

U002-03

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あかつき搭載 1 μ mカメラIR1

1 micro-m camera onboard Akatsuki / Venus Climate Orbiter

岩上 直幹^{1*}, 大月 祥子², 高木 聖子³

Naomoto Iwagami^{1*}, Shoko Ohtsuki², Seiko Takagi³

¹東京大学, ²宇宙科学研究所, ³東京大学

¹University of Tokyo, ²ISAS, ³University of Tokyo

The 1 micro-m camera named IR1 is one of 5 cameras, and works both on the dayside and the nightside. On the dayside, it measures the solar radiation at 0.90 μ m scattered by the clouds, and quantifies the horizontal wind vectors by using the cloud-tacking technique. By combining the information obtained from various heights by the other cameras and by the radio occultation, meteorological information such as the wind field and the distribution of eddy diffusion may be deduced. This will make it possible to investigate the generation mechanism of the super-rotation. On the nightside, it has 3 channels of 0.90, 0.97 and 1.01 μ m to detect thermal emission mostly from the surface and a little from the lower atmosphere. The latter two channels are a differential absorption pair for measuring the surface H₂O abundance with the 1.01 μ m channel as a reference. Although the center of the H₂O band is located at 0.94 μ m, the 0.97 μ m channel is suitable to obtain information about H₂O abundance because of moderate absorption (not too strong and not too weak). H₂O is one of the most important minor constituents near the surface because of various reactions with surface minerals. Also it is related to the chemistry of the clouds, which are mostly made of H₂SO₄ and H₂O.

Keywords: Venus, IR, imaging