

# Signatures of UV radiation around low-mass protostars in the Serpens Main with IRAM 30m

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## ABSTRACT

**Context.** The Serpens Main is one of the most studied star forming region containing low-mass protostars. Observations at submillimetre range allow to determine physical and chemical processes around young stellar objects.

**Aims.** We aim to characterise the UV radiation in the surroundings of the low-mass protostars. We analyse the excitation and spatial extent of HCN, CN, CS and their isotopologues to identify the underlying processes. We can investigate the feedback from protostars and the excitation mechanisms of molecules.

**Methods.** We present  $\sim 30$  arcmin<sup>2</sup> IRAM 30m maps of CN  $J = 1 - 0$ , HCN  $J = 1 - 0$ , and CS  $J = 3 - 2$  encompassing 10 Class 0/I protostars. We calculate HCN and CN column densities toward protostars and selected outflows positions. The column densities are compared with the Nahoon astrochemical model of molecules abundances in order to characterise UV radiation field.

**Results.** Emission of HCN  $J = 1 - 0$  and CS  $J = 3 - 2$  is co-spatial with outflows, whereas CN emission peaks at the positions of protostars. CN and HCN column densities are of the order of  $10^{13}$ - $10^{14}$  cm<sup>-2</sup>. Regardless of gas parameters, CN/HCN column density ratio is 1-10. This result can be reproduced by providing an additional UV radiation source of 0.001 to 0.044  $G_0$ .

**Conclusions.** The UV radiation field is significantly higher in the closest distances from protostars. The astrochemical model shows that an additional source of UV radiation is needed to cover the abundances range indicated by observations.

**Key words.** astrochemistry – stars: formation – ISM: molecules – ISM: individual objects: Serpens Main – Submillimeter: ISM

## 1. Introduction

Low-mass stars are the most numerous objects among stellar population in galaxies (Kroupa 2002). This makes the question of low-mass star formation processes highly significant. At first stages of star formation protostars are formed inside molecular cloud, surrounded by massive envelopes exceeding  $10^4$  AU in diameter (Lada 1987; Larson 2003; Bergin & Tafalla 2007). The embedded phases of low-mass star formation (Class 0/I YSOs, Andre et al. 1993) are characterised by gas as well as dust accretion from an envelope and bipolar, collimated outflows which carry the molecular gas out of the dense core (Zuckerman et al. 1976, Arce & Sargent 2006). The YSOs are highly composite systems where infalling envelope gas creates UV photons, as well as shocks associated with the outflows (Spaans et al. 1995). Shocks compress and heat the gas and they are sources of UV photons that can propagate far in low density outflow cavities (van Kempen et al. 2009). The feedback from protostars on their surroundings plays a relevant role in the physics and chemistry of star-forming regions.

Molecular outflows are commonly observed in CO low- $J$  rotational transitions. Observations of CO at higher transitions (Hogerheijde et al. 1999) showed a narrow component associated with shock-heated gas in the outflow cavities. The UV photons are created in the inner part of accretion disk where the gas is heated by the 10,000 K radiation field (Spaans et al. 1995). Due to high absorption of the protostellar envelope, a mechanism of UV photon creation at bow shocks was also proposed (van Kempen et al. 2009). Both are responsible for illumination of cavity walls bringing to the conclusion that UV photons can propagate in low-density outflow cavities for large distances, modifying the chemical composition of low-mass protostars neighbourhood.

Previous studies of energetic processes around low-mass protostars showed observational premises of the influence of UV radiation on molecules. These works focused on intermediate- $J$  CO transitions (up to 6-5) that traces gas with the kinetic temperature around 100 K. With the Water in Star-Forming Regions with the Herschel Space Observatory (WISH) project

(van Dishoeck et al. 2011) higher CO rotational transitions (up to 49-48) were studied that provided information of two temperature components seen in molecular outflows: warm with  $T_{\text{rot}} \approx 300$  K and hot with  $T_{\text{rot}} \approx 600 - 800$  K (Karska et al. 2013, Green et al. 2013). The observations of the water molecule shows a broad and medium-broad components associated with non-dissociative *C* shocks and dissociative *J* shocks respectively (Kristensen et al. 2013, Mottram et al. 2014). These spectral components can be correlated to the CO rotational temperature components (Kristensen et al. 2017). Another tracers sensitive to UV radiation, ionised hydrides such as  $\text{CH}^+$ ,  $\text{OH}^+$  and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}^+$ , were found in outflow cavities (Benz et al. 2016). The UV fluxes were estimated as  $10^2$ - $10^3$  higher than average interstellar radiation. There is no molecular evidence for influence of X-rays for chemical compositions of low-mass protostars.

Most of the low-mass protostars have a broad, centered on  $\nu_{\text{source}}$  CO  $J = 16 - 15$  and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  component in their spectra (Kristensen et al. 2017). There are typically  $\approx 20$  km s $^{-1}$  broad and associated with cavity shocks. The emitting gas is located in shocks along the outflow cavity wall or along the molecular wind alternatively (Yvart et al. 2016). Some of the sources show a narrow, offset component as well that is seen in the PACS CO ladder with  $T_{\text{rot}} \approx 600 - 800$ . The gas dissociated by UV photons and carried out from the protostar was proposed as an origin of the pre-shock gas (Kristensen et al. 2017). Thus, ultraviolet radiation can propagate in large scales of 1000 AU from the central protostar, changing the properties of the surrounding matter. The hypothesis of the UV irradiated shocks is raised also based on  $\text{H}_2\text{O}/\text{OH}$  ratio observations. The ratio showed a few order of magnitude disagreement with fully-shielded shock models (Karska et al. 2014). The observations are reproduced with predictions of *C*-shock models illuminated by UV photons of the strength 0.1-10 times the interstellar value (Melnick & Kaufman 2015). The other photodissociation tracers, fluxes of [OI] and [CII] are significantly higher than predicted by fully-shielded *C*-shock models (Karska et al. 2018). Therefore, ultraviolet radiation may play an important role in low-mass protostars surroundings.

The relative abundance of CN and HCN molecules is widely used a tracer of UV radiation in different astronomical context: reflection nebulae (e.g. Fuente et al. 1995), proto-planetary disks (e.g. Chapillon et al. 2012), proto-brown dwarfs (e.g. Riaz et al. 2018). CN is a product of photodissociation of HCN with the photodissociation rate of  $1.64 \times 10^{-9}$ . CN has smaller photodissociation rate of  $5.19 \times 10^{-10}$  (Heays et al. 2017), thus is not that sensitive for photodissociation as HCN. Since CN and HCN can be photodissociated selectively, therefore the CN/HCN ratio probes regions affected by UV radiation. The ratio is the highest near the source of the UV emission, and decreases with the distance from the source (Fuente et al. 1993). We propose to use CN and HCN molecules as a tracer of UV radiation field around low-mass protostars.

The Serpens star forming cloud is one of the most active sources containing low-mass protostars within 500 pc (Evans et al. 2009). The latest distance estimations based on astrometric observations (Ortiz-León et al. 2017) place the cloud at  $436 \pm 9$  pc away. The cloud was selected as one of the target sources in the Spitzer Space Telescope Legacy project ‘From Molecular Cores to Planet-forming Disks’ (Evans et al. 2003) and the Herschel Gould belt survey (André et al. 2010). The first survey provided embedded sources identification based on color-color diagrams (Harvey et al. 2007) and detailed calculation of bolometric luminosities, temperatures, and envelope masses (Enoch et al. 2009), as well as the catalog of identi-

fied YSOs (Dunham et al. 2015). The second program aims to characterise luminosities, temperatures and density profiles of prestellar cores and Class 0 protostars, and determine core mass functions and protostar luminosity functions.

The cloud core (hereafter referred to as Serpens Main) has been found in far-infrared and submillimeter observations as a dense area with several deeply embedded protostars Class 0/I (Casali et al. 1993, Hurt & Barsony 1996, Testi & Sargent 1998). Molecular observations of CO rotational transitions revealed outflows connected with the protostars (Davis et al. 1999, Dionatos et al. 2010). Individual sources were probed with the Water in Star-Forming Regions with the Herschel Space Observatory (WISH) project (van Dishoeck et al. 2011) and the ‘Dust, Ice, and Gas in Time’ (Green et al. 2013).

The strength and spatial extend of UV photons around low-mass protostars are poorly constrained. Since the UV radiation around low-mass protostars was studied only in the source position (Stäuber et al. 2007, Riaz et al. 2018) or in the source closest neighbourhood (Hogerheijde et al. 1999, Bachiller et al. 2001, Jørgensen 2004), the spatial extend of UV fields in larger scales is the matter of question. We address the following questions in: How does the UV radiation affect the chemistry of the surrounding of the low-mass? If the molecules are dissociated in the inner envelope or in the outflows? What is the spatial extent of the UV fields from protostars and their outflows? What is the typical strength of UV radiation around Class 0/I protostars?

We present the CN, HCN, CS and their isotopologues molecular data observed in the Serpens Main star forming region. Section 2 contains the overview of the observations and the targeted sample. The results derived from the observations are shown in the Section 3, while further analysis of the data in Section 4. In the section 5 we refer to the previous studies of the topic and provide the discussion of the results. The summarising Section 6 is closed with our conclusions.

## 2. Observations

### 2.1. IRAM data and reduction process

The Serpens Main star forming region was observed with IRAM 30 between 14 and 17 July 2009 (project no. xxx, PI: L. Kristensen). We used the Eight Mixer Receiver (EMIR) as the frontend. The observations were performed in the EMIR bands E090 (molecule HCN  $J = 1 - 0$ ) covering the range 73-117 GHz and E150 (molecules CN  $J = 1 - 0$  and CS  $J = 3 - 2$ ) covering the frequencies between 125 and 184 GHz. Due to the EMIR receiver wide bands additional molecular lines of  $\text{C}^{34}\text{S}$   $J = 3 - 2$ ,  $\text{H}^{13}\text{CN}$   $J = 1 - 0$  and  $\text{H}^{13}\text{CN}$   $J = 2 - 1$  were also observed. The backend was the Versatile SPectrometer Array (VESPA) autocorrelator and the 1 MHz filterbank reaching the spectral resolution of 39 kHz (E150 band) and 78 kHz (E090 band). The telescope beam size varies from  $14''$  at 172.68 GHz to  $29''$  at 86.34 GHz (Table 1). The antenna temperatures were converted to main-beam brightness temperature  $T_{\text{MB}}$  using the main beam efficiency according to the expression:  $T_{\text{MB}} = T_{\text{A}}/\eta_{\text{MB}}$ . The exact upper levels energies, line frequencies, beam sizes and beam efficiencies are given in Table 1. Observations included scans of the Ser-SMM1 (centered at  $\alpha_{\text{J2000}} = 18^{\text{h}}29^{\text{m}}49.6^{\text{s}}$ ,  $\delta_{\text{J2000}} = +01^{\circ}15'20.5''$  with  $V_{\text{LSR}} = +8.5$  km/s) and the Ser-SMM3/Ser-SMM4 (centered at  $\alpha_{\text{J2000}} = 18^{\text{h}}29^{\text{m}}56.6^{\text{s}}$ ,  $\delta_{\text{J2000}} = +01^{\circ}14'00.3''$  with  $V_{\text{LSR}} = +7.6$  km/s) regions, both  $1' \times 3'$  OTF maps. The size of the maps is about  $300'' \times 350''$ , covering both Ser-SMM1 and Ser-SMM3/Ser-SMM4 regions. The regions are referenced

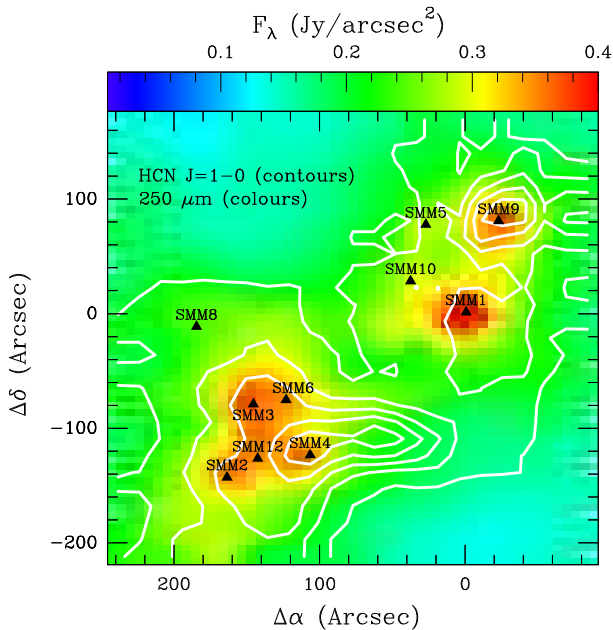


Fig. 1: Molecular emission of HCN  $J=1-0$  (contours) overplot on continuum emission *Herschel*/SPIRE (Griffin et al. 2010)  $250\ \mu\text{m}$  (colours). Countours the lowest level is set on  $0.4\ \text{K km/s}$  ( $30\ \sigma$ ), step size of  $4\ \text{K km/s}$ .

in the article as 'the Northern part' and 'the Southern part' respectively.

Data reduction was carried out with the CLASS package within GILDAS<sup>1</sup>. Each spectrum was corrected for the baseline shape, the spike channels were removed and the velocity was re-sampled to a resolution of  $0.5\ \text{km/s}$ . The baseline fitting of the order of 0 was sufficient for our observations. The rms of extracted spectra values vary from  $0.024\ \text{K}$  to  $0.125\ \text{K}$ . Both OTF maps were merged in one map covering  $300 \times 350\ \text{arcsec}$ . The spectra obtained were exported from the CLASS package and analysed with Python scripts.

## 2.2. Physical properties of embedded protostars

Ten Class 0/I protostars are present in the observed region. There are deeply embedded sources so the radiation coming from their neighbourhood is highly absorbed in the envelopes, then re-emitted in the IR range. Envelopes become thinner with time due to outflow-envelope interactions (Arce & Sargent 2006). Class I sources SEDs are dominated by the emission in shorter wavelengths in respect to Class 0 objects. Thus Spectral Energy Distributions (SEDs) allow to estimate the evolutionary stage of an object (Andre et al. 1993).

Figure A.1 shows spectral energy distributions for all Class 0/I protostars in the region (Table 2). The SED plots include the selected literature samples (Dunham et al. 2015) combined with the data from the Herschel Gould Belt survey project (André et al. 2010). The additional Herschel data cover the SED peak, therefore provide a more detailed information allowing to calculate the bolometric temperatures and luminosities of the protostar more precisely.

Table 2 contains the observed protostars parameters as well as the classification from Enoch et al. 2009. Early Class 0 was defined as a protostar of bolometric temperature lesser than  $50\ \text{K}$ .

Protostars characterised by bolometric temperature between  $50\ \text{K}$  and  $100\ \text{K}$  were classified as Late Class 0 protostars. Class I protostars were divided for Early and Late sub-type by the bolometric temperature of  $300\ \text{K}$ .

Most of the observed protostars in the Serpens Main region are very young, embedded sources of Early Class 0. SMM4, SMM10 and SMM12 are classified as Late Class 0 YSOs. The SMM5 and SMM6 protostars are the most evolved objects in our sample (Class I).

## 3. Results

### 3.1. Molecular emission maps

The line maps in the targeted molecules show variety of structures that can be associated with YSOs and a large-scale cloud emission. Different spatial extend in molecules radiation is connected with various physical conditions around protostars. Here, we present the large-scale maps of CS  $J=3-2$ , HCN  $J=1-0$  and CN  $J=1-0$ . Maps of their isotopologues are shown in the Appendix A.

We present large-scale intensity maps (Fig. 2) of the targeted lines integrated at the level of  $3\ \sigma$  and above. Three of the observed molecules (HCN, CN and  $\text{H}^{13}\text{CN}$ ) are characterised by hyperfine structure. High resolution spectroscopy allow us to separate the emission from each hyperfine transitions. The integrated intensity maps of the lowest transitions of HCN, CN and  $\text{H}^{13}\text{CN}$  are performed as a sum of all hyperfine splitting components. The maps are centred at  $\alpha_{J2000} = 18^{\text{h}}29^{\text{m}}46.6^{\text{s}}$ ,  $\delta_{J2000} = 01^{\circ}18'20.5''$ .

Most of molecular emission is concentrated in the SE sub-cluster, where 6 low-mass protostars are located, while the continuum emission peaks in the NW subcluster what is correlated with the other 4 low-mass protostars positions. The most extended structures can be associated with molecular outflows ejected from low-mass protostars (Table 2). Outflows directions were marked based on previous studies in CO transitions CO  $J=3-2$  (Dionatos et al. 2010) and CO  $J=6-5$ /CO  $J=3-2$  (Yıldız et al. 2015). Five off-source positions were selected to detailed spectra analysis (Table 3).

The integrated line intensity map of HCN  $J=1-0$  shows extended emission along outflow directions. This is the strongest line among all observed. The emission is slightly correlated with continuum emission. Most of the emission is associated with protostars positions. The HCN  $J=1-0$  gas peaks around Ser-SMM9 and Ser-SMM4 protostars. There is no significant peak around strong submillimetre sources as Ser-SMM1 and Ser-SMM3. The low energy level of HCN ( $E_u = 4.25\ \text{K}$ ) with the critical density of  $10^6\ \text{cm}^{-2}$  traces cold, high-density gas. HCN has previously been shown to be a good tracer of molecular outflows activity (Lee et al. 2014). The HCN  $J=1-0$  line was detected at all protostars positions, although it is weak at the positions of Ser-SMM5, Ser-SMM8 and Ser-SMM10. On the other hand, the HCN  $J=1-0$  emission is particularly strong in Ser-SMM4 blue-shifted outflow (outflow position no. 4). In NS elongated structure is present around Ser-SMM1 protostar what was noticed also in high- $J$  CO transitions (Yıldız et al. 2015). The emission is slightly extended along Ser-SMM9 outflows. There is no intensively elongated outflow structure from the other sources.

CS  $J=3-2$  line emission map shows similar spatial distribution to HCN  $J=1-0$ . Both species trace the gas of the same properties, however the CS molecule is excited in slightly less dense environment ( $\sim 10^5\ \text{cm}^{-3}$ ). The most significant elongated

<sup>1</sup> See <http://www.iram.fr/IRAMFR/GILDAS>



Table 1: Overview of the observations

Mol.	Trans.	$\nu$ (GHz)	$E_u/k_B$ (K)	$A_{ul}$ ( $s^{-1}$ )	$g_u$	$n_{crit}$ ( $cm^{-3}$ )	Beam size ( $''$ )	Beam eff. $\eta_{MB}$
HCN	1-0	88.630416	4.25	$2.407 \times 10^{-5}$	3	$5.0 \times 10^6$ <sup>b</sup>	28	0.81
		88.631847						
		88.633936						
		113.123369						
CN	1-0	113.170535	5.45	$1.182 \times 10^{-5}$	3	$1.1 \times 10^5$ <sup>c</sup>	22	0.78
		113.488142						
		113.490985						
		113.499643						
CS	3-2	146.969029	14.1	$6.071 \times 10^{-5}$	7	$2.6 \times 10^5$ <sup>c</sup>	16	0.74
C <sup>34</sup> S	3-2	144.617109	13.9	$7.251 \times 10^{-5}$ <sup>a</sup>	7	$7.3 \times 10^5$ <sup>a</sup>	16	0.74
H <sup>13</sup> CN	1-0	86.338767	4.14	$1.512 \times 10^{-5}$ <sup>a</sup>	3	$9.7 \times 10^6$ <sup>b</sup>	29	0.81
		86.340184						
		86.342274						
		172676.573						
H <sup>13</sup> CN	2-1	172.677881	12.43	$6.90 \times 10^{-5}$ <sup>a</sup>	5	$1.2 \times 10^6$ <sup>c</sup>	14	0.68
		172.677959						

References: Molecular data adopted from LAMDA/JPL databases: <sup>a</sup> calculated for  $T = 300$  K; <sup>b</sup>Jiménez-Donaire et al. 2016, assuming optically thin transition lines for an excitation temperature of 20K; <sup>c</sup>Shirley 2015, assuming optically thin transition lines for an excitation temperature of 50K; <sup>d</sup>Chandra et al. 1995.

**Notes.** Beam sizes and efficiencies are taken from <http://www.iram.es/IRAMES/mainWiki/Iram30mEfficiencies>

Table 2: Catalogue of protostars properties

Source	R.A. (J2000.0)	Decl. (J2000.0)	$T_{bol}$ (K)	$L_{bol}$ ( $L_{\odot}$ )	Class	Other names
SMM9	18 29 48.3	+01 16 42.7	34.9	10.3	Early Class 0	Ser-emb8, ISO241, WMW23, Bolo22
SMM1	18 29 50.0	+01 15 20.3	35.4	78.7	Early Class 0	Ser-emb6, FIRS1, EC41, Bolo23
SMM5	18 29 51.4	+01 16 38.3	150.5	3.7	Early Class I	Ser-emb21, EC53, WMW24, Bolo22
SMM10	18 29 52.3	+01 15 48.8	82.6	6.2	Late Class 0	Ser-emb12, WMW21, Bolo 23
SMM4	18 29 57.0	+01 13 11.3	76.9	4.4	Late Class 0	Ser-emb22, Bolo25
SMM6	18 29 57.8	+01 14 05.3	532.3	43.1	Late Class I	Ser-emb30, EC90, WMW35, SVS20S, Bolo 28
SMM12	18 29 59.1	+01 13 14.3	96.9	5.7	Late Class 0	Ser-emb19, Bolo28
SMM3	18 29 59.6	+01 13 59.2	35.0	6.9	Early Class 0	Ser-emb26, Bolo26
SMM2	18 30 00.5	+01 12 57.8	30.5	4.07	Early Class 0	Ser-emb4, Bolo28
SMM8	18 30 01.9	+01 15 09.2	15.3	0.2	Early Class 0	Bolo30

Coordinates taken from Suresh et al. 2016, except SMM8 (Lee et al. 2014).

Table 3: Properties of the selected off-source positions

Outflow	R.A. (J2000)	Decl. (J2000)	Remarks
1	18:29:48.9	+01:15:53.5	blue-shifted outflow from SMM1
2	18:29:57.3	+01:12:47.5	red-shifted outflow from SMM4
3	18:29:53.3	+01:13:28.5	blue-shifted outflow from SMM4
4	18:29:45.8	+01:16:41.5	outflow from SMM9
5	18:29:58.5	+01:14:28.3	outflow from SMM3

structure can be associated with Ser-SMM4 blue-shifted outflow. It is situated at the same place in both maps, extending over  $80''$ . A similar large-scale structure is detected along Ser-SMM1 outflows, although it is stronger in the HCN  $J = 1 - 0$  map. Emission

around Ser-SMM9 have a circular shape, however, there is additional elongated structure in CS  $J = 3 - 2$  line emission towards the West. It overlaps with the S68N outflows seen in methanol observations (Kristensen et al. 2010). The HCN  $J = 1 - 0$  line emission propagates for larger distances than the CS  $J = 3 - 2$ . It is also relatively stronger. In both cases the highest peak of the emission is situated around Ser-SMM4 protostar with a significant extent towards outflow position no. 3. Their weaker isotopic species H<sup>13</sup>CN  $J = 1 - 0$  and C<sup>34</sup>S(3-2) lines peak around the protostars position. The lines exhibits similar morphological distribution as HCN  $J = 1 - 0$  and CS  $J = 3 - 2$ .

CN  $J = 1 - 0$  line emission is focused mostly around the positions of protostars. The CN line is similarly low-energetic, however it peaks in different areas than HCN and CS. The CN  $J = 1 - 0$  integrated intensity structures follow the  $250 \mu m$  continuum map. The highest local peaks are associated with Class 0 low-mass protostars: Ser-SMM3, Ser-SMM4 and Ser-SMM6, as well as local maxima around Ser-SMM1 and Ser-SMM9.

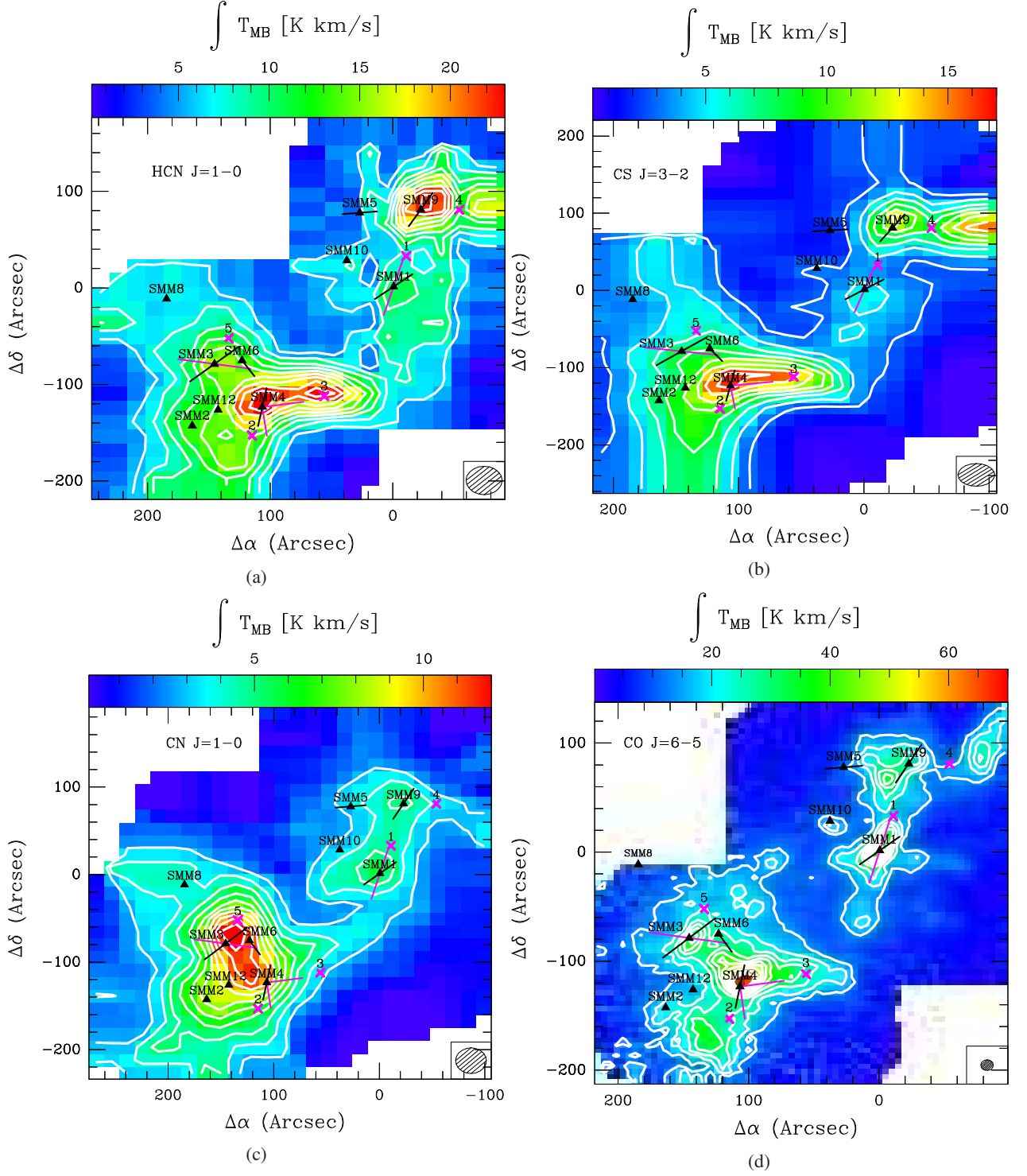


Fig. 2: Integrated intensity  $\int T_{mb} dV$  of the HCN  $J = 1 - 0$  (upper left panel), CS  $J = 3 - 2$  (upper right panel), CN  $J = 1 - 0$  (bottom left panel) and CO  $J = 6 - 5$  (bottom right panel) in the Serpens Main region. The first contour at  $30\sigma$  level, with step of  $10\sigma$  (for HCN  $J = 1 - 0$  and CN  $J = 1 - 0$ ),  $10\sigma$  level, with step of  $5\sigma$  (for CS  $J = 3 - 2$ ) and CS  $J = 3 - 2$  line  $70\sigma$  level, with step of  $30\sigma$  (for CO  $J = 6 - 5$ ). Black triangles show the positions of the protostars (Suresh et al. 2016), whereas the black lines (Yildiz et al. 2015) and magenta line (Dionatos et al. 2010) show the associated outflow directions. Outflow positions are displayed as magenta crosses.

The spatial distribution is qualitatively different compared to the HCN  $J = 1 - 0$  and CS  $J = 3 - 2$  maps. The strongest emission characterises the dense surroundings of protostars in SE subcluster while the NW subcluster does not show such a distinct emission as in the HCN  $J = 1 - 0$  line. Dense emissive region of the

Ser-SMM9 source is significantly weaker in CN  $J = 1 - 0$  line. CN  $J = 1 - 0$  map can be characterised by compact, condensed emission without any strongly elongated structures.

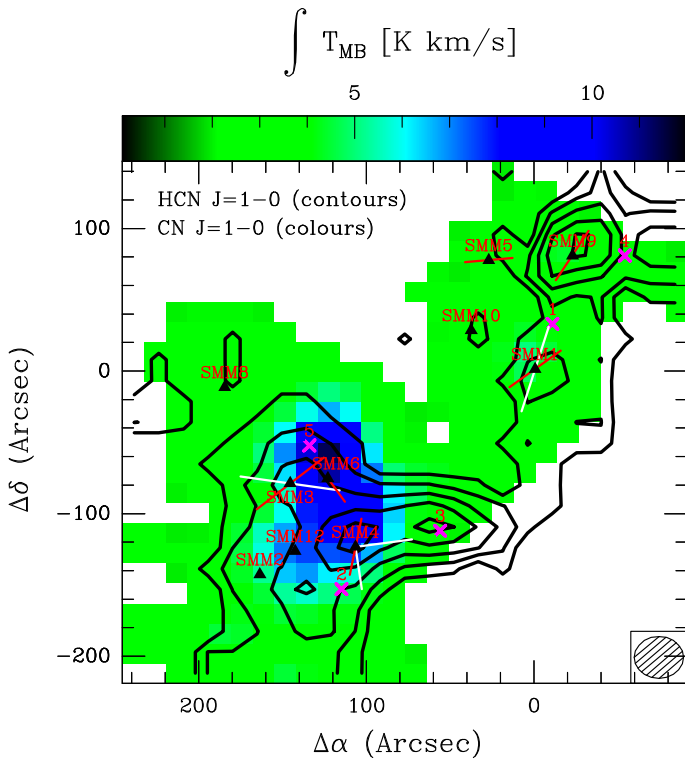


Fig. 3: Integrated intensity  $\int T_{\text{mb}} dV$  of CN  $J = 1 - 0$  (colours) and HCN  $J = 1 - 0$  (contours) in the Serpens Main region. The first contour is 30. Triangles and lines marked as described in 2.

### 3.2. Comparison of the spatial extent of CN and HCN

We present a large-scale map of CN  $J = 1 - 0$  and HCN  $J = 1 - 0$  integrated intensity (Fig. 3) showing the emission exceeding  $30 \sigma$  for both molecules. The image of CN emission has been resampled to beam size of HCN in order to compare the same emitting regions.

The CN  $J = 1 - 0$  transition is shifted to the north in respect to the HCN  $J = 1 - 0$  emission. It is highly concentrated in the SE subcluster, while the NW subcluster is dominated by the HCN. Both molecules show a diffusive ‘bridge’ between the two subclusters. It is connected with Ser-SMM4 and Ser-SMM1 outflows in HCN, while the CN follows the dust continuum emission. The emission in both molecules is anti-correlated north from Ser-SMM6 and west from Ser-SMM4 sources. At the dense area of Ser-SMM9 surrounding CN/HCN ratio is significantly weaker.

Both species has been detected in all sources positions. CN as a product of HCN photodissociation indicates other properties of low-mass protostars surroundings (Section 4). The highest CN/HCN integrated intensity ratio occurs in Ser-SMM6 and Ser-SMM3 protostars, as well as in the outflow position no. 5. On the other hand, Ser-SMM9 object is characterised by very low CN/HCN line ratio. Similarly low CN/HCN ratio is measured in outflow positions no. 3 and 4.

Most of the sources show high flux values in both molecules (Table 4). However, they present unequal levels which indicates regions of different properties. In order to better understand this issue we analyse the molecular line profiles in the Section 3.2.

Table 4: CN/HCN integrated intensities

Source	$\int T_{\text{mb}} dV  _{\text{CN}}$ (K km/s)	$\int T_{\text{mb}} dV  _{\text{HCN}}$ (K km/s)	CN/HCN
SMM1	5.3	8.2	0.65
SMM2	8.4	12.6	0.67
SMM3	13.2	14.1	0.94
SMM4	9.9	17.6	0.56
SMM5	3.5	5.8	0.60
SMM6	10.6	11.9	0.89
SMM8	5.1	6.3	0.81
SMM9	5.4	14.1	0.38
SMM10	2.6	7.0	0.37
SMM12	9.1	13.3	0.68
Outflow1	4.8	8.3	0.58
Outflow2	8.7	14.6	0.60
Outflow3	3.8	23.6	0.16
Outflow4	3.7	12.4	0.30
Outflow5	12.5	11.5	1.09

### 3.3. Line profiles

We selected 14 representative on-source and off-source positions for a detailed analysis (Fig. B.1). Nine of them are corresponding to the protostars positions, the other five off-source positions were selected based on local maximum of the flux.

In the majority of our sources five of targeted lines were detected: CN  $J = 1 - 0$ , HCN  $J = 1 - 0$ , CS  $J = 3 - 2$ , C<sup>34</sup>S  $J = 3 - 2$  and H<sup>13</sup>CN  $J = 1 - 0$ . The line is considered to be detected if there is an emission at the level of at least  $3\sigma$ . A weak emission from H<sup>13</sup>CN  $J = 2 - 1$  was found at the positions of four sources and it is not included in Fig. B.1.

The strongest emission occurs in HCN  $J = 1 - 0$ , CN  $J = 1 - 0$  and CS  $J = 3 - 2$  lines and it was detected at the position of all of the sources. The emission in the other lines was multiplied in order to compare profiles between different molecules. In HCN, CN species and their isotopologues a few different velocity components can be identified what indicates the hyperfine splitting. This occurs if a molecule has a non-zero nuclear spin so there is also an interaction between the nuclear spin and the electronic angular momentum. The most distinct splitting can be spotted in the CN  $J = 1 - 0$  profiles with five separate components situated between -70 km/s and 18 km/s. The HCN  $J = 1 - 0$  line is characterised by three components with low separation situated in the range of -2 km/s – 16 km/s.

Ser-SMM1, Ser-SMM9, and Ser-SMM10 sources have wide spectral lines, while others exhibit narrow line profiles. Spectra extracted from Outflows no. 1, 4 and 5 shows prominent blue-shifted wings. Similar structure can be noticed in the Ser-SMM3 (panel no. 7) CS 3-2 and HCN  $J = 1 - 0$  profiles.

### 3.4. Opacity

HCN has a high critical density and it is relatively abundant molecule. Thus, it is a good density tracer, typically thick in low-J transitions. Usually molecules with hyperfine splitting observed are used to probe the optical depth, but the HCN show anomalies in the hyperfine splitting. Therefore, a standard method of estimating the optical depth from the ratio of lines from two isotopologues (Goldsmith et al. 1984) was applied to HCN observations. Assuming that both HCN and H<sup>13</sup>CN are in LTE at the same excitation temperature and the H<sup>13</sup>CN is optically thin (Hogerheijde et al. 1999), the optical depth can be

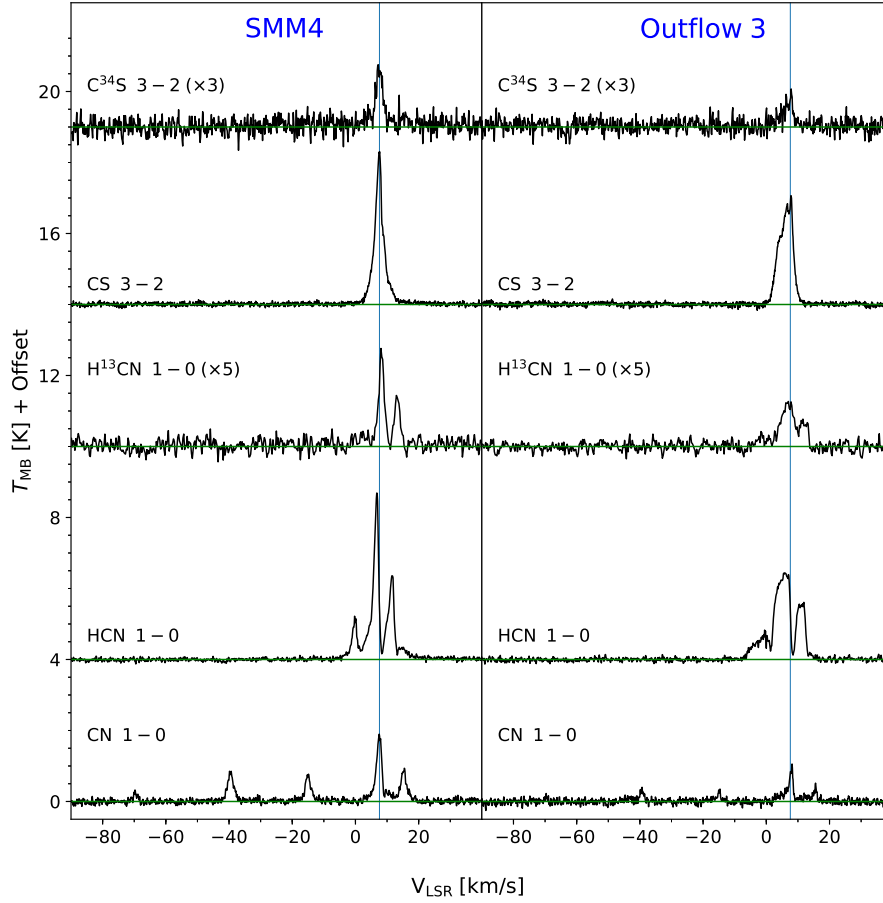


Fig. 4: Spectra of  $C^{34}S$   $J = 3 - 2$ ,  $CS$   $J = 3 - 2$ ,  $H^{13}CN$   $J = 1 - 0$ ,  $HCN$   $J = 1 - 0$  and  $CN$   $J = 1 - 0$  lines obtained the Ser SMM4 position (left) and the Outflow 3 position (right).

determined from the ratio of brightness temperatures and abundances:

$$\frac{T_{HCN}}{T_{H^{13}CN}} = \frac{X[HCN]}{X[H^{13}CN]} \frac{1 - \exp(-\tau_{HCN})}{\tau_{HCN}} \quad (1)$$

The  $HCN/H^{13}CN$  abundance ratio was estimated at 30 (Daniel et al. 2013). The optical depth calculated for all the protostars positions varies from 2 to 7.6 what is consistent with RADEX outputs assuming the column density of  $HCN$  as  $3 \times 10^{14} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ , hydrogen density as  $10^5 \text{ cm}^{-3}$  and kinetic temperature of the gas as 50 K.

Similar RADEX calculations were performed for  $CN$  molecule. Assuming the same gas conditions and slightly higher column density of  $10^{15} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ , we obtained comparable results.

It is seen that both the  $HCN$  and  $CN$  lines are optically thick so the calculated column densities can be underestimated by up the order of magnitude. Nevertheless, while both lines are similarly thick, this will have little effect on the relative values of calculated column densities.

## 4. Analysis

### 4.1. Lines column densities

Table 5 shows fluxes integrated from the average line profile at the positions of known protostars. Flux calculation in individual lines allows us to determine the column density of a given transition. The column density of the upper level  $N_u$  of each observed

line was calculated based on following relation:

$$N_u = \beta \frac{\nu W}{A} \quad (2)$$

where  $\beta = 1937 \text{ cm}^{-2}$  and  $W = \int T_{mb} dV$  is the integrated intensity of the emission line. The frequency  $\nu$  should be given in GHz. The total column density was obtained using:

$$N_{tot} = Q(T_{ex}) \exp\left(\frac{E_u}{k T_{ex}}\right) \frac{N_u}{g_u} \quad (3)$$

where is the partition function depending on excitation temperature  $T_{ex}$  and  $k$  Boltzmann constant.

The column densities of the upper level of  $CN$   $J = 1 - 0$  and  $HCN$   $J = 1 - 0$  transitions are presented in Table 5. The lowest transition of  $CN$  is more abundant molecule than the lowest transition line of  $HCN$  at the low-mass protostars positions. The column density of  $CN$   $J = 1 - 0$  varies between  $10^{14} - 10^{15} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ , while in the column density of the  $HCN$ 's lowest transition reaches  $10^{14} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ . In the case of Ser-SMM2, Ser-SMM3, Ser-SMM4, Ser-SMM6 and Ser-SMM12  $HCN$   $J = 1 - 0$  line column density is an order of magnitude lower than the column density of the equivalent  $CN$  transition. This result provides a clue to better understand of the low-mass protostars chemistry.

Table 5: Integrated fluxes of the observed line at the positions of protostars

Source	Line	$\int T_{\text{mb}} dV$ (K km/s)	$T_{\text{peak}}$ (K)	$N_{\text{up}}$ (cm <sup>-2</sup> )	$N_{\text{tot}}$ (cm <sup>-2</sup> )
SMM1	CN 1-0	5.26	0.89	$1.1 \times 10^{13}$	$6.6 \times 10^{14}$
	HCN 1-0	8.23	1.76	$5.2 \times 10^{12}$	$2.0 \times 10^{14}$
	CS 3-2	2.98	1.57	$2.1 \times 10^{12}$	$2.3 \times 10^{13}$
	C <sup>34</sup> S 3-2	1.21	0.56	$6.8 \times 10^{11}$	$7.6 \times 10^{12}$
	H <sup>13</sup> CN 1-0	1.43	0.45	$3.0 \times 10^{11}$	$1.2 \times 10^{13}$
SMM2	CN 1-0	8.41	1.92	$1.8 \times 10^{13}$	$1.1 \times 10^{15}$
	HCN 1-0	12.57	3.48	$8.0 \times 10^{12}$	$3.0 \times 10^{14}$
	CS 3-2	6.57	3.10	$4.5 \times 10^{12}$	$2.0 \times 10^{13}$
	C <sup>34</sup> S 3-2	0.89	0.47	$5.0 \times 10^{11}$	$5.6 \times 10^{12}$
	H <sup>13</sup> CN 1-0	1.65	0.64	$3.5 \times 10^{11}$	$1.3 \times 10^{13}$
SMM3	CN 1-0	13.18	3.42	$2.8 \times 10^{13}$	$1.7 \times 10^{15}$
	HCN 1-0	14.14	4.95	$8.9 \times 10^{12}$	$3.4 \times 10^{14}$
	CS 3-2	8.11	2.90	$5.6 \times 10^{13}$	$6.2 \times 10^{13}$
	C <sup>34</sup> S 3-2	0.60	0.36	$3.4 \times 10^{11}$	$3.8 \times 10^{12}$
	H <sup>13</sup> CN 1-0	0.88	0.41	$1.8 \times 10^{11}$	$7.1 \times 10^{12}$
SMM4	CN 1-0	9.89	1.90	$2.1 \times 10^{13}$	$1.3 \times 10^{15}$
	HCN 1-0	17.59	4.69	$1.1 \times 10^{13}$	$4.2 \times 10^{14}$
	CS 3-2	14.4	4.30	$9.9 \times 10^{12}$	$1.1 \times 10^{14}$
	C <sup>34</sup> S 3-2	1.56	0.64	$8.7 \times 10^{11}$	$9.8 \times 10^{12}$
	H <sup>13</sup> CN 1-0	1.83	0.61	$3.8 \times 10^{11}$	$1.5 \times 10^{13}$
SMM5	CN 1-0	3.49	0.94	$7.3 \times 10^{12}$	$4.4 \times 10^{14}$
	HCN 1-0	5.79	1.72	$3.7 \times 10^{12}$	$1.4 \times 10^{14}$
	CS 3-2	2.61	1.48	$1.8 \times 10^{12}$	$2.0 \times 10^{13}$
	C <sup>34</sup> S 3-2	0.28	0.42	$1.2 \times 10^{11}$	$1.4 \times 10^{12}$
	H <sup>13</sup> CN 1-0	1.16	0.42	$2.4 \times 10^{11}$	$9.4 \times 10^{12}$
SMM6	CN 1-0	10.57	3.17	$2.2 \times 10^{13}$	$1.3 \times 10^{15}$
	HCN 1-0	11.85	5.15	$8.9 \times 10^{12}$	$3.3 \times 10^{14}$
	CS 3-2	7.86	3.2	$5.4 \times 10^{12}$	$6.0 \times 10^{13}$
	C <sup>34</sup> S 3-2	0.74	0.56	$4.1 \times 10^{11}$	$4.6 \times 10^{12}$
	H <sup>13</sup> CN 1-0	0.81	0.40	$1.7 \times 10^{11}$	$6.6 \times 10^{12}$
SMM8	CN 1-0	5.09	0.94	$1.1 \times 10^{13}$	$6.4 \times 10^{14}$
	HCN 1-0	6.32	1.72	$4.0 \times 10^{12}$	$1.5 \times 10^{14}$
	CS 3-2	4.64	2.08	$3.2 \times 10^{12}$	$3.5 \times 10^{13}$
	C <sup>34</sup> S 3-2	0.22	0.35	$1.2 \times 10^{11}$	$1.4 \times 10^{12}$
	H <sup>13</sup> CN 1-0	0.46	0.21	$9.6 \times 10^{10}$	$3.7 \times 10^{12}$
SMM9	CN 1-0	5.41	0.84	$1.1 \times 10^{13}$	$6.8 \times 10^{14}$
	HCN 1-0	14.08	2.40	$8.9 \times 10^{12}$	$3.4 \times 10^{14}$
	CS 3-2	9.85	2.70	$6.8 \times 10^{12}$	$7.5 \times 10^{13}$
	C <sup>34</sup> S 3-2	1.3	0.62	$7.3 \times 10^{11}$	$8.1 \times 10^{12}$
	H <sup>13</sup> CN 1-0	1.57	0.38	$3.3 \times 10^{11}$	$1.3 \times 10^{13}$
SMM10	CN 1-0	2.59	0.78	$5.4 \times 10^{12}$	$3.3 \times 10^{14}$
	HCN 1-0	6.96	1.75	$4.4 \times 10^{12}$	$1.7 \times 10^{14}$
	CS 3-2	3.83	1.43	$2.6 \times 10^{12}$	$2.9 \times 10^{13}$
	C <sup>34</sup> S 3-2	0.56	0.40	$3.1 \times 10^{11}$	$3.5 \times 10^{12}$
	H <sup>13</sup> CN 1-0	0.98	0.45	$2.6 \times 10^{11}$	$1.0 \times 10^{13}$
SMM12	CN 1-0	9.10	1.85	$1.9 \times 10^{13}$	$1.2 \times 10^{15}$
	HCN 1-0	13.27	3.50	$8.4 \times 10^{12}$	$3.2 \times 10^{14}$
	CS 3-2	9.75	3.26	$6.7 \times 10^{12}$	$7.4 \times 10^{13}$
	C <sup>34</sup> S 3-2	1.18	0.58	$6.6 \times 10^{11}$	$7.4 \times 10^{12}$
	H <sup>13</sup> CN 1-0	1.43	0.46	$3.0 \times 10^{11}$	$1.2 \times 10^{13}$

#### 4.2. RADEX modelling

Column densities can be independently determined using molecular excitation models. Line ratio can provide additional information concerning physical properties of the observed gas.

Using non-LTE radiative transfer code RADEX (van der Tak et al. 2007) we have prepared sets of molecular excitation models. Assuming the excitation conditions of the CN J=1-0 and HCN J=1-0 lines, their column densities ratio



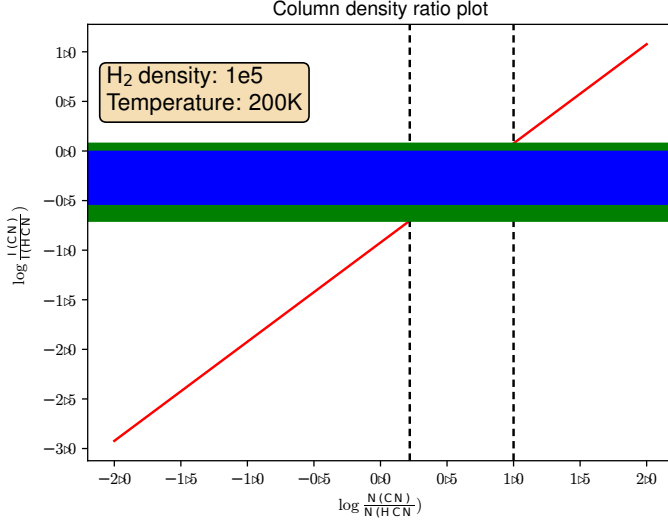


Fig. 5: CN/HCN column density ratio for hydrogen densities of  $n_{\text{H}_2} = 10^5 \text{ cm}^{-3}$  and kinetic temperatures of  $T_{\text{kin}} = 200 \text{ K}$  (red line). The observed line intensity ratio is plotted in blue (protostars positions) and green (all positions).

may be estimated. In order to ensure optically thin emission, HCN column density was set as  $10^8 \text{ cm}^{-2}$ . In our models CN column density parameter varies from  $10^6 \text{ cm}^{-2}$  to  $10^{10} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ . These translates into  $N_{\text{CN}}/N_{\text{HCN}}$  in following limits:  $10^{-2}$ - $10^2$ .

The sets of models were obtained assuming a line width of  $1.0 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ ,  $2.73 \text{ K}$  of background radiation and spherical geometry. Each set of models varies with the following input parameters: hydrogen densities ranged from  $n_{\text{H}_2} = 10^3 \text{ cm}^{-3}$  to  $n_{\text{H}_2} = 10^5 \text{ cm}^{-3}$  and kinetic temperatures of  $T_{\text{kin}} = 30 \text{ K}$ ,  $T_{\text{kin}} = 75 \text{ K}$  and  $T_{\text{kin}} = 200 \text{ K}$ . The molecular data files used during modelling were procured from the Leiden Atomic and Molecular Database (LAMDA, Schöier et al. 2005). For each sets of models CN/HCN column density ratio and the the observational constraints of CN/HCN integrated intensities ratio were the only free parameters.

Fig. 5 presents one exemplary set of models of CN/HCN column density ratio versus the modelled line intensities ratio for hydrogen densities of  $n_{\text{H}_2} = 10^5 \text{ cm}^{-3}$  and kinetic temperatures of  $T_{\text{kin}} = 200 \text{ K}$ . The rest of the models are shown in the Appendix B. The modelled line intensities are compared with the observations. The best fit of the observed line intensity ratio covers a range of 0.0-1.0 of the column density ratio in the logarithmic scale. That corresponds to a few times higher CN column density than the same parameter of HCN. CN/HCN column density ratio weakly depends on hydrogen density and kinetic temperature in the low limit of those parameters (see Table 6). The sets of models shown in this section indicate that CN/HCN column density ratio covers the range of 1-10 regardless of excitation conditions.

## 5. Discussion

### 5.1. Astrochemical model

In Section 3.2 we raised a question about influence of the UV radiation on the surroundings of the observed sources. We used the Nahoon astrochemical model in order to estimate the inten-

Table 6: CN/HCN column density ratio

$n_{\text{H}_2}$ ( $\text{cm}^{-3}$ )	$T_{\text{kin}}$ (K)	$\log_{10}(N[\text{CN}]/N[\text{HCN}])$
$10^3$	30	0.03-0.88
$10^3$	75	0.06-0.84
$10^3$	200	0.00-0.78
$10^4$	30	0.16-0.94
$10^4$	75	0.08-0.86
$10^4$	200	0.04-0.82
$10^5$	30	0.20-0.98
$10^5$	75	0.18-0.86
$10^5$	200	0.22-1.00

sity of the UV field in reference to units of the interstellar UV field  $G_0$ .

The Nahoon is a numerical code allowing to determine the gas-phase chemistry in astronomical context (Wakelam et al. 2012). The solver computes the chemical evolution in time of 489 species involving 6992 gas-phase and gas-grain reactions based on rate coefficients stored in the Kinetic Database for Astrochemistry (KIDA)<sup>2</sup>. The Nahoon code can model chemistry at a fixed temperature and density (0D modeling), as well as at grid of temperature, density and visual extinction (1D modeling). The UV radiation is described through the relation between visual extinction  $A_V$  and the photodissociation rate coefficient  $k$  Eq 4:

$$k = \alpha e^{-\gamma A_V} \quad (4)$$

Here,  $\alpha$  and  $\gamma$  are coefficients of photodissociation of HCN equal to  $1.64 \times 10^{-9}$  and 3.12 respectively (Heays et al. (2017)). All models were performed at the 1D modeling grid with the latest version of Nahoon code (Nahoon\_kida.uva.2014).

The evolution of the chemical network was started at the time of a dense cloud formation. Figure 6 shows a model corresponding to a typical dense cloud with temperature of  $10 \text{ K}$  and hydrogen total density of  $n_{\text{H}+\text{H}_2} = 10^4 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ . The chemical composition of the CN, HCN and CS molecules stabilises at the time of  $10^7 \text{ yrs}$  with HCN abundance higher compared to CN. We assumed the time of  $10^6 \text{ yrs}$  as the time when the star formation starts in dense clouds. The modelled abundances of the all 489 species at the time of  $10^6 \text{ yrs}$  were used as an input data for the following set of models.

The closest neighbourhood of low-mass protostars was simulated based on the initial abundances of all species from starless cloud modelling. We adopted the UV radiation and cosmic ray fluxes typical for dense clouds as an initial conditions. The visual extinction and the total cosmic-ray ionization rate were set to 5 mag and  $1.3 \times 10^{17} \text{ s}^{-1}$  respectively. The sets of models were run for the temperature range between 10 and 200 K and the total hydrogen densities from  $10^4 \text{ cm}^{-3}$  to  $10^6 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ . The results (Fig. 7) are consistent with starless cloud model. Without any additional source of the UV radiation HCN is more abundant than CN by about 2-3 orders of magnitude. Moreover, the model shows that CN/HCN abundances ratio is slightly dependent on gas temperature up to 150 K.

These results justify assumptions for modelling the neighbourhood of low-mass protostars with the gas temperature of 50 K allowing to fix one of the model's parameters. The code was run for the range of visual extinction between  $-4.5^{\text{m}}$  and

<sup>2</sup> <http://kida.obs.u-bordeaux1.fr/>

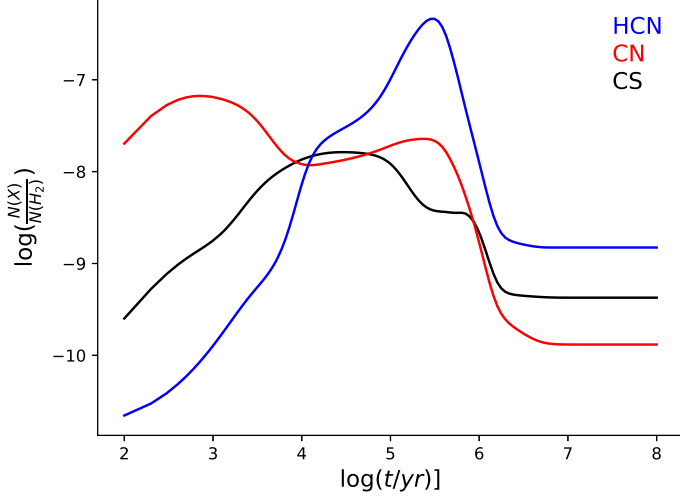


Fig. 6: Time evolution of CN (red line), HCN (blue line) and CS (black line) abundances obtained with Nohoon astrochemical code with initial parameters of  $n_{\text{HI}+2\text{H}_2} = 10^4 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ ,  $T = 10 \text{ K}$ ,  $A_V = 5 \text{ mag}$ . The assumed cosmic-ray ionization rate is  $1.3 \times 10^{17} \text{ s}^{-1}$ , dust to gas mass ratio is 0.01, dust grain radius is  $10^{-5} \text{ cm}$ , grain density is  $3 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$ .

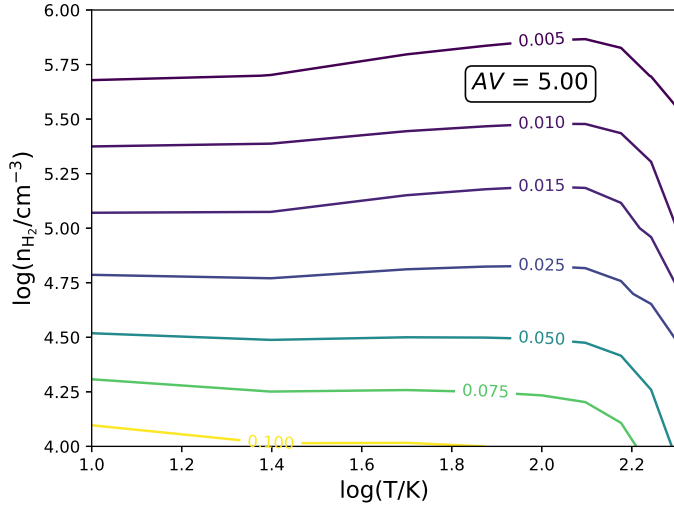


Fig. 7: Contour plot of Nahoon sets of models of CN/HCN abundances ratio with fixed visual extinction  $A_V = 5 \text{ mag}$  at the time of  $10^7 \text{ yrs}$  after star formation began in the cloud.

$2.5^{\text{m}}$  that corresponds to the UV radiation field  $G_0$  of  $4 \times 10^{-4}$  to  $1.25 \times 10^6$ . The computed CN/HCN abundances ratio is presented in Fig. 10. The calculated column density ratio covers parameter space of all probed densities and  $G_0$  range between  $10^{-4}$  and 0.05 in weak UV radiation regime. The observed CN/HCN ratio is reproduced at the  $G_0$  values greater than  $1.5 \times 10^3$  as well. HCN is more abundant than CN in very weak ( $<10^{-3} G_0$ ) radiation fields. This result is consistent with simulations of a starless cloud that leads to a conclusion that additional UV radiation source is needed to reproduce the observational ratios.

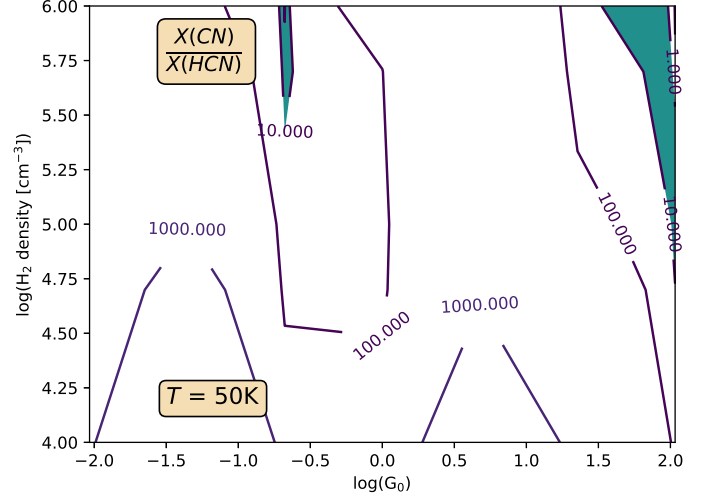


Fig. 8: Similar to Fig. 7 but for fixed temperature  $T = 50 \text{ K}$ .

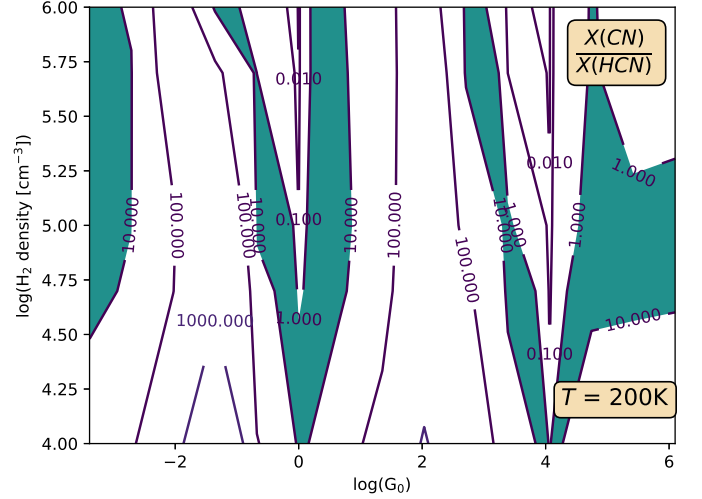


Fig. 9: Similar to Fig. 7 but for fixed temperature  $T = 200 \text{ K}$ .

Comparing CN/HCN results with similar plots of CN/CS and CS/HCN ratio (Fig. F.1 and Fig. F.2 respectively) restricts the parameter space to very low-density and weakly irradiated gas or a dense gas with strong UV radiation. CN/CS ratio varies between 9 and 29 for all protostars positions, while CS/HCN ratio is in range of 0.12-0.26. Astrochemical models computed for these molecules show similar behaviour to that presented for CN/HCN ratio. UV radiation with the strength of  $G_0$  in order of  $10^3 - 10^4$  is not very probable in low-mass protostars neighbourhood. At the protostars' positions high hydrogen densities can be assumed. Astronomical models show that an additional UV radiation source of the strength of few hundredth of the average interstellar UV radiation field is required to cover the observational ratios.

Low CN/HCN ratio found in astrochemical model for strongly irradiated gas was a surprising result. Both production and destruction of each molecule need to be investigated in order to explain the reason behind HCN abundances being higher

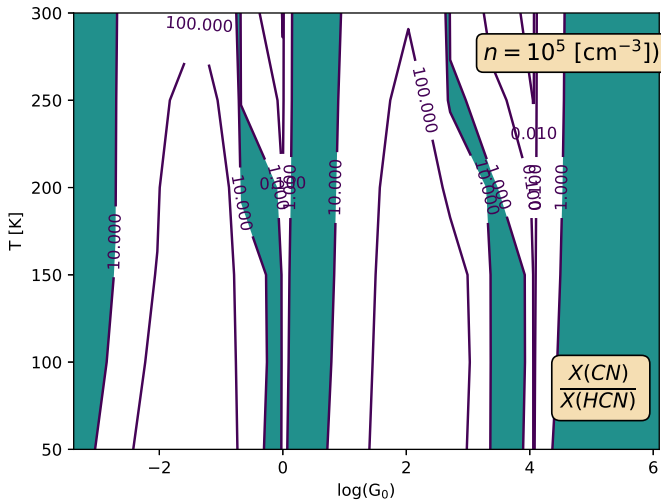


Fig. 10: Similar to Fig. 7 but for fixed hydrogen density  $n_{\text{H}+\text{H}_2} = 10^5 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ .

than expected. Detailed models of the most dominant reactions for destruction and production of each molecule are presented in Fig. G.1 – Fig. G.4 with the assumption of fixed 50 K temperature. Reaction flux is defined as reactants abundances multiplied by reaction rate coefficient. Only these reactions were taken into consideration which accumulated flux is greater than 80% of the total flux of all reactions contributed in the studied molecules destruction or production.

The reactions distribution in the parameter space is not very strongly depended on hydrogen densities. The strength of an additional UV radiation source is the parameter that distinguishes the dominant reactions the most. It was divided into three regimes: with weak, intermediate and strong UV field. The reactions where CN or HCN production or destruction is greater than 30% are listed in Tab. 8 as well as illustrated in Fig. G.5–Fig. G.7.

In the regime of weak UV radiation fields dominant formation channels of CN and HCN are hydrocarbons (CH and  $\text{CH}_2$  respectively) reactions with atomic nitrogen. In more dense areas electron reaction with CNC cation plays role in the CN formation. The destruction of CN is mostly dominated with reaction with neutral oxygen (60-70%) or nitrogen (30% or less). In weakly irradiated environment atomic elements are more abundant in the neutral state. More of the ionised atoms are produced with the increase of the UV radiation what blocks these effective channels of CN destruction.

On the other hand, HCN destruction is driven by many channels in the weakest UV regime. Simultaneous impact of few different reactions is not as effective as the reaction ruling the CN destruction. It leads to higher HCN abundances compared to CN. HCN reaction with abundant  $\text{C}^+$  is the dominant destructive reaction for slightly stronger radiation fields ( $>10^{-3}$ ). This reaction results in  $\text{CNC}^+$  production which quickly reacts with electron forming CN. That explains why CN/HCN ratio increases with larger radiation.

CN/HCN ratio is widely used as UV radiation tracer in PDRs (eg. Thi et al. 2004, Han et al. 2015). HCN photodissociates into CN molecule and H atom, while CN requires more energetic photon ( $> 12.4 \text{ eV}$ ) to be disintegrated (van Dishoeck 1987). This leads to higher abundance of CN molecules and increases

CN/HCN column density ratio. Fluxes of HCN photodissociation (Fig. G.2) show that this reaction has marginal contribution in nitrogen chemistry up to  $G_0 \approx 100$ .

## 6. Conclusions

- HCN  $J = 1-0$  and CN  $J = 1-0$  show different spatial distribution. The emission of CN is concentrated at the positions of protostars, while HCN traces molecular outflows.
- CN/HCN column density ratio is in the range of 1-10 calculated both with LTE and non-LTE assumption.
- An additional source of UV radiation of the strength  $G_0 \approx 10^{-2}$  is required to cover the observational CN/HCN range. There is non-zero UV radiation field around low-mass protostars.
- CN/HCN ratio starts to play important role in the nitrogen bearing species chemistry at  $G_0 \approx 10^2$ .

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Table 7: Dominant processes in CN, HCN chemistry - envelope (50K)

Molecule	Weak UV fields ( $G_0 = 10^{-3} - 10^{-1}$ )	Medium UV fields ( $G_0 = 10^{-1} - 10^1$ )	Strong UV fields ( $G_0 = 10^1 - 10^6$ )
CN	$O + CN \rightarrow N + CO$ $CN + N \rightarrow C + N_2$	<b>Destruction</b> $CN + ph \rightarrow C + N$ $O + CN \rightarrow N + CO$	$CN + ph \rightarrow C + N$
	<b>Production</b> $N + CH \rightarrow H + CN$ $CNC^+ + e^- \rightarrow C + CN$ $N + C_2 \rightarrow C + CN$	<b>Production</b> $N + C_2 \rightarrow C + CN$ $H + CN^+ \rightarrow CN + H^+$	$HCN^+ + e^- \rightarrow H + CN$ $N + CH \rightarrow H + CN$ $H + CN^+ \rightarrow CN + H^+$ $N + C_2 \rightarrow C + CN$
		<b>Destruction</b> $HCN + C^+ \rightarrow H + CNC^+$ $HCN + ph \rightarrow H + CN$	$HCN + ph \rightarrow H + CN$ $HCN + C^+ \rightarrow H + CNC^+$
		<b>Production</b> $N + CH_2 \rightarrow H + HCN$ $H + CCN \rightarrow C + HCN$ $HCNH^+ + e^- \rightarrow H + HCN$ $C + HNC \rightarrow C + HCN$	$HCNH^+ + e^- \rightarrow H + HCN$ $H + CCN \rightarrow C + HCN$
HCN	$HCN + C^+ \rightarrow H + CNC^+$ $HCN^+ + HCO^+ \rightarrow CO + HCNH^+$ $HCN + H^+ \rightarrow H + HNC^+$ $HCN + ph \rightarrow H + CN$	$HCN + C^+ \rightarrow H + CNC^+$ $HCN + ph \rightarrow H + CN$	$HCN + ph \rightarrow H + CN$ $HCN + C^+ \rightarrow H + CNC^+$
		<b>Production</b> $N + CH_2 \rightarrow H + HCN$ $H + CCN \rightarrow C + HCN$ $HCNH^+ + e^- \rightarrow H + HCN$ $C + HNC \rightarrow C + HCN$	$HCNH^+ + e^- \rightarrow H + HCN$ $H + CCN \rightarrow C + HCN$

Table 8: Dominant processes in CN, HCN chemistry - outflow (200K)

Molecule	Weak UV fields ( $G_0 = 10^{-3} - 10^{-1}$ )	Medium UV fields ( $G_0 = 10^{-1} - 10^1$ )	Strong UV fields ( $G_0 = 10^1 - 10^6$ )
CN	$O + CN \rightarrow N + CO$ $CN + N \rightarrow C + N_2$	<b>Destruction</b> $CN + ph \rightarrow C + N$ $O + CN \rightarrow N + CO$	$CN + ph \rightarrow C + N$
	<b>Production</b> $CNC^+ + e^- \rightarrow C + CN$ $N + C_2 \rightarrow C + CN$ $HCN + ph \rightarrow H + CN$	<b>Production</b> $N + C_2 \rightarrow C + CN$ $H + CN^+ \rightarrow CN + H^+$	$H + CN^+ \rightarrow CN + H^+$ $HCN^+ + e^- \rightarrow H + CN$ $N + C_2 \rightarrow C + CN$ $N + CH \rightarrow H + CN$ $HCN + ph \rightarrow H + CN$
		<b>Destruction</b> $HCN + C^+ \rightarrow H + CNC^+$ $HCN + ph \rightarrow H + CN$	$HCN + ph \rightarrow H + CN$ $HCN + C^+ \rightarrow H + CNC^+$
		<b>Production</b> $N + CH_2 \rightarrow H + HCN$ $H + CCN \rightarrow C + HCN$ $CN + H_2 \rightarrow H + HCN$ $C + HNC \rightarrow C + HCN$	$HCNH^+ + e^- \rightarrow H + HCN$ $H + CCN \rightarrow C + HCN$ $H_2NC^+ + e^- \rightarrow H + HCN$ $N + CH_2 \rightarrow H + HCN$
HCN	$HCN + C^+ \rightarrow H + CNC^+$ $HCN + ph \rightarrow H + CN$ $HCN + HCO^+ \rightarrow CO + HCNH^+$	$HCN + C^+ \rightarrow H + CNC^+$ $HCN + ph \rightarrow H + CN$	$HCN + ph \rightarrow H + CN$ $HCN + C^+ \rightarrow H + CNC^+$
		<b>Production</b> $N + CH_2 \rightarrow H + HCN$ $H + CCN \rightarrow C + HCN$ $CN + H_2 \rightarrow H + HCN$ $C + HNC \rightarrow C + HCN$	$HCNH^+ + e^- \rightarrow H + HCN$ $H + CCN \rightarrow C + HCN$ $H_2NC^+ + e^- \rightarrow H + HCN$ $N + CH_2 \rightarrow H + HCN$

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## Appendix A: Spectral Energy Distributions

Broad-band observations are needed in order to determine physical properties of a protostar. Dunham et al. 2015 studied properties of protostars in the Serpens molecular cloud using 2MASS (Skrutskie et al. 2006) and Spitzer IRAC/MIPS (Evans et al. 2009), observations covering the range of 1.25–70  $\mu\text{m}$ , photometry from Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer 12 and 22  $\mu\text{m}$  (WISE; Wright et al. 2010), SHARC-II 350  $\mu\text{m}$  (Suresh et al. 2016), the SCUBA Legacy Catalog 450 and 850  $\mu\text{m}$  (Di Francesco et al. 2008) and 1.1 mm observations from Bolocam dust survey (Enoch et al. 2007). The Serpens Main region was also observed during the Herschel Gould Belt survey project (André et al. 2010). SPIRE/PACS photometry in the Serpens molecular cloud is discussed in Fiorellino et al. (in prep.).

Based on SEDs the bolometric temperature and luminosity can be calculated for each of the observed protostars. The bolometric luminosity was determined by integrating the SEDs over frequency:

$$L_{bol} = \pi d^2 \int F_\nu d\nu \quad (\text{A.1})$$

where  $d$  is the cloud distance of  $436 \pm 9.2$  pc (Ortiz-León et al. 2017). The bolometric temperature was calculating as described in Myers & Ladd 1993:

$$T_{bol} = 1.25 \cdot 10^{-11} \bar{\nu} \quad (\text{A.2})$$

where  $\bar{\nu}$  is the mean frequency given by:

$$\bar{\nu} = \frac{\int \nu F_\nu d\nu}{\int F_\nu d\nu} \quad (\text{A.3})$$

Using Scipy *splrep* and *splev* functions cubic smooth spline interpolation of the photometric data was performed while calculating the protostars parameters. Integration along the resulting axis was obtain with the composite trapezoidal rule (*Scipy* package). The photometric data allows us to perform the integration along wide range of wavelength with exception of SMM8. Here we have only 4 photometric points from the Herschel Gould Belt so the calculated bolometric luminosity and temperature can be underestimated.

## Appendix B: Line profiles

## Appendix C: Molecular emission maps

## Appendix D: Flux correlations

## Appendix E: Wings emission

## Appendix F: Astrochemical models

## Appendix G: Dominant reactions in CN, HCN chemistry

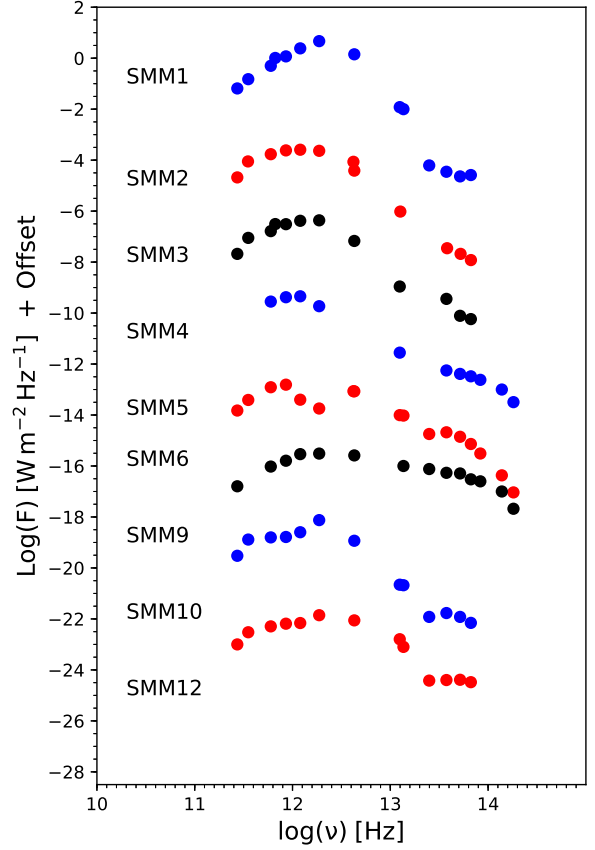


Fig. A.1: Spectral Energy Distributions of protostars in the Serpens Main region.

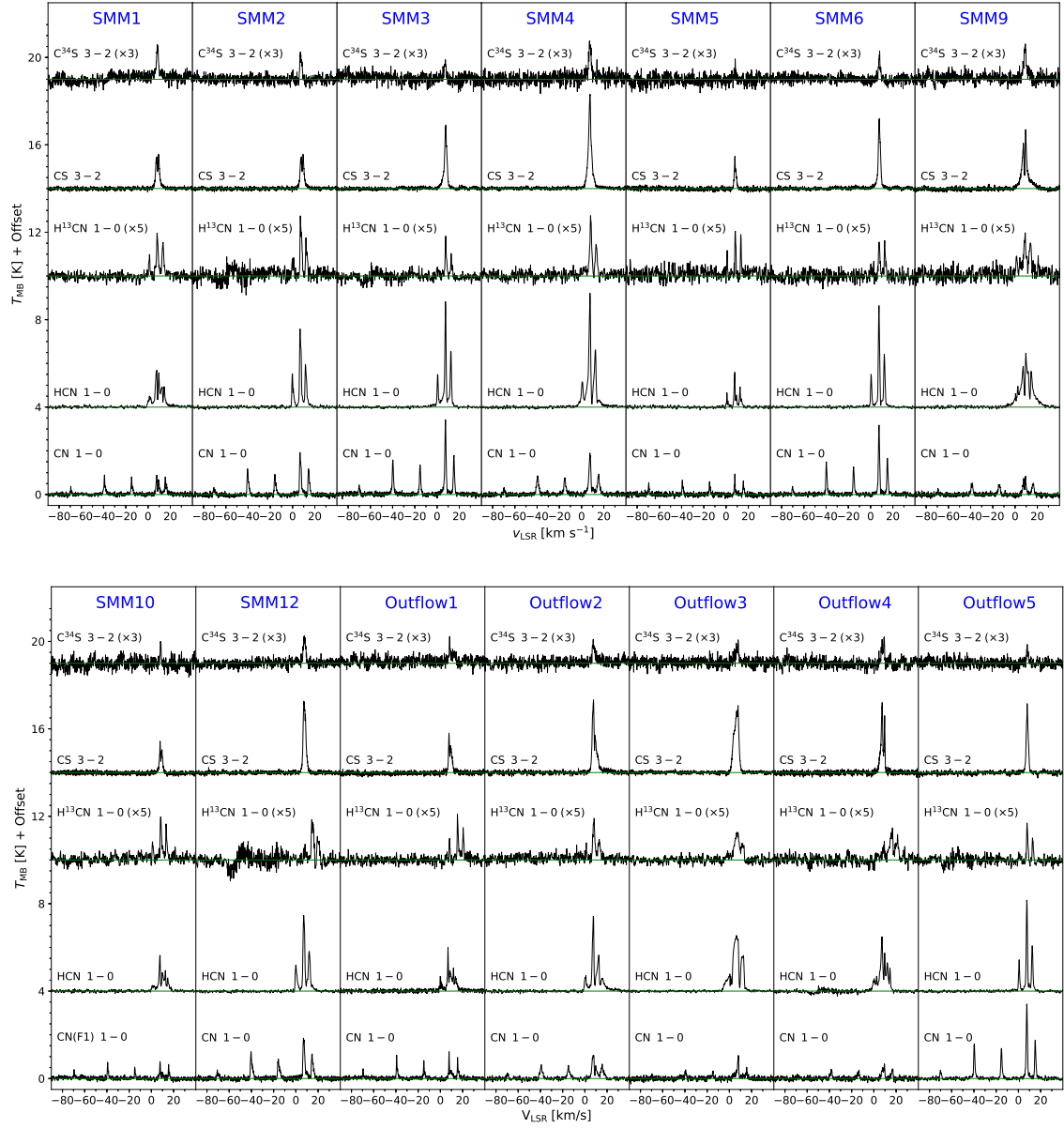


Fig. B.1: Serpens Main sources spectra of  $C^{34}S(3-2)$ ,  $CS(3-2)$ ,  $H^{13}CN(1-0)$ ,  $HCN(1-0)$  and  $CN(1-0)$  lines.

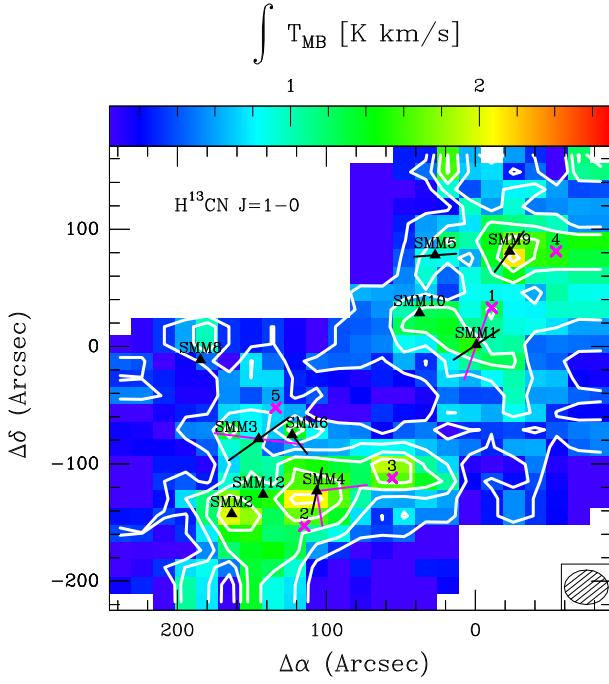


Fig. C.1: Similar to Fig. 2 but the emission of the  $\text{H}^{13}\text{CN } J = 1 - 0$  line. The first contour at  $10 \sigma$  level, with step of  $10 \sigma$

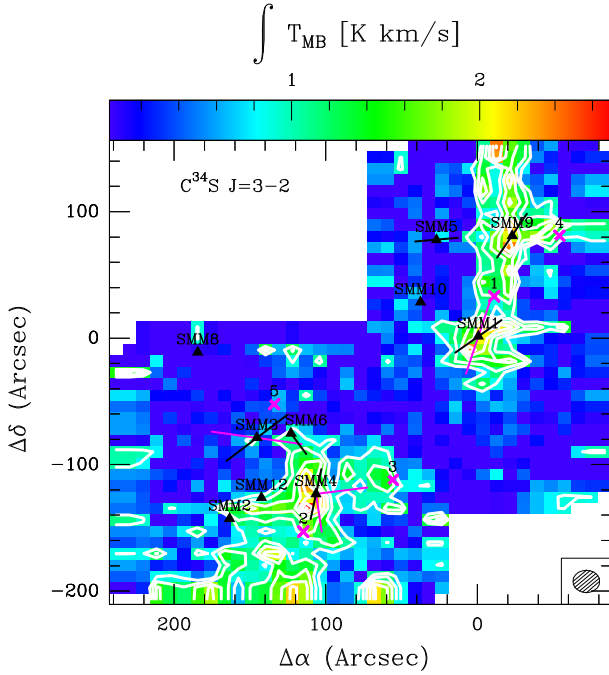


Fig. C.2: Similar to Fig. 2 but the emission of the  $\text{C}^{34}\text{S } J = 3 - 2$  line. The first contour at  $30 \sigma$  level, with step of  $10 \sigma$

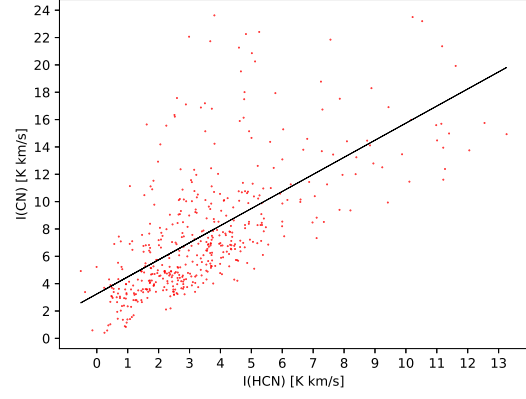


Fig. D.1: Correlation of  $\text{CN } J = 1 - 0$  and  $\text{HCN } J = 1 - 0$  integrated intensities  $\int T_{mb} dV$  for every pixel. A least-squares linear regression (black line) with following parameters: slope = 1.25, intercept = 0.24, stderr = 0.07. The Pearson correlation coefficient equals 0.65.

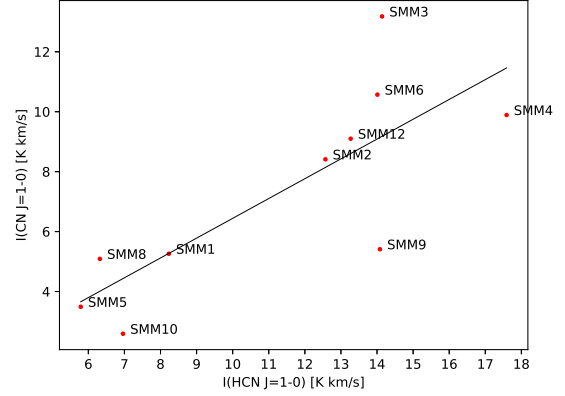


Fig. D.2: Correlation of  $\text{CNJ} = 1 - 0$  and  $\text{HCNJ} = 1 - 0$  integrated intensities  $\int T_{mb} dV$  for all sources. A least-squares linear regression (black line) with following parameters: slope = 0.66, intercept = -0.17, stderr = 0.18. The Pearson correlation coefficient equals 0.79.

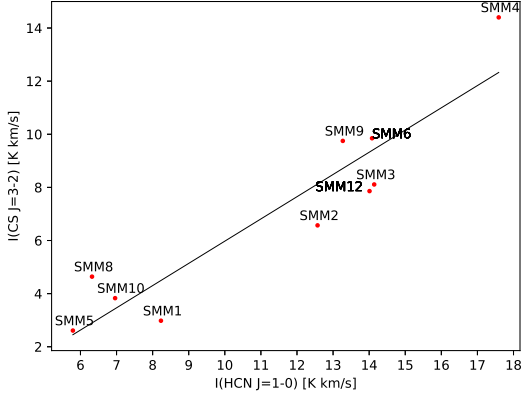


Fig. D.3: Similar to Fig. D.2 but CS  $J = 3 - 2$  and HCN  $J = 1 - 0$  lines correlation. A least-squares linear regression (black line) with following parameters: slope = 0.83, intercept = -2.39, stderr = 0.12. The Pearson correlation coefficient equals 0.93.

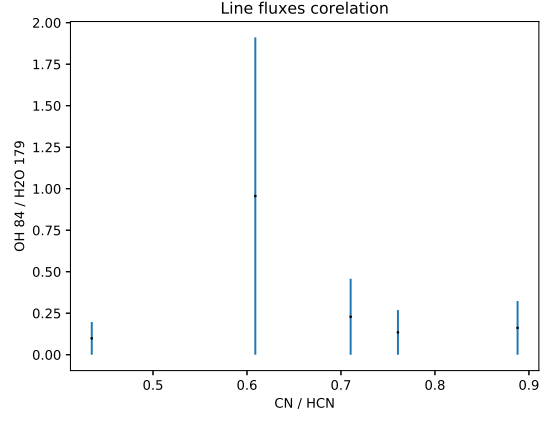


Fig. D.6: Correlation of OH 84  $\mu\text{m}$  and H<sub>2</sub>O 179  $\mu\text{m}$  fluxes.

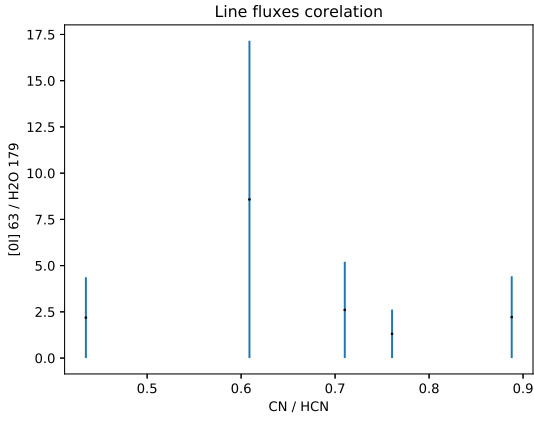


Fig. D.4: Correlation of [OI] 63  $\mu\text{m}$  and H<sub>2</sub>O 179  $\mu\text{m}$  fluxes.

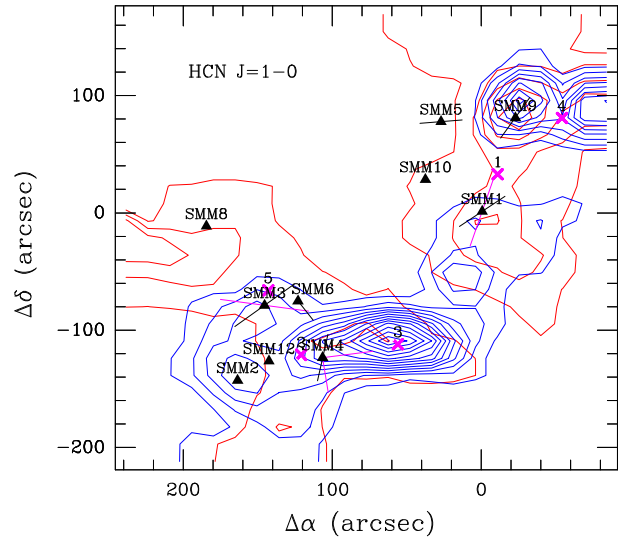


Fig. E.1: HCN  $J = 1 - 0$  blue-shifted and red-shifted emission in Serpens Main region. The first contour is at  $5\sigma$  with the step of  $3\sigma$ . Triangles and lines marked as described in 2.

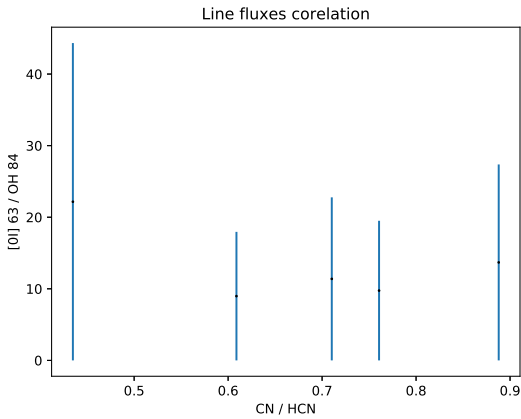


Fig. D.5: Correlation of [OI] 63  $\mu\text{m}$  and OH 84  $\mu\text{m}$  fluxes.

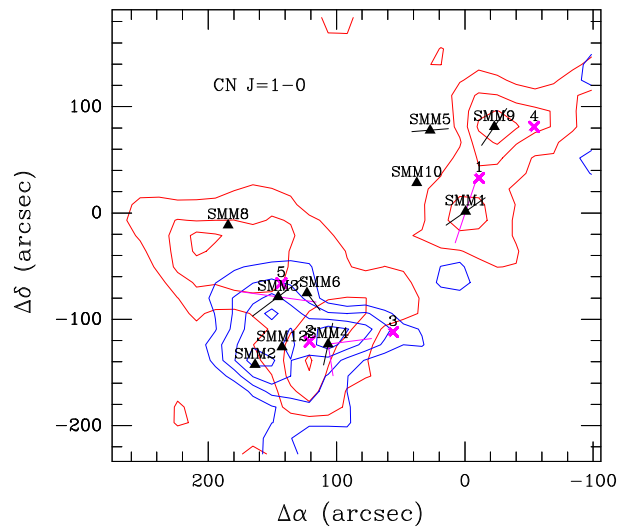


Fig. E.2: Similar to Fig. E.1 but the emission of the CN  $J = 1 - 0$  line.



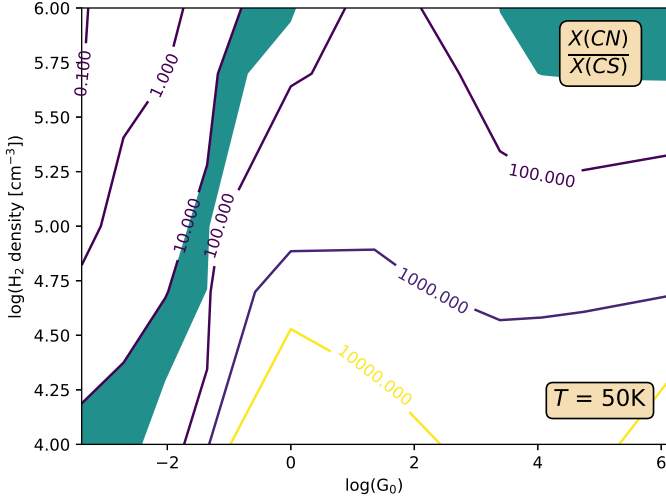


Fig. F.1: Similar to Fig. 10 but for CN/CS ratio.

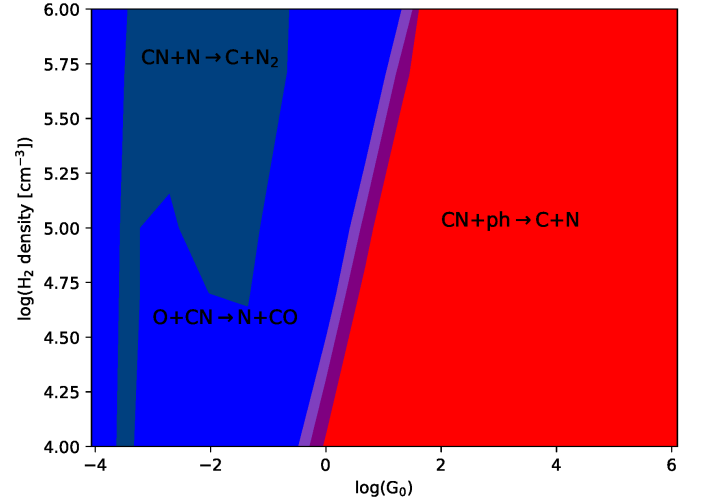


Fig. G.1: Dominant reactions of CN destruction. Reactions contributed at least 50% of total flux are marked with full colours. Transparent colours correspond to 30%-50% contribution.

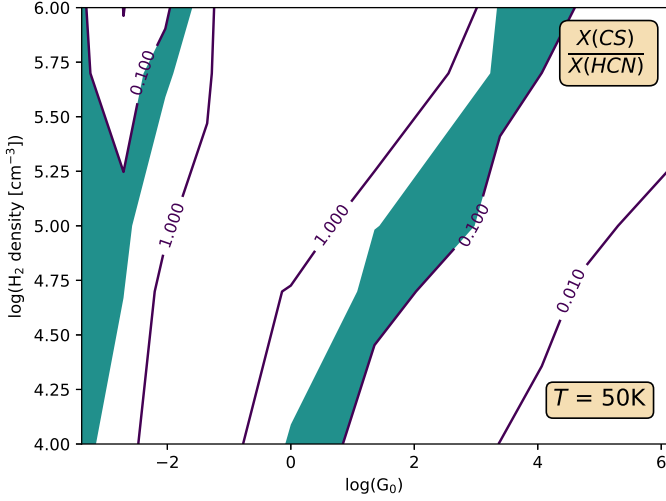


Fig. F.2: Similar to Fig. 10 but for CS/HCN ratio.

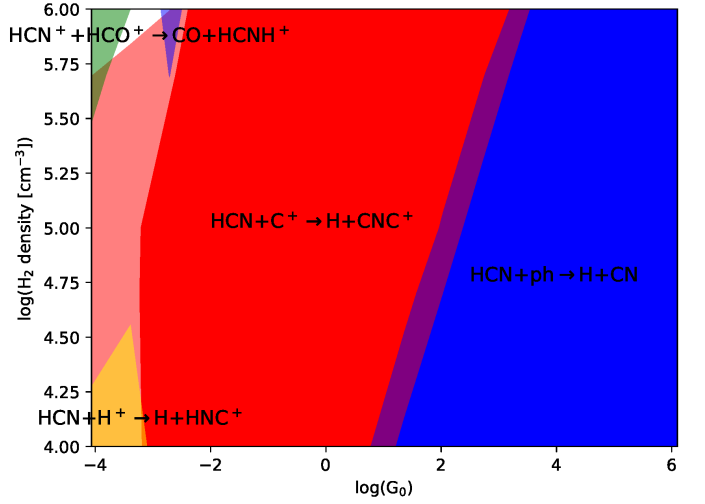


Fig. G.2: Similar to Fig. G.1 but for HCN destruction.

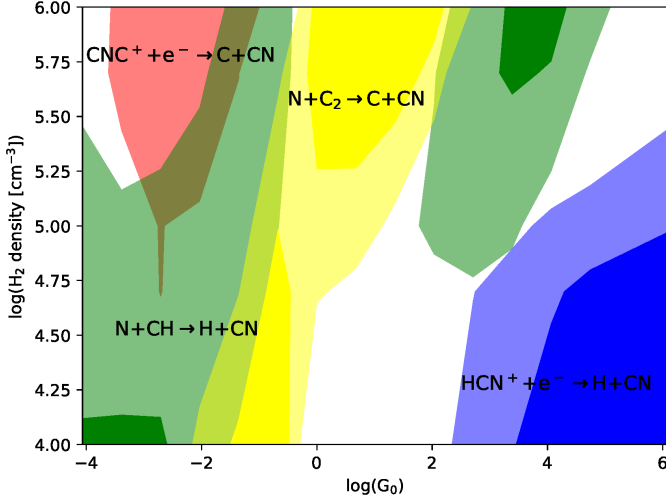


Fig. G.3: Similar to Fig. G.1 but for CN production.

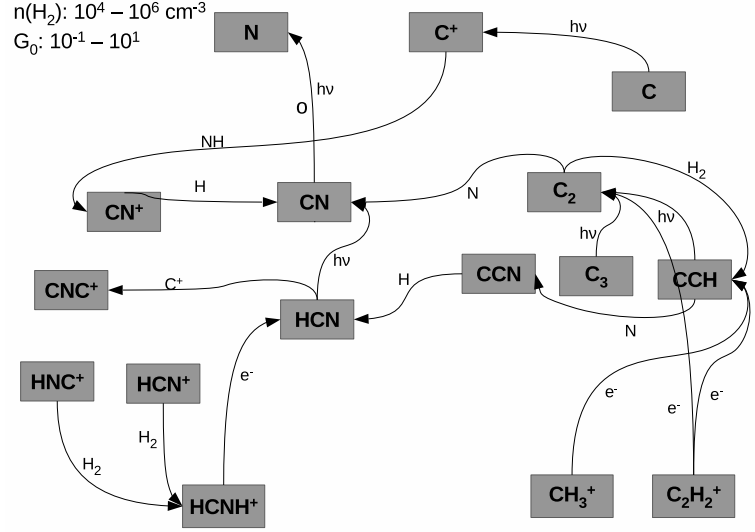


Fig. G.6: Similar to Fig. G.5 but for UV field of  $G_0 = 10^{-1} - 10^1$ .

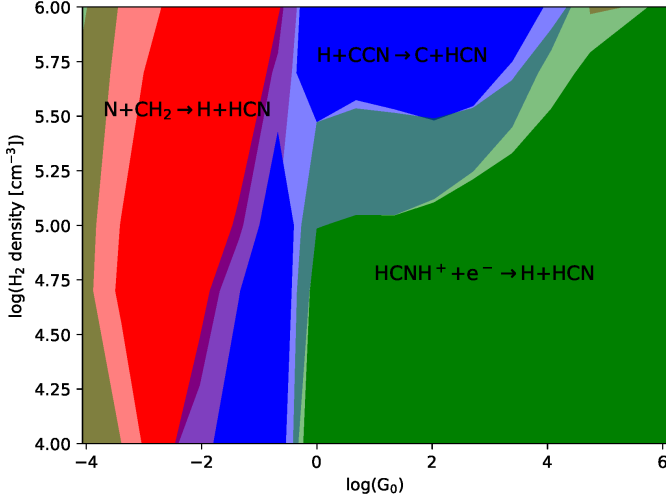


Fig. G.4: Similar to Fig. G.1 but for HCN production.

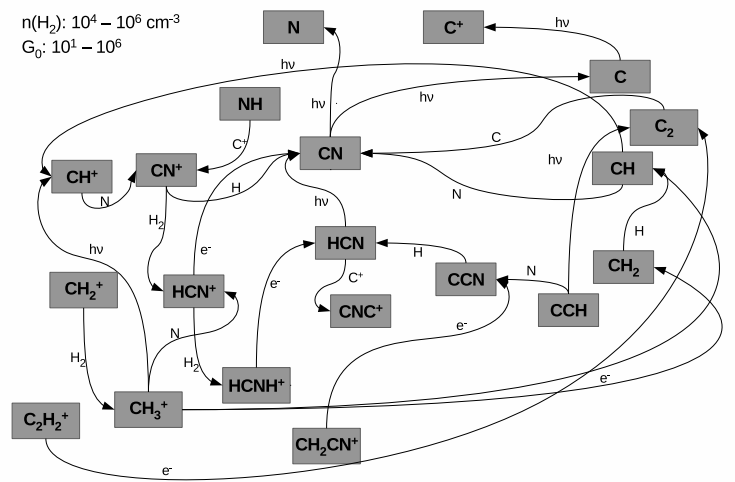


Fig. G.7: Similar to Fig. G.5 but for for UV field higher than  $G_0 = 10^1$ .

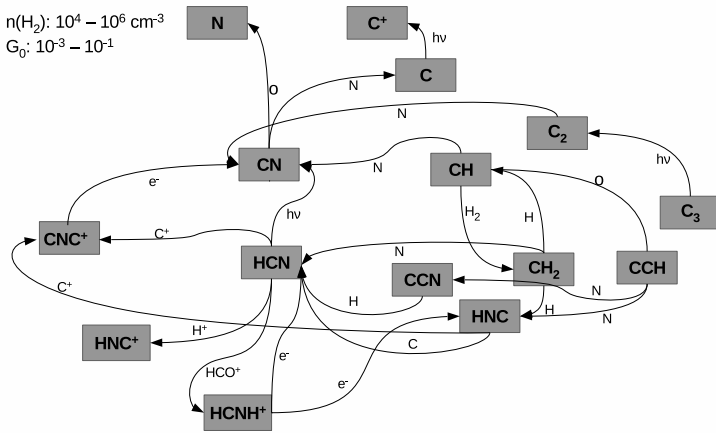


Fig. G.5: Reactions network for weakly UV irradiated gas.