

Physical and chemical properties of the AFGL 333 cloud

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Abstract. We have found massive clumps without any sign of active star formation in the AFGL 333 cloud. We present a study of the physical and chemical properties of the AFGL 333 cloud.

The AFGL 333 cloud is located in the W 3 giant molecular cloud (W 3 GMC). It is known that the W 3 GMC involves three star forming clouds; W 3 Main, W 3(OH), and AFGL 333 (e.g. Thronson *et al.* 1985). The three clouds exhibit different star-forming activities in spite of their similarity in size and mass. The ratio of the infrared luminosities in W 3 Main, W 3(OH) and AFGL 333 is 1.0:0.25:0.07 (Thronson *et al.* 1980), suggesting that AFGL 333 is less active than W 3 Main and W 3(OH).

We have mapped the C⁰ ³P₁–³P₀ ([CI]) and CO *J*=3–2 lines toward the W 3 GMC by using the Mount Fuji Submillimeter Telescope (Sakai *et al.* 2006). The [CI] emission is found to be strong in the AFGL 333 cloud, where the ¹²CO *J*=3–2 emission is relatively weak. To investigate the origin of the strong [CI] emission in the AFGL 333 cloud, we have observed the AFGL 333 and W 3(OH) clouds in the CO isotopomer lines and the CCS and N₂H⁺ lines with the Nobeyama Radio Observatory 45 m telescope. We have found that *N*(C⁰) linearly increases with *N*(CO) up to *A_V* of 50 mag. This indicates that C⁰ exists in the deep inside of the molecular clouds. The [C⁰]/[CO] and [CCS]/[N₂H⁺] ratios tend to be higher in the AFGL 333 cloud than in the W 3(OH) cloud. These results may indicate the chemical youth of the AFGL 333 cloud relative to the W 3(OH) cloud.

In the AFGL 333 cloud, we have found two massive clumps (Clump A and B) without any sign of active star formation. They are highly gravitationally bound (*M_{VIR}*/*M_{LTE}* ~ 0.4), and the LTE mass is 2.3 × 10³ *M_⊙* and 1.4 × 10³ *M_⊙* for Clump A and Clump B, respectively. These masses are comparable to those for on-going massive star-forming clumps. We have mapped the CCS, HC₃N and N₂H⁺ emissions toward the clumps, and have found that the CCS and HC₃N emissions are stronger toward Clump B than toward Clump A. There are several YSO candidates (2MASS sources with *H-K*>2) in Clump A, while no YSO candidate is associated with Clump B. These results suggest that Clump B is younger than Clump A and is in a very early stage of cluster formation. Therefore Clump B is a very good target to understand the initial condition of cluster formation.

References

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