

# Exposing Star Formation in our Galaxy's Center: A Window into the Distant Universe



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(CfA)

NSF fellow

Harvard Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics

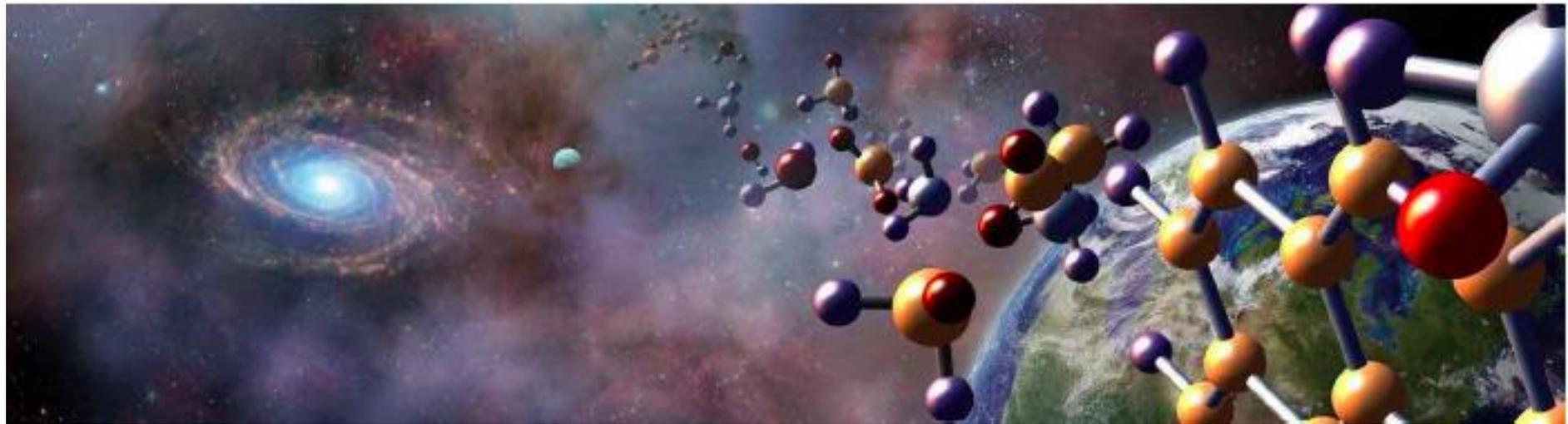
*Eric Keto, Qizhou Zhang, Thushara Pillai, Steve Longmore, Jens Kauffmann, Diederik Kruijssen, Daniel Walker, Xing 'Walker' Lu, Adam Ginsburg, Katharina Immer, Jonny Henshaw, Betsy Mills, Nimesh Patel, Mark Graham, Volker Tolls, John Bally, Katharine Johnston, Luis C. Ho, Andrew Walsh*



# ORIGINS

Space Telescope

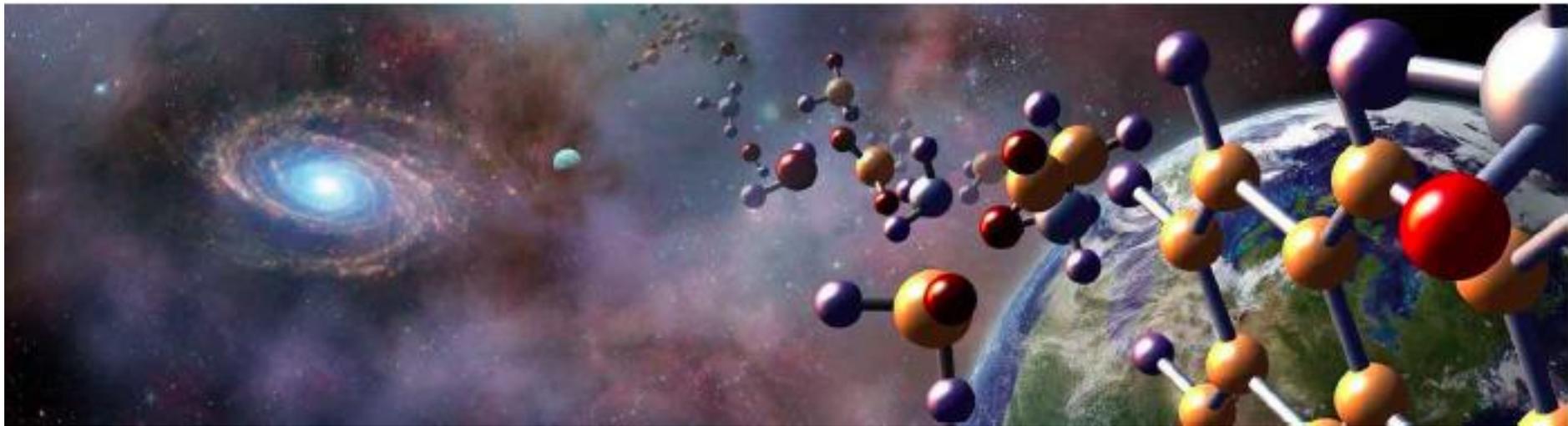
Tracing the rise of dust & metals in galaxies  
and the path of water across cosmic time to  
Earth and other habitable planets.





**ORIGINS**  
Space Telescope

Tracing the rise of dust & metals in galaxies  
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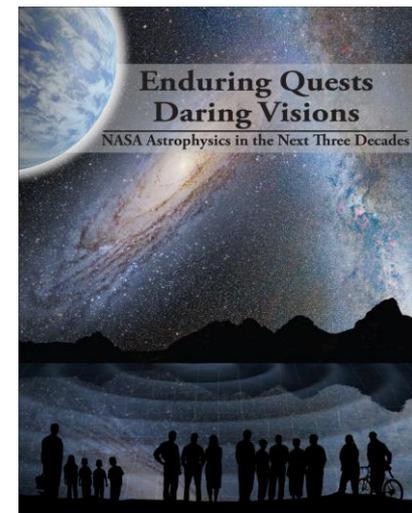
**NASA Mission concept for 2020 Decadal review; launch 2030ish**

7  $\mu\text{m}$  – 800  $\mu\text{m}$  (ish), Large aperture 8-15 m

**Study Chairs:** Margaret Meixner & Asantha Cooray

**Comes from the NASA Astrophysics Roadmap, Enduring Quests, Daring Visions: Improvements from *Herschel***

- large gain in sensitivity
- angular resolution sufficient to overcome spatial confusion in deep cosmic surveys
- new spectroscopic capability

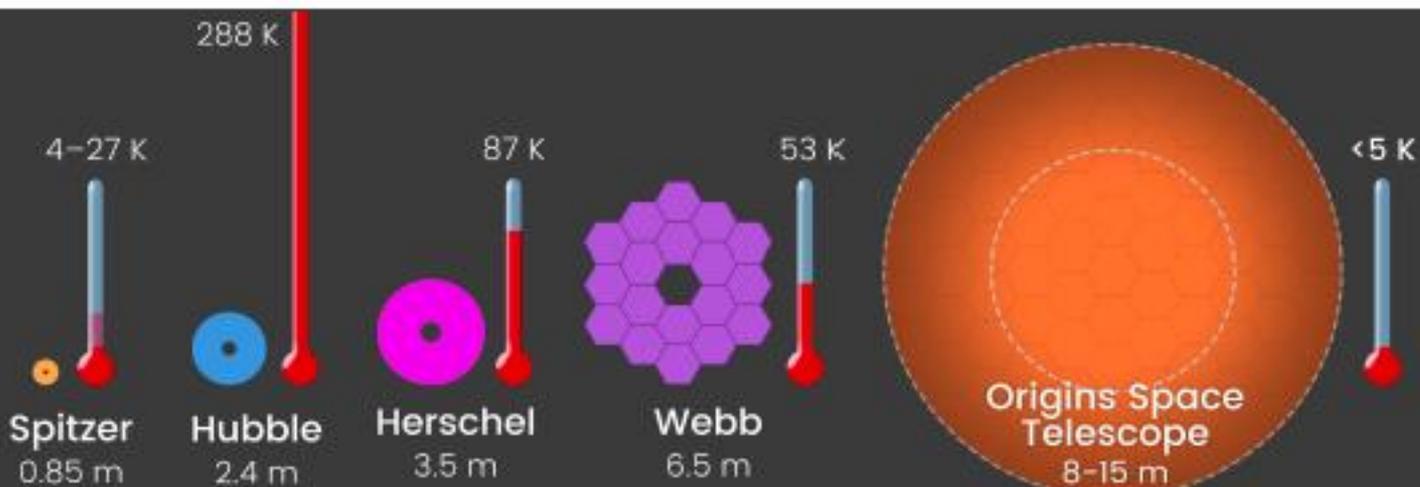




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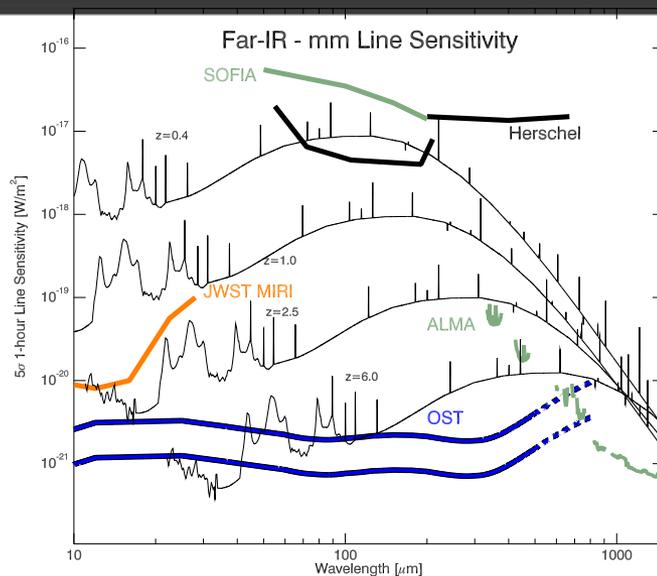
Space Telescope

## Technical Specifications



**Actively-Cooled  
Large Aperture**

Will attain sensitivities  
100–1000x greater  
than any previous far-  
infrared telescope





# ORIGINS

Space Telescope

Tracing the rise of dust & metals in galaxies  
and the path of water across cosmic time to  
Earth and other habitable planets.



## Tracing the signatures of life and the ingredients of habitable worlds

Origins will trace the trail of water from interstellar clouds, to proto-planetary disks, to Earth itself facilitating understanding of the abundance and availability of water for habitable planets.



## Unveiling the Growth of Black Holes and Galaxies over Cosmic Time

Origins will reveal the co-evolution of super-massive black holes and galaxies, energetic feedback, and the dynamic interstellar medium from which stars are born.



Origins will trace the metal enrichment history of the Universe, probe the first cosmic sources of dust, the earliest star formation, and the birth of galaxies.

## Charting the Rise of Metals, Dust, and the First Galaxies



Origins will chart the role of comets in delivering water to the early Earth, and conduct a survey of thousands of ancient Trans Neptunian Objects (TNOs) in the outer reaches of the Solar System.

## Characterizing Small Bodies in the Solar System





**ORIGINS**  
Space Telescope

Tracing the rise of dust & metals in galaxies  
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**We want your input!**  
**Please contact, if interested in contributing:**

**[cbattersby@cfa.harvard.edu](mailto:cbattersby@cfa.harvard.edu)**

# The Milky Way Laboratory

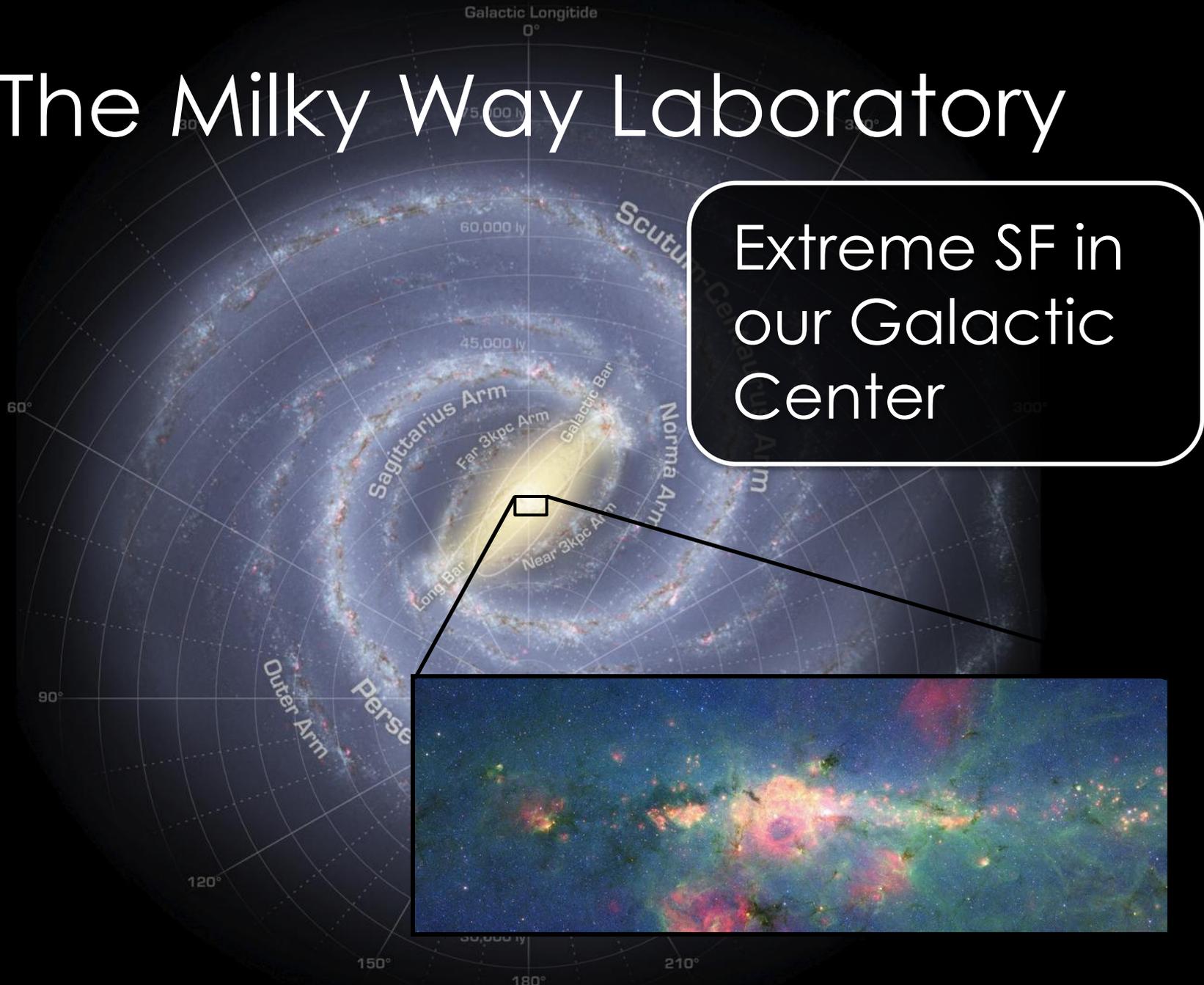


Figure Credit: NASA / JPL-Caltech / R. Hurt (SSC-Caltech)

# Central Molecular Zone

100 pc



24  $\mu\text{m}$  (Carey+ 2009.), 8  $\mu\text{m}$   
and 4.5  $\mu\text{m}$  (Benjamin+20003)

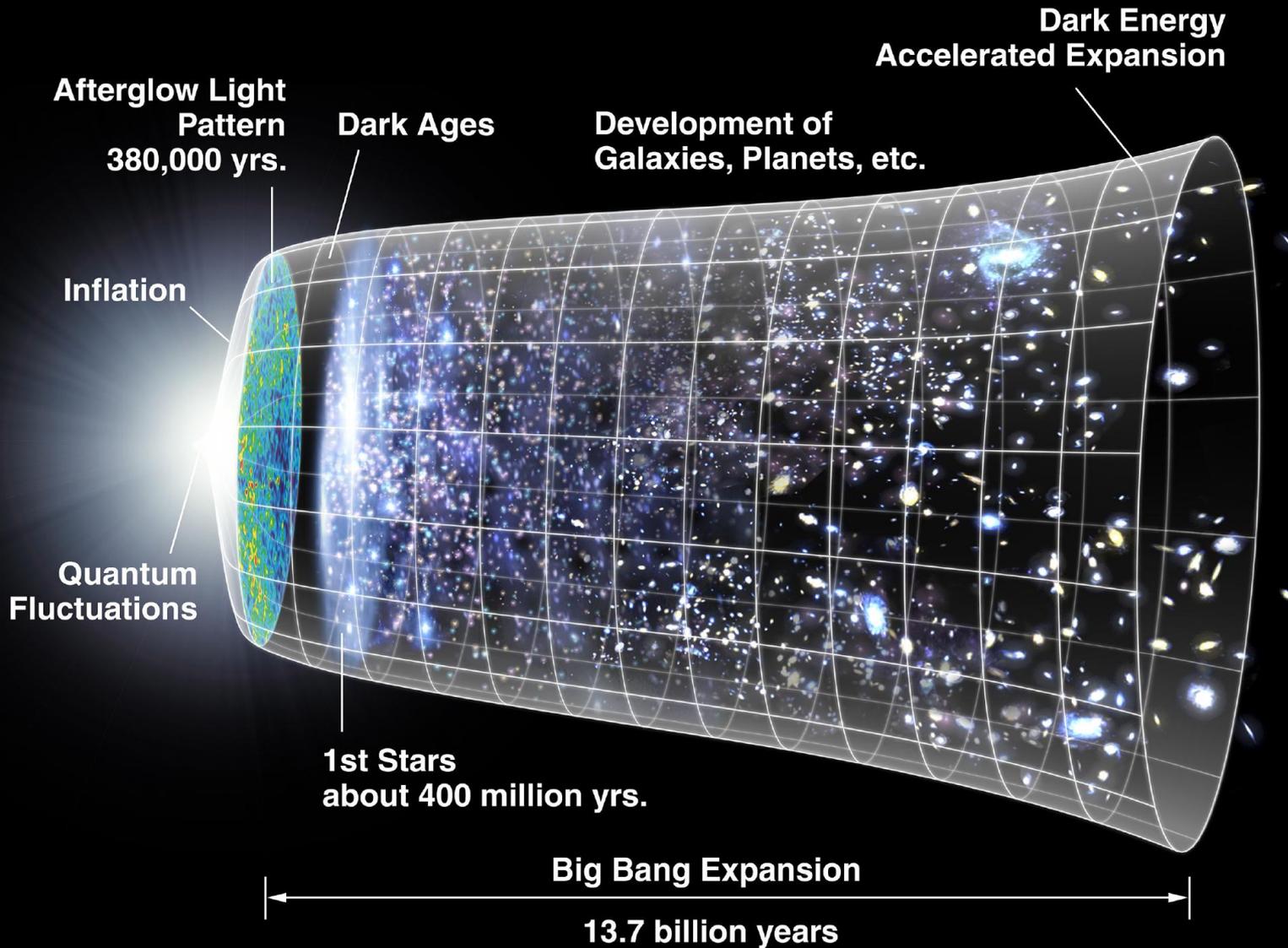
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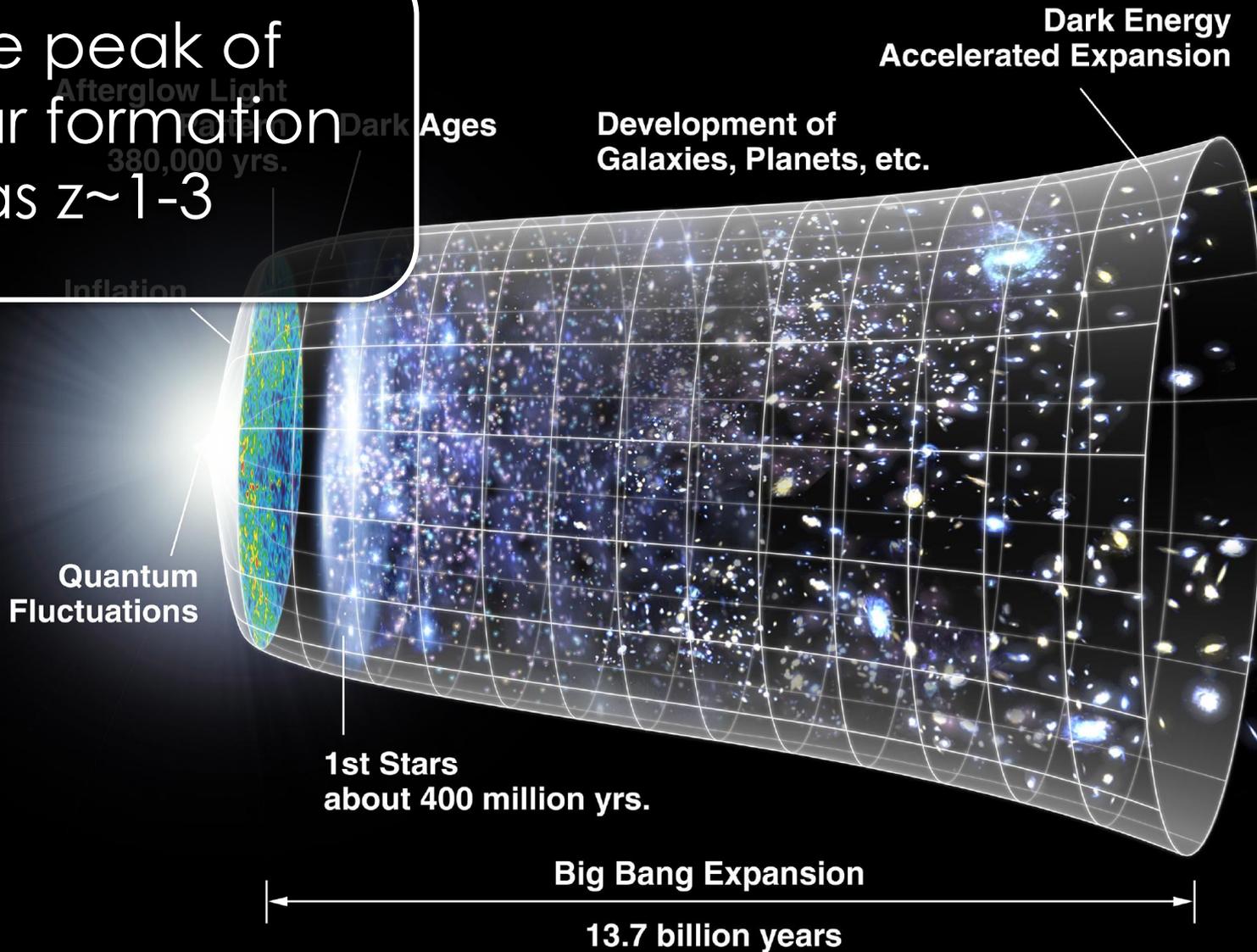
$N(\text{H}_2)$  (Battersby+ in prep.), 70  $\mu\text{m}$  (Hi-GAL, Molinari +2011),  
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# Star Formation over cosmic time



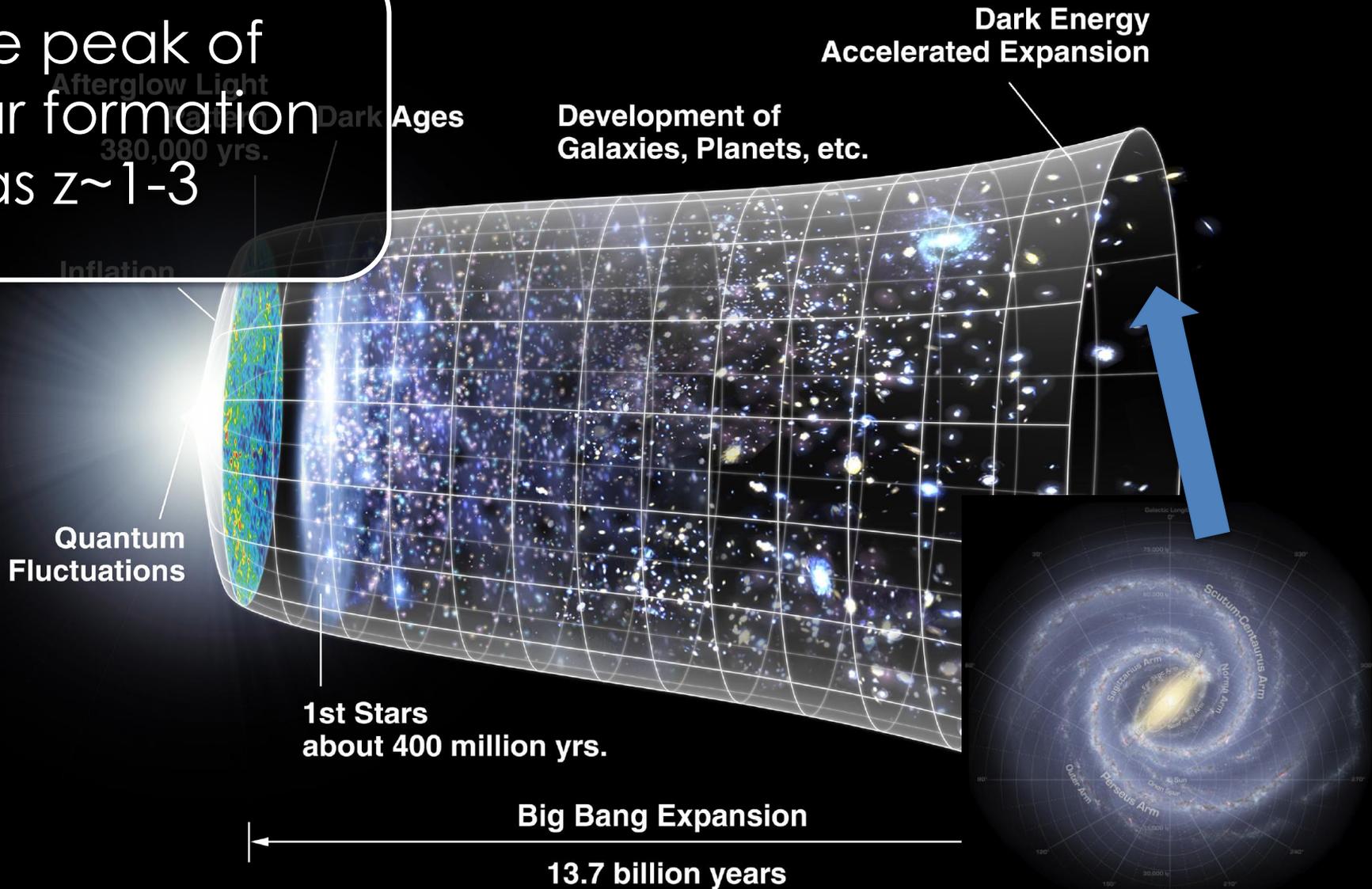
# Star Formation over cosmic time

The peak of star formation was  $z \sim 1-3$



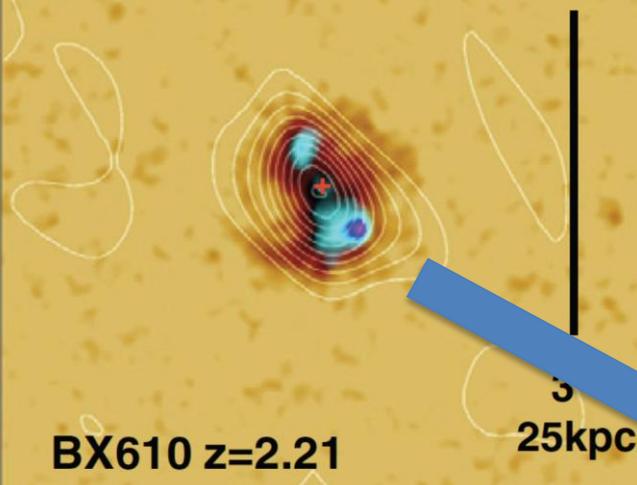
# Star Formation over cosmic time

The peak of star formation was  $z \sim 1-3$



# Star Formation over cosmic time

CO 3-2  $\log H J$  Tacconi+13



BX610  $z=2.21$

25kpc

Dark Energy  
Accelerated Expansion

Ages  
Development of  
Galaxies, Planets, etc.



$$\Sigma_{\text{gas}} \sim 10^3 M_{\text{sun}}/\text{pc}^2$$

$$\sigma \sim 20 - 50 \text{ km/s}$$

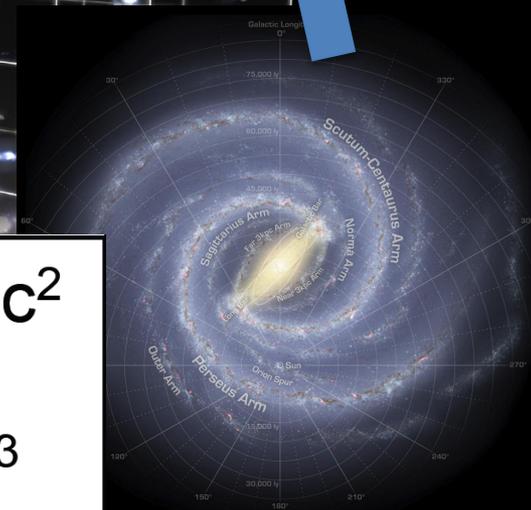
$$P/k \sim 10^7 \text{ K/cm}^3$$

1st Stars  
about 400 milli

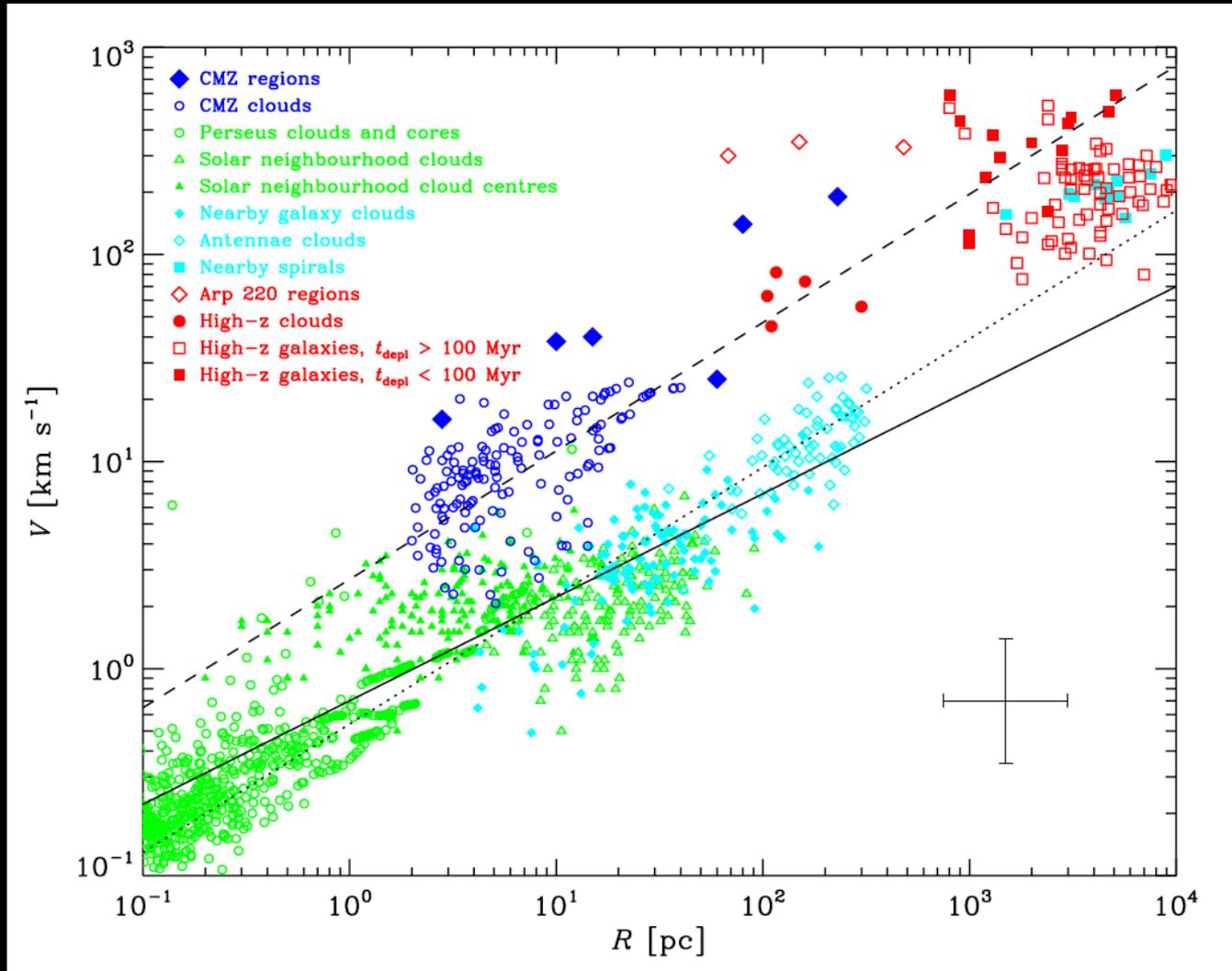
$$\Sigma_{\text{gas}} \sim 10^2 M_{\text{sun}}/\text{pc}^2$$

$$\sigma \sim 10 \text{ km/s}$$

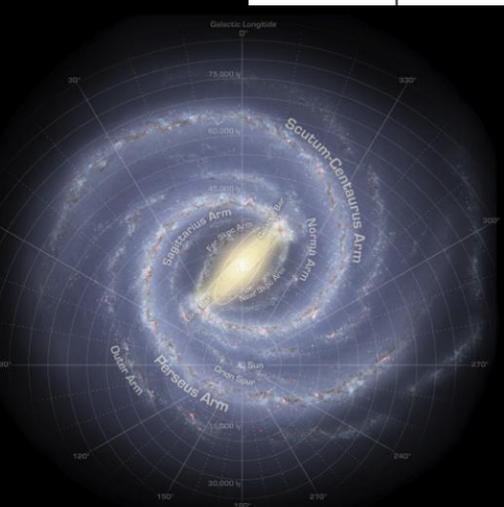
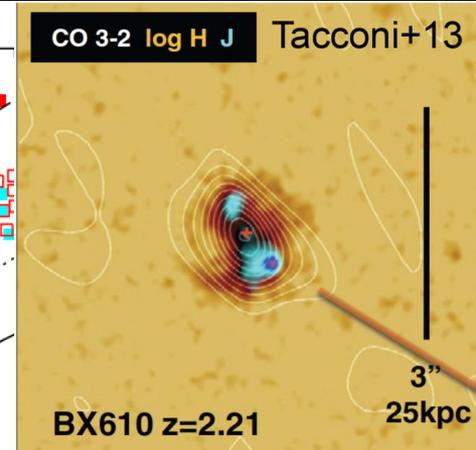
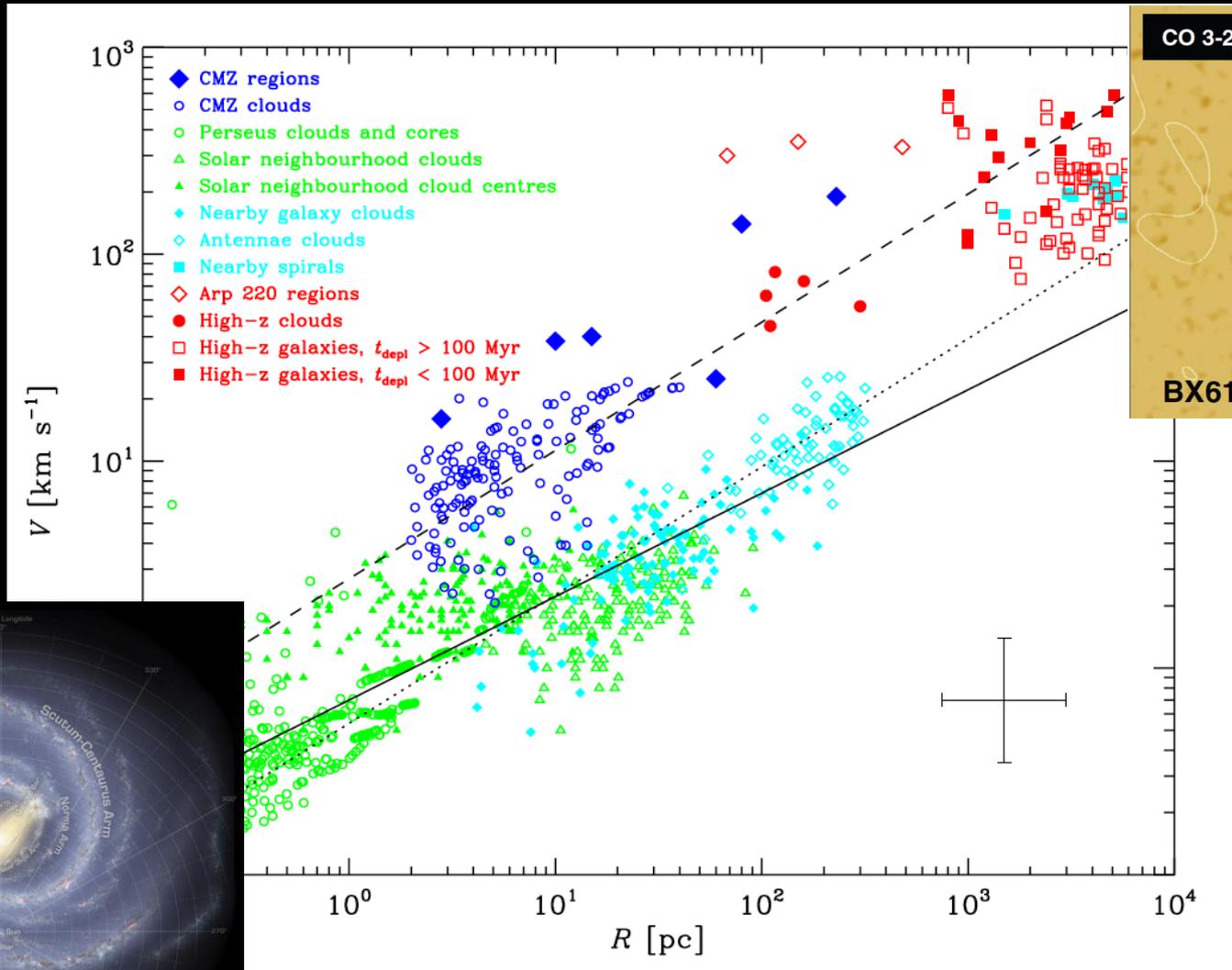
$$P/k \sim 10^4 \text{ K/cm}^3$$



# Star Formation over cosmic time



# Star Formation over cosmic time



# Central Molecular Zone

- $\Delta v \sim 10x$  higher
- $n \sim 10-100x$  higher
- High temperatures, ubiquitous exotic molecules

100 pc



$N(\text{H}_2)$  (Battersby+ in prep.),  $70 \mu\text{m}$  (Hi-GAL, Molinari +2011),  
 $8 \mu\text{m}$  (GLIMPSE, Benjamin+20003)

# Central Molecular Zone

“Bricklet” D

100 pc

No signs of active star formation  
 $10^5 M_{\odot}$  in  $< 3$  pc  
 $T \sim 20$  K,  $\Sigma_{\text{H}_2} \sim 1 \text{ g cm}^{-2}$

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# SMA Legacy Survey of the Central Molecular Zone

- Large primary beam + wide bandwidth + long wavelength + high angular resolution → detect early star formation across a large area
- First survey of the CMZ ever to be able to do so

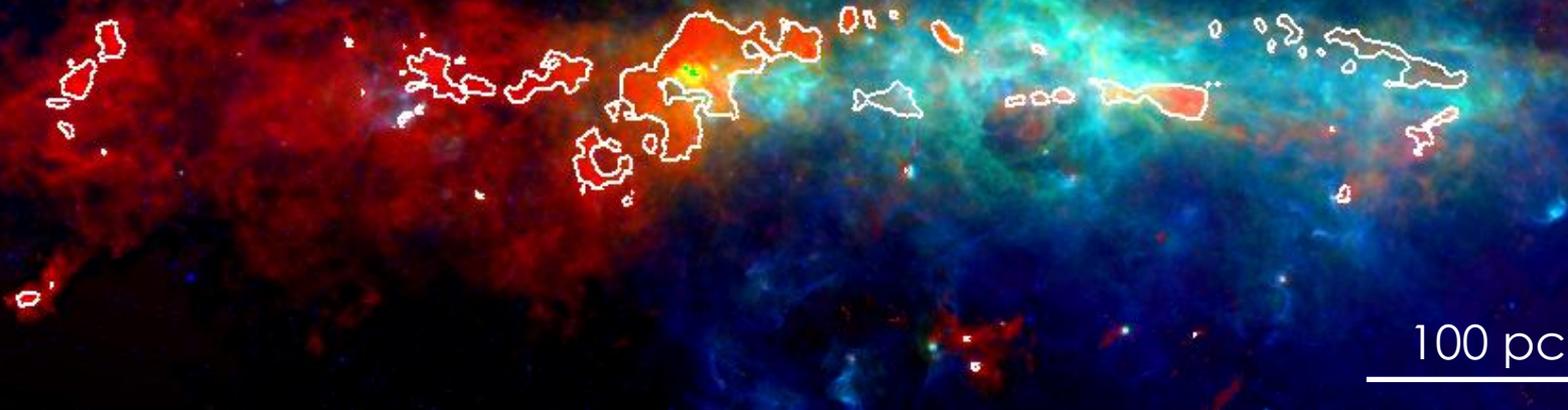
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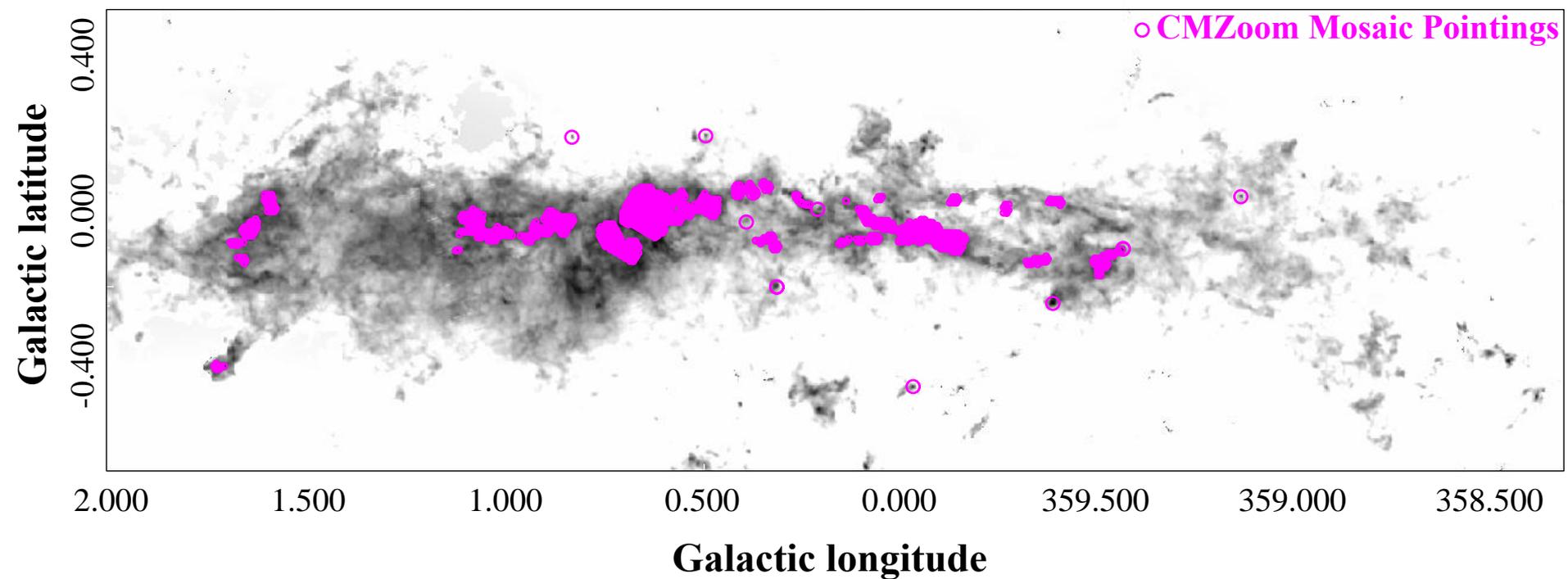
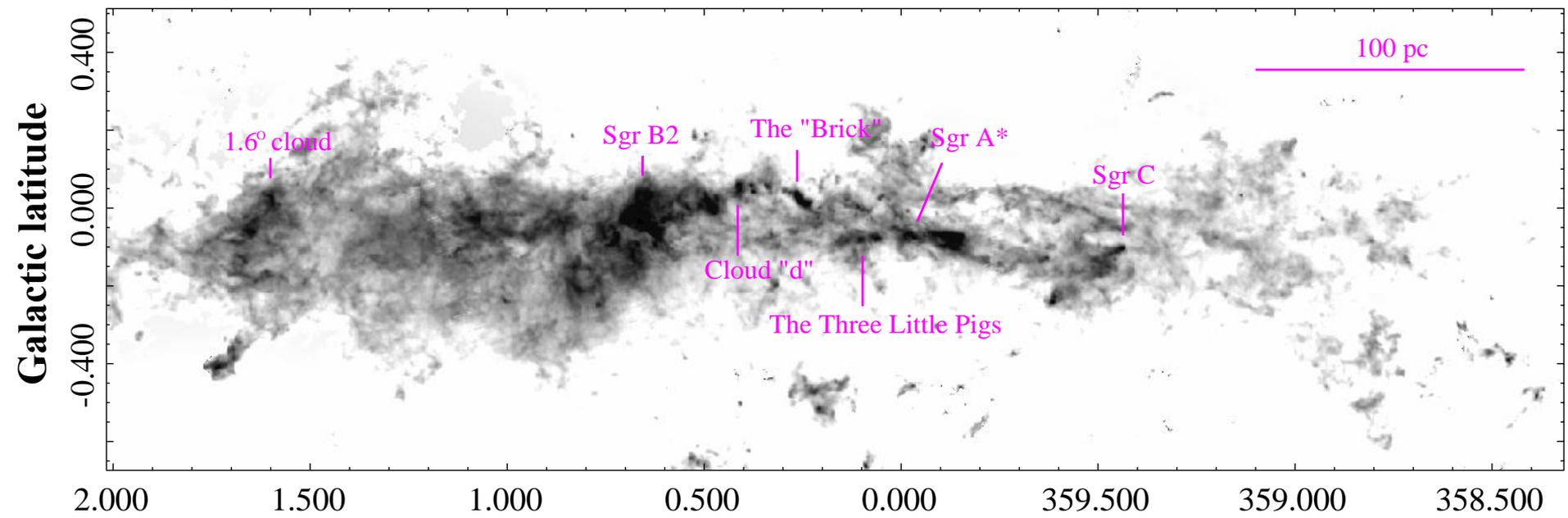
CMZ oom

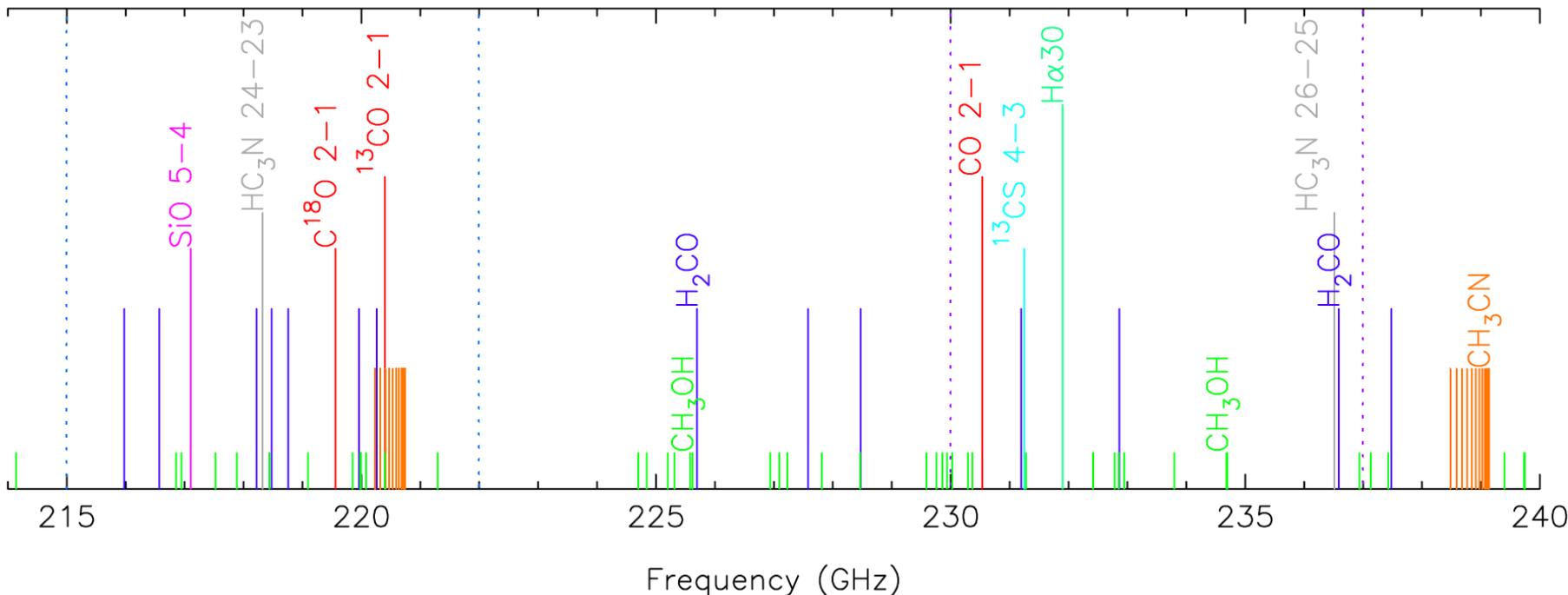
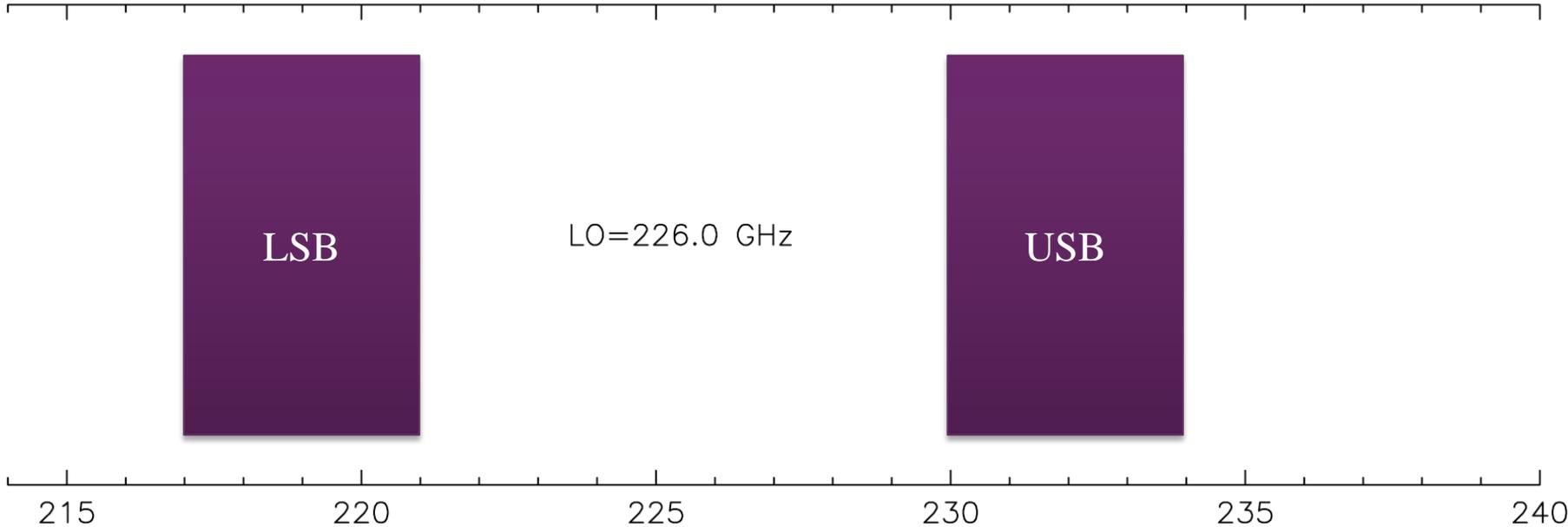
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# CMZoom

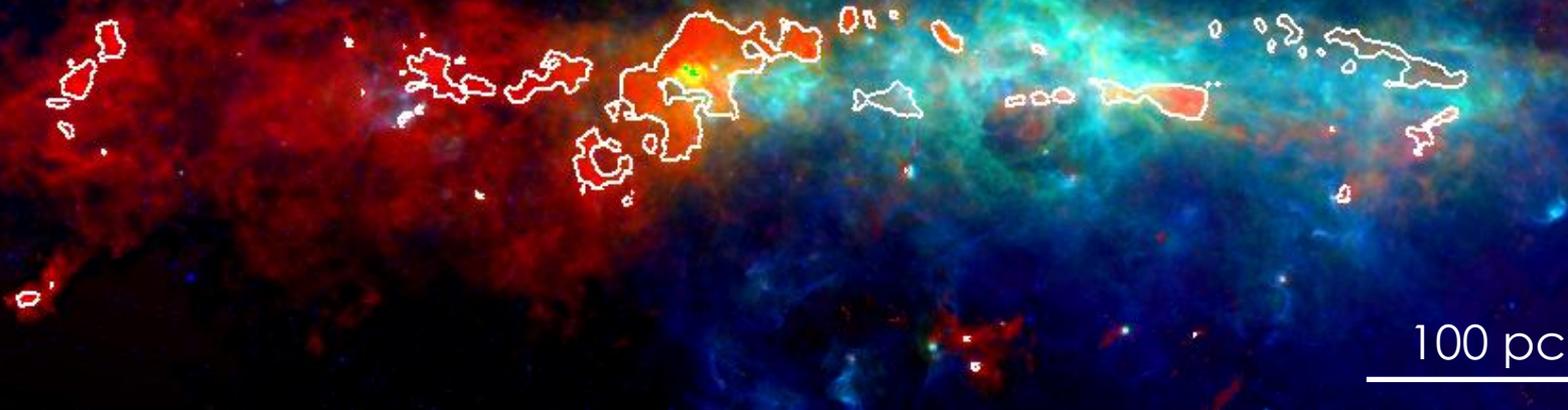


- 230 GHz (1.3 mm)
- 240 arcmin<sup>2</sup> (above  $N(\text{H}_2) = 10^{23} \text{ cm}^{-2}$  or  $3 \times 10^{22} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ )
- 4'' (0.2 pc) resolution,  $\Delta v \sim 1.1 \text{ km/s}$
- dust continuum + spectral lines ( $\text{H}_2\text{CO}$ ,  $^{12}\text{CO}$ ,  $^{13}\text{CO}$ ,  $\text{C}^{18}\text{O}$ ,  $\text{SiO}$ ,  $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$ ,  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$ , etc.): 8+ GHz bandwidth
- 3 mJy RMS continuum, 0.4 K
- 500 hours (60 tracks; 15 tracks subcompact, 45 tracks compact) over 3 yrs
- Complement with single-dish (APEX, CSO) observations





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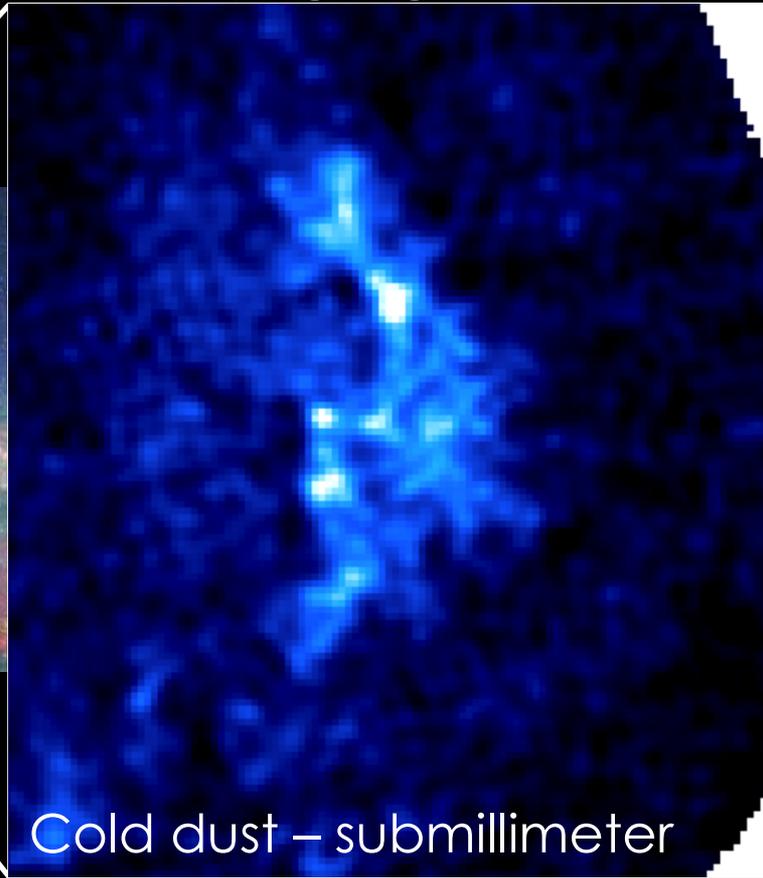
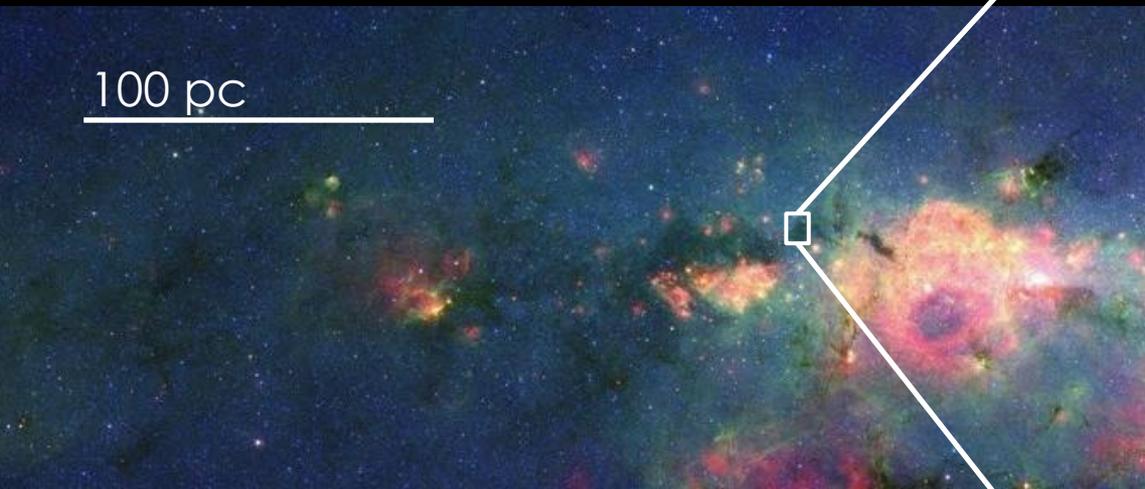
## Find embedded star formation

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# Central Molecular Zone

“Bricklet” D

100 pc



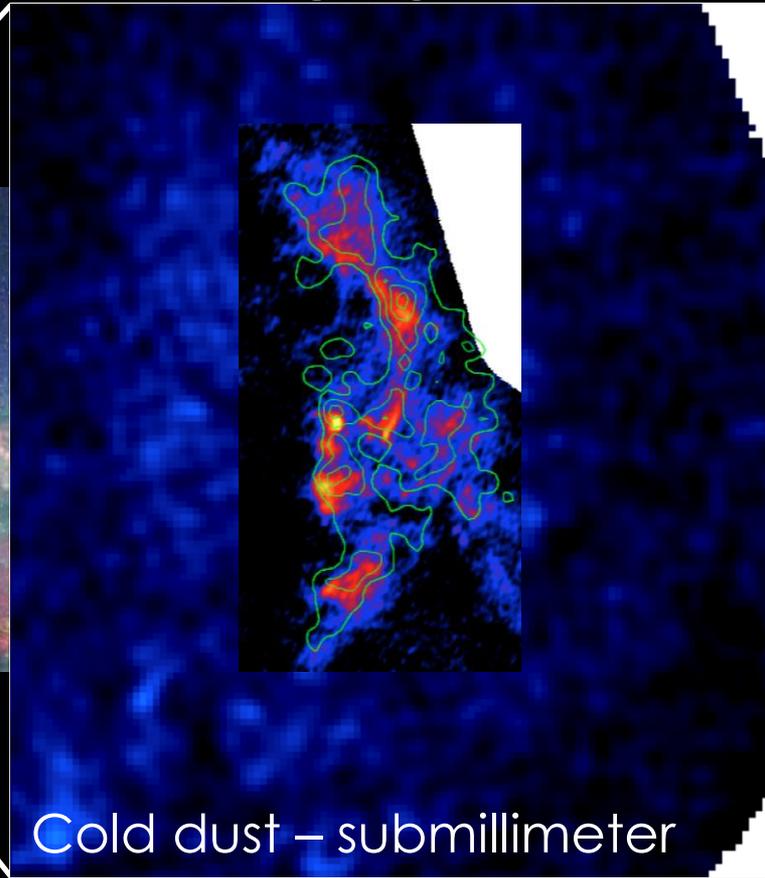
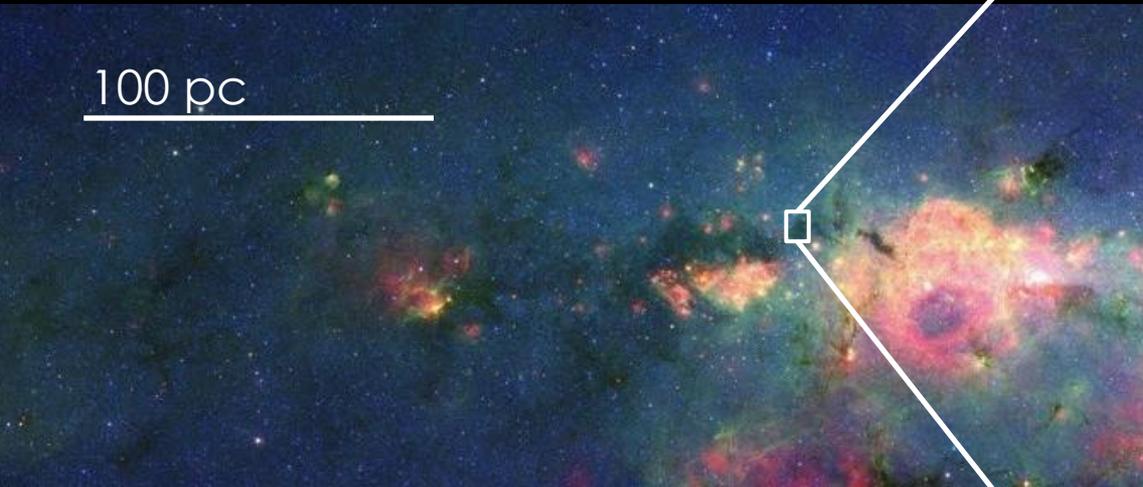
CMZom



# Central Molecular Zone

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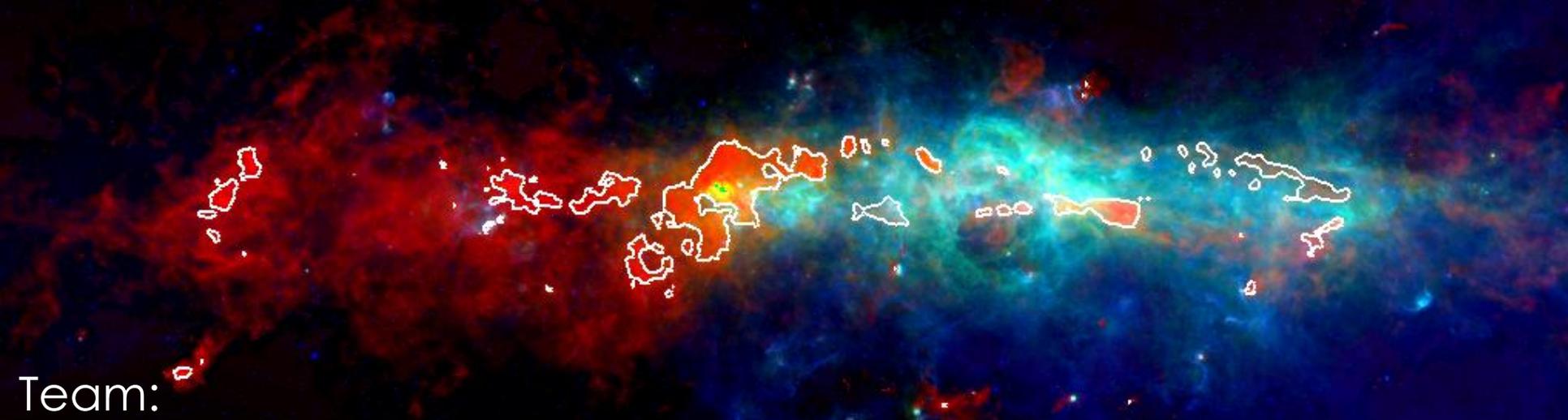
100 pc



CMZom



# CMZoom



Team:

CfA: Cara Battersby, Eric Keto, Qizhou Zhang, Xing 'Walker' Lu (Nanjing), Mark Graham (Oxford), Nimesh Patel, Volker Tolls, Dennis Lee, Jimmy Castaño, Liz Gehret, Irene Vargas-Salzar

Bonn: Jens Kauffmann, Thushara Pillai

Liverpool: Steve Longmore, Daniel Walker (CfA), Jonny Henshaw

University of Colorado, Boulder: John Bally

Heidelberg: Diederik Kruijssen, NRAO: Betsy Mills

ESO: Adam Ginsburg, Katharina Immer, Leeds: Katharine Johnston

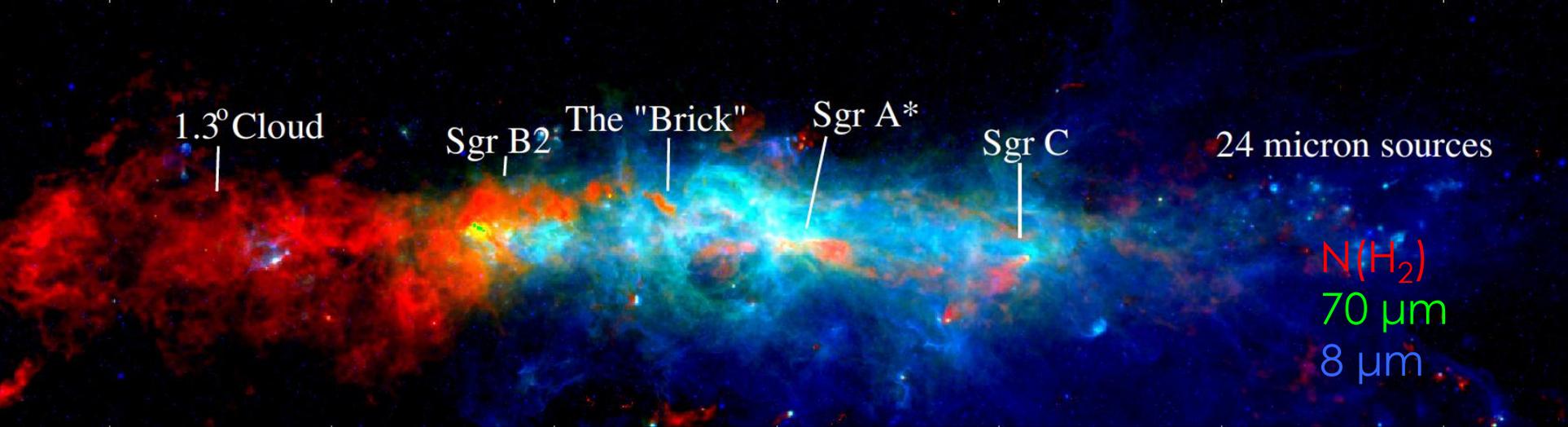
Peking University: Luis C. Ho, Perth: Andrew Walsh



Team

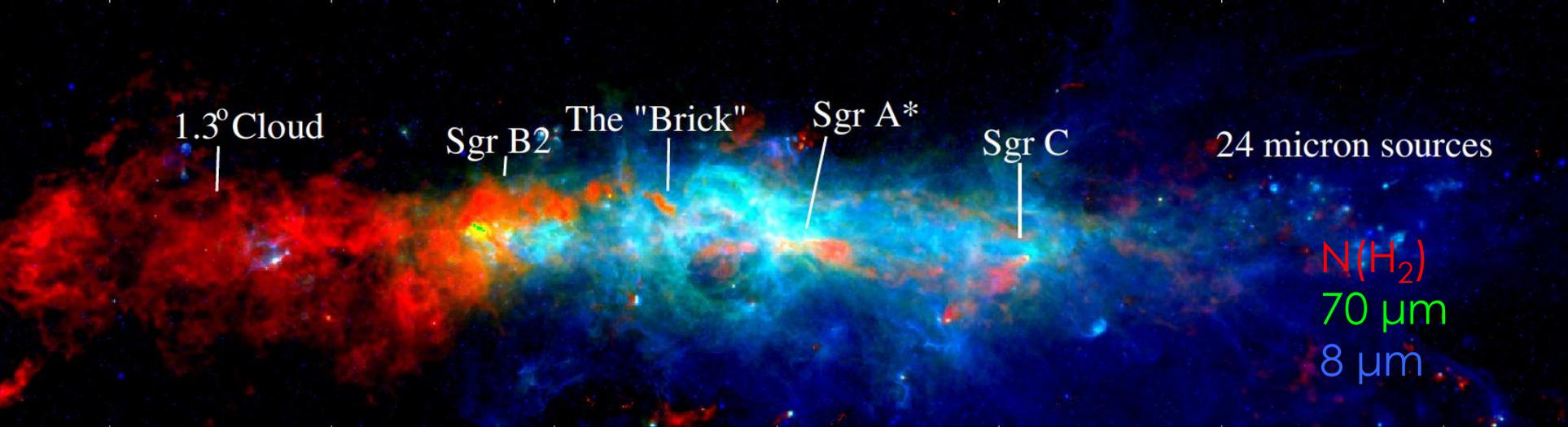


CMZ  om



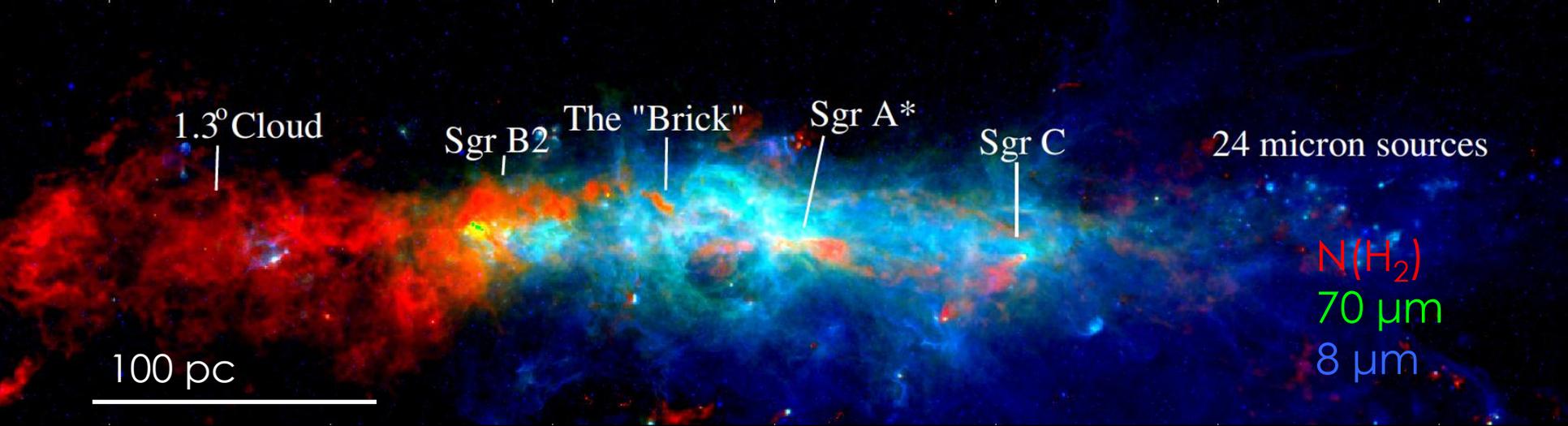
## Driving Science Questions:

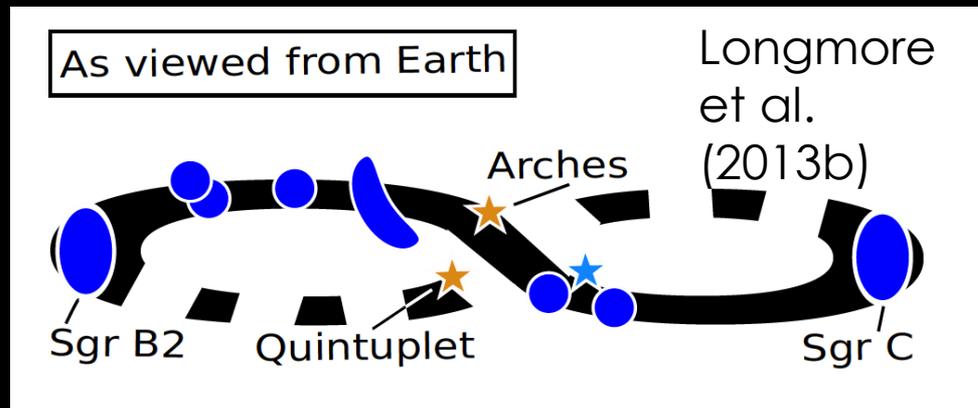
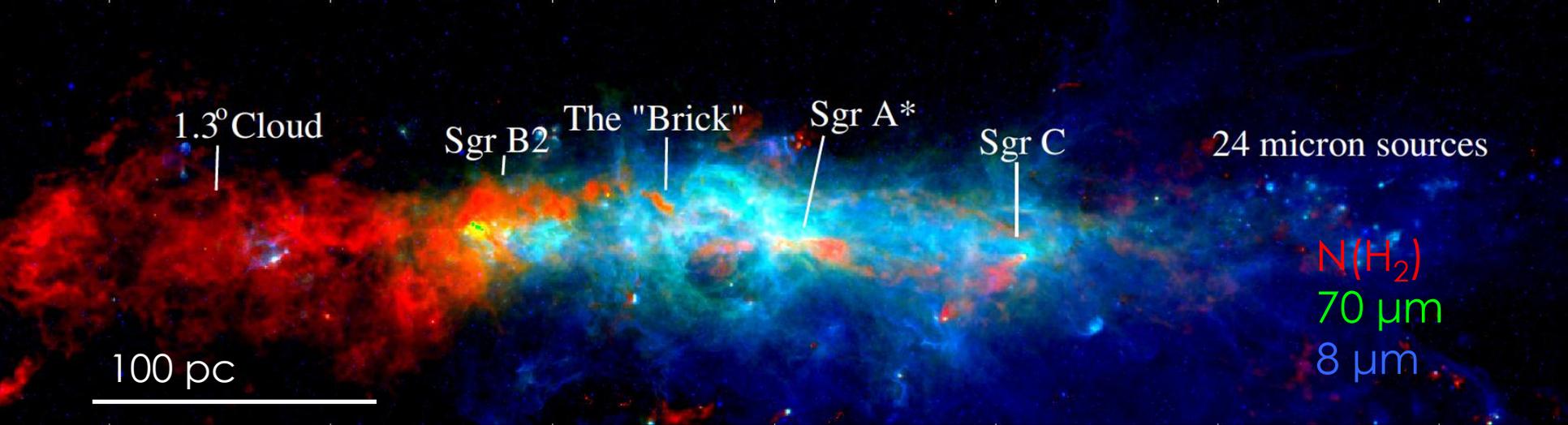
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- 3) Is SF induced by tidal compression by SgrA\*?
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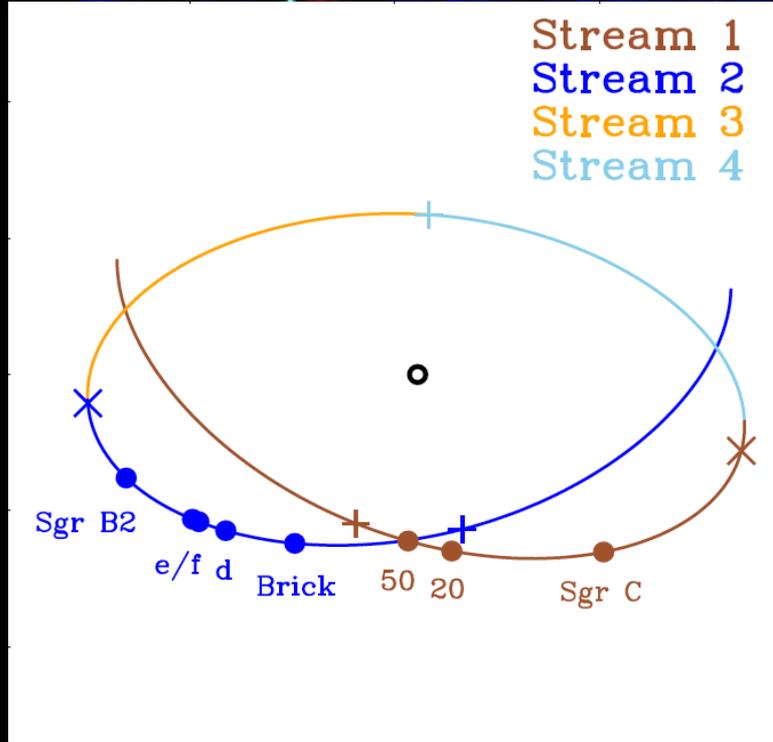
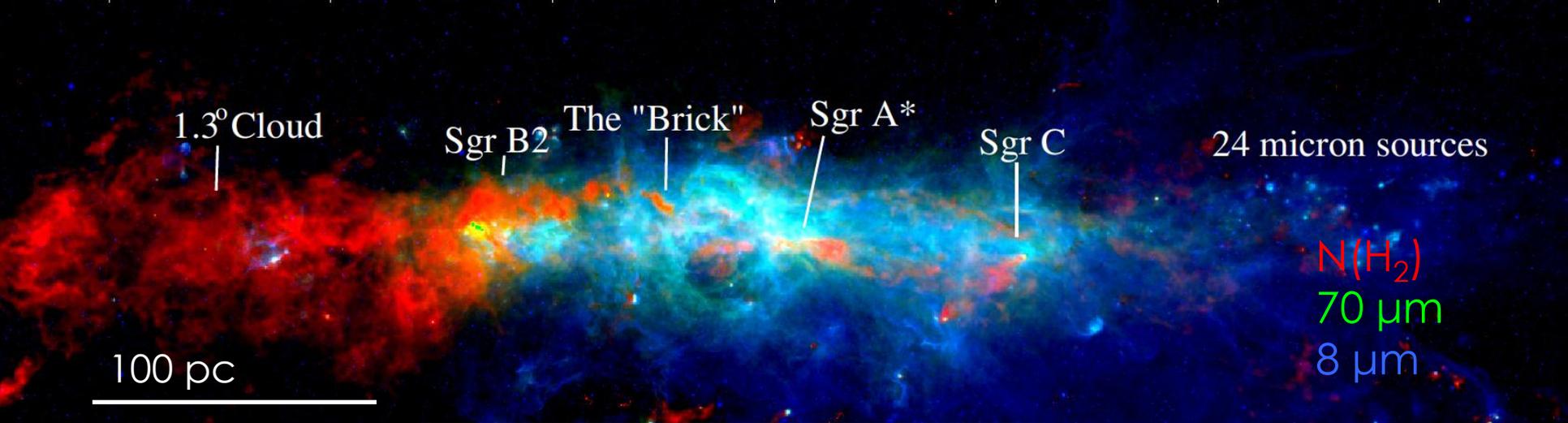
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The "Molinari Ring" (Molinari+2011)



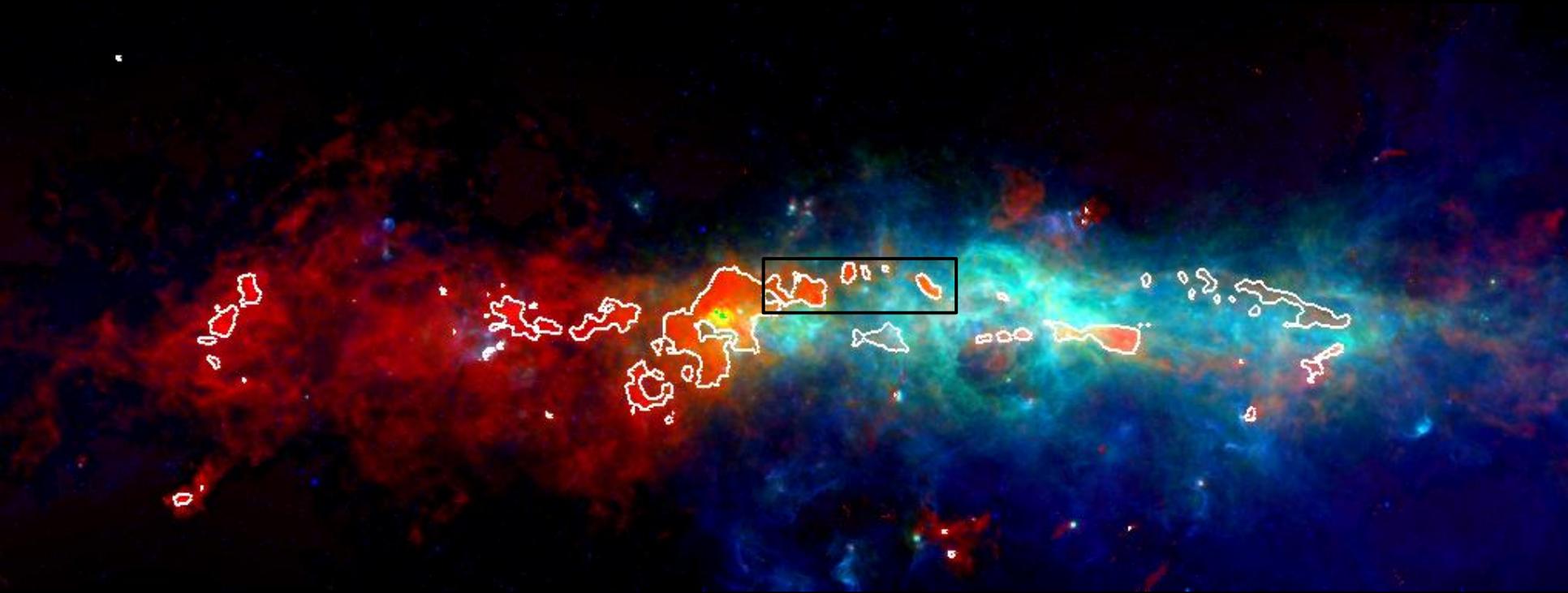
New orbital models  
(Kruijssen, Dale, &  
Longmore 2015)

# Tidal compression of clouds



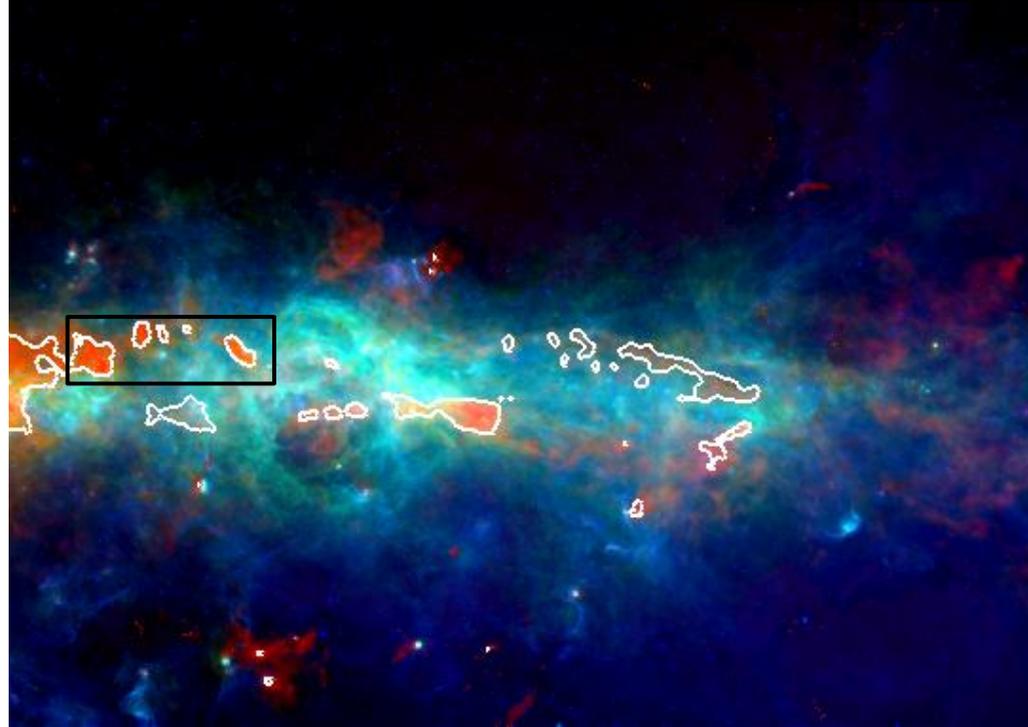
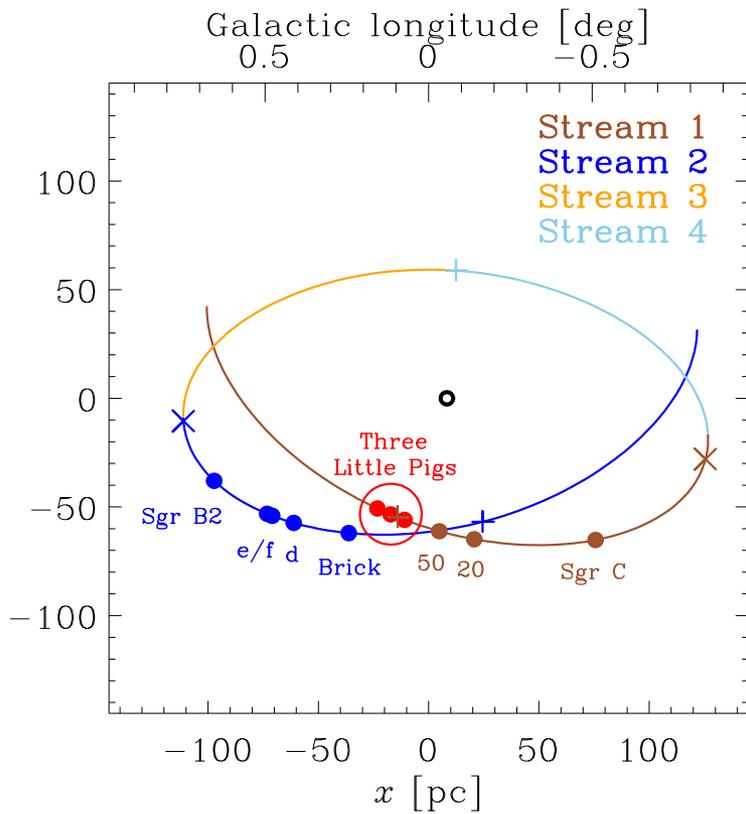
$N(\text{H}_2)$  from HiGAL Battersby+, in prep.,  $70\ \mu\text{m}$  from HiGAL, Molinari+ 2011,  
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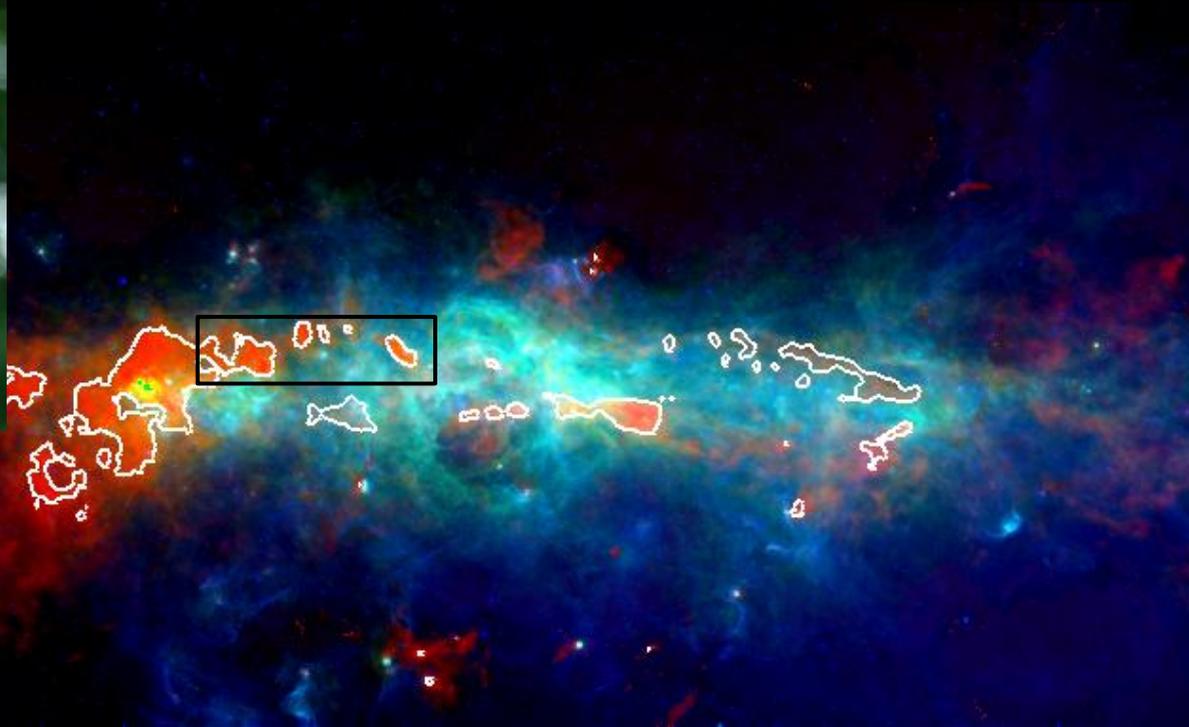
Kruijssen, Dale, Longmore 2015

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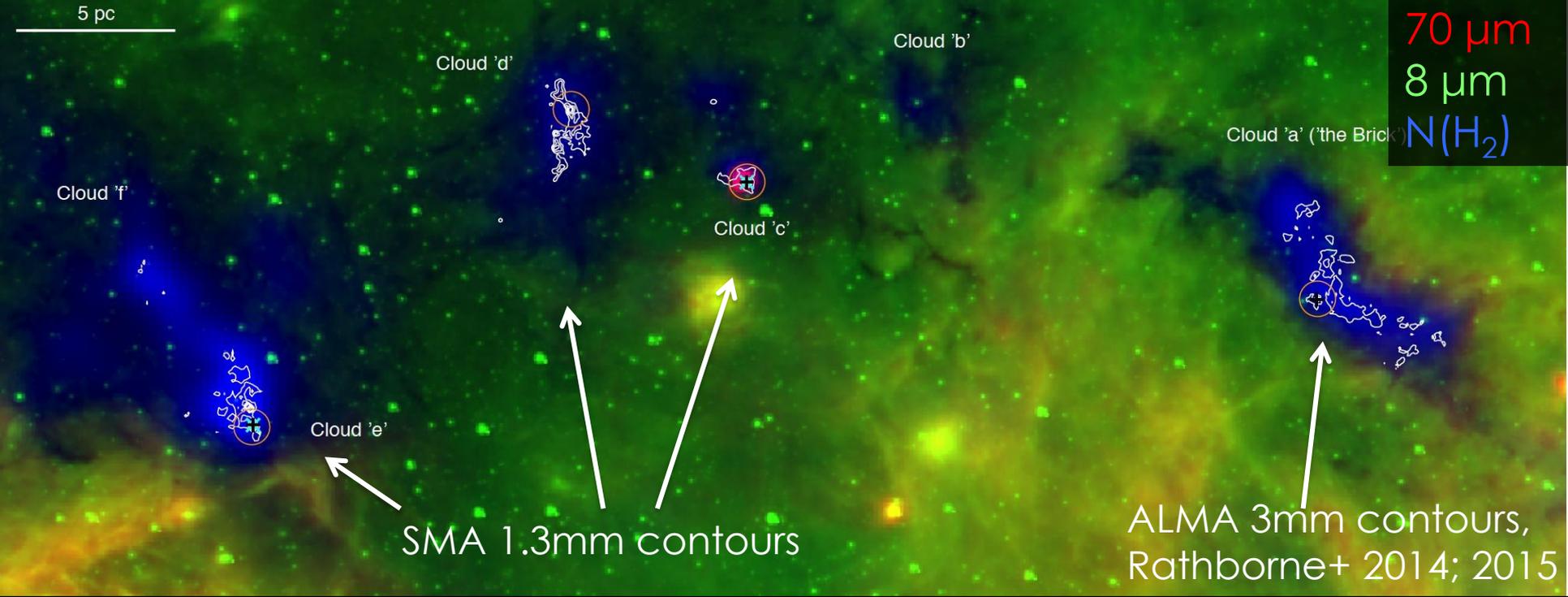
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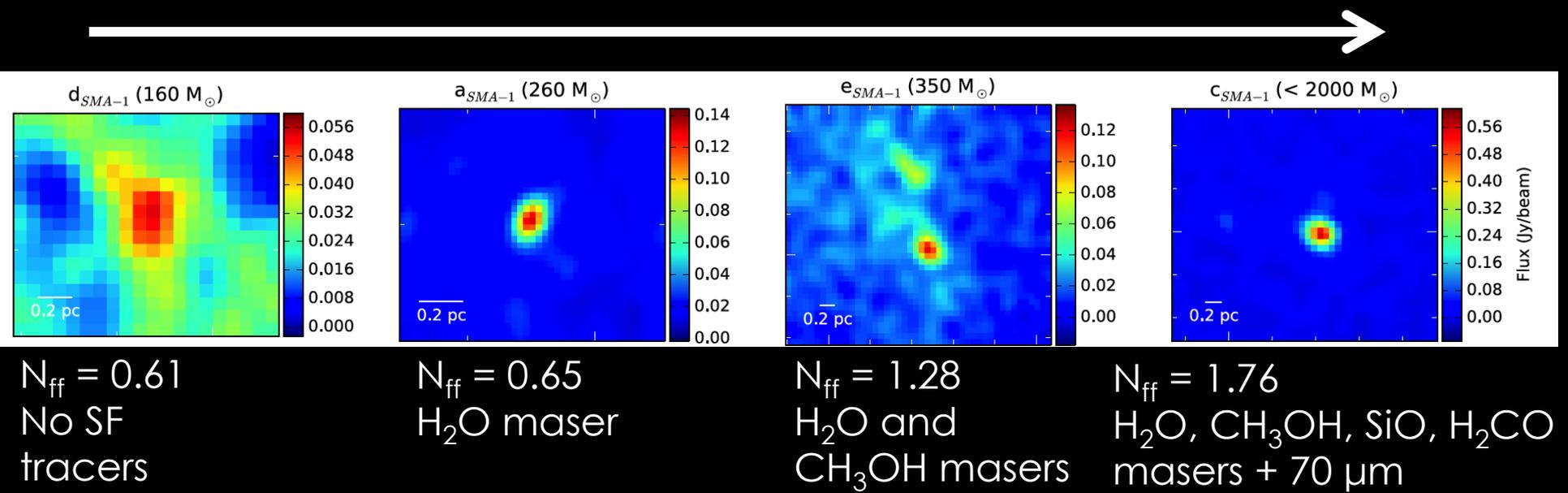
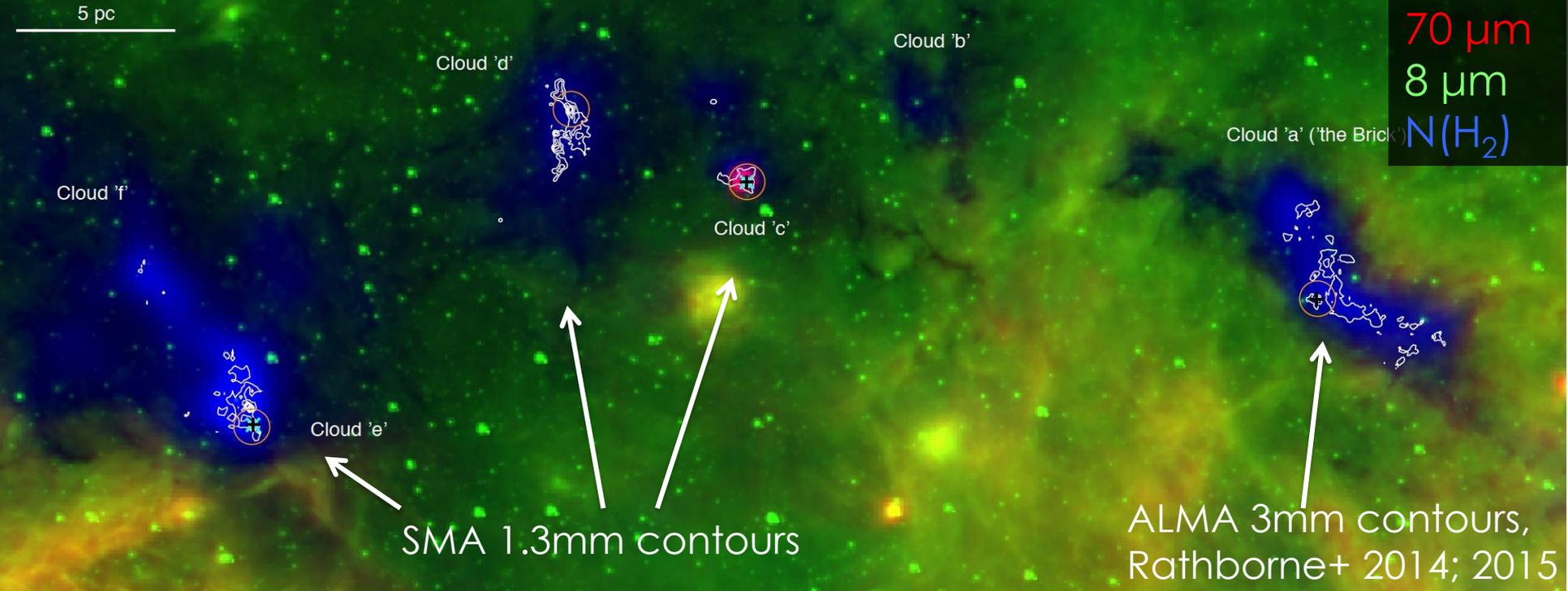


Dan Walker – PhD  
student in Liverpool  
SAO Pre-doc

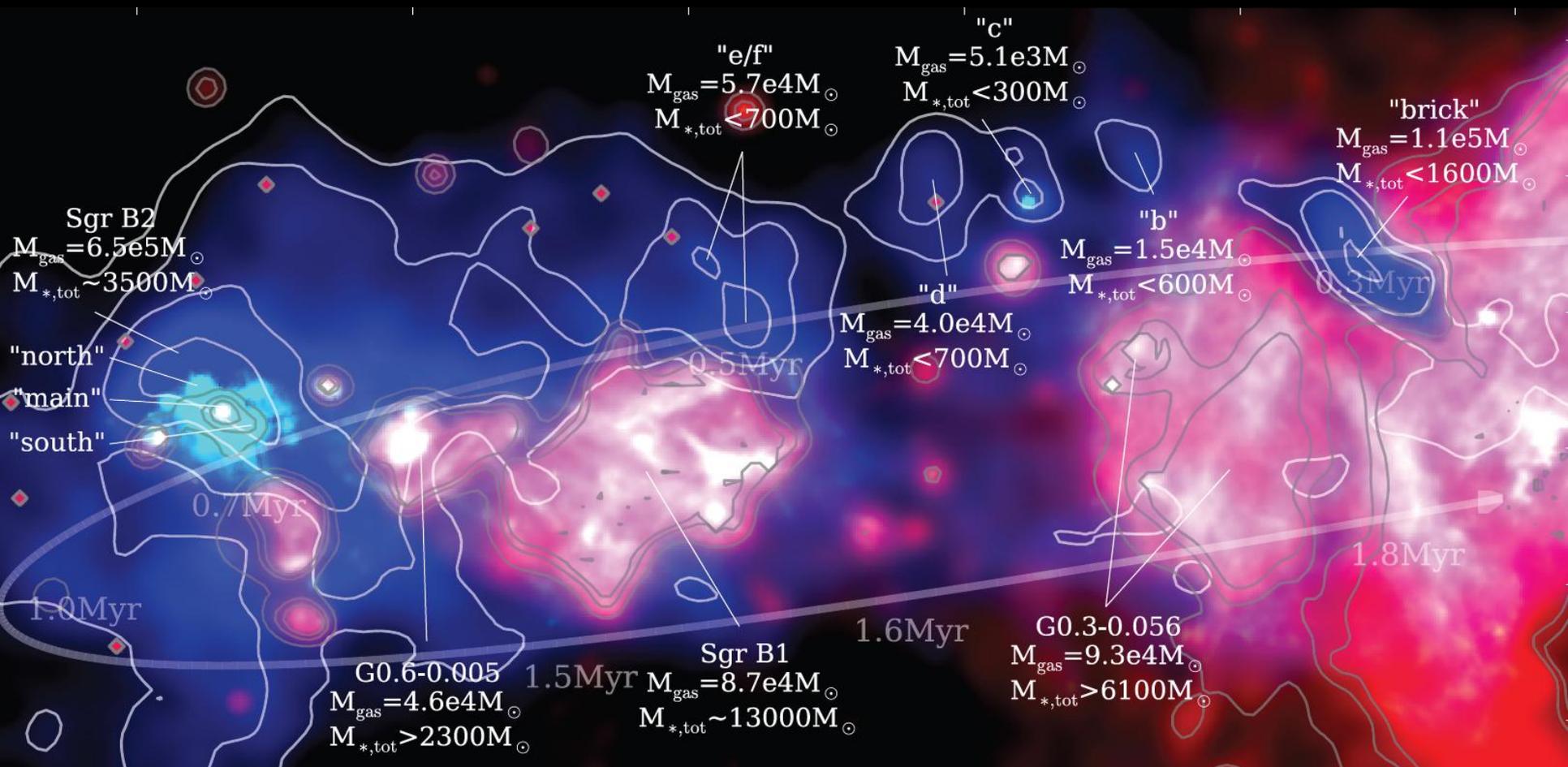


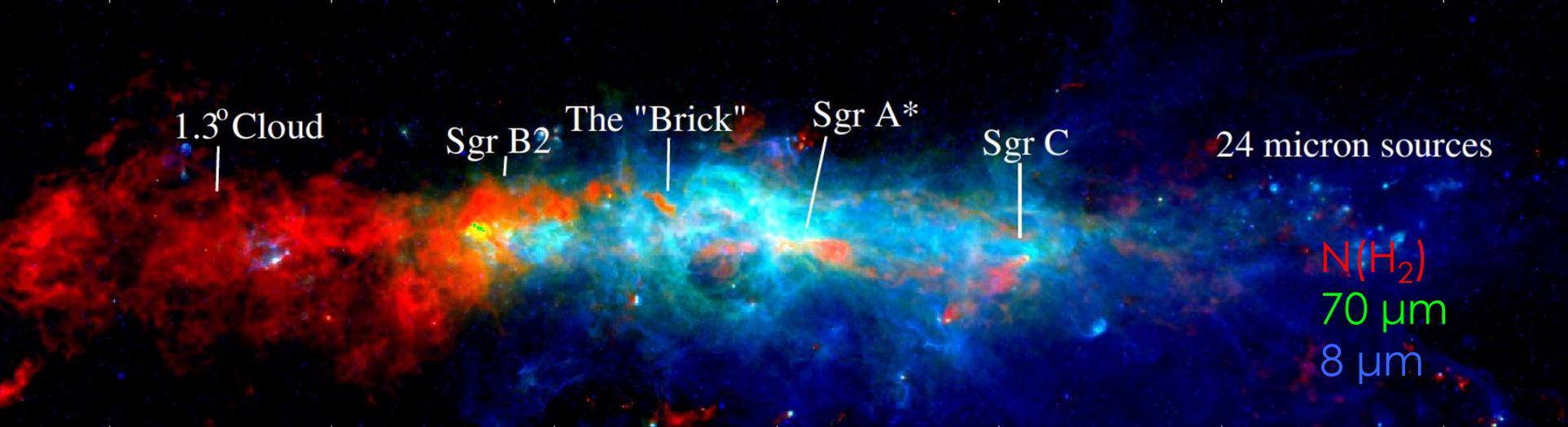
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Warm dust column density  
Cold dust column density





## Driving Science Questions:

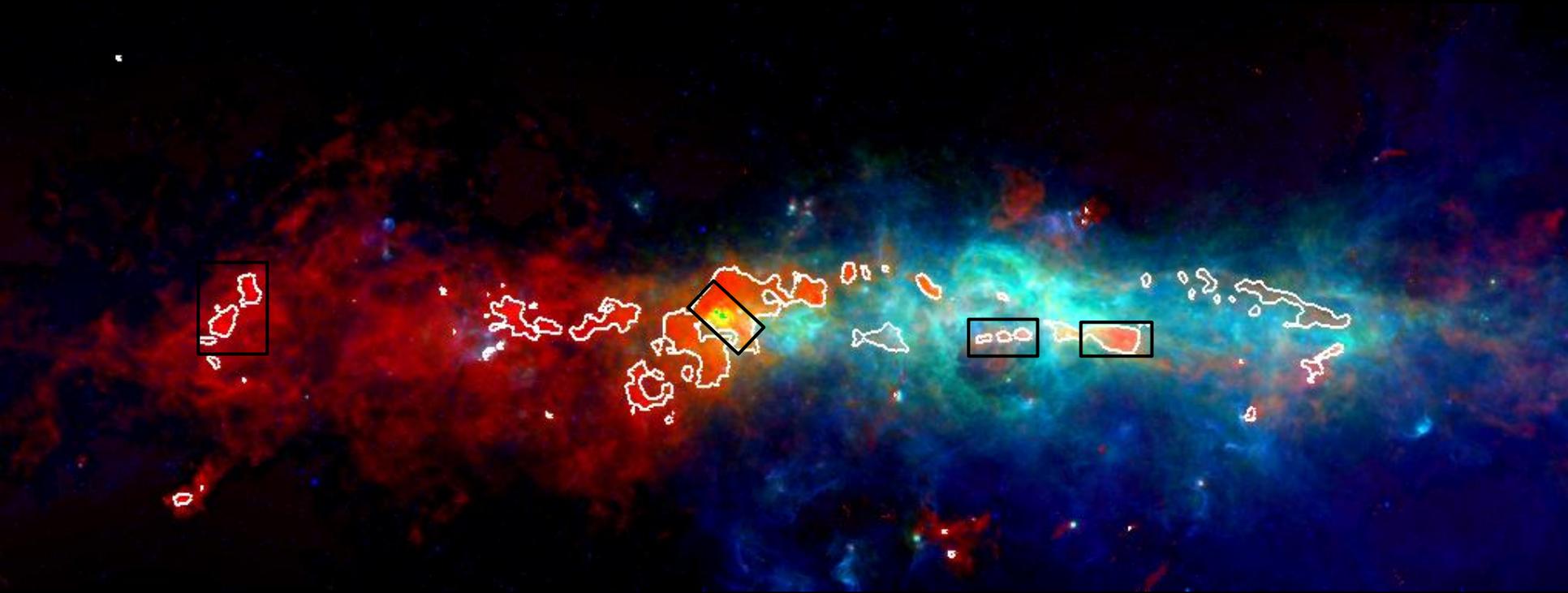
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# Why is the SFR low in the CMZ?



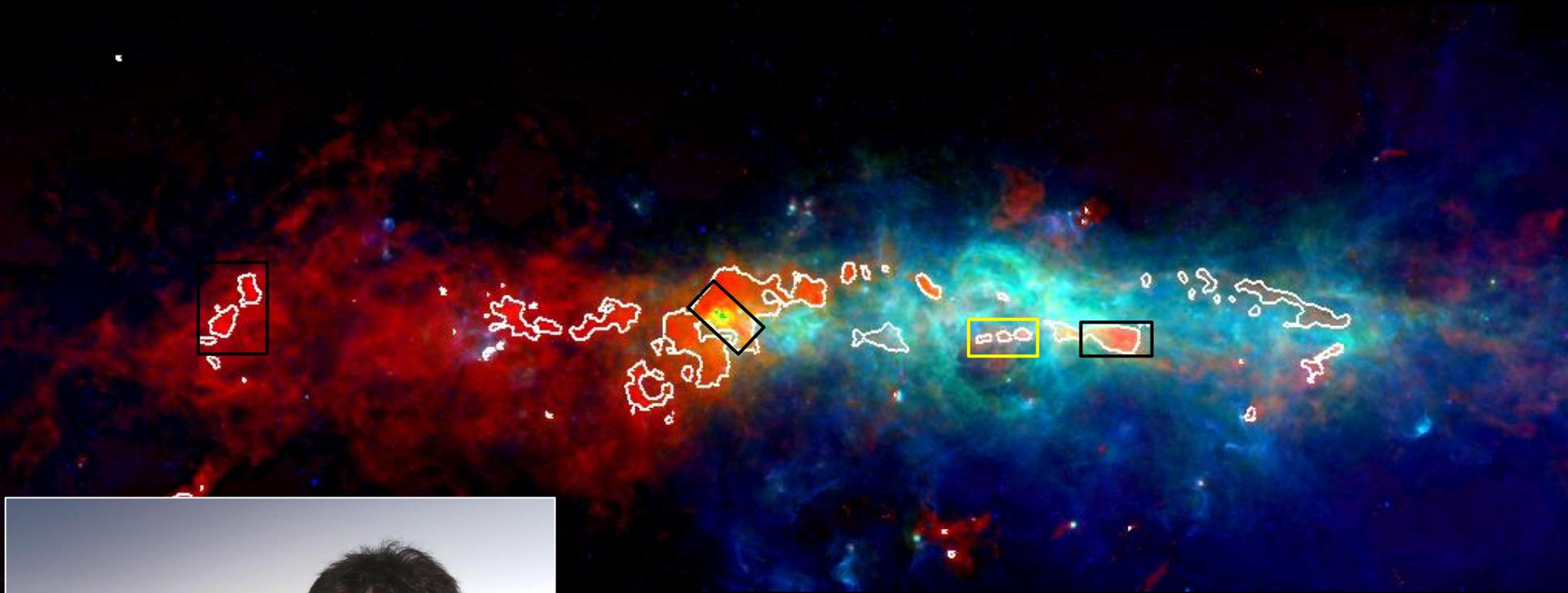
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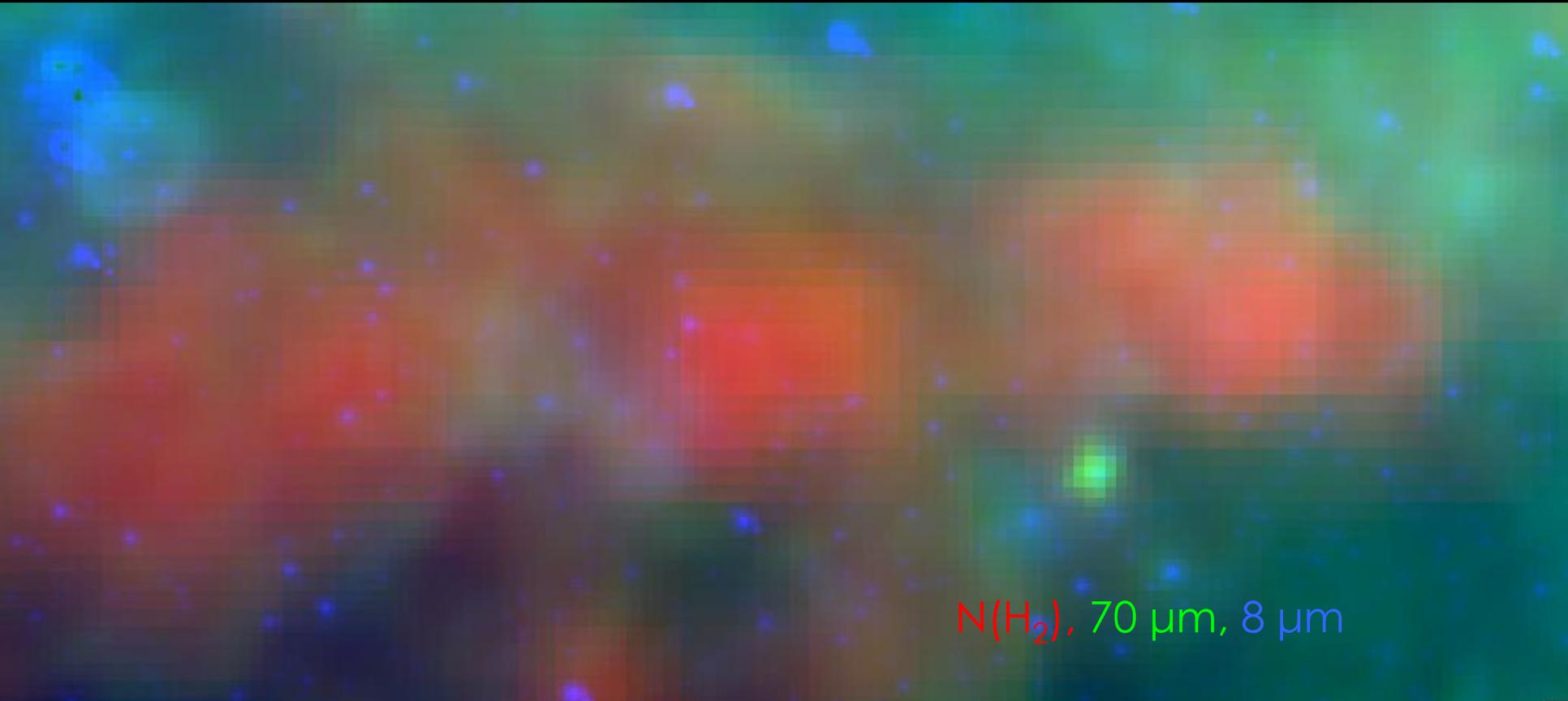
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# Why is the SFR low in the CMZ?



Mark Graham  
SAO Pre-doc, now a  
PhD student at

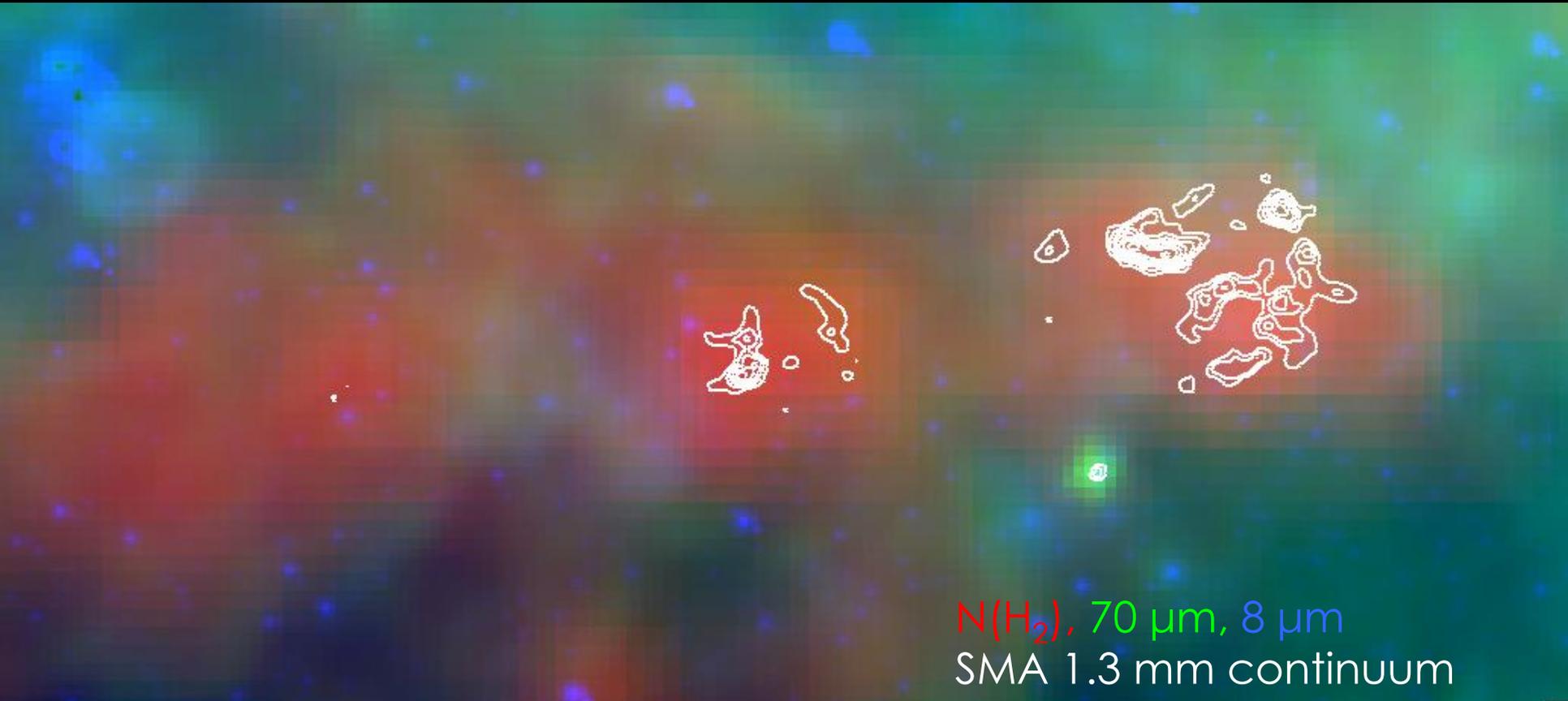
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$N(\text{H}_2)$ , 70  $\mu\text{m}$ , 8  $\mu\text{m}$



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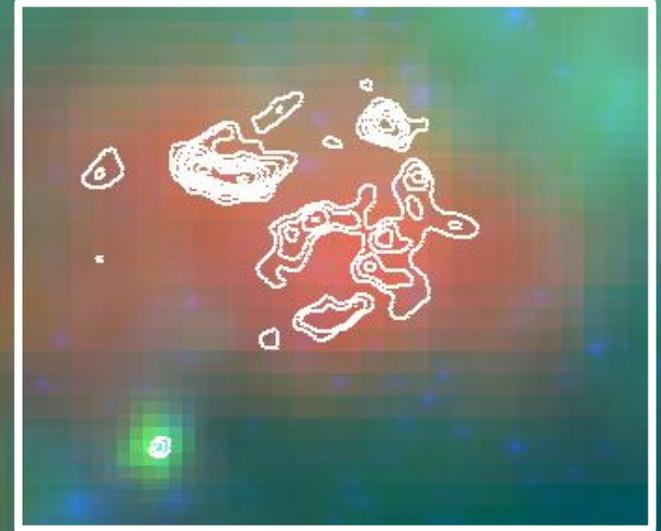
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$N(H_2)$ , 70  $\mu m$ , 8  $\mu m$   
SMA 1.3 mm continuum



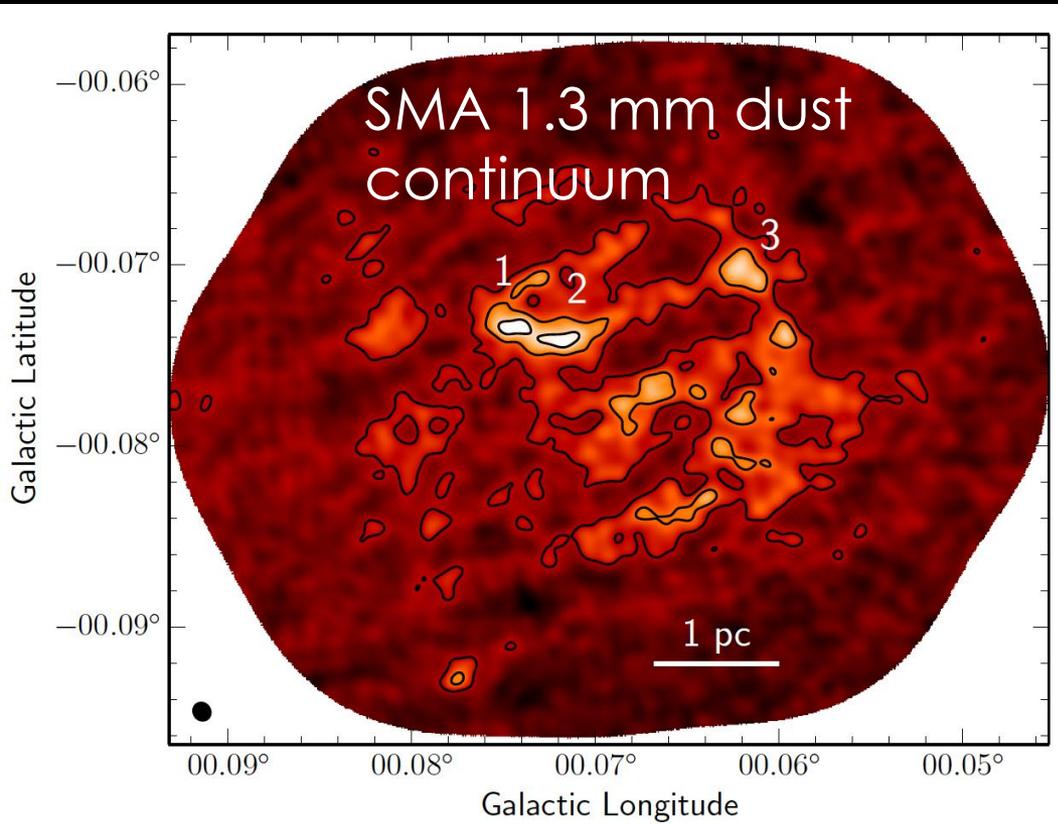
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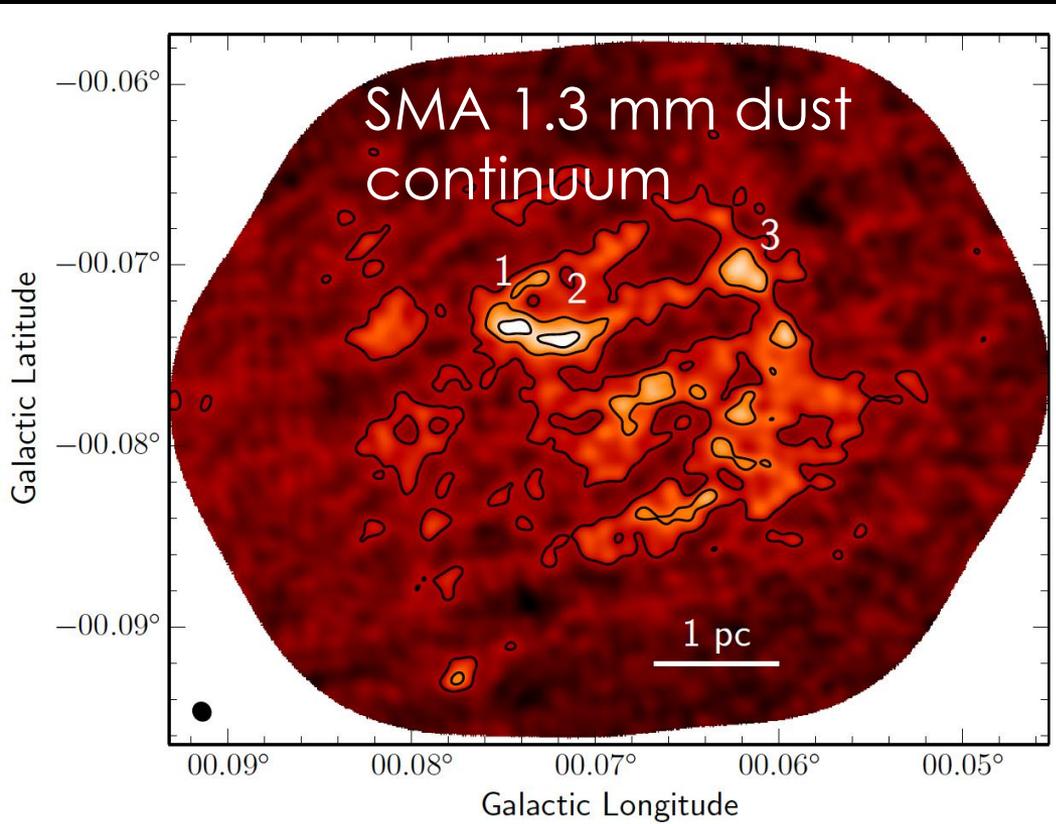
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SMA 1.3 mm continuum



# Why is the SFR low in the CMZ?



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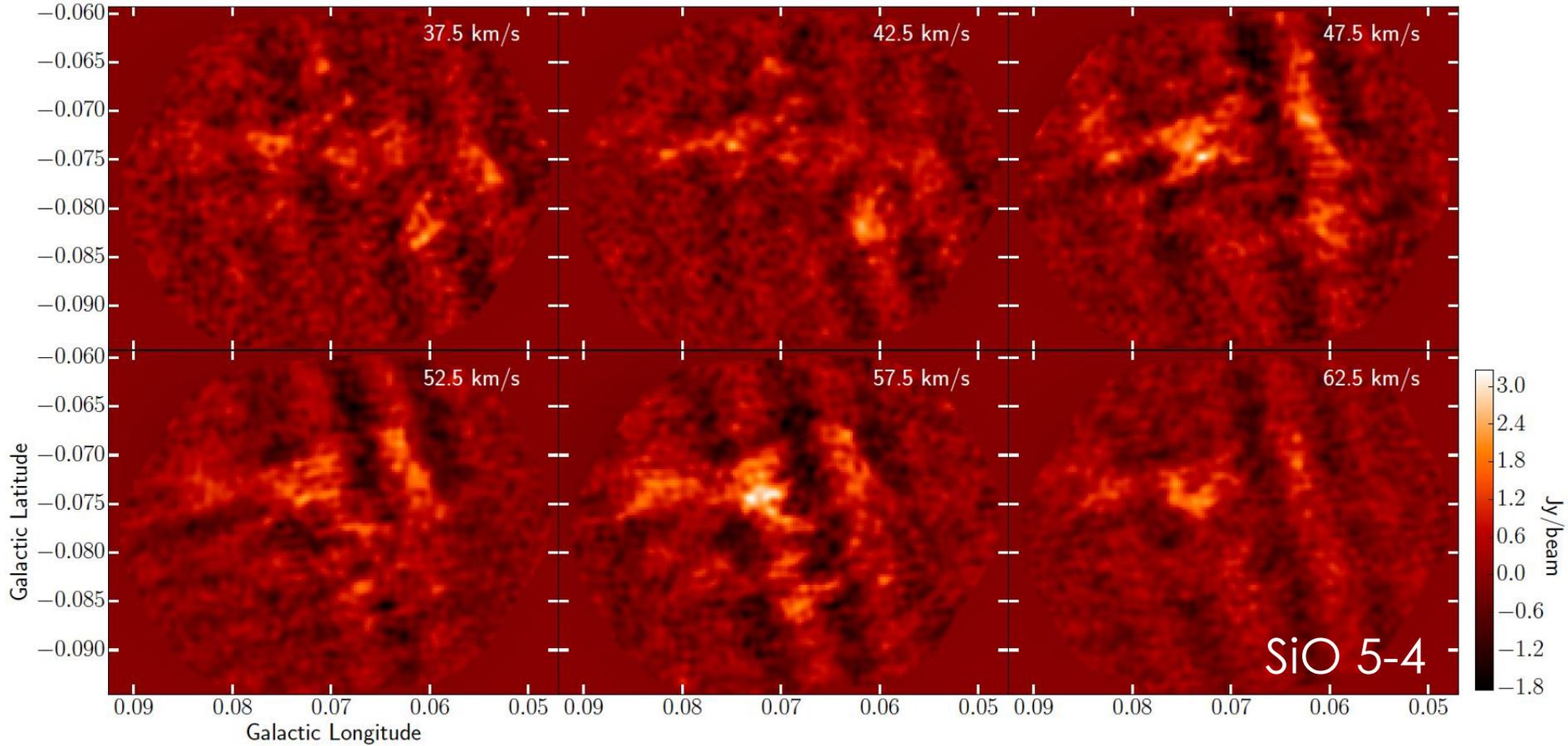


Is it star forming?

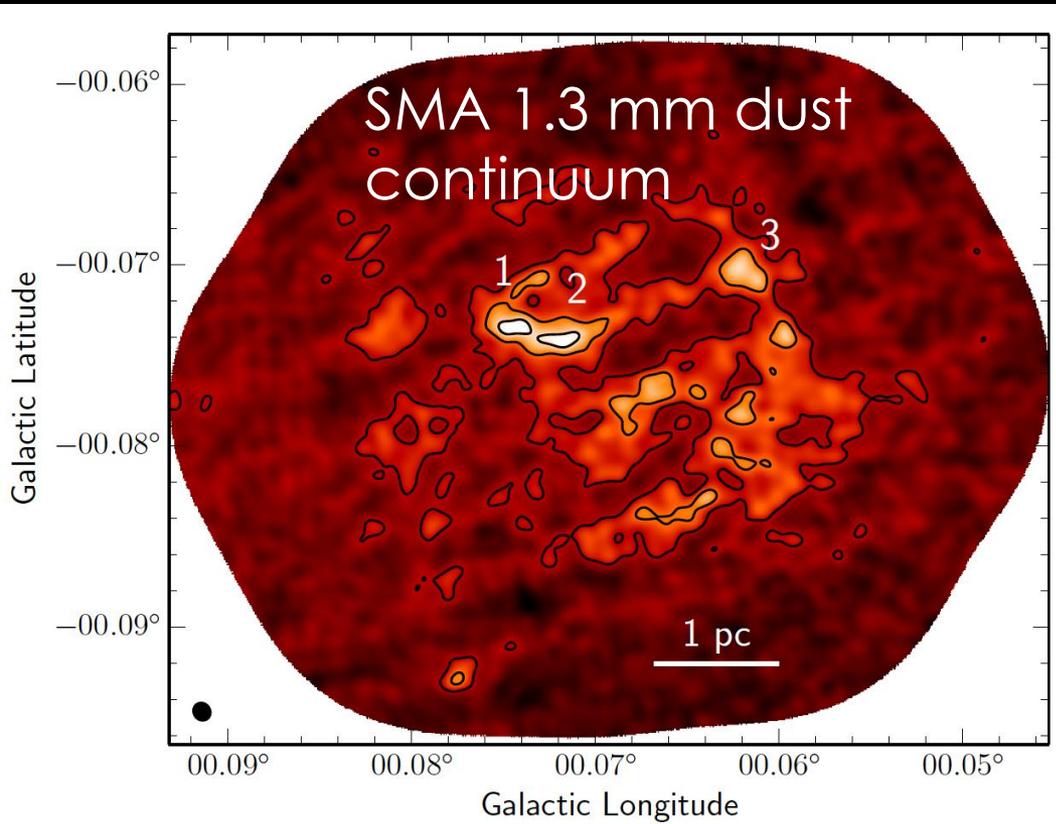
- ✓ Dense gas
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- ☐ Virial ratio  $< 2$
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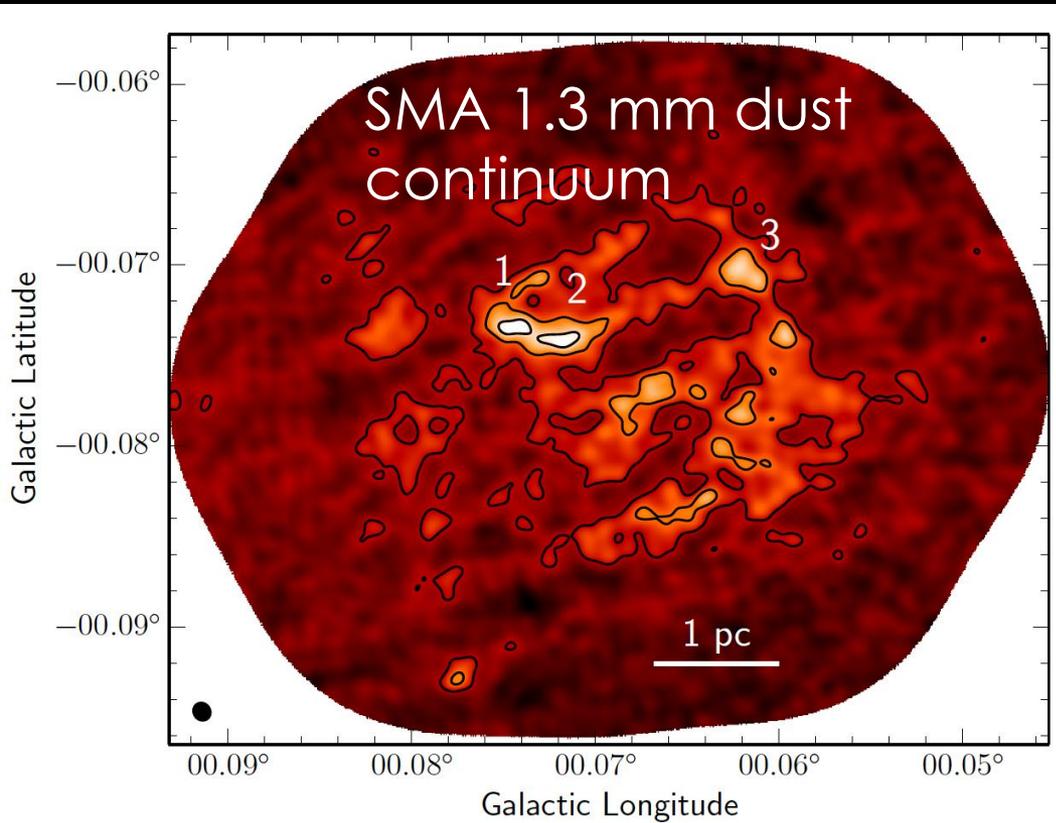


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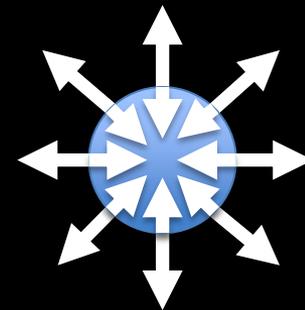


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Is it star forming?

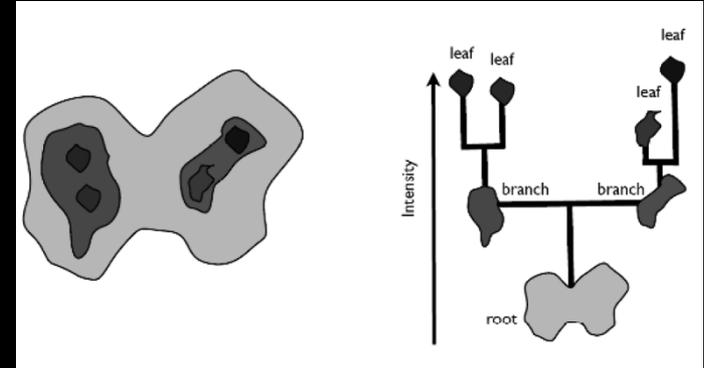
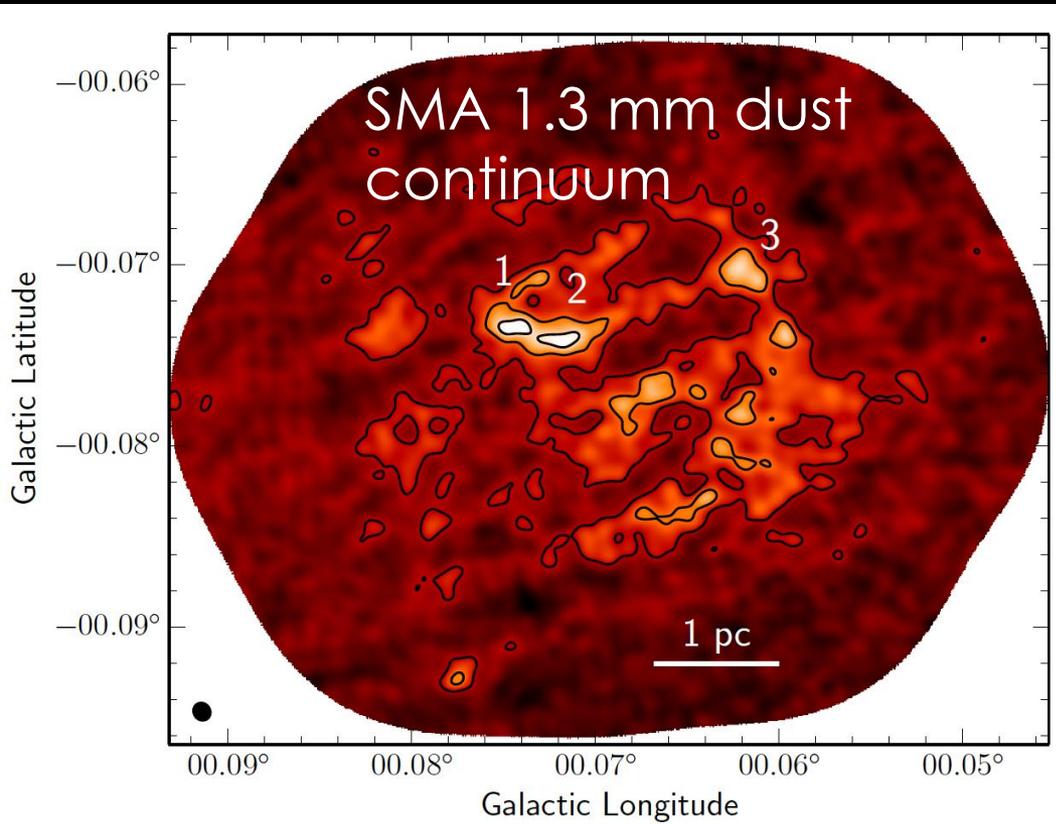
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Gravity vs. pressure  
(thermal and  
turbulence)

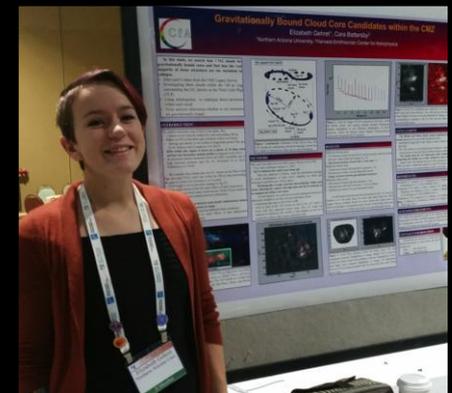


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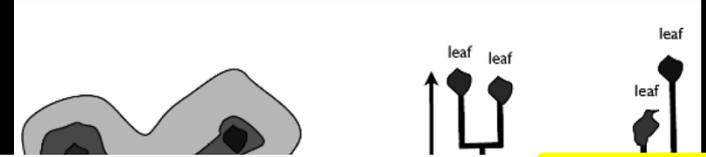
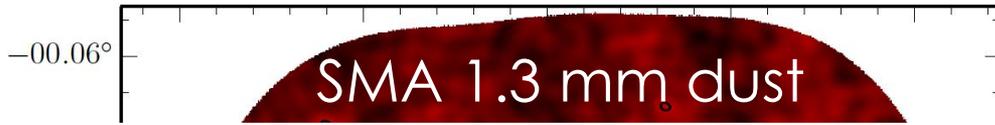


Dendrograms, e.g.  
Shetty et al. 2012,  
Rosolowsky et al. 2008

Liz Gehret  
SAO REU  
student

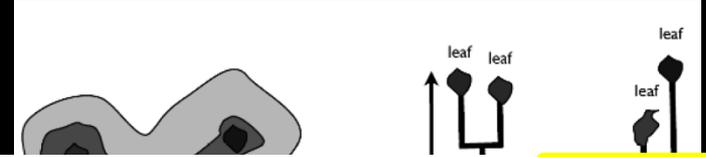


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Structure ID	H <sub>2</sub> CO Flux (Jy)	Dust Flux (Jy)	Central Velocity (km/s)	$\Delta v_{\text{FWHM}}$ (km/s)	$M_{\text{dust}}$ (M <sub>⊙</sub> )	$M_{\text{vir}}$ (M <sub>⊙</sub> )	Virial Ratio $M_{\text{vir}}/M_{\text{dust}}$
0	1.085	4.224	49.66	20.63	7.15E+03	6.22E+04	8.70
1	1.012	4.197	49.34	20.03	7.10E+03	5.85E+04	8.23
2	0.879	3.997	49.36	19.96	6.77E+03	5.70E+04	8.42
3	0.837	3.868	49.54	19.95	6.55E+03	5.59E+04	8.53
4	0.719	3.725	49.43	19.85	6.31E+03	5.41E+04	8.58
5	0.359	1.501	45.46	16.65	2.54E+03	2.36E+04	9.28
6	0.233	0.943	46.03	17.06	1.60E+03	1.90E+04	11.91
7	0.154	0.656	45.17	16.30	1.11E+03	1.46E+04	13.18
8	0.54	2.899	49.28	20.43	4.91E+03	5.03E+04	10.26
9	0.288	1.153	46.09	16.86	1.95E+03	2.11E+04	10.80
10	0.075	0.339	43.52	12.44	5.74E+02	6.05E+03	10.55
11	0.035	0.100	39.86	7.01	1.69E+02	1.27E+03	7.54
12	0.008	0.045	42.00	9.13	7.57E+01	1.11E+03	14.68
13	0.053	0.171	55.23	15.23	2.90E+02	8.20E+03	28.26
14	0.02	0.068	41.35	7.51	1.16E+02	1.20E+03	10.31
15	0.083	0.363	51.82	12.31	6.14E+02	6.64E+03	10.82
16	0.154	0.723	58.80	12.03	1.22E+03	6.94E+03	5.67
17	0.017	0.131	54.87	6.12	2.22E+02	9.80E+02	4.41
18	0.012	0.109	49.58	2.77	1.85E+02	1.85E+02	1.00
19	0.008	0.031	50.85	4.58	5.30E+01	4.37E+02	8.24
20	0.024	0.090	53.91	6.05	1.52E+02	7.76E+02	5.11
21	0.018	0.122	57.90	7.65	2.07E+02	1.87E+03	9.05
22	0.008	0.067	55.09	6.40	1.13E+02	8.48E+02	7.51
23	0.011	0.081	57.67	6.99	1.37E+02	1.13E+03	8.23
24	0.02	0.197	65.77	10.39	3.33E+02	3.16E+03	9.48

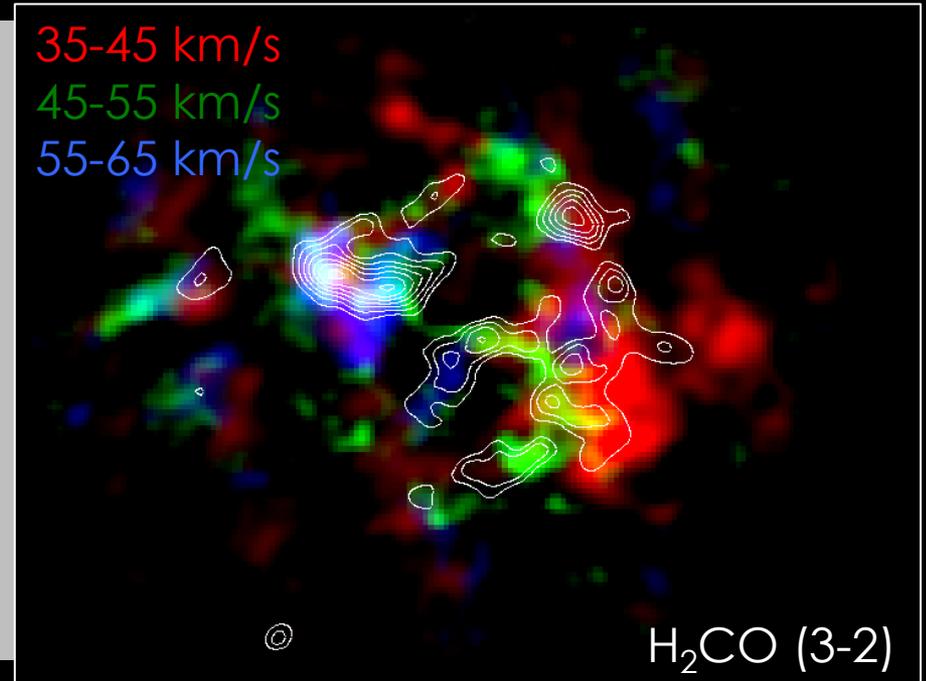
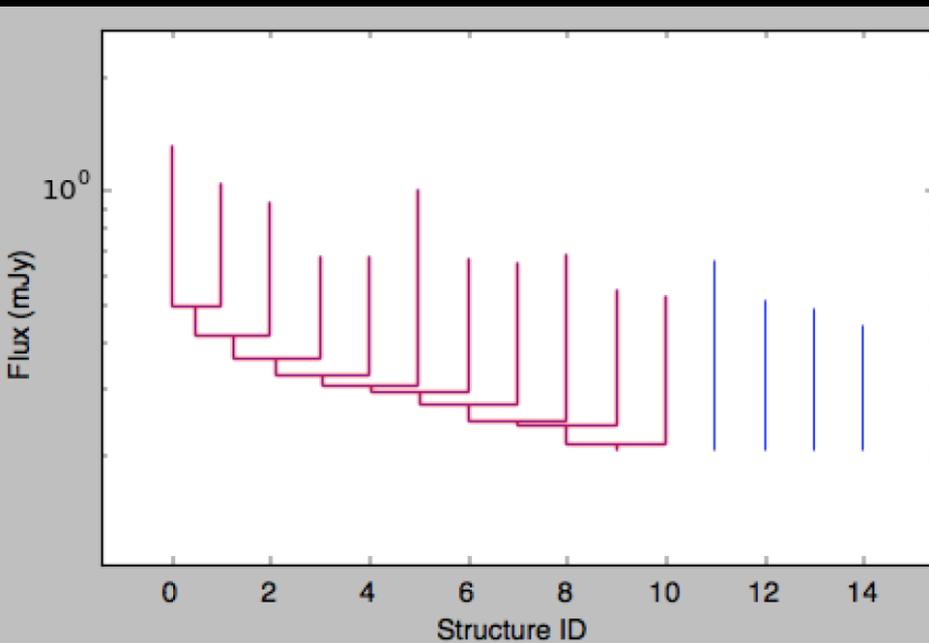
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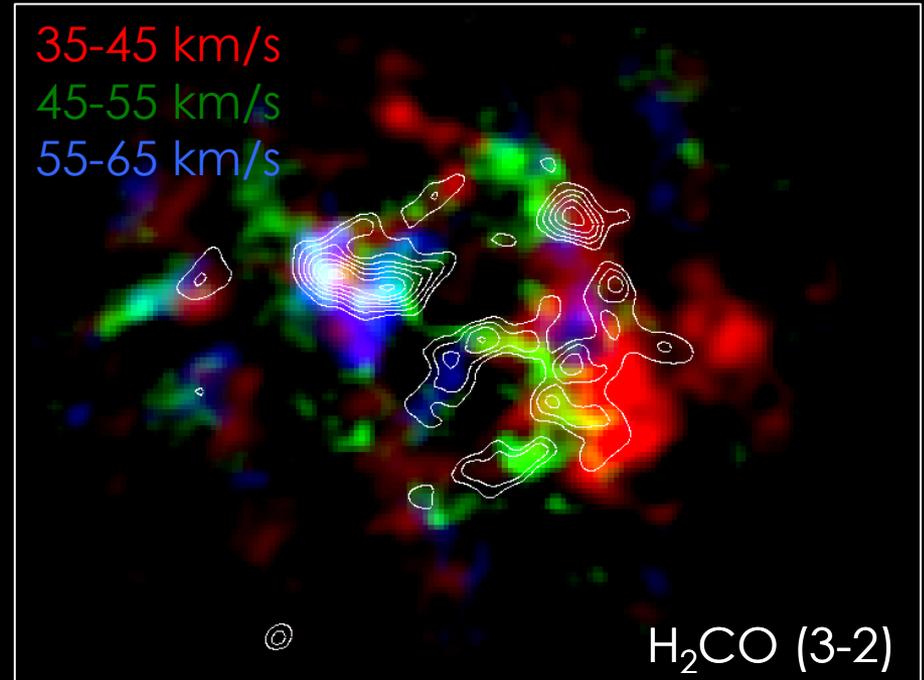
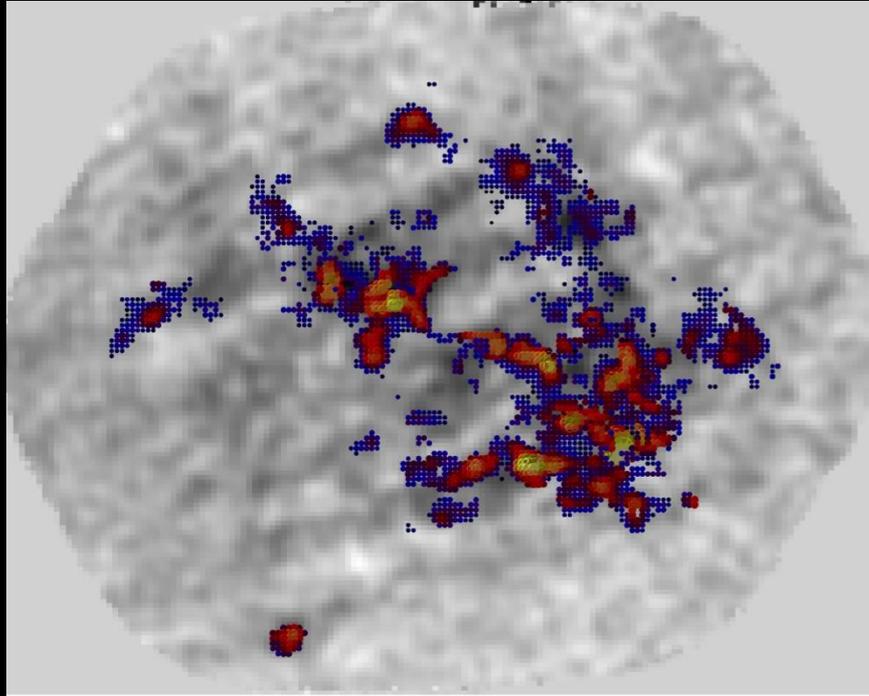
High levels of turbulence are preventing star formation

# Structure Identification



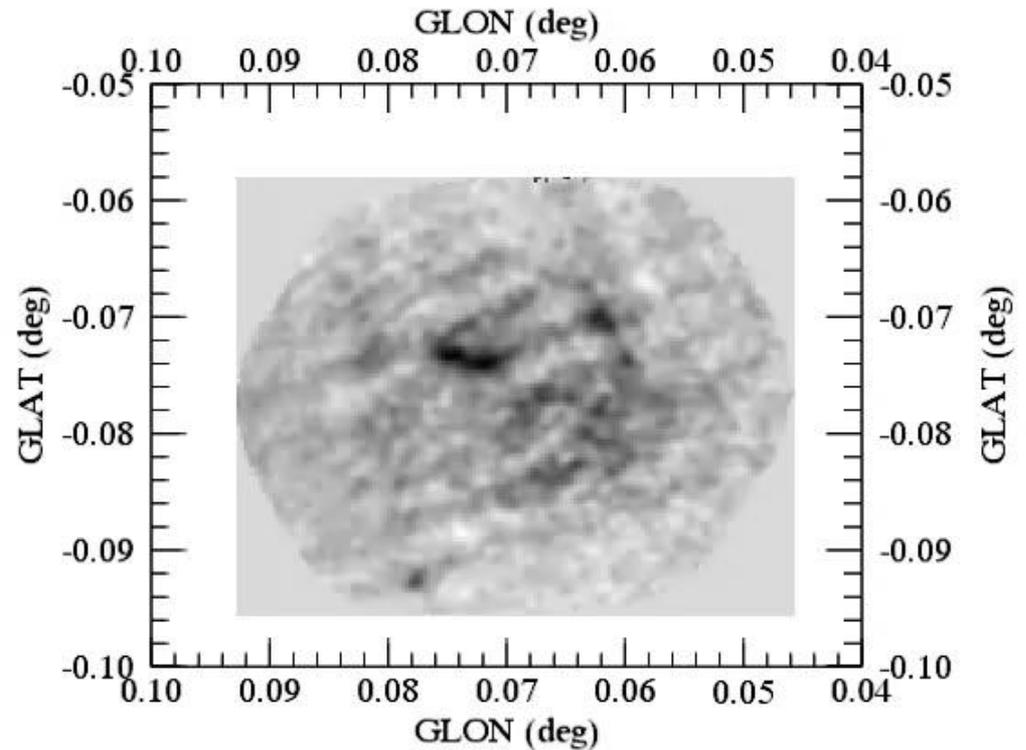
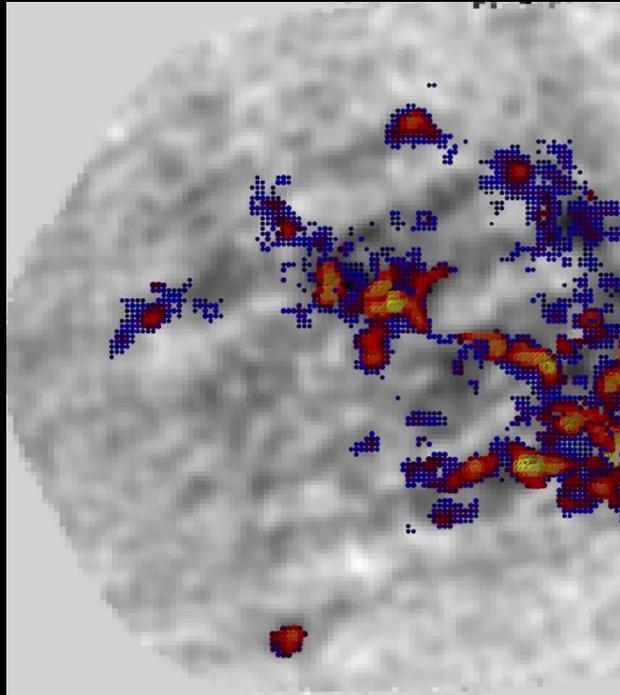
Battersby, Gehret, et al., in prep.

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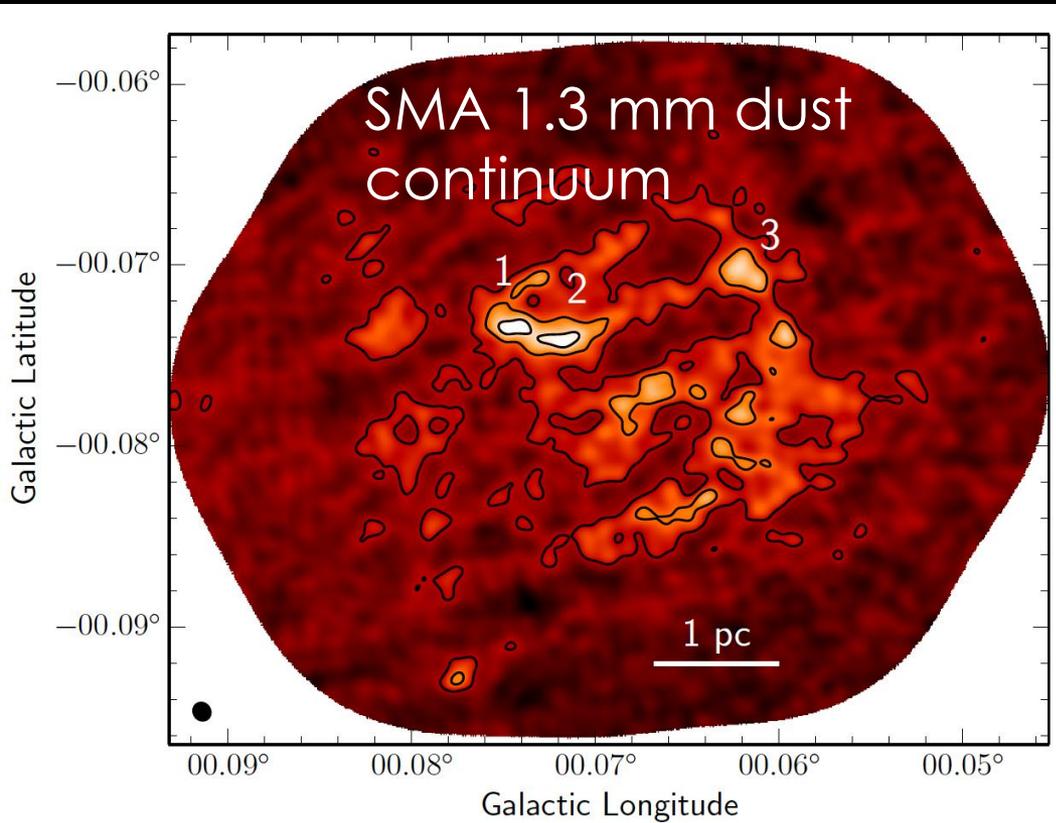


SCOUSE line fitting  
Jonny Henshaw  
Liverpool

# Structure Identification



# Why is the SFR low in the CMZ?

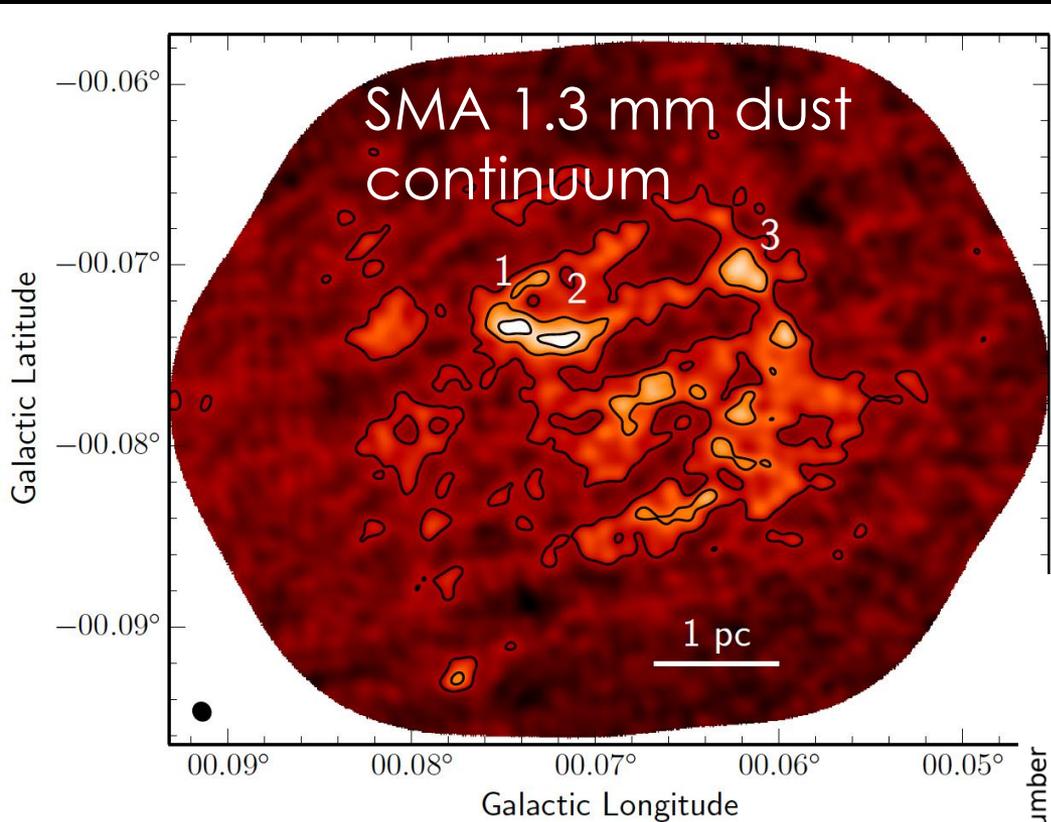


Is it star forming?

- ✓ Dense gas
- ✓ Shocked, highly excited gas
- ✗ Virial ratio  $< 2$
- ☐ Power-law tail in N-PDF
- ☐ Outflow or localized hot-core chemistry

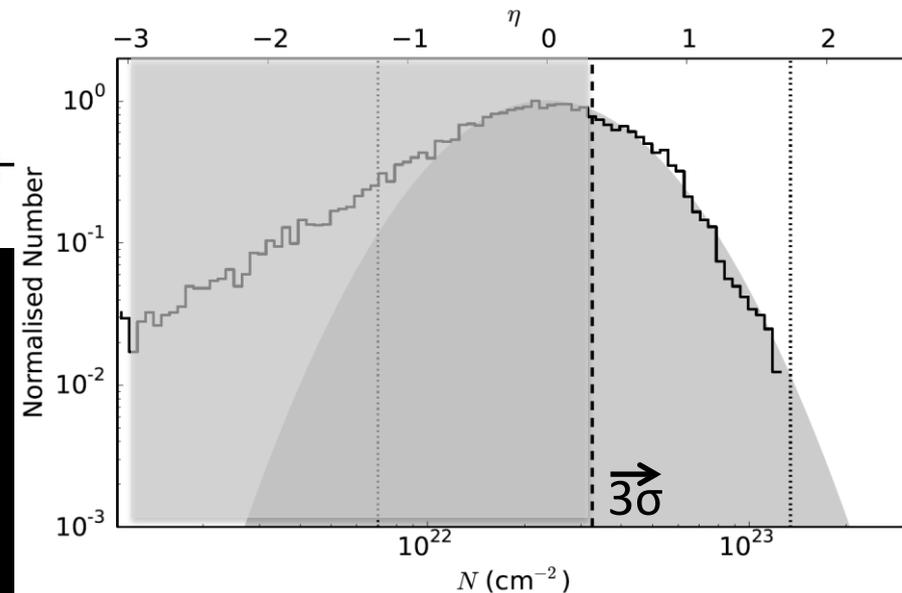


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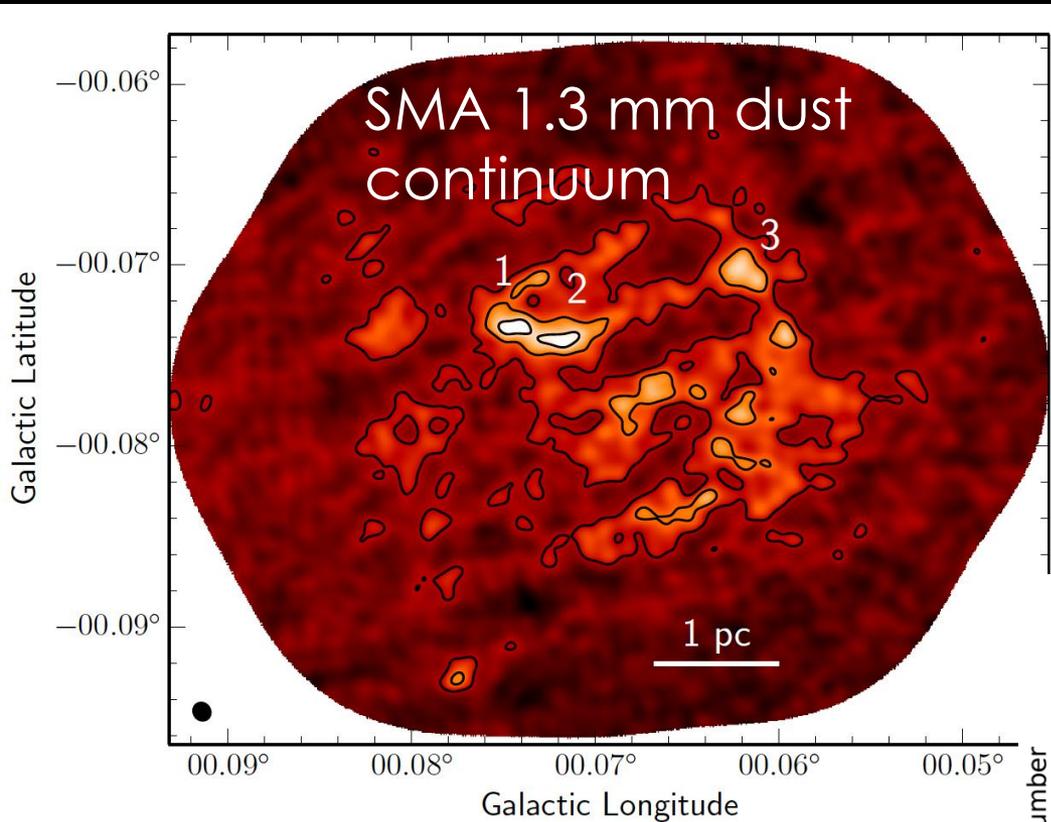


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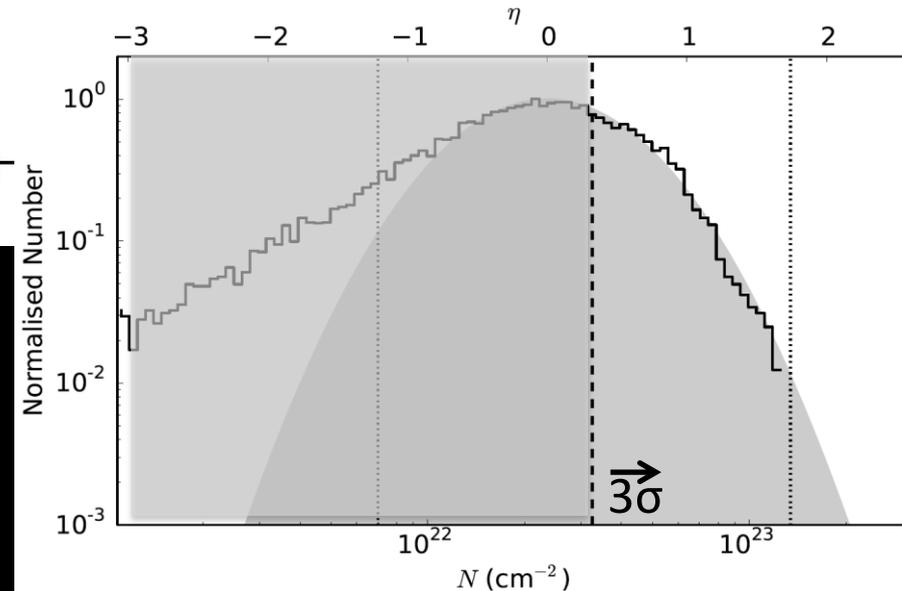


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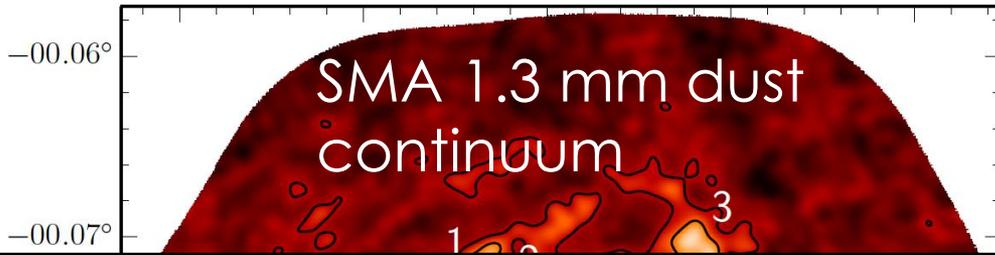


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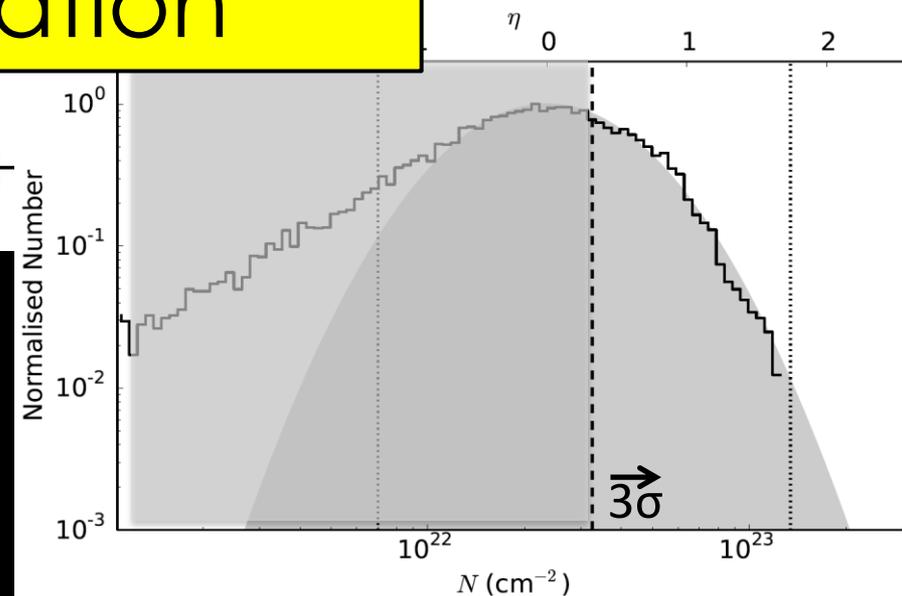
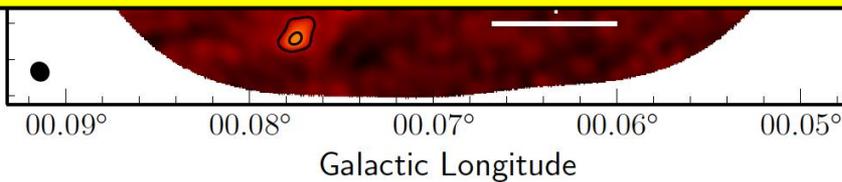


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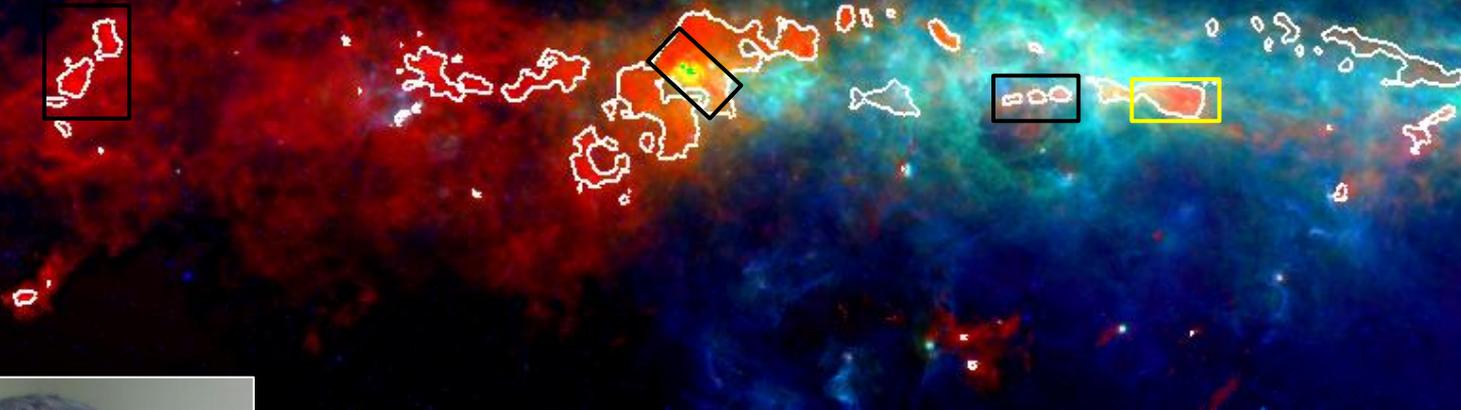
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High levels of turbulence (and maybe more) are preventing star formation

$\eta < 2$   
low tail in N-PDF  
or localized hot-chemistry

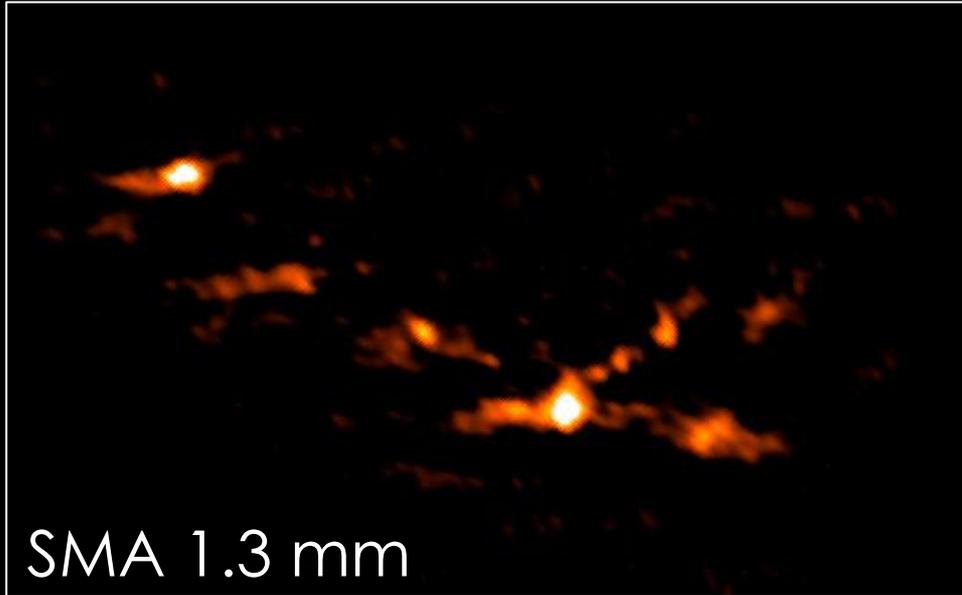


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Xing 'Walker' Lu  
CfA / Nanjing Univ.

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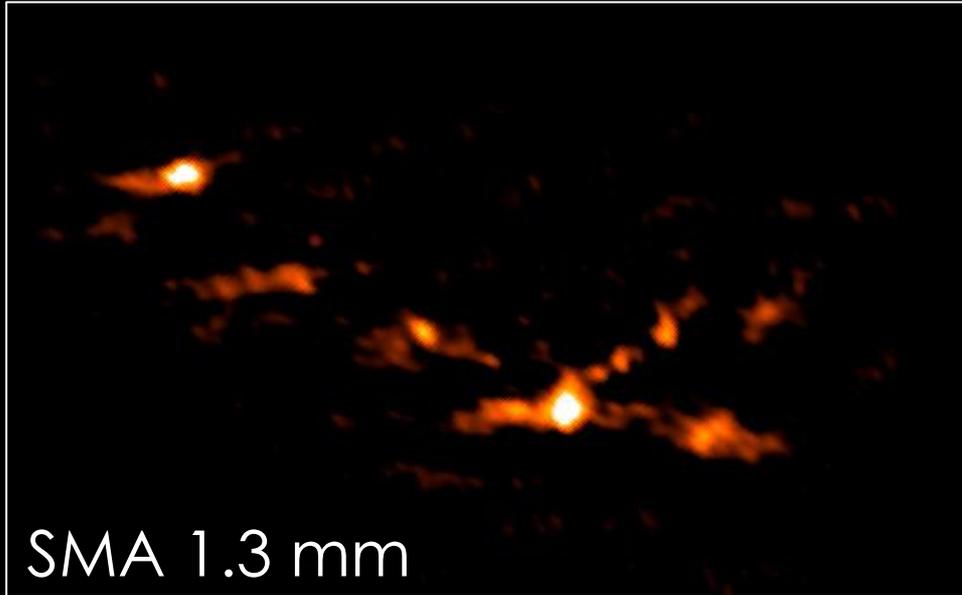


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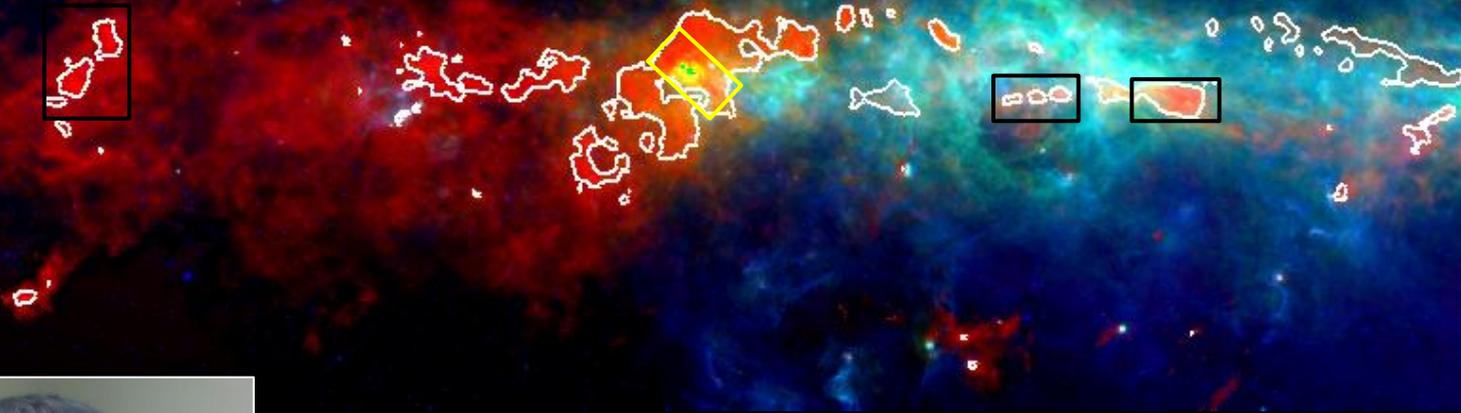


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Discovered hidden star formation

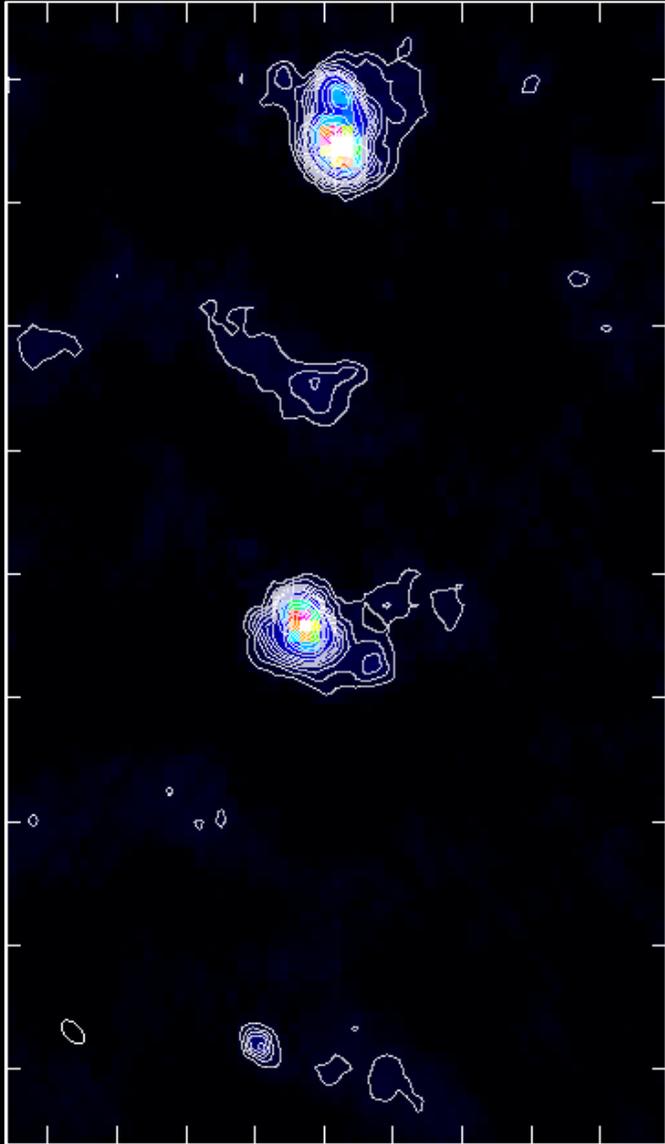
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# Why is the SFR low in the CMZ?

SMA  
1.3 mm



Lu, et al., in prep.

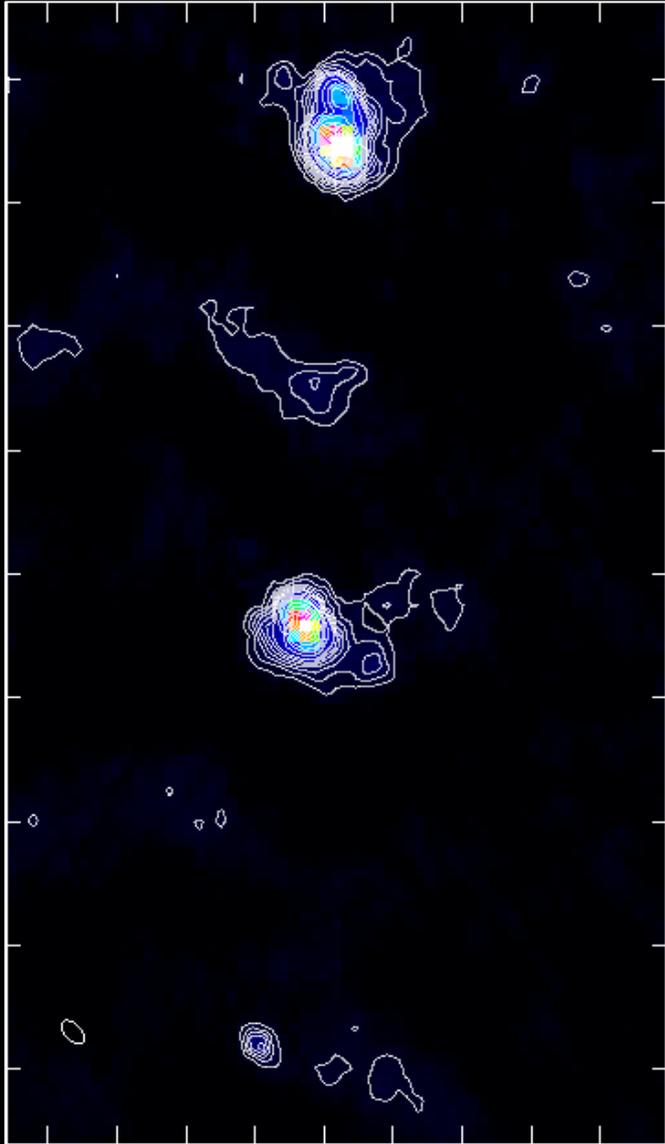
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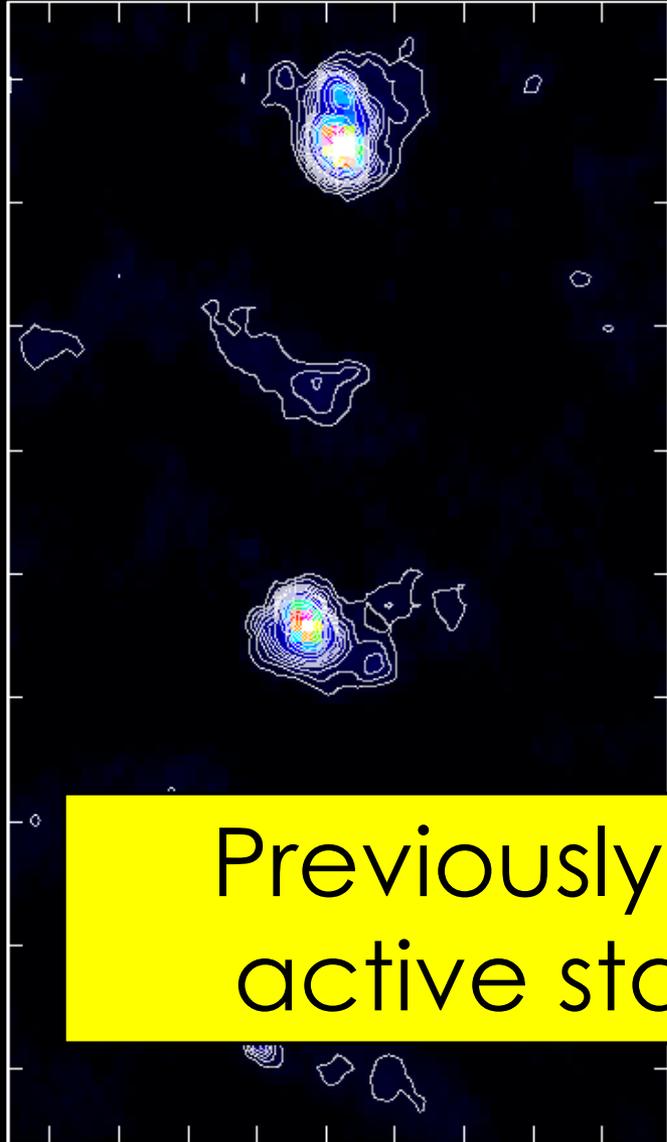
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1.3 mm



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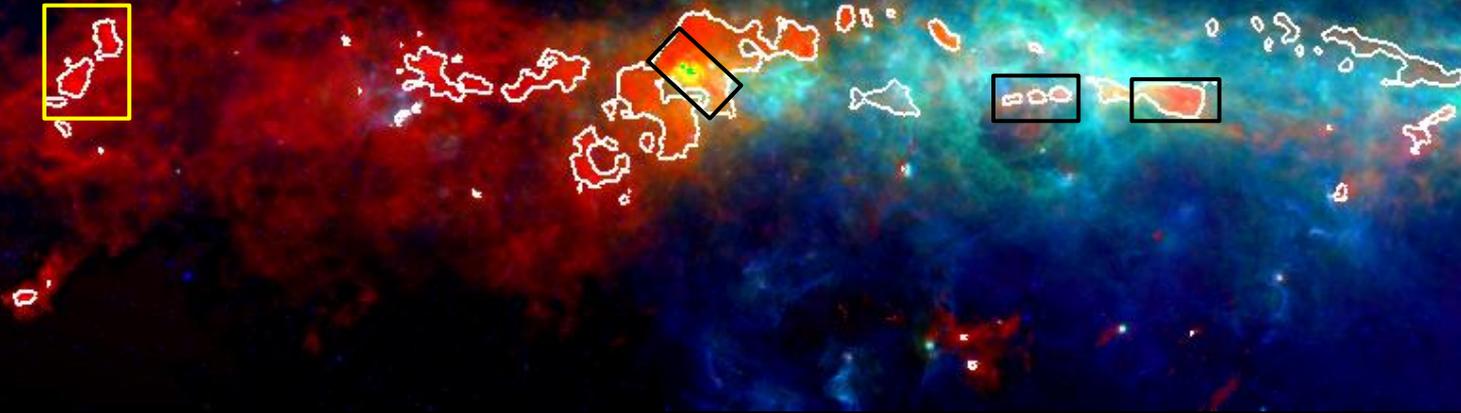
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Previously known very active star formation

Lu, et al., in prep.

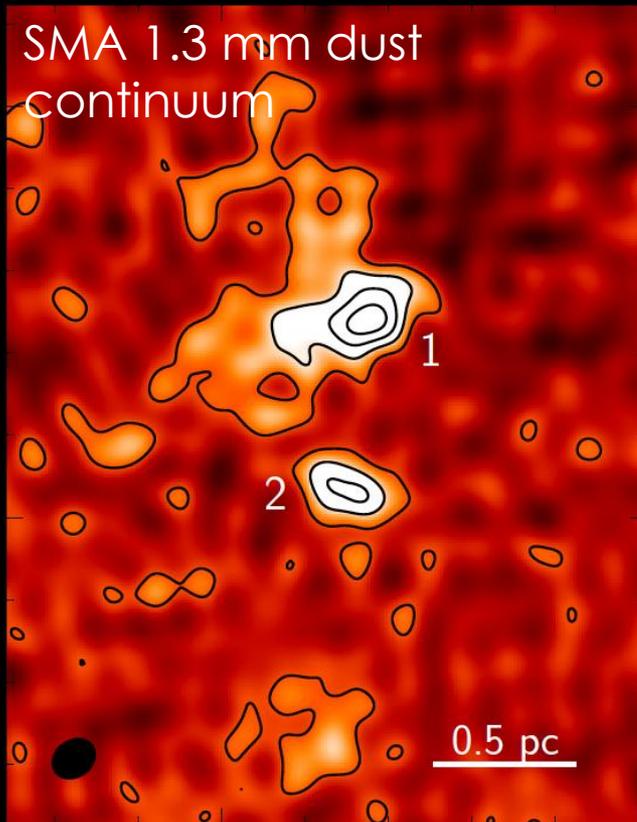


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$N(\text{H}_2)$  from HiGAL Battersby+, in prep.,  $70 \mu\text{m}$  from HiGAL, Molinari+ 2011,  $8 \mu\text{m}$  from GLIMPSE (Benjamin+ 2003)

# Pre-cursors to high-mass stars



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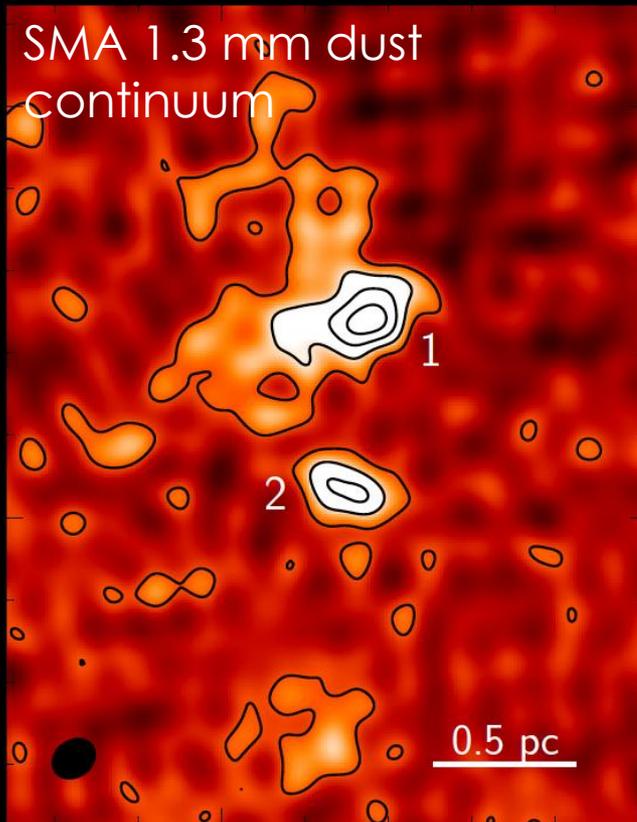
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Preliminary Core  
mass estimates,  
assuming 20 K  
Core 1:  $550 M_{\odot}$   
Core 2:  $340 M_{\odot}$

Battersby, Graham,  
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# Pre-cursors to high-mass stars



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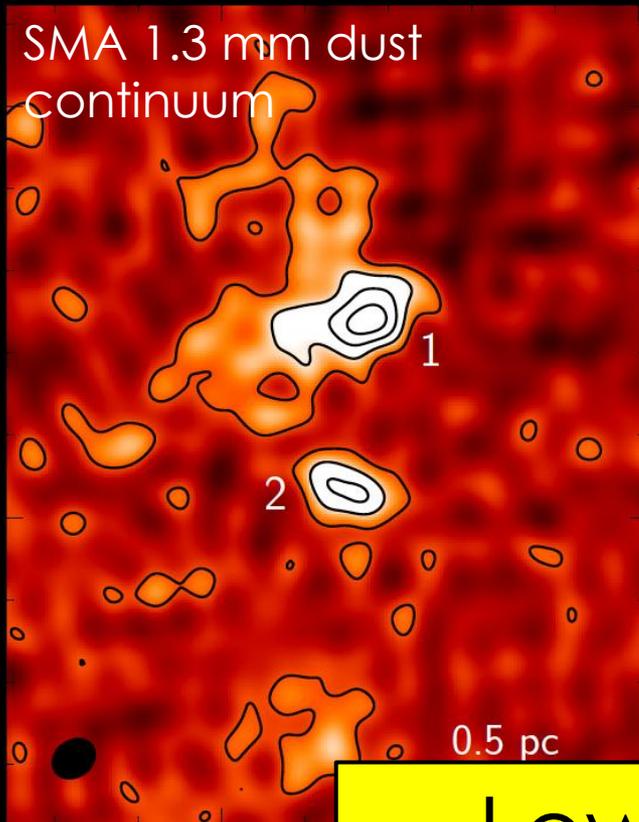
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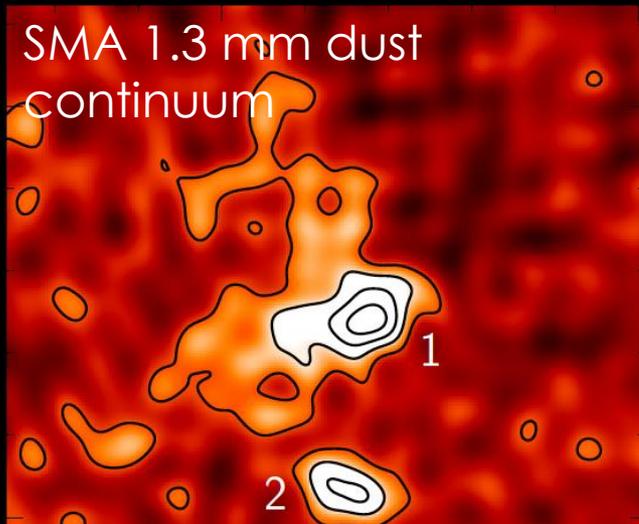
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Low-level isolated star formation



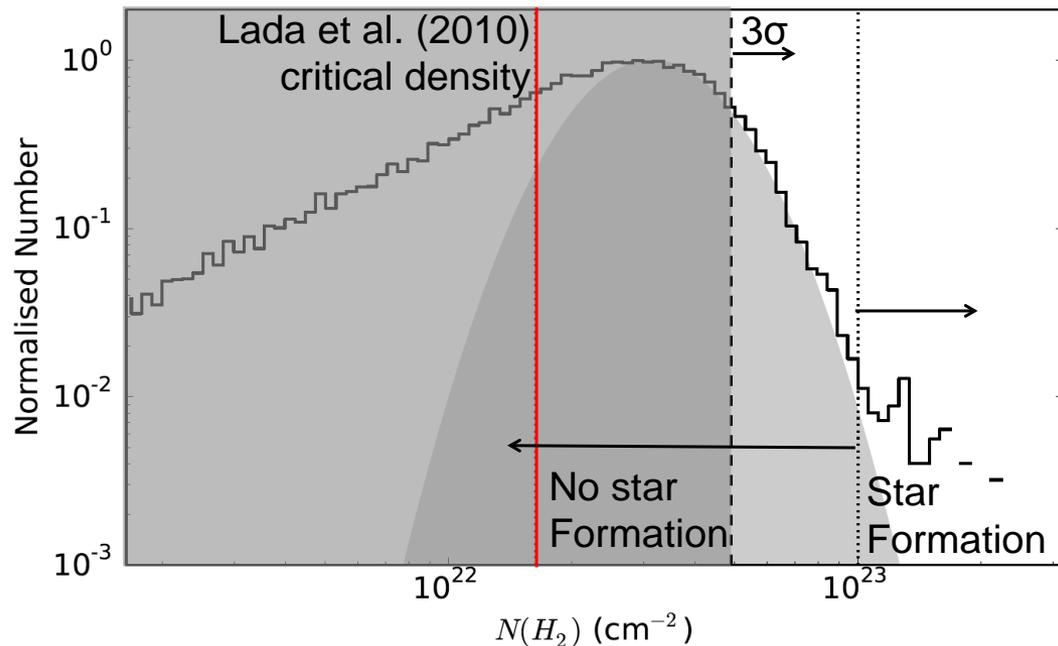
Battersby, Graham,  
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# Pre-cursors to high-mass stars



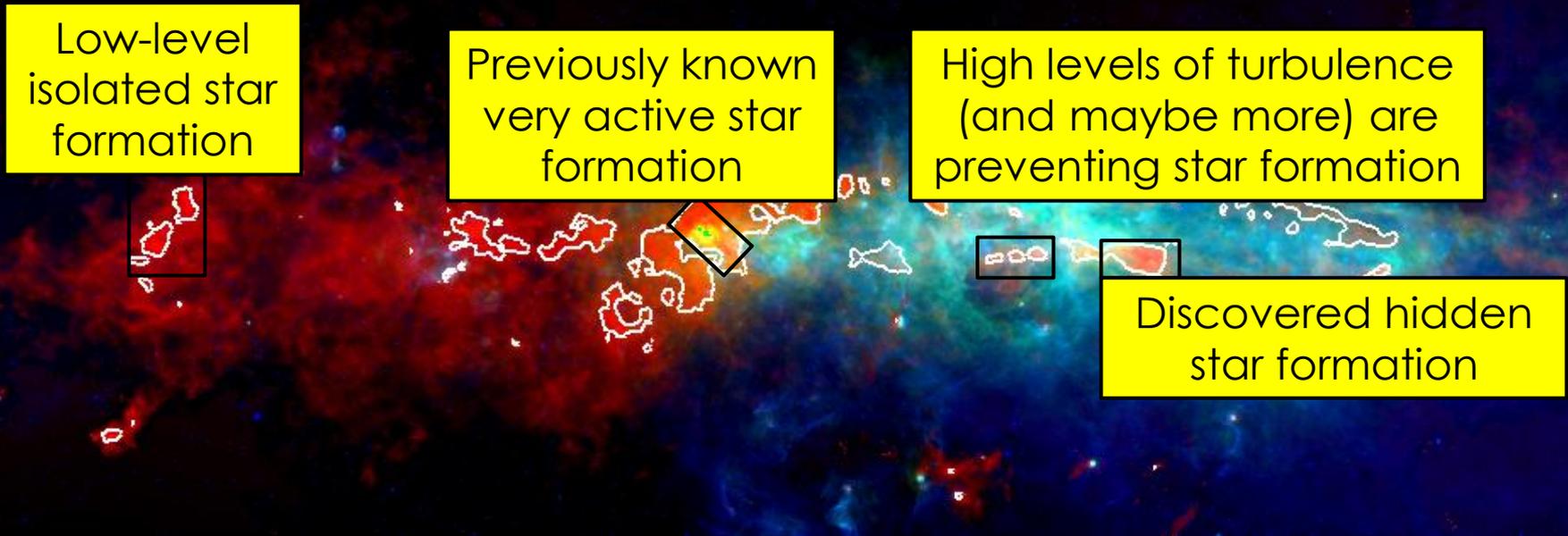
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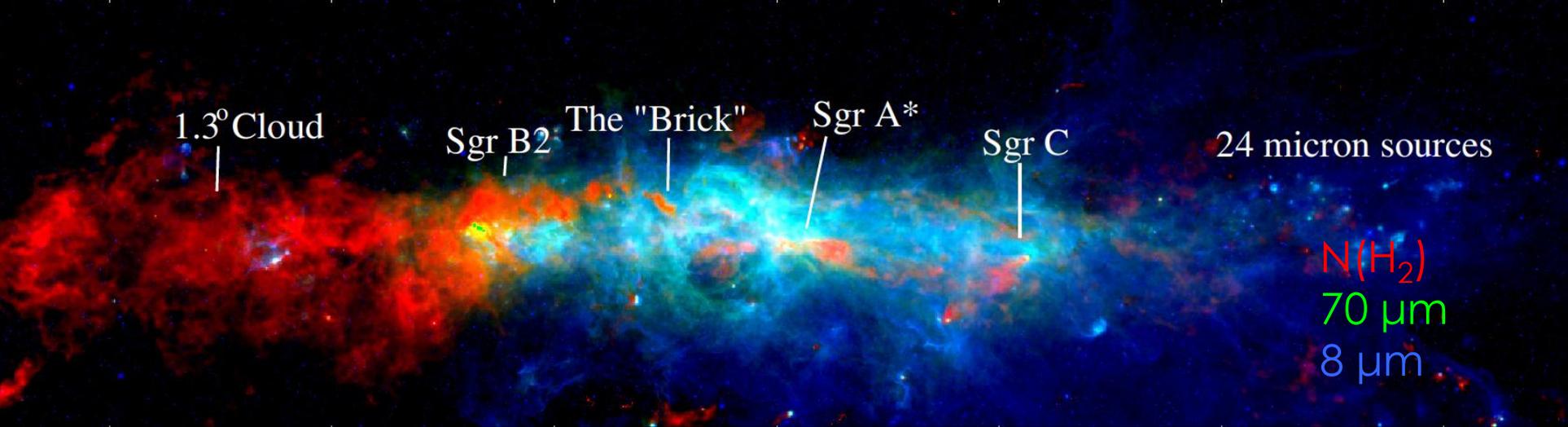
Low-level  
isolated star  
formation

Previously known  
very active star  
formation

High levels of turbulence  
(and maybe more) are  
preventing star formation

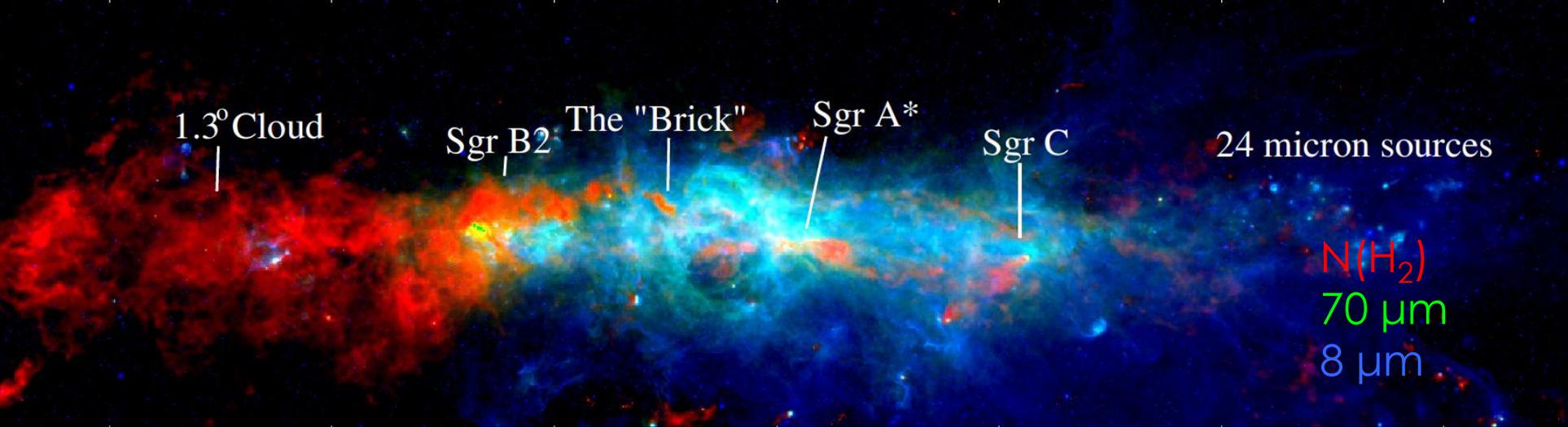
Discovered hidden  
star formation

- High turbulence inhibits SF
  - Some SF was missed



## Driving Science Questions:

- 1) What is the cause of the extremely low star formation efficiency (given the reservoir of dense gas) in the CMZ?
- 2) Is there an energy and SF cycle in the CMZ?  
Where does gas enter the CMZ?
- 3) Is SF induced by tidal compression by SgrA\*?
- 4) Can we find precursors to the most massive stars in the Galaxy?



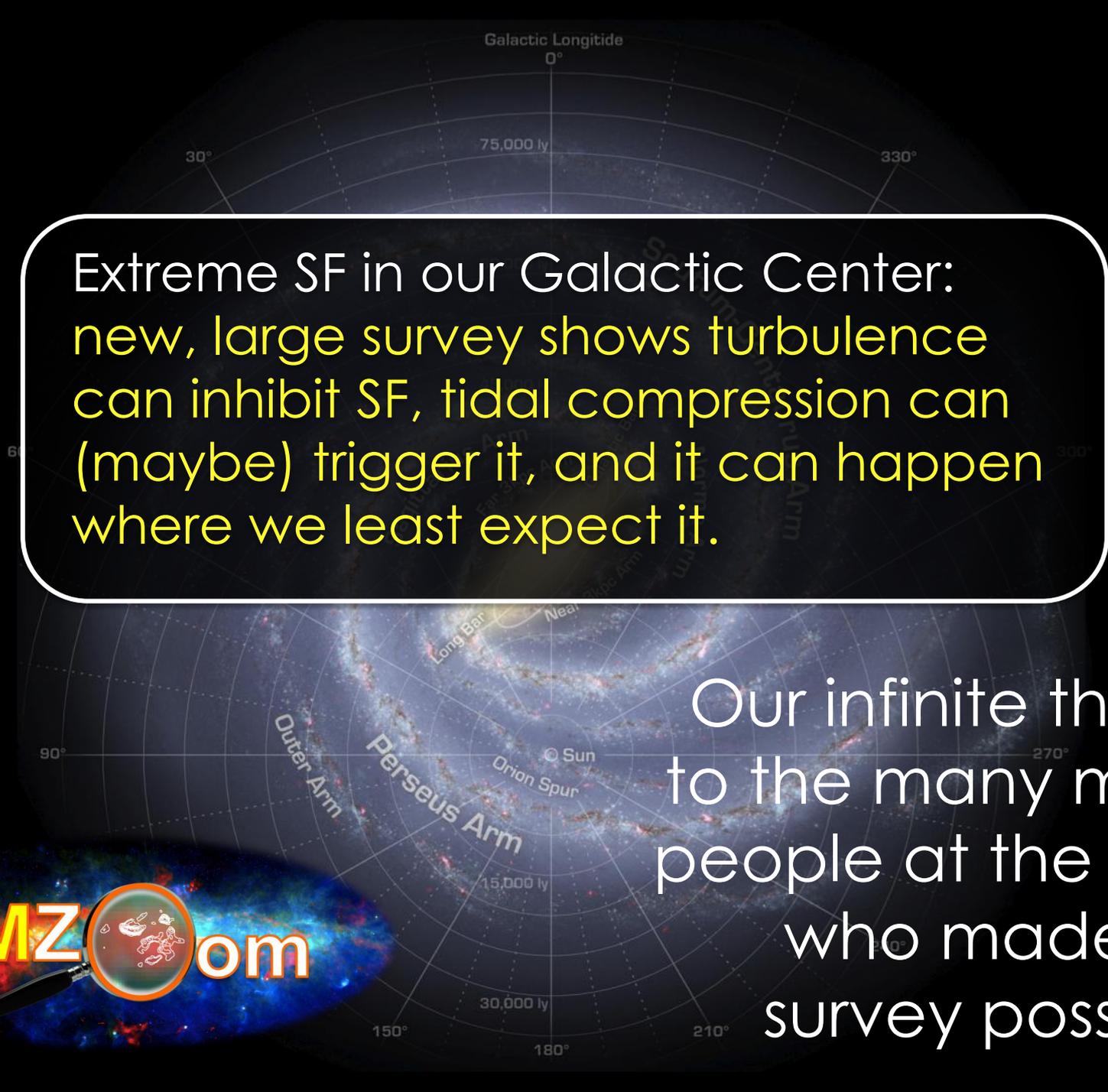
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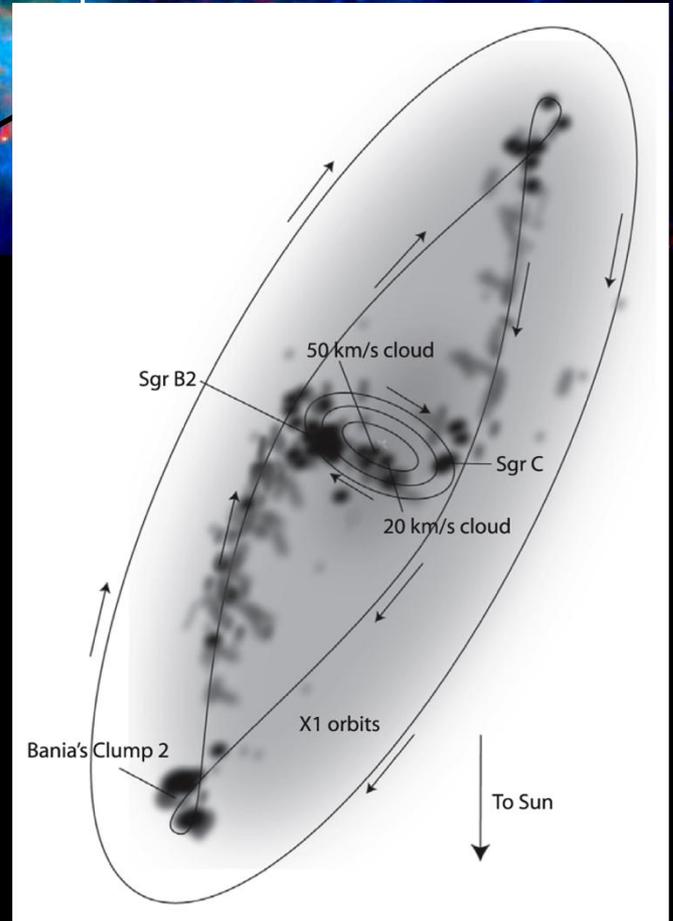
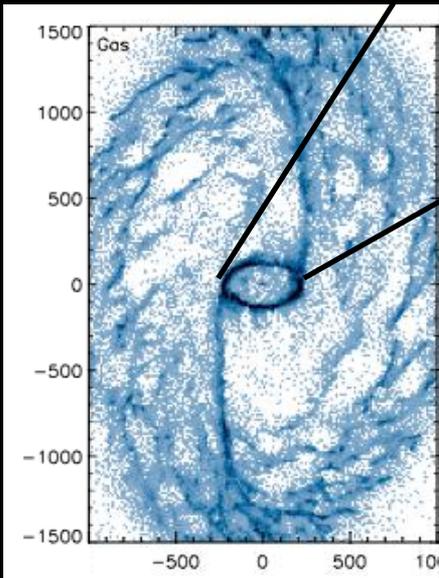
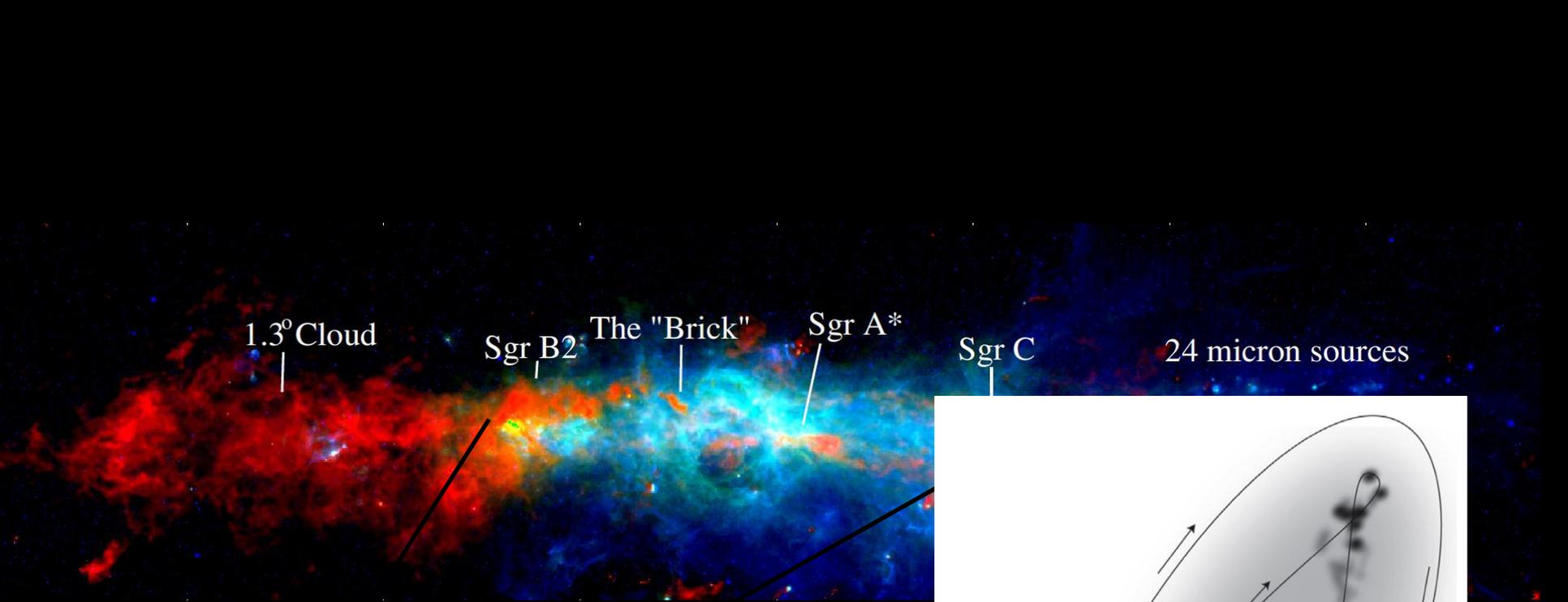
- 1) What is the cause of the extremely low star formation efficiency (given the reservoir of dense gas) in the CMZ?
  - Some places are *very* active, in others, high levels of turbulence are important in inhibiting star formation
- 2) Is there an energy and SF cycle in the CMZ? Where does gas enter the CMZ?
- 3) Is SF induced by tidal compression by SgrA\*?
  - Observations consistent
- 4) Can we find precursors to the most massive stars in the Galaxy?
  - We have some good candidates

Extreme SF in our Galactic Center:  
new, large survey shows turbulence  
can inhibit SF, tidal compression can  
(maybe) trigger it, and it can happen  
where we least expect it.

Our infinite thanks  
to the many many  
people at the SMA  
who made this  
survey possible!

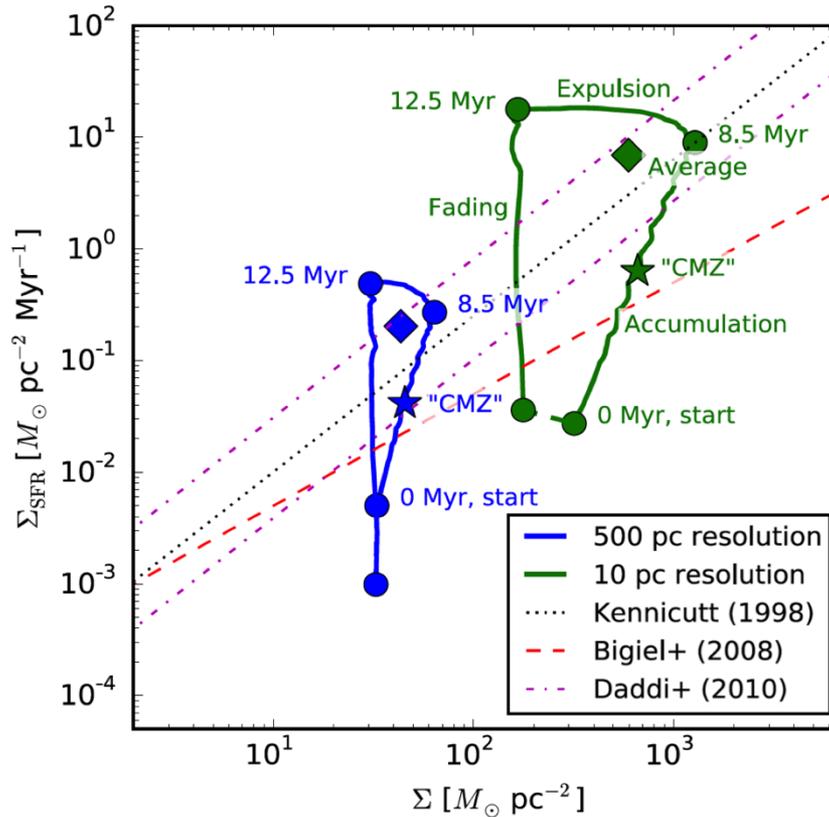
CMZ  om





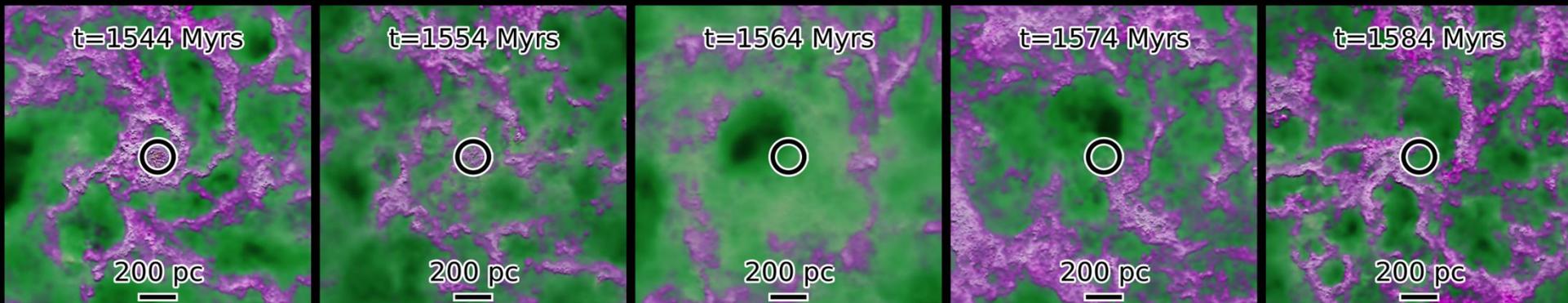
Bally et al. 2010  
 from Binney et al. 1991

# Why is the SFR low in the CMZ?

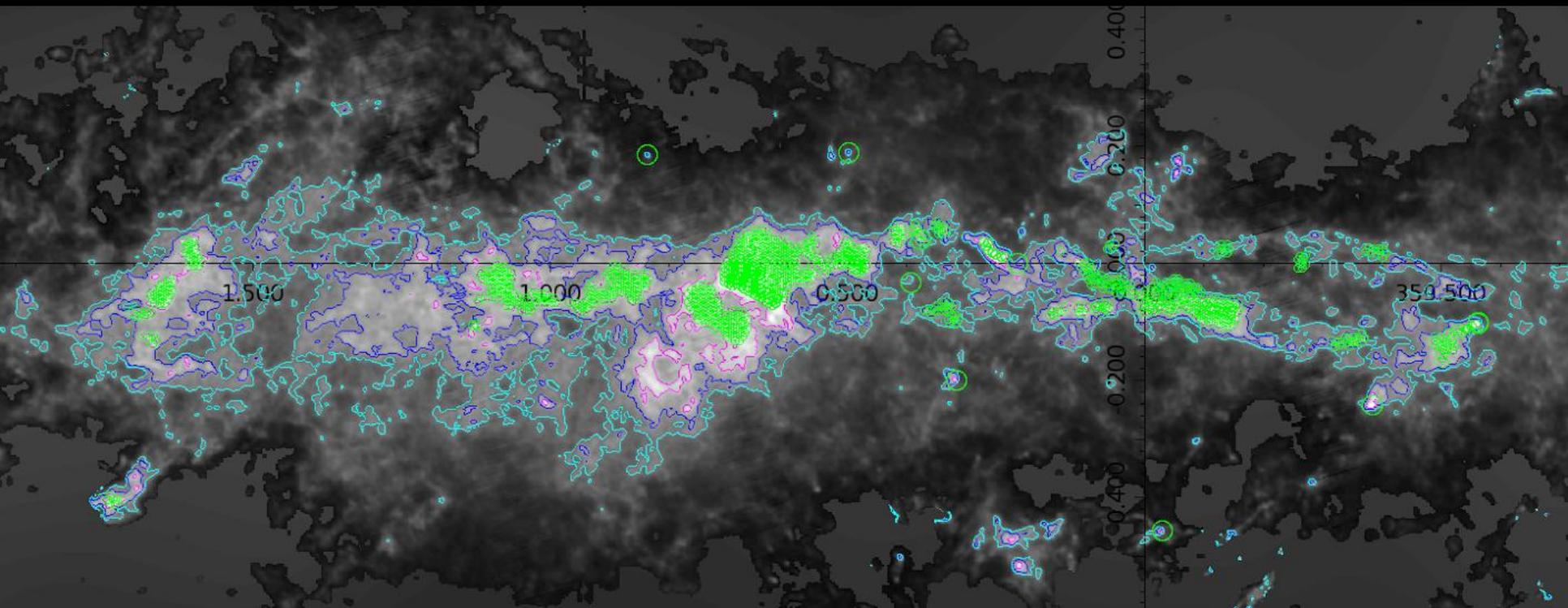


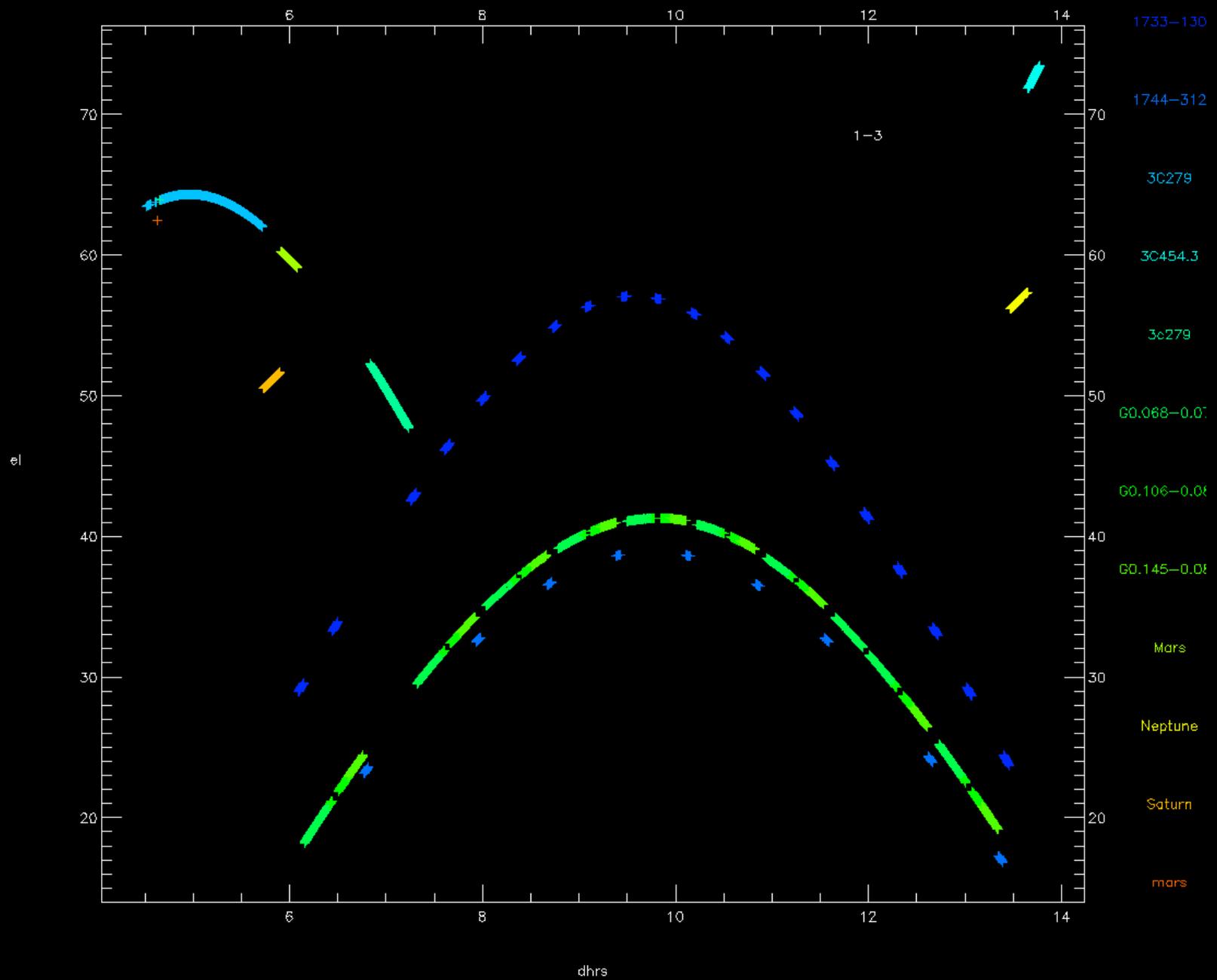
Krumholz &  
Kruijssen 2015

Torrey et al.,  
2016

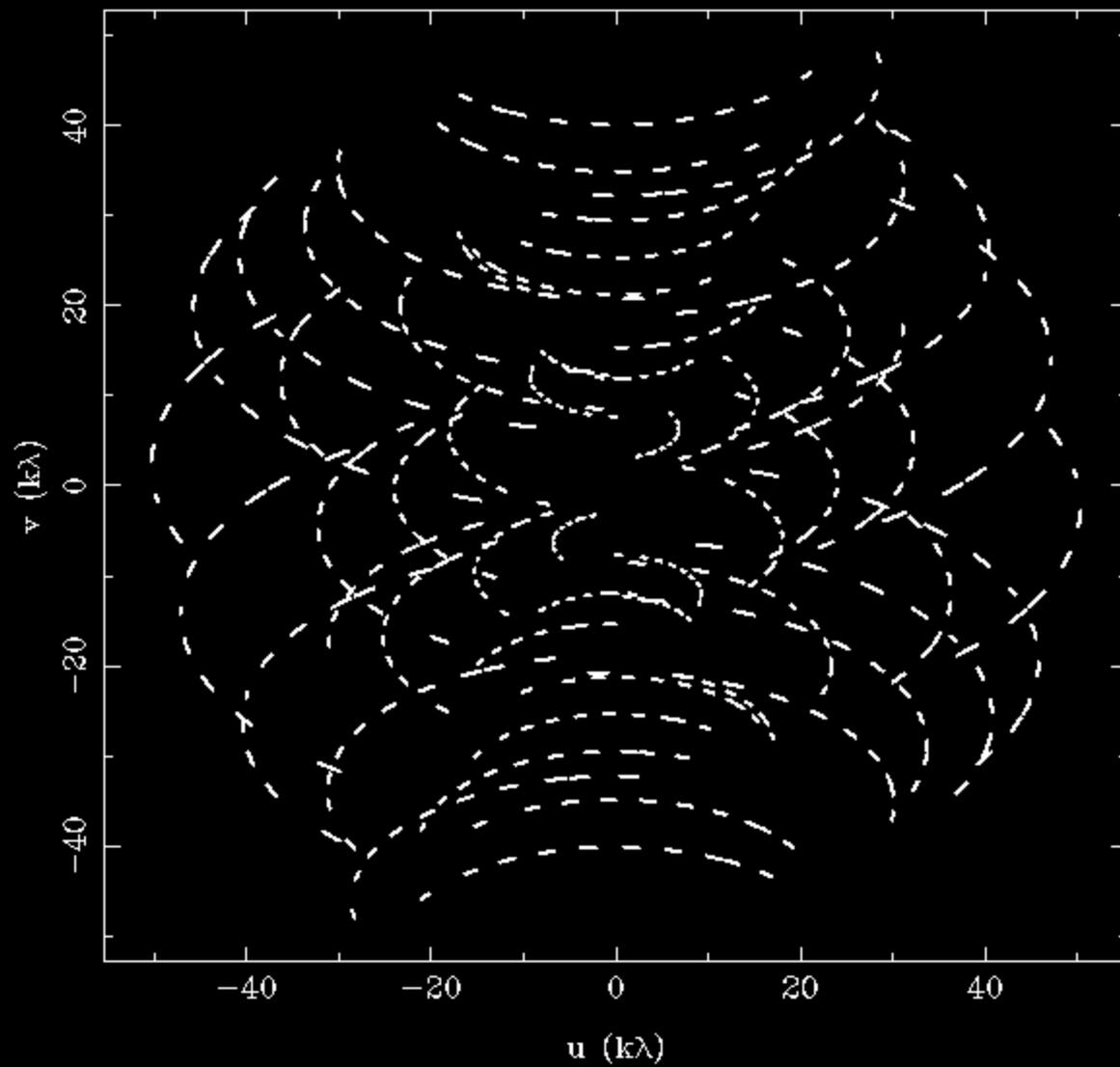


# All Total

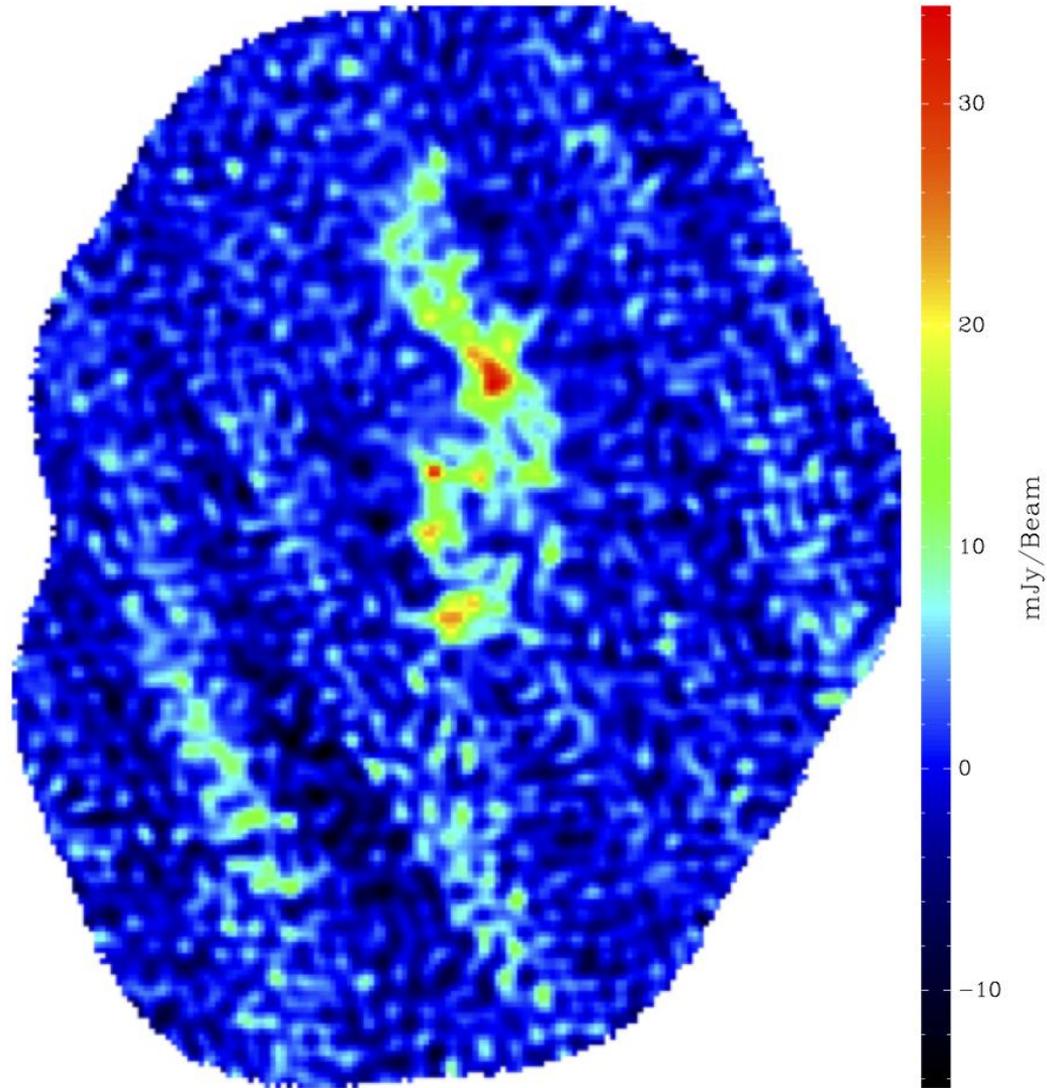




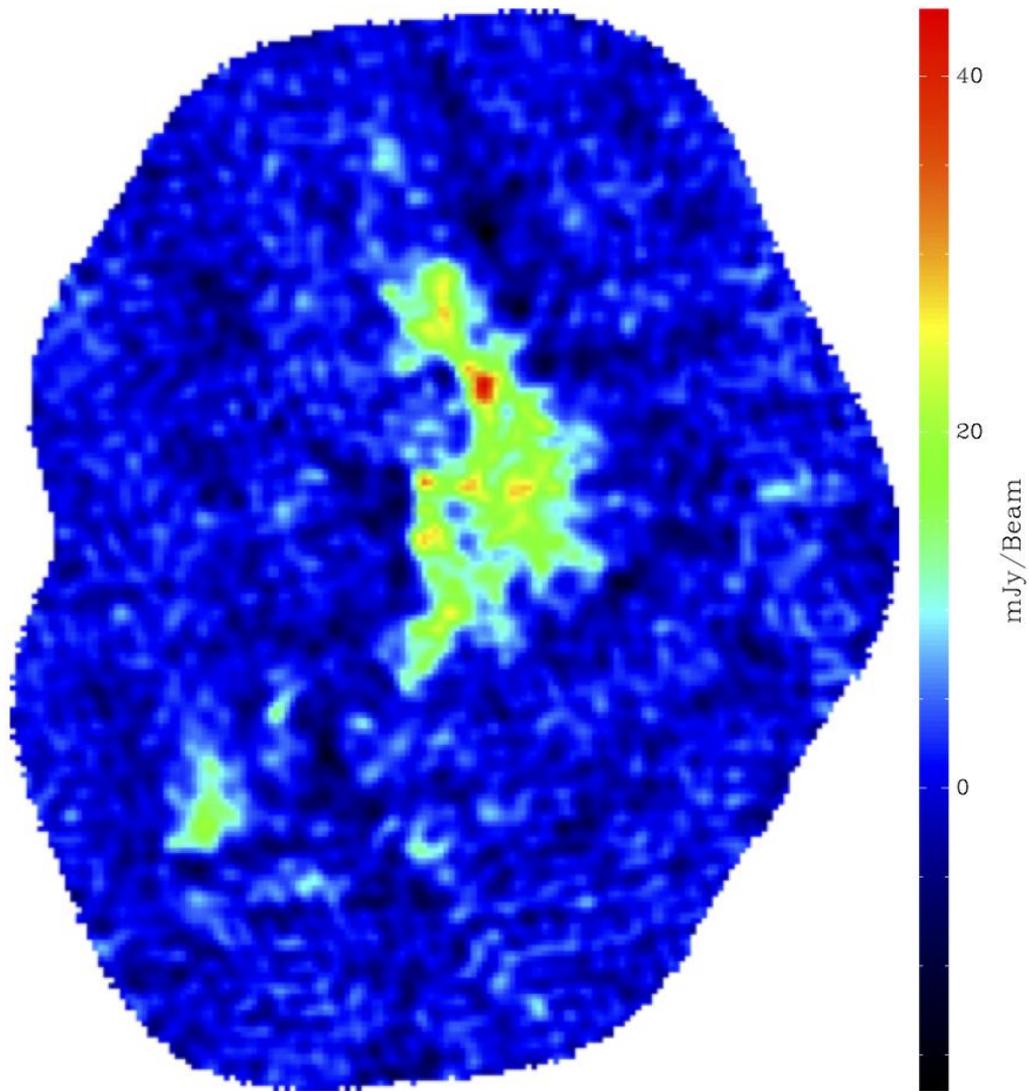
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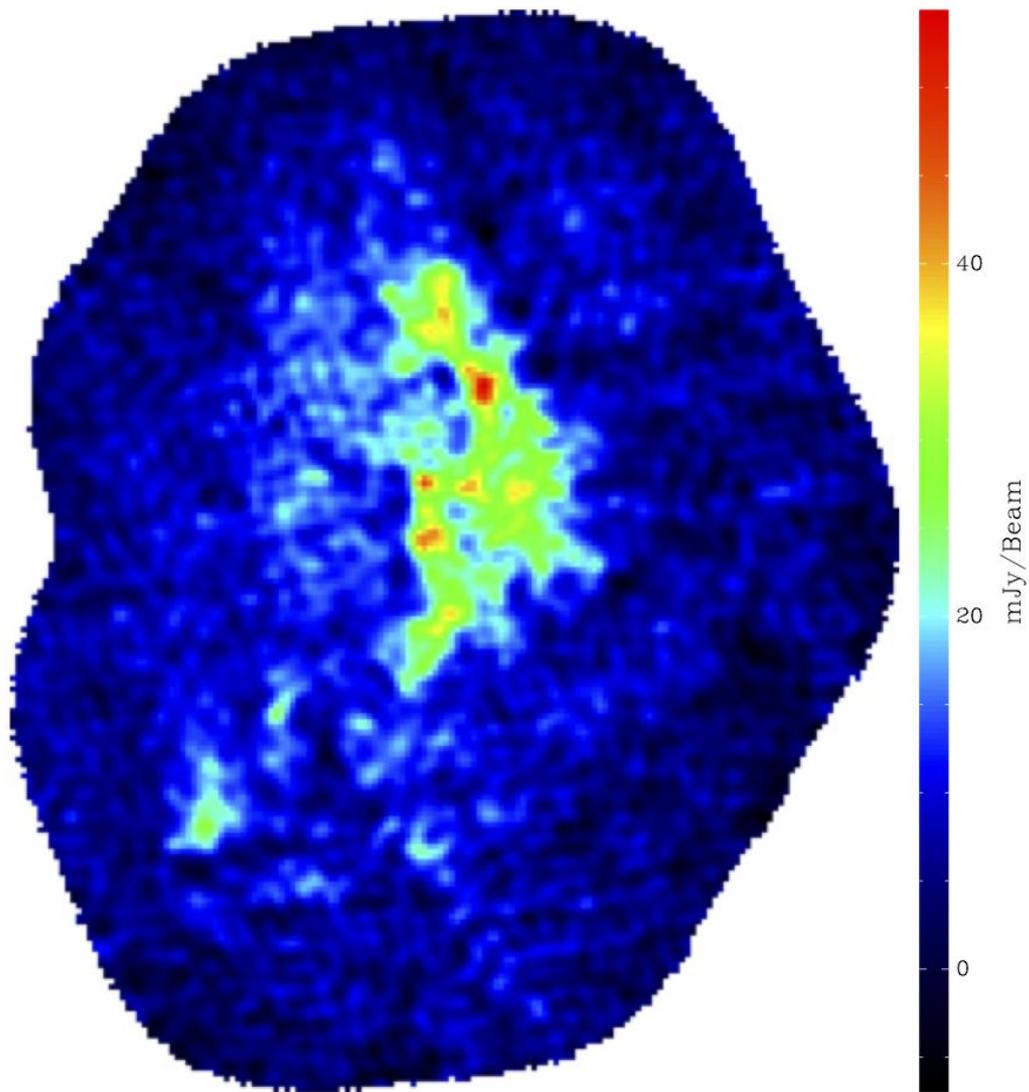
# Compact only

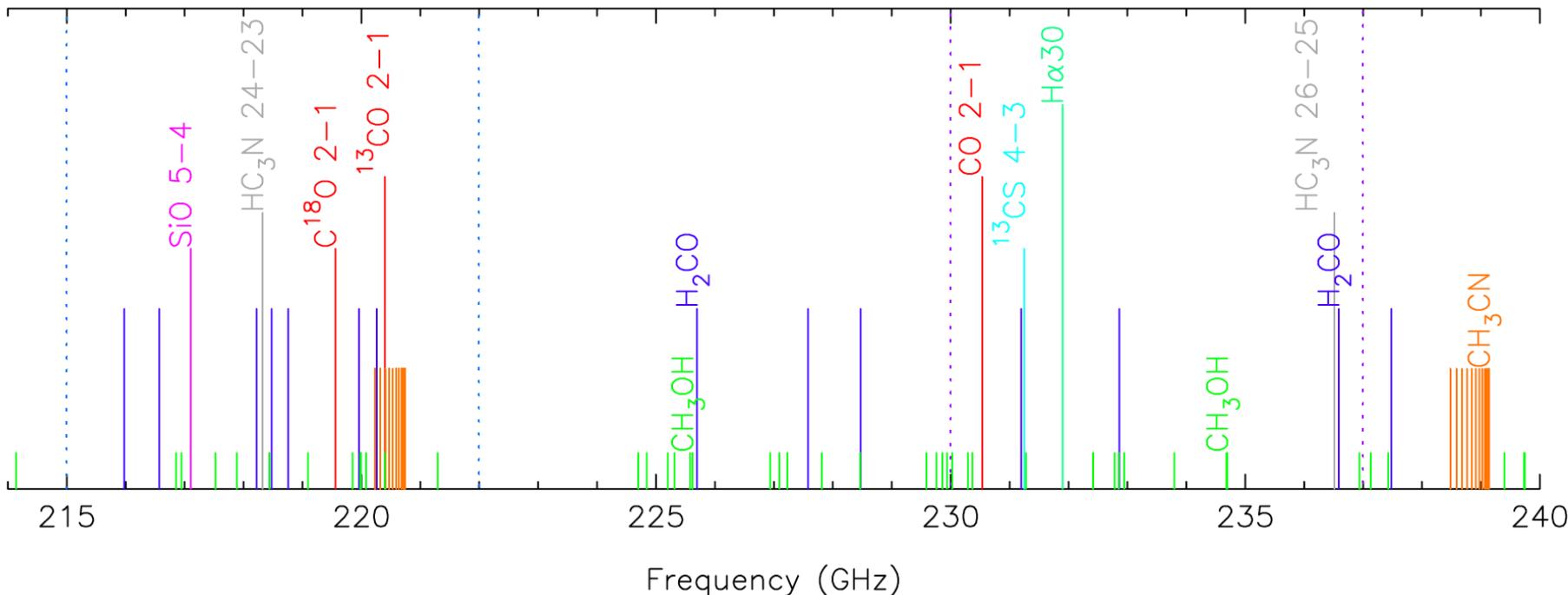
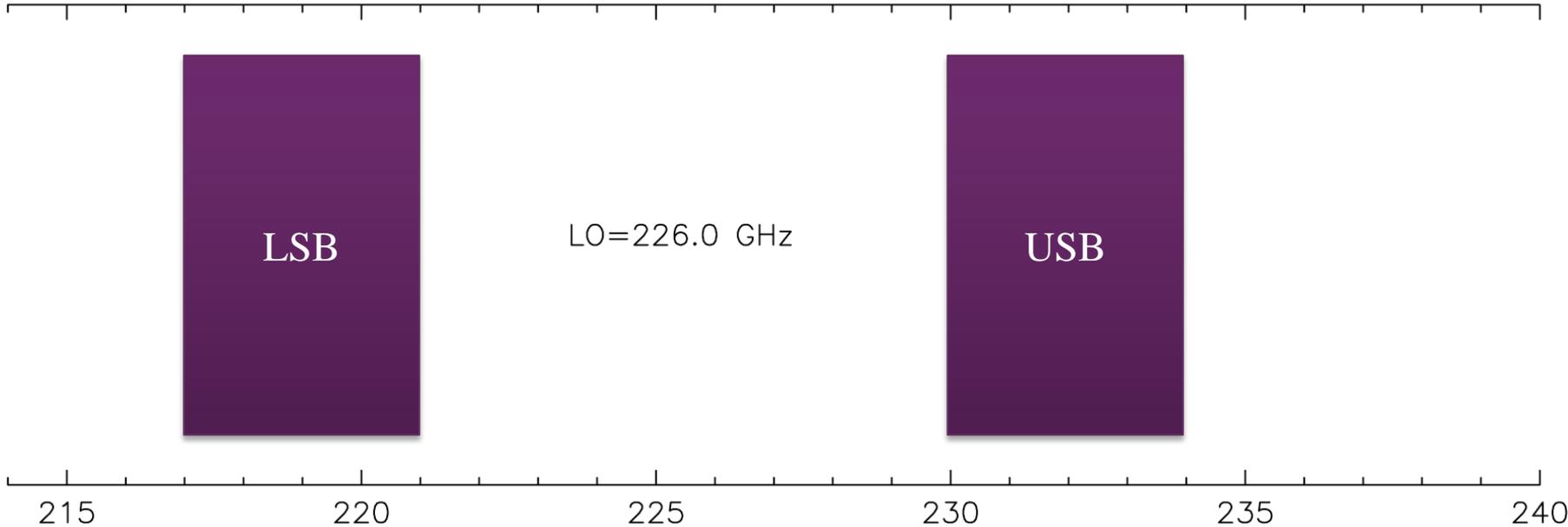


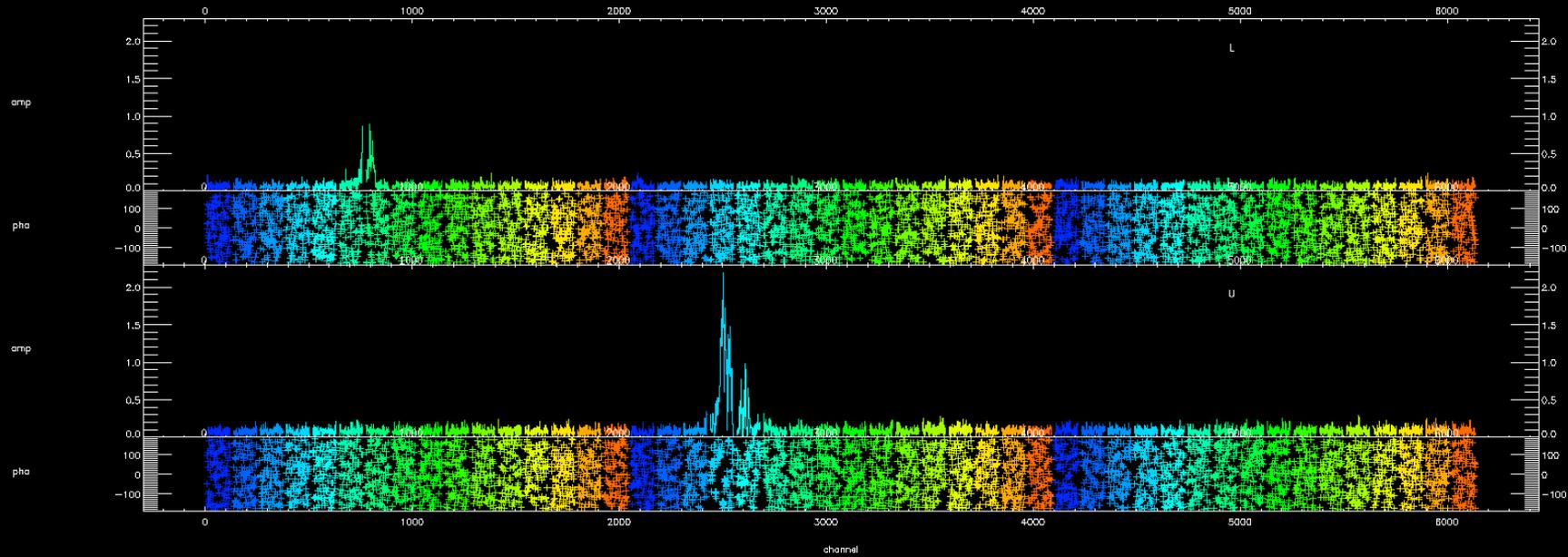
# Compact + subcompact



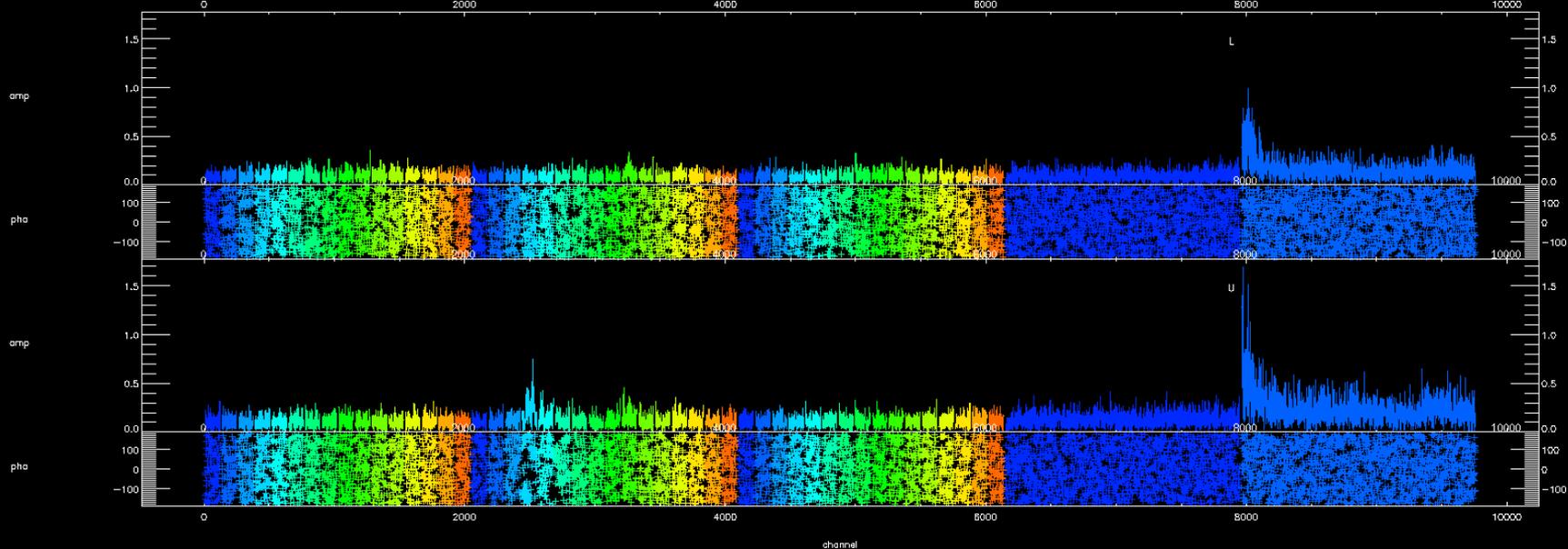
# Compact + subcompact + single dish







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- S50

Team

CMZom

