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High resolution CO observations of S88-B

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Abstract. CO J=2-1 and \(^{13}\)CO J = 2-1 and 1-0 observations have been made of the HII region S88-B using the 15m James Clerk Maxwell telescope in Hawaii, and the 20m telescope at Onsala. The core of the cloud is resolved into a horseshoe-like structure which surrounds a diffuse reflection nebula. The central core has a mass of \(\geq 1000\) M\(_\odot\), with 400 M\(_\odot\) in the horseshoe structure. The gas in the horseshoe appears highly fragmented, and has a kinetic temperature of \(\approx 60\) K, suggesting it is closely coupled to the dust temperature. A recently formed high mass star appears to be in the process of evacuating a cavity, possibly through a large molecular outflow that is found to show an accelerated component in its blue-shifted lobe. A velocity gradient across the horseshoe structure suggests ordered motion, and could represent rotation in the parental cloud.

Key words: stars: formation of – interstellar medium: clouds: S88 – interstellar medium: HII regions: S88-B – radio lines: molecular

1. Introduction

The evolved HII region S88 is a low emission-measure nebula, which contains at least one site of high mass star formation. The radio continuum structure has been studied by Felli & Harten (1981), who detected radio emission from two regions, S88-A, and S88-B, located SE of S88 proper. The more easterly component of these, S88-B, lies beyond up to 40 magnitudes of visual extinction. This region is further resolved into two compact HII regions, S88-B1 and S88-B2. The latter component is an extremely high emission measure, and very deeply embedded, object. About 40 arc seconds southwest of this radio knot a nebulosity region with a diameter of \(\approx 50\) arc seconds and showing strong Hz emission is seen.

The molecular cloud associated with S88 has been studied in CO (Evans et al. 1981, Phillips et al. 1988 and Phillips & Mampaso, 1991). The infrared emission from S88A and S88B was also mapped by Evans et al. (1981), who found extended far-infrared emission centered on the compact HII regions S88-B1 and -2. At near-infrared wavelengths, the peak emission is shifted towards the Hz nebulosity indicating a high degree of extinction towards the ionizing sources. The far-infrared spectrum of the S88-B complex was found to be consistent with a dust temperature of 48 K. The inferred infrared luminosity is 1.8 x 10\(^5\) L\(_\odot\), thus indicating the high mass nature of star formation in this region.

2. Observations

For the CO & \(^{13}\)CO J=2-1 data we used the 15m James Clerk Maxwell Telescope (JCMT) in Hawaii. We used a cooled mixer system (White 1988) with a digital autocorrelation spectrometer with a bandwidth of 128 MHz. For the \(^{13}\)CO observations the backend was an AOS with a bandwidth of 500 MHz instead. Calibration was obtained frequently by measurement of the sky brightness temperature, and ambient and cold loads. The zenith sky temperature was typically 10-15 K, and the single-sideband system noise temperature was \(\approx 1000\) K. All spectra have been calibrated to a scale of T\(_{\nu}\) and offsets are relative to the adopted (0,0) position at RA (1950) = 19h 44m 42s.5, Dec (1950) = +25° 05' 30".

For the \(^{13}\)CO J=1-0 spectra we utilized the 20m Onsala telescope, Sweden, equipped with a Schottky diode mixer having a single-sideband noise temperature of \(\approx 450 - 500\)K on the sky. This telescope was operated in a position switching mode, using a 256 channel filter bank of 250 kHz resolution. These observations

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Table 1. Log of observations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>ΔV (km s(^{-1}))</th>
<th>Beam (&quot;)</th>
<th>Pointing (&quot;)</th>
<th>η_{gr}</th>
<th>Grid spacing (&quot;)</th>
<th>No. of spectra</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CO J=2-1</td>
<td>August 1987</td>
<td>0.95</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>≤ 5</td>
<td>0.73</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13CO J=2-1</td>
<td>June 1989</td>
<td>0.45</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>≤ 5</td>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13CO J=1-0</td>
<td>July 1988</td>
<td>0.68</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>≤ 5</td>
<td>0.68</td>
<td>15/30</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

were also calibrated to a scale of T_{R}^*. More information about the observations can be found in Table 1.

3. Results

The CO J=2-1 data is displayed in Figure 1, where in a) we show a map of the maximum T_{R}^*. The CO shows a horseshoe-like distribution, with its temperature peak lying approximately at the interface between the optically visible nebulosity and the position of S88-B1 (Felli & Harten, 1981), where T_{R}^* is ≈ 56 K, similar to the dust temperature estimated by Evans et al. (1981) from far-infrared data. The two 'legs' of the horseshoe extend up to 2 arcminutes southwards; a secondary peak in the western 'leg' with T_{R}^* ≈ 47 K is coincident with IRS-5, an embedded near-infrared point source (Evans et al. 1981). The CO J=2-1 emission surrounds the Hz nebulosity, which becomes visible where the CO intensity drops off rapidly. The lowest value of peak T_{R}^* is coincident with the maximum Hz emission seen in the images of Deharveng & Maucherat (1978).

![Figure 1](image_url)  
**Fig. 1.** Maps in the CO J = 2-1; a) peak antenna temperature (K), b) integrated antenna temperature (K km s\(^{-1}\)), c) line-widths (km s\(^{-1}\)) and d) the velocity of the line peak (km s\(^{-1}\)). In panel a), the asterism represents the HI emission peak (B2). The circle and triangle are IR sources P & S respectively, in Evans et al. 's study (1981). The shaded area represents the visible nebulosity.

In Figure 1b, the map of integrated CO J = 2-1 emission shows a similar horseshoe-like structure, but it is less symmetric than the map of T_{R}^*. It has a more pronounced peak close to the compact HI1 regions, and is weaker towards the western 'leg' of the horseshoe. One reason for this can be seen in Figure 1c, which shows the linewidth. The maximum line-widths are found ≈ 45 arcseconds east of the (0,0) position, and narrow markedly across the Hz region. The individual spectra show that there are at least two separate velocity components at velocities of ≈ 21 - 22 km s\(^{-1}\) and 24 - 25 km s\(^{-1}\), as well as other emission extending over the velocity range 13 - 30 km s\(^{-1}\). In Figure 1d, the velocity of the peak antenna temperature across the map is shown. A velocity gradient of ≈ 1 km s\(^{-1}\) arcmin\(^{-1}\) is running from the northeast towards the southwest. This velocity gradient was detected by Phillips et al. (1988) in low spatial resolution CO J=2-1 & J=3-2 observations, and they suggested that it was caused by the ambient cloud undergoing slow rotation. The interpretation is ambiguous since the kinematic structure show multiple velocity components (self-absorbed) in the spectra. What can be said from our present observations, however, is that we have indications of an ordered structure in the data. Whether this is caused by a velocity change of emission components, or a gradient in absorption components will have to be determined by future observations.

In Figure 2, CO J = 2-1 maps are shown for individual velocity channels.

At the most blueshifted velocities between 13 and 16 km s\(^{-1}\), the emission is appearing at the northern edge of our map, and moves southwards as we proceeds towards lower velocities relative to the ambient cloud velocity. At 18 km s\(^{-1}\), the dominant emission is emanating from the position (+25,0), close to S88-B1 and S88-B2. At 18 and 19 km s\(^{-1}\), two compact emitting regions are visible at (-35,50) and at (55,50). Between 19 and 21 km s\(^{-1}\), the eastern leg of the horseshoe becomes stronger, and emission along the western edge of the Hz region can be seen. At velocities redshifted from the central cloud velocity, the western leg of the horseshoe becomes more prominent, peaking at ≈ 23 km s\(^{-1}\). Between 23 and 24 km s\(^{-1}\), the CO depression close to the optical region is most pronounced. The horseshoe structure can be traced out to a velocity of ≈ 25 km s\(^{-1}\), where it separates into two individual peaks. At the highest red-shifted velocities emission is seen close to the Hz maximum, and towards the south of our map.

The 13CO J=2-1 data show the same basic morphology as the CO maps. In particular the considerable amount of fragmented structure is visible also in this isotope. The main difference between the two transitions occurs in the SE edge of the horseshoe, where the 13CO/CO line ratios are higher. The 13CO emission adjacent to the ionised gas shows a more rapid fall off in intensity than seen in the CO data.

The 13CO J=1-0 data (individual velocity channel maps in Figure 3) has a broadly similar distribution to that displayed by the 13CO J=2-1 data, with peak values of T_{R}^* ≈ 14K being seen at the offset (+15,-15). The linewidths of the 13CO J=1-0 lines vary from 1.8 to 4.3 km s\(^{-1}\), with the broadest lines being seen close to the 13CO peak. Towards several positions, particularly in the northeast, the 13CO lines exhibit a blue wing seen to ≈ 13 km s\(^{-1}\) in individual spectra. In the southeast the line separates into two velocity components at 19 km s\(^{-1}\) and 21 km s\(^{-1}\) –
something which can also be seen in the individual CO J=2-1 spectra.

4. Discussion

The structure of the region at low velocities relative to that of the ambient cloud, is dominated by the horseshoe-like distribution of molecular material surrounding the Hz emission nebula. The material in the horseshoe gives a fragmented impression, with different maxima separated by 1–2 km s⁻¹ or more, and with a size scale of ≈ 30 arcsec or larger.

The highest kinetic temperature, \( T_K \), of the molecular gas, based on the strongest CO lines, is ≈ 58K (assuming optically thick CO). This agrees well with the dust temperature, \( T_d \), as determined by Evans et al (1981) from mid- and far-infrared observations, and given the uncertainties in the two determinations. These values are, however, considerably higher than the estimate of \( T_K \) reported recently by Wu & Evans (1989) based on CO J=1-0 data (≈ 35K with a beamsize of 2.3 arc minutes) and using the ratio of the long wavelength channels intensities from the IRAS Point Source Catalogue (≈ 38K with an effective beamsize ≈ 4 arc minutes). Since the present data have higher resolution than these other studies, we have convolved our data to the 2.3 arc minute resolution of the J=1-0 observations, which reduces our estimate of \( T_K \) to 35K, bringing it into excellent agreement with Wu and Evans (1989) and the CO J=2-1 data of Phillips et al (1988). This suggests that the dust and gas temperatures are closely coupled together. We have re-examined the anomalous position reported by Evans et al (1981) to show \( T_K \) greater than \( T_D \) by 13K, and we find \( T_K \geq 28/\eta_c \) K. Since \( \eta_c \approx unity, T_D \geq T_K \), relaxing the problem discussed by Evans et al (1981) which led them to suggest breakdown of the Goldreich & Kwan (1974) hot dust-cool gas model as applied to S88.

For optically thin conditions the ratio of \( T_K(\text{CO}(J = 2 - 1)) \) and \( T_K(\text{CO}(J = 1 - 0)) \) will be given by:

\[
\frac{T_K(\text{CO}(J = 2 - 1))}{T_K(\text{CO}(J = 1 - 0))} \approx 4 \times e \left( \frac{\eta_c}{\eta_s} \right)
\]

(1)

This ratio is ≈ 3 for \( T_{\text{ex}} \) between 25K and 100K. For optically thick emission, the ratio will instead be close to unity. Taking the measured \( J=1-0 \) and \( J=2-1 \) CO lines intensities, and dividing by \( \eta_c \), the coupling efficiency to a 50 arc second diameter (typical FWHM of most prominent features in our data) gaussian source (assumed to be 0.8 and 0.95 respectively), the data are found to be consistent with the optically thin limit within the calibration uncertainties.

The CO profiles are generally complex, containing wings and apparent self-absorbed components. Despite this complexity, the CO and \(^{13}\text{CO} J=2-1 \) data can be used to make a first order lower limit estimate of the molecular hydrogen column density towards S88-B, \( N_{\text{total}} \), where

\[
N_{\text{total}} \approx \frac{6 \times 10^{19} \left( 1 + \frac{0.95}{\tau_{\text{ex}}} \right) \times \tau_{13} \times \frac{T_K^*}{\eta_c} \times dV}{\left( 1 - e^{-\frac{\eta_c}{\eta_s}} \right) \times \left( e^{-\frac{\eta_c}{\eta_s}} \right) \times (1 - e^{-13})} \text{cm}^{-2}
\]

(2)

Here \( T_K^* \) is the intensity of the \( J=2-1 \) \(^{13}\text{CO} \) line, \( T_{\text{ex}} \) is the excitation temperature, \( \eta_c \) is the source coupling efficiency, \( \tau_{13} \) is the \(^{13}\text{CO} \) optical depth, and additionally assuming a relative abundance ratio \([\text{H}_2]/[^{13}\text{CO}] = 5 \times 10^3\).

Using this relationship, the lower limit to the total mass in the area covered by the \(^{13}\text{CO} J=2-1 \) observations is ≈ 1300 \( M_\odot \), about double that estimated by Evans et al (1981). This probably reflects the higher resolution of our data, resulting in a more adequate beam filling factor for a clumpy medium. The lower limit to the mass contained in the horseshoe is ≈ 400 \( M_\odot \).
In order to construct a model for S88-B, it is useful to compare our data with Figures 17 – 19 of Phillips & Mampaso (1991, hereafter PM). One can immediately see that their maps of $T_R$, $\Delta V$ (FWHM) and $V_{\text{peak}}$ are similar to ours, but our data covers a larger area, and shows the horseshoe character which is not evident in their observations. PM have integrated their CO, $J = 2-1$ observations between $\approx 16$ and $-4$ km s$^{-1}$ (blue) and $\approx 25$ and 45 km s$^{-1}$ (red) – that is, well outside what the S/N of our corresponding data allows us to do – in order to study the wing emission. The resulting map (their Figure 19) shows a well defined red emission lobe superposed on the position of the Hz emission, as well as another area of ‘red’ emission one arcmin south (to facilitate the discussion we will call these the North Red Lobe, NRL, and the South Red Lobe, SRL). A blue emission lobe (BL) is clearly seen towards the north of S88-B. PM interpret their data as supportive of a low-collimation bipolar outflow, a conclusion already tentatively reached by Phillips et al. (1988). All three features noted by PM are clearly discernable at the extreme velocities in our Figure 2. Both areas of ‘red’ emission are visible between 26 and 28 km s$^{-1}$. The blue lobe is visible between 13 and 17 km s$^{-1}$, and it is shifted progressively closer towards the horseshoe structure as we proceed towards higher (‘redder’) velocities. This implies an outflow with acceleration along the major axis, such as e.g. L1551 (Fridlund et al., 1984, 1989) or Mon R2 (Meyers-Rice & Lada, 1991). In this picture, the SRL could either be part of the NRL and separated only by perspective. We note, however, that the two features visible in Figure 2 at (-35,-50) and (55,-50) and which have velocities between 18 and 19 km s$^{-1}$ could be the ‘blue’ counterparts to the SRL if it is a bipolar outflow in its own right. The SRL as seen at 26 km s$^{-1}$ in Figure 2 appears also to be more connected to the south east ‘leg’ of the horseshoe, as does indeed the ‘blue’ feature at (55,-50), than it does to the NRL. Our data can not separate this hypothesis from the one in which these two features are ‘clumps’ physically separated from the horseshoe structure, and high spatial/spectral resolution data with high S/N is needed to possibly resolve this issue.
The model that emerges, is that the horseshoe morphology is due to material excited along the periphery of an outflow cavity, inside of which the Hα region fits. Some of the heating of the molecular gas must be due to the embedded objects, but no obvious candidate can be found in the 1R-maps of Evans et al. (1981) for some of the emission peaks in the horseshoe. In the western 'leg' Evans et al.'s near-infrared source No. 5 is a possible candidate but no far-infrared emission peaks are seen at this position. Additional energy, such as that available from photoelectric heating or shocks caused by the outflow, could be required to explain the temperature distribution which is seen. The rather limited available body of data on S88 is insufficient to allow qualitative discrimination between alternatives at the present time.

The position of the peak CO & $^{13}$CO emission, lying very close to S88-B2 (the high emission measure component) suggest the formation of a high mass star at the edge of the cloud core. Immediately to the west of this, a cavity has been formed in the surrounding molecular cloud. Since the NRL is well centered on the optical nebulousity, it is possible that this cavity has been eroded out of the cloud mechanically. Radiative effects, however, can not be excluded due to the presence of at least one newly formed high mass star in the vicinity. This results in a geometrical configuration similar to that suggested by Evans et al. (1981). The near-IR peak, then results from UV heating of the gas along the opening which joins the edge of the cloud to the ionised outflow / reflection nebula.

5. Conclusions

1. The core of the S88 molecular cloud has been resolved into a horseshoe structure surrounding a small optical nebula. The main molecular condensation is associated with the deeply embedded compact HII region, S88-B2, although several other emission peaks are also visible within the horseshoe.
2. The total mass of the mapped region is of the order $\geq 1000 M_\odot$, with $\geq 400 M_\odot$ in the horseshoe structure.
3. The gas temperature reaches about 60K suggesting a close coupling to the dust temperature.
4. S88B appears to be an example of a high mass star forming in a moderate to low density region, and a cavity has been evacuated in the molecular cloud. The most likely source of this cavity is probably the red lobe of the molecular outflow associated with the core. The blue-shifted lobe appears to show an accelerated component in the northward direction.

We stress again, that the fine structure is complex, and it is possible that one or several more outflows are associated with the emission peaks in the horseshoe structure. More sensitive observations are needed to clarify this issue.

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