

The Earliest Phases of Star Formation



Physical properties of isolated low-mass cores



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The EPoS team

(incomplete and in alphabetical order)





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The EPoS (low-mass clouds) idea



Map the FIR dust emission of small molecular clouds down to ambient background levels to restore the **temperature structure** with high accuracy and derive constraints on **dust properties**



Selected EPoS sources (DSS2 and SPIRE 250µm images)



8-10 arcmin

Herschel images of CB17



Deriving dust temperature maps:

I. Preparing the data:

- Herschel (100-500 μ m), submm (0.45-2mm), NIR extinction (2.2 μ m) maps
- Image reconstruction, common flux scale, coordinate system, pointing, resolution
- Derive and subtract background levels
- Estimate true background levels from IRAS and ISO maps, CIB, CMB



Deriving dust temperature maps:

5. Reconstruct 3-D T_d and n_H structure (as model-independent as possible):



ΔR.A. [arcmin]

 $\Delta R.A.$ [arcmin]

T_{dust} and N_H maps and SEDs:



Launhardt et al. 2013, A&A, 551, 68

LoS T-averaged temp. ↔ Midplane temp. from RT



Radial temperature and density profiles:



- All sources are dominated by ISRF heating at radii > 5000 AU
- The luminosity is reprocessed ISRF (mostly UV) plus embedded protostars
- The mean outer temperature of all globules is $\sim 15\pm1$ K
- The lowest central temperatures we detect are \sim 8±1 K
- Specific luminosity = $5.8 \pm 1.8 L_{sun} pc^{-2}$ (=> ISRF)

Stutz et al.	2010,	A&A	518,	L87
Nielbock et al.	2012,	A&A	547,	11
Launhardt et al.	2013,	A&A	551,	68
Lippok et al.	2013,	A&A,	in pr	ess
Schmalzl et al.	2013,	A&A,	subm	ו.

ISRF - heating and shielding



- Central temperature correlates with total column density to outer "boundary"
- Envelope temperature correlates with extinction (N_H) in outer "halo"

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Verification with selfconsistent radiative transfer:







- T_{out} can be well reproduced for all cores with $S_{ISRF} = I$ and observed A_{K}^{ext}
- T_{in} well reproduced for 3 sources, but significantly lower than observed for 3 others
- Results are (nearly) independent of dust model used
- Work in progress

Nils Lippok, thesis and paper in prep.

Constraining the dust opacity law



OH: Ossenkopf & Henning 1994 WD01: Weingartner & Draine 2001 Ormel: Ormel etal 2011

Constraining the dust opacity law - β



Constraining the dust opacity law - β

Method: Modified BB-fit (χ^2) solving simultaneously for T, N_H, and B





Constraining the dust opacity law - KNIR/KFIR

Method: Compare A_K map **predicted** by RT fit to emission data to **observed** A_K map



More correct alternative: use density-weithgted Planck function (Shirley ea. 2011), but results agree within 10%

Constraining the dust opacity law



- $\kappa_{2.2}/\kappa_{500} = 1730 \pm 170$
- Range of applicable dust models narrowed
- $\beta_{\text{FIR-submm}} = 1.75 \pm 0.2$
- No constraining power (yet)
- => Include more data (SCUBA2, 2mm), improve analysis methods (e.g., Kelly ea. 2012), avoid isothermal approximation, include T-dependance and non-constant β, etc.
- Constraining absolute mass absorption coefficients requires better gas analysis, but there are indications that e.g. OH5 tends to underestimate column densities by factor 2-3



- I. The thermal structure (isolated) molecular cloud cores is dominated by **external heating** from the ISRF.
- 2. Embedded protostars contribute ~10-50% to L_{bol} and affect/heat only inner dense core (<5000AU)
- 3. Envelope T_d (at $N_H \sim 10^{21} \text{ cm}^{-2}$) of isolated globules is $15 \pm 1 \text{ K}$ => consistent with ISRF heating
- 4. Internal T_d of starless cores is 10±2K
 => consistent with RT models for 3 sources, higher than predicted for 3 others
- 5. $K_{2.2}/K_{500}$ ratio for dust opacity models well-constrained (1700±200), β_{FIR} remains uncertain (1.75±0.2) and needs more work and data
- 6. Thanks to Herschel we can now quantitatively constrain models