Sweating the Small Stuff: Stellar Feedback in Massive Star Clusters

Anna Rosen | San Diego State University **TOSCA**: Topical Overview of Star Cluster Astrophysics



Key Scientific Challenges for the Next Decade

Understanding Massive Star Formation and Stellar Feedback is crucial to address these goals



Cosmic Ecosystems

Priority Area: Unveiling the Drivers of Galaxy Growth

"Research in the coming decade will *revolutionize our understanding* of the origins and evolution of galaxies, from the cosmic webs of gas that feed them to *the formation of stars*."

Key Scientific Challenges for the Next Decade

Understanding Massive Star Formation and Stellar Feedback is crucial to address these goals



Cosmic Ecosystems

Spitzer (Infrared) Hubble (Optical) Chandra (X-ray) Astro Decadal Survey (Astro2020)

Priority Area: Unveiling the Drivers of Galaxy Growth

"Research in the coming decade will *revolutionize our understanding* of the origins and evolution of galaxies, from the cosmic webs of gas that feed them to *the formation of stars*." Stars form via the hierarchical collapse of gas in GMCs. Stars inject mass, energy, and momentum into the ISM (i.e., they **feedback** on their natal environment)



See Review by Rosen+2020

Stellar Feedback on Small Scales (e.g., stars)



Avison+(incl. Rosen) 2021

Massive stars ($\geq 8M_{\odot}$) are rare (~1% by number), but dominate the energetics of massive star forming regions & star-forming galaxies

Stellar feedback can halt stellar accretion \rightarrow leads to inefficient star formation in GMCs and galaxies \rightarrow launches galactic outflows.

The Chaotic Lives of Star-forming GMCs

b Schematic view of molecular cloud evolution



Schinnerer E, Leroy AK. 2024 Annu. Rev. Astron. Astrophys. 62:369–436

Both observations & simulations confirm that pre-supernovae feedback (*early feedback* — radiation & winds) disrupts star-forming clouds quickly. (e.g., see Grudic+2022, Chevance+2022, 2023, Jeffreson+2024)

The Chaotic Lives of Star-forming Galaxies

PHANGS-JWST: NGC 628 aka "Phantom Galaxy"

MIRI: F770W/F1000W/F1130W/F2100W (e.g., Barnes, PHANGS-JWST+2023; Watkins, PHANGS-JWST+2023)

Credit: <u>https://sites.google.com/view/phangs/home</u>

Stellar feedback disrupts $GMCs \rightarrow Creates$ galactic super-bubbles \rightarrow Launches galactic outflows

M82 (NASA/ESA/CXC/JPL)

Spitzer (Infrared) Hubble (Optical) Chandra (X-ray)

(e.g., Bolatto+2013, Hopkins+2014, Thompson & Krumholz 2016, Lopez+2018, Lopez+2022)

Stellar feedback is a **multi-scale**, **multi-physics**, & **multi-wavelength** problem



...and remains as one of the largest uncertainties in star and galaxy formation

Stellar Feedback on Small Scales (e.g., stars)



Avison+(incl. Rosen) 2021

Stellar Radiation: Radiation Pressure & Photoionization



(e.g., Larson & Starrfield 1971, Kahn 1974, Yorke 1979, Yorke+1995, Wolfire & Cassinelli 1986, 1987)



Mass delivered to massive protostar via anisotropic accretion flows (e.g., infalling dense filaments, disk accretion, & radiative RT instabilities

 $\rightarrow P_{\rm rad}$ likely unable to eject gas from birth sites during main accretion phase

Rosen+2016, 2019 ($P_{rad} = P_{dir} + P_{IR}$ modeled via **HARM**² Hybrid RT method from **Rosen**+2017)

See also: Yorke & Bodenheimer 1999, Krumholz+2009, Kuiper+2010, 2011, 2013; Commerçon+2010, 2011; Klassen+2016 Mignon-Risse+ 2020, 2021

Stellar Radiation: Radiation Pressure & Photoionization

Photoionization: Warm Gas Pressure (P_{HII}) \rightarrow Thermal Expansion Lyman Continuum (**LyC**; E_{ν} \geq 13.6 eV = ϵ_0) photons ionize HI \rightarrow HII (T_{HI} \approx 10⁴ K)



Stellar Radiation: Radiation Pressure & Photoionization



Dynamics of compact HII regions ($R_{sh} < 0.5 \text{ pc}$) switch from P_{IR} -dominated $\rightarrow P_{HII}$ -dominated for giant (extended) HII regions Krumholz & Matzner 2009; Lopez+2011, 2014; Olivier, Lopez, Rosen+2021

Stellar Feedback on Small Scales (e.g., stars)



Energy-driven vs. Momentum-driven Stellar Feedback

"fast winds" vs. "slow winds" (Koo & McKee 1992)

Collimated outflows (i.e., jets) and stellar winds are characterized by a mass-loss rate \dot{M}_w and a (supersonic) launching velocity v_w .



e.g., Castor+1975, Weaver+1977, Koo & McKee 1992, Rosen+2014, Lancaster+2021, Rosen 2022, Rosen+ (in prep)

Energy-driven vs. Momentum-driven Stellar Feedback "fast winds" vs. "slow winds" (KOO & MCKEE 1992)

Injected Momentum & Kinetic Energy

$$\dot{p}_w = \dot{M}_w v_w$$

 $\dot{E}_w = \frac{1}{2} \dot{M}_w v_w^2$
Shell Momentum & Kinetic Energy
 $p_{\rm sh} = M_{\rm sh} v_{\rm sh}$
 $E_{\rm sh} = \frac{1}{2} M_{\rm sh} v_{\rm sh}^2$

Momentum Conserving
(significant radiative losses)
$$p_{\rm sh,p} = \dot{p}_w t$$

 $E_{\rm sh,p} = \frac{1}{2} v_{\rm sh,p} \dot{p}_w t$
Energy Conserving
(negligible radiative losses)
 $p_{\rm sh,E} = \frac{2\dot{E}_w t}{v_{\rm sh,E}}$
 $E_{\rm sh,E} = \dot{E}_w t$



e.g., Castor+1975; Weaver+1977; Koo & McKee 1992; Rosen+2014, 2022; Lancaster+2021, 2024

Energy-driven vs. Momentum-driven Stellar Feedback "fast winds" vs. "slow winds" (KOO & MCKEE 1992)

Momentum conserving vs. energy conserving feedback depends on how efficiently the shock heated gas can cool. $(t_{cool} = n_{ps}^2 \Lambda(T))$



Collimated outflows \Rightarrow momentum-driven feedback (slow winds) Stellar winds \Rightarrow energy-driven (fast winds) feedback

e.g., Castor+1975; Weaver+1977; Koo & McKee 1992; Rosen+2014, 2022; Lancaster+2021, 2024

Stellar Feedback on Small Scales (e.g., stars)



Stellar Feedback on Small Scales: Collimated Protostellar Outflows



Radiation vents through swept-up outflow cavities \rightarrow radiation pressure becomes less important

See also: Krumholz+2005; Cunningham+2011, Kuiper+2015, 2016; Kolligan & Kuiper 2018; Mignon-Risse+2021

Stellar Feedback on Small Scales: Collimated Protostellar Outflows



Outflows remove significant material from the birth sites of stars.

See also: Krumholz+2005; Cunningham+2011, Kuiper+2015, 2016; Kolligan & Kuiper 2018; Mignon-Risse+2021

Stellar Feedback on Small Scales (e.g., stars)



Avison+(incl. Rosen) 2021

Massive protostars should launch line-driven isotropic winds as they contract to the main-sequence



Jumps in M_w and v_w occur when wind launching switches from radiativelydriven (scattering dominates) \rightarrow line-driven (metal-ion absorption dominates) (aka bi-stability jump: Vink+2001; see review talks by Jon Sundqvist & Andreas Sander) Fast stellar winds collides with the ISM → Produces hot shock heated gas that cools primarily via adiabatic expansion (Remember wind feedback should be in the "fast winds" regime)



As Assuming
$$\dot{E}_{w, \text{ KE}} = \frac{1}{2} \dot{M}_w v_w^2$$

 $(v_w > v_{esc})$ is fully thermalized:
 $T_{ps} \sim 2 \times 10^7 \left(\frac{v_w}{10^3 \text{ km s}^{-1}}\right)^2 \text{ K}$
 $k_B T_{ps} \sim 2 \left(\frac{v_w}{10^3 \text{ km s}^{-1}}\right)^2 \text{ keV}$

 \Rightarrow Hot gas thermally emits X-rays

(e.g., Castor+1975, Weaver+1977; Koo & McKee 1992; Harper-Clark & Murray 2009; **Rosen**+2014; Lancaster+2021, 2024; **Rosen** 2022)

Importance of Wind Feedback during MSF: Shock-heated gas eventually quenches accretion



(0.1 pc)²

Wind feedback may be responsible for halting accretion on (sub-pc) core scales for stars with $M_{\star}\gtrsim 30~{
m M}_{\odot}$ Rosen 2022 How to make stars \ge 30 M_o? Observations & simulations show that massive star formation is a highly dynamical process

Hub-filament Systems: Sites of Galactic Massive Star Formation



High ram-pressure inflows in GMCs (& galaxies) is likely capable of circumventing stellar feedback.

How to make stars \ge 30 M $_{\odot}$? Observations & simulations show that massive star formation is a highly dynamical process



High ram-pressure inflows in GMCs (& galaxies) is likely capable of circumventing stellar feedback.

STAR FORmation in **G**aseous **E**nvironments (STARFORGE)

Initial Conditions: $M_{GMC} = 2 \times 10^4 M_{\odot}$, $R_{GMC} = 10 \text{ pc}$, $\Sigma_{GMC} = 0.01 \text{ g cm}^{-2}$ Stellar Initial Mass Function (IMF) completeness limit: 0.1 M_{\odot}



Grudić (incl. **Rosen**)+ 2022 Guszejnov (incl. **Rosen**)+, 2022a,b, 2023

STARFORGE: Radiation & stellar winds from massive stars ("early feedback") disrupts GMC before SNe occur



Feedback sets the stellar IMF & is responsible for low SFEs (SFE = M_{\star}/M_{GMC})



Protostellar jets \rightarrow large-scale mass-loaded entrained outflows & sets the low-mass IMF peak.

Radiation & stellar winds* control the high-mass slope of the IMF & quenches star formation.

*Caveat: Winds are only launched for Main-Sequence massive stars & Wolf-Rayet stars Rosen 2022 found that massive protostars launch winds → wind feedback reduces accretion onto massive protostars

P_{rad} vs. P_{HII}-Dominated HII Regions Powered by Young Star Clusters (t≤ few Myr)

Massive Star Clusters (MSCs)

 $\begin{array}{l} M_{MSC} \approx few \times 10^2 - few \times 10^3 \ M_{\odot} \\ R_{MSC} \approx 10s - 100s \ pc \\ L_{MSC} \approx 10^4 - 10^6 \ L_{\odot} \\ Qo, \ MSC \approx 10^{48} - 10^{50} \ s^{-1} \\ MSCs \ form \ in \ quiescent \ environments \\ (e.g., \ galactic \ disks) \\ High \ Lssc, \ extended \ Rssc \rightarrow P_{HII}-dom \end{array}$

Super Star Clusters (SSCs) $M_{SSC} \approx few \times 10^3 - few \times 10^6 M_{\odot}$ $R_{SSC} \approx few pc$ $L_{SSC} \approx 10^6 - 10^8 L_{\odot}$ $Q_{O, SSC} \approx 10^{50} - 10^{52} s^{-1}$ SSCs form in extreme environments (e.g., starburst galaxies, mergers) High Lssc, compact Rssc \rightarrow Prad-dom.



...but what about stellar winds?

A key signature of stellar wind feedback is the soft, diffuse X-ray emission observed within giant HII Regions powered by MSCs

Super Star Cluster R136 in the heart of 30 Doradus

JWST NIRCam and MIRI composite mosaic Chandra X-ray: T-ReX Survey 2 Ms/23 day survey (PI: L. Townsley)

(e.g., Krumholz & Matzner 2009, Lopez+2011, 2014, Rosen+2014, Townsley+2024)

Image credit: IR: NASA/ESA/CSA/STScI/JWST ERO Production Team; X-ray: NASA/CXC/Penn State Univ./L. Townsley et al.

X-ray emission from HII Regions is weaker than expected: Are stellar winds dynamically important or does the wind energy "leak" out?

(e.g., Dunne+03, Harper-Clark & Murray+09, Lopez+11, Rosen+2014, Ramachandran+2018, Lancaster+2021, 2024)



Giant HII Region 30 Doradus (NASA; Townsley+2024)

 $\frac{L_{\rm w} t_{\rm cl}}{V} \gg \frac{3}{2} n k_{\rm B} T_{\rm X}$



Data: Townsley+2011; Rosen+2014; Lopez+2014; Webb, Rodriguez+(incl. Rosen; subm. to ApJ), Pandey+(incl. Rosen) 2024; Rodriguez+(incl. Rosen) in prep

Figure from Jennifer Rodriguez (PhD student at OSU) **Note:** Supernova remnants can contaminate L_X (i.e., yields higher L_X)

Wind Feedback Drives Turbulence in Star Clusters: Wind Energy can be lost via turbulent mixing

Turbulent Mixing → Efficient Cooling



Rosen 2022

Compact wind Subbles undergo Efficient mixing at Bubble edges.



Turbulent Mixing

Shock Heating

Turbulent mixing occurs early!



On Small Scales: Diffuse X-ray emission expected from wind bubbles in embedded, compact HII regions is challenging to choose



Wind energy can also be lost via **physical leakage**:

(e.g., Harper-Clark & Murray 2009, Lopez+2011, Rogers & Pittard 2013, Rosen+2014)

Warm Photoionized Gas: $c_{\rm s, \ HII} \approx 10 \ {\rm km} \ {\rm s}^{-1} \approx v_{\rm sh}$

Hot Shock-heated Gas: $c_{\rm s, \ X} \approx 10 \ c_{\rm s, \ HII}$



Rogers & Pittard 2013

Stellar wind energy can also be lost via Dust Heating via Collisions

e.g., Draine 1979, Rosen+2014; Rodriguez (incl. Rosen)+(in prep)

Dust clumping & turbulence in HII Regions



Resonant Drag Instabilities (RDIs; due to dust grains streaming in fluids)

& $P_{\rm rad}$ cause dust clumping of larger grains near HII region shell. (Squire & Hopkins 2018; Hopkins, Rosen+2022)

Hot Gas-Dust Cooling Rate: $\Lambda_{\rm gd} = n_{\rm X} n_{\rm d} \sigma_{\rm d} \left(\frac{8k_{\rm B}T}{\pi m_{\rm e}}\right)^{1/2} \bar{\alpha}_{\rm T} \left(2k_{\rm B}T_{\rm d} - 2k_{\rm B}T\right)$

Hot gas sputters dust \rightarrow Dust must be replenished

Potential Dust Injection Sources:

Winds from evolved massive stars (Red Super Giants, Wolf Rayet stars)

Turbulent Mixing (mix gas + dust at HII region interface)

Stellar wind energy can also be lost via Cosmic Ray Acceleration in MSCs

(e.g., Gupta+2018a,b)



Energy exchange between hot shock-heated gas & CRs at the reverse shock leads to cooler wind bubbles.

Gupta+2018a,b

Young MSCs ($t \lesssim 3 \text{ Myr}$) are γ -ray bright, confirming

Stellar Wind Collisions are CR accelerators

(e.g., Pandey+2024, Peron+2024, etc.)

RCW 38 ($t \sim 0.5$ Myr)



2-7 keV Diffuse X-ray Emission



Diffuse X-ray emission is primarily due to **colliding winds** from the massive IRS 2 binary star system.

Energetics: $P_X \gg P_{CR}$

See poster by Paarmita Pandey

CR Pressure efficiently launches galactic outflows & alters the CGM structure Rathjen+2022



 10^{-5} 10^{-3} $10^{-1}10^{1}$ 10^{3} 10^{5} $10^{7}10^{-5}$ 10^{-4} $10^{-1}0^{-5}10^{-4}10^{-3}10^{-1}0^{-4}10^{-3}10^{-1}0^{-1}$ 10^{0} $10^{1}10^{-1}10^{0}$ 10^{1} 10^{2}

Hot Gas (T> 3×10^5 K) produced by SNe feedback drives galactic outflows \rightarrow CRs alters the outflow phase structure \rightarrow 3 phases (cold, warm, & hot) within 1 kpc of galactic disk

CRs provide pressure support to the CGM \rightarrow Results in lower T_{CGM} and alters the density gas distribution (and metals/ions)





Ji+2020; FIRE Collab

CR feedback produces lower CGM gas temperatures, alters the gas density distribution \rightarrow CR support produces smoother CGM

Summary:

- Massive stars **dominant** the galactic stellar feedback budget. Stars feedback on their environment via radiation, protostellar outflows, stellar winds, & SNe.
- **Stellar winds** from massive protostars, are able to **quench** stellar accretion.
- Diffuse, soft X-ray emission traces the hot shock-heated gas produced by stellar wind feedback.
- In MSCs wind feedback is dynamically unimportant because wind energy is lost.
 - Potential Loss mechanisms: hot gas physical leakage, multi-phase turbulent mixing, dust grain collisional heating, CR acceleration (?)
- **CR feedback** may be dynamically unimportant in MSCs but is a crucial component for shaping the CGM
- CRs add additional pressure support in the HII Regions & the CGM

