



The physical and chemical fingerprint of planet-forming disks



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Introduction

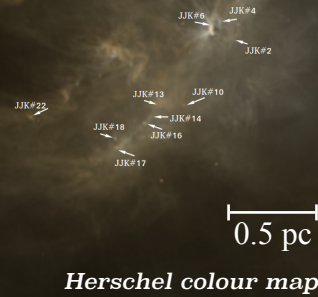
The formation of low-mass stars involves physical and chemical processes that affect the evolution of the disk and set the initial chemical conditions for planet formation [1,2]. However, the physical processes on small disk scales (< 500 AU) are still not well understood [3,4].

How is the envelope material incorporated into the disk? Which physical and chemical processes dominate on disk scales?

Observations

Ophiuchus star-forming region (d ~ 135 pc)

12 Class I sources



ALMA

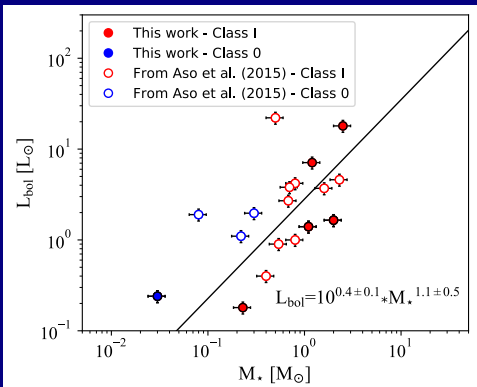
Angular resolution: 0.4" (~50 AU)

Continuum: 0.87 mm

Molecular lines
Disk tracers: C¹⁷O, H¹³CO⁺, C³⁴S
Warm chemistry: CH₃OH
Shock tracer: SO₂

Results

Mass evolution

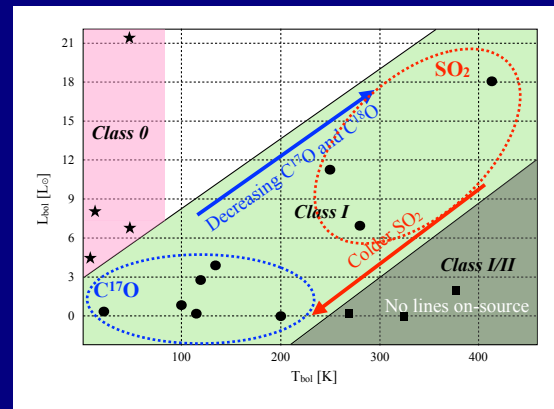


$$\dot{M}_{acc} = \frac{L_{bol} R_*}{GM_*}$$

Linear correlation between luminosity and protostellar mass gives $\dot{M}_{acc} = 2.4 \pm 0.6 \times 10^{-7} M_{\odot} \text{ yr}^{-1}$ for Class I sources [5].

A constant \dot{M}_{acc} cannot explain the observed luminosities and protostellar ages → **Episodic accretion bursts**: accretion rate varies with time and the protostar gains a significant amount of material in a short period of time [6].

Chemical evolution



Chemical differentiation between C¹⁷O and SO₂.

C¹⁷O traces high gas column densities and is detected towards the youngest sources.

Warm, compact, and high velocity SO₂ emission is related with high luminosities and, therefore, high \dot{M}_{acc} .

Conclusions

- A typical protostar will spend most of its lifetime in a quiescent state of accretion.
- SO₂ may be tracing accretion socks in the envelope-disk interface and highlighting sources with high accretion rates.

The formation of disks results in characteristic chemical imprints.

References: [1] Jørgensen, J. et al., 2008, ApJ, 683, 822; [2] Bergin, E. & Cleeves, I., 2018, haex.bookE, 137B.; [3] Jørgensen J. et al. 2009, A&A, 507, 861; [4] Yen H.-W. et al. 2015, ApJ, 799, 193; [5] Artur de la Villarmois, E. et al. 2019, A&A, 626, 71; [6] Kenvon. S. J. & Hartmann, L. 1995. ApJS. 101. 117.