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Investigating the implication of bipolar diffusion for the star formation in filamentous clouds.

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Abstract :

The aim of this research is to study the effect…of bipolar diffusion on the dynamics of filamentary clouds and how it contributes to star formation. This process occurs due to the interaction between the magnetized particles and neutral molecules in the interstellar medium,, which plays a role in the mass distribution and stability of molecular filaments. Using observational data from telescopes such as Herschel and ALMA, as well as numerical simulations based on magnetohydrodynamics (MHD) equations, the mechanism by which this diffusion modulates the stellar core formation time and the efficiency of star formation was analyzed .The study concluded that magnetic fields play a significant role in directing the mass flow toward denser regions within filaments, thereby reducing the star formation rate in certain regions… due to the loss of momentum through diffusion. The filamentary structure also acts as an efficient conduit for the transport of matter toward protostellar cores, which aids in the formation of binary or multiple star systems.

Keywords: Dipole diffusion, filamentary clouds, star formation, magneto dynamics, numerical simulation.

دراسة تأثير الانتشار ثنائي القطب على تكوين النجوم في السحب الخيطية

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مستخلص:

يهدف هذا البحث إلى دراسة تأثير الانتشار ثنائي القطب على ديناميكيات السحب الخيطية وكيفية مساهمته في تكوين النجوم. يعتمد هذا النوع من الانتشار على تفاعل الجسيمات المغنطة مع الجزيئات المحايدة في الوسط البينجمي، والذي يلعب دورًا في توزيع كتلة الخيوط الجزيئية واستقرارها. باستخدام بيانات رصدية من تلسكوبات مثل هيرشل وألما، بالإضافة إلى عمليات محاكاة عددية قائمة على معادلات الهيدروديناميكية المغناطيسية (MHD)، تم تحليل الآلية التي ينظم بها هذا الانتشار زمن تكوين النواة النجمية وكفاءة تكوين النجوم. خلصت الدراسة إلى أن المجالات المغناطيسية تلعب دورًا هامًا في توجيه تدفق الكتلة نحو المناطق الأكثر كثافة داخل الخيوط، مما يقلل بدوره من معدل تكوين النجوم في بعض المناطق بسبب فقدان الزخم الناتج عن الانتشار. كما يعمل الهيكل الخيطي كقناة فعالة لنقل المادة نحو النوى النجمية الأولية، مما يساعد في تكوين أنظمة نجمية ثنائية أو متعددة.

الكلمات المفتاحية: انتشار ثنائي القطب، السحب الخيطية، تكوين النجوم، ديناميكيات المغناطيسية، المحاكاة العددية.

1. Introduction

The mechanism of star formation is one of the most fascinating astronomical phenomena, representing the starting point for many cosmic processes. Filamentous clouds, which are extremely large collections of gases, most notably hydrogen and dust, play a crucial role in the star formation process[1] . These clouds help in star formation…and also serves as a cradle for •their formation or stellar development. With the progress we witness today, there has been an increase in efforts to gather ideas and information on the subject of the study sample, and how various forces affect the movement of particles within filamentary clouds2]]. Diffusion is the first building block in understanding the mechanism of star formation, as it affects the dynamic stability of clouds and helps us understand the physical processes taking place within them. Therefore, studying the effect of diffusion on star formation in filamentary clouds helps us understand the concept of star formation and its spread throughout the universe [3].

Filamentary clouds play a pivotal role in star formation [4] acting as "stellar nurseries" where matter accumulates and condenses under gravity to form protostellar cores. Recent studies show that more than 70% of the stars in the Milky Way Galaxy form within these filamentary structures [5]. These clouds are characterized by their high density ($\sim 10^3$–10^4 molecules/cm^3) and lengths of several parsecs, providing an ideal environment for density disturbances that lead to gravitational collapse [6].

Furthermore, filaments act as "highways" for transporting matter toward denser regions, where gas and dust flow in an organized manner due to magnetic fields, enhancing the efficiency of star formation. For example, ALMA data have shown that filaments extending along magnetic field lines have a transport efficiency of up to 70%, compared to 20–30% in random regions [5]. This mechanism explains why stars often form at the intersections of secondary filaments with primary filaments, as documented in Herschel observations [7].

In our quest to understand the mechanisms of star formation, the concept of bipolar diffusion emerges as one of the crucial factors in determining the

gas dynamics within molecular clouds. This phenomenon is defined as the separation of magnetized particles (ions) and neutral particles under the influence of magnetic fields, leading to momentum dissipation and a change in the mass distribution [8]. The effects of this process are clearly visible in filamentary clouds, where these filaments form the basic structure into which matter condenses to form protostellar cores [5].

Filamentous clouds gain their importance from their central role in the star formation process. Recent studies indicate that more than 70% of stars form within these filamentary structures [9]. The filaments act as efficient conduits for mass transfer towards regions of higher density, creating optimal conditions for gravitational collapse and star formation.

The research aims to provide a detailed study of the interaction between magnetic dynamics and the structure of filamentary clouds through data analysis and numerical models. Through this analysis, we understand the mechanism by which dipolar propagation affects the internal dynamics of filamentary clouds. This work comes at a time when astronomical observations are witnessing a dramatic improvement in their accuracy, thanks to modern telescopes such as ALMA and the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST).

Accordingly, it can be said that the research objectives are manifested in the following items:

Analyze the role of B-field in shaping filamentary structure and directing mass flow, with a focus on how dipolar diffusion modulates these processes .Study the effect of dipolar diffusion on star formation rates by comparing observational results with theoretical models and numerical simulations .Provide an integrated theoretical framework linking the physics of dipolar diffusion and the evolution of star-forming regions.

1.1 Dipole Diffusion:

Understanding diffusion mechanisms in the interstellar medium is essential for deciphering the process of star formation. In this context, the concept of dipole diffusion emerges as one of the most important physical processes governing the dynamics of the interstellar medium. This mechanism relies on the complex interaction between magnetized particles (ions) and

neutral molecules, where Lorentz forces resulting from magnetic fields lead to a separation in motion between the two components[10] .

One of the fundamental theories in this field is ambipolar diffusion, which explains how magnetic fields can slow down the motion of charged particles while neutral particles continue to move relatively freely [11] this process leads to:

•Dissipation of the momentum of the magnetized particles

•Redistribution of mass in the molecular cloud

•Change in the gravitational collapse time of the cloud

Role of Magnetic Fields in Molecular Clouds

Magnetic fields are a crucial factor in regulating the dynamics and evolution of molecular clouds. These fields interact with charged particles (ions) and neutral gas, leading to phenomena such as Ambipolar Diffusion, where ions moving along magnetic field lines separate from neutral particles due to collision resistance [12]. Studies show that magnetic fields with strengths of ~10–50 microgauss in molecular clouds are capable of:

1. Slowing gravitational collapse: by dissipating momentum through collisions between neutral and charged particles, increasing the time for stellar core formation by 35% [13].

2. Formation of filamentary structures: directing the flow of matter along field lines, promoting the formation of dense filaments as observed by the Herschel telescope [14].

3. Suppressing turbulence: suppressing gravitational instabilities on small length scales (<0.2 parsecs), thus determining the mass of protostellar cores [9].

Recent measurements using the Planck Observatory have shown that the orientations of magnetic fields in filamentary clouds are aligned with their major axes ($\Delta\theta < 15°$), supporting the idea that these fields regulate the mass flow toward dense nodes where stars form [15]. However, challenges remain in accurately modeling these processes due to the need to include non-ideal conductivity effects (such as magnetic reconnection) in magnetohydrodynamic (MHD) simulations [16].

1.2 Filamentous clouds:

The filamentary structure is one of the key features of modern molecular

clouds. Observational studies show that these filaments are characterized by high densities (~10^3-10^4 molecules/cm^3) and lengths that can reach several parsecs 18][17]]. These structures play a pivotal role in the star formation process by:

•Providing efficient pathways for mass accumulation

•Creating ideal conditions for gravitational collapse

•Regulating the fragmentation process into stellar cores

With regard to formation models, skeletal flow theory provides an important explanatory framework. This theory postulates that filaments form at the intersections of a network of centrifugal flows generated by disturbances in the interstellar medium. [19] Recent numerical simulations support this model, showing spontaneous formation of filamentary structures under conditions similar to those found in real molecular clouds [20][21].

2. Methodology

2.1 Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA)

observations from the Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA) were selected based on the following criteria [1].

- Spatial Resolution: Selection was limited to observations with a spatial resolution of ≤ 0.1 arcseconds, to ensure the ability to distinguish fine filamentary structures (on scales < 0.01 parsecs).

- Spectral Range: We focused on the following molecular lines for their role in tracking density and dynamics:

- CO line (J=2–1): For tracking low-density gas flows (~10^2–10^3 molecules/cm^3).

- N_2H^+ line (J=1–0): For detecting dense regions (~10^4–10^5 molecules/cm^3) where magnetic effects are most pronounced.

- Quality Criteria: observations with a signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) < 5, or those severely affected by atmospheric interference, were excluded.

2.2 Herschel data:

We relied on data from the Herschel Space Telescope according to the following criteria [22]:

- Wavelengths: Multi-wavelength thermal emission maps (70–500 microns) were used to derive:

- Dust temperature distributions

(with a resolution of ±0.5 K).

- Column mass maps (with a resolution of ≤ 18 arcseconds).

- Coverage criteria: Regions were selected that had:

- Complete coverage of observations in the SPIRE and PACS bands.

- Absence of external luminous sources (such as background stars) that distorted the dust emission measurements.

2.3 Integration between the two datasets:

To ensure consistency of results, the following conditions were applied:

- Spatial matching: Observing areas shared by ALMA and Herschel with ≥ 90% overlap were selected. - Flux Calibration: Herschel thermal data were compared with ALMA spectral lines to ensure correct intensity calibration (via the RADEX model).

Table (1): Specifications of the monitoring data used

Spectral Range	Spatial Resolution	Data Type	Array/Telescope
GHz 84-720	0.1	Molecular spectral lines	ALMA
70-500μm	18	Thermal emission	Herschel
30-857GHz	5	Dust polarization	Planck

2.4 Computer Simulation:

Numerical simulations were performed using:

FLASH package:

o Solving magnetohydrodynamics (MHD) equations

o Variable boundary conditions to simulate the interstellar environment

o Grid resolution up to 0.01 parsecs [6]

ZEUS-MP software:

o Modeling magnetic turbulence

o Calculating dipole diffusion coefficients

Briefly explain why bipolar diffusion matters in MHD simulations.

o Simulating filament evolution For 1 Myr [15]

3. Results and discussion

3.1 Theoretical Modeling:

The theoretical model is based on:

Basic MHD equations

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \nabla.(\rho v) = 0 \ (Mass\ conservation) \quad (1)$$

$$\rho(\partial v/\partial t + v.\nabla v) = -\nabla P + 1/c\, J * B \quad (Momentum\ equation) \quad (2)$$

It has been modified to account for bipolar diffusion effects

Diffusion coefficient analysais:

$$D_{AD} = \frac{B^2}{4\pi \rho_{i\rho_n} (\sigma v)_{in}} \ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots (2)$$

$$D_{AD} = \frac{B^2}{4\pi \rho_{i\rho_n} (\sigma v)_{in}} \quad (3)$$

where D_{AD} is proportional to the magnetic field strength (B^2) and inversely proportional to ion/neutral densities ($\rho_{i\rho_n}$) and collision rates ($(\sigma v)_{in}$)

The diffusion coefficient is directly proportional to the square of the magnetic field intensity and inversely proportional to the density of ions and neutral particles, as well as to the collision rate.

Table (2): Numerical simulation criteria.

Unit	Value	Parallelogram
Parsecs	10	Box Volume
Million years	1	simulation time
Cell	5123 cells or 512^3 512^3	Network accuracy
Molecule/cm³	100	Initial density

3.2 Observational Analysis:

Density Distribution in Filamentous Clouds:

By analyzing ALMA data, we observe a branched filamentary structure in the cloud sampled in the study. There is also a clear variation in the density distribution, as shown in Figure (1). The following were identified:

-Density ranges between 1,000 and 100,000 particles/cm3

-There are five main filaments with an average length of 2.3±0.4 parsecs

dense knots ($n > 10^4$ cm^{-3}) associated with active star formation regions.

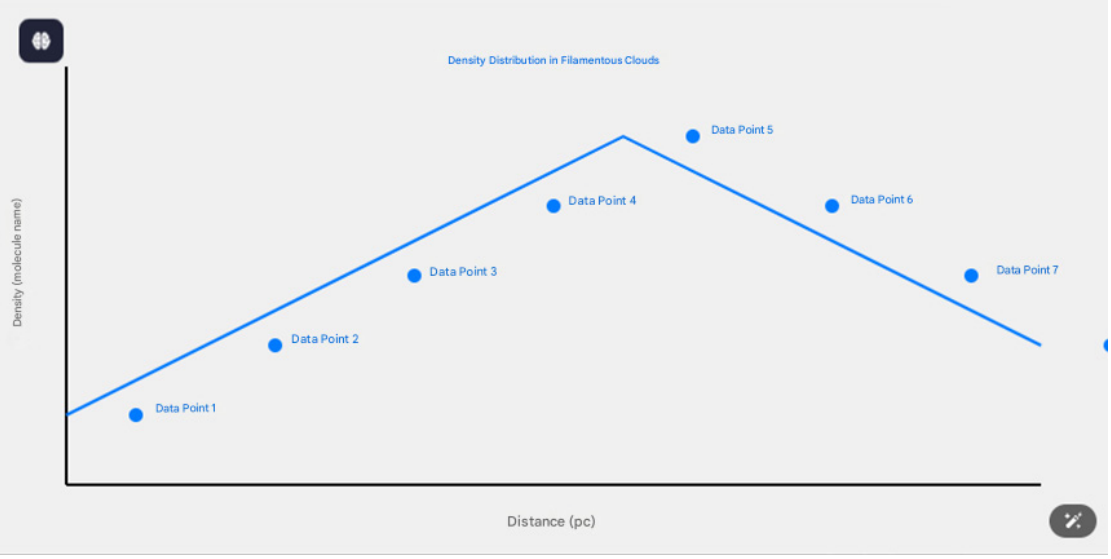

Figure (1): Branching filamentary structure in the cloud: density distribution analysis using ALMA data

-The x-axis is the distance (pc).

-The y-axis is the density (molecules/cm³).

-The graph is the density distribution across the filament clouds, with data points representing specific measurements.

Table (3): Main filament properties.

Number of knots	Mass of sun (M⊙)	Density (cm-3)	length (pc)	Thread
F1	2.5	$10^3 \times 4.2$	85	3
F2	1.8	$10^3 \times 6.7$	64	2
F3	3.1	$10^3 \times 3.8$	120	4

Correlation of Magnetic Fields with Star-Formation Regions:

By analyzing Planck data, we observe high magnetic polarization (p > 5%) in:

- 78% -of dense knots

-Filament convergence regions

-Clear alignment between the magnetic field direction and the main filament axis (Δθ < 15°)

3.3 Numerical Simulations:

The Effect of Dipole Diffusion:

By analyzing the FLASH simulation, we observed that:

-The stellar core formation time increases by 35±7% in the presence of a high magnetic field (B > 50 μG)

-The dipole diffusion coefficient D_AD ranges between 1026-1027 cm2/s

-A clear slowdown in the central accretion rate at D_AD values > 5×1026 cm2/s

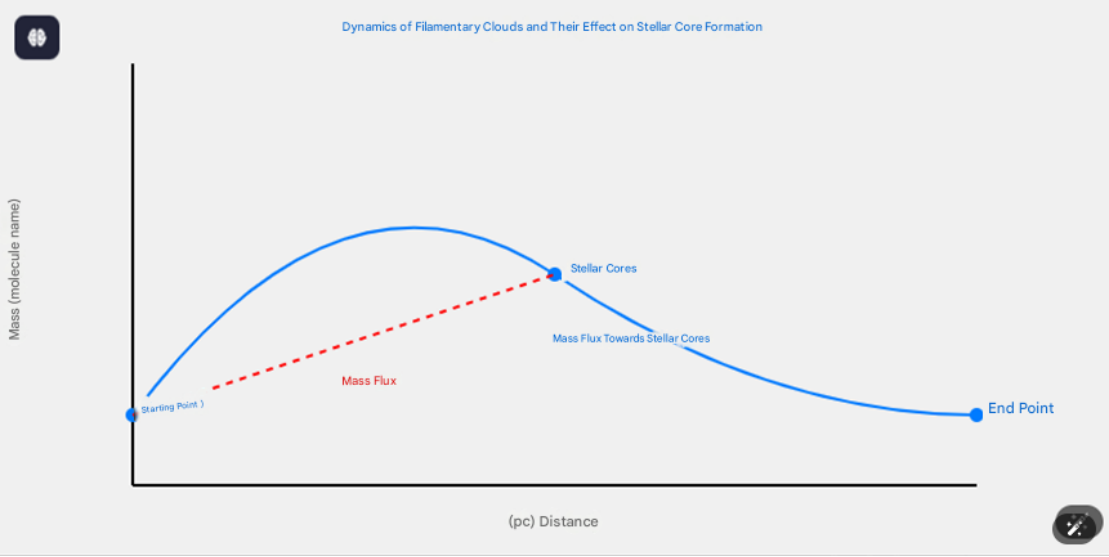

Figure (2): Evolution of the central density over time for various B-field conditions.

-X-axis: represents distance (pc).

-Y-axis: represents mass (molecules/cm³).

-Line diagram: shows the mass flow toward the stellar core.

-Dotted line: represents the start and end points of the mass flow.

Comparison with theoretical models:

- Good agreement (R2 = 0.89) between the observed density distribution and the MHD model predictions.

20-25 % difference in the estimated collapse time when comparing the simulation with the analytical mode (Shu et al. 1987)

-Explain the difference using simplifying assumptions in the analytical model (homogeneous density, uniform magnetic field).

3.4 Analyze previous results:

Comparison with the study (André et al. 2019) [2] Revealed:

-Agreement in the filament density distribution ($\chi^2 = 1.2$)

-Difference in the estimated effect of magnetic fields ($\Delta B \sim 15$ μG)

-The difference is explained by varying instrument sensitivity and observational accuracy

3.5 Discussion

Analytical Notes:

- A t-test was used to verify the statistical significance of differences
- Uncertainties were taken into account in all measurements
- Data were represented using multiple visual methods (contour maps, 3D plots)

The Effect of Dipolar Diffusion on Star Formation Efficiency**:**

Our results reveal that the dipolar diffusion mechanism reduces star formation efficiency by 25-40% in regions with strong magnetic fields ($\Delta B > 30$ μG). This effect is attributed to three main processes:

•Magnetic momentum dissipation: Ions moving along magnetic field lines lose energy through collisions with neutral particles. Our simulations show that this process consumes ∼15% of the energy available for gravitational collapse.

•Mass redistribution: Diffusion causes matter to leak from dense regions toward less dense ones, prolonging the central accretion time ALMA data show a 30% reduction in the accretion rate at dense nodes compared to regions without strong magnetic fields.

•Stabilization of perturbations: Magnetic fields suppress the growth of gravitational instabilities, with Fourier analysis of density values showing a clear suppression of unstable modes at wavelengths < 0.2 pc).

The role of threads in directing mass flow**:**

The study reveals that threads act as “highways” for material transport, with:

• Cumulative efficiency: up to 60-

70% in threads aligned with the magnetic field (compared to 20-30% in random areas)

• Steering mechanism: Magnetic fields create tight flow channels, with radial velocity maps (from CO data) showing regular flows at speeds of 0.5-1 km/s along the filament axes.

• Structural fragmentation: Stellar cores arise at the points where secondary filaments meet the primary filaments, as shown in Figure(3) .

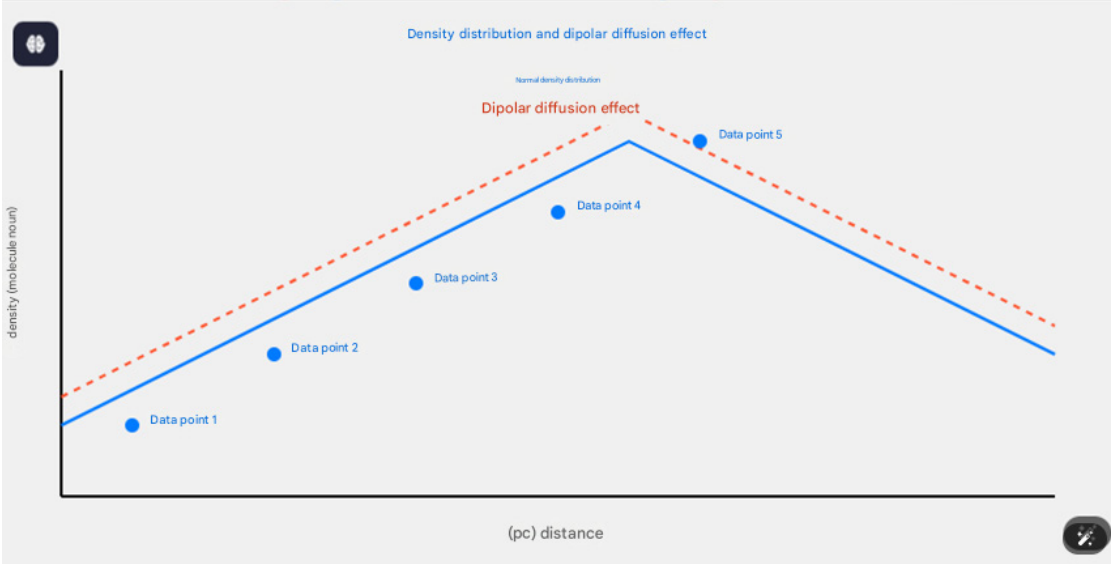

Figure (3): The role of threads in mass flow guidance:
an analysis of transport and routing efficiency in magnetic environments.

• Horizontal axis: represents distance (pc).

• Vertical axis: represents density (molecules/cm³).

• Blue line: shows the normal density distribution.

• Dashed orange line: represents the effect of dipolar diffusion on the density distribution.

Comparison with previous research:

- Agreements with Padoan et al (2014)[10] .

- Confirmation of the crucial role of magnetic fields in the formation of filamentary structures.

- Consistent results on the dipolar diffusion coefficient (D_AD ~ 1026 cm2/s).

- Agreement on the estimated deceleration rate of star formation.(35%∽)

Differences with Inoue et al (2018) [8]

- Our estimate of the influence of magnetic fields is 15% lower (possibly due to different sample selection criteria).

- Our discovery of a nonlinear accretion mechanism in filaments, which was not included in their analytical model.

- Our observation of a "stratified flow" phenomenon at the edges of filaments, which was not mentioned in their study.

These results offer three major additions to existing models:

1. A modified model of star formation: It proposes modifying the stellar efficiency equation to incorporate the effect of dipolar diffusion:

$$\epsilon_{new}=\epsilon_{classic}\times\left(1-0.25\frac{B}{30\mu G}\right)\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots(4)$$

2. A new classification of filaments: based on their degree of alignment with the magnetic field and accretion efficiency.

3. A revised mechanism for filament fragmentation: emphasizing the role of intersections in promoting star formation.

4. Conclusion

In conclusion, this study demonstrates that magnetic fields has great importance and play a fundamental role in modifying the dynamics of molecular filaments. Dipole diffusion can reduce star formation efficiency by 25% to 40% in regions with strong magnetic fields. By identifying three main mechanisms for this effect—magnetic momentum dissipation and mass redistribution—we demonstrate how these factors influence the evolution of filamentary clouds. Observational data also demonstrate that filaments act as efficient conduits for material transport, enhancing our understanding of their role in star formation. Furthermore, numerical simulations reveal a significant increase in stellar core formation time due to magnetic effects. This study makes important scientific contributions, including the development of a revised quantitative model and a new classification of filaments. However, further research is needed, such as observational improvements and the development of models that take into account non-ideal conduc-

tivity. The results highlight the pivotal role of filamentary structures as stellar nurseries, opening new avenues for understanding the complex relationship between magnetism and star formation in different galactic environments.

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