

Space Physics
Practical 2B
Data Analysis

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Contents

1	Introduction	4
2	Time Series Data	4
2.1	Question 1	4
2.2	Question 2	4
2.3	Question 3	5
2.4	Question 4	5
2.5	Question 5	5
2.6	Question 6	6
2.7	Question 7	7
2.8	Question 8	7
3	Particle Measurements	10
3.1	Question 1	10
3.2	Question 2	10
3.3	Question 3	10
3.4	Question 4	11
4	Conclusion	15
5	Appendix 1. Matlab code	17

List of Figures

1	Cluster Quicklook 6-hours overview.	4
2	EFW Measurement Data	5
3	FGM Measurement Data	5
4	Staff Instrument Measurement Data	6
5	PSD of Electric Field.	6
6	PSD of Electric Field with Error Bar	6
7	PSD of Magnetic Field.	7
8	PSD with Error Bar	7
9	PSD of Electric Field with less records	7
10	PSD with Error Bar and less records	7
11	PSD of Magnetic Field with less records.	8
12	PSD with Error Bar with less records	8
13	Spectrogram of Electric Field with high time and frequency resolution	8
14	Spectrogram of Magnetic Field with high time and frequency resolution	8
15	Spectrogram of Electric Field with low time and frequency resolution	8
16	Spectrogram of Magnetic Field with low time and frequency resolution	8
17	Hodogram of Electric Field.	9
18	Hodogram of Magnetic Field	9
19	Position of the instrument in Orbit 1069	10
20	Position of the instrument in Orbit 1070	10
21	Spectrogram of the 1069 Orbit	11
22	Spectrogram of the 1070 Orbit	11
23	Energy Spectra of the 1069 Orbit	12
24	Energy Spectra of the 1070 Orbit	12
25	Velocity Spectra of the 1069 Orbit	13
26	Velocity Spectra of the 1070 Orbit	13

27	Maxwellian Curve fit for data from Orbit 1069	14
28	Maxwellian Curve fit for data from Orbit 1070	14

1 Introduction

2 Time Series Data

2.1 Question 1

Where in the magnetosphere are the observations made? Motivate your answer!

The measurement taken on 2002-03-02 at 03:29-03:30 is taken at the time when the satellite was crossing the border of magnetopause.

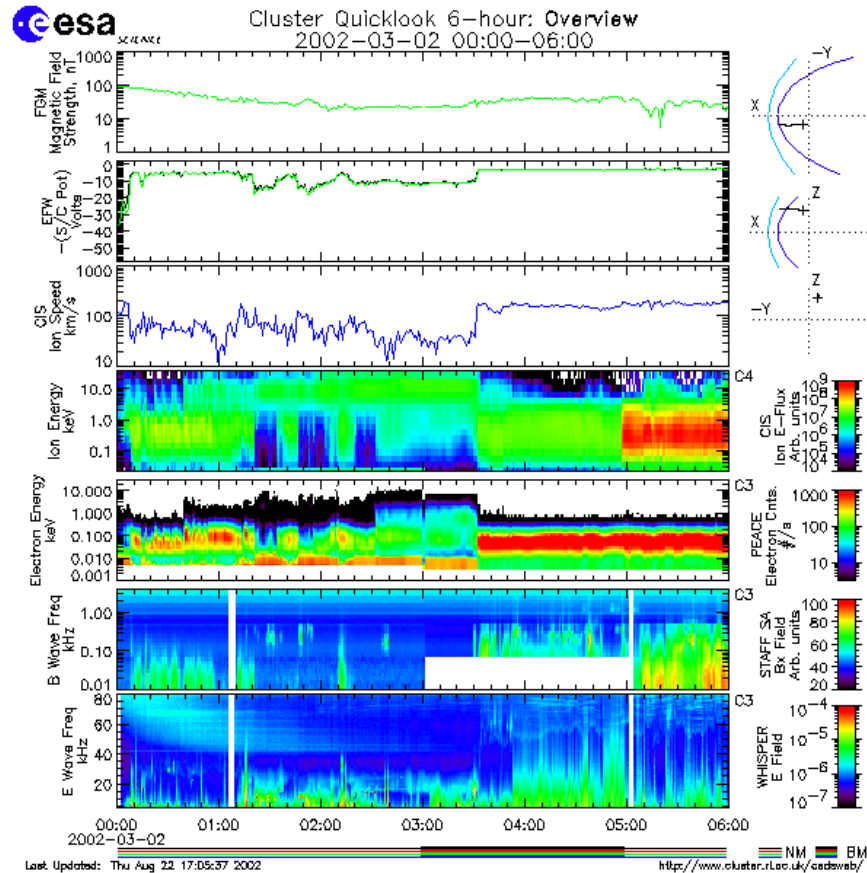


Figure 1: Cluster Quicklook 6-hours overview.

2.2 Question 2

Plot the time series (all components) from the three instruments. Can you identify any waves? What type of waves are we looking at: Electrostatic or electromagnetic? Is there a need to correct the data somehow? If so, why and how do you do that?

Electromagnetic between 20 and 30 s. Electrostatic between 55 and 60 s. x component is facing towards the sun. It should fluctuate around zero, like the y-component does it. It happens because of the photon emission, which is captured by the probes. Thus, data correction is needed.

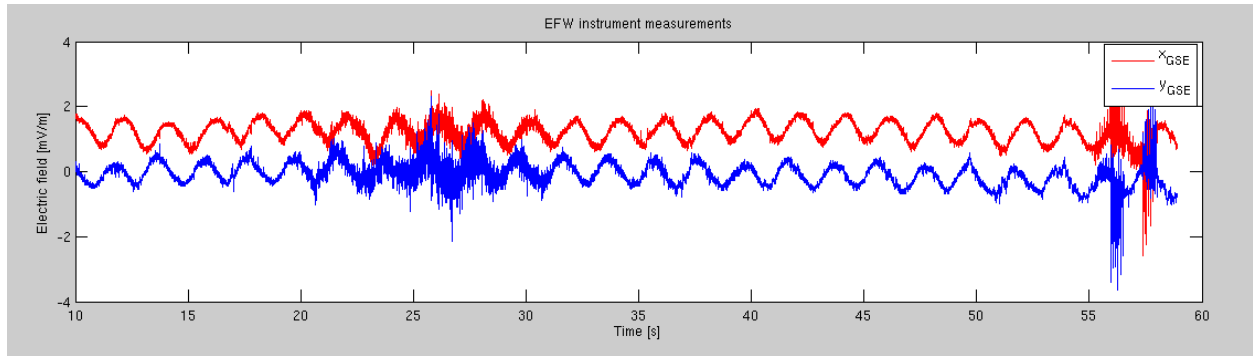


Figure 2: EFW Measurement Data

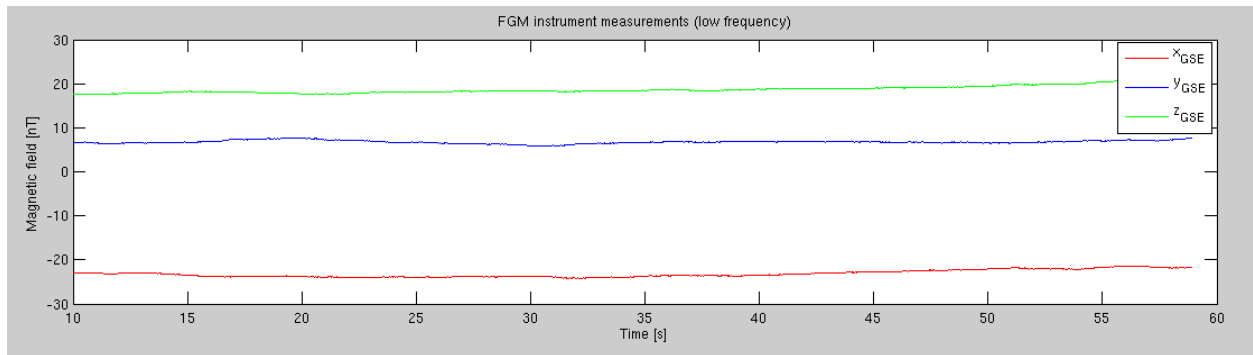


Figure 3: FGM Measurement Data

2.3 Question 3

Estimate the frequency of the waves by looking at the times series only. Describe how you do. What is your result?

Roughly estimated wave period is about 0.01 s (zoomed in and estimated between 2 peaks). Frequency = $1/0.01 = 100$ Hz.

2.4 Question 4

Compute the fundamental frequencies (electron and proton gyrofrequencies and the electron plasma frequency) in the plasma. The background magnetic field you have in the data. The density can be found from the overview data. However, the ion density is usually underestimated. Therefore, it is a good idea to compare with the high frequency emissions obtained by the WHISPER instrument. In the WHISPER data you can identify the electron plasma frequency directly, as a thin horizontal line visible most of the time. What density does the WHISPER signal correspond to? Compare the wave frequency with the fundamental frequencies. What are your conclusions?

From overview data, ion density is 1.5 cm^{-3} .

The estimated plasma frequency from WHISPER is 16 kHz.

2.5 Question 5

Compute the PSD of the electric and magnetic wave fields for the entire time period. If you want you can use the Matlab-function `PSDvsFREQ()`. Compare with your results obtained in 2 and 3. Change the resolution

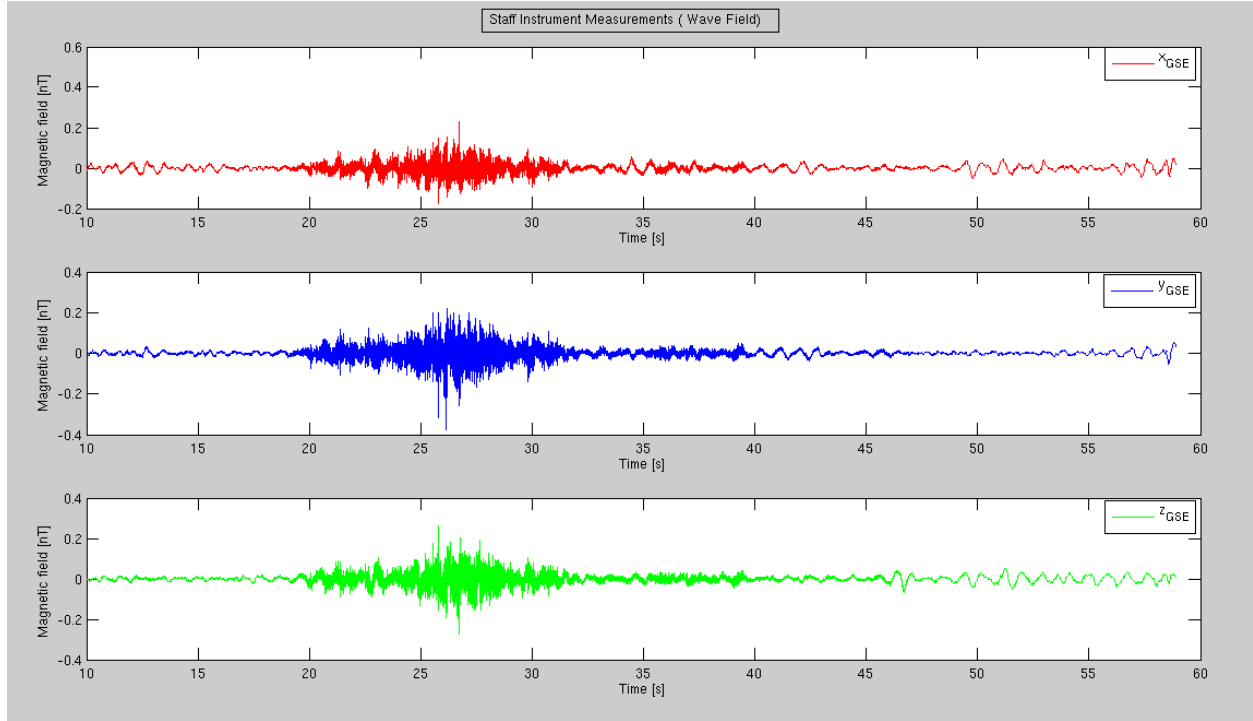


Figure 4: Staff Instrument Measurement Data

of the PSD to clearly resolve the frequencies you found in 2. The frequency resolution is given by $f = 1/Nt$, where t is the time between two samples and N is the record length used in the Fourier transform. The peaks are around 90-100 Hz. Which corresponds to our rough estimation in question 3.

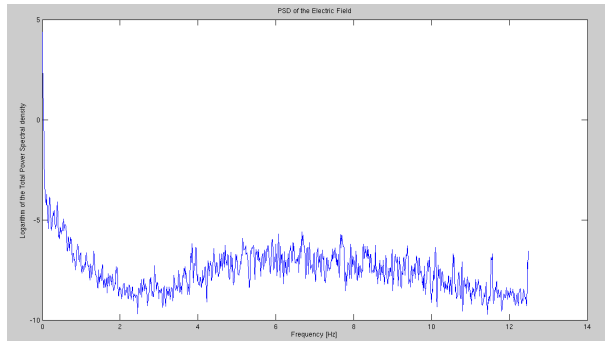


Figure 5: PSD of Electric Field.

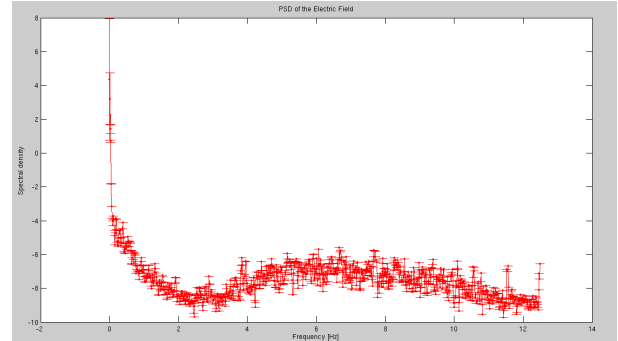


Figure 6: PSD of Electric Field with Error Bar

2.6 Question 6

Look at (=make PSDs for) two different frequency ranges: 0-225 Hz and 0-2 Hz. You should aim at good statistics so the frequency resolution should be different in the two plots. The frequency resolution is given by $f = 1/Nt$, where t is the time between two samples and N is the record length used in the Fourier transform. For each of the plots: provide all the information about the PSD you present: The length of the record, the shift between records and the total number of records used.

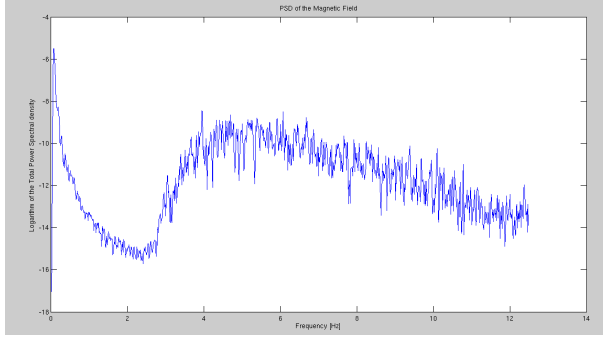


Figure 7: PSD of Magnetic Field.

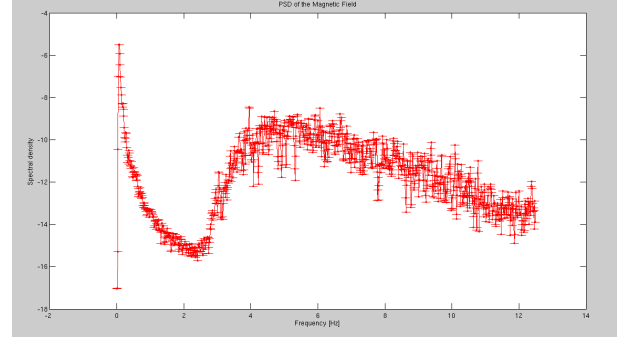


Figure 8: PSD with Error Bar

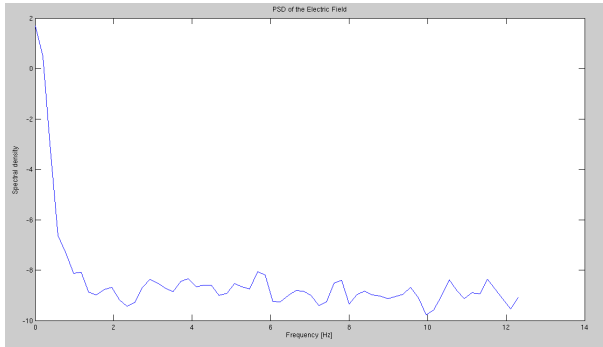


Figure 9: PSD of Electric Field with less records

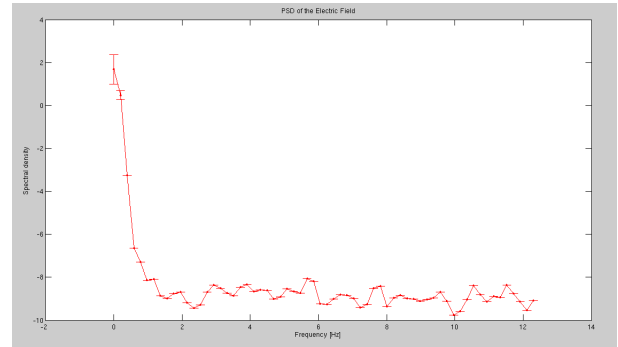


Figure 10: PSD with Error Bar and less records

2.7 Question 7

Plot spectrograms (=PSD versus time and frequency) of both the electric and magnetic fields. You can do this by using the Matlab function `means()` and ignoring the wave vector output. Try different resolutions in time and frequency. What are your conclusions?

2.8 Question 8

Now we can produce a so-called hodogram, which shows how the wave field vector moves in the plane perpendicular to B_0 . If the field vector moves in the same direction as a positive ion would gyrate then the wave is left-hand polarized. If the vector rotates in the opposite direction the wave is righthand polarized. Plot the magnetic field vector in this plane and determine the polarization of the waves. Sometimes it is easier to see the rotation if you normalize the length of the vectors to 1. Do the same with the electric field wave vector.

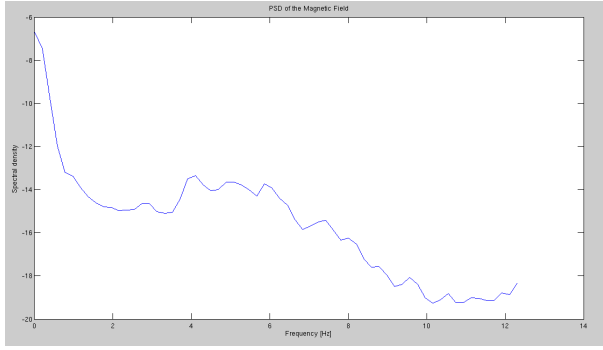


Figure 11: PSD of Magnetic Field with less records.

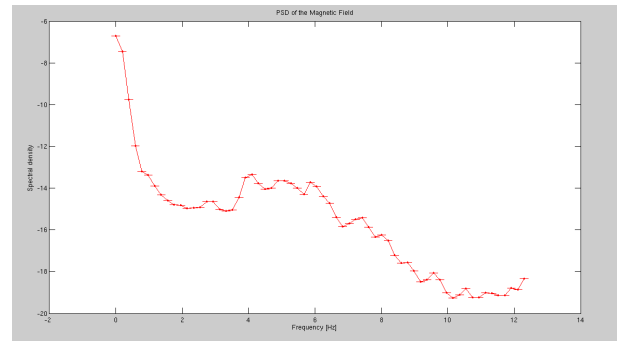


Figure 12: PSD with Error Bar with less records

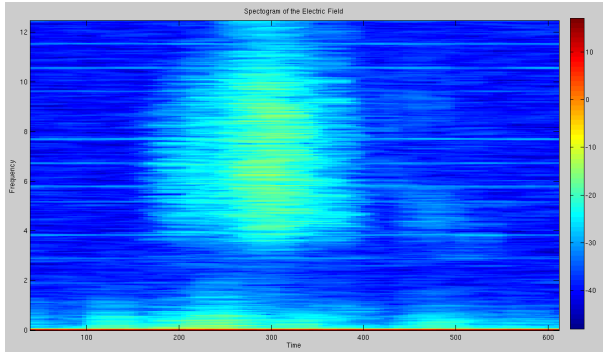


Figure 13: Spectrogram of Electric Field with high time and frequency resolution

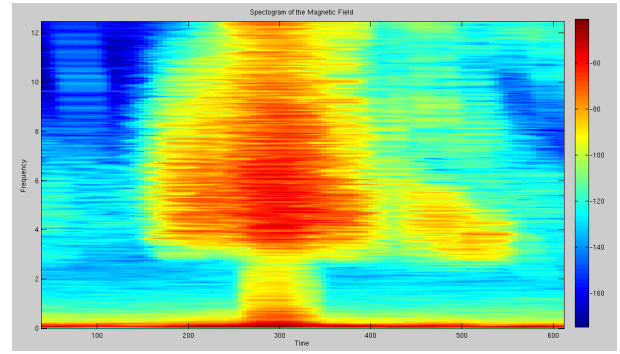


Figure 14: Spectrogram of Magnetic Field with high time and frequency resolution

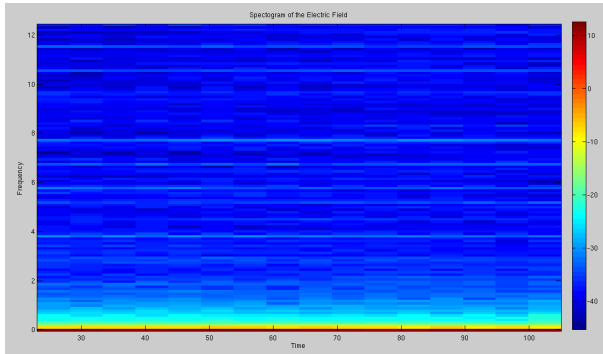


Figure 15: Spectrogram of Electric Field with low time and frequency resolution

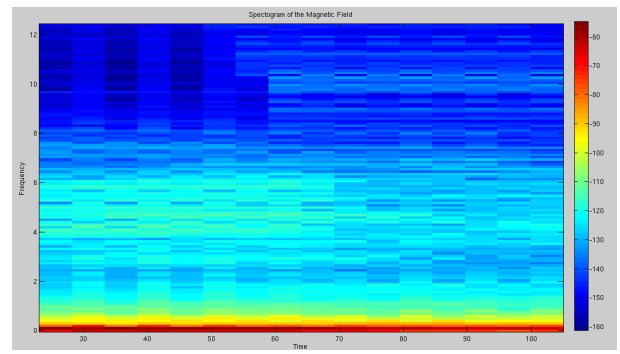


Figure 16: Spectrogram of Magnetic Field with low time and frequency resolution

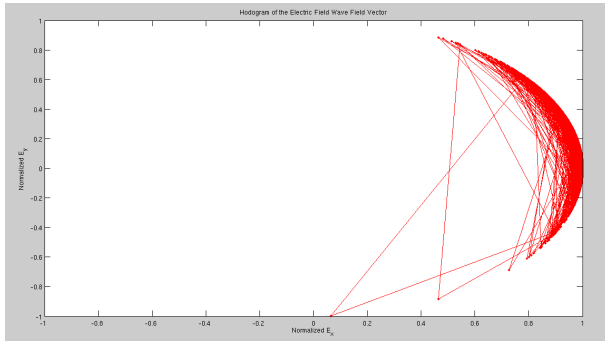


Figure 17: Hodogram of Electric Field.

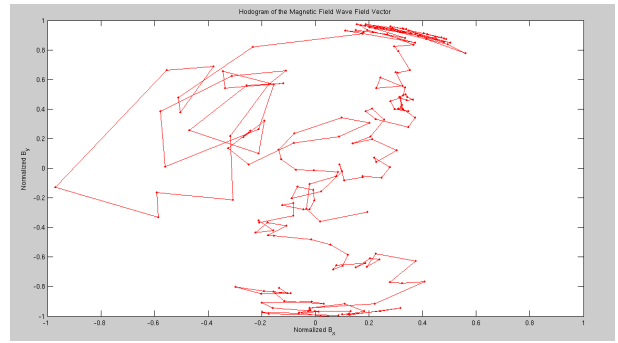


Figure 18: Hodogram of Magnetic Field

3 Particle Measurements

For this part of the practical we have been provided the particle data from the SWIM instrument onboard the Chandrayaan-1 spacecraft. Chandrayaan-1 orbits the moon at an altitude of 100 km. The position of the spacecraft at different times is shown in the Figures 19 and 20, which also show the position of the moon with respect to Earth.

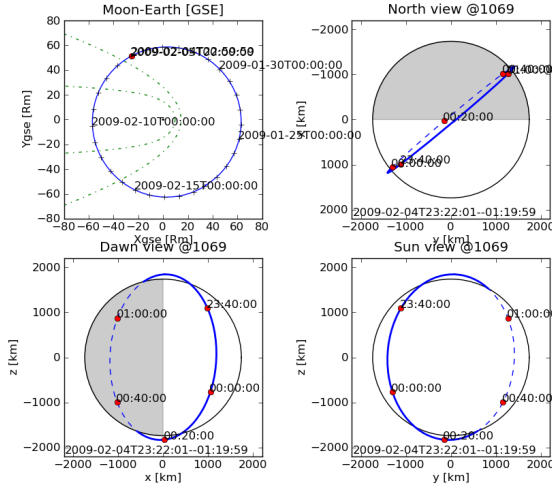


Figure 19: Position of the instrument in Orbit 1069

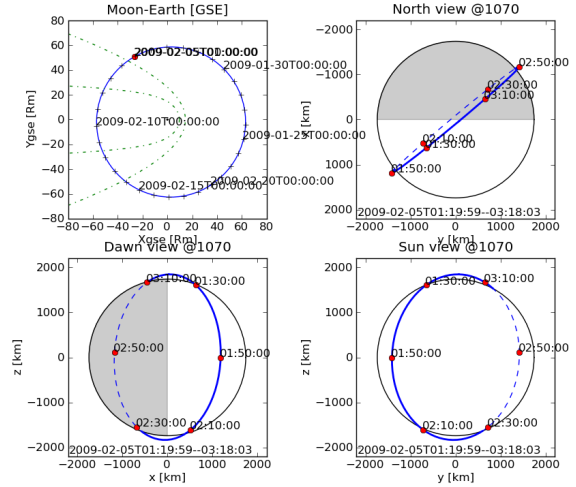


Figure 20: Position of the instrument in Orbit 1070

3.1 Question 1

Plot spectrograms, that is, the number of counts versus time and energy, for the two orbits. The different energy levels you find in a comment line in the data files. Once every orbit SWIM looks at the solar wind. Identify when this happens in the two orbits.

The spectrograms for the orbits 1069 and 1070 is shown in Figure 21 and 22 respectively. When SWIM looks at the solar wind the number of solar wind particles that hit the instrument increases significantly which is observable as the red portion in Figures 21 and 22. For orbit 1069, it occurs approximately between 100th and 350th observation time bin which corresponds to UTC 05:29 to UTC 06:02 hours. For orbit 1070, it occurs approximately between 25th and 250th observation time bin which corresponds to UTC 07:22 to UTC 08:12 hours.

3.2 Question 2

Protons are the main ions in the solar wind, but can you identify any other components? Motivate your answer!

Helium double plus. I am not sure.

3.3 Question 3

Make energy spectra, this is, plot observed counts versus energy for a selected time interval around the solar wind observation.

The energy spectra for the time when the SWIM instrument looks at the solar wind for the orbit 1069 and orbit 1070 is shown in Figure 23 and 24 respectively

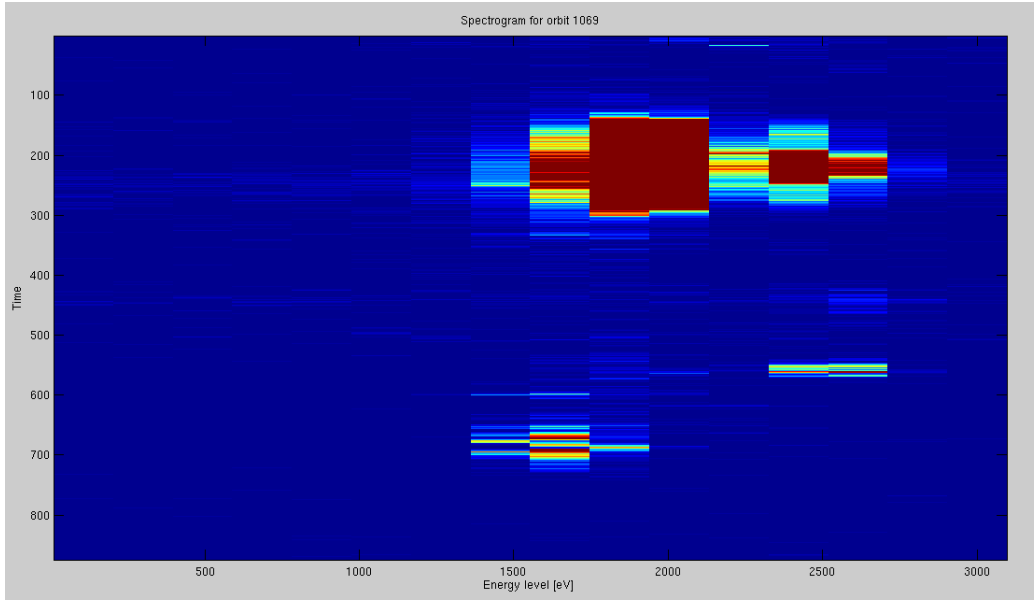


Figure 21: Spectrogram of the 1069 Orbit

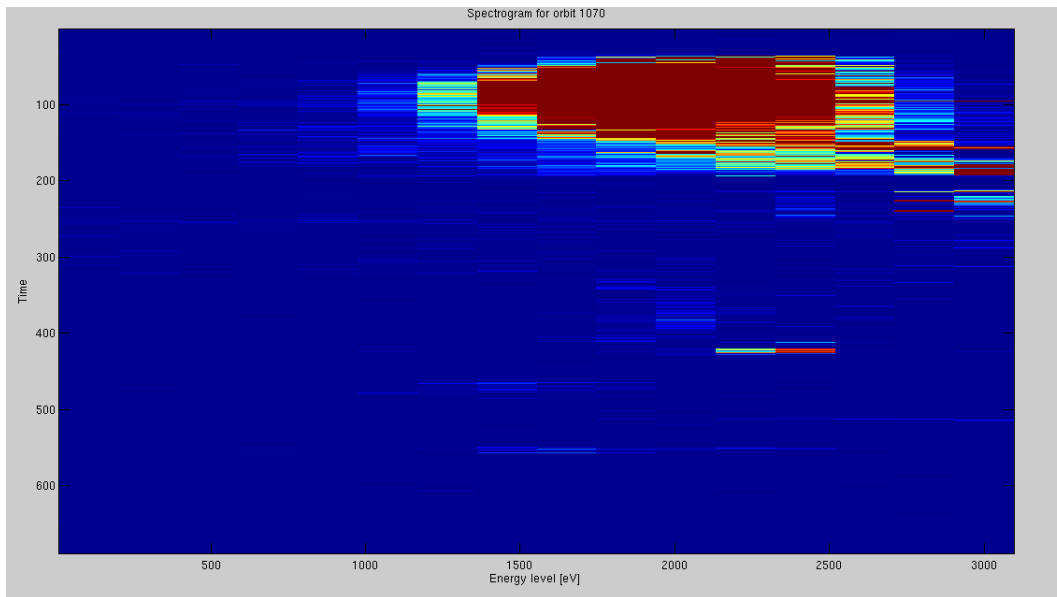


Figure 22: Spectrogram of the 1070 Orbit

3.4 Question 4

Determine the solar wind proton velocity and temperature by first transforming the data from energy to velocity space and then fitting a Maxwellian distribution. What temperatures and velocities do you get? Are there differences between the orbits? If so, why?

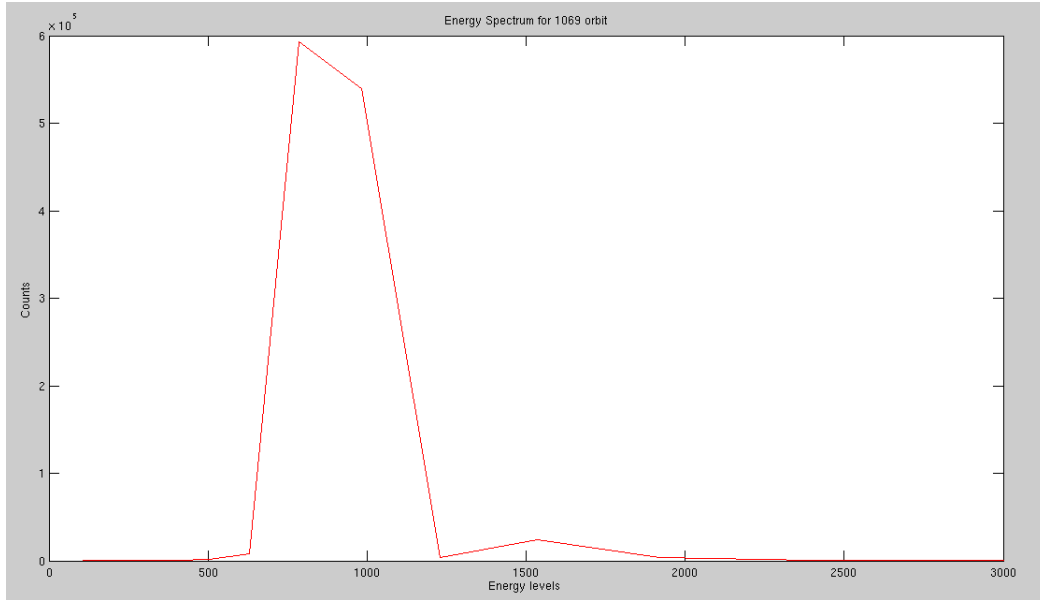


Figure 23: Energy Spectra of the 1069 Orbit

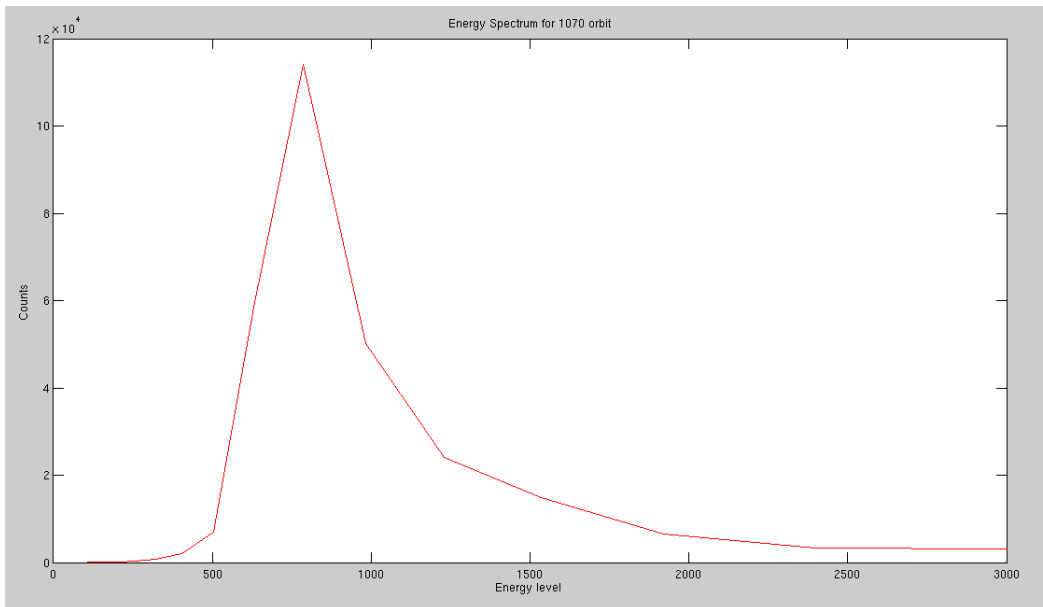


Figure 24: Energy Spectra of the 1070 Orbit

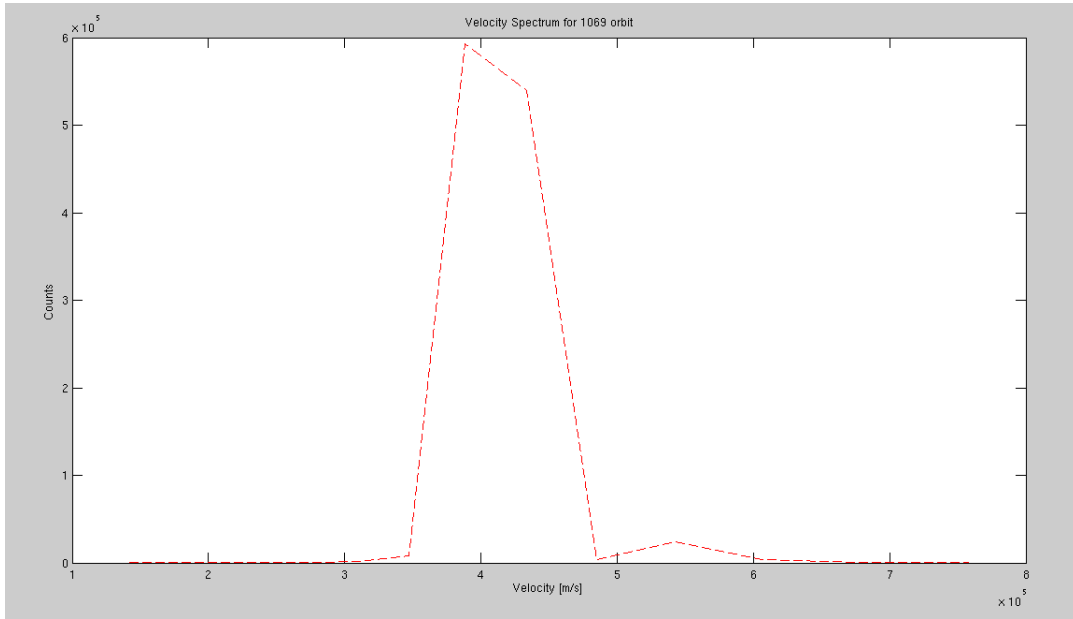


Figure 25: Velocity Spectra of the 1069 Orbit

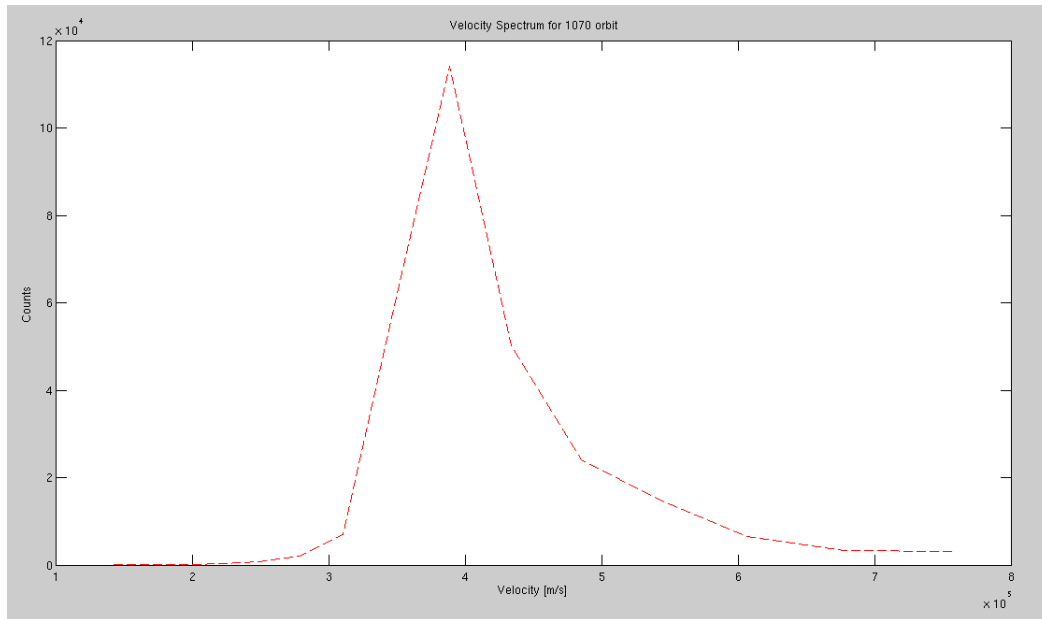


Figure 26: Velocity Spectra of the 1070 Orbit

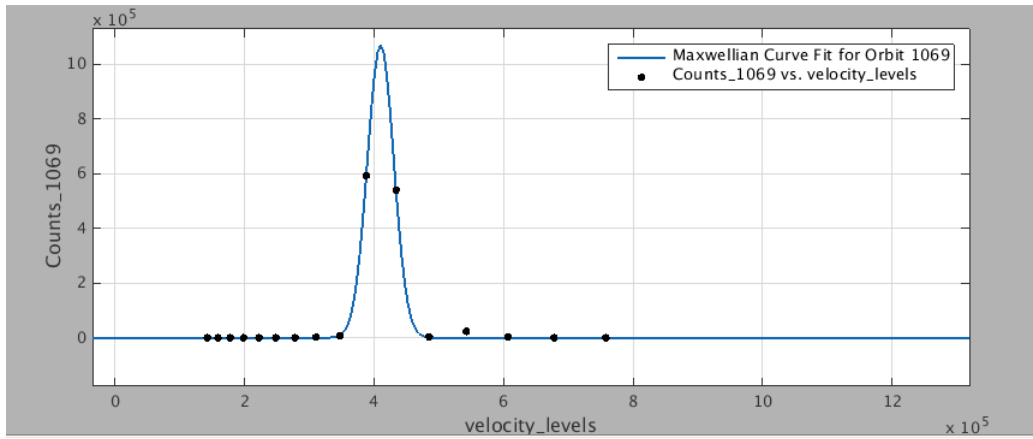


Figure 27: Maxwellian Curve fit for data from Orbit 1069

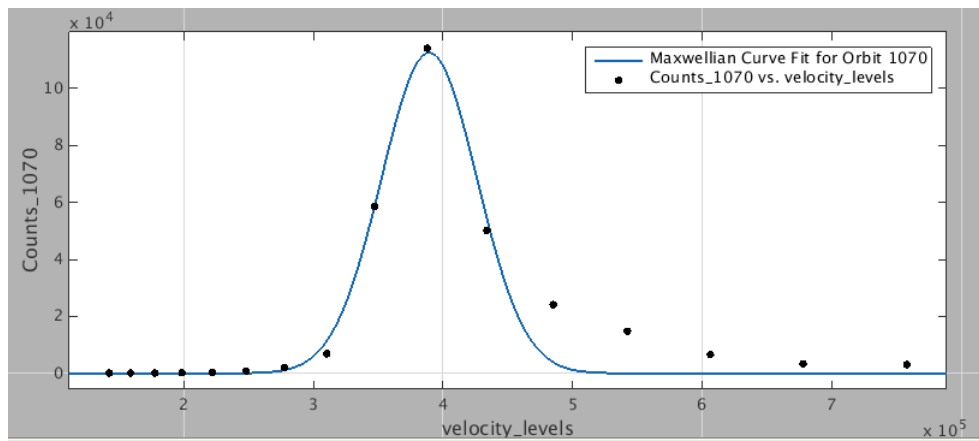


Figure 28: Maxwellian Curve fit for data from Orbit 1070

4 Conclusion

References

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- [2] Skolnik M. I. (2001). *Introduction to Radar Systems*. The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc., New York, United States.
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