

PDF issue: 2025-12-05

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(Citation)

Astronomical Journal, 153(5):228-228

(Issue Date) 2017-05

(Resource Type)
journal article

(Version)

Version of Record

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(URL)

https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.14094/90004348





Anisotropic Ejection from Active Asteroid P/2010 A2: An Implication of Impact Shattering on an Asteroid*

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Abstract

We revisited a mass ejection phenomenon that occurred in asteroid P/2010 A2 in terms of the dynamical properties of the dust particles and large fragments. We constructed a model assuming anisotropic ejection within a solid cone-shaped jet and succeeded in reproducing the time-variant features in archival observational images over ~3 years from 2010 January to 2012 October. We assumed that the dust particles and fragments were ejected in the same direction from a point where no object had been detected in any observations, and the anisotropic model explains all of the observations including (i) the unique dust cloud morphology, (ii) the trail surface brightness, and (iii) the motions of the fragments. Our results suggest that the original body was shattered by an impact with specific energy $Q^* \lesssim 350 \,\mathrm{J\,kg^{-1}}$, and remnants of slow antipodal ejecta (i.e., anisotropic ejection in our model) were observed as P/2010 A2. The observed quantities are consistent with those obtained through laboratory impact experiments, supporting the idea that the P/2010 A2 event is the first evidence of the impact shattering that occurred in the present main asteroid belt.

Key words: minor planets, asteroids: general – minor planets, asteroids: individual (P/2010 A2)

1. Introduction

P/2010 A2 is the fifth recognized "active asteroid." It was discovered on 2010 January 6 by the Lincoln Near Earth Asteroid Research (LINEAR) survey (Birtwhistle et al. 2010). It orbits in the main asteroid belt but exhibits a dust ejection like comets (Hsieh & Jewitt 2006; Jewitt et al. 2015). After the discovery, intensive follow-up observations were performed using a variety of ground-based and space telescopes to reveal the mass ejection mechanism. It displayed a distinctive morphology of the dust cloud (see Figure 1) with a prominent point-like source that is approximately 120 m in diameter (hereafter the largest fragment, LF) at the leading edge of the dust trail. Two arc-like structures were noticed at the eastern edge of the dust trail (arc A and B). In addition, several decimeter-sized or larger sub-fragments were found along the arcs (Jewitt et al. 2010; Agarwal et al. 2013). It was also noticed that a fainter structure (hereafter outer diffuse source) extended more widely than the dust trail (Hainaut et al. 2012; Kleyna et al. 2013).

The mass ejection mechanism of the asteroid still remains inconclusive, although there are several efforts to understand the cause through dynamical modeling of the dust particles and fragments. In an early study, Moreno et al. (2010) considered that the dust particles were ejected continuously by sublimation of ice. Later, it became clear that the mass was ejected impulsively rather than continuously on a day in 2009 February or March by either an impact or rotational breakup (Jewitt et al. 2010). Kleyna et al. (2013) argued that the arcs are associated with a hollow impact cone, suggesting that a decameter-sized crater was formed on the LF. On the other hand, Agarwal et al. (2013) studied the motions of subfragments using a series of high-resolution images taken by the

Hubble Space Telescope (HST) from 2010 January to May and suggested that the mass was ejected in the equatorial plane of the LF by centrifugal force (called rotational breakup). Jewitt et al. (2013) further obtained an observational image in 2012 October from the 10 m Keck I telescope and conducted a model simulation of dust particles to understand the observed image. They claimed that their observation was consistent with an impact close to the shattering threshold, although they could not rule out the possibility of a rotational breakup. Therefore, the interpretations of the comet-like activity are incoherent, that is, either impact shattering, cratering, or rotational breakup.

Here, we note that none of the previous dynamical modeling is successful in reproducing the multi-epoch observed features (i.e., the time-variant dust cloud morphology, the trail surface brightness, and the motions of fragments). For example, Jewitt et al. (2013) did not deal with observation images taken before 2012, while Agarwal et al. (2013) seem to not replicate the trail surface brightness in 2012 (see their Figure 8). With the exception of Agarwal et al. (2013), no studies considered the motions of the fragments. To complement the incomplete modeling and elicit further information about this mysterious phenomenon, we revisited archival observations taken from 2010 January to 2012 October together with our unpublished observation conducted using the 8.2 m Subaru telescope in 2011 June (see Figure 2, Table 1, and the abbreviations therein) and constructed a new model that could replicate these timevariant features in the archival observation data over \sim 3 years since its discovery.

The rest of this paper is organized as follows. Section 2 describes the model details, and Section 3 presents the results of the dust modeling and further analysis of the fragment motion. We discuss the results based on the knowledge obtained through laboratory impact experiments in Section 4 and summarize the findings and their physical implications in Section 5.

^{*} Based in part on data collected at Subaru Telescope, which is operated by the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan.

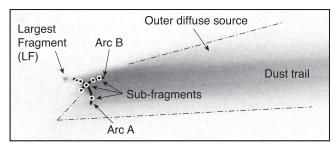


Figure 1. Schematic diagram illustrating the major features of P/2010 A2 onto the background image of Gemini-2010. The image has the standard orientation in the sky: north is up and east is to the left. The FOV is $1'.2 \times 0'.5$. The open circles denote the positions of sub-fragments, while the thick solid lines show the locations of arc A and arc B. All of these fine structures are written in Agarwal et al. (2013). The outer diffuse source is enclosed by the dot-and-dash lines

2. Model Description

To understand the time-variant morphology and surface brightness distribution over the entire period of the available observations (i.e., \sim 3 years from 2010 January to 2012 October) in a comprehensive manner, we conducted a dynamical simulation of dust particles taking into account solar gravity and radiation pressure (Ishiguro et al. 2007, 2011, 2013). The trajectory of a dust particle is determined by the particle radius and the ejection velocity (Finson & Probstein 1968). The size of the particle can be parameterized by β , the ratio of radiation pressure acceleration to solar gravity. For a spherical particle, β is given by

$$\beta = \frac{KQ_{\rm pr}}{\rho_{\rm d}a_{\rm d}},\tag{1}$$

where $a_{\rm d}$ and $\rho_{\rm d}$ are the particle radius and the mass density in the MKS units, respectively. For large fragments, the β values can be approximated to zero. Because the P/2010 A2 dust particles have a composition that is similar to ordinary chondrites (Kim et al. 2012), we assumed $\rho_{\rm d}=3000~{\rm kg~m^{-3}}$, which is a typical value for their bulk density (Britt et al. 2002). This assumption is consistent with previous research (Jewitt et al. 2010, 2013; Kleyna et al. 2013). $K=5.7\times10^{-4}~{\rm kg~m^{-2}}$ is a constant, and $Q_{\rm pr}$ is a radiation pressure coefficient that we considered to be unity (Burns et al. 1979). We supposed an impulsive dust ejection on 2009 March 2 following the previous research (Jewitt et al. 2010, 2013; Agarwal et al. 2013). We employed a size-dependent terminal speed for the dust particles:

$$V_{\rm ej} = V_0 \left(\frac{\beta}{\beta_{\rm min}}\right)^{u_1} \,, \tag{2}$$

where V_0 is the reference ejection speed for the largest particles $(\beta = \beta_{\min})$. The exponent, u_1 , is the power index of the size-dependent ejection speed. The number of dust particles is given by

$$N(a_{\rm d}) da_{\rm d} = N_0 \left(\frac{a_{\rm d}}{a_0}\right)^{-q} da_{\rm d} ,$$
 (3)

in the size range of $a_{\min} \leqslant a_{\rm d} \leqslant a_{\max}$, where a_{\min} and a_{\max} are the minimum and maximum particle sizes given by $a_{\min} = KQ_{\rm pr}/\rho_{\rm d}\beta_{\max}$ and $a_{\max} = KQ_{\rm pr}/\rho_{\rm d}\beta_{\min}$, respectively.

q is the power index of the differential size distribution. N_0 is the reference number of dust particles at the reference size of $a_0 = 1$ m.

The assumptions and model above are, in principle, the same as those in Jewitt et al. (2013), where they assumed a sizeindependent (i.e., $u_1 = 0$ in Equation (2)) "isotropic" ejection (also see Table 2 for the model parameters of the isotropic model). Namely, they considered that the dust particles were ejected in every direction without thinking of the size dependency of the ejection speed. In addition, Jewitt et al. (2013) assumed that the dust particles were ejected from the observed position of the LF. Figure 3 shows a comparison between the isotropic model and the observations at different epochs. It is true that the isotropic model reproduced the observed morphology and surface brightness distribution in the Keck-2012 image well, but in our opinion, it is not satisfactory to explain the time evolution of the dust cloud. In particular, we would like to draw attention to the unique morphology observed in early 2010 (the arcs), which is not present in the isotropic ejection model images of the early 2010 observations. Therefore, certain modifications are required to ensure consistency with the observations in early 2010.

There are several ideas for the creation of the arc-like features. For example, assuming little or no radiation pressure, it would be possible to replicate arc features that are consistent with the images at a single epoch or for a certain short time duration (Agarwal et al. 2013; Kleyna et al. 2013). However, as we mentioned above, these models do not reproduce the morphology and brightness distribution at different epochs. We noticed that arc A can be produced without thinking of exquisite dust ejection models when we assumed a simple cone-shaped jet with a half-opening angle of w (not an impact hollow cone but a solid cone), although we initially did not consider the physical implication of the ejection model. Figure 4 shows the example of model images with a hemispherical (i.e., $w = 90^{\circ}$) dust ejection considering different orientations of the central axis of the cone-shaped jet. It is clear that some model images show arc A at the eastern edge of the trail structure, which is similar to the observations in early 2010 (see Figures 2(a) and (b)). We noticed that the brightness enhancement of arc A can be explained by the high existence probability of the largest particles that were ejected at similar ejection velocities. Such particles tend to form a cut end of the dust trail at the leading edge when they were ejected toward the trailing direction of the orbital motion. For this reason, we modified the isotropic model to what we call an "anisotropic model," where we assumed that dust particles were ejected symmetrically with respect to a direction in the inertial frame (i.e., toward R.A. α_{iet} and decl. δ_{iet}) in a cone-shaped jet with a half-opening angle of w, and searched for the best-fit parameter set to match the observed data. In addition, we left the position of the dust source (i.e., the dust ejection point, DEP) out of our consideration in order not to be fixated on the previous ideas (although the dust particles were assumed to have originated from the LF in the previous publications). In order to keep the constant width of the dust trail in the model, we imposed a constraint of the reference ejection speed of $V_0 \propto \sin(w)^{-1}$ (see, e.g., Ishiguro et al. 2016). Once we obtained the positions of the dust particles in celestial coordinates by analytically solving the Kepler equation with solar radiation pressure, we calculated the cross-sectional areas of the dust particles in the

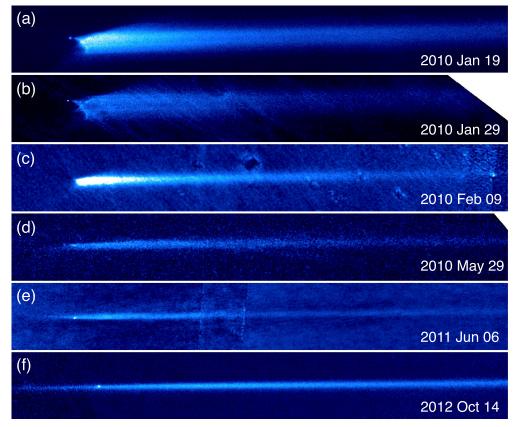


Figure 2. Observed composite images at six different epochs: (a) Gemini-2010 (138" wide), (b) HST-2010 (96" wide), (c) CFHT-2010 (257" wide), (d) HST-2010 (73" wide), (e) Subaru-2011 (521" wide), and (f) Keck-2012 (310" wide). These images were rotated to align the trail orientation horizontally. Note that the background objects such as galaxies and stars in each exposure were erased when we combined these images (see, e.g., Ishiguro 2008).

CCD coordinate system:

$$C_{\text{pixel}}(x, y) = \int_{a_{\min}}^{a_{\max}} N_{\text{cal}}(a_{\text{d}}, x, y) \pi a_{\text{d}}^2 da_{\text{d}},$$
 (4)

where $N_{\rm cal}(a_{\rm d}, x, y)$ is the number of dust particles counted within a pixel at the coordinates (x, y) in a CCD image. A full list of free parameters and the test range is shown in Table 2.

3. Results

3.1. Dust Cloud Morphology and Surface Brightness

Among the eight unknown parameters in our model above $(\alpha_{\text{jet}}, \delta_{\text{jet}}, w, \beta_{\text{max}}, \beta_{\text{min}}, V_0, u_1, q)$, we first determined the three parameters for a cone-shaped jet. We measured the position angle (PA) connecting two edges of arc A from the observation images of Gemini-2010, from the east edge to the west edge, $PA = 45^{\circ}0$ with respect to the south direction. We then created a number of simulation images with a hemispherical (i.e., $w = 90^{\circ}$) dust ejection considering different orientations of the central axis of the cone-shaped jet $(\alpha_{iet}, \delta_{jet})$ and measured the PA of each modeled arcs (Figure 4). We found that the best-fit on arc A can be obtained when the particles ejected in a jet direction of $25^{\circ} \lesssim \alpha_{\rm jet} \lesssim 40^{\circ}$ and $30^{\circ} \lesssim \delta_{\rm jet} \lesssim 40^{\circ}$. The PA was independent of w. Assuming a jet direction of $(35^{\circ}, 35^{\circ})$, w was derived using the curvature κ of the forth-order polynomials f(x) fitted to the (x, y) positions of modeled arcs where we reversed x and y (i.e., (y, x)), at $x = x_0$ where it makes the most distant point from the line connecting two

edges of the arc:

$$\kappa = \frac{|f''(x)|}{[1 + f'(x)^2]^{3/2}},$$
(5)

where we measured $\kappa = 4.07 \times 10^{-2}$ from the observation images of Gemini-2010. We obtained $20^{\circ} \lesssim w \lesssim 30^{\circ}$. Repeating the process using different jet directions in the plausible ranges gives the same solution of w. Once we fixed $(\alpha_{\rm jet}, \delta_{\rm jet}, w)$, we obtained the DEP as an outcome (see more descriptions in Section 3.2).

Second, we determined the smallest particles size ($\beta_{\rm max}$) and the power index of the size-dependent ejection speed (u_1) using the Subaru-2011 image. Small particles were susceptible to the solar radiation pressure and difficult to detect in images with narrow fields of view (FOVs). We found the Subaru-2011 image taken with the wide-field camera Suprime-Cam was the best to determine the smallest particle size because it has the largest orbital coverage (a delta mean anomaly of 0°.42). We obtained $\beta_{\rm max} = 7 \times 10^{-4}$ ($a_{\rm d} = 270~\mu{\rm m}$) from the comparison of observation and model images to explain the existence of the dust trail that extended beyond the FOV of the Subaru-2011 image.

Figure 5 shows the width of the trail as a function of distance from the reference point (i.e., the DEP), where we measured the width from the FWHM of a series of surface cut profiles perpendicular to the trail. In the figure, we found that the trail widened sharply at 40''-80'' (open circles) and moderately beyond 80'' (filled circles) as the distance increased. We ignored the data at 40''-80'' because we might have sampled

Table 1Observation Summary

UT Date	Telescope	Filter	$R_{\rm h}^{\; \rm a}$	$\Delta^{\mathbf{b}}$	$\alpha^{\mathbf{c}}$	$ u^{\mathbf{d}}$	Abbreviation ^e	References
2009 Mar 02	(Possible date of disruption)		2.269	3.224	5.6	-93	•••	
2010 Jan 19	Gemini	r'	2.015	1.055	8.5	17	Gemini-2010	(2)
2010 Jan 25	HST	F606W	2.018	1.078	11.5	19	HST-2010	(1)
2010 Jan 29	HST	F606W	2.019	1.099	13.5	20	HST-2010	(1)
2010 Feb 09	CFHT	R	2.026	1.175	18.7	25	CFHT-2010	
2010 Feb 22	HST	F606W	2.034	1.286	23.1	29	HST-2010	(1)
2010 Mar 12	HST	F606W	2.047	1.473	27.0	36	HST-2010	(1)
2010 Apr 02	HST	F606W	2.066	1.717	28.8	43	HST-2010	(1)
2010 Apr 19	HST	F606W	2.083	1.922	28.7	49	HST-2010	(1)
2010 May 08	HST	F606W	2.105	2.150	27.4	55	HST-2010	(1)
2010 May 29	HST	F606W	2.130	2.393	25.0	62	HST-2010	(1)
2011 Jun 06	Subaru	g'	2.556	1.547	3.2	161	Subaru-2011	
2012 Oct 14	Keck	B	2.189	1.202	5.2	-76	Keck-2012	(3)

Notes.

References. (1) Jewitt et al. (2010), (2) Hainaut et al. (2012), (3) Jewitt et al. (2013).

the data from the fine structures (i.e., arcs A and B) and fitted the slope with a power-law function (dashed line). Since smaller particles were distributed farther via the solar radiation pressure, the observed widening beyond 80" suggests that the smaller particles were ejected with higher ejection velocity. We derived the power index of the size-dependent ejection speed $u_1 = 0.10 \pm 0.02$ through the power-law fitting on the relation between width (i.e., ejection speed perpendicular to the orbital plane) and distance (i.e., proportional to β assuming that the dust motion parallel to the orbit plane is determined by radiation pressure acceleration). Once we determined these five parameters (α_{jet} , δ_{jet} , w, β_{max} , and u_1), we deduced plausible values of V_0 , β_{\min} , and q, considering both morphology and surface brightness of the dust trail at multiple observation epochs. Through comparison with our dynamical model, we derived V_0 and β_{\min} by fitting the overall trail width and the extent of arc A (i.e., cut end of the trail), which is sensitive to the ejection speed of the largest trail particles. The best-fit V_0 and u_1 resulted in the maximum speed for the smallest particles of $\sim 0.50 \,\mathrm{m \, s^{-1}}$.

In Table 2, we summarized the best-fit parameters for our dynamical model. The best-fit model shows good agreement with the observed morphology at any epochs in 2010-2012 (in the middle row of Figure 6). Moreover, the model also fits the surface brightness distribution in a broad sense (Figure 7), although there are modest differences near the peaks that can be improved by a fine tuning of the number of dust particles around the maximum size. Because our new model parameters were obtained by following the isotropic model, the results (especially the size and the size distribution) are consistent with those in Jewitt et al. (2013). However, the trivial modification to the anisotropic dust ejection resulted in a remarkable improvement in reproducing the observed morphology (the trail and arc A) at any observation epochs over \sim 3 years. We would like to insist that this is the first success, which demonstrates the consistency with both the time-variant morphology and the surface brightness profiles simultaneously. The remaining feature that is not produced in our model is arc B, which will be discussed later.

3.2. The Location of the LF and the DEP

As we mentioned in Section 2, we did not specify any "detectable objects" as the dust source and determined the model parameters in Section 3.1. Since the LF had been considered to be the dust source in all previous research, it is important to examine the location of the LF with respect to the dust cloud in our model simulation. We hence calculated the positions of $\approx 10^6$ test particles using the same anisotropic model, where we fixed $\beta = 0$ and $V_{ei} = V_0$ to take into account only the large particles without the solar radiation pressure effect. We found that the big test particles $(\beta = 0)$ tend to appear along the arc with a high probability, where the arc is morphologically identical to arc A ($\beta = \beta_{\min}$) with a negligible offset of ~ 0.4 (i.e., unresolved under the ground-based seeing disk size), because such large dust particles ($\beta \le 10^{-6}$) are almost stationary against the solar radiation pressure. Figure 6 (bottom row) shows the existence probability of the LF together with the observation images (top) and dust model images (middle) for three different epochs in 2010, 2011, and 2012. Over the years, the positions of the largest test particles show good agreement with the modeled arc A. From the result, we conjectured that intermediate-sized fragments (from decimeter to hundred-meter particles) might distribute along arc A with high probability, but only the LF had been detected because it is brighter than the detection limits of these observations. In Figure 6, crosses show the location of the DEP. It is important to note that the DEP deviated from the observed position of the LF. This result implies that dust particles were not ejected from the LF, but from a position where no object was detected from any observations (which will be discussed later). Similar trends can be seen in the surface brightness profiles (Figure 7). Although the derived parameters are very similar between the isotropic model and our anisotropic model, these two differ in that the former assumed that the dust ejection was from the LF, while the latter

^a Heliocentric distance (au).

^b Geocentric distance (au).

^c Solar phase angle (degrees).

d True anomaly (degrees).

^e Abbreviation to refer to the observation in the text.

Table 2 Model Parameters

Parameter	Input Values (for Anisotropic Model)	Best-fit Values (Isotropic) ^a	Best-fit Values (Anisotropic) ^b	Best-fit Values (Fragment) ^c
$\overline{u_1}$	0.1 (fixed)	0	0.1	
q	3.0-4.0 with 0.1 interval	3.5	3.5	
β_{\max}	7×10^{-5} -1 × 10^{-3} with 1 × 10^{-5} interval	7×10^{-5}	7×10^{-4}	0
β_{\min}	$1 \times 10^{-7} - 9 \times 10^{-6}$ with 1×10^{-6} interval	1×10^{-6}	1×10^{-6}	0
$V_0 \; ({\rm m \; s}^{-1})$	0.03-0.53 with 0.05 interval	0.15	0.28	0.28
w (degree)	15–90 with 5 interval	180	20-30	20-30
$\alpha_{\rm jet}$ (degree)	0–360 with 5 interval		25–40	25-40
$\delta_{\rm jet}$ (degree)	-90 to $+90$ with 5 interval	•••	30–40	30–40

Notes.

assumed that it was from a position where no object had been detected.

We examined the orbital difference between the LF and the DEP. We analyzed the positions of the LF and the DEP in \sim 40 epoch observations with relevant model images and derived the orbital elements in the J2000 coordinate system using the Find_Orb⁴ software package. Table 3 shows the osculating orbital elements (a, e, i) of the LF and the DEP. We found the best set of orbital elements with a negligible residual in the celestial plane (~ 0.7). The orbital elements of the DEP are consistent with those of the LF down to the \sim 4th decimal place but significantly different from them to an accuracy of the uncertainties (around the ~5th decimal place, from NASA/JPL Small-body Database Browser³). To confirm if the orbital elements of the LF are available for our dust model, we performed another set of anisotropic model simulations using the new orbital elements for the DEP, but we could not find any notable differences in the modeled dust morphology. This means that the trivial difference in the orbital elements does not change the above results for our dust model simulation.

3.3. Motions of the Fragments

We performed further analysis on the motions of the fragments distributed along arcs A and B, following the designation in Agarwal et al. (2013). The motions of the fragments were thoroughly studied in Agarwal et al. (2013), where they regarded the LF as the source and investigated the motion with respect to the LF. However, because the fragments and dust particles are not ejected from the LF in our above analysis, we should reconsider the motion with respect to the DEP that we derived above. Figure 8(a) shows the observed sky-plane trajectories of fragments from UT 2010 January 25 to May 8 with respect to the DEP, showing the positions at the first epoch of the HST-2010 image as the filled circles. We show the motions of not only these fragments (labeled with A1, A2, A3, AB, B1, B2, and B3) but also the LF because the LF is no longer the source of the materials. We found that all fragments were moving toward the northwest in the observed frame.

To give an interpretation of the motion, we examined the trajectories of the fragments (i.e., $\beta = 0$) through a dynamical

analysis. Figure 8(b) shows the calculated trajectories of the fragments ejected from the DEP on UT 2009 March 2 (the same day as the dust ejection) with different ejection directions. We employed the orbital elements of the DEP derived in Section 3.2 and considered the fragment ejection in every direction (i.e., isotropic ejection) to think about all possibilities. We found that the observed trajectories can be explained only when these objects were ejected in the same direction as the dust particles in our anisotropic dust model (Table 2). The agreement suggests that the large fragments were ejected together with the small dust particles from the DEP in the same direction (i.e., $25^{\circ} \lesssim \alpha_{\rm jet} \lesssim 40^{\circ}$ and $30^{\circ} \lesssim \delta_{\rm jet} \lesssim 40^{\circ}$ with $20^{\circ} \lesssim w \lesssim 30^{\circ}$). We derived the typical ejection speed of the fragments of $V_{\rm ej} = 0.28~{\rm m\,s^{-1}}$ from this dynamical analysis, which is consistent with the best-fit V_0 (the velocity of the largest dust particles) value in our anisotropic dust model.

In Figure 8(a), the trajectories of the fragments on arc B (i.e., AB, B1, B2, and B3) concentrated on the narrow region and aligned parallel to the bulk motion of the fragments projected onto the sky plane. To explain the trend on arc B, we further ran a dynamical simulation of 100 test particles using our bestfit fragment model (Table 2) and compared them to the observed trajectories of the eight fragments. For convenience of classification, we divided them into two groups: group A for the fragments having similar trajectories to the LF, A1, A2, and A3 (i.e., arc A) and group B for the fragments having similar trajectories to B1, B2, and B3 (i.e., arc B). In the case of ABlike fragments that intersect both arcs A and B, we regarded them as group A. By visual inspection, we classified 100 test particles into two groups, that is, 53 and 19 particles are in groups A and B, respectively. Since we strictly selected the test particles only when they are almost identical to those fragments, 28 test particles were not classified into any group. We then recorded the initial velocity information about the selected particles in equatorial rectangular coordinates, (v_x, v_y, v_z) , and reconstructed the ejection velocity field at the moment of disruption as shown in Figure 9. From the cone axis-centered view (Figure 9(a)), we found that group B particles (black) have a limited spatial distribution, while group A particles (gray) have an almost isotropic distribution within a cone-shaped jet. The edge-on view (Figure 9(b)) suggests that the ejection velocity field of group B particles is almost parallel to the jet direction (i.e., the bulk motion of fragments), as we expected from Figure 8(a). For quantitative analysis, we can

^a Jewitt et al. (2013).

^b This work ($\beta \neq 0$ for dust particles).

^c This work (fragment; $\beta = 0$ for fragments).

⁴ http://www.projectpluto.com/find_orb.htm

⁵ http://ssd.jpl.nasa.gov/

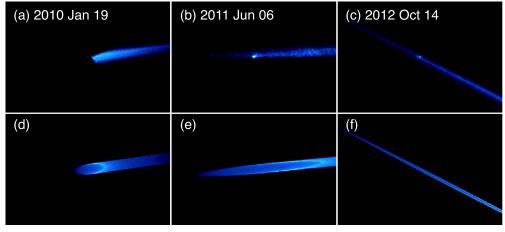


Figure 3. Comparison between the observed images and the "isotropic model" images at three different epochs. The top three figures are the observed images for (a) Gemini-2010, (b) Subaru-2011, and (c) Keck-2012, and the bottom three figures are the model images for (d) Gemini-2010, (e) Subaru-2011, and (f) Keck-2012. The parameters in these model images are the same as those in Jewitt et al. (2013; also see Table 2), where they assumed that the DEP is located at the LF (i.e., the center of these images). All of these images have an FOV of 1.45×0.97 in the standard orientation: north is up and east is to the left.

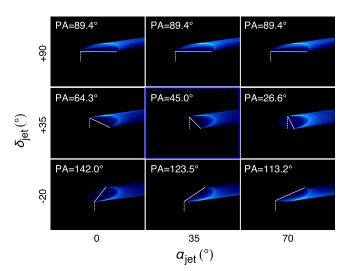


Figure 4. Examples of the "anisotropic model" images for the observation on 2010 January 19 considering a hemispherical (i.e., $w=90^\circ$) dust ejection with different jet orientations as labeled. Except $\alpha_{\rm jet}$, $\delta_{\rm jet}$, and w, we employed the same parameters as shown in Table 2. In these figures, $\alpha_{\rm jet}$ values are constant along the column while $\delta_{\rm jet}$ values are constant along the row. In all panels, the DEP is located at the center. To evaluate each images, we measured the position angle (PA) connecting two edges of the arc from the east edge to the west edge (solid lines), with respect to the south direction (dashed lines).

consider the total unit velocity vector with respect to the DEP, \hat{v}_{tot} ,

$$\mathbf{v}_{\text{tot}} = (v_{x,\text{tot}}, v_{y,\text{tot}}, v_{z,\text{tot}}) = \sum_{i}^{\text{Ntp}} (v_{x,i}, v_{y,i}, v_{z,i}) ,$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{v}}_{\text{tot}} = \frac{\mathbf{v}_{\text{tot}}}{(v_{x,\text{tot}}^2 + v_{y,\text{tot}}^2 + v_{z,\text{tot}}^2)^{1/2}} ,$$
(6)

where we calculated the total unit velocity vectors as $\hat{v}_{tot,A} = (0.717, 0.389, 0.579)$ and $\hat{v}_{tot,B} = (0.672, 0.457, 0.583)$ for the group A and B fragments, respectively. It is notable that $\hat{v}_{tot,B}$ has a negligible separation of \sim 0.9 with respect to the jet centroid (35°, 35°), while $\hat{v}_{tot,A}$ has a relatively wide separation of \sim 5°.3. Further discussion will be provided in Section 4.2.

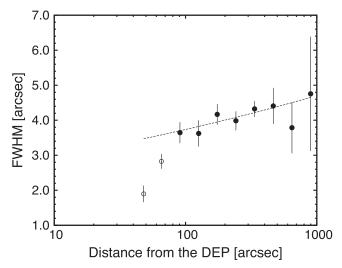


Figure 5. FWHM of the trail with respect to the distance from the LF measured using the Subaru-2011 image. The observed data beyond 80'' (filled circles) are fitted by an exponential function with an index of 0.10 ± 0.02 (dashed line).

4. Discussion

For both dust particles and fragments, key features to be explained include

- 1. Absence of the central body at the DEP;
- 2. Anisotropic ejection with a limited angle;
- 3. Low ejection speed ($\ll 1 \text{ m s}^{-1}$); and
- 4. Similarity in ejection speeds between fragments and largest dust particles ($V_{\rm ei} \approx V_0$).

4.1. Ejection Mechanism

Four ejection mechanisms have been suggested so far, that is, sublimation of ice (Moreno et al. 2010), rotational breakup (Jewitt et al. 2010; Marzari et al. 2011; Agarwal et al. 2013), impact cratering (Hainaut et al. 2012; Kleyna et al. 2013), and impact shattering (also called "catastrophic disruption"; Jewitt et al. 2010; Snodgrass et al. 2010; Kim et al. 2012). Here, we evaluate four mechanisms with two fundamental questions. (i) Does it require momentum conservation on the original body?

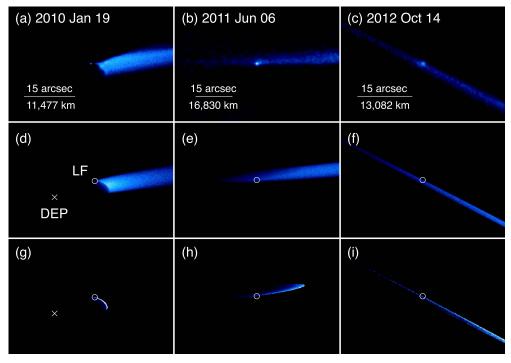


Figure 6. Observation images at three different epochs (top), the anisotropic model images with the best-fit parameters (middle), and the existence probability maps of the large fragments (bottom) for the observation of Gemini-2010 (a, d, g), Subaru-2011 (b, e, h), and Keck-2012 (c, f, i). The positions of the LF and DEP are indicated by open circles and crosses, respectively. We do not show the positions of the DEP in the second and third columns (Subaru-2011 and Keck-2012) because they exist beyond the FOV. The best-fit model parameters are summarized in Table 2.

(ii) Does it require the central body (i.e., the LF) survived at the DEP?

To answer the first question (i), sublimation and rotational breakup require momentum conservation on the original body before and after the mass loss (i.e., total ejecta momentum should be zero with respect to the DEP), where we assumed there is no external force. On the other hand, we expect nonconservation of momentum from an impact unless we take into account the external momentum because impact projectile injects momentum into the target asteroid. In the case of P/ 2010 A2, most of the mass is occupied by large fragments rather than small dust particles, while the ejection velocities are approximately the same regardless of the size, suggesting that the largest bodies make up a significant proportion of the total momentum. We thus consider the sum of momentum of the eight largest fragments with respect to the DEP as a proxy for the total momentum in the system and found that it never converges to zero in our model (cf. Section 3.3). Independently, we revisited a rotational breakup model where the DEP was assumed to be the LF (Agarwal et al. 2013) and considered the total momentum of seven sub-fragments with respect to the LF. All sub-fragments had negative velocities in the y- and zdirections, meaning that the total momentum may not converge to zero regardless of the individual fragment masses and xvelocities. We conclude that momentum may not be conserved on the original body of P/2010 A2, which rules out the two mechanisms requiring zero total momentum, i.e., sublimation and rotational breakup.

The second question (ii) is actually a criterion to judge the degree of the fragmentation of the target asteroid to differentiate the two remaining possibilities, i.e., impact cratering and shattering. Both are impacts, but a shattering (i.e., complete target destruction) require more "specific energy" (impact kinetic energy per total mass of the system)

than a cratering (i.e., partial target destruction). The central body must survive from an impact cratering, whereas it may not survive from an impact shattering, leaving nothing at the DEP but produced interplanetary debris. The point of the issue is summarized in Table 4. From the two aspects that (i) there is a non-zero value of the total momentum in the system and (ii) no central body existed at the DEP, we arrived at the conclusion that the ejection mechanism of P/2010 A2 is an impact shattering.

4.2. Impact Shattering Interpretation

4.2.1. Comparison to Laboratory Experiments

To verify our hypothesis that P/2010 A2 is the debris from an impact shattering, we compare the results of our simulation to those of the laboratory impact experiments from the literature. In the laboratory experiments using various targets, it is commonly observed that small ($\lesssim 100 \ \mu m$) particles with high velocities ($>10 \,\mathrm{m\,s}^{-1}$) are produced at the point of impact in the opposite direction of the impact trajectory (cf. Figure 10), while the largest and slowest fragments are usually located directly opposite the impact site, which we call "antipodal" fragments (Asada 1985; Nakamura & Fujiwara 1991). Specifically for targets of basalt and gypsum, the antipodal region suffers the least fragmentation, and a number of large fragments are generated with a limited distribution around the antipodal point; it has been observed that such fragments have similar velocities (Giblin et al. 1998). Considering the typical antipodal velocity of \sim (5–10) m s⁻¹ in the shattering experiments, we notice that there is a velocity discrepancy between $P/2010 A2 (\ll 1 m s^{-1})$ and the laboratory counterparts. To eliminate the discrepancy and explain the low antipodal velocities, we consider two approaches as follows.

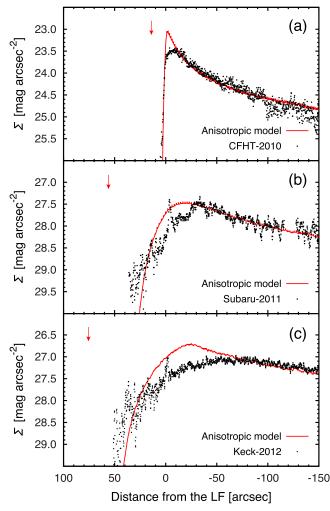


Figure 7. Comparison of the surface brightnesses (Σ) between the observations and the best-fit anisotropic model. These values were measured along the axis of the dust trail for the observations of (a) CFHT-2010 (R-band), (b) Subaru-2011 (g'-band), and (c) Keck-2012 (B-band). Distances are measured with respect to the position of LF. The locations of the DEPs in the model are indicated by arrows.

Table 3
Orbital Elements of the Largest Fragment (LF) and the
Dust Ejection Point (DEP), Epoch JD 2455160.5

	a^{a}	e^{b}	i ^c
P/2010 A2 (LF)	2.29008	0.12479	5.25389
P/2010 A2 (DEP)	2.29005	0.12480	5.25353

Notes.

- ^a Osculating semimajor axis (au).
- ^b Osculating eccentricity.
- ^c Osculating inclination (degrees).

The first approach is making the target weaker so that it is easily shattered by a relatively small specific energy, i.e., adopting the idea by Fujiwara (1987) that antipodal velocities decreased with decreasing specific energy. The key for low antipodal velocities will be to decrease the specific energy to as small as possible until it is enough to shatter a "weak" body. It has been suggested that a target with a low static strength should be easier to shatter via impact than high strength targets (Davis & Ryan 1990), while it is also known that

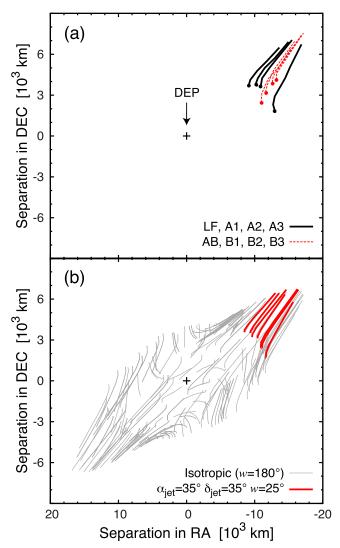
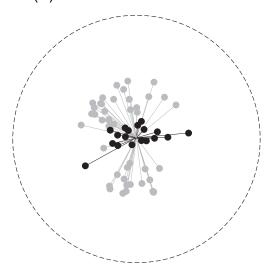


Figure 8. Motions of the fragments in a series of HST-2010 images from UT 2010 January 25 to UT 2010 May 8. Panel (a) shows the observed motion of eight fragments with respect to the DEP. The positions at the first observations on UT 2010 January 25 are marked with filled circles. Panel (b) displays the simulated trajectories of large ($\beta=0$) fragments ejected in every direction with $V_{\rm ej}=0.28~{\rm m~s^{-1}}$ (thin lines). Thick red lines show trajectories of seven sampled test particles ejected within a cone whose central axis points in the direction of (35°, 35°) having a half-opening angle of $w=25^{\circ}$.

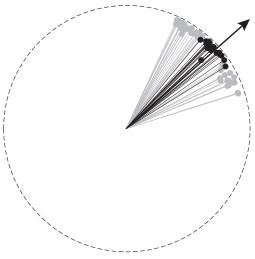
sub-kilometer- to kilometer-sized bodies are significantly weaker than bodies in other sizes (Housen & Holsapple 1999; Jewitt et al. 2010, 2013; Jutzi et al. 2010). Once the specific energy is enough to destroy a body, the second approach is damping the propagation of the shock wave through the target, sheltering the antipodal region from significant damage while intensifying the deposition of the shock energy at the impact point (Asphaug et al. 1998). It was reported that porous materials (e.g., gypsum and sandbags) have lower antipodal velocities than those of nonporous materials (e.g., basalt and ice) because pre-existing fractures and voids in the target body cause a rapid attenuation of shock pressure (Yanagisawa & Itoi 1994; Okamoto & Arakawa 2009).

To summarize the comparison between the results from P/2010 A2 and the laboratory experiments, we found that the large fragments generated around the antipodal point provide the best match to our results, i.e., anisotropic ejection with a limited angle and almost constant ejection speeds for large

(a) Cone axis-centered view



(b) Edge-on view*



*perpendicular to the cone axis

Figure 9. The projected ejection velocity of particles in group A (gray) and group B (black). Panel (a) is the cone axis-centered view, where the jet emerges in the direction perpendicular to this figure, while panel (b) is the edge-on view, where the jet direction of (35°, 35°) is indicated by the arrow. Filled circles denote the points on the sphere, while sold lines are the unit velocity vectors of each particle. The cross-sectional velocities on this figure distribute on the dashed lines.

Table 4
Mechanism Evaluation Chart

Mechanism	Momentum Cons. ^a	Central Body ^b	
Sublimation	0	0	
Rotational breakup	0	?	
Impact (cratering)	×	0	
Impact (shattering)	×	×	
P/2010 A2	×	×	

Notes

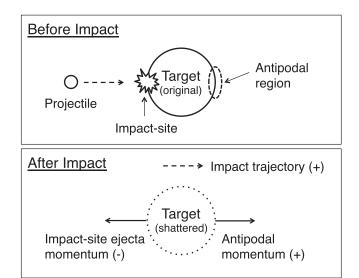


Figure 10. Conjectured configuration of the impact before (top) and after (bottom) the event. The components of the impact-site ejecta momentum (-), the antipodal momentum (+), and the impact trajectory (+) are illustrated by arrows. In this scenario, we conjecture that small and fast particles would be produced at the impact site and move in the opposite direction of the impact trajectory, while the largest and slowest fragments could be generated in the antipodal region (Section 4.2, Equation (7)) and move in the direction parallel to the impactor.

ejecta $(V_{\rm ej} \approx V_0)$. To explain the velocity discrepancy, we considered two possible approaches to reduce the antipodal velocities: (i) making the target weaker so that it is easily shattered by a relatively small specific energy (e.g., size and strength) and (ii) damping the propagation of the shock wave through the target (e.g., porosity). Combining all of the possible material properties of the affected asteroid, we speculate that the original body of P/2010 A2 could be a sub-kilometer-sized rubble-pile asteroid like (25143) Itokawa (i.e., a porous and low static strength asteroid).

4.2.2. Energy Estimation

Given the above considerations, to determine how realistic it is that the target asteroid can be shattered and produce low antipodal velocities, we can estimate the specific energy delivered to the target asteroid. The momentum conservation *taking into account* the injected projectile momentum can be written as (also see the configuration in Figure 10)

$$p_{\text{proj}}\hat{\boldsymbol{e}}_{\text{p}} = -p_{\text{ej}}\hat{\boldsymbol{e}}_{\text{p}} + \Delta p_{\text{target}}\hat{\boldsymbol{e}}_{\text{p}}, \qquad (7)$$

where \hat{e}_p is the unit vector of the direction along the projectile momentum, p_{proj} and p_{ej} are the components of the projectile and escaping impact-site ejecta momentum, respectively. A minus sign appeared in the ejecta term because the majority of the impact-site ejecta are expected to be generated in the opposite direction of the impact trajectory (Nakamura & Fujiwara 1991). Δp_{target} denotes the resulting momentum of the target along the impact direction (i.e., antipodal component). Assuming $\Delta p_{\text{target}} \sim M_{\text{anti}} v_{\text{anti}}$ where M_{anti} and v_{anti} are the sum of the antipodal fragment masses and the mean antipodal velocity (i.e., $0.28 \, \text{m s}^{-1}$), respectively, we can rewrite

^a Momentum conservation on the original body.

^b Presence of the central body at the DEP (LF = DEP?).

Equation (7) as

$$m_{\rm p}V_{\rm impact}$$
 + (impact-site ejecta momentum) = $M_{\rm anti}v_{\rm anti}$, (8)

where $m_{\rm p}$ and $V_{\rm impact}$ are mass of the projectile and the impact velocity, respectively. We assume $V_{\rm impact} \sim 5~{\rm km\,s^{-1}}$, which is the average collision velocity in the main asteroid belt (O'Brien et al. 2011). This indicates that

$$M_{\rm anti} v_{\rm anti} \gtrsim 2 \times m_{\rm p} V_{\rm impact},$$
 (9)

for collision with velocities higher than 5 km s^{-1} (Holsapple & Housen 2012; Housen & Holsapple 2015). In this case, the specific energy (impact kinetic energy per total mass of the system) is given as

$$Q^* \sim \frac{1}{2} \frac{m_{\rm p}}{M_{\rm anti}} V_{\rm impact}^2, \tag{10}$$

where we assume that the total mass of the system (i.e., the sum of projectile and target mass) can be approximated by $M_{\rm anti}$. Combining Equations (9) and (10) gives

$$Q^* \lesssim \frac{1}{2} \frac{v_{\text{anti}}}{2V_{\text{impact}}} V_{\text{impact}}^2 = \frac{1}{4} v_{\text{anti}} V_{\text{impact}}, \tag{11}$$

and we obtained $Q^* \lesssim 350\,\mathrm{J\,kg}^{-1}$. Interestingly, this energy density corresponds closely to the shattering threshold, Q_S^* , of a 10 m diameter body in a recent laboratory examination using porous gypsum targets ($Q_S^* \sim 300\,\mathrm{J\,kg}^{-1}$ for $3\,\mathrm{km\,s}^{-1}$ normal collision; Nakamura et al. 2015), where they are also in good agreement with that of tens to hundreds of meter bodies estimated by the numerical simulation ($Q_S^* \sim 200$ –400 J kg $^{-1}$ for $3\,\mathrm{km\,s}^{-1}$ and 45° oblique collision; Jutzi et al. 2010). We thus conjecture that such small values of Q^* delivered to the original asteroid enable an impact shattering ($Q^* \gtrsim Q_S^*$), resulting in low antipodal velocities down to $\ll 1\,\mathrm{m\,s}^{-1}$.

4.2.3. Remaining Morphological Interpretation

Further details should be left as open questions. However, here, we suggest a possible scenario that all observed ejecta (LF+A+B+dust) originated from the antipodal region in the target asteroid and ejected with a similar ejection speed of $\sim 0.28 \,\mathrm{m\,s^{-1}}$. Of the ejecta, three components (the LF, arc A, and dust trail) essentially constructed arc A and connected the dust trail. On the contrary, the distinct morphology of arc B remains unexplained so far, implying that it was created by different mechanism. We note that the simulated ejection velocity field of the B fragments was parallel to the jet direction (Section 3.3) and suggest that the injected momentum from the projectile to the target asteroid created a number of antipodal fragments along the direction of the momentum transfer (i.e., the impact trajectory). On the other hand, there should be more ejecta that originated from somewhere in the target asteroid but not from the antipodal region (cf. Equation (7)). Most of those particles are small and fast, as they underwent greater impact fragmentation, and they should be pushed out of the FOV by radiation pressure during the \sim 1 year between the disruption in 2009 and the first discovery in 2010. Some particles with intermediate sizes and velocities may have a chance to remain in the FOV at the time of early observations, as we can see

from the outer diffuse sources (cf. Gemini-2010 and HST-2010) but not from Subaru-2011 and Keck-2012.

We remark that above scenario would be one of the possible interpretations that ensure consistency with the observational evidence. The ratio of antipodal to non-antipodal debris is highly dependent upon target property or the distance between the impact point and the antipodal point, and the majority of slow debris from impact shattering does not necessarily have to be antipodal. The work presented here suggests a possibility of large amounts of antipodal debris existed as we see from Setoh et al. (2010).

5. Summary and Conclusions

In this paper, we performed dust model simulations assuming an anisotropic ejection from P/2010 A2 and succeeded in reproducing the time-variant features in the archival observations over ~ 3 years from 2010 January to 2012 October. When we assumed that the dust particles and fragments were ejected in the same direction from a point (i.e., the DEP) where no object had been detected in any observations, our anisotropic model can explain all of the observations including (i) the unique dust cloud morphology, (ii) the trail surface brightness, and (iii) the motions of the fragments. Our major finding is that the DEP is decoupled from the largest fragment (cf. LF = DEP had been considered in all previous research).

Comparing our results to the laboratory impact experiments, we speculated about the regional variation in the degree of fragmentation, the ejection velocity field, the specific energy, and the physical properties such as the size, porosity, and static strength of the impacted asteroid:

- 1. The least fragmentation around the antipodal point of the shattered asteroid is comparable to an anisotropic ejection in the limited ejection velocity field.
- 2. The asteroid underwent an impact with the specific energy of $Q^* \lesssim 350 \,\mathrm{J\,kg^{-1}}$.
- 3. Impacts on sub-kilometer-sized rubble-pile asteroids like (25143) Itokawa may produce low antipodal ejection velocities down to $\ll 1 \text{ m s}^{-1}$.

Finally, we remark that our results based on observations and their modelings are consistent with those obtained through laboratory impact experiments. The consistency supports the idea that the P/2010 A2 event is the first evidence that impact shattering (i.e., total disruption) occurred in the present main asteroid belt.

This work was supported by two research programs through the National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF) funded by the Korean government (MEST; No. 2012R1A4A1028713, 2015R1D1A1A01060025). Y.K. was supported by the Kwanjeong educational foundation scholarship and the Fellowship for Fundamental Academic Fields. Junhan Kim and Hidekazu Hanayama helped with the Subaru observation (Program S11A-038). Marco Micheli gave comments on orbital determination. We also thank to Prof. Masahiko Arakawa for a fruitful discussion. This research utilized the Keck Observatory Archive (KOA) and the facilities of the Canadian Astronomy Data Centre. We also thank anonymous referee for careful reading of the manuscript.

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