Modeling ISM Dynamics and Star Formation



Ralf Klessen



Universität Heidelberg, Zentrum für Astronomie Institut für Theoretische Astrophysik



thanks to ...



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Disclaimer

I try to cover the field as broadly as possible, however, there will clearly be a bias towards my personal interests and many examples will be from my own work. 

- 1. Introduction [~1h]
- -- phenomenology of stellar birth
- -- short historic overview
- -- complexity of star formation, overview of relevant physical processes
- 2. ISM dynamics and of star formation [~4h]
- 2.1 Turbulence
- -- turbulence in the interstellar medium (statistical characteristics)
- -- discussion of possible drivers of ISM turbulence
- -- excursion: modeling turbulence
- 2.2 Gravo-turbulent star formation models
- -- short overview of statistical (turbulence-based) star formation models
- -- competitive accretion vs. monolithic collapse vs. alternative approaches
- 2.3 Influence of density profile on star-cluster formation
- -- dependence of fragmentation on initial density profile of cluster forming cloud cores
- -- requirement for taking cloud formation into account
- 2.4 Radiative processes
- -- coupling between gas/dust and the radiation field
- -- long excursion: modeling radiative transfer
- 2.5 Thermodynamic properties of the ISM
- -- main heating and cooling mechanisms
- -- chemical processes in the ISM
- -- multi-phase ISM
- -- excursion: modeling extinction in dense clouds
- 2.6 Magnetic fields in the ISM
- -- influence of magnetic fields on molecular cloud dynamics
- -- protostellar collapse and magnetic fields

overview 2

- 3. Star formation and feedback [~1.5h]
- -- importance of feedback for locally terminating star formation
- -- excursion: sink particles as subgrid-scale model of protostellar collapse
- 3.1 Radiative feedback
- -- accretion heating
- -- ionizing radiation, HII regions
- -- excursion: coupling (proto)stellar evolution to sink particles
- 3.2 Mechanical feedback
- -- controversial role of outflows in star formation
- -- excursion: modeling outflows
- 4. Some selected applications [~1.5h]
- 4.1 The stellar initial mass function
- -- theoretical models of the IMF
- -- universality
- 4.2 Star formation in the primordial universe
- -- formation of the first stars
- -- transition from Population III to Population II (dust vs. atomic cooling lines)
- -- observational constraints
- -- dark stars
- 4.3 Magnetic field amplification in the early universe
- -- dynamo processes in primordial halos
- -- some notes on numerical resolution

Literature

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PHYSICS TEXTBOOH

George B. Rybicki Alan P. Lightman WILEY-VCH

Radiative Processes in Astrophysics





Physical Processes in the Interstellar Medium







Books

- Spitzer, L., 1978/2004, Physical Processes in the Interstellar Medium (Wiley-VCH)
- Rybicki, G.B., & Lightman, A.P., 1979/2004, Radiative Processes in Astrophysics (Wiley-VCH)
- Stahler, S., & Palla, F., 2004, "The Formation of Stars" (Weinheim: Wiley-VCH)
- Tielens, A.G.G.M., 2005, The Physics and Chemistry of the Interstellar Medium (Cambridge University Press)
- Osterbrock, D., & Ferland, G., 2006, "Astrophysics of Gaseous Nebulae & Active Galactic Nuclei, 2nd ed. (Sausalito: Univ. Science Books)
- Bodenheimer, P., et al., 2007, Numerical Methods in Astrophysics (Taylor & Francis)
- Draine, B. 2011, "Physics of the Interstellar and Intergalactic Medium" (Princeton Series in Astrophysics)
- Bodenheimer, P. 2012, "Principles of Star Formation" (Springer Verlag)

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Review Articles

- Mac Low, M.-M., Klessen, R.S., 2004, "The control of star formation by supersonic turbulence", Rev. Mod. Phys., 76, 125
- Elmegreen, B.G., Scalo, J., 2004, "Interstellar Turbulence 1", ARA&A, 42, 211
- Scalo, J., Elmegreen, B.G., 2004, "Interstellar Turbulence 2", ARA&A, 42, 275
- Bromm, V., Larson, R.B., 2004, "The first stars", ARA&A, 42, 79
- Zinnecker, H., Yorke, McKee, C.F., Ostriker, E.C., 2008, "Toward Understanding Massive Star Formation", ARA&A, 45, 481 - 563
- McKee, C.F., Ostriker, E.C., 2008, "Theory of Star Formation", ARA&A, 45, 565
- Kennicutt, R.C., Evans, N.J., 2012, "Star Formation in the Milky Way and Nearby Galaxies", ARA&A, 50, 531

Further resources

Internet resources

- Cornelis Dullemond: Radiative Transfer in Astrophysics http://www.ita.uni-heidelberg.de/~dullemond/lectures/radtrans_2012/index.shtml
- Cornelis Dullemond: RADMC-3D:A new multi-purpose radiative transfer tool http://www.ita.uni-heidelberg.de/~dullemond/software/radmc-3d/index.shtml
- List of molecules in the ISM (wikipedia): http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_molecules_in_interstellar_space
- Leiden database of molecular lines (LAMBDA) http://home.strw.leidenuniv.nl/~moldata/

Part I: Introduction



Ralf Klessen



Universität Heidelberg, Zentrum für Astronomie Institut für Theoretische Astrophysik



phenomenology



bble Ultra-Deep

- star formation sets in very early after the big bang
- stars always form in galaxies and protogalaxies
- we cannot see the first generation of stars, but maybe the second one

- correlation between stellar birth and large-scale dynamics
- spiral arms
- tidal perturbation from neighboring galaxy



images from Frank Bigiel, ZAH/ITA)



Bigiel et al. (2008, AJ, 136, 2846)

Genzel et al. (2010, MNRAS, AJ, 407, 2091)

- roughly linear relation between H₂ and SFR
- roughly constant depletion time: few x 10⁹ yr
- super linear relation between total gas and SFR





Orion Nebula Cluster (ESO, VLT, M. McCaughrean)

 (protostellar) feedback is very important





strong feedback: UV radiation from ΘIC Orionis affects star formation on all cluster scales



Trapezium stars in the center of the ONC (HST, Johnstone et al. 1998)



eventually, clusters like the ONC (1 Myr) will evolve into clusters like the Pleiades (100 Myr)

Pleiades (DSS, Palomar Observatory Sky Survey)



decrease in spatial scale / increase in density





Proplyd in Orion (Hubble)





- density
 - density of ISM: few particles per cm³
 - density of molecular cloud: few 100 particles per cm³
 - density of Sun: I.4 g/cm³
- spatial scale
 - size of molecular cloud: few 10s of pc
 - size of young cluster: ~ I pc
 - size of Sun: 1.4×10^{10} cm

decrease in spatial scale / increase in density





- contracting force
 - only force that can do this compression is **GRAVITY**
- Proplyd in Orion (Hubble)





- opposing forces
 - there are several processes that can oppose gravity
 - GAS PRESSURE
 - TURBULENCE
 - MAGNETIC FIELDS
 - RADIATION PRESSURE

decrease in spatial scale / increase in density





- contracting force
 - only force that can do this compression is **GRAVITY**
- Proplyd in Orion (Hubble)





- opposing forces
 - there are several processes that can oppose gravity
 - GAS PRESSURE
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 - RADIATION PRESSURE

Modern star formation theory is based on the complex interplay between *all* these processes. historic overview

early theoretical models

- Jeans (1902): Interplay between self-gravity and thermal pressure
 - stability of homogeneous spherical density enhancements against gravitational collapse
 - dispersion relation:



Sir James Jeans, 1877 - 1946

$$\omega^2 = c_s^2 k^2 - 4\pi G \rho_0$$

- instability when

$$\omega^2 < 0$$

- minimal mass:

$$M_{\rm J} = \frac{1}{6\pi^{5/2}G^{3/2}}\rho_0^{-1/2}c_{\rm s}^3 \propto \rho_0^{-1/2}T^{3/2}$$

first approach to turbulence

- von Weizsäcker (1943, 1951) and Chandrasekhar (1951): concept of MICROTURBULENCE
 - BASIC ASSUMPTION: separation of scales between dynamics and turbulence

 $l_{turb} \ll l_{dyn}$

 then turbulent velocity dispersion contributes to effective soundspeed:

$$C_{\text{eff}}^2 \mapsto C_c^2 + \sigma_{rms}^2$$

- \rightarrow Larger effective Jeans masses \rightarrow more stability
- BUT: (1) turbulence depends on k: $\sigma_{rms}^2(k)$
 - (2) supersonic turbulence $\rightarrow \sigma_{rms}^{2}(k) >> C_{s}^{2}$ usually





S. Chandrasekhar, 1910 - 1995

C.F. von Weiszäcker, 1912 - 2007

Properties of IMS turbulence

ISM turbulence is:

- Supersonic (rms velocity dispersion >> sound speed)
- Anisotropic (shocks & magnetic field)
- Driven on large scales (power in mol. clouds always dominated by largest-scale modes)

Microturbulent approach is NOT valid in ISM

No closed analytical/statistical formulation known
--> necessity for numerical modeling

problems of early dynamical theory

- molecular clouds are *highly Jeans-unstable*, yet, they do *NOT* form stars at high rate and with high efficiency (Zuckerman & Evans 1974 conundrum) (the observed global SFE in molecular clouds is ~5%)
 → something prevents large-scale collapse.
- all throughout the early 1990's, molecular clouds had been thought to be long-lived quasi-equilibrium entities.
- molecular clouds are *magnetized*

magnetic star formation

- Mestel & Spitzer (1956): Magnetic fields can prevent collapse!!!
 - Critical mass for gravitational collapse in presence of B-field

$$M_{cr} = \frac{5^{3/2}}{48\pi^2} \frac{B^3}{G^{3/2}\rho^2}$$

 Critical mass-to-flux ratio (Mouschovias & Spitzer 1976)

$$\left[\frac{M}{\Phi}\right]_{cr} = \frac{\zeta}{3\pi} \left[\frac{5}{G}\right]^{1/2}$$

- Ambipolar diffusion can initiate collapse



Lyman Spitzer, Jr., 1914 - 1997

"standard theory" of star formation

- BASIC ASSUMPTION: Stars form from magnetically highly subcritical cores
- Ambipolar diffusion slowly increases (M/ Φ): $\tau_{AD} \approx 10 \tau_{ff}$
- Once (M/Φ) > (M/Φ)_{crit} : dynamical collapse of SIS
 - Shu (1977) collapse solution
 - $dM/dt = 0.975 c_s^3/G = const.$
- Was (in principle) only intended for isolated, low-mass stars



Frank Shu, 1943 -



magnetic field

problems of "standard theory"

- Observed B-fields are weak, at most marginally critical (Crutcher 1999, Bourke et al. 2001)
- Magnetic fields cannot prevent decay of turbulence (Mac Low et al. 1998, Stone et al. 1998, Padoan & Nordlund 1999)
- Structure of prestellar cores (e.g. Bacman et al. 2000, Alves et al. 2001)
- Strongly time varying dM/dt (e.g. Hendriksen et al. 1997, André et al. 2000)
- More extended infall motions than predicted by the standard model (Williams & Myers 2000, Myers et al. 2000)
- Most stars form as binaries (e.g. Lada 2006)

- As many prestellar cores as protostellar cores in SF regions (e.g. André et al 2002)
- Molecular cloud clumps are chemically young (Bergin & Langer 1997, Pratap et al 1997, Aikawa et al 2001)
- Stellar age distribution small (τ_{ff} << τ_{AD}) (Ballesteros-Paredes et al. 1999, Elmegreen 2000, Hartmann 2001)
- Strong theoretical criticism of the SIS as starting condition for gravitational collapse (e.g. Whitworth et al 1996, Nakano 1998, as summarized in Klessen & Mac Low 2004)
- Standard AD-dominated theory is incompatible with observations (Crutcher et al. 2009, 2010ab, Bertram et al. 2011)
observed B-fields are weak





molecular cloud dynamics

 <u>Timescale problem</u>: Turbulence *decays* on timescales *comparable to the free-fall time* τ_#

(E∝t^{-η} with η≈1).

(Mac Low et al. 1998, Stone et al. 1998, Padoan & Nordlund 1999)

 Magnetic fields (static or wavelike) cannot prevent loss of energy.





Fig. 1.— The Arecibo telescope primary beam (small circle centered at 0,0) and the four GBT telescope primary beams (large circles centered 6' north, south, east, and west of 0,0. The dotted circles show the first sidelobe of the Arecibo telescope beam. All circles are at the half-power points.



Fig. 2.— OH 1667 MHz spectra toward the core of L1448CO obtained with the Arecibo telescope (center panel) and toward each of the envelope positions 6' north, south, east, and west of the core, obtained with the GBT. In the upper left of each panel is the inferred B_{LOS} and its 1σ uncertainty at that position. A negative B_{LOS} means the magnetic field points toward the observer, and vice versa for a positive B_{LOS} .



Crutcher et al. (2009)

Lunttila et al. (2008)



FIG. 1.—Left: Simulated ¹³CO (1–0) map of the model in the z-axis direction. The locations of the cloud cores are shown with squares. The circles indicate the locations of telescope beams used in the synthetic observations of three cores. Right: Line-of-sight magnetic field strength as calculated from Zeeman splitting.



Bertram et al. (2012)



gravoturbulent star formation

• BASIC ASSUMPTION:

star formation is controlled by interplay between supersonic turbulence and self-gravity

- turbulence plays a *dual role*:
- on large scales it provides support
- on *small scales* it can *trigger collapse*
- some predictions:
- dynamical star formation timescale $\tau_{\rm ff}$
- high binary fraction
- complex spatial structure of embedded star clusters
- and many more . . .



Mac Low & Klessen, 2004, Rev. Mod. Phys., 76, 125-194 McKee & Ostriker, 2007, ARAA, 45, 565

gravoturbulent star formation

density

space

- interstellar gas is highly inhomogeneous
 - thermal instability
 - gravitational instability
 - *turbulent compression* (in shocks $\delta \rho / \rho \propto M^2$; in atomic gas: $M \approx 1...3$)
- cold molecular clouds can form rapidly in high-density regions at stagnation points of convergent large-scale flows
 - chemical phase transition: atomic → molecular
 - process is modulated by large-scale dynamics in the galaxy
- inside *cold clouds*: turbulence is highly supersonic ($M \approx 1...20$)
 - → *turbulence* creates large density contrast,
 - gravity selects for collapse

GRAVOTUBULENT FRAGMENTATION

 turbulent cascade: local compression within a cloud provokes collapse → formation of individual stars and star clusters

(e.g. Mac Low & Klessen, 2004, Rev. Mod. Phys., 76, 125-194)

turbulent cascade in the ISM



NOT known (supernovae, winds, spiral density waves?) dissipation scale not knowr (ambipolar diffusion, molecular diffusion?)

turbulent cascade in the ISM



energy source & scale *NOT known* (supernovae, winds, spiral density waves?)

 $\sigma_{\rm rms} << 1$ km/s M_{rms} ≤ 1 L ≈ 0.1 pc dissipation scale not known (ambipolar diffusion, molecular diffusion?)





dynamical SF in a nutshell

- interstellar gas is highly inhomogeneous
 - gravitational instability
 - thermal instability
 - *turbulent compression* (in shocks $\delta \rho / \rho \propto M^2$; in atomic gas: $M \approx 1...3$)
- cold molecular clouds can form rapidly in high-density regions at stagnation points of convergent large-scale flows
 - chemical phase transition: atomic → molecular
 - process is *modulated* by large-scale *dynamics* in the galaxy
- inside *cold clouds:* turbulence is highly supersonic ($M \approx 1...20$)
 - → turbulence creates large density contrast, gravity selects for collapse

GRAVOTUBULENT FRAGMENTATION

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Density structure of MC's



molecular clouds are highly inhomogeneous

stars form in the densest and coldest parts of the cloud

 $\rho\text{-Ophiuchus cloud}$ seen in dust emission

let's focus on a cloud core like this one

Evolution of cloud cores





- How does this core evolve? Does it form one single massive star or cluster with mass distribution?
- Turbulent cascade "goes through" cloud core
 - --> NO scale separation possible
 - --> NO effective sound speed
- Turbulence is supersonic!
 - --> produces strong density contrasts: $\delta \rho / \rho \approx M^2$
 - --> with typical M \approx 10 --> $\delta \rho / \rho \approx$ 100!
- many of the shock-generated fluctuations are Jeans unstable and go into collapse
- --> expectation: core breaks up and forms a cluster of stars

Evolution of cloud cores



Formation and evolution of cores

 protostellar cloud cores form at stagnation point in convergent turbulent flows



- if $M > M_{crit} \propto \rho^{-1/2} T^{3/2}$:
- if $M < M_{crit} \propto \rho^{-1/2} T^{3/2}$:

collapse & star formation

reexpansion after end of external compression

(e.g. Vazquez-Semadeni et al 2005)





• typical timescale: $t \approx 10^4 \dots 10^5$ yr

Formation and evolution of cores

What happens to distribution of cloud cores?



Two exteme cases:

(1) turbulence dominates energy budget:

 $\alpha = E_{kin} / |E_{pot}| > 1$

- --> individual cores do not interact
- --> collapse of individual cores dominates stellar mass growth
- --> loose cluster of low-mass stars
- (2) turbulence decays, i.e. gravity dominates: $\alpha = E_{kin} / |E_{pot}| < 1$
 - --> global contraction
 - --> core do interact while collapsing
 - --> competition influences mass growth
 - --> dense cluster with high-mass stars



turbulence creates a hierarchy of clumps



as turbulence decays locally, contraction sets in



as turbulence decays locally, contraction sets in



while region contracts, individual clumps collapse to form stars



while region contracts, individual clumps collapse to form stars



individual clumps collapse to form stars



individual clumps collapse to form stars



in *dense clusters*, clumps may merge while collapsing --> then contain multiple protostars



in *dense clusters*, clumps may merge while collapsing --> then contain multiple protostars



in *dense clusters*, clumps may merge while collapsing --> then contain multiple protostars



in *dense clusters*, competitive mass growth becomes important



in *dense clusters*, competitive mass growth becomes important



in dense clusters, N-body effects influence mass growth



become ejected --> accretion stops



feedback terminates star formation



result: star cluster, possibly with HII region



some concerns of simple model

• energy balance

- in molecular clouds:

kinetic energy ~ potential energy ~ magnetic energy > thermal energy

- models based on HD turbulence misses important physics
- in certain environments (Galactic Center, star bursts), energy density in cosmic rays and radiation is important as well
- time scales
 - star clusters form fast, but more slowly than predicted by HD only (feedback and magnetic fields do help)
 - initial conditions do matter (turbulence does not erase memory of past dynamics)
- star formation efficiency (SFE)
 - SFE in gravoturbulent models is too high (again more physics needed)

current status

- stars form from the complex interplay of self-gravity and a large number of competing processes (such as turbulence, B-field, feedback, thermal pressure)
- the relative importance of these processes depends on the environment
 - prestellar cores --> thermal pressure is important molecular clouds --> turbulence dominates $\left\{ \text{(Larson's relation: } \sigma \propto L^{1/2}) \right\}$
 - massive star forming regions (NGC602): radiative feedback is important small clusters (Taurus): evolution maybe dominated by external turbulence
- star formation is regulated by various feedback processes
- star formation is closely linked to global galactic dynamics (KS relation)

Star formation is intrinsically a multi-scale and multi-physics problem, where it is difficult to single out individual processes. Simple theoretical approaches usually fail.
Carina Nebula, NGC 3372

This image is a composite of many separate exposures made by the ACS instrument on the Hubble Space Telescope along with ground-based observations. In total, three filters were used to sample narrow wavelength emission. The color results from assigning different hues (colors) to each monochromatic image. In this case, the assigned colors are:

CTIO: ([O III] 501nm) blue CTIO: (H-alpha+[N II] 658nm) green CTIO: ([S II] 672+673nm) red HST/ACS: F656N (H-alpha+[N II]) luminosity*

Star formation is intrinsically a multi-scale and multi-physics problem, where it is difficult to single out individual processes. Progress requires a comprehensive theoretical approach.

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magneto-hydrodynamics

(multi-phase, non-ideal MHD, turbulence)

chemistry (gas + dust, heating + cooling)

radiation (continuum + lines)

stellar dynamics (collisional: star clusters, collisionless: galaxies, DM)

stellar evolution (feedback: radiation, winds, SN)

+ laboratory work

(reaction rates, cross sections, dust coagulation properties, etc.)



- particle-based: SPH with improved algorithms (XSPH with turb. subgrid model, GPM, particle splitting, MHD-SPH?)
- grid-based: AMR (FLASH, ENZO, RAMSES, Nirvana3, etc), subgrid-scale models (FEARLESS)
- BGK methods

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magneto-hydrodynamics (multi-phase, non-ideal MHD, turbulence)

- ever increasing chemical networks
- working reduced networks for time-dependent chemistry in combination with hydrodynamics
- improved data on reaction rates (laboratory + quantum mechanical calculations)

chemistry (gas + dust, heating + cooling)

radiation (continuum + lines)

stellar dynamics (collisional: star clusters, collisionless: galaxies, DM)

magneto-hydrodynamics (multi-phase, non-ideal MHD, turbulence)

chemistry (gas + dust, heating + cooling)

radiation (continuum + lines)

stellar dynamics (collisional: star clusters, collisionless: galaxies, DM)

- continuum vs. lines
- Monte Carlo, characteristics
- approximative methods
- combine with hydro

magneto-hydrodynamics (multi-phase, non-ideal MHD, turbulence)

chemistry (gas + dust, heating + cooling)

radiation (continuum + lines)

- statistics: number of stars (collisional: 10⁶, collisionless: 10¹⁰)
- transition from gas to stars
- binary orbits
- long-term integration

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stellar dynamics

(collisional: star clusters, collisionless: galaxies, DM)

magneto-hydrodynamics (multi-phase, non-ideal MHD, turbulence)

chemistry (gas + dust, heating + cooling)

radiation (continuum + lines)

stellar dynamics (collisional: star clusters, collisionless: galaxies, DM)

- very early phases (pre main sequence tracks)
- massive stars at late phases
- role of rotation
- primordial star formation





magneto-hydrodynamics

(multi-phase, non-ideal MHD, turbulence)

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