

## THE INTERMEDIATE-MASS YOUNG STELLAR OBJECT 08576nr292: DISCOVERY OF A DISK–JET SYSTEM\*

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### ABSTRACT

We present observations of the embedded massive young stellar object (YSO) candidate 08576nr292, obtained with X-shooter and SINFONI on the ESO Very Large Telescope (VLT). The flux-calibrated, medium-resolution X-shooter spectrum (300–2500 nm) includes over 300 emission lines, but no (photospheric) absorption lines, and is consistent with a reddened disk spectrum. Among the emission lines are three hydrogen series and helium lines, both permitted and forbidden metal lines, and CO first-overtone emission. A representative sample of lines with different morphologies is presented. The H $\alpha$  and Ca II triplet lines are very strong, with profiles indicative of outflow and—possibly—infall, usually observed in accreting stars. These lines include a blueshifted absorption component at  $\sim -125$  km s<sup>-1</sup>. The He I and metal-line profiles are double peaked, with a likely origin in a circumstellar disk. The forbidden lines, associated with outflow, have a single blueshifted emission component centered at  $-125$  km s<sup>-1</sup>, coinciding with the absorption components in H $\alpha$  and Ca II. SINFONI *H*- and *K*-band integral-field spectroscopy of the cluster environment demonstrates that the [Fe II] emission is produced by a jet originating at the location of 08576nr292. Because the spectral type of the central object cannot be determined, its mass remains uncertain. We argue that 08576nr292 is an intermediate-mass YSO with a high accretion rate ( $\dot{M}_{\text{acc}} \sim 10^{-6}$ – $10^{-5} M_{\odot} \text{ yr}^{-1}$ ). These observations demonstrate the potential of X-shooter and SINFONI to study in great detail an accretion disk–jet system, rarely seen around the more massive YSOs.

*Key words:* ISM: jets and outflows – stars: formation – stars: mass-loss – stars: pre-main sequence

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The formation process of massive stars is poorly understood (for a recent review, see Zinnecker & Yorke 2007). Besides complicated theoretical aspects, observations of forming massive stars are limited due to their short formation timescale, the strong obscuration of their birth places, and their relatively small number. A current key question is whether massive stars form through accretion in a way similar to low- and intermediate-mass stars (e.g., Shu 1977; Palla & Stahler 1993; Yorke & Sonnhalter 2002; Kuiper et al. 2010), or that radiation pressure and stellar wind prevent the formation of massive stars, calling for alternative formation scenarios such as stellar mergers in dense and young clusters (Bonnell et al. 1998; Baumgardt & Klessen 2011). The detection of the signatures of formation, i.e., circumstellar disks and collimated jets, around massive young stellar objects (MYSOs) would provide an important step in addressing this question.

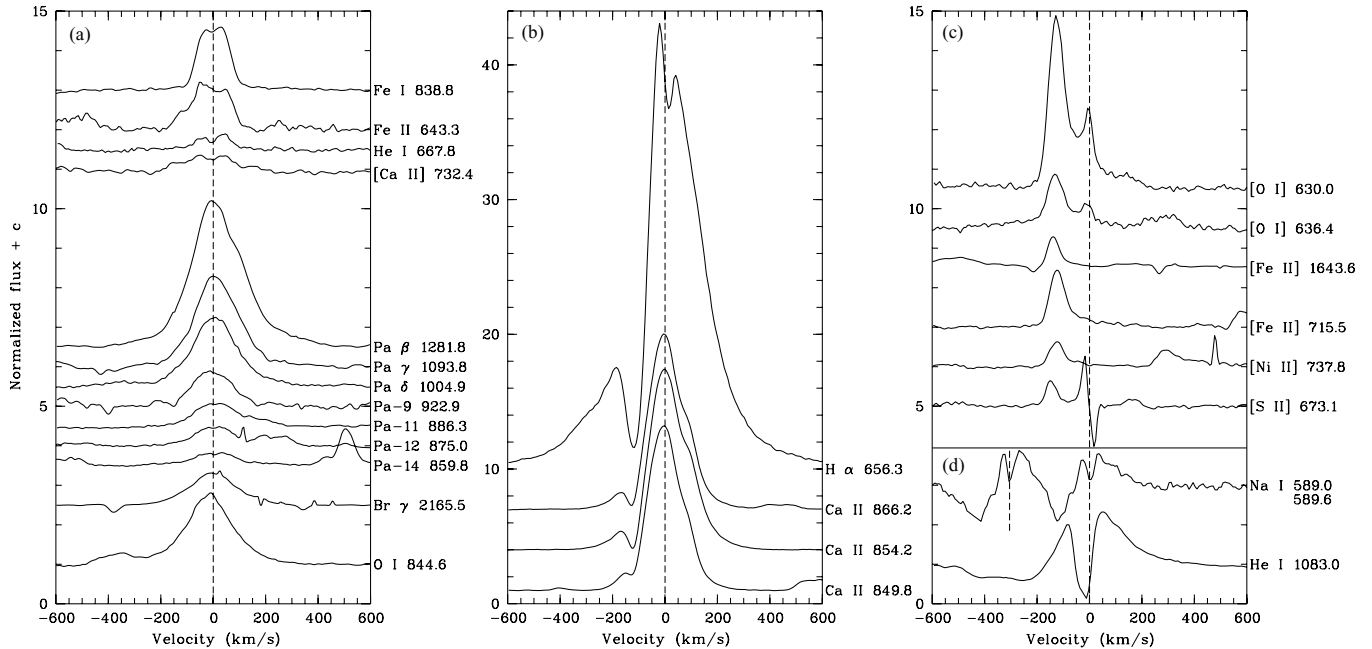
Up to now observational evidence for the presence of disks and/or collimated outflows has been secured for about a dozen of (candidate) MYSOs (e.g., Cesaroni et al. 2007; Sandell & Wright 2010; Kraus et al. 2010; Quanz et al. 2010; Guzmán et al. 2010; Zapata et al. 2010). The current mass of these objects is often unclear, and their identification as a MYSO is mainly

based on their luminosity. Most of them have a corresponding ZAMS mass less than  $20 M_{\odot}$  (i.e., spectral type later than O8).

We have initiated an observing campaign to extend the spectral coverage of a sample of MYSO candidates as far to the blue as possible, to better determine their photospheric properties, to study the onset of stellar winds, and to characterize the physical structure of their accretion disks. A sample of MYSO candidates (Bik et al. 2006, hereafter B06) and young OB stars (Bik et al. 2005, hereafter B05) has been obtained from a near-infrared survey of southern star-forming regions including ultracompact H II (UCHII) regions (Bik 2004). Among these is the region RCW 36, centered on the IRAS point source 08576–4334, with the characteristic infrared colors of an UCHII.

This point source is associated with Vela Cloud C (Yamaguchi et al. 1999) for which the estimated distance is  $0.7 \pm 0.2$  kpc (Liseau et al. 1992). The kinematic distance, however, from the rotation curve of Brand & Blitz (1993) and a local standard of rest velocity ( $v_{\text{LSR}}$ ) of  $7.5$  km s<sup>-1</sup> (Bronfman et al. 1996) is 2.2 kpc. In this work, a distance of 0.7 kpc is adopted, consistent with the spectroscopic parallax obtained for OB stars in the cluster (B05). This region includes the MYSO candidate 08576nr292. Based on *J* – *K* photometry, B06 estimate the spectral type of the central object at mid-B. 08576nr292 has a strong infrared excess, and its *K*-band spectrum includes a broad Br $\gamma$  emission line and CO band-head emission, characteristic features of MYSOs (cf. Hanson et al. 1997; Blum et al. 2004). The CO band-head emission can be modeled by a Keplerian

\* Based on observations performed with X-shooter (program P84.C-0604) and SINFONI (program P78.C-0780) mounted on the ESO Very Large Telescope on Cerro Paranal, Chile.



**Figure 1.** Representative sample of the 300+ normalized spectral lines and their various profiles, detected by X-shooter in observation III of 08576nr292: (a) double-peaked and single-peaked lines, and (b) emission lines with a blueshifted absorption component at  $-125 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  and a “red shoulder” (Ca II). The central absorption in  $H\alpha$  is due to nebular contamination: (c) forbidden transitions blueshifted at  $-125 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  and (d) peculiar profiles. The spectra are normalized. The rest wavelengths (nm) are in air.

**Table 1**  
List of the Observations Carried Out with X-shooter

Obs.	Date	Exp. Time	Nod Throw	Pos. Angle
I	2010 Feb 22 UT 5 <sup>h</sup> 06	$2 \times 900 \text{ s}$	$2''$	$19^{\circ}52' (1)$
II	2010 Feb 22 UT 5 <sup>h</sup> 36	$2 \times 900 \text{ s}$	$2''$	$19^{\circ}52' (1)$
III	2010 Feb 23 UT 4 <sup>h</sup> 50	$2 \times 600 \text{ s}$	$5''$	$50^{\circ}26' (2)$

**Notes.** The position angle is the slit angle on the sky from north to east. The numbers between parentheses refer to the slit orientations depicted in Figure 2.

rotating, circumstellar disk (Bik & Thi 2004). B06 propose that such a disk likely is a remnant accretion disk. Wheelwright et al. (2010) derive an inclination angle of  $i = 17^{\circ}.8^{+0.8}_{-0.4}$  based on the CO-profiles, which means that the disk is seen almost pole-on.

In the following we present the optical to near-infrared spectrum of 08576nr292 obtained with the new spectrograph X-shooter, as well as near-infrared integral-field spectroscopy of its environment with SINFONI, both mounted on the ESO Very Large Telescope (VLT) at Paranal, Chile. The combination of these data sets reveals important new information on the circumstellar environment of this MYSO candidate.

## 2. OBSERVATIONS AND DATA REDUCTION

### 2.1. VLT/X-shooter

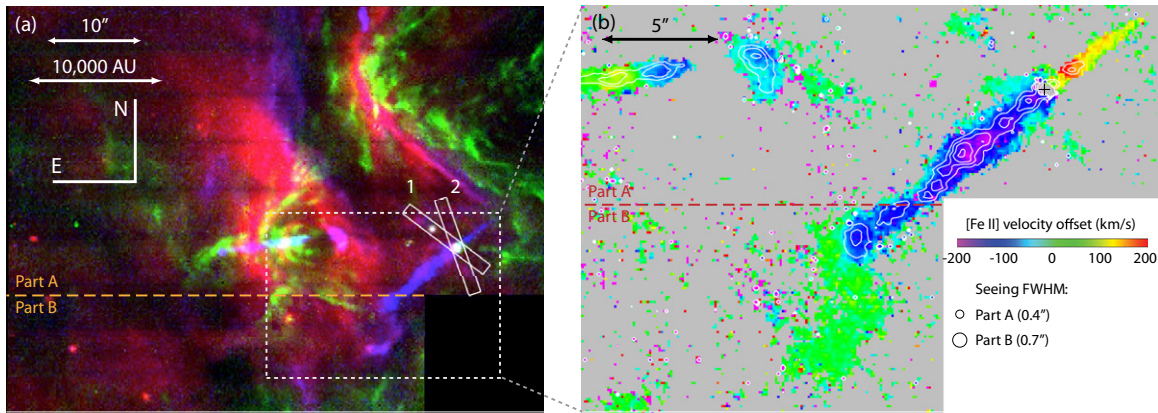
The MYSO candidate 08576nr292 (R.A. (2000.0)  $08^{\text{h}}59^{\text{m}}21^{\text{s}}.7$ ; decl. (2000.0)  $-43^{\circ}45'31''.0$ ) was observed as part of the X-shooter GTO program “Probing the earliest evolutionary phases of the most massive stars” in 2010 February. A selection of the most important spectral features is presented in Figure 1. Each observation was comprised of two separate exposures at different nodding positions on the slit (see Table 1). In the NIR arm the exposure time was split into detector integration times (DITs) of 50 s each.

The X-shooter wavelength range is 300–2500 nm, split in three arms using dichroics: UVB (300–560 nm), VIS (550–1020 nm), and NIR (1000–2500 nm). For a detailed description of the instrument, see D’Odorico et al. (2006). Given the strong reddening of the source, different slit widths were used in the UVB ( $1''.0$ ), VIS ( $0''.9$ ), and NIR ( $0''.4$ ) arms. The resolving power was calculated from wavelength calibration frames and averages to 5100, 8800, and 11,300 (corresponding to 59, 35, and  $27 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  per resolution element) in the three arms, respectively. The  $V$ -band seeing varied between  $0''.6$  and  $0''.9$  during the observations. A telluric standard star (HD80055, A0V) was observed immediately after 08576nr292. The spectrophotometric standard star GD71, a DA white dwarf, was observed in twilight.

The ESO X-shooter pipeline version 1.0.0 (Goldoni et al. 2006; Modigliani et al. 2010) was used to obtain reduced two-dimensional spectra. From these two-dimensional spectra, one-dimensional spectra were extracted and normalized to the continuum using our own routines. For the flux calibration, we used a flux table for GD71 in the range 300–1000 nm, and scaled a Rayleigh–Jeans function to the Two Micron All Sky Survey (2MASS) magnitudes for HD80055 in the range 1000–2500 nm. We estimated slit losses based on the seeing conditions. The derived  $J$ -,  $H$ -, and  $K$ -band fluxes are within 30% of the 2MASS values:  $J = 11.82 \pm 0.03$ ,  $H = 10.38 \pm 0.04$ , and  $K = 9.32 \pm 0.04$ .

### 2.2. VLT/SINFONI

Observations of the cluster environment of 08576nr292 were made with the integral field spectrograph SINFONI (Eisenhauer et al. 2003; Bonnet et al. 2004). It produces an  $H$ - and  $K$ -band spectrum at every pixel ( $0''.125 \times 0''.125$ ) in its field of view ( $8'' \times 8''$ ) at  $R \sim 1500$ . The SINFONI data were collected on 2007 March 5, 7, and 19. Each observation was accompanied by the observation of an early B-type standard star observed



**Figure 2.** (a) Detail of the SINFONI image of IRAS 08576–4334 (size:  $57'' \times 43''$ ). Color channels trace: H<sub>2</sub> (green), Br $\gamma$  (red), and [Fe II] (blue). The results from the different observing nights, as described in Section 2.2, are separated by the orange dotted line. The X-shooter slit orientations are depicted (slit size:  $1'' \times 11''$ ). (b) Velocity offset map (size:  $25'' \times 18''$ ) of the [Fe II]  $\lambda 1644$  nm line. The color gradient corresponds to the offset of the peak with respect to the  $v_{\text{LSR}}$ . Gray color represents areas where no [Fe II] emission was detected. The white contours represent the line flux, with logarithmic contour values between  $1.0 \times 10^4$  and  $2.3 \times 10^5$  erg s<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-2</sup>  $\mu\text{m}^{-1}$  sr<sup>-1</sup>. The black cross indicates the position of 08576nr292, where [Fe II] emission was blended with Br-12; this area is also colored gray. We note the presence of another jet system in the NE corner of the field of view.

immediately after the science observations, and used for flux calibration and telluric absorption correction.

Different pointings in a raster pattern were used to cover a large area surrounding 08576nr292 (for more details, see Bik et al. 2010). The DIT was 30 s per pointing. With every point being covered twice, this results in a total on-source integration time of 60 s. Sky frames were taken every 3 minutes using an empty area on the sky. The *K*-band seeing was  $0''.4$  for the first two observing nights (part A in Figure 2). During the last night (part B), the seeing was  $0''.7$ . The southwest corner of the image was not observed.

The data were reduced using the SINFONI SPRED pipeline (version 1.37) developed by the MPE SINFONI consortium (Schreiber et al. 2004; Abuter et al. 2006). Velocity maps were created by fitting a Gaussian profile to every spatial pixel in the data cubes. The velocities were converted to the LSR.

### 3. RESULTS

#### 3.1. X-shooter Spectrum of 08576nr292

In the X-shooter spectra, the signal-to-noise ratio (S/N) is about 80 at 1200 nm and 50 at 650 nm, respectively, and less than 10 below 550 nm due to interstellar extinction. Despite the high S/N, no photospheric absorption lines are detected. The spectrum contains over 300 emission lines, almost all of which could be identified. A representative sample of these lines highlighting the different morphologies is displayed in Figure 1. The velocity scale is corrected for the Earth’s motion with respect to the LSR.

The hydrogen Balmer, Paschen, and Brackett series are in emission, as well as many different metal lines. Close to half of all the identified lines are iron lines. Some variation in the peak-to-peak flux ratio was observed in some Fe I lines between observations I/II and III.

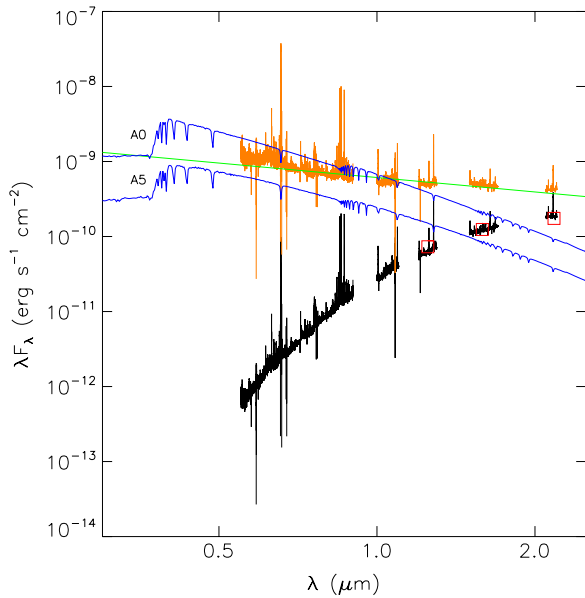
1. *Double- and single-peaked emission lines.* The 230 permitted emission lines are predominantly from H I, He I, N I, O I, Mg I, Si I, Ni I, Fe I, and Fe II. About 50 of these lines (such as most He I and Fe I lines) are double peaked with a peak separation of  $60\text{--}100$  km s<sup>-1</sup> (Figure 1(a)). The double-peaked signature is consistent with formation in a Keplerian rotating circumstellar disk, as suggested by the

modeling of the CO band heads at  $2.3$   $\mu\text{m}$  present in the spectrum (Bik & Thi 2004).

2. *Emission lines with signatures of outflow and infall.* There are a number of lines with strong, single peaks centered around the systemic velocity. Examples of these are the lower transitions in the Paschen and Brackett series, and the O I lines (Figure 1(a)). By far the strongest lines are H $\alpha$  and the Ca II triplet (Figure 1(b)), which include a narrow absorption feature, blueshifted to  $-125 \pm 6$  km s<sup>-1</sup>, a signature of outflow. The Ca II lines have a red shoulder, a possible signature of infall onto the central star. A similar profile is seen in Pa $\beta$ . Note that the apparent double peak in H $\alpha$  is an artifact of the subtraction of the nebular component, which varied over the slit.
3. *Forbidden lines.* A total of 67 identified forbidden lines are detected, 46 of which are [Fe II]; a representative sample is displayed in Figure 1(c). These lines have a single peak centered at a blueshifted velocity of  $-125 \pm 8$  km s<sup>-1</sup>. This is the same velocity shift as that of the absorption features in H $\alpha$  and Ca II. The peaks are slightly asymmetric with an extended wing toward the red and a sharp blue cutoff. The [O I] and [S II] lines have a very weak redshifted counterpart at  $+140 \pm 15$  km s<sup>-1</sup>. The [O I] doublet lines at 630 nm are the strongest of the forbidden transitions. These lines, as well as the [S II] lines, include a component at a low blueshifted velocity ( $\sim -10$  km s<sup>-1</sup>) that may be associated with a hot wind close to the star (cf. Hartigan et al. 1995). Forbidden line emission is produced by collisionally excited ions in a low-density medium. In this case, the two components at blue- and redshifted radial velocities suggest a bipolar outflow. The [Ca II] doublet at 729/732 nm (Figure 1(a)) is the only detected forbidden lines that do not have a blue offset, but a double-peaked signature.
4. *Peculiar profiles.* There are two peculiar line profiles that do not fit in any of the above descriptions (Figure 1(d)). The first is the Na I  $\lambda 589$  nm doublet, which includes an interstellar absorption feature and a blueshifted absorption component centered at  $-125$  km s<sup>-1</sup>. This absorption component is broader than that seen in Ca II and H $\alpha$ . Another peculiar profile is seen in the He I  $\lambda 1083$  nm line, which has a deep and narrow central absorption component and a







**Figure 4.** SED as observed by X-shooter (black), dereddened with  $A_V = 8$  mag (orange). Also plotted are a power-law fitted to the dereddened SED ( $\beta = -0.6$ , green), Kurucz (1993) models for A0V and A5V stars with ZAMS radii (2.5 and  $1.7 R_\odot$ ) at  $d = 0.7$  kpc (blue). Indicated with red squares are the 2MASS fluxes.

extinction could be explained by the fact that the jet has carved out a “hole” in the ambient molecular cloud.

With our current knowledge, we make a refined estimate of  $A_V$  assuming that  $R_V = 3.1$  and  $d = 0.7$  kpc. The absence of absorption features indicates that the photosphere is heavily veiled due to the accretion. Adopting a power law for the SED ( $\lambda F_\lambda \propto \lambda^\beta$ ), we expect  $-4/3 < \beta < 0$  in the range 500–1000 nm (cf. Hillenbrand et al. 1992). Dereddening the spectrum to match this flat SED leads to  $A_V = 8 \pm 1$  mag. The assumption that disk and/or accretion luminosity dominates the SED allows to determine a limit on the spectral type. As can be seen from Figure 4, this would exclude (pre-main sequence equivalents of) stars with spectral type earlier than A0V.

Several remarks should be made. First, the optical SED might not be flat or slightly declining, but increasing due to a cold gas disk. However, the many double-peaked emission lines, and the strong  $H\alpha$ , suggest that a hot and (partly) ionized disk is present. Second, a possible underestimate of the distance would imply a larger upper bound on the stellar luminosity.

Hartigan et al. (1995) derive empirical relations between the line fluxes of optical forbidden lines and the mass-loss rate through the jet for CTTS. Applying these relations to the dereddened spectrum of 08576nr292, we determine a jet mass-loss rate in the order of  $10^{-8}$ – $10^{-7} M_\odot \text{ yr}^{-1}$ . The same study suggests that the mass accretion rate is typically  $10^2$  times the mass-loss rate, implying an accretion rate of  $10^{-6}$ – $10^{-5} M_\odot \text{ yr}^{-1}$ . Only a few intermediate-mass stars have been observed with such high rates (Garcia Lopez et al. 2006). In this case, one would expect the disk to be optically thick up to distances close to the stellar surface (up to a few stellar radii, cf. Hillenbrand et al. 1992). This would be consistent with the disk dominating the SED up to optical wavelengths.

These considerations suggest that 08576nr292 is a HAeBe-like, Lada Class II source, undergoing active accretion. Because of its brightness, relatively low extinction and low inclination

angle, 08576nr292 provides a unique opportunity to study an active disk-jet system in great detail. Further X-shooter observations and modeling of the jet are planned, aimed to further explore the dynamics of this system.

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