

Dense gas flows and feedback in the Serpens South protocluster

The background image is a multi-wavelength astronomical observation of the Serpens South protocluster. It features a large, bright, yellowish-white nebula on the left side, which is likely a site of active star formation. To the right, there is a dense field of stars, with a prominent sequence of reddish-brown stars, possibly representing the protocluster's stellar population. The overall color palette is dominated by greens and yellows, with scattered blue and red stars.

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What is the impact of ^{low mass} star
formation on nearby _{cluster-forming} dense gas?

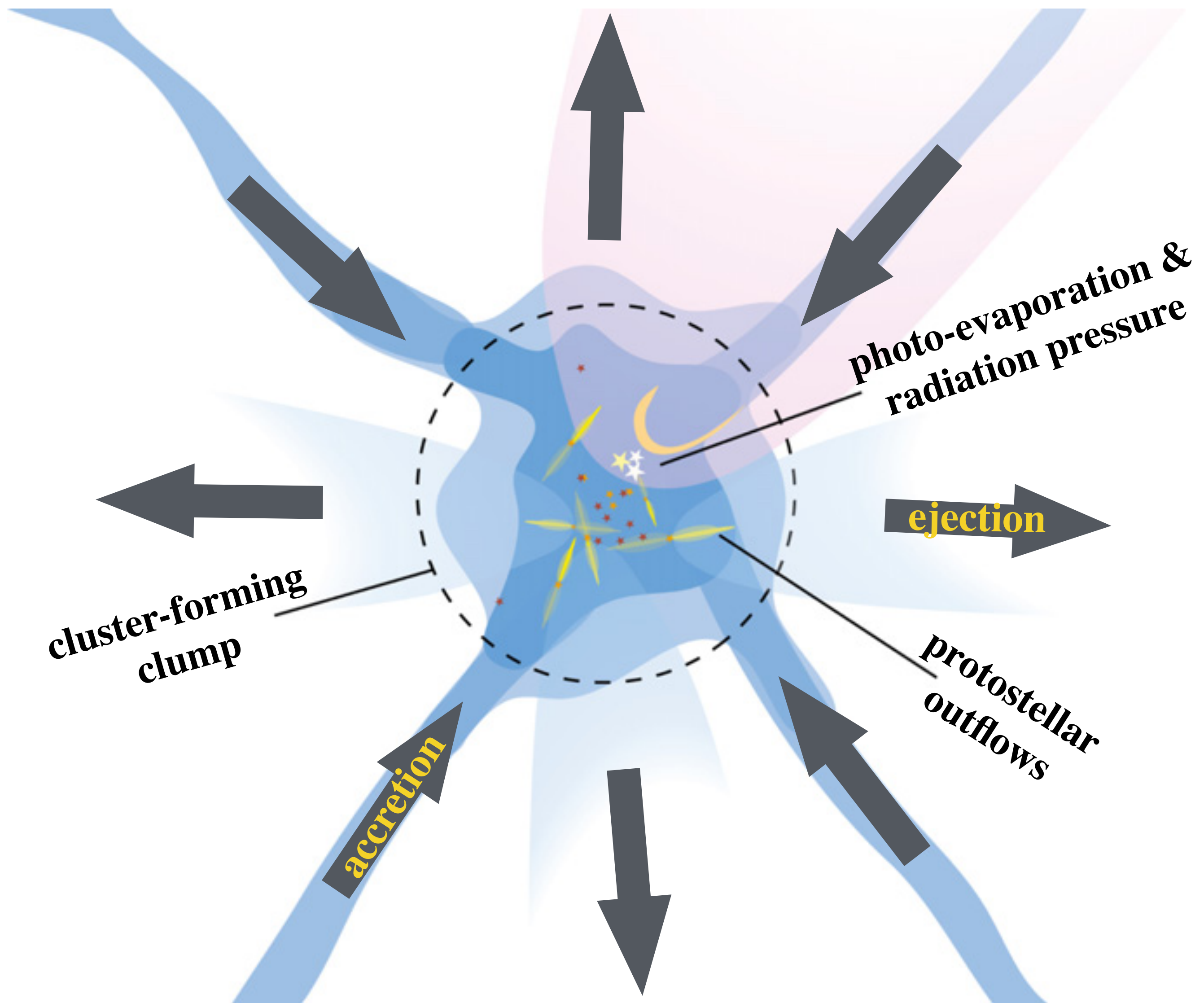
NGC 1333

How well do pc-scale outflows couple with dense gas?

- Protostellar cores: mass loss in envelope via entrainment (e.g. Arce & Sargent 2006, Offner & Chaban 2017)
- Seamus Clarke's talk - outflows largely directed away from filaments, little impact?
- Low-mass protostellar clusters:
 - outflows can maintain clump turbulence (?)
 - injected energy insufficient to unbind clump

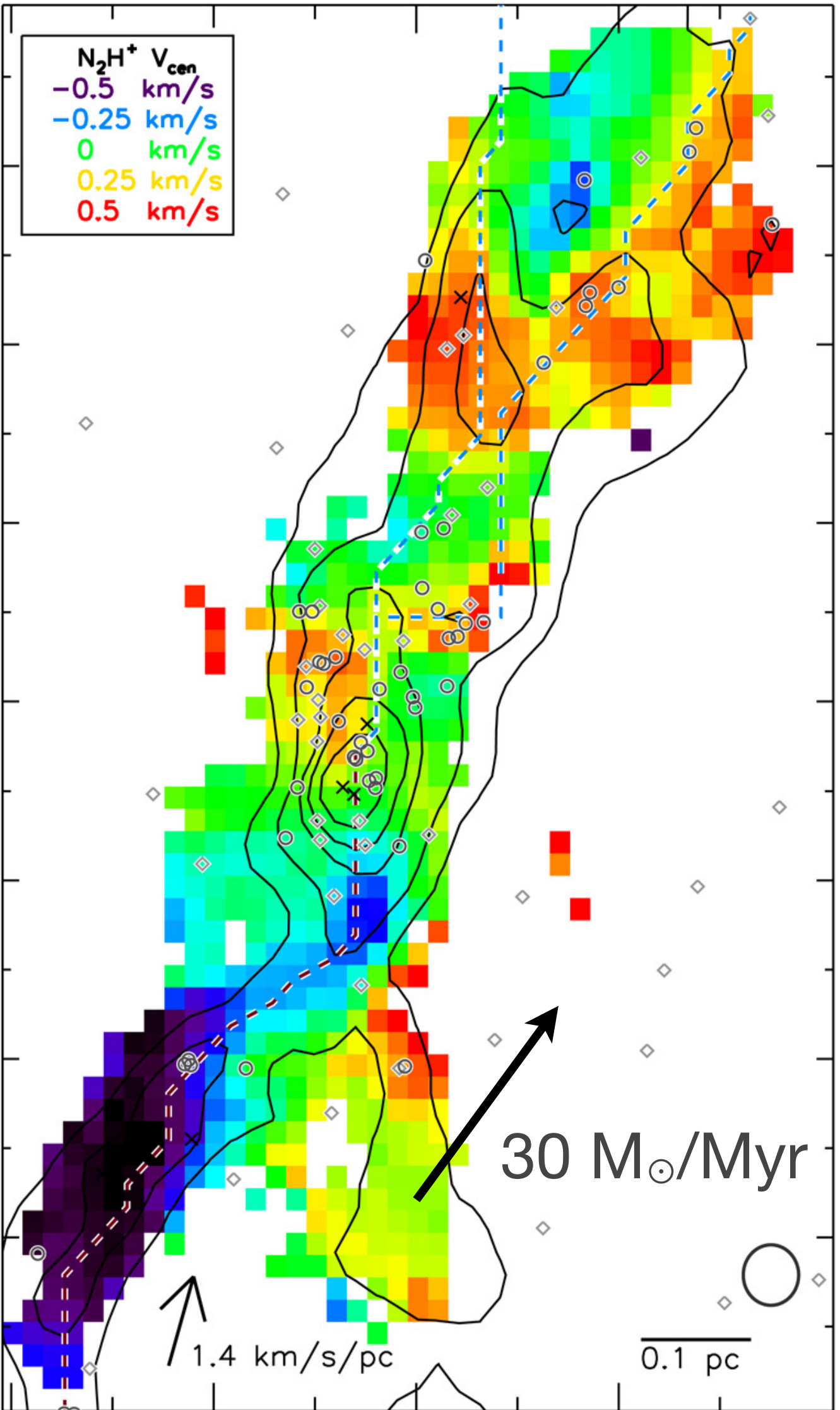
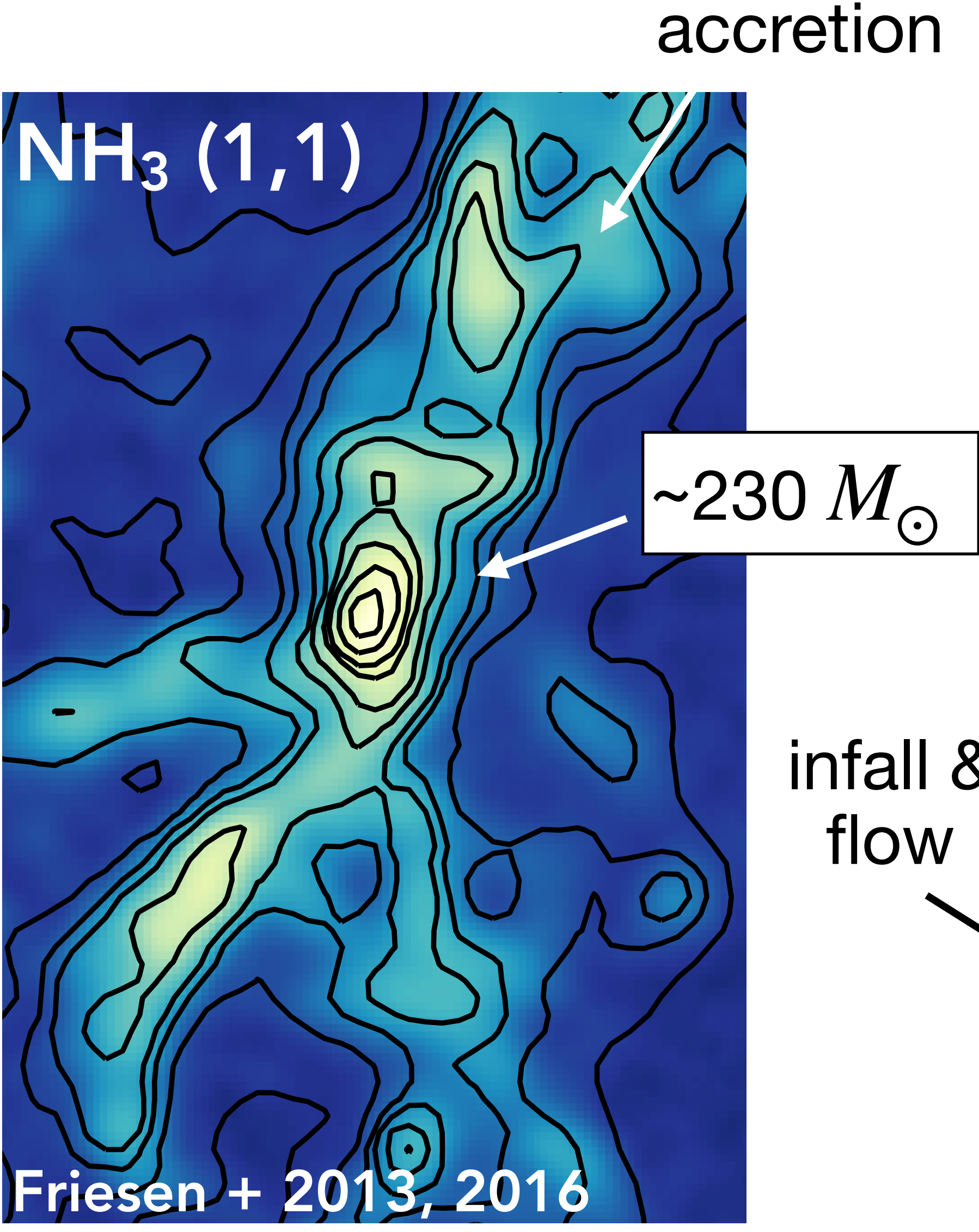
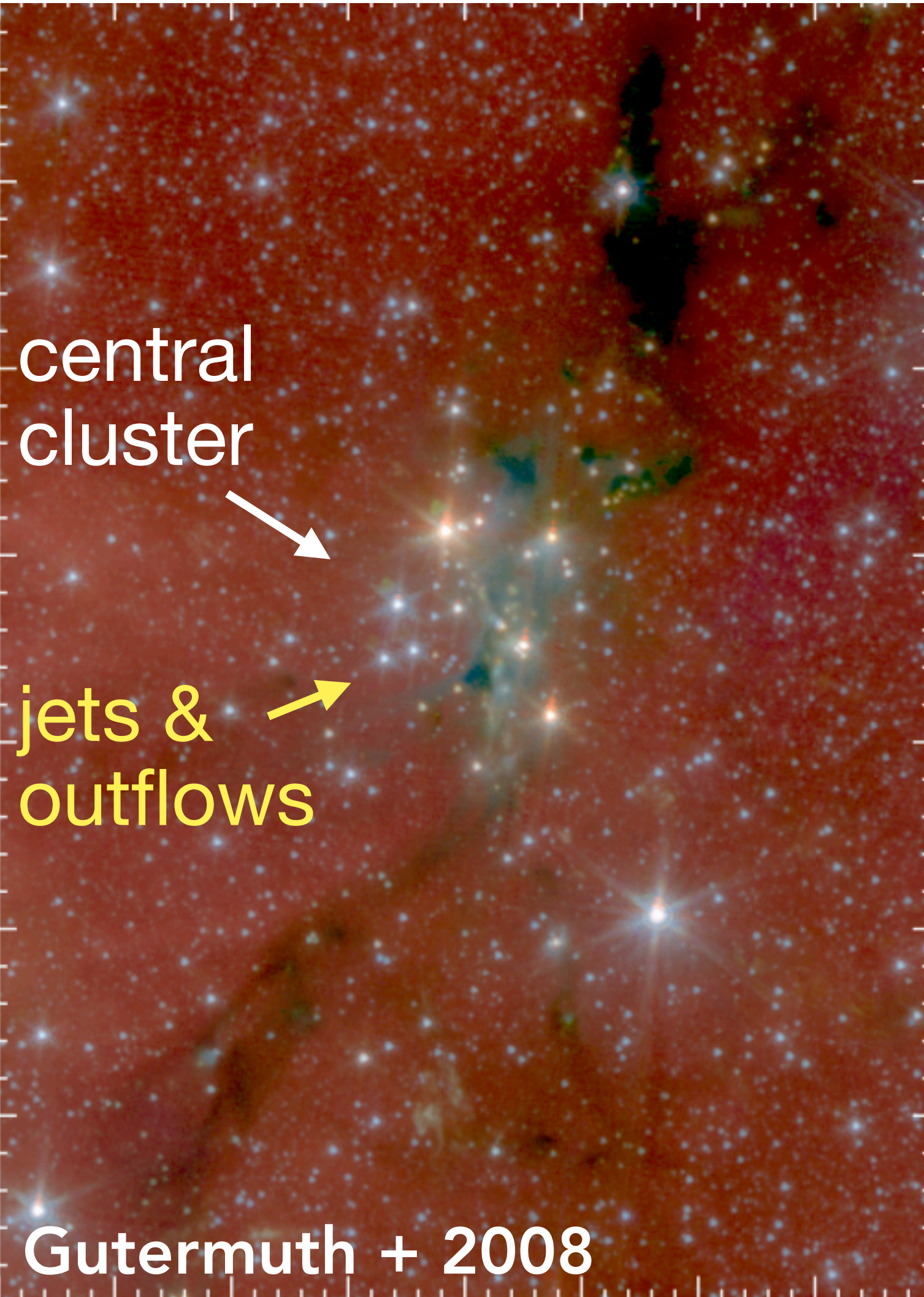
(e.g. . Li and Nakamura 2006, Arce + 2010, Duarte-Cabral + 2012, Plunkett + 2015, Feddersen + 2020, many others!)

Cluster evolution is driven by a mix of processes



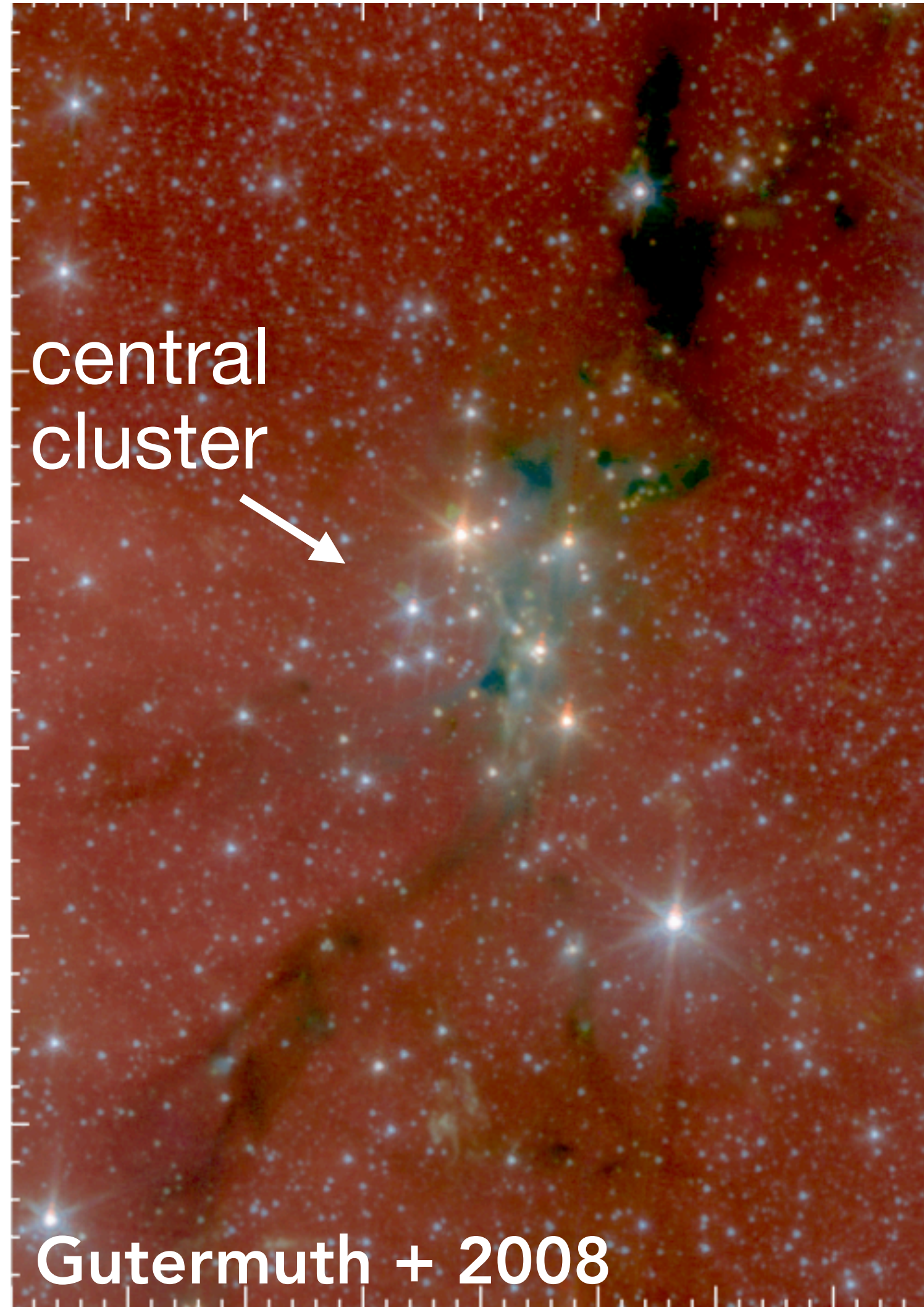
- In low mass clusters, outflows are the dominant feedback mechanism (e.g., Matzner & Jumper 2015)
- Hub-filament systems accrete mass via filaments

Serpens South: a young protocluster with accretion flows

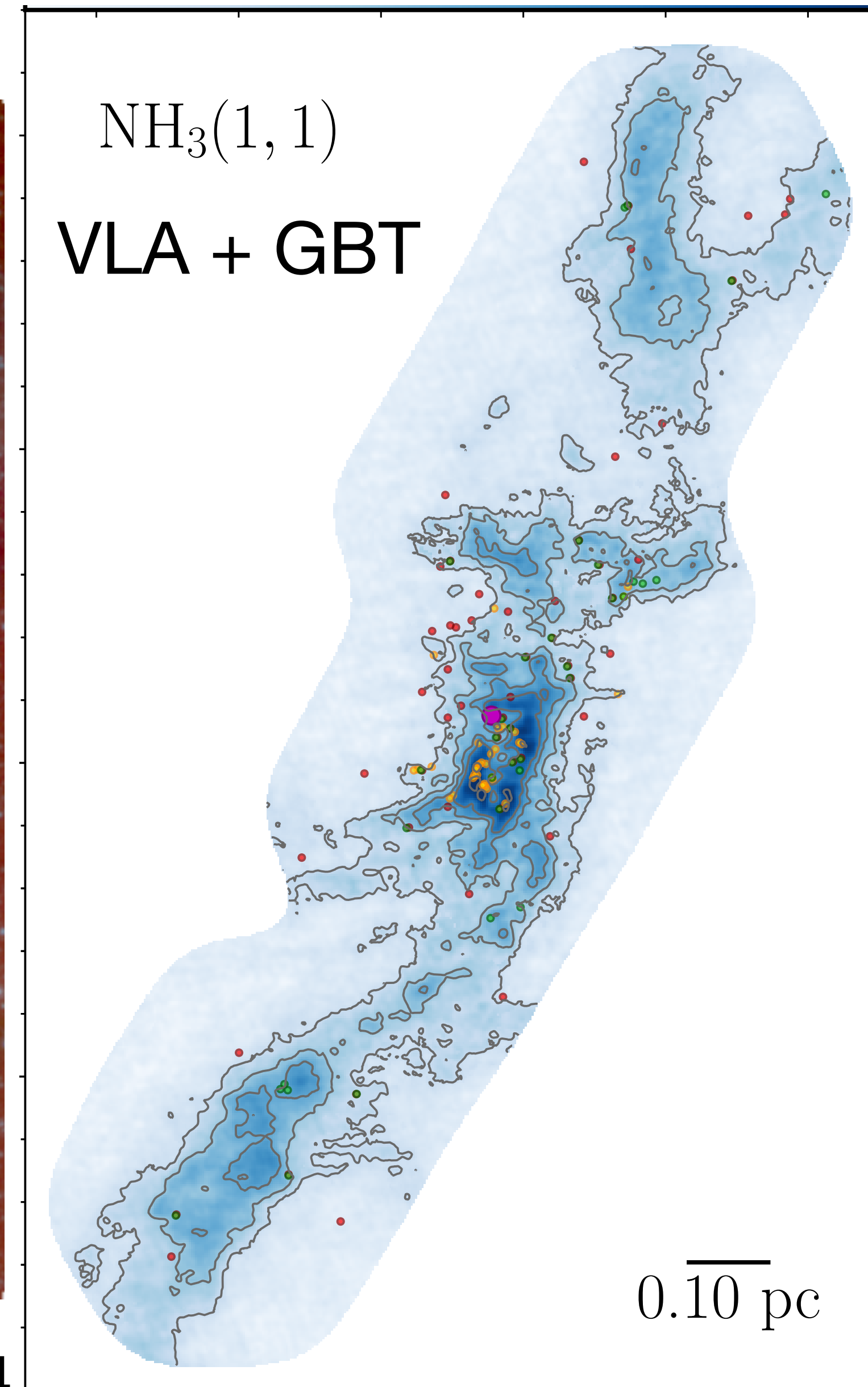


Kirk + 2013

How does the cluster impact the dense gas?



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VLA mosaic

$\text{NH}_3(1,1), (2,2), (3,3)$

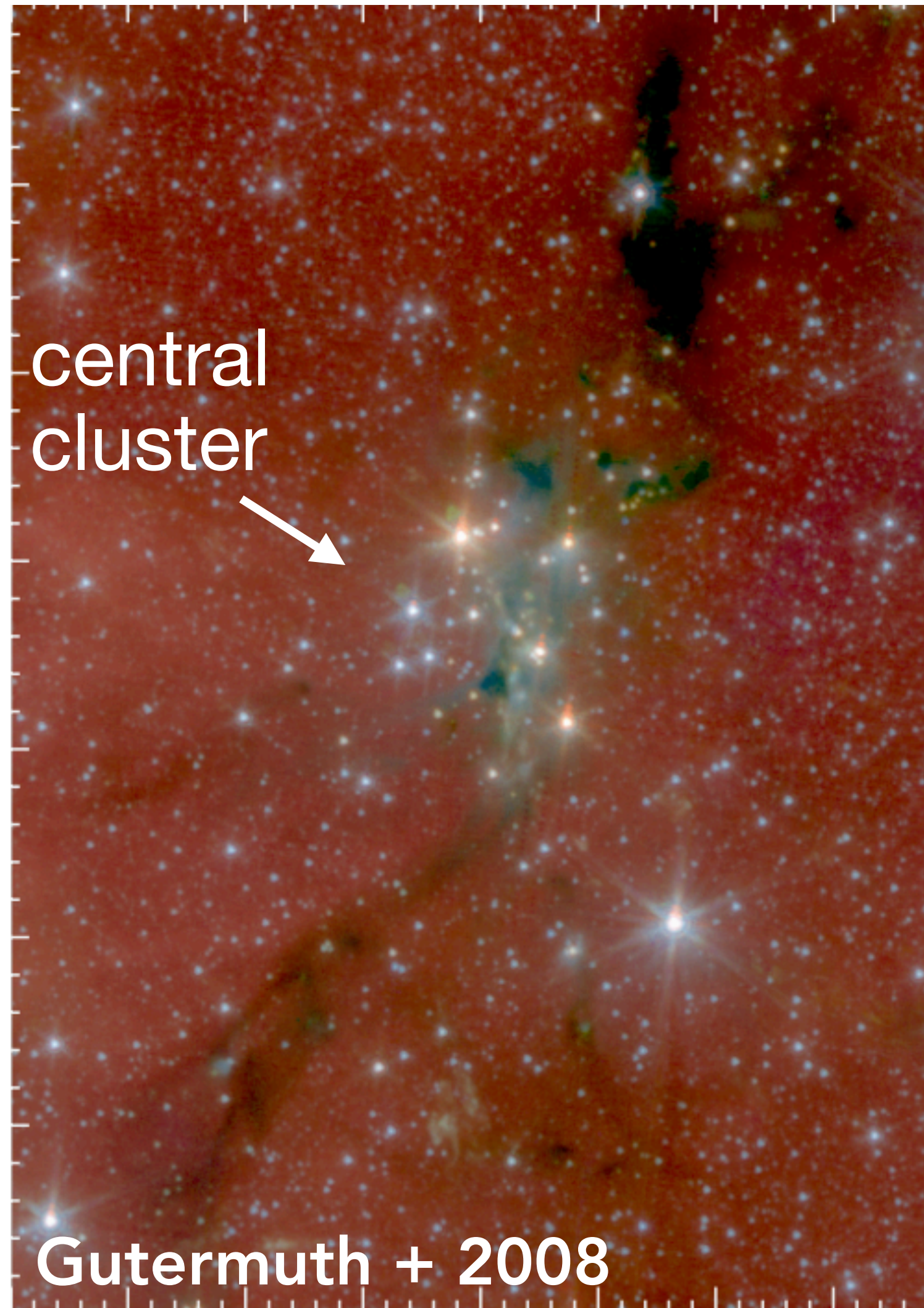
5" angular resolution (0.01 pc)

$\Delta v = 0.15$ km/s

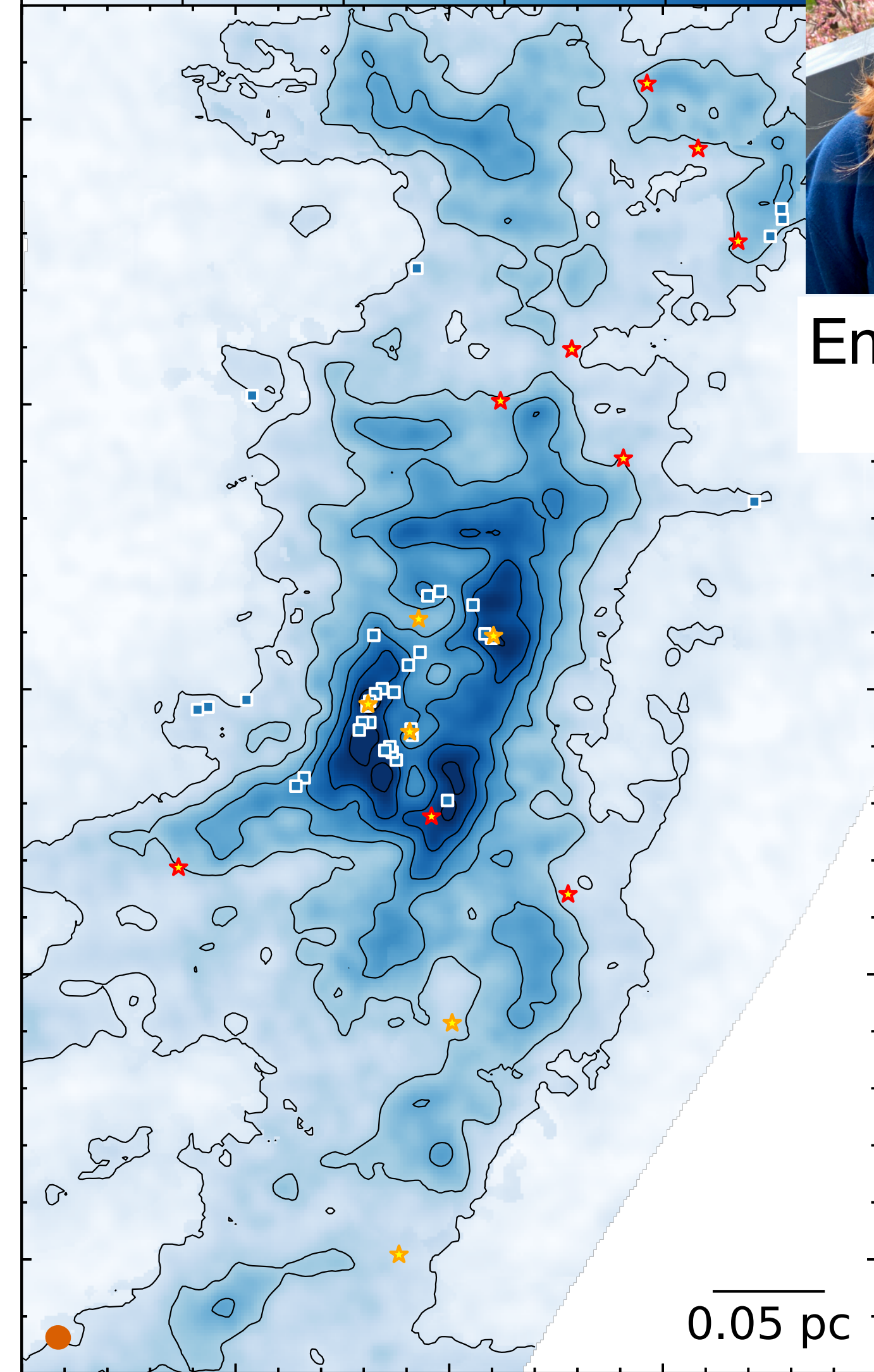
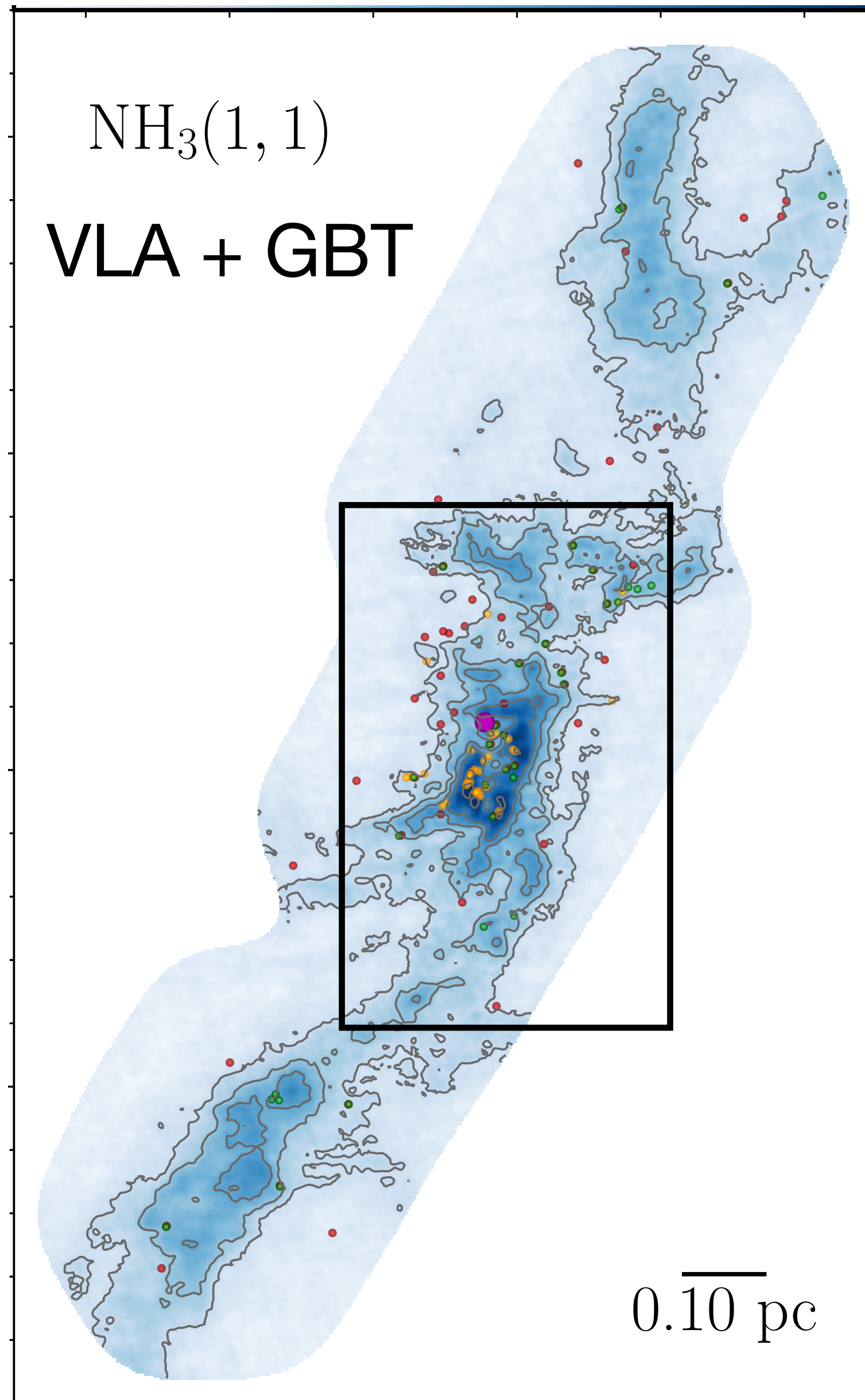
28 pointing mosaic

GBT model & feather

Dense gas is highly fragmented



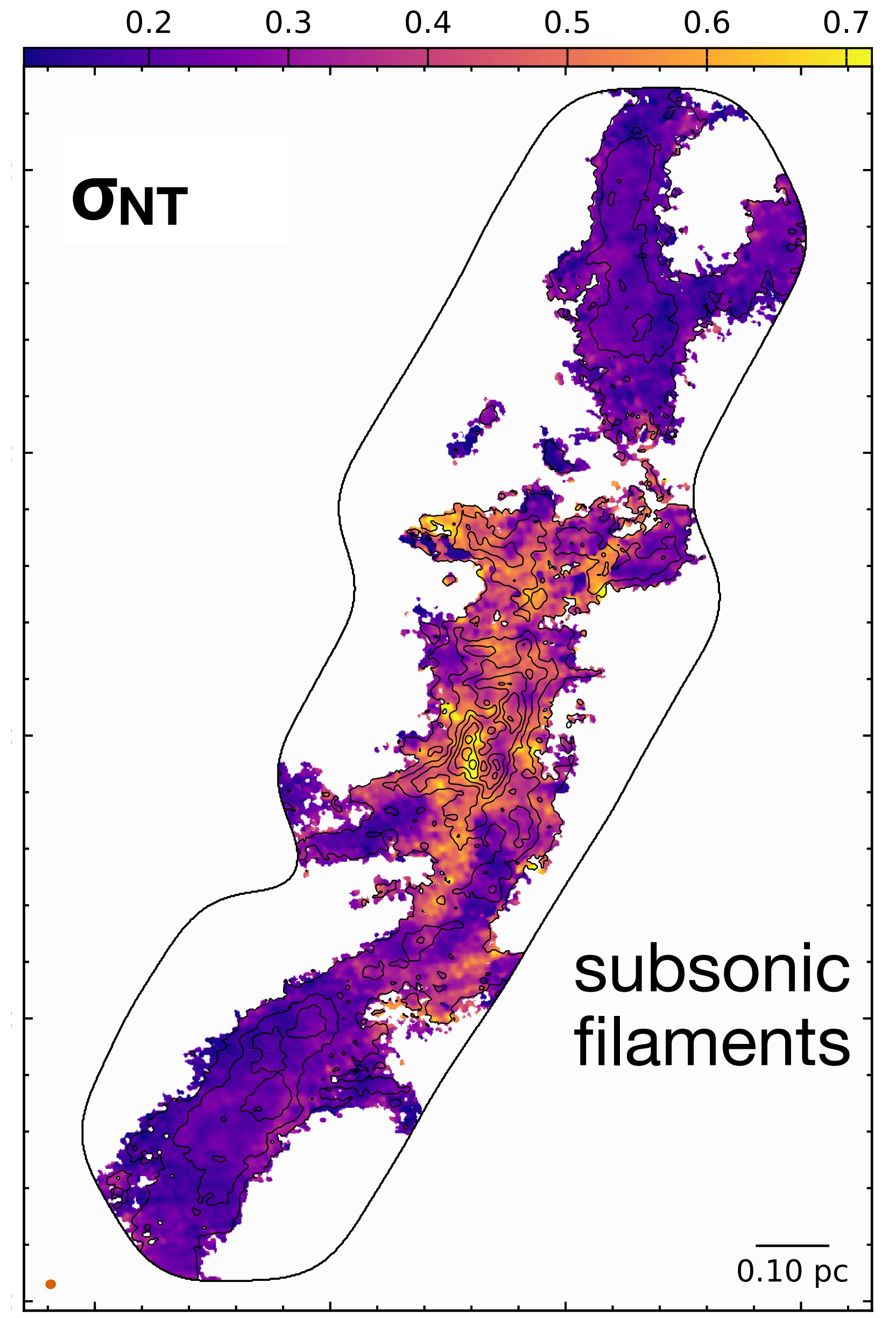
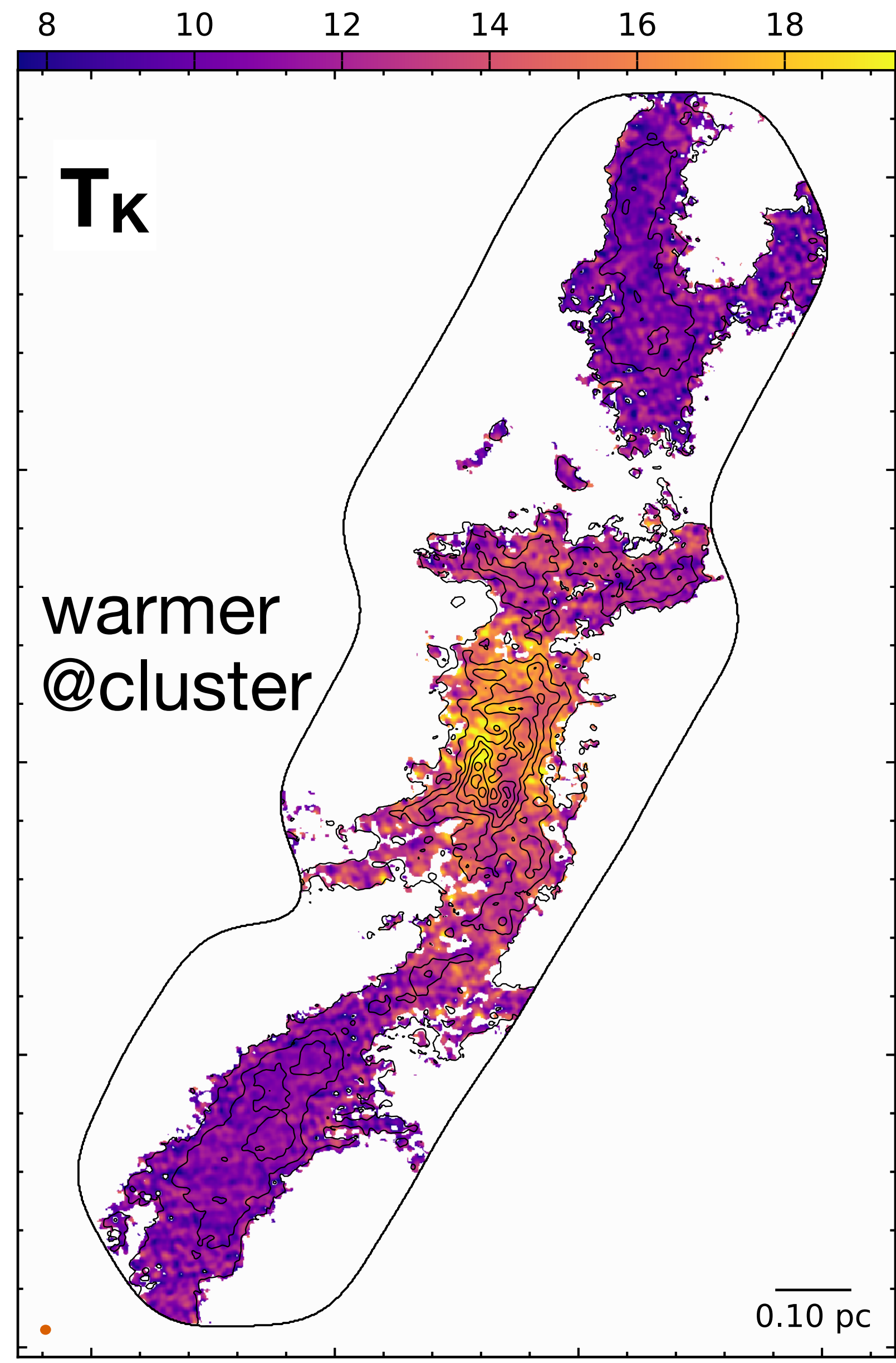
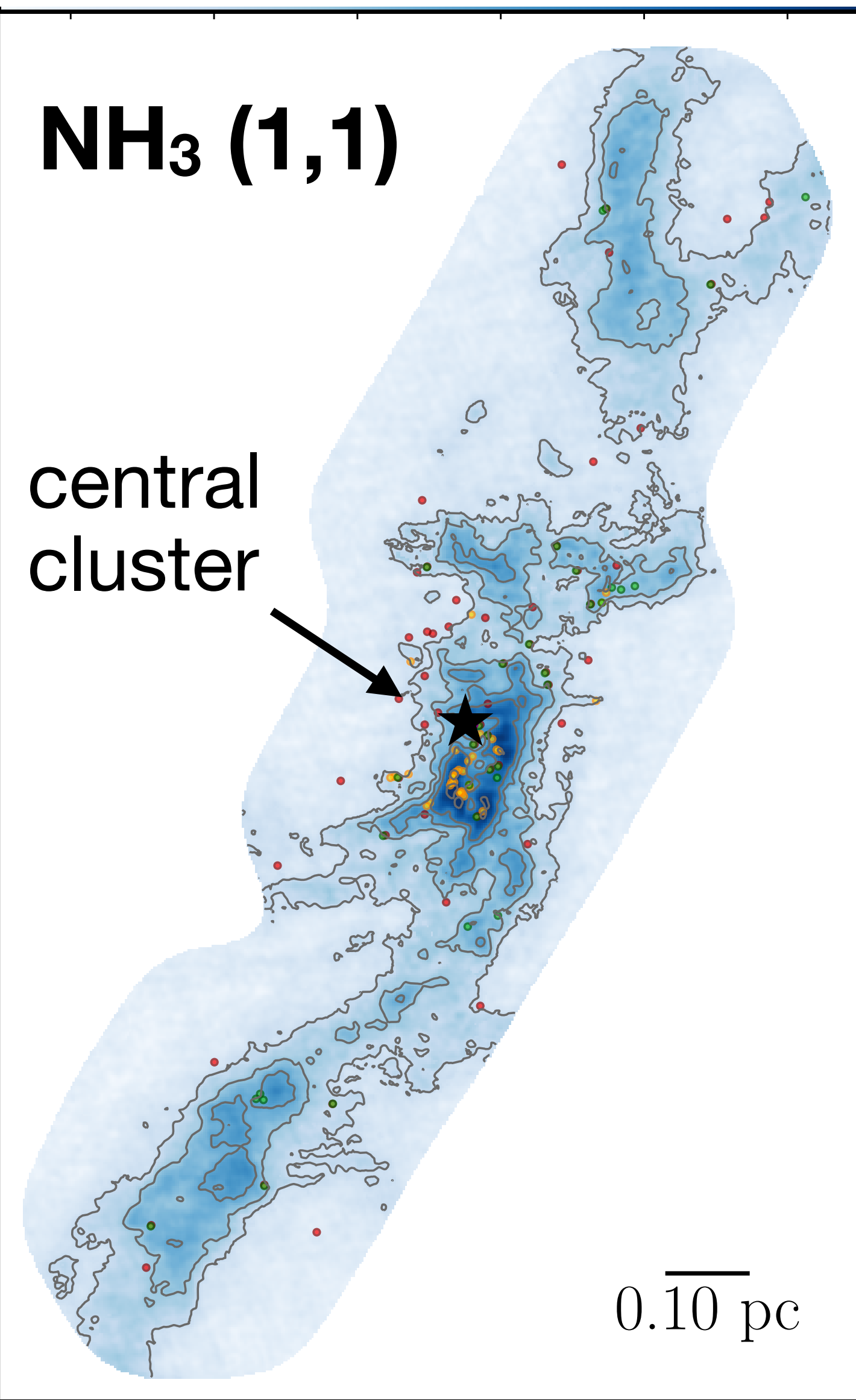
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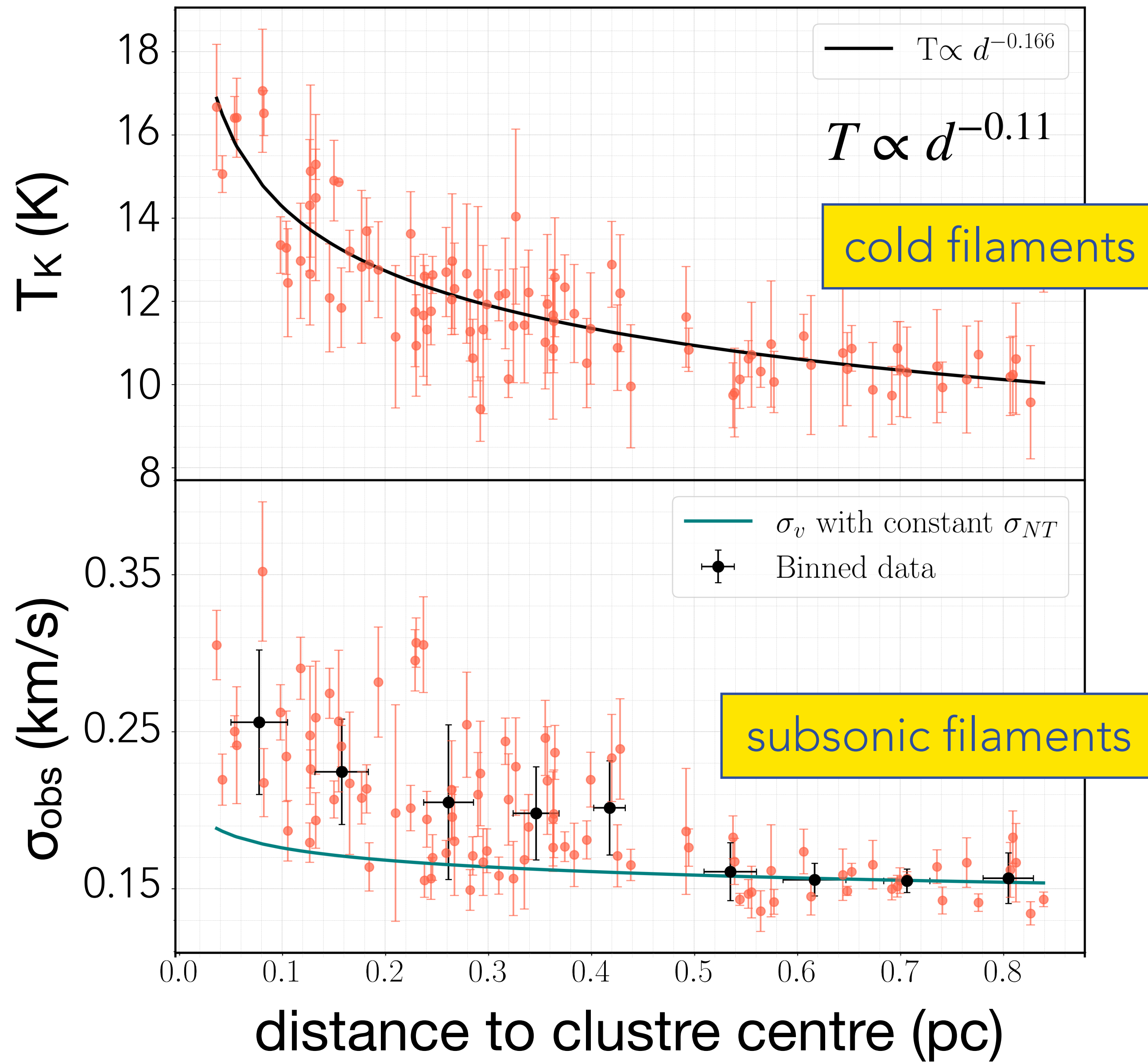
★ ★ protostars: Sun + 2022
□ mm continuum: Plunkett + 2018



Dense gas is impacted by the cluster



Core gas is impacted by the cluster



Datapoints:

Mean T_K , σ in cores
(identified via *astrodendro*)

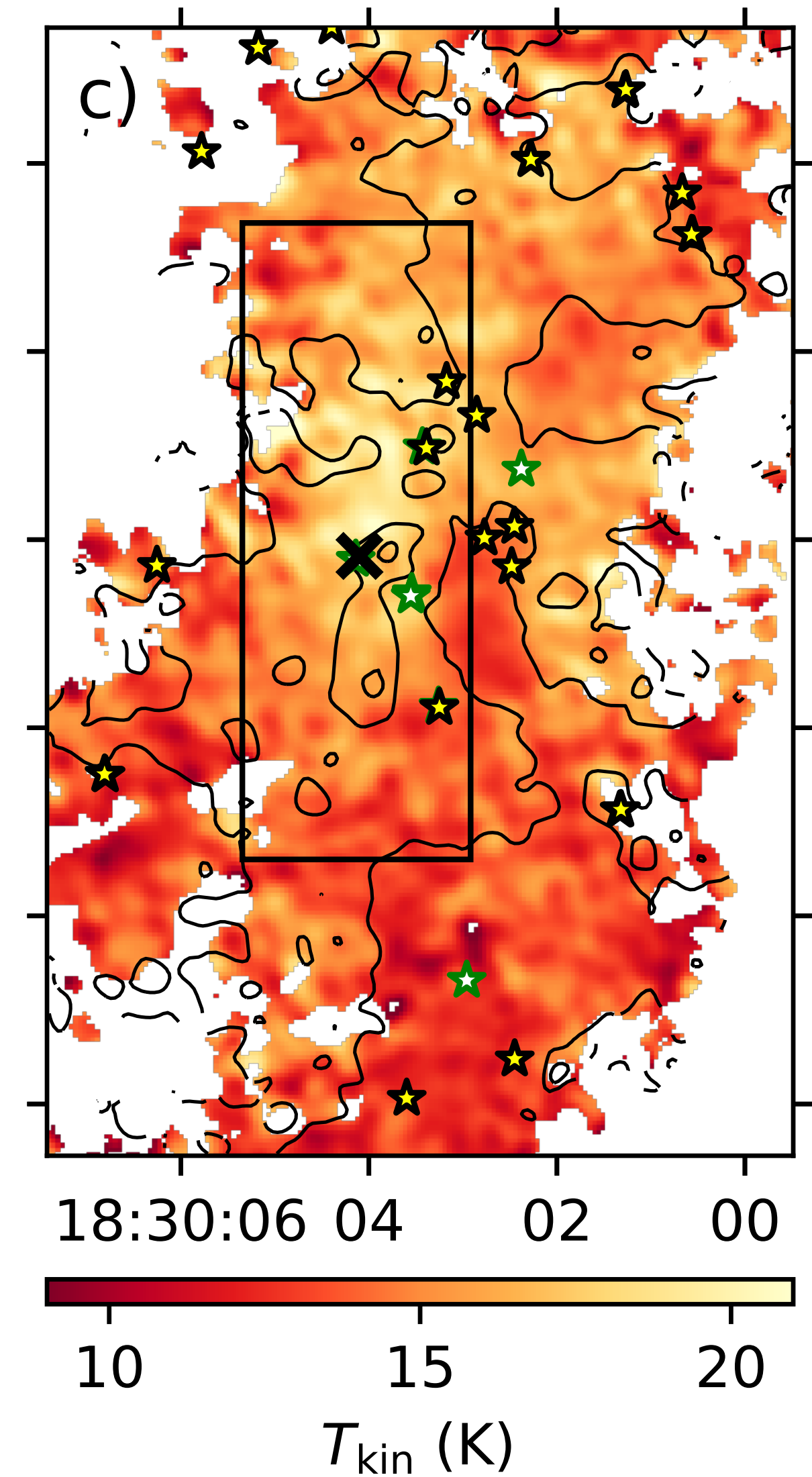
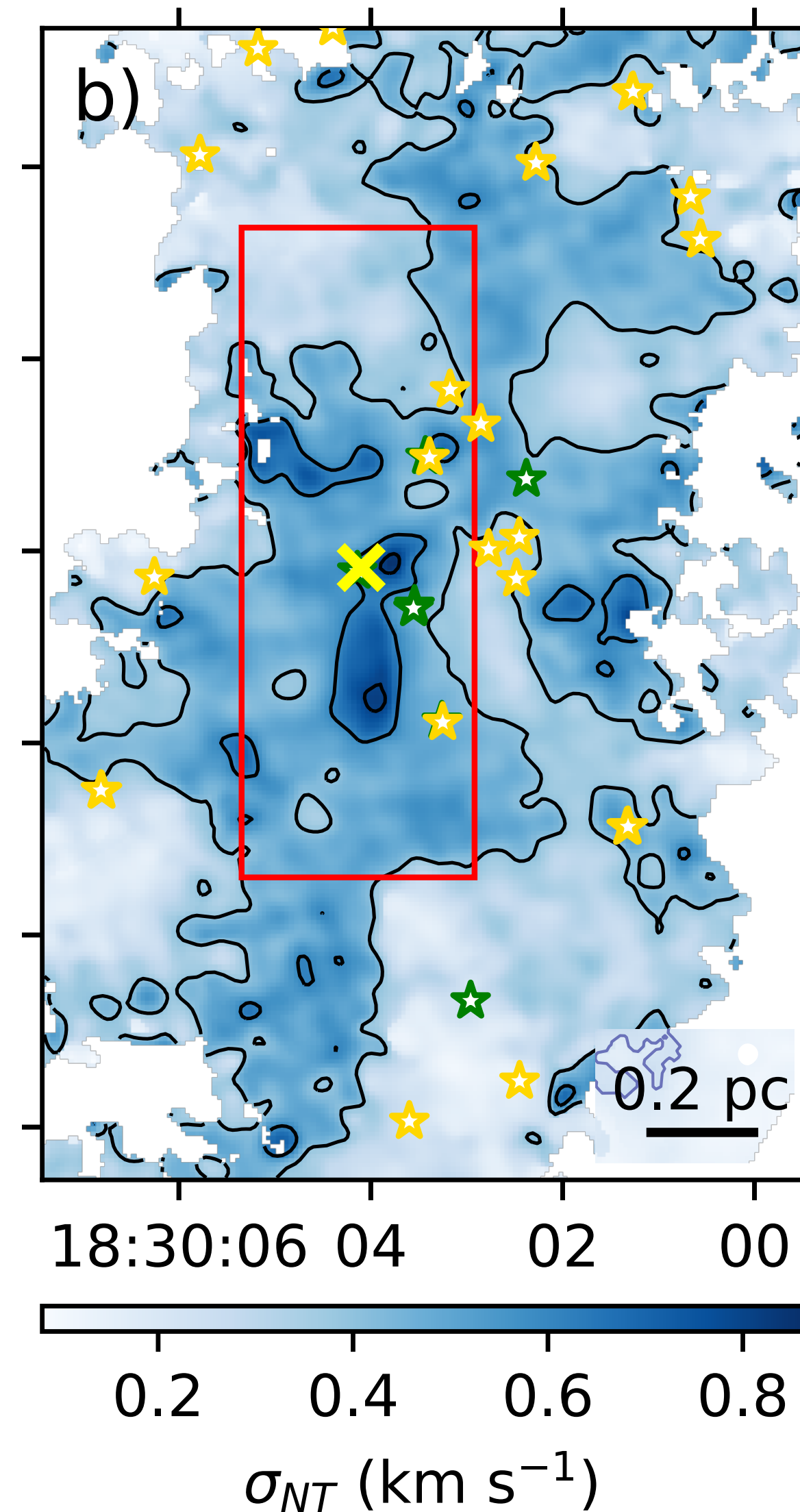
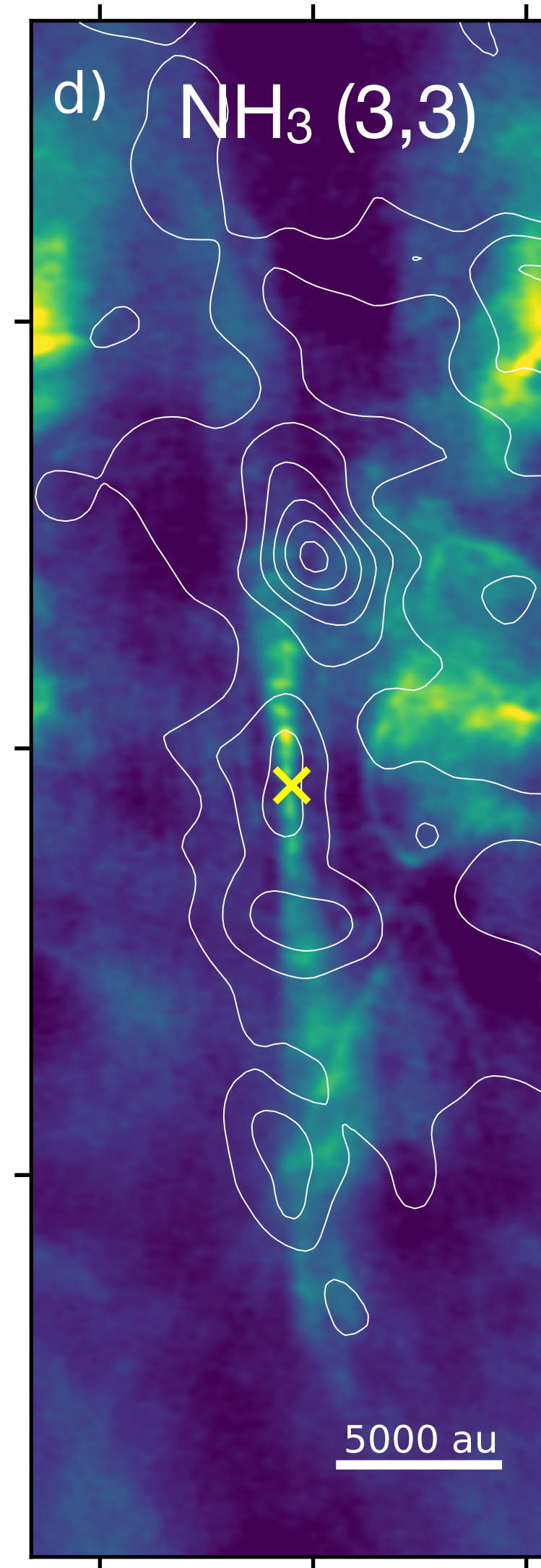
Core T_K , σ_{NT} increase closer to cluster centre

Steeper dependence $T \propto d^{-0.35}$ in high mass regions, theory

(e.g. Longmore + 2011, Wong + 2012, Scoville & Kwan 1976)

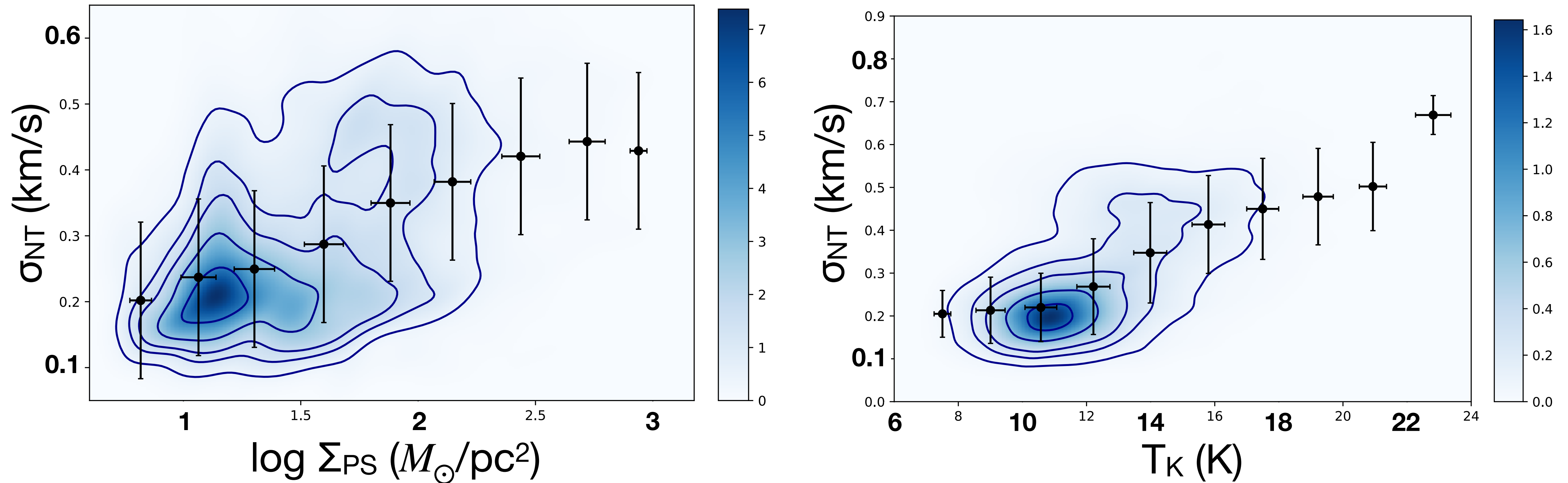
Protostellar jets & outflows: increased σ

- Collimated outflows more efficient in driving turbulence (e.g. Nakamura & Li 2007)
- Energy injection scale \sim few \times 0.1 pc (obs/theory)
- Large σ_{NT} extent matches broader outflows (e.g. Nakamura + 2011)



Collimated protostellar jet
(Plunkett + 2015)

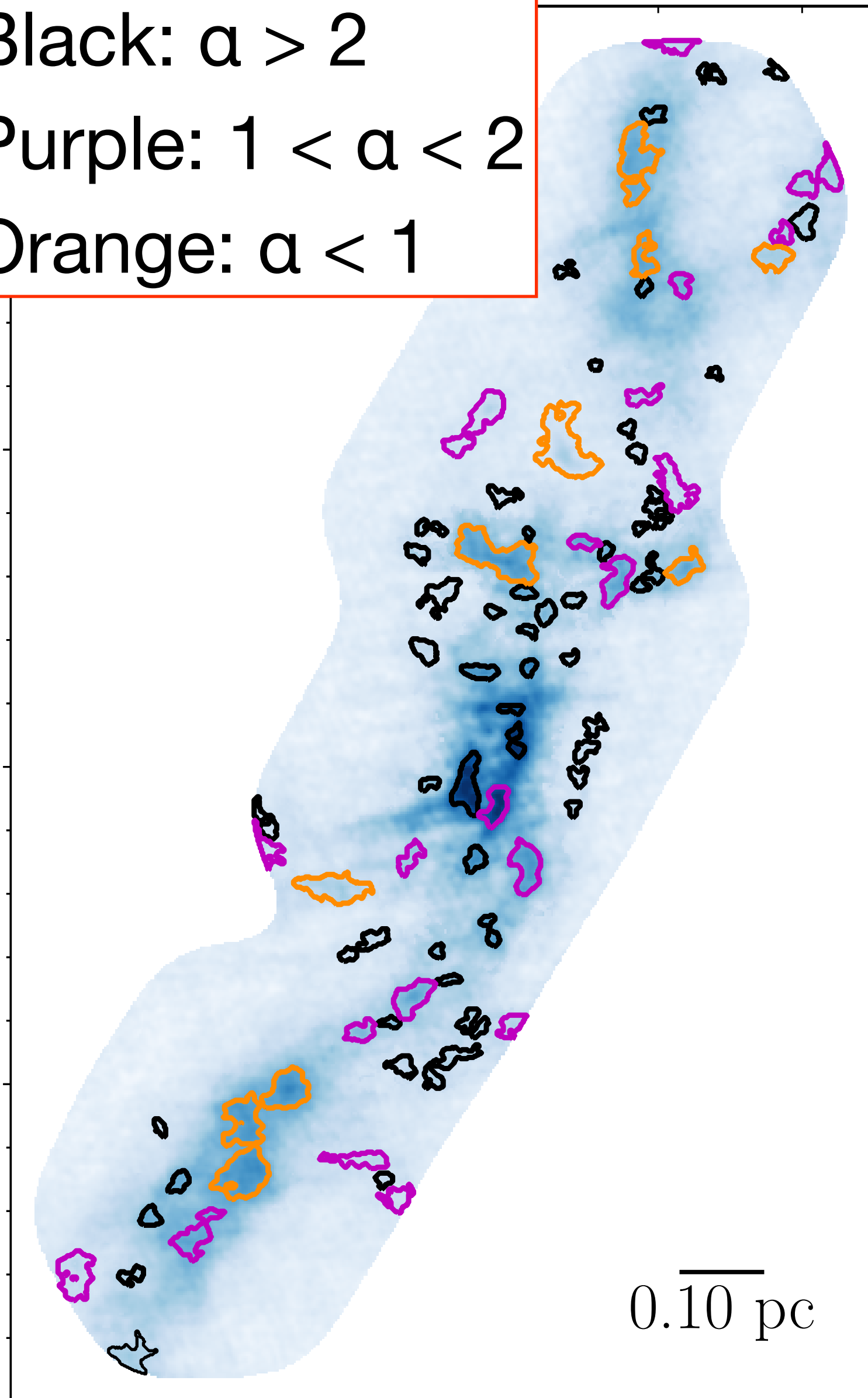
Σ_{PS} , T_K and σ_{NT} are correlated



- Both T_K and σ_{NT} increase with protostellar surface density
- Strongest positive correlation between T_K and σ_{NT} themselves
 - Gas heating: radiative + mechanical feedback

Dense cores are less bound near the cluster

Black: $\alpha > 2$
Purple: $1 < \alpha < 2$
Orange: $\alpha < 1$

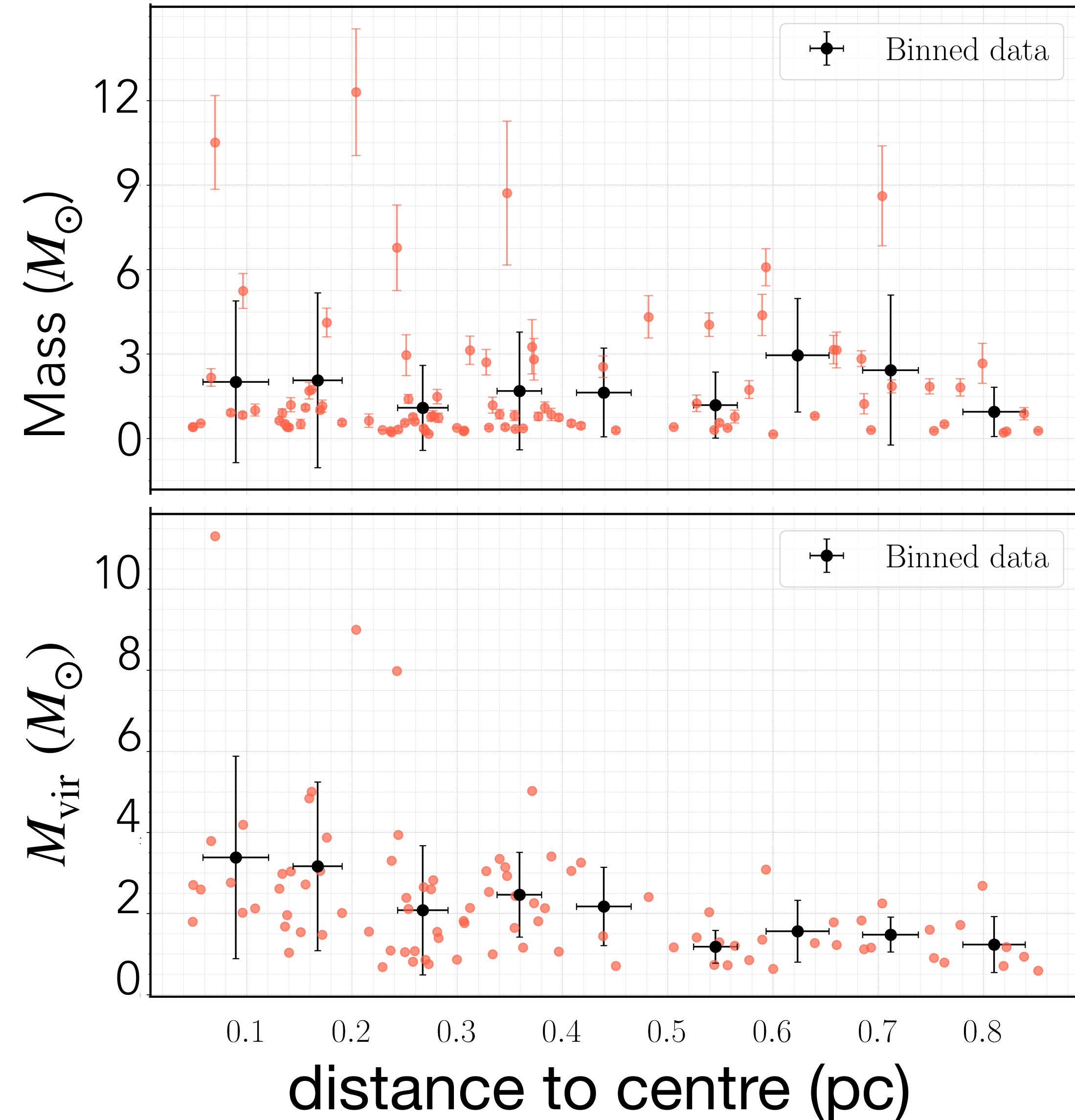


Virial analysis

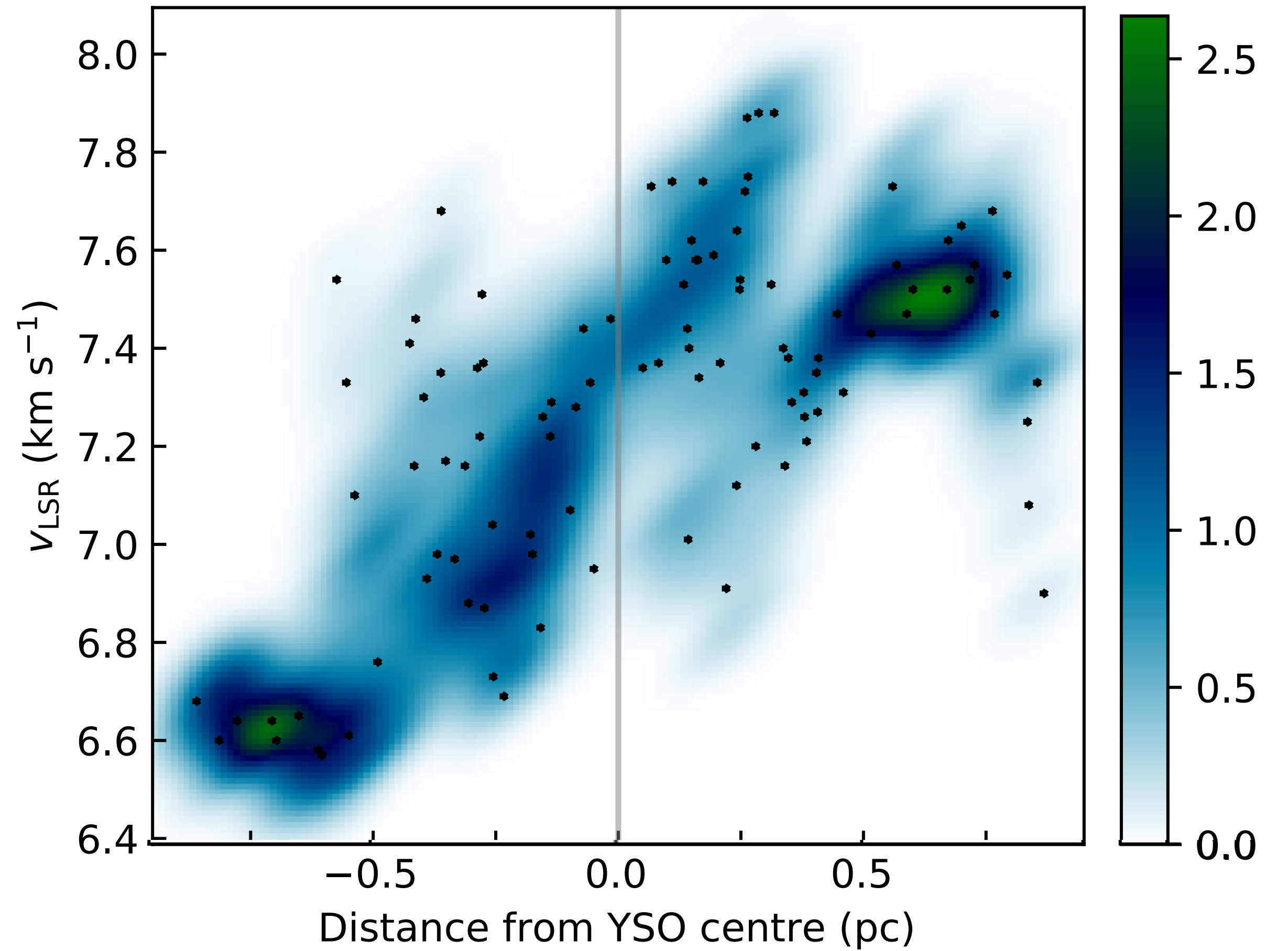
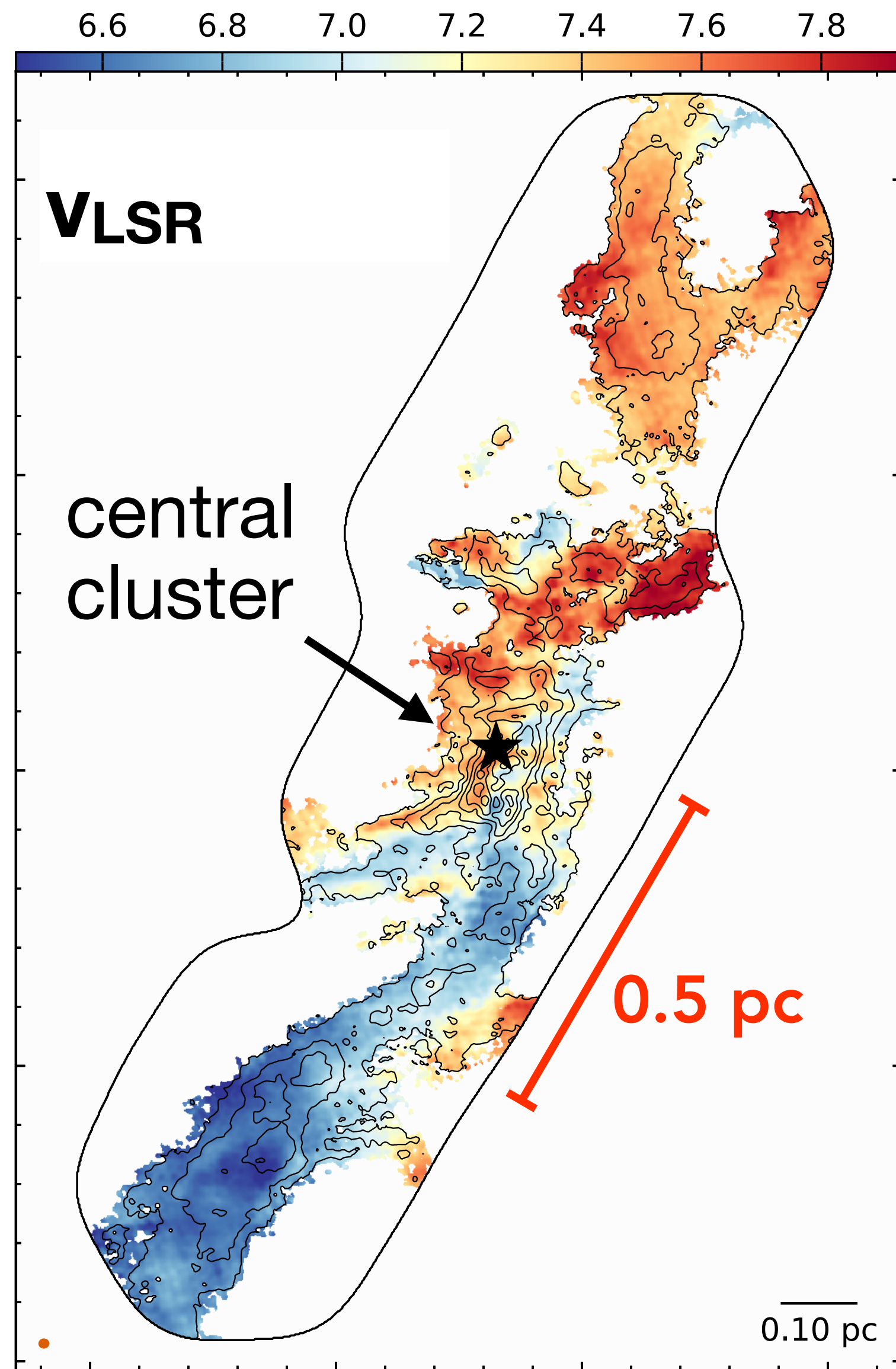
Core masses \sim constant

Virial masses increase toward cluster centre

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Filamentary flows: reservoir for accretion



- Accretion timescale $\sim 0.7 - 1.4$ Myr at 0.5 pc

Can we say something more broadly about feedback in low mass star-forming regions?

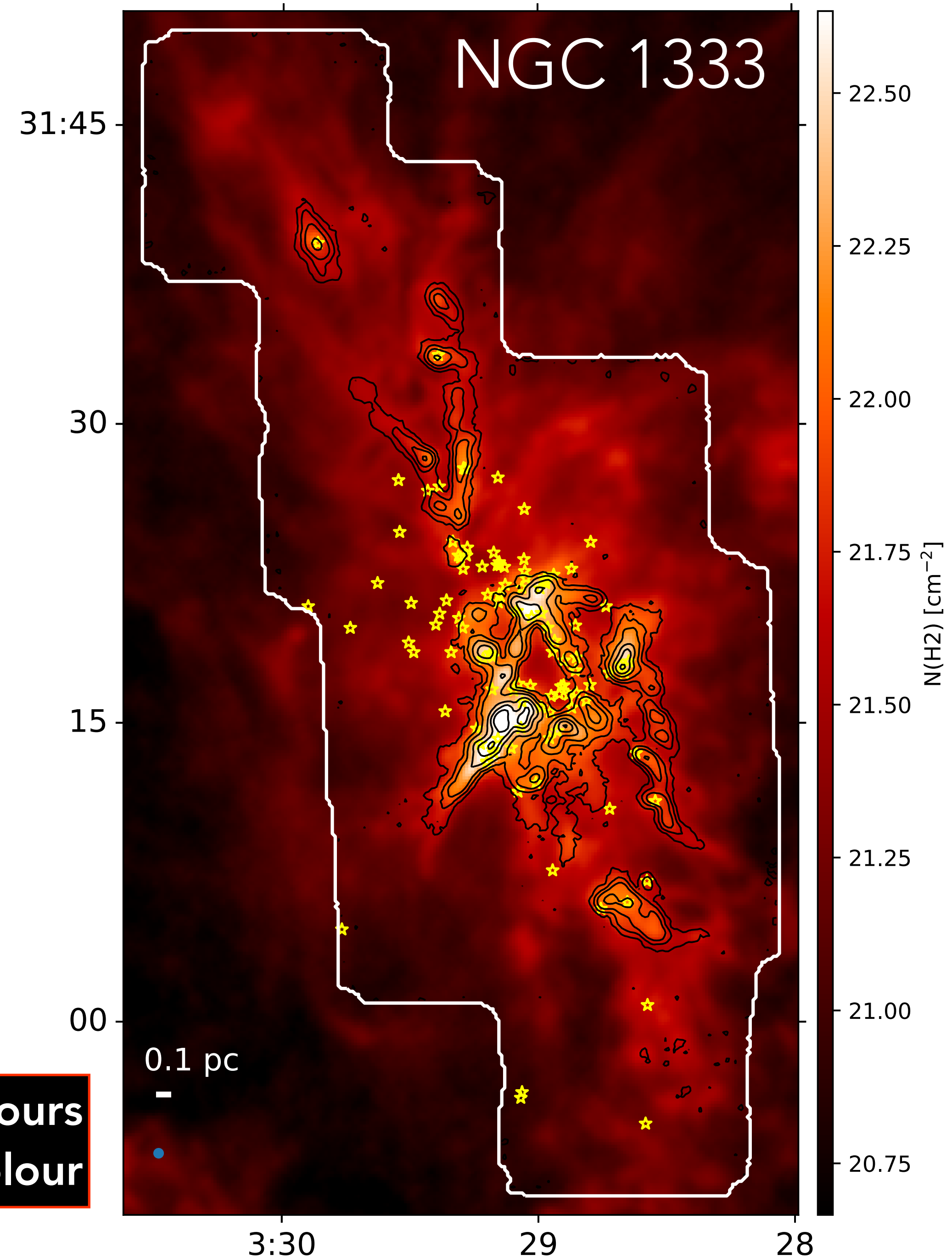
Green Bank Ammonia Survey (GAS)

Friesen, Pineda + 2017

Pineda, Friesen + in prep

- NH_3 maps toward main Gould Belt star-forming regions
- Mass in mapped regions: $N(\text{H}_2)$ from Herschel GBS (Singh & Martin 2022)
- Protostellar catalogs: Class 0/I/II from various sources (e.g. NGC 1333: c2d; Dunham + 2015)

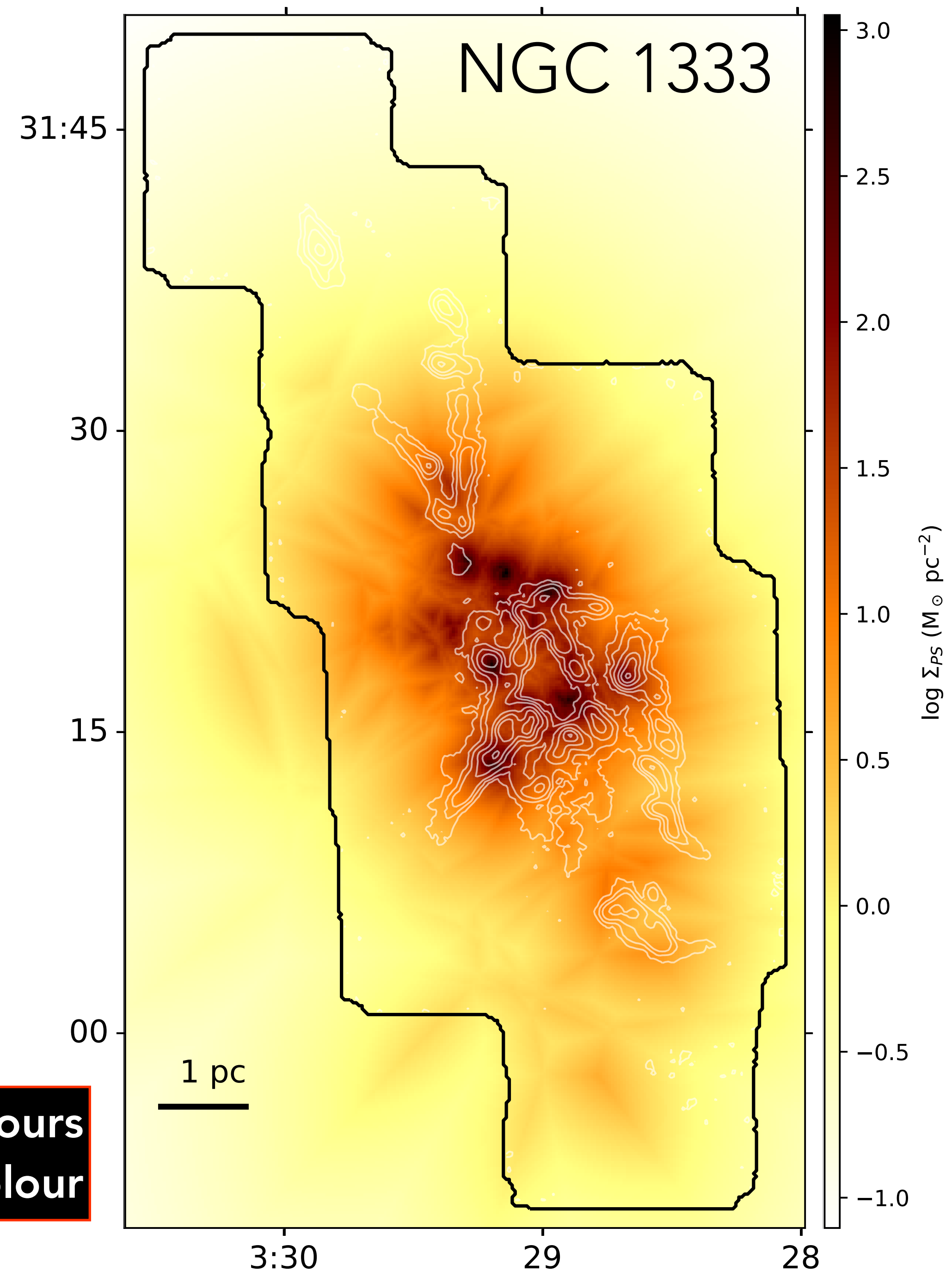
NH_3 (1,1) contours
 $N(\text{H}_2)$ colour



YSO counts & Σ_{PS}

- NH_3 maps toward main Gould Belt star-forming regions
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- Assume $M_* \sim 0.5 M_{\text{Sun}}$ for Σ_{PS} (following Evans + 2009)

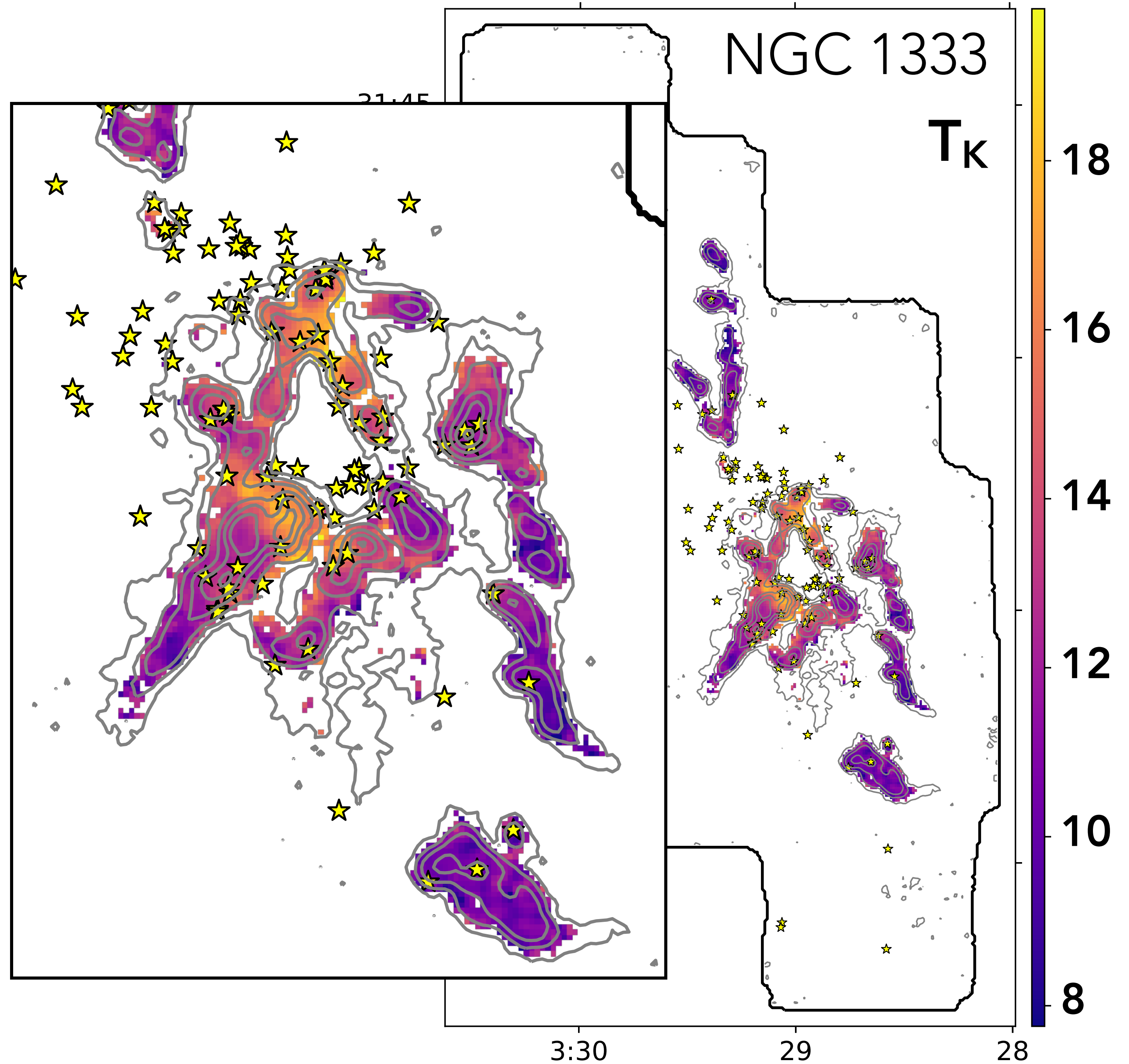
NH_3 (1,1) contours
 Σ_{PS} colour



YSO counts & Σ_{PS}

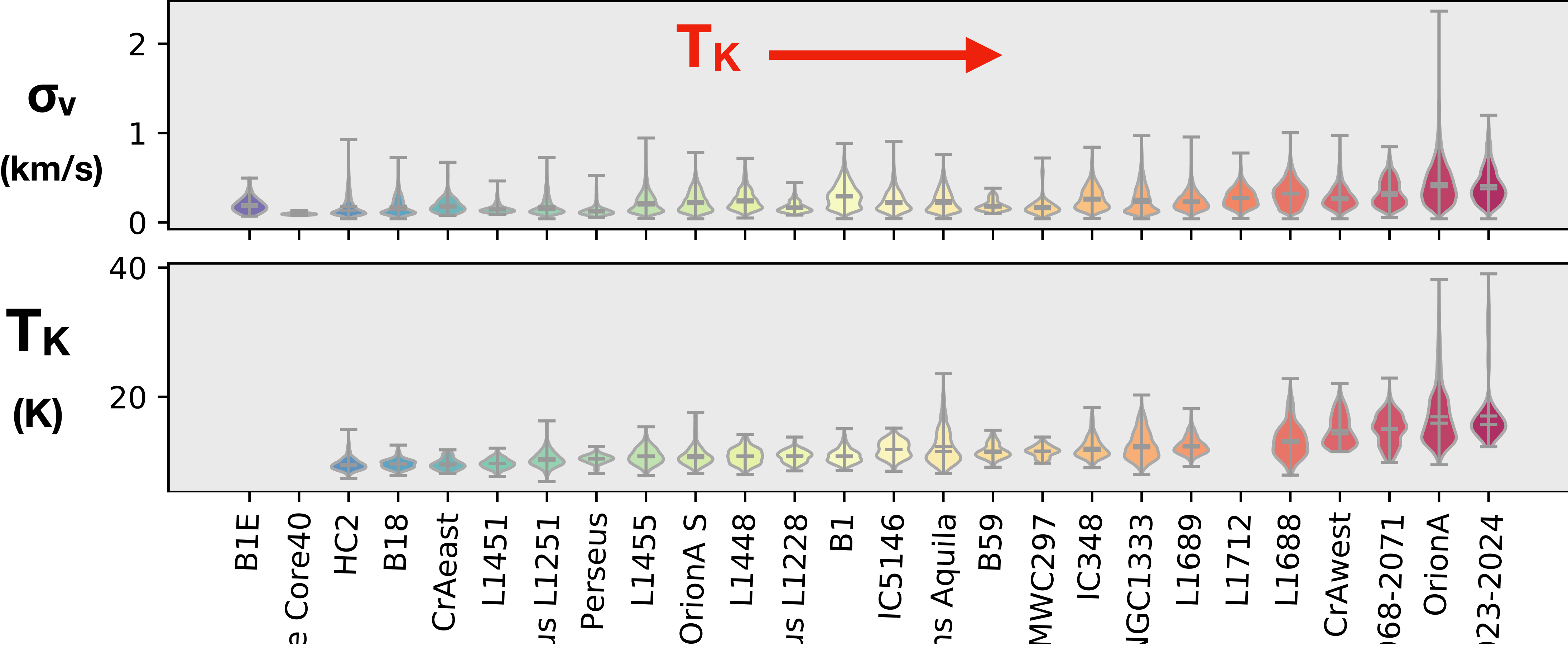
Similar to Serpens South, Σ_{PS} , T_K , and σ_{NT} are positively correlated across GAS clouds

- Median values per region
- pixel-by-pixel correlation



Spread in parameters also increases with Σ_{SFR}

- Narrow (subsonic) lines present in all regions, but with smaller relative fractions as T_K , Σ_{SFR} increase



In the Serpens South protocluster:

- Dense cores are warmer with **larger velocity dispersions**
 - Less likely to be gravitationally bound via virial analysis
 - Virial masses larger in the cluster than in the filaments
 - Filamentary flows will deposit gas & protostars within $\sim 1-2$ Myr (but may have a natural cutoff)
- Broader lines correlated with protostellar outflows & jets within ~ 0.5 pc
 - Shallow dependence of T_K on r : radiative + mechanical feedback
- Filaments remain subsonic & cores more likely to be gravitationally bound

Gould Belt clouds:

- Similar correlations between Σ_{PS} , T_K , and σ_{NT} : can we use to better quantify low mass feedback effects on dense gas?