

ALMA View of the ρ Ophiuchi A PDR with a 360 au Beam: The [C I] Emission Originates from the Plane-parallel PDR and Extended Gas

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Abstract

We present the results of data analysis of the [C I] ($^3P_1-^3P_0$) emission from the ρ Ophiuchi A photon-dominated region (PDR) obtained in the ALMA ACA standalone mode with a spatial resolution of 2."6 (360 au). The [C I] emission shows filamentary structures with a width of ~1000 au, which are adjacent to the shell structure seen in the 4.5 μ m map. We found that the 4.5 μ m emission, C⁰, and CO are distributed in this order from the excitation star (S1) in a complementary pattern. These results indicate that [C I] is emitted from a thin layer in the PDR generated by the excitation star, as predicted in the plane-parallel PDR model. In addition, extended [C I] emission was also detected, which shows nearly uniform integrated intensity over the entire field of view (1.6 × 1.6). The line profile of the extended component is different from that of the above shell component. The column density ratio of C⁰ to CO in the extended component was ~2, which is significantly higher than those of Galactic massive star-forming regions (0.1–0.2). These results suggest that [C I] is emitted also from the extended gas with a density of $n_{\rm H_2} \sim 10^3 {\rm cm}^{-3}$, which is not greatly affected by the excitation star.

Unified Astronomy Thesaurus concepts: Photodissociation regions (1223); Interstellar medium (847); Interstellar atomic gas (833)

1. Introduction

Carbon is one of the major atoms in the universe. It is valuable to examine carbon atoms and carbon-bearing molecules to gain deep understanding of the chemistry of the interstellar medium. The plane-parallel photon-dominated region (PDR) model (Tielens & Hollenbach 1985a; Hollenbach et al. 1991) predicts that neutral carbon is formed in a thin layer in the PDR and is transformed to CO in the molecular cloud. As a result, complementary spatial distributions of [C I] and CO emission are expected to appear in a plane-parallel PDR. Observations, however, show that the spatial distributions of [CI] and CO in a Galactic star-forming region are similar (Orion: Ikeda et al. 2002; Shimajiri et al. 2013, DR15: Oka et al. 2005, W51: Arikawa et al. 1999, Ophiuchi: Kamegai et al. 2003, RCW38: Izumi et al. 2021). The clumpy PDR model (Stutzki et al. 1988; Meixner & Tielens 1993) has been proposed to explain the discrepancy between observations and the plane-parallel PDR model; the model assumes that a molecular cloud has an inhomogeneous density structure and expects that neutral carbon is formed deep inside the molecular cloud. If the clumpy PDR model is the case, observations with high spatial resolution should be able to identify clumpy structures and reveal differences between the spatial distributions of [C I] and CO. Past observations, in which the spatial resolutions were down to at best 8000 au (0.04 pc; Shimajiri et al. 2013), of any star-forming regions show similar spatial distributions between the [C I] and CO emission in a region. No clear evidence has been obtained to conclude which model is correct due to the limitation of the spatial resolution.

One of the best targets to study the PDR is ρ Ophiuchi (Oph) A, illuminated by the Herbig Be star, S1. It is the closest PDR

from the Earth at a distance of d=137.3 pc (Ortiz-León et al. 2017), which is closer than Orion by a factor of 3 ($d\sim400$ pc; Menten et al. 2007). Yamagishi et al. (2019) observed the ρ Oph A PDR in 12 CO, 13 CO, and 18 O (J=2-1) lines with ALMA and found clearly layered structures of CO isotopologues, for which CO selective dissociation is considered to be responsible. The finding indicates that the ρ Oph A PDR has a plane-parallel structure. As such, ρ Oph A is an ideal place to study the PDR chemistry because of its simple geometry and closeness, which enables us to perform high spatial-resolution and sensitive observations. In this paper, we present our results of the source based on follow-up observations in [C I] with ALMA and discuss origins of [C I] in the PDR.

2. Observations and Data Reduction

We analyzed the ALMA Cycle-6 data at Band 8 for a 1.6×1.6 region of the ρ Oph A PDR obtained in the ACA (7 m array + Total Power (TP) array) standalone mode (Project code: #2018.1.00318.S). The observed region is the same as that discussed in Yamagishi et al. (2019; R.A.: 16^h26^m29^s5, decl.: $-24^{\circ}22'43''0$, J2000) and coincides with a local peak in the low spatial-resolution (2.2) [C I] map obtained with the Mt. Fuji telescope (Kamegai et al. 2003). The observing frequencies were tuned for [CI] $(^3P_1-^3P_0)$ at 492.1607 GHz and for three continuum bands centered at 483.7 GHz (620 µm) with frequency resolutions of 141.1 kHz and 1.129 MHz, respectively. The data reduction was performed, using the Common Astronomy Software Application (McMullin et al. 2007) version 5.6.1. In the imaging process of the 7 m array data, the task tclean was employed to recover the extended flux with a spatial grid size of 0.439, scales of the multi-scale

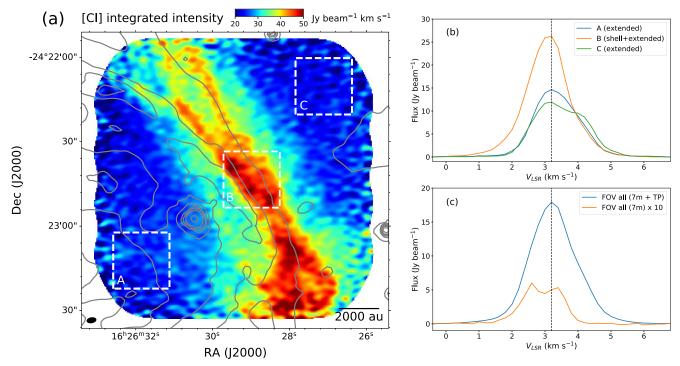


Figure 1. (a) [C I] integrated intensity map over a velocity range of $V_{LSR} = 0.0$ –6.4 km s⁻¹. Contours indicate Spitzer/IRAC 4.5 μ m intensity (Yamagishi et al. 2019). The beam size is shown at the bottom left. The excitation star S1 is located outside of this field (R.A.: $16^{h}26^{m}34^{s}$, decl.: $-24^{\circ}23'28''$, (b) Averaged [C I] spectra extracted from regions A, B, and C in panel (a). The dashed line indicates $V_{LSR} = 3.2$ km s⁻¹ as a reference. (c) Same as panel (b), but those from the entire FOV. Blue and orange lines denote those from the 7 m+TP array data and 7 m array data only, respectively. The intensity of the orange one is multiplied by a factor of 10 for the purpose of display.

deconvolver of 0, 5, and 15 pixels (0", 1".95, and 5".85), and the robust parameter of 0. The data of the 7 m array and TP array were combined to recover the total flux, using the task feather. The final synthesized beam size for [CI] was $3".32 \times 1".90$, corresponding to 460 au \times 270 au for an assumed distance of d=137.3 pc (Ortiz-León et al. 2017). The 1σ noise level is 0.45 Jy beam⁻¹ at a velocity resolution of 0.2 km s⁻¹. We found that continuum, SO₂ (7(4,4)–6(3,3)) at 491.93472 GHz, and H₂CO (7(1,7)–6(1,6)) at 491.96837 GHz were also detected, in addition to [CI], in one of the three "continuum bands." The spatial distributions of these emission are presented in Figure A1 in the Appendix.

3. Results

Figure 1(a) shows an integrated intensity map of [C I] for the ρ Oph A PDR. Intense [C I] emission is detected from across the entire field of view (FOV) with the peak intensity of \sim 50 Jy beam⁻¹ km s⁻¹. The integrated intensity map shows filamentary structures distributed in the northeast to southwest direction, which are adjacent to the shell structure seen in the Spitzer/IRAC 4.5 μ m map. The width of the filamentary structures is \sim 1000 au, which is smaller by a factor of 8 than the highest spatial resolution in previous [CI] observations. In general, the main emitters in the 4.5 μ m band are Br α and hot dust with a temperature of a few $\times 100$ K. The fact that the narrow emitting region of [C I] is distributed adjacent to that of the 4.5 μ m emission indicates that [C I] is emitted from a thin layer in the PDR. The filamentary structures found in the ρ Oph A PDR are more complicated than the expected structure of a single [CI] layer in the plane-parallel PDR model. The filamentary structures in [C I] may reflect filamentary structures of the parental molecular cloud.

We find that the integrated intensities in the faintest part in the FOV (i.e., the northwest and southeast corners in Figure 1(a)) are similar, \sim 25 Jy beam⁻¹ km s⁻¹, and that their spatial distributions are almost uniform. Hence, it is likely that there are two components in the [CI] emission in the FOV, namely the filamentary distributed component adjacent to the shell structure (hereafter, shell component) and the uniformly distributed component across the entire FOV (hereafter, extended component). Considering the intensities and emitting areas of the two components, the extended component is the main [CI] source in the FOV. Indeed, Kamegai et al. (2003) detected a highly (\sim 1°) extended [C I] emission in ρ Oph. They explained the extended spatial distribution, using the clumpy PDR model; they assumed that the widely extended emission had some clumpy structures, although they did not resolve any of them, potentially due to the poor spatial resolution of their observations. In our observation, where the beam size was improved by a factor of 50 from that in Kamegai et al. (2003), no obviously clumpy structures in the northwest and southeast corners were found (Figure 1(a)). Therefore, the clumpy PDR model is not suitable to explain the PDR in ρ Oph A.

Figure 1(b) shows the spectra extracted from regions A, B, and C, corresponding to (part of) the southeast region in the FOV, shell, and northwest region, which confirm unequivocal detection of the [C I] emission. All the three spectra show a peak velocity of $V_{\rm LSR} \sim 3.2~{\rm km~s^{-1}}$, which is comparable with that in C¹⁸O (J=2-1) ($V_{\rm LSR}=3.0~{\rm km~s^{-1}}$; Yamagishi et al. 2019). The line profiles are, however, different from region to region; the spectrum from region B, which contains both the shell and extended components, is enhanced in the blueshifted velocity side ($<3.2~{\rm km~s^{-1}}$), whereas the spectra from regions A and C (extended component only) are enhanced in the redshifted velocity side ($>3.2~{\rm km~s^{-1}}$). The difference implies

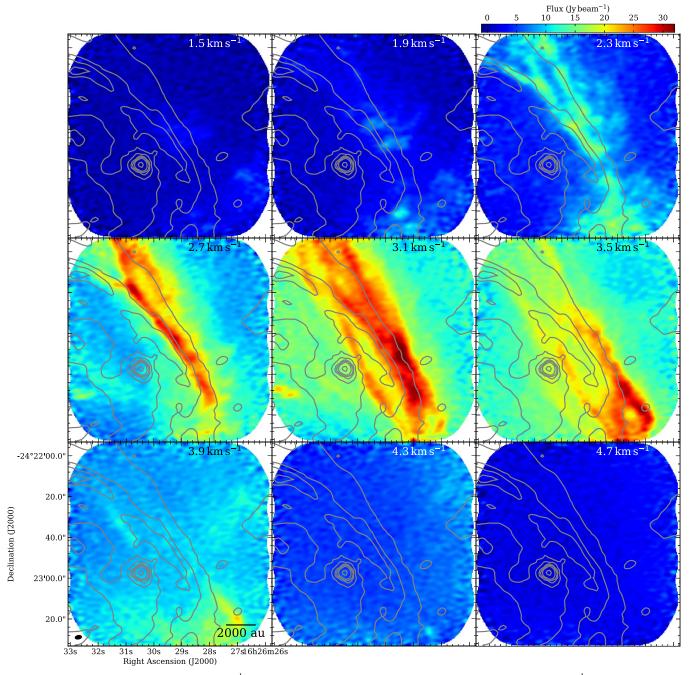


Figure 2. Channel maps of [C I] in $V_{\rm LSR} = 1.5$ –4.7 km s⁻¹, where two channels of the original map with a velocity resolution of 0.2 km s⁻¹ are bound up. The central velocity of each channel is indicated at the top right corner. The contours are the same as those in Figure 1(a). The beam size is shown at the bottom left.

that the shell and extended components are likely to have different line profiles. In the direction of ρ Oph A, Mookerjea et al. (2018) identified two structures from self-absorbed [C II] and CO spectra: the main PDR structure at $V_{\rm LSR}=3.1~{\rm km~s}^{-1}$ and a foreground absorber at $V_{\rm LSR}=3.7~{\rm km~s}^{-1}$. The structures at $V_{\rm LSR}=3.1~{\rm and}~3.7~{\rm km~s}^{-1}$ might be related with the shell and extended components, respectively.

Figure 1(c) shows two [C I] spectra for the overall FOV. One is from the 7 m+TP array (i.e., flux-recovered) data, the other, from the 7 m array data only. Since the 7 m array data cannot be used to recover extended structures larger than 14" (1700 au) in Band 8, the data are expected to be sensitive to the shell component only, whereas the 7 m+TP array data are sensitive

to both the shell and extended components. Indeed, the 7 m array data show a much more distinctive enhancement in the blueshifted velocity side than the 7 m+TP array data. These two spectra reflect differences in the line profiles between the shell and extended components. Note that the fraction of the flux detected in the 7 m array is only 2% of the total (7 m+TP array) flux, the fact of which demonstrates importance of the TP array for observations of nearby star-forming regions.

Figure 2 shows channel maps of the [C I] emission. Intense [C I] emission is detected with the center velocity of $V_{\rm LSR} = 3.1$ km s⁻¹ (see Figure 1(b)). In the blueshifted velocity side, the shell component is stronger than the extended component (e.g., $V_{\rm LSR} = 2.3$ km s⁻¹). Conversely, in the redshifted velocity side,

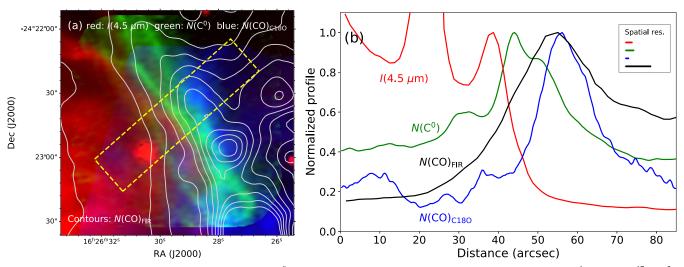


Figure 3. (a) Color-composite map of (red) $I(4.5 \, \mu\text{m})$, (green) $N(\text{C}^0)$, and (blue) $N(\text{CO})_{\text{C18O}}$, where the color ranges are 0–40 MJy str⁻¹, (3–9) × 10¹⁷ cm⁻², and (0–10) × 10¹⁷ cm⁻², respectively. Contours indicate $N(\text{CO})_{\text{FIR}}$, drawn at linearly spaced 10 levels in (1–13) × 10¹⁷ cm⁻². (b) Spatial variations of the average intensity/column densities in the dashed-line rectangular region in panel (a). Profiles are normalized by 24 MJy sr⁻¹ ($I(4.5 \, \mu\text{m})$), 8.0 × 10¹⁷ cm⁻² ($N(\text{CO})_{\text{C18O}}$), and 9.9 × 10¹⁷ cm⁻² ($N(\text{CO})_{\text{FIR}}$). Spatial resolution of each profile is indicated at the top right corner.

the extended component is stronger (e.g., $V_{LSR} = 3.9 \text{ km s}^{-1}$). These channel maps visualize differences in the line profiles seen in Figure 1(b).

4. Discussion

We have identified the shell and extended components in the [C I] emission. In this section, we discuss the origins of the two components, using the column densities of neutral carbon (denoted as $N(\mathbb{C}^0)$) and CO ($N(\mathbb{C}O)$), estimated in the following procedures.

The former, $N(C^0)$, is estimated under an assumption of the local thermodynamic equilibrium (LTE) condition, using formulae in Ikeda et al. (2002). In the FOV, $C^{18}O$ (J=2-1) was detected in a similar region to [CI] (Yamagishi et al. 2019). Typically, C¹⁸O traces low-temperature (<100 K) and high-density ($\sim 10^4 \, \text{cm}^{-2}$) environment (e.g., Onishi et al. 1996). In such an environment, the LTE assumption is expected to be reasonable. We assume a uniform excitation temperature of $T_{\rm ex} = 50$ K over the entire FOV. The estimated value of $T_{\rm ex}$ from ALMA $^{12}{\rm CO}(J=2-1)$ data was as high as 70 K (Yamagishi et al. 2019), but the value is not fully reliable due to strong absorption and/or spatial filtering. White et al. (2015) estimated T_{ex} to be 30–50 K from $^{12}\text{CO}(J = 3-2)$ data with the James Clerk Maxwell Telescope (JCMT). Although the JCMT data preserve information of the total flux, the spatial resolution is poor (15"). Our assumed $T_{\rm ex} = 50 \, \rm K$ is the middle value of these two estimations. In our estimation, we evaluate the uncertainties of $N(C^0)$ by varying T_{ex} between 30 and 70 K. Consequently, we obtain the optical depth of the [C I] emission, $N(C^0)$, and uncertainty of $N(C^0)$ to be 0.25–1.2, (3–9) × 10¹⁷ cm^{-2} , and 20%, respectively.

The other parameter, N(CO), is estimated in two complementary methods, using ALMA $C^{18}O$ (J=2-1) data and Herschel/PACS 70 μ m and 100 μ m data. Estimation of N(CO) from $C^{18}O$ (J=2-1) is simple, but the total flux is not recovered because TP-array data were not obtained in the observations (Project code: #2013.1.00839.S). The indirect estimation of N(CO) from the Herschel/PACS data can make use of information of the total flux, but the spatial resolution is comparatively poor (6."8 at 100 μ m). To derive $C^{18}O$ -based N

(CO) $(N(CO)_{C18O})$, the column density of $C^{18}O$ $(N(C^{18}O))$ is re-estimated using data in the previous study (Yamagishi et al. 2019) and formulae in Nishimura et al. (2015), under an assumption of uniform $T_{\rm ex}$ of 50 K over the FOV. $N({\rm CO})_{\rm C18O}$ is derived from $N(C^{18}O)$ using information on the $N(C^{18}O)^{16}O$ abundance ratio of 490 (Wilson & Rood 1994). The uncertainty of N(CO)_{C18O} is evaluated in a similar manner as in the estimation of $N(C^0)$. In consequence, we derive the optical depth of $C^{18}O$, $N(CO)_{C18O}$, and uncertainty of $N(CO)_{C18O}$ to be 0–0.8, $(0–1.2) \times 10^{18}$ cm⁻², and 20%, respectively. The other parameter Herschel-based N(CO) ($N(\text{CO})_{\text{FIR}}$) is estimated, using Herschel/PACS 70 μ m and 100 μ m data retrieved from the NASA/IPAC Infrared Science Archives (Observation ID: 1342238816) and formulae in Liseau et al. (2015), where a dust emissivity power-law index of 2, dust-to-gas mass ratio of 88 (Liseau et al. 2015), and ¹²CO abundance relative to H₂ of 8.3×10^{-5} (Frerking et al. 1982) are assumed. Consequently, the $N(CO)_{FIR}$ and its uncertainty are derived to be $(0.1-1.4) \times 10^{18}$ cm⁻² and 5%, respectively.

Figure 3(a) shows Spitzer 4.5 μ m intensity ($I(4.5 \mu m)$), $N(C^0)$, $N(CO)_{C18O}$, and $N(CO)_{FIR}$ maps. We find that $I(4.5 \mu \text{m})$, $N(C^0)$, and $N(CO)_{C18O}$ are spatially distributed in this order from the excitation star and in a complementary pattern, the fact of which indicates that [C I] is emitted from the PDR generated by the excitation star, as expected from the plane-parallel PDR model. Both the $N(CO)_{C18O}$ and $N(CO)_{FIR}$ maps show peaks in the northwest side of structures in the $N(C^{0})$ map; this is a confirmation that both the maps show the same CO molecular cloud consistently. Figure 3(b) shows onedimensional spatial profiles of the four maps, which are extracted from a region perpendicular to the shell structure (see Figure 3(a)). The spatial offsets between the peak positions of $I(4.5 \mu m)$, $N(C^0)$, and $N(CO)_{C18O}$ are 700–1400 au (5"–10"), indicating that the spatial resolutions in the previous [CI] studies were insufficient to distinguish the spatial distribution of [C I] from that of CO. In other words, a combination of [C I] and CO data obtained with ALMA with a spatial resolution of a

We find that the first factor of Equation (10) in Nishimura et al. (2015) is larger than the supposed value by 2 orders of magnitude.

few $\times 100$ au, as demonstrated in this work, is essential to study the PDR in detail.

In contrast to the shell component, the extended component is not straightforwardly explained with the plane-parallel PDR illuminated by the excitation star. If the clumpy PDR model is the case for the extended component as predicted in Kamegai et al. (2003), the extended [CI] emission should be spatially resolved into small clumps in observations with high spatial resolution. However, we have found no such structures in the extended component and the integrated intensity to be uniform. Since the spatial resolution of our observed data is \sim 360 au, we cannot fully exclude a possibility that the FOV is filled with much smaller clumps than 360 au. In such a case, however, UV radiation from the excitation star would penetrate the molecular cloud and produce local fluctuations in the [CI] map in a similar way as in the shell component, the deduced view of which is inconsistent with Figure 1(a). In addition, the large missing flux in the 7 m array (98%) indicates that small structures (<14") do not significantly contribute to the [CI] emission in the FOV. Hence, the extended component is likely not to be an ensemble of unresolved small clumpy structures but to be genuinely extended.

One important parameter to discuss the origin of the extended component is the column density ratio $N({\rm C}^0)/N({\rm CO})$ ($R_{\rm C/CO}$) because a major formation pathway of ${\rm C}^0$ is photodissociation of CO. We make a rough estimation of $R_{\rm C/CO}$ of the extended component ($R_{\rm ext}$). We simply assume that the extended component has uniform $N({\rm C}^0)$ and $N({\rm CO})_{\rm FIR}$ across the entire FOV and that $N({\rm C}^0)$ and $N({\rm CO})_{\rm FIR}$ of the extended component is the minimum value of $N({\rm C}^0)$ ($2.9 \times 10^{17} \, {\rm cm}^{-2}$) and $N({\rm CO})_{\rm FIR}$ ($1.5 \times 10^{17} \, {\rm cm}^{-2}$), respectively, in Figure 3(b). Note that $N({\rm CO})_{\rm FIR}$ is used here because $N({\rm CO})_{\rm C18O}$ is not sensitive to extended emission. Consequently, $R_{\rm ext}$ is estimated to be \sim 2, which is significantly higher than that of the typical $R_{\rm C/CO}$ of 0.1–0.2 in the Galactic massive star-forming regions (e.g., Orion: 0.05–0.21, Ikeda et al. 2002; DR15: 0.02–0.15, Oka et al. 2001, RCW38: 0.1–0.4, Izumi et al. 2021).

Papadopoulos et al. (2004) showed that the high UV intensity (G_0) and low H_2 number-density ($n_{\rm H_2}$) result in a high $R_{\rm C/CO}$. If the observed high $R_{\rm ext}$ is caused by a high G_0 , the G_0 value in ρ Oph A must be higher than those in massive star-forming regions, which is not very likely (see $G_0=10^5$ in Orion: Tielens & Hollenbach 1985b; $G_0=(1-4)\times 10^3$ in the FOV of the present study: Mookerjea et al. 2018). Therefore, the observed high $R_{\rm ext}$ is likely to be caused by the low $n_{\rm H_2}$ gas, which is not greatly affected by the excitation star. This suggests that the density of the extended component is lower than that in the typical PDR with detection of $C^{18}O$ (i.e., $n_{\rm H_2} < 10^4$ cm⁻³). Hence, the density roughly comparable to the critical density of [C I] ($n_{\rm H_2} \sim 10^3$ cm⁻³; Tielens & Hollenbach 1985a) is likely for the extended component. In this

case, the fact that [C I] and CO showed similar spatial distributions in the past [C I] studies is plausible, given that CO is a general probe of the molecular gas with a density of $n_{\rm H_2} \sim 10^{3-4}~{\rm cm}^{-3}$. As such, [C I] is useful not only for the study of PDRs but also for estimating the total gas masses.

5. Conclusions

We have analyzed ALMA [CI] data obtained for the ρ Oph A PDR. We have detected intense [CI] emission with a width of \sim 1000 au, adjacent to the shell structure. The [CI] shell component is located between the 4.5 μ m emission and CO molecular cloud, the fact of which indicates that [CI] is emitted from a thin layer of the PDR generated by the excitation star. The scenario is consistent with the classical plane-parallel PDR model. We have also detected extended [CI] emission with a uniform integrated intensity over the entire FOV. The extended component has a different line profile from the shell component and a high $N(C^0)/N(CO)$ column density ratio of \sim 2, suggesting that [CI] is emitted from the extended gas with a density of $n_{\rm H_2} \sim 10^3 \, {\rm cm}^{-3}$, which is not greatly affected by the excitation star.

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Appendix Other Maps

Figure A1 shows a continuum map at 620 μ m and integrated intensity maps of H₂CO and SO₂ over a velocity range of $V_{\rm LSR} = 2.2$ –3.8 km s⁻¹. The 1 σ noise level of the continuum map is 3.9 mJy beam⁻¹, whereas those of the H₂CO and SO₂ channel maps are both 0.23 Jy beam⁻¹ at a velocity resolution of 0.8 km s⁻¹. Note that the continuum map is made from the 7 m array data only, while the H₂CO and SO₂ maps are made from the 7 m+TP array data.

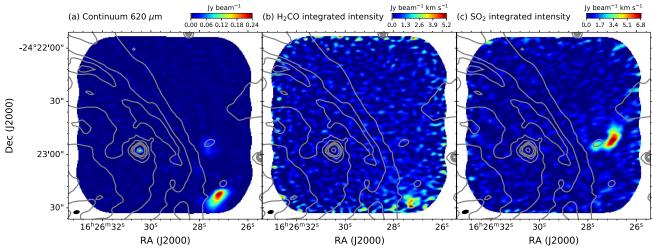


Figure A1. Maps of the (a) continuum at 620 μ m and integrated intensities for $V_{LSR} = 2.2-3.8$ km s⁻¹ of (b) H₂CO and (c) SO₂. Contours are the same as those in Figure 1(a). The beam size is indicated at the bottom left corner in each panel.

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