

# **APPROACHES TO A MARS INTERNATIONAL REFERENCE IONOSPHERE**

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As part of the Mars International Reference Atmosphere (MIRA) effort, there is a need to specify the structure of the ionized component of Mars' upper atmosphere. Based on practices developed for the terrestrial ionosphere, one could formulate (1) a purely empirical model, (2) a semi-empirical model, or (3) a fully self-consistent general circulation model (GCM) to portray the spatial and temporal patterns of Mars' ionosphere. In this contribution, we will discuss the benefits and liabilities of each approach, and invite a full community discussion of the course(s) of action to follow.