

「ひさき」衛星光学観測による惑星間空間へリウムの分布

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Neutral helium distribution in interplanetary space by Hisaki observation

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The Hisaki (SPRINT-A) satellite has a main scientific topic of the planetary magnetospheric physics and atmospheric evolution by long-term observations, but carried out the non-planetary observation at the time when there is not observation opportunity for planets. One of them is an observation of helium atom resonance scattering from interplanetary space.

A material in the interstellar medium (ISM) travels into the heliosphere over the heliopause due to the relative velocity between the heliosphere and interstellar gases. The helium atoms move into about 0.5Au of the neighboring from the sun without ionizing because of its high ionization energy. The helium atoms are bent by sun gravity along the Keplerian orbit and forms a high density region on the down wind side, which is called helium cone. The distribution of helium atoms in the helium cone can estimate the speed and direction of the interstellar wind, and the density and the temperature of the helium atom in interstellar gases. The interplanetary observation is one of tools to recognize the interstellar medium from inside the heliosphere.

This study was carried out from the 1970s, but the recent IBEX satellite observation results show that the interaction between the ISM and heliosphere. The Hisaki satellite carried out the observation of the resonance scattering from inside the helium cone during November and December of three years. In this presentation, the Hisaki's observation results of the helium cone in years of 2015 - 2017 are shown, and the features of the interstellar wind are reported.