Technical Page

Proposal Type: Large
General Category: Terrestrial Aeronomy
Sub-Category: Radar
Observation Category: Thermosphere
Total Time Requested: 528 hours
Minimum Useful Time: 3 hours

Proposal Title: The Burnside Factor Revisited: A Model-Independent Ion Momentum Balance Study

ABSTRACT:

Studies of momentum exchange between the thermosphere and ionosphere have been used for decades to infer discrepancies between observation and theory in terms of the Burnside factor $F$. The lack of independent information regarding O density, however, introduces an ambiguity regarding the physical meaning of this “correction” factor: while it is usually intended to constrain theoretical estimates of the $O^+ - O$ momentum transfer cross section $Q_{O^+ - O}$, it could also reflect systematic bias in the (historically required) model specification of O density. We propose to incorporate O density and $T_\infty$ values, derived empirically as solutions to the $H^+$ continuity balance equation, into the $O^+$ momentum balance equation to determine $F$ and thus $Q_{O^+ - O}$. The project will use incoherent scatter measurements of the F-region and topside ionosphere in conjunction with passive optical observations of thermospheric winds ($O$ 630.0 nm emission) and neutral H density ($H$ 656.3 nm emission). This result has the potential to increase the accuracy of both future experimental studies — such as momentum or energy balance derivation of thermospheric density and temperature — as well as model calculations of thermospheric energetics or dynamics.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>E-mail</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Student</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Waldrop S Lara</td>
<td>Univ. of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lwaldrop@uiuc.edu">lwaldrop@uiuc.edu</a></td>
<td>217-244-5129</td>
<td>no</td>
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</tbody>
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Remote Observing Request

- **X** Observer will travel to AO
- Remote Observing
- In Absentia (instructions to operator)

Instrument Setup

430 G 430 CH receiver 430 CH radar
Atmospheric Observation Instruments:
Tilt-Photometer    Fabry-Perot

Special Equipment or setup:  none

RFI Considerations

Frequency Ranges Planned