

Satellite Anomalies and the Radiation Belts

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Thanks to Van Allen Probes and GOES Teams

Early Study: GEO Anomalies



Baker et al. (1987)

Multi-Year Run of Geostationary Orbit Data



Example: 10 years of E > 2 MeV GOES Electron Fluences

[H.-L. Lam, JASTP, 2004]

Spacecraft Anomalies: October-November



[Baker et al., *Eos*, 2004; *Nature*, 2004]

Van Allen Probes Observations

Acceleration, Remanence, and Sudden Loss



GEO: The Tip of the Iceberg



Van Allen Probes: September 2012 to September 2018

Looking at E \sim 2 MeV electrons just around geostationary orbit (L > \sim 6.0)

GPS: Beneath the Tip of the Iceberg



Van Allen Probes September 2012 to September 2018

Examining E \sim 2 MeV electron fluxes over the range obtainable from Global Positioning System operational sensors (L > \sim 4.2)

Van Allen Probes: The Whole Iceberg



Van Allen Probes September 2012 to September 2018

Measuring the full range of radial distances in the radiation belts for relatively fine differential energy slices has been a key contribution of the Van Allen Probes mission

Comparison of Van Allen Probes daily-averaged fluxes at L=6.0 versus GOES daily-averaged fluxes



All data used in this slide and hereafter are from RBSPA and GOES 15 E detector. L's are McIlwain L in T89D model. REPT and MagEIS data integration: used IDL internal function to interpolate and integrate fluxes

Detailed Comparison During Close Conjunctions: Non-storm Period 7 January 2017



Similar MLT and MLAT near the apogee of the Van Allen Probes

Comparison: Recovery Phase of an Intense Storm 23 December 2015



Detailed Comparison: Small Storm 23 August 2015



Close conjunctions between the Van Allen Probes and GOES: Similar MLT while fluxes were low

Comparison of Van Allen Probes versus GOES daily-averaged fluxes at L=6.6











The Polar View in March 2013: Three Successive Orbit Periods



Before IP Shock

Right After Shock

Half Day Later



SWPC Experimental Test Product >2 MeV Electrons NASA Van Allen Probe Inside GEO and GOES

- Complements GOES observations of electron flux at GEO with flux inside GEO
- GOES and Van Allen Probe Orbits shown; sun on right; bottom of scale (blue) is alert threshold
- New test product for forecasters and satellite operators inside of GEO



SWPC (Singer, Steenburgh, and Onsager) collaboration with JHUAPL and NASA (Ukhorskiy, Romeo, Fox, and Kessel)

Conclusions

- Results from Van Allen Probes daily flux averages (L~6.0) demonstrate very large differences with simple daily flux averages of corresponding GOES E > 0.8 and E > 2.0 MeV electrons.
- Careful detailed comparisons show that much of the observed difference arises from the fact that GOES seldom is at the nominal L = 6.6 location.
- Specific event comparisons clearly reveal that very strong radial flux gradients tend to exist between L ~ 6 and L ~ 7.5.
- We also find that pitch angle distribution properties of the electrons probably contribute to the observed average flux discrepancies.
- GEO observations remain crucial for SWx and anomaly resolution purposes, but we urge considerable caution in using "brute force" daily-average flux values from GEO sensors as being indicative of all outer Van Allen zone energetic electron flux properties.

Questions?

Remarkable Loss and Reacceleration



The Polar View in September 2017: Three Successive Orbits



Before IP Shock

Right After Shock

18 Hours Later

