

# Statistical Properties of Curtain Electron Precipitation Derived with AeroCube-6

M. Shumko<sup>1</sup>, A.T. Johnson<sup>1</sup>, J.G. Sample<sup>1</sup>, D.L. Turner<sup>3</sup>, T.P. O’Brien<sup>2</sup>, and  
J.B. Blake<sup>2</sup>

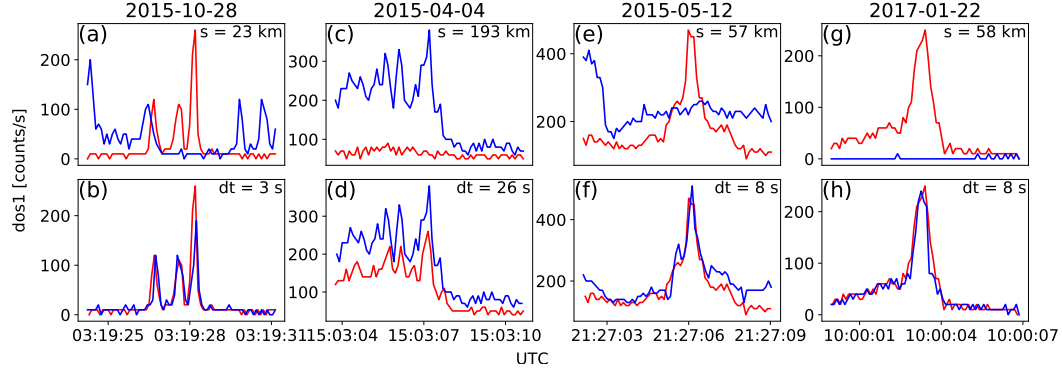
<sup>1</sup>Department of Physics, Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana, USA

<sup>2</sup>Space Science Applications Laboratory, The Aerospace Corporation, El Segundo, California USA

<sup>3</sup>Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory, Laurel, Maryland, USA

## Key Points:

- We used the dual AeroCube-6 CubeSats to identify stationary, narrow, and persistent  $> 30$  keV precipitation in low Earth orbit
- A single low Earth-orbiting spacecraft can easily misidentify curtains as microburst precipitation
- A few curtains actively precipitated for at least six seconds



**Figure 1.** Four examples showing the AC6  $> 30$  keV electron data taken by AC6 at the same time in the top row and at the same position in the bottom row. To show the data at the same position the time series data from one spacecraft was shifted by the in-track lag and annotated by  $dt$ . These examples show curtain precipitation highly correlated for up to 26 seconds.

**Abstract**  
yeah

## 1 Plain Language Summary

[Outline](#)

[1. Stuff](#)

## 2 Introduction

## 3 Instrumentation

## 4 Methodology

### 4.1 Curtain Identification

## 5 Results

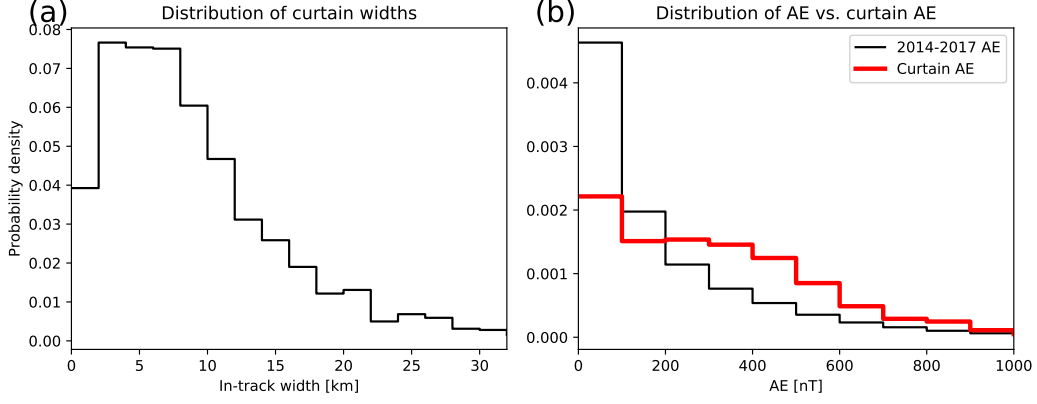
In the spirit of brevity, we limited the scope of these results to answer the following three questions:

1. how narrow are curtains,
2. when and where are curtains observed, and
3. are curtains drifting or locally precipitating?

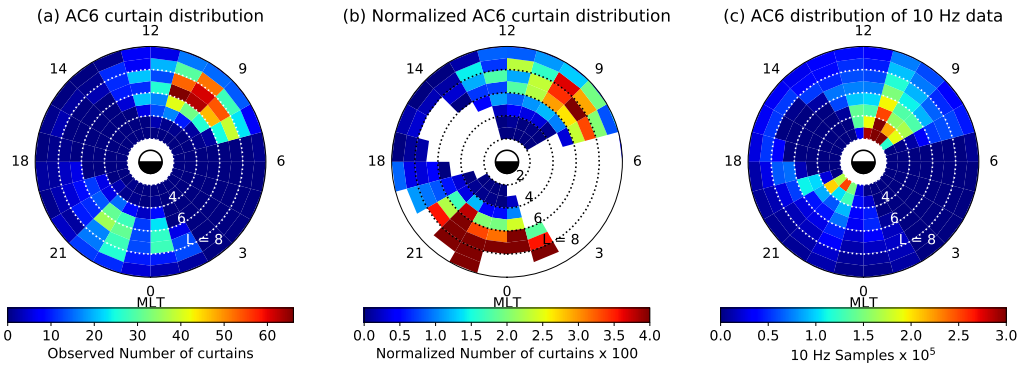
### 5.1 Local Atmospheric Precipitation

## 6 Discussion

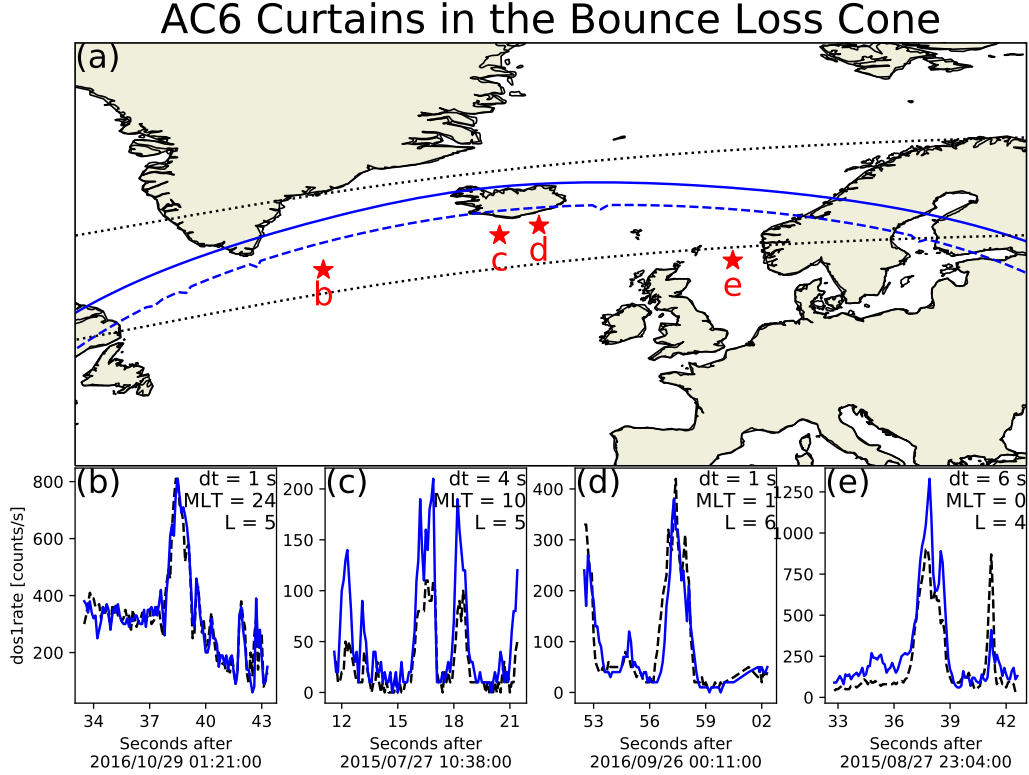
Here are two parting questions to consider that are not considered here. Why were some curtains shifted slightly? Perhaps it was due to the movement of the magnetic field lines. Also do curtains have a corresponding visual signature on the ground? The answer to this question will show if curtains are related to the aurora.



**Figure 2.** Distribution of curtain in-track width (AC6 in-track separation mostly in latitude) in panel a. Panel b shows the distribution of the Auroral Electroject (AE) index from 2014 to 2017 in black, and the AE index when curtains were observed by the thicker red curve.



**Figure 3.** Distribution of curtains as a function of L and MLT. To avoid noisy normalization scaling, bins with less than 10,000 10 Hz samples were not normalized in panel b.



**Figure 4.** Curtains observed inside the bounce loss cone.

## 7 Conclusions

text

## Acknowledgments

This work was made possible with the help from the many engineers and scientists at The Aerospace Corporation who designed, built, and operated AC6. M. Shumko was supported by NASA Headquarters under the NASA Earth and Space Science Fellowship Program - Grant 80NSSC18K1204. D.L. Turner is thankful for support from the Van Allen Probes mission and a NASA grant (Prime award number: 80NSSC19K0280). The work at The Aerospace Corporation was supported in part by RBSP-ECT funding provided by JHU/APL contract 967399 under NASA's Prime contract NAS501072. The AC6 data is available at <http://rbspgway.jhuapl.edu/ac6> and the IRBEM-Lib version used for this analysis can be downloaded from <https://sourceforge.net/p/irbem/code/616/tree/>.

Title: Statistical Properties of Curtains–Latitudinally-Narrow and Persistent Electron Precipitation Phenomena

This study leverages AC6, a multi-spacecraft mission, to interpret and understand particle precipitation in a way that is impossible with a single spacecraft.

This study leverages the asymmetry in Earth's magnetic field. The asymmetric magnetic field results in the SAA and the BLC, two very related and unique regions

Particles that impact the atmosphere are lost during that bounce motion. We found curtains in the bounce loss cone, a region in the North Atlantic near and above Iceland.

The bounce loss cone is magnetically connected to the SAA, where Earth's magnetic field is weakest near Earth's surface. A particle observed in the blc in the northern hemisphere will descend below 100 km altitude. At sub-100 km altitudes the particle has a high chance of encountering and scattering with the atmosphere and be lost.

We found curtain elections that, when given the chance to execute their cyclical bounce motion, will descend below Earth's surface in the SAA. An election can not survive that trip.

Write the paper and ask the question: "What is this paper really about?" Not just curtains, but uncovering something unexpected that has been observed and overlooked for decades.

Are curtains related to aurora? This is a good question—one that is not pertinent here (idea from *The Elements of Style* p.68).

Sections: - Introduction - instrumentation - curtain identification - statistical properties - what are curtains? - discussion and conclusion