Through the Looking Glass: Matching Observational Diagnostics with Star Formation Simulations

"Fun things to do with postprocessing tools"

> Stella Offner Hubble Fellow at Yale University

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Volume rendering with yt



















Simulation or Observation



Outline

I. Underlying numerical simulations

2. Fun with post-processing tools:

- Protostellar evolution: synthetic continuum images/SEDs (Hyperion)

- Binary formation: synthetic interferometry (CASA)

- Cloud structure: synthetic molecular lines (RADMC)

Underlying numerical simulations

Adaptive Mesh Refinement



Equations



Equations



Offner et al. 2009, 2010





Simulations...

• ORION AMR

- Continuous, Large Scale Turbulence (k=1..2)
- Self-Gravity
- Virial Parameter ~ I (E_{grav}~E_{turb})
- Sink particles with sub-grid models for stellar evolution and outflows
- Equation of state or Grey Flux Limited Diffusion
- 256³, 4-7 levels



Goal: use simulations to interpret observations and model reality

Problem: What diagnostics do we compare with?

Stellar Initial Mass Function (IMF)



The IMF is universal

... in simulations

Stellar Properties



- (Proto)stellar kinematics & distribution
- Protostellar luminosities
- Outflow properties and evolution

Gas Properties

- Molecular line profiles
- Core masses & shapes
- Cloud properties

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Hyperion & Protostellar Evolution

S. Offner, T. Robitaille, C. Hansen, C. McKee, R. Klein

Motivation

• How accurate are protostellar properties inferred from SEDs?

• How does viewing angle, multiplicity, or stage effect inferred properties?



age, inclination, star mass, disk mass, envelope mass, disk radius, outflow opening angle, accretion rate, density profile, disk radius, envelope radius, stellar radius...

Synthetic Observations



Methods

- Adaptive Mesh Refinement (ORION)
- Turbulence
- Gravity
- Radiative Feedback (model for stellar evolution; Offner et al. 2009)
- Outflows use a model based upon Matzner & McKee 2000 (e.g. Cunningham et al. 2011, Offner et al. 2011)



Zooming

- 1 Base Calculation
 1 freefall time
 - 130 AU resolution
- 4 Zooming Calculations
 - 4 AU resolution
 - "0", 15, 30, 60 kyr



Log Column Density

Offner et al. 2012a

Gas Velocity

~1 km/s ~10 km/s



L=0.65 pc

Post-Processing

- 10⁷ photons
- 21 Protostars at final time (D burning)
- 200 Wavelengths (0.01 μm 5000 μm)
- 20 Apertures (1,000-20,000 AU)
- 5 Resolutions (4-65 AU)
- 20 Viewing Angles





Robitaille 2011

Resolution



Wavelength



SED Zoo



Bolometric Luminosity



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Bolometric Temperature





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Interferometric observations of dust continuum

S. Offner, J. Capodilupo, S. Schnee, A. Goodman



What is the initial stellar multiplicity?

- Deeply embedded
- Dynamical Interactions
- Resolution
- Boundedness





Including Radiation...

Offner et al. 2010



Somebody did look...

- II "starless" cores
- CARMA (3mm)
- Bolocam (Imm)
- SCUBA (0.85mm)
- "An Observed Lack of Substructure in Starless Cores"



Structure-less because?

- No fragmentation?
- These will never form stars/binaries?
- Hard to really see -- even with CARMA ... or ALMA?

Predictions

- CASA software package
- mimic interferometry
- noise, beam resolution





Predictions

- CASA software package
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- noise, beam resolution





Log Imm Flux (mJy)



Perfect Beam



Core 3 + t₃+9 kyr

Offner et al. 2012b

Log Imm Flux (mJy) 3mm Flux (mJy)



ALMA

Early Science 3mm Flux (mJy)

Full Science 3mm Flux (mJy)



Offner et al. 2012b

Log Imm Flux (I.,,,

Atacama Compact Array

- Main array: 50 12m attennas
- Compact Array (ACA): 4 12m + 12 7m antennas
 - Allows antennas to be closer together: resolve larger spatial scales ,
 - Simultaneous observations







Offner et al. 2012b

Observations of molecular gas

C. Beaumont, S. Offner, R. Shetty, A. Goodman, S. Glover

Motivation

How "real" is molecular cloud structure?





Mapping problems

Beaumont, Offner ea 2013



 Going from position-position-position (ppp, "real") space to position-position-velocity (ppv, "observed") space can be fraught

Dendrograms



"Hierarchical Structure Trees"

2D or 3D

e.g. Rosolowsky et al. 08

Similarity

Beaumont ea 2013



 Define q = how well a structure in ppv matches to a structure in ppp

• Define M = best matching structure in ppp

Matching Bulk Properties



Beaumont ea 2013







Match Quality



¹²CO (J=1-0) ¹²CO (J=3-2) ¹³CO (J=1-0)

Beaumont ea 2013

Match Quality



 Opacity is disabled (i.e. gas is optically thin, so emission is linear)

Beaumont 2013

Match Quality



 Match quality is better when ¹²CO abundance is determined with a reduced chemical network

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Summary I

Synthetic observations are a powerful and necessary tool for studying star formation.



- Sources may span 2 classes even early on (ages overestimated in 5-10%)
- Caution is necessary when extrapolating source parameters from SED models:

"Good" accretion rates may span 2 orders of magnitude, but usually centered close to actual
Envelope mass may be x2 (or more) too high



Summary II

Synthetic observations are a powerful and necessary tool for studying star formation.



- Observing turbulent fragmentation is hard
- Even with ALMA

 However, hope is not lost: ALMA + Compact Array

Summary III

Synthetic observations are a powerful and necessary tool for studying star formation.



- The problem is probably worse in regions with high-optical depth and strong clustering
- UV heating + chemistry helps by lowering optical depth, but may create artifical structure due to temperature and abundance variation



