



Recurrent dipolarization energisation and aurora: corotation or modulation?

Zhonghua Yao (1), Denis Grodent (1), Nick Sergis (2,3), Benjamin Palmaerts (1), Ruilong Guo (4), and Aikaterini Radioti (1)

(1) University of Liege, Laboratory for Planetary and Atmospheric Physics, Department of Astrophysics, Geophysics and Oceanography, Liege, Belgium (zhonghua.yao@uliege.be), (2) Office for Space Research and Technology, Academy of Athens, Athens, Greece, (3) Institute of Astronomy, Astrophysics, Space Applications and Remote Sensing, National Observatory of Athens, Athens, Greece, (4) Institute of Geology and Geophysics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China

Planetary magnetospheres receive plasma and energy from the Sun or moons of planets, and consequently stretch magnetic field lines. From time to time, energy is rapidly released in the magnetosphere by reconfiguring the magnetic fields (i.e. magnetic dipolarization). The energy subsequently precipitates into the ionosphere and upper atmosphere, causing auroral intensifications. Using measurements from multiple instruments onboard the Cassini spacecraft, we reveal that magnetic dipolarization event at Saturn could reoccur after one planetary rotation, and name them as recurrent magnetic dipolarization. The dipolarization events also exist in the dayside magnetosphere, which has no known precedent with terrestrial magnetospheric observations. The recurrent dipolarization event is believed to energize charged particles and produce enhanced aurora in Saturn's polar region. The concurrent aurora and energetic neutral atom emissions are also found to be nearly corotating with the planet.