P15a Abundant CH₃OH in the Cold Starless Core TMC-1

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CH₃OH is thought to be produced mainly on grain mantles, and released into the gas phase by various star-formation activities. Since its abundance is apparently enhanced in the shocked region such as L1157B1, CH₃OH is sometimes used as a shock tracer. However, CH₃OH is moderately abundant even in cold starless cores like TMC-1 ($T_k \sim 10$ K), although no heating sources are embedded there. Since evaporation temperature of CH₃OH is about 100 K, existence of CH₃OH in TMC-1 is puzzling.

Recently, we have conducted high velocity-resolution observations of CH₃OH toward TMC-1(Cyanopolyyne Peak; CP). We have found that the line shape of CH₃OH is much different from those of other carbon chain molecules. We have also conducted mapping observations of CH₃OH ($J_k = 2_k - 1_k$), C³⁴S(J = 2 - 1) and C¹⁸O(J = 2 - 1) around TMC-1(CP), and revealed that the distribution of CH₃OH is anticorrelated with that of C³⁴S. This difference would be an important clue to understand the mechanism of CH₃OH production.

We are considering two possible mechanisms for ${\rm CH_3OH}$ desorption from grain mantles in starless cores. One is soft shock caused by collisions of small clumps inside the core and/or accretion motions of envelope materials onto the core. The other is desorption by cosmic-ray induced UV. In any case, the distribution of ${\rm CH_3OH}$ would not follow the distribution of the dense gas (*i.e.* CS), being consistent with our observation. It seems likely that the molecular composition in the gas phase would be affected by non-thermal desorption processes of grain mantles in starless cores.