Retrieval of an induced magnetic field in Mars ionosphere from Marsis data. Models and simulations

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Introduction

"Estudios de la exploración de Marte" a Spanish research group on Mars Studies.

- Scientific support for instruments in missions to Mars.
- Exploitation of data from space missions. Data mining.
- Modelling.
- Formation: PhD students.
- \blacksquare International collaborations with other groups, within ESA, IKI, FMI. . .

★ Some results on the retrieval of information ★
 ★ on Mars Ionosphere from MARSIS ★





Martian atmospheric dust dynamics: modeling and numerical computations



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1 Introduction

The scattering of the solar radiation by dust aerosols has a direct effect on both surface and atmospheric heating rates, which are also basic drivers of atmospheric dynamics, and this fact affects the behavior of the Martian atmosphere [1].

Under different Martian atmospheric scenarios, the measure of the amount of solar radiation at the Martian surface will be useful to gain some insight into the following issues:

1) UV irradiation levels at the bottom of the Martian atmosphere to use them as an habitability index.

2) Incoming shortwave radiation and solar heating at the surface.

3) Relative local index of dust in the atmosphere.

2 Modeling of the propagation of radiation in a medium

The attenuation of solar radiation traversing the atmosphere is modeled by the Lambert-Beer-Bouguer law, where the aerosol optical thickness plays a fundamental role. Ångstrm law [2] expresses the

3 Extension to 3D problem and numerical computation

The 1D model can be extended to full 3D:



where $\vec{x} = (x, y, z)$, and coefficients c_j , j = 1, 2, 3, taken as constants, correspond to possible enjoytening along the three spatial directions. The initial profile $\alpha(\vec{x})$ may correspond for instance to

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Mars Express and MARSIS

- The first **ESA** mission to another planet.
- Launched, June 2, 2003, from Baikonur on a Russian
 Союз/Фрегат rocket.
- Martian orbit on December 20, 2003.
- \blacksquare May 4–10, 2005, deployment of MARSIS antenna.
- July 2005–present, nominal science observations.



[logo, www.esa.int]

- MARSIS: Mars Advanced Radar Subsurface and Ionospheric Sounding. [1]
 - Primary goal: to probe for water below the surface of the planet.
 - Secondary goal: to measure the response of the ionosphere.
 AIS mode: <u>Active Ionospheric Sounding</u>.
 Effective sounding of the ionosphere from the height of the spacecraft until the region with maximum density of the plasma.

Ionosphere and ionograms



[Magnetosphere, www.esa.int]

Ionosphere

- plasma (electrons, ionized atoms or molecules...) around the planet.
- Boundary between lower atmosphere and the Solar wind.
- Two layers: M2 produced by the Solar EUV photons $(\lambda \sim 10$ nm-124nm), M1 produced by soft X-ray photons $(\lambda \sim 0.2$ nm-10nm).

• Stronly influenced by both the Solar wind (including SZA) and the crustal magnetic field on the planet (see [2], and references therein).



[representation of the response of the ionosphere to direct Solar irradiance. www.esa.int]

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[Crustal magnetic field and its projection from the planet. www.esa.int]

[intensity of the radial magnetic field on Mars. JMARS - MAG/ER instrument results]

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Ionograms (see [3], and references therein)

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- Produced by the AIS mode with the radar sounding towards the planetThe echos received back are represented versus the carrier frequency.
- The total time span for a ionogram is 1.26s, and an ionogram is recorded every 7.54s

Limitations:

- Mars Express has a highly excentrical elliptic orbit around Mars with a periapsis of 295Km and an apoapsis of 11000Km. Due to signal to noise ratio, AIS is only effective for heights below 1200Km, ~ 40 min.
- This 40 min time-span is divided among the two modes: ~ 10 min for AIS, ~ 280 ionograms per orbit.
- Not all the ionograms recorded collect data with the information necessary to deduce the vertical electron profile nor the intensity of magnetic field at the spaceraft height.

* No trace of a magnetic field can be detected at spacecraft height (even if there is one there) unless a cloud of electrons surrounds the antenna, since the intensity of the field is inferred from the cyclotron movements induced by the electrical field of the antenna on the electrons.

Modelling: [2]

- A time delay measures twice the time that it takes to a signal, travelling at the speed of light c, to reach the point where it is reflected.
- The time delays depend on the depth the signal penetrates down and are, thus, frequency dependent.
- Integrating over that distance (converting velocities into frequencies) we have:

$$\Delta t(f_{\rm w}) = \frac{2}{c} \int_{z_{\rm refl}}^{z_{\rm sc}} \frac{dz}{\sqrt{1 - (f_{\rm p}(z)/f_{\rm w})^2}}$$

where $f_{\rm w}$ is the frequency of the signal, $z_{\rm refl}$ and $z_{\rm sc}$ the height where the reflection takes places and that of the spacecraft, respectively, and $f_{\rm p}$ is the plasma frequency.

This corresponds to Abel's integral equation, with solution formaly given by:

$$z_{\text{refl}}(f_{\text{p}}) = \frac{c}{\pi} \int_{\alpha_0}^{\pi/2} \Delta t \left(f_{\text{p}} \sin \alpha \right) \, d\alpha,$$

where the auxiliary variables α and α_0 are such that

$$\sin \alpha = \frac{f_{\rm w}}{f_{\rm p}}, \sin \alpha_0 = \frac{f_{\rm p}(z_{\rm sc})}{f_{\rm p}}$$

Different aspects have to be taken into consideration:

- Noise.
- Uncertainty on the height of the spacecraft.
- Precision of the measurements.
- Retrieval of values from the ionograms.

As a result the electronic density at the different heights can be estimated, giving the vertical electron profile for a given orbit [2].

[comparison of the data obtained with a numerical model of Mars atmosphere.[2]]

The magnetic field can be obtained from the equations of the dynamics of the electrons in the presence of the magnetic field near the antenna

[scheme of the movement of the electrons near MARSIS antenna.[2]]

From the Lorenz force and Newton second law we obtain [4]:

$$B = \frac{m}{e\sin\alpha} \frac{2\pi}{T} \,.$$

where B is the modulus of the magnetic field, m and e, respectively, the mass and the charge of the electron, T the period of the cyclotronic movement around the antenna and α the angle with respect to the field (supposed to be 90°).

[B for two different orbits of Mars Express as a function of the Solar Zenital Angle.[2]]

First results:

Our aim is to process all ionograms from MARSIS in an automatic way as mentioned in Prof. Vázquez-Polletti et al. poster: S. Jiménez et al. Retrieval of an induced magnetic field in Mars ionosphere from Marsis data...

Data from: 2005-175T18:19:27.689 to: 2011-365T23:16:02.529 (about 150,000 useful orbits)

180

200

160

20 0

140

-20 ⁻³⁰ The measures depend on ⁻⁴⁰ the height of the orbit, as is -50 clearly seen in this zoomed ₋₆₀ region

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220

-70

-80

-90

240

Range of heights of the different orbits:

• The apparent discrepancies come from the different heights at which the measurements have been done. • We are, presently, working on a way to estimate the radial magnetic field at a given altitude from MARSIS data.

We are also analysing the existing methods that may provide the sign of the field.

Motion of a charged particle

• The non-relativistic motion of a charged particle in a magnetic dipole field is usualy referred to as the *Störmer Problem*.

- Particles with an energy below some threshold value are trapped in the field while more energetic particles can escape.
- Can be described by the two dimensional Hamiltonian system

$$H(\rho, z, \dot{\rho}, \dot{z}) = \frac{1}{2} \left(\dot{\rho}^2 + \dot{z}^2 \right)^2 + \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{\rho} - \frac{\rho}{(\rho^2 + z^2)^{3/2}} \right)^2$$

- Nonintegrable and open to show chaotic behaviour [9].
- \star The numerical study: \bullet critically dependent on the method used.
- Standard methods show variations in the value of the energy, that may alter the actual boundedness/unboundedness of the solutions.
- Conservative and symplectic methods have been used to avoid this [5, 9].
- Avoid the cylindrical reduction and consider different field distributions [6, 7], keeping discrete conservation laws.

[Solutions in the general situation. Cartesian coordinates projected in cylindrical coordinates.[6]]

The degree of chaos of the solutions, both in the cylindrical reduction as well as in the general formulation, is an open problem that we are presently studying.

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