

1 Experimental determination of the dispersion 2 relation of magnetosonic waves

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3 **Abstract.** Magnetosonic waves are commonly observed in the vicinity
4 of the terrestrial magnetic equator. It has been proposed that within this re-
5 gion they may interact with radiation belt electrons, accelerating some to
6 high energies. These wave-particle interactions depend upon the character-
7 istic properties of the wave mode. Hence determination of the wave prop-
8 erties is a fundamental part of understanding these interaction processes. Us-
9 ing data collected during the Cluster Inner Magnetosphere Campaign, this
10 paper identifies an occurrence of magnetosonic waves, discusses their gen-
11 eration and propagation properties from a theoretical perspective, and utilises
12 multispacecraft measurements to experimentally determine their dispersion
13 relation. Their experimental dispersion is found to be in accordance with that
14 based on cold plasma theory.

1. Introduction

15 Electromagnetic equatorial noise, or magnetosonic waves (MSW) as they are more com-
16 monly referred to, consist of intense electromagnetic emissions that occur close to the
17 magnetic equator of the terrestrial magnetosphere. MSW have been suggested to play
18 an important role in the local acceleration of radiation belt electrons from 10 keV to
19 relativistic energies via resonant interactions [Gurnett, 1976; Horne *et al.*, 2007]. First
20 principles based models of the particle environment of the radiation belts include terms
21 such as wave-particle interactions in the form of energy, pitch angle, and mixed diffusion
22 coefficients. The derivation of these terms is strongly dependent upon the assumed wave
23 propagation characteristics. Based on the cold plasma description of MSW [Mourenas
24 *et al.*, 2013] demonstrated that the pitch-angle scattering and energy diffusion rates of
25 high energy electrons decrease sharply as the wave normal angle approaches 90° and that
26 these rates also depend inversely on the width of the wave normal distribution. In ad-
27 dition, Albert [2008] reported that the scattering rates also depended upon the rate of
28 change of wave normal angle with frequency ($d\theta/d\omega$). Since the dispersion relation of
29 MSW and resonance condition essentially define the relationship between the resonant
30 energy and either the pitch angle (for a given wave normal angle) or wave normal angle
31 (for a given energy and pitch angle) any deviation from the cold plasma dispersion would
32 result in a marked change in the energy/pitchangle ranges that are affected by these waves
33 [Mourenas *et al.*, 2013]. Using such parameters, physics based first principles models (e.g.
34 VERB [Shprits *et al.*, 2008, 2009]) are able to estimate electron fluxes throughout the
35 radiation belt region.

MSW were first reported by *Russell et al.* [1970]. Using data from OGO-3, these authors described observations of magnetic fluctuations in the frequency range between the proton gyrofrequency (Ω_p) and an upper limit around half of the lower hybrid resonance (LHR) frequency (ω_{LH}). The waves were found to occur within 2° of the magnetic equator at distances in the range $L = 3 - 5$. Their propagation characteristics showed that the waves possessed a high degree of elliptical polarisation, with a wave normal angle almost perpendicular to the external magnetic, and the wave magnetic perturbations directed parallel to the external magnetic field. Electric field observations by *Gurnett* [1976] from the IMP-6 and Hawkeye 1 satellites revealed that these emissions, whose frequency was typically in the range 50-200 Hz, possess a complex frequency structure with the large spectral peaks observed around the proton gyroharmonic frequencies possessing a finer substructure characterised by frequencies of $\Omega_p/8$ and $\Omega_p/2$ i.e. heavy ion gyrofrequencies. The dominant oscillations occurred at harmonics of the proton gyrofrequency. *Perraut et al.* [1982]; *Laakso et al.* [1990]; *Boardsen et al.* [1992]; *Kasahara et al.* [1994]; *André et al.* [2002] and *Balikhin et al.* [2015] also showed further evidence for the harmonic structure of these waves and investigated their morphology. More recent studies by [*Chen et al.*, 2011] and *Němec et al.* [2005] demonstrated that the magnetosonic wave instability could operate over a broad range of frequencies from 5 to $40\Omega_p$. This multiharmonic spectral structure is indicative of interactions at some characteristic resonance frequency. *Horne et al.* [2007] suggested that the cyclotron resonances tend to occur at high (MeV) energies and therefore unlikely to play a major role in the scattering of electrons whilst the Landau resonance may operate over a wide range of energies from below 100 keV. An alternate mechanism [*Russell et al.*, 1970; *Shprits*, 2009] suggests that electrons may

59 also be scattered by bounce resonant interactions [*Roberts and Schulz*, 1968]. Recent
 60 reports by *Fu et al.* [2014], *Boardsen et al.* [2014], and *Němec et al.* [2015] have shown
 61 the existence of periodic, rising tone MSW using data from THEMIS, VAP, and Cluster
 62 respectively. The cause of this periodicity is still unknown, though it may be linked to
 63 the occurrence of ULF magnetic field pulsations.

64 *Perraut et al.* [1982] were able to correlate their observations of MSW with the appear-
 65 ance of peaks in the energy spectra of 90° pitch angle protons (ring-like ion distributions),
 66 suggesting this as the source of free energy for the growth of these waves. These authors
 67 used this theoretical model to investigate the dispersion characteristics of the observed
 68 waves. The dispersion obtained was characterised by multiple branches at frequencies
 69 $\omega \sim n\Omega_p$, reducing to the cold plasma dispersion ($\omega \sim k_\perp V_A$) in the case of a vanish-
 70 ing ring density. Maximum growth occurred at wave numbers that corresponded to the
 71 crossover points between the cold dispersion and that resulting from the ring distribu-
 72 tion. The frequency range of instability has been shown to depend upon the ratio of the
 73 Alfvén velocity (V_A) and the velocity of the proton ring (V_R) [*Perraut et al.*, 1982; *Korth*
 74 *et al.*, 1984; *Boardsen et al.*, 1992; *Horne et al.*, 2000; *Chen et al.*, 2010; *Ma et al.*, 2014].
 75 The ring distribution may provide the source of free energy for the growth of MSW when
 76 $0.5 < V_R/V_A < 2$. This ratio also controls the range of frequencies that are unstable. High
 77 values of V_R/V_A result in MSW at low proton gyroharmonic frequencies whilst lower ratios
 78 yield waves at high (>20) harmonics. Using sets of parameters based on measured ring-
 79 type ion distributions *Balikhin et al.* [2015] was able to recreate the frequency spectrum
 80 of the observed wave emissions. *Korth et al.* [1983, 1984] also proposed a second possible
 81 generation mechanism based on the occurrence of a sharp gradient in the observed plasma

82 pressure as a free energy source for instabilities such as a drift wave instability. *Meredith*
83 *et al.* [2008] and *Chen et al.* [2011] showed that the region where proton ring distributions
84 were observed was generally consistent with the distribution of MSW. *Thomsen et al.*
85 [2011] analysed the occurrence of ring-like distributions at Geosynchronous Orbit (GSO),
86 concluding that these distributions were most likely to occur in the afternoon sector dur-
87 ing periods of low Kp and small Dst and that there appeared to be a discrepancy between
88 the occurrence of ring-like proton distributions and the occurrence of MSW. It was con-
89 cluded that storms, due to either coronal mass ejections or high speed streams, actually
90 suppressed the occurrence of these distributions.

91 Since these waves propagate, on average, in a direction nearly perpendicular to the
92 external magnetic field they are confined to the equatorial region, enabling potential az-
93 imuthal guiding by the plasmasphere, as well as radial translation [*Bortnik and Thorne,*
94 2010]. These effects were considered by *Chen and Thorne* [2012] who investigated the ex-
95 tent to which magnetosonic waves may propagate azimuthally. Waves trapped within the
96 plasmasphere may migrate indefinitely until damped. Waves of plasmaspheric origin that
97 are not trapped within the plasmasphere may propagate up to 4hrs in MLT whilst those
98 originating outside the plasmopause may migrate up to 7hrs MLT, possibly explaining
99 the discrepancy in the distributions of proton rings and magnetosonic waves at geosyn-
100 chronous orbit [*Thomsen et al., 2011*]. *Perraut et al.* [1982] described the propagation of
101 these waves from the source region to the point of observation and the fact that they would
102 retain their harmonic structure from the source region, i.e. the spacing of the harmonic
103 bands reflects the magnetic field of the source region which may not be the same as that
104 of the local field at the location of observation. Using multipoint measurements, *Santolík*

105 *et al.* [2002] showed spectral differences between observations made by two of the Cluster
106 satellites. These authors suggested that this may result from either two different source
107 regions, different regions of the same extended source region, or from the propagation
108 of the waves. Whilst these emissions are observed to occur within a few degrees of the
109 magnetic equator, detailed analysis by *Santolík et al.* [2002] and *Němec et al.* [2005] have
110 shown that they tend to reach a maximum intensity at a latitude 2-3° above the equator,
111 a point corresponding to the minimum magnetic field strength along the magnetic field
112 line.

2. Cluster Inner Magnetosphere Campaign

113 The goal of the Cluster Inner Magnetosphere Campaign was to study the role of mag-
114 netosonic waves and chorus emissions in the process energization of electrons within the
115 radiation belts. This program of observations took place between July and October 2013.
116 During this period, Cluster employed a "100 km formation" which resulted in intersatel-
117 lite separations of around 30 km for the pair C3 and C4 with C1 typically 300-400 km
118 distant. Cluster 2 was situated around 5000 km from the other 3 satellites. Since the
119 main observations are targeted at the plasma wave environment, new modes of opera-
120 tion for the Cluster Wave Experiment Consortium (WEC) [*Pedersen et al.*, 1997] were
121 devised, tested, and implemented within the Digital Wave Processor (DWP) [*Woolliscroft*
122 *et al.*, 1997], the WEC control instrument. These modes, referred to as BM2, enable the
123 possibility of collecting high resolution (equivalent to burst mode science) data from the
124 Electric fields and Waves (EFW) [*Gustafsson et al.*, 1997] and the Spatio-Temporal Anal-
125 ysis of Field Fluctuations (STAFF) search coil magnetometer [*Cornilleau-Wehrlin et al.*,
126 1997] together with the possibility of timesharing telemetry resources between Wide-band

127 (WBD) [*Gurnett et al.*, 1997] waveforms, decimated by a factor 3 or 4, and spectra from
128 the WHISPER relaxation sounder [*Décroux et al.*, 1997]. This mode operated in addition
129 to periods of normal Cluster burst science mode telemetry (BM1) to increase the number
130 of high resolution observations available in the vicinity of the magnetic equator.

3. Data Source

131 The data presented in this paper were collected on July 6th, 2013, during a period using
132 the burst science telemetry mode (BM1) on all Cluster satellites. This mode of operation
133 provided electric field measurement from EFW instrument and magnetic field oscillations
134 from the STAFF search coil magnetometer with a sampling resolution of 450 Hz together
135 with Fluxgate Magnetometer (FGM) [*Balogh et al.*, 1997] measurements of the background
136 magnetic field at a resolution of 67 Hz. The ion data used in this study were collected by
137 the Cluster Ion Spectrometer (CIS) instrument [*Reme et al.*, 1997].

138 During the period 1832-1857 UT on July 6th, 2013 the Cluster spacecraft were passing
139 through the inner magnetosphere at a radial distance of the order of 3.8-4.2 R_E on the
140 dayside at a local time 1330-1250, and crossed the magnetic equator at around 1844 UT,
141 travelling north to south between magnetic latitudes of 1.9° and -2.3°. The four panels in
142 Figure 1 show the location of the Cluster satellites (lower right) and the relative separa-
143 tions of the Cluster quartet (in the GSE frame). Satellites C3 and C4 were separated by
144 around 60 km and so appear on top of each other at the scales shown in Figure 1. The
145 separation distances between C3/C4 and C1 was around 1000 km whilst C2 was around
146 4300 km distant. As a result, C3 and C4 observed almost identical patterns of wave emis-
147 sions, C1 observed similar overall structure whilst the observations of C2 are completely
148 different owing to its different location. The external magnetic field during this period

149 varies from 487 nT at the beginning of the period to 287 nT at the end, implying the
150 proton gyrofrequency gradually changing from 7.4 Hz to 4.4 Hz and the lower hybrid
151 frequency from 318 to 187 Hz. The electron density, estimated from WHISPER electric
152 field spectra was in the range 15-19 cm⁻³. Based on these density values and the assump-
153 tion of a proton only plasma, the Alfvén velocity varies in the range 2600-1600kms⁻¹.
154 These values represent an upper limit to the value of V_A which reduces when heavy ions
155 are included. The level of geomagnetic disturbance during the period under study was
156 moderate. At the beginning of July 6th, the Dst index increased during the early hours
157 of July 6th from around 0 to -60 nT and maximising at ~ -79 nT around 19 UT before
158 decreasing over the following two days.

4. Observations

4.1. Wave spectrum

159 As mentioned in Section 3, during this period both the STAFF search coil magnetometer
160 sampled the plasma wave environment at a resolution of 450 Hz. Figure 2 shows the
161 dynamic spectra measured by the search coil magnetometers on satellites 3 (panel a) and
162 4 (panel b). The black lines indicate the 15, 20, 25, and 30th harmonics of the local
163 proton gyrofrequency. Both Cluster 3 and 4 observe a set of banded emissions beginning
164 around 18:40 and continuing until the end of the BM1 operations at 18:57. Initially, the
165 emissions are observed in the frequency range 130-170 Hz, corresponding to the 21st-30th
166 gyro-harmonics. As the Cluster satellites continue to travel southward, the amplitude of
167 the waves increases, maximising at a latitude of around -1° before decreasing until the end
168 of observations. Thus the amplitudes are asymmetrically distributed around the equator in
169 line with results reported by *Santolík et al.* [2002] (based on the T89 magnetic field model

170 [*Tsyganenko, 1989*]). During this period, the external magnetic field weakens as evidenced
 171 by the decrease in the gyrofrequency harmonics. At the same time, the emission frequency
 172 of the waves drops, mirroring the change observed on the gyrofrequency harmonics. This
 173 frequency change is evidence that the waves are observed in their source region.

174 Figure 3 shows averaged spectra of the Cluster 4 STAFF search coil Bx (GSE) mea-
 175 surements centred at (top to bottom) 18:43, 18:46, 18:51, and 18:56. Each spectrum is
 176 the average of 9 1024 point Fourier spectra. The vertical dotted black lines mark the
 177 $14^{th} - 30^{th}$ harmonics of the local proton gyrofrequency. It is noticeable that two types
 178 of emission can be seen in Figures 2 and 3. The first corresponds to the higher frequency
 179 emissions seen in the top three plots of Figure 3. These high frequency emissions occur
 180 close to harmonics of the local proton gyrofrequency in the range $20\Omega_p < \omega < 30\Omega_p$
 181 and as the magnetic field decreases so does the frequency of emission. The position of
 182 the peaks relative to the gyrofrequency harmonics changes with time. In panel (a) the
 183 majority of the spectral peaks are observed just below the gyroharmonics whilst in panel
 184 (b), corresponding to the time around the magnetic field line minimum, the peaks are
 185 at the gyro frequencies. As the spacecraft moves away from the field line minimum the
 186 frequency relative to the gyroharmonic falls.

187 Figure 4 shows the FFT spectrum of emissions between 18:48:40 and 18:49:20 UT
 188 calculated by averaging nine 2048 point FFTs. The external magnetic field in this period
 189 varied from 339-335 nT (Ω_p changes from 5.2-5.14 Hz). The format is the same as that in
 190 Figure 3. During this period, emission lines are observed in the frequency range from $14\Omega_p$
 191 to $29\Omega_p$. The position of the emission with respect to the harmonic frequency varies with
 192 harmonic number. At the low frequency end of the spectrum e.g. harmonics 14-18, the

193 emissions occur at the exact frequency of the gyroharmonic whereas at higher frequencies
194 the emissions lie slightly below the harmonic. In the case of the 23 and 24 harmonics
195 the frequency difference is around 1.1 Hz. The other noticeable feature in this Figure is
196 that most harmonics (except those mentioned above) exhibit multiple peaks. This could
197 indicate the existence of further interactions with heavier ions such as He^+ , He^{2+} , or O^+
198 ions. This harmonic structure implies that resonant interactions have a dominant role in
199 the generation of these waves. This topic will be investigated further in a later paper.

200 The second type of emissions is seen in Figures 2 and 3 (panel d), measured around
201 18:56 UT. These emissions are observed in the frequency range $10\text{-}16\Omega_p$, and occur be-
202 tween the local gyroharmonics. Their frequency spacing is of the order of 4.3 Hz and
203 analysis of spectra recorded after 18:56 UT (not shown). These emissions are monotonic,
204 their frequency does not depend upon the local gyrofrequency. Emissions such as these
205 are more typical of those discussed by other authors when they refer to magnetosonic
206 waves or equatorial noise [e.g. *Santolik et al.*, 2002]. The reason for their constant fre-
207 quency is that these waves were generated at some other location and have propagated to
208 the location in which they are observed. Since the frequency spacing of these emissions
209 is lower than the local proton gyrofrequency these emissions are generated in a region of
210 lower magnetic field strength (~ 282 nT) most probably at a greater radial distance, and
211 have propagated to the point at which they were observed. Unfortunately, these emissions
212 were not observed on C3 due to a mode change a few seconds before.

4.2. Ion distributions

213 As noted in Section 1, the occurrence of magnetosonic waves are associated with ring-
214 like ion distributions [*Perraut et al.*, 1982; *Chen et al.*, 2011]. Figure 5 shows the 1D

215 ion distributions measured by CIS-CODIF instrument onboard Cluster 4. It should be
 216 noted that these observations are heavily contaminated due to the passage of the satellite
 217 through the radiation belts. In spite of this, evidence for the existence of a ring-like
 218 distribution is still very strong. The top panel shows the pitch-angle distribution of protons
 219 in the energy range 7-38.5 keV. These distributions are strongly peaked at pitch angles
 220 around 90° , indicative of a ring-like distribution. During the period in which the waves
 221 are observed the particle flux observed increased, with the highest fluxes observed after
 222 1850UT corresponding to the period when emissions at high harmonics vanish whilst those
 223 at lower frequencies become less intense. This change in the distribution is also evident
 224 in the bottom panel which shows the particle count rate as a function of energy and time.
 225 The highest count rates are observed at energies above 10 keV, maximising in the region
 226 of 20-30 keV. This is the energy of the proton ring and corresponds to a velocity of the
 227 order $V_r = 2000-2400 \text{ kms}^{-1}$. This velocity is greater than the Alfvén velocity (calculated
 228 in Section 3). Thus, the ring distribution could provide the free energy to enable the
 229 growth of the MSW since the energy of the ring distribution exceeds the Alfvén energy
 230 [Korth *et al.*, 1984]. Moving towards lower energies there is a distinct minimum in the
 231 energy just below the ring particles that occurs at an energy of around 7 keV. This energy,
 232 referred to as the dip energy/dip velocity (V_{dip}) [e.g. Chen *et al.*, 2011], corresponds to
 233 a velocity of around 1100 kms^{-1} . Thus, for velocities in the range $V_{dip} < v_\perp < V_r$ the
 234 proton distribution has a positive gradient ($\partial f / \partial v_\perp > 0$).

235 Using the results of the theoretical analysis performed by Chen *et al.* [2010], it is possible
 236 to estimate the frequencies at which the instability occurs and wave growth is observed.
 237 The blue curve in Figure 6 shows the approximate perpendicular velocity in terms of

238 the Alfvén velocity that corresponds to peak wave growth as a function of the harmonic
 239 resonance. Also plotted (black lines) are V_A (dotted), V_{dip} (dashed), and V_r (dash-dotted).
 240 Thus it would be expected that there should be emission bands in the range $8-29\Omega_p$ since
 241 $V_{dip} < v_{\perp} < V_r$. The wave spectra, measured in the period 1844:45 to 1845:15 is shown
 242 in red. It is clear from this Figure that all harmonics at which waves were observed
 243 correspond to perpendicular velocities in the range $V_{dip} < v_{\perp} < V_r$, inline with results
 244 reported by *Chen et al.* [2010]. These results are consistent with the general trend reported
 245 by *Ma et al.* [2014]. From Figure 6, the value of $V_r/V_A \sim 1.02$ which would imply that
 246 the unstable wave frequencies would be expected at frequencies around the mid-range of
 247 possible harmonics, exactly as was observed and shown in this figure.

4.3. Wave Properties

248 In order to establish the propagation mode of the waves that were observed during this
 249 period the basic properties of these emissions were investigated based on the measurements
 250 from Cluster 4. In the previous Section it was shown that the bands of emission at higher
 251 frequencies typically occurred at or just below harmonics of the proton gyrofrequency. In
 252 this section, the wave polarisation and propagation characteristics are investigated.

253 The wave properties for the period 18:47:00-18:47:20 UT, based on the STAFF search
 254 coil measurements, are shown in Figure 7. During this period, the proton gyrofrequency
 255 was 5.32 Hz. These results are based on the use of a Morlet wavelet transform to extract
 256 the frequency information from the waveform and Singular Valued Decomposition [*San-*
 257 *tolik et al.*, 2003] to compute the eigenvectors and eigenvalues of the complex spectral
 258 matrix. It should be noted that the signal after 18:47:19 UT is superposed with a broad

259 band signal arising from some local interference whose effects can be seen most clearly on
 260 the three lower panels.

261 The top panel in Figure 7 shows a spectrogram of the emissions in the frequency range
 262 70-170 Hz. The banded nature of the emissions can be clearly seen and their amplitudes
 263 are not constant but vary independently. In the panels below data is only plotted when
 264 the trace of the spectral matrix exceeds a level of $1 \times 10^{-7} \text{ nT}^2\text{Hz}^{-1}$.

265 The ellipticity of the banded emissions, defined as the ratio of the intermediate eigen-
 266 value to the maximum eigenvalue i.e. e_{int}/e_{max} is plotted in the second panel. A value
 267 of unity implies circular polarisation, whilst zero indicates linear. As is evident from
 268 this panel, the majority of emissions are highly elliptical with eigenvalue ratios typically
 269 $e_{int}/e_{max} < 0.1$.

270 The third panel displays the propagation angle of the waves with respect to the external
 271 magnetic field (obtained from FGM measurements). The distribution of k -direction is
 272 strongly peaked in the region of $\theta_{Bk} \sim 90^\circ$ indicating almost perpendicular propagation
 273 of the wave. Figure 8 shows the distribution of \mathbf{k} with respect to the external magnetic
 274 field direction in more detail. The X axis shows the angle between the wave vector
 275 and the external magnetic field (θ_{Bk}), using a bin size of 0.5° . The Y axis represents
 276 the normalised distribution of occurrence. An offset of 0.06 has been added to separate
 277 the distributions at different frequencies, the horizontal dashed line (of the same colour)
 278 representing the baseline $Y=0$ for the distribution. The frequency of each distribution is
 279 indicated to the right of the plot. Since the frequency decreases slowly over the ~ 20 second
 280 time period over which this analysis was performed, adjacent frequency bins have been
 281 averaged. The vertical dashed line indicates an angle $\theta_{Bk} = 90^\circ$ whilst the dash-dotted

282 lines mark angles of $\theta_{Bk} = 88.5$ and $\theta_{Bk} = 91.5^\circ$. These plots show that the majority of
283 the propagation angles occur in the range $87\text{-}93^\circ$. There appears to be two basic types
284 of distribution. The first show a peak at $\theta_{Bk} = 90^\circ$, indicating that the waves propagate
285 perpendicularly to the external magnetic field. Such distributions are observed for waves
286 of frequency 160.5, 150.5, 109.5, 107.5, and 92.5Hz. The second type of distribution
287 exhibits a number of peaks in the angular distribution, indicating a preference for almost
288 perpendicular propagation e.g. the distributions for frequencies 155.5, 113.5, 97.5, and
289 86.5Hz. Typically, the peaks occur within 2° of perpendicular, a value in line with that
290 often quoted in discussions of the propagation of magnetosonic waves.

291 Finally, the fourth panel of Figure 7 displays the angle between the eigenvector of the
292 magnetic field oscillations that corresponds to the maximum eigenvalue i.e. the direction
293 of the principle axis of the polarisation ellipsoid and the direction of the external magnetic
294 field. The distribution is centred on the direction antiparallel to the external magnetic
295 field implying that the oscillations of the wave magnetic field occur in the direction parallel
296 to the external magnetic field.

297 In summary, the banded emissions observed by the Cluster 4 STAFF search coil magne-
298 tometer during the period 18:47:00-18:47:20 UT are consistent with whistler mode waves
299 propagating almost perpendicular to the external magnetic field since they are highly ellip-
300 tical in nature and the wave magnetic field oscillates parallel to the external field. Thus
301 these emissions are examples of magnetosonic waves (equatorial noise). This conclusion is
302 further strengthened in the next sections by the determination of the dispersion relation
303 of the observed waves and its comparison to dispersion relations derived theoretically.

5. Experimental Determination of the Dispersion Relation

304 The wave vector (\mathbf{k}) of a wave is a vector quantity whose direction corresponds to the
 305 wave propagation direction and whose magnitude is related to the wavelength (λ) of the
 306 wave ($|\mathbf{k}| = 2\pi/\lambda$). Determination of the wave vector is important when considering the
 307 propagation of waves within the plasma environment as well as their interaction with
 308 the local particle populations for which they provide a medium for the transfer of energy
 309 between the particle populations via either current or resonant instabilities.

310 Experimental determination of the wave vector has only been possible since the advent
 311 of multispacecraft missions and the possibility of making simultaneous measurements at
 312 two or more closely spaced points in space. Depending upon the type of data sets available,
 313 there are a number of different methods such as \mathbf{k} -filtering/wave telescope [*Pinçon and*
 314 *Lefeuvre, 1992*], and phase differencing [*Balikhin and Gedalin, 1993; Balikhin et al., 1997a;*
 315 *Chisham et al., 1999*] that may be employed. These methods, which were compared
 316 in *Walker et al. [2004]*, are based on the fact that a comparison of the simultaneous
 317 multipoint measurements will show differences in the phase of the wave at the different
 318 measurement locations. These differences may then be used to determine the \mathbf{k} -vector of
 319 the wave. In the present paper, the phase differencing methodology is employed.

320 Following *Balikhin et al. [1997b]* and *Balikhin et al. [2001]* the basic assumption behind
 321 the phase differencing method is that the measured wave field may be represented by the
 322 superposition of plane waves as shown by equation (1)

$$323 \quad \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \sum_{\omega} \mathbf{B}_{\omega} \exp[i(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r} - \omega t)] + cc \quad (1)$$

324 where \mathbf{B}_{ω} is the wave amplitude at frequency ω , \mathbf{k} is the wave vector (k -vector), \mathbf{r} is the
 325 separation vector between the location of the two (or more) simultaneous measurements,

326 and cc represents the complex conjugate term. A comparison of observations from two
 327 closely spaced locations will display a difference in the phases of the measurements of
 328 the wave. This phase shift $\Delta\psi$ is proportional to the component of the wave vector \mathbf{k}
 329 projected along the measurement separation direction \mathbf{r} (assuming that there is only one
 330 wave vector \mathbf{k} for any frequency ω) and is given by (2).

$$\begin{aligned}
 331 \quad \Delta\psi(\omega) &= \mathbf{k}(\omega) \cdot \mathbf{r} + 2n\pi \\
 332 \quad &= \|\mathbf{k}\| \|\mathbf{r}\| \cos(\theta_{kr}) + 2n\pi \tag{2}
 \end{aligned}$$

333 where θ_{kr} is the angle between the wave vector \mathbf{k} and the satellite separation vector \mathbf{r}
 334 and n is an integer value. Since the phase difference between the two signals can only be
 335 determined in the range $-\pi < \Delta\psi < \pi$, a family of periodic solutions is possible, resulting
 336 in a phase ambiguity of $2n\pi$. Thus, in order to determine the correct value of k_r it is
 337 necessary to determine the correct value of n .

338 The phase differencing method may be applied to scalar measurements or single com-
 339 ponents of a vector quantity and results in a measurement of the component of the wave
 340 vector projected along the measurement separation vector. If measurements are available
 341 from four (or more) closely spaced, non-coplanar locations it is possible to determine the
 342 projection of the wave vector along three independent directions and hence determine the
 343 complete wave vector [*Balikhin et al.*, 2003]. However, if measurements from only two
 344 locations are available the size of k_r can be estimated but not its direction and so another
 345 method is required to determine the direction of \mathbf{k} . One such method that may be used
 346 with magnetic field data is to calculate the eigenvalues and eigenvectors of the magnetic
 347 field covariance matrix. Provided that the ratio of the intermediate to minimum eigenval-
 348 ues is large (typically a factor 10, i.e. the wave is not linearly polarised) then the minimum

349 variance direction is well defined and represents the direction of wave propagation. Thus,
350 knowledge of the direction together with the magnitude of k -vector projected along the
351 measurement separation vector enables the full wave k -vector to be determined.

352 The phase differencing method was applied to measurements from the spacecraft Clus-
353 ter 3 and 4 during the interval 18:47:13-18:47:16.5 UT on July 6th, 2013. This period
354 corresponds to a time when the emissions are observed from the 14th-29th proton gyro-
355 harmonic as seen in Figure 2. Figure 9 shows the $\omega - \mathbf{k}$ histogram of the variation in
356 the phase difference measured between satellites C3 and C4. The left hand panel shows
357 the phase differences recorded in the Bx component whilst that on the right shows the
358 phase differences recorded in the Bz component. These plots show that in the frequency
359 range 70-105 Hz there are emissions occurring at discrete frequency bands at around 77,
360 81, 87, 92, 98, 103 Hz. These frequencies correspond to the 14-19 harmonics of the proton
361 gyrofrequency. At each of these frequencies there is a well defined maximum in the phase
362 difference between the two signals detected on satellites C3 and C4. The reason for two
363 peaks at each frequency is due to the $2n\pi$ ambiguity factor when determining the phase
364 difference (equation 2). Knowledge of the satellite separation distance enables the values
365 of phase difference to be converted into spatial measurements of the projection of the
366 wave vector along the satellite separation direction and so the histogram represents the
367 dispersion relation of the observed waves. It is clearly seen from Figure 9 that there is a
368 linear feature running diagonally up and right to the top right corner of each panel. This
369 line is a representation of the dispersion of the observed waves.

370 The features observed by satellites C3 and C4 are highly coherent due to their small
371 separation in comparison with the coherency length of the waves. This cannot be said

372 for the observations by Cluster 1, whilst Cluster 2 is in a completely different plasma
373 location and does not see this banded structures at all. It is, therefore, not possible to
374 use the phase differencing technique to determine the dispersion relations between other
375 pairs of satellites in the Cluster quartet and hence compute the full k -vector. In order
376 to find the direction of the wave k -vector another method is required. Since the above
377 analysis is based on magnetic field measurements it is possible to obtain the direction of
378 \mathbf{k} by calculating the eigenvalues and corresponding eigenvectors of the magnetic field co-
379 variance matrix. The analysis period (18:47:13-18:47:16.5 UT) was divided into a number
380 of segments, each typically 0.25 seconds, and the eigenvalues and vectors were calculated.
381 The direction of \mathbf{k} was taken as the average of the minimum variance directions for which
382 the corresponding ratio of the intermediate to minimum eigenvalues $\lambda_{int}/\lambda_{min} > 50$. This
383 criteria ensures that the minimum variance direction is well defined. This direction, to-
384 gether with the projections of \mathbf{k} along the satellite separation vector were used to compute
385 the k -vector of the wave.

386 However, this still leaves the problem of resolving the ambiguity factor $2n\pi$ in the
387 determination of the phase difference between the two signals. There are two scenarios
388 for which the determination of n is reasonably straight forward. The first is for low
389 frequency signals, i.e. those whose wavelength is much greater than the separation of the
390 two measurement points in which case n would probably be zero and the phase difference
391 could actually be computed directly from the waveforms [e.g. *Balikhin et al., 1997c*]. The
392 second scenario involves the comparison of isolated wave packets whose waveforms are
393 virtually identical in both signals [e.g. *Balikhin et al., 2005*]. Neither of these methods
394 could be applied to the current case in question since the observed waves consist of a

395 superposition of waves with a number of discrete frequencies and variable amplitudes.
 396 This fact also rules out the possibility of determining n from the shape of sequences of wave
 397 packets since they are just too irregular [*Walker and Moiseenko, 2013*]. Therefore, the
 398 only way to determine n is to compare the experimental dispersion with one determined
 399 from theory and match the two by changing the value of n .

6. Theoretical insight into the propagation of MSW

400 To get some insight into the properties of MSW it is instructive to consider the theoret-
 401 ical derivation of their dispersion relation, growth rate and propagation direction based
 402 on the local ion distribution. The contribution of the ions to the growth rate of MSW
 403 is investigated based on an approach first proposed about fifty years ago [*Dawson, 1961*;
 404 *O'Neil, 1965*] and has since been used for many studies of wave-particle interactions in
 405 the magnetosphere. This approach assumes the magnetospheric plasma is composed of
 406 two parts: a “cold” bulk population of electrons and ions that determines the plasma
 407 dispersion relation, and low-density suprathermal populations of electrons and ions which
 408 participate in resonant interactions with the waves and are responsible for wave growth
 409 or damping. If the wave growth (or damping) rate is less than the inverse nonlinear time
 410 of resonant interaction, the resonant particle distribution function can be found using the
 411 adiabatic approximation with respect to the wave amplitude, i.e. neglecting the amplitude
 412 variation during the time of resonant interaction.

6.1. Dispersion relation and polarization of magnetosonic waves below ω_{LH}

413 The electric field of a plane wave can be written as

$$414 \quad \mathcal{E} = \text{Re}\{\mathbf{a}E e^{i(\mathbf{k}\mathbf{r} - \omega t)}\} \quad (3)$$

415 where E is the complex wave amplitude and \mathbf{a} is the complex polarization vector. In the
 416 reference frame in which the ambient magnetic field \mathbf{B}_0 is directed along the z -axis and
 417 the wave propagation vector (\mathbf{k}) lies in the (x,z) plane, the dielectric tensor of a cold
 418 plasma has the form [*Ginzburg and Rukhadze, 1972*]:

$$419 \quad \varepsilon_{ij}(\omega) = \begin{pmatrix} \varepsilon_1 & i\varepsilon_2 & 0 \\ -i\varepsilon_2 & \varepsilon_1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \varepsilon_3 \end{pmatrix} \quad (4)$$

420 In a cold, magnetized plasma, there is only one wave mode that propagates in the
 421 frequency range above proton cyclotron frequency Ω_p . This mode is right-hand polarized.
 422 The characteristics of this mode depend on both the wave frequency and the propagation
 423 angle θ between \mathbf{k} and \mathbf{B}_0 . In the case when the electron plasma frequency ω_p is larger than
 424 electron cyclotron frequency ω_c , this mode extends up to the frequency $\omega_c \cos \theta$. Another
 425 characteristic frequency, the so called lower hybrid resonance frequency, is defined as

$$426 \quad \omega_{LH}^2 = \frac{1}{M_{eff}} \frac{\omega_p^2 \omega_c^2}{\omega_p^2 + \omega_c^2} \quad (5)$$

427 where effective ion mass M_{eff} is

$$428 \quad \frac{1}{M_{eff}} = \frac{m_e}{n_e} \sum_{ions} \frac{n_i}{m_i} \quad (6)$$

429 Above this frequency, the wave propagation angle lies inside the resonance cone θ_R deter-
 430 mined by the relation

$$431 \quad \omega^2 = \omega_{LH}^2 + \omega_c^2 \cos^2 \theta_R$$

432 At the resonance cone the wave refractive index $N = kc/\omega$ tends to infinity. Waves with
 433 frequencies above ω_{LH} are known as whistler-mode waves, whilst waves with frequencies
 434 close to the LHR frequency are often referred to as lower hybrid waves.

435 Below the LHR frequency, the propagation angle is arbitrary, including $\theta = \pi/2$. In
 436 this frequency range the propagating right-hand polarized waves are often termed mag-
 437 netosonic waves.

438 For waves in the frequency range

$$439 \quad \Omega_p \ll \omega \lesssim \omega_{LH} \ll \omega_c$$

440 and assuming $\omega_p \gg \omega_c$ the real part of the quantities ε_1 , ε_2 , and ε_3 can be approximated
 441 by

$$442 \quad \varepsilon_1 \simeq \frac{\omega_p^2 + \omega_c^2}{\omega_c^2} \left(1 - \frac{\omega_{LH}^2}{\omega^2} \right) ; \quad \varepsilon_2 \simeq -\frac{\omega_p^2}{\omega\omega_c} ; \quad \varepsilon_3 \simeq -\frac{\omega_p^2}{\omega^2} .$$

443 Note that in this frequency range, the ions only contribute to the quantity ε_1 , through the
 444 term ω_{LH}^2 , while the quantities ε_2 and ε_3 are determined solely by the electrons. Using
 445 general dispersion relation for electromagnetic waves in a cold magnetized plasma [see
 446 e.g. *Ginzburg and Rukhadze, 1972*], together with the expressions for the components of
 447 the dielectric tensor given above, one can derive the following dispersion relation in the
 448 frequency range of interest [*Shklyar and Jiříček, 2000*]

$$449 \quad \omega^2 = \frac{\omega_{LH}^2}{1 + q^2/k^2} + \frac{\omega_c^2 \cos^2 \theta}{(1 + q^2/k^2)^2} \equiv \omega_{LH}^2 \frac{k^2}{k^2 + q^2} + \omega_c^2 \frac{k_{\parallel}^2 k^2}{(k^2 + q^2)^2} , \quad (7)$$

450 where

$$451 \quad q^2 = \frac{\omega_p^2}{c^2} , \quad (8)$$

452 and $k_{\parallel} = k \cos \theta$ and $k_{\perp} = k \sin \theta$. Figure 10 shows the so-called surface of the refractive
 453 index, i.e. the isolines of constant frequencies on the $(k_{\perp}, k_{\parallel})$ -plane, resulting from the
 454 dispersion relation (7). The contours shown correspond (from blue (inner) to brown
 455 (outer)) to the 14th, 17th, 20th, 23rd, 26th, and 29th harmonics of the proton cyclotron
 456 frequency. One can see that for any frequency, the largest possible value of k_{\parallel} corresponds

457 to parallel propagation, i.e., $k = k_{\parallel}$, $k_{\perp} = 0$; and since for $\omega \lesssim \omega_{LH}$, each term on the
 458 right hand side of (7) is smaller than ω_{LH}^2 , so that the following inequalities should be
 459 fulfilled:

$$460 \quad \frac{k_{\parallel}^2}{q^2} < \frac{\omega}{\omega_c} \lesssim \frac{\omega_{LH}}{\omega_c} \ll 1; \quad \frac{k^2}{q^2} < \frac{\omega^2}{\omega_{LH}^2 - \omega^2}. \quad (9)$$

461 Due to reasons clarified below, only waves propagating at a large angle θ to the ambient
 462 magnetic field will be considered.

463 In order to estimate typical values for the refractive index, the maximum parallel com-
 464 ponent of the wave vector, and the resonant velocity the following further assumptions
 465 are made. As can be seen from Figure 10, for $\omega \lesssim \omega_{LH}$, the wave refractive index N at
 466 large θ is of the same order as its value at $\theta = \pi/2$ (which is not true for $\omega = \omega_{LH}$). From
 467 (7) it then follows that in the case under discussion $k^2 \sim \omega_p^2/c^2$, or alternatively

$$468 \quad N^2 \sim \frac{\omega_p^2}{\omega^2}. \quad (10)$$

469 Using the standard relations between the components of the polarization vector \mathbf{a} [see e.g.
 470 *Shklyar and Matsumoto, 2009*]

$$471 \quad a_y = -i \frac{\varepsilon_2}{N^2 - \varepsilon_1} a_x; \quad a_z = \frac{N^2 \sin \theta \cos \theta}{N^2 \sin^2 \theta - \varepsilon_3} a_x, \quad (11)$$

472 and the expressions for ε_1 , ε_2 , ε_3 given previously the polarisation vector can be rewritten
 473 as

$$474 \quad a_y \sim i \frac{\omega}{\omega_c} a_x \ll a_x; \quad a_z \sim \cos \theta a_x \ll a_x,$$

475 so that the wave electric field is right-hand and almost linearly polarized along the x -axis.

476 As for the wave magnetic field, combining Faraday's law $[\mathbf{k} \times \mathbf{E}] = (\omega/c)\mathbf{B}$ and the
 477 relations given above it follows that

$$478 \quad |B_x| \sim \frac{\omega_p}{\omega_c} \cos \theta a_x |E|; \quad |B_y| \sim \frac{\omega_p}{\omega} \cos \theta a_x |E|; \quad |B_z| \sim \frac{\omega_p}{\omega_c} \sin \theta a_x |E|,$$

479 thus, $|B_x| \ll |B_y|, |B_z|$. It is worth mentioning that $|B| \gg |E|$ (in CGS units), but
 480 $|B| \ll N|E|$.

6.2. Propagation of magnetosonic waves in the magnetosphere

481 The surface of the refractive index, shown in Figure 10, provides information regarding
 482 the propagation on MSW. Since the wave group velocity is directed normal to the refractive
 483 index surface, for large θ except when considering propagation directions close to $\theta = \pi/2$,
 484 the wave group velocity is directed almost along the ambient magnetic field. In the vicinity
 485 of $\theta = \pi/2$, the direction of wave group velocity with respect to the ambient magnetic field
 486 changes sign very fast, so that the point where $\theta = \pi/2$ may be considered as a reflection
 487 point. Figure 11 shows an example of the ray trajectory of a 150 Hz magnetosonic wave
 488 propagating in meridian plane which starts at $L = 4.15$ on the equator and has a wave
 489 normal angle $\theta_0 = 89^\circ$. We see that the latitude of the ray trajectory oscillates around
 490 zero, so that the trajectory as the whole is confined to the equatorial region. If the initial
 491 wave normal angle has an azimuthal component, the ray no longer lies in the meridian
 492 plane, but its confinement to the equatorial region remains in effect.

6.3. Magnetosonic wave excitation

493 Considering MSW excitation as the result of resonant interaction with energetic plasma
 494 particles, assuming cyclotron instability to be in effect the resonant velocity related to the
 495 n th cyclotron resonance is given by

$$496 \quad V_{Rn\alpha} = \frac{\omega - n\omega_{H\alpha}}{k_{\parallel}}, \quad \alpha = e, i \quad (12)$$

497 where index α refers to quantities related to electrons (e) and protons (i), so that $\omega_{He} = \omega_c$
 498 and $\omega_{Hi} = \Omega_p$. Equation (12) defines the particle parallel velocity at which it interacts

499 resonantly with the wave. Since the waves are excited due to their interaction with
 500 resonant particles, and because the number of these particles depends on their energy
 501 and in particular their parallel velocity, the value of $V_{Rn\alpha}$ is essential for estimating the
 502 efficiency of their interaction. The value of $V_{Rn\alpha}$ may be estimated using the following
 503 parameters, which are typical of the equatorial region at $L = 4.15$, namely:

$$504 \quad \omega \sim 900 \text{ rad/s} ; \quad \omega_p \sim 6.4 \cdot 10^5 \text{ rad/s} ; \quad \omega_c \sim 7.6 \cdot 10^4 \text{ rad/s} ; \quad \Omega_c \sim 41.6 \text{ rad/s} ; \quad \omega_{LH} \sim 1.8 \cdot 10^3 \text{ rad/s}$$

505 together with (see (10))

$$506 \quad N \sim 677 ; \quad k \sim 2.1 \cdot 10^{-5} \text{ cm}^{-1} . \quad (13)$$

507 The first inequality in (9) gives the maximum value of k_{\parallel}

$$508 \quad (k_{\parallel})_{max} \sim 2.4 \cdot 10^{-6} \text{ cm}^{-1} .$$

509 Obviously, this value corresponds to the parallel propagation of MSW. Using this value
 510 we find that, in general

$$511 \quad |V_{R1e}| > 3.2 \cdot 10^{10} \text{ cm/s} ; \quad V_{R1i} > 3.8 \cdot 10^8 \text{ cm/s} ; \quad V_{R0} > 4 \cdot 10^8 \text{ cm/s} .$$

512 Note that the Cerenkov resonance velocity (V_{R0}) does not depend on the type of particle,
 513 in contrast to cyclotron resonance velocities.

514 Relation (12) is written using the non-relativistic approximation. In this approximation,
 515 it may be seen that the interaction of MSW with electrons at the first cyclotron resonance
 516 - the only one that exists for parallel propagation - is impossible. As for the protons,
 517 the value of $V_{\parallel} = V_{R1i}$ corresponds to proton energies exceeding 100 keV, and so only a
 518 small number of resonant particles may be expected in this case. Thus, it is necessary
 519 to consider oblique MSW propagation. In this case the Cerenkov resonance comes into

520 effect, playing the main role together with the first cyclotron resonance, for small and
 521 medium wave normal angles. For oblique propagation, the value of V_{R0} given above
 522 represents the minimum value of parallel velocity, corresponding to $E > 65$ eV electrons
 523 and $E > 118$ keV ions. In the absence of parallel beams, the Cerenkov resonance leads to
 524 wave damping and, given the relation between resonance energies, drives out a possible
 525 wave excitation at the first cyclotron resonance due to cyclotron instability. Thus, the
 526 only possible case for MSW excitation is when $k_{\parallel} \ll (k_{\parallel})_{max}$, i.e., when the wave normal
 527 angle is close to $\pi/2$ and $\omega \simeq n\Omega_c$. In this case, the Cerenkov resonance for electrons does
 528 not drive out the instability, since it corresponds to an overly high electron velocity, while
 529 V_{Rni} for protons can be sufficiently small for an appropriate number of particles to be in
 530 cyclotron resonance. As was shown by *Shklyar* [1986], higher order cyclotron resonances
 531 for protons are efficient only when

$$k_{\parallel}V_{\parallel} + k_{\perp}V_{\perp} > \omega ,$$

533 which requires $V_{\perp} > \omega/k$. Using (13) it is found that $V_{\perp} > 4.5 \cdot 10^7$ cm/s, or $E > 1$ keV,
 534 which is quite realistic for protons.

535 A general expression for the growth rate of the cyclotron instability for oblique elec-
 536 tromagnetic wave, which is valid for MSW under consideration, can be found in *Shklyar*
 537 *and Matsumoto* [2009, expression (4.13)]. As has been argued above, the growth rate is
 538 significant only for $\omega \simeq n\Omega_c$, with the main contribution to the growth rate from protons
 539 interacting with the wave at the n th cyclotron resonance. Retaining the corresponding
 540 term for the growth rate from *Shklyar and Matsumoto* [2009] it is found that

$$\gamma = \frac{\Omega_c(\pi e|E|c)^2}{2m_i k_{\parallel} U} \int_0^{\infty} d\mu f'_{0n}(\mu) V_n^2(\mu) , \quad (14)$$

542 where f_0 is the unperturbed proton distribution function, which depends on particle energy
 543 W and magnetic momentum μ ,

$$544 \quad f'_{0n} = \left(\frac{\partial f_0}{\partial W} + \frac{n}{\omega} \frac{\partial f_0}{\partial \mu} \right)_{W=m_i V_{Rni}^2/2 + \mu \Omega_c}, \quad (15)$$

$$545 \quad V_n = \left(\frac{n|\Omega_c|}{k_\perp c} a_x + \frac{V_{Rni}}{c} a_z \right) J_n(\rho) + \frac{i\rho\Omega_c}{k_\perp c} a_y J'_n(\rho); \quad \rho = k_\perp \left(\frac{2\mu}{m_i|\Omega_c|} \right)^{1/2}, \quad (16)$$

547 and $J_n(\rho)$ and $J'_n(\rho)$ are, respectively, the Bessel function and its derivative with respect
 548 to the argument ρ . The quantity ρ defined above is the dimensionless Larmor radius, i.e.,
 549 $\rho = k_\perp V_\perp / \Omega_c$. The quantity U that enters the expression for γ is the wave energy density
 550 and is proportional to $|E|^2$ and expressed through the polarization coefficients and the
 551 dielectric tensor in a usual way [e.g. *Shafranov, 1967*]. The value of V_n , which plays the
 552 role of an effective amplitude of interaction at the n th cyclotron resonance is proportional
 553 to $J_n(\rho)$. It is well known that for large n this function is exponentially small unless
 554 $\rho \equiv k_\perp V_\perp / \Omega_c > n$, or, with the account of $n \simeq \omega / \Omega_c$, $k_\perp V_\perp > \omega$. This explains the above
 555 mentioned requirement of the efficiency of wave excitation by ions.

556 From (14)-(16) it follows that for wave excitation the derivative (15) should, on average,
 557 be positive, which is typically observed for distributions with a loss-cone or temperature
 558 anisotropy. In general, the growth rate strongly depends on the energetic proton distribu-
 559 tion function, as well as on the wave characteristics (frequency and wave vector). However,
 560 in many cases the distribution function is proportional to $\exp(-W/W_T)$, where W_T is a
 561 characteristic energy scale of the distribution. (For a quasi-Maxwellian distribution, W_T
 562 characterizes the particle thermal energy). In this case, the growth rate γ defined by (14)
 563 appears to be proportional to

$$564 \quad \exp \left(- \frac{m_i(\omega - n\Omega_c)^2}{2k_\parallel^2 W_T} \right)$$

565 As mentioned above, k_{\parallel} is a small quantity, which clearly shows that the growth rate is
 566 significant only for $\omega \simeq n\Omega_c$, i.e., for frequencies close to ion cyclotron harmonics.

6.4. Comparison of Experimental and Theoretical Dispersion

567 The dispersion relation (7) is plotted as the solid line in Figure 12 using plasma densities
 568 of 19 cm^{-3} (black) and 15 cm^{-3} estimated using data from WHISPER. The angle between
 569 the wave propagation vector and the external magnetic field was assumed to be 89° . In
 570 order to fit the experimentally derived dispersion to the theoretical ones n , the ambiguity
 571 factor in equation (2) was varied in the range $-5 < n < 5$ and the results compared to
 572 the theoretical curves. It was found that the best fit was obtained using $n = 1$ and the
 573 dispersions of the Bx (blue crosses) and Bz (cyan circles) components using this factor
 574 are shown in the Figure. This value is in agreement with the fact that the wavelength of
 575 the magnetosonic waves is $\sim 18 \text{ km}$ (from the dispersion shown in Figure 12) compared
 576 with an intersatellite separation of 60 km . As can be seen from this Figure there is good
 577 agreement between the experimental and theoretical results.

7. Conclusions

578 Using data collected as part of the Cluster Inner Magnetosphere campaign this paper has
 579 presented observations of a set of narrow banded emissions that occurred in the vicinity of
 580 harmonics of the proton gyrofrequency. It was demonstrated that these waves propagated
 581 in the magnetosonic mode as characterised by their spectral properties.

582 Using the phase differencing method, it was possible to combine observations from the
 583 satellites Cluster 3 and Cluster 4 in order to determine the dispersion relation. The exper-

584 imentally determined dispersion was shown to be consistent with theoretical dispersion
585 curves.

586 **Acknowledgments.** SNW and MAB wish to acknowledge financial support from In-
587 ternational Space Science Institute, Bern, Royal Society Collaboration grant, UK EPSRC
588 grant EP/H00453X/1, and the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation
589 programme under grant agreement No 637302. The authors would like to thank the Clus-
590 ter instrument teams for provision of the data used in this paper. These data are available
591 from the Cluster Science Archive (<http://www.cosmos.esa.int/web/csa>).

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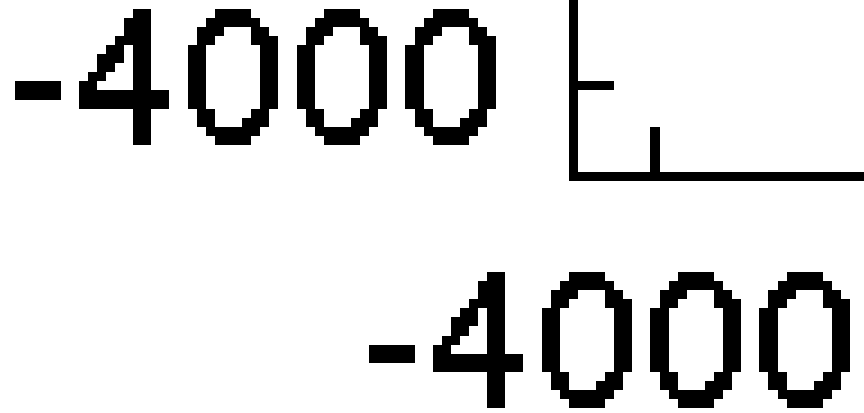


Figure 1. Location of the Cluster spacecraft on July 6th, 2013 (lower right panel) and their relative separations (C1 black, C2 red, C3 green, and C4 blue). Note that due to their close proximity C3 is masked by C4 and their trajectories in the lower right panel appear magenta.

Figure 2. Dynamic spectra of the SM B_z component of the STAFF magnetic field waveform measured onboard spacecraft 3 (panel a) and 4 (panel b) on July 6th, 2013. The black curves represent the 15, 20, 25, and 30th harmonics of the proton gyrofrequency Ω_p .

Figure 3. FFT spectra of the Bx component of the STAFF magnetic field waveform measured onboard spacecraft 4 on July 6th, 2013. The black curves represent harmonics of the proton gyrofrequency in the range 14-30 Ω_p .

Figure 4. FFT spectrum of the Bx component of the STAFF magnetic field waveform measured onboard spacecraft 4 during the period 18:48:40-18:49:20 UT. The vertical lines represent harmonics of the proton gyrofrequency, each labelled with the harmonic number.



Figure 5. Spectra of the ion distribution measured by CIS-CODIF on July 6th, 2013 between 1840 and 1857UT.

Figure 6. Frequency of peak growth rate with respect to the Alfvén and ring velocities.

Figure 7. The characteristic properties of the banded emissions. From top to bottom the panels show the wave spectra, the ellipticity of the waves, the angle between the propagation direction and the external magnetic field, and the angle between the maximum variance direction and the external magnetic field.

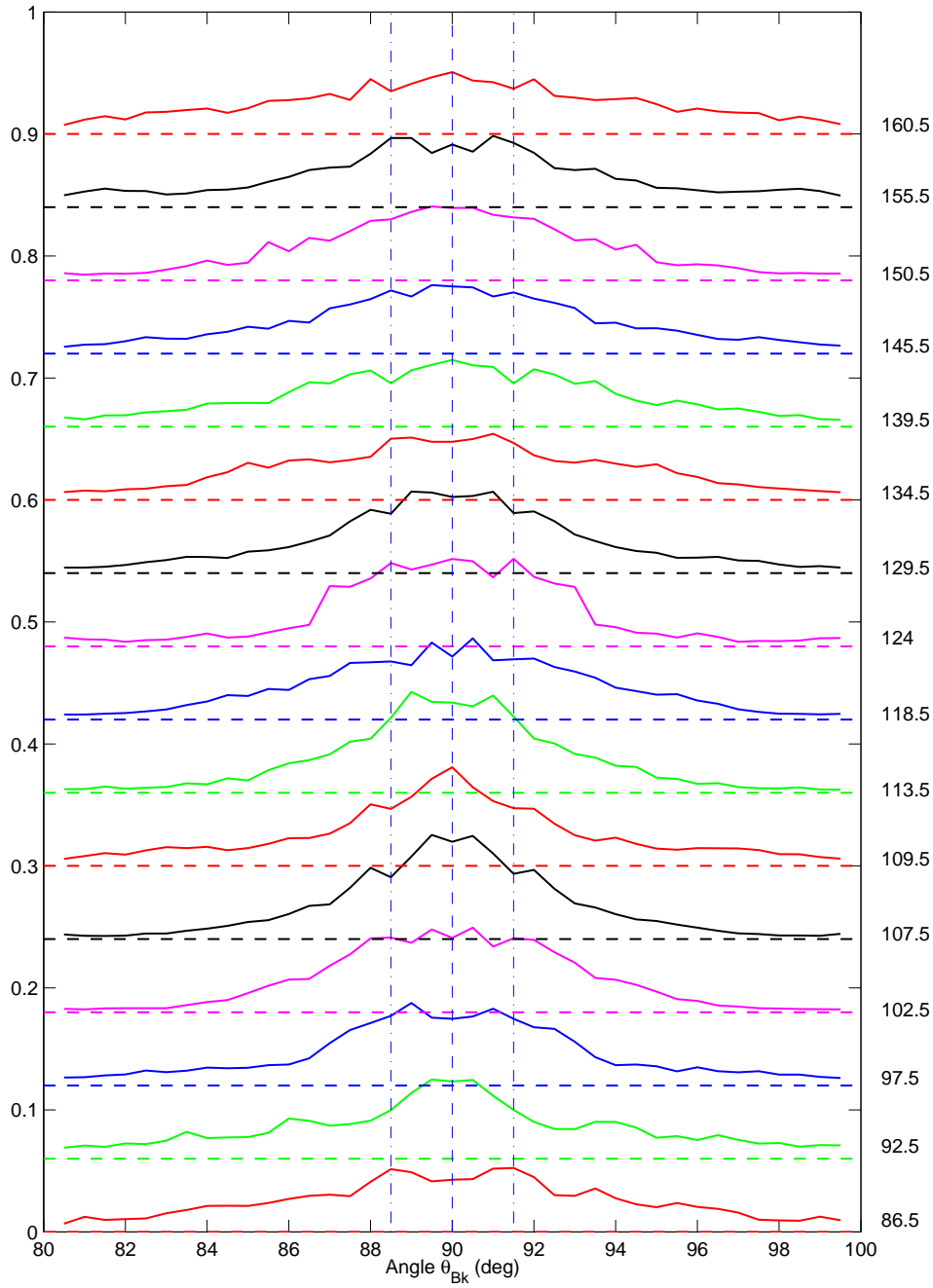


Figure 8. Distributions of the wave normal angle for frequencies at which the banded harmonic emissions occurred.

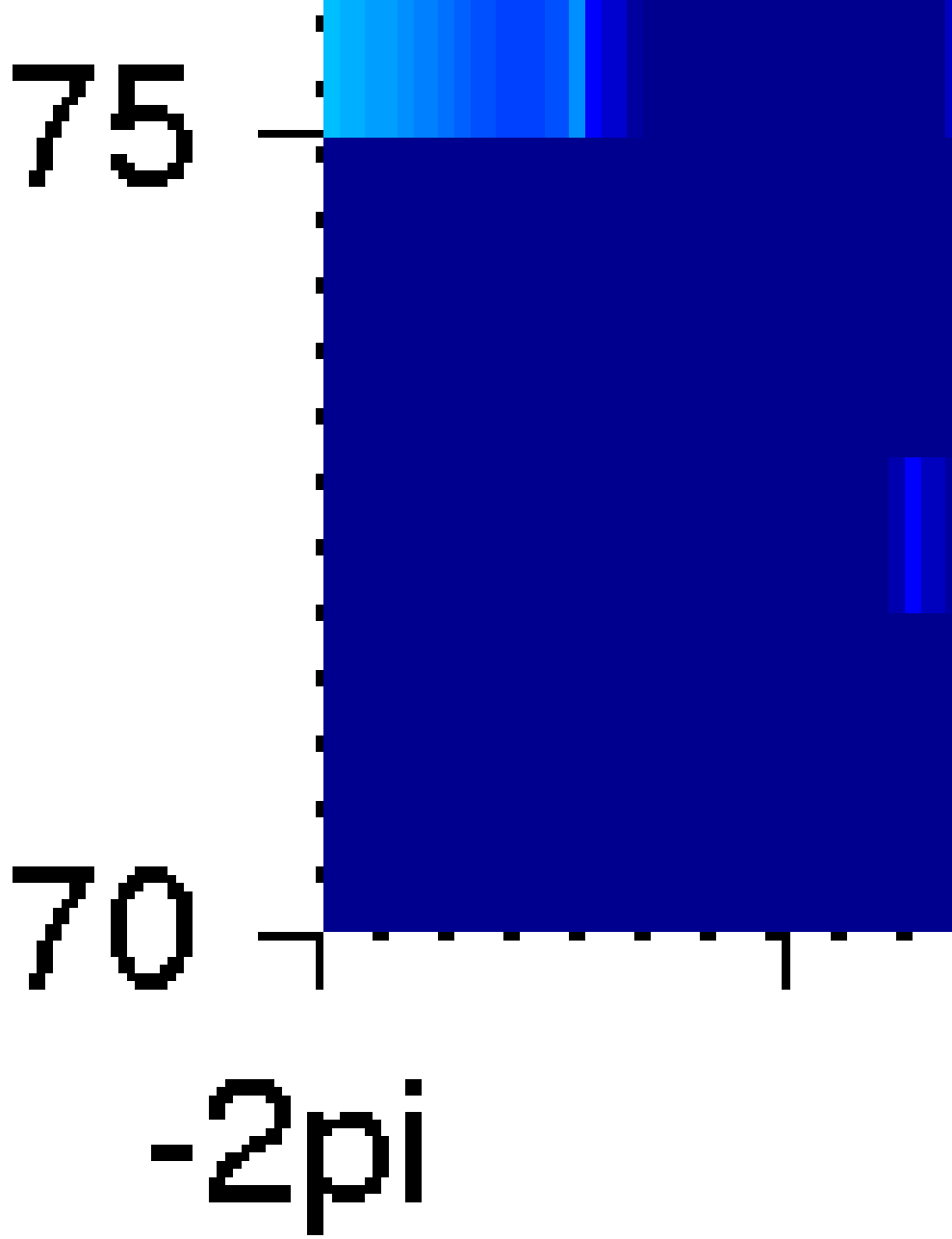


Figure 9. $\omega - k$ histogram showing the variation in the phase difference of the signals measured by satellites C3 and C4 with frequency.

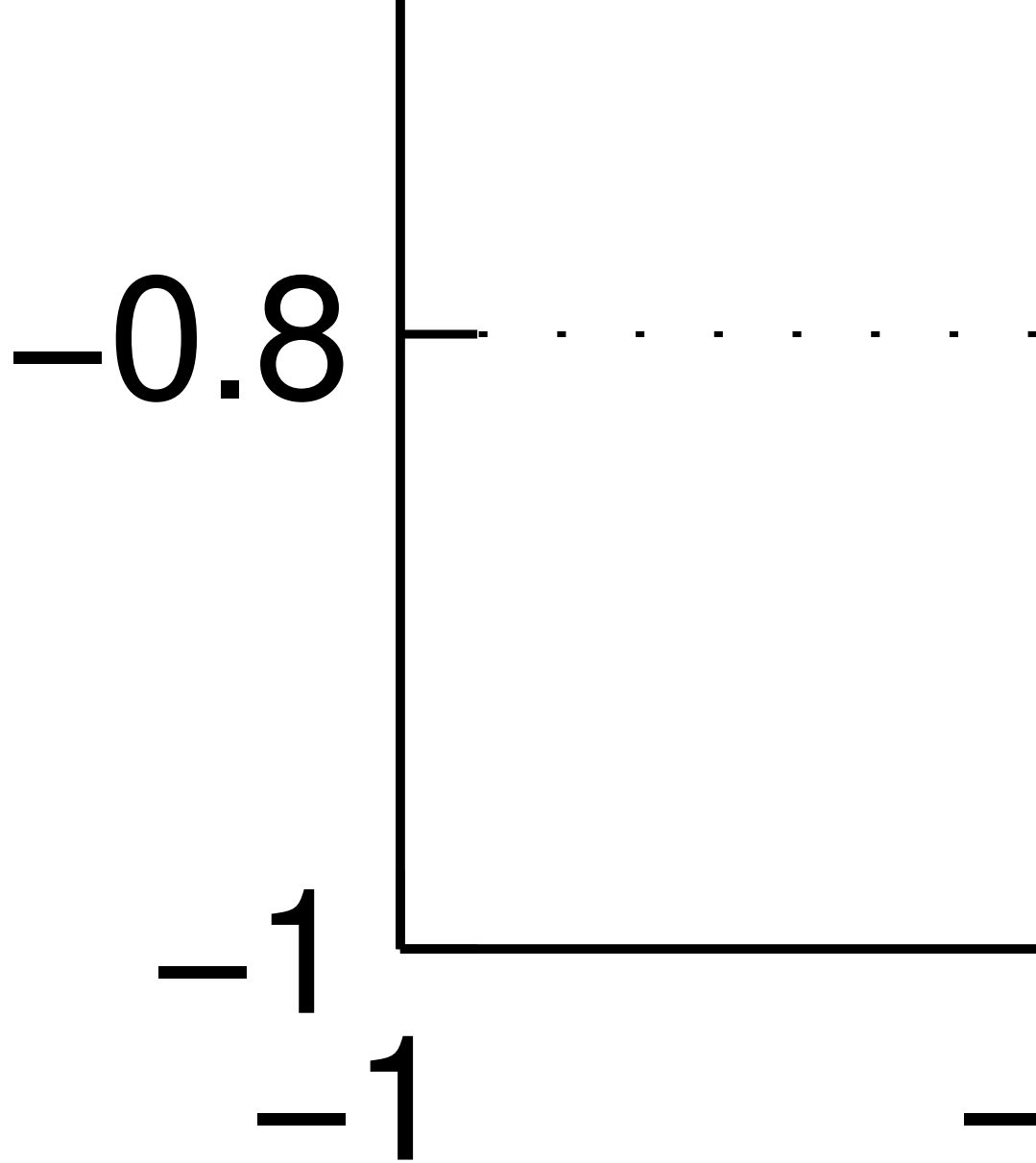
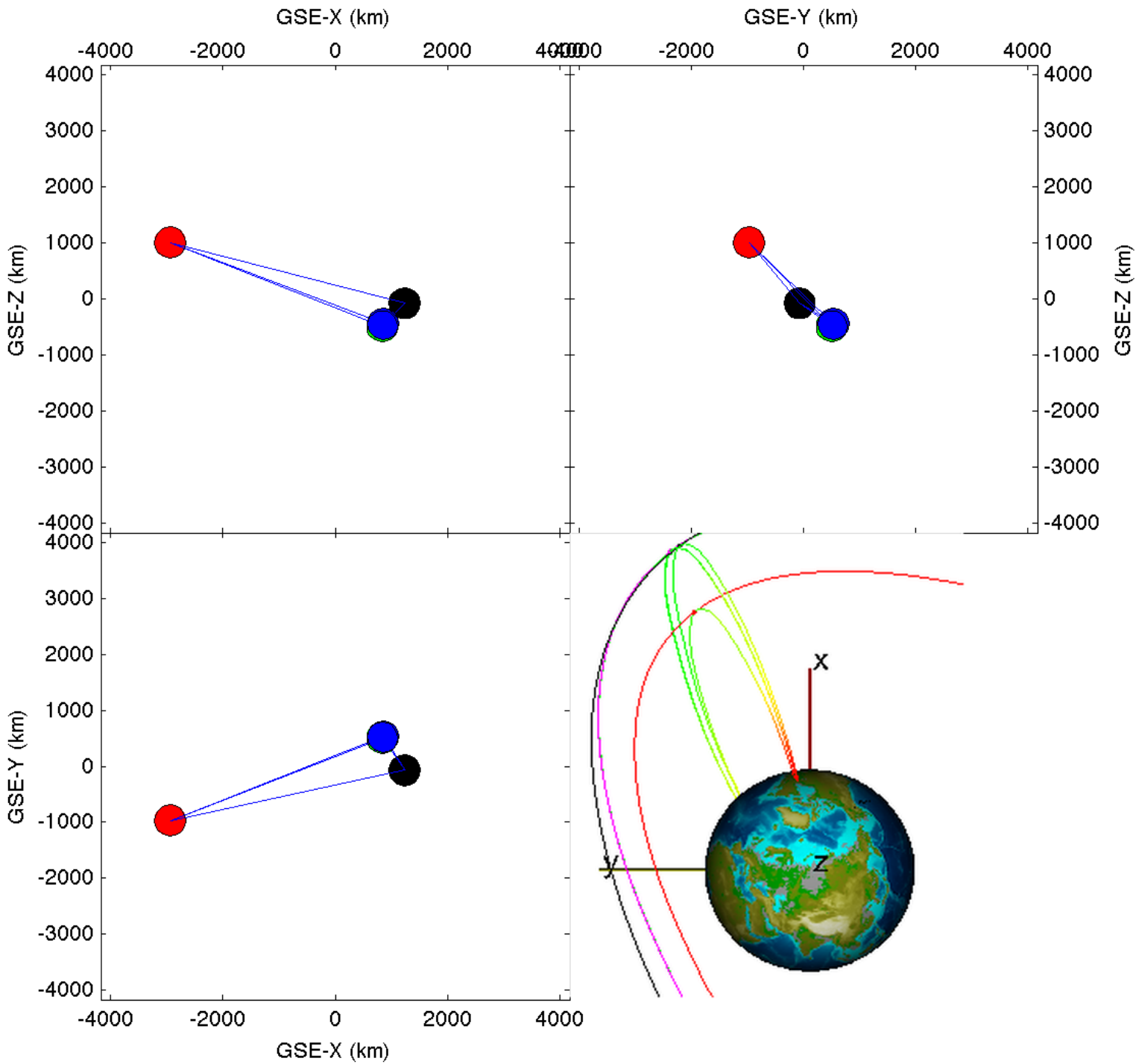
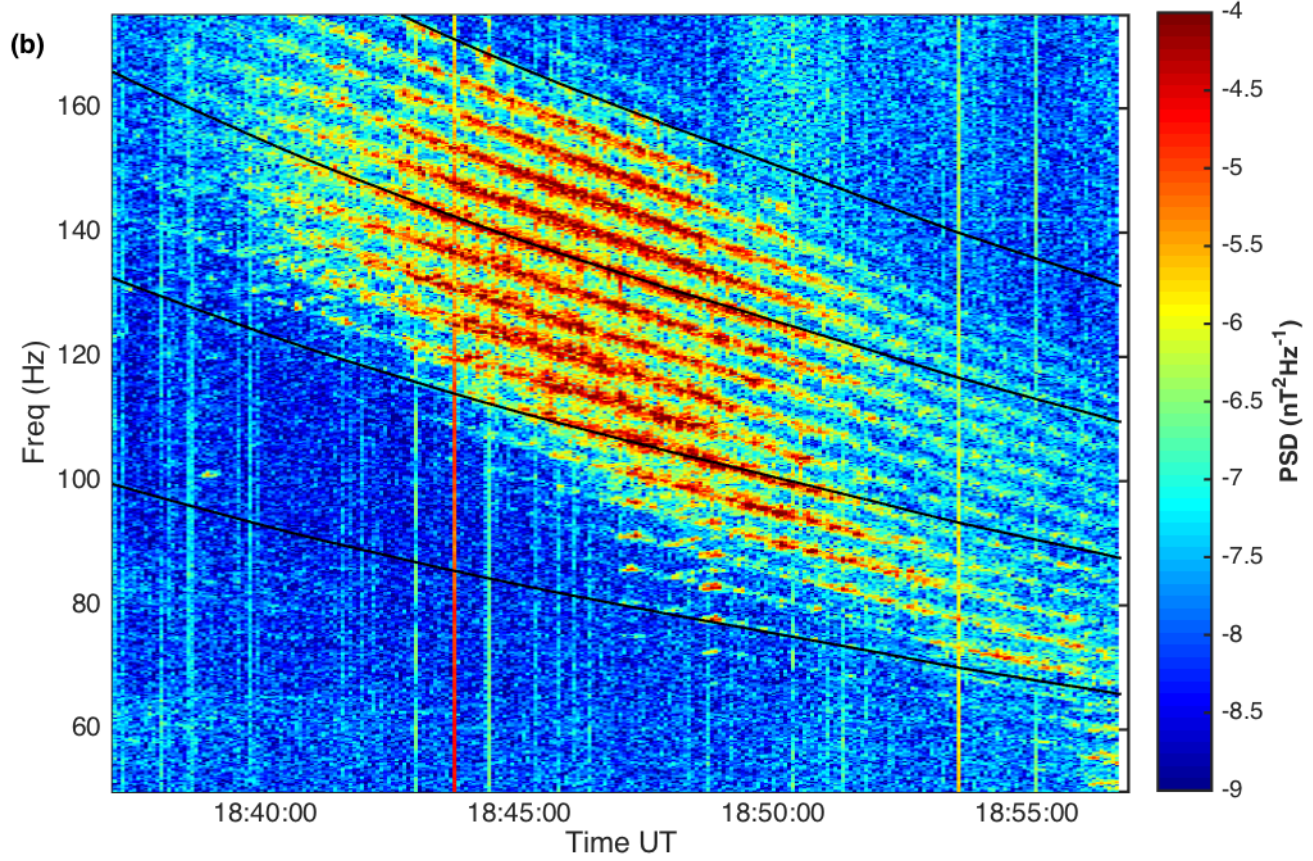
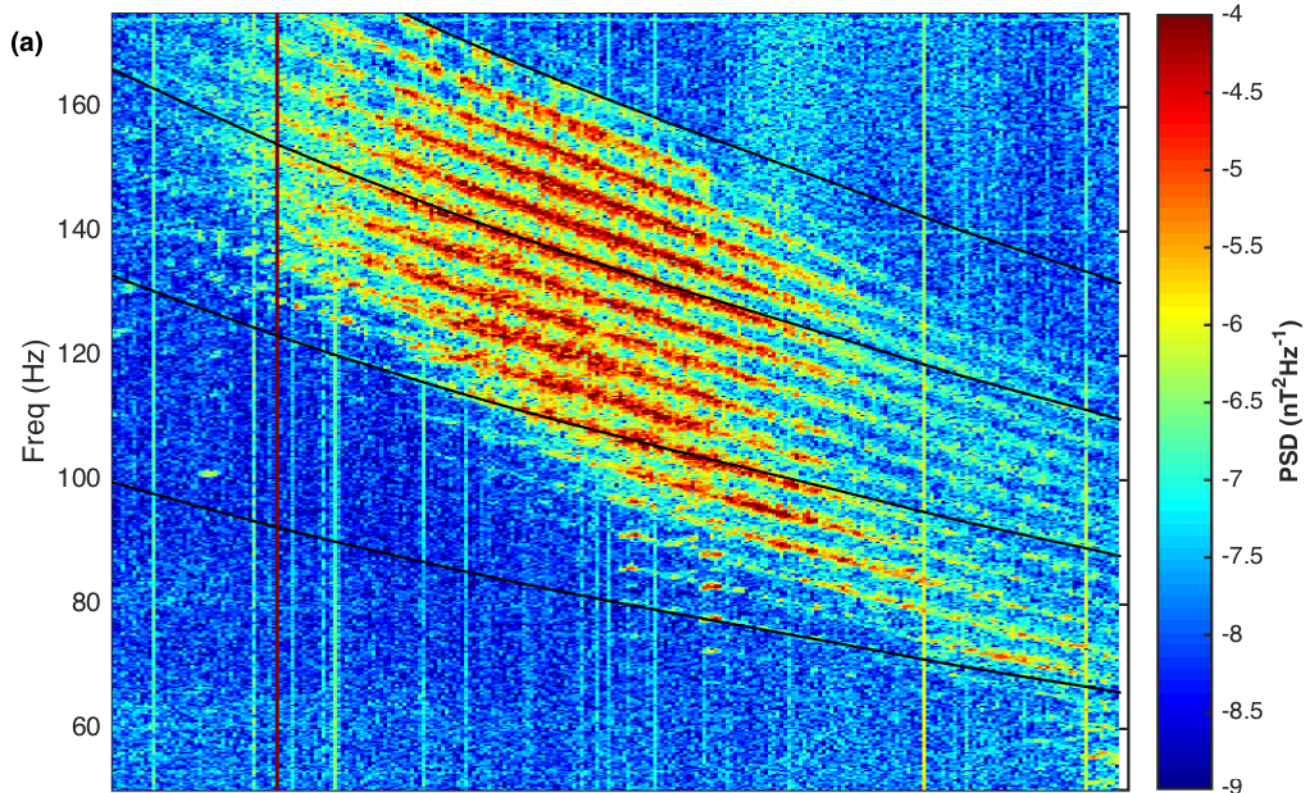


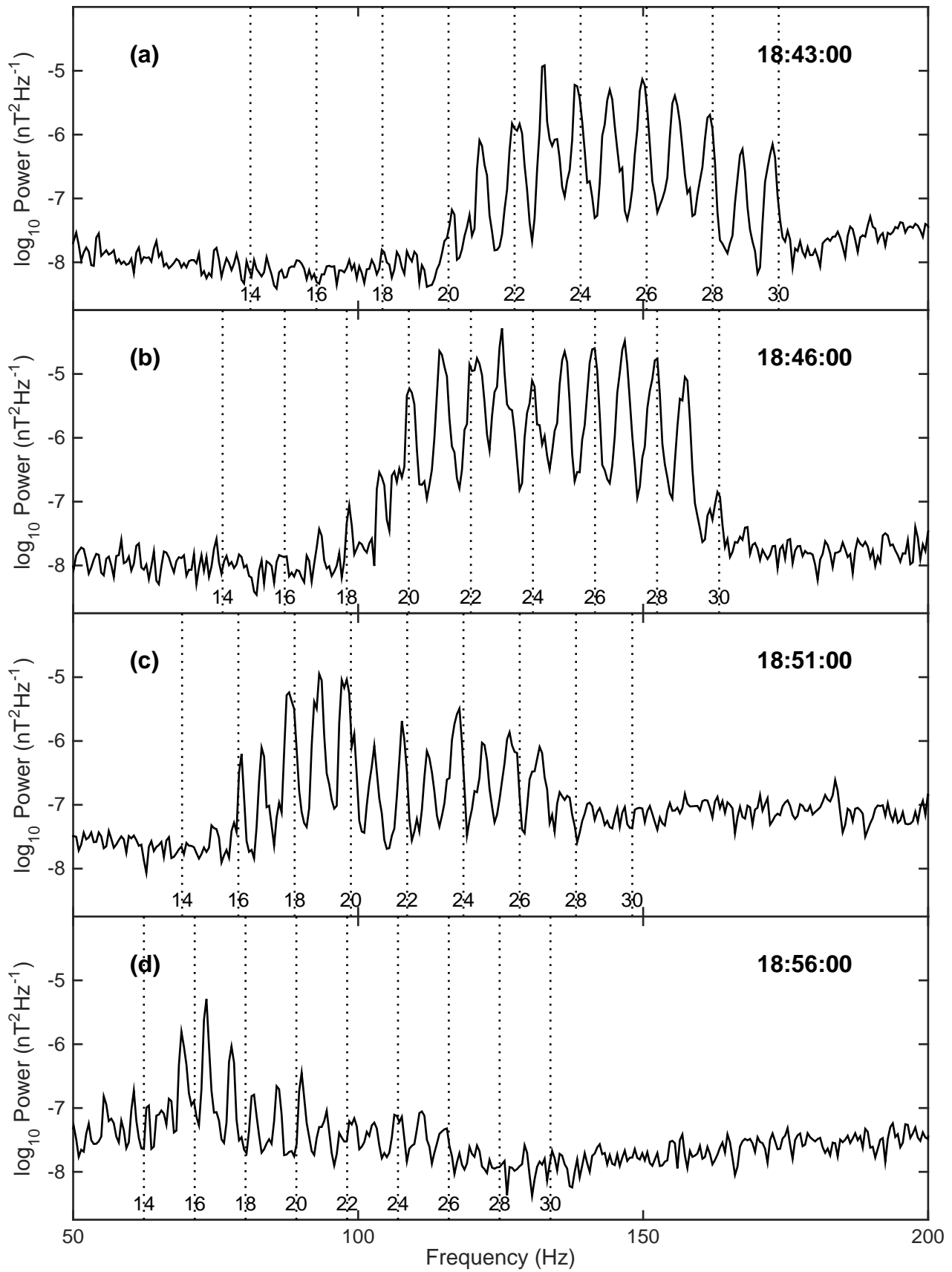
Figure 10. The surface of refractive index for the dispersion relation (7).

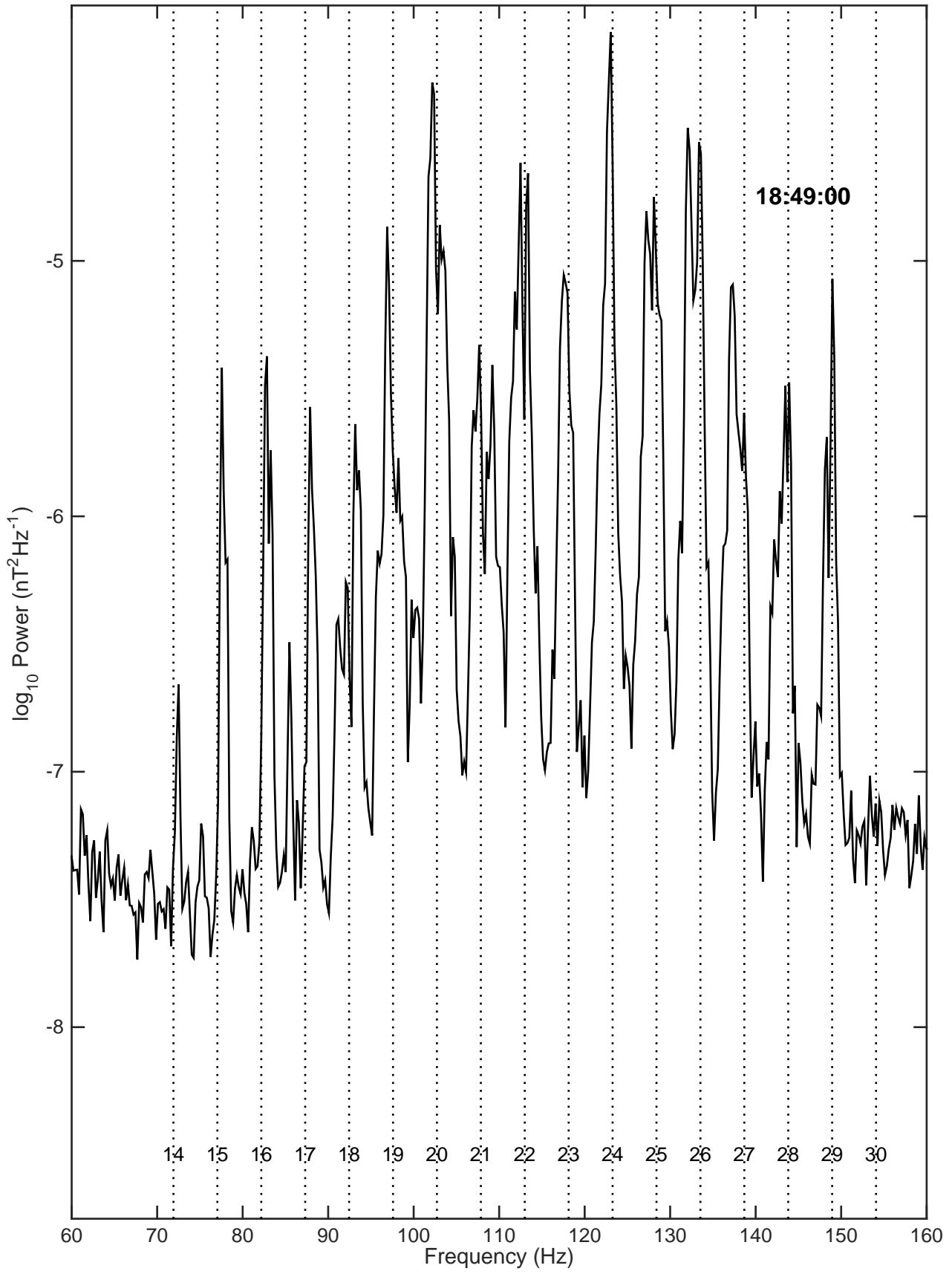
Figure 11. The trajectory oscillates around the equator with the deviation $\lesssim 5^\circ$.

Figure 12. Comparison of the experimentally determined dispersion using the Bz (blue lines and crosses) and Bx (cyan lines and circles) components with that derived theoretically from Eqn 7 using total plasma densities of 19 cm^{-3} (black) and 15 cm^{-3} (red). θ_{kB} was assumed to be 89° .





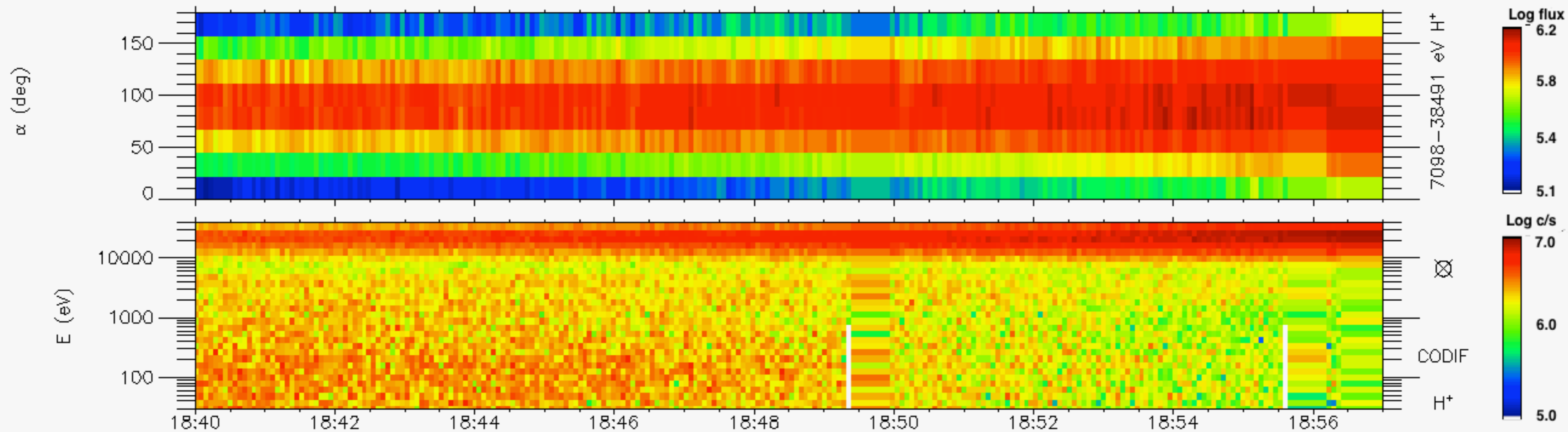




CIS

TANGO (SC 4)

06/Jul/2013



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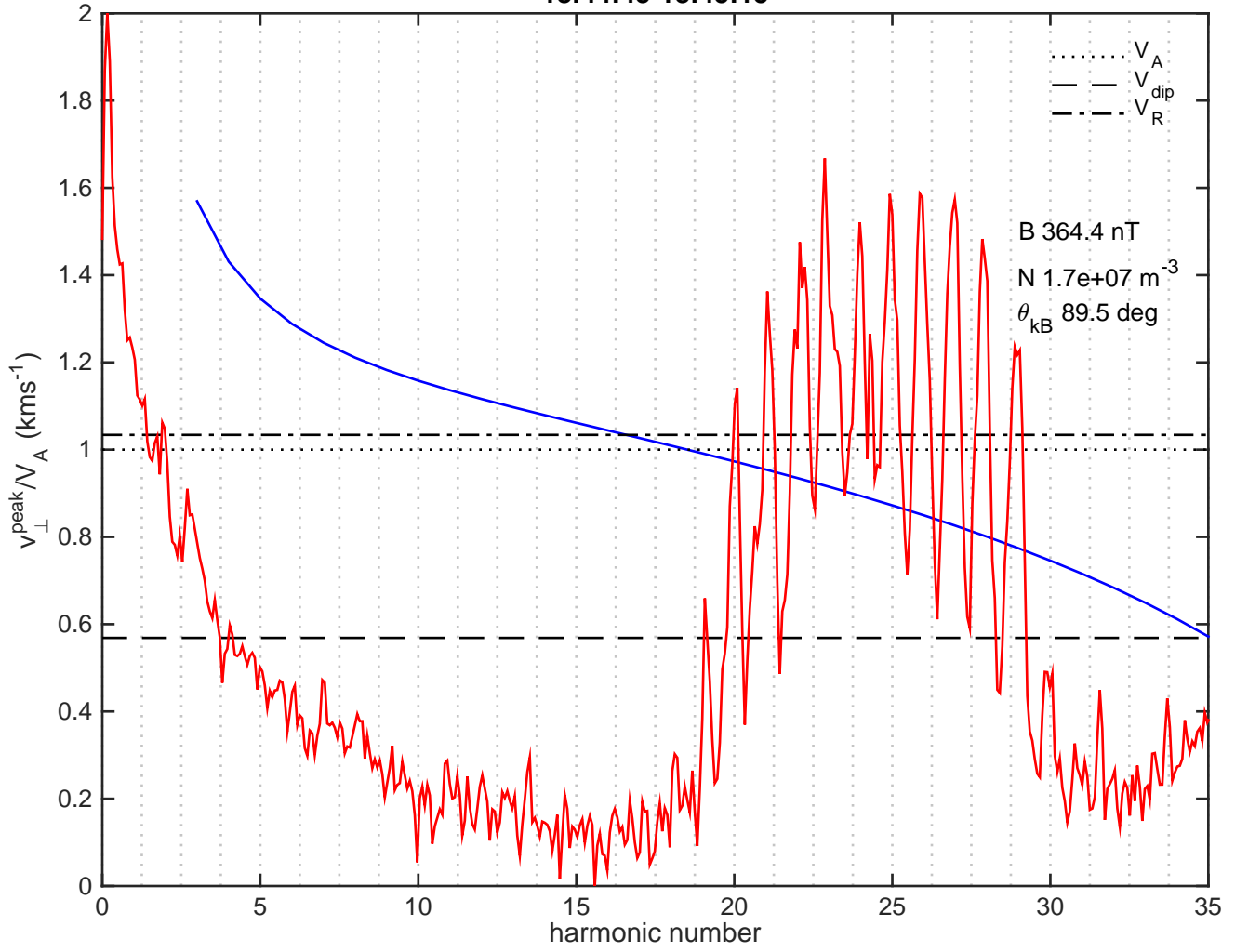
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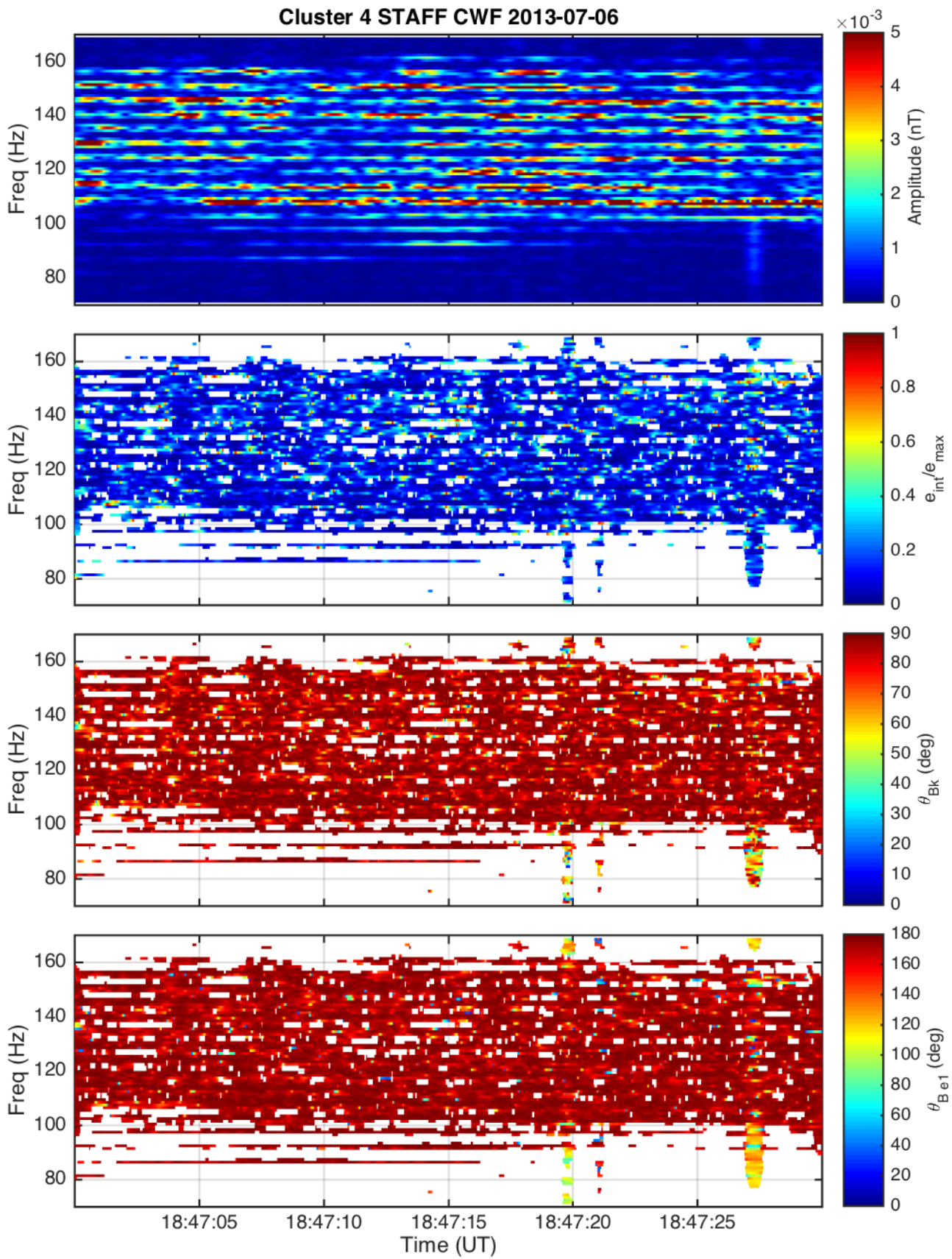
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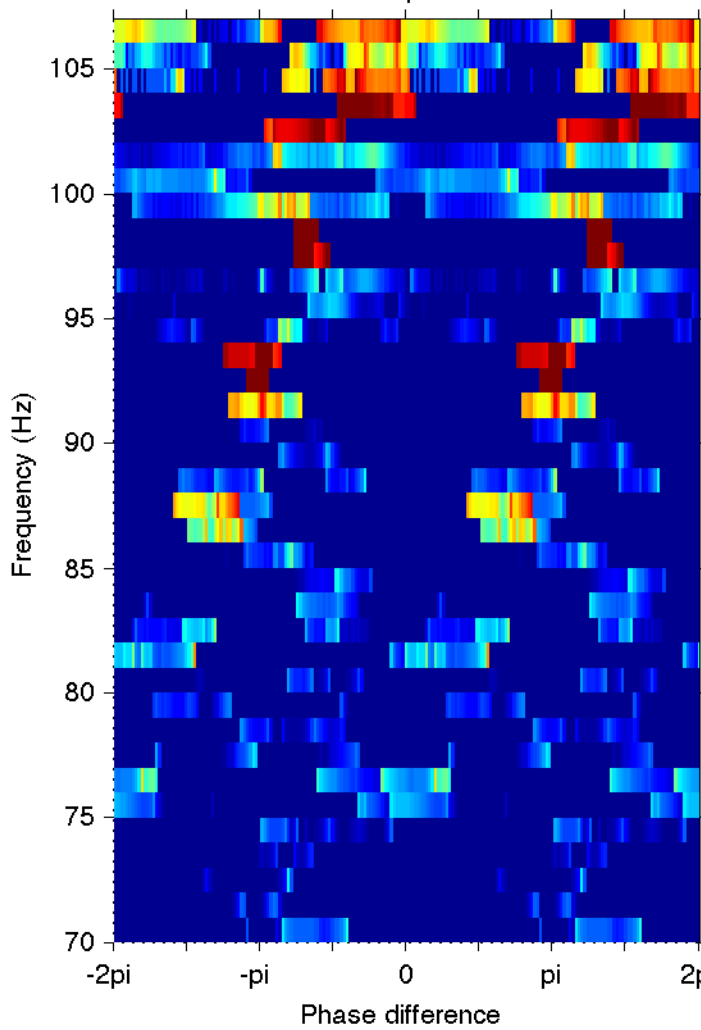
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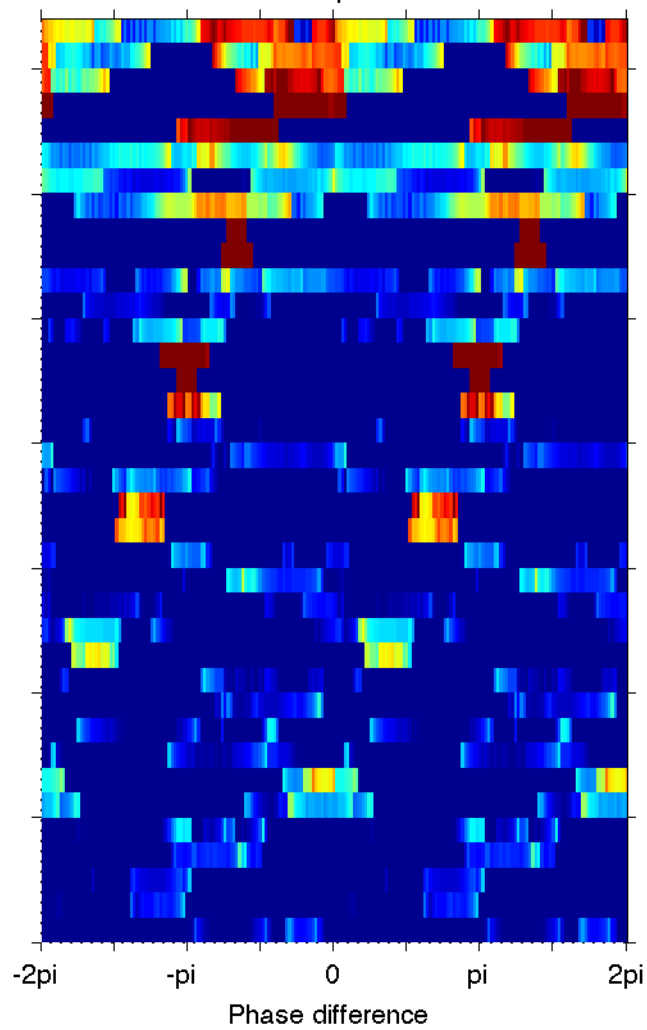
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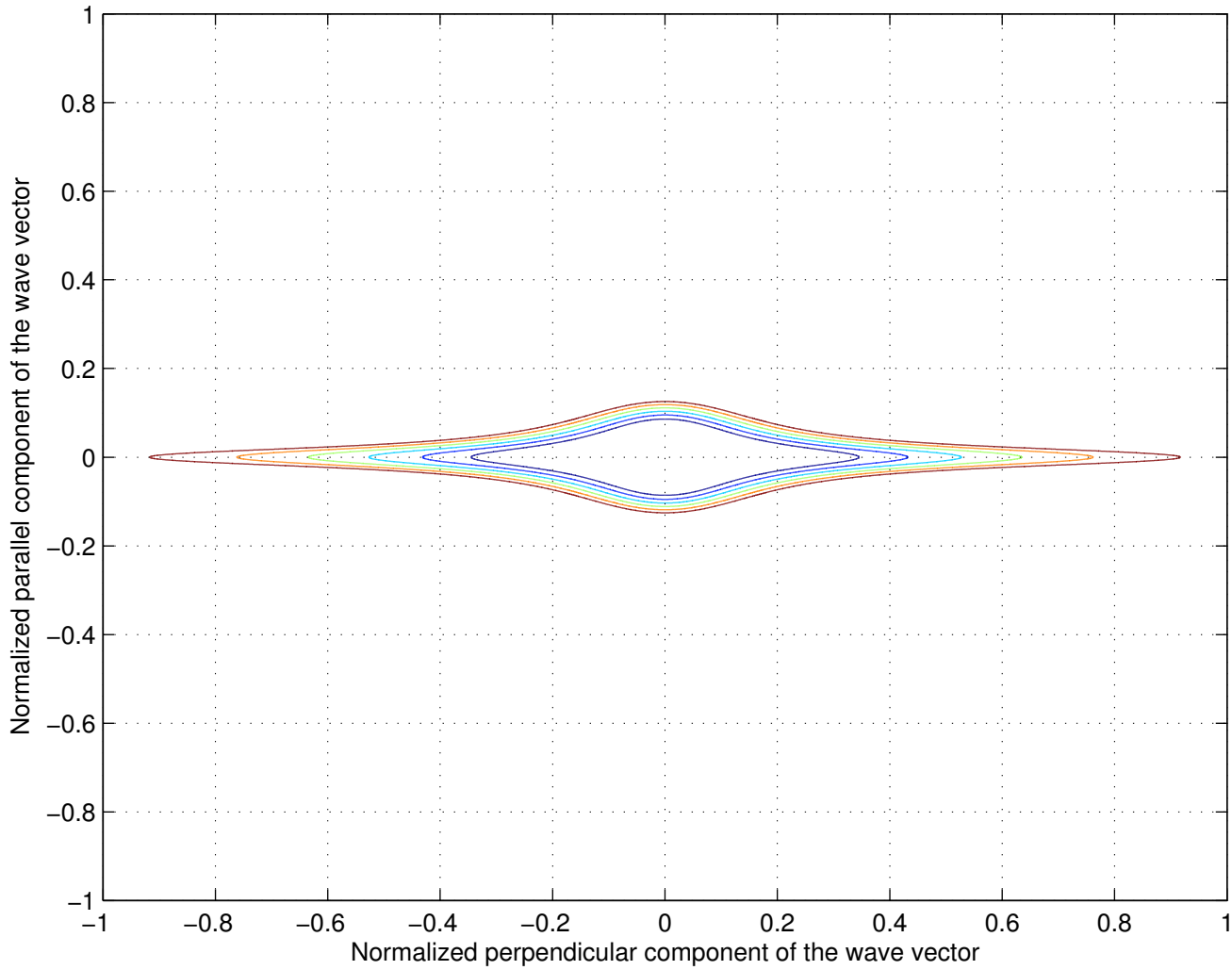
Bx component



Bz component



Contours of constant frequency



Trajectory of the wave

