

# Dawn Dusk Asymmetries in the Coupled Solar Wind Magnetosphere Ionosphere System

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Thanks to ISSI, Bern, CH

#### Introduction



- There are a lot...
  - Foreshock, bow shock & magnetosheath
  - Magnetopause & LLBL
  - Plasma entry to the magnetosphere
  - Magnetotail plasma sheet
  - Magnetotail current sheet
  - Magnetotail dynamics
  - Inner magnetosphere
  - Ionospheric properties and convection

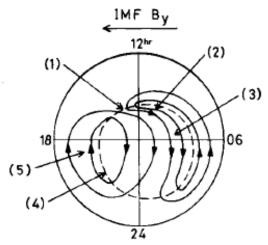
#### Introduction



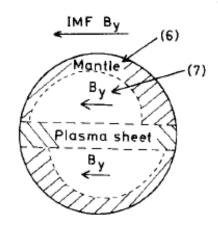
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#### **IMF BY**

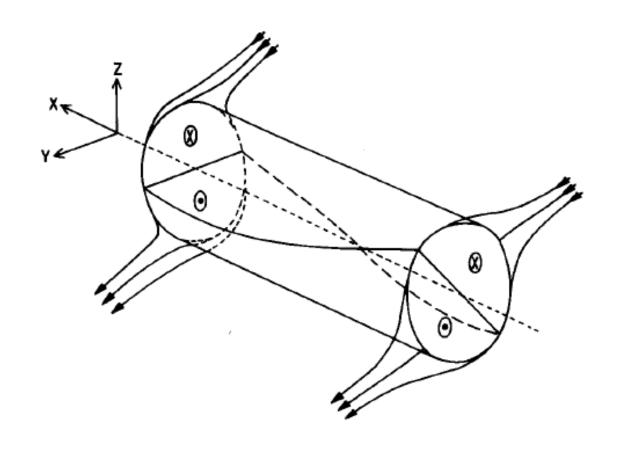




(a) Low altitude polar flows (northern hemisphere)



(b) Tail lobe cross-section

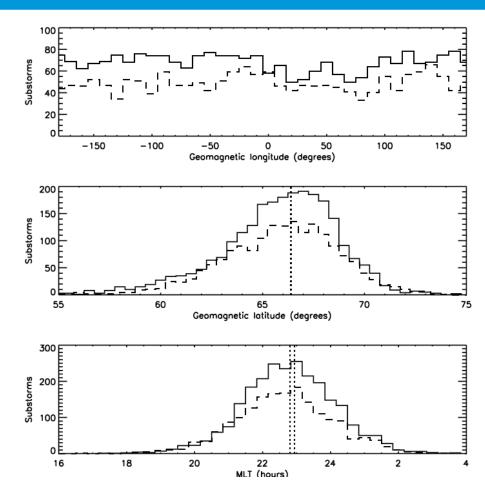


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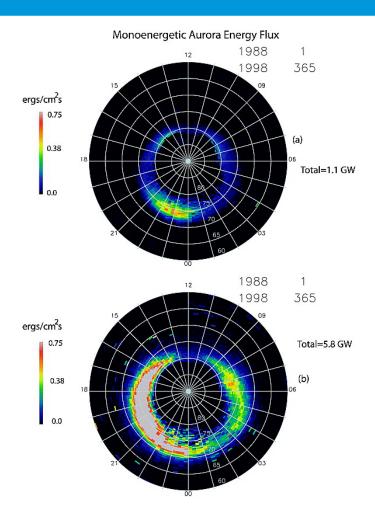
(Cowley, 1981)

#### **Substorm Onset**





(Frey & Mende, 2006)



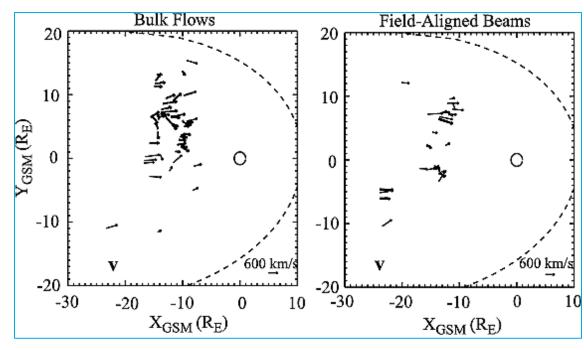
9632 Satellite-days

European Space Agency

(Newell et al., 2009)

## **Fast Flows?**

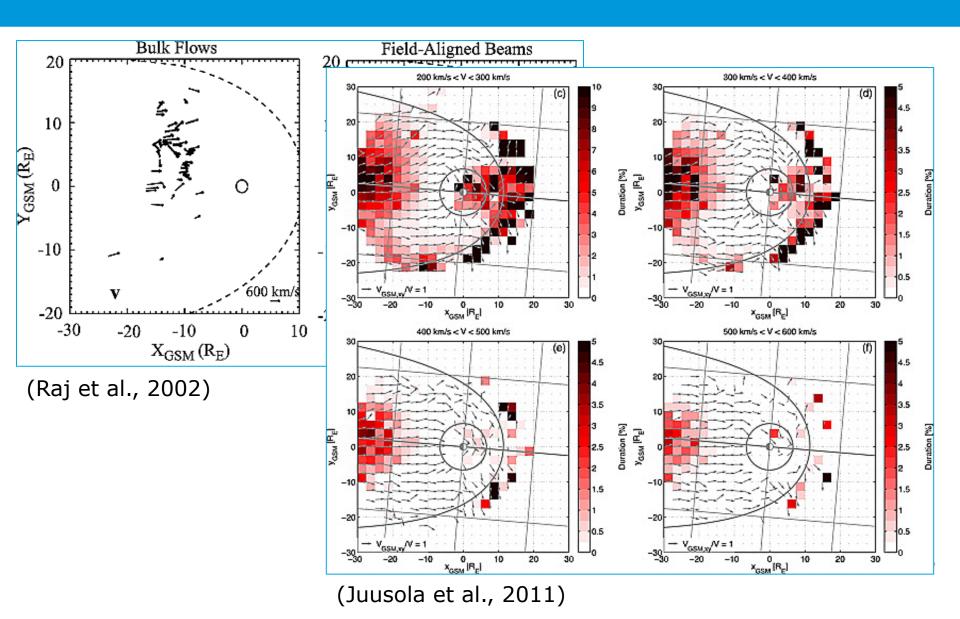




(Raj et al., 2002)

## **Fast Flows?**

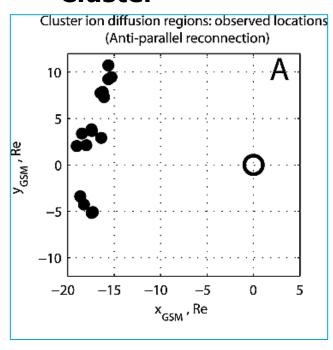




## Reconnection



#### Cluster

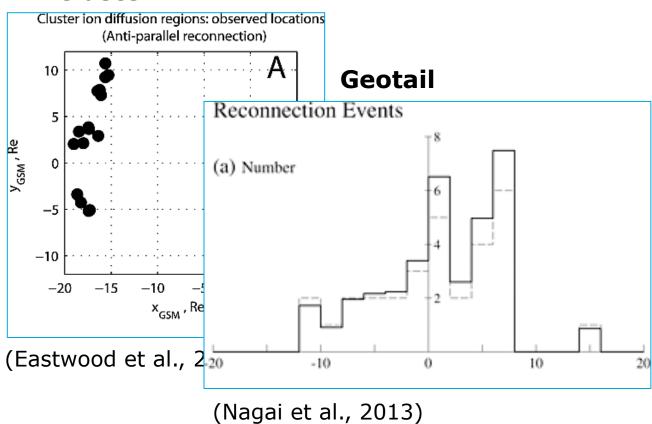


(Eastwood et al., 2010)

#### Reconnection



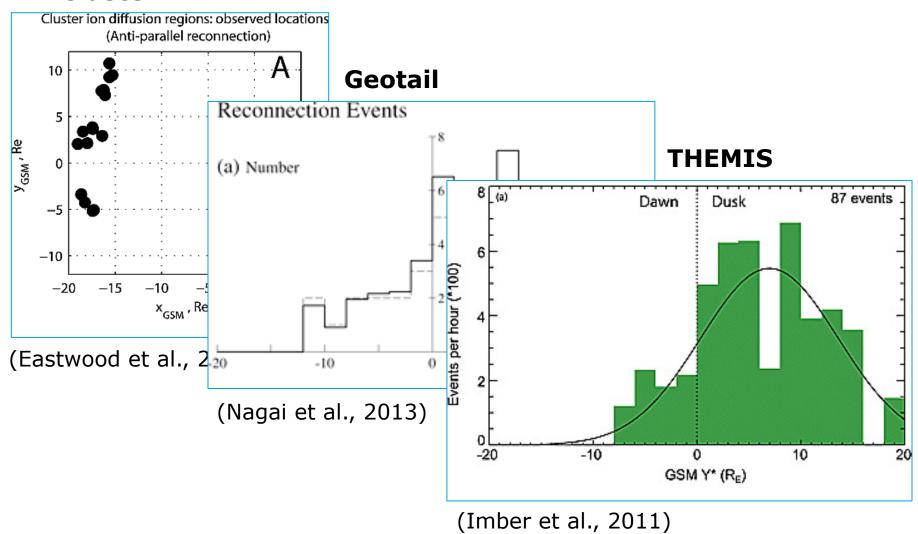
#### Cluster



#### Reconnection

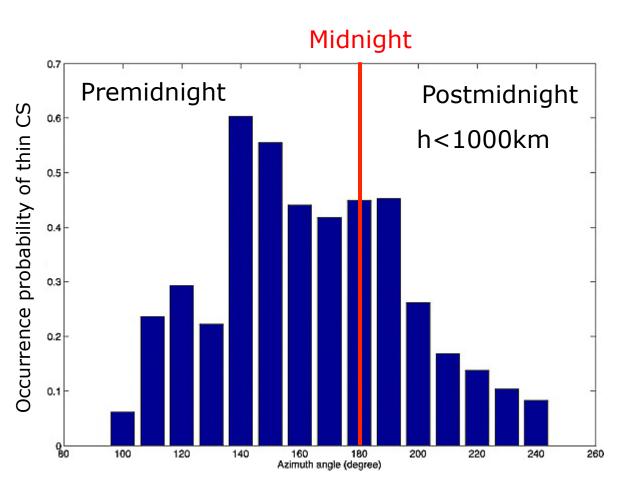


#### Cluster



# **Current Sheet Thickness & Strength**

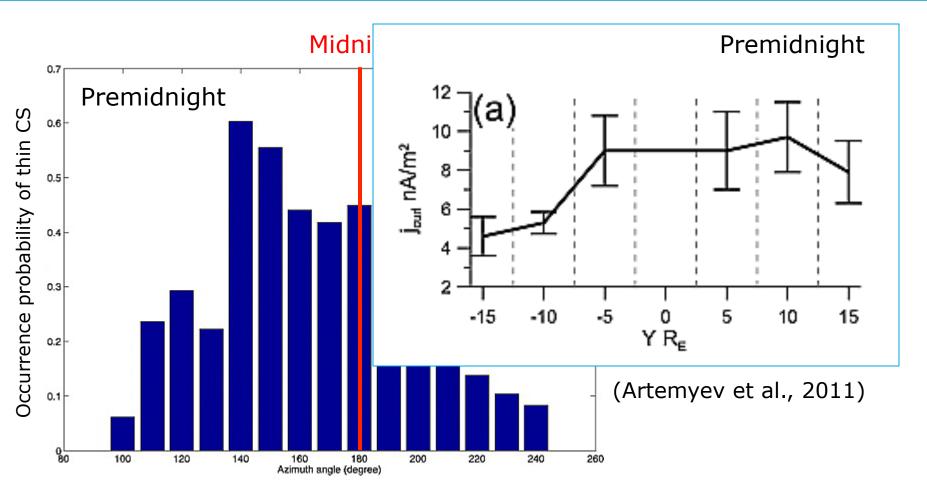




(Rong et al., 2011)

## **Current Sheet Thickness & Strength**

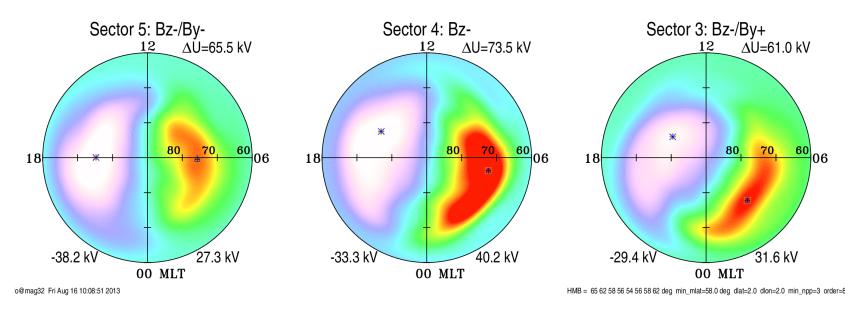




(Rong et al., 2011)

## **Ionospheric Convection**





(Foerster & Haaland, in preparation)

Asymmetric Convection cells even for purely Southward IMF

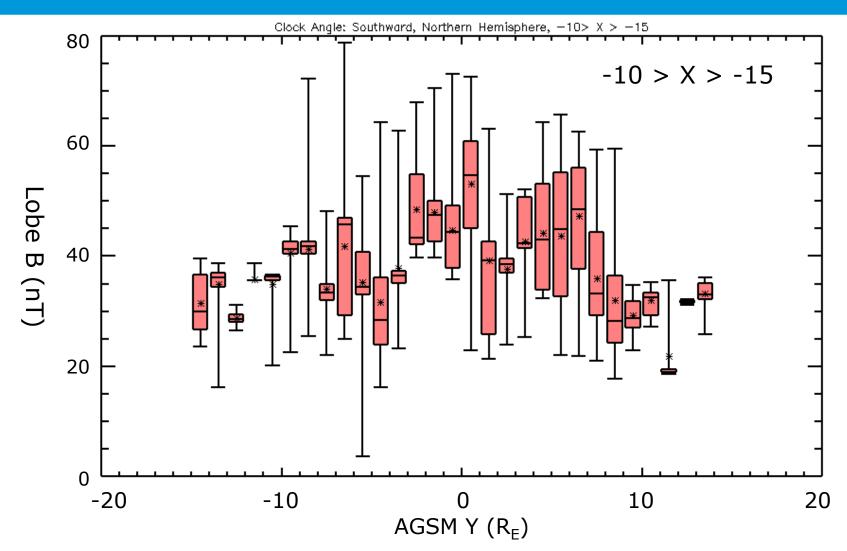
This has been said to be caused by nonuniform ionospheric conductivity (Tanaka et al., 2001).

#### What About the Lobes?



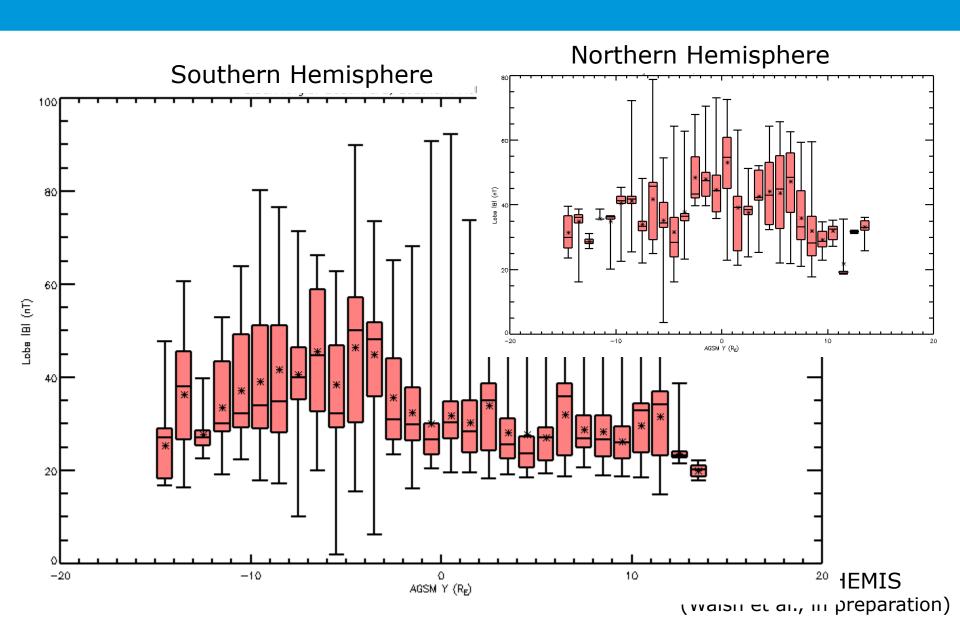
- Given the above, you might expect a stronger tail lobe magnetic field premidnight.
  - Take Cluster, THEMIS, Geotail & Double Star Data
  - Use the same IMF selection criteria as Foerster & Haaland (IMF Bias vectors -> control for direction and stability)
  - Limit to steady southward IMF
  - Look at the behaviour of |B| for different distances downtail and AGSM Y
  - Nothing clever like scaling for solar wind pressure or applying tail flaring models (yet!).



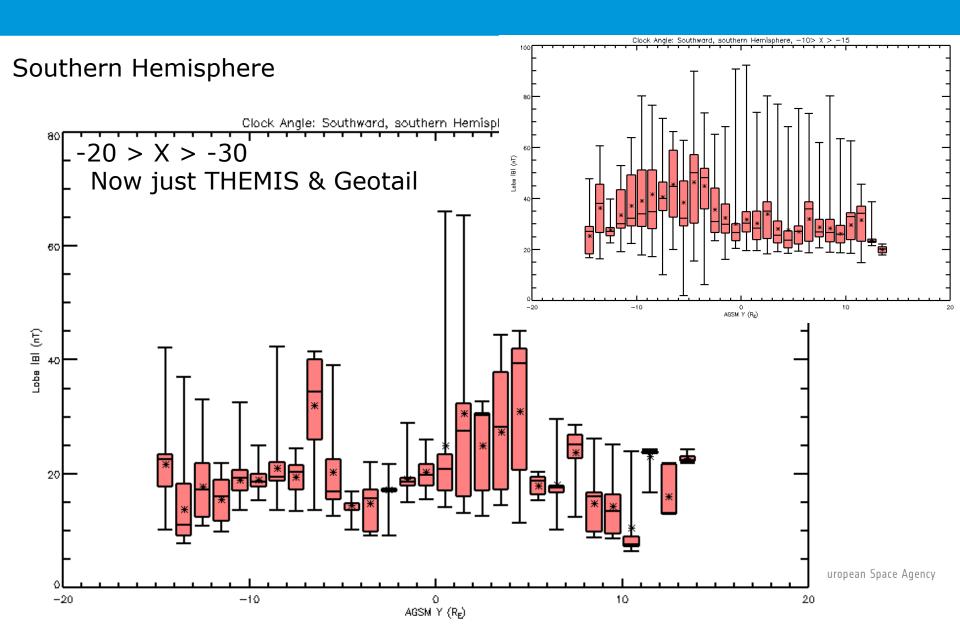


Lobe magnetic field measurements from Geotail, Cluster, Double Star, THEMIS (Walsh et al., in preparation)

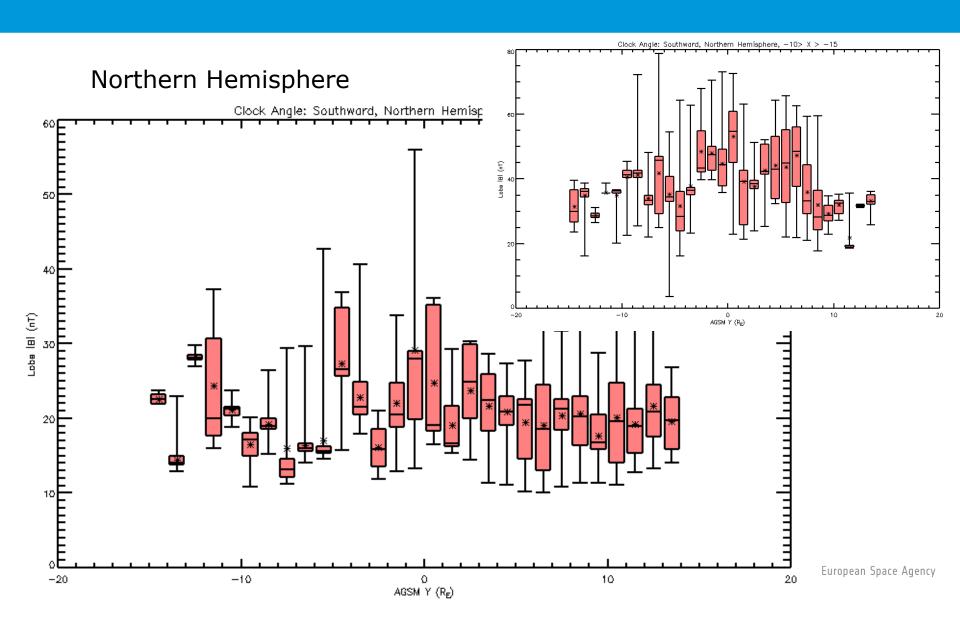










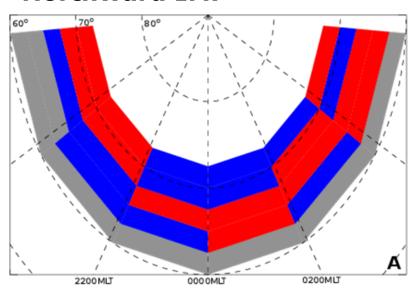


## **Plasma Sheet Electron Populations**

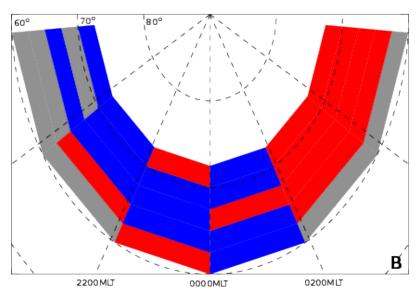


 There's an asymmetry in the ionospheric footpoints of single and two component electron pitch angle distributions.

#### **Northward IMF**



#### **Southward IMF**



#### More two component PADS

**Fewer two component PADS** 

Under Southward IMF, plasma sheet electron pitch angle distributions are more likely to have a second component at dusk than dawn.

Under northward IMF this follows the pattern of Birkeland Currents

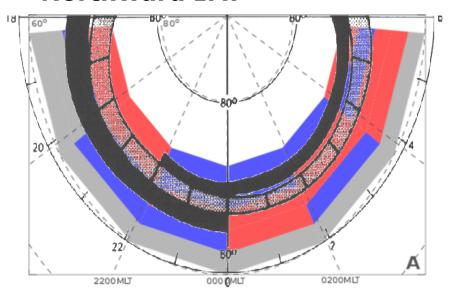
(Walsh et al., JGR 2013)

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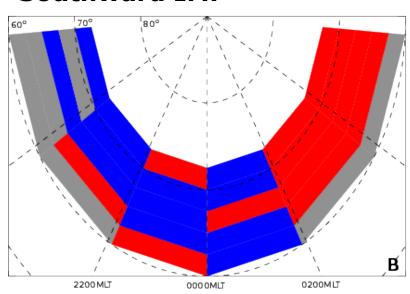


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European Space Agency

Under northward IMF this follows the pattern of Birkeland Currents (Ijima & Potemra, 1978; Walsh et al., JGR 2013)

## If You Put it Together



- It all sort of fits...
  - Non-uniform ionospheric conductivity
  - Asymmetric ionospheric convection
  - (Asymmetric lobes)
  - Thinner current sheet premidnight
  - Asymmetric dynamics in the magnetotail

## If you put it together



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  Walsh et al. 1 lange neet

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## **And Finally... ARRRGH**



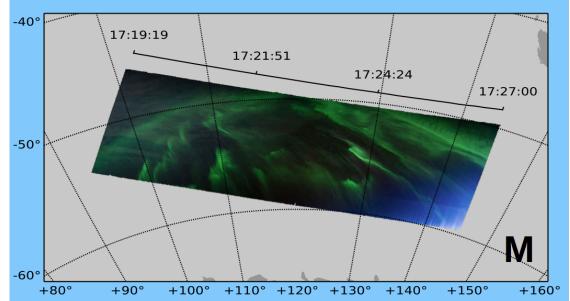


Automatic geoReferencing of astRonaut auRoral photoGraHy

- Reconstruct the pointing of auroral photographs taken by ISS astronauts to make them useful for research
- Provide plots and an open source software library to produce cdfs offline.

http://cosmos.esa.int/arrrgh

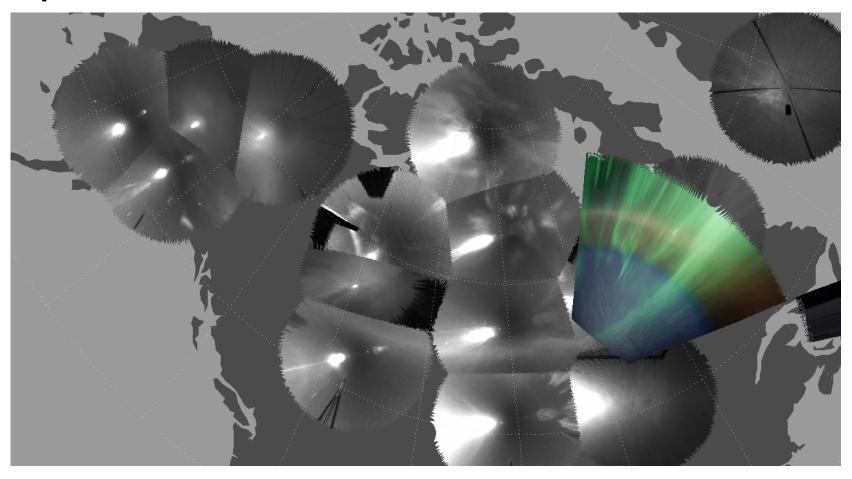




# http://cosmos.esa.int/arrrgh



#### **Comparison with THEMIS**



If you're interested, grab me during the week or awalsh@sciops.esa.int