The infrared extinction law in different interstellar environments

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The variation of interstellar extinction law has long been known at

the UV/Visual wavelengths (Draine 2003). According to the study of

more than 100 sightlines (Jiang et al. 2006; Zasowski et al. 2009; Gao et

al. 2009), we found that the infrared extinction law is neither universal,

while how the IR extinction law changes is not clear. This work tries to

reveal whether the IR extinction law relates to the interstellar

environment and how it relates. Based on the combined data by the

near-IR 2MASS and mid-IR Spitzer/GLIMPSE, the interstellar

extinction law in the corresponding bands from about 3µm to 8µm is

derived around the dark cloud region Coalsack (l=300-306 %), the giant H

II region RCW 49 (l=284), the infrared dark cloud region(l=28) and

the diffuse region (l=29). The Coalsack region is divided into the weak,

transition and dense sub-regions according to three parameters, i.e. the

visual extinction (Av), the infrared emission (Spitzer's image), and the

molecular gas emission (CO). The relative extinction A_{λ}/A_{Ks} is derived

by the color-excess method in the IRAC bands. It is found that A_{λ}/A_{Ks}

varies in different environments with the highest value in the diffuse

region and the lowest in the dense region at the IR bands.

Keyword: Infrared extinction; Coalsack