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INVITED SPEAKER

Space Weather - Storms from the Sun

Ramon E. Lopez
Florida Institute of Technology

As our technological civilization becomes more dependent of space technology, we become more vulnerable to changes in the space environment in which that technology functions. These environmental changes are known as "space weather." In this talk I will discuss what drives space weather and how it affects human activities both in space and on the Earth. I will also discuss recent efforts to create predictive models of the geospace environment to be used in forecasting space weather.

Ramon E. Lopez received his B.S. in Physics in 1980 from the University of Illinois, and his M.S. and Ph.D. in Space Physics in 1984 and 1986, respectively, from Rice University. He is currently a Professor in the Department of Physics and Space Sciences at Florida Institute of Technology. Dr. Lopez is a Fellow of the American Physical Society and was awarded the 2002 Nicholson Medal for Humanitarian Service. His current research focuses on magnetospheric storms and substorms, and making detailed quantitative comparisons between the results of global 3-D MHD simulations and observations during actual events. He leads a research group that is working in both space physics and science education.