Magnetospheric Drivers of Auroral Variations at Jupiter

Zhonghua Yao¹, Bertrand Bonfond², and Denis Grodent²

¹Institute of Geology and Geophysics, Chinese Academy of Sciences ²Université de Liège

November 22, 2022

Abstract

Although mass and energy in Jupiter's magnetosphere mostly come from the innermost Galilean moon Io's volcanic activity, solar wind perturbations can play crucial roles in releasing the magnetospheric energy and powering aurorae in Jupiter's polar regions. The relative importance of solar wind and internal processes in driving Jupiter's auroras remains poorly understood. Recently, the contemporaneous measurements from NASA Juno mission and the Hubble Space Telescope provide an unprecedented opportunity to determine the magnetospheric drivers of auroral variations at Jupiter, and key evidence on how solar wind would affect the auroral brightening. In this presentation, we will discuss several important advances on several distinctive auroral morphologies at Jupiter, i.e., auroral dawn storm, the main auroral brightening and auroral injection processes. We find that magnetic reconnection and dipolarization play crucial roles in driving these auroras, and the auroral drivers for the Earth and Jupiter have more in common than ever expected.

2016-now: more than 200 HST visits are obtained, providing an unprecendented opportunity to study Jovian aurora with simultaneous measurements.



Two key questions:

- what mechanisms drive the main aurora?
- Is the night the same as the dayside feature?

Yao, Bonfond et al. 2020, arXiv:2004.10140v1



Juno distance to Jupiter (inbound)

dimmed during a compression

main aurora

Bonfond, Yao et al. 2020, essoar.10502511.1



- Auroral dawn storm is initiated from midnight poleward boundary Solar wind compression enhances the
 - Beads and poleward auroral spots are \succ discovered at the dawn storm initiation
- Near-noon aurora is enhanced but not

Fundamental processes for energy dissipation?



Yao et al. 2018, JGR