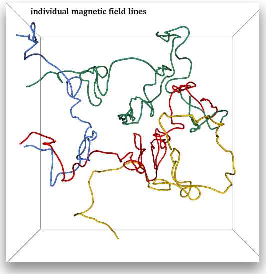
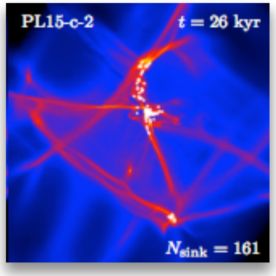
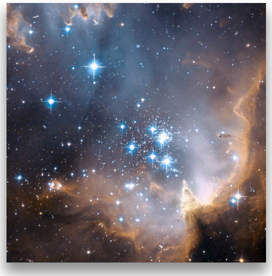
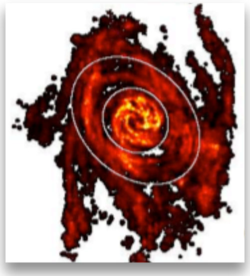
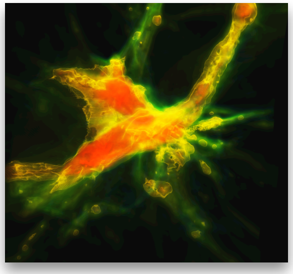
Star Formation: Now and Then











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thanks to ...

... people in the group in Heidelberg:

Richard Allison, Christian Baczynski, Erik Bertram, Frank Bigiel, Roxana Chira, Paul Clark, Gustavo Dopcke, Jayanta Dutta, Volker Gaibler, Simon Glover, Lukas Konstandin, Faviola Molina, Mei Sasaki, Jennifer Schober, Rahul Shetty, Rowan Smith, László Szűcs

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STIFTUNG
Wir stiften Zukunft

HGSFP

IMPRS

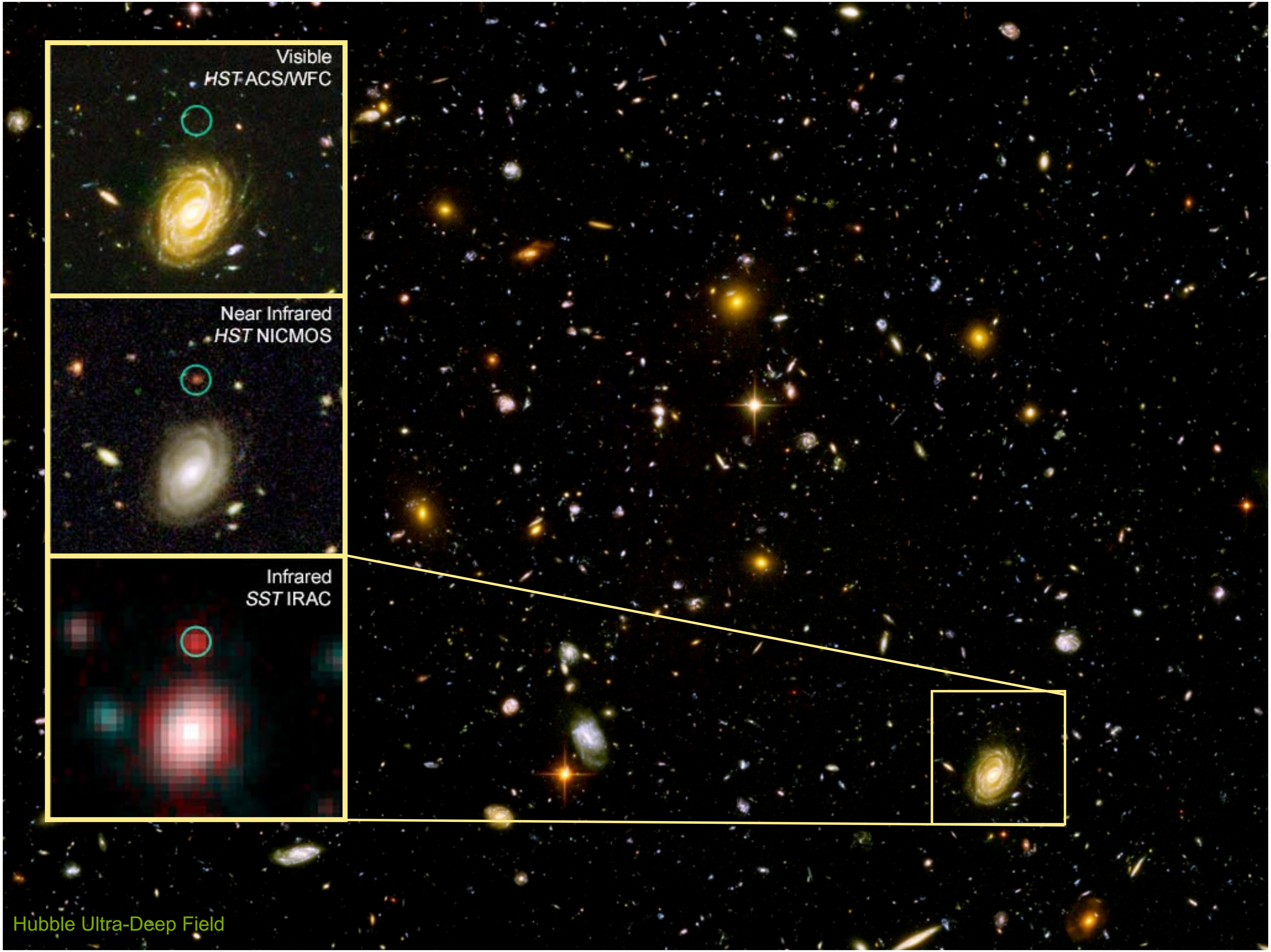
agenda

- star formation theory
  - phenomenology
  - historic remarks
  - our current understanding and its limitations
- application
  - the stellar mass function at birth (IMF)

NGC 3324 (Hubble, NASA/ESA)

phenomenology

Hubble Ultra-Deep Field



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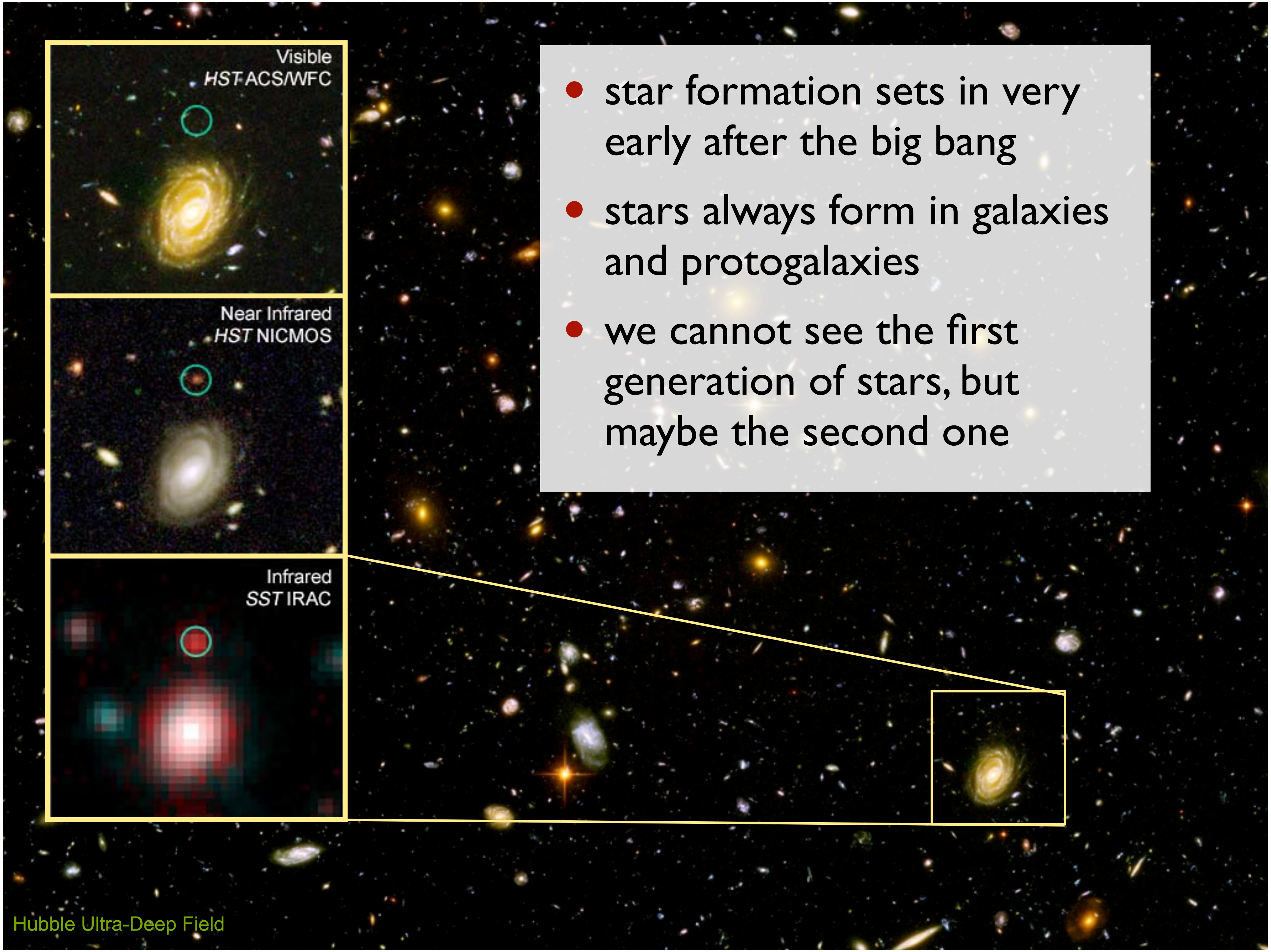
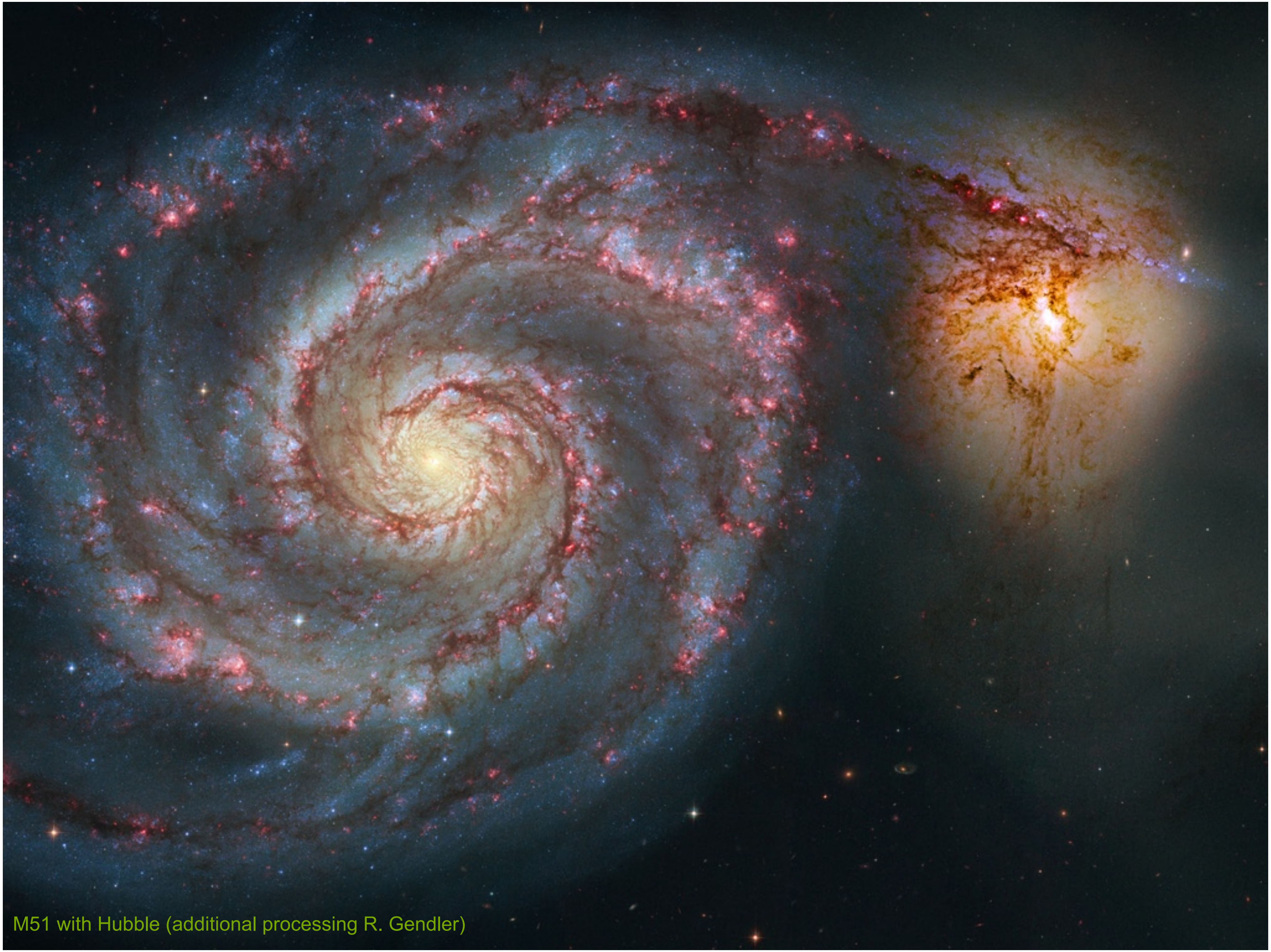
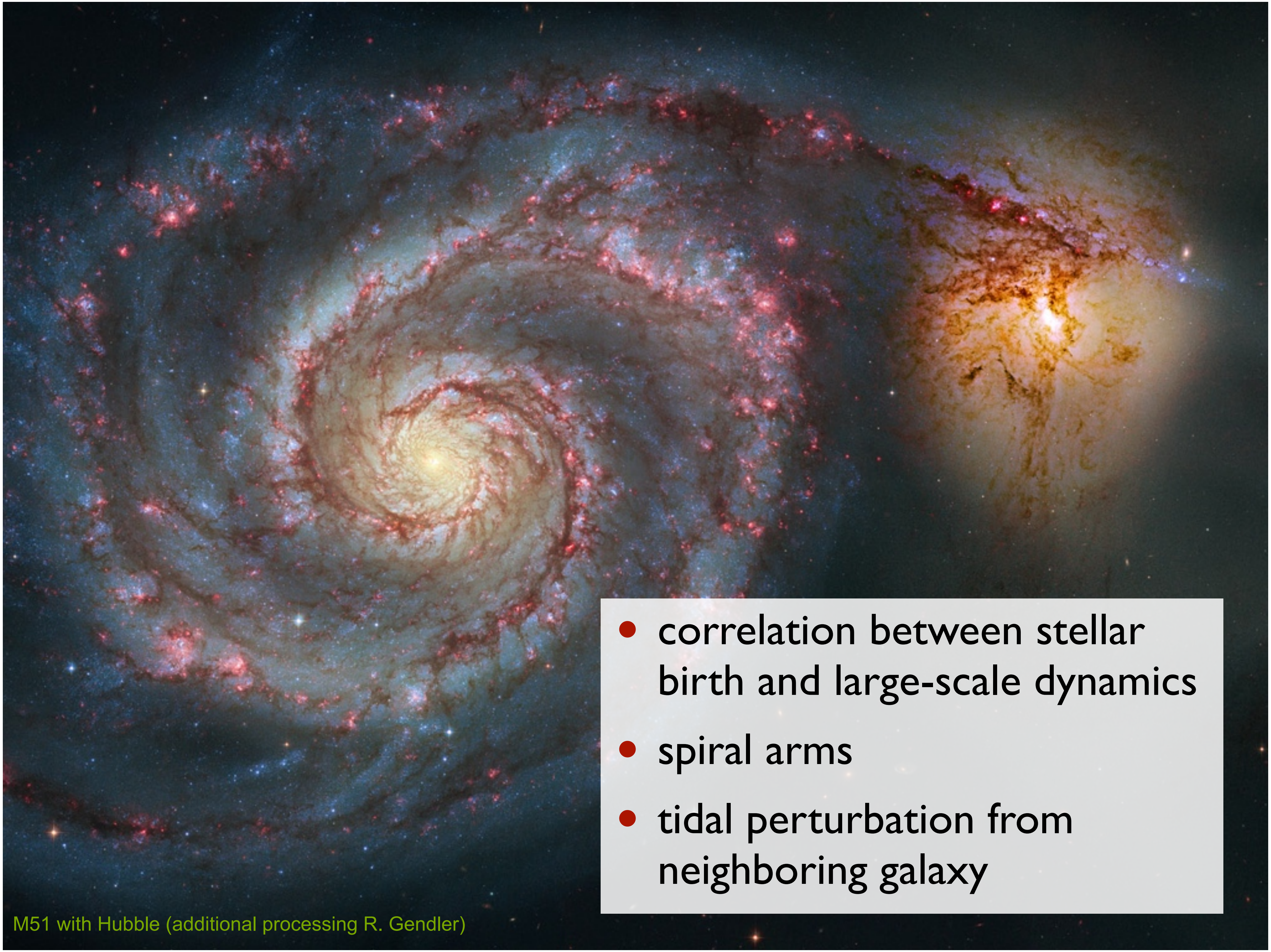


Hubble Ultra-Deep Field

- star formation sets in very early after the big bang
- stars always form in galaxies and protogalaxies
- we cannot see the first generation of stars, but maybe the second one

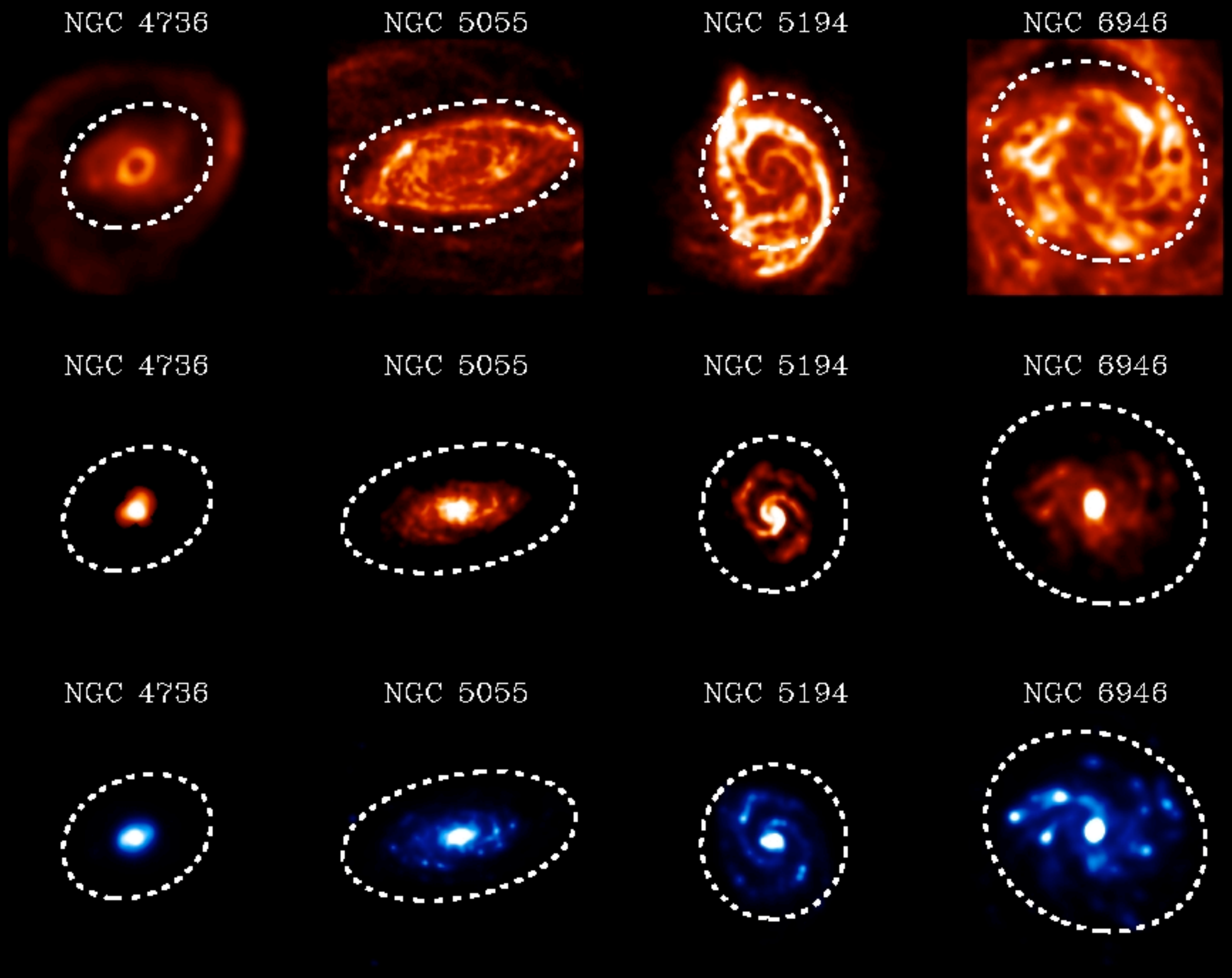


M51 with Hubble (additional processing R. Gendler)



- correlation between stellar birth and large-scale dynamics
- spiral arms
- tidal perturbation from neighboring galaxy

M51 with Hubble (additional processing R. Gendler)

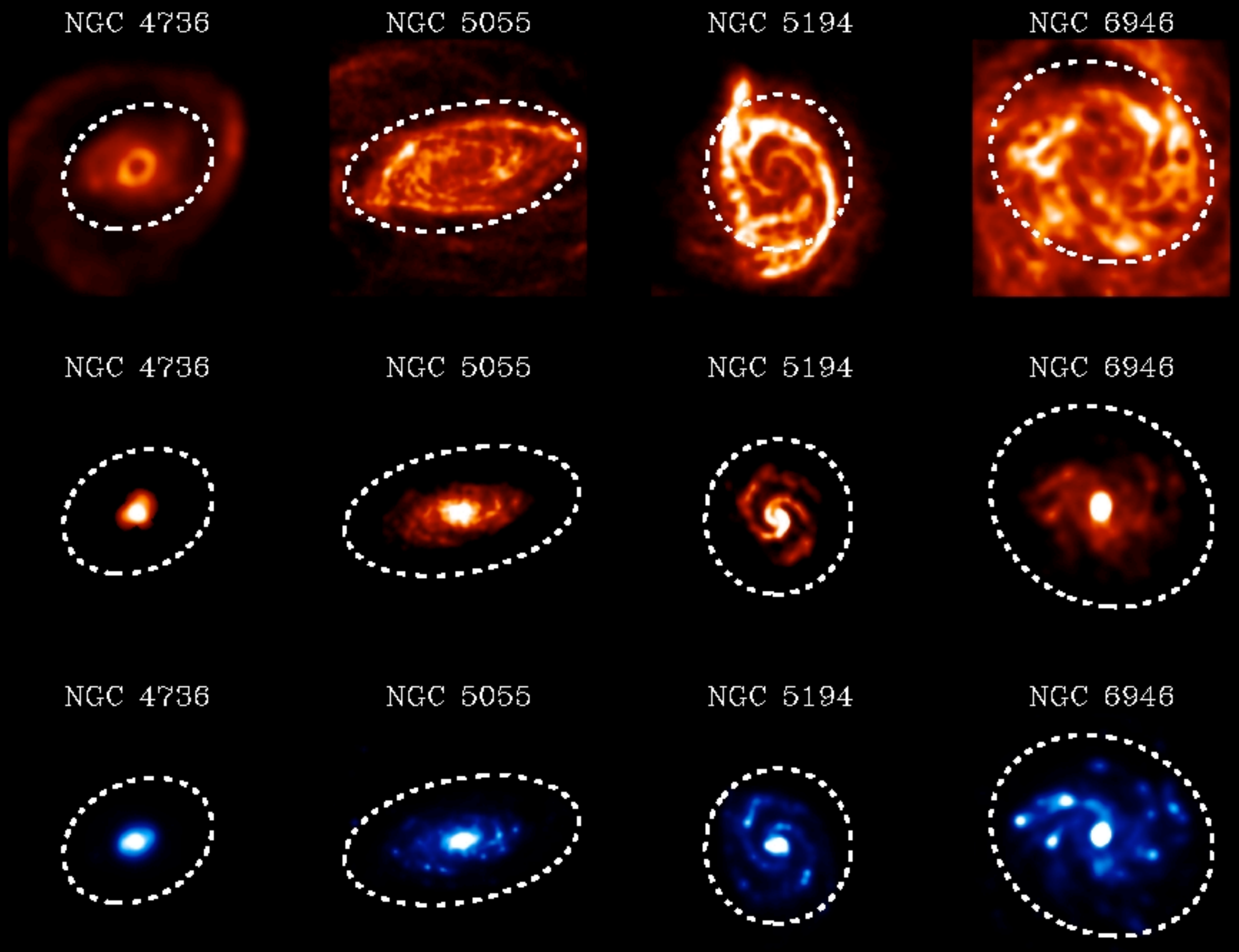


atomic hydrogen

molecular hydrogen

star formation

galaxies from THINGS and HERACLES survey
(images from Frank Bigiel, ZAH/ITA)



atomic hydrogen

molecular hydrogen

star formation

- HI gas more extended
- H2 and SF well correlated

galaxies from THINGS and HERACLES survey
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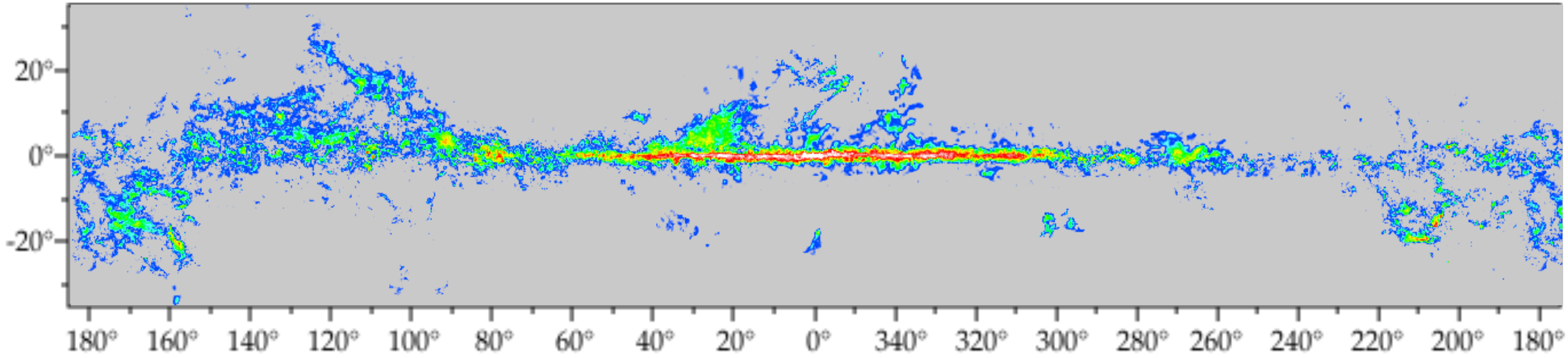
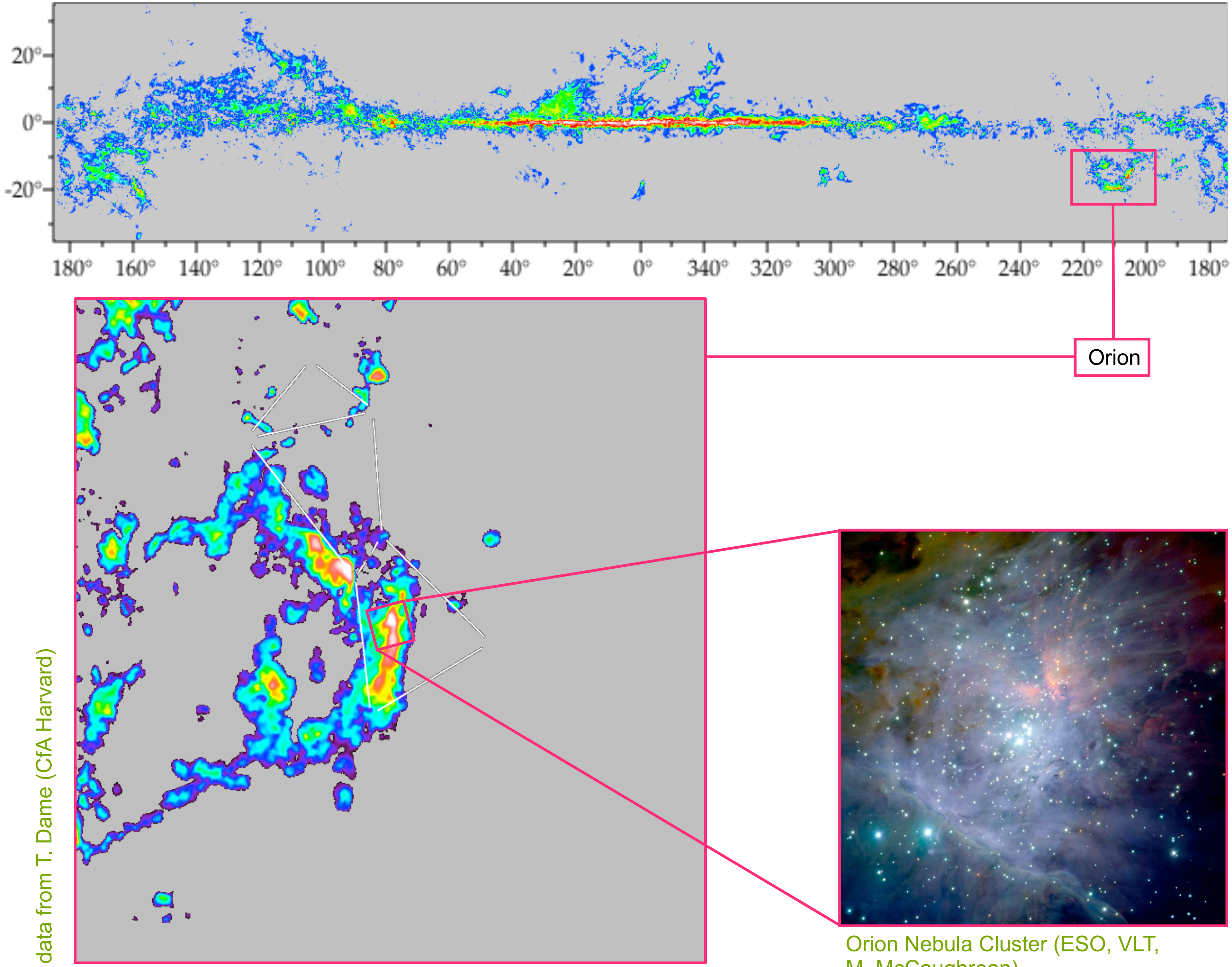


distribution of molecular gas in the Milky Way as traced by CO emission

data from T. Dame (CfA Harvard)



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Orion Nebula Cluster (ESO, VLT, M. McCaughrean)

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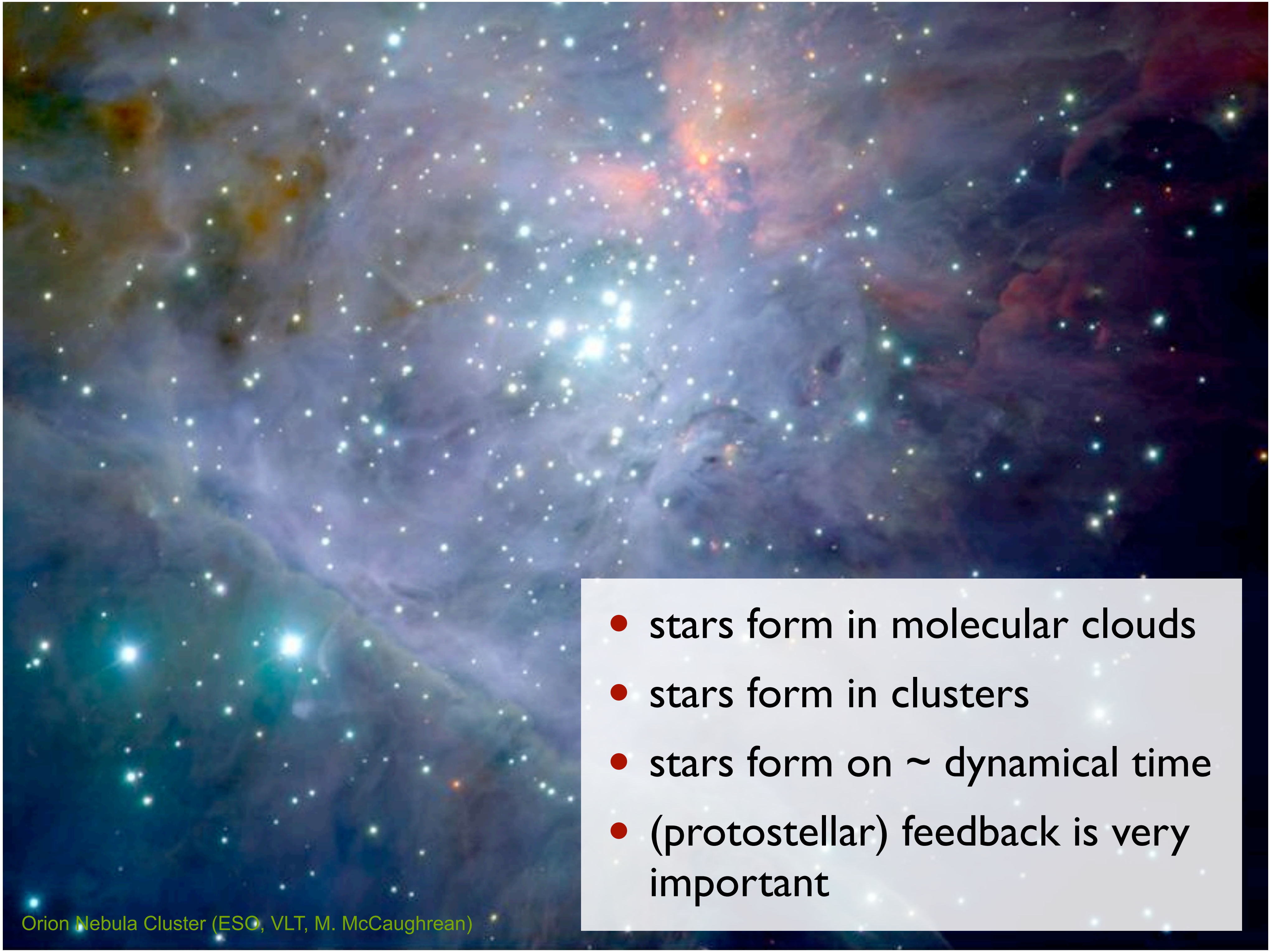
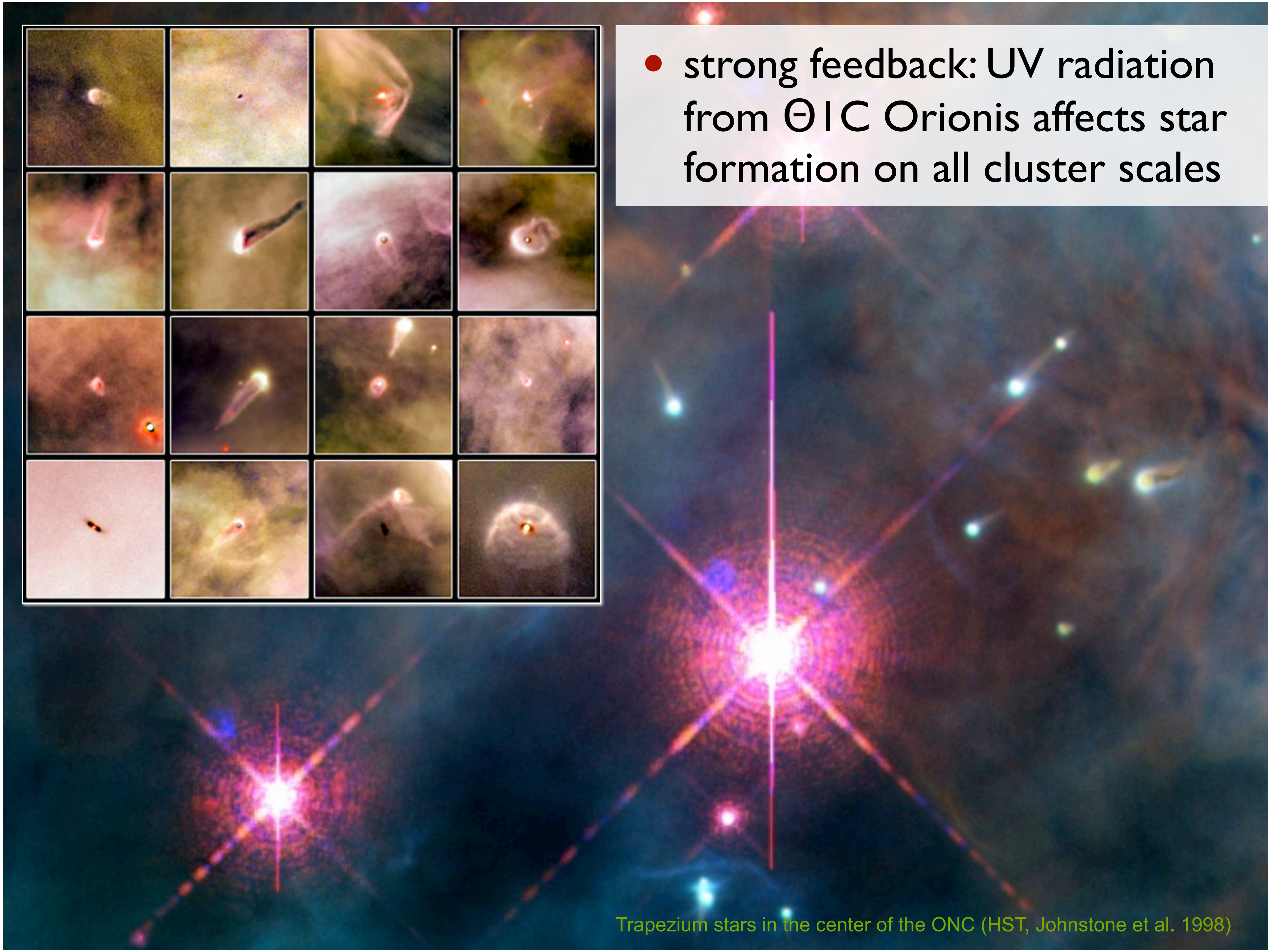


- stars form in molecular clouds
- stars form in clusters
- stars form on ~ dynamical time
- (protostellar) feedback is very important

Orion Nebula Cluster (ESO, VLT, M. McCaughrean)

Trapezium stars in the center of the ONC (HST, Johnstone et al. 1998)

- strong feedback: UV radiation from Θ1C Orionis affects star formation on all cluster scales



Trapezium stars in the center of the ONC (HST, Johnstone et al. 1998)

Pleiades (DSS, Palomar Observatory Sky Survey)

eventually, clusters like the ONC (1 Myr) will evolve into clusters like the Pleiades (100 Myr)

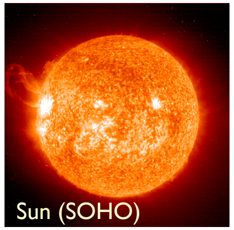
theoretical approach

decrease in spatial scale / increase in density


Andromeda (R. Gendler)


NGC 602 in LMC (Hubble)


Proplyd in Orion (Hubble)


Sun (SOHO)


Earth

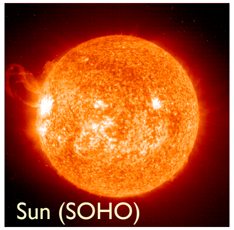
- density
  - density of ISM: few particles per cm^3
  - density of molecular cloud: few 100 particles per cm^3
  - density of Sun: 1.4 g/cm^3
- spatial scale
  - size of molecular cloud: few 10s of pc
  - size of young cluster: ~ 1 pc
  - size of Sun: 1.4 x 10^{10} cm

decrease in spatial scale / increase in density


Andromeda (R. Gendler)


NGC 602 in LMC (Hubble)


Proplyd in Orion (Hubble)


Sun (SOHO)


Earth

- contracting force
  - only force that can do this compression is ***GRAVITY***
- opposing forces
  - there are several processes that can oppose gravity
  - ***GAS PRESSURE***
  - ***TURBULENCE***
  - ***MAGNETIC FIELDS***
  - ***RADIATION PRESSURE***

decrease in spatial scale / increase in density


Andromeda (R. Gendler)


NGC 602 in LMC (Hubble)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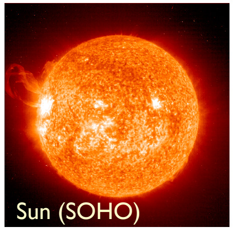
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  - ***MAGNETIC FIELDS***
  - ***RADIATION PRESSURE***

Modern star formation theory is based on the complex interplay between *all* these processes.

early theoretical models

- *Jeans (1902):* Interplay between self-gravity and thermal pressure
  - stability of homogeneous spherical density enhancements against gravitational collapse
  - dispersion relation:

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

  - instability when $\omega^2 < 0$
  - minimal mass: $\boxed{M_J = \tfrac{1}{6}\pi^{-5/2} G^{-3/2} \rho_0^{-1/2} c_s^3 \propto \rho_0^{-1/2} T^{-3/2}}$

Sir James Jeans, 1877 - 1946

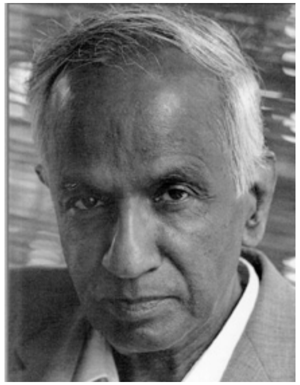
first approach to turbulence

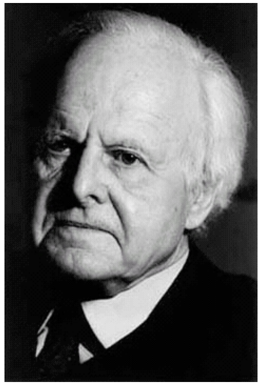
- *von Weizsäcker (1943, 1951)* and *Chandrasekhar (1951):* concept of **MICROTURBULENCE**
  - BASIC ASSUMPTION: separation of scales between dynamics and turbulence

    $\ell_{\mathrm{turb}} \ll \ell_{\mathrm{dyn}}$
  - then turbulent velocity dispersion contributes to effective soundspeed:

    $$\boxed{c_c^2 \mapsto c_c^2 + \sigma_{rms}^2}$$
  - → Larger effective Jeans masses → more stability
  - BUT: *(1) turbulence depends on k:* $\sigma_{rms}^2(k)$

    (2) supersonic turbulence → $\sigma_{rms}^2(k) >> c_s^2$ *usually*


S. Chandrasekhar, 1910 - 1995


C.F. von Weiszäcker, 1912 - 2007

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 *~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

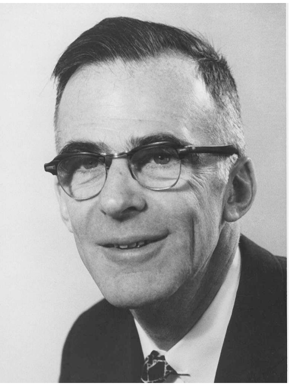
- *Mestel & Spitzer (1956):* Magnetic fields can prevent collapse*!!!*
  - Critical mass for gravitational collapse in presence of B-field

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

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

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

  - Ambipolar diffusion can initiate collapse

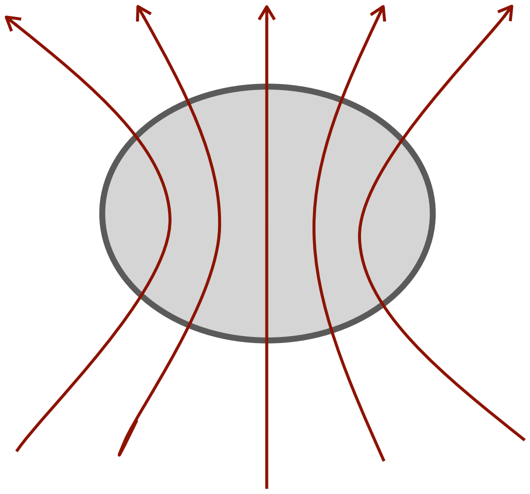


Lyman Spitzer, Jr., 1914 - 1997

“standard theory” of star formation

- BASIC ASSUMPTION: Stars form from magnetically highly subcritical cores
- Ambipolar diffusion slowly increases (M/Φ): $\tau_{AD} \approx 10\tau_{ff}$
- 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

Frank Shu, 1943 -



problems of “standard theory”

- 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 (e.g. Bacman et al. 2000, 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)
- Most stars form as binaries (e.g. Lada 2006)
- As many prestellar cores as protostellar cores in SF regions (e.g. André et al 2002)
- Molecular cloud clumps are chemically young (Bergin & Langer 1997, Pratap et al 1997, Aikawa et al 2001)
- Stellar age distribution small ($\tau_{ff} << \tau_{AD}$) (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)
- Standard AD-dominated theory is incompatible with observations (Crutcher et al. 2009, 2010ab, Bertram et al. 2011)

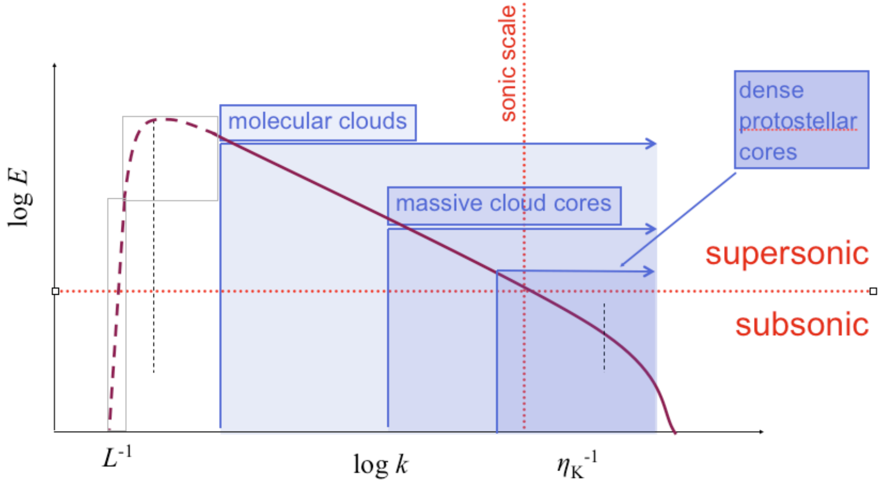
(see e.g. Mac Low & Klessen, 2004, Rev. Mod. Phys., 76, 125-194)

gravoturbulent star formation

- BASIC ASSUMPTION:

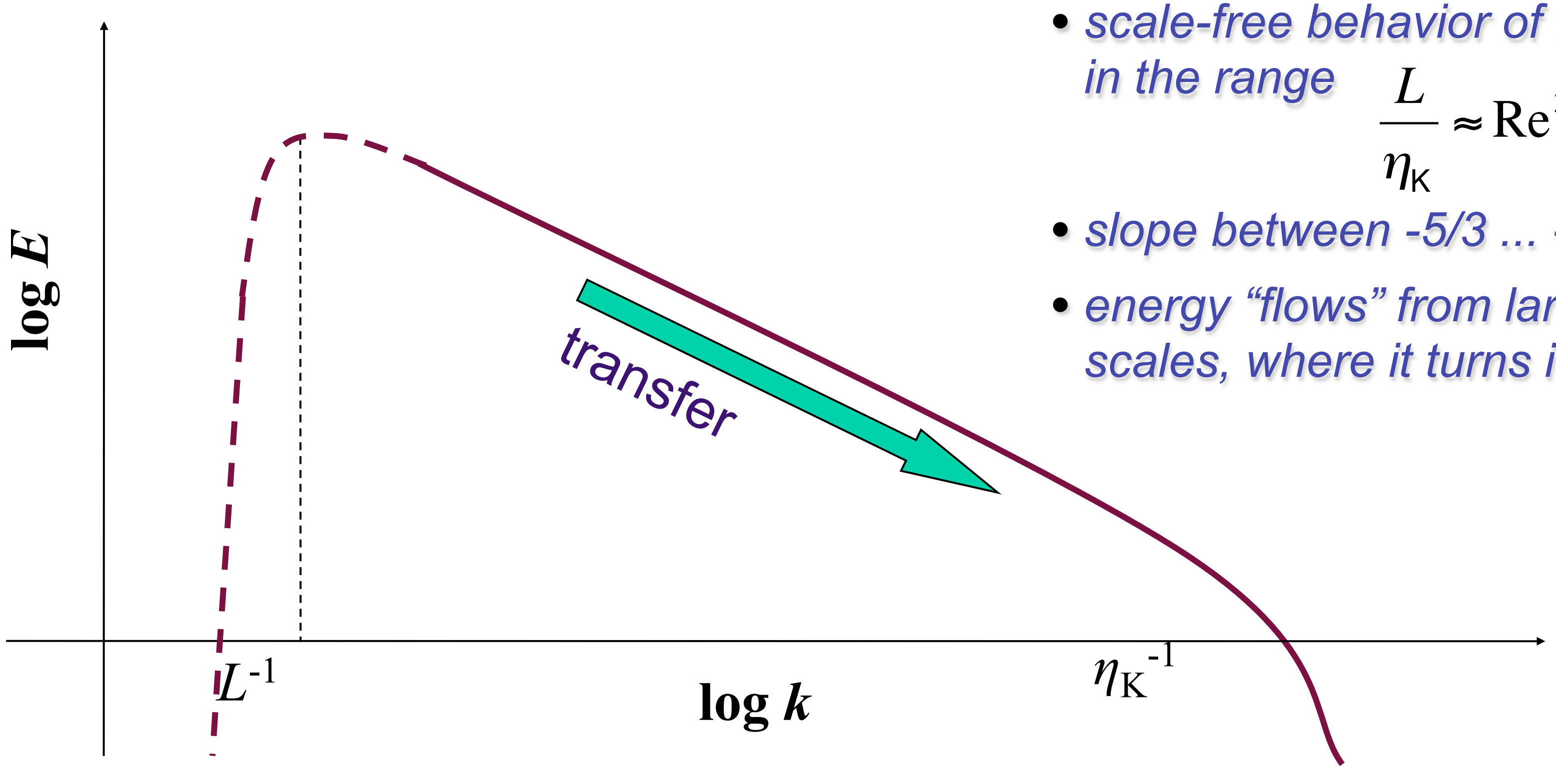
star formation is controlled by interplay between supersonic turbulence and self-gravity

- turbulence plays a *dual role*:
  - on *large scales* it *provides support*
  - on *small scales* it can *trigger collapse*
- some predictions:
  - dynamical star formation timescale τ_{ff}
  - high binary fraction
  - complex spatial structure of embedded star clusters
  - and many more . . .



Mac Low & Klessen, 2004, Rev. Mod. Phys., 76, 125-194
McKee & Ostriker, 2007, ARAA, 45, 565

turbulent cascade in the ISM



- *scale-free behavior of turbulence in the range* $\frac{L}{\eta_K} \approx \mathrm{Re}^{3/4}$
- *slope between -5/3 ... -2*
- *energy "flows" from large to small scales, where it turns into heat*

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

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

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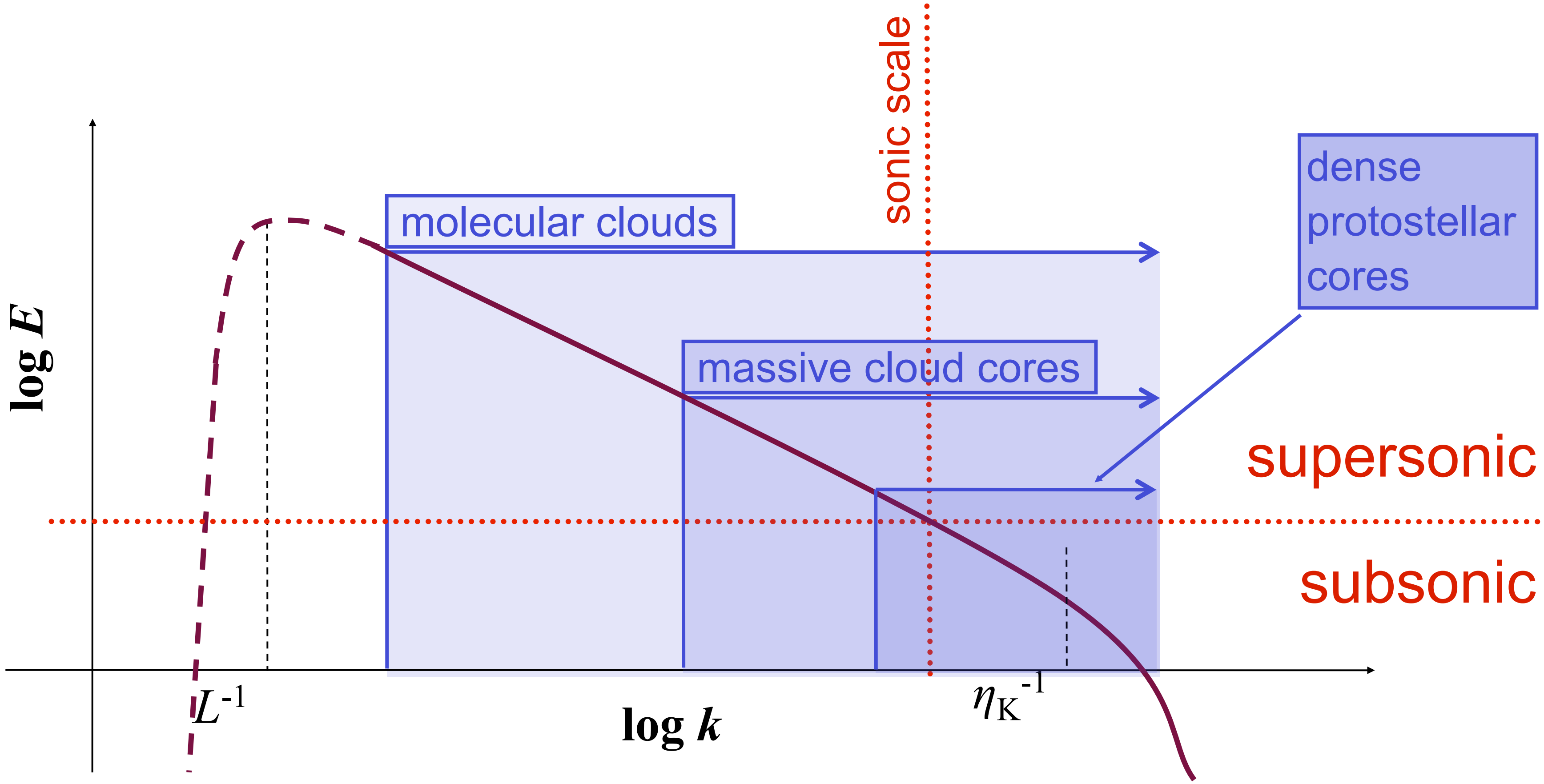

energy source & scale
NOT known
(supernovae, winds,
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σ_{rms} << 1 km/s
$M_{rms} \leq 1$
$L \approx 0.1$ pc

dissipation scale not known
(ambipolar diffusion,
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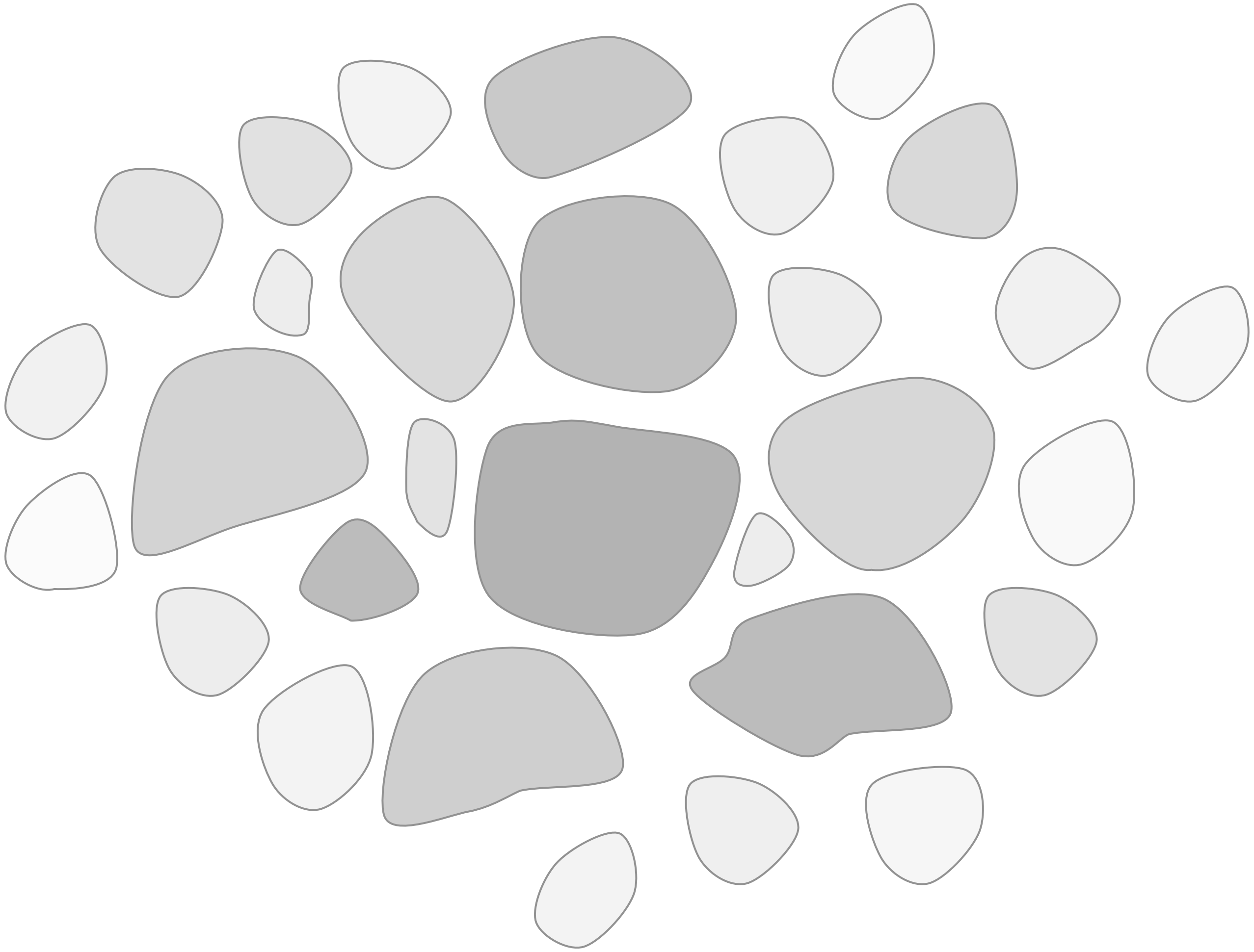
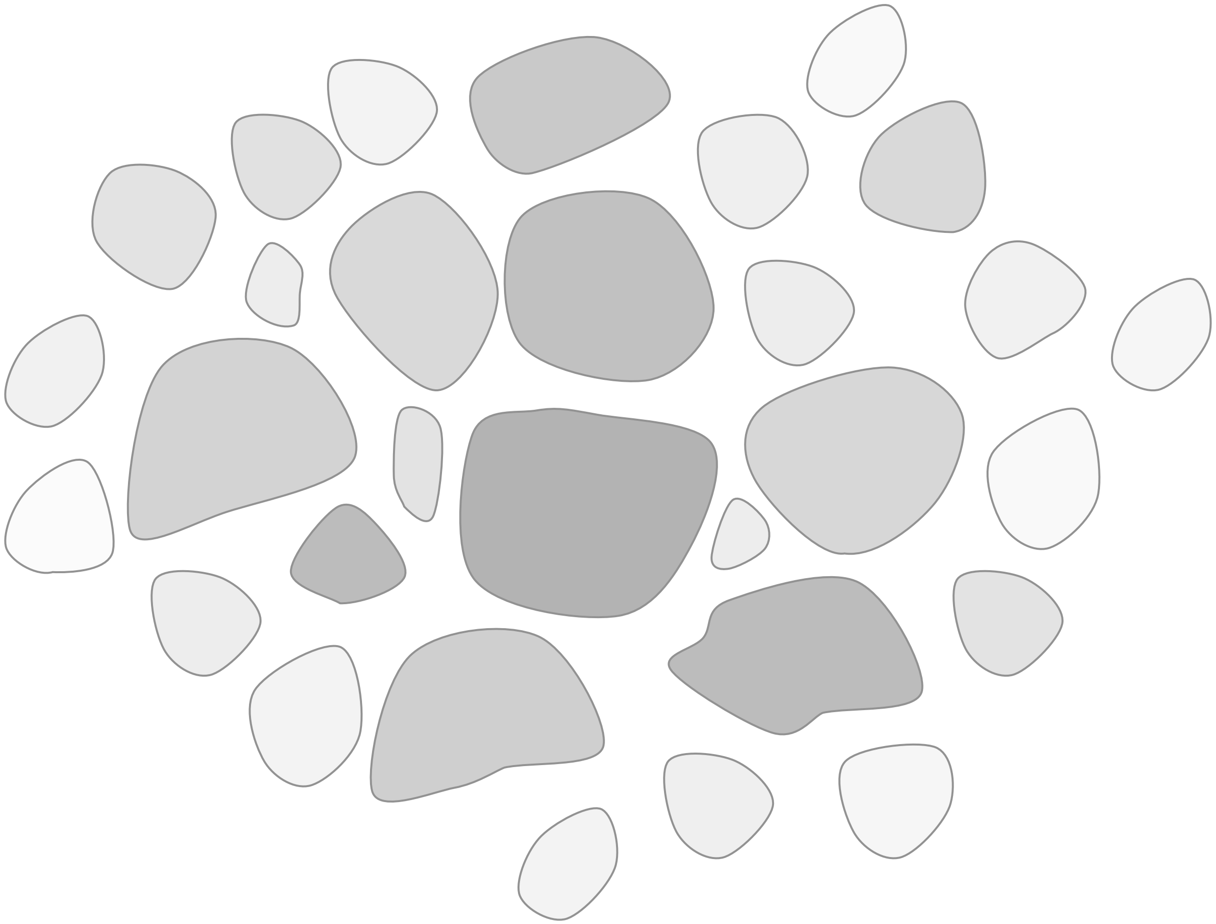
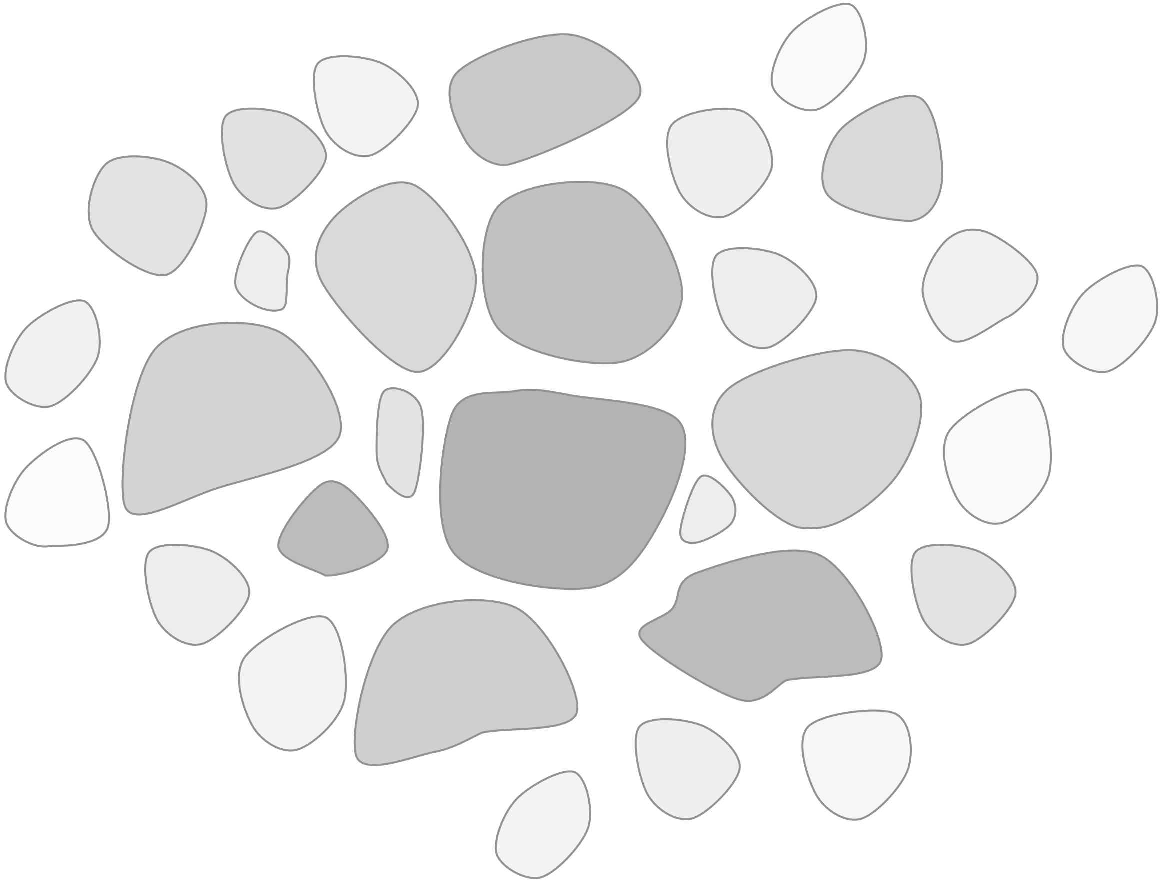


turbulence creates a hierarchy of clumps



as turbulence decays locally, contraction sets in



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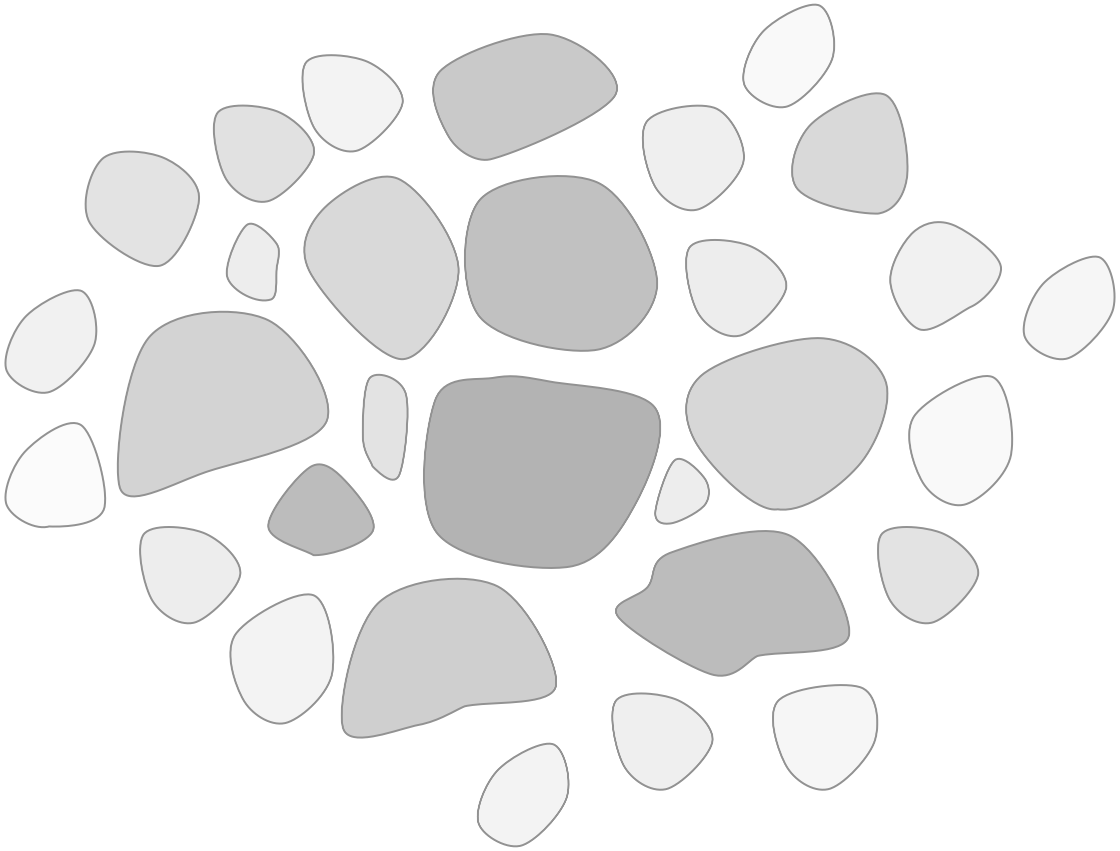
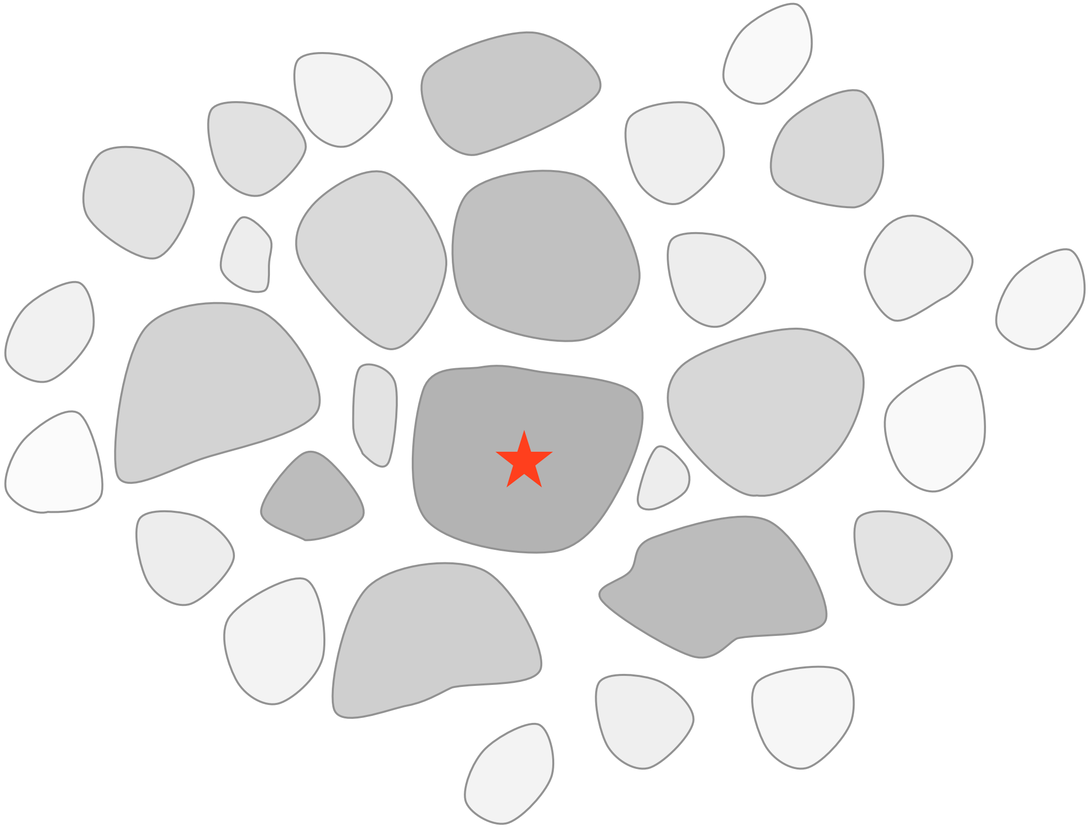


while region contracts, individual clumps collapse to form stars



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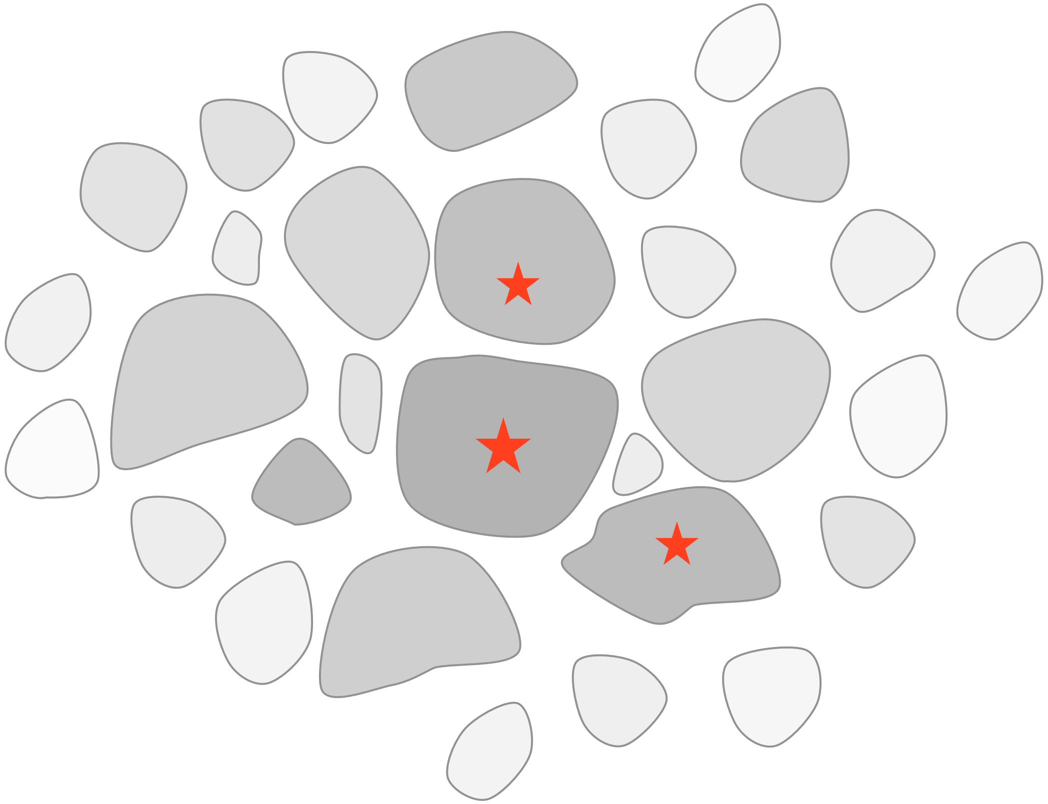

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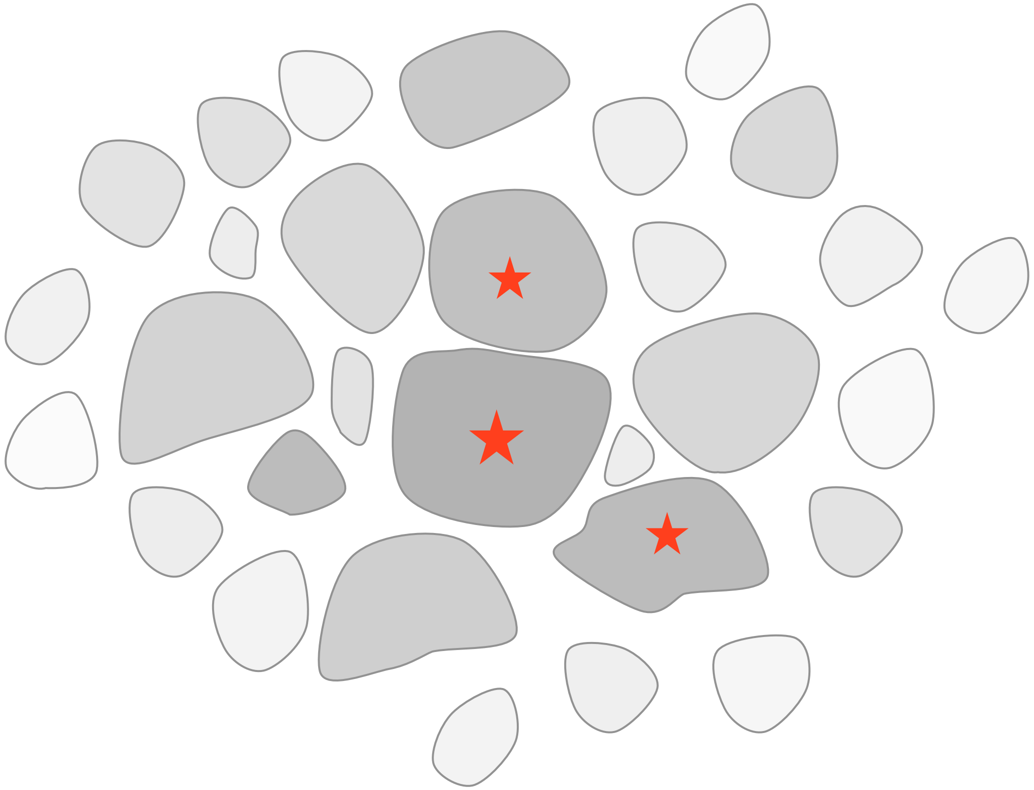

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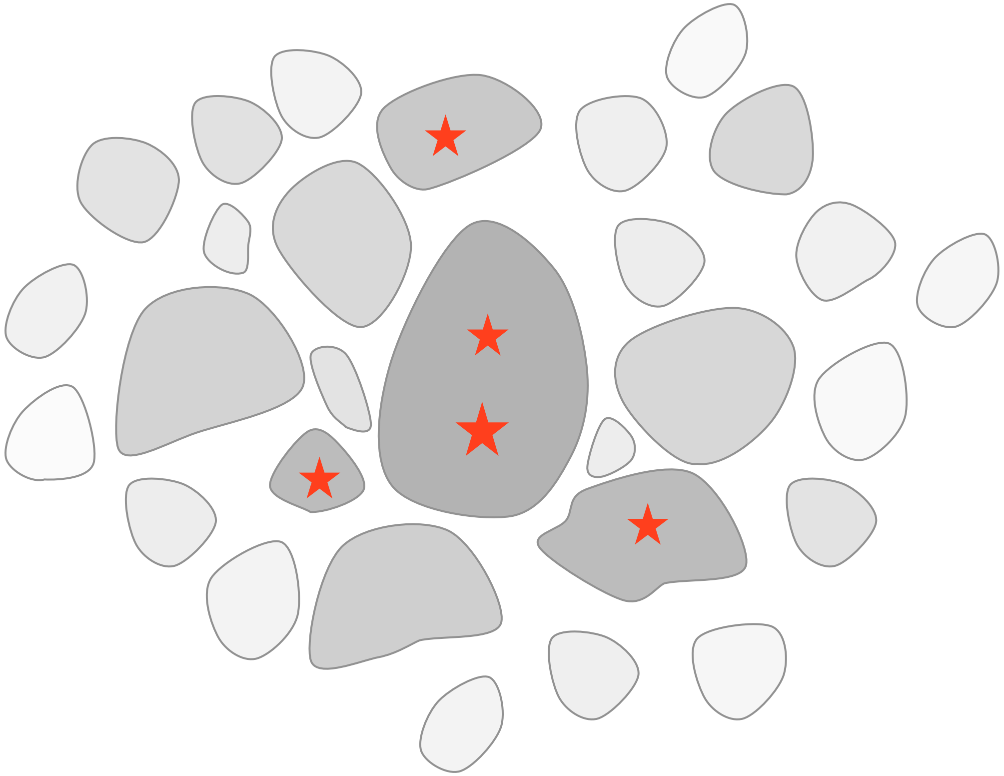
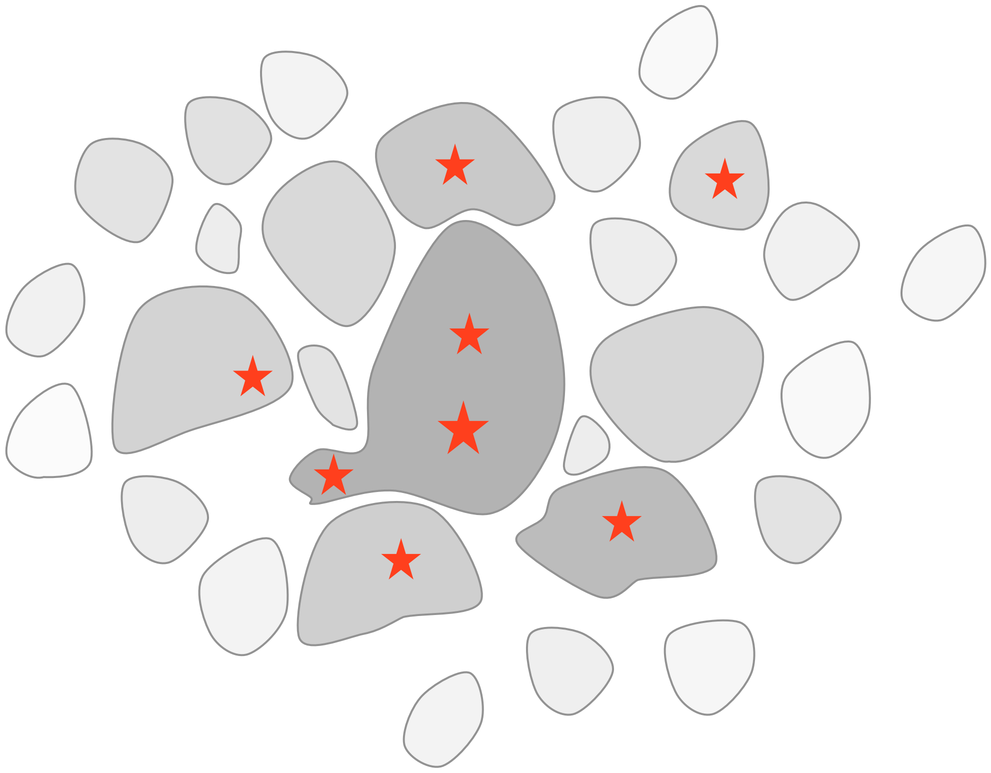


$\alpha=E_{kin}/|E_{pot}| < 1$

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



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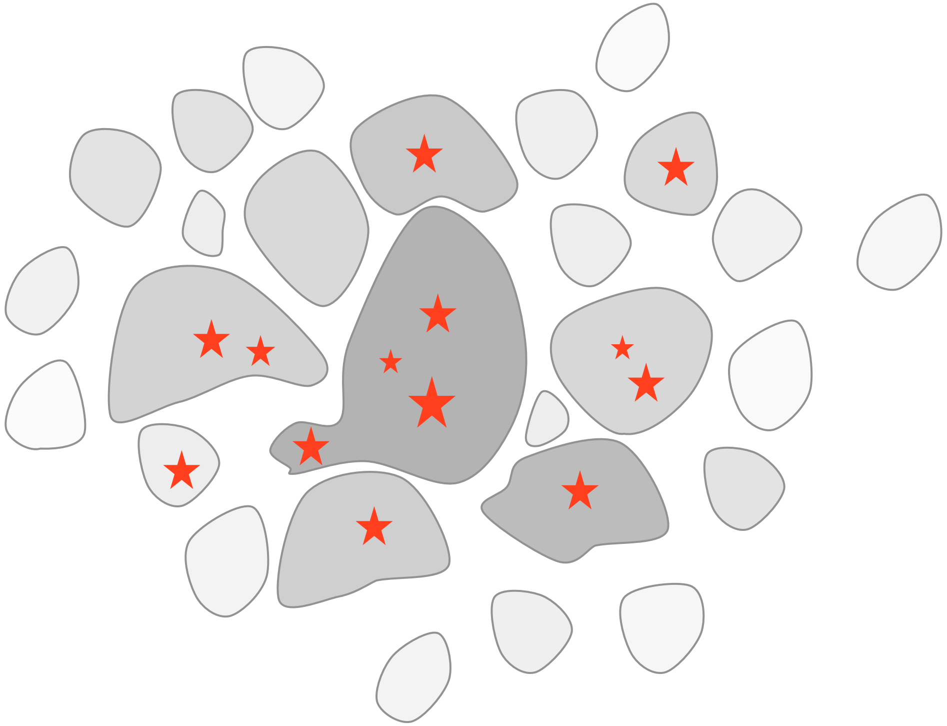

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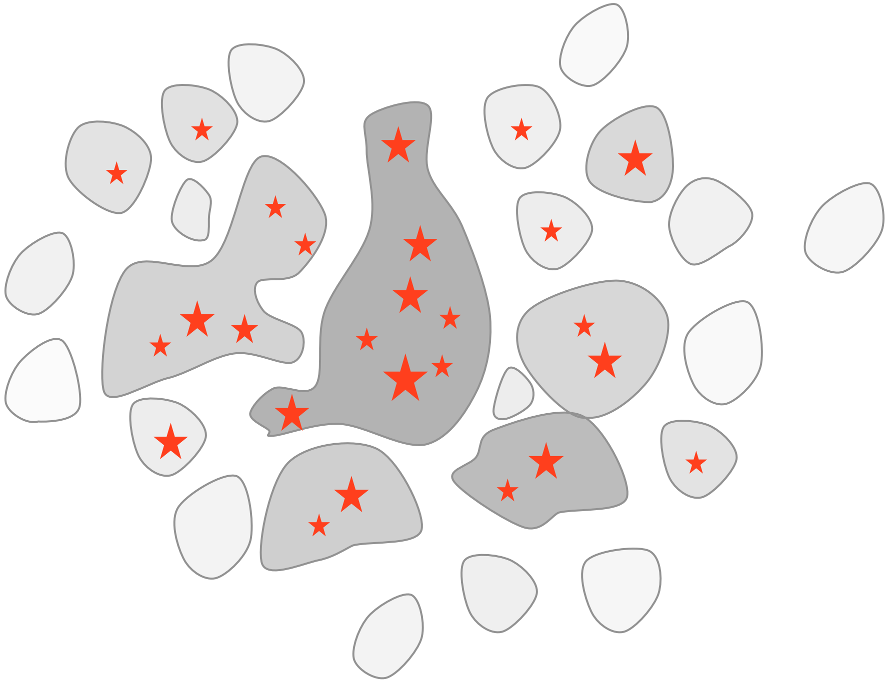
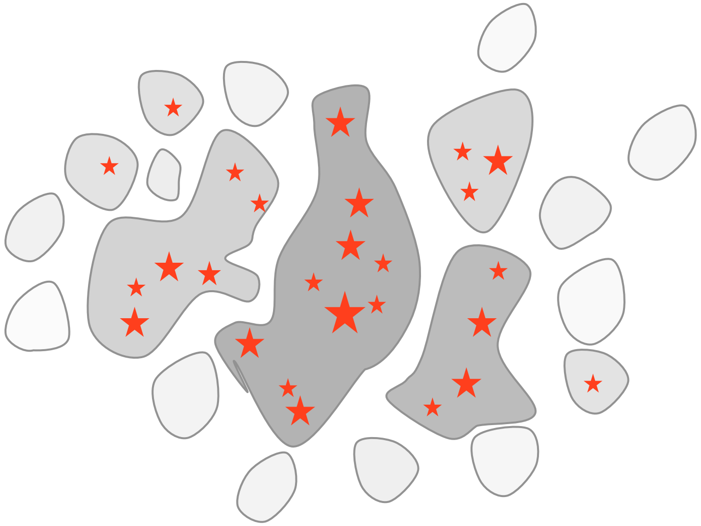


in *dense clusters*, competitive mass growth becomes important



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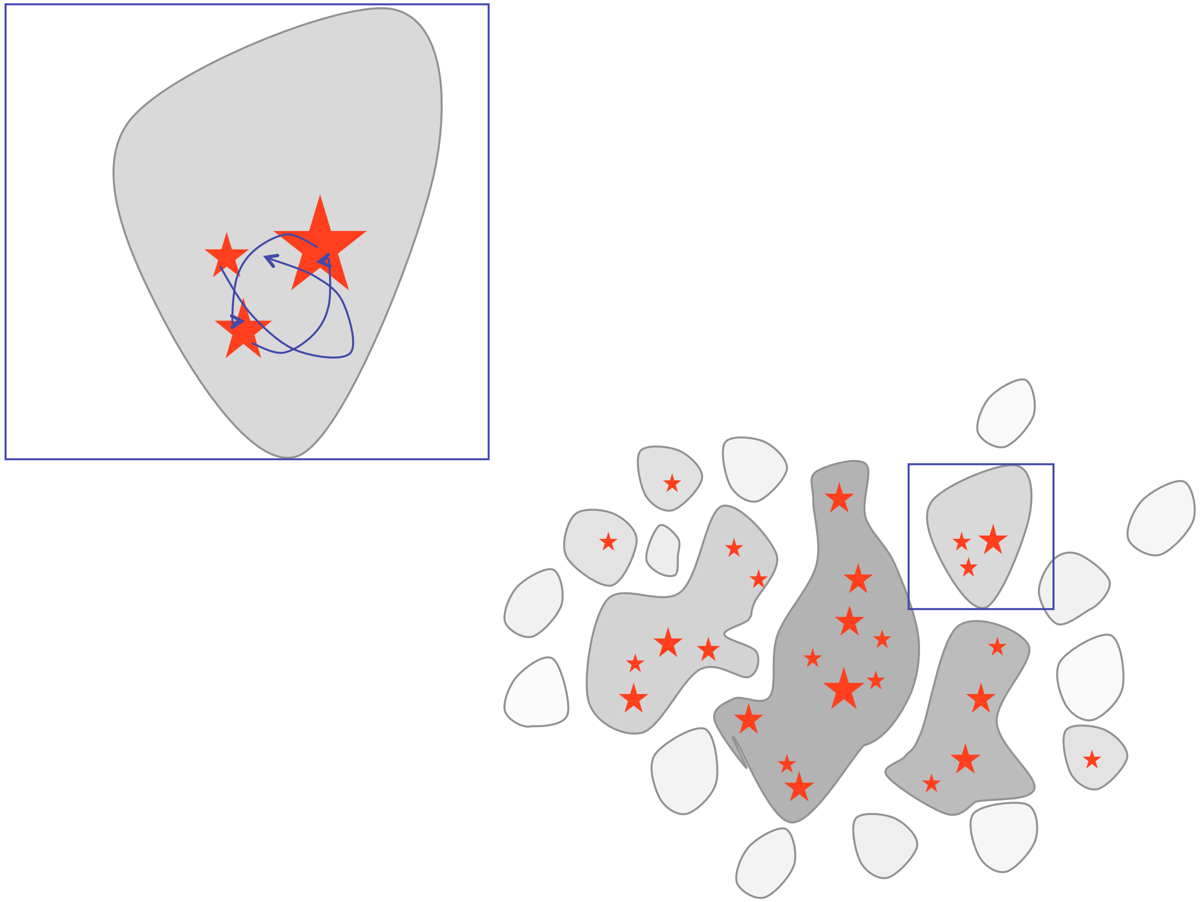
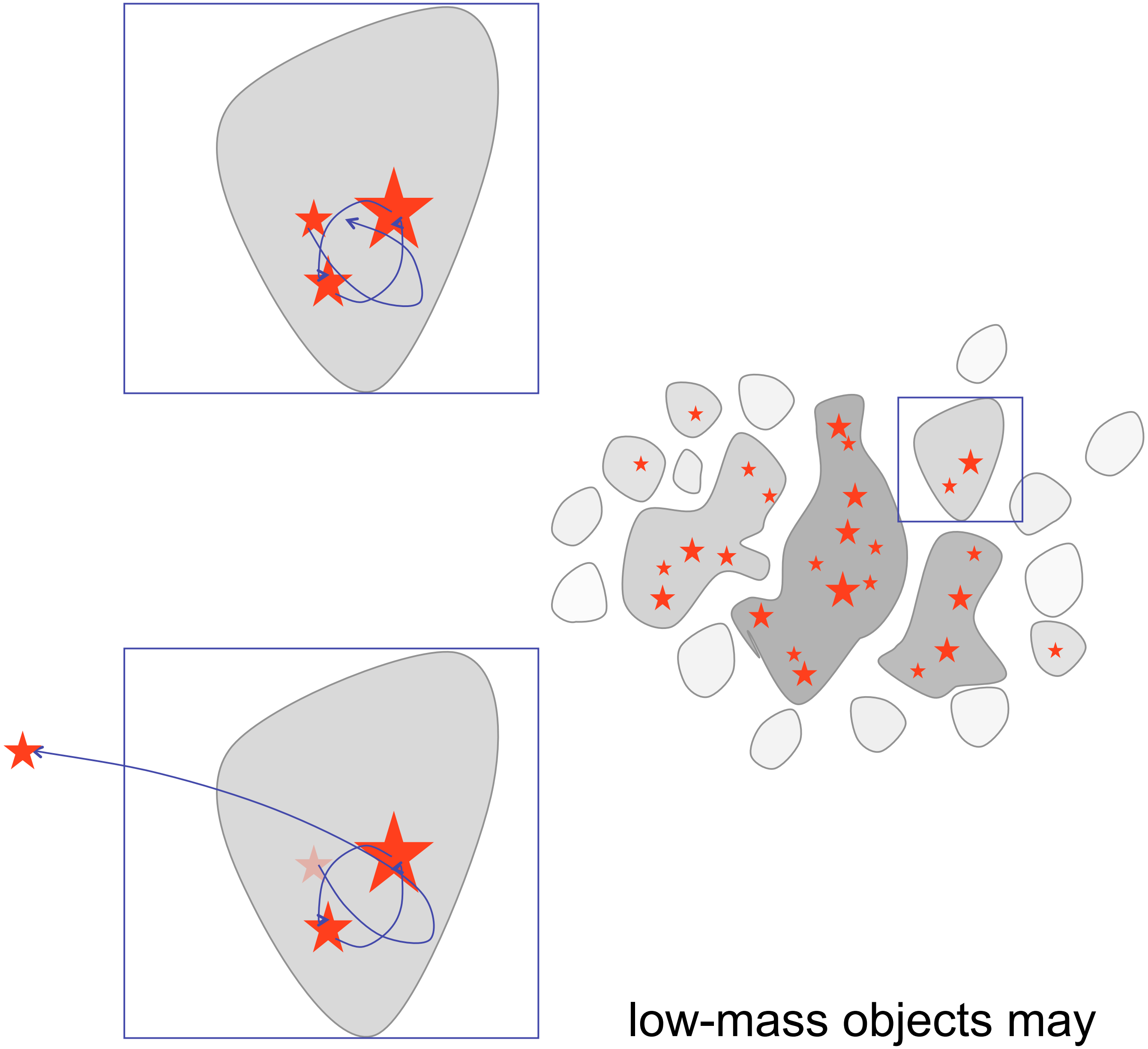
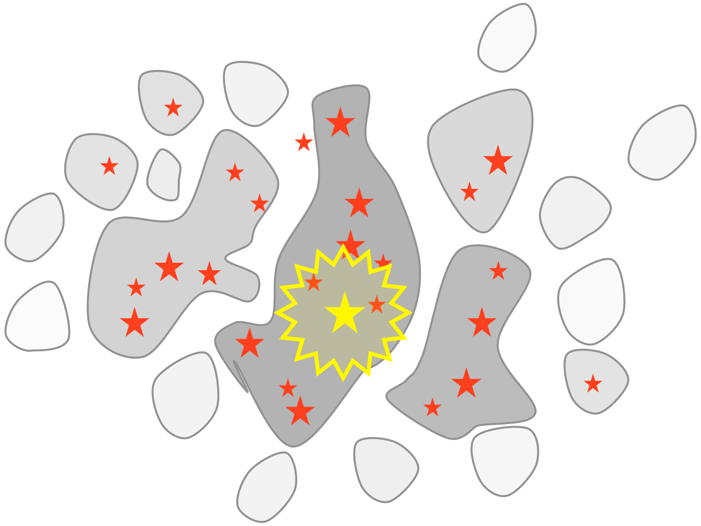


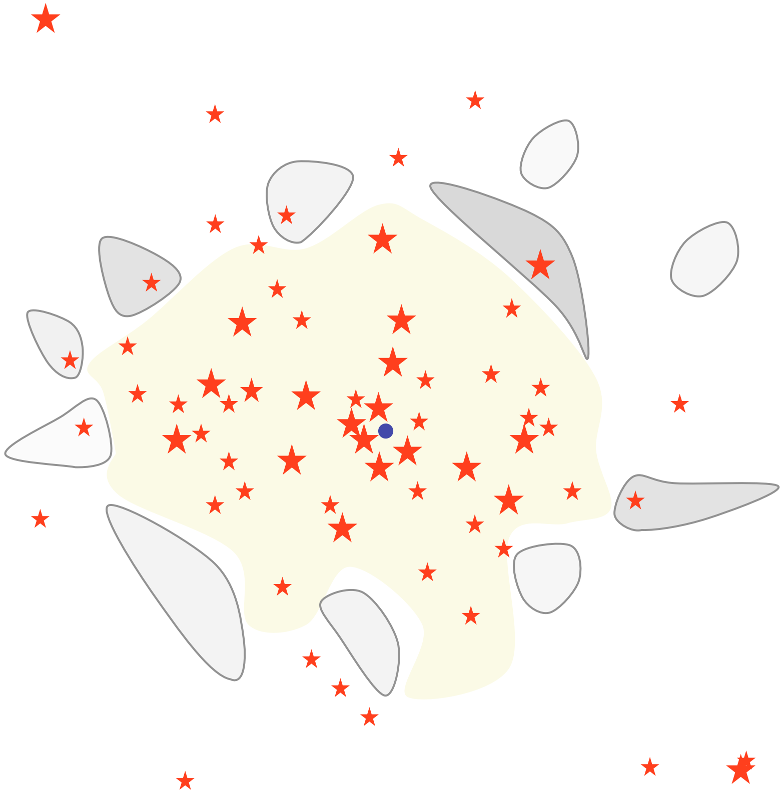
in *dense clusters*, *N*-body effects influence mass growth



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



feedback terminates star formation

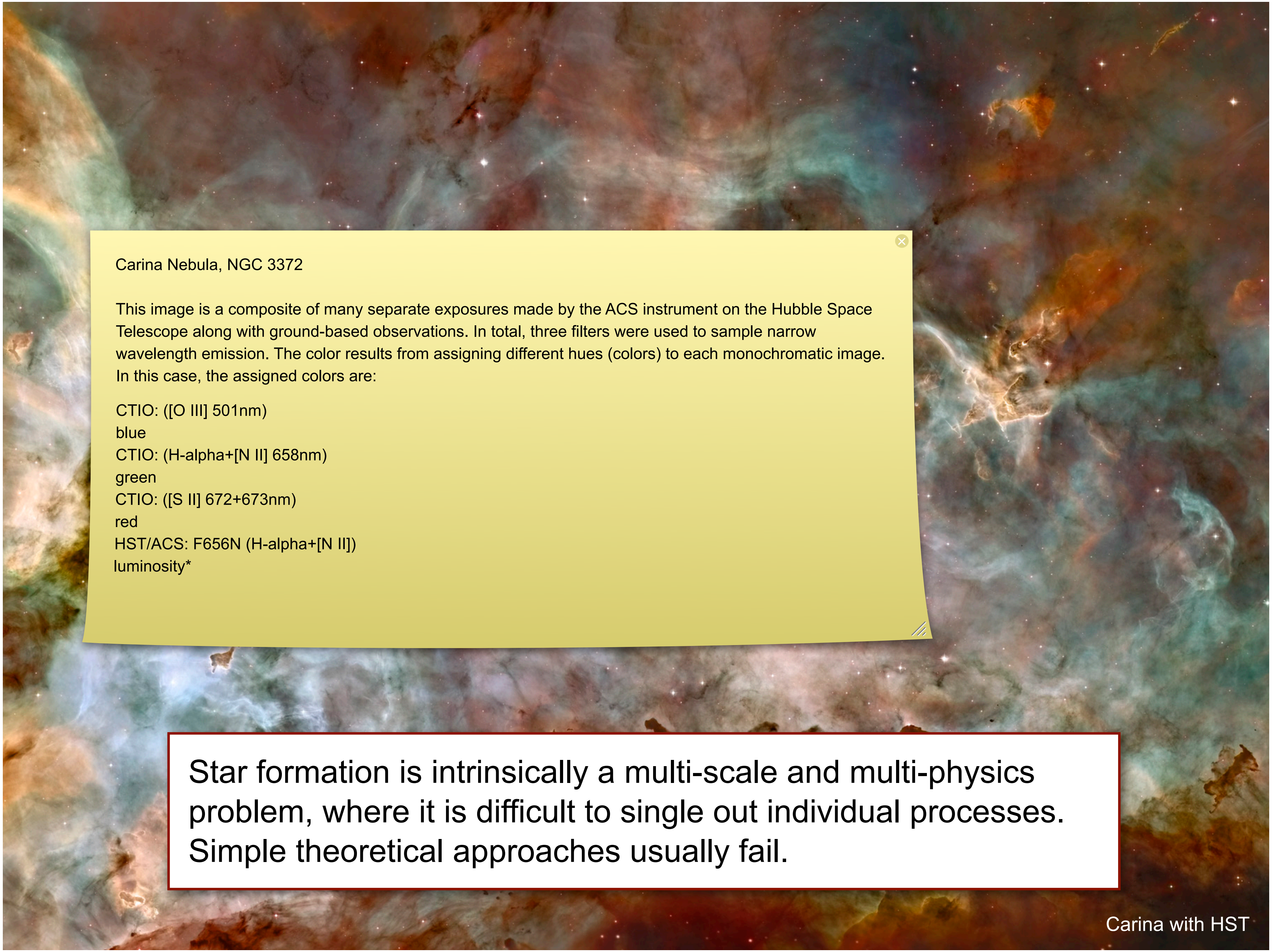


result: *star cluster*, possibly with HII region

current status

- *stars form from the complex interplay of self-gravity and a large number of competing processes (such as turbulence, B-field, feedback, thermal pressure)*
- *the relative importance of these processes depends on the environment*
    - prestellar cores --> thermal pressure is important
      molecular clouds --> turbulence dominates } (Larson's relation: $\sigma \propto L^{1/2}$)
    - massive star forming regions (NGC602): radiative feedback is important
      small clusters (Taurus): evolution maybe dominated by external turbulence
- *star formation is regulated by various feedback processes*
- *star formation is closely linked to global galactic dynamics*

Star formation is intrinsically a multi-scale and multi-physics problem, where it is difficult to single out individual processes. Simple theoretical approaches usually fail.



Carina Nebula, NGC 3372

This image is a composite of many separate exposures made by the ACS instrument on the Hubble Space Telescope along with ground-based observations. In total, three filters were used to sample narrow wavelength emission. The color results from assigning different hues (colors) to each monochromatic image. In this case, the assigned colors are:

CTIO: ([O III] 501nm)
blue
CTIO: (H-alpha+[N II] 658nm)
green
CTIO: ([S II] 672+673nm)
red
HST/ACS: F656N (H-alpha+[N II])
luminosity*

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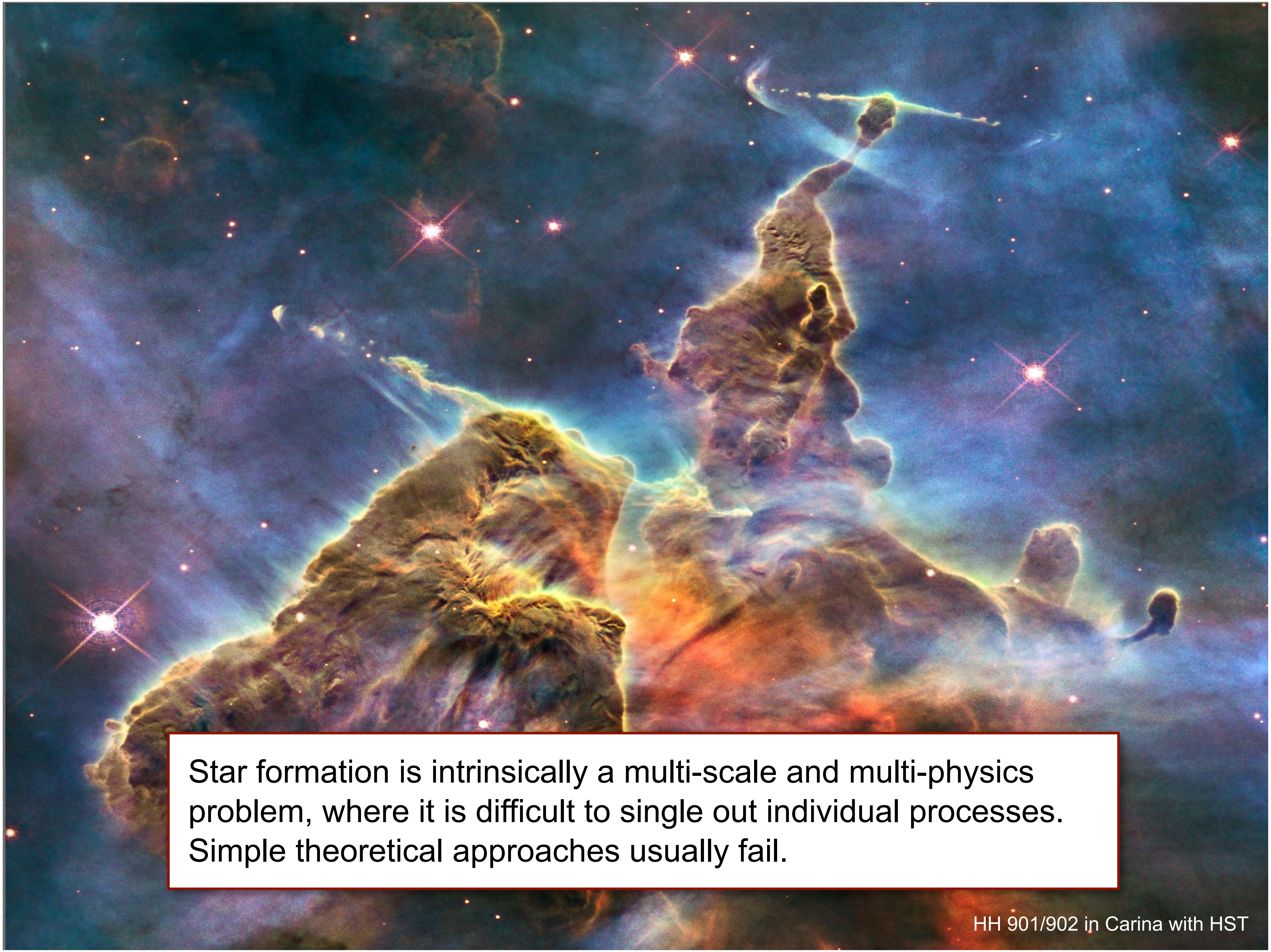
Carina with HST



Star formation is intrinsically a multi-scale and multi-physics problem, where it is difficult to single out individual processes. Simple theoretical approaches usually fail.

HH 901/902 in Carina with HST

selected open questions

- what processes determine the initial mass function (IMF) of stars?
- what are the initial conditions for star cluster formation?
  how does cloud structure translate into cluster structure?
- how do molecular clouds form?
- what drives turbulence?
- what triggers / regulates star formation on galactic scales?
- how does star formation depend on metallicity?
  how do the first stars form?

HH 901/902 in Carina with HST

selected open questions

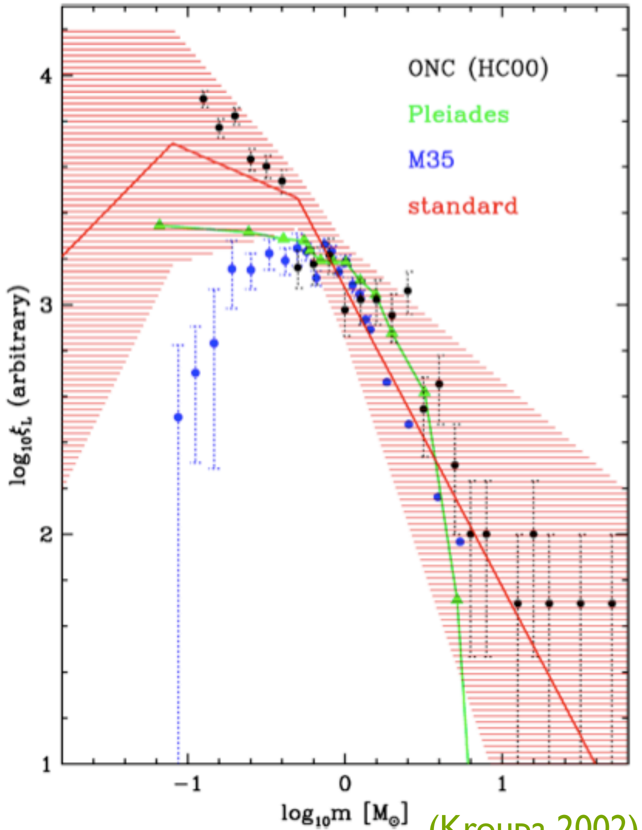
- **what processes determine the initial mass function (IMF) of stars?**
- what are the initial conditions for star cluster formation?
  how does cloud structure translate into cluster structure?
- how do molecular clouds form?
- what drives turbulence?
- what triggers / regulates star formation on galactic scales?
- how does star formation depend on metallicity?
  how do the first stars form?

HH 901/902 in Carina with HST

Stellar mass function

stellar mass fuction

stars seem to follow a universal mass function at birth --> IMF

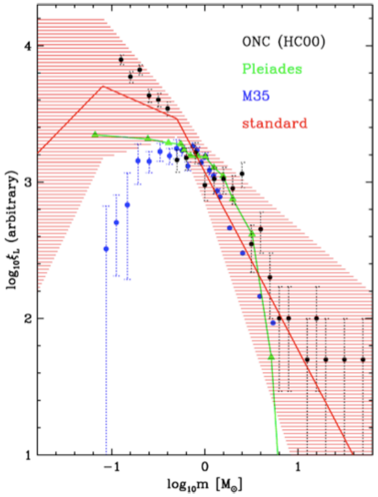


(Kroupa 2002)

Orion, NGC 3603, 30 Doradus
(Zinnecker & Yorke 2007)

stellar masses

- distribution of stellar masses depends on
  - turbulent initial conditions
    --> mass spectrum of prestellar cloud cores
  - collapse and interaction of prestellar cores
    --> 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



(Kroupa 2002)

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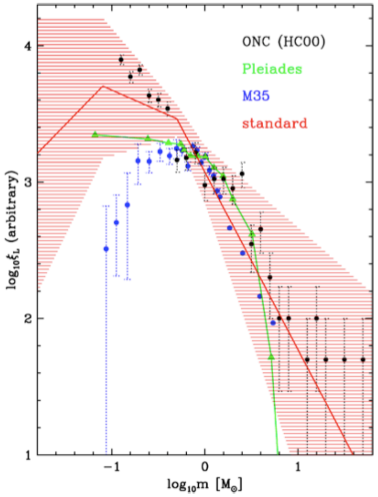


(Kroupa 2002)

example: model of Orion cloud

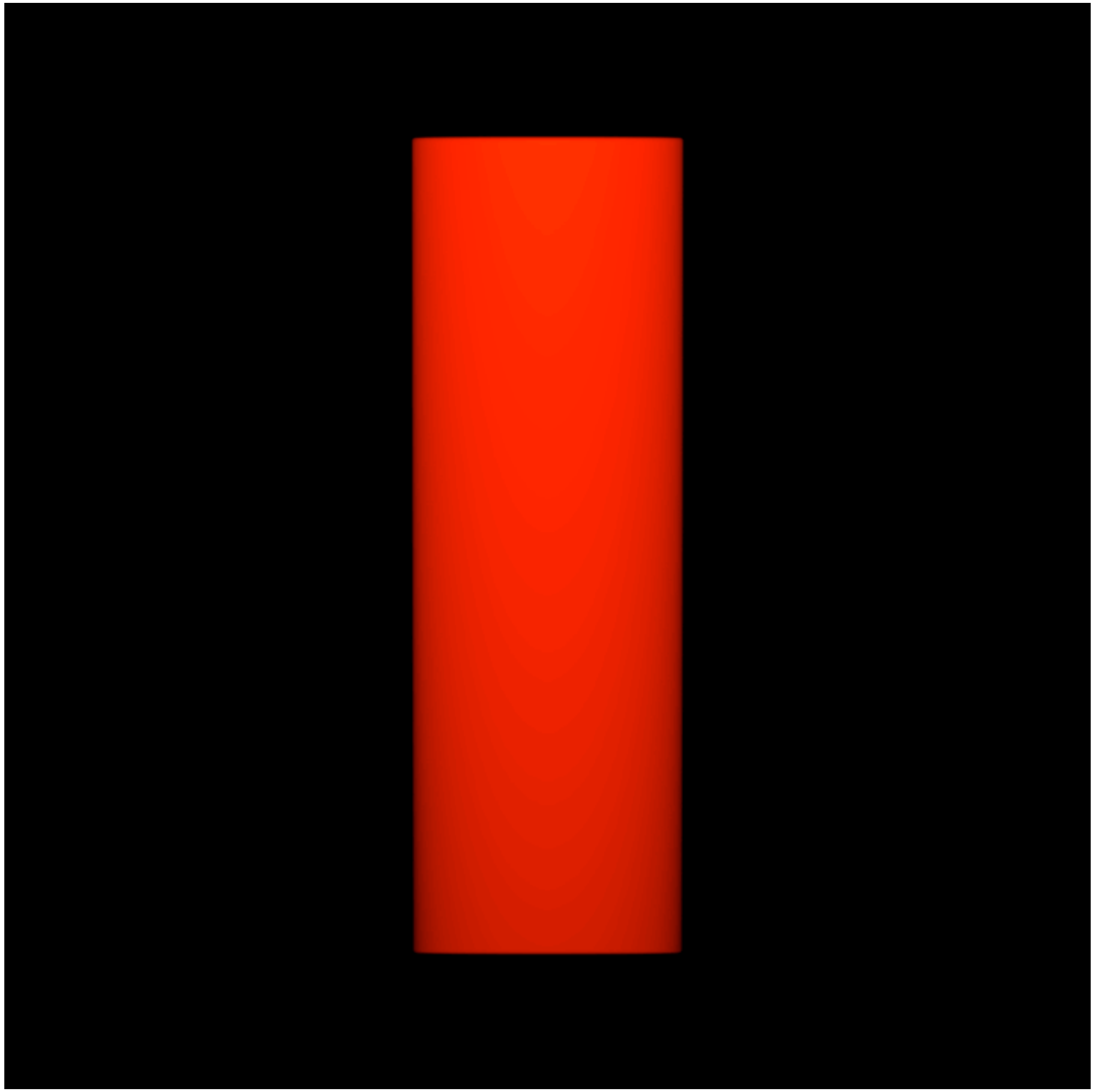
„model“ of Orion cloud:
15.000.000 SPH particles,
10^4 M_{sun} in 10 pc, mass resolution 0,02 M_{sun}, forms ~2.500 „stars“ (sink particles)

isothermal EOS, top bound, bottom unbound

has clustered as well as distributed „star“ formation

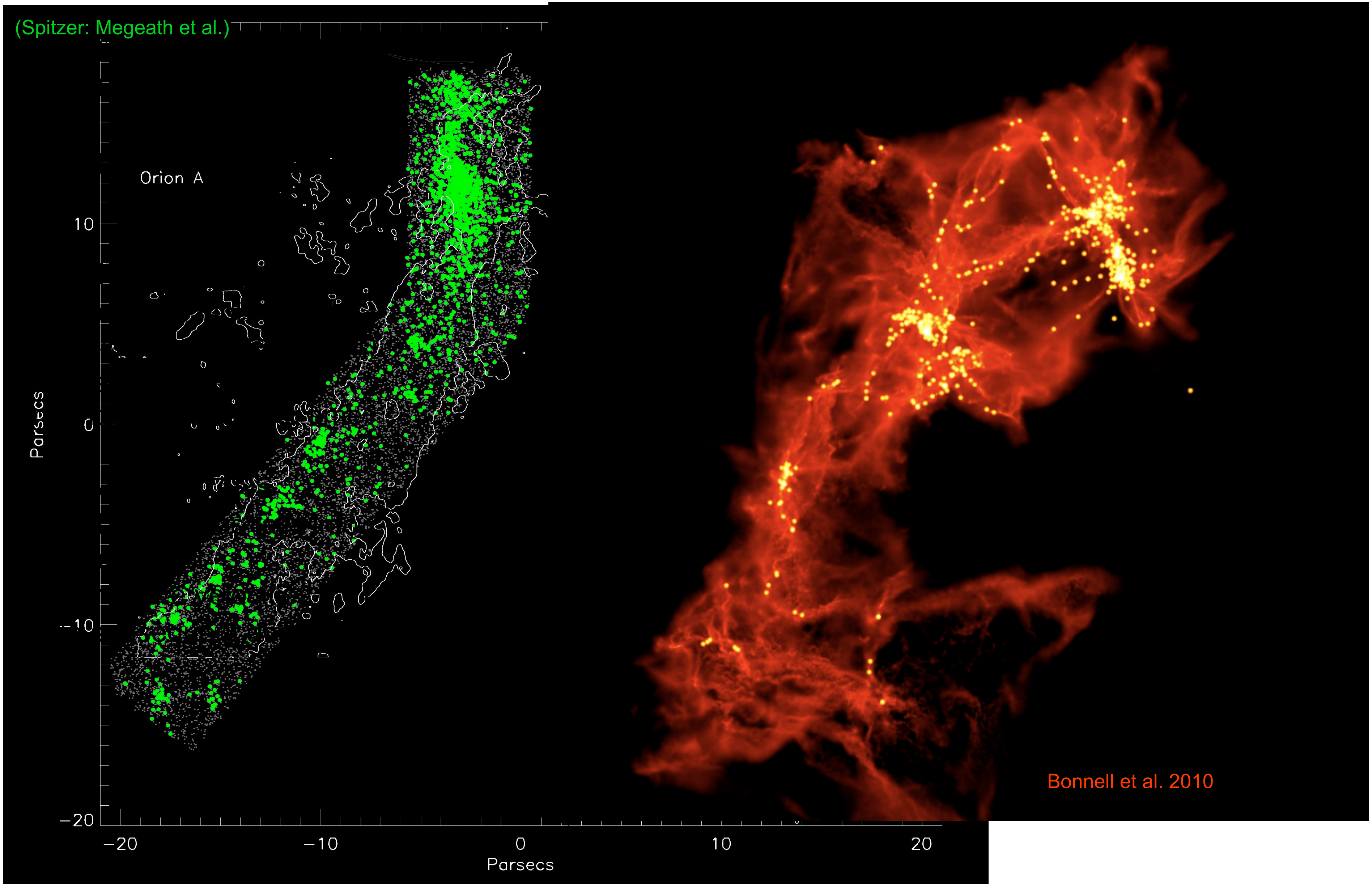
efficiency varies from 1% to 20%

develops full IMF
(distribution of sink particle masses)



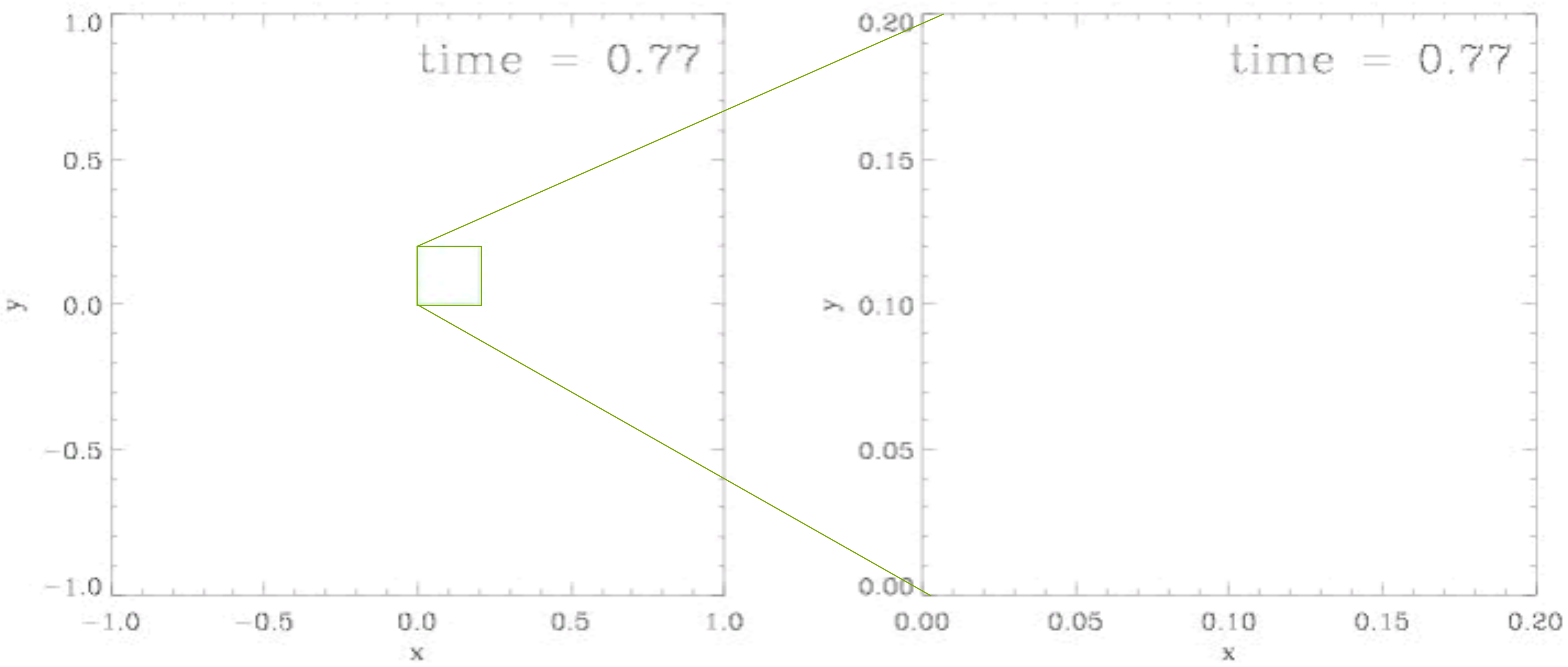
(Bonnell, Smith, Clark, & Bate 2010, MNRAS, 410, 2339)

example: model of Orion cloud



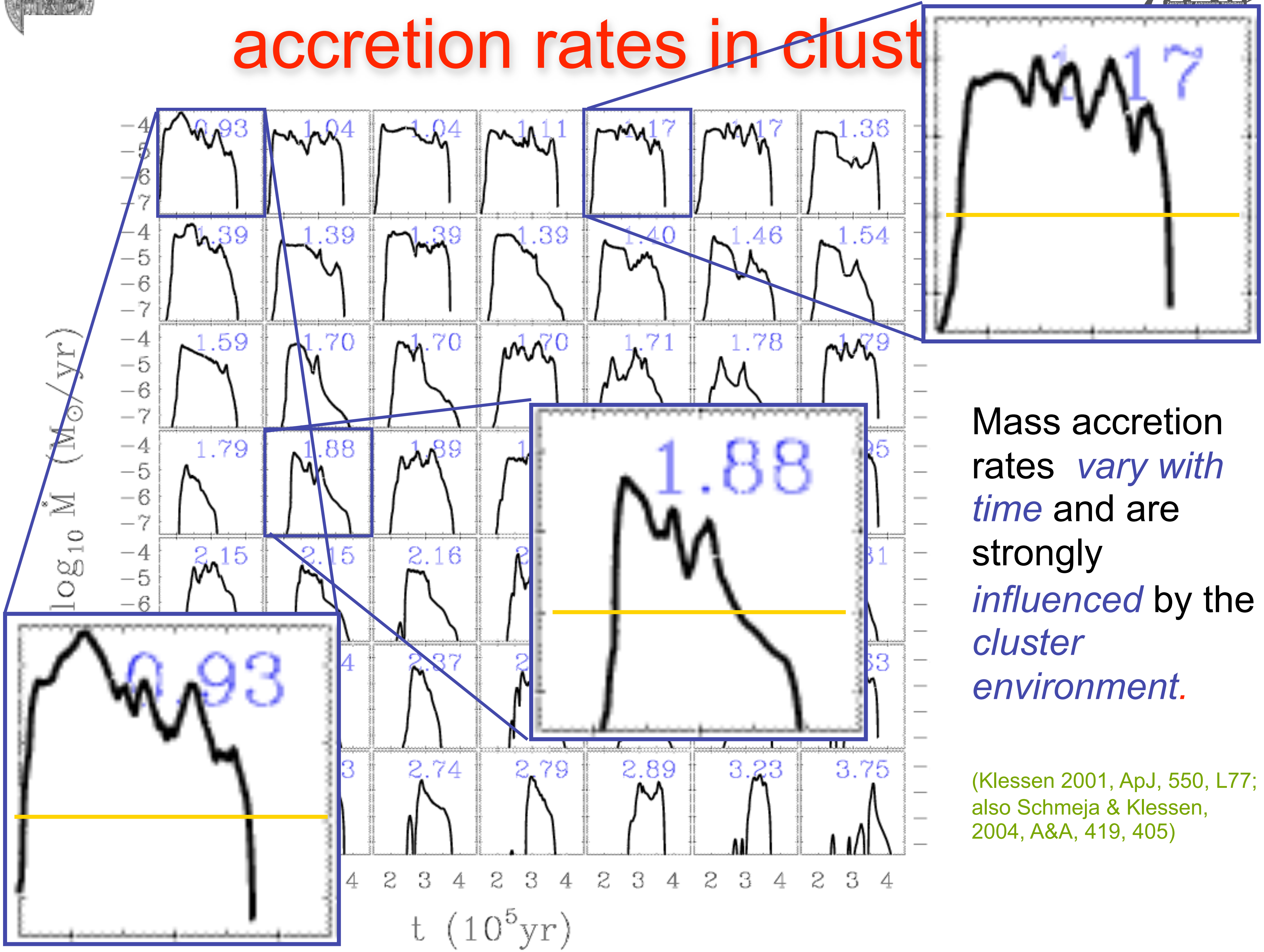
dynamics of nascent star cluster

in dense clusters protostellar interaction may be come important!



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

accretion rates in clust



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)

stellar masses

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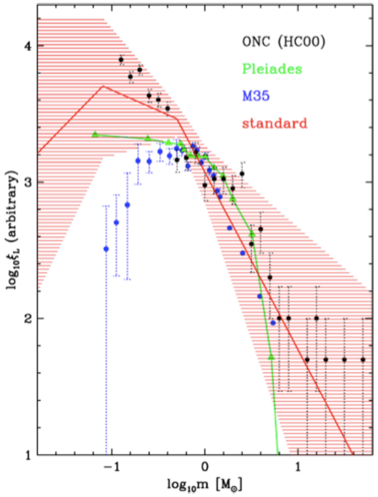

(Kroupa 2002)

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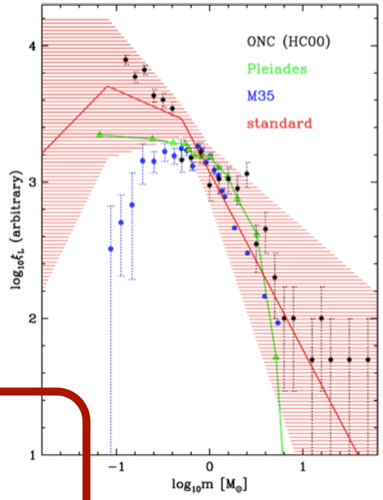
application to early star formation



(Kroupa 2002)

thermodynamics & fragmentation

degree of fragmentation depends on *EOS!*

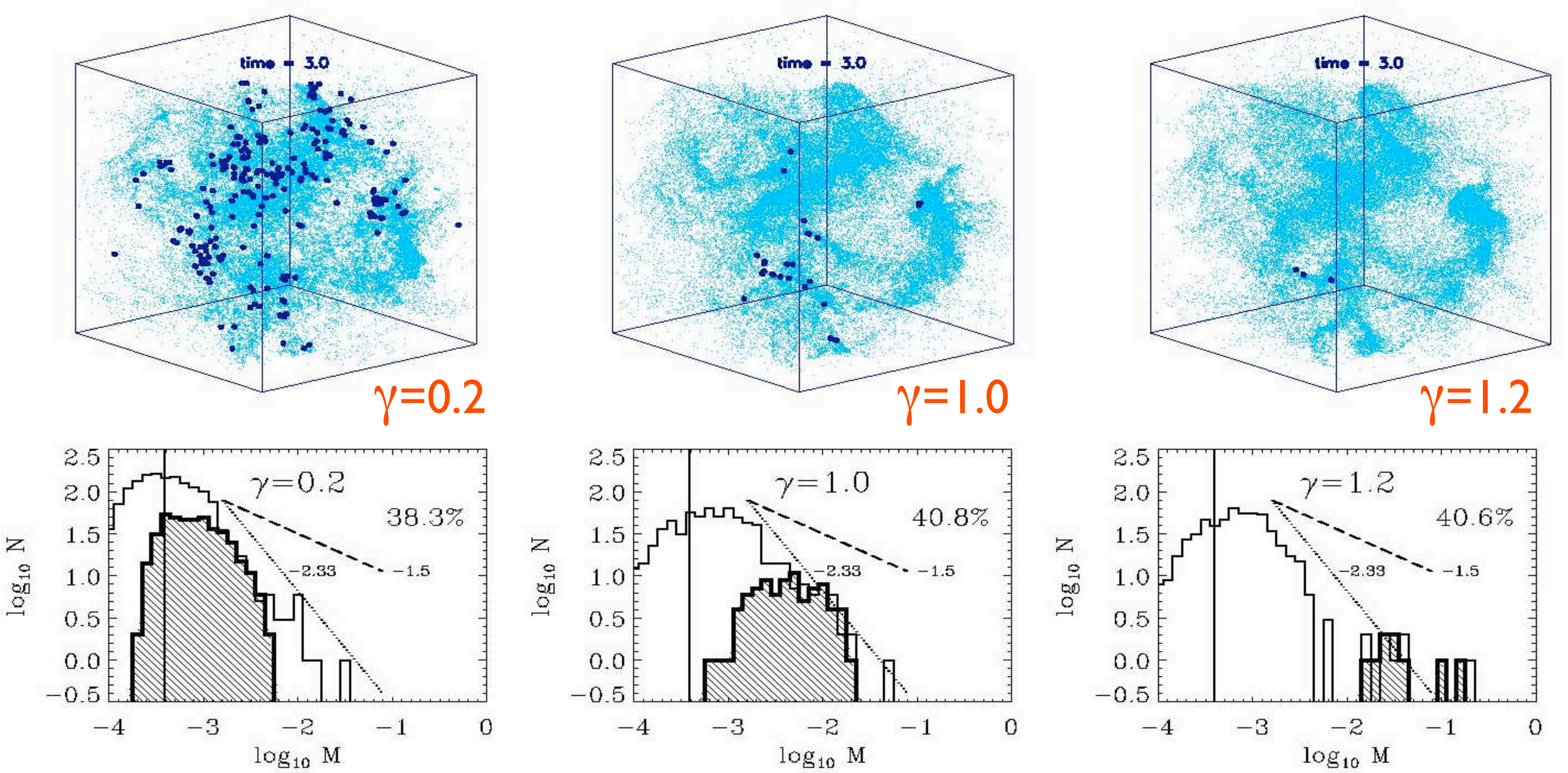
polytropic EOS: $\mathbf{p} \propto \rho^{\gamma}$

$\gamma < 1$: dense cluster of low-mass stars

$\gamma > 1$: isolated high-mass stars

(see Li et al. 2003; also Kawachi & Hanawa 1998, Larson 2003)

dependency on EOS



for γ<1 fragmentation is enhanced → *cluster of low-mass stars*

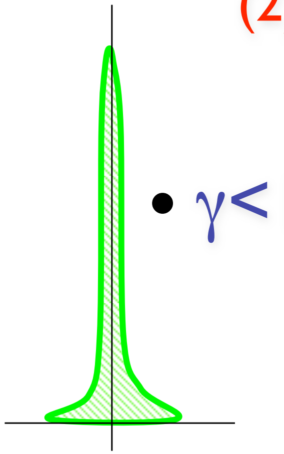
for γ>1 it is suppressed → formation of *isolated massive stars*

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

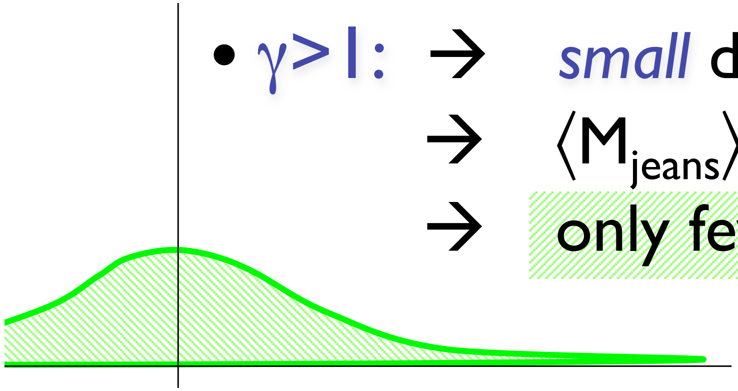
how does that work?

(1) $\mathbf{p} \propto \rho^{\gamma}$ → $\rho \propto \mathbf{p}^{1/\gamma}$

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

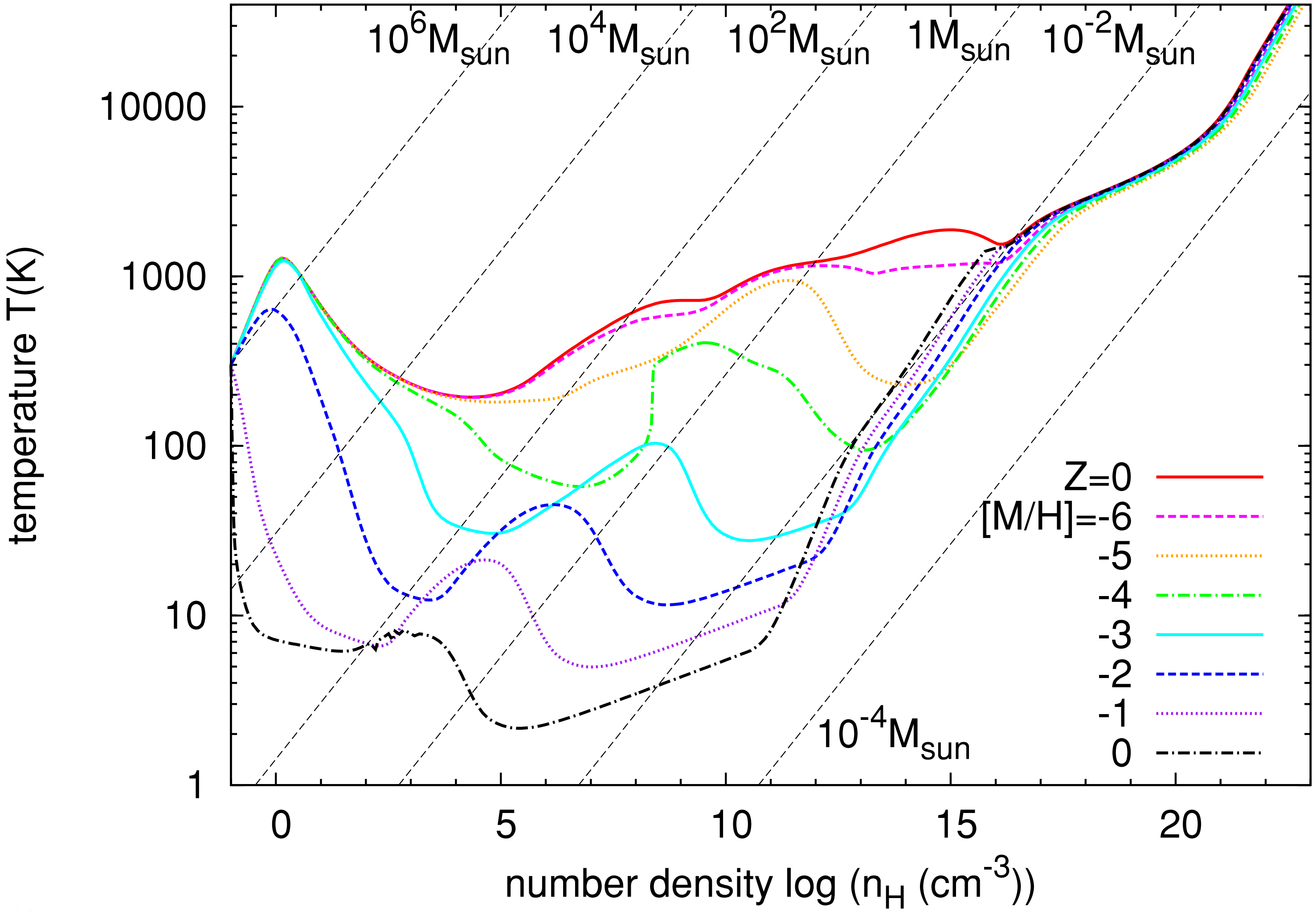


- $\gamma<1$: → *large* density excursion for given pressure
  → $\langle M_{jeans} \rangle$ becomes small
  → number of fluctuations with $M > M_{jeans}$ is large



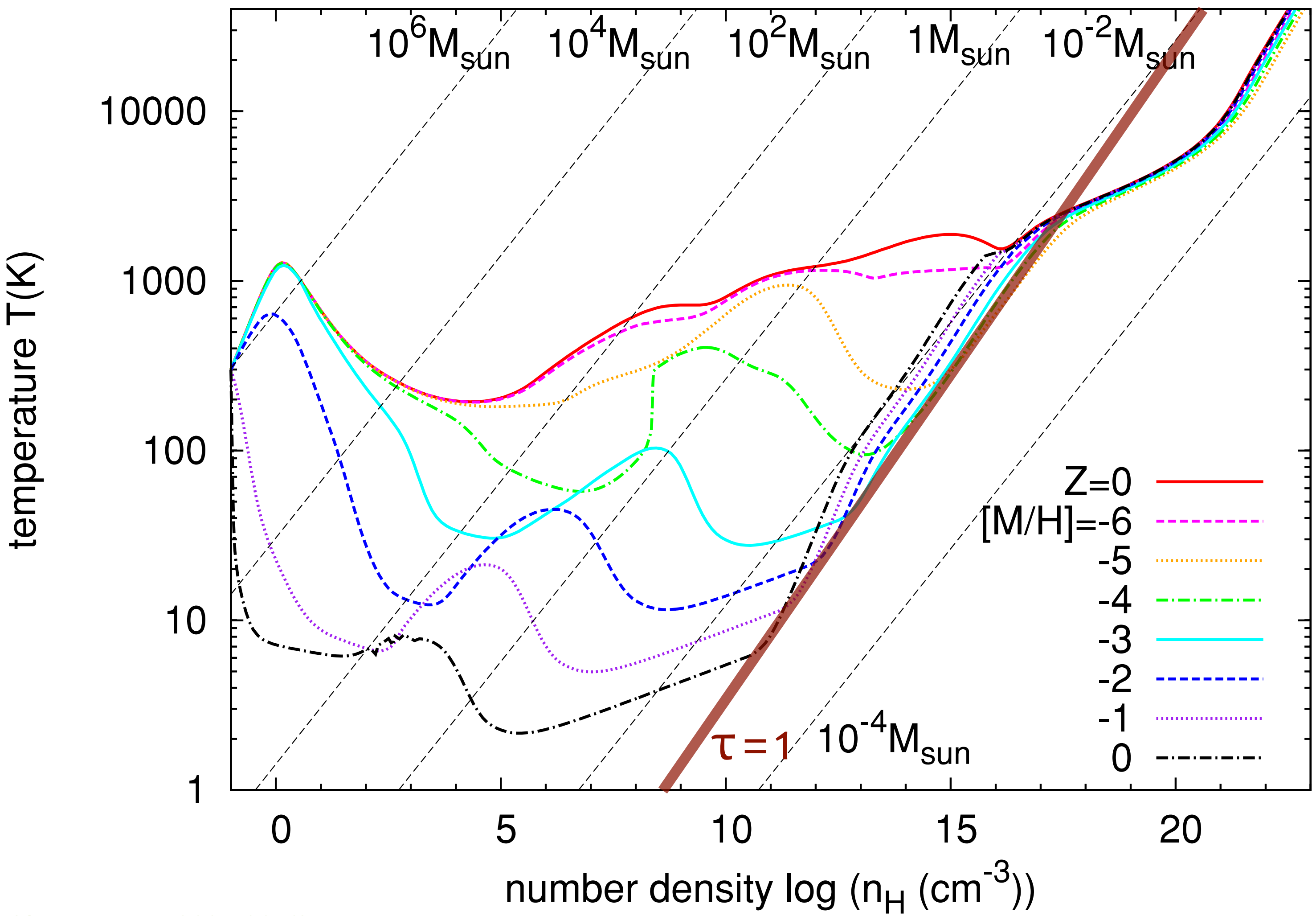
- $\gamma>1$: → *small* density excursion for given pressure
  → $\langle M_{jeans} \rangle$ is large
  → only few and massive clumps exceed M_{jeans}

EOS as function of metallicity



(Omukai et al. 2005, 2010)

EOS as function of metallicity



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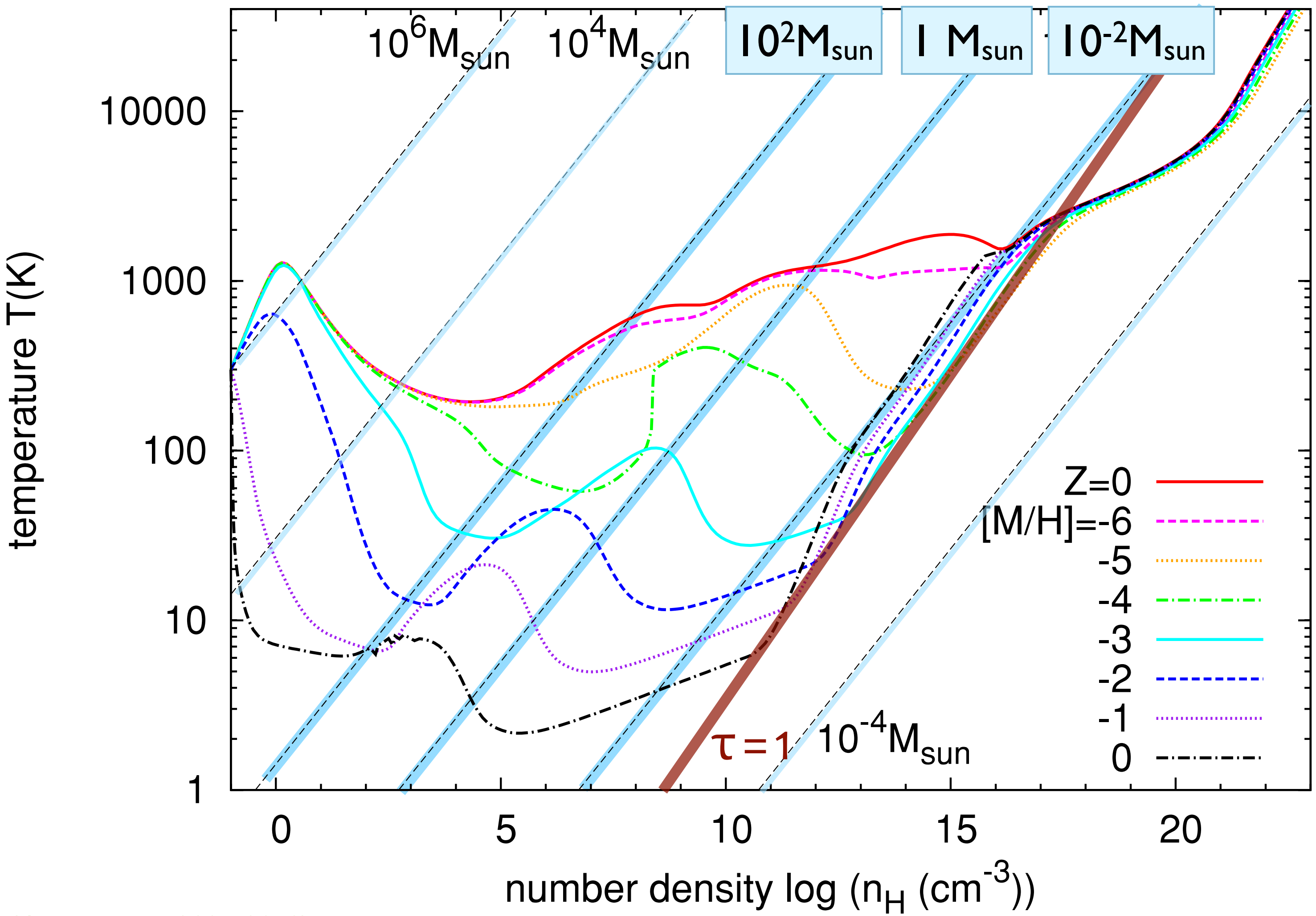

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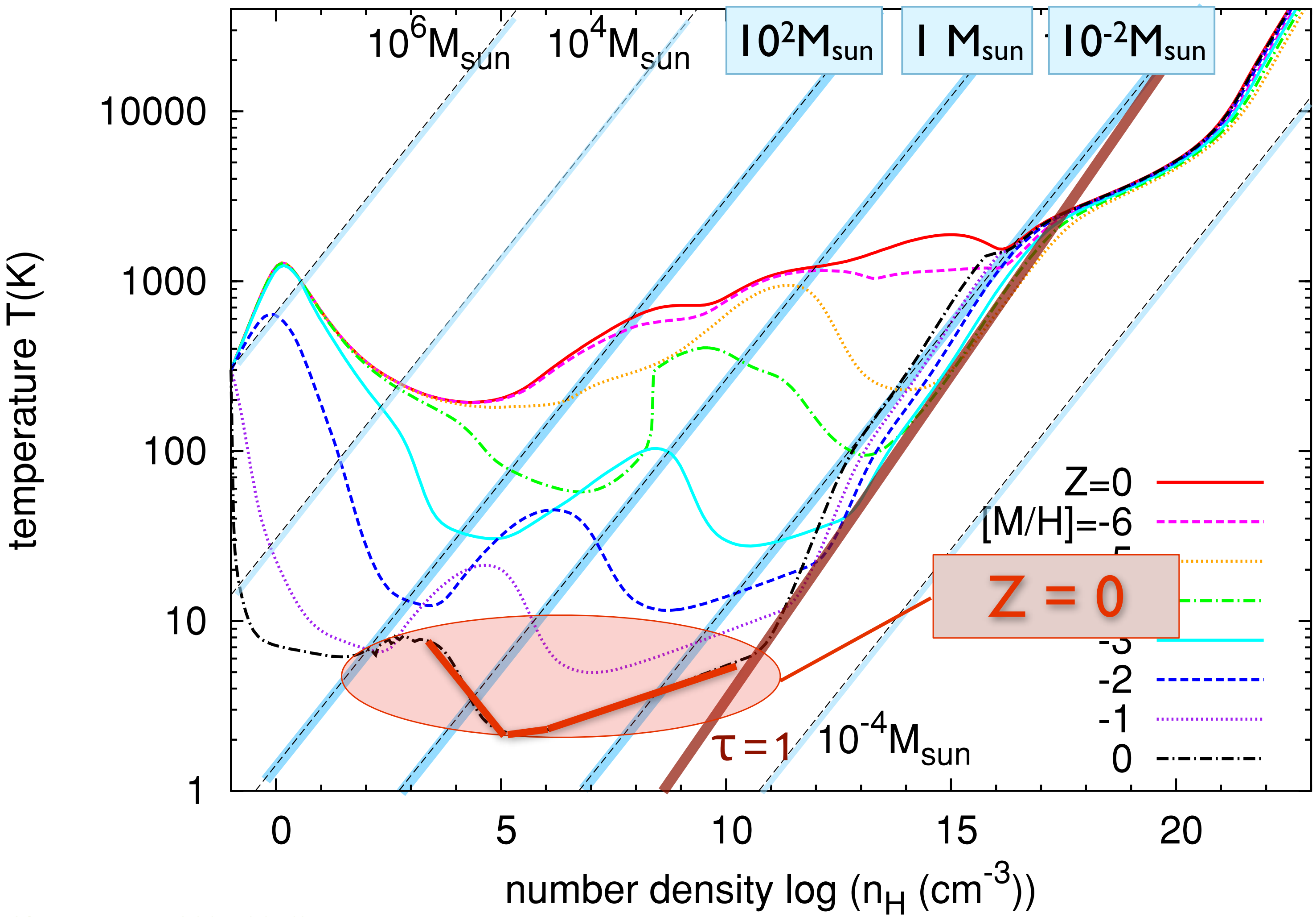
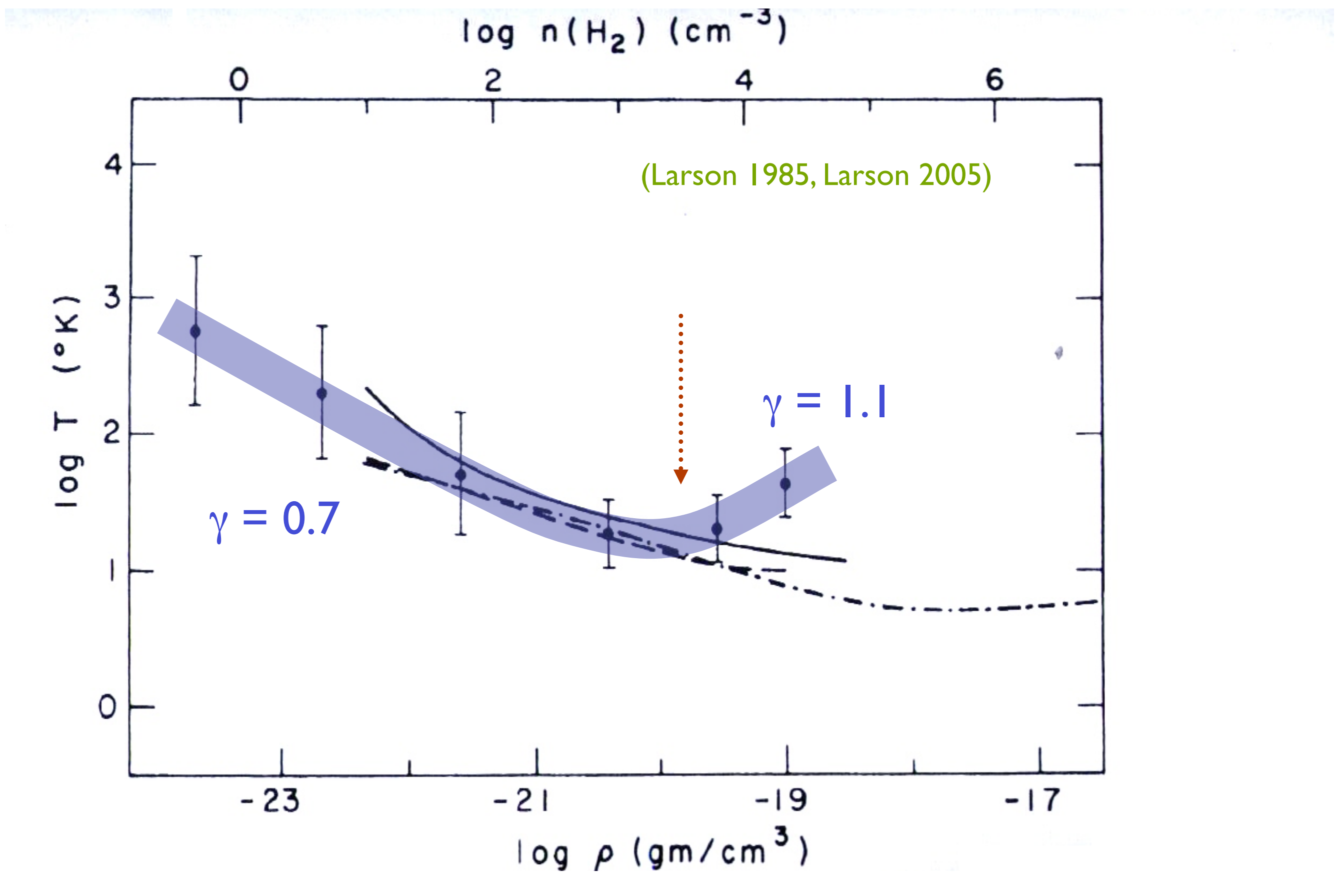


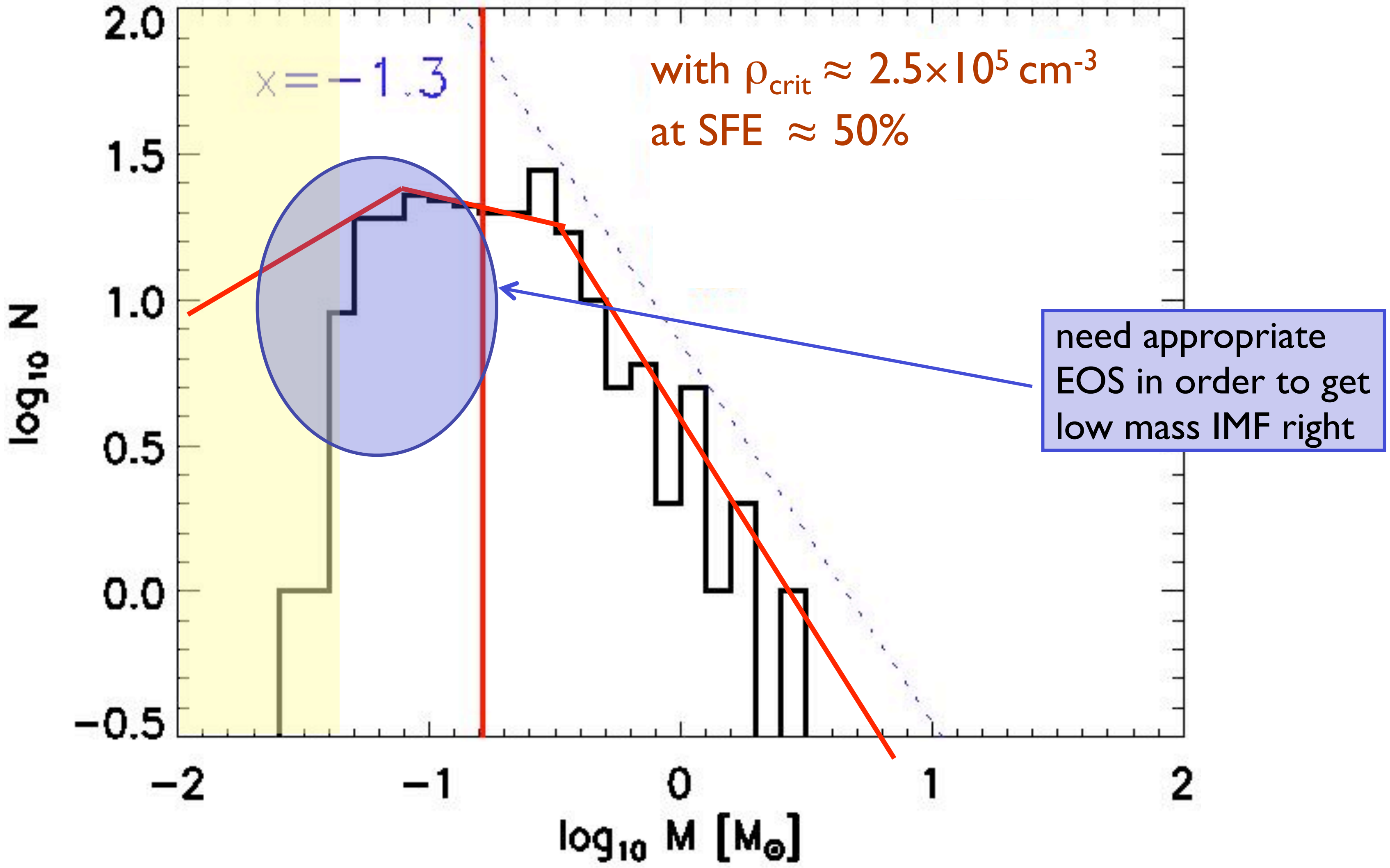
(Omukai et al. 2005, 2010)

present-day star formation



(Larson 1985, Larson 2005)

IMF in nearby molecular clouds



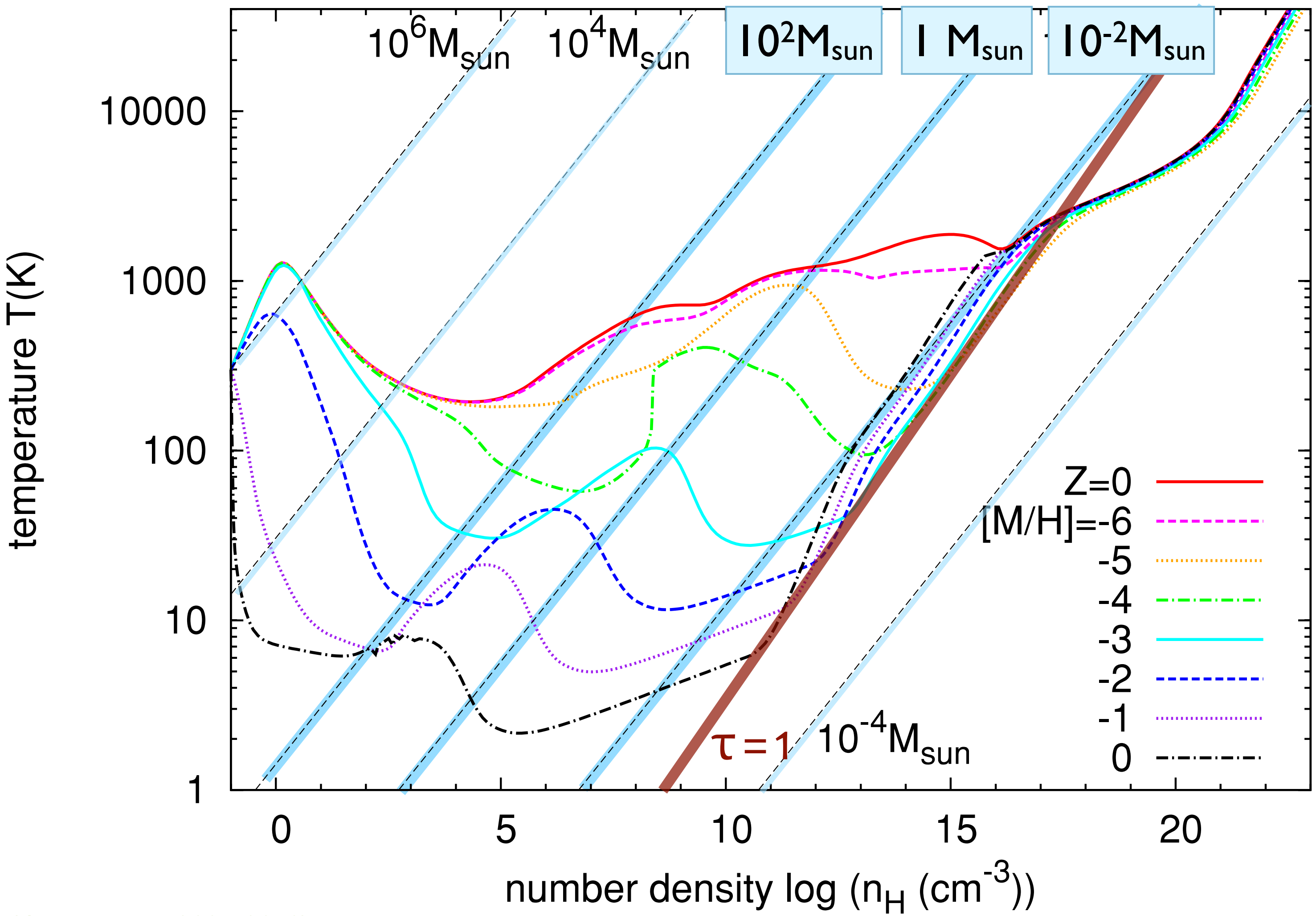
with $\rho_{crit} \approx 2.5\times10^5$ cm^{-3}

at SFE ≈ 50%

need appropriate EOS in order to get low mass IMF right

(Jappsen et al. 2005, A&A, 435, 611)

EOS as function of metallicity



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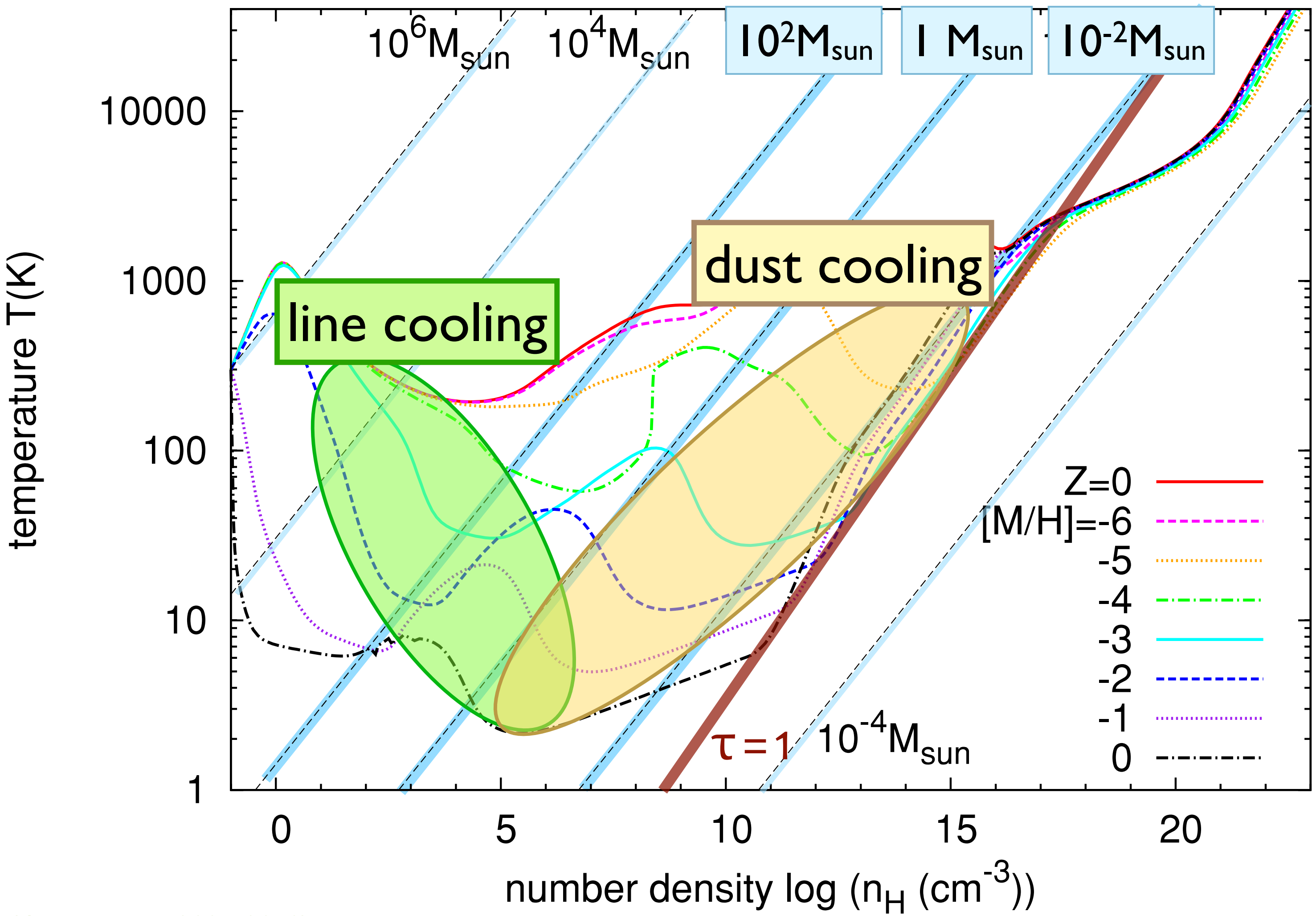
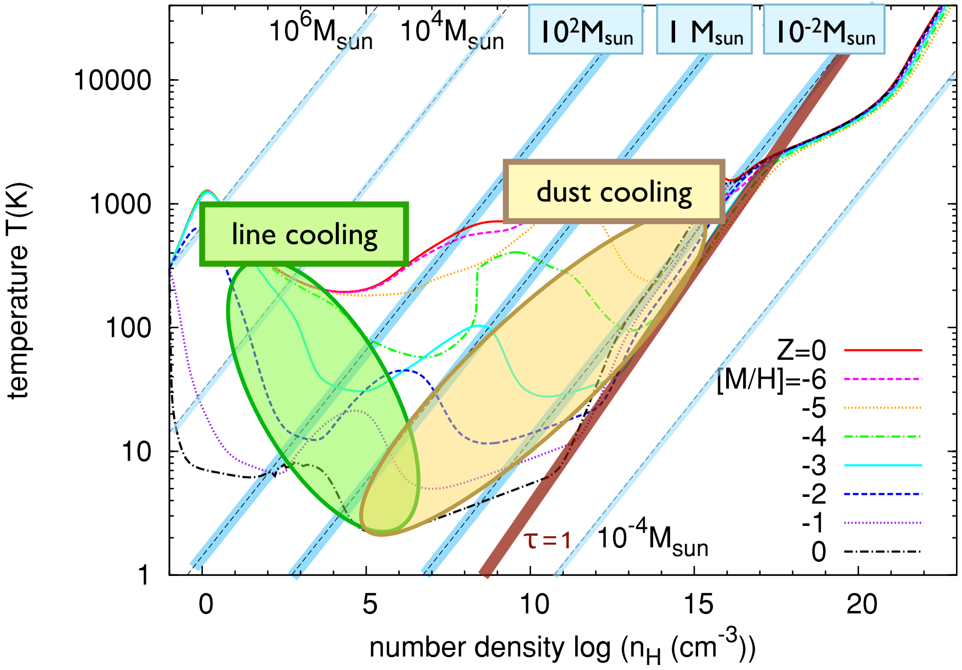


(Omukai et al. 2005, 2010)

transition: Pop III to Pop II.5



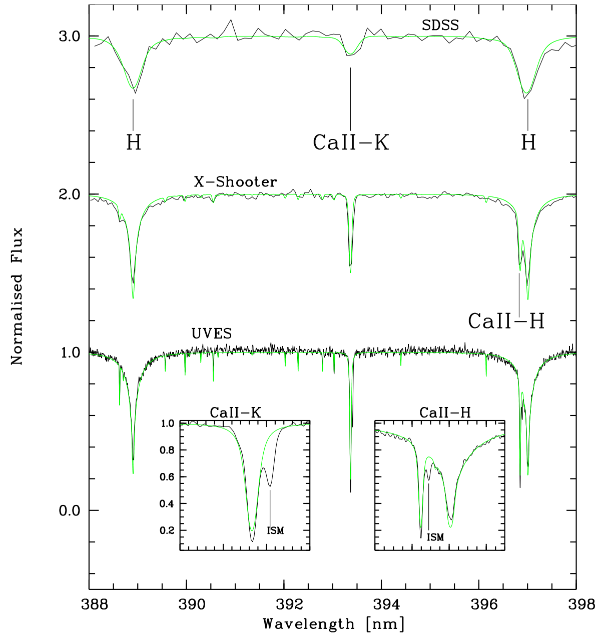
(Omukai et al. 2005, 2010)

two competing models:

- cooling due to atomic fine-structure lines ($Z > 10^{-3.5}\ Z_{sun}$)
- cooling due to coupling between gas and dust
($Z > 10^{-5...-6}\ Z_{sun}$)

- which one is explains origin of extremely metal-poor stars
NB: lines would only make very massive stars, with
$M >$ few x10 M_{sun}.

transition: Pop III to Pop II.5



SDSS J1029151+172927

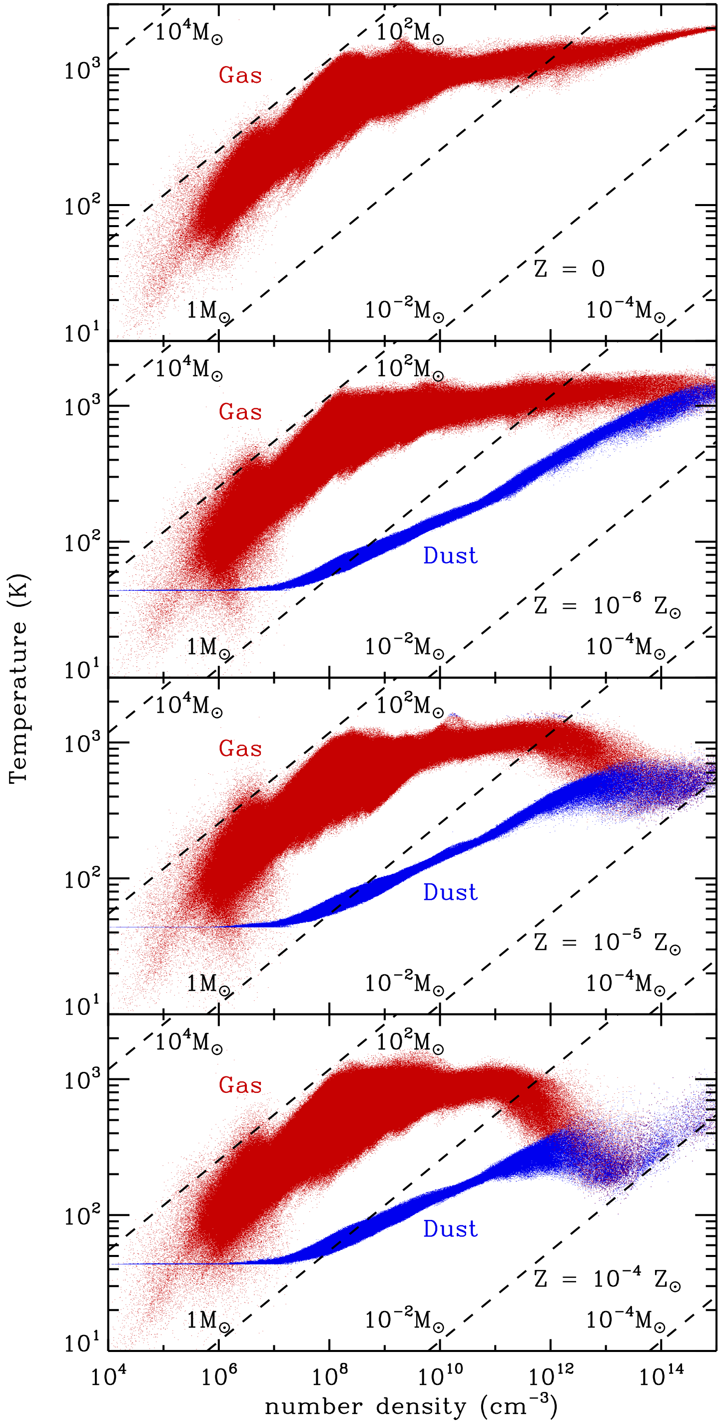
- is first ultra metal-poor star with Z ~ $10^{-4.5}$ Z_{sun} for all metals seen (Fe, C, N, etc.)
  [see Caffau et al. 2011]
- this is in regime, where metal-lines cannot provide cooling
  [e.g. Schneider et al. 2011, 2012, Klessen et al. 2012]

- new ESO large program to find more of these stars (120h x-shooter, 30h UVES)
  [PI E. Caffau]

Element	$[X/H]_{1D}$				N lines	S_H	$A(X)_\odot$
		+3Dcor.	+NLTE cor.	+ 3D cor + NLTE cor			
C	≤ −3.8	≤ −4.5			G-band		8.50
N	≤ −4.1	≤ −5.0			NH-band		7.86
Mg I	−4.71 ± 0.11	−4.68 ± 0.11	−4.52 ± 0.11	−4.49 ± 0.12	5	0.1	7.54
Si I	−4.27	−4.30	−3.93	−3.96	1	0.1	7.52
Ca I	−4.72	−4.82	−4.44	−4.54	1	0.1	6.33
Ca II	−4.81 ± 0.11	−4.93 ± 0.03	−5.02 ± 0.02	−5.15 ± 0.09	3	0.1	6.33
Ti II	−4.75 ± 0.18	−4.83 ± 0.16	−4.76 ± 0.18	−4.84 ± 0.16	6	1.0	4.90
Fe I	−4.73 ± 0.13	−5.02 ± 0.10	−4.60 ± 0.13	−4.89 ± 0.10	43	1.0	7.52
Ni I	−4.55 ± 0.14	−4.90 ± 0.11			10		6.23
Sr II	≤ −5.10	≤ −5.25	≤ −4.94	≤ −5.09	1	0.01	2.92

(Caffau et al. 2011, 2012)

(Schneider et al. 2011,2012, Klessen et al. 2012)



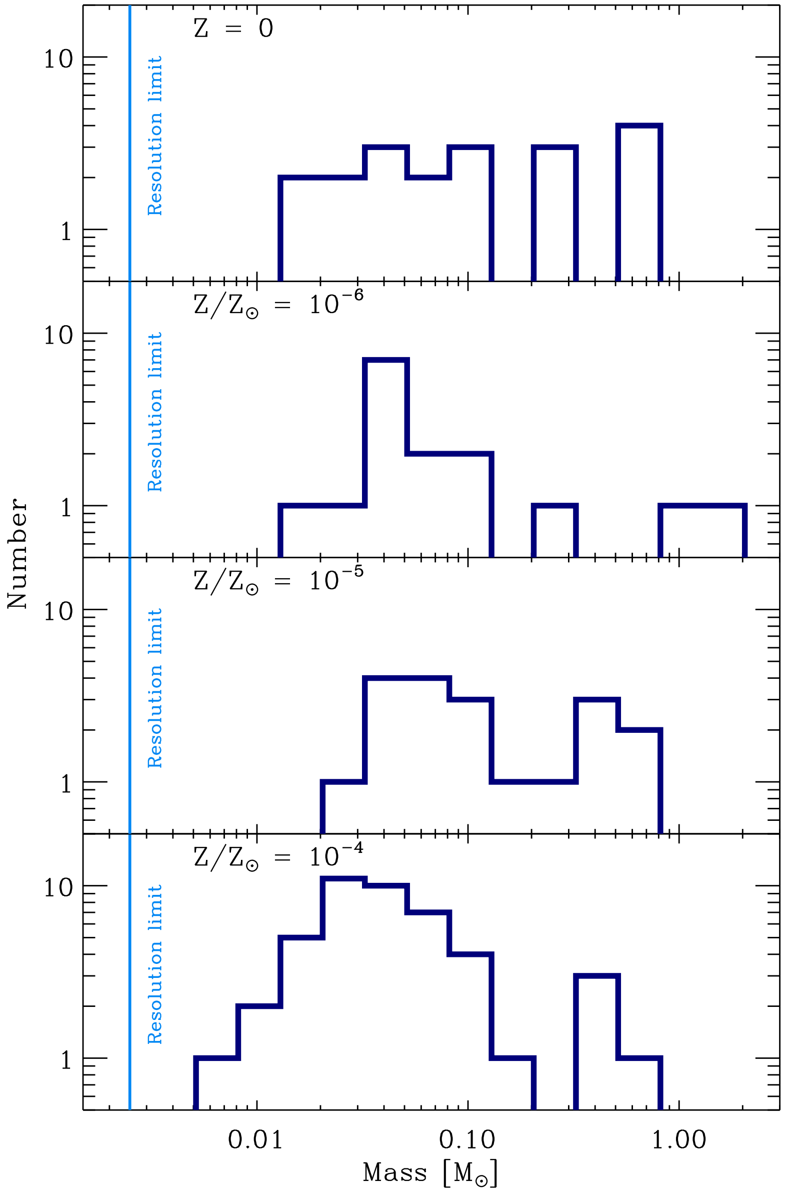
[M/H] = -ininity

[M/H] = -6

[M/H] = -5

[M/H] = -4

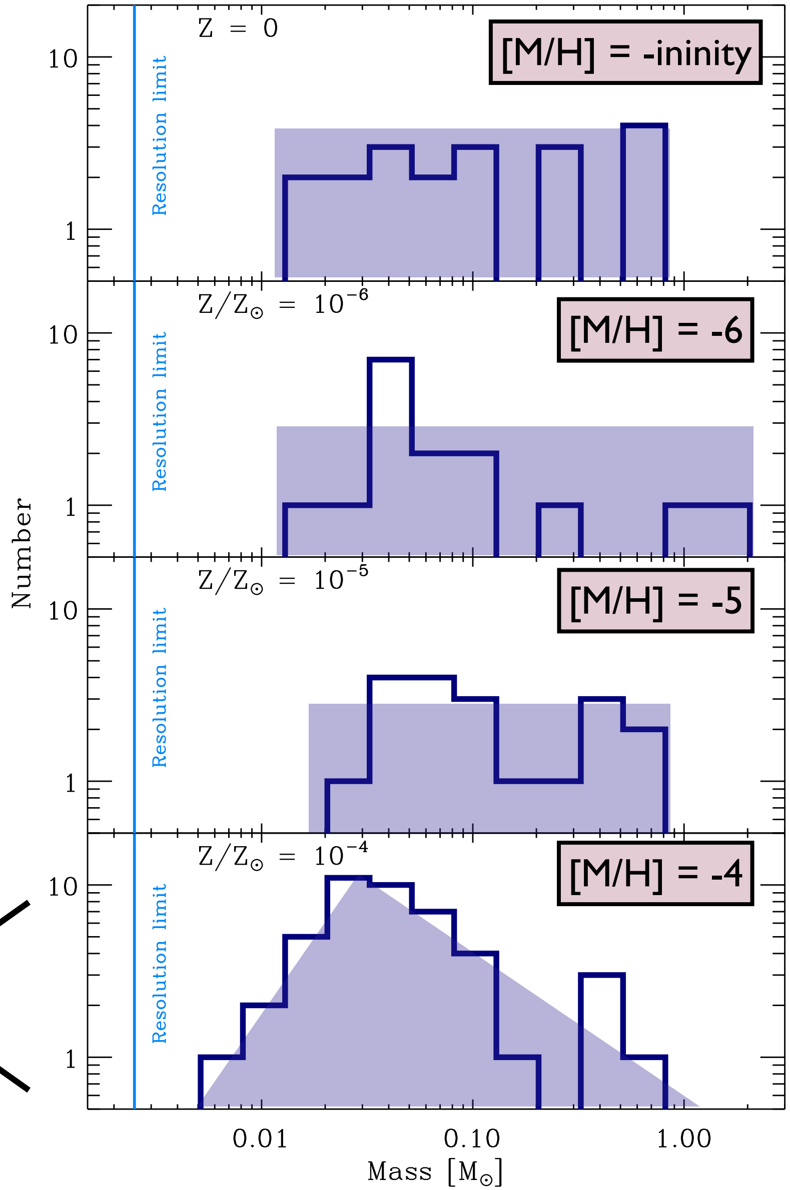
red : gas
blue: dust



Dopcke et al., 2012, submitted to ApJ, arXiv:1203.6842) hints for differences in mass spectrum

disk fragmentation mode

gravoturbulent fragmentation mode



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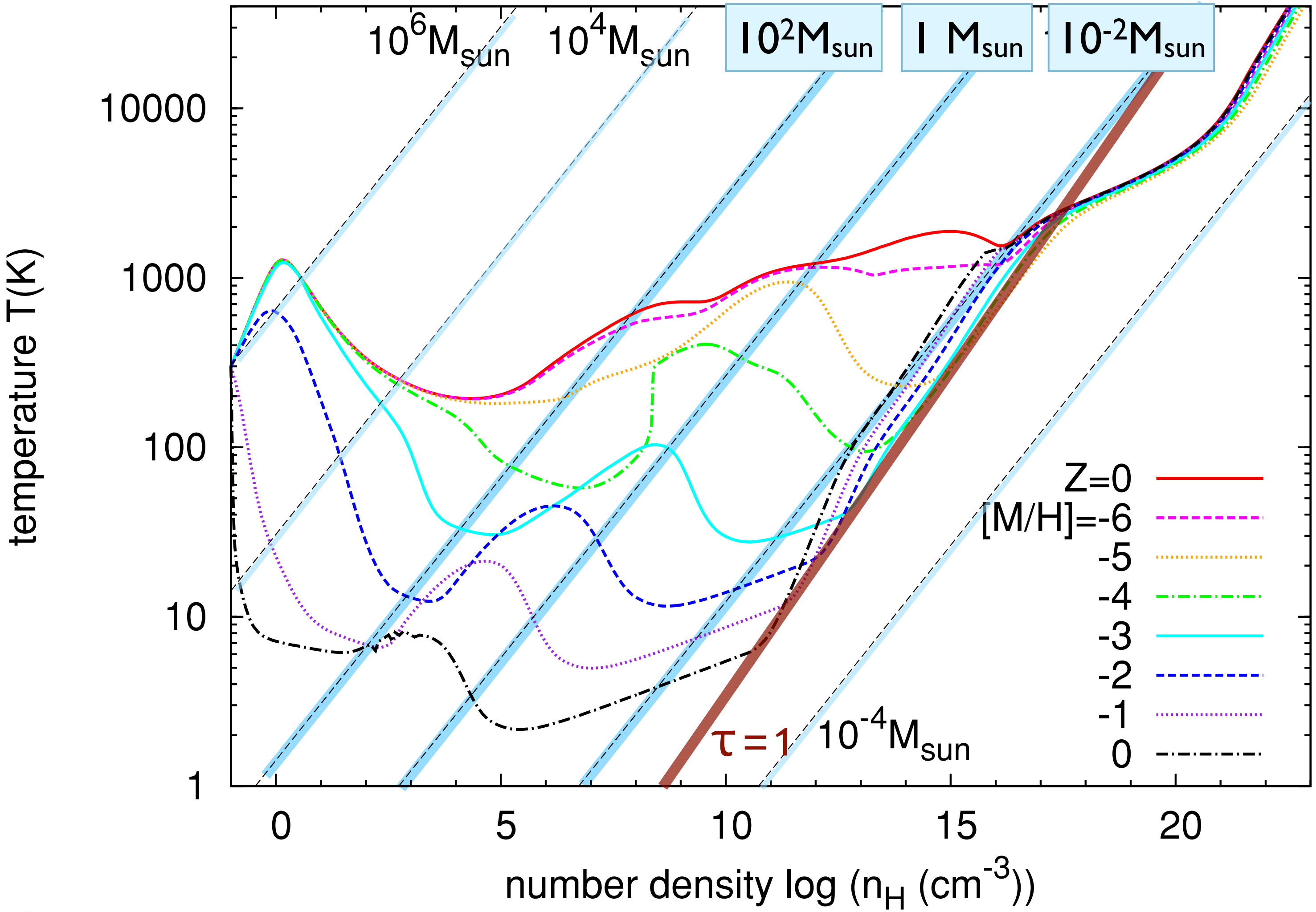
EOS as function of metallicity



(Omukai et al. 2005, 2010)

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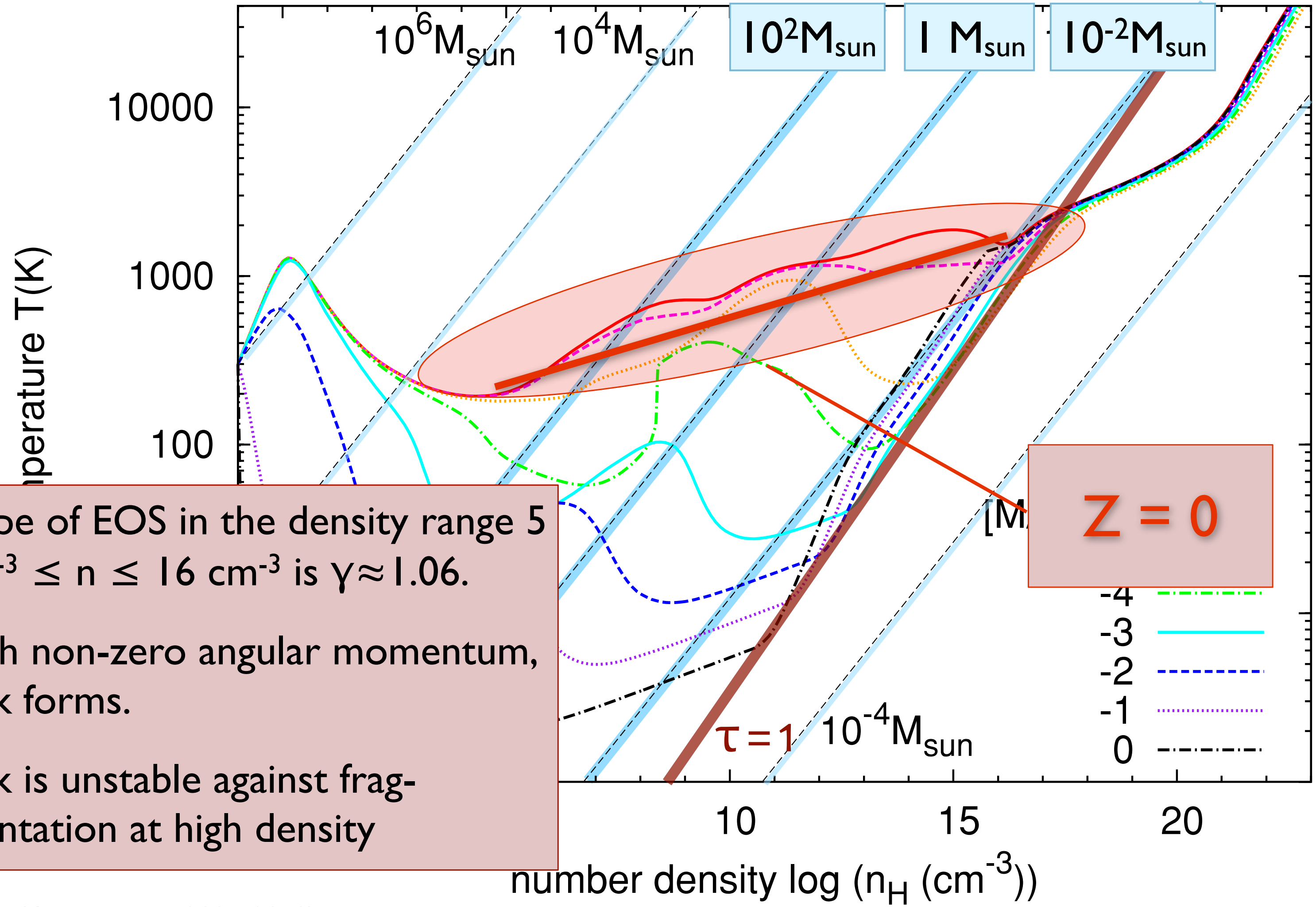


Z = 0

- slope of EOS in the density range 5 $cm^{-3} \leq n \leq 16\ cm^{-3}$ is $\gamma \approx 1.06$.
- with non-zero angular momentum, disk forms.
- disk is unstable against fragmentation at high density

(Omukai et al. 2005, 2010)

“classical” picture

- most current numerical simulations of Pop III star formation predict very massive objects

  (e.g. Abel et al. 2002, Yoshida et al. 2008, Bromm et al. 2009)

- similar for theoretical models (e.g. Tan & McKee 2004)

- there are some first hints of fragmentation, however

  (Turk et al. 2009, Stacy et al. 2010)

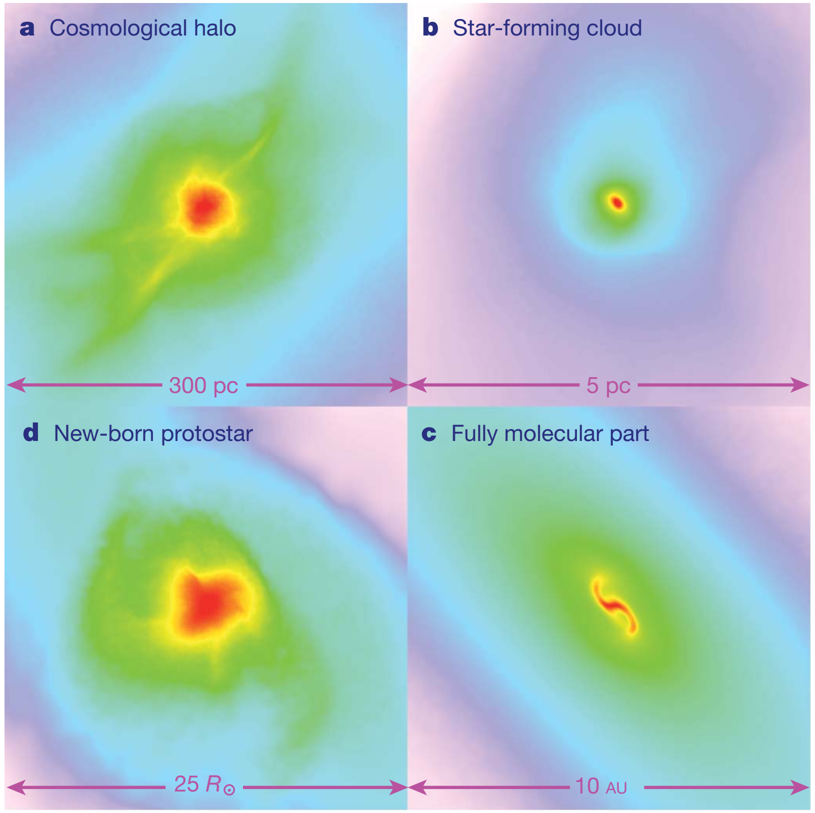
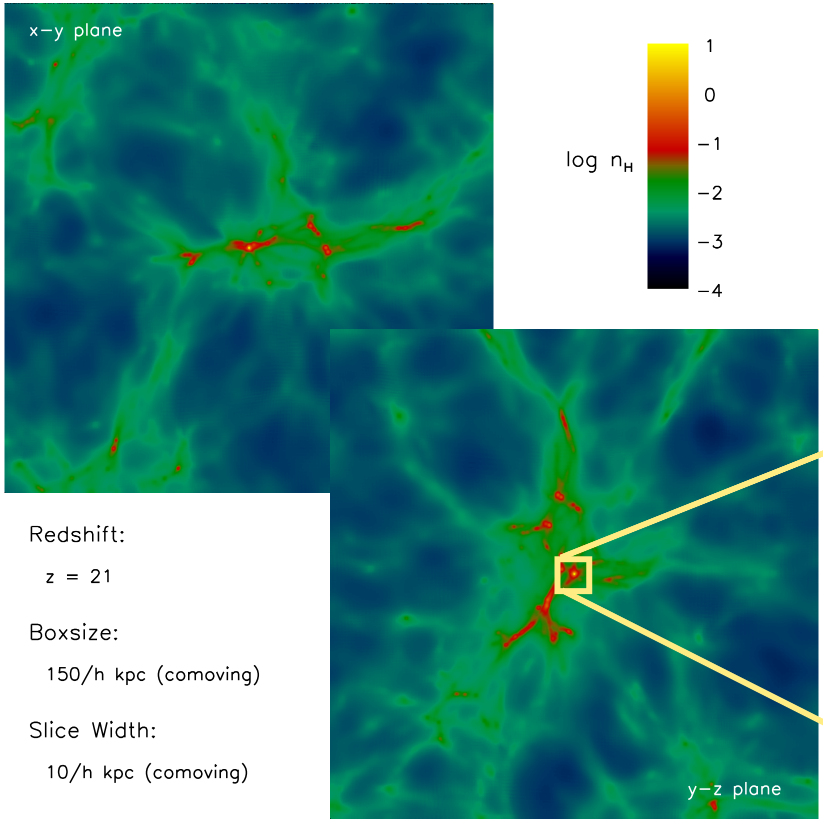


Figure 1 | Projected gas distribution around a primordial protostar. Shown is the gas density (colour-coded so that red denotes highest density) of a single object on different spatial scales. **a**, The large-scale gas distribution around the cosmological minihalo; **b**, a self-gravitating, star-forming cloud; **c**, the central part of the fully molecular core; and **d**, the final protostar. Reproduced by permission of the AAAS (from ref. 20).

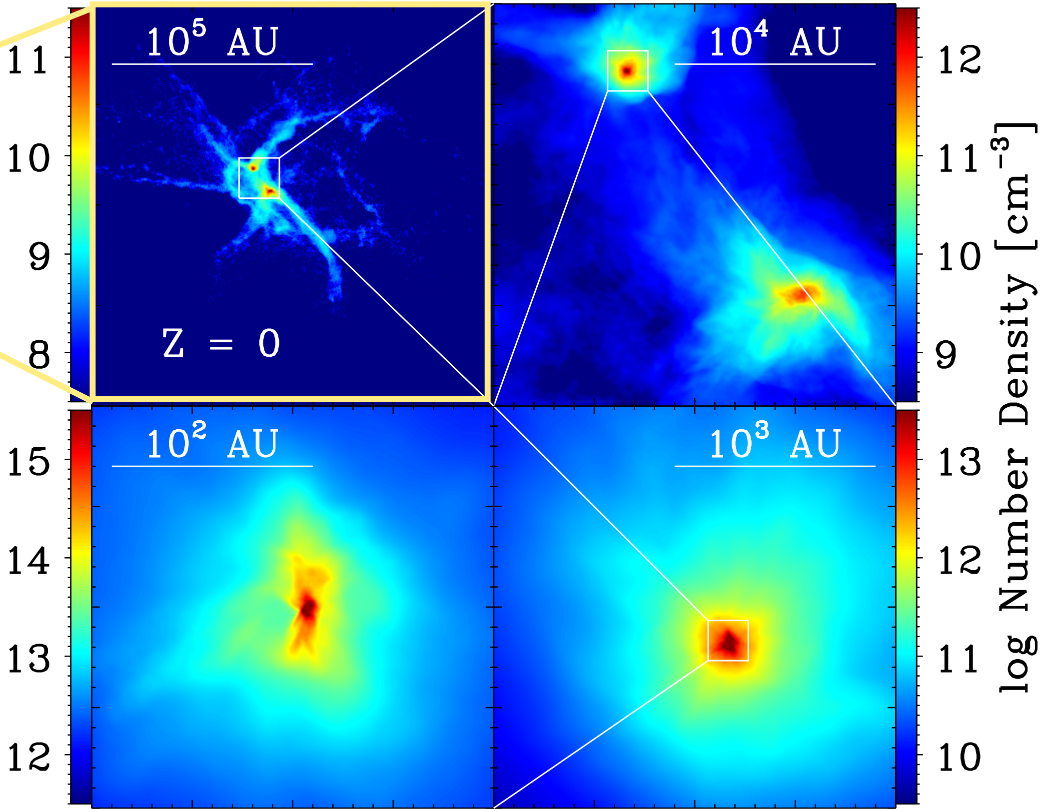
(Yoshida et al. 2008, Science, 321, 669)

detailed look at accretion disk around first star



(Greif et al., 2007, ApJ, 670, 1)

successive zoom-in calculation from cosmological initial conditions (using SPH and new grid-code AREPO)



(Greif et al. 2011, ApJ, 737, 75, Dopcke et al. 2012, ApJ submitted, arXiv1203.6842)

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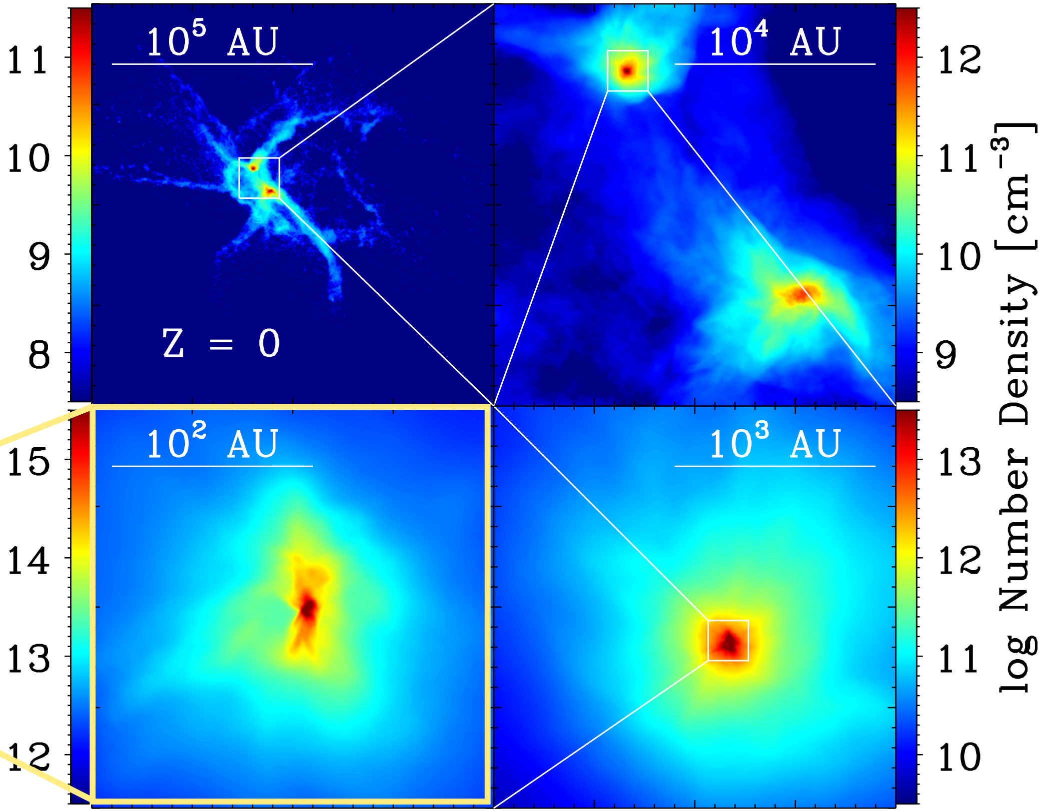


what is the time evolution of accretion disk around first star to form?

(Greif et al. 2011, ApJ, 737, 75, Dopcke et al. 2012, ApJ submitted, arXiv1203.6842) detailed look at accretion disk

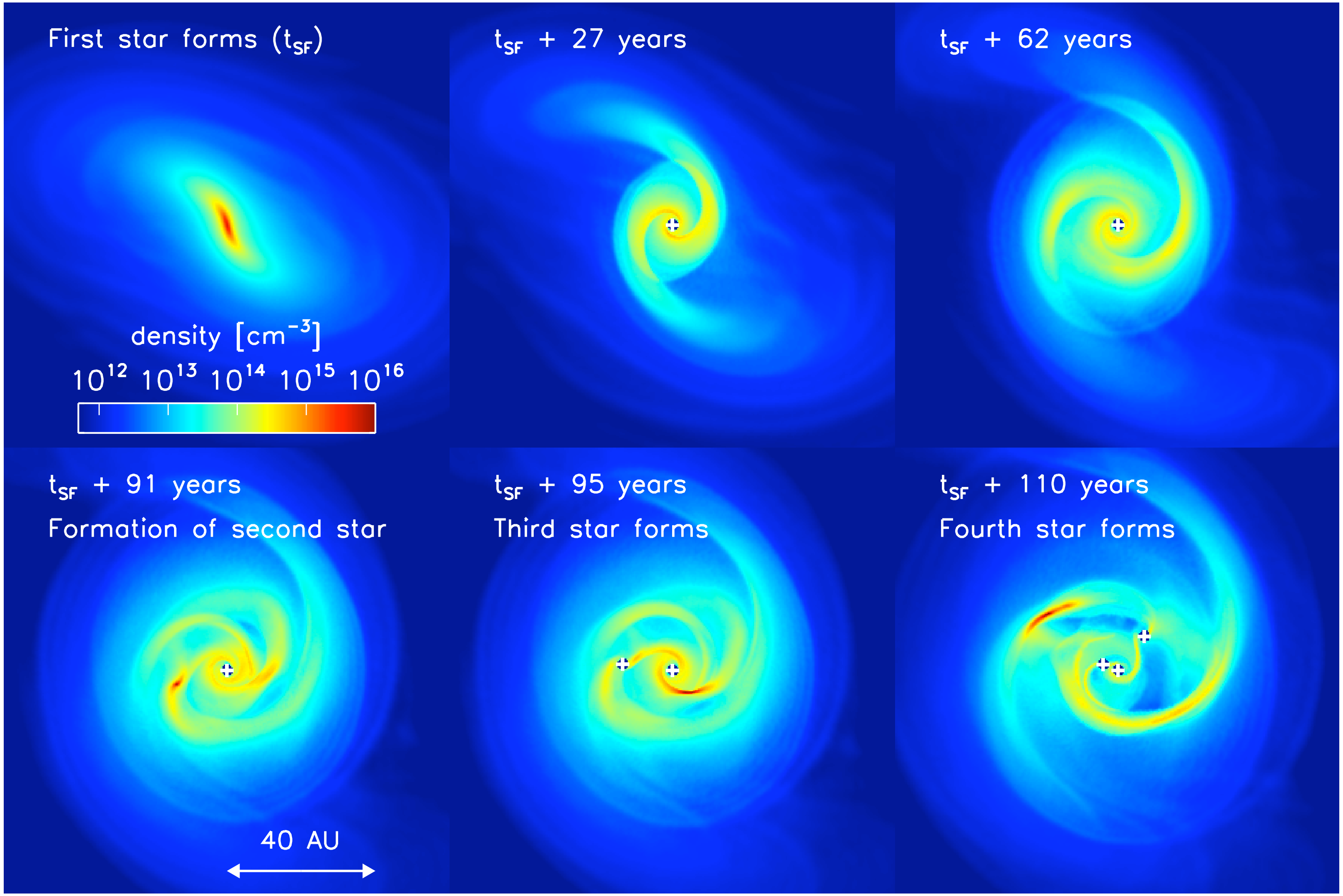
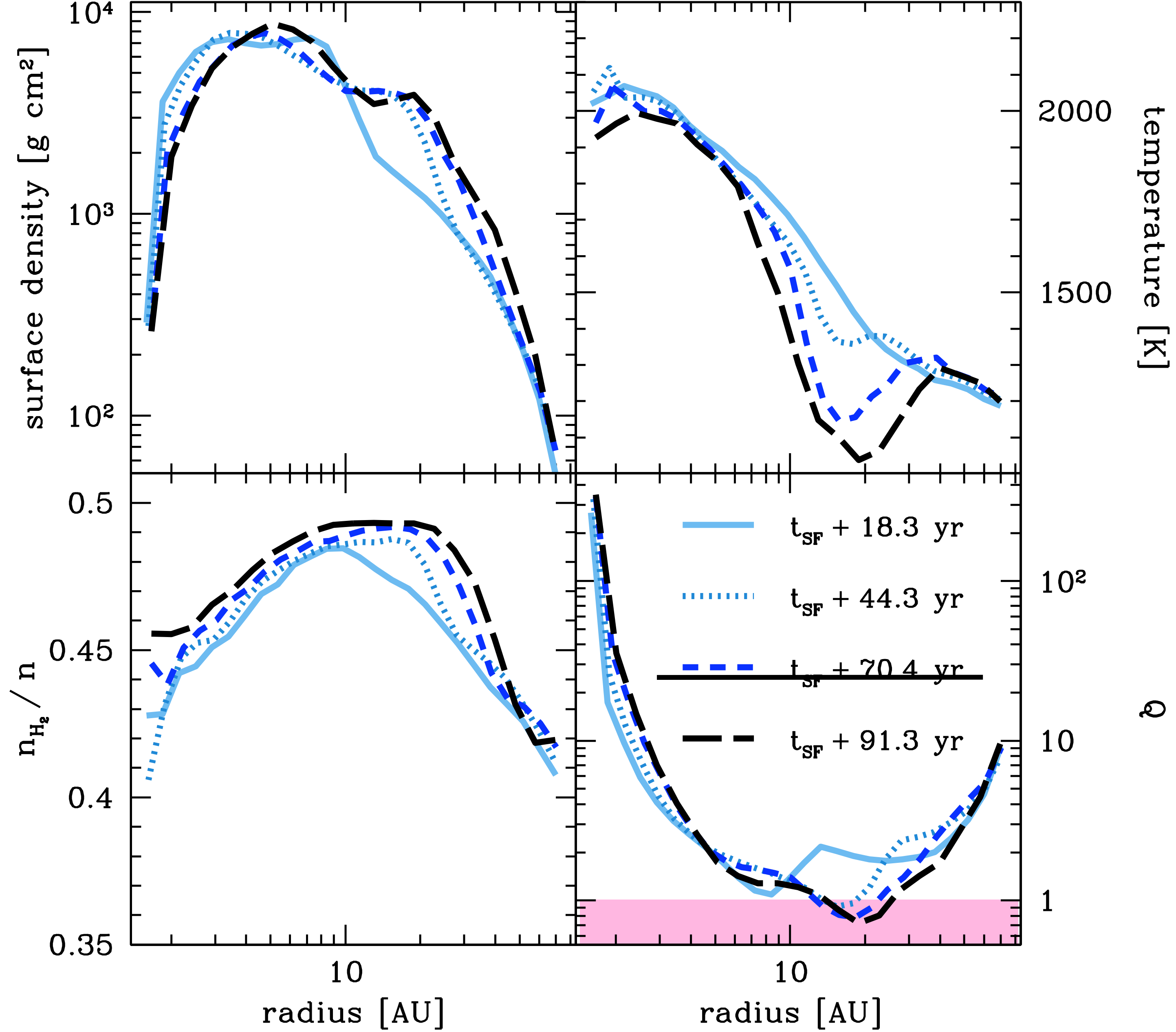


Figure 1: Density evolution in a 120 AU region around the first protostar, showing the build-up of the protostellar disk and its eventual fragmentation. We also see ‘wakes’ in the low-density regions, produced by the previous passage of the spiral arms.

(Clark et al. 2011b, Science, 331, 1040)

important disk parameters

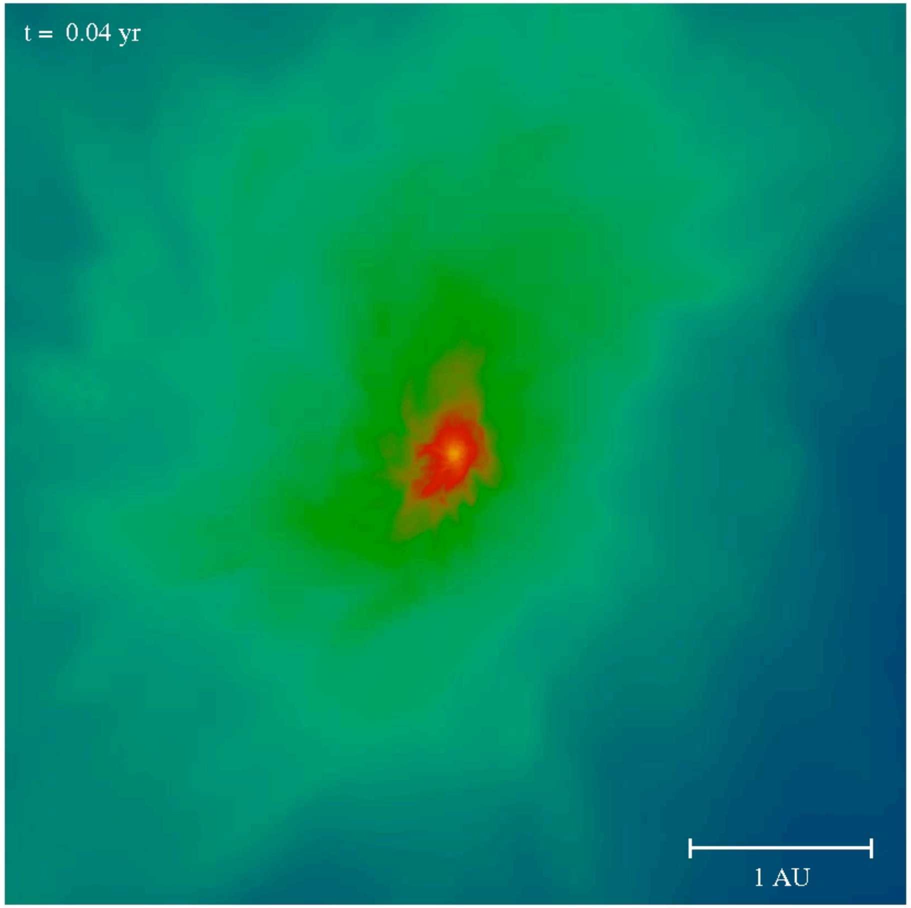


$$Q = c_\mathrm{s}\kappa/\pi G\Sigma$$

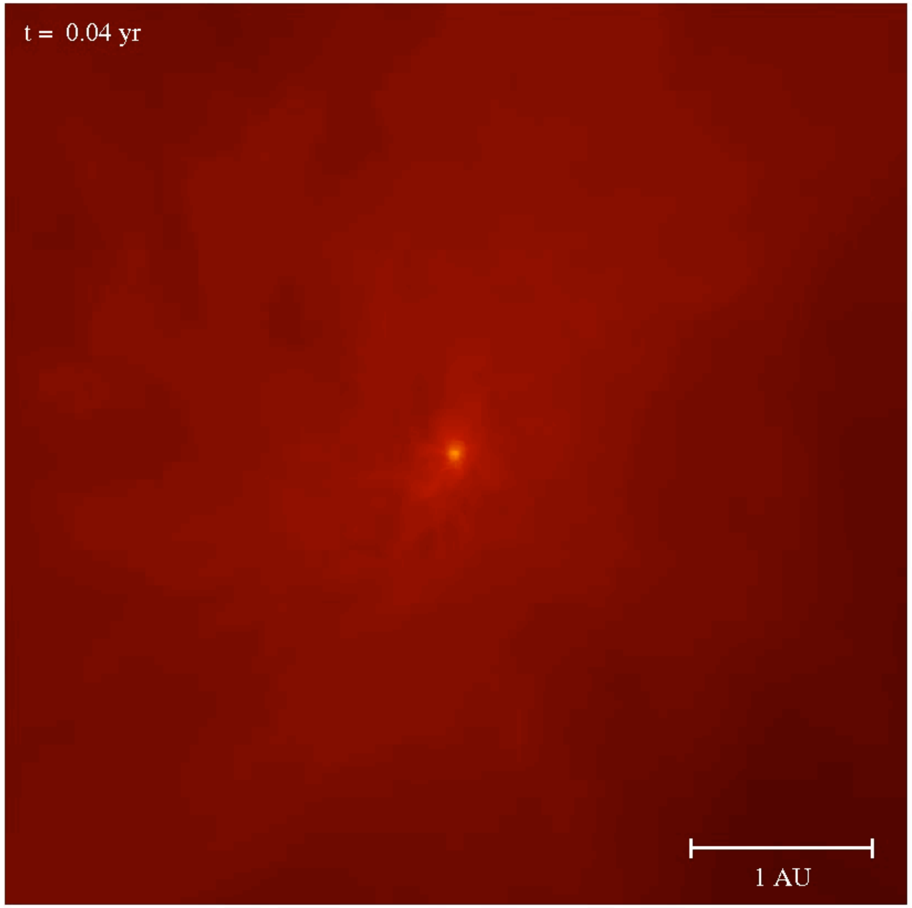
(Clark et al. 2011b, Science, 331, 1040)

Most recent calculations:

fully sink-less simulations, following the disk build-up over ~10 years
(resolving the protostars - first cores - down to 10^5 km)



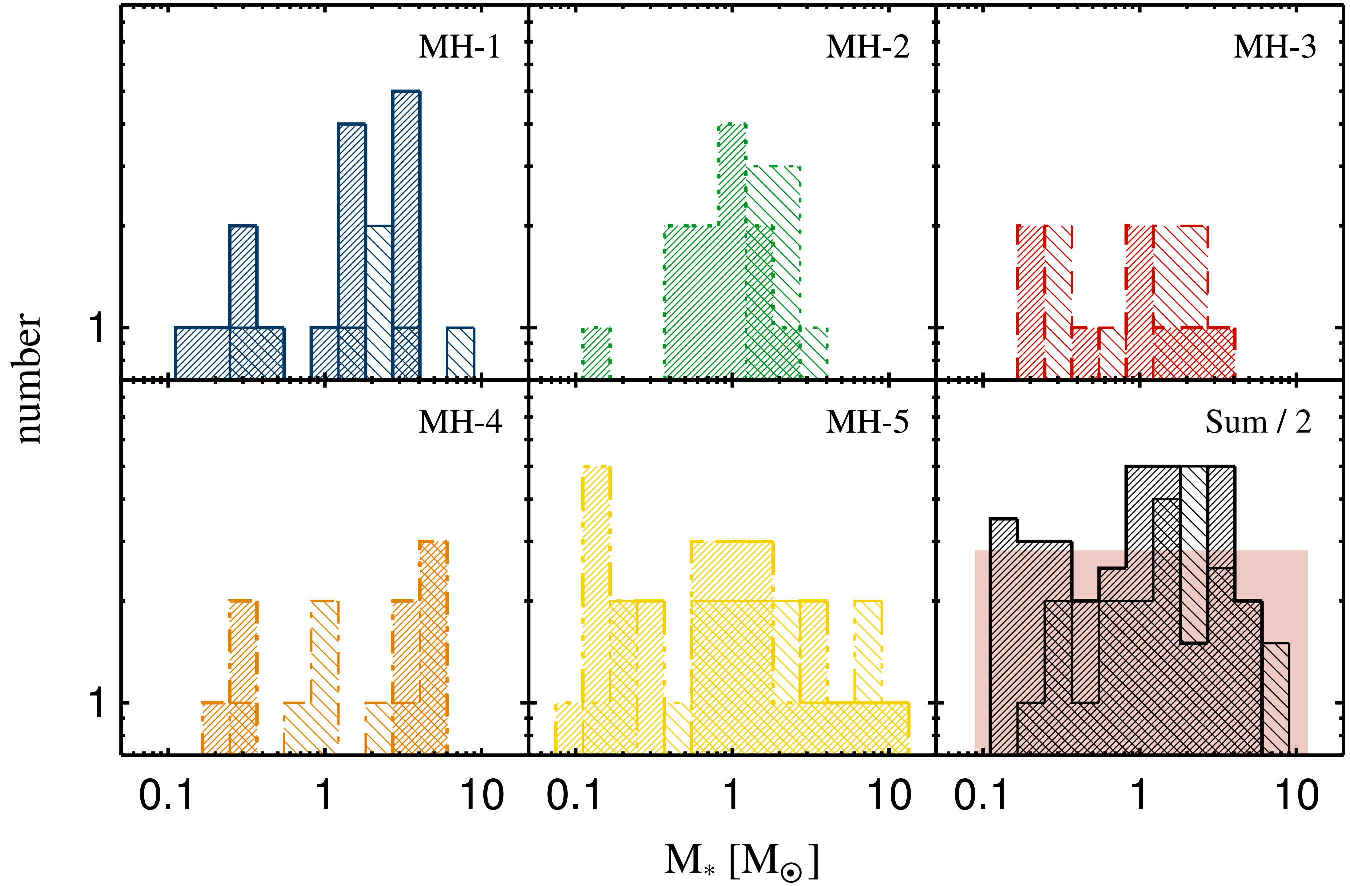
density



temperature

(Greif et al., submitted to MNRAS, arXiv:1202.5552)

expected mass spectrum

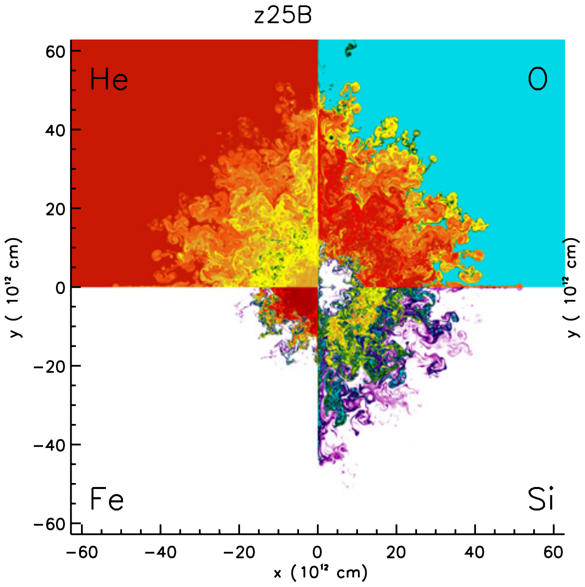


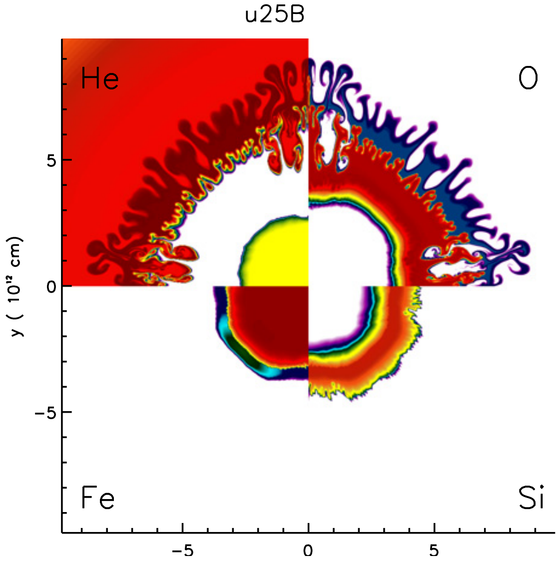
we see “flat” mass spectrum

(Greif et al. 2011, ApJ, 737, 75, also Dopcke et al. 2012 ApJ submitted, arXiv1203.6842)

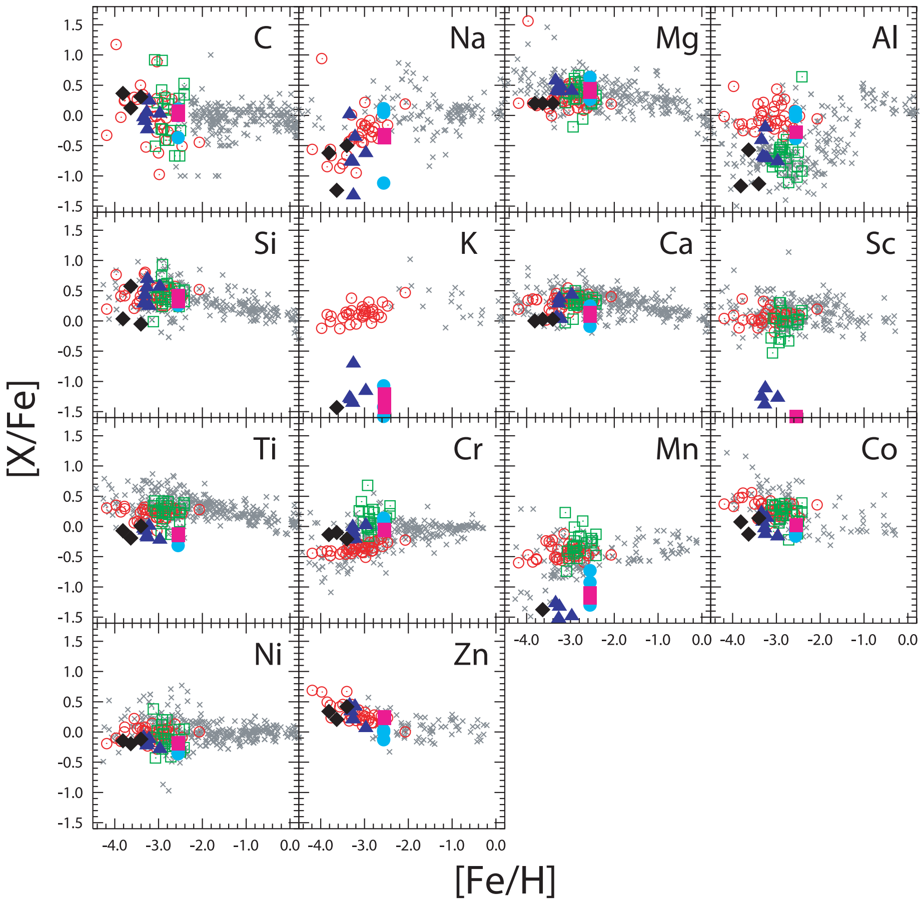
expected mass spectrum

- *expected IMF is flat* and covers a wide range of masses
- implications
  - because slope > -2, most *mass is in massive objects* as predicted by most previous calculations
  - most high-mass Pop III stars should be in *binary systems* --> source of *high-redshift gamma-ray bursts*
  - because of ejection, some *low-mass objects* (< 0.8 $M_\odot$) might have *survived* until today and could potentially be found in the Milky Way
- consistent with abundance patterns found in second generation stars





(Joggerst et al. 2009, 2010)



(Tominaga et al. 2007)

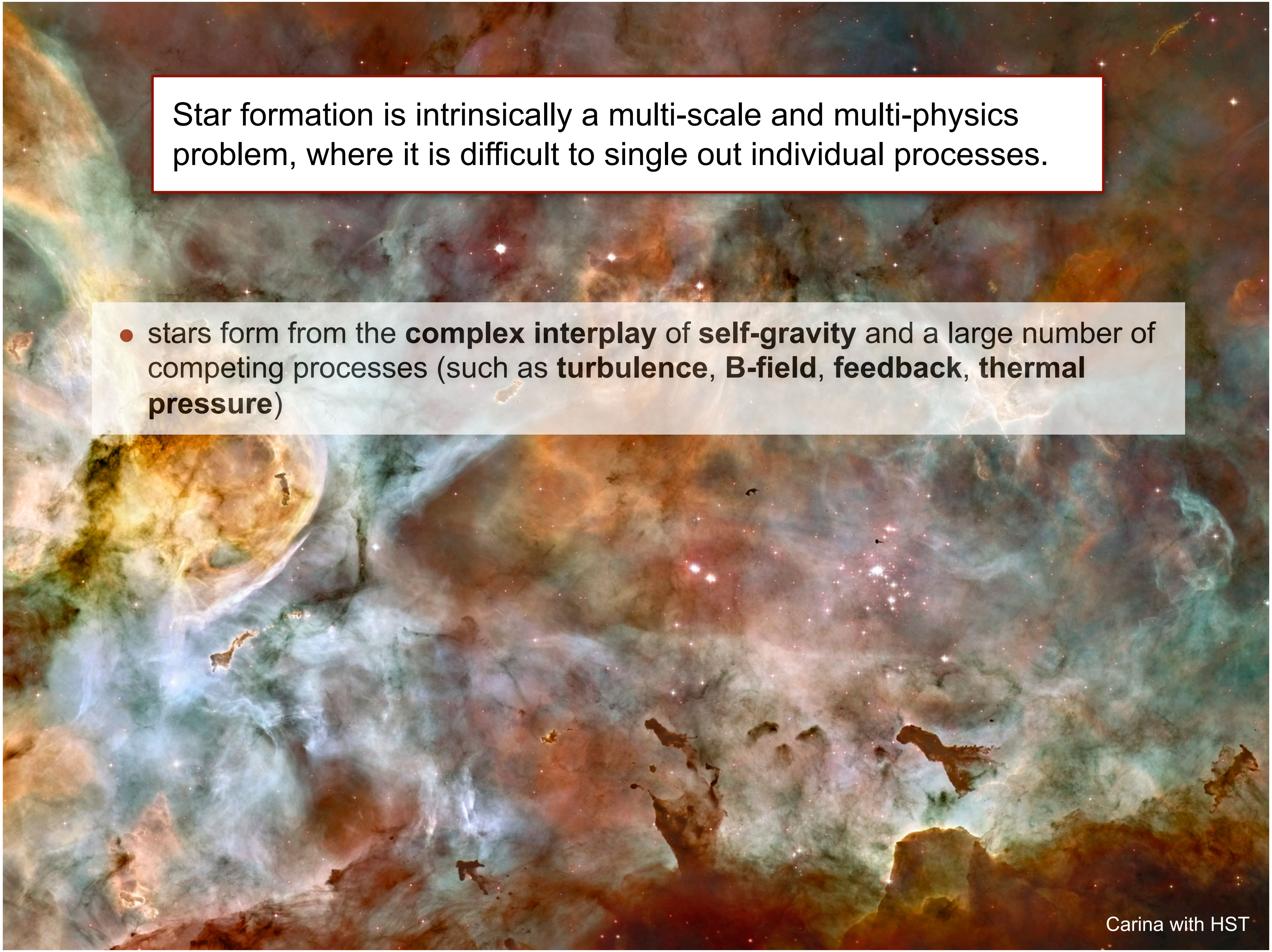
The metallicities of extremely metal-poor stars in the halo are consistent with the yields of core-collapse supernovae, i.e. progenitor stars with 20 - 40 $M_\odot$

(e.g. Tominaga et al. 2007, Izutani et al. 2009, Joggerst et al. 2009, 2010)

Carina with HST

Star formation is intrinsically a multi-scale and multi-physics problem, where it is difficult to single out individual processes.

Carina with HST



Star formation is intrinsically a multi-scale and multi-physics problem, where it is difficult to single out individual processes.

- stars form from the **complex interplay** of **self-gravity** and a large number of competing processes (such as **turbulence**, **B-field**, **feedback**, **thermal pressure**)

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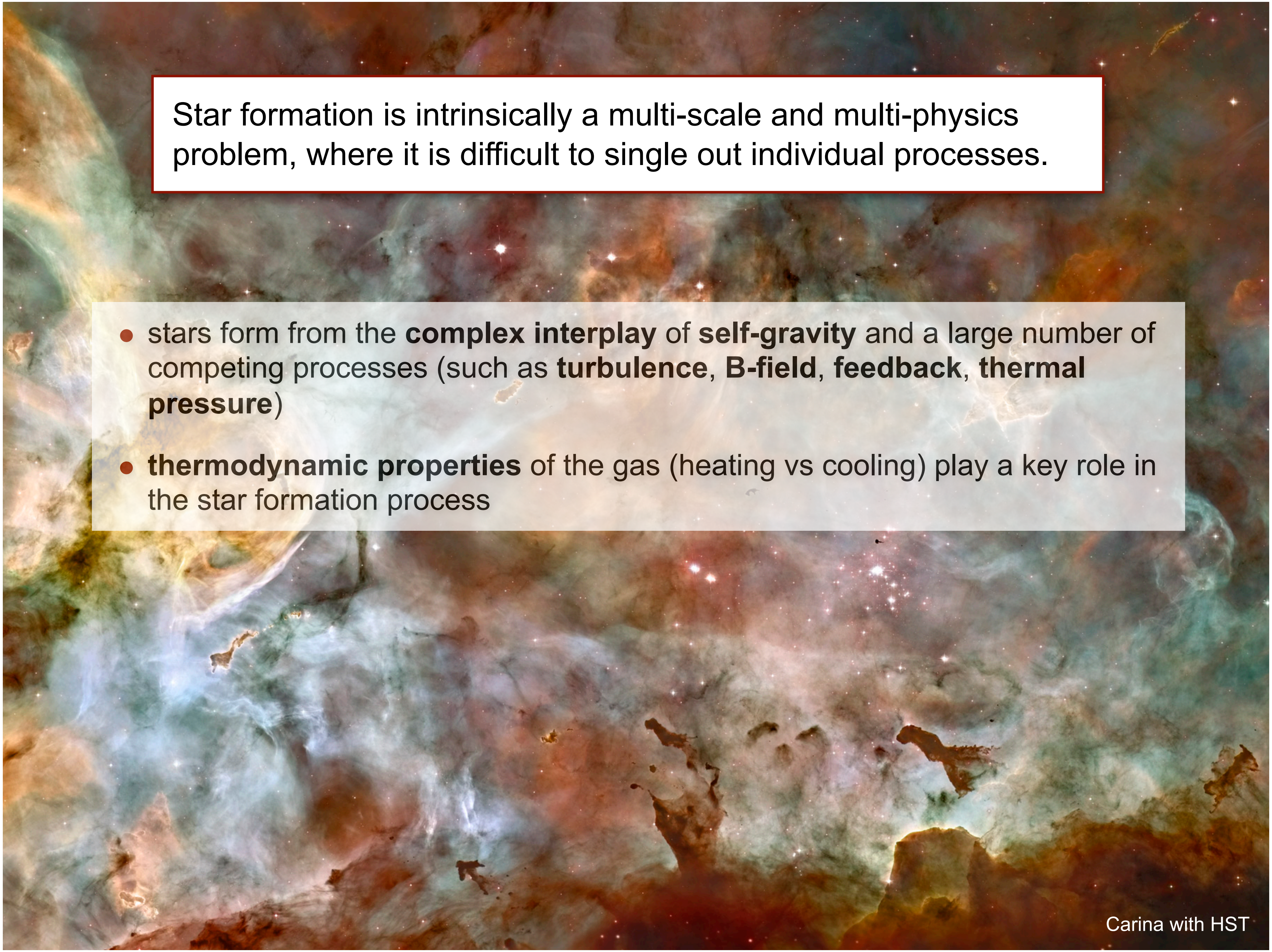
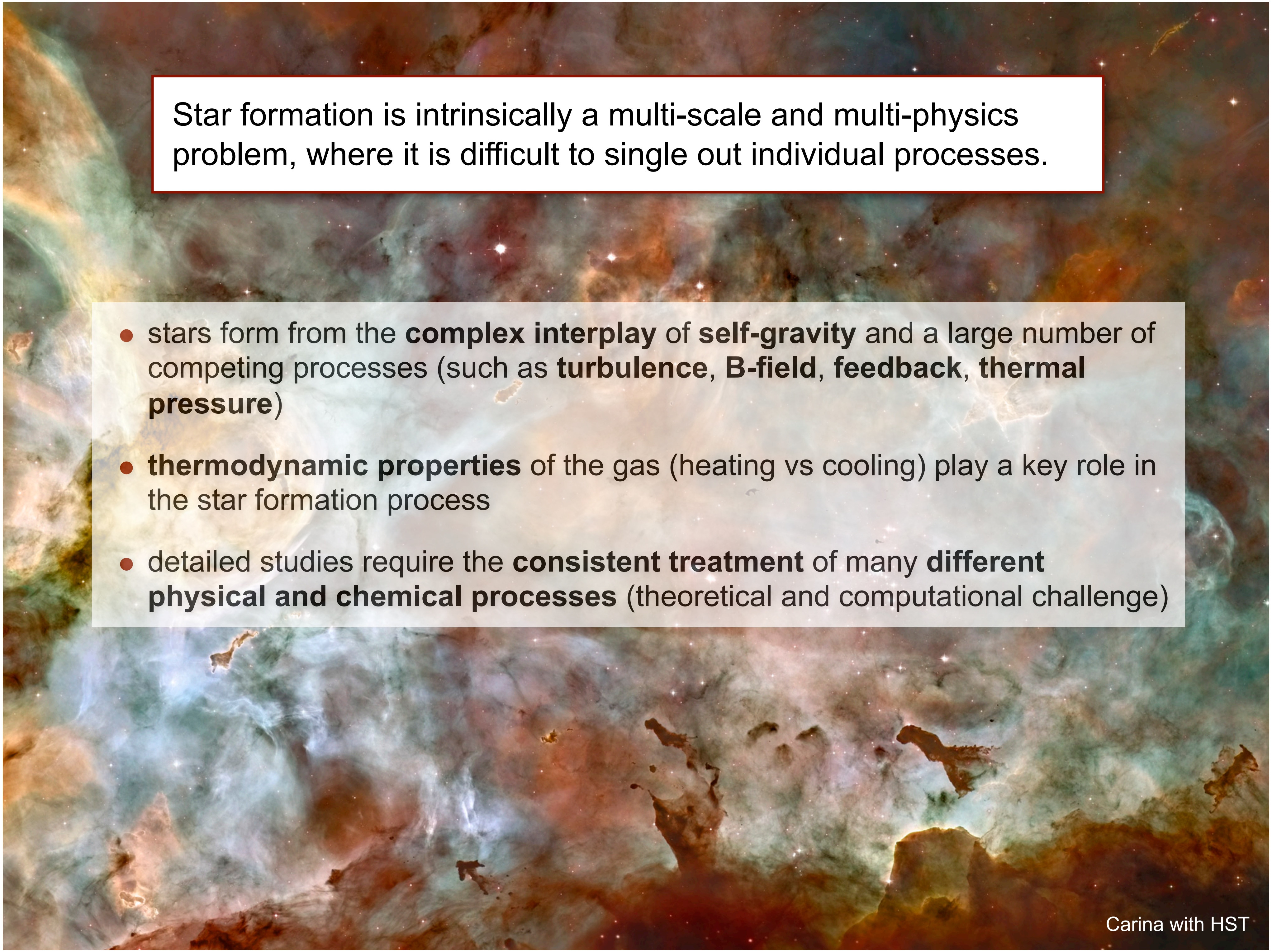
- **thermodynamic properties** of the gas (heating vs cooling) play a key role in the star formation process



Carina with HST



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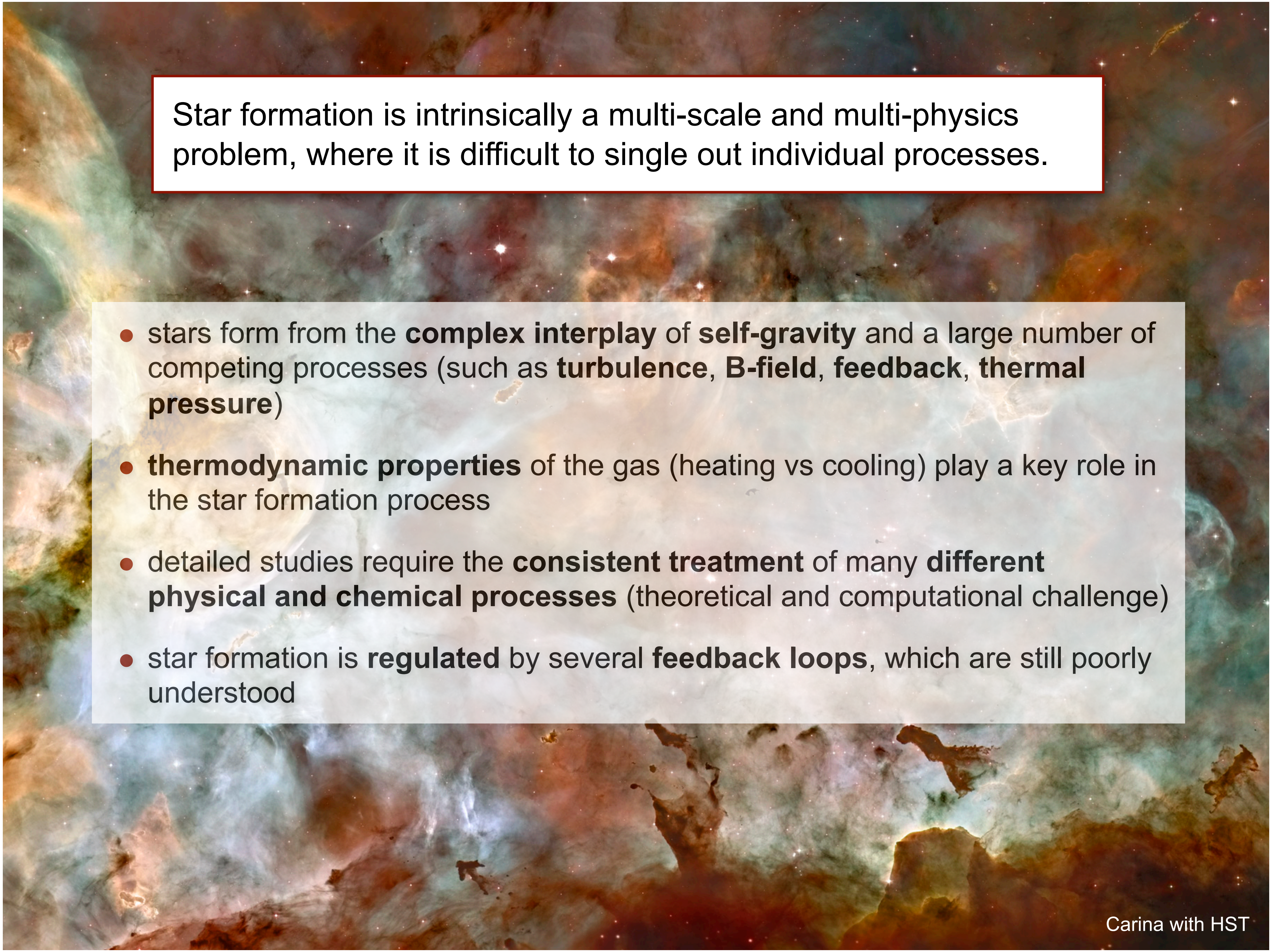
- **thermodynamic properties** of the gas (heating vs cooling) play a key role in the star formation process
- detailed studies require the **consistent treatment** of many **different physical and chemical processes** (theoretical and computational challenge)

Carina with HST



Star formation is intrinsically a multi-scale and multi-physics problem, where it is difficult to single out individual processes.

- stars form from the **complex interplay** of **self-gravity** and a large number of competing processes (such as **turbulence**, **B-field**, **feedback**, **thermal pressure**)
- **thermodynamic properties** of the gas (heating vs cooling) play a key role in the star formation process
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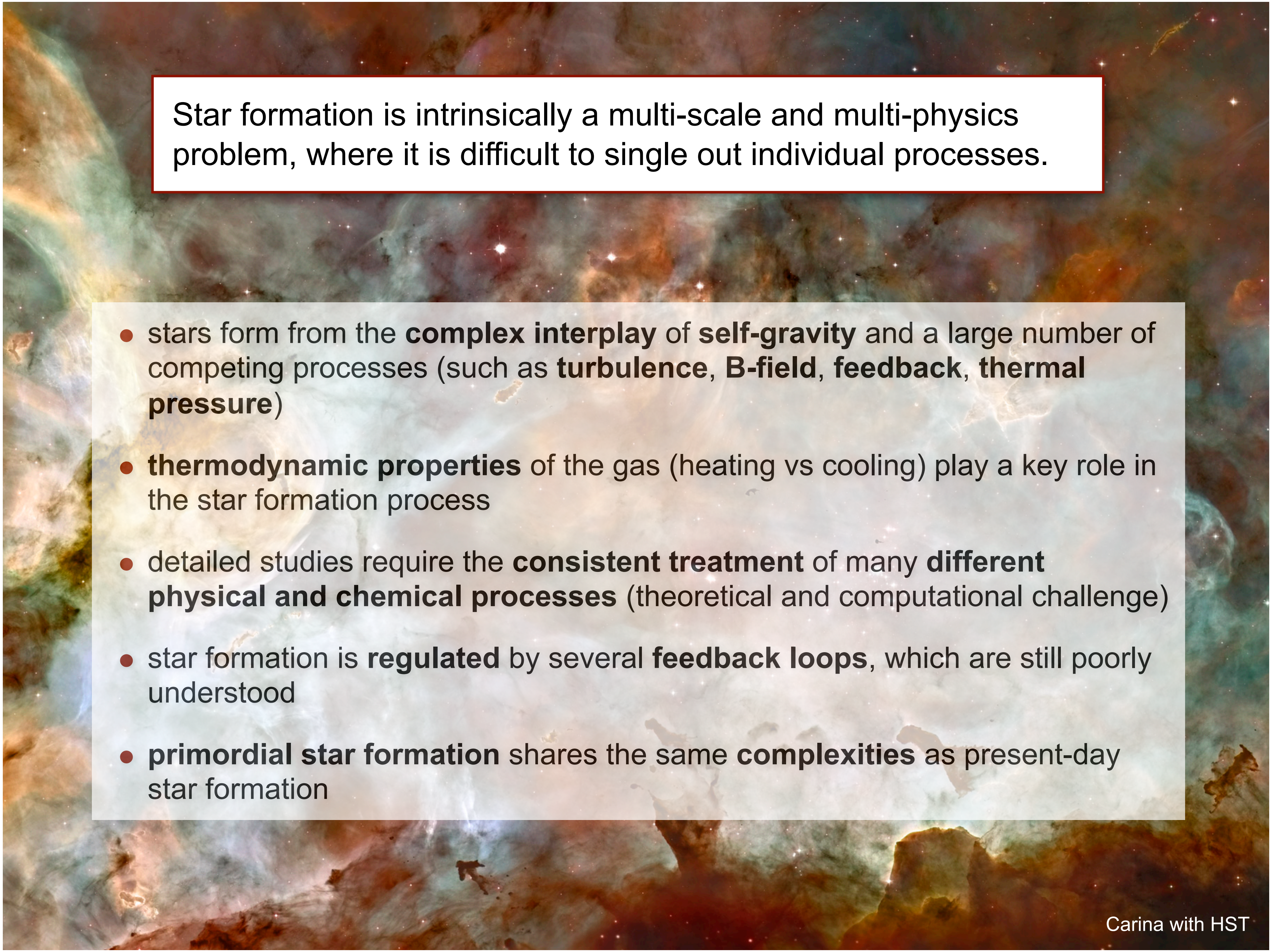
Carina with HST



Carina with HST

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- detailed studies require the **consistent treatment** of many **different physical and chemical processes** (theoretical and computational challenge)
- star formation is **regulated** by several **feedback loops**, which are still poorly understood
- **primordial star formation** shares the same **complexities** as present-day star formation

Protostars and Planets VI
in Summer 2013

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... hope to see you there!!!