# Fragmentation of molecular clouds, filaments, the core mass function and the origin of the stellar initial mass function



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Thanks to: D. Arzoumanian, V. Könyves, Y. Shimajiri, A. Roy, P. Palmeirim, E. Ntormousi



## A "universal" star formation product: the IMF



See Bastian, Covey, Meyer ARA&A 2010

Also Kroupa 2002; Chabrier 2003

Possible variations in the early Universe e.g. Cappellari et al. 2012

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## Origin of the IMF: Nature or Nurture? Two main classes of IMF models

- "Nature": Gravo-turbulent cloud fragmentation models (e.g. Larson 1985; Padoan, Nordlund, Jones 1997; Padoan & Nordlund 2002; Klessen & Burkert 2000; Hennebelle & Chabrier 2008).
   Stellar masses largely determined at prestellar stage of star formation; stellar IMF is inherited from the prestellar CMF resulting from cloud fragmentation.
- 2) "Nurture": (Competitive) Accretion between protocluster seeds at the protostellar stage of YSO evolution (e.g. Zinnecker 1982; Bonnell+2001; Bate+2003). Final stellar masses unrelated to initial prestellar cores masses
- This talk: Modification to the gravo-turbulent fragmentation picture based on Herschel results on core/star formation, which emphasize the role of filaments.

See S. Offner et al. 2014 PPVI for a detailed review/discussion of models

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# The cloud/clump mass function is shallower than the IMF but the prestellar core mass function (CMF) resembles the IMF



#### **Outline:**

Introduction

 'Universality' of filamentary structures in the cold ISM

• *Herschel* results supporting a filament paradigm for star formation

• The role of molecular filaments in the origin of the IMF

Conclusions

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Herschel GB survey

Arzoumanian+2011

**IC5146** 

~ 5 pc



#### Herschel has confirmed the presence of a 'universal' filamentary structure in the cold ISM

Filaments dominate the mass budget of GMCs at high column densities

cf. Schisano+2014, Könyves+2015

#### **Column Density PDF for Aquila GMC**





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### Nearby filaments have a common inner width ~ 0.1 pc

#### Network of filaments in IC5146

Herschel 500/250 µm



Example of a filament radial profile



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HERSCHEL Sound Bell Sun

Distribution of mean inner widths for ~ 600 nearby (d < 450pc) filaments



**D. Arzoumanian+2011 & 2019 (A&A, 621, A42)** [but some width variations along each filament: Ysard+2013]

Possibly linked to magneto-sonic scale of turbulence? (cf. Padoan+2001; Federrath 2016)

**Challenging for numerical simulations & models** (cf. R. Smith+2014; Ntormousi+2016; Auddy, Basu+2016)

# Is a characteristic filament width consistent with the observed power spectrum of cloud images?



#### Simple tests Power spectrum of image with synthetic 0.1 pc filaments A. Roy et al. 2019, arXiv:1903.12608 10<sup>9</sup> **Injecting a population of synthetic** $P(k) [Jy^2/sr]$ $P(k) = A_{ISM} k^{-2.75} + P_0$ 0.1 pc filaments with contrast ~ 50% 10<sup>8</sup> in SPIRE 250 µm image of Polaris $0^7$ translucent cloud **Synthetic** 06 Power: filaments $0^{5}$ contribution 60 $0^{4}$ 0.01 0.10 1.00 40Spatial angular frequency, k [arcmin<sup>-1</sup>] **Difference from power-law fit** Residuals: Power-law – Fit MJy/sr 🞖 **Synthetic** 0.5 4 pc0.0 **Conclusion:** Observed power spectra remain consistent with a characteristic Original -0.5 filament width ~ 0.1 pc for realistic filling factors and filament contrasts 0.01 0.10 1.00 Spatial angular frequency, k [arcmin<sup>-1</sup>] Ph. André – Zooming in on Star Formation – 11/06/2019

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# ~ $75^{+15}_{-5}$ % of prestellar cores form in filaments, above a typical column density N<sub>H<sub>2</sub></sub> $\gtrsim$ 7x10<sup>21</sup> cm<sup>-2</sup>





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Marsh al. 2016, MNRAS

### **Examples of Herschel prestellar cores in Aquila**

- Core = single star-forming entity
  (Need to receive 0.01.0.1 m)
  - (Need to resolve  $\sim 0.01-0.1 \text{ pc}$ )
- Starless = no central proto ★
- Prestellar = bound & starless

[ For definitions, see:

Di Francesco et al. 2007, PPV

Ward-Thompson et al. 2007, PPV

André+2000, Williams+ 2000, PPIV ]



#### Lack of substructure within the cores identified with *Herschel* in nearby (d < 450 pc) clouds

> Progenitors of individual stars or binary systems, but not "clusters"

*Herschel* ~ 15" resolution at  $\lambda$  ~ 200 µm  $\Leftrightarrow$  ~ 0.02 pc < Jeans length (*a*) d = 300 pc



Perbo 58: CARMA/SZA interferometer 3mm



### Strong evidence of a column density transition/ "threshold" for the formation of prestellar cores



 $CFE(A_V) = \Delta M_{cores}(A_V) / \Delta M_{cloud}(A_V)$ 

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#### Most prestellar cores form near the column density "threshold" (in 'transcritical' filaments)



Total prestellar core mass as a function of background  $A_V$ 

### **Fragmentation of filaments – Core spacing**

#### ALMA 3mm mosaic of the Orion A ISF



Some evidence of hierarchical fragmentation within filaments (e.g. Takahashi+2013; Kainulainen+2013; Teixeira+2016)

**Two fragmentation modes:** 

- « Cylindrical » mode ← → groups of cores separated by ~ 0.3 pc
- « Spherical » Jeans-like mode ← →
   core spacing < 0.1 pc within groups</li>

Two-point correlation function of ALMA dense cores



### **Evidence of two fragmentation modes in filaments:**

Example of the massive filament in NGC6334 (M/L ~ 1000  $M_{\odot}$ /pc; W = 0.15 +- 0.05 pc)



### **Evidence of two fragmentation modes in filaments:**

Recent identification of groups of compact (< 0.03pc) ALMA  $3mm/N_2H^+$  cores associated with ArTéMiS clumps within the massive NGC6334 filament





#### Detection of transverse velocity gradients across filaments: Evidence of accretion within sheet-like structures?



see also H. Kirk+2013 for Serp-S

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#### Detection of transverse velocity gradients across filaments: Evidence of accretion within sheet-like structures?



Fernandez-Lopez+2014; Dhabal, Mundy+2018 see also H. Kirk+2013 for Serp-S

#### Simple modeling of the CO/Herschel data around the Taurus/ B211 filament consistent with accretion in a sheet/shell



### A filament paradigm for ~ $M_{\odot}$ star formation?

Schneider & Elmegreen 1979; Larson 1985; Nagasawa 1987; Inutsuka & Miyama 1997; Myers 2009 ... **Protostars & Planets VI chapter** (André, Di Francesco, Ward-Thompson, Inutsuka, Pudritz, Pineda 2014)



- 1) Large-scale MHD compressive flows associated with multiple expanding shells create filamentary molecular clouds with ~ 0.1 pc-wide filaments
- 2) Gravity fragments the densest molecular filaments into prestellar cores close to or above  $M_{line,crit} \sim 16 M_{\odot} pc^{-1}$
- 3) Prestellar cores collapse to protostars/YSOs

# Filament fragmentation can account for the peak of the prestellar CMF and (possibly) the "base" of the IMF



# Determination of the Filament Line Mass Function (FLMF)



Mass per unit length, M<sub>line</sub> (M<sub>O</sub>/pc) André+2019, A&A, submitted

Filament sample: 599 nearby filaments in IC5146, Orion B, Aquila, Polaris,Ophiuchus, Taurus, Pipe, Musca(Arzoumanian et al. 2019, A&A, 621, A42)Complete for supercritical filaments ( $M_{line} > 16 M_{\odot}/pc$ ) according to tests

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# Salpeter-like distribution of characteristic core masses from distribution of filament line masses

Local effective Jeans mass in a thermally supercritical filament:

Given filament properties (cf. Arzoumanian+2011, 2013, 2019):  

$$M_{line} \sim \Sigma_{fil} \times W_{fil} \sim M_{line, vir} \equiv 2c_{s,eff}^2/G \text{ with } W_{fil} \sim 0.1 \text{ pc}$$
  
 $M_{Jeans} \sim M_{BE} \sim 1.3 c_{s,eff}^4/(G^2 \Sigma_{fil}) \propto \Sigma_{fil} \propto M_{line}$ 

**Distribution of line masses for HGBS filaments** 



André+2019, A&A, submitted See also André+2014 PPVI

$$\Rightarrow \Delta N/\Delta \log M_{BE} \propto M_{BE}^{-1.4+-0.2}$$

(Salpeter index: -1.35)

Full CMF/IMF results from the convolution of the distribution of filament line masses by the CMF in individual filaments (Y.-N. Lee, Hennebelle, Chabrier 2017)

#### Dependence of the prestellar CMF on background cloud (column) density



# Tentative determination of the CMF resulting from a single (massive) filament: NGC6334 (M/L ~ 1000 $M_{\odot}$ /pc)

Detection of 21 compact (< 0.03pc) 3mm continuum/N<sub>2</sub>H<sup>+</sup> cores with ALMA



# Summary: A filament paradigm for star formation and the IMF?

- Herschel results support a filament paradigm for star formation and the IMF although many issues remain open and/or strongly debated
- Filament fragmentation appears to produce the peak of the prestellar CMF and likely accounts for the < base > of the IMF

Salpeter power law IMF may be inherited from the observed Salpeter-like distribution of supercritical filament masses per unit length (due to accretion ?)

**High-resolution polarimetric imaging** at far-IR/submm  $\lambda$ s from space with SPICA can lead to **decisive progress in** our understanding of **the role of magnetic fields** (See SPICA-POL White Paper: arXiv:1905.03520)