

A sample of star forming regions triggered by cloud-cloud collision

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Collision between molecular clouds is considered an efficient mechanism to trigger cloud collapse to form stars. Various observations show that the process is taking place in the universe (Vallee 1995; Wang *et al.* 2004).

We conducted a large-sampling survey for the infrared sources, which are possibly regions of cloud-cloud collision, by making ¹²CO (1-0), ¹³CO (1-0), and C¹⁸O (1-0) molecular line observations. We selected IRAS sources based on a molecular line survey in the Galaxy (Yang *et al.* 2002), and we picked up the ones whose ¹²CO (1-0) molecular line is double-peaked or multi-peaked. Observations were made in November and December 2005 with the 13.7 m radio telescope at Delingha, the millimeter-wave radio observatory of Purple Mountain Observatory, in the J=1-0 line of ¹²CO at 115GHz, ¹³CO at 110 GHz and C¹⁸O at 110 GHz.

We eliminated those whose optically thinner line peaks at the absorption part of the ¹²CO (1-0) double line. They are possibly molecular clouds that are collapsing, and the double-peaked ¹²CO (1-0) line is a possible sign of self-absorption (Zhou *et al.* 1993). We kept the sources whose molecular lines' features accord with the description of cloud-cloud collision, i.e. all the three molecular lines have two or more components at same velocity. Finally, we get rid of the possibility that the cloud is infalling, then built up a sample of those cold IRAS sources which are possibly cloud-cloud collision regions. A total of 214 sources were examined, and finally we got 135 of them according to cloud collision criterion. We have done some primary analysis of this data as well. Figure 1 shows the source distribution projected onto the Galactic plane. It can be seen that there are much more sources near the sun than those who are far away from us. More detailed research is carrying through now, and we hope this work can provide astronomers with useful information for their further studies.

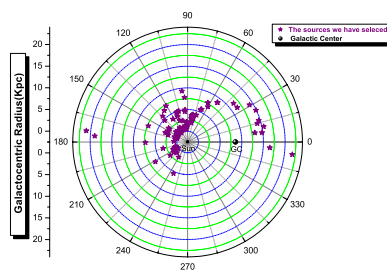


Figure 1: distribution of sources in our sample projected onto the Galactic plane.

References

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