COLLAPSE-DRIVEN OUTFLOW IN STAR-FORMING MOLECULAR CORES

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ABSTRACT

Dynamical collapses of magnetized molecular cloud cores are studied with magnetohydrodynamic simulations from the runaway collapse phase to the accretion phase. In the runaway collapse phase, a disk threaded by magnetic field lines is contracting owing to its self-gravity, and its evolution is well expressed by a self-similar solution. The central density increases greatly in a finite timescale and reaches a density at which an opaque core is formed at the center. After that, matter accretes to the newly formed core (accretion phase). In this stage, a rotationally supported disk is formed in a cloud core without magnetic fields. In contrast, the disk continues to contract in the magnetized cloud core, since the magnetic fields transfer angular momentum from the disk. Its rotation motion winds up the threading magnetic field lines. Eventually, strong toroidal magnetic fields are formed and begin to drive the outflow, even if there is no toroidal field component initially. Bipolar molecular outflows observed in protostar candidates are naturally explained by this model.

Subject headings: ISM: clouds — ISM: jets and outflows — ISM: magnetic fields — stars: formation

1. INTRODUCTION

Star-forming interstellar cores often indicate molecular bipolar outflow (for a review, see Bachiller 1996). A number of driving mechanisms are proposed: a rotating disk plus threading magnetic fields (disk-driven wind model: Uchida & Shibata 1985; Pudritz & Norman 1986; Ouyed & Pudritz 1997) and interaction of stellar and disk magnetospheres (boundary layer-driven wind model: Shu et al. 1994). As for the former model, when a disk with (sub-)Keplerian rotation speed is threaded by magnetic fields, it winds up the magnetic fields and generates strong toroidal component. The resultant magnetic pressure gradient ejects matter from the disk. In contrast, Shu et al. (1994) proposed an interaction between the stellar magnetosphere and the disk magnetic field. Along the open fields where these two magnetospheres interact, disk matter is ejected by the centrifugal force.

Since rotation motion plays an important role in the dynamical contraction phase of the cloud core and thus generates strong toroidal magnetic fields, the matter ejection seems to be driven by these two. If the outflow occurs in a process of the dynamical contraction of the magnetized cloud core, it is necessary to investigate the process of gravitational contraction and outflow as a whole. However, the previous works only considered steady states or short-range time evolutions of these phenomena. Thus, in this Letter, we investigate the possibility of outflow driven by the self-gravitational contraction using “nested-grid” MHD simulations.

Analytic studies (Larson 1969; Penston 1969; Hunter 1977; Whitworth & Summers 1985) and numerical studies (Foster & Chevalier 1993) have revealed that the dynamical collapse of a nonmagnetic isothermal cloud is divided into two phases: the earlier “runaway collapse” phase and the later “accretion” phase. In the former phase, the cloud shows nonhomologous contraction and the central density increases greatly in a finite timescale, while in the latter accretion phase the infalling gas accretes onto a central high-density body formed in the runaway collapse phase. The latter phase corresponds to the “inside-out collapse” (Shu 1977), which is realized when accretion begins at the center of a hydrostatic cloud core. For rotating (nonmagnetic) clouds (Norman, Wilson, & Barton 1980; Narita, Hayashi, & Miyama 1984) and magnetized (nonrotating) clouds (Scott & Black 1980; for recent progress, see Tomisaka 1995), these two phases exist.

The centrifugal wind model by Blandford & Payne (1982) predicts that cold disk matter could be accelerated by sufficiently strong magnetic fields when the angle between the field lines and the disk is smaller than 60°. The structure of the cloud undergoing the runaway collapse is well described with a self-similar solution, and the angle is predicted to be 45°, assuming that a disk is thin and that the magnetic field is current-free outside the disk (Basu 1997; Nakamura & Hanawa 1997). Therefore, if a magnetized cloud is rotating, outflow may naturally be driven at some epoch in the self-gravitating contraction. To study this possibility, we performed a two-dimensional ideal MHD simulation assuming cylindrical symmetry. In this Letter, we report that the outflow appears to emanate from the disk in the latter accretion phase.

2. MODEL

We begin our simulation from an infinitely long, cylindrical, rotating, isothermal cloud in hydrostatic balance, that is, the gravitational force is counterbalanced with the pressure force, the centrifugal force, and the Lorenz force. Here we assume that the rotation axis coincides with the cylinder (z-) axis. As the initial state, only poloidal magnetic fields are taken into account and their strength is assumed to be proportional to the square root of local gas density. We add small density perturbations on it to initiate contraction. The initial hydrostatic state is represented by two parameters that characterize the structure: α (the ratio of magnetic pressure to the thermal one for poloidal field component) and Ω0 (the angular rotation speed at the center of the cloud). Distributions of density, magnetic flux density, and rotation speed in the radial (r-) direction are taken to be identical with Matsumoto, Nakamura, & Hanawa (1994), although we assume no toroidal magnetic field component, Bφ, initially. The size of the numerical box is chosen to agree with the wavelength of the most unstable mode of the self-gravitational instability λMGR (Matsumoto et al. 1994). Quantities are scaled with the isothermal sound speed c_s, the surface pressure (or surface density) ρ_s = c_s^2, and the corresponding scale height H = c_s/(4πGρ_s)^1/2. Typical values would be c_s = 200 m s^{-1}, ρ_s = 100 cm^{-3}, H = 0.36 pc, and thus the timescale is...
normalized by the free-fall time as $\tau_{ff} = (4\pi G \rho_0)^{-1/2} \approx 1.75 \text{ Myr} (\rho_0 / 100 \text{ cm}^{-3})^{-1/2}$. Using these scalings, initial radial distributions of density, magnetic fields, and angular rotation speed are written as $\rho(r) = (\rho_0 / \rho) \left[ 1 + \left( \frac{\rho_0}{\rho_0 - 2\Omega^2 \tau_{ff}} \right)^3 \right] \frac{8}{9} (1 + \alpha) \times (r^2 / H^2)^{-3} \rho_0$. (B, B) = \left( (2a\rho(r)/\rho_0) \right)^{1/4} 0.05^{1/4} c_s$, and $\Omega = \Omega_0 [\rho(r)/\rho_0]^{1/4}$. As model parameters, $\alpha, \Omega_0$, and central density $\rho_0$ are chosen as $\alpha = 0.5, \Omega_0 = 5\tau_{ff}$, and $\rho_0 = 100\rho_0$.

Since the nonhomologous gravitational contraction necessitates progressively finer spatial resolution, the nested grid technique (Burger & Olgier 1984) is adopted, in which a number of grid systems with different spacings are prepared; the center of the cloud is covered with a finer grid, and the global structure is traced by a coarser grid simultaneously. We use 15 levels of grids from L0 (the coarsest) to L14 (the finest). Grid spacing of Ln is chosen as one-half of that of Ln−1, and each level of grids uses 64 × 64 grid points. Thus, the smallest grid (L14) spacing is ≈10−4 times smaller than $\lambda_{MGR}$. We applied periodic boundary conditions on the upper and lower boundaries and the fixed one on the outer boundary. Details of the numerical method have been described in separate papers (Tomisaka 1996a, 1996b).

3. RESULTS

3.1. Runaway Collapse Phase

The evolution is similar to that of magnetized cloud with no rotation (Tomisaka 1995, 1996a; Nakamura, Hanawa, & Nakano 1995). First, the cylindrical cloud breaks into prolate spheroidal fragments which are elongated along the cylinder axis (z-axis). As long as the amplitude of density perturbation is small, $\delta \rho / \rho \leq 1$, the shape stays essentially identical to the most unstable eigenfunction of the gravitational instability. Next, gas begins to fall mainly along the magnetic field and forms a disk perpendicular to the magnetic fields. The disk formed in a runaway collapse is far from static balance. However, the flow is controlled under the magnetic field and centrifugal force, which lead to disk structure (pseudodisk: Galli & Shu 1993). At $t = 0.5908 \tau_{ff}$, the central density $\rho_c$ reaches $10^3 \rho_0$, and a shock wave is formed parallel to the disk (Figs. 1a and 1b). It breaks into two waves at the epoch when the central density reaches $\rho_c \sim 10^6 \rho_0$; an outer wave front propagates outwardly as a fast-mode MHD shock (seen near $z \sim 0.02H$) and an inner one propagates inwardly as a slow-mode MHD shock (seen near $z \sim 7 \times 10^{-3}H$) reaching the equator. The rotation angular speed $\Omega$ and toroidal magnetic field component $B_r$ also jump, crossing the wave fronts. Fast rotation and thus strong $B_r$ are observed in a restricted region inside the fast-mode fronts. Since the disk contracts in the radial direction, it has a larger $\Omega$ than outside the disk. In this configuration, magnetic fields transfer the angular momentum from the disk and redistribute it into the same magnetic flux tube (magnetic braking). However, from this numerical simulation, it is shown that the angular momentum is confined into a region inside the fast-mode MHD shock fronts.

Although there exists a number of shock waves ($z \sim 0.02H, 5 \times 10^{-3}H$, and $2 \times 10^{-3}H$) propagating in the z-direction, no such discontinuity is found in the r-direction (Figs. 1c and 1d). However, a kind of modulation is seen around a power-law distribution as $\rho(z = 0, r) \propto r^{-2}$, which is related to the formation of multiple shock waves in the z-direction (this is found by Norman et al. [1980] for the case of a rotating isothermal cloud). The runaway collapse continues until $t \approx 0.6\tau_{ff}$, and the central density would increase greatly if the isothermal equation of state continues to be valid. However, when the central density exceeds $10^{10} \text{ cm}^{-3}$, the central part of
the core becomes optically thick for the thermal radiation from dusts and its temperature begins to rise (for example, Masunaga, Miyama, & Inutsuka 1998).

### 3.2. Accretion Phase

In the accretion phase, gas continues to accrete onto the newly formed opaque core. We mimic the situation by using a double polytrope composed of an isothermal polytrope for low density as \( p = c_s^2 \rho \) for \( \rho < \rho_{\text{crit}} \) and a harder polytrope for high density as \( p = \rho/(\rho_{\text{crit}})^{2/3} \) for \( \rho > \rho_{\text{crit}} \). We take \( \rho_{\text{crit}} = 10^5 \rho_s = 10^{15} \text{ cm}^{-3} (\rho_s/100 \text{ cm}^{-3}) \) and \( \Gamma = 5/3 \). By virtue of this assumption, we can follow further evolution. Figure 2a shows the structure captured by L8 just after the isothermal equation of state is broken. A disk, which runs vertically, contracts radially, and gas motion drags and squeezes the magnetic field lines to the center. The rotation speed \( v_\phi \) at that time is not more than the radial infall speed \( v_r \), which is in the range of \((2\text{--}3)c_c \) (see Fig. 1d).

In the accretion phase, the inflow speed is accelerated at least to \((4\text{--}5)c_c \), and as a result magnetic field lines are strongly dragged and squeezed to the center (see Fig. 1c of Tomisaka 1996b). Beside these, the rotation speed is accelerated as the infall proceeds. Just after the state shown in Figure 1 with the highest central concentration, \( v_\phi \) reaches \( 4c_s \) at a distance of \( r \sim 3 \times 10^{-5}H \), inside of which a nearly spherical core is formed, supported mainly by thermal pressure. The rotation velocity \( v_\phi \) exceeds the radial velocity \( v_r \) in the accretion phase, while \( v_\phi \) was smaller than \( v_r \) (see Fig. 1d) in the runaway collapse phase. From this epoch, outflow from the disk is observed.

Figure 2 shows the structures before (Fig. 2a) and after (Fig. 2b) the outflow begins. The physical timescale between Figures 2a and 2b is approximately equal to \( 1000 \text{ yr} (\rho_s/100 \text{ cm}^{-3})^{-1/2} \). The directions of the magnetic fields in the disk are much affected by the radial inflow. They are pushed and squeezed to the center. It is shown that in the seeding region of the outflow, the angle between a magnetic field line and the disk plane decreases from 60°--70° (Fig. 2a) to 30°--40° (Fig. 2b). In Figure 2b, it is indicated that the outflow, which reaches \( z_s \sim 0.003H = 200 \text{ AU} (H/0.36 \text{ pc}) \), is confined into two expanding bubbles whose centers are at \( z_s \sim 0.0015H \). In the bubble, the strength of toroidal component of magnetic fields \( B_\phi \) is larger than that of the poloidal one \((B_\phi^2 + B_z^2)^{1/2}\). Especially at the outer boundary of the bubble, \( |B_\phi| \) is 4--5 times stronger than \((B_\phi^2 + B_z^2)^{1/2}\) (see also the upper panel of Fig. 3). Further, the magnetic pressure is much larger than the thermal pressure. Outside of the bubble, inflow continues. The islands of strong toroidal magnetic fields that are formed just outside the disk push the poloidal fields and have the effect of strengthening the hourglass structure in the poloidal field (Ouyed & Pudritz 1997).

To see the seeding region of the outflow closely, we plot a close-up view captured by L10 in Figure 3. (The seeding region, from which outflow is ejected, moves outwardly with time. In the disk, the ratio of the centrifugal force to the gravity is no more than \( \approx 0.45 \), which indicates that this is far from a centrifugally balanced state.) This figure shows that the outflow is ejected from the disk near \( r = 5 \times 10^{-3}H \approx 40 \text{ AU} (H/0.36 \text{ pc}) \), which is 5 times larger than the scale length for the critical density \( \rho_{\text{crit}} = 10^{16} \text{ cm}^{-3} \). Figure 3 clearly shows that (1) magnetic field lines are almost parallel to the disk surface near the disk; (2) gas inflow in the disk is not disturbed by the outflow from the disk and continues to reach the central core, which is supported by the thermal pressure; and (3) outflow occurs along magnetic field lines whose inclination angle is in the range of 45°--60°. This corresponds to the region in which \( |B_\phi| \) is dominant over the poloidal component (upper panel).

Consider the main outflow ejected from \( r = 5 \times 10^{-3}H \) in Figure 3. Numerical simulations (Kudoh, Matsumoto, & Shibata 1998; Ouyed & Pudritz 1997) indicate that the ratio of Alfvén speed to the rotation speed is controlling how the matter
is accelerated. Since this ratio is as small as $0.3-1$ in the seeding region $r \sim 5 \times 10^{-3} H$, it is natural that the toroidal magnetic field is strongly amplified just outside of the disk. In this case, the magnetic pressure gradient is considered to play an important role to accelerate the gas after the Alfvén points located near $|z| \sim 10^{-2} H$. (In contrast, the matter is centrifugally driven when the ratio is large.) However, even in the present model, gas seems to escape from the disk with being driven centrifugally.

4. DISCUSSION

Inflow and outflow rates are measured at the outer boundary of the L10 numerical box as the surface integral of the mass flux density as $\int \rho v \cdot ndS$. The inflow rate is equal to $2.7 \times 10^2 c/4\pi G \approx 4.1 \times 10^{-3} M_\odot \text{yr}^{-1} (c_{\text{s}}/200 \text{ m s}^{-1})^3$, which is almost constant in the accretion phase. It is worth noting that this is much larger than the standard accretion rate $12.25 c^3/4\pi G$ predicted for the singular isothermal sphere model (Shu 1977). This is due to the extra inflow velocity accelerated in the runaway collapse phase (Tomisaka 1996b). The outflow begins at $t = 0.5998 t_{\text{ff}}$, and the outflow rate increases with time. At the stage shown in Figure 3, it reaches $83 c^3/4\pi G = 1.2 \times 10^{-3} M_\odot \text{yr}^{-1} (c_{\text{s}}/200 \text{ m s}^{-1})^3$. It is worth notice that the outflow rate attains $\approx 1/3$ of the inflow rate. The ratio of outflowing to inflowing mass decreases from L10 to L8.

The linear momentum outflow rate is also measured as the surface integral of the momentum flux density $\int \rho v^2 dS$ over the
upper and lower boundaries of L10. This increases with time from the epoch of $t = 0.5998 \tau$, and reaches $\sim 330c^3/4\pi G = 10^{-3} M_\odot$ km s$^{-1}$ yr$^{-1}$ at the epoch shown in Figure 3. This is not inconsistent with the momentum outflow rate observed around class 0 low-mass young stellar objects from $^{12}$CO $J = 2-1$ line observation (Bontemps et al. 1996) as $3 \times 10^{-4}$ to $5 \times 10^{-4} M_\odot$ km s$^{-1}$ yr$^{-1}$. The maximum speed of outflow, $(7-8)c_\perp$, is approximately equal to the Kepler speed of the seeding region, and it seems to be accelerated with increasing central mass and thus the Kepler speed. Therefore, the momentum outflow rate is likely to increase further.

Why does the outflow occur only in the accretion phase? Rotation velocity becomes dominant over the radial velocity only in the accretion phase. This is also indicated by a recent study using a self-similar solution for a contracting isothermal rotating cloud core only in the accretion phase. (Matsumoto, Hanawa, & Nakamura 1997). Therefore, the angle that a gas element rotates in this free-fall time is as large as $\theta \sim Q/(2\pi G M)^{1/2}$ $\sim 0.2-0.4$ rad. Since the disk rotates only at $\sim 0.2-0.4$ rad, it is concluded that the magnetic field cannot be wound much in the runaway collapse phase.

In the accretion phase, we have found a rotating ring nearly in a hydrostatic balance for a model with no magnetic fields ($\alpha = 0$). Since the angular momentum in the disk is transferred to the outer region by the magnetic effect, a model with poloidal magnetic fields indicates a structure different from the non-magnetic disk. The magnetized disk consists of an innermost nearly hydrostatic core and a contracting rotating disk.

Blandford & Payne (1982) have revealed that a cold gas that rotates in a Kepler disk can escape from the stellar gravity by the effect of magnetic fields. The condition of escape is that the angle between the magnetic field lines and the disk is smaller than $60^\circ$, below which the magnetic field line can transfer enough angular momentum to the gas element to escape from the gravity of the central point mass. Although this is valid for the point mass, the angle seems to play an important role for the outflow phenomenon. Decrease in the angle is mainly due to the disk accretion (inflow) and drag. Therefore, it is concluded that the outflow is driven by a rotating contracting cloud core only in the accretion phase.

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