



What are the physical conditions at the earliest stage of massive star and star cluster formation?

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- Source sample:
 - ECC clumps
- Physical parameters:
 - T, N
 - D
 - M, d
- Follow-up studies



What are the ECC clumps?



Planck satellite mapped the sky at 9 wavelengths:

Sub-millimetre and radio

350 um - 1cm Preliminary catalog ~10000 sources

Most reliable sources ~ 900 Early Cold Core selection(ECC) S/N > 15 T < 14 K



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Planck Collaboration, 2011, A&A, 536, 23 + Planck Collaboration 2015



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The role of Hi-GAL data





Galactic Longitude



The role of Hi-GAL data







Physical properties of ECCs



- star formation properties: 24 / 70 um images
- T, N(H₂): 160 500 um images
- size, mass: distance estimation needed (Wu et al. 2012 Purple Mountain Obs., Galactic Plane line surveys, CfA CO survey, APEX observations, ...)



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Importance of follow-up studies

Most massive, cold sources in their early phases

Molecular line follow-up: APEX, ALMA, eVLA

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Summary

- 48 ECCs in the Galactic plane
- D ~ 0.5 kpc to 8 kpc
- M ~ few M_s to 10⁵ M_s
- ~60 % in the outer part of the Galaxy
- 23 % "starless"
- 10 objects are above the mass size limit for massive star formation