A multiwavelength observation and investigation of six infrared dark clouds[★]

Chuan-Peng Zhang^{1,4}, Jing-Hua Yuan¹, Guang-Xing Li², Jian-Jun Zhou³, and Jun-Jie Wang^{1,4}

¹ National Astronomical Observatories, CAS, 20A Datun Road, Chaoyang District, 100012 Beijing, PR China
e-mail: cpzhang@nao.cas.cn

² University Observatory Munich, Scheinerstrasse 1, 81679 Munich, Germany

³ Xinjiang Astronomical Observatory, CAS, 150, Science 1-street, 830011 Urumqi, PR China

⁴ NAOC-TU Joint Center for Astrophysics, 850000 Lhasa, PR China

Received 22 September 2016 / Accepted 26 November 2016

ABSTRACT

Context. Infrared dark clouds (IRDCs) are ubiquitous in the Milky Way, yet they play a crucial role in breeding newly-formed stars.
Aims. With the aim of further understanding the dynamics, chemistry, and evolution of IRDCs, we carried out multiwavelength observations on a small sample.

Methods. We performed new observations with the IRAM 30 m and CSO 10.4 m telescopes, with tracers HCO⁺, HCN, N₂H⁺, C¹⁸O, DCO⁺, SiO, and DCN toward six IRDCs G031.97+00.07, G033.69-00.01, G034.43+00.24, G035.39-00.33, G038.95-00.47, and G053.11+00.05.

Results. We investigated 44 cores including 37 cores reported in previous work and seven newly-identified cores. Toward the dense cores, we detected 6 DCO⁺, and 5 DCN lines. Using pixel-by-pixel spectral energy distribution (SED) fits of the *Herschel* 70 to 500 μ m, we obtained dust temperature and column density distributions of the IRDCs. We found that N₂H⁺ emission has a strong correlation with the dust temperature and column density distributions, while C¹⁸O showed the weakest correlation. It is suggested that N₂H⁺ is indeed a good tracer in very dense conditions, but C¹⁸O is an unreliable one, as it has a relatively low critical density and is vulnerable to freezing-out onto the surface of cold dust grains. The dynamics within IRDCs are active, with infall, outflow, and collapse; the spectra are abundant especially in deuterium species.

Conclusions. We observe many blueshifted and redshifted profiles, respectively, with HCO⁺ and C¹⁸O toward the same core. This case can be well explained by model “envelope expansion with core collapse (EECC)”.

Key words. infrared: stars – stars: formation – ISM: IRDCs – HII regions – radio lines: ISM

1. Introduction

Ubiquitously in the Milky Way, infrared dark clouds (IRDCs) represent an important phase of interstellar medium (ISM) evolution and star formation. However, the origin of filamentary cloud structure is unclear. Magnetism, turbulence, and cloud-cloud collisions probably have an effect on filamentary structure (Jiménez-Serra et al. 2014; Smith et al. 2014; Planck Collaboration Int. XXXIII 2016). Jappsen et al. (2005) suggested that individual filaments can arise from compression of initially uniform gas by converging turbulent flows, while Vázquez-Semadeni et al. (2007) and Heitsch et al. (2008) argued that filaments can radiate from hubs following the collision of uniform cylinders of gas.

On large scales, IRDCs are frequently associated with filamentary structures which are common features in giant molecular clouds (GMCs). Observations have revealed filaments with extents from a few to hundreds of parsecs (Jackson et al. 2010; Li et al. 2013, 2016; Ragan et al. 2014; Goodman et al. 2014; Wang et al. 2016). These filaments are always with active star formation (André et al. 2010, 2014; Zhang et al. 2016), and the large

ones have been suggested as “bones” of the Milky Way (Li et al. 2013, 2016; Wang et al. 2016; Jackson et al. 2010; Ragan et al. 2014; Goodman et al. 2014; Abreu-Vicente et al. 2016; Zucker et al. 2015). On small scales, IRDCs always fragment into dense clumps and cores which are the immediate birthplaces of stars. With low temperatures and high densities (Egan et al. 1998; Carey et al. 1998; Pillai et al. 2006), IRDCs may represent an early phase of star cluster formation (Rathborne et al. 2006; Chambers et al. 2009; Sanhueza et al. 2012). Recent studies have revealed massive (10 $M_{\odot}$) young stellar objects (YSOs; Rathborne et al. 2005; Pillai et al. 2006; Beuther & Sridharan 2007) and massive (10–1000 $M_{\odot}$) cores in IRDCs (Rathborne et al. 2006, 2007, 2011; Henning et al. 2010). Mainly identified by their infrared or maser emission (Dirienzo et al. 2015), YSOs in IRDCs could be at very early stages of star formation. Some of the coldest and densest cores deeply embedded in IRDCs are just beginning the process of fragmentation and condensation.

The cold and dense features also lead to different chemistry in IRDCs than in other star-forming regions. For instance, CO, which is a frequently used tracer of dynamics in dense and cold clouds (Hernandez & Tan 2011), could be affected by depleted gas phase abundances due to freezing out onto dust grains, especially in the coldest and densest regions (Hernandez et al. 2011). By contrast, some N-bearing and D-bearing species can

[★] The final datacubes (HCO⁺, HCN, N₂H⁺, C¹⁸O) are only available at the CDS via anonymous ftp to cdsarc.u-strasbg.fr (130.79.128.5) or via <http://cdsarc.u-strasbg.fr/viz-bin/qcat?J/A+A/598/A76>

be tracers of choice for dense core gas due to their resistance to freeze out. Sometimes these species may also suffer from systematic abundance variations during core evolution due to enhancement by the disappearance of CO from the gas phase (Caselli et al. 1999; Bergin et al. 2002; Tafalla et al. 2002; Aikawa et al. 2005; Bergin & Tafalla 2007). As suggested in the literature, these chemical features (e.g., depletion, deuteration) may indicate evolutionary stages in IRDCs (Kong et al. 2015, 2016).

In this paper, we have carried out observations of six sources in lines of C^{18}O (1-0), HCO^+ (1-0), HNC (1-0), N_2H^+ (1-0), DCO^+ (3-2), DCN (3-2), and SiO (5-4) using the IRAM 30-m and CSO 10.4-m telescopes. These species have different levels of depletion and varying critical densities. Combining with the archival data in the infrared and sub-millimeter, we can efficiently study dynamical and chemical properties of the targets of interest. This paper is arranged as follows: the observations and archival data in Sect. 2, and the results in Sect. 3. In Sect. 4, we discuss the dynamics, chemistry, and evolution of IRDCs. Finally, a summary is presented in Sect. 5.

2. Observation and data processing

2.1. Observational samples

We selected (without bias) six samples in Rathborne et al. (2006), and carried out multiwavelength observations on IRDCs G031.97+00.07 (G31; Dirienzo et al. 2015), G033.69-00.01 (G33; Sanhueza et al. 2012), G034.43+00.24 (G34; Rathborne et al. 2005, 2008, 2011; Foster et al. 2014; Yanagida et al. 2014; Dirienzo et al. 2015; Pon et al. 2015, 2016; Xu et al. 2016), G035.39-00.33 (G35; Henshaw et al. 2013, 2014; Jiménez-Serra et al. 2014; Dirienzo et al. 2015), G038.95-00.47 (G38; Dirienzo et al. 2015), and G053.11+00.05 (G53; Kim et al. 2015). There have already been extensive studies on the samples of IRDCs G34 and G35, while there are just few research works dedicated to the other IRDCs. For example, the IRDC G34 has been investigated with C^{18}O (3-2), HCN (4-3), CS (3-2), and SiO (2-1) on a large scale by Rathborne et al. (2005). However, a homogeneous and simultaneous analysis of HCO^+ , HNC , N_2H^+ , and C^{18}O for this sample is still missing. Combining the selected tracers HCO^+ , HNC , N_2H^+ , and C^{18}O , they can better probe dense and cold conditions in chemistry and dynamics than previous works.

2.2. IRAM 30 m observations

Observations of the IRDCs G31, G33, G34, G35, G38, and G53, the HCO^+ (1-0), HNC (1-0), N_2H^+ (1-0), and C^{18}O (1-0) were carried out during December 2013 and April 2014 using the IRAM 30 m telescope¹ on Pico Veleta, Spain. The E90 band of the new Eight Mixer Receiver (EMIR) simultaneously covered the four lines. The Fast Fourier Transform Spectrometer (FFTS) backends were set at 50 kHz (about 0.15 km s^{-1} at 90 GHz) resolution.

For the HCO^+ , HNC , N_2H^+ , and C^{18}O lines in the observations, the half-power beam width (HPBW) was between $29.0''$ and $23.5''$, the main beam efficiency (B_{eff}) was between 81% and 78%, and the forward efficiency (F_{eff}) of the IRAM 30 m telescope was between 95% and 94%, respectively. The relation

between main beam temperature (T_{MB}) and antenna temperature (T_{A}^*) is $T_{\text{MB}} = (F_{\text{eff}}/B_{\text{eff}}) \times T_{\text{A}}^*$. The on-the-fly mapping mode was used to scan each sample in two orthogonal directions, to reduce striping on the maps. The sampling step was set as $9.3''$, which meets the Nyquist sampling theorem for these species.

Calibration scans, pointing, and focus were done on a regular basis to assure correct calibration. Calibration scans were done at the beginning of each subscan. A pointing was done every hour, approximately, and a focus scan every three hours, with more scans performed around sunset and sunrise. A clean reference position of each source was selected, and position switching was adopted to remove background noise. The flux calibration is expected to be accurate within 10%. The GILDAS² and MIRIAD³ software packages were used to reduce the observational data.

The spectral profiles, especially for HCO^+ and HNC , are strongly absorbed at the line center. If we assume that the spectral features are mostly from self-absorption, we can mask the absorption dip to make Gaussian fitting using CLASS package in GILDAS software, so that we can estimate their “true” line width and intensity. Additionally, for core G31-8, for example, the blueshifted wing of C^{18}O was not well fitted, so its Gaussian fitting line-center velocity is not consistent with the spectra HCO^+ , HNC , and N_2H^+ . The Gaussian fitting images of the lines HCO^+ , HNC , N_2H^+ , and C^{18}O are shown in Fig. 2, and the fitted parameters are listed in Table A.2.

2.3. Observations of CSO 10.4 m

We also report the deep single-point detection of the lines DCO^+ (3-2) at 216.113 GHz, SiO (5-4) at 217.105 GHz, DCN (3-2) at 217.239 GHz in the six IRDCs using Caltech Submillimeter Observatory (CSO) 10.4 m telescope⁴. The observations singly point to the peak positions of the densest cores extracted from the IRDCs (see Sect. 3.1). A clean reference of each source makes sure that position switching mode was used to remove background. One 230 GHz receiver at the CSO is a double-side band (DSB) receiver. These lines were simultaneously covered by Fast Fourier Transform Spectrometer (FFTS). This FFTS backend provides two 4-GHz windows of DSB coverage with a frequency resolution of 269 kHz. The data processing was made with the GILDAS/CLASS software. The full width at half medium (FWHM) beam size on Mars was about $33.4''$ at 230 GHz. The data was converted to T_{MB} using a beam efficiency of 69%, which was measured toward Jupiter. The Gaussian fitting parameters of the detected four lines are listed in Table 2.

2.4. Archival data

The combined data comprise *Spitzer* IRAC $8.0 \mu\text{m}$ ($1\sigma = 78 \mu\text{Jy}$; Benjamin et al. 2003; Churchwell et al. 2009), MIPS GAL $24 \mu\text{m}$ ($1\sigma = 70 \mu\text{Jy}$; Carey et al. 2009), PACS 70 and $160 \mu\text{m}$ ($1\sigma_{70 \mu\text{m}} = 1 \text{ mJy}$, $1\sigma_{160 \mu\text{m}} = 2 \text{ mJy}$; Poglitsch et al. 2010), SPIRE 250, 350, and $500 \mu\text{m}$ ($1\sigma_{250 \mu\text{m}} = 1.16 \text{ mJy}$, $1\sigma_{350 \mu\text{m}} = 1.26 \text{ mJy}$, and $1\sigma_{500 \mu\text{m}} = 1.36 \text{ mJy}$; Griffin et al. 2010), and ATLASGAL⁵ $870 \mu\text{m}$ ($1\sigma = 45 \text{ mJy beam}^{-1}$; Schuller et al. 2009). The

² <http://www.iram.fr/IRAMFR/GILDAS/>

³ <http://www.cfa.harvard.edu/sma/miriad/>

⁴ This material is based upon work at the Caltech Submillimeter Observatory, which is operated by the California Institute of Technology.

⁵ The ATLASGAL project is a collaboration between the Max-Planck-Gesellschaft, the European Southern Observatory (ESO) and the Universidad de Chile.

¹ Based on observations carried out with the IRAM 30 m Telescope. IRAM is supported by INSU/CNRS (France), MPG (Germany) and IGN (Spain).

Table 1. Information of IRAM 30 m and CSO 10.4 m observations.

Telescope	Observing date	Frequency	Spectra	<i>FWHM</i>	Mode
IRAM 30 m	Dec. 2013	89 GHz –	HCO ⁺ , HNC,	29.0'' –	Mapping
	Apr. 2014	110 GHz	N ₂ H ⁺ , C ¹⁸ O	23.5''	
CSO 10.4 m	Jul. 2015	216 GHz – 218 GHz	DCO ⁺ , SiO, DCN	~33.4''	Pointing

Table 2. Parameters of the detected DCO⁺, SiO, and DCN in the IRDCs.

Core	Velocity km s ⁻¹	$\Delta V(\text{DCO}^+)$ km s ⁻¹	$T_{\text{MB}}(\text{DCO}^+)$ K	$\Delta V(\text{SiO})$ km s ⁻¹	$T_{\text{MB}}(\text{SiO})$ K	$\Delta V(\text{DCN})$ km s ⁻¹	$T_{\text{MB}}(\text{DCN})$ K
G31-1	95.53 ± 0.56	3.40 ± 1.51	0.050 ± 0.028	11.06 ± 0.56	0.209 ± 0.030	6.23 ± 0.63	0.106 ± 0.026
G34-1	58.84 ± 0.13	1.88 ± 0.39	0.183 ± 0.037	10.50 ± 0.45	0.343 ± 0.040	4.47 ± 0.34	0.306 ± 0.036
G34-2	57.47 ± 0.14	3.24 ± 0.32	0.193 ± 0.033	9.46 ± 0.51	0.308 ± 0.038	4.99 ± 0.37	0.195 ± 0.032
G34-3	59.92 ± 0.15	1.58 ± 0.38	0.120 ± 0.031	17.49 ± 1.32	0.160 ± 0.037	11.68 ± 2.95	0.038 ± 0.030
G38-1	42.91 ± 0.07	1.92 ± 0.18	0.366 ± 0.041	5.01 ± 1.29	0.075 ± 0.043	–	–
G53-1	22.60 ± 0.17	2.02 ± 0.30	0.406 ± 0.113	12.54 ± 1.37	0.171 ± 0.064	5.73 ± 0.83	0.181 ± 0.052

Herschel Space Observatory is a 3.5 m telescope observing the far-infrared and submillimeter universe. The InfraRed Array Camera (IRAC) is one of three focal plane instruments on the *Spitzer* Space Telescope. The IRAC is a four-channel camera that provides simultaneous 5.2' × 5.2' images at 3.6, 4.5, 5.8, and 8.0 μm . The Multiband Imaging Photometer for *Spitzer* (MIPS) produced imaging and photometry in three broad spectral bands, centered nominally at 24, 70, and 160 μm , and low-resolution spectroscopy between 55 and 95 μm . The imaging bands for the Photo detector Array Camera and Spectrometer (PACS) were centered at 70, 100, and 160 μm . ATLASGAL is the APEX Telescope Large Area Survey of the Galaxy, an observing program with the LABOCA bolometer array at APEX, located at 5100 m altitude on Chajnantor, Chile. Its spatial resolution at 870 μm is about 19''.

3. Results and analysis

3.1. Core selection

A typical terminology (e.g., [Bergin & Tafalla 2007](#)) for cloud, clumps, and cores has a physical size of 2–15, 0.3–3, and 0.03–0.2 pc, and mass of about 10³–10⁴, 50–500, and 0.5–5 $M_{\odot}$, respectively. However, in this work the six IRDCs are selected from [Rathborne et al. \(2006\)](#), who showed that the extracted objects are cores, although some of them (shown in Table A.1) are in clump size. To be consistent, we follow the definition in [Rathborne et al. \(2006\)](#) to investigate the identified cores within the six IRDCs.

[Rathborne et al. \(2006\)](#) identified 47 cores with 1.2 mm continuum data using IRAM 30 m telescope toward the six IRDCs. Their *FWHM* angular resolution is 11''. In addition, ATLASGAL 870 μm continuum has a relatively low spatial resolution of 19''. To contrast with the work of [Rathborne et al. \(2006\)](#), we will use their extracted core parameters (including core positions and core sizes) for further comparative investigation.

Among the 47 cores identified, ten cores are not covered by our HCO⁺, HNC, N₂H⁺, and C¹⁸O observations; in our samples, seven cores are not covered or distinguished by [Rathborne et al. \(2006\)](#). We carefully extracted the seven cores by comparing 870 μm continuum and N₂H⁺ integrated intensity emission. Finally, in total we obtained 44 cores shown in Table A.1. These

core numbers with boldface are newly identified cores in this work.

In the N₂H⁺ and C¹⁸O maps of Fig. 1, these numbers indicate the selected core positions. These spectra (including HCO⁺, HNC, N₂H⁺, and C¹⁸O) shown in Fig. 2 were extracted from the selected core positions within their own core sizes. In addition, the derived integrated fluxes of 870 μm and masses listed in Table A.1 were also estimated within the core sizes.

3.2. Optical depth and line width

Spectra N₂H⁺ has seven hyperfine structure (HFS) lines. In the three distinguished emission lines of Fig. 2, however, only the transition 1_{0,1} → 0_{1,2} does not blend any other hyperfine line. Therefore, we can extract line width by setting this isolated transition component as systemic velocity when fitting HFS lines. The relative velocity and intrinsic intensity of the seven hyperfine lines are respectively (0.0 km s⁻¹, 1.00000), (7.394 km s⁻¹, 1.00000), (8.006 km s⁻¹, 2.33333), (8.961 km s⁻¹, 1.66667), (13.553 km s⁻¹, 1.00000), (13.987 km s⁻¹, 1.66667), and (14.942 km s⁻¹, 0.33334) ([Caselli et al. 1995](#); [Keto & Rybicki 2010](#)). Based on the parameters above, we use CLASS package in GILDAS software to fit these HFS lines. The green curves on spectra N₂H⁺ in Fig. 2 show the fitting results, and the fitting parameters (such as line width $\Delta V_{\text{N}_2\text{H}^+}$ and optical depth $\tau_{\text{N}_2\text{H}^+}$), are listed in Table A.1. We note that the cores G31-3, G35-4, and G35-5 were fitted using two velocity components. The derived optical depth mainly ranges from 0.10 to 0.24, so the N₂H⁺ is optically thin in the condition of these dense and cold cores. Checking with RADEX online⁶ ([van der Tak et al. 2007](#)), the line is indeed optically thin on the condition, which is basically consistent with other dense cores in IRDCs (e.g., [Caselli et al. 2002](#); [Sanhueza et al. 2012](#); [Liu et al. 2013](#)).

3.3. PV diagram

The molecular ion HCO⁺ is often used as dynamical tracer of dense gas. In Fig. 3, we show the position-velocity (PV) diagrams for IRDCs G31, G33, G34, G35, G38, and G53. The broken lines in the HCO⁺ subfigure of Fig. 1 show the cutting direction, which goes through the selected dense core positions.

⁶ <http://var.sron.nl/radex/radex.php>

Fig. 1. Integrated intensity maps of the HCO^+ , HNC , N_2H^+ , and C^{18}O lines superimposed on 8, 24, 70, and 870 μm emission toward IRDCs G31, G33, G34, G35, G38, and G53. Their integrated velocity ranges are (80, 110), (92, 117), (46, 70), (31, 52), (35, 57), and (12, 34) km s^{-1} , respectively. For HCO^+ , HNC , N_2H^+ , and C^{18}O in these IRDCs, the contour levels start at $3-5\sigma$ in steps of $2-6\sigma$, with $\sigma = 0.75-1.10 \text{ K km s}^{-1}$. The beam size of each subfigure is indicated at the bottom-left corner. The numbers indicate the positions of the selected cores, which are the same as those in Rathborne et al. (2006). The straight lines in the HCO^+ subfigure show the cutting direction of the PV diagram in Fig. 3. The unit of each color bar is in MJy sr^{-1} for 8, 24, and 70 μm , and in Jy beam^{-1} for the 870 μm , respectively (continuation in Fig. A.1).

The dense cores are the backbone of IRDCs, so we can study the dynamical status of the IRDCs and their embedded cores. Based the PV diagrams in Fig. 3 and combining with optically thin line N_2H^+ in Fig. 2, we can see that the IRDCs show features with multivelocity component (e.g., G31-3), multicore structure (e.g., G38 and G31), outflow (e.g., G34 and G53), and velocity gradient (e.g., G35).

3.4. Dust temperature and column density

The high-quality Hi-GAL data cover a large wavelength range from 70 to 500 μm making it practical to obtain dust temperature

maps of these IRDCs via fitting the spectral energy distribution (SED) to the multiwavelength images on a pixel-by-pixel basis. Firstly we have followed Wang et al. (2015) to perform Fourier transfer (FT) based on background removal. In this method, the original images are firstly transformed into Fourier domain and separated into the low and high spatial frequency components, and then inversely Fourier transferred back into image domain. The low-frequency component corresponds to large-scale background and foreground emission, while the high-frequency component reserves the emission of interest. Detailed descriptions of the FT-based background removal method can be found in Wang et al. (2015). After removing the background and foreground

Fig. 2. Spectra of HCO^+ , HNC , N_2H^+ , and C^{18}O extracted from each core in Fig. 1. These spectra are the average within one beam size ($\sim 27''$). The green curves on N_2H^+ are from the HFS fit, and on other spectra are from the Gaussian fit by masking the absorption dip with GILDAS/CLASS software. To better show the HFS fit, the strongest HFS line was set the systemic velocity component (continuation in Fig. A.2).

Fig. 3. Position-velocity diagrams with molecular ion HCO^+ along the straight line (from the upper to lower) of each IRDC in Fig. 1. The numbers indicate the core positions corresponding to those in Fig. 1. The outer contour levels are above 3σ ($\sigma \sim 0.16$ K). The unit of each color bar is in K.

emission, we re-gridded the pixels onto the same scale of $11.5''$, and convolved the images to a circular Gaussian beam with $\text{FWHM} = 45''$ which corresponds to the measured beam of Hi-GAL observations at $500 \mu\text{m}$ (Traficante et al. 2011).

The intensities at multiwavelengths of each pixel have been modeled as

$$S_\nu = B_\nu(T)(1 - e^{-\tau_\nu}), \quad (1)$$

where the Planck function $B_\nu(T)$ is modified by optical depth

$$\tau_\nu = \mu_{\text{H}_2} m_{\text{H}} \kappa_\nu N_{\text{H}_2} / R_{\text{gd}}. \quad (2)$$

Here, $\mu_{\text{H}_2} = 2.8$ is the mean molecular weight adopted from Kauffmann et al. (2008), m_{H} is the mass of a hydrogen atom, N_{H_2} is the column density, $R_{\text{gd}} = 100$ is the gas to dust ratio. The dust opacity κ_ν can be expressed as a power law of frequency with

$$\kappa_\nu = 5.0 \left(\frac{\nu}{600 \text{ GHz}} \right)^\beta \text{ cm}^2 \text{ g}^{-1}, \quad (3)$$

where $\kappa_\nu(600 \text{ GHz}) = 5.0 \text{ cm}^2 \text{ g}^{-1}$ adopted from Ossenkopf & Henning (1994). The dust emissivity index has been fixed to be $\beta = 1.75$ according to Battersby et al. (2011). The free parameters are the dust temperature T_{dust} and column density N_{H_2} .

The final resulting dust temperature and column density maps, which have a spatial resolution of $45''$ with a pixel size of $11.5''$, are shown in Figs. 4 and 5, respectively. The dust temperatures range from 14.03 K to 24.37 K (see Table A.1) with minimums associated with N_2H^+ peaks, while the derived column densities range from about 1.0×10^{22} to $1.4 \times 10^{23} \text{ cm}^{-2}$, where the maximum is located at the peak of core G34-1. The

estimated dust temperatures and column densities suggest that most of the cores embedded in IRDCs are cold and dense precursors to very early high-mass star formation.

Nguyen Luong et al. (2011) have presented the temperature distribution of G35 derived from SED fitting combining the PACS and SPIRE data. The temperature distribution is similar to that in Fig. 4, which indeed indicates a cold filament. Roughly comparing the dust temperature in this work with that in Rathborne et al. (2005), for example in G34, we find the dust temperatures T_{dust} for the cores G34-1, G34-3, and G34-4 are 19.7, 16.3, and 17.6 K, respectively. In Rathborne et al. (2005), the corresponding cores have $T_{\text{dust}} = 34, 32$, and 32 K. The derived dust temperatures for G34 in this work have a factor of about two times lower than those in Rathborne et al. (2005). The cores may be constituted by a small-scale hot component and a large-scale thick cold envelope (Rathborne et al. 2005, 2011). The different photometry aperture and spatial resolution may lead to different dust temperatures in the two works.

3.5. Mass and volume density

In this section, we use $870 \mu\text{m}$ data only, along with the derived dust temperatures in Sect. 3.4 to estimate masses and volume densities of these dense cores, considering its higher spatial resolution and better capability than *Herschel* data in tracing cold cores. It is assumed that the dust emission is optically thin and the gas to dust ratio is 100. The core masses are calculated using dust opacities of $0.0185 \text{ cm}^2 \text{ g}^{-1}$ at $870 \mu\text{m}$ (Ossenkopf & Henning 1994). The total masses $M_{870 \mu\text{m}}$ of the sources can

Fig. 4. Distributions of dust temperature (T_{dust}) in color scale derived from SED fits pixel by pixel combining with *Herschel* 70, 160, 250, 350, and 500 μm . The contours show the corresponding integrated intensities of N_2H^+ emission. The numbers indicate the positions of the selected cores, which are the same as those in Rathborne et al. (2006). Contour levels and beam sizes are the same as those in Fig. 1. The unit of each color bar is in K.

therefore be calculated (Kauffmann et al. 2008) through

$$\left(\frac{M_{870\mu\text{m}}}{M_{\odot}}\right) = 0.12 \left(e^{14.39 \left(\frac{\lambda}{\text{mm}}\right)^{-1} \left(\frac{T_{\text{dust}}}{\text{K}}\right)^{-1}} - 1 \right) \times \left(\frac{\kappa_{\nu}}{\text{cm}^2 \text{g}^{-1}} \right)^{-1} \left(\frac{S_{\nu}}{\text{Jy}} \right) \left(\frac{D}{\text{kpc}} \right)^2 \left(\frac{\lambda}{\text{mm}} \right)^3, \quad (4)$$

where λ is the observational wavelength, T_{dust} is the dust temperature, κ_{ν} is the dust opacity, S_{ν} is the integrated flux, and D is the distance to the Sun. If the cores are considered as an uniform sphere, the volume density $n_{870\mu\text{m}}$ can be roughly estimated by $n_{870\mu\text{m}} = M_{870\mu\text{m}} / (2R_{\text{core}})^3$. These corresponding and derived parameters are listed in Table A.1.

The virial theorem can be used to test whether a molecular fragment is in a stable state. Under the assumption of a simple

spherical cloud with a density distribution of $\rho = \text{constant}$, if we ignore magnetic fields and bulk motions of the gas (MacLaren et al. 1988; Evans 1999),

$$M_{\text{vir}} \simeq 210 r \Delta V^2 (M_{\odot}), \quad (5)$$

where r is the fragment radius in pc and ΔV is the FWHM line width in km s^{-1} . The virial parameter α_{vir} is defined by $\alpha_{\text{vir}} = M_{\text{vir}} / M_{870\mu\text{m}}$. These parameters are also listed in Table A.1.

Magnetic field might play a crucial role in IRDC dynamics (Li et al. 2014; Pillai et al. 2015). When $\alpha_{\text{vir}} = M_{\text{vir}} / M_{870\mu\text{m}} \ll 1$, one would expect additional factors to work against collapse, and magnetic field would be a good candidate. Among our sample, for most of the cores in IRDCs G31 and G34, the virial parameters are significantly smaller than one. This would suggest

Fig. 5. Distributions of column density (N_{H_2}) in color scale derived from SED fits pixel by pixel combining with *Herschel* 70, 160, 250, 350, and 500 μm . The contours show the corresponding integrated intensities of N_2H^+ emission. The numbers indicate the positions of the selected cores, which are the same as those in Rathborne et al. (2006). Contour levels and beam sizes are the same as those in Fig. 1. The unit of each color bar is in 10^{22} cm^{-2} .

that magnetic field might play a crucial role here. These sources would be ideal targets for further studies.

3.6. Diagrams of integrated intensity and column density

Figures 8 and 9 show diagrams of the relations between integrated intensity and column density. The integrated intensities of HCO^+ , HNC , N_2H^+ , and C^{18}O are derived from the average within one beam size ($\sim 27''$) with $\text{rms} > 6\sigma$, and are selected without bias along the six IRDCs. To probe the spatial distribution of species (HCO^+ , HNC , N_2H^+ , and C^{18}O) and column density, we use only the integrated intensities of the species instead of converting them into column density, which would introduce some uncertain assumption. In addition, the spatial scales between integrated intensity and column density are a

little different, due to a different spatial resolution of data. This is acceptable given that we are mainly interested in statistical relationships.

4. Discussion

4.1. The morphology of the IRDCs

The emissions from 8.0 μm to 70 μm are bright and extended at the northern part of G31, while they are weak at the southern part. We suggest that the filament nebula G31 consists of the southern IRDC and the northern infrared bright cloud (IRBC), as we contrast the consistency between their velocity distributions and the morphological distributions. It is obvious that the northern IRBC is more evolved than the southern IRDC. In the IRDC

G33, the spectral observations covered only the northern part (Rathborne et al. 2006), however, the dark infrared background shows that this molecular cloud is still a filamentary structure in the north to south direction. The G33 has no extended infrared structure, and the infrared emissions at 8.0, 24, and 70 μm are relatively weak. The IRDC G34 is a well-known object (Rathborne et al. 2005, 2008, 2011; Foster et al. 2014; Yanagida et al. 2014; Dirienzo et al. 2015; Pon et al. 2015, 2016; Xu et al. 2016). From 24 μm to 870 μm , the three extracted dense cores in the G34 are very bright (see Fig. 1). At 8 μm , the cores G34-1 and G34-2 seem to be invisible. The G34-1, G34-2, and G34-3 have a dust temperature with 16.45, 20.02 and 19.49 K, respectively. A heating bridge exists, cutting through the cores G34-2 and G34-3 (see Fig. 4). The G34-1 and G34-2 are two of the most massive and dense cores within all the IRDCs. The IRDC G35 is also a well-studied object (Henshaw et al. 2013, 2014; Jiménez-Serra et al. 2014; Dirienzo et al. 2015), and has similar conditions to G35. The G35 is located in the W48 molecular complex, and has a very dark infrared emission observed by *Spitzer*. The IRDC G38 is located between the H II regions G38.91-0.44 and G39.30-1.04. The formation of this IRDC may be associated with the interaction of the two adjacent H II regions (Xu et al. 2013), which suggests that the dense filamentary clumps may be formed during cloud-cloud collisions (Tan 2000; Tasker & Tan 2009). At 8.0 μm in the center of the core G53-2, the IRDC G53 presents a radial structure toward its surrounding. However, its absorption distribution at 8.0 μm shows an elongated structure from north to south. Therefore, the filamentary structure is a widespread phenomenon on a large scale (Li et al. 2013; Wang et al. 2015). The embedded dense cores within IRDCs and the H II regions nearby influence the morphology of the host clouds.

An IRDC is a cold, dense region of a GMC. They can be seen in silhouette against the bright diffuse infrared emission from the galactic plane (Butler & Tan 2009). Observations in molecular clouds reveal a complex structure, with gas and dust often arranged in filamentary, rather than spherical geometries (e.g., Hatchell et al. 2005; Myers 2009). Generally, in the line of sight, an IRDC presents filamentary structure with dark infrared wavelength or bright millimeter emission, for example, IRDCs G31, G33, G34, and G35 in Fig. 1. Whereas some of the IRDCs show radiated morphology, for example, IRDC SDC13 (Peretto et al. 2014) and single spot, for example, IRDCs G38 and G53 in Fig. 1.

4.2. Star formation and evolution

4.2.1. The associated high-mass star formation

In Fig. 7, we present the mass-size relation diagram for the extracted cores at 870 μm . Comparison with the high-mass star formation threshold of $m(r) > 870 M_{\odot}(r/\text{pc})^{1.35}$ empirically proposed by Kauffmann & Pillai (2010) allows us to determine whether these cores are capable of giving birth to massive stars. The data points are distributed above the threshold (shown in Fig. 7) that discriminates between high and low mass star formation whose entries fall above and below the line, respectively, indicative of high-mass star-forming candidates. It appears that the most cores are high-mass star-forming candidates.

Virial parameter α_{vir} can be used for judgment on whether cores are in a state of being gravitationally bound. In Table A.1, the derived virial parameters α_{vir} are mostly ≤ 1.0 . The cores are gravitationally bound, potentially unstable and may collapse. In addition, these cores have high masses, densities, and low

temperatures; and the star formation is active. Therefore, they are good high-mass star forming candidates in early stage.

4.2.2. Evolutionary stages

The derived dust temperature and column density distributions are the most direct evidence in presenting their evolutionary stages. In Figs. 4 and 5, we can see that the temperature and density distributions have strong associations with the contours of N_2H^+ , which is one good tracer in low temperature and high density. The active protostellar cores typically have warmer dust temperatures than the more quiescent, perhaps pre-protostellar cores (Rathborne et al. 2010). Generally in one star-forming region, these relatively high temperature spots are more evolved than these low temperature ones.

Infrared continuum emission is often used as a tracer in different evolutionary stages (Churchwell et al. 2006; Zhang et al. 2013). Mid-infrared continuum emission, for example, 24 μm , is an important tracer for test this evolutionary sequence. The IRDCs range from near-infrared dark to millimeter bright. The far-infrared 70 μm seems to be the turning point from infrared dark to infrared bright (see Fig. 1). The dense dust cores in this work basically have strong 870 μm and N_2H^+ emission, so they should be early star formation candidates. The infrared dark cores will be much earlier candidates than the infrared bright cores. For example in IRDC G38, the core G38-2 is probably a strong H II region, where a protostar in late stage might reside. The G38-2 is apparently more evolved than the other cores in G38. The peak positions of some dense cores derived from N_2H^+ are offset from the ones with infrared emission, some of which indicates the site of H II region. It is likely that the strong H II regions in the late stage are triggering a new generation of star formation in the early stage.

4.3. Dynamical characters

4.3.1. Outflow and infall

In Fig. 3, we show the position-velocity diagrams along the broken line (from the upper to lower) of each IRDC in Fig. 1. The diagrams can roughly present the positions with active dynamics, such as outflow and rotation. HCO^+ is often optically thick, while N_2H^+ is optically thin, so both can be combined to use as dynamical tracers. Considering the line wings of HCO^+ spectra in Fig. 2 and the position-velocity diagrams in Fig. 3, we find that the potential outflow movement is ubiquitous in IRDCs, such as the 18 cores G31-1, G31-2, G31-4, G31-5, G31-6, G31-7, G31-8, G31-11, G34-1, G34-2, G34-4, G34-5, G35-6, G35-7, G35-9, G38-1, G38-3, and G53-1. We only detected SiO emission toward the cores G31-1, G34-1, G34-2, G34-3, G38-1, and G53-1 (see Fig. 6). Considering that the molecule SiO is a good tracer of shock gas associated with molecular outflows (Schilke et al. 1997), these six sources are possible outflow candidates. The cores G31-4, G34-1, G34-2, G34-3, and G53-2 have SiO line widths ranging from 9.46 km s^{-1} to 17.49 km s^{-1} , which further support this idea. However, G38-1 has a relatively narrow SiO line (5.01 km s^{-1}), its line-center velocity is about 2.5 km s^{-1} offset from that of DCO^+ . We note that there is a weak redshifted absorption dip. Based on this, it seems to be an inverse P-Cygni profile indicating a potential large scale infall or collapse there.

On the other hand, following the method of Mardones et al. (1997), we can identify possible global infall motions of these cores using optically thick HCO^+ and optically thin N_2H^+ lines.

Fig. 6. Spectra of DCO⁺, SiO, and DCN detected in cores G34-1, G34-2, G34-3, G31-1, G38-1, and G53-1. The green curves are from the Gaussian fit with GILDAS/CLASS software. The fitting parameters are listed in Table 2.

Fig. 7. Mass-radius distributions of Gaussian cores extracted from *Gaussclumps*. The masses are listed in Table A.2, and the effective radius is derived with $r = R_{\text{core}}/(\sqrt{\ln 2})$. The red line delineates the threshold introduced by Kauffmann & Pillai (2010) separating the regimes under which high-mass stars can form (above) or not (below line). The green points belong to the derived core masses from 870 μm .

The blueshifted asymmetric HCO⁺ profiles with respect to that of N₂H⁺ suggest that the ten cores G31-1, G31-2, G31-3, G33-1, G34-3, G35-6, G35-8, G38-2, G53-1, and G53-2 are possible global infall candidates. Many sources show both infall and outflow motions, as is consistent with the star-formation theory in Tan et al. (2014). It is interesting to find that the optically thin C¹⁸O in the core G35-7 shows at least three velocity components, while the optically thick HCO⁺ shows broadening line width with blueshifted profile (see Fig. 2). For G35 it has been suggested by Jiménez-Serra et al. (2014) that the three filamentary velocity components are converging in together, and the core G35-7 is the production in this converging flow. Our multivelocity components detected in C¹⁸O seem to support their idea. However, it is somewhat difficult to give a final result as to whether it is infall movement or converging flow for the moment.

4.3.2. Envelope expansion with core collapse

The derived virial parameters α_{vir} listed in Table A.1 are mostly $\lesssim 1.0$, indicating that these cores are probably collapsing inward under the self-gravity. Additionally, it is interesting that the observed HCO⁺ spectra shown in Fig. 2 are blueshifted with stronger blueshifted and weaker redshifted peaks, while the spectra C¹⁸O are redshifted for the same core, for example,

in cores G31-2, G31-3, G31-4, G31-6, G31-8, G31-10, G33-1, G33-4, G33-11, G35-7, and G35-8. In critical density, HCO^+ can trace much denser regions of a core than C^{18}O . Generally, the innermost part of a core is denser than its envelope. Therefore, the HCO^+ traces the inner dynamical feature within a core, while the C^{18}O traces relatively the outer dynamical movement. Considering that the observed blueshifted and redshifted profiles for HCO^+ and C^{18}O in the same core, respectively, maybe that different parts of the core are moving in opposite directions, that is, inward versus outward. Such coexistence of inward and outward motions in star-forming molecular clouds or cores may be the “envelope expansion with core collapse (EECC)” (Gao & Lou 2010; Lou & Gao 2011). The clouds or cores B68 (Lada et al. 2003), SFO 11NE (Thompson & White 2004), L1495A-N, L1507A, L1512 (Lee et al. 2001), L1517B (Fu et al. 2011), and L1689-SMM16 (Chitsazzadeh et al. 2014) were also shown relative to the reports.

4.4. Chemistry

4.4.1. Different tracers of star formation

During the evolution of early star formation, plenty of spectra were produced, such as HCO^+ , HNC, N_2H^+ , and C^{18}O in Fig. 2, and DCO^+ , SiO, and DCN in Fig. 6. Each spectral tracer has a special function. The C^{18}O line has strong depletion toward the dense and cold cores (Tafalla et al. 2004; Fontani et al. 2006; Hernandez et al. 2011), so C^{18}O may indicate an evolved stage. These N- and D- bearing species have high critical density ($>10^5 \text{ cm}^{-3}$), and can trace very low temperature ($<20 \text{ K}$) conditions (Caselli et al. 1999; Tafalla et al. 2002; Bergin & Tafalla 2007). SiO is a powerful probe of star formation activity in the deeply embedded phase of the evolution of massive cores (Csengeri et al. 2016), and a characteristic tracer of shocks (Jiménez-Serra et al. 2010; Hirano et al. 2010).

We tried to observe deuterium species in all the potentially dense cores in Table A.1. However, we detected only six DCO^+ and five DCN lines which are mainly located at cores G31-1, G34-1, G34-2, G34-3, G38-1, and G53-1 in Fig. 6 and Table 2. Likely due to relatively small dynamical motions, the deuterium species, especially for DCO^+ , have narrower line width than these non-D-bearing species. They are suggested as tracers of the dense and quiescent part of cold cores (Bergin & Tafalla 2007; di Francesco et al. 2007). Pagani et al. (2011) argued that the absence of DCO^+ outside depleted cores is due to a high ortho- H_2 abundance in dark clouds maintained long enough. Furthermore, it is difficult to detect deuterium species, such as DCO^+ and DCN. One of the reasons for this is that their low abundance. We also argue that the condition producing such deuterium species restricts in a small area relatively to beam size of telescope, so there exists high beam dilution. The high spatial resolution observation is necessary to carry out this investigation.

With $870 \mu\text{m}$ continuum, we derived higher densities and masses than the work by Liu et al. (2014), who mainly used ^{13}CO and C^{18}O emission in studying IRDCs. It is suggested that both the CO species are bad tracers in the condition of IRDCs. The CO lines, at least, are not suitable for computing the density and mass of these dense cores. The N- and D- bearing species and submillimeter continuum are better tracers in investigating the cold and dense IRDCs.

4.4.2. Molecular depletion

In Fig. 1, we found that the morphology of C^{18}O distribution is very different from those of N_2H^+ and dust emission (i.e.,

G33-1, G34-1, G34-3, G35-4, and G35-7). Especially, we can see by eye that the peaks of C^{18}O emission present offsets from the peak positions of those cold and dense cores. It is likely that C^{18}O emission is heavily depleted due to freezing out onto dust grains in cold and dense condition. Their C^{18}O lines in Fig. 2 also show a non-Gaussian profile, further proving that the C^{18}O emission in the cores was depleted onto the cold grains nearby. It is also possible that the chemical components (not only for C^{18}O) should be affected in the cold and dense conditions.

In Fig. 8, the relationship between column density and molecular integrated intensity is very clear. The best correlation is the relationship between column density and N_2H^+ integrated intensity; the next-best correlation is with HNC and then HCO^+ ; the worst correlation is with C^{18}O . This suggests that N_2H^+ is a better tracer in dense conditions of column density $>\sim 10^{22} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ than HNC, HCO^+ , and C^{18}O . In Fig. 9, we show the relationship between integrated intensities between HCO^+ , HNC, N_2H^+ , and C^{18}O . The best correlation is the one between HNC and N_2H^+ , while the worst one is between C^{18}O and N_2H^+ . In dense conditions, HCO^+ and C^{18}O may become optically thick (Pillai et al. 2006). C^{18}O has a relatively low critical density and is vulnerable to freeze out onto the surface of cold dust grains. Therefore, N_2H^+ is also a good tracer in very dense and cold (below 20 K) condition, where C^{18}O is a unreliable tracer.

Line width (ΔV) and line intensity (I) diagrams are shown in Figs. 10 and 11, respectively, demonstrating the relations between all combinations of HCO^+ , HNC, and C^{18}O . The parameters of line width and intensity are derived from Gaussian fits, masking the absorption dip (see Sect. 2.2). Although the figures do not show the correlation coefficient, it is obvious that the correlation of line width between C^{18}O and HNC is better than that between HNC and HCO^+ , and than that between C^{18}O and HCO^+ in Fig. 10. This can be explained as the dynamical broadening has a greater effect on the spectra of HCO^+ than of HNC and C^{18}O . It further proves that HCO^+ is an important dynamical tracer in cores. Additionally, the correlation of line intensity between HNC and HCO^+ is better than that between C^{18}O and HNC, and between C^{18}O and HCO^+ in Fig. 11. This can be explained that C^{18}O has a relatively lower critical density than HNC and HCO^+ , while HNC and HCO^+ has a similar critical density. It is also likely that C^{18}O depletes more strongly than HNC and HCO^+ in dense and cold cores.

5. Summary

We mainly used spectral data from the IRAM 30 m and CSO 10.4 m telescopes combining with continuum data from online archive to study the physical conditions in six IRDCs including G031.97+00.07, G033.69-00.01, G034.43+00.24, G035.39-00.33, G038.95-00.47, and G053.11+00.05. The newly observed spectral data are HCO^+ , HCN, N_2H^+ , C^{18}O , DCO^+ , SiO, and DCN, respectively.

We investigated 44 cores including 37 cores reported in Rathborne et al. (2006) and 7 newly-identified cores. Toward the dense and cold cores, we detected 6 DCO^+ , and 5 DCN lines. By fitting the seven HFS lines from the N_2H^+ , we find that the optical depth mainly ranges from 0.10 to 0.24, consistent with online RADEX results, so the N_2H^+ is optically thin in the condition of these dense and cold cores.

Using pixel-by-pixel SED fits of the *Herschel* 70 to $500 \mu\text{m}$, we obtained the dust temperature and column density distributions of the IRDCs, and found that the IRDCs have a low dust temperature and a high column density. We also found that N_2H^+

Fig. 8. Column density and integrated intensity diagrams between HCO^+ , HNC , N_2H^+ , and C^{18}O . Column density was derived from SED fits with *Herschel* data (see Sect. 3.4). The data points are derived from the average within one beam size ($\sim 27''$) with $\text{rms} > 6\sigma$, and selected without bias along the six IRDCs.

Fig. 9. Integrated intensity diagrams between HCO^+ , HNC , N_2H^+ , and C^{18}O . The data points are derived from the average within one beam size ($\sim 27''$) with $\text{rms} > 6\sigma$, and selected without bias along the six IRDCs.

emission has a strong linear correlation with the dust temperature and column density distributions.

The peak positions of some dense cores derived from N_2H^+ are offset from the ones with infrared emission, some of which indicate the site of the H II region. It is likely that the strong H II regions are triggering corresponding star formation around themselves.

We find that the morphologies of C^{18}O distribution are significantly different from that of N_2H^+ . It is obvious that C^{18}O emission may be heavily depleted at the peak positions of these cold cores. Their C^{18}O lines also show a non-Gaussian profile, further proving that the C^{18}O emission in the cores was depleted onto the cold grains nearby. Comparing the relationships

between column density and molecular integrated intensity, we found that the molecular ion N_2H^+ has the best correlation, while the worst is C^{18}O . It is suggested that N_2H^+ is a good tracer in very dense conditions, however a unreliable one is C^{18}O , because of its low critical density and vulnerability to freeze out onto the surface of cold dust grains.

We find that the infall, outflow, and collapse movements are active in IRDCs, suggesting active dynamics. In the investigated 44 cores, about 18(10) cores have potential outflow(infall) movements. For the observed blueshifted and redshifted profiles for HCO^+ and C^{18}O in the same core, respectively, maybe that different parts of the core are moving in opposite directions, that is, inward versus outward. Such coexistence of inward

Fig. 10. Line width (ΔV) diagrams between HCO^+ , HNC, and C^{18}O . The data points are listed the Table A.2.

Fig. 11. Line intensity (I) diagrams between of HCO^+ , HNC, and C^{18}O , respectively. The data points are listed the Table A.2.

and outward motions in star-forming molecular clouds or cores may be the so called “envelope expansion with core collapse (EECC)”.

Acknowledgements. We wish to thank the anonymous referee for comments and suggestions that improved the clarity of the paper. We acknowledge observations by the IRAM and CSO staff. C.-P. Zhang is supported by the Young Researcher Grant of National Astronomical Observatories, Chinese Academy of Sciences. G.-X. Li is supported by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) priority program 1573 ISM- SPP. This work is partly supported by the National Key Basic Research Program of China (973 Program) 2015CB857100 and National Natural Science Foundation of China 11363004, 11403042, 11503035, 11573036, and 11373062.

References

- Abreu-Vicente, J., Ragan, S., Kainulainen, J., et al. 2016, *A&A*, **590**, A131
Aikawa, Y., Herbst, E., Roberts, H., & Caselli, P. 2005, *ApJ*, **620**, 330
André, P., Men'shchikov, A., Bontemps, S., et al. 2010, *A&A*, **518**, L102
André, P., Di Francesco, J., Ward-Thompson, D., et al. 2014, *Protostars and Planets VI*, 27
Battersby, C., Bally, J., Ginsburg, A., et al. 2011, *A&A*, **535**, A128
Benjamin, R. A., Churchwell, E., Babler, B. L., et al. 2003, *PASP*, **115**, 953
Bergin, E. A., & Tafalla, M. 2007, *ARA&A*, **45**, 339
Bergin, E. A., Alves, J., Huard, T., & Lada, C. J. 2002, *ApJ*, **570**, L101
Beuther, H., & Sridharan, T. K. 2007, *ApJ*, **668**, 348
Butler, M. J., & Tan, J. C. 2009, *ApJ*, **696**, 484
Carey, S. J., Clark, F. O., Egan, M. P., et al. 1998, *ApJ*, **508**, 721
Carey, S. J., Noriega-Crespo, A., Mizuno, D. R., et al. 2009, *PASP*, **121**, 76
Caselli, P., Myers, P. C., & Thaddeus, P. 1995, *ApJ*, **455**, L77
Caselli, P., Walmsley, C. M., Tafalla, M., Dore, L., & Myers, P. C. 1999, *ApJ*, **523**, L165
Caselli, P., Benson, P. J., Myers, P. C., & Tafalla, M. 2002, *ApJ*, **572**, 238
Chambers, E. T., Jackson, J. M., Rathborne, J. M., & Simon, R. 2009, *ApJS*, **181**, 360
Chitsazzadeh, S., Di Francesco, J., Schnee, S., et al. 2014, *ApJ*, **790**, 129
Churchwell, E., Povich, M. S., Allen, D., et al. 2006, *ApJ*, **649**, 759
Churchwell, E., Babler, B. L., Meade, M. R., et al. 2009, *PASP*, **121**, 213
Csengeri, T., Leurini, S., Wyrowski, F., et al. 2016, *A&A*, **586**, A149
di Francesco, J., Evans, II, N. J., Caselli, P., et al. 2007, *Protostars and Planets V*, 17
Dirienzo, W. J., Brogan, C., Indebetouw, R., et al. 2015, *AJ*, **150**, 159
Egan, M. P., Shipman, R. F., Price, S. D., et al. 1998, *ApJ*, **494**, L199
Evans, II, N. J. 1999, *ARA&A*, **37**, 311
Fontani, F., Caselli, P., Crapsi, A., et al. 2006, *A&A*, **460**, 709
Foster, J. B., Arce, H. G., Kassir, M., et al. 2014, *ApJ*, **791**, 108
Fu, T.-M., Gao, Y., & Lou, Y.-Q. 2011, *ApJ*, **741**, 113
Gao, Y., & Lou, Y.-Q. 2010, *MNRAS*, **403**, 1919
Goodman, A. A., Alves, J., Beaumont, C. N., et al. 2014, *ApJ*, **797**, 53
Griffin, M. J., Abergel, A., Abreu, A., et al. 2010, *A&A*, **518**, L3
Hatchell, J., Richer, J. S., Fuller, G. A., et al. 2005, *A&A*, **440**, 151
Heitsch, F., Hartmann, L. W., Slyz, A. D., Devriendt, J. E. G., & Burkert, A. 2008, *ApJ*, **674**, 316
Henning, T., Linz, H., Krause, O., et al. 2010, *A&A*, **518**, L95
Henshaw, J. D., Caselli, P., Fontani, F., et al. 2013, *MNRAS*, **428**, 3425
Henshaw, J. D., Caselli, P., Fontani, F., Jiménez-Serra, I., & Tan, J. C. 2014, *MNRAS*, **440**, 2860
Hernandez, A. K., & Tan, J. C. 2011, *ApJ*, **730**, 44
Hernandez, A. K., Tan, J. C., Caselli, P., et al. 2011, *ApJ*, **738**, 11
Hirano, N., Ho, P. P. T., Liu, S.-Y., et al. 2010, *ApJ*, **717**, 58
Jackson, J. M., Finn, S. C., Chambers, E. T., Rathborne, J. M., & Simon, R. 2010, *ApJ*, **719**, L185
Jappsen, A.-K., Klessen, R. S., Larson, R. B., Li, Y., & Mac Low, M.-M. 2005, *A&A*, **435**, 611
Jiménez-Serra, I., Caselli, P., Tan, J. C., et al. 2010, *MNRAS*, **406**, 187
Jiménez-Serra, I., Caselli, P., Fontani, F., et al. 2014, *MNRAS*, **439**, 1996
Kauffmann, J., & Pillai, T. 2010, *ApJ*, **723**, L7
Kauffmann, J., Bertoldi, F., Bourke, T. L., Evans, II, N. J., & Lee, C. W. 2008, *A&A*, **487**, 993
Keto, E., & Rybicki, G. 2010, *ApJ*, **716**, 1315
Kim, H.-J., Koo, B.-C., & Davis, C. J. 2015, *ApJ*, **802**, 59
Kong, S., Caselli, P., Tan, J. C., Wakelam, V., & Sipilä, O. 2015, *ApJ*, **804**, 98
Kong, S., Tan, J. C., Caselli, P., et al. 2016, *ApJ*, **821**, 94

- Lada, C. J., Bergin, E. A., Alves, J. F., & Huard, T. L. 2003, [ApJ](#), **586**, 286
- Lee, C. W., Myers, P. C., & Tafalla, M. 2001, [ApJS](#), **136**, 703
- Li, G.-X., Wyrowski, F., Menten, K., & Belloche, A. 2013, [A&A](#), **559**, A34
- Li, H.-B., Goodman, A., Sridharan, T. K., et al. 2014, [Protostars and Planets VI](#), 101
- Li, G.-X., Urquhart, J. S., Leurini, S., et al. 2016, [A&A](#), **591**, A5
- Liu, X.-L., Wang, J.-J., & Xu, J.-L. 2013, [MNRAS](#), **431**, 27
- Liu, X.-L., Wang, J.-J., & Xu, J.-L. 2014, [MNRAS](#), **443**, 2264
- Lou, Y.-Q., & Gao, Y. 2011, [MNRAS](#), **412**, 1755
- MacLaren, I., Richardson, K. M., & Wolfendale, A. W. 1988, [ApJ](#), **333**, 821
- Mardones, D., Myers, P. C., Tafalla, M., et al. 1997, [ApJ](#), **489**, 719
- Myers, P. C. 2009, [ApJ](#), **700**, 1609
- Nguyen Luong, Q., Motte, F., Hennemann, M., et al. 2011, [A&A](#), **535**, A76
- Ossenkopf, V., & Henning, T. 1994, [A&A](#), **291**, 943
- Pagani, L., Roueff, E., & Lesaffre, P. 2011, [ApJ](#), **739**, L35
- Peretto, N., Fuller, G. A., André, P., et al. 2014, [A&A](#), **561**, A83
- Pillai, T., Wyrowski, F., Carey, S. J., & Menten, K. M. 2006, [A&A](#), **450**, 569
- Pillai, T., Kauffmann, J., Tan, J. C., et al. 2015, [ApJ](#), **799**, 74
- Planck Collaboration Int. XXXIII. 2016, [A&A](#), **586**, A136
- Poglitsch, A., Waelkens, C., Geis, N., et al. 2010, [A&A](#), **518**, L2
- Pon, A., Caselli, P., Johnstone, D., et al. 2015, [A&A](#), **577**, A75
- Pon, A., Johnstone, D., Caselli, P., et al. 2016, [A&A](#), **587**, A96
- Ragan, S. E., Henning, T., Tackenberg, J., et al. 2014, [A&A](#), **568**, A73
- Rathborne, J. M., Jackson, J. M., Chambers, E. T., et al. 2005, [ApJ](#), **630**, L181
- Rathborne, J. M., Jackson, J. M., & Simon, R. 2006, [ApJ](#), **641**, 389
- Rathborne, J. M., Simon, R., & Jackson, J. M. 2007, [ApJ](#), **662**, 1082
- Rathborne, J. M., Jackson, J. M., Zhang, Q., & Simon, R. 2008, [ApJ](#), **689**, 1141
- Rathborne, J. M., Jackson, J. M., Chambers, E. T., et al. 2010, [ApJ](#), **715**, 310
- Rathborne, J. M., Garay, G., Jackson, J. M., et al. 2011, [ApJ](#), **741**, 120
- Sanhueza, P., Jackson, J. M., Foster, J. B., et al. 2012, [ApJ](#), **756**, 60
- Schilke, P., Walmsley, C. M., Pineau des Forets, G., & Flower, D. R. 1997, [A&A](#), **321**, 293
- Schuller, F., Menten, K. M., Contreras, Y., et al. 2009, [A&A](#), **504**, 415
- Simon, R., Rathborne, J. M., Shah, R. Y., Jackson, J. M., & Chambers, E. T. 2006, [ApJ](#), **653**, 1325
- Smith, R. J., Glover, S. C. O., Clark, P. C., Klessen, R. S., & Springel, V. 2014, [MNRAS](#), **441**, 1628
- Tafalla, M., Myers, P. C., Caselli, P., Walmsley, C. M., & Comito, C. 2002, [ApJ](#), **569**, 815
- Tafalla, M., Myers, P. C., Caselli, P., & Walmsley, C. M. 2004, [A&A](#), **416**, 191
- Tan, J. C. 2000, [ApJ](#), **536**, 173
- Tan, J. C., Beltrán, M. T., Caselli, P., et al. 2014, [Protostars and Planets VI](#), 149
- Tasker, E. J., & Tan, J. C. 2009, [ApJ](#), **700**, 358
- Thompson, M. A., & White, G. J. 2004, [A&A](#), **419**, 599
- Traficante, A., Calzoletti, L., Veneziani, M., et al. 2011, [MNRAS](#), **416**, 2932
- van der Tak, F. F. S., Black, J. H., Schöier, F. L., Jansen, D. J., & van Dishoeck, E. F. 2007, [A&A](#), **468**, 627
- Vázquez-Semadeni, E., Gómez, G. C., Jappsen, A. K., et al. 2007, [ApJ](#), **657**, 870
- Wang, K., Testi, L., Ginsburg, A., et al. 2015, [MNRAS](#), **450**, 4043
- Wang, K., Testi, L., Burkert, A., et al. 2016, [ApJS](#), **226**, 9
- Xu, J.-L., Wang, J.-J., & Liu, X.-L. 2013, [A&A](#), **559**, A113
- Xu, J.-L., Li, D., Zhang, C.-P., et al. 2016, [ApJ](#), **819**, 117
- Yanagida, T., Sakai, T., Hirota, T., et al. 2014, [ApJ](#), **794**, L10
- Zhang, C.-P., Wang, J.-J., & Xu, J.-L. 2013, [A&A](#), **550**, A117
- Zhang, C.-P., Li, G.-X., Wyrowski, F., et al. 2016, [A&A](#), **585**, A117
- Zucker, C., Battersby, C., & Goodman, A. 2015, [ApJ](#), **815**, 23

Appendix A: Additional material

Fig. A.1. Continuation of Fig. 1.

Fig. A.1. Continuation of Fig. 1.

Fig. A.2. Continuation of Fig. 2.

Fig. A.2. Continuation of Fig. 2.

Fig. A.2. Continuation of Fig. 2.

Table A.1. Parameters (coordinate, distance, mass, density, etc.) of the selected cores in the IRDCs.

Core	RA J2000	Dec. J2000	Dist. kpc	R_{core} pc	T_{dust} K	$I_{870\mu\text{m}}$ Jy beam $^{-1}$	$S_{870\mu\text{m}}$ Jy	$\Delta V_{\text{N}_2\text{H}^+}$ km s $^{-1}$	$\tau_{\text{N}_2\text{H}^+}$	M_{vir} $M_{\odot}$	$M_{870\mu\text{m}}$ $M_{\odot}$	$M_{1.1\text{mm}}$ $M_{\odot}$	α_{vir}	$n_{870\mu\text{m}}$ 10^4 cm^{-3}
G31-1	18:49:36.3	-00:45:45	6.9	0.20	19.3 ± 0.2	5.64 ± 0.27	4.42 ± 0.21	3.48 ± 0.01	0.12 ± 0.00	146 ± 0	1221 ± 61	1890	0.12 ± 0.01	5.1 ± 0.3
G31-2	18:49:36.0	-00:46:16	6.9	0.28	18.3 ± 0.0	3.16 ± 0.15	3.43 ± 0.16	3.10 ± 0.01	0.10 ± 0.00	179 ± 1	1022 ± 47	929	0.18 ± 0.01	4.3 ± 0.2
G31-3	18:49:32.3	-00:47:02	6.9	0.46	16.2 ± 0.3	2.14 ± 0.08	5.23 ± 0.18	2.19 ± 0.52	0.23 ± 0.10	209 ± 50	1895 ± 86	1222	0.11 ± 0.03	7.9 ± 0.4
G31-3	18:49:32.3	-00:47:02	6.9	0.46	16.2 ± 0.3	2.14 ± 0.08	5.23 ± 0.18	3.85 ± 0.52	0.53 ± 0.10	368 ± 50	1895 ± 86	1222	0.19 ± 0.03	7.9 ± 0.4
G31-4	18:49:33.0	-00:47:33	6.9	0.49	15.5 ± 0.2	1.74 ± 0.03	4.84 ± 0.09	3.71 ± 0.04	0.10 ± 0.00	381 ± 4	1879 ± 49	852	0.20 ± 0.01	7.8 ± 0.2
G31-5	18:49:21.9	-00:50:35	6.9	0.17	17.1 ± 0.2	0.64 ± 0.00	0.44 ± 0.00	2.74 ± 0.04	0.10 ± 0.01	101 ± 2	147 ± 3	178	0.68 ± 0.02	0.6 ± 0.0
G31-6	18:49:35.0	-00:46:44	6.9	0.66	17.2 ± 0.4	1.89 ± 0.04	8.60 ± 0.16	3.09 ± 0.02	0.10 ± 0.00	429 ± 3	2827 ± 111	1181	0.15 ± 0.01	11.8 ± 0.5
G31-7	18:49:28.4	-00:48:54	6.9	0.34	17.5 ± 0.1	0.78 ± 0.00	1.12 ± 0.01	1.97 ± 0.07	0.11 ± 0.03	138 ± 5	358 ± 4	291	0.39 ± 0.01	1.5 ± 0.0
G31-8	18:49:29.1	-00:48:12	6.9	0.52	17.6 ± 0.2	0.78 ± 0.01	2.32 ± 0.02	2.06 ± 0.04	0.10 ± 0.00	223 ± 5	735 ± 16	493	0.30 ± 0.01	3.1 ± 0.1
G31-9	18:49:31.6	-00:46:30	6.9	0.28	17.3 ± 0.1	0.97 ± 0.01	1.16 ± 0.01	5.70 ± 0.09	0.10 ± 0.00	341 ± 5	378 ± 5	151	0.90 ± 0.02	1.6 ± 0.0
G31-10	18:49:31.8	-00:38:03	6.9	0.56	20.5 ± 0.6	3.71 ± 0.42	13.78 ± 1.56	4.20 ± 0.04	0.10 ± 0.00	494 ± 4	3466 ± 421	—	0.14 ± 0.02	14.4 ± 1.8
G31-11	18:49:37.8	-00:40:59	6.9	0.52	23.0 ± 0.7	2.10 ± 0.13	6.58 ± 0.40	2.41 ± 0.04	0.10 ± 0.00	260 ± 5	1406 ± 103	—	0.19 ± 0.01	5.9 ± 0.4
G31-12	18:49:34.6	-00:38:21	6.9	0.44	21.6 ± 1.0	1.00 ± 0.01	2.28 ± 0.02	2.35 ± 0.04	0.10 ± 0.01	217 ± 4	533 ± 34	—	0.41 ± 0.03	2.2 ± 0.1
G31-13	18:49:37.6	-00:39:55	6.9	0.40	19.9 ± 0.2	0.43 ± 0.00	0.79 ± 0.00	1.54 ± 0.04	0.10 ± 0.01	128 ± 3	207 ± 3	—	0.62 ± 0.02	0.9 ± 0.0
G33-1	18:52:58.8	+00:42:37	7.1	0.41	15.2 ± 0.3	2.03 ± 0.07	4.01 ± 0.14	3.07 ± 0.05	0.10 ± 0.01	264 ± 5	1708 ± 85	1135	0.15 ± 0.01	6.5 ± 0.3
G33-4	18:52:56.4	+00:43:08	7.1	0.59	15.2 ± 0.3	1.12 ± 0.02	4.15 ± 0.08	3.03 ± 0.09	0.37 ± 0.06	379 ± 11	1758 ± 61	820	0.22 ± 0.01	6.7 ± 0.2
G33-7	18:52:58.1	+00:44:08	7.1	0.79	17.7 ± 0.9	0.66 ± 0.02	3.95 ± 0.10	2.37 ± 0.22	0.11 ± 0.02	391 ± 37	1311 ± 103	641	0.30 ± 0.04	5.0 ± 0.4
G33-8	18:52:53.9	+00:41:16	7.1	0.73	17.7 ± 0.5	0.54 ± 0.01	2.85 ± 0.07	5.32 ± 0.33	0.10 ± 0.05	816 ± 50	946 ± 44	588	0.86 ± 0.07	3.6 ± 0.2
G33-9	18:52:58.1	+00:41:20	7.1	0.26	17.8 ± 0.1	0.46 ± 0.00	0.45 ± 0.00	2.15 ± 0.17	0.19 ± 0.10	117 ± 10	147 ± 1	119	0.80 ± 0.07	0.6 ± 0.0
G33-11	18:52:56.2	+00:41:48	7.1	0.30	17.2 ± 0.0	0.68 ± 0.01	0.81 ± 0.01	6.14 ± 0.40	0.10 ± 0.01	387 ± 25	282 ± 4	100	1.37 ± 0.09	1.1 ± 0.0
G34-1	18:53:18.0	+01:25:24	3.7	0.10	19.7 ± 0.3	11.29 ± 0.74	7.84 ± 0.51	2.88 ± 0.00	0.10 ± 0.00	57 ± 0	601 ± 41	1187	0.10 ± 0.01	16.2 ± 1.1
G34-2	18:53:18.6	+01:24:40	3.7	0.21	18.4 ± 0.3	7.30 ± 0.72	13.39 ± 1.32	3.43 ± 0.01	0.10 ± 0.00	151 ± 1	1139 ± 116	1284	0.13 ± 0.01	30.8 ± 3.1
G34-3	18:53:20.4	+01:28:23	3.7	0.19	16.3 ± 0.1	2.16 ± 0.04	3.38 ± 0.07	2.54 ± 0.02	0.10 ± 0.00	101 ± 1	347 ± 8	301	0.29 ± 0.01	9.4 ± 0.2
G34-4	18:53:19.0	+01:24:08	3.7	0.19	17.6 ± 0.1	4.50 ± 0.48	7.03 ± 0.74	2.70 ± 0.02	0.15 ± 0.01	108 ± 1	639 ± 68	253	0.17 ± 0.02	17.3 ± 1.8
G34-5	18:53:19.8	+01:23:30	3.7	0.45	17.4 ± 0.3	2.12 ± 0.17	14.93 ± 1.18	2.14 ± 0.05	0.13 ± 0.03	200 ± 5	1388 ± 116	664	0.14 ± 0.01	37.5 ± 3.1
G34-6	18:53:18.6	+01:27:48	3.7	0.31	16.6 ± 0.2	0.98 ± 0.02	3.62 ± 0.06	1.92 ± 0.06	0.12 ± 0.04	125 ± 4	362 ± 8	126	0.34 ± 0.01	9.8 ± 0.2
G34-7	18:53:18.3	+01:27:13	3.7	0.23	16.4 ± 0.1	0.76 ± 0.00	1.62 ± 0.01	2.21 ± 0.09	0.30 ± 0.06	107 ± 4	165 ± 2	87	0.64 ± 0.03	4.5 ± 0.0
G34-8	18:53:16.4	+01:26:20	3.7	0.26	17.7 ± 0.6	0.72 ± 0.00	1.88 ± 0.01	2.79 ± 0.10	0.12 ± 0.05	152 ± 5	170 ± 10	108	0.90 ± 0.06	4.6 ± 0.3
G34-9	18:53:18.4	+01:28:14	3.7	0.34	16.6 ± 0.2	1.49 ± 0.05	6.13 ± 0.22	2.30 ± 0.04	0.10 ± 0.04	162 ± 2	610 ± 25	157	0.27 ± 0.01	16.5 ± 0.7
G35-4	18:57:06.7	+02:08:23	2.9	0.23	15.7 ± 0.8	0.79 ± 0.03	2.47 ± 0.08	1.36 ± 0.17	0.10 ± 0.05	64 ± 8	167 ± 14	108	0.39 ± 0.06	9.4 ± 0.8
G35-4	18:57:06.7	+02:08:23	2.9	0.23	15.7 ± 0.8	0.79 ± 0.03	2.47 ± 0.08	1.15 ± 0.06	0.53 ± 0.08	54 ± 3	167 ± 14	108	0.33 ± 0.03	9.4 ± 0.8
G35-5	18:57:08.8	+02:08:09	2.9	0.24	14.6 ± 0.3	0.79 ± 0.01	2.95 ± 0.02	1.71 ± 0.14	0.10 ± 0.03	88 ± 7	224 ± 9	118	0.39 ± 0.03	12.6 ± 0.5
G35-5	18:57:08.8	+02:08:09	2.9	0.24	14.6 ± 0.3	0.79 ± 0.01	2.95 ± 0.02	1.57 ± 0.07	0.37 ± 0.04	81 ± 4	224 ± 9	118	0.36 ± 0.02	12.6 ± 0.5
G35-6	18:57:08.4	+02:09:09	2.9	0.24	16.0 ± 0.2	0.77 ± 0.01	2.86 ± 0.03	1.27 ± 0.05	0.60 ± 0.08	65 ± 3	186 ± 4	71	0.35 ± 0.02	10.4 ± 0.3
G35-7	18:57:08.1	+02:10:50	2.9	0.26	14.8 ± 0.3	0.92 ± 0.01	3.78 ± 0.05	1.85 ± 0.04	0.36 ± 0.03	101 ± 2	281 ± 10	96	0.36 ± 0.02	15.8 ± 0.6
G35-8	18:57:07.0	+02:08:54	2.9	0.18	16.1 ± 0.5	0.59 ± 0.00	1.36 ± 0.01	1.57 ± 0.05	0.27 ± 0.05	59 ± 2	87 ± 4	59	0.68 ± 0.04	4.9 ± 0.2
G35-9	18:57:11.2	+02:07:27	2.9	0.17	14.0 ± 0.3	0.72 ± 0.01	1.43 ± 0.02	1.39 ± 0.05	0.73 ± 0.09	50 ± 2	115 ± 4	42	0.43 ± 0.02	6.5 ± 0.2
G35-10	18:57:07.7	+02:11:50	2.9	0.20	15.1 ± 0.3	0.48 ± 0.01	1.16 ± 0.02	1.23 ± 0.09	0.26 ± 0.07	52 ± 4	83 ± 3	—	0.62 ± 0.05	4.6 ± 0.2
G35-11	18:57:05.9	+02:12:30	2.9	0.13	16.7 ± 0.1	0.28 ± 0.00	0.31 ± 0.00	0.78 ± 0.05	0.90 ± 0.18	21 ± 1	19 ± 0	—	1.14 ± 0.08	1.0 ± 0.0
G38-1	19:04:07.4	+05:08:48	2.7	0.17	15.2 ± 0.1	1.33 ± 0.03	3.05 ± 0.06	1.94 ± 0.06	0.33 ± 0.05	71 ± 2	186 ± 5	117	0.38 ± 0.01	13.0 ± 0.3
G38-2	19:04:03.4	+05:07:56	2.7	0.14	18.5 ± 0.3	1.18 ± 0.02	2.01 ± 0.03	1.27 ± 0.06	0.15 ± 0.07	37 ± 2	91 ± 2	73	0.41 ± 0.02	6.3 ± 0.2
G38-3	19:04:07.4	+05:09:44	2.7	0.07	16.2 ± 0.0	0.93 ± 0.00	0.36 ± 0.00	1.72 ± 0.10	0.30 ± 0.08	25 ± 1	20 ± 0	11	1.26 ± 0.07	1.4 ± 0.0
G38-4	19:04:00.6	+05:09:06	2.7	0.20	18.1 ± 0.3	0.66 ± 0.01	1.94 ± 0.02	1.27 ± 0.12	0.22 ± 0.14	53 ± 5	90 ± 2	48	0.59 ± 0.06	6.3 ± 0.2
G38-5	19:04:07.4	+05:07:08	2.7	0.18	19.2 ± 0.1	0.31 ± 0.00	0.76 ± 0.01	0.98 ± 0.08	0.10 ± 0.39	37 ± 3	32 ± 1	—	1.15 ± 0.10	2.2 ± 0.0
G38-5	19:29:17.2	+17:56:21	1.8	0.07	19.3 ± 0.2	4.55 ± 0.60	5.44 ± 0.72	1.83 ± 0.03	0.10 ± 0.01	29 ± 0	102 ± 14	124	0.28 ± 0.04	24.0 ± 3.2
G33-2	19:29:20.2	+17:57:06	1.8	0.14	17.3 ± 1.0	0.77 ± 0.02	2.27 ± 0.06	1.23 ± 0.03	0.17 ± 0.03	35 ± 1	50 ± 5	44	0.69 ± 0.07	11.8 ± 1.1
G53-4	19:29:20.4	+17:55:04	1.8	0.18	17.2 ± 0.3	0.33 ± 0.01	1.72 ± 0.03	0.59 ± 0.04	0.71 ± 0.20	23 ± 1	39 ± 1	45	0.60 ± 0.04	9.1 ± 0.3

Notes. The distances (in Col. 4) of these IRDCs refer to the works from Rathborne et al. (2006) and Simon et al. (2006). R_{core} (in Col. 5) indicates the radius of core. The duplicated sources, for example, G31-3, indicate that the corresponding spectra have two velocity components within core size.

Table A.2. Gaussian fitting parameters (integrated intensity, velocity, FWHM, and intensity of HCO⁺, HNC, and C¹⁸O) with masking absorption dip toward the selected cores in the IRDCs.

Core	S_{HCO^+} K km s ⁻¹	V_{HCO^+} km s ⁻¹	ΔV_{HCO^+} km s ⁻¹	I_{HCO^+} K	S_{HNC} K km s ⁻¹	V_{HNC} km s ⁻¹	ΔV_{HNC} km s ⁻¹	I_{HNC} K	$S_{\text{C}^{18}\text{O}}$ K km s ⁻¹	$V_{\text{C}^{18}\text{O}}$ km s ⁻¹	$\Delta V_{\text{C}^{18}\text{O}}$ km s ⁻¹	$I_{\text{C}^{18}\text{O}}$ K
G31-1	47.84 ± 0.57	95.25 ± 0.03	7.13 ± 0.05	6.31 ± 0.08	30.30 ± 0.39	95.04 ± 0.03	5.78 ± 0.05	4.92 ± 0.08	16.19 ± 0.65	95.79 ± 0.04	3.80 ± 0.11	4.01 ± 0.18
G31-2	52.60 ± 0.73	94.65 ± 0.03	6.37 ± 0.04	7.76 ± 0.08	27.31 ± 0.39	94.44 ± 0.03	5.73 ± 0.05	4.48 ± 0.08	18.21 ± 1.11	95.41 ± 0.04	5.18 ± 0.15	3.30 ± 0.11
G31-3	16.21 ± 0.16	93.67 ± 0.02	4.12 ± 0.05	3.69 ± 0.09	12.43 ± 0.17	93.89 ± 0.02	3.53 ± 0.05	3.31 ± 0.08	3.79 ± 0.01	94.59 ± 0.11	4.69 ± 0.06	0.76 ± 0.12
G31-3	13.28 ± 0.16	99.68 ± 0.02	4.30 ± 0.06	2.90 ± 0.09	12.27 ± 0.17	99.29 ± 0.03	4.57 ± 0.07	2.52 ± 0.08	9.49 ± 0.14	98.72 ± 0.03	3.59 ± 0.04	2.48 ± 0.12
G31-4	34.69 ± 0.61	96.60 ± 0.02	6.22 ± 0.07	5.24 ± 0.08	31.29 ± 0.71	96.81 ± 0.04	5.05 ± 0.05	5.82 ± 0.09	14.74 ± 3.03	97.10 ± 0.07	3.81 ± 0.25	3.64 ± 0.12
G31-5	12.44 ± 0.83	96.22 ± 0.05	5.46 ± 0.21	2.14 ± 0.08	6.83 ± 0.14	96.42 ± 0.05	4.79 ± 0.10	1.34 ± 0.09	4.91 ± 0.13	96.62 ± 0.04	3.13 ± 0.10	1.47 ± 0.11
G31-6	45.70 ± 0.35	95.15 ± 0.02	6.55 ± 0.03	6.55 ± 0.08	33.09 ± 0.47	95.26 ± 0.04	5.81 ± 0.05	5.35 ± 0.09	26.85 ± 0.84	96.56 ± 0.02	4.47 ± 0.08	5.65 ± 0.12
G31-7	16.56 ± 0.60	94.85 ± 0.08	5.32 ± 0.09	2.92 ± 0.08	5.86 ± 0.09	93.50 ± 0.02	3.13 ± 0.06	1.76 ± 0.09	9.80 ± 0.82	95.47 ± 0.08	4.08 ± 0.18	2.26 ± 0.13
G31-8	19.26 ± 0.36	95.11 ± 0.04	7.60 ± 0.11	2.38 ± 0.08	14.85 ± 0.41	95.37 ± 0.05	5.41 ± 0.09	2.58 ± 0.08	10.17 ± 0.46	96.48 ± 0.07	4.24 ± 0.13	2.25 ± 0.11
G31-9	25.45 ± 0.26	95.83 ± 0.03	7.24 ± 0.07	3.30 ± 0.08	15.43 ± 0.15	96.38 ± 0.03	6.30 ± 0.08	2.30 ± 0.08	8.17 ± 0.32	97.55 ± 0.03	3.81 ± 0.08	2.01 ± 0.12
G31-10	27.12 ± 0.28	93.39 ± 0.02	5.00 ± 0.05	5.10 ± 0.10	20.50 ± 0.28	93.71 ± 0.02	4.69 ± 0.06	4.11 ± 0.11	14.77 ± 0.13	93.64 ± 0.03	3.79 ± 0.09	3.66 ± 0.20
G31-11	16.71 ± 0.23	96.36 ± 0.03	5.18 ± 0.06	3.03 ± 0.09	13.29 ± 0.18	96.39 ± 0.03	4.21 ± 0.07	2.97 ± 0.10	12.91 ± 0.17	96.22 ± 0.02	3.01 ± 0.05	4.02 ± 0.17
G31-12	11.59 ± 0.29	94.72 ± 0.04	4.18 ± 0.07	2.61 ± 0.10	6.85 ± 0.11	95.72 ± 0.02	2.73 ± 0.06	2.36 ± 0.11	6.21 ± 0.31	95.29 ± 0.04	2.81 ± 0.17	2.08 ± 0.19
G31-13	2.62 ± 0.10	97.03 ± 0.04	2.64 ± 0.13	0.93 ± 0.09	3.06 ± 0.09	96.51 ± 0.03	2.03 ± 0.08	1.42 ± 0.11	4.43 ± 0.15	96.54 ± 0.03	2.03 ± 0.08	2.05 ± 0.18
G33-1	25.35 ± 1.12	106.40 ± 0.06	5.88 ± 0.16	4.05 ± 0.15	20.13 ± 0.45	106.00 ± 0.05	4.69 ± 0.08	4.03 ± 0.16	6.20 ± 0.25	106.60 ± 0.07	3.69 ± 0.18	1.58 ± 0.23
G33-4	12.90 ± 0.61	106.30 ± 0.15	7.20 ± 0.24	1.68 ± 0.15	10.82 ± 0.44	106.20 ± 0.07	4.97 ± 0.18	2.05 ± 0.16	6.50 ± 0.27	106.40 ± 0.09	4.39 ± 0.21	1.39 ± 0.23
G33-7	4.83 ± 0.29	107.00 ± 0.16	5.55 ± 0.36	0.82 ± 0.15	4.27 ± 0.32	106.50 ± 0.14	4.19 ± 0.28	0.96 ± 0.15	6.80 ± 0.69	106.30 ± 0.10	2.62 ± 0.14	2.44 ± 0.23
G33-8	14.03 ± 0.43	104.70 ± 0.12	7.58 ± 0.19	1.74 ± 0.14	9.55 ± 0.62	103.80 ± 0.23	6.75 ± 0.32	1.33 ± 0.15	11.29 ± 1.04	104.60 ± 0.11	6.41 ± 0.42	1.66 ± 0.22
G33-9	7.13 ± 0.33	105.40 ± 0.16	7.16 ± 0.31	0.94 ± 0.14	4.38 ± 0.84	106.10 ± 0.28	3.57 ± 0.34	1.15 ± 0.15	3.83 ± 0.23	106.70 ± 0.09	3.22 ± 0.23	1.12 ± 0.23
G33-11	14.93 ± 0.45	105.20 ± 0.13	8.37 ± 0.20	1.67 ± 0.15	9.58 ± 0.27	104.70 ± 0.10	7.45 ± 0.24	1.21 ± 0.16	10.15 ± 0.64	105.30 ± 0.16	6.81 ± 0.35	1.40 ± 0.23
G34-1	19.42 ± 0.23	58.85 ± 0.03	5.28 ± 0.06	3.45 ± 0.09	26.62 ± 0.15	58.07 ± 0.01	4.48 ± 0.03	5.58 ± 0.10	8.21 ± 0.19	57.31 ± 0.04	3.41 ± 0.09	2.27 ± 0.15
G34-2	29.70 ± 1.25	57.82 ± 0.11	8.89 ± 0.21	2.82 ± 0.10	27.25 ± 0.31	57.81 ± 0.03	5.76 ± 0.05	4.44 ± 0.11	20.89 ± 0.22	56.98 ± 0.02	4.12 ± 0.04	4.76 ± 0.15
G34-3	17.99 ± 0.23	60.81 ± 0.02	3.78 ± 0.05	4.47 ± 0.12	14.87 ± 0.14	59.70 ± 0.02	4.29 ± 0.05	3.26 ± 0.11	4.89 ± 0.12	58.67 ± 0.03	2.39 ± 0.07	1.92 ± 0.14
G34-4	14.02 ± 0.52	57.35 ± 0.17	12.87 ± 0.46	1.02 ± 0.11	9.87 ± 0.15	56.65 ± 0.02	3.18 ± 0.06	2.92 ± 0.11	13.99 ± 0.31	57.52 ± 0.03	3.70 ± 0.07	3.55 ± 0.16
G34-5	3.50 ± 0.18	57.89 ± 0.10	4.82 ± 0.30	0.68 ± 0.10	6.84 ± 0.14	57.88 ± 0.03	3.07 ± 0.07	2.09 ± 0.10	6.41 ± 0.12	57.73 ± 0.02	2.28 ± 0.05	2.64 ± 0.14
G34-6	3.76 ± 0.11	59.50 ± 0.03	2.22 ± 0.09	1.59 ± 0.11	6.55 ± 0.12	58.61 ± 0.03	3.18 ± 0.07	1.94 ± 0.11	6.39 ± 0.13	58.17 ± 0.02	2.24 ± 0.05	2.69 ± 0.17
G34-7	1.74 ± 0.11	59.48 ± 0.07	2.41 ± 0.20	0.68 ± 0.10	4.54 ± 0.15	58.21 ± 0.04	3.26 ± 0.12	1.31 ± 0.10	7.25 ± 0.13	57.90 ± 0.02	2.36 ± 0.05	2.88 ± 0.15
G34-8	1.73 ± 0.08	59.15 ± 0.04	1.83 ± 0.11	0.89 ± 0.10	5.42 ± 0.20	57.59 ± 0.04	3.32 ± 0.11	1.53 ± 0.10	11.44 ± 0.39	57.37 ± 0.03	2.73 ± 0.09	3.93 ± 0.24
G34-9	5.68 ± 0.11	59.61 ± 0.02	2.69 ± 0.06	1.98 ± 0.10	8.91 ± 0.12	58.69 ± 0.02	3.52 ± 0.05	2.38 ± 0.10	5.61 ± 0.12	57.96 ± 0.02	1.89 ± 0.05	2.78 ± 0.15
G35-4	8.93 ± 0.12	43.76 ± 0.02	2.90 ± 0.05	2.89 ± 0.10	8.17 ± 0.12	44.15 ± 0.02	3.04 ± 0.05	2.53 ± 0.10	5.41 ± 0.19	45.68 ± 0.06	2.84 ± 0.08	1.79 ± 0.13
G35-5	9.05 ± 0.12	43.85 ± 0.03	4.13 ± 0.07	2.06 ± 0.09	9.66 ± 0.10	44.29 ± 0.02	3.71 ± 0.04	2.45 ± 0.09	3.32 ± 0.10	45.93 ± 0.03	2.27 ± 0.09	1.38 ± 0.12
G35-6	7.72 ± 0.17	44.94 ± 0.05	4.72 ± 0.12	1.54 ± 0.09	6.17 ± 0.14	45.35 ± 0.02	2.40 ± 0.06	2.42 ± 0.08	7.82 ± 0.32	44.39 ± 0.03	2.44 ± 0.08	3.01 ± 0.14
G35-7	11.81 ± 0.15	45.77 ± 0.02	4.01 ± 0.06	2.77 ± 0.09	8.52 ± 0.14	45.79 ± 0.02	2.71 ± 0.04	2.95 ± 0.09	7.34 ± 0.38	44.55 ± 0.04	2.47 ± 0.09	2.79 ± 0.15
G35-8	8.33 ± 0.16	44.59 ± 0.04	4.15 ± 0.08	1.89 ± 0.09	5.81 ± 0.19	44.87 ± 0.02	2.59 ± 0.06	2.11 ± 0.09	3.37 ± 0.09	45.26 ± 0.02	1.57 ± 0.05	2.01 ± 0.13
G35-9	7.69 ± 0.17	44.69 ± 0.02	2.47 ± 0.06	2.92 ± 0.09	5.45 ± 0.11	44.87 ± 0.02	2.46 ± 0.05	2.08 ± 0.09	5.85 ± 0.24	45.69 ± 0.08	2.85 ± 0.15	1.93 ± 0.13
G35-10	6.14 ± 0.11	45.88 ± 0.03	3.94 ± 0.08	1.46 ± 0.09	4.69 ± 0.09	45.96 ± 0.02	2.54 ± 0.06	1.73 ± 0.09	4.01 ± 0.31	44.94 ± 0.09	2.15 ± 0.15	1.75 ± 0.14
G35-11	4.96 ± 0.09	45.99 ± 0.03	3.26 ± 0.07	1.43 ± 0.09	3.02 ± 0.08	46.12 ± 0.03	2.27 ± 0.07	1.25 ± 0.09	5.32 ± 0.08	44.90 ± 0.01	1.45 ± 0.02	3.46 ± 0.12
G38-1	14.86 ± 0.21	42.01 ± 0.02	3.79 ± 0.06	3.69 ± 0.13	11.54 ± 0.21	42.16 ± 0.02	2.81 ± 0.05	3.86 ± 0.12	13.28 ± 0.20	42.07 ± 0.02	2.35 ± 0.03	5.32 ± 0.17
G38-2	8.06 ± 0.13	41.63 ± 0.02	3.12 ± 0.06	2.43 ± 0.11	5.50 ± 0.09	41.82 ± 0.02	2.34 ± 0.04	2.21 ± 0.10	8.20 ± 0.09	41.63 ± 0.01	1.38 ± 0.02	5.57 ± 0.14
G38-3	12.19 ± 0.22	42.57 ± 0.04	4.44 ± 0.08	2.58 ± 0.12	6.07 ± 0.13	42.92 ± 0.03	2.93 ± 0.08	1.95 ± 0.12	6.44 ± 0.16	42.09 ± 0.02	2.77 ± 0.08	2.18 ± 0.17
G38-4	5.83 ± 0.14	42.06 ± 0.04	3.11 ± 0.09	1.76 ± 0.12	3.97 ± 0.11	42.24 ± 0.03	2.07 ± 0.06	1.80 ± 0.12	6.08 ± 0.13	42.00 ± 0.02	1.61 ± 0.04	3.54 ± 0.18
G38-5	6.30 ± 0.10	41.51 ± 0.01	1.86 ± 0.04	3.19 ± 0.11	4.54 ± 0.08	41.60 ± 0.01	1.58 ± 0.03	2.71 ± 0.10	3.29 ± 0.10	41.57 ± 0.02	1.50 ± 0.06	2.05 ± 0.15
G53-1	34.47 ± 0.26	21.75 ± 0.02	4.00 ± 0.03	8.09 ± 0.13	14.32 ± 0.11	21.55 ± 0.01	2.63 ± 0.03	5.11 ± 0.10	8.80 ± 0.12	21.85 ± 0.02	2.59 ± 0.04	3.20 ± 0.14
G53-2	13.89 ± 0.31	23.05 ± 0.03	3.37 ± 0.06	3.87 ± 0.13	7.78 ± 0.11	22.68 ± 0.01	1.89 ± 0.03	3.86 ± 0.12	5.00 ± 0.13	22.49 ± 0.03	2.01 ± 0.06	2.34 ± 0.17
G53-4	4.22 ± 0.12	21.64 ± 0.03	2.33 ± 0.08	1.70 ± 0.12	3.64 ± 0.09	21.64 ± 0.02	1.32 ± 0.04	2.58 ± 0.12	3.51 ± 0.10	21.68 ± 0.02	1.20 ± 0.04	2.74 ± 0.17

Notes. The duplicated sources, for example, G31-3, indicate that the corresponding spectra have two velocity components within core size.