

Contents

Chapter 1

The Occurrence and Cause of Auroras: a Short Introduction

1.1 Local Auroral Forms	1
1.1.1 Geometry	1
1.1.2 Intensity	5
1.1.3 The Local Auroral Display	7
1.2 Auroral Morphology	9
1.2.1 Magnetic Guiding of Auroral Particles; Coordinate Systems	10
1.2.2 Worldwide Auroral Morphology	16
1.2.3 Mid-Latitude Red Arcs	18
1.2.4 Polar Glow and Mantle Auroras	19
1.3 Particle Behaviour: Reflection, Absorption and Scattering	20
1.3.1 Mirror Effects	20
1.3.2 Absorption and Scattering of Particles in the Atmo- sphere	21
References	21

Chapter 2

The Electron Aurora: Main Characteristics and Luminosity

2.1 Introduction	24
2.2 N_2^+ Emission and Ionization	25
2.3 Theoretical Height Distribution of the First Negative N_2^+ Bands	27
2.4 Height Distribution of Other Emissions	31
2.5 Electron Energies Inferred from Height Distribution of Auroral Luminosity	32
2.6 Geometry and Motion of the Electron Aurora	36
2.7 Latitude Variations in Auroral Heights	42
References	44

Chapter 3

The Proton Aurora

3.1	Introduction	47
3.2	Theory of Hydrogen Line Emission	49
3.2.1	Auroral Protons, the Solar Wind and the Magnetosphere	49
3.2.2	The Proton Beam in the Atmosphere: Charge Exchange	50
3.2.3	The Proton Beam in the Atmosphere: Diffusion.	52
3.2.4	Excitation of the Hydrogen Lines.	53
3.2.5	The Relation Between Hydrogen Lines and the First Negative N_2^+ Bands	57
3.2.6	The Hydrogen Line Profiles	59
3.2.7	Height Distribution of the Hydrogen Emissions.	63
3.3	Observations on Hydrogen Lines	64
3.3.1	Techniques	64
3.3.2	The Intensity Ratio Between the Hydrogen Lines and the First Negative N_2^+ Bands	65
3.3.3	Absolute Intensities and Balmer Decrement	66
3.3.4	Geometry of Proton Aurora	68
3.3.5	Morphology of Proton Aurora.	69
3.3.6	The Doppler Profiles	71
	References	76

Chapter 4

The Optical Spectrum of Aurora

4.1	Description	79
4.1.1	Introduction	79
4.1.2	The Auroral Spectrum	80
4.1.3	Forbidden Atomic Emissions	87
4.1.4	Permitted Atomic Emissions	88
4.1.5	Molecular Emissions.	89
4.1.6	The Intensity Distribution in the Spectrum	91
4.2	Local Variations in the Spectrum	93
4.2.1	Introduction	93
4.2.2	The $I(5577)/I(1 \text{ neg})$ Ratio	94
4.2.3	Other Forbidden Emissions	96
4.2.4	Permitted Atomic Lines	98
4.2.5	Permitted Molecular Bands	100

Contents	XI
----------	----

4.3 Latitudinal and Zonal Variations	101
References	103

Chapter 5

Physics of the Optical Emissions

5.1 Excitation	105
5.1.1 Fast Particle Impact	105
5.1.2 Thermal Collisions	111
5.1.3 Excitation by Thermal Electrons	115
5.1.4 Discharge Mechanisms and Heating by Electric Fields	116
5.2 Deactivation.	117
5.3 Interpretation of the Spectrum	119
5.3.1 Atomic Lines	120
5.3.2 The Intensity Distribution within Molecular Band Systems	122
5.4 The Lifetime of Metastable Oxygen Atoms	126
5.5 Helium Emissions	132
5.6 Sunlit Aurora	135
Appendix (References to Data on Cross-Sections)	137
References	138

Chapter 6

Temperature Determinations from Auroral Emissions

6.1 Introduction	143
6.2 Doppler Temperatures	144
6.3 Rotational Temperatures	148
6.4 Conclusions and Prospects	152
References	153

Chapter 7

Pulsing Aurora

7.1 Introduction	155
7.2 Pulsating Aurora	156
7.2.1 Definition	156
7.2.2 Observations	159
7.3 Flaming Aurora	165
7.4 Flickering Aurora	165
7.5 Streaming Aurora and Horizontal Waves	166

7.6 Correlation with Pulsations in the Magnetic Field and
Telluric Currents 167

7.7 Correlation with Pulsations in X-Rays 168

7.8 Morphology of Pulsating Aurora 169

References 173

Chapter 8

Optical Aurora and Radio Observations

8.1 Introduction 175

8.2 Radio Absorption 175

8.3 E-Layer Ionization 180

8.4 Radio Auroras 182

8.5 VLF Radio Emissions and Radio Noise 184

8.6 Polar Cap Absorption (PCA) Events 185

References 186

Chapter 9

Auroral X-Rays

9.1 Production of X-Rays in Aurora 189

9.2 Observations 190

References 193

Subject Index 195