The diversity and statistical properties of protostellar discs

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Protostellar/protoplanetary discs SPHERE/Avenhaus et al. 2018 100au **PDS 66** V4046 Sqr AS 209 DoAr 44 RU Lup MY Lun HST/McCaughrean

- VLT/SPHERE and GPI are now providing well resolved scattered light images of discs
- Millimetre observations can measure masses, kinematics, sizes
 - e.g. Beckwith et al. 1990; Dutrey et al. 1994, 1996, 1998; Saito et al. 1995
 - ALMA is now providing large samples of well resolved discs

ALMA images of discs in nearby star forming regions



DSHARP ALMA Large Program; Andrews et al. 2018

ALMA images of Class 0 multiple systems



VANDAM Survey; Tobin et al. 2018





Models of disc formation

- Hydrodynamical simulations
 - Tscharnuter 1975; Boss 1987; Chapman et al. 1992; Bonnell 1994; Bate, Bonnell & Price 1995
- Focussed more on binary and multiple formation than disc properties
 - Disc fragmentation: Bonnell 1994; Bonnell & Bate 1994a,b; Hennebelle et al. 1995; Kratter et al. 2006, 2010
 - Gravitationally unstable discs: Laughlin & Bodenheimer (19
- Single, binary, multiple star formation
 - Disc properties depend entirely on initial conditions:
 - Initial density structure, rotation, etc







Models of disc formation

- Discs can form early, even before the star
 - Rotating first hydrostatic core disc-like
 - Bate 1998, 2011; Saigo & Tomisaka 2006; Machida et al. 2010
- We can follow the long-term dynamical evolution of discs in multiple systems
 - e.g. Bate 2000; Price et al. 2018

- Star cluster-scale calculations
 - Most employ sink particles with sizes ~100 AU, so don't resolve discs
 - Exceptions (sinks <10 AU): Bate et al. 2003-2005; Offner et al. 2008, 2009; Bate 2009-2019



Bate 2012: 500 M_☉ cloud with decaying turbulence: 35,000,000 SPH particles Includes radative feedback and a realistic equation of state Produces 183 stars and brown dwarfs, following all binaries, plus discs to ~1 AU



UK Astrophysical Fluids Facility



Bate (2012): First large-scale calculation consistent with wide range of observed stellar properties

- Mass function consistent with Chabrier (2005)
 - Stars to brown dwarf ratio: N(1.0-0.08)/N(0.03-0.08) = 117/31 = 3.8
- Multiplicity consistent with field
- Binary mass ratios consistent with field





Population synthesis of discs (Bate 2018)

- Bate (2012) radiation hydrodynamical cluster formation calculation
 - Produced 183 stars and brown dwarfs, realistic mass function and multiple systems

DiRAC

• Sink particle radii 0.5 AU: small enough to resolve most discs

• Limitations

- SPH calculations resolution depends on mass low-mass discs poorly resolved
- Discs only modelled up to 10⁵ yrs, most ~10⁴ yrs (i.e. Class 0/I rather than Class II)







t=219365 yr



 10^{4}

10 00 10 Column Density [g/cm²]

Disc evolutionary processes I

• Accretion

- Disc reorientation: 220°
- 10 cases of substantial reorientation



• Erosion/stripping

- Ram-pressure stripping: 7 discs
- Dynamical encounters: 26 discs
- Combination: 18 discs
- Several cases of stripped discs reforming by later accretion
- tripped discs r accretion

200 AU

t=209852 yr

• Detailed studies: Moeckel & Throop 2009; Wijnen et al. 2016, 2017a,b

t=202242 yr





Disc evolutionary processes II

• Disc fragmentation

- 10 discs fragment
- 6 produce multiple fragments (6,5,3,3,2,2)
- 25 protostars produced by disc fragmentation (~1/7)







Disc evolutionary processes III

• Star-disc encounters and disc-assisted capture

- Very common: >48 cases
- Naturally produce multiple systems with misaligned discs (e.g. Bate 2012, Offner et al. 2016)



- Other studies of star-disc encounters and capture
 - Clarke & Pringle (1991) concluded rates too low for significant binary formation
 - But assumed virialised groups/clusters
 - Gas velocity dispersions (protostars) ~1/3 of older stellar populations (Bate et al. 2003; Andre et al. 2007; Foster et al. 2015; Rigliaco et al. 2016; Sacco et al. 2017)
 - Detailed star-disc simulations: Hall et al. (1996); Moeckel & Bally (2006)





Types of disc



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• Discs of single protostars

 May be gravitationally unstable (spiral structures)

- Discs of multiple systems
 - Binaries: 2 circumstellar discs, & a circumbinary disc
 - Triples: up to 5 discs:
 3 circumstellar, a circumbinary,
 & a circum-triple disc
 - Quadruples: up to 7 discs !
 - May have spiral structure due to torques
 - May be misaligned with each other and/or with orbit(s)







Disc (mis)aligment

- Discs of multiple protostars
 - Have a strong tendency for alignment for pairs with separations < 100 AU
 - Discs of pairs in triple or quadruples tend to be more aligned than for binaries, especially wide pairs
 - Discs tend to become more aligned with age



- One `broken' disc
 - Inner disc and outer disc are misaligned by 75°
 - Outer disc formed later by accretion of new gas



200 AU

Sinks 21, 2

Sinks 71, 96, 49

DiRAC

-140

 $[g/cm^2]$

 10^{3}

00 10 Column Density [





Properties of circumstellar discs: age

- Single protostars that have never had an encounter
 - Disc masses and radii increase with age (< 3x10⁴ yrs)
 - Disc/star mass ratio distribution independent of age: star and disc grow together
- For all protostellar discs
 - Fraction of disc-less protostars increases with time (mainly due to interactions)







Properties of circumstellar discs: star mass

- Single protostars that have never had an encounter
 - Disc masses are larger for greater stellar mass
 - Disc radius does not depend greatly on stellar mass
 - Disc/star mass ratio distribution independent of stellar mass
- Surface density profiles of discs of single protostars
 - Flatter ($\Sigma(r) \propto r^{-1}$) than the Minimum Mass Solar Nebula (MMSN) model ($\Sigma(r) \propto r^{-3/2}$)







Properties of discs of systems: star mass

- Disc masses increase linearly with stellar mass to ~0.5 M_{\odot}
- Disc radii increase weakly with stellar mass
- Disc/star mass ratios similar for <0.5 M_{\odot}
 - Decrease roughly linearly for stellar masses >0.5 M_{\odot}







Comparison with observations: Disc masses

- Typical ages of protostars from simulation ~10⁴ yrs (oldest 9x10⁴ yrs)
 - Younger than typical Class II young stars
 - Expect higher disc masses at young ages
- Protostellar disc masses
 - 30-300 times more massive than Class II discs
 - Taurus/Ophiuchus (Andrews & Williams 2007
 - Taurus (Andrews et al 2013; Ansdell et al 2016)
 - Lupus (Ansdell et al 2016)
 - σ Orionis (Ansdell et al 2017)
 - Upper Sco OB Association (Barenfeld et al. 2016)
 - Good agreement with Class 0/I disc masses
 - Perseus using VLA (Tychoniec et al. 2018)







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Comparison with observations: Disc radii

• Distribution of radii

- Radius containing 63.2% of total mass
- Observations need to resolve discs
- Issues with how to treat completeness
- Disc radii typically ~10-200 AU
- Simulated disc radii in good agreement with Class II
- Dynamical interactions important for small discs
- Largest discs tend to be around multiple systems

• Other correlations

- Discs sizes smaller for lower-mass protostars
- Weak disc mass to radius relation $M_d \propto R_d^{0.2-0.4}$
- Disc mass to stellar mass: $M_d \propto M^{*0.85}$ for $M^* < 0.5 M_{\odot}$







Dependence on initial conditions?

• Performing star formation simulations with different initial conditions

- Metallicity (Bate 2019)
 - Disc movies available at http://www.astro.ex.ac.uk/people/mbate/
 - Disc properties not yet analysed
- Cloud mean density
- Different interstellar radiation field
- Redshift

Different cloud densities



10 times denser than Bate (2012) $n_{\rm H} = 6 \times 10^5 \text{ cm}^{-3}$

385 vs 112 protostars

10 times less dense than Bate (2012) $n_{\rm H} = 6 \times 10^3 \text{ cm}^{-3}$





240

Dependence on cloud & stellar density

- Single protostars that have never had encounters
 - Disc masses approx 2 times greater for low-density initial conditions compared to high density
 - Median disc radii similar, but only half the number of large (>100 AU) discs at low-density
 - Disc-to-star mass ratios 50% greater for low-density initial conditions







Dependence on cloud & stellar density

- Protostellar systems (single & multiple systems)
 - Disc masses at ages <3000 yrs approx 2 times greater for low-density initial conditions compared to high density, but similar when older
 - Median disc radii similar, but only half the number of large (>100 AU) discs at low-density
 - Disc-to-star mass ratios ~2 times higher for low-density initial conditions





Conclusions

- Hydrodynamical calculations predict a wide diversity of protostellar discs
 - Misaligned discs in wide multiple systems should be the norm
- Wide variety of evolutionary processes
 - Dynamical encounters between protostars
 - Star-disc encounters (frequently involved in binary and multiple system formation)
 - Ram-pressure erosion/stripping of discs
 - Disc fragmentation (minority)
- Protostellar discs properties
 - Astounding agreement of masses and radii with observed Class 0/I objects

• Future calculations

- Need to probe stellar properties over a much broader range of initial conditions
 - Disc properties seem robust to changing the cloud density by 2 orders of magnitude
 - Low-mass stellar mass distribution has VERY weak dependence on metallicity (Z>= $0.01 Z_{\odot}$)