

H α Emission Line Morphologies in Markarian Starburst Galaxies

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Abstract. We present broad band R and narrow band H α emission line images of a sample of optically selected starburst galaxies from the Markarian lists. The emission line morphology is studied and global properties like luminosities, equivalent widths and star formation rates are derived. The radial distribution of H α flux and the EW are determined using concentric aperture photometry on the emission line and the continuum images. H α flux is generally found to peak in the nuclear region and fall off outwards. The EW is found to peak off-center in most of the cases implying that though the intensity of emission is maximum at the nucleus, the star formation activity relative to the underlying continuum often peaks away from the center in Markarian starburst galaxies.

Key words. Galaxies: starburst, photometry.

1. Introduction

Emission line fluxes of the Balmer series provide a measure of the integrated luminosity of galaxies short ward of the Lyman limit and can be used to provide a direct measurement of the star formation rate (SFR) for hot, massive stars that dominate the ionizing continuum. The H α emission from giant HII regions in galaxies is a good tracer of OB star formation. The presence of H α indicates that at least one massive star has formed there recently. Hence, H α images are ideal for tracing the spatial distribution of hot, young stars in star forming regions of normal and starburst galaxies. Extensive H α surveys of samples of normal galaxies were carried out by Kennicutt & Kent (1983). They found that the integrated emission of a galaxy is strongly correlated with its Hubble type and colour. They also inferred that the variation of emission among galaxies of a given type was due to real dispersion in star formation activity. Several H α surveys of large samples of spirals using large apertures (Romanishin 1990) and CCD images (García-Barreto *et al.* 1996; Pogge 1989) were made. From a CCD H α survey, Gonzalez Delgado & Perez (1997a, 1997b) report considerable circumnuclear emission in a large sample of active galaxies. Pogge & Eskeridge (1993) conducted an H α imaging survey of a sample of neutral-gas rich S0 galaxies. Starburst galaxies and violently interacting systems show enhanced levels of star formation. The nuclear as well as the global properties of violently interacting galaxies were studied in detail by Bushouse (1986). Lehnert & Heckman (1996), hereafter LH96; studied a sample of

IR selected edge-on starburst galaxies using $H\alpha$ images. In this paper, we present the $H\alpha$ images along with the R band images of a sample of Markarian starburst galaxies and discuss the properties of the line emission. This paper is the second in a series of papers aimed at studying Markarian starburst galaxies in B , V , R , I and $H\alpha$. The optical B , V , R , I properties of a subset of the sample of Markarian starburst galaxies can be found in Chitre & Joshi (1999), hereafter, Paper I.

2. Observations and data reduction

The sample of galaxies was selected from the Markarian lists (Markarian, Lipovetskii & Stepanian 1979 and references therein) with the following criteria: Galaxies designated as starburst galaxies in the catalogue from CDS with m_v brighter than $14^m.5$ and angular sizes greater than $30''$ were selected. No consideration was made for any particular morphological type and the sample is unbiased towards the morphology of the galaxy. In this paper, we present results on 15 of the sample objects. All morphological types are represented in the present sample. Table 1 lists the global properties of the galaxies presented.

Table 1. Global properties of the sample galaxies.

Mkn	NGC	UGC	Type	Dist.	$S_{60\mu m}$	$S_{60\mu m} / S_{100\mu m}$	$\log L_{FIR}$	B_T	$\log D_{25}$
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
14	–	4242	S0?	44	0.25	0.23	42.69	14.67	0.73
213	4500	7667	SBa	43.6	3.89	0.59	43.67	13.18	1.21
363	694	1310	Scp	41.5	2.4	0.65	43.40	14.28	1.58
439	4369	7489	Sa	14.5	5.91	0.53	42.92	12.65	1.32
449	5014	8271	Sap	15.4	2.27	0.56	42.54	13.45	1.23
602	–	2460	SBbc	38.2	3.55	0.63	43.50	13.50	1.09
603	1222	–	E	35.8	12.6	0.82	43.96	13.24	1.04
708	2966	5181	SB	21.2	5.37	0.672	43.16	12.53	1.35
743	3773	6605	E0p	11.7	1.48	0.83	42.06	13.19	1.07
781	4779	8022	SBc	36.6	1.82	0.44	43.25	13.07	1.33
1002	632	1157	E1	43.3	4.85	0.76	43.72	13.60	1.19
1134	7752	12779	I0	72	4.76	0.48	44.23	14.75	0.92
1194	1819	3265	SB0	62.1	6.95	11.40	44.23	13.23	1.22
1308	–	6877	–	11.9	0.99	1.29	41.84	14.04	0.82
1379	5534	–	SBbc dbl	36.5	4.73	0.68	43.58	13.29	1.15

Note. **Cols. (1), (2) and (3)** : The Mkn, NGC and UGC designations respectively of the objects. **Col. (4)** : The morphological type taken from the Markarian catalogue downloaded from CDS. **Col. (5)** : The adopted distance to the galaxy in Mpc. **Col. (6)** : The $60 \mu m$ flux density in Jy from IRAS. **Col. (7)** : The ratio of the $60 \mu m$ to the $100 \mu m$ flux density. **Col. (8)** : The logarithm of the FIR luminosity in ergs s^{-1} calculated using the formula from Lonsdale *et al.* (1985). **Col. (9)** : The total uncorrected B magnitude from Chitre (1999). This was derived by fitting an exponential disk to the outer part of the luminosity profile in the B band and extrapolating it to infinity to derive B_T . **Col. (10)** : The log of the diameter at 25 mag arcsec^{-2} in units of a tenth of an arc minute from RC3.

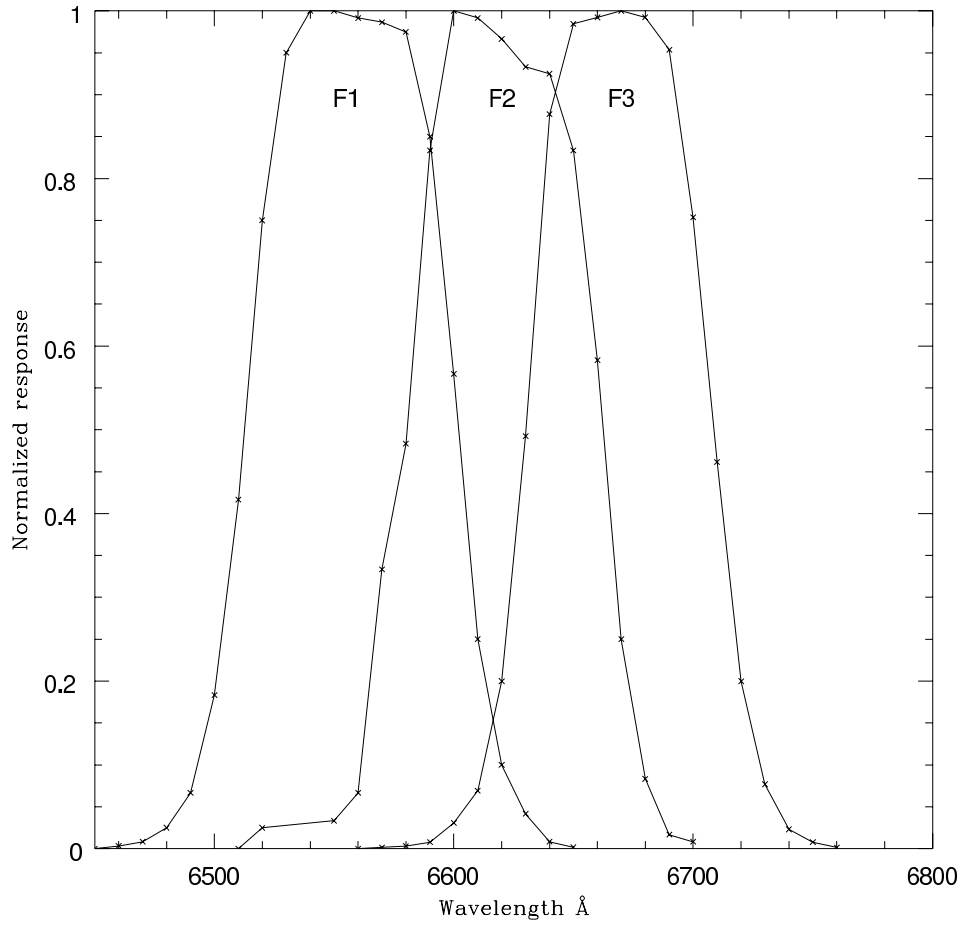


Figure 1. Normalized response curves of the narrow band filters.

Table 2. Narrow-band filter specifications.

Filter no.	λ_0 (\AA)	Peak trans. (%)	W(eff.width) (\AA)
F1	6556	60	91
F2	6618	60	84
F3	6669	65	81

The observations were carried out at the Cassegrain focus of the 1.2m telescope at Gurushikhar, Mt. Abu. The f-ratio of this telescope is f /13. A thinned, back illuminated Tektronix 1024 \times 1024 pixels CCD chip providing a field of view (5.2' \times 5.2') was used for imaging the galaxies. On chip binning of 2 \times 2 was employed before recording the images to increase the signal-to-noise ratio. The final resolution was 0.63'' /pixel which is sufficient to sample the point spread function (PSF) appropriately. The PSF

values during each galaxy observation are given in Table 3. Images were obtained through broadband Cousins's R and narrow band $H\alpha$ filters. The sample of galaxies was observed using appropriately red shifted filters. The response curves of the narrow band filters used are given in Fig. 1. Table 2 gives the filter specifications viz., the mean wavelength (λ_0) the peak transmission and the effective width (the width of a rectangle with the same area as that under the response curve and height equal to the peak transmission; W) of each filter. About 3–4 exposures were taken in each filter. The exposure times are also given in Table 3. The data were reduced using IRAF¹ and standard reduction procedures viz., bias subtraction, flat fielding, cosmic ray correction were performed on the raw images. Airmass corrections were applied using the extinction coefficients obtained from the standard stars which were observed on the same nights together with the narrow band and the broad band images. The galaxy images in both R band and narrow band $H\alpha$ were shifted and co-added to improve the signal-to-noise ratio. The sky background was computed from the mode of the histogram of the image since the field of view was large enough as compared to the size of the galaxy and the histograms were sky dominated. The galaxy images were subsequently sky subtracted and scaled for 1 second exposure. Figure 2 displays the R band continuum isophotal contours superimposed on the $H\alpha$ emission line images.

Table 3. Observational details.

Mkn	t_R sec	$t_{H\alpha}$ sec	Filter no.	PSF "
14	480	2100	F2	3.0
213	660	2100	F2	2.3
363	360	1500	F2	2.2
439	360	1600	F1	2
449	450	1800	F1	1.8
602	240	2040	F2	1.7
603	320	1200	F2	1.7
708	1300	1500	F2	2.2
743	420	1500	F1	1.9
781	520	1200	F2	2.7
1002	300	1200	F2	2.0
1134	360	1320	F3	2.4
1194	300	1200	F3	1.9
1308	360	1800	F1	2.3
1379	360	1200	F2	1.9

¹IRAF is distributed by National Optical Astronomy Observatories, which is operated by the Association of Universities Inc. (AURA) under cooperative agreement with the National Science Foundation, USA.

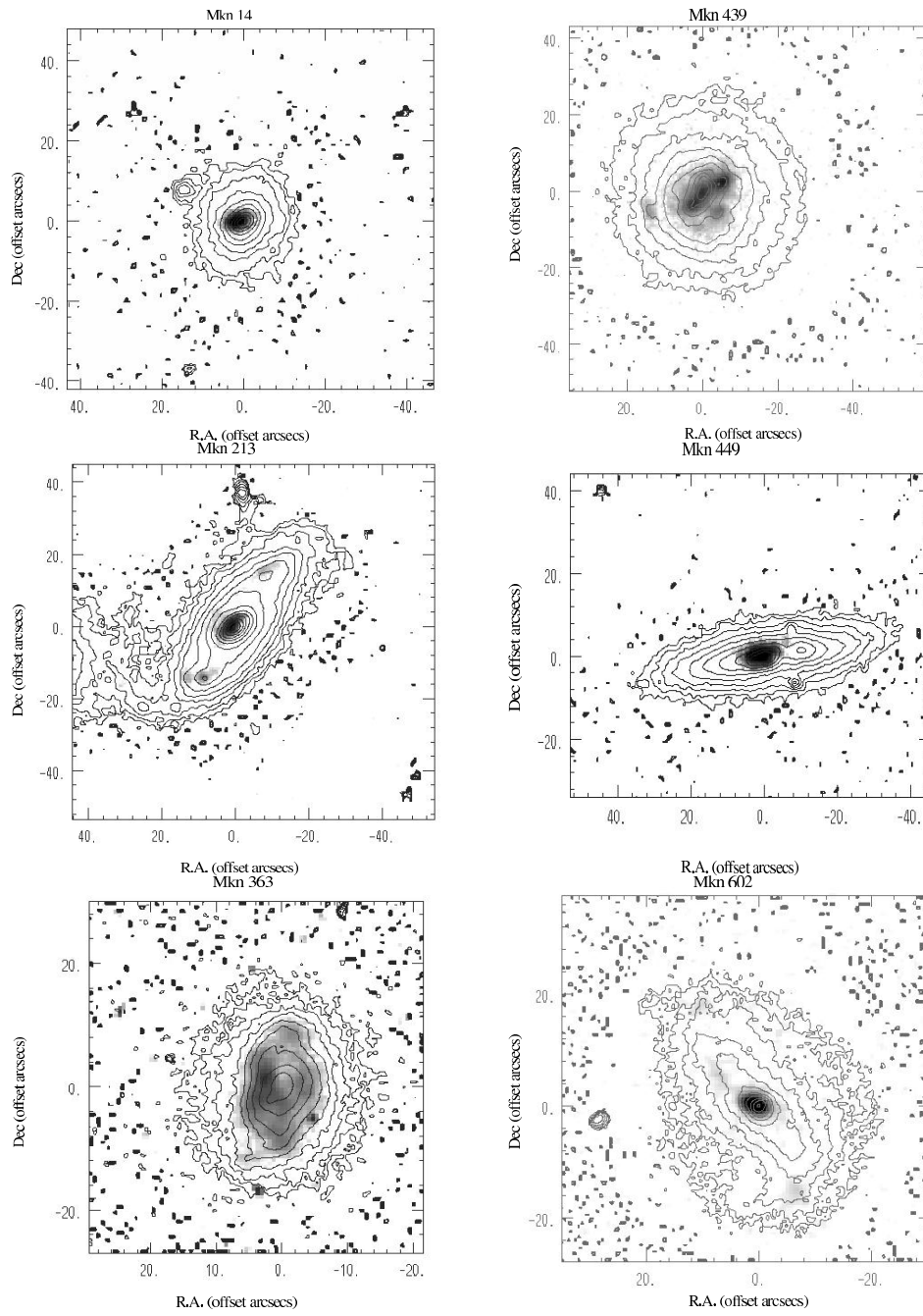
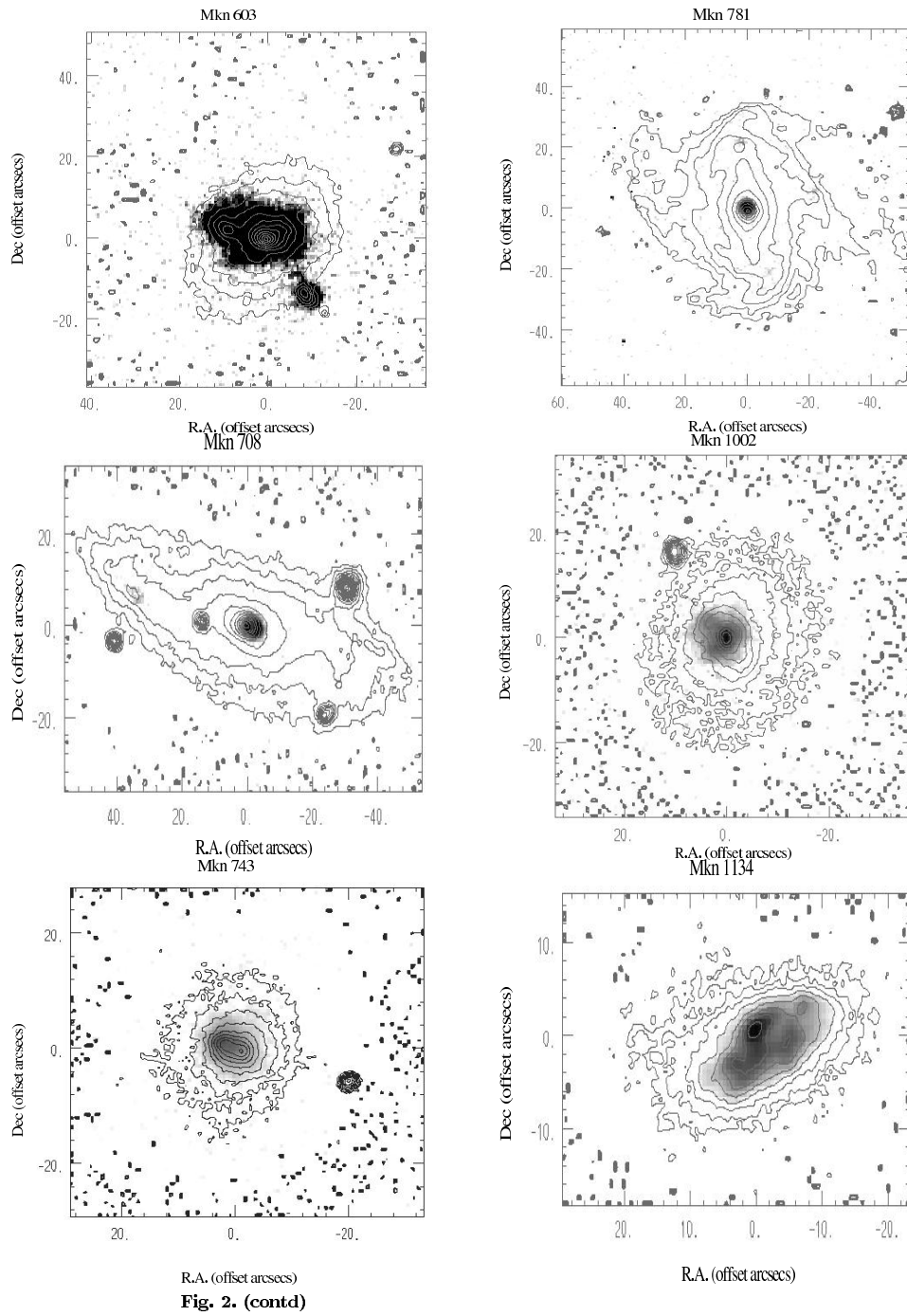


Fig.2.

Figure 2. (Continued)

**Figure 2. (Continued)**

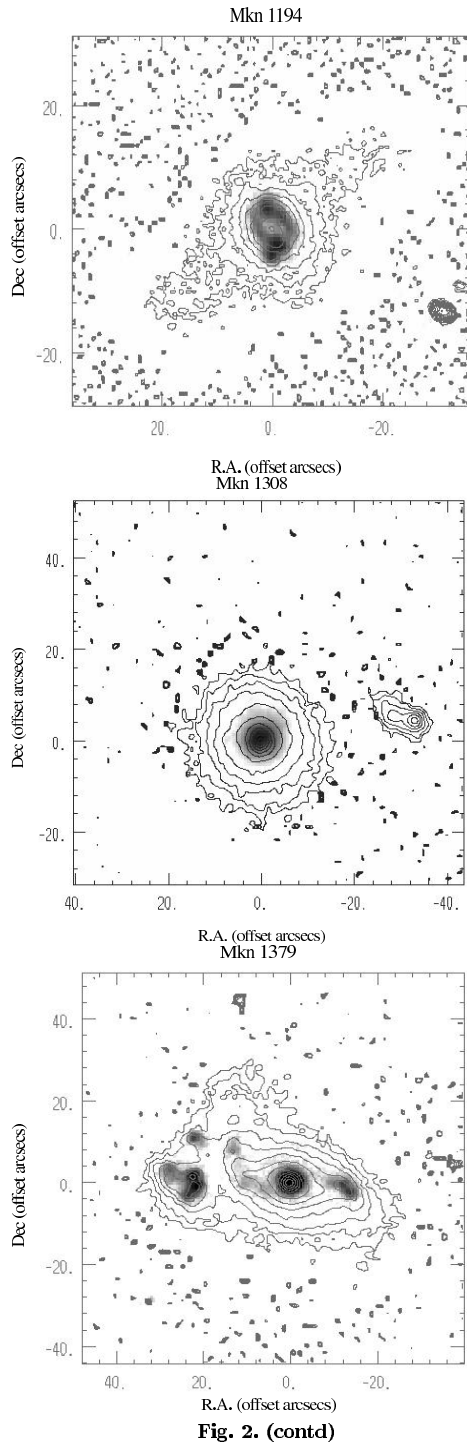


Figure 2. *R* band continuum isophotal contours superimposed on the H α + [NII] emission line gray scale images. The gray scale has been chosen for best contrast. North is at the top and East is to the left. The *R* band contours are plotted on the magnitude scale at an interval of 0.5^m with the peak contours at 16.5 mag arcsec⁻² for Mkn 213, Mkn 603 and Mkn 1379; 17.0 mag arcsec⁻² for Mkn 439, Mkn 602 and Mkn 1194; 17.5 mag arcsec⁻² for Mkn 449, Mkn 708 and Mkn 781; 18.0 mag arcsec⁻² for Mkn 14, Mkn 363, Mkn 743, Mkn 1002 and Mkn 1308 and 18.5 mag arcsec⁻² for Mkn 1134.

3. Generation and calibration of pure emission line images

The images obtained as discussed above were further reduced in the following way to obtain the pure emission line images. The FWHM of the stars in each set of R and $H\alpha$ frames was examined and the better PSF was degraded to match the PSFs in R and the narrow band. The next step involved determining the scale factor between the broad band and the narrow band image. For this, all the foreground stars in each frame were used. Using synthetic aperture photometry, the counts within a fixed aperture were derived for stars in both the filters and their ratio was taken. The average scaling factor ϵ , between the R band and $H\alpha$ was thus determined for each galaxy. The R band image was then scaled by the corresponding factor and subtracted from the narrow band images to yield the pure $H\alpha$ + $[NII]$ emission image.

The zero point R_0 for the continuum R band was determined using

$$R = R_0 - 2.5 \log N \quad (1)$$

where N is the number of counts and R is the corresponding instrumental magnitude. We used our broad band data (Chitre 1999) to determine the zero point for each observing night. The $H\alpha$ fluxes were determined using the equations explained in detail by Macchetto *et al.* (1996). These values were then corrected for galactic absorption using $E(B - V)$ from Burstein & Heiles (1984) and the Whitford (1958) form of the extinction curve as:

$$f_{H\alpha\text{corr}} = f_{H\alpha\text{obs}} \times \text{dex}(0.969 \times E(B - V)). \quad (2)$$

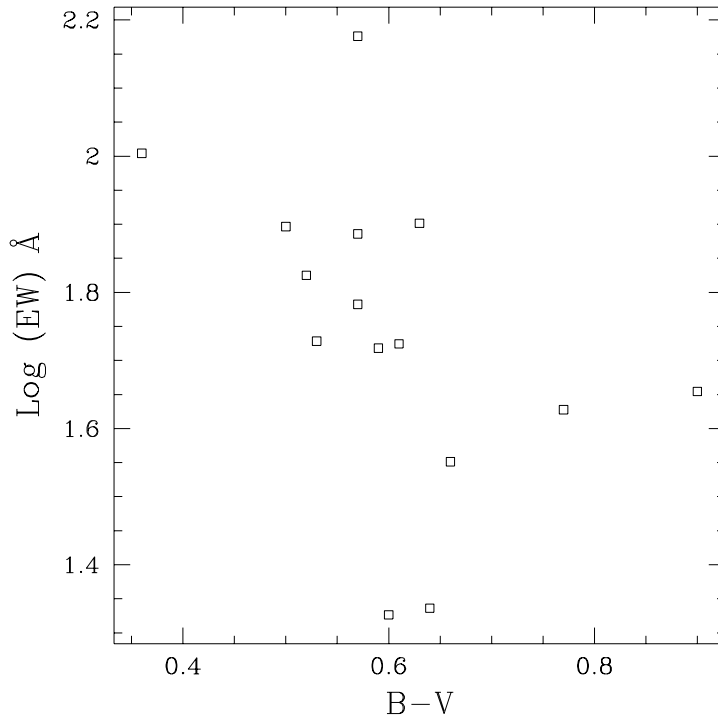


Figure 3. $H\alpha$ equivalent widths (present study) vs. $B-V$ colours (Chitre 1999).

Table 4. Derived properties of the sample galaxies.

Mkn (1)	$\log f_{H\alpha}$ ($\text{erg s}^{-1} \text{cm}^{-2}$) (2)	$\log L_{H\alpha}$ erg s^{-1} (3)	EW($H\alpha$) \AA (4)	n/g (5)	$r_{e,H\alpha}$ (kpc) (6)	$r_{e,H\alpha}/r_{e,R}$ (7)
14	-12.40	40.96	66	1.31	0.55	0.37
213	-12.29	41.21	21	1.94	0.98	0.43
363	-12.29	41.02	53.2	0.59	1.17	0.64
439	-11.65	40.74	52	1.38	0.61	0.92
449	-12.17	40.28	35	1.63	0.23	0.17
602	-12.04	41.20	45	-	0.939	0.31
603	-11.39	41.79	150	1.17	0.93	0.65
708	-12.14	40.79	53	1.89	1.25	0.255
743	-12.04	40.17	101	1.15	0.19	0.49
781	-12.27	41.08	21	-	3.52	0.60
1002	-11.95	41.36	76	1.50	0.643	0.256
1134	-12.35	41.44	60	1.10	1.87	0.748
1194	-11.97	41.69	42	0.80	1.42	0.57
1308	-12.07	40.16	78	1.21	0.21	0.39
1379	-11.54	41.66	79	1.47	1.98	0.83

Note. **Col. (1)** : The Mkn number. **Col. (2)** : The total $H\alpha$ + $[NII]$ flux of the galaxy corrected for galactic absorption using Eqn. 2. **Col. (3)** : The corrected luminosity of the galaxy in logarithmic units. **Col. (4)** : The global equivalent width in \AA . **Col. (5)** : The ratio of the nuclear (central 1 kpc) to the global EW. **Col. (6)** : The half light radius in $H\alpha$. **Col. (7)** : The ratio of the half light radius in $H\alpha$ to the half light radius in R band.

We have not applied corrections for the internal extinction within the galaxy. The corrected fluxes were converted to luminosities using the distances given in Table 1. The global equivalent widths of the galaxies were estimated by dividing the corrected $H\alpha$ flux in the emitting region of the galaxy by the underlying R band continuum flux within D_{25} . The underlying R band continuum was determined by first subtracting the emission from the broad band image and then scaling it to the continuum in the narrow band. The global EW and the $B - V$ colours of the galaxy are plotted in Fig. 3. We do not find a strong correlation between the global EW and the $B - V$ colours of the galaxy. There is a large scatter in EW around $B - V$ of 0.6. All the derived quantities are presented in Table 4.

4. Discussion

4.1 Spatial distribution of star formation

The large-scale distribution of star formation can be studied in various ways. The simplest qualitative method is to visually examine the distribution of the emission line regions. On the basis of the emission line morphologies, the sample can be divided into the following four sub classes.

- Galaxies showing $H\alpha$ emission in the central regions only. Mkn 14, Mkn 449 and Mkn 1308 belong to this sub class.
- Galaxies showing extended $H\alpha$ emission or galaxies with extranuclear emission in addition to nuclear star formation. This includes most of the spirals which show

emission from either one or both the ends of the bar or along the bar. Mkn 213, Mkn 602 are examples of this sub class.

- Galaxies showing global massive star formation. Line emission is observed throughout the body of the galaxy in Mkn 363, Mkn 603 and Mkn 1134, indicating that these galaxies are undergoing a global starburst. The fact that massive star formation is not always confined to the nuclear region alone is best illustrated in these cases. Their strong stellar continuum at longer wavelengths (R band) points to the fact that these are not young systems experiencing their first phase of star formation, but are old systems with a younger burst of star formation.
- This sub class includes starburst galaxies with peculiar emission line morphologies. Mkn 439 and Mkn 1194 are examples of such systems. Mkn 439 shows extended $H\alpha$ emission along a bar which is misaligned with the optical continuum isophotes (Chitre, Joshi & Ganesh 1999), while Mkn 1194 shows very faint emission from the central region but clearly shows a circumnuclear ring of intense massive star formation.

However, to study the emission line distribution in a quantitative manner and derive useful information from the results, synthetic aperture photometry was performed on the continuum subtracted $H\alpha$ images to derive the radial flux distribution. Concentric apertures were used for this purpose. The apertures were centered on the nucleus, the position of which was determined from the R band continuum images. This convention was maintained irrespective of whether or not the $H\alpha$ peak coincides with the R band peak. Circular apertures were considered up to the radius where the signal falls to the 3σ level of the background value. The radial distribution of the $H\alpha$ flux thus obtained is plotted in Fig. 4.

To study the regions of current star formation relative to the underlying continuum contributed by older stars, the equivalent width (EW) was computed. This was done by dividing the $H\alpha$ flux by the underlying stellar continuum flux at the same location estimated from the emission subtracted, scaled continuum images. It is a good measure for comparing relative levels of star formation from one galaxy to another. The EW provides a measure of the current star formation rate relative to the recent past star formation rate, since the line emission is due to massive stars with ages $< 10^7$ years while the stellar continuum at these wavelengths is due to G and K giants which are typically a few billion years old (Huchra 1977; Kennicutt 1983). A similar approach was used by Bushouse (1986) to derive pseudo equivalent widths for a sample of interacting galaxies.

An inspection of Fig. 4 reveals that most of the galaxies except Mkn 363 and Mkn 1194 show a peak in the flux at the center and a nearly exponentially falling behaviour outwards irrespective of their morphology. In some cases like Mkn 1308, the profile flattens out in the outer regions. In the case of Mkn 363 and Mkn 1194, the peak emission is off-centered from the nucleus. This is clearly seen in the gray scale images (Fig. 2) also. In general, galaxies with peculiar emission line morphologies or global emission show considerable deviations from the exponential profiles eg., Mkn 1134 and Mkn 439. However, the EW profiles show startling differences in their behaviour. The first two panels in Fig. 4 show galaxies with EWs peaking at the center and falling outwards. The next few panels have EWs peaking away from the center. The interesting point to be noted in these cases is that the EW peaks away from the center even in those cases where the peak $H\alpha$ flux is maximum at the center. This indicates that though the flux levels are maximum at the center in some of these galaxies, the current star

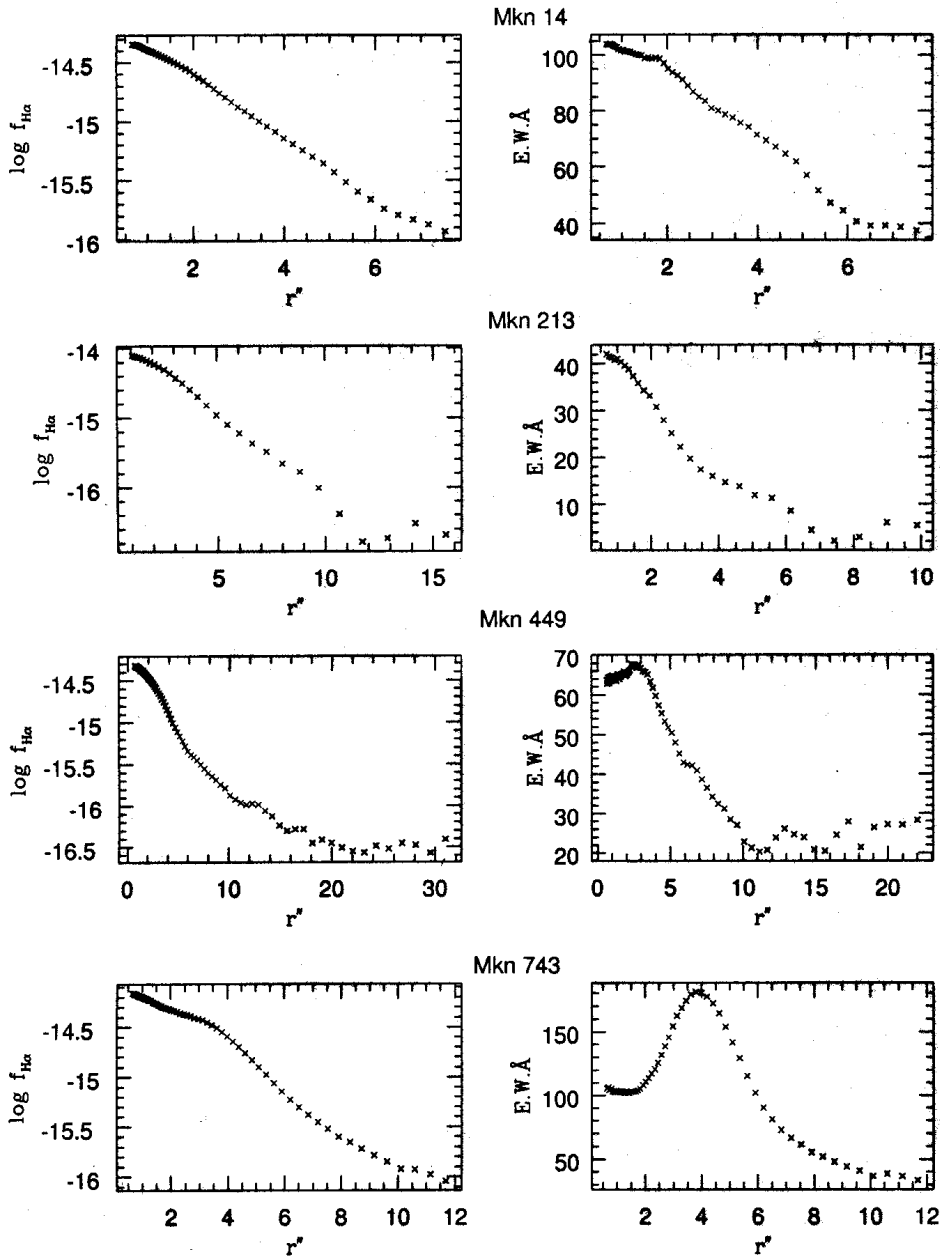


Figure 4. (Continued)

formation rate relative to the recent past star formation is maximum away from the center. The peak occurs in the inner half a kpc in most of these galaxies except in Mkn 363, Mkn 1134, Mkn 1194 and Mkn 1379 all of which show considerable extended extranuclear star formation. The peak is sharp in most cases except in Mkn 363 where it is broad and flattened. This is probably a result of the global star formation seen in

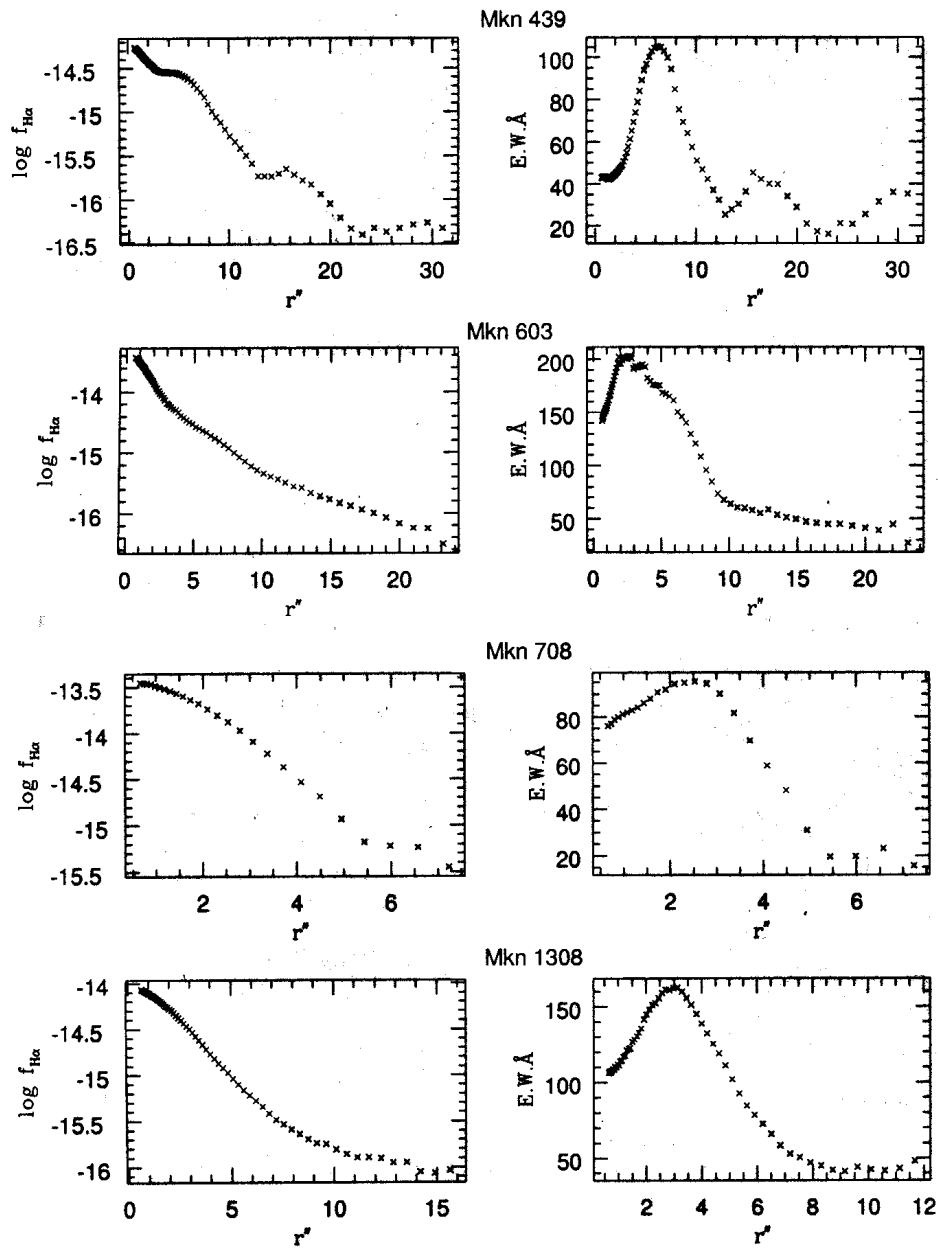


Figure 4. (Continued)

Mkn 363. The global EW listed in Table 3 was compared with the EW in the central 1 kpc of each galaxy except for Mkn 602 and Mkn 781. These galaxies were excluded because the signal-to-noise ratio was not good enough to derive the radial profiles and only global values were computed for these two galaxies. It was found that the central nuclear EW was higher than the global value in nearly all cases. This suggests that

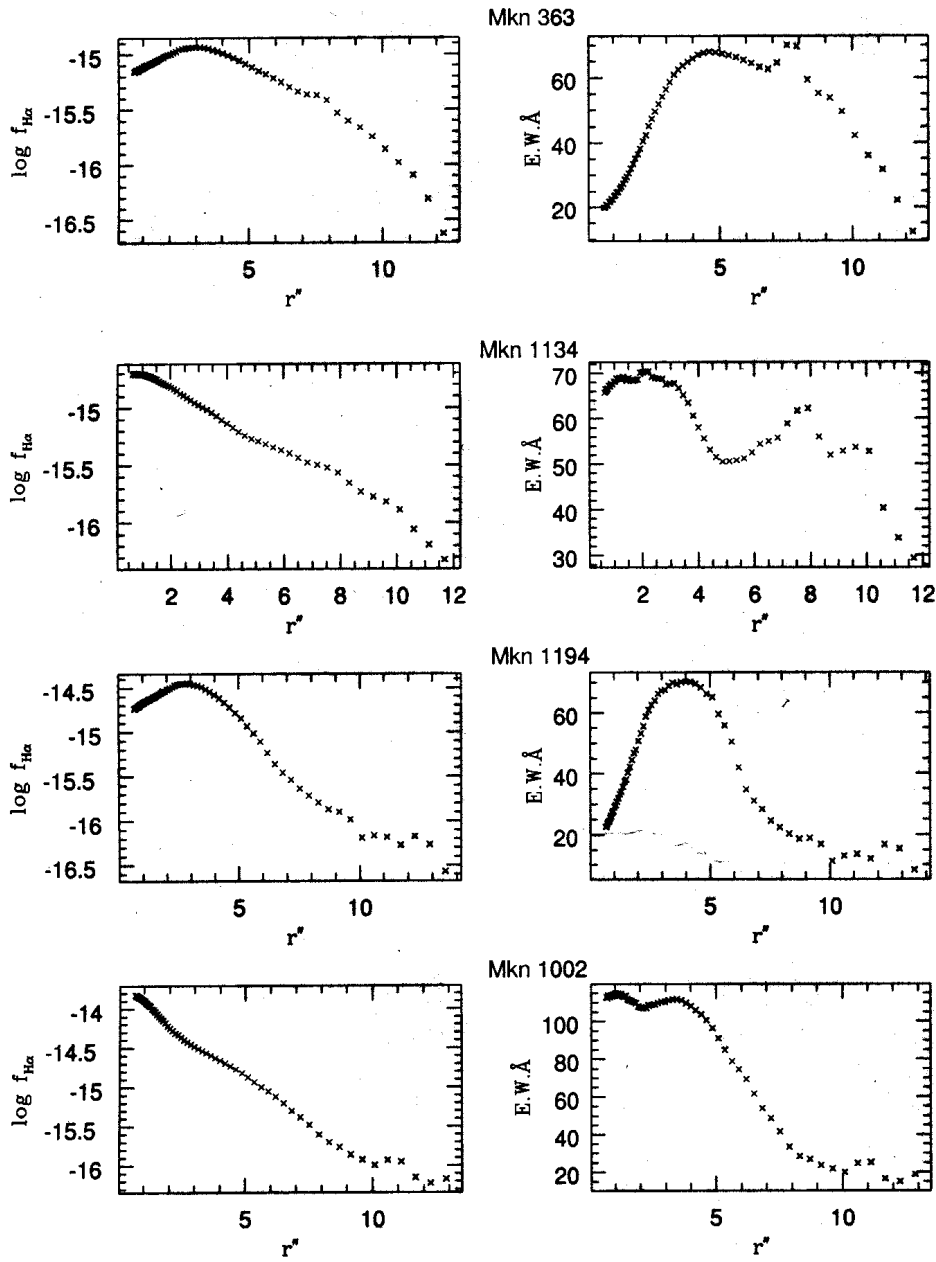


Figure 4. (Continued)

the star formation is more enhanced with respect to the underlying population in the central regions of these starburst galaxies. A few cases like Mkn 363 and Mkn 1194 have the ratio of the nuclear EW to its global value less than unity. Both these galaxies show a considerable amount of extranuclear star formation.

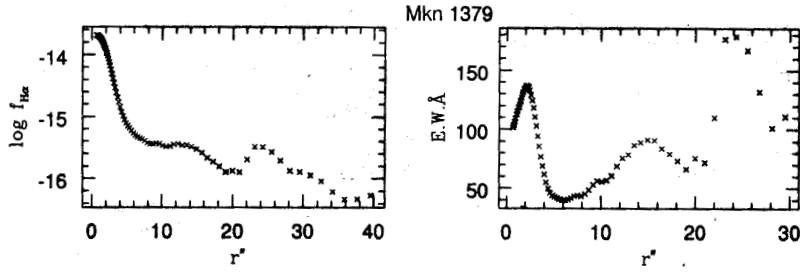


Figure 4. The radial variation of the logarithm of the H α flux ($\text{erg s}^{-1} \text{cm}^{-2}$) and the EW (\AA).

4.2 Half-light radii and the relative concentration of star formation

To compare the characteristic sizes of the star forming regions in the sample, we derived the half-light radius in H α . This parameter enables us to define a model independent size of the emitting region especially while inter comparing data from a morphologically dissimilar sample as ours. The half-light radius in H α ($r_{e,H\alpha}$) is defined as the radius enclosing half of the total line emission. For deriving this, the radius at which the counts in the image frame fall to 2σ of the background value is determined. The total flux inside this aperture is computed. A growth curve is constructed using concentric apertures of increasing radii and the half-light radius is determined from this curve. The values of $r_{e,H\alpha}$ derived in this manner are given in column (7) of Table 4. The mean value of $\log(r_{e,H\alpha})$ derived from our sample is 2.88 in pc. The size of the emitting regions is directly proportional to the absolute luminosity of the galaxy. This

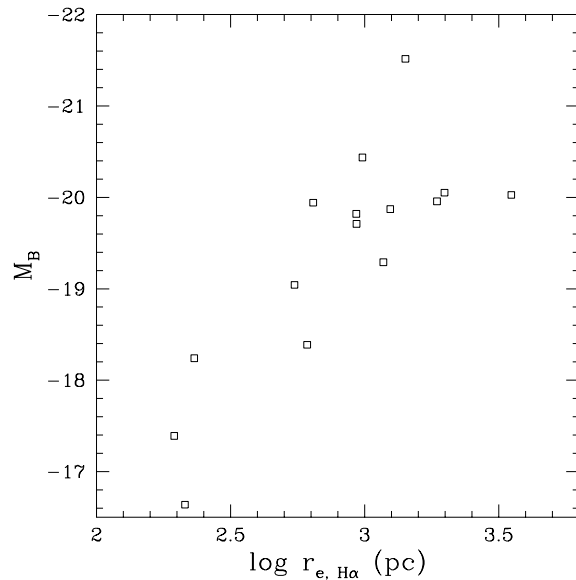


Figure 5. The absolute B magnitude as a function of the half-light radius in H α .

is illustrated in Fig. 5 where the absolute blue luminosity M_B is plotted against the half-light radius in $H\alpha$, $r_{e,H\alpha}$.

To estimate the degree of concentration of the emission relative to the continuum, we calculated the ratio of the half-light radius in $H\alpha$ to the half-light radius in R ($r_{e,R}$). The values of $r_{e,R}$ were taken from Chitre (1999). For our sample, this ratio is less than unity for all cases indicating that the emission is more centrally concentrated as compared to the continuum light. To compare the properties of our sample of optically selected, uv-excess starburst galaxies with other IR selected starburst galaxy samples, we have done a comparative study of our sample with LH96 sample. The LH96 sample was selected based on the following criteria: It contained starburst galaxies which were edge on, were IR bright ($S_{60\mu m} > 5$ Jy) and IR warm ($S_{60\mu m} / S_{100\mu m} > 0.5$). Our sample galaxies had a range of inclinations with Mkn 439 being nearly face on and Mkn 1194 being nearly edge on. Our sample galaxies were selected only on the basis of their redshifts and apparent magnitudes and were found to have $S_{60\mu m}$ ranging from 0.25 Jy to 12.6 Jy with most galaxies having the value less than 5 Jy. Comparing the results derived by us with the results derived by LH96 (Table 5), we see that the average size of the emitting regions in the LH96 sample is nearly 1.8 times larger than that in our sample. The concentration of $H\alpha$ in our sample is 45% with respect to the continuum while it is 60% for LH96. In other words, the line emission is more centrally concentrated in our sample of optically selected starburst galaxies than in the LH96 sample of IR selected starburst galaxies. We also find that on an average, LH96 galaxies are only 1.5 times brighter in $H\alpha$ but are about 9 times brighter in FIR. One reason for this could be that the IR selected galaxies are much dustier and the star forming regions are hidden by large amounts of dust which could be responsible for the extinction of the line emission.

Table 5. Average properties of our sample and LH96 sample.

Parameter	This work	LH96
$S_{60\mu m}$ (Jy)	0.25 – 12.6	>5
$S_{60\mu m} / S_{100\mu m}$	0.23 – 0.83	>0.5
Inclination	no limit	edge-on
Log $L_{H\alpha}$	41.06	41.23
Log L_{FIR}	43.25	44.22
Log $r_{e,H\alpha}$ (pc)	2.88	3.15
Log ($r_{e,H\alpha} / r_{e,R}$)	-0.34	-0.22

Figure 6 shows a comparative study of the behaviour of $\log(L_{IR} / L_{H\alpha})$ versus $r_{e,H\alpha} / r_{e,r}$ for three samples, namely our sample, LH96 IR selected starburst galaxies sample and Usui *et al.* (1998) sample which consists of early-type spirals with $\log(L_{FIR} / L_B)$ higher than the average for early-type spirals. Our sample objects have smaller ratios of both $\log(L_{IR} / L_{H\alpha})$ and $r_{e,H\alpha} / r_{e,R}$ as compared to LH96 while the values do not show much difference as compared to the Usui sample of early-type star forming galaxies.

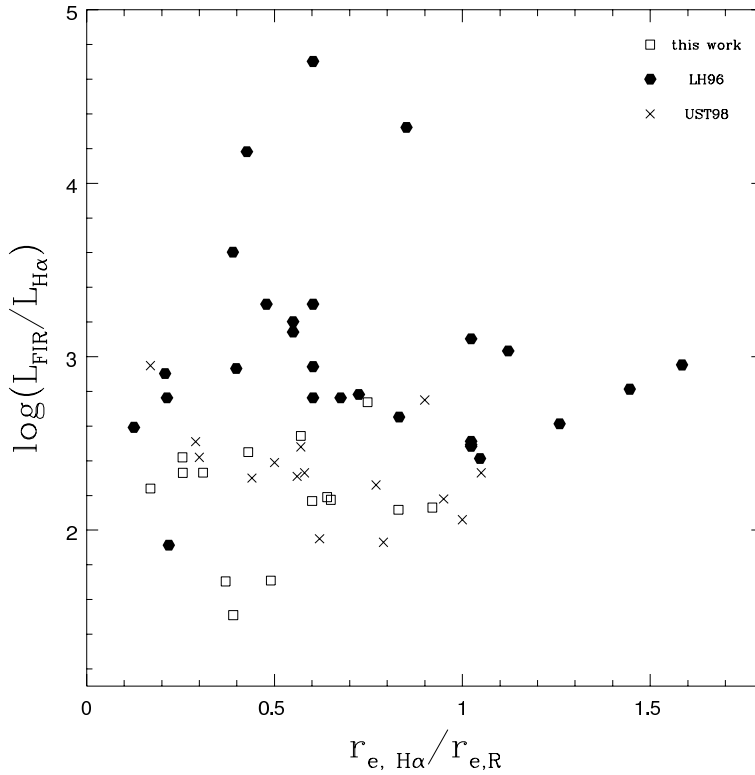


Figure 6. $\text{Log}(L_{\text{FIR}}/L_{\text{H}\alpha})$ vs $r_{e,\text{H}\alpha}/r_{e,r}$ for our sample compared with two other samples.

5. Conclusions

A study of a sample of Markarian starburst galaxies has shown that:

- The line emission peaks in the central region and falls nearly exponentially outwards in most of the cases.
- Unlike the emission, the radial variation of the equivalent width does not show a uniform behaviour. This indicates that though the intensity of star formation is maximum at the center, the relative level of star formation with respect to the underlying continuum shows different trends. We do not find any clear evidence for a relation between the radial behaviour of the equivalent width and the morphological type of the galaxy.
- The nuclear EW is greater than the global EW in most of the sample galaxies.

APPENDIX

Notes on individual galaxies

The emission line morphology of each galaxy is described below and compared with the optical colour maps from Paper I or Chitre (1999).

Mkn 14 : This S0 galaxy shows line emission in the central region. The emission appears to be more concentrated towards the eastern side of the nucleus (Fig. 2).

Mkn 213 : This spiral galaxy shows strong H α emission in the central region fanning out towards the west and faint emission at the ends of the bar. The EWs are low compared to other galaxies in the sample indicating that the older stellar population is dominant in the inner region in this galaxy.

Mkn 363 : A peculiar emission morphology is seen in this galaxy. H α emission is global but the morphology of the emission is disturbed and clumpy. The peak of emission off-centered from the nucleus. A comparison with the optical colour maps shows that the bluest region in this galaxy also lies 5'' away from the nucleus. The EW (Fig. 4) also reaches its peak value at this distance.

Mkn 439 : This galaxy is the most peculiar galaxy in the sample. The optical continuum contours and the emission line contours show completely different morphologies. The peak emission in H α does not coincide with the bluest region seen in the optical colour maps. The line emission is along a bar misaligned with the optical contours of the galaxy (Chitre, Joshi & Ganesh 1999). The EW peaks 6'' away from the optical center of the galaxy.

Mkn 449 : Strong H α emission is seen only in the central region in this galaxy.

Mkn 602 : This barred spiral shows emission in the nuclear region and very faint emission from the ends of the bar.

Mkn 603 : Mkn 603 is a part of an interacting system of galaxies. The main galaxy is an elliptical interacting with two small companions. This galaxy shows extended line emission while its companions show global line emission.

Mkn 708 : An elongated spiral galaxy with very broad ill-defined spiral arms, Mkn 708 shows line emission only in the central region. However, this galaxy gets redder inwards unlike other Markarian starburst galaxies which get bluer inwards. We do not find any clear indications for the presence of dust from isophotal analysis of the optical continuum images (Chitre 1999).

Mkn 743 : This double nucleus galaxy (Mazzarella & Boroson 1993) shows peak H α emission in one of its nucleus. Emission is seen in the inner region in this galaxy.

Mkn 781 : The only flocculent spiral in the sample, this galaxy shows emission in the nuclear region and as a couple of very faint spots in the arms.

Mkn 1002 : Pogge & Eskridge (1993) have reported H α emission in the nuclear region as well as clumps of emission in the circumnuclear region of this galaxy. Our studies show that the line emission does not follow the structure seen in colour maps but just shows extended emission in the central region.

Mkn 1134 : Global star formation is seen in this small irregular galaxy which is attached to the tip of the spiral arm of a larger spiral galaxy, NGC 7753. The peak emission is coincident with the off-centered nucleus of the galaxy.

Mkn 1194 : Star formation is enhanced in a circumnuclear ring in this galaxy. Two bright H α spots are seen along the ring to the north and the south. The nucleus appears faint in emission. The ring lies at about 5'' from the nucleus. The EW is also found to peak in this region.

Mkn 1308 : This S0 galaxy has an elongated companion. Emission is seen in the nuclear region. However, the EW peaks 3'' from the optical center of the galaxy.

Mkn 1379 : Mkn 1379 forms a part of a system of interacting galaxies. Strong H α emission is seen in the nuclear region and diffuse emission is seen along the bar. Blobs of H α are seen at the ends of the bars and in the companion galaxies. Global

star formation is detected in the companions lying to the east. We measured the EWs in these eastern companions to be as high as 245Å. The companion to the west has a EW of about 105Å. These values are much higher as compared to the peak EW seen in Mkn 1379 (Fig. 4).

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