

Ionosphere, Mesosphere, upper Atmosphere, and Plasmasphere mapping ミッションの 初期観測結果

Preliminary observational results of the Ionosphere, Mesosphere, upper Atmosphere, and Plasmasphere mapping mission

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ISS-IMAP (Ionosphere, Mesosphere, upper Atmosphere, and Plasmasphere mapping) mission is a space-borne imaging mission to elucidate the Earth upper atmosphere, the mesosphere, the ionosphere, the thermosphere and the plasmasphere. It was launched in July 2012, and installed on the Exposed Facility of Japanese Experiment Module on the International Space Station, EF of ISS-JEM, in August 2012. The nominal observation started in the middle of October. It conducts imaging observation of the Earth's upper atmosphere with visible-light and infrared spectrum imager (VISI) and extra ultraviolet imager (EUVI). The objective of this mission is to clarify the physical mechanism of the following three processes: (1) energy transport process by the atmospheric structures whose horizontal scale is 50-500km in the upper atmosphere (2) process of the plasma transport up to 20,000km altitude (3) effect of the upper atmosphere on the space-borne engineering system. ISS-IMAP will measure the following three parameters in the lower latitude region than 50 degrees: (1) distribution of the atmospheric gravity wave in the mesopause (87km), the ionospheric E-region (95km), and the ionospheric F-region (250km) (2) distribution of the ionized atmosphere in the ionospheric F-region (3) distribution of O⁺ and He⁺ ions in the ionosphere and plasmasphere. VISI will observe the airglow of 730nm (OH, Alt. 85km), 762nm (O₂, Alt. 95km), 630nm(O, Alt.250km) in the Nadir direction. EUVI will measure the resonant scattering of 30.4nm [He⁺] and 83.4nm [O⁺]. It points the limb of the Earth to observe the vertical distribution of the ions. The outline of the preliminary observation of the ISS-IMAP mission will be introduced in the presentation.

Keywords: Ionosphere, Mesosphere, Plasmasphere, Thermosphere, International Space Station, Kibo

ISS-IMAP 搭載可視近赤外分光器 VISI で観測された大気光とオーロラの特徴 Characteristics of airglow and aurora with a visible spectrometer ISS-IMAP/VISI

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The ISS-IMAP is a science mission which observes the thermosphere, ionosphere and plasmasphere from the international space station (ISS) at an altitude of 400 km. This was launched successfully on July 21, 2012 with HTV3 (Konotori), and installed on the exposed facility (EF) of the Japanese experiment module (JEM) of ISS. The ISS-IMAP/VISI is a visible imaging spectrometer which measures three nightglow emissions; O (630 nm, altitude 250 km), OH Meinel band (730 nm, altitude 87km), and O₂ (0-0) atmospheric band (762 nm, altitude 95 km) with the two field-of-views (± 45 deg. to nadir) to make a stereoscopic measurement of the airglow and aurora to subtract background contaminations from clouds and ground structures. Each field-of-view is faced perpendicular to the orbital plane, and its width is about 550 km mapping to an altitude of 100 km. We will obtain a continuous line-scanning image for all emissions line from $+ 51$ deg to -51 deg. in geographic latitude by the successive exposure cycle with a time interval of 1-several s.

After the successful launch on July 21, we carried out the initial check out of VISI on August 11-14, and confirmed its function working satisfactorily. We started nominal operation from the middle of October. Since then, VISI measures airglow and auroral emissions continuously in the nightside hemisphere on about 10 orbits every day. We found a number of events showing meso-scale (~ 50 km) wave pattern of airglow emission at O₂ 762 nm (~ 95 km alt.). In addition, in the equatorial anomaly region we often measured meso-scale dark filament pattern, i.e., plasma bubble, in the uniform O 630 emission. Further, during geomagnetically disturbed period we measured auroral emissions at O₂ 762 (~ 120 km alt.) and O 630 nm (~ 250 km alt.) at high-latitudes. In this presentation, we report the meso-scale properties and spatial characteristics of gravity waves, plasma bubbles and aurora obtained with VISI.

キーワード: IMAP, VISI, 国際宇宙ステーション, 大気光, オーロラ

Keywords: IMAP, VISI, ISS, airglow, aurora

Latitudinal structures of ion density in the ionosphere and the plasmasphere detected by ISS-IMAP/EUVI

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The Extreme Ultra Violet Imager (EUVI) of the ISS-IMAP (Ionosphere, Mesosphere, upper Atmosphere and Plasmasphere mapping) mission has taken images of He II radiation (30.4 nm) and O II radiation (83.4 nm) from the International Space Station (ISS) since October 2012. EUVI has FOV of 13.2 degree x 13.2 degree with the 128 x 128 bins and looks toward the back limb direction of the ISS orbit. The target of this observation is the distribution of He⁺ and O⁺ in the ionosphere and plasmasphere. Latitudinal structures of He⁺ in the plasmasphere and O⁺ in the ionosphere were detected by EUVI. In general, plasma density of the plasmasphere increases at low latitudes but decreases at high latitudes. This latitudinal gradient was captured by EUVI at He II radiation. EUVI also captured the latitudinal enhancements of O⁺ density associated with Equatorial Ionization Anomalies (EIAs). The longitudinal variability and the geomagnetic activity dependence of these latitudinal structures will be discussed in this presentation.

地上からの超高層大気イメージング観測 Ground-based imaging observations of the upper atmosphere

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It is now well known that gravity waves contribute significantly to the form of the large-scale atmospheric circulation, especially in the mesosphere and lower thermosphere (MLT), because of wave dissipation and the accompanying momentum flux divergence. Gravity waves are typically generated by meteorological disturbances and orographic structures in the lower atmosphere and propagate into the upper atmosphere while growing in amplitude. In addition, some of these waves directly, or as secondary waves, penetrate into the ionosphere/thermosphere through the MLT region, where they can seed plasma instabilities. It has also been reported that the gravity wave momentum flux preferentially associated with the scale of the waves; the momentum fluxes of the waves with a horizontal scale of 10-100 km are particularly significant.

Airglow imaging is a useful technique to observe two-dimensional structure of small-scale (<100 km) gravity waves in the MLT region and has been used to investigate global behaviour of the waves. Solar-Terrestrial Environment Laboratory, Nagoya University has made long-term airglow imaging observations of the gravity waves in the mesopause region using the Optical Mesosphere and Thermosphere Imager (OMTI) system in the world. Characteristics of the gravity waves in the MLT region seem to reflect the conditions in the lower atmosphere.

In the presentation, I will share several results of the ground-based measurements of the MLT gravity waves and discuss future collaborative works with the ISS-IMAP mission.

ISS-IMAP 観測との連携研究への期待：大気上下結合モデリングの観点より Possible collaborative study between ISS-IMAP observation and whole atmosphere-ionosphere modeling

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超高層大気で観測される様々なスケールの時空間変動について下層大気の影響を示唆する研究が増えている。例えば全球的な光学観測によって近年発見された電離圏の波数4の経度依存性は、下層大気における対流活動の経度依存性との関連を示しており、大気波動の伝搬が上下結合過程の中心的な役割を担っていることが明らかにされてきた。また、中低緯度の電離圏は地磁気静穏時でも日変化のパターンや増減度合いが日々異なっていることは古くから知られており、大気波動などの影響が指摘されてきたが、中層大気以下の現象との具体的なつながりは未だ分かっていない。そのほか、成層圏昇温時に電離圏に現れる特徴的な変動や、低緯度夜間における熱圏温度の上昇などの現象において大気上下結合の重要性が示唆されている。

しかし、これらの超高層大気現象と具体的な下層大気現象との繋がりは未解明な部分が多く、また解明されつつある大気上下結合の物理機構においても統一的理解を得られていない部分が結構ある。我々は大気上下結合を調べることを主目的として対流圏から熱圏までの中性大気領域と電離圏と self-consistent に結合した大気圏 - 電離圏結合モデル (GAIA: Ground-to-topside model of Atmosphere and Ionosphere for Aeronomy) を開発した。そして、このモデルによって電離圏の波数4構造や熱圏夜間の温度上昇、成層圏昇温時の超高層大気変動等を再現し、下層大気との繋がりの詳細を明らかにしつつある。

本発表では、大気上下結合モデリングの立場から ISS-IMAP 観測との連携によってどのような研究が出来るか議論したい。特にモデルは様々な仮定や現実の簡略化等の上に構築されており、現実とどれくらい合うか分からない面がある一方で、観測は現象を把握する際に時空間範囲や分解能、他の物理変数の情報など十分でない面がある。観測とモデルの連携によって両者の不足をカバー出来れば、一歩進んだ解析が可能になると期待される。またモデルを高精度にする開発も現在進めており、ISS-IMAP の観測との連携も効果的になると考えられる。その辺りも紹介したい。

キーワード: 衛星観測, モデリング, シミュレーション, 超高層大気, 中層大気, 下層大気

Keywords: satellite observation, modeling, simulation, upper atmosphere, middle atmosphere, lower atmosphere

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Science opportunities from Cluster Swarm synergies Science opportunities from Cluster Swarm synergies

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The upcoming ESA Swarm mission, consisting of three spacecraft in the Earth's ionosphere of which two are kept close to each other, together with the four-spacecraft ESA Cluster mission in the magnetosphere, provides a number of exiting new science opportunities for ionospheric physics and magnetosphere-ionosphere coupling studies. The magnetic and electric field measurements from the Swarm mission will allow us to obtain spatial maps of ionospheric currents, convection, and conductances along a strip that envelopes the orbits of the two closeby traveling satellites. The novel technique for calculating these properties from the Swarm data is based on Spherical Elementary Current (Vector) Systems (SECS), and will be presented together with first synthetic application examples. Using these results together with Cluster measurements of field-aligned currents allows us to estimate the ionosphere-magnetosphere coupling factor K, as defined by the Knight relation, solely based on data. Further examples from the multitude of science opportunities from Cluster Swarm synergies, also additionally utilizing ground-based instruments, include amongst others studies of the Poynting flux between the magnetosphere and ionosphere, statistical comparisons between the plasma convection in both domains, and examination of the field-aligned current closure between ionospheric region 2 currents and the magnetospheric ring current.

キーワード: Swarm multi-satellite mission, Cluster multi-satellite mission, magnetosphere-ionosphere coupling, ionospheric electrodynamics

Keywords: Swarm multi-satellite mission, Cluster multi-satellite mission, magnetosphere-ionosphere coupling, ionospheric electrodynamics

Development of neural network based ionospheric tomography and application to actual data under several conditions Development of neural network based ionospheric tomography and application to actual data under several conditions

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Three-dimensional ionospheric tomography is effective for investigation of the dynamics of ionospheric phenomena. Especially, to understand the anomalous and/or irregular ionospheric structure, model-free and robust tomographic technique is important. However, it is an ill posed problem in the context of sparse data, and accurate electron density reconstruction is difficult. The Residual Minimization Training Neural Network (RMTNN) tomographic approach, a multilayer neural network trained by minimizing an objective function, allows reconstruction of sparse data. Moreover, the method is not required the initial ionospheric distributions (in other words, model-free method).

In this study, we validate the reconstruction performance of the developed algorithm using numerical simulation and actual data under various ionospheric conditions. Then we apply it to the practical data observed in March 2011, Japan (before the 2011 off the Pacific coast of Tohoku earthquake, Mw 9.0). As for the Tohoku earthquake, the significant enhancements are found in Total Electron Content (TEC) investigation, 1, 3-4 days prior to the earthquake. Especially, TEC increase of 3 days prior to the earthquake was remarkable. As a result, the reconstructed distribution of electron density was enhanced in sub-ionosphere to over F-region in comparison with 15 days backward median distribution. Moreover the enhanced area is seems to be developed to upper ionosphere from sub-ionosphere with time. The tomographic results suggest the existence of some energy influx from the surface associated with seismic activity. Details will be shown in the presentation.

キーワード: Ionospheric tomography, Neural network, GPS

Keywords: Ionospheric tomography, Neural network, GPS

中規模伝搬性電離圏擾乱 (MSTID) の生成機構と ISS-IMAP による観測 Generation mechanism and ISS-IMAP observation of medium-scale traveling ionospheric disturbances (MSTIDs)

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Plasma density structures and associated irregularities in the nighttime midlatitude ionosphere are frequently observed as frontal structures elongated from northwest to southeast (NW-SE) in the northern hemisphere, also known as medium-scale traveling ionospheric disturbances (MSTIDs). MSTIDs were often observed simultaneously at magnetic conjugate locations in the Northern and Southern Hemispheres. It has been believed from observational and theoretical studies that MSTIDs are not simple manifestation of atmospheric gravity waves, but generated by electrodynamic processes: Perkins instability in the F region and sporadic-E (Es)-layer instability in the E region. Through the E-F coupling process, the seeding by an Es layer accelerates the growth of MSTIDs, and the neutral wind in the E region controls the propagation of MSTIDs. The most important aspect of MSTIDs which is still unknown from ground-based observations is their boundary at high and low latitudes. There are several reports of MSTID observations at sub-auroral and equatorial ionization anomaly regions, but a systematic study on latitudinal boundary of MSTIDs has yet to be done. Imaging of MSTIDs from ISS-IMAP is expected to reveal the latitudinal boundary and contributes to further understanding of the MSTID generation mechanism.

Keywords: ionosphere, MSTID, Perkins instability, E-F coupling, ISS-IMAP

Calibration and analysis of IMAV/VISI observational data Calibration and analysis of IMAV/VISI observational data

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Visible and near-infrared spectrographic imager (VISI) for the ISS-IMAV (Ionosphere, Mesosphere, upper Atmosphere and Plasmasphere mapping) mission installed on the Exposure Facility on the Japanese Experiment Module on the International Space Station in August 2012. Initial observations were held in August and September and nominal observations started in October. The objective of this study is the quantitative evaluation of some noises which are recorded in the observational data. VISI observes airglow emissions in the night by two field-of-views in nadir direction toward the Earth. VISI observes airglow with three different observational modes which are named "Calibration", "Spectral" and "Peak." Airglow observed by this imager is diffracted and imaged on the single CCD. Noise caused by an electrical interference were found in the Calibration mode images. Stripes in the same position which caused by this interference were able to reduce by the evaluation of the noise pattern from 56 calibration data in initial and nominal observations. It is also found that count value of the Peak mode are not uniform in the image. These are thought to be caused by the non-uniformity of the shape of the optical part since these noise were not observed on data in case of the no incoming light to the imager. These noise are also reduced from the analysis of 320 data in Peak mode observations. Sensitivity to the light intensity are different between the two field-of-views. These non-uniformity and difference of sensitivity could be able to be corrected by using patterns earned by the statistical study of the observational data.

Keywords: spectrography, imager, airglow, the International Space Station, nadir, mesosphere

Observation of the O2 (0-0) atmospheric band nightglow by the IMAP/VISI: a case study Observation of the O2 (0-0) atmospheric band nightglow by the IMAP/VISI: a case study

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The Visible and near-Infrared Spectral Imager (VISI) of the IMAP mission has been launched onto the International Space Station (ISS) since July 21st 2012. IMAP/VISI begins its nominal operation from the middle of October and will make a continuous observation for the next 3 years. IMAP/VISI is now operated in the nightside hemisphere with a range of ± 51 deg. GLAT, measuring three different airglow emissions of OI at 630 nm, the OH Meinel band at 730 nm and the O2 (0-0) atmospheric band at 762 nm at an altitude of ~ 400 km with the typical spatial resolution of 16×50 km. Since the start of nominal operation in the middle of October 2012, IMAP/VISI has been observing airglow emission in the MLT region and found many interesting features. One of the rare events observed by IMAP/VISI is a concentric pattern of gravity wave on the O2 (0-0) airglow emission. This pattern was observed on October 18, 2012 over northeastern part of Japan around 1200 UT. The similar pattern was also observed by all-sky camera at Rikubetsu in the 557.5 nm and OH airglow emissions. From the MTSAT satellite, we found a strong convective activity over Honshu Island around the same hour, which could be the source of this rare pattern. We will report the case study of this event and a possibility to do the statistic study on this concentric pattern if we could find other events from IMAP/VISI observation.

キーワード: IMAP/VISI, O2 (0-0) atmospheric band, nightglow, concentric gravity wave structu

Keywords: IMAP/VISI, O2 (0-0) atmospheric band, nightglow, concentric gravity wave structu

Preliminary result of the comparison between hi-resolution TEC map and airglow images observed by ISS/IMAP-VISI

Preliminary result of the comparison between high-resolution TEC map and airglow images observed by ISS/IMAP-VISI

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Two-dimensional Total Electron Content (TEC) map has been used for revealing characteristics of meso-scale ionospheric disturbances, such as Equatorial Plasma Bubble (EPB) and Travelling Ionospheric Disturbances (TID). We have developed high-resolution TEC map and started "Dense Regional And Worldwide International Networks of GNSS-TEC observation (DRAWING-TEC)" project (<http://seg-web.nict.go.jp/GPS/DRAWING-TEC/>). The DRAWING-TEC project aims to expand the high-resolution TEC observation area by sharing TEC data in the newly standardized GTEX format. The project also provides regional and global maps of absolute value of TEC, de-trended TEC with 60-min window, and Rate of TEC change Index (ROTI). As of 2013, regional maps are produced over North America and Europe in addition to Japan. The spatial resolution of TEC maps of North America and Europe is 0.15 deg x 0.15 deg with a 5x5 pixel smoothing. The temporal resolution of these maps is 30 seconds. These regional maps are powerful tools for studying characteristics of EPBs and TIDs. We compared the regional TEC map with the 630 nm airglow image obtained by ISS-IMAP/VISI. The preliminary results of the comparison will be shown in the presentation.

キーワード: 電離圏全電子数, 宇宙ステーション, 伝搬性電離圏擾乱, 赤道域プラズマバブル

Keywords: Total Electron Content map, ISS/IMAP, traveling ionospheric disturbance, equatorial plasma bubble

ISS 暴露部搭載 極端紫外光撮像装置 (EUVI) の初期結果 Initial Results from the Extreme Ultraviolet Imager (EUVI) of ISS-IMAP

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The extreme ultraviolet imager (EUVI) on the international space station (ISS) was launched in July 2012 and started observations in December 2012. The EUVI detects resonantly scattered EUV emissions from He⁺ (30.4 nm) and O⁺ (83.4 nm). It directs toward the Earth's limb and provides images of He⁺ and O⁺ distribution in the ionosphere and plasmasphere on the night side with 15 degrees of field of view. The maximum spatial resolution is 0.1 degree and the exposure time is 1 minute. In this presentation, we show images taken by EUVI at various latitudes, longitudes and local times. We will discuss temporal and spatial variations of He⁺ and O⁺ in the ionosphere and plasmasphere.

キーワード: 電離圏, プラズマ圏, 国際宇宙ステーション, 極端紫外光
Keywords: ionosphere, plasmasphere, ISS, EUV

ISS-IMAP 搭載極端紫外光撮像装置 (EUVI) の地上較正試験 Performance of the Extreme Ultraviolet Imager (EUVI) of ISS-IMAP mission

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The Extreme Ultraviolet Imager (EUVI), which is the part of ISS-IMAP (Ionosphere, Mesosphere, upper Atmosphere and Plasmasphere mapping) mission, was successfully launched in July 2012 and began its on-orbit operations. EUVI has two prime-focus telescopes that are designed to detect the resonantly scattered emissions from He⁺ (at the wavelength of 30.4 nm) and O⁺ (83.4 nm) respectively. In order to clarify the plasma transport process in Earth's upper atmosphere, EUVI observes distributions of He⁺ and O⁺ in the ionosphere and plasmasphere.

The optical instruments consist of multilayer coated mirrors, metallic thin filters and microchannel plate detectors. The EUVI ground calibration has been carried out and the total sensitivities are estimated to be 0.060 cps/R for He⁺ and 0.0023 cps/R for O⁺.

In this poster, the instrumental design and performance of EUVI are presented.

キーワード: 国際宇宙ステーション, 極端紫外光, 電離圏, プラズマ圏

Keywords: ISS, EUV, ionosphere, plasmasphere

GPS PWV Estimation during Dust Storm Season GPS PWV Estimation during Dust Storm Season

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Dust storms originate from the arid area are of concern to microwave propagation and satellite telemetry due to they can be influenced to carrier depolarization and phase delay. As technology advances, and new methods of making measurements are developed or made more economical, it becomes feasible to make comparative measurements of the same parameters using independent techniques. One such technique is the ground-based GPS meteorology, which is able to quickly and inexpensively expand the number of global upper-air moisture observations for radiosonde and satellite verification. On 31 March-02 April 2007, heavy Asian dust storm hit the Korean peninsula in East Asia causing extensive damages. In this paper, the Korean GPS permanent stations were used to estimate precipitable water vapor (PWV) during dust storm season. The GPS PWV estimates have monitored the density variations of dust storm associated with anomalous atmospheric wet/dry conditions. In order to monitor the GPS PWV variations to establish the relationship with the level of atmospheric concentration of aerosol particulates during an Asian dust storm, GPS PWV estimations were analyzed during March 30-April 04, 2007. In this period, the maximum value of PM10 (2,019 microgram/cubicmeter) was recorded in Daegu station at 07hr April 01 2007 (UTC) and at Seoul is 1,233 microgram/cubicmeter (12hr April 01) and at Cheonan is 1,261 microgram/cubicmeter (15hr April 01). It can be found that the actual GPS PWV variations are correlated with the spatio-temporal variability of the PM10 data.

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