

Evaluations of wind electric energy at Martian Planetia and Mons

Yasuhiro Nishikawa^{1*}, Kei Kurita¹, Aymeric Spiga²

¹The university of Tokyo. Earthquake Research Institute, ²UPMC Sorbonne Universites

In planetary exploration such as a lander and a rover operating on the surface ability of electric power supply puts decisive limit on the operation. In the situation of Mars solar energy generation has been considered as a unique way to generate electricity. But sometimes martian strong surface winds cause some troubles for solar panels. MER-A(rover spirits) stopped on sol 2210 (March 22, 2010), because of its low electric power. With the increase amount of sand, the solar energy production decreases. In this presentation we report possibility of electricity generation by wind on Mars. Several lines of observation data indicate that Mars is a windy planet. Kaydash et al.,2006 estimated wind velocity up to 80[m/s] by cloud tracking. This wind velocity corresponds to the altitude above 30[km], while the surface wind was measured by the lander of Viking (Murphy et al., 1990) and Phoenix. On the surface of Mars, many eolian features are also discovered. They indicate that Mars is a windy planet (Fenton et al., 2005; Hayward et al., 2009). Fenton et al consider the surface winds over 20[m/s] as indicative of potential sand transports on the floor of Proctor Crater. On the surface of sloped ground much higher wind velocity is estimated (Toyota et al., 2011). We estimated wind electric energy at 3 different locations. Elysium Planetia, Chryse Planetia and Arsia Mons. Arsia Mons is one of the most windy place on Mars, because of its slope wind, Elysium Planetia is one of the candidate landing site for InSight mission and we have wind velocity data of Chryse Planetia (because Chryse Planetia was Viking Lander 1 Landing site.). These amount of energy wind turbine can generate strongly depends on the site and geography. We can generate only 3.4 [Watt hour] in a day, if we can install 1 meter square(sweep area) wind turbine on Chryse Planetia. But if we can install same turbine in Arsia Mons area, we can generate 137 [Watt hour] in a day.

We compared these results to other techniques (solar panels and nuclear batteries) with electric energy per mass. Finally, we found that wind electric is useful on Mars.

Keywords: Mars, Wind electric energy, Planetary exploration, Martian wind, Slope wind

A 2D numerical simulation of atmospheric convection with condensation of major component under early Mars condition

Tatsuya Yamashita^{1*}, Masatsugu Odaka¹, Ko-ichiro SUGIYAMA¹, Kensuke Nakajima², Masaki Ishiwatari¹, Yoshi-Yuki Hayashi³

¹Hokkaido university, ²Kyushu university, ³Kobe university

In the early Martian atmosphere, it is suggested that the major component has condensed in wide area, and scattering greenhouse effect of CO₂ ice cloud contributed to the warm climate (Forget et al., 2013). The scattering greenhouse effect depends on the cloud distribution, and convective motion would play an important role in formation and distribution of the cloud. However, the structure of atmospheric convection with condensation of major component is poorly understood.

Colaprete et al.(2003) suggests that the convection due to buoyancy associated with condensation of major atmospheric component occurs if critical saturation ratio (Scr) is greater than 1 and surrounding air is kept supersaturated. However, Colaprete et al.(2003) only simulates by using 1D cloud model. It is necessary to perform 2D fluid model simulation for further investigation.

We have been developing a two-dimensional cloud resolving model including condensation of major component and performing preliminary numerical simulations under polar night condition in present Mars (e.g. Yamashita et al., JPGU 2012). In this study, we perform numerical simulation under the early Mars condition and investigate dependencies of Scr and number density of condensation nuclei (N*) on the flow field and cloud distribution of the convection.

The governing equations are the quasi-compressible system with condensation of major atmospheric component(Yamashita et al., 2012). Cloud particle grows only diffusion process and we assume that supersaturation is maintained if cloud density is less than the threshold (10^{-6}kg/m^3). It is physically equivalent that we consider the critical radius of cloud particle that grows diffusively. Instead of solving atmospheric radiative transfer equation, we give horizontally uniform cooling from 0 km to 50 km height and Newtonian cooling above 50 km height. The value of cooling rate is 0.1 K/day (Kasting 1991). The surface pressure is 2.0×10^5 Pa and the surface temperature is fixed at 273 K. The initial temperature profile follows dry adiabat below 20 km height, and saturation vapor pressure from 20 km height to 50 km height, and isothermal above 50 km height. We set the value of Scr as 1.0 and 1.35 (Glandorf et al., 2002), and we set the value of N* as 5.0×10^8 , 5.0×10^6 , and 5.0×10^4 /kg (Forget et al., 2013). The computational domain is 100 km in the horizontal direction and 80 km in the vertical direction. The spatial resolution is 500 m in the horizontal direction and 400 m in the vertical direction.

In the case for Scr = 1.0, the horizontally uniform cloud layer emerges quasi-stationarily above the condensation level. Vertical velocity in cloud layer is much smaller than those below the condensation level, and it is 0.5 m/s at a maximum. These characteristics do not depend on N*. In the case for Scr = 1.35, cloud distribution depends on N*. As N* is less than 5.0×10^8 /kg, condensation and non-condensation periods occur alternately. In the condensation period, vertical velocity in the cloud is 2-3m/s. In the non-condensation period, horizontally uniform cloud layer forms, and the cloud density is less than the threshold for condensation (10^{-6}kg/m^3). Vertical velocity in the cloud layer is 0.5 m/s at a maximum.

We conclude that the spatial and temporal structure of cloud convection with condensation of major component vary greatly with the values of Scr and N*, and there are two types of solutions, which are a quasi-stationary solution that cloud distribution and flow field do not change in time drastically, and a quasi-periodic solution that condensation and non-condensation periods occur alternately.

Keywords: condensation of major atmospheric component, carbon dioxide ice cloud, cloud resolving model, early Mars

CO₂ Snowfalls Affected by the Baroclinic Waves in the Winter Polar Atmosphere of Mars

Takeshi Kuroda^{1*}, Alexander S. Medvedev², Yasumasa Kasaba¹, Paul Hartogh²

¹Tohoku University, ²Max Planck Institute for Solar System Research

Using a Mars general circulation model (MGCM), we have simulated the formation of CO₂ ice clouds in the winter polar atmosphere of Mars, and showed that the occurrences of ice clouds and deposition rates on the surface are closely linked to traveling planetary waves. Given the regular and periodic nature of such waves, this study may suggest a basis for reliable forecasts of CO₂ snow storms.

The seasonal CO₂ polar cap appears to be formed from ice particles that have fallen from the atmosphere as well as those condensed directly on the surface. The possible occurrence of CO₂ snowfall in the winter polar regions have been observed, and preceding simulation studies have indicated that the longitudinal irregularities of CO₂ ice clouds in the northern polar region seemed to be linked to local weather phenomena. Especially transient planetary waves are the prominent feature during northern winters in martian atmosphere, and this study put an emphasis on revealing the mechanism how the dynamical influence of transient planetary waves affect the occurrence of CO₂ ice clouds, snowfalls and formations of seasonal CO₂ polar cap in high latitudes during northern winters.

We have implemented a simple scheme representing the formation and transport of CO₂ ice clouds into our MGCM, and investigated snowfall in high latitudes during northern winters. Our simulation showed that clouds were formed at altitudes of up to ~40 km in the north of 70 N, and their occurrence correlated to a large degree with the cold phases of transient planetary waves. Most ice particles formed above 10 km did not reach the surface in the form of snowfall, and it was likely that these particles sublimate in the lower warmer atmospheric layers. Deposition rates on the surface was shown to strongly depend on the transient planetary waves below ~10 km, as 90% of the seasonal ice cap was created by CO₂ snow while the remaining 10% were attributed to direct condensation on the surface.

Keywords: Mars, atmospheric dynamics, general circulation model, CO₂ ice clouds, polar ice cap

Concept of Mars meteorological orbiter

Takeshi Imamura^{1*}, Kazunori Ogohara¹

¹Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency

A Mars meteorological orbiter mission is under study. The primary objective of the orbiter will be exploration of meteorological processes with focusing on dust cycle. Water cycle and photochemistry will also be addressed.

In spite of tremendous efforts in Mars weather monitoring in previous Mars missions, dust and water cycle are far from fully understood. Though Mars Global Surveyor and Mars Climate Orbiter has provided a wealth of information on the seasonal cycle of large-scale dust storm and water vapor distributions, observations of individual meso- to synoptic-scale transport processes are limited due to spatially and temporary sparse sampling inherent in low-altitude polar orbits.

The Mars orbiter under study will address material transport over wide spatial and temporal scales with continuous, high-resolution global monitoring of dust, clouds, water vapor, minor gases, and temperature field from an elliptical, equatorial orbit. The apoapsis of the orbit will be located always near the local noon. The observation strategy resembles that of Earth's meteorological weather satellites, but the instruments are optimized to Mars weather monitoring. A polarimetric camera will visualize lofted dust grains and characterize the dust size distribution. A sub-millimeter sounder will obtain three-dimensional distributions of atmospheric temperature, water vapor, other minor gases and their isotopes. A thermal imager will monitor the global distributions of dust and atmospheric temperature, and also vertical profiles of dust with limb imaging. Radio occultation will obtain high-precision temperature profiles. The observations will complement other future Mars missions such as ESA's Trace Gas Orbiter, which focuses on high-sensitivity trace gas observations.

Keywords: Mars, meteorology, exploration, orbiter

Prime Habitable Environment of Mars: Argyre Impact Basin

James Dohm^{1*}, Shigenori Maruyama¹, Hideaki Miyamoto², Ramy El Maarry³, Richard Soare⁴, Trent Hare⁵

¹Earth-Life Science Institute, Tokyo Institute of Technology, ²The University Museum, The University of Tokyo, ³Physikalisches Institut, Bern Univ., ⁴Dept. of Geog., Dawson College, ⁵USGS, Flagstaff

The geologic provinces of Mars, as identified through a synthesis of geologic, paleohydro-logic, topographic, geophysical, spectral, and elemental information [1], are windows into its evolution, such as the Hellas-Argyre province (middle to early Mars). The Argyre basin and surroundings, in particular, records long-term water enrichment and heat-energy, likely nutrient-enriched materials, and solar radiation, collectively making Argyre a prime habitable environment for the exploration of possible life [2-4]. The giant impact event tapped into primordial mantle and granite-enriched crustal materials, including rocks enriched in elements which are critical to life (including P,O,N,C,H,S,Ca,Fe; see [Shigenori Maruyama, this conference]), creating a catchment for water and rock materials since its formation about 4.0 Ga [1-3].

A lake was formed directly subsequent to the event, feeding the far-reaching Uzboi Vallis system; other lakes filled the impact-derived local basins as well. The lakes soon froze, and the once lacustrine environment transitioned into glacial and periglacial environments. Through time, liquid water/water-ice waned, though not totally being depleted, as there was subsequent Tharsis superplume-driven, transient hydrological cycling at global scale [3] (including enhanced activities in the basin region).

Long-term water enrichment in and surrounding the Argyre basin includes geologically-recent and possibly present-day periglacial and glacial activity [5,6]. The major topographic variations between the deep catchment basin and nearby Tharsis-superplume plateau may have resulted in enhanced precipitation through time resulting from both endogenic activity (e.g., Tharsis) and exogenic activity (e.g., obliquity).

In addition, the impact produced a complex system of tectonic structures, many of which are thousands of kilometers in length and reach great depths (likely the Moho). Such basement structures served as conduits for the migration of volatiles and heat energy into the basin region from as far away as Tharsis [1-3].

Yet another important habitable-environmental condition is the long-term heat generated by the impact. There even appears to be geologically recent venting along the basin floor as well as reactivation of the impact-generated basement structures. Such an interplay among long-term water enrichment and heat-energy, likely nutrient-enriched materials, and solar radiation collectively point to Argyre basin as a prime habitable environment for exploration of possible life.

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Science and landing-site candidates of the MELOS 1 EDL demonstrator

Hideaki Miyamoto^{1*}, Takehiko Satoh², Takashi Kubota², Kazumasa Fujita², Takeshi Imamura², Tatsuaki Okada², Akihiko Yamagishi³, Goro Komatsu⁴, Yoshiaki Ishihara⁵, George HASHIMOTO⁶, Hirohide Demura⁷, Hiroki Senshu⁸, Takahiro Iwata², Sho Sasaki⁹, Akira Oyama², Genya Ishigami², Naoko Ogawa², Kazuhiko Yamada², James M. Dohm¹⁰

¹University Museum, University of Tokyo, ²JAXA, ³Tokyo University of Pharmacy and Life Science, Department of Molecular Biology, ⁴IRSPS, ⁵National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology, ⁶Department of Earth Sciences, Okayama University, ⁷The University of Aizu, ⁸Planetary Exploration Research Center, Chiba Institute of Technology, ⁹National Astronomical Observatory of Japan, ¹⁰Tokyo Institute of Technology

MELOS (Mars Exploration with a Lander-Orbiter Synergy) is a Japanese Mars-exploration mission proposed by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency. Through a few years of discussions of its both scientific and engineering aspects, the outline of the mission becomes clearer. Most importantly, MELOS now stands for a concept of a series of missions; the MELOS 1 will focus on an accurate orbital insertion with an entry-decent-landing (EDL) demonstrator for future Mars missions, which will be followed by a full-scaled MELOS 2 or later missions.

MELOS1 emphasizes its engineering aspects, however, the EDL and the orbiter carries a fair amount of science payload to perform geologic and atmospheric investigations to expand our knowledge of the red planet. In this talk, we will report an update on the EDL of the MELOS 1 mission, especially about its size/orbital parameters as well as its scientific goal and potential landing sites.

Keywords: Mars, Lander, life, dust, water

Magnetic hysteresis measurement of magnetite under high pressure: Implication for source of the Martian magnetic anomaly

Masahiko Sato^{1*}, Yuhji Yamamoto², Takashi Nishioka², Kazuto KODAMA², Hideo Tsunakawa³, Nobutatsu Mochizuki⁴, Yoichi Usui⁵

¹Kyushu University, ²Kochi University, ³Tokyo Institute of Technology, ⁴Kumamoto University, ⁵JAMSTEC

Mars Global Surveyor observed the magnetic field of Mars, and revealed that there are many strong magnetic anomalies [1]. The strong magnetic anomalies suggest an active core dynamo of early Mars (about 4 billion years ago), and some mechanism of crustal formation in the dynamo field. Since magnetic properties of crustal rocks depend critically upon the mineralogical form of magnetic particles, the strong magnetic anomalies can give crucial information about the chemical composition and oxidation state prevailing in the early Martian crust. However, source of the magnetic anomalies have been poorly understood yet because of the lack of basic information concerning magnetic properties of deep crustal rocks. Here, we report laboratory magnetic experiments to interpret the source of the Martian magnetic anomaly.

According to previous analyses of the Martian anomalies [2,3,4], sources of the anomalies have to satisfy the following requirement: (1) the crustal rock on average is more intensely magnetized than terrestrial continental crust, (2) there may be a continuous non-magnetized layer at the surface (about 10 km), and (3) the magnetic layer is thick (about 30 - 40 km). Moreover, it is well known that remanent magnetization of the magnetic mineral gradually decays in a null field and at a temperature lower than the Curie point [5]. Thus, magnetic minerals of the Martian crust, probably magnetite [6], should have retained their magnetizations under high pressure and temperature for about 4 billion years.

In this study, we have conducted in-situ magnetic hysteresis measurement of magnetite under high pressure up to 1 GPa by using the high-pressure cell specially designed for a Magnetic Property Measuring System (MPMS). Based on the experimental results, systematic rock magnetic properties of multi-domain (MD), pseudo-single-domain (PSD), and single-domain (SD) magnetite were first obtained for high pressure up to 1 GPa. The results show that magnetite exhibits various pressure dependences with respect to magnetic domain states. Both MD and PSD magnetite particles, the coercivity monotonously increases with pressure at a rate of +90 %/GPa. On the other hand, the coercivity of SD magnetite is almost constant in the pressure range by 1GPa.

Taking into account new results of pressure dependences of hysteresis parameters, relaxation time of remanent magnetization in the Martian crust was calculated as a function of depth and age. As a result, remanent magnetization carried by MD and PSD magnetite would have been demagnetized within 4 billion years, except very shallow crustal part (shallower than 5 km). On the other hand, the SD magnetite could stably retain its magnetization in the entire crust. Therefore it is concluded that source of the Martian magnetic anomaly is probably elongated SD magnetite with submicron size, suggesting that chemical composition and oxygen state in the Martian crust was suited for bearing fine grains of magnetite about 4 billion years ago.

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Keywords: Magnetite, High-Pressure, Magnetic Hysteresis, Martian Magnetic Anomaly

A moderate hydrogen isotope composition of the surficial water reservoir on Mars

Tomohiro Usui^{1*}, ALEXANDER, Conel C.M.O'D², WANG, Jianhua², SIMON, Justin I.³, JONES, John H.³

¹Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, Tokyo Institute of Technology, ²Carnegie Institution of Washington, ³Johnson Space Center, NASA

Martian surface morphology implies that Mars was once warm enough to maintain persistent liquid water on its surface and that water played a significant role in the formation of weathered/altered terrains. This study characterizes Martian surficial volatile reservoirs based on in situ ion microprobe analyses of volatile abundances and H-isotopes of glassy phases (groundmass glass [GG] and impact melt [IM]) in Martian basalts (shergottites). Although these meteorites are of igneous origin, some glassy phases underwent impact-induced modification that trapped surficial and atmospheric volatile components. Analyses of these glassy phases demonstrate that surficial volatile reservoirs have distinct D/H ratios from their magmatic volatiles.

Hydrogen isotope compositions and the abundances of volatile elements (H₂O, CO₂, S, Cl, F) of IMs and GGs have been measured using an ion microprobe (Cameca ims-6f) at DTM-CIW. This study employs three olivine-phyric shergottites: Y-980459 (Y98), LAR 06319 (LAR06), and Lithology-A of EETA79001 (EETA79). These meteorites are petrographically similar, but are geochemically distinct in terms of their radiogenic isotopes and incompatible trace elements. The composition of Y98 closely approximates a Martian primary melt that was directly derived from a geochemically depleted mantle reservoir. In contrast, LAR06 represents a melt that has assimilated a geochemically enriched Martian crust. EETA79 shows an intermediate geochemical signature, which is interpreted to reflect mixing of the depleted and enriched sources represented by Y98 and LAR06, respectively.

IMs in LAR06 contain lower H₂O (~150ppm), CO₂ (~20ppm) and S (100-400ppm) but higher F (10-30ppm) and Cl (40-80ppm) than IMs in EETA79 (~300ppm H₂O, ~300ppm CO₂, 3200ppm S, <3ppm F, ~30ppm Cl). The major element compositions of IMs are probably derived by partial melting of primary plagioclase and pyroxene. Likewise, the halogen abundances and high-P₂O₅ contents in the LAR 06 IMs could possibly reflect the incorporation of primary phosphates. Y98 GGs contain low H₂O (20-50 ppm) contents relative to F (15-30 ppm) and Cl (30-50 ppm). The high halogen/H₂O ratios in Y98 GGs, compared to those of Y98 primary magma [1], indicates degassing of magmatic water during eruption.

In our previous study [1] based on olivine-hosted melt inclusions we showed that the primary magma of Y98 had a chondritic low-dD (delta-D) value of 275 permil, whereas that of LAR06 had a very high-dD value of 5079 permil. In contrast with such extreme dD differences, matrix phases in Y98 and LAR06 both have moderate dD values. GGs in Y98 exhibit a slightly greater dD variation of 200-1600 permil, but still much less extreme than the range exhibited by the melt inclusions. The dD values of the Y98 GGs rise with increasing water contents, implying mixing of two components: near-surface moderate-dD and magmatic low-dD components. On the other hand, IMs in LAR06 exhibit lower dD values of ~1000-3000 permil than the primary LAR06 melt (5079 permil). IMs in EETA79 also have a moderate dD value of ~1600 permil.

This study shows that the matrix phases (GG and IM) in all three shergottites have a relatively limited range of dD values regardless of the distinct dD of their magmatic sources. A dD-1/H₂O mixing diagram shows a convergence among the matrix dD values, which could be attributable to the impact-induced addition of a common near-surface water with a moderate dD value (~1500-2000 permil). The origin of this surficial water reservoir remains unresolved: (1) it may be derived from the Martian atmosphere, but its moderate dD values are distinctly lower than the widely-accepted atmospheric dD value of ~4000-5000 permil, and/or (2) it could originate from the addition of a weathered soil/dust component enriched in volatile elements.

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Keywords: Mars, surficial water, hydrogen isotope

An Introduction to the Exploration for the interior of Mars: InSight

William Banerdt^{1*}, Suzanne Smrekar¹, Philippe Lognonne², Naoki Kobayashi³

¹JPL, ²IPGP, ³ISAS/JAXA

The InSight mission (Interior Exploration Using Seismic Investigations, Geodesy, and Heat Transport) will illuminate the fundamental processes of terrestrial-planet formation and evolution by performing the first comprehensive surface-based geophysical investigation of Mars. It will provide key information on the composition and structure of an Earth-like planet that has gone through most of the evolutionary stages of the Earth up to, but not including, plate tectonics. Thus, the traces of this history are still contained in the basic parameters of the planet: the size, state and composition of the core, the composition and layering of the mantle, the thickness and layering of the crust, and the thermal flux from the interior.

InSight will delineate these parameters with a focused set of three investigations centered on seismology and supported by precision-tracking and heat-flow measurements. Rather than relying on a geophysical network to provide this information, InSight will utilize state-of-the-art analysis techniques to derive interior information from a single station on the surface carrying two scientific instruments: an ultra-sensitive, very-broad-band seismometer (SEIS); and a Heat Flow and Physical Properties Probe (HP³) that consists of a self-penetrating mole trailing an instrumented tether. An X-band transponder (part of the communication system) to enable two-way precision Doppler tracking of the planet's rotation comprises the Rotation and Interior Structure Experiment (RISE). Monitoring surface environment is also performed by a high precision barometer, thermometer and anemometer (PTW), and magnetometer (MAG).

The launch and landing of InSight will be in Mar and Sept 2016 respectively, and the science operation period is one Mars year. The landing and deployment systems are inherited from Phoenix. A robotic arm and cameras are used to deploy the geophysical instruments to the surface. The system and instruments of InSight, and hence science objectives, are very similar to those investigated by the MELOS (Mars Exploration with Lander-Orbiter Synergy) EDL team. Thus InSight is of great interest to Japanese scientists and has many points from which they can learn. Conversely, the participation of Japanese scientists brings considerable strength to InSight as well, and we are pleased with their contributions.

The knowledge provided by the InSight mission will substantially advance understanding of the formation and evolution of terrestrial planets. This is a chance to open the door into the interior of Mars for the first time. We welcome your participation!

Keywords: Mars, internal structure, exploration, seismic wave, geophysical observation, meteorological observation

Significant Water Loss during pre-Noachian era: Constraints from Hydrogen Isotopes in Martian Meteorites

Hiroyuki Kurokawa^{1*}, Masahiko Sato², Masashi Usioda¹, Takeshi Matsuyama¹, Ryota Moriwaki¹, Tomohiro Usui¹

¹Tokyo Institute of Technology, ²Kyushu University

Martian surface morphology implies that Mars was once warm enough to maintain liquid water on its surface (Jakosky and Philips, 2001). Although the high D/H ratio (~ 4500 per mil) of the current Martian atmosphere and hydrosphere (Owen et al., 1981; Jakosky and Philips, 2001) suggests that significant water should have been lost from the surface by the atmospheric escape during the Martian history, the timing and amount of the water loss have been poorly constrained. Whereas previous studies have focused on the water loss after the cessation of Martian dynamo (Lammer et al., 2003), studies for the pre-Noachian period (4.5 - 4.1 Ga) and the Noachian period (4.1 - 3.7 Ga) are limited.

Recent technical developments of ion-microprobe analysis have provided more accurate estimation of hydrogen isotope compositions (D/H) in Martian meteorites which inform the evolution of Martian water reservoirs (Usui et al., 2012; Boctor et al., 2003; Greenwood et al., 2008). Based on the D/H data from the meteorites, this study determines the amount of water loss during each period.

The water losses are estimated with a one-box model. The model is similar to Lammer et al. (2003). We assume that surficial water is lost in two stages: Stage-1 (4.5 - 4.1 Ga) and Stage-2 (4.1 Ga - present). Stage-1 corresponds to pre-Noachian era. The boundary (4.1 Ga) is derived from the crystallization age of ALH 84001, the only Martian meteorite formed in Noachian (Lapen et al., 2010). The D/H ratio at 4.1 Ga is 1200-3000 per mil. The values are derived from analyses of magmatic phosphate and secondary carbonate minerals in ALH 84001 (Boctor et al., 2008; Greenwood et al., 2008). The D/H ratio at 4.5 Ga is < 275 per mil which is the value of melt inclusion in Yamato 980459 (Usui et al., 2012) and thought to represent the primitive D/H ratio of Mars. We use present water amount as an input parameter. The water losses in both stages are obtained as outputs.

Our results show that the water loss was more significant in Stage-1 (4.5 - 4.1 Ga) than in Stage-2 (4.1 Ga - present), indicating significant water loss during pre-Noachian era. This result is independent from the estimation of present water amount. Present water reservoirs exist mainly as polar layered deposits (PLD), which corresponds to $2-3 \times 10^6 \text{ km}^3$ (Zuber et al., 1998; Plaut et al., 2007). The amount is 20-30 m of global equivalent layer (GEL). Using this value and assuming an efficient fractionation, minimum values of water losses are obtained as 35 - 85 m and 5.7-41 m (GEL) in Stage-1 and Stage-2, respectively. The sum of these values yields 82-120 m GEL for the total water reservoir at 4.5 Ga.

Our minimum estimate of the initial water reservoir are consistent with the amount of ocean (~150 m) provided by Vastitas Borealis Formation (VBF) (Carr and Head, 2003). Also, minimum estimates of the water losses in Stage-1 and Stage-2 are close to the values obtained by simulations of oxygen escape (Lammer et al., 2003; Terada et al., 2009). The significant water loss during pre-Noachian (> 4.1 Ga) might have been caused by the intense atmospheric escape due to the solar wind without magnetic protection at the first ~150 Myr of the Mars history (Terada et al., 2009) before the time when Mars obtained ancient magnetic field.

Keywords: Mars, meteorite, hydrogen isotope, atmospheric escape

Examination of Orbiters for Martian Atmospheric Escape Study

Ayako Matsuoka^{1*}, Takumi Abe¹, Kanako Seki², Naoki Terada³, Keigo Ishisaka⁴, Atsushi Kumamoto⁵, Junichi Kurihara⁶, Makoto Taguchi⁷, Yoshifumi Futaana⁸, Satoshi Yagitani⁹, Takeshi Sakanoi⁵, Hiromu Nakagawa³, Atsushi Yamazaki¹, Shoichiro Yokota¹

¹ISAS/JAXA, ²STEL, Nagoya Univ., ³Dept. Geophys., Grad. Sch. Sci., Tohoku Univ., ⁴Toyama Pref. Univ., ⁵Planet. Plasma Atmos. Res. Cent., Tohoku Univ., ⁶Cosmosciences, Hokkaido Univ., ⁷Rikkyo Univ., ⁸IRF, Sweden, ⁹Kanazawa Univ.

The atmospheric escape from Mars is considered to be closely associated with the evolution of the Martian atmosphere as well as the existence of the water on Mars. We are now investigating a project to study the global feature and the physical process of the atmospheric escape from Mars. It is expected to consist of at least two orbiters; one of the orbiters is aimed to make in-situ observation of plasma and thin atmosphere at about 100 km altitude, and the other is for the atmospheric imaging and solar-wind monitor. We are planning to make simultaneous observation of the atmospheric escape by the interaction with the solar wind by both of in-situ measurement orbiter and remote-sensing one. Now we are examining the quantitative measurement targets to fully understand the Martian atmospheric escape. At the same time, the sorts and performance of scientific instruments on these orbiters are examined. And furthermore, the preliminary spacecraft design, orbit design and mission plan to achieve the scientific goal are investigated.

Keywords: Mars, atmosphere, solar wind

Global mapping of the CO₂ isotopologues in the Martian atmosphere as observed Subaru/IRCS

Hiromu Nakagawa^{1*}, Shohei Aoki¹, Yasumasa Kasaba¹, Hideo Sagawa²

¹Geophysics, Tohoku University, ²National Institute of Information and Communications Technology

We investigated Martian CO₂ isotopic ratios at 2-4 micron spectra observed by Subaru IRCS.

The determination of the isotopic ratios on Mars is important to study atmospheric evolution. The relative abundance of isotopes of CO₂ provides insight into the loss of Mars primordial atmosphere. In addition, the distributions and variations of C and O isotopes can constrain the information about the magnitude and distribution of sources and sinks of CO₂, i.e. the global coupling between surface, aerosols, and atmosphere. Photochemical reaction, condensation into the polar caps and aerosols, soil and subsurface reservoir respiration impart C and O isotope signals to the atmosphere that can be used as a tracer at various temporal and spatial scales.

High-resolution global imaging spectroscopy of Martian CO₂ isotopologues has been achieved at 2-4 micron (2970-3050 cm⁻¹) by IRCS with Subaru telescope on 30 November 2011 (Ls=37), 4-5 January 2012(Ls=52), and 12 April 2012 (Ls=96). Owing to its wide wavelength coverage, our measurements obtained a comprehensive dataset of CO₂ isotopes (626, 627, 628, and 636) & water vapor isotopes (H₂O and HDO) simultaneously, providing a global perspective on their near-surface distributions.

Spectra were collected in the northern hemisphere at a spectral resolution of R=20,000. The diameter in these periods of Mars was more or less 9 arcsec. The seeing was 0.5-0.8 arcsec (pixel scale: 0.06 arcsec). We used two slit positions. The slit along the N-S direction on Mars covered the region between the northern polar cap and the equator, in order to investigate the sublimation of the polar cap and condensation into the CO₂ ice clouds at mid-latitude. The W-E direction of the slit position was also selected in order to clarify the local-time dependence surrounding of sub-solar area. The mud volcanic regions, Utopia/Isidis Nilli Forssae, Sytris Major, were also covered by these observing runs.

Terrestrial absorptions were reduced using standard-star calibrations in order to retrieve the Martian isotope lines. After that, we could successfully obtained clear CO₂ isotopes (626, 627, 628) absorptions in the range of 3330-3380 cm⁻¹ for 626, 2620-2640 cm⁻¹ for 627, and 2630-2660 cm⁻¹ for 628, respectively. The 3400 cm⁻¹ range shows lines of 636. Finally, the chosen spectral range involves plenty good enough lines of the Martian CO₂ isotopes.

In this paper, we will present these isotopologues, their distributions, and seasonal variations. Their S/N will be quantitatively discussed.

Keywords: Isotope, carbon dioxide, Mars

Meridional circulation of Martian middle atmosphere represented by a Mars general circulation model

Yoshiyuki O. Takahashi^{1*}, Yoshi-Yuki Hayashi²

¹Center for Planetary Science, ²Department of Earth and Planetary Science, Kobe University

Observations by Mars Climate Sounder (MCS) onboard Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter spacecraft provided the meridional temperature structure of Martian middle atmosphere up to about 90 km altitude. These observations enable us to compare the model produced middle atmosphere with observational ones and examine the nature of Martian middle atmosphere. In this study, structure of Martian middle atmosphere is investigated by use of a Mars General Circulation Model (GCM).

A planetary atmosphere GCM, dcpam, is used in this study. Dynamical core of dcpam solves the primitive equation system by use of spectral transform method with the finite difference method in vertical direction. The included physical processes are the radiative process, the turbulent mixing process, and the surface processes. Further, a condensation scheme of CO₂ is included. By the use of a "Mars mode" of this model, several experiments have been performed. In the experiments, the dust distribution in the atmosphere is prescribed. In the vertical direction, the Conrath-type distribution is assumed. In the horizontal direction, the optical depth is prescribed in two ways. Those distributions will be described below. The resolutions used for this study is T21L32, which is equivalent to about 5.6 degrees longitude-latitude grid and has 32 vertical levels. Under these conditions, the model is integrated for 5 Mars years from an initial condition of isothermal atmosphere at rest. The result during the last Martian year is analyzed.

The model is evaluated by comparing the temperature structure simulated by the model with that observed by the MCS. In the simulation, the dust optical depth is prescribed based on the "climatology", which has been created by averaging dust optical depth observed by Thermal Emission Spectrometer onboard Mars Global Surveyor spacecraft. It is found that the gross features of temperature structure observed by MCS are represented by the model, such as the strong latitudinal temperature gradient at southern middle latitude, and the latitude of highest near surface temperature. However, some differences can also be observed. One of that is the strength of temperature increase in southern middle and high latitude at about 1 Pa pressure level (~60 km). This temperature increase is caused by adiabatic heating in a descending branch of meridional circulation. The difference of this temperature increase between the model and observation implies the failure in representing strength of meridional circulation in the model. One of plausible explanations for the failure would be the lack of representation of the effects of subgrid scale atmospheric waves, such as gravity waves. Similar biases were observed in Earth's atmosphere models without (non-orographic) gravity wave drag parameterization.

In order to examine the driving mechanisms of meridional circulation in the middle atmosphere, three experiments are performed: (I) an experiment with Rayleigh friction in the middle atmosphere, (II) an experiment with diurnally mean solar insolation, and (III) an experiment with zonally averaged surface topography, albedo, and thermal inertia. Those three experiments are intended to examine the effects of subgrid scale atmospheric waves, such as gravity wave, thermal tides, and orographically related waves, such as topographic Rossby waves, respectively. The Rayleigh friction coefficient in the experiment (I) is chosen to reproduce the middle atmospheric polar temperature increase observed by MCS roughly. The difference in peak values of mass stream function at 1 Pa pressure level between each experiment and control experiment at northern winter are 0.2e8, 0.15e8, and 0.15e8 kg/s, respectively. This result implies that the subgrid scale atmospheric waves, the thermal tides, and the orographically related waves contribute to middle atmospheric meridional circulation by the similar degree.

Keywords: planetary atmosphere, general circulation model, Mars, middle atmosphere

Recent magmatism in Amazonis Planitia, Mars

Rina Noguchi^{1*}, Kei Kurita¹

¹Earthquake Research Institute, the University of Tokyo

On Mars, several young volcanic fields have been discovered such as at Tharsis region, Acidalia Planitia, Utopia Planitia, Isidis Planitia, Elysium Planitia, and Amazonis Planitia (e.g. Fagents and Thordarson, 2007, Jaeger et al., 2010). Some of these volcanic field seem to consist of flood lava plain and volcanic cones (e.g. Jaeger et al., 2007, Hamilton et al., 2010). It is interesting whether the recent magmatism is different from those of large edifice-build-up type. For example, in Central Elysium Planitia, there exist vast smooth plain. Since a lot of cones are found on this plain, which are identified as rootless cones, the surface is interpreted to be covered by young fluidic lava, which emanated from Cerberus Fossae (e.g. Jaeger et al., 2007, Noguchi and Kurita, 2012). But there exist quite few investigation focusing on the style of recent magmatism except Central Elysium Planitia. In this report we describe the style and extent of recent magmatism at Amazonis Planitia.

Amazonis Planitia is also famous for its young smooth plain, although only a few paper stated its origin. Fuller and Head, 2002 stated Southern Amazonis Planitia (SAP) is covered with lava flow from Tharsis region in Early Amazonian, while Northern Amazonis Planitia (NAP) is occupied with lava from Cerberus Fossae via Marte Valles in Early Amazonian to Mid Amazonian. On the other hand, Tanaka et al., 2005 and Harmon et al., 2012 stated that SAP lava should have a local source. While its young origin has been well documented by crater chronology, identification of the volcanic origin seems insufficient such as the point whether the smooth plain is fluidic lava flow or not. Volcanic cones are important morphology for the inspection of flood lava magmatism on Mars. Types, distributions, and shapes of volcanic cones tell us its volcanic origin rather than mud flows, and the style of the magmatism. In this presentation, we focus on the volcanic cone morphologies in Amazonis Planitia. We surveyed its spatial distribution and the size by using CTX and HiRISE images.

Keywords: Mars, volcano, volcanic cone, lava plain, rootless cone

Large Effect of Small Planet on Plate Tectonics and Thermal Evolution: Application to Mars

Takeshi Matsuyama^{1*}

¹Graduate School of Science and Engineering, Tokyo Institute of Technology

The likelihood of plate tectonics on other planets has been investigated especially in the last two decades (e.g., Solomatov and Moresi, 1997). In terms of a larger planet than the Earth, a super-Earth is an instance. Geodynamicists have analyzed the probability that plate tectonics operates on its surface, and some results claim that the plate tectonics is conceivable (Valencia et al., 2007). As regards a smaller planet than the Earth, Mars is a representative example. Although several observations of the Martian surface indicate the existence of plate tectonics for the first ~500 Myr, calculated thermal history with plate tectonics (Nimmo and Stevenson, 2000) seems inconsistent with other observations (e.g., Baratoux et al., 2011) and, as a result, the early Martian plate tectonics was concluded to be unlikely (Breuer and Spohn, 2003). To those planets, this study applies the thermal evolution model of the Earth, which has been investigated much more than the other planets, and especially follows a recently proceeded theory about thermal evolution with plate tectonics on Earth (Korenaga, 2006). In addition to the application, focusing on the effect of gravity, in particular small gravity of Mars, this study provides its thermal history, which shows the early Martian plate tectonics conceivable.

Calculation of thermal history mainly follows the theory developed by Korenaga (2006), which includes the effect of plate thickness generated at the mid-ocean ridge by decompression melting. This thermal history model is consistent with geochemical or petrological data of the Earth (Korenaga, 2008; Herzberg et al., 2010). I applied the theory to different-size planets on the assumption that plate tectonics is operating on their surface. I focus on the influence of thickening plate due to the small gravity on a small planet, like Mars, since the effect helps keep the heat of small planet.

First, in order to clarify the effect of plate thickness variation on the Martian early thermal history, I calculate the initial time rate of change of temperature, $dT(t=4.5\text{Ga})/dt$, with variation of planet size, which shows that a planet smaller than the critical size, ~ 1.1 Earth size, such as the Earth and Mars, first increases the temperature, though a larger planet decreases the temperature as we conventionally expected. Secondly, I calculate the early thermal evolution of Mars with plate tectonics to 4.0 Ga and then employ the stagnant-lid convection (Schubert and Spohn, 1990) from 4.0 Ga to the present, which shows two important results. The first one is that the application of the Earth's thermal history with plate tectonics to Mars enables us to reproduce a conceivable Martian thermal history. Second, if the plate tectonics ceased at 4.0 Ga, the cessation occurred in a hotter condition than the initial one, though the mantle must have convected more vigorously than ever.

Whereas those results depends on some uncertain parameters, such as the initial temperature and the geometry of subducting slab, those uncertainties do not change the essence, that is, Mars with plate tectonics tends to keep the heat in. It means that, if there was plate tectonics in the early stage of Mars, the drastic temperature drop shown in a conventional theory (Nimmo and Stevenson, 2000) is unlikely, which results in a realistic temperature evolution after the cessation of plate tectonics. In addition, plate tectonics cessation with the hot mantle at 4.0 Ga means that other factors than temperature are indispensable to retain plate tectonics, such as liquid water on the surface. As future works, we should consider other observational data, such as Martian morphology, to constrain this thermal model of Mars.

Keywords: Mars, Plate tectonics, Thermal Evolution

On the formational processes of Recurring Slope Lineae on Mars

Midori Oguma^{1*}, Hideaki Miyamoto¹

¹The University Museum, The University of Tokyo

Results of recent exploration of Mars indicate that liquid water may exist near its surface at depth at present day. Small surficial features, known as Recurring Slope Lineae (RSL), found by the observations using HiRISE camera onboard Mars Reconnaissance orbiter support the above view.

RSLs are identified on the slopes of a lot of craters in the mid latitude of the southern hemisphere and leave traces like water flow (McEwen et al. 2011). In addition, RSL are thought to be recurrently developed from spring to autumn but fade out in winter. Importantly, RSLs are the currently active events possibly related to the existence of liquid water on Mars. Note that most other surface features considered to be formed by water flows, such as outflow channels and valley networks, are formed during Noachian or Hesperian periods, over 3 billion years ago.

In this work, we study about 100 HiRISE images in the latitudes from 20 to 50 S. We also contrast high resolution Digital Elevation Models in this region. We map out RSLs found on these images and perform a statistical study, particularly focusing on their geomorphology features, such as the gradients the distributions and states of flow. As a result, we find that RSLs are numerous exist on about 30 degree slope at the latitudes around 40S and that the width of a single RSL is generally from 1 to 5 m and the length is up to 500m or so. In this presentation, we will discuss that these results are consistent with the idea that their formations are related to liquid water.

Reference

McEwen, A. S. et al., 2011. Seasonal flows on warm martian slopes. *Science* 333, 740-743.

Keywords: Mars, Geology, Water, Orbiter images, Life exploration

HiRISE-based topographic analysis of pitted cones in the Acidalia Planitia on Mars

Ryodo Hemmi^{1*}, Hideaki Miyamoto¹

¹University Museum, The University of Tokyo

The presence or absence of liquid water within the martian sub-surface for the past ~ 2.0 Gy is still under debate. Low-relief circular mounds with summit pits, called as pitted cones, are commonly identified on the early Amazonian-aged surface in the martian northern lowlands. Although pitted cones are previously interpreted as rootless cones, cinder cones, pingoes, or mud volcanoes [Tanaka et al., 2005], high-resolution images obtained by the recent observations indicate that these pitted cones are likely sedimentary features formed by the fluid flow [Oehler and Allen, 2010]. However, physical characteristics of the materials forming the pitted cones are not critically estimated.

Using the HiRISE stereo pairs, we develop high-resolution (up to 1 m/pix) DEMs (Digital Elevation Models), which enables us to accurately measure the relative heights and basal diameters of the pitted cones. We study 140 pitted cones in the southern Acidalia Planitia, known as the early Amazonian terrain. As a result, we find that these pitted cones have the relative heights of 7 to 64 m (median 22 m) and the basal diameters from 222 to 1377 m (median 579 m).

The high-resolution DEMs are used to calculate the yield strengths and the viscosities of the materials forming the pitted cones. Assuming that the materials have Bingham rheology [Hulme, 1974; Major and Pierson, 1992], we can obtain 10^2 - 10^4 Pa for the yield strengths and the range of 10^1 to 10^6 Pa s for the viscosities for those materials forming the pitted cones. This result strongly indicates that pitted cones are formed by the mud-volcanic activities. Applying a simple buoyancy model to these potential mud volcanoes [Murton and Biggs, 2003], we estimate that the depths to mud sources range from 27-247 m with a median value of 86 m (std. dev. 40 m). In summary, we conclude that (i) liquid water had been preserved in ~ 40 m-thick reservoir layers formed about 86 m under the surface in southern Acidalia Planitia and (ii) after that, the fluidized mud erupted from the mud source layers formed mud volcanoes on the surface of Mars.

Keywords: Mars, Acidalia Planitia, pitted cone, digital elevation model, mud volcano