Study on Lightning Whistlers in Geospace Observed by the Waveform Capture on board the Arase Satellite

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Dissertation

Study on Lightning Whistlers in Geospace Observed by the Waveform Capture on board the Arase Satellite

Graduate School of Natural Science and Technology Kanazawa University

Division of

Electrical Engineering and

Computer Science

Student ID: 1624042008 Name: Umar Ali Ahmad Chief Advisor: Yoshiya Kasahara September 2019 This book is dedicated to my beloved Father : H. Abdul Malik bin Amrullah KH who passed away during my Ph.D. study in Japan, and I am not able to go home for his cemetery.

Preface

Geospace is the outer region of space surrounding the near Earth from 70 km above the surface to approximately 10 R_E (R_E is the radius of the Earth). Within the geospace, there is a special type of electromagnetic wave called a lightning whistler. Lightning strike emits electromagnetic waves with different frequency, and some portion of those waves leak into the magnetosphere. The study of whistlers has been enhanced along the year and generation, with the advantage of spacecraft data and computer modeling, it has progressed significantly. VLF (very low frequency) waves, especially whistler waves are the main clue to study energy dynamics in geospace, because the propagation characteristics of whistler waves help us to understand the acceleration and loss mechanism of charged particles inside the radiation belt. It also benefits deriving the electron density in the plasmasphere if we could identify the source location of lightning flush using the World Wide Lightning Location Network (WWLLN) because the propagation time of lightning whistlers can be theoretically derived as a function of electron density along the propagation path.

The automatic detection of shape or pattern represented by signals captured from spacecraft data is essential to reveal the interest phenomena adhere. Signal processing approach generally uses to proceed and extracting the data to get useful information. In this study, we proposed image analysis approached to process image dataset produced by the PWE (Plasma Wave Experiment) on board the Arase (Exploration of Energization and Radiation in Geospace; ERG) satellite. The Arase was launched to elucidate the acceleration and loss mechanisms of relativistic electrons in the inner magnetosphere during magnetic storms and has been operated for more than one year. We developed an automatic detection system applicable for the waveform data measured by the PWE. The dataset consists of 31,380 PNG files generated from the dynamic power spectra of magnetic field data gathered from 1-year observation from March 2017 - March 2018. We implemented an automatic detection system using image analysis to classify the various types of lightning whistlers according to the Arase Whistler Map. We successfully detected a large number of whistler traces induced by lightning strikes and recorded their corresponding times and frequencies. In the present study, we statistically analyzed the lightning whistlers using the result from automatic detection referring to their measurement positions. We examined the distribution of occurrence of the lightning whistlers. It revealed that the lightning whistlers were mainly observed in the lower L-shell region, which is thoroughly inside of the plasmasphere. The various shape of lightning whistler indicates different VLF phenomena and giving a clue for an event inside Earth's plasmasphere.

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Chapter 1 Introduction

1.1 Research Background

Inside the geospace environment, especially in the region surveyed by Arase, the magnetic field is dominated by the component originating from the Earth's interior. There is a special type of electromagnetic wave called lightning whistler. Eckersley (1935) noted that whistlers are observed after sferics, which are broadband electromagnetic emissions induced by lightning strikes. Storey (1953) demonstrated that lightning strikes emit electromagnetic waves with different frequencies and that some portion of these waves leaks into the magnetosphere. When the whistler waves, which are nominally below 30 kHz, propagate through the magnetospheric plasma, different frequencies propagate at different group velocities; lower frequencies arrive later than higher frequencies.

The study of whistlers has been enhanced over the years with the advantages of spacecraft data and computer modeling and has progressed significantly. Previous studies have shown that the existence of whistler waves plays an important role in energetic electron acceleration and loss processes in the radiation belt. It also has benefited the studies such as, deriving the plasmaspheric electron density, ground-to-satellite communication, solar activity, lightning distribution, and others (Helliwell, 1965). Previous study showed that the existence of whistler is necessary for the change of the radiation belt and energetic electron (Abel and Thorne, 1998a, 1998b; Rostoker, et al., 1998; Elkington, et al., 2009).

In recent years, the number of studies of whistlers originated from lightning has performed using the data from both ground-station and satellite observations. Santolik et al. (2009) analyzed data measured by the DEMETER satellite in the night-side region, which are closely related to the lightning activity detected by the METEORAGE lightning detection network. Fiser et al. (2010) developed software for the automatic detection of fractional-hop whistlers in the very-low-frequency (VLF) spectrograms recorded by the ICE (Instrument Champ Electrique; Electric Field Instrument) experiment onboard the DEMETER satellite and compared their result to the EUCLID (European Cooperation for Lightning Detection, www.euclid.org) network. They studied the intensity distribution of lightning whistlers versus the location of the lightning and derived the mean whistler amplitude with the horizontal and vertical scales compared to the location of the lightning sources. Zheng et al. (2016) analyzed the whistler waves observed by the Van Allen Probes (RBSP) compared to global lightning data from the World Wide Lightning Location Network (WWLLN) and successfully predicted that approximately 22.6% of the whistlers observed by the satellite correspond to possible source lightning in the actual WWLLN data. Zahlava et al. (2018) analyzed the measurements performed by DEMETER and RBSP to investigate the longitudinal dependence of the whistler mode waves in the inner magnetosphere of the Earth; their result indicated a significant longitudinal dependence on the night side inside the plasmasphere. Kolmasova et al. (2018) analyzed the lightning initiation from the measurement site at La Grande Montagne during a thunderstorm and METEORAGE lightning location network.

Bayupati et al. (2012) analyzed the dispersion of lightning whistlers observed by the AKEBONO satellite along its trajectory and discussed the relationship between propagation times of lightning whistlers and the electron density profile along their propagation paths. Their work showed that analyzing the dispersion trends of lightning whistlers is a powerful method to determine the global electron density profile in the plasmasphere. Oike et al. (2014) analyzed the spatial distribution and temporal variation of the occurrence frequency of lightning whistlers detected by the AKEBONO satellite compared to the lightning activities derived from ground-based observations. Their work demonstrated that the occurrence of lightning whistlers strongly correlates with lightning activity as well as the electron density distribution around the Earth, especially in the ionosphere. The result from AKEBONO revealed that lightning whistlers are primarily observed only in the L-shell region below 3, where the L-shell, or the L-value, is a set of magnetic field lines in a dipole model that crosses the magnetic equator of the Earth at several R_E equal to the L-value. Due to the limitation of the altitude coverage of AKEBONO, however, the spatial distribution of lightning whistlers in higher altitude regions has not been thoroughly examined. In addition, note that the detection method introduced by Bayupati et al. (2012) and Oike et al. (2014) can only cover the most popular type of whistlers because they only took into account a spectral shape that has the ideal dispersion of frequency and time for a lightning whistler. However, there are various types of lightning whistlers. Helliwell (1965) examined the various types of lightning whistlers because dobservatories and classified them into nine types. The classification results were summarized in an atlas of whistler spectra.

In previous studies, the propagation characteristics of lightning whistlers have been intensively studied and, accordingly, lightning whistlers are recognized as important phenomena for monitoring the geospace environment. For example, they could be used as a powerful tool to remotely sense the electron density profile, if we can identify the source location of lightning flashes using the World Wide Lightning Location Network (WWLLN) and then determine the propagation time of the lightning whistlers from the source point to the observation point as a function of their frequency, because the propagation time can theoretically be derived as a function of the electron density along the propagation path (Bayupati et al., 2012). The continuous measurement of lightning whistlers using spacecraft is very helpful for monitoring the spatial and temporal variation of the geospace electron density profile.

In this paper, we developed a new detection application and classification method for lightning whistlers. An application was written in the C#.NET language using the OpenCV library for image processing (EMGU CV) and was applied to data obtained by the Arase satellite. Using the principles of image processing, pattern matching, and classification, we investigate the dispersion, cutoff frequency, and duration of the lightning whistlers. We define and classify the lightning whistlers according to our Arase whistler map. Compared to previous satellites such as DEMETER and AKEBONO, the altitude of Arase is much higher. The high-resolution waveform data measured by Arase provide wider area coverage in the inner magnetosphere than previous observations and allow the detection of various types of lightning whistlers.

1.2 Geospace Environment

The Geospace environment is a region or neighborhood that is surrounding the Earth; it consists of Ionosphere, Plasmasphere (or Inner Magnetosphere), and Van Allen Radiation Belt, starting from 70 km above the Earth surface, and extending to about 10 R_E (Earth radius). One R_E is equal to 6,371 km, as explained in Figure 1-1; therefore, its environment covered around 63,710 km from the surface of the Earth. Around the Geospace environment is a matter of plasma state, plasma is the fourth state of matter, where the particles are ionized (Maxworth, 2017). Major types of ions in the plasmasphere are protons, helium ions, and oxygen ions and composition ratio of these ions plays an important role in the propagation effect of VLF waves such as subprotonospheric whistler and magnestospherically reflected whistler (Kimura, 1966). According to Miyoshi (2018), there are several plasma and particle populations in the inner magnetosphere. The plasmasphere consists of cold/dense plasma populations, and the ionosphere is the source of the

plasmaspheric plasma. Each region inside geospace environment has its own typical energy, which vary from 1 eV (plasmaspheric plasma), a few keV to about 100 keV (ring current and plasma sheet), a few hundred keV to more than 10 MeV (the radiation belt particle). Thus wide energy range of plasma from a few eV to more than 10 MeV coexist in the inner magnetosphere.



Figure 1-1: Illustration of definition about 1 R_E (Earth Radii). Image source: en.wikipedia.org

The three regions of geospace environment are shown in Figure 1-2. It consists of three region: Ionosphere, Plasmasphere, and Van Allen Radiation Belt. Different region has different characteristic and properties.



Figure 1-2: The Ionosphere is shown in orange, The Plasmasphere is light blue, and the Van Allen radiation belt is in red. Image source : (Compston, 2016)

According to Compston (2016), the ionosphere is consist of three different regions or layers: The D region, which starts at around 60 km, this region appear only during the day time. The E region, beginning at an altitude of about 90km up to 100km, and finally the F region, which extends up to 1000km beyond the E region.

The plasmasphere is a doughnut-shaped region above the ionosphere with closed magnetic field lines, it is filled from the dayside ionosphere and emptied to the night side through the ambipolar diffusion along field lines (Heilig, 2018). The upper side of the plasmasphere, known as the plasmapause, it extends to as many as three to seven Earth radii away from the planet (Compston, 2016). Plasma tends to be colder in this region (energies < 1eV), and the plasmapause marks the outer boundary of this region. Carpenter (1963) discovered the concept of the plasmapause, or the magnetospheric plasma knee, after an analysis of VLF whistler data showed a sudden change in the electron density decrease with increasing magnetic activity. This knee exists at all times in the magnetosphere.

Van Allen Belt, discovered by American space scientist James Van Allen, is a region with an energetic charged particle within the cold plasma of the plasmasphere. There is a population of energetic electron and proton (from ~100 keV to several MeV). Green and Inan (2015), described Van Allen Belts consists of inner belt and outer belt. The inner belt consists of high energy electrons between 0.04 MeV to 4.5 MeV; with altitude about 1,000 km up to L=3. Meanwhile, the outer belt extends from L=5 to L=7 and consists of high energy electrons up to 7 MeV. Recent work from NASA Van Allen Probes Mission (Baker et al., 2013; Selesnick et al. 2014) demonstrated that in the geocentric radial distance of ~ 1.5 R_E protons are quite stable with energies from ~10 MeV to~100 MeV. The radiation belt is very important because it protects us from the harmful effect of high energy particle radiation for human. The energetic particle is also responsible to the damage of

electronic equipment, such as induction of background noise in detector, error in digital circuit, degradation of electronic component particularly semiconductor and optical device. Reviews on the inner magnetosphere and Van Allen belt can be found in several papers (e.q., Elkington, 2000; Ebihara and Miyoshi, 2011).



1.2 The Earth Magnetic Field

Figure 1-3: The concept of the L-Shell or L-Value or Mcllwain L-Parameter. Image source: vlf.stanford.edu

The Earth magnetic field, also known as the geomagnetic field, is dominant force in the magnetosphere mostly caused by the Solar Wind. The Earth magnetic field can be approximated by the field of magnetic dipole positioned near the center of the Earth. Its dipole orientation is defined by an axis that best fits to the geomagnetic field intersect the Earth's surface which called as the North and South geomagnetic poles (Buffet, 2000). To describe and measure a particular set of planetary magnetic field line or location in the magnetosphere (Maxworth, 2017), we refer here to the L-shell value (L) and the magnetic local time (MLT). The L-shell or L-Value, or Mcllwain L-Parameter as shown in Figure 1-3 is a set of magnetic field line in the magnetic field model which crosses the Earth magnetic equator at several Earth radii equal to the L-Value. For example, "L=3", explains the set of Earth magnetic field line which crosses the Earth's magnetic equator three Earth radii from the center of the Earth. L-shell is often used to describe the location of physical phenomena that happen in the ionosphere and magnetosphere. While the MLT indicates the direction of the magnetic field relative to the direction of the sun and it's occasionally referenced as UT-MLT to describe the offset between the temporal and MLT. The review on L-shell/L-values or Mcllwain parameter can be found at (Mcllwain, 1961).

1.4 ERG Satellite (ARASE)

The ERG (Exploration of energization and Radiation in Geospace) project is a mission to elucidate the acceleration and loss mechanisms of relativistic electrons in the inner magnetosphere during magnetic storms. It was launched at 20:00 JST on December 20, 2016, from Uchinoura Space Center (USC) in Japan with Epsilon-2 Launch Vehicle, with weight about 350 kg and an initial perigee and apogee of 440 km and 32,000 km, respectively. With the orbital inclination 31°, Arase satellite has wide latitudinal coverage, from the geomagnetic equatorial region until around the mid-latitude region.



Figure 1-4: Image showing the ERG mission, involving in situ measurements of the interactions between plasma waves and electrically charged particles in the Van Allen belts. Image source: (Miyoshi, 2018).

The Arase satellite has comprehensive in situ observations of plasma particles (electrons and ions), fields and waves that are important to gather conclusive evidence of

wave-particle interactions driving high-energy electron acceleration. It has several major scientific instruments as shown in Figure 1-5 and 1-6 :

- Low-energy particle experiments electron analyzer (LEP-e)
- Low-energy particle experiments ion mass analyzer (LEP-i)
- Medium-energy particle experiments electron analyzer (MEP-e)
- Medium-energy particle experiments ion mass analyzer (MEP-i)
- High-energy electron experiments (HEP)
- Extremely high-energy electron experiments (XEP)
- Magnetic field experiment (MGF)
- Plasma Wave Experiment (PWE)
- Software-type wave-particle interaction analyzer (S-WPIA)



Figure 1-5: Arase Satellite Scientific Instrument. Image source: (Nakamura, 2018)



Figure 1-6: Configuration of the wave sensor and coordinate system of the Arase Satellite. The spin axis of the satellite was the Z-Axis and was always directed to the sun. Image source: (Kasahara, 2018)

1.5 The WFC (Waveform Capture)

The WFC (Plasma Wave Experiment - Waveform Capture), is one of the subsystems of the PWE (Plasma Wave Experiment) on board the Arase (ERG) satellite. It measures waveforms below 20 kHz for the 2 electric field components and the 3 magnetic field components. The WFC is designed to measure chorus, hiss, and lightning whistlers. Two kinds of operation modes, which are called chorus mode, and EMIC mode, are implemented. The chorus mode and EMIC mode are mainly operated around the apogee and perigee, respectively. The WFC data are stored as CDF files for easier data analysis.

- Chorus burst mode measures electric and magnetic field waveform at a high sampling rate (65,536 samples/s). Each sample consists of 2 bytes (131,072 bytes/s) with intermittently measured (8s/shot). This mode is designed for the wide-frequency range measurement of whistler-mode chorus emission, plasmaspheric hiss, and electron cyclotron waves.
- EMIC burst mode measures electric and magnetic field waveform at a low sampling rate (1024 sample/s). Each sample consists of 2 bytes (2,048 bytes/s) with intermittently

measured (3min/shot). This mode is designed for the measurement of low-frequency phenomena such as EMIC waves and magnetosonic waves.

The burst data will be stored once on the Mission Data Recorder (MDR) and downloaded to the ground after data selection using the continuous data obtained by the OFA (Onboard Frequency Analyzer). The purpose of its measurements is to obtain entire ELF/VLF plasma wave activity and providing some properties such as power spectrum, propagation direction, and polarization for wave determination (Matsuda, 2018). The capacity of the MDR is 32 GB, which is allocated for EFD (Electric Field Detector), Chorus, and EMIC Burst. Figure 1-7 shows the data flow of the mission data and housekeeping data of the PWE. The burst data stored in the MDR are selected based on the evaluation of continuous data and selected data are reproduced to download to the ground.



Figure 1-7: Data flow of PWE housekeeping and mission data. Image source (Kasahara, 2018)

Figure 1-8 shows the 8-sec period of raw waveform data from the WFC Arase/PWE instrument at 01:27:43 UT to 01:27:51 on October 25, 2017. In the figure, we can observe raw data from 2 component of electric field (E1 waveform, and E2 Waveform),

and 3 component of magnetic field (B α Waveform, B β Waveform, and B γ). There is a raised intensity from 01:27:49 UT to 01:27:50 UT, which corresponds to a lightning whistler observed by the WFC. Since we cannot identify a lightning whistler wave on 1-Dimensional waveform signal as shown in Figure 1-8, whistler can be distinguished only on dynamic power spectra or spectrogram of a signal obtained by Hanning Window, FFT, and plot operation with contour by using IDL Procedure (TPLOT). Figure 1-9 shows the dynamic power spectra of the observed waveforms calculated using short-time Fourier transform (STFT) analysis with a 62.5-ms Hann window that included 4096 samples with a 94% overlap (shifting the window by 256 samples). The spectra shown here are not calibrated.



Figure 1-8: Raw data of the WFC waveform at 01:27:43 UT on October 25, 2017. There is a raised intensity from 01:27:49 UT to 01:27:50 UT, which in this case is the Lightning Whistler observed.



Figure 1-9: Dynamic Power Spectra produced by converting the WFC waveform data on Figure 1-8 using the Hanning Window and FFT Operation.

1.6 Purpose of the Present Work

The purpose of this work is to investigate lightning whistler observed by the WFC onboard Arase satellite in the following procedures, (i). Processing 1-year WFC data. (ii). Generating dynamic power spectra plot from magnetic field component. (iii) Storing dataset of dynamic power spectra plot. (iv). Applying automatic lightning whistler to the dataset, and picking up the detected result. (v). Showing statistical result comparing with orbital data condition.

1.7 Thesis Organization

The present work is organized into 6 chapters:

In Chapter 1 (the current chapter) we introduce the background of the research, such as the geospace environment, the Earth's magnetic field, and the Arase (ERG) satellite followed by the purposes of this study, and the structure of the thesis.

In Chapter 2, we explain the theoretical foundations. These include whistler lightning theory, dispersion, Earth-ionosphere waveguide propagation, atlas whistler, and occurrence of whistler.

In Chapter 3, we present an automatic whistler detection application to extract lightning whistlers from Arase observation data. We also demonstrate how it works.

In Chapter 4 we statistically analyze the detected whistlers extracted in Chapter 3, to investigate the spatial distribution, seasonal dependence, altitude dependence, MLT dependence, and MLAT dependence.

In Chapter 5, we present the result and discussion.

Finally, in Chapter 6, we summarize the results presented, compare these results with related research, and conclude by proposing future work, including suggestions.

Chapter 2

Theoretical Background

2.1 Theory of Whistlers



Figure 2-1: Whistler wave formation, another part of electromagnetic radiation emitted by lightning is launched into the magnetosphere as a whistler wave. Image source: vlf.stanford.edu

When a lightning thunderbolt travels through the air, it doesn't just produce light and sound; it also creates radio-wave. Less than a second after lightning strike on the Earth, a radio-wave reaches the radiation belt where it interacts with electrically charged particles, as shown in Figure 2-1. A part of electromagnetic radiation emitted by a lightning discharge propagates in the Earth-ionosphere waveguide with the speed of light *c*. Ground and Dlayer of the ionosphere are very good conductors in ELF/VLF range (300 Hz - 30kHz). This part is called radio atmospheric of sferic for short. Another part of electromagnetic radiation emitted by lightning is launched into the magnetosphere as a whistler wave. Because of its sounds like a "*whistle*.", whistlers have characteristic as a radio signals in the audio-frequency range that usually begins at a high frequency and in about one-second drops to a lower limit frequency around 1 kHz (Helliwell, 1965). Whistler is prominent in bursts of Very-Low-Frequency (VLF) electromagnetic energy produced by frequent lightning discharges. It propagates along the geomagnetic field lines from southern to northern hemisphere, and vice versa, as shown in Figure 2-2. Dispersion of whistler indicates a gap of propagation delay in the frequency domain. Their spectral properties mainly depend on the plasma environments (electron density and ambient magnetic field) along their propagation paths, and it can propagate thousands of kilometers from the source of the lightning strike in the Earth's plasmasphere. These data are relevant to the estimation of the electron density profile.



Figure 2-2: Propagation path of Lightning Whistler. It travels from northern hemisphere to southern hemisphere and vice versa following the geomagnetic field lines.

Whistler mode waves exist only in a magnetized plasma (Maxworth, 2016). The fundamental of this wave and the properties associated with the electromagnetic waves in free space are all electromagnetic phenomena derived from Maxwell's equations as shown in Equation (2.1):

 ∇

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{E} = \frac{\rho}{\epsilon}$$
(2.1)

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0$$

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{E} = -\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t}$$

$$\times \mathbf{B} = \mu\epsilon \mathbf{J} + \frac{\partial\epsilon \mathbf{E}}{\partial t}$$

16

The E and B terms respectively refer to the electric and magnetic components of the wave, and the quantities ρ and J correspond with the electric charge and the current densities.

As the waves propagate through the plasma medium, they will propagate along the magnetic field lines called `ducts' which serves as guiding structure as shown in Figure 2-3. Since ducted waves arrive normal to the ionospheric boundary, all whistlers detected on the ground are considered to propagate in ducts. The plasma in the plasmasphere, in particular, the electrons, in the radiation belts interact with the waves in two different ways. The low energy electrons in the plasmasphere support the propagation of waves at frequencies below the electron gyro-frequency in the whistler-mode, and generate a path delay and frequency dependent dispersion of the wave. The higher energy electrons in the radiation belts are much fewer in number and do not strongly affect the propagation of the wave but interact and exchange energy with the wave, resulting in wave amplification and the generation of new frequency components.



Figure 2-3: Electromagnetic wave propagation in the magnetosphere. Image source: vlf.stanford.edu

Whistler mode waves play a dominant role in the Earth's magnetosphere (Kulkarni et al., 2015). Figure 2-4 shows, the environment region where whistlers propagate. The most important parameters of the media that determine the propagation of whistler waves are electron number density (represented by color) and Earth's magnetic field (field lines in black).



Figure 2-4: Whistler region of propagation. Image source: vlf.stanford.edu

2.2 Dispersion

Energy from a lightning discharge enters the ionosphere and is guided by the lines of force of the Earth's magnetic field into the opposite hemisphere. As the radio waves travel along this path, they are dispersed. Magnetosphere is dispersive; different frequencies propagate at different group velocities. The wave in lower frequency arrives later in time than the one in higher frequency. As mentioned above, we know that whistler propagates through the plasma of the ionosphere and the plasmasphere before we know complete description of whistler wave, we should understand how electromagnetic waves propagate through a plasma environment. In general, the complex refractive index n of an electromagnetic wave propagating through a homogenous plasma with a wave normal at an angle from the ambient magnetic field is given by the so-called Appleton-Hartree's equation given in Equation (2.2).

$$n^{2} = \frac{c^{2}k^{2}}{\omega^{2}} = 1 - \frac{X}{1 - jZ - \frac{Y^{2}\sin^{2}\theta}{2(1 - X - jZ)} \pm \sqrt{\left(\frac{Y^{2}\sin^{2}\theta}{2(1 - X - jZ)}\right)^{2} + (Y\cos\theta)^{2}}$$
(2.2)

In Equation (2.2), the description of each equation symbol is:

- *c*: Speed of light in vacuum.
- *k*: Wave number.
- ω : Radian frequency of the wave.

 $j = \sqrt{-1}$ is the imaginary unit, and X, Y, and Z are, shown in Equation (2.3) :

$$X = \frac{\omega_{\rm pe}^2}{\omega^2} = \frac{q_{\rm e}^2 N_{\rm e}}{\epsilon_0 m_{\rm e} \omega^2},$$

$$Y = \frac{\omega_{\rm ce}}{\omega} = \frac{q_{\rm e} B_0}{m_{\rm e} \omega},$$

$$Z = \frac{\nu}{\omega},$$
(2.3)

 $\omega_{\rm pe:}$ Plasma frequency.

*Q*e: Electric charge of an electron.

*N*e: Number density of electrons in the plasma.

ε0: Permittivity of free space.

*m*_e: Mass of an electron.

wee: Gyro-frequency of an electron in an ambient magnetic field with strength B_0 .

v: Collision frequency between electrons and other particles.

Equation (2.4) is a refractive index or dispersion relation derived from cold plasma model. W-k relation (dispersion relation) is shown in Figure 2-5. Taking into account the dispersion relation, from the result, we can calculate the group velocity of whistler mode – as shown in Equation (2.4). Refractive index or dispersion relation:

$$\mu^{2} \equiv \left(\frac{kc}{\omega}\right)^{2} = 1 - \frac{\omega_{pe}^{2}}{\omega(\omega - \omega_{ce}\cos\theta)}$$
(2.4)

,

This is a local group velocity at a specific point with specific plasma parameters. If it is integrated along the path of whistler waves, such as along magnetic field line, we can calculate the time delay for each frequency on the group.



Figure 2-5. Approximation of Whistler Wave Propagation. Image Source: vlf.stanford.edu

The group delay is with respect to the lightning discharge, with neglecting the propagation time in the Earth-ionosphere waveguide.

Group Velocity:

$$v_g \equiv \frac{\partial \omega}{\partial k} = 2c \frac{\sqrt{\omega \omega_{ce} \cos \theta}}{\omega_{pe}}$$
(2.5)

(-)

2.3 Electron Density from Whistler Dispersion

Measurement of lightning whistler dispersion will help us to know the electron density distribution in the Earth's Plasmasphere. It is well known that lighting whistlers propagate in ducts of plasma along the lines of the Earth's magnetic field. There are many methods to measure the electron density; one of the methods is integral to the dispersion of whistler proposed by Gurnett et al. (1981). Bayupati (2012) applied this method using the principle of this approach. The time delay of the energy at frequency f during its propagation from one hemisphere to the opposite hemisphere is:

$$t_d = \frac{1}{2c} \int_{path} \frac{f_p f_c}{f^{1/2} (f_c - f)^{3/2}} ds$$
(2.6)

where f_p , f, f_c and ds are plasma frequency, wave frequency, gyro-frequency and path length of the wave, respectively.

In order to derive time delay using this formula, we must follow this assumption:

- 1. cold plasma and the equations of magnetoionic theory;
- 2. there are no electron collisions;
- 3. the plasma is everywhere sufficiently dense so that $f_p >> f_c$;
- 4. positive ions are ignored
- 5. the wave normal is aligned parallel to the Earth's magnetic field;
- 6. there are no effects from wave-particle interactions.

2.4 Arase Whistler Map

In 1965, Helliwell develops an Atlas of Whistler Spectra in order to describe whistler quantitatively. It includes the principal type of whistler, the range of variation within the type, intensity, fading, dispersion, cutoff frequencies, and diffuseness. We, however, newly proposed a definition of the type of lightning whistler observed by the Arase satellite and called it the Arase whistler map. This whistler map is partially adapted from the original definition of the whistler atlas defined by Helliwell (1965). The principal themes of the classification definition used in Helliwell's whistler atlas were primarily based on ground observation result. For example, the difference between one-hop and twohop whistler is the amount of relative dispersion, which depends on the length of propagation path. It was possible to distinguish one-hop and two-hop whistlers on groundobservations because the observation point is fixed. Such a classification is, however, not highly relevant for spacecraft observations because the observation point is always changing. Particularly for the case of very elliptical orbit such as the Arase satellite, dispersion of lightning whistler drastically changes and it is impossible to distinguish onehop and two-hop unless the location of wave source is identified. We classified the lightning whistlers based on the duration of the whistler trace instead, because the length of duration reflects the length of propagation path from the wave source to the observation point. In addition, we classified the multiple lightning whistlers according to the combination of the durations of the traces, which suggests the existence of multiple paths.

In this paper, we develop an improved detection method, based on pattern or shape detection using image processing and image analysis approaches, via standard patterns by measuring the pixel values, line groupings, and detected line in comparison to the shapes in the reference atlas. The entire process runs concurrently, reading all the images at the same time, detecting the whistler lines, and giving the results. As we can see in Table 2-1, the Arase whistler map shows the spectral forms of the lightning whistlers and distinguishes each type of whistler. We group the spectral forms into single-trace whistlers, which include nose, short, middle, and long whistlers, and multi-trace whistlers, which include the multiple-trace and multiple-combinations types. This grouping helps us formulate the classification and detection algorithm described in the next section.

Table 2-1. Arase Whistler Map: Type & Principal Definition of Lightning Whistlers partially adapted from the original whistler atlas by Helliwell (1965).

No	Type of Whistler	Definition	Spectral Form		
Single	Single Trace				
1	Nose	A whistler whose frequency-time curve exhibits both rising and falling branches. The delay is at a minimum at the nose frequency.	\uparrow		
2	Short Whistler	A whistler that has a duration of less than 1 s.	Î		
3	Middle Whistler	A whistler that has a duration between 1 s and 2 s.	\uparrow		
4	Long Whistler	A whistler that has a duration of more than 2 s.	\uparrow		
Multi Trace					
5	Multiple-Traces	A multiple whistlers consisting of multiple basic middle whistlers with the same length of duration.	$1 \leq 1 \leq$		
6	Multiple-Combinations	A multiple whistlers consisting of multiple basic middle whistlers with the different length of durations.	$\uparrow (\ \ \ \)$		

2.4 Occurrence of Whistler

2.4.1 Diurnal variation Definition.

It is well known that whistler occurred mostly on the nighttime than during daylight hours. In this work, we will investigate this diurnal behavior in chapter 4 based on the result of detection in chapter 3. To demonstrate the diurnal behavior, we will measure the occurrence of lightning whistler for one complete year observation period; it will divide into quarters, based on calendar months, and centered approximately on the solstice and equinox period.

2.4.2 MLT Dependence Definition.

Lightning whistler tends to propagate through the ionosphere without attenuation at night, while they are attenuated in the ionosphere in the daytime. Helliwell (1965) shows the absorption amount of VLF waves as a function of geomagnetic latitude. Oike et al.

(2014) reported that lightning whistler rarely observed in the dayside, while the occurrence frequency becomes larger in the nightside.

2.4.3 Altitude Dependence Definition.

Lightning whistler, accompanied with the orbital position was examined. By examining the time and location where each whistler was detected location/region of the lightning whistler detected ins the plasmasphere (L-shell / L-value) can be investigated.

Chapter 3 The Lightning Whistler Detection Application

3.1 Observation

In this paper, we analyze the magnetic field data observed by the WFC in the chorus mode. We investigated lightning whistlers measured by WFC using the datasets of the magnetic field component. To generate a plot showing the variation of the frequency with time, we calculated the absolute value using the three components of the magnetic field waveforms. (3.1)

$$|B| = \sqrt{B_{\alpha}^2} + B_{\beta}^2 + B_{\gamma}^2$$

where B γ is a spin axis component of a magnetic field vector and, B α and B β are spin-plane components (Ozaki et al., 2018). To generate dynamic power spectra of the observed waveforms, we performed short-time Fourier transform (STFT) analysis with a 62.5-ms Hann window that included 4096 samples with a 94% overlap (shifting the window by 256 samples). The unit of a contour is an arbitrary unit/Hz (dB). The result of the dynamic power spectra were saved into an image file (PNG Format) which fits our monitor size resolution 1920 pixel x 1017 pixel.



Figure 3-1: An example of a frequency-time spectrum of lightning whistler with sferics and triggered emission observed from Palmer Station. Image source: vlf.stanford.edu

The relationship between the frequency and time of a lightning whistler, as seen in Figure 3-1, is theoretically explained by Eckersley's law (Gurnett et al., 1990) which proves a simple relationship between the arrival time (t) of a lightning whistler at a frequency (f) as follows:

$$\boldsymbol{t} = \boldsymbol{D} / \sqrt{f} + t_0 \tag{3.2}$$

(3.3)

where *D* is a constant value called dispersion of lightning whistler; *t* is the arrival time at a frequency *f*; and t_0 is the time when the lightning strikes. Bayupati et al. (2012) used the simple principle of Eckersley's law on waveform data from AKEBONO to detect lightning whistlers. The conventional technique for the automatic detection of lightning whistlers is to identify straight lines in a diagram in which the dynamic power spectra are converted into a diagram with *t* on the horizontal axis and $1/\sqrt{f}$ on the vertical axis. The result of this technique is shown in Figure 3-2, where *t1* and *t2* are the arrival times of the detected lightning whistler at frequencies of *f1* and *f2*, respectively. The dispersion *D* of lightning whistler is determined by detecting a straight line and deriving its gradient from Equation (3.3).

$$D = \frac{t_2 - t_1}{\frac{1}{\sqrt{f_2}} - \frac{1}{\sqrt{f_1}}}$$

It can be seen that the spectrum of lightning whistler appears as a straight line which is well marked by thick curves as shown in Figure 3-2. Equation (3.2) and (3.3), however, only explain the simple relationship between frequency and time for a subset of lightning whistlers; we cannot detect other types of lightning whistlers. The other types of whistlers shown in the whistler atlas compiled by Helliwell do not satisfy this equation. Accordingly, it is necessary to develop a new method to detect various types of lightning whistlers.



Figure 3-2: An example of a frequency–time spectrum of a lightning whistler observed on June 21, 1997, from AKEBONO, with the marked lightning whistler detected using the $1/\sqrt{f}$ conversion technique. Image source: Bayupati et al (2012)

3.2 Typical Shape of Lightning Whistler Observed by the WFC-Arase

There are several examples of lightning whistlers that were detected in the one-year dataset from March 2017 to March 2018 observed by WFC onboard Arase. In this section, we introduce the typical shapes of lightning whistlers observed by the Arase satellite and compare them to the Arase whistler map; nose, short, middle, long, multiple-traces, and multiple-combination whistler measured by Arase/WFC are shown in Figure 3-3. Because we did not detect the source location or the direction path of the lightning whistler, we classified the type based on only the shape or pattern representation of the lightning whistler inside the spectrogram.



Figure 3-3: (a). Nose whistler at 10:44:27 UT on September 27, 2017; (b). Short whistler at 14:24:08 UT on October 02, 2017; (c). Middle whistler at 02:24:18 UT on September 14, 2017; (d). Long whistler at 02:26:22 UT on November 18, 2017; (e). Multiple-traces at 08:39:45 UT on September 07, 2017; (f). Multiple-combinations at 16:37:18 UT on October 09, 2017, observed by the PWE/WFC.

In the examples, as shown in Figure 3-3, the spectra were generated with the same period of (8 s) of data, where the X-Axis indicates time and the Y-Axis shows the frequency of the spectral observation. In the case of a single-trace whistler, we distinguished the type via its duration, except for the nose whistler because it has a unique shape. Meanwhile, for the case of short, middle, and long whistlers, we defined the type by its duration, as described in Table 2-1. In the case of multiple-traces and multiple-combinations whistlers, we checked the duration of each dispersion. When the whistler traces had the same duration, we called it a multiple-traces, whereas we called it a multiple-combinations when there were different durations. Because we only saw the whistler shape based on frequency and time points of detected whistlers, we compared the time delays of the whistlers relative to their pixel locations.

3.3 Flow of Detection

3.3.1 Pre-processing

To generate dynamic power spectra of the observed waveforms, we implemented a short-time Fourier transform analysis with a 62.5-ms Hann window that included 4,096 samples with a 94% overlap (shifting the window by 256 samples). The contour unit is an arbitrary unit/Hz (dB). To obtain a better detection result, we need a clear fine structure of the dynamic spectra of a lightning whistler with a high signal-to-noise ratio. The detailed performance of the magnetic search coil magnetic sensor can be found in Ozaki et al. (2018). We applied a combination of filter operations using Gaussian filter. This technique eliminates the noisy pattern from the original spectra. To obtain the smoothing effectively, Gaussian smooth (also known as Gaussian blur) was implemented using a standard deviation sigma value of $\sigma = 1$.

$$G_{\sigma} = \frac{1}{2\pi\sigma^2} exp\left\{-\frac{x^2+y^2}{2\sigma^2}\right\}$$

To generate a clear fine structure from the edge detector, we applied a Laplacian operation to compute the second derivative of the image resulting from the Gaussian blur. Figure 3-4 shows an example of the dynamic spectra of a magnetic field observed at 02:24 UT on September 14, 2017. The upper panel shows the dynamic spectra processed from the WFC data, and the lower panel shows the edge spectra after using Gaussian blur and Laplacian filtering to remove noise. As can be seen in the upper panel, the clear fine structure of the lightning whistler is characterized by a discrete tone that decreases in frequency with increasing time. The bottom panel shows the clear result of a whistler trace in the dynamic spectra after implementing the Gaussian blur and edge detection via the Laplacian filter. We then performed the above-mentioned pre-processing on the result of the dynamic power spectra and saved it to an image file (PNG format) that fit our monitor size resolution of 1920×1017 pixels. The saved file has the same information as shown in Figure 3-4. This file was then used as input for our detection system. The total number of spectral image data files produced during the observations is shown in Table 3-1.



Figure 3-4: (top) The original middle whistler dynamic spectra observed at 02:24:17 UT on September 14, 2017. (bottom) Edge spectra after using a Gaussian blur with a mask (1,0.1) and Laplacian filtering to remove noise.

Year	2017										2018		
Month	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Total Files	2102	649	2088	3209	2319	2205	5027	3378	3021	1696	2153	2163	1370

Table 3-1. Total numbers of the spectra image file as a function of month.

3.3.2 Overview of the Detection System

Figure 3-5 shows the overall flow chart of our proposed whistler detection method. The quality of the input image of the candidate area directly affects the accuracy of the target detection task. We have two different spectra (original and pre-processed), as shown in Figure 3-4. To extract information from the input image, our detection system only uses the segmented input image from the pre-processed spectra. This operation not only accelerates the speed of target detection but also improves the detection performance because the information has a clear fine structure with the unwanted information eliminated (e.g., the attached noise).



Figure 3-5: The overall flow chart of the whistler detection system. The process from left to right shows segmentation, extraction of the candidate area, the classification rule, and the detection result.

The segmentation target area indicates an area with an important detection where a lightning whistler is located. We define a partitioned area inside this area, then split it into grid lines, as shown in Figure 3-6. Each grid line represents information about the time and frequency. The X-axis represents the time of the observation with 100-ms increments. The Y-axis represents the frequency on a logarithmic scale. Then, we calculate the average of each pixel point for every represented grid point. We limited the detection frequency range from 1 kHz to 20 kHz. The segmentation result of the image grid of the target area was produced using the OpenCV function and the neighboring pixel relation (N8). Groups of pixels of the binary image with similar features (colors) are obtained, in which the whistler region is 1 (non-white) and the non-whistler region is 0 (white). Subsequently, we used Bresenham's line algorithm (Bresenham, 1977) for every step after segmentation, from line grouping, line detector, and line counter. Bresenham's algorithm is a widely used highspeed algorithm that rasterizes straight lines/circles/ellipses using only addition and subtraction operations of pure integers; description and the concept of this algorithm is available in Bresenham (1977).



Figure 3-6: The segmentation of the input image shows in the 4-sec duration of observation into a grid line to corresponding pick-up information.

The process of line grouping starts from a neighboring pixel that is connected with the Bresenham function; then the pixels are grouped as a line group. Further, the area of the adjacent neighboring block is scanned with triangular scanning to locate the boundary. The checked block is eliminated and then another block is moved to that is already marked as a line group. After the line group is connected, we add labeling for each starting and ending point of the line group associated with the pixel position of the grid corresponding to time on the X-axis and frequency on the Y-axis. Examples of detected lines are shown in Figure 3-7. Then, the detected lines are analyzed one by one as whistler traces: single lines that represent a whistler. There are two types of whistler traces: single traces and multi-traces. The system marks each starting and ending point (x, y) of the whistler trace, compares its location based on the pixel grid, and stores the corresponding information. The X-axis (time) indicates the duration of the lightning whistler, and the Y-axis indicates its frequency.



Figure 3-7: The result of the detected line and grouped as line-group.

Figure 3-8 shows the application interface of the detection system with the case of single detection. Figure 3-9 shows the detection of the case of bulk detection with the queue status of the input image on the target folder, and Figure 3-10 shows the interface of result from the bulk detection process.

	 Application Menu : Configuration : Setting segmentation parameter for input image Single Test : to detect single input image spectra Bulk Test : to detect whole file inside folder of image spectra
	2. Step by step whistler detection including process for : cropping/segmentation, line grouping, line counting, and classification
	3. Detected whistler line or whistler trace, trailed with box, if more than one whistler existed, it trailed with different color
	 Detail information of detected result, with the information of type, number of line, time and frequency.
	5. Information on detection progress and status
nang Didi kera langa 1962, 1980 - Jawa Jati Jatian Ing- 30 Jilandan Alwi 192300 🥿	

Figure 3-8: Overview of lightning whistler detection application; the case of single detection image spectra.



Figure 3-9: Overview of whistler detection application with the bulk detection process (queuing list)



Figure 3-10: Overview of lightning whistler detection application; the bulk detection process (detail view)

According to the Arase whistler map, there is one type of whistler that is distinguished by a different shape than the others, the nose whistler. The others have the shape of a normal whistler and are either single-trace or multi-trace whistlers. The duration of lightning whistlers as well as their combination is important when deciding the type of lightning whistler propagating in geospace.

We developed a classification rule and principle, in which the nose whistler is checked for before the other types are detected. The detection process starts with line-group counting. If no line groups exist, the event is identified as no-whistler. If a line group exists, the next step is to determine if it complies with the nose whistler check criteria. If yes, then we mark it as a nose whistler. If we fail to detect a nose shape, then we check the number of line traces in the line-group process, we categorize it as a single-trace or multi-trace whistler, and then we check the duration of each trace line detected. The event will then be classified based on the rules that can be summarized as shown in Figure 3-11.



Designed Decision Tree Whistler Classifier

Figure 3-11: Decision tree for the all-whistler classifier.

To successfully detect a nose whistler, we define a criteria-matching region as shown in Figure 3-12. The explanation of this region is as follows. The black line is an example of a nose whistler existing in a diagram of the dynamic spectra. It has a starting point, which is marked as XsYs and an ending point marked XeYe. As a reference of the Cartesian axis, the orange line represents the Y-axis (frequency) and the purple line represents the X-axis (time). The green region is located to the left of the Y-axis, and the blue region is located to the right of the Y-axis. These two regions will help us determine whether the component of the targeted whistler trace/whistler line belongs to the criteria matching a nose whistler.



Figure 3-12: Nose-whistler detection criteria-matching region

We developed an algorithm to check for nose whistlers first; this algorithm is the first step before we can successfully detect all other types of lightning whistler. The pseudo code and detailed detection of a nose whistler are described in Algorithm 1.

Algorithm 1: The Nose-Whistler Detection Algorithm

1 For each line group in the image

2 Find the maximum frequency and time on the X-axis and Y-axis (XsYs)

3 var Ys = line_group.Min(s => s.point.Y);

4 var Xs = line_group.Where(s => s.point.Y == Ys).Min(s => s.point.X);

5 Find the lowest time point on the X-axis

6 var left_x = line_group.Min(s => s.point.X);

7 Find the lowest frequency point on the Y-axis

8 var $left_y = line_group.Where(s => s.point.X == left_x).Max(s => s.point.Y);$

9 Compare the pixel location region of the starting time

10 *if* (*left_x* >= *Xs*)

11 return false;

12 Compare the pixel location region of the whistler trace in the green region

13 if ((left_x <= Xs - (1 * line_group.neighborInterval) && left_y - Ys >

14 *line_group.neighborInterval* + 1) == *false*)

15 return false;

16 Find the lowest frequency point of the start point of the whistler trace on the Y-axis

17 var bottom_y = line_group.Max(s => s.point.Y);

18 Find the lowest frequency point of the last point of the whistler trace on the Y-axis

19 var bottom_x_fr_bottom_y = line_group.Where(s => s.point.Y == bottom_y).Max(s => s.point.X);

20 Compare the pixel location region of the whistler trace in the blue region

21 $if(bottom_x_fr_bottom_y \ge Xs + (1 * line_group.neighborInterval)) == false)$

22 return false;

23 Detection result

24 whistler.type = WhistlerModelType.Nose;

25 return true;

3.4 Experimental Result and Analysis

To evaluate the performance of the proposed method, we tested a set of real images of dynamic spectra produced by WFC. The entire experiment was performed on a Core-i7-4810 MQ 2.8 GHz (8 CPUs) with 16GB of RAM. Before processing the entire dataset, we tested the detection algorithm for each type of lightning whistler, as can be seen in Figure 3-13 and Figure 3-14. The detected whistler is traced by a box, and the result of each detection is stored in a text file with each characteristics such as type, start time, end time, start frequency, end frequency, and time consumed for each detection process. Some whistlers were not detected due to the density between pixels. We rely on the concept of the neighboring pixel, so if the filtering in the pre-processing results in a weakly connected or un-connected line, this will affect our detection system. The event will not be detected

as a line because it is not a single connected line. To prevent this and improve the detection accuracy, it is necessary to develop an intermediate process between spectral filtering and detection. This process should make adjustments to maintain the pixel quality, prevent pixel loss, and refine connected lines to improve the detection process and increase the accuracy.



Figure 3-14: The detected multiple-trace and multiple-combination whistler types.

For comparison with the algorithm result, we used "manual inspection" that we made a year before we developed this application, that is, we conducted a direct inspection to identify all the available image spectra. In this observation, we visually inspected, one by one, every image spectra and investigated the detected lightning whistlers via the spectrogram. Because this type of observation depends solely on the experience of the investigator, the manual inspection took a long time and we checked every detail of each spectrogram and carefully marked the event and type using the principles defined in the Arase whistler map. In our detection policy for automatic detection, we prioritize highest accuracy of false-detection. False-detection means that shape of lightning whistler trace is inappropriately detected and thus differently classified because of the background noise. To decrease the false-detection rate, a higher threshold level is necessary, but it causes an increase in mis-detection rate. Here mis-detection means that weak lightning whistler cannot be detected due to faint and patchy line that fails line grouping by the Bresenham's line algorithm. Using optimized parameters, we performed bulk processing of detection for one-year data. To use our proposed algorithm, we loaded all the images as input into the application and the application processed each detection concurrently with the available CPU and memory. It took 30 h to completely detect all the whistlers in the available dataset. Some whistlers were not detected due to our detection policy. The result of the detection system as output from the application is shown in Table 3-2. There are 711 image files in which we could detect lightning whistlers, while 1,165 of line groups were identified among the 711 image files. We couldn't detect any long whistlers when we apply the optimized parameter. In fact, we can detect a long whistler as shown in Figure 3-13, if we optimize the parameter only for this event, but it causes an increase of false detection rate for the other events due to contaminated noise.

Automatic Lightning Whistler Detection : Output Result										
1 Year Observation Image Spectra	31,380 Image File									
Spectra with Whistler Event from Manual observation	949 image file									
Spectra with Whistler Event from Automatic Detection	711 image file									
Mis-detection rate	25.07%									
Detection Configuration Treshold	1 kHz to 20 kHz									
Number of Line-Group De- tected	1,165									
		Whistler Type	: Single-trace		Whistler Type : Multi-traces					
Number of Detected Whistler	Nose	Short	Middle	Long	Multiple Traces	Multiple Combination				
	58	147	238	-	340	382				

Table 3-2. The comparison detection result using the defined algorithm and manual inspections.

We assume that the manual inspections are more reliable than the automatic detection because the algorithm still has a limited capability and further work needs to be done to improve it, such as selecting different types of filtering to improve the quality of the input image in the pre-processing and to increase the detection accuracy. By detecting whistler using duration approached, our classification system has decreased the number of false classification. False classification mean that the system classified the wrong type of lightning whistler within the same criteria. It probably happens when the false line detected as lightning whistler. In the Table 3-2, we show that we couldn't classify the long whistler. Actually we observed the long whistler in manual inspection, but all events to be categorized into long-whistler where mis-detected due to our amplitude threshold level

Chapter 4 Statistical Analysis

4.1 Analysis from Detected Result of Lightning Whistler

In general, whistlers can spread at a sloping angle in accordance to magnetic field lines and are refracted by the combined effect of the Earth plasmasphere and magnetosphere (Kimura, 1966).

According to Oike et al. (2014), the propagation path of whistler is strongly affected by Earth's ionospheric condition and lightning whistler has the potentially capability to derive electron density variation in the ionosphere as well as the plasmasphere. Helliwell (1965) used whistler dispersions to determine the electron density in the inner magnetosphere. He also made a summary of whistler characteristic and related ionospheric phenomenon in the Earth's magnetosphere.

Oike et al. (2014) studied spatial distribution of occurrence frequency of the lightning whistlers and demonstrated that the lightning whistlers were mainly observed only in the L shell region below 3, which is thoroughly inside of the plasmasphere.

On the other hand, Lichtenberger et al. (2008) and Collier et al. (2009) studied that lightning whistler observed on the ground station at Tihany traveled mainly in the region of 2 < L < 3.

Arase measures wider magnetic latitude range (within \pm 45°, L < 9) compared to other satellite. In the present study, we examined the propagation characteristics of lightning whistlers measured by Arase using the datasets as a result of automatic detection introduced in Chapter 3. The output from decision tree, as shown in Figure 3-11 was saved in a text file. Table 4-1 shows the attributes and description of the output result.

Table 4-1: The attribute as a result of automatic detection store in the database.

Attribute Name	Description
Filename	Filename of the image spectra
No	Index number of the detected event, to mark if more than one whistler detected on
	the same image spectra
Whistler Type	Detected type of lightning whistler
Count of Lines	Number of detected lines
Date	Date of event
Start Time	Start time of detected whistler trace
End Time	End time of detected whistler trace
Start Frequency	Start frequency of detected whistler trace
End Frequency	End frequency of detected whistler trace
Image (Hashfile)	Image hash file information

🖳 wfc-2017-09-05_09-28-19.png



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Figure 4-1: The result of automatic detection with the detail information attribute

The text file data are stored in a relational database management system, using MySQL running on XAMPP platform. We use this database hereafter, with joining the orbit data and event information resulted from the detection system, and obtain the statistical result of the observed lightning whistler event.

4.2 Arase Orbit Data

The Arase orbit data are stored in the CDF files in ERG Science Center website. We download the orbit data during the observation period and process them using IDL v8.6 Software from Harris Geospatial with SPEDAS environment support library. To extract the orbit data, we utilize a procedure, called ERG_LOAD_ORB, With this procedure we can obtain the location of the Arase represented by various kind of coordinate system, such as GSE (Geocentric Solar Ecliptic), GSM (Geocentric Solar Magnetospheric), SM (Solar Magnetic), and RMLATMLT (Earth radii position with Magnetic Latitude and Magnetic Local Time). With this procedure, we can also extract velocity of the spacecraft in GSE, GSM, SM coordinate system. For the current analysis work, we only select several information, such as altitude, L-value, magnetic local time, and magnetic latitude.

In order to perform statistical analysis, we build another database to store orbital data running on MySQL. Table 4-2 shows the attributes and description of the orbit data. The attribute named "Date" and "Time" indicate the observation time. Since our image spectra represent 8-sec observation, it shows the starting time in the file name. The attribute "L" contains the position of the observation point, in L-Value. The attribute "Alt" contains the altitude of the observation point altitude in R_E units (Earth radii). The attributes "MLT" and "MLAT" contains magnetic local time, and magnetic latitude of the observation point.

Attribute Name	Description
Date	Date of observation
Time	Time of observation, it shows the starting time of 8-sec plot observation
L	Spacecraft position in L-value
Alt	Altitude information of spacecraft in RE unit (Earth radii)
MLT	Magnetic local time
MLAT	Magnetic latitude
MLT_Cos	Converting altitude with MLT position on X-Axis with formula of $X = \text{Re} * \cos \theta$
	(radians (MLT*360/24)
MLT_Sin	Converting altitude with MLT position on Y-Axis with the formula of $Y = \text{Re } * \sin \theta$
	(radians (MLT*360/24)
MLAT_Cos	Converting altitude with MLAT position on X-Axis with formula of $X = \text{Re} * \cos \theta$
	(radians (MLAT))
MLAT_Sin	Converting altitude with MLAT position on Y-Axis with formula of $Y = \text{Re } * \sin \theta$
	(radians (MLAT))

4.3 Web-based Analysis Tools

We also developed a web application system, built on PHP Programming Language with MySQL Database. So far, we have three kinds of database, the first is Image Spectra DB, which store all the image spectra during observation. The second is the automatic detection result DB, and the third is the orbit database. Utilizing these three databases, we have a faster way to access and find a specific event of detected lightning whistler with necessary detailed information. Figure 4-2 shows the application overview to extract the detected whistlers by specifying Date, Month, and type of whistler.



Figure 4-2: Lightning whistler observation web application with the specific event finding by Date, Month, and type of whistler to search.

4.4 Statistical Analysis Result

During one year observation period, we downloaded 4,183 minutes of observation data over 12 months of operation from the WFC as shown in Table 4-3. We found that Multiple-Combinations whistler is the most common whistler identified during the observation period (Figure 4-2), with the highest occurrence in September 2017. While the Long whistler as the least-common whistler occurrence throughout the observation.



Table 4-3: Total Minutes of Observation as a Function of Month



The satellite footprints cover L-shell region from 1 to 10 during the observation period, from March 2017 to July 2017. In August 2017 to December 2017, we intensively operated the WFC in the lower L-shell region between 1<L<3. During this period, we observed a higher occurrence rate of lightning whistler. With the highest number of

occurrence was in October 2017 as 519 times of whistler were detected during this period. In January – March 2018, the WFC was mainly operated in the L shell region of L > 4, and no whistler was detected during this period.

4.5 Diurnal Variation

Table 4-4 show the total minutes of observation period as a function of MLT. Hence the lightning whistler was mainly observed in the nightside, with the highest as 49.8 % whistler observed during 0 to 6 in MLT as shown in Figure 4-4.

MLT (Hour)	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Time (Min)	Fime (Min) 263 169 101 98 109 138 45 39 86 135 205											
MLT (Hour)	T (Hour) 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22											23
Time (Min)	235	211	151	109	75	66	126	167	363	367	400	295
attr_whistler =												
attr whictler		C	.0 - 6.0	168	6.1 - 12	137	12.	1 - 18	5	18.1 - 24	180	
atu_whister			4	HUO		137		10	10		100	

Table 4-4: Total Minutes of Observation as a Function of MLT

Figure 4-4: Percentage of distribution occurrence of whistler by MLT

4.6 Altitude and MLT Dependence

Figure 4-5 and Figure 4-6 show the distribution of lightning whistler detected in the L-value range and altitude-MLT dependence, respectively. It was found that even though the Arase surveyed region up to L-value = 10, most of the whistlers were observed in L-shell region from 1 to 5.5. We analyzed the distribution of each whistler type as a function of L value. It is demonstrated that lightning whistler was mainly observed inside of the plasmasphere (region L<3).



Figure 4-5: Whistler occurrence distribution observed by L-Value in the plasmasphere



Figure 4-6: Distribution of Detected Whistler (Altitude and MLT Dependence)

Chapter 5 Result and Discussion

5.1 Result

In the present paper, we presented the detection methodology for various types of lightning whistlers observed by the WFC on board the Arase satellite. We analyzed the waveform data in magnetic field component captured by the WFC during 1-year observation period from March 2017-March, 2018. We first converted the magnetic field waveform data into the dynamic spectra and stored them as image files with PNG format. Next, we developed a detection system of lightning whistler from these image files. Using image processing and image analysis approaches, we developed a methodology and classification system to detect lightning whistler automatically, with a robust, fast, and informative methodology. The result of detection was accurate enough to classify six types of lightning whistler successfully. The various types of lightning whistler detected by the WFC on board the Arase will correspond to propagation characteristics of the signal of whistler waves depending on the region.

The region surveyed by Arase has a wider coverage in the inner magnetosphere region, and it brings the opportunity to detect the various types of lightning whistlers. Development of a detection system using image analysis approached brings a higher chance to detect the various and complex shapes of spectra. On the other hand, it is noted that we couldn't detect any long whistlers when we apply the optimized parameter in the current study. In fact, we can detect a long whistler if we optimize the parameter only for the specific event, but it causes an increase of false detection rate for the other events due to contaminated noise.

For the future work, we need to study more on the pre-processing part, improving technique to reduce or remove noise that attached to the dynamic spectra. Several techniques on the denoising theory/method could be applied and we expect to produce dynamic spectra which more clear and fine structure as an input to our detection application. We are sure that improvement in the pre-processing part will bring better chance and accuracy in detection process of lightning whistlers. Besides machine learning / deep learning technique are the other option to improve detection accuracy, as the recent progress of machine learning has already established for a variety of image processing methodology including a solution for detection algorithm.

Finally, we examined statistical characteristics of lightning whistlers detected from the Arase/WFC dataset. We found that most of the lightning whistler was observed inside the plasmasphere (especially L-Value <3). Most of the lightning whistler was detected during July to November 2017, and during nightside rather than dayside.

5.2 Scientific Contribution

In this study, we have analyzed the WFC/Arase data focusing on lightning whistlers and some new contributions in this present work have been discussed. We outline the new contributions as follows:

- We showed a method of automatic detection of lightning whistlers and successfully detected large numbers of lightning whistlers, classifying their types, time, frequency, and duration of the event.
- We analyzed the detected whistlers referring the orbital condition and statistically analyzed their spatial distribution and time, variation, etc.

Chapter 6 Concluding Remark

In the present work, we have studied lightning whistlers observed by the WFC/ Arase satellite. Based on these observations, we have found that the trend of the observed lightning whistlers is closely correlated with the plasma environment inside the plasmasphere. The trends are well matched with the theory and the previous data analyses of lightning whistler. Nevertheless, the region surveyed by Arase satellite brings its advantages, since it surveys wider region inside the plasmasphere, producing a higher chance of lightning whistler detection.

In chapter 2, we introduced the process of lightning whistler generation and theory behind it. We surveyed the dispersion analysis theory that corresponds to the relationship between dispersion of lightning whistler and electron density profile along its propagation path. We also introduced the historical works done by Helliwell, and Atlas Whistler Map proposed by Helliwell (1965).

In chapter 3, we introduced the technique to detect lightning whistler. We first surveyed the conventional technique used in the previous study, and we explore the limitation of the conventional techniques. Although the various types of lightning whistlers were classified in Atlas Whistler Map proposed by Helliwell (1965), it is necessary to improve a new technique in order to successfully detect and classify them optimizing the data measured by the Arase satellite in this research. This is because the classification definition used in Helliwell's whistler atlas were based on ground observation, while our case is spacecraft observation. Particularly for the case of very elliptical orbit such as the Arase satellite, dispersion of lightning whistler drastically

changes and it is impossible to distinguish one-hop and two-hop unless the location of wave source is identified. Then we proposed a new definition of the types of lightning whistlers observed by the Arase satellite and named it "Arase whistler map". In this new map, we classified the lightning whistlers based on the duration of the whistler trace, because the length of duration reflects the length of propagation path from the wave source to the observation point. Next, we generated the dynamic power spectra of the WFC waveform data pre-processed with two filters of Gaussian and Laplacian, and built a dataset of oneyear observation data. We also developed an application based on .NET Framework utilizing the OpenCV library and performed detection and classification of lightning whistlers. We close this section with the result of the detection process and comparing the result obtained from automatic detection with the manual/direct observation that we already conducted before.

In chapter 4, we performed a statistical analysis of lightning whistler referring the orbital data of Arase satellite. We conducted statistical analyses such as spatial distribution, diurnal variation, attitude, MLT, and MLAT dependence. The result of the analysis is consistent with the theory of the lightning whistler, such that most of the whistler observed in the region of L-value <3 inside the plasmasphere, and that most of them were detected during the night side. It is also consistent with the previous study conducted using different satellite observation.

In chapter 5, we conclude our works, and also explained the opportunity of future study, including improvement in several areas that maybe we are not perfectly done in this works.

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