An optical study of the high mass star forming region RCW 34

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He shakes the earth out of its place,
    And its pillars tremble;
He commands the sun, and it does not rise;
    He seals off the stars;
He alone spreads out the heavens,
    And treads on the waves of the sea;
He made the Bear, Orion and the Pleiades,
    and the chambers of the south;"

Job 9:6-9, NKJV
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Abstract

This study consisted of an optical photometric and spectroscopic analysis on a $7' \times 7'$ field around the Southern high mass star forming region RCW 34. A previous study on RCW 34 in the NIR discovered many deeply embedded young stellar objects which were suspected to be T Tauri stars and which justified further investigation. The data used in this study consisted of three sets, the first two are photometric and spectroscopic data sets which were obtained during the first two weeks of February 2002. A third data set of spectroscopic observations was obtained by the author during the second week of 2011 of selected candidates using results from the NIR study and from the photometric data sets. All of the spectroscopy was conducted with the long slit spectrograph on the 1.9-m telescope and the photometry with DANDICAM on the 1.0-m telescope at the South African Astronomical Observatory (SAAO) in Sutherland. Objectives accomplished in the course of this study were to understand, obtain, reduce and interpret photometric and long slit spectroscopic CCD images. From the photometric results 57 stars showed excess blue emission on a colour-colour diagram which could be generated by circumstellar matter. The spectroscopic study showed 5 stars that showed H$_\alpha$ emission and 2 with strong Li absorption lines which confirm the suspicions of the NIR study about T Tauri stars in the region. All of the stars from the spectroscopic study in 2011 were identified as low-mass K or M type stars. Using colour-magnitude diagrams it was possible to see that the majority of the stars in the cluster are low-mass pre-main sequence stars. The stars matching between the optical and NIR filters were plotted on NIR colour-colour diagrams showing that the 5 stars that had H$_\alpha$ emission lines also had NIR colours characteristic to T Tauri stars. Out of the 5 stars that showed H$_\alpha$ emission, 2 were found to be classical T Tauris and three were found to be weak line T Tauris.

**Keywords:** RCW 34; T Tauri; GUM 19; HII region; Pre-main sequence stars; Star formation; Photometry; Spectroscopy; SAAO; IRAF; DANDICAM
Opsomming

Hierdie studie dek die optiese fotometriese en spektroskopiese analises van ’n veld in die suidelike hoë-massa stervormende gebied RCW 34. ’n Vorige studie in die naby-infrarooi (NIR) van RCW34 het die bestaan van ’n groot aantal jong diep-liggende sterliggame onthul. Onsekerheid oor die vermoedelike T Tauri aard van hierdie sterliggame, het verdere ondersoek regverdig. Drie datastelle is as basisinligting vir hierdie studie gebruik. Die eerste twee datastelle was fotometriese en spektroskopiese datastelle, verkry tydens die eerste twee weke van Februarie 2002. Spektroskopiese waarnemings versamel deur die skrywer gedurende die tweede week van Januarie 2011 van uitgesoekte kandidaatsterre uit die vorige NIR studie en optiese fotometriese, het gedien as die derde datastel. Die spektroskopiese waarnemings is gedoen met die langspleetspektrograaf op die 1.9-m teleskoop, en die fotometrie met DANDICAM op die 1.0-m teleskoop by die Suid Afrikaanse Astronomiese Observatorium (SAAO) in Sutherland. Die doelwitte bereik met hierdie studie was om fotometriese en langspleet spektroskopieafbeeldings met ’n lading-gekoppelde toestel (Eng. Charge-Coupled Device (CCD)) te verkry, te reduceer, te interpreter en te verstaan. Die fotometriese resultate het oormatige blou uitstraling van 57 sterre getoon op ’n kleur-kleur diagram. Hierdie uitstraling kon moontlik onstaan deur materie wat die sterre omring. Die spektroskopiestudie het Hα uitstraling vanaf 5 sterre getoon en ook getoon dat 2 sterre sterk Li absorpsielin bevat, wat die vermoedens bevestig van die NIR studie oor T Tauri sterre. Al die sterre van die spektroskopiestudie van 2011 is aangetoon as lae-massa K- of M-tipe sterre. Die gebruik van kleur-magnitude diagramme het dit moontlik gemaak om te bevestig dat die meerderheid van sterre lae-massa voor-hoofrees sterre is. Sterre met geslaagde passing van optiese en NIR filters, was uitgestip op NIR kleur-kleur diagramme om te toon dat die 5 sterre met Hα uitstraallyne ook NIR-kleureienkappe eie aan T Tauri sterre besit. Uit die 5 sterre met Hα uitstraling is 2 moontlik klassieke T Tauri sterre, en die 3 ander was swaklyn T Tauri sterre.

Sleutelwoorde: RCW34; T Tauri; GUM 19; HII-gebied; Voor-hoofsiklus sterre; Stervormasie; Fotometrie; Spektroskopie; SAAO; IRAF; DANDICAM
List of Figures

1.1 Reproductions of the colour-colour diagrams in Van der Walt et al. (2012). The green solid line is the classical T Tauri locus. The dashed green lines are the upper and lower limit of the T Tauri locus. The blue solid line is the main-sequence. The blue triangles are weak line T Tauris and the black dots are classical T Tauris from Strom et al. (1989).

1.2 Figure 1 from Hill et al. (2011) is shown as a composite of three micrometer filter bands for the Vela star forming region. The red is 250 $\mu$m, the green is 160 $\mu$m and the blue is 70 $\mu$m. The central region is the HII region RCW 36 and the one at the bottom towards the right side is RCW 34. The blue shows the warmer gas in the HII regions and the red shows colder gas in dense filaments that are contracting in on themselves. In the filamentary structures there are embedded emission sources which are probably protostars.

1.3 SIMBAD objects and DSS diagrams of the 7' × 7' field of view around RCW 34.

1.4 NIR images of the 7' × 7' around RCW 34.

1.5 A colour stacked image of the B, V and R filters used for the blue, green and red colours respectively of the photometric images that were used in this study. The field shown is roughly 7.7' × 7.7'.

2.1 A reproduction of Fig 6.3 in Seeds (1997) showing which parts of the electromagnetic spectrum propagate through the atmosphere.

2.2 The number of ionised particles as a function of frequency for O3, O7 and B0 type stars. The number of ionised particles decreases for stars with a lower surface temperature.

2.3 A reproduction of a schematic drawing from Hartman (1998) representing the accretion disk around a classical T Tauri star.

2.4 Eight different spectral profiles of T Tauri stars as shown in Fig 6.6 of Hartman (1998).

2.5 This is a reproduction of Fig 1 in Bessell (2005), on the x-axis is the wavelength in Å and on the y-axis is an arbitrary unit representing sensitivity. The five Johnson filters are plotted for the amount of light that each lets through against the wavelength.

2.6 The extinction for visual filters as a factor of the visual extinction $A_v$. The optical filters are the same as those shown in Fig 2.5. Extinction is wavelength dependent and photons in the ultra-violet are much better absorbed by interstellar gas than infrared photons.

3.1 A layout of the optical systems for the DANDICAM and ANDICAM cameras as found on the DANDICAM webpage.

3.2 This image was taken from the manual for the 1.9-m telescope, found on the website for the SAAO (http://www.saao.ac.za/). When light moves into the 1.9-m telescope, it gets distributed onto a larger scale, depending on the slit width and the angle of the grating, making the absorption and emission lines which fall into the specific region of interest much more apparent.
3.3 Lines, columns and middle line plots through the $B$ flatfield image. .............................. 44
3.4 The I image on which crowded field photometry had to be conducted with a point-
spread-function. .......................................................................................................................... 50
3.5 Aids to selecting the OVERSCAN regions of the spectral images of 2002. ................. 54
3.6 Light distribution of dome flat image and usable regions of the spectral images. ......... 54
3.7 Aids to fitting the aperture and extracted profile from the aperture. ............................ 55
3.8 Cross section of reduced spectral image and extracted spectral profile. ...................... 56
3.9 The standard star that was used for calibration and the average atmospheric extinction
for Sutherland. ........................................................................................................................... 57

4.1 The spectral emission profile for star A. ................................................................. 62
4.2 The spectral emission profile for star B. ................................................................. 63
4.3 The spectral emission profile for star C. ................................................................. 63
4.4 The spectral emission profile for star D. ................................................................. 64
4.5 The spectral emission profile for star E. ................................................................. 65
4.6 The two stars that were observed in 2002 and showed H$\alpha$ emission are stars C and D.
The other stars that showed H$\alpha$ emission were discovered from the observations taken
in 2011. North is at the top of this image. ................................................................. 67
4.7 $V - R$ against $R - I$ colour-colour diagram for the 76 sources that matched in the $V$, $R$
and $I$ filters. The green datapoints are the sources that could be dereddened onto the
MS and the blue datapoints are not dereddened. The red dashed line is the MS from
Allen (1999) and the green solid line are the giants. .............................................. 72
4.8 The $V$ against $V - I$ colour-magnitude diagram for the 76 sources that matched in the
$V$, $R$ and $I$ filters. .............................................................................................................. 74
4.9 The $V$ versus $V - R$ colour-magnitude diagram for the 76 sources that matched in the
$V$, $R$ and $I$ filters .............................................................................................................. 74
4.10 The $R$ versus $R - I$ colour-magnitude diagram for the 76 sources that matched in the $V$,$R$
and $I$ filters ....................................................................................................................... 76
4.11 The $R$ versus $R - I$ colour-magnitude diagram for the 214 sources that matched in the $R$
and $I$ filters ....................................................................................................................... 77
4.12 The sources that matched in the $V$, $R$, $I$, $J$, $H$ and $K$ filters ................................ 78
4.13 Location of the sources that matched in the $V$, $R$ and $I$ ...................................... 79
4.14 The sources that matched in the $R$, $I$, $J$, $H$ and $K$ filters .................................. 80
4.15 Location of the sources that matched in the $R$ and $I$ ........................................ 80
4.16 The sources that matched in the $I$, $J$, $H$ and $K$ filters. .................................. 81
4.17 Location of the sources that were detected in the $I$ filter. .................................. 81
4.18 Colour-colour diagram for the sources that match up in the $V$, $R$, $I$, $J$, $H$ and $K$ filters.83
4.19 Colour-colour diagram for the 174 sources that match up in the $R$, $I$, $J$, $H$ and $K$ filters.84
4.20 Colour-colour diagram for the 189 sources that match up in the $I$, $J$, $H$ and $K$ filters. 85
5.1 An overlay of all the objects that are shown in Figs 4.12, 4.14, 4.16, the stars that are catalogued on the SIMBAD database. Also the stars of which spectroscopic observations were obtained in 2002 and 2011. The stars that showed Hα emission are also shown.
## List of Tables

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>The interstellar extinction law as given in Table 3 of Rieke &amp; Lebofsky (1985)</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>The total exposure times for various colour filters.</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>The properties for the CCDs of ANDICAM and DANDICAM.</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>The usable region for each filter.</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>The apparent magnitudes for the 25 standard stars and their intrinsic colours used to calculate the extinction coefficients to compensate for atmospheric extinction.</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>Standard stars used for atmospheric calibration.</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>Coefficients for atmospheric extinction.</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>The 38 stars from which spectroscopic images were taken in 2011.</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>Summary of the stars that displayed Hα emission.</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.3a</td>
<td>Main sequence stars</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.3b</td>
<td>Giant stars</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>Super giant stars</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>The sources that matched in the V, R and I filters.</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>The sources that matched in the V, R and I filters.</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>The sources that matched in V, R and I that were dereddened onto the MS, with their colours converted to the Johnson-Cousins colours, the colours dereddened to the MS and then their visual extinctions.</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>The sources that matched in V, R and I that could not be dereddened onto the MS, with their colours converted to the Johnson-Cousins colours.</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>The dereddened colours of stars D and E</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Contents

1 Introduction  
1.1 About this project ........................................ 1  
1.2 Rationale and aim of this project .......................... 2  
1.3 Vela and RCW 34 .......................................... 4  
  1.3.1 Vela .................................................. 4  
  1.3.2 The Vela molecular cloud complex and RCW 36 ........... 5  
  1.3.3 RCW 34 ............................................. 5  
1.4 The outline of this dissertation ............................. 8  

2 Theoretical background  
2.1 Introduction ............................................. 11  
2.2 Light - the information carrier of astronomy ............... 12  
  2.2.1 Light and its interaction with the atmosphere .......... 12  
  2.2.2 Stellar emission ..................................... 12  
2.3 The interstellar medium .................................. 13  
  2.3.1 Molecular clouds ..................................... 14  
  2.3.2 Diffuse interstellar clouds ........................... 16  
  2.3.3 HII Regions ......................................... 16  
2.4 Star formation ........................................... 18  
  2.4.1 Pre-main sequence stars and accretion disks .......... 19  
2.5 T Tauri stars ........................................... 21  
  2.5.1 Introduction ........................................ 21  
  2.5.2 General properties of T Tauri stars .................... 21  
  2.5.3 Classical T Tauri stars ............................... 22  
  2.5.4 Weak line T Tauri stars ............................... 25  
  2.5.5 The third class of T Tauri star ........................ 26  
  2.5.6 Groups of T Tauri stars .............................. 27  
2.6 Photometry ............................................. 27  
  2.6.1 The magnitude scale, flux and luminosity .............. 27  
  2.6.2 The CCD and filter systems ......................... 29  
  2.6.3 Interstellar extinction .............................. 32  
2.7 Spectroscopy ............................................ 33  

3 Data acquisition and reduction  
3.1 Introduction ............................................. 37  
3.2 Data acquisition ......................................... 38  
  3.2.1 DANDICAM ........................................... 38
3.2.2 Photometric observations ........................................ 39
3.2.3 The 1.9-m telescope and long slit spectrograph ............... 40
3.2.4 Spectroscopic observations ...................................... 40

3.3 Reduction of the photometric images ............................ 41
3.3.1 Bias subtraction .................................................. 42
3.3.2 Trim and OVERSCAN ............................................. 42
3.3.3 Bad pixel mask and flat-field division ........................ 43
3.3.4 Photometric calibration with standard stars .................... 45
3.3.5 Point-spread-function photometry .............................. 49
3.3.6 Matching source in V, R, I and R, I sets and correspondence with NIR sources . 51

3.4 Spectroscopic reduction ............................................. 53
3.4.1 Manual reduction .................................................. 53
3.4.2 Automatic reduction ............................................... 57

4 Results and discussion ................................................. 59
4.1 Introduction ......................................................... 59
4.2 Spectroscopic results ................................................. 60
4.2.1 Introduction ....................................................... 60
4.2.2 The SEDs for the stars with an Hα emission line .............. 60
4.2.3 The location of the stars that showed Hα emission lines ....... 67
4.3 Photometric results ................................................... 68
4.3.1 Introduction ....................................................... 68
4.3.2 Main sequence, giant and super giant stars .................... 69
4.3.3 Colour-colour and colour-magnitude diagrams ................. 70
4.3.4 Sources that only matched in the R and I filters ............... 76
4.4 Sources that matched in the optical and NIR filters ............... 78
4.4.1 Correspondence between the coordinates for the optical and near infrared sources 78
4.4.2 NIR colour-colour diagrams .................................... 82

5 Summary, conclusion and future prospects .......................... 91
5.1 Introduction ......................................................... 91
5.2 Summary of this research project .................................. 92
5.2.1 Spectroscopy ..................................................... 92
5.2.2 Photometry ....................................................... 93
5.2.3 Layout of the stars .............................................. 95
5.3 Conclusion and final thoughts ...................................... 96
5.4 Future prospects ..................................................... 97

A IRAF script for the calculation of overscan region for DANDICAM 99

B Script for calculation of average background value ................. 101
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contents</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C  C++ program for recursively finding matching sources between optical and NIR sources</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D  Spectral profiles for all of the stars that were observed in 2002</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D.1 Blue part of the spectrum</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D.2 Red part of the spectrum</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E  Spectral profiles for all of the stars that were observed in 2002</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bibliography</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>