

# Undiscovered cosmic dust within the orbit of Mercury

Why are we going to find it?

☆Cosmic dust environment near Mercury is little-known. It object is <u>in-situ measurement of dust environment</u> <u>in the around orbit of Mercury.</u>

We have only few data of Mercury orbit with Helios spacecraft If we observe the dust environment in the vicinity of Mercury, We may turn out to be ...

- Mercury has a ring.
- A part of Mercury's atmosphere is generated via dust impact. (To what extent the impact participates in producing mechanisms of Mercury's atmosphere.)
- In-site measurement reveals valuable information about the space weathering on the surface of Mercury.
- ∎ etc...

## Mercury Dust Monitor

#### What is MDM?

- The Mercury Dust Monitor (MDM) to be onboard the BepiColombo Mercury Magnetospheric Orbiter (MMO).
- A matrix of cosmic dust impact sensors comprised piezoelectric sensors made of lead zirconate titanate (PZT) ceramics.



Mercury Dust Monitor



The sensors generate electric signals by a compression a strain and tensile strain.





#### 検討中の課題







## Experimental conditions

We performed experiments HIT and MPI-K under the following conditions

- PZT element with the refractor.
- Projectile : Fe and Ag
- Speed ranging : 1 to 6 km/s.



白色塗料を塗布した状態でも出力電圧と運動量は相関をもつ.

#### 白色塗料による影響

White po	aint ———	
Ma Thi	terial ickness	: polyimid resin : ~ 150 µm
Dei	nsity	: 1.3*10 <sup>3</sup> kg/m <sup>3</sup>
Ela	stic modulus	: 2.68*10 <sup>9</sup> Pa
PZT —		
PZT	iness : 2	2 mm
PZT Thick Densi	ness : 2 ity : 7	2 mm 7.8*10 <sup>2</sup> kg/m <sup>3</sup>
PZT Thick Densi longit	ness : 2 ity : 7 rudinal wave : 0	2 mm 7.8*10 <sup>2</sup> kg/m <sup>3</sup> about 5 km/s



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Transmission of experiments

 $\frac{Y}{X} = Z$ 

### Conclusions

- 1. 白色塗料の塗布により出力電圧が減少するが, 出力電圧と運動量の相関は保たれる.
- 2. 白色塗料による影響評価の確立

#### <u>near future</u>

- 白色塗料有無のみの違いでその他は同一環境で 実験を行い具体的な数値の算出 (2010年9月・11月実験)
- 2. 白色塗料を塗布した状態での温度依存性の確認
- 3. PZTの超高速衝突時における物性値の算出