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FIRST RESULTS FROM OPTICAL OBSERVATIONS OF A NEARBY CIRRUS IN THE POLARIS FLARE

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IRAS infrared images at High Galactic latitudes have revealed complex structures that correlate with HI emission, the so-called Infrared Cirrus. Those clouds cover large regions of the sky and are mostly transparent to starlight. It is only recently that the use of sensitive CCD allows deep images of those Cirrus in the optical U, B, V, R, I bands (Guhathakurta and Tyson 1989). We shall present $1^\circ \times 1^\circ$ images in the B, R, I bands of a nearby cirrus in the Polaris Flare and the first conclusions that can be reached from the comparative study of optical and infrared emissions. This will also be the opportunity to emphasize the interest of such observations and studies for various domains related to the Interstellar Medium in the Solar Neighborhood: interstellar grains properties, clouds structure and dynamics.