



# Geospace Sciences (in GEO) update at NSF



Image by Shadia Habbal



# PREEVENTS

## PREDICTION OF AND RESILIENCE AGAINST EXTREME EVENTS

Natural hazards including space weather

- Enhance understanding of fundamental processes
- Improve capability to model and forecast events

Announced Sep 2015

Two tracks: co-funding and larger projects

Solicitation for Track II expected in May 2016 with  
deadline in September 2016



# Geospace Sciences Portfolio Review and Motivations

- NRC's Decadal Survey: *Solar and Space Physics – A Science for a Technological Society*, and the “DRIVE” initiative
- Changing needs, e.g. increased focus on Geospace System Science and modeling, and the observations that support that.
- Assessment of state of infrastructure
- Current flat budget and outlook



# **Portfolio Review Committee Members**

## **Chair**

**William Lotko**  
Dartmouth College

## **GEO/Advisory Committee Liaison**

**Joshua Semeter**  
Boston University

## **Members**

**Daniel N. Baker**  
University of Colorado – Boulder

**Joseph Huba**  
NRL

**Jorge Chau**  
Leibniz-Institute of Atmospheric Physics (Germany)

**Christina Cohen**  
California Institute of Technology

**Sarah Gibson**  
National Center for Atmospheric Research

**Mona Kessel**  
NASA/HQ & GSFC

**Delores Knipp**  
University of Colorado – Boulder

**Louis Lanzerotti**  
New Jersey Institute of Technology

**Patricia Reiff**  
Rice University

**Alan Rodger**  
University of Cambridge (UK)

**Howard Singer**  
NOAA/Space Weather Prediction Center

**Core Grants Programs (AER, MAG, STR):** *Maintain current budget share*

**Targeted Grants Programs (CEDAR, GEM, SHINE):** *Maintain current budget share out to ~2020; transition a portion of the budget thereafter to **IGS (SWM, GCP) programs***

**Faculty Development in Space Sciences (FDSS):** *Maintain current budget*

**Space Weather Modeling (SWM) Program:** *Maintain current budget to 2020; grow thereafter with reprogrammed funds from targeted grants programs*

**Facilities Program:**

- *Maintain current budgets for 4 “Class 1” facilities (**ISRs at Jicamarca, PFISR, RISR-N, Millstone Hill less Madrigal Data Center**)*
- *Maintain current budgets for 4 “Class 2” facilities (**AMPERE, SuperMag and SuperDARN and Community Coordinated Modeling Center (with NASA)**)*

**CubeSat Program:** *Reduce budget by  $\frac{1}{3}$  by 2020*

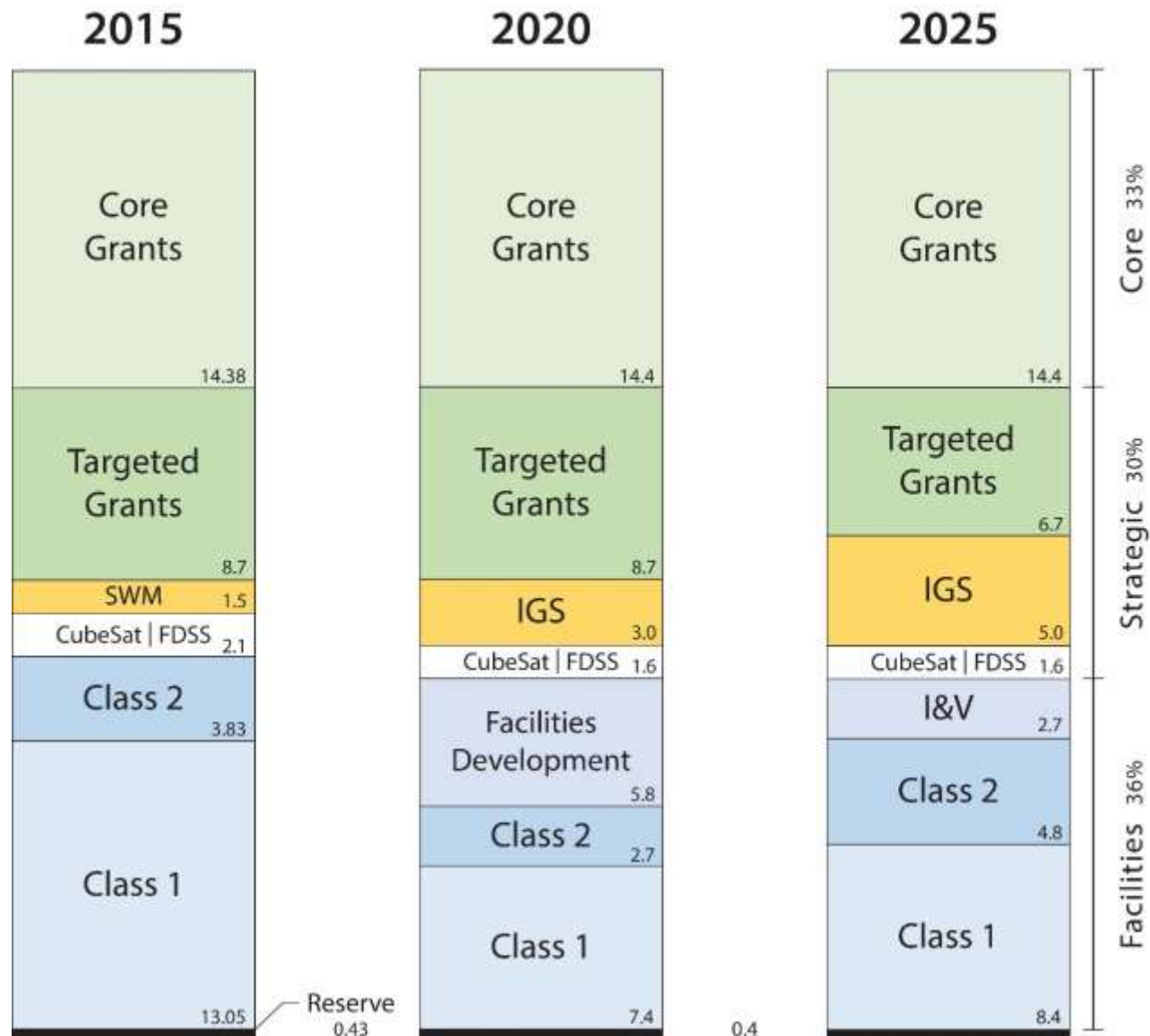
**Facilities Program:**

- *Reduce funding for **Arecibo ISR** by  $\frac{3}{4}$  by 2020; ancillary instruments funded via grants programs and peer review*
- *Terminate funding for **Sondrestrom ISR** by 2020; remaining site instruments funded via grants programs and peer review*
- ***Consortium of Resonance and Rayleigh Lidars (CRRL)** to be funded via grants programs and peer review; operates as PI-led project rather than community facility*

### Redirect funding to 5 new program elements by 2020

- **Grand Challenge Projects:** *Element of Integrative Geospace Science (IGS) grants program together with SWM*
- **Data Systems:** *Facilit(ies) to exploit emerging information technologies for integrated software and data analysis tools, geospace data mining and data assimilation. Peer-reviewed projects receiving support from this program are expected to become Class 2 facilities by 2025*
- **Distributed Arrays for Scientific Instruments (DASI):** *Development of distributed measurement systems. Peer-reviewed projects receiving support from this program are expected to become Class 2 facilities by 2025*
- **Innovation and Vitality:** *Peer-reviewed grants for innovations in facilities and models and upgrades (as needed) to maintain state-of-the-art*
- **European Incoherent Scatter Scientific Association (EISCAT):** *Begin forging a partnership with the EISCAT consortium to use new EISCAT-3D capability and EISCAT-Svalbard as a replacement for Sondrestrom*

# Recommended GS Portfolio: 2020 to 2025





# NRC “Consensus Study”

**Ad Hoc Committee of the Space Studies Board to Conduct a “Consensus Study” of the Portfolio Review Report.**

**CS will assess how well the Report’s findings, conclusions and recommendations:**

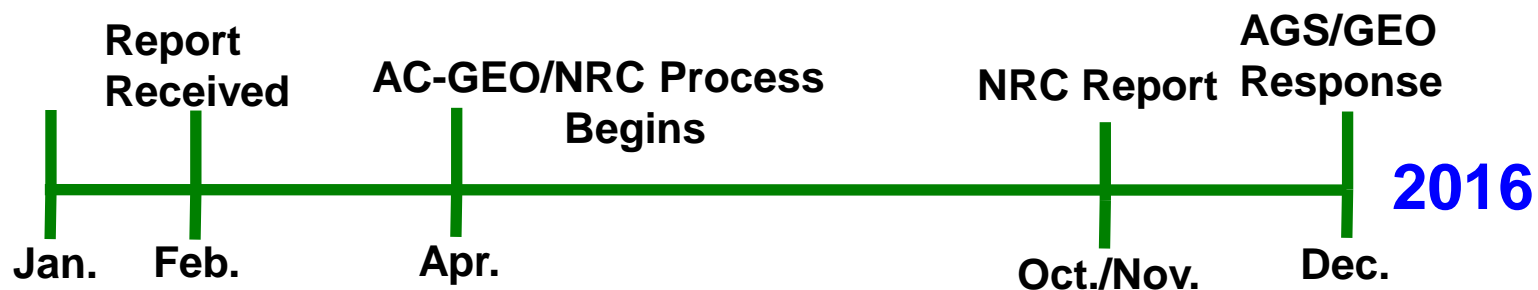
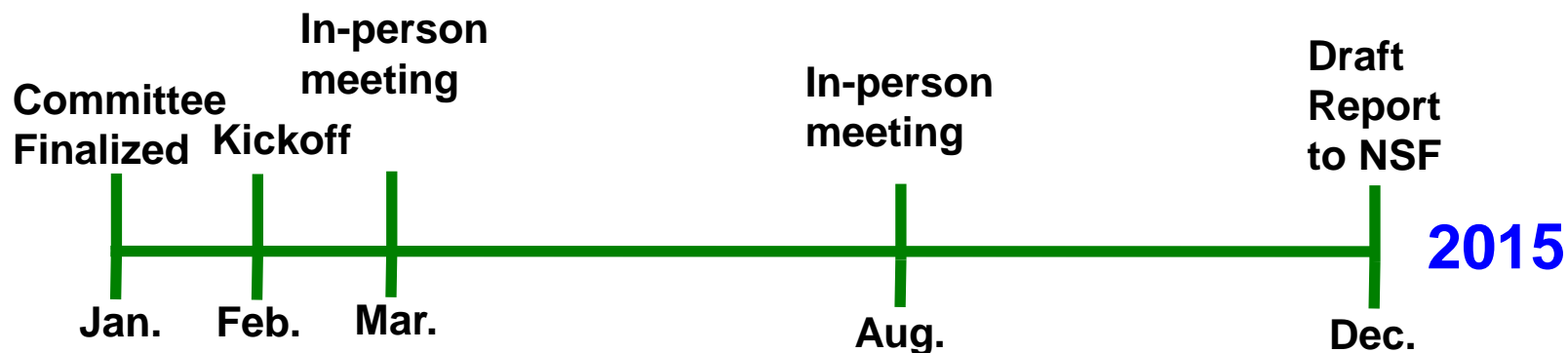
- 1. Align with the Decadal Survey**
- 2. Take into account:**
  - a. Actions already taken in response to the Survey**
  - b. Budget landscape**
  - c. Interdisciplinarity and scientific balance of GS activities**
  - d. Alignment of facilities investments with science needs**
  - e. Integration of technology development**
  - f. Balance of investments between facilities, grants and other GS activities**
- 3. Provide a forward-looking focus**
- 4. Provide clear recommendations re implementation of the Survey’s priorities**

**And that the recommendations are unbiased and supported by the available data.**





# PR Timeline





# National Context



## NATIONAL SPACE WEATHER ACTION PLAN

PRODUCT OF THE  
National Science and Technology Council



October 2015

# **Space Weather Action Plan Activities**

## **Goal 1: Develop Benchmarks**

### **Phase 1: Initial benchmarks based on existing studies**

- NSF Staff contribute to all 5 working groups

### **Phase 2: Development of Scientifically and statistically rigorous benchmarks**

- Developing plans for engaging the scientific community – in collaboration with NASA

# Space Weather Action Plan Activities

## Goal 5: Advancing Understanding and Forecasting

### CEDAR, GEM, and SHINE Programs

- Facilitate research collaboration on coupling and interaction

### NASA/NSF Collaborative Space Weather Modeling

- Large-scale modeling efforts that require community teamwork

### NASA/NSF Community Coordinated Modeling Center, Goddard

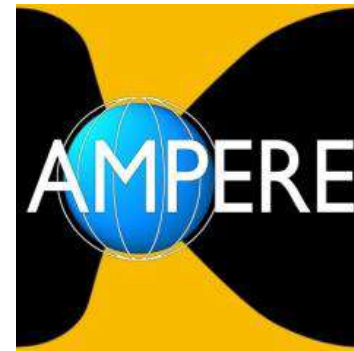
- Development of models for transition to operational use

### AMPERE, SuperDARN and SuperMAG

- Global networks of space weather relevant observations

### Neutron Monitor network

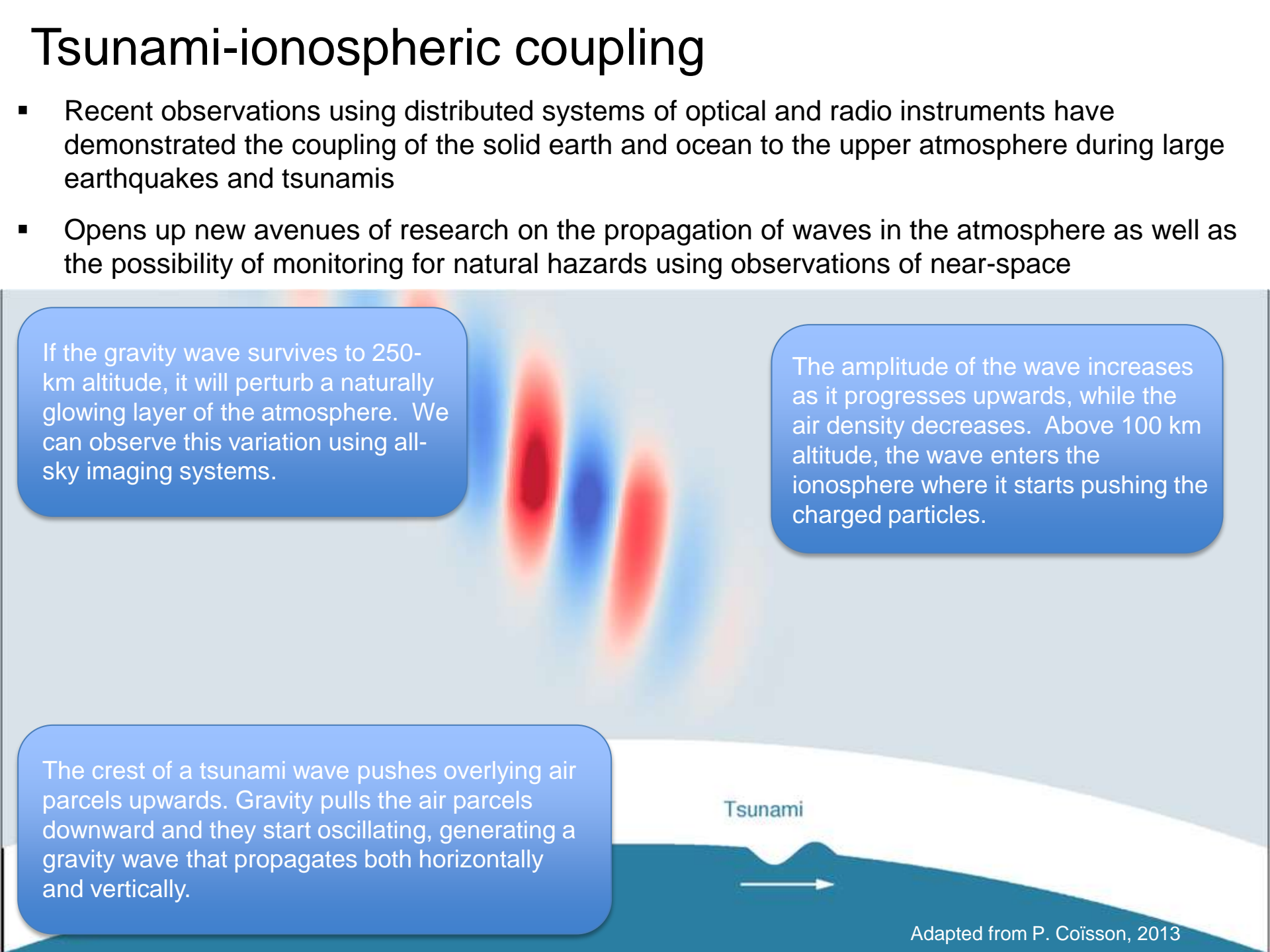
- Community Workshop to assess current state and future potential Oct 2015; Report expected soon



# **Semi-random examples of exciting geospace science developments**

# Tsunami-ionospheric coupling

- Recent observations using distributed systems of optical and radio instruments have demonstrated the coupling of the solid earth and ocean to the upper atmosphere during large earthquakes and tsunamis
- Opens up new avenues of research on the propagation of waves in the atmosphere as well as the possibility of monitoring for natural hazards using observations of near-space



The diagram illustrates the process of tsunami-ionospheric coupling. At the bottom, a cross-section of the ocean shows a tsunami wave moving to the right, indicated by a white arrow. The wave is labeled 'Tsunami'. Above the ocean, the atmosphere is depicted with a light blue background. A gravity wave is shown propagating upwards from the ocean surface, represented by vertical red and blue lobes. The red lobes represent areas of increased air density, while the blue lobes represent areas of decreased air density. The wave's amplitude increases as it moves higher into the atmosphere. Three blue text boxes provide additional information: the top-left box explains that a gravity wave surviving to 250 km altitude can perturb the naturally glowing layer of the atmosphere, observable by all-sky imaging systems; the top-right box states that the wave's amplitude increases upwards as air density decreases, and that above 100 km, the wave enters the ionosphere, pushing charged particles; the bottom-left box describes how the crest of a tsunami wave pushes air parcels upwards, and gravity pulls them back down, creating a gravity wave that propagates both horizontally and vertically.

If the gravity wave survives to 250-km altitude, it will perturb a naturally glowing layer of the atmosphere. We can observe this variation using all-sky imaging systems.

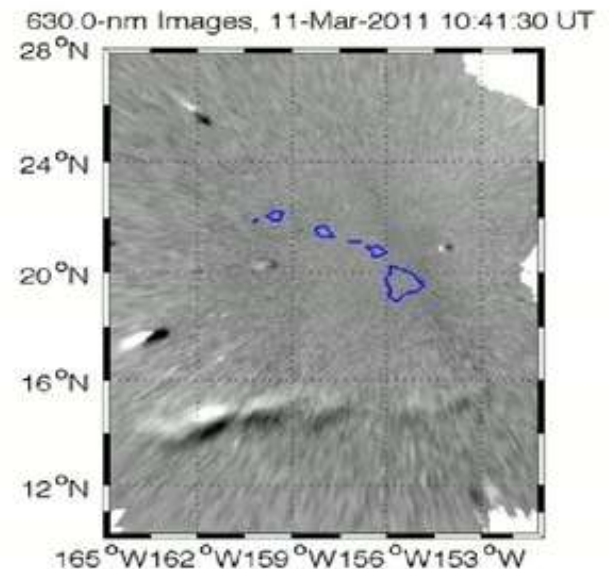
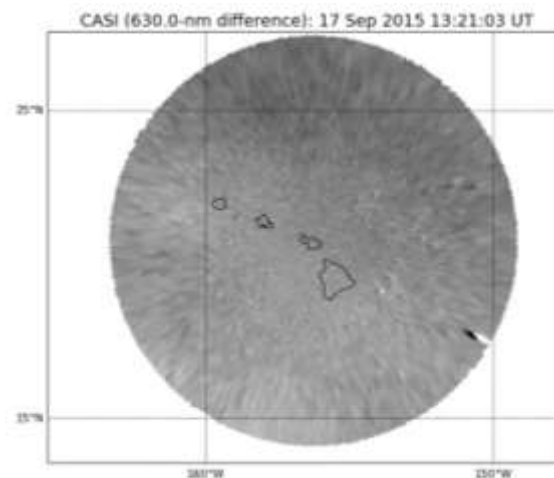
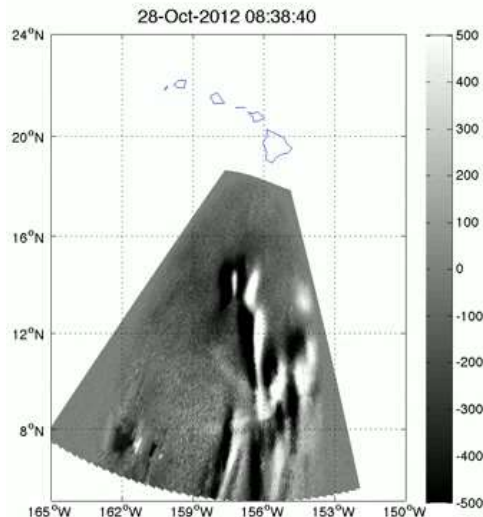
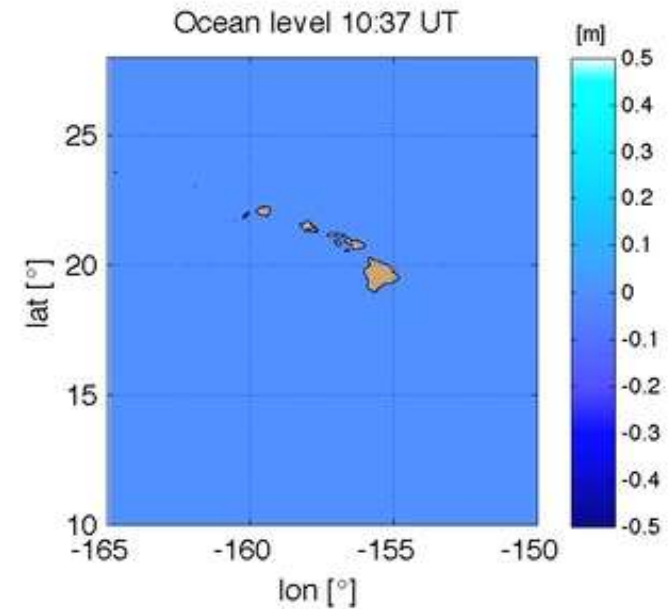
The amplitude of the wave increases as it progresses upwards, while the air density decreases. Above 100 km altitude, the wave enters the ionosphere where it starts pushing the charged particles.

The crest of a tsunami wave pushes overlying air parcels upwards. Gravity pulls the air parcels downward and they start oscillating, generating a gravity wave that propagates both horizontally and vertically.

Tsunami

# Airglow observations of tsunami-ionospheric coupling

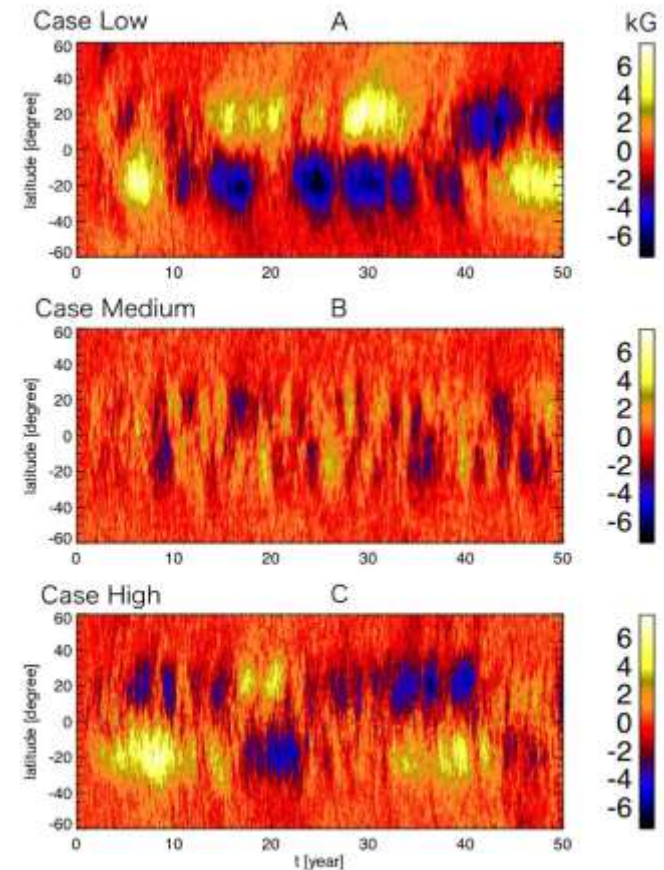
- First observation of the airglow signature of a tsunami was made after the Tohoku earthquake of 11 March 2011
  - Airglow signature observed from Hawaii one hour in advance of the tsunami arrival in Hawaii
  - Waves in the airglow move coherently with the ocean waves and share characteristics (wavelengths, orientation, etc)
- Subsequent observations confirm this first observation
  - 2012 Haida Gwaii tsunami (28 October 2012)
  - 2015 Chile tsunami (17 September 2015)
- International team from the ocean, atmospheric, and space sciences communities currently developing models to improve understanding of coupling mechanisms





# Super-resolution solar model achieves order out of chaos

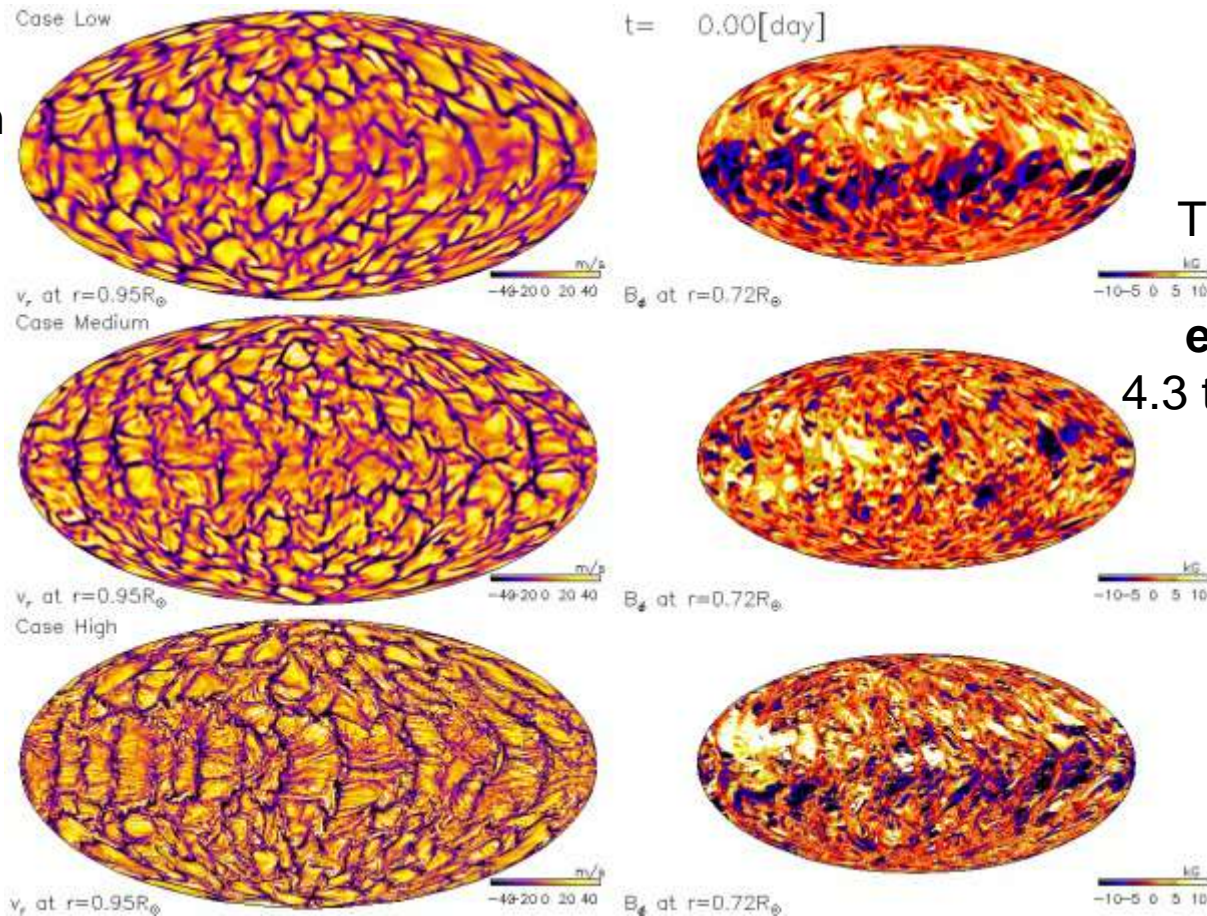
- **Background:**
  - Maintenance of a coherent large-scale magnetic field in a highly turbulent system (i.e. coherent 11 year solar cycle)
  - Previous simulations suggested coherence is lost at higher resolution
- **Focus of study:**
  - Series of global dynamo simulations exploring the influence of resolution and effective diffusivity
  - Reproduces previous results at low and medium resolution (A, B), i.e. loss of coherence at intermediate resolution
  - Coherence is regained at 4 times higher resolution (C)
- **Take away:**
  - Turbulent magnetic field at small scales mimics the effect of strong viscosity through magnetic stresses
  - High resolution simulations with resolved small-scale field behave similar to a low resolution simulation with high viscosity
  - Efficient small-scale dynamo crucial for large-scale dynamo in a highly turbulent system



Visualization of magnetic field at base of simulation domain as function of time “butterfly diagram”. The low and high resolution cases (A & C) show a similar coherence whereas the coherence is lost at intermediate resolution (B). (From Hotta et al. 2015, Science 351, 1427).

# Super-resolution solar model achieves order out of chaos

Nominated for  
the Association  
for Computing  
Machinery  
Gordon Bell  
Prize



The largest fluid  
simulation  
**ever** attempted  
4.3 trillion grid points.

Used NWSC/Yellowstone completely and 90% of the memory of the  
Japanese “K Computer” (more than 1.5 PB)

[Hotta et al. 2015, Science 351, 1427]