

Project Details

ROSES ID: NNH10ZDA001N

Selection Year: 2011

Program Element: Focused Science Topic

Topic: Incorporating Plasma Waves in Models of the Radiation Belts and Ring Current

Project Title:

Ring Current Instabilities and Their Magnetospheric Consequences

PI Name: Stephen Peter Gary

PI Email: atn@g.ucla.edu

Affiliation:

Project Member(s):

- Jordanova, Vania K; Co-I; Los Alamos National Laboratory
- Zaharia, Sorin G; Co-I; Los Alamos National Laboratory
- MacDonald, Elizabeth ; Co-I; NASA Goddard Space Flight Center
- Liu, Kaijun ; Postdoctoral Associate; null

Summary:

Our proposed research will use satellite data analysis, a comprehensive model of the inner magnetosphere, linear kinetic dispersion theory, hybrid and particle-in-cell (PIC) simulations, and test-particle computations to carry out an integrated study of how kinetic instabilities in the magnetospheric ring current arise, propagate, and scatter both ions and fast electrons. We intend to address two distinct kinetic modes: the Alfvén-cyclotron instability which leads to EMIC waves, and the proton Bernstein mode instability which generates magnetosonic waves. We will use geosynchronous observations from Los Alamos plasma instruments and the RAM-SCB self-consistent inner magnetospheric model to gain insight into the ion velocity distributions which drive such waves; using such distributions we will use hybrid and PIC codes to generate enhanced field fluctuations and determine how ions are scattered, and test-particle computations to calculate how such fields pitch-angle scatter and accelerate fast electrons. These computations will yield particle transport coefficients which will be fed back into the RAM-SCB code, thereby improving the representations of global transport by that code. This research would make fundamental scientific contributions to the LWS Focused Science Team "Incorporating Plasma Waves in Models of the Radiation Belts and Ring Current."

Publication References:

Summary: no summary

Reference: Liu, Kaijun; Gary, S. Peter; Winske, Dan; (2011), Excitation of banded whistler waves in the magnetosphere, Geophysical Research Letters, Volume 38, Issue 14, doi: 10.1029/2011GL048375

Summary: no summary

Reference: Liu, Kaijun; Gary, S. Peter; Winske, Dan; (2011), Excitation of magnetosonic waves in the terrestrial magnetosphere: Particle-in-cell simulations, Journal of Geophysical Research, Volume 116, Issue A7, doi: 10.1029/2010JA016372

Summary: no summary

Reference: Liu, Kaijun; Winske, Dan; Gary, S. Peter; Reeves, Geoffrey D.; (2012), Relativistic electron scattering by large amplitude electromagnetic ion cyclotron waves: The role of phase bunching and trapping, Journal of Geophysical Research, Volume 117, Issue A6, doi: 10.1029/2011JA017476

Summary: no summary

Reference: Fu, Xiangrong; Cowee, Misa M.; Jordanova, Vania K.; Gary, S. Peter; Reeves, Geoffrey D.; Winske, Dan; (2016), Predicting electromagnetic ion cyclotron wave amplitude from unstable ring current plasma conditions, Journal of Geophysical Research: Space Physics, Volume 121, Issue 11, pp. 10,954-10,965, doi: 10.1002/2016JA023303