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### Solar-Terrestrial Coupling Processes Tutorial Lecture II

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# Magnetospheric Interactions with the Solar Wind and Ionosphere

### Interplanetary Sources for Geomagnetic Activity

#### General

- Convection: IMF B<sub>z</sub>, B<sub>v</sub> effects on strength; response to IMF changes
- Tail plasma source: dependence on convection strength?
- Strong convection: Earthward penetration of plasma sheet and resulting large distortion of B

**Geomagnetic disturbances**: Characteristics of, distinctions between types, relations to interplanetary conditions.

- Poleward boundary intensifications
- Substorms
- Convection bays
- Storms, including newly discovered response to pressure pulses



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 $vB_z$  in the solar wind (from COWLEY, 1984).

### **Convection Strength**

Increases as IMF B<sub>z</sub> becomes increasingly negative (well know)

Also increases significantly as IMF IB<sub>y</sub>I increases (not as well studied)

1	B <sub>x</sub> (nT)	Β <sub>γ</sub> (nT)	B <sub>z</sub> (nT)	N. hem. ΔΦ	S. hem. $\Delta \Phi$
•	7.6	-1.9	6.8	30 kV	20 kV
	5.1	-19.7	6.5	50 kV	80 kV
	1.9	13.1	1.1	81 kV	74 kV
	7	0	0	15 kV	25 kV

AMIE results for GEM stable IMF periods [G. Lu]











CONTOUR INTERVAL



Ridley et al. [1998]





Fig. 4. Field line configuration in the noon-midnight meridian plane. With  $r_{*} = 10$  earth radii, the critical latitude is about 83°. The dipole lines are compressed on both the daytime and nighttime side.

- **b** 



Fig. 1. Schematic diagram of the transport of mantle plasma onto the plasma sheet under the influence of the largescale convection electric field. The mantle particles disperse and move along the dashed lines. Mantle plasma entering the field reversal region within the 'neutral point' becomes trapped and forms the plasma sheet. The magnetic field (solid lines) is depicted as an instantaneous snapshot of the quiet time configuration.

### For average $\Delta \phi_{\text{tail}} \sim 50 \text{ kV}$

~ 2.7 hrs to move ~15 RE from mantle to current sheet (tail width = 50 RE, Blobe = 15 nT)

Only particles with  $V_{\parallel}$  < 67 km/s reach current sheet earthward of X-line (x = -100 R<sub>E</sub>)

Small fraction of mantle particles, since Vmantle ~ 150 km/s

#### For ∆¢<sub>tail</sub> ~ 120 kV

~ 1.1 hrs to reach curent sheet; particles with  $V_{\parallel}$  < 160 km/s enter earthward of X-line

Much larger fraction of mantle particles have access

Potential for greatly enhanced cross-tail current when have strong convection for >~1hrs (storm conditions)



Figure 3. Magnitude of magnetic field in the XY plane as a function of X'. The empirical curve by *Slavin et al.* [1983] is drawn as a reference.





## IMF effects strength of convection and probably solar wind plasma access

### How does this lead to geomagnetic activity?

- Get enhanced J•E within tail and ionosphere
- High  $\beta$  of plasma sheet greatly modifies **B**
- Get enhanced plasma and magnetic energies

### Largest plasma pressure and B changes at r ~ 6-10 $R_E$

— Due to earthward motion of plasma sheet driven by enhanced E



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# Mc Pherron and Manka [1985]



# Geomagnetic Disturbances: Identification; relation to plasma sheet

### Plasma sheet ions, electrons pitch-angle scattered and precipitate

• Resulting auroral emissions excellent for identifying geomagnetic disturbances & determining relation to time evolution of plasma sheet

### Will use data from CANOPUS meridian scanning photometers.

- **H**β **emissions** (proton precip.)
  - Identifies & locates ionospheric mapping of inner plasma sheet
- 6300 Å emissions (< ~1 keV elec. precip.)
  - Identifies & locates latitude range of plasma sheet electrons
  - --- Poleward edge locates ionospheric mapping of separatrix (+/-1°, Blanchard et al. [1996])
- 5577 Å emissions (> ~1 keV elec. precip.)
  - Identifies & locates auroral disturbances associated with geomagnetic activity



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### **Poleward Boundary Intensifications (PBIs)**

Active aurora initiates near separatrix, can then move equatorward.

Very common, individual events often  $\leq 10$  min apart.

Occur during all levels of geomagnetic activity.

Generally brightest feature in auroral zone

#### Associated few min flow bursts

- Equatorward in ionosphere [Sergeev et al., 1990; de la Beaujardière et al. 1994]
- Earthward in tail (i.e., BBF's) [Lyons et a., 1999]
- PBIs not associated with substorms have clear preference for radial IMF [Zesta et al., 1998]
  - Related to enhanced magnetosheath turbulence from quasi-parallel bow shock?





13 December 1990











### **IMF Measurements with Multiple Monitors**



### SUMMARY

### General

- Convection
  - IMF  $B_z$  and  $B_y$  control strength
  - Response to IMF changes rapid throughout polar cap

### • Tail plasma source

— Significant dependence on convection strength strongly affects tail?

### • Strong convection

- Gives earthward penetration of plasma sheet and associated large distortion of  $\mathbf{B}$
- Of major importance to substorms, convection bays, storms
- Important consideration for studying interplanetary sources for activity
  - IMF structure in plane perpendicular to  $V_{SW}$

Geomagnetic disturbances:

- Poleward boundary intensifications (PBIs): All levels of activity
  - Associated few min flow bursts (equatorward ionosphere, earthward tail)
  - PBIs not associated with substorms have preference for radial IMF
- Substorms: Follow > 0.5 hr of enhanced convection (negative IMF  $B_z$ )
  - Growth: earthward plasma sheet penetration, tail energy enhancement
  - Onsets often (at least?) assoc. with IMF changes that reduce convection
  - Initial predictions using such IMF changes successful [Blanchard et al., 1999]
- Convection bays: Prolonged periods of steady enhanced convection
  - Plasma sheet, tail B like end of substorm growth phase, but ~steady state
  - Activity dominated by large PBIs, substorms (if any) much less significant
- Storms: Prolonged periods of strongly enhanced convection
  - Plasma sheet and geomagnetic activity like during convection bays
  - Also global auroral, current enhancements from interplanetary dynamic pressure enhancements?