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Universal time control of inverted-V acceleration

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It has been demonstrated that the spectral behavior of auroral kilometric radiation (AKR) exhibits structure and dynamical evolution of auroral acceleration region along the field line. The auroral acceleration process at substorm onset, revealed from the AKR spectral analyses, showed basically two stages: (1) appearance/intensification of a low-altitude acceleration region at 4000-6000 km accompanied by initial brightening and (2) breakout of high-altitude field-aligned acceleration above the pre-existing low-altitude acceleration region at 6000-12,000 km, which is followed by auroral breakup and poleward expansion.

The former (low-altitude acceleration region) corresponds to so-called inverted-V acceleration, and it appears not only at substorm time but also during the day. We show, in the present study, that the altitude of the inverted-V acceleration varies systematically during a day, that is, UT variation. The systematic variation changes its phase of 180o around equinox. The possible cause of the altitude variation and its phase change can be (1) ionospheric origin due to daily variation of solar illumination in the polar region and/or (2) magnetospheric origin due to the rocking motion of the geomagnetic field in the magnetosphere. In the presentation, the evaluation of these possibilities will be given.

Keywords: inverted-V acceleration region, aurora, M-I coupling region, substorm, UT control, AKR