

An MHD Simulation of the Magnetosphere of Hot-Jupiter

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In our solar system, structure and dynamics of planetary magnetospheres are affected by interaction with the solar wind with interplanetary magnetic field (IMF). Moreover, the individualities of planetary magnetospheres are determined by the mass, intrinsic magnetic field, co-rotation period, plasma sources and distance from the sun. Thus three fundamental important parameters for planetary magnetospheres can be presented as the magnetopause distance, Alfvén radius, where rotational speed equals the Alfvén speed, and distribution and species of plasma sources. Moreover, many characters of planet such as atmosphere and ionosphere are strongly affected by distance from the sun.

In recently, more than two hundreds of extra-solar giant planets have been discovered by observations and their characters are interested in space science. Many features on electromagnetic circumstances are of course not known for the extra-solar giant planets. One of outstanding features is location of the giant planets and they are so close to the central star. Therefore we have studied interaction of the solar wind with an extra-solar giant planet by the 3-dimensional MHD simulation when Jupiter is assumed to be at a very closed distance of 10 solar radii from the sun. In such a situation, a magnetospheric configuration with Alfvén wings is formed because the Alfvén Mach number is less than unity. We will present quasi-steady magnetospheric configuration of hot-Jupiter when the IMF is imposed. Moreover response of hot-Jupiter is studied when the IMF orientation changes. It shows complicated behavior because of sub-Alfvénic condition in the solar wind.