What can the SEDs of first hydrostatic core candidates reveal about their nature?

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ABSTRACT

The first hydrostatic core (FHSC) is the first stable object to form in simulations of star formation. This stage has yet to be observed definitively, although several candidate FHSCs have been reported. We have produced synthetic spectral energy distributions (SEDs) from 3D hydrodynamical simulations of pre-stellar cores undergoing gravitational collapse for a variety of initial conditions. Variations in the initial rotation rate, radius and mass lead to differences in the location of the SED peak and far-infrared flux. Secondly, we attempt to fit the SEDs of five FHSC candidates from the literature and five newly identified FHSC candidates located in the Serpens South molecular cloud with simulated SEDs. The most promising FHSC candidates are fitted by a limited number of model SEDs with consistent properties, which suggests that the SED can be useful for placing constraints on the age and rotation rate of the source. The sources we consider most likely to be in FHSC phase are B1-bN, CB17-MMS, Aqu-MM1 and Serpens South candidate K242. We were unable to fit SerpS-MM22, Per-Bolo 58 and Chamaeleon-MMS1 with reasonable parameters, which indicates that they are likely to be more evolved.

Key words: hydrodynamics – radiative transfer – methods: numerical – stars: formation – infrared: ISM – submillimetre: ISM.

1 INTRODUCTION

The theory of how stars form via the gravitational collapse of a dense molecular cloud core was introduced in the seminal work of Larson (1969), who was the first to predict the existence of the first hydrostatic core (FHSC). Further 1D simulations performed by others, including Masunaga, Miyama & Inutsuka (1998), Masunaga & Inutsuka (2000), Vaytet et al. (2012) and Vaytet et al. (2013), support the initial description while exploring the dependence of pre-stellar evolution on the initial conditions and the detail with which the physical processes are modelled. The extension to three dimensions (e.g. Bate 1998) and the inclusion of additional physics such as magnetic fields (e.g. Commerçon et al. 2012; Tomida, Okuzumi & Machida 2015) have further refined the initial description of Larson (1969).

A key stage in the early star formation process is the formation of the FHSC. This occurs when the central regions have become sufficiently dense to reabsorb a significant proportion of the thermal radiation and the cooling time-scale then exceeds the collapse time-scale. This causes the temperature in the centre of the core to rise quickly such that the thermal pressure can support the gas near the centre against gravitational collapse. Outside of the central core, gravitational collapse continues and so the mass of the central core increases. The central temperature of the FHSC eventually increases to \sim 2000 K, whereupon molecular hydrogen dissociates and initiates a second collapse to form the second (stellar) core. Without rotation the typical radius of an FHSC is \sim 5 au (Larson 1969). Rotation gives rise to a flattened FHSC, which can even have a disc-like morphology if the molecular cloud core had a high initial angular velocity (e.g. Bate 1998, 2011; Saigo & Tomisaka 2006). Magnetic fields may act to slow rotation and therefore reduce the size of the disc (Tomida et al. 2015). The additional support from magnetic fields against gravitational collapse can also lead to the formation of a pseudo-disc (Commercon et al. 2012).

Definitive observational evidence to support the theoretical description of early star formation is still required. In particular, the definitive detection of an FHSC remains elusive due to its low luminosity and location deep within a dense molecular cloud core. Attempts have been made both to observe bound objects in starforming regions and to simulate observations to determine the observational characteristics of the FHSC.

There have been several observations of candidate FHSCs. The class of objects known as very low luminosity objects (VeLLOs) contains submillimetre sources with internal luminosity <0.1 L_{\odot} (Young et al. 2004). Several of these sources remain undetected

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or are faint in *Spitzer Space Telescope (Spitzer)* measurements and have been proposed as FHSC candidates. These are generally sources that are designated observationally as less evolved class 0 young stellar objects (YSOs) because they are very faint at $\lambda \leq 24 \,\mu$ m, their envelope mass exceeds the mass of the central object and they lack strong, high-velocity CO outflows (Andre, Ward-Thompson & Barsony 1993). This class is likely to contain objects from FHSCs to accreting stellar cores since slow outflows have been detected near some (e.g. André, Motte & Bacmann 1999; Bourke et al. 2006) and others have probably evolved well beyond stellar core formation (e.g. Dunham et al. 2006).

The expected nature of the FHSC SED has changed little with attempts to simulate spectral energy distributions (SEDs) over the last 20 years. These have explained the effects of inclination (Boss & Yorke 1995), considered different dust models and optical depths (Masunaga et al. 1998; Omukai 2007) and investigated differences in the SED of an evolving protostellar core from first collapse to beyond stellar core (Young & Evans 2005). All have shown the peak of the FHSC SED to be between 100 and 500 μ m and that the SED is featureless.

Saigo & Tomisaka (2011) produced synthetic SEDs at various stages throughout the first core phase. Their results show that the SED peak shifts to shorter wavelengths as the FHSC evolves, from $\lambda \simeq 200 \,\mu\text{m}$ early on to $\lambda \simeq 80 \,\mu\text{m}$ late in the first core phase. They plotted their SEDs along with that of a VeLLO and found that the FHSC has a lower luminosity and is much dimmer at $\lambda \lesssim 100 \,\mu\text{m}$.

Commerçon et al. (2012) produced synthetic SEDs for the evolution of a rotating FHSC from a radiation magnetohydrodynamical (RMHD) model. The SED peaks did not change after FHSC formation and they were not able to distinguish the FHSC from the stellar core from the SEDs. Like Saigo & Tomisaka (2011), they found the SED peak to be at $\lambda \simeq 200 \,\mu\text{m}$ early in the FHSC phase. The evolution of the SED was found to be similar for models with very different magnetic field strengths.

Now, in the era of the Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA), work has begun to exploit the advance in sensitivity in submillimetre wavelengths (e.g. Dunham et al. 2016) and it may now be possible to resolve FHSC structures. However, the questions remain of how to positively identify the FHSC observationally and how to better target sources designated as FHSC candidates for further observation. In this paper we explore the differences in the SED of FHSCs at various evolutionary stages and with different properties with the aim of determining whether the SED can shed light on the nature of FHSC candidates. As far as we are aware, there have been no attempts to fit synthetic SEDs to particular observations of candidate FHSCs. Robitaille et al. (2007) produced a large set of synthetic protostar SEDs to create a fitting tool based on a χ^2 fitting method that observers can use to help interpret their observed SEDs. Here we adopt a similar systematic method to fit the SEDs of five candidates reported in the literature and five newly identified FHSC candidates with model SEDs to test whether the SED can place constraints on their properties.

2 METHOD

We performed three-dimensional radiation hydrodynamical (RHD) simulations of the collapse of molecular cloud cores to stellar core formation using a smoothed particle hydrodynamics (SPH) code. These simulations are similar to those of Bate (2011) and Bate, Tricco & Price (2014) and were performed for cores of different initial masses, rotation rates and radii. A few calculations were performed with magnetic fields, modelled with ideal

magnetohydrodynamics (MHD). We also investigated the effect of an alternative method of radiative transfer within the RHD model and of varying the external radiation field. Snapshots from these models were used as input for frequency-dependent radiative transfer modelling to produce synthetic SEDs. In the radiative transfer code we varied the dust grain properties and the viewing inclination.

2.1 The radiation (magneto-)hydrodynamical code

We performed the protostellar core collapse simulations using the SPHNG code, which originated from Benz (1990), but has since been extensively developed. It now includes individual particle timesteps (Bate 1995), the variable smoothing length formalism of Price & Monaghan (2004, 2007), radiative transfer in the flux-limited diffusion approximation (Whitehouse et al. 2005a) (Whitehouse & Bate 2006), magnetohydrodynamics using the formalism of Price & Monaghan (2005) with divergence cleaning (Tricco & Price 2012) (Tricco et al. 2016) and artificial resistivity (Tricco & Price 2013). Most recently, the radiative transfer has been combined with a model for the diffuse interstellar medium (Bate & Keto 2015).

Throughout this paper, we refer to the RHD method developed by Whitehouse, Bate & Monaghan (2005b) and Whitehouse & Bate (2006) as RHD1. This model treats matter and radiation temperatures separately and performs radiative transfer using the fluxlimited diffusion approximation. In these simulations, the initial temperature is uniform and the boundary temperature is set equal to the initial temperature. As the core collapses and evolves, the central regions heat faster than the outer regions, giving rise to the evolution in temperature profile shown in Fig. 1 for a non-rotating case. The majority of the infalling envelope remains cold throughout the FHSC phase.

We repeated calculations with the RHD model developed by Bate & Keto (2015) (hereafter RHD2) to compare the resulting SEDs from this more physical model with the simpler RHD1 model. The RHD2 model treats dust, gas and radiation temperatures separately and includes heating from the interstellar radiation field (ISRF), cooling via atomic and molecular line emission and collisional thermal coupling between the gas and dust to model the low density outer parts of the core more accurately. In the RHD2 model the initial gas and dust temperatures are the equilibrium temperatures calculated from these interstellar medium (ISM) heating and cooling processes. Initially, the temperature is lowest at the centre of the core due to extinction of the ISRF. Fig. 1 (lower right) shows the temperature profiles during the subsequent evolution of the core. As core collapse progresses, the centre heats up and warms the inner regions but a cold region remains between the internally heated central region and the outer regions of the core at $r \gtrsim 800$ au, which are heated by the ISRF.

2.2 TORUS - the radiative transfer code

We used the TORUS radiative transfer code (Harries 2000) to simulate SEDs for selected RHD snapshots. TORUS reads in the SPH particle positions, densities and temperatures and maps the particles on to a 3D adaptive mesh refinement (AMR) grid following the method of Rundle et al. (2010). The maximum mass per cell is specified such that if this is exceeded the cell divides to give a higher resolution.

In these collapsing cloud cores the only source of emission is the warm dust. For RHD1 snapshots, the gas temperatures are used to compute the dust emission but for RHD2 snapshots the dust



Figure 1. Temperature profiles during the collapse of initially static cores computed using the RHD1 model with initial temperatures 7, 10 and 15 K, and for the RHD2 model. Snapshots are plotted when the central density is $1 \times 10^{-12} \text{ g cm}^{-3}$, $5 \times 10^{-11} \text{ g cm}^{-3}$, $1 \times 10^{-9} \text{ g cm}^{-3}$ and $1 \times 10^{-4} \text{ g cm}^{-3}$ in each panel. The temperature rises significantly only in the central ~10 au and at r > 200 au the temperature does not change significantly throughout the FHSC and the second collapse stages. For the RHD2 model, note the increase in temperature at radii >800 au where there is less extinction of the ISRF.

temperatures are calculated separately so these are used instead. An observer is placed at a specified distance and the optical depths through the grid to this observer are calculated. A Monte Carlo method is used to determine the locations and directions of thermal emission and then the path of the photons through the grid to the observer is calculated, including absorption and scattering events. Only direct thermal dust continuum emission makes a significant contribution to the SED when the maximum grain size $a_{\text{max}} \leq 1 \,\mu\text{m}$. When larger dust grains are included, there is also a contribution from scattered thermal emission.

3 HYDRODYNAMICAL MODELS

3.1 Initial conditions

The simulations begin with a Bonnor–Ebert sphere (Bonnor 1956; Ebert 1955) for which the critical ratio of central density to density at the outer boundary is 14.1:1. We use an unstable density ratio of 15.1. Unless otherwise stated, the initial mass was $1 M_{\odot}$ and the initial radius was 7.0×10^{16} cm (0.023 pc, 4680 Au). These calculations were performed with a resolution ranging from 260 000 to 500 000 SPH particles.

We modelled the collapse of a molecular cloud core under different initial conditions to investigate differences in the SEDs. To explore the effects of initial temperature, we used RHD1 with uniform initial temperatures of 7, 10 and 15 K and RHD2 for a non-rotating $1 M_{\odot}$ core. We also varied the column density at the boundary in RHD2 to alter the intensity of the ISRF.

To investigate the effects of mass, we modelled the collapse of non-rotating cores of masses 0.5, 1, 2 and $5 M_{\odot}$ and radii 5.56×10^{16} cm (3700 au), 7.0×10^{16} cm (4700 au), 8.82×10^{16} cm (5900 au) and 12.0×10^{16} cm (8000 au), respectively. The radii were chosen to maintain a constant initial central density of

 $\rho_{\rm max} = 1.38 \times 10^{-18} \, {\rm g \, cm^{-3}}$. This better reflects conditions in the interstellar medium than keeping a constant radius, since more massive molecular cloud cores have larger radii (e.g. Larson 1981). RHD2 was used for these calculations.

To investigate the effects of rotation, we modelled the collapse of 1 M_{\odot} cores with RHD2 for different initial rotation rates. The initial angular velocity is set through the ratio of rotational energy to gravitational potential energy $\beta = E_{\text{rot}}/E_{\text{grav}}$. Here we used the values $\beta = 0$, 0.01, 0.05 and 0.09. These simulations were also repeated with RHD1 with a uniform initial temperature of 10 K for the comparison with observations and this is described in greater detail in Section 6.1.

We also performed collapse simulations of non-rotating 1 M_☉ cores with different initial radii, but with the same ratio of central density to density at the outer boundary of 15.1:1, as for the other simulations. Thus, these cores have different mean densities. The additional initial radii chosen were 3.0×10^{16} cm (2000 au), 9.0×10^{16} cm (6000 au), 11.0×10^{16} cm (7400 au), 15.0×10^{16} cm (10 000 au) and 17.0×10^{16} cm (11 400 au). The central density of the cores then ranged from 1.1×10^{-16} g cm⁻³ for the smallest core to 5.9×10^{-19} g cm⁻³ for the 17.0 $\times 10^{16}$ cm core. RHD2 was used for these calculations.

Lastly, we performed RMHD simulations. The simulations use the same general MHD method as those of Bate et al. (2014), but they use the radiative transfer and ISRF treatment of Bate & Keto (2015) and they employ the updated artificial resistivity switch of Tricco & Price (2013) and divergence cleaning of Tricco et al. (2016). The RMHD simulations were set up with rotation corresponding to $\beta = 0.005$ because rotation is necessary for the formation of an outflow. The initial mass-to-flux ratios used were $\mu = 5$ and $\mu = 20$, with a total core mass of 1 M_{\odot} and initial radius of 7.0×10^{16} cm. These simulations used a resolution of 10^6 SPH particles. A summary of the hydrodynamical models is shown in Table 1.

Table 1. A summary of the radiation hydrodynamical models performed. The parameters used in the hydrodynamical simulations to investigate the effect of changing the initial temperature, incident ISRF, mass, initial rotation, initial radius and magnetic field strength on the SED are listed in the respective rows.

	7 K 10 K 15 K				4700 au	
Temperature			RHD1	$1 \mathrm{M_{\odot}}$		$\beta = 0$
				-		
ISRF ^a	none $1 \times 10^{20} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ $2 \times 10^{20} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ $5 \times 10^{20} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ $1 \times 10^{21} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ $5 \times 10^{21} \text{ cm}^{-2}$		RHD2	$1\mathrm{M}_{\odot}$	4700 au	$\beta = 0$
Mass	$\begin{array}{c} 0.5 \mathrm{M}_{\bigodot} \\ 1 \mathrm{M}_{\bigodot} \\ 2 \mathrm{M}_{\bigodot} \\ 5 \mathrm{M}_{\bigodot} \end{array}$	3700 au 4700 au 5900 au 8000 au	RHD2			$\beta = 0$
Rotation	$\beta = 0$ $\beta = 0.01$ $\beta = 0.05$ $\beta = 0.09$		RHD1 (10 K) & RHD2	$1\mathrm{M}_{\bigodot}$	4700 au	
Radius	2000 au 6000 au 10 000 au 11 400 au		RHD2	$1\mathrm{M}_{\odot}$		$\beta = 0$
Magnetic field ^b	$\mu = 5$ $\mu = 20$		RHD2	$1\mathrm{M}_{\odot}$	4700 au	$\beta = 0.005$

Notes. ^{*a*}The incident ISRF is changed by adding an additional boundary of molecular gas, expressed in terms of the column density of molecular hydrogen.

^bThe MHD models employ the radiative transfer treatment of RHD2.

3.2 Core collapse and FHSC evolution

The evolution of the collapsing core occurs in four stages: first collapse, FHSC phase, second collapse and stellar core formation. The evolution of the maximum density and temperature for cases computed using both RHD1 and RHD2 is shown in Fig. 2. During first collapse, the maximum density increases slowly by several orders of magnitude while the central temperature increases by just a few kelvins. The length of the first collapse stage ranges from 30 000 to 36 000 yr in these simulations because it depends upon the temperature, rotation and magnetic field which provide support against the gravitational collapse as well as the density contrast between the centre and outer regions of the core. The FHSC is formed at a central density of $\sim 10^{-12} \,\mathrm{g \, cm^{-3}}$, when the thermal pressure supports against further collapse. In the $1 M_{\odot}$ simulations in this paper, the FHSC ranges in size from a radius of 4 au up to 60 au under fast rotation. Both the central temperature and density of the FHSC increase as material continues to fall on to it. The collapse takes place more slowly for the initially warmer cores due to the increased pressure support. The collapse is faster for the RHD2 model because the central regions are initially colder.

At $\sim 2000 \text{ K}$ (central density of $\sim 10^{-7} \text{ g cm}^{-3}$), molecular hydrogen begins to dissociate and the second collapse begins. The stellar core is formed after second collapse at a central density of $\sim 10^{-3} \text{ g cm}^{-3}$ but its temperature and density continue to rise rapidly.

We selected snapshots representing the major phases in FHSC formation and evolution from the RHD simulations for SED modelling. These are defined by the maximum density, as shown in Fig. 3, and give six snapshots: before FHSC formation; early-, midand late-FHSC phase; and two during second collapse. For some figures, we also show the snapshot just after the formation of the second (stellar) core at $\rho_{max} = 10^{-2} \text{ g cm}^{-3}$.

4 MODELLING SEDs

Synthetic SEDs were created from the RHD models using TORUS for snapshots of the entire molecular core, including the FHSC and infalling envelope. We altered the dust grain size, dust grain type and inclination of the core relative to the observer to investigate the effects on the SEDs.

The distribution of grain sizes is set via the ISM power law size distribution function (Mathis, Rumpl & Nordsieck 1977)

$$n(a) \propto a^{-q} \tag{1}$$

with n(a) the number of particles of size *a*. Mathis et al. (1977) find *q* to be in the range 3.3 < q < 3.6 for various substances including graphite and silicates and so we take the accepted ISM value of q = 3.5.

The range of dust grain sizes for the distribution was $a_{\min} = 0.001 \,\mu\text{m}$ to $a_{\max} = 1.0 \,\mu\text{m}$. We then altered the maximum in the range $0.5-1000 \,\mu\text{m}$ in separate simulations.

SEDs were simulated for two different grain types: the silicate grain of Draine & Lee (1984) and the amorphous carbon grain type of Zubko et al. (1996).

For all model SEDs, a distance of 260 pc was used because this was the favoured distance to the Serpens South molecular cloud (Straižys, Černis & Bartašiūtė 2003), the region in which the new candidate FHSCs are located, at the time of simulating the SEDs. Rescaling for a different distance is straightforward and we exploit this when fitting to observations.



Figure 2. Evolution of the maximum temperature and density of the core for RHD1 models with uniform initial temperatures of 7 K and 10 K, and for the RHD2 model. For the RHD2 models, prior to the formation of the first core, the gas temperature is highest in the outer regions due to heating from the ISRF so we plot both the evolution of the maximum temperature, RHD2, and the temperature at the centre of the core, RHD2(cen). The core collapse proceeds fastest under the RHD2 model and an increase in initial temperature slows the collapse due to the additional thermal pressure. In each case, the FHSC forms and collapses at similar values of maximum density.



Figure 3. Evolution of the maximum density of a collapsing 1 M_{\odot} core with initial rotation $\beta = 0.09$ from the RHD2 model. The values of the maximum density used to select each snapshot for simulating SEDs are indicated in g cm⁻³. Snapshot (a) occurs just before FHSC formation and snapshot (d) is taken just before the onset of second collapse.

4.1 Simulated photometry

It is necessary to simulate photometry from the model SEDs in order to compare them with observations. This also has the advantage of averaging out the Monte Carlo noise that is present at short wavelengths. We calculated the monochromatic fluxes for each instrument by convolving the model SEDs with the instrument response functions¹ and redistributing the flux over the assumed SED shape² using the equations presented in Appendix A of Robitaille et al. (2007).

4.2 Fitting model SEDs to observations

We compared observed SEDs to a sample of model SEDs following a similar method to that of Robitaille et al. (2007). We selected the models with the smallest χ^2 per point for the observed SED, which is calculated using

$$\chi^{2} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \left(\frac{F_{i} - M_{i}}{\sigma_{i}} \right)^{2}.$$
 (2)

 F_i and M_i are the observed and model fluxes, respectively, for each wavelength, σ_i is the uncertainty in the observed flux and N is the number of observed wavelengths. For observations where there are upper limits (U_i) , models with $M_i < U_i$ are assigned a χ^2 contribution of zero. For models with $M_i > U_i$, the χ^2 contribution is

$$\chi^2 = -2\log\left(1 - \text{confidence}\right) \tag{3}$$

where the confidence is found from the stated observational uncertainty (Robitaille et al. 2007). Where this is not reported we assume a 2σ upper limit and hence a confidence of 0.9545. Where possible, all observed SED points are included in the χ^2 calculation. In the cases where there is a detection at a shorter wavelength than available in a given model SED, the model SED is discarded because the model flux would be many orders of magnitude lower than required to provide a good fit to the observation. This only affects observations at $\lambda < 24 \,\mu\text{m}$.

The model SEDs must be scaled to allow for differences in the masses and distances of the sources and so each model SED is scaled to the observed SED to minimize its χ^2 . It is then these final χ^2 values that are compared to determine the best-fitting models. The scaling is discussed further in Section 6.2. We do not consider reddening because this effect is negligible at the wavelengths of the cold dust emission of pre-stellar cores. When performing photometry on the observations, the background emission is subtracted from the images and this removes any emission from a wider filament or cloud, which means that we are comparing as far as possible only the emission from the core itself with the models.

5 RESULTS

In this section we describe the effects of various initial conditions and parameters on the evolution of the SED. These simulations were performed with no rotation, no magnetic field, a total core mass of 1 M_☉ and an initial radius of 7×10^{16} cm (4700 au) using the RHD2 model unless otherwise stated. The SEDs were produced for a distance of 260 pc and an inclination of 0°, with silicate type dust grains following the size distribution of q = 3.5 between $a_{\min} = 0.001 \,\mu\text{m}$ and $a_{\max} = 1.0 \,\mu\text{m}$ unless otherwise stated. SEDs are plotted with

¹Response functions were taken from the Spanish Virtual Observatory's Filter Profile Service http://svo2.cab.inta-csic.es/theory/fps3/, (Rodrigo & Solano 2013) http://www.adamgginsburg.com/filters/bolocam_ passband.txt, http://www.eaobservatory.org/jcmt/instrumentation/continuum/ scuba-2/filters/ and https://astro.uni-bonn.de/~bertoldi/projects/mambo/ manuals.html.

² Information on the assumed SED for each instrument was taken from Mayne et al. (2012) and the Spanish Virtual Observatory.



Figure 4. Synthetic images of the non-rotating FHSC from RHD2 at four commonly observed wavelengths. The images are each 1.1 arcsec across which corresponds to 286 au at 260 pc. The 70 μ m flux is emitted only in the warm central regions. The 450 and 850 μ m images are dominated by emission from close to the FHSC, since the lower opacity allows radiation from deeper inside the core to escape, but there is also a significant contribution from emission from the cold envelope. The 70 and 160 μ m images are affected by Monte Carlo noise because the emission from the envelope is very low.

a flux scale cut-off approximately an order of magnitude below the typical observational sensitivity of *Spitzer* at $24 \,\mu\text{m}$.

5.1 Interpreting the SED

As is the case for many astrophysical objects, flux from a dense pre-stellar core is not emitted from a single 'photosphere' at all wavelengths. It is useful to estimate where most of the flux at the observed wavelengths is emitted in order to understand the results in the following sections. The opacity depends upon the density and temperature of the dust, as well as the dust properties such as grain size and composition and the wavelength of the incident radiation. The density and temperature vary by several orders of magnitude and dust grains sublimate at ~1500 K, causing the opacity to vary significantly as a function of radius and time.

The observed flux will be dominated by radiation from the smallest radii it can 'escape' from, i.e. the photosphere. Masunaga et al. (1998) and Omukai (2007) discuss the locations of the photospheres in a pre-stellar core at different wavelengths in detail based on optical depth calculations. We produced synthetic images at the commonly observed wavelengths of 70, 160, 450 and 850 µm from a calculation of a non-rotating, and hence spherically symmetric, early FHSC using RHD2. These objects are very faint at 24 µm so we did not produce images for that wavelength. The images shown in Fig. 4 show which structures are observed at each wavelength and, hence, which parts of the object contribute to the SED at each wavelength. We see in Figs 4 and 5 that the 70 µm flux is emitted in the central regions of the core but the flux does not peak as sharply at the centre as for longer wavelengths. The opacity is higher at 70 µm and flux emitted from the very centre is obscured. Consequently, the FHSC is not directly visible at wavelengths shorter than $\sim 800 \,\mu m$ since it lies beneath the effective photospheres. The total flux at 850 µm is dominated by emission from the cold envelope but, since the opacity is low, the smaller structures in the warmer regions are distinguishable and the non-rotating source in Fig. 4 appears more compact.

In reality, rotational structures are ubiquitous so we also present synthetic images of an FHSC from the model with initial rotation $\beta = 0.05$ using RHD1 and a uniform initial temperature of 10 K in Fig. 6. This calculation produces a dynamically rotationally unstable FHSC which goes bar-unstable and develops trailing spiral arms (cf. Bate 1998). With rotation, the optical depth is reduced along the axial direction ($i = 0^{\circ}$), which means that the observed flux is emitted from closer to the FHSC boundary than for the non-rotating core and we can see the central spiral morphology. At $i = 90^{\circ}$ the



Figure 5. Radial average intensity profiles for the images of a non-rotating FHSC from RHD2 shown in Fig. 4 at four commonly observed wavelengths. The flux intensity profiles are normalized to the intensity in the centre of the FHSC image at each wavelength. The flux peaks more sharply at longer wavelengths because more of the observed flux was emitted from deeper within the core. There is also more emission from the cold envelope at the longer wavelengths.

hot central core is completely obscured at $70 \,\mu\text{m}$ and the observed flux at this wavelength is emitted in the lower density regions above and below the disc. At longer wavelengths the opacity decreases and a more compact structure is observed.

In summary, for all observed wavelengths the total flux is dominated by the regions surrounding the FHSC. It is therefore the temperature structure of this warm region outside the FHSC and the wider envelope that affects the shape of the SED which means that temperature differences within the FHSC are, to a large extent, irrelevant. This is what we consider in the following sections when comparing differences between SEDs of cores formed under different initial conditions.

5.2 Initial core temperature and external radiation

The temperature structure of the core changes as the object evolves and this directly affects the flux at each wavelength reaching an observer. We investigate the SED evolution first with cloud cores of uniform initial temperatures of 7, 10 and 15 K using the RHD1 model and secondly, with a cloud core subjected to an interstellar radiation field (ISRF). We also compared the SED evolution of cores exposed to different ISRF intensities.

Fig. 7 shows the evolution of the SED as core collapse progresses from first collapse ($\rho_{max} = 10^{-12} \text{ g cm}^{-3}$), through the FHSC stage, to second collapse ($\rho_{max} = 10^{-4} \text{ g cm}^{-3}$) with the RHD1 model for the three values of initial temperature, as well as for the RHD2



Figure 6. Synthetic images of the rotating FHSC from RHD1 with initial temperature of 10 K and initial rotation corresponding to $\beta = 0.05$ at four wavelengths with $i = 0^{\circ}$ (face-on) images above and $i = 90^{\circ}$ images below. The images are each 1.1 arcsec across which corresponds to 286 au at 260 pc and logarithmic scaling was used. Longer wavelengths allow us to see deeper into the core and distinguish smaller scale structures. At $i = 90^{\circ}$ the observed 70 µm flux is emitted in the optically thin regions above and below the disc and the disc itself appears dark. The 70 and 160 µm images have a poorer resolution because most of the emission is coming from >20 au from the centre where the AMR grid resolution is coarser.



Figure 7. SED evolution for the collapse of cores of initial temperatures 7, 10 and 15 K and for the RHD2 model (initial temperatures determined from exposure to the ISRF) with an additional boundary column density of 5×10^{21} cm⁻², 5×10^{20} cm⁻², and an unattenuated ISRF. SEDs are from snapshots where the central density is 1.4×10^{-18} g cm⁻³ (the initial conditions, blue dotted lines), 1×10^{-12} g cm⁻³ (blue dashed lines), 5×10^{-11} g cm⁻³ (solid black lines), 1×10^{-9} g cm⁻³ (dashed black lines), 1×10^{-4} g cm⁻³ (red dotted lines) and 1×10^{-2} g cm⁻³ (red dashed lines). The SEDs show less evolution for a warmer initial temperature because the initial SED is already brighter. Similarly, the RHD2 SEDs show less evolution with increased exposure to the ISRF.

model. For a higher initial temperature the SED is brighter and peaks at a shorter wavelength early on in the collapse. As the core evolves and the FHSC forms the SED peak shifts to shorter wavelengths (Fig. 7, top row). For the cores with higher initial temperatures, there is less variation in the SED as the object evolves and we see that for an initial temperature of 15 K (Fig. 7, lower left panel) the SEDs are identical throughout, even to second collapse. This result indicates that, for warmer pre-stellar molecular cloud cores, no information can be gained from the SED as to its evolutionary state. The differences in SED evolution between the cores with different initial temperatures suggest that there must be differences in their radial temperature profiles. From the radial temperature profiles shown in Fig. 1 we can see that the FHSC has not heated gas beyond a radius of about 300 au above its initial temperature in the 7 K case, which means that the envelope remains colder than that of the 15 K core even to the second collapse phase when the central temperature quickly rises by several thousand kelvins. The higher temperature of the envelope in the 15 K case leads to increased emission from larger radii and the photospheres will then be at a larger radii, where there is less heating from the FHSC. This effect is stronger at shorter wavelengths since the low-density gas is still optically thin for $\lambda > 700 \,\mu\text{m}$. For a higher initial temperature, the regions probed by shorter wavelengths will therefore have a smaller temperature variation as the core evolves. Because of this and because much of the material is initially hotter, the SED displays less evolution.

There is also a difference in the shape of the FHSC SED for different initial temperatures. The SEDs of the warmer cores are closer to a single-temperature blackbody curve whereas the SEDs of the 7 K case become steeper at shorter wavelengths and flatter to longer wavelengths as the core evolves. Omukai (2007) also report SEDs of this shape and explain that it is due to the interplay of increasing optical depth with decreasing wavelength and decreasing temperature at larger radii. The photospheres of the cooler cores are nearer the FHSC where there is a steeper temperature gradient (see Fig. 1). The photospheres for different wavelengths will be at a spread of radii in all cases, but when the envelope is cooler, the set of observed wavelengths samples the region nearer the centre and so will sample a broader range of temperatures. The larger the differences in temperatures sampled by each wavelength, the less the SED will resemble that of a single temperature blackbody. We therefore expect the SEDs of colder cores to show the most evolution because the temperature contrast is greater and this contrast increases as the FHSC develops.

A uniform initial temperature is unrealistic (see e.g. Ward-Thompson, André & Kirk 2002; Nielbock et al. 2012; Roy et al. 2014); therefore, we now consider a core exposed to the ISRF and use its equilibrium temperature profile as the initial temperature conditions.

The SED evolution with the RHD2 model is presented in Fig. 7 (bottom row). The RHD2 SEDs display a smaller increase in flux at shorter wavelengths as the core evolves than the RHD1 SEDs. The RHD2 SED of the early FHSC stage peaks at a shorter wavelength compared to those of the 7 and 10 K RHD1 cores due to the heating of dust by the ISRF at r > 2700 au to more than 10 K, as shown in Fig. 1 (lower right). This region contains around a third of the total mass, which means that the ISRF heats a greater proportion of the core than the FHSC does during its lifetime. The FHSC heating only makes a significant difference to the SED later on when the region surrounding the FHSC ($20 \leq r \leq 30$ au) is heated to >20 K. The SED is dominated by flux from the ISRF-heated region through to second collapse phase so we do not see the strong progression to shorter wavelengths as the core evolves that was the case for the cold RHD1 SEDs, as well as for the SEDs of Saigo & Tomisaka (2011), Commerçon et al. (2012) and Young & Evans (2005). There is an increase in flux at 70 and 160 μ m, while the flux at longer wavelengths remains nearly constant and this could be useful for estimating the evolutionary stage of a source, even though the SEDs of the FHSC phase do not appear to be clearly distinct from those of the first and second collapse stages.

In the RHD1 models, gas and dust are assumed to have the same temperature, but using RHD2 the gas and dust temperatures may differ substantially. Dust emission is the main source of continuum emission and so the dust temperatures calculated in the RHD2 model are used to produce the SEDs. The dust and gas temperatures only diverge significantly in the low-density region at the edge of the core where they are not well coupled. We find there is, however, a significant difference in the SEDs if we use the gas temperature rather than the dust temperature because of this difference in the outer parts of the core. For detailed SED modelling, it is therefore important to model the outer dust temperatures well. Given the differences in SED evolution between the RHD1 and RHD2 models, it



Figure 8. Radial dust temperature profiles for the initial conditions (dashed lines) and at $\rho_{max} = 10^{-9}$ g cm⁻³ (dotted lines) for non-rotating protostellar cores with an additional boundary density, defined by the column number density of molecular hydrogen (shown in legend, cm⁻²), to reduce the incident ISRF.

appears beneficial to model the core collapse with the more physical radiative transfer method.

The ISRF incident on the protostellar core was varied by adding an additional column density of molecular material (gas and dust) at the boundary. This additional density is not included in the SED calculations so its only effect is to reduce the external radiation incident on the cloud core. In an observational study of dense cores, Kim et al. (2016) report that there is a temperature increase of 3–6 K between the central and outer regions of the core with the central temperature being 7–8 K. The temperature profiles in Fig. 8 show that the initial conditions of all of the RHD2 models fall within these ranges.

The SED evolution with RHD2 with boundary column density values of 5×10^{20} cm⁻² and 5×10^{21} cm⁻² of molecular hydrogen is shown in Fig. 7 (bottom row). For the initial conditions (t = 0), λ_{max} shifts to longer wavelengths for increased boundary density, as shown by Fig. 9, because heating from the ISRF is attenuated leading to lower dust temperatures in the outer regions of the core (see Fig. 8). However, once collapse begins, the increasingly dense central core becomes the dominant heat source and so there is much less of a difference between the SEDs of FHSCs from models with different values of the boundary column density after FHSC formation. We do also see greater evolution of the SED with a reduced ISRF because the infrared flux is less dominated by emission from the outer regions and is more sensitive to internal temperature changes.

In all cases except for the core with a uniform initial temperature of 15 K, the SED peak shifts to shorter wavelengths and the total flux increases as the temperature increases in the central core. The SED begins to deviate from that of a blackbody because the envelope remains cold as the centre heats up. This change in the SED shape may allow more evolved cores to be distinguished from starless cores. However, protostellar cores with initial temperatures of $\gtrsim 15$ K or exposed to a strong ISRF are not expected to show much evolution so it is unlikely much information about the central object can be obtained from the SED. In this section we have studied only spherically symmetric cases. These conclusions do not necessarily hold for rotating protostellar cores and we explore those cases further in Section 5.4.

5.3 Mass

The total luminosity of a dense core should be greater for a larger core mass but the fluxes at different wavelengths will not necessarily



Figure 9. SEDs for the initial conditions (top) and at $\rho_{\text{max}} = 10^{-9} \text{ g cm}^{-3}$ for non-rotating protostellar cores with different column densities at the boundary to reduce the ISRF, defined by the column number density of molecular hydrogen (cm⁻²) shown in the legend.

scale equally. We therefore simulated the collapse of 0.5, 1, 2 and 5 M_{\odot} cores to investigate the variation in SED shape with mass and to determine how to scale model SEDs to observations. The initial radii were increased along with the mass so as to retain a constant initial central density of $\rho_{max} = 1.38 \times 10^{-18} \text{ g cm}^{-3}$. The initial radii ranged from 3700 au for 0.5 M_{\odot} to 8000 au for 5 M_{\odot} . These simulations were performed with the RHD2 model.

The SEDs of cores of different masses in Fig. 10 (left) show that increasing the total mass of the protostellar core results in an overall increase in flux, as expected, because there is more radiating material.

To compare the differences in SEDs further, we scaled the SEDS of cores of different masses to the SED of the 5 M_{\odot} core (Fig. 10, right). Flux at wavelengths $\lambda > 700 \,\mu\text{m}$ depends upon the mass,



Figure 11. Radial profiles of the dust temperature and density for cores of different masses during the FHSC phase when $\rho_{\text{max}} = 10 \times 10^{-9} \text{ g cm}^{-3}$. The FHSC extends to similar radii in all cases, as shown by the change in the slope of the density profile at ~10 au.

temperature and dust emissivity of the source. Here, the dust properties are the same for each case and the temperatures are very similar, which means that the effects of these factors on the flux at $\lambda > 700 \,\mu\text{m}$ are negligible and we can consider the flux here as being proportional only to the mass. To implement the scaling, we therefore multiplied each SED by a scale factor which was increased until the χ^2 value for wavelengths $\lambda > 700 \,\mu\text{m}$ was minimized.

When the SEDs are scaled in this way, it is apparent that the lower mass cores are brighter at wavelengths $\lambda < 200 \,\mu\text{m}$ compared to longer wavelengths, an effect also found by Tomida et al. (2010). We see from the density profile in Fig. 11 that in each case the FHSC has the same radius and that the density only deviates towards the boundary so we would expect a similar flux at $\lambda < 100 \,\mu\text{m}$ from the hot FHSC. However, the radiation from the FHSC is absorbed by



Figure 10. (a) SEDs for collapsing pre-stellar cores of different initial masses for snapshots when $\rho_{max} = 10 \times 10^{-9} \text{ g cm}^{-3}$. (b) SEDs of different mass FHSCs scaled to fit the 5 M_☉ FHSC by minimizing χ^2 for points $\lambda > 700 \text{ µm}$. Higher mass cores are more luminous, as expected, but darker at 70 µm compared to 160 µm.



Figure 12. Snapshots of the column density for RHD2 simulations with initial rotation $\beta = 0.01$ (top row), $\beta = 0.05$ (middle row) and $\beta = 0.09$ (bottom row). These are some of the snapshots from which SEDs were simulated. The maximum density, ρ_{max} in each panel is 5×10^{-11} g cm⁻³, 10^{-9} g cm⁻³ and 10^{-6} g cm⁻³ from left to right. The FHSC is an oblate spheroid in the $\beta = 0.01$ simulation. The faster rotating cores form spiral arms and fragments. The two inner fragments formed in the $\beta = 0.09$ simulation fall back together before the onset of second collapse. At t = 0 the peak column density is <0.1 g cm⁻².

the cooler surrounding gas and most of the observed flux is emitted by the cooler gas further out. For cores of a greater total mass, the FHSC is surrounded by a more massive envelope which leads to disproportionately more longer wavelength emission and increased absorption of shorter wavelengths by the envelope.

The collapse occurs much more quickly for the more massive cores. For the $0.5 \,M_{\odot}$ core, the $\rho_{max} = 10^{-9} \,g \,cm^{-3}$ snapshot is taken at 35 600 yr and for the $5 \,M_{\odot}$ core it is much sooner at 25 700 yr. Since the collapse of the $5 \,M_{\odot}$ core happens much more quickly, there is less time for the heat to disperse, leading to the hotter central temperature. Despite this, there is not much more infrared flux for the more massive cores because the SED is still dominated by emission from the cooler dust in the envelope.

When comparing to observations, it is useful to be able to scale synthetic SEDs since the sources will have various masses and distances, which may not be known precisely. We find the SED of an FHSC does vary with mass so there will be limits to scaling synthetic SEDs of a core of one mass to observations of a source of a different mass. This is considered further in Section 6.2.

5.4 Initial rotation

Differing initial rotation rates give rise to various structures. In the non-rotating case the FHSC is spherically symmetric but becomes

increasingly oblate with faster rotation. For faster rotation rates, the FHSC may be dynamically rotationally unstable, developing spiral arms and perhaps fragmenting (e.g. Bate 1998, 2011; Saigo & Tomisaka 2006). If these structures lead to differences in the SED, then this would provide a probe for the internal structures of pre-stellar cores without requiring high-resolution imaging.

Dense cores are observed to have typical rotation rates corresponding to $\beta = 0.02$ (Goodman et al. 1993) and range between $\sim 10^{-4}$ and 0.07 (Caselli et al. 2002). We simulated SEDs for $\beta = 0$, 0.01, 0.05 and 0.09 to cover the range of observed values, noting that for $\beta < 0.01$ the structure is similar to that of a non-rotating ($\beta = 0$) core. The SEDs in this section were simulated using RHD2 but we also produced SEDs for rotating cores with RHD1 with an initial temperature of $T_{\text{initial}} = 10 \text{ K}$ for comparison with observations. The column density snapshots from the RHD2 simulations in Fig. 12 show the structure in each case. The $\beta = 0$ case is spherically symmetric, the $\beta = 0.01$ case gives an oblate FHSC, $\beta = 0.05$ forms spiral arms and a small fragment before stellar core formation and $\beta = 0.09$ forms spiral arms than fragments into three FHSCs, two of which merge before stellar core formation.

The initial rotation rate affects the shape of the SED as the object evolves. From Fig. 13 we see that the higher rotation rate leads to an SED with a peak at a shorter wavelength and a shallower slope to shorter wavelengths, at low inclinations (face-on). With a faster



Figure 13. SEDs for collapsing pre-stellar cores with different initial rotation rates for snapshots from the RHD2 model when $\rho_{max} = 10^{-9}$ g cm⁻³. Rotation rate is defined via $\beta = E_{rot}/E_{grav}$. At faster rotation rates, the core is brighter in the far-infrared when viewed face-on. At 90° the SEDs of cores with different rotation rates are very similar. The peak of the SED of the $\beta = 0.09$ FHSC is at a slightly longer wavelength because the fragmented FHSC lies within a disc so the opacity perpendicular to the rotation axis is greater than the opacity in the non-rotating case.

rotating core there is less obscuring material between the core and the observer at low inclinations. This is illustrated by plotting the radial density profiles along the rotation axis and perpendicular to the rotation axis, as shown in Fig. 14. At radii less than 1000 au there is a clear difference in density at positions in the parallel and perpendicular directions due to the presence of a disc. This difference increases as the object evolves and more gas accretes on to the disc. As shown in Section 5.1, flux at $\lambda < 100 \,\mu\text{m}$ is emitted by the warm dust surrounding the FHSC. A lower density outside this region will reduce the opacity and therefore more flux will reach the observer. Hence at faster rotation rates, with a more oblate structure, the SED will peak at shorter wavelengths and there will be more flux at $\lambda < 100 \,\mu\text{m}$ and detectable flux even at 24 μm in many cases, when viewed at low inclinations (face-on), as we see in Fig. 13 (top).

The reverse is true for observations at high inclinations. The density increases perpendicular to the rotation axis as the disc structure forms, the opacity increases, and less radiation from the regions



Figure 14. Radial density profiles of the core of initial rotation $\beta = 0.09$ at snapshots from the RHD2 model when the maximum density is $1 \times 10^{-12} \text{ g cm}^{-3}$ (black), $5 \times 10^{-11} \text{ g cm}^{-3}$ (blue), $1 \times 10^{-9} \text{ g cm}^{-3}$ (green) and $1 \times 10^{-6} \text{ g cm}^{-3}$ (red). Dashed lines show the vertical radial profile (i.e. along the rotation axis) and solid lines show the horizontal radial profile. There is a greater density in the horizontal direction, that is in the plane of the disc structure, and this difference increases as the object evolves. This difference in the density profiles in the horizontal and vertical directions is responsible for the difference between SEDs at different inclinations. The 'spike' in the density is due to the presence of a fragment and the gaps in the vertical profiles are where there are insufficient particles to calculate an average density.

heated by the FHSC reaches the observer. This results in much less evolution of the SED. Beyond $\beta = 0.05$ the pattern is different because the FHSC fragments. The flux reaching an observer will therefore also depend on the location of the fragments because the structure is not axisymmetric.

The SEDs of cores with different rotation rates do have different properties, so it is possible for an SED to provide some information as to the structure of the central regions of a collapsing pre-stellar core. At high inclinations the SEDs of cores with different rotation rates are very similar. In addition, the edge-on SEDs are very similar to those of less evolved cores in the first collapse or early FHSC phase. This means that any differences due to rotation may be difficult to interpret when the inclination is not known. SEDs would need to be combined with other forms of observation to infer the structure.

5.5 Initial radius

Cores of different initial radii but equal masses will necessarily have different density structures, which in turn will affect the temperature and opacity. The simulations for exploring the effects of varying the initial radius were performed using the RHD2 model for $1 M_{\odot}$ cores, with heating from the ISRF.

It is clear from the SEDs of evolving cores with different initial radii shown in Fig. 15 that there is much more variation as the object evolves for the core with the smallest initial radius. As for the case of an initial radius of $r_{ini} = 4700$ au shown in Section 5.2, the SEDs of the core of $r_{ini} = 6000$ au do not show much evolution, with just a small increase in flux between 50 and 300 µm and no significant difference between the SEDs of late FHSC and second collapse stages. When the initial radius is increased further, there is even less variation of the SED with age of the core. As the initial radius of the core increases, it becomes less unstable to gravitational collapse so the collapse progresses mores slowly. The core of radius $r_{ini} = 11400$ au did not collapse.



Figure 15. The evolution of SEDs for the collapse of 1 M_{\odot} non-rotating pre-stellar cores with initial radii of 2000, 6000 and 10 000 au from left to right. The SEDs are calculated from snapshots at values of maximum density of $1 \times 10^{-12} \text{ g cm}^{-3}$ (first collapse, solid lines), $1 \times 10^{-8} \text{ g cm}^{-3}$ (late FHSC stage, dashed lines) and $1 \times 10^{-4} \text{ g cm}^{-3}$ (second collapse, dotted lines). There is less variation of the SED as the core evolves for cores with larger initial radii. For an initial radius of 10 000 au the second collapse SED is observationally indistinguishable from the SED of the early FHSC.



Figure 16. Radial density and temperature profiles during the collapse of 1 M_{\odot} non-rotating pre-stellar cores with initial radii of 2000, 6000 and 10 000 au for snapshots when the maximum density was $10^{-12} \text{ g cm}^{-3}$ (solid black lines), $5 \times 10^{-11} \text{ g cm}^{-3}$ (blue dashed lines), $1 \times 10^{-8} \text{ g cm}^{-3}$ (black dot–dashed line) and $10^{-4} \text{ g cm}^{-3}$ (red dotted lines). The differences in the temperature structures and the extent of the envelopes give rise to differences in their SEDs as seen in Fig. 15.

The radial density and temperature profiles of each core are shown in Fig. 16 and we find that the FHSC has the same radius in each case, as was reported by Vaytet & Haugbølle (2017). The first collapse SED is coldest for the smallest core. The smallest core is more dense so the ISRF is attenuated more strongly and does not heat the core as deeply as it does for the larger cores. The effect of this is apparent in Fig. 16 as the temperature falls more sharply near the boundary of the smaller core and the core has a lower minimum temperature. A greater fraction of the mass of the smaller core is cold, giving rise to a colder SED during the early FHSC stage for a smaller core.

The smallest core also has a brighter and more sharply peaked second collapse SED. In all cases, the FHSC heats the envelope out to \sim 700 au so for a smaller core, a larger fraction of the total mass is heated, leading to a warmer SED.

For larger cores we find that the evolution of the central object is almost completely obscured. Unless the core is rotating sufficiently to reduce the opacity significantly along the rotation axis, the application of SEDs to determine the evolutionary state of pre-stellar cores is limited to smaller cores.

5.6 Magnetic field

We performed MHD simulations of the collapse of a 1 M_{\odot} core with the radiative transfer treatment of RHD2 (see Section 2.1). These simulations use $\beta = 0.005$ and initial mass-to-flux ratios of $\mu = 5$ and $\mu = 20$, aligned with the rotation axis. Some observed FHSC candidates have substantial short wavelength emission ($\lambda < 100 \,\mu\text{m}$), and we wondered whether a magnetically driven outflow from an FHSC core may be able to boost the observed short wavelength emission compared to that produced by an unmagnetized model. The magnetic field in the $\mu = 20$ case was too weak to produce an outflow and so we produced SEDs from



Figure 17. Evolution of the SED at three inclinations for a collapsing 1 M_{\odot} core with the MHD model with initial rotation $\beta = 0.005$ and $\mu = 5$. The SEDs were calculated from snapshots when the maximum density was $10^{-12} \text{ g cm}^{-3}$, $5 \times 10^{-11} \text{ g cm}^{-3}$, $1 \times 10^{-9} \text{ g cm}^{-3}$ and $10^{-4} \text{ g cm}^{-3}$ from right to left. The SED evolutions from the non-rotating RHD2 model are shown in pink in the $i = 0^{\circ}$ panel. The SED becomes bluer and brighter as the object evolves, however the presence of an outflow does not lead to any additional increase in infrared flux.



Figure 18. Density slice (left) and vertical velocity, v_z , slice (right) for the MHD snapshot used to produce an SED during the second collapse phase when the central density was 10^{-4} g cm⁻³ (at 30 960 yr). The initial rotation was $\beta = 0.005$ and the initial mass-to-flux ratio was $\mu = 5$. At this stage, the outflow has not penetrated far into the cloud and we see that this does not reduce the density along the direction of the outflow and the infall motions are still much greater than outflow motions. Since the outflow affects only a small proportion of the core, the SED is similar to those of non-MHD simulations. The former FHSC extends to a radius of ~7 au in this snapshot.

snapshots from the $\mu = 5$ simulation in which an outflow develops late on in the FHSC phase (cf. Bate et al. 2014).

The SED evolution with the MHD simulation is displayed in Fig. 17 and in the $i = 0^{\circ}$ panel we also plot the SED evolution for RHD2 with $\beta = 0$. We see that the SED from the MHD model is initially colder, as was the case with the RHD2 model with the additional boundary column density, but subsequent SEDs are very similar. It is apparent that the presence of an outflow does not increase the flux at short wavelengths. Although the outflow contains a central region of reduced density, the outflow at this early stage is still sufficiently dense to absorb much of the flux from the core. Commerçon et al. (2012) also report this effect: looking along the outflow of a magnetized FHSC, there was no flux at $\lambda < 30 \,\mu$ m. The vertical density slice through the core and the vertical velocities of the gas during the second collapse phase are shown in Fig. 18. These figures show that during the FHSC and second collapse phases, the outflow is still small so only a small proportion of the core is influenced by the outflow and the majority of the envelope structure is similar to the purely hydrodynamical case. It is, therefore, not surprising that the SEDs are similar for models with and without magnetic fields.

Lewis, Bate & Price (2015) and Lewis & Bate (2017) performed MHD simulations for a wide range of initial magnetic field magnitudes and orientations which all produced early protostellar outflows with velocities of $<8 \text{ km s}^{-1}$. Such slow outflows extended to less than 100 au from the protostar before the stellar core forms (Fig. 18; Bate et al. 2014). Since both we and Commerçon et al. (2012) find that MHD models of FHSCs do not produce SEDs that are significantly different from RHD models, we did not explore SED variation with magnetic field further.

5.7 Dust grain properties

There is currently significant uncertainty as to the nature of interstellar dust grains. These grains are usually assumed to be no larger than 1 μ m, however there have been several suggestions that there may be significant grain growth in dense regions of the ISM (e.g. Butler & Tan 2009; Ormel et al. 2009). Draine (2006) points out that there are regional differences in the wavelength dependence of interstellar extinction, which suggests that the grain size distribution does vary.

Zubko, Dwek & Arendt (2004) compared a variety of interstellar dust models to observational constraints and found that any linear combination of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH) molecules, silicate and amorphous carbon or graphite grains provide good fits to observational constraints. Here we simulate SEDs first with silicate grains and then with amorphous carbon grains. PAH molecules only provide a significant contribution to thermal emission for $\lambda < 40 \,\mu\text{m}$ (Zubko et al. 2004), which would only affect the 24 μm observational data points, for which there is little flux for these cool objects.



Figure 19. SEDs for a non-rotating FHSC with different maximum dust grain sizes (a_{max}) using the RHD2 model. Top: silicate grain model. Bottom: amorphous carbon grain model.

We assumed a maximum grain size $a_{max} = 1 \ \mu m$ when simulating the SEDs in the previous sections but in this section we present results for when this maximum grain size is varied.

Decreasing a_{max} to below 1 µm has no effect on the SED, a result that is supported by the finding of Miyake & Nakagawa (1993) that opacities for $a_{\text{max}} < 10 \,\mu\text{m}$ are the same as for a distribution of just submicrometre dust particles. The top panel of Fig. 19 shows the effect on the SED of increasing the maximum dust grain size. For particles with $10 \,\mu m \lesssim a_{max} \lesssim 500 \,\mu m$ there is a very small decrease in flux at 50 $\mu m \lesssim \lambda \lesssim 100 \,\mu m$ but the flux at $\lambda > 200 \,\mu m$ substantially increases for $a_{\rm max} \gtrsim 100 \,\mu{\rm m}$. For $a_{\rm max} \gtrsim 500 \,\mu{\rm m}$, there is a small increase in flux for $\lambda < 70 \,\mu\text{m}$ and, again, a substantial increase in flux at $\lambda > 200 \,\mu$ m. Increasing a_{max} has the effect of increasing the millimetre dust opacity, as long as $a_{\rm max} \lesssim 1 \, {\rm mm}$ (D'Alessio, Calvet & Hartmann 2001), which could explain the increased flux at the longer wavelengths with the larger grains. At the same time, for grain sizes over 10 μ m the albedo, ω_{ν} , increases quickly from 0 to \sim 0.9 for 1 cm grains (D'Alessio et al. 2001) and so there is an additional contribution from scattered light when there are larger grains present. For larger a_{max} , the opacity is reduced for $\lambda \lesssim 100 \,\mu m$ (Miyake & Nakagawa 1993), which allows more flux from the core to reach the observer.

Varying the minimum dust grain size, a_{\min} , between 0.001 and 0.05 µm with a_{\max} fixed at 1 µm had no effect on the SED. Draine (2006) points out that for a grain size distribution of p = 3.5 most of the mass is contained in the large grains and so the numbers of large grains is affected little by a_{\min} .

The results presented so far use silicate dust grains and next we compare these with SEDs simulated with the amorphous carbon grain model of Zubko et al. (1996), shown in Fig. 19 (bottom). Compared to the SED produced using silicate grain properties with $a_{\text{max}} = 1 \,\mu\text{m}$, the flux drops off less steeply either side of the peak with amorphous carbon with the result that there is more flux at both the shortest and longest detectable wavelengths. For

Table 2. Parameters used to produce a range of model SEDs for both the RHD1, with initial temperature 10 K, and RHD2 models. The maximum density ρ_{max} is used to select specific evolutionary stages as shown in Fig. 3. β is the initial ratio of rotational energy to gravitational potential energy and a_{max} is the maximum dust grain size. The combinations of parameters give a total of 1440 synthetic SEDs, noting that $\beta = 0$ only has one possible inclination.

RHD model	β	$\rho_{\rm max}({\rm gcm^{-3}})$	Inclination	a_{\max} (µm)	Grain type
RHD1 (10 K)	0	10^{-12}	0°	1	Silicates
RHD2	0.01 0.05	5×10^{-11} 10^{-9}	45° 90°	10 100	Graphite
	0.09	10^{-8}		200	
		10^{-4}		1000	

 $a_{\text{max}} = 10 \,\mu\text{m}$, the flux at $\lambda < 100 \,\mu\text{m}$ decreases. Flux at $\lambda > 100 \,\mu\text{m}$ increases significantly for grains of $a_{\text{max}} = 100 \,\mu\text{m}$ and larger, with the $\lambda < 100 \,\mu\text{m}$ flux returning to similar values as for $a_{\text{max}} = 1 \,\mu\text{m}$ when $a_{\text{max}} > 500 \,\mu\text{m}$.

The SED is very sensitive to grain size in the presence of large dust grains. The exact composition and size distribution of dust grains in pre-stellar cores are still largely unknown, therefore we consider a range of maximum sizes of both silicate and amorphous carbon grains when comparing to observed SEDs.

6 COMPARISON TO OBSERVATIONS

In this section we describe the set of model SEDs we have produced to compare to the observations of FHSC candidates. We then discuss the 10 FHSC candidates and the results of fitting models to those observed SEDs.

6.1 Selection of models

Simulations were performed for both RHD1 and RHD2 for four different initial rotation rates. Both RHD1 and RHD2 models were included to ascertain whether the more complex treatment of radiative transfer would provide better fits to observations. For RHD1, a uniform initial temperature of 10 K was used. Fig. 3 shows the evolution of the maximum density from first to second collapse. The FHSC phase lasts from $\sim 4 \times 10^{-12} \text{g cm}^{-3}$ to $\sim 5 \times 10^{-8} \text{g cm}^{-3}$, but may commence at a higher maximum density for lower rotation rates. Six snapshots were selected from each RHD model as indicated in Fig. 3 to allow comparison of the SED as the core evolves and also between SEDs of different cores at similar evolutionary stages.

Dust properties vary across different regions so we chose to simulate SEDs for a selection of different properties. Model SEDs which use amorphous carbon grains peak at longer wavelengths than the equivalent SED using silicate grains, which more closely matches the locations of some of the observed SED peaks. We chose the smallest value of $a_{max} = 1 \mu m$ because reducing it below 1 μm had no effect and current observations indicate a maximum interstellar grain size of at least 1 μm . We included SED models with dust grains $a_{max} > 1 \mu m$ to try to reproduce the 'wider' SED of SerpS-MM22 and the infrared-bright SEDs of Per-Bolo 58 and Chamaeleon-MMS1.

The range of parameters for which we simulated SEDs is outlined in Table 2 and this gives a total of 1440 synthetic SEDs which we compared with observations.



Figure 20. Monochromatic fluxes calculated from the SEDs of different mass FHSC models scaled to fit the SED of the $5 M_{\odot}$ FHSC via the χ^2 method described in Section 4.2. Error bars for the mean error of a selection of real, observed sources are plotted at the corresponding wavelengths. At 70 µm the scaled model fluxes lie outside the error bar, which indicates that there is a limit to the scaling of a factor of ~2, beyond which the SEDs would be observationally distinguishable at $\lambda \leq 100 \mu m$.

6.2 Scaling model seds

The difference between SEDs of varying mass cores described in 5.3 indicates that there are restrictions to using scaled SEDs to fit observations. To assess the validity of using scaled SEDs, we applied the χ^2 fitting method to scale the SEDs of 0.5, 1 and $2 \, M_{\odot}$ cores during FHSC phase to the SED of a 5 M_{\odot} core also during FHSC phase. The monochromatic fluxes derived from the model SEDs of different mass cores at the wavelengths of the Serpens South observations (except 24 μ m) were multiplied by an increasing scale factor until the χ^2 value was minimized. The scaled monochromatic fluxes are plotted with the monochromatic fluxes of the 5 M_{\odot} SED in Fig. 20. The average errors of the observations of eight sources at these wavelengths are plotted with the synthetic 5 M_{\odot} fluxes.

The flux varies most between the different mass FHSCs at 70 μ m. At this point the scaled 2 M_☉ SED lies just outside the observational uncertainty, indicating that a mass difference of up to a factor of ~2 is indistinguishable observationally when scaled. From this we conclude that it is acceptable to scale 1 M_☉ SEDs to fit observations of different sources as long as the mass of the object lies in the range $0.5 M_\odot \leq M \leq 2 M_\odot$. Models fitted with scale factors outside this range must be treated with caution, particularly at $\lambda \leq 100 \,\mu$ m.

There is also a distance contribution to the scaling factor which follows the inverse square relation for luminosity and distance. The distance contribution for the scaling of the SEDs simulated at a distance of 260 pc to observations can be estimated using

scaling factor =
$$\left(\frac{260 \,\mathrm{pc}}{D}\right)^2$$
, (4)

where *D* is the distance to the source. The scale factor will be >1 for sources closer than 260 pc and <1 for sources further than 260 pc.

The approximate distance to observed FHSC candidates is usually known. It is therefore possible to separate the mass and distance contributions to the scale factor. The model SEDs used for fitting to observations are all from 1 M_{\odot} cores and equation (4) will give the contribution of the distance to the scaling factor. Dividing the scale factor by this distance contribution will then provide the approximate contribution from the mass.

An estimate of the relation between mass and scale factor was obtained from scaling the $1 M_{\odot}$ SED to SEDs of three different values of core mass. The optimum scale factors for each value of



Figure 21. Scale factors necessary to scale the 1 M_{\odot} SED to the SEDs of three cores of different masses. Here we assume the same values of fractional uncertainty as for Fig. 20. A linear fit is calculated and plotted alongside.

mass are fitted by a linear relation of scale factor = 0.7M + 0.3 as shown in Fig. 21. It is the mass obtained from this relation that needs to lie in the range $0.5 \,\mathrm{M_{\odot}} \lesssim M \lesssim 2 \,\mathrm{M_{\odot}}$ for the fitting to be robust. There are often large uncertainties in the distance measurement so these mass values are only very approximate. We also note that it would be difficult to compare these values to observational estimates of core masses, which may include material contained within a smaller or larger radius.

6.3 Observations of FHSC candidates

We attempt to fit model SEDs to the observed SEDs of B1-bN and B1-bS (Pezzuto et al. 2012; Hirano & Liu 2014), Per-Bolo 58 (Hatchell et al. 2005; Enoch et al. 2006, 2010; Schnee et al. 2010), Chamaeleon-MMS1 (Belloche et al. 2006; Tsitali et al. 2013; Väisälä et al. 2014) and CB17-MMS (Chen et al. 2012). Per-Bolo 58 and Chamaeleon-MMS1 are brighter in the infrared than the other FHSC candidates while their SEDs peak at longer wavelengths. The B1-b sources and CB17-MMS are undetected at 24 and 70 µm.

We also attempt to fit the SEDs of five newly identified FHSC candidates. These are compact submillimetre, infrared-faint sources in Serpens South, a region discovered in the observations of Gutermuth et al. (2008) with the *Spitzer Space Telescope*. Further observations (e.g. Maury et al. 2011; Nakamura et al. 2011; Kirk et al. 2013; Könyves et al. 2015) have revealed Serpens South to be a dense filamentary cloud, with a large number of protostars and a high star formation rate (SFR) of $23 \, M_{\odot} \, Myr^{-1}$, which makes Serpens South a promising place to look for FHSC candidates. Four of the sources, Aqu-MM2, SerpS-MM22, SerpS-MM19 and Aqu-MM1, are listed in Maury et al. (2011). The fifth source, HGBS J182941.1-021339, we refer to as K242, after its identification in the catalogue of Könyves et al. (2015).

The SEDs of the Serpens South FHSC candidates are constructed from 24 μ m *Spitzer* MIPS 1, 70 μ m and 160 μ m (*Herschel* PACS), 250 μ m (*Herschel* SPIRE) and 450 μ m and 850 μ m (SCUBA-2) fluxes. The observations and data reduction are described in Appendix A and the positions and monochromatic fluxes of these sources are given in Table A1. We also discuss the measurements of the distance of Serpens South in Appendix A. The objects are all faint at 24 μ m, with only SerpS-MM22 detected. B1-bN, CB17-MMS, SerpS-MM19 and K242 are also undetected at 70 μ m. While the four other candidates have SEDs similar to those of cold gas



Figure 22. B1-bN (top) and B1-bS (bottom); arrows denote upper limits. Observational data from Hirano & Liu (2014) and Pezzuto et al. (2012). B1-bN: Three model SEDs fell within a factor of 2 of the χ^2 value of the best-fitting SED. The best-fitting model was from RHD1, $\beta = 0.09$, early FHSC, silicate grains, $a_{\text{max}} = 10 \,\mu\text{m}$ and $i = 90^{\circ}$. B1-bS: 3 models fell within a factor of 2 of the χ^2 value of the best-fitting SED. The best-fitting model was from RHD2, $\beta = 0.05$, early FHSC phase, silicate grains, $a_{\text{max}} = 1 \,\mu\text{m}$ and $i = 90^{\circ}$.

clumps, SerpS-MM22 is unusual in that it is brighter than the others in the infrared while the SED peak is still around 200 µm.

6.4 Results of SED fitting

In this section we describe the results of fitting model SEDs to the 10 sources. We define the model SEDs with a χ^2 within a factor of 2 of the lowest value as providing a 'good' fit to give an indication of the variety of models providing a similiar quality of fit to the best-fitting model and to account for the minimum χ^2 values of the sources differing by up to two orders of magnitude. We then look for consistencies among those best-fitting models. First we discuss five FHSC candidates from the literature and then the sources in Serpens South.

6.4.1 B1-bN and B1-bS

We attempted to fit the SEDs of FHSC candidates B1-bN and B1-bS using the photometry presented by Pezzuto et al. (2012) and Hirano & Liu (2014).³ These sources are thought to comprise a wide binary system and there is no evidence that either source contains multiple components (Tobin et al. 2016). The SEDs and best-fitting models are shown in Fig. 22.

B1-bN is fitted equally well by three of the model SEDs, which have minimum χ^2 values between 0.2 and 0.3. These are all from the



Figure 23. Per-Bolo 58; arrows denote upper limits. Observational data from Enoch et al. (2010). Just four model SEDs fell within a factor of 2 of the χ^2 value of the best-fitting SED. The best-fitting model was from RHD2, $\beta = 0.09$, second collapse, silicate grains, $a_{\text{max}} = 200 \,\mu\text{m}$ and $i = 90^\circ$.

 $\beta = 0.09$ RHD1 model at a 90° inclination. The three model SEDs are from the FHSC phase and use silicate grains of a maximum size of either 1 or 10 µm. The optimum scale factor was 5.0, which gives a mass of ~5.5 M_☉ at the distance of 235 pc (Pezzuto et al. 2012) and the effective dust opacity at 850 µm of the best-fitting model was 4.0×10^{-3} cm² g⁻¹. B1-bN therefore looks to be a rotating young FHSC viewed at a high inclination, but is likely to be more massive than the 1 M_☉ cores used in our simulations.

B1-bS was well fitted by three model SEDs and the best-fitting model has a χ^2 of 1.2. All of the best-fitting models were from the RHD2 $\beta = 0.05$ simulation and viewed at a high inclination. They were snapshots from the FHSC phase with silicate grains of a maximum size of $a_{\text{max}} = 1$ or 10 µm. The optimum scale factor was ~6, which gives a mass of ~6.6 M_☉ at 235 pc and the 850 µm dust opacity was $3.9 \times 10^{-3} \text{ cm}^2 \text{ g}^{-1}$. Like B1-bN, B1-bS appears to be a rotating FHSC viewed at high inclination located in a more massive core than those used in our simulations.

Slow molecular outflows have been detected for B1-bN and B1-bS (Hirano & Liu 2014; Gerin et al. 2015) and evidence of pseudo-disc rotation has been reported for B1-bS (Fuente et al. 2017) which are consistent with the sources being FHSCs. The B1-bS outflow is more extended, indicating that B1-bS could be more evolved. In Section 5.6, we find the SED does not change when there is an outflow from an FHSC so we would expect the results of the SED fitting to be similar had we included MHD models with outflows. I-Hsiu Li et al. (2017) find no evidence for grain growth in this core which would rule out the 10 µm model SEDs. They suggest that an alternative explanation for this SED shape (in the 800 µm to 8 mm range) is that the temperature or density increases towards the centre of the core. This is consistent with the structure of the FHSC and envelope that we model here and the corresponding SED appears to fit the fluxes well with a maximum grain size of 1 µm.

6.4.2 Per-Bolo 58

Next, we attempted to fit the SED FHSC candidate Per-Bolo 58 in the Perseus molecular cloud (Hatchell et al. 2005; Enoch et al. 2006, 2010; Schnee et al. 2010) and the results are shown in Fig. 23. The optimum scale factor was 0.75, giving a mass of $0.6 \,M_{\odot}$ at 260 pc (Enoch et al. 2010) and the 850 µm dust opacity was $4.0 \times 10^{-2} \,\text{cm}^2 \,\text{g}^{-1}$. Per-Bolo 58 was fitted well by just four models, two from RHD1 and two from RHD2, and the minimum χ^2 value was 0.67. These were fast-rotating cores at high inclination, in FHSC or second collapse phase. All four used silicate grains of

 $^{^{3}}$ We use the 70 μ m colour corrected Herschel PACS fluxes from Hirano & Liu (2014) and discard the SPIRE fluxes because the beam sizes are larger than the separation between the sources.



Figure 24. Chamaeleon-MMS1. Observational data from Väisälä et al. (2014). After SED fits which did not use all six data points were discarded, 17 models fell within a factor of 2 of the χ^2 value of the best-fitting SED. The best-fitting model was from RHD2, $\beta = 0.09$, late FHSC, silicate grains, $a_{\text{max}} = 100 \,\mu\text{m}$ and $i = 90^{\circ}$.

 $a_{\text{max}} = 200 \,\mu\text{m}$, which was necessary to reproduce the combination of a peak between 200 and 300 μm and detectable flux at 24 and 700 μm .

Enoch et al. (2010) used a distribution of dust grains with $a_{\rm max} = 0.5 \,\mu{\rm m}$ and were able to produce an SED of this shape with either a wide outflow or a cavity in the envelope to allow the 24 µm to escape. As our models have shown, the outflow from an FHSC is unlikely to reduce the opacity to this extent. Similarly, we do not expect a cavity to be formed since in the lifetime of the FHSC the slow molecular outflow only reaches the innermost regions of the envelope. A slow bipolar outflow was discovered by Dunham et al. (2011) with properties that may be consistent with those of either FHSCs or protostars. Since we can only reproduce the SED shape with very large dust grains, this source is likely to be an FHSC only if such grains are present in collapsing pre-stellar cores. It is likely then that Per-Bolo 58 is more evolved than an FHSC. Another possibility is that the source is an unresolved multiple system, however this is ruled out by the multiplicity survey of Tobin et al. (2016). Alternatively, Per-Bolo 58 could well be a very young protostar, perhaps not long after stellar core formation, with a disc and viewed edge-on such that much of the emission from the protostar is reprocessed.

6.4.3 Chamaeleon-MMS1

The results of the SED fitting for Chamaeleon-MMS1 using the monochromatic fluxes presented in Väisälä et al. (2014) and Tsitali et al. (2013) are presented in Fig. 24. This source was fitted well by 17 models which fall within a factor of 2 of the best χ^2 value of 3.4. The optimum scale factor was 1.3, giving a mass of $0.3 \,\mathrm{M_{\odot}}$ at 160 pc (Väisälä et al. 2014) and the dust opacity at 850 $\mu\mathrm{m}$ was $7.0 \times 10^{-3} \,\mathrm{cm^2 g^{-1}}$. All but four of these were from the RHD2. The best-fitting models had initial rotation rates of $\beta = 0.05$ and $\beta = 0.09$ and a 45° inclination was most favoured. There was no clear preference for either FHSC or second collapse phase but first collapse is ruled out. Except for one model with $a_{\rm max} = 1 \,\mu\mathrm{m}$, all the models used 100 $\mu\mathrm{m} \leq a_{\rm max} \leq 500 \,\mu\mathrm{m}$. These results indicate that Cha-MMS1 is very likely to be an evolved FHSC, rotating quickly and at moderately high inclination.

Väisälä et al. (2014) attempted to fit the SED of Cha-MMS1 using the protostar SED fitting tool of Robitaille et al. (2006, 2007). The failure to produce a good fit led them to conclude that Cha-MMS1 is more likely to be a second (stellar) core, that is newly formed and accreting, and this is consistent with the results of our fitting



Figure 25. CB17-MMS; arrows denote upper limits. Observational data from Chen et al. (2012). 22 models fell within a factor of 2 of the χ^2 value of the best-fitting SED. The best-fitting model was from RHD1, $\beta = 0$, first collapse stage with silicate grains of $a_{\text{max}} = 10 \,\mu\text{m}$.

which point to an object at least as evolved as a late FHSC. Väisälä et al. (2014) also derive the ratio of rotational to gravitation energy to be $\beta = 0.07$, which lies midway between our two favoured rotation rates. We find that the best-fitting models include large $(a_{\text{max}} = 100 \,\mu\text{m})$ dust grains to fit the near straight slope between 24 and 160 μ m. It may be that a more evolved object with a disc has an SED of a similar shape while assuming only smaller grains as was suggested for Per-Bolo 58.

6.4.4 CB17-MMS

From its SED, shown in Fig. 25, CB17-MMS (Chen et al. 2012) looks cooler and younger than the previous two sources, with a peak between ~ 150 and $\sim 250 \,\mu\text{m}$. The minimum χ^2 value was 0.44 and 22 models fell within a factor of 2 of this value. All of these best-fitting models were from RHD1. More than half of them used silicate dust grains and most used grains of $a_{\text{max}} = 10 \,\mu\text{m}$. Faster rotation rates are favoured at $i = 90^{\circ}$, although non-rotating and slower rotating cores at lower inclinations are also among the best-fitting models. Half of the best-fitting model SEDs are from the first collapse stage. The remaining, more evolved, models are all viewed at $i = 90^{\circ}$. The optimum scale factor was ~ 0.8 for the models using silicate grains and ~ 0.3 for those using carbon grains. This gives a mass of $< 0.6 \, M_{\odot}$ at 250 pc. The smaller scale factor leads to a mass contribution below the range studied here. The dust opacity at 850 µm of the best-fitting model was $3.9 \times 10^{-3} \,\mathrm{cm}^2 \,\mathrm{g}^{-1}$.

The SED fitting appears strongly constrained by the 450 µm upper limit, which leads to a poorer fit of the 100 and 160 µm detections. The fitting results indicate that CB17-MMS is indeed likely to be an FHSC but could be an even younger collapsing prestellar core without a central object although the 100 µm detection would most likely indicate the former. The model SED scaling indicates a low mass object and, as we show in Section 6.2, the SEDs of lower mass cores are relatively brighter at wavelengths <200 µm and this could explain why the source is detected at 100 µm but not at 450 µm. Kinematic data with a high spatial resolution would determine whether there is a disc and thus whether this is a more evolved, rotating object viewed edge-on or a symmetrical collapsing prestellar core. Chen et al. (2012) present CO observations which may show evidence of a slow outflow. If this is correct, the collapsing core models can be ruled out and CB17-MMS remains a likely FHSC.



Figure 26. FHSC candidates from observations of the Serpens South region (see Section 6.3 and Appendix A); arrows denote upper limits. The best-fitting model SEDs are plotted in black and the other model SEDs with χ^2 values within a factor of 2 of the best-fitting model are plotted in grey. The best-fitting model SEDs are: (Aqu-MM2) RHD2, $\beta = 0.05$, silicate grains, $a_{\text{max}} = 10 \,\mu\text{m}$, $i = 0^\circ$, early FHSC. (SerpS-MM22) RHD2, $\beta = 0.05$, carbon grains, $a_{\text{max}} = 10 \,\mu\text{m}$, $i = 0^\circ$ and late FHSC. (Aqu-MM1) RHD2, $\beta = 0.05$, carbon grains, $a_{\text{max}} = 10 \,\mu\text{m}$, $i = 90^\circ$, early FHSC. (K242) RHD1, $\beta = 0.01$, carbon grains, $a_{\text{max}} = 1 \,\mu\text{m}$, $i = 90^\circ$, early FHSC.

6.4.5 Aqu-MM2

The SED fitting results of Aqu-MM2, along with the results of the remaining FHSC candidates, are shown in Fig. 26. For Aqu-MM2, the minimum χ^2 was 4.29 and 28 models out of 1440 fitted well. Slightly more of these model SEDs were produced from the RHD2 model than the RHD1 model. Nearly all of the best-fitting models are from faster rotating cores. None of the best models are from the first collapse stage, indicating that the source is more evolved than a dense 'starless' core, however there is an equal proportion of models from FHSC phase and the second collapse so we cannot constrain the evolutionary stage any further. None of the best rotating models have a 90° inclination, since the SED peak is at a comparatively short wavelength of between 150 and 200 µm even though the source remains undetected at 24 µm. The majority of best models used a maximum grain size of 10 µm and the rest used 1 µm, all of the silicate grain type. The optimum scale factor of the best-fitting model was 4.1 from which we estimate the mass contribution to be 5 M_{\odot} at 260 pc or 15 M_{\odot} at 430 pc. The 850 μm dust opacity was 3.9×10^{-3} cm² g⁻¹. The best-fitting model SEDs have been scaled beyond a factor of 2, which means that the models are likely to be brighter at 70 µm than a similar source of a higher

mass. Given that the scaled low-mass model SEDs were not quite able to fit the 70 μ m point along with the other observations, we are unable to place strong constraints on this source. However, it seems likely that Aqu-MM2 is at least as evolved as an FHSC. It is also likely to have a low inclination, therefore a resolved observation would be likely to show rotational structures.

An outflow has been observed at this source (Dunham et al. 2014) with a maximum velocity of 9 km s^{-1} , which is faster than expected from an FHSC. It looks likely that Aqu-MM2 is more evolved than an FHSC and, if so, this demonstrates an overlap in the SED properties of some FHSCs and protostars.

6.4.6 SerpS-MM22

SerpS-MM22 is detected at all of the observed wavelengths and is brighter at 24 and 70 μ m than the other sources even though the peak still appears to lie between 200 and 300 μ m, which suggests that it is unlikely to be an FHSC. The smallest χ^2 value was 4.02 and 124 models fell within a factor of 2 of this. None of the models could fit the 24 μ m flux and it should be noted that the model with the minimum χ^2 may in fact provide a poorer fit than models that are brighter at 24 μ m but fit the remaining points less well. Since none of the models could replicate the broad shape of the SED of SerpS-MM22 and none came close to fitting the 24 μ m flux it would not be meaningful to draw conclusions regarding the properties of the source. As expected, there was little consistency among the 'best-fitting' models, except that most were from RHD2 and all but one used grains of $a_{\text{max}} < 100 \,\mu$ m. Given the variation of properties among the best-fitting models and the poor quality of the fits, we are not able to constrain the nature of this source, but it is likely to be at least as evolved as an FHSC, and may have a stellar core.

6.4.7 SerpS-MM19

SerpS-MM19 is undetected at 24 and 70 µm but the peak is between 150 and 200 µm. This source is fitted reasonably well by our models with a minimum χ^2 of 0.19 and 11 model SED are defined as providing good fits. The optimum scale factor of the best-fitting model is 1.2, which gives a mass of $1.3 \, M_{\odot}$ at 260 pc or $4.2 \,\mathrm{M_{\odot}}$ at 430 pc. The 850 $\mu\mathrm{m}$ dust opacity of this model was $4.0 \times 10^{-3} \, \text{cm}^2 \, \text{g}^{-1}$. All of the best-fitting models are from the RHD2 model and used silicate dust grains with $a_{\text{max}} = 10 \,\mu\text{m}$. The best-fitting models favour a more slowly rotating core, with all but one having $\beta = 0$ or $\beta = 0.01$. All the selected models are also from late FHSC or second collapse, except for the one fast rotating model, which is early FHSC. The models from rotating cores are nearly all at moderate or high inclination. These results allow us to place constraints on the nature of the source. Although there was no detectable flux even at 70 µm, the peak is at a sufficiently short wavelength to suggest this source is an evolved FHSC or in the second collapse and stellar core formation phase. It looks likely that the object is rotating slowly and inclined, such that much of the short wavelength radiation from the hot core is absorbed by the oblate distribution of material surrounding the core.

6.4.8 Aqu-MM1

For Aqu-MM1 we obtained nine good fits with the minimum χ^2 value of 0.07. All but one were from the RHD2 model and all used amorphous carbon dust grains with $a_{max} = 1 \mu m$. Most models were rotating quickly and at high inclination. As for SerpS-MM19, the combination of a quickly rotating object at high inclination allows the peak to be at $\lambda \sim 200 \mu m$ without the source being bright at 70 μm . The optimum scale factor was ~0.6, which gives a mass of $0.4 M_{\odot}$ at 260 pc or $1.9 M_{\odot}$ at 430 pc. The 850 μm dust opacity was $1.3 \times 10^{-2} \text{ cm}^2 \text{ g}^{-1}$. The best models were mostly from the FHSC phase. This source is therefore likely to be an FHSC and to show strong rotational signatures, being most likely edge-on.

6.4.9 K242

For K242, the smallest χ^2 value was 0.01 and seven models fitted well, all of which were from the RHD1 model and used amorphous carbon grains of $a_{max} = 1 \mu m$. Only one of the best-fitting models was not rotating, but the remaining models are shared equally between the three sampled rotation rates. Of the rotating models, all but one of these are inclined at 90°. The optimum scale factor was 0.35, which gives a mass of $<0.3 M_{\odot}$ at 260 pc or $0.9 M_{\odot}$ at 430 pc. The 850 μm dust opacity was $1.3 \text{ cm}^2 \text{ g}^{-1}$. Crucially, all of the best-fitting models are from the FHSC phase, skewed towards early in the phase. This source is then likely to be an FHSC in a low mass core and may show some rotation.

7 DISCUSSION

We have performed 3D RHD simulations of the collapse of prestellar cores with a range of properties and then modelled the SEDs of these FHSCs and their envelopes using a radiative transfer code. The properties of the FHSCs themselves are very similar, the only real variation being in the increase in radius and oblateness with rotation. These simulations have shown that differences in the core properties lead to variations in the SED and that these variations are due to differences in the temperature structure and morphology of the collapsing envelope rather than the FHSC itself.

Many properties have similar effects on the SED, for example a higher mass, lower ISRF exposure, slower rotation and higher inclination all lead to a steeper drop in flux in the far-infrared. Differences in the initial rotation rate and core radius (with a constant mass and Bonnor-Ebert density profile) gave rise to the greatest SED variation. Many factors have a significant effect on the SED but only models with faster rotation can produce detectable flux at $24 \,\mu\text{m}$. This may be a property that can be constrained with the SED and can also be verified through molecular line observations. We find a shift of the SED peak to shorter wavelengths and an increase in far-infrared flux as the FHSC evolves, which is consistent with the findings of others, including Omukai (2007) and Tomida et al. (2010). We also find, however, that this effect is considerably reduced by a higher initial temperature or a larger initial radius, to the extent that for $T_{\text{init}} = 15 \text{ K}$ or $r_{\text{init}} = 1.5 \times 10^{17} \text{ cm} (10\,000 \text{ au})$ there is no SED evolution.

In Section 5.7 we described how changing the maximum dust grain size shifted the SED peak by up to 200 µm and can cause the object to appear nearly an order of magnitude brighter at submillimeter wavelengths. The choice of dust grain model can therefore have a significant impact on SED modelling. We chose to include models with very large grains in our selection for fitting to observations because it appears to be the only way to reproduce both the 70 μ m flux and a peak at $\lambda > 200 \mu$ m that we see in several observations of FHSC candidates. There is evidence for dust grains in dense molecular cores with $a_{\text{max}} > 1.5 \,\mu\text{m}$ from coreshine observations (Steinacker et al. 2015), of micron-sized grains in the ISM from detectors on Solar system spacecraft (e.g. Gruen et al. 1994; Sterken et al. 2014) and of \sim 40 µm sized Earth-impacting meteoroids (e.g. Baggaley 2000). Ormel et al. (2009) suggest that if molecular cloud lifetimes are lengthened by long-term support mechanisms, dust aggregates of $\sim 100 \,\mu\text{m}$ may be produced. From measurements of the spectral index of the millimetre dust opacity, Ricci et al. (2010) also suggest that millimetre-sized grains may already exist in class 0 YSOs so it is perhaps not unreasonable to expect grain sizes of over 10 µm in pre-stellar cores although we note that there are also protostellar cores for which there is no evidence of grain growth (e.g. I-Hsiu Li et al. 2017). The sources that were fitted best by our model SEDs, except Per-Bolo 58, were fitted well exclusively by models with $a_{\text{max}} = 1 \,\mu\text{m}$ or $a_{\text{max}} = 10 \,\mu\text{m}$, possibly indicating that the remainder would be better fitted by models with a different combination of other parameters rather than with very large grains. The alternative is that sources best fit by models with large grains are more evolved but embedded objects. Indeed, the SEDs of Per-Bolo 58 and Cha-MMS1 appear similar to the SEDs of more evolved objects, most likely accreting stellar cores, as shown by Young & Evans (2005) and Dunham et al. (2010).

We set out to ascertain whether an SED is useful for constraining the nature of these sources by fitting the model SEDs to observations. We note that the set of models covers a limited range of parameters: for example, we show in Section 6.2 that these models are less likely to be valid for sources outside a mass range of $0.5 \leq M \leq 2 \,\mathrm{M_{\odot}}$ and we only use an initial radius of $7 \times 10^{16} \,\mathrm{cm}$. Despite similarities in the SEDs of some models, such as between inclined, rotating FHSCs and young cores in first collapse phase, we find it is possible to constrain the nature of the sources in some cases. The model SEDs are distinct enough that each source is fitted well by a limited number of models, which have mostly consistent properties. Some sources are better constrained than others. None of our model SEDs fitted Aqu-MM2 and SerpS-MM22 well and so these are equally well fitted by large numbers of models. These sources are more luminous than the other Serpens South candidates and, even at the close distance, the models required scaling beyond the range of masses for which the SEDs are valid. It is possible that these sources could be fitted by using a combination of parameters we have not considered here, such as a different radius, greater mass and a fast rotation rate. It is more likely, however, that Aqu-MM2 and SerpS-MM22 are more evolved young protostars, especially given the bolometric luminosities of 0.95 L_{\odot} and 0.2 L_{\odot} (Maury et al. 2011).

The results of fitting models for SerpS-MM19, Aqu-MM1 and K242 provided some insight into their nature because a small number of models fitted well. Interestingly, where there was a strong preference for models from the early FHSC phase, no models were selected for the earlier first collapse stage, suggesting that these two stages are observationally distinguishable. After first collapse the 160 µm flux rises quickly relative to the longer wavelengths and the peak shifts. The cold, dim first collapse SEDs could not be reproduced by a more evolved object, even at high inclination, meaning that it does seem possible to differentiate between empty 'starless' cores and cores containing an FHSC. Similarly, Commercon et al. (2012) suggest that a starless cores and an FHSC are distinguishable at far-infrared wavelengths. CB17-MMS was fitted by both first collapse SEDs and SEDs from more evolved cores at high inclination, so there is some level of degeneracy between those parameters. However, we can see from Fig. 25 that none of the models is able to fit the 160 µm flux and the location of the SED peak is not well constrained. This is likely to explain the spread of best-fitting models, since the location of the peak is different for very young prestellar cores and more evolved cores at high inclination.

On the other hand, it is more difficult to distinguish between an FHSC and more evolved object observationally. Where the SED fitting shows a strong preference for the late FHSC stage, for example SerpS-MM19, second collapse SEDs also provide good fits. Differences in the SED are caused by changes in the temperature structure and opacity of the envelope and infalling material. These changes are more significant between first collapse and FHSC formation as the object transitions from the isothermal to adiabatic phase. Second collapse takes place far quicker than the first and, although the temperature rises quickly, it does so primarily within the radius of the FHSC. The SED only allows observers to probe down to the region surrounding the FHSC. This region is slow to heat and so there are unlikely to be significant differences between the SEDs of the FHSC, second collapse and early stellar core phases.

Omukai (2007) suggests that the optical depth is reduced enough in the vertical direction of a rotating core that FHSC radiation may be visible at low inclinations. However, like Saigo & Tomisaka (2011), we find that the FHSC heats the region immediately surrounding it and that it is from this region that most of the observed radiation is emitted. Even for a core with a higher rotation rate viewed face-on, the FHSC is unlikely to be directly visible at wavelengths <850 μ m. Currently, a detection at 70 μ m is used to distinguish protostellar (class 0) sources from starless cores after radiative transfer modelling showed that the 70 μ m flux is proportional to the internal luminosity (Dunham et al. 2008) and from previous attempts to model FHSC SEDs. With a realistic density structure, we find that the FHSC is obscured, which significantly reduces the 70 μ m flux (see also Saigo & Tomisaka 2011; Commerçon et al. 2012). The 70 μ m flux is highly dependent upon the structure of the centre of the core and the extent of the envelope. With a photometric sensitivity of a few mJy at 70 μ m, *Herschel* may be able to detect some FHSCs, depending on the geometry of the FHSC and its envelope but others will be too faint.

RHD2 includes a more physical treatment of radiation than RHD1 and we do see a strong preference for SEDs produced from the RHD2 model in the SED fitting. Only three of the FHSC candidates here, B1-bN, CB17-MMS and K242, were fitted best by RHD1 SEDs and these are the only sources to have SED peaks at $\lambda > 250 \,\mu\text{m}$. The SEDs produced from RHD2 models all peaked at shorter wavelengths than this, except when large dust grains were used, due to heating from the ISRF. It is interesting to note that K242 appears to lie outside the main filament (see Fig. A1), which means the ISRF and extinction could be different for this source. When the incident ISRF was reduced, the SED peaked at a longer wavelength. This suggests that the preference for RHD1 SEDs could simply be due to local differences in the ISRF and we have not included model SEDs of cores with different levels of exposure to the ISRF in the fitting procedure. We attempted to fit these three sources with only RHD2 SEDs. We could not obtain a good fit for CB17-MMS because the RHD2 SEDs are too 'warm': a lower envelope temperature is required to reproduce the position of the SED peak and submillimetre brightness. B1-bN was only fitted well by RHD2 SEDs with a maximum grain size of 200 µm, which is probably unrealistic. For K242 we obtained reasonable fits with RHD2 SEDs. The properties derived from this fitting are very similar to those from the RHD1 fits except that the RHD2 fits require the source to be younger.

Finally, the selection of the best-fitting SEDs is sensitive to small differences in the observed fluxes. Consequently, any errors in the observation could lead to a different interpretation of the properties of the core, although these are not expected to affect the possibility of distinguishing starless cores and FHSCs.

8 CONCLUSIONS

We have produced RHD simulations of the collapse of pre-stellar cores with different initial properties. Snapshots from these models at the key stages of FHSC formation and evolution were then used to simulate SEDs using a 3D radiative transfer code. We compared the SEDs of cores at different stages in their evolution and of cores with different properties. Secondly, we fitted the observed SEDs of several FHSC candidates with model SEDs from a set of 1440.

Differences in the temperature structure of the core affect the shape of the SED even though the FHSC itself is not observable directly at wavelengths <850 μ m. Most notably, fast rotation leads to significant flux at 24 μ m during FHSC phase and so FHSC candidates with observed flux at this wavelength should not necessarily be ruled out. If the core is initially warmer (e.g. 15 K) or initially less compact (e.g. $r_{\rm ini} = 1.5 \times 10^{17}$ cm), we find no evolution of the SED as the core evolves, which means a younger core could appear more evolved.

Some of the FHSC candidates were fitted well by just a small number of model SEDs with consistent properties, which allowed

us to make suggestions as to their nature. We found that the SED can be used to distinguish between cores undergoing first collapse and cores containing an FHSC but not between the FHSC and second collapse stages. Although FHSC SEDs may appear featureless, they can nonetheless be useful in characterizing sources.

Of the FHSC candidates that we have fitted with model SEDs, B1-bN, CB17-MMS, Aqu-MM1 and K242 are most likely to be FHSCs. Aqu-MM2 is likely to be rotating and at a low inclination. SerpS-MM19 may be more evolved than an FHSC but is probably rotating moderately quickly and oriented at a high inclination. Aqu-MM1 is also likely to have a high rotation rate and to have an edge-on inclination and CB17-MMS could be an FHSC embedded in an edge-on disc. From our results, we consider Chamaeleon-MMS1 and Per-Bolo 58 to be more evolved and they have probably undergone stellar core formation.

The output files from the calculations, the model SEDs and photometry and fitting scripts have been placed in the University of Exeter's Open Research Exeter (ORE) repository.

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821

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APPENDIX A: FIRST HYDROSTATIC CORE CANDIDATES IN SERPENS SOUTH

First hydrostatic core candidates in Serpens South were identified on the basis of their submillimeter, far-infrared, and mid-infrared fluxes. These fluxes were extracted from observations by SCUBA-2 (Holland et al. 2013), *Herschel* (Pilbratt et al. 2010), *Spitzer* MIPS (Rieke et al. 2004), and WISE (Wright et al. 2010).

There is some uncertainty as to the distance of Serpens South, ranging from 225 ± 55 pc derived by Straižys et al. (2003) to the commonly adopted value of 260 pc (Gutermuth et al. 2008; Bontemps et al. 2010; Maury et al. 2011; Könyves et al. 2015) and the more recent suggestion that it is physically associated with Serpens Main at 415 ± 5 pc (Dzib et al. 2010). The most up-to-date measurement is now 436.0 ± 9.2 pc (Ortiz-León et al. 2017). While fitting the observations, we scale the model SEDs and discuss the results considering both distances of and 430 pc.

A1 Observations

The Aquila region, containing Serpens South, was observed with SCUBA-2 (Holland et al. 2013) as part of the James Clerk Maxwell Telescope Gould Belt Survey (JCMT GBS, Ward-Thompson



Figure A1. SCUBA-2 maps of the Serpens South region at 850 µm. FHSC candidates are labelled and identified using red circles.

et al. 2007). The full map was first presented in Rumble et al. (2016), though the map presented in this work was produced using an improved data-reduction procedure. Fig. A1 shows the Serpens South region of the SCUBA-2 Aquila map at 850 μ m. The FHSC candidates in Serpens South are labelled.

The Multiband Imaging Photometer for *Spitzer* (MIPS) observed Serpens South as part of the *Spitzer* Gould Belt Legacy Survey, described in Dunham et al. (2015). The MIPS 1 maps containing Serpens South were used to obtain photometry for FHSC candidates at 24 μ m.

The *Herschel* Space Observatory was also used to observe Serpens South as part of the *Herschel* Gould Belt Survey (André et al. 2010). The observations were performed with both PACS (Poglitsch et al. 2010) and SPIRE (Griffin et al. 2010). Photometry for FHSC candidates in the Serpens South region was obtained at 70 and 160 μ m (observed with PACS) and 250 μ m (observed with SPIRE).

The Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer (WISE) mapped the whole sky in four wavelength bands. Band W4 has an effective wavelength of 22 μ m, and so the W4 map in the vicinity of Serpens South was used, in conjunction with the *Spitzer* data, in the identification of FHSC candidates (detailed below, in Section A2).

A2 Identification

FHSC candidates were identified using a five-step procedure. Initially, the FellWalker clump-finding algorithm (Berry 2015) was used to identify peaks in the SCUBA-2 450 μ m emission. Next,

centrally concentrated cores were selected as collapse candidates, with concentration values of 0.3 accepted, following Enoch et al. (2007). Infrared-bright cores were then rejected by cross-matching with sources in the WISE (Cutri et al. 2012), and *Spitzer* YSO (Dunham et al. 2015), catalogues, at 22 and 24 μ m, respectively. Additionally, potential FHSCs from 450 μ m were overlaid on the WISE 22 μ m and *Spitzer* 24 μ m maps. Then, *Herschel* nondetections at 160 μ m (based on a preliminary flux extraction) were rejected, as it would be expected for the SED of a cold source such as an FHSC to peak near this wavelength. Finally, FHSC candidate SEDs were compared with FHSC models, and those with the highest 24:450 μ m flux ratios were rejected. This procedure found a total of five compact submillimetre infrared-faint sources considered to be FHSC candidates in Serpens South.

Images of these five FHSC candidates are shown in Fig. A2. Five images per FHSC candidate are shown, at 24 μ m (MIPS 1), 70 and 160 μ m (*Herschel* PACS) and 450 and 850 μ m (SCUBA-2). Pixel sizes are 2.54, 3.0, 3.0, 2.0 and 3.0 arcsec, at 24, 70, 160, 450, and 850 μ m, respectively.

A3 Fluxes

A3.1 SCUBA-2 fluxes

Flux extraction from the SCUBA-2450 and 850 µm maps of Aquila used 10 and 15 arcsec aperture radii, respectively. In this instance, aperture corrections of 1/0.72 and 1/0.85 were used at the respective wavelengths (Dempsey et al. 2013). Uncertainties were extracted from the error maps at the positions of each candidate, and then combined with SCUBA-2 calibration uncertainties of 5 and 10 per cent at 850 and 450 µm, respectively. The use of a 10 arcsec aperture radius for 450 µm photometry differs from the 15 arcsec radius used to extract 70, 160 and 850 µm fluxes. However, this smaller aperture size means overall lower uncertainty on the 450 µm fluxes, and less background contamination (visible in Fig. A2, particularly for Aqu-MM2 and SerpS-MM22). A 10 arcsec aperture radius was also tested on the 70 µm map, but it was found to produce less consistent fluxes than a 15 arcsec aperture radius, so an aperture radius of 15 arcsec was maintained. The SCUBA-2 fluxes are given, along with the MIPS and Herschel fluxes, in Table A1.

A3.2 24 µm fluxes

Fluxes for each of the five FHSC candidates were extracted from the MIPS 1 maps of Aquila using aperture photometry. Each aperture had a radius r = 3.5 arcsec, with background annuli between 1.71 and 2.29 r. This aperture encircles half of the first dark ring of the beam. Uncertainties were extracted from the corresponding error maps, using apertures of the same size, but without annuli. Fluxes from these apertures were corrected using a factor of 2.78, and a 4 per cent calibration uncertainty was added (Engelbracht et al. 2007). These apertures were tested on known sources in the Dunham et al. (2015) catalogue, and all fluxes are given in Table A1.

A3.3 Herschel fluxes

Aperture photometry was also used to find fluxes for each candidate from the 70 and 160 $\,\mu m$ maps. Apertures had 15 arcsec



Figure A2. Candidate FHSCs in Serpens South, with their positions shown at five wavelengths. Red circles denote the positions of the candidates in each image, and their size represents the size of the aperture used in the photometry (3.5, 15.0, 15.0, 10.0 and 15.0 arcsec, respectively). We note that we used the photometry from Könyves et al. (2015) for the 70 μ m detection of Aqu-MM1 instead. The *x*-axis direction is East to West and the *y*-axis direction is South to North. These are centred on the peak flux position when the candidate is detected, and the 450 μ m peak position when it is not. The colour scales are logarithmic and run from 4.57 to 4.87 mJy pixel⁻¹ for 24 μ m except for SerpS-MM22 and SerpS-MM19, which range from 4.72 to 5.02 mJ pixel⁻¹ because they are in a different map; from 10.59 to 105.9 for 70 μ m; from 21.18 to 211.8 mJy pixel⁻¹ for 160 μ m; from 4.0 to 80.0 mJy pixel⁻¹ for 450 μ m; and from 2.7 to 22.5 mJy pixel⁻¹ for 850 μ m.

Table A1. Fluxes and upper limits for the five candidate FHSCs in Serpens South. Fluxes are given at 24 μ m (*Spitzer* MIPS 1), 70 and 160 μ m (*Herschel* PACS) and 450 and 850 μ m (SCUBA-2). The positions given are the coordinates of the peak of flux at 450 μ m. Upper limits used are 2σ limits. The apertures used are 3.5, 15.0, 15.0, 10.0 and 15.0 arcsec for the 24, 70, 160, 450 and 850 μ m fluxes, respectively.

ID	Position (J2000)	<i>S</i> ₂₄ (mJy)	<i>S</i> ₇₀ (mJy)	<i>S</i> ₁₆₀ (mJy)	S ₂₅₀ (mJy)	<i>S</i> ₄₅₀ (mJy)	<i>S</i> ₈₅₀ (mJy)
Aqu-MM2	18:29:03.6 -01:39:07	≤1.0	1410 ± 220	15700 ± 2400	15400 ± 800	3995 ± 353	1076 ± 42
SerpS-MM22	18:30:12.3 -02:06:57	2.3 ± 0.9	403 ± 83	4940 ± 790	6940 ± 450	$1923~\pm~306$	639 ± 39
SerpS-MM19	18:30:04.7 -01:59:59	≤1.1	≤104	2530 ± 440	2450 ± 470	810 ± 271	216 ± 33
Aqu-MM1	18:29:00.0 -01:42:47	≤0.9	31 ± 28^a	764 ± 155	1370 ± 460	916 ± 358	304 ± 43
K242	18:29:41.0 -02:13:43	≤1.1	<u>≤</u> 37	$279~\pm~125$	718 ± 135	581 ± 358	$197~\pm~43$

Note. ^aFrom Könyves et al. (2015).

radii, with annuli between 1.5 and 2.0 r, giving aperture corrections of 1/0.829 (70 μ m) and 1/0.729 (160 μ m; Balog et al. 2014). Photometric uncertainties were then combined with a conservative calibration uncertainty of 15 per cent, following Kelly et al. (2012) and Könyves et al. (2015). The resulting fluxes are provided in Table A1.

Fluxes for each of the candidates were also obtained at 250 μ m. Aperture photometry is not recommended for use with SPIRE maps

for point sources, so 250 μ m fluxes were found by cross-matching FHSC candidate positions with the source catalogue of Könyves et al. (2015). These fluxes are also given in Table A1. We do not use the SPIRE fluxes for 350 or 500 μ m because the angular resolution of those maps is significantly lower.

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