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# The 30 Doradus Molecular Cloud at 0.4 pc Resolution with the Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array: Physical Properties and the Boundedness of CO-emitting Structures

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## Abstract

We present results of a wide-field (approximately  $60 \times 90$  pc) Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array mosaic of CO(2–1) and  $^{13}\text{CO}$ (2–1) emission from the molecular cloud associated with the 30 Doradus star-forming region in the Large Magellanic Cloud (LMC). Three main emission complexes, including two forming a bow-tie-shaped structure extending northeast and southwest from the central R136 cluster, are resolved into complex filamentary networks. Consistent with previous studies, we find that the central region of the cloud has higher line widths at a fixed size relative to the rest of the molecular cloud and to other LMC clouds, indicating an enhanced level of turbulent motions. However, there is no clear trend in gravitational boundedness (as measured by the virial parameter) with distance from R136. Structures observed in  $^{13}\text{CO}$  are spatially coincident with filaments and are close to a state of virial equilibrium. In contrast,  $^{12}\text{CO}$  structures vary greatly in virialization, with low CO surface brightness structures outside of the main filamentary network being predominantly unbound. The low surface brightness structures constitute  $\sim 10\%$  of the measured CO luminosity; they may be shredded remnants of previously star-forming gas clumps, or alternatively the CO-emitting parts of more massive, CO-dark structures.


*Unified Astronomy Thesaurus concepts:* [Interstellar medium \(847\)](#); [Magellanic Clouds \(990\)](#); [Millimeter astronomy \(1061\)](#); [Giant molecular clouds \(653\)](#); [Star forming regions \(1565\)](#)

*Supporting material:* machine-readable tables

## 1. Introduction

As the most luminous star-forming region in the Local Group, the supergiant H II region of the Large Magellanic Cloud (LMC) known as the Tarantula Nebula or 30 Doradus (hereafter 30 Dor) provides a unique opportunity to study massive star formation and how it drives and responds to stellar feedback. At the heart of 30 Dor lies R136, a young ( $\sim 1\text{--}2$  Myr; Crowther et al. 2016;

Bestenlehner et al. 2020) compact ( $r \sim 1$  pc) star cluster with extraordinarily high stellar densities of  $> 1.5 \times 10^4 M_{\odot} \text{pc}^{-3}$  (Selman & Melnick 2013) and containing several stars with initial masses exceeding the canonical stellar mass upper limit of  $150 M_{\odot}$  (Crowther et al. 2010). Bestenlehner et al. (2020) find that R136 alone contributes  $\sim 27\%$  of the ionizing flux and  $\sim 19\%$  of the overall mechanical feedback in 30 Dor (as measured within a 150 pc radius by Doran et al. 2013). On larger scales, the cumulative impact of stellar winds and supernova explosions is apparent in the  $\sim 3\text{--}9 \times 10^6$  K plasma responsible for diffuse X-ray emission (Townsend et al. 2006). The rich observational data for 30 Dor have been complemented by

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extensive theoretical modeling of the associated H II and photon dominated regions (e.g., Lopez et al. 2011; Pellegrini et al. 2011; Chevance et al. 2016, 2020; Rahner et al. 2018). As a result, 30 Dor is a promising local analog for the extreme conditions that were common during the peak epoch of star formation in the universe.

R136 and its immediate surroundings have traditionally received the most attention; however it has become clear that star formation is ongoing in the giant molecular cloud beyond the central cluster (e.g., Walborn et al. 2013). A spatially extended distribution of upper main-sequence stars was found by the Hubble Tarantula Treasury Program (HTTP) survey, which imaged a  $14' \times 12'$  ( $200 \times 175$  pc) region of 30 Dor to characterize the stellar populations and to derive a dust extinction map using stellar photometry (Sabbi et al. 2013, 2016; De Marchi et al. 2016). The distribution and ages of O and B stars, as determined by the VLT-FLAMES Tarantula Survey, also indicate that massive star formation has been widely distributed throughout 30 Dor (Schneider et al. 2018). The discovery of  $\sim 20,000$  pre-main-sequence (PMS) stars using HTTP photometry (Ksoll et al. 2018), together with the  $\sim 40$  embedded massive young stellar objects (YSOs) previously discovered by the Spitzer SAGE (Whitney et al. 2008; Gruendl & Chu 2009) and *Herschel* HERITAGE (Seale et al. 2014) programs, have made 30 Dor one of the best studied regions of current star formation activity in any galaxy.

In contrast to the stellar population and PMS/YSO studies, available molecular gas maps of the 30 Dor region have much poorer angular resolution ( $\gtrsim 10$  pc; Johansson et al. 1998; Minamidani et al. 2008; Wong et al. 2011; Kalari et al. 2018; Okada et al. 2019), aside from previously published data from the Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA) covering a relatively small ( $12 \times 12$  pc) area (Indebetouw et al. 2013, 2020). To address these limitations, we have conducted new observations with ALMA, exploiting the array's unique capability to obtain a sensitive, high-resolution ( $1''.75$  beam) map of the giant molecular cloud complex across an extent of  $\sim 100$  pc using the CO  $J = 2-1$  and  $^{13}\text{CO } J = 2-1$  transitions. These low- $J$  CO transitions can be used to probe the molecular gas column density and turbulent properties down to subparsec scales at a spectral resolution of  $\sim 0.1$  km s $^{-1}$ , with the important caveat that the ability of CO to trace H $_2$  may be affected by the low metallicity and strong radiation field in this region (Israel 1997; Bolatto et al. 2013; Jameson et al. 2016; Chevance et al. 2020).

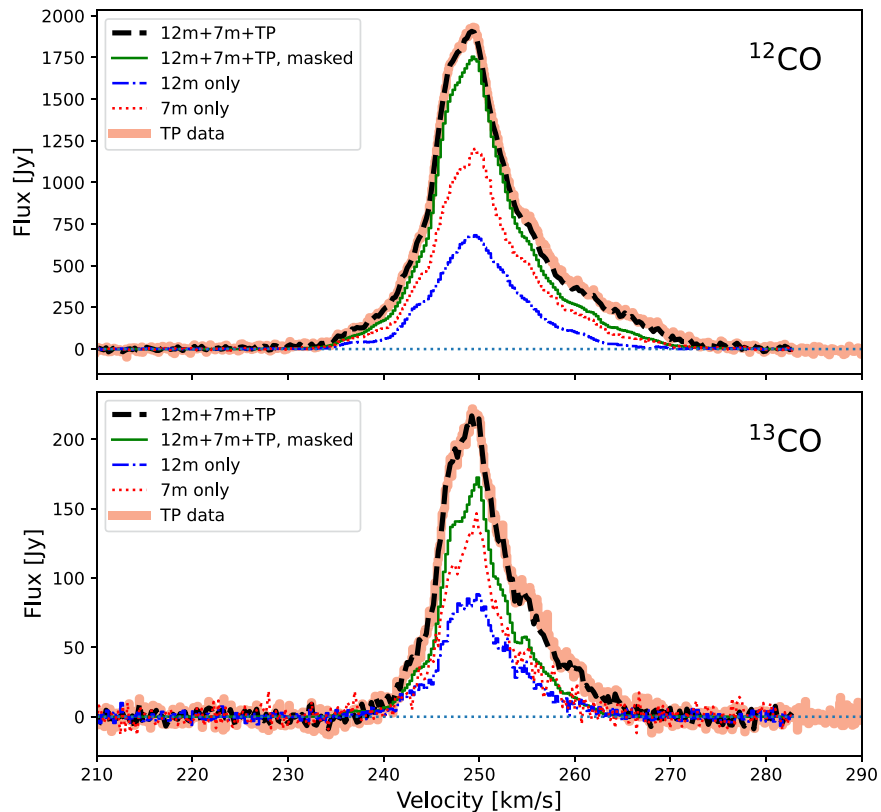
In this paper we present the basic ALMA data products (Section 2, Section 3.1) and characterize the CO and  $^{13}\text{CO}$  emission structures using dendrogram (Section 3.2) and filament finding (Section 3.3) approaches. Our immediate goal is to revisit, over a much larger region, results from previous ALMA studies (Indebetouw et al. 2013; Nayak et al. 2016; Wong et al. 2017, 2019), which have found that the CO line width is enhanced in the 30 Dor region relative to molecular clouds in the Milky Way or elsewhere in the LMC. In Section 4 we examine whether this enhancement is found throughout the 30 Dor region and how it relates to the gravitational boundedness of molecular gas structures. We briefly summarize and discuss our results in Section 5. In related works, we will present a greatly expanded catalog of YSOs across the ALMA field and examine the relationship between CO emission and YSOs (O. Nayak et al. 2022, submitted), and we will conduct a comparative study to examine the effect of

local star formation activity (as probed by mid-infrared brightness) on molecular cloud properties across the LMC (A. Green et al. 2022, in preparation). We adopt an LMC distance of 50 kpc (Pietrzyński et al. 2019) throughout this paper, for which  $1'$  is equivalent to 14.5 pc and  $1''$  is equivalent to 0.24 pc.

## 2. Observations and Data Reduction

The data presented in this paper were collected for ALMA Cycle 7 project 2019.1.00843.S in 2019 October to December. Since the field is larger than can be observed in a single ALMA scheduling block, it was split into five rectangular subfields that were observed and imaged separately. To recover flux across the widest possible range of spatial scales, each subfield was observed in the ALMA ACA (hereafter 7 m) and Total Power (hereafter TP) arrays in addition to the compact (C43-1) configuration of the 12 m array. Four of the subfields spanned  $150'' \times 150''$  and consisted of 149 individual pointings of the 12 m array, observed for about 20 sec per pointing, and 52 pointings of the 7 m array, observed for about 7 min per pointing. The fifth subfield in the northeast was half the size of the others ( $150'' \times 75''$ ). Nearly all data used J0601-7036 as the phase calibrator, which varied between 220 and 300 mJy during the span of observations. Absolute flux calibration was set using the observatory-monitored quasar grid, specifically one of the sources J0519-4546, J0538-4405, or J1107-5509 for each execution of the project. The correlator was set to cover the CO ( $J = 2-1$ ) and  $^{13}\text{CO } (J = 2-1)$  lines at high ( $\sim 0.1$  km s $^{-1}$ ) spectral resolution, the C $^{18}\text{O } (J = 2-1)$  and H $_2\text{CO } (3_{2,1}-2_{2,0}, 3_{2,2}-2_{2,1}, \text{ and } 3_{0,3}-2_{0,2})$  lines at moderate ( $\sim 0.4$  km s $^{-1}$ ) spectral resolution, and the H30 $\alpha$  and continuum across a 1.9 GHz window at low ( $\sim 1.5$  km s $^{-1}$ ) spectral resolution. For the 12 m data the time-varying gains were transferred from the wide to narrow spectral windows, and for the 7 m data, all spectral windows were combined to solve for time-varying gain. In this paper we focus on the results of the CO and  $^{13}\text{CO}$  observations; a study of the H $_2\text{CO}$  emission will appear separately (R. Indebetouw et al. 2022, in preparation).

Visibilities were calibrated by the observatory staff using Pipeline-CASA56-P1-B and CASA 5.6.1-8, with imaging then performed in CASA 5.6.1. For the TP data, the `sdimaging` task was used to generate image cubes from the spectra. A residual sinusoidal baseline in the  $^{13}\text{CO}$  TP cube was removed from the gridded image cube: At each position, the line-free frequency ranges of a spectrum averaged over a  $60''$  square region were fitted with two sinusoids of different period and amplitude, and the resulting baseline subtracted. The dominant effect on the image cube is to remove modest off-source negative bowls. For the 7 m and 12 m data, the `uvcontsub` task was first used to subtract the continuum using a 0-order fit to line-free channels (conservatively chosen based on previous imaging). The `tclean` task was then used to generate image cubes with a Briggs robustness parameter of 0.5, a threshold of 0.18 mJy, and a restoring beam of  $1''.75$  FWHM for the 12 m data ( $7''$  FWHM for the 7 m data). After cleaning, the 7 m and TP cubes were combined using the `feather` task, and the 12 m and 7m+TP cubes were combined using a second run of `feather`. Since the sensitivity pattern for each subfield has a decreasing extent in going from TP to 7 m to 12 m, each feathering step was performed on images tapered by the narrower sensitivity pattern (7 m in the first step, 12 m in the



**Figure 1.** Integrated flux spectra for the CO(2–1) (top) and  $^{13}\text{CO}(2-1)$  (bottom) cubes at  $0.25 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  resolution. The cubes compared are the feathered cube (*black dashed line*), the total power array data only (*thick pink line*), the 7 m array data only (*red dotted line*), and the 12 m array data only (*blue dotted–dashed line*). A solid green line shows the flux in the feathered cubes after applying the dilated mask described in Section 3.1.

second) and the final results are assumed to have the sensitivity pattern of the 12 m images.

Figure 1 compares the integrated spectra derived from the 12 m and 7 m data alone with those derived from the TP data and from the feathering process. The velocity axis uses the radio definition of velocity,  $c(\nu_0 - \nu)/\nu_0$ , and is referenced to the kinematic local standard of rest (LSR). As expected, the TP flux (shown as the thick pink line) is recovered in the feathered cube (shown as the dashed black line). Flux recovery for the 7 m (12 m) array alone is 60% (33%) for  $^{12}\text{CO}$  and 55% (38%) for  $^{13}\text{CO}$ . The threshold mask used to construct the moment images (shown as the green line; see Section 3.1) recovers  $\sim 80\%$  of the feathered  $^{12}\text{CO}$  flux and  $\sim 70\%$  of the feathered  $^{13}\text{CO}$  flux; the remaining flux lies outside the mask boundary. The integrated  $^{12}\text{CO}$  TP flux is  $22900 \text{ Jy km s}^{-1}$ , which corresponds to a molecular gas mass (including helium) of  $2.4 \times 10^5 M_\odot$  for our adopted distance and CO-to- $\text{H}_2$  conversion factor (Section 3.1).

To generate the final maps, gain-corrected image cubes for each subfield were mosaiced by coaddition using inverse variance weighting based on the sensitivity pattern of each subfield. The mosaicing was performed using the Python REPROJECT package<sup>22</sup> using bilinear interpolation. After mosaicing, the images were downsampled by a factor of two in R.A. and decl. to yield final images of  $1000 \times 800$  pixels using  $0''.5$  pixels; this is still more than adequate to oversample the  $1''.75$  synthesized beam (corresponding to  $0.4 \text{ pc}$  at our adopted distance). In addition to cubes with  $0.1 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  channels (spanning 200 to  $289.9 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ ), we also generated

cubes with  $0.25 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  channels (spanning 208 to  $282 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ ) to improve the brightness sensitivity per channel. The resulting rms noise per  $0.25 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  channel is  $\approx 0.26 \text{ K}$  ( $35 \text{ mJy beam}^{-1}$ ), with somewhat lower noise ( $\approx 0.16 \text{ K}$  or  $21 \text{ mJy beam}^{-1}$ ) in the smallest subfield. Most of the results in this paper are based on analysis of the  $0.25 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  cubes, though comparisons with the  $0.1 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  cubes are made as well.

### 3. Data Analysis Methods

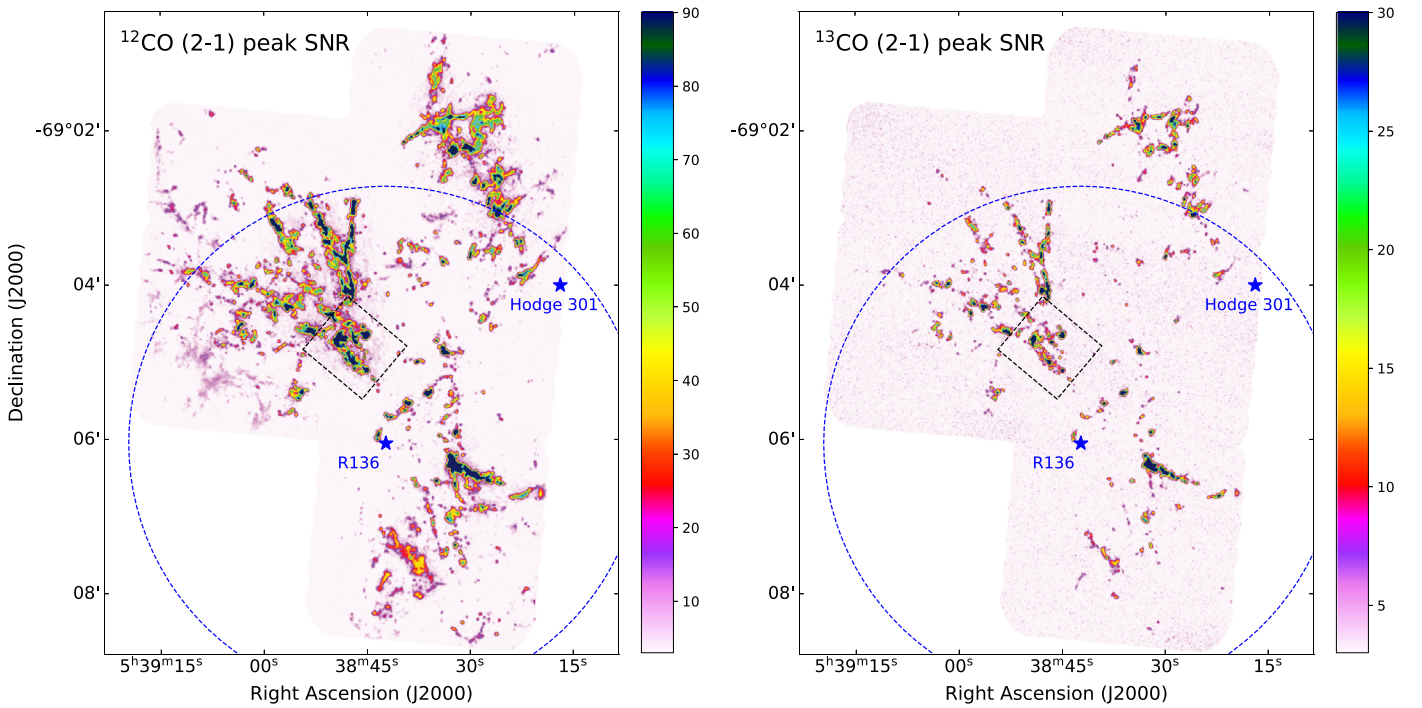
#### 3.1. Intensities and Column Densities

Figure 2 shows images of peak signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) for the  $^{12}\text{CO}$  and  $^{13}\text{CO}$  data with  $0.25 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  channels. Although insensitive to complex line profiles, such images effectively reveal the full dynamic range of detected emission without requiring subjective decisions about how to mask out noise. For this reason the peak SNR image for  $^{12}\text{CO}$  is used for filament identification in Section 3.3. The dashed circle is at a projected distance of  $\theta_{\text{off}} = 200''$  from the center of the R136 cluster at  $\alpha_{2000} = 5^{\text{h}}38^{\text{m}}42^{\text{s}}.3$ ,  $\delta_{2000} = -69^{\circ}06'03''.3$  (Sabbi et al. 2016). The central position of the older Hodge 301 cluster ( $\alpha_{2000} = 5^{\text{h}}38^{\text{m}}17^{\text{s}}$ ,  $\delta_{2000} = -69^{\circ}04'00''$ ; Sabbi et al. 2016) is indicated as well.

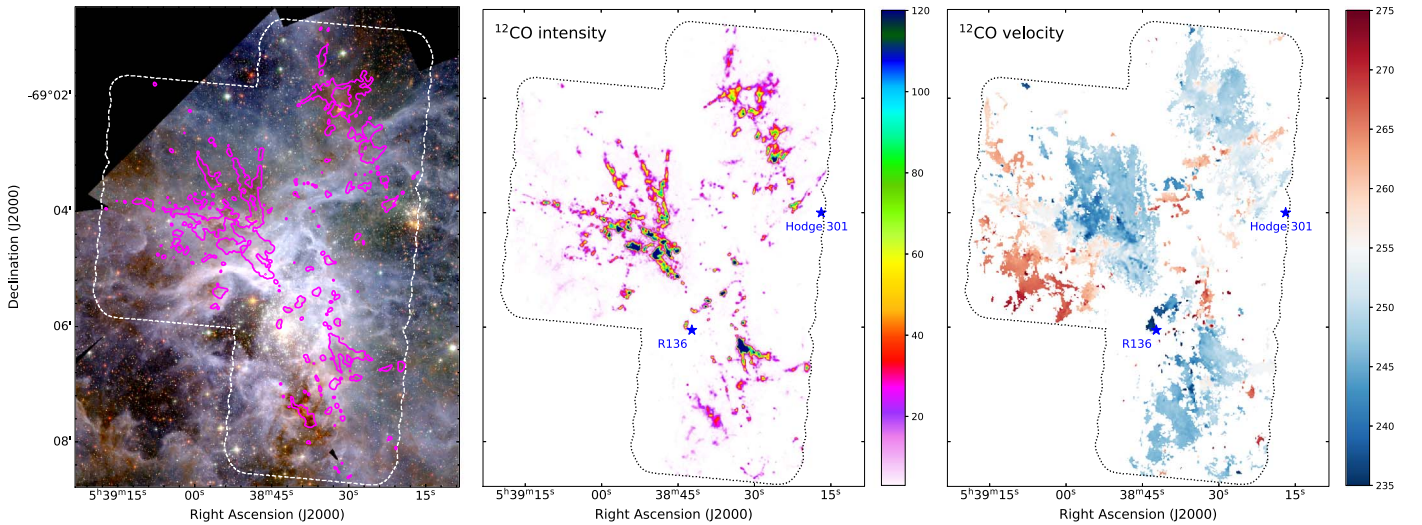
We have also generated intensity moment images from the cubes, using a signal masking procedure implemented in the Python `maskmoment` package.<sup>23</sup> In brief, starting from a gain-corrected cube and an rms noise cube, a strict mask composed of pixels with brightness of  $4\sigma$  or greater in two consecutive channels is created and expanded to a looser mask defined by

<sup>22</sup> <https://reproject.readthedocs.io/>

<sup>23</sup> <https://github.com/tonywong94/maskmoment>



**Figure 2.** Peak signal-to-noise ratio images for the CO (left) and  $^{13}\text{CO}$  (right) cubes. The dashed circle represents a projected distance of  $200''$  (48 pc) from the center of the R136 cluster, for ease of comparison with Figure 11. The dashed rectangle has a linear dimension of  $\sim 12$  pc and denotes the region mapped in ALMA Cycle 0 (Indebetouw et al. 2013). The central position of the more evolved Hodge 301 cluster is also indicated.



**Figure 3.** Zero moment (integrated intensity in  $\text{K km s}^{-1}$ , middle) and first moment (intensity-weighted mean velocity in  $\text{km s}^{-1}$ , right) images for the CO cube, after applying the dilated mask. The outline of the ALMA footprint is indicated by a dotted contour. In the left panel, the zero moment contours are overlaid on a Hubble Space Telescope RGB image from the HTTP survey (Sabbie et al. 2013) with  $1.6 \mu\text{m}$  in red,  $775 \text{ nm}$  in green, and  $555 \text{ nm}$  in blue.

the surrounding  $2\sigma$  contour. Mask regions with projected sky area less than two synthesized beams are then eliminated. The resulting integrated flux spectrum within the mask is shown as the green line in Figure 1. The zero, first, and second intensity moments along the velocity axis are then computed with pixels outside the signal mask blanked. Images of the zero and first moments of the  $^{12}\text{CO}$  cube are shown in Figure 3. A notable feature of the first moment map is the roughly orthogonal blueshifted and redshifted emission structures that are found crossing the center of the map. We provide an overview of the CO distribution and velocity structure in Section 4.1.

Derivation of molecular gas mass from the cubes follows the basic procedures presented in Wong et al. (2017) and Wong et al. (2019). Where  $^{13}\text{CO}$  emission is detected, we can determine the  $^{13}\text{CO}$  column density in the local thermodynamic equilibrium (LTE) approximation,  $N(^{13}\text{CO})$ . The excitation temperature  $T_{\text{ex}}$  is assumed constant along each line of sight and is derived from the  $^{12}\text{CO}$  peak brightness temperature ( $T_{12,\text{pk}}$ ) by assuming the  $^{12}\text{CO}$  line is optically thick at the peak of the spectrum and is not subject to beam dilution:

$$T_{12,\text{pk}} = J(T_{\text{ex}}) - J(T_{\text{cmb}}), \quad (1)$$

where

$$J(T) \equiv \frac{h\nu/k}{\exp(h\nu/kT) - 1}. \quad (2)$$

For pixels with  $^{13}\text{CO}$  peak SNR  $> 5$ , the median and maximum values of  $T_{\text{ex}}$  are found to be 20 K and 60 K, respectively. The beam-averaged  $^{13}\text{CO}$  optical depth,  $\tau_{13}$ , is then calculated from the brightness temperature,  $T_{13}$ , at each position and velocity in the cube by solving

$$T_{13} = [J(T_{\text{ex}}) - J(T_{\text{cmb}})][1 - \exp(-\tau_{13})]. \quad (3)$$

As noted in Wong et al. (2017) and Wong et al. (2019),  $T_{13}$  cannot exceed  $J(T_{\text{ex}}) - J(T_{\text{cmb}}) \approx T_{\text{ex}} - 4.5$  (approximation good to 0.8 K for  $5 < T_{\text{ex}} < 60$ ). Adopting a minimum value for the excitation temperature serves to reduce the number of undefined values of  $\tau_{13}$  and prevents noise in the  $^{13}\text{CO}$  map from being assigned very large opacities. We adopt a minimum  $T_{\text{ex}} = 8$  K under the assumption that lower inferred values of  $T_{\text{ex}}$  result from beam dilution of  $^{12}\text{CO}$ . Since only 1.1% of highly significant ( $^{13}\text{CO}$  peak SNR  $> 5$ ) pixels fall below this limit, our results are not sensitive to this choice. The inferred column density  $N(^{13}\text{CO})$  in  $\text{cm}^{-2}$ , summed over all rotational levels, is determined from  $T_{\text{ex}}$  and  $\tau_{13}$  using the equation (e.g., Garden et al. 1991, Appendix A):

$$N(^{13}\text{CO}) = 1.2 \times 10^{14} \left[ \frac{(T_{\text{ex}} + 0.88)e^{5.3/T_{\text{ex}}}}{1 - e^{-10.6/T_{\text{ex}}}} \right] \int \tau_{13} dv. \quad (4)$$

A corresponding  $\text{H}_2$  column density is derived using an abundance ratio of

$$\Upsilon_{13\text{CO}} \equiv \frac{N(\text{H}_2)}{N(^{13}\text{CO})} = 3 \times 10^6, \quad (5)$$

for consistency with the values inferred or adopted by previous analyses (Heikkilä et al. 1999; Mizuno et al. 2010; Fujii et al. 2014).

We also compute a luminosity-based  $\text{H}_2$  mass directly from the  $^{12}\text{CO}$  integrated intensity by assuming a constant CO-to- $\text{H}_2$  conversion factor:

$$X_{\text{CO}} \equiv \frac{N(\text{H}_2)}{I(\text{CO})} = 2 \times 10^{20} X_2 \frac{\text{cm}^{-2}}{\text{K km s}^{-1}}. \quad (6)$$

Here  $X_2 = 1$  for a standard (Galactic) CO-to- $\text{H}_2$  conversion factor (Bolatto et al. 2013). In our analysis we assume  $X_2 = 2.4$  for the CO(1–0) line (based on the virial analysis of the MAGMA GMC catalog by Hughes et al. 2010), which translates to  $X_2 = 1.6$  for the CO(2–1) line, adopting a CO(2–1)/CO(1–0) brightness temperature ratio of  $R_{21} = 1.5$ . We adopt this value of  $R_{21}$  based on a comparison of the ALMA TP spectra with resolution-matched MAGMA CO(1–0) spectra from Wong et al. (2011). Previous work has shown the line ratio to vary with cloud conditions, with values  $\sim 0.6$  for molecular clouds in the outskirts of the LMC (Wong et al. 2017) and rising to  $\sim 1$  near 30 Dor (at  $9'$  resolution, Sorai et al. 2001), so a fixed value is only roughly appropriate. While values of  $R_{21} \gtrsim 1$  are not expected for optically thick, thermalized emission, they have been reported in other actively star-forming regions, in both Galactic (Orion KL, Nishimura et al. 2015) and Magellanic (e.g., N83 in the SMC,

Bolatto et al. 2003; N11 in LMC, Israel et al. 2003) environments. As discussed by Bolatto et al. (2003), high  $R_{21}$  can arise from a molecular medium that is both warm and clumpy (as is clearly the case for 30 Dor), since the larger photosphere ( $\tau \sim 1$  surface) for the  $2 \rightarrow 1$  line fills more of the telescope beam. Given the many uncertain assumptions in our analysis, and the likelihood that  $X_{\text{CO}}$  varies on scales comparable to or smaller than our map (see further discussion in Section 5), our luminosity-based masses should be considered uncertain by a factor of 2, and possibly more if substantial CO-dark gas is present.

### 3.2. Structural Decomposition

We use the Python program `astrodendro`<sup>24</sup> to identify and segment the line emission regions in the cubes (Rosolowsky et al. 2008). Parameters for the algorithm are chosen to identify local maxima in the cube above the  $3\sigma_{\text{rms}}$  level that are also at least  $2.5\sigma_{\text{rms}}$  above the merge level with adjacent structures. Each local maximum is required to span at least two synthesized beams in area and is bounded by an isosurface at either the minimum ( $3\sigma_{\text{rms}}$ ) level or at the merge level with an adjoining structure. Bounding isosurfaces surrounding the local maxima are categorized as *trunks*, *branches*, or *leaves* according to whether they are the largest contiguous structures (trunks), are intermediate in scale (branches), or have no resolved substructure (leaves). Although the dendrogram structures are not all independent, trunks do not overlap other trunks in the cube and leaves do not overlap other leaves in the cube. Since an object with no detected substructure is classified as a leaf, every trunk will contain leaf (and usually branch) substructures, which are collectively termed its *descendants*.

The basic properties of the identified structures are also determined by `astrodendro`, including their spatial and velocity centroids ( $\bar{x}$ ,  $\bar{y}$ ,  $\bar{v}$ ), the integrated flux  $S$ , rms line width  $\sigma_v$  (defined as the intensity-weighted second moment of the structure along the velocity axis), the position angle of the major axis (as determined by principal component analysis)  $\phi$ , and the rms sizes along the major and minor axes,  $\sigma_{\text{maj}}$  and  $\sigma_{\text{min}}$ . All properties are determined using the “bijection” approach discussed by Rosolowsky et al. (2008), which associates all emission bounded by an isosurface with the identified structure. We then calculate deconvolved values for the major and minor axes,  $\sigma'_{\text{maj}}$  and  $\sigma'_{\text{min}}$ , approximating each structure as a 2D Gaussian with major and minor axes of  $\sigma_{\text{maj}}$  and  $\sigma_{\text{min}}$  before deconvolving the telescope beam. Structures that cannot be deconvolved are excluded from further analysis. From these basic properties we have calculated additional properties, including the effective rms spatial size,  $\sigma_r = \sqrt{\sigma'_{\text{maj}}\sigma'_{\text{min}}}$ ; the effective radius  $R = 1.91\sigma_r$ , following Solomon et al. (1987); the luminosity  $L = Sd^2$ , adopting  $d = 50$  kpc (Pietrzyński et al. 2019); the virial mass  $M_{\text{vir}} = 5\sigma_v^2 R/G$ , derived from solving the equilibrium condition (for kinetic energy  $\mathcal{T}$  and potential energy  $\mathcal{W}$ ):

$$2\mathcal{T} + \mathcal{W} = 2\left(\frac{3}{2}M_{\text{vir}}\sigma_v^2\right) - \frac{3}{5}\frac{GM_{\text{vir}}^2}{R} = 0; \quad (7)$$

<sup>24</sup> <http://www.dendrograms.org>

the LTE-based mass (from  $^{13}\text{CO}$ ):

$$M_{\text{LTE}} = (2m_p)(1.36)\Upsilon_{^{13}\text{CO}} \int N(^{13}\text{CO})dA, \quad (8)$$

where the integration is over the projected area of the structure  $A$ , 1.36 is a correction factor for associated helium, and the abundance ratio  $\Upsilon_{^{13}\text{CO}}$  is given by Equation (5); and the luminosity-based mass (from  $^{12}\text{CO}$ ):

$$\frac{M_{\text{lum}}}{M_{\odot}} = 4.3X_2 \frac{L_{\text{CO}}}{\text{K km s}^{-1} \text{ pc}^2}, \quad (9)$$

where  $X_2$  is defined in Equation (6) and the factor of 4.3 includes associated helium (Bolatto et al. 2013). By taking ratios of these mass estimates we then calculate the so-called virial parameter,

$$\alpha_{\text{vir}} = \begin{cases} M_{\text{vir}}/M_{\text{lum}} & \text{for } ^{12}\text{CO}, \\ M_{\text{vir}}/M_{\text{LTE}} & \text{for } ^{13}\text{CO}. \end{cases} \quad (10)$$

Tables 1 and 2 present the measured and derived properties of the resolved CO and  $^{13}\text{CO}$  dendrogram structures, including their classification as trunks, branches, or leaves.

We also postprocess the dendrogram output using the SCIMES algorithm (Colombo et al. 2015), which utilizes spectral clustering (an unsupervised classification approach based on graph theory) to identify discrete structures with similar emission properties. The resulting clusters (hereafter referred to as *clumps* to avoid confusion with star clusters) form a set of independent objects, avoiding the problem that the complete set of dendrogram structures constitute a nested rather than independent set. At the same time, the SCIMES clumps span a wider range of size, line width, and luminosity in comparison to the leaves, and because they are required to contain substructure, they are less likely to be influenced by fluctuations in the map noise. In particular, we run the algorithm with the `save_branches` setting active, which retains isolated branches as clumps but not isolated leaves. We use the “volume” criterion for defining similarity, which calculates volume as  $V = \pi R^2 \sigma_v$  for each structure. Comparison runs using both “volume” and “luminosity” criteria, and without the `save_branches` setting, produce almost identical results for our data. Note that because the clumps are a subset of the cataloged dendrogram structures, their properties have already been calculated as described above. Tables 3 and 4 present the properties of the CO and  $^{13}\text{CO}$  clumps, respectively, ordered by right ascension. Images of the individual  $^{12}\text{CO}$  and  $^{13}\text{CO}$  clumps are shown in the upper panels of Figure 4; since the clumps are identified in the cube, they are sometimes found projected against one another. The number of clumps found in  $^{12}\text{CO}$  ( $^{13}\text{CO}$ ) are 198 (71), of which 142 (61) have sizes that can be deconvolved. The lower panel of Figure 4 shows a zoomed view of part of the  $^{12}\text{CO}$  dendrogram tree, with the SCIMES clumps identified as distinctly colored subtrees (the colors are chosen to match the upper left panel). We stress that the analyses of the  $^{12}\text{CO}$  and  $^{13}\text{CO}$  data are conducted independently; we examine positional matches between the two sets of catalogs in Section 4.3.

### 3.3. Filament Identification

We also employed an alternative structure-finding package, FilFinder, to highlight the filamentary nature of the emission. We apply the `FilFinder2D` algorithm, described in

Koch & Rosolowsky (2015), to the peak SNR image of  $^{12}\text{CO}(2-1)$  emission. To suppress bright regions, the image is first flattened with an arctan transform,  $I' = I_0 \arctan(I/I_0)$ , where  $I_0$  is chosen as the 80th percentile of the image brightness distribution (for this image  $I_0 = 5.3\sigma_{\text{rms}}$ ). A mask is then created from the flattened image using adaptive thresholding with the following parameters: `smooth_size` of 5 pixels (corresponding to  $2''5$ ), `adapt_thresh` of 10 pixels (corresponding to  $5''$ ), `size_thresh` of 80 pixels (corresponding to  $20 \text{ arcsec}^2$ ), and `glob_thresh` of  $4\sigma$ . We experimented with a variety of parameter sets but found that these parameters produced a signal mask that was most consistent with the emission regions identified with SCIMES. Each mask region is reduced to a one-pixel wide “skeleton” using the medial axis transform, and small structures are removed by imposing a minimum length (pixel count) of 4 beam widths for the skeleton as a whole and 2 beam widths for branches that depart from the longest path through the skeleton. The resulting skeletonization of the emission, after pruning of small structures, is visualized in black in the upper left panel of Figure 4. The skeletonization is effective at identifying and connecting large, coherent emission structures, but “breaks” in the filamentary structure may still arise from sensitivity limitations that prevent the algorithm from connecting neighboring skeletons. While it is possible that velocity discontinuities across filaments could be missed by identifying filaments only in 2D, we generally observe that spatially coherent filaments are also coherent in velocity.

## 4. Results

### 4.1. Overall Cloud Structure

Figures 2 and 3 show that the overall morphology of the cloud is primarily oriented along a direction rotated  $\sim 30^\circ$  counterclockwise from north. The left panel of Figure 3 shows an overlay of the integrated CO intensity as magenta contours over a three-color image (using the F555W, F775W, and F160W filters) from HTTP (Sabbi et al. 2013), revealing that in some instances the CO is associated with extincted regions situated in the foreground of the Tarantula Nebula. As apparent from earlier single-dish mapping (Johansson et al. 1998; Minamidani et al. 2008; Pineda et al. 2009), the brightest CO emission is distributed in two triangular lobes that fan out from the approximate position of R136, giving the cloud its characteristic “bow-tie-shaped” appearance. ALMA resolves these triangular lobes into radially oriented filaments (Figure 4), providing another example of the “hub-filament” structure previously reported in the N159 HII region that lies just south of 30 Dor (Fukui et al. 2019; Tokuda et al. 2019). A third large CO-emitting region to the northwest, closer to Hodge 301, is also highly filamentary but with more randomly oriented filaments.

In terms of velocity structure, the 30 Dor cloud spans a relatively large extent in velocity (approximately  $40 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ ), compared to the typical velocity extent of  $\sim 10 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  seen in other LMC molecular clouds (Saigo et al. 2017; Wong et al. 2019). Figure 3 shows that the bow-tie-shaped structure is primarily blueshifted with respect to the mean cloud velocity ( $\bar{v} \approx 255 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  in the LSRK frame or  $\bar{v}_{\odot} = 270 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ ), with a relatively faint redshifted structure seen crossing perpendicular to it from the northwest to southeast. The clouds projected closest to R136 and studied by Kalari et al. (2018) are

**Table 1**  
All Resolved Structures in the Default  $^{12}\text{CO}$  ALMA 30 Dor Cube

No.	R. A. (J2000)	Decl. (J2000)	$v_{\text{LSR}}$ ( $\text{kms}^{-1}$ )	CO Flux ( $\text{Jy kms}^{-1}$ )	$\sigma_{\text{maj}}$ ( $''$ )	$\sigma_{\text{min}}$ ( $''$ )	$\phi^{\text{a}}$ ( $\{\}^{\circ}$ )	$A^{\text{b}}$ ( $\text{pc}^2$ )	$\log R$ (pc)	$\log \sigma_v$ ( $\text{kms}^{-1}$ )	$\log M_{\text{lum}}$ ( $M_{\odot}$ )	$\log M_{\text{vir}}$ ( $M_{\odot}$ )	$\log \alpha_{\text{vir}}$	$\theta_{\text{off}}$ ( $''$ )	Type <sup>c</sup>					
1	84.57183	-69.05638	250.31	15.73	3.22	0.98	48.32	2.48	-0.184	0.052	-0.068	0.043	2.22	0.04	2.75	0.08	0.526	0.091	209.09	B
2	84.57234	-69.05669	249.98	29.62	4.78	1.33	57.83	6.26	0.025	0.043	0.110	0.043	2.49	0.04	3.31	0.08	0.816	0.087	207.83	B
3	84.57238	-69.05668	250.03	30.07	4.77	1.39	57.70	6.54	0.037	0.043	0.133	0.043	2.50	0.04	3.37	0.08	0.868	0.087	207.82	T
4	84.57269	-69.05674	250.40	8.56	1.37	1.01	64.21	1.25	-0.385	0.059	-0.148	0.047	1.95	0.04	2.38	0.09	0.429	0.099	207.39	L
5	84.57468	-69.04244	260.89	3.94	1.89	1.10	92.21	2.35	-0.260	0.058	0.034	0.050	1.62	0.04	2.87	0.09	1.255	0.101	247.74	B
6	84.57471	-69.04231	260.80	3.06	1.36	1.00	85.85	1.45	-0.390	0.075	0.027	0.054	1.51	0.04	2.73	0.11	1.221	0.116	248.11	L
7	84.57598	-69.01610	260.20	5.55	2.03	0.95	46.20	1.87	-0.312	0.077	-0.321	0.062	1.77	0.04	2.11	0.12	0.344	0.124	331.49	T
8	84.57635	-69.01623	260.15	4.05	1.11	0.94	52.54	1.20	-0.494	0.102	-0.376	0.072	1.63	0.04	1.82	0.14	0.190	0.150	330.86	L
9	84.57701	-69.04659	253.97	5.14	1.92	1.01	143.93	1.95	-0.293	0.054	-0.192	0.050	1.73	0.04	2.39	0.09	0.655	0.099	233.54	B
10	84.57703	-69.04668	253.94	6.80	2.20	1.36	126.66	3.29	-0.147	0.043	-0.119	0.043	1.86	0.04	2.68	0.08	0.825	0.087	233.24	T

**Notes.**<sup>a</sup> Position angle is measured counterclockwise from +  $x$  direction (west).<sup>b</sup> Projected area of clump.<sup>c</sup> Type of structure: (T)runk, (B)ranch, or (L)leaf.

Table 1 is published in its entirety in machine-readable format. A portion is shown here for guidance regarding its form and content.  
(This table is available in its entirety in machine-readable form.)



**Table 2**  
All Resolved Structures in the Default  $^{13}\text{CO}$  ALMA 30 Dor Cube

No.	R. A. (J2000)	Decl. (J2000)	$v_{\text{LSR}}$ ( $\text{kms}^{-1}$ )	$^{13}\text{CO}$ Flux ( $\text{Jy kms}^{-1}$ )	$\sigma_{\text{maj}}$ ( $''$ )	$\sigma_{\text{min}}$ ( $''$ )	$\phi^{\text{a}}$ ( $\{\circ\}$ )	$A^{\text{b}}$ ( $\text{pc}^2$ )	$\log R$ (pc)	$\log \sigma_{\text{v}}$ ( $\text{kms}^{-1}$ )	$\log M_{\text{LTE}}$ ( $M_{\odot}$ )	$\log M_{\text{vir}}$ ( $M_{\odot}$ )	$\log \alpha_{\text{vir}}$	$\theta_{\text{off}}$ ( $''$ )	Type <sup>c</sup>					
1	84.58256	-69.11153	255.44	7.58	1.35	0.96	93.55	1.97	-0.414	0.084	-0.138	0.061	2.74	0.04	2.38	0.12	-0.365	0.128	126.21	L
2	84.59348	-69.06432	253.36	10.88	3.78	1.04	-153.22	5.04	-0.120	0.047	0.140	0.043	2.85	0.04	3.23	0.08	0.371	0.089	169.35	T
3	84.59369	-69.11212	254.62	4.56	2.42	0.88	-157.45	2.14	-0.315	0.137	-0.514	0.068	2.52	0.04	1.72	0.17	-0.797	0.173	113.40	L
4	84.59417	-69.11212	254.62	6.98	3.47	1.09	-161.11	4.07	-0.117	0.043	-0.442	0.043	2.69	0.04	2.06	0.08	-0.624	0.087	112.83	T
5	84.59450	-69.06448	253.26	7.07	2.12	0.78	-159.93	2.00	-0.486	0.228	0.112	0.043	2.67	0.04	2.80	0.24	0.129	0.240	168.07	B
6	84.59499	-69.05733	252.46	1.60	1.14	0.95	68.02	1.32	-0.478	0.117	-0.093	0.057	2.01	0.04	2.40	0.14	0.394	0.148	188.50	L
7	84.59652	-69.05744	250.56	4.04	1.91	1.36	-170.80	2.57	-0.183	0.043	0.256	0.043	2.41	0.04	3.39	0.08	0.982	0.087	187.08	T
8	84.60235	-69.05040	251.14	7.08	2.08	0.94	-139.97	1.88	-0.314	0.061	-0.032	0.044	2.69	0.04	2.69	0.09	-0.005	0.097	205.18	L
9	84.60755	-69.05069	252.03	55.22	4.81	2.61	-157.25	13.94	0.203	0.043	0.181	0.043	3.59	0.04	3.63	0.08	0.041	0.087	201.24	B
10	84.60762	-69.10940	249.77	1.74	1.80	0.95	157.41	1.94	-0.340	0.113	-0.354	0.091	2.07	0.04	2.02	0.17	-0.053	0.177	93.27	L

**Notes.** Table 2 is published in its entirety in machine-readable format. A portion is shown here for guidance regarding its form and content.

<sup>a</sup> Position angle is measured counterclockwise from +  $x$  direction (west).

<sup>b</sup> Projected area of clump.

<sup>c</sup> Type of structure: (T)runk, (B)ranch, or (L)eaf.

(This table is available in its entirety in machine-readable form.)

**Table 3**  
SCIMES Clumps in the Default  $^{12}\text{CO}$  ALMA 30 Dor Cube

No.	R. A. (J2000)	Decl. (J2000)	$v_{\text{LSR}}$ ( $\text{kms}^{-1}$ )	CO Flux ( $\text{Jy kms}^{-1}$ )	$\sigma_{\text{maj}}$ ( $''$ )	$\sigma_{\text{min}}$ ( $''$ )	$\phi^{\text{a}}$ ( $\{^\circ\}$ )	$A^{\text{b}}$ ( $\text{pc}^2$ )	$\log R$ (pc)		$\log \sigma_v$ ( $\text{kms}^{-1}$ )		$\log M_{\text{lum}}$ ( $M_{\odot}$ )		$\log M_{\text{vir}}$ ( $M_{\odot}$ )		$\log \alpha_{\text{vir}}$		$\theta_{\text{off}}$ ( $''$ )
1	84.57238	-69.05668	250.03	30.07	4.77	1.39	57.70	6.54	0.037	0.043	0.133	0.043	2.50	0.04	3.37	0.08	0.868	0.087	207.82
2	84.57598	-69.01610	260.20	5.55	2.03	0.95	46.20	1.87	-0.312	0.077	-0.321	0.062	1.77	0.04	2.11	0.12	0.344	0.124	331.49
3	84.57703	-69.04668	253.94	6.80	2.20	1.36	126.66	3.29	-0.147	0.043	-0.119	0.043	1.86	0.04	2.68	0.08	0.825	0.087	233.24
4	84.58087	-69.04433	260.03	18.58	6.60	1.85	-139.54	10.36	0.189	0.043	0.193	0.043	2.29	0.04	3.64	0.08	1.348	0.087	237.78
5	84.58384	-69.05149	258.60	3.83	1.47	0.89	45.30	1.67	-0.439	0.083	0.186	0.049	1.61	0.04	3.00	0.11	1.391	0.117	213.96
6	84.58983	-69.11178	254.71	160.67	8.18	2.36	-170.45	22.34	0.297	0.043	-0.031	0.043	3.23	0.04	3.30	0.08	0.071	0.087	117.64
7	84.59195	-69.06428	252.69	245.96	6.85	2.65	-139.19	22.99	0.285	0.043	0.387	0.043	3.41	0.04	4.12	0.08	0.711	0.087	170.68
8	84.59339	-69.14017	247.02	2.49	3.11	0.77	-178.62	1.53	-0.449	0.463	-0.095	0.077	1.42	0.04	2.43	0.48	1.006	0.478	176.84
9	84.59390	-69.05279	252.45	0.54	1.24	0.77	62.35	0.90	-0.703	0.474	-0.061	0.091	0.75	0.04	2.24	0.49	1.485	0.493	203.05
10	84.59782	-69.05699	251.12	116.85	6.80	2.46	127.21	11.68	0.266	0.043	0.298	0.043	3.09	0.04	3.93	0.08	0.838	0.087	187.54

**Notes.** Table 3 is published in its entirety in machine-readable format. A portion is shown here for guidance regarding its form and content.

<sup>a</sup> Position angle is measured counterclockwise from +  $x$  direction (west).

<sup>b</sup> Projected area of clump.

(This table is available in its entirety in machine-readable form.)

**Table 4**  
SCIMES Clumps in the Default  $^{13}\text{CO}$  ALMA 30 Dor Cube

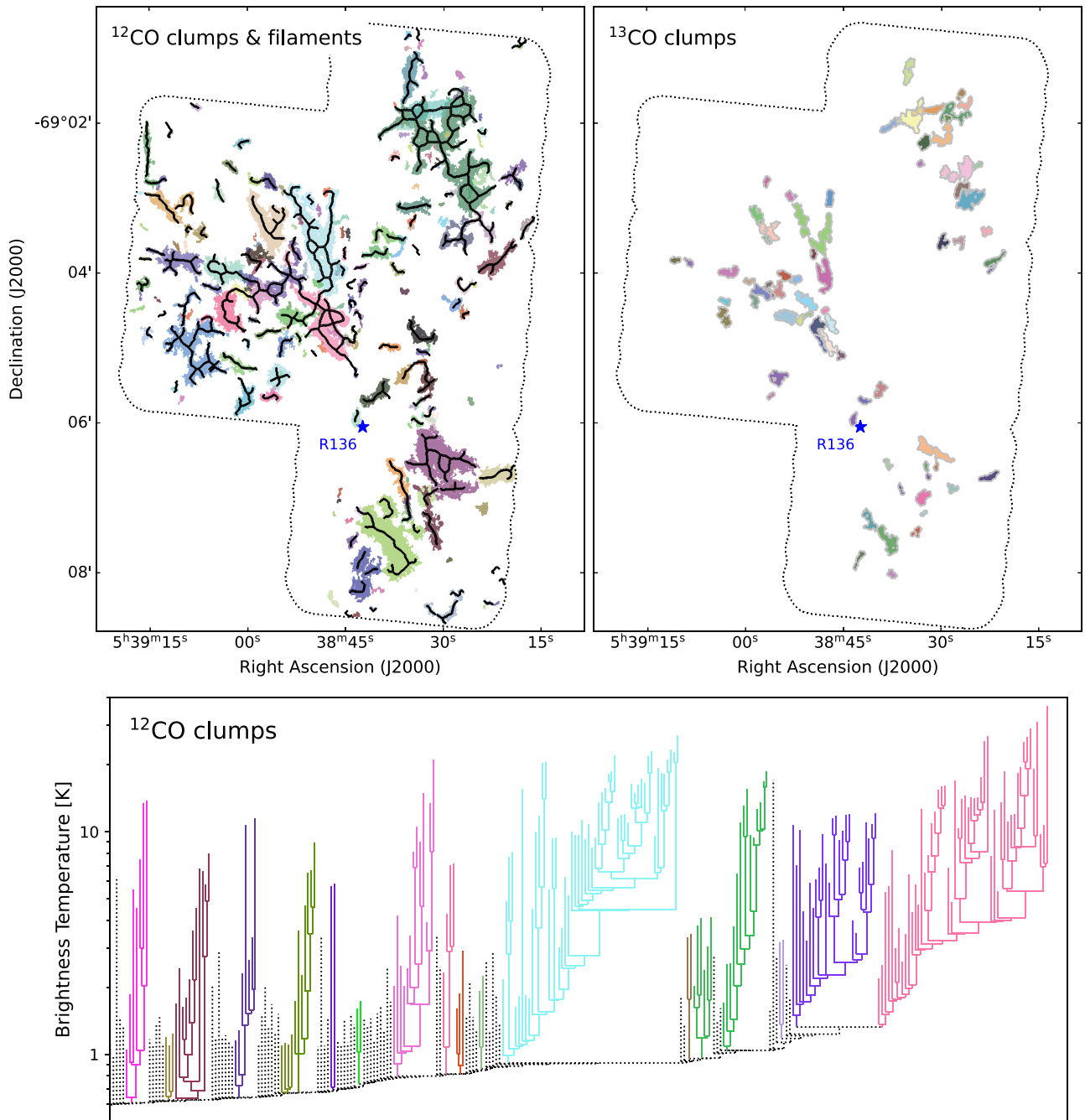
No.	R. A. (J2000)	Decl. (J2000)	$v_{\text{LSR}}$ ( $\text{kms}^{-1}$ )	$^{13}\text{CO}$ Flux ( $\text{Jy kms}^{-1}$ )	$\sigma_{\text{maj}}$ ( $''$ )	$\sigma_{\text{min}}$ ( $''$ )	$\phi^{\text{a}}$ ( $\{\circ\}$ )	$A^{\text{b}}$ ( $\text{pc}^2$ )	$\log R$ (pc)		$\log \sigma_{\text{v}}$ ( $\text{kms}^{-1}$ )		$\log M_{\text{LTE}}$ ( $M_{\odot}$ )		$\log M_{\text{vir}}$ ( $M_{\odot}$ )		$\log \alpha_{\text{vir}}$		$\theta_{\text{off}}$ ( $''$ )
1	84.59348	-69.06432	253.36	10.88	3.78	1.04	-153.22	5.04	-0.120	0.047	0.140	0.043	2.85	0.04	3.23	0.08	0.371	0.089	169.35
2	84.59417	-69.11212	254.62	6.98	3.47	1.09	-161.11	4.07	-0.117	0.043	-0.442	0.043	2.69	0.04	2.06	0.08	-0.624	0.087	112.83
3	84.59652	-69.05744	250.56	4.04	1.91	1.36	-170.80	2.57	-0.183	0.043	0.256	0.043	2.41	0.04	3.39	0.08	0.982	0.087	187.08
4	84.60755	-69.05069	252.03	55.22	4.81	2.61	-157.25	13.94	0.203	0.043	0.181	0.043	3.59	0.04	3.63	0.08	0.041	0.087	201.24
5	84.60958	-69.02932	247.89	3.65	3.16	1.57	-154.11	3.13	-0.021	0.043	-0.101	0.045	2.37	0.04	2.84	0.08	0.472	0.088	271.63
6	84.61210	-69.02675	246.08	2.51	1.94	1.11	55.04	2.12	-0.249	0.056	-0.317	0.055	2.23	0.04	2.18	0.10	-0.043	0.105	279.48
7	84.61297	-69.04402	250.61	31.76	7.85	3.31	-164.50	14.23	0.367	0.043	0.079	0.043	3.33	0.04	3.59	0.08	0.258	0.087	220.41
8	84.61323	-69.04828	253.33	12.55	3.89	1.74	-137.05	4.79	0.055	0.043	0.021	0.043	2.93	0.04	3.16	0.08	0.228	0.087	206.08
9	84.61364	-69.05968	253.35	3.02	2.32	1.80	154.70	2.95	-0.056	0.043	-0.080	0.043	2.29	0.04	2.85	0.08	0.561	0.087	168.86
10	84.61771	-69.11460	249.67	3.11	1.57	1.17	165.72	2.23	-0.287	0.063	-0.110	0.049	2.31	0.04	2.56	0.09	0.248	0.104	89.86

**Notes.** Table 4 is published in its entirety in machine-readable format. A portion is shown here for guidance regarding its form and content.

<sup>a</sup> Position angle is measured counterclockwise from +  $x$  direction (west).

<sup>b</sup> Projected area of clump.

(This table is available in its entirety in machine-readable form.)



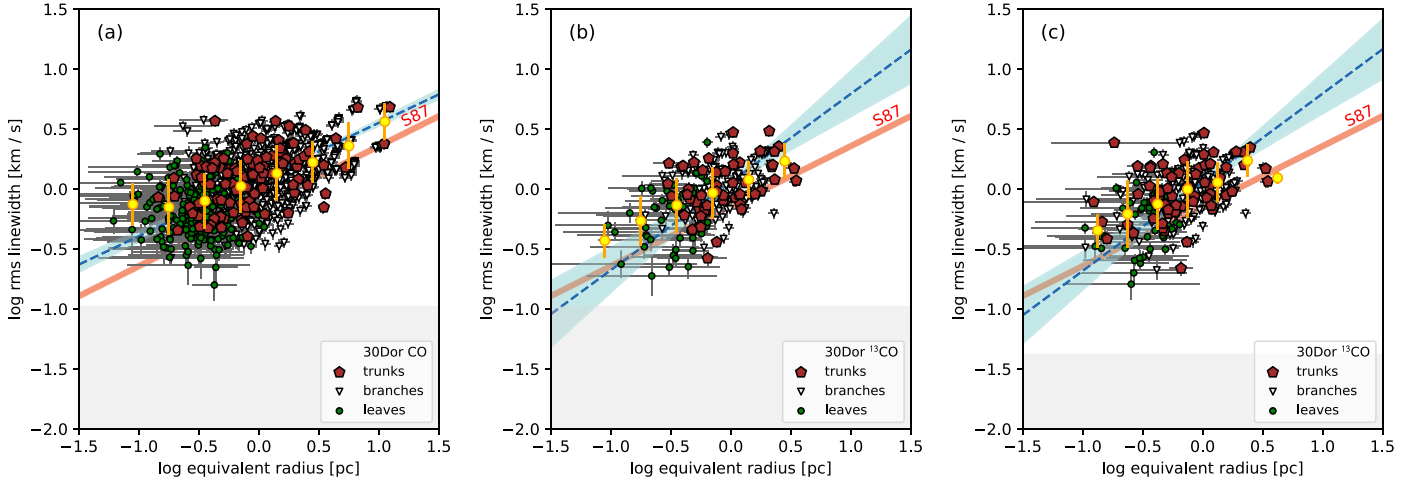
**Figure 4.** Projected maps of the  $^{12}\text{CO}$  (top left) and  $^{13}\text{CO}$  (top right) clumps identified by the SCIMES segmentation algorithm. Each clump is shaded with a different color. The filament skeleton identified by `fil_finder` is shown in black against the  $^{12}\text{CO}$  clumps, but note that the filaments are identified in the CO peak SNR image whereas the clumps are identified in the cubes. The bottom panel shows a zoomed view of part of the dendrogram tree diagram for  $^{12}\text{CO}$  emission, with clumps identified using the same colors as in the top left panel. Dotted lines indicate dendrogram structures that are not identified as clumps by SCIMES.

among the most highly blueshifted in the region and are observed in extinction against the H II region, indicating that they are situated in the foreground. The mean stellar velocity of the R136 cluster ( $v_{\odot} = 271.6 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ ; Evans et al. 2015) is consistent with the mean cloud velocity, while the ionized gas has a somewhat lower mean velocity ( $v_{\odot} = 267.4 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ ; Torres-Flores et al. 2013).

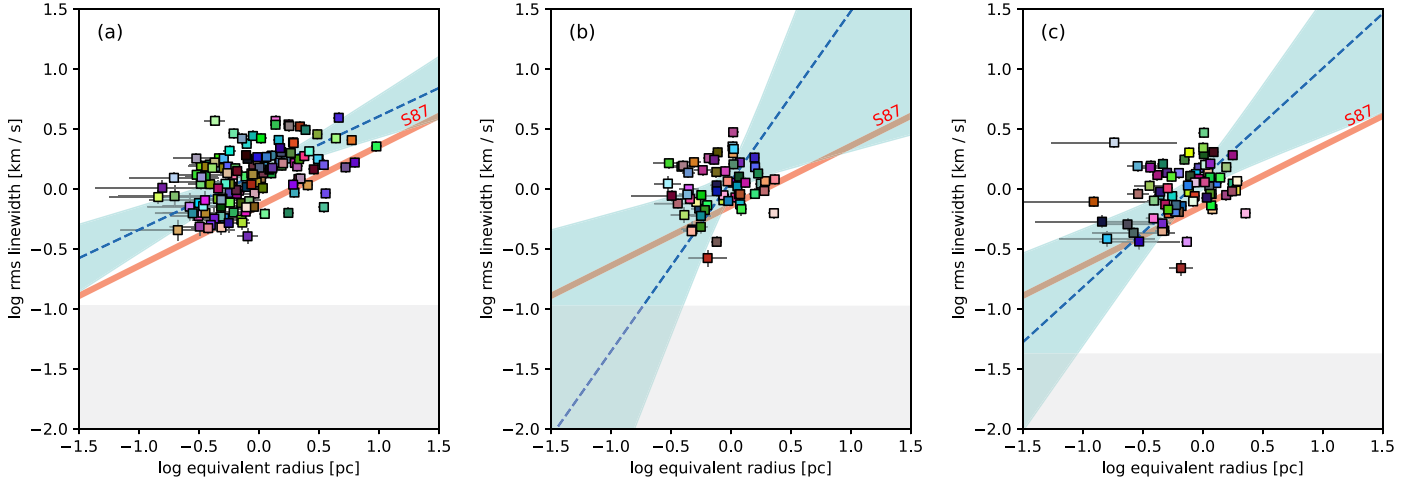
#### 4.2. Size-line-width Relations

A correlation between size and line width, of the form  $\sigma_v \propto R^{\gamma}$  with  $\gamma \approx 0.5$ , has long been observed among molecular

clouds as well as their substructures (Larson 1981; Solomon et al. 1987, hereafter S87). It is usually interpreted in the context of a supersonic turbulent cascade spanning a wide range of spatial scales (Mac Low & Klessen 2004; Falgarone et al. 2009). The line width versus size relations for the dendrogram structures in 30 Dor are summarized in Figures 5 and 6 for all structures and for the SCIMES clumps, respectively. Gray shading indicates line widths that would be unresolved at the spectral resolution of the corresponding cube; nearly all of the significant structures are well resolved in velocity. The standard relation of S87 (with a slope and intercept of  $a_1 = 0.5$  and  $a_0 = -0.14$ , respectively) is shown as



**Figure 5.** Size-line-width relations for dendrogram structures identified in the feathered data: (a)  $^{12}\text{CO}$  structures; (b)  $^{13}\text{CO}$  structures; (c)  $^{13}\text{CO}$  structures at  $0.1 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  velocity resolution. Different plot symbols distinguish the trunks, branches, and leaves of the dendrogram. The power-law fit and  $3\sigma$  uncertainty are shown in blue; the gray shaded region indicates the limiting spectral resolution. Fit parameters are tabulated in Tables 5 and 6. Yellow circles are binned averages of all points.



**Figure 6.** Size-line-width relations for SCIMES clumps identified in the feathered data: (a)  $^{12}\text{CO}$  clumps; (b)  $^{13}\text{CO}$  clumps; (c)  $^{13}\text{CO}$  clumps at  $0.1 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  velocity resolution. The power-law fit and  $3\sigma$  uncertainty are shown in blue; the gray shaded region indicates the limiting spectral resolution. Fit parameters are tabulated in Tables 5 and 6.

**Table 5**  
Default Cubes—Power-Law Fit Parameters:  $\log Y = a_1 \log X + a_0$

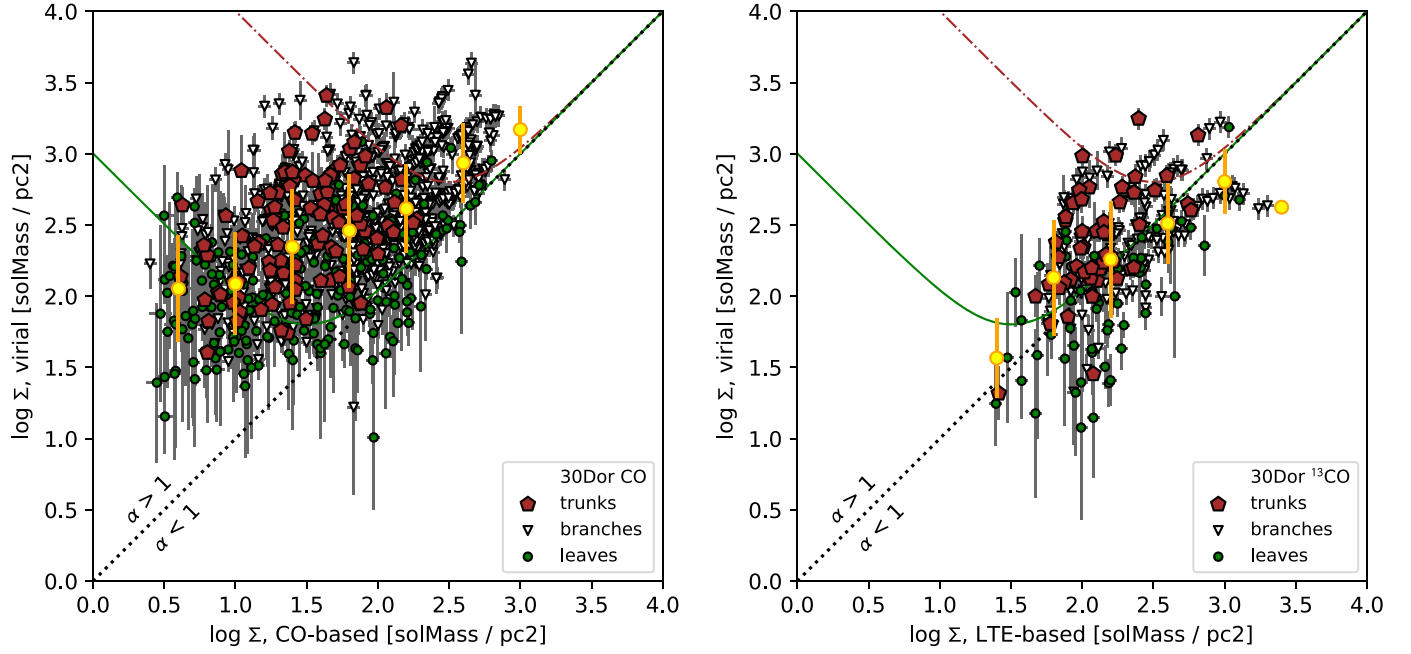
$Y$	$X$	Data Set	Number	$a_1$	$a_0$	$\chi^2_\nu$	$\epsilon^a$
$\sigma_v$	$R$	$^{12}\text{CO}$ dendros	1434	$0.47 \pm 0.01$	$0.08 \pm 0.01$	14.3	0.21
$\sigma_v$	$R$	$^{12}\text{CO}$ clumps	142	$0.47 \pm 0.06$	$0.13 \pm 0.02$	14.3	0.21
$\sigma_v$	$R$	$^{13}\text{CO}$ dendros	254	$0.73 \pm 0.06$	$0.06 \pm 0.01$	10.5	0.22
$\sigma_v$	$R$	$^{13}\text{CO}$ clumps	61	$1.42 \pm 0.37$	$0.06 \pm 0.04$	14.3	0.35
$\Sigma_{\text{vir}}$	$\Sigma_{\text{lum}}$	$^{12}\text{CO}$ dendros	1434	$0.51 \pm 0.02$	$1.58 \pm 0.04$	13.7	0.35
$\Sigma_{\text{vir}}$	$\Sigma_{\text{lum}}$	$^{12}\text{CO}$ clumps	142	$0.41 \pm 0.07$	$1.93 \pm 0.12$	15.6	0.35
$\Sigma_{\text{vir}}$	$\Sigma_{\text{LTE}}$	$^{13}\text{CO}$ dendros	254	$0.66 \pm 0.06$	$0.90 \pm 0.14$	11.0	0.36
$\Sigma_{\text{vir}}$	$\Sigma_{\text{LTE}}$	$^{13}\text{CO}$ clumps	61	$0.85 \pm 0.14$	$0.55 \pm 0.31$	11.0	0.30

**Note.**

<sup>a</sup> rms scatter in  $\log Y$  relative to the best-fit line. Units are dex.

a thick red line for reference. The best-fitting slopes and intercepts, derived using the `kmpfit` module of the Python package `Kapteyn`, are tabulated in Table 5, along with the reduced  $\chi^2$  of the fit and the residual scatter along the  $y$ -axis. Consistent with previous studies (see Section 1), the relation in

the 30 Dor cloud is offset to larger line widths compared to S87, by a factor of 1.5–1.8. The enhancement in line width we find is somewhat smaller than the factor of  $\sim 2.3$  previously derived for the ALMA Cycle 0 data (Nayak et al. 2016; Wong et al. 2017), indicating that the central region observed in Cycle



**Figure 7.** Boundedness diagram for dendrogram structures identified in the feathered data. Left:  $^{12}\text{CO}$  structures, with surface density based on a constant  $X_{\text{CO}}$  factor. Right:  $^{13}\text{CO}$  structures, with surface density based on the LTE approximation. Plot symbols indicate the type of dendrogram structure (trunks, branches, or leaves), with binned averages shown in yellow. The diagonal 1:1 line represents simple virial equilibrium, while the falling and rising solid green (dotted–dashed red) curve represents pressure-bounded equilibrium with an external pressure of  $10^4$  ( $10^6$ )  $\text{cm}^{-3}$  K.

**Table 6**  
0.1  $\text{kms}^{-1}$  Cubes—Power-law Fit Parameters:  $\log Y = a_1 \log X + a_0$

$Y$	$X$	Data Set	Number	$a_1$	$a_0$	$\chi_\nu^2$	$e^a$
$\sigma_\nu$	$R$	$^{12}\text{CO}$ dendros	2053	$0.51 \pm 0.01$	$0.04 \pm 0.01$	15.1	0.24
$\sigma_\nu$	$R$	$^{12}\text{CO}$ clumps	221	$0.76 \pm 0.06$	$0.09 \pm 0.02$	13.6	0.28
$\sigma_\nu$	$R$	$^{13}\text{CO}$ dendros	310	$0.74 \pm 0.05$	$0.06 \pm 0.01$	13.2	0.24
$\sigma_\nu$	$R$	$^{13}\text{CO}$ clumps	72	$0.91 \pm 0.17$	$0.09 \pm 0.03$	13.5	0.28
$\Sigma_{\text{vir}}$	$\Sigma_{\text{lum}}$	$^{12}\text{CO}$ dendros	2053	$0.57 \pm 0.01$	$1.43 \pm 0.03$	12.9	0.34
$\Sigma_{\text{vir}}$	$\Sigma_{\text{lum}}$	$^{12}\text{CO}$ clumps	221	$0.55 \pm 0.04$	$1.64 \pm 0.07$	11.8	0.33
$\Sigma_{\text{vir}}$	$\Sigma_{\text{LTE}}$	$^{13}\text{CO}$ dendros	310	$0.79 \pm 0.05$	$0.56 \pm 0.12$	11.8	0.34
$\Sigma_{\text{vir}}$	$\Sigma_{\text{LTE}}$	$^{13}\text{CO}$ clumps	72	$0.83 \pm 0.12$	$0.58 \pm 0.25$	11.1	0.32

**Note.**

<sup>a</sup> rms scatter in  $\log Y$  relative to the best-fit line. Units are dex.

0 has a larger enhancement in line width than the cloud as a whole. We revisit the positional dependence of the line width versus size relation in Section 4.4.

To evaluate the robustness of the fitted relations to the data handling procedures, we fit the relations separately for cubes derived from the 12-meter-only data and the feathered data, and for cubes with 0.1  $\text{kms}^{-1}$  velocity channels and 0.25  $\text{kms}^{-1}$  velocity channels. The resulting fits are consistent within about twice the quoted  $1\sigma$  errors, as can be seen for example by comparing Tables 5 and 6 and panels (b) and (c) of Figures 5 and 6. We note, however, that the fitted slope is often quite uncertain due to the limited range in structure size probed by our analysis, especially for the  $^{13}\text{CO}$  data.

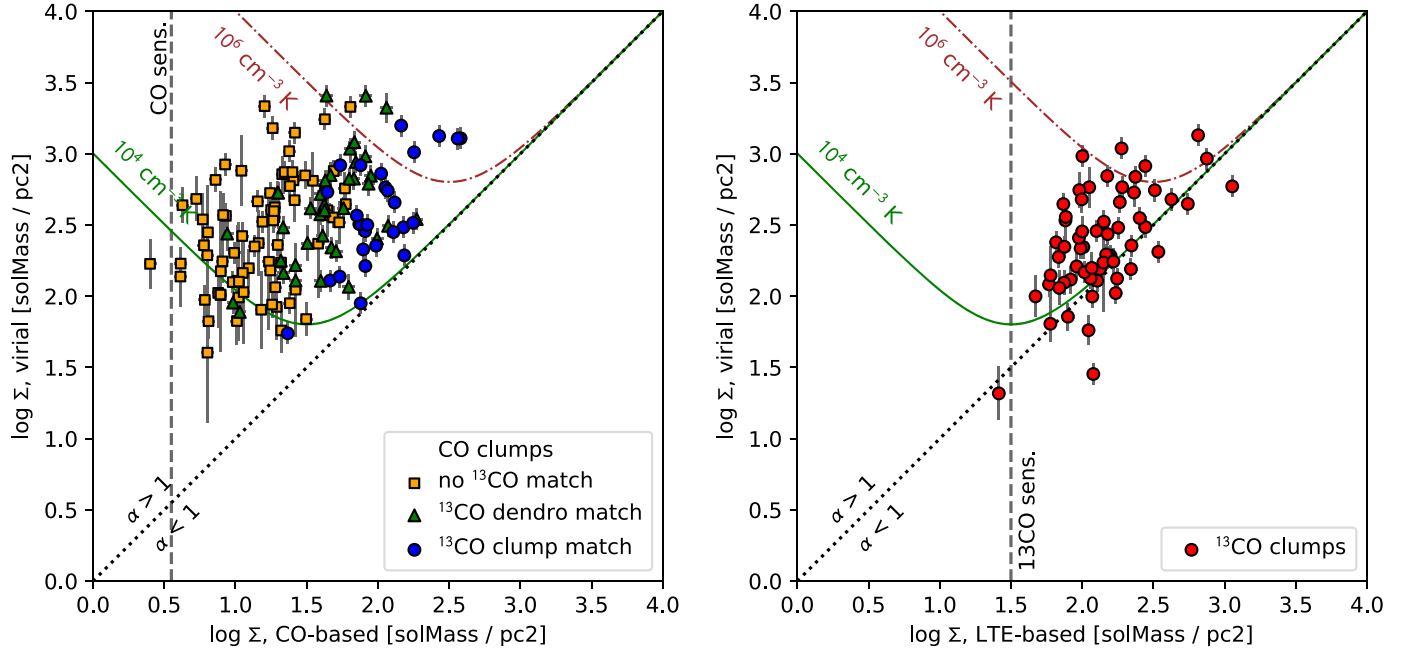
### 4.3. Virial Relations

If the line width versus size relation has a power-law slope of  $\approx 0.5$ , then variations in the normalization coefficient  $k$  are expected if structures lie close to virial equilibrium but span a

range in mass surface density (Heyer et al. 2009):

$$\sigma_\nu = kR^{1/2} = \left(\frac{\pi G}{5}\right)^{1/2} \Sigma_{\text{vir}}^{1/2} R^{1/2} \Rightarrow k = \sqrt{\frac{\pi G \Sigma_{\text{vir}}}{5}}. \quad (11)$$

This motivates an examination of whether variations in the line width versus size coefficient are consistent with virial equilibrium. For each structure whose deconvolved size and line width are measured, we normalize the virial and luminous mass by the projected area of the structure (determined by the pixel count) to calculate a mass surface density  $\Sigma$ . For the  $^{13}\text{CO}$  structures, we use the LTE-based mass in preference to a  $^{13}\text{CO}$  luminosity-based mass, though the results tend to be similar. The virial surface density,  $\Sigma_{\text{vir}}$ , is directly related to the normalization of the size-line-width relation, since  $\Sigma_{\text{vir}} = 5k^2/(\pi G)$  from Equation (11). We show the relations between  $\Sigma_{\text{vir}}$  and the luminous or LTE surface density in Figure 7. In these “boundedness” plots, the  $y=x$  line represents simple virial equilibrium (SVE), with points above the line having



**Figure 8.** Boundedness diagrams for SCIMES clumps identified in the feathered data. Virial and pressure-bounded equilibrium curves are the same as in Figure 7. Left:  $^{12}\text{CO}$  clumps, with surface density based on a constant  $X_{\text{CO}}$  factor. Points are distinguished according to spatial overlap with any  $^{13}\text{CO}$  dendrogram structure (triangles) or  $^{13}\text{CO}$  clumps (circles). Right:  $^{13}\text{CO}$  clumps, with surface density based on the LTE approximation. Vertical lines denote approximate  $4\sigma$  sensitivity limits for a  $1 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  line width; the  $^{13}\text{CO}$  sensitivity assumes  $T_{\text{ex}} = 8 \text{ K}$ .

excess kinetic energy (often interpreted as requiring confinement by external pressure to be stable) and points below the line having excess gravitational energy (often interpreted as requiring support from magnetic fields to be stable).

Overall, we find that  $^{13}\text{CO}$  structures are close to a state of SVE, with higher surface density structures tending to be more bound ( $\alpha_{\text{vir}} = \Sigma_{\text{vir}} / \Sigma_{\text{lum}} \lesssim 1$ ). On the other hand,  $^{12}\text{CO}$  structures exhibit a shallower relation, with lower  $\Sigma_{\text{lum}}$  structures found to lie systematically above the SVE line. The “unbound” CO structures exist across the dendrogram hierarchy (spanning leaves, branches, and trunks) and are found to dominate even the population of (typically larger) SCIMES clumps, as shown in Figure 8 (left panel). The mean value of  $\log \alpha_{\text{vir}}$  for clumps without  $^{13}\text{CO}$  counterparts, as determined by checking for direct spatial overlap, is 1.26, compared to 0.80 for clumps with  $^{13}\text{CO}$  counterparts (thus, the clumps detected in both lines have a factor of 3 lower  $\alpha_{\text{vir}}$ ).

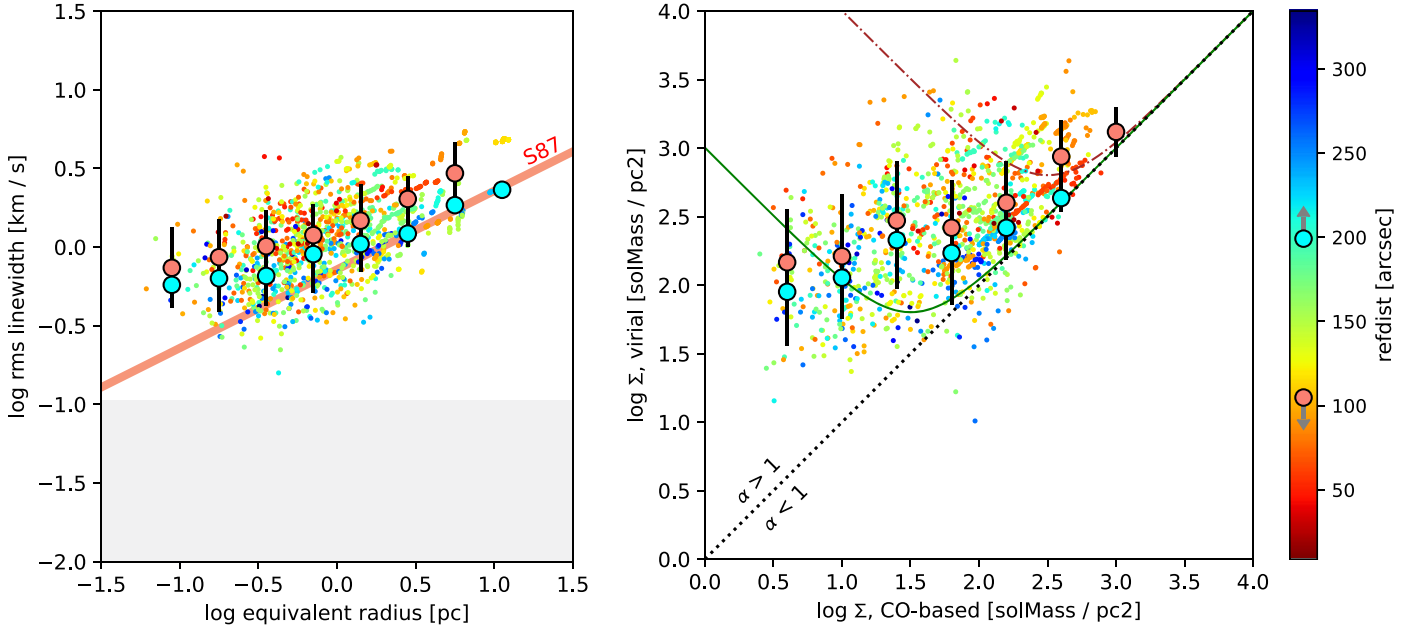
To better understand why the  $^{12}\text{CO}$  structures appear less likely than  $^{13}\text{CO}$  structures to be bound, we need to bear in mind the sensitivity limitations imposed by the data. Most (53%) CO clumps do not appear associated with  $^{13}\text{CO}$ , whereas all  $^{13}\text{CO}$  clumps overlap with a  $^{12}\text{CO}$  clump. This reflects the fact that structures with lower CO surface brightness are less likely to be detected in  $^{13}\text{CO}$ :  $\langle \log \Sigma_{\text{lum}} \rangle = 1.8$  for structures with  $^{13}\text{CO}$  counterparts while  $\langle \log \Sigma_{\text{lum}} \rangle = 1.2$  for those without  $^{13}\text{CO}$  counterparts. A typical clump with a  $1 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  line width requires an integrated intensity of  $0.55 \text{ K km s}^{-1}$  to be detected at the  $4\sigma$  level. As indicated by vertical dashed lines in Figure 8, this intensity limit translates to minimum  $\log \Sigma_{\text{lum}} = 0.55$  for detection in  $^{12}\text{CO}$  but a minimum  $\log \Sigma_{\text{LTE}} = 1.5$  for detection in  $^{13}\text{CO}$  (for  $T_{\text{ex}} = 8 \text{ K}$ ). Thus, the majority of  $^{12}\text{CO}$  structures would not be expected to have  $^{13}\text{CO}$  counterparts because the weaker  $^{13}\text{CO}$  line was observed to the same brightness sensitivity as the stronger  $^{12}\text{CO}$  line. If

lower surface density structures are preferentially unbound, then such structures will also tend to be detected only in  $^{12}\text{CO}$ .

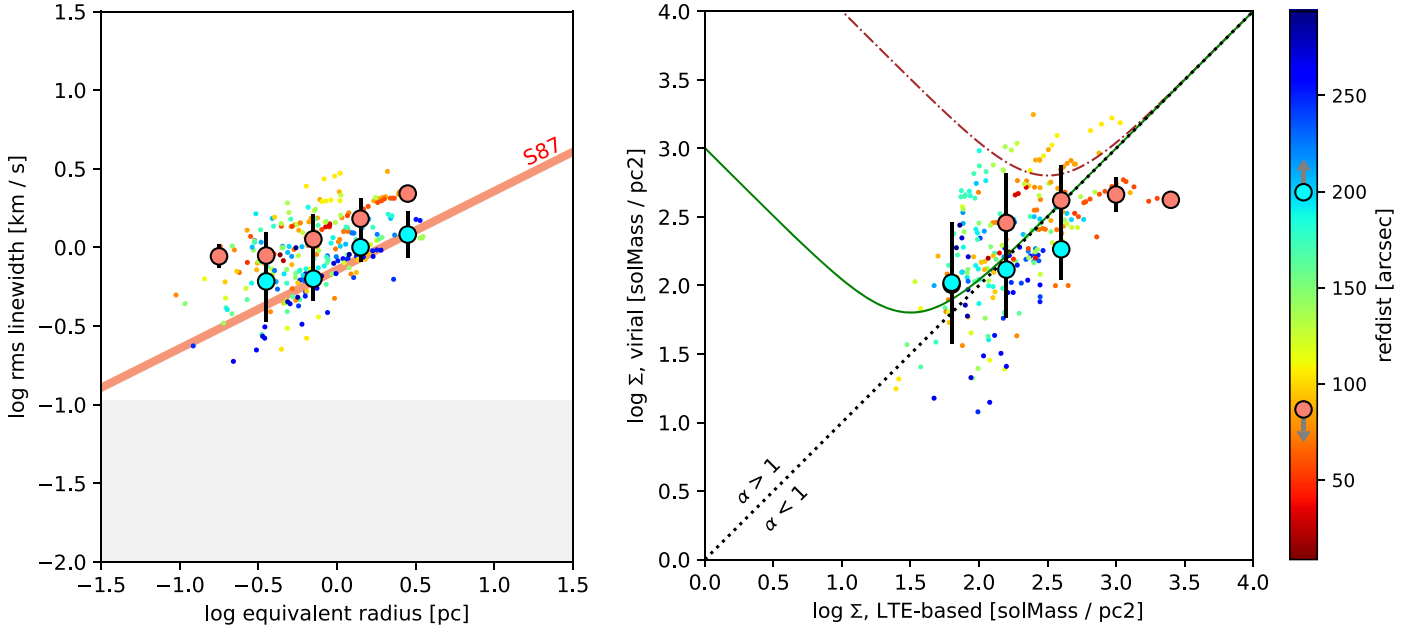
We note that several caveats apply to the interpretation of the “boundedness” plots. As other authors have pointed out (e.g., Dib et al. 2007; Ballesteros-Paredes et al. 2011), objects that are far from equilibrium can still appear close to SVE as a result of approximate energy equipartition between kinetic and gravitational energies. Furthermore, there are systematic uncertainties in estimating the values in both axes that are not included in the formal uncertainties. For  $\Sigma_{\text{vir}}$  these include the spherical approximation and the definitions employed for measuring size and line width. For  $\Sigma_{\text{lum}}$ , uncertainties arising from the adoption of a single  $X_{\text{CO}}$  factor are ignored. In particular, in regions with strong photodissociating flux it is possible for low column density  $^{12}\text{CO}$  structures to be gravitationally bound by surrounding CO-dark gas (see Section 5 for further discussion). For  $\Sigma_{\text{LTE}}$ , deviations from LTE conditions or errors in our assumed  $T_{\text{ex}}$  may affect the reliability of  $\Sigma_{\text{LTE}}$ , although from Equation (3) a shift in  $T_{\text{ex}}$  tends to be partially compensated by the resulting shift in  $\tau_{13}$  and thus yield a similar value for  $\Sigma_{\text{LTE}}$ . An error in the assumed  $^{13}\text{CO}$  abundance would produce a more systematic shift, but would likely affect the cloud as a whole.

#### 4.4. Position-dependent Properties

To assess position-dependent variations in the size-line-width and boundedness relations, we examine these relations color coded by projected angular distance from the R136 cluster ( $\theta_{\text{off}}$  in Tables 1–4) in Figures 9 and 10. We also plot the binned correlations for the top and bottom quartiles of angular distance from R136. We note that projected angular distance is only a crude indication of environment as it neglects the full 3D structure of the region. We find that regions at large angular distances are quite consistent with the Solomon et al. (1987) size-line-width relation (except for the smallest structures,



**Figure 9.** Correlations between size and line width (left), and  $\Sigma_{\text{vir}}$  and  $\Sigma_{\text{lum}}$  (right), for the same  $^{12}\text{CO}$  dendrogram structures plotted in Figures 5 and 7. Distance from R136 is indicated by point colors and binned values (bins shown are averages of the top and bottom quartiles). Since  $\Sigma_{\text{vir}} \propto \sigma_v^2/R$ , higher line width at a given size results in higher  $\Sigma_{\text{vir}}$  for structures closer to R136.



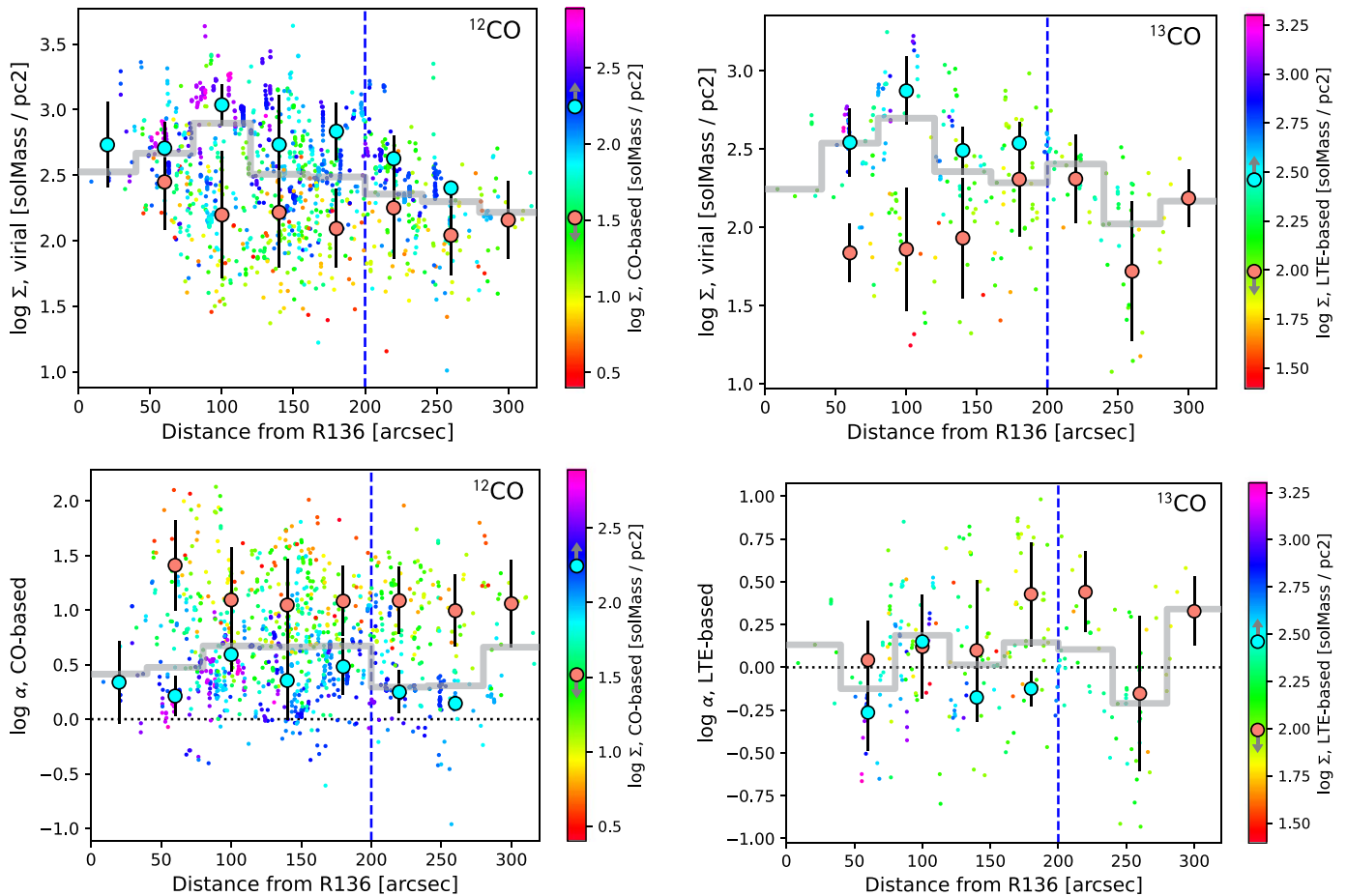
**Figure 10.** Same as Figure 9, but for  $^{13}\text{CO}$  dendrogram structures and with mass surface density based on the LTE approximation.

which have large uncertainties in the deconvolved size), whereas regions at smaller distances lie offset above it, consistent with previous studies (Indebetouw et al. 2013; Nayak et al. 2016; Wong et al. 2019). The approximate offset between the lowest and highest quartile of distances, at a fiducial size of 1 pc, is 0.16 dex (factor of 1.4) for  $^{12}\text{CO}$  and 0.22 dex (factor of 1.7) for  $^{13}\text{CO}$ . As noted in Section 4.2, an even larger (factor of  $\sim 2$ ) offset is found if one restricts the analysis to the Cycle 0 field.

When it comes to gravitational boundedness, the picture is more complex. Structures close to R136 show higher  $\Sigma_{\text{vir}}$  in Figures 9 and 10, as expected given that  $\Sigma_{\text{vir}}$  scales with the

size-line-width coefficient  $k$ . However, they exhibit no tendency to be more or less bound:  $^{12}\text{CO}$  structures with low  $\Sigma_{\text{lum}}$  show excess kinetic energy relative to SVE at *all* distances from R136. Figure 11 provides a closer look at trends in  $\Sigma_{\text{vir}}$  and  $\alpha_{\text{vir}}$  with distance from R136. High surface density structures, represented by cyan circles, are close to virial equilibrium ( $|\log \alpha_{\text{vir}}| \lesssim 0.5$ ) at all distances but tend to be concentrated toward R136, largely accounting for the higher  $\Sigma_{\text{vir}}$  observed in the central regions. Beyond  $200''$  from R136 (to the right of the vertical dashed line), high surface density structures are largely absent. Meanwhile, the low surface density  $^{12}\text{CO}$  structures, represented by red circles, are





**Figure 11.** Virial surface density  $\Sigma_{\text{vir}}$  (top row) and virial parameter  $\alpha_{\text{vir}}$  (bottom row) as a function of distance from R136 for  $^{12}\text{CO}$  structures (left) and  $^{13}\text{CO}$  structures (right). The colors of the plotted points represent mass surface density estimates, namely CO surface brightness for  $^{12}\text{CO}$  and LTE column density for  $^{13}\text{CO}$ . Binned values represent the highest and lowest 25% of the overall mass surface density and are plotted when two or more such points fall within a bin. Gray steps indicate the median value in each bin. There is a decreasing trend in  $\Sigma_{\text{vir}}$  with distance, especially for the highest surface density structures, but no clear trend in  $\alpha_{\text{vir}}$ .

unbound ( $\log \alpha_{\text{vir}} \gtrsim 1$ ) at all distances from R136. The median value of  $\log \alpha_{\text{vir}}$  (represented by the gray steps) is largely unchanged with distance.

#### 4.5. Association with Filaments

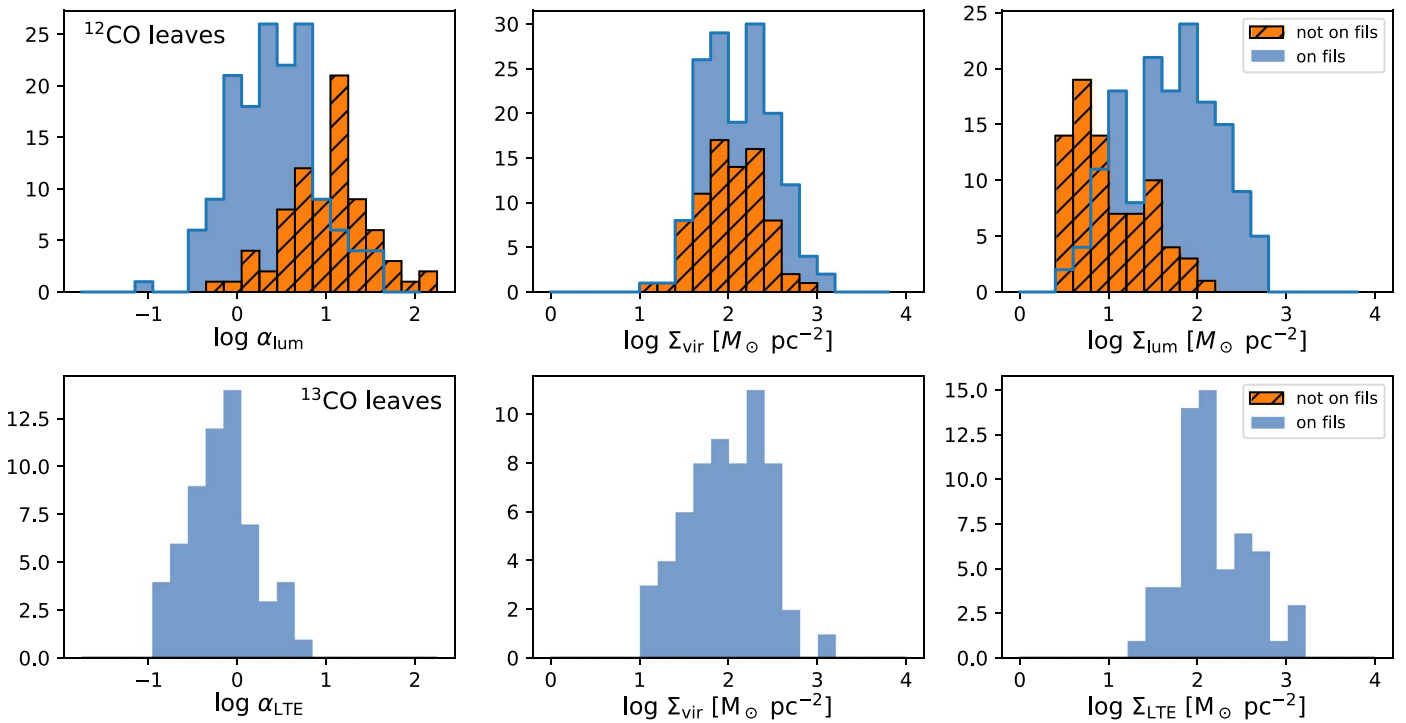
Galactic studies that have surveyed dense prestellar cores at far-infrared or submillimeter wavelengths (e.g., Fiorellino et al. 2021) have demonstrated a strong positional association of dense cores with filaments. Here we conduct a preliminary assessment of this association in 30 Dor by comparing the dendrogram leaf structures to the filament skeleton derived by FilFinder. We present histograms of  $\alpha_{\text{vir}}$ ,  $\Sigma_{\text{vir}}$ , and  $\Sigma_{\text{lum}}$  (and their analogs in  $^{13}\text{CO}$ ) for the leaf structures in Figure 12, distinguishing leaves by whether or not their actual structure boundaries (not their fitted Gaussians) overlap with the FilFinder skeleton. Such overlaps must be viewed cautiously as both the structures and the filaments are identified using the same data set. Indeed, the SCIMES clumps are largely coincident with the FilFinder skeleton (Figure 4). In contrast, the  $^{12}\text{CO}$  leaves constitute a large set of independent structures, and given their small typical sizes, a substantial fraction ( $\sim 1/3$ ) are not coincident with the skeleton, allowing us to compare the properties of leaves located on and off of filaments. Not surprisingly, the filament-associated leaves tend to have higher  $\Sigma_{\text{lum}}$ ; in total they represent 93% of the total mass in leaves.

However, their values of  $\Sigma_{\text{vir}}$  are very similar to those of leaves that are not on filaments, and as a result the leaves on filaments tend to have lower  $\alpha_{\text{vir}}$  (stronger gravitational binding). The formation of filaments is therefore plausibly related to gravity, a hypothesis supported by the fact that  $^{13}\text{CO}$  leaves—which trace higher density material—are exclusively associated with the  $^{12}\text{CO}$  filaments.

Further analysis of the FilFinder outputs will be deferred to a future paper where we will collectively examine the properties and positional associations of YSOs, dense clumps, and filaments.

## 5. Discussion and Conclusions

We have presented initial results from an ALMA mosaic of CO(2–1) and  $^{13}\text{CO}$ (2–1) emission from the molecular cloud associated with the 30 Dor H II region in the LMC, expanding upon the Cycle 0 map area coverage by a factor of  $\sim 40$ . The emission exhibits a highly filamentary structure (Figures 2 and 4) with many of the longest filaments oriented radially with respect to “hub” regions nearer the cloud center. The cloud’s relatively large velocity width is resolved into several distinct components, with the bulk of the emission at lower radial velocity (Figures 1 and 3). We find that structures at a given size show decreasing line width with increasing distance from the central R136 cluster (Figures 5 and 6), such that at the



**Figure 12.** Properties of leaf dendrogram structures distinguished by positional coincidence with  $^{12}\text{CO}$ -identified filaments. Note that histogram bars are superposed (rather than stacked) and unresolved structures have been excluded. The top row shows the virial parameter  $\alpha_{\text{vir}}$  and its constituent quantities  $\Sigma_{\text{vir}}$  and  $\Sigma_{\text{lum}}$  for the  $^{12}\text{CO}$  leaves, whereas the bottom row shows the same for the  $^{13}\text{CO}$  leaves. The  $^{12}\text{CO}$  structures on filaments tend to have lower  $\alpha_{\text{vir}}$  driven by higher surface density, whereas  $^{13}\text{CO}$  structures are exclusively found on filaments.

largest distances the normalization of the line width versus size relation is consistent with the Galactic clouds studied by S87. However, we do not find that distance from R136 correlates with the gravitational boundedness of structures (Figure 11). Rather, low surface density  $^{12}\text{CO}$  structures tend to be unbound, whereas high surface density structures (which more closely follow the filamentary network, i.e., Figure 12, and comprise most of the structures observed in  $^{13}\text{CO}$ ) tend to be bound. The higher line widths of clumps near R136 then largely reflect the higher surface density of clumps in this region.

While the unbound (high  $\alpha_{\text{vir}}$ ) clumps are found throughout the cloud and are not limited to the smallest “leaves” in the dendrogram hierarchy, they tend not to overlap the filament skeletons, suggesting a more diffuse structure or distribution. In total, 12% of the total CO-based mass in SCIMES clumps is located in clumps with  $\log \alpha_{\text{vir}} > 1$ , whereas 44% of the mass is in clumps with  $\log \alpha_{\text{vir}} < 0.5$ . Here we briefly discuss three possible interpretations of the high  $\alpha_{\text{vir}}$  structures.

*Pressure-bounded structures.* In super star cluster-forming environments such as the Antennae galaxy merger (Johnson et al. 2015; Finn et al. 2019), massive molecular clouds are observed with virial masses well above the SVE line, implying large external pressures ( $P/k_B \sim 10^8\text{--}10^9 \text{ cm}^{-3} \text{ K}$ ) in order to be in equilibrium. Although the estimated H II region pressure of  $\sim 10^{-9} \text{ dyn cm}^{-2}$  or  $P/k_B \sim 7 \times 10^6 \text{ cm}^{-3} \text{ K}$  in the 30 Dor region (Lopez et al. 2011) would be sufficient to confine the observed  $\alpha_{\text{vir}} > 1$  clumps (Figure 8), the distribution of points in the Figures 7 and 8 is not consistent with a constant external pressure, but rather suggests a smoothly increasing virial parameter with decreasing surface density. If instead there were large variations in external pressure, these would be expected to correlate with distance from R136 (Lopez et al. 2011), but

we do not find that the offset distance significantly affects boundedness (Figure 9). We therefore view a pressure-bound equilibrium state to be a less likely scenario.

*Dispersing molecular structures.* The unbound, low column density  $^{12}\text{CO}$  structures may represent molecular cloud material that exhibits excess kinetic energy as a result of being dispersed by energetic feedback. The unusual concentration of massive stars in 30 Dor would then could account for the high frequency of such clumps, as similar column density ( $1 < \log \Sigma_{\text{lum}} < 2$ ) structures in other LMC clouds tend to lie closer to simple virial equilibrium (Wong et al. 2019). A crude estimate of the total kinetic energy ( $T = 3M_{\text{lum}}\sigma_v^2$ ) in  $^{12}\text{CO}$  clumps with  $\log \alpha > 1$  is  $7 \times 10^{48} \text{ erg}$ . Using the estimate of mechanical stellar wind feedback from R136 of  $1.2 \times 10^{39} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$  from Bestenlehner et al. (2020), it would take only  $\sim 200 \text{ yr}$  for R136 to inject this amount of energy. (For comparison, the total kinetic energy in all clumps is  $7 \times 10^{49} \text{ erg}$ , with a corresponding timescale of  $\sim 2000 \text{ yr}$ .) This suggests that stellar feedback could easily account for the excess line widths seen in the unbound structures, even if the coupling of the feedback energy into the molecular cloud motions is relatively inefficient. The energetic feedback should preferentially and effectively disrupt low column density structures, as few such structures lie near the SVE line.

*Massive CO-dark envelopes.* If there is a substantial amount of hidden molecular mass that is not traced by  $^{12}\text{CO}$  or  $^{13}\text{CO}$  emission; i.e., “CO-dark” gas, low CO intensities may disguise considerably larger column densities, and overall virial equilibrium may still hold once the additional mass is accounted for. The basis of this scenario (see Chevance et al. 2020, and references therein) is efficient CO photodissociation relative to  $\text{H}_2$ , since the latter is able to self-shield whereas CO is mainly shielded by dust. Since 30 Dor is both a metal-poor

and highly irradiated environment, the amount of CO-dark gas may be substantial, especially for clouds or clumps where the total gas column density is low. This effect is clearly illustrated in Jameson et al. (2018), Figure 20, where at low  $A_V$  the  $X_{\text{CO}}$  factor is increased by approximately an order of magnitude compared to the Galactic value. In the 30 Dor region, based on photodissociation region modeling of far-infrared emission lines, Chevance et al. (2020) conclude that the  $X_{\text{CO}}$  factor is enhanced by factors of 4–20 compared to the Galactic value. Correcting for this enhancement would increase  $\log \Sigma_{\text{lum}}$  by 0.4–1.1 (given our adopted  $X_{\text{CO}}$ ) and bring the low column density structures shown in Figures 11 and 12 closer to virial equilibrium. We caution, however, that the virial surface density  $\Sigma_{\text{vir}}$  is also affected by the underestimate of  $R$  and  $\sigma_v$  resulting from CO-dark gas; the net effect on  $\alpha_{\text{vir}}$  depends sensitively on the adopted density and velocity dispersion profiles within the clumps (O’Neill et al. 2022). In addition, the CO-dark gas would need to be preferentially distributed in low column density clouds, since the high column density clouds do not show an excess of apparent kinetic energy.

Future studies are still needed to test these interpretations and to place 30 Dor in the context of its larger environment and the LMC as a whole. Wider-field imaging with ALMA should be able to incorporate regions that are outside the reach of massive star feedback and examine the consequences for clump properties. In addition, detailing the extent and contribution of the CO-dark gas (e.g., using [C I] and [C II] mapping) over a sample of molecular clouds with matched CO mapping will clarify the effects that this component may have on the observed properties of CO clumps.

Images and data products presented in this paper are available for download from the Illinois Data Bank at [https://doi.org/10.13012/B2IDB-1671495\\_V1](https://doi.org/10.13012/B2IDB-1671495_V1).

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*Facilities:* ALMA, HST.

*Software:* CASA (McMullin et al. 2007), astrodendro (<http://www.dendrograms.org>), Kapteyn (<https://kapteyn.readthedocs.io>), FilFinder (Koch & Rosolowsky 2015), SCIMES (Colombo et al. 2015), Astropy (Astropy Collaboration et al. 2013, 2018), APLpy (Robitaille & Bressert 2012).

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