HAARP-Induced Artificial Ionospheric Ducts

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Motivations

• Naturally induced field aligned irregularities of the plasma density exhibit enhanced refractive indices and act as ducts that guide waves in the whistler range between the two hemispheres.

• HF heating of the ionosphere creates density perturbations that may propagate into the plasmasphere, thus produce artificial ducts.

Objectives

- To present the observations of the density perturbations caused by the HF-heating of the ionosphere by HAARP and detected by Demeter and DMSP satellites.
- To check the observations against a model of the artificial ducts due to HF-heating of the ionosphere.

The model of artificial ducts in the ionosphere

•It is based on the SAMI2 model of the ionosphere [Huba, et al., 2000] which describes evolution of the ionospheric plasma confined by a bunch of the geomagnetic field lines.

•We use the latest version of the code (release 0.99) which describes high latitudes, and includes effects from ExB drift.

•The SAMI2 model was modified, namely a flexible local source of the electron HF-heating was introduced in the form of the localized heating rate per electron:

$$q = \mu P / V n_e \approx 2 \times 10^4 \,\mu \,(K / s)$$

Model of HF-heating effects due to HAARP



Variations of the electron temperature & density along the DEMETER orbit at 700 km. The "HF-heating" was conducted during 20:00 – 20:30 LT (drift is not included).

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Variations of the electron temperature & density along the DEMETER orbit at 700 km. The "HF-heating" was conducted during 20:00 – 20:30 LT (drift is not included).

Model of HF-heating effects due to HAARP



Variations of the ion velocity along the DEMETER orbit. "HF-heating" was conducted during 20:00 – 20:30 LT (q=2e3 K/s and 5e3 K/s at the left and right panel).

Analysis of the Demeter Observations

- Demeter over-flies HAARP twice a day, at nighttime and daytime. The ionospheric ducts were detected only during the nighttime passes.
- Altogether about 20 observations of the ionospheric ducts were made.
- We separate them into three group:
 - (a) Over-dense ionosphere

$$f < f_0 F_2$$

- (b) Under-dense ionosphere $f > f_0 F_2$
- (c) A weak ionosphere

 $f > f_0 F_2$ $f_0 F_2$ is not available

Three following DEMETER observations represent each of these groups



04/24/07 f=3.2 MHz O-mode 0.1 Hz Magn. Zen. No electrojet

DEMETER pass projected along B_0 ($r_{circles} = 100, 200, 300... \text{ km}$)









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08/02/07 F=2.83MHz O-mode 1.4 Hz Mag. Zen.







04/29/08 F=3.3MHz O-mode CW Mag. Zen.







HAARP & DMSP F16 Experiments



02/25/08 f=2.85 MHz, O-mode, Magn. Zen. No electrojet



02/26/08 F=2.85 MHz, O-mode, Magn. Zen., No electrojet



Measurements by DMSP F16 during the HAARP winter 2008 campaign, made 02/25 (top) and 02/26 (bottom). Zero time corresponds to the shortest distance from the F16 foot point to HAARP which is 500 km (02/25) and 300 km (02/26).

Recent observations of ducts by DMSP



Here zero time is when F17 overflies HAARP. It is a daytime (2 UT or 17 LT), and pretty dense ionosphere.

Ducts detected at mid-latitude [Frolov et al. JETP Lett., 2008]

- Ducts generated by the SURA facility (56°N, 46°E) were detected by DEMETER and DMSP satellites.
- DEMETER observed 3 cases when $\delta n_e / n_e \le 25 30\%$ It occurred when f<f₀F₂, at ERP=40 MW, CW.
- Followed by oscillations of E_{x.}
- DMSP observed 2 cases with $\delta n_e / n_e \le 2 5\%$

Shown are the Demeter observations made 05/01/06 when overflying SURA.



	$N_i^o(cm^{-3})$	N_i^{peak} (cm ⁻³)	T ^o _i (K)	T _i ^{peak} (K)	T _e ^o (K)	T _e ^{peak} (K)	L _x (km)
Over-dense ionosphere	4730	6800	1450	2250	2830	3980	510
Under-dense ionosphere	3520	4300	1190	1360	2480	3780	250
Weak ionosphere	1670	2730	1430	1470	2770	3230	510

Table 1.Results of DEMETER measurements averaged over 20 HAARP over-flights.

Estimates of energy flux into ducts:

 $F_{peak} = (\delta N_i \delta T_i + \delta N_e \delta T_e) \times \mathbf{v}$

Estimates of power pumped into ducts:

$$P_{ducts} = (\delta N_i \delta T_i + \delta N_e \delta T_e) \times \mathbf{v} \times \text{Area}$$

	$F_{peak}\left(rac{\mu w}{m^2} ight)$	F _{peak} /F _{HAARP}	P(kW)	P/P _{HAARP}
Over-dense Ionosphere	5.65 × 10 ⁻²	3.1 × 10 ⁻⁴	2.3	7.2 × 10 ⁻⁴
Under-dense ionosphere	1.6 × 10 ⁻²	1.4 × 10 ⁻⁴	0.32	10-4
Weak ionosphere	0.74 × 10 ⁻²	0.6 × 10 ⁻⁴	0.3	10-4

Conclusions

- Ion outflow due to the ionospheric heating by HAARP was detected by Demeter & DMSP F16, F17.
- Modified SAMI2 model provides qualitative predictions of the outflows amplitude.
- The power pumped into ducts was estimated as been in the range 0.01- 0.1% of the HAARP power.
- The best conditions for generation of ducts occurred when matching F2 peak in the absence of the electrojet. The worst case scenario occurs when the radio wave is strongly absorbed in the E-layer.