

How to detect a small crater produced by Small Carry-on Impactor (SCI) using Thermal InfraRed Camera (TIR)

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In Hayabusa-2 mission, a crater will be formed on the surface of a C-type asteroid 1999JU3 using Small Carry-on Impactor (SCI) and the crater should be quickly detected from the mother ship. The detection, however, will become difficult when the crater is very small with a diameter of only 30 cm, near to the resolution limit of on-board cameras. On the other hand, Thermal InfraRed Camera (TIR) mounted on Hayabusa-2 has a possibility to detect such a small crater even if the crater size is sub-pixel of TIR resolution, because the temperature on the surface of a small crater is expected to be different from that around the crater. We, therefore, have started examination about the possibility and method to detect a SCI-formed small crater using TIR. In this presentation, we introduce the basic idea and the preliminary results of our modeling.

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