

# A deep look into the cores of young clusters<sup>★</sup>

## I. $\sigma$ -Orionis

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### ABSTRACT

**Context.** Nearby young clusters are privileged places to study the star formation history. Over the last decade, the  $\sigma$ -Orionis cluster has been a prime location for the study of young very low mass stars, substellar and isolated planetary mass objects and the determination of the initial mass function.

**Aims.** To extend previous studies of this association to its core, we searched for ultracool members and new multiple systems within the  $1'.5 \times 1'.5$  central region of the cluster.

**Methods.** We obtained deep multi-conjugate adaptive optics (MCAO) images of the core of the  $\sigma$ -Orionis cluster with the prototype MCAO facility MAD at the VLT using the  $H$  and  $K_s$  filters. These images allow us to detect companions fainter by  $\Delta H \approx 5$  mag as close as  $0'.2$  on a typical source with  $H = 14.5$  mag. These images were complemented by archival SofI  $K_s$ -band images and *Spitzer* IRAC and MIPS mid-infrared images

**Results.** We report the detection of 2 new visual multiple systems, one being a candidate binary protoplanet and the other one a low mass companion to the massive star  $\sigma$  Ori E. Of the 36 sources detected in the images, 25 have a  $H$ -band luminosity lower than the expected planetary mass limit for members, and  $H - K_s$  color consistent with the latest theoretical isochrones. Nine objects have additional *Spitzer* photometry and spectral energy distribution consistent with them being cluster members. One of them has a spectral energy distribution from  $H$  to  $3.6 \mu\text{m}$  consistent with that of a  $5.5 M_{\text{Jup}}$  cluster member. Complementary NTT/SofI and *Spitzer* photometry allow us to confirm the nature and membership of two L-dwarf planetary mass candidates.

**Key words.** stars: formation – stars: low-mass, brown dwarfs – stars: planetary system – techniques: high angular resolution – stars: early-type

## 1. Introduction

Over the last decade, the  $\sigma$ -Orionis cluster has become one of the prime locations for the study of brown dwarfs (BDs) and planetary-mass objects (PMOs). It is young (2–3 Myr), free of extinction ( $A_V < 1$  mag) and it has a large low-mass population (Béjar et al. 1999, 2001; Barrado y Navascués et al. 2003; Béjar et al. 2004; Sherry et al. 2004; Kenyon et al. 2005; Caballero 2007; Caballero et al. 2007; Caballero 2008b; González-García et al. 2006; Sacco et al. 2008). The *Hipparcos* parallax to the central OB pair  $\sigma$  Ori AB is  $320^{+120}_{-90}$  pc, and most previous studies used 350 pc to  $\sigma$  Ori AB as the cluster distance. Other authors estimated distances at about 390 pc (Caballero 2008a; Mayne & Naylor 2008). Sherry et al. (2008) recently refined the measurement using main-sequence fitting and derived an improved

value of 440 pc for a solar metallicity (Caballero 2006). The cluster mass function rises steadily from the very low mass stars through the BDs and into the PMO domain (Béjar et al. 2001; Caballero et al. 2007). No obvious discontinuities are seen neither at the mass boundary between very low-mass stars and BDs nor at the frontier between BDs and PMOs, which is not surprising as the initial mass function does not have to know about the onset of nuclear reactions has occurred during the subsequent evolution for stars and BDs. About two dozens PMOs candidates have been identified in the cluster (Zapatero Osorio et al. 2002, 2000; Caballero et al. 2007). About half of those have been confirmed spectroscopically (Martín et al. 2001; Barrado y Navascués et al. 2001; Martín & Osorio 2003; Zapatero Osorio et al. 2000).

Evidences of disks were found around BDs and PMOs members from the detection of large  $H\alpha$  emission, flux excesses at mid-infrared (mid-IR) wavelengths and large-amplitude photometric variability (Barrado y Navascués & Martín 2003; Barrado y Navascués et al. 2003; Muzerolle et al. 2003; Caballero et al. 2006; Scholz & Eisloffel 2004; Scholz & Jayawardhana 2008;

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Hernández et al. 2007). In particular the very strong H $\alpha$  emission brown dwarf S Ori 71, located just above the cluster deuterium burning limit, displays excess flux in IRAC band 4.5 at 8.0  $\mu\text{m}$  (Caballero et al. 2007). If the cluster PMOs form in a similar way to the very low-mass stars and BDs, we expect that they would have dusty disks, probably of lower mass scaling with primary mass. Hernández et al. (2007) have recently suggested an increase of the disk frequency towards low masses in the cluster, with a peak of 40% in the mass interval 0.2–0.1  $M_{\odot}$ . According to Caballero et al. (2007), the disk rate in the BD domain could be as high as 50%. Zapatero Osorio et al. (2007) and Scholz & Jayawardhana (2008) have reported mid-IR excesses in seven cluster PMOs, indicating that more than 30% of them have dusty disks. Gatti et al. (2008) reported that the mass accretion rate of  $\sigma$ -Orionis members harboring disks are significantly lower than that of e.g.  $\rho$ -Oph members. On the other hand, Sacco et al. (2008) report a significantly larger fraction of accretors than in the neighboring  $\lambda$ -Orionis association where star formation might have been triggered by a supernova explosion (Dolan & Mathieu 2001).

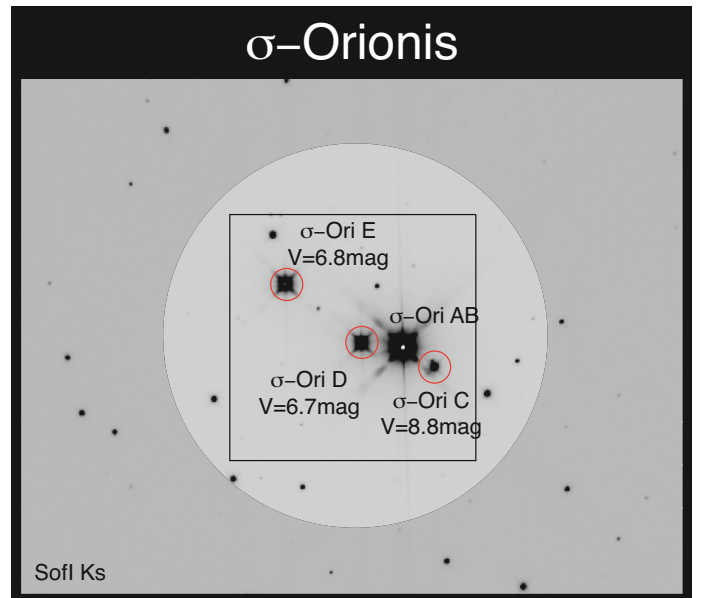
The multiplicity of  $\sigma$ -Orionis members has been devoted to a number of studies. Using a Fraunhofer micrometer, Struve (1837) resolved  $\sigma$  Ori AB for the first time as a close binary ( $0''.26$ ). A few decades later, Burnham (1893) used the micrometer mounted on the 36 inch telescope at the Lick Observatory and confirmed the multiplicity of  $\sigma$  Ori AB. Frost & Adams (1904) identified a possible spectroscopic component in the  $\sigma$  Ori AB binary system. More recently Caballero (2005) obtained adaptive optics (AO) images of the central region of the cluster, resolving a number of sources. Kenyon et al. (2005) used high resolution spectroscopic measurements of a sample of candidate very low-mass stars and BDs of the association to confirm the youth and membership and to search for spectroscopic binaries. Their preliminary conclusions, based on small-number statistics, shows that the binary fraction among  $\sigma$ -Orionis very low mass members is higher than that reported for their older field counterparts. Our understanding of the  $\sigma$ -Orionis cluster was recently complicated by the discovery by Jeffries et al. (2006) and Sacco et al. (2007) of two distinct kinematics populations with different ages. However, most of the objects belonging to the older kinematic group are located northward from the central region of the  $\sigma$ -Orionis cluster, outside the area covered by the present study.

To extend the previous studies of  $\sigma$ -Orionis to its core we conducted an AO assisted imaging survey of the central part of the  $\sigma$ -Orionis cluster with the ESO multi-conjugated AO prototype instrument *Multi-Conjugate Adaptive Optics Demonstrator* (hereafter MAD Marchetti et al. 2006). These deep images have a resolution of  $\approx 0''.1$  on a field of view of  $1''.5 \times 1''.5$ .

## 2. MCAO observations

### 2.1. MAD: a multi-conjugate adaptive optics facility at the VLT

MAD is a prototype instrument performing wide field-of-view, real-time correction for atmospheric turbulence (Marchetti et al. 2006). MAD was built by the European Southern Observatory (ESO) with the contribution of two external consortia to prove the feasibility of MCAO on the sky in the framework of the 2nd generation VLT instrumentation and of the European Extremely Large Telescope (ELT, Gilmozzi & Spyromilio 2007). Originally designed as a laboratory experiment, MAD was offered to the community for science



**Fig. 1.** NTT/SOFI  $K_s$ -band mosaic image of the observed field. The field of view within which the wavefront sensing stars for MAD can be selected is represented with a circle of  $2'$  diameter. The 3 wavefront sensing reference stars are indicated with red circles and their names and  $V$ -band luminosities overplotted. The  $1'.5 \times 1'.5$  field-of-view of the final images is also represented. North is up and east is left.

demonstration in November 2007 and January 2008 and installed at the Visitor Focus of the VLT telescope UT3 Melipal. An overview of its performances on the sky is given in Marchetti et al. (2007); Bouy et al. (2008). Its CAMCAO near-IR camera is based on a  $2048 \times 2048$  pixel HAWAII-2 infrared detector with a pixel scale of  $0''.028$  for a total field of view of  $57''.3 \times 57''.3$ . At the time of the science demonstration observations, the CAMCAO camera suffered from a form of light leak. The amount of light and the pattern seen on the frames depend on the position of the camera, the DIT and the observing conditions, so that it is not possible to perfectly correct for it. The three wavefront sensors can close the loop on stars brighter than  $V \approx 12$  mag within a circular area of  $2'$  diameter.

### 2.2. Observations

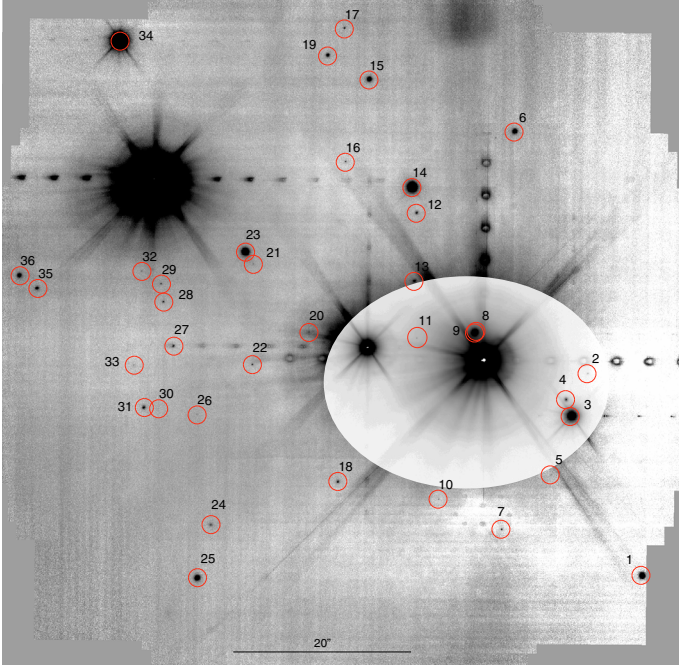
During the on-sky demonstration run of MAD held in November 2007, a region of  $1''.5 \times 1''.5$  centered on the  $\sigma$ -Orionis cluster was observed in the  $H$  and  $K_s$  filters. Figure 1 gives an overview of the pointings and of the guide stars used for wavefront sensing. The geometrical distribution of the guide stars is quite asymmetric, leading to non-optimal corrections.

A set of NINT = 30 images was obtained by dithering within a box of  $15''$  using the scanning capability of the infrared camera and keeping the adaptive-optics loop closed during the whole operation. The ambient conditions<sup>1</sup> during the observations reported by the ESO Ambient Conditions Database are given in Table 1. The conditions were significantly better during the  $H$ -band observations, with a coherence time of  $\tau_0 = 3.2$  ms, and an average seeing of  $0''.63$  three times better than during the  $K_s$  band observations, explaining the better quality and sensitivity of the  $H$  band images. The exposure time per individual image was  $30 \times 0.8$  s (NDIT  $\times$  DIT), so that the total exposure time for the final mosaics added up to 12 mn in each band.

<sup>1</sup> At the zenith and in the visible.

**Table 1.** Ambient conditions at the zenith and in the visible during the observations.

Filter	Date [UT]	Airmass	Seeing ["]	$\tau_0$ [ms]
$K_s$	2007-11-25 06:33	1.09	$1''.90 \pm 0'.13$	$0.9 \pm 0.1$
$H$	2007-12-01 07:37	1.23	$0'.63 \pm 0'.05$	$3.2 \pm 0.3$

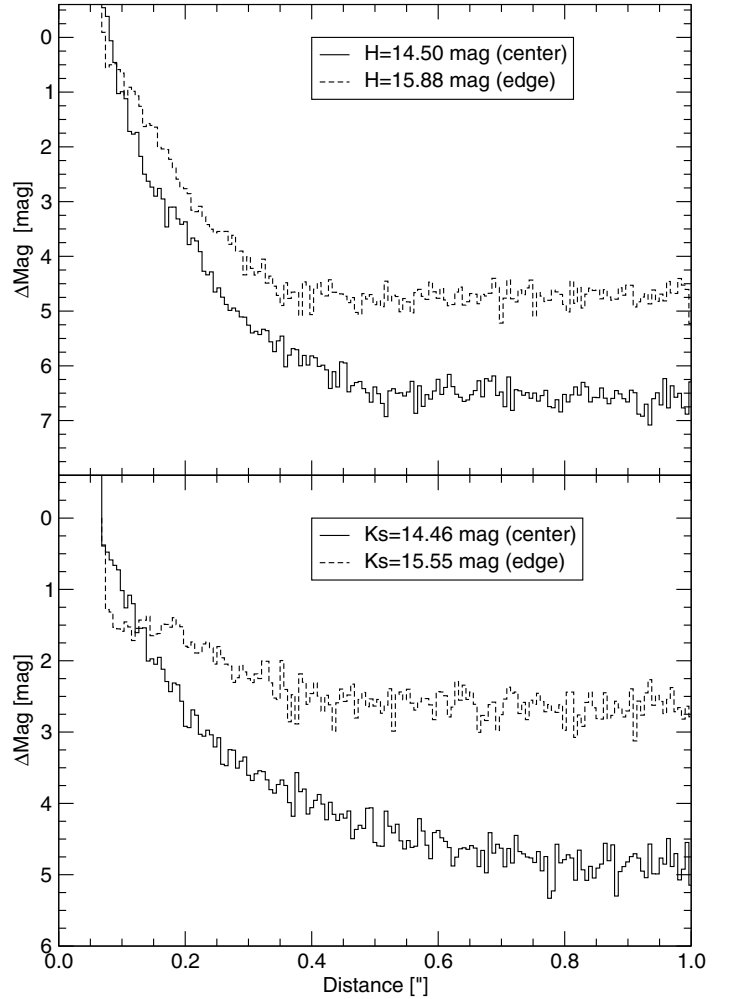
**Fig. 2.** MAD  $H$ -band mosaic image with all the detected sources overlaid. The levels have been stretched differently close to the bright OB stars to enhance the contrast. The source numbers are indicated (see Table 3). North is up and east is left and the scale is indicated.

The corresponding images were processed with the *Eclipse* reduction package (Devillard 1997). They were first dark-subtracted and flat-fielded. The sky contribution was then removed from the input frameset by filtering out low-frequency sky variations from the cube of jittered images. The images were then aligned and stacked to produce the final mosaics. The astrometric solution was computed using isolated and unresolved 2MASS counterparts and is accurate to within  $0'.1$ . The final processed mosaics are made available upon request from the authors of this article. Figure 2 shows the final  $H$ -band mosaic.

### 2.3. MCAO performances

The Strehl ratio in the  $K_s$  band ranges from 2% to 6%. The undersampling of the PSF in the  $H$  band prevents us to compute meaningful Strehl ratios, but the performances are expected to be similar. The quality of the correction follows closely the geometry of the 3 reference stars, and most sources away from the line made by the 3 reference stars are elongated with ellipticities in the range  $0.41 \leq e \leq 0.95$ . In spite of the low Strehl ratios, the PSFs are much sharper than in the seeing limited SofI images (full width at half maximum  $FWHM \approx 0'.8$ , see Sect. 3.1) with an average  $FWHM$  of  $0'.10$  in  $H$  and  $0'.15$  in  $K_s$ .

Adaptive-optics provide not only high spatial resolution but also high-contrast images. To illustrate the performances of the instrument and the limitations of the observations, we computed the limit of sensitivity for two cases: a star with  $H$  &

**Fig. 3.** Limit of sensitivity in the  $H$ -band (left panel) and  $K$ -band (right panel) for 2 different stars located in a region of good AO correction (center) and worse AO correction (edge). The curves have been computed from the  $3\text{-}\sigma$  noise of the radial profile of the PSF.

$K = 14.5$  mag located in a region of good AO correction (hereafter referred to “center”) and a fainter star ( $H = 15.88$  mag,  $K = 15.55$  mag) located in a region of worse AO correction (hereafter referred to “edge”). The limit of sensitivity was computed using the  $3\text{-}\sigma$  standard deviation of the PSF radial profile. Figure 3 shows the results. The MAD images allow detection of companions with a magnitude contrast  $\Delta m = 4$  mag at  $0'.25$  and  $0'.35$  in  $H$  and  $K_s$  respectively on a  $14.5$  mag star at the center. Sources brighter than  $\approx 8$  mag were saturated or above the detector linearity limit. We detected sources as faint as  $K_s = 19.55$  mag and  $H = 21.65$  mag ( $3\text{-}\sigma$  detection), therefore well below the deuterium burning limit at the age (1–5 Myr) and distance (440 pc) of the cluster (predicted at  $H = 17.03$  mag for the DUSTY models and  $H = 16.87$  mag for the COND models, Chabrier et al. 2000; Baraffe et al. 2003).

### 2.4. Photometry

Because of the complexity of the MCAO wavefront sensing, the PSF shows spatial variations due to anisoplanetic effects in the AO observations that can affect PSF photometry. To alleviate this problem, we took advantage of the sparsity of the field and performed aperture photometry rather than PSF fitting, except in a few cases of close multiple systems or when the source

**Table 2.** Instrumental zeropoints for the MAD observations.

Method	Filter	Zeropoint [mag]
Aperture	$H$	$25.25 \pm 0.07$
Aperture	$K_s$	$24.62 \pm 0.10$
PSF	$H$	$25.30 \pm 0.07$
PSF	$K_s$	$24.56 \pm 0.10$

was located in the halo of a bright neighboring massive star. In these latter cases we extracted the photometry using nearby isolated stars as reference PSF. The aperture photometry was performed using standard routines with the *daophot* package within IRAF<sup>2</sup>, using an aperture of 18 pixels ( $0''.5$ ), and a sky annulus between 20–24 pixels ( $0''.56$ – $0''.67$ ). Two well-behaved isolated and unresolved 2MASS sources with clean  $H$ -band photometry (quality flag A, 2MASS J05384652-0235479 and 2MASS J05384746+0235252) were used to derive the photometric instrumental zeropoints given in Table 2. The  $K_s$ -band zeropoints were computed using 11 clean and unresolved matches found in the SofI image (see Sect. 3.1). Some systematic errors might remain because of the strong anisoplanetism and unaccounted color terms. They are difficult to estimate because of the small number of well behaved counterparts in the 2MASS and SofI catalogs. The relatively small scatter between the MAD  $K_s$  and SofI  $K_s$  photometry of the 11 isolated sources in common (well within the uncertainties) suggest that the aperture was chosen large enough that these spatial variations do not affect the final photometry too much. The 36 detected sources and their photometry are reported in Table 3.

### 3. Complementary archival data

We searched the *ESO* and *Spitzer* public archives for complementary datasets of the same field.

#### 3.1. NTT/SofI images

The cluster had been observed in the  $K_s$  band with SofI at the NTT on 2001 December 12 (P.I. Testi, Programme 67.C-0042). A set of NINT=15 dithered images of  $12 \times 5$  s (NDIT×DIT) was obtained that night. We retrieved the data and the corresponding calibration frames and processed them following standard procedures using the recommended *Eclipse* reduction package. The seeing (measured on the image) was  $0''.8$ . We extracted the PSF photometry of all the sources brighter than the  $3\text{-}\sigma$  noise of the local background using Diolaiti et al. (2000) Starfinder code. Using six well behaved (quality flag A) unresolved 2MASS sources we derive a zeropoint magnitude of  $23.96 \pm 0.19$  mag. See Table 8. The limit of detection of the images is  $\approx 20$  mag, and the limit of completeness is  $\approx 19$  mag as illustrated in Fig. 4. On the bright side, the detector non-linearity reaches about 3% at 14 000 A.D.U., corresponding to  $K_s = 13.6$  mag.

#### 3.2. VLT/NACO images

The central stars  $\sigma$  Ori AB and D have been observed twice with the AO facility NACO on the VLT (Programs 074.C-0084 and

074.C-0628, Neuhäuser). A first set of 4 images of  $100 \times 0.345$  s (NDIT×DIT) each was obtained on 2004 October 10 in the  $K_s$  band with the S13 camera. A second set of 10 dithered images of  $10 \times 0.345$  s (NDIT×DIT) was obtained in the narrow band Bry (NB\_2.17) filter. We retrieved the data and the associated calibration frames and processed them using the recommended *Eclipse* reduction package. The second epoch narrow band images are much shallower than the first ones, and we do not discuss them further. The limited number of images obtained at the first epoch does not allow to correct perfectly for the bad and hot pixels. The brightness of the massive OB pair makes it an easy target for NACO and the strelh ratio was high ( $60 \sim 65\%$ ,  $FWHM = 0''.07$ ). The final image is shown in Fig. 5 and the astrometric measurements in Table 7.

#### 3.3. Spitzer data

The  $\sigma$ -Orionis cluster was observed with *Spitzer* IRAC on 2004 October 08 in the course of program 37 (P.I. Fazio, Hernández et al. 2007) and with IRAC on 2007 April 03 in the course of program 30395 (P.I. Scholz, Scholz & Jayawardhana 2008). Program 37 was executed in high dynamic range (HDR) mode providing equal numbers of consecutive short and long exposures. Table 4 gives a summary of the observations. We retrieved the calibrated, individual IRAC BCD (Basic Calibrated Data) images and stacked them following the procedures recommended by the Spitzer Science Center (SSC) with the MOPEX software package and the relevant calibration files. The final long exposure mosaics in channel 1 and 3 are made of images of both programs 37 and 30395 weighted by their exposure times. Program 30395 channel 2 and 4 images do not overlap with our area of interest. The final mosaic images in these 2 bands are therefore made of program 37 images only. The short exposure mosaics allowed us to extract the photometry of bright sources otherwise saturated in the long exposure mosaics. A total of 9 sources detected in the MAD images are also detected in one (or more) *Spitzer* IRAC band. We extracted the photometry using standard PSF photometry procedures within the Interactive Data Language. Uncertainties were tentatively estimated from the Poisson noise weighted by the coverage maps of the mosaics, but the presence of the bright and asymmetric halo and ghosts around the massive stars make it difficult to estimate reliable uncertainties. The results are given in Table 5 and Fig. 6. The cluster was also observed with MIPS on 2004 March 17 in the course of Program 58 (Rieke). These observations are described in details in Hernández et al. (2007). Except for one object (described in Sect. 7), the coarser resolution and lesser sensitivity of the MIPS images in the vicinity of the massive central OB stars does not allow us to extract any useful MIPS photometry for the MAD sources.

## 4. Nature of the detections

In order to rule out the possibility that some of the faint sources detected in the MAD images are artefacts (such as e.g. bad pixels, remnants, ghosts, cosmic ray events, etc.), we compare the SofI, NACO and MAD images. Only seven objects detected in the MAD  $H$ -band image are not detected in the MAD and SofI  $K_s$ -band images, ruling out the possibility of artefacts for the other 29 objects.

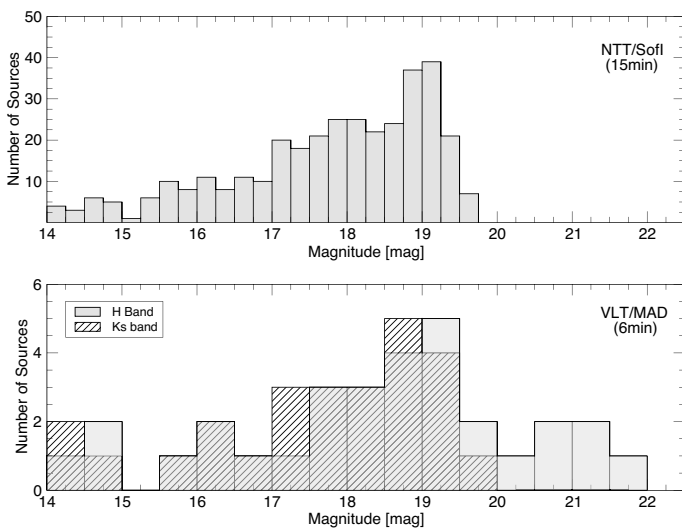
Two of these seven sources without  $K_s$  band counterparts in either the MAD or SofI images fall within the field of view of the NACO  $K_s$  image. Only one is detected (SigOri-MAD-11, see

<sup>2</sup> IRAF is distributed by the National Optical Astronomy Observatory, which is operated by the Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy (AURA) under cooperative agreement with the National Science Foundation.

**Table 3.** Catalog of sources detected in the MAD images.

Name	RA (J2000)	Dec (J2000)	$H$ [mag]	$K_s$ [mag]	Other name	Comment
<i>SigOri-MAD-1</i>	05:38:43.5	-02:36:23.7	$14.95 \pm 0.07$	$14.59 \pm 0.14$		Spitzer, $0.050 M_\odot$
<b>SigOri-MAD-2</b>	05:38:43.9	-02:36:01.5	$17.99 \pm 0.09$	$17.57 \pm 0.20$		
<i>SigOri-MAD-3</i>	05:38:44.1	-02:36:06.3	...	$9.01 \pm 0.10$	$\sigma$ Ori C, Mayrit 11238	Spitzer
<i>SigOri-MAD-4</i>	05:38:44.1	-02:36:04.4	$14.63 \pm 0.07$	$14.07 \pm 0.10$		
<b>SigOri-MAD-5</b>	05:38:44.2	-02:36:12.7	$20.81 \pm 0.07$	$<19.0$		No SofI
<i>SigOri-MAD-6</i>	05:38:44.5	-02:35:35.0	$16.11 \pm 0.07$	$15.77 \pm 0.14$	2MASS J05384454-0235349	Spitzer, $0.025 M_\odot$
<b>SigOri-MAD-7</b>	05:38:44.6	-02:36:18.7	$18.99 \pm 0.12$	$18.19 \pm 0.18$		
<i>SigOri-MAD-8</i>	05:38:44.8	-02:35:56.9	$12.84 \pm 0.07$	$12.65 \pm 0.07$	$\sigma$ Ori IRS1 B	NACO
<i>SigOri-MAD-9</i>	05:38:44.8	-02:35:57.1	$10.70 \pm 0.07$	$10.48 \pm 0.01$	$\sigma$ Ori IRS1 A	NACO
<b>SigOri-MAD-10</b>	05:38:45.0	-02:36:15.4	$21.65 \pm 0.57$	$<19.0$		No SofI
<b>SigOri-MAD-11</b>	05:38:45.2	-02:35:57.7	$19.29 \pm 0.53$	$18.31 \pm 0.32$		No SofI/ NACO
<b>SigOri-MAD-12</b>	05:38:45.2	-02:35:44.0	$18.21 \pm 0.08$	$17.57 \pm 0.17$		
<b>SigOri-MAD-13</b>	05:38:45.2	-02:35:51.5	$18.54 \pm 0.10$	$17.19 \pm 0.17$		NoSofI/No NACO
<i>SigOri-MAD-14</i>	05:38:45.2	-02:35:41.2	$13.19 \pm 0.07$	$12.70 \pm 0.14$	Mayrit 21023	Spitzer
<i>SigOri-MAD-15</i>	05:38:45.6	-02:35:29.3	$16.15 \pm 0.07$	$15.72 \pm 0.14$		Spitzer, $0.025 M_\odot$
<b>SigOri-MAD-16</b>	05:38:45.7	-02:35:38.4	$19.39 \pm 0.12$	$19.20 \pm 0.26$		
<b>SigOri-MAD-17</b>	05:38:45.7	-02:35:23.7	$19.23 \pm 0.12$	$18.56 \pm 0.15$		
<b>SigOri-MAD-18</b>	05:38:45.8	-02:36:13.5	$18.26 \pm 0.09$	$17.77 \pm 0.19$		
<b>SigOri-MAD-19</b>	05:38:45.9	-02:35:26.7	$17.38 \pm 0.08$	$17.03 \pm 0.16$		
<b>SigOri-MAD-20</b>	05:38:46.0	-02:35:57.1	$18.53 \pm 0.10$	$18.16 \pm 0.16$		
<b>SigOri-MAD-21</b>	05:38:46.4	-02:35:49.7	$20.07 \pm 0.17$	$<19.0$		No SofI
<b>SigOri-MAD-22</b>	05:38:46.4	-02:36:00.7	$19.25 \pm 0.12$	$18.80 \pm 0.28$		
<i>SigOri-MAD-23</i>	05:38:46.5	-02:35:48.3	$14.50 \pm 0.07$	$14.11 \pm 0.14$	2MASS J05384652-0235479	Spitzer, $0.060 M_\odot$
<b>SigOri-MAD-24</b>	05:38:46.7	-02:36:18.3	$18.75 \pm 0.10$	$18.05 \pm 0.21$		
<i>SigOri-MAD-25</i>	05:38:46.8	-02:36:24.1	$15.72 \pm 0.07$	$15.37 \pm 0.14$		Spitzer, $0.030 M_\odot$
<b>SigOri-MAD-26</b>	05:38:46.8	-02:36:06.2	$20.97 \pm 0.27$	$18.88 \pm 0.15$		
<b>SigOri-MAD-27</b>	05:38:47.0	-02:35:58.7	$18.32 \pm 0.09$	$18.26 \pm 0.16$		$H$ -band uncertain
<b>SigOri-MAD-28</b>	05:38:47.1	-02:35:53.8	$19.25 \pm 0.11$	$18.97 \pm 0.33$		
<b>SigOri-MAD-29</b>	05:38:47.1	-02:35:51.9	$19.55 \pm 0.13$	$19.12 \pm 0.25$		
<b>SigOri-MAD-30</b>	05:38:47.1	-02:36:05.6	$21.39 \pm 0.44$	$<19.0$		No SofI
<b>SigOri-MAD-31</b>	05:38:47.2	-02:36:05.4	$17.83 \pm 0.08$	$17.04 \pm 0.16$		Spitzer, $7 M_{\text{Jup}}$
<b>SigOri-MAD-32</b>	05:38:47.2	-02:35:50.5	$21.01 \pm 0.07$	$<19.5$		No SofI
<b>SigOri-MAD-33</b>	05:38:47.3	-02:36:00.8	$19.75 \pm 0.15$	$18.60 \pm 0.15$		
<i>SigOri-MAD-34</i>	05:38:47.4	-02:35:25.2	$11.05 \pm 0.07$	$10.42 \pm 0.14$	Mayrit 53049	Spitzer
<b>SigOri-MAD-35</b>	05:38:48.0	-02:35:52.4	$17.63 \pm 0.08$	$17.14 \pm 0.17$		
<b>SigOri-MAD-36</b>	05:38:48.1	-02:35:51.0	$16.72 \pm 0.07$	$16.30 \pm 0.15$		

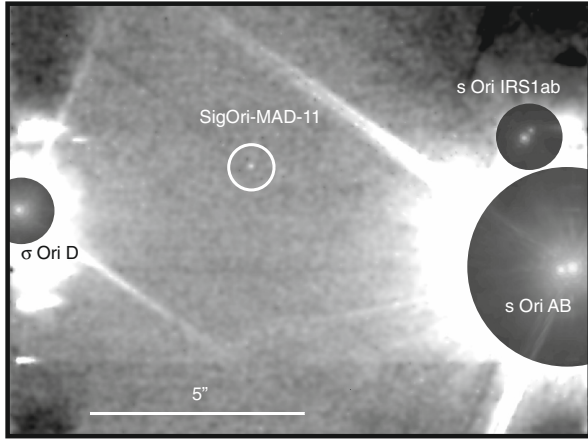
Note – Objects with  $H$ -band luminosity corresponding to a PMO (defined here as  $M \leq 0.012 M_\odot$ ) are indicated in bold face. Objects with  $H$ -band luminosity corresponding to a BD (defined here as  $0.012 < M \leq 0.072 M_\odot$ ) are indicated in italic. The errors include the zeropoint uncertainties.



**Fig. 4.** Distribution of magnitude of the sources detected in the SofI (15 mn on-source exposure) and MAD (6 mn on-source exposure) images. The limits of completeness in the MAD images reach  $K_s \approx 19.5$  mag and  $H \approx 20.0$  mag. It is not homogeneous over the entire image, as large areas are contaminated by the strong halos of the bright massive stars.

Fig. 5 and discussion hereafter). The other one (SigOri-MAD-13) falls in an area of the NACO mosaic where only one image was co-added (no overlap with the other 3 images) and where the sensitivity is therefore significantly worse. It is not detected in the SofI image as it falls on a diffraction spike of the bright OB stars where the limit of sensitivity is significantly worse. We estimate the limit of sensitivity at the expected position of SigOri-MAD-13 in both the NACO and SofI images by adding artificial stars of decreasing luminosity until the  $3\text{-}\sigma$  detection algorithm misses it. The detection limits measured that way are  $K_s \approx 17$  mag in both the NACO and SofI image, thus just at the limit to detect SigOri-MAD-13. The nature of SigOri-MAD-13 is therefore uncertain and must be confirmed with new images.

The five remaining  $H$ -band sources without MAD, SofI or NACO  $K_s$  counterpart are either located on diffraction spikes, or in a region where the halos of the bright massive stars are strong, degrading the limit of sensitivity of the SofI or NACO images. These five sources are the faintest of our sample, and in the state of the currently available data we can not rule out the possibility that they are false positives. However, the presence of confirmed sources with similar magnitudes (e.g. SigOri-MAD-26) in both the  $H$  and  $K_s$  images and the quality of the correlation between the PSF of these sources and the PSF of nearby objects (all better than 0.78) suggest that these detections are likely to be



**Fig. 5.** NACO  $K_s$  image of  $\sigma$  Ori AB, D and IRS1. The image was wavelet filtered to enhance SigOri-MAD-11 detection, indicated with a white circle. East is left and north is up and the scale is shown. The contrast have been stretched differently around the bright OB stars to increase the dynamic of the figure.

real as well. New images with a better signal-to-noise ratio are required to confirm their nature. An upper limit on their  $K_s$  band luminosity was derived by adding artificial stars of decreasing luminosity at the expected position of the source until the 3- $\sigma$  detection algorithm misses it.

SigOri-MAD-27 falls close to the position of a saturated bright massive star's remnant spot in both the  $H$  and  $K_s$  MAD image (see Fig. 2). The associated  $H$  band photometry is therefore unreliable and should be considered with caution. The  $K_s$  band photometry was measured in the SofI image and is therefore unaffected and reliable.

## 5. Multiple systems

With an average resolution of  $\approx 0''.1$ , the MAD images resolve a number of multiple systems.

### 5.1. Previously known multiple systems

$\sigma$  Ori AB: The brightest star in  $\sigma$ -Orionis, which gives its name to the cluster, is a known multiple system made of at least two components,  $\sigma$  Ori A and B (Struve 1837). The pair is saturated in all the MAD, NACO  $K_s$  and SofI images and no useful broad-band photometry can be performed. We used the unsaturated NACO  $B_{\text{ry}}$  image to measure the relative astrometry of the pair, as reported in Table 7.

$\sigma$  Ori AD: (Struve 1837) The two stars are heavily saturated in the MAD image.  $\sigma$  Ori A is saturated in the NACO image, but not  $\sigma$  Ori D. The D component is outside the field of view of the unsaturated NACO  $B_{\text{ry}}$  image. The saturation of the NACO broad-band  $K_s$  image is not as bad as in the MAD images and a careful fit of the wings of the saturated PSF of  $\sigma$ -Ori A and its Airy rings allow us to measure the relative astrometry of the AD pair.

$\sigma$  Ori C: has been resolved as a wide binary by Caballero (2005). It is clearly resolved in the new MAD images. The primary  $\sigma$  Ori Ca is saturated in the MAD  $H$ -band but the large separation allows us to measure accurately the photometry of Cb. From the unresolved 2MASS photometry, we derive the relative  $H$ -band photometry given in Table 7. It is also resolved in the SofI image but the bright Ca primary is saturated.

### 5.2. New multiple systems

$\sigma$  Ori IRS1: the X-ray, radio, mid- and near-infrared source (Skinner et al. 2008; van Loon & Oliveira 2003; Sanz-Forcada et al. 2004; Caballero 2005; Drake 1990) is resolved in both the MAD and NACO images and we measure accurate relative astrometry and photometry (see Table 7). The resolved photometry and colors of the individual component correspond, according to the latest NextGen models of Baraffe et al. (1998), to masses of  $0.47 M_{\odot}$  and  $0.12 M_{\odot}$ , but these values must be considered with caution as previous studies reported a high local extinction toward this source. The object was recently resolved independently by Caballero & Rebolo (in prep., private communication), and detected with AO in the optical but unresolved by Turner et al. (2008). van loon & Oliveira (2003) detected this object in the mid-IR with TIMMI2 at the ESO/3.6 m and associated it to the radio source reported at 2, 6 and 20 cm by Drake (1990) and to the mid-IR source IRAS 05362-0237. Based on the mid-IR excess, the displacement between the mid-IR photocenter (associated to a disk) and radio photocenter (associated to free-free emission from an ionization front) and the presence of processed silicate grains revealed in their mid-IR spectrum, they describe the object as a proplyd, a proto-planetary disk being dispersed by the intense ultraviolet (UV) radiation from  $\sigma$  Ori AB (O'Dell & Wong 1996). The source was marginally resolved in their  $8.6 \mu\text{m}$  images, with a size of  $\approx 1''.1$ . Skinner et al. (2008) high resolution Chandra X-ray observations show that the X-ray source associated to  $\sigma$  Ori IRS1 is variable and must be a magnetically-active young T Tauri star. To further investigate the nature of this source, we retrieved MIPS images of the cluster from the *Spitzer* public archive. The observations are described in details in Hernández et al. (2007). The central massive pair  $\sigma$  Ori AB is saturated in all IRAC and MIPS  $24 \mu\text{m}$  images preventing us to extract useful photometry for  $\sigma$  Ori IRS1. A bright source is detected in the MIPS  $70 \mu\text{m}$  image at  $\alpha = 05^{\text{h}}38^{\text{m}}44.9^{\text{s}}$  and  $\delta = -02^{\circ}35'56.0''$ , i.e. only  $2''.24$  from  $\sigma$  Ori IRS1 but  $4''.9$  from  $\sigma$  Ori AB. With a  $FWHM$  of  $\approx 21''.5$ , it is difficult to associate the mid-IR source to any of these two objects with certainty, but the closer distance to the MAD, TIMMI-2 and VLA sources (see Fig. 8) and the expected much lower  $70 \mu\text{m}$  flux of the massive pair lead us to associate the MIPS  $70 \mu\text{m}$  source to  $\sigma$  Ori IRS1. Using PSF photometry, we measure a flux of  $752 \pm 150 \text{ mJy}$ . This value is not consistent with the IRAS  $60 \mu\text{m}$  photometry given for the associated source IRAS 05362-0237, which is  $6.95 \text{ Jy}$ . With a much broader PSF, the IRAS photometry includes the flux of nearby bright nebulosities and is therefore unreliable. Figure 8 shows the relative positions of the MAD, VLA, TIMMI-2 and *Spitzer* detection as well as the spectral energy distribution of the source. The formation and evolution of such a system in a Trapezium-like cluster at a projected distance of only  $\approx 1200 \text{ AU}$  (the physical distance might be much larger) of a pair of massive OB stars make it particularly interesting. One can indeed wonder how such a pair and its circum-binary disk has survived the dynamical interactions commonly happening in such a cluster for as long as  $1 \sim 3 \text{ Myr}$ . If confirmed, the nature of this low-mass/very low mass pair will provide a direct proof that relatively wide ( $> 100 \text{ AU}$ ) low mass pairs and their disk can survive the gravitational interactions and the photo-evaporation in the early stages of the formation of proto-stellar clusters.

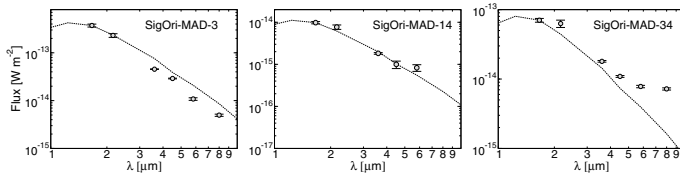
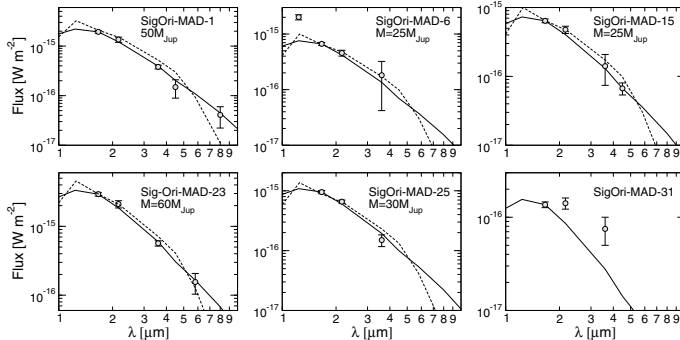
$\sigma$  Ori E: is resolved in the MAD images. The two components are saturated in the  $H$ -band image. The secondary is not saturated in the  $K_s$ -band image, but the heavy saturation of the primary and its halo prevent us to make any accurate measurement of the photometry of the secondary. Table 7 gives approximate

**Table 4.** Log of Spitzer observations.

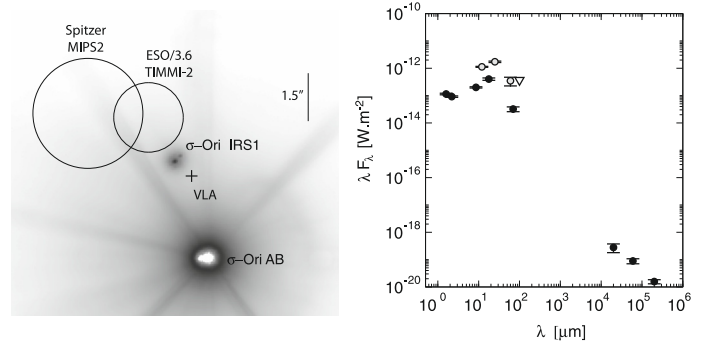
Program ID	P.I.	Date Obs. [DD-MM-YYYY]	Exposure time [s]	Number of frames
37	Fazio	08-10-2004	1.2/30	270/270
30 395	Scholz	03-04-2007	100	24

**Table 5.** Spitzer IRAC photometry of sources detected in the MAD images.

Name	3.6 $\mu\text{m}$ [mJy]	4.5 $\mu\text{m}$ [mJy]	5.8 $\mu\text{m}$ [mJy]	8.0 $\mu\text{m}$ [mJy]
SigOri-MAD-1	$0.46 \pm 0.04$	$0.22 \pm 0.09$	$0.10 \pm 0.04$	$0.11 \pm 0.05$
SigOri-MAD-3	$54.6 \pm 0.04$	$43.0 \pm 0.04$	$20.9 \pm 0.5$	$13.19 \pm 0.7$
SigOri-MAD-6	$0.22 \pm 0.17$	...	...	...
SigOri-MAD-14	$2.19 \pm 0.10$	$1.49 \pm 0.30$	$1.60 \pm 0.30$	...
SigOri-MAD-15	$0.17 \pm 0.08$	$0.10 \pm 0.02$	...	...
SigOri-MAD-23	$0.68 \pm 0.06$	...	$0.3 \pm 0.1$	...
SigOri-MAD-25	$0.18 \pm 0.04$	$0.27 \pm 0.05$	...	...
SigOri-MAD-31	$0.09 \pm 0.03$	...	...	...
SigOri-MAD-34	$21.2 \pm 0.4$	$16.3 \pm 0.5$	$15.1 \pm 0.6$	$19.1 \pm 0.7$

**Fig. 6.** Spectral energy distributions of the MAD stellar sources with *Spitzer* IRAC counterparts. The dashed line represent the median SED of confirmed members without excess as derived by Hernández et al. (2007) and normalized to the same *H*-band flux as the MAD source. SigOri-MAD-34 display some mid-IR excess indicating the presence of circumstellar material.**Fig. 7.** Spectral energy distributions of the MAD substellar candidates with *Spitzer* IRAC counterparts. The plain line represent the median SED of confirmed members without excess as derived by Hernández et al. (2007) and normalized to the same *H*-band flux as the MAD source. The 1 Myr synthetic DUSTY SEDs for the given *H*-band luminosities and at a distance of 440 pc are overplotted with a dashed line and the corresponding masses indicated. The good match suggest that the sources are indeed members of the association.

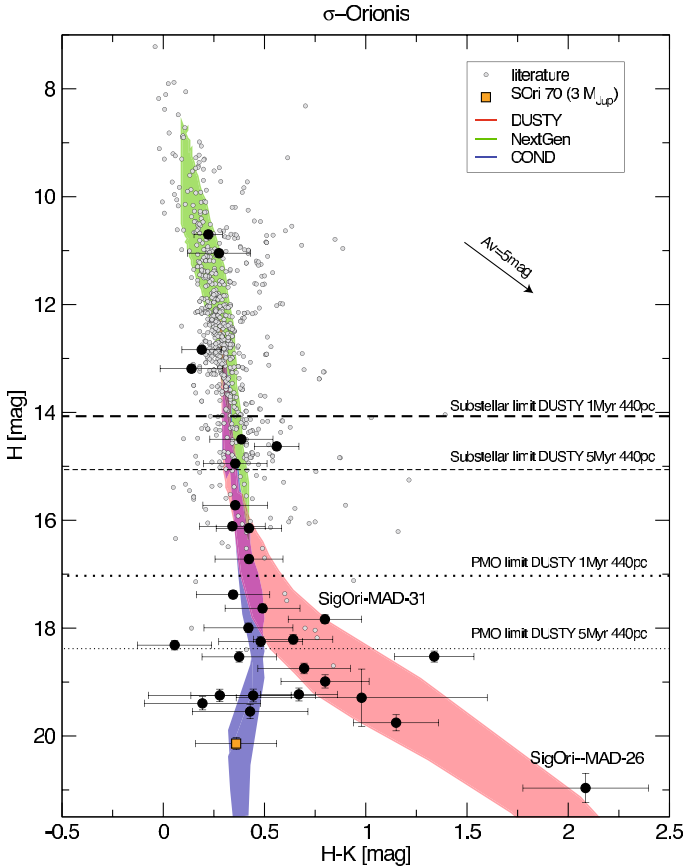
measurements of the separation and position angle. We tentatively derive an upper limit on the *K<sub>s</sub>*-band luminosity of the companion by adding artificial PSF of increasing luminosity at its diametrically opposed position until the luminosity matches that of the companion. The luminosity roughly estimated this way (*K<sub>s</sub>*  $\approx 10 \sim 11$  mag) corresponds to an estimated mass of  $0.4 \sim 0.8 M_{\odot}$ .  $\sigma$  Ori E was suspected to have a low mass companion for several decades. Walborn (1974) had noticed a

**Fig. 8.** Left panel: MAD *H*-band image around  $\sigma$  Ori IRS1. The *Spitzer* 70  $\mu\text{m}$ , VLA (Drake 1990) and TIMMI-2 (van Loon & Oliveira 2003) detections are overplotted with circles. The size of the circle corresponds to the *FWHM* of the source in these images, except for the VLA detection which has a much better accuracy ( $<0.1$ ) and is represented with a dimensionless cross. The different positions have been aligned using the MAD *H*-band image as reference frame. The uncertainty on the MAD mosaic image astrometric solution is  $\approx 0.1$ . All these detections are closer to  $\sigma$  Ori IRS1 than to  $\sigma$  Ori AB. The scale is indicated. North is up and east is left. Right panel: spectral energy distribution of  $\sigma$  Ori IRS1. The IRAS fluxes are represented with grey circles (detections) or a triangle (upper limit). As the source is unresolved in the TIMMI-2, *Spitzer* and VLA images, the *H* and *K<sub>s</sub>* fluxes correspond to the combined fluxes of the two components as measured in the MAD and NACO images.

peculiar variable *H $\alpha$*  emission in  $\sigma$  Ori E spectrum and interpreted it (among other hypothesis) as the effect of the possible presence of a very low mass companion. Using *uvby* beta light curves, Hesser et al. (1976) later suggested that  $\sigma$  Ori E was indeed a binary system, and put an upper limit on the mass of the companion at  $M < 0.1 M_{\odot}$  for inclination  $i > 45^{\circ}$ . The source displayed repeated X-ray flares (reported with *ROSAT*, *XMM-Newton* and *Chandra*, respectively by Groote & Schmitt 2004; Sanz-Forcada et al. 2004; Skinner et al. 2008). The X-ray activity was suspected by several of these authors to be in part due to the presence of an unseen low mass companion. The MAD images show that a low mass companion is indeed present next to the massive helium-strong  $\sigma$  Ori E star and could be responsible for the observed X-ray activity.

## 6. Substellar and isolated planetary mass candidates

Figure 9 shows a color-magnitude diagram of all the sources detected in the MAD images, as well as catalogs of cluster members from the literature for comparison. A number of sources have luminosities and colors consistent with the cluster isochrones and with substellar and planetary masses. With only two bands and no comparison field away from the cluster it is difficult to assess the level of contamination. Using the model of stellar population synthesis of the Galaxy of Robin et al. (2003) we find that the expected contamination by background giants or foreground dwarfs in the field of view of the MAD images



**Fig. 9.**  $H$  vs.  $H - K$  color-magnitude diagram of the  $\sigma$ -Orionis cluster. The MAD measurements are represented by black circles. The DUSTY, NextGen and COND isochrones between 1–5 Myr and 350–440 pc are represented in red, green and blue shaded areas, respectively. Measurements for cluster members from the literature are overplotted as grey circles (Caballero 2008c; Caballero et al. 2007; Scholz & Eislöffel 2004; Béjar et al. 2004; Sherry et al. 2004). The confirmed PMO S Ori 70 (Zapatero Osorio et al. 2008) is represented with an orange square. The substellar and deuterium burning limit from the DUSTY models for 1 Myr and 5 Myr at a distance of 440 pc as well as a  $A_V = 5$  mag reddening vector are represented.

must be very low. Caballero et al. (2008) recently estimated that the number of expected field L and T-dwarf contaminants toward the cluster adds up to  $\approx 550$  objects per  $1 \text{ deg}^2$ , corresponding to  $< 0.4$  contaminant in the case of our study. The contamination by extragalactic sources is expected to be much higher, as illustrated by the recent survey of the cluster by Hernández et al. (2007). In the current state of the data, it is not possible to estimate the contamination by extragalactic sources among the MAD detections. We nevertheless note that none of the sources identified in the MAD images is extended while most extragalactic sources rejected by Hernández et al. (2007) in their analysis were extended. Additional observations are required to confirm the membership of the new candidates.

Using the *Spitzer* photometry, we tentatively assess further the nature of the nine sources with mid-IR counterparts. Figure 6 shows the spectral energy distributions (SED) of the stellar candidate members. All but SigOri-MAD-34 match very well the median SED of cluster members measured by Hernández et al. (2007), ruling out the possibility of extragalactic contaminants. SigOri-MAD-34 displays mid-IR excess most likely related to a circumstellar disk and providing further evidence of its youth and membership to the association. Figure 7 shows the SEDs

of all the MAD substellar candidates with a *Spitzer* counterpart. All but SigOri-MAD-31 match also very well the median SED of cluster members and the synthetic DUSTY SEDs of the corresponding  $H$ -band luminosity at the exact distance of the cluster sequence (440 pc, Sherry et al. 2008) and for an age of 1 Myr. These SEDs could be equally well fitted by foreground late-M field dwarf at a distance of  $\approx 100$  pc, preventing us to draw any firm conclusion regarding their membership to the association. Spectroscopy and proper motion measurements are required to confirm their nature. SigOri-MAD-6 (2MASS J05384454-0235349) was suggested to be a background A-F star or an extragalactic source by Caballero (2007) based on its blue  $J - K_s$  color. The new  $3.6 \mu\text{m}$  photometric measurement allows us to rule out the extragalactic contaminant hypothesis. The  $J$ -band photometric measurement reported by Caballero (2007) is  $\approx 0.7$  mag brighter than the expected  $J$ -band luminosity of a  $0.025 M_\odot$  cluster member. All the other measurements ( $H$ ,  $K_s$  and  $3.6 \mu\text{m}$ ) are in good agreement with the luminosities expected for a  $0.025 M_\odot$  cluster member as shown in Fig. 7. The  $J$ -band luminosity discrepancy could be due to underestimated errors on the photometric measurement in the proximity of the bright central OB pair (Caballero, private communication). Until new  $J$ -band measurements are obtained, SigOri-MAD-6 remains a good brown dwarf member candidate.

Mayrit 72345 and Mayrit 111335 are two L-dwarf candidate members reported by Caballero (2007) using optical, near-infrared and X-ray photometry. The two sources are detected in the SofI  $K_s$ -band image and in the *Spitzer* IRAC1, 2 and 3 channels (respectively SigOri-SofI-181 and SigOri-SofI-142, Tables 6 and 8). The SofI photometry is in good agreement with Caballero (2007) photometry within the uncertainties. Their SEDs, shown in Fig. 10, allows us to rule out the possibility that these two sources are extragalactic contaminants. They are inconsistent with a purely photospheric emission and display some excess in the near- and mid-IR most likely related to the presence of circumstellar material, assessing their youth and membership to the association. In the near-IR, these two objects look like lower luminosity analogues of the substellar member S Ori J053902.1-023501 (Caballero et al. 2007). Their mid-IR excess is less than that reported for S Ori J053902.1-023501. Caballero (2007) associated Mayrit 72345 to the X-ray source NX 77 detected with *XMM-Newton* by Franciosi et al. (2006). Figure 6 shows that their SEDs is very similar to that of SigOri-MAD-31, adding further evidence that this latter source is likely to be a very low mass substellar member. The  $J$  and  $H$ -band luminosities of these 3 objects are well matched by a DUSTY SED with a mass of  $\approx 5.5 M_{\text{Jup}}$  at a distance of 440 pc and at an age of 1 Myr (Figs. 6 and 7). At 5 Myr, these luminosities correspond to a mass of  $\approx 7 M_{\text{Jup}}$ , as described in Caballero (2007). This estimate is only tentative as the objects display some near-IR excess.

## 7. Notes on individual targets

*SigOri-MAD-11*: is detected in the MAD ( $12\text{-}\sigma$ ) and NACO ( $3\text{-}\sigma$ ) images, confirming that it is a real detection. The two observations are separated by  $\approx 3$  yr and we tried to measure the proper motion relative to the closest unsaturated object  $\sigma$  Ori IRS1a. The large uncertainties (dominated by the poorly calibrated camera distortions, of the order of 1% of the pixel scale for CONICA and unknown for CAMCAO see e.g. Seifahrt et al. 2007; Eggenberger et al. 2007) and the small proper motion of the association (only  $\approx 6$  mas/yr, corresponding to  $\approx 18$  mas between the two epochs, or 1.35 CONICA pixel and 0.9 CAMCAO

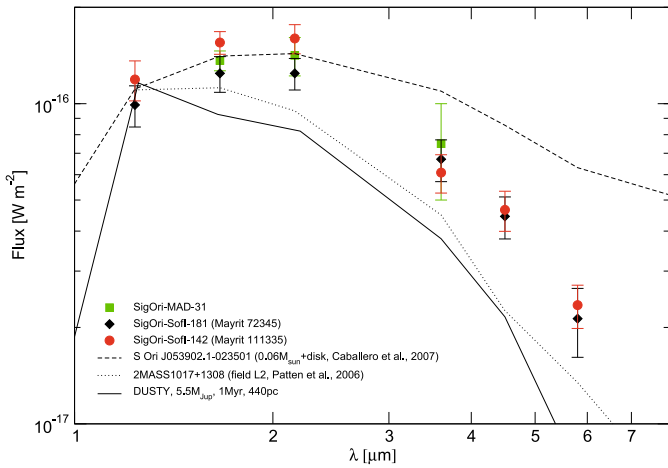
**Table 6.** Spitzer IRAC photometry of the two L-dwarf candidates detected in the SofI images.

Name	3.6 $\mu\text{m}$ [mJy]	4.5 $\mu\text{m}$ [mJy]	5.8 $\mu\text{m}$ [mJy]	8.0 $\mu\text{m}$ [mJy]	Other name
SigOri-SofI-142	$0.073 \pm 0.010$	$0.070 \pm 0.010$	$0.045 \pm 0.007$	...	Mayrit 111 335
SigOri-SofI-181	$0.080 \pm 0.012$	$0.067 \pm 0.010$	$0.041 \pm 0.010$	...	Mayrit 72 345

**Table 7.** Relative astrometry and photometry of the multiple systems.

System	date UT [YYYY-MM-DD HH:MM]	Separation [mas]	PA [ $^\circ$ ]	$\Delta H$ [mag]	$\Delta K_s$ [mag]	Instrument
$\sigma$ -Ori AB	2004-10-11 09:44	$255.7 \pm 1.8$	$100.9 \pm 0.4$	...	...	NACO
$\sigma$ -Ori AD	2004-10-11 09:44	$13\,037.2 \pm 27$	$84.1 \pm 0.4$	...	...	NACO
$\sigma$ -Ori IRS1 AB	2004-10-11 09:44	$236.3 \pm 2.4$	$318.1 \pm 0.4$	...	$2.19 \pm 0.01$	NACO
$\sigma$ -Ori IRS1 AB	2007-12-01T07:23	$242.9 \pm 3.6$	$317.0 \pm 0.7$	$2.13 \pm 0.10$	$2.17 \pm 0.07$	MAD
$\sigma$ -Ori Cab	2007-12-01T07:23	$1991.5 \pm 3.9$	$11.5 \pm 0.7$	$5.50 \pm 0.07$	$5.05 \pm 0.14$	MAD
$\sigma$ -Ori Eab	2007-12-01T07:23	$\approx 330$	$\approx 391$	...	...	MAD

Note – In addition to the uncertainties on the measurement, these values include errors related to the camera distortions (of the order of 1% of the pixel scale for NACO, see e.g. Seifahrt et al. 2007; Eggenberger et al. 2007, not calibrated but assumed to be of the same order for MAD).



**Fig. 10.** Spectral energy distributions of the substellar candidates with SofI and *Spitzer* IRAC counterparts (SigOri-SofI-181, black diamonds, and SigOri-SofI-142, red dots), as well as SigOri-MAD-31 (green squares). The line represents the 1 Myr DUSTY SED of a  $\approx 5.5 M_{\text{Jup}}$  object at a distance of 440 pc. The dotted line represents the SED of the field L2 dwarf 2MASS J1017+1308 (Patten et al. 2006) normalized to the average  $J$ -band fluxes of the two candidates. The dashed line represents the SED of the 0.060 brown dwarf with a disk S Ori J053902.1-023501 as reported by Caballero et al. (2007) and normalized to the average  $J$ -band fluxes of the two candidates. The three L-dwarf candidates display a clear mid-IR excess when compared to the field L2 dwarf or the DUSTY photospheric model. Their SED look like lower luminosity analogues of the substellar member S Ori J053902.1-023501 (Caballero et al. 2007).

pixel) make these measurements inconclusive. New measurements covering a larger timescale will be required to confirmed that this source is co-moving with the nearby massive cluster members.

*SigOri-MAD-26*: is the faintest and reddest object with a detection in both  $H$  and  $K_s$ . It has a counterpart in the SofI image. Its luminosity and color are consistent with the DUSTY 1 Myr isochrone at 440 pc within the uncertainties, but largely inconsistent with the color of the confirmed member S Ori 70, which lies on the much bluer COND isochrones. This source is therefore unlikely to be a very low mass substellar member of the

association. The  $K$ -band peak in the SED could be that of a low redshift ( $z \approx 0.5$ ) galaxy. We nevertheless note that an average size galaxy (10 000 light year diameter) at that distance would have been easily resolved by our MCAO images. The object lies in the direction of the reddening vector, suggesting that it is most likely an extinguished source.

*SigOri-MAD-34*: (*Mayrit 53049*) is clearly detected in all IRAC four bands, and displays some excess at long wavelength indicating the presence of circumstellar material and adding further evidence that the object is young and member of the association. Assuming an age of 1 Myr and a distance of 440 pc, its  $H$  and  $K_s$ -band luminosities correspond to a mass of  $\approx 0.45 M_{\odot}$  according to the NextGen models.

## 8. Spatial distribution of BD and PMOs

Using DENIS, 2MASS and previously published catalogs, Caballero (2008b, 2007) recently concluded that there is an apparent deficit of very low mass stars and high-mass BDs in the central  $4'$  of the cluster. The relatively large number of faint objects detected in our new images of the central part of the cluster suggest that a large fraction of very low mass members might have been missed by the previous survey because of the dazzling central massive stars. Their presence affected all the previous seeing limited observations making the detection of very low-mass cluster members in this region very difficult, if not impossible. The unprecedented dynamic range provided by MAD allows us to detect a number of faint sources that, if confirmed as cluster members, could fill the very low mass end of the central cluster population. Additional observations are required to confirm the membership and nature of the candidates and provide a quantitative answer to that question.

## 9. Conclusions and future prospects

Using multi-conjugate AO images of the core of the  $\sigma$ -Orionis cluster, we have identified 6 new BD candidates and 25 planetary mass candidates. Five of these have additional mid-IR *Spitzer* IRAC photometry consistent with that of sub-stellar members. In the current state of the data, it is not possible to conclude on

**Table 8.** NTT/SofI *Ks*-band photometry.

Name	RA (J2000)	Dec (J2000)	<i>Ks</i> [mag]	Nearest 2MASS	Nearest mayrit
SigOri-SofI-1	05:38:33.3	-02:36:17.0	13.05	05383335-0236176	
SigOri-SofI-2	05:38:33.3	-02:36:17.1	10.99	05383335-0236176	
SigOri-SofI-3	05:38:33.3	-02:36:44.2	18.02		
SigOri-SofI-4	05:38:33.5	-02:34:53.1	18.81		
SigOri-SofI-5	05:38:33.5	-02:35:40.6	18.17		
SigOri-SofI-6	05:38:33.5	-02:36:05.0	18.84		
SigOri-SofI-7	05:38:33.6	-02:35:00.3	17.38		
SigOri-SofI-8	05:38:33.7	-02:36:47.5	14.71	05383376-0236479	
SigOri-SofI-9	05:38:33.7	-02:36:57.6	17.60		
SigOri-SofI-10	05:38:33.7	-02:36:58.3	18.88		
SigOri-SofI-11	05:38:33.9	-02:35:31.0	18.44		
SigOri-SofI-12	05:38:33.9	-02:36:26.3	19.16		
SigOri-SofI-13	05:38:34.0	-02:36:36.9	13.68	05383405-0236375	165 257
SigOri-SofI-14	05:38:34.0	-02:36:37.0	10.95	05383405-0236375	165 257
SigOri-SofI-15	05:38:34.2	-02:34:49.8	19.52		
SigOri-SofI-16	05:38:34.6	-02:38:26.1	16.88		
SigOri-SofI-17	05:38:34.8	-02:34:27.3	17.35		
SigOri-SofI-18	05:38:34.8	-02:36:20.0	16.59	05383491-0236206	
SigOri-SofI-19	05:38:34.9	-02:36:20.1	14.12	05383491-0236206	
SigOri-SofI-20	05:38:35.0	-02:34:55.5	17.97	05383510-0234559	
SigOri-SofI-21	05:38:35.1	-02:34:55.9	16.48	05383510-0234559	
SigOri-SofI-22	05:38:35.1	-02:35:57.8	18.25		
SigOri-SofI-23	05:38:35.2	-02:34:09.2	19.54		
SigOri-SofI-24	05:38:35.2	-02:34:21.4	18.72		
SigOri-SofI-25	05:38:35.2	-02:34:36.8	17.69		
SigOri-SofI-26	05:38:35.2	-02:34:37.4	16.58		
SigOri-SofI-27	05:38:35.2	-02:34:51.9	18.09		
SigOri-SofI-28	05:38:35.3	-02:36:02.1	17.01		
SigOri-SofI-29	05:38:35.3	-02:38:37.1	17.42	05383540-0238373	
SigOri-SofI-30	05:38:35.4	-02:35:47.1	16.80		
SigOri-SofI-31	05:38:35.4	-02:38:37.0	14.95	05383540-0238373	
SigOri-SofI-32	05:38:35.5	-02:35:34.4	18.93		
SigOri-SofI-33	05:38:35.6	-02:34:26.1	18.32		
SigOri-SofI-34	05:38:35.7	-02:34:26.8	17.07		
SigOri-SofI-35	05:38:35.9	-02:35:01.7	19.08		
SigOri-SofI-36	05:38:36.0	-02:38:08.9	16.08		
SigOri-SofI-37	05:38:36.1	-02:34:27.0	18.91		
SigOri-SofI-38	05:38:36.3	-02:36:28.2	18.45		
SigOri-SofI-39	05:38:36.4	-02:37:32.1	16.22		
SigOri-SofI-40	05:38:36.5	-02:33:19.7	18.81		
SigOri-SofI-41	05:38:36.5	-02:35:33.4	18.75		
SigOri-SofI-42	05:38:36.7	-02:33:22.7	19.14		
SigOri-SofI-43	05:38:36.7	-02:34:57.1	18.81		
SigOri-SofI-44	05:38:36.8	-02:35:16.0	12.70	05383686-0235163	
SigOri-SofI-45	05:38:36.8	-02:36:42.8	12.00	05383687-0236432	126 250
SigOri-SofI-46	05:38:37.0	-02:35:15.1	15.51	05383686-0235163	
SigOri-SofI-47	05:38:37.1	-02:37:02.7	17.06	05383721-0237031	
SigOri-SofI-48	05:38:37.1	-02:37:05.8	19.21		
SigOri-SofI-49	05:38:37.2	-02:35:31.8	17.86		
SigOri-SofI-50	05:38:37.2	-02:36:24.7	17.78		
SigOri-SofI-51	05:38:37.2	-02:37:02.7	13.78	05383721-0237031	
SigOri-SofI-52	05:38:37.3	-02:33:52.7	19.20		
SigOri-SofI-53	05:38:37.3	-02:36:10.2	19.27		
SigOri-SofI-54	05:38:37.3	-02:37:16.1	18.57		
SigOri-SofI-55	05:38:37.5	-02:37:34.0	18.55		
SigOri-SofI-56	05:38:37.6	-02:34:31.5	17.40		
SigOri-SofI-57	05:38:37.6	-02:36:52.0	20.21	05383764-0236523	
SigOri-SofI-58	05:38:37.7	-02:36:00.2	17.41		
SigOri-SofI-59	05:38:37.8	-02:33:32.8	17.60		
SigOri-SofI-60	05:38:37.8	-02:34:33.2	18.77		
SigOri-SofI-61	05:38:37.8	-02:35:06.6	17.03		
SigOri-SofI-62	05:38:37.8	-02:35:48.7	18.63		
SigOri-SofI-63	05:38:37.9	-02:37:27.6	16.64		
SigOri-SofI-64	05:38:38.0	-02:34:48.0	18.35		
SigOri-SofI-65	05:38:38.1	-02:35:07.3	19.20		
SigOri-SofI-66	05:38:38.1	-02:35:41.6	15.45	05383808-0235418	
SigOri-SofI-67	05:38:38.1	-02:35:51.5	17.85		
SigOri-SofI-68	05:38:38.1	-02:36:09.6	15.51	05383814-0236099	
SigOri-SofI-69	05:38:38.2	-02:36:30.0	15.52	05383823-0236306	
SigOri-SofI-70	05:38:38.2	-02:36:38.0	10.20	05383822-0236384	105 249
SigOri-SofI-71	05:38:38.2	-02:38:24.5	18.84		
SigOri-SofI-72	05:38:38.2	-02:38:43.8	16.53		

Table 8. continued.

Name	RA (J2000)	Dec (J2000)	$K_s$ [mag]	Nearest 2MASS	Nearest mayrit
SigOri-SofI-73	05:38:38.4	-02:34:45.9	15.78	05383845-0234466	
SigOri-SofI-74	05:38:38.4	-02:36:31.4	19.22	05383823-0236306	
SigOri-SofI-75	05:38:38.4	-02:38:05.3	15.78	05383840-0238054	
SigOri-SofI-76	05:38:38.5	-02:34:36.2	16.05	05383858-0234371	
SigOri-SofI-77	05:38:38.5	-02:34:54.6	9.64	05383848-0234550	114 305
SigOri-SofI-78	05:38:38.5	-02:36:35.4	18.05		
SigOri-SofI-79	05:38:38.6	-02:34:11.9	18.29		
SigOri-SofI-80	05:38:38.6	-02:34:36.8	14.44	05383858-0234371	
SigOri-SofI-81	05:38:38.7	-02:34:02.3	17.30	05383877-0234033	
SigOri-SofI-82	05:38:38.7	-02:36:50.7	17.81	05383881-0236512	
SigOri-SofI-83	05:38:38.7	-02:37:21.8	18.96		
SigOri-SofI-84	05:38:38.7	-02:37:23.2	18.87		
SigOri-SofI-85	05:38:38.7	-02:38:29.8	18.57		
SigOri-SofI-86	05:38:38.8	-02:34:03.0	15.71	05383877-0234033	
SigOri-SofI-87	05:38:38.8	-02:36:50.9	14.19	05383881-0236512	
SigOri-SofI-88	05:38:38.8	-02:38:43.1	19.12		
SigOri-SofI-89	05:38:38.9	-02:35:01.0	19.17		
SigOri-SofI-90	05:38:38.9	-02:38:11.5	18.76		
SigOri-SofI-91	05:38:39.0	-02:33:24.8	16.25	05383903-0233258	
SigOri-SofI-92	05:38:39.0	-02:33:25.5	14.73	05383903-0233258	
SigOri-SofI-93	05:38:39.1	-02:34:59.5	15.69	05383911-0235001	
SigOri-SofI-94	05:38:39.1	-02:35:22.6	16.34		
SigOri-SofI-95	05:38:39.2	-02:35:15.8	19.14		
SigOri-SofI-96	05:38:39.2	-02:37:31.0	16.06	05383923-0237314	
SigOri-SofI-97	05:38:39.2	-02:37:48.2	16.67		
SigOri-SofI-98	05:38:39.3	-02:34:29.1	18.80		
SigOri-SofI-99	05:38:39.6	-02:34:35.5	18.99		
SigOri-SofI-100	05:38:39.6	-02:34:36.1	17.33		
SigOri-SofI-101	05:38:39.6	-02:36:14.3	18.21		
SigOri-SofI-102	05:38:39.6	-02:38:12.4	18.13		
SigOri-SofI-103	05:38:39.7	-02:36:46.8	15.37	05383968-0236468	
SigOri-SofI-104	05:38:39.8	-02:36:41.2	18.48		
SigOri-SofI-105	05:38:39.9	-02:38:37.1	19.18		
SigOri-SofI-106	05:38:40.0	-02:34:58.6	18.53		
SigOri-SofI-107	05:38:40.1	-02:37:44.9	18.15		
SigOri-SofI-108	05:38:40.1	-02:37:46.0	17.04		
SigOri-SofI-109	05:38:40.2	-02:33:06.3	16.37	05384026-0233074	
SigOri-SofI-110	05:38:40.2	-02:33:07.0	14.92	05384026-0233074	
SigOri-SofI-111	05:38:40.2	-02:34:03.6	18.99		
SigOri-SofI-112	05:38:40.2	-02:36:14.8	15.69	05384025-0236145	
SigOri-SofI-113	05:38:40.3	-02:35:18.1	19.13		
SigOri-SofI-114	05:38:40.3	-02:36:59.7	14.25	05384029-0237000	
SigOri-SofI-115	05:38:40.4	-02:38:10.5	16.59		
SigOri-SofI-116	05:38:40.4	-02:38:43.7	15.27	05384044-0238439	
SigOri-SofI-117	05:38:40.5	-02:33:26.4	13.55	05384053-0233275	165 337
SigOri-SofI-118	05:38:40.5	-02:33:27.1	12.09	05384053-0233275	165 337
SigOri-SofI-119	05:38:40.6	-02:37:11.4	17.57		
SigOri-SofI-120	05:38:40.8	-02:37:37.5	17.62		
SigOri-SofI-121	05:38:41.0	-02:36:05.7	18.93		
SigOri-SofI-122	05:38:41.1	-02:37:59.5	18.61		
SigOri-SofI-123	05:38:41.2	-02:33:16.1	17.95		
SigOri-SofI-124	05:38:41.2	-02:37:37.3	13.89	05384123-0237377	111 208
SigOri-SofI-125	05:38:41.2	-02:38:10.2	16.74		
SigOri-SofI-126	05:38:41.3	-02:35:53.3	16.85	05384146-0235523	50 279
SigOri-SofI-127	05:38:41.3	-02:36:25.0	16.06	05384142-0236250	
SigOri-SofI-128	05:38:41.3	-02:36:44.2	11.94	05384135-0236444	
SigOri-SofI-129	05:38:41.3	-02:36:50.9	18.15		
SigOri-SofI-130	05:38:41.3	-02:37:22.2	10.43	05384129-0237225	97 212
SigOri-SofI-131	05:38:41.3	-02:38:32.5	18.16		
SigOri-SofI-132	05:38:41.4	-02:33:42.2	17.86		
SigOri-SofI-133	05:38:41.4	-02:35:52.0	12.85	05384146-0235523	50 279
SigOri-SofI-134	05:38:41.5	-02:33:59.1	17.62	05384156-0234000	
SigOri-SofI-135	05:38:41.5	-02:33:59.8	15.94	05384156-0234000	
SigOri-SofI-136	05:38:41.5	-02:37:35.7	18.91		111 208
SigOri-SofI-137	05:38:41.5	-02:37:41.5	19.34		
SigOri-SofI-138	05:38:41.6	-02:34:40.8	17.31		
SigOri-SofI-139	05:38:41.6	-02:36:50.2	18.77		
SigOri-SofI-140	05:38:41.6	-02:38:43.8	17.80		
SigOri-SofI-141	05:38:41.7	-02:33:12.1	17.20		
SigOri-SofI-142	05:38:41.8	-02:34:28.9	17.18		111 335
SigOri-SofI-143	05:38:41.8	-02:35:02.1	16.35	05384182-0235022	

Table 8. continued.

Name	RA (J2000)	Dec (J2000)	$K_s$ [mag]	Nearest 2MASS	Nearest mayrit
SigOri-SofI-144	05:38:41.8	-02:37:17.5	16.12		
SigOri-SofI-145	05:38:41.8	-02:38:26.8	17.74		
SigOri-SofI-146	05:38:41.9	-02:33:18.8	18.92		
SigOri-SofI-147	05:38:41.9	-02:35:25.2	19.16		
SigOri-SofI-148	05:38:41.9	-02:38:17.8	18.99		
SigOri-SofI-149	05:38:41.9	-02:38:39.6	18.26		
SigOri-SofI-150	05:38:42.0	-02:35:51.0	15.64		
SigOri-SofI-151	05:38:42.1	-02:34:50.4	18.46		
SigOri-SofI-152	05:38:42.1	-02:34:54.3	18.95		
SigOri-SofI-153	05:38:42.2	-02:33:30.9	17.20		
SigOri-SofI-154	05:38:42.2	-02:37:14.4	10.63	05384227-0237147	83 207
SigOri-SofI-155	05:38:42.2	-02:38:02.8	18.64		
SigOri-SofI-156	05:38:42.2	-02:38:53.3	17.79		
SigOri-SofI-157	05:38:42.3	-02:33:34.7	16.81		
SigOri-SofI-158	05:38:42.3	-02:36:14.6	17.56		
SigOri-SofI-159	05:38:42.3	-02:38:10.0	17.45		
SigOri-SofI-160	05:38:42.4	-02:34:10.1	17.44		
SigOri-SofI-161	05:38:42.4	-02:35:27.5	19.26		
SigOri-SofI-162	05:38:42.4	-02:36:04.1	13.09	05384239-0236044	36 263
SigOri-SofI-163	05:38:42.6	-02:34:47.3	17.33		
SigOri-SofI-164	05:38:42.6	-02:38:13.2	18.14		
SigOri-SofI-165	05:38:42.6	-02:38:15.8	16.72		
SigOri-SofI-166	05:38:42.7	-02:35:22.6	17.57		
SigOri-SofI-167	05:38:42.7	-02:38:01.6	18.80		
SigOri-SofI-168	05:38:42.7	-02:38:28.6	17.58		
SigOri-SofI-169	05:38:42.8	-02:36:03.6	18.73		
SigOri-SofI-170	05:38:42.8	-02:38:52.3	12.67	05384285-0238525	
SigOri-SofI-171	05:38:42.9	-02:34:03.5	18.90		
SigOri-SofI-172	05:38:42.9	-02:37:24.6	17.36		
SigOri-SofI-173	05:38:43.0	-02:33:16.0	18.78		
SigOri-SofI-174	05:38:43.0	-02:35:26.4	18.24		
SigOri-SofI-175	05:38:43.0	-02:36:14.3	10.59	05384301-0236145	30 241
SigOri-SofI-176	05:38:43.0	-02:36:26.9	18.42		
SigOri-SofI-177	05:38:43.2	-02:37:22.9	18.07		
SigOri-SofI-178	05:38:43.3	-02:33:17.1	16.78		
SigOri-SofI-179	05:38:43.3	-02:36:47.7	16.19		
SigOri-SofI-180	05:38:43.4	-02:34:49.8	18.84		
SigOri-SofI-181	05:38:43.4	-02:34:50.6	17.61		72 345
SigOri-SofI-182	05:38:43.5	-02:33:24.0	13.38	05384355-0233253	156 353
SigOri-SofI-183	05:38:43.5	-02:33:24.9	10.73	05384355-0233253	156 353
SigOri-SofI-184	05:38:43.5	-02:34:24.4	15.41	05384356-0234247	
SigOri-SofI-185	05:38:43.5	-02:34:32.5	17.63		
SigOri-SofI-186	05:38:43.5	-02:37:56.6	18.44		
SigOri-SofI-187	05:38:43.6	-02:34:13.0	16.88		
SigOri-SofI-188	05:38:43.6	-02:37:58.7	17.58		
SigOri-SofI-189	05:38:43.6	-02:38:33.0	19.01		
SigOri-SofI-190	05:38:43.8	-02:34:42.3	17.68		
SigOri-SofI-191	05:38:43.8	-02:37:06.5	11.53	05384386-0237068	68 191
SigOri-SofI-192	05:38:43.9	-02:33:42.3	17.89		
SigOri-SofI-193	05:38:43.9	-02:34:08.6	18.90		
SigOri-SofI-194	05:38:43.9	-02:36:39.6	16.97		
SigOri-SofI-195	05:38:44.1	-02:37:10.2	19.53		68 191
SigOri-SofI-196	05:38:44.2	-02:34:55.3	18.08		
SigOri-SofI-197	05:38:44.3	-02:38:14.4	18.83		
SigOri-SofI-198	05:38:44.4	-02:34:12.4	18.28		
SigOri-SofI-199	05:38:44.4	-02:37:35.8	18.50		
SigOri-SofI-200	05:38:44.4	-02:38:20.1	18.61		
SigOri-SofI-201	05:38:44.5	-02:33:33.8	18.61		
SigOri-SofI-202	05:38:44.6	-02:33:17.6	18.18		
SigOri-SofI-203	05:38:44.7	-02:35:15.2	16.89		
SigOri-SofI-204	05:38:44.8	-02:33:57.2	9.64	05384480-0233576	123 000
SigOri-SofI-205	05:38:44.8	-02:36:56.9	16.50		
SigOri-SofI-206	05:38:44.9	-02:36:41.2	17.03		
SigOri-SofI-207	05:38:45.0	-02:33:23.9	14.80		
SigOri-SofI-208	05:38:45.0	-02:33:38.8	18.08		
SigOri-SofI-209	05:38:45.0	-02:36:32.6	18.68		
SigOri-SofI-210	05:38:45.1	-02:34:10.8	18.24		
SigOri-SofI-211	05:38:45.1	-02:36:41.4	17.81		
SigOri-SofI-212	05:38:45.1	-02:38:00.0	17.76		
SigOri-SofI-213	05:38:45.1	-02:38:18.1	15.49	05384516-0238181	

Table 8. continued.

Name	RA (J2000)	Dec (J2000)	$K_s$ [mag]	Nearest 2MASS	Nearest mayrit
SigOri-SofI-214	05:38:45.1	-02:38:36.5	17.86		
SigOri-SofI-215	05:38:45.1	-02:38:41.4	18.34		
SigOri-SofI-216	05:38:45.2	-02:37:29.0	12.02	05384527-0237292	89 175
SigOri-SofI-217	05:38:45.3	-02:37:32.5	19.37		89 175
SigOri-SofI-218	05:38:45.5	-02:34:07.1	18.88		
SigOri-SofI-219	05:38:45.7	-02:33:58.1	18.01		
SigOri-SofI-220	05:38:45.7	-02:34:10.6	18.20		
SigOri-SofI-221	05:38:45.7	-02:34:11.3	17.92		
SigOri-SofI-222	05:38:45.7	-02:37:32.5	12.45	05384571-0237327	
SigOri-SofI-223	05:38:45.7	-02:38:26.4	17.67		
SigOri-SofI-224	05:38:45.8	-02:37:13.8	19.24		
SigOri-SofI-225	05:38:45.8	-02:38:50.2	18.24		
SigOri-SofI-226	05:38:45.8	-02:38:51.8	17.23		
SigOri-SofI-227	05:38:45.9	-02:36:39.4	19.11		
SigOri-SofI-228	05:38:46.0	-02:37:48.6	17.66		
SigOri-SofI-229	05:38:46.1	-02:34:16.8	19.15		
SigOri-SofI-230	05:38:46.2	-02:34:14.7	16.68		
SigOri-SofI-231	05:38:46.2	-02:35:16.3	17.63		
SigOri-SofI-232	05:38:46.2	-02:37:10.0	14.01	05384626-0237102	
SigOri-SofI-233	05:38:46.3	-02:34:22.1	16.29		
SigOri-SofI-234	05:38:46.3	-02:34:53.4	17.32		
SigOri-SofI-235	05:38:46.3	-02:37:13.3	18.89		
SigOri-SofI-236	05:38:46.4	-02:34:33.4	14.52	05384639-0234336	
SigOri-SofI-237	05:38:46.6	-02:34:58.1	16.24		
SigOri-SofI-238	05:38:46.8	-02:36:43.3	12.21	05384684-0236435	53 144
SigOri-SofI-239	05:38:46.9	-02:38:09.8	17.74		
SigOri-SofI-240	05:38:47.0	-02:36:27.3	19.29		
SigOri-SofI-241	05:38:47.0	-02:37:01.2	17.30		
SigOri-SofI-242	05:38:47.0	-02:37:56.5	18.04		
SigOri-SofI-243	05:38:47.1	-02:33:15.1	19.26		
SigOri-SofI-244	05:38:47.1	-02:36:28.1	18.75		
SigOri-SofI-245	05:38:47.1	-02:38:29.6	18.68		
SigOri-SofI-246	05:38:47.1	-02:38:36.7	19.27		
SigOri-SofI-247	05:38:47.1	-02:39:02.1	17.13		
SigOri-SofI-248	05:38:47.2	-02:34:36.5	11.29	05384718-0234368	91 024
SigOri-SofI-249	05:38:47.2	-02:37:34.2	16.36		
SigOri-SofI-250	05:38:47.2	-02:37:38.1	19.37		
SigOri-SofI-251	05:38:47.2	-02:39:02.6	16.38		
SigOri-SofI-252	05:38:47.2	-02:39:06.4	18.18		
SigOri-SofI-253	05:38:47.3	-02:34:03.2	19.04		
SigOri-SofI-254	05:38:47.3	-02:35:19.0	15.43		
SigOri-SofI-255	05:38:47.3	-02:38:42.9	18.88		
SigOri-SofI-256	05:38:47.5	-02:33:59.3	19.18		
SigOri-SofI-257	05:38:47.5	-02:35:18.8	14.78		
SigOri-SofI-258	05:38:47.5	-02:38:24.2	16.64		
SigOri-SofI-259	05:38:47.6	-02:34:17.6	18.88		
SigOri-SofI-260	05:38:47.6	-02:38:00.0	19.02		
SigOri-SofI-261	05:38:47.7	-02:36:40.5	15.94	05384771-0236407	
SigOri-SofI-262	05:38:47.7	-02:36:41.8	19.07	05384771-0236407	
SigOri-SofI-263	05:38:47.8	-02:34:52.9	19.40		
SigOri-SofI-264	05:38:47.8	-02:36:43.7	18.78		
SigOri-SofI-265	05:38:47.9	-02:37:19.2	10.76	05384791-0237192	92 149
SigOri-SofI-266	05:38:48.0	-02:34:00.8	18.33		
SigOri-SofI-267	05:38:48.0	-02:37:18.2	11.58	05384791-0237192	92 149
SigOri-SofI-268	05:38:48.1	-02:33:08.4	17.49		
SigOri-SofI-269	05:38:48.1	-02:34:15.9	17.04		
SigOri-SofI-270	05:38:48.1	-02:36:28.3	16.88		
SigOri-SofI-271	05:38:48.1	-02:38:42.6	17.78		
SigOri-SofI-272	05:38:48.3	-02:33:47.1	17.68		
SigOri-SofI-273	05:38:48.3	-02:35:48.3	19.52		
SigOri-SofI-274	05:38:48.3	-02:36:40.8	10.99	05384828-0236409	67 128
SigOri-SofI-275	05:38:48.3	-02:37:04.8	19.29		
SigOri-SofI-276	05:38:48.3	-02:37:15.8	18.50		
SigOri-SofI-277	05:38:48.3	-02:37:22.5	19.37		
SigOri-SofI-278	05:38:48.3	-02:38:42.7	19.31		
SigOri-SofI-279	05:38:48.4	-02:33:46.3	18.84		
SigOri-SofI-280	05:38:48.5	-02:33:55.4	17.14		
SigOri-SofI-281	05:38:48.5	-02:36:07.7	18.35		
SigOri-SofI-282	05:38:48.5	-02:37:02.1	17.91		
SigOri-SofI-283	05:38:48.5	-02:38:56.2	18.81		
SigOri-SofI-284	05:38:48.6	-02:33:37.0	18.05		
SigOri-SofI-285	05:38:48.6	-02:36:51.9	17.67		
SigOri-SofI-286	05:38:48.7	-02:36:01.9	19.01		
SigOri-SofI-287	05:38:48.7	-02:36:16.0	11.13	05384868-0236162	61 105

Table 8. continued.

Name	RA (J2000)	Dec (J2000)	<i>K</i> <sub>s</sub> [mag]	Nearest 2MASS	Nearest mayrit
SigOri-SofI-288	05:38:48.7	-02:36:27.1	19.05		
SigOri-SofI-289	05:38:48.7	-02:36:46.0	18.70		
SigOri-SofI-290	05:38:48.8	-02:36:42.2	18.32		
SigOri-SofI-291	05:38:48.8	-02:38:56.5	17.71		
SigOri-SofI-292	05:38:48.9	-02:33:28.6	18.59		
SigOri-SofI-293	05:38:48.9	-02:33:56.9	19.29		
SigOri-SofI-294	05:38:49.0	-02:38:36.2	14.27	05384906-0238364	
SigOri-SofI-295	05:38:49.0	-02:38:42.1	17.39		
SigOri-SofI-296	05:38:49.1	-02:38:22.1	10.70	05384917-0238222	157 155
SigOri-SofI-297	05:38:49.2	-02:33:49.9	19.11		
SigOri-SofI-298	05:38:49.2	-02:35:49.4	17.05		
SigOri-SofI-299	05:38:49.4	-02:38:26.9	19.54		
SigOri-SofI-300	05:38:49.6	-02:34:55.7	17.69		100 048
SigOri-SofI-301	05:38:49.6	-02:37:17.8	18.70		
SigOri-SofI-302	05:38:49.7	-02:34:52.3	12.12	05384970-0234526	100 048
SigOri-SofI-303	05:38:49.7	-02:36:07.1	18.82		
SigOri-SofI-304	05:38:49.7	-02:38:56.8	16.74		
SigOri-SofI-305	05:38:50.0	-02:34:35.9	14.90	05385001-0234361	
SigOri-SofI-306	05:38:50.0	-02:37:35.3	11.94	05385003-0237354	124 140
SigOri-SofI-307	05:38:50.1	-02:34:43.2	15.12	05385008-0234433	
SigOri-SofI-308	05:38:50.2	-02:36:51.2	18.78		
SigOri-SofI-309	05:38:50.2	-02:37:00.6	18.64		
SigOri-SofI-310	05:38:50.3	-02:36:21.2	18.59		
SigOri-SofI-311	05:38:50.3	-02:36:46.7	18.54		
SigOri-SofI-312	05:38:50.3	-02:37:03.7	19.02		
SigOri-SofI-313	05:38:50.3	-02:38:59.4	17.42		
SigOri-SofI-314	05:38:50.4	-02:34:09.3	18.04		
SigOri-SofI-315	05:38:50.4	-02:34:28.9	18.10		
SigOri-SofI-316	05:38:50.4	-02:35:09.1	13.86	05385043-0235093	
SigOri-SofI-317	05:38:50.4	-02:36:43.5	15.80	05385042-0236431	
SigOri-SofI-318	05:38:50.5	-02:34:33.0	18.97		
SigOri-SofI-319	05:38:50.6	-02:34:13.3	15.62	05385065-0234135	
SigOri-SofI-320	05:38:50.7	-02:38:28.8	16.15	05385081-0238286	
SigOri-SofI-321	05:38:50.8	-02:34:09.3	17.88		
SigOri-SofI-322	05:38:50.8	-02:36:26.5	12.11	05385077-0236267	94 106
SigOri-SofI-323	05:38:50.9	-02:34:00.3	17.04		
SigOri-SofI-324	05:38:50.9	-02:36:39.6	16.97		
SigOri-SofI-325	05:38:51.0	-02:34:01.6	19.00		
SigOri-SofI-326	05:38:51.1	-02:33:56.0	18.48		
SigOri-SofI-327	05:38:51.1	-02:36:22.4	19.13		
SigOri-SofI-328	05:38:51.2	-02:33:55.8	17.41		
SigOri-SofI-329	05:38:51.2	-02:38:55.9	17.02		
SigOri-SofI-330	05:38:51.4	-02:34:38.4	19.17		
SigOri-SofI-331	05:38:51.4	-02:36:20.4	11.46	05385145-0236205	102 101
SigOri-SofI-332	05:38:51.6	-02:38:12.8	18.83		
SigOri-SofI-333	05:38:51.6	-02:38:23.4	16.45		
SigOri-SofI-334	05:38:51.7	-02:35:01.4	18.85		
SigOri-SofI-335	05:38:51.7	-02:36:03.1	11.99	05385173-0236033	105 092
SigOri-SofI-336	05:38:51.7	-02:38:10.0	18.03		
SigOri-SofI-337	05:38:51.8	-02:36:36.4	18.64		
SigOri-SofI-338	05:38:51.8	-02:37:25.9	19.19		
SigOri-SofI-339	05:38:51.8	-02:38:26.9	16.05		
SigOri-SofI-340	05:38:51.9	-02:33:23.9	17.23		
SigOri-SofI-341	05:38:51.9	-02:34:13.2	15.00	05385186-0234134	
SigOri-SofI-342	05:38:52.1	-02:33:23.3	19.05		
SigOri-SofI-343	05:38:52.1	-02:35:39.9	18.06	05385212-0235402	
SigOri-SofI-344	05:38:52.2	-02:37:15.7	18.87		
SigOri-SofI-345	05:38:52.3	-02:39:07.7	18.27		
SigOri-SofI-346	05:38:52.4	-02:37:16.8	19.45		
SigOri-SofI-347	05:38:52.5	-02:37:37.7	17.99		
SigOri-SofI-348	05:38:52.6	-02:35:42.5	18.34		
SigOri-SofI-349	05:38:52.6	-02:36:50.0	18.84		
SigOri-SofI-350	05:38:52.6	-02:37:12.3	18.31		
SigOri-SofI-351	05:38:52.7	-02:35:51.8	18.92		
SigOri-SofI-352	05:38:52.8	-02:35:33.2	17.47		
SigOri-SofI-353	05:38:52.8	-02:36:39.1	17.79		
SigOri-SofI-354	05:38:52.8	-02:37:50.4	18.51		
SigOri-SofI-355	05:38:52.8	-02:38:30.5	17.14		
SigOri-SofI-356	05:38:53.0	-02:34:42.4	18.83		
SigOri-SofI-357	05:38:53.0	-02:37:24.2	19.39		
SigOri-SofI-358	05:38:53.1	-02:35:14.4	18.04		
SigOri-SofI-359	05:38:53.1	-02:37:58.7	18.03		
SigOri-SofI-360	05:38:53.2	-02:38:08.1	19.04		
SigOri-SofI-361	05:38:53.2	-02:38:47.2	18.54		

Table 8. continued.

Name	RA (J2000)	Dec (J2000)	$K_s$ [mag]	Nearest 2MASS	Nearest mayrit
SigOri-SofI-362	05:38:53.3	-02:34:32.2	17.03		
SigOri-SofI-363	05:38:53.3	-02:35:18.0	19.09		
SigOri-SofI-364	05:38:53.4	-02:33:22.6	9.98	05385337-0233229	203 039
SigOri-SofI-365	05:38:53.4	-02:35:22.9	15.79	05385340-0235231	
SigOri-SofI-366	05:38:53.4	-02:36:57.8	19.34		
SigOri-SofI-367	05:38:53.4	-02:37:02.4	19.13		
SigOri-SofI-368	05:38:53.5	-02:37:05.8	18.76		
SigOri-SofI-369	05:38:53.6	-02:35:50.3	17.62		
SigOri-SofI-370	05:38:53.8	-02:35:50.3	17.32		
SigOri-SofI-371	05:38:53.8	-02:37:22.2	18.17		
SigOri-SofI-372	05:38:53.9	-02:34:19.6	12.73	05385387-0234199	
SigOri-SofI-373	05:38:54.0	-02:33:35.7	18.95		
SigOri-SofI-374	05:38:54.0	-02:36:06.4	18.96		
SigOri-SofI-375	05:38:54.4	-02:36:48.2	18.43		
SigOri-SofI-376	05:38:54.7	-02:34:18.7	18.87		
SigOri-SofI-377	05:38:54.7	-02:34:27.4	17.95	05385467-0234280	
SigOri-SofI-378	05:38:54.7	-02:35:53.8	17.92		
SigOri-SofI-379	05:38:54.7	-02:37:42.6	17.20	05385486-0237411	
SigOri-SofI-380	05:38:54.8	-02:35:59.4	18.26		
SigOri-SofI-381	05:38:54.8	-02:37:07.7	18.50		
SigOri-SofI-382	05:38:54.8	-02:37:40.8	14.93	05385486-0237411	
SigOri-SofI-383	05:38:54.9	-02:35:08.7	16.73		
SigOri-SofI-384	05:38:55.0	-02:38:25.5	18.39		
SigOri-SofI-385	05:38:55.1	-02:34:58.6	18.26		
SigOri-SofI-386	05:38:55.2	-02:36:09.1	18.90		
SigOri-SofI-387	05:38:55.3	-02:36:50.9	17.96		
SigOri-SofI-388	05:38:55.4	-02:34:46.5	19.10		
SigOri-SofI-389	05:38:55.4	-02:37:01.1	14.47	05385546-0237012	
SigOri-SofI-390	05:38:55.5	-02:36:28.7	19.34		
SigOri-SofI-391	05:38:55.6	-02:37:37.9	17.48		
SigOri-SofI-392	05:38:55.8	-02:35:26.9	19.08		
SigOri-SofI-393	05:38:56.0	-02:34:09.2	18.66		
SigOri-SofI-394	05:38:56.1	-02:34:11.1	17.78		
SigOri-SofI-395	05:38:56.1	-02:34:27.5	16.14	05385606-0234278	
SigOri-SofI-396	05:38:56.2	-02:35:49.6	16.72		
SigOri-SofI-397	05:38:56.3	-02:34:40.4	14.28	05385636-0234401	
SigOri-SofI-398	05:38:56.4	-02:34:38.5	14.60	05385636-0234401	

Notes – The error on the photometry is dominated by the zeropoint uncertainty (0.19 mag). The 2MASS (Skrutskie et al. 2006) and Mayrit (Caballero 2008c) nearest matches within 5'' are indicated. Because of the higher spatial resolution of the SofI image compared to these two catalogs, the same 2MASS or Mayrit source is sometimes associated to several SofI sources.

their membership to the association as they could also be foreground late-M dwarfs. The candidate proplyd  $\sigma$  Ori IRS1 is resolved as a binary. The high spatial resolution MAD images resolve 5 pairs, including 2 previously unknown ones. The results presented in this paper illustrate the capacity of multi-conjugate AO to probe the immediate vicinity of young massive OB stars in great details. Using complementary archival SofI and *Spitzer* images, we were able to confirm the membership of two L-dwarf candidate members that exhibit near- and mid-IR excess associated to a disk. One planetary mass candidate newly detected in the MAD images (SigOri-MAD-31) displays a SED very similar to these latter two, suggesting that it is also a L-dwarf member of the association harboring a disk. The presence or absence of very low mass stars, BDs and planetary mass objects close to massive stars provides novel constraints on the models of formation. Follow-up observations of the candidates are very much needed to confirm the nature and membership of the new candidates, and quantitative feedback on the models of formation.

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