Water (and isotopologs) in the PRISMAS program



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Example: Water in W51



Abundance of water

Column density

- varies between a few 10¹² and about 10¹⁴ cm⁻²
- well correlated with N_{H:} N(H₂O)/N_H ≈ 10⁻⁸

Even better correlation with N(H₂) over about 1 order of magnitude N(H₂O)/N(H₂) ≈ 5 x 10⁻⁸



Variations of the abundance:

Scatter seems more important with N_H than N(H₂) N(H₂O)/N_H increases with f(H2) while N(H₂O)/N(H₂) keeps constant => N(H₂O) tracer of N(H2) rather than of N_H

| Cloud | $N(\mathrm{H}_{2}\mathrm{O})/N(\mathrm{H}_{2})$ | $N(\mathrm{H_2O})/N_H$ |
|---|---|------------------------|
| DR21(OH) (4 to 18 km s ^{-1}) | $4.7^{+0.8}_{-0.4}$ | < 0.77 |
| G34.3+0.1 (8 to 16 km s ^{-1}) | $7.7^{+2.7}_{1.1}$ | $1.2^{+0.3}_{0.1}$ |
| G34.3+0.1 (22 to 34 km s ^{-1}) | $4.2^{+2.2}_{0.6}$ | $0.41_{0.02}^{+0.17}$ |
| G34.3+0.1 (42 to 55 km s ^{-1}) | <10.4 | - |
| W33(A) (21 to 26 km s ^{-1}) | 4_1^{+2} | $0.38^{+0.16}_{0.03}$ |
| W33(A) (26 to 31.5 km s ^{-1}) | $4.8^{+2.3}_{0.8}$ | $1.2^{+0.4}_{0.1}$ |
| W49(N) (26 to 48 km s ^{-1}) | 5^{+2}_{1} | $0.8^{+0.2}_{0.1}$ |
| W49(N) (48 to 73 km s ^{-1}) | $4.3^{+0.9}_{0.7}$ | $1.0^{+0.1}_{0.1}$ |
| W51 (3 to 15 km s ^{-1}) | 6^{+3}_{2} | $0.94^{+0.1}_{0.01}$ |
| W51 (44 to 51 km s ^{-1}) | 12^{+15}_{4} | <1.1 |

Note. — N(H₂O) are in units of 10^{12} cm⁻². N(H₂) and N_H are in units of 10^{20} cm⁻². Abundances are in units of 10^{-8} .

Ortho to para ratio

- Value of 3 expected at high temperature (above ≈ 40K)
- Herschel allows for the first time to actually measure the OPR rather than assuming a value of 3
- Temperature in the observed translucent clouds is expected to be 50-100 K (lower in most dense clouds)





Ortho to para ratio



Out of 13 clouds, 10 have an OPR less than 3- σ away from a value of 3.0 (1 cloud has an OPR above 3.0)

Lowest OPR values are in two clouds with the highest column density. Expected temperature lower than 50K. In their densest parts, water could be stuck on grains. Cold water released from ice. Longer thermalisation time in translucent (10⁷ years) than opaque regions (10⁵ years) because of lower density.

Water in the Galaxy

- Most complete set of observations of water in Galactic translucent clouds
- Solumn density of water (10¹²-10¹⁴ cm⁻²) very well correlated with that of molecular hydrogen:
 - X(H₂O) = 5 x 10⁻⁸
- Ortho ground state transitions allow constrain of excitation
 temperature (< 5K) and fractional abundance in excited levels (<< 1%)
 OPR in agreement with value of 3 except in two clouds with high column density which relates to cold event in the history of the water molecules

Common sources in the PRISMAS/WISH programs

W33A,

DR21(OH) -



E/k (K)



Luis Chavarria: W33A, DR21(OH)

Density profiles and source size were estimated using SCUBA data. Mass and luminosity estimations are from the SED fitting.