

Contents

1	Implications of Magnetosphere-Ionosphere Coupling	1
1.1	Solar Wind, Magnetosphere, and Ionosphere	1
1.1.1	Entry of Energy into the Magnetosphere	3
1.1.2	Dissipation of Energy in Substorms	6
1.2	Basic Properties of Magnetosphere-Ionosphere Coupling	10
1.2.1	Global and Local Coupling Processes	11
1.2.2	Plasma Convection	11
1.2.3	Theoretical Approach	12
2	Morphology of Electric Fields and Currents at High Latitudes	17
2.1	Large-Scale Current Systems	17
2.1.1	Convection Electrojets	18
2.1.2	Substorm Current Wedge	22
2.1.3	Polar Cap and Cusp Currents	26
2.1.4	Eastward Current in the Dawn Sector	31
2.1.5	Current Closure in the Magnetosphere	33
2.1.6	Charge Carriers of Field-Aligned Currents	35
2.2	Electric Field and Currents Associated with Auroral Forms	36
2.2.1	Auroral Arcs	37
2.2.2	Westward Traveling Surges	40
2.2.3	Auroral Omega Bands	46
2.2.4	Pulsating Auroral Patches	50
3	Global Modeling of Magnetosphere-Ionosphere Coupling	55
3.1	Basic Concepts	55
3.2	Simulation of Magnetospheric Convection	58
3.2.1	Global Convection Model	58
3.2.2	Plasma Transport Model	63
3.3	Reproduction of Observed Features	68
3.4	Coupling Models with Specific Physical Aspects	71
4	Modeling of Ionospheric Electrodynamics	79
4.1	Ionospheric Parameters Controlled by Field-Aligned Currents	79

4.1.1	Basic Algorithm	79
4.1.2	Quiet Periods	82
4.1.3	Substorm Times	89
4.1.4	Cusp Structure	93
4.2	Magnetogram-Inversion Technique	96
4.2.1	Essence of the Scheme	97
4.2.2	Advantages and Limitations	101
4.2.3	Global Distribution of Ionospheric Parameters	102
4.2.4	Recent Improvements	111
4.3	Formation of Auroral Arcs	117
5	Current Issues in Magnetosphere-Ionosphere Coupling	123
5.1	The Westward Traveling Surge	123
5.1.1	Dynamics	124
5.1.2	Distortion of Convection Pattern	126
5.1.3	Pulsations	129
5.2	Auroral Particle Acceleration and Parallel Electric Fields	130
5.2.1	Observations	130
5.2.2	Theories and Computer Simulations	134
5.3	Penetration of High-Latitude Electric Fields into Low Latitudes	138
5.3.1	Substorm Effects	138
5.3.2	Source Mechanisms	139
5.3.3	Global Patterns of Ionospheric Fields	141
5.3.4	Shielding of Convection Fields in the Magnetosphere	142
5.4	Relative Importance of Conductivities and Electric Fields	143
5.4.1	Simultaneous Measurements of Ionospheric Parameters	143
5.4.2	Two Electrojet Modes	147
5.4.3	Latitudinal Cross-Sections of the Auroral Electrojets	147
5.4.4	Implications for Substorm Dynamics	150
5.4.5	Future Problems	154
References	159
Subject Index	177

