

NJIT Institute for Space Weather Sciences Colloquium

Feb 2, 2023

Solar and Magnetospheric Drivers of Plasma Density Variations in the High-Latitude Ionosphere

To provide new insights into the relationship between solar and geomagnetic conditions, plasma density structures, and radio wave propagation at high-latitudes, "irregularity spectra" are developed using a novel Incoherent Scatter Radar (ISR) technique. This new technique leverages: 1) the ability of phased array Advanced Modular ISR (AMISR) technology to collect volumetric measurements of plasma density, 2) the slow F-region cross-field plasma diffusion at scales greater than 10 km, and 3) that high-latitude geomagnetic field lines are nearly vertical. The resulting irregularity spectra are of a higher spatial-temporal resolution than has been previously possible with ISRs, capable of resolving approximately 20 km structures in less than two minutes (depending on the radar mode). By comparing irregularity spectra from high-latitude Resolute Bay ISR data to solar and magnetospheric conditions, we have found that although structures 100s of km wide can be prevalent for a variety of geomagnetic conditions, polar cap structures 10s of km will become more prevalent during quiet geomagnetic conditions. Furthermore, structures that are 10s of km wide will also become more dominant near midnight, reflecting the role of polar cap convection in breaking down structures as they travel from the dayside ionosphere to the nightside. This presentation will expand on these findings, as well as examine the relationship between these structures and overlapping ionospheric backscatter observed using radars from the Super Dual Auroral Radar Network (SuperDARN).



DR. LINDSAY GOODWIN
NJIT

- BSc from the University of Calgary, 2010
- MSc from the University of Saskatchewan , 2014
- PhD from the University of Saskatchewan, 2018
- Postdoc at Boston University, April 2018 - November 2019
- Postdoc at NJIT, December 2019 - August 2022
- 2020 Jack Eddy Fellow
- Assistant Professor at NJIT, August 2022 - present