

UA Scientist's New Book

Details Progress on Aurora

COLLEGE— University of Alaska geophysicist Syun-Ichi Akasofu's new book, "Polar and Magnetospheric Substorms," published early this year, details progress on aurora scientists' hottest research problem—the interaction between the earth and the solar wind, a hot gas streaming outward from the sun.

According to Dr. Akasofu, an aurora specialist at UA's Geophysical Institute, substorms come in a variety of forms, the most common to Alaskans being auroral substorms observed as rapidly moving auroral curtains.

Other manifestations of substorm phenomena occur high in the upper reaches of the earth's atmosphere and far out into space in the planet's magnetosphere, a region filled with

charged particles trapped by the earth's magnetic field.

Much of the material contained in Akasofu's book is based on aurora research conducted by scientists at UA's Geophysical Institute.

The book, published by the Reidel Publishing Co. of Dordrecht, Holland is part of a series of volumes dealing with current problems in astrophysics and space science.

The volume is dedicated to Dr. Sydney J. Chapman, advisory scientific director of the institute, and an acknowledged world leader in the fields of geophysics and aurora research.

The book is primarily intended to aid graduate students and working space scientists around the world.