

# Magnetic Field Morphologies in Star Forming Clouds at mpc Angular Resolution

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I. B field morphologies from pc  
to mpc scale



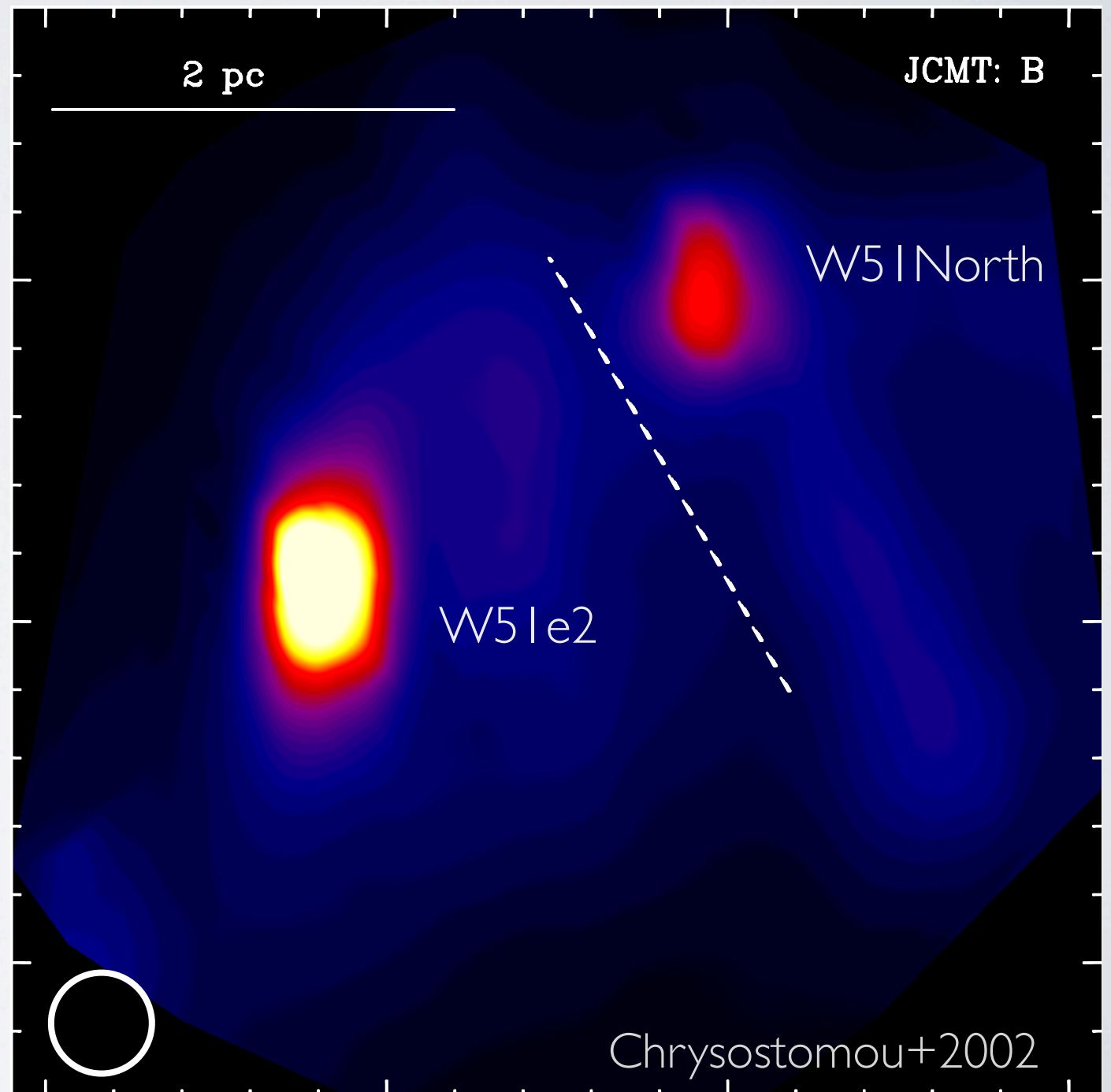
# 1.1 Star forming cloud:

Color scale:

- dust continuum emission at 850  $\mu\text{m}$
- trace dense region

W51 A:

- A star forming cloud in our Galaxy
- Distance: 7 kpc
- Two brightest cores: W51 e2, W51 North



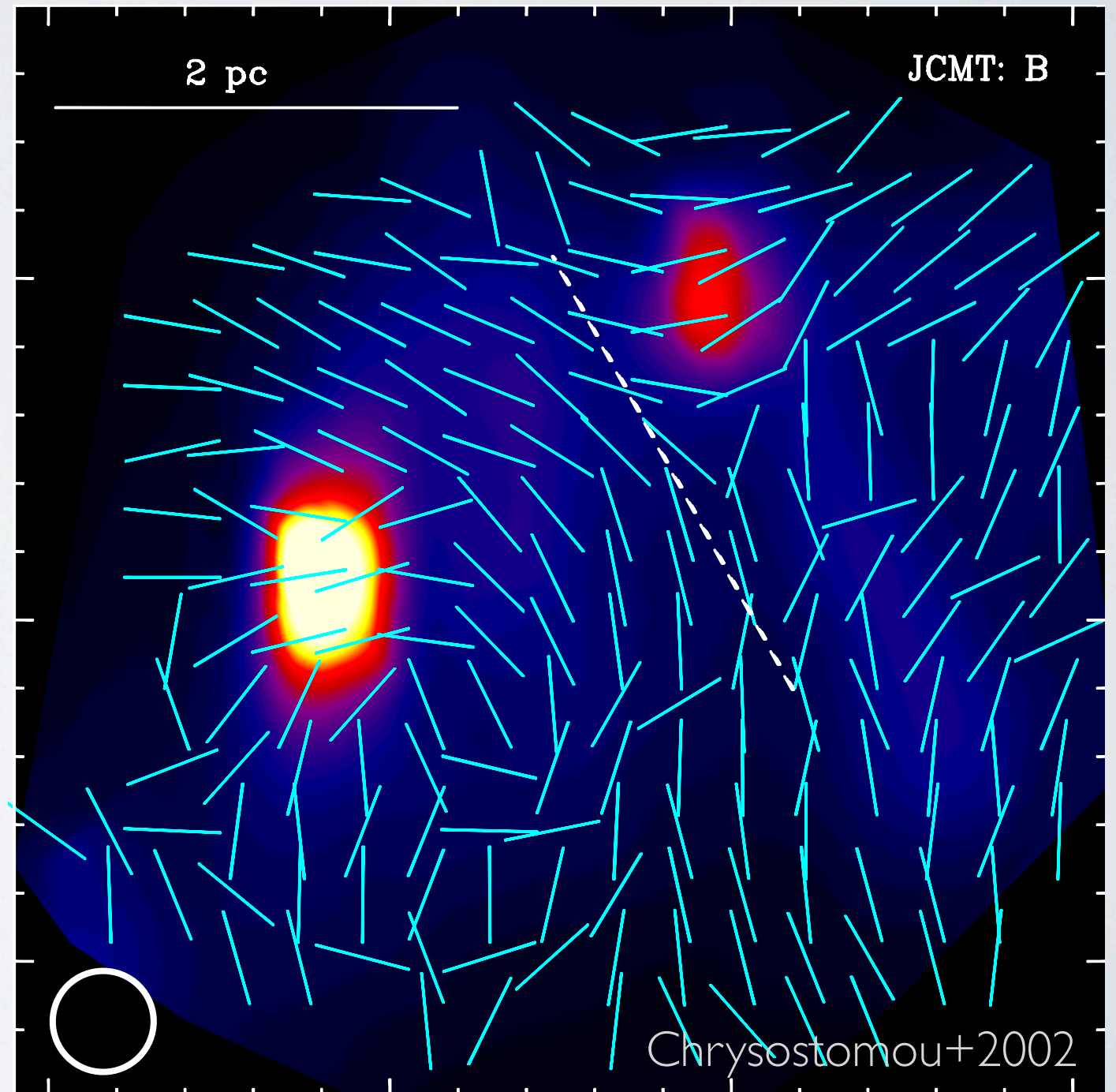
# I. I W5 I A: magnetic field

Color scale:

- dust continuum emission at FIR (850  $\mu\text{m}$ )
- dense gas:  $n > 10^3 \text{ cm}^{-3}$

Cyan segments:

- B field orientation traced via the polarization of FIR emission
- uncertainties:  $\sim 10^\circ$
- JCMT image:  $15''$  resolution
- B field varies significantly across the cloud





# Observations

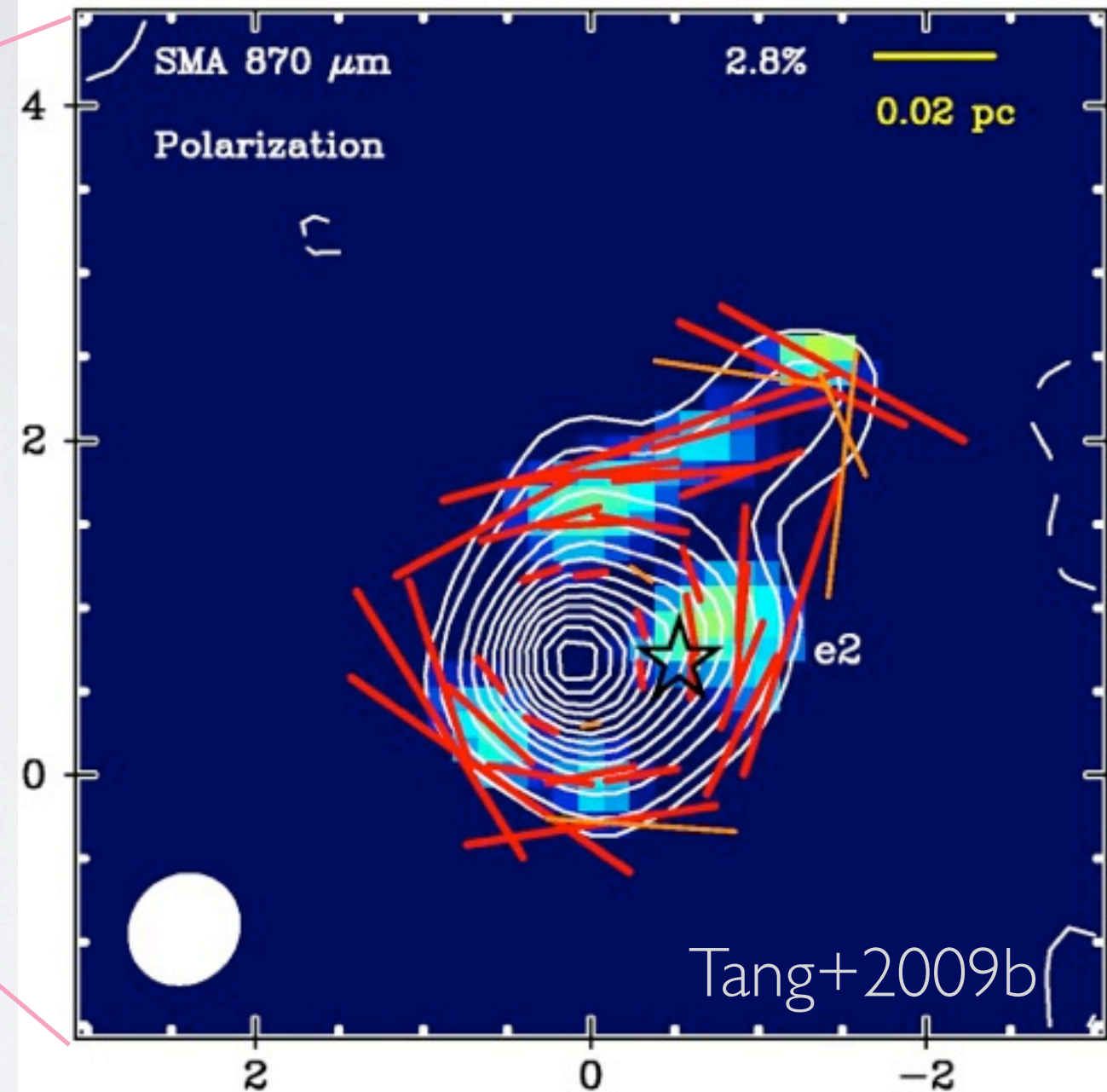
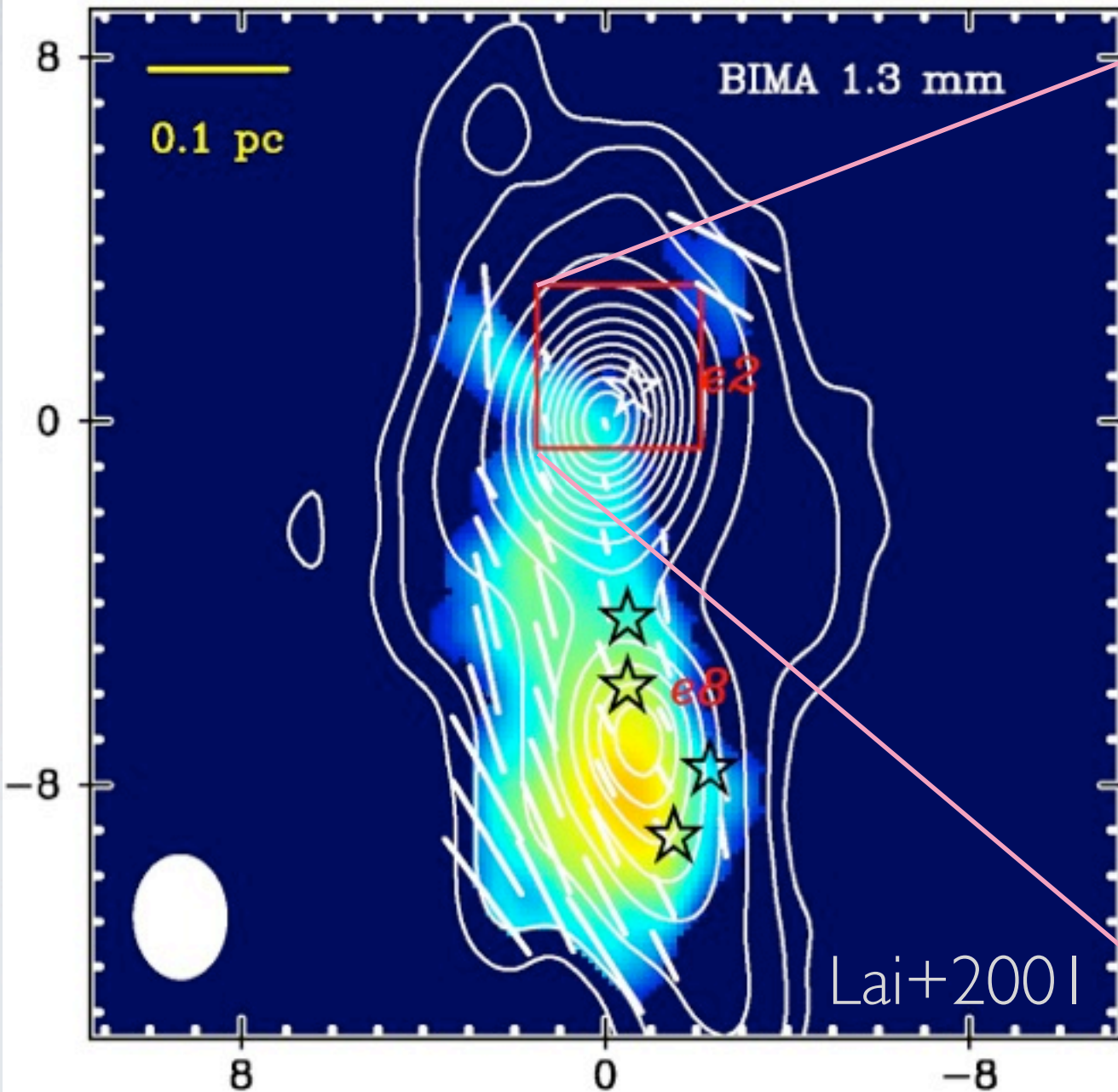
## Sub-Millimeter Array (SMA)



- \* 8 x 6-m antennae
- \* Frequency: 345 GHz (870  $\mu\text{m}$ )
  - trace thermal dust emission
- \* Quarter-wave plates
  - measure dual polarization
  - Stokes I, Q, U & V
- \* Angular resolution:  $\sim 1''$



# Importance of high angular resolution

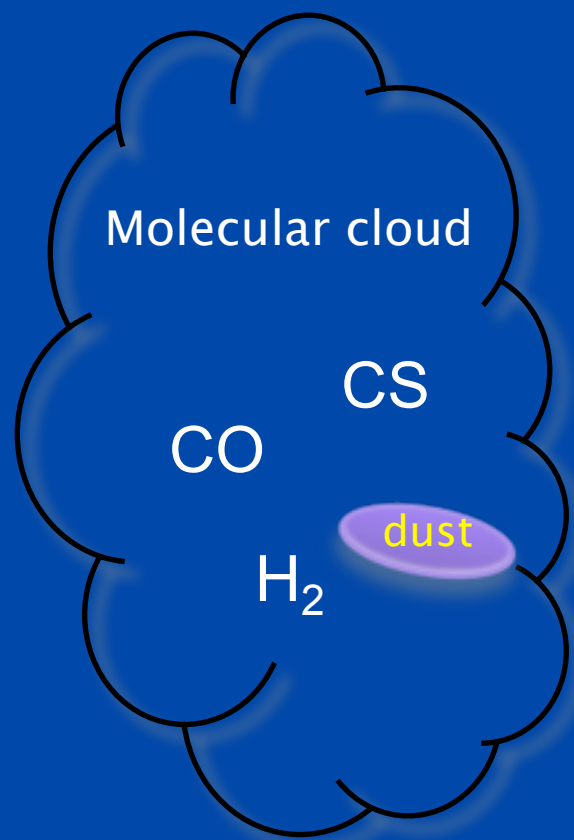


color scale: polarization intensity

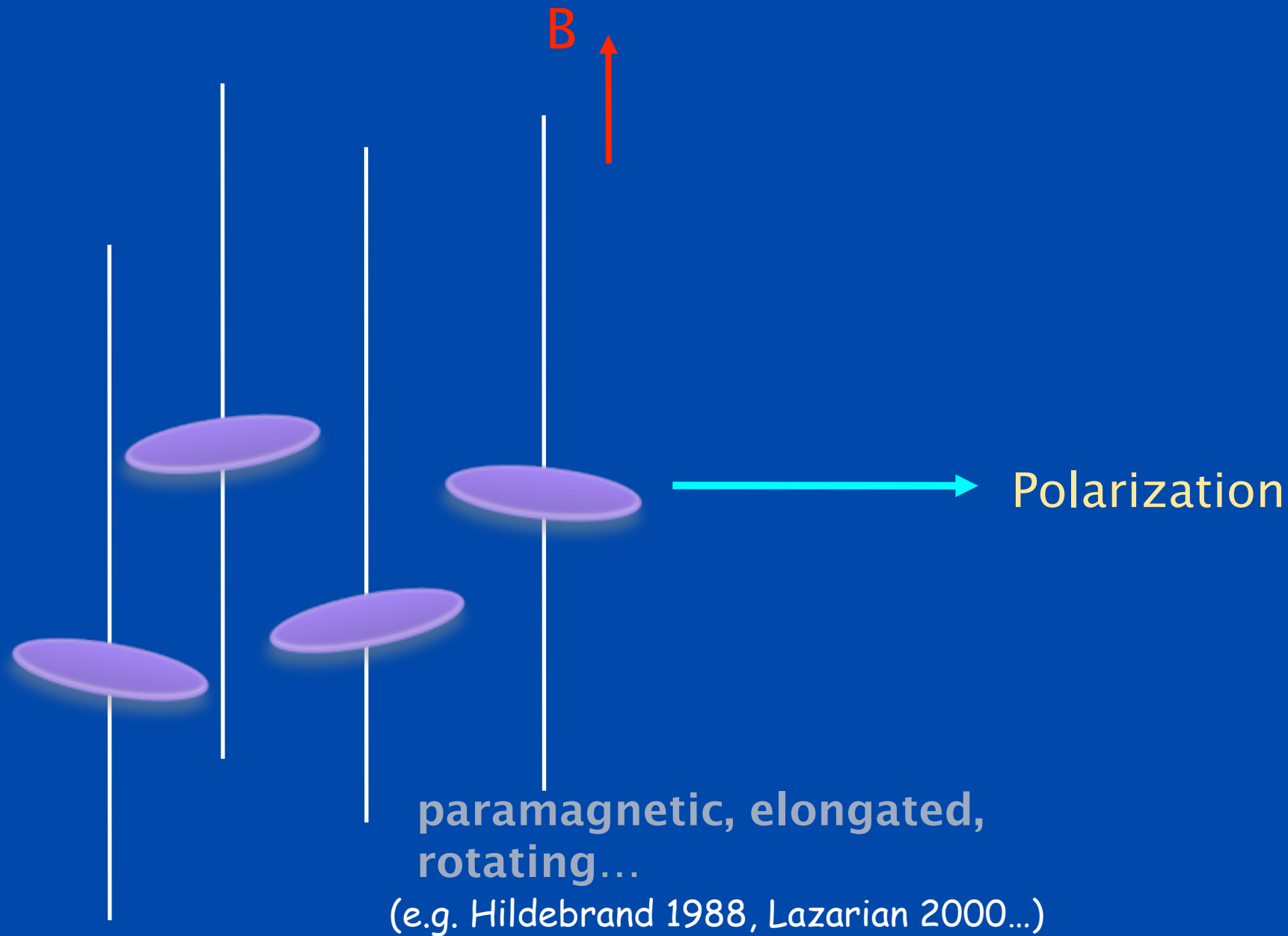
Complex B field morphologies where the polarization signals can be averaged out.

Example: the depolarization regions in W51 e2

# Dust Polarization Mechanism



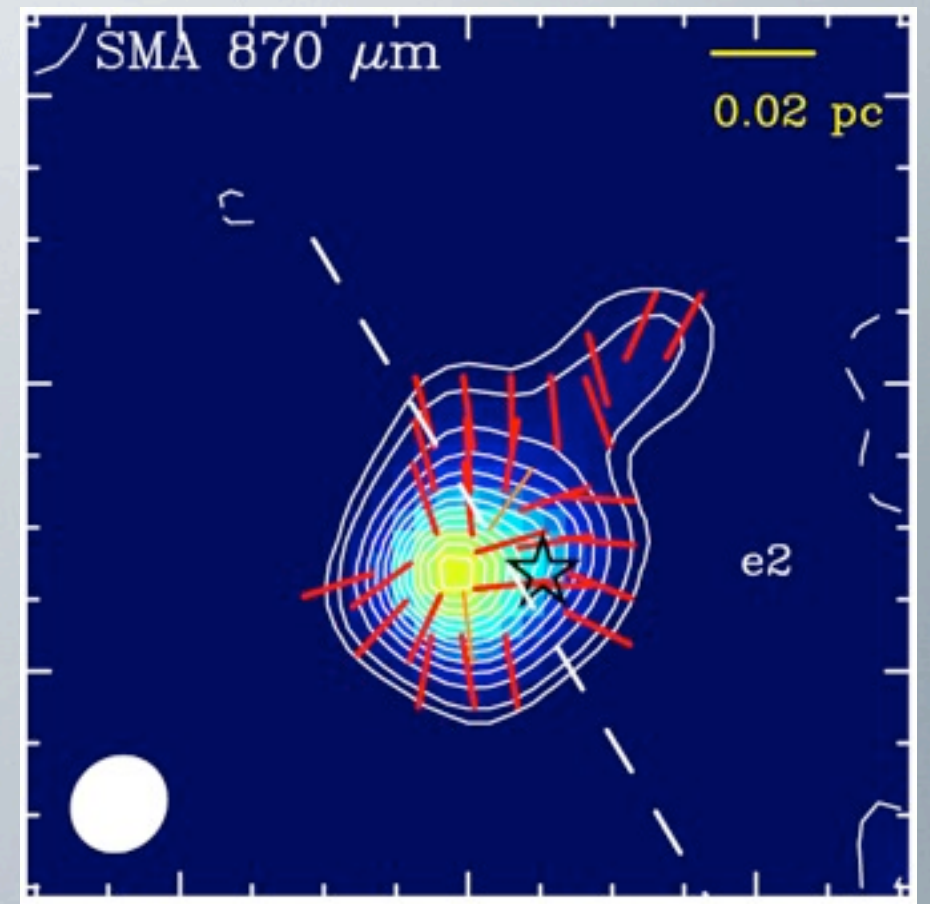
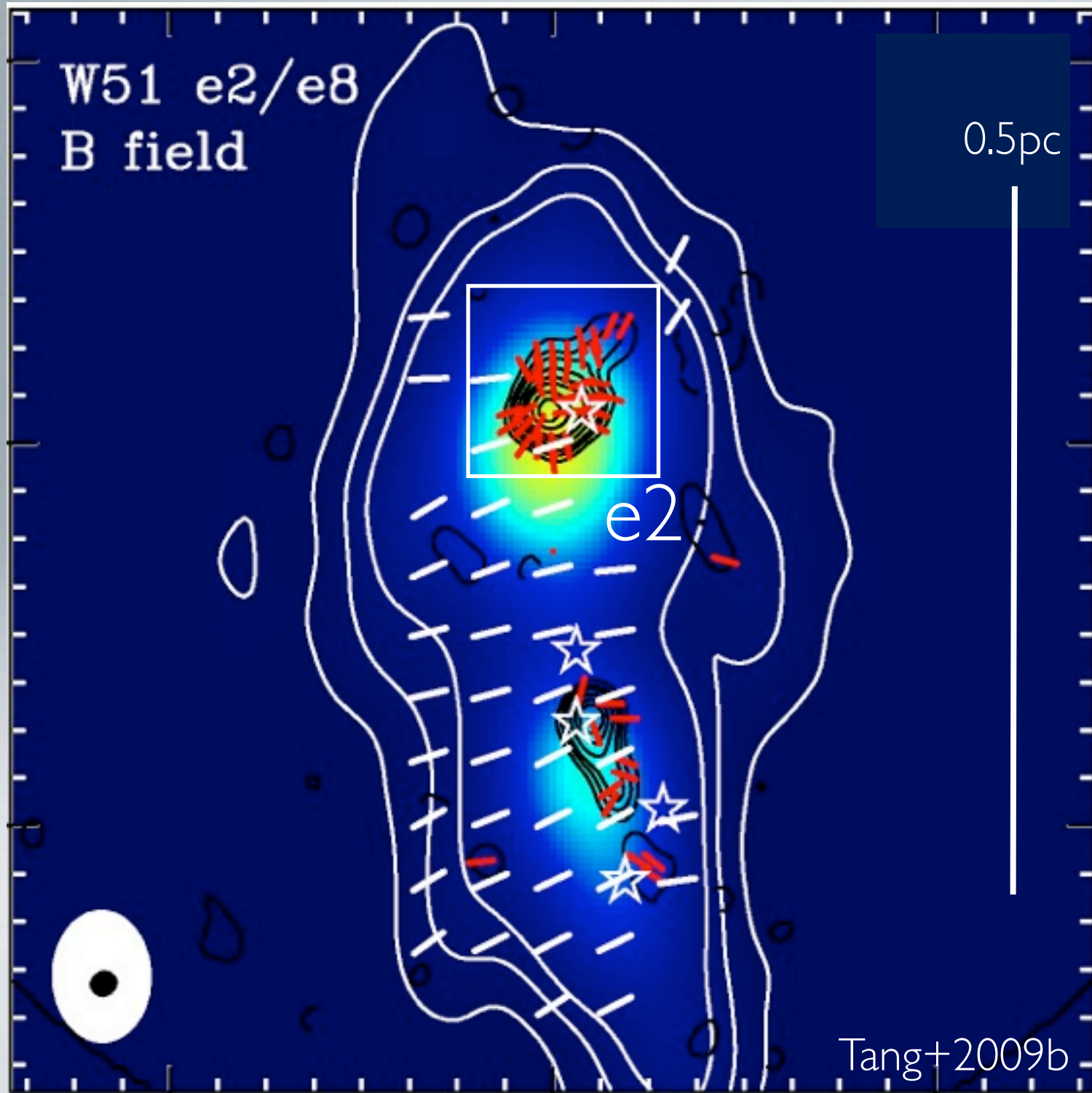
$$n_{\text{H}_2} \sim 10^{4-7} \text{ (cm}^{-3}\text{)}$$
$$T \sim 10 \text{ (K)}$$



- individual dust particle: dipole
- in submm: linear polarization from thermal dust emission
- coherent alignment mechanism: B field is one possibility
- mechanism provides only projected field orientation/morphology
- need something more to derive field strength

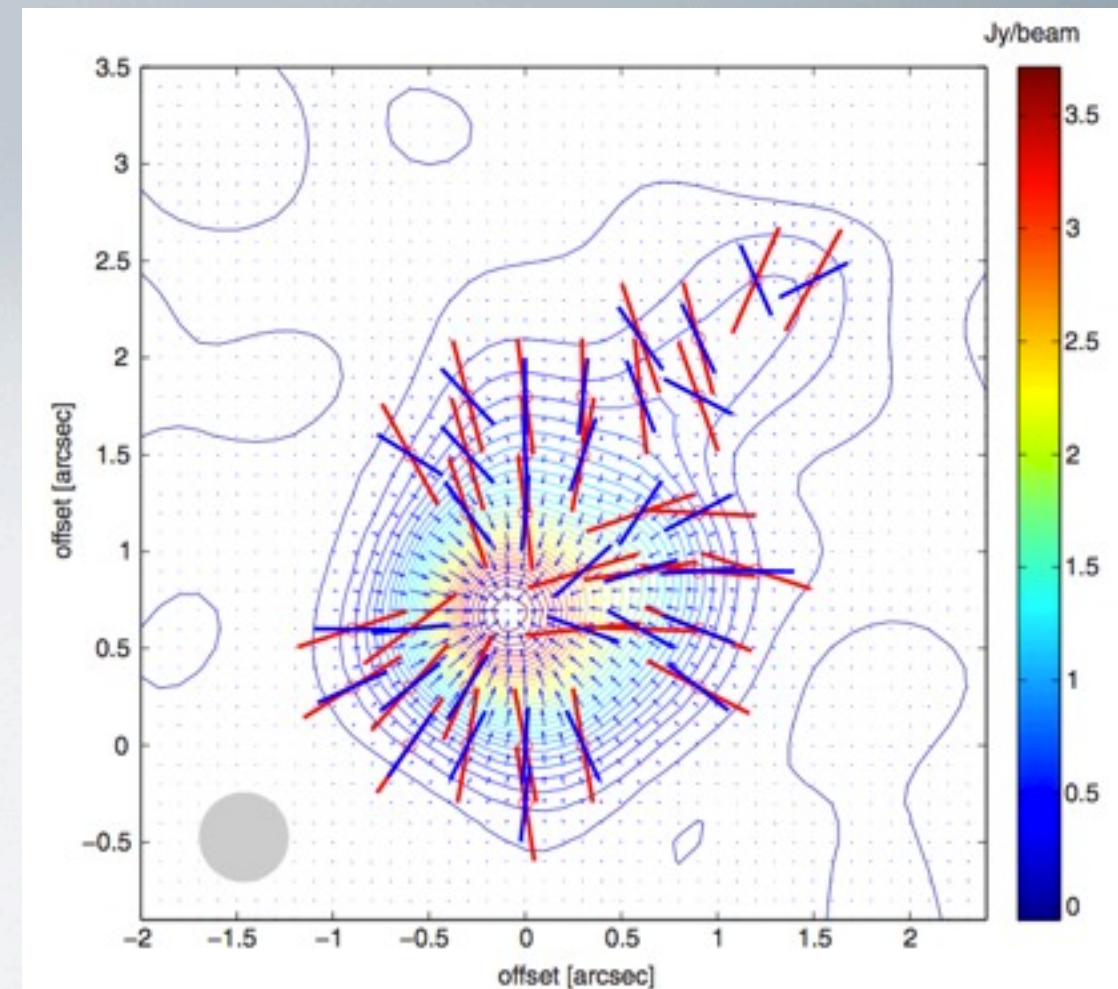
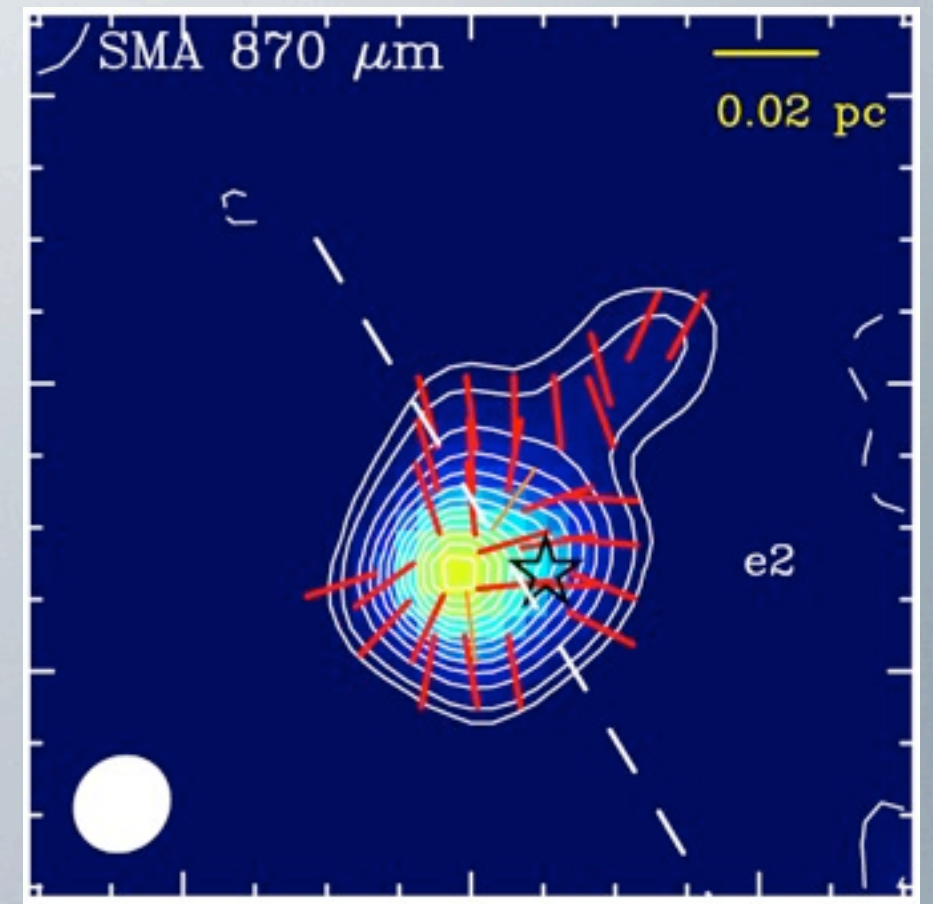
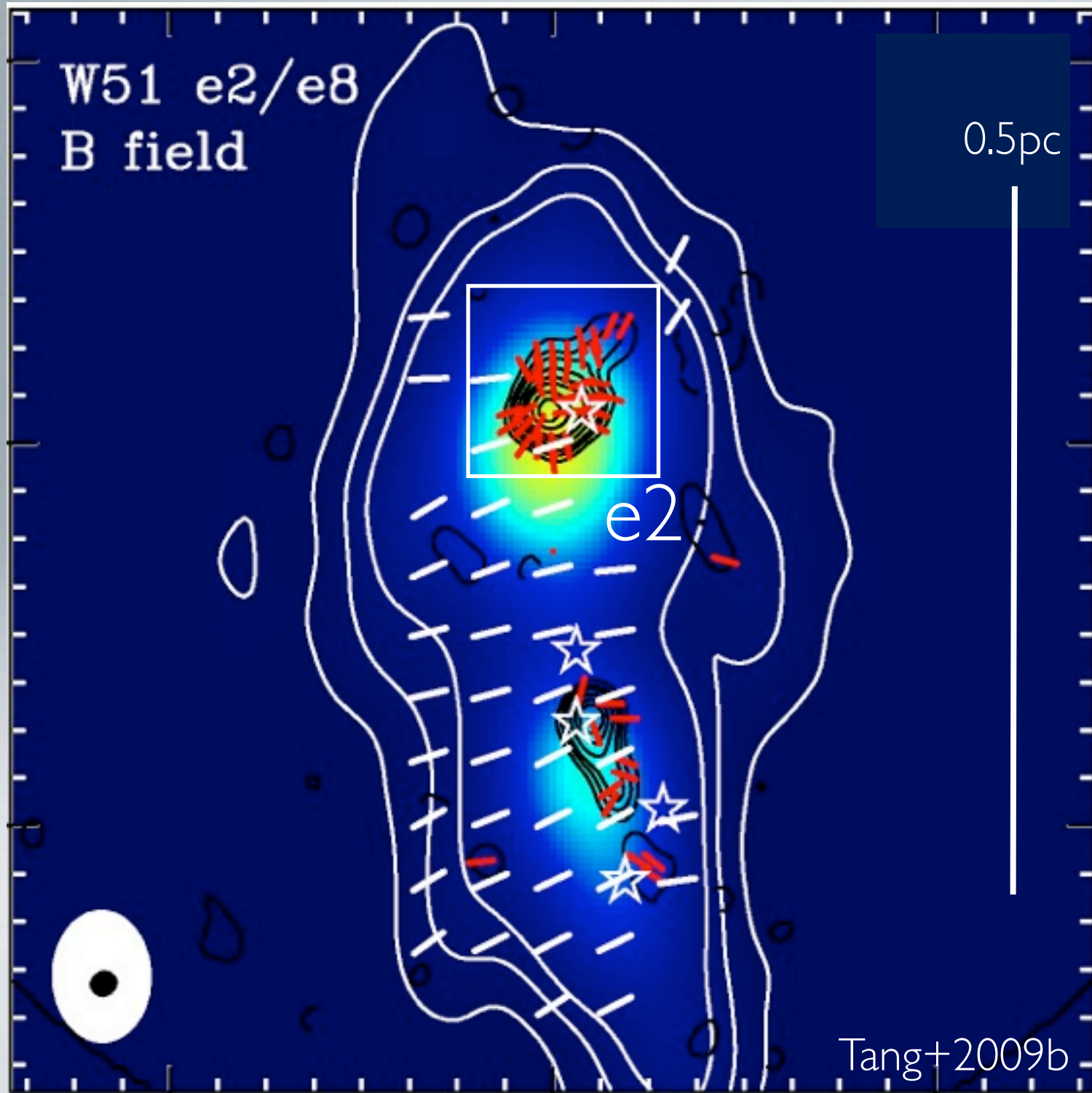


# Correlation of intensity gradient and B field



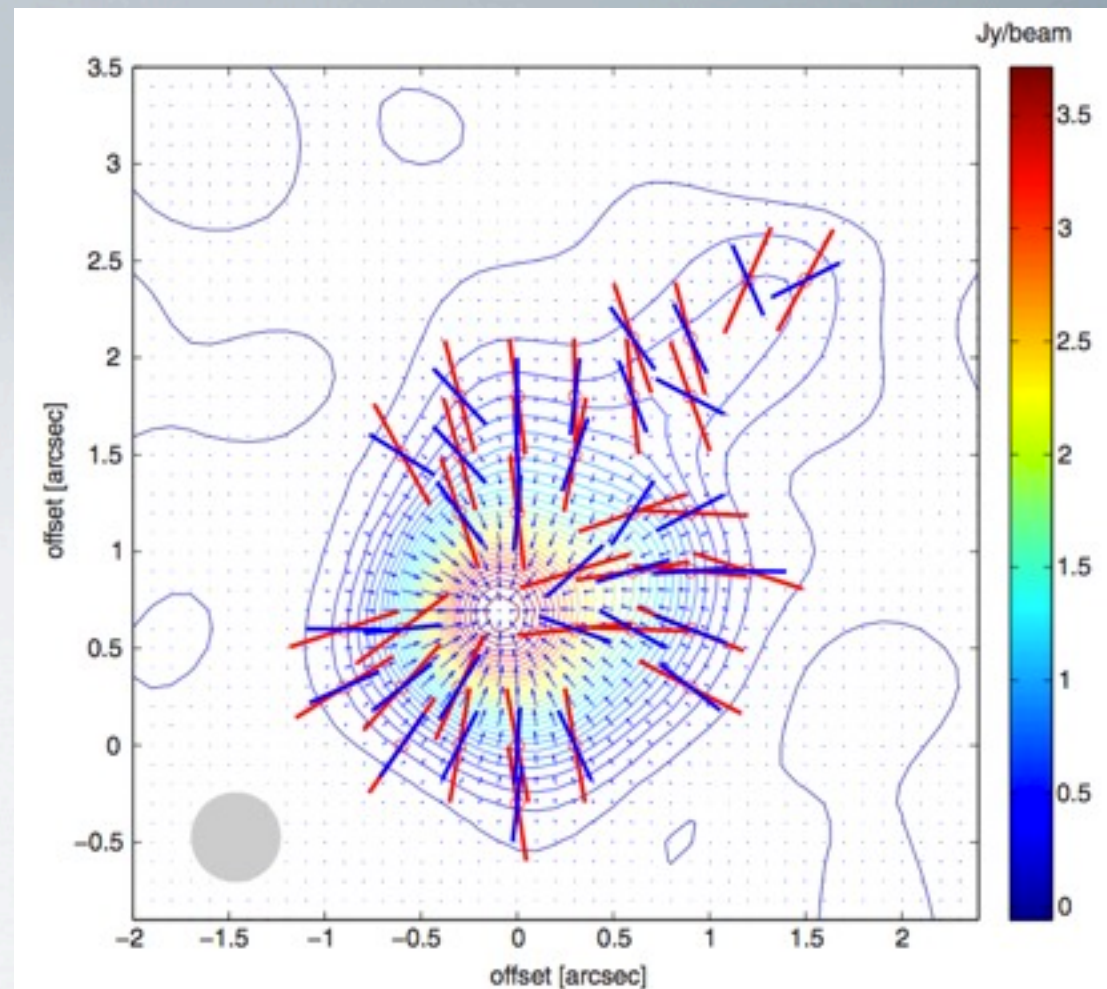
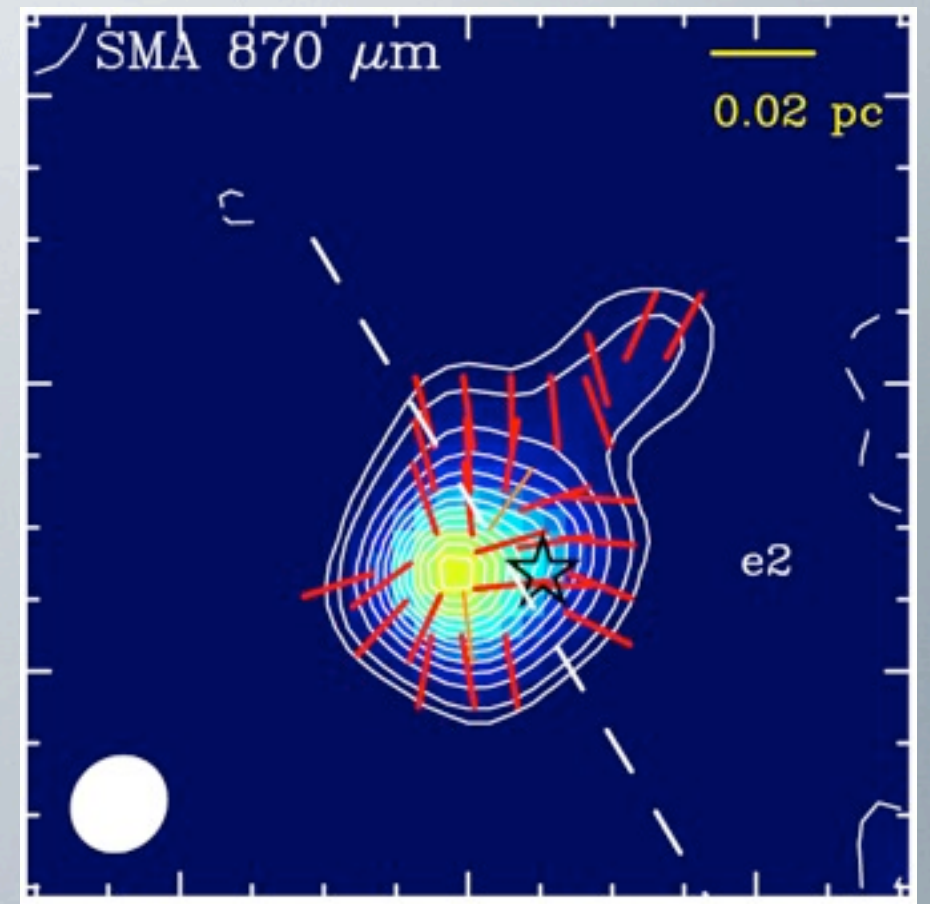
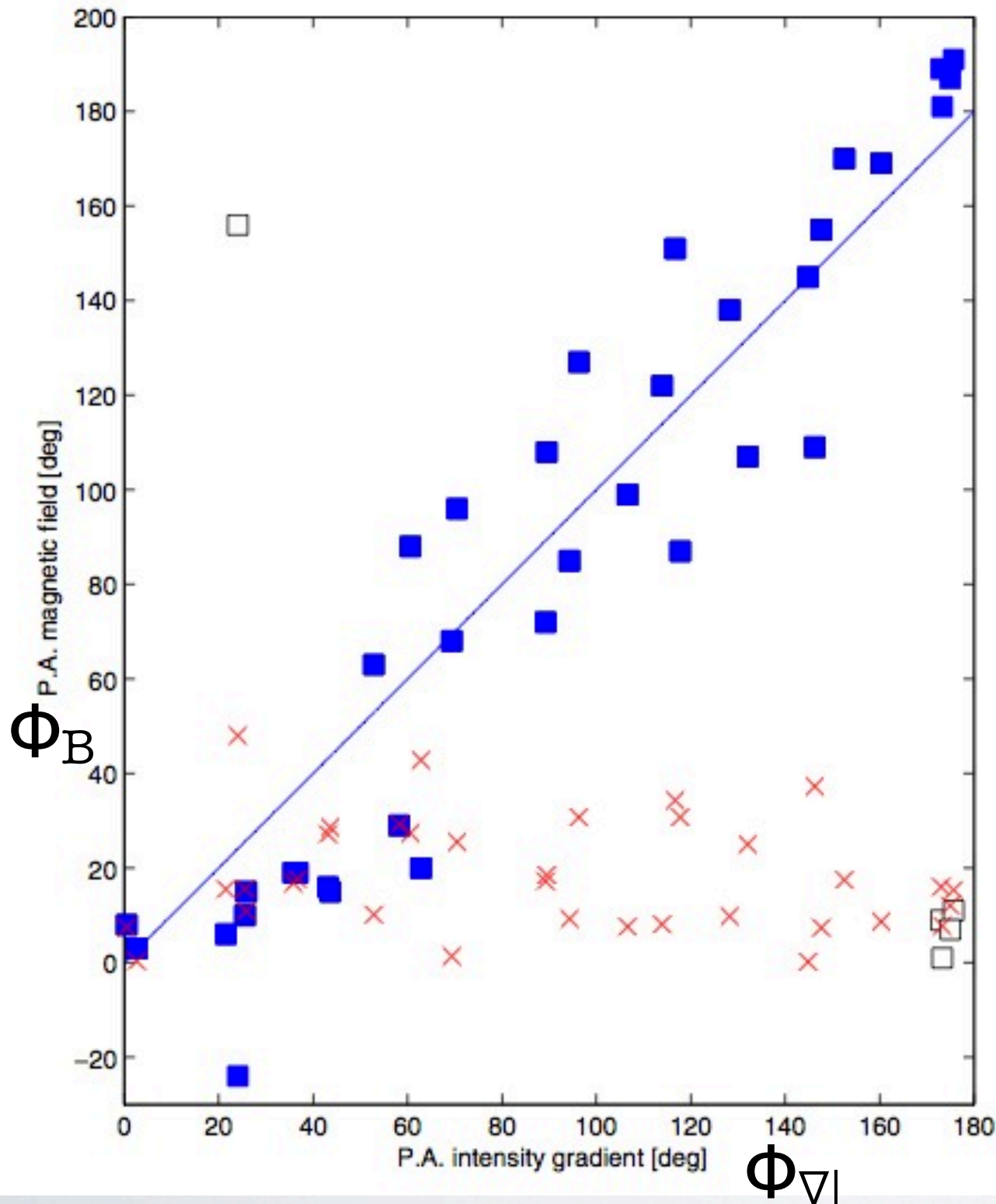


# Correlation of intensity gradient and B field





# Correlation of intensity gradient and B field





# What does this „correlation“ mean?

- is everything simply radially aligned by gravity?

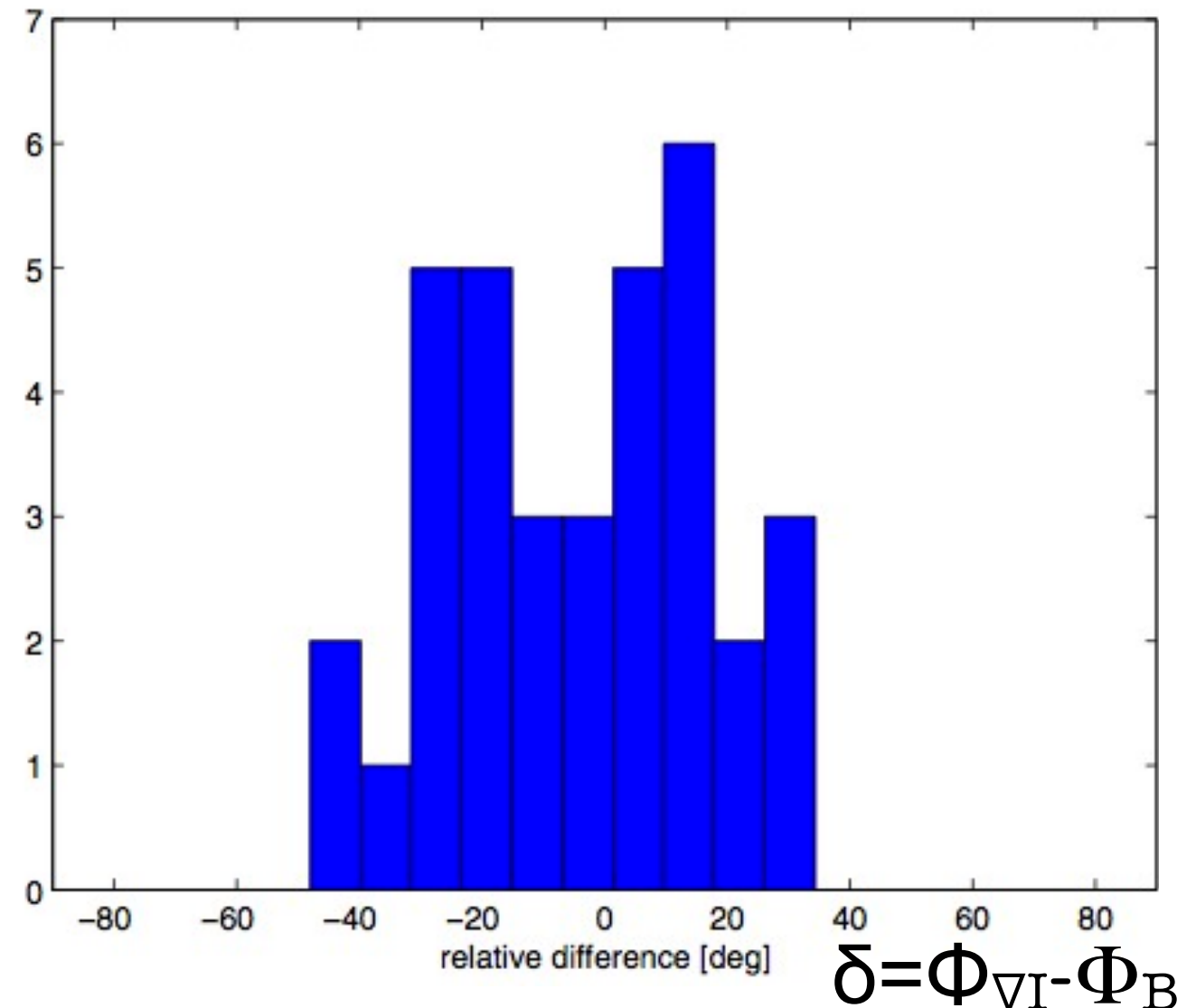
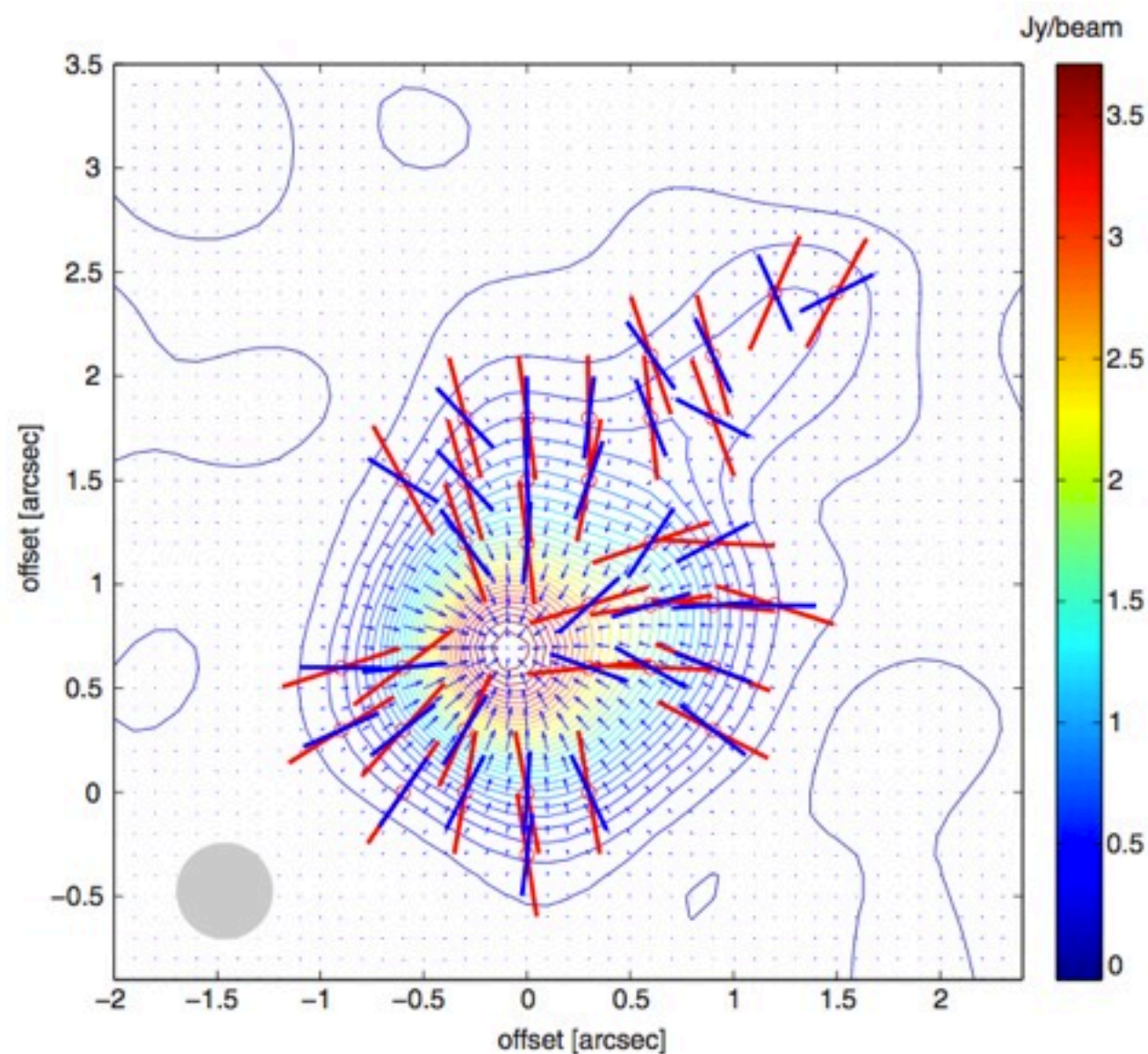
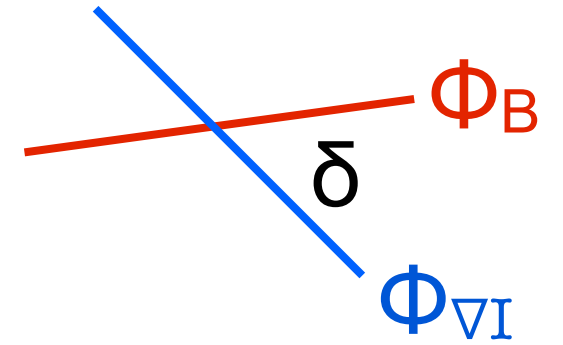
No!

- distribution of deviations is non-Gaussian but bimodal

- mean deviation larger than measurement uncertainties

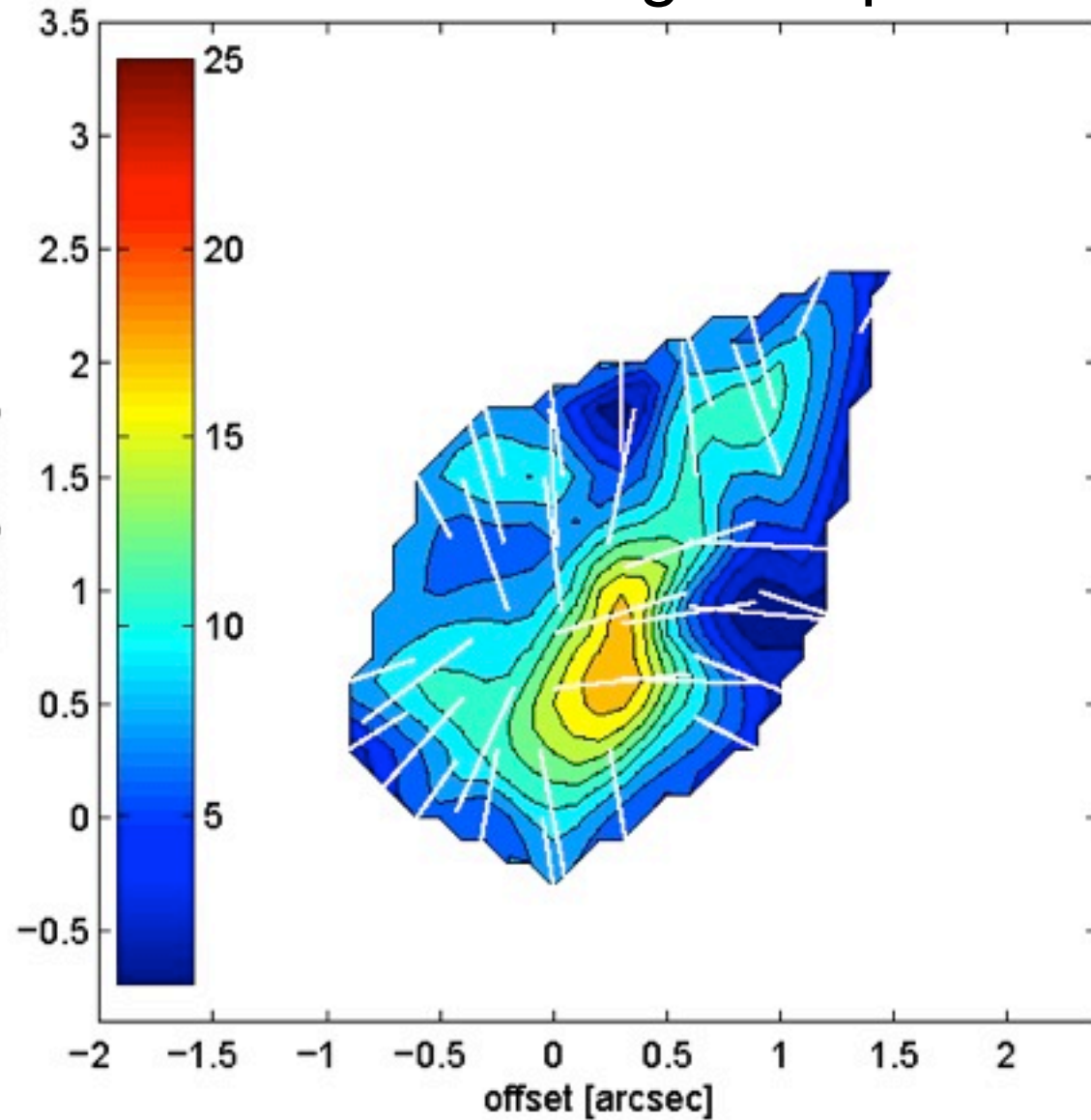
- some deeper physical insight? check some MHD....

→ polarization-intensity gradient method to **derive local field strength**  
(Koch, Tang & Ho 2012a,b)



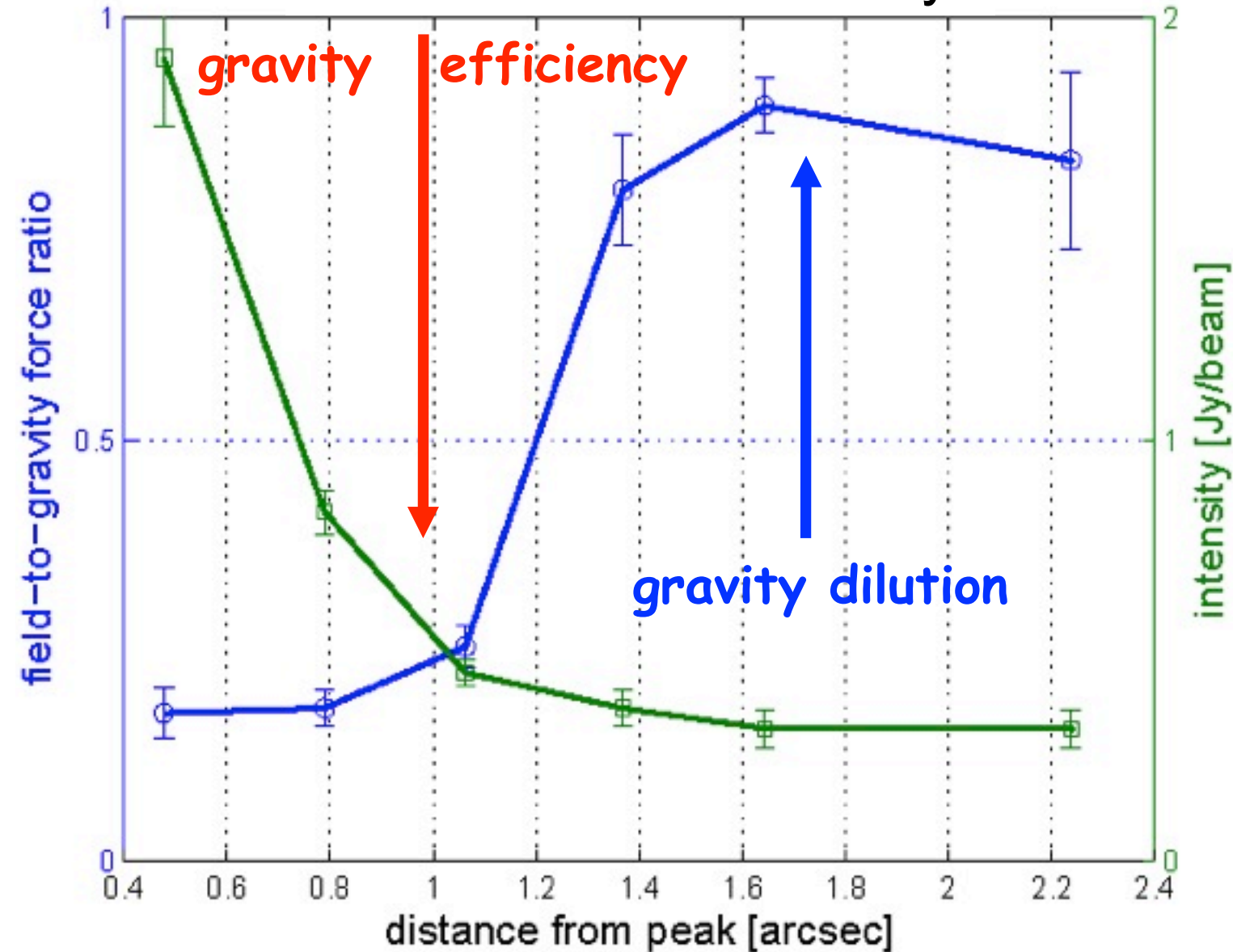
# application of polarization-intensity gradient method

local field strength map



- other methods only give local or averaged B strength values (Zeeman, Chandrasekhar-Fermi method)

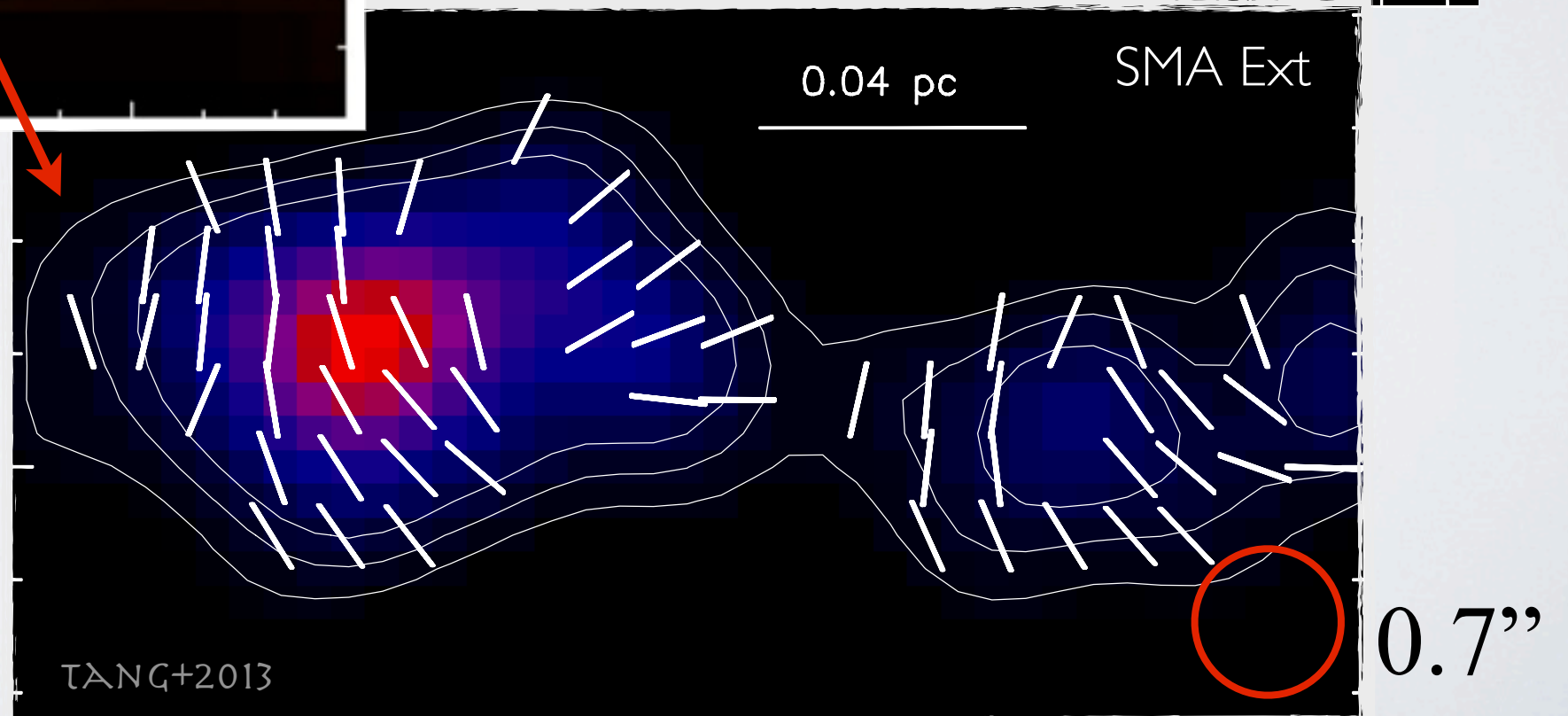
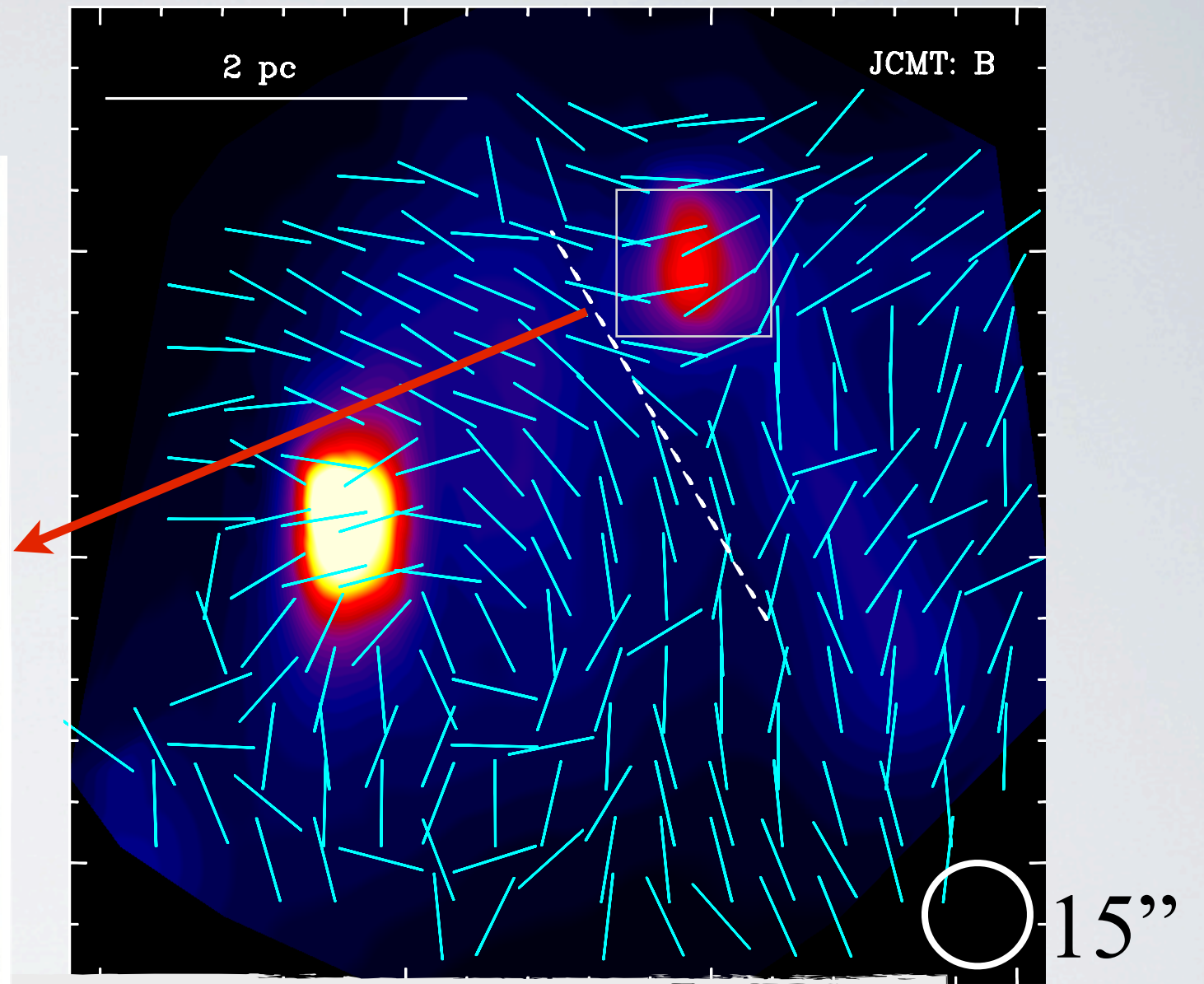
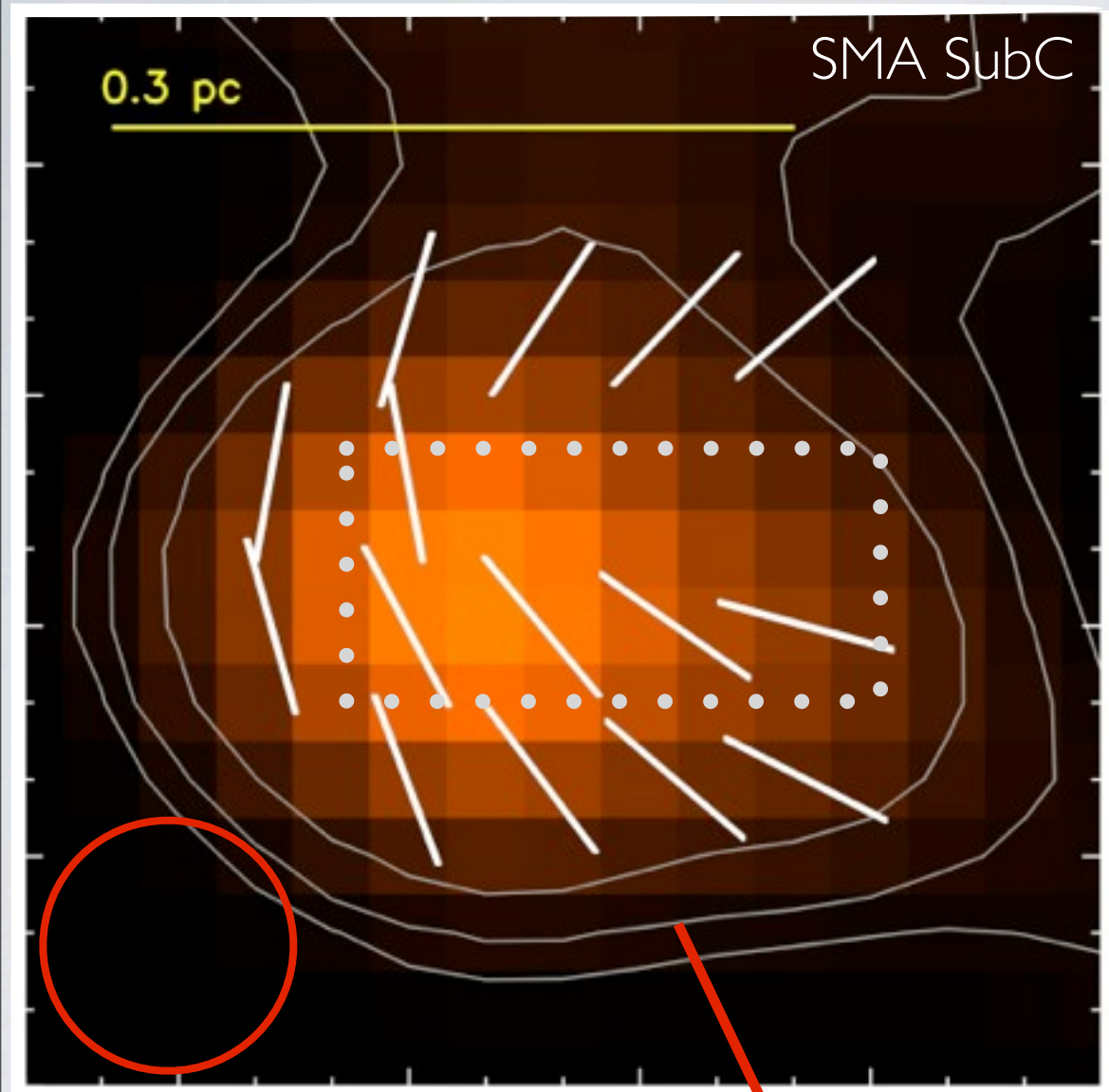
Star formation efficiency

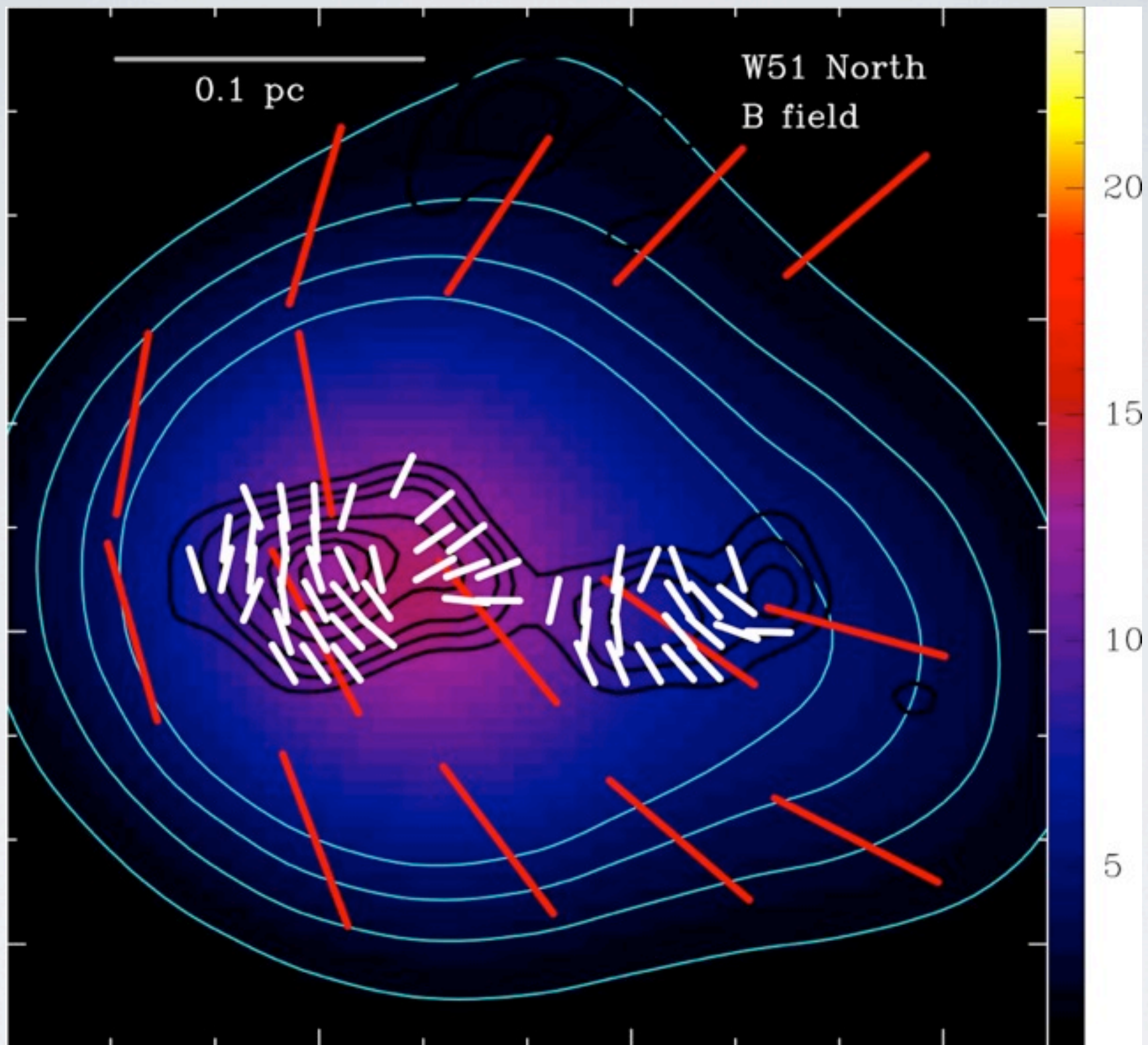


- estimate gravity dilution
- star formation efficiency reduced to ~10% of free-fall efficiency



# W51 North:

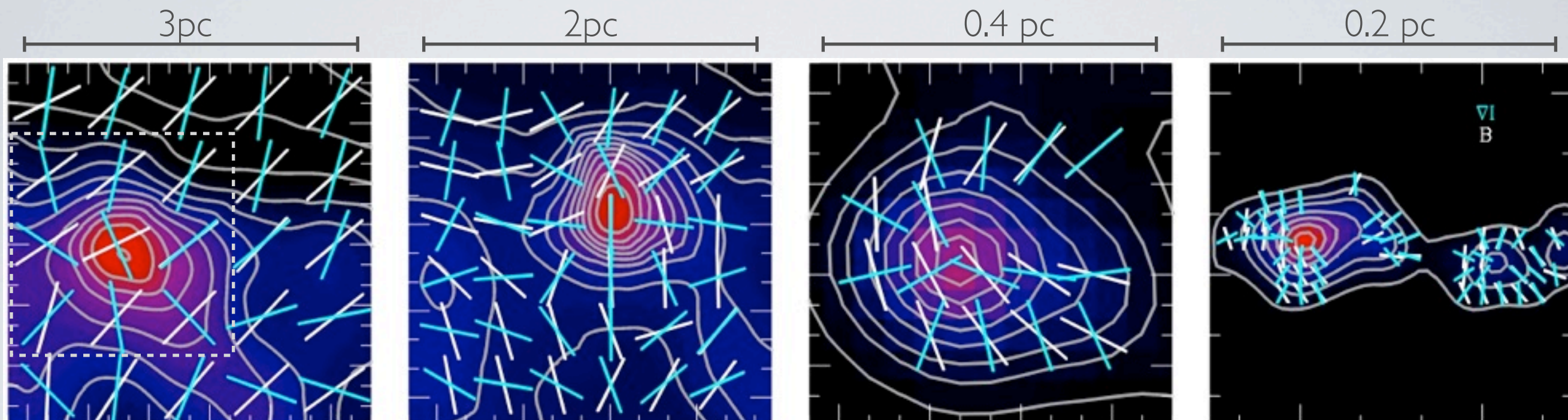




W51 N (SMA SubC+Ext)



Correlation of gradient I and B:  
tighter in the core regions than outside of core regions



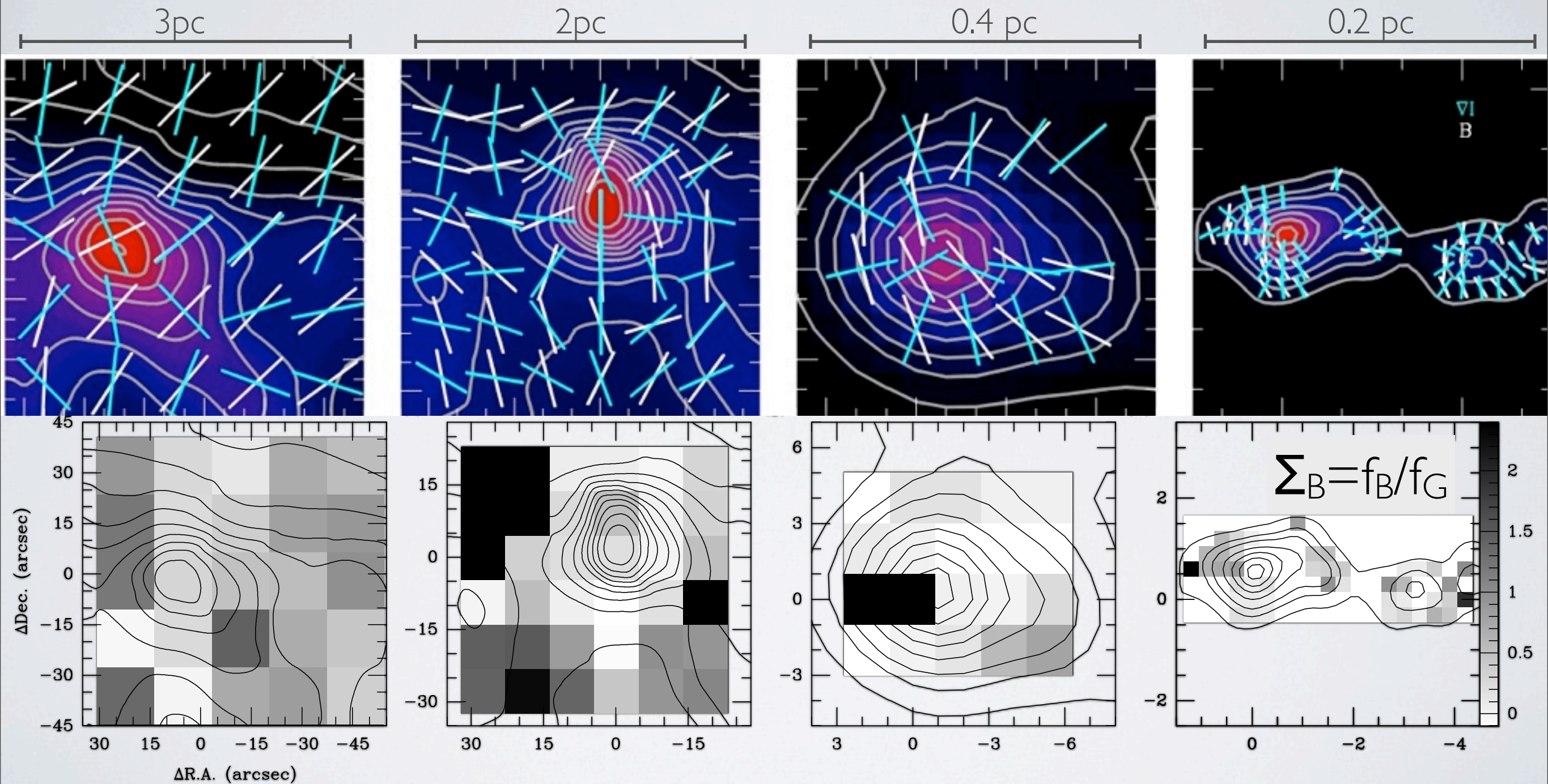
Angular resolution	20''		15''		3.5''	0.7''
	CSO, 350 $\mu\text{m}$		JCMT, 850 $\mu\text{m}$		SMA, 850 $\mu\text{m}$	SMA, 850 $\mu\text{m}$
Correlation coefficient of $\phi_B \phi_{\nabla I}$	0.81		0.70		0.78	0.88
	0.59	0.88	0.66	0.73		
mean of $ \phi_B - \phi_{\nabla I} $	40		44		37	35
	51	34	48	38		
	envelope	core	envelope	core	core	core
	TANG+2013, APJ					

Tight correlation of intensity gradient and B field  
at core region: purely observational quantities

Intuitive picture: in denser regions the gravity will  
dominate the system and the B fields will be  
dragged by the motion of material



# Correlation of intensity gradient and B: quantitative analysis on the force ratio



TANG+2013, APJ

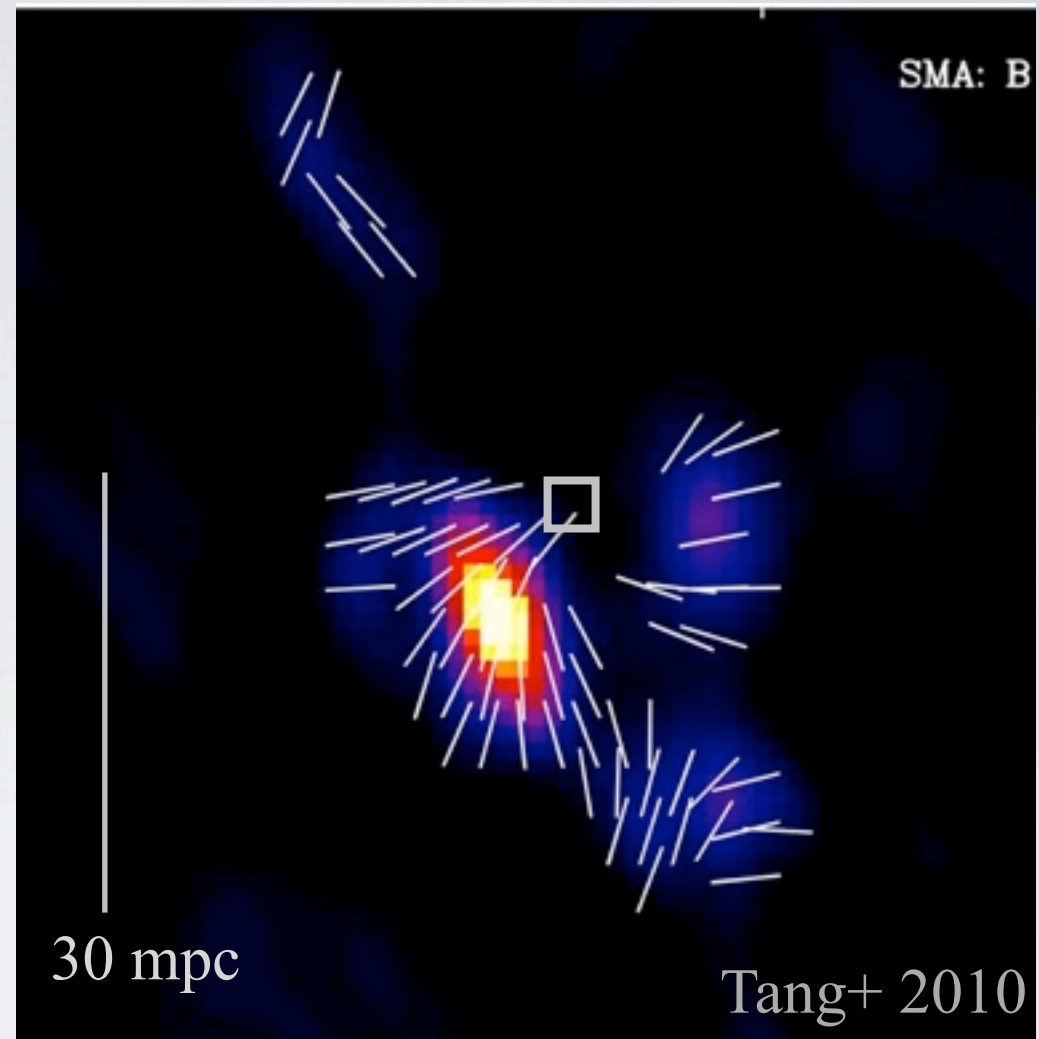
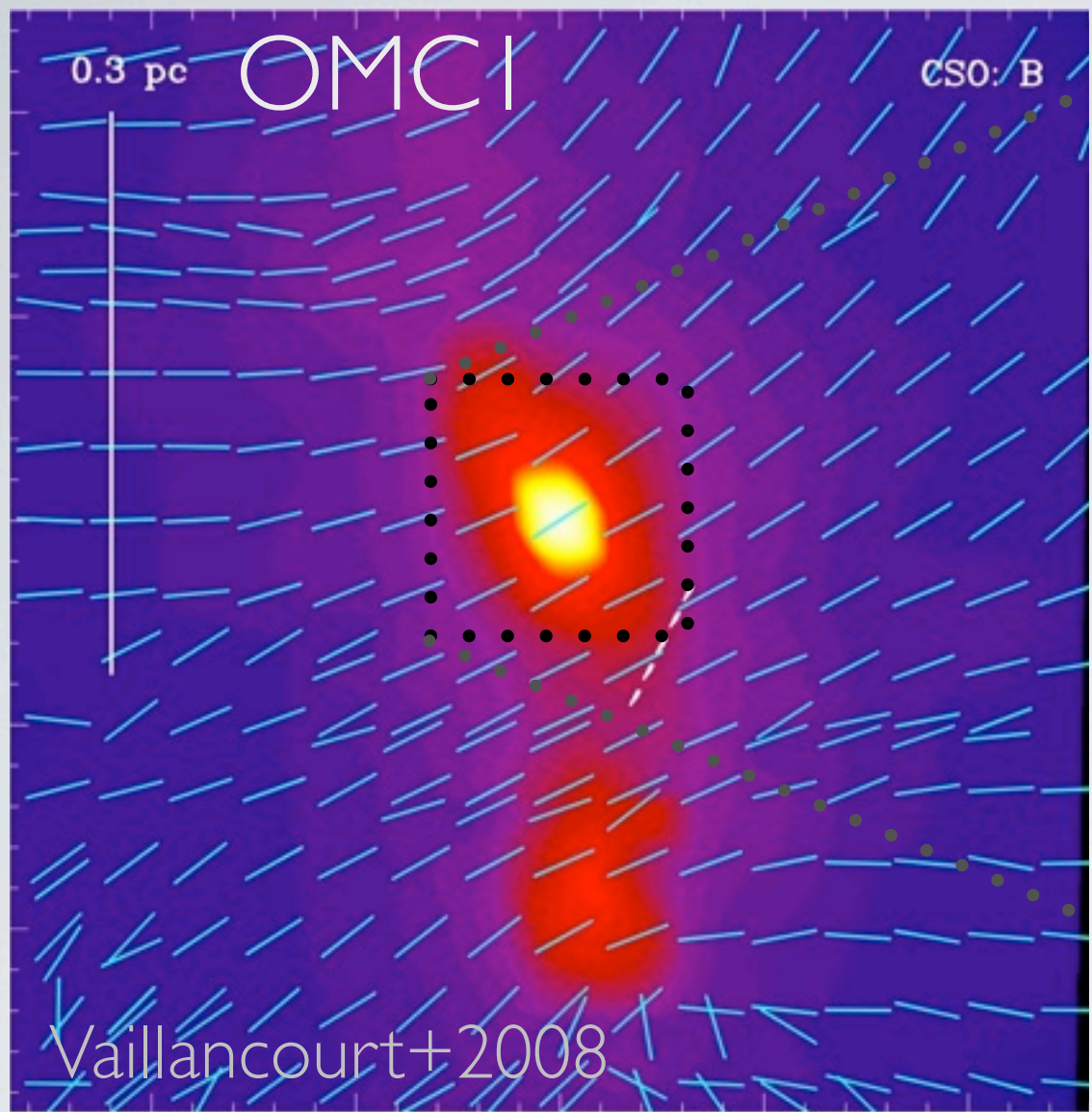


# Summary

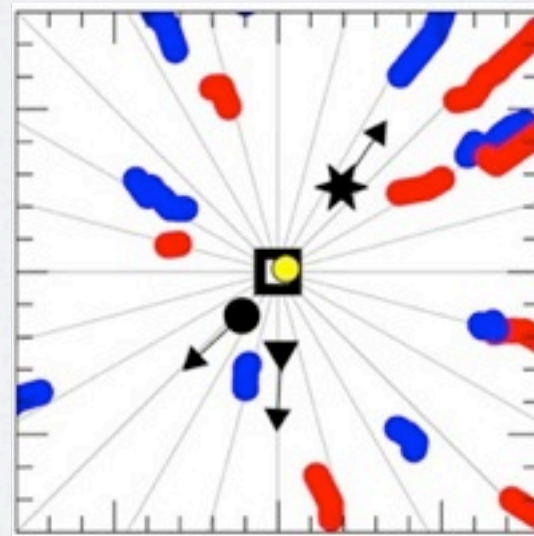
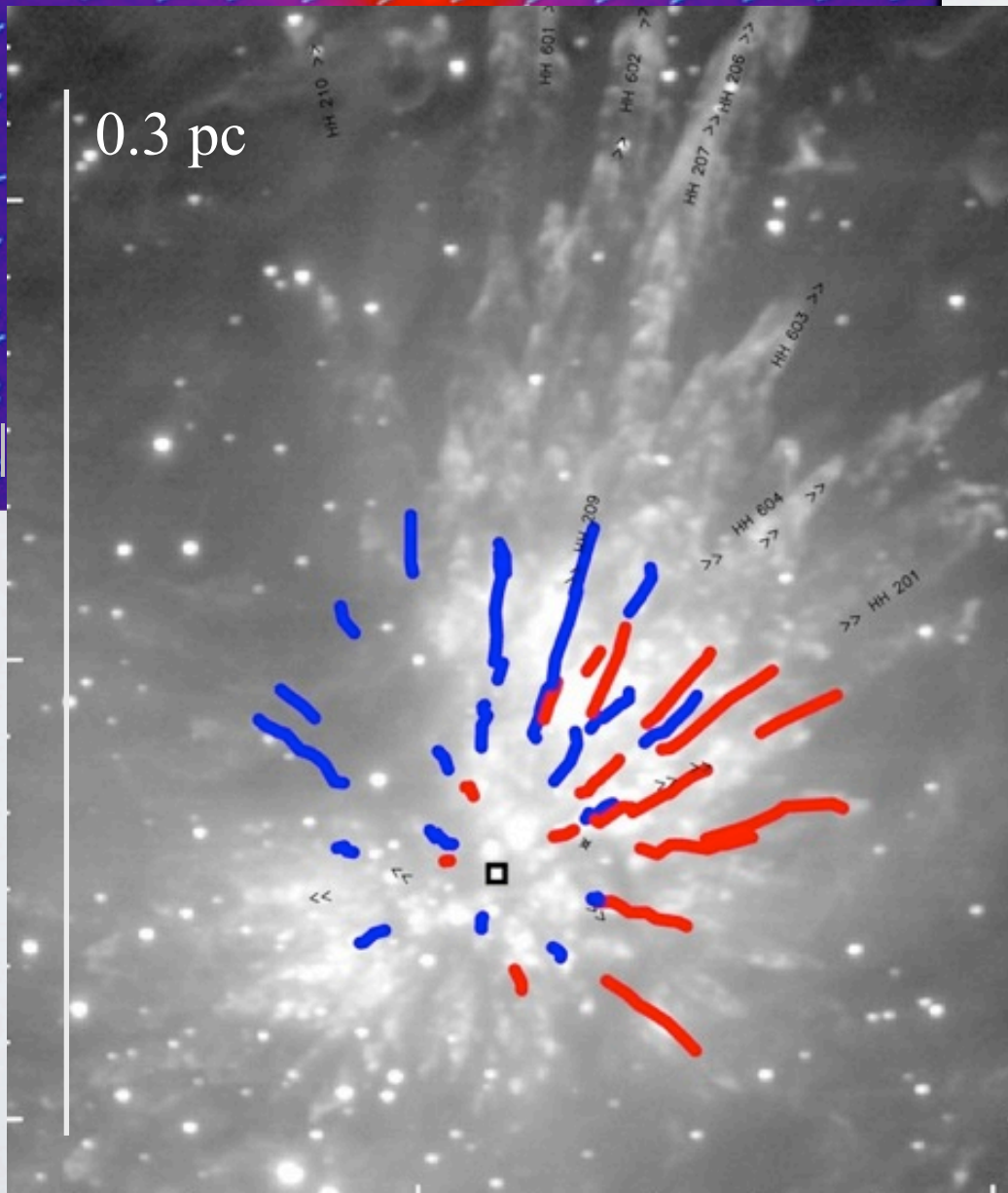
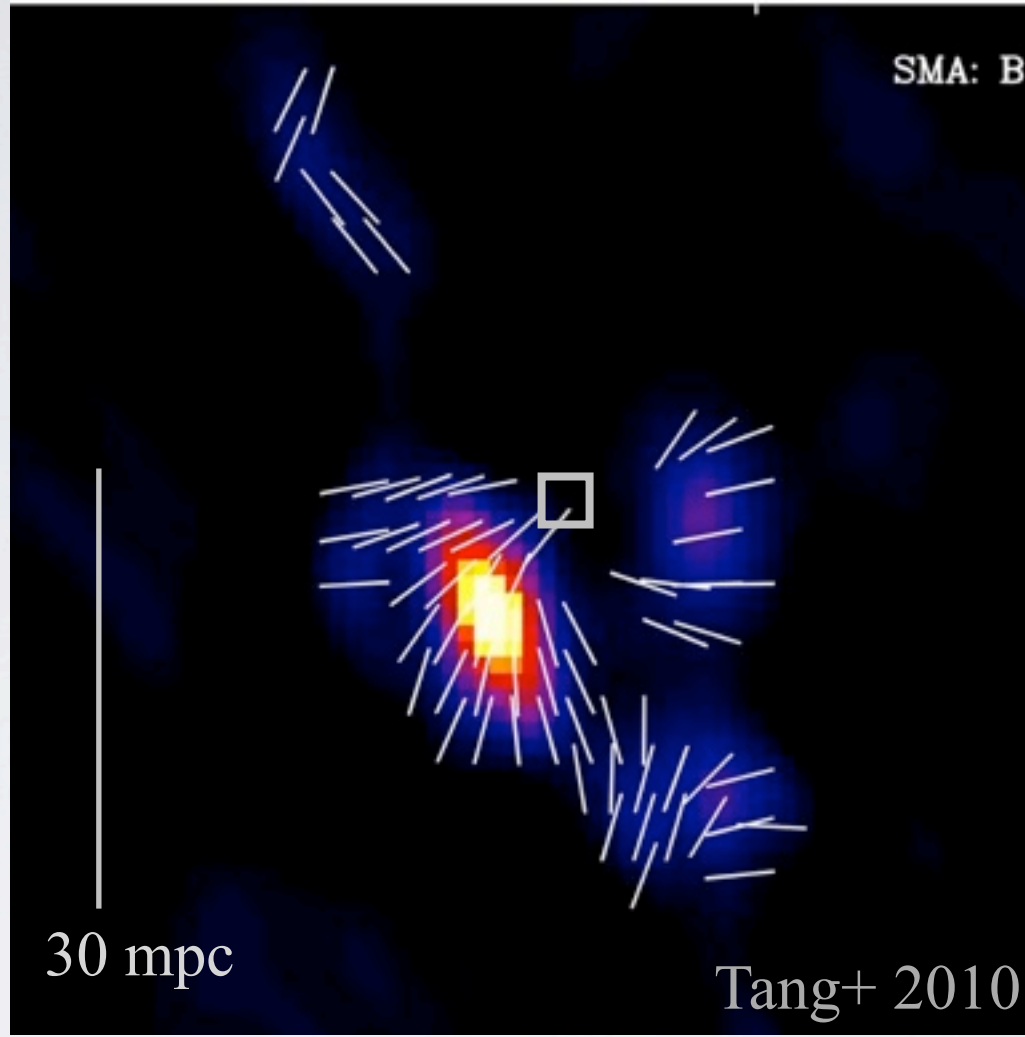
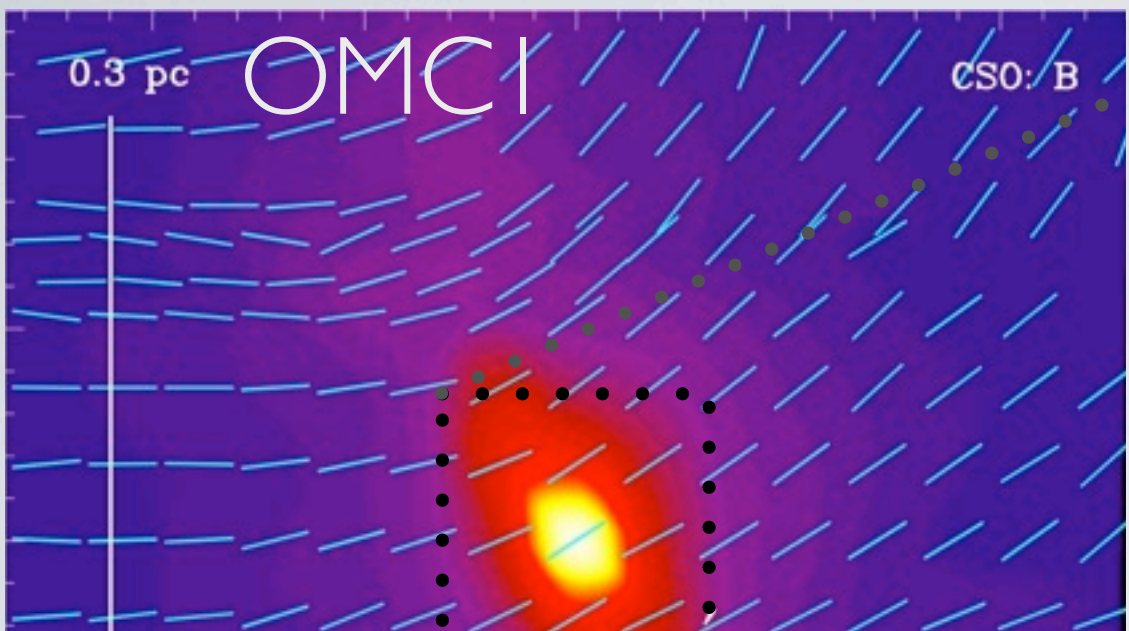
- B field morphologies show more variations at higher angular resolution
  - De-polarization seen with lower angular resolution is partly due to more complex underlying B field morphologies
- Analysis of the PA of the intensity gradient and PA of the B
  - B field shows tighter correlation with intensity gradients toward denser regions at both pc and mpc scales
  - Based on our analysis of the force ratio of gravity to B field tension ( $\Sigma_B = f_B/f_G$ ), we also found that  $\Sigma_B$  is smaller in the core regions.
  - Development of the B field strength map based on the **polarization-intensity gradient method.**



## 2. B field shaped by stellar feedbacks







Color lines: CO outflow Zapata+2009  
Background: H<sub>2</sub> jet



# SMA Legacy Project: Filaments, Star Formation & Magnetic Fields

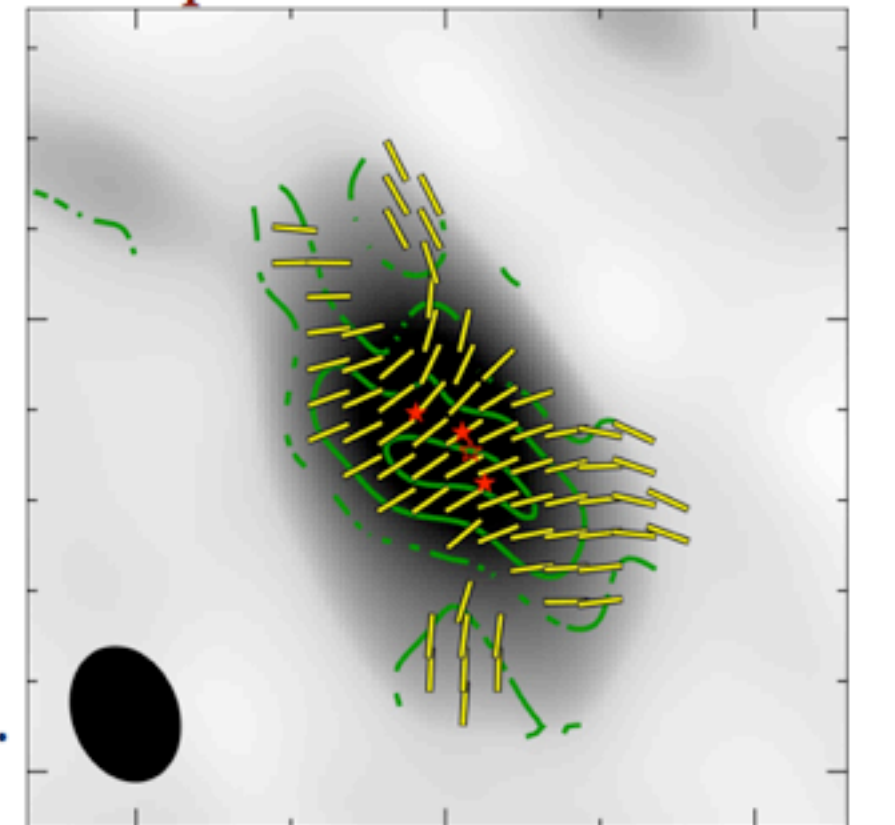
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& H.-Y. Liu, H.-H. Chen, P. Ho, H.-R. Chen, E. Keto, Z.-Yun Li, S. Bontemps, T. Csengeri, M. Padovani

**Goal:** Get a large sample of massive molecular clumps to investigate the role of magnetic fields in formation and fragmentation of massive filaments. Compare observations with radiative transfer modeling and simulations

## So far:

- ✓ More than 30 tracks (beam  $\sim 1$  arcsec)
- ✓ High fraction of dust polarization detections
- ✓ Some sources show a complex B configuration BUT ...
- ✓ Some show hour-glass morphology with the B direction almost parallel to the outflow
- ✓ Some sources maintain the main direction observed at larger scales





THANKS