

Homework problems for the Heliophysics Summer School 2010
Book 2, Chapter 11: Energization of Trapped Particles
Instructor: Mike Liemohn, University of Michigan

Show all of your work and explain your answers. No credit without the intermediate steps.

Q-1. Calculate the $E \times B$ drift of an ion in the plasma sheet during a magnetic storm.

(a) Derive the general equations of motion (position and velocity vectors), starting from the Lorentz force terms, assuming a northward magnetic field and a dawn-to-dusk electric field.

(b) Find the specific equations of motion for a proton when $\mathbf{B} = +5 \text{ nT } \mathbf{z}$, $\mathbf{E} = +0.25 \text{ mV/m } \mathbf{y}$, starting in the plasma sheet $20 R_E$ downtail ($\mathbf{r} = -20 R_E \mathbf{x}$) with a sunward initial velocity of $\mathbf{v} = +10 \text{ km/s } \mathbf{x}$.

(c) How long will it take the proton to reach the inner magnetosphere (defined as inside of $7 R_E$ geocentric distance for this problem), neglecting the gyration motion?

(d) What changes in this solution if the particle is a singly-charged oxygen ion rather than a proton?

(e) Calculate the gyration-averaged energy gain of the two particles (proton and oxygen ion) discussed above (energy of final drift velocity minus energy of initial velocity).

Q-2. Calculate the gyration, bounce, and drift periods for the following particles.

(a) Protons at $E = 10 \text{ keV}$, $\alpha_0 = 90^\circ$, at $L=4$.

(b) Protons at $E = 10 \text{ keV}$, $\alpha_0 = \alpha_{0,LC}$, at $L=4$.

(c) Protons at $E = 10 \text{ MeV}$, $\alpha_0 = 90^\circ$, at $L=2$.

(d) Electrons at $E = 10 \text{ keV}$, $\alpha_0 = 90^\circ$, at $L=4$.

Q-3. Calculate the total mass of the quiet-time plasmasphere.

(a) Calculate the total plasmaspheric mass assuming that the plasmasphere extends out to $L=6$ where the density is 100 cm^{-3} (assume a composition of only protons). Also assume a density along the magnetic field lines that's proportional to the field strength and a radial dependence of $n \sim L^{-4}$.

(b) Is the content contribution larger from a 1 cm^2 equatorial-plane-area flux tube at $L=2$ or a 1 cm^2 equatorial-plane-area flux tube at $L=6$?

(c) How does this change when the comparison is done with a constant magnetic field flux tube comparison? That is, assume an equatorial plane area containing 1 nT at $L=2$ and $L=6$.

(d) How much mass is lost to deep space during a large magnetic storm (assume that the plasmopause moves in to $L=3$).

Q-4. Calculate the total energy of the storm-time ring current.

(a) Calculate the total ring current energy assuming that the ring current extends from $L=4$ to 7 with a constant density of 10 cm^{-3} , constant average energy of 40 keV , and uniform density and energy of only protons along the field lines.

- (b) Assuming exponential energy content decay with time and $\tau=20$ h, how long with it take to reduce this energy content to a tenth of its peak value?
- (c) Compare the storm-time ring current energy content with the quiet-time plasmaspheric energy content. Assume an average energy of 1 eV for the plasmasphere, and use the plasmaspheric number content in the previous question.

Q-5. Calculate the PSD function of relativistic electrons from the radial diffusion equation.

- (a) Derive the general solution for the equilibrium state of the PSD function from the radial diffusion equation (that is, assume d/dt terms are zero) with no loss term (that is $\tau \rightarrow \infty$), assuming $D_{LL}=D_0L^4$.
- (b) Find the specific solution for the boundary conditions of $f(L=3)=0$ and $f(L=8)=f_0$.
- (c) Describe in words the change in your answer if the functional dependence of the diffusion coefficient were $D_{LL}=D_0L^{10}$.