

# Chemical Release Applications, Observations and Modeling

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Code 6794

Naval Research Laboratory

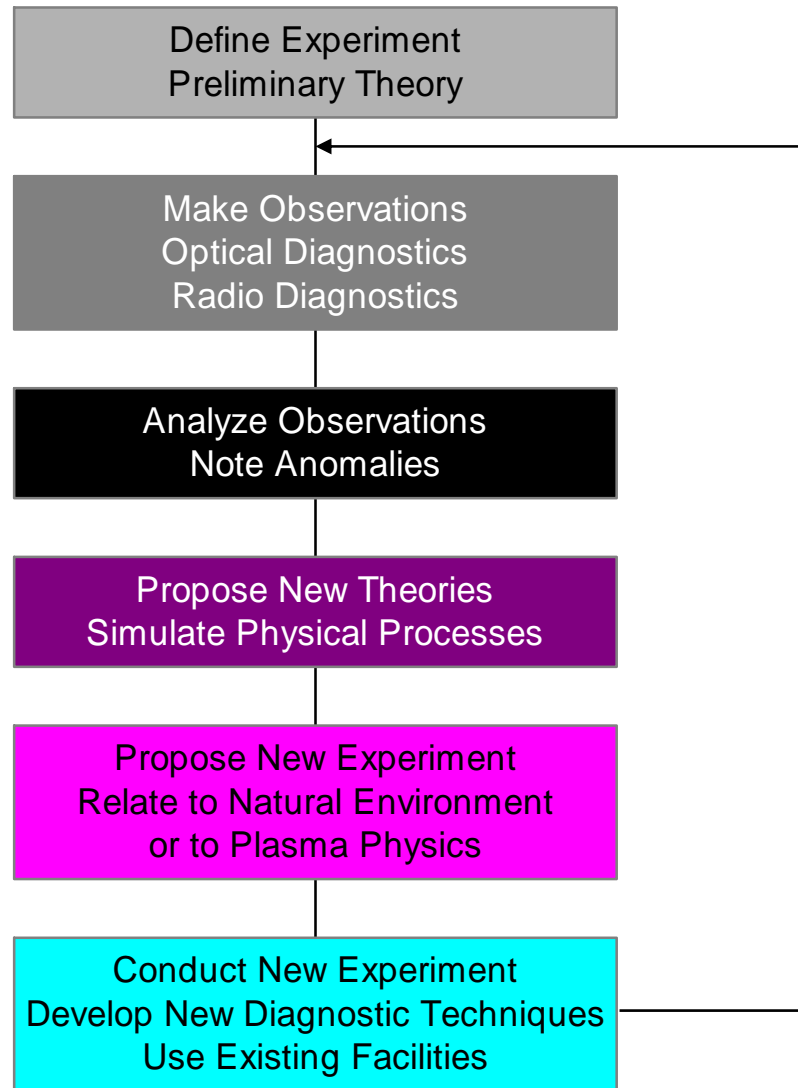
Washington, DC 20375

Contributions From: M. F. Larsen, D.R.  
Bates, M. Mendillo, S.L. Ossakow, C.L.  
Siefring, L.J. Gelinas, ...

# Atmospheric Chemical Releases

- History
  - Rockets
  - 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the First Release 21 January 1955
  - “STARFISH” the Largest Release 9 July 1962
  - “Atlas V Skylab Launch” Largest Ionosphere Hole 14 May 1973
- Classification of Releases
- Chemical Release Diagnostics
- Ionization Enhancement Releases (Ba, Sm)
- Ionization Reduction Releases ( $\text{SF}_6$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ )
- Tracers (Na, TMA)
- Outstanding Mysteries of Chemical Releases
  - Mesospheric Wind Measurements
  - Artificial Aurora
  - Exhaust Plume Radar Scatter
- Future Experiments

# Active Experiment Studies with Chemical Releases



# Chemical Release Experiments in Space Plasmas

- Plasma and Neutral Vapor Injections
  - Creation of Density Enhancements
    - Critical Ionization Velocity (CIV) Phenomena
    - Photoionization
    - Dissociative Ionization
    - Impact Ionization
  - Plasma “Holes”
    - Charge Exchange + Election-Ion Recombination
    - Electron Attachment + Ion-Ion Neutralization
  - Tracing of Neutral Winds and Electric Fields
    - Neutral Trails
    - Ion Cloud Injections



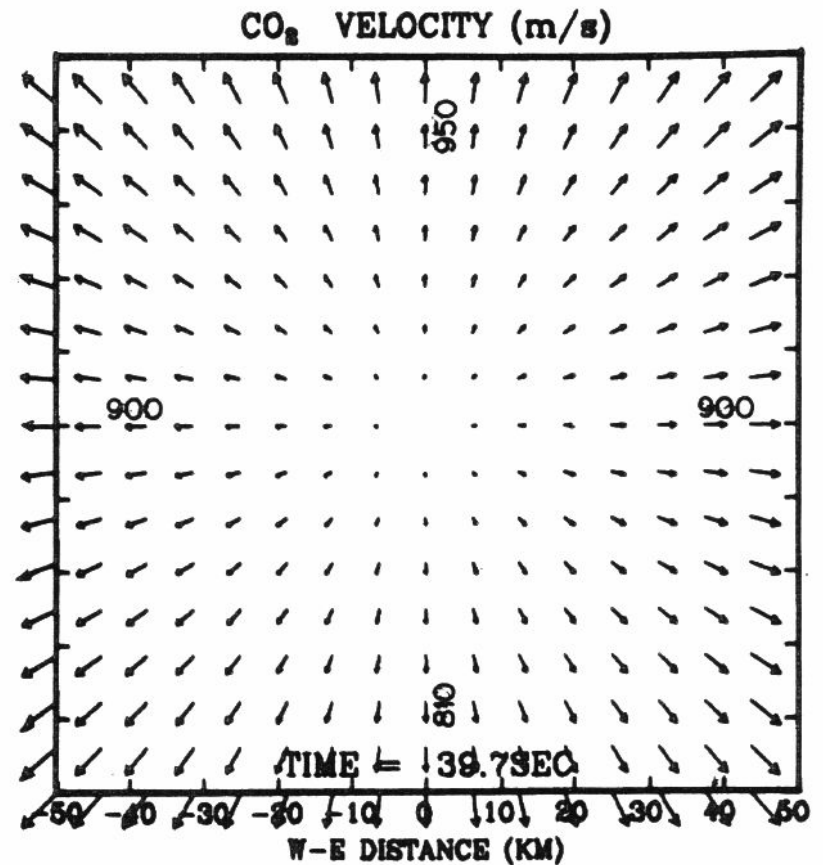
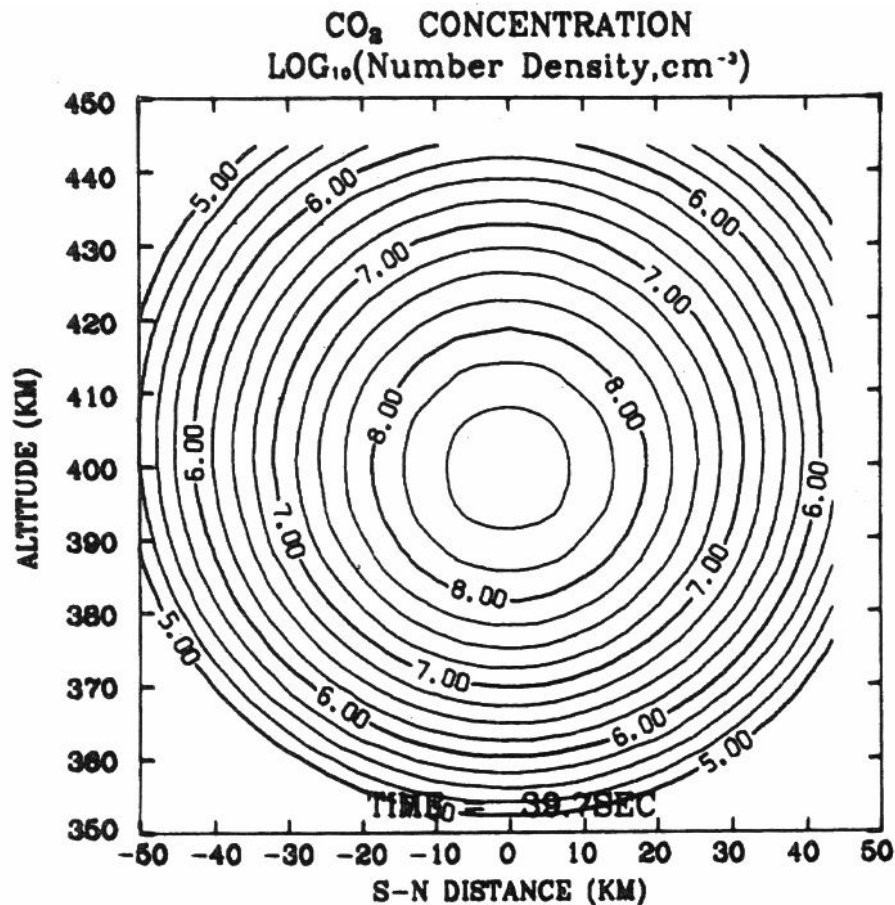
# Diagnostic Techniques for Chemical Releases

- Optical Emissions
  - Scattered Sunlight
  - Chemical Reactions: Chemiluminescence
    - Oxidation
    - Dissociative Recombination
    - Ion-Molecule Neutralization
- Radio Sensors
  - Radar
    - Incoherent Scatter
    - Coherent Scatter
  - Radio Propagation
    - Radio Beacon
      - Total Electron Content
      - Scintillations
    - Ionosonde Oblique Echoes
- In Situ Space Instrumentation
  - Electron and Ion Density
  - Plasma Temperatures

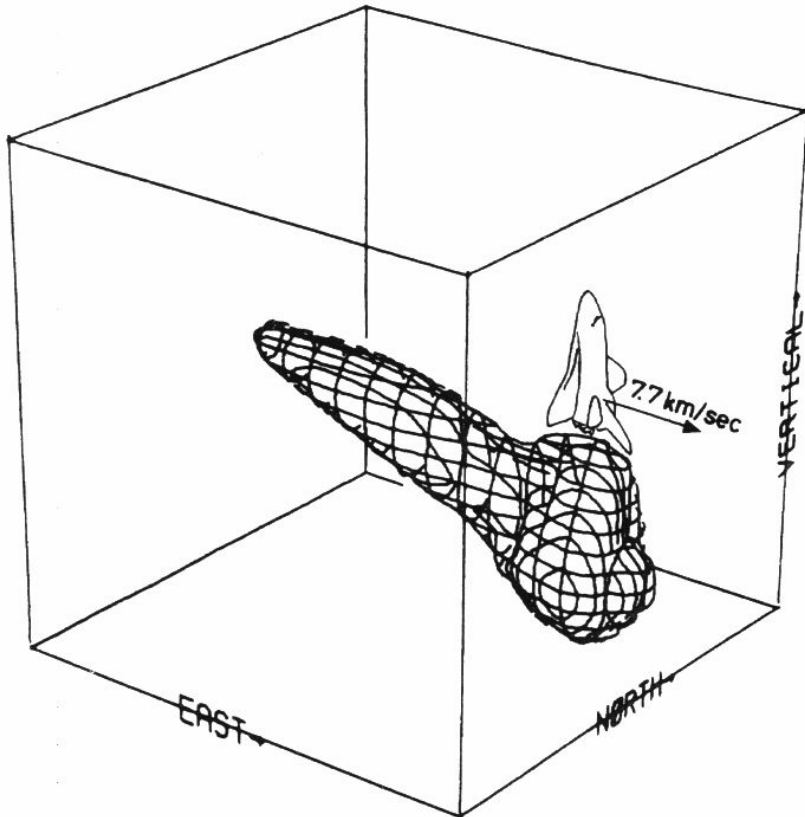
# Chemical Release Modeling

- Initial Velocity Distribution Function
  - Canonical Form
  - 1-D, 2-D, and 3-D Distributions
- Boltzmann Equation Solution
  - Spherical Expansion
  - Space Shuttle OMS Burn
- Monte Carlo Solutions
  - TRAMP and SOCTRATES Codes
  - Space Shuttle OMS Burn

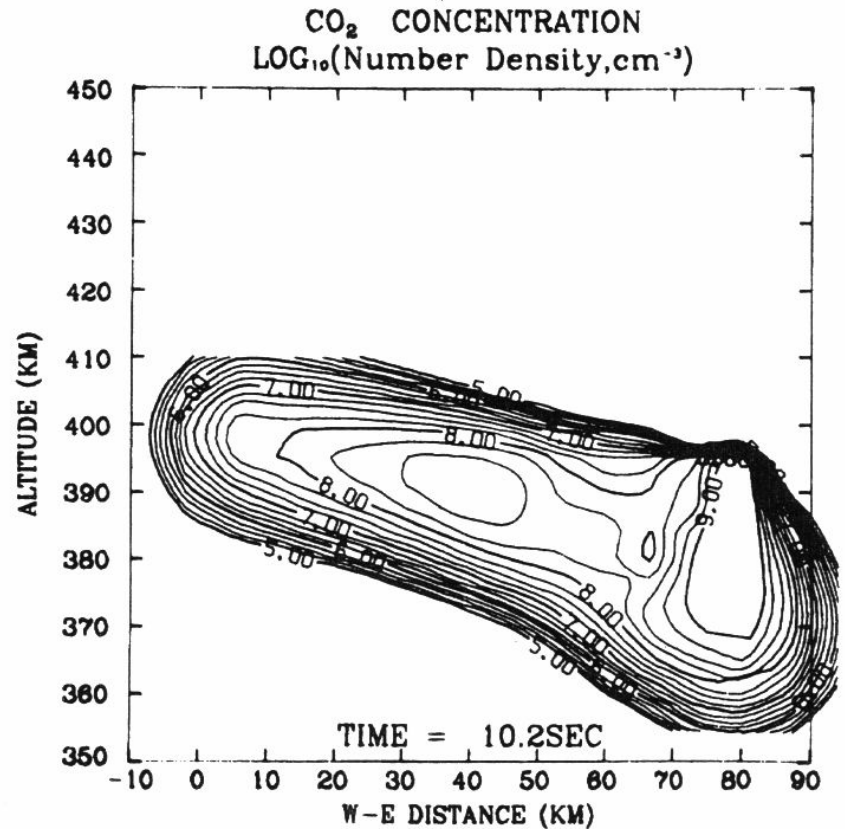
# Boltzmann Solution for Water Vapor Expansion



# Boltzmann Solution for Shuttle Burn

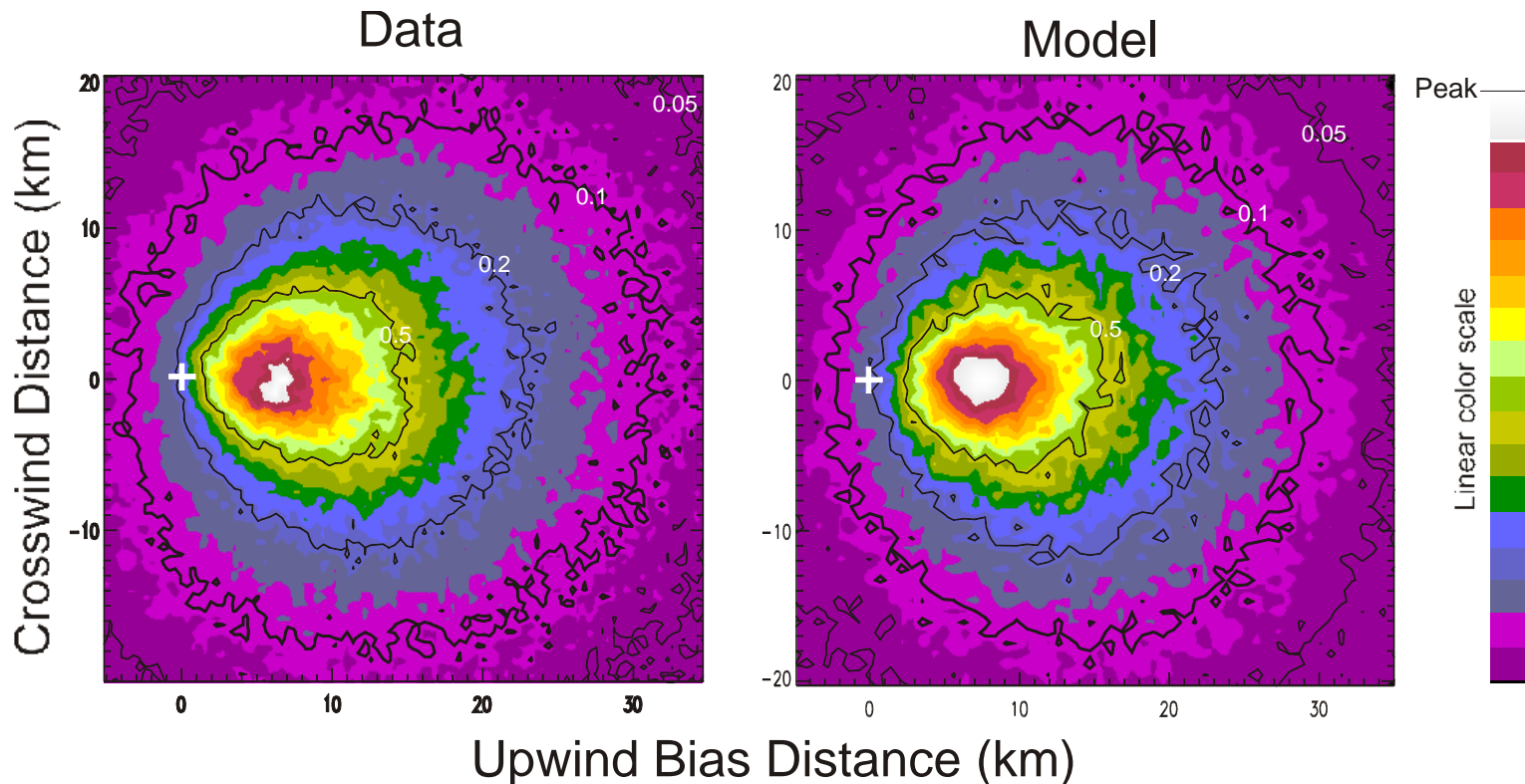


100.0 km CUBE CENTERED AT 400.0 km ALTITUDE  
TIME AFTER RELEASE: 10.2 sec  
CO<sub>2</sub> CONCENTRATION AT SURFACE: 4.9[7] cm<sup>-3</sup>



# Monte Carlo Plume Codes

- Transitional and Rarefied Axisymmetric Monte Carlo Plume (TRAMP)
- Spacecraft/Orbiter Contamination Representation Accounting for Transiently Emitted Species (SOCRATES)
- Example of TRAMP Results for Space Shuttle OMS Ram Burn (Dimpfl, Light and Bernstein, 2003)



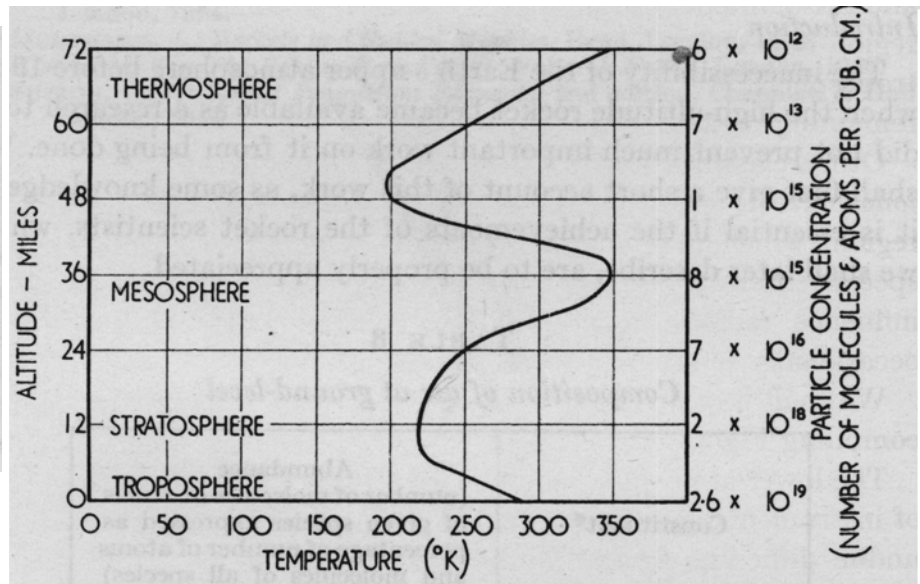
# Chemicals Used in High Altitude Release Experiments

Purpose	Materials	Optical Emissions	Fastest Rate	Reaction
Plasma Clouds: Photo-ionization	Li, Na, Sr, Cs, Ba, Eu, U	553.5 nm (Ba) 455.4 nm (Ba <sup>+</sup> )	0.05 s <sup>-1</sup> (Ba) 0.005 s <sup>-1</sup> (Eu) 0.00029 s <sup>-1</sup> (Li)	Ba + hν $\rightarrow$ Ba <sup>+</sup> + e <sup>-</sup>
Plasma Clouds: Associative Ionization	Sm, La, Nd, Ti	Molecular Bands of SmO (656 to 570 nm)	2 x 10 <sup>-11</sup> (SmO)	Sm + O $\rightarrow$ SmO <sup>+</sup> + e <sup>-</sup> + 0.39 eV
Plasma Holes: Electron Attachment	SF <sub>6</sub> , CF <sub>3</sub> Br, Ni(CO) <sub>4</sub>	777.4 nm (SF <sub>6</sub> )	2.2 10 <sup>-7</sup> cm <sup>3</sup> /s (SF <sub>6</sub> )	SF <sub>6</sub> + e <sup>-</sup> $\rightarrow$ SF <sub>5</sub> <sup>-</sup> + F - 0.25 eV SF <sub>5</sub> <sup>-</sup> + O <sup>+</sup> $\rightarrow$ SF <sub>5</sub> + O <sup>*</sup> + 9.91 eV
Plasma Holes: Ion- Molecule Charge Exchange	H <sub>2</sub> , H <sub>2</sub> O, CO <sub>2</sub>	630 nm (CO <sub>2</sub> )	3.2 10 <sup>-9</sup> cm <sup>3</sup> (H <sub>2</sub> O)	H <sub>2</sub> O + O <sup>+</sup> $\rightarrow$ H <sub>2</sub> O <sup>+</sup> + O H <sub>2</sub> O <sup>+</sup> + e <sup>-</sup> $\rightarrow$ OH <sup>*</sup> + H
Neutral Wind Tracer	Al, NO, Na, Al(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> , Fe(CO) <sub>3</sub> , Ni(CO) <sub>4</sub>	Molecular Bands of AlO (484, 508, 465, 534 nm)	--	Al(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> + O $\rightarrow$ AlO <sup>*</sup> + ...



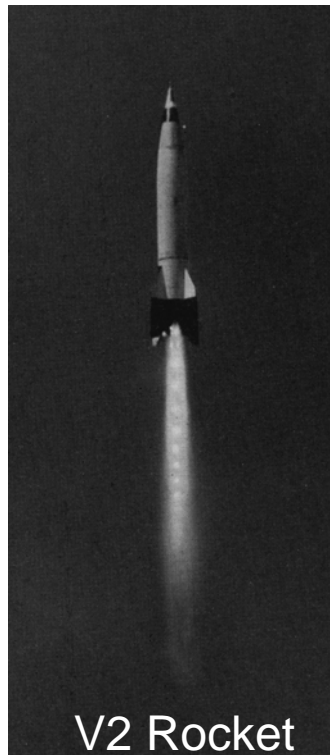
*U.S. rocket firings prior to 1 July 1954*

Vehicle	Date of first use	Number launched	Maximum altitude (miles)
WAC Corporal . . . . .	26.9.45	10	44
V.2 . . . . .	16.4.46	67	132
Aerobee . . . . .	24.11.47	141	89
V.2-WAC Corporal combination . . . . .	13.5.48	8	242
Viking . . . . .	3.5.49	11	158
Deacon-Skyhook (Rockoon*) . . . . .	21.8.52	29	65
		<hr/>	
		266	

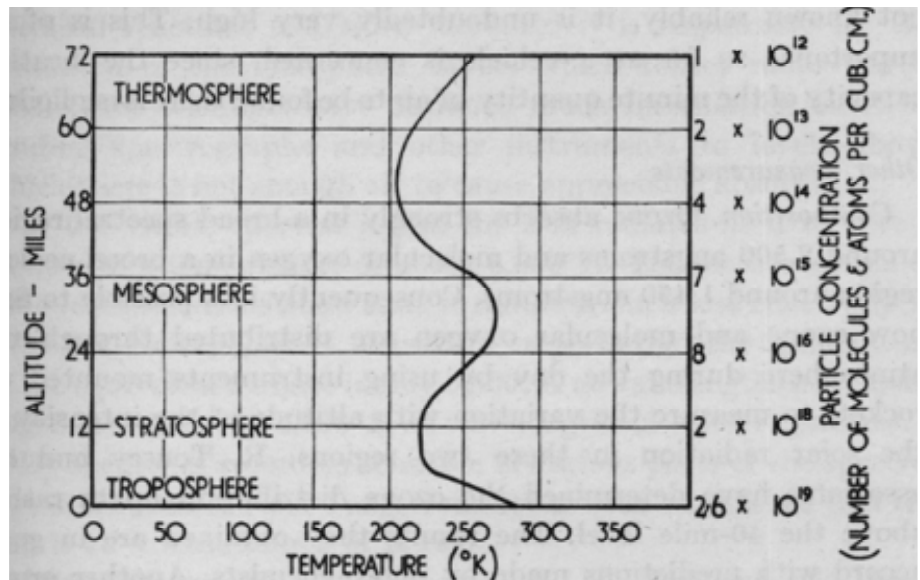


Proposed Structure of the Atmosphere Before the Availability of Rocket Data

Rockets  
Data Impacts  
Atmospheric  
Research  
1946 to  
Present



V2 Rocket



Structure of the Atmosphere Based on Rocket Data

# Emission from a Sodium Cloud Artificially Produced by Means of a Rocket

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Geophysics Research Directorate, Air Force Cambridge Research Center,  
Air Research and Development Command, L. G. Hanscom Field, Bedford, Mass.

and

C. D. COOPER

Department of Physics, University of Georgia, Athens, Ga.

## Twilight Sodium Trail Yielding Neutral Wind Velocities in 1955

**Abstract**—Following BATES's suggestion, three kilograms of metallic sodium vapour were ejected into the atmosphere from 50 to 113 km by means of two Aerobee rockets. The rockets were launched at the beginning of evening twilight on 21 January and 12 October 1955.

Enhanced sodium emission at 5890 Å was definitely observed visually, photometrically and spectrographically from 85 km to 113 km during twilight. No sharp time discontinuities in intensity were observed when the region was enclosed by the earth's optical shadow. No increase in emission was observed during the night.

Possible explanations are given for the lack of emission below 85 km.

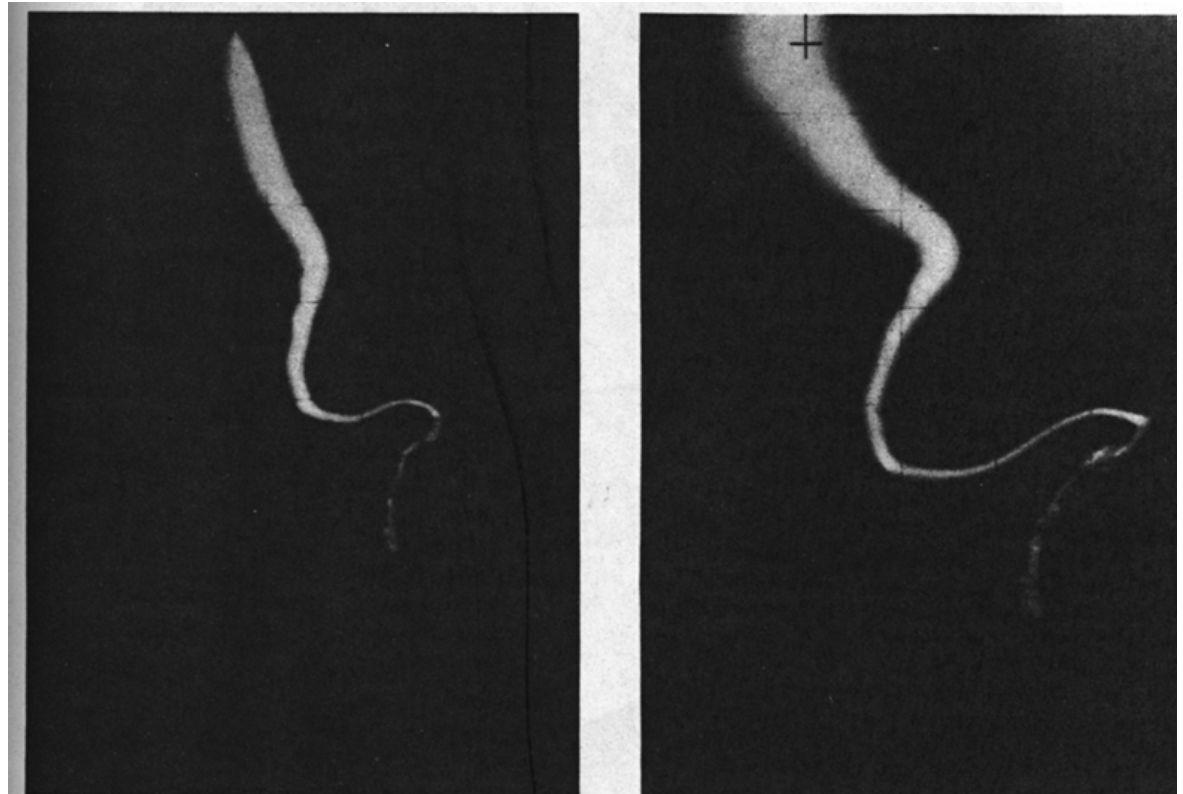
Spreading of the sodium cloud indicated winds at the 85-km level to be 180 m.p.h. from the north-west and 100 m.p.h. from the south-east at the 110-km level.

Images at One  
Minute Separation

Derived Shear:

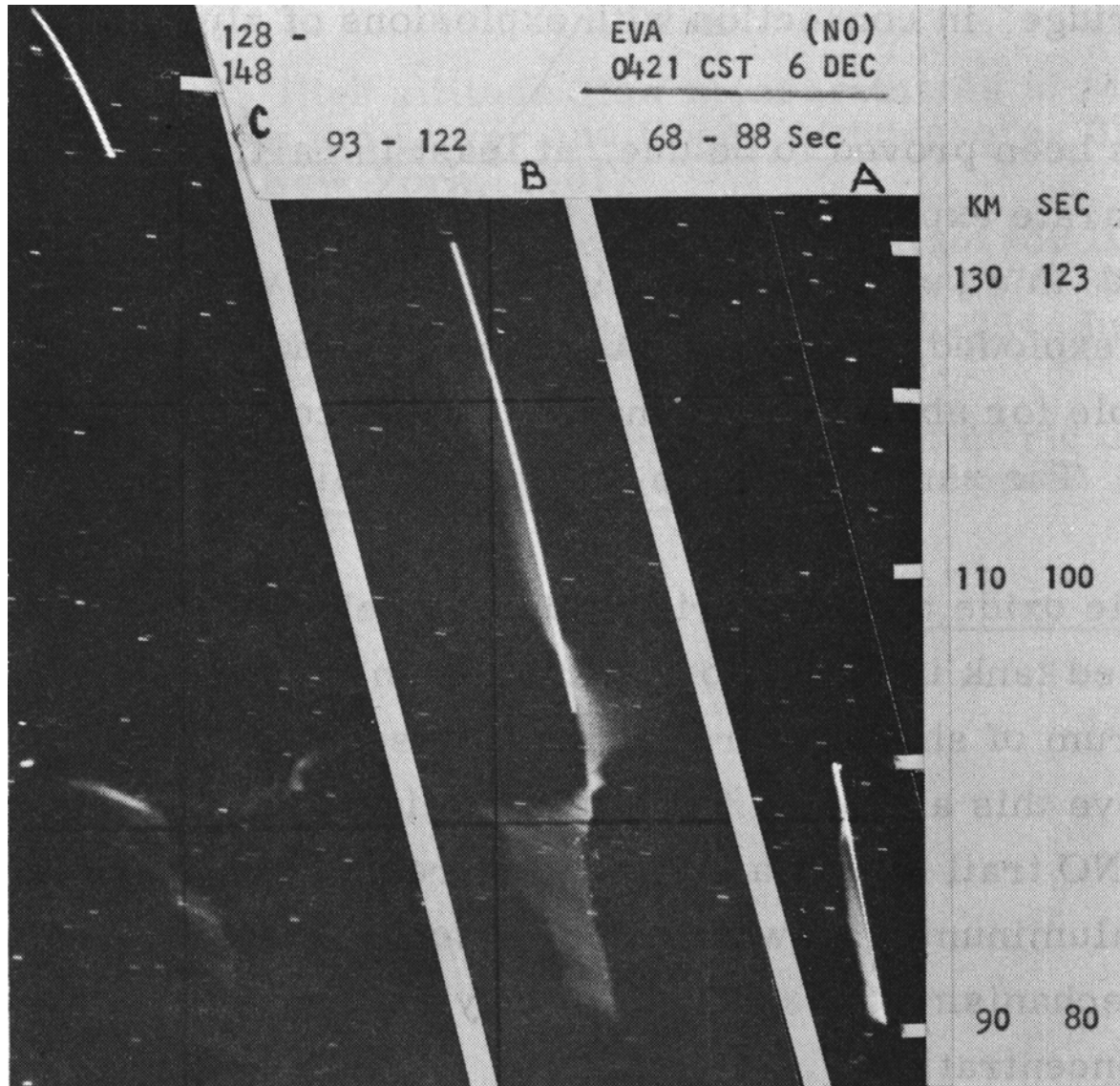
80.5 m/s NW at 85 km

44.7 m/s SE at 110 km

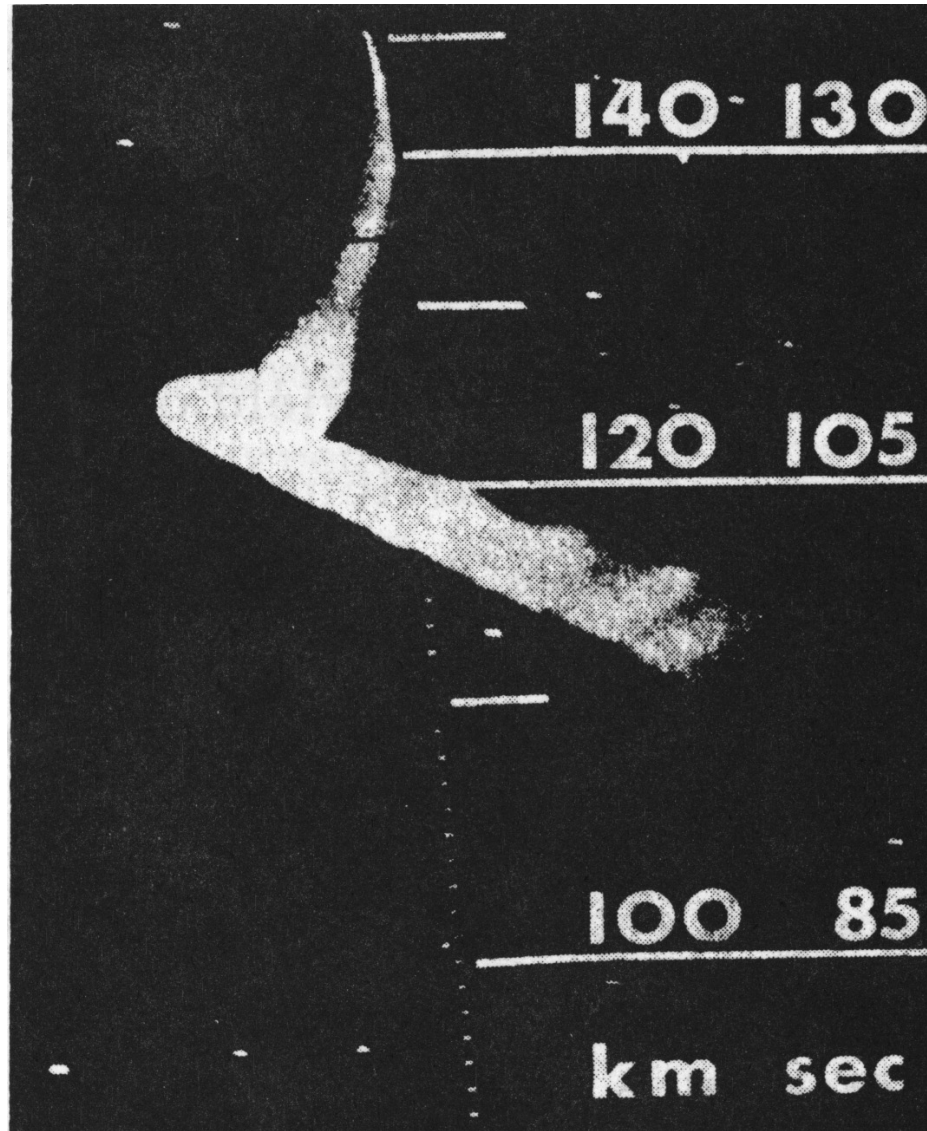




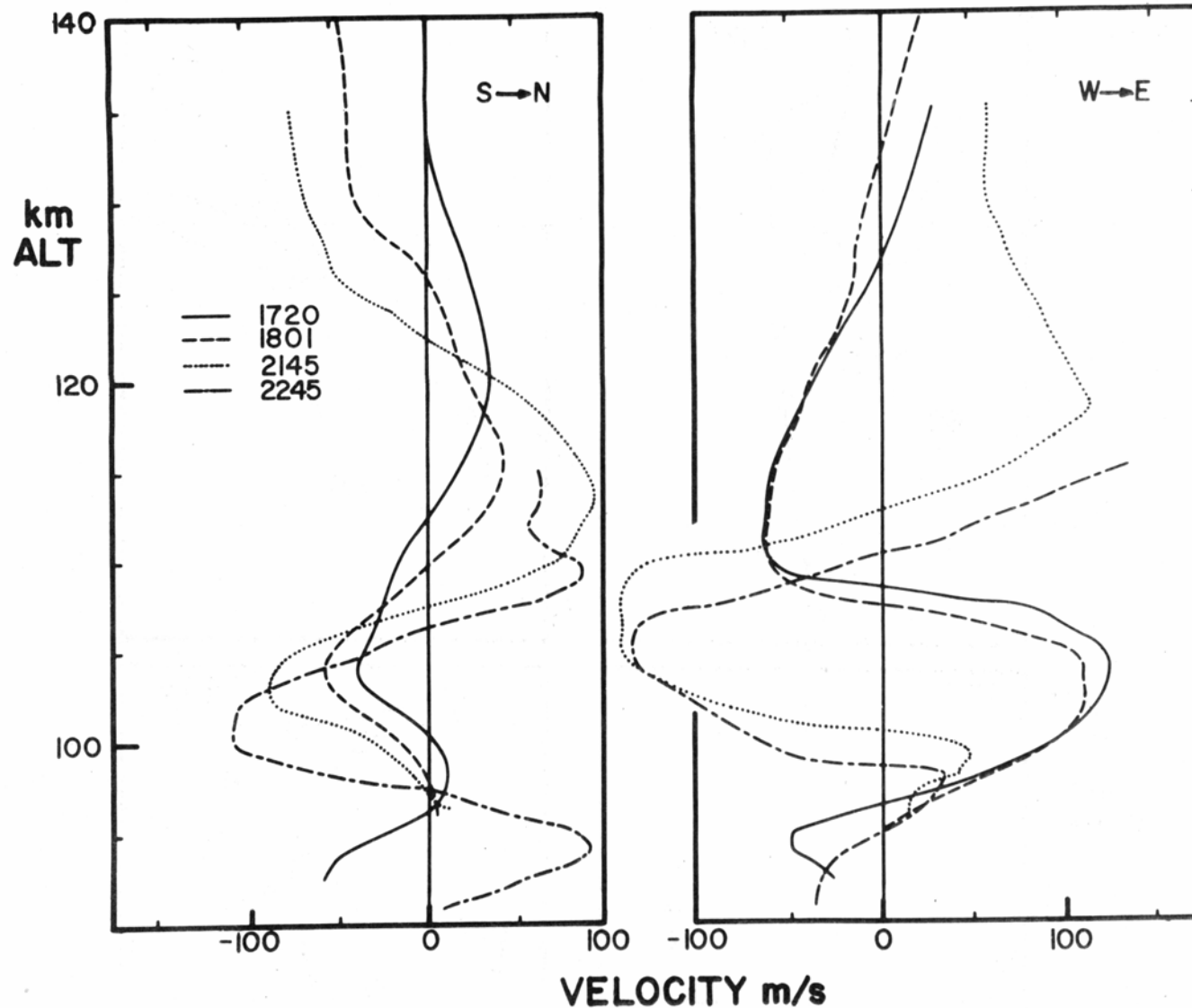
# Nitric Oxide (NO) Trail, 6 December 1962



# Aluminum Trail, 3 Dec 1962



# TMA Derived Wind Vectors, 3 December 1962



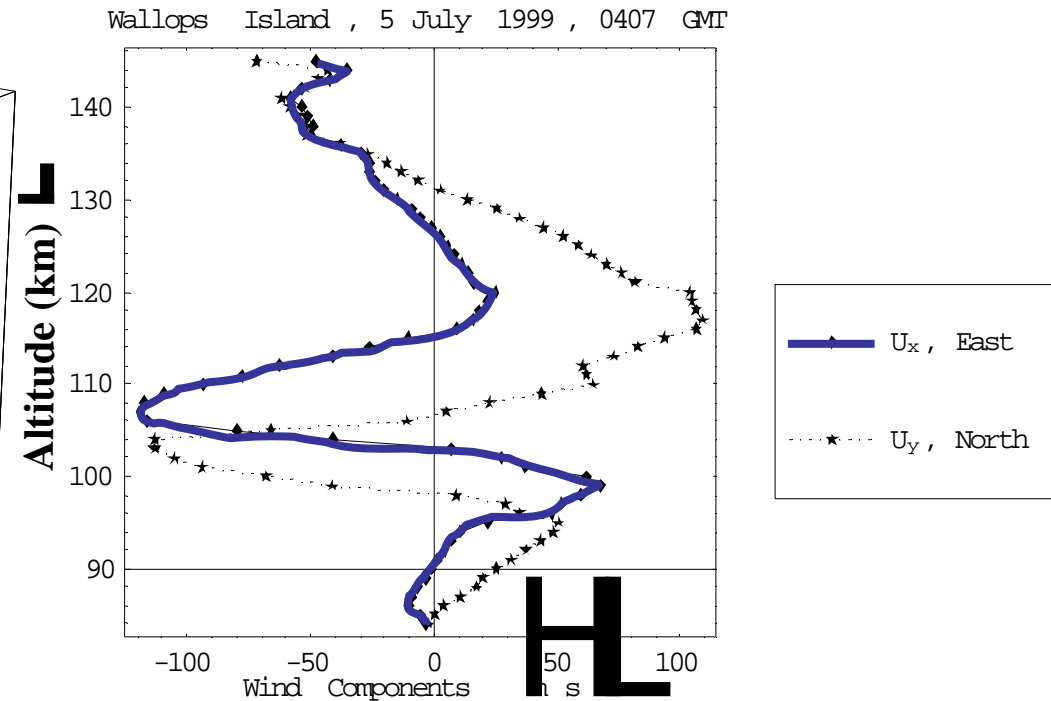
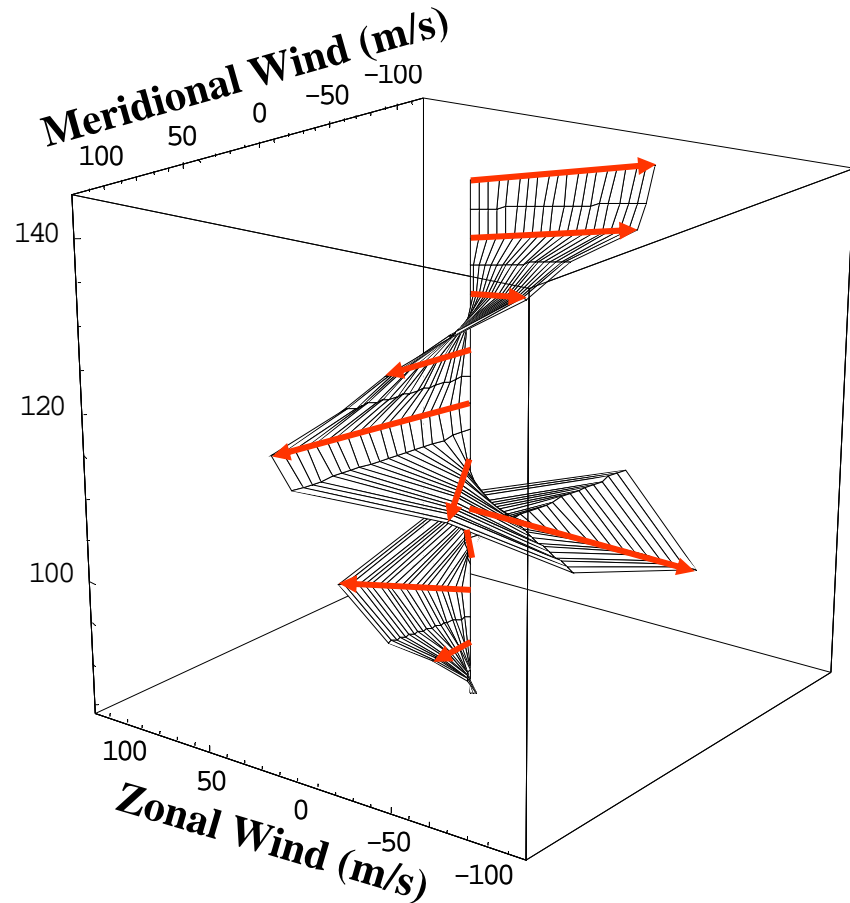
# Tri-Methyl Aluminum (TMA) Trail



Image Courtesy M.F. Larsen, Clemson



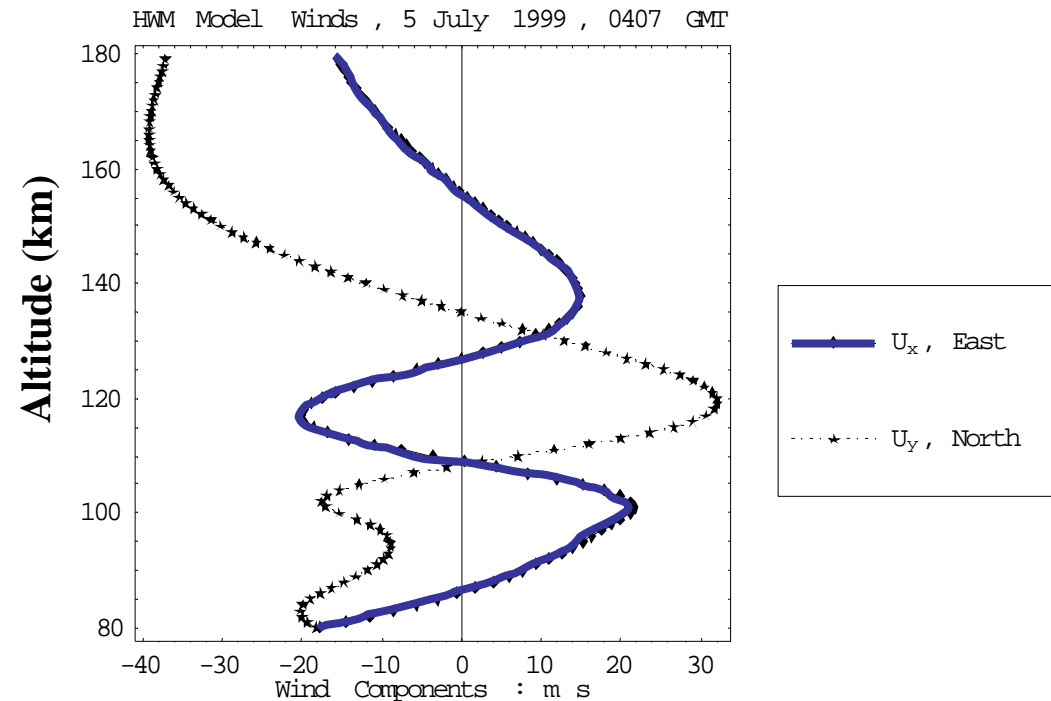
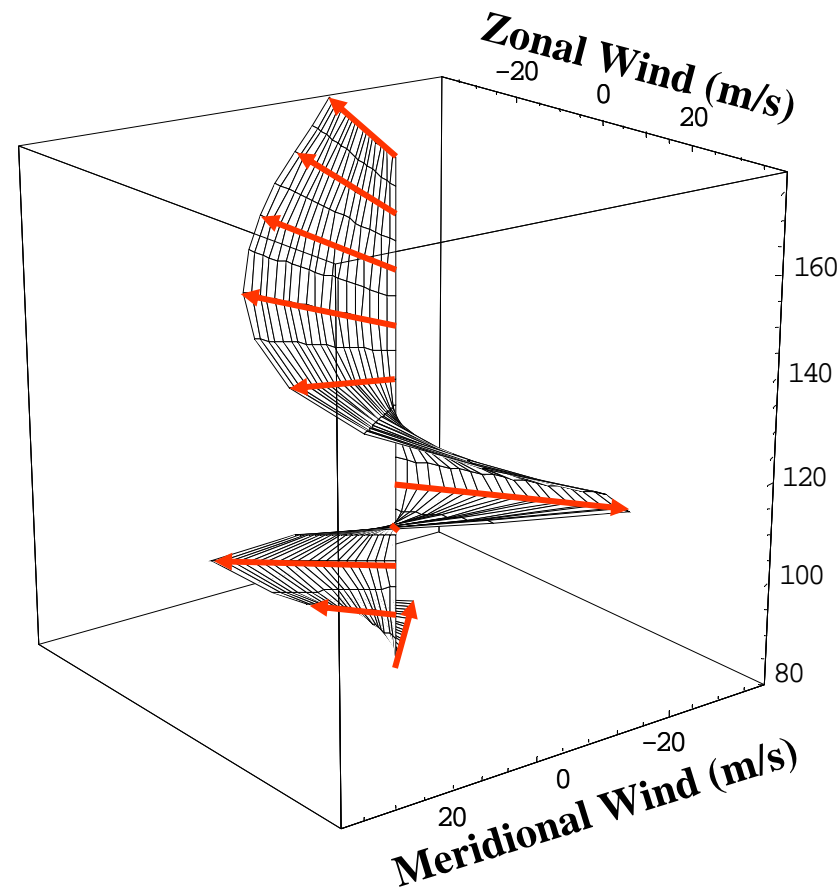
# Neutral Wind Profile Derived from TMA Trails



At 105 km,  $\beta = 0.86$ ,  $U_0 = 120$  m/s,  $d = 2$  km

Data Courtesy M.F. Larsen, Clemson

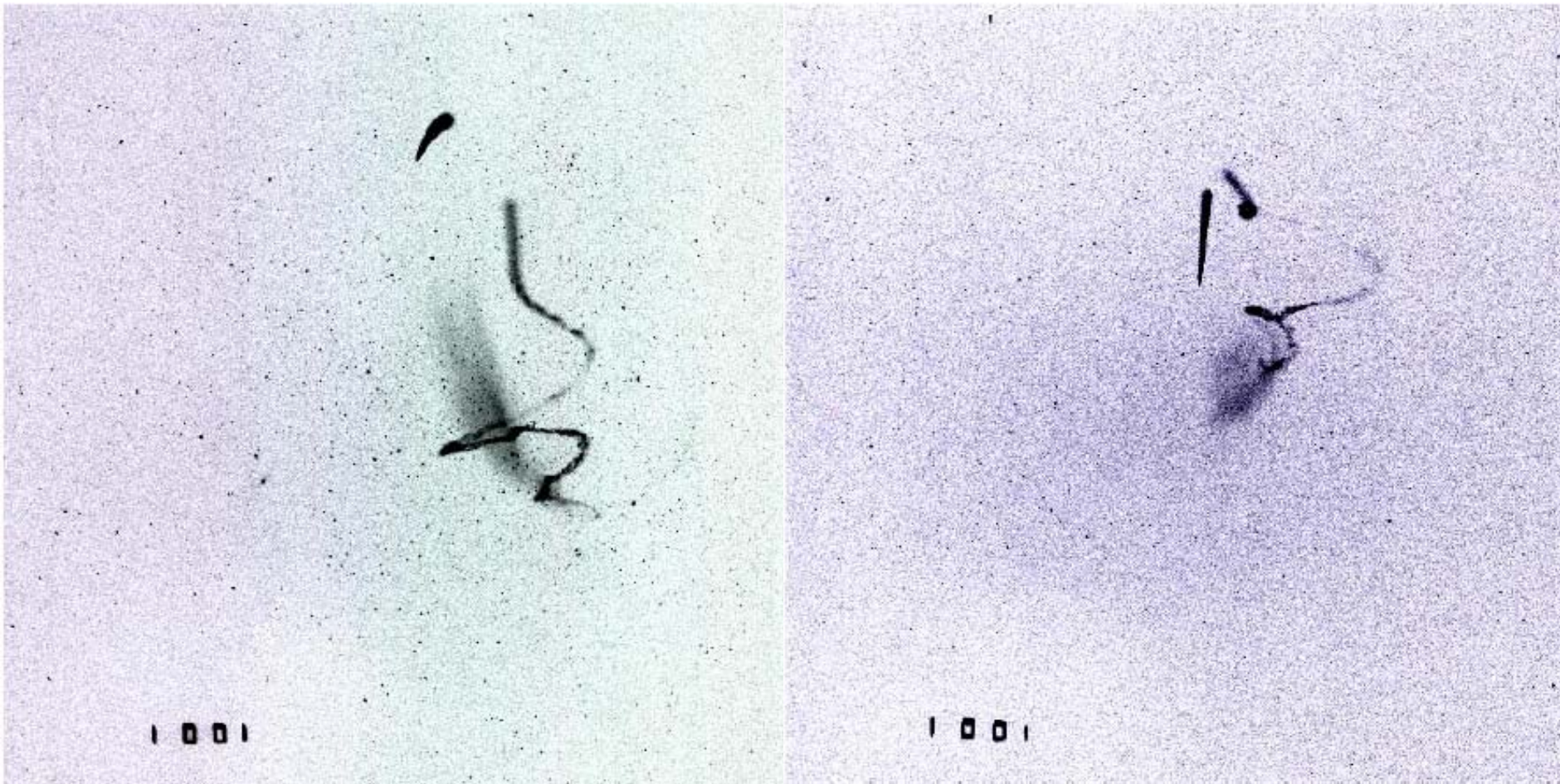
# Neutral Wind Profile Modeled by HWM93



At 109 km,  $\beta = 0.05$ ,  $U_0 = 37$  m/s,  $d = 6.2$  km

Simulation Data Courtesy Doug Drob, NRL

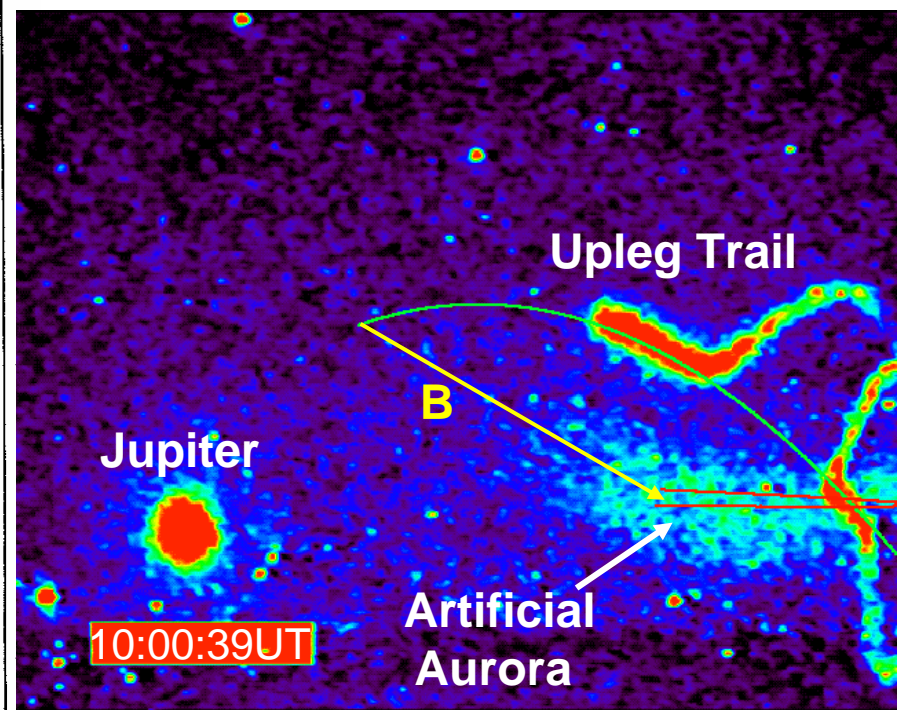
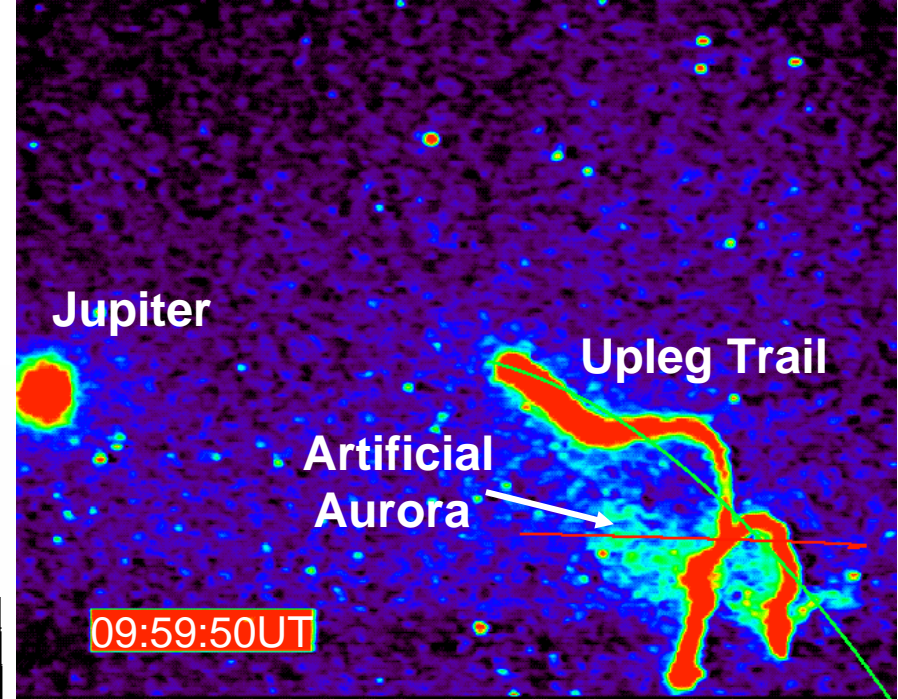
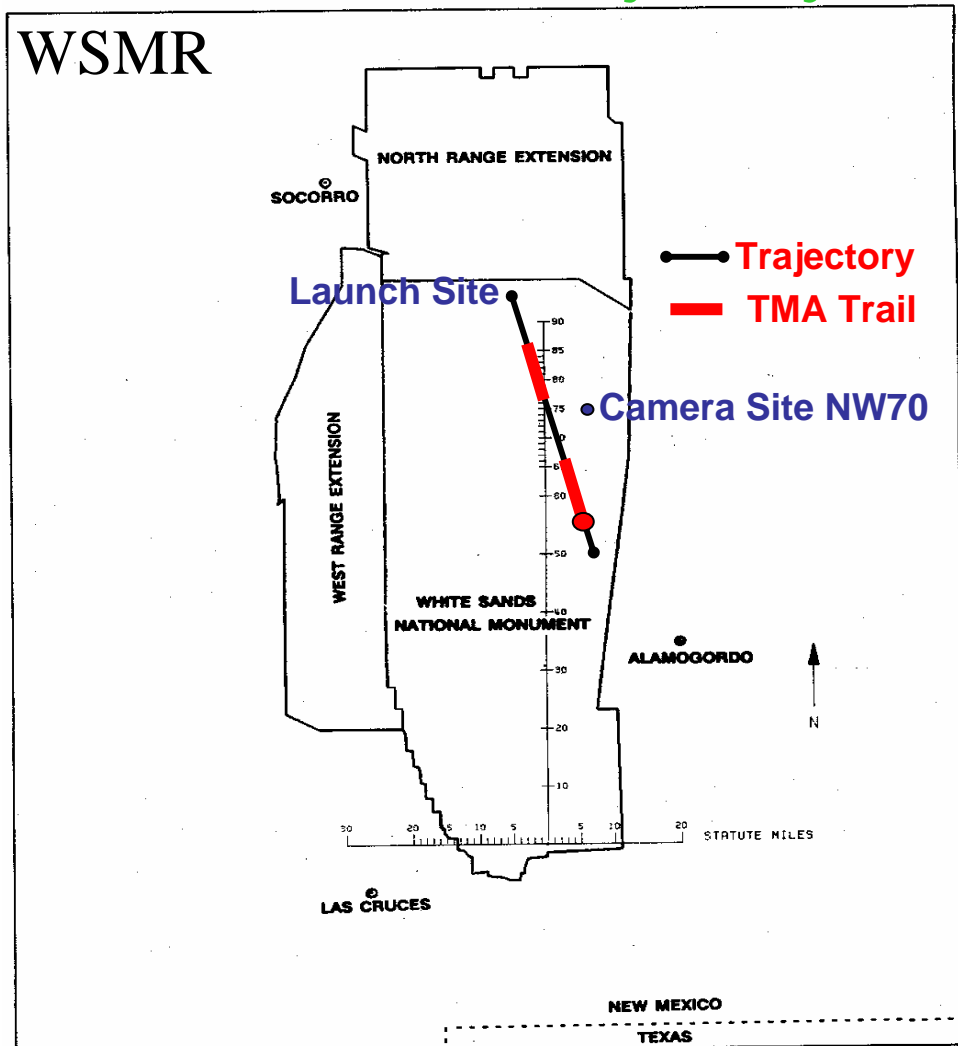
Artificial Aurora from Sunspot and Starfire Sites in  
New Mexico, 26 October 2000, 1001 UT  
Courtesy L.J. Gelinas and M.F. Larsen





# Artificial Aurora

## White Sands Missile Range and TOMEX Trajectory

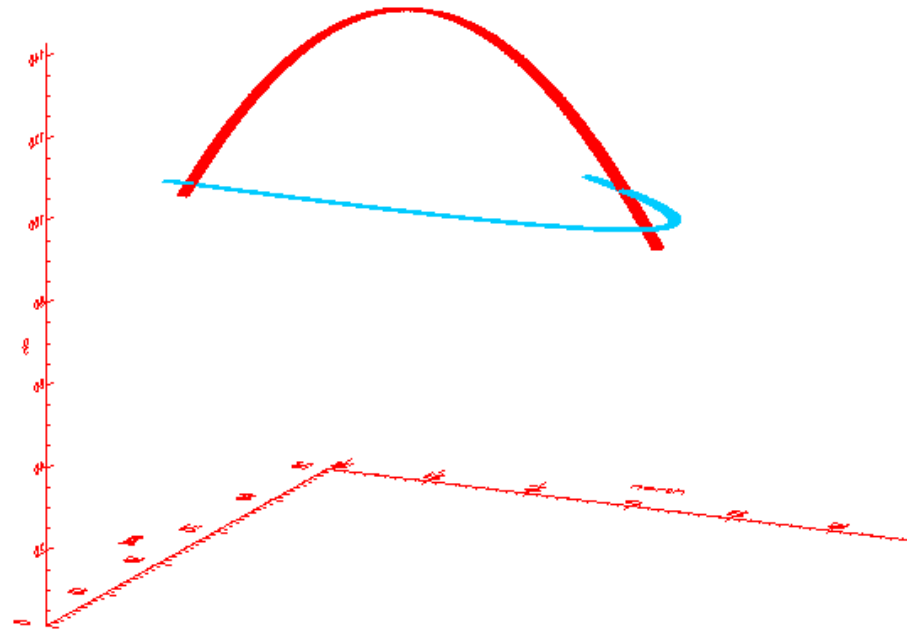




# Images



# Magnetic Field Projection of Trail



## Cause of Artificial Aurora Unknown

Energetic Particles: Electrons or Ion

Chemistry: TMA + Kerosene + Atomic Oxygen

AC and DC Electric Fields: Parallel and Perpendicular

# Starfish Nuclear Detonation



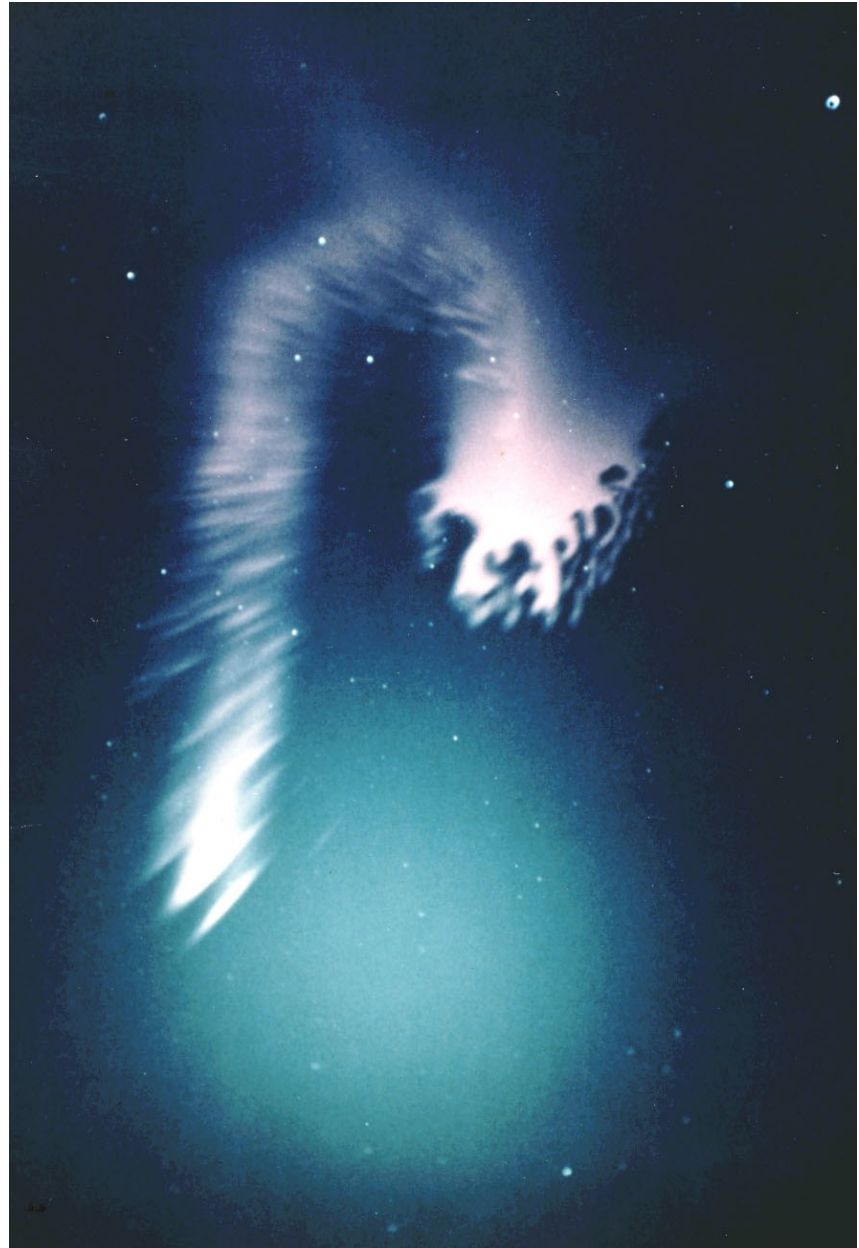
<b>Name:</b>	Starfish
<b>Date:</b>	9 July 1962
<b>Time:</b>	9:00 GMT
<b>Location:</b>	Johnston Island
<b>Altitude:</b>	399 km
<b>Yield:</b>	1450 kt

# Spruce



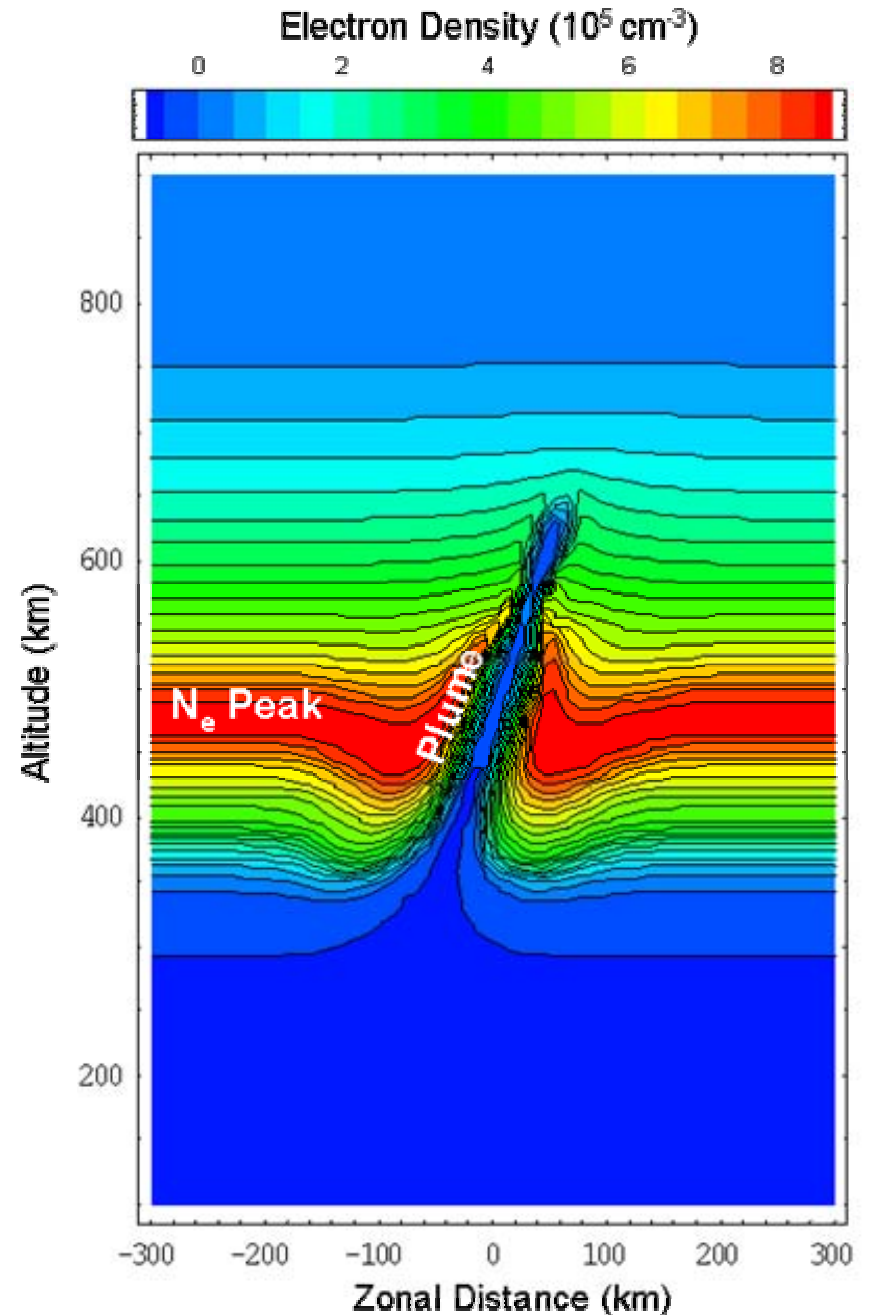
# Ave Fria Dos

Avefria Dos- This release was at Tonopah, Nevada in May 1978 (Pongrantz et al.) at an altitude of about 190 km. The view is from Hot Creek Valley, Nevada about three minutes after the release. This was a 1.45 kg shaped charged barium release fired across the magnetic field. The barium cloud had an initial radius of about 1 km. The "cats paw" part of the figure is looking up the magnetic field line, and the longer part of the cloud is not up the field line.





Barium Cloud  
Irregularities  
are  
Surrogates for  
Equatorial  
Bubbles





21:08:00

21:08:08

21:08:16

21:08:24

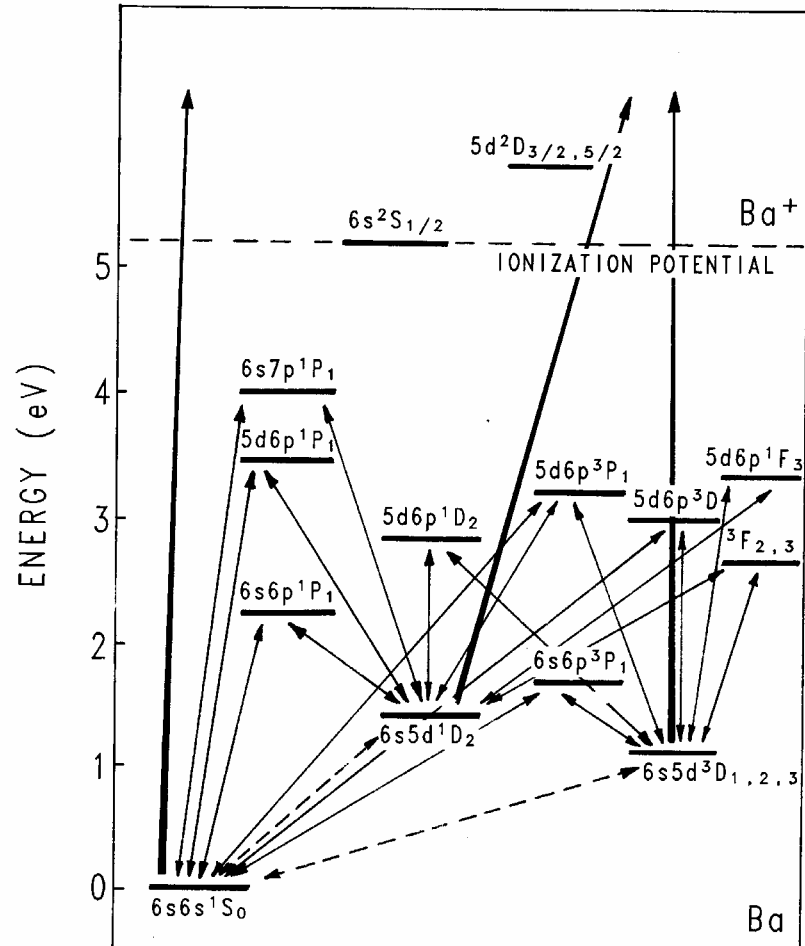
21:08:32

21:08:40

BIME II  
13 September 1082  
21:00:UT  
Natal, Brazil  
AMFO Detonation at 280 km  
Paul A. Bernhardt  
LANL/NRL

# Barium Term Diagram

- 30 Second Ionization Time
- Colors: **Green** Neutral and **Violet** Ion Emissions
- Two Photon Ionization
  1. Metastable State Population
  2. Ionization From Metastable State



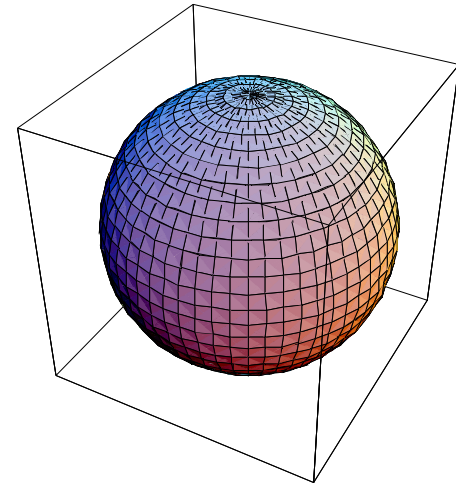
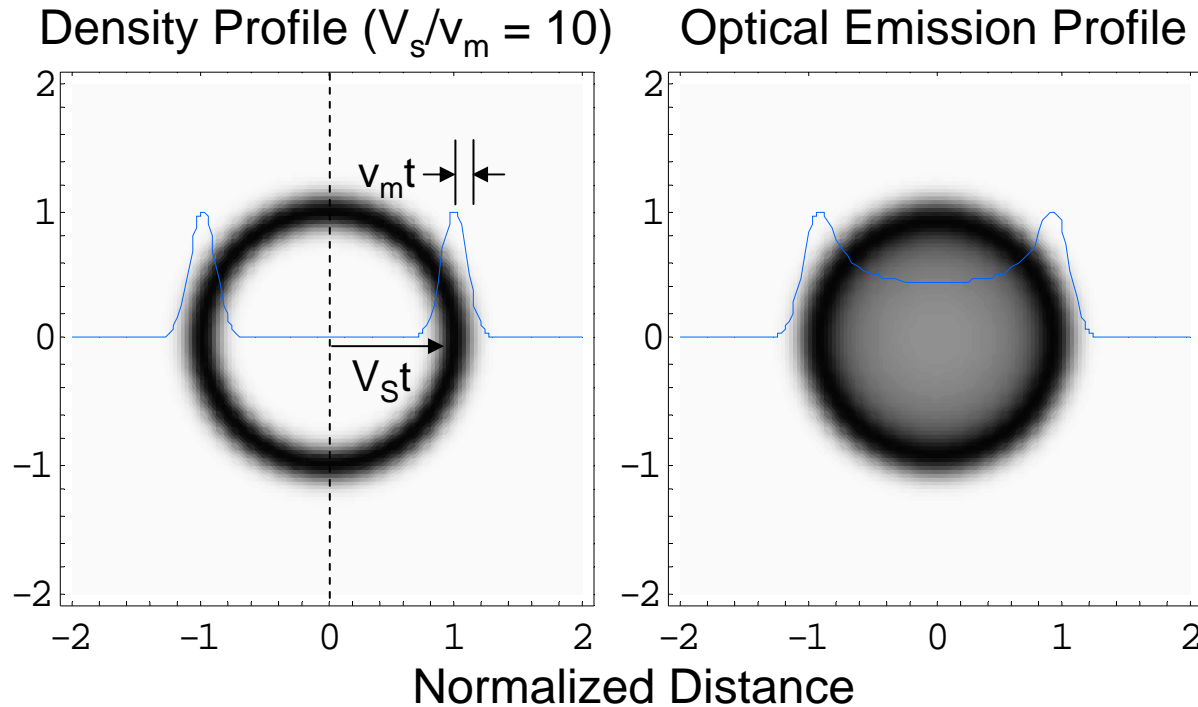
Space Shuttle Observations of a Barium Cloud During  
STS-50, 2 July 1992, El Coqui Rocket Campaign,  
Puerto Rico





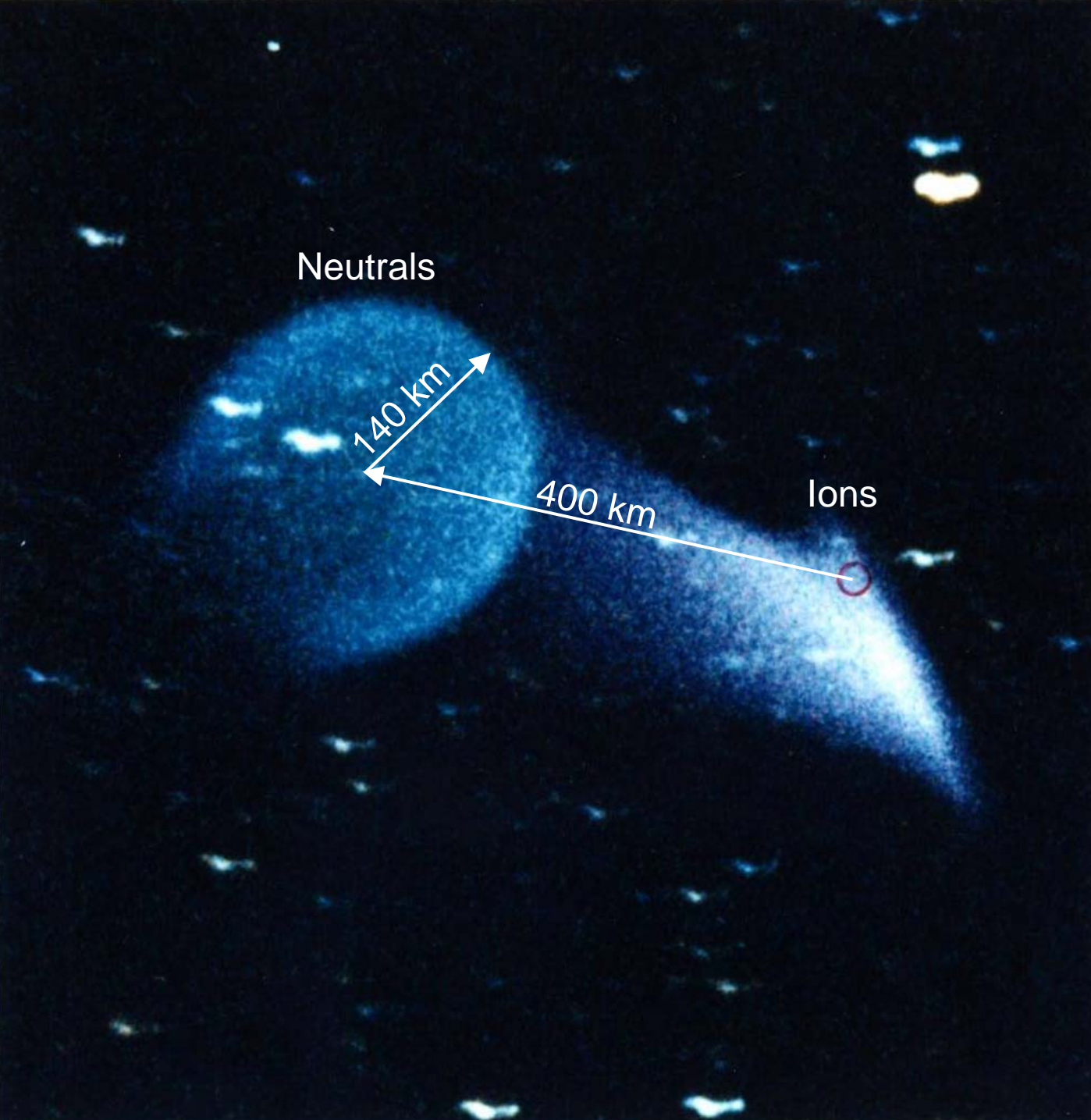
# Density Shells and Optical Observations

- Three-Dimensional Shell Expansions into a Vacuum



## – Characteristics

- Circular Optical Projection from all Directions
- Self-Similar Expansion
- Barium Thermite Parameters:  $V_s \cong 1.38$  km/s,  $v_m \cong 0.26$  km/s
- Lithium Thermite Parameters:  $V_s \cong 3.67$  km/s,  $v_m \cong 1.30$  km/s



Neutrals

140 km

400 km

Ions

# CRRES G-2 Barium Release

13 January  
1991

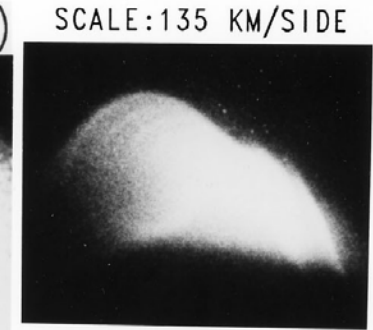
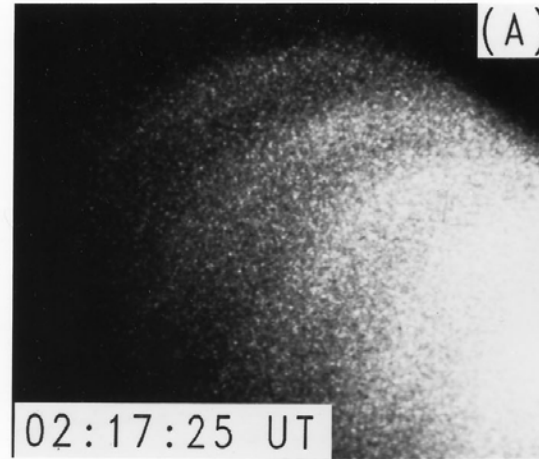
Release  
02:17:00 UT

Image  
02:18:24 UT

CRRES G-2 BARIUM ION CLOUD

13 JAN 1991 RELEASE: 02:17:00 UT

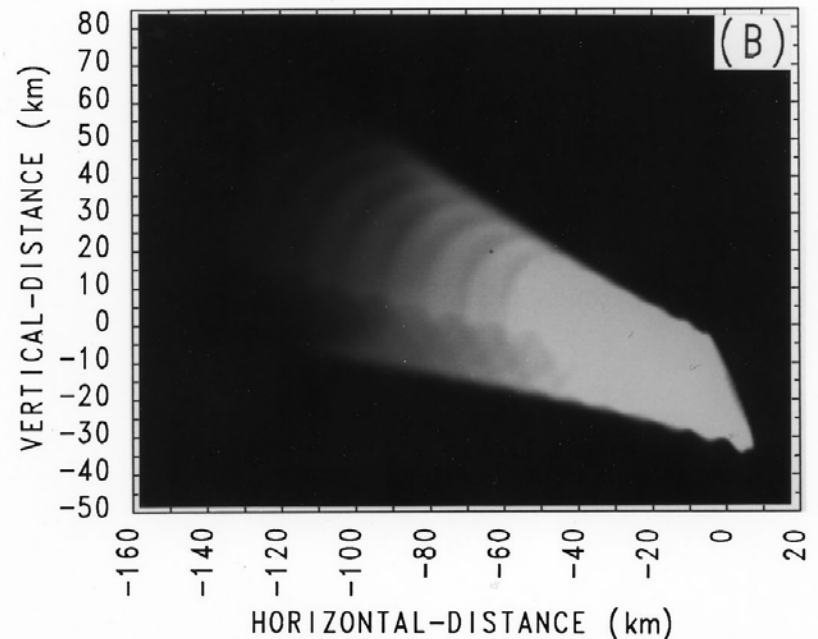
SCALE:48 KM/SIDE



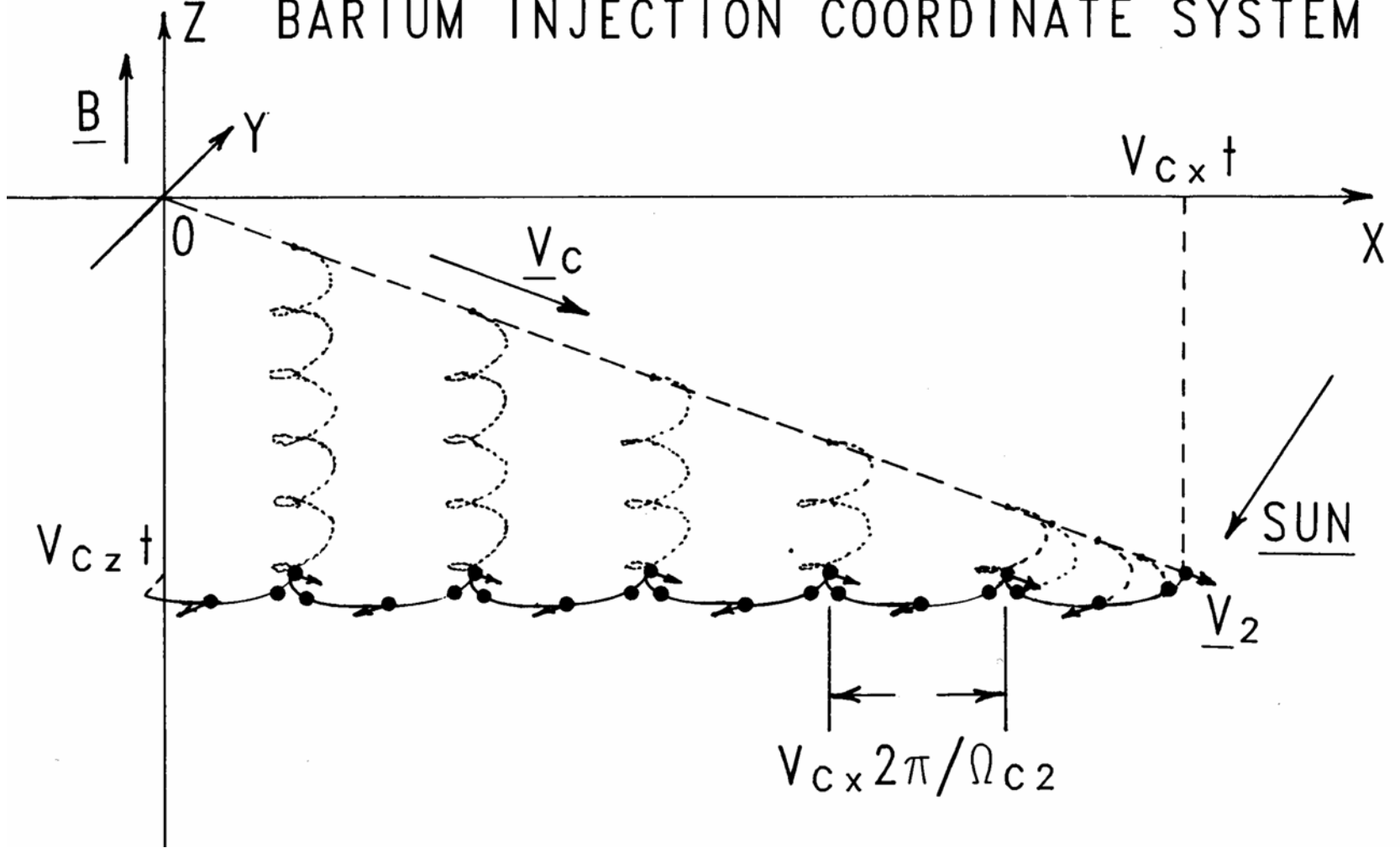
OBSERVATIONS

# Observation and Simulation of Cycloid Bunching in the CRRES G-2 Barium Ion Cloud

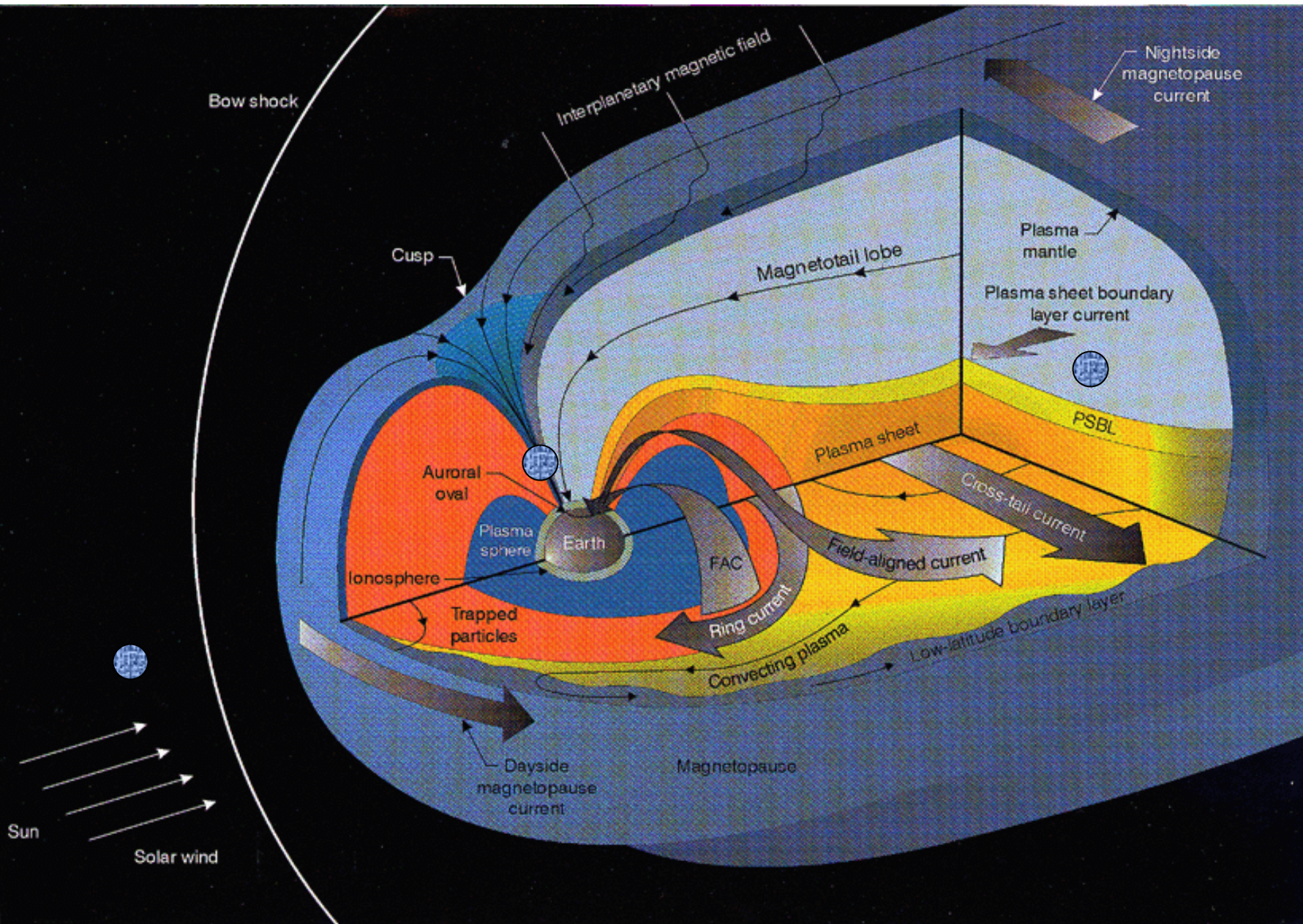
SIMULATION RESULTS



# BARIUM INJECTION COORDINATE SYSTEM





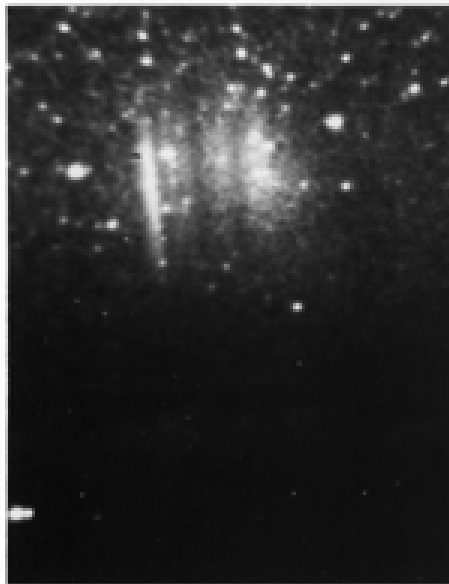


# Parallel Electric Field Sensing Using Barium Ion Tracers

## BARIUM TRACER EXPERIMENT

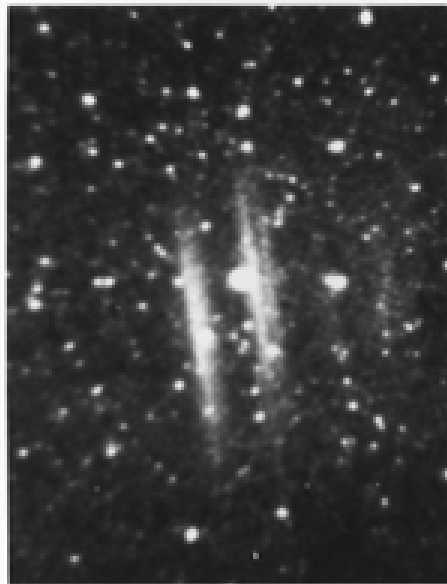
POKER FLATS, ALASKA LAUNCH 08:17:00 UT 31 MARCH 1986

4,000 km ALTITUDE



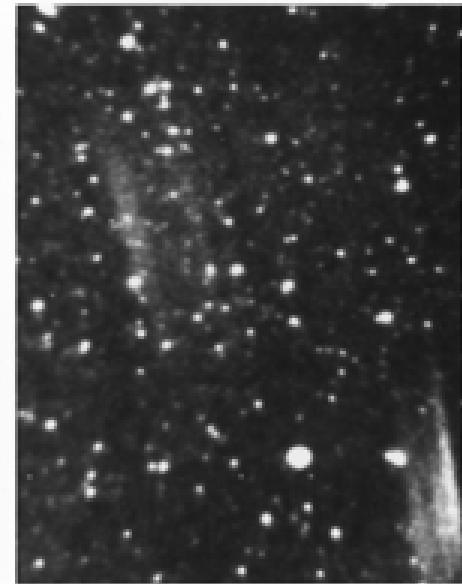
08:28:16 UT

7,000 km ALTITUDE



08:32:11 UT

11,000 km ALTITUDE



08:39:13 UT

25°

MAUI, HAWAII OBSERVATIONS

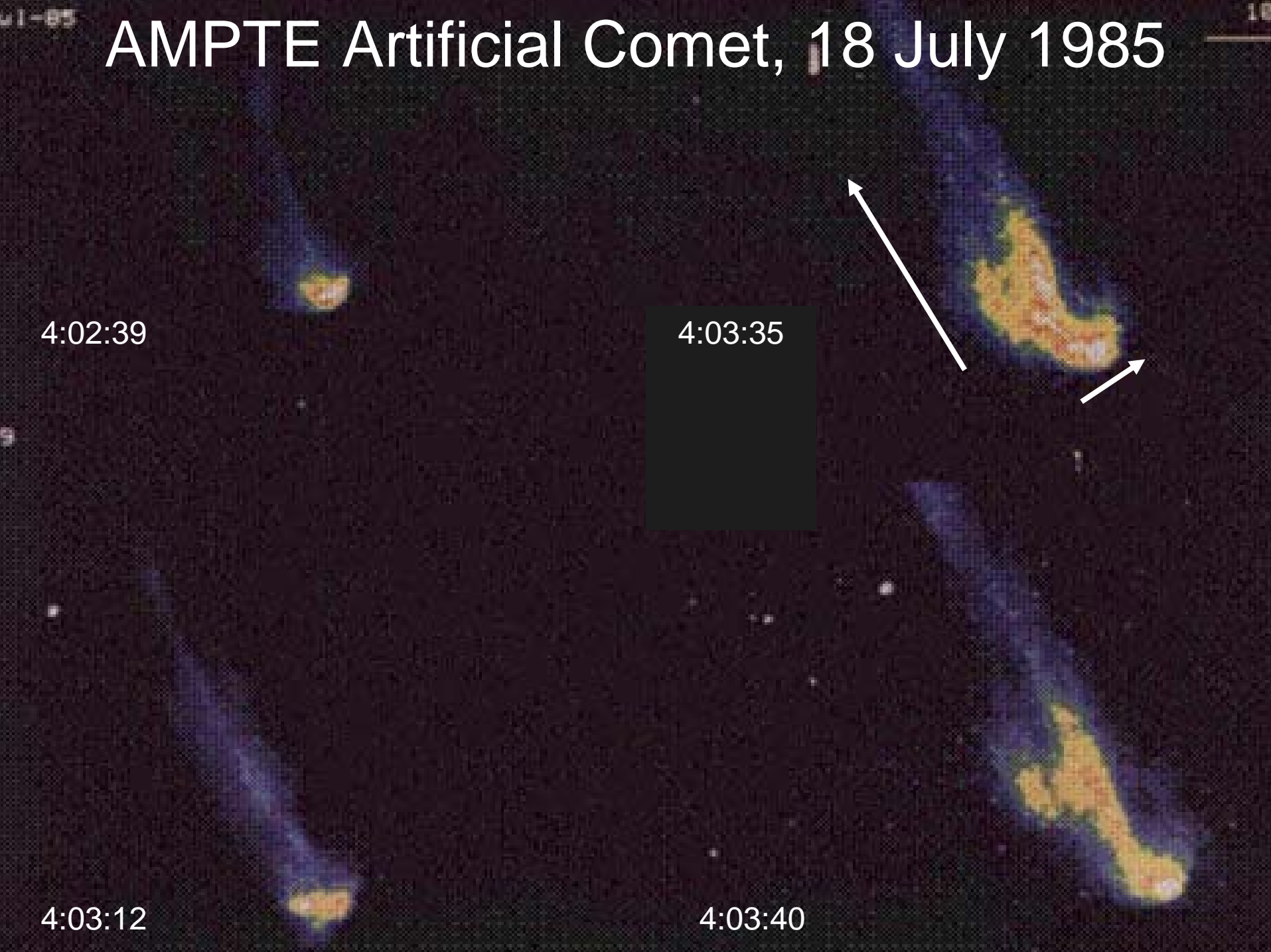
# AMPTE Artificial Comet, 18 July 1985

4:02:39

4:03:35

4:03:12

4:03:40



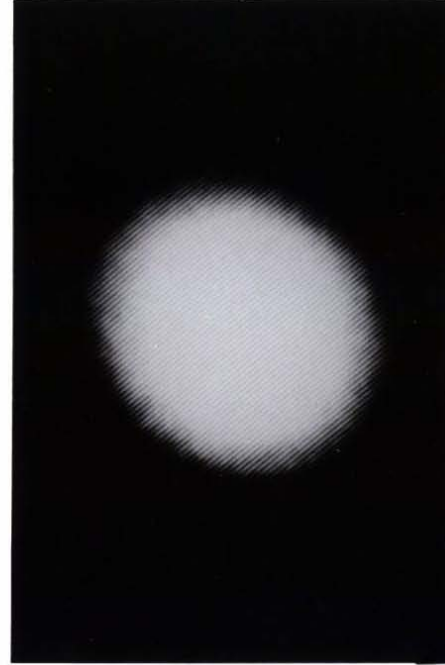




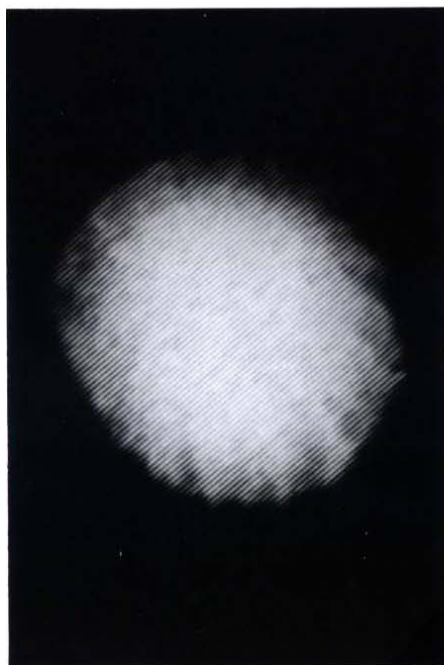
9:21:25



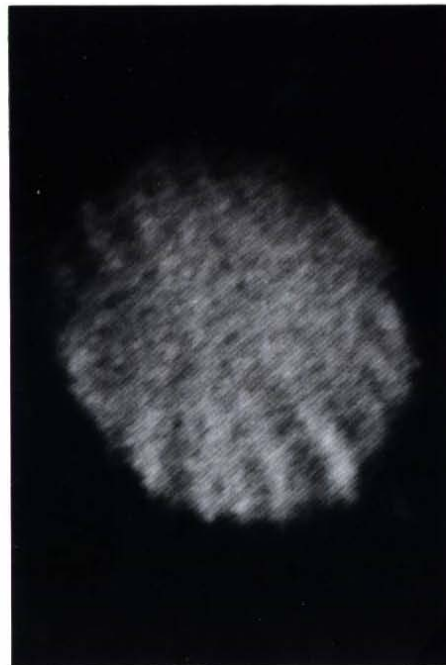
9:22:05



9:22:44



9:23:22



9:24:01



9:24:39

**AMPTE  
Barium  
Release in the  
Magnetotail**

**Diagnmagnetic  
Cavity  
Formation**

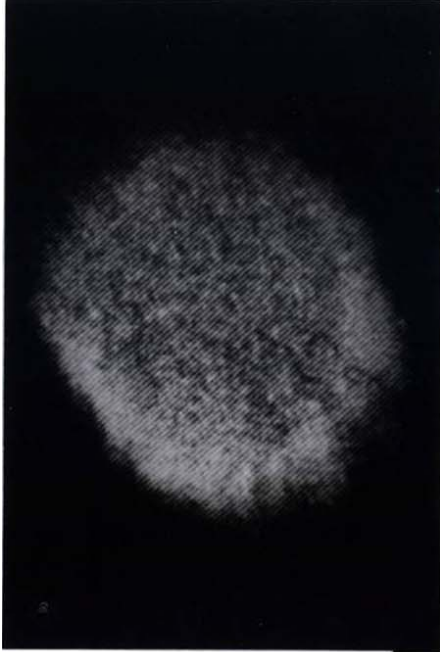
12 March 1985

Maximum  
Radius  
= 210 km

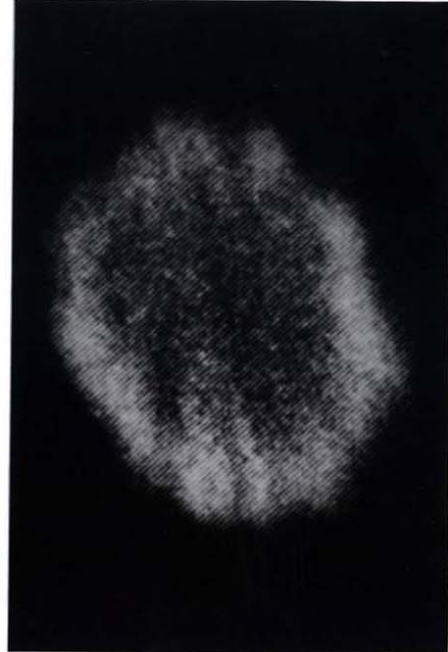
Ambient  
Magnetic Field  
= 8 nT

$7.5 \times 10^{24}$   
Barium Atoms  
Released





9:21:25



9:22:05



9:22:44



9:23:22



9:24:01



9:24:39

**AMPTE  
Barium  
Release in the  
Magnetotail**

**Diagnmagnetic  
Cavity  
Collapse**

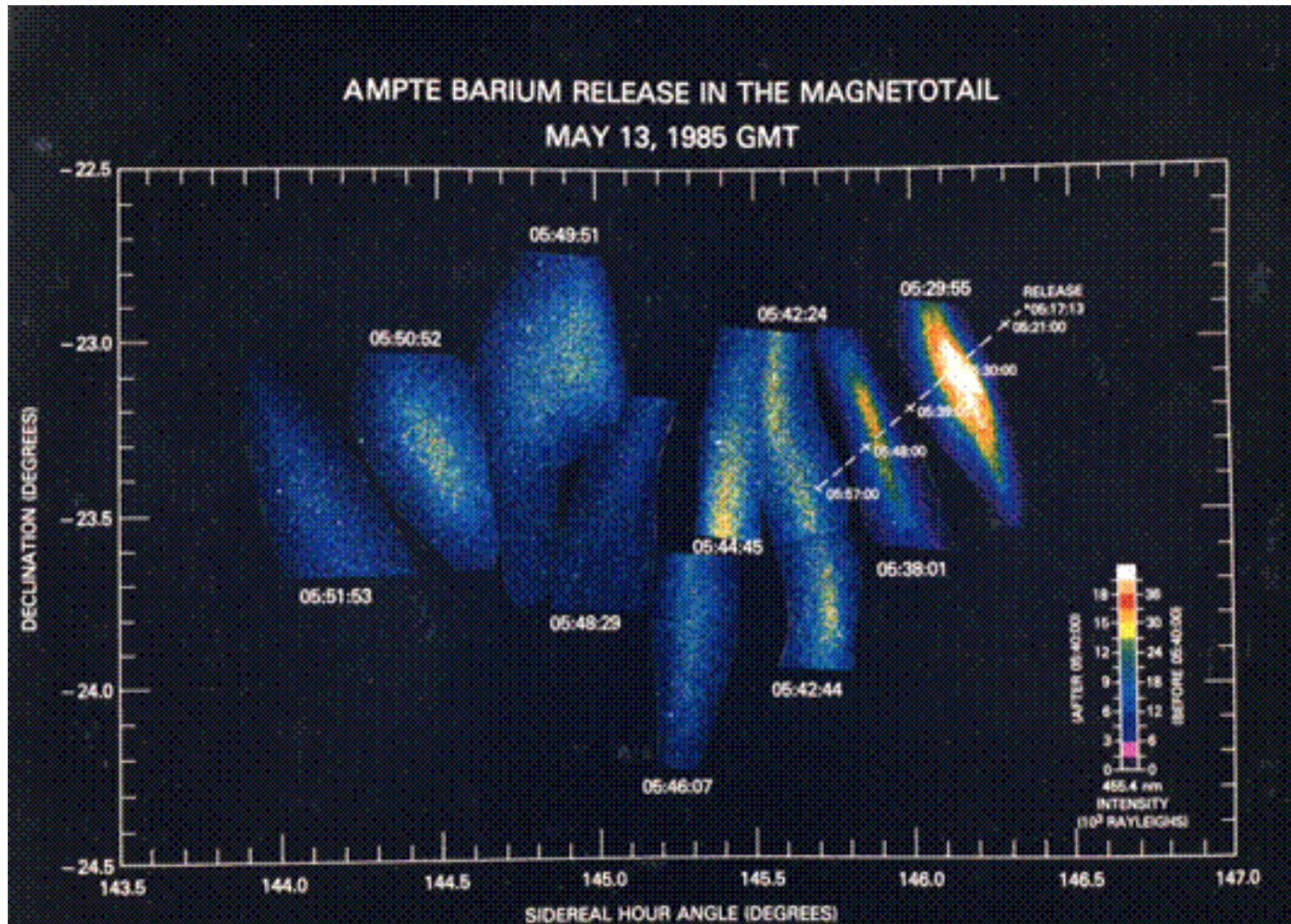
12 March 1985

Maximum  
Radius  
= 210 km

Ambient  
Magnetic Field  
= 8 nT

$7.5 \times 10^{24}$   
Barium Atoms  
Released

# Down Tail Motion of the AMPTE Barium Ion Cloud





# CRRES G-7 Lithium Release

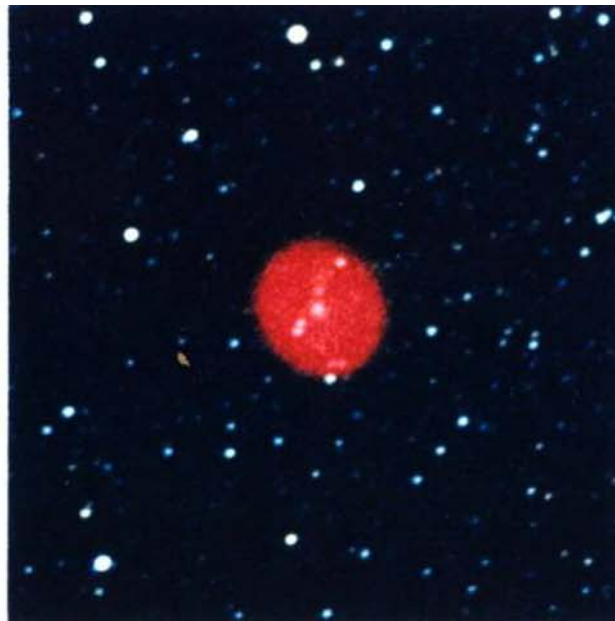
13 January 1991 07:00 UT

33000 km Altitude



Release + 24 Seconds

110 km Radius



Release + 24 Seconds

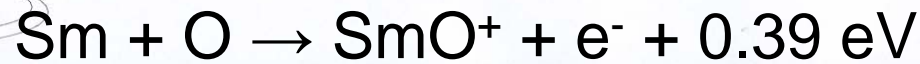
420 km Radius



Release + 24 Seconds

1270 km Radius

# Generation of Electron and Ion Clouds by Samarium Metal Release COPE II September 1998



8 x 40 km Cloud

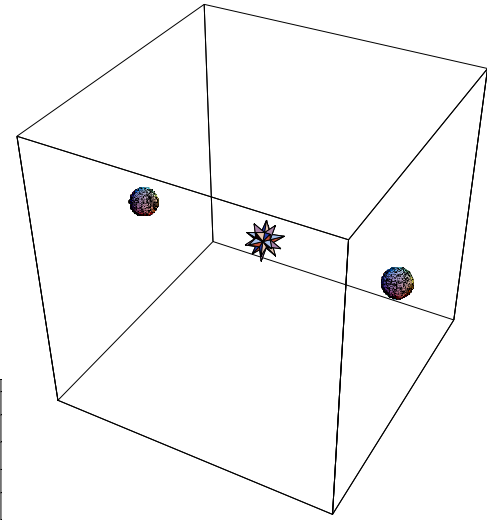
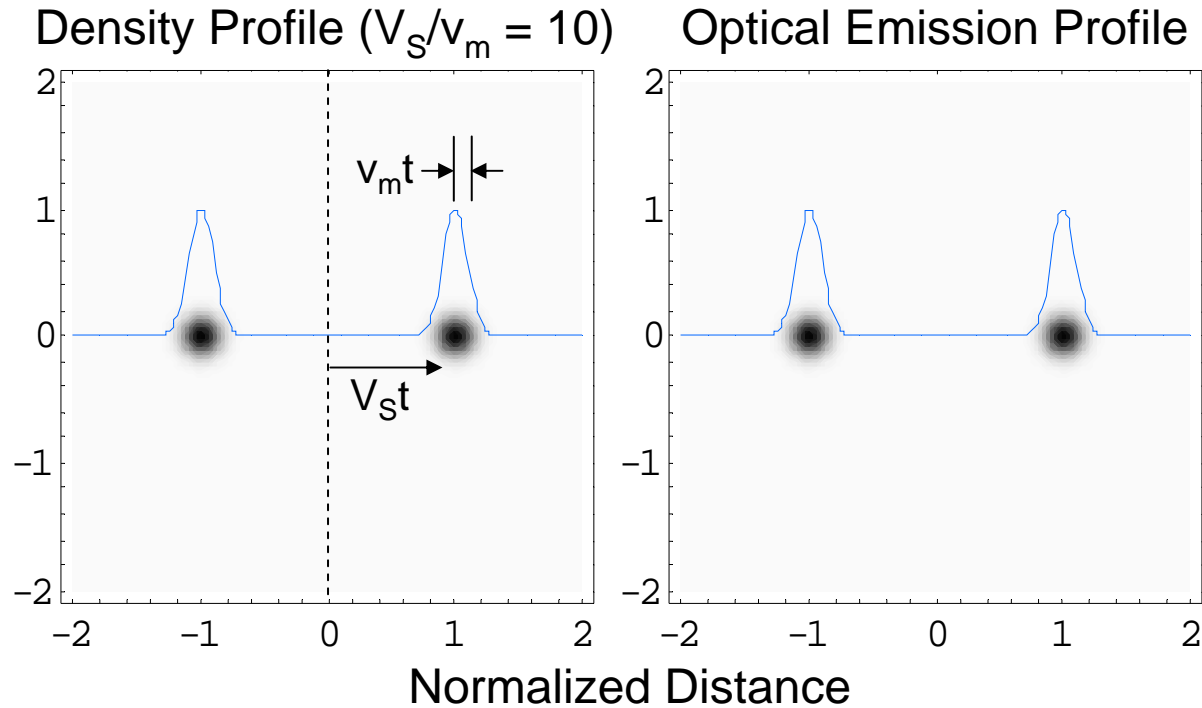
$\text{Ne} \rightarrow 10^9 \text{ cm}^{-3}$

Follow On Experiment by AFRL in Planning Phase



# Density Shells and Optical Observations

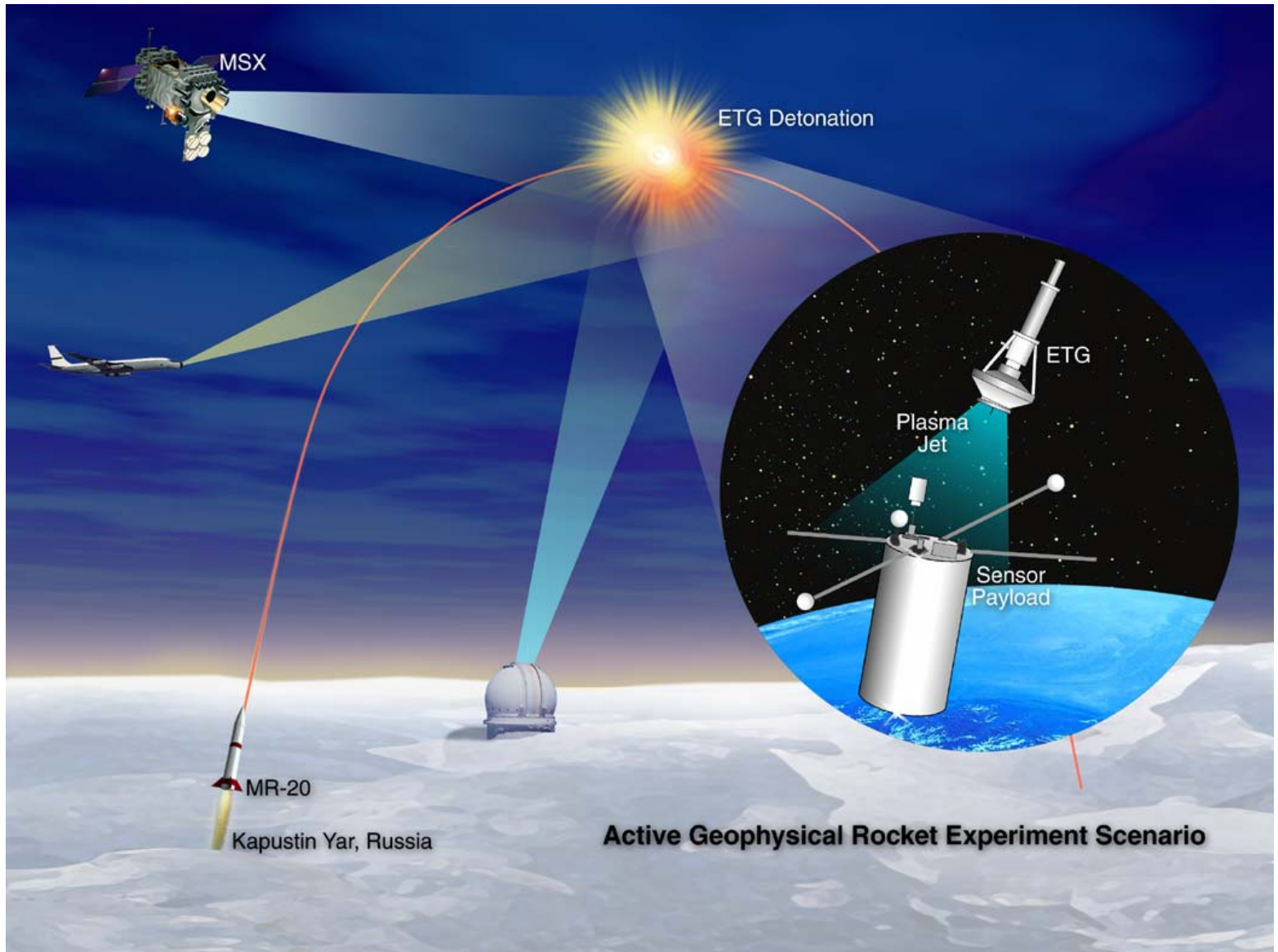
- One-Dimensional Jet Releases in a Vacuum



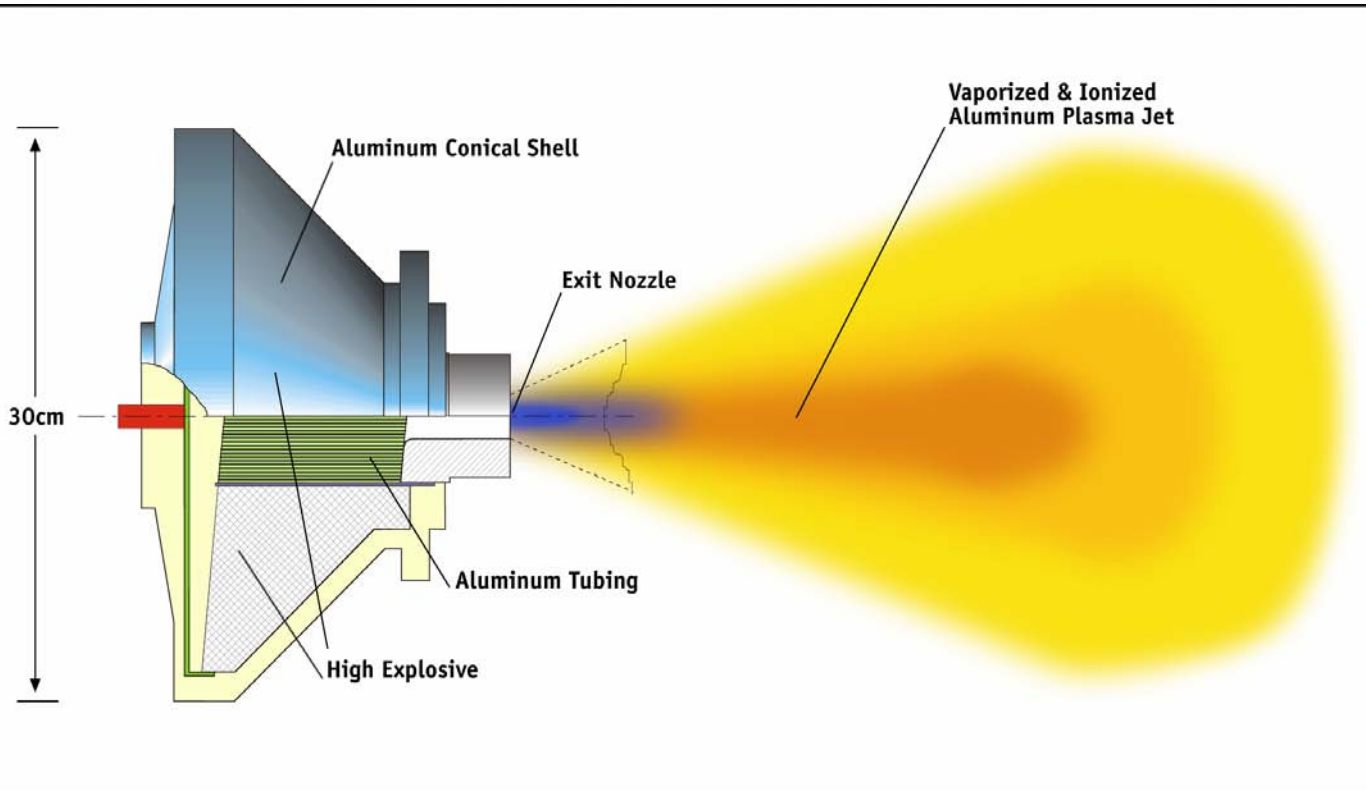
## – Characteristics

- Directed Injection of Expanding Ball
- Aluminum ETG Parameters:  $V_s \cong 20$  km/s,  $v_m \cong 8$  km/s

# Fluxus 1&2 Experiment Scenario



# Explosive Type Generator (ETG)

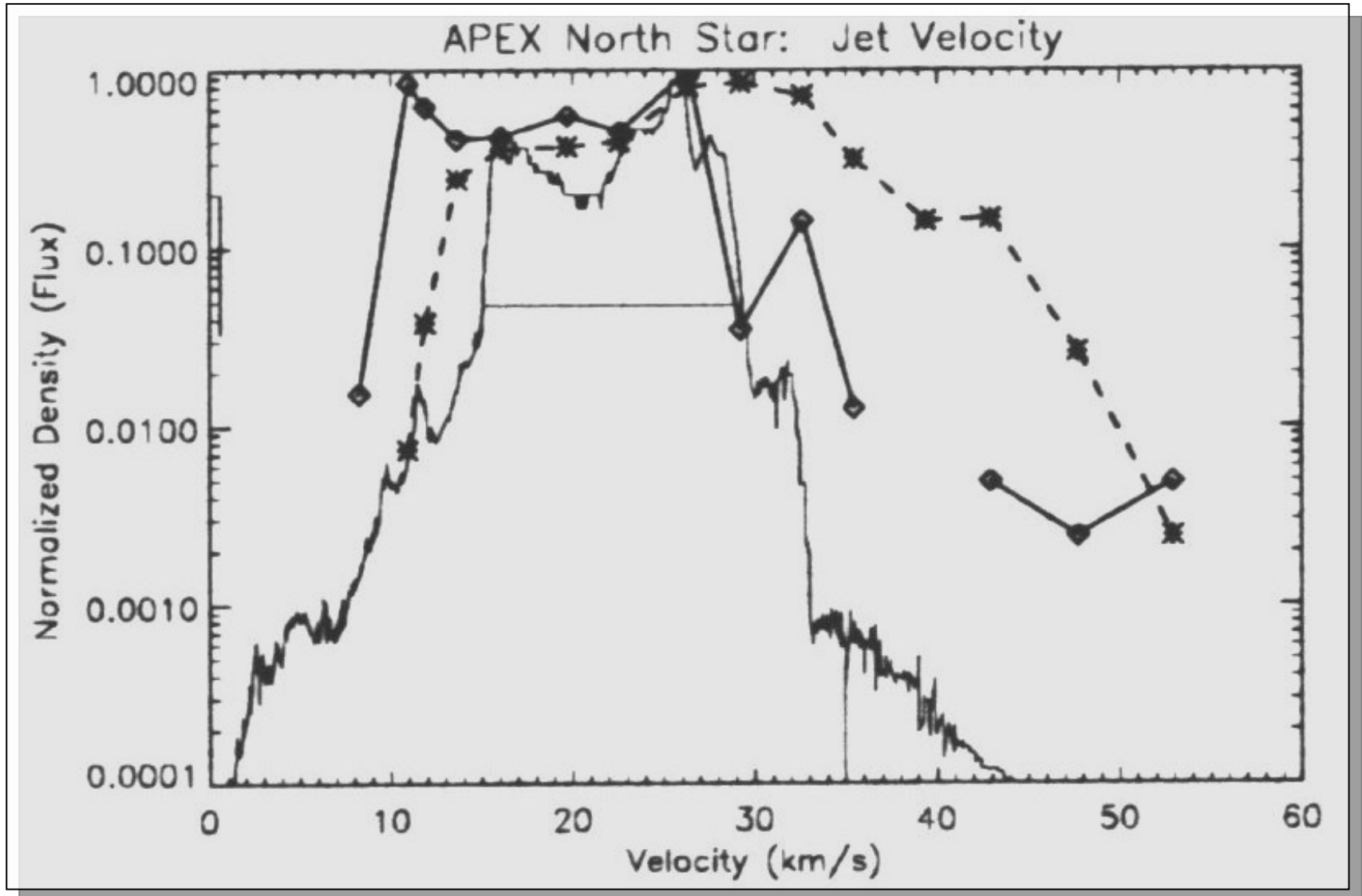


## ETG Specifications:

**High Explosives:**  
**Weight: 9.7 kg**  
**Energy: 40 MJ**  
**Type: 35% TNT**  
**65% RDX**

**Plasma Jet**  
**Material: Aluminum**  
**Mass: 40 g**  
**Energy: 6 MJ**  
**Velocity: 20 km/s**

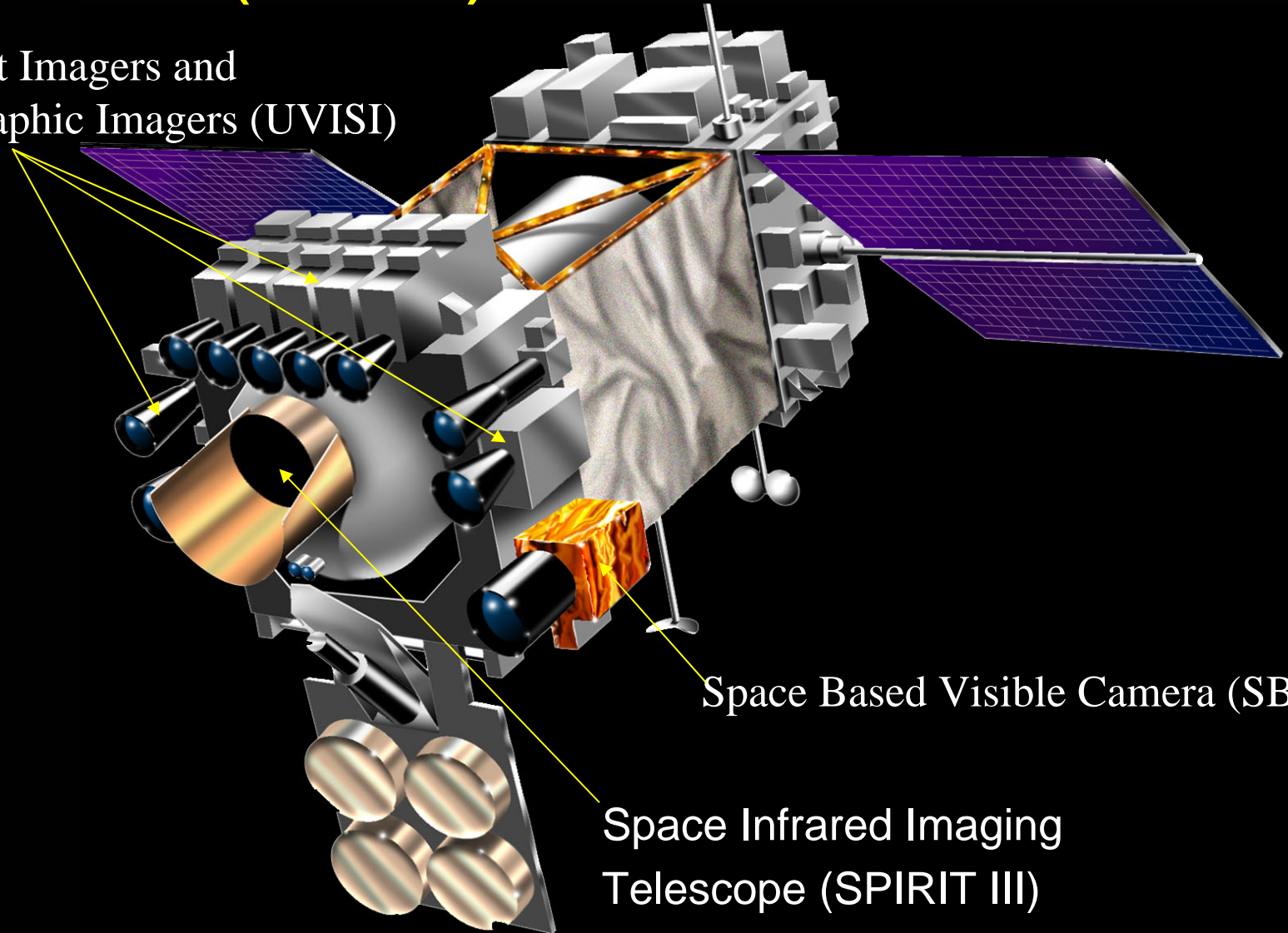
# Plasma Jet Velocity Distribution





# Midcourse Space Experiment (MSX) Satellite

Ultraviolet Imagers and Spectrographic Imagers (UVISI)

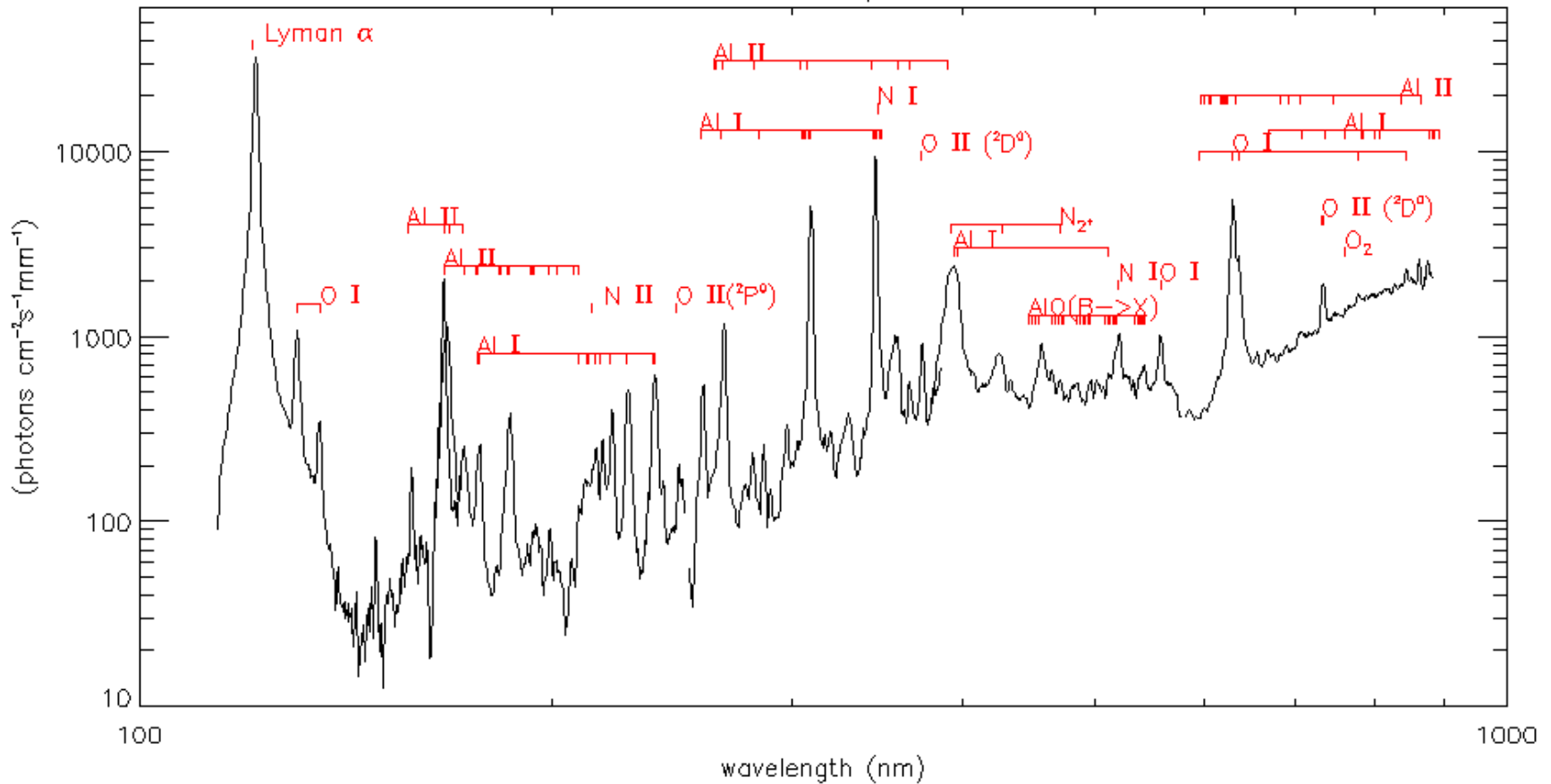


Space Based Visible Camera (SBV)

Space Infrared Imaging Telescope (SPIRIT III)

# MSX UVISI Spectral Observations APEX ETG-1

APEX ETG1 – MSX/UVISI SPIMs

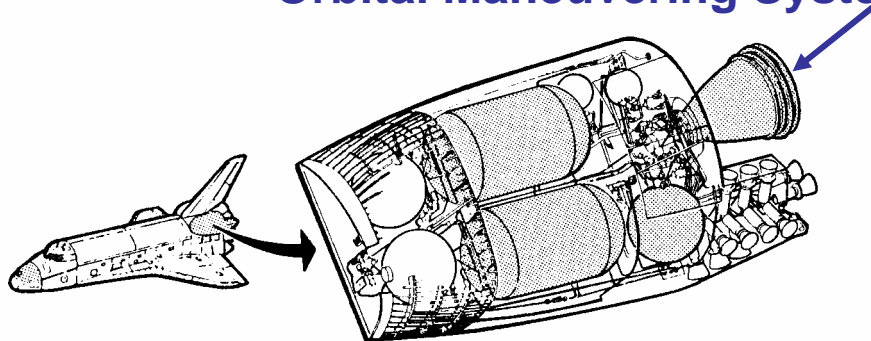


**Integration Time: 0.5 sec**

**Range to Plasma Jet: 2800 km, Field of View: 0.1 x 1.0°**

# Space Shuttle OMS Engine Exhaust Parameters

## Orbital Maneuvering System (OMS)



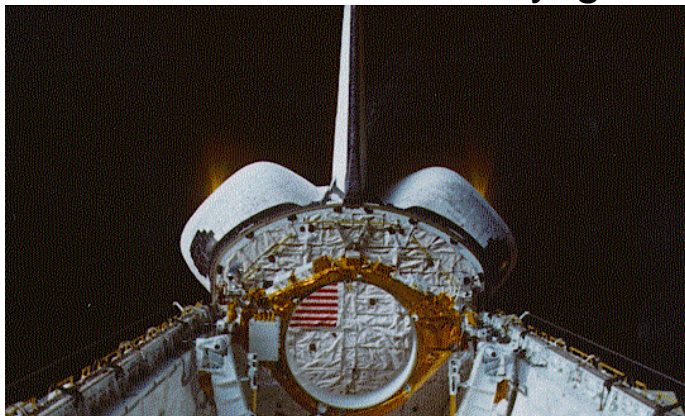
Flow Rate:  $5.0 \times 10^{26}$  Molecules per Engine

Exhaust Species	Mole Fraction
CO	0.050
CO <sub>2</sub>	0.122
H <sub>2</sub>	0.241
H <sub>2</sub> O	0.274
N <sub>2</sub>	0.313

Nonuniform  
Dual OMS Burn



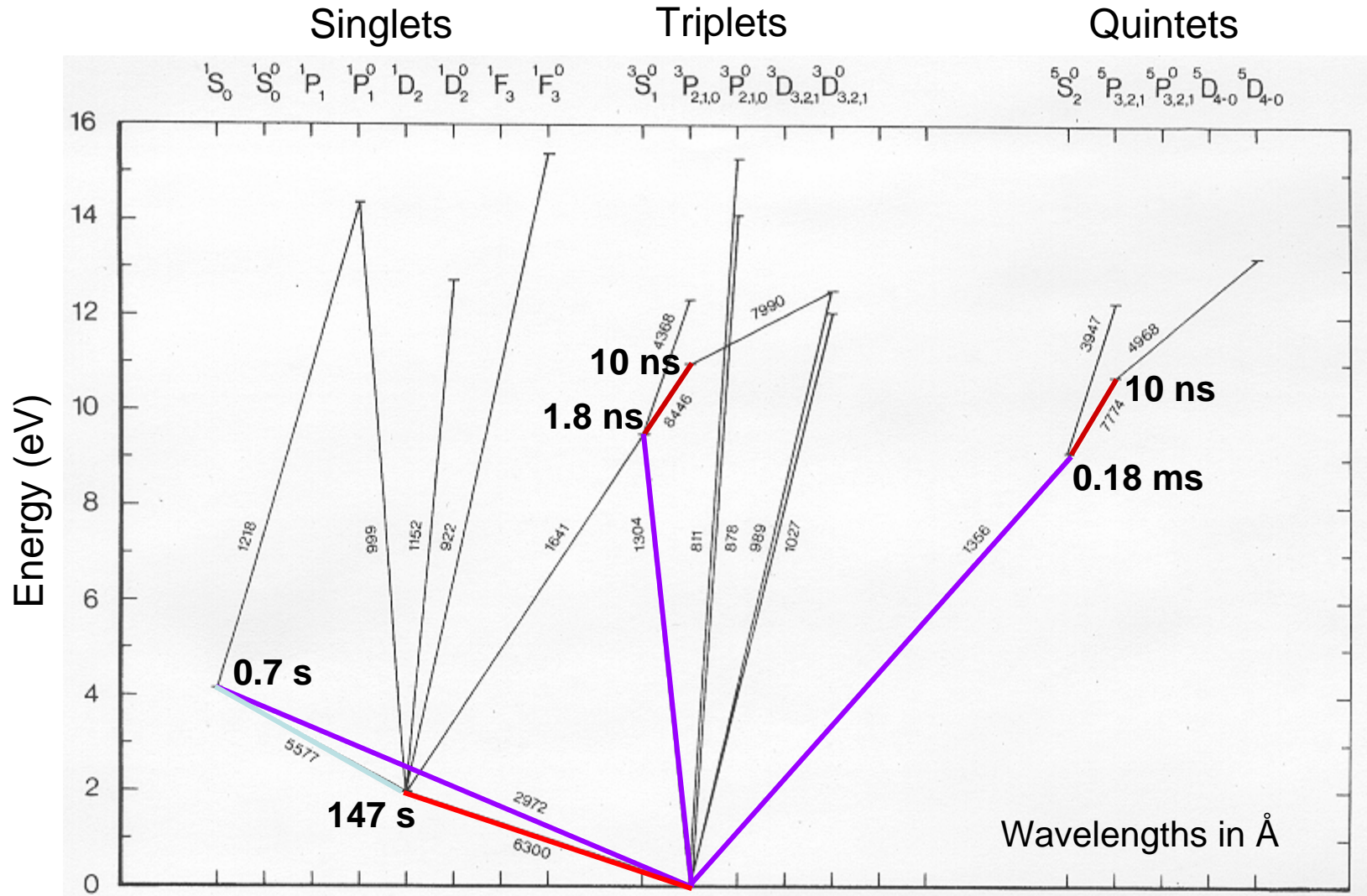
Symmetrical  
Dual OMS Burn in Daylight



Single OMS Burn at Night

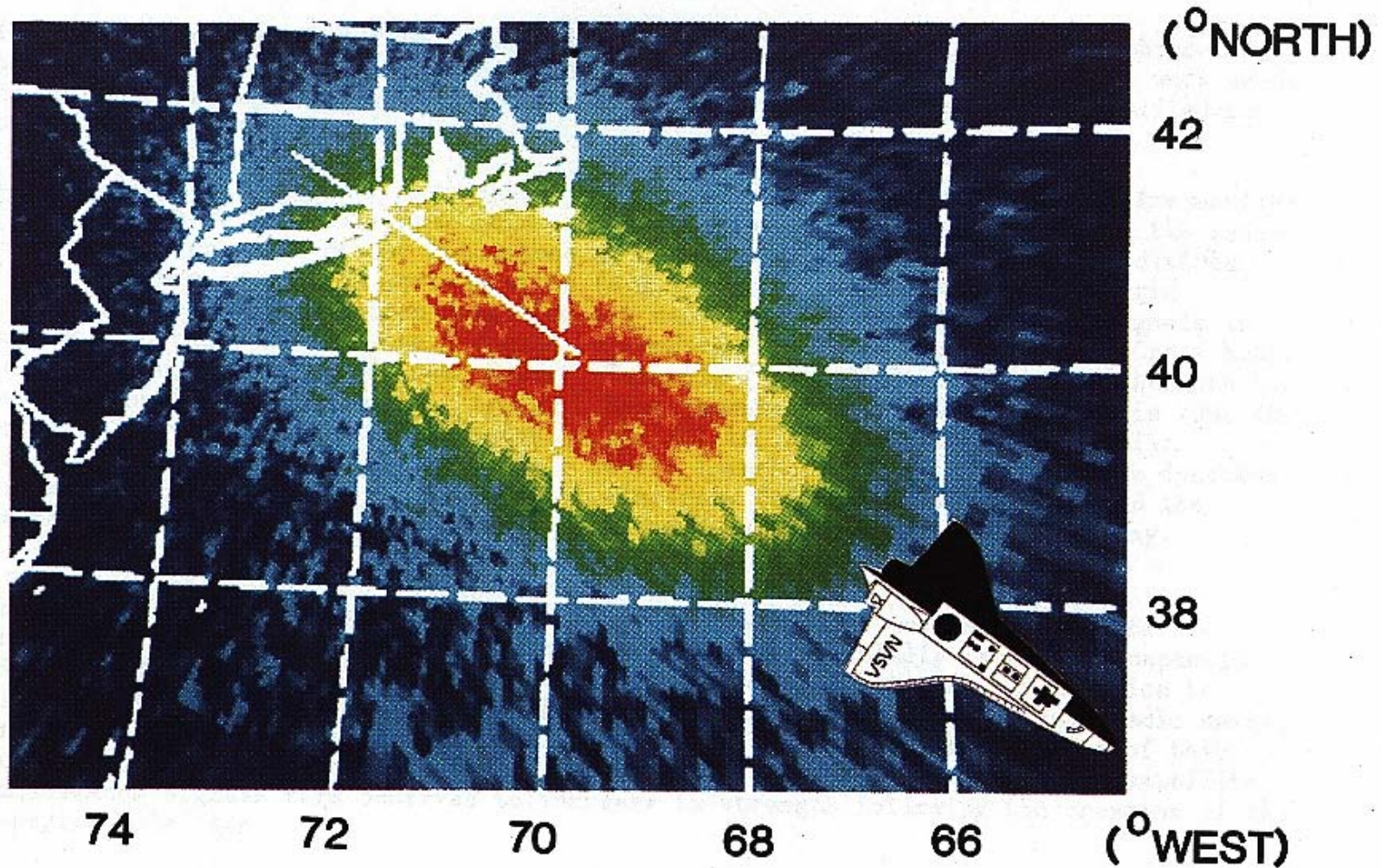


# Transitions for Atomic Oxygen





# Spacelab 2 Burn Over Millstone Hill, MA 630 nm Emission, 29 July, 1985



# Atlas-F Launch, 23 June 1981 10:50:00 UT

Red-Line Emissions From Reactions Between  
the Ionosphere and the Rocket Exhaust



10:54:45 UT



10:56:24 UT

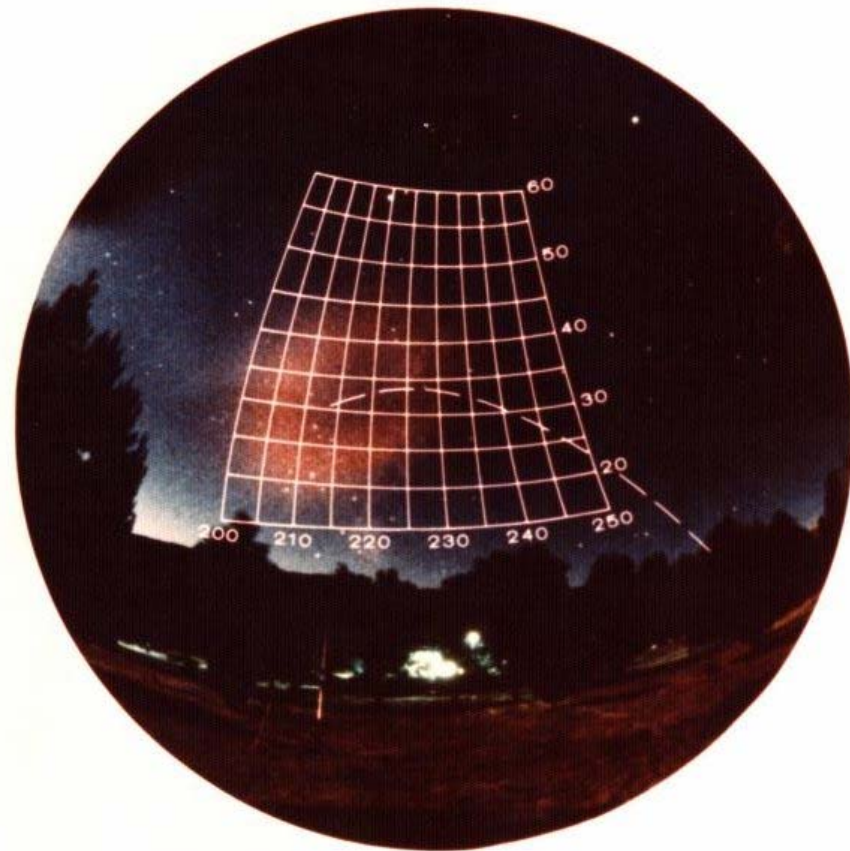


# Atlas-F Launch, 23 June 1981 10:50:00 UT

## Red-Line Emissions From Reactions Between the Ionosphere and the Rocket Exhaust



10:54:45 UT



10:56:24 UT

Atlas-F Launch, 23 June 1981 10:50:00 UT

Red-Line Emissions From Reactions Between  
the Ionosphere and the Rocket Exhaust



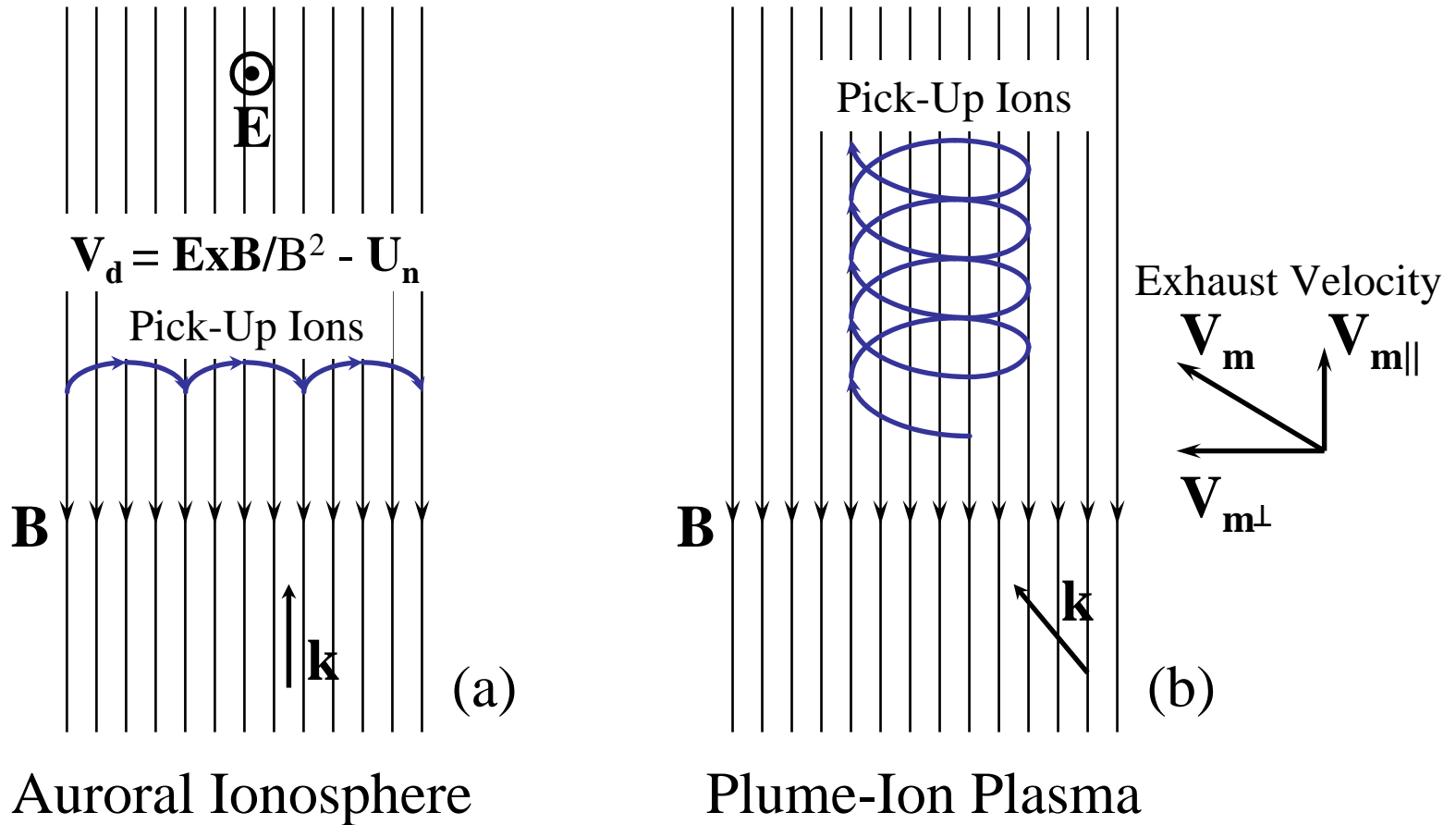
11:01:17 UT



10:04:35 UT



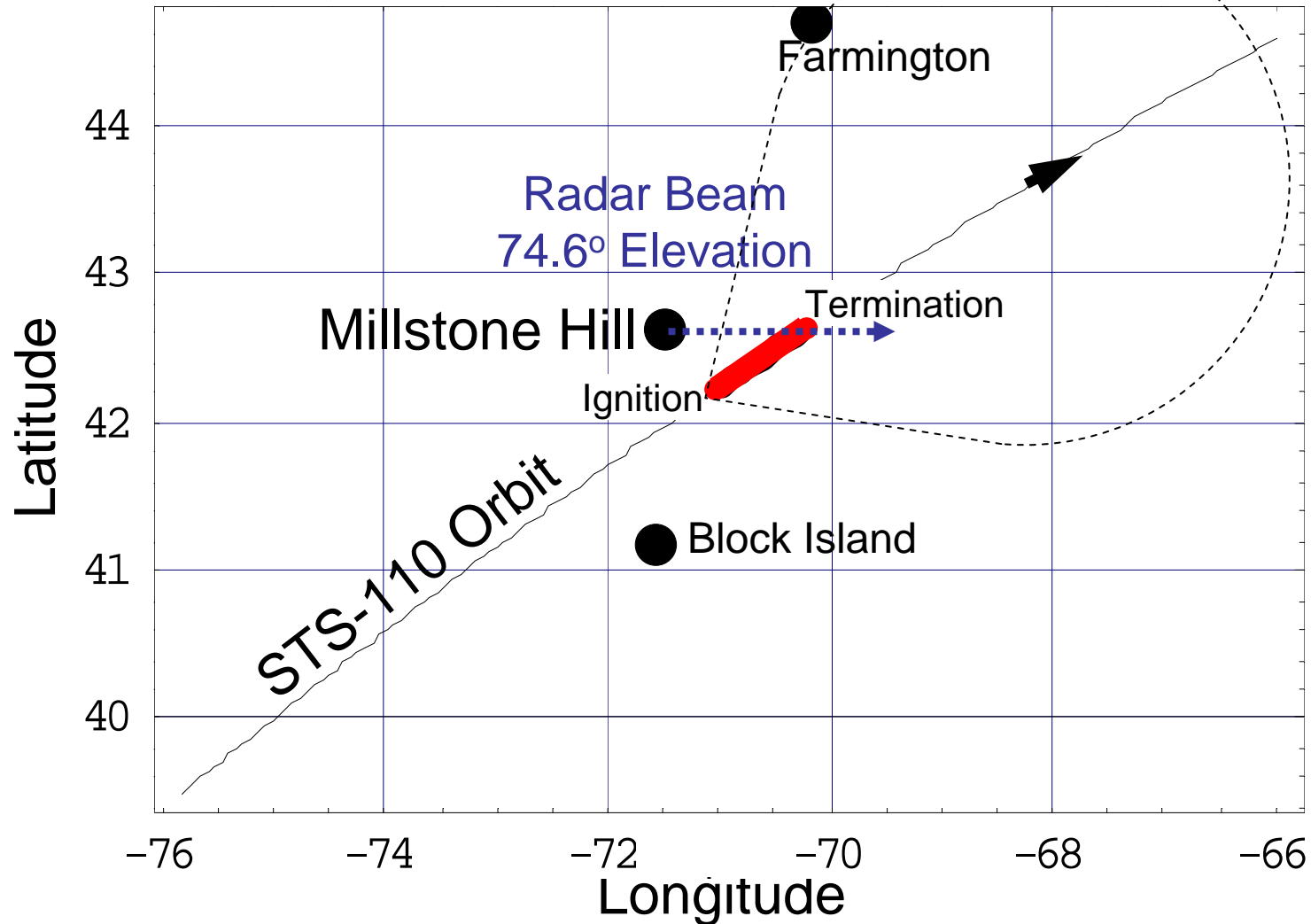
# Ion Ring Distributions from Auroral Convection and Exhaust Injection



# STS-110 Burn Location

18 April 2002 GMT

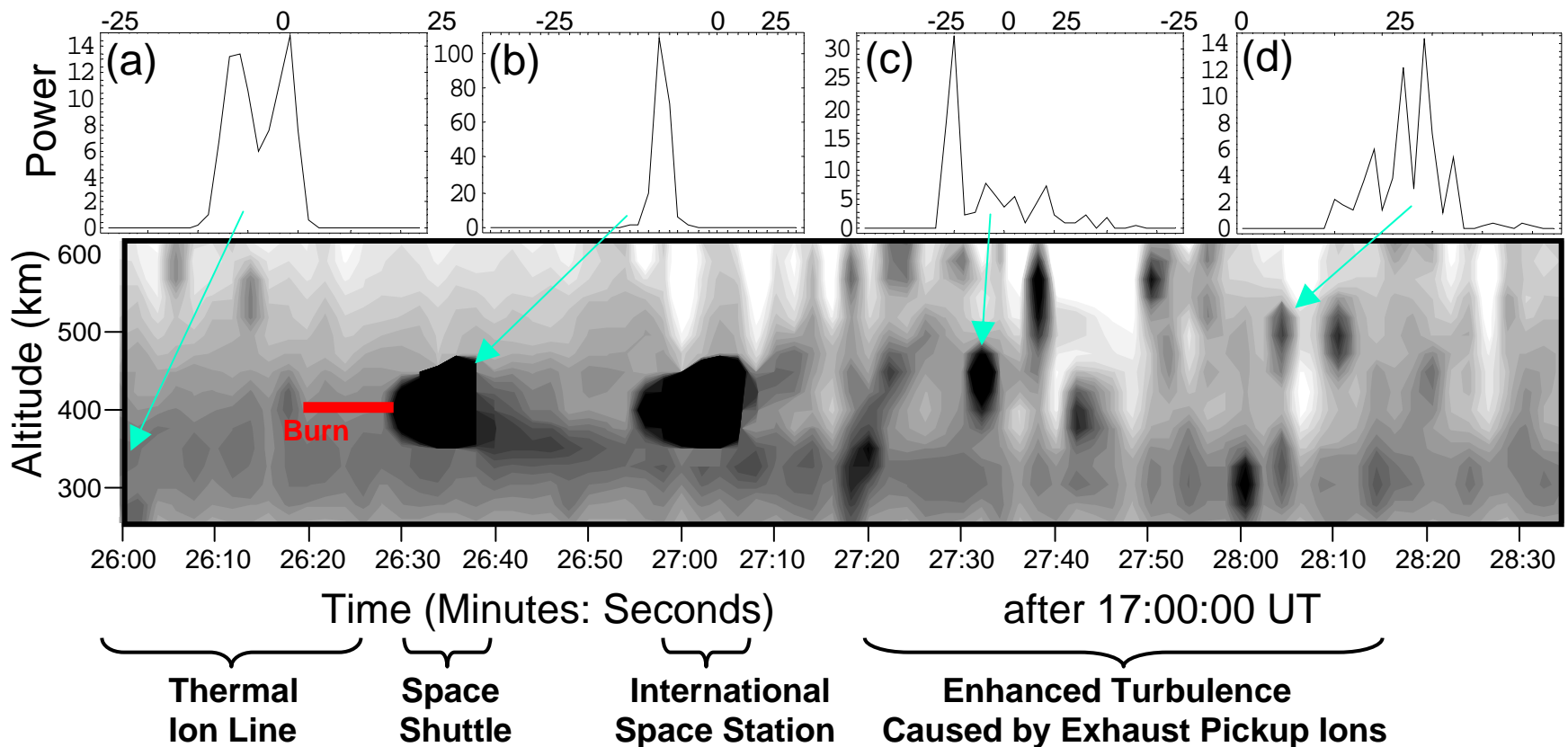
Ignition: 17:26:18.95, Termination: 17:26:28.95



# SIMPLEX IV Radar Backscatter

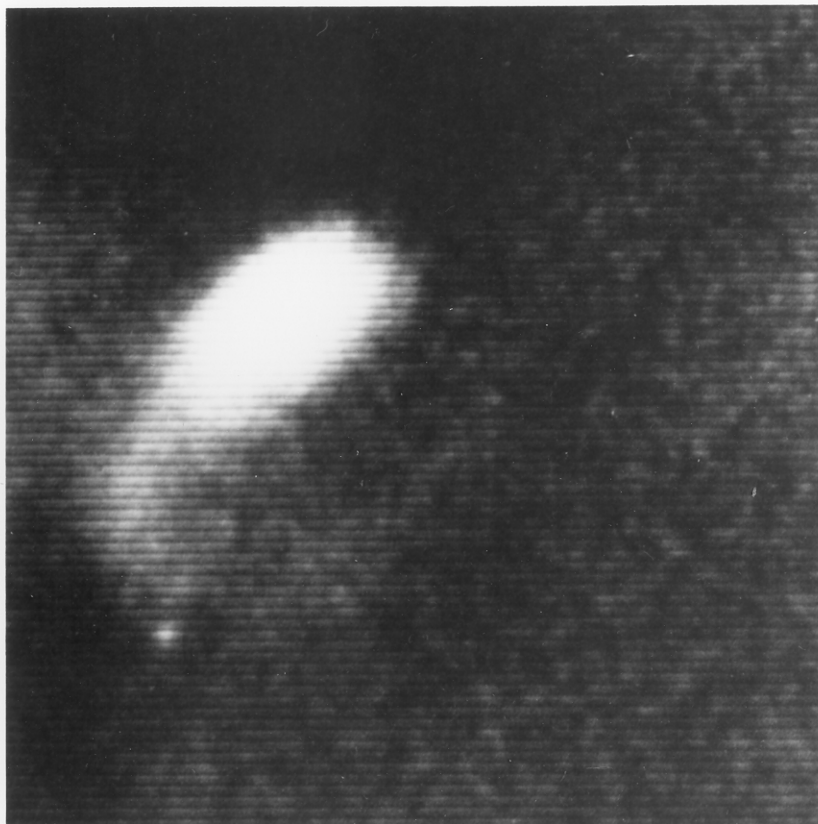
Millstone Hill Radar, 18 April 2002  
Burn Time 17:26:19 – 17:26:29 UT  
2 Second and 24 km Resolution

Spectral Frequency Shift (kHz)

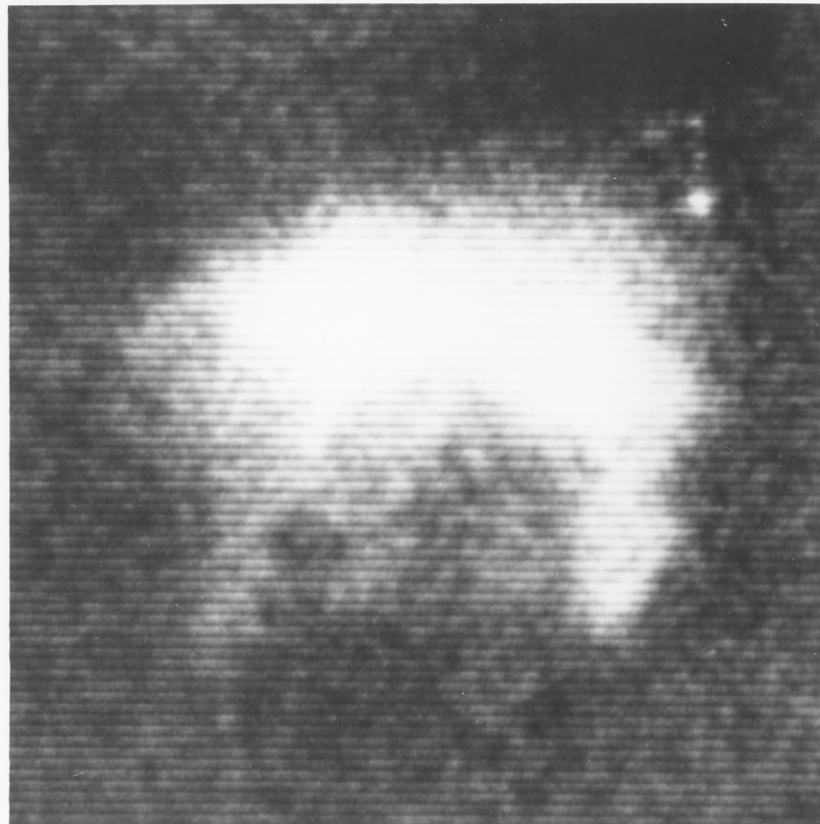


**SPINEX-2**

**28 APRIL 1986**



**02:01:03 UT**

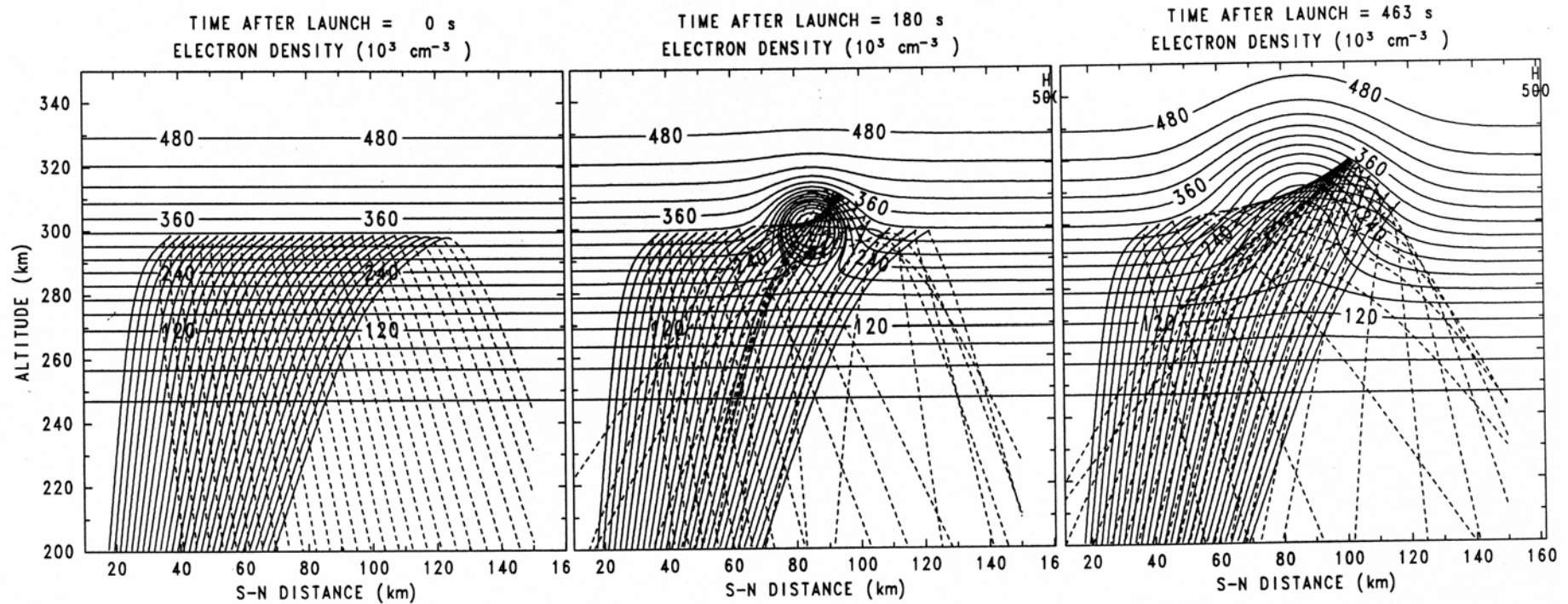


**02:01:40 UT**

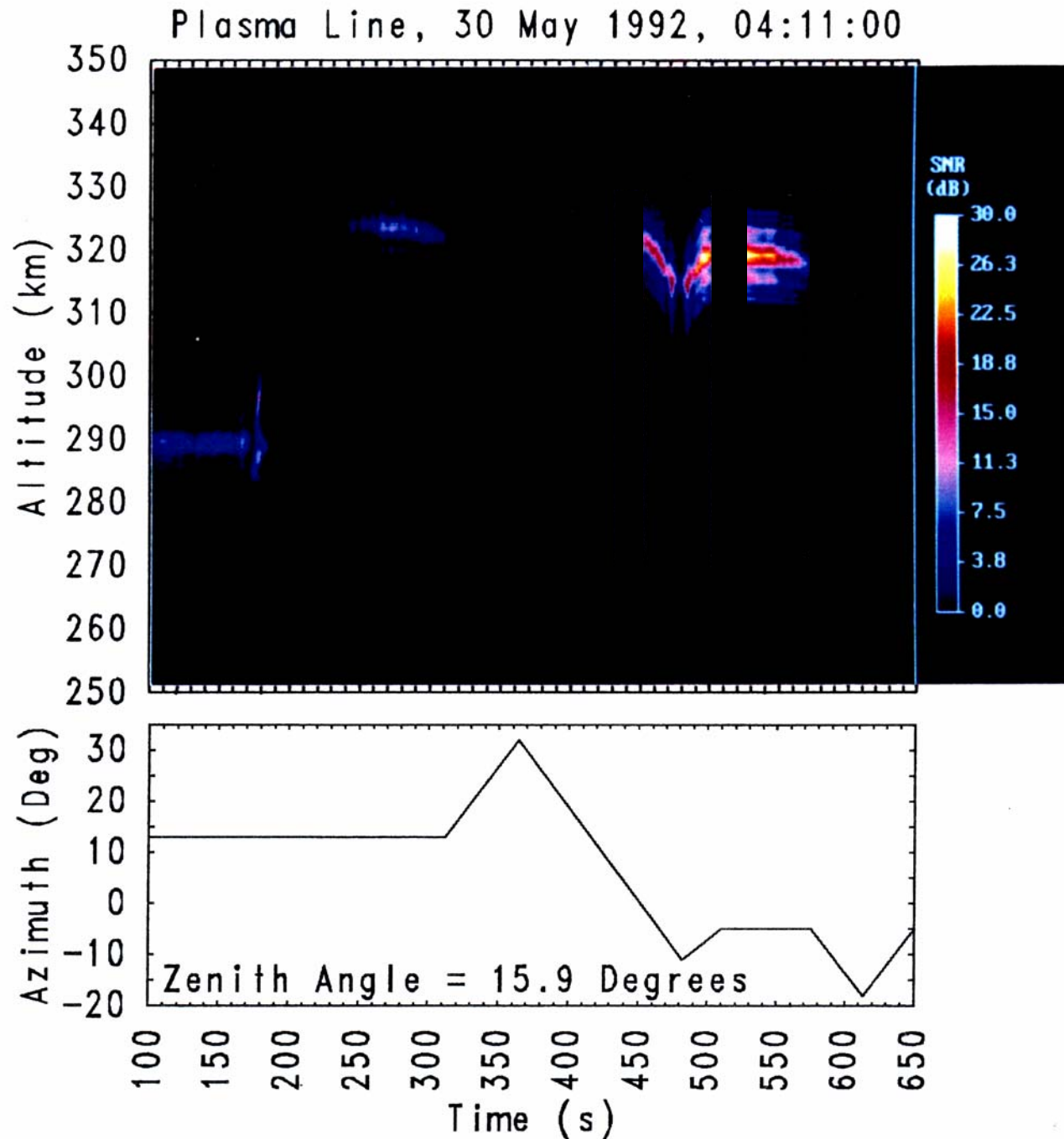
**777.4 nm AIRGLOW EMISSIONS FROM A 40 kg RELEASE  
OF SF<sub>6</sub> AT 252 km ALTITUDE**



# 5.8 MHz Radio Wave Focusing by an Artificial Hole

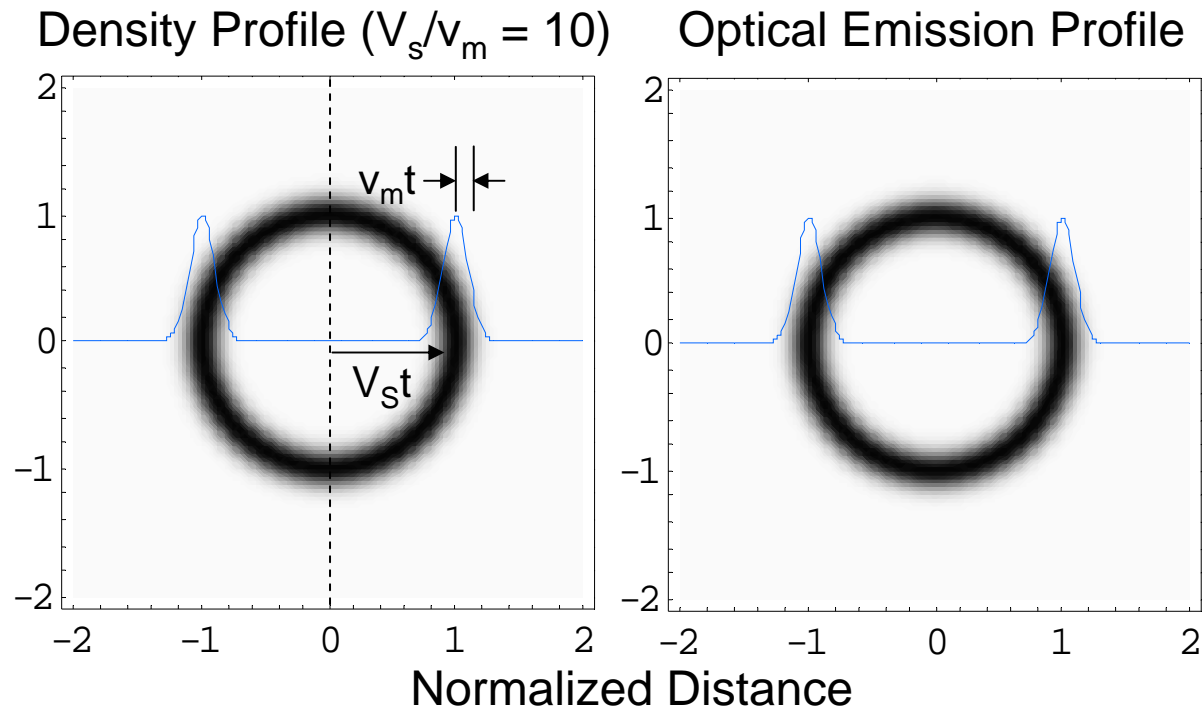
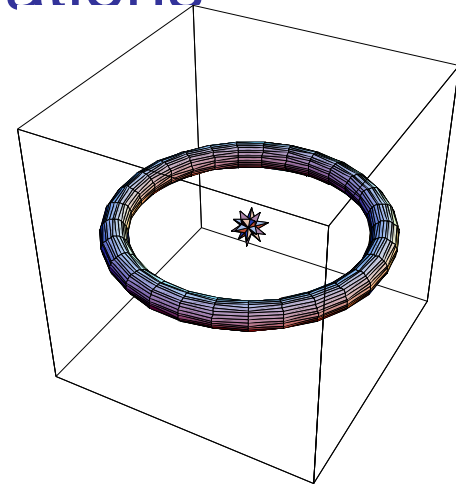


# The Ionospheric Focused Heating Experiment During the El Coqui, CRRES Rocket Campaign



# Density Shells and Optical Observations

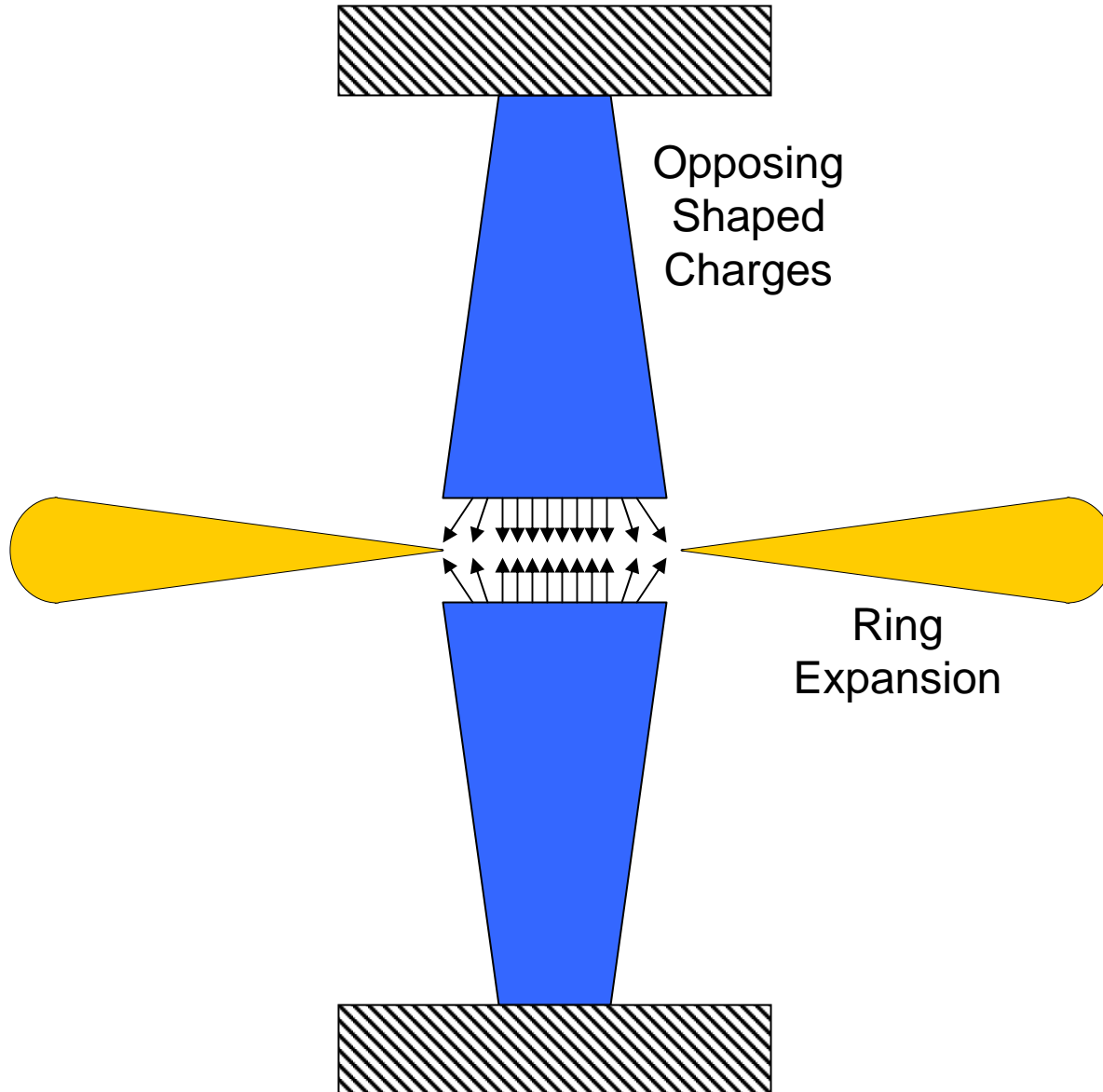
- Two-Dimensional Ring Expansions into a Vacuum



## – Characteristics

- Circular or Elliptical Optical Projection Depending on Viewing Direction
- Self-Similar Expansion
- No Optical Data Available

# Ring Generator From LANL

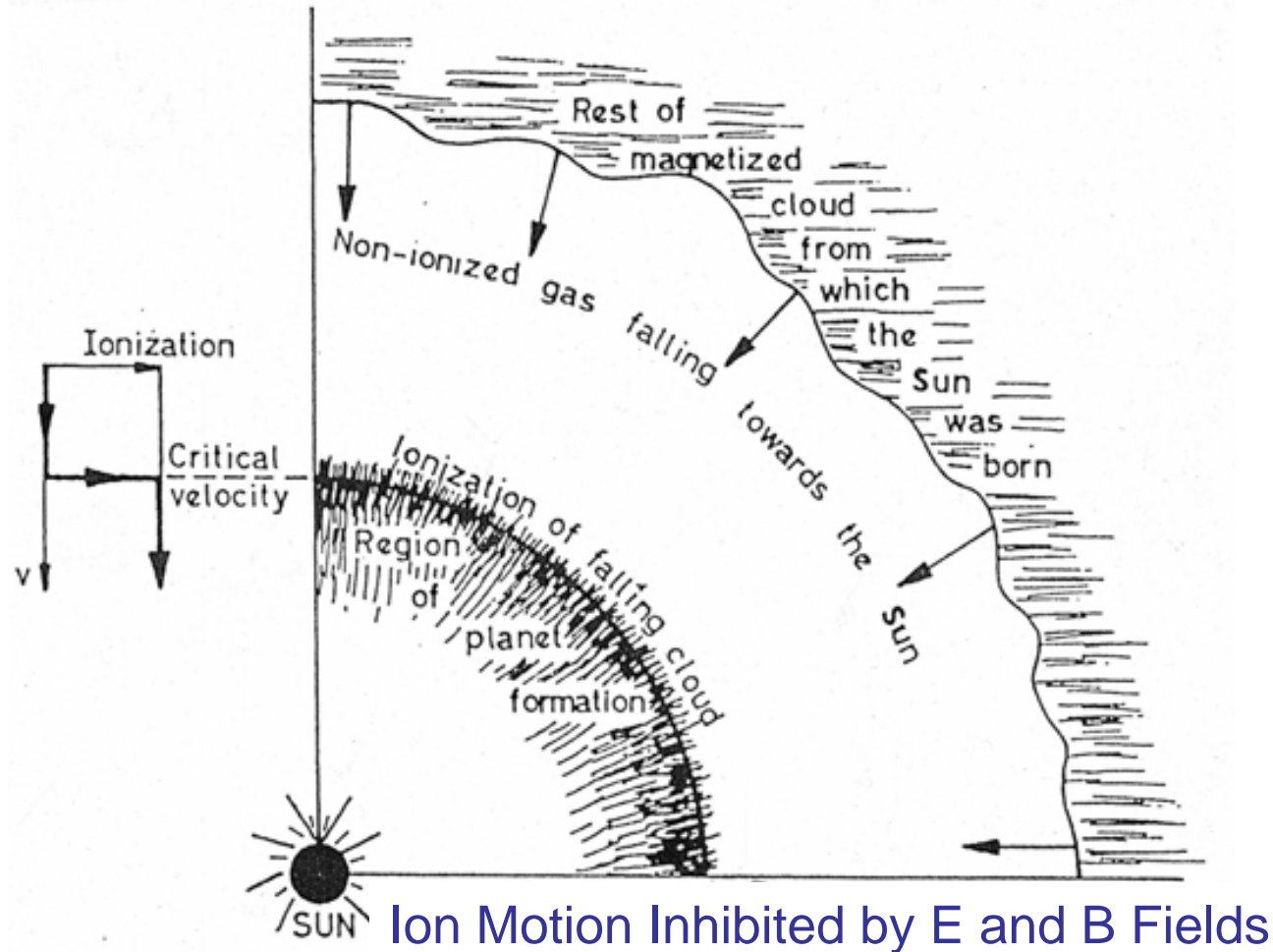




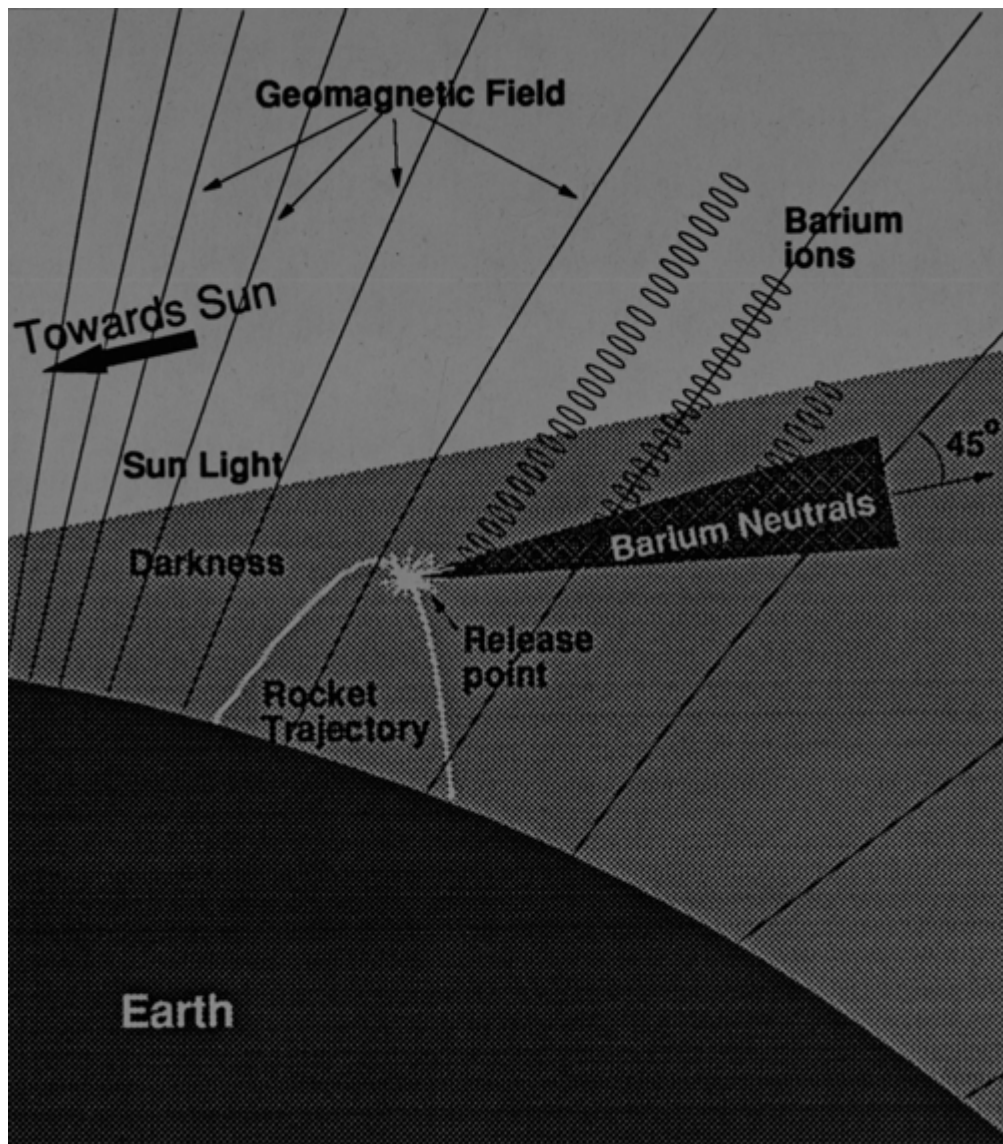
# Origin of Planetary System (Alfven, 1960)

Critical Velocity Transition:

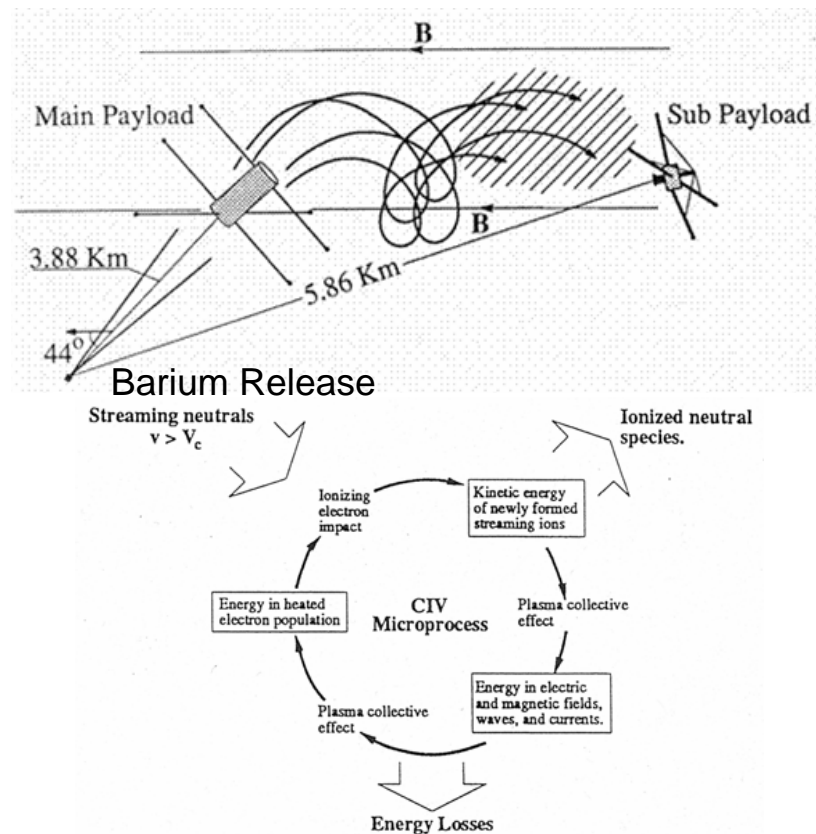
Kinetic Energy > Ionization Potential



# Critical Ionization Velocity Experiments



Experiment	Year	Plasma Density	$\vec{B}_0$ Angle	Type	Prompt Ionization Total	CIV
Chachalaca <sup>1</sup>	1972	?	10 – 15°	30° Cone	≈5%	≈5%
Buaro <sup>1*</sup>	1976	$1 \times 10^6$	90°	30° Cone	-	0%
Porcupine <sup>1</sup>	1979	$6 \times 10^5$	28°	Cone	6-7%	16-18%
Bubble Machine II <sup>1*</sup>	1982	?	-	Radial	0%	0%
Star of Lima <sup>1</sup>	1983	$2 \times 10^4$	90°	Cone	0.05%	0%
Star of Condor <sup>1</sup>	1983	$2 \times 10^4$	-	Radial	0.004%	0.0017%
George Orwell <sup>1</sup>	1984	?	-	Radial	0%	0%
SR90 <sup>1*</sup>	1986	$1.5 \times 10^4$	48°	Cone	0.34%	0.17%
CRIT I <sup>1</sup>	1986	$3.4 \times 10^4$	47°	Cone	0.02%	0.01%
CRIT II <sup>1</sup>	1989	$5.4 \times 10^5$	57°	Cone	4%	1.67%



# Critical Ionization Velocity (CIV) Experiments

Experiment	Year	Plasma Density	$B_0$ Angle	Type	Prompt Ionization	
					Total	CIV
Chachalaca (Ba)	1972	?	10-15°	30° Cone	~ 5% (Ba)	~ 5% (Ba)
Buaro (Ba- Solar UV)	1976	$1 \times 10^6$	90°	30° Cone	--	~ 0% (Ba)
Porcupine (Ba)	1979	$6 \times 10^5$	28°	Cone	6-7%	16-18%
Bubble Mathcine II (Ba- Solar UV)	1982	?	--	Radial	0%	0%
Star of Lima (Ba)	1983	$2 \times 10^4$	90°	Cone	0.05%	0%
Star of Condor (Sr)	1983	$2 \times 10^4$	--	Radial	0.004%	0.0017%
George Orwell (Sr)	1984	?	--	Radial	0%	0%
SR90 (Sr)	1986	$1.5 \times 10^4$	48°	Cone	0.34%	0.17%
CRIT I (Ba)	1986	$3.4 \times 10^4$	47°	Cone	0.02%	0.01%
CRIT II (Ba)	1989	$5.4 \times 10^5$	57°	Cone	0.02%	0.01%
CRRES G-13 (Ba, Sr)	1990	?	80°	Cone	0.15% (Ba) 0.02% (Sr)	0.15% (Ba) 0.02% (Sr)
CRRES G-14 (Ba, Sr)	1990	?	77°	Cone	0.40% (Ba) 0.27% (Ca)	0.40% (Ba) 0.27% (Sr)

# Conclusions and Future Experiments

- Chemical Release Mysteries
  - Measured Mesospheric Winds are Factors of 3 Lower than HWM Model Winds
  - Rapid Diffusion Rates in Lower Thermosphere
  - Artificial Aurora Below TMA Trails
  - Sources of Radar Scatter Spectra 100's of km from Space Shuttle OMS Plume
- Future Experiments
  - NASA/Clemson TMA Releases During EQUIS II at Kwajalein
  - AFRL Samarium Releases in the Kwajalein ALTAIR Radar
  - NRL Space Shuttle Burns Over Millstone Hill, Arecibo, Jicamarca, Kwajalein
  - NRL Artificial Dusty Plasma Experiment