Dynamics of the Venus atmosphere from the imaging by Venus Monitoring Camera onboard Venus Express

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Venus circulation - a continuing enigma



Venus Express science goal: Characterization of the atmospheric circulation at the cloud level from equator to pole

Venus Monitoring Camera





Venus Monitoring Camera



VMC was designed and manufactured by consortium of MPS (Katlenburg-Lindau), IPF-DLR (Berlin) and IDA (Braunschweig)



Zonal and meridional winds



Orbit-to-orbit variability



Diurnal variations of winds



Long-term trend of the mean zonal wind ?



Correlation of the zonal wind with topography



Gravity waves decelerate the zonal flow



General circulation modelling

Yamamoto & Takahashi

Summary and conclusions

- ✓ 12 Venus years of continuous imaging of the planet
- ✓ 500,000+ wind vectors at the cloud top and in the deep cloud
- Latitudinal and vertical structure of the mean circulation
- ✓ Characterization of variabilities of the circulation
- ✓ Discovery of the return branch of the Hadley cell
- Discovery of orographic effect on the cloud top circulation

Zonal winds at the cloud tops

