In situ observations of ions and magnetic field around Phobos:
The Mass Spectrum Analyzer (MSA) for the Martian Moons eXploration (MMX)
mission

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Abstract

The Mass Spectrum Analyzer (MSA) will perform in-situ observations of ions and magnetic fields around Phobos as part of the Martian Moons eXploration (MMX) mission to investigate the origin of the Martian moons and physical processes in the Martian environment. MSA consists of an ion energy mass spectrometer and two magnetometers which will measure velocity distribution functions and mass/charge distributions of low-energy ions and magnetic field vectors, respectively. For the MMX scientific objectives, MSA will observe solar wind ions, those scattered at the Phobos surface, water-related ions generated in the predicted Martian gas torus, secondary ions sputtered from Phobos, and escaping ions from the Martian atmosphere, while monitoring the surrounding magnetic field. MSA will be developed from previous instruments for space plasma missions such as Kaguya, Arase, and BepiColombo/Mio to contribute to the MMX scientific objectives.

Keywords

Martian Moons eXploration (MMX), Phobos, Mars, mass spectrum analyzer, magnetometer

Main Text

1. Introduction

Mars and Earth are terrestrial planets with moons in the inner solar system. When studying the origin and evolution of the Earth and the Moon, it is essential to treat the two bodies together as the Earth-Moon system, because lunar explorations and analyses of the returned Apollo and Luna samples and meteorites have revealed a history of Earth-Moon co-evolution (e.g., Taylor et al. 2006). The results of these studies have led to the theory of a giant impact on the birth of the Moon (Canup & Asphang, 2001) and the transport of the early Earth's atmosphere to the Moon (Ozima et al., 2005; 2008). The Earth's atmosphere currently leaks into space (Seki et al., 2001) and some of them have been implanted inside the lunar surface materials since billions of years ago (Terada et al., 2017).

The formation and evolution of Mars have also been studied from observations by both orbiters (e.g., Albee et al., 2001; Wilson, 2004; Jakosky et al., 2015) and landers/rovers (e.g., Grotzinger et al. 2012), and analyses of Martian meteorites (e.g., Agee et al., 2013,
Borg et al., 2005). Although our understanding of Mars is improving, that of the Martian moons is greatly limited due to the lack of information obtained from spacecraft observations and analyses of meteorites from the moons. Similar to previous controversies about the origin of Earth’s Moon, several theories have been proposed for the birth of the Martian moons that involve either the collision of large objects with Mars (e.g., Rosenblatt et al., 2016) or the capture of asteroids (e.g., Higuchi & Ida, 2017).

Moreover, Martian orbiter observations suggested that the large amount of Martian atmosphere has escaped over Mars’ history (e.g., Barabash et al., 2007; Jakosky et al., 2017) and can influence the Phobos’ surface, predominantly through oxygen ion irradiation (Nenon et al., 2019).

Because the Martian moons are still a missing piece to our understanding of the evolution of the solar system, a Martian Moons eXploration (MMX) mission is scheduled, which will conduct remote-sensing, in-situ measurements and sample return similarly to Hayabusa 1 and 2 (Fujiwara et al. 2006; Watanabe et al. 2019). The science objectives are not only to reveal the origin of the Martian moons but also to understand physical processes in the Martian environment for investigating co-evolution of the Martian-moons system (Kuramoto et al., this issue).

In the MMX mission, it is planned to perform in-situ observations of ions as a key objective. Ions in the Martian environment can come from Mars’ atmosphere, sputtering and stimulated desorption from the moons, photoionization of the predicted neutral torus, and the solar wind. For in-situ observations of such ions, it is suitable to use ion energy mass spectrometers and magnetometers for space plasma observation missions such as Arase (Miyoshi et al., 2018) and BepiColombo/Mio (Milillo et al., 2020). Therefore, based on ion analyzer and magnetometer development experience gained from Kaguya (Yokota et al., 2005; Saito et al., 2008a; 2010; Tsunakawa et al., 2010), MMS (Pollock et al., 2016), ARASE (Yokota et al., 2017; Asamura et al., 2018; Matsuoka et al., 2018), and BepiColombo/MIO (Delcourt et al., 2009; 2016; Saito et al., 2020; Baumjohann et al., 2020), the Mass Spectrum Analyzer (MSA) will be composed of an ion energy mass spectrometer and magnetometers for the MMX mission. The MSA instrumentation is funded by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) and is being designed and developed in a collaboration of Osaka University and Kyoto University.

In this paper, we describe the goals of the MSA science investigation as well as document the conceptual design of the MSA instrumentation. In Sections 2 and 3, we describe the
MSA science goals in the context of the MMX mission and the MSA instrumentation, respectively. In Section 4, we present the expected observations by MSA in the Martian environment. Finally, we describe the current status of the MSA development and summarize the paper in Section 5.

2. Scientific objectives of MSA

Mars is the outermost terrestrial planet, close to the ice/water vapor sublimation boundary, the snowline, and is in the inner and outer solar system connection region along with the asteroid main belt. It is presumed that primordial small bodies around the snowline were supplied in large quantities to the terrestrial planetary regions and played a decisive role in the establishment of the surface life environment, including the crust, oceans and atmosphere (e.g., Maruyama & Ebisuzaki, 2017). Thus, the Martian moons may contain primordial materials and are key targets for investigating the material supply to the terrestrial planets (Kuramoto et al., this issue). The MMX mission is designed to accomplish two scientific major goals: 1) Clarify the origins of Martian moons and constrain processes for planetary formation and material transport in the region connecting the inner and outer solar system; and 2) From viewpoint of the Martian moons, clarify the driving mechanism of the transition of the Mars-moon systems and add new knowledge to the evolution history of Mars. The two goals lead to the following six medium objectives: 1.1) Reveal whether Phobos originated as a captured asteroid or resulted from a giant impact; 1.2a) If Phobos is determined to be a captured asteroid, elucidate the composition and migration process of primitive materials supplied to the region of terrestrial planets and constrain the initial conditions of Martian surface evolution; 1.2b) If Phobos is determined to originate from a giant impact, elucidate giant impact and moon formation processes in the terrestrial planetary region and evaluate its influence on the early evolutionary process of Mars; 1.3) Place new constraints on Deimos’ origin; 2.1) Obtain a basic description of the elementary processes of surface evolution for moons in the circum-Martian environment; 2.2) Add new findings and constraints on the history of changes in the Martian surface; and 2.3) Constrain the mechanisms of material circulation in the Martian atmosphere affecting the transitions in the Martian climate (for details, see Kuramoto et al., this issue). To accomplish the goals and objectives, the MMX mission will perform comprehensive remote-sensing and in-situ observations. In addition, more than 10-g Phobos materials will be collected and
delivered to Earth for detailed characterization using laboratory instrumentation (Usui et al., 2020). The MSA science investigation will address the MMX scientific goals which are related to in-situ ion and magnetic field observations in the Martian environment. The MSA observations correspond to three of the six medium objectives 1.1, 2.1 and 2.2, as summarized in Table 1. Each medium objective is divided into different mission objectives (MOs). The MSA observations aim to accomplish the three medium objectives via four MOs, 1.1.1, 1.1.3, 2.1.1, and 2.2.2.

### Table 1: MMX mission objectives corresponding to MSA observations.

| Medium objectives | Mission objectives (MOs)                                                                 | MSA observations |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1.1               | Reveal whether Phobos originated as a captured asteroid or resulted from a giant impact  | 1                |
|                   | Spectroscopically reveal the surface-layer distribution of the materials that make up Phobos with the spatial resolution required for the scientific evaluation of sampling points and geological structures, thereby constraining Phobos’ origin. | Measure refractory ions (Si⁺, Ca⁺, Fe⁺, etc.) emitted from the Phobos surface |
|                   | Obtain information such as molecular release rates and mass distribution related to the presence of ice in Phobos, investigate the presence or absence of density contrasts on Phobos’ surface, and constrain Phobos’ origin independently of MO1.1.1 and MO1.1.2. | 2                |
|                   | Identify weathering and evolutionary processes (impact frequency, degree of gardening, and space weathering processes) in surface-layer regolith specific to the Martian moons as compared to asteroids | Measure water-related ions (O⁺, OH⁺, H₂O⁺ etc.) originating from inside Phobos (if they exist) |
| 2.1               | Obtain a basic description of the elementary processes of surface evolution for moons in the circum-Martian environment | 3                |
| 2.2               | Add new findings and constraints on the history of changes in the Martian surface        | Measure incident ions to Phobos (H⁺ and He²⁺ of the solar wind and O⁺ and O₂⁺ etc. of the escaping ions from the Martian atmosphere), scattered ions, and emitted ions with monitoring the surrounding magnetic field |
|                   | Place constraints on the amount of atmospheric escape through the history of Mars from composition ratios and isotopic ratios in the current escaping atmosphere | 4                |
|                   | Measure O⁺, C⁺, N⁺, Ar⁺ and some isotopes of them in the escaping ions from the Martian atmosphere |                |

2.1 *Reveal whether Phobos originated as a captured asteroid or resulted from a giant impact (medium objective 1.1)*

The origin of the Mars moons is yet controversial, and two major theories have been proposed: primordial asteroid captures (e.g., Higuchi & Ida, 2017) and in-situ formation due to giant impacts (e.g., Rosenblatt et al. 2016). In the case of captured asteroid origin,
the Martian moons would preserve materials which had existed in the inner and/or outer solar system in early days. In the other case, the Martian moons would provide the second example of the giant impact following the Earth-Moon system and would substantially contain materials of the Martian origin. Therefore, either origin of the Martian moons revealed by the MMX mission will place constraints on not only the initial condition of the Mars-moons system but also the planet-forming processes and/or material transport in the connection region between the inner and outer solar system (Kuramoto et al., this issue).

Among the medium objective 1.1, MSA provides two observations which correspond to MO1.1.1: Spectroscopically reveal the surface-layer distribution of the materials that make up Phobos with the spatial resolution required for the scientific evaluation of sampling points and geological structures, thereby constraining Phobos’ origin, and MO1.1.3: Obtain information such as molecular release rates and mass distribution related to the presence of ice in Phobos, investigate the presence or absence of density contrasts on Phobos’ surface, and constrain Phobos’ origin independently of MO1.1.1 and MO1.1.2. MSA will measure refractory ions emitted from the Phobos surface (MSA observation 1), and water-related ions originating from the inside Phobos (MSA observation 2), for MO1.1.1 and MO1.1.3, respectively (see Table 1).

2.1.1 MSA observation 1: Refractory ions from Phobos surface

The chemical composition of meteorites and returned samples provides various insights into the origin and evolution of their parent bodies (e.g., Saal et al., 2008, Terada et al., 2018). According to the database on the elemental abundance of meteorites, the composition ratios of several elements can be used to discriminate between different meteorite groups (Nittler et al., 2004). Thus, remote-sensing measurements of the chemical composition were made by orbiters equipped with X-ray and gamma-ray spectrometers in several solar system explorations (e.g., Feldman et al., 1998, Nittler et al., 2011, Lawrence et al., 2013), and are planned in the MMX mission using gamma-ray and neutron instruments (Lawrence et al., 2019).

When analyzing samples in the laboratory for the chemical composition, Secondary Ion Mass Spectrometry (SIMS) has been frequently used. In SIMS analysis, secondary ions are ejected from targeted samples by a primary ion beam and subsequently collected and analyzed by a mass spectrometer. In the case of small bodies which have no thick
atmosphere, the solar wind directly impacts their surface and sputters secondary ions, similarly to SIMS analysis. Fluxes of the secondary ions produced by solar wind sputtering are sufficiently large ($\geq 10^4$ ions/cm$^2$ s) to be measured by standard spaceborne ion mass spectrometers (Elphic et al., 1991; Schaible, 2014; Duke & Baragiola, 2015). This means that ion observations by orbiters can be utilized for the SIMS analysis of small bodies (Johnson & Baragiola, 1991; Yokota & Saito, 2005). Lunar orbiters actually discovered such ions around the Moon (e.g., Yokota et al., 2009, Halekas et al., 2013). Because background sources of refractory ions are negligible, the measurement of such ions can be a robust method.

Since the density of the solar wind near Mars at ~1.5 Astronomical Unit (AU) is around half of that near the Earth and Moon, the total secondary ion flux from from Phobos is expected to be ~$10^4$ ions/cm$^2$ s assuming the ion emission is proportional to the solar wind flux. Estimates of the yield of secondary ions due to the solar wind and Martian magnetosphere ion sputtering are shown for a suite of Martian meteorite and carbonaceous chondrite compositions in Figure 1. Both the solar wind and plasma sheet ions eject significant fluxes of secondary ions. This is especially important due to the fact that Phobos is tidally locked to Mars so that the two hemispheres see distinctly different ion irradiation environments. The Mars-facing hemisphere is exposed to predominantly oxygen ions while the anti-Mars hemisphere is exposed to solar wind (Nenon et al., 2019), and thus distinguishing between magnetospheric oxygen and oxygen from water ice is critical. It was shown that classification of targeted small bodies can be carried out by measuring the flux ratios of refractory ions such as Mg$^+$, Ca$^+$, and Fe$^+$ to Si$^+$ even with an accuracy of ~50% (Schaible et al. 2017). Therefore, MSA measurements of secondary ions sputtered from Phobos by the solar wind (especially refractory ions) will allow us to discriminate between the formation models.

2.1.2 MSA observation 2: Water-related ions from Phobos interior

To further constrain the origin of the Martian moons independently of observations of surface materials and analyses of returned samples, the MMX missions will examine their internal structures, especially the existence of ice. Captured primordial asteroids would preserve a large amount of ice inside them, while giant impacts cause depletion of volatile elements including water similarly to the Moon (e.g., Canap & Asphang, 2001). In the case of the captured asteroid origin, current H$_2$O release rate of ~0.3-3 g/s (~$10^{22}$-$10^{23}$...
molecules/s) was calculated depending on the pore size and porosity by a model of the
evolution of the water regime for Phobos (Fanale & Salvai, 1990). Re-accreted material
would be volatile-depleted, but Phobos could still emit H₂O at a rate less than ~10^{20}
molecules/s, assuming that all oxygen is released as H₂O. This water could be
causedsupplied by reactions of solar wind hydrogen with refractory oxygen in the surface
rocks, escaping ions from the Martian atmosphere, and micrometeoroid impact (Chipriani
et al., 2011; Poppe & Curry, 2014). Therefore, H₂O flux of ~10^{22} molecules /s is an
indicator of the presence or absence of ice in Phobos.

Released H₂O molecules can easily escape the orbit of Phobos, and become trapped in a
keplerian orbit around Mars (Ip and Banaszkiewicz, 1990), forming an envelope of all
the permitted trajectories, or ‘torus’ (Krymskii et al., 1992). Peak densities of 10⁴-10⁵
molecules/cm³ were derived from a model of the H₂O-related molecular gas torus (Mura
et al., 2002) using the release rate of 10^{23} molecules /s. In the Phobos-2 observation,
electromagnetic ion beam waves were observed, implying the existence of a Phobos
neutral gas torus (Baumgärtel et al., 1998). On the other hand, during the solar minimum,
no signatures related with such a Phobos torus were observed by Mars Express (Futaana
et al., 2010a) and Mars Global Surveyor (Øieroset et al., 2010).

The existence of ice in Phobos is expected to results in the H₂O emission of ~10^{22}-10^{23}
molecules/s and formation of the H₂O gas torus of 10⁴-10⁵ molecules/cm³ (Mura et al.,
2002). In the case of the H₂O emission rate of 10^{22} molecules /s, the peak flux of H₂O-
related ions (O⁺, OH⁺, H₂O⁺, etc) of ~10⁷ ions/cm² s can be estimated (Poppe & Curry,
2014). Such ion fluxes can be observed by standard spaceborne ion energy mass analyzers
designed for measuring ions of 10⁴-10⁸ ions/cm² s in the solar wind and planetary
magnetosphere (e.g., Yokota et al. 2005; 2017). Therefore, the observation of such ions
by MSA can determine whether the Phobos contains large amount of ice and whether its
origin is a captured primordial asteroid or in-situ formation by a giant impact.

2.2 Obtain a basic description of the elementary processes of surface evolution for moons
in the circum-Martian environment (medium objective 2.1)

The surfaces of small bodies experience changes in their chemical composition and
reflection spectrum, called ‘space weathering’ (Chapman, 2004), caused by the impact of
micrometeoroids (Sasaki et al., 2001) and solar wind ions (Vernazza et al., 2009,
Matsumoto et al., 2020). The presence of planet Mars affects the frequency and velocity
of meteorite and micrometeoroid impacts onto the Martian moons, and escaping ions from the Martian atmosphere as well as solar wind ions collide with their surfaces (Nenon et al., 2019). The nearside of Phobos, the rotation of which is currently synchronized with its revolution, might contain much more particles from the Martian atmosphere. Therefore, the space weathering of the Martian moons is probably different from that of other moons and asteroids in the main belt.

To achieve medium objective 2.1, the MMX mission has the following task, MO2.1.1: Identify weathering and evolutionary processes (impact frequency, degree of gardening, and space weathering processes) in surface-layer regolith specific to the Martian moons as compared to asteroids. To address MO2.1.1, MSA has observation 3: Measure incident ions to Phobos, scattered ions, and emitted ions while monitoring the surrounding magnetic field (see Table 1).

The solar wind typically has a flux of $\sim 10^8$ particles/cm$^2$ s composed of ions (mostly H$^+$ and He$^{++}$) and electrons, sometimes varying from $10^4$ to 10 times, with a magnetic field of $\sim 1$~$10$ nT around Mars (Trotignon et al., 1996). When the Martian moons are downstream of the solar wind relative to Mars, they are substantially shielded from the solar wind ions, but are exposed to escaping ions from the Martian atmosphere ($\mathrm{O}^+$, $\mathrm{O}_2^+$, etc.) of $\sim 10^4$~$10^7$ ions/cm$^2$ s (e.g., Lundin et al., 2004; Dong et al., 2015; Ramstad et al., 2017). In the case of the Earth’s Moon, $\sim 0.1$~$1\%$ of incident solar wind protons are back scattered as still protons (Saito et al., 2008b), $\sim 20\%$ as neutral hydrogen atoms (McComas et al., 2009, Wieser et al., 2009), while the rest is probably injected into the lunar surface. The back scattering of the solar wind was also observed around Phobos (Futaana et al., 2010a). The solar wind not only bombards the dayside surface of the Moon but also intrudes the wake region because of electromagnetic effects (Futaana et al., 2010b; Nishino et al., 2009, 2010, 2013; Dhanya et al., 2017). In addition, some of the solar wind is reflected in the Earth’s bow shock and irradiate the nightside of the Moon (Nishino et al., 2017).

Since the Moon has large and wide magnetic anomalies (e.g., Richmond & Hood, 2008, Tsunakawa et al., 2015), which deflect and/or reflect the solar wind (Saito et al., 2012), some areas are substantially shielded from the solar wind by an induced electric field (Futaana et al., 2013). Such a shielding from the solar wind can reduce the progression of the space weathering (Kramer et al., 2011, Bamford et al., 2016). Although there is no unambiguous evidence for the existence of magnetic anomalies on Phobos (Mordovskaya
their electromagnetic effects have a significant influence on the space weathering if exist.

As described in Section 2.1.1, secondary ions are emitted by the solar wind sputtering that affects evolutionary processes of the surface regolith layer. The ion emissions for various species were estimated at $\sim 10^4 / \text{cm}^2 \text{s}$ around Phobos (Poppe & Curry, 2014). In the case of the Earth’s Moon, secondary ion emissions of $\sim 10^4$ ions/cm$^2$ s were estimated (Yokota and Saito, 2005) and were actually observed (e.g., Yokota et al., 2009, Tanaka et al., 2009) for a variety of ions, preferably volatile species (Yokota et al., 2014, 2020). To reveal how much ions go toward and come from the Martian moons for each ion species, MSA will measure solar wind ions (mostly $\text{H}^+$ and $\text{He}^{++}$), escaping ions from the Martian atmosphere ($\text{O}^+$, $\text{O}_2^+$, etc.), back-scattered solar wind ions, and secondary ions emitted from the Martian moons. In addition, MSA will also measure a magnetic field to investigate the surrounding electromagnetic effects and to search magnetic anomalies on the Martian moons.

2.3 Add new findings and constraints on the history of changes in the Martian surface (medium objective 2.2)

The Martian moons would contain substantial materials of the Martian origin which have carried since their birth via ejecta (Hyodo et al., 2019) and escaping ions (e.g., Inui et al., 2018, Nénon, et al., 2019). The heavy isotope enrichment in major elements (C, O, etc.) in the lower Martian atmosphere measured by the Curiosity rover supported the hypothesis of substantial atmospheric escape (Mahaffy et al., 2013). Thus, in the MMX mission, the information on the history of the Mars surface environment evolution can be provided by the analysis of returned samples (Usui et al., 2020). In addition, the MSA ion observations will evaluate not only the current status of the Martian atmospheric escape but also will constrain its history using the isotope ratios (e.g., Jakosky et al., 2017). To contribute to the accomplishment of medium objective 2.2, MSA has observation 4: Measure $\text{O}^+$, $\text{C}^+$, $\text{N}^+$, $\text{Ar}^+$ and some isotopes of them in the escaping ions from the Martian atmosphere, which corresponds to one of the mission objectives, MO2.2.2: Place constraints on the amount of atmospheric escape through the history of Mars from composition ratios and isotopic ratios in the current escaping atmosphere (see Table 1).

In the escape processes of the Martian atmosphere, the lighter species are preferentially removed, resulting into a remaining atmosphere enriched in the heavier isotopes (e.g.,
Ignoring the supply and loss of materials other than atmospheric escape, such as exchange with the surface and crust, the amount of the Martian atmosphere $N(t)$ for each species at time $t$ is expressed by a simplified equation (Chassefière & Leblanc 2004):

$$N(t) = N_0 r(t)^{1/(f-1)},$$

where $N_0$, $r(t)$, and $f$ indicate the initial amount, isotope abundance ratio at normalized by the initial one, and isotope fractionation factor, respectively. To estimate $r(t)$, the current and initial isotope abundance ratios in the Martian atmosphere are derived from the observation data by the Curiosity rover and the analysis of primordial chondrites, respectively. Because $f$ is determined by the isotope abundance ratio at the exobase, the MAVEN observation estimated $f$ for $^{38}$Ar/$^{36}$Ar and then calculated $N_0$, suggesting that 66% of the atmospheric argon has been lost to space (Jakosky et al., 2017).

In the MMX mission, $f$ for $^{18}$O/$^{16}$O, $^{13}$C/$^{12}$C, etc. will be derived from the MSA observation of escaping atmospheric ions.

Previous observations and computations using a model of the upper atmosphere estimated $f$, while the estimate had a large (~400%) variation for $^{18}$O/$^{16}$O (e.g., McElroy & Yung, 1976; Fox and Hac, 2010). Thus, the estimate of $f$ within a 50% accuracy is needed in the MMX mission for further constraints on the total loss amounts of the Martian atmosphere.

### 3. Instrumentation of MSA

The MSA instrument is composed of an ion energy mass spectrometer, two magnetometers, and electronics (see Fig. 2). The ion analyzer measures distribution functions and mass distributions of low-energy (<10s keV) ions. The magnetometers measure the magnetic field of the solar wind which is sometimes perturbed by Mars and possibly by Phobos. The combination of ion and magnetic field sensors will allow us to measure ions emitted from Phobos and its torus as well as escaping ions from the Martian atmosphere with monitoring the solar wind to address the MMX science goals.

#### 3.1 MSA ion energy mass spectrometer

The MSA ion energy mass spectrometer employs nearly the same measurement techniques as that of Ion energy Mass Analyzer (IMA) for the Kaguya mission (Yokota et al., 2005; Saito et al., 2008a, 2010) and Mass Spectrum Analyzer (MSA) for
BepiColombo/MIO (Delcourt et al., 2009, 2016; Saito et al., 2020). Figure 3 shows a cross section of an engineering model of the MSA ion energy mass analyzer. The ion analyzer cylindrically symmetric in shape and consists of an energy analyzer and a mass analyzer. The aperture of 360° near the sensor top and neighboring angular scanning deflectors provide a ~2π steradian field-of-view (FOV) (Yokota et al., 2005). The two angular scanning deflectors are alternately applied with a sweeping high voltage up to +5 kV for such a wide FOV. The energy analyzer measures energy/charge $E/q$ using a top-hat electrostatic method (e.g., Carlson et al., 1982) in which the inner-spherical electrode is applied with a sweeping negative high voltage. In the mass analyzer, mass/charge $m/q$ is measured by a time-of-flight (TOF) method, that use a linear-electric field (LEF) for the higher mass resolution (e.g., McComas & Nordholt, 1990). At the entrance of the mass analyzer, ultra-thin carbon foil is mounted on a metal grid to emit secondary electrons for start signals. The TOF chamber is longer than that of the previous analyzers and is optimized to achieve a high mass resolution ($m/Δm > 100$) (Gilbert et al., 2010). Both ends of the TOF chamber is supplied with static high voltage up to ±12 kV for a post acceleration and reflection of incident ions, respectively. The incident ions are detected by a micro-channel plate (MCP) assembly at the bottom as stop signals if they are neutralized by the carbon foil. In the other case, the incident ions pass through the carbon foil as ions and then are reflected by the LEF, resulting in ejection of secondary electrons at the ceiling of the TOF chamber. The secondary electrons are attracted by the LEF and are also detected by the MCP assembly as stop signals. The MCP assembly has a circular delay line anode to obtain the start signal and 360°-position information from the detection of the secondary electrons emitted from the carbon foil (Saito et al., 2017). The specifications of the MSA ion analyzer are listed in Table 2.

**Table 2**: Specifications of the MSA ion energy mass spectrometer.

| Parameters                  | Value                                      | Notes            |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Energy range resolution     | ~5 -- 30k eV/q                             | $ΔE/E$ (FWHM)    |
| FOV range resolution        | ≥ $2\pi$ sr                                |                  |
| Mass range resolution       | 1-100 amu                                  | $m/Δm$ (FWHM)    |
| Geometric factor            | ≥ $10^4$ cm² sr eV/eV per channel          | Calculated in the numerical model |

### 3.2 MSA Magnetometer
Fundamental mode orthogonal fluxgate (FM-OFG) technique is used for the two magnetometers which are the components of MSA. FM-OFG was firstly proposed by Sasada (2002) and successively ‘bias switching’ method of the sensor excitation was designated to drastically reduce the offset in the output signal (Sasada and Usui, 2003, Koga and Sasada, 2003). Recently the sensor and circuit design to apply FM-OFG to the space missions has been developed by improving the offset stability and noise characteristics (Murata et al., 2018, Murata et al., 2019). FM-OFG technique achieves significantly down-sized and lightened sensor in comparison with the conventional parallel fluxgate magnetometers which have been generally used for the space missions. FM-OFG is much effective to reduce the power to excite the sensor as well.

Each of two MSA magnetometers measures three orthogonal components of the magnetic field. Figure 4 shows the schematic configuration of the magnetometer with a single sensor head, while the actual sensor unit has three heads whose axes are arranged orthogonally. In the sensor head part, a couple of amorphous wire cores are strained in parallel along a resin bobbin of rod shape. The tips of the cores are connected through the copper bonding, and the roots are connected to the excitation circuit in the electronics part implemented in the MSA electronics box. The excitation circuit directly apply the DC-biased AC excitation current, which is sinusoidal AC (\( f=74kHz \)) current superposed on DC (bias) current, to the core. The polarity of the excitation current is periodically flipped (bias switching). The signal of same \( f/Hz \) induced in the pickup coil wound around the bobbin is detected by the electronics part. More details about the FM-OFG technique using bias switching are described in Murata et al. (2018) and Murata et al. (2019). The specifications of the MSA magnetometer are listed in Table 3.

**Table 3:** Specifications of the MSA magnetometers.

| Parameters          | Value                  | Notes                      |
|---------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Dynamic range       | \( \pm 8000nT / \pm 60000nT \) | Switched by command        |
| Resolution          | 0.1 nT / 0.8 nT        | Switched by command        |
| Sampling rate       | 1 Hz / 128 Hz          | Nominal observation / Checkout mode |
| Noise level         | \(< 15 \text{pT/}\sqrt{\text{Hz}} \) at 1 Hz | |
| Offset stability    | \( < 0.027 \text{nT/°C} \) | |

The MSA instrument include an electronics box which is installed inside the spacecraft.
Each analog signal from the MSA ion analyzer and magnetometers is collected by the electronics box via each pre-amplifier (see Figure 2). The signal processing and data allocation for the ion analyzer and magnetometers are made by an FPGA with CPU cores. The FPGA also monitors and controls High Voltage Power Supplies (HVPSs) that are mounted near the ion analyzer. Telemetry commands and data are transmitted and are received via the space wire interface to the spacecraft system. The electronics box as a DC-DC converter to provide ±12 V, +5 V, and +3.3V to each electronic board.

4. Estimation of Future Observation

The MSA ion spectrometer employs the techniques used for previous ion analyzers for space plasma observation which measured from solar wind ions of ~10^8 ions/cm^2 s to planetary magnetospheric ions of ≥ ~10^4 ions/cm^2 s. Thus, MSA has sufficient performance to measure secondary ions of ~10^4 ions/cm^2 s from Phobos (MSA observation 1), water-related ions of ~10^7 ions/cm^2 s originating from the Phobos torus if exists (MSA observation 2), solar wind ions of ~10^8 ions/cm^2 s and those scattered at the Phobos surface of 10^5~10^6 ions/cm^2 s (MSA observation 3), and escaping ions from the Martian atmosphere of ~10^4~10^7 ions/cm^2 s (MSA observation 4). Compared to previous ion analyzers for the Mars missions (e.g., Barabash et al., 2004; Wilson, 2004; McFadden et al., 2015), only the mass resolution will be improved to M/ΔM≥~100 to clearly discriminate heavy ions and their isotope from each other. Therefore, successful investigations by MSA mainly depend on the configuration and period of the observation.

4.1 MSA Ion Observation

During the nominal scientific observation period, the MMX spacecraft will be in a quasi-satellite orbit, orbiting Mars together with Phobos at a distance of ~20~200 km from each other (Nakamura et al., this issue). Figures 5A and 5B show the MSA observation configurations, focusing on the relations with Phobos/Mars in the Phobos/Mars-centric Solar Ecliptic coordinates, respectively. The Phobos/Mars-centric Solar Ecliptic coordinate system has the X-axis pointing from Phobos/Mars towards the Sun, the Z-axis parallel to the ecliptic northern pole, and the Y-axis determined in the right-handed system. When the spacecraft is in the neighboring of Phobos, the hemispherical FOV of MSA can capture both solar wind ions and those scattered at the Phobos surface in most situations. Because the spacecraft orbits along to the Martian torus, water-related ions...
generated from the torus are easily observed if such a gas torus exists. The observations of water-related ions are suitable in the dayside of Mars because it is straightforward to
distinguish between ions from the torus and those from the Martian atmosphere. When
the spacecraft and Phobos are behind Mars with respect to the Sun at an interval of 7.66
hours, there is an opportunity to observe escaping ions from the Martian atmosphere.
The motion of charged particles is determined by the surrounding electric and magnetic
fields ($\mathbf{E}$ and $\mathbf{B}$) in space. The equation of motion in $\mathbf{E}$ and $\mathbf{B}$ is expressed as
$m\dot{\mathbf{v}} = q(\mathbf{E} + \mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B})$, where $m$, $q$, and $\mathbf{v}$ denote the mass, charge, and velocity of the charged
particle, respectively. Thus, the information of $\mathbf{E}$ and $\mathbf{B}$ is indispensable for an
adequate interpretation of the ion behavior measured by MSA. In the Martian
environment, the solar wind electric and magnetic fields are dominant upstream from
Mars, while the shocked and tail regions are formed downstream. In the solar wind, MSA
can derive both $\mathbf{B}$ and $\mathbf{E}$ from its measurements, because the solar wind electric field
is given by $\mathbf{E} = -\mathbf{V} \times \mathbf{B}$, where $\mathbf{V}$ indicates the solar wind velocity measured by the
MSA ion analyzer.

As a reference for the ion observations around Phobos, the observation results around the
Moon can be used, obtained by IMA on the Kaguya spacecraft (Saito et al., 2010) (see
Figure 6). The energy-time spectrogram obtained by IMA shows that solar wind ions,
those scattered at the lunar surface and reflected by the lunar magnetic anomalies, and
secondary ions emitted from the Moon were measured in a couple of hours. Since the
spacecraft was nadir-pointing, IMA measured solar wind ions only around the pole
regions, while those scattered at the lunar surface were measured over the dayside surface.
Although the scattered solar wind ions lose ~50% of their incident energies, they travel
against the solar wind for a short distance (~100s km) (Saito et al., 2008b). Thus, the
scattered solar wind ions can be measured around Phobos when the distance is less than
~100s km. On the other hand, the initial energies of secondary ions sputtered by the solar
wind are mostly less than a couple of electron volts (Madey et al., 1998 and references
therein). Consequently, secondary ions move in a straight direction along $\mathbf{E}$ over a short
distance (~100s km) compared to their Larmor radii (100s—1000s km), while they are in
a pickup ion motion due to the solar wind (Yokota & Saito, 2005). The motion of the ions
generated in the torus is almost the same as that of the secondary ions from Phobos,
because their energies in the torus gas before photoionization are less than a few electron
volts. Their measured energies $\kappa$ are determined by $\kappa = L|\mathbf{E}|$, where $L$ indicates the
distance between the emission/ionization points of the ions and spacecraft positions (see Figure 5A).

Different from the observations of the solar wind ions and those scattered at the surface, the observation of pickup ions generated from the torus and Phobos considerably depends on \( E \). Since the torus is widely distributed and is continuously tracked by the spacecraft, MSA has many opportunities to observe ions from the torus. However, the observation of secondary ions emitted from Phobos with a diameter of \( d \sim 22.5 \) km (MSA observation 1) are comparatively limited. A requirement of the MSA observation 1 is that the positions of the spacecraft and Phobos are in the same plane whose normal vector is parallel to \( V \) (see Figure 7). In other words, the spacecraft is in the YZ plane in the Phobos-centric Solar Ecliptic coordinates because \( V \) is approximately on the \(-X\) axis. During the nominal observation, the spacecraft will periodically stay in the dayside and nightside of Phobos and thus will path through the YZ plane many times (Nakamura et al., this issue). In addition, MSA observation 1 has another requirement that \( E \) directs from Phobos to the spacecraft. Assuming the direction of \( B \) is non-biased, the possibility is approximately given by \( d / 2\pi L \) for spacecraft in the YZ plane, where \( d \) and \( L \) denote the diameter of Phobos and spacecraft’s altitude, respectively. Although high-altitude (~100 km) observations provide the possibility below 5%, the observation period for secondary ions from Phobos will be secured by low-altitude (10—30 km) observations with the possibility of 10s %.

It should be noted that if Phobos had large and wide-area magnetic anomalies sufficiently to capture secondary ions, MSA would measure no ions from Phobos. In the case of the Earth’s Moon, Kaguya observed solar wind ions reflected from magnetic anomalies rather than secondary ions from the lunar surface (see Figure 6). In such an extreme case, the MSA magnetometer would tell us what disturbs the MSA ion observation.

4.2 MSA magnetic field observation

As described in the previous subsection, magnetic field vector \( B \) is indispensable to interpret the ion behavior measured by the MSA ion energy mass spectrometer. The MSA magnetometer is required to measure the magnetic field strength and direction with good accuracy.

The magnetic field strength in the solar wind at the Mars orbit is typically 3 nT although it significantly varies depending on the condition of the solar surface. Disturbing fields
from other components on the spacecraft would cause problems to determine the strength and direction of such weak magnetic field. In the previous missions measuring weak magnetic field in the space, very often the magnetometer sensors have been mounted at the tips of the long booms to avoid the disturbances. In the case of MMX where boom is not available, however, the disturbing noises are planned to be identified quantitatively by analyzing the output values from two magnetometers. At two apart measurement positions on the surface of the spacecraft, the artificial magnetic fields caused by the onboard components have different intensity and direction, while the natural magnetic fields are same. The magnetic field data are able to be ‘cleaned’ by analyzing the difference between the fields measured by two magnetometers. Similar method has been used in the missions where it is difficult to implement boom for magnetometer or carry magnetic cleanliness of the spacecraft (Georgescu et al., 2008, Pope et al., 2011, Constantinescu et al., 2020).

In the orbit, the MSA magnetometer produces the magnetic field data with 1 Hz sampling rate. Besides, it has 128 Hz sampling mode for the instrument checkout. It is much desirable to operate the MSA magnetometer during the cruising to Mars for the purposes of the instrument health check as well as for the scientific study of the interplanetary plasma physics.

The MSA magnetometer will be operated basically together with the MSA ion energy mass spectrometer. On the other hand, even without the data from the ion energy mass spectrometer, it is much valuable to measure the magnetic fields, especially at the landing operation to Phobos. The intrinsic and crustal magnetic fields of Phobos are essential to interpret the interior structure and surface composition. Although there is no reliable information for deriving the magnetic moment of Phobos so far (Veselovsky, 2004), Mordovskaya et al. (2001) estimated the magnetic field intensity at the Phobos surface to be 0.6G (same intensity as geomagnetic surface field) from the magnetopause position identified by Phobos-2. Even less intense, it is possible that magnetic moments could be detected if the magnetic fields originated from the ancient Mars magnetized Phobos as well as the Martian slab. Sprenke and Baker (2000) identified the moment density of the Martian magnetized slab as 10 A/m. Because the intensity of the magnetic field is proportional to $1/r^3$, where $r$ denotes the distance, the moment density of Phobos is 0.4 A/m assuming the magnetization occurs proportionally to the applied field intensity.

In our estimation where Phobos is a sphere with a radius of 10 km radius homogeneously
magnetized at 0.4 A/m, the magnetic field intensity is more than 3 nT, the typical intensity of the magnetic field in the solar wind at the Martian orbit, at distances shorter than 30 km from the surface. The magnetic field, if detected, would give important insights into the global magnetism of Mars and its history.

The time variation of the magnetic field originating from the Phobos interior can be an indicator of the electrical current flowing under the surface induced by the variation in the external magnetic field. Observations of the time variation would allow us to estimate the electrical conductivity of the material from the surface to the skin depth, and thus provide important information about the crustal material and its condition. Similar observations were carried out by the Apollo Moon missions, and is planned in the Jupiter JUICE mission to investigate a subsurface ocean (Grasset et al., 2013).

5. Summary

The preliminary design phase for MSA was completed in October 2020. The development of an engineering model of the MSA instrument has initiated, aiming the final delivery in 2023 and launch of the MMX spacecraft in 2024. To address the MMX mission goals, MSA will perform in-situ observations of ions and magnetic field, which are related with the surface and tori of the Martian moons, and Martian atmosphere, and the solar wind. In addition, MSA will also participate in a joint Mars observation program which is currently being defined (e.g., Ogohara et al., this issue).

Declarations

The authors must provide the following sections under the heading “Declarations”.

Ethics approval and consent to participate

Not applicable

Consent for publication

Not applicable

List of abbreviations

AU: Astronomical Unit
Availability of data and materials

The data and materials used in this research are available on request to the corresponding author, Dr. Shoichiro Yokota (yokota@ess.sci.osaka-u.ac.jp).

Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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Authors' contributions

SY, NT, AM, NM, and MJS wrote the manuscript. SY, YS, DD, KA, and SK contributed to the development of the ion analyzer. AM, NM, and RM contributed to the development of the magnetometer. NT, KS, YF, HN, MNN, KK, and YH contributed to consideration of the observation objectives. SI contributed to the magnetic field data analysis plan.

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**Authors' information**

**Endnotes**

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Figure 1: Secondary ion ratios for several types of meteorites considering the solar wind and Martian magnetospheric ion sputtering. Solar wind fluxes were calculated assuming 95% H+ and 5% He++ ions, and incident ion fluxes for the various magnetosphere regions were calculated using MAVEN SWIA measurements (J. Halekas, personal communication).
Figure 2: Block diagram of MSA.
Figure 3: Cross-sectional view of the ion optics and MCP assembly in the MSA ion energy mass spectrometer engineering model. Trajectories of incident ions (black) and secondary electrons (red) are shown.
Figure 4: Schematic diagram of the MSA magnetometer.
**Figure 5:** Observation configurations of MSA. A) MSA observations 1 and 3 for measuring solar wind (SW) ions, scattered SW ions on the Phobos surface, and secondary ions sputtered by the SW from Phobos surface. B) MSA observations 2 and 4 for measuring water ions from the torus and escaping ions from the Martian atmosphere. In the both panels, $B$ and $E$ indicate the magnetic and electric fields of the SW, respectively. The magnetometer measures $B$, while $E$ is derived from $E = -V \times B$, where $V$ denote the SW velocity measured by the ion analyzer. The Phobos/Mars-centric Solar Ecliptic coordinate system is used in panel A/B.
Figure 6: Ion observation results around the Moon by the Kaguya spacecraft during two hours on April 3, 2008. A) Energy-time spectrograms of ions measured by the ion analyzer (IMA) between 13:00 and 15:00 universal time (UT). B) Ion observation configuration in the selenocentric solar ecliptic coordinates. The details of the observations are described in Saito et al. (2010).
Figure 7: Required observation configuration for the MSA observation 1 to measure secondary ions sputtered by the solar wind (SW) from Phobos surface, where $\mathbf{V}$, $\mathbf{B}$, and $\mathbf{E}$ indicate the velocity, and magnetic and electric fields of the SW, respectively. The secondary ions move along $\mathbf{E} = -\mathbf{V} \times \mathbf{B}$, because their initial energies are nearly 0. The magnetometer measures $\mathbf{B}$, while $\mathbf{E}$ is derived from $\mathbf{E} = -\mathbf{V} \times \mathbf{B}$, where $\mathbf{V}$ denote the SW velocity measured by the ion analyzer. The spacecraft and Phobos are located in the same plane whose normal vector is $\mathbf{V}$. 