

ビーズ状オーロラの南北地磁気共役性 Magnetic conjugacy of northern and southern auroral beads

元場 哲郎¹, 細川 敬祐^{2*}, 門倉 昭¹, 佐藤 夏雄¹

MOTOBA, Tetsuo¹, HOSOKAWA, Keisuke^{2*}, Akira Kadokura¹, Natsuo Sato¹

¹ 国立極地研究所, ² 電気通信大学

¹National Institute of Polar Research, ²University of Electro-Communications

Auroral beads, i.e. azimuthally arrayed small-scale bright spots resembling a pearl necklace, have recently drawn the attention of researchers as a possible precursor of explosive activation of the aurora. Here we used simultaneous, ground-based, all-sky camera observations from a geomagnetically conjugate Iceland-Syowa Station pair to demonstrate that small-scale auroral beads evolve synchronously in the northern and southern hemispheres and have good magnetic conjugacy for ~7 min before an auroral breakup. The synchronous conjugate auroral beads undergo a two-step evolution: in the first ~4 minutes, well-organized bead structures move eastward with an almost constant speed of 1 km/s or less, and subsequently they develop dramatically into brighter and larger auroral forms with faster propagation speed of 2-6 km/s. Our observations strongly suggest that, for the auroral beads, the magnetosphere plays a fundamental role in the determining their temporal evolution, while the ionospheric contribution that can induce asymmetric auroral behavior in the two hemispheres is minor or not significant.

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