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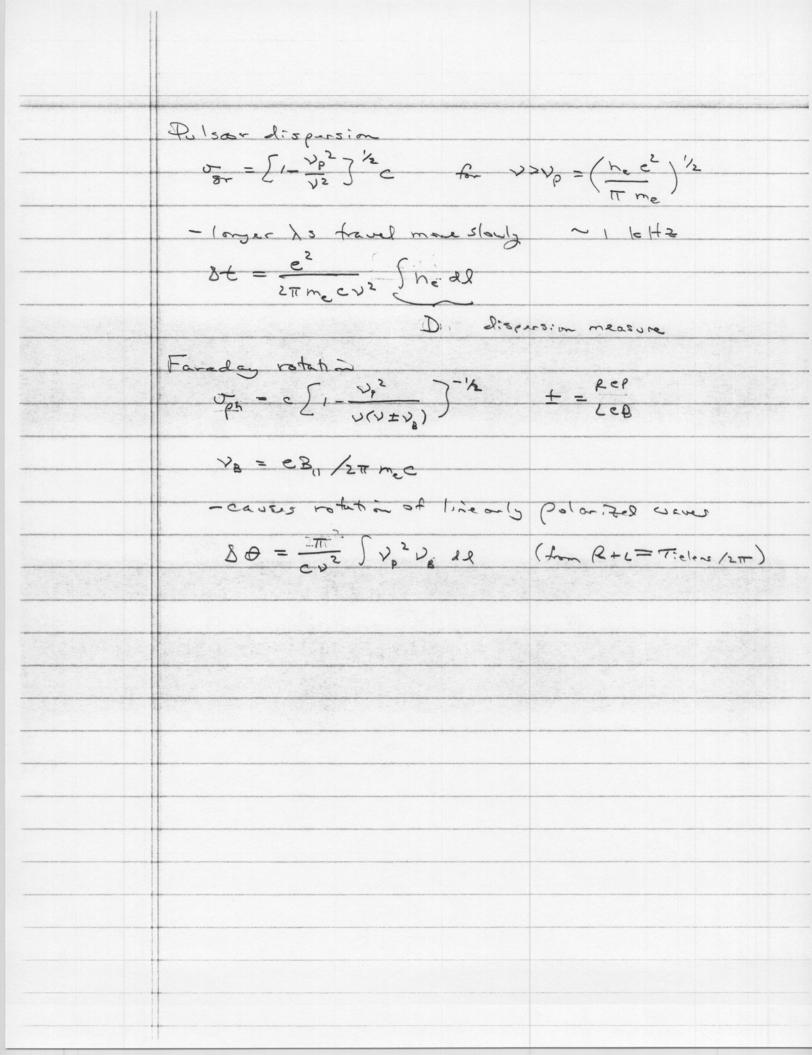
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	± same in CNM, MCs
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	$T_b = T T = 5.5 \times 10^{19} N_{+} \left( \frac{1 \text{ km} 5^{-}}{5 \text{ Fb}} \right) \text{ widep of } T$



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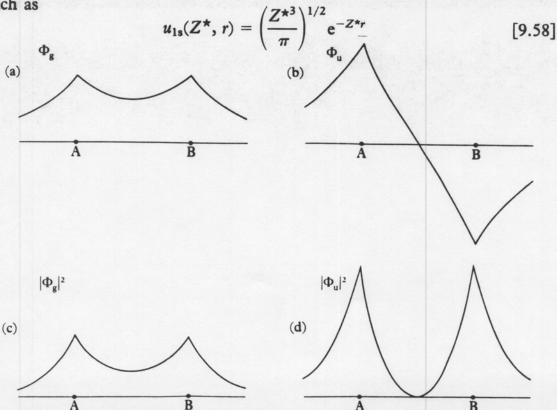
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were ignored, the two functions  $E_g(R)$  and  $E_u(R)$  would coincide, the resulting curve being repulsive at all distances.

The electron probability density in the states  $\Phi_g$  and  $\Phi_u$  is given by  $|\Phi_g|^2$  and  $|\Phi_u|^2$ , respectively, so that the corresponding charge densities are  $\rho_g = -e|\Phi_g|^2$  and  $\rho_u = -e|\Phi_u|^2$  (or  $\rho_g = -|\Phi_g|^2$  and  $\rho_u = -|\Phi_u|^2$  in atomic units). If the charge density  $\rho_g$  is evaluated at points between A and B along the internuclear line, it is found to be greater (in absolute value) than the sum of the densities due to two isolated H atoms with their protons placed at A and B, normalised so that half an electron is associated with each proton. It is this excess of negative charge between the protons which causes the binding (or bonding). On the other hand, if the charge density  $\rho_u$  corresponding to the antibonding case is evaluated, a deficiency of negative charge is found between the protons. This is clearly seen in Fig. 9.10 where the wave functions  $\Phi_g$  and  $\Phi_u$  as well as the absolute value of the charge densities  $\rho_g$  and  $\rho_u$  are plotted along the internuclear line.

The exact binding energy of  $H_2^+$  is a little greater than the result obtained above, with  $D_e = E_{1s} - E_g(R_0) = 0.103$  a.u. = 2.79 eV, and the true equilibrium distance is  $R_0 = 1.06$  Å. The principal failing of the approximate wave function  $\Phi_g(\mathbf{R}; \mathbf{r})$  given by [9.47a] is that at small separations  $\Phi_g$  should approach the wave function of  $He^+(1s)$ , the ground state of the positive helium ion with nuclear charge Z = 2, and in the approximation [9.47a] it does not. This defect can be remedied by using orbitals of variable charge, such as



9.10 Wave functions  $\Phi_g$  and  $\Phi_u$  and charge densities  $|\Phi_g|^2$ ,  $|\Phi_u|^2$  for the hydrogen molecular ion  $H_2^+$ , plotted along the internuclear line to an arbitrary scale. The points A and B represent the

electronic state, R and J are identical. Rotational levels are normally denoted by N and are assumed to be split into three components if S is 1.

The energy of each state is written (Herzberg 1950, Huber & Herzberg 1979) as an expansion in the quantum numbers (called a term value):

$$T(v,N) = T_e + \omega_e(v + \frac{1}{2}) - \omega_e x_e(v + \frac{1}{2})^2 + \omega_e y_e(v + \frac{1}{2})^3 + \dots + B_v N(N+1) - D_v N^2 (N+1)^2 + H_v N^3 (N+1)^3 + \dots$$

 $T_e$  is the electronic energy corresponding to the minima in the potential curves.  $B_v$ ,  $D_v$ , etc., are further expanded as power series in  $(v + \frac{1}{2})$ . The constants of the expansion are determined empirically from spectra of the molecule and are usually given in cm<sup>-1</sup> (Fink et al. 1965, Beck et al. 1979). Use of the formula for very large v or N can lead to errors; some authors prefer to calculate T(v,N)

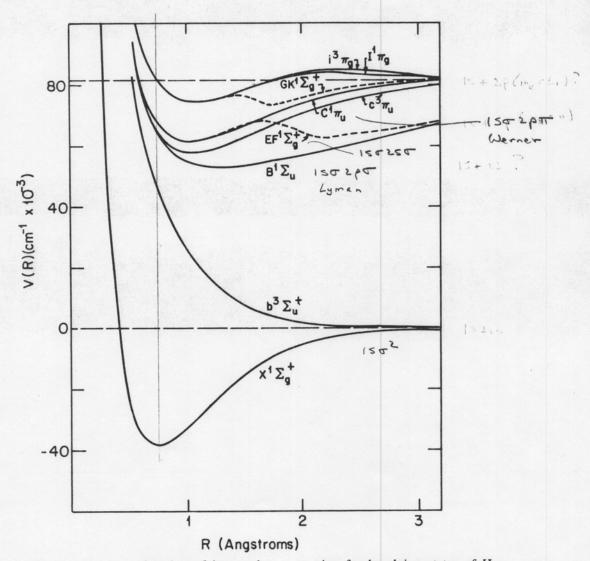


Figure 1 Total energy as a function of internuclear separation for low-lying states of  $H_2$ . Horizontal dashed lines denote total energy of two H atoms at infinite separation (both atoms in ground state; one atom in ground state and the other in the first excited states).

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He & Het + e Hz CR Hz + e PAH PAH-2 015 c+ Heby Hat - sete mol++PAH- -> mal+ PAH heating: CR turb gras, ambipola little in cooling: molec. emission (rotational lines) chemistry: in-molecule starting of Hot, ct difficulties: E barriers stability of Co, NE leads to simple radicals, C chains, few saturated molecy. I chemistry: concentrated in molecs other than HD LIC Thy lower + self shielding of Hz - who is this bigger effect in DCN than I HD? Oran surface: how do they overcome & burriers? Avor satration Condensation/sublimeton equil. (cf Vapor pressure) enders & ng Jo vg & P (approx) evap a / E e-Es/let => Paguil & e Eb/hT 5 mme sabrates moleces hot cores: grain martle evop worm gas chemistry my 055

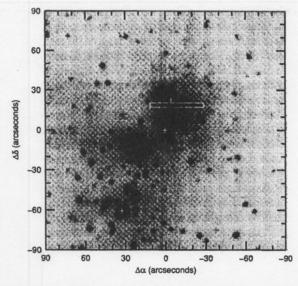


Fig. 2. An image of the brightest  $H_2$  emission and continuum in the central parts of the region shown in Fig. 1. The image is centered on the BN object with north at the top and east to the left. The position of our slit is shown by the box. The three stars marked with plus signs are, from north to south, IRS2, the BN object, and  $\theta^I$ C Orionis.

Gaussian profiles to the blend components, except in cases of lines too closely spaced in wavelength. Errors in the relative line intensities are primarily due to uncertainties in the estimated continuum level and the flux calibration of the standard star spectrum. The former affects the weakest emission lines, while flux calibration errors affect all of the lines. For the flux calibration to the standard star spectrum we assume an error of  $\pm 5\%$  in the relative strengths of all lines, while the continuum uncertainty is estimated independently for each line. The total error adopted for the individual line intensities is computed from the quadrature sum of these two sources of error. The line intensities relative to  $H_2 \ 1-0S(1)$ 

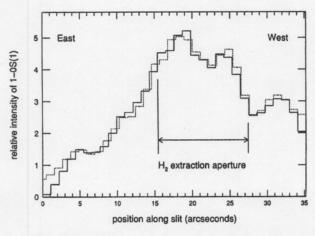


Fig. 3. A plot of the intensity of the 1-0S(1) line along our slit is shown as a solid line. The dotted line shows the same region extracted from our continuum-subtracted  $H_2$  image of Fig. 1, using an aperture at the slit position as shown in Fig. 2. The intensity scale has been normalized by an arbitrary constant for both plots so that the intensities match near their peak values. The limits of our 12.1 spectrum aperture is shown.

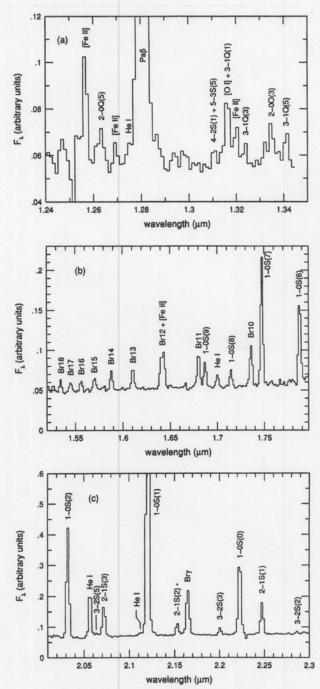


Fig. 4. Spectra of Peak 1 extracted from the slit spectrum as described in the text. The relative intensity has been normalized so that the 1-0S(1) line in (c) has a peak intensity above the continuum of 1.

are listed in Table 1 along with their uncertainties and dereddened values (see Sec. 3).

## 3. EXTINCTION

Our spectra cover a long wavelength baseline with an accurate relative flux calibration. This allows accurate extinction estimates to be made using appropriate line ratios.

fluorescence models, H2 is formed primarily on grain surfaces and destroyed by the process of spontaneous radiative dissociation as described above. The abundance of H<sub>2</sub> is assumed to be in steady state. The calculation solves the equation of transfer for 22,445 absorption lines simultaneously in a planeparallel cloud illuminated on one side by an external ultraviolet radiation source. This type of simple geometry is not intended to reproduce the actual distribution of material in AFGL 618. It should, however, produce results which are good averages of the conditions actually present. Also, such models can aid in line identification and verify the presence of fluorescent emission in addition to providing an estimate of the level of excitation by UV photons. Statistical equilibrium equations are solved for the populations of 211 vibration-rotation levels in the  $X^{1}\Sigma_{g}^{+}$  state, 629 levels in the  $B^{1}\Sigma_{u}^{+}$  state, and 476 levels in the  $C^{1}\Pi_{u}$  state. Multiple steps are taken through the cloud at each of which the cascade of 2937 vibration-rotation transitions in the  $X^{1}\Sigma_{q}^{+}$  state is calculated.

The intensity of the radiation field at the molecular boundary is parameterized by the factor  $I_{\rm UV}$ , such that  $\phi=4.5$   $\times$   $10^{-8}I_{\rm UV}$  photons cm<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> Hz<sup>-1</sup> at  $\lambda=1000$  Å. In regions where the Ly\$\alpha\$ flux is large, enhanced H<sub>2</sub> excitation might occur due to accidental resonances with the B  $^1\Sigma_u^+-X$   $^1\Sigma_g^+$  v=1-2 P(5) and R(6) transitions, provided that v=2 level in the X  $^1\Sigma_g^+$  ground electronic state is already significantly populated. To explore this possibility in AFGL 618, we have examined the effect of a large Ly\$\alpha\$ flux on the IR fluorescence

spectrum.

Thronson (1981) determined an H<sub>2</sub> vibration-rotation excitation temperature based on line fluxes in the 2  $\mu$ m region that were not corrected for extinction. To minimize error in the thermal model of H<sub>2</sub> emission, we have corrected the fluxes presented by Thronson for  $A_V = 3.0$  mag and a standard extinction law. We have determined a new excitation temperature based on the corrected fluxes, even though the change was expected to be small. Assuming a Boltzmann distribution and including all 15 available lines in a least-squares fit to a plot of  $N_{\mu}/g_{\mu}$  versus  $T_{\mu} = E_{\mu}/k$  (see, e.g., Thronson 1981), we found that  $T_{ex} = 2250$  K. However, as was also shown by Thronson, the four  $v = 2 \rightarrow 1$  lines all appear to be systematically stronger than would be expected for thermal equilibrium, based on the  $v = 1 \rightarrow 0$  lines. Since these are also the weakest lines in the spectrum, this might be a result of measurement error. In addition, scatter in the  $N_u/g_u$  versus  $T_u$  diagram is much larger in the  $v = 2 \rightarrow 1$  lines. It therefore seems prudent to leave these lines out of the fit (as was also done by Thronson) and determine a  $T_{\rm ex}$  based only on the  $v=1\rightarrow 0$  lines. For such a least-squares fit, it was found that  $T_{\rm ex}=1942$ ± 200 K. This can be compared to the value found by Thronson of  $T_{\rm ex} = 1950 \pm 200$  K. The difference between the two estimates is completely negligible.

Results of the modeling are presented in Figure 4. A thermal model appears on the bottom, and a fluorescent model is displayed directly below the data. Both models extend into the  $2 \mu m$  region, and have been adjusted to give the same intensity in the  $v=1 \rightarrow 0$  S(1) line as that given by Thronson (1981). This results in an  $H_2$  column density of  $N_{H_2} = 5.2 \times 10^{18}$  cm<sup>-2</sup> for  $T_K = 2000$  K. Characteristics of the spectrum are unchanged if  $T_K = 1942$  K. The fluorescent model has been calculated for  $I_{UV} = 200$ ,  $n_H = 10^5$ , and  $T_K = 2000$  K. This value of  $I_{UV}$  is for a UV radiation field appropriate to a B0 (\$\overline{SC}81\$) star embedded in an  $\dot{H}$  II region, extinguished by about  $A_V \sim 1.5-2.0$  mag, and diluted over a distance of  $r \approx 10^{17}$  cm,

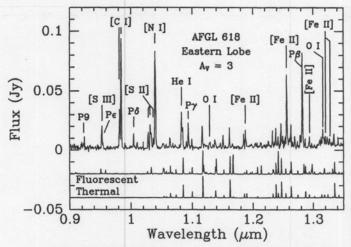


FIG. 4.—Spectrum plotted in Fig. 1 compared with spectral models of thermal and fluorescent emission from  $\rm H_2$ . The data appear on top, the fluorescence model in the middle, and the thermal model on the bottom. Parameters for the models are  $T_{\rm ex}=2000~\rm K$  and  $N_{\rm H_2}=5.2\times10^{18}~\rm cm^{-2}$  (thermal),  $I_{\rm UV}=200,~n_{\rm H}=10^5,$  and  $T=2000~\rm K$  (fluorescence; see text). The predicted fluxes have been corrected for  $A_{\rm V}=3.0~\rm mag$ . The flux scale is referenced to the

which is comparable to the linear scale of the near-IR lobes in AFGL 618. Both models include  $A_V = 3.0$  mag along the observer's line of sight. (We are thus assuming that the extinction to the lobes derived in § 4.1 is entirely interstellar.) It is important to note that these sources of attenuation are separate from the attenuation internal to the lobe, which is calculated using a total gas column density to visual extinction of  $N_{\rm tot}/A_V = 6.36 \times 10^{20}$  cm<sup>-2</sup> mag<sup>-1</sup>. This is consistent with the gas-to-dust ratio for carbon stars as found by Jura (1986).

A satisfactory fit to the strongest emission lines is produced by the thermal model alone, but the strengths of the weaker molecular hydrogen lines require a fluorescent component. At least four features appear stronger in the data than predicted by either model. These lines include  $v=3 \rightarrow 1$  S(5) (1.152  $\mu$ m),  $3 \rightarrow 1$  S(3) (1.185  $\mu$ m),  $3 \rightarrow 1$  S(1) (1.233  $\mu$ m), and  $2 \rightarrow 0$  Q(3) (1.247  $\mu$ m). The last two are in a region crowded by other lines. Several models were calculated in which the value of  $I_{UV}$  was varied over many orders of magnitude. A better fit than that presented was not obtained. It is possible that these lines are confused with unidentified atomic and/or molecular features. Also, the plane-parallel geometry used in the models might be an inadequate representation of AFGL 618.

In addition, it is important to note that at least three lines are predicted to be stronger by the fluorescence model than observed in the data. These are the  $v=3 \rightarrow 1$  S(6) (1.139  $\mu$ m),  $3 \rightarrow 1$  S(4) (1.167  $\mu$ m), and  $4 \rightarrow 2$  S(4) (1.242  $\mu$ m) lines. Comparison with a model calculated for a large Ly $\alpha$  flux suggests that these lines can be enhanced by Ly $\alpha$  pumping. Therefore, it would appear that the Ly $\alpha$  flux used in the model shown is too large. The value chosen was based on a simple estimate of the leakage of Ly $\alpha$  photons from the H II region and could easily be an overestimate for a region where dust competes effectively with resonant scattering. A full range in Ly $\alpha$  flux was not explored, however.

While the model fit might not be exact, it is important to note that everywhere a feature is predicted, one is seen. In some cases the detection is marginal, but no anticoincidences are found. If we assume that the discrepancies between the model results and the data are due to the complicated geometry

## DETECTION OF ABSORPTION BY H2 IN MOLECULAR CLOUDS: A DIRECT MEASUREMENT OF THE H2: CO RATIO

J. H. LACY, 1.2 R. KNACKE, 2.3 T. R. GEBALLE 2.4 AND A. T. TOKUNAGA 2.5 Received 1994 February 11; accepted 1994 March 31

## ABSTRACT

Vibrational absorption by H2 and CO has been searched for toward infrared sources embedded in molecular clouds. H2 was detected toward NGC 2024 IRS 2 and possibly toward NGC 2264 (GL 989). CO was detected toward both sources. The results are consistent with the  $H_2$  ortho: para ratio being equilibrated at the cloud temperature. Toward NGC 2024,  $H_2$ : CO =  $3700^{+3100}_{-2600}$  (2  $\sigma$  limits), and toward NGC 2264,  $H_2$ : CO < 6000. Approximately one-third of all carbon is in gas-phase CO.

Subject headings: infrared ISM: lines and bands — ISM: abundances — ISM: molecules

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

Molecular hydrogen is undoubtedly the most abundant molecule in the interstellar medium. Nevertheless, its abundance has been directly measured only in diffuse clouds, which can be probed by ultraviolet absorption lines. The reason for this is well known; the absence of dipole rotational or vibrational transitions, coupled with the weakness of the quadrupole transitions, makes the opacities of H2 lines very small, even through dense molecular clouds. In addition, the small moment of inertia of H<sub>2</sub> results in widely spaced rotational levels, which can be excited to emit only under unusual conditions. Because of the difficulty of observing H<sub>2</sub>, CO has generally been used as a stand-in, and molecular abundances are typically quoted relative to CO or an assumed H<sub>2</sub> abundance  $\sim 10^4$  times that of CO.

Although the bulk of the H2 in molecular clouds cannot be observed in emission, it is possible to observe it in absorption against bright embedded infrared sources. Both rotational and vibrational absorption lines of H<sub>2</sub> may be detectable, with the vibrational lines being more favorable, due to their greater strengths. CO can also be observed in absorption, through its v = 0-1 and v = 0-2 vibrational bands. The v = 0-2 band is preferred for comparison with H<sub>2</sub> for two reasons: its wavelength proximity to the low-J H2 lines avoids problems with observations at different wavelengths probing different depths into infrared sources, and its relatively small bandstrength alleviates uncertainties in a curve-of-growth analysis. Black & Willner (1984) and Black et al. (1990) attempted to observe H<sub>2</sub> v = 0-1 and CO v = 0-2 absorption toward NGC 2024 and NGC 2264. They detected CO and set limits on H<sub>2</sub>, requiring  $H_2$ : CO < 1.2 × 10<sup>4</sup> toward NGC 2024.

We have repeated the observations of Black & Willner and Black et al., and detected H<sub>2</sub> absorption toward NGC 2024 and possibly toward NGC 2264. We use these observations to make a direct determination of H2: CO toward these sources.

## 2. OBSERVATIONS

Most of the observations presented here were made with CSHELL, the facility echelle spectrograph at the IRTF (Tokunaga et al. 1990), with W33 observed with CGS4 at UKIRT. CSHELL was used with its  $256 \times 256$  HgCdTe detector array, a dispersion of  $\Delta \lambda/\lambda \approx 1.2 \times 10^{-5}$  pixel<sup>-1</sup>, and a slit image scale on the detector of 0".28 pixel<sup>-1</sup>. The slit width was 0".5, giving a spectral resolving power of  $\sim 40,000$ . Observations were made at the wavelengths of two  $H_2$  lines, S(0) $(4497.84 \text{ cm}^{-1})$  and S(1)  $(4712.91 \text{ cm}^{-1})$ , and 15 CO lines R(0) - R(8)  $(4263-4292 \text{ cm}^{-1})$  and P(1) - P(6)  $(4235-4257 \text{ cm}^{-1})$ .

Observations were attempted of seven sources: NGC 2024 IRS 2, NGC 2264 (GL 989), Elias 16, Mon R2, W33A, S140 (GL 2884), and VI Cygni No. 12. Of these sources, only NGC 2024 and NGC 2264 provided useful results for this project; Elias 16 showed a complicated photospheric spectrum, preventing any study of interstellar absorption, VI Cygni No. 12 showed no interstellar lines, and Mon R2, W33A, and S140 showed H2 emission.

Comparison stars were chosen to be free of interfering spectral features, while being as close as possible to the embedded sources and at least as bright. There are no high spectral resolution surveys of stars in the K band, but visible wavelength spectra show atomic and molecular lines to be present in stars later than A0. Earlier type stars show only hydrogen and helium lines. High (n' > 20) Pfund-series lines fall in the region of the CO 0-2 band but are very broad and are not apparent in any of the comparison star spectra. We chose ζ Ori (B0 I,  $K \approx 2$ ) for a comparison star for NGC 2024, and  $\zeta$  Ori and  $\gamma$  Gem (A1, IV,  $K \approx 2$ ) for comparison stars for NGC 2264. 15 Mon (O7 V,  $K \approx 5$ ) and  $\eta$  Tau (B7 III,  $K \approx 3$ ) also were observed. Comparison of these stars showed two absorption lines in the A1 star  $\gamma$  Gem near the H<sub>2</sub> S(1) line, but not at the frequency of S(1) in NGC 2264. Otherwise, no features were seen in the comparison star spectra.

The observations were made on the nights of 1993 January 24-26, all of which were clear, and October 31-November 2, most of which were cloudy or foggy. Of the results presented here, only the CO P-branch spectra and a confirming S(0)spectrum were obtained on the latter run. Approximately 1 hr of on-source observation time was spent on each of the H<sub>2</sub> settings on each of the embedded sources. About half as much time was spent on each of the CO settings and on the compari-

son stars.

Department of Astronomy, University of Texas, Austin, TX 78712.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Visiting Astronomer at the Infrared Telescope Facility, which is operated by the University of Hawaii under contract with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Division of Science, Pennsylvania State University, Erie, PA 16563.

Joint Astronomy Centre, Hilo, HI 96720.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Institute for Astronomy, University of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI 96822.

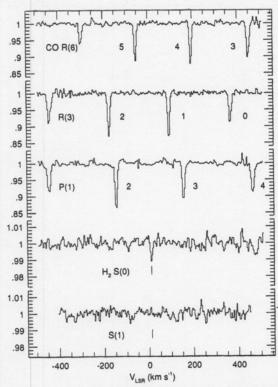


Fig. 1.—Fully processed (including fringe removal) spectra of CO R(6, 5, 4, 3), R(3, 2, 1, 0), P(1, 2, 3, 4), and  $H_2$  S(0) and S(1) toward NGC 2024 IRS 2. The horizontal scale is  $v_{\rm LSR}$  for the  $H_2$  lines and is arbitrary for the CO lines. The expected Doppler shift ( $v_{\rm LSR}=10~{\rm km~s^{-1}}$ ) is marked on the  $H_2$  spectra. Note the differing vertical scales and offsets.

The data were reduced with Snoopy (Achtermann 1992), a program written for reduction of infrared spectroscopic data. Standard procedures were used for flat-fielding, optimal weighting, and division by comparison stars. In addition, the final spectra were divided by a slowly varying function to remove interference fringes. Spectra of NGC 2024 are shown in Figure 1.

## 3. INTERPRETATION

Since all lines were unresolved, the information in the spectra is contained in the equivalent widths. In the case of CO, the presence of unresolved interfering telluric lines required a correction to the measured equivalent widths in addition to the division by comparison stars. To determine this correction, we modeled the telluric transmission, using the program Atmo (Grossman 1989), adjusting the water vapor until the model, convolved with the CSHELL resolution function, matched our observations of comparison stars. We then multiplied the measured equivalent widths by the ratio of calculated transmission at the wavelength of the observed CO lines to the convolved transmission. This procedure should correct for the actual telluric transmission in the case of very narrow interstellar lines, as we conclude the lines in NGC 2024 and NGC 2264 are.

If a line is optically thin, the column density in the lower state of the transition may be calculated straightforwardly from the equivalent width:

$$N_J(\text{cm}^{-2}) = w_v(\text{cm}^{-1})/S_{v,J\to v',J'}$$
,

where S is the line strength factor. For CO,

$$S_{v,J\to v',J'} = \frac{8\pi^3}{3hc} v \frac{\max(J,J')}{2J+1} |\mu_{v\to v'}|^2 (\text{cm}^{-1}/\text{cm}^{-2}),$$

where v is in cm<sup>-1</sup>, and  $\mu_{0\rightarrow2}=6.66\times10^{-21}$  esu cm (with a weak dependence on J; Goorvitch & Chackerian 1994). For  $H_2$ ,  $S_{S(0)}=8.2\times10^{-26}$  cm<sup>-1</sup>/cm<sup>-2</sup>, and  $S_{S(1)}=4.8\times10^{-26}$  cm<sup>-1</sup>/cm<sup>-2</sup> (Turner, Kirby-Docken, & Dalgarno 1977). For optically thick lines, a saturation correction, or curve-of-growth analysis, is required. We assumed the lines to be Gaussian, and used numerical integration to determine the curve of growth.

The S(0) line of  $H_2$  was detected in absorption toward NGC 2024 IRS 2 with an equivalent width of  $(2.4 \pm 0.5) \times 10^{-3}$  cm<sup>-1</sup>. It was observed on three nights, with consistent results, including the expected Doppler shift change between January and November. The line was centered at  $v_{LSR} = 9.5 \pm 2$  km s<sup>-1</sup>, in agreement with the CO lines. A possible S(0) absorption of  $(0.7 \pm 0.6) \times 10^{-3}$  cm<sup>-1</sup> was seen toward NGC 2264 (GL 989). The S(1) line was not detected toward either source. The  $H_2$  lines must be optically thin; the S(0) equivalent width toward NGC 2024 corresponds to 0.16 km s<sup>-1</sup>, whereas the  $H_2$  thermal linewidth at the temperature of the CO is 1.0 km s<sup>-1</sup> (FWHM), requiring a line-center optical depth  $\lesssim 0.16$ . Derived column densities are given in Table 1.

The measured CO equivalent widths are given in columns (2) and (3) of Table 2. The quoted errors are based on the noise between the lines and our estimates of the uncertainties in the correction for atmospheric absorption, with lines measured on only one night or during poor weather (in November) given higher errors. Column densities, derived assuming the lines to be optically thin, are given in columns (4) and (5), and in Figure 2.

In the case of NGC 2024, the column densities derived from the P- and R-branch lines disagree systematically, in the sense expected if the lines are saturated. We fitted the observations with equivalent widths calculated for a thermal distribution of rotational-state populations and a Gaussian-line curve of growth. A mixture of gas at two temperatures was tried but did not improve the fit. The best-fitting linewidth ( $e^{-1}$  half-width), column density, and temperature, and the allowed 2  $\sigma$  ranges (over which  $\chi^2 < \chi^2_{\min} + 4$ ) are  $b = 6.9(5.1-8.6) \times 10^{-3}$  cm<sup>-1</sup>,  $N_{\text{CO}} = 9.1(6.1-30) \times 10^{18}$  cm<sup>-2</sup>, and T = 45(35-54) K. The best-fitting distribution of column densities is given in column (6) of Table 2.

The data for NGC 2264 were fitted in the same way as for NGC 2024. In this case the P:R equivalent width ratios do not require saturation, but again the best fit to the shape of the  $w_v(J)$  distribution was obtained with a single temperature, with

TABLE 1

H. EQUIVALENT WIDTHS AND COLUMN DENSITIES

	NGC 2024		NGC 2264	
J	w <sub>v</sub> (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	N(10 <sup>22</sup> cm <sup>-2</sup> )	$w_{\nu}(\text{cm}^{-1})$	N(10 <sup>22</sup> cm <sup>-2</sup> )
0	0.0024(5)a	2.9(6)	0.0007(6)	0.9(7)
1	0.0000(5)	0.0(10)	0.0000(8)	0.0(17)
Totalb		3.5(7)		1.1(8)

<sup>a</sup> 1 σ uncertainties in the last digits are given in parentheses.

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm b}$  Total H  $_2$  column densities assuming a thermal population distribution at the CO temperature.

TABLE 2 CO FOLIVALENT WIDTHS AND COLUMN DENSITIES

	(cm	(cm <sup>-1</sup> )		hin) <sup>b</sup> cm <sup>-2</sup> )	N. /C.\C
J (1)	P (2)	R (3)	P (4)	R (5)	$N_{\rm f}({\rm fit})^{\rm c}$ (10 <sup>18</sup> cm <sup>-2</sup> ) (6)
		NGC	2024		
0		0.015(2)		0.19	0.55
1	0.018(2)	0.021(1)	0.69	0.39	1.45
2	0.022(2)	0.024(2)	0.71	0.49	1.90
3	0.018(2)	0.020(1)	0.55	0.42	1.86
4	0.018(4)	0.020(2)	0.54	0.43	1.47
5	0.017(4)	0.018(1)	0.50	0.39	0.99
6	0.009(2)	0.014(2)	0.27	0.30	0.56
7		0.011(2)		0.24	0.28
8		0.005(2)		0.11	0.12
Sum			3.	38	9.07
		NGC	2264		
0		0.025(1)		0.31	0.43
1	0.019(3)	0.043(2)	0.73	0.80	1.07
2	0.020(3)	0.036(2)	0.65	0.73	1.24
3	0.024(3)	0.029(1)	0.74	0.61	1.00
4		0.023(1)		0.50	0.62
5		0.015(1)		0.33	0.31
6		0.003(1)		0.07	0.12
Sum			3.	50	4.70

<sup>\*</sup> Measured equivalent widths, with 1  $\sigma$  uncertainties in the last digits, based on the estimated uncertainty in the correction for telluric absorption, given in parentheses.

<sup>b</sup> Column densities derived assuming the lines to be optically thin.

Sum includes only observed states.

saturation causing the curvature of the distribution. For NGC 2264,  $b = 2.0(1.5-2.6) \times 10^{-2}$  cm<sup>-1</sup>,  $N_{CO} = 4.7(4.0-5.8)$  $\times 10^{18}$  cm<sup>-2</sup>, and T = 30 (28-32) K. Black et al. measured the CO linewidths toward NGC 2264 to be  $b = 2.5 \times 10^{-2}$  cm<sup>-1</sup> in agreement with our curve-of-growth analysis. Toward both NGC 2024 and NGC 2264, our CO results are in good agreement with those of Black & Willner and Black et al.

Several systematic errors may affect our results. For H<sub>2</sub>, our main concern is with possible filling-in of absorption with emission. Extended or broad-lined gas would be easily recognized, and was not seen. Probably the worst case would be if narrow S(1) emission (like that toward Mon R2) just canceled the absorption. However, even in this case the effect on the S(0)line would be small. In emission, S(0) is typically 3 times weaker than S(1), whereas in absorption at the temperatures we observe, it should be  $\sim 10$  times stronger. Consequently, the ratio of emission to absorption for S(0) would be  $\sim 1/30$  even in the case of equal emission and absorption for S(1). For CO, the main uncertainty is in the assumption of a Gaussian line. A line with stronger wings than a Gaussian would require a greater line-center optical depth to reproduce the observed P: R equivalent width ratios, and so a greater CO column density. Since our CO column densities are surprisingly large (see below), this seems unlikely. To fit our data on NGC 2024 with smaller optical depths would require a line with weaker wings than a Gaussian, but even in the extreme case of a rectangular line, our preferred value of N<sub>CO</sub> would only drop to  $7.5 \times 10^{18} \, \text{cm}^{-2}$ 

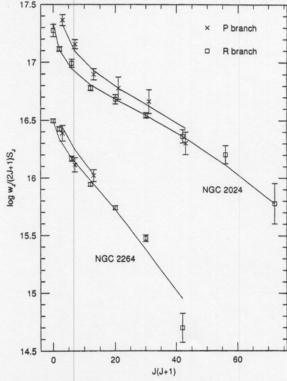


Fig. 2.—Values of  $\log [N_J(thin) = w_J/(2J+1)S_J]$  vs. J(J+1) for NGC 2024 IRS 2 and NGS 2264 (GL 989). Results from R-branch lines are shown as squares; results from P-branch lines are shown as crosses (and are offset to the right for clarity). Results for NGC 2264 are offset downward by 1.0. If unsaturated and at a single temperature, the points would fall along a straight line. The curves through the data are calculations assuming a Gaussian-line curve of growth. For NGC 2024,  $b=6.9\times10^{-3}$  cm<sup>-1</sup>,  $N=9.1\times10^{18}$  cm<sup>-2</sup>, and T=45 K. For NGC 2264,  $b=2.0\times10^{-2}$  cm<sup>-1</sup>,  $N=4.7\times10^{18}$  cm<sup>-2</sup>, and  $T = 30 \, \text{K}.$ 

## 4. DISCUSSION

At temperatures below 100 K, essentially all H<sub>2</sub> is in the J = 0 and J = 1 states. Consequently, the  $H_2$  ortho: para ratio is given by the ratio of the populations of these two states. Our limit on the J = 1: J = 0 ratio toward NGC 2024, < 0.8 (2  $\sigma$ ), is significantly less than the expected ortho: para ratio of 3 when H<sub>2</sub> first forms, and is consistent with the value of 0.2 expected if it is thermalized at the temperature of the CO. Two processes are thought to be most important in modifying the ortho: para ratio in cold clouds: proton exchange reactions with H<sup>+</sup> and H<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup>, equilibrating ortho: para at the gas temperature, and interaction with magnetic impurities in grains, equilibrating ortho: para at the grain temperature (Burton, Hollenbach, & Tielens 1992). These processes are expected to equilibrate ortho: para in a time short compared to the lifetime of a molecular cloud. Our observations are consistent with this prediction.

For the purpose of determining the most probable value of  $N_{\rm H_2}$  (H<sub>2</sub>: CO), we assume that J = 1: J = 0 is thermalized at the CO temperature; estimated grain temperatures are about equal to the gas temperatures (Thronson et al. 1984; Sargent et al. 1984). With this assumption, and using only our S(0) measurement, we obtain  $N_{\rm H_2}=(3.5\pm1.4)\times10^{22}~\rm cm^{-2}$  toward NGC 2024, and  $<2.4\times10^{22}~\rm cm^{-2}$  toward NGC 2264 (2  $\sigma$ uncertainties).

To determine the H<sub>2</sub>: CO ratio, we fitted the H<sub>2</sub> and CO

Column densities for the best-fitting thermal population distribution, assuming a Gaussian-line curve-of-growth. Sum includes all rotational states.

equivalent widths simultaneously. Toward NGC 2024 IRS 2, the best-fitting value of  $\rm H_2$ : CO is 3900, with an allowed (2  $\sigma$ ) range of 1300–6800. The value of  $\chi^2$  for the fit is 10.6 for 12 degrees of freedom, indicating that the model fits the data well and the noise was estimated reasonably. Toward NGC 2264, the best-fitting value of  $\rm H_2$ : CO is 1800, but  $N_{\rm H_2}$  (and so  $\rm H_2$ : CO) differs from 0 only at the 1  $\sigma$  level. The upper limit on  $\rm H_2$ : CO is 5200.

There are few other determinations of  $H_2$ : CO with which we can compare our measurements. Frerking, Langer, & Wilson (1982) compare the column densities of various CO isotopes with  $A_v$ , and obtain  $N_{C180}/A_v = 1.7 \times 10^{14}$  cm<sup>-2</sup> in cloud interiors ( $A_v > 4$ ). This corresponds to  $N_{C0}/A_v = 8.3 \times 10^{16}$  cm<sup>-2</sup>, and  $H_2$ : CO = 12,000 if the low- $A_v$  ratio of  $N_H/A_v = 1.9 \times 10^{21}$  cm<sup>-2</sup> (Bohlin, Savage, & Drake 1978) is assumed. Watson et al. (1985) made a direct measurement of  $H_2$ : CO = 8000 in the shocked gas in Orion, but it is unlikely that the abundances of  $H_2$  and CO there are typical of molecular clouds. Wilson et al. (1986) observed warm gas in the same region, and obtained  $H_2$ : CO = 20,000. Most other papers on the subject (see van Dishoeck & Black 1987), discuss  $N_{H_2}/I_{CO}$ , not  $N_{H_2}/N_{CO}$ , and bypass the determination of  $I_{CO}/N_{CO}$ .

It is also of interest to compare  $N_{\rm H_2}$  and  $N_{\rm CO}$  to estimates of  $A_v$  toward our sources. The extinction to NGC 2264 (GL 989) is highly uncertain, with values in the literature ranging from  $A_v = 5$  to  $A_v > 35$ . McGregor, Persson, & Cohen (1984) point out the complexity of the source, which in the near-infrared has diffuse extended emission and a pointlike condensation that is

not coincident with the mid-infrared source.

Jiang, Perrier, & Lena (1984) measured  $A_v = 21.5 \pm 5$  to NGC 2024 IRS 2, based on modeling to speckle interferometry and photometry. About half of the extinction may be due to circumstellar material (which may or may not contain  $H_2$  and CO), as Maihara, Mizutani, & Suto (1990) used  $Br\gamma/Br\alpha$  to derive  $A_v \approx 11$  for the extended ionized gas surrounding the source. Assuming  $A_v = 21.5$ , we obtain  $N_{\rm H2}/A_v \approx 1.7 \times 10^{21}$ 

cm<sup>-2</sup> and  $N_{\rm CO}/A_{\nu} \approx 4.3 \times 10^{17}$  cm<sup>-2</sup>, with uncertainties of factors ~2. Our  $N_{\rm H}/A_{\nu}$  is about 1.8 times that measured by Bohlin et al., whereas our  $N_{\rm CO}/A_{\nu}$  is about 5 times that measured by Frerking et al. These results suggest that the gas-to-dust ratio toward NGC 2024 is nearly normal, and that it is the CO abundance that is surprising.

The  $N_{\rm CO}/A_v$  ratios through the NGC 2024 and 2264 molecular clouds can also be estimated from longer wavelength observations. Toward NGC 2024 FIR 5, Graf et al. (1993) derived  $N_{\rm CO}=2\times10^{19}$  cm<sup>-2</sup> from CO emission, and Thronson et al. (1984) derived  $A_v\approx100$  from 60  $\mu{\rm m}$  dust emission, giving  $N_{\rm CO}/A_v\approx2\times10^{17}$ . A similar  $N_{\rm CO}/A_v$  ratio,  $2.2\times10^{17}$ , through NGC 2264 is obtained from the results of Sargent et al. (1984) and Krügel et al. (1987). Both numbers are less than our determination, but probably not significantly so given the large uncertainty in the interpretation of the continuum observations

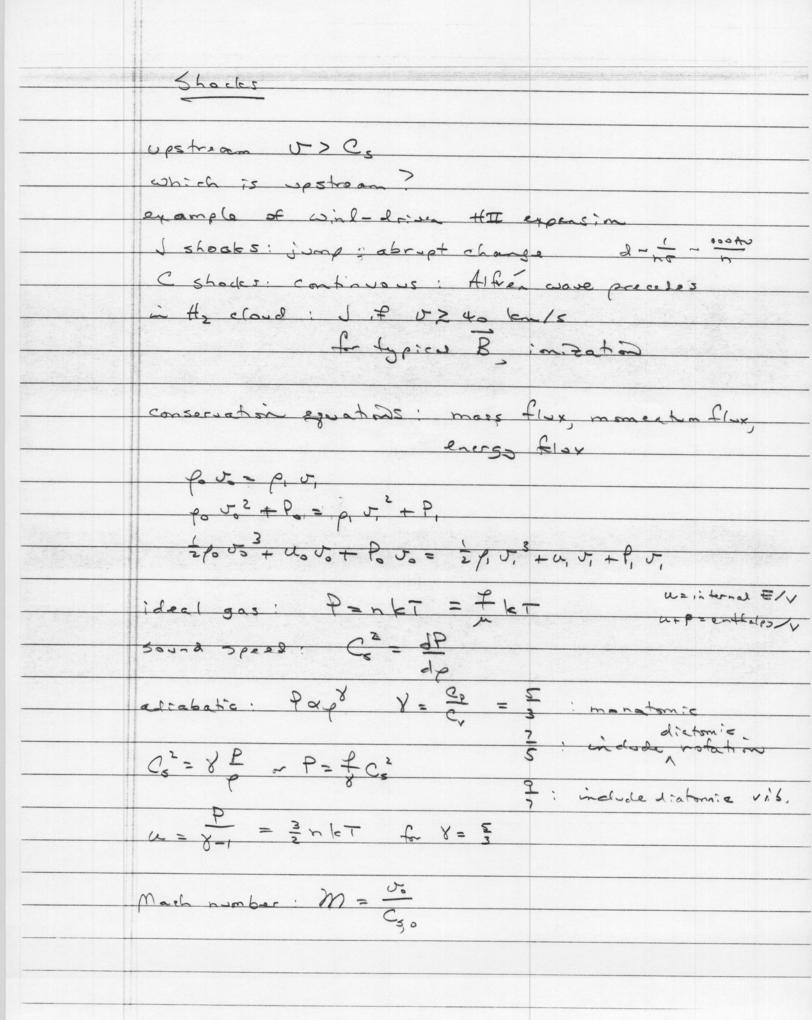
Finally, our H<sub>2</sub>: CO ratio may be compared to the solar H: C ratio of 2500 (Grevesse et al. 1991). Assuming all H to be in H<sub>2</sub>, we conclude that about one-third of all carbon is in gas-phase CO. Although uncertain by a factor ~2, this is a considerably larger fraction of carbon in CO than previously estimated. The column density of solid CO toward NGC 2024 is small (Tielens et al. 1991), but gas-phase C and C<sup>+</sup> together may be comparable to CO in abundance (Jaffe et al. 1994), suggesting that graphite and carbonate grains may contain only about one-third of all carbon.

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