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Polar ion conductivities in the equatorial atmosphere measured during the PEASMA balloon experiment with relaxation probes. Comparison with other balloon measurements.

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The PEASMA balloon electrical sensors were installed around a 1:1 mock-up of the HUYGENS Probe that landed january 14th, 2005 on Titan. The main objective of the balloon experiment was to test the HUYGENS instruments in the better known terrestrial environment. In particular we obtained polar ion conductivity measurements from the Relaxation Probe during the balloon flight and during the descent under parachute. Our results are compared with other similar tests with mock-ups of HUYGENS and with other current data. Gondola charging effects are also discussed.