HNCO: a molecule that traces low-velocity shocks

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Abstract Using data from Millimetre Astronomy Legacy Team Survey at 90 GHz (MALT90), we present a molecular line study of a sample of APEX Telescope Large Area Survey of the Galaxy (ATLASGAL) clumps. Twelve emission lines have been detected in all. We found that in most sources, emissions of HC$_3$N, HN$_{13}$C, CH$_3$CN, HNCO and SiO show more compact distributions than those of HCO$^+$, HNC, HCN and N$_2$H$^+$. By comparing with other molecular lines, we found that the abundance of HNCO ($\chi$(HNCO)) correlates well with other species such as HC$_3$N, HNC, C$_2$H, H$_{13}$CO$^+$ and N$_2$H$^+$. Previous studies indicate the HNCO abundance could be enhanced by shocks. However, in this study, we find the abundance of HNCO does not correlate well with that of SiO, which is also a good tracer of shocks. We suggest this may be because HNCO and SiO trace different parts of shocks. Our analysis indicates that the velocity of a shock traced by HNCO tends to be lower than that traced by SiO. In the low-velocity shocks traced by HNCO, the HNCO abundance increases faster than that of SiO. While in the relatively high-velocity shocks traced by SiO, the SiO abundance increases faster than that of HNCO. We suggest that in the infrared dark cloud MSXDC G331.71+00.59, high-velocity shocks are destroying the molecule HNCO.

Key words: stars: formation — ISM: abundances — ISM: clouds — ISM: molecules

1 INTRODUCTION

The emission of interstellar isocyanic acid (HNCO) was first detected by Snyder & Buhl (1972) in Sgr B2. Since its discovery, HNCO has been found to be ubiquitous in our Galactic star-forming regions (e.g. Brown 1981; Churchwell et al. 1986; Zinchenko et al. 2000). It has also been detected in extragalactic sources and the circumstellar envelopes around asymptotic giant branch (AGB) stars (e.g. Meier & Turner 2005; Velilla Prieto et al. 2015). Observations indicate HNCO traces the densest part of molecular clouds (Jackson et al. 1984). Zinchenko et al. (2000) suggested the HNCO abundance could be enhanced by shocked gas. They found the HNCO integrated line intensities correlate well with those of SiO emissions in massive galactic dense cores, indicating a similar production mechanism of the two species. Martín et al. (2008) conducted a multitransition study toward 13 molecular clouds in the Galactic center region. They found the HNCO/H$_{18}$CS relative abundance ratio was very sensitive to ultraviolet (UV) radiations and shocks. This abundance ratio could be used as a tool to distinguish between the influence of shocks and the radiation field in molecular clouds. Li et al. (2013) mapped nine massive star-forming regions that exhibit HNCO emissions using the Purple Mountain Observatory (PMO) 13.7 m telescope. They found possible shock enhancement of HNCO in Orion KL and W75OH, indicating shocks could enhance the HNCO abundance. They also found that the line parameters of HNCO and HC$_3$N have good correlations, implying similar excitation mechanisms for the two species.

Early work suggests HNCO is mainly formed through gas-phase reactions (e.g. Iglesias 1977; Turner et al. 1999). However, chemical models reveal that the abundances of HNCO derived from gas-phase reactions
are inconsistent with observations (e.g. Tideswell et al. 2010). To explain the observed abundances of HNCO in star-forming regions, reactions on the surfaces of grains should be involved. In the early stage of star formation, as material collapses, a wide array of atoms and molecules is absorbed onto the dust grains. Grain-surface chemistry becomes available. Calculations indicate that this is an effective way to produce HNCO on grain mantles (e.g. Allen & Robinson 1977; Garrod et al. 2008). When the gas in a region is shocked, HNCO could be ejected into the gas-phase by low-velocity shocks (e.g. Flower et al. 1995; Martín et al. 2008). In the hot core stage of star formation, the HNCO emissions we observe could also be formed by the destruction of more complex molecules (such as HNCHO, HNCOCHO, HNCONH and HNCOOH) after their evaporation into the gas phase (e.g. Tideswell et al. 2010). The destruction of HNCO in star-forming regions is dominated by reactions with He$^+$ and H$_3^+$ (Turner et al. 1999). It can also be destroyed by far-UV photons and cosmic rays.

In order to investigate the physical and chemical properties of HNCO in star-forming regions, we present a molecular line study of HNCO in a sample of APEX Telescope Large Area Survey of the Galaxy (ATLASGAL) clumps. We introduce our data and source selections in Section 2, results in Section 3, analysis in Section 4 and summary in Section 5.

2 DATA

Our molecular line data come from Millimetre Astronomy Legacy Team Survey at 90 GHz (MALT90), which is carried out by the Mopra 22-m telescope. MALT90 is an international project aimed at characterizing the physical and chemical evolution of massive star-forming regions within our Galaxy (e.g. Foster et al. 2011; Jackson et al. 2013). Mopra is equipped with three receivers for single-dish observations. Near 90 GHz, the angular resolution of Mopra is 38$''$, and the antenna efficiency ranges from 0.49 at 86 GHz to 0.42 at 115 GHz (Ladd et al. 2005). MALT90 maps 16 emission lines simultaneously. The velocity resolution of the data is about 0.11 km s$^{-1}$, with pointing accuracy $\sim$8$''$, and the absolute flux uncertainty ranges from 10% to 17% depending on the transition in question (Foster et al. 2013). The target clumps of this survey are selected from the 870 $\mu$m sky survey of ATLASGAL (Schuller et al. 2009; Contreras et al. 2013). The data files are publicly available and can be downloaded from the MALT90 home page. Using Continuum and Line Analysis Single-Disk Software (CLASS) and Grenoble Graphic (GREG) software packages, we analyzed the data. MALT90 observed more than 3000 ATLASGAL clumps. Among the 16 emission lines, HNCO ($4_{0,4}$$-3_{0,3}$) is one of the least detected ones (Rathborne et al. 2016; Liu et al. 2018). In order to study HNCO, we searched for the brightest 300 ATLASGAL clumps and selected 18 sources which show distinct HNCO emissions. Sources in the Galactic center are not included because sources in that direction always have multiple velocity components. The basic information on our sources is listed in Table 1.

Dust temperature ($T_d$) is essential in the study of chemical evolution in star formation regions. When $T_d$ is below $\sim$20 K, carbon species like CO and CS can be depleted in cold gas. Derived from adjusting single-temperature dust emission models to the far-infrared intensity maps measured between 160 and 870 $\mu$m from the Herschel and APEX sky surveys, Guzmán et al. (2015) recently calculated the dust temperatures and H$_2$ column densities for $\sim$3000 MALT90 clumps. The full width at half maximum (FWHM) of these data ranges from 12$''$ to 35$''$ (data from the PACS 70 $\mu$m band are excluded). To make an adequate comparison, they convolved all images to a spatial resolution of 35$''$, which is the lowest resolution given by the 500 $\mu$m SPIRE instrument. We use these dust temperatures and H$_2$ column densities derived by Guzmán et al. (2015) in our study due to a similar beam resolution of Mopra (35$''$ versus 38$''$). These values are also listed in Table 1. The mean dust temperature of our sample is 23.9 K. This is consistent with many other observations of massive young stellar objects (MYSOs) and HII regions (e.g., Hennemann et al. 2009; Sreenilayam & Fich 2011).

3 RESULTS

Among the 16 spectral lines, HCO$^+$ (1–0), HCN (1–0), HNC (1–0), N$_2$H$^+$ (1–0), C$_2$H (1–0), H$^{13}$CO$^+$ (1–0), HC$_3$N (10–9), HN$^{13}$C (1–0), HNCO ($4_{0,4}$$-3_{0,3}$) and SiO (2–1) are detected in all sources, but $^{13}$C$^{34}$S (2–1), HNCO ($4_{1,3}$$-3_{1,2}$), HC$^{13}$CCN (10–9) and H41$\alpha$ are not detected in any sources.

Figure 1 to Figure 18 show the detected lines and their integrated intensities. It can be noted that emissions of HC$_3$N, HN$^{13}$C, HNCO and SiO are more compact

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1 http://atoa.atnf.csiro.au/MALT90
Table 1 List of Our Sources

| Source name    | R.A. (J2000.0) | Dec. (J2000.0) | $T_d$ (K) | $N$(H$_2$) ($\times 10^{23}$ cm$^{-2}$) | Type |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------|--------------------------------------|-------|
| AGAL008.671–00.356 | 18:06:19.13   | –21:37:27.3   | 24.0(3.0) | 3.54 (0.43)  | Protostellar |
| AGAL008.684–00.367 | 18:06:23.44   | –21:37:05.9   | 24.6(0.4)  | 1.15 (0.08)  | Protostellar |
| AGAL010.472+00.027 | 18:08:38.18   | –19:51:49.0   | 30.0(2.0)  | 5.24 (0.51)  | HI |
| AGAL318.948–00.197 | 15:00:55.54   | –58:58:57.5   | 25.6(0.4)  | 1.41 (0.10)  | Protostellar |
| AGAL327.293–00.579 | 15:53:08.52   | –54:37:06.9   | 28.0(1.0)  | 8.69 (0.62)  | HI |
| AGAL329.029–00.206 | 16:00:31.95   | –53:12:53.1   | 19.6(0.7)  | 2.62 (0.19)  | Protostellar |
| AGAL329.066–00.307 | 16:01:09.75   | –53:16:03.3   | 18.5(0.6)  | 1.07 (0.08)  | Protostellar |
| AGAL331.709+00.582 | 16:10:01.56   | –50:49:34.8   | 19.0(3.0)  | 1.04 (0.15)  | Protostellar |
| AGAL331.709+00.602 | 16:10:01.56   | –50:49:34.8   | 20.2(0.9)  | 1.09 (0.08)  | Protostellar |
| AGAL335.586–00.291 | 16:30:59.08   | –48:43:53.3   | 22.5(0.4)  | 2.75 (0.20)  | Protostellar |
| AGAL337.704–00.054 | 16:38:29.64   | –47:00:41.1   | 22.6(0.9)  | 3.08 (0.22)  | HI |
| AGAL338.926+00.554 | 16:40:34.29   | –45:41:41.8   | 20.0(1.0)  | 4.78 (0.34)  | Protostellar |
| AGAL340.248–00.374 | 16:49:30.41   | –45:17:53.6   | 22.0(1.0)  | 1.17 (0.08)  | HI |
| AGAL345.003–00.224 | 17:05:11.02   | –41:29:07.8   | 25.8(11.0) | 3.38 (0.88)  | Protostellar |
| AGAL350.111+00.089 | 17:19:26.61   | –37:10:23.1   | 24.0(0.6)  | 1.55 (0.07)  | HI |
| AGAL351.444+00.659 | 17:20:54.64   | –35:45:11.8   | 22.0(2.0)  | 9.75 (0.94)  | Protostellar |
| AGAL351.581–00.352 | 17:25:24.99   | –36:12:45.1   | 24.0(1.0)  | 5.61 (0.40)  | Protostellar |
| AGAL353.409–00.361 | 17:30:26.21   | –34:41:48.9   | 23.0(1.0)  | 4.89 (0.35)  | HI |

Notes: $^a$ These values come from Guzmán et al. (2015).

Fig. 1 Molecular spectra and integrated intensities of AGAL08.671–00.356. Contour levels are 40, 50, . . . , 90 percent of the peak emissions. The black pluses mark the 870 µm emission peaks of AGAL08.671–00.356. The green numbers show the range of integrations (Figs. 1–18 are shown in color online).

than those of HCO$^+$, HCN, HNC and N$_2$H$^+$ in most sources. We characterize the size of a molecular cloud by using the beam deconvolved angular diameter of a circle with the same area as the half peak intensity

$$\theta(\text{species}) = 2\left(\frac{A_{1/2}}{\pi} - \frac{\theta_{\text{beam}}}{4}\right)^{1/2},$$

(1)

where $A_{1/2}$ is the area within the contour of half peak intensity and $\theta_{\text{beam}}$ the FWHM beam size ($38''$). The beam deconvolved angular diameters of different species are presented in Table 2.

In Figure 19, we present plots that compare beam deconvolved angular diameters of HNCO with those of other species. The sizes of HNCO clumps are comparable to those of SiO clumps.
Fig. 2 Molecular spectra and integrated intensities of AGAL08.684–00.367. Contour levels are 40, 50, . . . , 90 percent of the peak emissions. The black pluses mark the 870 µm emission peaks of AGAL08.684–00.367. The green numbers show the range of integrations.

Fig. 3 Molecular spectra and integrated intensities of AGAL10.472+00.027. Contour levels are 40, 50, . . . , 90 percent of the peak emissions. The black pluses mark the 870 µm emission peaks of AGAL10.472+00.027. The green numbers show the range of integrations.

Fig. 4 Molecular spectra and integrated intensities of AGAL318.948–00.197. Contour levels are 40, 50, . . . , 90 percent of the peak emissions. The black pluses mark the 870 µm emission peaks of AGAL318.948–00.197. The green numbers show the range of integrations.
Fig. 5  Molecular spectra and integrated intensities of AGAL327.293–00.579. Contour levels are 40, 50, . . . , 90 percent of the peak emissions. The black pluses mark the 870 μm emission peaks of AGAL327.293–00.579. The green numbers show the range of integrations.

Fig. 6  Molecular spectra and integrated intensities of AGAL329.029–00.206. Contour levels are 40, 50, . . . , 90 percent of the peak emissions. The black pluses mark the 870 μm emission peaks of AGAL329.029–00.206. The green numbers show the range of integrations.

Fig. 7  Molecular spectra and integrated intensities of AGAL329.066–00.307. Contour levels are 40, 50, . . . , 90 percent of the peak emissions. The black pluses mark the 870 μm emission peaks of AGAL329.066–00.307. The green numbers show the range of integrations.
Fig. 8  Molecular spectra and integrated intensities of AGAL331.709+00.582. Contour levels are 40, 50, . . . , 90 percent of the peak emissions. The black pluses mark the 870 µm emission peaks of AGAL331.709+00.582. The green numbers show the range of integrations.

Fig. 9  Molecular spectra and integrated intensities of AGAL331.709+00.602. Contour levels are 40, 50, . . . , 90 percent of the peak emissions. The black pluses mark the 870 µm emission peaks of AGAL331.709+00.602. The green numbers show the range of integrations.

Fig. 10  Molecular spectra and integrated intensities of AGAL335.586–00.291. Contour levels are 40, 50, . . . , 90 percent of the peak emissions. The black pluses mark the 870 µm emission peaks of AGAL335.586–00.291. The green numbers show the range of integrations.
Fig. 11 Molecular spectra and integrated intensities of AGAL337.704–00.054. Contour levels are 40, 50, . . . , 90 percent of the peak emissions. The black pluses mark the 870 μm emission peaks of AGAL337.704–00.054. The green numbers show the range of integrations.

Fig. 12 Molecular spectra and integrated intensities of AGAL338.926+00.554. Contour levels are 40, 50, . . . , 90 percent of the peak emissions. The black pluses mark the 870 μm emission peak of AGAL338.926+00.554. The green numbers show the range of integrations.

Fig. 13 Molecular spectra and integrated intensities of AGAL340.248–00.374. Contour levels are 40, 50, . . . , 90 percent of the peak emissions. The black pluses mark the 870 μm emission peaks of AGAL340.248–00.374. The green numbers show the range of integrations.
Fig. 14  Molecular spectra and integrated intensities of AGAL345.003-00.224. Contour levels are 40, 50, . . . , 90 percent of the peak emissions. The black pluses mark the 870 µm emission peaks of AGAL345.003-00.224. The green numbers show the range of integrations.

Fig. 15  Molecular spectra and integrated intensities of AGAL350.111+00.089. Contour levels are 40, 50, . . . , 90 percent of the peak emissions. The black pluses mark the 870 µm emission peaks of AGAL350.111+00.089. The green numbers show the range of integrations.

Fig. 16  Molecular spectra and integrated intensities of AGAL351.444+00.659. Contour levels are 40, 50, . . . , 90 percent of the peak emissions. The black pluses mark the 870 µm emission peaks of AGAL351.444+00.659. The green numbers show the range of integrations.
In many cases, the HCO$^+$ (1–0) and HNC (1–0) lines show wide wing emissions and so-called “blue profiles,” indicating outflow and infall activities on a large scale. Near 90 GHz, $N_2H^+$ (1–0) has seven hyperfine transitions. These transitions blend into three groups because of turbulence. The HCN (1–0) rotational transition splits into three hyperfine structures. However, as shown in the figures, these components always exhibit extended wing emissions, and their self-absorbed line profiles used to be blended, preventing us from doing the following analysis. The $^{13}$CO$^+$ (1–0) and $^{13}$CS (1–0), especially $^{13}$CS (1–0), seem to be depleted in several sources. In the survey of MALT90, there are five CH$_3$CN (5–4) hyperfine transitions. However, the two components CH$_3$CN (50–40) and (51–41) are always blended. Only in the source AGAL327.293–00.579 are all the five components distinctly detected.

Assuming local thermodynamic equilibrium (LTE) conditions and a beam filling factor of 1, we estimate column densities of HNCO, HC$_3$N, $N_2H^+$, HNC, $^{13}$CS, C$_2$H, $H^{13}$CO$^+$ and SiO by using equation

$$N(\text{species}) = \frac{8\pi\nu^3}{c^3R} \frac{Q_{\text{rot}}}{g_u A_{ul}} \frac{\exp(E_i/kT_{\text{ex}})}{1 - \exp(-h\nu/kT_{\text{ex}})} \int \frac{T_{\text{mb}} dv}{\tau} \frac{J(T_{\text{ex}}) - J(T_{\text{bg}})}{1 - \exp(-\tau)}$$

where $c$ is the speed of light in a vacuum, $\nu$ is the frequency of the transitions, $g_u$ is the statistical weight of
Fig. 19  Beam deconvolved angular diameters of HNCO versus those of other species. The black lines indicate unity.

Table 2  The Beam Deconvolved Angular Diameters of Molecular Clouds

| Source name          | \(\theta_{\text{HNCO}}\) | \(\theta_{\text{HC}_3\text{N}}\) | \(\theta_{\text{N}_2\text{H}^+}\) | \(\theta_{\text{HN}^{13}\text{C}}\) | \(\theta_{\text{C}_2\text{H}}\) | \(\theta_{\text{H}^{13}\text{CO}^+}\) | \(\theta_{\text{SiO}}\) |
|----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| AGAL008.671–00.356   | 71.38                    | ...                           | ...                         | ...                           | ...                      | ...                         | 66.45            |
| AGAL008.684–00.367   | ...                      | ...                           | ...                         | ...                           | ...                      | ...                         | ...              |
| AGAL10.472+00.027    | 60.26                    | 15.81                         | 37.29                       | ...                           | 40.13                    | 32.72                       | 46.62            |
| AGAL318.948–00.197   | 36.00                    | 7.93                          | 33.96                       | ...                           | 47.65                    | 43.41                       | 23.90            |
| AGAL327.293–00.579   | 19.66                    | 50.85                         | 63.99                       | 30.46                         | 118.96                   | 72.04                       | 33.96            |
| AGAL329.029–00.206   | 47.58                    | 38.55                         | 46.13                       | ...                           | 51.43                    | 27.26                       | 52.69            |
| AGAL329.066–00.307   | 37.29                    | 45.28                         | 52.12                       | 39.46                         | 63.39                    | 25.35                       | 53.07            |
| AGAL331.709+00.582   | ...                      | ...                           | ...                         | ...                           | ...                      | ...                         | ...              |
| AGAL331.709+00.602   | 30.55                    | 28.85                         | ...                         | ...                           | 28.74                    | ...                         | 12.44            |
| AGAL335.586–00.291   | 39.99                    | 30.36                         | 39.54                       | 8.78                          | ...                      | 33.44                       | 33.43            |
| AGAL337.704–00.054   | 28.11                    | 11.97                         | 21.40                       | 34.13                         | ...                      | 38.70                       | 34.74            |
| AGAL338.926+00.554   | 28.02                    | 41.01                         | 51.20                       | 34.83                         | ...                      | 30.94                       | 64.78            |
| AGAL340.248–00.374   | 42.22                    | 47.40                         | 60.95                       | 25.58                         | ...                      | 70.15                       | 66.42            |
| AGAL345.003–00.224   | 37.13                    | 32.25                         | 89.05                       | 44.67                         | 6.91                     | 33.53                       | 30.84            |
| AGAL350.111+00.089   | 55.86                    | ...                           | ...                         | ...                           | ...                      | ...                         | 42.03            |
| AGAL351.444+00.659   | 46.90                    | 42.58                         | 68.95                       | 44.63                         | 67.12                    | 103.89                      | 49.91            |
| AGAL351.581–00.352   | 67.40                    | 29.16                         | 81.56                       | ...                           | 52.00                    | 40.21                       | 53.73            |
| AGAL353.409–00.361   | 45.03                    | 39.77                         | 88.64                       | 68.92                         | 42.30                    | 80.64                       | 64.96            |
the upper level, $A_{ul}$ is the Einstein coefficient, $E_1$ is the energy of the lower level, $Q_{rot}$ is the partition function, $\tau$ is the optical depth, and $T_{bg}$ (2.73 K) and $T_{ex}$ are the temperature of the background radiation and the excitation temperature in all cases respectively. We assume that $T_{ex}$ is equal to the dust temperature ($T_d$) derived by Guzmán et al. (2015) (Table 1). $R$ is only relevant for hyperfine transitions because it takes into account the satellite lines corrected by their relative opacities. The value of $R$ is 5/9 for $N_2H^+$, 5/12 for $C_2H$ and 1.0 for transitions without hyperfine structure. The values of $g_u$, $A_{ul}$ and $E_1$ can be found in the Cologne Database for Molecular Spectroscopy (CDMS) (Müller et al. 2001, 2005). $J(T)$ is defined by

$$J(T) = \frac{h\nu}{k} \frac{1}{e^{h\nu/kT} - 1}. \quad (3)$$

The partition functions ($Q_{rot}$) of the linear, rigid rotor molecules ($N_2H^+$, $^{13}$CO$^+$, HNC and SiO) can be approximated as

$$Q_{rot} \approx \frac{kT_{ex}}{hB} + \frac{1}{3}, \quad (4)$$

where $B$ is the rotational constant. The partition functions of $C_2H$, $HC_3N$ and HNCO can be found in table 7 of Sanhueza et al. (2012).

We assume emissions of $^{13}$CS, $HC_3N$, SiO and HNCO are optically thin. This assumption is suitable as shapes of these lines are relatively simple in all sources. To derive the line parameters, we fit these line emissions with a single Gaussian profile from the averaged pixels inside 38". The line widths, peak emissions and integrated intensities are listed in Table 3, 4 and 5 respectively. The derived column densities are listed in Table 6.

For HCO$^+$ and HNC, the presence of their isotopologues allows us to estimate their optical thickness through

$$\frac{1 - e^{-\tau_{12}}}{1 - e^{-\tau_{12}/X}} = \frac{12T_{mb}}{13T_{mb}} \quad (5)$$

where $X \sim [^{12}C]/[^{13}C]$ is the isotope abundance ratio. Here we use a constant $X = 50$ in our calculations (Purcell et al. 2006).

In the case of $N_2H^+$, we follow the procedure described by Purcell et al. (2009) to estimate the optical depth. Assuming the line widths of the individual hyperfine components of $N_2H^+$ are all equal and optically thin, the integrated intensities of group 1/group 2 (defined by Purcell et al. 2009) should have a ratio of 1:5. The optical depth can then be derived from the ratio of the two integrated intensities, using the following equation

$$\frac{\int T_{MB,1} dv}{\int T_{MB,2} dv} = \frac{1 - \exp(-0.2\tau_2)}{1 - \exp(-\tau_2)}. \quad (6)$$

To derive the line intensities and peak emissions, we fit the three groups with three Gaussian profiles. The integrated intensities of group 2 are listed in Table 5 and the derived column densities of $N_2H^+$ are presented in Table 6.

Near 90 GHz, $C_2H (N = 1 - 0)$ splits into six hyperfine transitions out of which two ($N = 1 - 0, J = 3/2-1/2, F = 2-1$ and $N = 1 - 0, J = 3/2-1/2, F = 1 - 0$) could easily be detected. The optical depth of $C_2H (F = 2 - 1)$ can then be derived by comparing with its hyperfine components. In the case of the optically thin limit, the intensity ratio of $C_2H (F = 2 - 1)$ and $C_2H (F = 1 - 0)$ should be 2.0 (Tucker et al. 1974). Thus, the opacity of $C_2H (F = 2 - 1)$ can be given by

$$\frac{1 - e^{-0.5\tau}}{1 - e^{-\tau}} = \frac{T_{mb}(F = 1 - 0)}{T_{mb}(F = 2 - 1)}. \quad (7)$$

The column densities of $C_2H$ can then be calculated through Equation (1). The calculated values are listed in Table 6.

To transform column densities to abundances, we use the $N$(species)/$N$(H$_2$) ratio, where $N$(H$_2$) values were estimated by Guzmán et al. (2015) (Table 1). The derived abundances are presented in Table 7.

4 ANALYSIS

Figure 20 shows correlation plots of the HNCO abundance versus those of other species. Table 8 presents the least-squares fitting functions and coefficients for the correlations between HNCO and these species. It can be noted that in our sample, the abundances of $HC_3N$, HNC, $N_2H^+$, $C_2H$ and $^{13}$CO$^+$ have a good correlation with $\chi$(HNCO). However, the correlations between $\chi$(HNC) and $\chi$(SiO), $\chi$(SiO) are not so good. We should mention here that the beam size of Mopra is 38", which at a distance of 3 kpc for high-mass star-forming regions, has a physical size of ~0.6 pc. Therefore, our data probe star forming clumps, which may contain several star-forming cores (size < 0.1 pc), and also diffuse material.

$HC_3N$ is regarded as a good tracer of warm dense gas (e.g. Miettinen 2014). Using the PMO 13.7 m telescope, Li et al. (2013) studied spatial distributions of HNCO in nine massive star-forming regions. They found the integrated intensities, line widths and LSR velocities of $HC_3N$ and HNCO correlate well with each other.
On the other hand, also based on the data of MALT90, Miettinen (2014) found that in some infrared dark clouds (IRDCs), the emission morphology of HC$_3$N resembles those of HNCO, HNC and N$_2$H$^+$. These studies imply HC$_3$N has a similar excitation mechanism as HNCO. As shown in the top-left panel of Figure 20, there is a hint that the abundance of HC$_3$N increases as a function of $\chi$(HNCO). The functional form of the linear fit is $\chi$(HC$_3$N) = 0.89 + 0.24 $\chi$(HNCO). Previous studies indicate HC$_3$N is mainly produced through C$_2$H$_2$ + CN $\rightarrow$ HC$_3$N + H in star-forming regions (Chapman et al. 2009). CN is also the main material to produce HNCO.
In shocked gas, CN can form OCN through $\text{CN} + O_2 \rightarrow \text{OCN} + O$ (Turner et al. 1999). OCN can further produce HNCO both through gas-phase ($\text{OCN} + H_2 \rightarrow \text{HNCO} + H$) and/or grain surface reactions ($\text{OCN} + H \rightarrow \text{HNCO}$) (e.g. Allen & Robinson 1977, Turner et al. 1999). This may be the reason that the abundance of $^{13}\text{C}_3\text{N}$ increases as a function of $\chi(\text{HNCO})$. However, as mentioned above, in order to investigate the essential relationship between HNCO and $^{13}\text{C}_3\text{N}$, high angular res-
Fig. 20  Plots of the HNCO abundance versus those of other species. The solid line shows the least-squares fit to the data.

Fig. 21  Plots of the velocity width of HNCO versus those of HN$^{13}$C (left) and SiO (right). The black lines indicate unity.

olution observations and chemical models should be carried out in the future.

N$_2$H$^+$ is regarded as an excellent cold gas, as it is more resistant to freeze-out on grains than carbon-bearing species (Bergin et al. 2001). Recently, we found that the abundance of N$_2$H$^+$ has a tight correlation with that of HNC, indicating that HNC may also be preferentially formed in cold gas (Yu & Xu 2016). In a sur-
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Fig. 22 Left: $\chi$(HNCO)/$\chi$(SiO) relative abundance ratio plotted as a function of the HNCO velocity widths. Right: $\chi$(HNCO)/$\chi$(SiO) relative abundance ratio plotted as a function of the SiO velocity widths.

Fig. 23 Left: Velocity-width (moment 2) map of SiO overlaid with HNCO integrated intensity contours (black). The two pluses mark the center locations of AGAL331.709+00.602 and AGAL331.709+00.582. Right: Spectra of SiO in the center of the two clumps. The red and green lines are the Gaussian-fitted lines.

vey of 18 molecular clouds, Jackson et al. (1984) detected HNCO emissions in seven sources with an average excitation temperature of 12 K, indicating HNCO could also trace cold gas. The top-middle panel plots the HNC abundance as a function of $\chi$(HNCO). A least-squares fit to the data yields $\chi$(HNC) = 0.56 + 0.89$\chi$(HNCO). The top-right panel shows the N$_2$H$^+$ abundance as a function of $\chi$(HNCO) and the functional form of the linear fit is $\chi$(N$_2$H$^+)$ = 0.59 + 0.58$\chi$(HNCO).

SiO is a well-known shocked gas tracer (e.g. Schilke et al. 1997). In the ambient gas of energetic young outflows, the abundance of SiO could jump to almost $10^{-6}$ (Martin-Pintado et al. 1992). The previous SiO production mechanism explains spectral lines that show extended wing emission, which is caused by the interaction between high-velocity shocks (typically C-shocks with $\nu > 25$ km s$^{-1}$ and/or fast J-shocks) and the surrounding medium. There is also increasing evidence of SiO emission as a tracer of low-velocity ($< 10$ km s$^{-1}$) both in observations and modeling (e.g. Jiménez-Serra et al. 2010; Louvet et al. 2016). Jiménez-Serra et al. (2010) detected extended narrow SiO emission (line width of $\sim 0.8$ km s$^{-1}$) not associated with signs of star formation in an IRDC. They suggest this narrow line emission of SiO could be generated by the following processes: i) remnants of large-scale shocks caused by the formation process of the IRDC; ii) decelerated gas in large-scale outflows driven by neighboring massive protostars;
detected in some sources (Yu & Wang 2014). The average SiO line width in the sample is 15–16 µm, indicating a common production mechanism for these two species. Rodríguez-Fernández et al. (2006) found the SiO integrated line intensities correlate well with those of thermal HNCO emission in massive galactic dense cores, indicating a common production mechanism for these two species. Rodríguez-Fernández et al. (2010) tested this hypothesis by observing the L1157 molecular outflow. Their result indicates shocks actually enhance the HNCO abundance in the star-forming regions of galactic nuclei. Moreover, Li et al. (2013) found possible shock enhancement of HNCO in Orion KL and W75OH. They regard collisional excitation as likely to be the dominant excitation mechanism for HNCO emission. We also found the sizes of HNCO clumps are comparable to those of SiO clumps. However, as shown in the bottom panel of Figure 20, our study indicates that the abundance of HNCO does not correlate well with that of SiO. This may be because HNCO and SiO trace different parts of shocked gas. Flower et al. (1995) regard gas-phase HNCO as mainly enhanced by low-velocity shocks. Using interferometric data, Blake et al. (1996) found the spatial distributions of HNCO and SiO emissions are quite different. The average HNCO line width in the sample is ~5 km s⁻¹, less than that of SiO.

Figure 21 plots the HNCO velocity widths versus those of HN¹³C and SiO. We can see that the veloc-

### Table 7: Abundances of Species

| Source name              | HNCO (10⁻⁹) | HC₅N (10⁻¹₁) | N₂H⁺ (10⁻⁸) | HNC (10⁻¹₀) | ^13CS (10⁻⁸) | C₂H (10⁻⁹) | H¹³CO⁺ (10⁻¹₀) | SiO                |
|--------------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|-------------------|
| AGAL008.671-00.356       | 2.72 (1.02) | 1.22 (0.21)  | 2.75 (0.81) | 2.17 (0.60) | 0.60 (0.23) | 0.40 (0.13) | 1.75 (0.83)    | ...               |
| AGAL008.684-00.367       | 6.75 (0.73) | 2.78 (0.32)  | 4.84 (0.44) | 8.43 (1.09) |             | ...         | 7.43 (1.16)    | ...               |
| AGAL010.472+00.027       | 1.73 (0.61) | 0.82 (0.13)  | 1.46 (0.50) | 1.39 (0.23) | 0.71 (0.18) | 0.19 (0.04) | 2.02 (0.47)    | 0.35 (0.09)       |
| AGAL318.948+00.197       | 2.82 (0.71) | 1.50 (0.19)  | 2.43 (0.26) | 3.75 (1.26) | 0.81 (0.22) | 0.31 (0.05) | 5.55 (0.83)    | 1.84 (0.32)       |
| AGAL327.293-00.579       | 0.89 (0.20) | 1.03 (0.10)  | 0.98 (0.16) | 1.26 (0.14) | 0.94 (0.13) | 0.25 (0.03) | 1.87 (0.29)    | 0.52 (0.08)       |
| AGAL329.029-00.206       | 2.11 (0.43) | 1.73 (0.17)  | 2.58 (0.34) | 4.37 (0.79) |             | ...         | 2.17 (0.44)    | 1.58 (0.24)       |
| AGAL329.066-00.307       | 3.24 (0.69) | 1.96 (0.28)  | 2.35 (0.32) | 3.25 (0.39) |             | ...         | 5.24 (1.04)    | 1.89 (0.35)       |
| AGAL331.709+00.582       | 2.33 (1.19) | 1.80 (0.39)  | 2.22 (0.72) | 3.62 (1.54) |             | ...         | 3.17 (1.39)    | 2.35 (0.93)       |
| AGAL331.709+00.602       | 5.76 (1.31) | 1.84 (0.21)  | 3.28 (0.44) | 4.94 (0.66) |             | ...         | 4.62 (0.99)    | 1.45 (0.30)       |
| AGAL335.586-00.291       | 2.05 (0.37) | 1.21 (0.13)  | 2.18 (0.23) | 1.86 (0.26) |             | ...         | 3.97 (0.52)    | 1.55 (0.23)       |
| AGAL337.704-00.054       | 2.37 (0.50) | 1.21 (0.13)  | 1.73 (0.23) | 1.30 (0.15) | 0.75 (0.16) | 0.47 (0.07) | 2.30 (0.44)    | 0.84 (0.15)       |
| AGAL338.926+00.554       | 1.78 (0.37) | 0.84 (0.09)  | 1.59 (0.29) | 1.26 (0.18) |             | ...         | 2.20 (0.46)    | 0.53 (0.10)       |
| AGAL340.248-00.374       | 4.29 (0.92) | 2.19 (0.23)  | 4.72 (0.61) | 6.63 (1.06) |             | ...         | 7.05 (1.18)    | 1.67 (0.34)       |
| AGAL345.003-00.224       | 2.40 (2.81) | 1.47 (0.69)  | 1.33 (1.15) | 3.73 (2.97) | 0.70 (0.68) | 0.17 (0.16) | 2.94 (2.62)    | 2.27 (1.86)       |
| AGAL350.111+00.809       | 6.04 (0.77) | 2.31 (0.24)  | 4.25 (0.38) | 5.77 (0.37) | 0.60 (0.16) | 0.68 (0.07) | 7.07 (0.97)    | 1.70 (0.27)       |
| AGAL351.444+00.659       | 1.10 (0.30) | 1.33 (0.15)  | 2.52 (0.54) | 2.28 (0.38) | 0.65 (0.14) | 0.37 (0.07) | 2.71 (0.53)    | 0.92 (0.18)       |
| AGAL351.581-00.352       | 2.15 (0.39) | 0.83 (0.08)  | 1.02 (0.20) | 0.70 (0.12) | 0.42 (0.10) | 0.33 (0.07) | 1.52 (0.31)    | 0.32 (0.07)       |
| AGAL353.409-00.361       | 1.67 (0.27) | 1.16 (0.11)  | 2.06 (0.31) | 2.88 (0.39) | 0.52 (0.10) | 0.47 (0.07) | 3.36 (0.49)    | 0.87 (0.13)       |

### Table 8: Linear Fitting Results for the Correlation between HNCO and Other Species

| No. | Linear fitting functions | Pearson correlation coefficient |
|-----|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1   | χ(HC₅N) = 0.89 + 0.24 χ(HNCO) | 0.85                           |
| 2   | χ(HNC) = 0.56 + 0.89 χ(HNCO)  | 0.86                           |
| 3   | χ(N₂H⁺) = 0.59 + 0.58 χ(HNCO) | 0.87                           |
| 4   | χ(^1³CS) = 0.89 − 0.04 χ(HNCO) | −0.25                          |
| 5   | χ(C₂H) = 0.19 + 0.09 χ(HNCO)  | 0.81                           |
| 6   | χ(H¹³CO⁺) = 1.23 + 0.88 χ(HNCO) | 0.80                           |
| 7   | χ(SiO) = 0.38 + 0.22 χ(HNCO)  | 0.49                           |
ity width of HNCO tends to be wider than that of HN$^{13}$C (a tracer of unshocked dense and cold gas) but is narrower than that of SiO, indicating HNCO traces relatively low-velocity shocks. Figure 22 shows the $\chi$(HNCO)/$\chi$(SiO) relative abundance ratios plotted as a function of the line widths of HNCO (the left panel) and SiO (the right panel). There is a hint that in the low-velocity shocks traced by HNCO, the HNCO abundance increases faster than SiO. However, in the relatively high-velocity shocks traced by SiO, the SiO abundance increases faster than HNCO. UV radiation induced by high-velocity shocks (Viti et al. 2002) might destroy HNCO. In our sample, two clumps (AGAL331.709+00.582 and AGAL331.709+00.602) are known as “extended green objects” (EGOs) found by Cyganowski et al. (2008). EGOs are believed to be good candidates of MYSOs with outflows. In addition, these two clumps are found to be embedded in the same IRDC of MSXDC G331.71+00.59 (Yu & Wang 2013), indicating the same initial chemical conditions. However, we found that AGAL331.709+00.508 has relatively strong SiO emissions and weak HNCO emissions, but the situations in AGAL331.709+00.602 are the opposite (see Figs. 8 and 9).

The left panel of Figure 23 shows the velocity-width (moment 2) map of SiO overlaid with HNCO integrated intensity contours. It seems that even though these two clumps are located in the same IRDC, their physical conditions are quite different: the shocks traced by SiO in AGAL331.709+00.582 are much faster than those in AGAL331.709+00.602 (see the right panel of Fig. 23). Fast-velocity shocks may be destroying the molecule HNCO in AGAL331.709+00.582. We expect high spatial resolution observations carried out in the future to study the differences of HNCO and SiO in different parts of shocked gas.

5 SUMMARY

Using data from MALT90, we present a molecular line study of a sample of ATLASGAL clumps. By comparing with other molecular species, we found that the abundance of HNCO correlates well with HC$_3$N, HNC, C$_2$H, H$^{13}$CO$^+$ and N$_2$H$^+$. However, the correlations between $\chi$(HNCO) and species such as $^{13}$CS and SiO are not so good. Previous studies indicate HNCO and SiO are good tracers of interstellar shocks. However, in this study, we found the abundance of HNCO does not correlate well with that of SiO. We suggest this may be because HNCO traces the low-velocity shocks while SiO traces relatively high-velocity shocks. We found that in the low-velocity shocks, the HNCO abundance increases faster than that of SiO. But in the relatively high-velocity shocks traced by SiO, the SiO abundance increases faster than that of HNCO. We suggest that in the IRDC MSXDC G331.71+00.59, high-velocity shocks are destroying the molecule HNCO.

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