

Poster: Exploration of the W51 SFR complex through 6668-MHz methanol maser emission

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W51 is one of the most massive giant molecular clouds in the Galaxy. This 5.4-Kpc distant star-forming regions (SFR) complex contains two giant HII regions labelled W51A and W51B which are themselves resolved into smaller components. Within W51A, the most luminous sites are the two protocluster regions, IRS2 and e1/e2, showing clear evidence of embedded young massive forming stellar objects. Maser emission from various species is also found towards these 2 protocluster regions. In particular, our first investigation of the region thanks to MERLIN observations revealed intense and complex Class-II 6.668-GHz methanol maser activity towards W51 Main, associated with the e1/e2 protocluster. Here we present the second part of the investigation of this SFR complex which revealed the presence of 6.668-GHz methanol maser activity in several regions including W51 IRS2/North with indication that the masers are excited by multiple objects potentially at different stages of evolution.

Molecular Clouds