

# Project for FYS3610 (Romfysikk), Autumn 2017

Due date: 01.12.2017 23:59:59

## Objective

Study ionospheric and auroral dynamics in response to changes in solar wind conditions. Reconnection is the dominant mechanism, giving rise to enhancements in large-scale ionospheric flows, changes in the polar cap size, and auroral activity.

## Data sources

### *ACE*

ACE data are available at [http://cdaweb.gsfc.nasa.gov/cdaweb/istp\\_public/](http://cdaweb.gsfc.nasa.gov/cdaweb/istp_public/). Choose ACE, then highest resolution Level 2 data from the MAG and SWEPAM instruments, and then the date of interest.

### *Ground-based magnetometer*

Magnetometer data are available at <http://space.fmi.fi/image/beta/?page=home>. Click "Data", then "user-defined magnetograms". Choose stations, time period and scaling for the components.

### *SuperDARN*

SuperDARN data are available at <http://vt.superdarn.org/>. Under "SD Data Plot Tools" click "Map Potential Plot", and select the date of interest.

### *All-Sky Camera*

ASI keogram data are available at <http://tid.uio.no/plasma/aurora/>. Click on the date of interest and select the station and wavelength.

## Approach

Select an event (a time interval) one of the following dates:

- 04 December 2010, 0000-2400 UT
- 01 January 2011, 0000-2400 UT
- 04 January 2011, 0000-2400 UT
- 06 January 2011, 0000-2400 UT

Inspect the quick look database of keograms, i.e., auroral intensity along the north-south magnetic meridian versus time at <http://tid.uio.no/plasma/aurora/>. Note that not all auroral data are good data due to poor weather conditions (clouds). Look for large-scale movement of the auroral features in the latitudinal direction or sudden brightenings. Familiarize yourself with ACE data and create plots of key parameters during corresponding time intervals, taking into account the travel time of the solar wind from the ACE position to Earth. Widen the scope by adding ionospheric current (magnetometer), and large-scale flow (SuperDARN). Describe what large-scale dynamics you would expect and what is observed. Do you see signatures of dayside/nightside reconnection in the auroral data? What are the corresponding signatures in the other datasets? Discuss!

## Requirements of the report

The report should tell the story of how a change in the solar wind conditions (as observed by the ACE satellite), propagated to Earth and there affected the large-scale configuration of the magnetosphere (as observed by SuperDARN, ground-based magnetometers, and an ASI). Demonstrate that you understood the underlying physics by describing what dynamics you would expect from such a change and support your expectations by data. The report must include

- a front page with title and author(s)
- an introduction including a brief description of the used instruments.
- a main part subdivided into sections (like introduction, observations, discussion, conclusion), numbered figures with captions, numbered equations, list of references, numbered pages and acknowledgement.

The report should be written in English (Norwegian is also acceptable). It should amount to 10-15 pages, contain around 3000 words, and be written by a team of two. You will receive comments and questions regarding your report and your contribution during the oral examination.

## Submission

Submission deadline is **01 December 2017, 23:59:59 (Norwegian time)**. The report has to be submitted electronically (pdf or word format) to [andres.spicher@fys.uio.no](mailto:andres.spicher@fys.uio.no).

## Supporting literature

Cowley, S. W. H. (2000) Magnetosphere-Ionosphere Interactions: A Tutorial Review, in Magnetospheric Current Systems (eds S.-I. Ohtani, R. Fujii, M. Hesse and R. L. Lysak), American Geophysical Union, Washington, D. C.. doi: 10.1029/GM118p0091

Cowley, S. W. H. And M. Lockwood, (1992) Excitation and decay of solar wind-driven flows in the magnetosphere-ionosphere system, *Ann. Geophysicae*, 10, 103-105

Kievelson and Russel, Introduction to Space Physics, Chapters 9, 13, and 14, available in the UiO library

Sandholt, P.E., C.J. Farrugia, J. Moen, Ø. Noraberg, B. Lybekk, T. Sten, and T.L. Hansen, A classification of dayside auroral forms and activities as a function of IMF orientation, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 103, 23,325-23,345, 1998.

Ruohoniemi, J. M., R. A. Greenwald, Dependencies of high-latitude plasma convection: Consideration of interplanetary magnetic field, seasonal and universal time factors in statistical patterns, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 110, A09204, doi:10.1029/2004JA010815, 2005.

Newell, P. T., J. M. Ruohoniemi, and C.-I. Meng, Maps of precipitation by source region, binned by IMF, with inertial convection streamlines, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 109, A10206, doi:10.1029/2004JA010499, 2004.