

# Gravoturbulent Star Formation



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## Structure

Phenomenology and motivation

Historic overview of star formation

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

Applications to star cluster formation

# Why study star formation?

**STAR FORMATION** 

## cosmology & galaxy formation

- relation between visible and dark matter
- formation of Pop III stars
- properties of high-z universe

#### planets

- initial conditions for planet formation
- diversity of planetary systems
- habitability (life)

### galactic structure & evolution

- stars and star clusters are THE fundamental (visible) building blocks of galaxies
- stars probe galactic structure (e.g. GAIA)
- interrelation between SF and galactic structure

#### stars

- IMF
- early evolution
- stars as members of culsters

#### star clusters

- chemical enrichment of galaxies
- probes of SF in the early universe (e.g. globular clusters)
- populate galactic field

#### ISM

- molecular cloud turbulence
- feedback from star formation
- initial conditions of SF



(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:



## Antennae galaxy

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

## Star formation in "typical" spiral:



### 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?

(from the Hubble Heritage Team)

## Sternentstehung in der Milchstraße



Am Nachthimmel sieht man Dunkelwolken und Sterne:
Die hellsten Sterne sind massereich und daher jung.
→ Sternentstehung ist wichtig um beobachtete Struktur der Milchstraße zu verstehen.



## Sternentstehung in Orion

#### Wir sehen

- *Sterne* (im sichtbaren Licht)
- Atomaren
   Wasserstoff
   (in Hα -- rot)
- Molekularen Wasserstoff H<sub>2</sub> (Radiostrahlung -farbcodiert)

## 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)



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



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 ....



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 ....





### Taurus molecular cloud

Star-forming filaments in *Taurus* cloud (from Hartmann 2002)

 Strukture and dynamics of molekular cloud is determined by supersonic turbulence

 Structure and dynamics of young star clusters is coupled to structure of molecular cloud



# 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?



# Early dynamical theory

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

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



minimal mass:

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



(full detail in Mac Low & Klessen, 2004, Rev. Mod. Phys., 76, 125-194) Ralf Klessen: Groningen, May 22, 2006

# First approach to turbulence

- von Weizsäcker (1943, 1951) and Chandrasekhar (1951): concept of **MICROTURBULENCE** 
  - BASIC ASSUMPTION: separation of scales between dynamics and turbulence  $\ell_{\rm turb} \ll \ell_{\rm dyn}$
  - then turbulent velocity dispersion contributes to effective soundspeed:



S. Chandrasekhar, 1910 - 1995



• BUT: (1) turbulence depends on k:

(2) supersonic turbulence  $\rightarrow us Gall_{Mas}^{2}(k)$ 



(full detail in Mac Low & Klessen, 2004, Rev. Mod. Phys., 76, 125-194) Ralf Klessen: Groningen, May 22, 2006

# Properties of IMS turbulence

ISM turbulence is:

- Supersonic (rms velocity dispersion >> 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 ~5%)
   → something prevents large-scale collapse.
- All throughout the early 1990's, molecular clouds had been thought to be long-lived quasi-equilitrium 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)

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



Lyman Spitzer, Jr., 1914 - 1997

• Ambipolar diffusion can initiate collapse

(full detail in Mac Low & Klessen, 2004, Rev. Mod. Phys., 76, 125-194) Ralf Klessen: Groningen, May 22, 2006

### 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
  - $dM/dt = 0.975 c_s^3/G = const.$
- 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)
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- 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(H₂) 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  $\tau_{\rm ff}$ 

(E $\propto$ t<sup>- $\eta$ </sup> with  $\eta \approx 1$ ).

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

 Magnetic fields (static or wavelike) cannot prevent loss of energy.



# 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 ( $\tau_{\rm ff} << \tau_{\rm AD}$ ) (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

## 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:  $M \approx 1...3$ )
- cold molecular clouds can form rapidly in high-density regions at stagnation points of convergent large-scale flows
  - chemical phase transition: atomic → molecular
  - process is *modulated* by large-scale *dynamics* in the galaxy
- inside *cold clouds:* turbulence is highly supersonic ( $M \approx 1...20$ )
  - → *turbulence* creates large density contrast,
    - gravity selects for collapse

#### **GRAVOTUBULENT FRAGMENTATION**

*turbulent cascade:* local compression *within* a cloud provokes collapse
 → formation of individual *stars* and *star clusters*

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

## Properties of turbulence

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

 $Re = \frac{advection}{dissipation} = \frac{VL}{v}$ 



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

vortex streching --> 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**



#### Vortices are streched and folded in three dimensions

### Turbulent cascade



## Turbulent cascade



### Turbulent cascade in ISM



energy source & scale *NOT known* (supernovae, winds, spiral density waves?)  $\sigma_{\rm rms} \ll 1$  km/s  $M_{\rm rms} \le 1$  $L \approx 0.1$  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

 $\rho\text{-Ophiuchus}$  cloud seen in dust emission

let's focus on a cloud core like this one

# Evolution of cloud cores





- Does core form 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  $M \approx 10 \rightarrow \delta \rho / \rho \approx 100!$
- many of the shock-generated fluctuations are Jeans unstable and go into collapse
- --> core breaks up and forms a cluster of stars

# Evolution of cloud cores



# Formation and evolution of cores

 protostellar cloud cores form at the stagnation points of convergent turbulent flows



- if M > M<sub>Jeans</sub>  $\propto \rho^{-1/2} T^{3/2}$ : collapse and star formation
- if M <  $M_{Jeans} \propto \rho^{-1/2} T^{3/2}$ : reexpansion after external compression fades away

(e.g. Vazquez-Semadeni et al 2005)

- typical timescales:  $t \approx 10^4 \dots 10^5$  yr
- because *turbulent* ambipolar diffusion time is *short*, this time estimate still holds for the presence of magnetic fields, in *magnetically critical cores*

(e.g. Fatuzzo & Adams 2002, Heitsch et al. 2004)

# Formation and evolution of cores

What happens to distribution of cloud cores?



Two exteme cases:

- (1) turbulence dominates energy budget:
  - $\alpha = E_{kin} / |E_{pot}| > 1$
  - --> 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: α=E<sub>kin</sub>/|E<sub>pot</sub>| <1</li>
  --> global contraction
  - --> core do *interact* while collapsing
  - --> competition influences mass growth
  - --> dense cluster with high-mass stars



turbulence creates a hierarchy of clumps



as turbulence decays locally, contraction sets in



#### as turbulence decays locally, contraction sets in



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



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



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



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



Ralf Klessen: Groningen, May 22, 2006



#### feedback terminates star formation



result: star cluster, possibly with HII region

# 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<sub>bol</sub>-L<sub>bol</sub> evolution

# Examples and predictions

*example 1:* transient structure of turbulent clouds

- example 2: quiescent and coherent appearence of molecular cloud cores
- example 3: speculations on the origin of the stellar mass spectrum (IMF)

# Transient cloud structure

Gravoturbulent fragmentation of turbulent self-gravitating clouds



# Gravoturbulent fragmentation



<u>Gravoturbulent fragmen-</u> tation in molecular clouds:

- SPH model with 1.6x10<sup>6</sup> particles
- large-scale driven turbulence
- Mach number  $\mathcal{M}$  = 6
- periodic boundaries
- physical scaling:

#### "Taurus":

- → density  $n(H_2) \approx 10^2 \text{ cm}^{-3}$
- $\rightarrow$  L = 6 pc, M = 5000 M<sub> $\odot$ </sub>




- some small cores have very small linewidth!
- is this consistent with gravoturbulent star formation?

map of linewidth (contours column density)



#### MULTIPLE CLOUDS OBSERVED IN MULTIPLE TRACERS

(Goodman et al. 1998)



correlation between linewidth and column density

(e.g. Goodman et al. 1998; Barranco & Goodman 1998 Caselli et al. 2002; Tafalla et al. 2004)

map of linewidth (contours column density)



correlation between linewidth and column density

(e.g. Goodman et al. 1998; Barranco & Goodman 1998 Caselli et al. 2002; Tafalla et al. 2004)

map of linewidth (contours column density)



### & coherent cores

correlation between linewidth and column density

(e.g. Goodman et al. 1998; Barranco & Goodman 1998 Caselli et al. 2002; Tafalla et al. 2004)

map of linewidth (contours column density)



Statistics:

23% of our cores are quiescent (i.e. with  $\sigma_{rms} \le c_s$ )

48% of our cores are *transonic* (i.e. with  $c_s \le \sigma_{rms} \le 2c_s$ )

half of our cores are *coherent* (i.e. with  $\sigma_{rms}$  independent of N)



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# 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

### Star cluster formation

Most stars form in clusters  $\rightarrow$  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)

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### Star cluster formation

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) Ralf Klessen: Groningen, May 22, 2006



### "Empirical" mass accretion law



time

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 ∝ρ<sup>γ</sup>
- $\gamma$ <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)  $\mathbf{p} \propto \rho^{\gamma} \rightarrow \rho \propto p^{1/\gamma}$ 

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

γ<1: → large density excursion for given pressure</li>
 → ⟨M<sub>jeans</sub>⟩ becomes small
 → number of fluctuations with M > M<sub>ieans</sub> is large

•  $\gamma > 1: \rightarrow small$  density excursion for given pressure  $\rightarrow \langle M_{ieans} \rangle$  is large

 $\rightarrow$  only few and massive clumps exceed M<sub>ieans</sub>

# Implications

### • degree of fragmentation depends on EOS!

- oplytropic EOS: p ∝ρ<sup>γ</sup>
- $\gamma$ <1: dense cluster of low-mass stars
- $\gamma > 1$ : isolated high-mass stars

(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





- Supersonic turbulence is scale free process

   *POWER LAW BEHAVIOR*
- But also: turbulence and fragmentation are highly stochastic processes → central limit theorem
  - → GAUSSIAN DISTRIBUTION

### IMF in starburst galaxies

• Nuclear regions of starburst galaxies are extreme:

hot dust, large densities, strong radiation, etc.

 Thermodynamic properties of star-forming gas differ from Milky Way --> Different EOS!
 (see Spaans & Silk 2005)



### IMF in starburst galaxies

### Different EOS --> different IMF

(see Klessen, Spaans, Jappsen, in prep.)



note the different mass scale...

### 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 ≈ 1...20)
  → turbulence creates density structure, gravity selects for collapse

#### $\rightarrow$ **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*)

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#### **GRAVOTUBULENT FRAGMENTATION**

 turbulent cascade: local compression within a cloud provokes collapse → formation of individual stars and star clusters

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