

AKARI observation of interstellar ice

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In molecular clouds, protostellar envelopes, and protoplanetary disks, a significant amount of Oxygen, Carbon and Nitrogen is in the form of molecule in ice mantle, such as H₂O, CO, CO₂, NH₃ and CH₃OH. These icy materials are formed by adsorption of gas-phase molecules onto grain surfaces and/or grain-surface reactions of the adsorbed species. Molecular evolution in the gas phase and ice mantle depends on the physical conditions such as temperature, density, and UV intensity. In order to understand the chemical processes of interstellar matter, it is important to observe the composition of gas and ice in various conditions. Composition of ice has been investigated by the absorption feature in the infrared. Spatial distribution of ice composition and its dependence on physical conditions are less constrained than the gas-phase molecules, because of the limited number of bright light sources behind or within the molecular clouds. In addition, some important bands cannot be observed from the ground.

We have observed near-infrared (NIR) (2.5-5micron) spectrum of background stars and young stellar objects (YSO) using AKARI satellite. AKARI can observe the full NIR wavelength region towards faint background stars with \sim a few mJy at NIR. Spectroscopic resolution (R) is about 135. We have detected absorption bands of H₂O, CO, and CO₂ towards field stars and Class 0 YSOs. Using 2MASS catalog and color-color diagram, the visual extinction (A_v) of the observed field stars are found to range from 10 mag to 25 mag. Column densities of ice and their relative ratios are estimated by comparing the observed absorption bands and CDE (continuously distributed ellipsoids) model absorption.