Statistical Modeling of Earth's Plasmasphere

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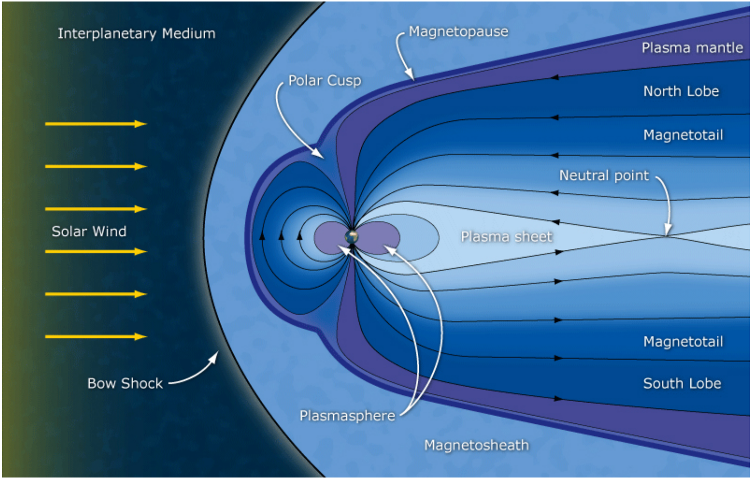
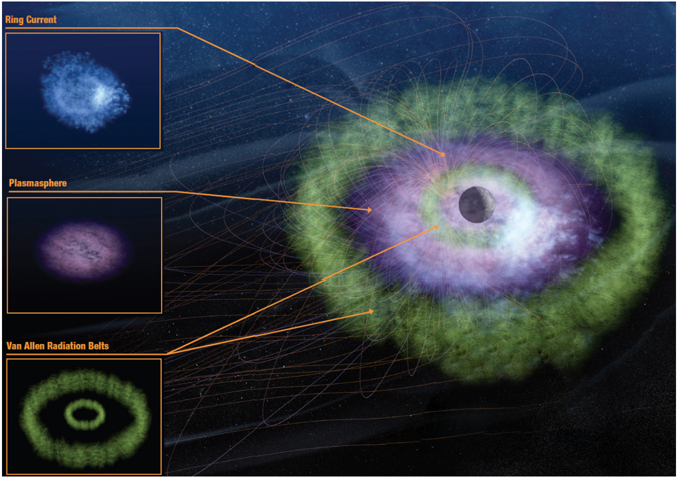
Questions addressed by this dissertation:

- What enhances equatorial plasma mass density (ρ_{eq}) in the plasmatrough? Solar wind (via geomagnetic storms) or internal processes (e.g. ionospheric outflow)?
- Does a ρ_{eq} enhancement depend on current IMF conditions?
- Can a ρ_{eq} enhancement be classified or forecasted?

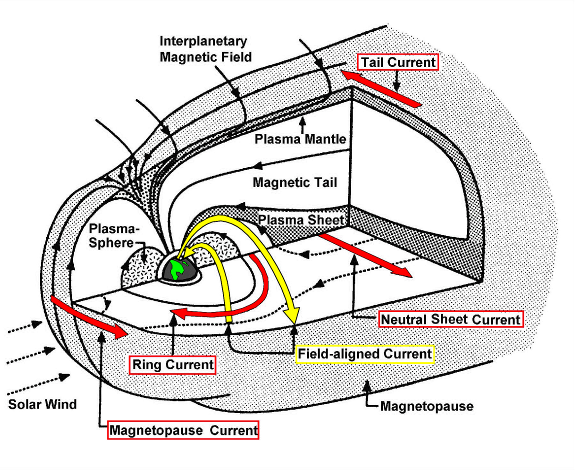
Introduction



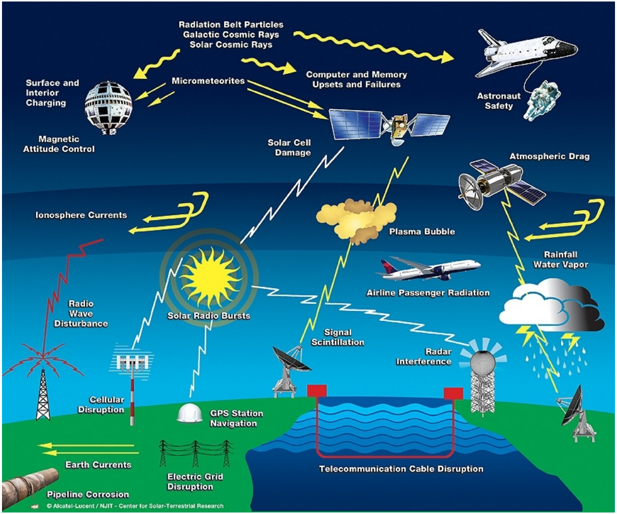
Overview of the magnetosphere and plasmasphere [Russel (2007)]. Colors used for visual distinctiveness.



Overview of inner magnetosphere. Adapted from NASA.



Currents in/around the magnetosphere. Adapted from Maus (2010).



Impacts of Space Weather [Lanzerotti]

Data

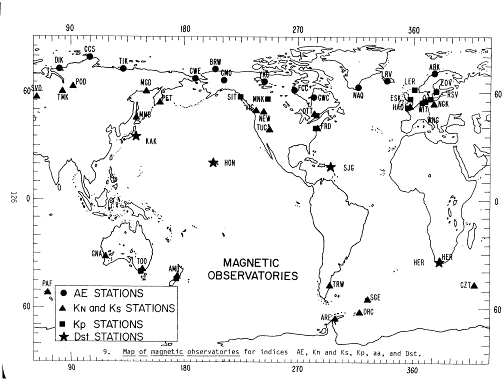
Data used come from three sources:

- Denton (2007) for ρ_{eq}, MLT, and AE
- King (2005) for $F_{10.7}$
- Kondrashov (2014) for B_z, V_{SW}, Kp, ρ_{sw}, and D_{st}

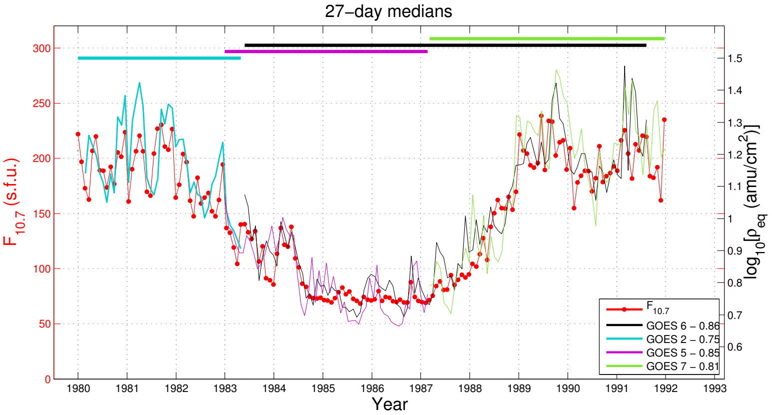
Data coverage:

- ∼ Denton (2007): 10 minute, non-uniform, non-complete, from 1980-1991, GOES 2, 5, 6, and 7
- ∼ King (2005): 1 hour uniform, non-complete, from 1972-2013
- ∼ Kondrashov (2014): 1 hour uniform, complete, from 1972-2013

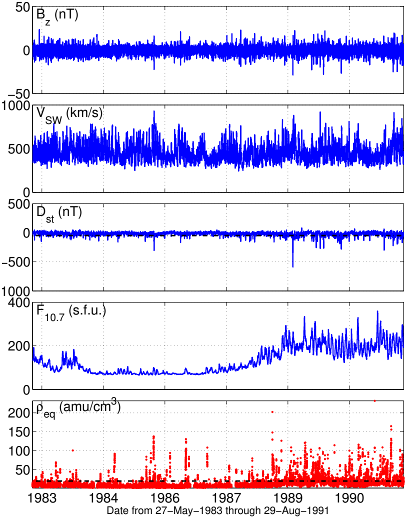
How we measure geomagnetic activity:



Map of ground stations used to measure the K_p, AE, and D_{st} indices [Allen (1982)].

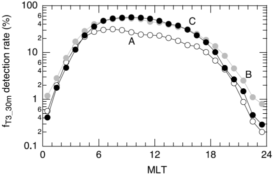


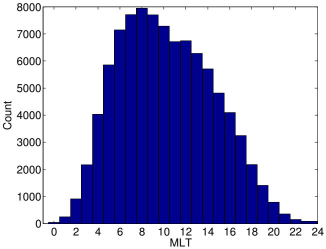
Comparing $F_{10.7\_27d}$ and $\log_{10}(\rho_{eq\_27d})$ using all available satellites.



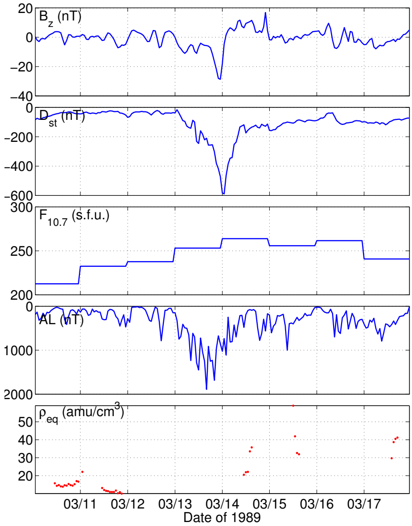
Data coverage with dashed lines indicating default event thresholds.

ρ_{eq} is derived from toroidal harmonic frequencies in the plasmatrough. Harmonics are not always detectable.

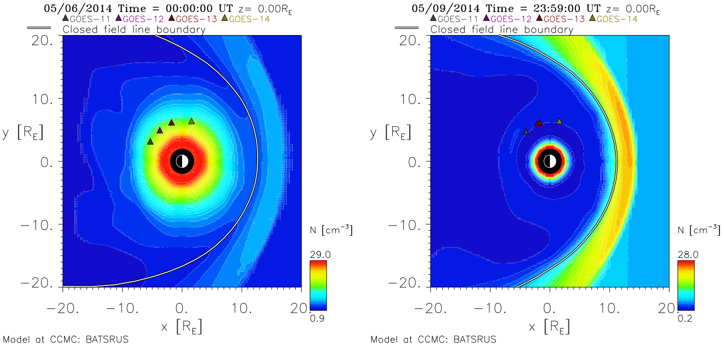




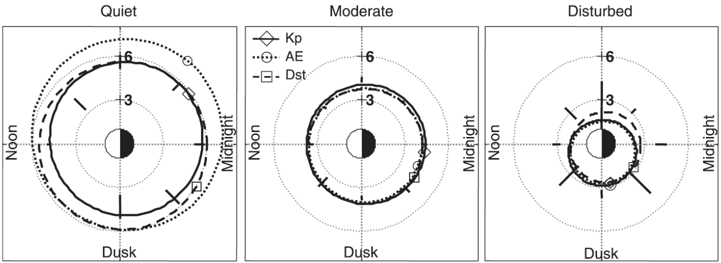
Left: Detection rate of f_{T3_30m} for magnetic latitudes of 5, 9, and 11 degrees (curves A, B, and C respectively) [Takahashi (2010)]. Right: MLT of all available ρ_{eq} data.



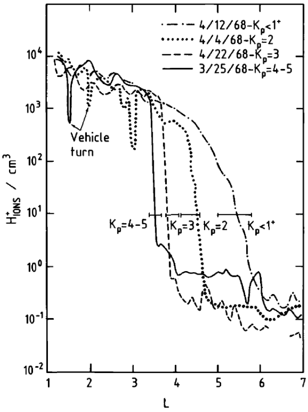
Data from GOES 6 around March 1989 geomagnetic storm.



Model of magnetopause/plasmasphere before and after geomagnetic activity, showing location of GOES satellites in geosynchronous orbit [CCMC].



Model of plasmapause location as it varies with geomagnetic activity where the symbols indicate the local time of maximum plasmapause location [O'Brien and Moldwin (2003)].



Plasmapause position varying with K_p as represented by several particular plasmapause crossings made on outbound passes between local times of midnight and 0400 [Lemaire (1998)].

Questions

Questions addressed by this dissertation:

- What enhances ρ_{eq} in the plasmatrough? Solar wind (via geomagnetic storms) or internal processes (e.g. ionospheric outflow)?
- Does a ρ_{eq} enhancement depend on current IMF conditions?
- Can a ρ_{eq} enhancement be classified or forecasted?

Methodology

Four main methods of analysis used:

1. Linear/Auto-Regressive with exogenous inputs (ARX)
2. Nonlinear Neural Network
3. Epoch
4. Nonlinear Classification and Prediction

Linear and ARX

Linear uses Ordinary Least Squares on model of form $y = AX + c + \varepsilon$ with median of four hours before onset as X.

ARX starts with Box-Jenkins model:

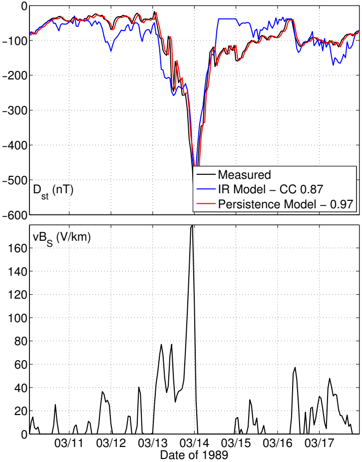
$$x(t) = \sum_{j=1}^{m} b_j \cdot f(t - j\Delta t) + c + \varepsilon_t$$

Modified to be an autoregressive model with exogenous inputs (ARX):

$$\hat{x}(t) = \sum_{i=1}^{l} a_i \cdot x(t - i\Delta t) + \sum_{j=1}^{m} b_j \cdot f(t - j\Delta t) + c + \varepsilon_t$$

Resultant matrix to solve:

$$\begin{pmatrix} x_0 & \dots & x_{\tau-1} & f_0 & \dots & f_{\tau-1} & 1 \\ x_1 & & x_\tau & f_\tau & & f_\tau & 1 \\ \dots & & & & & & \\ x_{N-\tau} & \dots & x_{N-1} & f_{N-\tau} & \dots & f_{N-1} & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a_0 \\ \dots \\ a_{\tau-1} \\ b_0 \\ \dots \\ b_{\tau-1} \\ c \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} x_\tau \\ x_{\tau+1} \\ \dots \\ x_N \end{pmatrix}$$



Top: D_{st} (black), persistence (red), 12-hour impulse response model (blue). Bottom: vB_S input.

Neural Network

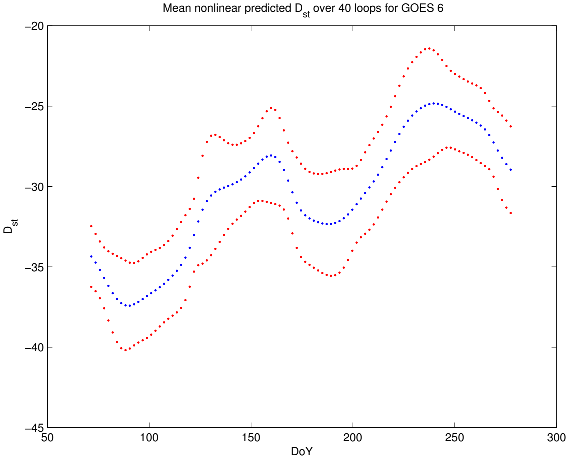
Neural Network model benefits:

1. Can model nonlinear effects
2. Easily adaptable to binary classification

Neural Network model disadvantages:

1. Susceptible to overfitting
2. More complex to create and analyze
3. No closed-form optimum solution

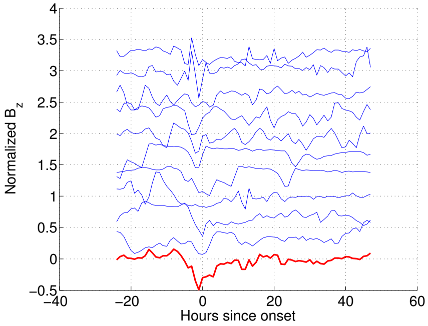
Example nonlinear effect:



D_{st} predicted by nonlinear model of day of year.

Epoch

Epoch Analyses average multiple events to find underlying patterns.



Sample epoch analysis showing ten events (blue) and their median (red)

Classification and Prediction

Are event onset criteria discernible via nonlinear model using just the variables provided?

0	0	0	0	1	0	...	0	0	0	0	1
$B_{z_{\tau-10}}$	$B_{z_{\tau-9}}$	$B_{z_{\tau-8}}$	$B_{z_{\tau-7}}$	$B_{z_{\tau-6}}$	$B_{z_{\tau-5}}$	...	$B_{z_{\tau-4}}$	$B_{z_{\tau-3}}$	$B_{z_{\tau-2}}$	$B_{z_{\tau-1}}$	$B_{z_{\tau}}$
$F_{10.7_{\tau-10}}$	$F_{10.7_{\tau-9}}$	$F_{10.7_{\tau-8}}$	$F_{10.7_{\tau-7}}$	$F_{10.7_{\tau-6}}$	$F_{10.7_{\tau-5}}$	...	$F_{10.7_{\tau-4}}$	$F_{10.7_{\tau-3}}$	$F_{10.7_{\tau-2}}$	$F_{10.7_{\tau-1}}$	$F_{10.7_{\tau}}$
$K_{p_{\tau-10}}$	$K_{p_{\tau-9}}$	$K_{p_{\tau-8}}$	$K_{p_{\tau-7}}$	$K_{p_{\tau-6}}$	$K_{p_{\tau-5}}$	...	$K_{p_{\tau-4}}$	$K_{p_{\tau-3}}$	$K_{p_{\tau-2}}$	$K_{p_{\tau-1}}$	$K_{p_{\tau}}$
$\rho_{eq_{\tau-10}}$	$\rho_{eq_{\tau-9}}$	$\rho_{eq_{\tau-8}}$	$\rho_{eq_{\tau-7}}$	$\rho_{eq_{\tau-6}}$	$\rho_{eq_{\tau-5}}$	...	$\rho_{eq_{\tau-4}}$	$\rho_{eq_{\tau-3}}$	$\rho_{eq_{\tau-2}}$	$\rho_{eq_{\tau-1}}$	$\rho_{eq_{\tau}}$

Diagram of classification method.

Can an onset be forecasted using the previous four hours or days?

0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
$B_{z_{\tau-7}}$	$B_{z_{\tau-6}}$	$B_{z_{\tau-5}}$	$B_{z_{\tau-4}}$	$B_{z_{\tau-3}}$	$B_{z_{\tau-2}}$	$B_{z_{\tau-1}}$	$B_{z_{\tau}}$
$F_{10.7_{\tau-7}}$	$F_{10.7_{\tau-6}}$	$F_{10.7_{\tau-5}}$	$F_{10.7_{\tau-4}}$	$F_{10.7_{\tau-3}}$	$F_{10.7_{\tau-2}}$	$F_{10.7_{\tau-1}}$	$F_{10.7_{\tau}}$
$K_{p_{\tau-7}}$	$K_{p_{\tau-6}}$	$K_{p_{\tau-5}}$	$K_{p_{\tau-4}}$	$K_{p_{\tau-3}}$	$K_{p_{\tau-2}}$	$K_{p_{\tau-1}}$	$K_{p_{\tau}}$
$\rho_{eq_{\tau-7}}$	$\rho_{eq_{\tau-6}}$	$\rho_{eq_{\tau-5}}$	$\rho_{eq_{\tau-4}}$	$\rho_{eq_{\tau-3}}$	$\rho_{eq_{\tau-2}}$	$\rho_{eq_{\tau-1}}$	$\rho_{eq_{\tau}}$

Diagram of prediction method.

Results

Traditional Models

	Linear	*Nonlinear*	ARX_{24}
DoY	-0.06 ± 0.06	$+0.32 \pm 0.22$	$+0.04$
MLT	$+0.01 \pm 0.23$	$+0.40 \pm 0.32$	$+0.27$
B_z	$+0.08 \pm 0.14$	$+0.17 \pm 0.19$	$+0.22$
V_{sw}	$+0.06 \pm 0.11$	$+0.19 \pm 0.24$	$+0.21$
D_{st}	$+0.06 \pm 0.13$	$+0.02 \pm 0.17$	$+0.05$
ρ_{sw}	$+0.12 \pm 0.19$	$+0.20 \pm 0.22$	$+0.08$
$F_{10.7}$	$+0.51 \pm 0.06$	$+0.48 \pm 0.25$	$+0.45$
$B_z + V_{sw}$	$+0.12 \pm 0.10$	$+0.15 \pm 0.21$	$+0.29$
$B_z + F_{10.7}$	$+0.56 \pm 0.16$	$+0.46 \pm 0.21$	$+0.49$
$D_{st} + F_{10.7}$	$+0.54 \pm 0.07$	$+0.47 \pm 0.15$	$+0.46$
All	$+0.61 \pm 0.11$	$+0.60 \pm 0.35$	$+0.61$

Table of linear model test-set correlations showing the median of 100 random samples. Each sample trained on half of the data (via randomly selected rows of the least squares matrix) and tested on the other half.

- Nonlinear has more variation in samples, and between test and training sets, but does well for nonlinear variables such as DoY and MLT
- Can see that $F_{10.7}$ is the dominant source of correlation for all models
- Other variables are highly collinear
- Even using a model of all variables barely accounts for half of ρ_{eq}.
- Previous studies make more complex models or focus on fewer events; this dissertation attempts epoch analysis

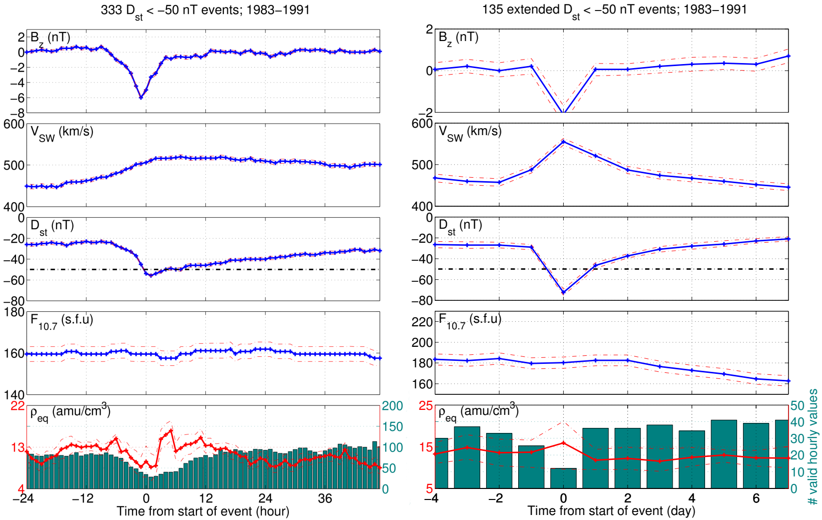
Epoch

Epoch Analysis performed on two types of events:

- $\rho_{eq} > 20$ amu/cm^3
- $D_{st} <$ -50 nT

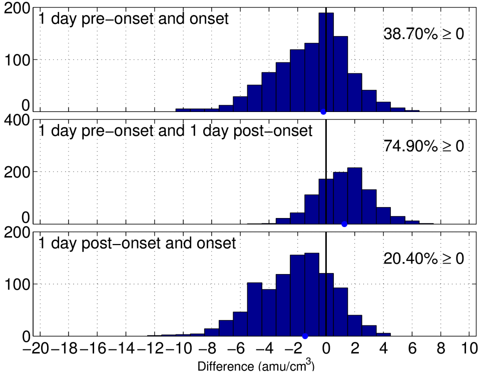
Threshold crossings for events considered at an hourly timescale.

Linear interpolation done on ρ_{eq} to approximate event onsets when lacking data, but left as fill-values for analysis.

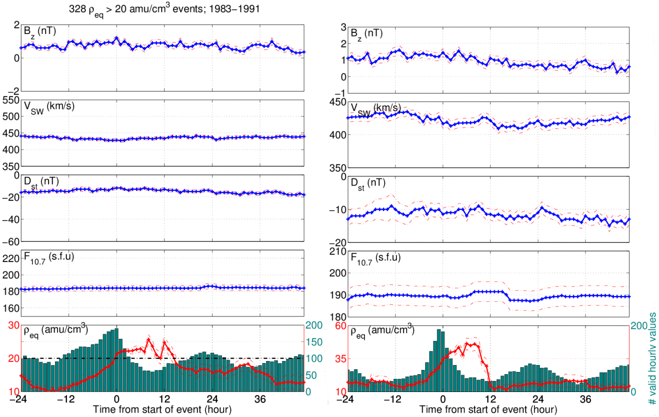


D_{st} events on an hourly (left) and daily (right) timescale.

To verify whether events were significantly different between day of onset and the surrounding days, a bootstrap test of differences was performed:

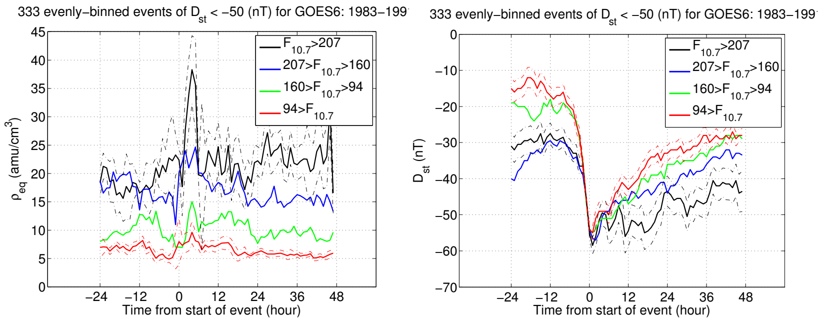


Bootstrap differences between median daily value of events using the years of 1983-1991.



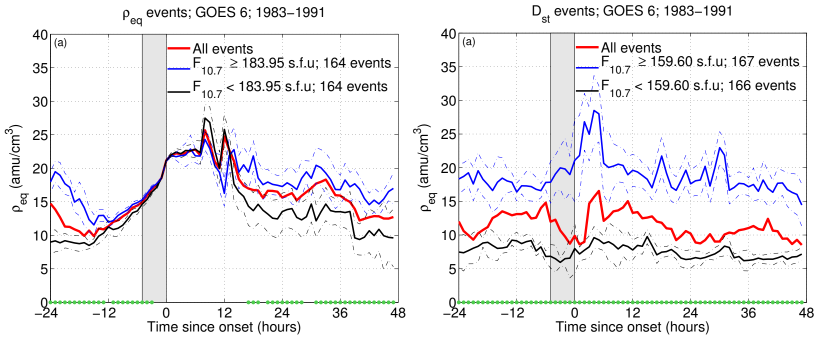
Left: ρ_{eq} events on hourly timescale. Right: ρ_{eq} events where ρ_{eq} increased by at least 5 amu during onset hour. Daily averages showed similar lack of significance and median northward B_z.

Want to investigate nonlinear dependencies by binning events:



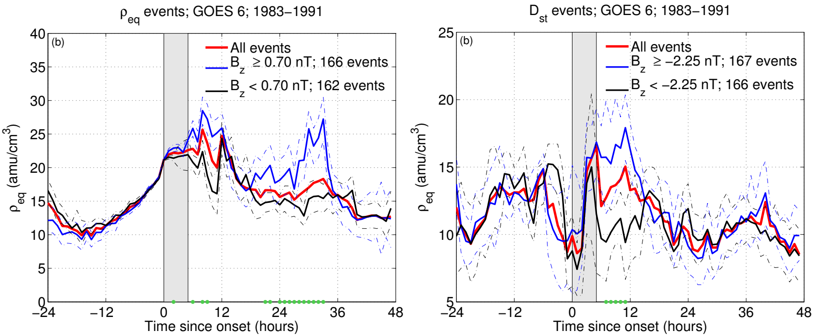
ρ_{eq} (left) and D_{st} (right) of D_{st} events binned by median $F_{10.7}$ values.

Verifying that distribution of ρ_{eq} is significantly different per $F_{10.7}$ bin before ρ_{eq} or D_{st} event onset.



ρ_{eq} events (left) and D_{st} events (right) binned by median $F_{10.7}$ before event onset.

Attempting to bin by IMF following event:



ρ_{eq} events (left) and D_{st} events (right) binned by median B_z after event onset.

Can conclude:

- ρ_{eq} decreases significantly between the day of a D_{st} event and the day following
- Elevated $F_{10.7}$ coincides with elevated ρ_{eq} before and after ρ_{eq} events
- Elevated $F_{10.7}$ enables a short, multi-hour spike in ρ_{eq} following a D_{st} event
- Northward IMF at ρ_{eq} event onset supports elevated ρ_{eq} over following 36 hours

Classification and Forecasting

Two main questions:

- Can ρ_{eq} event onset criteria be determined by current IMF and geomagnetic conditions?
- Can event onsets be forecasted using the hours or days before?

Utilizing MATLAB's `patternnet` neural network toolbox, classifying onsets as "1" and all other times as "0". Weighting "1"s more heavily based on timescale since events are much less frequent than non-events.

Classifying ρ_{eq} events using $F_{10.7}$, Kp, D_{st}, and V_{SW} finds:

- ∼ Hourly averaged data: 19% positive identification accuracy
- ∼ Daily averaged data: 70% positive identification accuracy
- ∼ Equal distribution of values for correct and incorrect classifications

0	0	0	0	1	0	...	0	0	0	0	1
$B_{z_{\tau-10}}$	$B_{z_{\tau-9}}$	$B_{z_{\tau-8}}$	$B_{z_{\tau-7}}$	$B_{z_{\tau-6}}$	$B_{z_{\tau-5}}$	...	$B_{z_{\tau-4}}$	$B_{z_{\tau-3}}$	$B_{z_{\tau-2}}$	$B_{z_{\tau-1}}$	$B_{z_{\tau}}$
$F_{10.7_{\tau-10}}$	$F_{10.7_{\tau-9}}$	$F_{10.7_{\tau-8}}$	$F_{10.7_{\tau-7}}$	$F_{10.7_{\tau-6}}$	$F_{10.7_{\tau-5}}$	...	$F_{10.7_{\tau-4}}$	$F_{10.7_{\tau-3}}$	$F_{10.7_{\tau-2}}$	$F_{10.7_{\tau-1}}$	$F_{10.7_{\tau}}$
$K_{p_{\tau-10}}$	$K_{p_{\tau-9}}$	$K_{p_{\tau-8}}$	$K_{p_{\tau-7}}$	$K_{p_{\tau-6}}$	$K_{p_{\tau-5}}$	...	$K_{p_{\tau-4}}$	$K_{p_{\tau-3}}$	$K_{p_{\tau-2}}$	$K_{p_{\tau-1}}$	$K_{p_{\tau}}$
$\rho_{eq_{\tau-10}}$	$\rho_{eq_{\tau-9}}$	$\rho_{eq_{\tau-8}}$	$\rho_{eq_{\tau-7}}$	$\rho_{eq_{\tau-6}}$	$\rho_{eq_{\tau-5}}$	...	$\rho_{eq_{\tau-4}}$	$\rho_{eq_{\tau-3}}$	$\rho_{eq_{\tau-2}}$	$\rho_{eq_{\tau-1}}$	$\rho_{eq_{\tau}}$

Predicting ρ_{eq} onsets using $F_{10.7}$, Kp, D_{st}, V_{SW}, and ρ_{eq}finds:

- $\sim$ Hourly averaged data: 0% positive prediction accuracy (12k+ predictions, 140 events)
- $\sim$ Daily averaged data: 58% positive prediction accuracy
- $\sim$ Low daily $F_{10.7}$ leads to false negatives suggesting high $F_{10.7}$ better indicator of event

0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
$B_{z_{\tau-7}}$	$B_{z_{\tau-6}}$	$B_{z_{\tau-5}}$	$B_{z_{\tau-4}}$	$B_{z_{\tau-3}}$	$B_{z_{\tau-2}}$	$B_{z_{\tau-1}}$	B_{z_τ}
$F_{10.7_{\tau-7}}$	$F_{10.7_{\tau-6}}$	$F_{10.7_{\tau-5}}$	$F_{10.7_{\tau-4}}$	$F_{10.7_{\tau-3}}$	$F_{10.7_{\tau-2}}$	$F_{10.7_{\tau-1}}$	$F_{10.7_\tau}$
$K_{p_{\tau-7}}$	$K_{p_{\tau-6}}$	$K_{p_{\tau-5}}$	$K_{p_{\tau-4}}$	$K_{p_{\tau-3}}$	$K_{p_{\tau-2}}$	$K_{p_{\tau-1}}$	K_{p_τ}
$\rho_{eq_{\tau-7}}$	$\rho_{eq_{\tau-6}}$	$\rho_{eq_{\tau-5}}$	$\rho_{eq_{\tau-4}}$	$\rho_{eq_{\tau-3}}$	$\rho_{eq_{\tau-2}}$	$\rho_{eq_{\tau-1}}$	ρ_{eq_τ}

Conclusions

To reitterate the initial questions:

- What enhances ρ_{eq} in the plasmatrough? Solar wind (via geomagnetic storms) or internal processes (e.g. ionospheric outflow)?

  Geomagnetic storms not nearly as impactful as internal processes, such as outflow driven by $F_{10.7}$, and processes enabled by high $F_{10.7}$.
- Does a ρ_{eq} enhancement depend on current IMF conditions?

  Weakly. Northward IMF supports higher ρ_{eq} after either type of event.
- Can a ρ_{eq} enhancement be classified or forecasted?

  Not well using most common solar wind and geomagnetic variables. Suggests something else needed.

Further conclusions:

- Drop in D_{st} does not significantly influence ρ_{eq} on an hourly timescale, but does over the following day.
- ρ_{eq} increases do not correlate, on average, with significant changes in D_{st}, $F_{10.7}$, or B_z.
- Classifying or forecasting the day of an event onset are possible but both prone to false positives or false negatives, depending on weighting.

Future work

- Exploring remaining signal after all collinear variables removed
- Adding model complexity and extra information
- Use new satellites and/or new Alfvén wave detection methods
- Extend time period of analysis

Thank you for your time.

Questions?