

Outstanding problems in our understanding of the global atmospheric electric circuit and its effect on weather and climate.

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The global atmospheric electric circuit links the effects of phenomena occurring near the Earth's surface (e.g., lightning), almost at the speed of light, to the mesosphere above an active thunderstorm (where sprites occur), to the ionosphere and back to the Earth's surface via the fair weather regions. A recent analogue of the global circuit is discussed, and several interesting questions are raised.