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Equatorial anomaly in the F-region of the ionosphere and in the thermospheric total neutral density. Are they related?

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Enhanced total neutral density has been observed at geomagnetic latitudes 20° - 25° on both sides of the equator (Liu et al., 2005). Since this latitudinal distribution of the total neutral density is like that of the electron density at low latitudes called equatorial anomaly of the F region in the ionosphere, or Appleton anomaly. An attempt is made to model these maxima of total neutral density on the basis of ionosphere-thermosphere coupling via ion drag.