



The central region of the Great Nebula in Orion, M42. This is an enormous cloud of gas and dust, about 500 parsecs distant, out of which stars are being born. Arrows show the location of T-Tauri stars. The circle reveals the position of an optically

invisible object which, however, emits very strongly in the infrared portion of the spectrum. It is believed that this is a protostar about to embark on its collapse to a T-Tauri stage.