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国際宇宙ステーションからの VHF 帯電磁波を用いた雷観測 VHF observations on lightning discharges from the International Space Station

菊池 博史 1* , 森本 健志 2 , 牛尾 知雄 1 , 佐藤 光輝 3 , 山崎 敦 4 , 鈴木 睦 5 , 菊池 雅行 6 , 石田 良平 7 , 高橋 幸弘 3 , Umran Inan 11 , Ivan Linscott 11 , 芳原 容英 9 , 坂本 祐二 10

Hiroshi Kikuchi^{1*}, Takeshi Morimoto², Tomoo Ushio¹, Mitsuteru Sato³, Atsushi Yamazaki⁴, Makoto Suzuki⁵, Masayuki Kikuchi⁶, Ryohei Ishida⁷, Yukihiro Takahashi³, Umran Inan¹¹, Ivan Linscott¹¹, Yasuhide Hobara⁹, Yuji Sakamoto¹⁰

 1 大阪大学, 2 近畿大学, 3 北海道大学 大学院理学研究院, 4 宇宙航空研究開発機構 宇宙科学研究所, 5 宇宙航空研究開発機構宇宙科学研究本部, 6 国立極地研究所, 7 大阪府立大学, 8 北海道大学・大学院理学院・宇宙理学専攻, 9 電気通信大学大学院情報理工学研究科, 10 東北大学大学院工学研究科航空宇宙工学専攻, 11 スタンフォード大学

¹Osaka University, ²Faculty of Science and Engineering, Kinki University, ³Department of Cosmoscience, Hokkaido University, ⁴Institute of Space and Astronautical Science / Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, ⁵Institute for Space and Astronautical Sciences, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, ⁶NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF POLAR RESEARCH, ⁷Osaka Prefecture University, ⁸Department of Cosmosciences, Graduate School of Science, Hokkaido University, ⁹The University of Electro-Communications, ¹⁰Department of Aerospace Engineering, Graduate School of Engineering, Tohoku University, ¹¹Stanford University

We present the lightning observation missions from space using the electromagnetic waves.

In 2012, Global Lightning and sprIte MeaSurements (GLIMS) mission has been conducted on Exposed Facility of Japanese Experiment Module (JEM-EF) of the international space station (ISS) which is orbiting the earth at an altitude 400 km. The VHF broadband digital interferometer (VITF) attached on JEM-EF is designed to estimate the direction of arrival of electromagnetic waves. The VITF has th bandwidth from 70 MHz to 100 MHz. The VITF on GLIMS is developed on the heritage of a VHF sensor on Maido-1 satellite. The VITF consists of two antennas, band-pass filters, amplifiers, and 2-channel-AD-converter. The electromagnetic radiations from lighting discharges received by the antennas are digitized by the AD converter synchronizing with another channel through the filters and the amplifiers. The band-pass filter and the amplifier of the VITF are exactly the same as the ones of the VHF sensor on Maido-1 satellite. The basic specification and most of devices in the AD converter of VITF are proven by the one of VHF sensor on Maido-1 satellite.

We will introduce the outline of the mission and the VITF. The initial observational results with the VITF of the JEM- GLIMS mission will be presented. We discuss the results and the VHF wave propagation characteristics through the ionosphere.

キーワード: 雷放電, 電磁波, 電波観測

Keywords: lightning, electromagnetic waves, radio observation