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MMS 衛星の観測による地球バウショックでの電子加速における高周波ホイッス ラー波強度の重要性

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MMS observation of importance of high-frequency whistler waves intensity for electron acceleration at Earth's bow shock

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Non-thermal high-energy particles are frequently observed in space, and collisionless shock waves are one of the sources of these particles. Particle acceleration in the vicinity of shock waves has been observed, but the specific process has not been understood clearly. Although shock drift acceleration is candidate mechanism for the acceleration process, some problems remain yet. For example, in these mechanism, low-energy electrons cannot be accelerated or accelerated electrons' energy is not sufficient. To solve these problems, Katou & Amano (2019) proposed stochastic shock drift acceleration. In this mechanism, low-energy electrons are trapped in the transition layer by cyclotron resonant scattering with high-frequency waves. The most promising candidate for the scattering agent is whistler waves with frequencies ranging from 10% to 50% of the electron cyclotron frequency. On the other hand, Oka et al. (2006) showed statistically that the electron acceleration occurs efficiently only when the shock is super-critical with respect to the whistler critical Mach number. This result suggested that the whistler waves play important roles to accelerate electrons in the layer, but the specific mechanism has yet been not understood. Katou & Amano (2019) and Amano et al. (2020) predicted that the electron acceleration occurs only when the intensity of the whistler waves exceeds a certain theoretical threshold, which comes from the condition that electrons need to be trapped sufficiently in the layer. The theoretical threshold is proportional to $(M_A \cos \theta_{Bn})^{-2}$ and may be consistent with Oka et al. (2006) in the statistical sense. However, since the intensity of the whistler waves may vary in each event, more detailed analysis is needed.

In this study, we use the data of the Earth's bow shock crossing events observed by the Magnetospheric Multiscale (MMS) spacecraft in the burst mode. We investigate statistically the relation between the intensity of whistler waves and some shock parameters (M_A , θ_{Bn} , β_e), as well as efficiency of electron acceleration. We select events where the upstream and the downstream are stable during 2017 to 2018 performed a detailed analysis of the transition layer where the electron acceleration occurs efficiently. We define the time when the magnetic field strength increased by a factor of more than 1.2 relative to the upstream magnetic field as the transition layer. First, by using Search Coil Magnetometers (SCM), we calculated the power spectrum of magnetic fluctuations with a time resolution 1s. We determine the wave intensity for each frequency normalized by the electron cyclotron frequency and correlate with each shock parameter. As the result, we find the positive correlation between the intensity of the high-frequency whistler wave and $M_A/M_{crit}{}^w$. Furthermore, we investigate the relation between the shock parameters and the energy density of high-energy electron in the downstream normalized to the flow kinetic energy of the upstream plasma, or the electron pressure in the downstream for each event. Based on these results, we discuss the relation between the electron acceleration efficiency and the property of whistler waves.

本研究では Magnetospheric Multiscale (MMS) 衛星による地球バウショックの burst mode 観測のデータを用いる。各イベントごとのホイッスラー波強度とマッハ数や θ_{Bn} 、電子ベータなどの衝撃波パラメータ、エネルギー密度の関係を

統計的に調べ、電子加速とホイッスラー波強度の関係を調べた。イベントは 2017 年から 2018 年の観測のうち衝撃波上流と下流が安定しているものを用い、電子加速が効率的に働いている遷移層の範囲を詳細に解析した。このとき、上流の磁場に対し磁場強度が 1.2 倍以上に増加している時間帯を遷移層と定義した。まず、Search Coil Magnetometers(SCM)のデータを用い、1s 間隔の磁場のパワースペクトルの平均を計算し、サイクロトロン周波数で規格化した周波数ごとに波動強度を求め、衝撃波の各パラメータとの相関を調べた。その結果、特に高周波ホイッスラー波強度と M_A/M_{crit}^w に正の相関を得ることができた。さらに、各イベントに対し下流の高エネルギー電子のエネルギー密度と衝撃波上流の運動エネルギーや下流圧力の比をとることで衝撃波エネルギーから高エネルギー電子へのエネルギー分配率を算出し、加速が効率的になる場合の条件を調べる。以上の結果を元に、地球バウショックにおける電子加速とホイッスラー波との関係性を議論する。