

A first approach to model the low-frequency wave activity in the plasmasphere

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Abstract. A comprehensive empirical model of waves is developed in the objective to simulate wave-particle interactions involved in the loss and acceleration of radiation belt electrons. Three years of measured magnetic wave field components from the Plasma Wave Instrument on board the DE-1 satellite are used to model the amplitude spectral density of the magnetic wave field of each type of emission observed in the equatorial regions of the plasmasphere: VLF transmitter emissions, chorus emissions, plasmaspheric hiss emissions and equatorial emissions below ~ 200 Hz. Each model is a function of the wave frequency f , the MLT, L and Mlat parameters, and the K_p values. The performances of the plasmaspheric hiss and chorus models are tested on amplitude spectra recorded on board the OGO-5 and GEOS-1 satellites.

Key words. Magnetospheric physics (plasmasphere; plasma waves and instabilities; instruments and techniques)

1 Introduction

Wave-particle interactions are supposed to play an important role in the dynamic of the inner magnetosphere. It is generally considered that electron losses are mainly caused by pitch-angle diffusion resulting from resonant interactions with electromagnetic waves (see, for instance, Lyon et al., 1972; Inan, 1987; Abel and Thorne, 1998a, b). A gyroresonant interaction is also invoked to account for the acceleration of electrons to relativistic energies during the recovery phase of magnetic storms (Li et al., 1997; Horne and Thorne, 1998; Summers et al., 1998; Meredith et al., 2000, 2001; Summers and Ma, 2000). This latter phenomenon is of primary importance for Space Weather (Rostoker et al., 1998) and more specifically, for modelling the flux of relativistic electrons impacting operational satellites (Baker et al., 1987,

1994). The present paper concentrates on the construction of wave models to be used in radiation-belt models.

Ideally, a wave model should be a function that specifies the wave amplitude spectral density for each type of emission with regards to the geophysical parameters at the point of observation (the Mc-Ilwain parameter L , the geomagnetic Latitude Mlat, the magnetic local time MLT) and to the level of geomagnetic activity, such as measured by a geomagnetic index (e.g. K_p). Furthermore, as suggested by Storey and Lefeuvre (1979, 1980), it should describe, at each frequency f , how the wave energy density is distributed with regards to the propagation mode and to the wave normal direction k . Note that it is important to make the distinction between the type of emissions, since models of interaction may differ according to the bandwidth(s) and to the degree of coherency of the wave. According to the author's knowledge, no model of that sort has been developed so far.

Wave models available presently are analytical functions describing distributions of the wave amplitude in frequency and in the two angles made by the k vector with the Earth magnetic field B_0 . Since they do not depend on the geophysical parameters or on the geomagnetic activity, they can be used to test parameters of wave-particle interactions (see, for instance Abel and Thorne, 1998b), but not to simulate the full system.

The approach which is proposed here consists of compiling as many satellite data as possible to elaborate on an empirical model of the amplitude spectrum density $A(f, L, Mlat, MLT, K_p)$ of the magnetic field of the waves involved in the precipitation and acceleration of trapped electrons. It is defined as the square root of the sum of the auto-power spectra density of the three magnetic wave field components. It is given in $nT \cdot Hz^{-1/2}$. From that expression of the amplitude of the magnetic signal, one may expect to derive a first approximation of the wave model. One prefers to work with the magnetic field rather than the electric: (i) because there are more satellites measuring the three magnetic wave field components than the three electric (unfortunately, it is not the case for the DE-1 data which will be considered here),

and (ii) because it is much easier to make the distinction with the instrumental noises. Obviously, in the next steps, it will be important to include the electric field both to have a better estimate of the wave spectral density and to take into account the electrostatic emissions.

As a first attempt, we have used three years of data from the Plasma Wave Instrument on board the DE-1 satellite (Shawhan et al., 1981). The study has been focused on waves observed in the equatorial region of the plasmasphere. For the sake of convenience, we have considered the frequency band 5 Hz–30 kHz only where most interactions between waves and electrons are supposed to take place. In that band, four types of emissions may be distinguished: VLF transmitter emissions, chorus emissions, plasmaspheric hiss emissions and equatorial emissions below ~ 200 Hz.

VLF transmitter emissions (10–20 kHz) are coherent right-handed polarized waves which are known to interact with low energetic electrons (less than 50 keV) through the cyclotron resonance in the slot region of the radiation belts (see, for example, Imhof et al., 1974, 1981; Vampola, 1977; Inan and Helliwell, 1982). They are observed in narrow bandwidth ($\Delta f < 1$ kHz). The power densities which are recorded at satellite altitudes are larger in the nightside than in the dayside (Imhof et al., 1984).

Chorus events are characterized by discrete structures in frequency time diagrams. They are right-handed polarized coherent waves (see, for instance, Lefeuvre and Parrot, 1979). But authors consider that during geomagnetic storms, the chorus elements are so close that they can be assimilated to incoherent waves (Summers and Ma, 2000). Numerous papers have been devoted to chorus observed in the equatorial regions of the plasmasphere (Russell et al., 1972; Tsurutani and Smith, 1974, 1977; Gurnett and Inan, 1988; Koons and Roeder, 1990; Hattori et al., 1991; Sazhin and Hayakawa, 1992). The emissions are observed predominantly in the outer boundary of the plasmasphere and outside the boundary. They occur principally from 00:00 to 15:00 MLT, with a peak in the dawn to noon quadrant (Tsurutani and Smith, 1977; Koons and Roeder, 1990). They are observed in a frequency band running from 0.1 to $0.8 f_{ce}$ (with f_{ce} as the electron gyrofrequency) and are often structured in two distinct bands: one above and one below $0.5 f_{ce}$ (Tsurutani and Smith, 1974).

Plasmaspheric hiss emissions are right-handed polarized incoherent waves. Observations in the equatorial regions have been reported by many authors (Russell et al., 1969; Thorne et al., 1973; Parady et al., 1975; Cornilleau-Wehrlin et al., 1978, 1993; Ondoh et al., 1983; Parrot and Lefeuvre, 1986; Sonwalkar and Inan, 1988; Hayakawa and Sazhin, 1992). Emissions are detected at all magnetic local time, but with higher amplitudes in the nightside (Russell et al., 1969). In their original paper, Thorne et al. (1973) considered that plasmaspheric hiss events were detected between 100 Hz and 1 kHz, with a maximum intensity around 300 Hz. However, strong amplitudes may be observed up to 3 kHz (see, for instance, Cornilleau-Wehrlin et al., 1993).

Equatorial emissions below ~ 200 Hz have been first pointed out by Russell et al. (1970), then characterized in more detail by Perraut et al. (1982); Kasahara et al. (1992, 1994). Two types of emissions are present: the Magnetosonic Wave (MSW) and the Ion Cyclotron Waves (ICW). MSW are harmonic quasi-monochromatic emissions having their fundamental around or above the local proton gyrofrequency f_{H^+} . But emissions can be detected well below, with a fundamental between f_{He^+} and $2 f_{He^+}$. Analyses made on GEOS-1 (Perraut et al., 1982) show that, when the identification is possible, the polarization is found to be right-handed. ICW are observed below f_{H^+} , in one or several frequency bands located in between local gyrofrequencies of ions. On GEOS-1 (Perraut et al., 1982), the polarization was found to be left-handed at the equator and right-handed away from the equator. However, the polarization analyses were made for events detected outside the plasmasphere. It must be noted that for MSW, Perraut et al. (1982) find a maximum of occurrence at MLT values from 09:00 to 02:00, whereas Kasahara et al. (1994) did not find any MLT dependence.

The plan of the paper is as follows. The DE-1 data are briefly described in Sect. 2. The data basis elaborated from the measured magnetic wave field components to determine the wave models is presented in Sect. 3. In that section, variations in L , Mlat and MLT of averaged amplitude spectra of the different types of emissions are examined for $K_p \leq 3^+$ (weak geomagnetic activity) and $K_p > 3^+$ (strong geomagnetic activity). Section 4 is devoted to an occurrence study of the four types of emissions. Wave models are derived and then tested in Sect. 5. Finally, provisional conclusions are offered in Sect. 6.

2 Databases

2.1 Dynamic explorer data: PWI

The DE-1 spacecraft was launched on August 1981, into an elliptical polar orbit with an initial perigee and apogee of 1.09 and $4.65 R_E$. The argument of perigee advances at a rate of 108° per year, so that a complete coverage in longitude is achieved in 3 years. In 1984, a failure in the circuitry of the spacecraft data-handling system has limited access to data from the plasma wave instrument. After June 24 digital measurements above 100 Hz from PWI have not been available consistently so that we have limited our study from mid-September 1981 to mid-June 1984.

The Plasma Wave Instrument consists of a set of specialized receivers which, in conjunction with sensors for 3 electric and 1 magnetic wave field components, provides measurements of plasma waves over the frequency range 1.78 Hz to 410 kHz. In order to avoid any confusion between electrostatic and electromagnetic noise, the magnetic wave field component only is considered in the present paper. We make the hypothesis that the averaged power spectrum of this magnetic wave field component is a good approximation of the averaged power spectrum of the magnetic wave field.

The magnetic sensors consist of a search coil magnetometer parallel to the spin axis for measurements up to 100 Hz and a loop antenna perpendicular to the spin axis for measurements above 100 Hz.

The PWI receivers used in this study are the Sweep Frequency Correlator (SFC) and the Low Frequency Correlator (LFC). The SFC consists of a pair of identical high resolution narrow band Sweep Frequency Receivers and a correlator. The SFC provides 128 narrow-band measurements over the frequency range 100 Hz to 410 kHz. The LFC provides measurements from eight filter channels spaced from 1.78 Hz to 100 Hz. The SFC and LFC together provide amplitude and relative phase measurements from selected pairs of sensors, yielding a 136-point logarithmically-spaced spectrum for each 32-s sweep of the instrument.

The Sweep Frequency Receiver (SFR) system (two identical receivers) has a measurement cycle time of 32 s. Each SFR has four channels of 32 frequency steps each, giving measurements at a total of 128 frequencies. The dwell time at a particular frequency is one second, and during this time, the output of each channel is sampled four times.

The Low Frequency Correlator (LFC) system (with two identical receivers) has eight separate frequency bands and two basic cycle times. The LFC cycles through the lower four bands (1.78, 3.11, 5.62, and 10 Hz) in 32 s, giving a band dwell time of 8 s. During the eight seconds, 64 measurements are collected. The LFC cycles through the four higher bands (17.8, 31.1, 56.2, and 100 Hz) in 4 s, giving a band dwell time of 1 s. Eight samples are collected during the 1 s interval.

2.2 Data selection

We have compiled all data recorded by the magnetic sensors from 17 September 1981 to 19 June 1984, when the satellite was located near the magnetic equator ($|\text{Mlat}| < 15^\circ$) inside the plasmasphere ($L < 8$). Since each receiver measures several times the amplitude of the waves at a given frequency during one cycle, we average these measurements and concatenate data from both the SFR and LFC to obtain one amplitude spectral density defined by 136 frequencies from 1.78 Hz to 410 kHz each 32 s. Spectra that have a clear bias introduced by experimental gain problems at several frequencies have been removed from the database.

2.3 The database

The spatial coverage of measurements during the period considered is shown in Fig. 1. In order to take into account the geomagnetic activity, the database has been split into two parts, according to K_p index values with a threshold defined at 3^+ . The two polar plots display the number of measured spectra with regards to the L and MLT values: for weak geomagnetic activity ($K_p \leq 3^+$) and for strong geomagnetic activity ($K_p > 3^+$). The resolution is a 0.5 unit in L -values and 1 h in MLT values. If one considers that above 30 events (i.e. practically, from the pink colour of the code) the computation of a statistical quantity makes sense (Bendat and Pier-

sol, 1971), one observes that statistical analyses are possible in the major part of the L /MLT domain. However, there are important gaps: on the afternoon side, between $L = 2$ and 4, and on the morning side, above $L = 3$ to 4.

The magnetic activity recorded on the ground during this period is shown on the bottom panel of Fig. 1. The distribution of K_p index peaks around 2^+ and has a long tail. Considering a large K_p index database (from 1970 to 1995, source: World Data Center C1 for Geomagnetism, Danish Meteorological Institute, Denmark), one can show that this distribution shapes like the one expected during periods of intense solar activity.

2.4 Observed emissions

The time and frequency resolutions of the DE-1 data does not allow one to make unambiguous identifications of the observed emissions. However, spectral properties recalled in the Introduction may be used in order to have a rough idea of the type of emissions. Considering that from $L = 2$ to $L = 5$ the electron gyrofrequency at the equator runs from ~ 110 kHz to 6 kHz, one may consider that:

- emissions detected between 10 and 30 kHz are generated by ground-based VLF transmitter waves,
- emissions detected between 3 kHz and 10 kHz are chorus events,
- for $L \leq 2.7$, emissions in between 1 kHz and 3 kHz are plasmaspheric hiss emissions (the lowest cut-off frequency, at $0.1 f_{ce}$, is above 3 kHz),
- however, for $L > 2.7$ there is no way to make the distinction between plasmaspheric hiss emissions and chorus events,
- emissions in the frequency range 100 Hz–1 kHz are mainly plasmaspheric hiss,
- there is an exception for equatorial emissions below ~ 250 Hz which are mainly MSW or ICW, with a non-null probability that ICW will be left-handed polarized waves.

No identification procedure has been forecast for waves above 30 kHz, whose contribution to interactions with electrons in the radiation belts is supposed to be negligible.

3 Variations of averaged amplitude spectra with regards to the geophysical parameters

For the sake of convenience, statistics have been made on the power spectral density of the magnetic wave field $S(f)$ (with $S(f) = S_{B_z}(f)$, the auto-power spectra of the parallel field component), then transformed in amplitude spectrum via the relation $A(f) = \sqrt{S(f)}$.

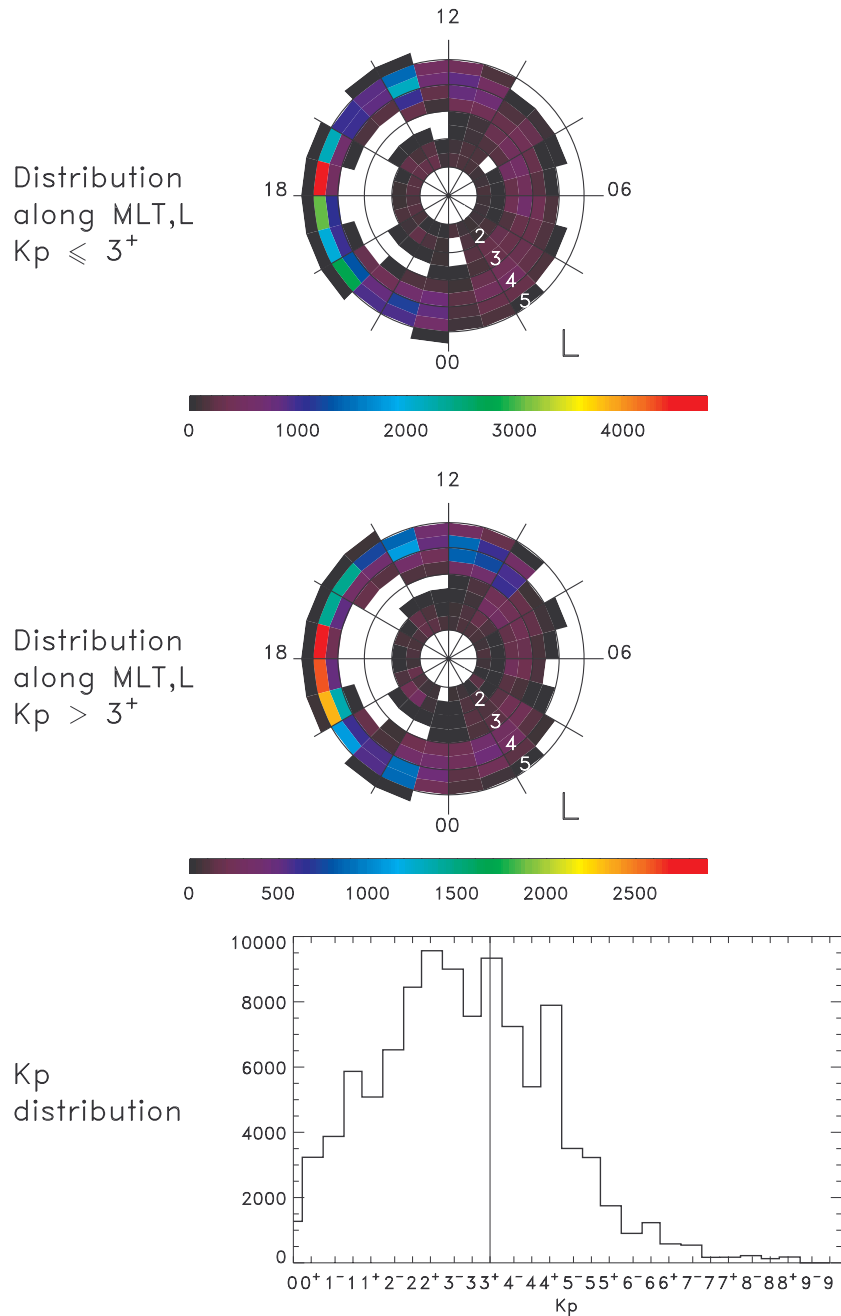


Fig. 1. From top to bottom: Distribution of measurements as a function of MLT for low (top panel) and high (middle panel) magnetic activity, and distribution of the K_p index during the analyzed period (bottom panel).

3.1 Estimation of averaged amplitude spectra

3.1.1 Instrumental noise

A grid has been defined with a resolution of 1 h in MLT and 1 unit in L -values. For each data-base (weak and strong activity) and each cell, we define the minimum power spectrum ($S_{\min}(f, L, \text{MLT}, K_p)$) of the magnetic wave field measured by the Plasma Wave Instrument on board DE-1. Taking into account the fact that the instrumental noise is independent of the satellite position, we consider that the power spectrum

of the instrumental noise at a given frequency is the median value of the S_{\min} values estimated in all the cells, which writes: $S_{\text{noise}}(f) = \text{MEDIAN}\{S_{\min}(f, L, \text{MLT}, K_p)\}$. This may lead to a rejection of weak natural emissions just above the noise. There is one exception for VLF transmitters at about 14 Hz where waves are always present. Therefore, the instrumental noise at this frequency cannot be estimated. Although, a smooth increase in time of the instrumental noise level has been observed, using a period of time when no emission is observed, it has been checked that the median

value of S_{\min} gives a very good estimation of the real instrumental noise.

3.1.2 Derivation of statistical quantities

To characterize the wave activity and to build a model, we need to estimate a representative amplitude spectrum as a function of the spacecraft location and of the magnetic activity. This is done by averaging all the amplitude spectra with regards to the grid defined previously. In parallel, for each frequency, one can build a probability distribution function (p.d.f.) of the power spectrum of the observed magnetic wave fields. The instrumental noise is included.

To remove small fluctuations in each cell, we first compute an average value ($s_v(f)$) over a window that has a length of \sqrt{N} points, where N is the number of points in the cell

$$s_v(f) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_{k=j \cdot \sqrt{N}}^{j \cdot \sqrt{N} + \sqrt{N} - 1} S(f). \quad (1)$$

Then, a mean value ($S_v(f)$) is computed over the \sqrt{N} determinations of s_v

$$S_v(f) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_{j=0}^{\sqrt{N}-1} s_v(f). \quad (2)$$

3.1.3 Confidence interval

Given that the p.d.f. is generally non-Gaussian, we estimate the equivalent of the confidence interval using the following procedure. We estimate the standard deviation of $S(f)$ as follows:

$$\sigma(f) = \sqrt{\frac{1}{\sqrt{N}-1} \sum_{j=0}^{\sqrt{N}-1} (s_v(f) - S_v(f))^2}. \quad (3)$$

Then, we estimate the confidence interval in the Gaussian approximation. In that case, there is a probability of 70% to have any $S(f)$ in between $S_v(f) \pm \sigma$. In our case (non-Gaussian), we just check that this confidence interval has a physical sense by computing the number of data which are included in it. If more than 50% of the data are in those limits, we consider that this Gaussian confidence level still makes sense.

3.2 Main characteristics of the averaged amplitude spectra

3.2.1 About estimated confidence intervals

Figure 2 shows two examples of mean amplitude spectrum ($A_v(f) = \sqrt{S_v(f)}$, in $\text{nT} \cdot \text{Hz}^{-1/2}$), recorded near the plasmopause between 22:00 and 23:00 MLT for weak and strong magnetic activity, and the amplitude p.d.f. taken at three frequencies 0.1, 1.178 and 10.073 kHz.

For each amplitude spectrum, the following are indicated: the instrumental noise level $A_{\text{noise}}(f)$ (blue bars), the $A_v(f)$ averaged values (red lines), the Gaussian confidence intervals

(upper and lower black lines), the intervals in which the gaussian confidence intervals make sense (green bars) and the extreme values recorded during the spacecraft mission (yellow bars). For each selected frequency, the amplitude p.d.f. is displayed with black bars, together with the computed average value $A_v(f_i)$ (vertical red line), the Gaussian confidence interval (green bars, shown even if it does not make sense) and the instrumental noise (blue bars).

Let us first examine the top panels without taking into account the emissions above 30 kHz, whose contribution to interactions with electrons in the equatorial regions are supposed to be negligible. The estimation of a confidence interval makes sense in a few frequency ranges (the frequency domains coloured in green). The broadest domain (800 Hz–3 kHz) corresponds to frequencies where plasmaspheric hiss and chorus may be detected. To understand the size of the confidence interval, one may examine the probability of occurrence at 1.178 kHz. It is characterized by a strong peak, due to the instrumental noise, then by a continuous decrease towards the highest amplitudes. Amplitudes above the mean value are observed only in 5% of the cases. In the other frequency domains, the situation is still worse. The data are dominated by the instrumental noise and natural emissions are observed in a few percentage of cases. As an example, around 100 Hz, emissions seen with an amplitude of the order of $\sim 10^{-12} \text{ nT} \cdot \text{Hz}^{-1/2}$ correspond only to 0.1% of the data.

Similar conclusions may be drawn from the examples given in the bottom panels. Confidence intervals make sense over most of the frequency band of the plasmaspheric emissions and in several frequency bands of chorus events. Although the corresponding probability of occurrence has not been given for those frequencies, one notes that the largest confidence intervals, and so the largest variations, are obtained around 3.5 and 4.5 kHz, in the chorus band.

Examples in Fig. 3 show more narrow and so more useful confidence intervals between 500 Hz and 4 kHz for L -values below 4. The top panels show that emissions observed in this frequency band, for $2 < L < 3$ and $9 < \text{MLT} < 10$, are very stable, regardless of the level of geomagnetic activity. It would be interesting to check this stability for all MLT values.

3.2.2 About the amplitudes

Even if the waves with a strong amplitude represent a small percentage of data, they are of primary importance in our study, since they are the ones which have the stronger effects on the acceleration and the precipitation of electrons. Figure 3 shows the following features:

- except for the emissions observed in the band 500 Hz–4 kHz at L -values below 3, the wave amplitudes are much greater for $K_p > 3^+$ than for $K_p \leq 3^+$; this is particularly true for frequencies below 100 Hz;
- Regardless of the L -values considered and independent of the geomagnetic activity, the maximum amplitudes

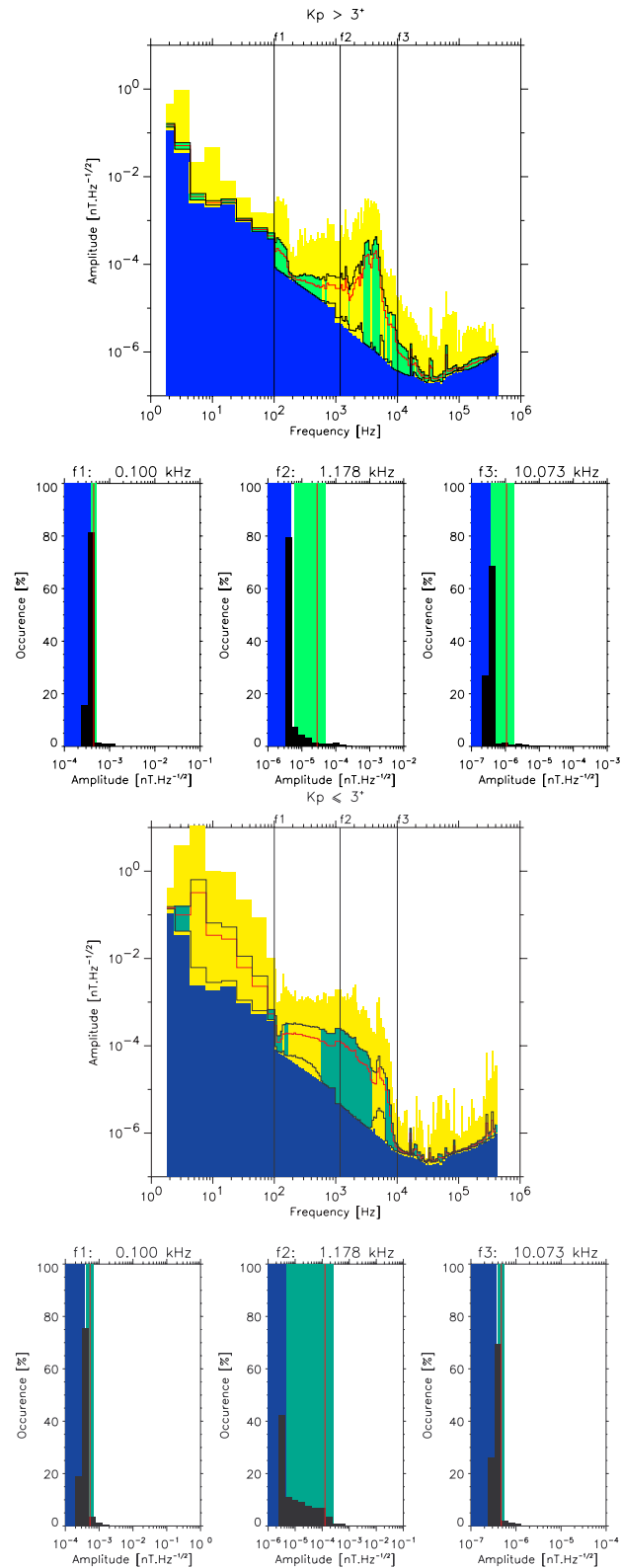


Fig. 2. Wide panels: Averaged amplitude spectrum (red lines) with the instrumental noise level (blue bars), the Gaussian confidence intervals (upper and lower black lines), the intervals in which the Gaussian confidence intervals make sense (green bars) and the extreme values recorded during the spacecraft mission (yellow bars). Small panels (three frequencies): Amplitude p.d.f. (black bars) with the computed average value (vertical red line), the Gaussian confidence interval (green bars, shown even if it does not make sense) and the instrumental noise (blue bars).

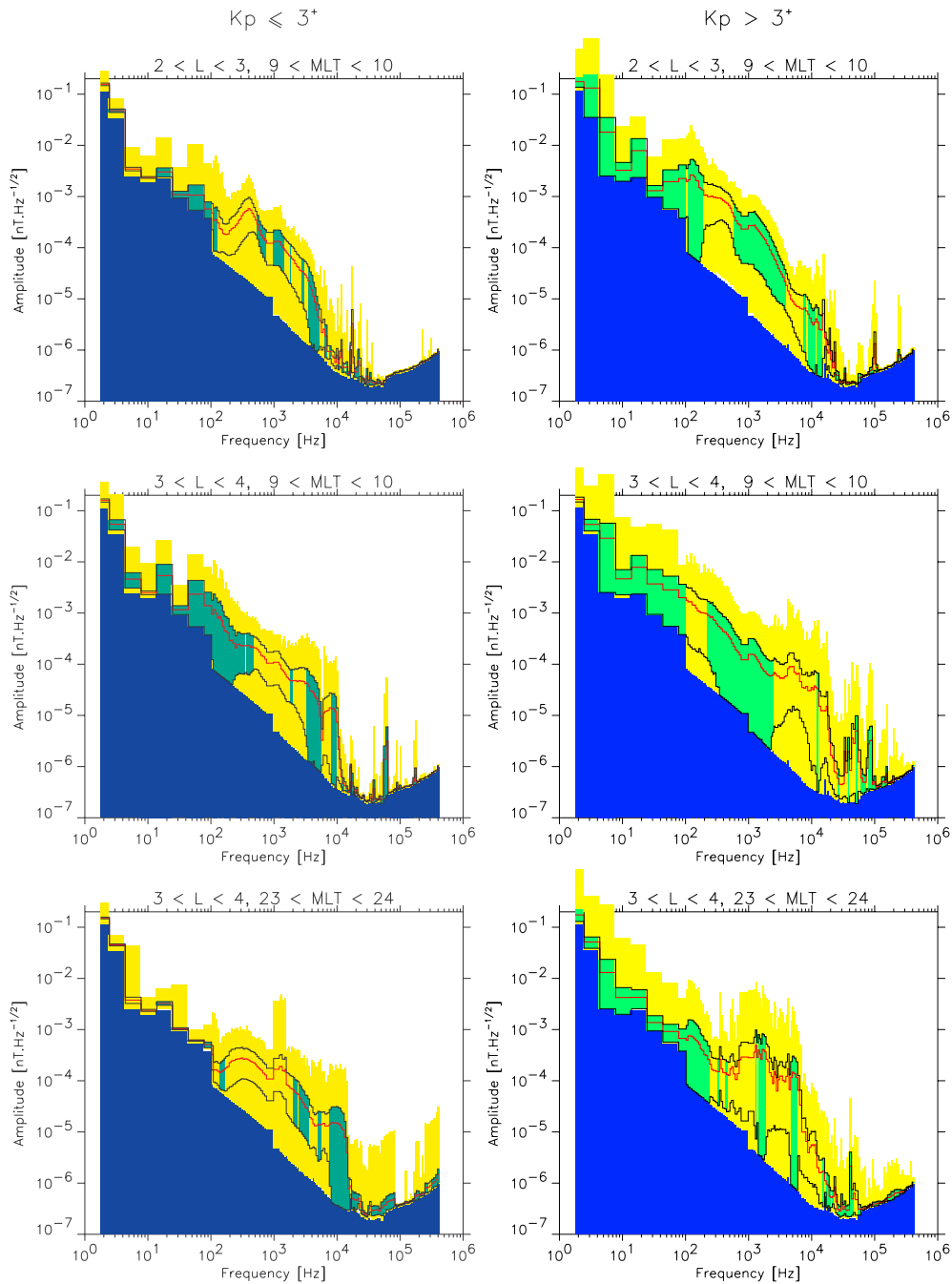


Fig. 3. Averaged amplitude spectra (red lines) in various geophysical conditions with: the instrumental noise level (blue bars), the Gaussian confidence intervals (upper and lower black lines), the intervals in which the Gaussian confidence intervals make sense (green bars) and the extreme values recorded during the spacecraft mission (yellow bars).

are found: in the morning sector, for frequencies below 100 Hz, and in the afternoon sector for frequencies above.

One must be very cautious to extrapolate such characteristics at the vicinity of the plasmapause. As an example, coming back to Fig. 2, one observes that waves at frequencies below 100 Hz seem to have stronger amplitudes for

$K_p \leq 3^+$ than for $K_p > 3^+$. However, this is due to the relative position of the satellite with regards to the plasmapause. During periods of weak geomagnetic activity, a satellite at $4 < L < 5$ is within the plasmasphere. But, during periods of strong geomagnetic activity, at the same location, a satellite may be outside the plasmasphere. Such an interpretation is supported by the bottom spectrum of Fig. 2 where the strong increase in the amplitude at ~ 8 kHz seems to be

due to chorus events observed out of the plasmasphere.

3.3 Variation of the wave amplitudes in L and Mlat

3.3.1 Magnetic latitude

In order to examine the variations of the wave amplitude with regards to the magnetic latitude we proceed as follows. The data are averaged over the full range of MLT and L -values. Magnetic latitudes are ordered from -30° to $+30^\circ$, with a resolution of 1° . The results are presented in Fig. 4 for weak and strong geomagnetic activities (upper and lower panels, respectively) in colour-coded spectrograms. Characteristic frequencies (derived from magnetometer measurements, and averaged over MLT and L) are superimposed. The following are represented: f_{ce} , $0.5 f_{ce}$, f_{LHR} and f_{H+} .

Examining the two panels of Fig. 4, from the highest to the lowest frequencies, one observes:

- weak frequency line emissions around 20 kHz, associated with ground-based VLF transmitters,
- emissions at and above the lower hybrid resonance frequency f_{LHR} , with maximum amplitudes off the equator: the stable band around f_{LHR} could be due to hiss emissions, the band off the equator, which varies in frequency and has a much stronger amplitude during geomagnetically active periods, is due mainly to chorus events,
- a band of stable emissions between 200 and 800 Hz, which can be attributed to plasmaspheric hiss emissions,
- strong equatorial emissions (probably MSW) which are very sensitive to the geomagnetic activity: for low K_p values, higher cut off frequency at ~ 150 Hz and Mlat values between -2° and $+5^\circ$; for high K_p values, higher cut off frequency at ~ 250 Hz and Mlat values between -8° and $+13^\circ$,
- the instrumental noise masks emissions (ICW) which are probably present below f_{H+} .

3.3.2 L -values

Figure 5 shows the variation in L of the average spectra for waves recorded around the equator ($|\text{Mlat}| < 15^\circ$), for weak (upper panel) and strong (lower panel) magnetic activity. Spectra are sampled by steps of 0.1 in L -values, and averaged over latitudes and magnetic local times. The main features are as follows:

- waves associated with VLF transmitters appear very clearly in the frequency band 10–25 kHz. They are observed mainly at $L < 3$, where their frequency is well below the electron gyrofrequency (f_{ce}). At higher L -values, a clear cutoff appears around $0.5 f_{ce}$. As expected, there is no emission above f_{ce} ,

Table 1. Frequency bands defined to estimate wave occurrence

Wave type	Min. freq	Max. freq.
Equatorial Noise	5 Hz	100 Hz
Plasmaspheric Hiss	200 Hz	1 kHz
Chorus	$\frac{f_{ce}}{10}$	$\frac{f_{ce}}{2}$
VLF Transmitters	10 kHz	30 kHz

- following the variation in L of the electron gyrofrequency, a band of emissions is seen between ~ 0.1 and $0.8 f_{ce}$, with amplitudes reaching $10^{-3} \text{nT} \cdot \text{Hz}^{-1/2}$; they are chorus events, much more intense during periods of strong geomagnetic activity,
- the lower panel shows a persistent narrow band of hiss emission at 1.2 kHz (may be contaminated by instrumental noise) with an amplitude ($\approx 10^{-4} \text{nT} \cdot \text{Hz}^{-1/2}$) slightly increasing with the geomagnetic activity,
- there is a persistent emission from approximately 100 Hz to 3 kHz, with maximum amplitudes of the order of $10^{-3} \text{nT} \cdot \text{Hz}^{-1/2}$ in the band 200–800 Hz; the emission (plasmaspheric hiss) is affected marginally by an increase in the geomagnetic activity,
- observed mainly during periods of strong geomagnetic activities (see the bottom panel), a broadband emission is present from frequencies below f_{H+} to frequencies below f_{LHR} ; the amplitudes which reach $10^{-2} \text{nT} \cdot \text{Hz}^{-1/2}$ are maximum for $3.5 < L < 5$; in agreement with Fig. 4, the band of emission seems dominated by MSW waves; ICW emissions are probably present below f_{H+} .

4 Occurrence of each class of emission

In order to make comparisons with databases from other satellites, the occurrence of each type of emission has been estimated in L/MLT domains.

4.1 Definition

According to the remarks made in Sect. 2.4, an automatic classification is possible from the criteria given in Table 1. In so doing: (i) one restricts the plasmaspheric hiss to the frequency band originally defined by Thorne et al. (1973), (ii) one limits the confusion between hiss and chorus around $0.1 f_{ce}$, without removing it completely, (iii) one does not take into account the upper-band of chorus, which is anyway much less intense than the lower one (see Figs. 4 and 5).

Practically, all spectra are spatially localised in a grid defined in the (MLT, L) coordinates system that have a spatial resolution of 1 h MLT and 0.5 in L -values. In a given cell, a particular wave is defined to be observed when the spectrum amplitude is more than 10 dB above the noise level, at least at

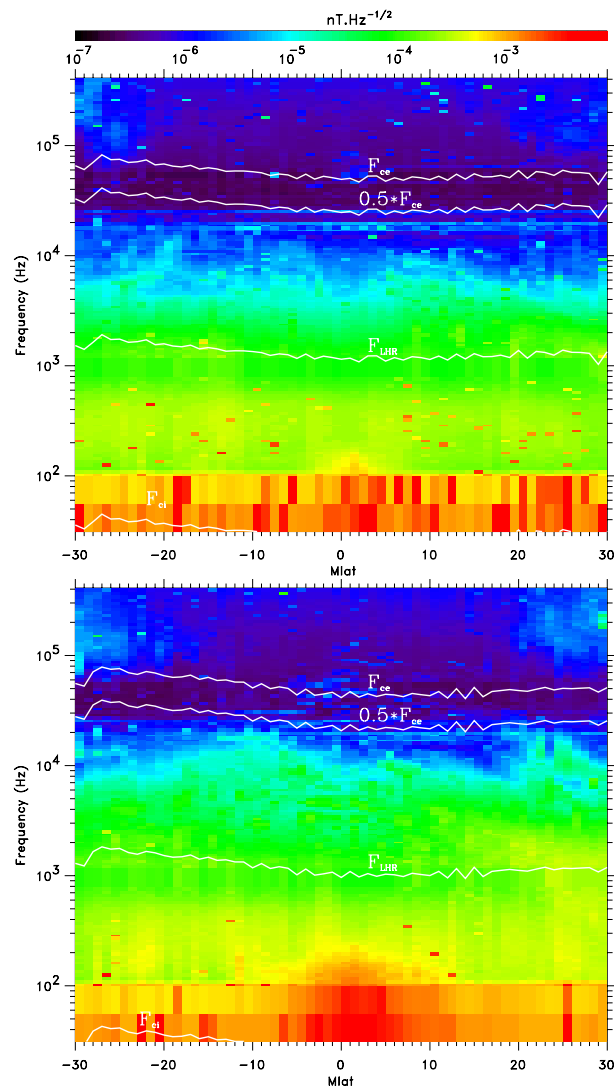


Fig. 4. Variation in Mlat values of the amplitude spectra averaged over L -values running from 1 to 5.5. The top panel corresponds to spectra recorded during periods of weak geomagnetic activity and the bottom panel to spectra recorded during periods of strong geomagnetic activity.

one frequency inside the frequency band considered. Therefore, the occurrence is the percentage of time this particular wave has been observed, during the whole mission in a given spatial location.

4.2 Probability of observing each type of emission in L /MLT domains

Figure 6 shows the color-coded probability of observing (from top to bottom) the plasmaspheric hiss, the chorus, the VLF transmitters and the equatorial noise as a function of the local time and L . Left and right panels give the occurrence when using the weak and strong magnetic activity databases, respectively. Since the probability of observing the equatorial noise is very small (and statistically non-significant), it is only given for all K_p conditions. In general, these panels

suffer from a lack of points in the databases. Therefore, only their general tendency can be given.

Regardless of the geomagnetic activity, the plasmaspheric hiss is observed mainly on the dayside. However, the extensions in L -values depends on the K_p values. For $K_p \leq 3^+$, the emission extends from $L = 1.5$ to 5.5 at noon, whereas it concentrates around $L = 3$ at midnight. For $K_p > 3^+$, the extension is limited to $L = 1.5$ to 4.5 at noon, whereas it runs from $L = 1.5$ to 3 at midnight. According to the fact that the colour code gives the probability of finding an emission with a signal to noise ratio greater than 10 dB, one concludes that we are consistent with Russell et al. (1969), who pointed out a decrease in amplitude (not in occurrence) in the nightside, and with Smith et al. (1974), who found an increase in amplitude in the same region during intense magnetic activities.

The data gap in the dusk sector, the lack of data above

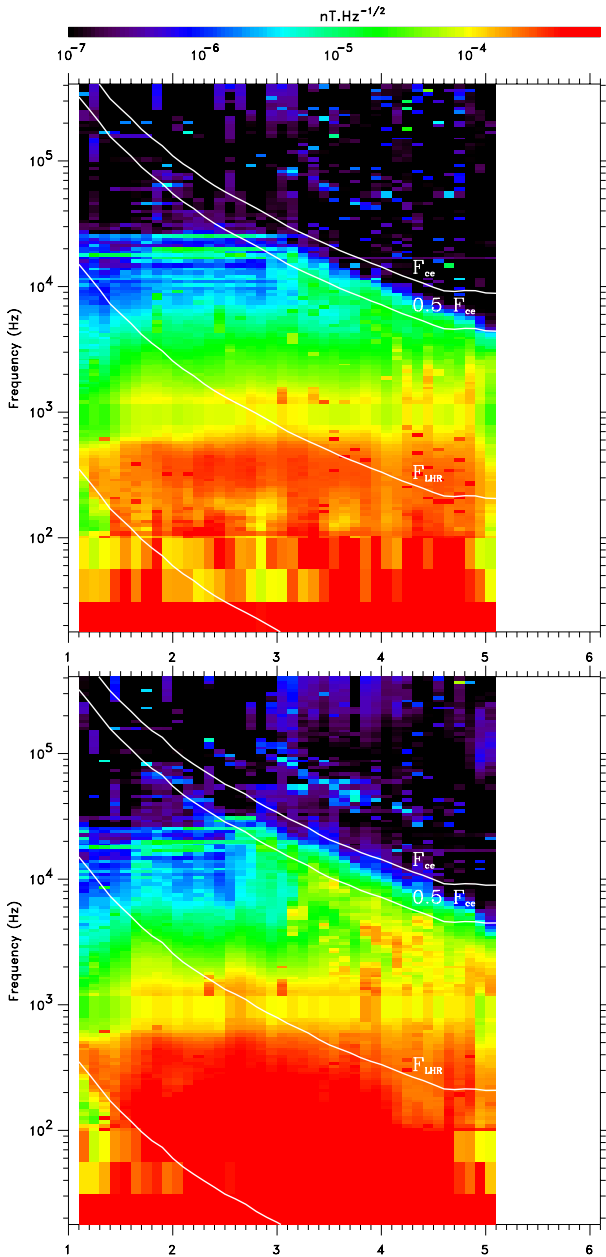


Fig. 5. Variation in L -values of the amplitude spectra averaged over Mlat values running from -15° to $+15^\circ$. The lower panel corresponds to spectra recorded during periods of weak geomagnetic activity and the bottom panel to spectra recorded during periods of strong geomagnetic activity.

$L = 5.5$ and the remaining ambiguity with plasmaspheric hiss at the lowest frequencies prevent one from pointing out all the characteristics of the chorus events. However, one observes: (i) a probability that increases above $L = 2$, (ii) an extension in L -values which goes up to $L = 5.5$ for records made at noon during periods of strong geomagnetic activities, (iii) a tendency for a higher probability on the dawn side, particularly for high K_p values.

Most of the VLF transmitters emission are observed in the

nightside, at $L \leq 3.5$. This limit corresponds to the cutoff at f_{ce} . This result is fully consistent with the conclusions given by Imhof et al. (1984). Another maximum is found at noon around $L = 2.5$ in a very small area, which increases a bit in size with the magnetic activity. We suspect that this particular observation is not real, since the number of points that defines the occurrence in these cells is rather low for both databases (see Fig. 1).

Even when merging observations made during weak and strong geomagnetic activities, the probability defined for the equatorial emissions is very weak. This seems to be due to our selection criterion (signal to noise ratio greater than 10 dB), which is too strict for emissions whose amplitudes are often just above the instrumental noise. Although the statistics are insufficient to draw any conclusions, it seems that the distribution of the events in MLT is rather isotropic, as suggested by Kasahara et al. (1992, 1994).

5 The model

5.1 Definitions

An analytical expression A_i of the amplitude spectral density has been derived for each type of emission. It is written in the form:

$$A_i = a_i(f, Mlat, MLT) \cdot \Psi_i(Mlat, MLT, L, K_p) \cdot C_i(f). \quad (4)$$

Simple mathematical functions have been used to represent averaged DE-1 data. The $a_i(f)$ function has been constructed from the mean value of all DE-1 amplitude spectra of the i^{th} type of mission for given Mlat and L -values. The $\Psi_i(Mlat, MLT, L, K_p)$ function has been established from large-scale variations observed in Fig. 4 (dependence in Mlat), Fig. 5 (dependence in L) and Fig. 6 (occurrence in the L/MLT domain). The $C_i(f)$ function is more objective, since it introduces cutoff frequencies for each type of emission, with the proton gyrofrequency f_{H+} being computed from the onboard magnetometer data.

The wave model A is the sum of the A_i models:

$$A = \sum_i A_i. \quad (5)$$

One cannot expect that it reproduces exactly a measured amplitude spectral density since first, all the emissions do not necessarily appear all together, and second, it has been constructed from averaged data.

5.2 Main characteristics of the model constructed for each emission

The VLF transmitters waves are observed only on the night-side, where propagation conditions from the Earth to the plasmasphere are favorable (Imhof et al., 1984). The modelled transmitters are those given by Parrot (1990). On average, the amplitude of each transmitter is chosen to be of the order of $10^{-6} \text{ nT.Hz}^{-1/2}$. As seen by the PWI instrument, this contribution has a upper cutoff at $0.8 f_{ce}$.

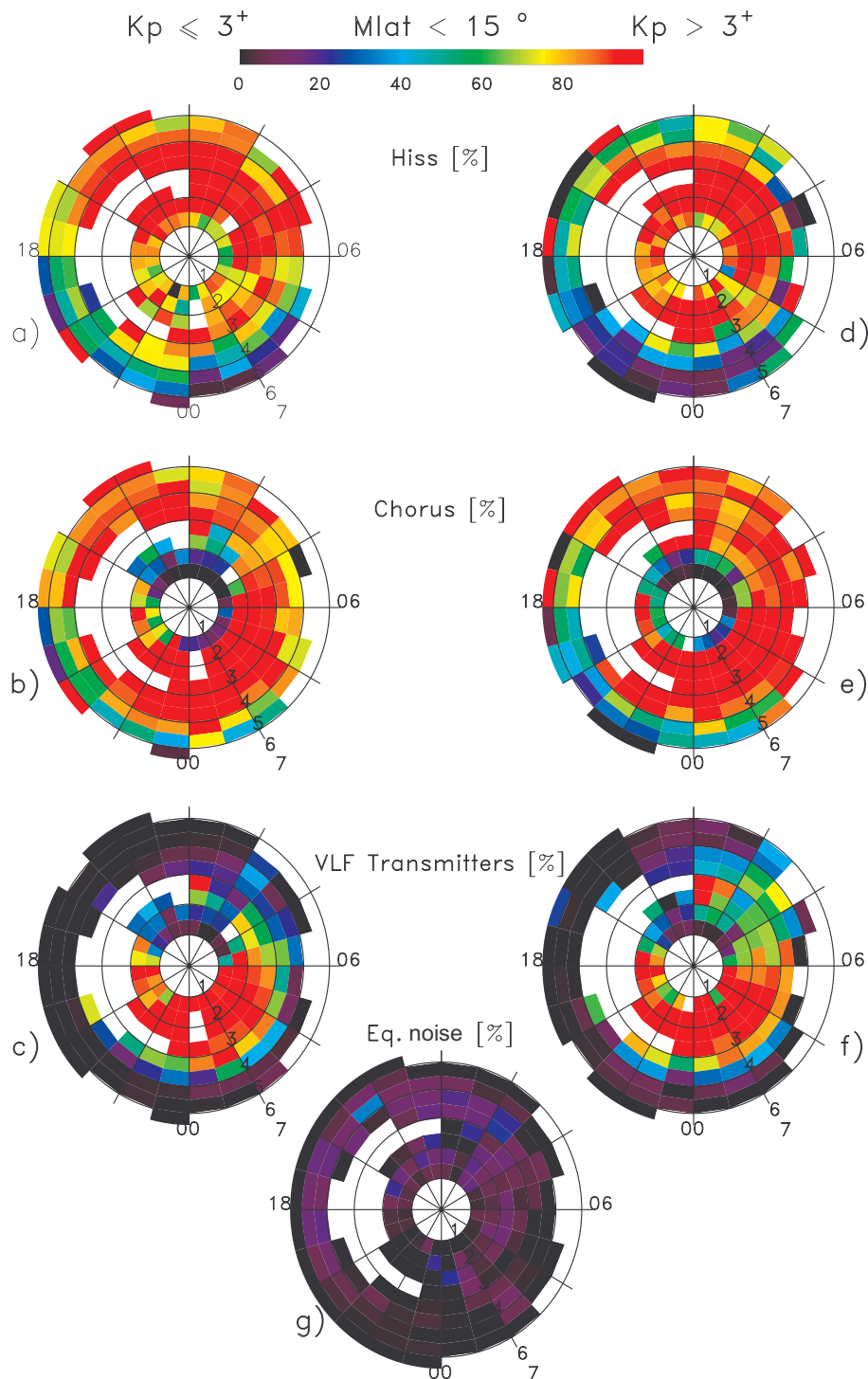


Fig. 6. Probability of observing types of emission for weak (left panels) and strong magnetic activity (right panels). From top to bottom: (a) and (d) Plasmaspheric hiss, (b) and (e) Chorus, (c) and (f) VLF transmitters and (g) Equatorial noise.

As observed in Fig. 5, the frequency of the maximum amplitude of chorus events follows a law proportional to $0.35 f_{ce}$. The amplitude is of the order of $10^{-5} \text{nT} \cdot \text{Hz}^{-1/2}$ and increases with L (Burtis and Helliwell, 1975). We have taken into account the occurrence described by Tsurutani and Smith (1977), Koons and Roeder (1990) and Sazhin and

Hayakawa (1992), despite that the data gap on the afternoon sector did not allow its quantification.

In agreement with PWI observations, the plasmaspheric hiss has two components. The first one is centered around 300 Hz and has a maximum amplitude of $1.5 \times 10^{-3} \text{nT} \cdot \text{Hz}^{-1/2}$, whereas the second component has a maxi-

imum amplitude of $3 \times 10^{-4} \text{ nT} \cdot \text{Hz}^{-1/2}$ at 1 kHz. These emissions are observed in the dayside plasmasphere, but also in the nightside when the magnetic activity is high.

Following Perraut et al. (1982), the MSW must be represented by a function having a maximum amplitude (a few $\text{nT} \cdot \text{Hz}^{-1/2}$) at f_{H^+} and a decreasing law for higher harmonics. However, disagreements between occurrence studies made on GEOS-1 (Perraut et al., 1982) and AKEBONO (Kasahara et al., 1992; 1994), plus the lack of data on DE-1 (see Fig. 6) prevents us from constructing a reliable model. The only clear feature is the extension in the frequency domain and in the L -values, when one moves from periods of weak geomagnetic activity to periods of strong geomagnetic activity. But in this first version of the model, we did not take into account such a K_p dependence. In this database, averaged amplitude spectra seem to increase in the MSW frequency band around 21:00 MLT and 03:00 MLT. Despite the fact that this feature is not statistically significant (compared to amplitudes observed in other MLT, L sectors), the model reproduces this behaviour.

Observed data do not allow one to model ICW. Few estimations of the sense of polarization have been published. Presently, the best thing to do is probably to make the hypothesis that ICW are right-handed polarized or left-handed polarized. In this paper, we have chosen to include not ICW waves (left-handed polarization hypothesis). Therefore, the lower cutoff frequency is at f_{H^+} .

5.3 Results

Figure 7 shows examples of comparisons between the amplitude averaged spectral densities (red lines) observed by PWI and the modelled ones (heavy solid black line). The instrumental noise (blue bars) and the maximum amplitudes (yellow bars) have been superimposed on the spectra. For the sake of convenience, characteristic frequencies have been indicated (the lower hybrid frequency f_{LHR} and various gyrofrequencies: f_{ce} , f_{H^+} , f_{He^+} , f_{O^+} , vertical black lines). Observations are taken at $L = 3$ and at 09:00, 03:00, 21:00 and 15:00 MLT from left to right and top to bottom. The K_p index is below and above 3^+ on the left and right panels, respectively.

The modelled spectra have been estimated from 2400 points logarithmically-spaced from 1 Hz to 1 MHz. To compare with DE-1 data, we have reduced these spectra to reproduce the PWI spectral resolution (average over sensor bandwidths).

The way in which the model fits the data relative to each type of emission may be summarized as follows:

- the model for the emissions generated by the VLF transmitters gives orders of magnitude only; more precise comparisons are impossible, since the DE-1 data do not allow to identify each transmitter frequency, whereas the transmitter frequencies have been introduced in the model,

- the modelling of the hiss and chorus emissions is quite correct in all cases; however, the amplitude of plasmaspheric emissions is slightly overestimated during periods of weak geomagnetic activity,
- despite the strong uncertainties we have for equatorial emissions, the fit is not too bad for the MSW. There is an exception for the observations at 09:00 MLT, where the amplitudes are clearly underestimated between 30–100 Hz. In this particular case, this disagreement can be reduced by increasing the high order harmonic amplitudes, or by increasing their number.

When the magnetic activity increases, at 03:00 MLT, the agreement between the model and the observed spectrum is very good. The only disagreement comes from the equatorial noise and more precisely, at frequencies close to f_{H^+} . By opposition, the contribution from the f_{H^+} harmonics reproduces well the observation (above 35 Hz). We can explain this discrepancy by the fact that we take the MSW fundamental frequency at f_{H^+} , which is not always the case (Perraut et al., 1982).

5.4 Comparison with OGO-5 and GEOS data

In order to qualify our wave model, we have taken the geophysical parameters of observations made on the GEOS-1 (Solomon and Cornilleau-Wehrin, 1988) and OGO-5 (Thorne et al., 1973) satellites, then we have compared the predicted amplitude spectral densities to the measured ones. The results are displayed in Fig. 8. As in Fig. 5, the predicted spectra are represented by heavy black lines, and the measured spectra by blue lines. The measured DE-1 spectra are represented by yellow bars.

Let us first consider a GEOS-1 spectrum (left panel). It is extracted from the right panel of Fig. 4 of Solomon and Cornilleau-Wehrin (1988). The observation was made on 8 March 1978 at about 03:40 UT (Jones, 1978; S300 Experimenters, 1979), when the satellite was located at 04:00 MLT, $L = 4.7$ near the magnetic equator ($Mlat = 10^\circ$), in a time period of very low activity ($K_p = 1^+$ after 6 days of K_p values less than 3^+). Information about the way to estimate the spectrum can be found in Jones (1978) and S300 Experimenters (1979). Although not discussed by the authors, the peaks around 500 Hz and 1.8 kHz can be attributed to plasmaspheric hiss and chorus emissions, respectively. The fact that the amplitude values are much larger than the mean values detected by DE-1 is not surprising for published data. Authors often use the best cases to illustrate their papers. In such a situation, it is not surprising that the predicted spectrum underestimates the measured ones. The underestimation is a factor of 2 for the plasmaspheric hiss part, which was shown to be quite stable, and a factor of 10 for the chorus part, which may be more variable. One may consider that the wave model provides a satisfactory prediction of the amplitude spectrum.

An OGO-5 spectrum is displayed on the right panel of Fig. 8. It is extracted from the Fig. 2 of Thorne et al.

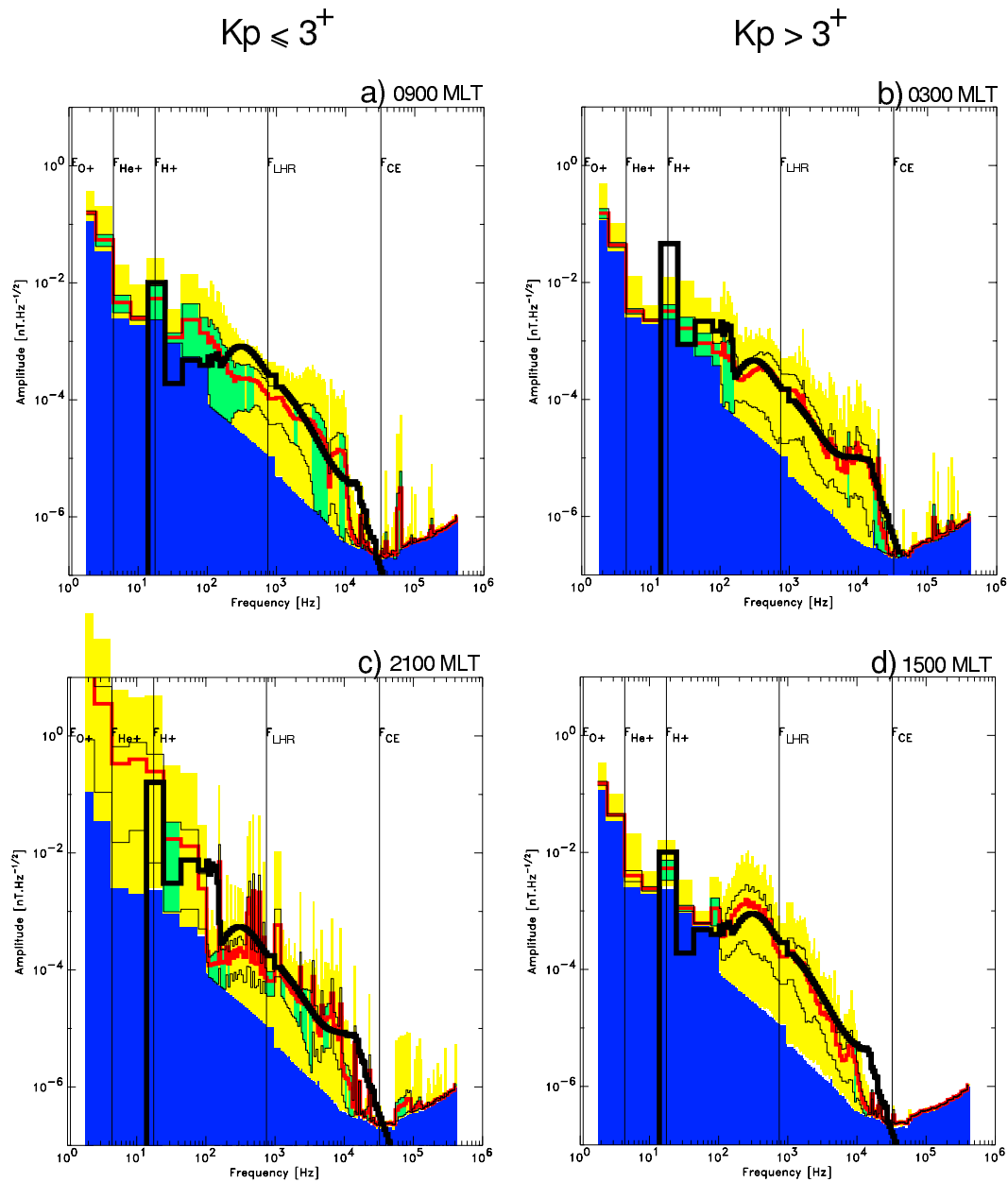


Fig. 7. Comparison between modelled (heavy black line) and observed (red lines) averaged amplitude spectra at $L = 3$ and (a) 09:00 MLT, (b) 03:00 MLT, (c) 21:00 MLT and (d) 15:00 MLT. The magnetic activity is weak on left panels and strong on right panels. The instrumental noise (blue bars) and the maximum amplitudes (yellow bars) have been superimposed on the spectra.

(1973). The observation was made on 4 April 1968, around 10:00 UT, at a time of moderate to weak geomagnetic activity. At this time, the spacecraft was at $L \sim 3$, around 12:00 MLT, at a magnetic latitude smaller than 15° . The spectrum was given as an example of plasmaspheric hiss by the authors. The predicted spectrum underestimates the measured spectrum by a factor of 2.5. In a sense, this result is satisfactory, since it is difficult to improve when comparing an instantaneous spectrum to an average one. However, the fact that the values obtained from the OGO-5 data are higher than the maximum values never obtained during 3 years of DE-1 observation makes one question either the respective

calibration of the magnetic sensors or the stability of the emission over a long time period (here, 15 years). Despite the numerous observations made in the magnetosphere, the extreme values are unknown.

6 Conclusions

A statistical study of 3 years of DE-1 data has been performed with the aim of elaborating a model of the waves that can interact with electrons in the equatorial regions of the plasmasphere. Since the time and frequency resolutions

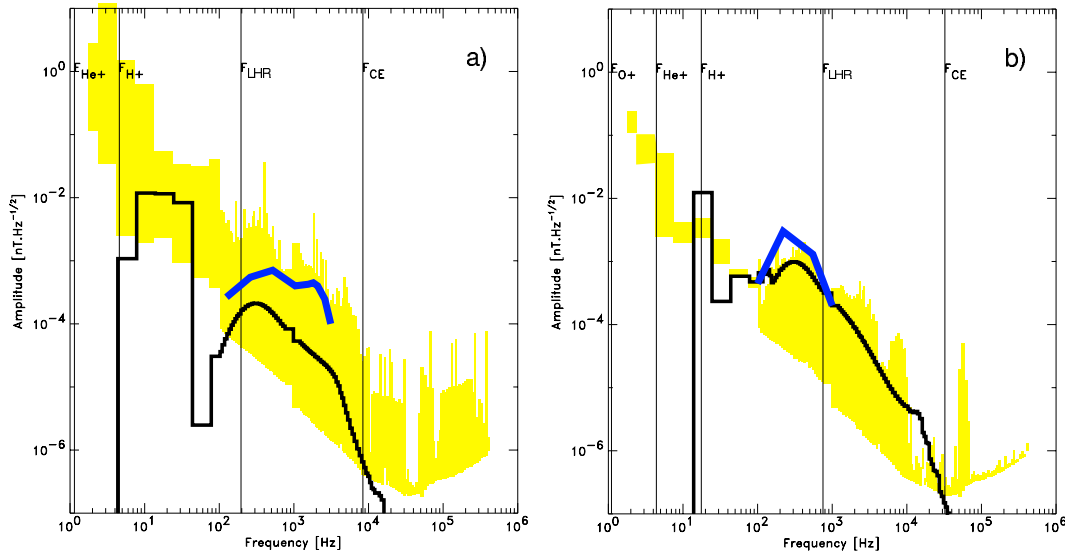


Fig. 8. Amplitude spectra recorded (blue line) on board (a) GEOS-1 and (b) OGO-5 compared with the averaged amplitude spectra modelled (heavy black line) for similar geophysical conditions. The measured spectra recorded by DE-1 are shown with yellow bars.

are insufficient to make an unambiguous identification of the type of emissions involved, the criteria based on frequency values have been used to make the distinction between: VLF transmitter emissions, plasmaspheric hiss emissions, chorus emissions, and equatorial emissions below ~ 200 Hz. It has been validated that the class of emissions, so defined, reproduces most of the characteristics pointed out by previous authors.

Distributions in L , Mlat and MLT values of the averaged amplitude spectral densities of the wave magnetic fields have shown that the emissions which are the most sensitive to variations in geomagnetic activity were first the equatorial emissions below ~ 200 Hz, then the chorus. If the sensitivity of the chorus emissions to variations in geomagnetic activity was known for a long time (see Meredith et al., 2001, and references therein), then it does not seem that the effect on the equatorial emissions was reported before. Confidence intervals estimated for the averaged spectral densities allowed one to confirm that statement. The narrowest confidence intervals are obtained for plasmaspheric emissions whose amplitude spectral densities are rather stable during the three years of DE-1 observations. Broader confidence intervals, i.e. larger variations, are obtained for chorus and equatorial emissions.

Analytical expressions of the amplitude spectral densities of the wave magnetic fields have been derived for each type of emissions from DE-1 amplitude spectral densities averaged either on all L -values or on all MLT values. The wave model $A(f, L, Mlat, MLT, K_p)$ has been constructed from the sum of these analytical expressions. It is given in $\text{nT.Hz}^{-1/2}$. It has been first tested on DE-1 amplitude spectral densities averaged over limited sectors of the L /MLT domain. The main results are as follows:

- the wave model provides values of the amplitudes of

the VLF transmitter frequencies which look reasonable with regards to the DE-1 data in a given sector, but the frequency resolution of the full set of DE-1 data is insufficient both to elaborate on an accurate model and then to test its performances,

- although a slight overestimation of the amplitudes is observed, particularly for weak geomagnetic activity, the wave model provides rather good predictions for the plasmaspheric hiss and chorus frequency bands,
- predictions are not always reliable for equatorial emissions below ~ 200 Hz: first, the variability in the MSW waves requires much more data to elaborate on a robust model; second, DE-1 data do not allow one to model ICW waves.

The wave model derived from the DE-1 data has also been tested on amplitude spectral densities estimated from OGO-5 and GEOS-1 data. The prediction underestimated the estimated values by a factor of 2 to 2.5 for plasmaspheric hiss emissions and by a factor of 10 for chorus emissions. This can be considered as correct for comparisons between instantaneous spectra and average spectra, with the spectra of the chorus events having obviously larger confidence intervals than the spectra of hiss.

Now, in several occasions, the lack of data has been pointed out. Data gaps prevented us from quantifying asymmetry between observations made in the morning and in the afternoon. Statistics on the MSW waves were much too weak. Full characterizations of ICW waves are needed. Data outside $L = 6$ are needed (Horne and Thorne, 1998). Amplitude values observed on OGO-5 show that 3 years of data are insufficient to estimate the averaged and extreme values of the amplitudes of natural emissions.

Obviously, more data are required to improve the wave model. Among the supplementary observations to be made, priorities may be given to:

- measurements of one magnetic wave field component above ~ 200 Hz over several years (if possible, a solar cycle), to complete the databases available presently and to point out the variation of the amplitude spectral density $A(f)$ as a function of the geomagnetic activity.
- measurements of the three magnetic components below ~ 200 Hz, to point out the right-handed polarized waves below the local proton gyrofrequency, and to identify the waves that potentially precipitate the highest energy electrons. In the quasi-absence of relevant data out of $L = 6$, the modelled amplitude spectrum below the local proton gyrofrequency is supposed to be either the spectrum of left-handed polarized waves, which means that there is no interaction with trapped electrons above ~ 1 MeV, or the spectrum of right-handed polarized waves, which means that there is a maximum interaction with trapped electrons above ~ 1 MeV;
- measurements of the three magnetic components in a wider frequency range, to provide a model of wave normal directions that control the growth rate in the equatorial region.

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