Nonlinear Interaction of the Solar Wind with Earth's Bow Shock

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Nonlinear structures upstream of Earth's bow shock



Nonlinear Structures are *spikes in density* seen upstream of the bow shock.

HFA (Schwartz, 1985) HDC (Thomsen, 1986) SLAMS (Schwartz, 1992) FC (Sibeck, 2002) DH (Parks, 2006)



Properties Common to Upstream nonlinear structures

Cluster Observations:

- *δn/n* as large as 0.98
- *Duration* >4s
- *Edges overshoot*, ~2-6 times
- *Slowdown of SW*: Vx ~0, Vy, Vz deviated.
- *T increases* inside (T>10⁷ °K)
- *B changes sign* (Current Sheet)
- *B-field* Similar shape as particles
- Backstreaming population always seen.

Random sampling of 147 DHs in five bow shock crossings.

2002, ULF waves made a θ_{BN} determination problematic, yielding a rough estimate ~30° (45°).

A sample of 147 holes observed during six orbits were used for a preliminary characterization. These results shown in Fig. 3 indicate density holes have a mean duration of 17.9 ± 10.4 s and a mean $\delta n/n$ of 0.69 ± 0.15 . The δn repre-

• Mean duration $\Delta t \sim 17.8 \pm 10.4 s$

• fractional density depletion $\delta n/n \sim .69 \pm 0.15$

• magntic field rotation $\sim 36^{\circ} \pm 24^{\circ}$.

- DHs have many similar features as in HFAs, except they have *shorter duration* and *occur more frequently*.
- This talk focuses on the relationship of DHs to HFAs.
 - What relationship, if any, do DHs have to the well-studied HFAs?
 - Could DHs be, for example, early stage HFAs that fail to fully develop for some reason?
 - Can we identify the physical basis for identifying DHs and HFAs?



• SW E-field point inward *normal* to CS

• HFA produced by *IMF current sheet* interacting with the bow shock.

• IMF CS is connected to the bow shock.

• Reflected SW channeled into the CS, *Increases Temperature*

• CS *expands*, Compresses and steepens the edges into *shocks*.

HFA Tests:

• Thomsen (1993) tested the *CS interaction model* using 9 ISEE HFA events found *E-field points inward* at least on one side of the discontinuity

• Schwartz (2000) extended the test to \sim 30 HFA events, found observations generally support the CS interaction model.

• 2D hybrid simulation model shows that CS interacts with the bow shock, reflected particles channeled into the CS, *temperature* increase which *expands* the CS and *excludes the SW*, reduces *density and magnetic field*. The expanding edges compress and form *shocks*. *No Instability* is involved (Thomas, 1991).

Statistical Analysis of Early phase DHs (35 events)



- Angle E-field to Current sheet normal.
- *Downstream* (C1=84.0±7.9°), (C3=83.8±8.4°);
- *Upstream* (C1=84.98.5°), (C3=88.5±10.5°)
- *Different from E-field in HFAs* which point inward (>90°)

C1 black; C3 green

Wilber et al., 2008





- *SW*: *Vx* ~0 at 0336:22 UT
- However, SW *beam* is still present.
- SW beam *velocity remains constant*, ~635 km/s.

2D cuts of 3D *HFA* Distribution function (4s)





 θ - ϕ Plot



- As SC spins, distribution function obtained in 32 energy steps and 16 φ directions.
- *SW* at $\varphi = \pm 180^{\circ}$
- Fluxes at $\varphi = 0^\circ$, *opposite of SW*.
- Flux buildup $\phi = 0^{\circ}$ as SW intensity decreases

• $V = \int v f d^3 v \sim 0$ back streaming contribution cancels SW.



Magnetic field measurements (FGM) on Feb. 16, 2003

Lee et al., PRL, 2009

Nonlinear development of shock structure: A perpendicular shock case ($\theta_{Bn}=90^{\circ}$, $M_{A}=4.5$, $\beta_{i}=1$, $\beta_{e}=0.5$) [compare with Lee et al., PRL, 2009].



What have we learned?

- **Preliminary results of early phase DHs** show different behavior than HFAs.
- Decrease of the SW $< V_x >$ in density depleted regions of *HFAs* is *not* due to *blocking* of the SW.
- SW beam is *always present* and the *beam velocity* remains fairly constant.
- *Back Streaming particles* + SW beam produces $\langle V \rangle = 0$.
- Sunward streaming particles: SW *reflected from bow shock* + *local source*
- Occupy large velocity space, *T* computed from *second moment increases*.
- Multi-SC observations indicate nonlinear structures *evolve in space and time* and *duration* of events depends *how long the CS remains interacting* and on where measurement is made relative to the bow shock.





The End

Thomsen et al., (1988)



- Instability model:
- Reflected SW *couples* to incoming SW
- Excites Counter streaming *ion beam instability*
- *Heat particles*
- CS expands and *edges steepen*
- Produces HDCs.