Models for the molecular and dust emission of high-mass protostars

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Overview

I will summarize our attempts to model the spectral energy distribution (SED) of the dust, as well as the molecular line emission of Hot Molecular Cores (HMCs).

HMCs are small (5"), dense (10⁶-10⁸ cm⁻³), hot (100-300 K) condensations in the vicinity of the UCHII regions, characterized by mm continuum emission, high excitation molecular lines, or water maser emission.

They are not associated with photoionized gas, since they have weak or undetectable cm emission.



In our modeling we adopted a dynamically self-consistent collapse model, which depends only of a small number of free parameters to determine the physical structure of the core. We always take into account variations of temperature, density, and velocity inside the core.

We compare our model predictions with high angular resolution data, such as data from large interferometers or mid-IR data from 8m Gemini telescopes.

I will show that taking into account variations of the physical properties along the core can be important to interpret future observations with large interferometers such as the EVLA or ALMA.

Overview

The main hypothesis of these models is that high-mass protostars are formed via accretion. We calculate for an infalling envelope onto a high-mass protostar:

- The Spectral Energy Distribution (SED) of the dust continuum emission.
- The spectra of the molecular line emission.

For the SED calculation we adopted two approaches:

- Spherical infalling envelopes with a radial distribution of temperature, density, and velocity resulting from the dynamical collapse of the Singular Logatropic Sphere (SLS). Only two free parameters (M_{*} and dM/dt) (Osorio, Lizano, D'Alessio 1999) are required.
- Flattened infalling envelopes, with flattening in the inner region due to rotation and at large scales due to the natural elongation of the maternal cloud (De Buizer, Osorio, Calvet 2006).

For the molecular line emission calculation we adopt:

 A SLS envelope with the physical properties derived from a fit to the observed SED. The molecular abundance is the only free parameter in thr line calculation (Osorio, Anglada, Lizano, D'Alessio 2007)



Sheet collapse



(Hartmann et al. 1996)

Overview

To properly model these sources high angular resolution data are required because:

- HMCs are distant (D>2 kpc)
- They are found near (2"-4") UCHII regions.

An example:





G29.96-0.02 HMC

Spectral Energy Distribution of an sphericaly symmetric infalling envelope (Osorio, Lizano, D'Alessio 1999)

We modeled the SED of four prototypical HMCs: G34.24+0.13MM, W3(H2O), Orion HMC, and IRAS 23385+6053,

adopting the density structure of a SLS (McLaughlin & Pudritz 1997). The physical parameters of the star and of the envelope were obtained in this way.

RESULTS:

• We found that the emission of a HMC was consistent with that of a massive envelope collapsing onto a young (age < 10^5 yr), early type star (B star), with a high mass accretion rate (dM/dt= 10^{-4} - 10^{-3} Mo/yr).

• We show that stars of up to 20 Mo can be formed via accretion (radiation pressure does not stop the collapse).

High angular resolution mm data (Molinari et al. 1998) allow to fit the intensity profile and to further constrain the models.



Intensity profile of IRAS23385+6053



Spectral Energy Distribution of a flattened infalling envelope (De Buizer, Osorio, Calvet 2005)

For several sources, subarcsec angular resolution near- and mid-IR data (e.g., 8m Gemini telescope) are available. Since this wavelength range is very sensitive to the geometry of the core, we included in our models rotation and flattening (Hartmann et al. 1996). The inner part of these envelopes is similar to the solution of Terebey et al (1984), it but has been modified to have a more realistic representation of the shape of star-forming cores.



Problem: data are scarce and more than one fit is possible.

RESULTS FOR G29.96-0.02 HMC:

• B1 star (10 M_{\odot}), dM/dt ~10⁻² M_{\odot} /yr, Rc ~600 AU, i=10 °

Note that the centrifugal radius is several hundreds of AU. This is the scale where the formation of disks is expected to occur. It is in good agreement with the observed size of one of the best studied examples of a disk in a B protostar (Ceph A HW2, Patel et al. 2005, Torrelles et al. 2007).





Spectral Energy Distribution of a flattened infalling envelope (De Buizer, Osorio, Calvet 2005)

However, higher angular resolution data (~0.3") from the SMA (Beuther et al. 2007) reveal that the source is more complex, and several YSOs could be present. A more complete multiwavelength dataset at subarcsecond angular resolution would be required to determine the SEDs of the individual objects in order to accurately model this source.



Modelling of the molecular line emission (Osorio et al. 2007)

• An additional diagnostic to obtain more information is the molecular emission, which is sensitive to the velocity structure inside the source (Osorio et al. 2007).

• I will present a model for G31.41+0.31 HMC to reproduce simultaneously the dust and ammonia emission observed at high angular resolution. The observed SED is fitted with a SLS envelope, whose physical properties are used to calculate the ammonia line emission with the ammonia abundance as the only free parameter.





p is the projected distance to the center

Modelling of the molecular emission of G31.41+0.31 HMC. Fitting the SED

Following Osorio et al. (1999), the physical structure of the HMC is obtained from the fitting to the SED. Thus, for a given M_{*} and dM/dt, and using the SLS one can determine the density, velocity, temperature, and velocity dispersion inside the envelope.

Given the uncertainties, for G31.41+0.31 HMC we found two models that can explain the SED.

MODEL I $M_*=12 M_{\odot}$ $dM/dt=1.6x10^{-3} M_{\odot}/yr$ $L_{tot}=50,000 L_{\odot}$ $M_{env}=1,000 M_{\odot}$ MODEL II M.=25 M_o dM/dt=2.7x10⁻³ M_o /yr L_{tot} =280,000 L_o M_{env}=1,500 M_o

Although the models have different T and V distributions both can explain the SED. BUT, CAN THEY EXPLAIN THE MOLECULAR EMISSION?







$\begin{array}{l} \mbox{MODEL I} \\ \mbox{M_*}=12 \ \mbox{M_{\odot}} \\ \mbox{dM/dt}=1.6 \times 10^{-3} \ \mbox{M_{\odot}}/\mbox{yr} \\ \mbox{L_{tot}}=50,000 \ \mbox{L_{\odot}} \\ \mbox{M_{env}}=1,000 \ \mbox{M_{\odot}} \end{array}$

+ Constant gas-phase NH₃ abundance along the envelope

Model I is far from reproducing the observations with a constant ammonia abundance







 $[NH_3/H_2] = 5 \times 10^{-8}$

 $[NH_3/H_2] = 5 \times 10^{-7}$

$[NH_3/H_2] = 5 \times 10^{-6}$

MODEL II .=25 M. L_{tot}=280,000 L_☉ M_{env}=1,500 M_o

Constant gas-phase abundance + along the core

O AU

5000 AU

10000 AU-

15000 AU-

150

Model II is more promising than model I since the main line is well reproduced with a low abundance and the satellite lines are reproduced with a high abundance.





 $[NH_3/H_2] = 5 \times 10^{-7}$

100

 $[NH_3/H_2] = 5 \times 10^{-6}$

Variable gas-phase abundance: Sublimation of ammonia molecules trapped on water ice mantles

A more realistic scenario is to assume that most of the ammonia molecules are frozen in water ice mantles of dust grains in the outer and colder regions of the core. Ammonia molecules are released to the gas phase at the water sublimation temperature (~100 K). This transition temperature is calculated assuming thermal balance between sublimation and condensation (Sandford & Allamandola 1992) for the physical conditions of the core.



Model II using variable gas-phase abundace inside the envelope

Simplest hypothesis: A constant total (solid+gas) ammonia abundance is assumed, but the gas-phase ammonia abundance increases in the inner regions of the envelope as a result of sublimation.







Other ammonia transitions

The same set of parameters used to fit the SED and the VLA $NH_3(4,4)$ data also reproduces other ammonia transitions:



Except for the NH3(1,1) spectrum (that is likely contaminated by emission from the cold ambient cloud), the remaining spectra are well reproduced within the observational uncertainties. Unfortunately, no high angular resolution data are available for these transitions. 100-m telescope spectra (Cesaroni et al.1992)



CONCLUSIONS

- A spherically symmetric model of the collapse of a SLS can explain the observed SED and the intensity spatial profiles of the continuum dust emission of HMCs, implying that these objects are dominated by accretion.
- In order to fit the data a young, early type central star with a high mass accretion rate is required, suggesting that HMCs are one of the earliest observable phases of massive star formation.
- Inclusion of rotation and the natural elongation of the cloud allows to fit the high angular resolution mid-IR data, providing a determination of additional physical parameters such as the inclination angle or the centrifugal radius. Values of a few hundred AUs are found for this radius, similar to those obtained in high angular resolution observations of disks around massive protostars.
- The ammonia emission and its variations across the core can be reproduced in great detail provided the variation of the gas-phase ammonia abundance due to sublimation of ammonia molecules from ice grain mantles because of the temperature gradient inside the core is taken into account.
- This kind of modeling would be required to explain the details of the observational data that are expected to come from the new generation of high angular resolution facilities (EVLA, ALMA,...).

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Comparison of SIS, SLS, and free-fall density distributions



Comparison of SIS and SLS SEDs



Cepheus A HW2 (D=730 pc)



SMA (< 1"), radius=300 AU Patel et al. 2005 Effelsberg 100m (40"), radius=72000 AU Gusten, Chini & Neckel 1984 Model II seems to suggest than a variable abundance can explain the intensity of the main line and satellites simultaneously.

