

FURTHER MULTIWAVELENGTH OBSERVATIONS OF THE SSA 22 Ly α -EMITTING BLOB

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ABSTRACT

We present new follow-up observations of the submillimeter luminous Ly α -emitting object in the SSA 22 $z = 3.09$ galaxy overdensity, referred to as “blob 1” by Steidel and coworkers. In particular, we discuss high-resolution *Hubble Space Telescope* (*HST*) optical imaging, Owens Valley Radio Observatory (OVRO) spectral imaging, Keck spectroscopy, Very Large Array (VLA) 20 cm radio continuum imaging, and *Chandra* X-ray observations. We also present a more complete analysis of the existing James Clerk Maxwell Telescope (JCMT) submillimeter data. We detect several optical continuum components that may be associated with the core of the submillimeter-emitting region. A radio source at the position of one of the *HST* components [α (J2000) = 22^h17^m25^s.94, δ (J2000) = +00°12′38″.9] identifies it as the likely counterpart to the submillimeter source. We also tentatively detect the CO(4–3) molecular line centered on the radio position. We use the CO(4–3) intensity to estimate a limit on the gas mass for the system. The optical morphology of sources within the Ly α cloud appears to be filamentary, while the optical source identified with the radio source has a dense knot that may be an active galactic nucleus (AGN) or compact starburst. We obtain a Keck Low-Resolution Imaging Spectrograph (LRIS) spectrum of this object, despite its faintness ($R = 26.8$). The spectrum reveals weak Ly α emission but no other obvious features, suggesting that the source is not an energetic AGN (or that it is extremely obscured). We use nondetections in deep *Chandra* X-ray images to constrain the nature of the blob. Although conclusive evidence regarding the nature of the object remains hard to obtain at this redshift, the evidence presented here is at least consistent with a dust-obscured AGN surrounded by a starburst situated at the heart of this giant Ly α cloud.

Subject headings: cosmology: observations — galaxies: evolution — galaxies: formation — galaxies: high-redshift — galaxies: starburst

1. INTRODUCTION

Deep surveys of the submillimeter sky using the Submillimeter Common-User Bolometer Array (SCUBA) on the James Clerk Maxwell Telescope (JCMT) have uncovered a population of distant dust-rich galaxies (see Blain et al. 2002 and references therein). Based on the radio/submillimeter indices, optical colors, and the spectroscopic identifications for >60 submillimeter galaxies, the majority of these systems are thought to lie at redshifts of $z \sim 1-4$ (e.g., Smail et al. 2002; Chapman et al. 2003a, 2004).

Identifying the counterparts of submillimeter sources at other wavelengths has proven difficult because of the large beam size of submillimeter instruments and the inherent faintness of the sources at all shorter wavelengths. The radio regime has emerged as an efficient means to pinpoint the submillimeter sources (through the far-IR/radio relation, e.g., Helou et al. 1985; Condon 1992); however, when radio emission cannot be detected, the only recourse is to use millimeter interferometry to attempt to localize the source.

The first well-studied submillimeter system, SMM J02399–0136 (hereafter SMM J02399) at $z = 2.8$, was shown to contain both an active galactic nucleus (AGN; Ivison et al.

1998) and a massive reservoir of molecular gas thought to be fueling a starburst (Frayer et al. 1998). This scenario is increasingly becoming the conventional paradigm for the submillimeter population. This is perhaps unsurprising, given that both AGNs and starbursts are thought to be triggered by galaxy interactions (e.g., Sanders et al. 1988; Archibald et al. 2002). With the proliferation of spectroscopic redshifts for submillimeter sources, many showing AGN features (Chapman et al. 2003a, 2004), detecting molecular CO gas has become almost routine (Frayer et al. 1998, 1999; Neri et al. 2003; Greve et al. 2004).

Submillimeter sources identified in the optical are typically suggestive of mergers in progress, based mainly on ground-based images of disturbed multiple-component structures (e.g., Smail et al. 2002; Ivison et al. 2002). However, imaging at *Hubble Space Telescope* (*HST*) resolution exists for very few submillimeter sources, making the detailed morphological study of submillimeter galaxies difficult. *HST*-imaged examples of 12 robustly identified SCUBA galaxies often reveal the ground-based structure to be a complex of many smaller fragments (Chapman et al. 2003b). The fragmented merger morphology of SCUBA galaxies observed by *HST* in the SSA 13 deep field (Sato et al. 2002) and of the SCUBA luminous Lyman break galaxy Westphal-MMD 11 (Chapman et al. 2002) seem representative of the submillimeter population.

One of the intrinsically brightest submillimeter sources yet discovered is the SSA 22 “blob 1” (Chapman et al. 2001), which lies in the overdense core of a possible protocluster of galaxies at $z = 3.09$ (Steidel et al. 2000). The nature of this source remains enigmatic despite the existing multiwavelength detections and deep ground-based imagery and spectroscopy.

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The extent to which this object is representative of high- z submillimeter detections is, as yet, quite unclear. It was targeted with SCUBA only after the extended $\text{Ly}\alpha$ emission was already known. However, highly clustered environments may be typical of many blank-field submillimeter galaxies (Blain et al. 2004). In addition, extended gaseous halos have been detected around several other submillimeter galaxies, e.g., SMM J02399 (Ivison et al. 1998), 4C 41.17 (Ivison et al. 2000), SMM J17142, in the field of the radio galaxy 53W002 (Smail et al. 2003b), and SMM J16034 (Smail et al. 2003a). Whether representative or unique, the combination of extended $\text{Ly}\alpha$ emission and the presence of large amounts of dust (which is effective at destroying $\text{Ly}\alpha$) is surprising and merits further study. Some ideas of what may be going on include: a superwind from an extreme starburst (Taniguchi, Shioya, & Kakazu 2001; Ohya et al. 2003), cooling radiation in a forming galaxy halo (Fardal et al. 2001), or some contribution from the Sunyaev-Zel'dovich effect increment. Chance superposition or the effects of gravitational lensing can also complicate the interpretation.

In this paper we present new *HST* optical imaging and Keck Low-Resolution Imaging Spectrograph (LRIS) spectroscopy, as well as Owens Valley Radio Observatory (OVRO) CO(4–3) measurements and a reanalysis of the available SCUBA, Very Large Array (VLA) radio, and *Chandra* X-ray data. We use this combination of multiwavelength data to localize the submillimeter emission within the optical/near-IR images and to discuss the spectral energy distribution (SED) of the blob. All calculations assume a flat Λ CDM cosmology with $\Omega_\Lambda = 0.7$ and $H_0 = 65 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$, so that $1''$ corresponds to 8.2 kpc at $z = 3.09$, where the luminosity distance is 28,360 Mpc.

2. OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

2.1. *HST* Visible Observations

HST imaging was obtained with the Space Telescope Imaging Spectrograph (STIS). Three orbits of LOW SKY integration time were split between six exposures using the 50CCD clear filter, providing 7020 s. Pipeline-processed frames were calibrated, aligned, and cosmic-ray-rejected using standard IRAF/STSDAS routines. The pixel size in the STIS image is $0''.0508$. The sensitivity limit reached is 27.6 mag (5σ), corresponding to $R \sim 28.6$ for a point source with a late-type spiral galaxy SED. The 50CCD clear filter is roughly a Gaussian with 1840 Å half-width and an effective wavelength of 5733.3 Å. We refer to the associated AB magnitude as $R'(573)$ hereafter. The STIS image is presented in Figure 1 with a $\text{Ly}\alpha$ outline overlaid (R. Bower 2003, private communication). The relative astrometry was carried out by matching all bright sources, providing a relative positional error of $0''.28$.

While no optically detected continuum sources were present within the core of the $\text{Ly}\alpha$ cloud from the $R \sim 26$ ground-based imagery in Steidel et al. (2000), we find several compact and distorted sources in the deep *HST*-STIS imagery (Fig. 1), labeled J1, J2, J3, and J4. However, comparison of our *HST* image with the $\text{Ly}\alpha$ contours from Steidel et al. (2000) and Bower et al. (2004) suggests that these *HST* sources do not always trace the density of $\text{Ly}\alpha$. For example, there was no narrowband knot at the position of J1 or J4, although J2 and J3 sit near $\text{Ly}\alpha$ peaks. The $R'(573)$ $1''$ aperture magnitudes for the different components using the SExtractor package (Bertin & Arnouts 1996) are $J1 = 26.82$, $J2 = 27.12$, $J3 = 27.65$, and

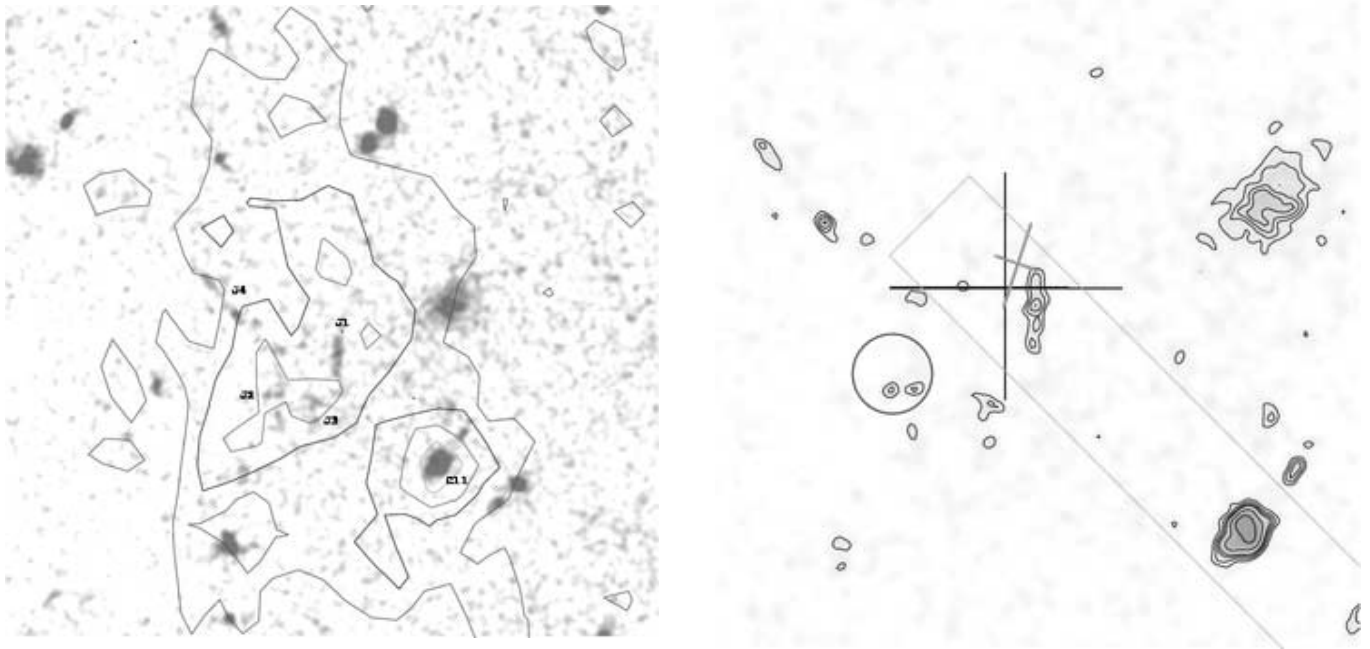


FIG. 1.—SSA 22 blob 1 region (north is up, east is left) observed with *HST*-STIS 50CCD. The left panel gray-scale image is $18'' \times 18''$, with contours overlaid showing the extended $\text{Ly}\alpha$ cloud obtained from the William Herschel Telescope SAURON integral field spectrograph image (Bower et al. 2004). The *HST* source J1, detected in our VLA radio image, is labeled, along with $\text{Ly}\alpha$ knot J2 and an additional component, J3, any of which might be related to the SCUBA and OVRO centroids (1σ centroiding plus pointing errors indicated by the large and small crosses, respectively). An extended linear feature to the northeast is labeled J4, and the Lyman break galaxy LBG C11 is also indicated. The right panel shows a $9'' \times 9''$ zoomed gray-scale image with contours of the *HST*-STIS image that start with 3σ and increase by 1σ . The $K_s = 21.5$ source detected by Steidel et al. (2000) using the Keck Near-Infrared Camera (NIRC) is identified as a circle corresponding to our J2 (compare their Fig. 7). The Keck LRIS slitlet placement over J1 and LBG C11 is also overlaid. The bright object in the northwest of the image has U , g , R , I , and K colors, which makes it inconsistent with a $z \sim 3.09$ galaxy and is likely at a much lower redshift.

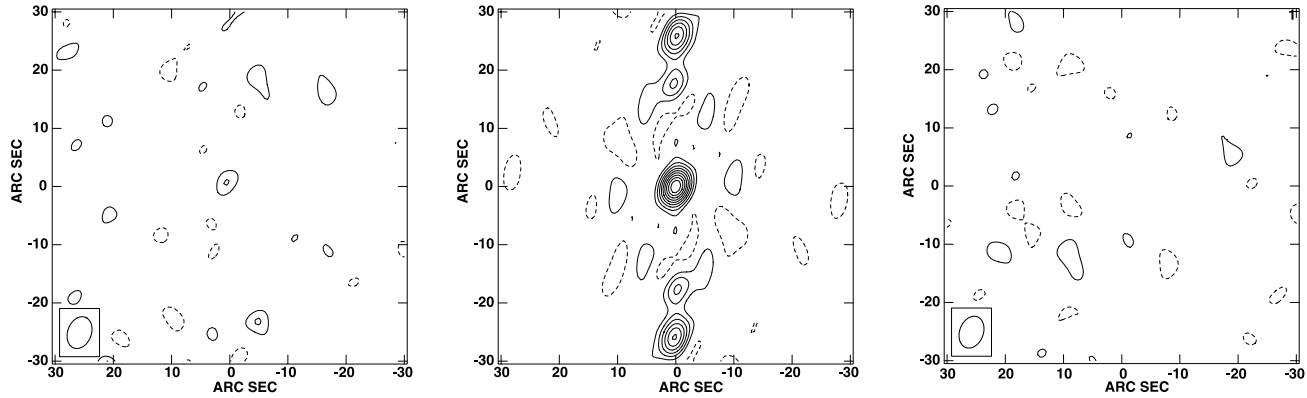


FIG. 2.—OVRO spectral imaging. The left panel shows the “dirty beam” higher frequency half-band map containing the marginally detected 400 km s^{-1} CO(4–3) line near the centroid of the SCUBA beam. Excess power near the positions of the beam sidelobes is consistent with our tentative detection. The OVRO beam is shown as an inset, while the dirty beam pattern sidelobes are shown in the middle panel. The right panel shows the lower frequency half-band dirty beam map, revealing no source $>3 \sigma$ within the central $20'' \times 20''$. Contours are 2σ , 3σ , etc., times the rms ($0.8 \text{ Jy km s}^{-1} \text{ beam}^{-1}$), with negative contours dashed.

J4 = 26.44. Only the J2 component is detected in the K band ($K_s = 21.5$; Steidel et al. 2000).

2.2. OVRO CO(4–3) Observations

SSA 22 blob 1 was observed using the Owens Valley Millimeter Array over 8 hr tracks scheduled through 2001 March and June. A total of 28 hr of high-quality integration time on-source was obtained in good winter weather conditions in two configurations of six 10.4 m telescopes. The phase center for the CO observations was the position of the brightest near-IR component of the SSA 22 blob 1 cloud identified as an $(R - K) > 6$ extremely red object (ERO) in Steidel et al. (2000), which we now refer to as J2: $\alpha(\text{J2000}) = 22^{\text{h}}17^{\text{m}}25^{\text{s}}93$, $\delta(\text{J2000}) = +00^{\circ}12'37''.6$. The CO(4–3) line was observed using a digital correlator configured with 112×4 MHz channels centered on 112.390 GHz in the lower sideband, corresponding to CO(4–3) emission at a redshift of $z = 3.102$.

Choosing an observing frequency for molecular lines is difficult when only the Ly α emission line redshift is known. The closest bright Lyman break galaxy in the protocluster is LBG C11, with $z = 3.1080$ for Ly α . The redshift for the Ly α knot $\sim 7''$ farther along the slit and associated with the $K = 21.5$ source is identical within the errors. Using the interstellar absorption lines for LBG C11 gives $z = 3.0964$. From near-IR spectroscopy, the systemic redshift is typically halfway between the Ly α and absorption redshifts (Pettini et al. 2001; Adelberger et al. 2003), suggesting $z \simeq 3.102$. However, there is no detected continuum in the spectrum of J2, and it is not clear that the same estimate should necessarily apply. Hence, the uncertainty in the systemic redshift is probably around 400 km s^{-1} . The Keck spectrum of SSA 22 blob 1 (see § 2.6) shows weak Ly α in emission, 220 km s^{-1} to the red of LBG C11 (or at a redshift $z = 3.111$). The low signal-to-noise ratio (S/N) of the spectrum coupled with uncertainties in the systemic redshift suggest that this new information would not improve the estimated redshift for the CO measurement.

Typical single-sideband system temperatures were approximately 400–500 K, corrected for telescope losses and the atmosphere. In addition to the CO line data, we recorded the 3 mm continuum data with a 1 GHz bandwidth for both the upper (line-free, centered on 112.9975 GHz) and lower sidebands. The nearby quasar 2213+035 was observed every 25 minutes for gain and phase calibration. Absolute flux cal-

ibration was determined from observations of Uranus, Neptune, and 3C 273. The absolute calibration uncertainty for the data is approximately 15%. The 95% confidence upper limit for the continuum emission is $S_{\nu}(3 \text{ mm}) < 0.9 \text{ mJy}$. This is insufficient to detect the expected thermal dust emission discovered by SCUBA, assuming a dust spectrum $S_{\nu} \propto \nu^{3.5}$.

Figure 2 shows the CO(4–3) spectral map for the blob. The CO line is tentatively detected at a redshift offset -100 MHz from our central frequency, corresponding to a 270 km s^{-1} shift to the red. The line width is estimated at 400 km s^{-1} FWZI. We achieved a 3.2σ detection for the peak in the integrated CO(4–3) map (higher frequency half-band map, *left panel*). The CO position appears offset to the north by $2''$ from the ERO/Ly α peak position. The OVRO beam size ($4''$ by $6''$) is shown as an inset, while the beam pattern sidelobes are shown in the middle panel. An apparent excess of power at the sidelobe positions of our SSA 22 blob 1 CO map is consistent with a tentative detection. The CO map shows no obvious evidence for extended emission. The lower frequency half-band map is also shown in Figure 2 (*right*), finding no sources above 3σ and no sources $>2 \sigma$ within $10''$ of the center. The spectrum is shown with 20 MHz binning in Figure 3. We interpret the OVRO data as a marginal detection of the CO line of width around 400 km s^{-1} , which is the Gaussian width we assume for the analysis of the molecular gas properties in § 3.4.

2.3. VLA Radio Observations

VLA observations were obtained in the A (36 hr) and B (12 hr) configurations at 1.4 GHz. The map reaches an rms sensitivity of $8.5 \mu\text{Jy}$ near the phase center of the map. Reductions and details are described elsewhere (R. J. Ivison 2004, in preparation). We used these observations to search for a radio counterpart to the submillimeter source in order to pinpoint the location of the far-IR emission (Fig. 4). A 4.4σ radio source is detected at the optical position of J1 [$\alpha(\text{J2000}) = 22^{\text{h}}17^{\text{m}}25^{\text{s}}94$, $\delta(\text{J2000}) = +00^{\circ}12'38''.9$] in the radio FK5 grid, well within the SCUBA beam. The primary beam-corrected flux of the radio source is $44.4 \pm 10.1 \mu\text{Jy}$. The detection is significant, as it is the only peak $>4 \sigma$ (positive or negative) within the arcmin² region of Figure 4 other than the neighboring bright radio source $20''$ to the west. At $z = 3.09$, this corresponds to a luminosity of $\nu L_{\nu} = 3.0 \times 10^8 L_{\odot}$. The neighboring western radio galaxy ($188 \mu\text{Jy}$ peak,

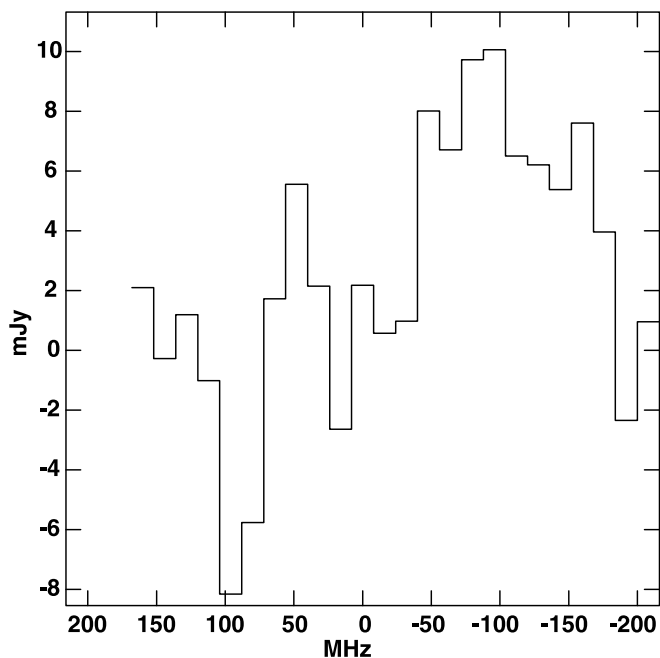


FIG. 3.—OVRO one-dimensional spectrum, binned to 20 MHz. The frequency offsets are from the central frequency.

242 μJy integrated) identifies a second SCUBA detection in the field (Fig. 5) at $\alpha(\text{J2000}) = 22^{\text{h}}17^{\text{m}}24^{\text{s}}.682$, $\delta(\text{J2000}) = +00^{\circ}12'42''.02$.

2.4. Chandra X-Ray Observations

A 70 ks *Chandra* ACIS-I integration was taken, centered on the SSA 22 field. The data were procured from the *Chandra* archive and searched in the vicinity of SSA 22 blob 1. No

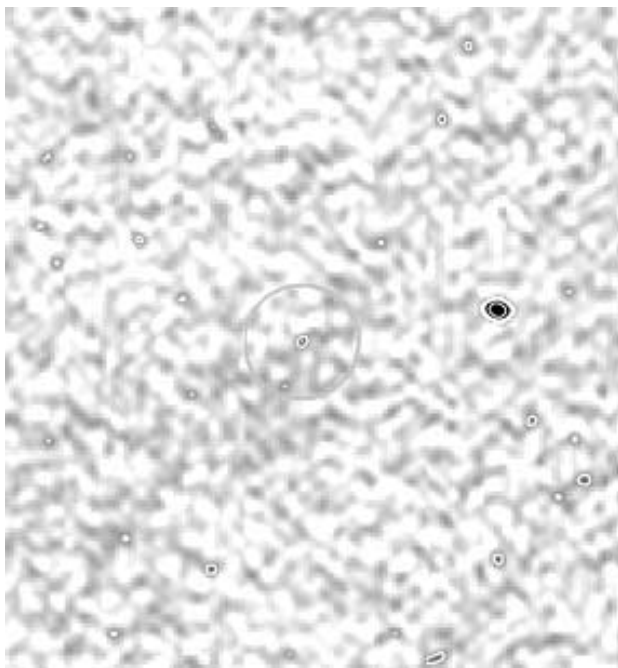


FIG. 4.— $1' \times 1'$ 20 cm radio map of SSA 22 blob 1. The contours represent 3, 4, 5, 10, and 20 times the rms noise of 10.1 μJy . The SSA 22 blob 1 source (J1) itself has a flux density of 44.4 μJy . A neighboring bright source (188 μJy) to the west identifies a weaker submillimeter source seen in Fig. 5. The circle is $10''$ in diameter and depicts the position of J1.

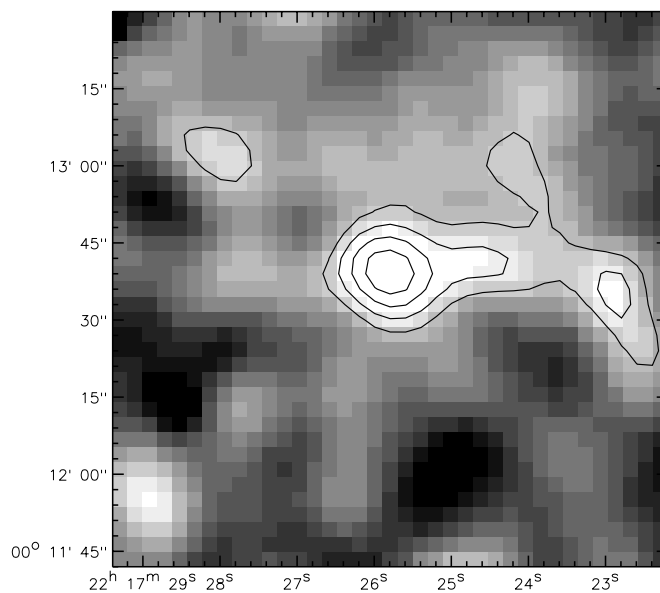


FIG. 5.—850 μm SCUBA map of SSA 22 blob 1 using data combined from several observing runs in jiggle-mapping mode. The contours represent 2, 3, 4, and 5 times the rms noise of 2.9 mJy. The SSA 22 blob 1 source itself has a flux density of 16.8 mJy. A significant extension of the central source, peaking $21''$ to the west of SSA 22 blob 1, is identified with a bright (188 μJy) radio source at $\alpha(\text{J2000}) = 22^{\text{h}}17^{\text{m}}24^{\text{s}}.682$, $\delta(\text{J2000}) = +00^{\circ}12'42''.02$. Lower significance sources are present at the periphery of the SCUBA image, notably a 3.6σ peak $35''$ to the west of SSA 22 blob 1 and a 2.9σ peak $30''$ to the northeast.

significant counts were recorded over the blob 1 region, where a 3σ limit of 85 counts was achieved (although the adjacent candidate submillimeter source $\sim 30''$ to the west has a weak X-ray counterpart). This limit on extended emission over the Ly α blob is not very restrictive, with $2.8 \times 10^{-17} \text{ W m}^{-2}$ from the 0.2–10 keV band for a 4 keV thermal spectrum at $z = 3.1$. In our adopted cosmology, this translates to $L_X < 2.1 \times 10^{38} \text{ W}$, which corresponds only to the upper mass range of rich galaxy clusters (e.g., Edge 2004). The point-source limit for J1, however, is much more restrictive ($L_X < 1.3 \times 10^{37} \text{ W}$) and well within the regime of local low-luminosity AGNs, similar to Seyfert galaxies.

2.5. SCUBA Submillimeter Observations

We have also obtained new SCUBA observations of the blob. These jiggle-map-mode observations were taken during 2001 April. In addition, archival observations (PI: A. Barger) covering part of the region were retrieved and combined with the new data. The final combined map detects the main SSA 22 blob 1 source with $S_{850 \mu\text{m}} = 16.8 \pm 2.9 \text{ mJy}$ and $S_{450 \mu\text{m}} = 45.1 \pm 15.5 \text{ mJy}$. The separate data sets yield consistent results. We checked that there is no indication that the core of the source is extended, although there seems to be extension in the emission toward the west. This may simply be confusion with other apparent sources more than a beamwidth away in the SCUBA 850 μm image. This significant (3.8σ) extension of the central source, peaking $21''$ to the west of SSA 22 blob 1, is identified with a bright (188 μJy peak) radio source.

The range of structures present in this field, and the multiple chop throw angles used for the different subsets of the data, may give rise to artificial structures caused by off-beams. The S/N of the image does not merit a detailed deconvolution. The combined SCUBA image is shown in Figure 5.

2.6. Keck LRIS Spectroscopy of Blob 1

Keck LRIS spectroscopy of the blob *HST*-identified source (J1) was taken using the 400 lines mm^{-1} grism, providing a spectral resolution of $\sim 10 \text{ \AA}$ (Fig. 6). A slitlet was positioned on the source J1 with a position angle of -140° , allowing LBG C11, lying $7''$ southwest of J1, also to be aligned on the slit (Fig. 6, *offset brighter spectrum*). This facilitated the one-dimensional extraction of the extremely faint $R \sim 27$ continuum of J1. The spectrum shows detected Ly α emission and possibly low-significance features commonly found in LBG spectra (Shapley et al. 2003).

Ohyama et al. (2003) also recently presented optical spectroscopy of the blob using the SUBARU FOCAS. While their deep *R*-band image detects the *HST* sources (J1, J2, J3, and J4) in $0''.5$ seeing, their spectrograph slit position misses all these components.

The weak Ly α line in J1 shows a rest equivalent width of 18 \AA and an essentially unresolved width ($< 200 \text{ km s}^{-1}$). The lack of detectable high-ionization lines (C IV, S IV) and the relatively narrow Ly α line suggest that an energetic AGN is unlikely to be present (or else it is highly obscured). There is a redshift offset to the red in J1 from the Ly α peak of LBG C11 corresponding to a shift of 220 km s^{-1} . However, large offsets from systemic velocities due to stellar winds are likely (Adelberger et al. 2003), and we cannot interpret this offset as physical displacement. We note that the redshift of the peak in the tentative CO measurement is very close to the J1 Ly α peak (50 km s^{-1} redward of the J1 Ly α).

3. RESULTS

3.1. Spectral Energy Distribution

A spectral energy distribution (SED) for the blob with all the new data points and upper limits is shown in Figure 7. In

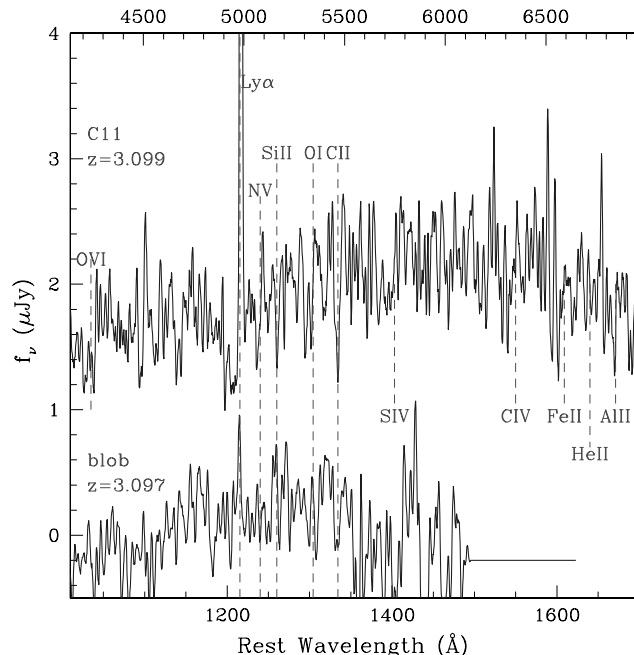


FIG. 6.—Keck LRIS spectroscopy of the blob *HST*-identified source J1 (*lower spectrum*), revealing a detection of Ly α emission and possible lower significance features commonly found in LBG spectra (Shapley et al. 2003). The LBG C11, lying $7''$ to the southwest of J1, was also aligned on the slit (shown above, offset by 2 Jy for clarity), facilitating the one-dimensional extraction of the extremely faint $R \sim 27$ continuum.

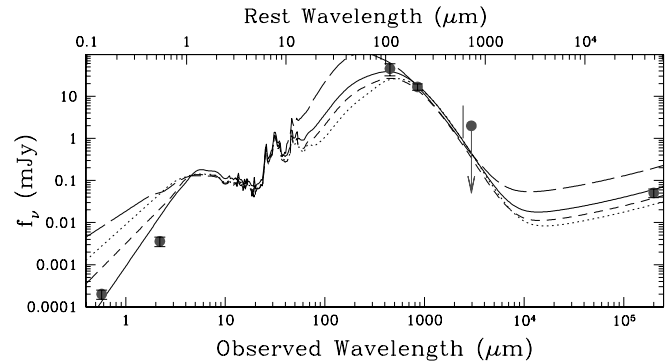


FIG. 7.—Spectral energy distribution of SSA 22 blob 1, showing the new data points presented in this paper at 20 cm, 3 mm, $850 \mu\text{m}$, $450 \mu\text{m}$, *K*, and *R'*(573) bands. The OVRO data are shown both for the continuum upper limit and the marginal CO line detection, which is slightly offset for clarity. The curves show three SEDs from the library of Dale et al. (2001), with dust temperatures of 25, 29, 34, and 50 K normalized to the $850 \mu\text{m}$ point.

particular, we have indicated the OVRO continuum limit, as well as the marginal line detection. A range of dust temperatures are reflected by the four overlaid SED templates (25, 29, 34, and 50 K for a dust emissivity $\beta \simeq 1.5$), with the 34 K SED fitting the submillimeter points the best. The direct extrapolation of this SED to the radio using the far-IR/radio correlation (Helou et al. 1985) is consistent within the error bars of our radio detection.

The various optically detected fragments are fainter than 80% of SCUBA galaxy identifications (Chapman et al. 2003b); however, the components vary considerably in their $R-K$ color. A steep ($\alpha = -2.5$) power law is required for consistency with the $R-K$ limit on J1.

3.2. The Location of the Submillimeter Emission

Since the blob appears to be a unique object, we would like to relate the emitting regions at various wavelengths in order to study its physics. The radio source is coincident with the *HST* source, J1, to within the astrometric errors aligning the optical/radio frames ($\sim 0''.4$). The relative astrometry between the OVRO/SCUBA data and the *HST* frame is achieved by mapping the SSA 22 radio sources onto a deep *I*-band image and matching the *HST* sources to this frame.

The rms variation in pointing errors with the JCMT/SCUBA observations were typically $\simeq 2''.5$ throughout these observations, as measured by offsets to pointing sources, and this dominates the centroiding of the submillimeter source. Assuming that we can pinpoint a source to the FWHM divided by 2.35 times the S/N, and adding the errors in quadrature, the estimated error in the SCUBA position is about $3''$. This error is overlaid on the *HST* image with the large cross in Figure 1. From the tentative CO(4–3) detection from the OVRO peak, we obtain a centroiding error $\simeq 1''.0 \times 0''.6$, dominating the positional uncertainty of the phase reference. This is shown with the smaller cross in Figure 1.

The most likely association of the OVRO/SCUBA source is, therefore, with the $51 \mu\text{Jy}$ radio source corresponding to the brightest linear feature in the *HST* image, denoted J1 in Figure 1. We can thus likely rule out J2 or J3 as contributing significantly to the submillimeter emission.

Note that the component J2 is the ERO source described in Steidel et al. (2000), which we now measure to have $(R-K) = 6.5$. As this is *not* the source of the submillimeter emission, it is at odds with findings from other submillimeter systems that

nearby ($R - K$) > 6 ERO components often seem to be the submillimeter source (Smail et al. 2000; Frayer et al. 2000, 2003, 2004; Webb et al. 2004). J1 has an ($R - K$) < 4.3 to the 3σ limit of our K -band data.

3.3. Linear Features in the *HST* Image

We also note the striking linear structure between J1 and J2 that sticks out toward the northeast, labeled J4 in Fig. 1). At approximately $5''$ in length, this is quite unusually long and linear compared with chainlike galaxies (e.g., Cowie, Hu, & Songaila 1995) in similar *HST* images.

Could this linear structure in a chain of objects be jet-induced star formation from the hidden AGN in J1 (or perhaps from another AGN in J2 or even in LBG C11)? This is similar to what Windhorst, Keel, & Pascarella (1998) suggested might be the case in 53W002 at $z = 2.39$. If so, it is curious that we see no jetlike radio or X-ray source; in fact, no radio or X-ray source is seen at all at the position of J4 (although a weak radio source does identify the J1 optical feature). With little detailed information, we can offer little more than speculation. The optical “jet” may not dim as much as it would in the radio or X-ray, since here we may be possibly looking at a string of starbursting knots, putatively all induced by the AGN jet, but each essentially unresolved by STIS.

The unresolved peak within the linear structure of J1 is at least suggestive of an AGN, although without other diagnostics we cannot rule out a compact starburst. The apparent limit on the X-ray emission is not sufficient to rule out an obscured AGN. Spatially resolved spectroscopy along the axis of the linear feature could in principle differentiate emission mechanisms; however, the fragment is extremely faint in the optical, and our present Keck LRIS spectrum likely represents the best practical quality achievable with a 10 m class telescope.

3.4. Molecular Gas

The limit on the integrated CO(4–3) line flux from the marginal detection of the blob represents $S(\text{CO}) < 2.5 \text{ Jy km s}^{-1}$. No adjustment has been made to account for the continuum level, since it appears to be negligible. The observed CO(4–3) line flux (peaking at $\sim 5 \text{ mJy}$) implies an intrinsic CO line luminosity $L'(\text{CO}) = 7.5 \times 10^{10} \text{ K km s}^{-1} \text{ pc}^2$ (see the formulae in Solomon, Downes, & Radford 1992). The CO luminosity is related to the mass of molecular gas (including He) by $M(\text{H}_2)/L'(\text{CO}) = \alpha$, with the value for α expected to be $\simeq 1 M_\odot (\text{K km s}^{-1} \text{ pc}^2)^{-1}$, consistent with that estimated for local ultraluminous infrared galaxies (ULIGs; Solomon et al. 1997). We then adopt a correction for the excitation CO(4–3):CO(1–0) brightness ratio of $\simeq 0.5$ typically observed in starbursts (Devereux et al. 1994), yielding $\alpha = 2 M_\odot (\text{K km s}^{-1} \text{ pc}^2)^{-1}$. The inferred limit on the molecular gas mass of the blob is $2 \times 10^{10} M_\odot$, which is consistent with that of the most massive low-redshift ULIGs (Sanders & Mirabel 1996).

With the addition and refinement of data points along the SED, we can also fit a dust temperature. Fixing the dust emissivity at $\beta = 1.5$, we find a best fit $T_d = 34 \text{ K}$, colder than the typical T_d found locally for sources extrapolated to this luminosity (Chapman et al. 2002). The implied gas-to-dust ratio is then $M(\text{H}_2)/M_d \simeq 220$. This gas-to-dust ratio is at the lower end of the range of values seen in spiral galaxies (Devereux & Young 1990), local ULIGs (Sanders et al. 1991), and certainly other high-redshift CO sources. Hence the blob seems to represent a cooler system with different molecular

gas properties than other high- z submillimeter galaxies or local galaxies with comparable far-IR luminosities.

4. DISCUSSION

Having detected multiple irregular and apparently filamentary sources lying within the $\text{Ly}\alpha$ cloud, it is tempting to attribute the $\text{Ly}\alpha$ emission to the ionizing photons from starbursts or AGNs in these objects. The *HST*-identified features are suggestive of the first generation of merging between substantial fragments of galaxies. We note that planar structures in the galaxy formation process or sequential star formation may also lead to such configurations, although the scales of the *HST* fragments in the blob are larger than any objects identified as “chain galaxies” in Cowie et al. (1995). We further note that the radio-identified object J1, which we identify with the submillimeter source, lies in an apparent $\text{Ly}\alpha$ cavity in the integral field data of Bower et al. (2004), suggesting that huge winds may be driven by this object.

Many pieces of evidence are consistent with this starburst scenario. There are no obvious signatures of AGNs: no detections in moderately deep X-ray measurements, a weak radio source consistent with the local far-IR–radio correlation (and thus suggestive of a starburst), and a rest-frame UV spectrum that is inconsistent with an energetic AGN.

One problem with this scenario is that the equivalent width of the $\text{Ly}\alpha$ halo, under case B assumptions, would imply a difference in the apparent and required continuum luminosities of a factor of 2300. Even with very red spectra, it is impossible that a correction to the star formation rates of the linear sources could be this large (although for the most luminous infrared galaxies seen locally, the star formation rates are factors of 100 larger than implied by the detectable UV emission; Goldader et al. 2002).

One object which may be rather similar to the blob is SMM J17142+5016 in the field of radio galaxy 53W002 at $z = 2.4$. This object is clearly identified as an AGN with an extended $\text{Ly}\alpha$ halo (Smail et al. 2003b). SMM J163650.0+405733 is also identified with an AGN in the halo of extended $\text{Ly}\alpha$ and [O III] (Smail et al. 2003a). The lack of obvious signatures of AGN activity in the blob and the clear presence of AGNs in many other similar objects suggest that we seriously consider the possibility that an AGN is present in SSA 22 blob 1.

In this case, jet-induced star formation may well be responsible for many of the *HST* fragments, as is likely the case in classical radio galaxies (e.g., Pentericci et al. 1999). If the extended northeast structure (J4) represents emission from an AGN jet, the jet would then be roughly inclined at 45° to the plane of the sky, potentially also explaining why the AGN itself is not seen directly in the X-ray (its soft X-rays are mostly obscured by the dust torus). This might also explain the general shape of the huge $\text{Ly}\alpha$ reflection cloud, which might be interpreted loosely as a triangular structure, in this case with a very wide opening angle ($>90^\circ$). One might speculate even further about a countercloud emanating from J1 in the other direction toward LBG C11. The scenario is similar to that outlined for the radio-loud AGN 53W002 (Windhorst et al. 1998), but on a much larger scale. Deeper observations might indicate whether this picture is correct.

A likely scenario for the blob is then a buried AGN. The *Chandra* nondetection in the X-ray at first seems difficult to reconcile with the copious $\text{Ly}\alpha$ extended emission. However, it is much easier to obscure a compact X-ray emitting source than to preclude scattered photons from escaping and ionizing the surrounding medium. As with all submillimeter galaxies,

the explicit presence or absence of an AGN does not necessitate that it dominate the bolometric energy. Ongoing star formation with cycles of AGN activity is the most likely scenario in the core of this massive protocluster region. For now, we consider it a triumph that we have finally been able to pin down the location of the submillimeter and UV emission in this enigmatic object.

5. CONCLUSIONS

The SSA 22 blob 1 object is still mysterious, containing strong dust and Ly α emission coexisting in an environment that shows no unambiguous signs of AGN activity. A buried AGN may be the most likely explanation from energetic grounds alone, but this needs to be confirmed through some clear sign of AGN activity. High ionization lines in the mid-IR ($\sim 15 \mu\text{m}$) may be detectable in the blob with the *Spitzer Space Telescope* LWS if excited by a dust-obscured AGN (see, e.g., Rigopoulou et al. 1999). It might still be that cooling radiation from a forming halo plays a role (Fardal et al. 2001). Further data will be required to determine whether multiple processes contribute to the Ly α emission and how these are related to the

submillimeter source. Meanwhile, it is worth investigating the relationship between Ly α and submillimeter emission for a wider sample of objects to determine how unique the SSA 22 blob 1 object really is.

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