Spatial Distribution of AlO in a High-mass Protostar Candidate Orion Source I

Shogo Tachibana1,2, Takafumi Kamizuka3, Tomoya Hirota4,5, Namik Sakai6, Yoko Oya7, Aki Takigawa8, and Satoshi Yamamoto7

1 1)Tokyo Organization for Planetary and Space Science, the University of Tokyo, 7-3-1 Hongo, Tokyo 113-0033, Japan; tachi@eps.s.u-tokyo.ac.jp
2 Institute of Space and Astronautical Science, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, 3-1-1 Yoshinodai, Sagamihara, Kanagawa 252-5210, Japan
3 Institute of Astronomy, The University of Tokyo, 2-21-1 Osawa, Mitaka, Tokyo 181-0015, Japan
4 Mizusawa VLB Observatory, National Astronomical Observatory of Japan, Osawa 2-21-1, Mitaka, Tokyo 181-8588, Japan
5 Department of Astronomical Sciences, SOKENDAI (The Graduate University for Advanced Studies), Osawa 2-21-1, Mitaka, Tokyo 181-8588, Japan
6 RIKEN Cluster for Pioneering Research (CPR), 2-1, Hirosawa, Wako, Saitama 351-0198, Japan
7 Department of Physics, The University of Tokyo, 7-3-1 Hongo, Tokyo 113-0033, Japan
8 The Hakubi Center for Advanced Research, Division of Earth and Planetary Sciences, Kyoto University, Kitashirakawa Oiwake-cho, Sakyo, Kyoto 606-8502, Japan

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Abstract

High-temperature molecular gas containing metallic elements is potentially a good probe to trace the kinematics/dynamics of circumstellar disks, and its presence in circumstellar disks around young stellar objects (YSOs) may also give some insights into formation processes of high-temperature meteoritic components formed in the Sun’s protoplanetary disk. The Orion Kleimann–Low (KL) region is the most famous and nearest massive star formation site, and has been extensively studied since the 1970s. The KL region harbors a candidate high-mass YSO, Source I, which has a hot circumstellar rotating gas disk emitting a magnetocentrifugal wind of SiO. In this study, we report spatially resolved distributions of aluminum monoxide (AlO) emission lines at 497 and 650 GHz in the rotating outflow of Orion Source I based on subarcsecond observations obtained by the Atacama Large Millimeter/Submillimeter Array for the first time in star-forming regions. These AlO emissions are detected only at the base of the outflow as the high excitation line of H2O in spite of their low excitation temperatures. The limited distribution of AlO to the launching point of the outflow indicates that AlO is not in the gas phase in the outer part of the outflow lobes away from the disk surface, which could be attributed to recondensation of AlO as dust due to its refractory nature.

Key words: ISM: individual objects (Orion Source I) – radio lines: stars – stars: formation – stars: massive

1. Introduction

High-temperature molecular gas containing metallic elements can be used as a probe to trace the kinematics/dynamics of circumstellar disks (e.g., Plambeck & Wright 2016; Hirota et al. 2017; Ginsburg et al. 2018, 2019; Kim et al. 2019). The Orion Kleimann–Low (KL) region is the nearest active massive star formation site (e.g., 418 pc, Kim et al. 2008) and has been extensively studied for high-mass star formation (e.g., Zucker- man et al. 1976; Genzel et al. 1978; Hirota et al. 2012, 2015, 2016, 2017; Plambeck & Wright 2016; Ginsburg et al. 2018, 2019). Hirota et al. (2019) observed a rotational transition of silicon monoxide (Si18O, J = 12–11) around Orion Source I, which is a young stellar object (YSO) candidate (5−7 M⊙) Plambeck & Wright 2016; 15 M⊙; Ginsburg et al. 2018) located in the Orion KL region, using the Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA). They found that Si18O molecules are ejected as rotating outflow (10 km s−1) from >10 au from the central object, which should be driven by the magnetocentrifugal disk wind launched by the high-mass YSO candidate and should contribute to the angular momentum transfer of the system. Ginsburg et al. (2018) observed SiO ν = 0 J = 5–4 and 29SiO J = 5–4 emissions with similar spatial distributions to that of Si18O J = 12–11, which also indicates the presence of a rotating, expanding outflow. Kim et al. (2019) detected the emission lines of SiO in Orion Source I (29SiO ν = 2 J = 11–10, SiO ν = 2 J = 10–9, and SiO ν = 4 J = 11–10), among which the detection of the SiO ν = 4 line was the first in star-forming regions. The SiO ν = 2 J = 10–9 emission was detected in the rotating outflow as the Si18O J = 12–11 line (Hirota et al. 2017), while the distributions of 29SiO ν = 2 J = 11–10 and SiO ν = 4 J = 11–10 lines are limited to the base of the outflow. Ginsburg et al. (2019) recently made the first detection of NaCl, KCl, and their isotopologues with 37Cl and 41K in the base of the outflow of Orion Source I, which could be useful molecules to study the kinematics and physical conditions of the disk surrounding Orion Source I.

Aluminum monoxide (AlO) is a molecule that can be present in the gas phase at high temperature (e.g., >1650 K at total pressure of 10−5 bar in a gas of solar composition; Ebel 2006), and is also potentially a good tracer of the kinematics of high-temperature region around YSOs. There has been no definitive detection of AlO in the star-forming regions although tentative detection of AlO emissions at 229.7 and 344.4 GHz is claimed recently made the first detection of NaCl, KCl, and their isotopologues with 37Cl and 41K in the base of the outflow of Orion Source I, which could be useful molecules to study the kinematics and physical conditions of the disk surrounding Orion Source I.

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which prevents the efficient formation of silicate dust around W Hya due to abrupt decrease of the gas density and explains the aluminum oxide dust-enriched nature of W Hya (Takigawa et al. 2017).

Aluminum monoxide is a key molecule in the formation of most refractory solids in a gas of solar composition. In outflows of oxygen-rich AGB stars, AlO form the first dust as aluminum oxide including corundum (α-Al2O3; Takigawa et al. 2015, 2017), and such circumstellar corundum grains formed prior to the Sun’s birth are found as a rare but important component (presolar grains) in pristine undifferentiated chondrites (e.g., Takigawa et al. 2014, 2018). Chondrites also contain inclusions consisting of minerals enriched in refractory elements (e.g., Ca, Al, and Ti). Such Ca- and Al-rich inclusions (CAIs) are the oldest solid objects formed in the solar system (e.g., Connelly et al. 2012). The chemistry, mineralogy, and petrology of CAIs strongly suggest their high-temperature origin in the very early stage of disk evolution, but it has been under debate where and how CAIs formed in the early solar system. The observation of AlO around YSOs may provide a new insight into the formation of the oldest high-temperature solid objects in the early solar system.

In this study we analyzed the ALMA observation data for Orion Source I in Orion KL to search for AlO molecules and report the spatially resolved detection of AlO around Orion Source I for the first time.

2. Data Reduction

We used the ALMA observation data of Orion Source I obtained in Cycle 1 (2012.1.00123.S) and Cycle 2 projects (2013.1.00048.S). The Band 8 data in the Cycle 2 observation and the Band 9 data in the Cycle 1 observation were used for investigating AlO emissions at 497 and 650 GHz, respectively. The data were reduced following the procedure described in Hirota et al. (2017). The reduction was processed with the Common Astronomy Software Applications software (https://casa.nrao.edu/). We first applied the self-calibration process to obtain better quality data. Both phase and amplitude solutions were derived from the continuum image of the target by using “gaincal” and “clean” tasks. The channels to make the continuum image were defined by checking by eye the spectrum derived from the dirty image. After applying the phase and amplitude solutions, continuum emission was subtracted with the “uvcontsub” task. The line images were synthesized from these continuum-subtracted data through the “clean” process with uniform weighting. The synthesized beam was 122 mas × 97 mas (50 au × 40 au) with a position angle of 85° for the 497 GHz data, and that for the 650 GHz data was 180 mas × 145 mas (75 au × 60 au) with a position angle of −34°.

3. Results

We found broad emission features at 497 and 650 GHz (Figure 1), one of which (650 GHz) was assigned as an unidentified peak by Plambeck & Wright (2016). The lines observed at 497 and 650 GHz are compared with the AlO (N = 13–12 and 17–16) lines (Pickett et al. 1998) (Figure 1). The AlO emission peaks have hyperfine structures, and we applied a line-of-sight velocity with the Gaussian velocity dispersion to each hyperfine structure of the AlO emission. The relative intensities of hyperfine structures in the local thermal equilibrium at 300 K (Pickett et al. 1998) were used for the calculation. The peaks at 497 and 650 GHz can be well reproduced with the line-of-sight velocities of 3.6 ± 0.3 and 4.6 ± 0.1 km s⁻¹ and the velocity widths (FWHM) of 24.1 ± 0.9 and 20.0 ± 0.4 km s⁻¹ for the Gaussian dispersion, respectively. The line-of-sight velocities of 3.6–4.6 km s⁻¹ are consistent with those of other molecules (e.g., SO, SO₂, SiS, SiO, H₂O, and alkali halides) observed for Orion Source I (Plambeck & Wright 2016; Hirota et al. 2017; Ginsburg et al. 2019; Kim et al. 2019). The integrated intensities of the 497 and 650 GHz emissions are (7.0 ± 0.1) × 10⁻¹⁹ and (9.3 ± 0.1) × 10⁻¹⁹ W m⁻², respectively. The total numbers of emitting AlO molecules can be derived by assuming spherical symmetry, distance (418 pc: Kim et al. 2008), and temperature (300 K). They were (6.25 ± 0.19) × 10¹⁵ and (3.34 ± 0.06) × 10¹⁵ molecules, corresponding to (2.24 ± 0.07) × 10⁻¹⁰ and (1.20 ± 0.02) × 10⁻¹⁰ M₀, for the 497 and 650 GHz lines, respectively. These numbers could be several times higher if higher temperature is assumed.

The integrated flux (moment 0) maps of the two emission features show that they are localized near the central object.
especially along the disk plane around the central object as the emissions of H$_2$O (463 GHz; Hirota et al. 2019), $^{29}$SiO $v = 2 J = 11–10$, SiO $v = 4 J = 11–10$ (Kim et al. 2019), and alkali halides (Ginsburg et al. 2019; Figures 2(a) and (b)). The line-of-sight velocity distributions of the 497 and 650 GHz emissions (Figures 2(c) and (d)), which were derived by applying the same fitting analysis as shown in Figure 1 to the spectrum of each pixel, are also consistent with the maps of intensity weighted velocity fields of gas species observed nearby the launching point of the outflow (Hirota et al. 2017; Ginsburg et al. 2019; Kim et al. 2019). The velocity widths of 20–24 km s$^{-1}$ (Figure 1) represent the velocity variation of rotating gas along the line-of-sight direction, and both lines show a line-of-sight velocity of around 5.5 km s$^{-1}$ in the central region, where the systemic velocity of the object should be observed without a significant effect from the rotating motion. The derived velocities of $\sim$5.5 km s$^{-1}$ are close to the systemic velocity of Orion Source I (Plambeck et al. 1990). This result consolidates our conclusion that the 497 and 650 GHz emissions originate from AlO molecules. We note that the 497 and 650 GHz emissions are not contaminated from complex organic molecules (COMs) observed in the Orion-KL region (Pagani et al. 2019). The 497 and 650 GHz emissions have broader velocity widths (Figure 1) and are present only in the compact region around Orion Source I (Figure 2), which are not the characteristics of COMs (velocity widths $\sim 3$–$5$ km s$^{-1}$) in this region.

These lines of evidence strongly suggest that AlO is the molecule emitting at 497 and 650 GHz and that AlO is present in the launching point of outflow from the circumstellar rotating disk of Orion Source I. The report of AlO emission lines at 229.7 and 344.4 GHz in Orion Source I (Ginsburg et al. 2019) also corroborates the conclusion in this study.

4. Discussion

The distribution of AlO is limited to the base of the rotating outflow from the disk as H$_2$O at 463 GHz ($v_2 = 1$, 463 GHz; Hirota et al. 2019).
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star in the very early stage of the protoplanetary nebula phase (Báez-Rubio et al. 2018), peculiarly located in the active massive-star formation site. If this is the case, the detection of circumstellar AIO molecules would provide insights into dust formation and possibly the kinematics of mass loss as in the case of W Hya (Takigawa et al. 2017).

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Facility: ALMA.

ORCID iDs
Shogo Tachibana https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4603-9440
Tomoya Hirota https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1659-095X
Nami Sakai https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3297-4497
Yoko Oya https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0197-8751
Aki Takigawa https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0649-6997

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