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Longitudinal and Geomagnetic Activity Modulation of the Equatorial Thermosphere Anomaly

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Recent observations of thermosphere mass density from satellites have revealed new features of the Equatorial Thermosphere Anomaly (ETA) which enable much more in-depth investigation of its characteristics and its coupling to the more researchestablished Equatorial Ionosphere Anomaly (EIA). Our recent study (Lei et al., J. Geophys. Res., 2012) has revealed that the field-aligned ion drag mainly contributes to the ETA trough, but has little effect on the ETA crests. However, the formation of the ETA crests is attributed to plasma-neutral heating which has two peaks in the topside ionosphere aside the magnetic equator. This invited talk will highlight the simulated results from the thermosphere-ionosphere-mesosphere-electrodynamics general circulation model (NCAR-TIMEGCM) to demonstrate the relative contributions of the non-migrating tides and geomagnetic field configuration on the longitudinal variations between the ETA and the EIA. Meanwhile, the different longitude/UT dependence between the ETA and the EIA associated with geomagnetic activity is also presented.

Keywords: Equatorial Thermosphere Anomaly, Longitudinal Variation, Geomagnetic Activity Modulation, Lower Atmosphere Tides