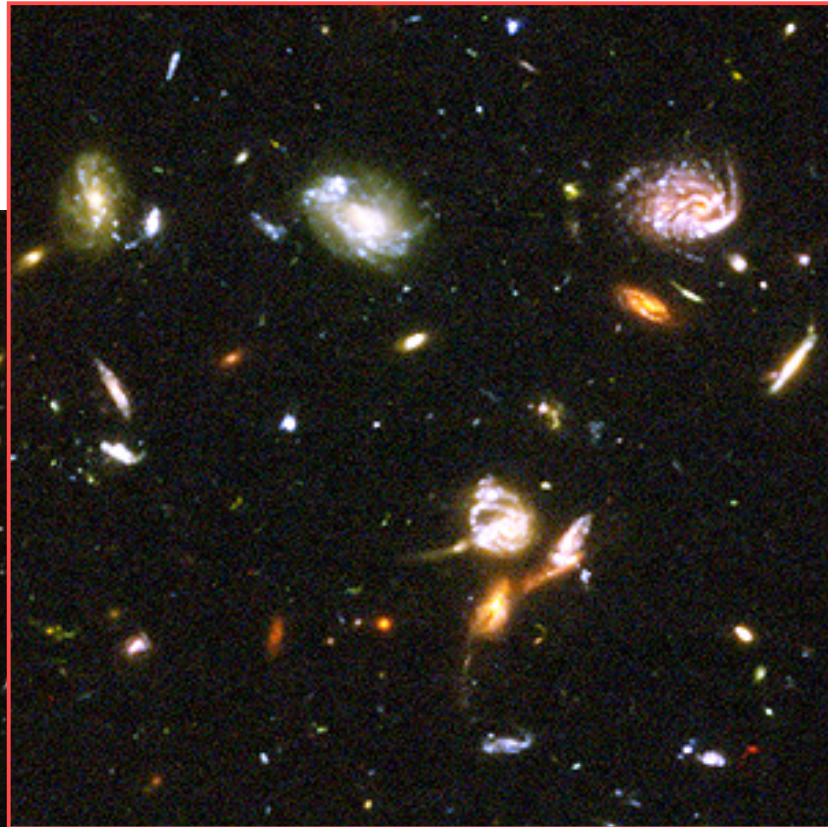
# Structure

Phenomenology and motivation

The concept of *gravoturbulent fragmentation* and *star formation*.

Applications to star cluster formation

# observations



tion  
arly

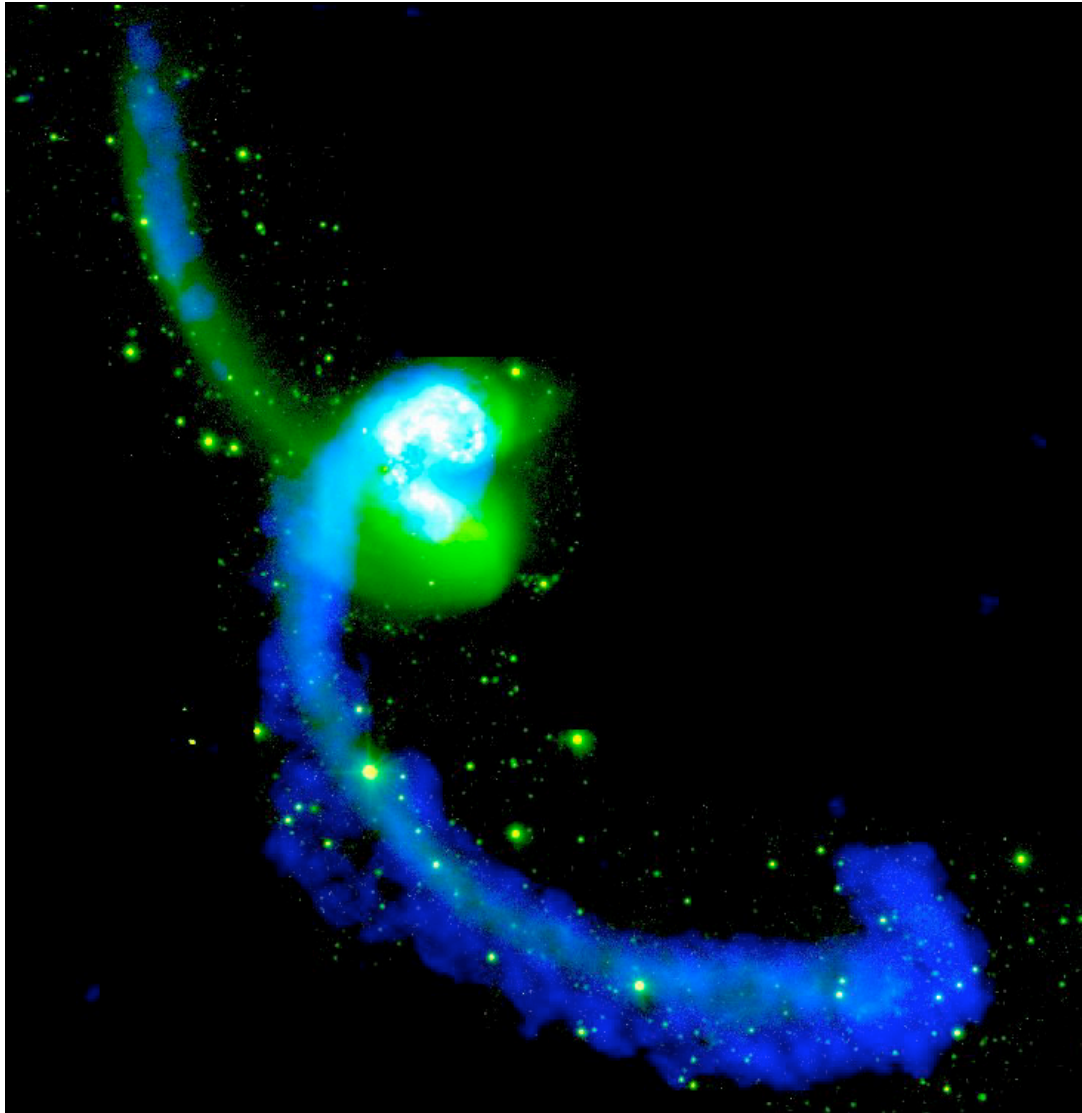
(less than 1Gyr  
after big bang)

Stars form in  
galaxies and  
protogalaxies

(Hubble Ultra-Deep Field, from HST Web site)



# Star formation in interacting galaxies:



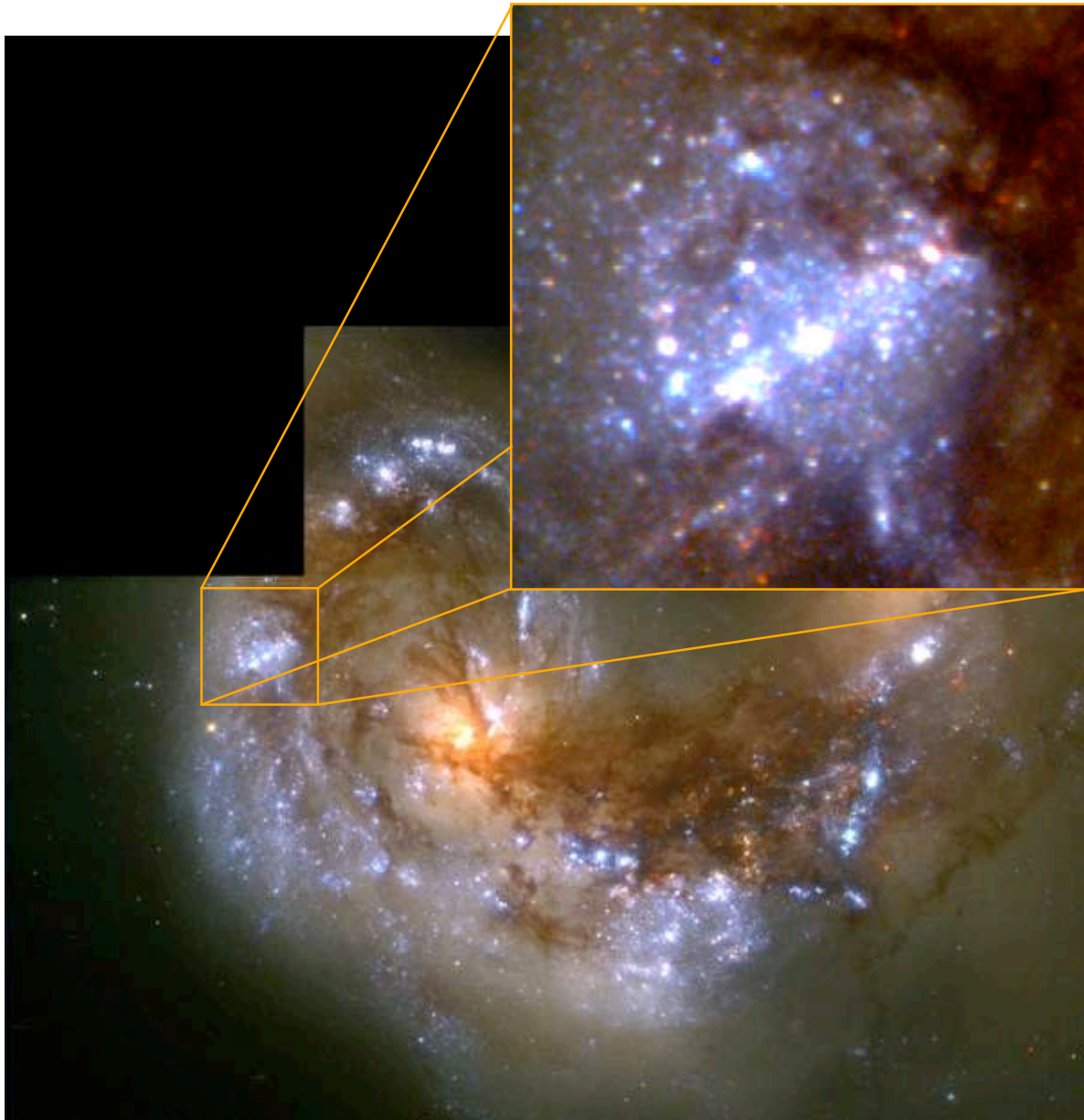
## Antennae galaxy

- *NGC4038/39*
- *distance: 19.2Mpc*
- *vis. Magn: 11.2*
- *optical: white, green*
- *radio: blue*

(from the Chandra Webpage)

# Star formation in interacting galaxies:

(HST: Whitmore & Schweizer 1997)



## Antennae galaxy

- Star formation burst in interacting (merging) galaxies
- Strong perturbation SF in tidal “tails”
- Large-scale gravitational motion determines SF
- Stars form in “knobs” (i.e. superclusters)

# Star formation in "typical" spiral:



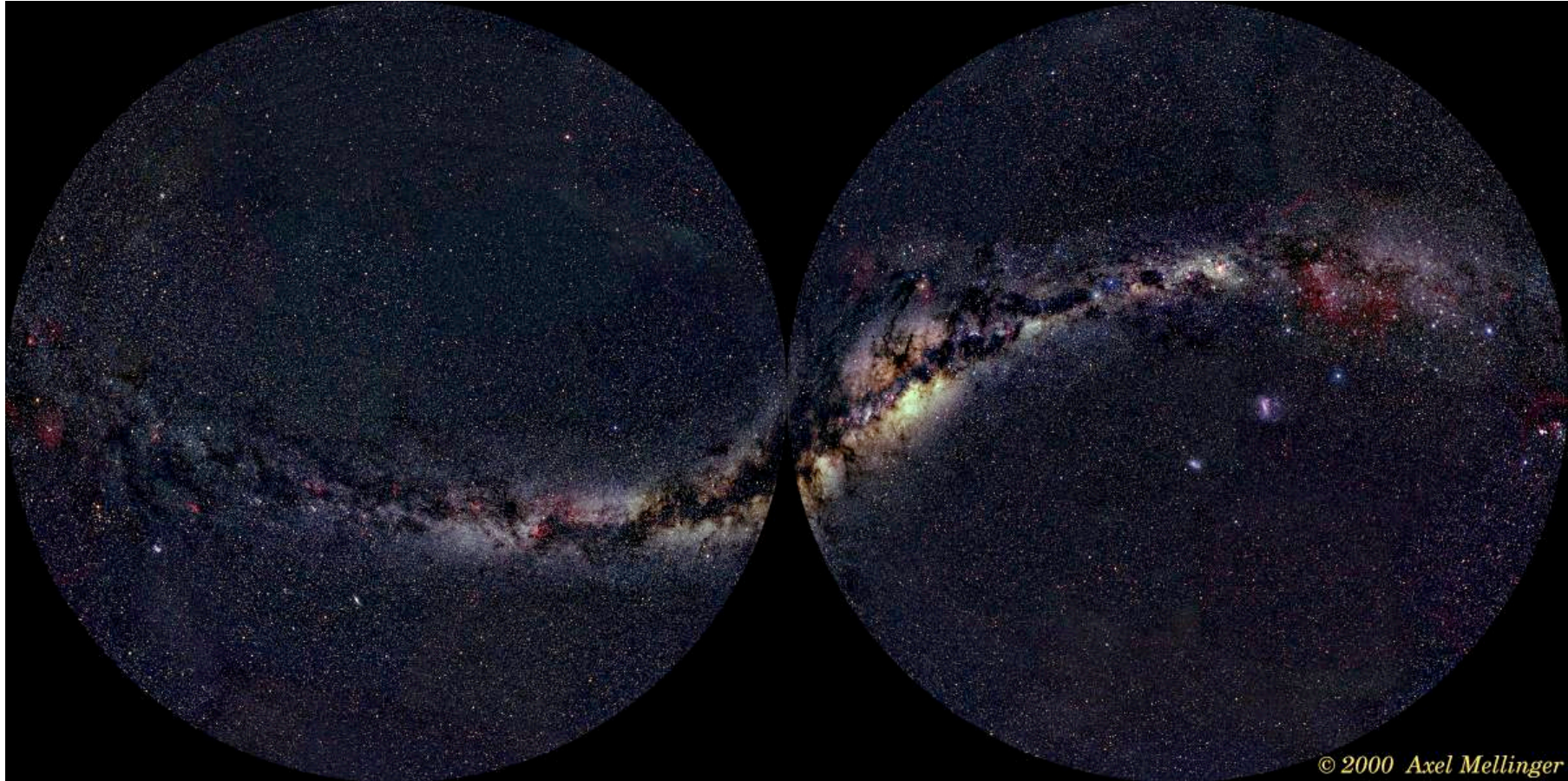
(from the Hubble Heritage Team)

## NGC4622

- Star formation *always* is associated with *clouds of gas and dust*.
- Star formation is essentially a *local phenomenon* (on ~pc scale)
- **HOW** is star formation is *influenced* by *global* properties of the galaxy?



# Stars in the Milky Way

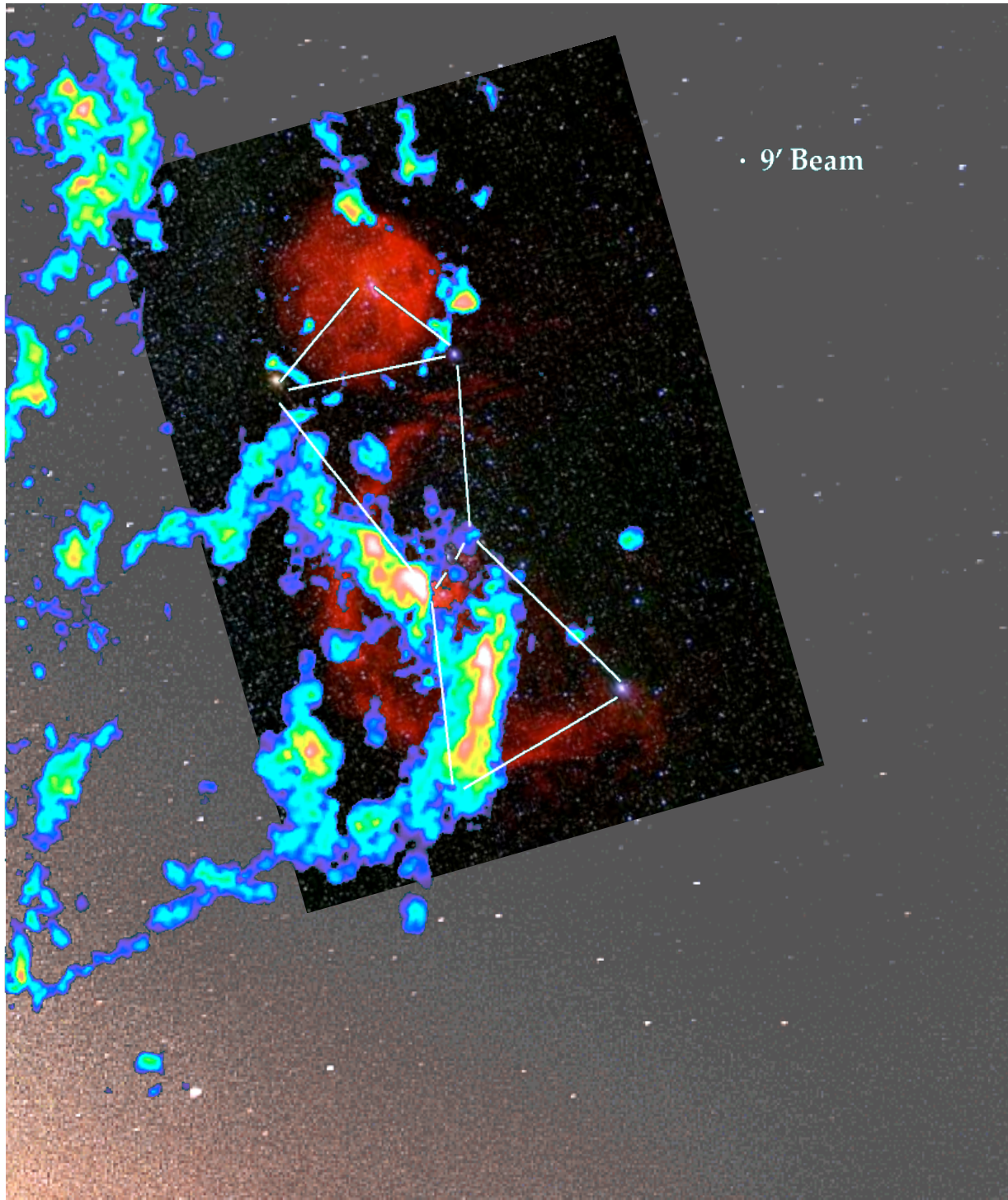


On the night sky, you see **stars** and **dark clouds**:

The brightest stars are massive and therefore young.

→ Star formation is important for understanding the structure of our Galaxy





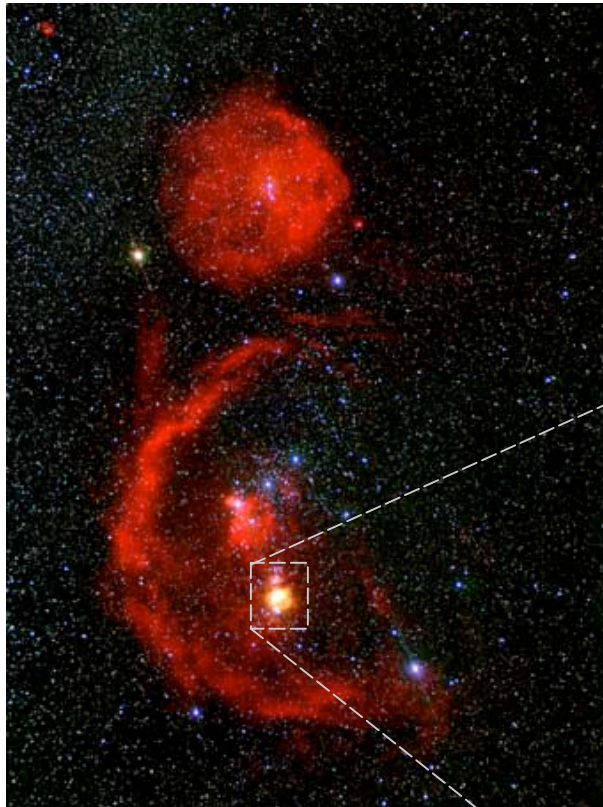
• 9' Beam

# Star formation in Orion

We see

- *Stars* (in visible light)
- Atomic hydrogen (in H $\alpha$  -- red)
- Molecular hydrogen H $_2$  (radio emission -- color coded)

# Local star forming region: The Trapezium Cluster in Orion



Orion molecular cloud

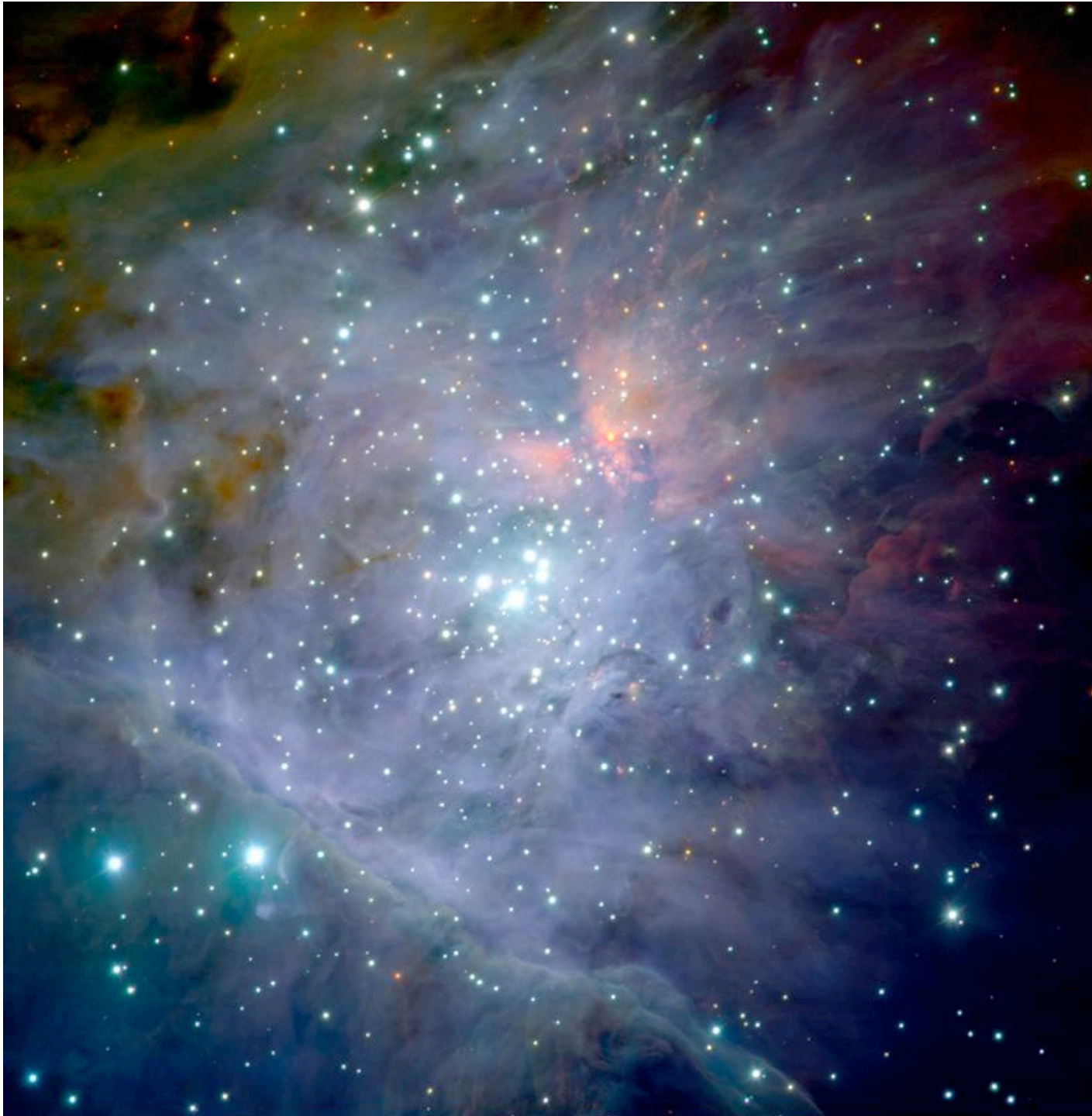
The Orion molecular cloud is the birth- place of several young embedded star clusters.

The Trapezium cluster is only visible in the IR and contains about 2000 newly born stars.



Trapezium cluster





## Trapezium Cluster (detail)

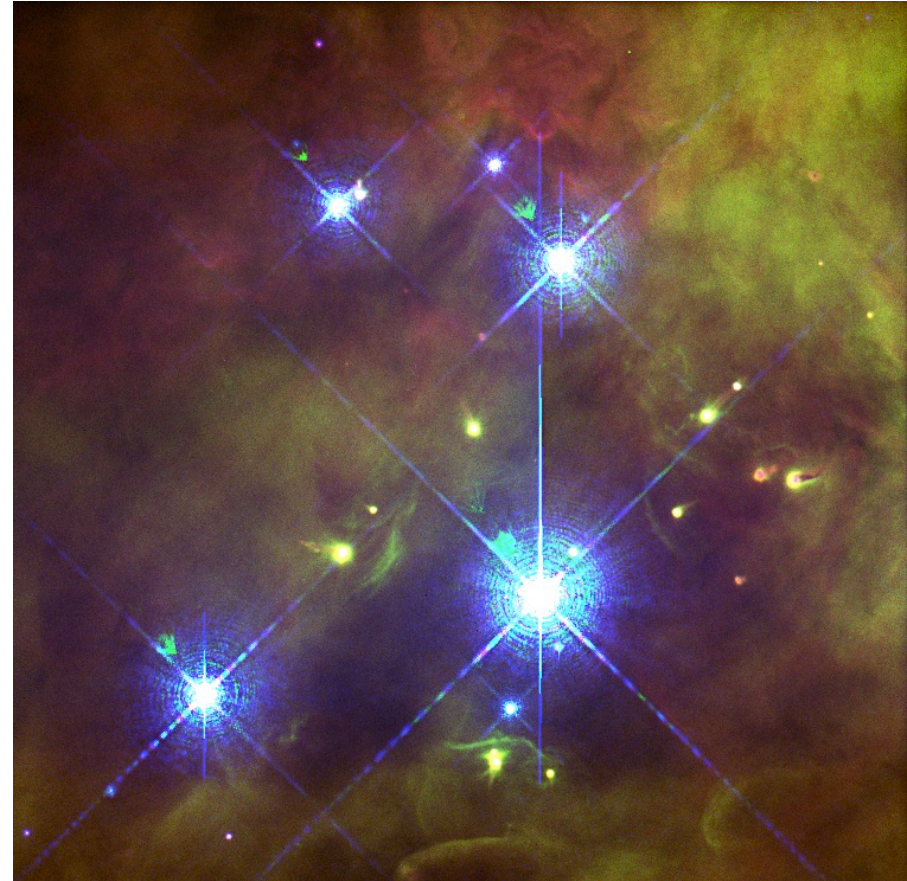
- stars form in **clusters**
- stars form in **molecular clouds**
- (proto)stellar **feedback** is important

(color composite J,H,K  
by M. McCaughrean,  
VLT, Paranal, Chile)

# Trapezium Cluster: Central Region



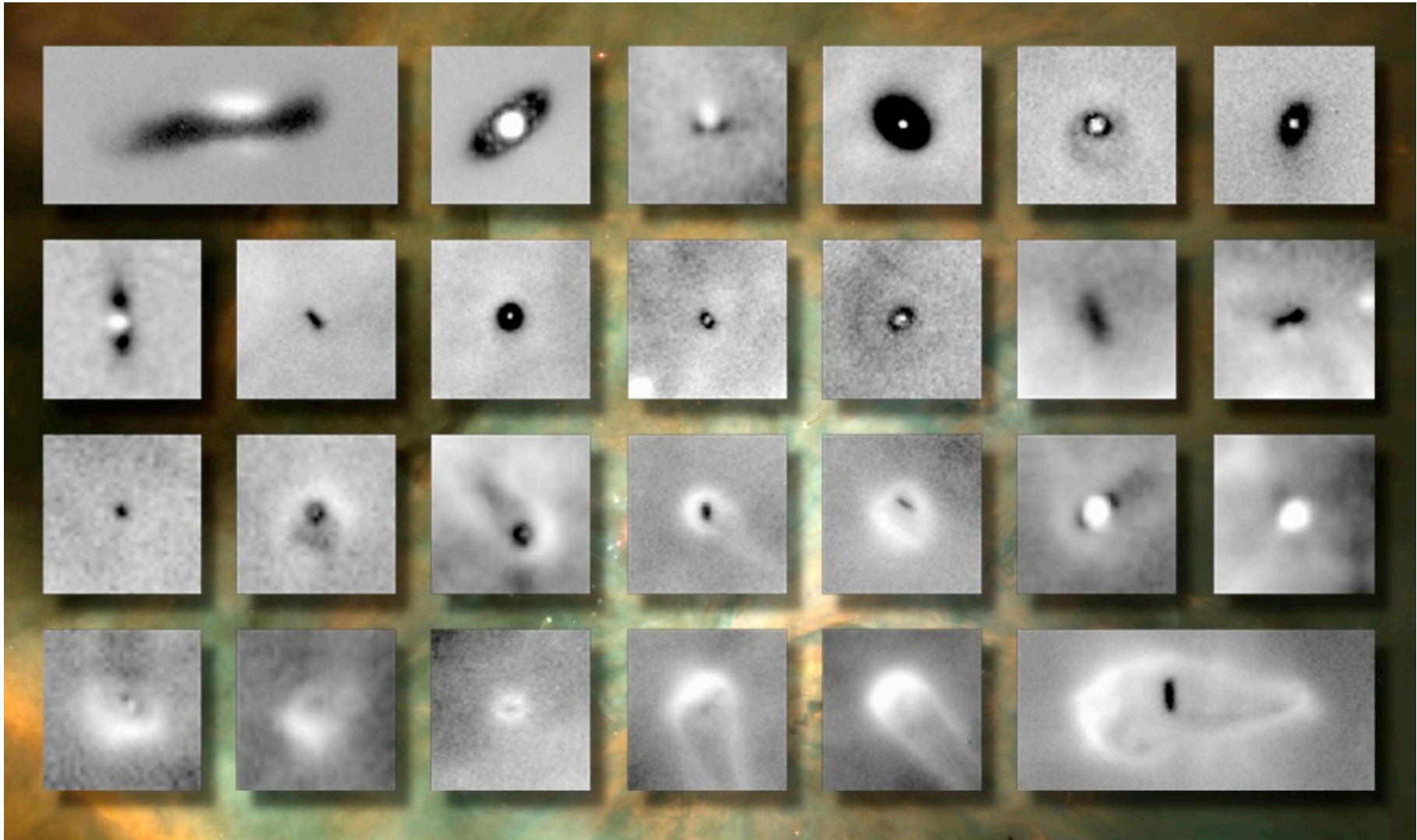
Ionizing radiation from central star  
**Theta 1C Orionis**



**Proplyds:** Evaporating ``protoplanetary`` disks  
around young low-mass protostars



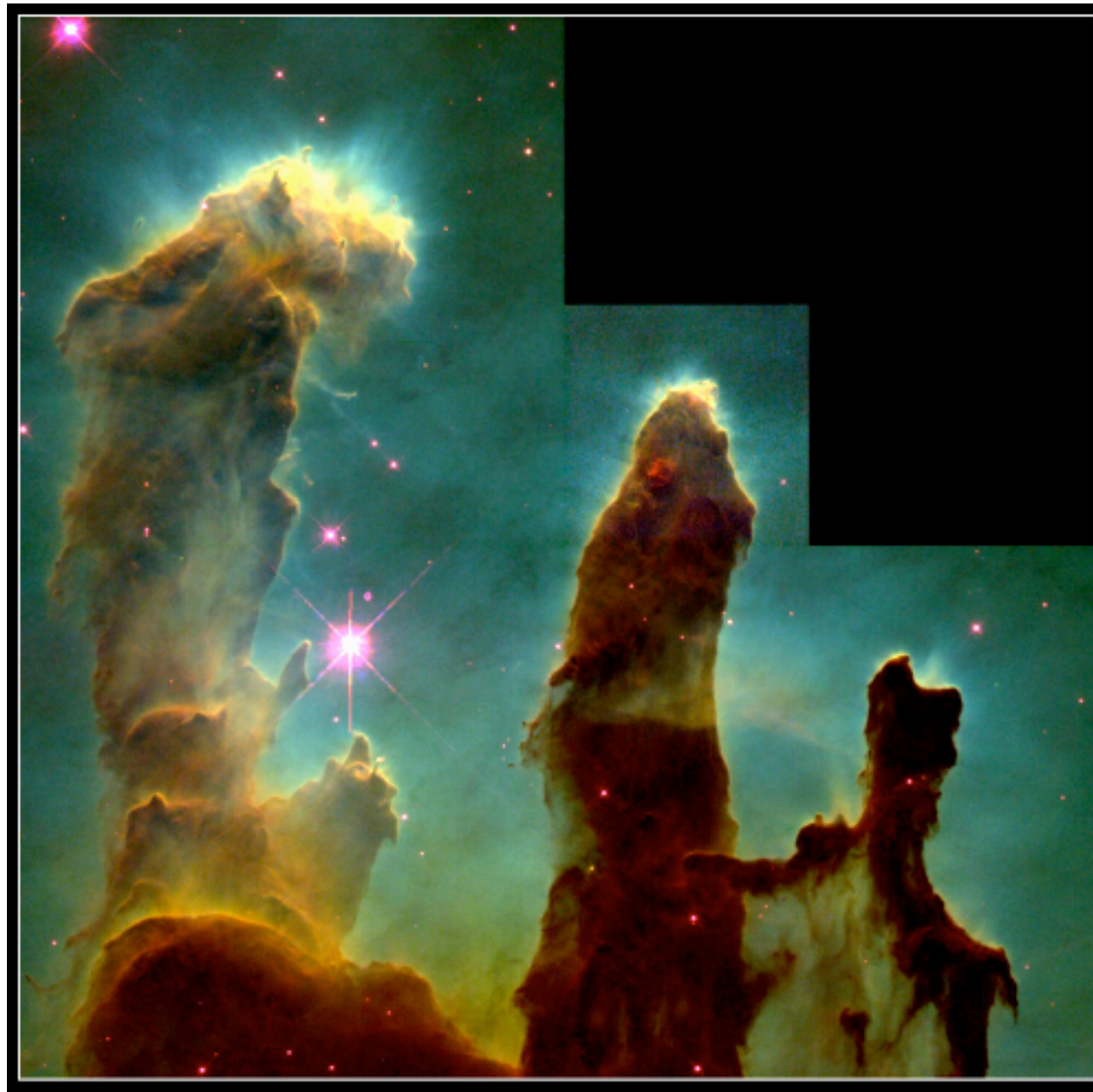
# Futher Details: Siluette Disks in Orion



protostellar disks: dark shades in front of the photodissociation region in the background. Each image is 750 AU x 750 AU.

(data: Mark McCaughrean)

Ralf Klessen: Basel: 29. 11, 2006

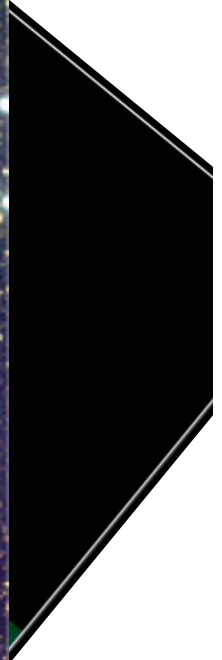


HST Aufnahme

*Pillars of God* (in Eagle Nebula): Formation of small groups of young stars in the tips of the columns of gas and dust .....



Infrared  
observation







Head of Column No.1 in Eagle Nebula (IR-View)  
(VLT ANTU + ISAAC)

ESO PR Photo 37c/01 (20 December 2001)

© European Southern Observatory



IR observation with ESO-VLT

*Pillars of God* (in Eagle Nebula): Formation of small groups of young stars in the tips of the columns of gas and dust ....





Head of Column No.2 in Eagle Nebula (IR-View)  
(VLT ANTU + ISAAC)

ESO PR Photo 37d/01 (20 December 2001)

© European Southern Observatory



IR observation with ESO-VLT

*Pillars of God* (in Eagle Nebula): Formation of small groups of young stars in the tips of the columns of gas and dust ....

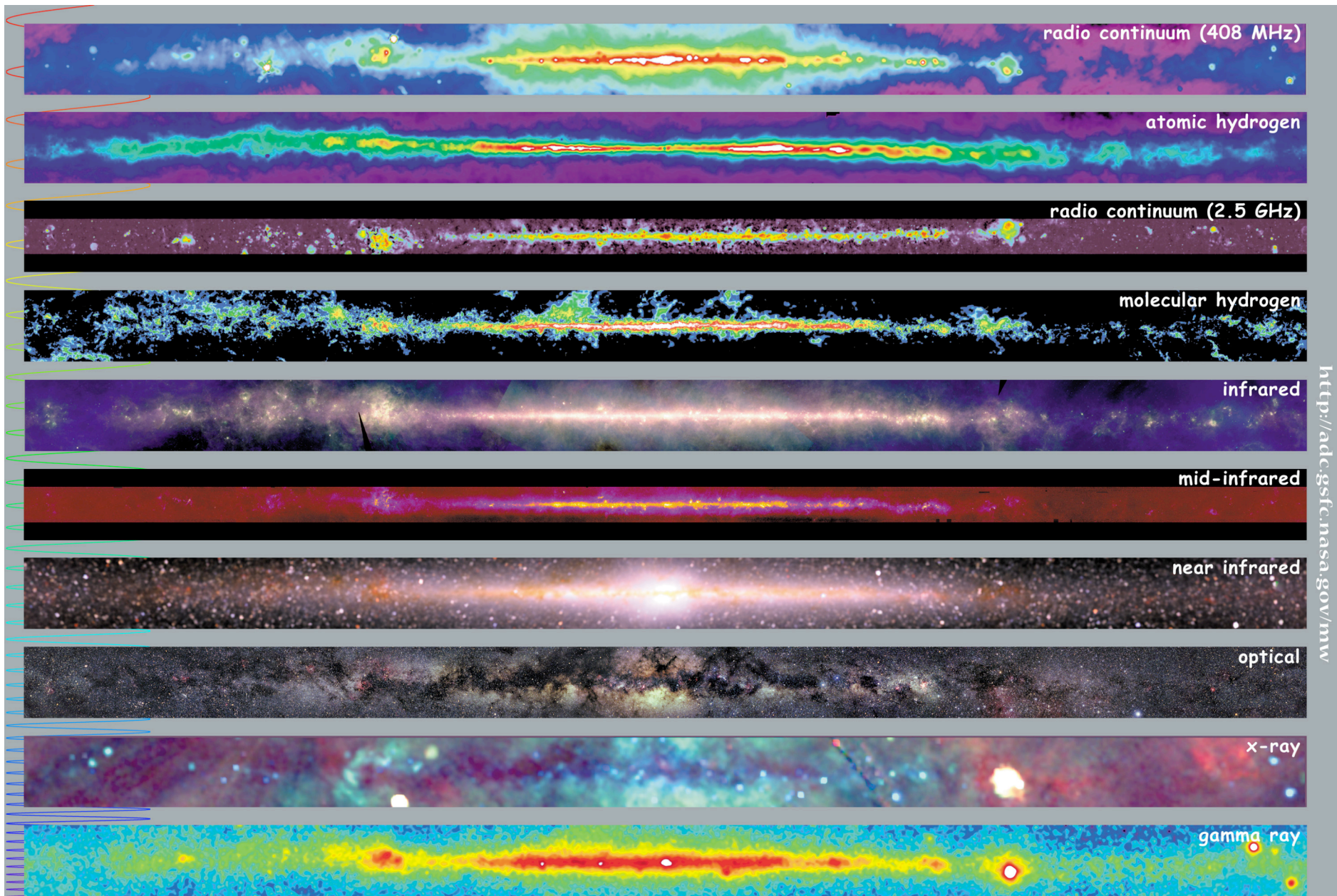
# How do we observe star forming clouds?

Different wavelength give different information.

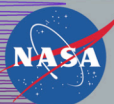
→astronomer use the full electromagnetic spectrum

- **Radio:** interstellar gas  
(line emission -> velocity information)
- **sub-mm range:** dust (thermal emission)
- **infrared & optical:** stars
- **x-rays:** stars (coronae), supernovae remnants (very hot gas)
- **γ-rays:** supernovae remnants (radioactive decay, e.g.  $^{26}\text{Al}$ ), compact objects, merging of neutron stars (γ-ray burst)





<http://adc.gsfc.nasa.gov/mw>



# Multiwavelength Milky Way

# Interstellar Matter: ISM

Abundances, scaled to 1.000.000 H atoms


element atomic number abundance

Wasserstoff	H	1	1.000.000
Deuterium	${}_1\text{H}^2$	1	16
Helium	He	2	68.000
Kohlenstoff	C	6	420
Stickstoff	N	7	90
Sauerstoff	O	8	700
Neon	Ne	10	100
Natrium	Na	11	2
Magnesium	Mg	12	40
Aluminium	Al	13	3
Silicium	Si	14	38
Schwefel	S	16	20
Calcium	Ca	20	2
Eisen	Fe	26	34
Nickel	Ni	28	2

Hydrogen is by far the most abundant element (more than 90% in number).

# Phases of the ISM

Because hydrogen is the dominating element, the classification scheme is based on its chemical state:

<i>ionized atomic hydrogen</i>	$HII (H^+)$	 Ionisation Phasenübergang
<i>neutraler atomic hydrogen</i>	$HI (H)$	
<i>molecular hydrogen</i>	$H_2$	

different regions consist of almost 100% of the appropriate phase, the transition regions between  $HII$ ,  $H$  and  $H_2$  are very thin.

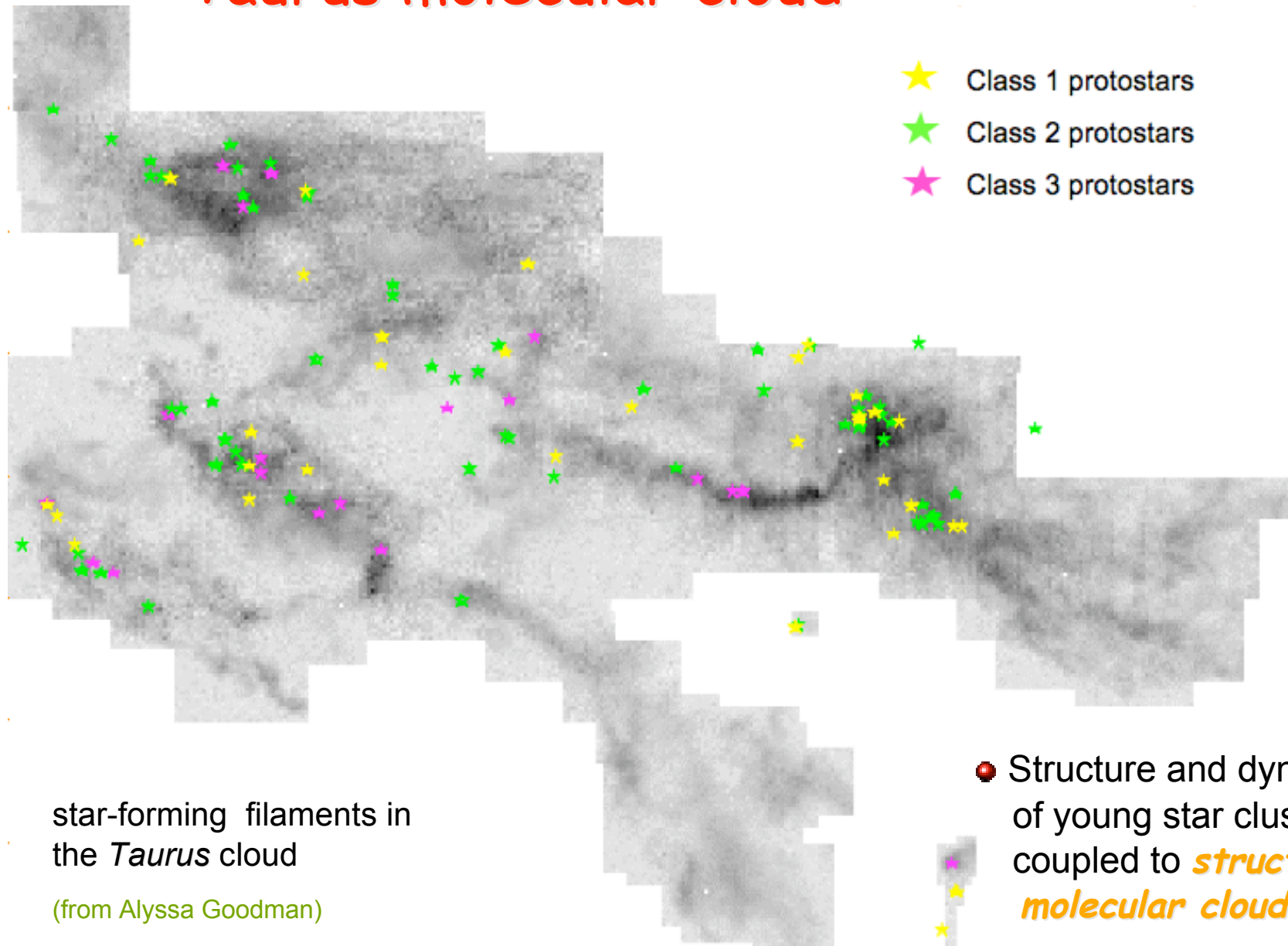
star formation always takes place in dense and cold molecular clouds.

# ISM-Properties

- most important for star formation: **molecular hydrogen**
- most important wavelength: **IR and Radio emission**  
(dust continuum and molecular lines: CO, NH<sub>3</sub>, CS, etc. )  
(more than 170 different molecules identified)
- Problem: only projection along the line of sight (real 3d structure of molecular clouds illusive)
- column density from intensity of line emission
- LOS velocity by Doppler shift of observed lines



# Taurus molecular cloud



# the questions

# The star formation process

- *How* do stars form?
  - What determines *when* and *where* stars form?
  - What *regulates* the process and determines its *efficiency*?
  - How do *global* properties of the galaxy influence star formation (a *local* process)?
  - Are there different *modes* of SF?  
(Starburst galaxies vs. *LSBs*, *isolated* SF vs. *clustered* SF)
- *What physical processes initiate and control the formation of stars?*

# historic overview

# Early dynamical theory

- *Jeans (1902)*: Interplay between self-gravity and thermal pressure

- stability of homogeneous spherical density enhancements against gravitational collapse
- dispersion relation:

$$\omega^2 = c_s^2 k^2 - 4\pi G \rho_0$$

- instability when  $\omega^2 < 0$

- minimal mass:  $M_J = \frac{1}{6} \pi^{-5/2} G^{-3/2} \rho_0^{-1/2} c_s^3 \propto \rho_0^{-1/2} T^{3/2}$



Sir James Jeans, 1877 - 1946

# First approach to turbulence

- von Weizsäcker (1943, 1951) and Chandrasekhar (1951): concept of **MICROTURBULENCE**

- BASIC ASSUMPTION: separation of scales between dynamics and turbulence

$$l_{\text{turb}} \ll l_{\text{dyn}}$$

- then turbulent velocity dispersion contributes to effective soundspeed:

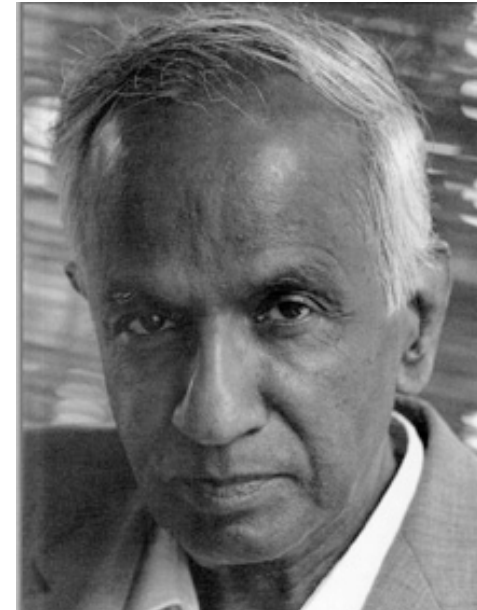
$$c^2 \mapsto c_e^2 + \sigma_{\text{rms}}^2$$

- → Larger effective Jeans masses → more stability

- BUT: (1) turbulence depends on  $k$ :

(2) supersonic turbulence → usually  $\sigma_{\text{rms}}^2(k)$

$$\sigma_{\text{rms}}^2(k) \gg c_s^2$$



S. Chandrasekhar, 1910 - 1995

# Properties of IMS turbulence

*ISM turbulence is:*

- **Supersonic** (rms velocity dispersion  $\gg$  sound speed)
- **Anisotropic** (shocks & magnetic field)
- **Driven on large scales** (power in mol. clouds always dominated by largest-scale modes)

Microturbulent approach is  
NOT valid in ISM

- **No closed analytical/statistical formulation known --> necessity for numerical modeling**



# Problems of early dynamical theory

- Molecular clouds are *highly Jeans-unstable*  
Yet, they do *NOT* form stars at high rate  
and with high efficiency.  
(the observed global SFE in molecular clouds is  $\sim 5\%$ )  
→ *something prevents large-scale collapse.*
- All throughout the early 1990's, molecular clouds  
had been thought to be long-lived quasi-equilibrium  
entities.
- Molecular clouds are *magnetized*.

# Magnetic star formation

- *Mestel & Spitzer (1956)*: Magnetic fields can prevent collapse!!!

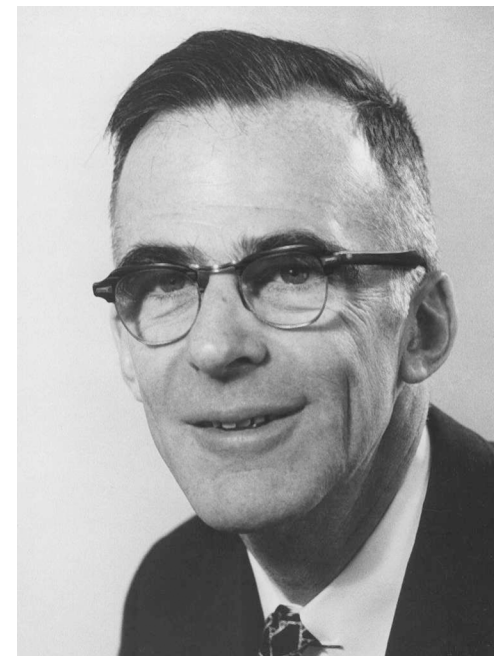
- Critical mass for gravitational collapse in presence of B-field

$$M_{cr} = \frac{5^{3/2}}{48\pi^2} \frac{B^3}{G^{3/2} \rho^2}$$

- Critical mass-to-flux ratio (Mouschovias & Spitzer 1976)

$$\left[ \frac{M}{\Phi} \right]_{cr} = \frac{\xi}{3\pi} \left[ \frac{5}{G} \right]^{1/2}$$

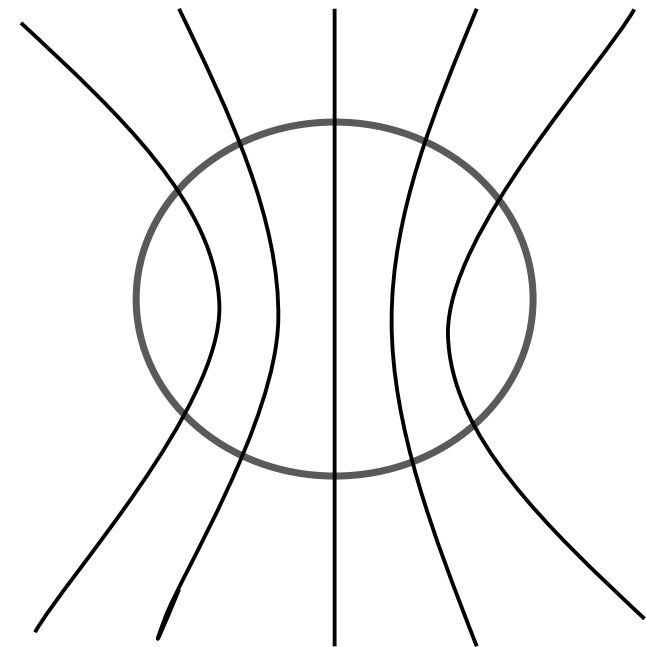
- Ambipolar diffusion can initiate collapse



Lyman Spitzer, Jr., 1914 - 1997

# The "standard theory" of star formation:

- BASIC ASSUMPTION: Stars form from magnetically highly subcritical cores
- Ambipolar diffusion slowly increases  $(M/\Phi)$ :  $\tau_{AD} \approx 10\tau_{ff}$
- Once  $(M/\Phi) > (M/\Phi)_{crit}$  : dynamical collapse of SIS
  - Shu (1977) collapse solution
  - $dM/dt = 0.975 c_s^3/G = \text{const.}$
- Was (in principle) only intended for isolated, low-mass stars



# Problems of magnetic SF

- **Observed B-fields are weak, at most marginally critical** (Crutcher 1999, Bourke et al. 2001)
- **Magnetic fields cannot prevent decay of turbulence** (Mac Low et al. 1998, Stone et al. 1998, Padoan & Nordlund 1999)
- **Structure of prestellar cores** (Bacman et al. 2000, e.g. Barnard 68 from Alves et al. 2001)
- **Strongly time varying  $dM/dt$**  (e.g. Hendriksen et al. 1997, André et al. 2000)
- **More extended infall motions than predicted by the standard model** (Williams & Myers 2000, Myers et al. 2000)

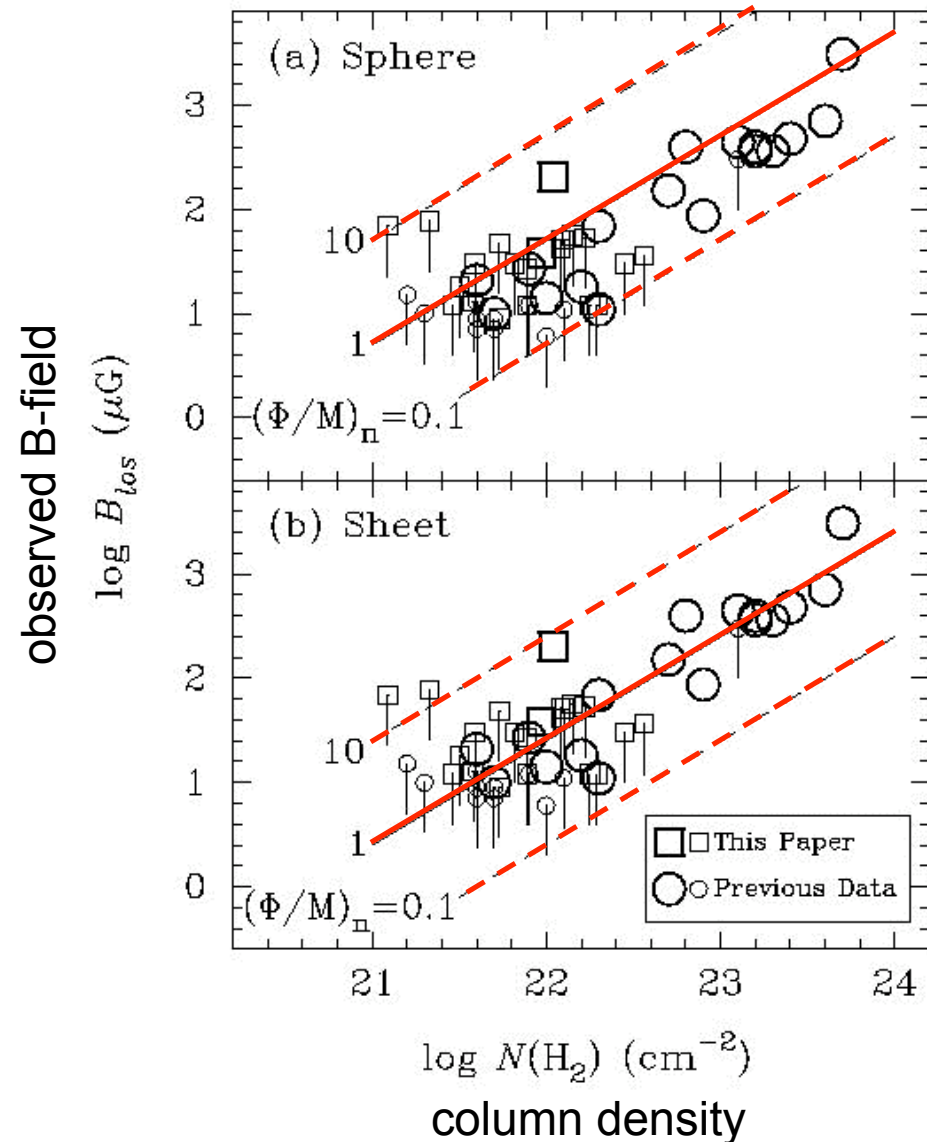
# Observed B-fields are weak

$B$  versus  $N(\text{H}_2)$  from  
*Zeeman measurements*.  
(from Bourke et al. 2001)

→ cloud cores are  
magnetically  
supercritical!!!!

$(\Phi/M)_n > 1$  no collapse

$(\Phi/M)_n < 1$  collapse

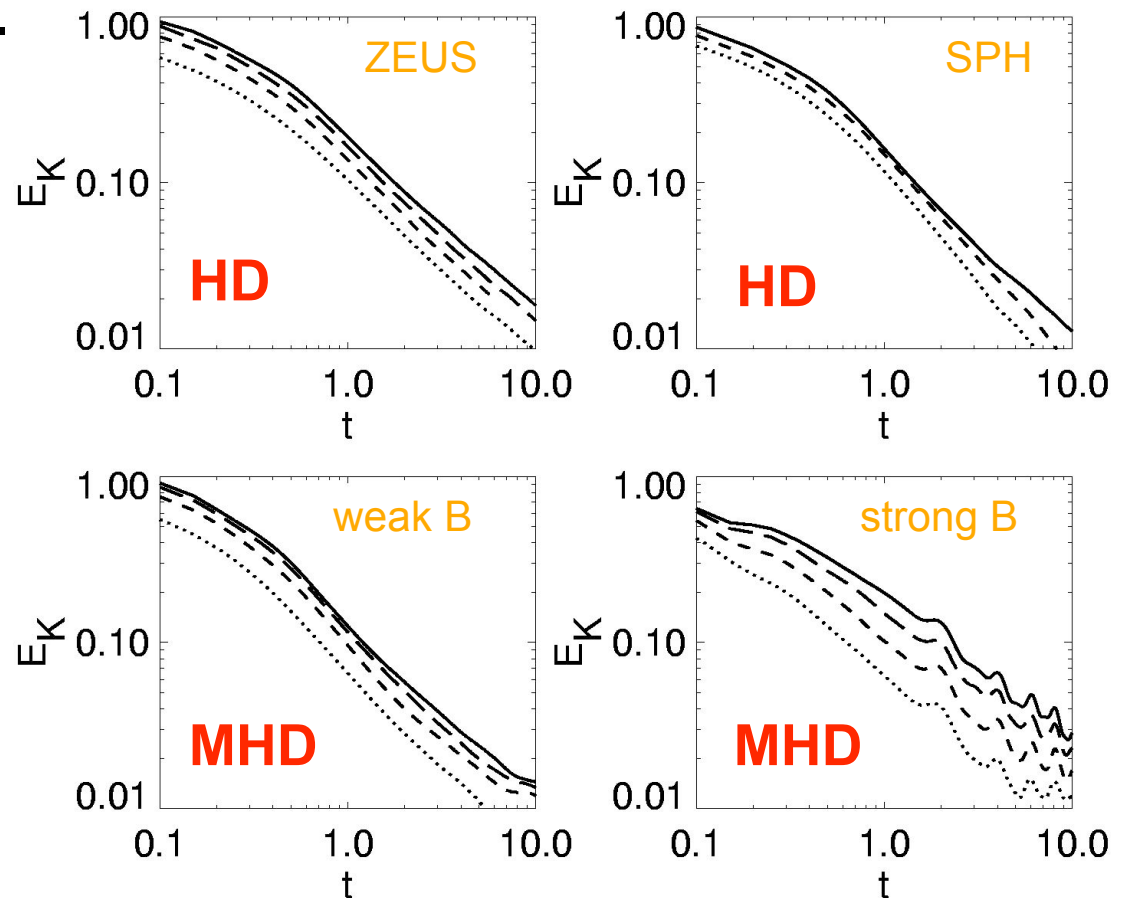


# Molecular cloud dynamics

- **Timescale problem:** Turbulence *decays* on timescales *comparable to the free-fall time*  $\tau_{\text{ff}}$  ( $E \propto t^{-\eta}$  with  $\eta \approx 1$ ).

(Mac Low et al. 1998,  
Stone et al. 1998,  
Padoan & Nordlund 1999)

- Magnetic fields (static or wave-like) *cannot* prevent loss of energy.



(Mac Low, Klessen, Burkert, & Smith, 1998, PRL)  
Ra

# Problems of magnetic SF

- As many prestellar cores as protostellar cores in SF regions (e.g. André et al 2002)
- Molecular cloud clumps seem to be chemically young  
(Bergin & Langer 1997, Pratap et al 1997, Aikawa et al 2001)
- Stellar age distribution small ( $\tau_{\text{ff}} \ll \tau_{\text{AD}}$ )  
(Ballesteros-Paredes et al. 1999, Elmegreen 2000, Hartmann 2001)
- Strong theoretical criticism of the SIS as starting condition for gravitational collapse  
(e.g. Whitworth et al 1996, Nakano 1998, as summarized in Klessen & Mac Low 2004)
- Most stars form as binaries

the idea



# Gravoturbulent star formation

- Idea:

*Star formation is controlled  
by interplay between  
gravity and  
supersonic turbulence!*

- Dual role of turbulence:

- *stability on large scales*
- *initiating collapse on small scales*

(e.g., Larson, 2003, Rep. Prog. Phys, 66, 1651;  
or Mac Low & Klessen, 2004, Rev. Mod. Phys., 76, 125)

# Gravoturbulent star formation

- Idea:

*Star formation is controlled  
by interplay between  
gravity and  
supersonic turbulence!*

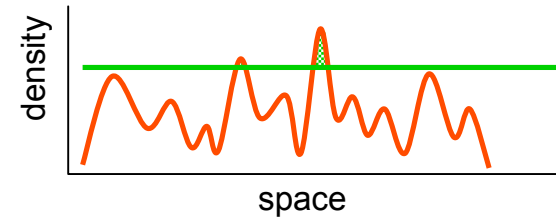
- Validity:

This hold on *all* scales and applies to build-up of stars and star clusters within molecular clouds as well as to the formation of molecular clouds in galactic disk.

(e.g., Larson, 2003, Rep. Prog. Phys, 66, 1651;  
or Mac Low & Klessen, 2004, Rev. Mod. Phys., 76, 125)

# Gravoturbulent star formation

- interstellar gas is highly *inhomogeneous*
  - *thermal instability*
  - *gravitational instability*
  - *turbulent compression* (in shocks  $\delta\rho/\rho \propto M^2$ ; in atomic gas:  $M \approx 1\dots3$ )
- cold *molecular clouds* can form rapidly in high-density regions at *stagnation points of convergent large-scale flows*
  - chemical *phase transition*: atomic  $\rightarrow$  molecular
  - process is *modulated* by large-scale *dynamics* in the galaxy
- inside *cold clouds*: turbulence is highly supersonic ( $M \approx 1\dots20$ )  
 $\rightarrow$  *turbulence* creates large density contrast,  
*gravity* selects for collapse  
  
—————→ **GRAVOTUBULENT FRAGMENTATION**
- *turbulent cascade*: local compression *within* a cloud provokes collapse  
 $\rightarrow$  formation of individual *stars* and *star clusters*



turbulence



# Properties of turbulence

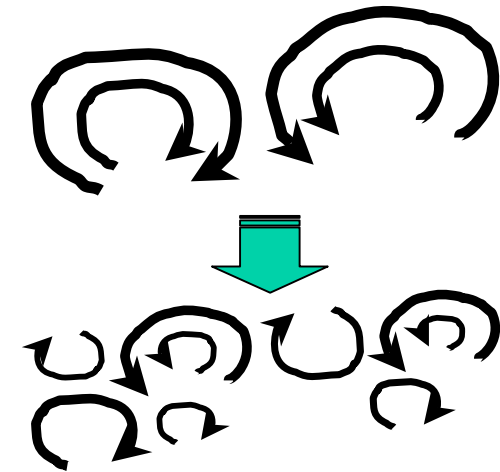
- laminar flows turn *turbulent* at *high Reynolds numbers*

$$\text{Re} = \frac{\text{advection}}{\text{dissipation}} = \frac{VL}{\nu}$$

$V$  = typical velocity on scale  $L$ ,  $\nu$  = viscosity,  $\text{Re} > 1000$

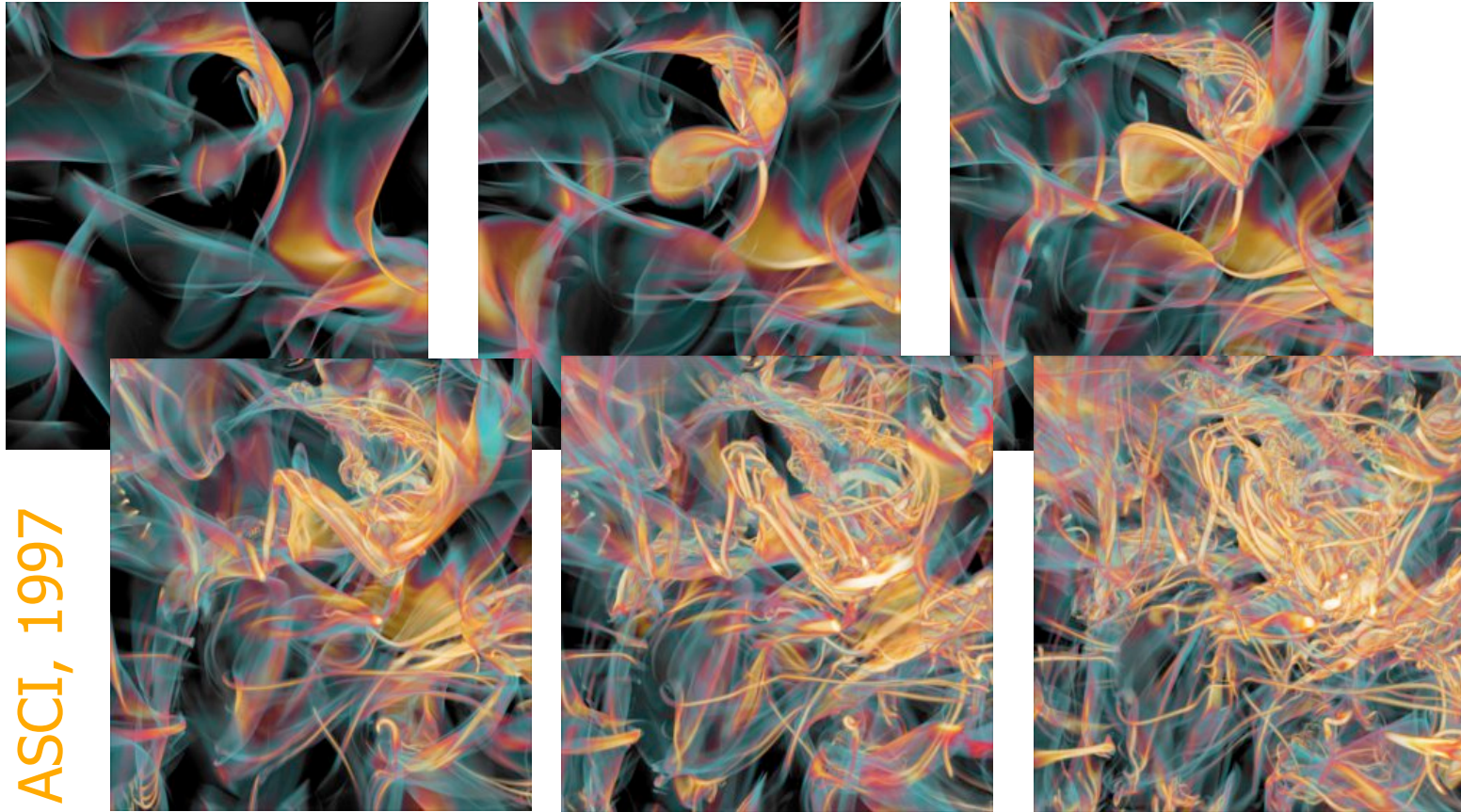
- *vortex stretching* --> turbulence is *intrinsically anisotropic* (only on large scales you *may* get homogeneity & isotropy in a statistical sense; see Landau & Lifschitz, Chandrasekhar, Taylor, etc.)

(ISM turbulence: shocks & B-field cause additional inhomogeneity)



# Vortex Formation

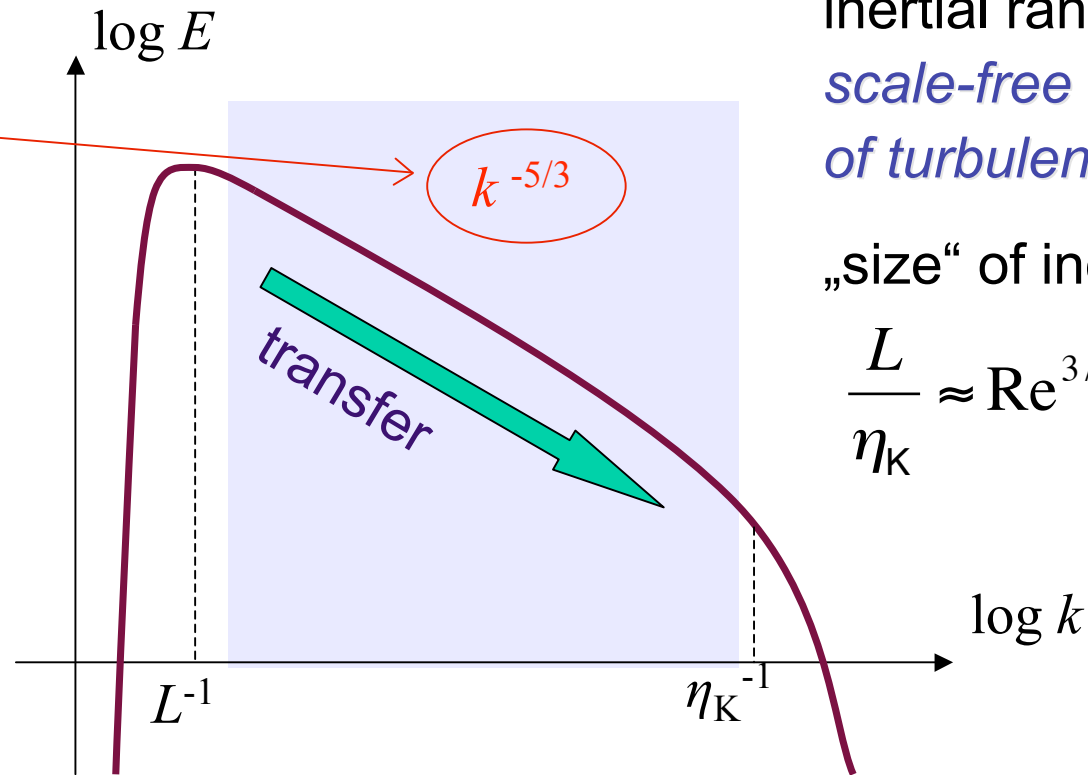
Porter et al.  
ASCI, 1997



Vortices are stretched and folded in **three dimensions**

# Turbulent cascade

Kolmogorov (1941) theory  
incompressible turbulence



inertial range:  
*scale-free behavior  
of turbulence*

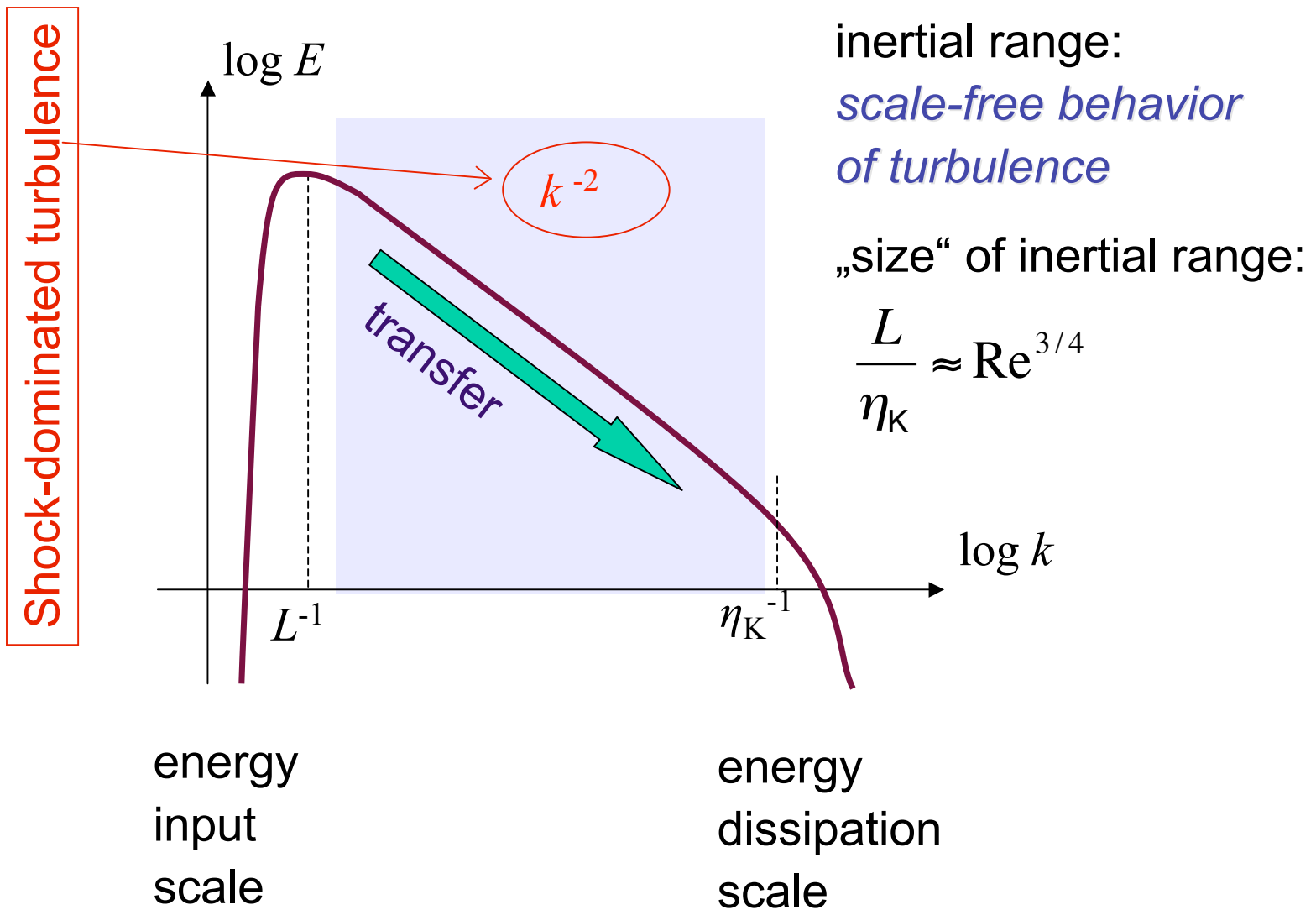
„size“ of inertial range:

$$\frac{L}{\eta_K} \approx \text{Re}^{3/4}$$

energy  
input  
scale

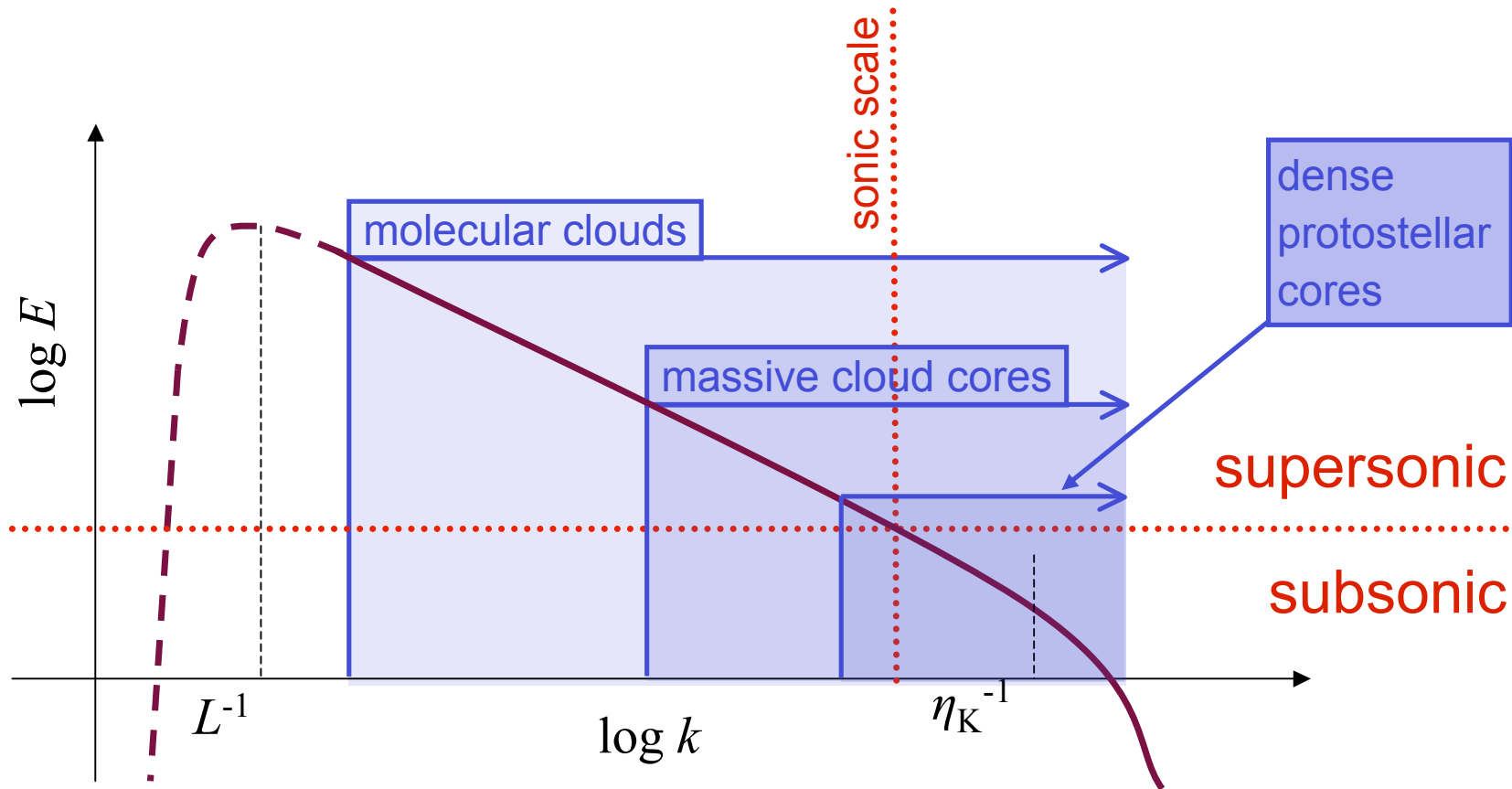
energy  
dissipation  
scale

# Turbulent cascade





# Turbulent cascade in ISM

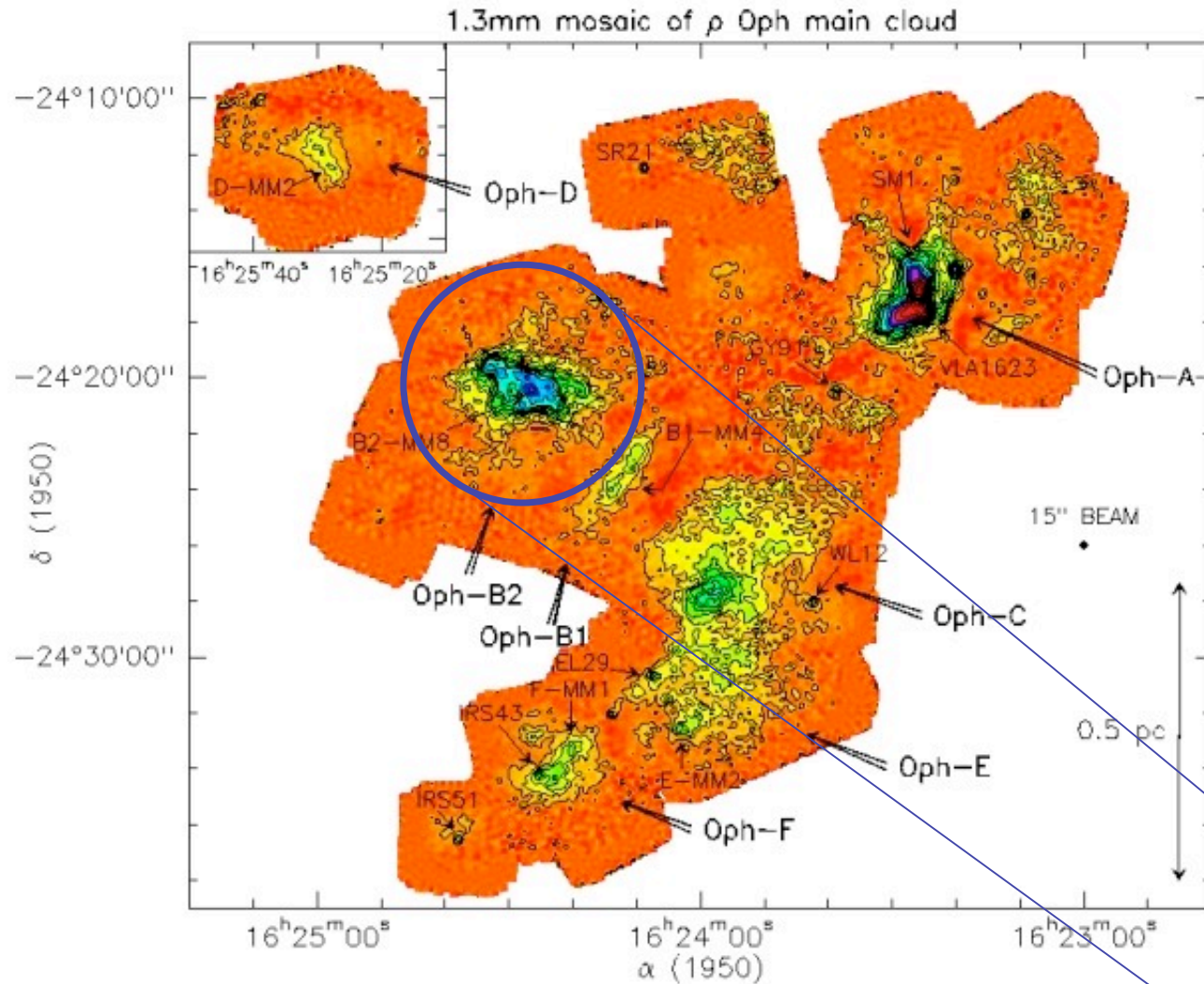


energy source & scale  
*NOT known*  
 (supernovae, winds,  
 spiral density waves?)

$\sigma_{\text{rms}} \ll 1 \text{ km/s}$   
 $M_{\text{rms}} \leq 1$   
 $L \approx 0.1 \text{ pc}$

dissipation scale not known  
 (ambipolar diffusion,  
 molecular diffusion?)

# Density structure of MC's



molecular clouds  
are highly  
inhomogeneous

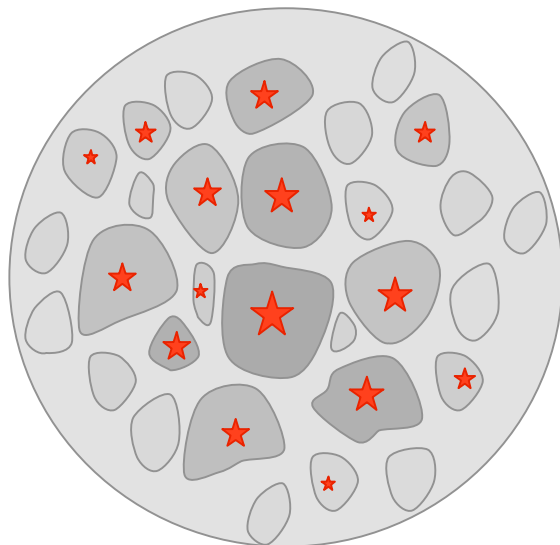
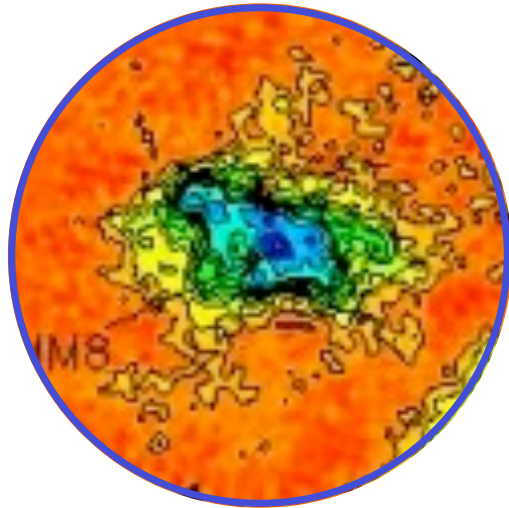
stars form in the  
densest and  
coldest parts of  
the cloud

$\rho$ -Ophiuchus  
cloud seen in dust  
emission

let's focus on  
a cloud core  
like this one

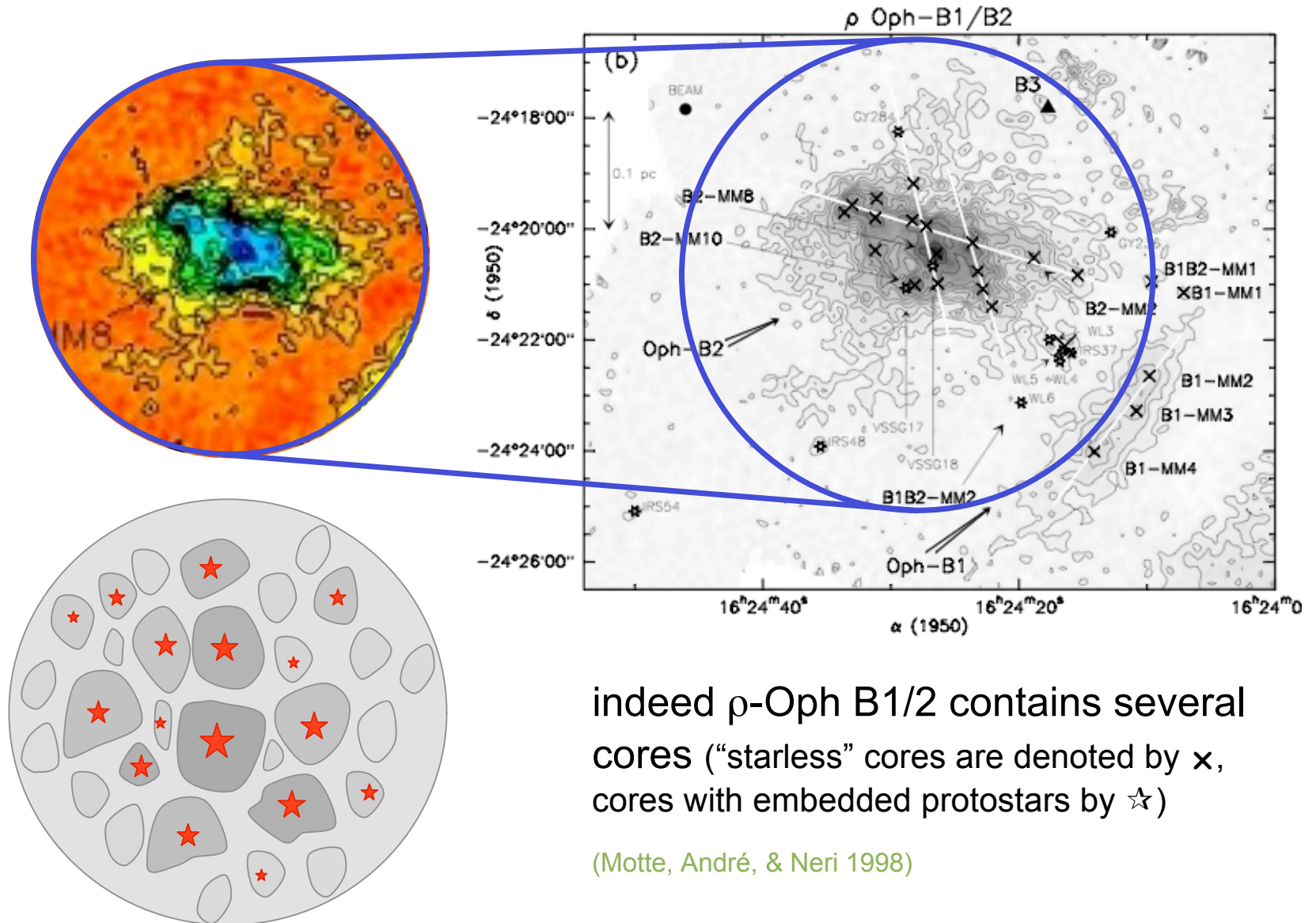
(Motte, André, & Neri 1998)

# Evolution of cloud cores



- How does this core evolve?  
Does it form one single massive star or cluster with mass distribution?
- Turbulent cascade „goes through“ cloud core  
--> NO *scale separation* possible  
--> NO *effective sound speed*
- Turbulence is supersonic!  
--> produces strong density contrasts:  
 $\delta\rho/\rho \approx M^2$   
--> with typical  $M \approx 10$  -->  $\delta\rho/\rho \approx 100!$
- many of the shock-generated fluctuations are Jeans unstable and go into collapse
- --> expectation: *core breaks up and forms a cluster of stars*

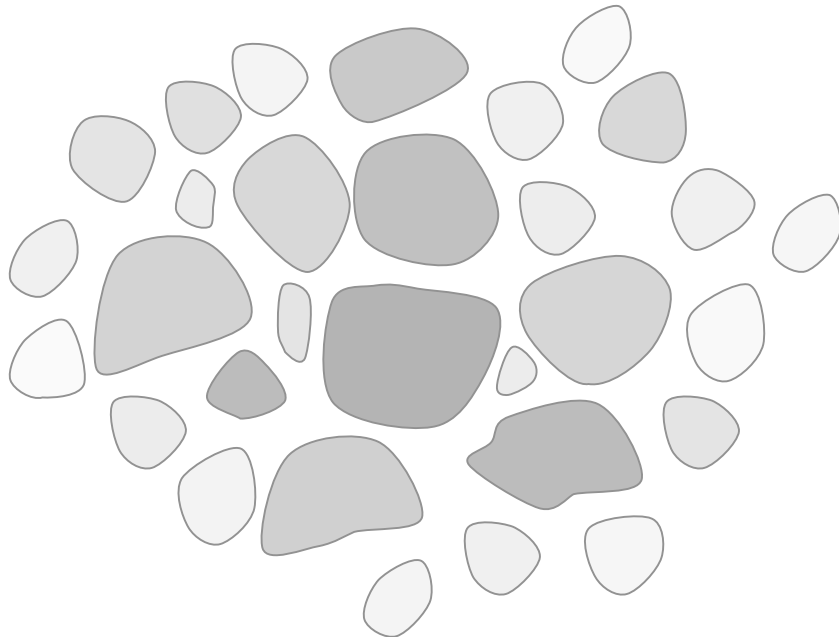
# Evolution of cloud cores





# Formation and evolution of cores

What happens to distribution of cloud cores?



Two extreme cases:

(1) turbulence dominates energy budget:

$$\alpha = E_{\text{kin}} / |E_{\text{pot}}| > 1$$

--> individual cores do *not* interact

--> *collapse of individual cores dominates stellar mass growth*

--> *loose cluster of low-mass stars*

(2) turbulence decays, i.e. gravity

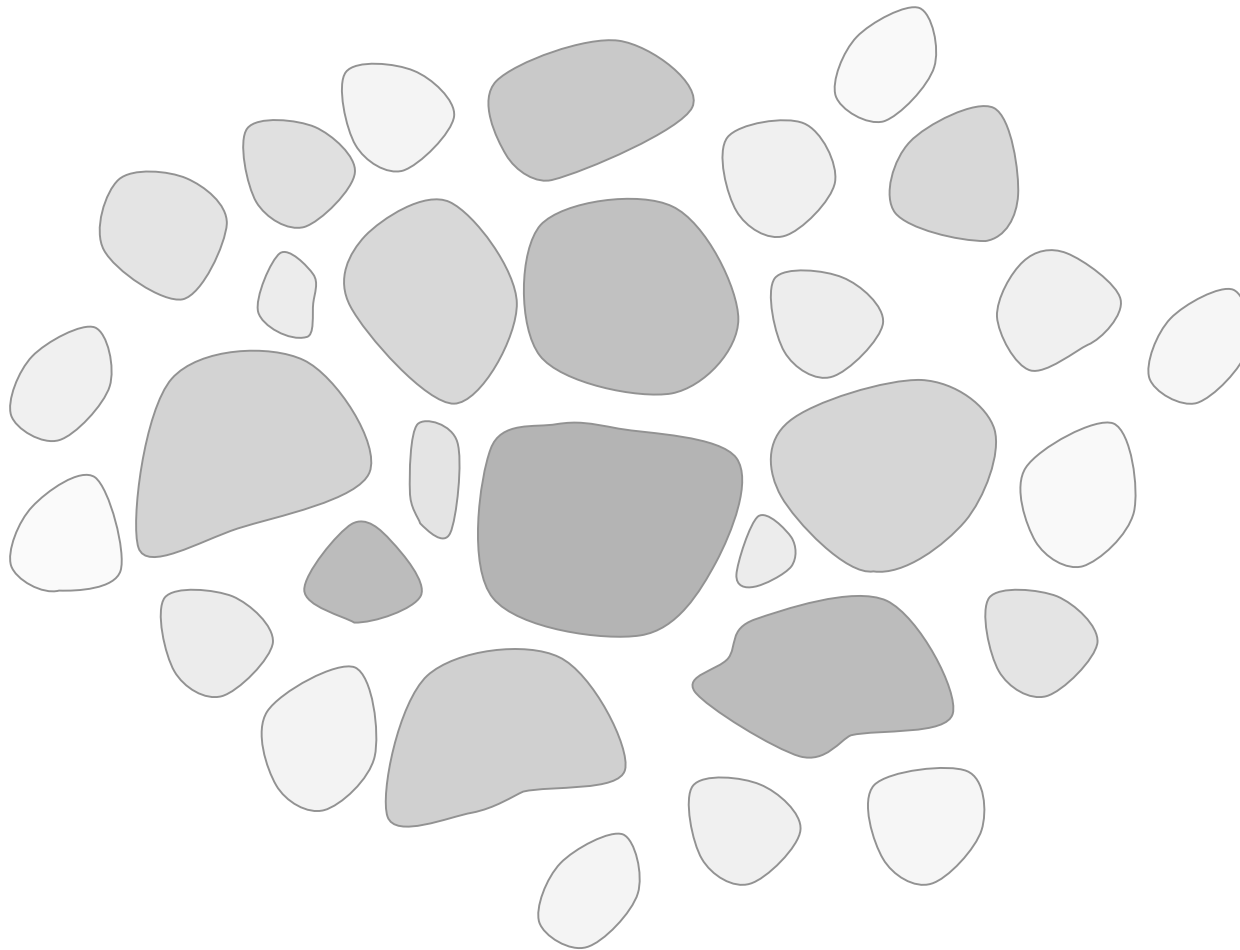
dominates:  $\alpha = E_{\text{kin}} / |E_{\text{pot}}| < 1$

--> *global contraction*

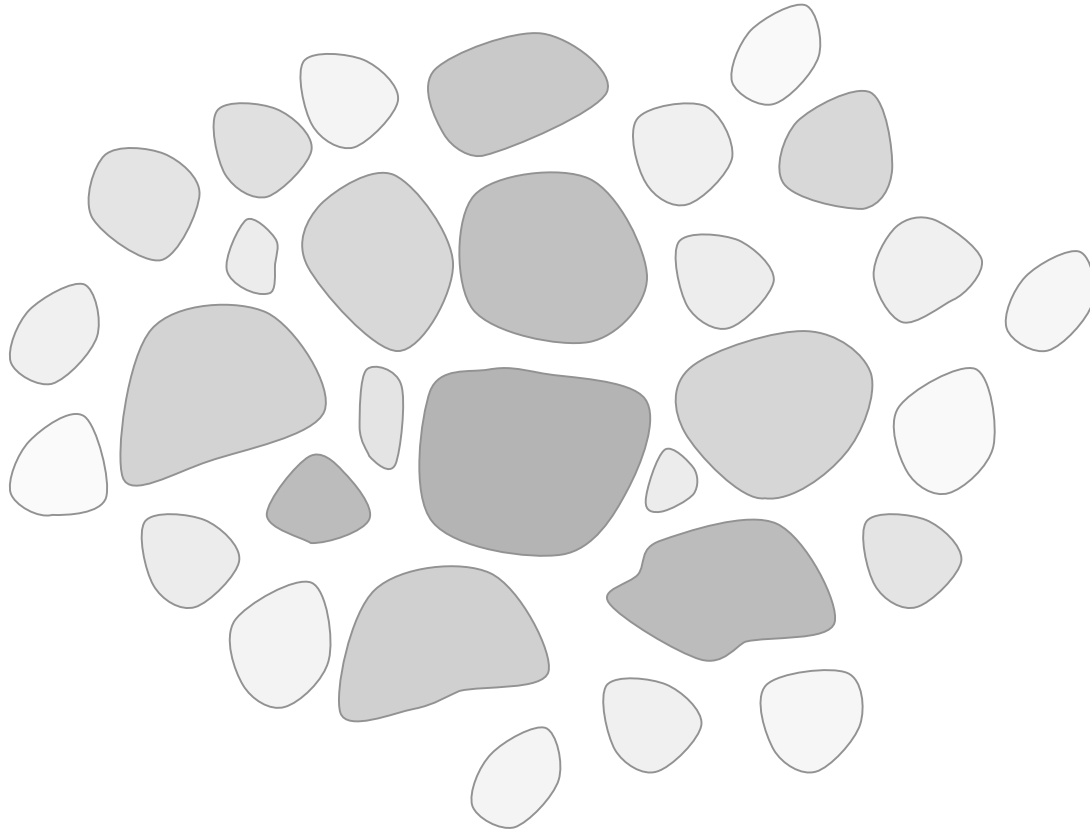
--> *core do interact while collapsing*

--> *competition influences mass growth*

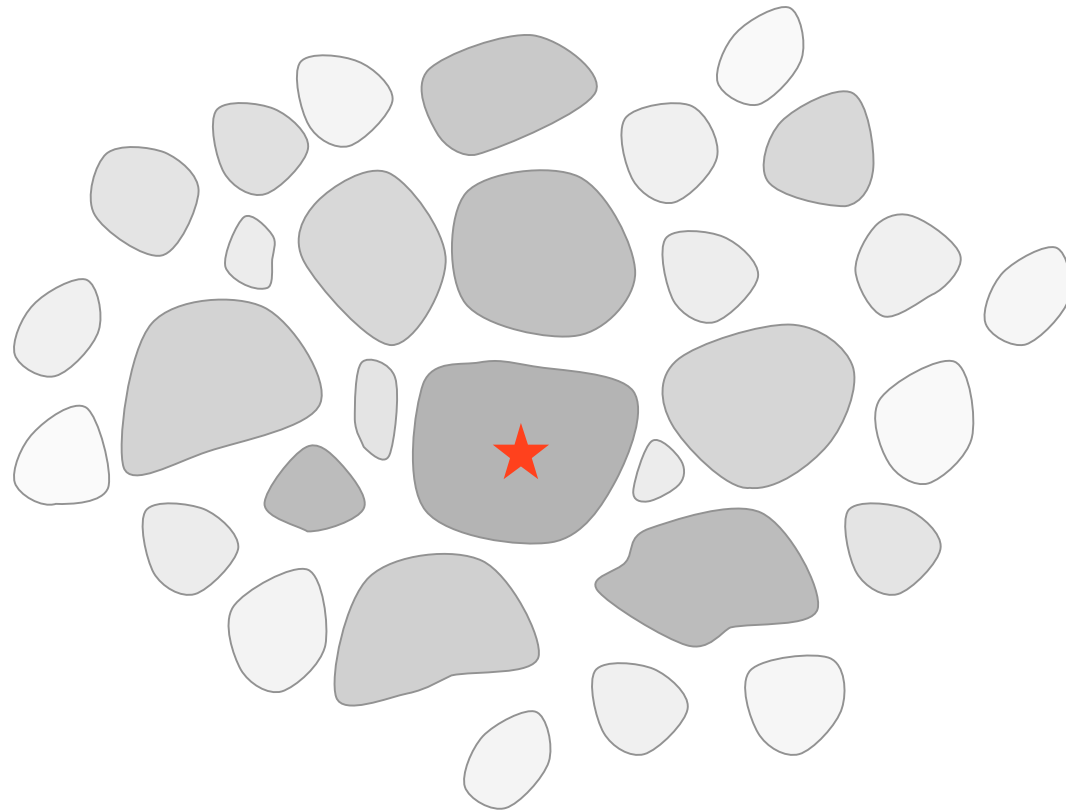
--> *dense cluster with high-mass stars*



turbulence creates a hierarchy of clumps

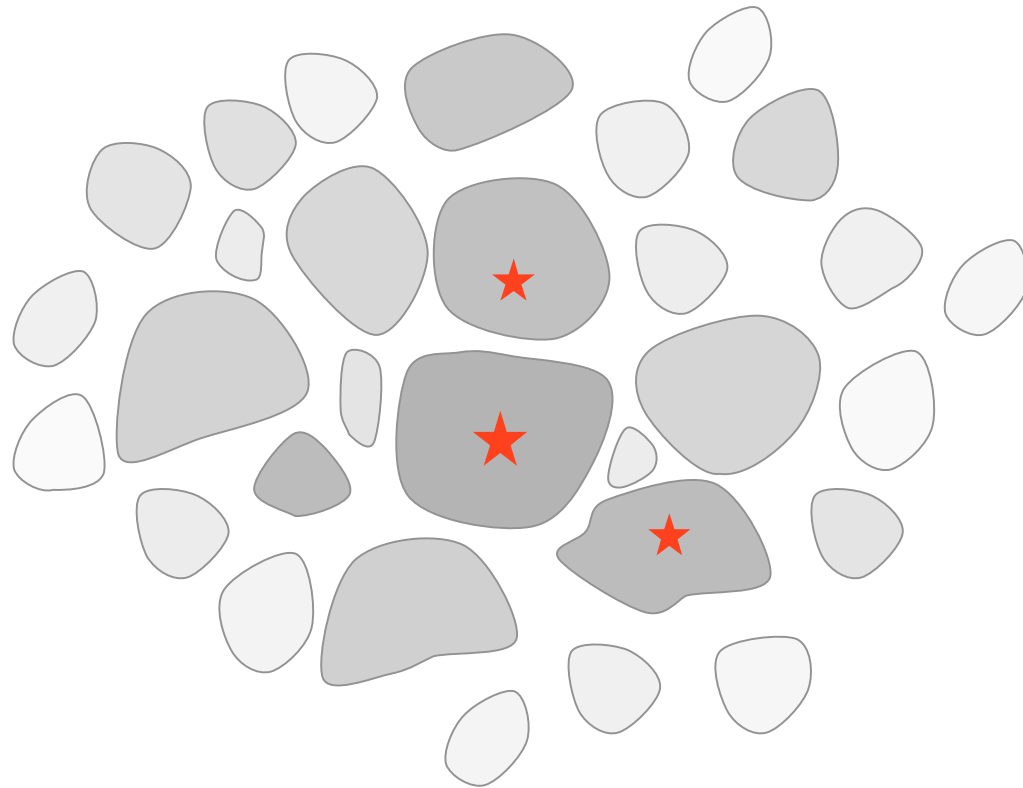


while region contracts, individual clumps collapse to form stars

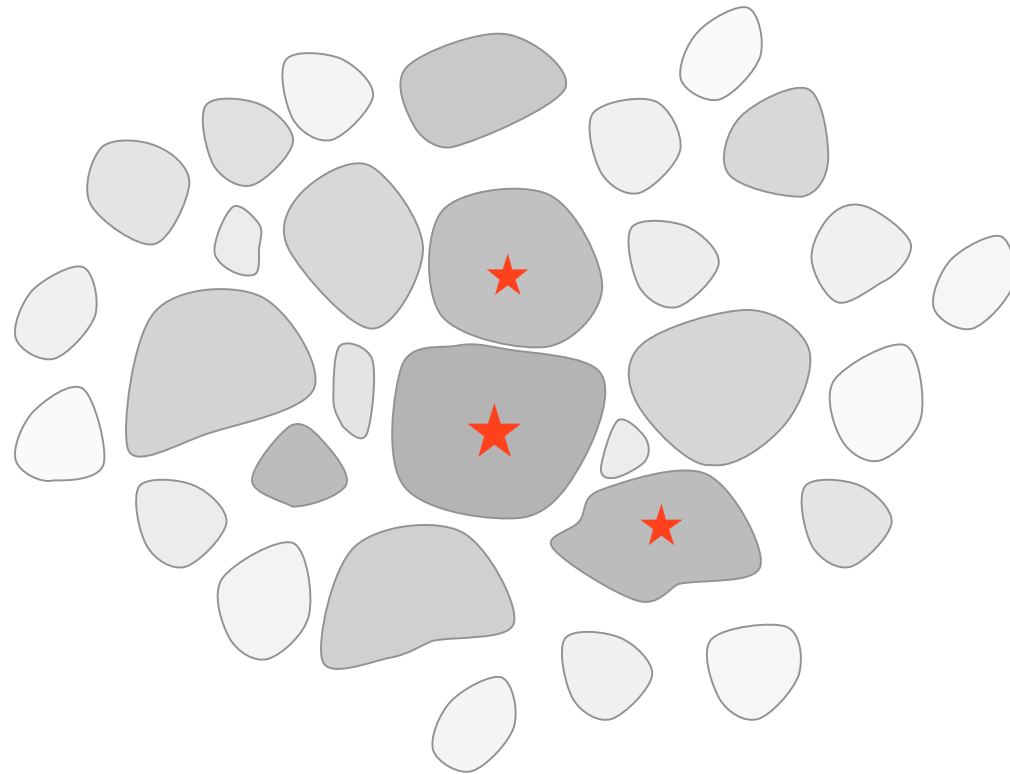


while region contracts, individual clumps collapse to form stars

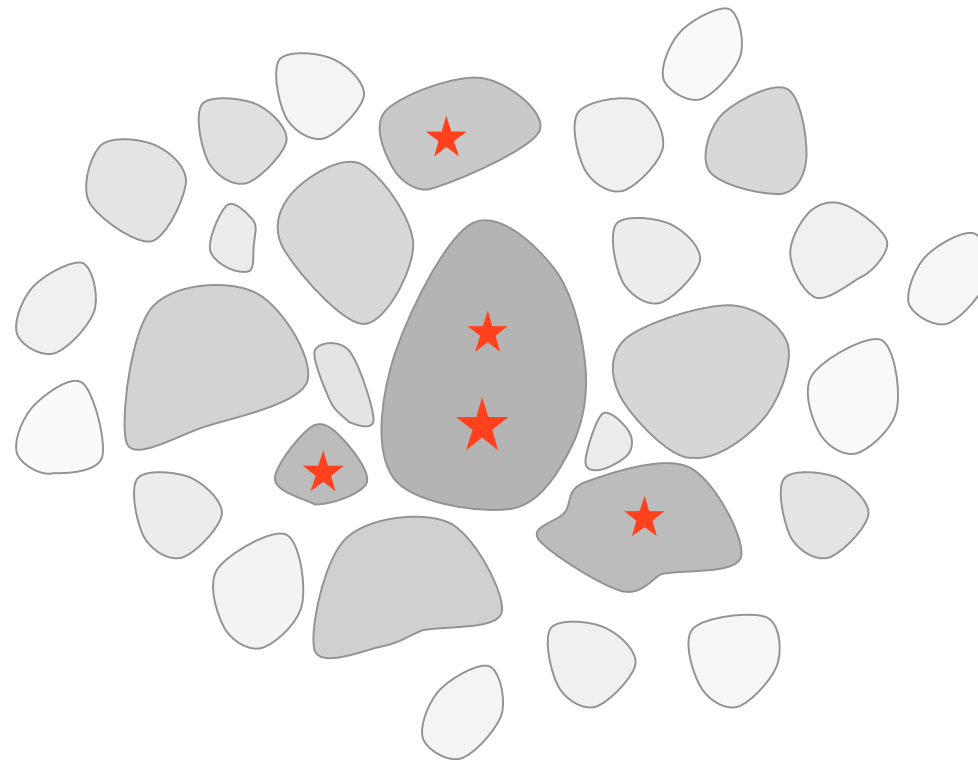




individual clumps collapse to form stars

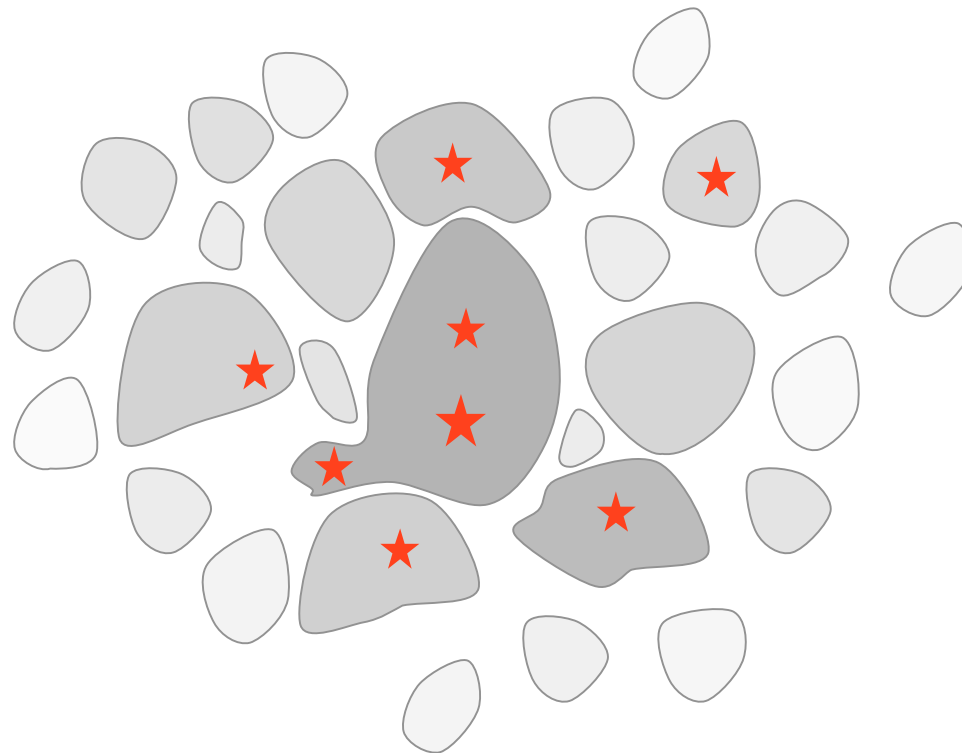


individual clumps collapse to form stars



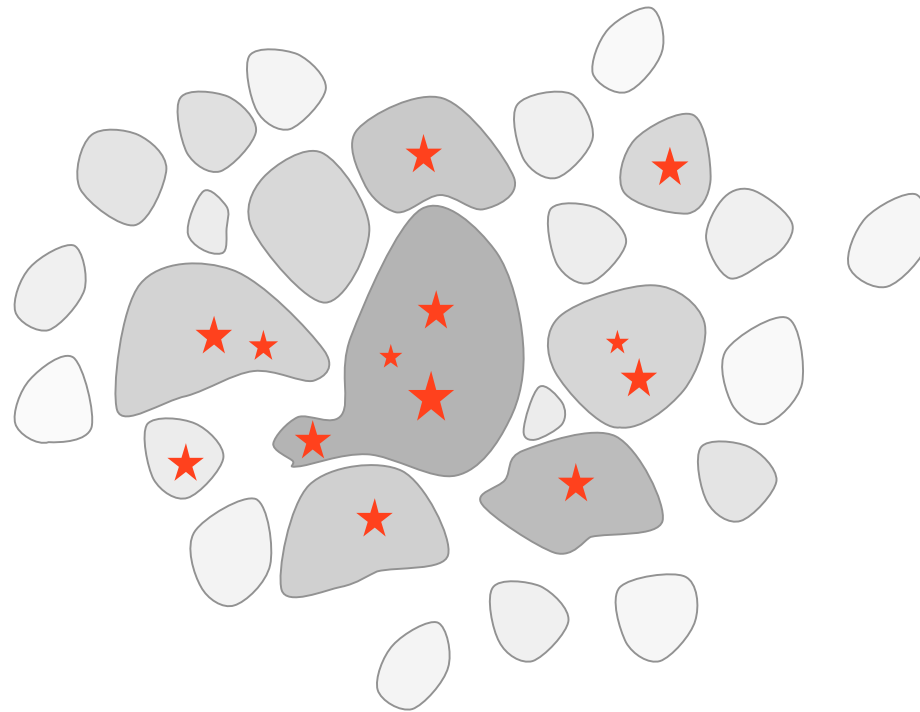
$$\alpha = E_{\text{kin}} / |E_{\text{pot}}| < 1$$

in *dense clusters*, clumps may merge while collapsing  
--> then contain multiple protostars

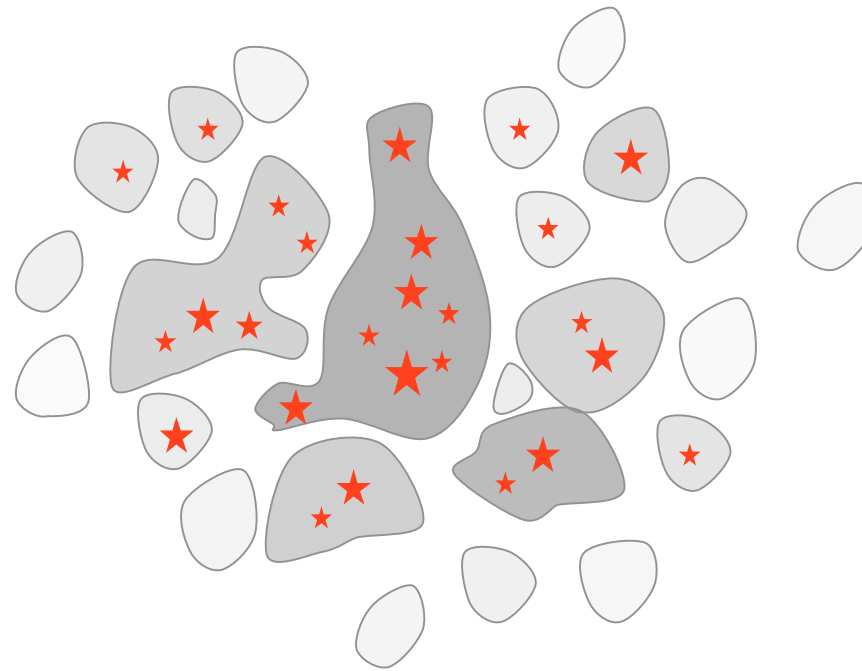


in *dense clusters*, clumps may merge while collapsing  
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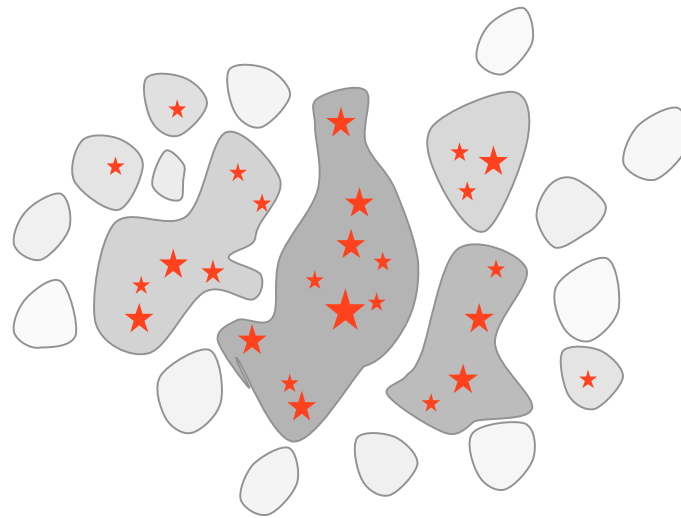




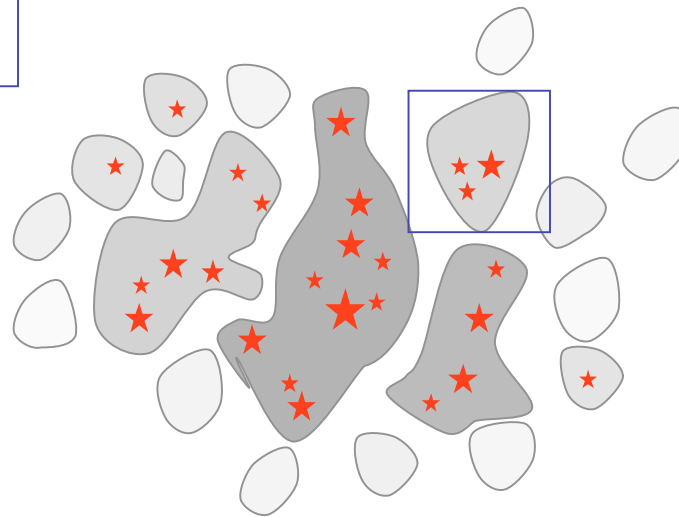
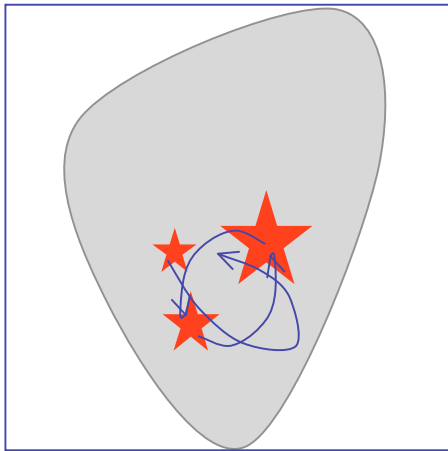
in *dense clusters*, clumps may merge while collapsing  
--> then contain multiple protostars



in *dense clusters*, competitive mass growth becomes important

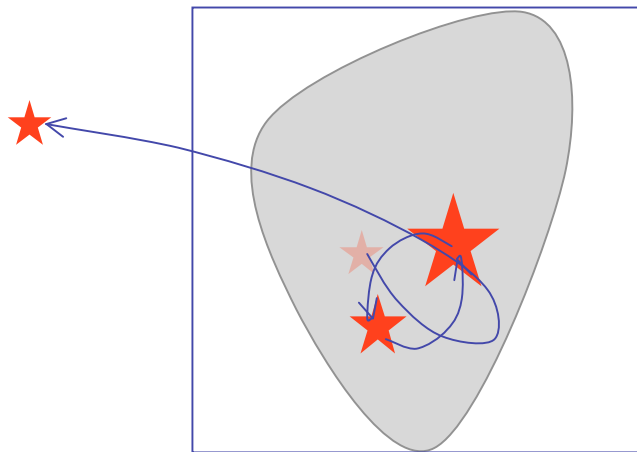
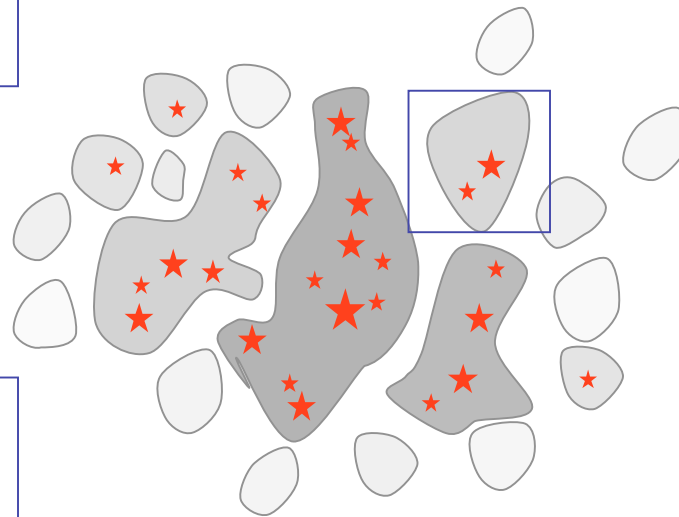
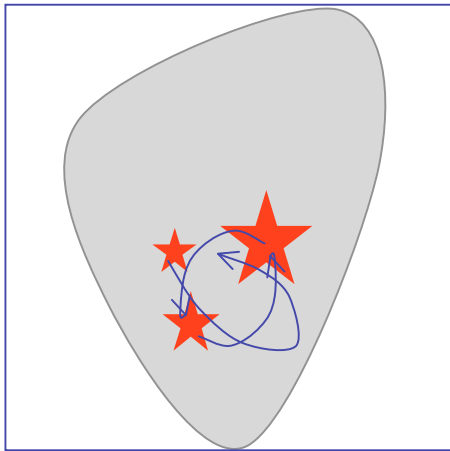


in *dense clusters*, competitive mass growth becomes important

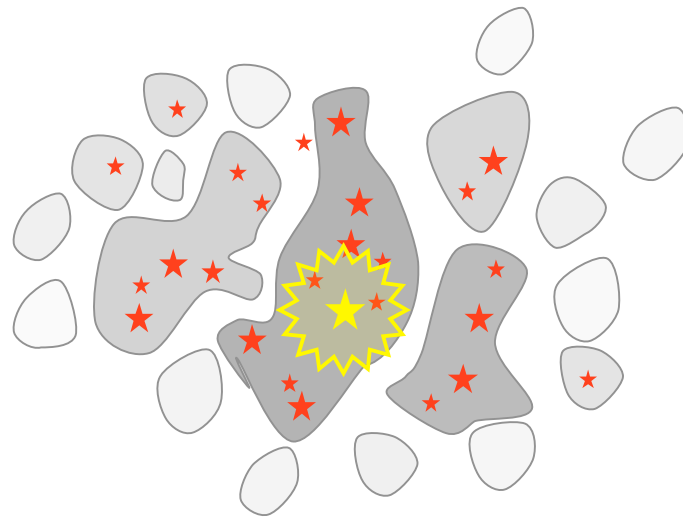


in *dense clusters*,  $N$ -body effects influence mass growth

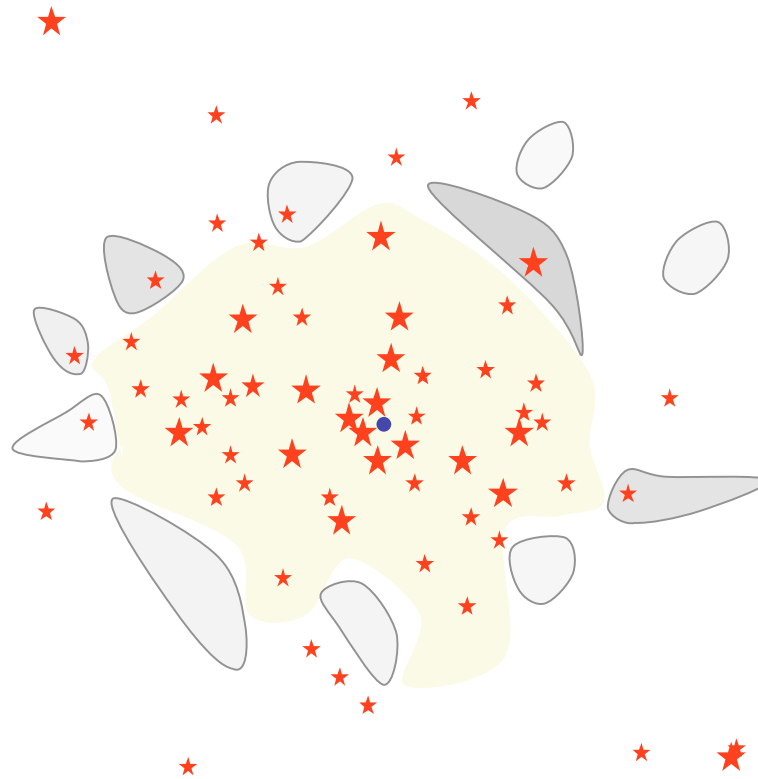




low-mass objects may  
become ejected --> accretion stops



feedback terminates star formation



result: *star cluster*, possibly with H II region

predictions



# Predictions

- *global properties* (statistical properties)
  - SF efficiency and timescale
  - stellar mass function -- IMF
  - dynamics of young star clusters
  - description of self-gravitating turbulent systems (pdf's,  $\Delta$ -var.)
  - chemical mixing properties
- *local properties* (properties of individual objects)
  - properties of individual clumps (e.g. shape, radial profile, lifetimes)
  - accretion history of individual protostars ( $dM/dt$  vs.  $t$ ,  $j$  vs.  $t$ )
  - binary (proto)stars (eccentricity, mass ratio, etc.)
  - SED's of individual protostars
  - dynamic PMS tracks:  $T_{\text{bol}}-L_{\text{bol}}$  evolution

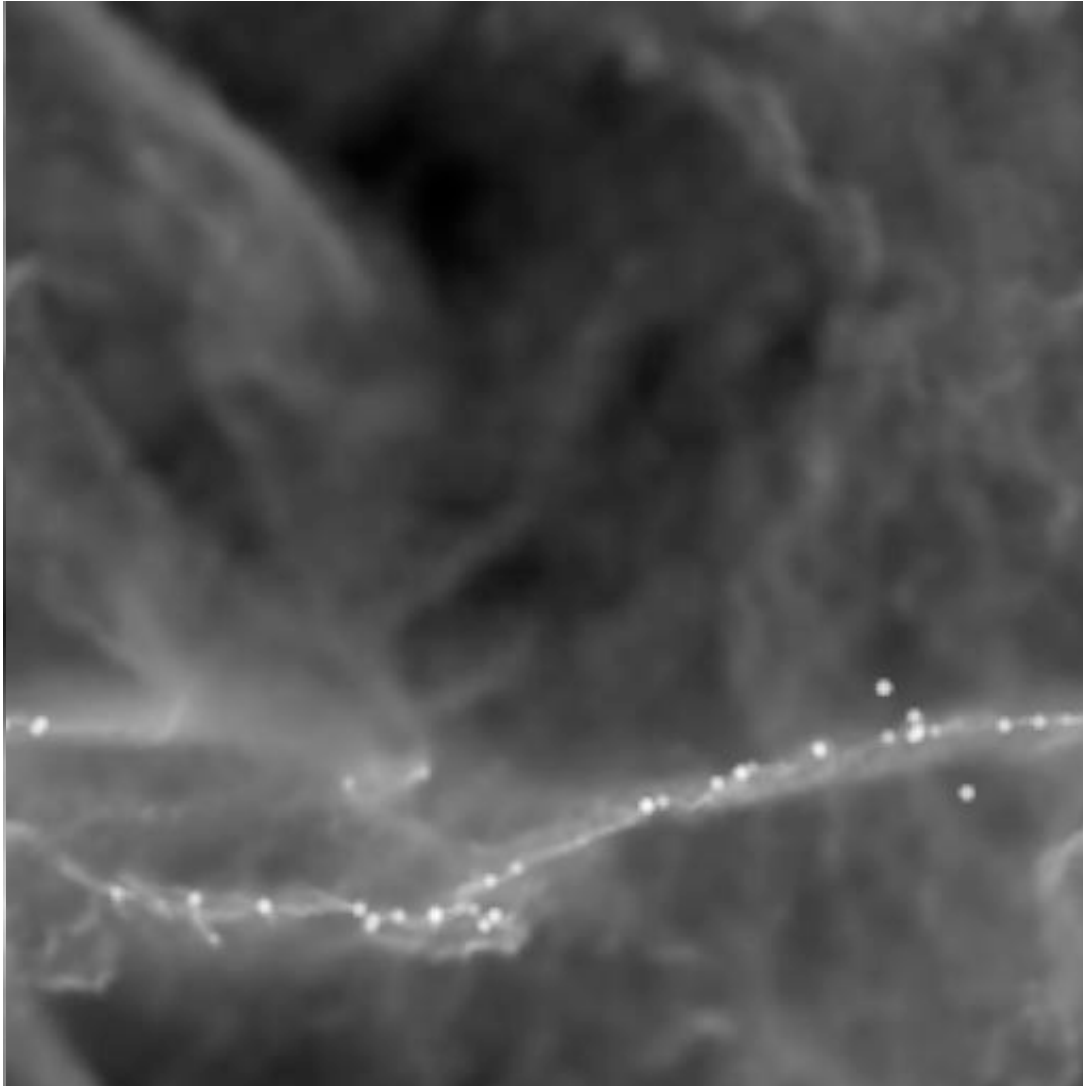
# Examples and predictions

*example 1:* transient structure of turbulent clouds

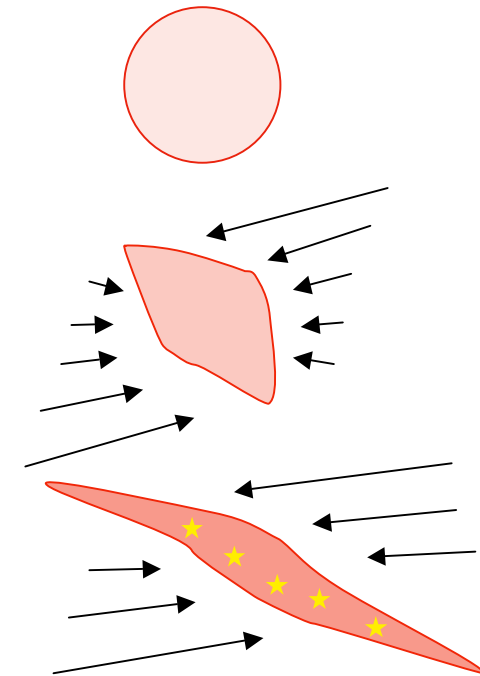
*example 2:* speculations on the origin of the stellar mass spectrum (IMF)

# example 1

# Gravoturbulent fragmentation



Filament generated by combination of compression and local shear:

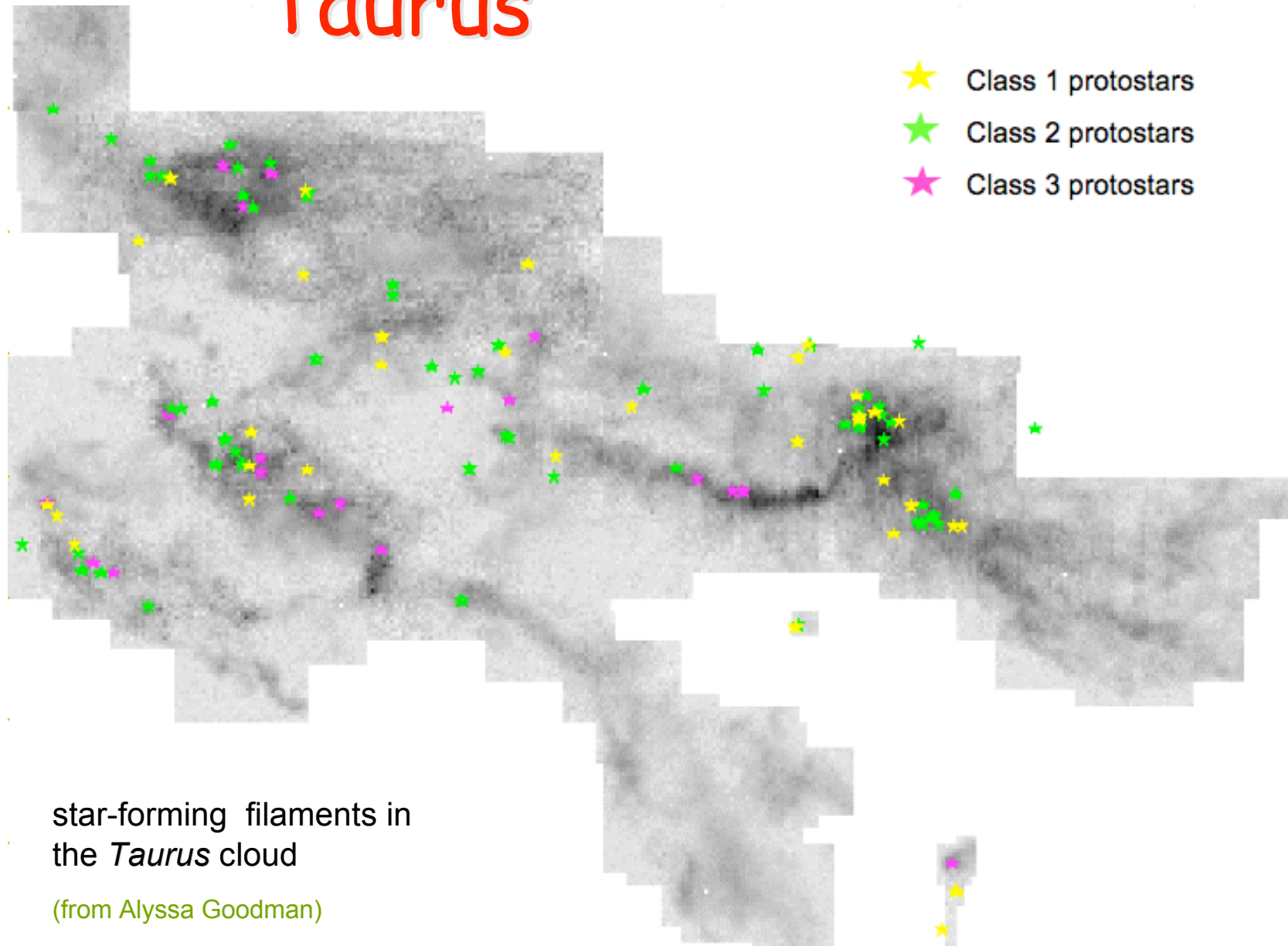


“Taurus”:

- density  $n(\text{H}_2) \approx 10^2 \text{ cm}^{-3}$
- $L = 6 \text{ pc}$ ,  $M = 5000 M_{\odot}$



# Taurus



star-forming filaments in  
the *Taurus* cloud

(from Alyssa Goodman)

# example 2

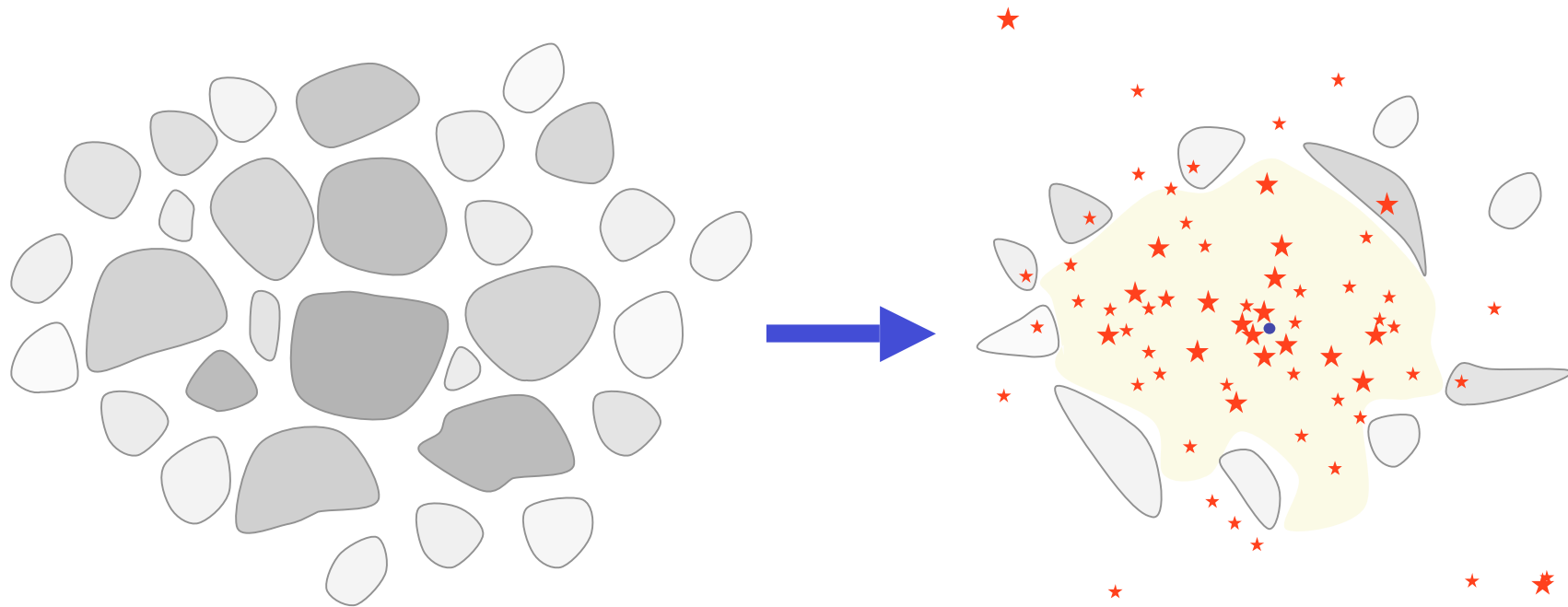
# IMF

- distribution of stellar masses depends on
  - turbulent initial conditions
    - > mass spectrum of prestellar cloud cores
  - collapse and interaction of prestellar cores
    - > competitive accretion and  $N$ -body effects
  - thermodynamic properties of gas
    - > balance between heating and cooling
    - > EOS (determines which cores go into collapse)
  - (proto) stellar feedback terminates star formation
    - ionizing radiation, bipolar outflows, winds, SN

(e.g. Larson 2003, Prog. Rep. Phys.; Mac Low & Klessen, 2004, Rev. Mod. Phys, 76, 125 - 194)

# Star cluster formation

Most stars form in clusters → *star formation = cluster formation*



How to get from **cloud cores** to **star clusters**?

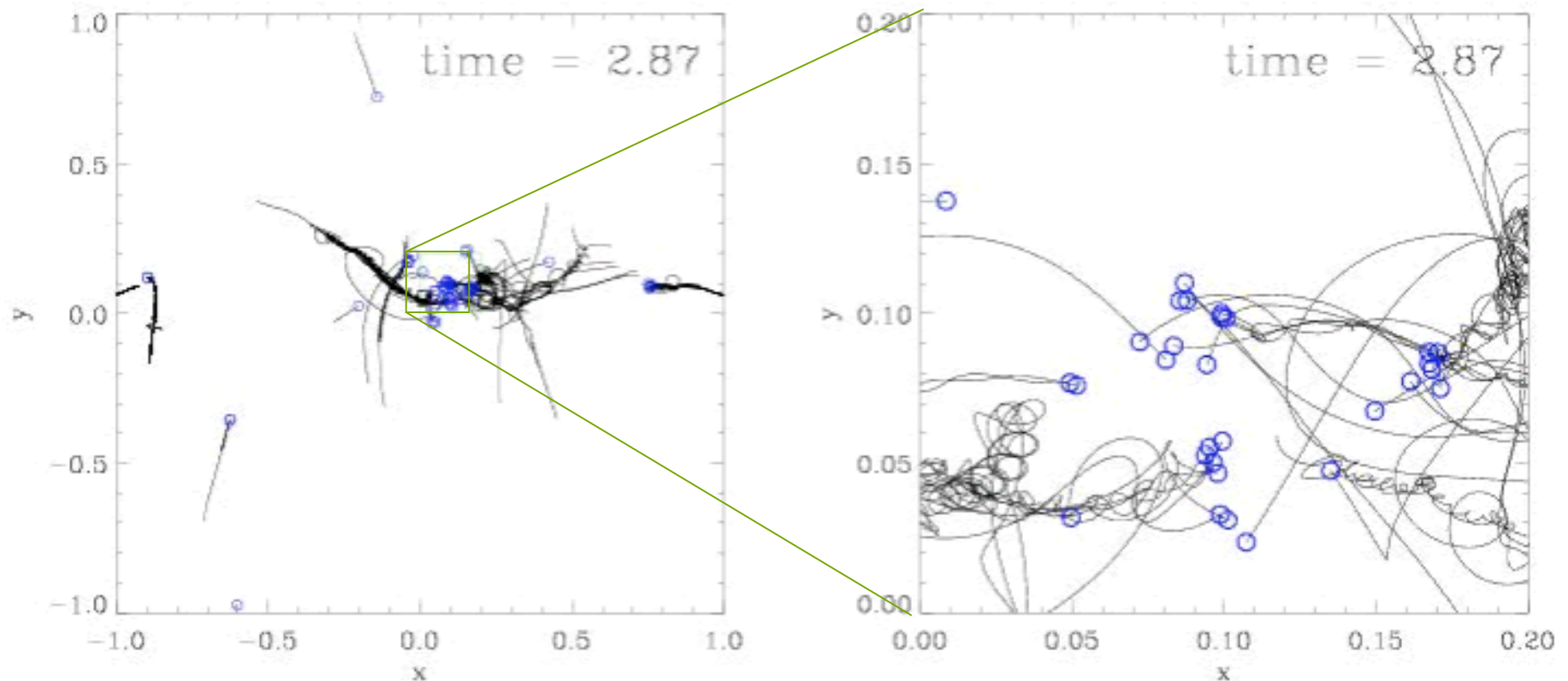
How do the stars **acquire mass**?

(e.g. Larson 2003, Prog. Rep. Phys.; Mac Low & Klessen, 2004, Rev. Mod. Phys, 76, 125 - 194)



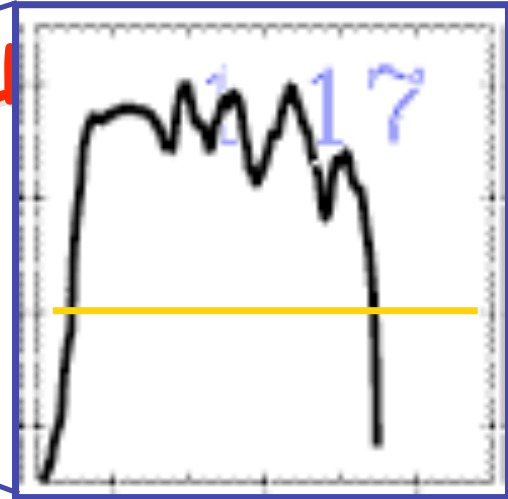
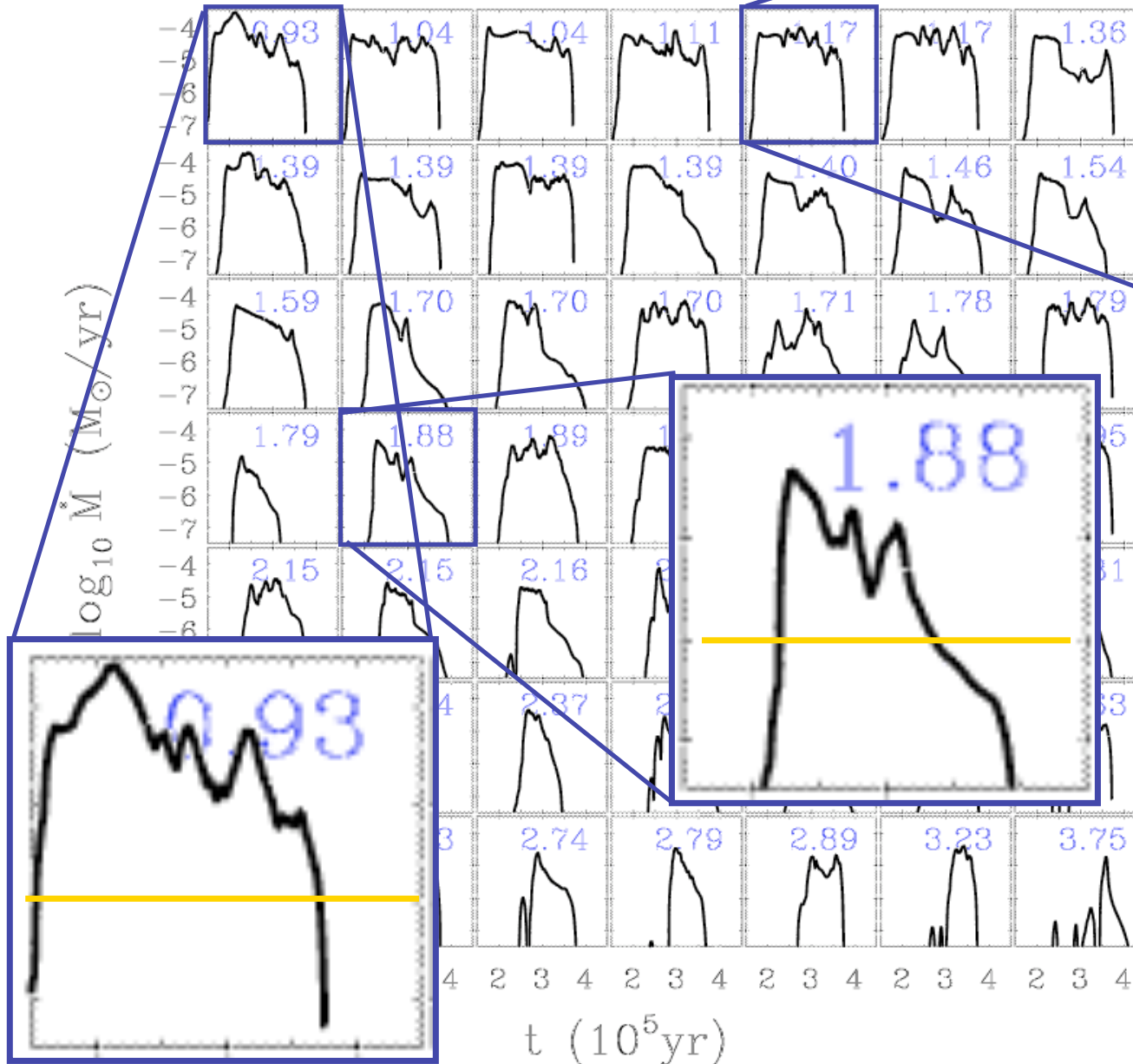
# Star cluster formation

Most stars form in clusters → *star formation = cluster formation*



Trajectories of protostars in a nascent dense cluster created by gravoturbulent fragmentation  
(from Klessen & Burkert 2000, ApJS, 128, 287)

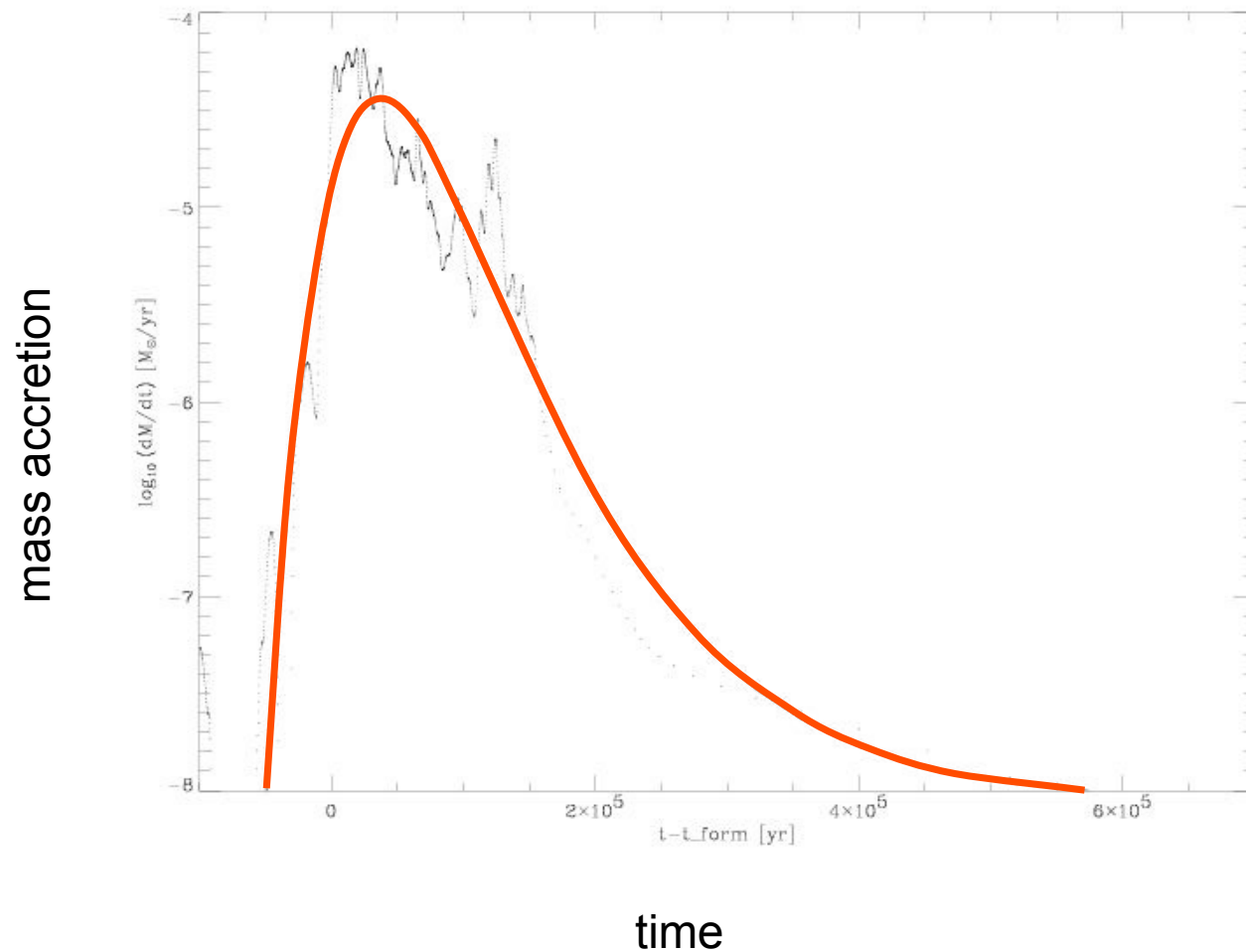
# Accretion rates in clu



Mass accretion rates *vary with time* and are strongly *influenced* by the *cluster environment*.

(Klessen 2001, ApJ, 550, L77;  
also Schmeja & Klessen,  
2004, A&A, 419, 405)

# "Empirical" mass accretion law



Simple analytic formula for individual mass accretion rates:  $dM/dt = At \cdot \exp(-t/\tau)$

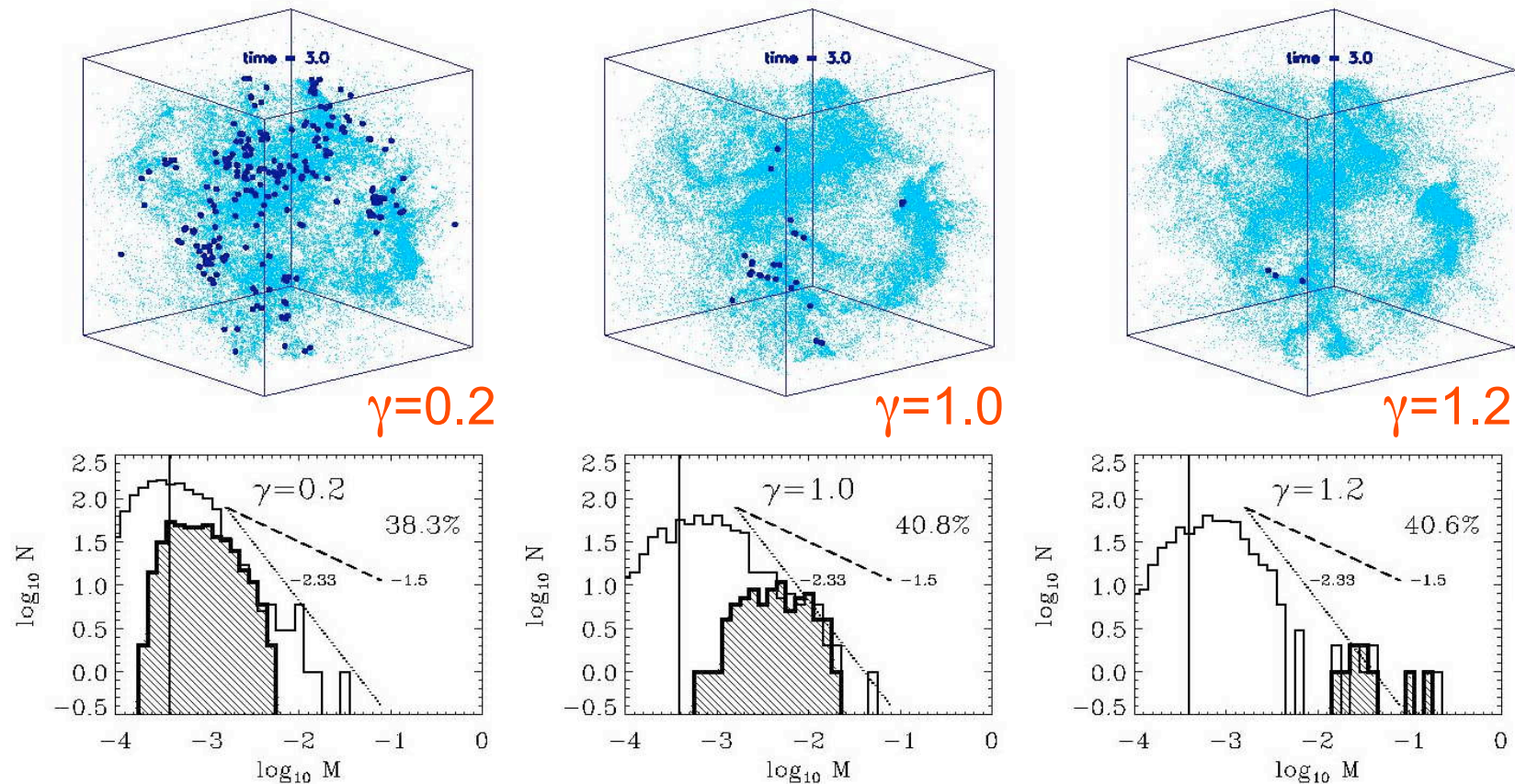
(Schmeja & Klessen, 2004 -- A&A, 419, 405 - 417)

# Dependency on EOS

- degree of fragmentation depends on *EOS!*
- polytropic EOS:  $p \propto \rho^\gamma$
- $\gamma < 1$ : dense cluster of low-mass stars
- $\gamma > 1$ : isolated high-mass stars

(see Li, Klessen, & Mac Low 2003, ApJ, 592, 975; also Kawachi & Hanawa 1998, Larson 2003)

# Dependency on EOS



for  $\gamma < 1$  fragmentation is enhanced  $\rightarrow$  *cluster of low-mass stars*  
for  $\gamma > 1$  it is suppressed  $\rightarrow$  formation of *isolated massive stars*

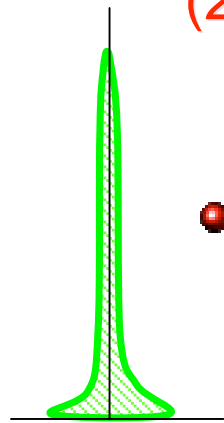
(from Li, Klessen, & Mac Low 2003, ApJ, 592, 975)



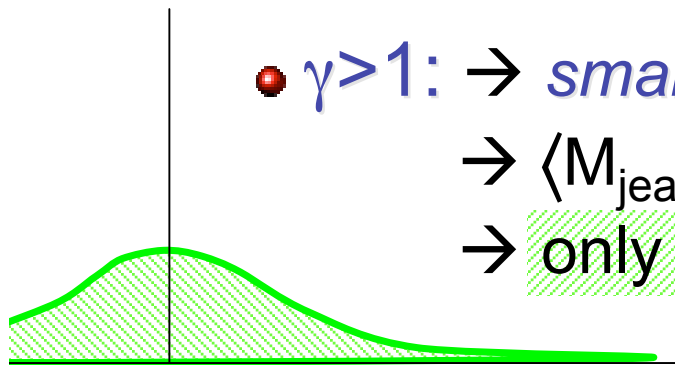
# How does that work?

$$(1) \quad p \propto \rho^\gamma \quad \rightarrow \quad \rho \propto p^{1/\gamma}$$

$$(2) \quad M_{\text{jeans}} \propto \gamma^{3/2} \rho^{(3\gamma-4)/2}$$



- $\gamma < 1$ :  $\rightarrow$  *large* density excursion for given pressure  
 $\rightarrow$   $\langle M_{\text{jeans}} \rangle$  becomes small  
 $\rightarrow$  number of fluctuations with  $M > M_{\text{jeans}}$  is large



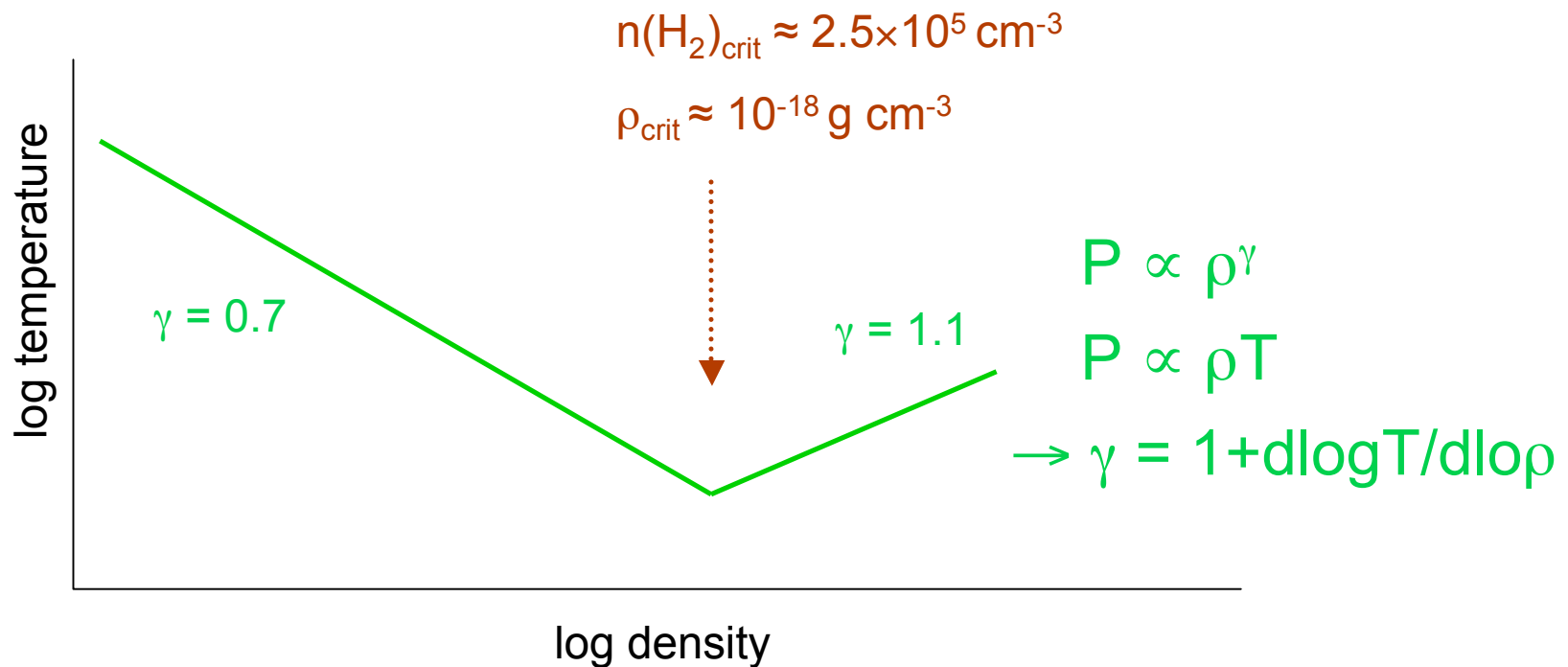
- $\gamma > 1$ :  $\rightarrow$  *small* density excursion for given pressure  
 $\rightarrow$   $\langle M_{\text{jeans}} \rangle$  is large  
 $\rightarrow$  only few and massive clumps exceed  $M_{\text{jeans}}$

# Implications

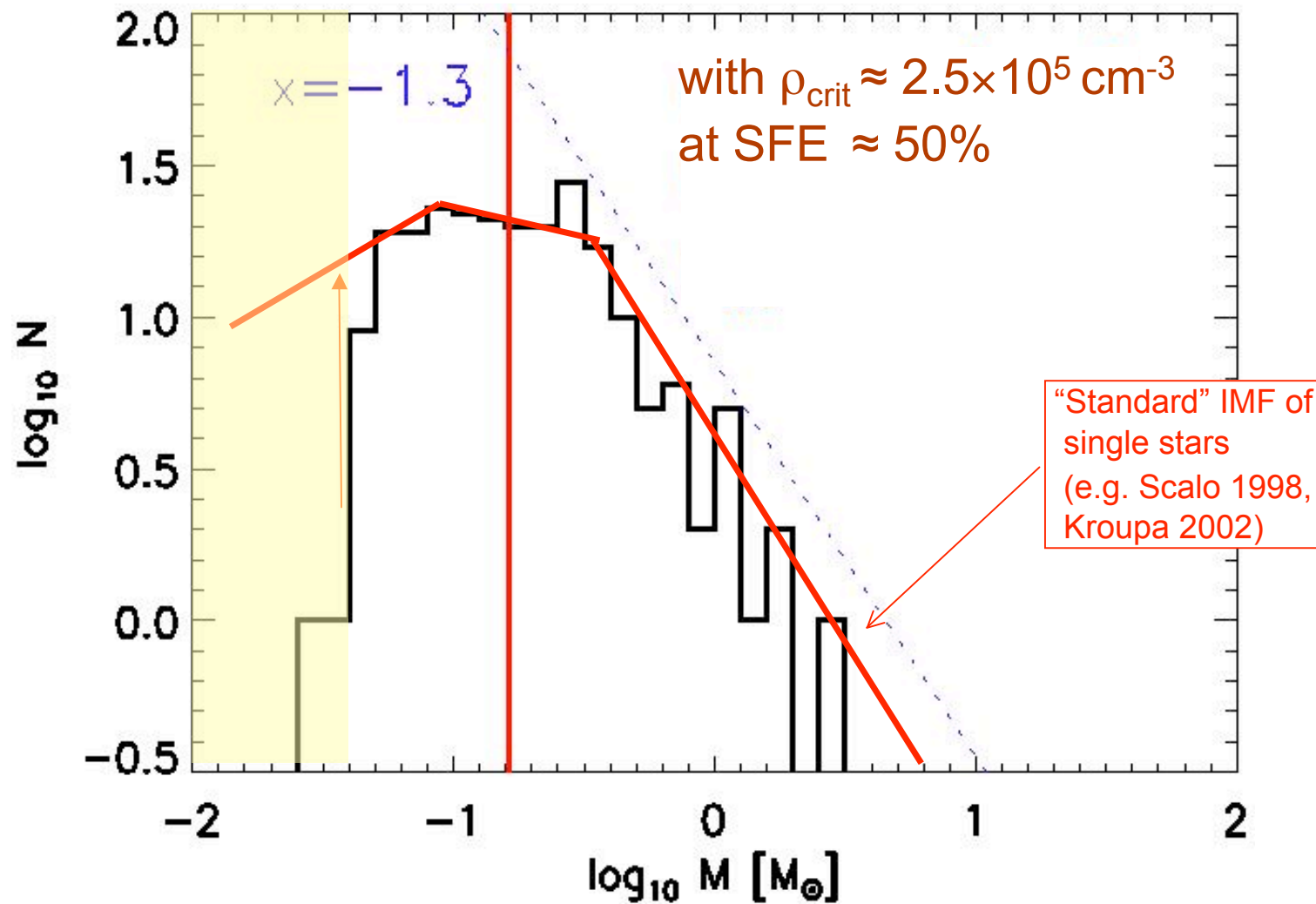
- degree of fragmentation depends on *EOS!*
- polytropic EOS:  $p \propto \rho^\gamma$
- $\gamma < 1$ : dense cluster of low-mass stars
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  - (see Li, Klessen, & Mac Low 2003, ApJ, 592, 975; Kawachi & Hanawa 1998; Larson 2003; also Jappsen, Klessen, Larson, Li, Mac Low, 2005, 435, 611)
- implications for extreme environmental conditions
  - expect Pop III stars to be massive and form in isolation
  - expect IMF variations in warm & dusty starburst regions
    - (Spaans & Silk 2005; Klessen, Spaans, & Jappsen 2005)
- Observational findings: isolated O stars in LMC (and M51)?
  - (Lamers et al. 2002, Massey 2002; see however, de Witt et al. 2005 for Galaxy)

# More realistic EOS

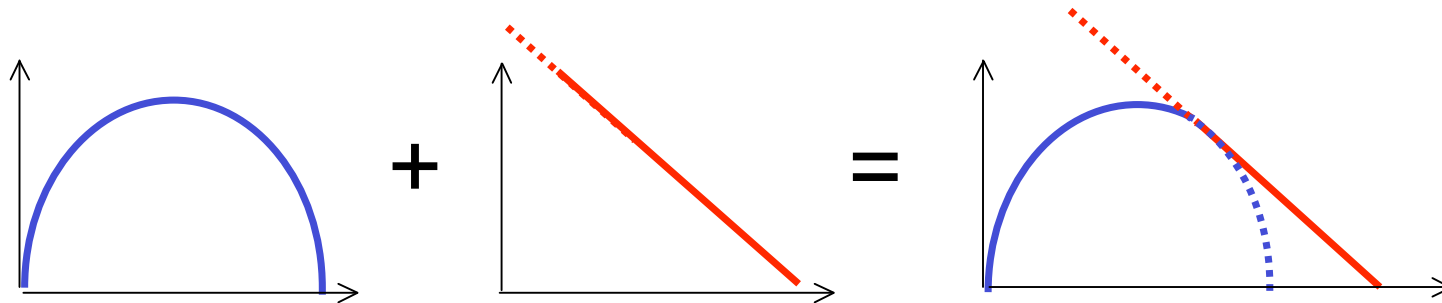
- But EOS depends on *chemical state*, on *balance* between *heating* and *cooling*



# IMF in nearby molecular clouds



# Plausibility argument for shape



- Supersonic turbulence is scale free process

→ *POWER LAW BEHAVIOR*

- *But also:* turbulence and fragmentation are highly stochastic processes → central limit theorem

→ *GAUSSIAN DISTRIBUTION*



# Summary

# Summary

- interstellar gas is highly inhomogeneous
  - *thermal instability*
  - *gravitational instability*
  - *turbulent compression* (in shocks  $\delta\rho/\rho \approx M^2$ ; in atomic gas:  $M \approx 1...3$ )
- cold *molecular clouds* form rapidly in high-density regions
  - chemical *phase transition*: atomic  $\rightarrow$  molecular
  - process is *modulated* by large-scale *dynamics* in the galaxy
- inside *cold clouds*: turbulence is highly supersonic ( $M \approx 1...20$ )  
 $\rightarrow$  *turbulence* creates density structure, *gravity* selects for collapse  
 $\longrightarrow$  **GRAVOTUBULENT FRAGMENTATION**
- *turbulent cascade*: local compression *within* a cloud provokes collapse
- individual *stars* and *star clusters* form through *sequence* of highly *stochastic* events:
  - *collapse* of cloud cores in turbulent cloud (cores change during collapse)
  - plus mutual *interaction* during collapse (importance depends on ratio of potential energy to turbulent energy) (buzz word: *competitive accretion*)

Thanks!