DISENTANGLING THE ENVIRONMENT OF THE FU ORIONIS CANDIDATE HBC 722 WITH HERSHEYEL∗

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ABSTRACT

We analyze the submillimeter emission surrounding the new FU Orionis-type object, HBC 722. We present the first epoch of observations of the active environs of HBC 722, with imaging and spectroscopy from PACS, SPIRE, and HIFI on board the Herschel Space Observatory, as well as CO J = 2–1 and 350 μm imaging (SHARC-II) with the Caltech Submillimeter Observatory. The primary source of submillimeter continuum emission in the region—2MASS 20581767+4353310—is located 16′′ south–southeast of the optical flaring source while the optical and near-infrared emission is dominated by HBC 722. A bipolar outflow extends over HBC 722; the most likely driver is the submillimeter source. We detect warm (100 K) and hot (246 K) CO emission in the surrounding region, evidence of outflow-driven heating in the vicinity. The region around HBC 722 itself shows little evidence of heating driven by the new outbursting source itself.

Key words: ISM; jets and outflows – stars: individual (HBC 722) – stars: pre-main sequence – stars: variables: T Tauri, Herbig Ae/Be – submillimeter: ISM

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1. INTRODUCTION

FU Orionis-type objects (hereafter FUors) are a class of low-mass pre-main sequence objects named after the prototype FU Orionis, which produced a 5 mag optical outburst in 1936 and has remained in its brightened state ever since. About five more sources have been observed to flare prior to 2010; similar spectral characteristics (broad blueshifted emission lines, infrared (IR) excess, near-IR CO overtone absorption) have been used to identify ~10 additional FUor-like objects (Hartmann & Kenyon 1996; Reipurth & Aspin 2010). Hartmann & Kenyon (1996) proposed that FUors are the result of a sudden cataclysmic accretion of material from a reservoir that had built up in the circumstellar disk surrounding a young stellar object. Models of FUor outbursts indicate that over only a few months the accretion rate rises from the typical rate for a T Tauri star (M ≤ 10−7 M⊙ yr−1) up to 10−4 M⊙ yr−1, and then decays over an e-fold time of ~10–100 yr (Bell & Lin 1994). Over the entire outburst the star could accrete ~0.01 M⊙ of material, roughly the mass of a typical T Tauri disk (Andrews & Williams 2005). Mid-IR observations of FUors with the Spitzer Space Telescope reveal that some resemble embedded protostars, in which their excess emission at wavelengths greater than ~30 μm cannot be accounted for by circumstellar disk models alone, while others lack a strong mid-IR excess above that of a mildly flared disk (e.g., Green et al. 2006; Quanz et al. 2007a; Zhu et al. 2008). FUors are connected with both T Tauri stars and more embedded systems, repeating outburst cycles with replenished material from an infalling envelope (Weintraub et al. 1991; Sandell & Weintraub 2001; Quanz et al. 2007a; Zhu et al. 2010). Until now we have not had the opportunity to study the far-IR emission from an FUor close to maximum light, within a few months of the outburst.

HBC 722, also known as LkHα 188-G4 and PTF10qgf, is located in the “Gulf of Mexico” in the southern region of the North American/Pelican Nebula (520 pc distance;Straizys et al. 1989, 1993; Laugalys et al. 2006; comparable to FU Orionis itself at 500 pc). HBC 722 (20h58m17.0″+43°53′42.9″ J2000) was identified independently as an FUor by Semkov et al. (2010) and Miller et al. (2011). Prior to the outburst it was identified as an emission-line object of spectral type K7–M0 by Cohen & Kuhi (1979), who estimated an interstellar reddening of AV = 3.4 mag. The rise in luminosity began slowly, but accelerated during the summer of 2010 (Semkov & Peneva 2010) and was monitored in the optical and near-IR (Semkov et al. 2010; Miller 2011).
et al. 2011; Munari et al. 2010; Leoni et al. 2010; Köspál et al. 2011), exhibiting two separate epochs of behavior: during the 2010 June–early August period it rose $\sim 1$ mag (beginning at 16.5 mag in the $R$ band in 2009); then it increased 3 mag in the next 50 days, before reaching peak flux in late 2010 September. It has since declined by 0.5 mag at optical wavelengths; this decline rate would suggest a return to quiescence within 1 yr (Köspál et al. 2011), considerably faster than a classical FUor; however, from AAVSO photometry\(^{16}\) it appears that the rate of decay has since slowed. No FUor has been as well characterized prior to the outburst as HBC 722.

2. OBSERVATIONS AND DATA REDUCTION

HBC 722 was observed with Herschel as a Target of Opportunity (PI: J. Green) during Regular Science Phase (Pilbratt et al. 2010). The $50'' \times 50''$ region around HBC 722 was observed with all three spectroscopic instruments on Herschel (PACS, SPIRE, and HIFI), and with the 230 GHz heterodyne receiver and SHARC-II (Dowell et al. 2003) on the Caltech Submillimeter Observatory (CSO). All of these observations were obtained between 2010 November 30 and December 14, and the Herschel observations are planned to be repeated six months later.

2.1. Imaging

$K$-band, Spitzer-IRAC 8 $\mu$m, Spitzer-MIPS 24 $\mu$m pre-outburst, PACS, SPIRE, and SHARC-II post-outburst images of HBC 722 and its surroundings are shown in Figure 1. The $K_S$-band image was obtained as part of the UKIRT Infrared Deep Sky Survey (UKIDSS), taken with the Wide Field Camera on the 3.8 m diameter UKIRT in 2006, as part of Data Release 8. The Spitzer data were obtained as part of Programs 20015 and 462 (PI: L. Rebull). PACS photometry was gathered in single-cycle integration times in the small scan map mode. SPIRE observes simultaneously at 250, 350, and 500 $\mu$m. The on-orbit beam sizes are $18''.1$, $25''.2$, and $36''.6$, respectively. SPIRE photometry was gathered in single-cycle integration times in the small map mode. SPIRE observes simultaneously at 250, 350, and 500 $\mu$m. The 20015 and 462 (PI: L. Rebull). PACS photometry was gathered in single-cycle integration times in the small scan map mode. SPIRE observes simultaneously at 250, 350, and 500 $\mu$m. 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2.2. Spectroscopy

HIFI (de Graauw et al. 2010) was used in single-point mode, in band 6b (1578.2–1697.8 GHz) tuned to CO $J = 14–13$ (1611.8 GHz), and in band 1b (562.6–628.4 GHz) for CO $J = 5–4$ (576.3 GHz). The data were again reduced using HIPE.

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\(^{16}\) www.aavso.org, request of C. Aspin.
The beam size of HIFI is 43′′ in band 1b, and ~15′′ in band 6b; thus, the low-J lines contain far more emission from the submillimeter source, while the high-J lines are less confused. SPIRE-FTS (Griffin et al. 2010) was utilized as a single pointing with sparse image sampling, high spectral resolution, in 1 hr of integration time. The spectrum is divided into two orders covering the spectral ranges 194–325 μm (spectrometer short wavelength) and 320–690 μm (spectrometer long wavelength), with a resolution of λ/Δλ ~300–800, increasing at shorter wavelengths. Each order is reduced separately within HIPE using the standard pipeline for extended sources, including apodization to remove the Airy diffraction pattern. None of the lines in the HBC 722 vicinity detected with SPIRE are spectrally or spatially resolved and thus include components from all sources in the region. The measured rms of the spectra range from 0.2 to 0.6 Jy, as expected from the Herschel time estimator. We recover the same total CO J = 5–4 flux measured with HIFI. Additionally, most lines appear blueshifted by ~200 km s\(^{-1}\), likely an artifact of the pipeline reduction for SPIRE-FTS; the velocity-resolved HIFI data do not show this effect, nor do the PACS data.

PACS (Poglitsch et al. 2010) is a 5 × 5 array of 9′.4 × 9′.4 spatial pixels (also referred to as “spaxels”) covering the spectral range from 51 to 210 μm with a resolution λ/Δλ ~1000–3000, divided into four orders, covering ~50–75, 70–105, 100–145, and 140–210 μm. We reached expected rms sensitivity of a few × 0.1 Jy (continuum) or (3–10) × 10\(^{-18}\) W m\(^{-2}\). Each order was first reduced using a modified pipeline based on the standard PACS spectral reduction script within HIPE. The relative spectral response function within each band was determined before launch and modified using calibration data taken in the early phases of the mission. Further improvements in the flatfielding, spectral response, and defringing are underway and will further improve the spectral shape; however, line fluxes are not likely to be affected strongly except for a reduction in the rms uncertainty. The telescope sky background was subtracted using two nod positions 6′ from the source. The absolute flux uncertainty is estimated at 20%.

3. ANALYSIS

3.1. HBC 722

From the photometry it is clear that the position corresponding to the outbursting source does not emit strongly in continuum at wavelengths greater than 70 μm, consistent with the low-extinction and disk-like spectrum measured pre-outburst. At 70 μm we detect a point source with \(F_\nu = 0.412 \pm 0.020\) Jy, but this value should be considered an upper limit as it includes co-spatial cloud emission. Like many other FUors, the flaring source has an offset submillimeter counterpart (Evans et al. 1994; Sandell & Weintraub 2001). In order to isolate the gas component due to HBC 722, which is only possible in the PACS and CSO data due to spatial resolution, we extracted the central spaxel separately, which encompasses a 10′′ square covering HBC 722 itself. The \(J = 14–13\) to \(J = 21–20\) CO emission from the spaxel that includes HBC 722 is fit with high uncertainty by a single temperature (289 ± 212 K). If the CO temperature toward HBC 722 is raised by the outburst, this effect may increase during the second epoch of observations six months later.

Figure 2 shows the distribution of CO J = 2–1, in blue and redshifted contours, showing a clear bipolar structure projected on or behind HBC 722 as well as several additional outflows; the spatial resolution (32′′) is insufficient to identify the driving source, but HBC 722 clearly sits in an active star-forming region. The FWHM of the J = 5–4 line observed with HIFI is ~0.04 GHz, or 7.45 km s\(^{-1}\), centered at 1611.7582 GHz, consistent with the CO J = 2–1 spectra. The profile of this line is almost exactly matched to the J = 2–1 line—baring the stronger absorption in the J = 5–4 profile, indicating a similar emitting source; however, it is quite strong compared even to most embedded protostars (e.g., Yıldız et al. 2010); furthermore, the SPIRE-FTS measurement of the J = 5–4 line matches the velocity-integrated HIFI flux. This further indicates that the SPIRE spectrum is dominated by a stronger submillimeter source, while the PACS central spaxel is characterizing HBC 722 itself. It is also possible that all of the CO emission at this location may be due to outflows unrelated to HBC 722.

3.2. 2MASS 20581767+4353310

The SHARC 350 μm image resolves the SPIRE photometry at the same wavelength range into multiple sources, clearly delineating the dominant submillimeter source. The submillimeter peak is strong but offset from the location of the FUor by ~16′′, instead aligning with a different and much redder source, identified with the 2MASS source 20581767+4353310 (also identified as JCMTSF J205817.0+435327, or 205817.66+435331.0; Rebull et al. 2011). This situation is similar to the RNO 1b/c region that harbors two FUor-like objects and more deeply embedded sources nearby (Quanz et al. 2007a). This second source appears as a minor but clearly separate source between 1.25 and 8 μm, but dominates the flux at wavelengths ≥24 μm (Guieu et al. 2009; Rebull et al. 2011) as well as the PACS and SPIRE photometric bands, and the SHARC 350 μm image.

We extracted 2 × 2 spaxel areas centered on the best-known location of 2MASS 20581767+4353310. The submillimeter source is off-center to the south by 2 spaxels, or 16′′, another source of absolute flux uncertainty. The SPIRE-FTS spectrum of the region is rich in gas lines, including CO J = 5–4 up to \(J = 13–12\), [C I] at 370.4 μm (blended with the CO J = 7–6 line), and [N II] at 205 μm, a likely outflow indicator seen in other FUors (Lorenzetti et al. 2000). In the PACS spectrum we can clearly see that the continuum emission and much of the line emission is focused near the position of the submillimeter source, 2MASS 20581767+4353310, and not
Table 1
Spectral Lines Detected in 2MASS 20581767+4353310

| Line          | Frequency (GHz) | Wave (lab) (μm) | Wave (obs) (μm) | Width (μm) | Flux $(10^{-18}$ W m$^{-2}$) | RMS $(10^{-18}$ W m$^{-2}$) | $E_{\text{up}}$ (K) | A-Coeff. $(s^{-1})$ | State Deg. |
|---------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|
| CO J=4–3      | 461.041        | 650.8           | 650.26          | 2.18       | 17.61                       | 2.95                        | 55.32          | 6.126e-06      | 9           |
| CO J=5–4      | 576.27         | 520.6           | 520.18          | 1.83       | 63.35                       | 4.40                        | 82.97          | 1.221e-05      | 11          |
| CO J=6–5      | 691.47         | 433.9           | 433.53          | 1.33       | 100.65                      | 3.52                        | 116.16         | 2.137e-05      | 13          |
| CO J=7–6      | 806.65         | 371.9           | 371.62          | 1.19       | 146.13                      | 3.66                        | 154.87         | 3.422e-05      | 15          |
| [CII] 1P$_1$–P$_2$ | 809.94        | 370.4           | 370              | 0.97       | 46.54                       | 3.05                        | ...            | ...            | ...          |
| CO J=8–7      | 921.80         | 325.5           | 325.23          | 0.82       | 141.43                      | 4.14                        | 199.11         | 5.134e-05      | 17          |
| CO J=9–8      | 1036.91        | 289.3           | 289.15          | 0.55       | 145.75                      | 4.71                        | 248.88         | 7.33e-05       | 19          |
| CO J=10–9     | 1151.99        | 260.4           | 260.21          | 0.49       | 180.14                      | 9.77                        | 304.16         | 1.006e-04      | 21          |
| CO J=11–10    | 1267.01        | 236.8           | 236.63          | 0.36       | 120.13                      | 6.45                        | 364.97         | 1.339e-04      | 23          |
| CO J=12–11    | 1382.00        | 217.1           | 216.94          | 0.29       | 103.34                      | 7.89                        | 431.29         | 1.735e-04      | 25          |

Notes. Spectral lines detected with PACS and SPIRE. Lines of wavelength greater than 200 μm were detected in SPIRE, and less than 200 μm in PACS. Source coordinates: 20°58́0°17.5 + 43°53̅28̅ (closest 2MASS source: 20581767+4353310).4

HBC 722. We detected a wealth of high-J CO emission up to J = 21–20, [O i], but no indication of [N ii], [N iii], or [O iii]; in fact, [O iii] 88.3 μm, [N iii] 57.3 μm, and [C ii] 157 μm appear in absorption due to the superposition of an H ii region in the off-positions. The combined PACS–SPIRE spectrum of 2MASS 20581767+4353310 is displayed in Figure 3, with the SPIRE spectrum scaled downward by a factor of 1.5 to match, and the detected lines are listed in Table 1. The source has brightened in the past decade; the UKIRT (observed in 2006) JHK magnitudes are ~0.2 mag higher than the 2MASS (observed in 2000) values (the photometric uncertainties are ~0.036–0.054 mag for 2MASS and ~0.07–0.09 for UKIRT). A secondary source visible to the west in the SHARC image that appears at wavelengths beyond 250 μm may be contributing as well, and although it has no 2MASS counterpart it is visible in the UKIRT image, separated from 2MASS 20581767+4353310 by an extinguished region.

The region around 2MASS 20581767+4353310 shows a rich gas spectrum indicative of heated ambient material. A single temperature fit to the full CO rotational diagram does not characterize the data very well; a break in the data points occurs around $E_{\text{up}}/k = 600$ K. The lower energy points yield a temperature of 100 ± 22 K, while the higher energy points indicate 246 ± 94 K (Figure 4). Optical depth effects would lead to an underestimate of the population in lower J levels, causing a deviation below the fit at low energy. We see no obvious sign of this effect. Although the rotational diagram is uncertain due to source confusion at the spatial resolution of Herschel and the combined use of SPIRE and PACS, some of these problems are mitigated: the choice of breakpoint is close to the boundary between the instruments but the results do not change significantly if the break is adjusted slightly in either direction; the extracted region in PACS and SPIRE is similar in spatial extent; lastly, we are more likely to underestimate the flux from the extended outflow (Figure 2) at the shortest wavelengths where the beam is smallest, causing a drop in the high energy state populations. We do not observe this effect; if it is significant, the evidence for the higher temperature component becomes stronger.

Models of embedded sources such as HH46 (e.g., van Kempen et al. 2010; Yıldız et al. 2010; R. Visser et al. 2011, in preparation) generate ~100 K CO emission through passive heating while 250 K gas might originate from UV heating; an ~800–1000 K component that would be generated by shocks is not detected here. We detect low-lying states of H$_2$O emission, which can be indicative of outflows and photon heating, although no OH is detected. We derive from the CO rotational diagram $N_{\text{tot}} = (2.58 \pm 0.48) \times 10^{30}$, which for an emitting area of...
compared to the PACS spectrum. The drop at 100 μm includes additional flux from other embedded nearby sources.

The SPIRE spectrum was scaled downward by a factor of 1.5 to match. Even with this adjustment it is likely that the SPIRE spectrum includes additional flux from other embedded nearby sources compared to the PACS spectrum. The drop at 100 μm is an order edge artifact in the PACS band B2B. The narrow emission features are unresolved lines. The narrow absorption features ([N II], [O III], and [C II]) are spurious and introduced by emission lines at the nod positions. The SPIRE photometry at 500 μm includes both 2MASS 20581767+4353310 and the additional western source.

Figure 3. PACS and SPIRE-FTS 52–690 μm spectrum and photometry (red squares) of 2MASS 20581767+4353310. The PACS spectrum is extracted from a 2 × 2 group of spaxels surrounding the source, roughly the size of the SPIRE beam at shorter wavelengths. The SPIRE spectrum was scaled downward by a factor of 1.5 to match. Even with this adjustment it is likely that the SPIRE spectrum includes additional flux from other embedded nearby sources compared to the PACS spectrum. The drop at 100 μm is an order edge artifact in the PACS band B2B. The narrow emission features are unresolved lines. The narrow absorption features ([N II], [O III], and [C II]) are spurious and introduced by emission lines at the nod positions. The SPIRE photometry at 500 μm includes both 2MASS 20581767+4353310 and the additional western source.

(A color version of this figure is available in the online journal.)

40′′ at the proposed distance of 520 pc yields a column density of 9.40 × 10^{14} cm^{-2}, broadly consistent with other embedded sources observed with Herschel (e.g., van Kempen et al. 2010). Measured from only the Herschel spectrum and photometry centered on this source, L_{Bol} = 5.4 ± 1.8 L_⊙ and T_{Bol} = 33.4 ± 11.0 K; clearly, it and the other western source dominate the submillimeter emission while contributing little to the optical/near-IR portion of the spectrum relative to HBC 722 itself.

3.3. Discussion

Given the recent nature of the outburst, it is possible that any shocks from HBC 722 have not yet had time to propagate into a large enough area to be observed. A hot disk of radius 0.5 AU would have a very small beam filling factor of 3.3 × 10^{-5} in band 6b. If instead the emission is driven by a newly launched jet, moving at 200 km s^{-1}, the ejecta could have traveled ∼10 AU in the three months between the outburst and our Herschel observations; even if the outflow is spherically symmetric, the filling factor is capped at 1.3 × 10^{-6}. Most likely the observed CO originates in the older outflow traced in the submillimeter line maps, which is extended to at least 50′′, and therefore is not associated with the present outburst. However, UV photons emitted during the outburst will have traveled ∼15′′ in this time; therefore, if HBC 722 is within this distance of the outflow cavity walls, we may expect that the CO flux will increase in our second observation as the UV photons will have traveled ∼ four times the distance, encompassing an area 16 times greater and exciting high-J CO lines.

The 100 K CO traces photodissociation region emission (presumably from jets) from the cold gas around embedded sources, as well as outflows in the region. We might attribute [N II] (205 μm) emission to a dissociative shock from a newly launched jet, but it may also be tracing the older outflow; however, the absence of [N II] (122 μm) as well as more highly ionized lines ([N III] and [O III]) suggest that any jet emission is not contributing significantly. If during the second epoch the jet has excited the expanded area, highly ionized emission may become detectable. At this time we see little evidence for shocks, but due to the recent nature of the outburst it is possible that the filling factor of any newly launched jet material has not yet risen sufficiently to detect their signature. Two complementary Herschel open time programs to observe older FUors (PIs: J. Green, M. Audard) will provide a comparison with sources that have decayed from their respective peaks for decades.

4. CONCLUSIONS

We present the full suite of Herschel observations of HBC 722 and the surrounding region. HBC 722 does not show evidence for a circumstellar envelope or shocked gas, and appears to have erupted from a disk-like state, similar to FU Orionis itself. The far-IR/submillimeter emission in this region is dominated by nearby sources such as 2MASS 20581767+4353310, rather than the counterpart to the visible/near-IR FUor. In later epochs the effect of the HBC 722 outburst may become clear through increased heating of CO, or emission from shocked gas. We will re-observe the region with Herschel in 2011 May.

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