



Venus Express Magnetometer Investigation: Instrument Description and Status Report

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The Venus Express mission has been successfully launched in 2005. Among the seven instrumentations onboard, it carries a magnetometer to study the Venus plasma environment. Although Venus has no intrinsic magnetic moment, the piled-up interplanetary magnetic field (IMF) forms a magnetic barrier in dayside to interact with the solar wind. In nightside, the draped IMF results in a magnetotail which is similar to the Earth's distant tail. Space Research Institute in Graz, in collaborate with IGEP of TU Braunschweig and Imperial College, is responsible for the Venus Express magnetometer. The magnetometer has been successfully commissioned. In this paper, we describe the magnetic field experiment of the Venus Express mission. We shall report the status and performance of the instrument.