Anonymous Referee #1

In this paper, volume emission rate of the 630-nm airglow is calculated using the SAMI2 model, which is a numerical model of the ionosphere. The authors investigate effects of the neutral winds and temperatures on the volume emission rate, but their argument is still only qualitative. This reviewer considers that quantitative investigation is needed. Therefore, major revision is needed before its publication.

We would like to thank Referee #1 for reading our article carefully and providing us helpful and valuable suggestions for improving our manuscript. About quantitative investigation, we have added new figures (Fig. 4) and addressed it in detail in our manuscript. We have also revised the manuscript accordingly by taking into account the Referee's comments. We hope that Referee #1 now finds the manuscript acceptable for publication.

Although the authors describe that effect of the meridional neutral wind is dominant, it is obvious from the equation of the volume emission rate because the volume emission rate is proportional to a product of the plasma and atomic oxygen densities. Meridional neutral winds move the plasma along the magnetic field line and modify plasma density distribution. Consequently, effects of the neutral winds is dominant. This reviewer recommends the author to calculate the 630-nm airglow intensity by integrating the volume emission rate along the altitude, and show it as a function of the neutral temperature and meridional neutral winds. The, the authors should argue quantitatively how much the neutral temperature affect the 630-nm airglow intensity compared to the effects of the neutral winds.

Thanks for Referee #1's nice suggestion, we have added the suggested quantitative investigation in Line 243-268 as follows:

In order to quantitatively describe the effects of neutral temperature and meridional neutral winds, we calculate the 630-nm airglow intensity by integrating the volume emission rate along the altitude. So we make two new plots [Fig. (a) and Fig. (b)] to show how the integrated emission rates vary with the increasing neutral temperature and neutral winds, respectively. Fig. (a) shows the result regarding the integrated emission rate as affected by neutral temperature (at -5° geomagnetic latitude on February 1, 2007). The curve in red is fitted as 2nd-order polynomial :

$$S = (0.1354 \pm 0.0069)(\Delta T) - (4.6835 \pm 0.2652) \times 10^{-4} (\Delta T)^2 \ ,$$

where S $(km/(cm^3 * s))$ is the change in integrated emission rate and ΔT (K) is the increase in neutral temperature, compared with the standard conditions of 650 K neutral temperature and zero neutral wind.

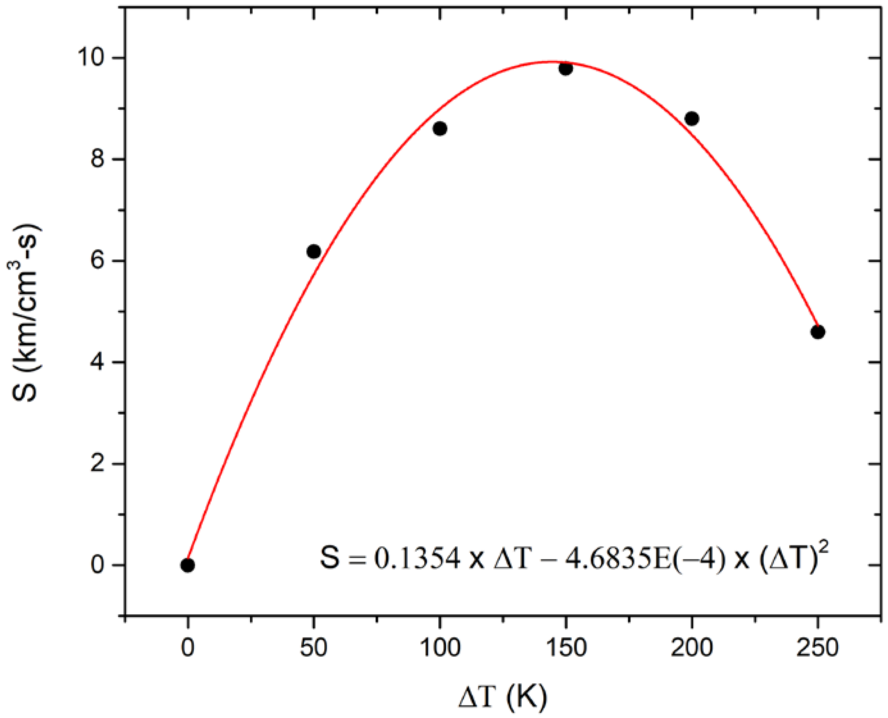


Figure (a)

Fig. (b) shows the result regarding the integrated emission rate as affected by neutral wind. The results are obtained based on the same standard conditions as those considered in Fig. (a). The curve in red fits an exponential function :

$$S = (64.8883 \pm 0.7772) \times \{1 - \exp[-(0.0885 \pm 0.0041)(\Delta W)]\} \ ,$$

where S $(\mathrm{km}/(\mathrm{cm}^3 * \mathrm{s}))$ is the change in integrated emission rate and ΔW $(\mathrm{m/s})$ is the change in neutral wind velocity.

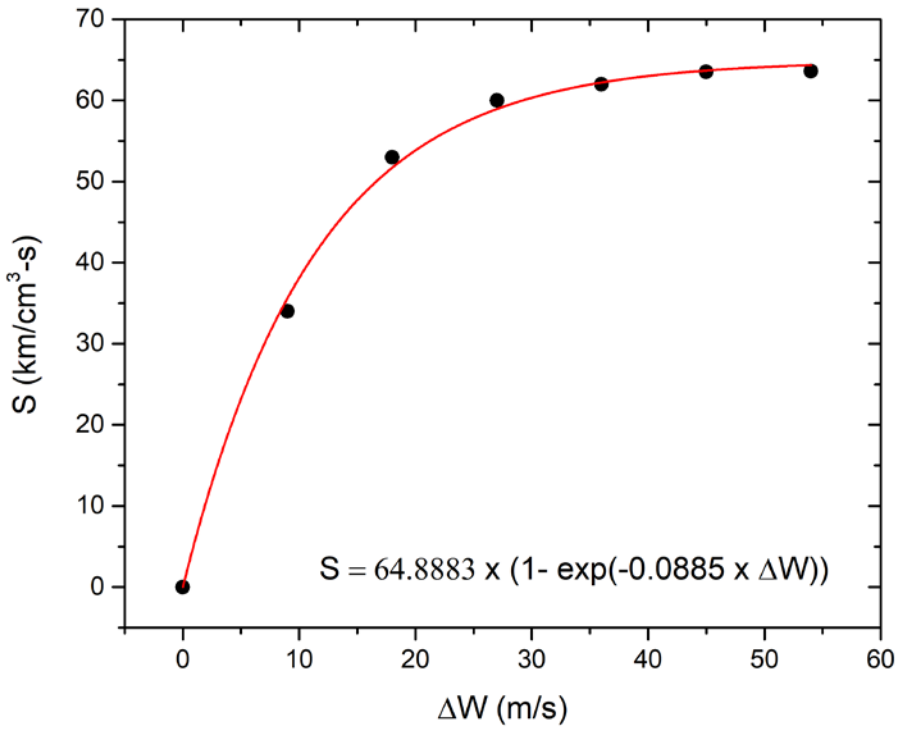


Figure (b)

Therefore, we combine the results of the two fitting functions to approximate the overall change in the integrated emission rate due to the two effects:

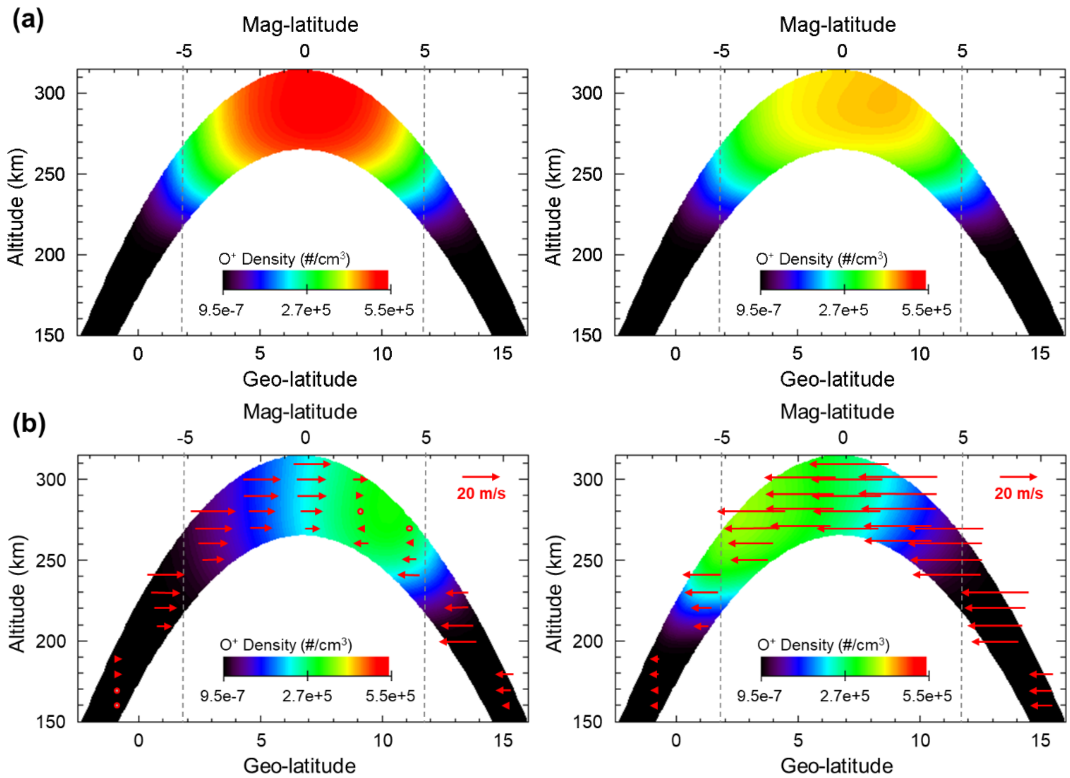
$$S = 0.1354(\Delta T) - 4.6835 \times 10^{-4}(\Delta T)^2 + 64.8883[1 - \exp(-0.0885(\Delta W))]$$

Based on the function, we can quantitatively compare the neutral temperature effect with the neutral wind effect. In Fig. (a), the maximum change of the integrated emission rate by increasing the neutral temperature is 9.7859 $(km/(cm^3 * s))$ at 145 K. To get the same changes of the emission rate by varying the neutral wind, it just requires a neutral wind velocity of 1.85 m/s. Above such a velocity, the neutral wind effect would certainly be larger than that of the neutral temperature for this case.

Minor comments:

- Figure 1:Arrows representing wind velocity is not seen clearly.

We have replotted the Fig. 1 as follows, thank you.



- L. 916, Figure 2 –> Figure 3

Our manuscript does not have Line 916. We searched all the “Figure 2” in our article but did not find a similar typo as mentioned. If Referee #1 can still identify the typo, please let us know again. We would revise it. Thank you.

Anonymous Referee #2

Chiang et al. demonstrate the influence of meridional wind and neutral temperature to the intensity of 630.0 nm nightglow around the equatorial midnight, altering the SAMI2 model for the resulting plasma density and temperature with the inputs from NRLMSISE-00 for neutral densities and the HWM-93 for neutral wind vectors. The work is potentially interesting and novelty to the community, particularly the finding with respect to the neutral temperature. However, the literature survey by the authors seems to be hasty, the major lacking is that the role of meridional wind to the midnight 630.0 nm airglow enhancement seeing by ISUAL Imager has been studied and published (Rajesh et al.(2014) doi 10.1002/2014JA019927). In addition, the manuscript requires an editing for English before it can be published in the peer-review journal. Given the interesting result and a very valuable dataset, I encourage the authors in extending the content in greater detail that be able to deliver the science finding clearly. Please see further comment below. Summary: Consider for publication after substantial revision Major points:

We thank the Reviewer for reading our article carefully and providing many valuable suggestions for improving the manuscript. We revise the manuscript by taking into account the Reviewer’s comments. We also extend the contents and include the observation results in this manuscript in accordance with the Reviewer's suggestions.

(1) Observation data Since the satellite data are used, it would be appropriate to cite Frey et al.(2016) (doi 10.1002/2016JA022616) for the instrument details and the first results of the limb imaging of 630.0 nm airglow using ISUAL by Rajesh et al. (doi 10.1029/2009JA014087). The authors put the observation data in the Supplement for some reasons, but it could be nicer if move the section to the main content. The observation data deserve more attention and discussion.

The main purpose of this study is to understand the influence of temperature and meridional neutral wind on the 630.0 nm nightglow by calculating the volume emission rates. The observations by ISUAL can help us realize the tendency in typical solstice condition. In our previous manuscript, we merely wanted to state that our simulations can easily reproduce the selected short-period cases of the brightness patterns observed by ISUAL. But case-study results are not our main points. Considering the observational data that we can access, we suggest that statistical analyses are a more appropriate method to unveil the midnight brightness mechanism.

So in the previous manuscript, we put the observation data in the Supplement. Since Referee #2 thinks that the observation data deserve more attention and discussion, we agree to move them to the main contents in Line 275-286. Moreover, we also add the two references suggested by Referee #2 in Line 53-56 and references section.

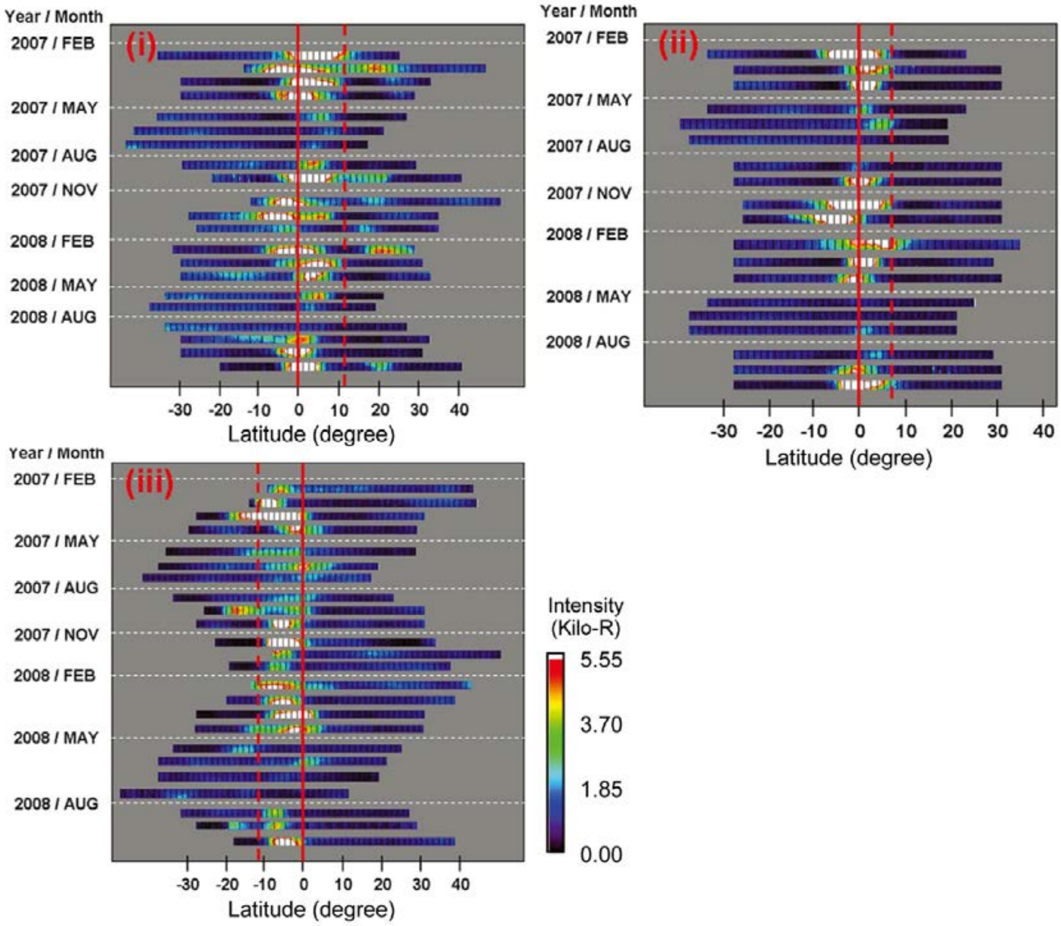
(2) The effect of meridional winds to the 630.0 nm midnight brightness By reading this work and Rajesh et al. (2014), I happened to find many similarities in between. Both of the groups modulate the HWM-93 meridional winds on the SAMI2 model and apparently find that the meridional wind utilizes the location and intensity of the airglow brightness. What is the novelty of this work out of Rajesh et al. (2014) in the effect of meridional winds to the midnight brightness? The authors should include the comparison in the content and give the credit to the previous work properly.

We thank the Referee's suggestion. We discuss the differences in detail between the work by Rajesh et al. [2014] and our study. In our manuscript, we include the following discussion in Line 299-315 to compare the two studies.

Rajesh et al. [2014] showed their simulation results and claimed that using merely the background meridional winds could reproduce the observed brightness. They selected a few cases of ISUAL image data and compared those data with the simulation results by the SAMI2 model. Nevertheless, using such a method by Rajesh et al. [2014], one should be very careful about the details when it comes to physical insights or conclusions drawn from the study. This is because ISUAL only provided optical data and there was not any instrument on the satellite to directly observe the relevant conditions (temperature, wind field, etc.) in the environment. Without such observations to provide constraints for modeling, one can easily reproduce similar-looking results of selected short-period data by adjusting modeling parameters in simulations. However, images seemingly similar to that of an ISUAL observation could be produced from simulation results using considerably different parameter values, which may correspond to different dominant mechanisms. Thus, when there are few constraints for the parameter values, roughly comparing a short-period case of ISUAL image data with simulation results without paying attention to details may lead to an interpretation of brightness production mechanisms that is different from the real situation.

The production mechanisms of 630-nm bright spot around midnight from ISUAL observations have been explained by Adachi et al. [2010]. Adachi et al. [2010] suggested the midnight temperature maximum (MTM) effect can well explain the bright spot based on the observation timing and brightness locations. Our previous research (Chiang et al. [2013]) also reached similar conclusions based on statistical studies using two years of ISUAL data. The brightness region tends to appear between the geographic equator and magnetic equator as Fig. 5 in Chiang et al. [2013] indicates (see figure below). This figure shows the sequencing data observed from different longitudinal regions by ISUAL. The dotted red lines indicate the geomagnetic equator; the solid red lines indicate the geographic equator. Rajesh et al. [2014] claimed that the production mechanism of midnight brightness can be explained by meridional winds. The brightness region in their simulation results, however, basically appeared on the winter side of the magnetic equator in the solstices due to the summer-to-winter wind, regardless of where the geographic equator was. Thus, with the consideration of the location of the geographic equator, which is a significant physical factor associated with the MTM effect, the observation results of Fig. 5 in Chiang et al. [2013] indicated that the real situation would actually be different from the case simulated by Rajesh et al. [2014]. Thus the production mechanisms of midnight brightness require different interpretations from those provided by Rajesh et al. [2014].

Thus, we propose that the production of midnight brightness should not be explained by considering merely the effect of meridional neutral wind. Both temperature change and meridional neutral wind can lead to variations of the 630.0 nm nightglow intensity while the latter is more effective. These two effects should be taken into account in the study of midnight brightness.



Note: Fig. 5 in Chiang et al. [2013] shows the observations from three different longitudinal regions [(i), (ii) and (iii)] that correspond to the different declination angles. Orbit (i) was in the longitudinal region (between -15° ~ +150° longitude) where the geomagnetic equator is northward of the geographic equator with the declination angle around 0°. Orbit (iii) was in the region (between -85° ~ -60° longitude) with the geomagnetic equator southward of the geographic equator and the declination angle around 0°. Orbit (ii) was in the geographic region between -60° ~ -15° longitude, with a declination angle around -20° (westward). The solid lines and dashed lines indicate the geographic equator and geomagnetic equator, respectively.

Line 116-117 What is special of O+ density along the magnetic line with apex altitude between 265 and 315 km ? Can you show the model result between altitude 150 to 315 km for all latitude?

Sorry for our typo. We have modified this sentence to “Figure 1 shows the O+ density along the magnetic lines with altitudes between 150 and 315 km in the latitude-altitude plane at the time and longitude described above” in Line 118-120.

Line 214-226 Again, what is the new finding out of fig.3 in Rajesh et al. (2014) ?

Figure 3 in Rajesh et al. [2014] shows statistical results of midnight brightness for different seasons using all the ISUAL images. They collected all the airglow mode data to consider the occurrence of the brightness region but they did not separate the situations for different longitudinal regions.

As we explained in our response to the previous question, Fig. 5 in Chiang et al. [2013] indicates that the latitudinal locations of brightness observed from 3 different orbits (different longitudes) are quite different. We need to consider both temperature change and meridional neutral wind such that the production of midnight brightness in different longitudinal regions can be appropriately addressed. Thus, the statistical results of Fig. 3 in Rajesh et al. [2014] can be considered preliminary work to address the production of midnight brightness, but a broader study to include more relevant physics, such as one also considering the physical factors related to the longitudes, is warranted so as to improve our understanding on the topic. This is also the reason why our study in this manuscript just focuses on the specific longitudinal regions.

Figure 1 has to be modified, what is the reason that the authors didn't convert [O+] density to volume emission rate of 630.0 nm nightglow while the observation images are the airglow intensities?

The effects of neutral wind and temperature on the volume emission rate of the 630.0 nm nightglow are shown in Fig. 2 in our manuscript. The volume emission rate of the 630.0 nm nightglow in the F2 region can be derived as follows:

$$I_{630} = \frac{A_{1D}\mu_D\gamma[\mathrm{O_2}][\mathrm{O^+}]}{k_1[\mathrm{N_2}] + k_2[\mathrm{O_2}] + k_3[\mathrm{O}] + A_{1D} + A_{2D}}$$

It shows that the volume emission rate is associated with neutral and charged densities. Charged density can be shifted along the field line by neutral wind. On the other hand, most of the items, including charged density, neutral densities and chemical reaction rates, can be affected by temperature variation. Here we would like to explain the thread of thoughts in describing Fig. 1 and Fig. 2. In the context, we first let readers understand the neutral wind effect on charged densities (as shown in Fig. 1), and subsequently we show the effects of neutral wind and temperature on the volume emission rate of the 630.0 nm nightglow (as shown in Fig. 2). Referee #2 suggested that we plot volume emission rate instead of [O+] density in Figure 1. If we plot volume emission rate as suggested, that means both the neutral wind effect and temperature effect need to be considered in Figure 1. Thus it will require lots of figures to show the results because temperature changes need to be considered. We are afraid that readers would be confused by the large number of plots in such an early part of the manuscript, and thus it might not be easy for them to understand our points. Therefore, we tend to keep Fig. 1 as it is shown in the previous manuscript.

Minor points line by line:
Line 43 enhancement > increase

Thank you. We have revised it in Line 43.

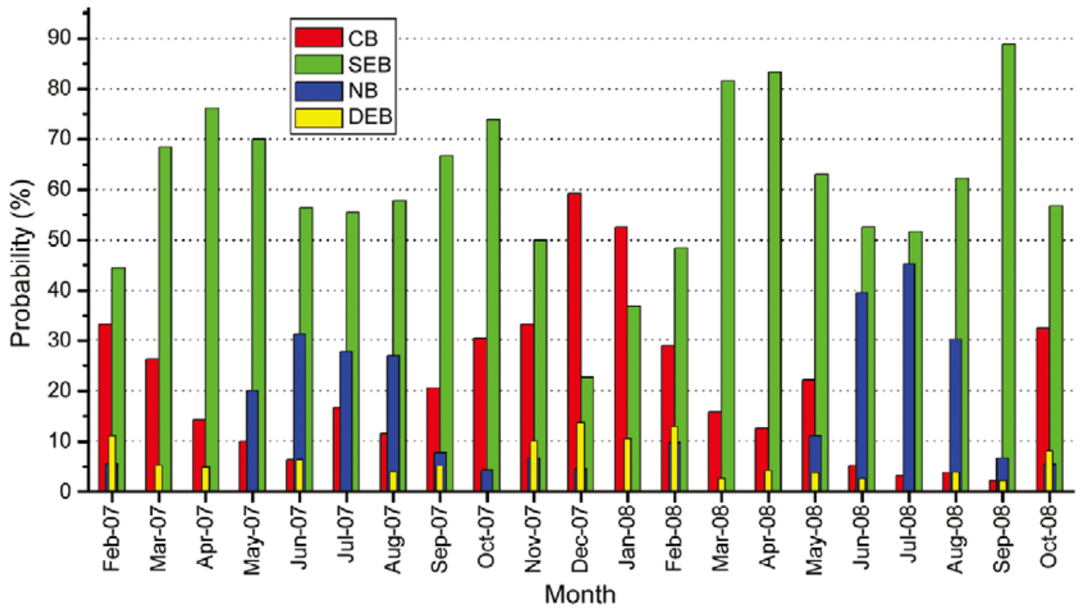
Line 45-46 ": : :.first reported the MTM: : : " should be ": : :reported the MTM phenomenon first"

Thank you. We have revised it in Line 45.

Line 61 What are the different mechanisms addressed in Chiang et al. (2013)? The readers would be pleased to learn the relevant work leading by the same author.

Thanks for the Reviewer's comment, we have put the sentence in Line 60-67.

The following figure is Fig. 6 in Chiang et al. [2013]. In the paper, our major goals are to investigate the different patterns of midnight brightness observed by ISUAL and to consider the possible mechanisms for all kinds of cases. Occurrence rates of the four brightness types from all the orbits in each month are shown in the figure: single equatorial brightness (SEB) cases are in green, double equatorial brightness (DEB) in yellow, conjugate brightness (CB) in red, and no brightness (NB) in blue. We found that midnight brightness was controlled by different sources at different locations. First, NB was associated with the ionospheric annual anomaly during May to July. Second, we suppose that SEB and DEB were associated primarily with the MTM effect and the featured temperature variation. Third, the CB case, however, was associated largely with the winter anomaly which the neutral wind plays a role in its formation. It is necessary to take into account the locations and seasons when explaining the mechanisms of midnight brightness occurrence. Overall, the global midnight brightness can be contributed by several effects including the influence of the MTM effect, summer-to-winter neutral wind and ionospheric anomaly.



Line 142-143 Rewrite the sentence please.

Thanks for the Reviewer's comment, we have rewritten the sentence in Line 144-147 as follows:

"In order to explore the effects of temperature change, we modify the codes of SAMI2 by increasing 50 K per run as the inputs, and perform the simulations to calculate the emission intensity values associated with different temperature conditions."

Line 193-195 Rewrite the sentence please.

Thanks for the Reviewer's comment, we have rewritten the sentence in Line 185-187 as follows:

"Therefore, we suggest that the low-latitude emission enhancement in the winter hemisphere be achieved by plasma accumulation brought about by the summer-to-winter neutral wind."

Line 202-203 Rewrite the sentence please.

Thanks for the Reviewer's comment, we have rewritten the sentence in Line 204-207 as follows:

"In comparison, the change due to temperature variation is just 0.015 photon/cm^3/sec for every K. The ratio of the two numbers is 46. Consideration of other conditions, such as those cases shown in Fig. 2, may reduce the corresponding ratio, but it should still be at least 20."

Variations of the 630.0 nm airglow emission with meridional neutral wind and neutral temperature around midnight

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Abstract

The ISUAL payload onboard the FORMOSAT-2 satellite has often observed airglow bright spots around midnight at equatorial latitudes. Such features had been suggested as the signature of thermospheric midnight temperature maximum (MTM) effect, which was associated with temperature and meridional neutral winds. This study investigates the influence of neutral temperature and meridional neutral wind on the volume emission rates of the 630.0 nm nightglow. We utilize the SAMI2 model to simulate the charged and neutral species at the 630.0 nm nightglow emission layer under different temperatures with and without the effect of neutral wind. The results show that the neutral wind is more efficient than temperature variation in affecting the nightglow emission rates. However, the emission rate features a local maximum in its variation with the temperature. Two kinds of tendencies can be seen regarding the temperature that corresponds to the turning point, which is named the turning temperature (T_t) in this study: firstly, T_t decreases with the emission rate for the same altitude; secondly, for approximately the same emission rate, T_t increases with the altitude.

1. Introduction

The atomic oxygen red line at 630.0 nm is the most prominent emission in the nighttime ionosphere. It usually forms an emission layer in the F region at altitudes of ~200–300 km and can be easily observed from ground-based observatories or satellites [*Nelson and Cogger*, 1971; *Kelley et al.*, 2002; *Thuillier et al.*, 2002]. The emission is related to $O(^1D)$, whose production in the nighttime is mainly via the charge exchange and dissociative chemical processes listed as follows:

$$O^+ + O_2 \rightarrow O_2^+ + O \quad (1)$$

$$O_2^+ + e^- \rightarrow O(^1D) + O \quad (2)$$

$$O(^1D) \rightarrow O(^3P) + h\nu(630.0\ \text{nm}) \quad (3)$$

Based on the $[O^+] \sim N_e$ (electron density) approximation [*Peterson et al.*, 1966; *Link and Cogger*, 1988] in the F2 region, the intensity of the $OI(^1D)$ 630.0 nm spectral line is usually used to identify the ionospheric electron density variations. From a rich history in the literature, the intensity of $OI(^1D)$ 630.0 nm airglow emissions is known as Midnight Brightness Wave (MBW) [*Herrero and Meriwether*, 1980; *Herrero et al.*, 1993; *Colerico et al.*, 1996; *Colerico and Mendillo*, 2002].

During occurrences of MBW, increase in temperature are usually observed around local midnight, which are termed Midnight Temperature Maximum (MTM) effect. *Harper* [1973] and *Spencer et al.* [1979] reported the MTM phenomenon first.

The cases in their studies were observed by the incoherent scatter radar from Arecibo and the NATE experiment aboard the Atmospheric Explorer E (AE-E) satellite, respectively. The amplitude of the temperature bulge was found to range from 20 to 200 K [*Spencer et al.*, 1979; *Burnside et al.*, 1981; *Colerico and Mendillo*, 2002; *Meriwether et al.*, 2008]. In addition, a number of studies about midnight brightness have reported the relation between *in-situ* temperature and neutral wind measurements [e.g., *Herrero and Meriwether*, 1980; *Sastri et al.*, 1994, *Colerico et al.*, 1996, 2002; *Otsuka et al.*, 2003; *Mukherjee et al.*, 2006]. *Rajesh* et al. [2009] showed the first results of the limb image of 630.0 nm airglow using Imager of Sprites and Upper Atmospheric Lightning (ISUAL) [*Chang et al.*, 2012; *Chiang et al.*, 2013; *Frey* et al., 2016] on board the FORMOSAT-2 satellite. *Adachi et al.* [2010] also showed a 14-day time span of airglow observations obtained from the Asian sector by ISUAL. On the basis of the observation time and location, they suggested that the equatorial airglow probably corresponded to the midnight brightening wave (MBW) which is in association with the occurrence of MTM. Furthermore, *Chiang et al.* [2013] statistically investigated the global midnight brightness according to seasons and found that the global midnight brightness near the equatorial regions was controlled by different mechanisms. In the study, the features and behavior of the 630.0 nm midnight intensity were investigated by analyzing the optical images obtained by

ISUAL. Cases of global midnight brightness were successfully categorized into four types that were mainly due to the influence of temperature changes, neutral wind and ionospheric anomaly.

Based on the previous studies, it is known that temperature and meridional neutral wind are correlated and associated with manifestations of MTM. Thus, we want to discuss these two effects at the same time. In this study, we calculate the volume emission rates to understand the influence of neutral temperature and meridional neutral wind on the 630.0 nm nightglow. We shall discuss the sensitivities of the emission rates to the temperature and the densities of several neutral and charged species. Moreover, some new features will also be shown in the discussion section. And we also provide ISUAL observation results to show that our calculation results are reasonable and realistic.

2. Model features

Temperature changes and meridional neutral wind can influence the $O(^1D)$ nightglow intensity through particle densities. The volume emission rate of the 630.0 nm nightglow in the F2 region [*Sobral et al.*, 1993] can be derived from the chemical process of 630.0 nm nightglow (Supplement I). It is shown as follows:

$$I_{630} = \frac{A_{1D}\mu_D\gamma[O_2][O^+]}{k_1[N_2] + k_2[O_2] + k_3[O] + A_{1D} + A_{2D}} \ , \qquad (4)$$

where μ_D is the quantum yield of $O(^1D)$, which is about 1~1.3 [*Torr and Torr*, 1982]; γ is the rate coefficient of Reaction (1) [*St.-Maurice and Torr*, 1978]; k_1, k_2 and k_3 are the rate coefficients of $O(^1D)$ quenched by N_2, O_2 and O, respectively [*Langford et al.*, 1986; *Streit et al.*, 1976; *Sun and Dalgarno*, 1992]; and A_{1D} and A_{2D} are the transition coefficients [*Froese-Fischer and Saha*, 1983]. The formulas for the rate coefficients [*Vlasov et al.*, 2005] are listed in Table 1. The production rate of $O(^1D)$ is contributed by the oxygen ion density $[O^+]$ and the molecular oxygen density $[O_2]$ through the linked reactions (1) and (2). The major loss rates of $O(^1D)$ are associated with the densities of molecular oxygen $[O_2]$, molecular nitrogen $[N_2]$, and atomic oxygen [O], as reflected in Eq. (4). The densities $[O^+]$, $[O_2]$, $[N_2]$ and [O] and the rate coefficients γ, k_1, k_2 and k_3 all depend on temperature. In addition, $[O^+]$ may change with the neutral wind conditions. In order to determine I_{630} under different temperatures and neutral wind conditions, one must first determine the densities of the relevant species. In this study, $[O^+]$ and plasma temperatures under various conditions are found by the SAMI2 model of the Naval Research Lab [*Huba et al.*, 2000]. SAMI2 is a two-dimensional, first-principle model of the comprehensive low to mid-latitude ionosphere. SAMI2 code includes most of the mechanisms that should be considered in the ionosphere. There are photoionizations, chemical process, effects by the magnetic and electric fields, plasma dynamics and the influence from the neutral atmosphere. The input variables, neutral species, are specified using the empirical codes, the Mass Spectrometer Incoherent Scatter model (NRLMSISE-00) [*Picone et al.*, 2002] for neutral densities and the Horizontal Wind Model (HWM-93) [*Hedin et al.*, 1996] for neutral wind. The continuity and momentum equations of seven ion species (H^+, He^+, N^+, O^+, N_2^+, NO^+, and O_2^+) are solved in the code.

In order to understand the differences due to the meridional neutral wind, we apply the SAMI2 model with and without neutral wind by changing the multiplicative factor of neutral wind (tvn0) to see the differences between two solstices. Thus, we simulate the cases of February 1, 2007 (northern winter) and August 1, 2007 (northern summer). In the simulations, we suppose that the solar and geomagnetic activities are in quiet conditions (F10.7 index = 60, Ap index = 7). The simulations are run for the altitude range between 150 and 1000 km from -30° to +30° geomagnetic latitudes. Inside this region, we use 100 geomagnetic field lines and 201 grid points along each field line. Our report of the results will focus on the locations at -5° and +5° geomagnetic latitude (+2° and +12° geographic latitude respectively) along the 100°E geographic longitude, which intersects these latitudes in the Asian region. Figure 1 shows the O^+ density along the magnetic lines with altitudes between 150 and 315 km in the latitude-altitude plane at the time and longitude described above. Figure 1(a) shows the results under the condition that lacks neutral wind, and Fig. 1(b) shows the results with the effect of normal neutral wind. The two left panels are for February 1, 2007 and the two right panels are for August 1, 2007. The arrows plotted in Fig. 1(b) indicate the strength and directions of the meridional neutral wind. Comparison of Fig. 1(a) and 1(b) clearly shows that meridional winds transport the plasma along the magnetic field line and change the plasma density distribution. And this change of the plasma profile could directly modify the emission rate in Eq. (4). The dashed lines, which correspond to ±5° geomagnetic latitude, indicate the locations where the intensity of the 630.0 nm nightglow is examined in detail in this study.

3. Results and Analysis

Based on Eq. (4), I_{630} under different temperatures and different neutral wind conditions is plotted in Fig. 2. The neutral wind conditions for the results in Fig. 2 are the same as those for Fig. 1. The strength and directions of the neutral winds are indicated by the arrows shown in Fig. 1. The simulation results shown in the figure are for (a) February 1, 2007 and (b) August 1, 2007, with the left and right panels respectively corresponding to -5° and +5° geomagnetic latitude. The letters, A, B, C, D and E, indicate the altitudes of 220, 230, 240, 250 and 260 km, respectively. The dotted lines indicate the results with normal neutral wind effect; the solid lines indicate the results without neutral wind effect. Note that the temperatures of around

650 K, corresponding to the leftmost points of the lines in the figure, were the initial neutral temperatures obtained from the NRLMSISE-00 model at the various altitudes. These neutral temperatures are input into the SAMI2 model, and we set up the 48-hour data as a running loop to obtain the plasma data. In order to explore the effects of temperature change, we modify the codes of SAMI2 by increasing 50 K per run as the inputs, and perform the simulations to calculate the emission intensity values associated with different temperature conditions.

From Fig. 2, we can see the influence of temperature and neutral wind on the nightglow emission. Note that the neutral wind conditions are as in Fig. 1: Fig. 1(a) for zero wind condition and Fig. 1(b) for normal wind condition. The influence of the temperature variations on I_{630} is usually less than 3 photons/cm^3/sec at the heights of 220 to 260 km. The variation of I_{630} with temperature, however, is not monotonic; there is a maximum in the intensity as the temperature changes. In terms of height, as I_{630} depends on the local neutral and charged particle densities in accordance with Eq. (4), the emission is the strongest at 230 km, except for the condition of very weak emission (< 1 photon/cm^3/sec) that occurs at +5° geomagnetic latitude in August with normal wind effect (right panel of Fig. 2(b)).

As for the influence of the neutral wind on February 1, 2007 (Fig. 2(a)), both locations (±5° geomagnetic latitude) clearly feature significantly smaller I_{630} under this effect. We suggest that this is due to the meridional neutral wind blowing equatorward in both hemispheres (see Fig. 1) and pushing the plasma upward along the field lines, reducing the local charged particle densities and consequently the emission rates as well. On August 1, 2007, as shown in Fig. 2(b), the neutral wind causes the intensity at +5° geomagnetic latitude to decrease significantly for the same reason as the wind direction is locally southward (equatorward). This southward neutral wind, however, has an opposite effect on the intensity at -5° geomagnetic latitude; being locally poleward, the wind pushes the plasma downward along the field lines, increasing the local charged particle densities and consequently the emission rates as well.

From Eq. (4), we can see that I_{630} is related to the densities of several neutral species as well. In order to find out how the temperature affects the overall chemical process that leads to the 630.0 nm emission, a few relevant parameters are shown as functions of temperature in Fig. 3, based on the condition at 230 km altitude and -5° geomagnetic latitude on February 1, 2007. In Fig. 3(a), the $O(^1D)$ loss-rate terms associated with [O], $[N_2]$ and $[O_2]$, are shown in dotted, dashed and solid lines respectively. The term $\gamma[O^+][O_2]$, which is related to the $O(^1D)$ production rate and is in the numerator of Eq. (4), is plotted in Fig. 3(b). The dotted line represents the normal neutral wind condition, and the solid line for the windless condition.

4. Discussion

From Fig. 1(a), we can see that along the field lines, the O^+ density is maximum around the geomagnetic equator when there is no neutral wind, whether it is in the summer or winter season. But the $[O^+]$ maxima tilt to the winter hemisphere in the presence of summer-to-winter neutral wind at the geomagnetic equator, as shown in Fig. 1(b). Therefore, we suggest that the low-latitude emission enhancement in the winter hemisphere be achieved by plasma accumulation brought about by the summer-to-winter neutral wind.

From the results that include the normal wind effect as shown in Fig. 2, the intensities on opposite sides of the geomagnetic equator are very different. The weaker emission is in the summer hemisphere, and brightness of higher intensity appears in the winter hemisphere. In previous studies, *Rishbeth and Setty* [1961] found that NmF2 was larger in winter than in summer, and they first suggested the possibility of composition change being the cause of the winter anomaly. *Rishbeth* [1972] and *Torr and Torr* [1973] suggested that the anomaly might be due to transequatorial neutral wind blowing from the summer hemisphere to the winter hemisphere. Therefore, the enhancement of the emission at the low latitudes of the winter hemisphere should be the results of plasma accumulation caused by the neutral wind effect.

Figure 2 shows the influence of temperature and neutral wind on the nightglow emission rates. We estimate the intensity change under different neutral wind conditions based on the location at 230 km altitude and -5° geomagnetic latitude on February 1, 2007. In this situation, the emission would be reduced by the wind flow, and the average change is about 0.690 photon/cm^3/sec for every m/sec of the wind speed. In comparison, the change due to temperature variation is just 0.015 photon/cm^3/sec for every K. The ratio of the two numbers is 46. Consideration of other conditions, such as those cases shown in Fig. 2, may reduce the corresponding ratio, but it should still be at least 20. According to earlier studies, the neutral wind speed is generally 0-300 m/sec in the F region [*Dyson et al*., 1997], while the amplitude of the temperature bulge due to the MTM effect has been found to range from 20 to 200 K [*Burnside et al*., 1981; *Colerico and Mendillo*, 2002]. Even if one assumes the maximum wind speed is just 60 m/sec as in the simulations in this study, it would require a temperature change of 1200 K to match the same change in emission intensity caused by the neutral wind. Such a large temperature change is not realistic in comparison with the maximum observed difference of 200 K. Thus, the emission rate of nightglow, realistically, is influenced more by the neutral wind than temperature change when the former mechanism is clearly present.

The densities and some of the rate coefficients are temperature dependent, as given in Eq. (4). We analyze the change with temperature of the individual terms in Eq. (4). In Fig. 3(a) and Fig. 3(b), we plot the terms in the numerator and denominator on the right-hand side of Eq. (4) and find that all these terms increase with temperature. However, if we consider the derivative of the terms with respect to temperature, which characterizes how sensitive the terms are to temperature change, we notice that the derivatives for $k_1[N_2]$ and $k_3[O]$ increase with temperature while those for $k_2[O_2]$ and $\gamma[O^+][O_2]$ decrease, as shown in Fig. 3(a) and 3(b). How the variations of these terms affect the dependence of I_{630} on temperature can now be understood from the right-hand side of Eq. (4). In particular, the numerator, which characterizes the production rate of $O(^1D)$ and is proportional to $\gamma[O^+][O_2]$, increases with temperature while featuring a relatively large increase at lower temperatures (less than ~750 K). On the other hand, the denominator, which characterizes the total loss rate of $O(^1D)$ and is dominated by $k_1[N_2]$ as Fig. 3(a) indicates, features a relatively large increase at higher temperatures (larger than ~750 K). Upon division of the numerator by the denominator, the plot of I_{630} vs. temperature is thus characterized by quasi-parabolic lines with the presence of a local maximum --- or a turning point in the curve --- as shown in Fig. 2. We refer to the temperature that corresponds to such a local maximum as the turning temperature (T_t).

Below T_t, I_{630} increases with temperature, meaning that the increase in the production of $O(^1D)$ associated with a rise in the temperature is more efficient than the increase in its loss. In contrast, I_{630} decreases with temperature above T_t, meaning that the increase in the production of $O(^1D)$ associated with a rise in the temperature is less efficient than the increase in its loss. Thus, T_t has the significance of being the temperature at which the production and loss rates of $O(^1D)$ are equally sensitive to a temperature change.

In order to quantitatively describe the effects of neutral temperature and meridional neutral winds, we calculate the 630-nm airglow intensity by integrating the volume emission rate along the altitude. Figure 4(a) and 4(b) show how the integrated emission rates vary with the increasing neutral temperature and neutral winds, respectively. Fig. 4(a) shows the result regarding the integrated emission rate as affected by neutral temperature (at -5° geomagnetic latitude on February 1, 2007). The curve in red is fitted as 2nd-order polynomial :

$$S = (0.1354 \pm 0.0069)(\Delta T) - (4.6835 \pm 0.2652) \times 10^{-4} (\Delta T)^2,$$

where S ($km/(cm^3 * s)$) is the change in integrated emission rate and ΔT (K) is the increase in neutral temperature, compared with the standard conditions of 650 K neutral temperature and zero neutral wind. Fig. 4(b) shows the result regarding the integrated emission rate as affected by neutral wind. The results are obtained based on the same standard conditions as those considered in Fig. 4(a). The curve in red fits an exponential function :

$$S = (64.8883 \pm 0.7772) \times \{1 - \exp[-(0.0885 \pm 0.0041)(\Delta W)]\},$$

where S $(km/(cm^3 * s))$ is the change in integrated emission rate and ΔW (m/s) is the change in neutral wind velocity. Therefore, we combine the results of the two fitting functions to approximate the overall change in the integrated emission rate due to the two effects:

$$S = 0.1354(\Delta T) - 4.6835 \times 10^{-4}(\Delta T)^2 + 64.8883[1 - \exp(-0.0885(\Delta W))],$$

Based on the function, we can quantitatively compare the neutral temperature effect with the neutral wind effect. In Fig. 4(a), the maximum change of the integrated emission rate by increasing the neutral temperature is 9.7859 $(km/(cm^3 * s))$ at 145 K. To get the same changes of the emission rate by varying the neutral wind, it just requires a neutral wind velocity of 1.85 m/s. Above such a velocity, the neutral wind effect would certainly be larger than that of the neutral temperature for this case.

Figure 5 shows a plot of T_t versus the emission rate I_{630} at specific altitudes. The results include all the cases shown in Fig. 2 with different symbols indicating different altitudes. Two kinds of tendencies can be seen from the plot: firstly, T_t decreases with I_{630} for the same altitude; secondly, for approximately the same emission rate, T_t increases with the altitude. This is the first result to show these tendencies of the turning temperature.

Observations have found cases that are consistent with our simulation results regarding the influence of the neutral wind. Figure 6 shows four cases observed by ISUAL in the Asian region at 23:00 local time during the two months considered in our studies: two cases in February shown on the left side and two cases in August shown on the right side. Figure 6(a) would be for the condition of no wind or weak wind while Fig. 6(b) would correspond to the normal wind condition. We can see from Fig. 6(a) that a bright spot of nightglow was observed at the geomagnetic equator during both months. As the volume emission rate, according to Eq. (4), is proportional to the O^+ density, the observations were supportive of the simulation results of density variations in Fig. 1(a). Similarly, the two cases in Fig. 6(b), which featured nightglow bright spots in the winter hemisphere, suggested that the density variations shown in Fig. 1(b) are realistic.

Previously, *Chiang* et al. [2013] examined the occurrence rates of global midnight brightness observed by ISUAL. In order to verify the enhancement of the emission intensity in the winter hemisphere by the neutral wind, we examined the ISUAL data that correspond to the specific regions and seasons considered in our simulations and the results are shown in Fig. 7(a) and (b). We found that among the 22 valid observation days during January and February, ~77% of the days featured the appearance of nightglow bright spots in the low-latitude region of the winter hemisphere (Fig. 7(a)). Furthermore, ~83% of the 30 valid observation days during July-August also featured nightglow bright spots at low latitudes in the corresponding winter hemisphere (Fig. 7(b)). Thus, statistical results regarding the location of nightglow bright spots agree with the simulation results that demonstrate the crucial role of the neutral wind in affecting the location of high-intensity nightglow regions.

Rajesh et al. [2014] showed their simulation results and claimed that using merely the background meridional winds could reproduce the observed brightness. They selected a few cases of ISUAL image data and compared those data with the simulation results by the SAMI2 model. Nevertheless, using such a method by Rajesh et al. [2014], one should be very careful about the details when it comes to physical insights or conclusions drawn from the study. This is because ISUAL only provided optical data and there was not any instrument on the satellite to directly observe the relevant conditions (temperature, wind field, etc.) in the environment. Without such observations to provide constraints for modeling, one can easily reproduce similar-looking results of selected short-period data by adjusting modeling parameters in simulations. However, images seemingly similar to that of an ISUAL observation could be produced from simulation results using considerably different parameter values, which may correspond to different dominant mechanisms. Thus, when there are few constraints for the parameter values, roughly comparing a short-period case of ISUAL image data with simulation results without paying attention to details may lead to an interpretation of brightness production mechanisms that is different from the real situation.

Observations of the movement of MTM temperature bulge and that of nightglow have led to postulations of an association between pressure bulge and nightglow intensity [*Colerico et al.*, 1996; *Colerico and Mendillo*, 2002; *Meriwether et al.*, 2008]. However, the high intensities of the observed nightglow have not been successfully reproduced using existing models incorporating the MTM effect, such as the NCAR thermosphere-ionosphere-electrodynamic general circulation model (TIEGCM), as pointed out by *Colerico and Mendillo* [2002] and *Meriwether et al.* [2008]. Note that temperature was not included as a varying quantity in traditional ionospheric models. Thus the simulation study of temperature effect upon nightglow intensity is lacking. Our simulation results have demonstrated the unexpectedly non-monotonic dependence of the intensity of nightglow on the neutral temperature, with the turning temperature T_t that arises from the dependence implying a limitation for the growth of the emission rates. As the temperature increases above T_t, the emission rates do not continue to grow. In fact, temperature change such as in the case of heat transfer is affected by the density, which controls the heat capacity. At the same time, temperature change may generate pressure difference and lead to transport that changes density profiles. As nightglow intensity depends also on particle densities, its non-monotonic variations with temperature are in fact due to the combination of temperature and density. While our study suggests that neutral wind is the dominant driver of the I_{630} variation, its influence, however, is via transportation of plasma and neutral particles, in which case consideration of the effect of temperature on the density is essential. Moreover, it has not been established that MTM is affected by the wind primarily. The combination of temperature and density, which has shown to cause non-monotonic results in this study, may very well be an important factor in the study of MTM. Thus, if one wants to fully reproduce the observation results, we suggest other extra factors associated with temperature variations should also be considered, such as different tidal modes from lower atmosphere [*Akmaev et al.*, 2009]. Our findings of the turning temperature tendencies can help as a guide for choosing the background temperature in future modeling attempts to obtain intensities of nightglow brightness comparable to those observed from ground or from space.

Shepherd [2016] investigates the possible extent of the MTM at ~ 20°N–40°N, considering O(1D) airglow volume emission rates, Doppler temperatures, and neutral wind (zonal and meridional) observations by the Wind Imaging Interferometer (WINDII) experiment on board the Upper Atmosphere Research Satellite (UARS).

Their results provide us the relations of the zonal wind to the O(1D) emission rate and of the meridional wind to the temperature. Such relations potentially guide us to design a more extensive future study in simulation so as to reproduce the observation and statistical results by *Shepherd* [2016].

5. Conclusion

Previous studies of the MTM effect have pointed out that the temperature anomaly influences the nighttime behavior of the thermosphere. And the neutral wind also plays a key role to cause the intensity variations in the nighttime ionosphere. Based on our simulation results, both temperature change and meridional neutral wind could cause the 630.0 nm nightglow intensity to vary while the latter is more effective. And the simulation results may successfully explain most of the observational results by ISUAL. An unexpected aspect of the results is the non-monotonic dependence of the emission rate on temperature, featuring a turning point as the temperature changes. The temperature T_t at which the turning point occurs corresponds to a balanced condition between the production and loss of $O(^1D)$. Thus, our results help understand how the overall chemical process of nightglow is affected by the variations of neutral temperature and neutral wind. Two kinds of tendencies can be seen regarding the turning temperature T_t. One is the higher T_t corresponding to higher altitude at the same emission rate, the other is the higher T_t corresponding to lower emission rate at the same altitude. Our findings of these turning temperature tendencies can guide future modeling attempts to match the observed nightglow brightness intensities.

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Table 1. Reactions and rate coefficients related to the volume emission rate of the 630.0 nm airglow

Reactions	**Rate Coefficients (cm^3s^{-1}, s^{-1})**
$O^+ + O_2 \rightarrow O_2^+ + O$	$\gamma = 2.82\times10^{-11} - 7.74\times10^{-12}(T_{eff}/300) + 1.07\times10^{-12}(T_{eff}/300)^2 - 5.17\times10^{-14}(T_{eff}/300)^3 + 9.65\times10^{-16}(T_{eff}/300)^4$
$O(^1D) + N_2 \rightarrow O + N_2$	$k_1 = 2\times10^{-11}\exp(107.8/T_n)$
$O(^1D) + O_2 \rightarrow O + O_2$	$k_2 = 2.9\times10^{-11}\exp(67.5/T_n)$
$O(^1D) + O \rightarrow O + O$	$k_3 = (3.73+1.1965\times10^{-1} T_n^{0.5} - 6.5898\times10^{-4} T_n)\times10^{-12}$
$O(^1D) \rightarrow O + h\nu(630.0nm)$	$A_{1D} = 7.1\times10^{-3}$
$O(^1D) \rightarrow O + h\nu(634.4nm)$	$A_{2D} = 2.2\times10^{-3}$

Note: $T_{eff} = 0.67T_i+0.33T_n$ (T_{eff} : effective temperature, T_i: ion temperature, T_n: neutral temperature) [*St.-Maurice and Torr*, 1978]

Figure Captions

Figure 1. Oxygen ion density plotted in the latitude-altitude plane at 23:00 LT on February 1, 2007 (left panels) and August 1, 2007 (right panels) in the Asian region (100°E longitude) from the SAMI-2 model: (a) without neutral wind; (b) with the effect of normal neutral wind, whose strength and directions are indicated by the arrows.

Figure 2. The results of 630.0 nm emission rate at 23 LT at different temperatures and under different neutral wind conditions for (a) February 1, 2007 and (b) August 1, 2007: left and right panels respectively for -5° and +5° geomagnetic latitude; the letters, A, B, C, D and E, for the altitudes of 220 km, 230 km, 240 km, 250 km and 260 km, respectively; for normal neutral wind effect (black dotted lines) and windless conditions (red solid lines). The neutral wind conditions of Fig. 2 are the same as those shown in Fig. 1.

Figure 3. Profiles of the terms in Eq. (4) that are associated with neutral and charged species versus temperature, based on 230 km altitude and -5° geomagnetic latitude on February 1, 2007, with and without neutral wind: (a) the loss-rate terms associated with [O], $[N_2]$ and $[O_2]$; (b) the production-rate term γ $[O^+][O_2]$.

Figure 4. Quantitative results for how (a) the neutral temperature and (b) the neutral

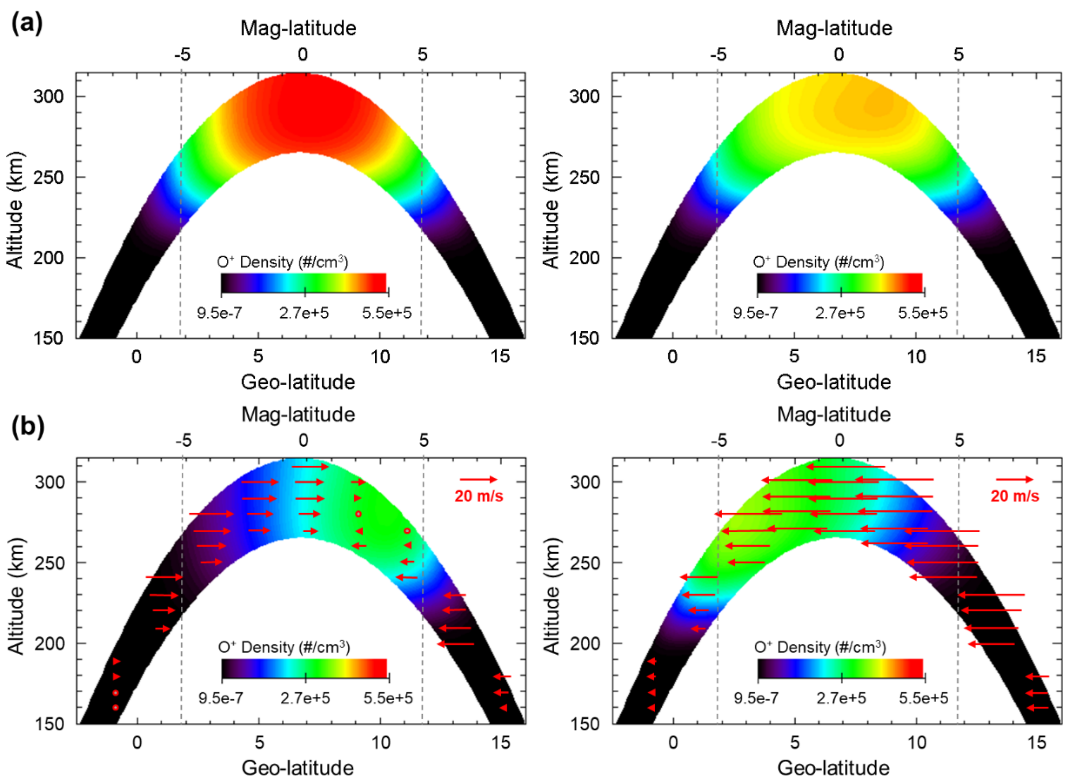
wind affect the 630-nm airglow intensity.

Figure 5. Plots of the emission rates against the turning temperature between 220-260 km altitudes.

Figure 6. Four observation cases by ISUAL in February 2007 and August 2007 (the same periods as shown in Fig. 1).

Figure 7. ISUAL data in the specific regions and seasons considered in the simulations: the nightglow bright spots in valid observation days during (a) January-February and (b) July-August.

Figure 1



(a)
Mag-latitude
-5
0
5
300
250
200
150
Altitude (km)
O⁺ Density (#/cm³)
9.5e-7
2.7e+5
5.5e+5
0
5
10
15
Geo-latitude
Mag-latitude
Altitude (km)
O⁺ Density (#/cm³)
Geo-latitude
(b)
Mag-latitude
20 m/s
Altitude (km)
O⁺ Density (#/cm³)
Geo-latitude
Mag-latitude
20 m/s
Altitude (km)
O⁺ Density (#/cm³)
Geo-latitude

Figure 2

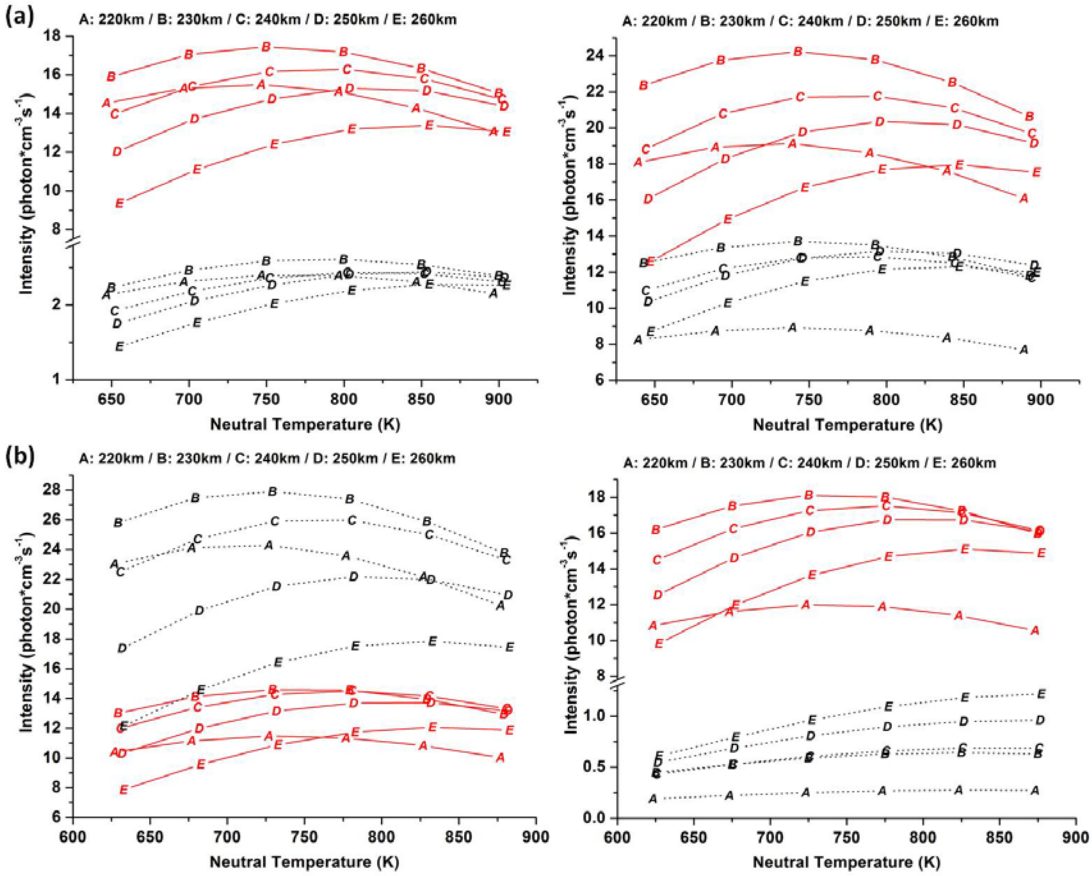
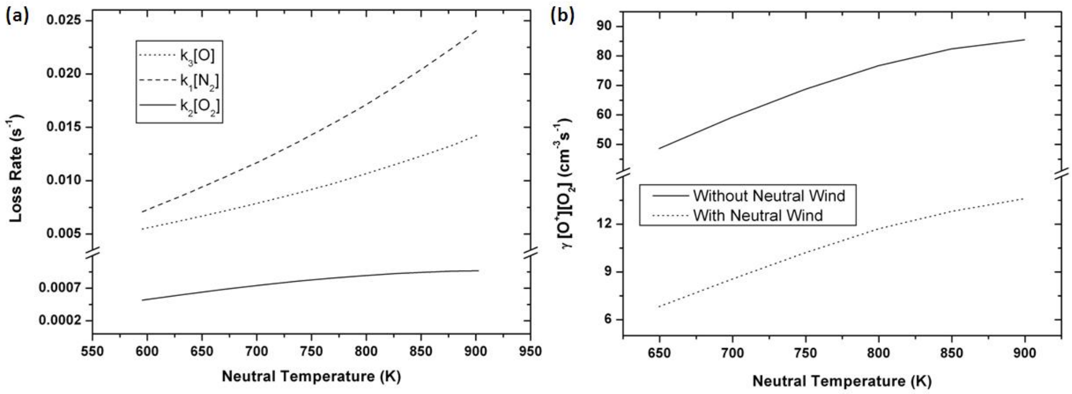

(a)
A: 220km / B: 230km / C: 240km / D: 250km / E: 260km
Intensity (photon*cm^-3s^-1)
Neutral Temperature (K)
A: 220km / B: 230km / C: 240km / D: 250km / E: 260km
Intensity (photon*cm^-3s^-1)
Neutral Temperature (K)
(b)
A: 220km / B: 230km / C: 240km / D: 250km / E: 260km
Intensity (photon*cm^-3s^-1)
Neutral Temperature (K)
A: 220km / B: 230km / C: 240km / D: 250km / E: 260km
Intensity (photon*cm^-3s^-1)
Neutral Temperature (K)

Figure 3



(a)
k3[O]
k1[N2]
k2[O2]
Loss Rate (s-1)
0.025
0.020
0.015
0.010
0.005
0.0007
0.0002
550
600
650
700
750
800
850
900
950
Neutral Temperature (K)
(b)
Without Neutral Wind
With Neutral Wind
γ [O+][O2] (cm-3 s-1)
90
80
70
60
50
12
9
6
650
700
750
800
850
900
Neutral Temperature (K)

Figure 4

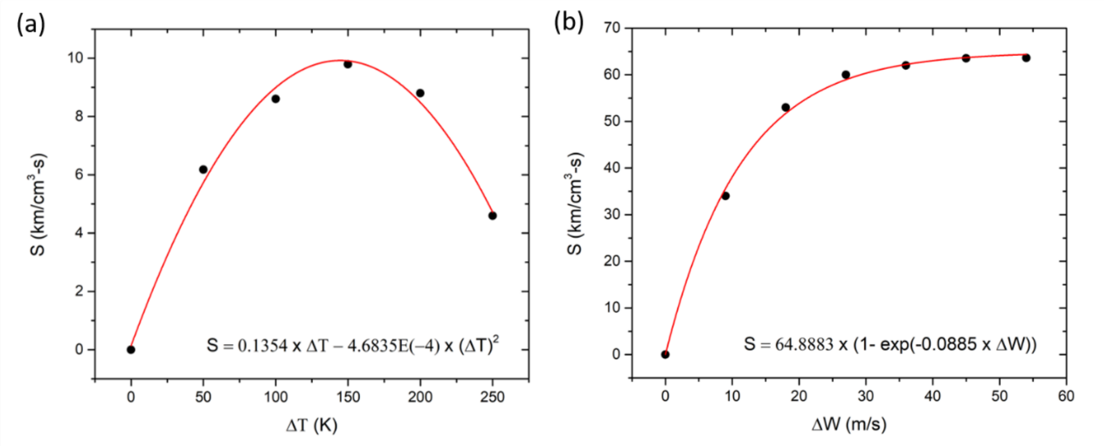
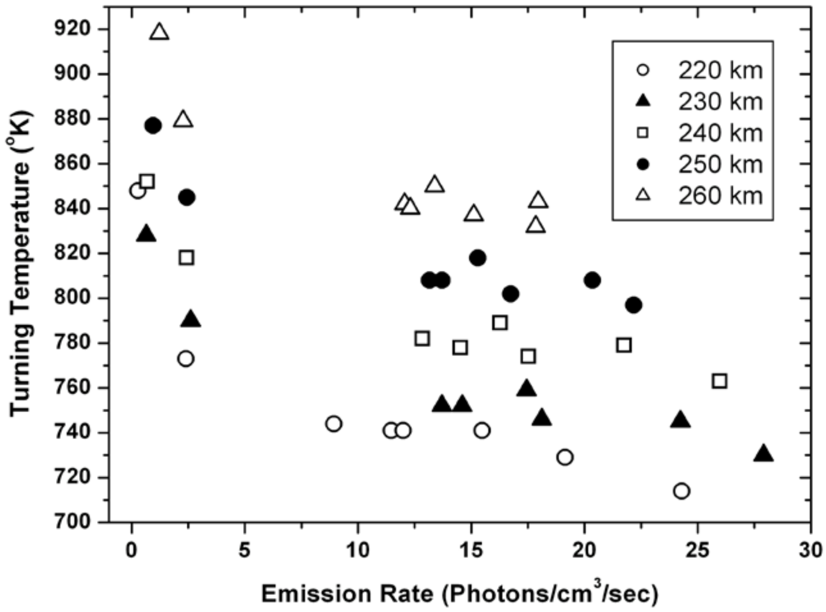
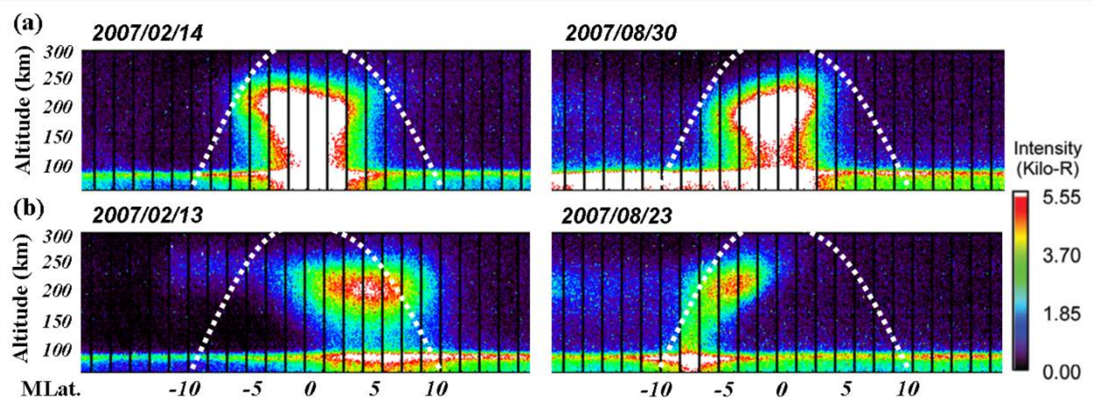

(a)
S (km/cm³-s)
ΔT (K)
S = 0.1354 x ΔT − 4.6835E(−4) x (ΔT)²
(b)
S (km/cm³-s)
ΔW (m/s)
S = 64.8883 x (1- exp(-0.0885 x ΔW))

Figure 5



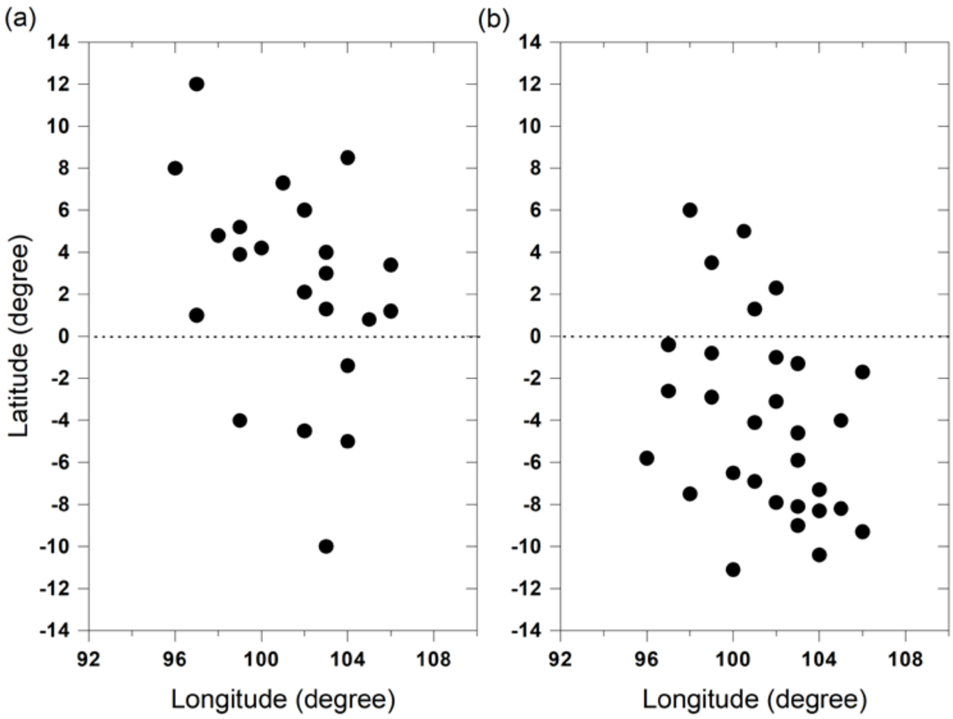
Turning Temperature (°K)
Emission Rate (Photons/cm³/sec)
220 km
230 km
240 km
250 km
260 km
920
900
880
860
840
820
800
780
760
740
720
700
0
5
10
15
20
25
30

Figure 6



(a)
2007/02/14
2007/08/30
Altitude (km)
300
250
200
150
100
Intensity
(Kilo-R)
5.55
3.70
1.85
0.00
(b)
2007/02/13
2007/08/23
MLat.
-10
-5
0
5
10

Figure 7


(a)
(b)
Latitude (degree)
14
12
10
8
6
4
2
0
-2
-4
-6
-8
-10
-12
-14
92
96
100
104
108
Longitude (degree)
Longitude (degree)