

The direction of outflows from filaments: constraints on core formation

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ABSTRACT

Context. It is generally presumed that the outflows from a YSO are directed close to its rotation axis (i.e. along its angular momentum vector and orthogonal to any attendant accretion disc). Many YSOs are formed from dense prestellar cores embedded in filaments, and therefore the relative orientations of outflows and filaments may place a useful constraint on the dynamics of core formation.

Aims. We explore this possibility, from the viewpoint of what it may tell us about the angular momentum delivered to a core forming in a filament. We stress that we are not here addressing the issue of the relationship of filaments and outflows to the prevailing magnetic field direction, although this is evidently also an interesting issue.

Methods. We use data from the literature and the SCUBA archive to estimate the projected angles between 45 observed outflows and the filaments which appear to contain their driving sources. The distribution of these angles is then compared with model predictions, so as to obtain a statistical constraint on the distribution of intrinsic angles between outflows and filaments.

Results. Using the limited data available, and neglecting any possible selection effects or correlations between nearby outflows, we infer that the observed outflows have a tendency to be orthogonal to the filaments that contain their driving sources. Specifically, in the cases where the directions of the filaments and outflows are well defined, we infer statistically that 72% of outflows are within 45° of being orthogonal to the filament, and only 28% are within 45° of being parallel to the filament.

Conclusions. This suggests that the prestellar cores which spawned the YSOs driving the observed outflows had angular momenta which were approximately orthogonal to the filaments out of which the cores formed. We briefly discuss the implications of this for two proposed core formation mechanisms.

Key words. star: formation – stars: winds, outflows – circumstellar matter

1. Introduction

The substructure within a star-forming molecular cloud often appears to be filamentary, and the dense prestellar cores out of which protostars condense are often embedded within filaments (e.g. Schneider & Elmegreen 1979; Hatchell et al. 2005; Johnstone & Bally 2006; H. Kirk et al. 2007; Nutter & Ward-Thompson 2007; J. M. Kirk et al. 2007; Muench et al. 2007; Goldsmith et al. 2008; Narayanan et al. 2008). The implication is that the growth of prestellar cores is fed mainly by material flowing in along filaments, and – although Hatchell et al. (2005) caution against it – this interpretation is supported by many numerical simulations, (e.g. Passot et al. 1995; Nagai et al. 1998; Padoan & Nordlund 1999; Balsara et al. 2001; Klein et al. 2001; Gammie et al. 2003; Li et al. 2004; Li & Nakamura 2004; Nakamura & Li 2005; Oishi & Mac Low 2006; Ciolek & Basu 2006; Kudoh et al. 2007; Kudoh & Basu 2008; Hennebelle et al. 2008; Offner et al. 2008). The highly anisotropic inflow from a filament onto a core may then have consequences for the dynamics of core collapse and fragmentation. In particular, the net angular momentum of the inflowing material will strongly influence the orientation of binary orbits and circumstellar accretion discs in the small- N subcluster of protostars forming in a prestellar core.

During the embedded Class 0 and Class I phases of protostellar evolution (e.g. Di Francesco et al. 2007; Ward-Thompson et al. 2007), the orientations of circumstellar accretion discs can be inferred from the directions of the outflows which they drive.

An outflow is presumed to be driven by torsional MHD waves propagating along magnetic field lines anchored in a circumstellar disc (e.g. Pudritz & Norman 1986). Therefore the outflow should be approximately parallel to the rotation axis of the circumstellar disc, i.e. along the angular momentum vector of the material forming the parental core.

It follows that the orientation of an outflow, relative to the filament in which its driving source has been born, may contain important information on the dynamics of core formation. Specifically it constrains the relationship between the inflow forming the core (if we assume that this inflow is concentrated along the filament) and the angular momentum which this material brings with it (if we assume that this angular momentum is oriented along the direction of the outflow). This information can be used to discriminate between different mechanisms for core formation (e.g. Whitworth et al. 1995; Banerjee et al. 2006; Banerjee & Pudritz 2007).

The present paper is organised as follows. In Sect. 2, we present the distribution of projected angles, γ , between observed filaments and the outflows from YSOs that appear to be embedded in the filaments. We show that the distribution of projected angles is compatible with the distribution expected if outflows are approximately orthogonal to filaments; relative to the orthogonal direction, the intrinsic directions of outflows have a standard deviation $\sigma_\gamma \sim 45^\circ$, which implies that 72% of outflows are within 45° of being orthogonal to the filament which contains their driving source. In Sect. 3, we discuss two mechanisms for core formation, (i) gravitational fragmentation of a

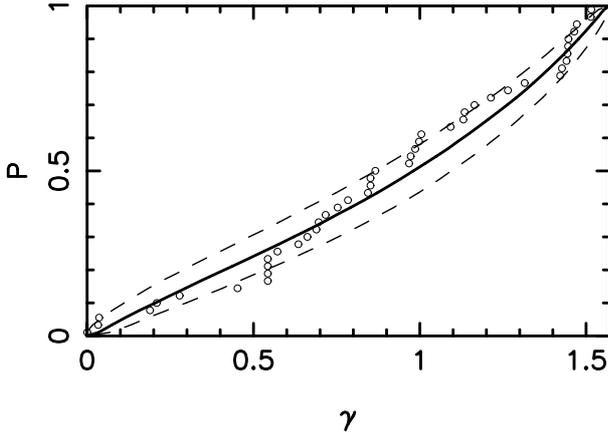


Fig. 1. The open circles give the cumulative distribution of the observed (i.e. projected) angles γ between filaments and outflows. The full line gives the mean cumulative distribution for the best-fitting model. This model has $\sigma_\psi = 0.8$, where ψ is the intrinsic angle between the outflow and the normal to the filament. The dashed lines give the $\pm 1\sigma$ dispersion about this line.

shock-compressed layer (e.g. Whitworth et al. 1995); and (ii) gravo-turbulent fragmentation (e.g. Klein et al. 2001; Banerjee et al. 2006; Banerjee & Pudritz 2007; Offner et al. 2008). We infer that the first mechanism is more likely to produce the observed distribution, but this is not a very strong inference, and more observational data are required to make it more robust. We also discuss the statistical significance of the result, and the possible influence of selection effects. The data used are presented in Appendix A. The distribution of projected angles expected is derived in Appendix B.

2. The distribution of observed and intrinsic angles between filaments and outflows

In Figs. 1 and 2, open circles show the cumulative distribution of γ , the observed (i.e. *projected*) angle between outflows from YSOs that appear to be embedded in filaments and the filaments themselves. The sources of the raw data, and the techniques used to derive the angles, are described in detail in Appendix A.

To interpret this data, we assume (i) that the *intrinsic* angle, ψ , between the outflow and the normal to the filament has a truncated Gaussian distribution with standard deviation σ_ψ (truncated in the sense $0 \leq |\psi| \leq \pi/2$); and (ii) that the observed systems are randomly oriented relative to the observer's line of sight. Using this model we have performed, for different values of σ_ψ , a Monte Carlo experiment to generate 20 000 independent random samples, with each sample comprising $N = 45$ artificial observed systems. Using these random samples, we determine the mean projected angle of the n th member of a sequence, $\mu_\gamma(n)$, and its standard deviation, $\sigma_\gamma(n)$.

In Fig. 1, the full line shows the cumulative distribution for $\mu_\gamma(n)$, and the dotted lines show the cumulative distributions for $\mu_\gamma(n) \pm \sigma_\gamma(n)$, for the best-fit model, with $\sigma_\psi = 0.8$ radians $\approx 45^\circ$. We have identified the best fit by minimizing

$$Q = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^{n=N} \left\{ \left(\frac{\gamma(n) - \mu_\gamma(n)}{\sigma_\gamma(n)} \right)^2 \right\}, \quad (1)$$

where $\gamma(n)$ is the n th observed angle; for the best fit, $Q \approx 0.28$. $\sigma_\psi = 0.8$ implies that there is a 72% chance that the outflow is within 45° of being *orthogonal* to the filament, and hence a

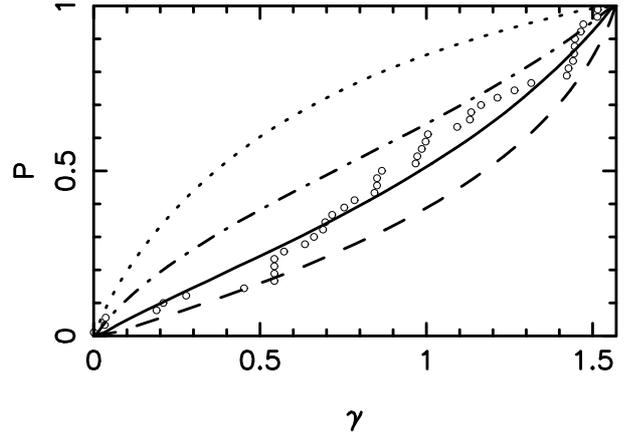


Fig. 2. The open circles give the cumulative distribution of the observed (i.e. projected) angles γ between filaments and outflows. The full line gives the mean cumulative distribution for the best-fitting model ($\sigma_\psi = 0.8$). The dashed line gives the distribution when all outflows are exactly orthogonal to the filament (i.e. $\sigma_\psi = 0$). The dot-dash line gives the distribution when all values of ψ are equally likely (i.e. $\sigma_\psi = \infty$). The dotted line gives the distribution when the angle between the outflow and the filament (i.e. $\psi' \equiv \pi/2 - \psi$) has a Gaussian distribution with $\sigma_{\psi'} = 0.8$.

28% chance that the outflow is within 45° of being *parallel* to the filament.

In Fig. 2 we show the model distributions ($\mu_\gamma(n)$ only) for $\sigma_\psi = 0$ (all outflows exactly orthogonal to the filament; dashed line), $\sigma_\psi = 0.8$ (best fit; full line), and $\sigma_\psi = \infty$ (no preferred orientation; dash-dot line). In addition we show the results when the angle between the outflow and the filament, i.e. $\psi' \equiv \pi/2 - \psi$, has a Gaussian distribution with $\sigma_{\psi'} = 0.8$ (dotted line). The very large disparity between this last model distribution and the observed one reinforces our conclusion that outflows are very unlikely to be even approximately aligned with filaments.

Figure 3 is a polar diagram illustrating the distribution of outflow directions for the three non-singular cases illustrated in Fig. 2. The same line types are used, i.e. full for $\sigma_\psi = 0.8$, dot-dash for $\sigma_\psi = \infty$, and dotted for $\sigma_{\psi'} = 0.8$ (where $\psi' \equiv \pi/2 - \psi$).

3. Discussion

3.1. Selection effects

Our conclusion that outflows tend to be approximately orthogonal to the filaments spawning their driving sources may be corrupted by by two factors.

First, the observed systems (filament, YSO and outflow) are not just small in number, but are also located in a small number of local star formation regions. The orientation of systems in the same star formation region may well be correlated, for example, due to a preferential direction of external compression, or due to a prevailing, approximately uniform, large-scale background magnetic field. Our assumption that the observer's line of sight is randomly oriented relative to each system is then not valid. This problem can probably only be alleviated by extending the observational database. Indeed, Strom et al. (1986) and Duchêne & Ménard (2004) find that in the Taurus-Auriga star formation region the outflows – but not necessarily all the protostellar discs – tend to be parallel to the large-scale magnetic field.

Second, it is possible that outflows that propagate approximately orthogonal to a filament are more – or less – readily identified than those that propagate approximately parallel to a

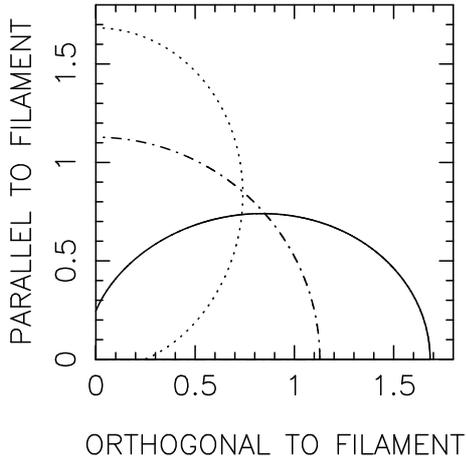


Fig. 3. Polar diagrams illustrating the distribution of outflow directions (in one quadrant) for the three non-singular cases illustrated in Fig. 2. The line types are the same, i.e. full for $\sigma_\psi = 0.8$, dot-dash for $\sigma_\psi = \infty$, and dotted for $\sigma_{\psi'} = 0.8$ (where $\psi' \equiv \pi/2 - \psi$). For $\sigma_\psi = 0.8$, 72% of outflows are within 45° of the orthogonal to the filament.

filament. It is hard to argue rigorously one way or the other. Does the higher density encountered by an outflow propagating approximately parallel to a filament inhibit its advancement and thereby make it harder to identify, or does it increase its visibility by supplying the dense gas required for a dissipative working surface (i.e. an HH Object)? We are inclined to believe the latter, in which case our conclusion should be reinforced, i.e. more than 84% of outflows should be within 45° of the orthogonal to the filament.

3.2. Implications for core formation

In order to speculate on how the apparent preferential orientation of outflows approximately orthogonal to filaments might be interpreted, we consider two possible core formation mechanisms. These two mechanisms are not chosen because they are the only ones that have been proposed, but because, as far as we know, they are the only ones which make specific predictions concerning the relative orientation of filaments and discs (hence outflows).

In the first mechanism (Whitworth et al. 1995), two interstellar gas flows collide and produce a shock compressed layer. In the centre of mass frame of the layer, the collision is unlikely to be head-on, so the collisions partners have net orbital angular momentum, \mathbf{H} , which is orthogonal to the collision velocity, \mathbf{v} . Hence the layer tumbles about $\hat{\mathbf{h}} \equiv \mathbf{H}/|\mathbf{H}|$. If the post-shock gas is cooler than the pre-shock gas, the layer eventually becomes gravitationally unstable, and breaks up, first into a network of filaments, and then into prestellar cores along the filaments. Because the layer is tumbling about $\hat{\mathbf{h}}$, the filaments are also tumbling about $\hat{\mathbf{h}}$. Consequently the streamlines delivering material to the core from the two directions of the filament become increasingly offset relative to one another (see Figs. 8 and 9 in Whitworth et al. 1995) and the prestellar core acquires angular momentum approximately parallel to $\hat{\mathbf{h}}$ and orthogonal to the filament. In this case, we might expect the outflows from YSOs formed in the core to be approximately orthogonal to the filament (apparently as observed).

In the second mechanism (e.g. Klein et al. 2001; Banerjee et al. 2006; Banerjee & Pudritz 2007; Offner et al. 2008), filaments are created in the shear flow between two colliding

turbulent streams. In the purely hydrodynamic cases presented by Klein et al. (2001) and Banerjee et al. (2006), and in the magneto-hydrodynamic case presented by Banerjee & Pudritz (2007), the filament is aligned along the orbital angular momentum of the collision, i.e. along $\hat{\mathbf{h}}$. Consequently the filament tends to rotate about its long axis (rather than tumbling). The material flowing into a core from the two directions of the filament now delivers angular momentum which is aligned approximately parallel to the filament. Therefore in this case we might expect the outflows from YSOs formed in the core to be approximately parallel to the filament (in apparent conflict with the observations).

4. Conclusions

We have analysed the limited number of protostellar systems in local star formation regions where a YSO embedded in a discernible filament drives an outflow. In these cases, the distribution of angles between filaments and outflows appears to imply that outflows are usually approximately orthogonal to the filaments which contain (and presumably have fed) the cores which have spawned their driving YSOs. Given the chaotic and impulsive nature of multiple star formation in a prestellar core, one should expect some variance in the relative orientation of filaments and outflows. Specifically, it appears that 72% of outflows are within 45° of orthogonal to the filament which contains their driving YSO. This inference is not very robust, statistically, but, if confirmed, it would favour a model in which filaments were formed by gravitational fragmentation of shock compressed layers, as against one in which filaments were formed from shear instabilities in colliding hydrodynamic or magneto-hydrodynamic flows. Further observations of outflows from filaments are needed to validate this conclusion.

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Appendix A: The sample of observed filaments and outflows

The systems we analyse are all in nearby star formation regions.

First, outflows are identified using the catalogue of Herbig Haro Objects (HHOs) by Reipurth (1999).

Second, for some of these HHOs, the driving YSO has been identified: in the Orion Integral Filament, by Chini et al. (1997) and Yu et al. (1997); in ρ Ophiuchus, by Allen et al. (2002); in Serpens, by Davis et al. (1999); in Taurus, by Mundt & Fried (1983), Strom et al. (1986) and Strom & Strom (1994); and in NGC 1333, by Strom et al. (1976) and Davis et al. (2008). Knowing the positions of the HHO and the driving YSO, the direction of the outflow can be estimated.

Third we have used dust continuum maps to determine whether the driving YSO is embedded in a larger filamentary structure. For this purpose we have used SCUBA $850\mu\text{m}$ data from Nutter & Ward-Thompson (2007) for the Orion Integral Filament, SCUBA $850\mu\text{m}$ data from the SCUBA Archive (Di Francesco et al. 2008) for ρ Ophiuchus and Serpens; SCUBA

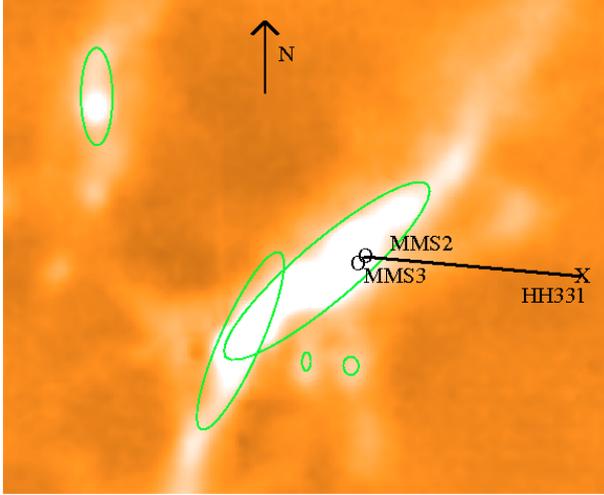


Fig. A.1. False-colour map of the 850 μm continuum emission from part of the Orion Integral Filament (Nutter & Ward-Thompson 2007), showing the positions of MMS2, MMS3, HH331, and the ellipse fitted to the local portion of the filament in order to estimate its direction.

450 μm data from the SCUBA Archive (Di Francesco et al. 2008) for NGC 1333; and SPITZER 160 μm data from Nutter et al. (2008) for Taurus.

In the cases where filamentary structure can be identified, we have determined the direction of the filament, in as objective a manner as possible, using the SEXTRACTOR clump-finding algorithm in STARLINK. This algorithm requires the user to specify a detection threshold, in units of the background noise (for example $\mathcal{T} = 6\sigma$) and an isophotal radius (e.g. $\mathcal{R} = 2$), which determines the degree of smoothing over neighbouring pixels. Maxima in the map are fitted with elliptical isophotes, and the semi-major axis of the ellipse then corresponds to the direction of the filament. We vary \mathcal{T} and \mathcal{R} until this direction is approximately independent of the exact choice of \mathcal{T} and \mathcal{R} , and the direction corresponds reasonably with what the human eye sees.

If η_{OUT} is the direction of the outflow, and η_{FIL} is the direction of the filament (both measured clockwise from north), then the projected angle between outflow and filament is given by

$$\gamma = \text{MIN} \left\{ |\eta_{\text{OUT}} - \eta_{\text{FIL}}|, \pi - |\eta_{\text{OUT}} - \eta_{\text{FIL}}| \right\}. \quad (\text{A.1})$$

In Table A.1 we list, in Cols. 1 to 3, the name, right ascension and declination for the HHOs used in our analysis; these are all from Reipurth (1999). In Cols. 4 to 7, we give the name, right ascension and declination for the driving YSO, plus the reference for the identification of the driving YSO. In Cols. 8 to 10, we give the angles η_{OUT} , η_{FIL} and γ . The systems (filament, YSO and HH object/outflow) are grouped in eight different star formation regions, and the source and wavelength of the continuum map used to define the filaments is given after the name of the star formation region.

Figure A.1 shows the continuum maps used to identify filaments; the long lines with arrows at either end indicate the derived directions of the underlying filaments. The circles indicate the positions of YSOs, and the crosses indicate the positions of HH Objects; the lines joining these are the inferred directions of the outflows.

Appendix B: The distribution of projected angles between filaments and outflows

Without loss of generality, we define Cartesian axes (x, y, z) with unit vectors ($\hat{i}, \hat{j}, \hat{k}$), oriented so that (i) the filament is along the z -axis, i.e. it has a unit vector

$$\hat{n}_{\text{FIL}} = \hat{k}; \quad (\text{B.1})$$

and (ii) the outflow is in the (y, z)-plane. If the outflow makes an angle ψ with the y -axis, then the outflow has a unit vector

$$\hat{n}_{\text{OUT}} = \cos(\psi)\hat{j} + \sin(\psi)\hat{k}. \quad (\text{B.2})$$

In order to compute the projected (i.e. observed) angle, γ , between the filament and the outflow, we assume that the observer is located at large distance (compared with the size of the filament/outflow system) in the direction of the unit vector

$$\hat{n}_{\text{OBS}} = \sin(\theta)\cos(\phi)\hat{i} + \sin(\theta)\sin(\phi)\hat{j} + \cos(\theta)\hat{k}. \quad (\text{B.3})$$

We can construct a two-dimensional Cartesian co-ordinate system on the observer's sky using the unit vectors

$$\hat{a} = \frac{\hat{k} \times \hat{n}_{\text{OBS}}}{|\hat{k} \times \hat{n}_{\text{OBS}}|} = -\sin(\phi)\hat{i} + \cos(\phi)\hat{j}, \quad (\text{B.4})$$

$$\hat{b} = \hat{n}_{\text{OBS}} \times \hat{a} = -\cos(\theta)\cos(\phi)\hat{i} - \cos(\theta)\sin(\phi)\hat{j} + \sin(\theta)\hat{k};$$

the orientation of these axes is such that $\hat{a} \times \hat{b} = \hat{n}_{\text{OBS}}$, so that (notionally) \hat{a} is the abscissa, and \hat{b} is the ordinate.

On the observer's sky, the unit vector along the filament is then

$$\hat{n}'_{\text{FIL}} = \frac{(\hat{n}_{\text{FIL}} \cdot \hat{a})\hat{a} + (\hat{n}_{\text{FIL}} \cdot \hat{b})\hat{b}}{|(\hat{n}_{\text{FIL}} \cdot \hat{a})\hat{a} + (\hat{n}_{\text{FIL}} \cdot \hat{b})\hat{b}|} = \hat{b},$$

and the unit vector along the outflow is

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{n}'_{\text{OUT}} &= \frac{(\hat{n}_{\text{OUT}} \cdot \hat{a})\hat{a} + (\hat{n}_{\text{OUT}} \cdot \hat{b})\hat{b}}{|(\hat{n}_{\text{OUT}} \cdot \hat{a})\hat{a} + (\hat{n}_{\text{OUT}} \cdot \hat{b})\hat{b}|} \\ &= \frac{\cos(\psi)\cos(\phi)\hat{a} + \{\sin(\psi)\sin(\theta) - \cos(\psi)\cos(\theta)\sin(\phi)\}\hat{b}}{f^{1/2}(\psi, \theta, \phi)}, \end{aligned} \quad (\text{B.5})$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} f(\psi, \theta, \phi) &= \cos^2(\psi)\cos^2(\phi) + \cos^2(\psi)\cos^2(\theta)\sin^2(\phi) \\ &\quad + \sin^2(\psi)\sin^2(\theta) - 2\cos(\psi)\sin(\psi)\cos(\theta)\sin(\theta)\sin(\phi). \end{aligned} \quad (\text{B.6})$$

Hence the projected angle, γ , between the filament and the outflow, is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \cos(\gamma) &= \hat{n}'_{\text{FIL}} \cdot \hat{n}'_{\text{OUT}} \\ &= \frac{-\cos(\psi)\cos(\theta)\sin(\phi) + \sin(\psi)\sin(\theta)}{f^{1/2}(\psi, \theta, \phi)}. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{B.7})$$

We shall assume that ψ is distributed according to the truncated Gaussian

$$p_{\psi} d\psi = \frac{C}{(2\pi)^{1/2}\sigma_{\psi}} \exp\left\{-\frac{\psi^2}{2\sigma_{\psi}^2}\right\} d\psi, \quad |\psi| \leq \frac{\pi}{2}, \quad (\text{B.8})$$

where

$$C^{-1} = \int_{\psi=-\pi/2}^{\psi=+\pi/2} \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{1/2}\sigma_{\psi}} \exp\left\{-\frac{\psi^2}{2\sigma_{\psi}^2}\right\} d\psi. \quad (\text{B.9})$$

Table A.1. Observational data (see text for details).

HH Obj Name	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	YSO Name	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Ref.	Angles		
							η_{OUT}	η_{FIL}	γ
Orion Integral Filament (SCUBA 850 μm [1])									
HH287	05:35:41.55	-05:05:15.69	MMS8	05:35:38.36	-05:05:42.46	[2]	-60.8	-13.3	47.5
HH293	05:35:21.43	-05:01:15.09	MMS5	05:35:26.43	-05:01:14.45	[2]	90.5	-39.8	49.7
HH294	05:35:22.97	-05:04:02.20	IRAS 05329-0505	05:35:26.38	-05:03:53.45	[3]	99.7	12.8	86.9
HH295	05:35:16.07	-05:04:19.70	IRAS 05329-0505	05:35:26.38	-05:03:53.45	[3]	99.6	12.8	86.8
HH331	05:35:08.24	-05:00:48.13	MMS2	05:35:18.24	-05:00:34.86	[2]	95.1	46.6	48.5
HH357	05:35:16.04	-05:06:09.70	MMS9	05:35:25.95	-05:05:42.42	[2]	100.4	-53.0	26.6
HH383	05:35:26.40	-05:07:52.46	IRS1	05:35:24.55	-05:10:28.62	[4]	-5.6	-16.4	10.8
HH384	05:35:25.37	-05:09:23.38	IRS2	05:35:26.37	-05:09:25.75	[4]	81.0	-17.1	81.9
HH385	05:35:34.69	-05:07:20.19	MMS9	05:35:26.64	-05:05:42.27	[2]	-141.0	-52.9	88.1
ρ Ophiuchus (SCUBA 850 μm [5])									
HH312	16:25:55.95	-24:20:46.97	SR4	16:25:56.48	-24:20:02.42	[6]	90.0	-32.7	57.3
HH313	16:26:18.82	-24:23:06.44	VLA1623	16:26:26.36	-24:24:30.94	[6]	27.0	64.9	37.9
Serpens (SCUBA 850 μm [5])									
HH455	18:30:22.73	01:16:18.97	PS2	18:29:59.42	01:11:59.28	[7]	-55.5	-7.4	48.1
HH458	18:29:57.98	01:13:43.18	SMM3	18:29:59.18	01:13:58.26	[7]	132.5	15.2	62.7
HH459	18:30:02.56	01:14:44.51	SMM3	18:29:59.18	01:13:58.26	[7]	-49.4	15.2	64.6
HH460	18:29:38.59	01:18:23.78	SMM1	18:29:49.75	01:15:18.58	[7]	42.3	-41.7	84.0
ρ L1524 (Taurus) (SPITZER 160 μm [8])									
HH156	04:18:51.54	28:20:28.14	CoKu Tau 1	04:18:51.60	28:20:28.14	[9]	180.0	25.9	25.9
HH157	04:22:00.89	26:57:37.61	Haro 6-5B	04:22:02.09	26:57:32.53	[10]	-76.1	76.7	27.2
HH390	04:19:40.85	27:15:52.86	IRAS 04166+2706	04:19:43.00	27:13:34.00	[3]	02.6	43.7	41.1
HH391	04:19:56.32	27:09:25.84	IRAS 04169+2702	04:19:59.20	27:09:59.00	[3]	95.0	39.4	55.6
B18w (Taurus) (SPITZER 160 μm [8])									
HH184	04:29:23.66	24:33:01.44	Haro 6-10	04:29:23.86	24:32:57.03	[10]	02.6	45.8	43.2
HH300	04:25:23.04	24:23:20.11	IRAS 04239+2436	04:26:57.10	24:43:36.00	[3]	139.4	-42.5	01.9
HH410	04:28:12.99	24:19:01.77	Haro 6-10	04:29:23.86	24:32:57.03	[10]	130.3	45.8	84.5
HH411	04:30:16.91	24:42:42.48	Haro 6-10	04:29:23.86	24:32:57.03	[3]	-51.8	45.8	82.4
HH412	04:29:52.97	24:37:10.08	Haro 6-10	04:29:23.86	24:32:57.03	[10]	-52.5	45.8	81.7
HH413	04:29:52.99	24:38:12.08	IRAS 04264+2433	04:29:29.90	24:39:55.00	[3]	-51.5	45.8	82.7
HH414	04:29:30.31	24:39:53.60	IRAS 04264+2433	04:29:29.90	24:39:55.00	[3]	0.0	45.8	45.8
HH466	04:33:35.42	24:21:32.09	IRAS 04305+2414	04:33:33.80	24:21:09.00	[3]	-64.0	-66.1	02.1
L1521 (Taurus) (SPITZER 160 μm [8])									
HH158	04:27:04.65	26:06:16.40	DG Tau B	04:27:04.70	26:06:16.20	[11]	61.2	49.2	12.0
HH159	04:27:02.05	26:05:41.58	DG Tau B	04:27:04.70	26:06:16.20	[11]	85.6	49.2	36.4
HH31	04:28:18.39	26:17:40.49	IRAS 04248+2612	04:27:57.12	26:19:17.00	[3]	-125.4	-85.8	39.6
TMC (Taurus) (SPITZER 160 μm [8])									
HH395	04:40:08.73	25:46:44.44	IRAS 04369+2539	04:39:58.48	25:45:06.13	[3]	-50.2	46.9	82.9
HH408	04:41:38.92	25:56:26.27	IRAS 04385+2550	04:41:04.23	25:57:56.85	[3]	-103.8	-143.8	40.0
NGC 1333 (SCUBA 450 μm [5])									
HH7	03:29:07.99	31:15:28.47	SVS13	03:29:03.59	31:15:51.72	[12]	-113.7	-41.1	72.6
HH8	03:29:06.40	31:15:53.56	SVS13	03:29:03.59	31:15:51.72	[12]	-116.6	-41.1	75.5
HH9	03:29:06.19	31:15:37.57	SVS13	03:29:03.59	31:15:51.72	[12]	-89.9	-41.1	48.8
HH10	03:29:05.29	31:15:46.63	SVS13	03:29:03.59	31:15:51.72	[12]	-106.3	-41.1	65.2
HH11	03:29:04.49	31:15:53.67	SVS13	03:29:03.59	31:15:51.72	[12]	-89.9	-41.1	48.8
HH12	03:28:57.60	31:20:10.07	SVS12	03:29:01.67	31:20:06.84	[12]	90.0	-20.3	69.7
HH15	03:28:58.86	31:08:01.99	IRAS 03255+3103	03:28:37.11	31:13:28.30	[12]	180.0	-58.8	58.8
HH338	03:28:12.82	31:19:43.63	IRAS 03255+3103	03:28:37.11	31:13:28.30	[13]	56.3	-58.8	64.9
HH339	03:28:31.05	31:19:43.63	IRAS 03255+3103	03:28:37.11	31:13:28.30	[13]	54.4	-58.8	66.8
HH340	03:28:44.94	31:05:38.79	IRAS 03256+3055	03:28:45.31	31:05:41.90	[13]	180.0	-58.8	58.8
HH341	03:28:49.60	31:01:15.52	NGC 1333-IRAS2A	03:28:55.59	31:14:37.50	[13]	180.0	-58.8	58.8
HH342	03:28:51.91	31:10:48.39	IRAS 03256+3055	03:28:45.31	31:05:41.90	[13]	155.8	-58.8	34.6
HH343	03:28:54.40	31:05:21.25	IRAS 03256+3055	03:28:45.31	31:05:41.90	[13]	180.0	-58.8	58.8

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If there are no selection effects, and none of the observed outflows are correlated in direction, then – again without loss of generality – putative observers can be distributed isotropically over one octant of the sky, with

$$p_{\theta\phi} d\theta d\phi = \sin(\theta) d\theta \frac{2 d\phi}{\pi}, \quad 0 \leq \theta, \phi \leq \frac{\pi}{2}. \quad (\text{B.10})$$

For any given σ_ψ (measuring the dispersion of the outflow direction about the orthogonal to the filament), the cumulative distribution of projected angles can be computed by means of a Monte Carlo integration. To do this we consider many independent sequences, each of $N = 45$ randomly distributed sample points in the integration space (ψ, θ, ϕ) . In this way we obtain both the expected cumulative distribution, $P(\gamma)$, and a measure of the dispersion about $P(\gamma)$ for a finite sample of N observations.

Specifically, we record the n^{th} γ -value from each sequence, and then compute their mean, $\mu_\gamma(n)$, and their standard deviation, $\sigma_\gamma(n)$. The expected cumulative distribution, $P(\gamma)$, is then a plot of $(n - \frac{1}{2})/N$ against $\mu_\gamma(n)$. The 1σ dispersion about this distribution is represented by the plot of $(n - \frac{1}{2})/N$ against $\mu_\gamma(n) \pm \sigma_\gamma(n)$. The distributions obtained in this way for various different σ_ψ are presented, and compared with the data, in Fig. 1.

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