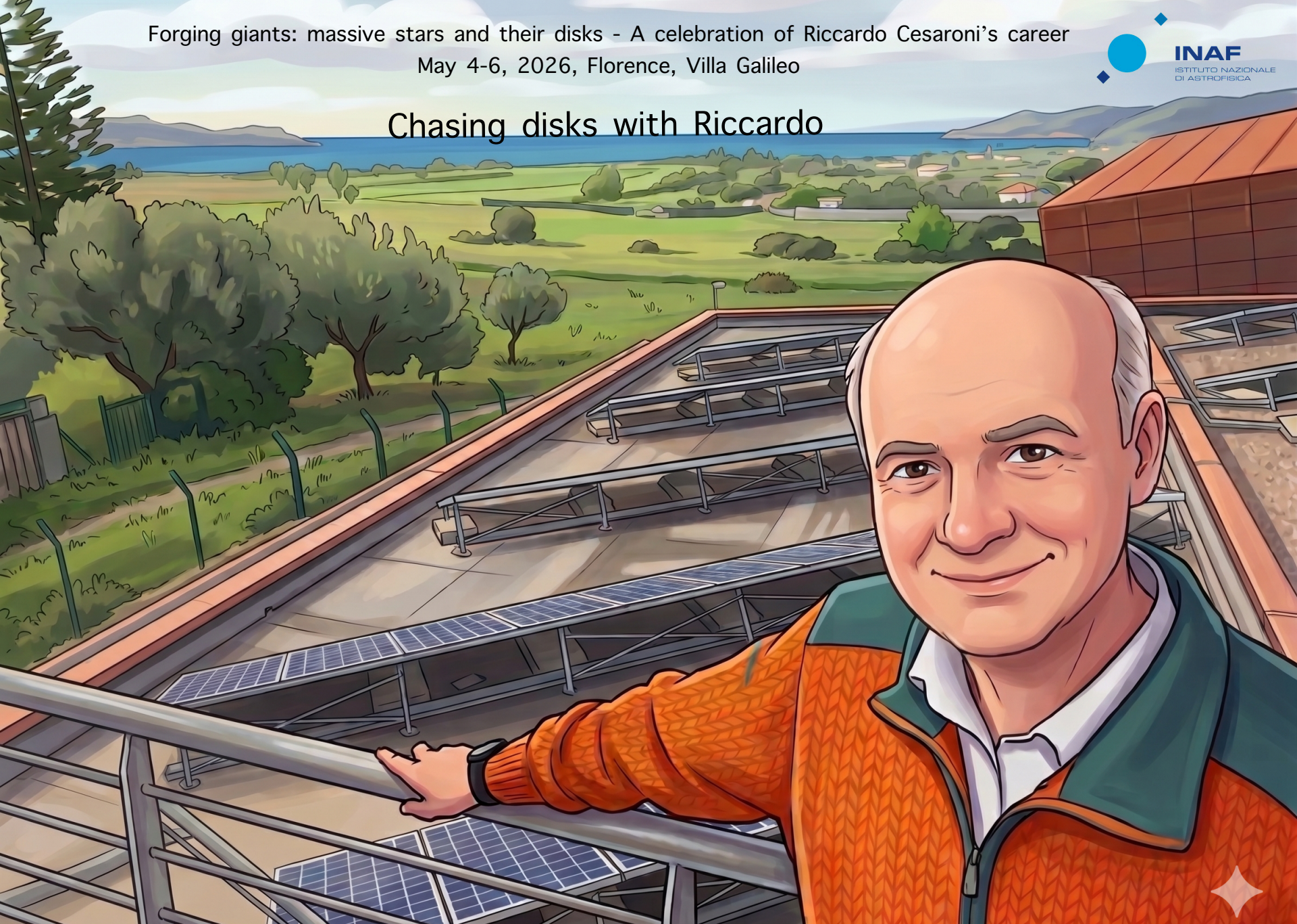


Forging giants: massive stars and their disks - A celebration of Riccardo Cesaroni's career  
May 4-6, 2026, Florence, Villa Galileo



## Chasing disks with Riccardo





Are 6.7 GHz methanol masers disk tracers?

1990A&amp;A...233...513C

Astron. Astrophys. 233, 513–522 (1990)

**Water maser variability and disk structure in S 255****R. Cesaroni**

Dipartimento di Astronomia e Scienza dello Spazio, Università di Firenze, Largo E. Fermi 5, I-50125 Firenze, Italy

Received July 11, accepted October 7, 1989

**Abstract.** The 22 GHz H<sub>2</sub>O maser emission from 5 sources associated with regions of star formation and showing triple peak profiles has been observed by means of the 32 m antenna of Medicina (Italy)<sup>1</sup>. One of these sources (S 255) has been monitored for about 2 years. The acquired spectra show an anticorrelated variability of the two side lines on time scales of a few months. This phenomenon is interpreted in terms of a disk in Keplerian rotation seen edge on. In order to quantify both the spectrum profile and its peculiar variations the radiative transfer equation in the disk is numerically solved and the computed spectra compared with the observed ones. The H<sub>2</sub>O maser is demonstrated to be saturated and radiatively pumped.

**Key words:** accretion disks – masers – line formation**1. Introduction**

## SYNTHESIS IMAGES OF 6.7 GHz METHANOL MASERS

R. P. NORRIS, J. B. WHITEOAK, J. L. CASWELL, M. H. WIERINGA, AND R. G. GOUGH

Australia Telescope National Facility, CSIRO, P.O. Box 76, Epping, NSW 2121, Australia

*Received 1992 September 8; accepted 1993 January 5*

## ABSTRACT

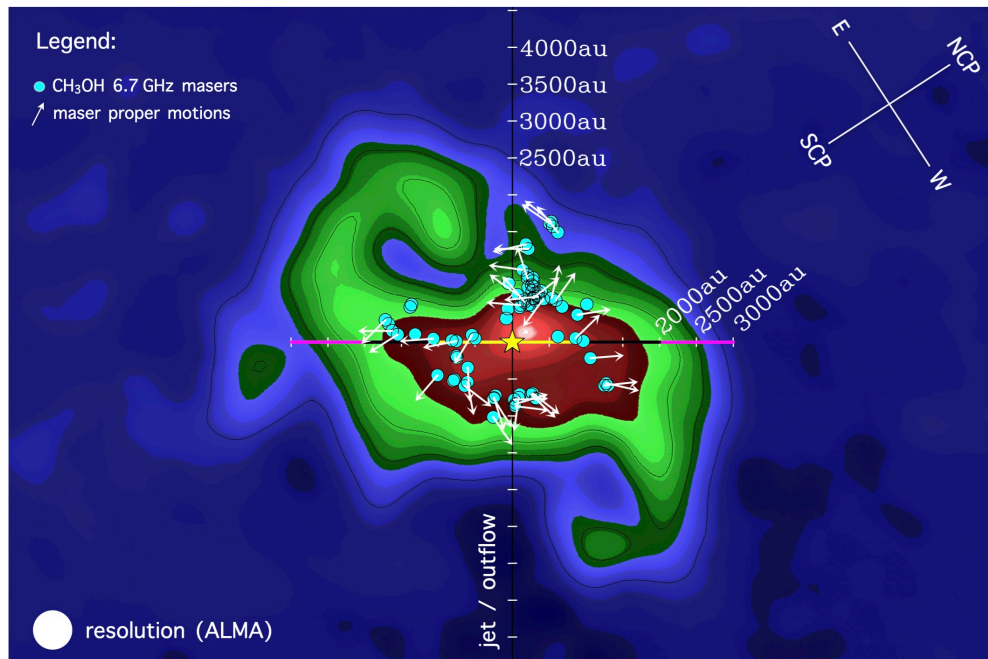
We have used the Australia Telescope Compact Array to produce maps in the 6.7 GHz ( $5_1-6_0 A^+$ ) transition of a number of methanol masers associated with star-forming regions and compared them with earlier maps of the 12.2 GHz ( $2_0-3_{-1} E$ ) methanol masers. We find that in several cases the 6.7 GHz and 12.2 GHz maser positions are coincident to within our positional accuracy of 0".02, placing a tight constraint on pumping mechanisms. We also find that the methanol masers are frequently located along lines or arcs, sometimes with velocity gradients along them, and interpret this to indicate the existence of edge-on protoplanetary disks around the nascent stars.

*Subject headings:* masers — radio continuum: stars — stars: formation

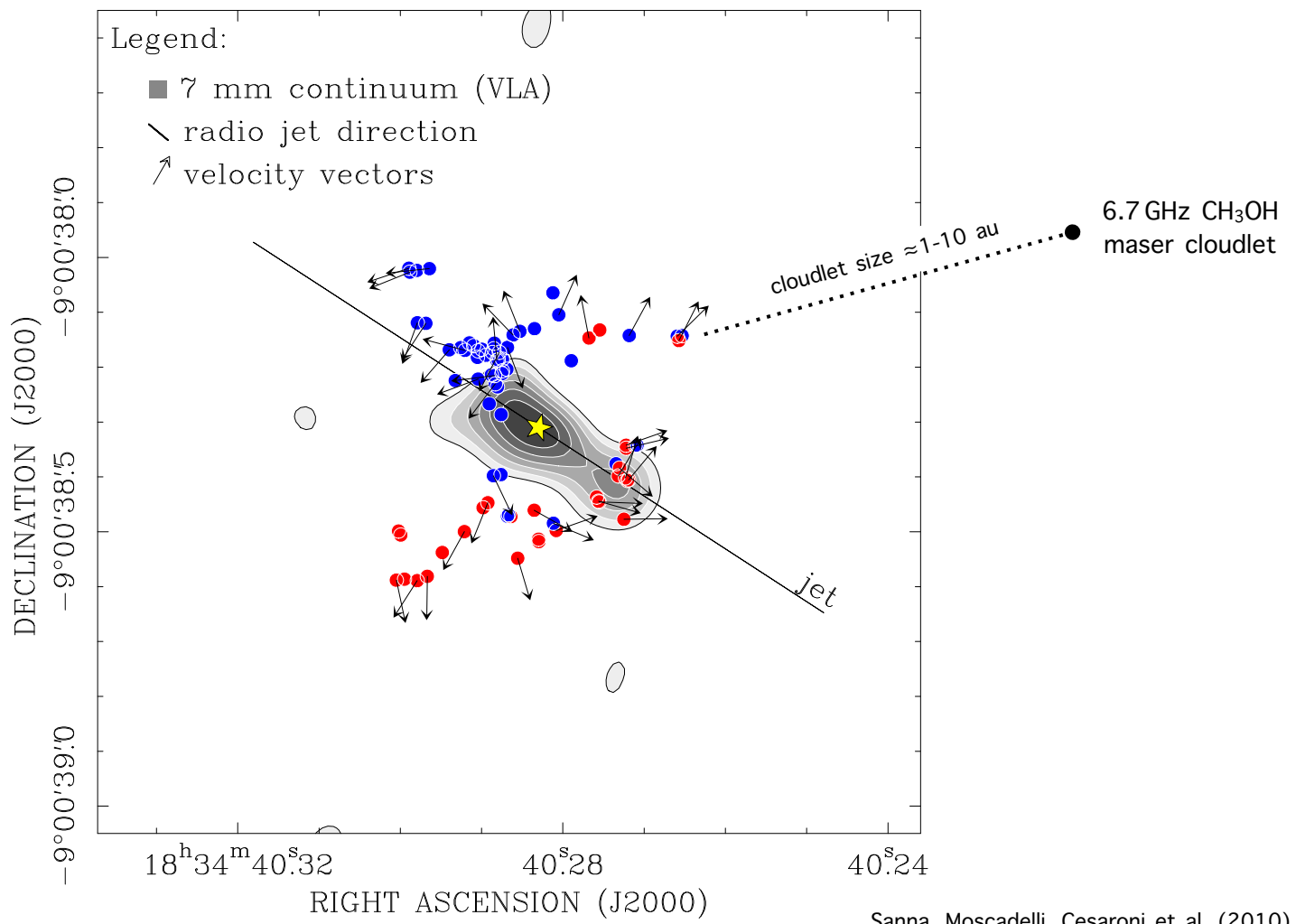
Are 6.7 GHz methanol masers disk tracers?no, because:

- the dust temperature (100-200 K) should systematically be higher than the gas kinetic temperature locally;
- the H<sub>2</sub> volume density should not exceed values of 10<sup>8</sup> cm<sup>-3</sup> above which the maser emission is promptly quenched;
- where proper motions have been measured, observational evidence shows expanding motions in all sources but two;

Ex., G023.01–00.41

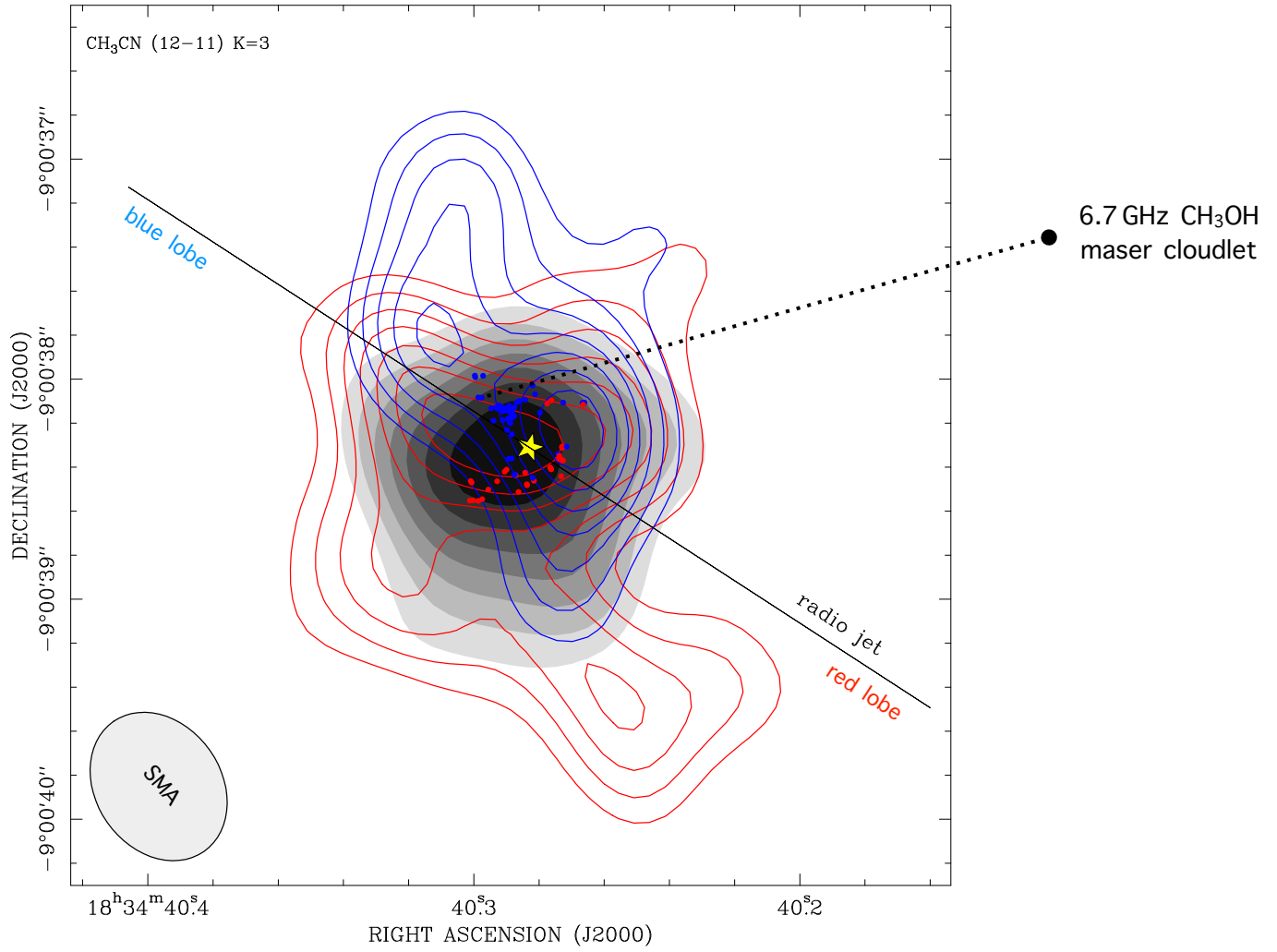


Sanna, ... Cesaroni, ... et al. (2021)



Sanna, Moscadelli, Cesaroni et al. (2010)

Sanna, Moscadelli, Cesaroni et al. (2016)



Sanna, Cesaroni, Moscadelli et al. (2014)

A MASSIVE YOUNG EMBEDDED OBJECT ASSOCIATED WITH THE UC H II  
REGION G31.41+0.31

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C. M. WALMSLEY

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AND

E. CHURCHWELL AND P. HOFNER

Washburn Observatory, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 475 North Charter Street, Madison, WI 53706;  
churchwell@madraf.astro.wisc.edu; hofner@madraf.astro.wisc.edu

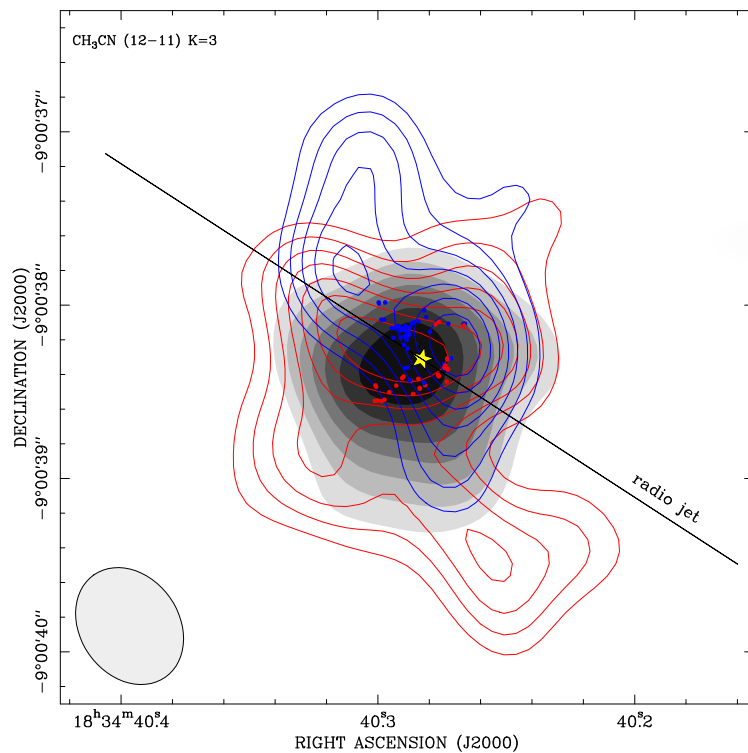
Received 1994 June 9; accepted 1994 August 22

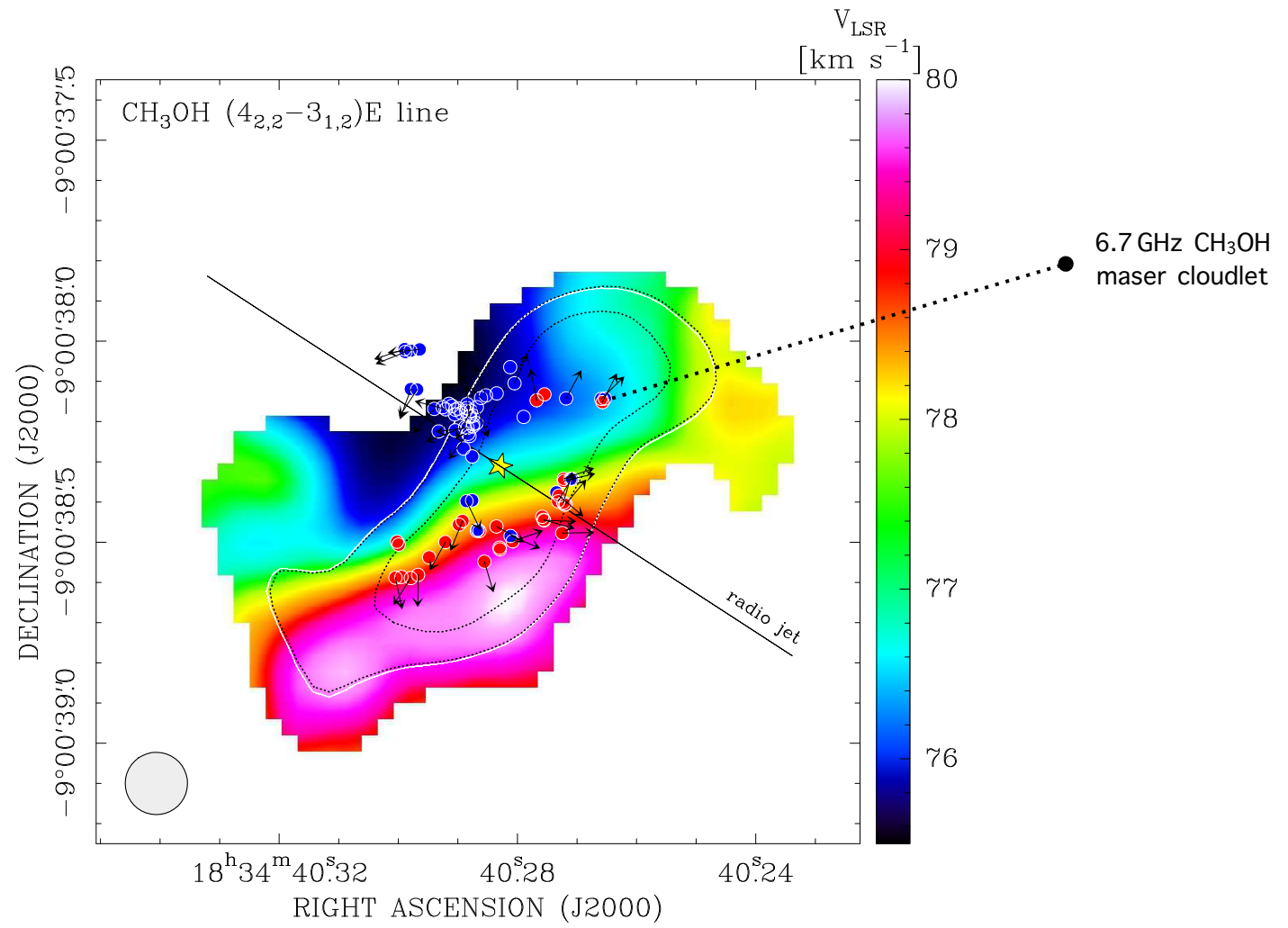
## ABSTRACT

We have used the IRAM Plateau de Bure Interferometer to make high angular resolution observations of the star-forming region surrounding the ultracompact H II region G31.41+0.31. We have produced maps in the ground state CH<sub>3</sub>CN(6-5), CH<sub>3</sub><sup>13</sup>CN(6-5) and vibrationally excited CH<sub>3</sub>CN(6-5) transitions, and in the 3 mm continuum emission. From these, we derive estimates of the size and mass of the hot molecular core known from earlier ammonia observations. The core angular diameter as measured in both methyl cyanide and the 3 mm continuum is  $\sim 1''$  corresponding to  $\sim 0.04$  pc. If the continuum emission is due to heated dust, we derive a mass of  $\sim 1000 M_{\odot}$ , but with large uncertainties. A remarkable velocity gradient ( $\sim 400$  km s<sup>-1</sup> pc<sup>-1</sup>) in the SW-NE direction is observed in CH<sub>3</sub>CN implying an equilibrium mass  $\sim 1000 M_{\odot}$ , consistent with the value quoted above. We discuss two possible scenarios (disk or outflow) for explaining this gradient and conclude that the molecular core must be dynamically unstable.

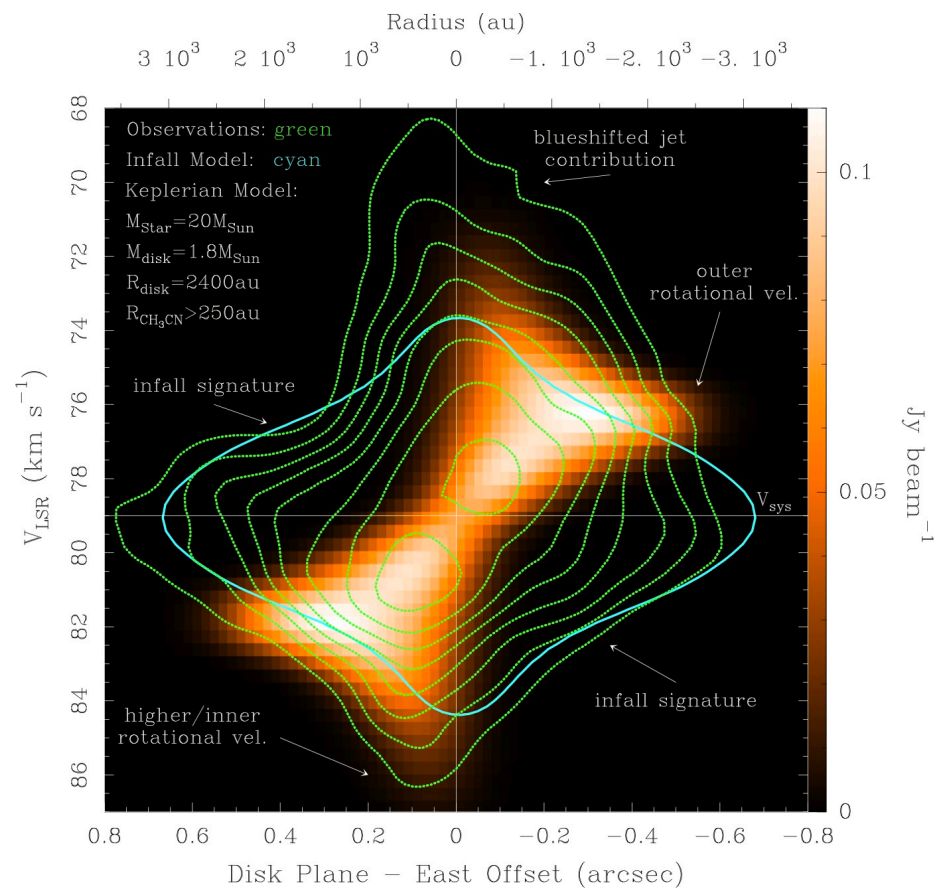
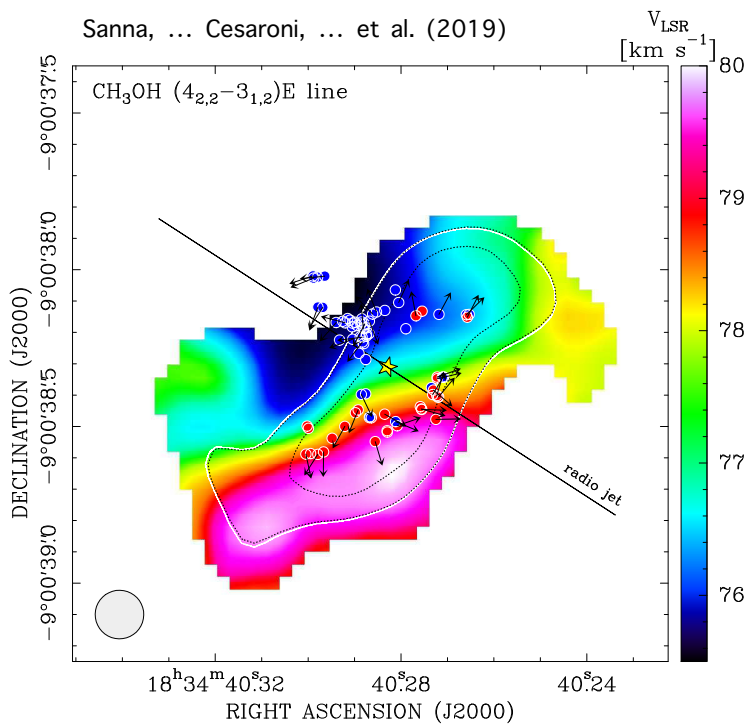
*Subject headings:* ISM: clouds — ISM: jets and outflows — ISM: molecules — radio lines: ISM

Sanna, Cesaroni, Moscadelli et al. (2014)

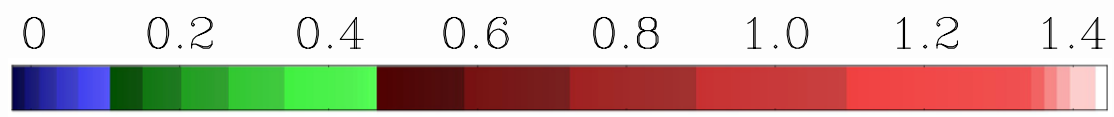




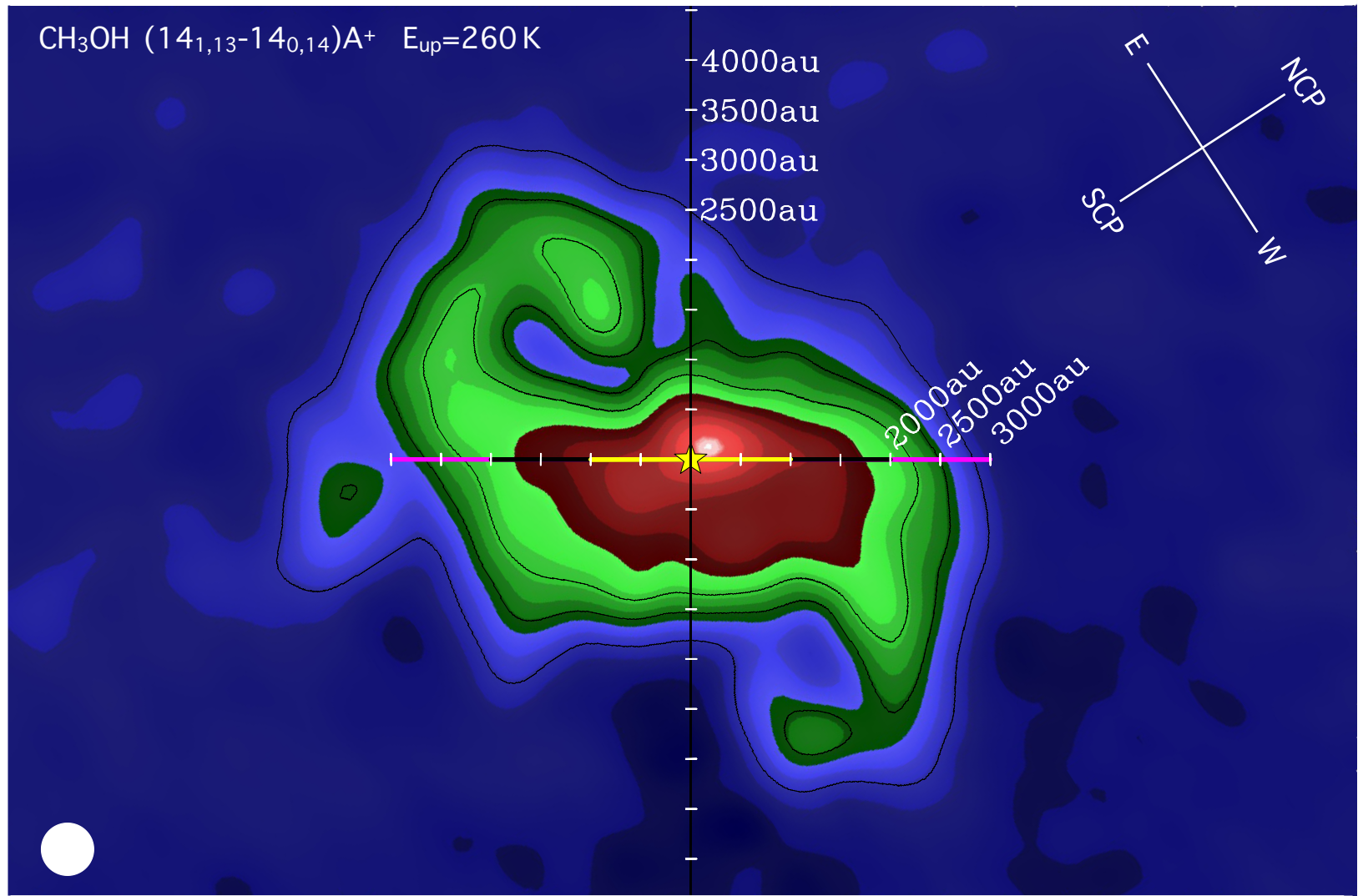
Sanna, ... Cesaroni, ... et al. (2019)



[Jy beam<sup>-1</sup> km s<sup>-1</sup>]

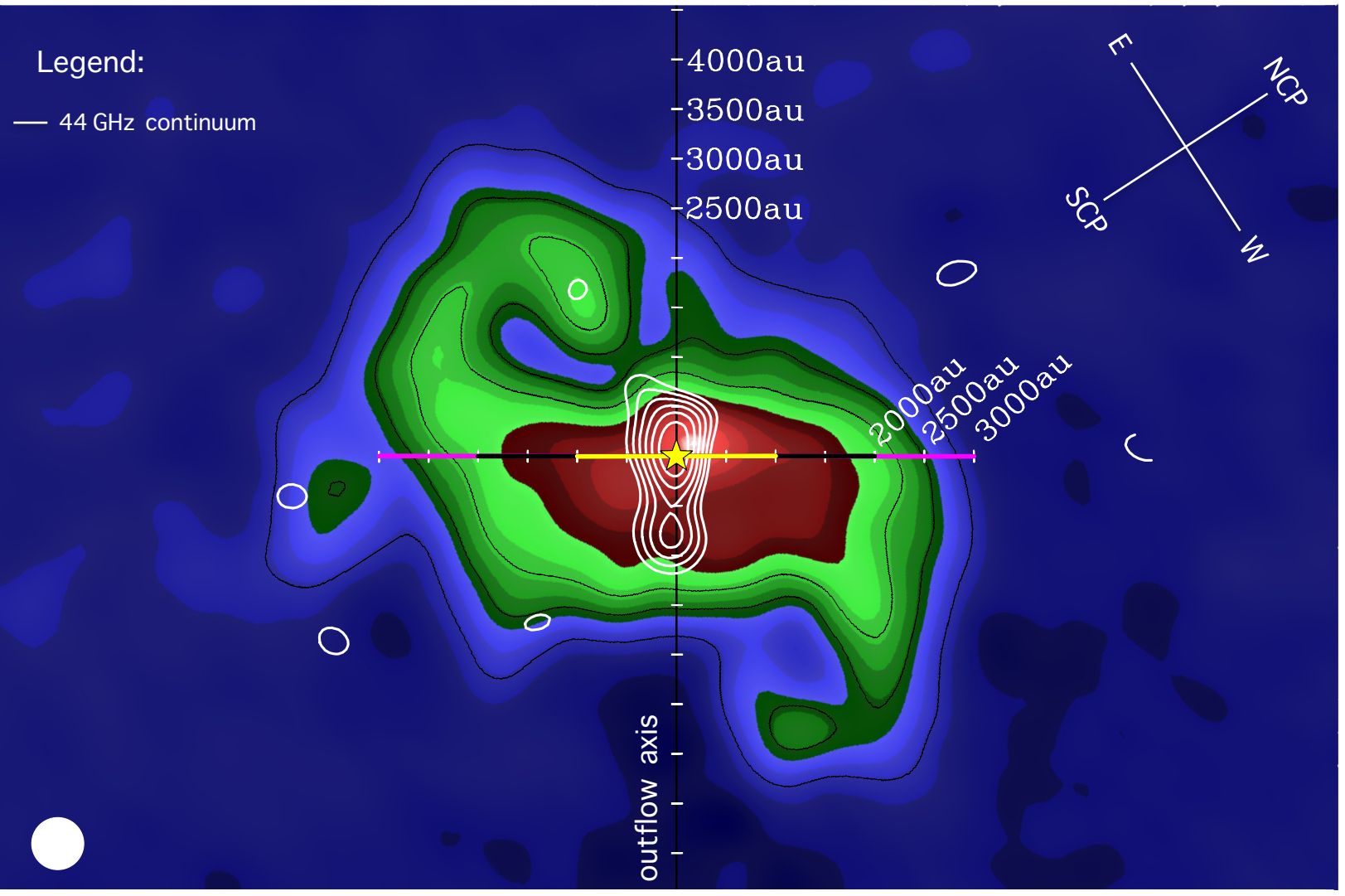
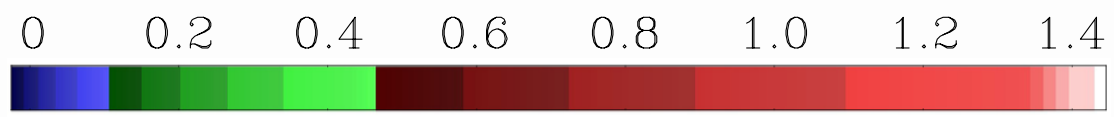


CH<sub>3</sub>OH (14<sub>1,13</sub>-14<sub>0,14</sub>)A<sup>+</sup> E<sub>up</sub>=260K



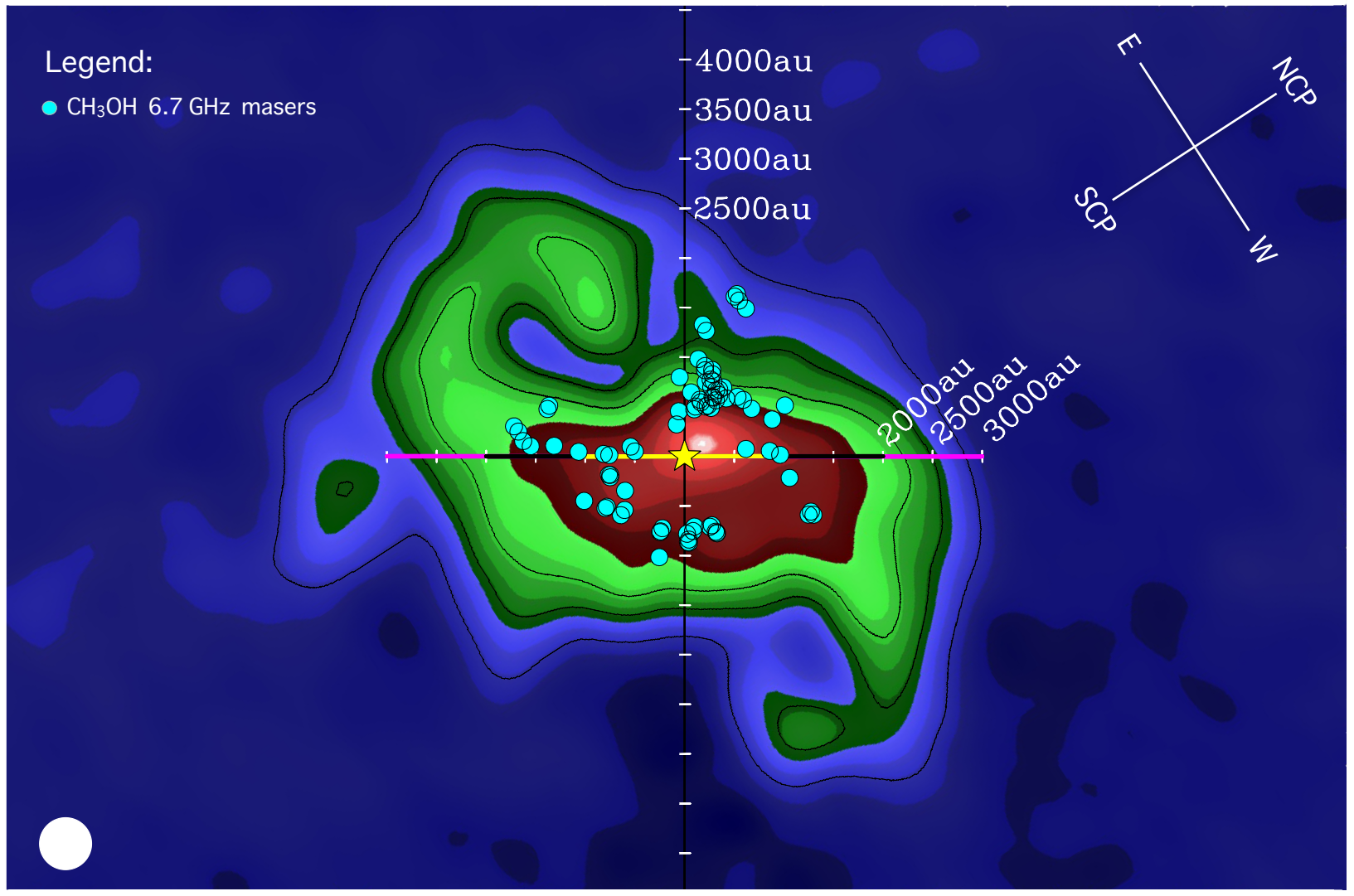
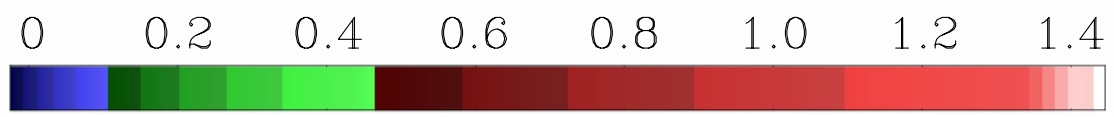
Sanna, ... Cesaroni, ... et al. (2021)

[Jy beam<sup>-1</sup> km s<sup>-1</sup>]



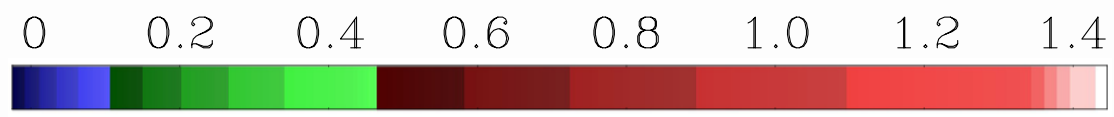
Sanna, ... Cesaroni, ... et al. (2021)

[Jy beam<sup>-1</sup> km s<sup>-1</sup>]



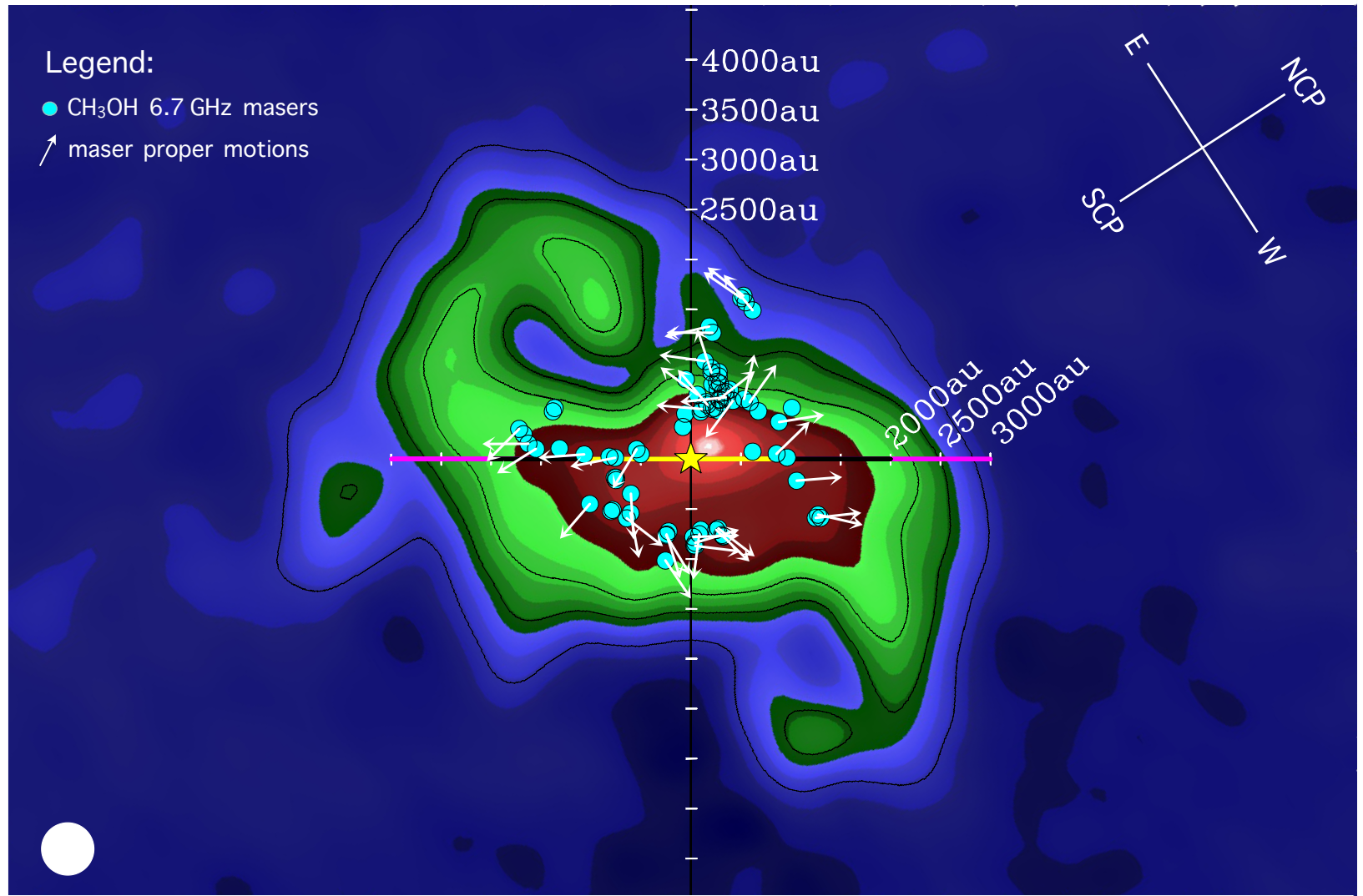
Sanna, ... Cesaroni, ... et al. (2021)

[Jy beam<sup>-1</sup> km s<sup>-1</sup>]



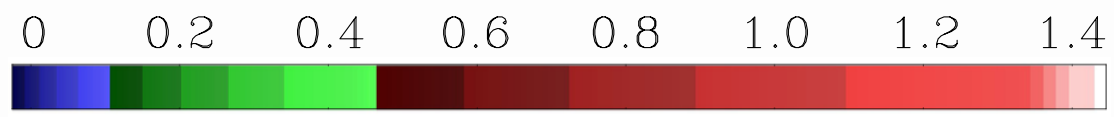
Legend:

- CH<sub>3</sub>OH 6.7 GHz masers
- ↗ maser proper motions



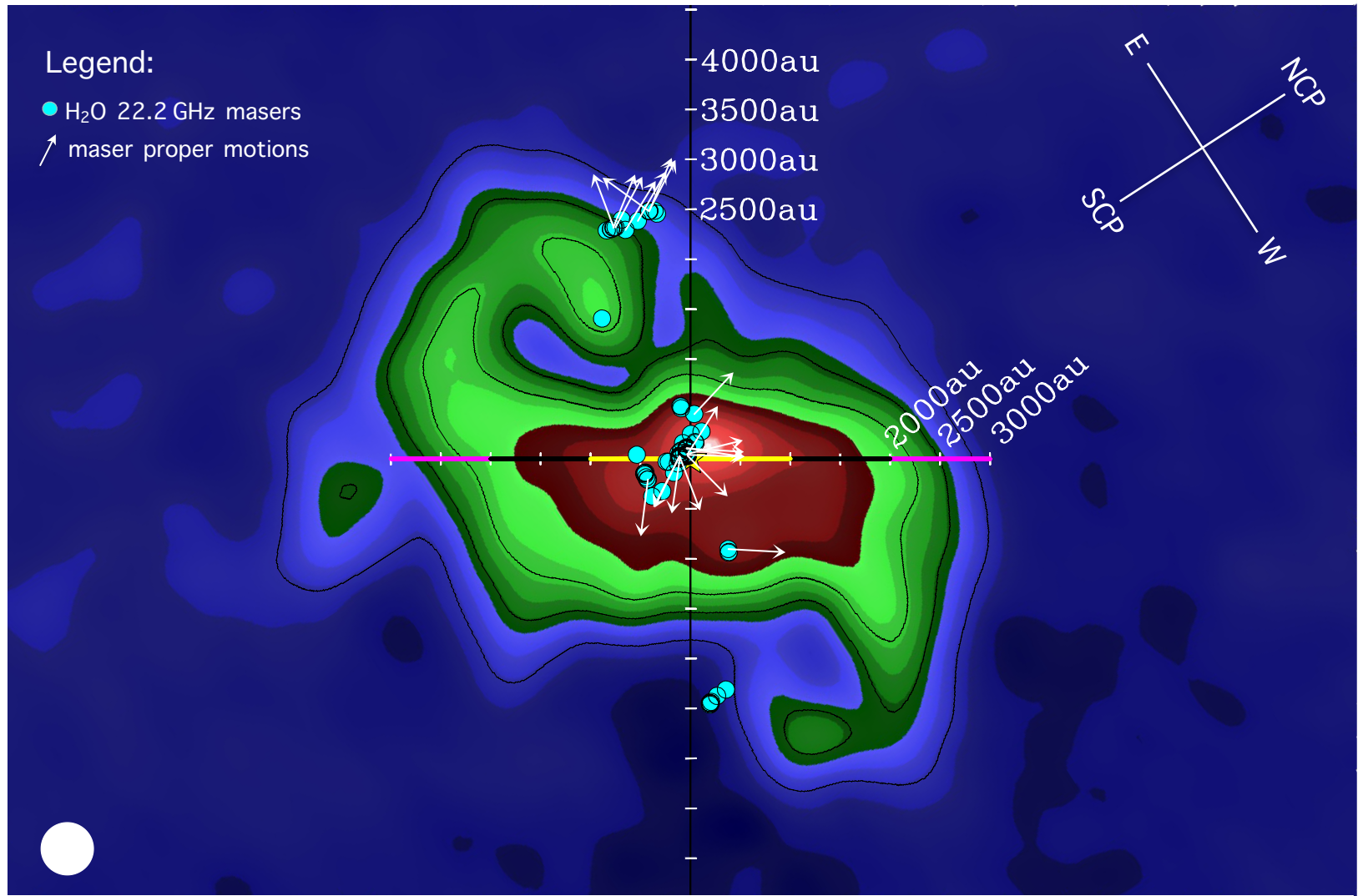
Sanna, ... Cesaroni, ... et al. (2021)

[Jy beam<sup>-1</sup> km s<sup>-1</sup>]

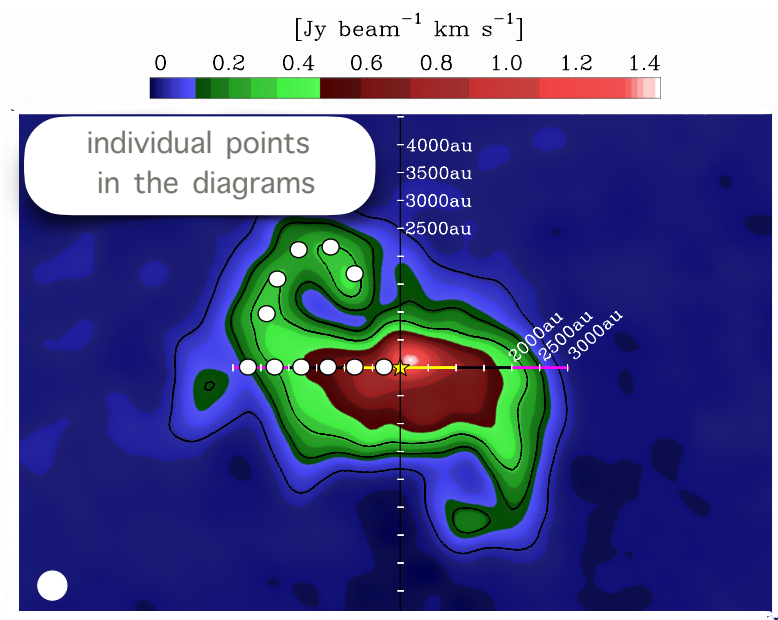


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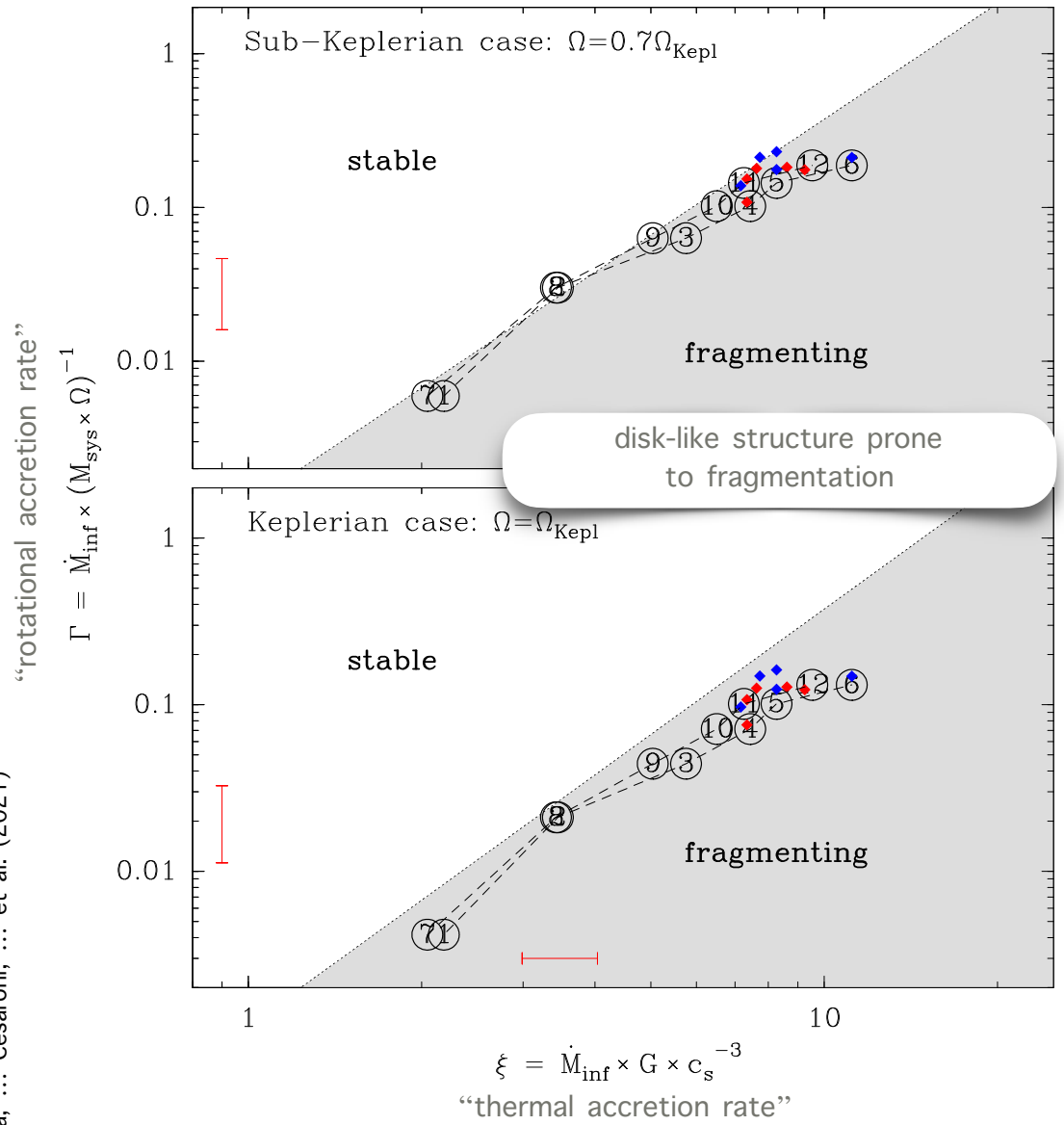
- H<sub>2</sub>O 22.2 GHz masers
- ↗ maser proper motions



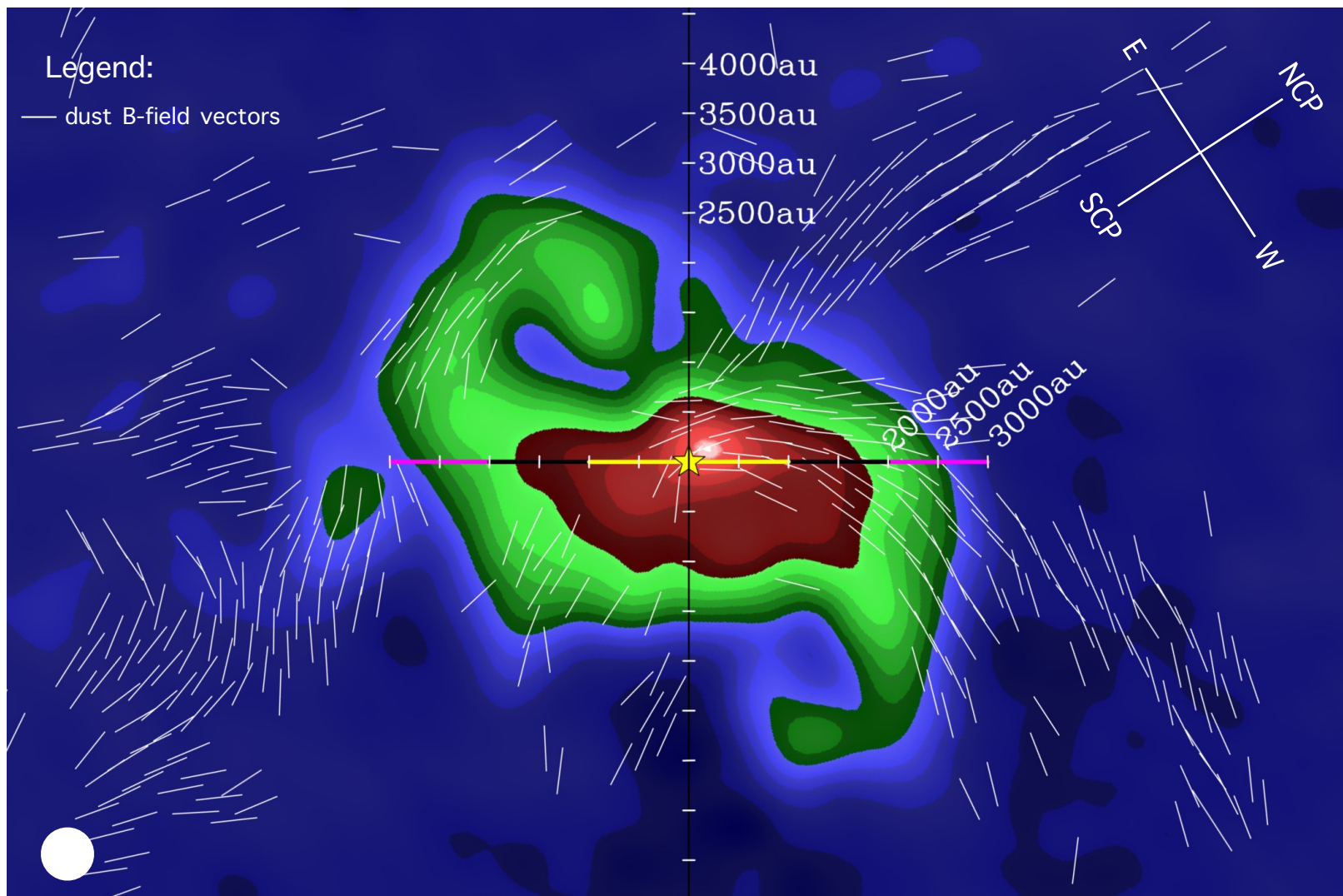
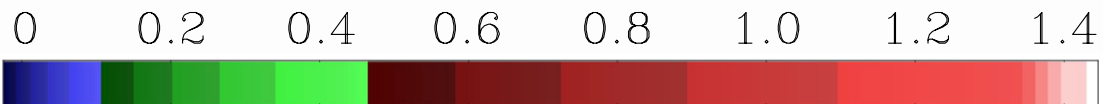




Sanna, ... Cesaroni, ... et al. (2021)



[Jy beam<sup>-1</sup> km s<sup>-1</sup>]



Mark Reid: “astronomers should not trust what’s written in papers”

Karl Menten: “astronomers must be greedy”

Riccardo Cesaroni: “astronomers must be lucky”

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Alberto Sanna (OAC)

Forging giants — Villa Galileo, 4 to 6 May 2026

on May 2025

	Totals	Refereed
Number of papers	353 (60)	208
Total citations	14499	14293
h-index	69	68

2007prpl.conf..197C 2007 cited: 194  
**Disks Around Young O-B (Proto)Stars: Observations and Theory**  
 Cesaroni, R.; Galli, D.; Lodato, G.; Walmsley, C. M.; Zhang, Q.

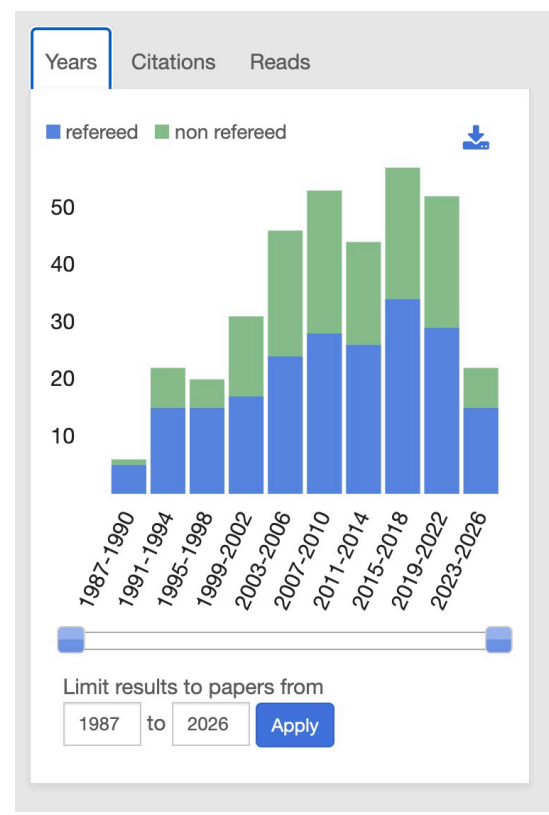
2006Natur.444..703C 2006/12  
**The critical role of disks in the formation of high-mass stars**  
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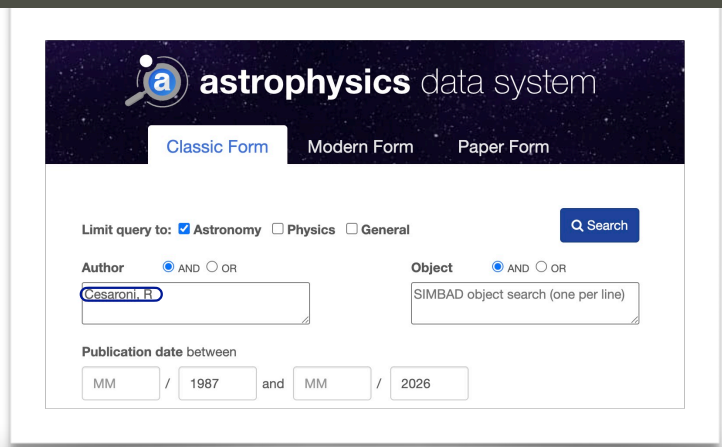
1994A&A...288..903C 1994/08 cited: 202  
**Hot ammonia towards compact HII regions**  
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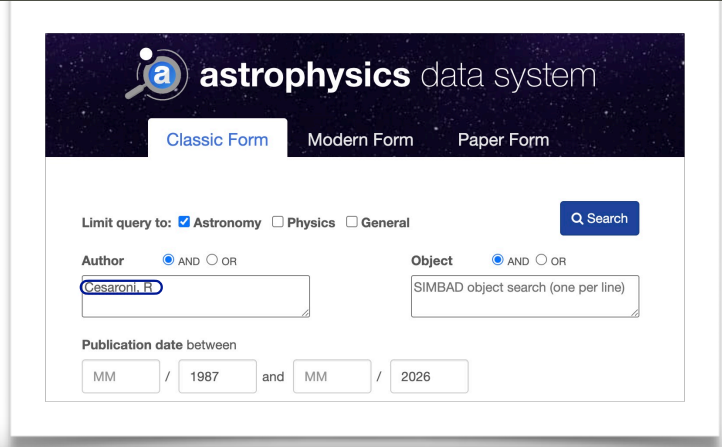
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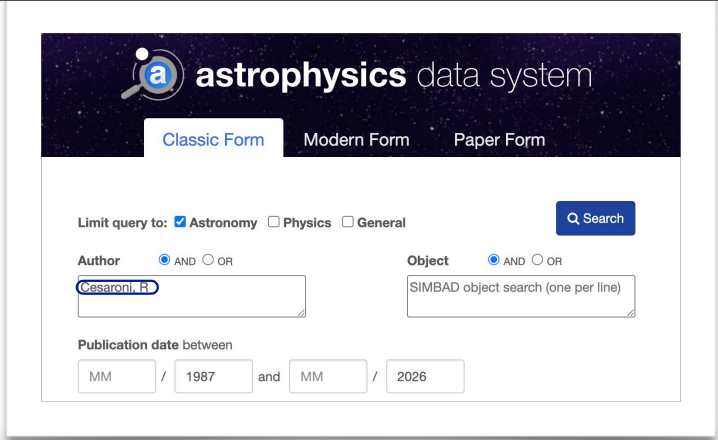
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