# Millstone Hill Geospace Facility

### Technical

### Scientific







Phil Erickson 2018 ISR School July 23, 2018 MIT Haystack Observatory Complex Westford, Massachusetts Established 1956

Haystack Programs: Radio Astronomy Atmospheric Science Space Surveillance Radio Science Education and Public Outreach

Millstone Radar Complex Westford, MA

(MIT Haystack Passive Optics Facility not shown)

Welcome to the 2018 ISR Summer School

MIT Haystack Observatory Complex Westford, Massachusetts Established 1956

Haystack Programs: Radio Astronomy Atmospheric Science Space Surveillance Radio Science Education and Public Outreach

Millstone Radar Complex Westford, MA

(MIT Haystack Passive Optics Facility not shown)

# Haystack Mission

"To develop technology for radio science applications, and thereby to study the structure of our galaxy and the larger universe, to advance scientific knowledge of our planet and its space environment, and to contribute to the education of future scientists and engineers."

- Haystack maintains and serves a niche for midscale projects in an era of large facilities
- Stable mixture of radio science focus, research projects, and applied engineering
- Rich and dynamic field, and strong potential within the stated mission

# Millstone Hill Geospace Facility

### Millstone Hill Incoherent Scatter Radar (1960 - present)



- 900-1000 hours/year
- Height-resolved plasma parameters
- Majority: community experiments
- Rapid response capability
- Wide field coverage of mid-latitude ionosphere, thermosphere, M-I coupling
- Coupled to frontier programs (e.g. Van Allen Probes, MMS)

### GNSS TEC Processing (1998 - present)



- World-wide, 1x1 deg x 5 min
- Vertical total electron content (TEC)
- New LOS TEC product

### Madrigal Distributed Database



• Upper atmospheric community data archive and access

### Millstone Hill Geospace Facility's Most Important Assets



### Millstone Hill Geospace Facility Brief History

Millstone Radar Complex

MIT Lincoln Laboratory Construction : 1956 Zenith Antenna : 1962

NSF support: 1974 MISA Antenna: 1978



#### Selected milestones:

- 1956 1962: UHF radar constructed by MIT Lincoln; first incoherent scatter (IS) obs.
- **1963:** UHF system transitioned to ionospheric research program using zenith antenna
- 1964 1974: Pioneering IS observations (first computer analysis, vertical drifts, photoelectron
- effects, neutral exospheric temperature, meridional/zonal vector ion drifts and neutral winds)
- 1974: Millstone Hill ISR activities transferred from ARPA to NSF Upper Atm. Section
- **1978:** MISA (46 meter fully steerable antenna) installed on site for wide field scanning
- **1979:** Millstone empirical high latitude electric field model, electron density trough studies, M-I coupling studies
- **1981:** Madrigal distributed database system begins as main data repository
- **1984-86:** Second UHF transmitter installed from USAF surplus
- **1989:** Radar/Optics ionosphere-thermosphere program begins using onsite FPI
- **1992:** Production software radar (MIDAS-1 in 1992; MIDAS-W in 2001)
- **1993:** Storm enhanced density / Subauroral polarization stream M-I coupling studies begin
- **2001:** SAR arc studies, GPS TEC maps begin
- **2002-2007:** ISRIM empirical models of all NSF ISRs; long term ionosphere climate studies begin **2008:** Whole atmosphere studies / SSW response studies begin
- 2011: Madrigal becomes CEDAR community data repository system
- **2013:** Global system response studies using DMSP / GPS TEC / Millstone ISR / Van Allen Probes **Current:** Plasma line, Eclipse, more SSW studies, M-I coupling, radiation belt, TIDs, ...

# Haystack AGS Science (Wednesday)



Traveling Ionospheric Disturbances





#### Long Term Climate Trends



Storm Effects: Patches, TOIs, SED, SAPS



#### **Eclipse Dynamics**



Radiation Belt and Magnetosphere-Ionosphere Coupling



#### Solar Flare Studies

2017:

- 40+ publications
- 3 PhD committees
- 6 conference articles



# Millstone Hill Incoherent Scatter Radar System

Poke



LocationWestford, MATransmitter Power2.5 MW TransmitterAntennas46m Steerable Antenna<br/>68m Zenith AntennaFrequency440 MHz

Operations

Support

1000 to 2000 hours per year

National Science Foundation Geospace Facilities Program



Sondres

Now over 50 Years of Operations: Millstone, Jicamarca, Arecibo!

Unique Long Term Geospace Climate Record New Observations: Large Fidelity Improvements New, Fundamental Geospace Process Discoveries Millstone Hill Incoherent Scatter Radar Spatial Coverage Azimuth Scan (4 deg El) Log Electron Density, m^-3 [10, 12.5]

High Latitude Ionosphere



Above: Vertical Full Altitude, High Sensitivity Ionospheric Plasma Profiles At L = 3.3

Plasmasphere Boundary Layer

> Inner Magnetosphere/ Plasmasphere

42.6 N, 288.5 E 54 MLAT L ~ 2 to 4

> Millstone Hill: Unique, Wide-Field Access To The Full Ionospheric Plasma State

© 2010 Europa Technologies US Dept of State Geographer © 2010 INEGI © 2010 Google

39'52'41.15" N 81'05'52.87" W elev 278 m

Eye alt 6087.89 km 🔘

### GNSS TEC Global Products A Community Science Product Providing Multiscale System Science



- MIT Haystack MAPGPS software suite: global GNSS TEC maps, deposited in Madrigal for community use
- Data from > 21 worldwide receiver networks, thousands of receivers
- Available 3-4 days behind realtime
- Supported as part of Millstone Hill Geospace Facility activities
- 2017: 234 unique community users from 107 unique institutions

## Madrigal A Community Distributed Database System

- Upper atmospheric science database
- Distributed, web-based
- Multiple data types [radar, optical, etc.]
- Multiple database formats available
- Data locally controlled
- Shared inter-site metadata
- Full service, 'white glove' support for quick, efficient ingestion of historical and new community instrument data
- Derived parameters [e.g. Mag field]
- Global search
- Full programming interface
- Open source development [www.openmadrigal.org]
- Site support for Madrigal nodes
- Active interactions with EarthCube, VIRBO, other community data sites

### Developed at MIT Haystack 1981 - present

#### Welcome to the Madrigal Database at Haystack Observatory

Madrigal is an upper atmospheric science database used by groups throughout the world. Madrigal is a robust, World Wide Web based system capable of managing and serving archival and real-time data, in a variety of formats, from a wide range of upper atmospheric science instruments. The basic data format is the same as that used by the <u>National Science Foundation</u> supported Coupling, Energetics and Dynamics of Atmospheric Regions (CEDAR) program, which maintains a <u>CEDAR Database</u> at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR). Data files are easily exchanged between the two sites, but Madrigal has a significantly different emphasis. Data at each Madrigal site is locally controlled and can be updated at any time, but shared metadata between Madrigal sites allow searching of all Madrigal sites at once.

Data can be accessed from the Madrigal sites at <u>Millstone Hill</u>, USA, <u>Arecibo</u>, Puerto Rico, <u>EISCAT</u>, Norway, <u>SRI International</u>, USA, <u>Cornell University</u>, USA, <u>Jicamarca</u>, Peru, <u>The Institute of Solar-Terrestrial Physics</u>, Russia, and Wuhan Ionospheric Observatory, the Chinese Academy of Sciences. and directly, using <u>APIs</u> which are available for several popular programming languages. A CVS archive of all Madrigal software and documentation is available from the <u>Open Madrigal</u> Web site. The latest version of Madrigal may also be downloaded from there.



CEDAR / upper atmospheric community data repository: now centered, maintained at MIT Haystack by Millstone Hill GF activities

### Millstone Hill Geospace Facility Passive Optics

MIT provides site infrastructure Power, building, ethernet Separately funded instruments



Boston University All-Sky Imager

6300 A; other wavelengths Clear nights buimaging.com





Separate NSF grant [J. Noto, SSI; Q. Wu, NCAR] Fabry-Perot Interferometer

6300 A red line winds/temperatures since late 2009 Continues 1989-2001 data record [D. Sipler] Green line also operational Patrol mode - operates every clear night

# Modern Software Radios

Largely FPGA Based + Return of the Tuner

GSPS radios are now showing up!

Low Cost Software Defined Radios

**GNU Radio Framework** 

Result of high performance computing

Radio cost varies from  $\sim$  \$10 to \$10,000+

Highly Capable / Integrated Radios

Tuning ranges and bandwidths increasing

Channel counts slowly increasing

The specific radios change almost daily...

The radios are not the important part!















# **IS Radar Technical Development**





Above: Plasma Line profiles Absolute electron density F2 peak value in ~few sec Full profile in 1-4 minutes: mostly daytime

#### Left: Ion Line profiles

Traditional ISR data product Density, temperature, velocity, composition ~minute time scales

Software Radar Platform Now Captures All Geophysical Information Available from Scattering Process

