

論文内容要旨

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Atmospheric escape from planets is one of the important issues to understand the planetary atmospheric evolution. The lack of an intrinsic magnetic field of Venus causes a direct interaction between its upper atmosphere and the solar wind. The solar wind interaction makes ionospheric or exospheric ions energized, and thus drives ion losses from the Venusian upper atmosphere. The mechanisms of ion acceleration and the amount of ion losses from Venus are still uncertain though many studies have been conducted to date. For dispelling this uncertainty, giving a better understanding of the mechanism for the ion outflow is needed.

This thesis describes the dependence of the oxygen ion outflow from Venus on a certain solar wind condition, namely, on the direction of the interplanetary magnetic field (IMF), and the mechanism of the oxygen ion acceleration at the upper atmosphere of Venus. All works in the thesis use the data obtained from the Analyzer of Space Plasma and Energetic Atoms (ASPERA-4) and the magnetometer (MAG) onboard Venus Express which has been orbiting Venus since April, 2006.

To understand the effects of the IMF direction on the oxygen ion outflow, the shape of the induced magnetosphere and O⁺ escape fluxes in the nightside for the perpendicular IMF case and the parallel IMF case, where the IMF directs perpendicular and parallel to the Venus-Sun line, respectively, are investigated. The comparison between the two IMF cases reveals that the formation of the plasma sheet, which is an oxygen ion outflow channel, is controlled by the IMF direction. For the perpendicular IMF case the IMF drapes simply around Venus, resulting in the formation of a single plasma sheet, and thus oxygen ions escape from the single outflow channel. For the parallel IMF case, on the other hand, the IMF drapes more complicatedly and this results in forming multiple plasma sheets, namely, forming multiple ion escape channels. Statistical analysis shows that there is no significant difference in the oxygen escape rates between the two IMF cases. In addition, it shows that temporal variations of the IMF direction do not affect the escape rate. Conclusion of this work is that the IMF direction does not change oxygen ion escape rate from Venus even though the morphology of the induced magnetosphere largely depends on it.

The velocity distribution functions of oxygen ions which can be obtained by the Ion Mass Analyzer, a part of the ASPERA-4 instrument, provides important information for identifying the ion acceleration processes. Statistical analysis of the O⁺ velocity distribution functions indicates that the O⁺ velocity distribution functions have broader distribution in the local convection electric field direction than other directions. Different characteristics in velocity distribution functions are found in different magnetospheric regions. In the magnetosheath, the O⁺ velocity shifts from the initial phase of the ring distribution calculated from local proton velocity and magnetic field to the bulk velocity of the local proton. Such ions are mostly observed in the +EL hemisphere where the local convection electric field points away from the surface. This indicates that ion pickup occurs in the magnetosheath but the ions are immediately incorporated with the local proton bulk flow with

breaking their $E \times B$ drift motion. In the dayside induced magnetosphere in the +EL hemisphere, measurements show a scattered velocity distribution function of O^+ . This velocity distribution function has two ion components depending on whether their gyro radius is larger or not than the scale of the induced magnetosphere. For O^+ ions with small gyro radius (< 500 km), the O^+ velocity distribution function appears on the middle phase of the ring distribution. On the other hand for the O^+ ions with a large gyro radius (> 500 km), the O^+ velocity distribution function is similar to the one in the magnetosheath. This means that two components of O^+ ions exist in the induced magnetosphere: pickup ions subject to the $E \times B$ drift and ions moving with the local proton bulk velocity. Since both ion components flow tailward, they are convected toward the nightside to escape. In the nightside of the induced magnetosphere, velocity distribution function shows initial and last phase of the ring distributions together with a ring in the plane where the local magnetic field and the local convection electric field lie. The possible location where such velocity distribution function is realized could be the center of the plasma sheet. In summary, oxygen ion escape channel at Venus are the magnetosheath in the +EL hemisphere and the plasma sheet in the induced magnetosphere.

The studies shown in this thesis indicate that the ion escape at Venus is quite constant against the solar wind condition. Rather, it is possible that the escape rate of oxygen ions are determined by the amount of the ion source. Hisaki, the Japanese small spacecraft project, observes Venus upper atmosphere by using the EUV spectrometer aboard itself. The optical observation aimed to the ion escape of Venus have never conducted to date. Using the EUV spectrometer, we will have chances to observe variations of dayside exospheric and ionospheric components, and the nightside escaping ions from Venus. We plan simultaneous observations of Venus Express with Hisaki observations. The observations may allow us to find relationships between the ion source and the escape rate. We will soon observe Venus from March 2014.

In the studies described in the thesis, cold ion escape, which is believed to have a big impact on the atmospheric escape from Venus, is missing due to the instrumental restrictions. So, study of the dependence of the cold ion escape on the solar wind condition is needed in the future. MAVEN (Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution mission), which was successfully launched November 2013, will arrive at Mars in September 2014 and observe Martian atmospheric escape processes. MAVEN carries excellent instruments to observe escaping particles from Mars. Mars has a similar plasma environment to Venus therefore there will be good opportunities to study the solar wind interaction with the Venus-like planet in the near future.

論文審査の結果の要旨

本論文は、金星から宇宙空間に流出する酸素イオンの流出経路・流出率・流出機構を、金星探査機 Venus Express 搭載の粒子計測器 (ASPERA-4) と磁力計 (MAG) の観測データを用いて明らかにすることを目的としたものである。宇宙空間への大気の流出は、惑星の表層環境の超長期的変遷を理解する上で重要な問題の一つであるが、太陽風相互作用によって駆動されるイオンの流出機構や、その太陽風パラメータに対する依存性は明らかにされていなかった。本論文では、太陽風パラメータの一つである惑星間空間磁場方向が、太陽-金星方向に対して水平になるときに誘導磁気圏の形状が大きく変化するという近年の報告に着目し、ASPERA-4 粒子計測器の観測データを惑星間空間磁場方向が平行な場合と垂直な場合に分類するなどして解析を行い、10-100eV 以上の比較的高いエネルギーをもつ酸素イオンの流出経路・流出率・流出機構の理解に寄与する先駆的な成果を挙げた。

本論文ではまず、10eV 以上のエネルギーをもつ酸素イオンの流出経路を、惑星間空間磁場方向が平行な場合と垂直な場合に分けて調査し、垂直な場合は単一のプラズマシートから酸素イオンが流出するのに対して、平行な場合は複数のプラズマシートから流出することを明らかにした。そしてそれぞれの場合における流出率を比較し、両者には有意な差がみられないことを示した。同様のデータ解析を惑星間空間磁場方向が時間的に変動する場合についても実施し、流出率には優位な変化がみられな

いことを明らかにした。そしてこれらの結果に基づいて、太陽風パラメータの一つである惑星間空間磁場方向は、10eV 以上のエネルギーをもつ酸素イオンの流出経路を変化させるが、ある高度以上で生成された酸素イオンが流出するという状況には変化を生じさせず、流出率には影響を及ぼさないという物理的解釈を与えた。

さらに本論文では、100eV 以上の高いエネルギーをもつ酸素イオンの流出機構を明らかにすべく、流出酸素イオンの速度分布関数の特徴を調べた。速度分布関数を重ねあわせてイオン加速の平均的な描像を抽出するというユニークな手法を適用することにより、高いエネルギーをもつ流出酸素イオンは、局所的なプロトン速度と磁場から算出される局所的な対流電場による加速を経ていることを明らかにした。磁気シース領域では、リング分布の初期フェーズから、背景プロトン速度へと漸近する様相を明らかにし、昼側誘導磁気圏では、イオンの旋回半径が誘導磁気圏の典型長より小さな場合はリング分布の中期フェーズの様相を呈し、大きな場合は背景プロトン流に漸近することを示した。また、夜側誘導磁気圏では、速度空間の磁場垂直面内においてリング分布の初期と後期フェーズが観測され、空間的もしくは時間的に変動するプラズマシートにおける旋回運動でその速度分布関数の成因を説明できることを示唆した。また、従来提唱されていた $J \times B$ フォースによる加速では、観測されたエネルギーの質量依存性を説明できないことを示すなど、比較的高いエネルギーをもつ酸素イオンの流出機構の特定に寄与する様々な成果を挙げた。これらの研究成果は、著者が自立して研究活動を行うに必要な高度の研究能力と学識を有することを示している。したがって、益永圭提出の博士論文は、博士（理学）の学位論文として合格と認める。