



Role of ULF Waves in Ultra-relativistic Radiation Belt Dynamics: Explaining the 3rd Belt

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Van Allen Radiation Belts

- Radiation Belts discovered unexpectedly by James Van Allen.
- Explorer 1 spacecraft, launched on Redstone rocket on 31st Jan. 1958.
- Cover of Time magazine in 1959 ("Man of the Year").
- More than 50 years later, Van Allen radiation belts still a mystery.

Images courtesy of NASA.

Dr. Ian R. Mann, Dept. of Physics, U. Alberta.

From left: William H. Pickering, James Van Allen and Wernher von Braun





Space Environment Hazards





Radiation Effects

- Radiation Effects
 - Radiation Hazards to Spacecraft
 - User Needs
 - Next generation specifications
- Empirical/Statistical Models
 - Static: AE-8, AP-8, and CRRES-PRO, Roeder
 - Dynamic: CRRES-ELE, TPM-1, IGE/Pole
 - Monte Carlo: TEM-1
 - Large domain problems
- Identified international need to advance current radiation belt specification models for satellite design (COSPAR PRBEM report)
 - Especially important at MEO altitudes
 - Data is critical from MEO regions
- MEO will be a key region for the next generation of commercial communication satellite constellations.

Courtesy of Paul O'Brien.

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Electrons Influenced All Along Drift Path





ULF Wave-MeV Electron Diffusion

Rate of energy change due to ULF interactions:

$$\frac{dW}{dt} = q\mathbf{E} \bullet \mathbf{V}_d + \frac{M}{\gamma} \frac{\partial b}{\partial t}$$

- Effect from electric field and compressional magnetic field; dominated by electric component (Ozeke et al., 2012).
- Can transport particles along phase space density gradients: inwards (energisation) or outwards (e.g., magnetopause loss; Loto'aniu et al., 2010).







These two terms can be derived in space empirically or from the ground. But electric dominates – allows DLL characterization from ground.



Expanded CARISMA Magnetometer Array

CARISMA



- Ground-based magnetometer measures wave b field on the ground.
- Hughes and Southwood, JGR,1976 model gives wave b amp at the ionosphere mapped from the ground.
- Ionosphere boundary condition gives E iono from b iono

 $b_{iono} = \mu_0 \Sigma_P E_{iono}$

Solution of guided Alfven wave equations gives E equatorial plane from E at the ionosphere Ozeke, et al JGR, 2009



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CARISMA

Solar Wind-ULF Wave Relation

- MeV electron flux correlated with (e.g., Paulikas and Blake, 1979; Kellerman and Shprits, 2012).
- Can ULF waves provide the physical mechanism for MeV electron acceleration?







ULF Waves, Fast Solar Wind Streams and MeV Electrons at GEO

CARISMA



(From Mathie and Mann, GRL, 2000).



How robust is the ULF-Vsw relationship

All L across
outer zone.
All solar
cycle phases!





Motivation





"More accurate models of radial diffusion rates should be determined in future studies and will require more accurate observations of electrostatic and electromagnetic fluctuations at low L - shells."- Kim et al JGR, 2011





Halloween 2003 Superstorm





Mann et al., In prep., 2015.





Conclusions

- MeV electron dynamics are strongly linked to Vsw cf. Paulikas and Blake (1979) see more recently Kellerman and Shprits (2012).
- ULF wave power is similarly strongly dependent on Vsw.
- ULF waves play an important role in radiation belt dynamics, and in our opinion provide the intermediary for the Paulikas and Blake relation.
- Accurate specification of ULF waves power is critical for accurate modelling of the belt both inward and outward transport.
- Accurate specification of outer boundary condition is also critical.
- Opportunity for ISWI real-time magnetometer measurements for modelling transport of MeV electrons in the radiation belts.
- Low and mid-latitudes especially important for slot filling events.

Role for ISWI magnetometer data in space weather radiation belt data products – even though monitored from the ground!

Future operational space weather data product – collaborators welcome!