

# Fragmentation of massive dense core the role of the magnetic field

FRANCESCO FONTANI

INAF-Osservatorio Astrofisico di Arcetri

Maite Beltrán

INAF-OAA

Benoit Commerçon

ENS Lyon (F)

Riccardo Cesaroni

INAF-OAA

Paola Caselli

MPE (D)

Álvaro Sanchez-Monge

Uni. Koeln (D)

Steven Longmore

U Liverpool (UK)

Leonardo Testi

ESO & INAF-OAA

Jonathan Tan

U Florida (US)

Malcolm Walmsley

INAF-OAA

Richard Dodson

ICRAR (AUS)

Jan Brand

INAF-IRA

Maria Rioja

ICRAR (AUS)

Andrea Giannetti

INAF-IRA / MPIfR (D)

# Why do we care about fragmentation?

- **Multiple systems** and **clusters** are born from this process
- **Massive stars**, in theory, can form differently depending on the fragmentation of the parent core

## 1. COMPETITIVE-ACCRETION:

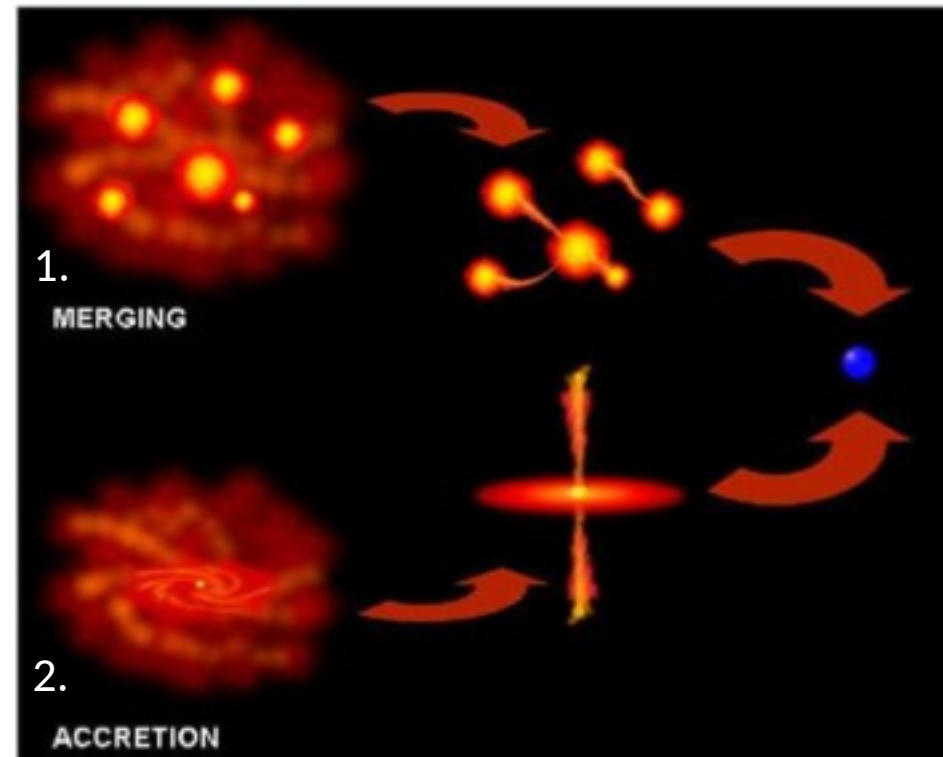
**Fragmentation favoured** into many low-mass seeds which keep accreting from unbound gas

(e.g. Bonnell et al. 1998, Bonnell & Bate 2005, Wang et al. 2010)

## 2. CORE-ACCRETION:

**Fragmentation inhibited**, followed by non-spherical collapse

(e.g. McLaughlin & Pudritz 1996, Yorke & Sonnhalter 2002, Tan & McKee 2003)



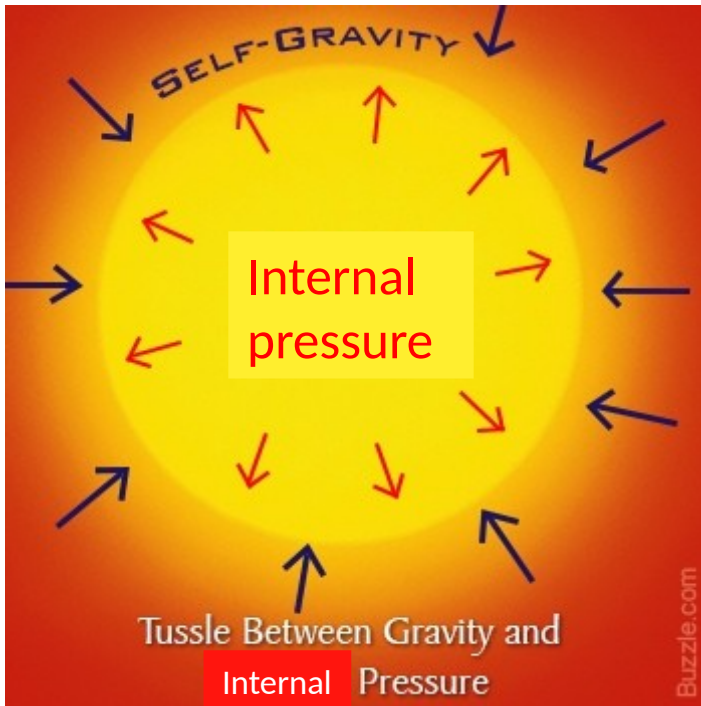
Courtesy of L. Carbonaro

# Theory

Fragmentation influenced by:

(e.g. Krumholz 2006; Hennebelle et al. 2011)

Self-gravity vs Internal pressure



~~Turbulence~~  
Turbulence  
Magnetic  
~~Feedback~~

# Theory

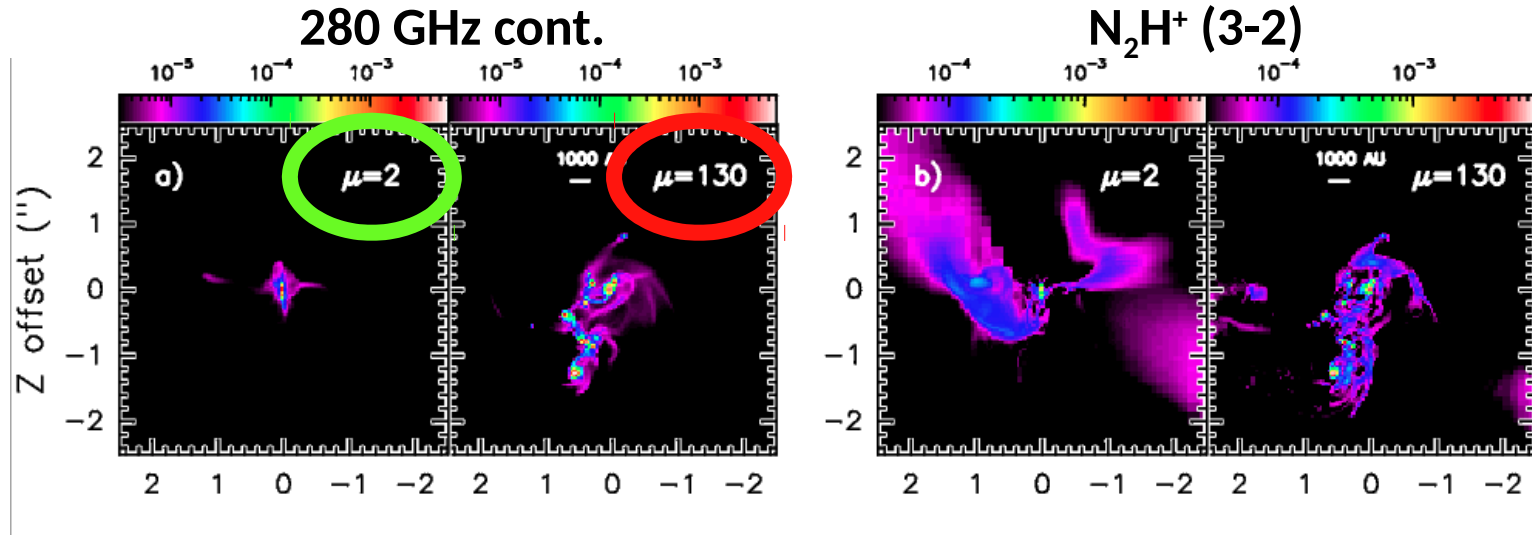
Fragmentation of a  $100 M_{\odot}$  core  
RAMSES code

$$\mu = (M/\Phi)/(M/\Phi)_{crit}$$

$\mu = 2$ , dominant magnetic support

$\mu = 130$ , faint magnetic support

Model output  
(Hennebelle+11,  
Commerçon+12)



Magnetic field dominates  $\square$  one (few) fragment(s)  
Turbulence dominates  $\square$  many fragments

# The sample

## Selection criteria:

1. Potential sites of massive star formation
2. Cold and chemically young
3. Not blended
4. Dense



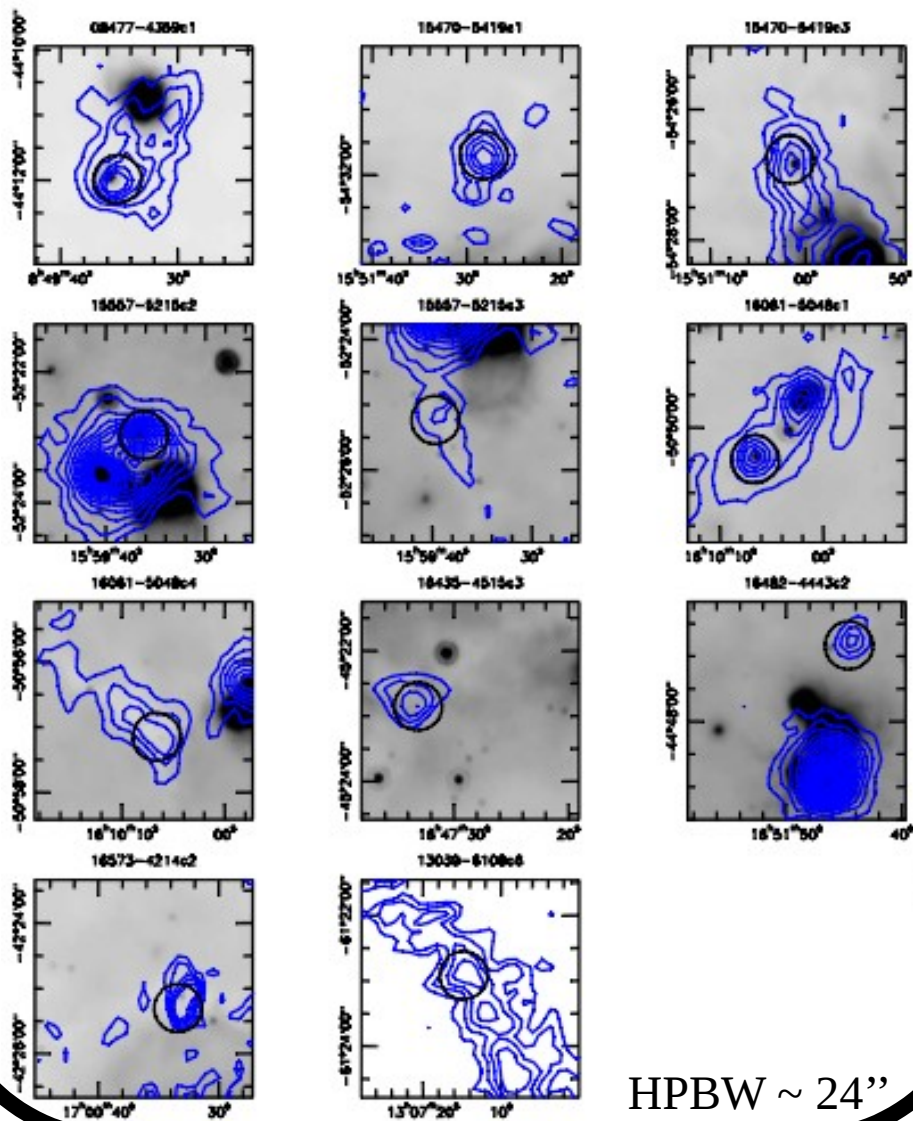
**11 entries from MSX-dark cores (Beltrán et al. 2006)**

Table 1: Sample of massive dense clumps and general properties: coordinates, distance, deconvolved angular diameter, gas mass, gas temperature,  $H_2$  column density, mass surface density and CO depletion factor.

Source	R.A.(J2000) h m s	Dec.(J2000) ° ' "	$d$ kpc	$\theta_s$ "	$M$ $M_\odot$	$T_k$ K	$N(H_2)$ $\times 10^{23} \text{ cm}^{-2}$	$\Sigma(H_2)$ $\text{g cm}^{-2}$	$f_{CO}$
08477–4359c1	08:49:35.13	–44:11:59	1.8	35.6	86.73	19	1.42	0.24	7
13039–6108c6	13:07:14.80	–61:22:55	2.4	40.3	101.5	17	0.68	0.12	22
15470–5419c1	15:51:28.24	–54:31:42	4.1	24.2	310.2	18	1.37	0.36	35
15470–5419c3	15:51:01.62	–54:26:46	4.1	54.1	743.4	19	1.11	0.17	36
15557–5215c2	15:59:36.20	–52:22:58	4.4	41.3	633.4	23	1.55	0.22	32
15557–5215c3	15:59:39.70	–52:25:14	4.4	35.8	194.3	15	0.49	0.09	24
16061–5048c1	16:10:06.61	–50:50:29	3.6	28.1	284.3	25	1.66	0.31	12
16061–5048c4	16:10:06.61	–50:57:09	3.6	62.8	504.2	13	1.22	0.11	34
16435–4515c3	16:47:33.13	–45:22:51	3.1	17.7	147	12	1.20	0.55	73
16482–4443c2	16:51:44.59	–44:46:50	3.7	$\ll 24^a$	59.08	16	$\gg 4.63^a$	0.66	9
16573–4214c2	17:00:33.38	–42:25:18	2.6	7.29	108.3	17	1.89	3.4	25

### 3. Not blended

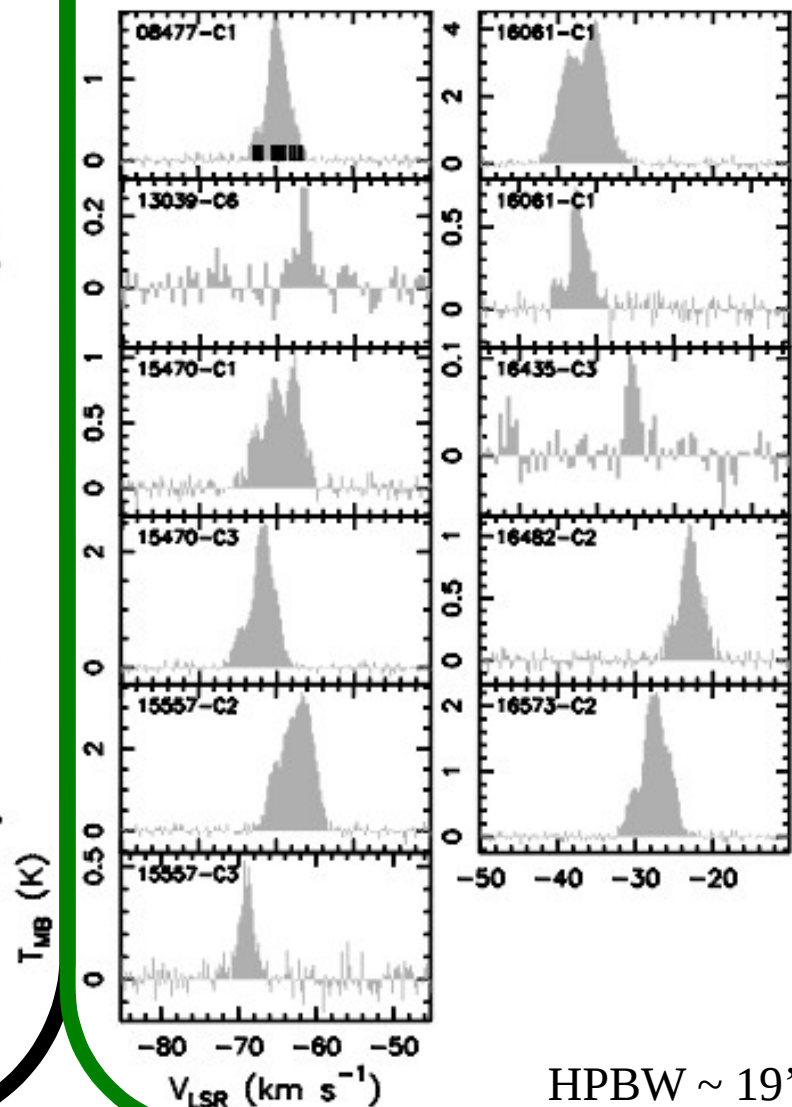
SIMBA 1.2 mm + Spitzer 24  $\mu\text{m}$   
Beltrán+06, A&A, 423, 2342



HPBW  $\sim 24''$

### 4. Dense

APEX  $\text{N}_2\text{H}^+(3-2)$ , towards SIMBA peak  
Fontani+12, MNRAS, 423, 2342



HPBW  $\sim 19''$

# what we expected to see...

Fragmentation of a  $100 M_{\odot}$  core  
RAMSES code

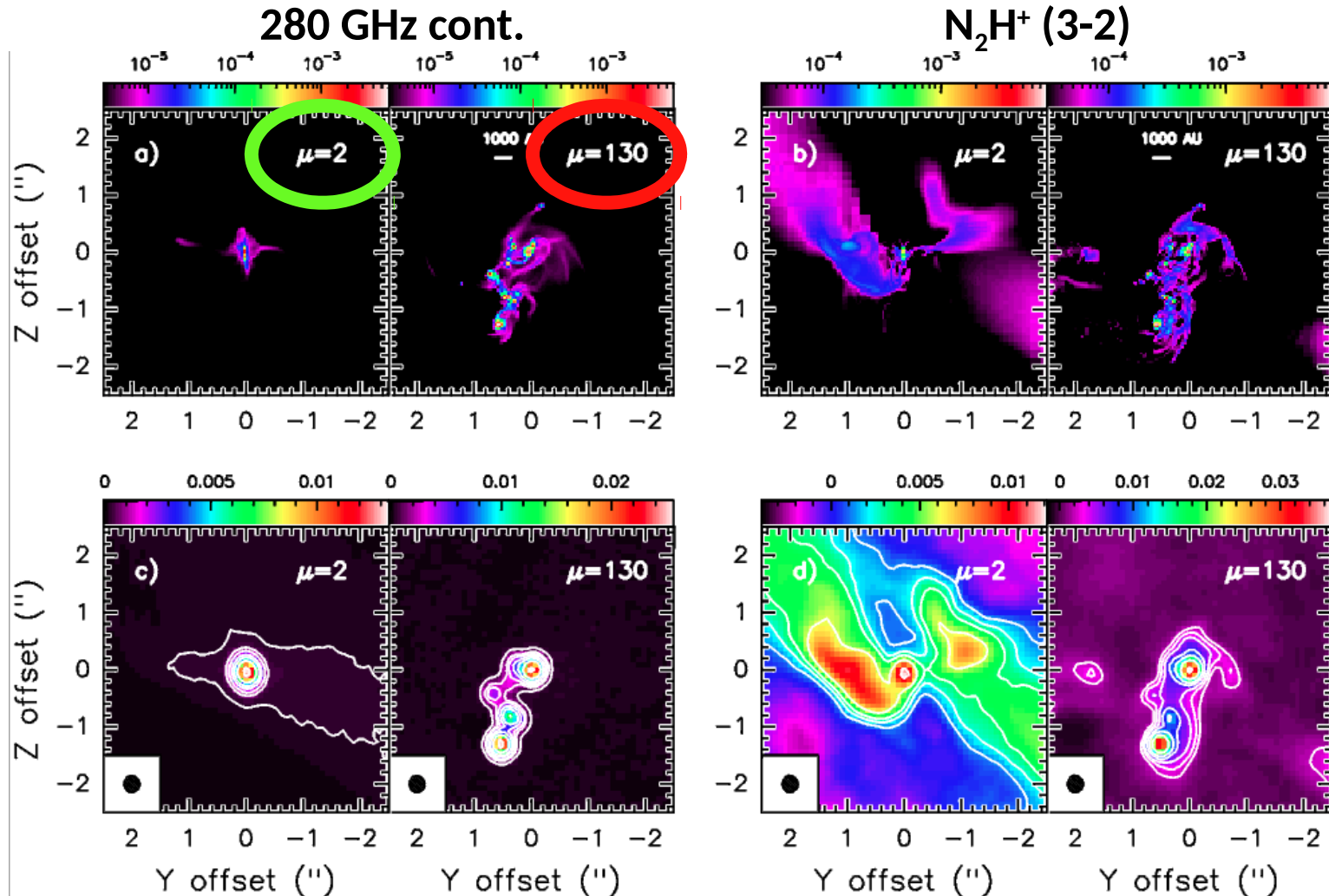
$$\mu = (M/\Phi)/(M/\Phi)_{crit}$$

$\mu = 2$ , dominant magnetic support

$\mu = 130$ , faint magnetic support

Model output  
(Hennebelle+11,  
Commerçon+12)

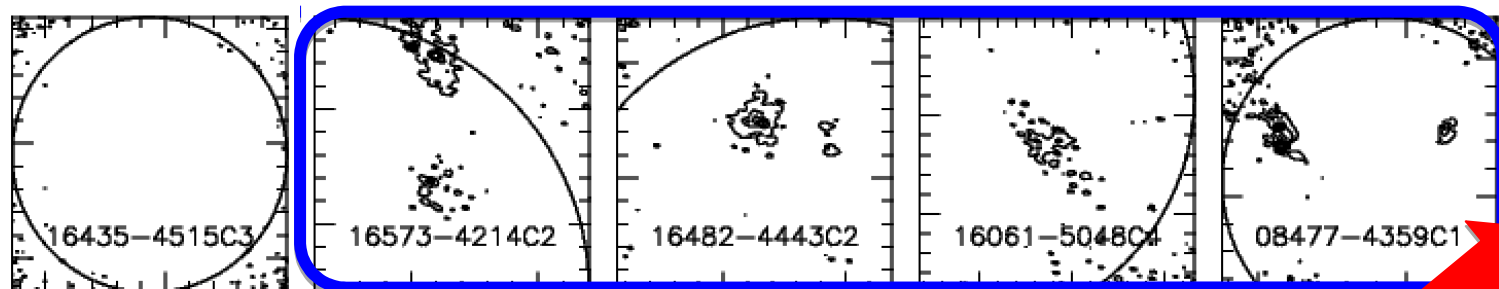
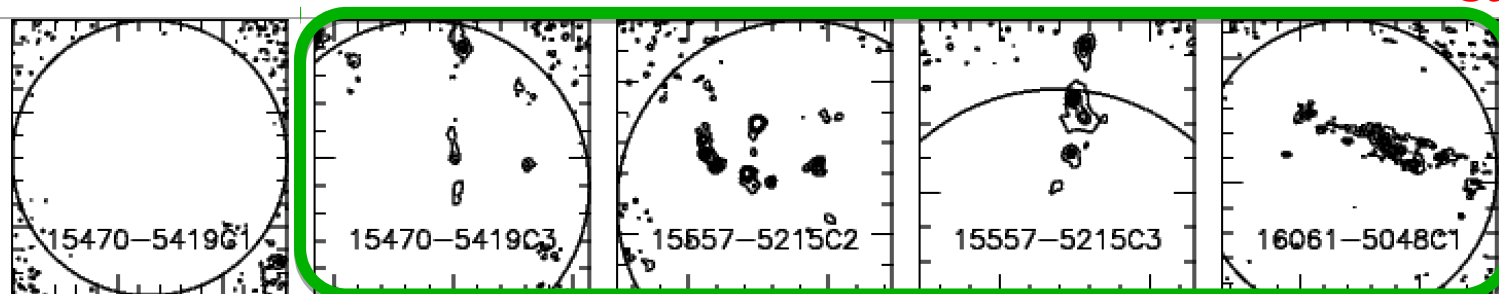
CASA  
Simulations  
( $\theta \sim 0.27''$ ,  
20 mins,  
cycle-1)



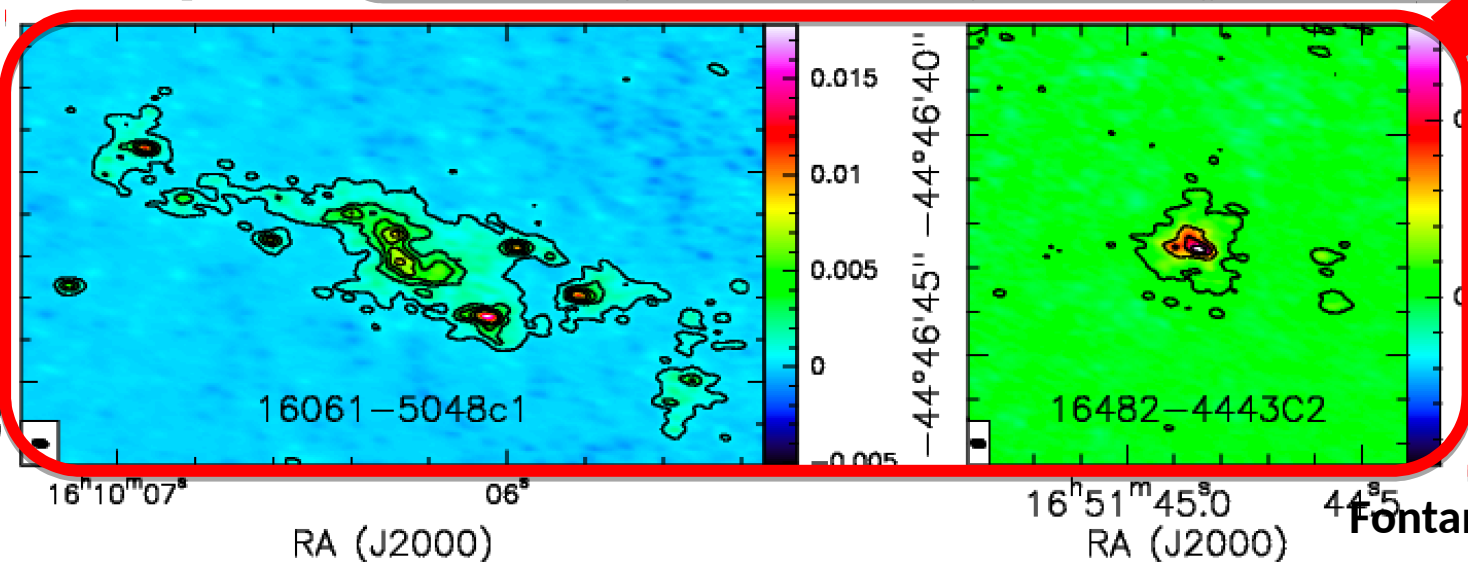
# ...and what we see: ALMA observations

## Continuum maps at 278 GHz

Resolution:  $\theta \sim 0.25''$   
Sensitivity:  $\sim 0.07 M_{\odot}$



“extreme” cases:  
- 12 fragments  
- 4 fragments

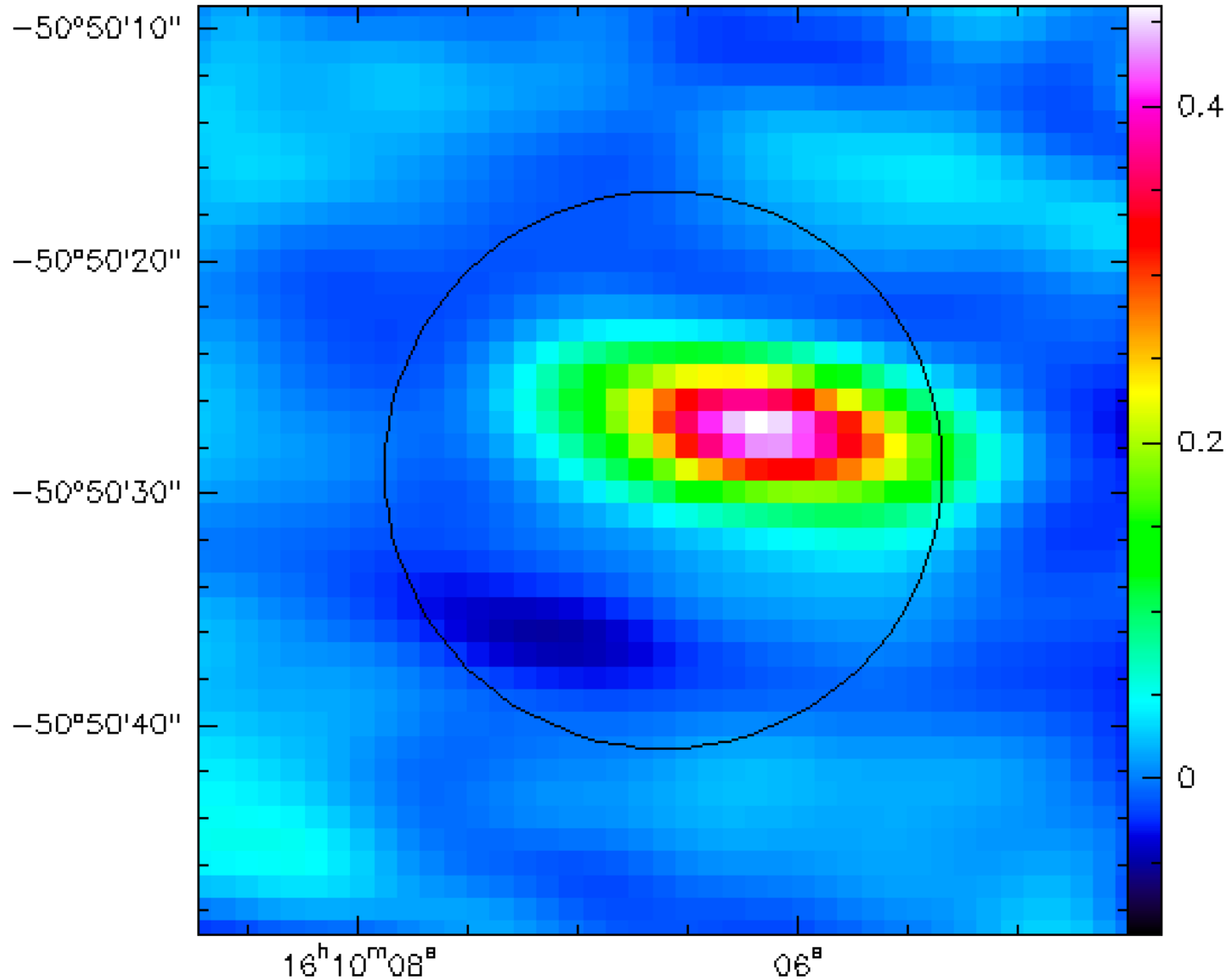




# ...and what we see: ALMA-ACA

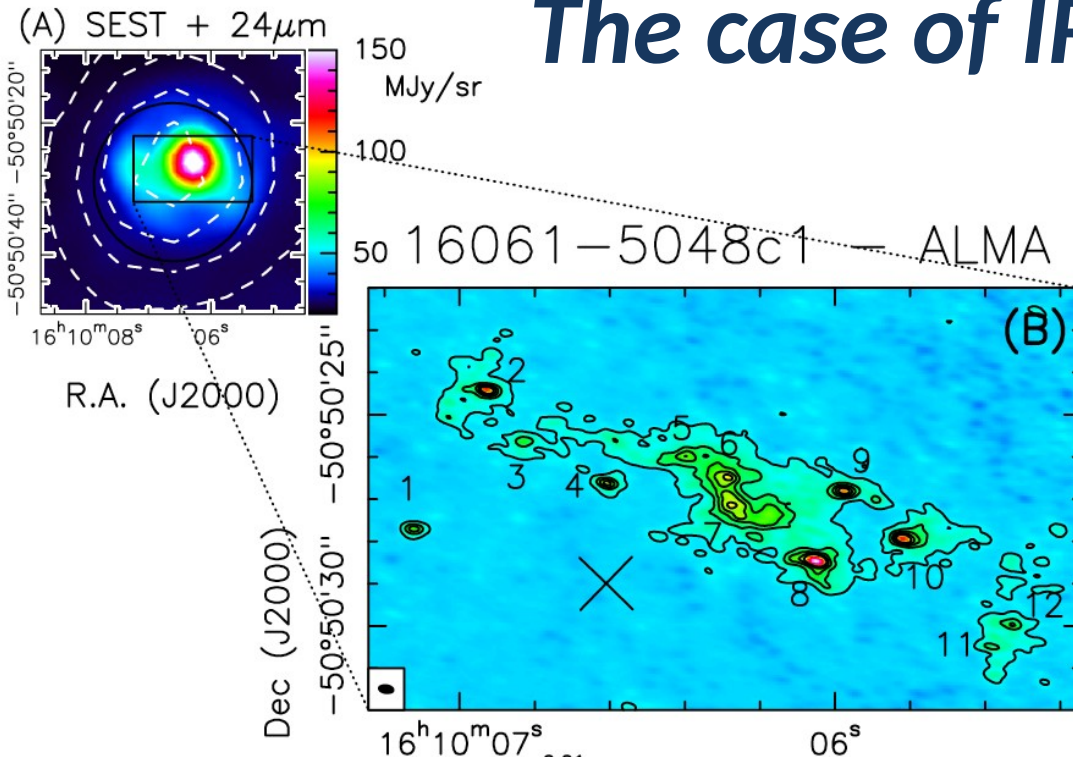
IRAS 16061C1 at 278 GHz

*Resolution:*  $\theta \sim 5.2''$   
*Sensitivity:*  $\sim 0.07 M_{\odot}$

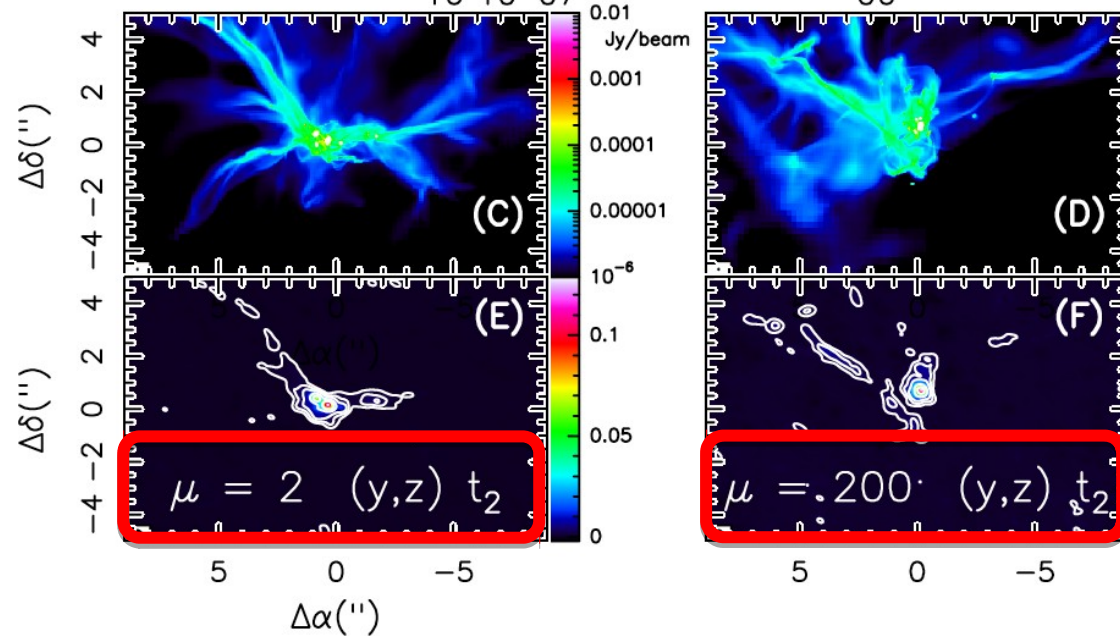


# The case of IRAS 16061-5048C1

Fontani et al. 2016, A&A, 593, L14



Despite many fragments,  
overall morphology more  
in line with strong  
magnetic support ( $\mu=2$ )!!

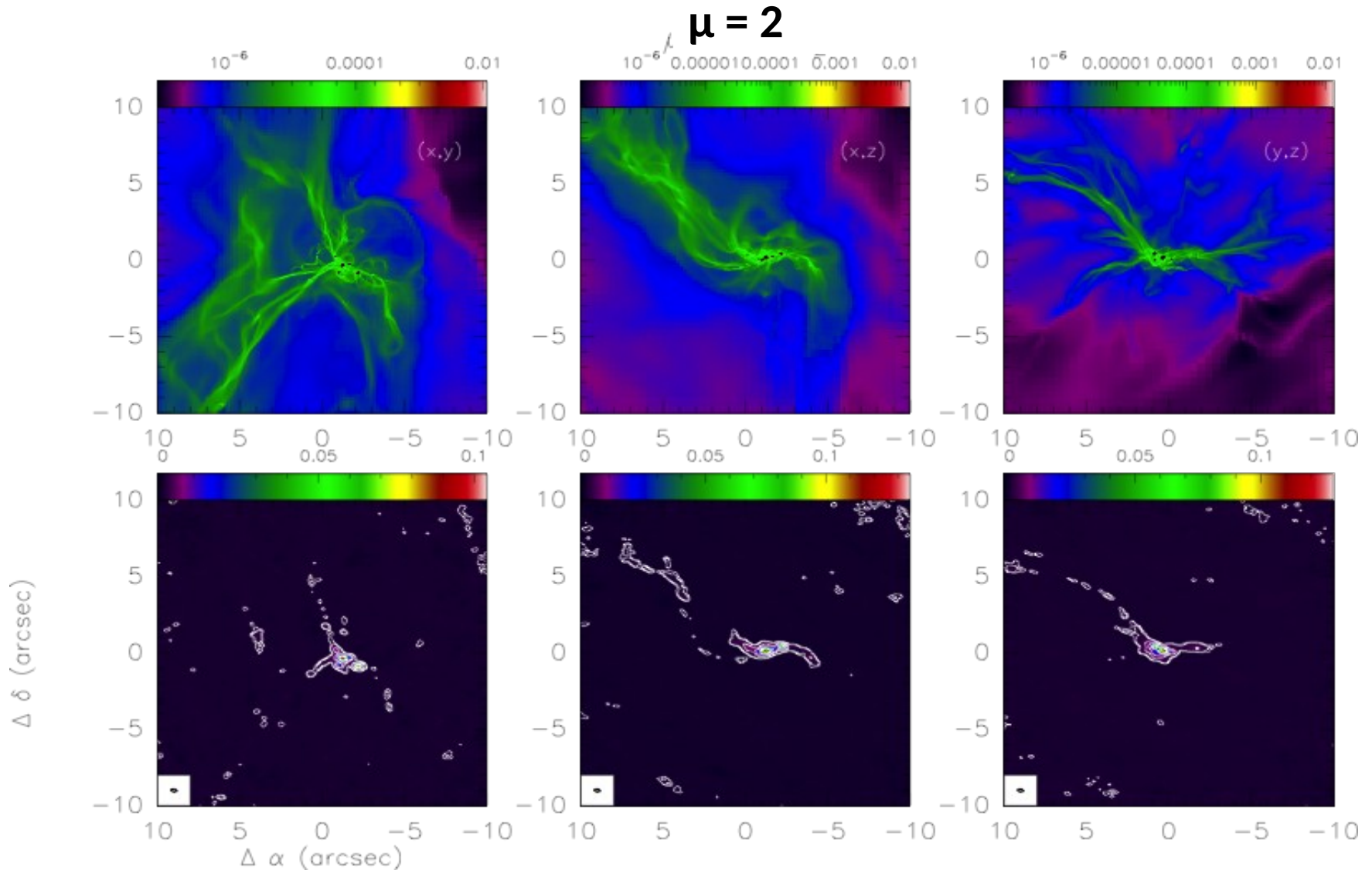


*Simulations run specifically  
for this clump:*

- $M = 300 M_{\text{sun}}$
- $T_k = 20 \text{ K}$
- Mach number = 6.44

# The case of IRAS 16061-5048C1

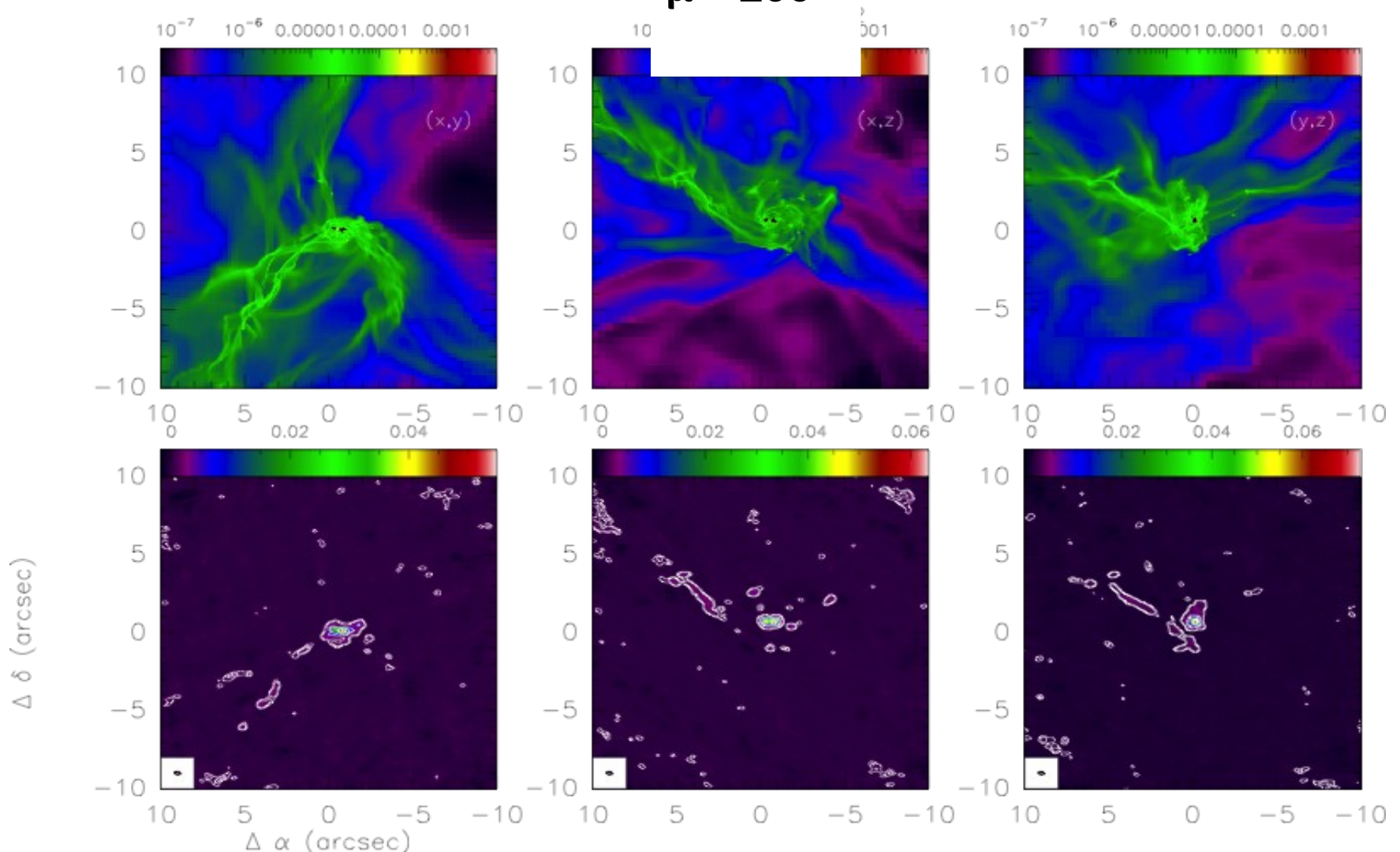
Geometry: how this affect the (observed) fragmentation?



# The case of IRAS 16061-5048C1

Geometry: how this affect the (observed) fragmentation?

$\mu = 200$



# The case of IRAS 16061-5048C1

	<i>Total flux (Jy)</i>	<i>Core nr.</i>	<i>Size (pc)</i>		<i>Flux (Jy)</i>		<i>Mass (M<sub>⊙</sub>)</i>	
			<b>mean</b>	<b>median</b>	<b>mean</b>	<b>median</b>	<b>mean</b>	<b>median</b>
ALMA	0.550	12	0.025	0.028	0.042	0.045	4.86	4.7
					$t=t_2$			
$\mu=2$ (x,y)	0.362	12	0.013	0.014	0.026	0.005	2.76	0.5
$\mu=2$ (x,z)	0.473	12	0.017	0.016	0.039	0.007	4.1	0.76
$\mu=2$ (y,z)	0.457	8	0.018	0.021	0.050	0.012	5.2	1.2
$\mu=200$ (x,y)	0.220	13	0.015	0.016	0.017	0.006	1.74	0.59
$\mu=200$ (x,y)	0.240	15	0.014	0.015	0.016	0.005	1.67	0.54
$\mu=200$ (x,y)	0.276	16	0.016	0.014	0.021	0.005	2.19	0.52

In the  $\mu = 200$  case, the fragments in the synthetic images NEVER reach the total flux observed

□ Further indication in support of the strong magnetic case !

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Magnetically regulated fragmentation of a massive, dense, and turbulent clump

F. Fontani<sup>1</sup>, B. Commerçon<sup>2</sup>, A. Giannetti<sup>3</sup>, M. T. Beltrán<sup>1</sup>, A. Sánchez-Monge<sup>4</sup>, L. Testi<sup>1,5,6</sup>, J. Brand<sup>7</sup>, P. Caselli<sup>8</sup>, R. Cesaroni<sup>1</sup>, R. Dodson<sup>9</sup>, S. Longmore<sup>10</sup>, M. Rioja<sup>9,11,12</sup>, J. C. Tan<sup>13</sup>, and C. M. Walmsley<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> INAF-Osservatorio Astrofisico di Arcetri, Largo E. Fermi 5, 50125 Florence, Italy  
e-mail: fontani@arcetri.astro.it

<sup>2</sup> École Normale Supérieure de Lyon, CRAL, UMR CNRS 5574, Université Lyon 1, 46 allée d'Italie, 69364 Lyon Cedex 07, France

<sup>3</sup> Max-Planck-Institut für Radioastronomie, auf dem Hügel 69, 53121 Bonn, Germany

<sup>4</sup> I. Physikalisches Institut, Universität zu Köln, Zùlpicher Str. 77, 50937 Köln, Germany

<sup>5</sup> European Southern Observatory, Karl-Schwarzschild-Str 2, 85748 Garching bei München, Germany

<sup>6</sup> Gothenburg Center for Advance Studies in Science and Technology, Chalmers University of Technology and University of Gothenburg, 412 96 Gothenburg, Sweden

<sup>7</sup> INAF-Istituto di Radioastronomia and Italian ALMA Regional Centre, via P. Gobetti 101, 40129 Bologna, Italy

<sup>8</sup> Max-Planck-Institut für extraterrestrische Physik, Giessenbachstrasse 1, 85748 Garching bei München, Germany

<sup>9</sup> International Center for Radio Astronomy Research, M468, University of Western Australia, 35, Stirling Hwy, Crawley, Western Australia 6009, Australia

<sup>10</sup> Astrophysics Research Institute, Liverpool John Moores University, Liverpool, L3 5RF, UK

<sup>11</sup> CSIRO Astronomy and Space Science, 26 Dick Perry Avenue, Kensington WA 6151, Australia

<sup>12</sup> Observatorio Astronómico Nacional (IGN), Alfonso XII, 3 y 5, 28014 Madrid, Spain

<sup>13</sup> Departments of Astronomy & Physics, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611, USA

Received 31 July 2016 / Accepted 27 August 2016

### ABSTRACT

Massive stars, multiple stellar systems, and clusters are born of the gravitational collapse of massive, dense, gaseous clumps, and the way these systems form strongly depends on how the parent clump fragments into cores during collapse. Numerical simulations show that magnetic fields may be the key ingredient in regulating fragmentation. Here we present ALMA observations at  $\sim 0.25''$  resolution of the thermal dust continuum emission at  $\sim 278$  GHz towards a turbulent, dense, and massive clump, IRAS 16061–5048c1, in a very early evolutionary stage. The ALMA image shows that the clump has fragmented into many cores along a filamentary structure. We find that the number, the total mass, and the spatial distribution of the fragments are consistent with fragmentation dominated by a strong magnetic field. Our observations support the theoretical prediction that the magnetic field plays a dominant role in the fragmentation process of massive turbulent clumps.

ASTRONOMY

## Magnetism drives star birth

*Nature* **538**, 8 (06 October 2016) | doi:10.1038/538008b

Published online 05 October 2016



PDF



Citation



Reprints



Rights & permissions



Article metrics

**Subject terms:** [Astronomy and astrophysics](#)

Magnetic fields regulate how stars are born from massive clouds of interstellar gas.

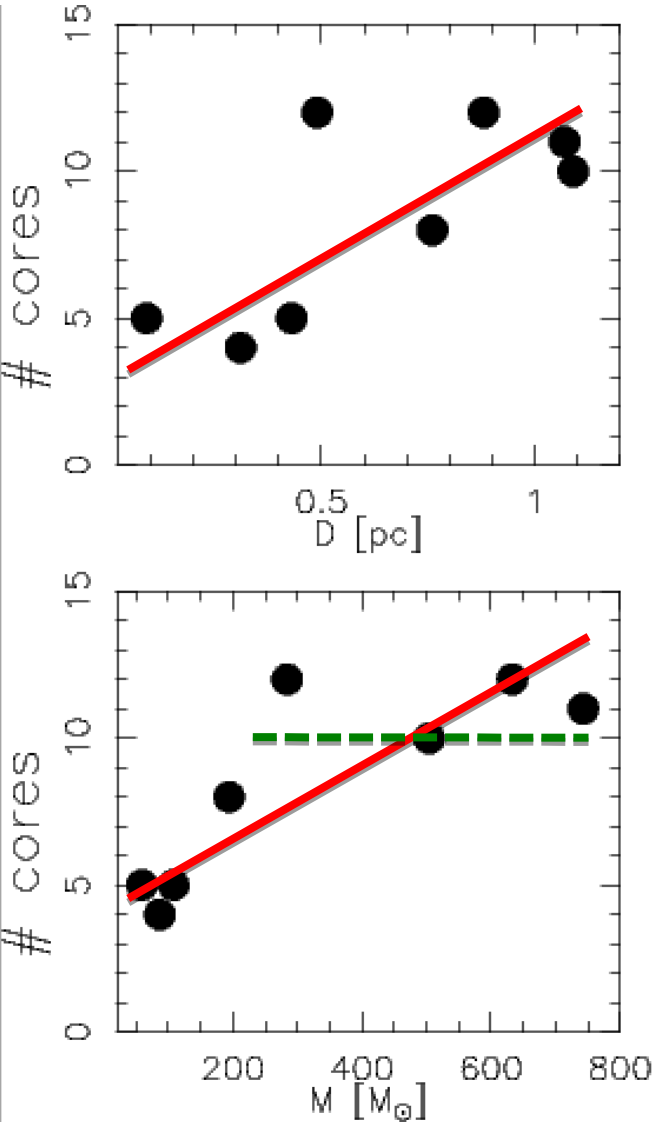
A team led by Francesco Fontani at the Arcetri Astrophysical Observatory in Florence, Italy, used high-resolution data from the Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array telescope in northern Chile to create detailed maps of a particular gas cloud. They found that the gas collapsed under the force of gravity and fragmented, forming a string of clumps that aligned themselves with the magnetic field. The clumps will eventually form the cores of future stars.

The study's findings confirm theoretical predictions that magnetic fields play a major part in where proto-stars form.

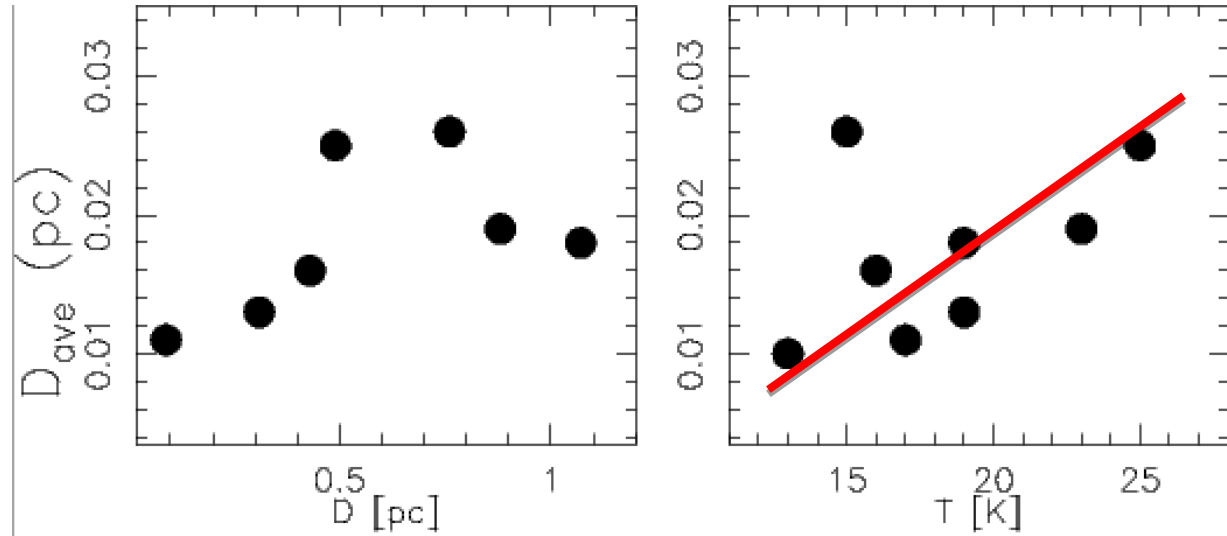
*Astron. Astrophys.* **593**, L14 (2016)

# fragment population: some statistics

# fragments vs core parameters



Average fragment Diameter vs core parameters



- 1- Larger and more massive cores tend to form more fragments
- 2- Larger and warmer cores tend to form larger fragments

# Summary and conclusions

---

- 1) Two populations of fragments:
  - a) few fragments with a dominant one
  - b) several ( $>10$ ) fragments with similar masses
  
- 2) Larger and more massive cores form more fragments  
( $\# > 10$  for  $M > M_{\square}$ )
  
- 3) The magnetic support can be dominant even for a highly fragmented clump
  - $\square$  appropriate initial conditions in models needed