Opacity of fluffy dust aggregates

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ABSTRACT

Context. Dust grains coagulate to form dust aggregates in protoplanetary disks. Their porosity can be extremely high in the disks. Although disk emission may come from fluffy dust aggregates, the emission has been modeled with compact grains.

Aims. We aim to reveal the mass opacity of fluffy aggregates from infrared to millimeter wavelengths with the filling factor ranging from 1 down to 10−4.

Methods. We use Mie calculations with an effective medium theory. The monomers are assumed to be 0.1 μm sized grains, which is much shorter than the wavelengths that we focus on.

Results. We find that the absorption mass opacity of fluffy aggregates is characterized by the product a × f, where a is the dust radius and f is the filling factor, except for the interference structure. The scattering mass opacity is also characterized by af at short wavelengths while it is higher in more fluffy aggregates at long wavelengths. We also derive the analytic formula of the mass opacity and find that it reproduces the Mie calculations. We also calculate the expected difference of the emission between compact and fluffy aggregates in protoplanetary disks with a simple dust growth and drift model. We find that compact grains and fluffy aggregates can be distinguished by the radial distribution of the opacity index β. The previous observation of the radial distribution of β is consistent with the fluffy case, but more observations are required to distinguish between fluffy or compact. In addition, we find that the scattered light would be another way to distinguish between compact grains and fluffy aggregates.

Key words. planets and satellites: formation – protoplanetary disks

1. Introduction

Optical properties of dust grains have been investigated by many authors to understand the emission from various kinds of astronomical objects. In protoplanetary disks, dust grains are important not only as the emitter of radiation, but also as the seeds of planets. The size of dust grains increases by coagulation from submicron size to millimeter size or larger. A number of radio observations suggest that dust grains have been grown to millimeter-sized grains in protoplanetary disks (Andrews & Williams 2005; Isella et al. 2009; Ricci et al. 2010b, a; Guilloteau et al. 2011; van der Marel et al. 2013).

The silicate feature at 10 μm is evidence of grain growth (e.g., van Boekel et al. 2005). The infrared observations suggest that the size of silicate dust grains is spreading from 0.1 μm to a few μm. The infrared emission is expected to come from the surface region of protoplanetary disks. Tiny grains are kinematically well coupled to the disk gas and thus stirred up to the disk surface. Thus, we cannot carry out information of dust grains larger than the micron size from infrared observations. In addition, infrared scattered light images of protoplanetary disks are less luminous than expected from other observations. This may infer the presence of large compact grains or porous aggregates at the disk surface (Mulders et al. 2013).

The opacity index at submillimeter wavelengths is used as another clue of grain growth (Beckwith et al. 1990; Beckwith & Sargent 1991; Miyake & Nakagawa 1993). The most striking evidence of dust growth is the opacity index β, where κν ∝ νβ; β is estimated from observed flux slope α, where Fν ∝ να. If the dust emission is optically thin, the dust slope has a relation of β = α − 2. The index β is typically from 1 to 0 in protoplanetary disks, which means grain growth in protoplanetary disks (Andrews & Williams 2005; Lommen et al. 2010; Pérez et al. 2012). The recent observations using radio interferometers have revealed the radial profile of β. Pérez et al. (2012) made a model fit of β and suggested that β is different between the inner and outer part of the disk. Thus, the dust grains in the inner part of the disk are expected to grow to a larger size.

Although the protoplanetary disk emissions are usually modeled with compact dust grains, recent numerical simulations have shown that dust grains coagulate to form fluffy structure, especially in the case of icy dust aggregates. With low speed collisions, dust grains form fluffy aggregates. However, it has been shown that aggregate are not effective in compressing the fluffy dust aggregates. Wada et al. (2008) and Suyama et al. (2008, 2012) investigated collisional compression of icy dust aggregates, and Okuzumi et al. (2012) performed coagulation simulations including the collisional compression. They revealed that the initial fractal growth stops when the collisional energy exceeds the rolling energy. They derived that the achievable lowest filling factor is ~10−4 (nroll/10−4 g), where nroll is the aggregate mass when the impact energy is equal to the rolling energy. Moreover, Kataoka et al. (2013a, b) introduced the static compression of dust aggregates. They showed that the filling factor decreases to as low as 10−3 even when considering the effects of the static compression. However, the porosity evolution of icy

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dust aggregates has not been confirmed by laboratory experiments yet.

The icy and fluffy aggregates are expected to overcome theoretical problems in planetesimal formation. Fluffy aggregates are expected to overcome the radial drift barrier (Okuzumi et al. 2012; Kataoka et al. 2013b) and the bouncing barrier (Wada et al. 2011). Moreover, if particles are composed of ice, the dust aggregates overcome the fragmentation barrier because they are sticky (Wada et al. 2009, 2013).

Dust coagulation has also been investigated in laboratory experiments. As an analog to silicate dust grains, which are expected to be inside the snowline in protoplanetary disks, silica particles have been used in laboratory experiments. Conditions for bouncing and fragmentation have been studied in laboratory experiments (Blum & Wurm 2008; Zsom et al. 2010) and some scenarios for planetesimal formation breaking through the bouncing barrier have been proposed (Windmark et al. 2012; Drążkowska et al. 2013). From the viewpoint of porosity evolution, silicate dust aggregates are expected to be less fluffy than icy dust aggregates because the surface energy of silicate is lower than ice. Microgravity experiments have confirmed the hit-and-stick process of forming fluffy dust aggregates (Kothle et al. 2013). However, further growth concerning compression is still uncertain in laboratory experiments. Zsom et al. (2011) performed numerical simulations of dust coagulation of silicate particles, using the hit-and-stick model proposed by Okuzumi et al. (2009). They showed that the filling factor of dust aggregates can reach $10^{-3}$ before the onset of compaction.

Observational constraints of porosity of dust aggregates in protoplanetary disks are important. However, studies of interpreting disk observations have assumed $f \geq 0.1$ (e.g., Birnstiel et al. 2010), which is relatively compact compared with the extremely porous aggregates, whose filling factor is $10^{-4}$, as discussed above. In this paper, as a first step to constrain the porosity of dust aggregates in protoplanetary disks, we investigate optical properties of dust aggregates including the extremely porous aggregates.

Opacity of porous aggregates has been investigated by several theoretical methods. In the context of explaining cometary dust, scattering properties of BPCA and BCCA aggregates have been studied (Kimura et al. 2003, 2006; Kolokolova et al. 2007). The number of constituent particles was limited to $\sim 60000$ ($\sim 10^{-10}$ g in mass if the particle size is 0.1 μm), and the opacity was only studied at infrared wavelengths. In the context of explaining the interstellar silicate feature, in addition, the effects of monomer shapes on optical properties at infrared wavelength have also been studied (Min et al. 2003, 2005, 2007). In this paper, we examine the absorption and scattering mass opacities of dust aggregates at wavelengths ranging from 1 μm to 10 cm. The aggregates have a size ranging from micron to kilometer and a filling factor ranging from 1 to $10^{-4}$. Thus, we use the effective medium theory (EMT). This method is fast in calculation but inaccurate in some parameters. Koziara et al. (1992) have shown that EMT reproduces the absorption opacity of BCCA and BPCA clusters, whose constituent monomers are up to 1024, within a error of a factor of two. The EMT is also known to be accurate for porous aggregates whose constituent particles are small compared with the wavelength of incident radiation (Voshchinnikov et al. 2005; Shen et al. 2008). Because the dust aggregates considered in this paper are highly porous aggregates consisting of submicron-sized monomers, EMT would be a good approximation for calculations in this paper. We note that the scattering opacity derived with EMT largely deviates from the actual value in some parameter space (Shen et al. 2009). The accuracy of EMT in a large parameter space should be tested in the future work.

This paper is organized as follows. We describe the composition of dust grains and the calculating method of mass opacities in Sect. 2. We show the results of the absorption and scattering mass opacities of highly porous aggregates by using Mie theory with EMT in Sect. 3. We derive analytic formulae to reproduce the results in Sect. 4. Then, we construct a simple dust growth and drift model in protoplanetary disks and propose a method to distinguish compact and fluffy aggregates in radio observations by using the slope at millimeter wavelengths, the so-called dust β, in Sect. 5. Finally, we summarize and discuss the previous observations with porous aggregates in Sect. 6.

2. Method

Here, we briefly summarize the definitions of optical properties following Bohren & Huffman (1983, hereafter BH83) and Miyake & Nakagawa (1993). We consider a particle or an aggregate with radius $a$ and internal mass density $\rho$. The radius of an aggregate represents the characteristic radius, defined as $a = \sqrt{3/4} a_g$, where $a_g$ is the gyration radius (Mukai et al. 1992). We define the size parameter $x$ as

$$x = \frac{2\pi a}{\lambda},$$

where $\lambda$ is the wavelength. We also define the relative refractive index $m$ as

$$m = n + ik,$$

where $n$ and $k$ are the real and imaginary parts of the refractive index, respectively.

2.1. Dust grains: monomers

We consider a dust aggregate, which consists of a number of monomers. The monomers are assumed to be composed of silicate, organics, and water ice without any void structure. The mass fractional abundance is set to be consistent with Pollack et al. (1994), where $\zeta_{\text{silicate}} = 2.64 \times 10^{-3}$, $\zeta_{\text{organics}} = 3.53 \times 10^{-3}$, and $\zeta_{\text{ice}} = 5.55 \times 10^{-3}$. The internal densities of silicate, organics, and ice are taken to be 3.5 g cm$^{-3}$, 1.5 g cm$^{-3}$, and 0.92 g cm$^{-3}$, respectively. The mean internal density is therefore 1.68 g cm$^{-3}$. The resultant volume fractions are 8% of silicate, 26% of organics, and 66% of water ice. We use the refractive index of astronomical silicate from Weinberger & Draine (2001), organics from Pollack et al. (1994), and water ice from Warren (1984).

Here, we discuss the structure of a monomer composed of various materials. We assume that the monomer has a core-mantle structure, where silicate components are inside and ice
and organics cover the silicate core. This assumption is reasonable because the condensation temperature of silicates is much higher than those of ices and organics. The collisional and static compression and fragmentation velocity are determined by the surface material of monomers, which is expected to be ice or organics. Therefore, the structure and fluffiness of the aggregates are expected to be similar to icy aggregates.

The effective refractive index of the mixture can be derived from dielectric functions. By using Maxwell-Garnett rule without voids, the effective dielectric function is obtained as

$$\epsilon_{\text{eff}} = \frac{1 + 2f/F}{1 - fF},$$

where

$$F = \frac{\epsilon_{\text{mix}} - 1}{\epsilon_{\text{mix}} + 2},$$

and voids, Maxwell-Garnett theory is applicable to obtain the effective dielectric function as

$$\epsilon_{\text{eff}} = \sum_j f_j \gamma_j \epsilon_j,$$

where

$$\gamma_j = \frac{3}{\epsilon_j + 2},$$

and $f_j$ and $\epsilon_j$ represent the volume filling factor and the dielectric function of each species. The dielectric function is related to the refractive index as $\epsilon = n^2$.

Figure 1 shows the real and imaginary part of the effective refractive index of the mixture. We use this effective refractive index as the material refractive index in the following discussion.

The simplified fractional abundance based on Pollack et al. (1994) has been widely used in several papers (e.g., D’Alessio et al. 2001; Tanaka et al. 2005; Isella et al. 2009; Ricci et al. 2010b,a; Pérez et al. 2012). Some recent studies use the dielectric functions of carbonaceous material (Zubko et al. 1996) instead of organics (Pollack et al. 1994; Li & Greenberg 1997). In protoplanetary disks, the carbonaceous materials would interact with other species to produce organics. Thus, we use the dielectric function of organics based on Pollack et al. (1994) in this paper. However, the optical properties of organics in protoplanetary disks have large uncertainties because astronomical organics may be different from laboratory data.

### 2.2. Aggregates of monomers

To calculate the opacity of fluffy aggregates, we use the effective medium theory again. In the case of the mixture of monomers

and voids, Maxwell-Garnett theory is applicable to obtain the effective dielectric function as

$$\epsilon_{\text{eff}} = \frac{1 + 2f/F}{1 - fF},$$

where

$$F = \frac{\epsilon_{\text{mix}} - 1}{\epsilon_{\text{mix}} + 2},$$

$\epsilon_{\text{mix}}$ is the effective dielectric function of the mixture, and $f$ is the volume filling factor of the aggregate.

We will investigate the mass opacity of dust aggregates for a wide range of the dust radius $a$ and the filling factor $f$. We adopt the Mie calculation with the effective medium theory described above. Yoshchinnikov et al. (2005) show that the EMT is a good approximation when the inclusions are smaller than the wavelengths of radiation. Here, the monomer size is 0.1 μm while the wavelengths are larger than 1 μm. Thus, the EMT would be a good approximation in the calculations in this paper. The filling factor is expected to decrease to $f \sim 10^{-4}$ and the dust radius grows from micron to kilometer (Kataoka et al. 2013b). Therefore, we will investigate the mass opacity in such parameter space.

We note that we do not choose a set of $a$ and $f$ where both $a$ and $f$ are too small. In the porosity evolution scenario proposed by Kataoka et al. (2013b), the dust aggregates grow as fractals in the very early stage of the coagulation. This stage corresponds to the lower limit of $a$ and $f$. In this paper, we consider a set of $a$ and $f$ where $af \geq 0.1 \mu m$.

### 2.3. Mass opacity

We use the Mie calculation with the effective medium theory to calculate dimensionless absorption and scattering coefficients $Q_{\text{abs}}$ and $Q_{\text{sca}}$. Then, we obtain absorption and scattering mass opacities defined as

$$\kappa_{\text{abs}} = \frac{\pi a^2}{m} Q_{\text{abs}},$$

$$\kappa_{\text{sca}} = \frac{\pi a^2}{m} Q_{\text{sca}}.$$

We note that the mass opacities are given per gram of dust. To obtain the mass opacities per gram of gas, one should divide the mass opacities by the dust-to-gas mass ratio.

### 3. Results

#### 3.1. Absorption mass opacity

The absorption mass opacity of porous dust aggregates strongly depends on their size and filling factor. In protoplanetary disks, radio emission at millimeter wavelengths provide optically thin emission, in other words, directly reflects the opacity. Therefore, we aim to reveal what properties of dust aggregates determine the mass opacity.

Figure 2 shows the dependency of the mass opacities of dust aggregates on the dust radius $a$ and the filling factor $f$. Figure 2b shows the mass opacity of different dust radius while the filling factor is fixed at unity (i.e., compact growth). The absorption mass opacity from optical to infrared wavelengths decreases as the aggregate size increases, and it has an enhancement because of the interference at the millimeter wavelengths depending on the aggregate size. This trend is well known as the grain-growth
effects on the dust opacity. Figure 2c shows the mass opacity of different filling factors while the dust radius is fixed at $a = 1 \text{ mm}$. The mass opacity strongly depends on the filling factor but cannot be characterized by one parameter. Figure 2d shows that the mass opacity when both $a$ and $f$ change but $af$ remains constant. The mass opacity is almost the same in this case. This result suggests that the optical properties of fluffy dust aggregates are characterized by $af$.

Here, we introduce a new parameter $af$, where $a$ is the dust radius and $f$ is the filling factor. Keeping $af$ constant corresponds to the constant mass-to-area ratio of the dust aggregates because (mass-to-area ratio) $\sim (a^2f)/(a^2) \sim af$. We already find that the mass opacity is characterized by $af$ in the case of $af = 0.1 \mu m$ in Fig. 2d. Next, we investigate whether the mass opacity is characterized by one parameter $af$ in the wide range of $af$.

Figure 3 shows the mass opacity where $af$ is fixed for each panel: $af$ has values of $1 \mu m$, $10 \mu m$, $100 \mu m$, $1 \text{ mm}$, and $1 \text{ cm}$. This figure clearly shows that the absorption mass opacity is almost the same in the cases of the same $af$. For example, dust aggregates that have a size of $10 \text{ m}$ and a filling factor of $10^{-4}$ are optically equivalent to $1 \text{ mm}$ compact grains except for the interference structure. We will show the reason why the absorption mass opacity is characterized by $af$ in Sect. 4.

That the absorption mass opacity is characterized by $af$ is a very naive result for observations: the filling factor cannot be measured because it is degenerated with the dust radius. Therefore, to derive both the filling factor and the dust radius separately, we should find another clue rather than the general behavior of the absorption mass opacity. We find two differences which might be ways to distinguish between $a$ and $f$: the interference structure of the absorption mass opacity and the scattering mass opacity at long wavelengths. We discuss the interference first and will discuss the scattering mass opacity later in this section.

The only difference in the absorption mass opacity between the compact and fluffy cases if $af$ is the same is the interference structure, which appears when the size parameter $s$ is close to unity. In the case of $af = 1 \text{ mm}$, for example, the absorption mass opacity in the compact case is one order of magnitude higher than the fluffy cases. This is a way to distinguish between compact grains and fluffy aggregates in protoplanetary disks. We will discuss the reason why the interference structure is unique only in the compact case in Sect. 4, and also discuss the feature as a way to distinguish between compact and fluffy aggregates by using the dust opacity index $\beta$ in Sect. 5.

### 3.2. Scattering mass opacity

We also calculate the scattering mass opacity by using Mie calculations. Figure 4 shows the scattering mass opacities in the case of $af = 0.1 \mu m$, $1 \mu m$, $100 \mu m$, and $1 \text{ mm}$. This figure
suggests that the scattering mass opacity is not characterized by $af$ at the longer wavelengths. At the shorter wavelengths, the mass opacity corresponds to the geometric cross section. In the compact case, the mass opacity scales as $\lambda^{-4}$ at the longer wavelengths. On the other hand, in the fluffy case, the mass opacity scales as $\lambda^{-2}$ at the intermediate wavelengths, then scales as $\lambda^{-4}$ at the longer wavelengths. We will come back to this point with a physical explanation in Sect. 4.

As shown in Fig. 4, the scattering mass opacity of the fluffy aggregates is expected to be higher than the compact case at the longer wavelengths even when the absorption mass opacity is almost the same. Thus, we investigate the ratio of $\kappa_{\text{sca}}$ against $\kappa_{\text{abs}}$. Figure 5 shows the ratio in each case corresponding to Fig. 4. In the case of compact and $af = 0.1 \mu m$, the scattering mass opacity is less than absorption. On the other hand, the scattering mass opacity dominates the absorption mass opacity in fluffy cases when $af = 0.1 \mu m$. This greatly affects the infrared observations of dust grains. For example, Pagani et al. (2010) reported that dust grains in dense interstellar medium is composed of micron-sized grains (and not 0.1 $\mu m$) because of the high scattering efficiency observed by the Spitzer space telescope. Thus, they infer that the monomer size must be micron. However, Fig. 5 suggests that even if the monomers are 0.1 $\mu m$ in size, the aggregates of 0.1 $\mu m$ sized monomers represent the high albedo and thus might account for the observed high efficiency of scattering.

Figure 5c and d shows the scattering mass opacity in the case of $af = 100 \mu m$ and 1 mm. The scattering mass opacity at the millimeter wavelengths is ten times larger than the absorption mass opacity in the compact case, and it is tens of times larger.
in the fluffy cases. This suggests that the millimeter continuum emission is dominated not by direct thermal emission, but by scattered emission in transition disks if the dust aggregates are grown to have a millimeter size. Moreover, determining the ratio of the scattering opacity over the absorption mass opacity at the millimeter wavelengths is a way to characterizing the porosity of the dust aggregates.

4. Analytic formulae of the opacities

In the previous section, we used the Mie calculations to obtain the mass opacity. In this section, we derive the analytic formulae of the mass opacity and compare them to the results of Mie calculations. By deriving analytic formulae, we explain why the mass opacity can be characterized by $af$. In addition, the analytic formulae would be a computationally less expensive method to calculate the opacity of large aggregates.

4.1. Approximation of refractive index

When we consider fluffy aggregates, the filling factor satisfies $f \ll 1$. If $f \ll 1$, from Eq. (5) and $\epsilon = m^2$, we obtain

$$n \approx 1 + \frac{3}{2} f \text{Re}(F), \qquad (9)$$

$$k \approx \frac{3}{2} f \text{Im}(F), \qquad (10)$$

to the first order of $f$. From these equations, we obtain that $n \approx 1 \propto f$ and $k \propto f$ in the case of fluffy aggregates where $f \ll 1$. We check the validity of the relations in Appendix A.1.

We do not assume $f \ll 1$ when deriving the analytic formula. After deriving the formulae, we assume $f \ll 1$ and use the relations of $n - 1 \propto f$ and $k \propto f$ to explain why the mass opacity is characterized by $af$.

4.2. Absorption mass opacity

We derive the approximated formulae of $Q_{\text{abs}}$ in three limited cases, illustrated in Fig. 6: (1) $x \ll 1$; (2) $x \gg 1$ and optically thin ($kx \ll 3/8$) media; and (3) $x \gg 1$ and optically thick ($kx \gg 3/8$) media. We note that the absorption mass opacity is $Q_{\text{abs}}$ divided by the mass-to-area ratio of the aggregates.

4.2.1. $x \ll 1$

When the dust radius $a$ is much smaller than the wavelength $\lambda$, the opacity goes into Rayleigh regime. This corresponds to $x = 2\pi a/\lambda \ll 1$. In this case, $Q_{\text{abs}}$ can be written as

$$Q_{\text{abs}} \approx 4x \text{Im} \left( \frac{m^2 - 1}{m^2 + 2} \right) \approx \frac{24nkx}{(n^2 - k^2 + 2)^2 + (2nk)^2} \quad (11)$$

(see Eq. (5.11) in BH83). The imaginary part $k$ of the refractive index is much smaller than the real part $n$ (see Figs. 1 and A.1). So, we can approximate $Q_{\text{abs}}$ as

$$Q_{\text{abs}} \approx Q_{\text{abs},1} \equiv \frac{24nkx}{(n^2 + 2)^2}. \quad (12)$$

This equation explains the fact that the absorption mass opacity is characterized by mass-to-area ratio or $af$. At the longer wavelengths, $n$ is almost unity while $k \propto f$. Using $f \propto m/a^3$, we get
we obtain that $kx$ is proportional to $m/a^2$, which is mass-to-area ratio. Since $\kappa_{\text{abs}}$ is $Q_{\text{abs}}$, divided by mass-to-area ratio, $\kappa_{\text{abs}}$ is independent of dust properties.

4.2.2. $x \gg 1$ and optically thin

When the dust radius $a$ is much larger than the wavelength $\lambda$, the opacity goes into geometric optics regime. In this regime, the optical properties can be understood by tracing the ray inside the material. The fraction of energy that transmits the material is $1 - \exp(-\alpha x)$ where $\alpha = 4\pi \kappa/\lambda$, and $x$ is the path of the ray inside the material. If $\alpha x < 1$, the incident light is weakly absorbed by the material because it is optically thin on the ray. We set the length $x = 2a$, the diameter of the sphere. Thus, the condition $\alpha x < 1$ corresponds to $kx < 1$.

In the limit of $a \gg \lambda$ (or equivalently $x \gg 1$) and optically thin, we obtain

$$Q_{\text{abs}} \approx Q_{\text{abs},1} \approx Q_{\text{abs},2} = \frac{8kx}{3m} \left( n^3 - (n^2 - 1)^{3/2} \right),$$

(see Eq. (7.2) in BH83).

We note that if $n = 1$, which is usually satisfied in the case of fluffy medium, $Q_{\text{abs}}$ yields

$$Q_{\text{abs}} = Q_{\text{abs},1} = Q_{\text{abs},2} = \frac{8kx}{3}.$$  

This equation is also characterized by the mass-to-area ratio or $af$ because $k \propto f$ and $x \propto a$. We also note that the analytic formula between optically thick and thin regimes should be changed when $Q_{\text{abs}}$ is unity. Thus, we define optically thin as $kx \ll 3/8$.

4.2.3. $x \gg 1$ and optically thick

In the limit of $a \gg \lambda$ (equivalent to $x \gg 1$) and optically thick ($kx \gg 3/8$), on the other hand, the absorption coefficient is described as

$$Q_{\text{abs}} \approx Q_{\text{abs},3} \equiv \int_0^{\pi/2} (1 - R(\theta)) \sin 2\theta d\theta,$$

(15)

where the reflectance $R(\theta)$ is written as

$$R(\theta) = \frac{1}{2} \left[ \left( \cos \theta_1 - m \cos \theta_2 \right)^2 + \left( \cos \theta_1 + m \cos \theta_2 \right)^2 \right],$$

(16)

and

$$\sin \theta_1 = \frac{\sin \theta}{m}.$$  

(17)

(see Eqs. (2.71), (7.5), and (7.7) in BH83). This regime is valid at shorter wavelengths (see Appendix A.3 for the optical depth of the aggregate). As shown in Appendix A.2, $Q_{\text{abs},3} \sim 1 - 0.1 \times f$: $Q_{\text{abs},3} \sim 0.9$ for compact case and $Q_{\text{abs},3} \sim 0.99$ for $f = 0.1$. These values are regarded as unity in application to astronomical observations. Therefore, $Q_{\text{abs},3} \sim 1$ for most cases: the absorption cross section yields the geometric cross section. Because $Q_{\text{abs},3}$ has no dependency on $f$ and $a$, $\kappa_{\text{abs}}$ is characterized by $af$. 

Fig. 5. Ratio of scattering mass opacity over absorption mass opacity $\kappa_{\text{sc}}/\kappa_{\text{abs}}$ in the cases of $af = 0.1 \mu m$, $1 \mu m$, $100 \mu m$, and $1 mm$. Each panel shows the cases with the same $af$, but the filling factor ranges are in $f = 10^{-1}, 10^{-2}, 10^{-3}$, and $10^{-4}$. 

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the longer wavelengths. From the analytic formula, we conclude that the interference structure only appears in the compact cases because $n$ is still larger than unity when $x > 1$ and $kx < 3/8$.

4.3. Scattering mass opacity

In the same manner of obtaining the analytic formula of the absorption mass opacity, we also derive the analytic formula of the scattering mass opacity. In addition, by using the analysis, we explain why the mass opacity can and cannot be characterized by $af$.

4.3.1. $x \ll 1$

When $x \ll 1$, in the Rayleigh regime, $Q_{\text{sca}}$ can be written as

$$Q_{\text{sca}} \approx \frac{8}{3} \pi x^4 \left| \frac{m^2 - 1}{m^2 + 2} \right|^2.$$

(see Eq. (5.8) in BH83). At the longer wavelengths, $n - 1 \ll 1$ and $k \ll 1$. Therefore, the equation can be approximated to

$$Q_{\text{sca}} \approx Q_{\text{sca},1} \equiv \frac{32}{27} x^4 \left(n - 1\right)^2 + k^2.$$

(20)

As shown in Appendix A.1, $(n-1) \gg k$ at the longer wavelengths. Therefore, $Q_{\text{sca},1} \propto x^4(n-1)^2$. By using $x \propto a$ and $(n-1) \propto f$, we obtain $Q_{\text{sca},1} \propto a^4 f^2$. This is not characterized by $af$. When we consider two aggregates whose $af$ is the same, the aggregate that has the larger radius has the larger scattering mass opacity at the longer wavelengths although $Q_{\text{abs}}$ is same. In other words, the scattering efficiency at the longer wavelengths is a way to determine the filling factor of fluffy aggregates.

4.3.2. $x \gg 1$ and optically thin

If $x \ll 1$, the scattering mass opacity of an aggregate is regarded as the sum of the scattering mass opacity of each monomer because the scattered waves from all the constituent monomers have approximately the same phase. If $x \gg 1$, by contrast, scattered waves with scattering angle $\theta > \theta_{\text{max}} \sim 1/x$ cancel out because of the phase difference. Thus, the radiation within the solid angle of $n\theta_{\text{max}}/4\pi$ is scattered. With the condition that $\theta_{\text{max}} \sim 1/x$ and that $Q_{\text{sca},2}$ is smoothly connected to $Q_{\text{sca},1}$ at $x = 1$, we obtain

$$Q_{\text{sca}} \approx Q_{\text{sca},2} \equiv \frac{1}{x} Q_{\text{sca},1}.$$  

(21)

Using the same discussion in the previous section, we obtain $Q_{\text{sca},2} \propto x^4(n-1)^2 \propto a^2 f^2$. This is again characterized by $af$. We note that the optical depth of the aggregate is unity when $Q_{\text{sca}}$ is unity. Thus, the optical depth becomes unity where $x(n-1) \sim 1$ because $n-1 \gg k$.

4.3.3. $x \gg 1$ and optically thick

When $x > 1$ and the medium is optically thick, $Q_{\text{sca}} + Q_{\text{abs}} = 2$. Therefore, in the same manner of the absorption mass opacity, we obtain

$$Q_{\text{sca}} \approx Q_{\text{sca},3} \equiv \int_{0}^{\pi/2} \left(1 + R(\theta)\right) \sin 2\theta d\theta,$$

(see Eqs. (7.5) and (7.6) in BH83).
As discussed in Sect. 4.2.3, the integrated reflectance is \(~0.1 \times f\). Thus, \(Q_{\text{sca}} \sim 1 + 0.1 \times f\). This is regarded as \(Q_{\text{sca}} \sim 1\). Thus, the scattering mass opacity also goes to the geometric cross section at shorter wavelengths and is characterized by \(af\).

### 4.3.4. Analytic formula of scattering mass opacity

Combining the three limiting regimes, we obtain the analytic formula of scattering mass opacity as

\[
Q_{\text{sca}} = \begin{cases} 
Q_{\text{sca},1} & (x < 1) \\
\min(Q_{\text{sca},2}, Q_{\text{sca},3}) & (x > 1).
\end{cases}
\]  

Figure 8 shows the comparison of scattering mass opacity obtained with the Mie calculation and the analytic formula. Figure 8a and b shows the case of \(af = 0.1 \mu m\), but the filling factor is \(f = 1\) and \(f = 0.01\), respectively. The analytic formula in both cases reproduces the Mie calculation. Figure 8c and d shows the case of \(af = 1 \text{ mm}\), but the filling factor is \(f = 1\) and \(f = 0.01\), respectively. In this case, the analytic formula reproduces the Mie calculation except for the interference structure because we assume that all the amplification by interference is damped when \(x > 1\) and optically thin, which corresponds to \(Q_{\text{sca}} = Q_{\text{sca},2}\). However, the difference of the mass opacity between the analytic and Mie calculations is less than one order. Except for the interference structure, the analytic formula reproduces the Mie calculation even in the case of scattering mass opacity.

As already shown in Fig. 4, the scattering mass opacity is proportional to \(x^{-2}\) at the intermediate wavelengths and \(x^{-4}\) at the longer wavelengths in fluffy cases. This can be explained by \(Q_{\text{sca}}\). If \(x = 2\pi a/\lambda\) is less than unity, which occurs at the longer wavelengths, \(Q_{\text{sca}} = Q_{\text{sca},1}\) and thus scales as \(x^{-4}\) because \(Q_{\text{sca},1} \propto x^2\). However, in the case of fluffy aggregates, we find the region where \(x > 1\) and optically thin, and therefore \(Q_{\text{sca}} = Q_{\text{sca},2} = Q_{\text{sca},1}/x^2\). This is the reason why the scattering mass opacity at the intermediate wavelengths in fluffy cases scales as \(x^{-2}\).

### 5. Implications for opacity evolution in protoplanetary disks

The index of the dust opacity \(\beta\) has been widely used as an indicator of the dust growth. In this section, we will show how \(\beta\) changes as aggregates grow and drift both in compact and fluffy cases. Then, we propose a detection method of fluffy aggregates in protoplanetary disks by using the opacity index \(\beta\).

#### 5.1. Fluffy dust growth and opacity evolution

Before starting the discussion of \(\beta\), we discuss the general mass opacity change as dust grains grow to fluffy aggregates in protoplanetary disks. We adopt a fluffy dust growth model proposed by Kataoka et al. (2013b). In this model, they reveal the overall porosity evolution from micron-sized grains to kilometer-sized planetesimals through direct sticking. In the coagulation, icy particles are sticky and thus they are not disrupted or bounced, but grow to a larger size (Wada et al. 2009, 2011, 2013). Moreover, the large radius of fluffy aggregates enables them to grow rapidly.
The picture of the overall porosity evolution is as follows. As they grow to be decoupled from the gas. We discuss the radial drift later in this section. The turbulent parameter $\sigma_0$ is set to be $10^{-3}$ and the mean internal density is set to be $1.68 \, \text{g cm}^{-3}$. The picture of the overall porosity evolution is as follows. As the dust grains first coagulate to form fluffy aggregates, the filling factor decreases to $f \sim 10^{-4}$. Once the collisional compression becomes effective, the density keeps constant. Then, the gas compression and the self-gravity compression make the dust aggregates compact.

The open circles represent the characteristic dust radius $a_f$ while the dotted lines show the lines of constant $a_f$. Thus, the dust aggregates in the initial growth stage is optically the same. The initial growth is expected to be fractal. The dust aggregates coagulate with aggregates of similar sizes, and thus the fractal dimension is expected to be 2 (Okuzumi et al. 2012). Thus, the mass-to-area ratio of the aggregates keeps constant. In other words, $a_f$ keeps the same value. Therefore, the initial growth is indistinguishable with no growth in the absorption mass opacity. After the initial growth, when the compression mechanisms become effective, the opacity is expected to change because the mass-to-area ratio changes.

Figure 9 shows the internal density evolution at $r = 30$ AU in the minimum mass solar nebula model (see Kataoka et al. 2013b, for more details). The solid line represents the evolution. The black, green, blue, and red lines are in the coagulation phase of hit-and-stick, collisional compression, gas compression, and self-gravitational compression, respectively. The dotted lines show the $af = (\text{constant})$ lines, where $af = 0.1 \, \mu\text{m}$, $10\, \mu\text{m}$, $1 \, \text{mm}$, and $10 \, \text{cm}$, respectively.

Fig. 8. Same as Fig. 7, but for scattering mass opacity.

Fig. 9. Internal density evolution at $r = 30$ AU in the minimum mass solar nebula model (see Kataoka et al. 2013b, for more details). The solid line represents the evolution. The black, green, blue, and red lines are in the coagulation phase of hit-and-stick, collisional compression, gas compression, and self-gravitational compression, respectively. The dotted lines show the $af = (\text{constant})$ lines, where $af = 0.1 \, \mu\text{m}$, $10\, \mu\text{m}$, $1 \, \text{mm}$, and $10 \, \text{cm}$, respectively.
5.2. Dust opacity index beta

We define $\beta$ as an opacity slope between 1 mm and 3 mm. Here, we use $af$ again because optical properties are characterized by $af$. We note that $af = a$ in the case of compact grains ($f = 1$). We consider several cases for calculating dust $\beta$ where the filling factor $f$ is fixed in each case. Calculating $\beta$, we consider a grain size distribution with a power law as $n \propto (af)^{-3}$ between a minimum and a maximum size, $(af)_{\text{min}}$ and $(af)_{\text{max}}$, respectively; $(af)_{\text{min}}$ is chosen to be $0.1 \mu m$. Figure 11 shows how the absorption mass opacity $\kappa_{\text{abs}}$ at 1 mm and $\beta$ changes as the aggregate size increases. The compact case in this figure corresponds to Fig. 3 in Ricci et al. (2010b). The red line shows the compact case, while green and blue lines are fluffier cases. The lines in the cases of $f < 10^{-2}$ are indistinguishable from the line of $f = 10^{-2}$, and thus we do not plot them. The absorption mass opacity has a strong bump around $\alpha_{\text{dust}} \sim 1 \mu m$. This bump corresponds to the interference structure where the size parameter $x \sim 1$. On the other hand, the fluffier cases do not show such a bump because there is no interference. The bump of the mass opacity results in a bump of $\beta$ in the compact case. The dust $\beta$ increases up to $2.7$ in the compact case, but there is no bump in fluffier cases. In other words, $\beta$ is always equal to or less than $\beta_{\text{SM}} = 1.7$ in fluffier cases.

From this result, the difference in the absorption mass opacity between compact and fluffly dust appears in the intermediate size, which is between 0.1 mm and 1 mm.

5.3. Radial profile of $\beta$

The radial size distribution of dust aggregates is determined by both dust growth and drift. In protoplanetary disks, the dust growth timescale strongly depends on orbital radius. In the inner part of disks, dust grains coagulate faster than in the outer part because of the shorter Keplerian period. Thus, dust aggregates have a larger size at the inner part and smaller at the outer part when considering only dust growth. When dust aggregates grow to larger sizes, they start to drift inward. Thus, the size where the aggregates start to drift is the maximum size of the aggregates at each orbital radius. The maximum size also depends on an orbital radius: the maximum size is larger in the inner part and smaller in the outer part. Combining both effects of dust growth and drift, the radial profile of the size of dust aggregates is expected to be smaller in the outer part and larger in the inner part. Observationally, the radial profile of $\beta$ have the information of the radial size distribution.

To obtain the radial profile of $\beta$, we adopt the following simple dust growth and drift model. We assume that there are initially $0.1 \mu m$ sized dust grains in the entire disk. We trace the growth and drift motion of each set of dust grains initially located at each orbital radius.

To calculate the time evolution of dust mass $M = M(\tau)$ and the orbital radius $r = r(\tau)$ at each orbital radius, we assume that dust grains have a monodisperse distribution at each orbital radius. (Under this assumption, the dust growth and drift is described by (e.g., Okuzumi et al. 2012))

\[
\frac{dM(t)}{dt} = \rho_g \pi a^2 \Delta \nu
\]

and

\[
\frac{dr(t)}{dt} = -2\pi d_{\text{orb}}(M(t)),
\]

where $\rho_g$ is the spatial dust density, $a$ the dust radius, $\Delta \nu$ the relative velocity of dust grains or aggregates, and $2\pi d_{\text{orb}}(M(t))$ the drift velocity. We use the disk model of Kataoka et al. (2013b) (see also Okuzumi et al. 2012, for the definitions of the dust velocity and the disk model). Here, we briefly summarize the model. At a radial distance $r(t)$ from the central star, the gas-surface density profile is $1700(r/1AU)^{-p} \, g \, cm^{-2}$ where we use $p = 1$ in this paper. We note that the gas-surface density does not change with time to clarify the effects of dust growth and drift (e.g., Okuzumi et al. 2012). The initial dust-to-gas mass ratio is 0.01. The adopted temperature profile is $137(r/1AU)^{-3.7} K$, which corresponds to midplane temperature (Chiang et al. 2001). This is cooler than optically thin disk models to focus on the dust coagulation in the midplane. The value of $\Delta \nu$ is assumed be the root mean square of Brownian motion and turbulent motion (see Eq. (32) in Okuzumi et al. 2012). The diffusion coefficient $\sigma_T^2$ is taken to be $10^{-7}$. For the velocity induced by turbulence, we denote the velocity difference of dust and gas as dust-dust velocity for simplicity. We determine the dust scaleheight from the balance between sedimentation and turbulent diffusion (Brauer et al. 2008). The filling factor is fixed to be unity in the compact case and changes as a function of the orbital radius in the fluffly case following Kataoka et al. (2013b).

Figure 12 shows the dust growth and drift paths. The dashed lines show the paths of growing dust aggregates and the colored dotted and solid lines represent isochrones at $t = 10^5$ and $t = 10^6$ years. The isochrones represent the radial grain/aggregate-size distribution at the specific time. The size of dust aggregates increases with a decreasing orbital radius. This is caused by two effects: dust growth and drift. For example, on the line of the isochrone at $10^5$ years in the compact case, shown in Fig. 12a, the dust growth determines the aggregate size beyond $\sim 30 \, AU$. At $30 \, AU$ or larger in orbital radius, dust growth is faster at the inner part of the disk than the outer part because the growth timescale is proportional to the Keplerian period (e.g., Okuzumi et al. 2012). At the orbital radius less than $30 \, AU$, the maximum size is determined by the drift motion. The aggregates grow so large that they are decoupled from the gas, and drift inward. Therefore, the aggregate size at orbital radius less than $30 \, AU$ corresponds to the maximum size determined by the radial drift.

Figure 13 shows the radial $\beta$ distribution for both compact and fluffly cases at the isochrones shown in Fig. 12. In the compact case, $\beta$ increases to around $2 \sim 2.7$ at $40 \, AU$ in the range.
Absorption mass opacity at $\lambda = 1\, \text{mm}$ against $(af)_{\text{max}}$. The red, green, and blue lines show the cases of $f = 1$, $10^{-1}$, and $10^{-2}$. The lines in the cases of $f < 10^{-2}$ are indistinguishable from the line of $f = 10^{-2}$. The aggregate size distribution is assumed to be $n \propto (af)^{-2}$ where $f$ is fixed in each case.

Opacity slope $\beta$ between 1 mm and 3 mm, against $(af)_{\text{max}}$.

Paths of the growth and drift of dust aggregates at each initial orbital radius (dashed gray lines). Radial size distribution of dust aggregates at the specific time (solid and dotted lines). a) Compact case, where the red dotted line shows the isochrone at $t = 10^5$ years and the solid red line shows at $t = 10^6$ years. b) Fluffy growth case, where the dotted blue line shows the isochrone at $t = 10^5$ years and the solid blue line at $t = 10^6$ years.

Radial $\beta$ distribution for compact and fluffy cases. Each line corresponds to the same line as in Fig. 12.

Silicate feature

In the inner part of the disk, ice particles are expected to be sublimated and there are dust aggregates whose constituent particles are made of silicate. Micron-sized silicate grains show the broad feature at 10 $\mu$m. The feature is used as a signature of grain growth (e.g., van Boekel et al. 2005). To show how the porosity affects the silicate feature, we also calculate the silicate feature of fluffy aggregates. In this section, we change the material constant: we assume pure silicate monomers. The material density is taken to be $\rho_{\text{mat}} = 3.5$ g cm$^{-3}$ and the refractive index is taken from Weingartner & Draine (2001).

Figure 14 shows the absorption mass opacity in cases of silicate aggregates. Each panel shows the mass absorption opacities where $af$ is constant. When $af = 0.1\, \mu$m, the broad silicate feature is seen at around $\lambda = 10\, \mu$m and does not significantly change as the aggregate size increases from 0.1 $\mu$m to 1 mm. In the cases of $af = 1$–10 $\mu$m, the silicate feature becomes weaker as $af$ increases. The absorption mass opacity of porous...
aggregates \((f \leq 0.1)\) is independent of the aggregate size as long as \(af\) is constant, as is also shown in the case of icy aggregates. The small differences between the cases of \(f = 1\) and \(f \leq 0.1\) derive from the interference as well as the icy aggregates. Thus, except for the interference, the silicate feature disappears as \(af\) increases.

6. Summary and discussion

We calculated the mass opacity of fluffy dust aggregates expected to be in protoplanetary disks. The wavelengths are in the range of \(1 \mu m < \lambda < 1 cm\) and the filling factor in the range of \(10^{-4} < f < 1\). The assumed composition is the mixture of silicate, organics, and water ice (Pollack et al. 1994). We used the Mie calculation with the effective medium theory to calculate the mass opacity of fluffy aggregates. Our main findings are as follows.

- The absorption mass opacity of dust aggregates is characterized by \(af\), where \(a\) is the dust radius and \(f\) is the filling factor. The absorption mass opacity is almost independent of the aggregate size when \(af\) is constant. This makes it difficult to distinguish between fluffy aggregates and compact grains in observations. The only difference of the absorption mass opacity between compact grains and fluffy aggregates where \(af\) is the same appears as the interference structure in the compact case at the size parameter \(x \sim 1\).
- The scattering mass opacity at short wavelengths is also characterized by \(af\), but not at long wavelengths. The scattering mass opacity at the long wavelengths is higher in more fluffy aggregates even if \(af\) is the same. The scattering mass opacity scales as \(\lambda^{-2}\) at intermediate wavelengths and scales as \(\lambda^{-4}\) at the longer wavelengths.
- We also derived the analytic formulae of the absorption and scattering mass opacities, connecting the three limiting cases, which are the Rayleigh regime, the optically-thin geometric regime, and the optically-thick geometric regime. The analytic formulae reproduce the results of the Mie calculations. The formulae are expected to greatly reduce the computational time to calculate the opacity of large fluffy aggregates. By using the analytic formulae, we analytically showed that the absorption mass opacity is characterized by one parameter \(af\) except for the interference structure. We also showed that the scattering mass opacity at the shorter wavelengths is also characterized by \(af\), but not at the longer wavelengths. Thus, the fact that the mass opacity is characterized by \(af\) is valid even out of the range investigated in the Mie calculation in this paper and is also applicable to other materials.
- The opacity index \(\beta\) is a good way to distinguish between fluffy aggregates and compact grains at observations of protoplanetary disks. If we assume the compact grain growth, with increasing grain size, the opacity index \(\beta\) increases to \(-2.7\) and then decreases. If we assume fluffy aggregate growth, the index \(\beta\) monotonously decreases from its initial value \(\beta_{\text{ISM}} = 1.7\) (see Fig. 11). If dust grains are compact in protoplanetary disks, the radial distribution of the index \(\beta\) should have a peak of \(-2.7\) (see Fig. 13).

Fig. 14. Absorption mass opacity for silicate aggregates in cases of different \(af\). The mass opacities are shown in the case of a) \(af = 0.1 \mu m\), b) \(af = 1 \mu m\), c) \(af = 3 \mu m\), and d) \(af = 30 \mu m\).
– We also calculated the absorption mass opacity of silicate aggregates at around $\lambda = 10 \, \mu m$. The opacity of fluffy aggregates has the $10 \, \mu m$ feature as well as compact silicate grains. The silicate feature is also appropriately characterized by $a f$.

In this paper, as a first step, we use the effective medium theory. Voshchinnikov et al. (2005) have shown that EMT is a good approximation when considering small inclusions. We considered $0.1 \, \mu m$ sized monomers and the wavelength ranges from $1 \, \mu m$ to 10 cm. Because the monomer size is less than the wavelengths, EMT would be a good approximation. However, the validity of EMT at infrared, especially at short wavelengths, is somewhat marginal because the wavelengths are close to the monomer size. Thus, the validity of the effective medium theory should be further tested by future work.

We proposed that the radial profile of $\beta$ is a way to distinguish between compact grains and fluffy aggregates. Pérez et al. (2012) have put a constraint on the radial $\beta$ distribution by observing a protoplanetary disk AS 209 with VLA, SMA, and CARMA. They found that $\beta$ has a lower value inside the disk rather than the constant $\beta$ in the whole disk. It is consistent with the model of Fig. 12, where the grain size is distributed because of the difference of growth time and the maximum grain size is limited by radial drift. The results of Pérez et al. (2012) also prefer the fluffy growth scenario to the compact because there is no signature that $\beta$ is large as $\beta \sim 3$. However, the observation has little information about $\beta$ in the outer part of the disk because of the sensitivity limitation at the longer wavelengths. Thus, to clearly determine whether the emission comes from compact grains or fluffy aggregates, we need higher sensitivity at the longer wavelengths. Moreover, to reject the possibility of $\beta > \beta_{GM}$, we need a high spatial resolution to resolve 20 AU bump in the compact case at $t = 10^5$ years. This observation is challenging, but would be a good target of ALMA.

The fact that the scattering mass opacity at the longer wavelengths cannot characterized by $a f$ is another way to distinguish between compact grains and fluffy aggregates. Here, we propose the polarization observation of the millimeter continuum emission. The scattered light is expected to be linearly polarized, and thus by comparing the intensity and the polarized intensity, the ratio of the scattering and absorption mass opacity can be directly observed. Although the polarized emission depends on the disk geometry and has many uncertainties, it would be a good target in the next phase of ALMA.

In addition, Mulders et al. (2013) proposed that to interpret the low effective albedo of protoplanetary disks, there are large particles at the outer disk surface and they should be porous structures to be stirred up to the surface. However, we showed that the infrared scattering opacity is determined by $a f$. In addition, the coupling efficiency of aggregates to the disk gas is also determined by $a f$. Thus, the optical and kinematical properties are degenerated. Therefore, the porous aggregates would not help to interpret the observations of the low effective albedo.

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Appendix A: Refractive index of fluffy aggregates

In this section, we confirm the validity of the assumptions used to derive the analytic formula in Sect. 4.

Fig. A.1. $n−1$ and $k$ against the wavelengths when $f = 1, 10^{-1}, 10^{-2},$ and $10^{-3}$.

Fig. A.2. Integrated reflectance when $f = 1, 10^{-1}, 10^{-2},$ and $10^{-3}$.

A.1. $(n−1) > k$ at the longer wavelengths

Figure A.1 shows the comparison of $n−1$ and $k$ when $f = 1, 10^{-1}, 10^{-2}, 10^{-3},$ and $10^{-4}$. We confirm that the refractive index always satisfies $n−1 > k$ at the longer wavelengths in any value of $f$. Moreover, we also confirm that $(n−1) \propto f$ and $k \propto f$ when $f < 1$.

A.2. Reflectance

We define the integrated reflectance as

$$R \equiv \int_0^{\pi/2} R(\theta_i) \sin 2\theta_i d\theta_i.$$  \hspace{0.5cm} (A.1)

When the medium satisfies $x \gg 1$ and is optically thick, $Q_{abs}$ and $Q_{sca}$ are written as $Q_{abs} = Q_{abs,3} = 1 − R$ and $Q_{sca} = Q_{sca,3} = 1 + R$. We assume that $R \ll 1$, and therefore $Q_{abs}$ and $Q_{sca}$ are unity in Sect. 4. Figure A.2 shows the integrated reflectance $R$. Roughly speaking, $R \sim 0.1 \times f$ and thus we can assume that $Q_{abs}$ and $Q_{sca}$ are unity in the regime.

A.3. Optical thickness inside the material

We discuss the optical thickness inside the medium by considering whether $kx$ is greater than $3/8$. Figure A.3 shows $kx$ in the case of $a f = 0.1 \, \mu m$, $10 \, \mu m$, and $1 \, mm$. We confirm that if $a f$ is
the same, $kx$ is almost the same at all wavelengths. In the case of $af = 0.1 \mu m$, the medium is totally optically thin. In the case of $af = 10 \mu m$, the medium is optically thick at the longer wavelengths and marginally optically thick when $\lambda \lesssim 10^{-2} \text{ cm}$. In the case of $af = 1 \text{ mm}$, the medium is optically thin at the longer wavelengths and optically thick when $\lambda \lesssim 6 \times 10^{-2} \text{ cm}$.

Fig. A.3. $kx$ against wavelengths when $af = 0.1 \mu m$, 10 $\mu m$, and 1 mm. The solid lines represent the compact cases and the dashed lines fluffy cases.

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