Study of coupling processes in Sun-Earth system with large radars and large-area observations

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The Earth accepts huge input of energy and material from the Sun. The Earth's environment is maintained by the balance between their inputs and outputs. It is important to study energy and material transport of the Earth. This is an international session that discusses studies of the coupling processes in the Sun-Earth system based on the projects of large radars and large-area observation network. The facilities and networks included are the Equatorial MU Radar (EMU) in Indonesia to study the whole equatorial atmosphere, the EISCAT_3D radar system to study detailed structures and elementary processes of the magnetosphere-ionosphere in the polar region, and global observation networks of magnetometers and radio and optical instruments to study the coupling processes with the global scale. We will show outline of the project and discuss sciences by soliciting variety papers. This session is open to the world, and we strongly encourage submission of papers related to other facilities and projects, i.e., atmospheric or incoherent-scatter radars, observation networks, satellites, and simulation or theoretical studies, etc.

Aurora-induced sodium layer variation detected by coordinated observation with sodium lidar and EISCAT radar

3-min talk in an oral session

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Sodium atom layer is generally distributed at 80-100 km. One of mysterious subjects on high-latitude sodium layers is relationship between auroral particle precipitation and sodium atom layer variation. A previous study suggested a sodium column density decrease during a geomagnetic active period due to that the particle precipitation accompanied by electron density enhancement could induce ionization of sodium atom through their ion-molecule chemistry. Another study pointed a possibility of sodium density increase. For this reason, it is suggested that auroral precipitating particle bombardment on meteoric smoke particles can sputter sodium atoms from the smoke particles. On the other hand, ionospheric electric field, which may become more significant near auroral precipitating regions, could induce ion motions (i.e. can generate sodium ion convergence and/or divergence), and then also could affect generation and/or loss processes of sodium atoms through their ion-molecule chemistry. Thus, for the examination of the causality, it is vitally important to distinguish the effects of auroral particle precipitation and ionospheric electric field. Using a sodium lidar (which was installed in early 2010) and...
European incoherent scatter (EISCAT) radar at Tromsoe, Norway (69.6N, 19.2E), we have investigated, for the first time, that the actual effect of the particle precipitation to the sodium density variations without electric filed injection. In the nighttime observation on 24-25 January 2012, we detected a significant decrease of sodium atom density coincied with electron density enhancements (implying strong particle precipitations) and low ion temperatures (implying no electric field injections). These results strongly suggested that auroral particle precipitations induced sodium atom density decrease. Furthermore we discuss observed time response in the sodium density decrease.