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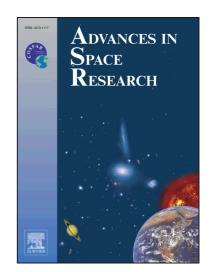
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ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

Comparative study of COSMIC/FORMOSAT-3, Irkutsk incoherent scatter radar, Irkutsk Digisonde and IRI model electron density vertical profiles

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Abstract

The long-duration continuous Irkutsk incoherent scatter radar observations allowed us to collect 337 electron density vertical profiles obtained almost simultaneously with the radar and the COSMIC in the radar vicinity. The COSMIC electron density profiles were compared with those from the radar, Digisonde, and the IRI model. The comparison included 4 seasons and 2 solar activity levels (low and moderate). The number of simultaneous cases was ~10 times more than in the previous incoherent scatter radar comparisons. In the case of the bottomside characteristics (peak density and bottomside electron content), the deviations between the COSMIC and the ground-based facilities data may be interpreted as the COSMIC measurement errors without significant systematic biases and with root-mean-square values that are ~1.4-1.6 times smaller those that from the IRI model prediction. In the case of the topside characteristics (topside electron content and ionospheric electron content), the IRI model overestimates

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