

Observation Plans of Thermal Infrared Imager TIR onboard Hayabusa2 during the Asteroid Proximity Phase

*岡田 達明^{1,2}、福原 哲哉³、田中 智¹、田口 真³、荒井 武彦⁴、千秋 博紀⁵、坂谷 尚哉⁶、小川 佳子⁷、出村 裕英⁷、北里 宏平⁷、神山 徹⁸、関口 朋彦⁹、鳶生 有理¹、長谷川 直¹、松永 恒雄⁴、和田 毅彦¹、今村 剛²、滝田 隼¹⁰、青木 勇也⁷、須古 健太郎⁷、ヘルベルト ヨルン¹¹、ミュラー トマス¹²、ハゲルマン アクセル¹³

*Tatsuaki Okada^{1,2}, Tetsuya Fukuhara³, Satoshi Tanaka¹, Makoto Taguchi³, Takehiko Arai⁴, Hiroki Senshu⁵, Naoya Sakatani⁶, Yoshiko Ogawa⁷, Hirohide Demura⁷, Kohei Kitazato⁷, Toru Kouyama⁸, Tomohiko Sekiguchi⁹, Yuri Shimaki¹, Sunao Hasegawa¹, Tsuneo Matsunaga⁴, Takehiko Wada¹, Takeshi Imamura², Jun Takita¹⁰, Yuya Aoki⁷, Kentaro Suko⁷, Jorn Helbert¹¹, Thomas G. Mueller¹², Axel Hagermann¹³

1. 宇宙航空研究開発機構宇宙科学研究所、2. 東京大学、3. 立教大学、4. 国立環境研究所、5. 千葉工業大学、6. 明治大学、7. 会津大学、8. 産業技術総合研究所、9. 北海道教育大学、10. 北海道北見北斗高校、11. ドイツ航空宇宙センター、12. マックスプランク地球外物理学研究所、13. オープン大学

1. Institute of Space and Astronautical Science, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, 2. University of Tokyo, 3. Rikkyo University, 4. National Institute for Environmental Studies, 5. Chiba Institute of Technology, 6. Meiji University, 7. University of Aizu, 8. National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology, 9. Hokkaido University of Technology, 10. Hokkaido Kitami Hokuto High School, 11. German Aerospace Center (DLR), 12. Max-Planck Institute for Extraterrestrial Physics, 13. The Open University

Thermal Infrared Imager (TIR) [1] is one of remote sensing instruments on Hayabusa2, the second asteroid sample return mission organized by Institute of Space and Astronautical Science (ISAS), Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA). TIR is basically the same design of Longwave Infrared Camera (LIR) [2] on Akatsuki (Venus Climate Orbiter), based on two-dimensional micro-bolometer array with 328 x 248 effective pixels, and its field of view is 16° x 12°, its IFOV is 0.05°/pixel (0.88 mrad/pixel), and the detection wavelength is from 8 to 12 μm. TIR aims at investigating thermo-physical properties of the surface of C-type asteroid 162173 Ryugu, and at assessing the safe landing for touchdown to the surface of the asteroid.

Hayabusa2 was launched in 2014, will arrive at the target asteroid Ryugu in 2018, and come back to Earth with the sample collected from the surface of the asteroid. The approach phase with optical navigation to reach the asteroid will start in the summer of 2018, where TIR will start observations of Ryugu from more than 2000 km distance. The asteroid Ryugu, with 0.88 km in diameter, 7.63 hours of rotation period, 0.05 in average geometrical albedo, and 200 to 300 of thermal inertia in SI unit. TIR will take images of Ryugu for one rotation period at the distance of 2000 km (a point source), 200 km (several pixels), and 20 km. TIR will observe the light-curves and the geologic features of the asteroid.

After checking the status, TIR will be mainly used for landing site selection with other remote instruments from Home Position (20 km earthward from the asteroid), 5 km altitude from the asteroid (also on the Earth-Ryugu line). These observations will be planned before all the three touchdown operations. During the rehearsals for touchdown as well as the lander deployment operations, the Hayabusa2 spacecraft will descend to 40 m altitude and TIR will image the surface at higher spatial resolution. During the touchdown operations for sample collection, TIR will take images even at 7 m altitude, with the resolution of less than 10 mm per pixel. During the SCI (Small Carry-on Impactor) deployment operation, TIR will track the SCI every two second for one minute. During the escape operation of Hayabusa2 spacecraft to

avoid damage from the SCI explosion, TIR will take images (for longer integration time) of the deep sky and possibly obtain dust clouds excavated by the SCI impact to the asteroid. Plans of TIR observations will be explained in more detail [3].

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