Subarcsecond imaging of the water emission in Arp 220*,

S. König, J. M. Martín, S. Muller, A. Cernicharo, K. Sakamoto, L. K. Zschaechner, E. M. L. Humphreys, T. Mroczkowski, M. Krips, M. Galametz, S. Aalto, W. H. T. Vlemmings, J. Ott, D. S. Meier, A. Fuente, S. García-Burillo, and R. Neri

1 Chalmers University of Technology, Department of Earth and Space Sciences, Onsala Space Observatory, 43992 Onsala, Sweden (e-mail: sabine.koenig@chalmers.se)
2 European Southern Observatory (ESO), Alonso de Córdova 3107, Vitacura, Casilla 19001, 763 0355 Santiago, Chile
3 Joint ALMA Observatory, Alonso de Córdova 3107, Vitacura, Casilla 19001, 763 0355 Santiago, Chile
4 Grupo de Astrofísica Molecular, Instituto de CC. de Materiales de Madrid (ICMM-CSIC), Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz 3, Cantoblanco, 28049 Madrid, Spain
5 Institute of Astronomy and Astrophysics, Academia Sinica, PO Box 23-141, 10617 Taipei, Taiwan
6 Max-Planck Institute for Astronomy, Königstuhl 17, 69117 Heidelberg, Germany
7 European Southern Observatory (ESO), Karl-Schwarzschild-Str. 2, 85748 Garching bei München, Germany
8 Institut de Radioastronomie Millimétrique (IRAM), 300 rue de la Piscine, Domaine Universitaire, 38406 Saint-Martin-d’Hères, France
9 Laboratoire AIM, CEA/IRFU/Service d’Astrophysique, Bât. 709, 91191 Gif-sur-Yvette, France
10 National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NRAO), PO Box O, 1003 Lopezville Road, Socorro, NM 88001, USA
11 New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, Socorro, NM 87801, USA
12 Observatorio Astronómico Nacional (OAN, IGN), Apdo 112, 28803 Alcalá de Henares, Spain
13 Observatorio de Madrid, OAN-IGN, Alfonso XII, 3, 28014 Madrid, Spain

Received 22 December 2016 / Accepted 6 March 2017

ABSTRACT

**Aims.** Extragalactic observations of water emission can provide valuable insight into the excitation of the interstellar medium. In particular they allow us to investigate the excitation mechanisms in obscured nuclei, that is, whether an active galactic nucleus or a starburst dominates.

**Methods.** We use subarcsecond resolution observations to tackle the nature of the water emission in Arp 220. ALMA Band 5 science verification observations of the 183 GHz H$_2$O $\nu = 2_0 \rightarrow 1_1$ line, in conjunction with new ALMA Band 7 H$_2$O $\nu = 4_2 \rightarrow 3_3$ data at 325 GHz, and supplementary 22 GHz H$_2$O $\nu = 5_3 \rightarrow 4_2$ VLA observations, are used to better constrain the parameter space in the excitation modeling of the water lines.

**Results.** We detect 183 GHz H$_2$O and 325 GHz water emission toward the two compact nuclei at the center of Arp 220, being brighter in Arp 220 West. The emission at these two frequencies is compared to previous single-dish data and does not show evidence of variability. The 183 and 325 GHz lines show similar spectra and kinematics, but the 22 GHz profile is significantly different in both nuclei due to a blend with an NH$_3$ absorption line.

**Conclusions.** Our findings suggest that the most likely scenario to cause the observed water emission in Arp 220 is a large number of independent masers originating from numerous star-forming regions.

**Key words.** galaxies: individual: Arp 220 – galaxies: ISM – galaxies: starburst – ISM: molecules

1. Introduction

At a luminosity distance of 78 Mpc (1" = 378 pc), Arp 220 makes for one of the most interesting objects of study in the nearby Universe. It is a suitable target to examine a large number of different tracers of the interstellar medium (ISM), sampling different physical conditions on a large range of spatial scales. Its high infrared luminosity ($L_{IR} \approx 1.4 \times 10^{12} L_\odot$, Soifer et al. 1987) makes Arp 220 a good local proxy for high-redshift (ultra-)luminous infrared galaxies (U)LIRGs.

As a result, we now know that Arp 220 is the result of a merger (Arp 1966; Nilson 1973; Sakamoto et al. 1999) – the two remnant nuclei, Arp 220 East and Arp 220 West, are separated by only ∼380 pc at the center of Arp 220 (e.g., Downes & Eckart 2007; Aalto et al. 2009; Sakamoto et al. 2009; Martín et al. 2011). They are each embedded in their own rotating gas disks in the foreground of a kpc-scale molecular gas disk (e.g., Scoville et al. 1997; Sakamoto et al. 1999; König et al. 2012). The different origins of the two nuclei manifest themselves as a misalignment in the rotation axes of the gaseous disks. Whether AGN or the powerful starburst associated with the central activity, or a mixture of the two, facilitates the bright appearance of this prototypical ULIRG at many wavelengths is still under debate (e.g., Smith et al. 1998; Lonsdale et al. 2006; Downes & Eckart 2007; Sakamoto et al. 2008).

The physical conditions in Arp 220 have been probed using a number of tracers at radio, mm and submm wavelengths...
In this paper, we combine subarcsecond-scale ALMA observations of the three major water lines at 22, 183, and 325 GHz to study the excitation conditions in Arp 220. ALMA observations yielded convincing evidence for the presence of water masers (at 22 GHz: Cernicharo et al. 2006b; Galametz et al. 2016; Zschaechner et al. 2016). Water emission at 321 GHz that was recently reported toward Circinus and NGC 4945 (Hagiwara et al. 2013, 2016; McMullin et al. 2007) resulting in a beam size of 0.79" × 0.71" (−0.30 kpc × 0.27 kpc), and individual data cubes were created for each spectral window. The resulting sensitivities are shown in Table 1. After calibration and imaging within CASA, the visibilities were converted into FITS format and imported in the GILDAS/MAPPING2 for further analysis.

2.1.1. Band 5

ALMA observations of the H2O 313−210 line at 183.310 GHz rest frequency were self-calibrated using the “tclean” task in CASA 4.7.01 (McMullin et al. 2007) resulting in a beam size of 0.79" × 0.71" (−0.30 kpc × 0.27 kpc), and individual data cubes were created for each spectral window. The resulting sensitivities are shown in Table 1. After calibration and imaging within CASA, the visibilities were converted into FITS format and imported in the GILDAS/MAPPING2 for further analysis.

2.1.3. Contribution of line blending

Since the mm spectrum of Arp 220 contains numerous spectral lines (see e.g., Martin et al. 2011), we carefully investigate the potential contamination by other species. Both the 183 and 325 GHz water lines are affected by blending with other molecular transitions. To correctly estimate the water line intensities, taking into account this contribution from other species, we used the synthetic spectrum model fit to Band 6 and 7 observations (Martin et al., in prep.). The model fit was performed assuming LTE conditions and includes the contribution from more than 30 species, isotopologs and vibrationally excited states.

1 http://casa.nrao.edu/

2 http://www.iram.fr/IRAMFR/GILDAS
Table 1. Water line properties.

| Line                | $\nu_{\text{rest}}$ [GHz] | $E_{\text{upper}}$ [K] | Telescope | Beam | $\int S \, d\nu$ [Jy km s$^{-1}$] | Date of observation | Reference |
|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|------|----------------------------------|---------------------|----------|
| H$_2$O 6$_{16}$−5$_{21}$ | 22.23508                 | 609                      | VLA       | 14"  | 0.34                               | March 2011–June 2012 | 1        |
| H$_2$O 3$_{13}$−2$_{20}$ | 183.31009                | 205                      | IRAM 30 m | 14"  | 0.79"×0.71"                        | January 2005         | 2        |
|                     |                          |                          | ALMA      | 35"  | 56.0                               | April, May 2014      | 3        |
|                     |                          |                          | ALMA      | 35"  | 56.0                               | July, September 2015 | 4        |
| H$_2$O 5$_{15}$−4$_{22}$ | 325.15292                | 470                      | IRAM 30 m | 8"   | 13.7                               | July 2016            | 3        |
|                     |                          |                          | ALMA      | 8"   | 45.4                               | June, July 2014      | 3        |
|                     |                          |                          | ALMA      | 8"   | 9.1                                | June, July 2014      | 3        |

Notes. (a) When two values are given, the left column denotes the contamination-corrected integrated intensities measured in Arp 220 East, the right column is for Arp 220 West. A single value given represents the uncorrected integrated intensities for a region that encompasses both nuclei. (b) The integrated intensities given for the interferometric observations are the contamination-corrected values. (1) Zschaechner et al. (2016), (2) Cernicharo et al. (2006b), (3) this work, (4) Galametz et al. (2016). (d) Derived from the luminosity given in their Table 1.

Band 5 appears to properly fit the emission outside the water line. The main contribution to the observed profile around this water line is the emission of both C$_2$H$_5$CN and HC$_5$N $\nu_2 = 2$ at 183.1 GHz and the c-C$_2$H$_5$ at 183.6 GHz. The main contaminants to the 325 GHz H$_2$O line are CH$_2$NH emission at 325.3 GHz, and to a lesser extent, CH$_3$CCH emission at 324.6 GHz.

All flux values for the interferometrically observed water lines stated from this point on refer to the spectra corrected for their contaminants, and should thus only contain contributions by the corresponding water lines.
Fig. 1. Water emission from Arp 220 West (black) and Arp 220 East (red) at 22 (left), 183 (center) and 325 GHz (right). The spectra were extracted from data convolved with the same beam of 0.79″ × 0.71″. An artificial offset in intensity was introduced to better show the spectra for each nucleus separately. The dotted lines show the zero-intensity levels. The 22 GHz spectrum has been corrected for contamination by the NH$_3$(3,1) absorption line. The dark and light blue curves in the 183 and 325 GHz spectra represent the synthetic spectrum used to evaluate the contamination of the water line by other emission lines (Martín et al., in prep.).

Fig. 2. Maps of the integrated intensity distributions (left) and the velocity fields (right) of the 183 and 325 GHz water lines. Integrated intensity maps: phase center is located at Arp 220 West ($\alpha$ = 15:34:57.220, $\delta$ = +23:30:11.60). The contours start at 5σ and are spaced in steps of 10σ (1σ(183 GHz) = 3.9 mJy km s$^{-1}$, 1σ(325 GHz) = 5.4 mJy km s$^{-1}$). Velocity fields: color scale is identical for both lines (5200 km s$^{-1}$–5600 km s$^{-1}$) and the velocity contours start at 5280 km s$^{-1}$ and are spaced in steps of 30 km s$^{-1}$. North is up, east to the left. The beam (0.79″ × 0.71″) is indicated in the bottom right corner of each image. The bar in the lower left corner represents a spatial scale of 200 pc.

broad line with the NH$_3$ absorption on top of the water line. If this is the case, then the 22 GHz water line in Arp 220 East is even brighter than what we take into account here. This could also mean that the majority of the 22 GHz line in Arp 220 West is absorbed so that we are missing this velocity component, which would also explain the apparent misalignment of the velocities between the eastern and western nuclei visible in Fig. 1. A contribution of the $^{13}$CH$_3$OH line as mentioned in Zschaechner et al. (2016) is very unlikely; this line has not been detected in any of the broad frequency spectral scans conducted in Arp 220 so far (e.g., Martín et al. 2011; Aladro et al. 2015).

3.2. Other identified lines in Band 5

Other detected lines included in the Band 5 tuning are HNC 2–1, CH$_3$OH 4–3, and CS 4–3 (see Fig. B.1). These lines have been previously observed with SEPIA at APEX by Galametz et al. (2016). Furthermore, fainter lines identified within the respective frequency ranges are vibrationally excited HC$_3$N (several lines close to H$_2$O 3$_{13}$–2$_{20}$) and CH$_3$CN 10–9 (see also Table B.1), as well as potentially H$^{13}$CCCN, C$^{34}$S 4–3 and $^{13}$CH$_3$CN. They have been identified using the synthetic spectrum extrapolated from Bands 6 and 7 (Martín et al., in prep.) to Band 5 (see Sect. 2). Most of these lines are fainter in Arp 220 East than in Arp 220 West. They all have been previously detected at 1 and/or 3 mm by Martín et al. (2011) and Aladro et al. (2015), for example.

4. Discussion

In 2006, Cernicharo et al. observed the H$_2$O 3$_{13}$–2$_{20}$ line at 183 GHz rest frequency for the first time in Arp 220. Its isotropic luminosity placed it firmly in the range of megamasers. This detection was later confirmed by Galametz et al. (2016). The absence of time variations in the line in-between the two observing periods and the similar line profile to H$_2$O (Martín et al. 2011) led to speculations about the origin of the water emission: both analyses favor thermal processes and/or a large number of star-forming cores as the cause of the observed water signature, rather than an AGN maser origin. However, at the time Cernicharo et al. (2006b) performed the modeling only information about the spatially unresolved 183 GHz line was available.
The authors concluded that only a combination of the three major water lines at 22, 183, and 325 GHz would provide a clear picture of the excitation conditions in the molecular gas emitting water emission in Arp 220. Their excitation analysis was further limited by the lack of spatial resolution. Hence, this work, where we make use of subarcsecond-scale observations of all three lines, does represent a major step forward in finding the true powering source of the bright water emission in Arp 220.

4.1. Time variability

We compare the line contamination uncorrected ALMA Band 5 data with previous single-dish spectra from the IRAM 30 m and APEX (see Table 1). A degradation of the convolving beam allows us to compare to what has been found by Cernicharo et al. (2006b) and Galametz et al. (2016, Fig. 3). The flux recovered from the degraded ALMA data (35″ aperture) is ~56.0 Jy km s⁻¹. This is 10% larger than the flux found by Galametz et al. (2016), which matches their measurement uncertainties. Line shapes and widths (FWHM) that are larger than the size of the two nuclei (e.g., Downes & Eckart 2007; Aalto et al. 2009; Sakamoto et al. 2009; Martín et al. 2011). The consistency between the contamination-uncorrected ALMA Band 5 and single-dish spectra (intensity, line shape, see Fig. 3) suggests that the water line did not vary in time in between observations. The lack of variability in the lines gives us further confidence that the line ratios used in the LVG modeling below, are robust despite being observed at different times. Typical timescales on which those variations are expected for extralagalactic water megamaser emission can range from minutes to days to weeks to months to years (e.g., Greenhill et al. 1997; Raluy et al. 1998; Braatz et al. 2003; Lo 2005, and references therein).

4.2. Line morphology

4.2.1. Ratios

A comparison of the integrated intensity values given in Sect. 3.1 shows that the integrated intensity 183-to-325 GHz ratios for the two nuclei, I₁₈₃/West/I₁₈₃/East (325 GHz) and I₁₈₃/West/I₁₈₃/East (325 GHz), are 1.9 and 1.5, respectively. The intensity ratios between the nuclei at each of the two frequencies differ as well: I₁₈₃ (West)/I₁₈₃ (East) ~3.5 and I₃₂₅ (West)/I₃₂₅ (East) ~2.8.

The observed peak brightness temperatures at 22, 183 and 325 GHz are comparable: 6.6 K at 22 GHz (in Arp 220 East, see also Table 2), 11.1 K at 183 GHz (in Arp 220 West), 2.1 K at 325 GHz (in Arp 220 West). These temperatures are much lower than what is typically expected for maser emission (~10⁴−¹⁰ K or more; Slysh 2003; Cernicharo et al. 2006a; Cesaroni 2008; Gray 2012, and references therein). Thus, despite the high isotropic luminosity, and together with the lack of variability at 183 and 325 GHz it seems unlikely that the water emission in Arp 220 could have a maser origin if coming from one large cloud (e.g., of the size of the beam) surrounding the nuclei. A thermal origin was suggested as an alternative by Martín et al. (2011) and Galametz et al. (2016). However, thermal emission from the three lines seems unlikely as the 22 GHz line arises from an energy level E_uppers at 609 K (see Table 1) which will require very specific physical conditions to have pure thermal emission. Moreover, the observed line intensity ratios are not compatible with pure thermal emission. Hence, it is very likely possible that the emission region is much smaller than the beam size we reach in this work, for example, a large number of smaller clumps emitting in the water lines. Consequently, the corresponding brightness temperatures would rise considerably above the values measured here. High angular resolution observations with the most extended configurations of ALMA are needed to determine the true projected surface area of the H₂O emission.
4.2.2. Line shapes

Compared to extragalactic maser emission, for example in Cirkun (e.g., Hagiwara et al. 2013, 2016; Pesce et al. 2016), the line shapes of the 183 GHz and 325 GHz water lines in Arp 220 are rather unspectacular. The complex velocity structure with multiple narrow features commonly associated with megamasers is not apparent in Arp 220. The contamination-free spectra show broad emission lines ($FWHM \sim 318 \text{ km s}^{-1}$) that are uniform in their structure (Fig. 4). In Arp 220 East, the emission lines have a boxy, double-peaked, non-Gaussian appearance. In Arp 220 West the spectra are single-peaked symmetric and Gaussian-like. This is also corroborated in the velocity fields at both frequencies (Fig. 2). Extragalactic sources exhibiting maser lines of complex velocity structure are typically those where the maser is associated with the accretion disk or torus close to an AGN. These so-called disk-masers are mostly found in Seyfert 2 and LINER galaxies (low ionization emission region, e.g., Kartje et al. 1999; Kuo et al. 2011, 2015). In other galaxies, megamasers are caused by the interaction between the AGN jet and molecular clouds in the surrounding interstellar medium (jet-masers, e.g., Mrk 348; Peck et al. 2003; Castangia et al. 2016). The maser lines in these sources are typically as featureless as what we find in Arp 220. However, a comparison of the velocity distributions in the water emission in Arp 220 to, for example, the CO 1−0 velocity field (e.g., Scoville et al. 2017), shows a similar rotation pattern. Thus, it seems unlikely that the maser emission is due to an interaction between an AGN jet and molecular clouds in its vicinity. The signature of this process would introduce a disturbance in the velocity field that would be apparently different from the rotation pattern observed at the spatial and spectral resolutions in the data. A complementary scenario previously suggested to explain the maser emission in Arp 220 is that it originates from a large number of star-forming cores, comparable to what has been found in Sgr B2 (Cernicharo et al. 2006b; Galametz et al. 2016). Indeed, high-resolution VLBI observations have discovered almost fifty point sources in the central 0.5 kpc that have been identified as radio supernovae (RSNe) and supernova remnants (SNRs, Smith et al. 1998; Lonsdale et al. 2006; Parra et al. 2007; Batejat et al. 2011), pointing toward very active star formation. In fact, with a star formation rate of 100 $M_\odot$ yr$^{-1}$ (e.g., Anantharamaiah et al. 2000; Thrall 2008; Varenius et al. 2016), it is certainly possible that the brightness of water lines observed in Arp 220 is entirely due to the emission from a large number of star-forming regions.

4.3. Excitation

In the following discussion, we assume that the observed 22 GHz emission is real and that its observed intensity has an uncertainty of 50% due to the strong contamination by NH$_3$. The three lines observed in this paper arise from upper energy levels at 205 K (183 GHz), 470 K (325 GHz), and 609 K (22 GHz; the given levels correspond to the ortho species which is 34 K above the para one) and have Einstein coefficients of $3.62 \times 10^{-6}$ s$^{-1}$, 1.15 $\times 10^{-5}$ s$^{-1}$ and 1.98 $\times 10^{-5}$ s$^{-1}$ respectively. Hence, excitation conditions could be very different for the three lines and the observed emission could trace different regions of the clouds. A comparison of the expected brightness temperatures of the three lines at 22, 183, and 325 GHz in Arp 220 was previously made by Cernicharo et al. (2006b). Here we repeat these calculations using new collisional rates of Daniel et al. (2011), including dust emission excitation effects on the population of the rotational levels of H$_2$O. In all cases, we assumed that the main collider is ortho H$_2$. Dust emission will affect the range of volume and column densities under which these lines will have a significant emission in Arp 220. For the far-IR lines of water vapor observed in this source, González-Alfonso et al. (2004, 2012) concluded that all the lines were formed around the optically thick continuum sources in the two nuclei of Arp 220. The dust opacity is so large that these lines appear in absorption as they are subthermally excited. However, the 22, 183, and 325 GHz lines observed here appear in emission and collisional excitation does play an important role in the emerging intensity. Moreover, unlike the far-IR lines that cannot give information about regions of high dust opacity, the three submillimeter, millimeter, and radio lines considered here could transport some information from these regions.

We have modeled the water emission at 22, 183, and 325 GHz in Arp 220 using the MADEX code (Cernicharo 2012). The model includes a central source of dust emission to assess the effect of the dust on the predicted intensity of the lines. Figure 5 shows the predicted intensities for a large range of H$_2$ densities, gas temperatures (50 to 300 K), and column densities $N$(H$_2$O)/$\Delta v$ (4 $\times 10^{16}$ to 4 $\times 10^{18}$ cm$^{-2}$) ($\text{km s}^{-1}$). As for other water maser models, such as, for example, Neufeld & Melnick (1991), we assume an ortho-to-para ratio of 3:1. Solid lines represent the expected intensities without continuum emission while dashed lines show the results when infrared pumping from dust is taken into account. The central source has a size of 5 pc and the layer of water vapor was placed at a distance of 1.5 pc from the outer radius of the continuum source. As expected, the effect of infrared pumping is a reduction of the maser effect (in particular for the 22 GHz line) and a shift of the intensity maximum toward higher densities. For low gas densities and temperatures, the presence of infrared pumping significantly increases the emission of the three water lines. The predicted brightness temperatures, in absence of dust, agree very well with those of Arp 220 West (top) and East (bottom).
Cernicharo et al. (2006b). As the density and gas temperature increase, maser effects do appear in a similar way than what has been found in their work. Placing the layer of water vapor at larger distances from the continuum dust emission source reduces the infrared pumping considerably.

To pinpoint the range of parameters describing the physical conditions in the emission regions of the water lines Arp 220, we start from the simplest assumption: the water emission at 22, 183, and 325 GHz arises from a single large cloud. If a continuum source is not considered, the observed intensities of the 183 GHz and 325 GHz lines alone could be reproduced simultaneously within a parameter space of \( n(H_2) = 10^2 - 10^5 \text{ cm}^{-3} \), \( T_K = 100 \text{ K} \), and \( (N(H_2O)/\Delta v) = 4\times10^{17} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ (km s}^{-1})^{-1} \). If dust emission is taken into account, no solution can be found for the 183 and 325 GHz lines. On top of that, both these models fail to reproduce the 22 GHz line. It is thus not possible to converge on a solution for this most simple scenario.

Therefore, our next approach is to model the water emission as originating from several smaller clouds. To estimate the impact of the number and size of the clouds, we introduce a dilution factor \( d \). The dilution factor is a measure of the area occupied by a structure of radius \( r \) inside the region covered by the beam: \((r/r_{\text{beam}})^2\) (for one source). For \( N \) sources, the dilution factor will be \( \sum r_i^2 / r_{\text{beam}}^2 \). A dilution factor of 1 means that the solid angle of the source is equal to the solid angle of the beam. If \( d \) is 0.1, 10% of the beam area is filled by the source(s). A \( d \) of 0.001 means that the emission is coming from a small fraction of the beam. The dilution factor also has an influence on the true brightness temperature – \( T_b / d \).

Assuming that the water emission originates from a number of smaller clouds does indeed result in a common solution for all three lines – for low dilution factors \( d \) at high column densities \( (N(H_2O)/\Delta v) = 4\times10^{18} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ (km s}^{-1})^{-1} \) and high temperatures \( (T_K = 200-300 \text{ K}) \). If no continuum source is present, the dilution factors we have to apply are 0.005 for \( T_K = 200 \text{ K} \) and 0.0025 for \( T_K = 300 \text{ K} \). The density for which this solution is found is rather low, around \( 8\times10^4 \text{ cm}^{-3} \). If the continuum source is present, the dilution factor has to be 0.001 for \( T_K = 200 \text{ K} \) and 0.0007 for \( T_K = 300 \text{ K} \). In this case, the density is \( \approx10^5 \text{ cm}^{-3} \). In both cases the three lines are masing. The large dilution factors we derive imply a large number of small sources inside the beam. As a reference, the extremes of the estimated dilution factors of 0.0007 and 0.005 would be equivalent to a single source of 0.018″ (7 pc) and 0.05″ (18 pc), or a large number of smaller sources. This is also what had been previously suggested by Cernicharo et al. (2006b) and Galametz et al. (2016).

The above estimations assume the same dilution factor applied for the three lines, which is of course very unlikely if we consider what is known for the emission of these lines in galactic sources (see Sect. 4.2). This, however, is the best we can do with the limited information we have so far on the spatial extent of the emission. Moreover, the lack of information about the spatial position of the sources relative to the continuum emission introduces large uncertainties in the estimated densities and temperatures. In addition, the solution found fitting all three lines has to be taken with caution in view of the uncertainties in the emission of the 22 GHz line.

We conclude that the most plausible origin of the observed emission is that a large number of small dense and warm molecular clouds, strongly diluted in our 0.7″ angular resolution synthetic beam, are present around the nuclei of Arp 220. A solution involving moderate densities of \( 10^4 - 10^5 \text{ cm}^{-3} \) and \( T_K = 100 \text{ K} \) is also possible but fails to reproduce the 22 GHz line. For the same column density of water, the 183 and 325 GHz lines could be also fitted with higher densities if we assume a dilution factor for the emitting clouds. Due to the peculiar physical conditions needed to pump the 183 and 325 GHz lines (see Table 1) – they originate from spatial sizes much larger than those corresponding to the 22 GHz maser emission (e.g., Cernicharo et al. 1990, 1994) – higher spatial resolution observations with ALMA of these lines could provide strong constraints on the physical conditions of the molecular clouds of Arp 220. If one were to assume that the ensemble of clouds from which the emission at 183 and 325 GHz originates in Arp 220 occupies similar size scales to, for example, the emission region in Sgr B2 (about 25 pc, e.g., Scoville et al. 1975), then the Arp 220 emission region would be at least a factor of 10 smaller than the beam size in our data (\( \sim0.066″ \) at the Arp 220 distance). Distinct regions exhibiting maser emission in Sgr B2 have sizes of approximately 0.7 pc (e.g., de Vicente et al. 1997), which at the distance of Arp 220 corresponds to source sizes of \( \sim0.002″ \). This would mean that we cover between 100 and \( \sim1000 \text{ Sgr B2 equivalent sources} \) with our ALMA beam. Although we cannot resolve the individual sources, the longest baseline configurations of ALMA can help disentangle the distribution of water emission in Arp 220.
5. Summary and conclusions

With our interferometric observations of three water lines (22 GHz, 183, and 325 GHz) we constrain the physical conditions in the H$_2$O emitting gas in both nuclei of Arp 220. A comparison of spectra of the 183 and 325 GHz water lines observed at different dates within a time frame of 11 and 2 yr, respectively, shows that the emission is not variable given the velocity resolution and sensitivity of the data. The 22 GHz observations suggest that the lack of emission in the western nucleus at this frequency is most likely not intrinsic to the physics of the water line, but a result of the strong ammonia absorption. The observed line intensity ratios are not compatible with a pure thermal origin of the water emission. A LVG model does reproduce the observed results relatively well for Arp 220 when introducing a dilution factor for the emitting clouds: column densities above 10^{18} cm$^{-2}$ (km s$^{-1}$)$^{-1}$, temperatures $T_{\text{kin}} \geq 200$–300 K, and H$_2$ densities between $\sim$10$^5$ and 10$^6$ cm$^{-3}$. Our findings support previous suggestions that a large number of star-forming clumps are the source of the bright water maser emission in both nuclei of Arp 220.

Acknowledgements. We thank the staff at the JAO and the EU ARC Network who have participated in the EOC and Science Verification activities, observations and data reduction that made the release of the data to the community possible. This paper makes use of the following ALMA data: ADS/JAO.ALMA#2011.0.00018.SV and ADS/JAO.ALMA#2012.1.00045.S. ALMA is a partnership of ESO (representing its member states), NSF (USA) and NINS (Japan), together with NRC (Canada) and NSC and ASIAA (Taiwan), and KASI (Republic of Korea), in cooperation with the Republic of Chile. The Joint ALMA Observatory is operated by ESO, AUI/NRAO and NAOJ. The National Radio Astronomy Observatory is a facility of the National Science Foundation operated under cooperative agreement by Associated Universities, Inc. IRAM is supported by INSU/CNRS (France), MPG (Germany) and IGN (Spain). J.C. and A.F. thank the ERC for support under grant ERC-2013-AdG-615476-LANOCOSMOS. They also thank Spanish MICINN for funding support under the program AYA2012-32032, and from the CONSOLIDER Ingenio program “ASTROMOL” CSD-2009-00038. KS acknowledges grant 105-2119-M-001-036 from the Taiwanese Ministry of Science and Technology.

References

Cernicharo, J., Bachiller, R., & Gonzalez-Alfonso, E. 1999, A&A, 358, L5
Cernicharo, J., Pardo, J. R., Gonzalez-Alfonso, E., et al. 1999, ApJ, 520, L131
Cernicharo, J., Goicoechea, J. R., Pardo, J. R., & Asensio-Ramos, A. 2006a, ApJ, 642, 940
Cernicharo, J., Pardo, J. R., & Weiss, A. 2006b, ApJ, 646, L49
Cesaroni, R. 2008, in Proc. 2nd MCC-UKSADs Training School, Radio Astronomy: Fundamentals and the New Instruments, 18
Daniel, F., Dubernet, M.-L., & Grosjean, A. 2011, A&A, 536, A76
De Buizer, J. M., Radomski, I. T., Telesco, C. M., & Piña, R. K. 2005, ApJS, 156, 179
de Vicente, P., Martín-Pintado, J., & Wilson, T. L. 1997, A&A, 320, 957
Downes, D., & Eckart, A. 2007, A&A, 468, L57
Galametz, M., Zhang, Z.-Y., Immer, K., et al. 2016, MNRAS, 462, L36
Gonzalez-Alfonso, E., Cernicharo, J., Bachiller, R., & Fuente, A. 1995, A&A, 293
Gonzalez-Alfonso, E., & Cernicharo, J. 1999, ApJ, 525, 845
Gonzalez-Alfonso, E., Cernicharo, J., Alcolea, J., & Orlandi, M. A. 1998, A&A, 334, 106
Gonzalez-Alfonso, E., Smith, H. A., Fischer, J., & Cernicharo, J. 2004, ApJ, 613, 247
Gonzalez-Alfonso, E., Fischer, J., Gacria-Carpio, J., et al. 2012, A&A, 541, A4
Gray, M. 2012, Maser Sources in Astrophysics (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press)
Greenhill, L. J., Ellingsen, S. P., Norris, R. P., et al. 1997, ApJ, 474, L103
Hagiyara, Y., Miyoshi, M., Doi, A., & Horiiuchi. S. 2013, ApJ, 768, L38
Hagiyara, Y., Horiiuchi, S., Doi, A., Miyoshi, M., & Edwards, P. G. 2016, ApJ, 827, 69
Humphreys, E. M. L., Greenhill, L. J., Reid, M. J., et al. 2005, ApJ, 634, L133
Humphreys, E. M. L., Vlemmings, W. H. T., Impellizzeri, C. M., et al. 2016, A&A, 592, L13
Kartje, J. F., Königl, A., & Elitzur, M. 1999, ApJ, 513, 180
König, S., García-Marín, M., Eckart, A., Downs, D., & Scharwächter, J. 2012, ApJ, 754, 58
Kuo, C. Y., Braatz, J. A., Condon, J. J., et al. 2011, ApJ, 727, 20
Kuo, C. Y., Braatz, J. A., Lo, K. Y., et al. 2015, ApJ, 800, 26
Lefloch, B., Cernicharo, J., Pacheco, S., & Ceccearelli, C. 2011, A&A, 527, L3
Lo, K. Y. 2005, ARA&A, 43, 655
Lonsdale, C. J., Diamond, P. J., Thrall, H., Smith, H. E., & Lonsdale, C. J. 2006, ApJ, 647, 185
Martin, S., Krips, M., Martín-Pintado, J., et al. 2011, A&A, 527, A36
Martin, S., Aalto, S., Sakamoto, K., et al. 2016, A&A, 590, A25
McMullin, J. P., Waters, B., Scheibel, D., Young, W., & Golap, K. 2007, in Astronomical Data Analysis Software and Systems XVI, eds. R. A. Shaw, F. Hill, & D. J. Bell, ASP Conf. Ser., 376, 127
Neufeld, D. A., & Melnick, G. J. 1991, ApJ, 368, 215
Nilson, P. 1973, Uppsala General Catalog of Galaxies, Nova Acta Regiae Soc. Sci. Upsaliensis Ser. V
Parra, R., Conway, J. E., Diamond, P. J., et al. 2007, ApJ, 659, 314
Peck, A. B., Henkel, C., Ulvestad, J. S., et al. 2003, ApJ, 590, 149
Pesce, D. W., Braatz, J. A., & Impellizzeri, C. M. V. 2016, ApJ, 827, 68
Raley, F., Planesas, P., & Colina, L. 1998, A&A, 335, 113
Rangwala, N., Maloney, P. R., Wilson, C. D., et al. 2015, ApJ, 806, 17
Richards, A. M. S., Impellizzeri, C. M. V., Humphreys, E. M., et al. 2014, A&A, 572, L9
Sakamoto, K., Scoville, N. Z., Yun, M. S., et al. 1999, ApJ, 514, 68
Sakamoto, K., Wang, J., Wiedner, M. C., et al. 2008, ApJ, 684, 957
Sakamoto, K., Aalto, S., Wilker, D. J., et al. 2009, ApJ, 700, L104
Scoville, N. Z., Solomon, P. M., & Penzias, A. A. 1975, ApJ, 201, 352
Scoville, N. Z., Yun, M. S., & Bryant, P. M. 1997, ApJ, 484, 702
Scoville, N., Sheth, K., Walter, F., et al. 2015, ApJ, 800, 70
Scevoll, N., Murchikova, L., Walter, F. et al. 2016, ApJ, 836, 66
Slysh, V. I. 2003, in Radio Astronomy at the Fringe, eds. J. A. Zensus, M. H. Cohen, & E. Ros, ASP Conf. Ser., 300, 239
Smith, H. E., Lonsdale, C. J., Lonsdale, C. J., & Diamond, P. J. 1998, ApJ, 493, L17
Snijder, B. T., Sanders, D. B., & Madore, B. F., et al. 1987, ApJ, 320, 238
Thrall, H. 2008, in Pathways Through an Eclectic Universe, eds. J. H. Knapen, T. J. Mahoney, & A. Vazdekis, ASP Conf. Ser., 390, 200
Tunnard, R., Greve, T. R., García-Burillo, S., et al. 2015, ApJ, 800, 25
Varenius, E., Conway, J. E., Martí-Vidal, L., et al. 2016, A&A, 593, A86
Wilson, C. D., Rangwala, N., Glenn, J., et al. 2014, ApJL, 789, L36
Zschachner, L. K., Ott, J., Walter, F. et al. 2016, ApJ, 833, 41
Appendix A: 22 GHz correction

Fig. A.1. Left: original 22 GHz spectrum in Arp 220 West (in black), the applied fit to account for the NH$_3$ absorption (red) and the residual spectrum (blue). For clarity purposes the residual spectrum is shown at an offset in y by +25 mJy. Right: zoom into the NH$_3$ (4,2) (top) and NH$_3$ (3,1) (bottom) line features.

Appendix B: ALMA Band 5 spectrum

Fig. B.1. Spectrum covering all spectral windows observed with ALMA in Band 5. Arp 220 West spectra are artificially offset by 50 mJy for clarity of the figure. The molecular transitions on which each spectral window was centered are indicated above.

Table B.1. Properties of the additional emission lines securely identified in ALMA Band 5.

| Line         | $\nu_{\text{rest}}$ [GHz] | $\int S\, d\nu$ [Jy km s$^{-1}$] | Peak flux$^a$ [mJy] | $FWHM^a$ [km s$^{-1}$] |
|--------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| HNC 2–1      | 181.32476                | 36.4                             | 91.4                 | 79.0                   | 163.0                  | 469 ± 20                | 369 ± 20                |
| CH$_3$OH 4–3 | 193.45436                | 8.1                              | 12.8                 | 13.0                   | 31.3                   | 376 ± 20                | 346 ± 20                |
| CS 4–3       | 195.95421                | 18.5                             | 35.8                 | 42.2                   | 84.5                   | 437 ± 20                | 437 ± 20                |
| VIB-HC$_3$N$^b$ | ~182.6                 | 2.0                              | 16.3                 | 9.0                    | 32.1                   | ~$^c$                    | ~$^c$                    |
| CH$_3$CN 10–9 | 183.957                 | 2.4                              | 10.8                 | 11.4                   | 32.7                   | 332 ± 20                | 396 ± 20                |

Notes. ($^a$) The left column denotes the integrated intensities measured in Arp 220 East, the right column is for Arp 220 West. ($^b$) This line is a blending of different vibrational HC$_3$N components. ($^c$) Since this is a blending of several components, and the FWHM is not fully covered by the band, no values for the line width are given.