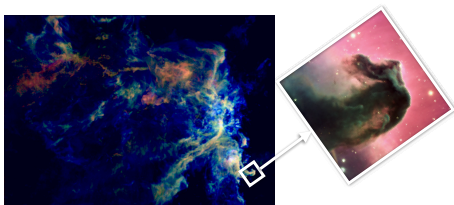


# A statistical approach to infer molecular cloud conditions from multi-molecular line analysis of Horsehead nebula observations

PCMI - Oct. 29, 2024

Léontine Ségal<sup>1, 2</sup> **PH.D. supervisors:** Antoine Roueff<sup>2</sup> Jérôme Pety<sup>1, 3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Institut de RadioAstronomie Millimétrique (IRAM), France <sup>2</sup> Univ.Toulon & IM2NP, France <sup>3</sup> LERMA, France



# Introduction

## Context

### The ORION-B consortium



Studying the **Orion B** cloud to investigate the chemical & physical processes involved in **star formation** in Giant Molecular Clouds



- 90% of H  $\leadsto$  H<sub>2</sub>, 9% He
- < 0.01% of others (O, C...)  $\leadsto$  CO, HCO<sup>+</sup> ...
- Dust grains



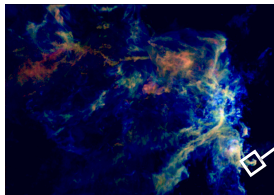
- Estimate the gas properties
- The H<sub>2</sub> volume density  $n_{\text{H}_2}$  [cm<sup>-3</sup>]
- The kinetic temperature  $T_{\text{kin}}$  [K]



No ground truth



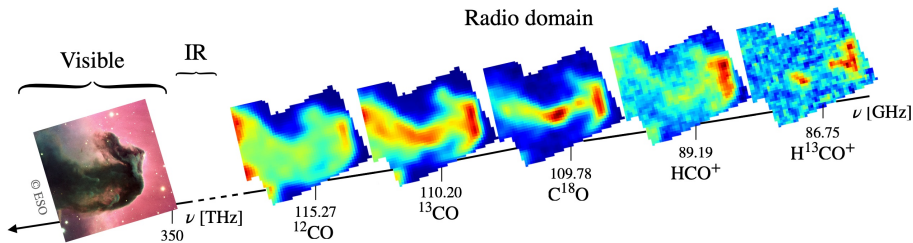
**Statistical methods & Accuracy analysis for interpretable results**



The **Orion B** cloud observed at the  $J = 1 \rightarrow 0$  of <sup>12</sup>CO (blue), <sup>13</sup>CO (green), C<sup>18</sup>O (red) (©J. Pety, the ORION-B Collaboration, IRAM), and the **Horsehead nebula** observed in the B, V, and R bands (©ESO).

# The Horsehead nebula

An example of an heterogeneous cloud



Integrated intensities [ $\text{Kkm s}^{-1}$ ] around the  $J = 1 \rightarrow 0$  frequency of the CO & HCO<sup>+</sup> isotopologues toward the Horsehead.

## The ORION-B Large Program

(P.I.: J. Pety & M. Gerin)

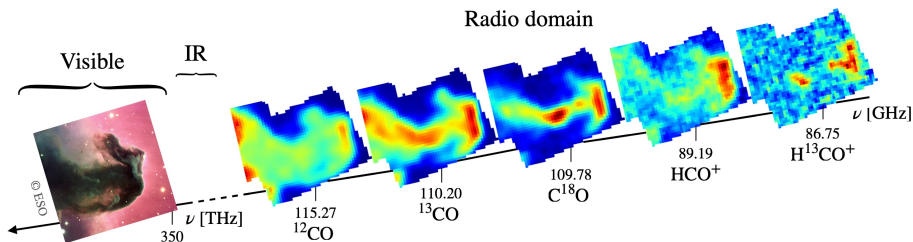
- IRAM 30-meter telescope
- [72, 115] GHz
- The Horsehead portion  $\sim 1500$  pixels  $\times$  200 000 spectral channels

## Representative physical regimes

- Dense & cold cores  
( $n_{\text{H}_2} \geq 10^{4-5} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ ,  $T_{\text{kin}} \leq 20 \text{ K}$ )
- Diffuse & lukewarm gas  
( $n_{\text{H}_2} \sim 10^3 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ ,  $T_{\text{kin}} \geq 30 \text{ K}$ )
- Intermediate environments

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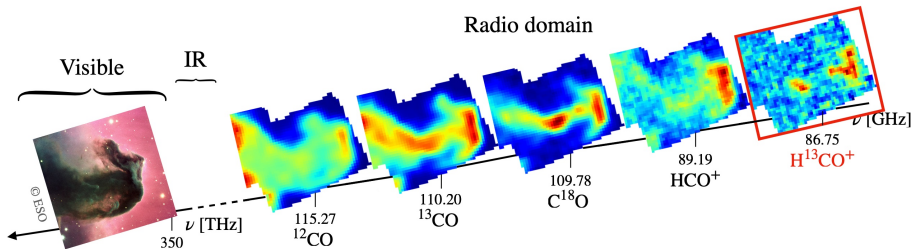
Species	Transition	Frequency [GHz]
<sup>12</sup> CO	$J = 1 \rightarrow 0$	115.271202
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	$J = 2 \rightarrow 1$	220.398684
C <sup>18</sup> O	$J = 1 \rightarrow 0$	109.782173
	$J = 2 \rightarrow 1$	219.560354
HCO <sup>+</sup>	$J = 1 \rightarrow 0$	89.188525
H <sup>13</sup> CO <sup>+</sup>	$J = 1 \rightarrow 0$	86.754288

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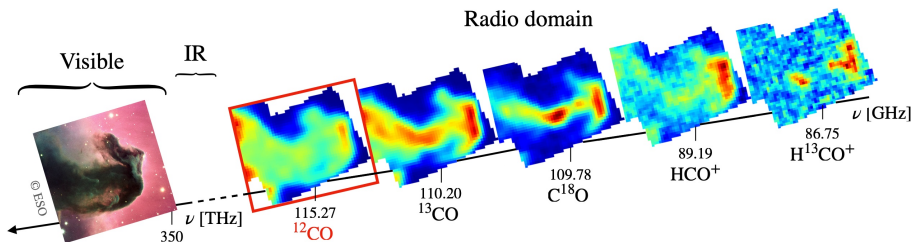
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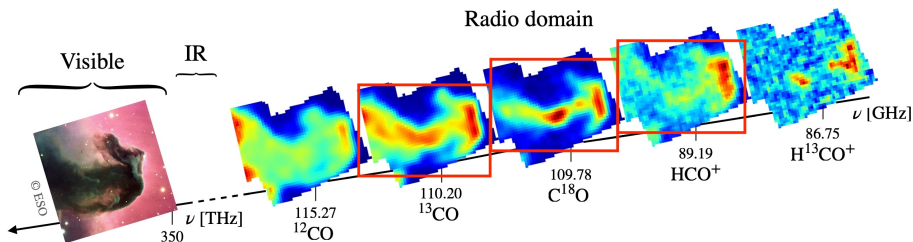
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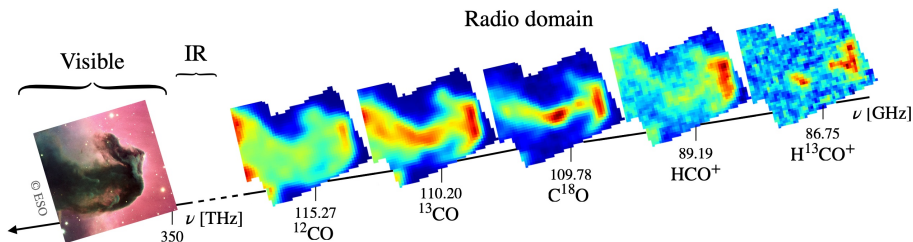
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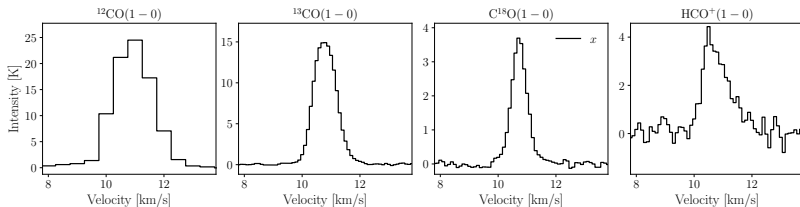
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**Multi-species** data  $\leadsto$  Probing **different environments** along the LoS

$\leadsto$  Reaching **different cloud depths**

# Methods

## Model of multi-spectral observations (one sight-line)



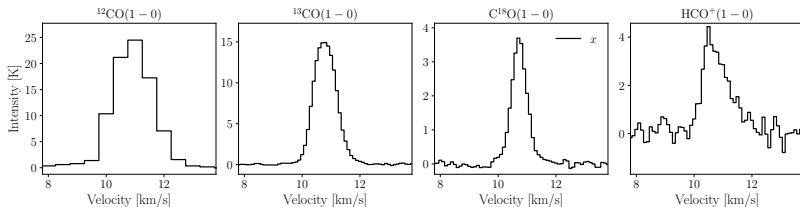
Spectra are sampled in **velocity** (Doppler effect  $\frac{v}{V_l} = 1 - \frac{V}{c}$ )

For each molecular line  $l$ ,

**Measures**  $\underbrace{\quad \mathbf{x}_l = \mathbf{s}_l(\boldsymbol{\theta}) + \mathbf{b}_l \quad}_{\text{White Gaussian noise } \sigma_{b_l} \sim 100 \text{ mK}}$

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Vector of **unknowns**

Physical & chemical

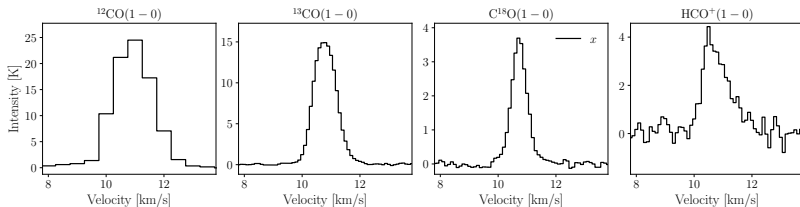
- $T_{\text{kin}}$  [K] : Kinetic temperature
- $n_{\text{H}_2}$  [ $\text{cm}^{-3}$ ] :  $\text{H}_2$  volume density
- $N_l = \int n_l dz$  [ $\text{cm}^{-2}$ ] : Column density of species  $l$

Kinematics

- $C_V$  [ $\text{km s}^{-1}$ ] : Centroid velocity
- FWHM [ $\text{km s}^{-1}$ ] : Full Width at Half Maximum

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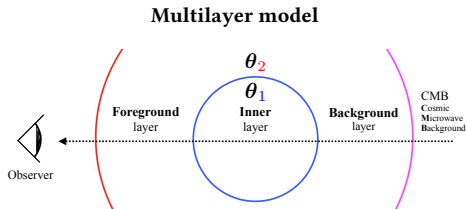
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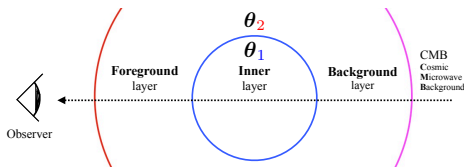


$\theta = \{\theta_1, \theta_2\}$  where  $\theta_i = \{\log T_{\text{kin},i}, \log n_{\text{H}_2,i}, \log N_{l,i}, \text{FWHM}_i, C_{V,i}\}$ , for  $i \in \{1, 2\}$

# Methods

## Model of multi-spectral observations (one sight-line)

### Multilayer model



$\theta = \{\theta_1, \theta_2\}$  where  $\theta_i = \{\log T_{\text{kin},i}, \log n_{\text{H}_2,i}, \log N_{l,i}, \text{FWHM}_i, C_{V,i}\}$ , for  $i \in \{1, 2\}$

### Radiative Transfer Equation (RTE)

$$s_l = s_{l,\text{fore}}$$

$$s_{l,\text{fore}} = j(T_{\text{ex},1}) [1 - \exp(-\Psi_1)]$$

Intensity [K]

$$j(T_{\text{ex}}) = \frac{h\nu}{k} \frac{1}{\exp\left(\frac{h\nu}{kT_{\text{ex}}}\right) - 1}$$

Opacity profile [-]

$$\Psi = \tau \exp\left(\frac{-(\nu - C_V)^2}{2\sigma_V^2}\right)$$

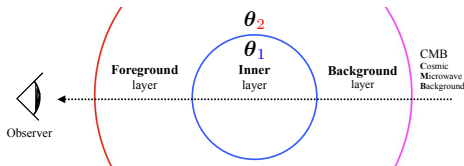
where  $\sigma_V = \text{FWHM} / \sqrt{8 \ln 2}$

$$\theta \rightarrow \text{RADEX} \rightarrow \{T_{\text{ex}}, \tau\}$$

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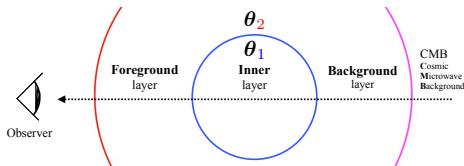
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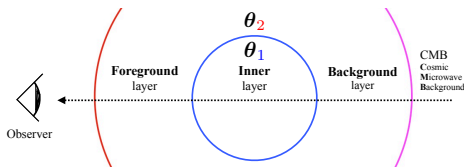
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$$s_l = s_{l,\text{fore}} + s_{l,\text{inner}} + s_{l,\text{back}} + s_{l,\text{CMB}}$$

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$$s_{l,\text{CMB}} = j(T_{\text{CMB}}) [\exp(-2 \times \Psi_1 - \Psi_2)] - j(T_{\text{CMB}})$$

where  $T_{\text{CMB}} = 2.73\text{K}$

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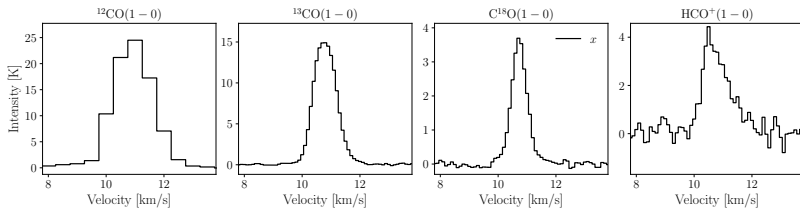
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## Fitting multi-spectral observations (one sight-line)

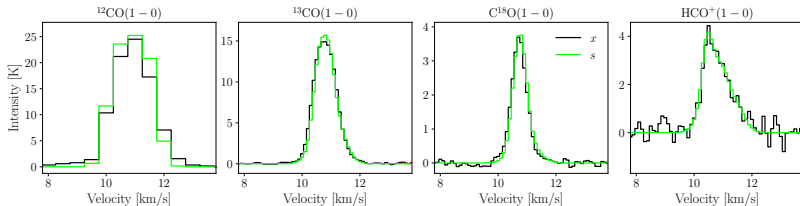


For each molecular line  $l$ ,

$$\mathbf{x}_l = \mathbf{s}_l(\boldsymbol{\theta}) + \mathbf{b}_l$$

# Methods

## Fitting multi-spectral observations (one sight-line)



For each molecular line  $l$ ,

$$\mathbf{x}_l = \mathbf{s}_l(\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}) + \mathbf{b}_l$$

Find  $\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}} = \{\log T_{\text{kin},1}, \log n_{\text{H}_2,1}, \log N_{l,1}, \text{FWHM}_1, C_{V,1},$   
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such as

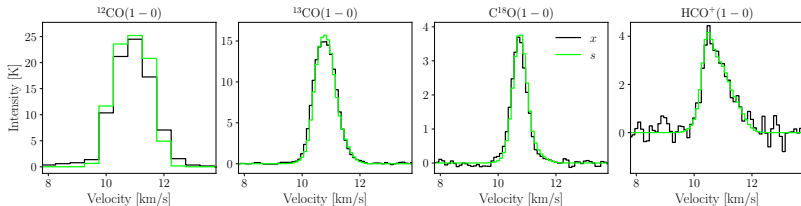
$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}} = \arg \min_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} [-\log \mathcal{L}(\boldsymbol{\theta})] \quad (1)$$

where  $-\log \mathcal{L}(\boldsymbol{\theta})$  is the **Negative Log-Likelihood (NLL)**

$$-\log \mathcal{L}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_l \frac{\|\mathbf{x}_l - \mathbf{s}_l\|^2}{\sigma_{b,l}^2} + \text{cte} \quad (2)$$

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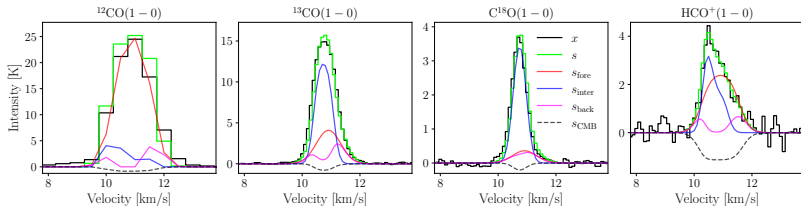
$$-\log \mathcal{L}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_l \frac{\|\mathbf{x}_l - \mathbf{s}_l\|^2}{\sigma_{b,l}^2} + \text{cte} \quad (2)$$

$\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}$  + few constraints on chemistry  $\Rightarrow$  **14 unknowns**

- 1 **Random walk** in a **14-D** gridded space  
✓ Avoiding local minima  $\Rightarrow$  rough  $\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}$
- 2 **Gradient descent**  $\Rightarrow$  refined  $\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}$

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## Fitting multi-spectral observations (one sight-line)



For each molecular line  $l$ ,

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$$s_l = s_{l,\text{fore}} + s_{l,\text{inner}} + s_{l,\text{back}} + s_{l,\text{CMB}}$$

$$s_{l,\text{fore}} = \mathcal{J}(T_{\text{ex},1}) [1 - \exp(-\Psi_1)]$$

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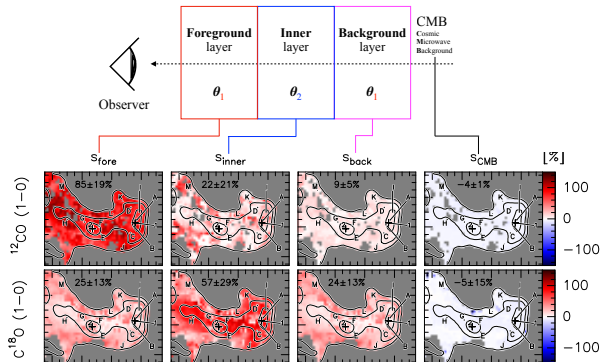
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$$s_{l,\text{CMB}} = \mathcal{J}(T_{\text{CMB}}) [\exp(-2 \times \Psi_1 - \Psi_2)] - \mathcal{J}(T_{\text{CMB}})$$

# Results

## Distribution of the integrated intensity (full field of view)

👁️ Pixel-wise analysis without spatial *a priori* or constraints between the outer and inner layer



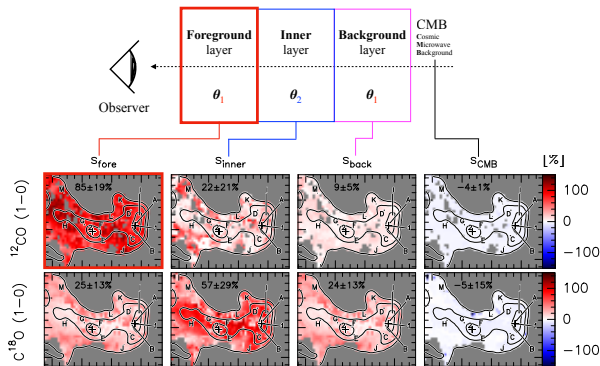
Contributions of the different layers to the integrated intensity of the  $\bar{j} = 1 \rightarrow 0$  line of  $^{12}\text{CO}$  (top) and  $\text{C}^{18}\text{O}$  (bottom); The foreground layer, inner layer, background layer and CMB (from the left to the right).

⇒ Check & **quantify** conjectures drawn from observations

# Results

## Distribution of the integrated intensity (full field of view)

👉 Pixel-wise analysis without spatial *a priori* or constraints between the outer and inner layer



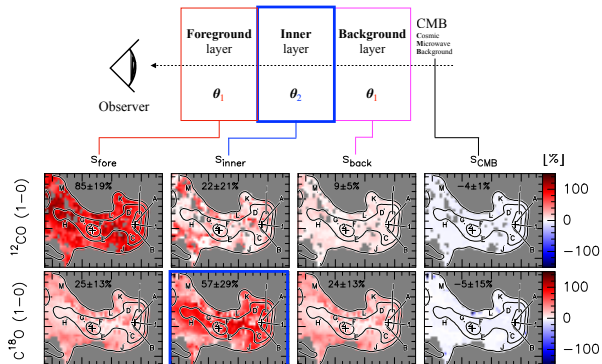
Contributions of the different layers to the integrated intensity of the  $J = 1 \rightarrow 0$  line of  $^{12}\text{CO}$  (top) and  $^{18}\text{O}$  (bottom); The foreground layer, inner layer, background layer and CMB (from the left to the right).

⇒ Check & **quantify** conjectures drawn from observations

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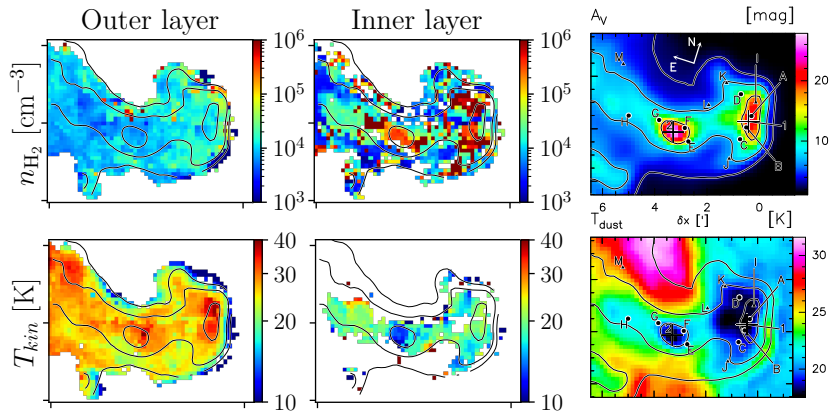


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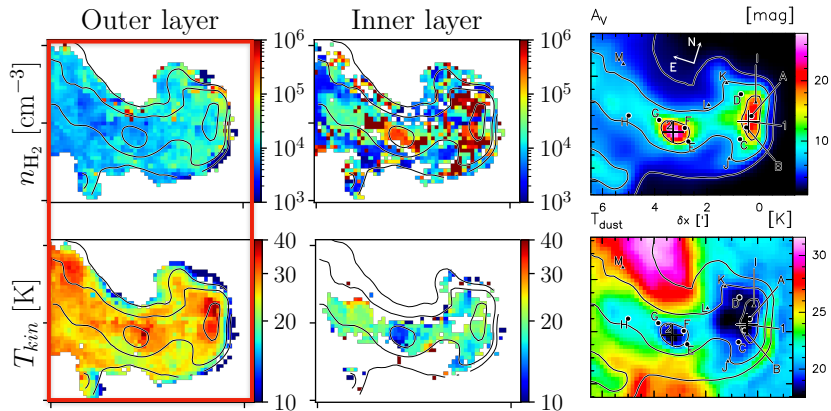
## Distribution of $n_{\text{H}_2}$ and $T_{\text{kin}}$



Left and middle columns : Estimation maps of  $n_{\text{H}_2}$  (first row) and  $T_{\text{kin}}$  (second row). Right column : **Visual extinction**  $A_V$  [mag] (top) and **dust temperature**  $T_{\text{dust}}$  [K] (bottom). Contours of  $A_V \in [3, 6, 16]$  mag are overlaid on each panel. White pixels correspond to filtered out estimations.

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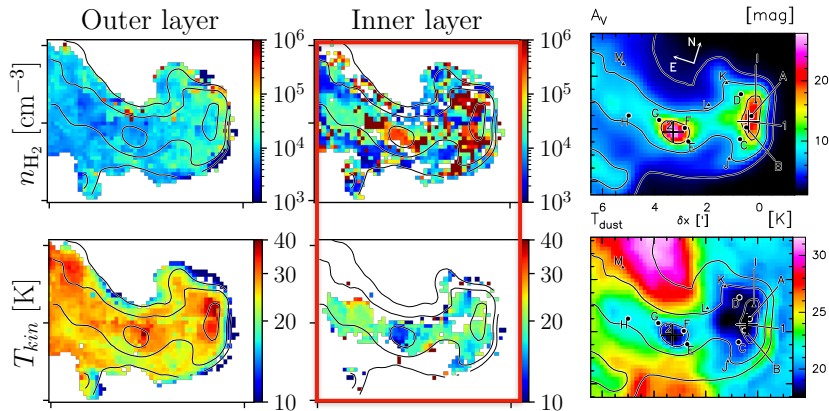


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**Outer layer** ~ lukewarm & moderately dense gaz

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Distribution of  $n_{\text{H}_2}$  and  $T_{\text{kin}}$

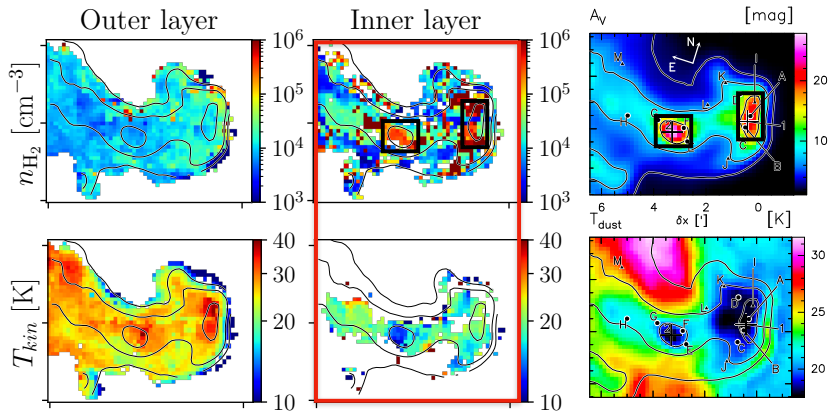


Left and middle columns : Estimation maps of  $n_{\text{H}_2}$  (first row) and  $T_{\text{kin}}$  (second row). Right column : **Visual extinction**  $A_V$  [mag] (top) and **dust temperature**  $T_{\text{dust}}$  [K] (bottom). Contours of  $A_V \in [3, 6, 16]$  mag are overlaid on each panel. White pixels correspond to filtered out estimations.

**Inner layer  $\sim$  steep  $n_{\text{H}_2}$  and  $T_{\text{kin}}$  gradients**

# Results

Distribution of  $n_{\text{H}_2}$  and  $T_{\text{kin}}$

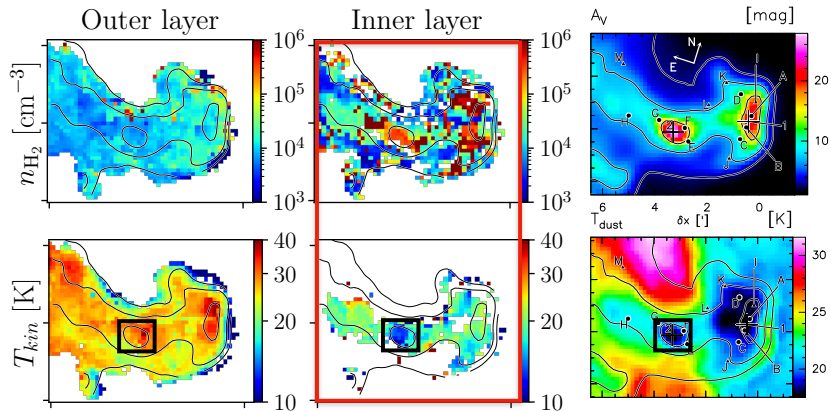


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## Dense cores in a less dense filament

# Results

Distribution of  $n_{\text{H}_2}$  and  $T_{\text{kin}}$

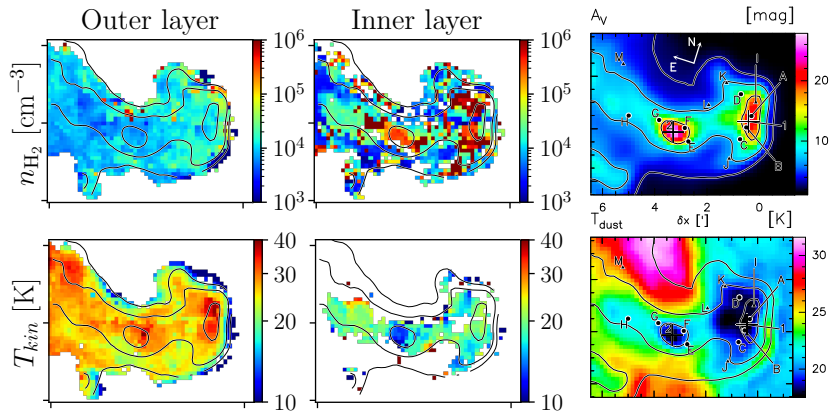


Left and middle columns : Estimation maps of  $n_{\text{H}_2}$  (first row) and  $T_{\text{kin}}$  (second row). Right column : **Visual extinction**  $A_V$  [mag] (top) and **dust temperature**  $T_{\text{dust}}$  [K] (bottom). Contours of  $A_V \in [3, 6, 16]$  mag are overlaid on each panel. White pixels correspond to filtered out estimations.

## Cold core in a warmer filament

# Results

Distribution of  $n_{\text{H}_2}$  and  $T_{\text{kin}}$

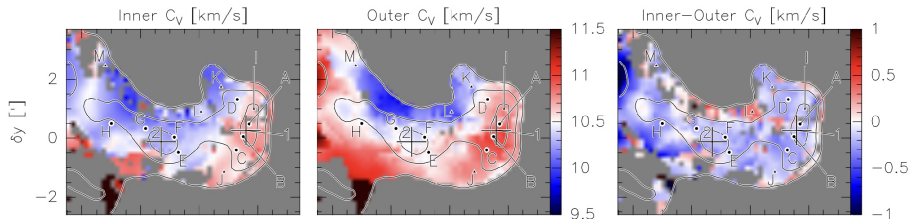


Left and middle columns : Estimation maps of  $n_{\text{H}_2}$  (first row) and  $T_{\text{kin}}$  (second row). Right column : **Visual extinction**  $A_V$  [mag] (top) and **dust temperature**  $T_{\text{dust}}$  [K] (bottom). Contours of  $A_V$  in [3, 6, 16] mag are overlaid on each panel. White pixels correspond to filtered out estimations.

⇒ **Unmix the different environments** with complementary observations

# Results

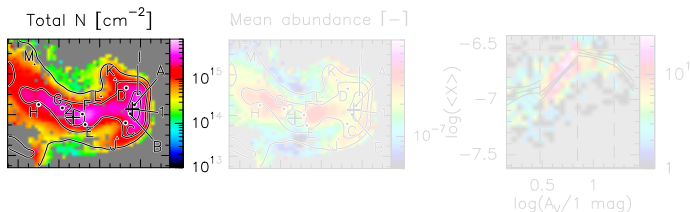
## Kinematics



- Doppler effect  $\frac{v}{v_l} = 1 - \frac{V}{c}$   
Blue-shift  $\rightarrow$  **Forward** motion  
Red-shift  $\rightarrow$  **Inward** motion
- **Rotation** around the east-west axis [Hily-Blant et al. 2005](#)
- **Accretion** of the **foreground** by the **inner** layer

# Results

Quantitative analysis of the  $C^{18}O$  depletion at  $\{ A_V > 16 \text{ mag}, T_{\text{kin}} < 15 \text{ K} \}$



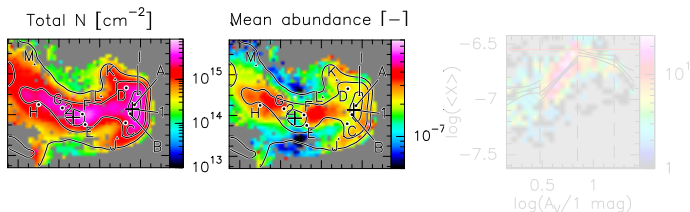
Left panel : Map of the **total column density**  $N_{\text{tot}}$  of  $C^{18}O$ . Middle panel : Map of the **mean abundance**  $\langle X \rangle$  of  $C^{18}O$ . Contours of  $A_V \in [3, 7, 16] \text{ mag}$  are overlaid on the two first panels. Right panel : **joint histogram of the mean abundance** of  $C^{18}O$  vs  $A_V$ . The black lines show the piecewise power-law fits of the scatter points within each range of  $A_V \in [3, 7, 16] \text{ mag}$ .

- With  $X = C^{18}O$ ,  $\langle X \rangle = N_{\text{tot}}(X) / N_{\text{tot}}(H_2)$ , where  $N_{\text{tot}}(X) = 2N_{\text{ou}}(X) + N_{\text{in}}(X)$
- **Highest  $A_V$  & lowest  $T_{\text{dust}}$  : Depletion in the gas phase of a factor of 2.2**

↪ **Molecular freezing onto dust grains** [Kramer et al. 1998](#), [Tafalla et al. 2004](#)

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Quantitative analysis of the  $C^{18}O$  depletion at  $\{ A_V > 16 \text{ mag}, T_{\text{kin}} < 15 \text{ K} \}$



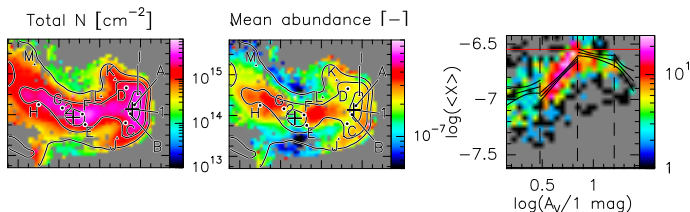
Left panel : Map of the **total column density**  $N_{\text{tot}}$  of  $C^{18}O$ . Middle panel : Map of the **mean abundance** ( $X$ ) of  $C^{18}O$ . Contours of  $A_V \in [3, 7, 16] \text{ mag}$  are overlaid on the two first panels. Right panel : **joint histogram of the mean abundance** of  $C^{18}O$  vs  $A_V$ . The black lines show the piecewise power-law fits of the scatter points within each range of  $A_V \in [3, 7, 16] \text{ mag}$ .

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Left panel : Map of the **total column density**  $N_{\text{tot}}$  of  $C^{18}O$ . Middle panel : Map of the **mean abundance**  $\langle X \rangle$  of  $C^{18}O$ . Contours of  $A_V \in [3, 7, 16] \text{ mag}$  are overlaid on the two first panels. Right panel : **joint histogram of the mean abundance** of  $C^{18}O$  vs  $A_V$ . The black lines show the piecewise power-law fits of the scatter points within each range of  $A_V \in [3, 7, 16] \text{ mag}$ .

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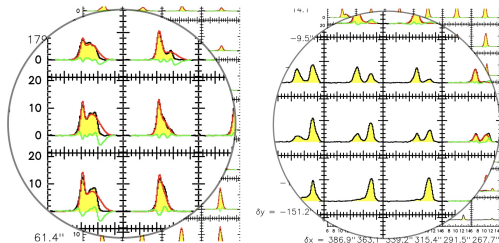
# Conclusion & Perspectives

## Approximate gradient of the gas properties

- Multilayer model extended to **random number of layers**
  - ↳ For analyzing other GMCs
  - ↳ The fitting procedure will be in **open access**
- Method and results detailed in *Toward a robust physical and chemical characterization of heterogeneous lines of sight: The case of the Horsehead nebula*, Ségal et al., accepted sept. 2024, A&A <https://arxiv.org/abs/2409.20074v2>

## Next step

- Extend the model to spectra with **multiple velocity components**



# References

- *A computer program for fast non-LTE analysis of interstellar line spectra. With diagnostic plots to interpret observed line intensity ratios*, Van der Tak et al., A&A, 2007
- Mather, J. C., Cheng, E. S., & Cottingham, D. A., e. a. 1994, The Astrophysical Journal, 420, 439
- Hily-Blant, P., Teyssier, D., Philipp, S., & Güsten, R. 2005, A&A, 440, 909
- C. Kramer, J. Alves, C.J. Lada, E.A. Lada, A. Sievers, H. Ungerechts, and C.M. Walmsley, A&A, 342, 257–270 (1999)
- *L1521E: The first starless core with no molecular depletion*, M. Tafalla and J. Santiago, A&A 414, L53–L56 (2004)
- *Toward a robust physical and chemical characterization of heterogeneous lines of sight: The case of the Horsehead nebula*, Ségal et al., [A&A, accepted in sept. 2024]

# Methods

## Accuracy analysis with the Cramér-Rao bound

The **Cramér-Rao bound** (CRB) provides a **lower bound of the variance** on estimations for any **unbiased** estimator (Garthwaite et al., 1995).

$$\text{var}(\hat{\theta}_i) \geq [\text{CRB}(\boldsymbol{\theta})]_{ii} \quad \text{for } \hat{\theta}_i \in \hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \quad (3)$$

For **efficient** estimator, 
$$\text{var}(\hat{\theta}_i) = [\text{CRB}(\boldsymbol{\theta})]_{ii} \quad \text{for } \hat{\theta}_i \in \hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \quad (4)$$

**Unbiased & Efficient** estimator  $\Rightarrow$  CRB provides **error bars** on estimations

where  $\text{CRB}^{-1} = \mathbf{I}_F$ ,  $\mathbf{I}_F$  is the Fisher information matrix defined by

$$\forall (i, j) \quad [\mathbf{I}_F(\boldsymbol{\theta})]_{ij} = \mathbb{E} \left[ \frac{\partial \log \mathcal{L}(\boldsymbol{\theta})}{\partial \theta_i} \frac{\partial \log \mathcal{L}(\boldsymbol{\theta})}{\partial \theta_j} \right] \quad (5)$$

# Chemical assumptions & model constraints

- $^{12}\text{CO}(J = 1 \rightarrow 0)$  optically **thick** & **LTE**  $\rightsquigarrow$  fitting the **peak intensity** only
- Constraints on relative column densities:

We write  $X/Y$  the column density ratio  $N(X)/N(Y)$ , for each couple of species  $\{X, Y\}$ . Intervals correspond of the explored ranges when estimating the corresponding ratios.  $N(^{13}\text{CO})/N(\text{H}^{13}\text{CO}^+)$  is deduced from  $N(^{13}\text{CO})/N(\text{H}^{13}\text{CO}^+) = N(^{12}\text{CO})/N(\text{HCO}^+)$ .

Column density ratio		Model	
		Inner layer	Outer layer
Assumed	$^{12}\text{CO}/^{13}\text{CO}$	$10^{1.8} \sim 63$	$[10^{1.3}, 10^{1.9}] \sim [20, 80]$
	$^{13}\text{CO}/\text{C}^{18}\text{O}$	$10^{0.9} \sim 7.9$	$[10^{0.75}, 10^{1.4}] \sim [5.6, 25.1]$
	$^{13}\text{CO}/\text{HCO}^+$	$[10^{2.88}, 10^{3.78}]$	$[10^{2.88}, 10^{3.78}]$
	$^{13}\text{CO}/\text{H}^{13}\text{CO}^+$	$^{12}\text{CO}/\text{HCO}^+$	$^{12}\text{CO}/\text{HCO}^+$
Derived	$^{12}\text{CO}/\text{C}^{18}\text{O}$	$10^{2.7} \sim 500$	$[10^{2.05}, 10^{3.3}]$
	$\text{C}^{18}\text{O}/\text{H}^{13}\text{CO}^+$	$[10^{3.78}, 10^{4.68}]$	$[10^{2.78}, 10^{4.93}]$
	$^{12}\text{CO}/\text{HCO}^+$	$[10^{4.68}, 10^{5.58}]$	$[10^{4.18}, 10^{5.68}]$