#Liu Huixin¹⁾, Poblet Facundo²⁾, Chau Jorge²⁾ (¹ 九大・理・地惑, ⁽² 大気物理研究所、Rostock 大学、ドイツ

Diagnosing the dynamical structure of the thermosphere using 3rd-order structure functions

#Huixin Liu¹⁾, Facundo Poblet²⁾, Jorge Chau²⁾

⁽¹Department of Earth and Planetary Science, Graduate School of Science, Kyushu University, ⁽²Leibniz Institute for Atmospheric Physics, Rostock University, Germany

We use multi - year observations of cross - track winds (u) from the CHAllenging Minisatellite Payload (CHAMP) and the Gravity Field and Steady State Ocean Circulation Explorer (GOCE) to calculate third - order structure functions in the thermosphere as a function of horizontal separation (s). They are computed using the mean and the median and implemented over non - polar satellite paths in both hemispheres. On height averages is shown to scale with s2 for s $\approx 80 - 1,000$ km, in agreement with equivalent estimates in the lower atmosphere from aircraft observations. Conversely, med follows an s3 power law for almost the whole s range, consistent with the two - dimensional turbulence scaling law for a direct enstrophy cascade. These scaling laws appear independent of winds in distinct atmospheric regions. Furthermore, the functions are predominantly positive, indicating a preferential cyclonic motion for the wind.