

# Mass Assembly of Stellar Systems and their Evolution with the SMA (MASSES)

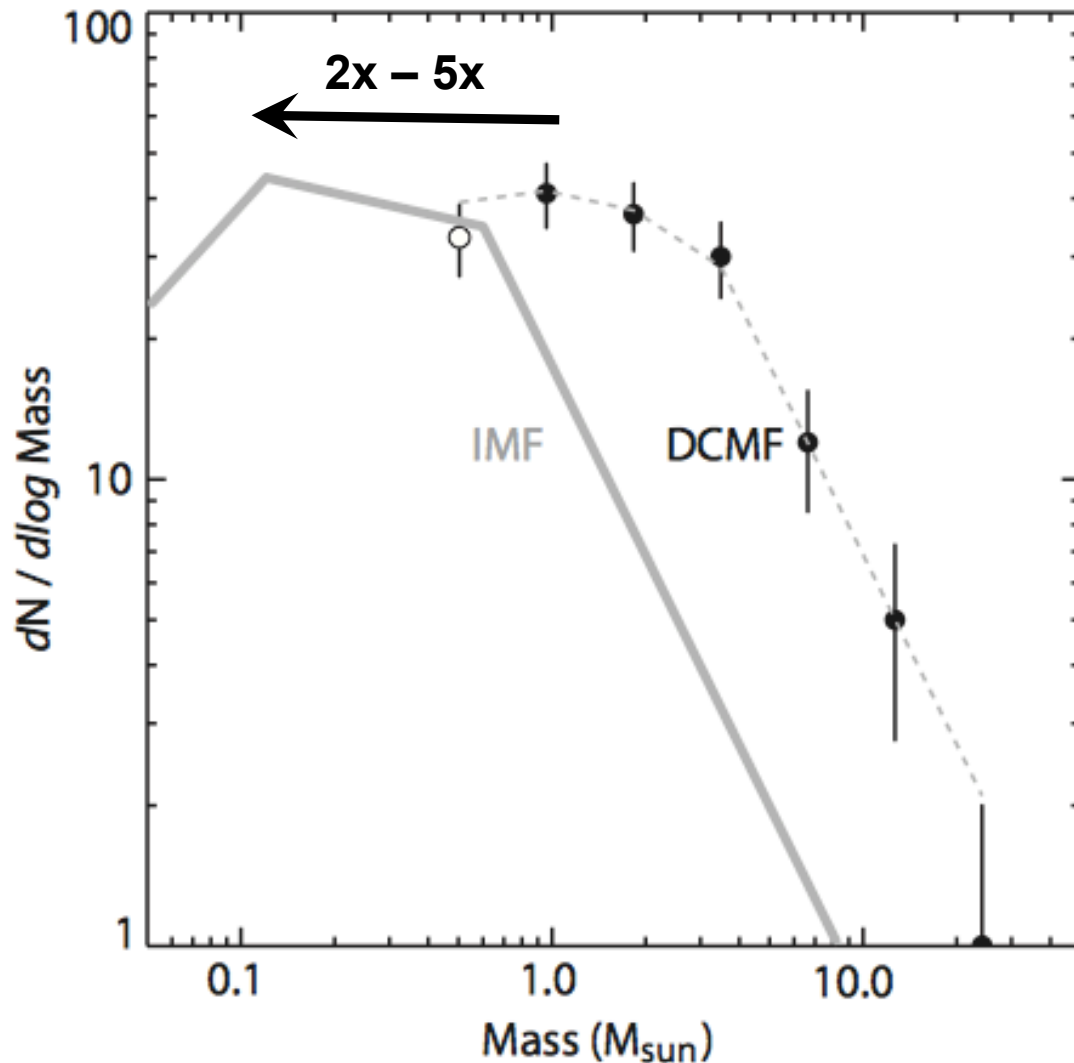


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Presentation to the SMA Advisory Committee  
Tuesday, July 17, 2018

# Origins of Stellar Masses



The origins of the stellar initial mass function (IMF) is one of the great unsolved problems in stellar astrophysics

The IMF and dense core mass function (CMF) are similar in shape, with the IMF shifted to about 3x lower masses

IMF set by CMF?

# Physical Processes Regulating Accretion

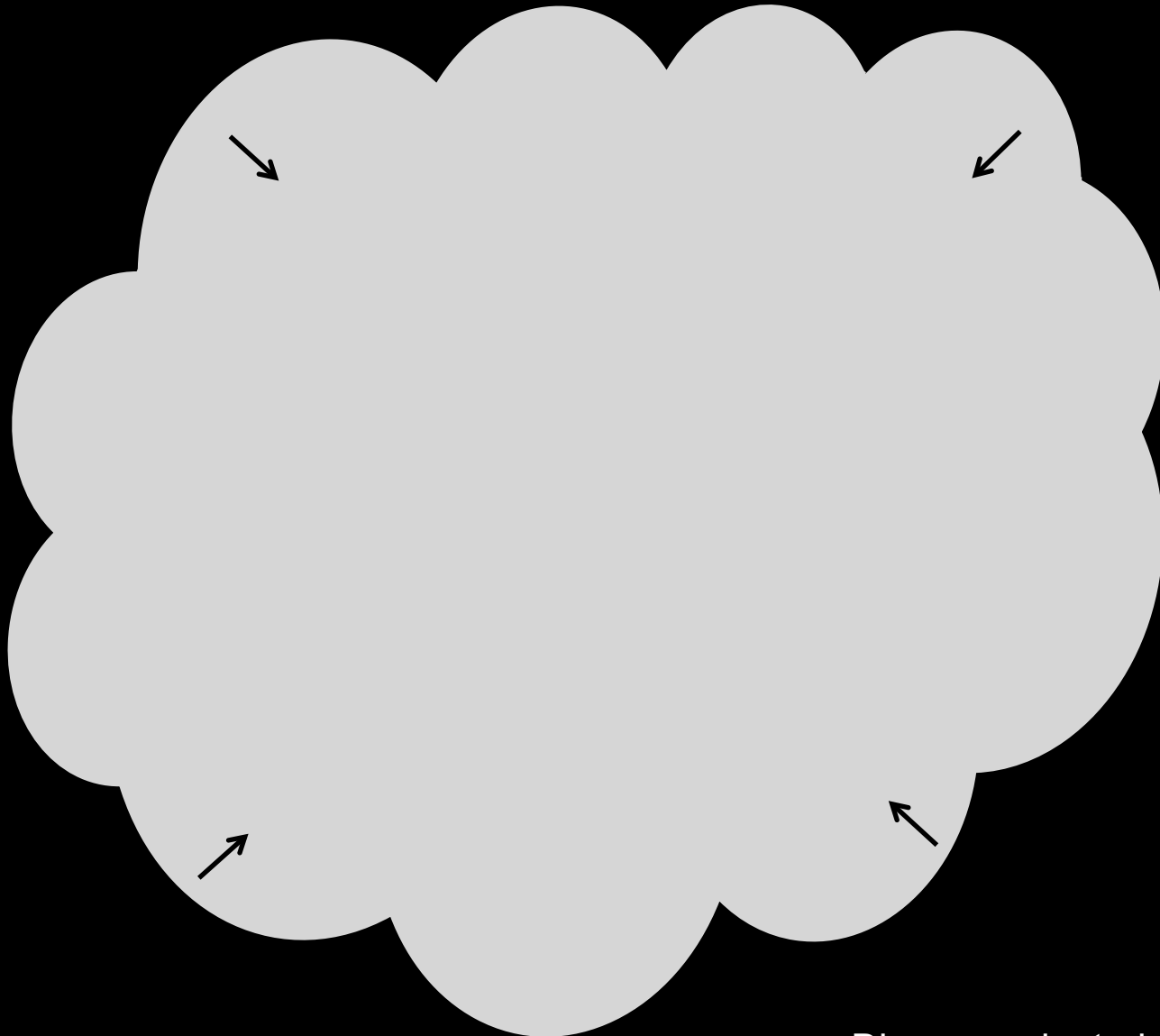


Diagram adapted from M. Persson

# Physical Processes Regulating Accretion

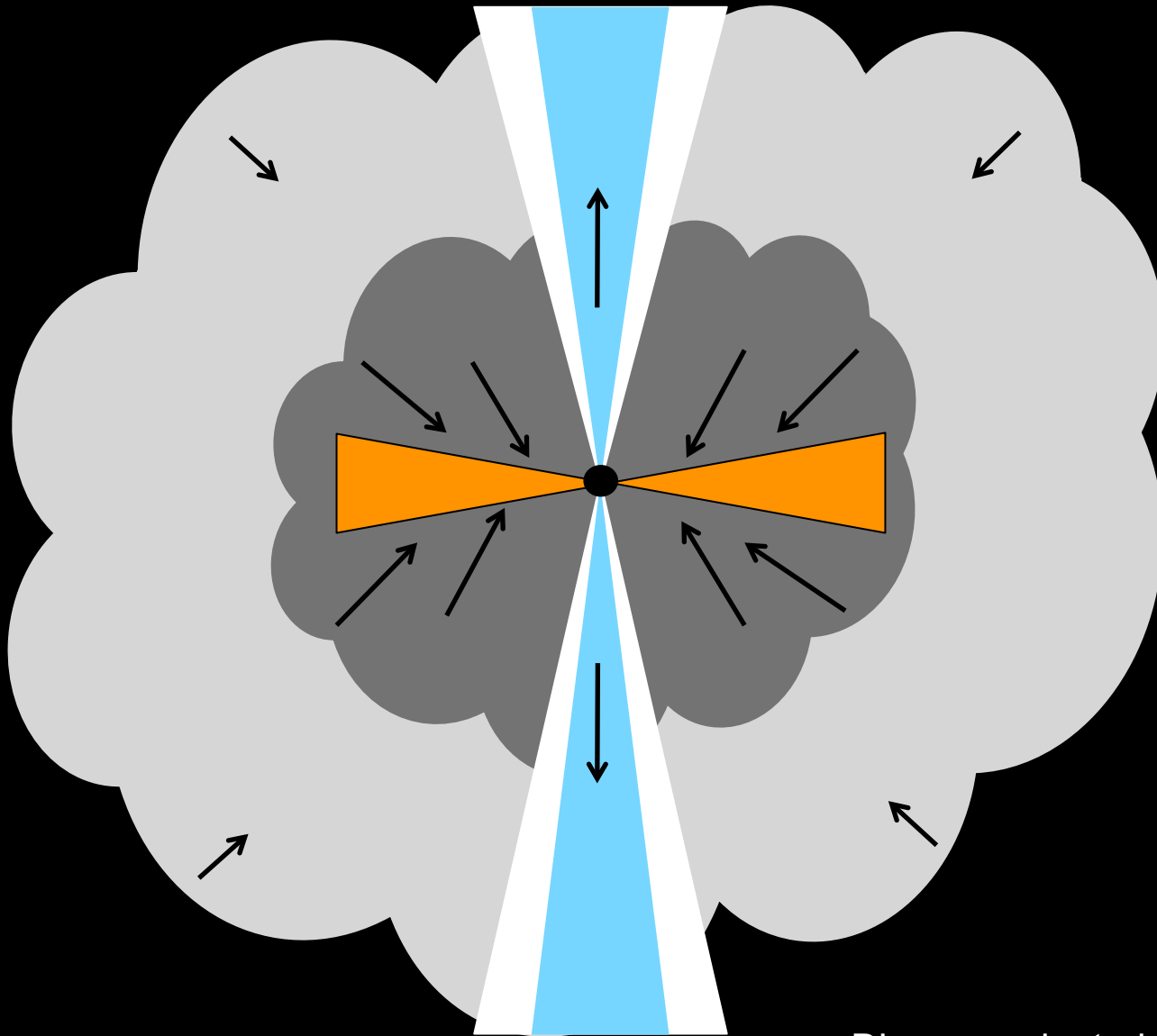


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# Physical Processes Regulating Accretion

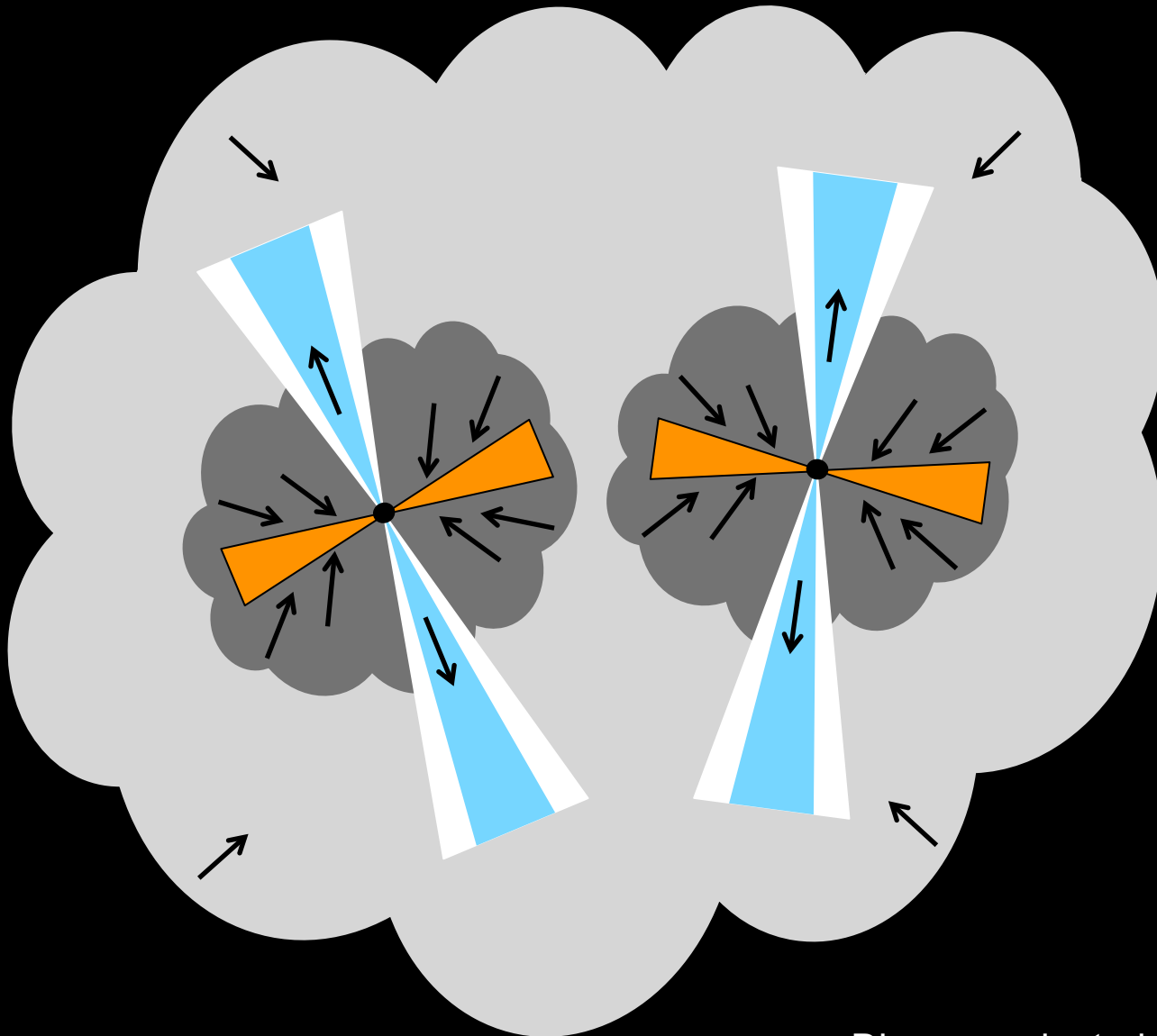


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# Physical Processes Regulating Accretion

## Open Questions

1. **When, where, and how do cores and disks fragment into multiple systems?**
2. **What role do disks play in the transfer of mass from cores to stars?**
3. **To what extent do outflows regulate the protostellar mass accretion process?**



# MASSES – Mass Assembly of Stellar Systems and their Evolution with the SMA

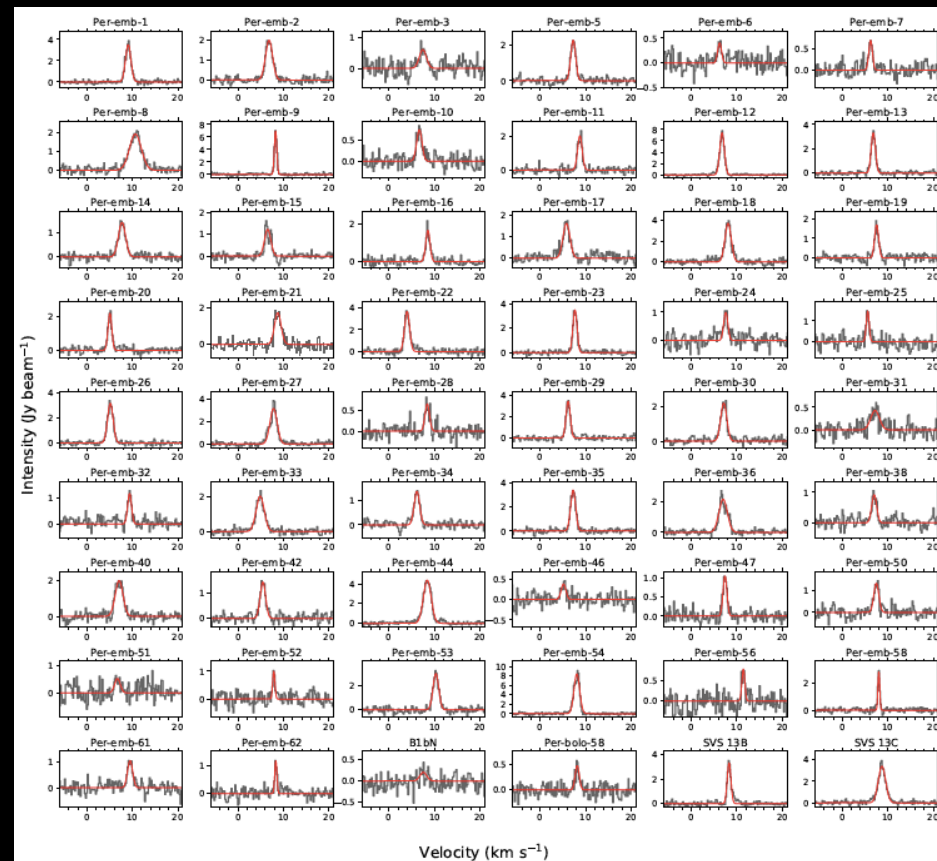
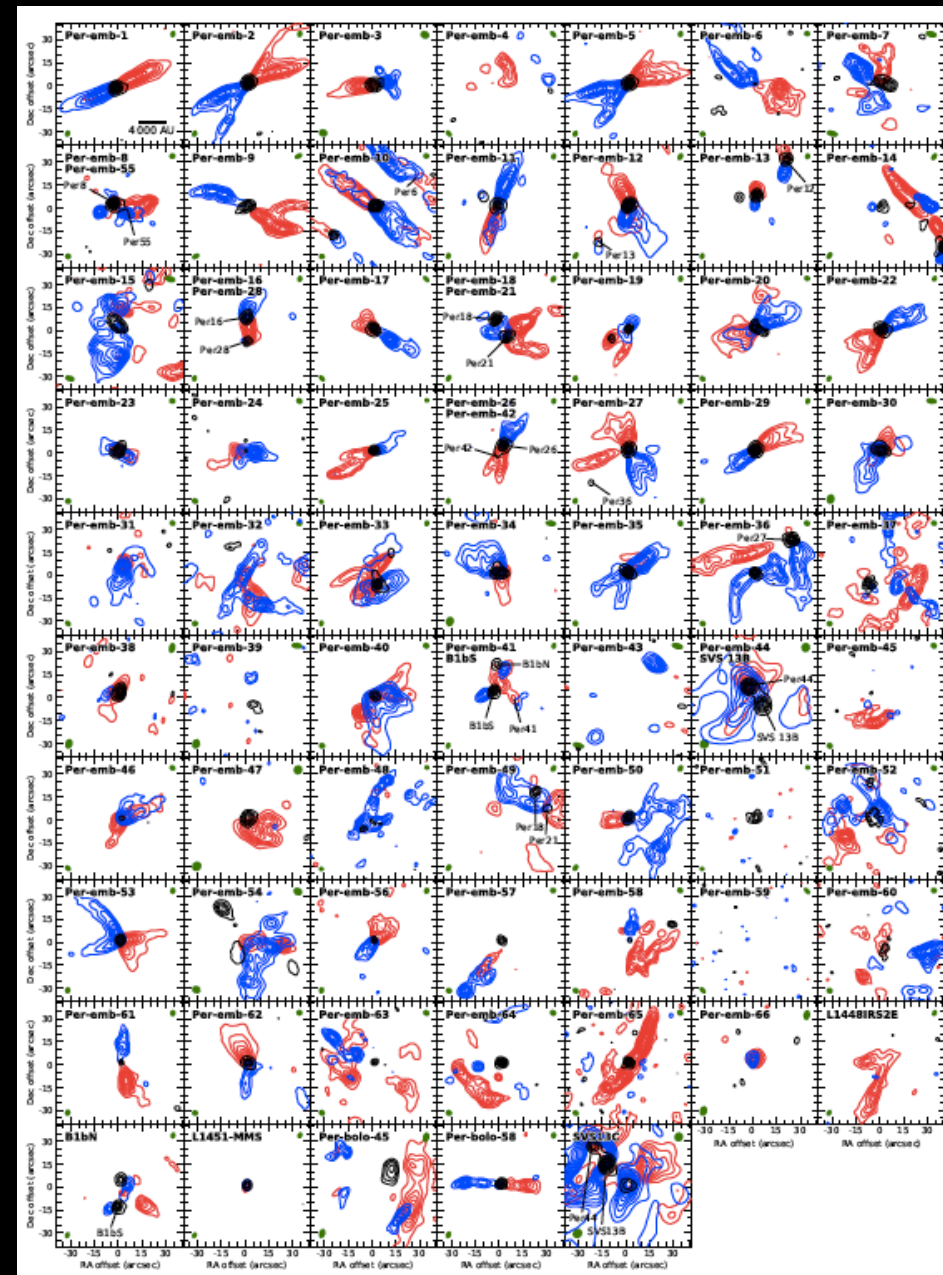
1<sup>st</sup> data release paper published by Stephens et al. 2018, delivering science-ready data products

First <1000 au scale survey of complete protostellar population in a single cloud

- (sub)millimeter survey of all (~70) protostars in Perseus ( $d = 230$  pc)
- Approx. 600 hr over 3 years (Fall 2014 – Spring 2017), spans ASIC → SWARM upgrade
- Targets multiple dense gas & outflow tracers at 230 & 345 GHz, plus the continuum
- Two SMA configurations (SUB+EXT) – 200 AU resolution, >4000 AU max. scale

# The Statistical Power of MASSES

Stephens, Dunham, et al. (2018)



Velocity (km s<sup>-1</sup>)



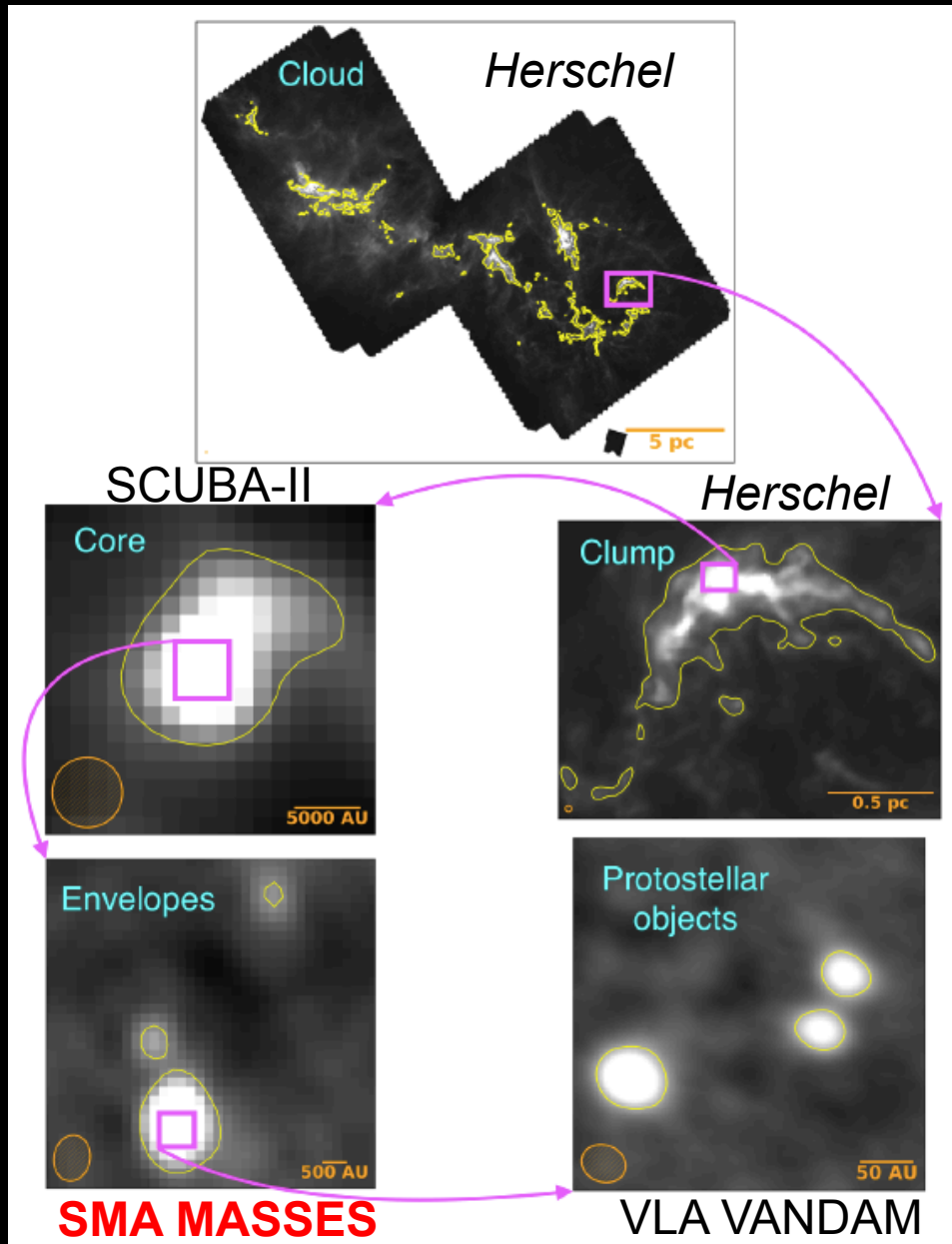
# Hierarchical Fragmentation of a Molecular Cloud

Pokhrel, Myers, Dunham, et al. (2018)

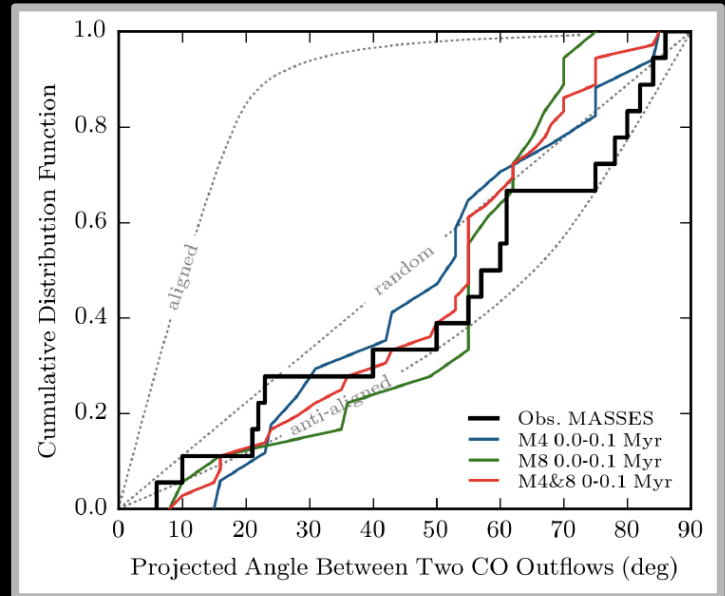
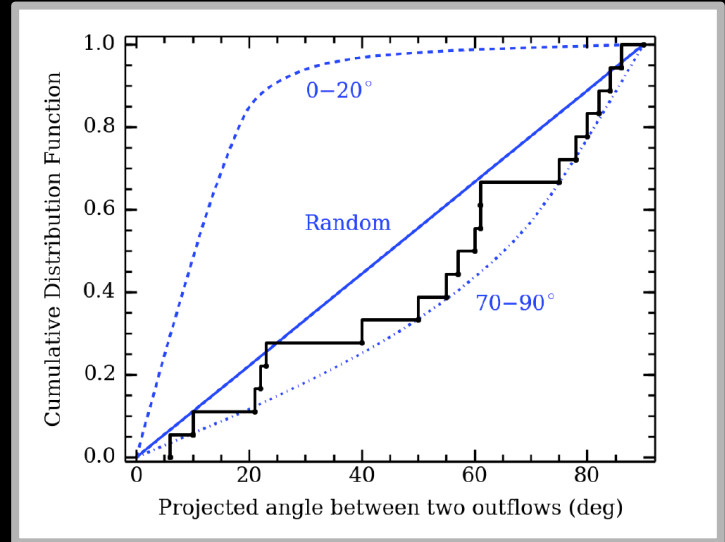
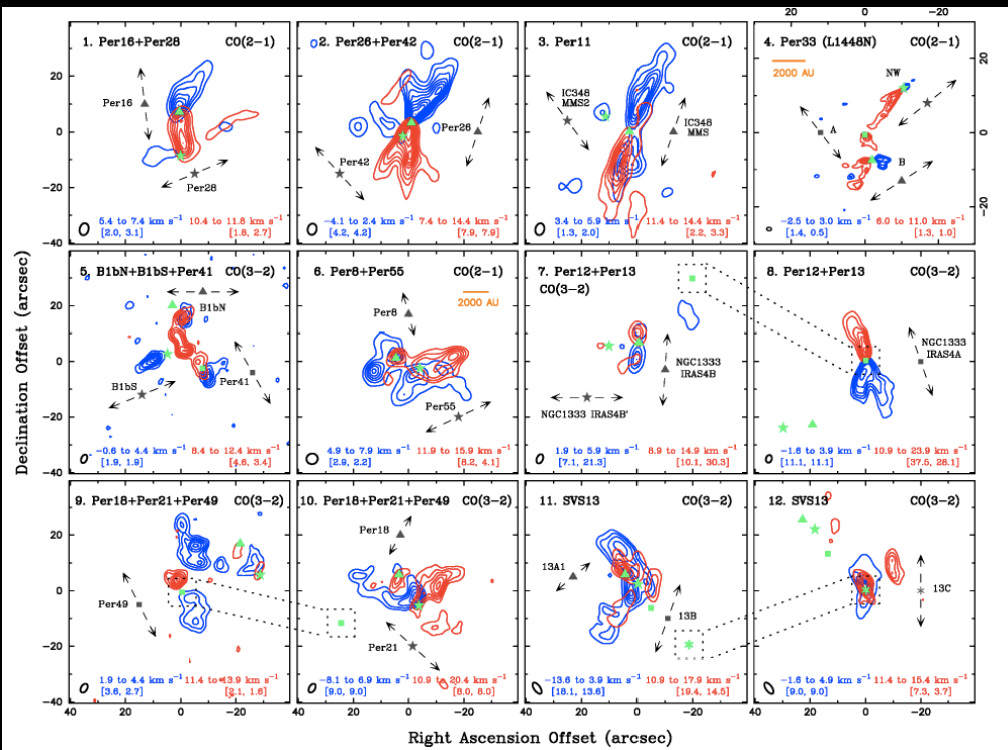
Fragmentation is a multi-scale, hierarchical process

Different physical mechanisms may be relevant on different size scales

Question addressed by **MASSES**: What causes “envelopes” (~1000 AU structures) to fragment into multiple protostars



# Alignment of Multiple Systems

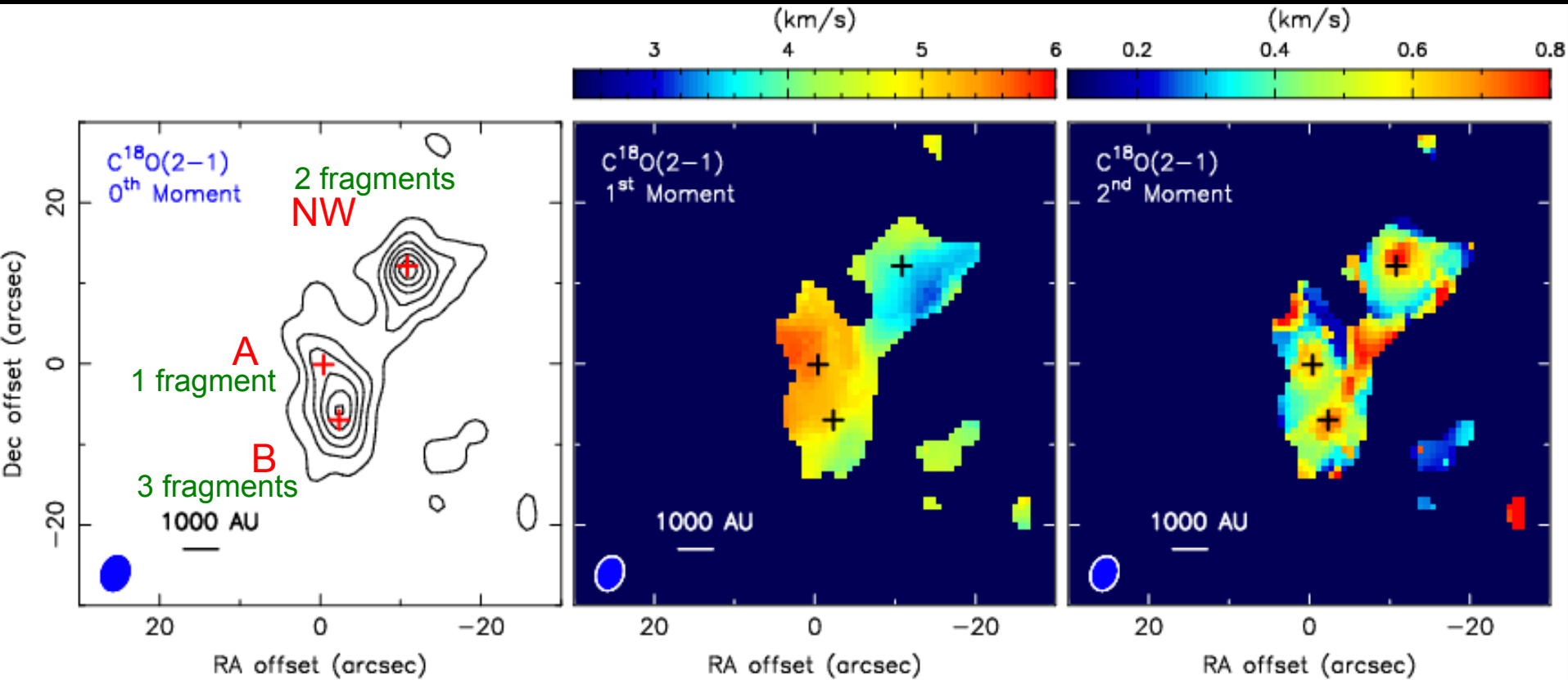


Wide multiple systems are randomly aligned, an unexpected result that agrees with theoretical predictions of turbulent fragmentation

Lee, Dunham, et al. (2016)  
 Offner, Dunham, et al. (2016)

# Fragmentation in L1448-N

Lee, Dunham, Myers, et al. (2015)

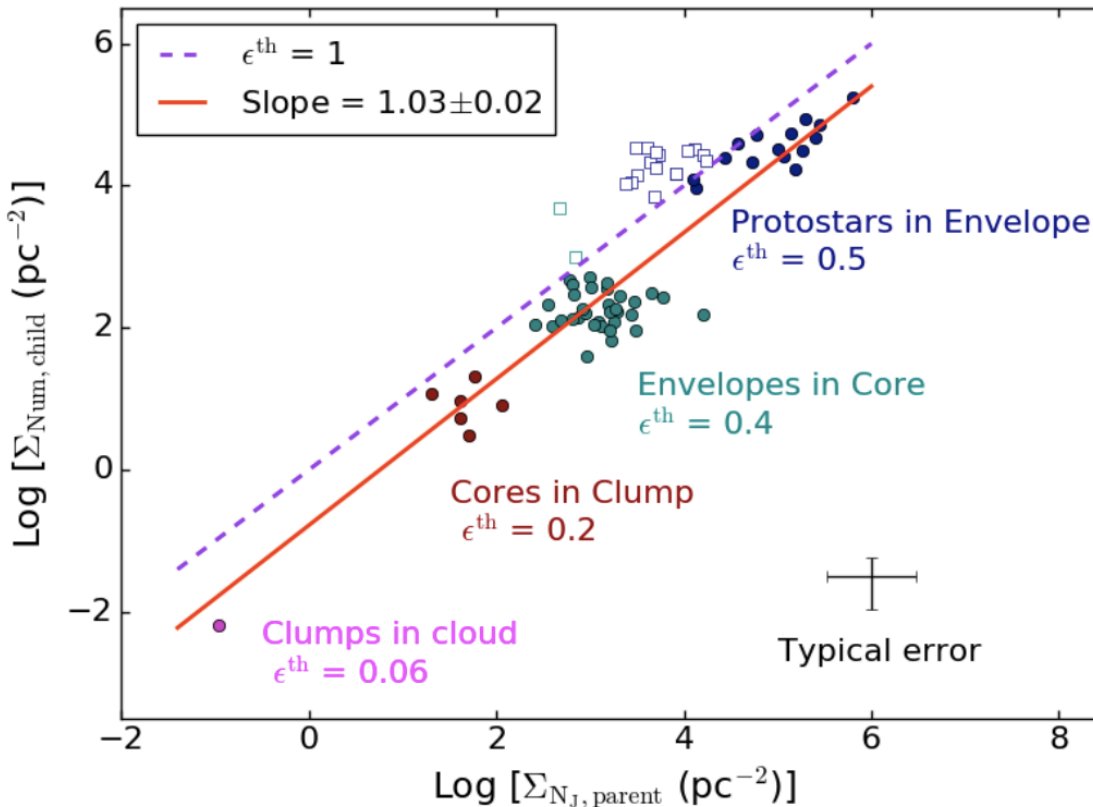


## Number of <100 AU fragments within 1000 AU SMA objects:

- **Does not** correlate with  $\beta$  (rotational/gravitational energy)
- **Does not** correlate with  $\sigma$  (non-thermal velocity dispersion)
- **Does** correlate w/thermal Jeans number (core mass / Jeans mass)

# Hierarchical Fragmentation of a Molecular Cloud

Pokhrel, Myers, Dunham, et al. (2018)



y-axis: number of fragments within parent (divided by surface area of parent)

x-axis: thermal Jeans number of parent (divided by surface area of parent)

At all levels, number of fragments correlates with thermal Jeans number

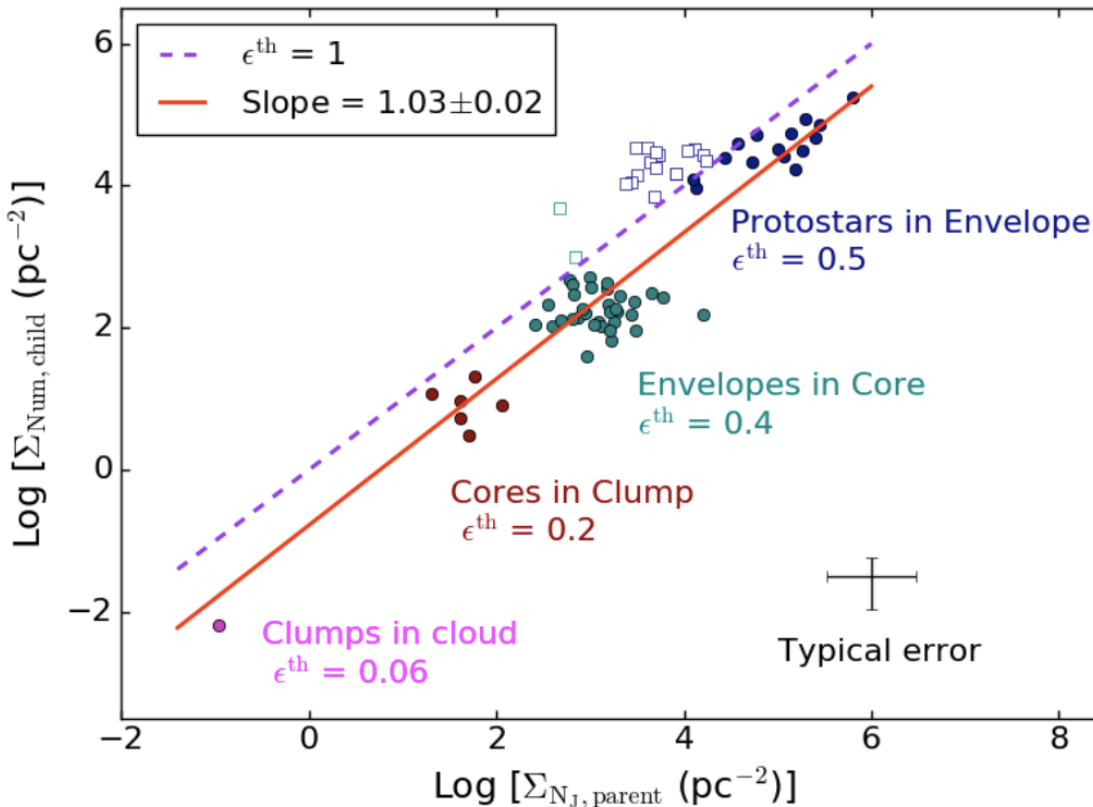
At all levels, number of fragments is also less than predicted by thermal Jeans number

Including non-thermal support predicts no fragmentation on large scales, and has no effect on small scales

Fragmentation appears to be best described as “inefficient thermal Jeans fragmentation”

# Hierarchical Fragmentation of a Molecular Cloud

Pokhrel, Myers, Dunham, et al. (2018)



Kinematics vs. multiplicity in progress. Consistency with turbulent fragmentation under investigation.

At all levels, number of fragments correlates with thermal Jeans number

At all levels, number of fragments is also less than predicted by thermal Jeans number

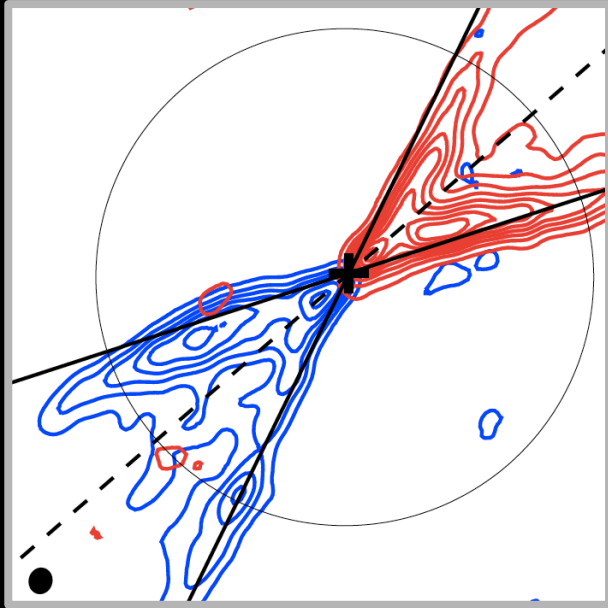
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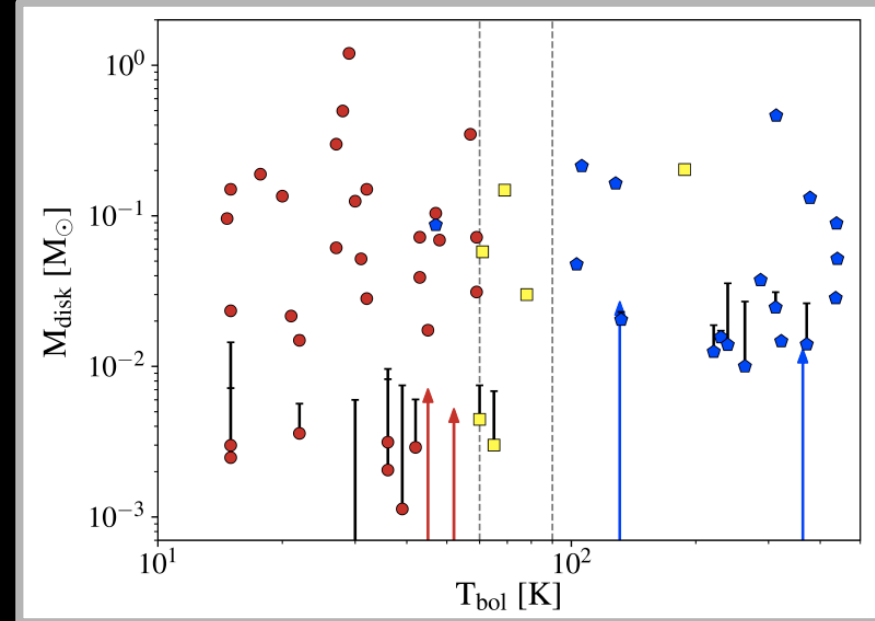
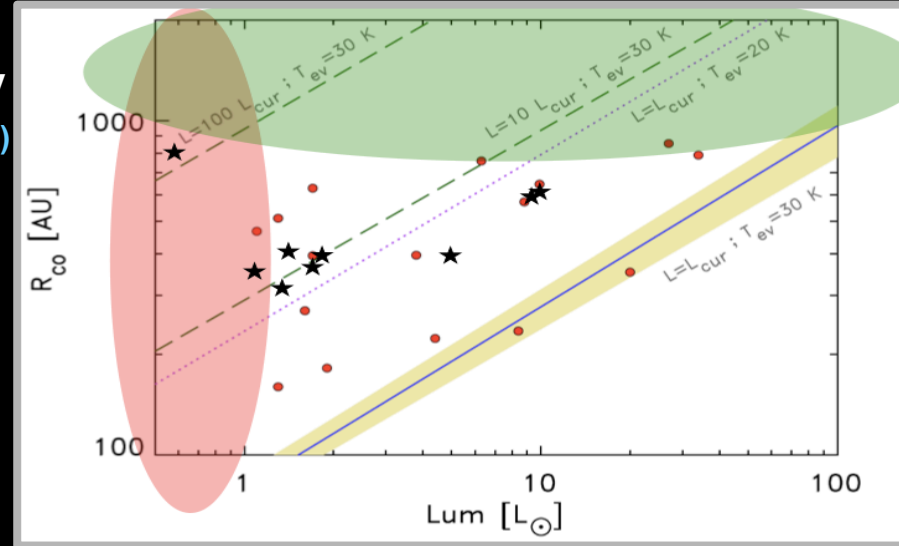
# MASSES is About More than Fragmentation...

Accretion histories  
traced by chemistry

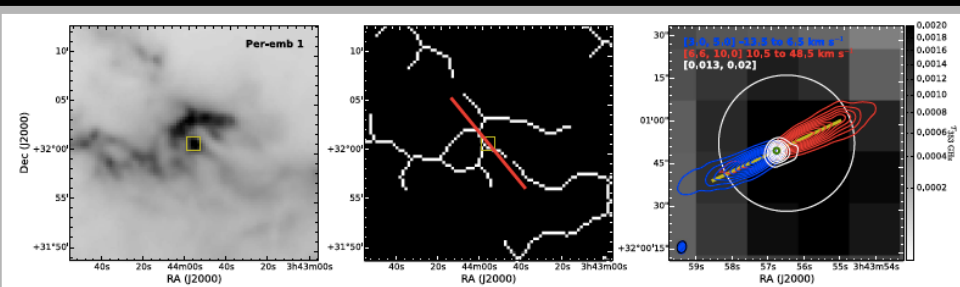
Frimann et al. (2017)



Outflow morphology evolution  
Dunham, Stephens, et al. (in prep)



Protostellar disk masses  
Andersen et al. (in prep)



Outflow/filament (mis)alignment  
Stephens et al. (2017)

**MASSES enables key progress on open questions requiring a statistical approach, and is triggering follow-up theoretical and observational (ALMA, VLA, etc.) work**

## **MASSES Publications**

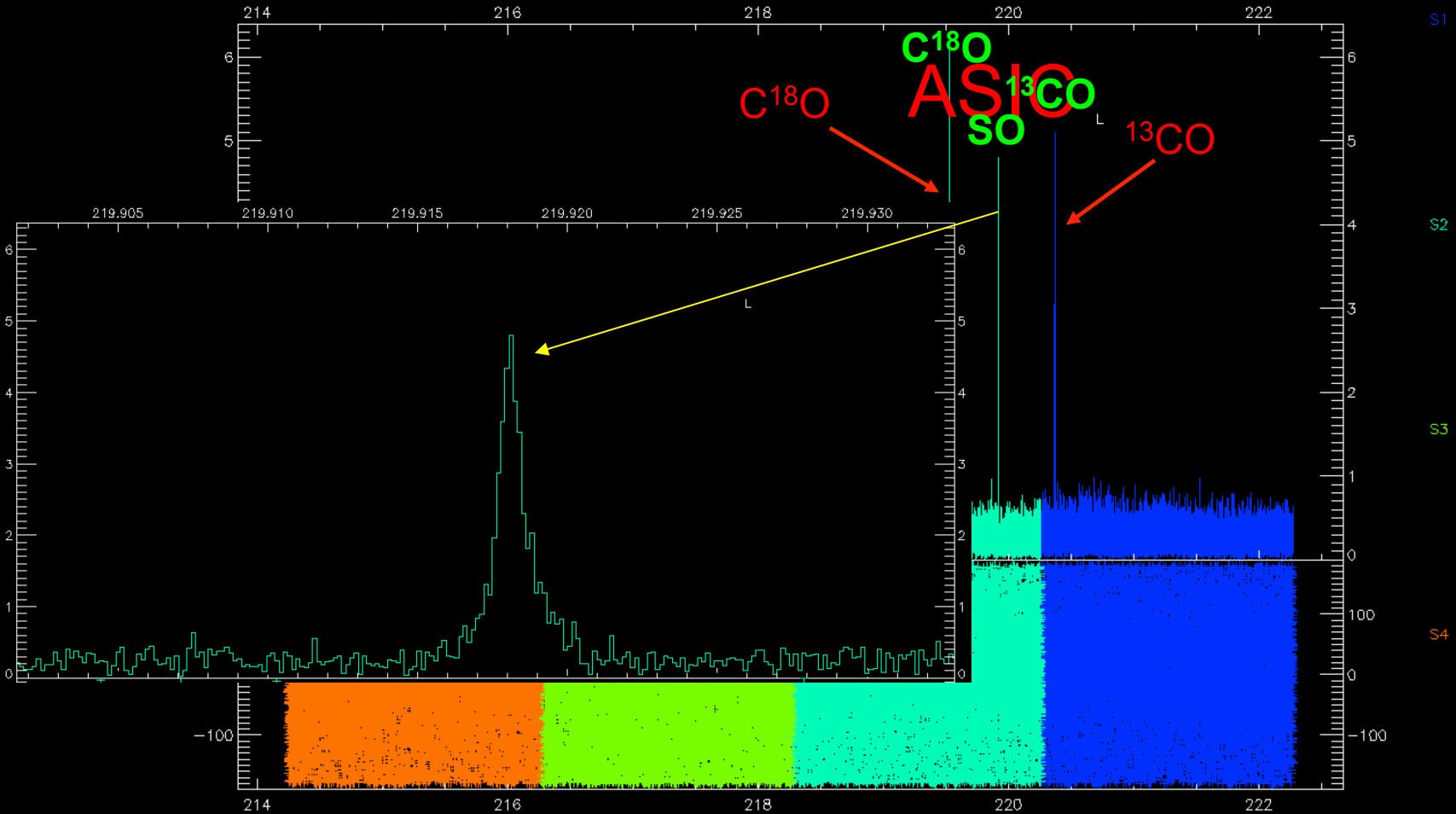
1. Lee, Dunham, Myers, et al., “*Mass Assembly of Stellar Systems and their Evolution with the SMA. Multiplicity and the Physical Environment in L1448N*”, 2015, ApJ, 814, 114
2. Lee, Dunham, Myers, et al., “*Misalignment of Outflow Axes in the Proto-multiple Systems in Perseus*”, 2016, ApJL, 820, 2
3. Offner, Dunham, Lee, Arce, & Fielding, “*The Turbulent Origin of Outflow and Spin Misalignment in Multiple Star Systems*”, 2016, ApJL, 827, 11
4. Frimann, Jørgensen, Dunham, Bourke, et al., “*Protostellar accretion traced with chemistry: High-resolution C<sup>18</sup>O and continuum observations towards deeply embedded protostars in Perseus*”, 2017, A&A, 602, 120
5. Stephens, Dunham, Myers, Pokhrel, et al., “*Alignment Between Protostellar Outflows and Filamentary Structure*”, 2017, ApJ, 846, 16
6. Pokhrel, Myers, Dunham, Stephens, et al., “*Hierarchical Fragmentation in the Perseus Molecular Cloud: From the Cloud Scale to Protostellar Objects*”, 2018, ApJ, 853, 1
7. Stephens, Dunham, Myers, et al., “*Mass Assembly of Stellar Systems and their Evolution with the SMA – 1.3 mm Subcompact Data Release*”, 2018, ApJS, in press
8. Andersen, Stephens, Dunham, et al., “*The Mass Evolution of Protostellar Disks and Envelopes in the Perseus Molecular Cloud*”, 2018, ApJ, to be submitted





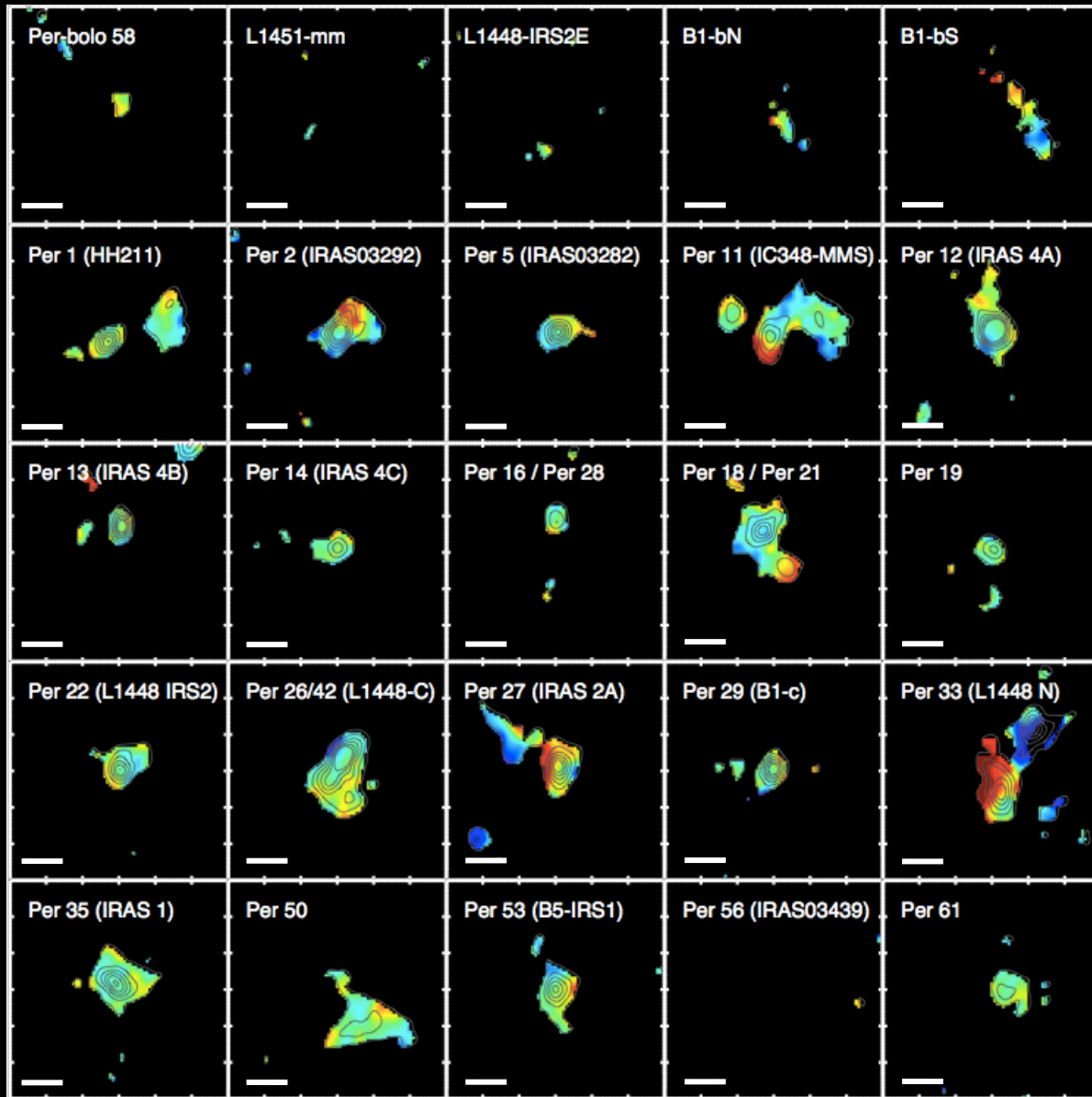
# Spanning the ASIC → SWARM Upgrade

## Extra SWARM LINES in 230 GHz lower sideband



# Origins of Fragmentation: A Survey Approach

Pokhrel, Dunham et al. (in prep)



Kinematics (rotation  
& turbulence)  
vs.  
multiplicity revealed  
by the VLA

*It is in fact likely that accounting for the diversity in core properties is crucial to improving the match between theory and observations of the conversion of gas to (binary) stars.*

- Goodwin et al. (2007), PPV

$C^{18}O$  (2-1)  
1<sup>st</sup> moment maps  
Scale bars: 2500 AU

