Laboratory experiments and telescope observations: Implications for geochemical environments of Europa

(氷衛星エウロパの表層物質環境の理解に向けた室内実験・望遠鏡観測研究)

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Europa, the Jupitar's icy satellite, has been found to possess an interior ocean beneath its icy crust. Europa's surface has been recently observed in the wavelength range 1.5–2.5 µm with large ground-based telescopes. Those observed reflectance spectra suggest that Cl-bearing salts exist on Europa's geologically active chaos terrains. Those salts would reflect the chemical composition of the interior ocean. Moreover, the abundance and grain size of Cl-bearing salts would provide constraints on the formation mechanism of chaos terrains. However, those chemical composition of Cl-bearing salts on the surface are not well constrained due to the limitation in existing observation wavelengths. In addition, spectra of Cl-bearing salts would be changed due to irradiation by high-energy particles on Europa's surface. Those spectra of irradiated Cl-bearing salts on the surface are not well constrained due to the lack of laboratory experiments.

Here, we observed Europa's surface in the wavelength range $1.0-1.8 \ \mu m$ using the Subaru telescope/IRCS and adaptive optics AO188 with high spectral resolution and high signal-to-noise ratios. Our observed spectra show no significant absorption features at ~1.2 μm due to hydrated salts (e.g., NaCl·2H₂O, MgCl₂·nH₂O, Mg(ClO₃)₂·6H₂O, Mg(ClO₄)₂·6H₂O), suggesting that surface salts would be likely anhydrous sodium chloride (NaCl).

We also performed irradiation experiments on NaCl by 10-keV electrons to obtain the optical constants of irradiated NaCl in near-infrared wavelengths. To constrain grain size and abundance of irradiated NaCl on Europa's surface, we performed spectral model fitting of the observational data using the obtained optical constants. Our results of the spectral fitting show the non-irradiated NaCl cannot reproduce dark reflectance well in wavelength of $1.1-1.3 \mu m$. On the other hand, irradiated NaCl greatly improves the fitting because irradiated NaCl has a red slope in the relevant wavelength range. The best fit of the observations suggests that the abundance and grain size of irradiated NaCl are 40-50% and > a few μm , respectively.

Those high abundance and large grain size of NaCl on Europa's surface can be explained if subsurface brine reservoirs were frozen slowly within the icy crust, and subsequently slurry brines containing NaCl-particles erupted to the surface.

氷衛星エウロパの表層物質環境の 理解に向けた室内実験・望遠鏡観測研究

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エウロパ



内部海が存在か (磁場・自転運動; e.g., Kivelson et al., 2000)

●2000年頃のGalileo探査以降、大型探査なし



今後の太陽系内探査の 主要ターゲットの一つ (JUICE, Europa Clipper)







エウロパ表層物質環境の不明点

内部由来Cl塩の主成分:? (e.g., NaCl, NaClO₄· 2H₂O, MgCl₂·nH₂O, Mg(ClO₄)₂·6H₂O)

目的:CI塩の物理化学性質の制約

→ 観測データ, 室内実験データを用いたスペクトルモデル

内部-表面の物質移動

塩粒径:?μm



塩含有量: ?%

すばる望遠鏡によるエウロパ観測

<u>観測日: 2019/05/17-18の2夜</u> Proposal ID: S19A0119 (PI:丹)

<u>IRCS (IRスリット分光撮像) w/AO188</u>

 0.95–1.5 μm (δλ~1.0 nm) 短波のため技術的難易度高 Cl水和塩の吸収が存在 (~1.2 μm)

② 1.5–1.83 μm (δλ~ 0.9 nm)

空間分解能: ~300-400 km (東西)×~800 km (南北) → カオス地形に注目可能



観測されたエウロパのスペクトル



CI水和塩の量の評価

Subaru/IRCSの性能

- 分解能: 0.001 µm
- SN比: 300-500程度



すばるデータのSN比の1σ~0.002 → 水和塩の含有量 < ~3-10%

(Tan et al., in prep. a)

CI水和塩の量の評価

Subaru/IRCSの性能

- 分解能: 0.001 μm
- SN比: 300-500程度



すばるデータのSN比の1σ~0.002

(e.g., Ligier et al., 2016)

(Tan et al., in prep. a)

→ 水和塩の含有量 < ~3-10%



観測反射スペクトルへのフィッティング

観測スペクトルに対する線形合成スペクトル計算

 □ <u>各成分のスペクトル計算</u> (粒子層の多重散乱・吸収, Hapke et al., 1981; 1993; 2002)
 H₂O ice + H₂SO₄ + 電子照射後のNaCI

粒径の設定

H₂O ice, H₂SO₄: 10-500 μm ・ <u>電子照射後のNaCl: 0.1-100 μm</u>

ロフィッティング対象
 1. すばるデータ(本研究)
 2. Galileo探査機データ (McCord et al., 1999)

電子照射されたNaClの粒径 ごとに各成分の含有量を計算



電子照射したNaCIのフィット上の効果



未照射のNaCl: 反射率がほぼ1 slopeがない → 1.1–1.3 µmの 暗い反射率が 再現できず

(Tan et al., in prep. b)

電子照射したNaCIのフィット上の効果



フィット結果のNaCI粒径依存性





H2O昇華

大きい粒径 (> a few μm) ゆるやかな結晶成長に由来か

氷地殻内に低温の湖?

(Schmidt et al., 2011)

Na⁺ >> Mg²⁺の海洋 中~アルカリ性のpHか

(e.g., Tan et al., 2021, Icarus)

海水 (~1%) から濃縮か 1. 低温で濃縮 (共融点組成~10%) 2. 表面での氷の昇華で 濃縮(最大~10倍) (Hobley et al., 2018)

高い含有量 (40-50%)

将来の観測への適用

<u>表面反射スペクトルの解釈</u> NaCl光学定数を用いたスペクトル解析 NaCl分布, [Na⁺]/[Mg²⁺]の分析 (Blaney et al., 2019; Langevin et al., 2013; Birkmann et al., 2016)



□ 着陸サイトの候補選定

着陸探査 (Europa Lander)でのその場分析

- 表面NaClの粒径・量 (Lerman, 2018)
 → 氷地殻内の湖の制約
- より詳細な内部由来物質の組成





(Images: NASA/JPL)



エウロパ表面の内部由来CI塩の組成, 含有量, 粒径の制約

● CI塩の主成分は無水塩 = NaCIか

電子照射NaClの光学定数を用いたスペクトルモデリング
・電子照射NaClは~1.2 µmの暗いスペクトル再現に必要
● NaClの粒径 > a few µm, 含有量~40~50%
■ Na >> Mgの内部海か
■ NaClは氷地殻内の湖を経由か
■ 将来探査に向けたデータとして利用できる可能性