

Entropy Production in Planetary Atmospheres: Earth, Mars, Titan

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We explore the state of the atmosphere of Earth, Mars, and Titan through the hypothesis: the mean state of the planetary atmosphere is consistent with a maximum entropy production (MEP) state due to nonlinear heat transport in the turbulent atmosphere [Sawada, 1981].

We estimate latitudinal distribution of temperature and longwave and shortwave radiation with the multi-box model based on a two-box model for latitudinal heat transport [Lorenz et al., 2001]. The model may be useful in the point of calculability with a few parameters.

The results of estimate values indicate good agreement with the observed values of Earth and Mars except for Martian short-wave radiation and Titan's values. They will be much better if the model includes latitudinal dependence of albedo and cloud effect for Earth. There is an error (-10 to +5) for Titan's temperature.

The investigation is now in progress, for the reason of error and the lack of observed radiation data for Mars and Titan.

References

- Lorenz, R.D. et al., Geophysical Research Letters, Vol 28, 415-418, 2001.
Sawada, Y., Progress of Theoretical Physics, Vol 66, No. 1, 68-76, 1981.

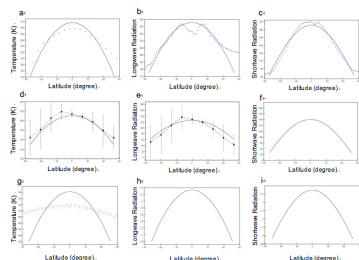


Figure 1. Latitudinal distributions of (a) surface temperature, (b) longwave radiation (W/m^2), (c) shortwave radiation (W/m^2) in the Earth. Latitudinal distributions of (d) surface temperature, (e) longwave radiation (W/m^2), (f) shortwave radiation (W/m^2) in Mars. Latitudinal distributions of (g) surface temperature, (h) longwave radiation (W/m^2), (i) shortwave radiation (W/m^2) in Titan. Solid line curves indicate those predicted with the model of maximum entropy production. Dotted lines indicate those observed. The error bars (d, e) are caused by seasonal changes.

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