

JUICE/GALA-J (1) : JUICE 搭載ガニメデレーザー高度計 (GALA) - 概要および日本チームの役割
 JUICE/GALA-J (1) : The Ganymede Laser Altimeter (GALA) for the JUICE mission
 - Introduction, current status, and role of the Japan team

*塩谷 圭吾¹、並木 則行²、小林 正規³、木村 淳⁴、荒木 博志²、野田 寛大²、押上 祥子²、鹿島 伸悟²、石橋 高³、小林 進悟⁵、尾崎 正伸¹、水野 貴秀¹、宇都宮 真¹、斎藤 義文¹、東原 和行¹、鎌田 俊一⁵、松本 晃治²、倉本 圭⁵、佐々木 晶⁶、岩村 哲⁷、飯田 光人⁸、松本 吉昭⁸、藤井 雅之⁹、藤代 尚文¹⁰、山室 智康¹¹、Lingenauber, Kay¹²、Behnke, Thomas¹²、Oberst, Juergen¹²、Jaenchen, Judit¹²、Loetzke, Horst-Georg¹²、Michaelis, Harald¹²、Hussmann, Hauke¹²

*Keigo Enya¹, Noriyuki Namiki², Masanori Kobayashi³, Jun Kimura⁴, Hiroshi Araki², Hiroto Noda², Shoko Oshigami², Shingo Kashima², Ko Ishibashi³, Shingo Kobayashi⁵, Masanobu Ozaki¹, Takahide Mizuno¹, Shin Utsunomiya¹, Yoshifumi Saito¹, Kazuyuki Touhara¹, Shunichi Kamata⁵, Koji Matsumoto², Kiyoshi Kuramoto⁵, Sho Sasaki⁶, Satoru Iwamura⁷, Teruhito Iida⁸, Yoshiaki Matsumoto⁸, Masanori Fujii⁹, Naofumi Fujishiro¹⁰, Tomoyasu Yamamuro¹¹, Kay Lingenauber¹², Thomas Behnke¹², Juergen Oberst¹², Judit Jaenchen¹², Horst-Georg Loetzke¹², Harald Michaelis¹², Hauke Hussmann¹²

1.宇宙航空研究開発機構・宇宙科学研究所、2.国立天文台、3.千葉工大、4.東京工業大学 地球生命研究所、5.北海道大学、6.大阪大学、7.MRJ、8.プラネット、9.ファミサイエンス、10.アストロオプト、11.オプトクラフト、12.ドイツ航空宇宙センター

1.JAXA/ISAS, 2.NAOJ, 3.CIT, 4.Earth-Life Science Institute, Tokyo Institute of Technology, 5.Hokkaido University, 6.Osaka University, 7.MRJ, 8.PLANET, 9.FAM Science, 10.Astro-Opt, 11.OptCraft, 12.DLR

We present an introduction, current status, and especially role of the Japan team for the Ganymede Laser Altimeter (GALA) for the Jupiter Icy Moon Explorer (JUICE) mission. JUICE is a mission of ESA to be launched in 2022, and GALA is one of the payloads of JUICE.

Major objectives of GALA are to provide topographic data of Ganymede, the largest satellite of Jupiter, and to measure its tidal amplitudes. The latter is crucially important to detect and to characterize an underground ocean on Ganymede. Furthermore, GALA support geological studies, e.g., identification of characterization of tectonic and cryo-volcanic regions, impact basins, and craters. GALA also provides information on surface roughness and the albedo.

For the laser altimetry, GALA emits and receives laser pulses at about 500 km altitude above Ganymede. Wavelength, energy, and nominal repetition frequency of the laser pulse are 1064 nm, 17 mJ, and 30 Hz, respectively. Reflected beam from the Ganymede surface is received by the receiver telescope with 25 cm diameter aperture, re-focused by the BEO including a narrow band-pass filter, and then detected by the APD detector.

Development of GALA is carried out in international collaboration from Germany, Japan, Switzerland, and Spain. GALA-Japan will develop the Backend Optics (BEO), the Focal Plane assembly (FPA) including an avalanche photo-diode (APD) detector, and the Analog Electronics module (AEM) in the receiver chain. It should be noted that responsibility of development of the receiver telescope has been moved from Japan to Germany. Based on the heritage of studies for the telescope, GALA-Japan will contribute to the receiver telescope development through the German team.

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