Exploring the Physical Conditions and Structure of Massive Protostars through Spectroscopic Observations of H₂O in the Infrared

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April 13, 2016

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Massive Protostars

- Luminous central objects (10⁴ L_{sun})
- Deeply embedded within gaseous envelope
- High temperature chemistry
- Multiple kinematic components (envelope, disk, torus, jet, wind, outflow, infall)
- Large scale molecular outflows

Chemical Models



Simple models predict roughly half of the oxygen in CO and half in H_2O in the inner envelope. H_2O ice is abundant in outer envelope.

NIR Images

Not exactly spherically symmetric, eh?



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Water in Massive Protostars: ISO



- v₂ bending mode seen in absorption toward about 10 objects
- At R~1400 lines are blended and full band fit simultaneously
- No kinematic information

Water in Massive Protostars: ISO

| Fable 2. Model | parameters | for the v_2 | band o | of gas-j | phase | H ₂ O ^a | a . |
|----------------|------------|---------------|--------|----------|-------|-------------------------------|-----|
|----------------|------------|---------------|--------|----------|-------|-------------------------------|-----|

| Source | T _{ex} (H ₂ O) K | $N({\rm H_2O})$ $10^{18} {\rm cm}^{-2}$ | $N({\rm H_2^{hot}})^{\rm b}$ $10^{22}{\rm cm}^{-2}$ | x(H ₂ O) ^e 10 ⁻⁵ |
|---------------|---|--|--|--|
| AFGL 2591 | 450^{+250}_{-150} | 3.5 ± 1.5 | 6.0 | 5.8 |
| AFGL 2136 | 500^{+250}_{-150} | 1.5 ± 0.6 | 7.5 | 2.0 |
| AFGL 4176 | 400^{+250}_{-250} | 1.5 ± 0.7 | 4.0 | 3.8 |
| MonR2 IRS3 | 250^{+200}_{-100} | 0.5 ± 0.2 | 2.2 ^d | 2.3 |
| NGC 7538 IRS1 | 500 ^e | < 0.5 | 4.1 | < 1.2 |
| NGC 7538 IRS9 | 300 ^f | < 0.6 | 0.1 | < 60 |
| NGC 2024 IRS2 | 45 ^g | < 0.3 | _ | _ |
| AFGL 2059 | 500^{+300}_{-300} | 0.6 ± 0.3 | 2 | 3 |
| NGC 3576 | 500^{+250}_{-250} | 0.9 ± 0.3 | 4 | 2.3 |
| S 140 IRS1 | 390 ^h | < 0.3 | 2.2 | < 1.4 |
| W 33 A | 120 ^h | < 0.8 | 6.9 | < 1.2 |
| W 3 IRS5 | 400^{+200}_{-150} | 0.3 ± 0.1 | 6.2 | 0.5 |

Boonman & van Dishoeck 2003, A&A, 403, 1003

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Unanswered Questions

- At what velocity does the absorption arise?
- Are the line profiles complex with multiple absorption/emission components?
- Do line profiles change with energy?
 Requires high spectral resolution
- CRIRES/VLT (2-5 μm)
- EXES/SOFIA (6-28 μm)
- TEXES/Gemini (5-25 µm)

Water Vibrational Bands

- v₁: symmetric stretch
 - 2.7 µm
- v₂: bend
 - 6.1 µm
- v₃: asymmetric stretch
 - 2.7 μm



AFGL 2591 with SOFIA/EXES

- Narrow slit placed on central object
- Observed for about 20 min
- Vega observed in earlier flight leg for use as telluric standard star





EXES Spectrum of AFGL 2591



Absorption Line Fitting

$$I = I_0 \left[1 - f_c \left[1 - \exp\left(-\tau_0 \exp\left(-\frac{\left(v - v_{\text{LSR}}\right)^2}{2\sigma_v^2} \right) \right) \right] \right]$$

- Gaussian in optical depth
- Allows for fractional coverage of source by absorbing gas, f_c



AFGL 2591 Rotation Diagram



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HIFI Observations



Ground state with HIFI and EXES

- Rotational transition at 1113 GHz observed with HIFI (19" beam)
- Ro-vibrational transition at 6.1 µm observed with EXES



Ground state with HIFI and EXES

- Rotational transition at 1113 GHz observed with HIFI (19" beam)
- Ro-vibrational transition at 6.1 µm observed with EXES
- Vibrationally excited transition blended with ground state line



Apertures on AFGL 2591

- EXES slit in blue
- HIFI beam in red



Comparison of Analyses

| Instrument | H ₂ O Column Density (cm ⁻²) | Temperature (K) | Reference |
|---------------|--|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| ISO-SWS | (3.5±1.5)×10 ¹⁸ | 450±200 | Boonman & van Dishoeck 2003 |
| Herschel PACS | ~6×10 ¹⁴ | 160±130 | Karska et al. 2014 |
| Herschel HIFI | ~4×10 ¹³ | 70—90 | Choi et al. 2015 |
| SOFIA EXES | (1.3±0.3)×10 ¹⁹ | 640±80 | Indriolo et al. 2015 |

- IR observations give both larger column densities and temperatures
- Herschel observations primarily probe transitions out of relatively low-energy states
- *N*(CO)=7×10¹⁸ cm⁻² (Mitchell et al. 1989, ApJ, 341, 1020)

AFGL 2136 with VLT/CRIRES



- Ground based observations focus on transitions out of higher energy levels
- Narrow 0.2 arcsec slit oriented to avoid diffuse K emission

Water in AFGL 2136



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AFGL 2136 Line Profiles



AFGL 2136 Rotation Diagram



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Comparison of Analyses

| Instrument | H ₂ O Column Density (cm ⁻²) | Temperature (K) | Reference |
|------------|--|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| ISO-SWS | (1.5±0.6)×10 ¹⁸ | 500±200 | Boonman & van Dishoeck 2003 |
| VLT CRIRES | (1.0±0.1)×10 ¹⁹ | 506±25 | Indriolo et al. 2013 |

- Requires high density $n > 10^9$ cm⁻³
- N(CO)=2×10¹⁹ cm⁻² (Mitchell et al. 1990, ApJ, 363, 554)

Summary

- H₂O IR absorption in massive protostars arises in hot, dense gas close to the central object
- H₂O/CO is close to 1, supporting model where oxygen is driven into water
- IR absorption and THz emission studies of H₂O are providing complementary data

AFGL 4176: Analysis in Progress



AFGL 4176: Analysis in Progress



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AFGL 4176: Analysis in Progress



Future Work

- In March 2016 SOFIA/EXES observations of AFGL 2136, W3 IRS5, NGC 7538 IRS 1, Mon R2 IRS 3, and AFGL 2591 at three spectral settings near 6 µm were made
- Compare sources at 2.5 µm, 6 µm, and 10-13 µm to check for consistency in derived results