Mapping PAH sizes in NGC 7023 with SOFIA

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Overview

- Introduction
- NGC 7023
- Instruments
- Images
- PAH size emission model



Croiset et al., 2016, A&A, 590, A26

PAH emission

Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbon









PAH emission

"11.2/3.3 µm proportional to PAH size"

- Absorption UV
- Vibrational emission
- Typical vibrational modes:
 - C-H 3.3 µm, neutral
 - C-H $8.6 \ \mu m$, ionized
 - C-Η 11.2 μm,



Leger, d'Hendecourt, Defourneau (1989)

(stretch) (in plane bending) (out of plane bending)

Photo Dissociation Region



Photo Dissociation Region

unstable VSG evaporate \rightarrow compact PAH at PDR surface \rightarrow PAH broken down



NGC 7023 (Iris nebula)

- Reflection Nebula
- Distance: 320 pc
- Herbig Be Star system



Hubble NGC 7023 North PDR (1995)

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NGC 7023 (Iris nebula)

" H_2 2.12 µm traces the PDR surface"



Hubble NGC 7023 (1995) & CFHT 2.12 µm

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Instruments



NASA SOFIA -FLITECAM: 3.3 μm -FORCAST: 11.2 μm



NASA SPITZER -IRAC 8.0 µm



CFHT -MIDAS: 2.12 μm



NASA HST -NICMOS: ERE

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Instruments



AKARI, Pilleri et al., 2015

Images



Croiset et al., 2016



11.2 / 3.3 μm



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8.50

6.50

5.00

4.00

3.00 2.50

2.00

1.75

Images

PAH

Very Small Grains



VSG normalized intensity 0.96 0.90 0.84 0.78 0.72 0.66 0.60 0.54

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Extinction Crossection PAH Photon energy emitted

Avg. photon energy absorbed by the PAH

- NASA Ames PAH IR spectral database
- Spectra of 27 different PAHs

"Avg. photon energy emitted \rightarrow Dust extinction \rightarrow absorbed by PAH \rightarrow PAH spectra \rightarrow 11.2/3.3 µm"

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Croiset et al., 2016



11.2 / 3.3 μm





Summary

- The PDR surface is well traced by the 11.2/3.3 ratio and H₂
- A factor of ~2 in size variation
- unstable VSG evaporate \rightarrow compact PAH at PDR surface \rightarrow smallest PAH broken down \rightarrow Avg. size increases in the cavity

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Future work

- Observe more objects with SOFIA
- Laboratory work to examine the $11.2/3.3 \mu m$
- Model the effect PAH size in PDR models
- JWST

Croiset et al., 2016, A&A, 590, A26

Images



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