1. Record Nr. UNINA9910818162403321
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Titolo Convection and substorms: paradigms of magnetospheric

phenomenology / / Charles F. Kennel

Pubbl/distr/stampa New York, : Oxford University Press, 1995

1-280-54001-X 9786610540013 0-19-535907-0 1-4294-1539-8

0-19-756048-2

Edizione [1st ed.]

ISBN

Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (429 p.)

Collana International series on astronomy and astrophysics;; 2

Disciplina 538.766

538/.766

Soggetti Magnetosphere

Magnetospheric substorms Convection (Meteorology)

Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese

Formato Materiale a stampa

Livello bibliografico Monografia

Note generali Previously issued in print: 1995.

Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references (p. [311]-401) and index.

Nota di contenuto Contents; 1. Introduction; 2. The Teardrop Magnetosphere; 3. The Bell-

Like Magnetosphere; 4. The Viscous Magnetosphere; 5. The Reconnecting Magnetosphere; 6. Correlation of Geomagnetic Activity with the Solar Wind; 7. The Reconnection Substorm; 8. Bursty Magnetopause Reconnection; 9. Bimodal Plasma Sheet Flow; 10. Convection for Northward Interplanetary Field; 11. The Nightside Auroral Oval; 12. The Auroral Substorm; 13. The Geosynchronous Substorm; 14. Coordination of the Geosynchronous and Auroral Substorms; 15. Triggered Substorms; 16. On the Relation between

Convection and Substorms
17. EpilogueReferences; Index

Sommario/riassunto The magnetosphere is the region where cosmic rays & the solar wind

interact with the Earth's magnetic field, creating such phenomena as the northern lights & other aurorae. The configuration & dynamics of the magnetosphere are of interest to planetary physicists.

the magnetosphere are of interest to planetary physicists,

geophysicists, plasma astrophysicists, & to scientists planning space

missions. The circulation of solar wind plasma in the magnetosphere & substorms have long been used as the principle paradigms for studying this vital region. The author here presents a synthesis of the convection & substorm literatures, & an analysis of convection & substorm interactions; he also suggests that the currently accepted steady reconnection model may be advantageously replaced by a model of multiple tail reconnection events, in which many mutually interdependent reconnections occur.