

The physics of sprites: current studies in North America

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Sprites are electrical discharges in the mesosphere/lower ionosphere caused by strong cloud-to-ground lightning flashes. They are highly structured with dominant filamentary structures known as streamers. They also exhibit highly dynamical properties. In this talk, we will present an overview of recent observational and modeling studies of sprites in North America. We will discuss the underlying physical mechanism of sprites, and focus on the progress made recently in order to understand different aspects of sprites.

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