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AN INFRARED SURVEY OF ISOLATED NEBULAR STRUCTURES AT GALACTIC LATITUDES 16.98°& 1.98° IN IRAS MAP

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ABSTRACT

Two isolated far infrared dust structures (~2.61pc \times 1.57pc and ~82.99pc \times 39.99pc) at galactic coordinates: (353.01°, 16.98°) and (18.42°, 1.98°), were selected. We adopted the distance of the first structure to be about 139 pc and that of the second structure to be 2.6 kpc. In this present work we have studied the flux density variation and calculated dust color temperature and mass profile of the dust and Jeans mass of the structures using the data reduction software ALADIN v9. Our aim was to test whether this region is star forming or not. We also calculated the size and inclination angle of our structures. The dust color temperature is found to lie in the range 20.75 K to 35.90 K for the first region and 22.52 K to 45.63 K for the second region. The total mass of gas for the first structure is found to be 180.9 M_o, which is significantly greater than the total mass of the structure, suggesting no possibility of star formation activity for the first region. For the second region, the total mass of gas and the Jeans mass are found to be 5621.61 M_o and 6005.04 M_o respectively. The mass of the region is still significantly lesser than the Jeans mass. Thus, we conclude that this region is also probably not a star forming region. Also the study of inclination angle suggests that the three-dimensional shape of structures is non uniform and regularly shaped.

Keywords: Infrared astronomy, IRAS, dust mass, temperature, dust geometry, star-formation, Inclination angle, Nebulae.

INTRODUCTION

Dust present in galaxies absorbs starlight from around it and this absorbed energy is then reradiated at infrared (IR) and far-IR (FIR) wave lengths by the interstellar dust [1]. It is a significant constituent of the Galaxy. It blocks almost all but relatively close regions at visual and ultraviolet frequencies and then the reradiating of this absorbed energy in the farinfrared wavelengths comprise of about 30% of the Galaxy's total luminosity [2]. Dust grains play an essential part in the astrophysics of the interstellar medium, from the thermodynamics and chemistry of the gas, to the dynamics of star formation [3]. The far-infrared emission from interstellar dust eliminates the gravitational collapse of clouds, permitting star formation to take place [2].

The Infrared Astronomical Satellite (IRAS) made an all-sky survey at 12, 25, 60, and 100 μ m band of infrared radiation with a cryogenically cooled telescope orbiting above the Earth's atmosphere. It has been seen that the infrared observations over the last few decades have been increasingly important in understanding the objects of the solar system and regions of star formation, in identifying galaxies with large bursts of newly formed stars, in seeing through astronomical sources concealed by interstellar dust, and in explaining the emission mechanisms present in active galactic nuclei [4].

In this paper, we investigate isolated dust structures in IRAS maps by performing a systematic search in all wavelength band of the IRAS survey. We study various properties of two isolated nebular structures such as; flux density for infrared radiation, dust color temperature and mass distribution. We subsequently, look whether the structures are star forming or not. We also study the three dimensional features of the structure by studying he inclination angles of various layers of the structure.

DATA

Systematic Search in the IRAS Map

We used Sky view Virtual Observatory (http://skyview.gsfc.nasa.gov) in order to search for an isolated nebular structure for different wavelength IRAS bands. We carried a systematic search of IRAS maps available in the Sky view

Region-I (353.01°, 16.98°)

Virtual Observatory. First, we inspected our region in $4^{\circ} \times 4^{\circ}$ sized images through the entire range of longitude for particular galactic latitudes. We conducted such searches for four different galactic latitudes (-20°, 2°, 16°, and 20°).

We then selected a proper centers for our selected structures which were $(353.01^{\circ}, 16.98^{\circ})$ and $(18.42^{\circ}, 1.98^{\circ})$ in Galactic coordinates and also we narrowed down our region of interest into a $2^{\circ} \times 2^{\circ}$ image for more specific study of the selected isolated structures. These final set of images that we finalized for our study are as follows:



Fig. 1: Selected 2°×2°IRAS images (100 μm, 60 μm, 25 μm and 12 μm) at Galactic coordinate (353.01°, 16.98°).

Region-II (18.42°, 1.98°)



Fig. 2: Selected 2°×2°IRAS images (100µm, 60µm, 25µm and 12µm) at Galactic coordinates (18.42°, 1.98°).

Also SIMBAD (http://simbad.u-strasbg.fr) was used to find the degree of study made on the nebular structure and to identify the structures around it. We found that structure found in Galactic longitude 353.01° and Galactic latitude 16.98° (Region-I) was an isolated structure in the famous star forming region ρ -Ophiuchus Molecular Cloud (Lynds 1688) [5, 6]. We found that the structure in Galactic longitude 18.42° and Galactic latitude 1.98° (Region-II) was less studied and hence also making it appropriate for our study.

METHODOLOGY

Data Reduction and Background Correction

Each pixel of the FITS image of our region of interest was analyzed using the software ALADIN v9. There are various source of energy around our region of interest, which can be known from SIMBAD (http://simbad.u-strasbg.fr), can increase the flux of region of interest. The flux emitted by other sources lying nearby the region of interest but not from the region of interest is called background flux. The flux density obtained from ALADIN is total flux density (background flux +flux due to

dust). Flux density obtained is corrected by subtracted it with the background flux density. The average value of the background flux is obtained by noting and summing of the flux densities of the minima around the region of interest and averaging them. When this background flux is subtracted from the obtained flux density of each pixel in the region of interest, it is said to be background corrected flux density. The flux density throughout



this work including the all the graphs and the tables represents the background corrected flux density.

Contours and Diameters

With the help of software ALADIN v9, we have drawn contour maps to distinguish the regions with maximum flux in the region of interest. Fig shows a contour map at 24 and 146 contour levels for Region-I and at 24, 77, 100 and 131 contour levels for Region-II.



Fig. 3: 2°×2°*IRAS 100* μm *FITS image centered at Galactic longitude: 353.01°, Galactic latitude: 16.98°*(*Region-I*) and *Galactic longitude: 18.42°, Galactic latitude: 1.89°.*

Two maxima can be seen. They are represented by PM1 and PM2. The contour level is fixed between 24 and 146 (in relative units) for Region-I and between 24 and131 (in relative units) for Region-II. The two maxima in the region of interest at the following position:

For Region-I: PM1 is at RA (J2000) = $16^{h}26^{m}29.30^{s}$, Dec. (J2000) = $-24^{\circ}23'05.2''$ and PM2 is at RA (J2000) = $16^{h}25^{m}39.01^{s}$, Dec (J2000) = $-24^{\circ}26'59.03''$.

For Region-II: PM1 is at RA (J2000) = $18^{h}16^{m}45.29^{s}$, Dec. (J2000) = $-12^{\circ}12'34.5''$ and PM2 is at RA (J2000) = $18^{h}17^{m}52.79^{s}$, Dec (J2000) = $-11^{\circ}44'04.77''$.

We obtained the largest and smallest diameters for the regions, i.e. major axis and minor axis, by drawing lines passing through the maximum flux region, PM1. The figure below shows the major axis, minor axes.



Fig. 4: Figure showing major axis (AB), minor axis (CD) and line joining themaximum flux region, while studying the flux variation in the field of view of 100 µm FITS image of Region-I (left) and Region-II (right).

Dust Temperature Estimation

The corrected flux density at each pixel inside the region of each of the maxima is calculated from the IRAS 100 μ m image. Similarly the corresponding flux densities are calculated from the IRAS 60 μ m image. Using the ratio of the flux density in the IRAS 60 μ m to the flux density in the IRAS 100 μ m in expression (1) given below, dust color temperature is calculated.

Where *R* is given by,

$$R = \frac{F(100\mu m)}{F(60\mu m)}\dots\dots\dots\dots\dots(2)$$

Where $F(100\mu m)$ and $F(60\mu m)$ are the flux density at 100 μ m and 60 μ m.

Dust Mass Estimation

Dust masses are estimated from the infrared background corrected flux densities at100µm image, following the analysis of Schnee *et. al.*[13] The infrared flux can be measured from IRAS Sky View images using ALADIN v9.The resulting dust mass depends on the physical and chemical properties of the dust grains, the adopted dust temperature and the distance to the object. The final expression for the dust mass can be written as:

Where, a= weighted grain size; ρ = grain density; Q_v = grain emissivity; S_v = f×MJy/Str×5.288×10⁻⁹ where, 1 MJy/Str = 1×10⁻²⁰kgs⁻² and f = relative flux density measured from the image (IRAS 100 µm image); D = distance of the structure B(v, T) = Planck's function, which is the function of the temperature and the frequency and given by the expression:

$$B(v,T) = \frac{2hv^3}{c^2} \left[\frac{1}{exp\left(\frac{hv}{KT} - 1\right)} \right] \dots \dots \dots \dots \dots (4)$$

Where, h= Planck's constant; c= speed of light; v = frequency at which the emission is observed; T = the average temperature of the region. Value of various parameters we use in the calculation of the dust mass in our region of interest are as

follows: $a = 0.1 \mu \text{m}$; $\rho = 3000 \text{ kgm}^{-3}$; $Q_{\nu} = 0.0010$ for 100 μm and 0.0046 for 60 μm respectively [12]. Using these values the expression (3) takes the form:

Inclination Angle

The inclination angle (i) is the angle between the line of sight and the normal vector of the plane of the structure. This can be estimated by using the following formula [10],

Where, (b/a) is the ratio of minor to major diameter and q* is the intrinsic flatness of the structure. The intrinsic flatness is closely related to nebula morphology. It depends on the amount of molecular hydrogen and the dust. The grain in the dust gains energy from the photoelectric heating and the low energy cosmic rays heating. Due to this vibrational degree of freedom is greatly enhanced. This makes the cloud to be flat (opening angle gradually increase with the dilution and vibrational excitation of the dust). Thus the range of the intrinsic flatness of the cloud is wide. We varied the intrinsic flatness from 0.13 to 0.33 for the molecular cloud such that it covers a wide spectrum of possible outcomes. around the value 0.20 used for a morphologically unknown structure [7].

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Flux densities

The background corrected flux densities are seen to be concentrated more towards the central region of both structure in 100μ m as well as 60μ m images. A few peculiarities have been observed nevertheless. For the first region, there are two peaks of 60μ m band which is not seen in the 100 µm band for the same region. This might suggest the chemistry of the isolated nebula. Similarly, only a single bump is seen in the 60 µm band for the second region, whereas there are two bumps in emission in the 100 µm band. This again, might be because of the abundance of a certain kind of dust composition.



Fig. 5: The distribution of 60µm flux density (background corrected) over Region-I (left) and Region-II (right).



Fig. 6: The distribution of 100 µm flux density (background corrected) over Region-I (left) and Region-II (right).

Temperature Distribution

Using the method of Schnee *et al.* [13] we calculated dust color temperature of each pixel inside the outer contour of regions of interest. We used the IRAS 100 m and 60 m FITS images downloaded from the IRAS server. For the calculation of temperature we choose the value of $\beta = 2$ following the explanation given by Dupac

et al.[9] The region with maximum and minimum temperature is found to lie in the range of 20.75 K to 35.90 K for Region-I and 22.52 K to 45.63 K for Region-II. The dust color temperature less than 20 K represents the interstellar cirrus cloud. Thus our far infrared dust structures are not cirrus clouds. The average temperature of the dust is 27.92 K for the first region and 31.61 K for the second region.



Fig. 7: The distribution of dust temperature inside the outermost contours of the region of interests Region-I (left) and Region-II (right).

For the first region, the temperature in this particular region is higher in the central part which then gradually decreases and reaches the minimum points in the edges. However, we can see that the distribution is not very uniform and fluctuates at some places. The maximum temperature in this region (Region-I) is found at R.A. $(J2000) = 16h 25m 29.70s \& Dec. (J2000) = 24^{\circ}27' 06.8''$ with a value of 35.71 K. While, the minimum temperature is found at R.A. $(J2000) = 16h 25m 29.70s \& Dec. (J2000) = 16h 27m 28.68s \& Dec. (J2000) = 24^{\circ}34' 58.8''$ with a value of 20.75 K.

In the second region, however, we can see that

temperature is higher in the upper central part and gradually decreases and reaches the minimum points in the edges. However, we can see that the distribution is fairly uniform with some fluctuations here and there. The maximum temperature in this region (Region-II) is found at R.A. (J2000) =18h17m58.91s& Dec. (J2000) = $-11^{\circ}39'34.8''$ with a value of 35.71 K. While, the minimum temperature is found at R.A. (J2000) = 18h17m58.91s & Dec. (J2000) = $11^{\circ}39'34.8''$ with a value of 45.63 K.

The following shows the maximum and minimum temperature zones in the regions of interest.

 Table 1: The table shows the maximum dust color temperature within different contours in Region-I (353.01°, 16.98°).

Contour	R.A. (J2000)	Dec.(J2000)	T _{max} (K)	
24 outer	$16^{h}25^{m}24.20^{s}$	-24°24′00.1″	35.90	
146 lower	16 ^h 26 ^m 29.30 ^s	-24°24′00.1″	32.21	
146 upper	$16^{h}25^{m}29.70^{s}$	-24°27′06.8″	35.71	

 Table 2: The table shows the maximum dust color temperature within different contours in Region-II (18.42°, 1.98°).

Contour	R.A. (J2000)	Dec.(J2000)	T _{max} (K)
24 outer	18 ^h 16 ^m 02.41 ^s	-11°57′33.8″	38.52
77 Big	18 ^h 17 ^m 22.14 ^s	-11°50′04.8″	37.49
77 Small	18 ^h 18 ^m 29.55 ^s	-11°42′34.5″	34.09
100 Big	18 ^h 17 ^m 22.13 ^s	-11°09′34.8″	36.8
100 Medium	18 ^h 17 ^m 58.91 ^s	-11°39′34.8″	45.63
100 Small	18 ^h 18 ^m 47.92 ^s	-11°39′34.3″	31.58
131 Big	18 ^h 17 ^m 09.85 ^s	-11°09′34.7″	34.67
131 Medium	18 ^h 17 ^m 40.53 ^s	-11°45′34.8″	35.93
131 Small	18 ^h 17 ^m 16.00 ^s	-11°03′34.7″	33.4

Table 3: The table shows the minimum dust color temperature within different contours in
Region-I (353.01°, 16.98°).

Contour	R.A. (J2000)	Dec.(J2000)	T _{max} (K)
24 outer	16 ^h 27 ^m 28.68 ^s	-24°34′58.8″	20.75
146 lower	16 ^h 26 ^m 25.52 ^s	-24°26'19.7"	25.65
146 upper	16 ^h 25 ^m 47.74 ^s	-24°24'44.2"	33.15

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Contour	R.A. (J2000)	Dec.(J2000)	T _{max} (K)				
24 outer	18 ^h 16 ^m 02.41 ^s	-11°14′03.5″	22.52				
77 Big	18 ^h 17 ^m 22.14 ^s	-12°15′34.0″	30.03				
77 Small	18 ^h 18 ^m 29.55 ^s	-11°36′34.1″	29.39				
100 Big	18 ^h 17 ^m 22.13 ^s	-12°14′04.3″	30.05				
100 Medium	18 ^h 17 ^m 58.91 ^s	-11°47′34.1″	40.67				
100 Small	18 ^h 18 ^m 47.92 ^s	-11°39′34.1″	30.57				
131 Big	18 ^h 17 ^m 09.85 ^s	-12°15′34.6″	28.99				
131 Medium	18 ^h 17 ^m 40.53 ^s	-11°47′04.7″	31.82				
131 Small	$18^{h}17^{m}16.00^{s}$	-12°00′34.8″	32.02				

Table 4: The table shows the minimum dust color temperature within different contours in
Region-II (18.42°, 1.98°).

Mass Distribution

We used the method by Redman et. al [11] & Young et. al [12] to estimate the dust mass in our region of interest using 100 m IRAS image. The infrared flux is obtained from Groningen IRAS server available at official website of Sky View virtual observatory. By using the average of the maximum and minimum temperature of each maxima summing up of the flux density of each pixel inside the region, the value of average temperature and the total flux density for all the maxima can be known. For the calculation of the mass we need the distance to the region of interest. The distance 139 pc [5] is adopted for the first region and 2.6 kpc [8] is adopted for the second region. We used these distances in our calculation.



Fig. 8: The distribution of dust mass inside the outermost contours of the region of interests Region-I (left) and Region-II (right).

The distribution of the dust mass in Region-I seems to be fairly uniform with a maxima in the lower central part. The concentration of mass then gradually decreases and reaches minimum values around the edges. Here we can see that the dust mass of this structure is more or less concentrated towards a single point. This could mean that the dust cloud is in a phase of gravitational contraction around the maxima seen in the plot. However, the mass of dust in Region-II seems to be concentrated along the periphery of the major diameter. There seem to be two maxima in the region. One being in the upper

half and the other in the lower half portion of the structure. However, the most amount of mass is concentrated in the lower half portion of the structure with a very sharp maxima. Also, in this region the dust clouds seem to clumped together into two separate dense structures suggesting gravitational contraction towards their respective maxima.

Comparison of Mass, Temperature and Flux along the Diameters

A comparison of the mass, temperature and flux along the diameters might be hinting towards an

interesting finding. What we see here in the diametric comparison of these quantities of the first region is that it the temperature and mass seem to be following along with the curve of flux density. Temperature and mass seem to rise and fall correspondingly with the flux density. However, just as the flux reaches maximum, the mass suddenly drops. Now, this could have some interesting reason for occurrence. We suspect that the average grain size around the maximum flux region is probably smaller than elsewhere. With a smaller size, and hence, a larger overall surface area, the smaller grains in the maximum flux area, could be responsible for the spike in flux, accompanying a decrease in the overall mass. This effect is not seen for the minor diameter, suggesting an even distribution of grain sizes. However, there is a slight drop in mass in the secondary maximum along the minor diameter, again directing towards a similar distribution of grain geometry.



Fig. 9: Comparison of the dust color temperature (red), mass (blue) and fluxdensity (black) of the dust cloud along the major diameter (left) and minor diameter (right) for Region-I.

In the second region though, the temperature doesn't not seem to correlate well with the flux density. It even shows an opposite overall curvature compared to the flux in the minor diameter. Nevertheless, the mass distribution shows a suggestive correlation, although the slopes of mass curves compared flux density are significantly smaller than those in the first region. This somewhat suggests that the grain size decrease as we go deeper towards the maxima, both along the major and minor diameter, because of the gradual increase in slope of the flux density without a considerable rise in mass; which means smaller grains were required to account for the increasing flux, with a fairly constant mass distribution along the diameter.



Fig. 10: Comparison of the dust color temperature (red), mass (blue) and flux density (black) of the dust cloud along the major diameter (left) and minor diameter (right) for Region-II.

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Inclination Angles

Intrinsic flatness (q*)	Inclination angle for Contour 24	Inclination angle for Contour 146 (Lower)	Inclination angle for Contour 146 (Upper)	
0.13	53.91°	57.01°	24.69°	
0.15	54.17°	57.3°	24.78°	
0.17	54.47°	57.63°	24.88°	
0.19	54.81°	58.01°	24.99°	
0.21	55.18°	58.44°	25.11°	
0.23	55.61°	58.92°	25.25°	
0.25	56.08°	59.45°	25.4°	
0.27	58.71°	61.99°	30.82°	
0.29	59.65°	63.01°	31.76°	
0.31	60.71°	64.15°	32.77°	
0.33	54.06°	57.09°	25.68°	

Table 5: The inclination angles of different contour levels for varying intrinsic flatness (q*) for
the first region, Region-I.

Table 6: The inclination angles of different contour levels for varying intrinsic flatness (q*) for
the first region, Region-II.

q*	24	77 (Large)	77 (Small)	100 (Large)	100 (Medium)	100 (Small)	131 (Large)	131 (Medium)	131 (Small)
0.13	71°	67.18°	30.57°	64.41°	32.78°	32.44°	42.63°	37.38°	50.32°
0.15	71.55°	67.63°	30.68°	64.81°	32.9°	32.56°	42.8°	37.52°	50.55°
0.17	72.2°	68.16°	30.81°	65.26°	33.04°	32.7°	43°	37.69°	50.81°
0.19	72.96°	68.76°	30.95°	65.79°	33.2°	32.85°	43.23°	37.87°	51.11°
0.21	73.85°	69.45°	31.11°	66.38°	33.37°	33.02°	43.48°	38.08°	51.44°
0.23	74.89°	70.25°	31.29°	67.06°	33.56°	33.21°	43.75°	38.31°	51.81°
0.25	76.12°	71.16°	31.48°	67.83°	33.78°	33.42°	44.06°	38.56°	52.21°
0.27	79.31°	73.81°	35.95°	70.35°	37.96°	37.65°	47.31°	42.25°	54.99°
0.29	81.87°	75.43°	36.82°	71.7°	38.82°	38.51°	48.14°	43.09°	55.88°
0.31	86.29°	77.42°	37.77°	73.28°	39.75°	39.44°	49.06°	44.00°	56.87°
0.33	70.73°	67.03°	31.31°	64.33°	33.45°	33.12°	43.03°	37.91°	50.55°

Calculation of Jeans Mass

For the calculation of Jeans Mass of the structures, we used the equation,

Here, we use C = 1, Boltzmann constant $(k) = 1.38 \times 10^{23}$ J K⁻¹, the average temperature of Region-I (T) = 27.92 K, and of Region-II (T) = 31.61 K, mean molecular weight of hydrogen gas $(m_H) = 1.67 \times 10^{-27}$ kg, Gravitational constant (G) = 6.67×10^{-11} N m² kg⁻² and density of cloud is calculated by using the equation,

Where, average radius of Region-I is $R = 6.45 \times 10^{16}$ m and that of Region-II is $R = 1.89 \times 10^{18}$ m.

For Region-I

From the equations 7 and 8, we get $\rho = 2.73 \times 10^{-22}$ kg m⁻³. Jeans Mass (M_J) is found to be 3.6×10^{32} kg. Since, calculated mass of our structure is 4.17×10^{31} kg, which is much lesser than Jeans Mass. From this calculation of Jeans mass we conclude that our structure might not be star forming region.

For Region-II

For Region-II, we get $\rho = 4.21 \times 10^{-22}$ kg m⁻³. Jeans Mass (M_J) is found to be 1.19×10^{34} kg. Since, calculated mass of our structure is 1.11×10^{34} kg, which is much lesser than Jeans Mass. From this calculation of Jeans mass we conclude that our structure might not be star forming region.

CONCLUSION

The diameter of the first nebular structure is found to be about ~ 2.61 pc \times 1.57 pc, where major and minor diameters are 2.61 pc and 1.57 pc respectively. The diameter for the second nebular structure is found to be and \sim 82.99 pc \times 39.99 pc, where major and minor diameters are and 82.99 pc and 39.99 pc. A study of flux density, temperature and mass variation along the diameters show a prominent condensation of dust and a Gaussian-like distribution is observed along major and minor structure. diameters of the Gaussian-like distribution suggests that the nebular structure is isolated and less disturbed from the external factors. A study of inclination angle suggests that the three-dimensional shape of the structures are not uniform and not regularly shaped.

The dust color temperature is found to lie in the range 20.75 K to 35.90 K for the first region and 22.52 K to 45.63 K for the second region. The total mass of dust in the first isolated structure is about 1.04×10^{29} kg (0.104 M_{\odot}) and the total mass of gas in the structure is found to be 4.17×10^{31} kg (20.99) M_{\odot}). Meanwhile, the total mass of dust in the second isolated structure is about 5.59×10^{31} kg $(28.10 M_{\odot})$ and the total mass of gas in the structure is found to be 1.11×10^{34} kg (5621.61M_{\odot}). The Jeans mass is found to be 3.59 × 10^{32} kg (180.99 M_o) for the first region and $1.19 \times$ 10^{34} kg (6005.04 M_o) which is significantly greater than the total mass of the structure in both the cases, suggesting no star formation activity in the nebular structures of our interest.

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