

#### VICTOR S. MAGALHÃES\*, PIERRE HILY-BLANT, ALEXANDRE FAURE, FRANÇOIS LIQUE, C. M. WALMSLEY, FABIEN DANIEL

# STUDY OF HYPERFINE ANOMALIES AND CARBON FRACTIONATION IN HCN

#### WHY HCN?

- Goal: understand N heritage from the Protosolar Nebula.
- Tool: Isotopic ratios.
- Molecule of choice: HCN
  - Abundant, easy to detect, formation is understood.
- Problem: r(HCN) >> 1 in usual ISM conditions.



#### THE DOUBLE ISOTOPOLOGUE METHOD

 $\frac{\mathrm{HCN}}{\mathrm{HC}^{15}\mathrm{N}} \approx \frac{\mathrm{H}^{13}\mathrm{CN}}{\mathrm{HC}^{15}\mathrm{N}} \times \frac{^{12}\mathrm{C}}{^{13}\mathrm{C}} , \text{ with } \frac{^{12}\mathrm{C}}{^{13}\mathrm{C}} = 70$   $_{\mathrm{e.g.\,Hily-Blant\,\,et\,\,al.\,\,2013}}$ 

Caveat: Chemical fractionation plays a role?

- From chemical modelling:  $H^{12}CN/H^{13}CN = 93 - 168$  (e.g. Roueff. et al. 2015).
- Solution: Measure N(HCN) directly.
  - how: Use the information contained in the HyperFine Anomalies (HFA) of HCN rotational transitions.

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HF components line ratios inconsistent with a single excitation temperature (T<sub>ex</sub>).

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- Where:
  - Dense cores (e.g. Sohn et al. 2007), HII regions (e.g. Gottlieb et al. 1975).
- Early theories:
  - Self-absorption creates HFA (Langer et al. 1978, Walmsley et al. 1982, Cernicharo et al. 1984)
  - ▶ HF Overlap for transitions with J<sub>up</sub> ≥ 2 (Guilloteau & Baudry et al. 1981)
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- Qualitatively understood by:
  - ▶ Gottlieb et al. 1975
  - Guilloteau & Baudry 1981
- Recent work by Mullins et al. 2016:
  - No source structure.
  - Approximated collisional coefficients.
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#### HOW TO RECREATE HFA?

- Target: L1498 well studied PreStellar Core (e.g. Tafalla et al. 2004, Tafalla et al. 2006, Padovani et al. 2011)
- Tool: State of the art 1-D radiative transfer code (Daniel & Cernicharo 2008) Handling:
  - Collisional coefficients that treat HF levels independently.
    - Latest ab initio HCN HF collisional rates (Lique et al. 2016 in prep.).
  - Hyperfine overlap.
  - Complex physical structure,  $(T_k(r), n(r), V(r), \sigma(r), X_{species}(r))$

- $T_k = 10 \text{ K}$  (Tafalla et al. 2006).
- o(r=∞) = 0.265 km/s (Tafalla et al. 2006)
- n(r): Fitting of Herschel/SPIRE
  @350 & 500 µm.
- Velocity +  $\sigma(r=0)$ : H<sup>13</sup>CN + HC<sup>15</sup>N spectra.
- σ(r) transition: HCN with fixed abundance.



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$$\frac{N(r)}{N_{max}} = 2 \times \frac{\int \left(\frac{1}{1 + \frac{r}{r_0}\alpha} + \frac{n_0}{n_{ext}}\right) dr}{\int \left(\frac{1}{1 + \frac{r}{r_0}\alpha} + \frac{n_0}{n_{ext}}\right) dr|_{r=0}}$$

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Parameter	This work Tafalla et al. 2004	
n <sub>0</sub> (H <sub>2</sub> )	6.5x10 <sup>-4</sup> cm <sup>-3</sup>	<b>9.4x10<sup>-4</sup>cm<sup>-3</sup></b>
r <sub>o</sub>	110''	75''
α	3.8	3.5
N(H <sub>2</sub> )	3.4x10 <sup>22</sup> cm <sup>-2</sup>	3.4x10 <sup>22</sup> cm <sup>-2</sup>

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![](_page_23_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_24_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_25_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_26_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_27_Figure_0.jpeg)

# FOREGROUND LAYER

- Tafalla et al. 2006: <sup>13</sup>CO component to the SW @ ~8.2 km/s.
- Also seen in our C<sup>18</sup>O spectra @ 8.1 km/s.
- HCN in diffuse medium?
  - Liszt & Lucas 2001
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![](_page_28_Figure_6.jpeg)

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![](_page_29_Figure_6.jpeg)

![](_page_30_Figure_0.jpeg)

Very low T<sub>ex</sub>

![](_page_31_Figure_0.jpeg)

# Modelled Physical Structure for L1498

![](_page_32_Figure_1.jpeg)

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	Species	Abundance (/H <sub>2</sub> ) This work	Column density (cm <sup>-2</sup> ) This work	Abundance (/H <sub>2</sub> ) Padovani (2011)	Column density (cm <sup>-2</sup> ) Padovani (2011)
	HCN	2.5±1.0x10 <sup>-9</sup>	8.5±3.4x10 <sup>13</sup>	3.92±0.96x10 <sup>-9</sup>	1.24±0.18x10 <sup>14</sup>
	H <sup>13</sup> CN	1.0x10 <sup>-10</sup>	3.4x10 <sup>12</sup>	5.76±1.41x10 <sup>-11</sup>	1.82±0.26x10 <sup>12</sup>
	HC <sup>15</sup> N	1.5x10 <sup>-11</sup>	5.1x10 <sup>11</sup>		
		Radius (arc second	ls)	Radius (arc se	conds)

#### **UNDERSTANDING THE EMERGING SPECTRA**

- Modelled T<sub>ex</sub> profiles analogous to a two slab model.
- Toy model to understand the emerging spectra:
  - two slabs colliding with two other slabs with the same T<sub>ex</sub> and τ structure (Similar to: de Vries et al. 2005).

![](_page_34_Figure_4.jpeg)

#### **ANALYTICAL REASONING FOR THE ANOMALIES**

From toy model:

$$\frac{\Delta T_b^{01}}{\Delta T_b^{11}} \approx \frac{J_{\nu}(T_{ex,B}^{01}) + (J_{\nu}(T_{ex,A}^{01}) - J_{\nu}(T_{ex,B}^{01}))e^{-\tau_B^{01}} - J_{\nu}(T_{CMB})}{J_{\nu}(T_{ex,B}^{11}) - J_{\nu}(T_{CMB})}$$

- From the radiative pumping:  $T_{ex,A}^{01} > T_{ex,B}^{01} > T_{ex,B}^{11}$ .
- Thus:  $\Delta T_b^{01} > \Delta T_b^{11}$  if:
  - ►  $T_{ex}^{11} < T_{ex}^{01}$

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![](_page_37_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_38_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_39_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_40_Figure_0.jpeg)

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![](_page_46_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_47_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_48_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_48_Figure_1.jpeg)

#### **CONCLUSIONS: WHAT WAS MISSING TO FULLY UNDERSTAND HCN HFA?**

- Models with detailed physical structure
  - Velocity field and Line width alter  $\tau(\nu)$
- Precise hyperfine collisional rates
  - Correct population balance
- Observations covering several positions with increasing radii

#### **CONCLUSIONS: RADIATIVE TRANSFER ON HCN AND ITS ISOTOPOLOGUES**

- Physical structure essential to get correct collisional excitation: improved with Herschel/SPIRE
- Optically thin isotopologues essential to measure line widths
- All spectral features reproduced:
  - double-peak, red-blue asymmetry (RBA), HFA, line width
  - Foreground layer @ 8.1 km/s: needed for correct RBA
- ► Low HCN/H<sup>13</sup>CN ratio: HCN not depleted in <sup>13</sup>C

#### PERSPECTIVES

- Chemistry:
  - Roueff et al. 2015 chemical fractionation model does not work for HCN.
    - No changes for CO: X(CO) >> X(HCN)
- Nitrogen isotopic ratios:
  - ► H<sup>13</sup>CN/HC<sup>15</sup>N can be used: upper limit on HCN/HC<sup>15</sup>N
  - spatial information disentangles: radiative transfer effects | fractionation
- HCN HFA and RBA, a new probe for velocity field and turbulence dissipation in prestellar cores down to the inner parts?