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























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Relative alignments between magnetic fields, velocity gradients, and dust emission gradients in NGC 1333

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ABSTRACT

Magnetic fields play an important role in shaping and regulating star formation in molecular clouds. Here, we present one of the first studies examining the relative orientations between magnetic (B) fields and the dust emission, gas column density, and velocity centroid gradients on the 0.02 pc (core) scales, using the BISTRO and VLA+GBT observations of the NGC 1333 star-forming clump. We quantified these relative orientations using the Project Rayleigh Statistic (PRS) and found preferential global parallel alignment between the B field and dust emission gradients, consistent with large-scale studies with *Planck*. No preferential global alignments, however, are found between the B field and velocity gradients. Local PRS calculated for subregions defined by either dust emission or velocity coherence further revealed that the B field does not preferentially align with dust emission gradients in most emission-defined subregions, except in the warmest ones. The velocity-coherent structures, on the other hand, also showed no preferred B field alignments with velocity gradients, except for one potentially bubble-compressed region. Interestingly, the velocity gradient magnitude in NGC 1333 ubiquitously features prominent ripple-like structures that are indicative of magnetohydrodynamic (MHD) waves. Finally, we found B field alignments with the emission gradients to correlate with dust temperature and anticorrelate with column density, velocity dispersion, and velocity gradient magnitude. The latter two anticorrelations suggest that alignments between gas structures and B fields can be perturbed by physical processes that elevate velocity dispersion and velocity gradients, such as infall, accretions, and MHD waves.

Key words: magnetic fields – ISM: clouds – ISM: kinematics and dynamics – ISM: magnetic fields – ISM: structure – galaxies: star formation.

1 INTRODUCTION

Over the past decades, evidence has emerged that filaments play a crucial role in how molecular clouds form stars (see André et al. 2014; Pineda et al. 2023). Analytically, filaments have the most favourable geometry for the growth of local internal structure before becoming overwhelmed by global collapse (Pon, Johnstone & Heitsch 2011). Numerically, filaments are produced or seeded naturally by supersonic turbulence within molecular clouds (e.g. Porter, Pouquet & Woodward 1994; Vázquez-Semadeni 1994), after which they fragment into star-forming cores (e.g. Seifried & Walch 2015). In the absence of turbulence strong enough to support the cloud globally, the cloud can also collapse hierarchically, channelling accretion flows continuously via filaments from the larger scales to

cores and protocluster hubs (Vázquez-Semadeni et al. 2019). Indeed, star-forming structures have been observed to be hierarchically filamentary (Hacar et al. 2023) and velocity gradients observed across and along filaments have indicated ongoing mass flows onto and along filaments, respectively (e.g. Peretto, André & Belloche 2006; Friesen et al. 2013; Kirk et al. 2013; Shimajiri et al. 2019; Chen et al. 2020b).

The assembly of star-forming structures, however, is not governed by gravity and turbulence alone. Numerous theoretical studies on magnetohydrodynamics (MHD) have shown that magnetic fields can also play a substantial role alongside gravity (e.g. Nagai, Inutsuka & Miyama 1998; Nakamura & Li 2008; Soler et al. 2013; Inoue et al. 2018; Pattle et al. 2023), and from dust polarization observations, dense filamentary structures tend to align perpendicularly with the magnetic fields (e.g. Palmeirim et al. 2013; Planck Collaboration XIII 2016; Fissel et al. 2019; Soam et al. 2019; Pattle et al. 2023). These results conform to the expectations of idealized MHD, where gas can flow freely along magnetic field lines but not against them, which

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causes gas to accumulate into filamentary structures that mainly align perpendicularly to the magnetic field (e.g. Inutsuka et al. 2015; Gómez, Vázquez-Semadeni & Zamora-Avilés 2018).

Molecular line observations have also revealed velocity gradients along large-scale magnetic fields indicating magnetically mediated accretion flows (e.g. Palmeirim et al. 2013; Bonne et al. 2020). Statistical comparisons between the local orientations of the magnetic field and velocity gradients (e.g. Tang et al. 2019; Wang et al. 2020), however, are very rare and lack the resolution to resolve the most common filaments found by *Herschel* studies (~ 0.1 pc in width; e.g. Arzoumanian et al. 2011, 2019). Considering that magnetic fields can be significantly distorted by gas structures contracting under self-gravity and consequently alter the direction of gas flow (Gómez et al. 2018), observations that can investigate the relationship between gas flows, gas morphology, and the magnetic field on the scales of both filaments and cores are crucial. Such studies will not only test how magnetic fields guide gas flows (e.g. Seifried & Walch 2015) to form and feed star-forming structures (e.g. Gómez et al. 2018) but also test how they provide support against gravity (e.g. Nakano & Nakamura 1978) or mediate protostellar feedback (e.g. Offner & Liu 2018).

In this paper, we investigate the role of the magnetic field in the active star-forming complex NGC 1333 using combined dust polarization, dust emission, H_2 column density, and NH_3 line emission observations on ~ 0.02 pc scales. Specifically, we make statistical orientation comparisons between the magnetic field and the velocity, emission, and column density gradients. Located at 299 ± 17 pc away (Zucker et al. 2018) in the Perseus Molecular Cloud, NGC 1333 is one of the most extensively studied cluster-forming clumps in the nearby neighbourhood (Walawender et al. 2008), with very well-characterized populations of dense cores (e.g. Pezzuto et al. 2021) and young stellar objects (YSOs; e.g. Dunham et al. 2015). The star-forming clump consists of a network of supercritical filaments (Hacar, Tafalla & Alves 2017) that show velocity gradients indicative of accretion onto and along the filaments (Chen et al. 2020b). The clump appears to be collapsing globally (Walsh, Bourke & Myers 2006), which likely explains why NGC 1333 has a higher velocity dispersion between its filaments than those found in other Perseus clumps (Chen et al. 2024, submitted). Recently, the magnetic field in NGC 1333 has also been studied on ~ 0.02 pc scales, revealing a highly ordered plane-of-the-sky (POS) magnetic field with respect to the clump’s filaments (Doi et al. 2020).

The paper is structured as follows: In Section 2, we describe the observations and data reduction of our NH_3 (1,1) and dust polarization data, as well as the dust emission and column density maps obtained from publicly available archives. Section 3 describes our multicomponent fits to the NH_3 data and explains how we identify velocity-coherent structures from these fits and compute gradients. In Section 3, we also outline the statistical methods we use to quantify the relative orientations (ROs) between the POS magnetic field (hereafter, the magnetic field unless stated otherwise) and our computed gradient fields. We present our results and discussions in Sections 4 and 5, respectively, and summarize our conclusions in Section 6.

2 OBSERVATIONS AND DATA REDUCTION

2.1 Ammonia data

We use spectral line observations of ammonia (NH_3) from the Karl G. Jansky Very Large Array (VLA) project 13A-309 (PI: Shaye Storm), which surveyed the NGC 1333 region using the VLA D-configuration in seven observational tracks. The observations are

discussed in detail in Dhabal et al. (2019, hereafter, D19). In this work, we follow a similar reduction and imaging strategy. We first calibrate the measurement sets using the VLA pipeline released with CASA version 4.7.2 (CASA Team 2022), yielding gain calibrated and flagged visibilities ready for imaging. We imaged the data with CASA version 5.1.0–29 using the TCLEAN algorithm, setting a spectral channel width of 6.9 kHz (~ 0.085 km s $^{-1}$). The imaging used a multiscale deconvolution algorithm with scales of 0 and 0.66 arcsec $\times 2^k$ for $k = 0 \dots 5$ with a threshold of 15 mJy beam $^{-1}$ and Briggs (1995) weighting using `robust=0.5`.

To improve the quality of the imaging process, we create a clean mask to restrict the regions where the deconvolution can identify clean components. For the clean mask, we use single-dish data of the region in NH_3 from the Robert F. Byrd Green Bank Telescope (GBT) that were collected as part of the Green Bank Ammonia Survey (GAS; Friesen et al. 2017). We define the clean mask using regions of significant emission ($T_{MB} > 5\sigma_T$) in the GBT data, and then we deconvolve the VLA data using the clean mask, cleaning each channel down to 15 mJy ($\sim 2.5\sigma$). The restoring beam is 3.3 arcsec $\times 2.8$ arcsec full width at half-maximum.

Following deconvolution, we use the CASA task FEATHER to combine the VLA and GBT data in the Fourier domain, yielding a fully sampled image for analysis. The FEATHER task assumes that the flux calibration between the two telescopes is accurate. We used the diagnostics in the UVCOMBINE package (Koch & Ginsburg 2022) to check this assumption, finding the ratio of the flux scales to be consistent with unity. D19 use a different approach to integrating information from the GBT, combining the data in the visibility domain before deconvolution. This difference in method is not expected to lead to substantial (> 10 per cent) variation in the final image products (Plunkett et al. 2023).

In this work, we focus on the NH_3 (1,1) line at $\nu_0 = 23.694$ GHz though we carried out imaging for NH_3 (2,2) and NH_3 (3,3) as well. The final VLA+GBT maps also have a resolution of 3.3 arcsec $\times 2.8$ arcsec and a noise level of 6.5 mJy beam $^{-1}$, which is equivalent to 1.5 K at this resolution. To match the spatial resolution of our polarization data, we further convolved our NH_3 (1,1) to a resolution of 14.1 arcsec using a Gaussian kernel and re-gridded the convolved image with 2.7 arcsecpixels.

2.2 Polarization data

Our 850 μ m dust polarization measurements of NGC 1333, i.e. Stokes I , Q , and U and their estimated uncertainties, were first published by Doi et al. (2020) as part of the B-Fields in Star Forming Regions (BISTRO) Survey (Ward-Thompson et al. 2017) using the POL-2 instrument on the James Clerk Maxwell Telescope (JCMT). The effective beam size of the observations is 14.1 arcsec, with the final pixel size of the data product being 7.05 arcsec. Following the quality control set by Doi et al. (2020), we estimated the polarized intensity (PI) and its error (δPI) as follows:

$$PI = \sqrt{Q^2 + U^2}, \quad (1)$$

$$\delta PI = \frac{\sqrt{(Q^2 \cdot \delta Q^2 + U^2 \cdot \delta U^2)}}{PI}, \quad (2)$$

where δQ and δU are the estimated errors of Q and I , respectively. While the δPI estimated above is biased by the squared Q and U offsetting the derived PI , such a bias is negligible when the SNR is high (e.g. $PI/\delta PI > 3$; Wardle & Kronberg 1974; Naghizadeh-Khouei & Clarke 1993; Vaillancourt 2006). For this reason and quality assurance, only pixels with $PI/\delta PI > 3$ and $I > 25$ mJy

beam⁻¹ (i.e. $I/\delta I > 10$) are used for our analysis. We note that the polarization angles, which are the primary focus of our analyses, should not be affected by such bias either way. The typical rms noise levels for I , Q , and U in our samples are 1.1, 0.9, and 0.9 mJy beam⁻¹, respectively.

For this analysis, we primarily focus on the magnetic field orientation. Following Doi et al. (2020), we measure polarization angles (ψ) and their associated errors ($\delta\psi$) as:

$$\psi = \frac{1}{2} \arctan\left(\frac{U}{Q}\right), \quad (3)$$

$$\delta\psi = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\sqrt{(Q \cdot \delta U)^2 + (U \cdot \delta Q)^2}}{PI^2}. \quad (4)$$

With our imposed SNR thresholds for the polarized data, the polarization angle uncertainties are $0.2 \text{ deg} < \delta\psi < 9.6 \text{ deg}$ for all pixels, with a median and mean uncertainty of $\delta\psi \approx 6 \text{ deg}$.

Since thermal dust emission is expected to be polarized relative to the long-axis of the dust grains, with dust grains' short axes aligned with the magnetic field (e.g. Andersson, Lazarian & Vaillancourt 2015), we rotate all polarization angles by 90 deg to obtain the inferred magnetic field orientation. We designate the unit half-vector \hat{B} to represent magnetic field orientation measurements (hereafter, B field measurements).

2.3 Dust emission, column density, and dust temperature data

Since the Stokes I map released by Doi et al. (2020) does not recover extended emission well due to atmospheric filtering and a slow scan rate (Chapin et al. 2013; Friberg et al. 2016), we adopted the JCMT Gould Belt Survey (JGBS) Data Release 3 (DR3) intensity map (Kirk et al. 2018) for our structural analysis of the 850 μm dust emission. The DR3 data product has a median rms of $\sim 12.1 \text{ mJy beam}^{-1}$ and a pixel size of 3 arcsec. While the JGBS 850 μm map is less sensitive than the BISTRO total intensity map, it has less aggressive spatial filtering and these data have been corrected for line contamination from ¹²CO ($2-1$) using methods laid out by Drabek et al. (2012) and Parsons et al. (2018). Since CO contamination can be substantial in NGC 1333 (see Appendix A), the JGBS data product is more appropriate for performing our structural analysis. Considering that we do not expect CO to be polarized, any ¹²CO ($2-1$) contribution should not result in spurious polarization in the BISTRO polarization maps.

We obtained the *Herschel* 160 and 250 μm dust emission maps, as well as the *Herschel*-derived dust temperature (T_d), and high-resolution H₂ column density, $N(\text{H}_2)$, maps of Perseus from the *Herschel* Gould Belt Survey (HGBS) Archive. These archival data were first published by Pezzuto et al. (2021). The resolutions of the 160 and 250 μm dust emission maps, as well as the *Herschel*-derived T_d and high-resolution $N(\text{H}_2)$ maps, are 13.5, 18.2, 36.3, and 18.2 arcsec, respectively.

3 METHODS

3.1 Multicomponent line fitting

To derive gas kinematic properties, we fit our NH₃ (1,1) data with spectral models containing up to two velocity components using the MUFASA package (Chen et al. 2020b). is an automated iterative fitter that wraps around the PYSPECKIT package (Ginsburg et al. 2022) to perform least-squares fits using the Levenberg–Marquardt method (Levenberg 1944; Marquardt 1963; Moré 1978). MUFASA initially convolves the cube to half its original angular resolution (i.e.

doubles the beam size) and then fits the convolved cube using initial guesses produced by a moment-based technique detailed in Chen et al. (2020b). The resulting fits from the convolved cube are then adopted as the updated initial guesses for the next iteration of fits. This two-iteration approach uses the convolved cube's boosted signal and enhanced spatial awareness to improve the fits. We adopt the same MUFASA NH₃ (1,1) model as Chen et al. (2020b, 2022) that treats each velocity component as a slab of gas under local thermodynamic equilibrium (LTE) and features a Gaussian velocity profile. Each velocity component of the model is parametrized by its velocity centroid (v_{LSR}), velocity dispersion (σ_v), excitation temperature (T_{ex}), and total optical depth (τ_0). The model also accounts for all 18 hyperfine components of the NH₃ (1,1) transition for each velocity component and performs radiative transfer through each component along the line of sight from the cosmic microwave background towards the observer.

To determine whether a spectrum is robustly detected via statistical model selection, MUFASA further assumes an emission-free noise model of a flat spectral baseline centred on a specific intensity of zero for comparison. MUFASA selects the best fit between noise, one-component, and two-component models using the corrected Akaike Information Criterion (AICc; Akaike 1974; Sugiura 1978). The software selects model b over model a when their log relative likelihood K obtained from the AICc, expressed as

$$\ln K_a^b = -(\text{AICc}_b - \text{AICc}_a)/2, \quad (5)$$

is above a statistically robust threshold of 5 (Burnham & Anderson 2004). MUFASA calculates the AICc values from the residual sum of squares (RSS) of the fit as

$$\text{AICc} = n \ln\left(\frac{\text{RSS}}{n}\right) + 2p + \frac{2p(p+1)}{n-p-1}, \quad (6)$$

where n and p are the sample size of the spectra and the number of model parameters, respectively. MUFASA's model selection with AICc performs comparably to the full Bayesian approach on the same NH₃ data (see Chen et al. 2020b; Sokolov et al. 2020). The AICc approach, however, is more efficient because it does not need to sample the likelihood space exhaustively like the Bayesian approach.

3.2 Identifying velocity-coherent structures

Star-forming gas can often contain multiple velocity-coherent structures, hereafter VCS, which are identified as gas regions with smoothly varying kinematic properties. These kinematically distinct structures have been found in observations with tracers such as CO (e.g. Hacar et al. 2013) and NH₃ (Chen et al. 2020b). To identify these structures, we employ the density-based spatial clustering of applications with noise algorithm (DBSCAN; Ester et al. 1996) on the MUFASA-derived v_{LSR} to identify clusters in position–position–velocity (PPV) space (e.g. similar to Doi et al. 2020). Specifically, we use DBSCAN as implemented by the SCIKIT-LEARN package (Pedregosa et al. 2011). Clustering algorithms like DBSCAN group data points (i.e. samples) in N -dimensional parameter space based on their proximity to one another in that space. When applied to samples in PPV space, DBSCAN will identify spatially and kinematically continuous structures.

DBSCAN, compared to many clustering algorithms, has the advantage of being robust at identifying clusters with irregular shapes, not requiring a user-specified number of clusters, and not forcing a cluster membership onto all data samples. This last attribute allows DBSCAN to identify ‘noise’ (i.e. outlier) members in addition to cluster members. Moreover, DBSCAN primarily operates only on two

user parameters: (1) ε , the maximum distance threshold to qualify two samples as being in the same neighbourhood and (2) s_{\min} , the minimum samples in a neighbourhood required to consider these samples core points (i.e. a seed). A cluster can only be seeded if it contains at least s_{\min} number of samples within a ε distance of each other (i.e. core points) and grows subsequently to include all samples directly reachable via a core point within a distance of ε . With so few parameters, DBSCAN is an attractive clustering algorithm for general use cases.

Following common clustering practices, we normalize (i.e. standardize) our parameter axes by standard deviations of the samples in their respective axes. To ensure our data is not overly noisy in the PPV space to facilitate clearer clustering, we only included samples with estimated v_{LSR} errors less than 0.085 km s^{-1} , i.e. the spectral resolution of our data. Given that s_{\min} is the minimum neighbourhood sample required to seed a cluster, we adopt $s_{\min} = 75$ for our clustering to ensure that each cluster contains enough samples to be well resolved by the beam. We further adopt $\varepsilon = 0.17$ for our clustering, an optimal value determined from tests run with $s_{\min} = 75$. We note that the DBSCAN results are somewhat degenerate to the choices of ε and s_{\min} in that similar results can be obtained by increasing ε and decreasing s_{\min} slightly, and vice versa.

Our final clustering result produced under these parameters shows good agreement with structures identifiable by eye and filament-based structure identification applied to single-dish GBT NH_3 observations of NGC 1333 (Chen et al. 2020b). These results are also reasonably consistent with the NGC 1333 ‘ISM features’ identified by Doi et al. (2020) using DBSCAN on discrete N_2H^+ data. We further removed isolated pixels, also known as noise (e.g. pixels that were not grouped into clusters), and small clusters with less than 250 members from our analyses to ensure the final clusters have a minimum on-sky footprint of ~ 6 beams. This minimum area ensures that we have ample statistics per VCS. Since these isolated pixels and small clusters were identified independently by DBSCAN as being spatially and kinematically distinct from the larger VCSs included in this analysis, their removal will not affect our results. Our full DBSCAN result that includes the noise and clusters with less than 250 members is presented in Appendix B.

3.3 Gradient calculation

We denote the gradients of velocity centroid, dust emission, and column density maps as ∇v , ∇I , and $\nabla N(\text{H}_2)$, respectively. Following Chen et al. (2020b), we calculate the local velocity, column density, and emission gradients at each pixel by fitting a planar surface using the least-square method to each map masked with a circular aperture centred on that pixel. We adopted an aperture radius of $r = 14.1$ arcsec (diameter of 28.2 arcsec) to ensure our gradients are calculated over a scale fully resolved across a diameter of two beams. While the *Herschel* 250 μm and $N(\text{H}_2)$ maps have a slightly coarser resolution of 18.2 arcsec, we still have at least two independent measurements with the 14.1 arcsec apertures. Moreover, we tested the robustness of the *Herschel* gradients using larger apertures of $r = 18.2$ arcsec and found consistent results with the nominal 14.1 arcsec apertures. For consistency, all our gradients are calculated using the $r = 14.1$ arcsec aperture. We also only calculate gradients for apertures with more than $2/3$ of their pixels with usable data.

Since the estimated errors for NH_3 -derived v_{LSR} values can differ substantially within an aperture, our plane fitting for v_{LSR} is further inversely weighted by their estimated errors. As found by Chen et al. (2020b), the pixel-to-pixel variation of errors in the MUFASA fits,

including the v_{LSR} , can sometimes be significant due to a combination of factors that range from the signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) of each component to the velocity differentials between the components. Given that the emission maps’ rms noise levels are fairly uniform and that the column density maps’ errors are similar within an aperture, we adopted a uniform weighting to calculate the gradients of these maps.

3.4 Quantifying relative orientations

To quantify the ROs between a half-vector field (e.g. the B field orientation inferred from polarization) and a vector field (i.e. a gradient field), we first calculate the relative angles between these two fields at a given pixel as if they are full vectors, \mathbf{a} and \mathbf{b} , with the expression,

$$\phi' = \arccos \frac{\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b}}{|\mathbf{a}| |\mathbf{b}|}. \quad (7)$$

This expression yields an angle ϕ' in the range of $[0, 180 \text{ deg}]$. A half-vector like \hat{B} , however, is degenerate by 180 deg in its orientation and does not distinguish between forward and backward pointings. Therefore, to account for such a degeneracy, we further map $\phi' \rightarrow \phi$ in such that all the ϕ' values in the range of $[90 \text{ deg}, 180 \text{ deg}]$ are subtracted by 180 deg and the absolute value taken. The ϕ resulting from this mapping is in the $[0, 90 \text{ deg}]$ range.

To further quantify whether a distribution of RO angles has a statistical preference for parallel alignment ($\phi = 0$) or perpendicular alignment ($\phi = 90 \text{ deg}$), we adopt the Projected Rayleigh Statistics (PRS; Jow et al. 2018) method for our analysis, which is a special use of the V Statistics (e.g. Durand & Greenwood 1958) modified from the Rayleigh Test. Specifically, the PRS is expressed as

$$Z_x = \frac{\sum_i^n \cos(2\phi_i)}{\sqrt{n/2}}, \quad (8)$$

for a set of ϕ_i angles with a size n . A ϕ distribution with $Z_x > 0$ or $Z_x < 0$ shows a statistical preference for a parallel or perpendicular alignment, respectively. To quantify the significance of the Z_x values, we estimate the Z_x variance as

$$\sigma_{Z_x}^2 = \frac{2 \sum_i^n [\cos(2\phi_i)]^2 - [Z_x]^2}{n}, \quad (9)$$

and adopt σ_{Z_x} as our estimated uncertainty that reflects the dispersion in ϕ (Jow et al. 2018). To ensure Z_x is calculated from reasonably independent measurements, we only take one ϕ_i sample per beam in our PRS calculations.

Since we are analysing the relative angles between the B field and several different gradient fields, we will omit the x subscript from the Z_x whenever additional subscripts are used to specify to which relative angles the Z_x is referring. Specifically, Z_x calculated from the relative angles between the B field and the ∇v , $\nabla N(\text{H}_2)$, and ∇I_λ fields will be designated Z_{Bv} , Z_{BN} , and Z_{BI} , respectively. We note that Jow et al. (2018) computes their Z_x between column density gradients and dust polarization, rather than magnetic fields, to be consistent with the analyses of Planck Collaboration XIII (2016) and Soler & Hennebelle (2017). In these works, the convention is to measure the ROs between the magnetic fields and ‘structure alignments’ (i.e. isocolumn density contours that are perpendicular to column density gradients). The Z_x values computed by Jow et al. (2018) will thus have an opposite sign than our Z_x values.

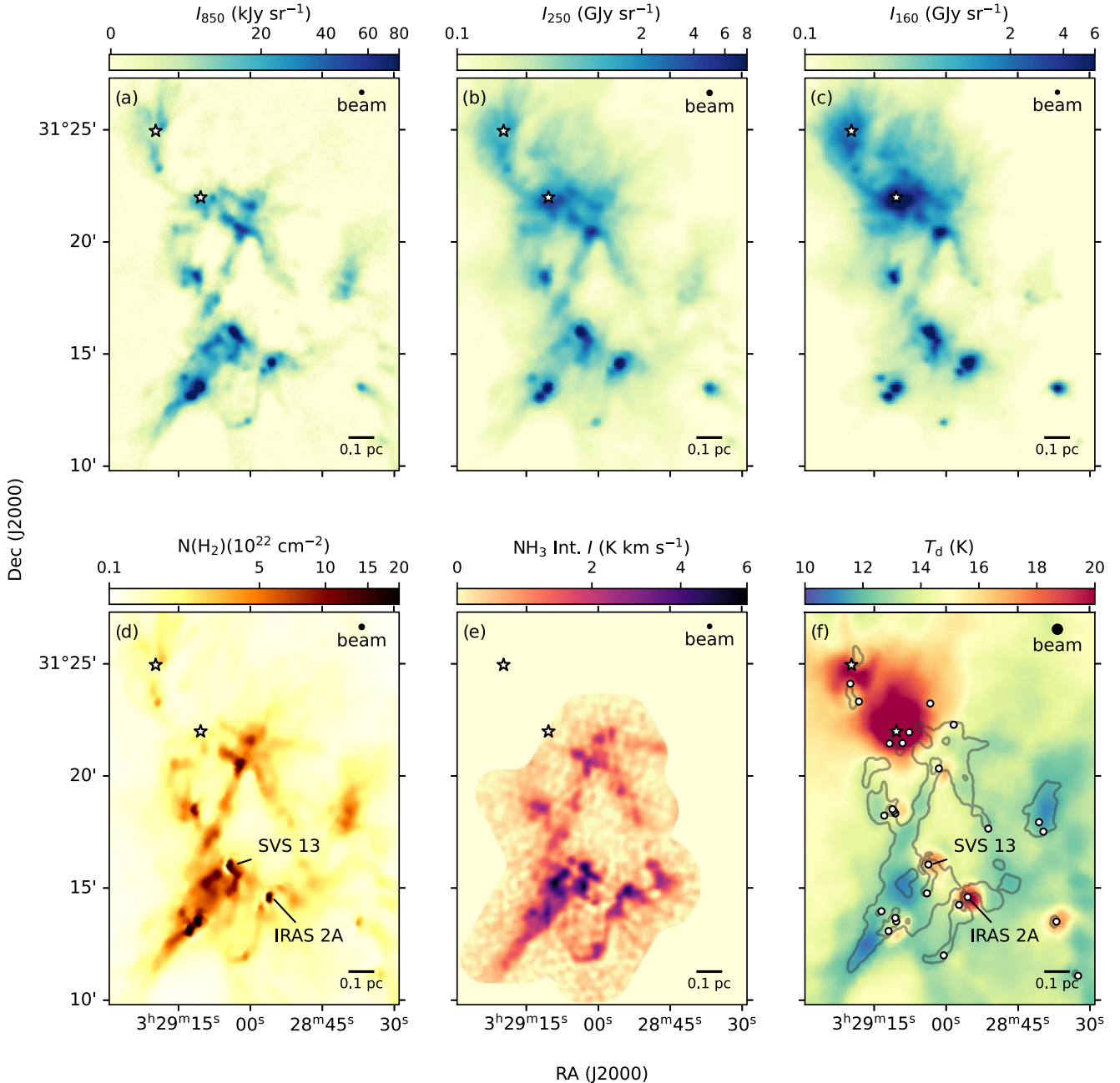


Figure 1. Observations of NGC 1333 used in this study. Top-row: (a) the JGBS 850 μm intensity, (b) *Herschel* 250 μm intensity, and (c) *Herschel* 160 μm intensity maps at their native resolutions of 14.1, 18.2, and 13.5 arcsec, respectively. Bottom-row: (d) the *Herschel*-derived H₂ column density from Pezzuto et al. (2021), (e) the convolved VLA+GBT NH₃ (1,1) intensity integrated over a v_{LSR} range of 6.0 – 9.3 km s⁻¹, and (f) the *Herschel*-derived dust temperature maps at resolutions of 18.2, 14.1, and 36.3 arcsec, respectively. Map resolutions for each data set are shown in the top right corners of the plots, while 0.1 pc scale bars are shown in the bottom right corners. The locations of B-type stars (e.g. Harvey, Wilking & Joy 1984) are indicated by the star symbols, and the positions of known Class 0/I YSOs from Dunham et al. (2015) are indicated in panel f by the open circles. The YSOs with visible column density artefacts nearby are also labelled in selective panels.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Emission and column density maps

Fig. 1 shows the data of NGC 1333 used in this analysis. The top panels give the 850, 250, and 160 μm dust emission maps, and the bottom panels show the $N(\text{H}_2)$, NH₃ (1,1) integrated intensity, and T_d maps. Overall, the 850 μm and the $N(\text{H}_2)$ maps appear morphologically similar. As the dust emission wavelength

decreases, however, extended emission becomes more significant. In particular, we see pronounced diffuse structures in the 250 and 160 μm map in the north-east region near the two B stars. This extended dust emission also appears to be warm based on the T_d map, indicating that the B stars are heating the surrounding material. The T_d map also shows compact warm structures at the positions of the Class 0/I YSOs (see Fig. 1f) identified by Dunham et al. (2015).

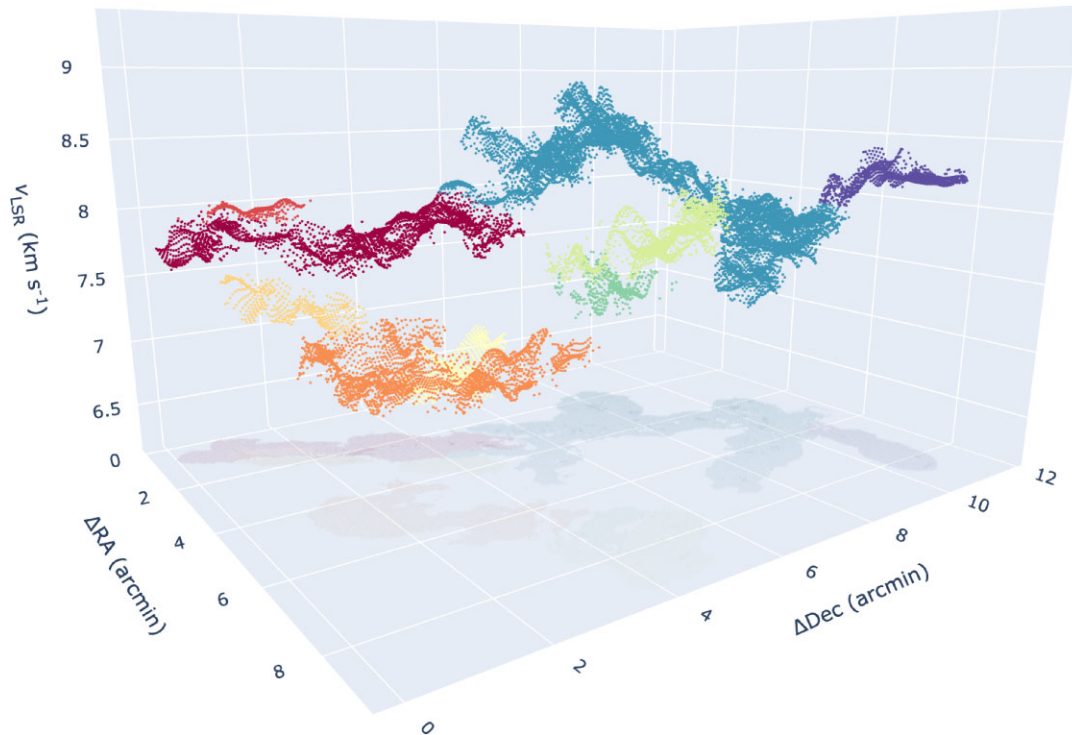


Figure 2. A 3D scatter plot of the nine identified NGC 1333 VCSs we identified from the fitted NH_3 spectral models using DBSCAN in PPV space. Each VCS is shown in a different colour. The data points show the corresponding PPV pixels for identified members, using the v_{LSR} for the velocity. The plane-of-the-sky projection of the VCSs is represented as ‘shadows’ on the RA-decl. plane using the same colours. The position coordinates are relative to the lower left corner of the map.

Aside from the missing larger scale emission, the $850\ \mu\text{m}$ and NH_3 maps resemble the $N(\text{H}_2)$ map reasonably well, particularly compared to the $250\ \mu\text{m}$ and the $160\ \mu\text{m}$ maps. The $850\ \mu\text{m}$ data are insensitive to large-scale emission due to spatial filtering during the data reduction process, required for atmospheric emission removal. While the NH_3 map was imaged with feathered data between the VLA and GBT observations to ensure it is sensitive to all scales, NH_3 is not typically detected in diffuse low-density ($< 10^3\ \text{cm}^{-3}$) gas because (1) this gas tends to be warmer resulting in more carbon-rich gas chemistry that disfavours NH_3 , and (2) lower density gas typically does not have the excitation conditions for NH_3 (e.g. Bergin & Tafalla 2007; Shirley 2015).

4.2 Velocity-coherent structures

Following Section 3, we fitted the NH_3 spectra to probe the gas kinematics in NGC 1333 and identify VCSs. We detected NH_3 spectra in 45 per cent of the pixels over the area mapped by the GBT and VLA. Out of these detections, 33 per cent are better fitted with two-component models, indicating that multiple-component fits are important for NH_3 in NGC 1333, consistent with the single-dish findings of Chen et al. (2020a).

Fig. 2 shows a 3D scatter plot of the nine VCSs we identified in NGC 1333 in PPV space using DBSCAN (see Section 3.2). Each VCS is shown by a different colour, and they appear to be fairly kinematically distinct from one another. Similar to studies that looked at gas kinematics of star-forming filaments in PPV space or PV (position–velocity) projections, both in observations (e.g. Hacar et al. 2013) and simulations (e.g. Clarke, Whitworth & Hubber 2016), we see quasi-oscillatory behaviour in the v_{LSR} within these VCSs. Such

a behaviour is also consistent with that found by Chen et al. (2020b) in NGC 1333 with single-dish GBT NH_3 data.

Fig. 3 shows maps of v_{LSR} , σ_v , and velocity gradient ($|\nabla v|$) for NGC 1333 in the left, centre, and right panels, respectively. We evaluate these quantities separately for each of the nine VCSs. Since we only included fitted velocity components with estimated v_{LSR} errors greater than $0.085\ \text{km s}^{-1}$ (see Section 3.2), most of the second components from our fits are not present in our clusters due to their larger v_{LSR} errors. The overlap of these VCSs on the plane of the sky is thus minimal. We note that while the fitting error for a faint, second velocity component may be large, two-component fits are still needed to capture the observed spectra adequately and derive gas properties accurately, even for the bright component (e.g. Chen et al. 2020b; Choudhury et al. 2020).

Visually, v_{LSR} is smooth across each VCS, indicating these VCSs are indeed velocity coherent. The v_{LSR} differences between VCSs and their immediate neighbours can be quite large, consistent with what we see in the PPV space (see Fig. 2). The $|\nabla v|$ values of each VCS are not elevated near the edges, further demonstrating that the gradients we calculated are purely internal to the VCSs themselves (i.e. intra-VCS) and are free from contamination from velocity components belonging to other VCSs.

The $|\nabla v|$ maps of the VCSs in NGC 1333 contain quasi-periodic ripples. Such structures were seen previously in the NH_3 observations of Perseus B5 at higher resolutions (5 arcsec; Chen et al. 2022) and in NGC 1333 using lower resolution (32 arcsec) single-dish data (Chen et al. 2020b). Similar wave-like structures have also been implied in the v_{LSR} profiles along filament spines observed with other tracers (e.g. CO; Hacar et al. 2013) and with synthetic observations of simulations (e.g. Smith et al. 2016). These earlier studies, however, did not explore these oscillations in 2D beyond filament spines.

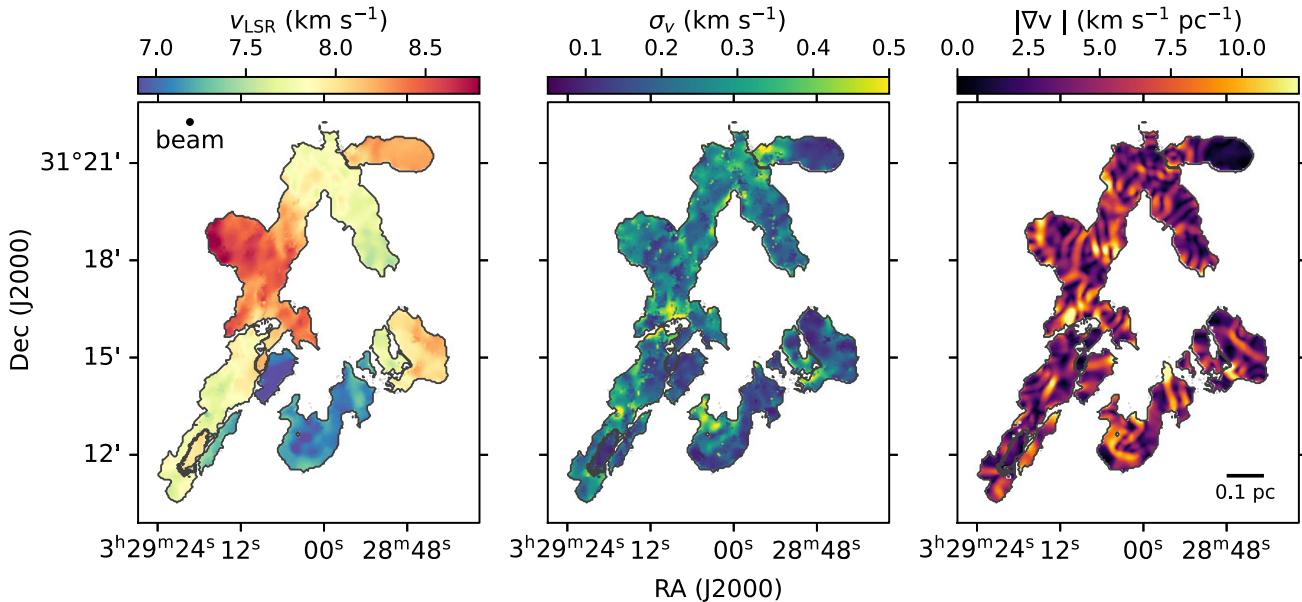


Figure 3. Maps of v_{LSR} (left), σ_v (middle), and $|\nabla v|$ (right) for the nine identified VCSs in NGC 1333 using the NH_3 (1,1) data at 14.1 arcsec resolution. The VCSs are separated by black contours to represent their boundaries. We note these VCSs have minimal spatial overlaps on the plane of sky due to most of the faint, second velocity components being excluded from our analyses because of their large v_{LSR} errors (see the text for details). The small black shapes near the edges of the VCSs are examples of the isolated pixels and small clusters that were excluded from this analysis.

The $|\nabla v|$ ripples may be gravo-acoustic in nature, like those found in simulations by Clarke et al. (2016), or driven by MHD waves, such as those proposed by Tritsis & Tassis (2016). In the case of magnetosonic waves, the waves are expected to travel perpendicularly to the magnetic field. We will discuss these $|\nabla v|$ ripples further in Section 5, particularly in 5.5.

4.3 The magnetic field and velocity gradients

Fig. 4 shows the inferred magnetic field as half-vectors over the 850 μm continuum, σ_v and $|\nabla v|$ maps for the VCSs in panels a, c, and d, respectively. Panel b shows the velocity gradient field as full vectors on top of each VCS's v_{LSR} maps, with the 850 μm continuum map further placed in the background. These data showcase a lack of NH_3 detection towards the north-east corner of NGC 1333, typically above decl. $\sim 31^\circ 22'$. While NH_3 observation in that region is predominately lacking due to the limited footprint of the VLA mosaic, we still have partial coverage near the southern B star that show none-detection of NH_3 that is consistent with the GBT-only observations (e.g. Friesen et al. 2017). The lack of NH_3 emission towards there is likely due to a change in the gas chemistry or excitation conditions of the gas itself. Specifically, this region of NGC 1333 is likely being heated from the nearby B stars (e.g. see Fig. 1 f and Chen et al. 2016a). Such heating can release carbon-bearing molecules back into the gas phase and deplete NH_3 chemically (Bergin & Tafalla 2007). Furthermore, since the H_2 column densities towards the B stars are lower, even if we assume a similar NH_3 abundance, the H_2 spatial densities behind these column densities may be lower than NH_3 's critical excitation value. Indeed, Doi et al. (2020) found a similar lack of N_2H^+ emission in this region, suggesting the mechanisms behind the null-detection are similar. We note that higher dust temperatures can cause the 850 μm dust emission to be brighter in that region than expected from its column density (see Fig. 1), making polarized emission easier to detect for

a given polarization fraction. We note that the NH_3 observations do not cover areas west of R.A. $\sim 3^{\text{h}}28^{\text{m}}40^{\text{s}}$.

As seen in Fig. 4(d), the dust polarization in NGC 1333 tends to be better detected towards lower σ_v regions, where the column density also tends to be higher. The trend where density anticorrelates with σ_v is consistent with those seen in NH_3 observations, either as a sharp sonic transition (e.g. Pineda et al. 2010) or gradual decrease within subsonic structures (e.g. Chen et al. 2022). Broadly, higher density structures have lower turbulence themselves, likely due to them being harder to perturb than their lower density counterparts (e.g. Heigl, Gritschneider & Burkert 2020).

Fig. 4(d) demonstrates that the $|\nabla v|$ ripples noted previously appear to be aligned perpendicularly to the B field in some places and parallel in others. Considering that slow and fast MHD waves (i.e. Alfvén and magnetosonic waves) propagate in directions that are along and perpendicular to the unperturbed magnetic field lines, respectively (Tritsis & Tassis 2016), the $|\nabla v|$ ripple may indeed trace the motions of both MHD waves in our VCSs. We will discuss these ripples further in Section 5.5.

4.4 Relative orientation angles

In this section, we present the RO angles (i.e. ϕ) between the B field and the different gradients in NGC 1333. Specifically, we compare the B field's orientation to the velocity, emission, and column density gradients using a convention where 0 deg and 90 deg reference parallel and particular alignments, respectively. We note that our convention differs from similar RO studies in the literature by 90 deg, where the angle is defined between the polarization position angle and the column density gradient that equivalently measures alignments between the B field and the cloud structure elongations (e.g. Planck Collaboration XIII 2016; Jow et al. 2018). In other words, parallel gradient alignment in our convention is perpendicular to the other conventions and vice versa. Nevertheless, we use this convention to

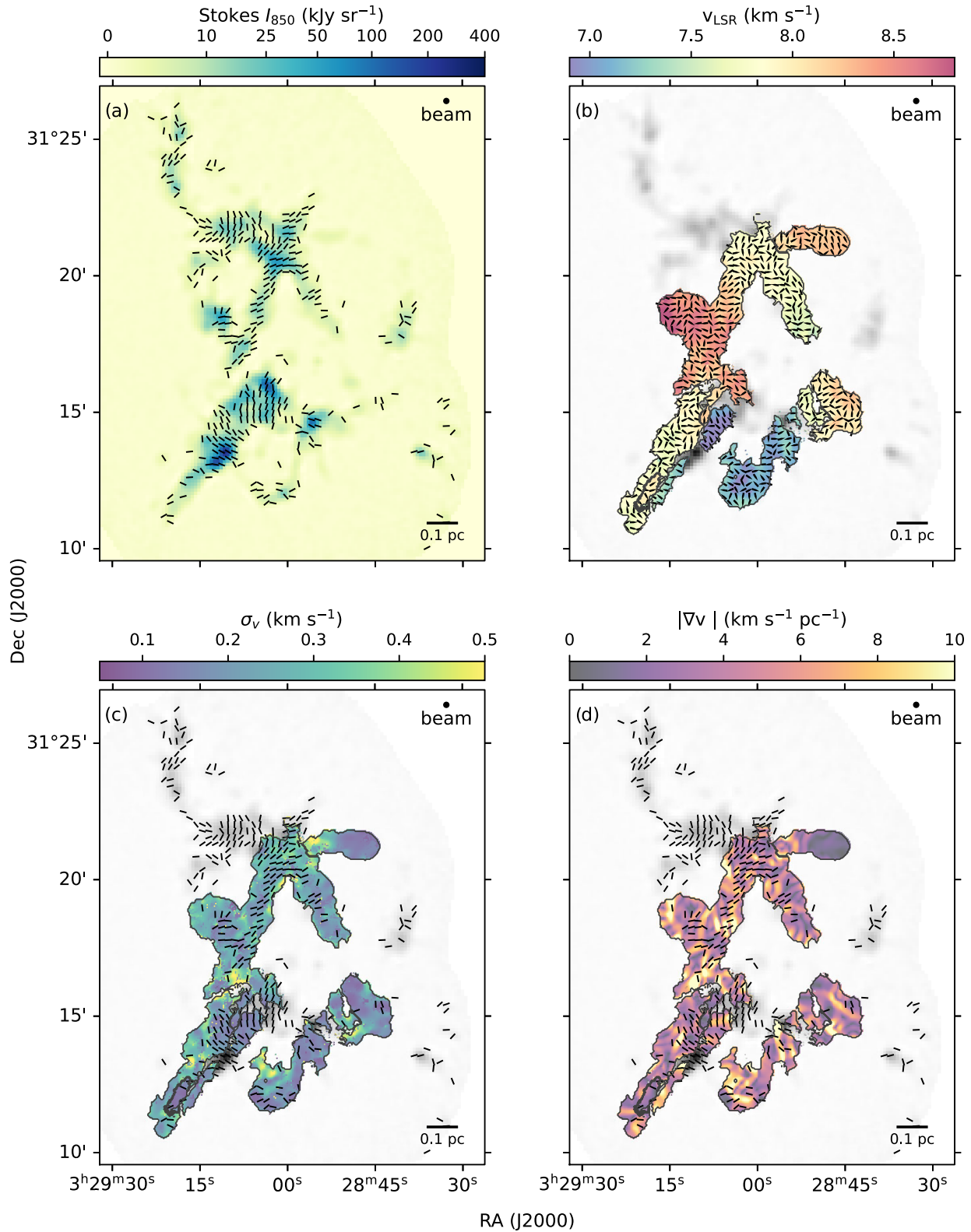


Figure 4. The inferred magnetic field orientation from the BISTRO polarization data of NGC 1333 shown as line segments (polarized half-vectors rotated 90 deg), overlaid on the corresponding BISTRO Stokes I map and the σ_v and $|\nabla v|$ maps of the VCSs in panels a, c, and d, respectively. Only one segment per 14.1 arcsec beam is shown here. The normalized ∇v fields of each VCS are shown in panel b as stylized arrows, with one arrow per beam, overlaid on the v_{LSR} maps from which they are calculated. The BISTRO 850 μm Stokes I data shown in panel a are further displayed in the backgrounds of panels b, c, and d in greyscale.

apply the same analysis to the emission and column density gradients as the velocity gradients.

4.4.1 Global distributions

Fig. 5 shows maps of RO angles between the B field and the gradients of dust emissions (for the 850, 250, and 160 μm data), H_2 column density, and NH_3 velocity centroid. Hereafter, we refer to the gradients in either the thermal dust emission or the column density maps as structure gradients and the gradients in the v_{LSR} as velocity gradients.

As can be seen, the ROs are neither globally uniform nor slowly varying across the entire clump. These ROs, however, are not completely random either and appear locally coherent, with many regions showing preferential parallel or perpendicular alignments. The ROs of the structure gradients (i.e. the emission and column density gradients) share similar localized features with each other but not with their velocity gradient counterpart.

Fig. 6 shows histograms of RO distributions between the B field and each of the structure and velocity gradients. The grey-filled and black open histograms show the RO distribution for all measurements (found within the black contours in Fig. 5) and those from independent, beam-separated measurements, respectively. As described in Section 3.4, only independent measurements are used to calculate the PRS Z_x values. The Z_x values for each histogram are given in the bottom-left corners of each panel. Both B versus ∇v and B versus $\nabla N(\text{H}_2)$ have Z_x values consistent with zero within the measured 1σ uncertainties, indicating there is no global preference for parallel or perpendicular alignments.

By contrast, the RO distributions between B and the dust emission gradients (i.e. ∇I_{850} , ∇I_{250} , ∇I_{160}) appear preferentially parallel. In all three cases, Z_x is positive and inconsistent with zero above $> 2.5\sigma$. This result agrees well with larger scale (10 arcmin; ~ 0.9 pc for Perseus) observations where the magnetic field aligns parallel with structure gradients at high densities that encompass our entire data samples (e.g. Planck Collaboration XIII 2016). Since emission gradients are generally orthogonal to the direction of elongated structures, these results translate to a perpendicular *structure alignment*. On cloud scales, such an alignment has been interpreted as gas contraction and accretion along the magnetic field (Soler & Hennebelle 2017). A similar process may, therefore, explain filament formation at the scale we probe, which are two orders of magnitudes smaller. We will discuss the implication of these global alignments in Section 5.1. Nevertheless, we see pockets of both parallel and perpendicular ROs across NGC 1333 (see Fig. 5) that indicate the localized cloud properties are also important. In the next subsections, we examine the ROs for subregions of NGC 1333.

4.4.2 Local velocity gradients

Fig. 7 (left) shows the nine VCSs identified in NGC 1333 using DBSCAN (see Section 3.2), labelled with letters. We use these labels to identify each VCS in the subsequent analysis. Fig. 8 shows the RO distributions for each of the VCSs, where the light and dark grey histograms represent all pixels and pixels with $N(\text{H}_2) \geq 5 \times 10^{22} \text{ cm}^{-2}$, respectively. Most VCSs do not sufficiently overlap with robust B measurement for reliable PRS calculations. Therefore, we only report the Z_x values for four (out of nine) VCSs with ≥ 15 independent measurements in Fig. 8.

Visually, Fig. 8 shows that most VCSs have no preferred alignments between B and ∇v . *VCS-e* appears to be an exception, with a positive $Z_x > 2.5\sigma$ that indicates the magnetic field is parallel to the velocity gradient in this region. This result is consistent with the qualitative alignment found by D19 over the same area of NGC 1333 using NH_3 -derived velocity gradients with the B -field presented by Doi et al. (2020). D19 argued that a parallel B – ∇v alignment, in addition to the B -field running perpendicular to the dense structure, indicates that this region is likely formed by large-scale compression due to an expanding bubble. D19, however, only performed a single-velocity fit to their 4 arcsec NH_3 data and treated all of NGC 1333 as a single coherent region. As a result, their velocity gradients correspond to a sharp jump between the nearby subregions we identified, *VCS-a* and *VCS-d*, and therefore may not be tracing a kinematically continuous structure. We investigate further the implications of mass flow in compressed, magnetized gas at this region in Section 5.2.

4.4.3 Local structure gradients

We divide NGC 1333 into emission-based regions instead of kinematic-based VCSs for structure gradient analyses. This approach allows us to examine better the local orientations between the B field and the various structure gradients. We employ the watershed method (e.g. Beucher & Meyer 1993) to delineate our regions, which draws boundaries between seeded peaks at locations where the emission structures first meet, marking topological features akin to valleys. We specifically ran the watershed method on the JGBS 850 μm emission map to define structures observed in the same wavelength and with the same facility as the B field data. The right panel of Fig. 7 shows the 16 watershed regions identified in NGC 1333 over pixels where the B field is robustly detected.

Fig. 9 shows the RO distributions between B and ∇I_{850} for each of the 16 watershed regions, with their corresponding PRS Z_x values and errors. The PRS values are calculated from independent measurements only and their corresponding sample size (n) is also given. When examined by eye, some distributions appear to have preferential alignment. For example, *Region-2* and *Region-13* appear to have preferentially parallel alignment, whereas *Region-7* and *Region-12* appear to have preferentially perpendicular alignment. Most of the subregions, however, do not have $|Z_x|$ significantly above zero, partially due to the limited number of independent RO measurements in most regions. The only regions with robust ($Z_x > 2.5\sigma$) PRS measurements are *Region-9* and *Region-13*, which have preferential parallel alignment, and *Region-14*, which shows perpendicular alignment. *Region-13* has a tentative ($> 2\sigma$) preference for parallel alignment that could become more robust with increased sample size. We note that PRS is insensitive to preferential alignment for $\phi \sim 45$ deg. Indeed, *Region-10* shows preferential ~ 45 deg alignment, similar to that found by Doi et al. (2020) in the same region relative to the filament's position angle, and has $|Z_x| < 1\sigma$. Nevertheless, distribution like that of *Region-10* seems rare in NGC 1333. Since the RO distributions between B and the other emission gradients in these watershed regions behave similarly to the 850 μm results, we will not present those results here.

Region-13, *15*, and *16* are located in the vicinity of the nearby B-stars and may, therefore, be influenced by them (see Fig. 1). Stellar feedback from the B-stars can heat dust substantially and potentially alter magnetic field morphology. Interestingly, *Region-13* shows preferential parallel alignment, while *Region-15* and *16* have Z_x values consistent with zero, indicating no preferential alignment.

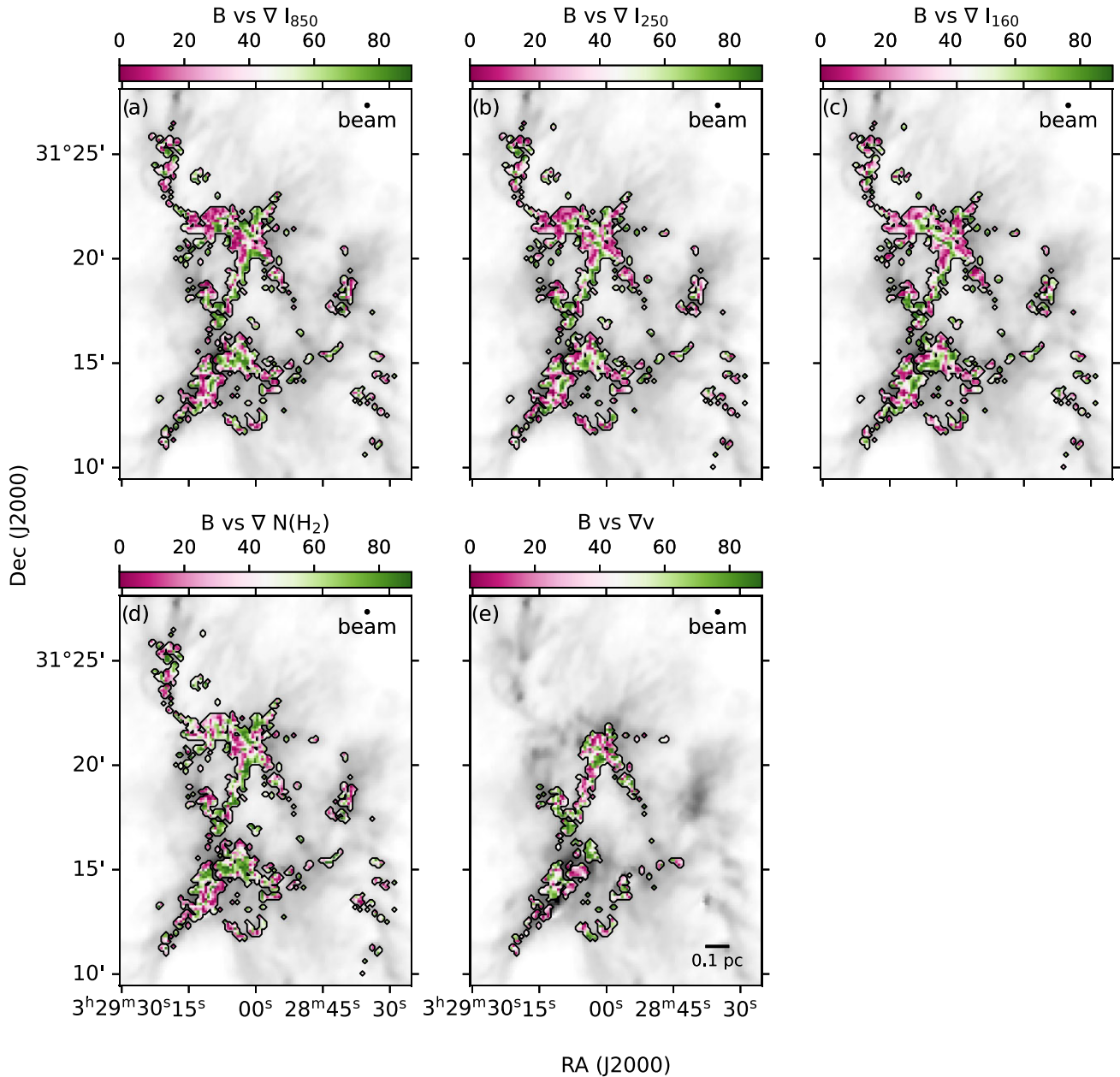


Figure 5. Maps of RO across NGC 1333 as measured between the inferred B field and the gradient fields, i.e. (a) ∇I_{850} (b) ∇I_{250} , (c) ∇I_{160} , (d) $\nabla N(\text{H}_2)$, and (e) ∇v over the same *Herschel*-derived $N(\text{H}_2)$ map from Fig. 1 in greyscale. The black contour shows the region for which measurements of the RO were made. ROs of 0 deg and 90 deg indicate parallel and perpendicular alignments between these fields, respectively (see the text for further details).

We note, however, that the PRS for *Region-15* and *16* may be limited by small sample sizes. Even though *Region-13* has the highest median dust temperature in NGC 1333 (~ 20 K), *Region-15* and *16* are somewhat cooler in comparison (~ 18 K and ~ 14 K, respectively) and may be better shielded from the heating. Indeed, *Region-15* and *16* both contain cool pockets of local overdensities in an otherwise warm, B-star-heated region (see Fig. 1). Similarly, NH_3 is detected towards denser parts of *Region-15* and *16* but not in *Region-13* based on GAS observations (Friesen et al. 2017) which cover the north-east quadrant of NGC 1333 unlike the data presented here. The non-detection of NH_3 in *Region-13* from the GAS data is consistent with that expected for a warm, low column density region (see also,

panels d and f of Fig. 1) due to the gas chemistry and excitation conditions there.

We examined the relationship between Z_x and the median $N(\text{H}_2)$, T_d , $|\nabla v|$, and σ_v for each subregion, but found no clear correlation. By contrast, we find correlations when binning the RO measurements by gas properties instead of defined subregions (see Section 5.4). This distinction suggests that our watershed regions contain a mix of gas populations that erases any potential alignment trends on these scales when averaged. For example, many of these regions can contain both pre- and protostellar sources, which can have significantly different dust temperatures. We discuss the effect of gas properties further in Section 5.4.

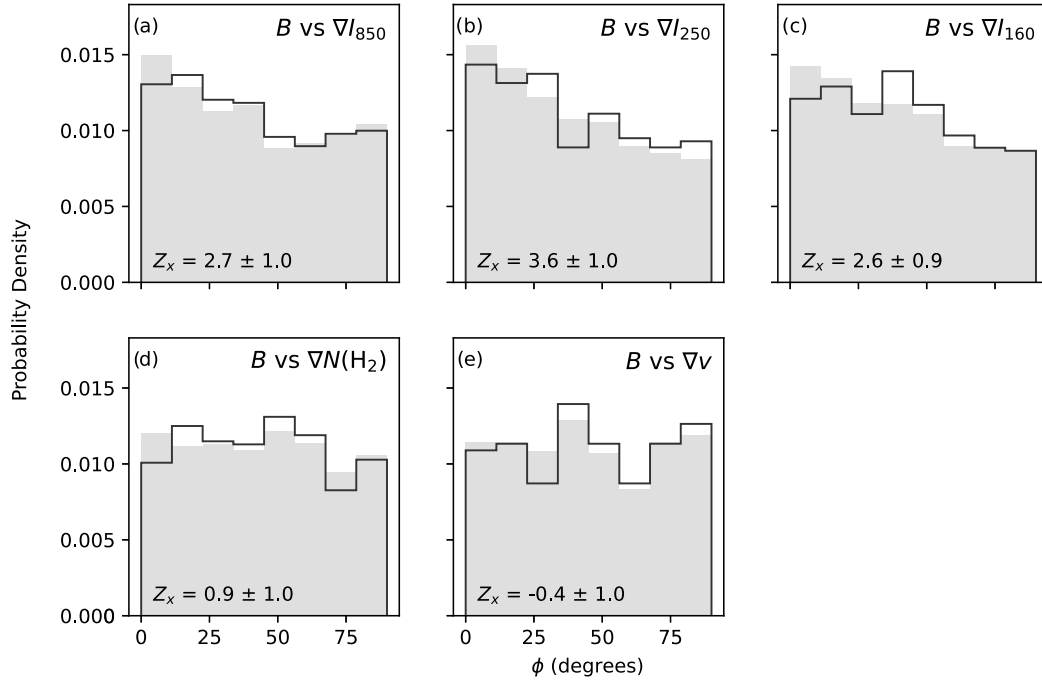


Figure 6. Histograms showing the RO (ϕ) distributions in NGC 1333 between the magnetic field and the four structure gradients (i.e. ∇I_{850} , ∇I_{250} , ∇I_{160} , $\nabla N(\text{H}_2)$) and the velocity centroid gradient (∇v). All histograms have been normalized to show probability density functions. The grey-filled histograms show the distribution of all the pixels, while the black-open histograms show the results for independent measurements only (e.g. one measurement per beam). The Projected Rayleigh Statistics (PRS) Z_x and for the independent measurements (open histograms) and its 1σ uncertainty (see Section 3.4) are given in the bottom-left corners of each panel.

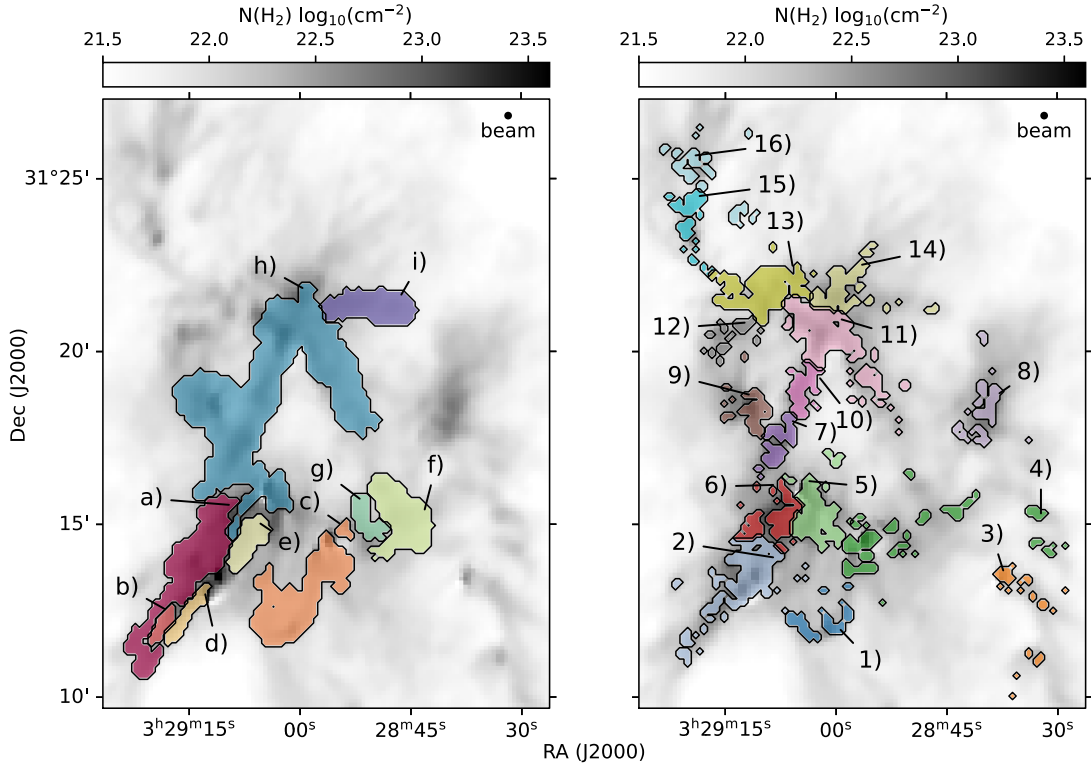


Figure 7. Definition of subregions in NGC 1333 in colour with the same *Herschel*-derived $N(\text{H}_2)$ map from Fig. 1 in greyscale. Left: The VCSs identified from DBSCAN clustering. Right: Subregions determined by using the watershed method on the 850 μm data, for only where B field is robustly detected. Each subregion is indicated by a unique colour and label.

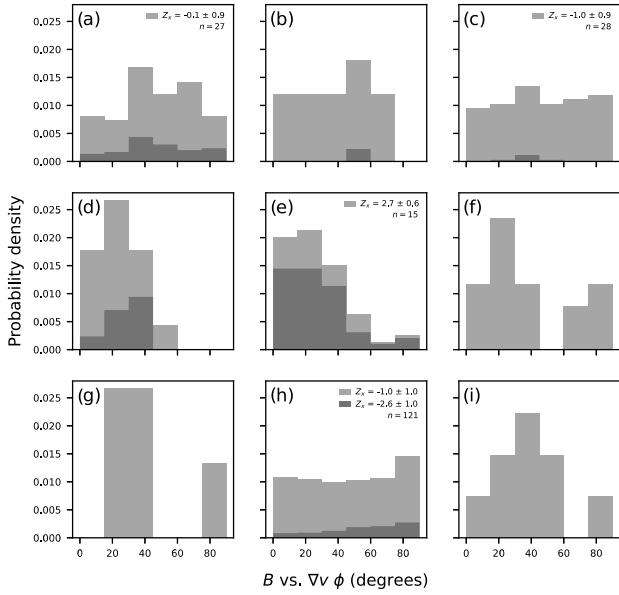


Figure 8. Normalized histograms of RO between B field and ∇v for each of the VCSs (see left panel of Fig. 7 for labels). The light and dark grey histograms represent all the RO measurements and those taken at $N(\text{H}_2) \geq 5 \times 10^{22} \text{ cm}^{-2}$, respectively. Z_x values of distributions with ≥ 14 independent measurements are shown in the top-right corner, accompanied by the number of independent measurements for the entire region.

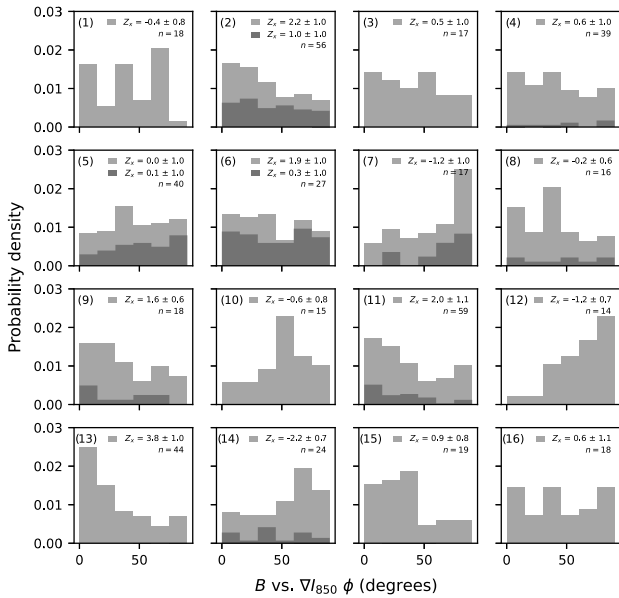


Figure 9. Normalized histograms of RO distributions for the B field and ∇I_{850} for each of the watershed regions in NGC 1333 (see right panel of Fig. 7 for the labels). The dark and light grey histograms, as well as the conventions for the annotated Z values, are the same as in Fig. 8.

5 DISCUSSION

5.1 Global alignments and structure formation

In Section 4.4.1, we found that the magnetic field and the emission gradients are preferentially aligned in parallel on average in NGC

1333. In terms of the convention more commonly expressed in the literature, i.e. structure alignment, our results indicate that the magnetic field is preferentially aligned perpendicular to the density structures themselves, similar to those seen on larger scales by Planck Collaboration XIII (2016). Such an alignment has been attributed to structures forming via gas contraction and accretion along the magnetic field (Soler & Hennebelle 2017). Similarly, MHD simulations by Chen & Ostriker (2015), which look at filament and magnetic field alignments on ~ 0.05 pc scales comparable to our study, also found preferential perpendicular alignment at a gas density $\gtrsim 2 \times 10^{22} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ (Chen, King & Li 2016b), consistent with our results. In these simulations, dense structures (e.g. filaments and cores) were initially seeded as overdensities in post-shock regions and subsequently grew through gas accretion along the magnetic field lines. The transition from parallel to perpendicular structure alignment occurs at a regime where the kinetic energy of the gas structure dominates over the magnetic support (Chen et al. 2016b). The resulting gravitational contraction in this regime then distorts the magnetic field, causing more perpendicular alignment between the POS magnetic field and the gas structures.

Doi et al. (2020) found no global structure alignment between the magnetic field and filament position angles in NGC 1333 using the same polarization data. Nevertheless, they did find these relative alignments to be fairly uniform within individual filaments and demonstrated that the magnetic field orientation could be perpendicular to the filaments in 3D relative and only appear misaligned due to varying inclinations. Using geometric models, Doi et al. showed that the magnetic field should be preferentially perpendicular to the density structure, even for filaments randomly oriented in 3D. Our results here are thus consistent with such a simple geometric model, where filaments are assumed to align perpendicularly to the magnetic field in 3D but have random inclination angles relative to the lines of sight.

The global RO distribution between B and $\nabla N(\text{H}_2)$ does not show the same trends as their emission gradient counterparts. This discrepancy is initially unexpected, given that the 160, 250, and 850 μm dust emissions are expected to approximate the column densities well to the first order, and suggests that higher order effects are influencing the column density map relative to the emission maps. For example, dust emission and polarization maps can be sensitive to warmer structures, particularly at shorter wavelengths. Optically thin dust emissions and their polarized components can thus be weighted more by temperature than column density along the lines of sight. This higher order effect likely explains why the trends between the B field and the emission gradients are not found in their column density counterpart. We will discuss the evidence for temperature bias further in Section 5.4.2, where we find emission structures to align more perpendicularly with the magnetic field at higher dust temperatures. Appendix C1 also demonstrates how the column density map resembles the dust emission maps, particularly 850 μm , at low temperatures and less so as dust temperature increases.

In addition to temperature biases, we note that the 18.2 arcsec column density map adopted in this paper was derived assuming a fixed dust opacity spectral index (β) using the 36 arcsec *Herschel*-derived dust temperature map (Pezzuto et al. 2021). The β values in NGC 1333 near protostars and outflows, however, tend to be lower than those assumed for the *Herschel* column density maps (Chen et al. 2016b). The 36 arcsec T_d map also likely overestimates the spatial extent of the protostellar heating relative to what would be needed for a 18.2 arcsec column density map, considering how compact the protostellar-heated sources are in the 160 μm data (see Fig. 1). Given that the *Herschel* column density map was derived

from a single-component spectral energy distribution (SED) model, such an error in the dust temperature estimation can propagate into the 18.2 arcsec-resolution column density map. Indeed, Fig. 1 shows halo-like artefacts around protostellar sources SVS 13 and IRAS 2 in the column density map. Considering that protostellar heating can also give rise to varying temperature profiles along the lines of sight, a single-component, isothermal SED model used to derive the column density map may fail to capture the observed emission adequately even if the dust temperature resolution is not a problem. For example, Appendix C shows that the 18.2 arcsec- and 36 arcsec resolution column density gradients tend to agree well with each other, suggesting that any issues with the resolution are highly localized. Due to column density gradients being sensitive to these modelling limitations and the fact that dust emission and polarization are inherently temperature-weighted along the lines of sight, we caution against overinterpreting the $\nabla N(\text{H}_2)$ gradient results.

Comparable analyses with *Planck* (e.g. Planck Collaboration XIII 2016) probe structure alignments using column density structures and on much larger scales. As a result, most of their independent measurements are dominated by what is considered low-column density ($< 2.5 \times 10^{22} \text{ cm}^{-2}$) material in our study. Indeed, the fact that the 10 arcmin *Planck* beam is about 33 times that of our column density counterpart map suggests that their beams tend to sample more diffuse gas that is less shielded from the interstellar radiation fields (ISRF), even when pointed towards the highest column density regions. The *Planck* column density map, derived from *Planck* emission maps, is thus more biased towards the warmer gas than our *Herschel*-derived column density map and is likely in better agreement with the gas traced by our dust emission maps. This similarity likely explains why our emission structural alignments with the B field agree more with the *Planck* result than our column density alignments. We caution, however, that the scales of the *Planck* study are substantially larger than those we study. For reference, the entirety of our BISTRO data of NGC 1333 is only about two of *Planck*'s 10 arcmin beams in size.

Soler (2019) also performed similar analyses using the *Planck* B field measurements with 36 arcsec *Herschel*-derived column density maps. In Perseus South, which contains NGC 1333, they found no preferential alignment ($Z_x \sim 0$) at $N(\text{H}) \gtrsim 3 \times 10^{22} \text{ cm}^{-2}$. For the nearby ($d < 450 \text{ pc}$) molecular clouds in general, they only found weak perpendicular alignments ($|Z_x| \lesssim 2\sigma$) at $N(\text{H}) \gtrsim 8 \times 10^{21} \text{ cm}^{-2}$. While these results are consistent with ours, the scale for which the *Planck* data probes B field is still substantially larger than that probed by POL-2. It is thus difficult to interpret the significance of the non-alignment results in their study, both in relation to ours and those by Planck Collaboration XIII (2016).

5.2 Local mass flows in a compressed region

From the VCSs identified in NGC 1333, most of them showed no preferred alignment between the local velocity gradients and magnetic field. Only one region, *VCS-e*, had significant alignment. *VCS-e* shows a preferential parallel alignment between its velocity gradient and the magnetic field. This region is located on a ridge in NGC 1333 that D19 interpreted to have been formed by large-scale compression, likely driven by an expanding bubble. D19 argued that the qualitative alignment between their velocity gradients and the magnetic field measured by Doi et al. (2020) indicates the presence of mass flow along a magnetic field, similar to those found in shock-compressed regions in MHD simulations (Chen & Ostriker 2014, 2015). D19, however, only performed a single-velocity fit to their 4 arcsec NH_3 data and treated their entire v_{LSR} map of NGC 1333 as

a single coherent region. We will thus be revisiting this region with the VCSs identified from the two-component fits to the 14.1 arcsec NH_3 data.

The extended velocity front that D19 identified as a source of compression actually corresponds to a fairly sharp v_{LSR} jump between two distinct groups of VCSs: the first group consisting of *VCS-d* and *VCS-e* with lower v_{LSR} values of $\sim 7 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ and a second, adjacent group consisting of *VCS-a* and *VCS-b* with higher v_{LSR} values of $\sim 8 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ (see Fig. 3 and Fig. 7). The velocity gradient front inferred by D19, therefore, may not necessarily correspond to a kinematically continuous structure (i.e. velocity coherent), and should be considered inter-VCS in nature. The velocity gradients we measured, however, are strictly within the identified VCSs, and thus, they are intra-VCS by definition.

Despite our velocity gradients being intra-VCSs, the ∇v we found in *VCS-e* still aligns perpendicularly to the magnetic field, similar to the inter-VCSs ∇v found by D19 between *VCS-a* and *VCS-e*. Such an agreement suggests that a common process is driving these two types of velocity gradients. For example, the inter-VCS and intra-VCS velocity may trace the global and local convergence flows seen in the MHD simulations by Chen & Ostriker (2014, 2015). In these simulations, the global flow is driven by large-scale turbulence, and the local flow is driven by gravity. Under this scenario, the initial turbulent compression first forms a denser post-shock region. The overdensities (e.g. filaments) that emerged within this region then subsequently drive accretion along the B field via self-gravity. Such an accretion can manifest in the preferential parallel alignments between the B field and ∇v , like those we found in *VCS-e*. Indeed, synthetic observations of these simulations, focused on a similar regime as our observations, were compared with Serpens South observations to infer such flows (Chen et al. 2020a).

To quantify the ratio between the gravitational potential and the kinetic energies of the flow observed in *VCS-e*, we adopt the analytic expression $C_v \equiv \Delta v_{\text{h}}^2 / (GM/L)$ proposed by Chen et al. (2020a). Here, Δv_{h} is the LOS velocity difference across half a filament, M/L is the filament's mass per unit length, and G is the gravitational constant. A C_v value less than unity indicates a flow driven predominately by gravity, while a C_v greater than unity indicates a flow driven by non-gravitational processes such as turbulence or expanding bubbles. For *VCS-e*, we measure an intra-VCS Δv_{h} of $\sim 0.3 \text{ km s}^{-1}$. If we adopt $M/L = 83 M_{\odot} \text{ pc}^{-1}$ from Hacar et al. (2017) for their *filament 10*, the structure onto which *VCS-e* seemingly accretes, then resulting ratio value is $C_v \sim 0.3$. This C_v value is well below unity and indicates that the flow within *VCS-e* is gravitationally driven and is consistent with those found with synthetic observations of simulations by Chen et al. (2020a) at the epoch when filaments have formed prominently.

Since gas flows physically moving towards each other can manifest as distinct VCSs in observations (Clarke et al. 2018), the inter-VCS velocities can still contain important information regarding converging flows, such as those driven by expanding bubbles. If we instead use the inter-VCS Δv_{h} of $\sim 1.0 \text{ km s}^{-1}$, a lower limit measured between *VCS-e* and *VCS-a* in the region centred on the *filament 10* from Hacar et al. (2017), then we get $C_v \sim 3.1$, which is significantly larger than unity. Similarly, D19 found $C_v > 1$ at and around *VCS-e*. Such a C_v would indicate a flow that is driven predominately by non-gravitation means.

The discrepancy between the intra- and inter-VCS C_v values, however, are not necessarily contradictory. In fact, these two values can be reconciled under a single theoretical model, where the former and the latter correspond to the two stages of dense filament formation in simulations by Chen & Ostriker (2014, 2015) and Inoue et al.

(2018; see also review by Pineda et al. 2023). Under this scenario, a large-scale compressing flow, driven by turbulence or an expanding bubble, can produce distinct observable VCSs with inter-VCS C_v values larger than unity. When such a flow collides and becomes relatively stagnant in the compressed region, the overdensities within the region can drive gravity-dominated accretion flows, resulting in velocity-continuous intra-VCS flows with $C_v < 1$, such as in VCS-*e*. The simultaneous observations of these two flows suggest that the initial turbulent flows may have only made partial contact and, thus, not completely destroyed in the collisional process forming the compressed region. Two-component spectral fitting and VCS identification, however, are needed to identify these flows properly.

5.3 Core contraction or rotation

Even though VCS-*h*, the largest VCS in NGC 1333 by spatial extent, does not show a preferred alignment between B and ∇v overall, the two fields are preferentially aligned perpendicularly at pixels with $N(\text{H}_2) \geq 5 \times 10^{22} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ ($> 2.5\sigma$ detection; see Fig. 8). These high column density regions are fairly compact and likely dominated by the dense cores embedded in the filament (e.g. Doi et al. 2020). As such, the perpendicular alignments between B and ∇v may indicate gravitational contraction towards dense cores along a direction that is perpendicular to the B field support rather than flowing along the field lines. Alternatively, the perpendicular alignment could be due to the magnetic field and the velocity gradient tracing different scales in gravitationally dominant regions. Under this scenario, the contraction flows traced by the velocity gradient can significantly distort the magnetic field inside dense structures and consequently depolarize the dust emission there (e.g. Chen et al. 2016b). This causes the observed dust polarization to predominately trace the natal magnetic field outside the dense region that is perpendicular to the gas flow that distorts the magnetic field inside (e.g. Gómez et al. 2018).

Rather than gravitational contraction, the ∇v seen towards these dense regions could be dominated by core rotation instead. In this case, the preferential perpendicular alignment between B and ∇v would be contrary to the results found in simulations by Chen & Ostriker (2018) and the $10'$ large-scale study conducted with *Planck* polarization and single-dish 32 arcsec NH_3 data by Pandhi et al. (2023). Those studies both found no alignment between core angular momentum and the global B field. The number of compact, dense structures in VCS-*h* adopted by Doi et al. (2020), however, is low ($n \sim 5$). Moreover, the *Planck* data used by Pandhi et al. (2023) has a substantially lower resolution than our B field data and thus traces much larger scale B fields. Further comparison between our result and their work must account for these differences. More RO measurements that extend throughout NGC 1333 with more sensitive B field measurements and better NH_3 spatial coverage will also need to be investigated further.

5.4 Correlations with gas properties

In Section 4.4.3, we showed that PRS of individual local regions does not correlate with their respective median gas properties. In this section, we examine the PRS in different gas property regimes sampled globally based on their percentile values rather than their spatial proximity. Specifically, we divide our samples into equal-size bins by percentile ranges for $N(\text{H}_2)$, T_d , $|\nabla v|$, and σ_v and compute a Z_x value for each bin, with percentile values computed only for pixels where the gas property and the relative orientation are robustly measured. This approach tests the general field alignment

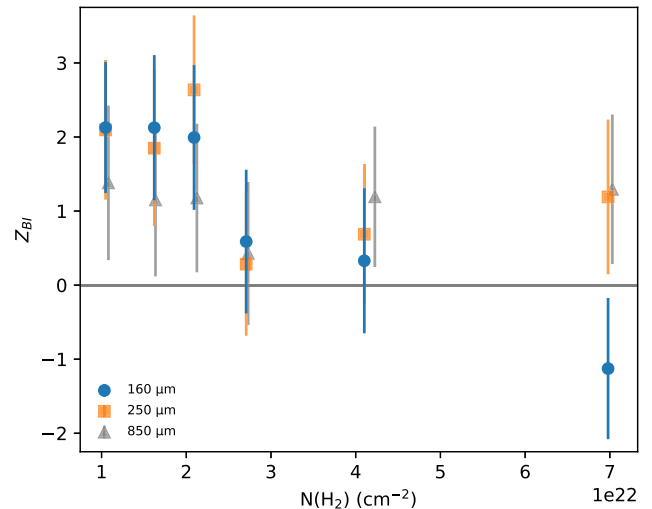


Figure 10. PRS values between B and the 160, 250, and 850 μm emission maps (i.e. Z_{BI}) measured over $N(\text{H}_2)$ ranges defined by equal-size bins and represented by the median bin value. The size of each bin is 70 pixels. The different symbols correspond to each of the emission maps, and the error bars show 1σ uncertainties.

for material under similar physical conditions within NGC 1333 regardless of where these pixels are found. Using this approach, we found trends between Z_{BI} and these four gas properties, but not for Z_{BN} and Z_{Bv} . We will thus focus solely on Z_{BI} in our discussion here.

5.4.1 Alignment correlation with column densities

We divided NGC 1333 into six equal-sized bins of 70 pixels based on column density ranges in increments of 16.7 percentiles, and then measured their corresponding PRS. We only use independent RO measurements for the PRS calculation. We further note that the RO measurements in these column density bins are from pixels that are located spatially throughout the cloud, making many of our samples spatially independent beyond just the beam separation.

Fig. 10 shows the PRS for each of the emission gradients, Z_{BI} , plotted against their respective median bin $N(\text{H}_2)$ values. The 160 μm data show a general anticorrelation for Z_{BI} , similar to that found in Oph A on a comparable scale using 154 μm observations (Lee et al. 2021). Such a trend indicates that the magnetic field starts out being parallel to the dust emission gradients (perpendicular to elongated structures) at our lowest column densities ($\sim 1 \times 10^{22} \text{ cm}^{-2}$) but then transitions to no preferred alignment or more perpendicular alignment at higher column densities. For the 250 and 850 μm emission maps there are hints of an anticorrelation for $N(\text{H}_2) \lesssim 4.5 \times 10^{22} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ too, but the trend is less clear.

Higher (more positive) Z_{BI} values in the lowest column density bins are consistent with the results of *Planck* Collaboration XIII (2016). Our parallel alignment between B and the emission gradients match the general *Planck*-derived perpendicular alignment to the structure elongations at $N(\text{H}) \gtrsim 5 \times 10^{21} \text{ cm}^{-2}$, although this transitional column density is well below all our samples in NGC 1333. Even though we probe spatial scales that are much smaller than those from the *Planck* study, synthetic observations of MHD simulations on our scales show that such an alignment can still arise from accretion along magnetic fields when gravity starts to dominate over magnetic support (Chen et al. 2016b). Indeed, considering all the dense filaments in NGC 1333 are significantly thermally supercritical

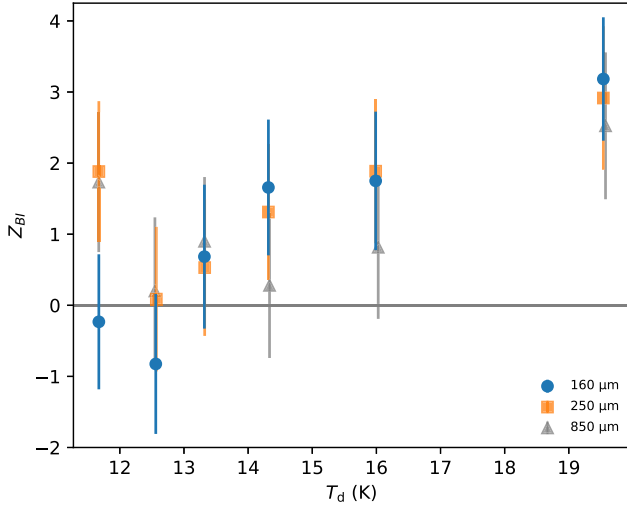


Figure 11. Same as Fig. 10, but calculated from 70-pixel-size T_d bins.

(e.g. Hacar et al. 2017; Chen et al. 2024, submitted), the parallel alignment between the emission gradient and B in our lower column density bins likely results from gravity dominating over magnetic support.

As gravity becomes more dominant towards higher densities, contracting structures can drag and distort the magnetic field significantly inwards. The complexity of such a distortion in 3D can cause the projected 2D alignments to shift or wash out, resulting in depolarization (Chen et al. 2016b). Indeed, Doi et al. (2021) found filament widths measured in polarized emission in NGC 1333 to be consistent with pinched magnetic field distortion under simple contraction models. Unresolved complex field morphologies likely explain why our Z_{BI} trends towards no preferred alignment with increasing column densities.

Similarly, field alignment can also change at the highest column densities due to the B field being dragged along and becoming relatively parallel to elongated structures like filaments, similar to those seen in simulations by Gómez et al. (2018). Observationally, Pillai et al. (2020) found a transition to parallel structure alignment at $N(\text{H}_2) \gtrsim 2 \times 10^{22} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ in Serpens South’s filament-hub system using 214 μm polarization data. Monsch et al. (2018) also saw parallel alignment between B and a high-density filament in Orion A using 850 μm polarization data. Therefore, the extended trend of the 160 μm data having B transition to perpendicular alignment relative to the emission gradient (parallel to elongated structures) in Fig. 10 may similarly correspond to field lines being dragged by gravitational distortions. We caution, however, that the PRS statistics in the highest column density bin have weak alignment signals ($|Z_{BI}| \sim 1$) and more data are needed to confirm whether this trend is robust and unique to the 160 μm emission structures.

5.4.2 Alignment correlation with dust temperatures

Fig. 11 shows Z_{BI} plotted against their respective T_d values for six temperature-binned regimes using 70-pixel bins (following Section 5.4.1). In general, Z_{BI} shows a positive correlation between Z_{BI} and temperature for all three dust emission maps. A positive correlation with the temperature suggests that the B field tends to align parallel to the emission gradients (perpendicular to the structure) in warmer gas. Since our high-temperature pixels are dominated by diffuse, larger scale gas around the B-stars (see Fig.

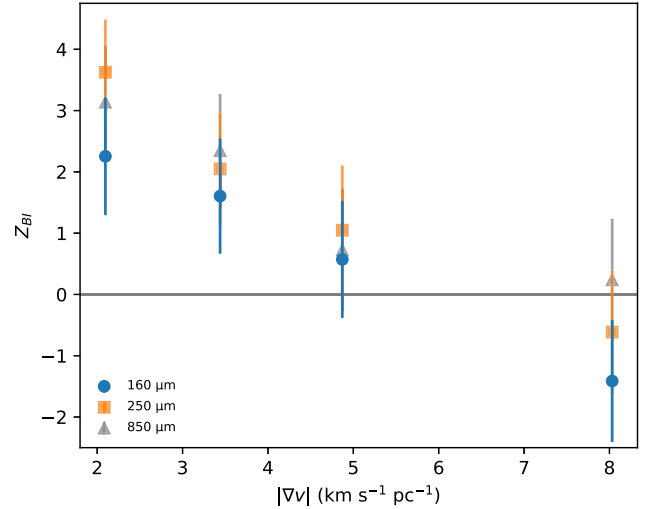


Figure 12. Same as Fig. 10, but calculated from 50-pixel-size $|\nabla v|$ bins.

1), the less-shielded diffuse gas structures appear to be most aligned with the magnetic field. Indeed, the highest T_d samples seen in Fig. 11 are mostly found at *Region 13*, which is predominately heated by B stars in their vicinity (Chen et al. 2016a). This warm watershed region’s PRS also showed the strongest parallel alignment with the emission gradient in NGC 1333 (see Section 4.4.3). Assuming denser gas is better shielded and hence colder than its more diffuse counterparts, the correlation between Z_{BI} and T_d is also consistent with the anticorrelation between Z_{BI} and $N(\text{H}_2)$ seen in Fig. 10.

Similar to the highest column density Z_{BI} values seen in Fig. 10, the intensity gradients only deviate from the same general trend at the lowest T_d bin. Since the highest $N(\text{H}_2)$ and the lowest T_d bins likely trace the densest pre- and protostellar cores, the deviation in the trend may be associated with early instances of localized collapse. The lack of elevated T_d near the protostellar sample in the lowest T_d bin suggests that their associated YSOs are fairly young and deeply embedded. The different behaviour of Z_{BI} between the 160 μm data and the 250 and 850 μm data in these bins are likely due to 160 μm map being more sensitive to the warmer gas along lines of sight, e.g. the YSO-heated inner region of a protostellar core or the warmer envelopes of a pre-stellar core.

5.4.3 Alignment correlation with gas kinematics

To see if the magnetic field shows any preferred alignment with the gas kinematics, we calculated Z_{BI} with pixels binned according to their $|\nabla v|$ and σ_v values. We use 50-pixel bins for both measurements, corresponding to 25-percentile increments (following the same approach as with the column density maps in Section 5.4.1). We chose a smaller bin size here to accommodate the smaller overlaps between the B field and the NH_3 detections and ensure at least four PRS measurements across each gas property.

Figs 12 and 13 show trends of Z_{BI} in relation to $|\nabla v|$ and σ_v , respectively, for each emission map. We find an anticorrelation between Z_{BI} and both $|\nabla v|$ and σ_v in all three wavelengths. The similarity between the two anticorrelations, however, is unexpected, given that $|\nabla v|$ and σ_v exhibit very different morphologies and do not correlate well with each other (e.g. see Fig. 3). While velocity gradients can arise from large-scale flows, rotation, or contraction (see Section 5.3), the velocity gradient in NGC 1333 on the scale we probe ($\sim 0.02 \text{ pc}$) seems to be dominated by ripple structures

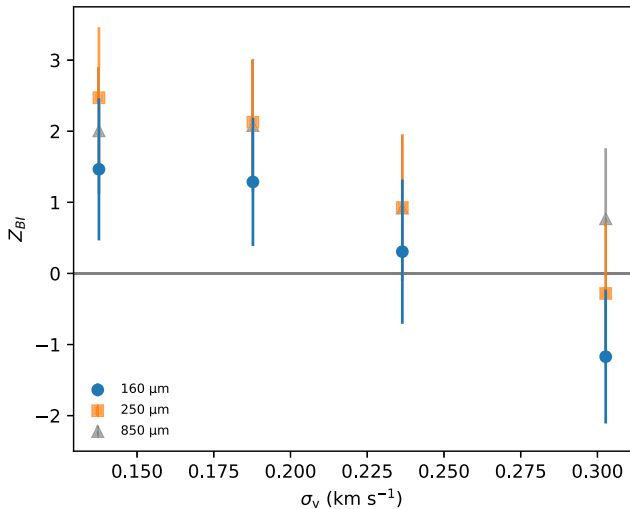


Figure 13. Same as Fig. 10, but calculated from 50-pixel-size σ_v bins.

(see Fig. 3). These ripples appear to be wave-like in nature, likely driven by gravo-acoustic or MHD waves. The elevated σ_v , on the other hand, is most likely turbulent in nature, given that the NH_3 gas temperatures do not vary significantly in NGC 1333 (Friesen et al. 2017). These elevated σ_v can be driven by processes such as accretion. We further discuss the relationship between Z_{BI} and $|\nabla v|$, as well as σ_v , in the next Section 5.5 and Section 5.6, respectively.

5.5 Disturbance from MHD waves

The ripple-like features in the $|\nabla v|$ maps (see Fig. 3) have been previously seen with NH_3 in NGC 1333 on the 0.05 pc scale (Chen et al. 2020b) and in Perseus B5 on the 0.01 pc scale (Chen et al. 2022). These features appear to be small-scale perturbations on top of the larger scale velocity gradients that likely trace mass transports such as accretion flows (e.g. Chen et al. 2020a). When taking a few sample slices through the ripples perpendicularly, we find the ridge-to-ridge and valley-to-valley distance in our data to be quasi-periodic, with lengths that range between 0.02 and 0.04 pc.

Similar ripples have been found along filaments in line-of-sight velocities observed with other tracers, such as CO (e.g. Hacar et al. 2013) and N_2H^+ (e.g. Tafalla & Hacar 2015), as well as in hydrodynamic simulations (e.g. Clarke et al. 2016). In their simulations, Clarke et al. (2016) found ripples in supercritical filaments seeded initially by gravo-acoustic oscillations in the subcritical accretion phase of the filament. In MHD models, Alfvén and magnetosonic waves are able to propagate in directions parallel and perpendicular to the unperturbed magnetic fields, respectively (e.g. Tritsis & Tassis 2016, 2018). Such waves can be excited by stellar feedback, such as outflows and expanding stellar wind shells, and can enhance turbulent energy transfer from the local scale to the cloud scale (Offner & Liu 2018). Given that NGC 1333 is a fairly active star-forming region with a large number of outflows (e.g. Arce et al. 2010), we expect it to be capable of exciting such waves.

As seen in Fig. 4(d), the magnetic field tends to align perpendicular to the ripple features in many places, particularly towards *Regions 9* and *10*. If we assume valleys of the $|\nabla v|$ ripples trace wavefronts, where wave motions are expected to be locally stagnant, then our results would be consistent with the expected behaviour of Alfvén waves, where the waves propagate along the B field. In some limited areas, however, such as the south-eastern part of *Region 11*, the

ripples can align in parallel with the magnetic field, consistent with the behaviour of magnetosonic waves. Since magnetosonic waves can be non-linearly coupled with Alfvén waves (Heyvaerts & Priest 1983), it is possible that both types of waves remain important in NGC 1333. We note that inclination effects must be properly accounted for to interpret the wave propagation directions well. Nevertheless, the preferential alignments between the prominent $|\nabla v|$ ripples and the magnetic field suggest that these ripples are driven by MHD waves.

Regardless of the exact nature of the $|\nabla v|$ ripples, pixels with lower $|\nabla v|$ values likely trace the gas least perturbed by these ripples (see Fig. 12). The strong parallel alignment between the B field and emission gradients at the lower $|\nabla v|$ bin may thus correspond to a ‘pristine’ alignment, similar to those we found globally in NGC 1333 (see Fig. 6). Such a global alignment is dominated in pixel count by the warmer, more diffuse gas with emission gradients aligned preferentially parallel to the magnetic field (see Section 5.4.1 and 5.4.2). If such a parallel gradient alignment (i.e. perpendicular structure alignment) is indeed pristine, then it is likely inherited from the same trend found on the larger scales for $N(\text{H}) \geq 5 \times 10^{21} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ (Planck Collaboration XIII 2016), which corresponds to the initial configuration in this density regime before gravity distorts the B field significantly on the smaller scales (see Section 5.4.1).

The anticorrelation between Z_{BI} and $|\nabla v|$ seen in Fig. 12 thus suggests that as $|\nabla v|$ increases, the $B - \nabla v$ alignment becomes more perturbed from such pristine alignments. Given that most of the higher $|\nabla v|$ pixels come from ripple-like structures, MHD waves are likely the primary driver of these perturbations. Nevertheless, since many of the Class 0/I YSOs identified by Dunham et al. (2015) are located within a beam of the highest $|\nabla v|$ bin pixels, instances of local collapse may also contribute to the trends in that bin. Indeed, the $|\nabla v|$ structure indicative of an infall towards the densest pre-stellar ‘condensate’ in Persues B5 have distinctly higher $|\nabla v|$ values than the ripple structures seen throughout the B5 sub filaments (Chen et al. 2022).

5.6 Disturbances from infalls

Similar to the $Z_{BI} - |\nabla v|$, we find an anticorrelation between Z_{BI} and σ_v (see Fig. 13). This anticorrelation, however, is unlikely to be driven by the decrease in Z_{BI} with increasing $|\nabla v|$ discussed in the previous section. The fact that σ_v and $|\nabla v|$ do not correlate well with each other and are morphologically dissimilar (see Fig. 3) implies that the two trends are not causally linked, at least not directly. There are a few exceptions where compact areas with $\sigma_v > 0.5 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ appear to correlate with high $|\nabla v|$ regions, but these areas are mostly located outside of where the B field is robustly detected (see Fig. 4).

Interestingly, despite protostellar cores having larger σ_v than their pre-stellar counterparts when observed at a lower resolution (Kirk, Johnstone & Tafalla 2007), the pixels neighbouring Class 0/I YSOs in our VCSs (within ~ 1 beam) do not necessarily display significantly higher σ_v values compared to each VCS’s overall σ_v . The median σ_v within a beam of Class 0/I YSOs is 0.16 km s^{-1} while the median σ_v within the VCSs is 0.22 km s^{-1} . This lack of elevated σ_v near YSOs suggests that accretion-driven turbulence associated with protostellar infall (e.g. Klessen & Hennebelle 2010) is not the main driver behind the elevated $\text{NH}_3\sigma_v$ seen in VCSs, particularly where the B field is robustly detected.

We also find no correlation between elevated σ_v and locations of protostellar outflows, indicating that higher σ_v regions in NGC 1333 are not driven by outflows either, consistent with the single-dish NH_3 findings in NGC 1333 (Chen et al. 2020b). Instead, higher

σ_v pixels tend to be found towards the outskirts of VCSs. This behaviour is qualitatively similar to the ‘transitions to coherence’ towards denser structures found by single-dish observations (e.g. Pineda et al. 2010) and the trend found by Chen et al. (2022) at a higher resolution, where the $\text{NH}_3\sigma_v$ increases radially from subfilament spines. Such a trend can result from the top-down turbulence cascades from the cloud (Federrath 2016), a consequence of ongoing hierarchical collapse (Vázquez-Semadeni et al. 2019) or accretion-driven turbulence (Heigl et al. 2020). Due to limited spatial overlap between B field detections and the VCS footprints, our RO measurements tend to be found in the lower σ_v regions towards denser structures, further from the VCS edges (see Fig. 4). The only exception is the northern part of *VCS-h* around *Region 11* (see Fig. 7), where the B field is detected towards lower column density structures due to higher dust temperatures in the region.

The anticorrelation between Z_{BI} and σ_v indicates that the physical mechanism that drives increased σ_v can also perturb the alignments between B and the emission gradients from its pristine parallel state. As σ_v increases, such alignments become less parallel (see Fig. 13). The perturbation behind this trend may predominately come from disturbances to the B field due to accretion, which can result in increased σ_v in our observations either directly as unresolved infall motions (Vázquez-Semadeni et al. 2019) or indirectly as accretion-driven turbulence (Heigl et al. 2020). While the top-down turbulent cascade (Federrath 2016) can also explain the behaviour of increased σ_v in NGC 1333, if the B field alignment was disturbed purely by cascading turbulence rather than local infall, then the effect would be more pronounced in the larger scale diffuse gas than their denser counterparts. Our finding where Z_{BI} anticorrelates with column density (see Section 5.4.1), however, does not support this interpretation. The decrease of Z_{BI} towards higher σ_v is thus more likely caused by accretion-driven disturbance to the alignments than by the top-down turbulence cascade.

6 CONCLUSIONS

For the NGC 1333 region, we examined the alignment between the local magnetic field, B , inferred from POL-2/JCMT observations and the gradient fields from maps of thermal dust emission at 850, 250, and 160 μm , *Herschel*-derived column density, and NH_3 velocity centroid, i.e. ∇I_{850} , ∇I_{250} , ∇I_{160} , $\nabla N(\text{H}_2)$, and ∇v , respectively. For the velocity gradients, we first fit two-component models to the VLA+GBT NH_3 observations using the MUFASA software (Chen et al. 2022) and then identified VCSs in position–position–velocity space using the DBSCAN clustering algorithm (Ester et al. 1996). We then take the gradients of each VCSs’ velocity centroid maps to obtain ∇v .

We calculate the relative orientation (RO) angles, ϕ , between the B field and each gradient field under the convention where 0 deg and 90 deg represent parallel and perpendicular alignments, respectively. We then quantified the distribution of these ROs in local gas structures and examined how they correlate with different gas properties using the PRS. Here, we summarize our main results:

(i) Globally, we find a preferential parallel alignment between the B field and each of the emission gradients (i.e. ∇I_{160} , ∇I_{250} , and ∇I_{850}) with RPS $Z_x > 2.5\sigma$. Since emission gradients are orthogonal to structure elongations, this result indicates that gas structures in NGC 1333 tend to align perpendicular to the B field on average, similar to the results found for dense, elongated cloud structures on the larger scales (Planck Collaboration XIII 2016). The B field

and the ∇v and $\nabla N(\text{H}_2)$ fields, however, do not show a preferred alignment globally.

(ii) Only a few VCSs showed preferred alignment between B and ∇v locally. *VCS-e* showed preferential parallel alignment while *VCS-h* showed preferential perpendicular alignment at higher densities. The parallel alignment in *VCS-e* can be explained by a bubble compression front (Dhabal et al. 2019). The gravo-kinematic energy ratio (i.e. C_v ; Chen et al. 2020a) of *VCS-e* indicates that its internal gas flow is driven predominantly by gravity while the inter-VCS velocity differential suggests that *VCS-e* is being pushed into other VCSs by non-gravitational means or vice versa, presumably by the expanding bubble. These two behaviours are consistent with the two stages of filament and core formation via MHD gas compression under a single scenario (Chen & Ostriker 2014, 2015). The perpendicular alignment in *VCS-h* at high densities, on the other hand, could be tracing areas of local infall.

(iii) Most subregions defined by 850 μm emission do not show significant alignments between the B field and the emission gradients. *Region-9* and *13*, however, have preferential parallel alignment while *Region-14* has preferential perpendicular alignment. *Region 13*, in particular, is located in the warm diffuse region heated by the two nearby B stars (see Chen et al. 2016a).

(iv) Broadly, the RO distributions measured for each of the defined subregions show no correlation with the local properties of these regions, such as their median $N(\text{H}_2)$ or T_d values. This lack of correlation indicates that the local variations in alignments within the region wash each other out over the different properties.

(v) When binned according to gas properties across NGC 1333, rather than their spatial proximity, we found Z_x calculated for the ROs between the B field and the emission gradients (i.e. Z_{BI}) correlates with T_d and anticorrelates with $N(\text{H}_2)$, $|\nabla v|$, and σ_v . The correlation with T_d and anticorrelation with $N(\text{H}_2)$ indicates that the B field aligns more in parallel to the emission gradients (perpendicular to structures) in warmer, more diffuse gas. Such alignments become more distorted, likely due to gravity, as the gas gets colder and denser. The anticorrelation between $Z_{BI} - |\nabla v|$ and $Z_{BI} - \sigma_v$ suggests that the B field in NGC 1333 aligns more perpendicular to structures in less kinematically perturbed gas. These less perturbed alignments are similar to the global average we found for NGC 1333 and that found on larger scales (Planck Collaboration XIII 2016).

(vi) The $|\nabla v|$ within VCSs shows ripple-like structures that are spaced about 0.02 pc to 0.04 pc apart (peak-to-peak and trough–trough). These ripples can be coherently aligned perpendicular or parallel to the B field in several regions, indicating they may correspond to Alfvén and magnetosonic waves propagating parallel and perpendicular to the B field, respectively (e.g. Tritsis & Tassis 2016).

Our results here establish that the magnetic field’s relationship with gas structures and mass flows changes on smaller (local) scales. Pixels associated with warmer, lower column density gas dominate our sample by number and generally agree with the findings of Planck Collaboration XIII (2016) in the same density regime, where the magnetic field aligns perpendicularly to the gas structures. The lower density gas in our study may, therefore, represent the ‘pristine’ state inherited from the larger scales. The disturbances from this state are limited to localized areas as the gas becomes denser and colder, where perturbations can arise from processes such as infall, accretions, and MHD waves.

Sensitive polarization data and synthetic observations of simulations that can capture large and small scales will be crucial to interpret our results robustly. Such studies will be particularly valuable to

understand the role of temperature weighting along the lines of sight, how the observed B field co-evolves with dense structures, and which physical processes can produce the trends we found. Furthermore, investigating $|\nabla v|$ in synthetic observations will help understand the origin of the $|\nabla v|$ ripples, how they interact with magnetic fields, and whether or not they are driven by MHD waves.

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DATA AVAILABILITY

The public accessibility of the data used in this work is listed below.

The NH_3 VLA data are available under project number 3A-309.

The GAS NH_3 data are available at:

https://dataverse.harvard.edu/dataverse/GAS_DR1.

The CO-subtracted JGBS 850 μm data are available at:

<https://doi.org/10.11570/18.0005>

The HGBS data are available at:

<http://gouldbelt-herschel.cea.fr/archives>.

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APPENDIX A: CO CONTAMINATION

Fig. A1 shows the CO (3–2) contamination levels in JCMT GBS’s 850 μm data. The contamination level is measured in integrated CO brightness as a fraction of the decontaminated 850 μm emission (Drabek et al. 2012). The integrated CO emission map was filtered similarly through the same data reduction process as the 850 μm map before its removal to ensure the same spatial sensitivity. CO contamination is most significant in areas where faint dust emission overlaps with bright and broad CO outflows, where the integrated CO emission is significant relative to the dust continuum. Nevertheless, as seen in Fig. A1, most of our magnetic field measurements are detected over regions of bright dust emission, where the CO contamination level is low (< 15 per cent). The only exception is towards the north-western corner of NGC 1333, where CO may have been particularly excited by the feedback of the B stars nearby.

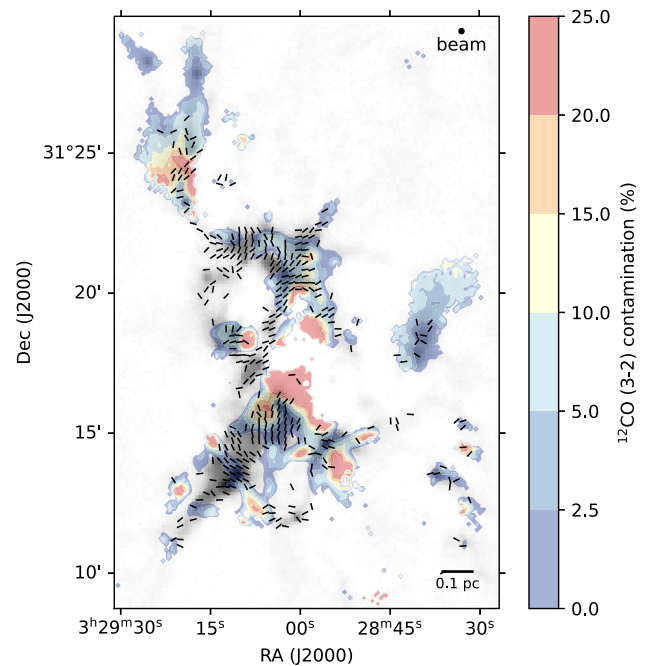


Figure A1. The CO (3–2) contamination in NGC 1333 plotted over the GBS, CO-decontaminated map of NGC 1333 in greyscale. The 850 μm continuum contamination fraction is shown as filled contours (coloured) and is measured as a percentage of the 850 μm continuum. The inferred B field is overlaid as black line segments.

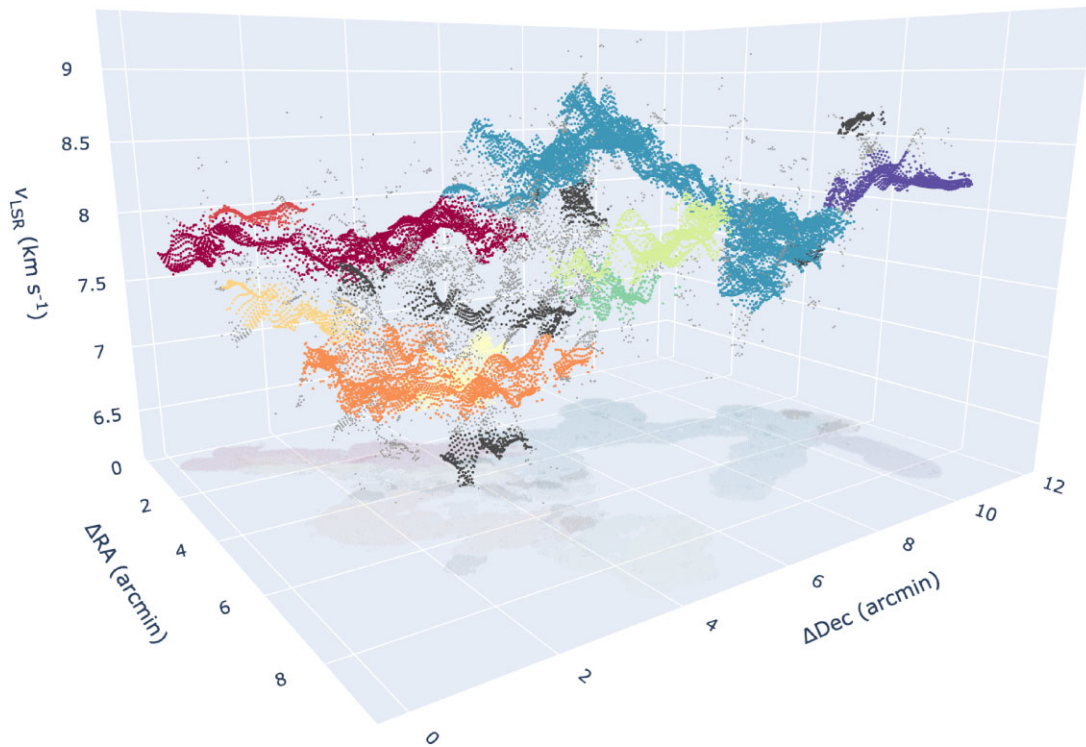


Figure B1. Same as Fig. 2, but with noise (light grey) and structures with less than 250 members (dark grey) identified by our DBSCAN run also shown.

APPENDIX B: DBSCAN RESULTS

Fig. B1 shows a 3D scatter plot of our full DBSCAN results in PPV space. The nine VCSs included in our final analyses are coloured the same as Fig. 2. Additionally, the noise-classified members and compact VCSs (with < 250 members) excluded from our analyses are shown in light and dark grey, respectively. As can be seen from the shadow of the structures projected onto the RA-Dec-plane, the VCSs with less than 250 members are indeed spatially compact. The noise samples, on the other hand, appear as either isolated pixels or as relatively correlated structures between the larger VCSs in PPV space. The exclusion of both the noise and the compact VCSs, however, does not affect our analysis, given that they represent structures that are distinct in the PPV space from those included in our analysis.

APPENDIX C: COLUMN DENSITY GRADIENTS

C1 Comparing with dust emissions

To investigate the relationship between the 18 arcsec-resolution *Herschel*-derived column densities and the dust emission maps, we calculate the PRS between their respective gradients (i.e. Z_{NI}). Fig. C1 shows Z_{NI} calculated for 160, 250, and 850 μm maps plotted as a function of 18 arcsec-resolution $N(\text{H}_2)$ and T_d in the left and right panels, respectively. We also applied the same analysis comparing the gradients between the 18 arcsec and 36 arcsec resolution $N(\text{H}_2)$ maps and plotted over the same panels. Overall, we find parallel alignments between the respective ROs, indicating that the column density and dust emission maps broadly trace similar structures. The emission alignments with column density, however, become

less parallel as the wavelength decreases. This trend is consistent with the expectation that shorter wavelength emissions preferentially trace warmer structures along the lines of sight than purely column-density-weighted structures. We also see a general anticorrelation between Z_{NI} and T_d , indicating that dust emission structures indeed depart more from their column density counterparts in warmer environments.

C2 Resolution dependence

Fig. C1 also shows that the 14 arcsec-resolution 850 μm emission gradients and 36 arcsec-resolution $N(\text{H}_2)$ gradients have a similar degree of alignment with the 18 arcsec-resolution $N(\text{H}_2)$ gradients. This result illustrates that: (1) 850 μm emission is indeed a good proxy of column density to first order and (2) our alignment results are not particularly sensitive to the resolution difference between the 18 and 36 arcmin resolution $N(\text{H}_2)$ maps.

To further investigate the effect of resolution on the column density gradients, Fig. C2 shows the PRS between the magnetic field and the gradients of each column density map (18 arcsec- and 36 arcsec-resolution) plotted relative to equally-sized bins in column density. Both column density maps show similar Z_{BN} values for each column density bin, indicating that Z_{BN} is not particularly sensitive to spatial resolution. The lack of alignment (i.e. $|Z_{BN}| \lesssim 1\sigma$) in any of the 36 arcsec-resolution bins (left panel) compared to their 18 arcsec-resolution counterpart (right panel), indicates that the 36 arcsec-resolution $N(\text{H}_2)$ is spatially too coarse to resolve $N(\text{H}_2)$ ranges with particularly interesting alignments, such as that seen in 18 arcsec-resolution's $2.5 \times 10^{22} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ bin. This result reinforces our choice to carry out our analyses using the 18 arcsec-resolution $N(\text{H}_2)$ data.

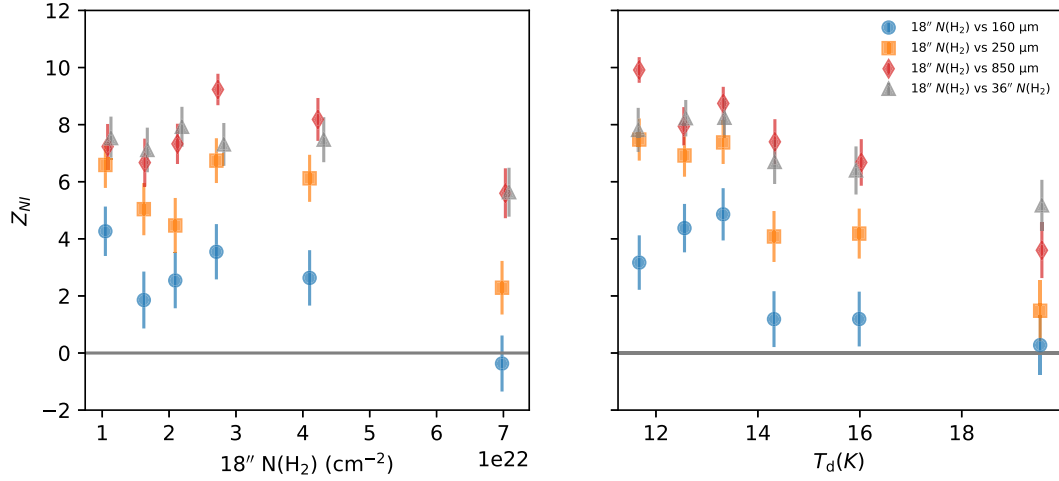


Figure C1. The Z_{NI} values calculated from equal-size bins of $N(\text{H}_2)$ and T_d plotted against their median bin values in the left and right panels, respectively. The size of each bin is 70 pixels, corresponding to about 14-percentile sampling bin widths. The legend shows the gradients used to calculate the Z_{NI} values.

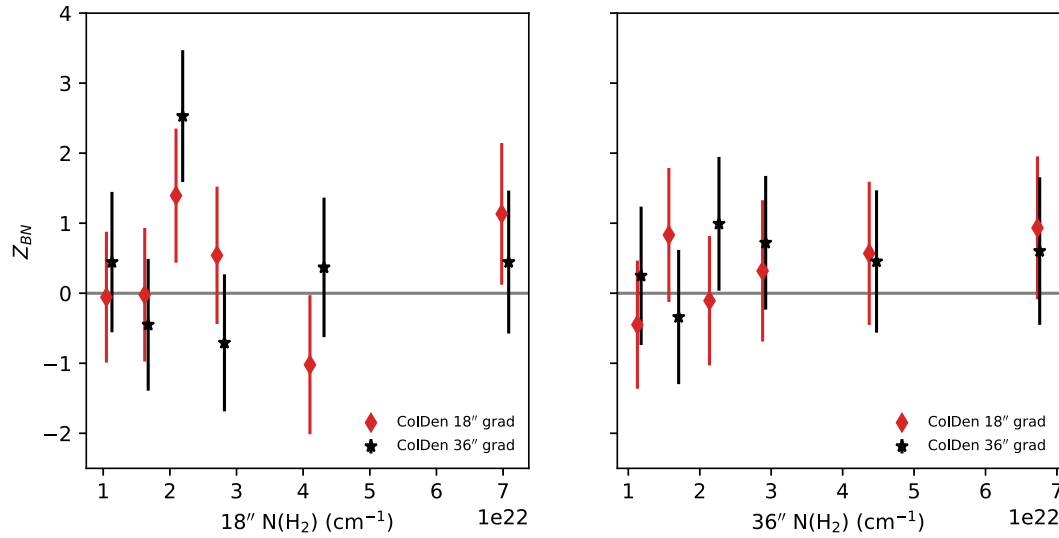


Figure C2. The Z_{BN} values calculated from equal-size bins of 18 arcsec-resolution $N(\text{H}_2)$ and 36 arcsec-resolution $N(\text{H}_2)$ plotted against their median bin values in the left and right panels, respectively. The size of each bin is 70 pixels, corresponding to about 14-percentile sampling bin widths. The Z_{BN} are calculated from gradients of the 18 arcsec- and 36 arcsec-resolution $N(\text{H}_2)$ values, labelled in the legend.

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