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> Whistler Waves and Electron Acceleration/Heating in the Planetary Magnetospheres and Interplanetary Medium

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## **1. Whistler Waves**

• N: index of refraction,

$$N = \frac{ck}{\omega}$$

- For vacuum, N = 1
- For whistler waves

$$N^{2} = 1 - \frac{\omega_{pe}^{2}}{\omega(\omega - \Omega_{ce} \cos \theta)}$$

## 2. Atmospheric Whistler Wave Generation



[From D. Golden, Piddyachiy, and N. Haque]



## **3. Whistler Waves in Radiation Belt**



From Baker et al.]



[Van Allen Probes]

S Fig 1. Radiation Belt Storm Probes Mission (RBSP)



[From Reeves et al.]



## 4. Whistler Wave Generation in Radiation Belt



Perpendicular free energy source in the ions -> EM ion-cyclotron wave instability T

$$\frac{I_{\perp i}}{T_{\parallel i}} > 1$$

Perpendicular free energy source in the electrons -> whistler wave instability T

$$\frac{I_{\perp e}}{T_{\parallel e}} > 1$$

• Growth rate for whistler instability



### 5. Electron Acceleration by Whistler Wave

• Wave-induced diffusion equation

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial t} = \frac{ie^2}{m_e^2} \int dk \frac{k^2}{|\omega|^2} \left[ \left( \frac{\omega^*}{k} - v_{\parallel} \right) \frac{\partial}{v_{\perp} \partial v_{\perp}} + \frac{\partial}{\partial v_{\parallel}} \right]$$
$$\times \frac{v_{\perp}^2 |\delta E_k^2|}{\omega - kv_{\parallel} - \Omega_{ce}} \left[ \left( \frac{\omega}{k} - v_{\parallel} \right) \frac{\partial f}{v_{\perp} \partial v_{\perp}} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial v_{\parallel}} \right]$$



• Electron acceleration by whistler waves through *resonant* wave-particle interaction



Pitch-angle diffusion: Responsible for loss of radiation belt electrons

Energy diffusion: Responsible for accelerating electrons of mild energy level to relativistic levels.



$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial f}{\partial t} &= \frac{ie^2}{m_e^2} \int dk \left[ \left( 1 - \frac{kv_{\parallel}}{\omega^*} \right) \frac{\partial}{v_{\perp} \partial v_{\perp}} + \frac{k}{\omega^*} \frac{\partial}{\partial v_{\parallel}} \right] \\ &\times \frac{v_{\perp}^2 \left[ \delta E_k^2 \right]}{\omega - kv_{\parallel} - \Omega_{ce}} \left[ \left( 1 - \frac{kv_{\parallel}}{\omega} \right) \frac{\partial f}{v_{\perp} \partial v_{\perp}} + \frac{k}{\omega} \frac{\partial f}{\partial v_{\parallel}} \right] \\ \frac{\partial f}{\partial t} &= \frac{1}{v^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial v} \left[ v^2 \left( D_{vv} \frac{\partial f}{\partial v} - \frac{(1 - \mu^2)^{1/2}}{v} D_{v\mu} \frac{\partial f}{\partial \mu} \right) \right] \\ &- \frac{1}{v} \frac{\partial}{\partial \mu} \left[ (1 - \mu^2)^{1/2} \left( D_{v\mu} \frac{\partial f}{\partial v} - \frac{(1 - \mu^2)^{1/2}}{v} D_{\mu\mu} \frac{\partial f}{\partial \mu} \right) \right], \qquad v = \sqrt{v_{\perp}^2 + v_{\parallel}^2}, \mu = \frac{v_{\parallel}}{v} \end{aligned}$$

• Pitch-angle diffusion

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial t} = \frac{1}{v^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial \mu} \left[ (1 - \mu^2)^{1/2} D_{\mu\mu} \frac{\partial f}{\partial \mu} \right],$$

$$D_{\mu\mu} = \frac{2\pi^2 e^2}{m_e^2} \int dk \delta E^2(k) \delta(kv\mu - \omega - \Omega_{ce}) \left(\mu - \frac{kv}{\omega}\right)^2$$
If  $D_{\mu\mu} = D = \text{const}$ 

$$f(v, \mu, 0) = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \int_{-1}^{1} d\mu \left(l + \frac{1}{2}\right) P_l(\mu) P_l(\mu') e^{-\frac{l(l+1)Dl}{v^2}} f(v, \mu', 0)$$

• Energy (or v) space diffusion

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial f}{\partial t} &= \frac{1}{v^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial v} \left[ v^2 D_{vv} \frac{\partial f}{\partial v} \right], \\ D_{\mu\mu} &= \frac{2\pi^2 e^2}{m_e^2} \int dk \delta E^2(k) \delta(kv\mu - \omega - \Omega_{ce})(1 - \mu^2) \end{aligned}$$

If 
$$D_{VV} = v^{\alpha}$$

$$f(v,t) = \int_0^\infty dv' v'^2 G(v,v',t) f(v',0),$$
  

$$G(v,v',t) = \frac{(vv')^{-\frac{1+\alpha}{2}}}{(2-\alpha)t} I_{\frac{1+\alpha}{2-\alpha}} \left( \frac{2(vv')^{\frac{2-\alpha}{2}}}{(2-\alpha)^2 t} \right) \exp\left(-\frac{v^{2-\alpha} + v'^{2-\alpha}}{(2-\alpha)^2 t}\right)$$

• Example:

$$f(v,0) = \frac{\delta(v)}{4\pi v^2}$$
  $\alpha = -1$   $\longrightarrow$   $f(v,t) = \frac{1}{4\pi^2} \frac{1}{3t} \exp\left(-\frac{v^3}{9t}\right)$ 





T = 1

## 6. Whistler Waves in the Solar Wind











# Transition to turbulence: Cascade



#### **Typical Solar wind turbulence spectrum**



#### **Global spectrum of solar wind electromagnetic fluctuations**

- 2 months of data in the ambient solar wind near L1 -









#### **Global spectrum of solar wind electromagnetic fluctuations**

- 2 months of data in the ambient solar wind near L1 -



**7. Solar Wind Electrons** 





Lin, 1972



• Modeling solar wind electrons



## 8. Solar Wind Acceleration by Whistler Waves (Halo)

Fokker-Planck equation for halo electrons

$$\begin{split} \frac{\partial f}{\partial t} &= \frac{ie^2 k_m^2}{4\pi m_e} \int dk \bigg( (\omega^* - kv_{\parallel}) \frac{\partial}{v_{\perp} \partial v_{\perp}} + k \frac{\partial}{\partial v_{\parallel}} \bigg) \\ &\times \bigg( \frac{1}{\partial [\omega^2 \varepsilon_{-}(k, \omega)] / \partial \omega} \bigg)^* \frac{v_{\perp}^2 f}{\omega - kv_{\parallel} - \Omega_{ce}} \\ &+ \frac{ie^2}{4m_e^2} \int dk \bigg[ \bigg( 1 - \frac{kv_{\parallel}}{\omega^*} \bigg) \frac{\partial}{v_{\perp} \partial v_{\perp}} + \frac{k}{\omega^*} \frac{\partial}{\partial v_{\parallel}} \bigg] \\ &\times \frac{v_{\perp}^2 |\partial E_k^2|}{\omega - kv_{\parallel} - \Omega_{ce}} \bigg[ \bigg( 1 - \frac{kv_{\parallel}}{\omega} \bigg) \frac{\partial f}{v_{\perp} \partial v_{\perp}} + \frac{k}{\omega} \frac{\partial f}{\partial v_{\parallel}} \bigg], \end{split}$$

• Steady-State halo electron distribution

$$f = C \exp\left(-\int dv \frac{1}{v} \frac{m_e c^2 k_m}{\pi} \frac{\Omega_{ce}^4}{\omega_{pe}^4} \frac{\int_{-1}^{1} d\mu \frac{1-\mu^2}{|\mu| \mu^2}}{\int_{-1}^{1} d\mu \frac{1-\mu^2}{|\mu| \mu^2} \delta E^2 \left(-\frac{\Omega_{ce}}{v\mu}\right)}\right)$$
  
Whistler wave turbulence spectrum 
$$\left| \delta E^2(k) \right|_{k=-\Omega_{ce}/v\mu}$$

via approximate wave-particle resonance condition

$$0 = \omega - kv\mu - \Omega_{ce} \approx -kv\mu - \Omega_{ce}$$

• Steady-State Whistler Turbulence Spectrum

$$\delta E^{2}(k) = \frac{k_{m}^{2}m_{e}c^{2}}{2\pi} \frac{\Omega_{ce}^{4}}{\omega_{pe}^{4}} \frac{\alpha - 3/2}{\alpha + 1} \left( \frac{k^{2}v_{T}^{2}}{\Omega_{ce}^{2}} + \frac{1}{\alpha - 3/2} \right),$$
  
$$\delta B^{2}(k) = \frac{k_{m}^{2}m_{e}c^{2}}{2\pi} \frac{\alpha - 3/2}{\alpha + 1} \left( 1 + \frac{1}{\alpha - 3/2} \frac{\Omega_{ce}^{2}}{k^{2}v_{T}^{2}} \right)$$

• Steady-State Halo Electron Distribution

$$f = \frac{n}{\pi^{3/2} v_T^3} \frac{\Gamma(\alpha+1)}{(\alpha-3/2)^{3/2} \Gamma(\alpha-1/2)} \left(1 + \frac{1}{\alpha-3/2} \frac{v^2}{v_T^2}\right)^{-\alpha-1}$$

## 9. Solar Wind Acceleration by Langmuir Waves (Superhalo)

• Fokker-Planck equation for superhalo electrons

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial t} = \frac{ie^2 k_m^2}{2\pi m_e} \frac{\partial}{\partial v_{\parallel}} \int dk \left(\frac{1}{\omega \partial \varepsilon_{\parallel}(k,\omega)/\partial \omega}\right)^* \frac{v_{\parallel}^2 f}{\omega - k v_{\parallel}} + \frac{ie^2}{m_e^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial v_{\parallel}} \int dk \frac{1\delta E_k^2 I}{\omega - k v_{\parallel}} \frac{\partial f}{\partial v_{\parallel}}$$

• Steady-State Langmuir Turbulence Spectrum

$$\delta E^{2}(k) = \frac{k_{m}^{2}T_{e}}{4\pi} \frac{\kappa - 3/2}{\kappa + 1} \left( 1 + \frac{1}{\kappa - 3/2} \frac{\omega_{pe}^{2}}{k^{2}v_{T}^{2}} \right)$$

• Steady-State Superhalo Electron Distribution

$$f = \frac{n}{\pi^{3/2} v_T^3} \frac{\Gamma(\kappa+1)}{(\kappa-3/2)^{3/2} \Gamma(\kappa-1/2)} \left(1 + \frac{1}{\kappa-3/2} \frac{v^2}{v_T^2}\right)^{-\kappa-1}$$



## **Summary**

- Whistler waves are generated in the planetary (Earth) atmosphere and propagated through magnetosphere.
- Whistler waves are responsible for acceleration and loss of radiation belt relativistic electrons.
- Whistler turbulence is responsible for producing solar wind halo electrons.
- Langmuir turbulence is responsible for accelerating solar wind electrons to superhalo energies.

## Challenge

- Turbulent acceleration is easy, as long as the turbulence intensity is GIVEN.
- Real challenge is how to describe turbulence.
- At present, only Alfvenic turbulence (MHD) and Langmuir turbulence (kinetic) are understood.
- There is no theory for whistler turbulence YET (for that matter, any other plasma turbulence, although I am working on it).