

# Three Issues To Keep In Mind For GDC:

- Dynamics
- Spatial hierarchy
- Reference frame

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#### **Dynamics** – The Variable Magnetosphere-Ionosphere-Thermosphere System

- Physical Parameter. Time derivative of basic electrodynamic parameters.
- **Observational Challenge.** Single satellite • measurements can typically not distinguish between spatial and temporal variations.
- Solution. Multi-point measurements either separated in time (e.g. co-orbital or pearls-on-astring) or space (e.g. separated in local-time).



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#### **Questions:**

• To what extent do large-scale static empirical models predict the actual distribution?

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#### **Question:**

 How does energy and momentum transport depend on temporal and spatial scales of the M-I system?



### **Reference Frame** – needed to interpret local detailed measurements

- Physical Parameter. Global large-scale distribution of physical parameters.
- Observational Challenge.
  - A) Satellites typically provide local high precision measurements but these should be interpreted in the context of global conditions.
    B) Electrodynamic parameters are organized by processes not, for example, magnetic coordinates.
- Solution. SuperMAG, SuperDARN, AMPERE provide context, near-global continuous solutions that allow satellite measurements to be organized spatially and temporally.



### **Reference Frame** – needed to interpret local detailed measurements

Substorm current wedge, McPherron et al.

Auroral

Tail field

Inner edge

Field-aligned

currents

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**Question:** 

Auroral electrojet feeding and drainage – when and where?





Double wedge model, Gjerloev and Hoffman







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