

*Extra black and white slides*

# The Information Content of the Aurora

Presented by Joshua Semeter

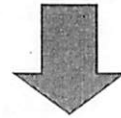
SRI International

CEDAR

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# Dimensions of Auroral Information

Magnetospheric Process



$v(\text{space, wavelength, time})$

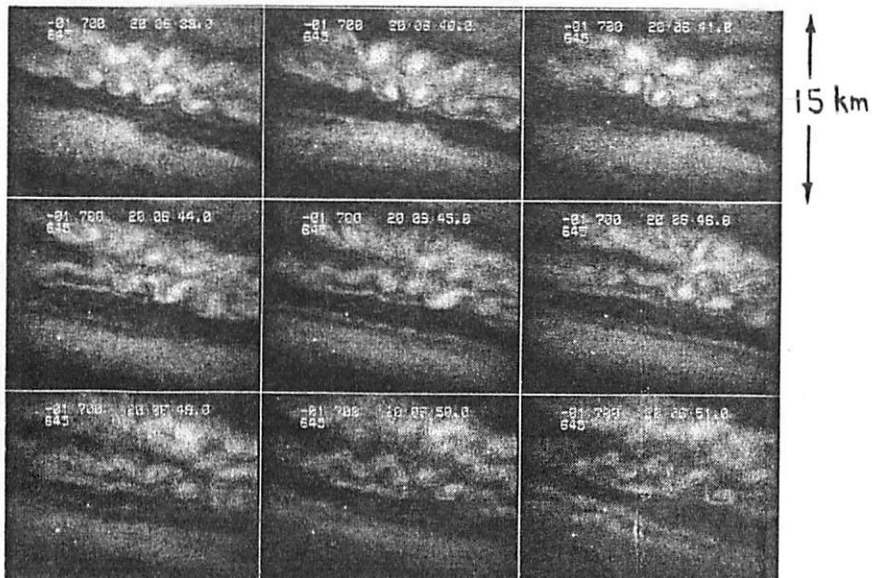
$\perp B$

$\parallel B$

Horizontal Structuring

Auroral Motions

Altitude Emission Profile



## Does a Meaningful Solution to $d=Lv+n$ exist?

Overdetermined does not mean least squares solution exists!  
Must determine the rank of  $L$ .

For linear discrete inverse problems,  $L$  should be diagnosed through a singular value decomposition.

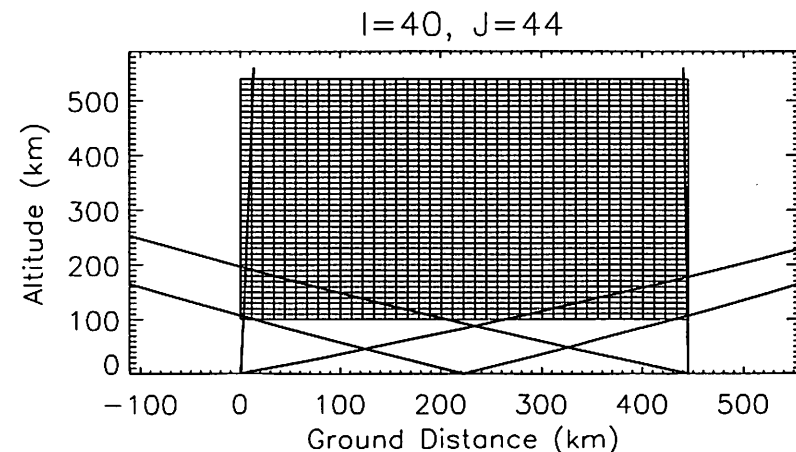
$$L = U[\text{diag}(s)]V^T \quad L^{\text{inv}} = V[\text{diag}(1/s)]U^T \quad (1)$$

$U$  forms a basis for the range of  $L$ .  $V$  forms basis for the null space  $\Leftarrow$  The rank is reflected in SVD's.

## Conundrum for Pixel-based Auroral Tomography

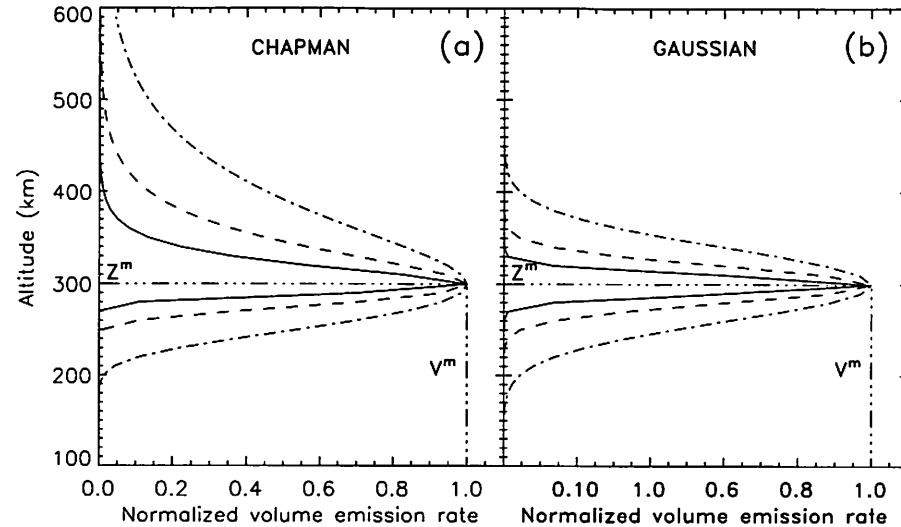
A well-conditioned pixel-based auroral tomography problem will have little useful solution resolution.

An auroral tomography problem with useful resolution will be ill-conditioned.



## Parametric regularization.

Replace pixel basis with simpler 3 parameter model. Many simple non-linear parameterizations are possible, but a gaussian is a very good fit to modeled redline emission profiles.



$$f(x, z) = V_0(x) \exp\left[-\left(\frac{z - Z_0(x)}{H_0(x)}\right)^2\right]$$

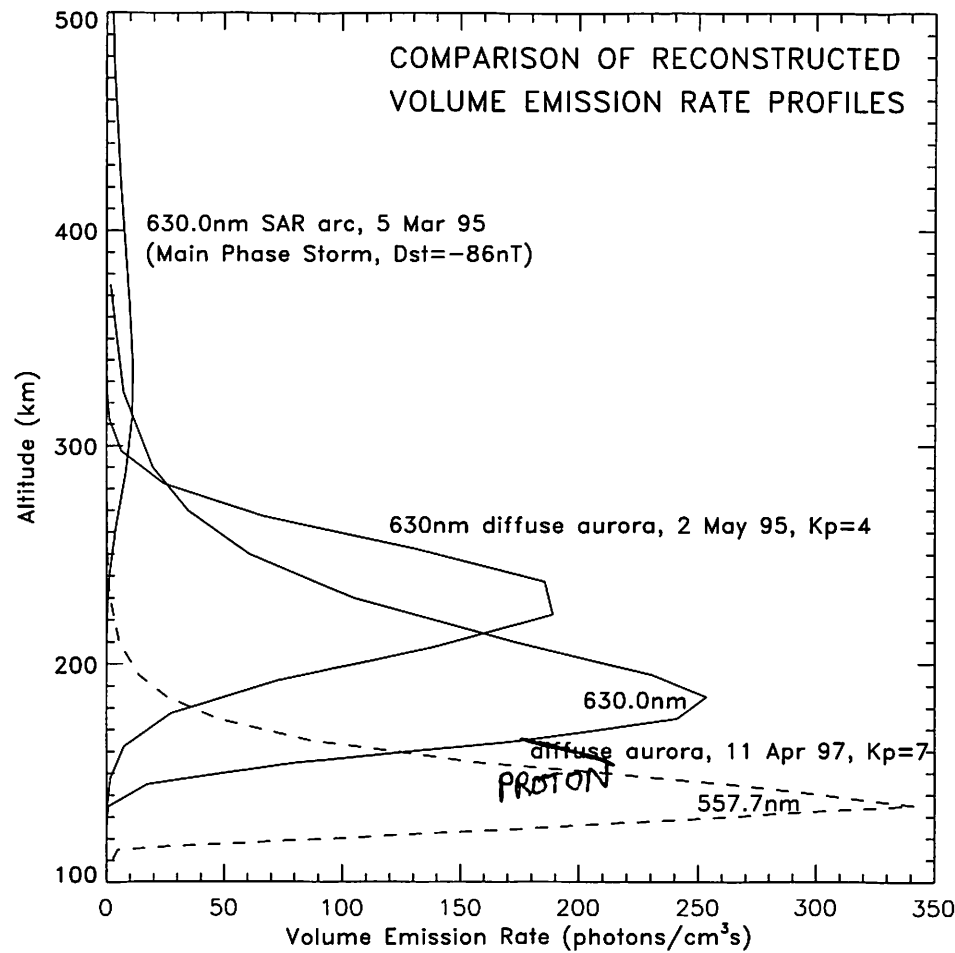
An attractive property.

$$\lim_{H_0 \rightarrow 0} f(z) = V_0 \delta(z - Z_0)$$

(Semeter & Mendillo,  
IEEE TGARS, 1996)

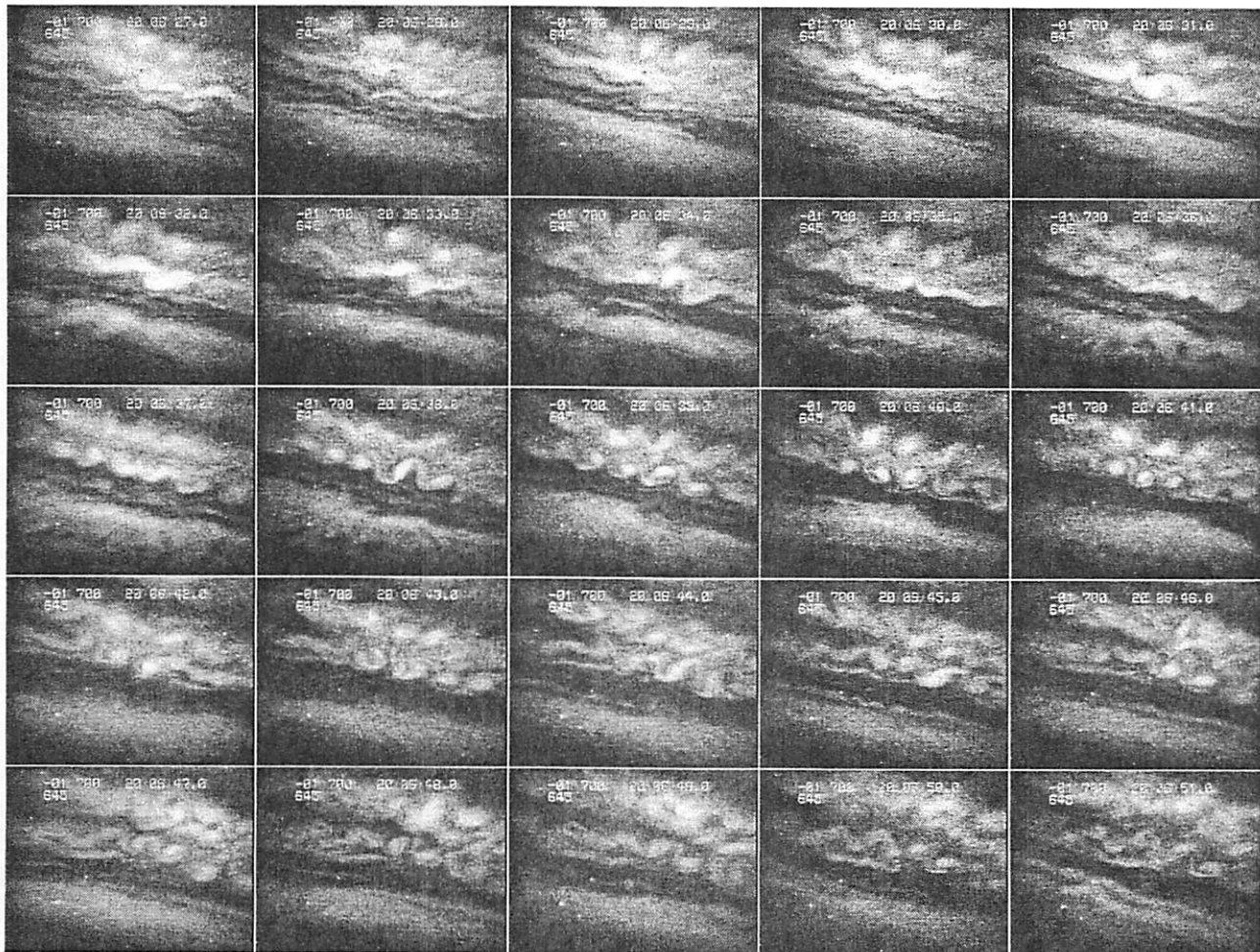
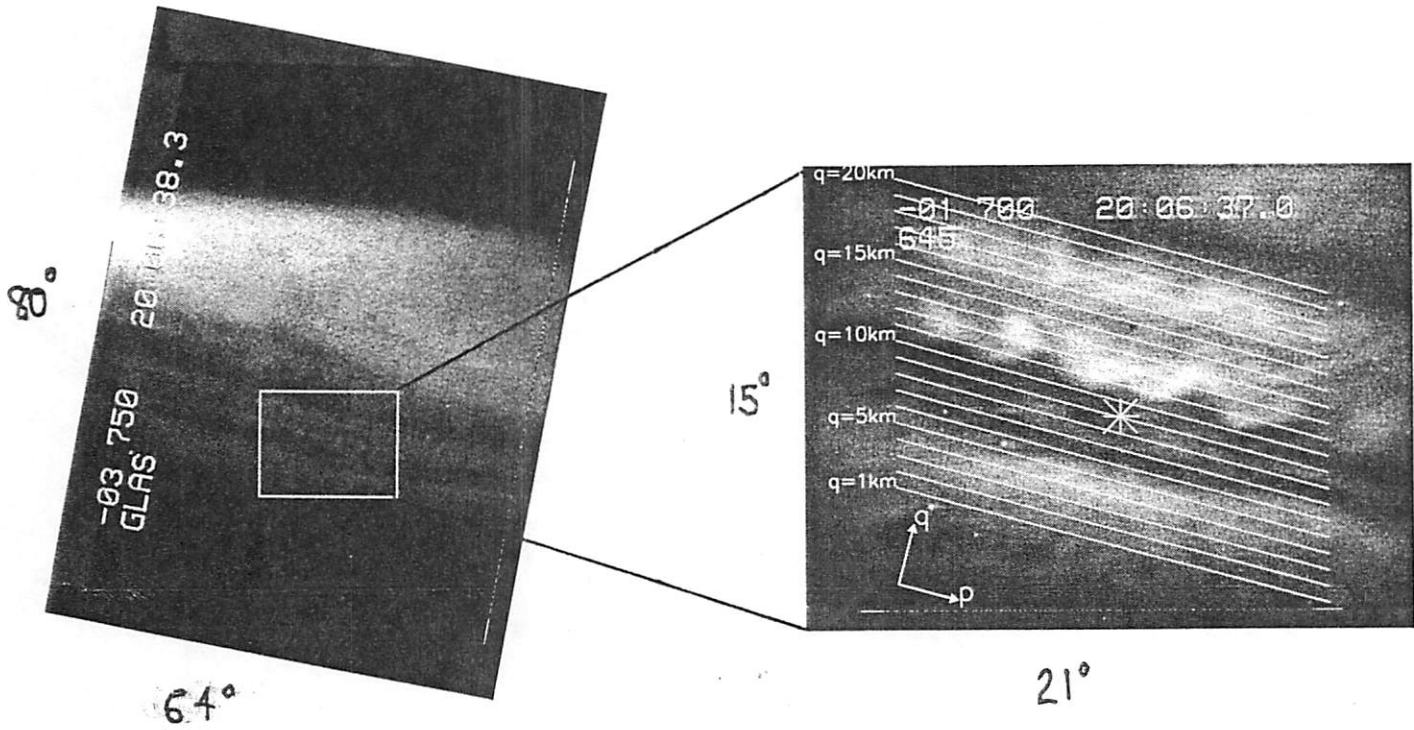
So it is possible to use this model for a thin layer inversion where we seek  $V_0(x)$  and  $Z_0(x)$ .

# Summary of COTIF Tomographic Results

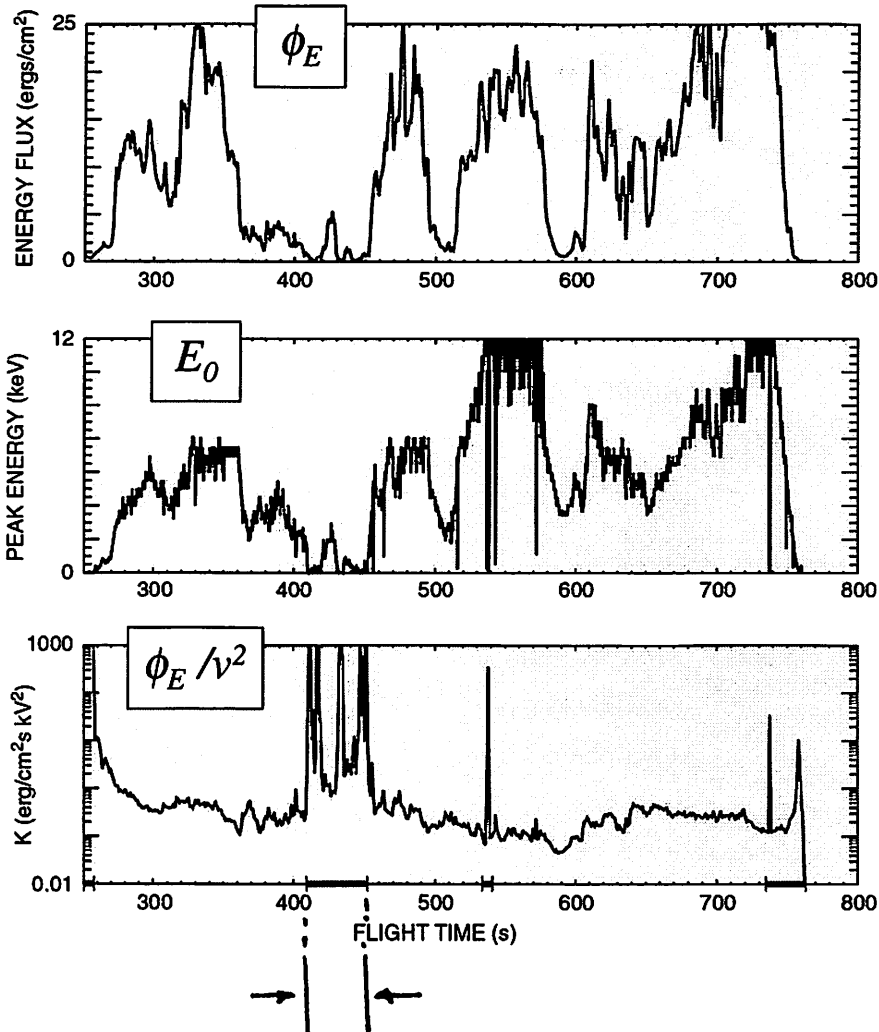


(Semeter et al, JGRA, 1999)

# Does tomography make sense for active aurora?



## $\phi_E / v^2$ for PHAZE 2

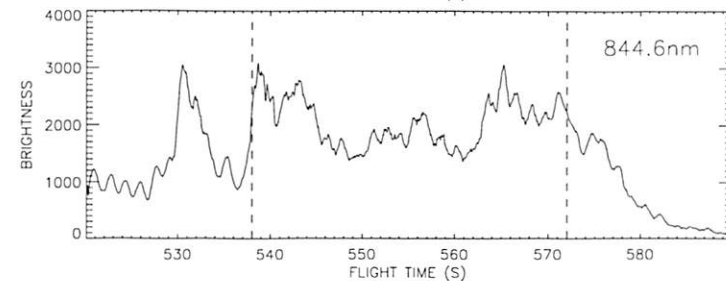
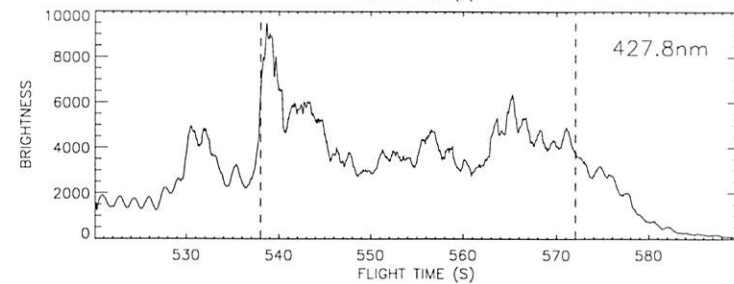
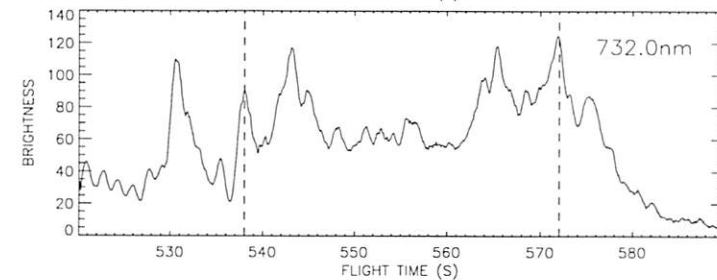
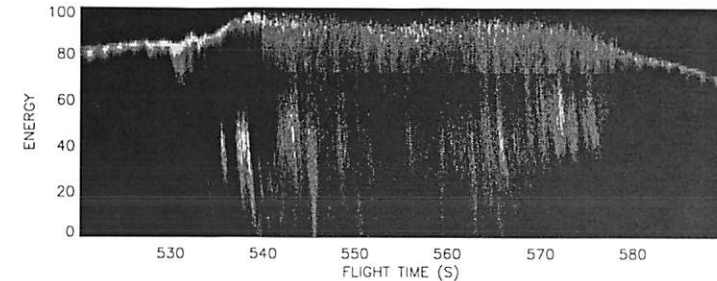
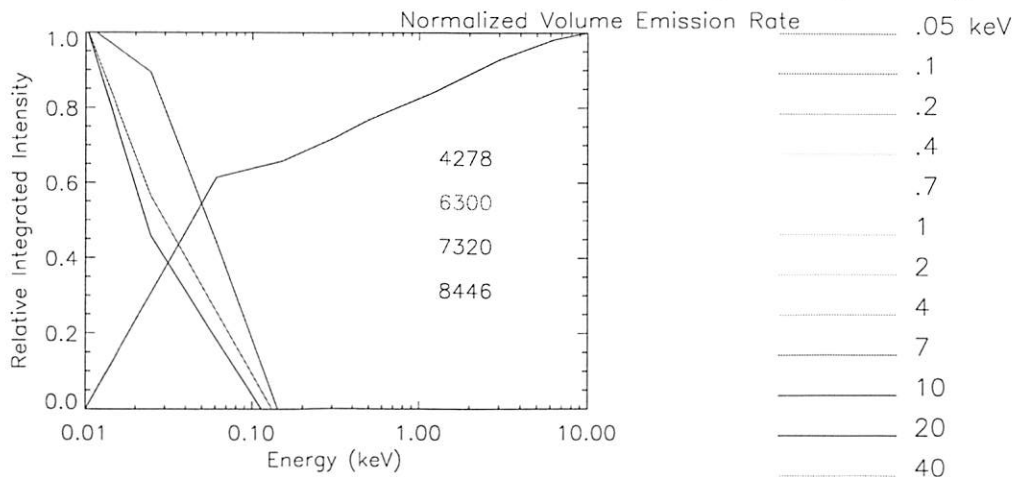
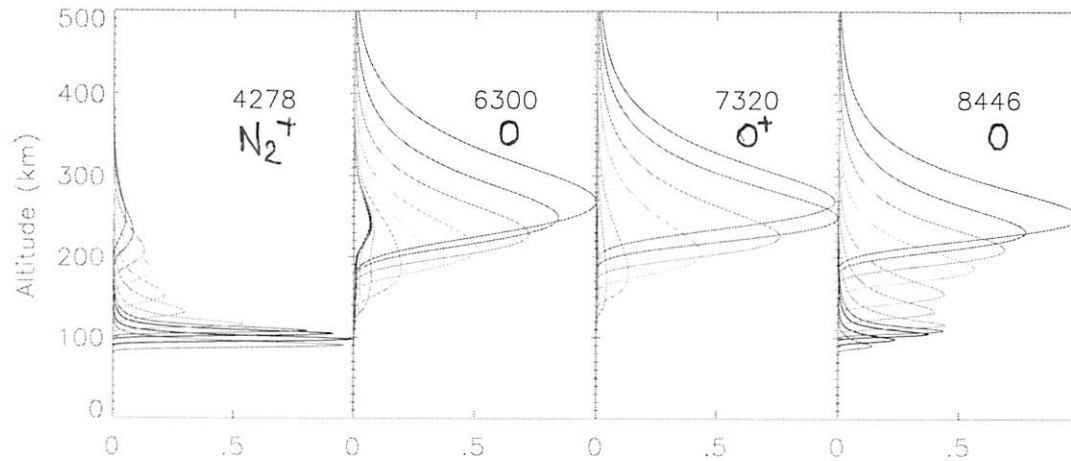


The simple relationships predicted by kinetic theory do not hold in regions where  $\phi_E(E)$  is non-Maxwellian, i.e.,

- When the aurora is very weak
- When the aurora is very energetic
- When the aurora is very turbulent

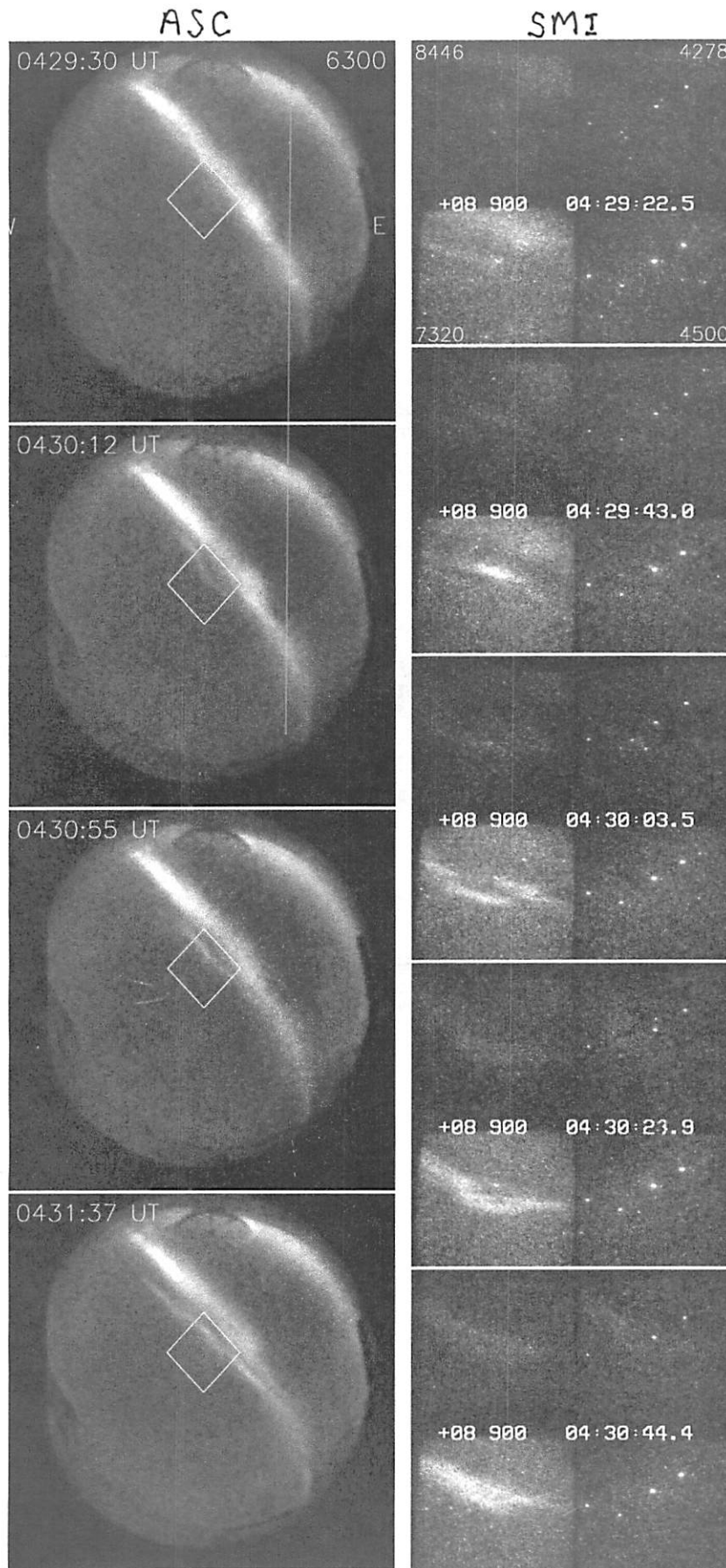
# Simultaneous Spatial-Spectral-Temporal Analysis

Choose a set of discrete wavelengths that mimic the logarithmic energy spacing of particle detectors.





# The Simultaneous Multispectral Imager (SMI)



Sondrestrom  
Campaign,  
March, 2000

Figure 5: Simultaneous Allsky (6300) and SMI ( $\lambda$ 's as labeled) measurements of a developing auroral arc on March 6, 2000.

# Summary

- Tomography is a valuable tool for studying stable features such as the diffuse aurora, but is not suitable for active auroral forms.
- The physics of auroral formation will benefit from a consideration of detection problems associated with simultaneous 2-dimensional spectral imaging.
- The general bias towards imaging bright aurora is physically unjustified.