## Flow bursts intrusion into the inner magnetosphere and some its consequences

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## **Outline of this talk**

A summary about Flow Bursts in closed magnetic flux tubes (BBF, ...) combining observational and simulation results, focusing on specifics of innerMSPH effects and consequences

- ✓ Origin of Flow bursts//transient Dipolarizations//Injections
  - Reconnection/ bubble model (nicely integrates simul and observ results)
  - Role of depleted plasma content , entropy evaluation
- Predictions (*MHD+test particles, RCM*) versus observations
  - DIP/Injection structure (pressure, FACurrents)
  - Generation of substorm current wedge
  - Stopping flow bursts & Penetration distance
  - Acceleration in low bursts (transport or local acceleration at DFronts?)
- ✓ Example of deep plasma injection (CRRES)
- $\checkmark$  Concluding remarks , implications









## Transient Injections inside of closed flux tubes: - theory/simulations



Merging of 3 different approaches used to describe flow bursts (*Sergeev et al GRL 2012 review*)

- Subsonic **EM pulse model** (X.Li et al.1998, Zaharia et al., Sarris et al.), a formal model, but EM pulse origin is unclear
- Plasma bubble model (Pontius and Wolf 1990, Chen and Wolf...; MHD simulations Birn et al.2004, Birn&Hesse 2013; RCM-E simulations Yang et al. 2011,2012, reviews by Wolf et al.2009, Birn et al. 2009)
- Transient localized reconnection model (... Birn et al. 2011, Birn&Hesse 2013)
- ✓ Core elements: (1) a Bubble = plasma-depleted dipolarized Earthw-flowing flux tube (or channel) channel in closed flux tube region; (2) inhomogeneous S(r) profile
- ✓ Originate via (1) <u>M Reconnection</u>→production of low-entropy bubbles, or (2) <u>Interchange instab.</u> in minB configurations (...Pritchett &Coroniti, 2011..) → modest depletion
- **"Entropy"**  $S \equiv pV^{5/3}$  in the bubble a key parameter (approximate invariant, strictly conserved in ideal MHD)

### Equatorial view (Birn et al., JGR 2011)



# Flow bursts observations in closed plasma sheet flux tubes

Flow bursts (BBF, RFT, fast flow channels, reconnection outflows, transient DIPs, Dispersionless Injections ..)

Flow burst = <u>depleted accelerated plasma</u> contained in Earthward propagating <u>dipolarized</u> magnetic flux tube separated by thin (ion scale) frontside boundary(DF) from ambient plasma tubes



**Figure 10.** (top) Profiles of key parameters along the structure. (bottom) A cartoon of an earthward propagating bubble and a high- $PV^{5/3}$  island pushed ahead of it, separated by a dipolarization front





## Flow bursts observations : DF and plasma acceleration

- DF has the ion scale thickness (Schmid et 2011, Fu et al., Liu et 2013, very large statistics!!) => 1D planar approximation is possible, DF NORMALS :
- Narrow transition cold/dense  $\rightarrow$  hot/depleted plasma at DF, depleted plasma tube entropy S = pV<sup>5/3</sup> and density (plasma bubble), but enhanced specific entropy P / n<sup>5/3</sup>.
- <u>Yang et al 2011</u>: RCM-E simulation of bubble intrusion: reproduced ion energy spectra change through DF, major acceleration comes from Fermi/betatron acceleration in the contracting plasma tube.
- In this view, sharp spectacular change of energy spectra at the DF are mostly because <u>we cross a simple boundary (TD) between</u> <u>different plasmas</u>
- Drifting Electron Holes (*Sergeev et 1992*): high energy electron flux decrease during injections at GEO remote indication that accelerated /injected plasma originate from more distant tail regions
- Claims that plasma is (locally) accelerated at the DipFront are inconsistent with TD-like property of DF (E\*J~0 in the dHT plasma frame)







## Does DF look like as TD or Shock?

- DF normals :
  - Sergeev et al (2009GRL), normals from MVA/Timing great preference for TD against Shock
  - Liu, Angelopoulos etc (2013): survey of ~1900 (~1300 with fast particle data) DipFronts from THEMIS : good correspondence of MVA and "TD" normals, saddle shape surface as expected for flux tube
- E-field (En versus Et, large Et –dissipative DF)
  - Fu et al. 2011/2012- basic E-field component along normal; large statistics!
  - Runov et al 2011- claim opposite (dissipative boundary ???), but actually Et <<En inside DF in their Figure 7 !</li>
- Energetic electrons are confined to the bubble proper, do not escape through DF surface (support Bn~0)
- General agreement that **DF has properties close to a Tangential Discontinuity** (DF surface ~ field line surface)

 $\rightarrow$  non-dissipative boundary (in MHD sense) ?

- Very strong LH waves (up to 60 mV/m) are usual inside DF, but their role in acceleration is unclear
- Resonance-type acceleration of a small group of particles (*Zhou et al.2012, Artemyev et 2012*)



Liu et 2013: median angle between TD and MVA normals is 15° (475events);



## **How to evaluate** $S = p V^{5/3}$ from observations ?



- Plasma sheet P is very isotropic (except for inner region)
- → How to evaluate  $V = \int ds / B$  based on SC observations?
  - Formula by Wolf et al. (2006) for V(x,y, Br,Bz,P) by fitting many equilibrated tail-like plasma configurations
  - Tested/validated in 3d MHD simulations Birn et al.(2011)
  - Tested/validated in THEMIS conjunctions Sergeev et al.(GRL2014) for <u>near-equatorial orbits</u>







#### Simulations of stopping FB (Birn&Hesse,2014 Yang et al.2011)

- Pressure increases in front of DF (also in the tail PS)
- Amplitude increases while moving Earthward
- Max effect where the FB stops



#### **THEMIS radial conjunction** (Sergeev et al GRL 2014)

- Remarkable pressure increase at **P1** (\*2), ~1Re Earthward of stopping DF) as well as entropy drop at **P3** in the FB
- $\Delta P$  and  $\Delta S$  amplitudes and geometry are similar to the simulation results

Bubble entropy ~ entropy at destination place (within a factor 2)



## FB/injections & Substorm Current Wedge



Fig. 4 a) Diversion of perpendicular into parallel currents, based on an MHD simulation of near-tail reconnection and earthward flow (Birn et al. 2011). Color shows the magnitude of

Simulations (Birn&Hesse 2014, Yang et al.2012)

- R1 on FB flanks and R2-like FAC in front (wedgelet!)
- Correspond to  $[\nabla P \times \nabla V]$  FAC generation mechanism
- Stronger FACs when approching Earthward, peak near stopping distance

**THEMIS radial conjunction** (Sergeev et al GRL 2014)

- P1 pressure increase as well as P3 entropy drop continue for ~30-40 min,
- similar to duration & shape of midlatitude magnetic bay (basic SCW signature)
- $\Delta P$  and  $\Delta S$  amplitudes and geometry are similar to simulation results
- Confirm that  $\nabla P x \nabla V$  mechanism drives SCW FACs
- More depleted bubble generates stronger FAC \$



#### April 08, 2009 Themis P1,P2,P3 & Midlatitude AH



# Transient Injections into the inner magnetosphere - observations



Considerable part of Flow Bursts do NOT penetrate substantially inward

- 2-SC comparison (CL-TP1 radial conjunctions, dr~5Re) : ~30%, (Takada et al. 2006)
- FB probability sharply decreases 9→7Re (Lee et al., 2012) Why??
- Many substorm onsets (Aur.Breakups) are <u>not accompanied</u> by GEO injections (only 30% in Boakes et al. 2011).

It is not sufficient to create fast flow channel, should be another factors/processes (another physics) which controls the inward penetration of plasma (injections).

Special ROLE of Bubble ENTROPY (as potential predictor of injection depth)



## Penetration Distance: Role of entropy



**Bubble MHD simulations** (closed 2d config, S(r), Birn et al. 2004,2014)

- More depleted flux tube moves faster
- More depleted flux tube penetrates deeper
- Penetration distance where  $S \sim Sb$

'HEMIS

• More depleted flux tube generates stronger FAC



**THEMIS 2SC test**: In the <u>optimized geometry</u> (radial, 2Re separation) **entropy is a good predictor of penetration** to the inner probe (*Dubyagin et al GRL 2011*)



# GEO : injection dependence on the magnetotail stretching

Sergeev et al. JGR 2012

- ✓ Local entropy S<sub>GEO</sub> a good <u>predictor</u> of injection probability at GEO : stretched tail favors GEO injection (in agreement with Takada et al. 2006, and Boakes et al.2011 results)
- ✓ Threshold at  $S_{GEO} \approx 0.03 \pm 0.005$ , corresponds to experimental cutoff in Sb distribution of the bubbles!!
- ✓ In terms of GEO BZ the threshold is about BZ~60nT
- Interesting to repeat using BZ observed at GEO as well as for VA probes



HEMIS





ponent. Pressures are expressed in  $keV/cm^3$ , and the



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locally,

12:30



A <u>low-density/hot</u> plasma sheet generates stronger magnetic variations in the dark nightside auroral zone compared to <u>cold/dense</u> sheet (for similar driving level)

Efficiency to generate strong AZ currents depends on  $\Sigma_{H}$ Plasma sheet electrons (Te~ 0.2...1 keV)Large Hall conductivity requires Ee > 3-5keVField-aligned acceleration is required which depends on plasma sheet Te<sup>1/2</sup>/NeKnight (1973) relationship: $\Delta \Phi_{\parallel} = Q \ j_{\parallel}$  where  $Q = (2\pi m_e kT_e)^{1/2} / eN_e$ 

## **Summary and questions**

### What can (stopping) flow bursts contribute to :

- Increase pressure and Inject new material into the inner magnetosphere and RC
- Populate the radiation belts
- Prepare seed population for Rel electrons
- Modify the pressure/entropy profiles to generate the SCW
- Prepare plasma environment to effectively accelerate electrons and provide bright aurora and large Hall conductivity (intense currents)

### What can Van Allen probes contribute to FB/injection studies?

- Study the FB structure and evolution (incl."bubble property") in a different (low  $\beta$ ) environment
- Check pressure pumping effect (significance & structure)
- Test how well the entropy-based prediction of injection distance work in the inner region







## **Themis puzzle**

- During major radial THEMIS conjunctions
  (2008,2009) unexpectedly small number of medium /strong substorms (in AE/AL terms), whereas magnetotail signatures (fast flows, TCS, dipolarization) are OK.
- Pseudobreakups another name of that puzzle.
  PBUs ≅ SBS-like activations including aur. breakup, fast flows, injections, SCW, dipolarization, which have weak (<100nT) associated AZ magnetic variations (Koskinen et al. 1993, Nakamura et al. 1994, Pulkkinen 1996, Aikio et 1999, Fillingim et al 2000, Kullen &Karlsson 2004...)</li>

Our explanation : nightside contribution to AL depends on additional (missed) variable Important to explore to interprete correctly the ground magnetic measures of magnetospheric activity, which are most frequent research tool





### Drifting Electron Holes



• Sergeev et al JGR 1992





## #1 Geotail → LANL : Flow Bursts at 9-10 Re

Superposed Epoch results (1min averages)

- $\checkmark \quad \underline{\text{Common for bubbles/BBFs (e.g., Ohtani et al}}_{2004}$ 
  - Enhanced BZ, flow VX, flux transport Ey
  - Depleted  $pV^{5/3}$
- ✓ <u>Peculiar at ~9Re</u> are

density/pressure depletion - less clear (1min?)

### ✓ <u>GEO-penetrating flow bursts</u>

- ★ Deeper |∆S| depletion and larger dBZ in penetrating FBs
- ✤ Vx or Ey are bad predictors
- Higher pressure before/during penetrating
  FBs effect of background configuration



