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Physics of the Geospace (magnetosphere-ionosphere current system)

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Current circuit



The current system is an energy transmission system.

Energy $W = V \square I$





Solar flare on 28 October 2003 (SOHO)





Solar flare on 28 October 2003 (SOHO)

Coronal mass ejection (CME)



Solar energetic particles



Geomagnetic storms at low latitude (Okinawa)



Mid latitude aurora during the major storm in April 1981 in Boulder, Colorado



Low latitude aurora during the major storm in October 1989 in Hokkaido, Japan



31年ぶりに北海道で観測された赤色のオーロラ



Earth observation satellite "Midori" suffered fatal damages during auroral substorms

(1) 30min before, passed over the evening auroral region(2) 10min before, passed over the morning auroral region



Auroral electrons detected by NOAA (E>30keV) (lat > 50度) (altitude>800km)

磁気インパルスに伴 い大量の高エネルギ ー電子がオーロラ帯 に降下した



Satellite drag due to heating of the thermosphere

Asuka lost its attitude control during the major storm in July 2000.

Asahi 2001.1.27

えす b 結局落 20



Scintillations on the signal of the meteorological satellite Himawari during the storm in April 2001



1 INFRARED COMPOSITE FROM 13 APR 01 AT 12:00 UTC (SSEC:UW-MADISCINGS



Geomagnetic storm

Geomagnetically induced currents on 13 March 1989





Geomagnetic Storm Induced Transformer Damage

- March 13, 1989
- 0744UT:17s

Over current, 40s after the onset of dayside SC.

0744UT:33s
 Stop SVC

Contents

Magnetosphere-ionosphere current systems during the storm sudden commencements (SSC), geomagnetic storms and substorms Dynamos of the electric field and currents due to the solar wind dynamic pressure and IMF. **Transmission mechanism of the EM energy to** the magnetosphere and ionosphere

Magnetosphere Courtesy of T. Tanaka

Magnetic field lines

Solar wind

Low Earth orbit satellites

Earth

Geosynchronous orbit satellites

The solar wind –magnetosphere interaction produces the electromagnetic energy, which flows deep into the magnetosphere and to the polar-equatorial ionosphere



MHD simulation of the PI currents

The magnetopause current is intensified by the CME, which drives the field-aligned current.





Fig. 11. Decomposition of the SC disturbance field into DPand DL-sub-fields.

Local time and latitudinal features of SSC (Araki, 1994)

The preliminary impulse (PI) preceding the main impulse (MI) appears as the preliminary reverse impulse (PRI) and the preliminary positive impulse (PPI), depending on the local time and latitude.

The complicated latitude and local time dependence are explained by means of ionospheric currents caused by the dusk-to-dawn (PRI/PPI) and dawn-to-dusk (MI) electric fields.

Storm sudden commencement (SSC)

SSC: storm sudden commencement PI: preliminary impulse (1min) PPI: preliminary positive impulse PRI: preliminary reverse impulse MI: main impulse (10min)



(Kikuchi et al., JGR 2001)

PI Current System in the Magnetosphere and Ionosphere



$$= \sigma_P + \frac{1}{\sigma}$$

FACs of the PI on the polar ionosphere (MHD simulation)



(Fujita et al., JGR 2003)

Near-instantaneous transmission of the PI currents from high latitude to the equator. The PI started within a few seconds.





PRI electric field at nightside low latitude (HF Doppler observation)

SCF (SC-associated Frequency deviation) is preceded by a negative PFD (Preliminary Frequency Deviation) in the midnight. The PFD occurs simultaneously with the high latitude PRI within a time resolution of 10 sec.





Global PC5 at high-equatorial latitudes (morning sector)

Motoba et al.(JGR 2003)



Global PC5 at high-equatorial latitudes (afternoon sector)



Magnetospheric convection

When the IMF is southward, the magnetic reconnection at the dayside magnetopause put the solar wind energy into the magnetosphere.





Dungey (1961)

The magnetic reconnection creates the high pressure plasma regime around the cusp (MHD simulation by Tanaka [JGR 1995])

IMF Bz < 0

The red/white color indicates high pressure plasma.

$$\rho \frac{dV}{dt} = J \times B - \nabla p$$

The pressure generates diamagnetic currents.



Dynamos of the convection electric field and the Region-1 field-aligned currents (MHD simulation by Tanaka [JGR 1995])

Bz < 0

The red/white color represents JE<0.

The electric currents are generated by the pressure gradient.

EM energy = cross polar cap potential \times field-aligned currents



Dynamo currents in the outer magnetosphere (red) and the R1 FACs (black) flowing into the polar ionosphere

The red color indicates $J \equiv < 0$.



[Tanaka, JGR 1995]

Region-1 and Region-2 field-aligned currents on the polar ionosphere (Tanaka, JGR 1995)

The ionospheric plasma flows along the potential lines. The ionospheric Hall currents flow in opposite direction to the plasma flow.



Quasi-periodic DP2 magnetic fluctuations at high latitude and equator correlated with the IMF

Quasi-periodic DP2 magnetic fluctuations are caused by convection electric fields controlled by the IMF. (Nishida, JGR 1968)





Near-instantaneous transmission of the convection electric field to the equator (R1FACs - EEJ current circuit)



A current circuit is completed between the R1 FACs and the equatorial currents.

The excellent correlation between the high latitude and equatorial DP2 suggests nearinstantaneous transmission of the electric field and current to the equator.



(Kikuchi et al., JGR 1996)

SuperDARN observation of the large-scale ionospheric convection

The sunward convection in the afternoon sector is intensified at the onset of substorm.

The anti-sunward convection appears equatorward of the sunward convection.

The latitudinal features of the convection flow implies development of the R2 FACs.





Transmission in the ionospheric F-region

The ionospheric waveguide centered at the F-region peak has a lower cutoff frequency at 0.5 Hz [Manchester, 1966], which can be applied to the PC1 but NOT to the PRI.

F-region waveguide mode is the fast mode described by the Schroedinger equation. (Tepley and Landshoff, 1966)

$$\frac{d^2 E_y(z)}{\partial z^2} - \left[k_n^2 - \frac{\omega^2}{V_a(z)^2}\right] E_y(z) = 0$$





Transmission in the ionospheric E-region

The propagation mode is a diffusion mode in the E-region, which requires 1 h to make obervable effects at the equator. (Kikuchi and Araki, JATP 1979a)

$$\begin{split} H_{y} &= A_{y} \bigg(\operatorname{erfc} \bigg(\frac{x \sqrt{\mu_{0} \sigma_{c1}}}{2 \sqrt{t}} \bigg) - \operatorname{erfc} \bigg(\frac{x \sqrt{\mu_{0} \sigma_{c2}}}{2 \sqrt{t}} \bigg) \bigg), \\ H_{z} &= A_{z1} \operatorname{erfc} \bigg(\frac{x \sqrt{\mu_{0} \sigma_{c1}}}{2 \sqrt{t}} \bigg) + A_{z2} \operatorname{erfc} \bigg(\frac{x \sqrt{\mu_{0} \sigma_{c2}}}{2 \sqrt{t}} \bigg) \\ \sigma_{c1} &= \frac{1}{2} \sigma_{I}^{2} (C - \sqrt{D}), \\ \sigma_{c2} &= \frac{1}{2} \sigma_{I}^{2} (C + \sqrt{D}), \\ A_{y} &= -\frac{R_{2} \cos I}{\sqrt{D}}, \\ A_{z1} &= \frac{1}{2} \bigg(1 + \frac{(R_{1} - R_{0}) \sin^{2} I}{\sqrt{D}} \bigg), \\ A_{z2} &= \frac{1}{2} \bigg(1 - \frac{(R_{1} - R_{0}) \sin^{2} I}{\sqrt{D}} \bigg), \end{split}$$

with

$$\sigma_{I}^{2} = \frac{1}{R_{0}R_{1}\sin^{2}I + (R_{1}^{2} + R_{2}^{2})\cos^{2}I},$$

$$C = R_{0}\sin^{2}I + R_{1}(1 + \cos^{2}I),$$

$$D = (R_{1} - R_{0})^{2}\sin^{4}I - 4R_{2}^{2}\cos^{2}I.$$

$$R_{0} = \frac{1}{\sigma_{0}},$$

$$R_{1} = \frac{\sigma_{1}}{\sigma_{1}^{2} + \sigma_{2}^{2}} = \frac{1}{\sigma_{3}},$$

$$R_{2} = \frac{\sigma_{2}}{\sigma_{1}^{2} + \sigma_{2}^{2}},$$

Parallel propagation



Perpendicular propagation

$$E_{y} = E_{0} Erfc\left(\frac{x\sqrt{\mu_{0}\sigma}}{2\sqrt{t}}\right)$$

x = 5000 km $\sigma = 10^{-4} mho / m$



Earth-ionosphere waveguide model



Upward propagating Alfven wave

(2-19)

(2-20)

(2-17)

(2-18)

Vertically propagating diffusion mode wave

Horizontally propagating TM0 mode wave

Magnetosphere



$$\overline{e_{xI}}[\beta,s] = \frac{\sqrt{p^2 + \mu_0 \sigma \cdot s}}{\sigma} \left(A_{II} e^{-z\sqrt{\beta^2 + \mu_0 \sigma s}} - A_{I2} e^{z\sqrt{\beta^2 + \mu_0 \sigma s}} \right),$$

Neutral atmosphere

$$\overline{h_{yV}}[\beta,s] = H_{y0}\sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} \frac{\beta}{s\left(\beta^{2} + \frac{s^{2}}{c^{2}}\right)} + A_{y1}e^{-z\sqrt{\beta^{2} + \frac{s^{2}}{c^{2}}}} + A_{V2}e^{z\sqrt{\beta^{2} + \frac{s^{2}}{c^{2}}}}, \qquad (2-15)$$

$$\overline{e_{xV}}[\beta,s] = \frac{1}{\varepsilon_{0}s}\sqrt{\beta^{2} + \frac{s^{2}}{c^{2}}} \left(A_{V1}e^{-z\sqrt{\beta^{2} + \frac{s^{2}}{c^{2}}}} - A_{V2}e^{z\sqrt{\beta^{2} + \frac{s^{2}}{c^{2}}}}\right), \qquad (2-16)$$

Excitation of the TM0 mode wave

The electric and magnetic fields are transmitted into the space below the ionosphere, exciting the TM0 mode waves in the Earth-ionosphere waveguide.



Reflection and transmission coefficients

$$C_{r} = \frac{R_{1}Z_{2} - Z_{1}(R_{1} + Z_{2})}{R_{1}Z_{2} + Z_{1}(R_{1} + Z_{2})} = -0.821$$
$$C_{t} = \frac{2R_{1}Z_{2}}{R_{1}Z_{2} + Z_{1}(R_{1} + Z_{2})} = \frac{0.179}{R_{1}Z_{2} + Z_{1}(R_{1} + Z_{2})}$$

Three-layered Earth-ionosphere waveguide



Kikuchi (AGU monograph, 2005)

Earth-ionosphere waveguide model



Kikuchi et al. [1978], Kikuchi and Araki [1979b]



The polar electric field is transmitted to the equator at the speed of light by the TM0 mode wave in the Earthionosphere waveguide. The TM0 mode wave has no lower cutoff frequency,

which enables long-period disturbances to propagate to the equator.

The transmitted electric field suffers from geometrical attenuation, but the induced currents are enhanced at the dayside equator by the Cowling effect.



Upward Poynting flux from the ionosphere to the inner magnetosphere

PRI electric field is observed prior to the arrival of the compressional MHD wave.

Upward Poynting flux





Geomagnetic storm



The partial ring current is developed by the convection electric field, which is the dynamo of the R2 FACs



The R2 FACs provide a dusk-to-dawn shielding/overshielding electric field to the ionosphere.

Geomagnetic storm at the low latitude (OKI) and equator (Yap)

(Kikuchi, Hashimoto, Nozaki, JGR 2008)





Equatorial electrojet during the storm

EEJ: eastward electrojet CEJ: counterelectrojet



ConvectionShieldingelectric fieldgettingdominanteffective

Shielding dominant (overshielding)

(Kikuchi, Hashimoto, Nozaki, JGR 2008)

Geomagnetic storm on November 6, 2001

- 1. Equatorial DP2 developed around noon, simultaneously with ring current development.
- 2. Shielding effect appeared during late main phase.
- 3. Equatorial CEJ occurred at the beginning of storm recovery phase, when the auroral AEJ moved rapidly poleward.





Low latitude ionograms during Nov. 6, 2001 storm













Low latitude ionograms during Nov. 6, 2001 storm (contd)













Enhancement of the total electron content (TEC)



T. Maruyama (NICT)

Auroral substorm

酸素原子(630nm) 約 200-300 km

酸素原子(557.7nm) 約100-160 km

Equivalent currents for ground magnetic disturbances during the growth and expansion phases of substorms

[lijima and Nagata, 1972]

Growth phase (DP2)







DP2 and overshielding currents during the substorm

12

11

13

Time [UT]

14

15

16

The magnetic perturbations are caused by the ionospheric Hall currents.

EISCAT





Equatorial DP2/overshielding during the substorm growth/expansion phase

Kikuchi et al. (JGR 1996, 2000)

Magnetometer chain in the afternoon sector



Latitudinal profile of the DP2



Latitudinal profile of the negative bay





Overshielding at the onset of an isolated substorm



(Hashimoto et al., JGR 2011)

The equatorial CEJ begins 2 min earlier than the midnight positive bay



(Hashimoto et al., JGR 2011)

Global MHD simulation of the substorm current system

A ring current-R2 FAC current circuit is completed between the inner magnetosphere and auroral ionosphere at the onset of the substorm.

Substorm R1 FACs are generated by the dayside cusp dynamo





(Tanaka et al., JGR 2010)



MHD simulation of the R1 and R2 fieldaligned currents on the polar ionosphere during the substorm

(Tanaka et al., JGR 2010)



Integrated R1 and R2 FACs during the substorm (Courtesy of Fujita and Tanaka)

Both the R1 and R2 FACs increase significantly during the expansion phase in agreement with the observations.

The R2 FACs are strong enough to cause the overshielding at low latitude.



Dayside substorm currents driven by the R1 and R2 FACs



Substorm (auroral substorm)

Growth phase

Expansion phase

Recovery phase

A, T::0 T±0~5 MIN





T=5-10 MIN





FIG. 1. SCHEMATIC DIAGRAM TO BLUETRATE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE AURORAL SUBSTORM. THE CENTER OF THE CONCENTRIC CIRCLES IN EACH STAGE IS THE NORTH GEOMAGNETIC POLE, AND THE SUN IS TOWARD THE TOP OF THE DIAGRAM.

MPBI and preexisting arcsor arc (Toshi Nishimura)

THEMIS All-sky imagers



Multiple streamer sequences occurred but only the last one led to the onset. Notice the thin arc formation associated with the previous streamer.

Pre-onset BBF and PBI



[Nishimura et al., 2011 pre-onset thin arc]



Suggested auroral sequence





Onset arc FACs



Breakup arc FACs

[Nishimura et al., JGR2012 in press, onset FAC]



Post-breakup FACs

[Nishimura et al., JGR2012 in press, onset FAC]



Summary (1)

- Different types of dynamos are activated in the magnetosphere during the geospace disturbances: magnetopause currents (SSC, PC5), diamagnetic currents in the cusp/mantle (R1 FACs), in the inner magnetosphere (ring currents, R2 FACs) and in the near-Earth magnetotail (substorm currents).
- The electric field and currents are transmitted along the magnetic field lines forming a pair of field-aligned currents to the polar ionosphere. They are transmitted to low latitude by the TM0 mode waves in the Earth-ionosphere waveguide, driving DP2 type ionospheric currents composed of two-cell Hall currents and Pedersen currents amplified by the Cowling effect at the dayside equator.
- The electric field is transmitted from the conducting ionosphere to the F-region and inner magnetosphere, causing quick response of the low latitude ionosphere and inner magnetosphere.

Summary (2)

- During the substorm growth phase and storm main phase, the convection electric field prevails down to the equator, causing significant ionospheric disturbances such as the EIA, PRE, TEC and so on.
- During the substorm expansion phase and storm recovery phase, overshielding occurs at mid-equatorial latitudes, suggesting that the energy deposited in the inner magnetosphere can make significant electrodynamic effects in the low latitude ionosphere.