

Importance of IS radar observations in middle latitudes for the understanding of the ionosphere and thermosphere

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The MU radar is the only one IS radar in the middle latitudes in the world and has been playing the leading role in the understanding of the ionosphere and thermosphere. This talk reviews outstanding problems peculiar to the middle latitude ionosphere and thermosphere but important for the fundamental understanding of the global ionosphere and thermosphere along with MU's contributions to them, and then describes recently and widely noticed issues such as ionosphere-plasmasphere-inner magnetosphere interactions, in expectation of the great contribution by the renovated MU radar.