

A flux-limited sample of galactic carbon stars

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Received December 18, 1990; accepted June 13, 1991

Abstract. We have studied an infrared-complete sample of bright carbon stars containing all 109 carbon stars with $S_{12} > 100$ Jy in the IRAS PSC. This sample is more complete than others previously studied, in that both optical and infrared carbon stars are included.

Using near-infrared photometry from the literature we derived near-infrared colour temperatures and using the full energy distribution we calculated infrared bolometric corrections. Distances were derived assuming $M_{\text{bol}} = -4.9$, corresponding to $L = 7050L_{\odot}$. From the available CO data the mass loss rates were calculated for about 80 stars in this sample.

The sample was divided into five groups depending upon their infrared properties, extending the classification of carbon stars of Willems & de Jong (1988). Group I stars show the silicate feature in their LRS spectra, possibly because they are very recently formed carbon stars. Group II stars have a pronounced $60\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ excess, high near-infrared temperatures, small bolometric correction and low mass loss rates. They probably turned into a carbon star quite recently and their excess at $60\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ is due to a cool circumstellar shell, the remnant of the preceding high mass loss phase. From group III to V the mass loss rate of carbon stars steadily increases and, as a consequence, the near-infrared temperatures decrease and the bolometric corrections increase.

Using the average bolometric corrections for each group the infrared-complete sample is transformed into a volume-complete one. The scale height of carbon stars is 190 pc and the local space density of carbon stars equals 185 kpc^{-3} .

From the calculated space densities of carbon stars in each group relative timescales are derived. Adopting a lifetime of 20 000 years for group II stars from model calculations, we find a total lifetime of the carbon star phase of about 26 000 years, uncertain to a factor of 2. We have compared our carbon star number densities and timescales with the death rate of their likely progenitors on the main sequence and their descendants, the carbon-rich PN. At face value both comparisons would indicate that the lifetimes derived by us are too short. However, taking into account the uncertainties in both timescales and in the death rate and birth rate history of the main sequence stars, both values are not inconsistent. The agreement can be improved if we assume that not all carbon stars evolve into carbon-rich PN. We briefly discuss two possibilities: Hot bottom envelope burning (HBB) which may transform a carbon star back into an oxygen-rich star and termination of the AGB at such a low core mass that the evolution to the left in the HR diagram is too slow for

PN formation. It is also possible that the number density of PN is larger than usually assumed.

The total mass lost during the carbon star phase is only $0.04M_{\odot}$. This number is uncertain to a factor of 5, a factor 2 arising from the uncertainty in the lifetime of group II stars and a factor 2.5 arising from the uncertainty in the mass loss rates. If we assume an average white dwarf mass of $0.65M_{\odot}$, our results imply that most stars are already of low mass when they turn into carbon stars, probably around $0.69M_{\odot}$ and certainly less than $0.87M_{\odot}$. We conclude that a "superwind" phase, if it exists, should last for less than approximately 20 yr.

Key words: infrared radiation: stars – bolometric correction: stars – carbon: stars – evolution: stars – mass loss

1. Introduction

With the advent of infrared and radio techniques it has become clear that carbon stars do not only manifest themselves in the photospheric spectrum – the classical method to identify a carbon star – but also in the circumstellar shell surrounding the star. Most carbon stars show a spectral feature around $11.3\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ which is attributed to silicon carbide (SiC), while oxygen-rich M stars usually show the silicate feature around $9.7\text{ }\mu\text{m}$.

One can distinguish between two kinds of carbon stars, the "optical" carbon stars, identified through their optical spectra, and the "infrared" carbon stars, displaying the SiC feature but often without known optical counterpart. Although identified by different means, both classes represent carbon stars, and so their relation should be carefully examined. Do they e.g. represent an evolutionary sequence?

An attempt to put the carbon stars in an evolutionary scheme using IRAS data was made by Willems & de Jong (1986, 1988, see also Willems 1988a, b) who studied the infrared properties of a sample of about 300 optically known carbon stars for which LRS spectra were available. Using a subsample of 90 stars for which reliable near-infrared photometry was available at the time, they divided their sample into three groups. Group I consisted of 9 objects known to be carbon stars from their optical spectra but displaying the $9.7\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ silicate feature in emission, commonly found exclusively in oxygen-rich stars (Willems & de Jong 1986; Little-Marein 1986). The remaining stars were divided into group II, characterised by a near-infrared colour temperature $T_{\text{nir}} > 2000\text{ K}$, and group III with $T_{\text{nir}} < 2000\text{ K}$.

A scenario for carbon star evolution explaining the relation

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between the three groups of stars was given by Willems & de Jong (1988). This scenario runs as follows. During asymptotic giant branch (AGB) evolution, regularly pulsating M Mira variables produce a circumstellar silicate dust shell. Presumably triggered by a thermal pulse, carbon becomes more abundant than oxygen in the photosphere and the star turns into a carbon star. This transition seems to be accompanied by a sharp decrease in the mass loss rate. The circumstellar shell is no longer replenished and, thus, expands and dilutes. As it expands the dust shell cools and, as a consequence, the star will describe a loop in the IRAS colour-colour diagram. While the last oxygen-rich material moves out, a new carbon-rich circumstellar shell is beginning to form. At first, the mass loss rate is low, but when the star becomes a carbon Mira the mass loss rate will increase to a typical value of $\sim 10^{-6} M_{\odot}/\text{yr}$. In this scenario the group I stars represent the stars which very recently underwent the transition of oxygen to carbon star, so that their circumstellar shell has not diluted yet and the silicate feature can still be seen in the LRS spectrum. Group II represents stars which have almost completed their loop in the colour-colour diagram. They show a far-infrared excess, but their near-infrared spectra are dominated by the stellar continuum. Group III represent stars in which carbon-rich dust is beginning to mask the stellar continuum at near-infrared wavelengths.

Although the identification of group I stars with objects that recently underwent the rapid transition of oxygen to carbon star is still controversial, and alternative explanations have been proposed (see e.g. Little-Marenin 1986; Benson & Little-Marenin 1987; Zuckerman & Maddalena 1989; de Jong 1989; Le Bertre et al. 1990; Deguchi et al. 1990; Lloyd Evans 1990; Lambert et al. 1990 and Skinner et al. 1990 for recent discussions on the nature of group I stars), the general idea of an expanding shell after the transition of oxygen to carbon star remains unchallenged. Based on simple model calculations, Willems & de Jong (1988) could well explain the position of the group II stars in the IRAS colour-colour diagram. Their results were confirmed by more elaborate calculations by Chan & Kwok (1988).

In this paper we use the terminology of Willems & de Jong (1988). In addition we introduce groups IV and V. It was suggested by Willems (1988b) that the group III stars would ultimately evolve into AFGL carbon stars, like IRC + 10216, carbon Miras obscured by their circumstellar shell. As they represent a more evolved state in the evolution of carbon stars this group will be denoted as group IV. Finally, we introduce group V stars representing the latest stage of carbon star evolution.

The aim of this paper is to investigate the properties of a complete flux-limited sample of galactic carbon stars. Similar studies were undertaken by Claussen et al. (1987), Thronson et al. (1987), Willems & de Jong (1988), Jura et al. (1989) and Jura & Kleinmann (1989). These authors, however, studied only partially complete samples of carbon stars. Claussen et al. studied the carbon stars found in the "Two Micron Sky Survey" (TMSS; Neugebauer & Leighton 1969) and, therefore, missed the carbon stars with thick circumstellar shells. Thronson et al. selected carbon stars from a box in the IRAS colour-colour diagram with $-0.66 \leq \log(S_{25}/S_{12}) \leq -0.38$ and $-0.68 \leq \log(S_{60}/S_{25}) \leq -0.0$.¹ After removing known oxygen-rich stars Thronson et al. still estimated a contamination of 7% oxygen-rich stars in their sample. Furthermore, they used a correction factor of 25% to correct for carbon stars outside the box they considered. From this study we actually find that about 40% of the carbon stars are

outside the box considered by Thronson et al. Willems & de Jong (1988) studied the optical carbon stars found in the "IRAS Low Resolution Spectrograph" atlas (LRS atlas; Joint IRAS Science Working Group 1986). Jura & Kleinmann studied dust-enshrouded AGB stars within 1 kpc from the sun and Jura et al. studied the carbon stars in the direction of the galactic anticentre found in the survey by Fuenmayor (1981).

The paper is organised as follows. In Sect. 2 we discuss the selection of the sample. Depending upon their infrared properties the sample is divided into 5 groups in Sect. 3. In Sect. 4 bolometric corrections are calculated. These are used to transform our flux-limited sample into a volume-complete one. In Sect. 5 mass loss rates are derived from CO measurements and, finally, in Sect. 6 an evolutionary sequence for carbon star evolution is presented and evolution timescales and the total mass lost in the carbon star phase are derived.

2. The sample

Our flux-limited sample of galactic carbon stars consists of all carbon stars with a $12 \mu\text{m}$ flux density larger than 100 Jy, as listed in the "IRAS Point Source Catalog" (PSC; Joint IRAS Science Working Group 1986) version 2.0. This rather large limiting flux density was chosen to ensure that our sample is complete (at least over the 95% of the sky covered by the PSC). An additional advantage of this choice is that NIR and CO data, which are needed for our analysis, are only available for the IR brightest stars.

The 610 stars in the PSC with $S_{12} > 100$ Jy can be divided into those which have a spectrum in the LRS atlas and those without a spectrum in the LRS atlas. In our search for carbon stars with $S_{12} > 100$ Jy we will first consider the former category.

As already stated in the introduction, it has become clear that carbon stars can be identified both based on their optical spectra and on their infrared spectral features. Since we want to construct a complete sample, both methods of finding carbon stars should be employed. We will first search for carbon stars with $S_{12} > 100$ Jy in the optical surveys and then consider the infrared carbon stars.

The largest single collection of optically identified carbon stars is still the "General Catalogue of Cool Carbon Stars" (GCCCCS; Stephenson 1973).² Since then many new discoveries

¹ In this paper we denote flux densities by S_{λ} (in units of Jy or $\text{erg/s/cm}^2/\text{Hz}$) or, if we prefer the same quantity in wavelength units ($\text{W/m}^2/\mu\text{m}$), by F_{λ} . The subscript indicates the wavelength (μm) at which S_{λ} and F_{λ} are evaluated. The total or integrated fluxes, i.e. F_{λ} (or S_{λ}) integrated over wavelength (or frequency) will be denoted by F (or S) without subscript.

² When our analysis was completed, we became aware of the second edition of the GCCCCS (Stephenson 1989), which contains information on about 5800 carbon stars identified from optical spectra and some 180 infrared carbon stars from Little-Marenin et al. (1987). We have used the first edition of the GCCCCS listing 3300 stars and about 1700 stars from additional references (see below). The new deep surveys conducted since 1973 only list very few bright carbon stars. From the 39 optical carbon stars found, 34 are listed in the GCCCCS and only 5 come from the additional references. Our procedure for selecting an infrared complete sample of carbon stars is independent of the choice of the optical carbon star catalogue.

have been reported. Willems & de Jong (1986) correlated the stars listed in the GCCCS, and the new discoveries reported by Alksne & Ozolina (1972, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1983), Daube & Ozolina (1974), Alksnis et al. (1976, 1977, 1978), MacConnell (1979, 1982), Kurtanidze & West (1980), Fuenmayor (1981) and Stephenson (1985), altogether about 3750 stars, with the LRS atlas. They found 304 associations. Thirty-six of these have $S_{12} > 100$ Jy. Since then more newly discovered optical carbon stars have been reported by e.g. Maehara & Soyano (1987a, b, 1988), Nikolashvili (1987a, b), Alksnis et al. (1988), MacConnell (1988), Sanduleak & Pesch (1988), Kurtanidze & Nikolashvili (1988, 1989) and Aaronson et al. (1989, 1990). These, about 1200 new discoveries, were correlated on position with the PSC. Although about 580 entries were found in the PSC, only 35 are listed in the LRS atlas and only 3 (all listed by MacConnell) have $S_{12} > 100$ Jy. So, from the optical surveys we find 39 carbon stars with $S_{12} > 100$ Jy, listed in the LRS atlas.

Infrared carbon stars were selected from the PSC by taking all sources with $S_{12} > 100$ Jy and a 4n classification (indicating the presence of the SiC feature) in the LRS atlas. This resulted in a sample of 92 candidate carbon stars. This sample included 37 of the 39 carbon stars already selected from the optical surveys. One well-known S-stars (π ¹Gru) was removed from the sample.

The LRS spectra of the remaining 54 sources were inspected by eye to check if they indeed showed the 11.3 μ m feature, because it is known that some oxygen-rich stars with the 9.7 μ m feature in absorption have been misclassified as 4n (cf. Walker & Cohen 1988). Nine stars that clearly show the 9.7 μ m feature (and the 18 μ m feature) but have been misclassified as 4n in the LRS atlas are listed in Table 1. Seven of them have independently been classified as oxygen-rich from optical spectra or are known OH-sources.

To allow for the possibility that some infrared carbon stars have *not* been classified as 4n, we inspected the LRS spectra of all 518 non-4n sources brighter than 100 Jy to search for the SiC feature. Four additional infrared carbon stars were found. Among them were the well-known objects AFGL 865 and IRAS 15194–5115 (Maedows et al. 1987). Thus, the number of true infrared carbon stars extracted from the LRS atlas is 49.

From the infrared carbon stars for which an optical spectrum is available we find that about one in forty stars with a 4n

classification is an S-star. It is thus possible that among the 49 infrared carbon stars in our sample about one could be an S-star. This will not influence our analysis significantly.

The LRS atlas is less complete than the PSC. Even at high galactic latitudes it contains only 90% of the point sources brighter than 28 Jy at 12 μ m (Hacking et al. 1985). This implies that there are carbon stars with $S_{12} > 100$ Jy that are not listed in the LRS atlas but which should be included in our sample. Fortunately, however, Volk & Cohen (1989) recently presented the low-resolution spectra of all 356 sources brighter than 40 Jy at 12 μ m not listed in the LRS atlas. They extracted these spectra directly from the LRS database. Most sources lie in the galactic plane. Instead of using the same criteria as was done in the LRS atlas to classify each spectrum by assigning a two-number code, Volk & Cohen used their own one-letter code to classify each spectrum. For example, a spectrum showing the SiC feature was classified as “C”, a spectrum clearly resembling a stellar black-body as “S” and a featureless spectrum expected to be a star with small amounts of circumstellar material as “F”. Volk & Cohen list 29 carbon stars, 11 of which are listed in the GCCCS and 18 without known optical counterpart. Sixteen have $S_{12} > 100$ Jy. Two of them (IRAS 17512–2548 and 18288–0837) have an unreliable 60 μ m flux and were no longer considered. The remaining 14 were added to our sample. Among them is the well-known carbon star TX Psc. Volk & Cohen classified 13 of them as “C” and one (TX Psc) as “S”.

Plotting the 102 stars so far selected in the IRAS colour-colour diagram we noticed that the reddest carbon stars extended only to $C_{21} = 2.5 \log(S_{25}/S_{12}) \approx 0.0$, while their oxygen-rich counterparts on the AGB, the OH/IR stars, are known to extend up to $C_{21} \approx 2$ (te Lintel-Hekkert 1990). On the other hand, some carbon stars are known to have $C_{21} > 0.0$, e.g. AFGL 3068 ($C_{21} = 0.10$; Jones et al. 1978) and AFGL 190 ($C_{21} = 0.42$; Kleinmann et al. 1981; Zuckerman & Dyck 1986). Their LRS spectra are almost featureless. To find more of these very red carbon stars we inspected by eye all 79 LRS spectra with $S_{12} > 100$ Jy, a non-4n classification and $C_{21} \geq -0.25$ and $C_{32} \geq -2.0$. After removing all stars associated with oxygen-rich objects and young stars, we were left with 7 likely and 1 possible carbon star. These stars are discussed in more detail in Sect. 3. Volk & Cohen (1989) list another 2 featureless “F” sources without association but they have $S_{12} < 100$ Jy as well as $C_{21} < -0.25$ and, therefore, did not make it into our sample.

In summary, our sample consists of 109 certain and 1 possible carbon star. We will denote this sample as the infrared bright carbon star sample (IBCSS).

Table 1. Misclassified 4n objects with $S_{12} > 100$ Jy

IRAS name	Association
04530+4427	NIPPS 392 C7 (M5 III)
14582–5926	OH source (te Lintel Hekkert 1990)
15492+4837	ST Her (M6 III aS); AFGL 5313; IRC+50247; SAO 45758 (MC)
17360–3012	AFGL 1992; OH358.16+0.49
17371–3021	OH-source (Le Squeren et al. 1990)
17482–2824	AFGL 5146S; OH source (Le Squeren et al. 1990)
18092–0437	AFGL 2088
18135–1740	AFGL 2102; IRC–20455 (M3)
18333+0533	AFGL 2199; NIR colours similar to OH/IR stars (Whitelock 1985) but not detected in OH (Eder et al. 1988)

3. The division of the IBCSS into different groups

In this section our sample of 109 stars will be divided into groups. As discussed in Sect. 2, Willems & de Jong (1988a, b) discriminated between groups II and III using the value of T_{nir} . All objects with $T_{\text{nir}} > 2000$ K were assigned by them to group II. We also found this to be a very useful criterion (see Table 2). From the values of the bolometric correction (details to be discussed in the following section) in column 6 of Table 2 and Fig. 2 it is striking to see that all group II objects, except one, have distinctly lower bolometric corrections than members of the other groups. In fact, this observation helped us in some cases, when T_{nir} was close to 2000 K, to assign a source to group II. Another characteristic

that distinguishes between group II and group III is their position in the colour-colour diagram. Group II objects have a $60\ \mu\text{m}$ excess, while group III objects cluster around the blackbody line. A characteristic that group II and group III have in common, contrary to the infrared carbon stars, is the presence of a known optical counterpart, i.e. listed in the GCCCS or another objective prism survey, in the "General Catalogue of Variable stars" (GCVS, Kholopov et al. 1985) or in the "New Catalogue of Suspected Variable Stars" (NSV, Kukarkin et al. 1982). For the division of our sample we used the following four criteria: the presence of an optical counterpart, position in the colour-colour diagram, near-infrared colour temperatures and infrared bolometric corrections.

In Fig. 1 all stars are plotted in an IRAS colour-colour diagram. We use $C_{21} = 2.5 \log(S_{25}/S_{12})$ and $C_{32} = 2.5 \log(S_{60}/S_{25})$ as variables. The fluxes listed in the PSC were colour-corrected in the same way as was done by Willems & de Jong (1986), i.e. the C_{21} colour was used to correct the $12\ \mu\text{m}$ flux and C_{32} to correct the 25 , 60 and $100\ \mu\text{m}$ flux densities using Table VI.C.6 in the "Explanatory Supplements" (Joint IRAS Science Working Group 1988).

In Table 3 we list associations with sources in several important catalogues.

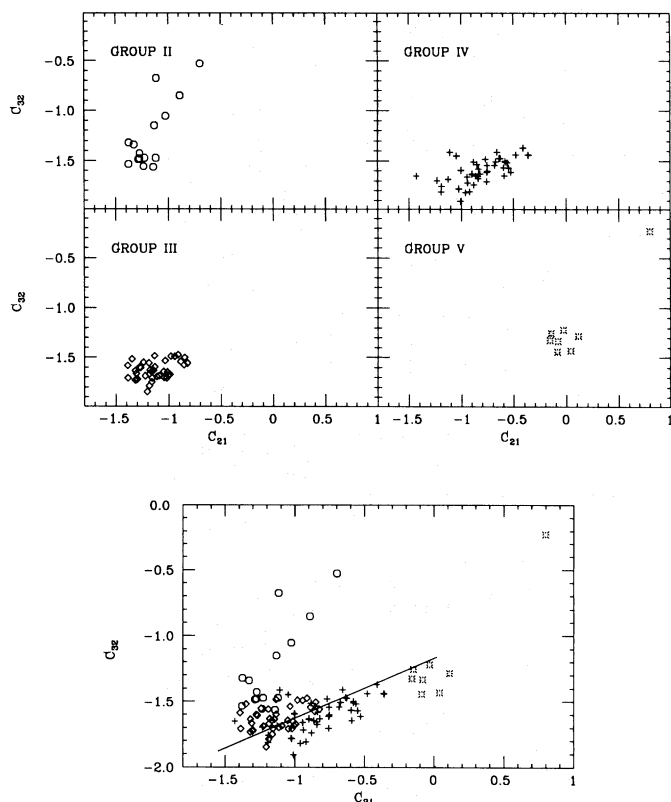


Fig. 1. The position of the IBCSS stars in the IRAS colour-colour diagram. In the top four figures the sample is separated into the different groups. In the bottom figure the total sample is plotted. The solid line indicates the location of the blackbody line

3.1. Group I

None of the nine stars proposed by Willems & de Jong (1986) and Little-Marenin (1986) to be carbon stars with silicate dust shells have made it into our sample.

Willems & de Jong already noted that the association of C2123 with IRAS 13442–6109, the only group I star with $S_{12} > 100$ Jy, was uncertain (a difference between the optical and infrared position of $100''$). Recently, it was confirmed (Le Bertre et al. 1990) that the true optical counterpart of IRAS 13442–6109 is not C2123 but an oxygen-rich star.

We will briefly return to the evolutionary status of the group I stars in Sect. 7.

3.2. Group II

Out of a total of 109 stars, 15 were classified as group II. One star, IRAS 20180+4744 (U Cyg), is a doubtful member. The near-infrared temperature is low (2290 K) for a group II star but well above 2000 K, and the bolometric correction (see Fig. 2) is high for a group II but low for a group III star. The position in the colour-colour diagram ($C_{21} = -1.24$, $C_{32} = -1.56$) slightly favours a group II classification, so this object was classified as group II.

For the stars in common with Willems (1988a) our near-infrared temperatures agree very well with his. The average difference is somewhat less than 50 K.

Some general characteristics of group II stars are:

- All have $BC_{12} < 5.0$ (except U Cyg: $BC_{12} = 5.51$)
- All have a known optical counterpart. IRAS 17314–3255 is listed by Fuenmayor (1981), all others are listed in the GCCCS and GCVS.
- The near-infrared temperature ranges from 2260 K to 2820 K.

3.3. Group III

Thirty-nine stars were classified as group III. One dubious member, IRAS 19175–0807, has a near-infrared colour temperature well above 2000 K, unlike all other group III stars but has a bolometric correction and position in the colour-colour diagram characteristic of other group III stars. It was classified as a group III star.

Some general characteristics of group III stars are:

- Near-infrared colour temperatures range between 730 and 1920 K (except IRAS 19175–0807 with $T_{\text{nir}} = 2630$ K), but only 4 have $T_{\text{nir}} < 1000$ K, the second lowest being 940 K.
- Bolometric corrections range from 5.2 to 8.4, but most (90%) have $BC_{12} < 7.4$. There is considerable overlap with group IV stars but for $BC_{12} < 6.6$ all stars belong to group III.
- All are listed in the GCCCS, the GCVS or the NSV.

3.4. Group IV

The majority of stars in the sample were assigned to this group, 48 in all. One star, IRAS 03186+7016 (AFGL 482), has an unusual high near-infrared temperature, typical of a group II star, but its position near the blackbody line is typical for a group IV star and so it was assigned to group IV.

Some general characteristics are:

— Bolometric corrections range from 6.6 to 8.6. There is considerable overlap with group III stars. Solely on the basis of BC_{12} the two groups cannot be distinguished.

— The near-infrared temperatures are low, usually below 1000 K. Actually, a practical definition to separate group III and IV stars would be to use the criterion of $T_{\text{nir}} \geq 1000$ K. In the present sample 11% of group III have $T_{\text{nir}} < 1000$ K, while 11% of group IV have $T_{\text{nir}} > 1000$ K.

— Very few are listed in the IRC, GCCCS or GCVS atlases.

3.5. Group V

As explained in the previous section our effort to include the reddest carbon stars by inspecting by eye all 79 LRS spectra of sources with $S_{12} > 100$ Jy, $C_{21} \geq -0.25$, $C_{32} \geq -2.0$ and a non-4n LRS classification resulted in a sample of 7 likely and 1 possible carbon star. All these objects are classified as group V (since group IV objects extend to $C_{21} \approx 0.0$ and all group V objects happen to have $C_{21} > 0.0$, a more practical definition would be to define a group V object as an infrared carbon star with $C_{21} \geq 0.0$). All individual objects are briefly discussed below, first the seven likely, then the possible carbon star, in order of right ascension.

IRAS 01144 + 6658

Zuckerman & Dyck (1986b) classify this object (AFGL 190) as a carbon star based on its relative intense HCN line emission. The mere detection of HCN is not sufficient to classify a star as a carbon star because this molecule has also been detected in oxygen-rich stars (Lindqvist et al. 1988; Nercissian et al. 1989) but the ratio $T_{\text{mb}}(\text{CO})/T_{\text{mb}}(\text{HCN})$ can be used to discriminate between carbon-rich and oxygen-rich objects. The value for AFGL 190 indicates a carbon-rich nature. Kleinmann et al. (1981) also classify it as a carbon star.

IRAS 04395 + 3601

This object, better known as AFGL 618 is thought to be a proto-planetary nebula. It was studied in detail by Westbrook et al. (1975). Its spectrum is almost featureless, consistent with graphite (or amorphous carbon) being the dominant dust species in the circumstellar shell (Russell et al. 1978). It has been detected in many molecular transitions, e.g. ^{12}CO , ^{13}CO , HCN, CS, C_3H_2 (see Bujarrabal et al. 1988), confirming its carbon-rich nature. Although this object may no longer be on the AGB, Kwok & Bignell (1984) estimated it to have left the AGB less than 100 years ago, it was kept in our sample. It can be seen from Fig. 1 that it is the reddest object in our sample. Inspecting the LRS spectrum of this source, Lequeux & de Muizon (1990) conclude that the SiC feature is in absorption, implying a high mass loss rate.

IRAS 08171 – 2134

Independent evidence that this object (AFGL 5250) is indeed carbon-rich is given by Zuckerman & Dyck (1986b) who classify it as a carbon star because of its intense HCN emission.

IRAS 17353 – 3030

This star (AFGL 5416) is listed by Zuckerman & Dyck (1986b) as a possible carbon star.

IRAS 19075 + 0921

Zuckerman & Dyck (1986b) classify this star as a carbon star because of its strong HCN emission and because the LRS spectrum, according to them, shows weak SiC emission.

IRAS 21318 + 5631

An UKIRT spectrum taken on September 26, 1990 by one of us (MG) reveals the $3.1 \mu\text{m}$ feature attributed to HCN and C_2H_2 . This confirms the carbon richness of this source (see e.g. Merrill & Stein 1976 or Noguchi et al. 1977).³

Zuckerman et al. (1986) classify this object as oxygen-rich, but do this solely on the basis of the IRAS broad-band colours. Such a criterion for classification is clearly unjustified in this case because, as can be seen in Fig. 1, all group V objects (except the possible PPN AFGL 618) have very similar colours and are indeed carbon-rich.

IRAS 23116 + 1655

Jones et al. (1978) present 2–13 μm spectrophotometry for this star (AFGL 3068) that confirm it as being carbon-rich. The spectrum shows the $3.1 \mu\text{m}$ feature due to C_2H_2 and HCN and the spectrum near 10 μm suggests that the SiC feature is in absorption. This implies a high mass loss rate.

IRAS 15471 – 5644

This star was listed as a possible carbon stars because its LRS spectrum looks similar to the seven carbon stars discussed above. No independent evidence exists to support this claim. However, there is also no evidence to the contrary. Spectrophotometry in the 2–4 μm region and CO and HCN measurements would reveal the nature of this subject. We note that the feature near 11 μm in the LRS spectrum is not related to the SiC feature but probably a spike.

4. Bolometric corrections

In this section infrared bolometric corrections are calculated for our sample stars. We already used them in the previous section to help in discriminating between the different groups. Bolometric corrections are needed to convert a flux-limited sample into a volume-complete one.

Analogous to the optical definition the following definition is used:

$$M_{\text{bol}} = M_{12\mu\text{m}} + BC_{12}. \quad (1)$$

Using $M_{\text{bol}} = 4.72$ for the sun and a zero-magnitude flux density of 28.3 Jy for the 12 μm band (“Explanatory Supplement”, page VI-21), Eq. (1) can be written after some manipulation as

$$BC_{12} = -2.5 \log \frac{\int_0^\infty F_\lambda d\lambda}{12 F_{12}} + 8.86, \quad (2)$$

where F_λ and F_{12} are in $\text{W}/\text{m}^2/\mu\text{m}$ and λ is in μm . This equation is similar to the definition used by Herman et al. (1986) and van der Veen & Breukers (1989).

³ This and other NIR spectra of candidate carbon stars will be published in a separate paper.

The integral over the observed spectral energy distribution may be separated as follows:

$$\int_0^\infty F_\lambda d\lambda = C_{\text{nir}} \left(\int_0^{\lambda_{\text{min}}} B_\lambda(T_{\text{nir}}) d\lambda + \int_{\lambda_{\text{min}}}^{\lambda_1} B_\lambda(T_{\text{nir}}) d\lambda \right) + \int_{\lambda_1}^{\lambda_2} F_\lambda d\lambda + C_{\text{fir}} \left(\int_{\lambda_2}^{\lambda_{\text{max}}} B_\lambda(T_{\text{fir}}) d\lambda + \int_{\lambda_{\text{max}}}^\infty B_\lambda(T_{\text{fir}}) d\lambda \right), \quad (3)$$

where T_{nir} and T_{fir} are near- and far-infrared temperatures to be defined and C_{nir} and C_{fir} are constants, determined from the conditions $C_{\text{nir}} B_{\lambda_1}(T_{\text{nir}}) = F_{\lambda_1}$ and $C_{\text{fir}} B_{\lambda_2}(T_{\text{fir}}) = F_{\lambda_2}$. The wavelengths λ_1 and λ_2 are the first and last wavelengths for which near-infrared and IRAS photometry is available, so λ_2 equals 60 or 100 μm depending upon whether or not a reliable 100 μm flux is available. This implies that optical measurements were not considered. First, optical photometry is in general available only for the optical carbon stars and not for the infrared carbon stars. Secondly, due to the intrinsic variability of many AGB stars, especially in the optical, and an uncertain correction for interstellar extinction these measurements yield unreliable estimates of the spectral energy distribution. Because the contribution of the second integral on the right-hand side to the total flux is on an average about 20% for group II, 6% for group III and even less for group IV stars, our approximation of using a blackbody in the optical region, even if it is accurate to only a factor of two, will introduce an error in BC_{12} of less than about 0.10 magnitudes for group II stars and less for stars in the other groups. The third integral on the right-hand side is evaluated by connecting all observed spectral points by straight lines and integrating under the curve. This is accurate to within 10–20%. The two wavelengths λ_{min} and λ_{max} are determined in such a way that the first and last integral may be neglected, contributing less than 1% to the total flux. To be specific, λ_{min} was determined from

$$\int_0^{\lambda_{\text{min}}} B_\lambda d\lambda < B_{\lambda_{\text{min}}} \lambda_{\text{min}} = 0.01 \frac{\sigma T_{\text{nir}}^4}{\pi}. \quad (4)$$

Solving this equation yields

$$\lambda_{\text{min}} = \frac{1110}{T_{\text{nir}}} \mu\text{m}. \quad (5)$$

The second integral on the right-hand side of Eq. (3) is, of course, evaluated only when λ_{min} is smaller than λ_1 . If λ_{max} is large so that $x = hc/kT_{\text{max}} < 1$, the exponential in the Planck function can be approximated as $\exp(x) = 1 + x + x^2/2 + \dots$. Because $1 + x < \exp(x)$ the following inequality holds:

$$\int_{\lambda_{\text{max}}}^\infty B_\lambda d\lambda < \int_{\lambda_{\text{max}}}^\infty \frac{2ckT}{\lambda^4} d\lambda = \frac{2ckT}{3\lambda_{\text{max}}^3} = 0.01 \frac{\sigma T_{\text{fir}}^4}{\pi}. \quad (6)$$

Solving this equation yields

$$\lambda_{\text{max}} = \frac{36000}{T_{\text{fir}}} \mu\text{m}. \quad (7)$$

If λ_{max} was smaller than λ_2 , the observed flux was nevertheless integrated to λ_2 . The far-infrared temperature T_{fir} is determined as the lowest colour temperature as derived from the values of C_{21} , C_{32} and C_{43} , when available, using Table VI.C.6 in the ‘‘Explanatory Supplement’’. The near-infrared temperature T_{nir} is derived by fitting a blackbody of temperature T_{nir} to the J, H, K, L, M flux densities.

Near- and mid-infrared photometry was available for a large number of sources in our sample. For most of the group II and some group III stars photometry was available from Noguchi et al. (1981). For some group III and many group IV objects photometry was taken from Epchtein et al. (1987, 1990). Other measurements were directly obtained from or through references found in the ‘‘Catalog of Infrared Observations’’ (Gezari et al. 1987). From the available near-infrared magnitudes flux densities F_λ ($\text{W}/\text{m}^2/\mu\text{m}$) were calculated using as much as possible the calibration constants of the photometric system in which the magnitudes were given. If no near-infrared photometry was available for a star, a typical value was assigned to T_{nir} : 2500 K in the case of a group II star, 1400 K for group III, 850 K for group IV and 700 K for group V. These values are averages of the values obtained from the sources in each group for which the near-infrared temperature could be determined from a fit to the near-infrared colours. This procedure was necessary for 20 stars in our total sample of 110 stars.

The flux densities were corrected for interstellar extinction using a visual extinction of

$$A_V = 0.18 \frac{(1 - e^{-11.1 D \sin b})}{\sin b} \quad (8)$$

(Milne & Aller 1980), where D is the distance in kpc and b is the absolute value of the galactic latitude. Extinction at other wavelengths ($0.125 < \lambda < 3.4 \mu\text{m}$) was calculated from Cardelli et al. (1988) using $R_V = 3.1$. Extinction at $\lambda > 3.5 \mu\text{m}$ was neglected. The values of A_V range from about 0.2 for nearby stars to about 2.5 for distant stars close to the galactic plane. The interstellar extinction correction has only a small effect on the derived near-infrared temperatures.

The distances were iteratively determined from Eqs. (3) and (8) using $M_{\text{bol}} = -4.9$ ($L = 7050 L_\odot$) for all carbon stars, based on the mean value observed in the LMC (Frogel et al. 1980). In Sect. 7 we will discuss the effect of choosing a different luminosity for each group separately.

The derived values of the near-infrared temperatures, the bolometric correction, the total flux and the distance as well as the galactic longitude and latitude are listed for all stars in Table 2. The stars for which we had to assume a near-infrared temperature have a semicolon (;) in the column of T_{nir} as well as in the column listing the bolometric corrections. The bolometric corrections (for the stars with a reliable value for BC_{12}) are plotted against C_{21} in Fig. 2. The values obtained and characteristic values for the different groups were already presented in Sect. 3.

We conclude this section with a comparison between the bolometric corrections derived in this work with the ones given by van der Veen & Breukers (1989) for their smaller (~ 30) sample of carbon stars. In Fig. 2 we have also plotted the fit presented by van der Veen & Breukers for carbon stars (the dashed line) valid in the range $-1.4 < C_{21} < -0.4$. It can be seen that their bolometric corrections are too low for the higher values of C_{21} . Also it is clear that their fit does not represent group II objects well. A convenient fit to our data which may be used for groups III, IV and V is:

$$BC_{12} = 8.2 - 3.37 \cdot 10^{-2} e^{-3.37 C_{21}} \quad (9)$$

This is the solid line in Fig. 2. For group II objects we suggest to use the constant value of 4.15 (see also Table 6). Equation (9)

Table 2. Derived parameters for the stars in the IBCSS

IRAS name	l	b	T_{nir} (K)	F (10^{-10}) (W/m ²)	BC_{12}	D (kpc)
<i>Group II</i>						
01247–3248	250.15	–80.6	2700	34.0	3.95	0.26
03374+6229	141.15	6.0	2340	10.6	4.73	0.46
05028+0106	199.02	–22.8	2540	21.2	4.37	0.33
05426+2040	187.05	–4.3	2610	15.0	4.55	0.39
06331+3839	176.52	13.8	2560	30.0	4.28	0.27
10329–3918	276.21	16.8	2260	28.4	3.93	0.28
10350–1307	259.94	38.1	2730	37.0	3.97	0.25
12427+4542	126.50	71.7	2460	36.2	4.19	0.25
12544+6615	122.13	51.1	2580	16.4	4.08	0.37
15094–6953	314.60	–10.5	2490	32.8	4.01	0.26
17314–3255	355.35	–0.1	2500(:)	23.9	4.13(:)	0.31
19017–0545	29.34	–5.5	2280	17.3	4.33	0.36
20180+4744	84.20	6.6	2290	4.82	5.51	0.68
21412+3747	86.91	–11.4	2300	10.8	4.51	0.58
23430+0312	92.95	–55.5	2670	32.6	3.72	0.26
<i>Group III</i>						
01105+6241	125.46	0.2	1570	2.06	6.62	1.05
02270–2619	215.81	–68.2	1230	4.62	6.39	0.70
03229+4721	148.17	–7.6	1360	7.47	6.76	0.55
03488+3943	156.60	–10.9	1380	1.91	6.70	1.09
04573–1452	214.31	–31.3	1920	12.1	5.79	0.43
05238+3406	173.49	–0.5	1770	4.05	6.00	0.75
06226–0905	218.12	–10.0	1410	2.02	6.56	1.06
06529+0626	207.73	3.8	1810	3.72	5.71	0.78
07065–7256	284.19	–24.8	1360	5.33	6.07	0.65
07373–4021	254.02	–9.0	1550	5.35	5.96	0.65
08088–3243	250.73	0.4	1400(:)	2.12	7.72(:)	1.03
10131+3049	197.72	55.9	1010	19.3	7.71	0.34
10492–2059	268.97	33.6	1870	28.9	6.12	0.28
11186–5528	290.37	4.9	1630	0.59	8.26	1.95
11318–7256	297.33	–11.2	1400(:)	8.63	5.21(:)	0.34
12298–5754	300.44	4.6	980	1.84	6.95	1.11
12394–4338	301.16	18.9	1200	1.59	7.18	1.19
12447+0425	300.26	67.0	1840	4.24	6.38	0.73
15148–4940	325.76	6.4	970	3.26	6.52	0.83
15194–5115	325.53	4.7	1040	7.11	7.84	0.56
15477+3943	63.26	51.2	1945	3.39	5.77	0.82
16545–4214	343.54	0.3	1400(:)	13.1	5.80(:)	0.42
17389–5742	334.72	–14.2	1400(:)	3.80	5.81(:)	0.77
17446–7809	315.43	–23.6	1130	4.45	7.13	0.71
17556+5813	86.74	29.9	1530	3.26	6.54	0.83
18040–0941	19.18	5.4	1270	2.73	6.88	0.91
18041–3317	358.57	–6.2	1130	1.33	6.83	1.30
18397+1738	47.78	10.0	1320	5.54	7.14	0.64
18398–0220	29.87	1.0	940	3.81	7.60	0.77
19008+0726	40.95	0.8	1200	5.62	6.92	0.63
19175–0807	28.99	–10.0	2630	6.14	6.70	0.61
19321+2757	62.56	4.0	1320	4.51	6.88	0.71
20396+4757	86.52	3.8	1340	13.0	6.38	0.42
21032–0024	49.58	–29.6	730	6.07	6.39	0.61
21035+5136	91.80	3.2	1280	2.70	7.11	0.92

Table 2 (continued)

IRAS name	l	b	T_{nir} (K)	F (10^{-10}) (W/m ²)	BC_{12}	D (kpc)
21320+3850	86.27	−9.4	1520	6.17	6.17	0.61
21358+7823	113.83	19.4	1330	13.6	5.72	0.41
21440+7324	110.64	15.4	1650	6.75	5.33	0.58
23320+4316	108.45	−17.2	1130	6.33	7.66	0.60
<i>Group IV</i>						
00247+6922	120.85	6.9	1520	1.96	7.70	1.07
02152+2822	145.04	−30.5	850(:)	1.75	7.00(:)	1.14
02293+5748	136.06	−2.2	520	0.63	8.50	1.89
03186+7016	135.07	11.2	2530	1.19	7.45	1.38
03448+4432	152.94	−7.6	850(:)	1.56	7.13(:)	1.20
04307+6210	145.97	9.9	1230	3.96	6.63	0.76
05405+3240	176.59	1.6	950	1.56	7.56	1.20
06012+0726	200.82	−7.1	614	1.51	8.13	1.22
06291+4319	171.64	15.1	1370	0.90	7.37	1.58
06342+0328	208.22	−1.7	840	1.66	7.73	1.17
07098−2012	233.30	−4.8	1000	1.71	7.49	1.15
07217−1246	228.07	1.2	950	0.77	7.82	1.71
07454−7112	283.38	−21.5	860	8.10	6.90	0.53
08074−3615	253.53	−1.8	850(:)	2.17	7.01(:)	1.02
08340−3357	254.78	3.9	790	0.76	7.76	1.73
09116−2439	252.74	16.2	560	2.37	8.47	0.98
09452+1330	221.45	45.0	914	196	8.16	0.11
09513−5324	278.33	0.5	730	1.63	7.24	1.18
09521−7508	292.25	−16.4	920	3.81	7.13	0.77
11145−6534	293.43	−4.7	760	1.24	7.68	1.35
12540−6845	303.46	−6.2	880	3.03	7.07	0.86
13477−6532	309.03	−3.6	850(:)	2.99	6.49(:)	0.87
13482−6716	308.69	−5.3	840	1.60	6.80	1.19
14484−6152	316.59	−2.4	720	2.91	8.01	0.88
15082−4808	325.64	8.3	720	3.87	8.02	0.76
16079−4812	333.59	2.3	680	0.77	8.06	1.71
17049−2440	358.85	9.3	780	3.62	8.12	0.79
17079−6554	325.52	−15.4	810	1.20	7.47	1.37
17079−3243	352.70	4.0	850(:)	2.15	7.03(:)	1.03
17446−4048	350.06	−6.6	850(:)	3.00	7.03(:)	0.87
18036−2344	6.87	−1.4	850(:)	0.94	7.63(:)	1.55
18119−2244	8.67	−2.6	890	0.77	7.59	1.71
18156−0653	23.03	4.2	1370	1.80	6.63	1.12
18194−2708	5.59	−6.2	830	3.04	8.03	0.86
18239−0655	23.97	2.3	740	1.56	7.64	1.20
18240+2326	51.51	15.8	640	2.71	8.34	0.91
18248−0839	22.54	1.3	770	1.04	7.78	1.48
18276−4717	347.75	−16.4	970	1.99	7.35	1.07
18475+0926	41.22	4.7	900	1.30	7.86	1.32
19594+4047	76.52	5.6	670	2.31	7.77	1.21
20072+3116	69.33	−0.9	1090	2.02	7.07	1.06
20311+4222	81.17	1.6	830	0.89	7.59	1.59
20435+3825	79.49	−2.7	850(:)	1.78	7.03(:)	1.13
20570+2714	72.57	−12.0	910	3.12	7.12	0.85
21373+4540	91.62	−5.0	850(:)	1.45	7.02(:)	1.25

Table 2 (continued)

IRAS name	l	b	T_{nir} (K)	F (10^{-10}) (W/m ²)	BC_{12}	D (kpc)
21489+5301	97.81	−0.6	850(:)	1.57	7.00(:)	1.20
22241+6005	105.84	2.4	820	1.99	7.25	1.07
23257+1038	92.22	−46.9	990	1.24	7.80	1.35
<i>Group V</i>						
01144+6658	125.49	4.5	590	0.69	8.26	1.81
04395+3601	166.44	−6.5	840	3.01	8.02	0.87
08171−2134	242.45	8.1	700(:)	1.24	7.37(:)	1.35
17534−3030	359.87	−2.9	700(:)	1.48	7.74(:)	1.24
19075+0921	43.32	0.2	700(:)	0.59	8.35(:)	1.96
21318+5631	98.22	3.7	700(:)	2.25	7.58(:)	1.00
23166+1655	93.50	−40.3	850	3.02	8.35	0.86
15471−5644	325.64	−2.2	700(:)	1.63	7.35(:)	1.18

Note: A semicolon (:) in the column of the near-IR temperatures indicates an assumed value for T_{nir} (see text). The corresponding value of BC_{12} is therefore also uncertain.

Table 3. Association of the IBCSS with other catalogues

IRAS name	AFGL	IRC	GCCCS	Name	HD
<i>Group II</i>					
01247−3248	215	−30015	68	R Scl	8879
03374+6229	505	60124	154	U Cam	22611
05028+0106	683	00066	284	W Ori	32736
05426+2040	5168	20121	393	Y Tau	38307
06331+3839	966	40158	537	UU Aur	46687
10329−3918			1706	U Ant	
10350−1307	1427	−10242	1714	U Hya	92055
12427+4542	1576	50219	2030	Y CVn	110914
12544+6615	1588	70116	2047	RY Dra	112559
15094−6953	4985S		2219	X Tra	
17314−3255	5354		(1)		
19017−0545	2314	−10486	2695	V Aql	177336
20180+4744	2556	50324	2894	U Cyg	193680
21412+3747	2798	40491	3063	RV Cyg	206750
23430+0312	3142	00532	3202	TX Psc	223075
<i>Group III</i>					
01105+6241	177	60041	59	NSV00438	
02270−2619	337	−30021	103	R For	
03229+4721	489	50096	142	V384 Per	
03488+3943	527	40070		V414 Per	
04573−1452	667	−10080	276	R Lep	31996
05238+3406	748	30114	336	S Aur	35556
06226−0905	933	−10122		V636 Mon	
06529+0626	1038	10144	615	CL Mon	
07065−7256	4070		689	R Vol	
07373−4021			849		
08088−3243	1235		1081		
10131+3049	1403	30219	1641	RW Lmi	
10492−2059	1439	−20218	1766	V Hya	
11186−5528	4130		1839		
11318−7256	4133		1882		

Table 3 (continued)

IRAS name	AFGL	IRC	GCCCS	Name	HD
12298–5754	4151		2012		
12394–4338			2025	NSV05868	
12447+0425	1579	00224	2032	RU Vir	111166
15148–4940			2232		
15194–5115					
15477+3943	5311	40273	2293	V CrB	141826
16545–4214			2380		
17389–5742			2470	V Pav	160435
17446–7809			2476		
17556+5813	2040	60255	2512	T Dra	
18040–0941	2067	–10396		FX Ser	
18041–3317			(2)		
18397+1738	2232	20370		NSV11125	
18398–0220	2233	00365	2642	NSV11233	
19008+0726	2310	10401	2694	NSV11689	
19175–0807	2368	–10502		NSV11913	
19321+2757	2417	30374		V1129 Cyg	
20396+4757	2632	50338	2923	V Cyg	
21032–0024	2702	00499	2968	RV Aqr	
21035+5136	2704	50357	2976	V1549 Cyg	
21320+3850	2781	40485	3041	V1426 Cyg	
21358+7823	2758	80048	3055	S Cep	206362
21440+7324	2805	70177	3070	PQ Cep	
23320+4316	3116	40540		NSV14623	
<i>Group IV</i>					
00247+6922	67				
02152+2822					
02293+5748	341				
03186+7016	482				
03448+4432	5102				
04307+6210	595				
05405+3240	809			V370 Aur	
06012+0726	865				
06291+4319	954				
06342+0328	971				
07098–2012	1085		(3)		
07217–1246	5230		(4)		
07454–7112	4078				
08074–3615					
08340–3357	5251				
09116–2439	5254				
09452+1330	1381	10216		CW Leo	
09513–5324					
09521–7508	4098				
11145–6534					
12540–6845	4159				
13477–6532	4183				
13482–6716	4918S				
14484–6152	4202		(5)		
15082–4808	4211				

Table 3 (continued)

IRAS name	AFGL	IRC	GCCCS	Name	HD
16079–4812					
17049–2440	1922				
17079–6554					
17079–3243					
17446–4048					
18036–2344	5440			V449 Cyg	
18119–2244	2096				
18156–0653	2118				
18194–2708	2135				
18239–0655	2154				
18240+2326	2155				
18248–0839					
18276–4747					
18475+0926	2259				
19594+4047	2494				
20072+3116	2513				
20311+4222	2604				
20435+3825					
20570+2714	2826				
21373+4540					
21489+5301					
22241+6005	2901				
23257+1038	3099				
<i>Group V</i>					
01144+6658	190				
04395+3601	618			V353 Aur	
08171–2134	5250			V2003 Sgr	
17534–3030	5416				
19075+0921	2333				
21318+5631	5625S				
23166+1655	3068				
15471–5644					

- (1) Listed in Fuenmayor (1981) as star 245
 (2) Listed in Fuenmayor (1981) as star 272
 (3) Listed in MacConnell (1988) as star 145
 (4) Listed in MacConnell (1988) as star 192
 (5) Listed in MacConnell (1988) as star 462

was derived excluding the uncertain bolometric corrections (:) in Table 2.

5. Mass loss rates

For carbon stars two different methods of determining mass loss rates are available: based on infrared data and based on CO data.

In general, accurate mass loss rates can be determined from a comparison of the observed spectral energy distribution with the results of detailed radiative transfer calculations, modelling the emission of a star surrounded by a dust shell. Such modelling is outside the scope of this paper. We also could have used formulae

like those derived by Herman et al. (1986) and Jura (1987) based on the 60 μm flux, or the one presented by van der Veen (1989) and van der Veen & Rutgers (1989) based on the C_{21} colour. The advantage of these formulae is that they can be applied to *all* stars, the disadvantage is the large error in individual determinations, due to uncertain input physics and input parameters. The formulae of Herman et al. and Jura e.g. assume a certain emissivity law ($Q_{\lambda} \sim 1/\lambda$) and a certain grain size distribution. Furthermore, they require the knowledge of the dust-to-gas ratio and the opacity of the dust at 60 μm . The formulae of van der Veen and van der Veen & Rutgers do not depend on input physics – they are true fit formulae – but the authors note that the correlation they

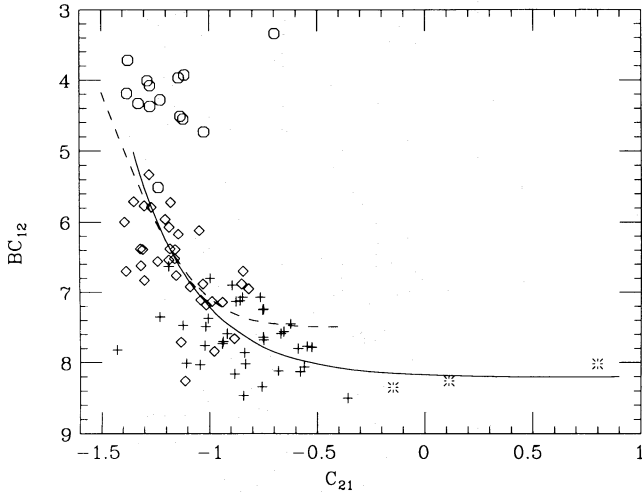


Fig. 2. The bolometric correction BC_{12} plotted against C_{21} colour. Indicated are group II (\circ), group III (\diamond), group IV ($+$) and group V ($*$). Only stars with a reliable bolometric correction are plotted. The dashed line is the fit of van der Veen & Breukers (1989) derived for a much smaller sample of carbon stars. The solid line is the fit we prefer for groups III, IV and V; see Eq. (9)

find is much worse for carbon stars than for oxygen-rich stars. Besides, their relation is valid only in the range $-1.4 \leq C_{21} \leq -0.4$, whereas our sample contains stars outside this region.

For these reasons we have used the other alternative and determined the mass loss rates of our stars from ^{12}CO line emission measurements. These were available for most of our stars but biased towards group II. For group II stars measurements were available for 13 out of 15 stars, for group III for 28 out of 39, for group IV for 29 out of 48 and for group V for 6 out of 8 stars.

The general formula to derive the mass loss rate from CO emission in the case of an optically thick line is given by Knapp & Morris (1985) and Olofsson et al. (1990):

$$\frac{\dot{M}}{D^2} = \left(1 + \frac{4N_{\text{He}}}{N_{\text{H}}} \right) \frac{T_{\text{mb}} V_e^2}{A(B, J) f_{\text{CO}}^{0.85}}, \quad (10)$$

where T_{mb} is the main-beam brightness temperature, V_e the terminal velocity, f_{CO} the CO abundance relative to H_2 and $A(B, J)$ depends on the size of the telescope and the observed transition. For an unresolved envelope $A(B, J)$ is given by (van der Veen & Olofsson 1990)

$$A(B, J) = 2 \cdot 10^{19} B^{-2} s(J) \quad (11)$$

if in Eq. (10) V_e is given in km/s, D the distance to the source in pc and \dot{M} in M_{\odot}/yr . B is the full beam width at half power of the telescope in arcseconds and $s(J)$ is a correction factor. For the $J=1-0$ transition $s(1)$ equals 1 and for the $J=2-1$ transition $s(2)$ equals 0.6 (van der Veen & Olofsson 1990). There are two important restrictions to Eqs. (10) and (11) which need further attention. First of all Eq. (10) is, strictly speaking, valid only in the case of an optically thick line. Knapp & Morris (1985) also presented a formula in the case of an optically thin CO line, but this formula is now known to be incorrect due to an incorrect photodissociation model used (van der Veen & Olofsson 1990). Van der Veen & Rugers (1990) showed, however, using the

detailed fits of Knapp & Morris for optically thin CO lines and Eq. (10) that the error in using Eq. (10) in the case of optically thin CO lines is less than a factor of 2. So Eq. (10) can also be used rather well in the case of an optically thin CO line. The second restriction is that Eq. (11) is valid only in the case of an unresolved CO envelope. Van der Veen & Olofsson do not present a similar formula in the case of a resolved envelope. To decide whether a source is unresolved in a certain transition by a certain telescope we proceed as follows. For both optically thin and thick lines the region which contributes significantly to the CO ($J=1-0$) emission is given by (see the discussion in van der Veen & Olofsson)

$$R_{1-0} = 5 \cdot 10^{16} \left(\frac{\dot{M}}{10^{-6} M_{\odot}/\text{yr}} \right)^{0.6} \left(\frac{f_{\text{CO}}}{4 \cdot 10^{-4}} \right)^{0.5} \left(\frac{15 \text{ km/s}}{V_e} \right)^{0.5} \text{ cm}. \quad (12)$$

For higher transitions this region will be smaller. An estimate for the $J=2-1$ transition is given by $R_{2-1} = 0.2 R_{1-0}$ (van der Veen & Olofsson). A source is thus unresolved if

$$\frac{2R_{J \rightarrow J-1}}{D} \ll B(J \rightarrow J-1). \quad (13)$$

To determine the most reliable mass loss rates we proceeded in the following way. From various sources the following data were collected: T_{mb} , V_e , B and the observed transition. In some cases the value of the terminal velocity was considered unreliable by the authors. In these cases the values of V_e found from HCN measurements were used, if available. Using Eq. (10), \dot{M}/D^2 was calculated ($N_{\text{He}}/N_{\text{H}} = 0.1$ and $f_{\text{CO}} = 8 \cdot 10^{-4}$ were used throughout) and then \dot{M} was found based on the distances derived in Sect. 3. With the derived mass loss rate Eq. (12) can be evaluated and condition (13) verified. The results are presented in Table 4 where all observations of our stars are collected in order of decreasing telescope beamwidth. Papers listing only antenna temperatures or integrated intensities instead of main-beam temperatures were not included in Table 4.

A similar approach was taken by van der Veen & Rugers (1989) who collected data for all sources detected in the CO ($J=1-0$) and CO($J=2-1$) line and listed in the IRAS PSC. Their list contains 133 sources, 53 of which are carbon-rich. Our list gives information on 76 carbon stars of our sample. The total number of carbon stars observed in any of the CO lines already exceeds 100 by now (Olofsson 1989). Van der Veen & Rugers calculated mass loss rates using an equation similar to Eq. (10) but they did not correct for the helium abundance and used a different value for $s(2)$. They did not take condition (13) into account in deriving the mass loss rates.

From the data in Table 4 we can deduce the importance of taking condition (13) into account when deriving the most reliable mass loss rates, instead of e.g. averaging the available data. From the data for which multiple measurements are available (e.g. IRAS 01247–3248, 10131+3049, 10492–2059, 20396+4757, 23320+4316) it can be seen that Eq. (10) systematically gives higher mass loss rates for unresolved sources. This in itself is not surprising since a telescope which resolves an envelope samples less CO emission. Using the mass loss rates of the stars for which multiple measurements are available we derive that the difference between the values of \dot{M} based on the most resolved and the most unresolved case amounts to a factor of 1.4–1.9. One may argue that this is a small factor compared to the error made

Table 4. CO data for stars in the IBCSS

IRAS name	M/D^2 ($M_{\odot}/\text{yr/kpc}^2$)	V_e (km/s)	CO transition	Source size('')	Beam width('')	Ref.	Remarks
<i>Group II</i>							
01247−3248	3.0 (−5)	17.5	$J=1-0$	51	100	1	Average V_e used
	2.7 (−5)	17.6	1−0	48	65	1	
	1.7 (−5)	17.5	1−0	37	52	5	
	1.8 (−5)	17.5	1−0	38	40	9	
03374+6229	4.9 (−6)	22.0	1−0	17	46	3	
	2.5 (−6)	18.0	1−0	13	33	7	
05028+0106	9.6 (−7)	11.8	1−0	8.3	33	7	
	9.8 (−7)	10.2	2−1	1.8	29	2	
05426+2040	1.1 (−6)	15.9	1−0	8.1	46	3	
	1.2 (−6)	10.7	1−0	10	40	9	
	2.0 (−6)	14.9	1−0	12	33	7	
06331+3839	2.0 (−6)	11.4	1−0	13	33	7	
	3.7 (−6)	11.5	2−1	3.6	29	2	
	1.1 (−6)	12.4	2−1	1.7	24	3	
10329−3918	1.1 (−5)	21.2	1−0	26	40	9	
10350−1307	1.1 (−6)	7.9	1−0	10	40	9	
	4.3 (−6)	10.7	2−1	4.1	29	2	
12427+4542	1.1 (−6)	7.9	1−0	10	100	1	
	9.0 (−7)	9.0	1−0	8.7	33	7	
	6.3 (−7)	6.3	2−1	1.7	29	2	
	5.8 (−7)	7.3	2−1	1.5	25	4	
12544+6615	5.2 (−7)	10.0	1−0	6.4	33	7	
15094−6953	8.1 (−7)	9.2	1−0	8.1	40	9	
19017−0545	7.7 (−7)	8.0	1−0	9.0	40	9	
	5.7 (−7)	8.2	1−0	7.4	33	7	
	8.9 (−7)	10.4	2−1	1.7	27	8	
21412+3747	1.6 (−6)	14.7	1−0	11	33	7	
23430+0312	1.5 (−6)	10.6	1−0	11	52	5	
	1.6 (−6)	12.1	1−0	11	40	9	
	1.3 (−6)	11.8	1−0	9.5	33	7	
<i>Group III</i>							
01105+6241	2.0 (−6)	23.3	2−1	2.3	27	8	
02270−2619	3.1 (−6)	20.0	1−0	15	40	9	
	5.3 (−6)	16.8	2−1	4.5	29	2	
03229+4721	1.8 (−5)	16.8	1−0	45	100	1	
	1.5 (−5)	16.8	1−0	40	65	1	
04573−1452	1.1 (−5)	20.5	1−0	29	100	1	
	3.8 (−6)	18.6	1−0	16	40	9	
	8.8 (−6)	19.0	2−1	5.2	29	2	
Average V_e used							
05238+3406	1.4 (−6)	16.5	1−0	10	46	3	
06226−0905	1.3 (−5)	25.8	2−1	6.8	27	8	
06529+0626	4.0 (−6)	23.9	1−0	16	55	8	
	2.8 (−6)	27.4	1−0	12	40	9	
	4.3 (−6)	27.0	2−1	3.2	27	8	
07065−7256	2.9 (−6)	19.3	1−0	15	40	9	
08088−3243	1.3 (−5)	20.7	2−1	7.5	29	2	
10131+3049	6.3 (−5)	16.9	1−0	86	100	1	
	3.5 (−5)	17.1	1−0	60	65	1	
	4.4 (−5)	17.5	1−0	68	55	8	
	4.1 (−5)	16.3	1−0	68	52	5	
	4.3 (−5)	16.5	1−0	69	46	3	
	4.5 (−5)	17.4	2−1	14	29	2	
	4.4 (−5)	17.4	2−1	14	27	8	
	4.4 (−5)	17.3	2−1	14	27	8	

Table 4 (continued)

IRAS name	M/D^2 ($M_{\odot}/\text{yr/kpc}^2$)	V_e (km/s)	CO transition	Source size(")	Beam width(")	Ref.	Remarks
10492−2059	4.0 (−5)	17.8	2−1	13	24	3	There is also a broad component at $V_e \approx 22$ km/s but the dominant emission is at $V_e = 14$ km/s
	3.9 (−6)	17.1	1−0	16	21	11	
	1.3 (−5)	14.0	1−0	35	100	1	
	1.3 (−5)	14.0	1−0	35	65	1	
	1.1 (−5)	14.0	1−0	32	55	8	
	9.2 (−6)	14.2	1−0	29	52	5	
	1.7 (−5)	15.8	1−0	39	40	9	
12447+0425	2.9 (−5)	14.0	2−1	11	27	8	V_e from HCN
	6.0 (−6)	16.9	1−0	25	100	1	
15194−5115	5.4 (−5)	26.0	1−0	70	44	16	
	1.6 (−4)	23.3	2−1	28	32	11	
15477+3943	3.0 (−7)	6.5	1−0	6.6	46	3	
17556+5813	4.1 (−6)	14.0	1−0	22	100	1	
18040−0941	5.3 (−6)	29.7	2−1	3.6	27	8	
18397+1738	2.3 (−5)	15.6	1−0	56	100	1	
	2.3 (−5)	14.3	1−0	57	65	1	
	1.5 (−5)	15.6	1−0	45	52	5	
	1.4 (−5)	14.0	1−0	44	46	3	
18398−0220	8.0 (−6)	11.9	2−1	11	25	4	
	2.2 (−5)	34.5	1−0	36	46	3	
19008+0726	1.3 (−5)	28.0	1−0	29	46	3	
19175−0807	1.3 (−5)	30.5	1−0	28	100	13	
	9.7 (−6)	22.5	2−1	5.5	29	2	
19321+2757	2.0 (−5)	24.4	2−1	8.3	29	2	
20396+4757	1.9 (−5)	13.1	1−0	50	100	1	
	1.4 (−5)	11.8	1−0	44	65	1	
	1.0 (−5)	11.7	1−0	36	46	3	
	1.1 (−5)	11.8	2−1	7.6	29	2	
21032−0024	1.7 (−5)	11.7	2−1	9.8	27	8	
	9.0 (−6)	11.9	2−1	6.7	27	8	
	7.3 (−6)	16.4	1−0	27	100	1	
	4.0 (−6)	16.1	1−0	19	40	9	
21035+5136	1.9 (−6)	11.4	2−1	3.1	27	8	
21320+3850	7.3 (−6)	14.9	1−0	28	100	1	
21358+7823	1.2 (−5)	14.9	1−0	38	65	1	
	1.1 (−5)	22.4	2−1	5.5	29	2	
21440+7324	1.1 (−5)	27.0	1−0	25	22	14	
	4.5 (−6)	21.7	1−0	17	46	3	
23320+4316	3.0 (−5)	14.7	1−0	66	100	1	
	2.5 (−5)	14.5	1−0	60	65	1	
	2.1 (−5)	13.8	1−0	55	46	3	
	1.6 (−5)	14.8	2−1	9.1	27	8	
<i>Group IV</i>							
02152+2822	4.2 (−7)	8.9	1−0	7.5	55	8	
	5.4 (−7)	9.5	2−1	1.7	29	2	
02293+5748	4.6 (−6)	14.2	2−1	5.5	24	3	
03186+7016	8.4 (−6)	16.0	1−0	35	100	1	
03448+4432	1.8 (−6)	13.3	2−1	3.0	29	2	
04307+6210	1.5 (−5)	20.4	1−0	39	100	1	
	5.8 (−6)	14.5	1−0	26	52	5	
05405+3240	1.5 (−5)	30.0	1−0	35	100	13	
	1.9 (−5)	26.0	2−1	8.7	29	2	
06012+0726	1.1 (−5)	17.5	1−0	39	100	1	
	1.1 (−5)	16.4	1−0	40	42	15	
	3.7 (−5)	15.1	2−1	17	30	17	

Table 4 (continued)

IRAS name	M/D^2 ($M_{\odot}/\text{yr/kpc}^2$)	V_e (km/s)	CO transition	Source size(")	Beam width(")	Ref.	Remarks
06291 + 4319	1.7 (−6)	21.4	1–0	12	46	3	
06342 + 0328	2.6 (−6)	9.0	2–1	4.5	29	2	
07098 − 2012	4.8 (−6)	23.8	2–1	4.0	29	2	
07217 − 1246	1.1 (−6)	24.9	1–0	8.6	21	6	
08074 − 3615	4.9 (−6)	17.3	1–0	23	52	5	
09116 − 2439	9.6 (−6)	13.4	1–0	39	52	5	
	1.4 (−5)	12.8	2–1	9.9	29	2	
09452 + 1330	3.5 (−4)	15.2	1–0	203	100	1	
	2.2 (−4)	15.3	1–0	153	65	1	
	1.8 (−4)	15.6	1–0	134	55	8	
	1.9 (−4)	15.9	1–0	138	52	5	
	1.5 (−4)	15.0	1–0	123	46	3	
	1.3 (−4)	16.0	1–0	109	40	9	
	1.9 (−4)	14.7	2–1	29	29	2	
	1.7 (−4)	15.3	2–1	26	27	8	
	1.7 (−4)	15.1	2–1	26	27	8	
	7.2 (−5)	14.6	2–1	16	24	3	
	6.2 (−5)	15.3	2–1	72	21	11	
15082 − 4808	4.1 (−5)	20.5	2–1	14	32	11	
17049 − 2440	3.2 (−5)	20.7	1–0	62	100	13	
	8.4 (−6)	16.6	2–1	6.1	24	3	
17079 − 3243	5.0 (−6)	25.6	2–1	3.7	27	8	
18194 − 2708	2.7 (−5)	23.0	1–0	53	100	13	
18239 − 0655	1.2 (−5)	27.0	1–0	32	46	3	
18240 + 2326	1.2 (−5)	15.1	1–0	41	100	1	
	9.8 (−6)	15.1	1–0	36	65	1	
18248 − 0839	6.2 (−7)	16.1	1–0	7.4	21	6	
18475 + 0926	5.1 (−6)	21.8	1–0	22	46	3	
19594 + 4047	1.1 (−5)	22.5	1–0	33	100	13	
	1.7 (−5)	20.0	2–1	8.9	29	2	
20435 + 3825	6.8 (−7)	20.7	1–0	6.3	21	6	
20570 + 2714	8.7 (−6)	23.5	2–1	5.4	29	2	
21373 + 4540	1.3 (−6)	14.7	1–0	11	21	6	
21489 + 5301	2.7 (−5)	22.3	2–1	12	29	2	
	1.2 (−5)	20.7	1–0	37	21	6	
22241 + 6005	1.5 (−5)	34.2	1–0	32	46	3	
23257 + 1038	4.9 (−6)	10.1	1–0	32	100	1	
<i>Group V</i>							
01144 + 6658	8.9 (−6)	19.7	2–1	6.9	29	2	
04395 + 3601	6.0 (−5)	21.5	1–0	90	100	1	
	2.7 (−5)	18.0	2–1	12	31	12	
	1.5 (−5)	18.5	1–0	42	21	10	
	2.0 (−5)	18.5	2–1	10	13	10	
08171 − 2134	3.0 (−6)	15.8	1–0	19	52	5	
	4.4 (−6)	16.1	2–1	4.7	29	2	
17534 − 3030	2.0 (−5)	31.8	1–0	41	52	5	
21318 + 5631	8.0 (−6)	15.6	1–0	32	46	3	
23166 + 1655	2.3 (−5)	14.5	1–0	61	100	1	
	2.2 (−5)	13.4	1–0	62	65	1	
	1.5 (−5)	12.2	1–0	52	46	3	

References: (1) Knapp & Morris (1985); (2) Zuckerman & Dyck (1986a); (3) Zuckerman et al. (1986); (4) Wannier & Sahai (1986); (5) Zuckerman & Dyck (1986b); (6) Nguyen-Q-Rieu et al. (1987); (7) Olofsson et al. (1987); (8) Zuckerman & Dyck (1987); (9) Olofsson et al. (1988); (10) Bachiller et al. (1988); (11) Knapp et al. (1989); (12) Huggins & Healey (1990); (13) Knapp (1986); (14) Bujarrabal et al. (1989); (15) Sopka et al. (1989); (16) Booth et al. (1989); (17) Wannier et al. (1990)

in applying Eq. (10), which is based on a fit to uncertain model calculations of CO emission. However, since the differences in mass loss rate between the resolved and the unresolved case are systematic rather than random we feel that our procedure of taking this into account is to be preferred.

The “best-estimate” mass loss rates are collected in Table 5. These were selected from Table 4 using the entry with the lowest

value of “source size/beam width”, that is, the most unresolved value. Information on the degree of resolution of the envelope was also included in Table 5. The following criteria were used. For values of the “source size/beam width” of <0.1 , between 0.1 and 0.5, between 0.5 and 1 or >1 , the envelope is called unresolved, partially unresolved, partially resolved or resolved, respectively. It can be seen that in most cases the mass loss rates

Table 5. Derived mass loss rates

IRAS name	\dot{M} (M_{\odot}/yr)	Status envelope	IRAS name	\dot{M} (M_{\odot}/yr)	Status envelope
<i>Group II</i>					
01247–3248	2.03 (–6)	PR	12427+4542	3.63 (–8)	U
03374+6229	1.04 (–6)	PU	12544+6615	7.12 (–8)	PU
05028+0106	1.07 (–7)	U	15094–6953	5.48 (–8)	PU
05426+2040	1.67 (–7)	PU	19017–0545	1.15 (–7)	U
06331+3839	8.02 (–8)	U	21412+3747	3.39 (–7)	PU
10329–3918	8.62 (–7)	P	23430+0312	1.01 (–7)	PU
10350–1307	2.69 (–7)	PU			
<i>Group III</i>					
01105+6241	2.20 (–6)	U	18040–0941	4.39 (–9)	PU
02270–2619	2.60 (–6)	PU	18397+1738	3.30 (–6)	PU
03229+4721	5.45 (–6)	PU	18398–0220	1.30 (–5)	PR
04573–1452	1.63 (–6)	PU	19008+0726	5.16 (–6)	PR
05238+3406	7.88 (–7)	PU	19175–0807	3.61 (–6)	PU
06226–0905	1.46 (–5)	PU	19321+2757	1.01 (–5)	PU
06529+0626	2.62 (–6)	PU	20396+4757	1.94 (–6)	PU
07065–7256	1.23 (–6)	PU	21032–0024	2.72 (–6)	PU
08088–3243	1.38 (–5)	PU	21035+5136	1.61 (–6)	PU
10131+3049	5.20 (–6)	PU	21320+3850	2.72 (–6)	PU
10492–2059	1.02 (–6)	PU	21358+7823	1.85 (–6)	PU
12447+0425	3.20 (–6)	PU	21440+7324	1.51 (–6)	PU
15194–5115	4.95 (–5)	PR	23320+4316	5.76 (–6)	PU
15477+3943	1.98 (–7)	PU			
17556+5813	2.82 (–6)	PU			
<i>Group IV</i>					
02152+2822	7.02 (–7)	U	17049–2440	5.24 (–6)	PU
02293+5748	1.64 (–5)	PU	17079–3243	3.70 (–6)	PU
03186+7016	1.60 (–5)	PU	18194–2708	2.00 (–5)	PR
03448+4432	2.59 (–6)	PU	18239–0655	1.73 (–5)	PR
04307+6210	8.66 (–6)	PU	18240+2326	9.94 (–6)	PU
05405+3240	2.74 (–5)	PU	18248–0839	1.36 (–6)	PU
06012+0726	1.67 (–5)	PU	18475+0926	8.89 (–6)	PU
06291+4319	4.24 (–6)	PU	19595+4047	1.67 (–5)	PU
06342+0328	3.56 (–6)	PU	20435+3825	6.14 (–7)	PU
07098–2012	6.35 (–6)	PU	20570+2714	6.29 (–6)	PU
07217–1246	3.22 (–6)	PU	21373+4540	1.43 (–6)	PR
08074–3615	5.06 (–6)	PU	21489+5301	3.84 (–5)	PU
09116–2439	1.34 (–5)	PU	22241+6005	1.72 (–5)	PR
09452+1330	2.06 (–6)	PU	23257+1038	8.93 (–6)	PU
15082–4808	2.37 (–5)	PU			
<i>Group V</i>					
01144+6658	2.92 (–5)	PU	17534–3030	3.08 (–5)	PR
04395+3601	2.04 (–5)	PU	21318+5631	8.00 (–6)	PR
08171–2134	8.02 (–6)	PU	23166+1655	1.70 (–5)	PR

Note: U: unresolved; PU: partially unresolved; PR: partially resolved. See text for explanation.

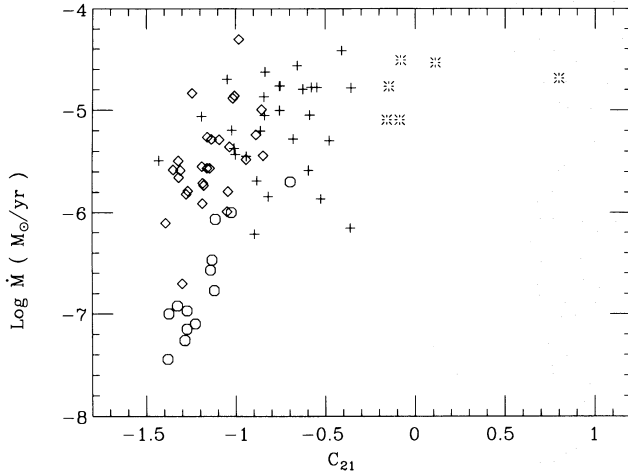


Fig. 3. The mass loss rates of group II (○), group III (◊) group IV (+) and group V (*) plotted against C_{21} colour

have been derived from measurements where the envelope was at most partially resolved, so it is expected that the derived mass loss rates are not systematically underestimated.

Since it is expected that the mass loss rate increases from group II to group V (see Sect. 2), we have plotted in Fig. 3 the mass loss rate versus C_{21} for all groups. Although there is a large scatter (which is shown below to be at least partly due to the range in expansion velocities for fixed C_{21}), it is obvious that \dot{M} increases with C_{21} , especially within groups II and III and then seems to level off at a value of $\dot{M} \approx 3.2 \cdot 10^{-5} M_{\odot}/\text{yr}$ for groups IV and V. This corresponds to a ratio of momentum flux in the wind ($\dot{M} V_e$) to that of the stellar luminosity (L/c) of $\tau = \dot{M} V_e c / L = 4.5$ if one assumes $V_e = 20$ km/s. The average value of τ for group III is about 0.4. Linear least-square fits were made to the data in

Fig. 3 to obtain

$$\log \dot{M} = -6.736 + 1.550 C_{21} + 1.687 \log V_e \quad (\text{group II}), \quad (14)$$

$$\log \dot{M} = -6.104 + 1.324 C_{21} + 1.677 \log V_e \quad (\text{group III}). \quad (15)$$

For groups IV and V it is not very useful to derive such relations because of the scatter. These groups are best represented by an average value (see Table 6). Equations (14) and (15) give mass loss rates accurate to within a factor of 1.3 and 1.7, respectively.

From the data in Table 4 we derive average expansion velocities of 12.7, 19.4, 17.3 and 19.4 km/s for groups II, III, IV and V and we conclude that the average expansion velocities for groups III, IV and V are about the same at $V_e \approx 19$ km/s. Only group II stars have a significantly lower expansion velocity, possibly related to the building up of the circumstellar envelope after the transition from oxygen- to carbon-rich and the start of the carbon-rich mass loss phase.

Van der Veen & Rutgers (1989) also presented a fit to the mass loss rate. Their result for carbon stars is

$$\dot{M} = 3 \cdot 10^{-5} \left(\frac{L}{10^4 L_{\odot}} \right) \left(\frac{V_e}{15 \text{ km/s}} \right)^{2.2} \left(\frac{S_{25}}{S_{12}} \right)^{2.6}. \quad (16)$$

Using our value of $L = 7050 L_{\odot}$ this can be recast into

$$\log \dot{M} = -7.261 + 1.041 C_{21} + 2.2 \log V_e. \quad (17)$$

Because their fit is valid only for $C_{21} \leq -0.4$, it can best be compared to Eq. (15) for group III stars. For a typical star with $C_{21} = -1.0$ and $V_e = 20$ km/s our value is about 50% higher. At $C_{21} = -0.4$ the difference is a factor of 2.3. We expect our results to be higher because we took the correction for the helium abundance [see Eq. (10)] into account and we explicitly searched for measurements which did not resolve the envelope and which on an average result in higher mass loss rates compared to e.g. averaging the available mass loss rates in the case of multiple measurements. The main difference between Eq. (15) and Eq. (17) lies in the dependence on the expansion velocity. Our dependence

Table 6. Space densities and timescales for the IBCSS

Group		II	III	IV	V	Total
Number		15	39	48	7–8	109–110
BC_{12}		4.25 ± 0.51	6.65 ± 0.67	7.61 ± 0.48	8.21 ± 0.17	
$\log M (M_{\odot}/\text{yr})$		-6.72 ± 0.54	-5.49 ± 0.46	-5.17 ± 0.47	-4.78 ± 0.26	
$(m_{12} - M_{12})_{\text{lim}}$		7.78	10.18	11.14	11.74	
$d_{\text{lim}}(\text{pc})$		360	1090	1690	2230	
$H(\text{pc})$		290 ± 100	260 ± 40	155 ± 20	195 ± 20	190
Effective volume ¹	$H = 150 \text{ pc}$	0.093	1.08	2.65	4.63	
(kpc ³)	$H = 300 \text{ pc}$	0.13	1.94	5.05	9.01	
Number density	$H = 150 \text{ pc}$	162	36	18	1.5–1.7	218
(kpc ⁻³)	$H = 300 \text{ pc}$	116	20	9.5	0.8–0.9	146
Surface density	$H = 150 \text{ pc}$	48	11	5.4	~0.5	65
(kpc ⁻²)	$H = 300 \text{ pc}$	69	12	5.7	~0.5	87
Time (yr)	$H = 150 \text{ pc}$	20000	4440	2220	185–210	26860
	$H = 300 \text{ pc}$	20000	3450	1640	140–150	25240
$\Delta M (M_{\odot})^2$	$H = 150 \text{ pc}$	0.004	0.014	0.015	0.003	0.037
	$H = 300 \text{ pc}$	0.004	0.011	0.011	0.002	0.029

¹ Calculated from Eq. (19)

² $\Delta M = \text{Time} \cdot \dot{M}$

is less steep. An increase in the expansion velocity by 10 km/s to 30 km/s will result in an increase in the mass loss rate by a factor of 1.9 in our case and by a factor of 2.4 in the case of van der Veen & Rugers.

6. An evolutionary sequence for carbon stars

In this section our flux-limited sample of carbon stars will be transformed into a volume-complete sample. Local number densities for the different groups will be derived and evolutionary timescales and the amount of matter lost in the different evolutionary phases will be calculated. All relevant data are gathered in Table 6. Preliminary results were presented at the Montpellier conference by de Jong (1990).

Average bolometric corrections were calculated for each group. Uncertain values of BC_{12} , listed in Table 2 with a semi-colon (;) were not used. The bolometric correction increases steadily from 4.2 for group III to 8.2 for group V as discussed in Sect. 3. Averages per group of $\log \dot{M}$ were calculated from the data in Table 5. As could already be seen in Fig. 4, the mass loss rate steadily increases from group II to group V, confirming the idea that a carbon star evolves from left (near the blackbody line; group III) to right ($C_{21} > 0$; group V) in the C_{21} vs. C_{32} colour-colour diagram (see Fig. 1) after the mass loss has resumed (group II).

The limiting distance to which our sample can be observed is calculated from $m_{12} - M_{12} = 5 \log d - 5$, where $m_{12} = -2.5 \log(100/28.3) = -1.37$, is the limiting 12 μm magnitude for our sample of carbon stars with $S_{12} > 100$ Jy. The absolute magnitude $M_{12} = M_{\text{bol}} - BC_{12}$ [see Eq. (1)] can be calculated from our assumed value of $M_{\text{bol}} = -4.9$ and the average value of the bolometric correction BC_{12} for each group.

To transform the flux-limited sample into a volume-complete sample we have to take into account the fact that the carbon stars are concentrated towards the galactic plane. Since our sample is confined to the solar neighbourhood ($D < 2$ kpc) and Thronson et al. (1987) and Jura et al. (1989) found no gradient of carbon stars along the Galactocentric axis on a scale of at least 4 kpc, we assume that the number density of carbon stars varies like

$$\rho = \rho_0 e^{-|z|/H} \quad (18)$$

in the solar neighbourhood, where z is the distance to the galactic plane and H is the scale height. We find that the number of stars within a distance R equals

$$\begin{aligned} N(R) &= \int \rho dV = 2 \int_0^R \int_0^{\sqrt{R^2 - z^2}} \int_0^{2\pi} \rho_0 e^{-z/H} r d\phi dr dz \\ &= 2\pi \rho_0 \int_0^R e^{-z/H} (R^2 - z^2) dz \\ &= 2\pi \rho_0 H^3 \left[2e^{-R/H} \left(\frac{R}{H} + 1 \right) + \left(\frac{R}{H} \right)^2 - 2 \right] \end{aligned}$$

or, equivalently,

$$N(R) = 2\pi \rho_0 R^2 H \left\{ 1 - 2 \left(\frac{H}{R} \right)^2 + 2e^{-R/H} \left[\frac{H}{R} + \left(\frac{H}{R} \right)^2 \right] \right\}. \quad (19)$$

In the limiting case of $R \ll H$ Eq. (19) gives $N(R) = (4/3)\pi R^3 \rho_0$, as expected. If $R \gg H$, Eq. (19) gives $N(R) = (\pi R^2) (2H) \rho_0$, the volume of a cylinder with height $2H$ times the density. Because both

$N(R)$ and R are known, the local number density ρ_0 can be calculated for each group if H is known.

The scale height H is related to the average value $z_{\text{mean}} \equiv |z| = |D \sin(b)|$ through

$$\begin{aligned} z_{\text{mean}} &= \frac{\int z \rho dV}{\int \rho dV} \\ &= H \frac{1 - 6(H/R)^2 + 2e^{-R/H} [1 + 3(H/R) + 3(H/R)^2]}{1 - 2(H/R)^2 + 2e^{-R/H} [H/R + (H/R)^2]}. \end{aligned} \quad (20)$$

When $R \gg H$ we simply have $|z| = H$; for $R \ll H$ we have $|z| = (3/8)R$. The derived values of H are listed in Table 6. The errors quoted for H are based on a hypothetical 10% error in $|z|$. The value of H quoted for the whole sample is a weighted mean of the values for the different groups. We find values between 150 and 300 pc with a mean close to 200 pc. This compares well to the value of $H = 200$ pc found by Claussen et al. (1987) and Jura & Kleinmann (1989). In the calculations presented below we consider $H = 150$ and 300 pc. The effective volume ($N(R)/\rho_0$) for $H = 150$ and 300 pc are listed in Table 6. The local space density ρ_0 is given in the next entry in Table 6. In the last column we give the total galactic carbon star number density. For groups III, IV and V ρ_0 scales with H because $R \gg H$ but since the space density for group II is not so sensitive to H ($R \approx H$) and is by far the largest contributor to the total, the total number density of carbon stars does not depend too strongly on the exact value of H . The total number density of carbon stars in the solar neighbourhood is $150\text{--}220 \text{ kpc}^{-3}$ depending upon the scale height.

The time spent in each phase is proportional to the numbers of stars in that phase. The number densities can therefore be transformed into timescales when the absolute timescale of one of the groups is known. The evolution of group II stars has been investigated by Willems & de Jong (1988) and Chan & Kwok (1988). They modelled the transition from oxygen- to carbon-rich stars using a radiative transfer model. The position of the carbon stars with a 60 μm excess (group II) in the colour-colour diagram could be reproduced quite well. The timescale derived for the group II phase range from about 10 000 years (Willems & de Jong) to about 50 000 years (Chan & Kwok). The best estimate for the timescale of the group II phase can be made by comparing the position of our group II and III stars with the model tracks of Chan & Kwok (their Fig. 8). We find that carbon stars spend about 20 000 years as a group II star. This number is uncertain to a factor of 2. Using this timescale for group II the times spent by a carbon star in the other phases can be calculated from their number relative to the number in group II. The total lifetime of the carbon star phase is about 26 000 years. The time spent as a group III, IV or V star is only about 25% of the total lifetime.

Using the time spent in each phase and the average mass loss during that phase we can calculate the total mass lost in each phase. The best estimate of the total mass lost during the carbon star phase is about $0.04 M_{\odot}$. The uncertainty in this number is a factor of 3 due to the error in the average mass loss rates, especially of group IV. If the average mass loss rates would be increased by their respective one-sigma values, the total mass lost would increase to $0.105 M_{\odot}$. Although group III and IV represent only 25% of the total lifetime, they account for 80% of the total mass lost by the carbon star.

Our results imply that the stellar mass of the average star when it is transformed into a carbon star is already quite close to the white dwarf mass. If we assume an average white dwarf mass

of $0.65M_{\odot}$, the mass of a newly formed carbon star would be $0.69M_{\odot}$. An upper limit of $0.87M_{\odot}$ can be derived by taking the high values of the mass loss rates (average values in Table 6 increased by 1σ) and revising the lifetime of group II upwards by its uncertainty of a factor of 2. In calculating this quantity we did not take into account the possibility of a “superwind”, or a sudden ejection of a part of the remaining envelope. Because a superwind phase would take place at the end of the carbon life, i.e. while a star is in group V, and there is no star with an extremely high mass loss rate in our sample, we conclude that such a superwind phase, if it exists, lasts less than approximately 20 years. If during this short period the mass loss rate would be $10^{-3}M_{\odot}/\text{yr}$ the extra mass lost in this superwind would be $0.02M_{\odot}$. Although this is almost equal to the mass lost in the preceding 26 000 years, it does not significantly alter the estimates given above for the average mass of a newly formed carbon star. A superwind phase would increase the most probable average mass of a newly formed carbon star to $0.71M_{\odot}$ and make it certainly less than $0.89M_{\odot}$.

Such a low mass ($0.69\text{--}0.85M_{\odot}$) at the onset of the carbon star phase may seem low but is in fair agreement with current AGB evolution models. The models of Boothroyd & Sackmann (1988b; BS), which include mass loss using Reimers law, predict a stellar mass at the first thermal pulse (TP) of $0.81M_{\odot}$ for a $M_{\text{initial}} = 1M_{\odot}$, $Z=0.001$ star, and $0.90M_{\odot}$ for a $M_{\text{initial}} = 1.2M_{\odot}$, $Z=0.02$ star. In calculating these numbers we have reduced the mass loss rates of BS by a factor of 1.5 because BS estimate their mass loss rates to be overestimated by this factor due to their particular choice of $\eta=0.4$ and $\alpha=1$ (η being the coefficient in Reimers law and α the mixing-length parameter). If we assume a duration of the oxygen-rich TP-AGB phase of typically 10^6 years and an average observed mass loss rate of optically visible oxygen-rich AGB stars of $=1.5 \cdot 10^{-7}M_{\odot}/\text{yr}$ (Kleimann 1989), an average oxygen-rich star loses about $0.15M_{\odot}$ before turning into a carbon star. If we subtract this amount of the stellar mass at the first TP, we derive a likely average mass of a newly formed carbon star of $0.66\text{--}0.75M_{\odot}$. So, from this analysis we estimate that stars with initial masses between $0.9M_{\odot}$ and $1.5\text{--}2M_{\odot}$ can become carbon stars at a stellar mass of $0.69\text{--}0.85M_{\odot}$, depending upon the exact details of the mass loss process.

This result seems in conflict with recent evolutionary calculations which produce carbon stars only from stars of relative high initial mass, unless the metallicity is low and the mixing-length parameter high: e.g. $M_{\text{initial}} = 1.2M_{\odot}$ ($Z=0.001$, $\alpha=3$, Boothroyd & Sackmann 1988c) or $M_{\text{initial}} = 1.5M_{\odot}$ ($Z=0.01$, Lattanzio 1989). Our result is an indication that carbon stars are formed from lower mass stars, i.e. at lower luminosity than predicted by evolutionary calculations. This seems confirmed by a comparison of theoretically predicted luminosities with the observed LF of carbon stars in the Magellanic Clouds. The low luminosity tail of the carbon star LF extends down to $M_{\text{bol}} \approx -3.8$ in the LMC (Frogel et al. 1980) and $M_{\text{bol}} \approx -3.4$ in the SMC (Westerlund et al. 1986). Some of these low-luminosity carbon stars may be high-luminosity R-stars, which are probably not related to the third dredge-up phase. The theoretically predicted lowest carbon star luminosity (i.e. in the post-flash luminosity dip) are $M_{\text{bol}} = -3.6$ ($Z=0.001$, $\alpha=3$, Boothroyd & Sackmann 1988c) and $M_{\text{bol}} = -4.0$ ($Z=0.01$, Lattanzio 1989).

Our result that most carbon stars have low-mass progenitors does not imply that high-mass carbon stars do not exist, or are

not present in our sample. Our sample, containing stars distributed according to the initial mass function, obviously is dominated by stars of low mass.

We finally note that kinematical studies (see e.g. Feast 1990) also indicate that the bulk of the carbon stars are of low mass ($\approx 1.6M_{\odot}$).

From the data in Table 6 we can derive the amount of mass returned to the interstellar medium (ISM) by carbon stars. Summing the contributions of the different groups we calculate a mass return of about $8.6 \cdot 10^{-5}M_{\odot}/\text{yr}/\text{kpc}^2$ or $\sim 0.06M_{\odot}/\text{yr}$ for the whole Galaxy. These figures do not depend on H since the main contributors to the mass return are groups III and IV. The uncertainty in both numbers is a factor of 3 due to the uncertainty in the mean mass loss rates for the different groups.

To check the influence of our assumed luminosity of $7050L_{\odot}$ for all stars on the results in Table 6, we have repeated the calculations adopting luminosities of 5000, 7050, 10000 and $15000L_{\odot}$ for groups II, III, IV and V, respectively. These values would roughly apply if a carbon star lives long enough to increase its core mass significantly and thereby attain a higher luminosity.

For groups II, III, IV and V we find a limiting distance of 300, 1090, 2010 and 3250 pc and a scale height of 410, 260, 300 and 280 pc. For an assumed average scale height of 300 pc we find number densities of 188, 20, 6.6 and 0.4 kpc^{-3} and a surface density of 113, 12, 4.0 and 0.3 kpc^{-2} . The total number and surface density are 215 kpc^{-3} and 129 kpc^{-2} , respectively. We find that the number and surface density approximately scale with the assumed luminosity for group II. For the lifetimes we find 20 000, 2130, 700 and 40 years or a total lifetime of 22 880 years, and a mass loss of 0.0026, 0.0069, 0.0067, $0.0016M_{\odot}$, resulting in a total mass loss of $0.018M_{\odot}$. We conclude that the timescales and mass loss are not very sensitive to the assumed luminosities and that it does not affect the conclusions of this section.

7. Discussion

In the previous section we derived a carbon star number density in the solar neighbourhood of 220 kpc^{-3} for our calculated scale height of $H=150 \text{ pc}$ (this number would be 150 kpc^{-3} for $H=300 \text{ pc}$ and 185 kpc^{-3} for $H=200 \text{ pc}$). The surface density varies between 65 and 90 kpc^{-2} , depending on H . These values are higher than quoted by most other authors. Jura & Kleinmann (1989) studied dust-enshrouded stars within 1 kpc from the sun. To ensure the selection of dust-enshrouded stars they chose only stars with $S_{60} > 10 \text{ Jy}$ which results in $\dot{M} > 2 \cdot 10^{-6}M_{\odot}/\text{yr}$ assuming – as Jura & Kleinmann did – the relation between mass loss rate and $60 \mu\text{m}$ flux of Jura (1987). This selection criterion effectively removes all our group II stars from their sample. Jura & Kleinmann found 63 stars, 29 of them being carbon stars. If we use their scale height of 200 pc and correct for the fact that they searched only for stars in the spatial zone observed in the TMSS, their number is equivalent to 32 dusty carbon stars per kpc^3 . This is in good agreement with our value of ρ_0 for the sum of groups III, IV and V if we scale our result to $H=200 \text{ pc}$. Claussen et al. (1987) derive $\log \rho_0 = 2.0 \pm 0.4$ (with $H=200 \text{ pc}$). Our value for $H=200 \text{ pc}$ (185 kpc^{-3}) is within their quoted error but nevertheless higher. Part of this discrepancy is due to the fact that Claussen et al. studied only carbon stars found in the TMSS. This excludes our group IV and V stars. A second reason is that

Claussen et al. use an absolute K -magnitude of -8.1 to derive distances to all their sample stars. This overestimates the distance to stars affected by dust extinction at $2\ \mu\text{m}$, i.e. group III, IV and V stars. Therefore, the distances to the TMSS stars that are classified as group III stars by us have been overestimated and their number density underestimated by Claussen et al.

In Sect. 6 we derived a total lifetime of the carbon star phase of about 26 000 years, of which about 25% is spent as group III, IV or V stars. Our lifetime estimate disagrees with Claussen et al. (1987) who derived a carbon star lifetime of about 10^5 years, and with Thronson et al. (1987) who derived an average lifetime of $2 \cdot 10^5$ yr. Jura & Kleinmann (1989) found a lifetime for the dust-enshrouded carbon stars of $> 3 \cdot 10^4$ yr, significantly larger than our estimated lifetime of groups III, IV and V of ~ 6000 yr. Let us first comment on the lifetime derived by Thronson et al. Their value of lifetime of $2 \cdot 10^5$ yr is based on the idea that a particular envelope mass is lost in a certain time given a certain mass loss rate. However, their analysis is flawed because they took the wrong envelope mass by neglecting the mass lost prior to the carbon star phase.

The carbon star lifetime estimates of Claussen et al. (1987) and Jura & Kleinmann (1989) are based on the death rate of main-sequence stars. Let us repeat this analysis using our complete sample and also take into account the available data on Planetary Nebulae (PN). Using the surface densities and lifetimes in Table 6 we derive a carbon star birth rate of $2.4\text{--}3.4 \cdot 10^{-9}$ stars/pc²/yr. This number should be compared to the death rate of possible carbon star progenitors on the main sequence (MS). From Scalo (1986) we derive a (present-day) death rate of MS stars with $0.98 < M_{\text{MS}}/M_{\odot} < 5.2$ of $5.8 \cdot 10^{-10}$ stars/pc²/yr (assuming a constant birth rate and an age of the Galaxy $T_{\text{G}} = 12$ Gyr) or $8.2 \cdot 10^{-10}$ stars/pc²/yr (with a decreasing birth rate and $T_{\text{G}} = 15$ Gyr). The formal error in these numbers is a factor of 1.7. These estimates are not sensitive to the choice of the maximum mass. If we had assumed $2.5 M_{\odot}$ instead of $5.2 M_{\odot}$ the death rate would drop from $5.8 \cdot 10^{-10}$ stars/pc²/yr to $5.3 \cdot 10^{-10}$ stars/pc²/yr. The lower mass limit is of more importance. Decreasing it to $0.83 M_{\odot}$ increases the death rate by 30% to $7.8 \cdot 10^{-10}$ stars/pc²/yr. Rana (1987), using new data not incorporated by Scalo, derived a death rate of $1.2 \cdot 10^{-9}$ stars/pc²/yr assuming a constant birth rate and $T_{\text{G}} = 15$ Gyr.

So our value of the birth rate seems to be too large by a factor of 2–7. A direct comparison of the present-day death rate of main-sequence stars with the birth rate of carbon stars neglects the birth rate history of our Galaxy. If most present-day carbon stars are of low mass ($\sim M_{\odot}$), they were formed typically 10^{10} years ago when the birth rate was higher than at present. Therefore, the present day death rates should be considered a lower limit to the death rate of carbon star progenitors. Since the star formation rate 10^{10} years ago is about 2–3 times the average star formation rate over the age of the galaxy (see e.g. Vader & de Jong 1981), the death rate of main-sequence stars and the birth rate of carbon stars agree within a factor of 2. Let us consider now the immediate descendants of the carbon stars, the carbon-rich PN, to get independent information on the lifetime of the carbon star phase. From Phillips (1989) we have a current best estimate of the number density of PN of $90 \pm 6 \text{ kpc}^{-3}$. Assuming that carbon stars indeed evolve into carbon-rich PN and the fact that about 60% of all PN are carbon-rich (Zuckerman & Allen 1986), we derive a number density of carbon-rich PN of about 54 kpc^{-3} . Assuming a lifetime of a PN of $2 \cdot 10^4$ yr and using our

carbon star densities of Table 6, we derive a carbon star lifetime of $6\text{--}9 \cdot 10^4$ yr, about 2–3 times our best estimate. If not all carbon stars would evolve into carbon-rich PN, the agreement would improve. There are different ways to remove the discrepancy. Low-mass stars could terminate their evolution at such low core masses ($M_{\text{c}} \lesssim 0.56 M_{\odot}$) that their evolution to the left in the HR diagram is so slow that they will never show up as PN. For this argument to hold, dredge-up should occur at somewhat lower core masses than is found in current stellar evolution models. Also hot bottom envelope burning (HBB) could convert ^{12}C into ^{14}N (and a little ^{13}C) and thereby possibly transforming a carbon star back to an oxygen-rich star. Since HBB operates in stars initially more massive than about $3.5 M_{\odot}$ (see e.g. Renzini & Voli 1981) only the more massive carbon stars would be affected by HBB. Observations of the Magellanic Clouds seem to indicate that HBB is indeed effective in some stars. In canonical models (i.e. without HBB) carbon stars should be the most luminous objects on the AGB since they are the endpoint of AGB evolution for stars with $1.9 \lesssim M_{\text{MS}}/M_{\odot} \lesssim 8$ (see Renzini & Voli 1981, their models without HBB). Lundgren (1988) finds that the most luminous AGB stars in the LMC are of spectral type MS and in addition there is evidence (Westerlund et al. 1990) that some of the most luminous carbon stars are enriched in ^{13}C (J-type carbon stars). This suggests that HBB may have been operating in these stars. Recently, a PN in the SMC was discovered with a very low carbon abundance and enriched in He and N; this was explained in terms of HBB (Meatheringham et al. 1990). It seems, thus, possible that not all carbon stars evolve into carbon-rich PN. At this moment theory cannot give an estimate of the fraction of carbon stars which do not evolve into carbon-rich PN. Our observed number densities indicate that to bring our carbon star lifetime in agreement with that of the carbon-rich PN 60–70% of the carbon stars should not evolve into carbon-rich PN. This percentage is smaller for larger lifetimes of group II, smaller PN lifetimes and larger PN number densities. If we take 40 000 years as the lifetime of group II, 25–45% of the carbon stars need not evolve into carbon-rich PN.

Perhaps the estimated number density of PN is in error. If we use our lifetimes and number densities and a PN lifetime of $2 \cdot 10^4$ yr, and correct by a factor of 10/6 to allow for the fraction of carbon-rich PN relative to all PN, we find a PN number density of $220\text{--}320 \text{ kpc}^{-3}$. This is much higher than most quoted values but in fair agreement with the value of Ishida & Weinberger (1987), who, trying to construct a complete sample by looking only at nearby ($D < 0.5 \text{ kpc}$) PN, found a value of 326 kpc^{-3} .

We conclude that the lifetime we derive for the carbon star phase agrees with the death rate of main-sequence stars within a factor of 2 and that the PN data suggests that our carbon lifetime is too low by a factor of 2–3.

Apart from the uncertainties in the death rates of main-sequence stars and PN data as discussed above, there are two other possibilities that could explain this difference. First of all our assumption that all group II stars are recently formed carbon stars and that their $60\ \mu\text{m}$ excess is due to a remnant oxygen-rich shell may be wrong. Perhaps some carbon stars will experience another thermal pulse while on the AGB. This could be accompanied by a temporary drop in the mass loss rate, resulting in an expanding *carbon-rich* shell. Such stars would also make a loop in the IRAS colour-colour diagram. If many recently formed carbon stars experience more than one thermal pulse on the AGB as a carbon star, the lifetime of group II stars would have been

underestimated, as well as the total lifetime of the carbon star phase. We note that the typical interpulse period for a star with a core mass of $0.65 M_{\odot}$ is about 45 000 years (Boothroyd & Sackman 1988a). Our assumption that most newly formed carbon star will not experience another thermal pulse on the AGB is consistent with our lifetime estimate of about 26 000 years.

We stress again (see also de Jong 1990) that the non-detection of several group II stars in OH by Zuckerman & Maddalena (1989) is *no* proof that the circumstellar envelope is not oxygen-rich at the radius where the $60 \mu\text{m}$ excess arises from. Using Eq. (9) of van der Veen & Olofsson (1990) one can calculate that the OH maser emission comes from a region typically 10^{15} – 10^{16} cm from the star. However, Olofsson et al. (1990), from an analysis of CO maps of several group II stars, derive that the inner radius of the expanding shell which causes the $60 \mu\text{m}$ excess is at $> 10^{17}$ cm.

Secondly, the assumed lifetime of group II stars is based on model calculations. The tracks in the IRAS colour–colour diagram calculated by Chan & Kwok (1988) depend on details such as grain properties or assumed condensation temperatures. Chan & Kwok use e.g. an optically thin radiative transfer model and consider only the expanding oxygen-rich shell while neglecting the start of the carbon-rich mass-losing phase. It is not inconceivable that models which include these effects properly would lead to a different lifetime of group II stars. Although we are planning such calculations, they are beyond the scope of this paper.

If the lifetime of group II stars is increased to 40 000 yr, the total lifetime of the carbon star phase would be about 50 000 yr and the total amount of mass lost would increase to about $0.07 M_{\odot}$. The number and surface densities would remain unchanged.

The number of group V objects is low. Only a few carbon stars are known with very red colours ($C_{21} > -0.5$). We tentatively identified some objects as cool carbon stars, because their LRS spectra look similar to the LRS spectra of those few very red carbon stars. We note that there is at least one carbon star not observed by IRAS, which would be classified as a group V star, were it in our sample. The Egg Nebula (AFGL 2688) is carbon-rich, is featureless between 8 and $14 \mu\text{m}$ (Forrest et al. 1975) and from photometry of Forrest et al. (1975), Kleinmann et al. (1978) and Price & Murdock (1983) we estimate $S_{12} \approx 480$ Jy, $S_{25} \approx 4600$ Jy, $S_{60} \approx 2700$ Jy, $S_{100} \approx 1300$ Jy, so $C_{21} \approx 2.5$ and $C_{32} \approx -0.6$. A systematic search for very red carbon stars based on the SiC feature is not possible because the LRS spectra are almost featureless. A systematic search for very red carbon stars using near-infrared spectroscopy, CO and HCN measurements would reveal if extreme carbon stars are really as rare as suggested by this study. An increase in the number of group V objects would have some influence on the derived timescales but would have a large impact on the total mass lost in the carbon star phase because the mass loss rates of group V objects are generally high. A search for very red carbon stars might also shed some light on the peculiar distribution observed in Fig. 1. Most group V objects cluster around $C_{21} \approx 0$ and only the very young PPN AFGL 618 has a truly large value for C_{21} and a value of C_{32} very different from other group V objects. A systematic search for carbon stars with $C_{21} > -0.5$ would reveal the time-scale in which carbon stars evolve off the AGB and the derived mass loss rates (from CO emission) would indicate if a superwind phase preceding the termination of the AGB phase is present or not. We have started an observational program to identify very red carbon stars with featureless LRS spectra.

Let us finally turn briefly to the group I stars, the stars which according to Willems & de Jong (1986) recently underwent the transition from oxygen-rich to carbon star. Although none of the group I stars made it into our sample (based on $S_{12} > 100$ Jy), we can perform a similar analysis using a lower limiting flux density. Of all group I stars (Willems & de Jong 1986), excluding C2123 (see Sect. 3.1) and C1633 (Le Bertre et al. 1990), four have $S_{12} > 27.5$ Jy. Although not all stars listed in the PSC with $S_{12} > 27.5$ Jy have a published LRS spectrum, we will assume that group I is complete down to this limiting flux density. Calculating bolometric corrections for group I stars according to Sect. 4 and proceeding as in Sect. 6 we find a volume density of group I stars of $1\text{--}2 \text{ kpc}^{-3}$ depending upon the scale height and a surface density of 0.7 kpc^{-2} . From this we derive a lifetime of group I stars of approximately 200 yr, for an assumed lifetime of 20 000 yr for group II and assuming that all carbon stars go through this phase. Our value compares well with the original lifetime estimates of 100–400 yr by Willems & de Jong (1986, 1988). However, it should be pointed out that there are several problems with the interpretation of group I stars as being transition objects. First of all model calculations of Chan & Kwok (1988) indicate that the silicate feature in an expanding shell can only be seen for at most 100 years. This difference in the lifetimes of a factor of 2 is probably not too significant, given all uncertainties. In addition, they point out that the silicate feature in group I stars is stronger than their models predict. This could be due to the opacity function Chan & Kwok adopted or point to the formation of very small grains at higher than equilibrium temperatures (Slijkhuis 1990).

A second point which *must* be addressed when explaining these stars is the fact that all are enriched in ^{13}C . This was the original assumption of Willems & de Jong (1986) based on only 2 of their 9 stars but it has been confirmed recently that indeed all group I stars are J-type (Lloyd Evans 1990; Lambert et al. 1990). What does this imply?

Two different kinds of ^{13}C -enriched stars are known observationally: the J-type carbon stars which, generally, are the most luminous carbon stars on the AGB (at least in the clouds) and the so-called R-stars which are of low luminosity ($M_{\text{bol}} \approx -1$) and are possibly related to the helium core flash (see e.g. Parthasarathy 1991).

If we discard the binary hypothesis (Little-Marennin 1986) and the S-star hypothesis (Skinner et al. 1990) and assume that group I stars are indeed in transition from an oxygen-rich to a ^{13}C -rich carbon star, they must be either massive ($M_{\text{MS}} \gtrsim 3.5 M_{\odot}$) to allow for HBB to enrich the star in ^{13}C or of low mass ($M_{\text{MS}} \lesssim 2 M_{\odot}$) to allow the star to undergo the helium core flash. In either case the lifetime of 200 years derived above is, of course, no longer valid.

We suggest that a search for s-process elements in all group I stars should be undertaken. If they show s-process elements, group I stars are associated with the AGB and not related to the helium core flash.

Acknowledgements. It is a pleasure to thank Cecile Loup for providing us with a preliminary version of her list of CO observations before publication. We thank the referee, T. Le Bertre, for his swift response and helpful comments. The research of MG is supported under grant 782-373-030 by the Netherlands Foundation for Astronomical Research (ASTRON), which receives its fund from the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO).

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