

# Observations and modelling of the wave mode evolution of an impulse-driven 3 mHz ULF wave

J. D. Borderick<sup>1</sup>, T. K. Yeoman<sup>1</sup>, C. L. Waters<sup>2</sup>, and D. M. Wright<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Dept. of Physics and Astronomy, University of Leicester, University Road, Leicester, LE1 7RH, UK

<sup>2</sup>School of Mathematical and Physical Sciences, The University of Newcastle, Callaghan, 2308, New South Wales, Australia

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**Abstract.** A combination of an HF Doppler sounder, a network of ground magnetometers, upstream solar wind monitors and a numerical model is used to examine the temporal evolution of an Ultra Low Frequency (ULF) wave. The event occurred on 16 April 1998 and followed a solar wind density and pressure increase seen in the upstream ACE spacecraft data. The magnetometer and HF Doppler sounder data show that the event develops into a low- $m$  ( $-6$ ) field line resonance. HF signals that propagate via the ionosphere exhibit Doppler shifts due to a number of processes that give rise to a time-dependent phase path. The ULF electric and magnetic fields are calculated by a one-dimensional model which calculates the wave propagation from the magnetosphere, through the ionosphere to the ground with an oblique magnetic field. These values are then used to determine a model HF Doppler shift which is subsequently compared to HF Doppler observations. The ULF magnetic field at the ground and Doppler observations are then used to provide model inputs at various points throughout the event. We find evidence that the wave mode evolved from a mixture of fast and Alfvén modes at the beginning of the event to an almost purely shear Alfvénic mode after 6 wavecycles (33 min).

**Keywords.** Ionosphere (Ionosphere-magnetosphere interactions; Wave propagation) – Magnetospheric physics (MHD waves and instabilities)

## 1 Introduction

ULF plasma waves in the 1–100 mHz range are ubiquitous in the Earth's magnetosphere. These waves are an important coupling mechanism between the magnetosphere and

the ionosphere, since they transfer both momentum and energy. The coupling processes are most significant in the high-latitude ionosphere, where the ULF wave amplitudes are the largest. The waves also act as an important diagnostic of magnetospheric dynamics and morphology.

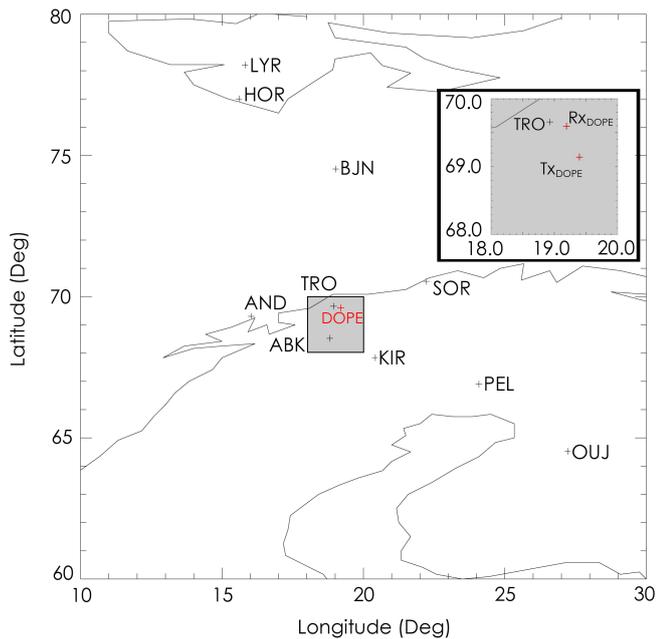
When the frequency of the incoming wave matches the local resonant frequency of a geomagnetic field line then a Field Line Resonance (FLR) will occur (Chen and Hasegawa, 1974a; Southwood, 1974). In this process an incoming compressional fast-mode wave couples to an Alfvén mode oscillation on a geomagnetic field line of a matching eigenfrequency. The source of the fast mode waves was assumed to be Kelvin-Helmholtz (K-H) driven surface waves on the magnetospheric flanks caused by solar wind flow (Kivelson and Pu, 1984). FLRs have large spatial scale in longitude, but develop small scale structures in the latitudinal direction.

This paper investigates an impulsively excited pulsation. Such phenomena have been studied over a considerable period both experimentally (e.g., Siebert, 1964; Matsushita and Saito, 1967; Voelker, 1968) and theoretically (Tamao, 1965; Chen and Hasegawa, 1974b). In the case of an impulsively excited wave the source of the compressional mode lies in the impulse, with this transient compressional mode then coupling to the Alfvén mode oscillation on a geomagnetic field line similarly to the more steady-state picture described above. More recent observational, theoretical and modelling studies (e.g., Kivelson et al., 1984; Allan et al., 1986b; Kivelson and Southwood, 1986; Lee and Lysak, 1989; Samson, 1991) have subsequently developed the idea that following an impulse to, or solar wind buffeting of, the magnetosphere, it is the dimensions of the magnetospheric cavity that determine the eigenfrequencies of cavity or waveguide mode waves. These modes then couple to Alfvén modes, driving FLRs at discrete, harmonically related frequencies.

The ionosphere determines the boundary conditions for magnetospheric magnetohydrodynamic (MHD) wave modes



Correspondence to: J. D. Borderick  
(jdb23@ion.le.ac.uk)



**Fig. 1.** The locations of the ground based instrumentation used during this study. The red crosses represent the locations of the DOPE (Doppler Pulsation Experiment) sounder and the black crosses represent the locations of the ten IMAGE magnetometer stations used in this study. The grey shaded square shows a zoomed in view of the DOPE site highlighting both the location of the transmitter (Tx) and Receiver (Rx) sites relative to the IMAGE magnetometer at Tromsø (TRO).

(e.g., Yeoman et al., 1990) and hence controls the transfer of momentum and energy. It is well known that MHD waves propagate through the magnetosphere, interact with the ionosphere and may be detected on the ground using magnetometers. The ionosphere, atmosphere and ground introduce important effects that alter the amplitude and polarisation of these waves leading to rotation and attenuation of the wave magnetic signatures detected on the ground (Hughes and Southwood, 1976b). Remote sensing of the magnetosphere is, therefore, only possible if the effects of the ionosphere and atmosphere are included. It is important therefore, to develop the theoretical models explaining the interaction of such atmospheric layers. The ionospheric signature of ULF waves is thus an important research area.

Oscillations in radio waves reflected from the ionosphere (Doppler frequency oscillations) are often correlated with oscillations recorded by ground-based magnetometers (Davies et al., 1962). A theory to describe the relationship between these oscillations was proposed by Rishbeth and Garriott (1964). The theory explained that the Doppler frequency oscillations were due to the ULF electric field, causing a vertical bulk motion of electrons in the ionosphere. The vertical motion is the vertical component of the  $\mathbf{E} \wedge \mathbf{B}$  plasma drift velocity. This is known as the advection mechanism. Poole

and Sutcliffe (1988) developed this idea explaining that there were in fact three mechanisms which can contribute to the observed Doppler shift. The first mechanism was the magnetic mechanism. This mechanism results from the changes in refractive index due to changes in the ULF magnetic field intensity. Hence, this mechanism requires no bodily movement of electrons. The second mechanism was the advection mechanism already identified by Rishbeth and Garriott (1964). The third mechanism was the compression mechanism. This results from the changes in refractive index brought about due to changes in the local plasma density. This change is due to the redistribution of electrons caused by the compression and/or rarefaction induced by the ULF wave.

There have been a number of papers detailing aspects of the Doppler oscillations of vertically incident radio waves correlated with ULF geomagnetic pulsations (e.g., Poole and Sutcliffe, 1988; Wright et al., 1997). However, to fully match a theoretical model to reality, observational inputs are required. Ground based magnetometers and HF Doppler sounders can provide this input. HF Doppler sounders provide measurements of the ionosphere at both a high spatial and temporal resolution and can probe different heights of the ionosphere by changing their sounding frequency. These sounders can thus provide important diagnostic information which can be used for comparison purposes with models of ULF wave activity.

This paper presents the first observations of a ULF wave mode evolving, from 09:45 UT to 10:45 UT, on 16 April 1998, from a mixture of fast and Alfvén modes at the beginning of the event to an almost purely shear Alfvénic mode after 6 wavecycles (33 min). The 1-D model of Sciffer et al. (2005) is used to model the wave observed by the HF Doppler sounder and ground based magnetometers.

## 2 Instrumentation

### 2.1 HF Doppler sounder

The Doppler Pulsation Experiment (DOPE) (e.g., Wright et al., 1997, 1998; Wright and Yeoman, 1999; Yeoman et al., 2000) was deployed in May 1995 near Tromsø, Norway (geographic: 69.6° N 19.2° E; geomagnetic: 67.0° N 117.0° E;  $L = 6.3$ ). Figure 1 presents the locations of the ground based instrumentation used during this study. The red crosses represent the locations of the DOPE (Doppler Pulsation Experiment) sounder and the black crosses represent the locations of the ten IMAGE magnetometer stations used in this study. The grey shaded square shows a zoomed in view of the DOPE site highlighting both the location of the transmitter (Tx) and Receiver (Rx) sites relative to the IMAGE magnetometer at Tromsø (TRO). The Doppler technique utilises the fact that small shifts in the received radio wave frequency can be interpreted as signatures of ionospheric perturbations

caused by changes in the phase path of the radio wave in the ionosphere (Bennett, 1967).

DOPE used a fixed-frequency, 4.45 MHz, continuous wave (CW) signal with a dual-channel receiver. The two channels discriminate between the O- and the X-mode signals. These CW signals may be reflected from the ionosphere and mixed with a reference signal to calculate a frequency shift,  $\Delta f$ , along the ray path (Wright et al., 1997). The frequency shift, in terms of the free space wavelength,  $\lambda$ , and the phase path of the signal,  $P$ , may be expressed as

$$\Delta f = -\frac{1}{\lambda} \frac{dP}{dt} \quad (1)$$

(Davies, 1962). If the change in phase path results purely from the motion of the reflection point in the ionosphere with a velocity,  $v$ , the frequency shift,  $\Delta f$ , may be written as

$$\Delta f = -\frac{2vf}{c} \quad (2)$$

(Georges, 1967).

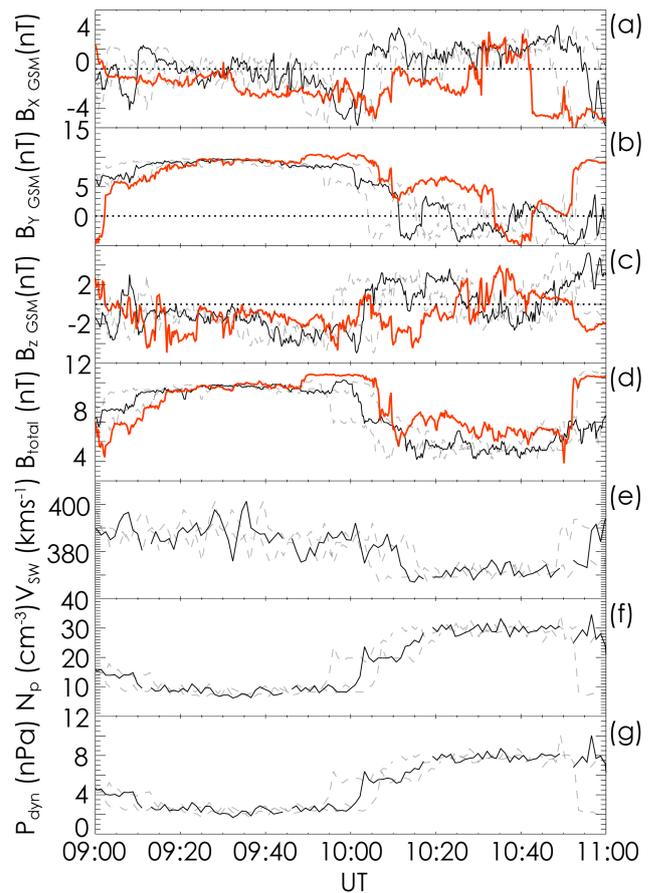
Sampling at the receiver, at 40 Hz, and processing through a Fast Fourier Transform (FFT) algorithm (512 points per FFT) provides a Doppler trace with a time resolution of 12.8 s. Here the Doppler trace is resampled from 12.8 s to 10.0 s. This resampling was conducted in order to make direct phase and amplitude comparisons between the data from DOPE and the IMAGE (International Monitor for Auroral Geomagnetic Effects) magnetometer instruments.

## 2.2 IMAGE magnetometer array

The ULF variations in the magnetic field were detected by the IMAGE network of triaxial fluxgate magnetometers (Luhr, 1994). The locations of the ten IMAGE magnetometers utilised during this study are presented in Fig. 1. The magnetometer data are sampled at 10 s intervals and are presented in geographic coordinates.

## 2.3 Upstream interplanetary data

Upstream solar wind and IMF conditions during the interval discussed in this paper were measured using the SWEPAM and MAG instruments, respectively, on the Advanced Composition Explorer (ACE) spacecraft (Stone et al., 1998) and the IMP (Interplanetary Monitoring Platform)-8 spacecraft magnetometer (Armstrong et al., 1978). During the relevant interval on 16 April 1998, ACE was located in the solar wind near the Sun-Earth L1 Lagrangian point, at GSM coordinates  $(X, Y, Z) = (+233.69, -39.31, -4.52) R_E$ . IMP-8 was located near the Earth-Sun line at GSM co-ordinates  $(X, Y, Z) = (+33.1, +6.4, +10.3) R_E$ . During the period of interest the solar wind velocity was roughly  $380 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ .



**Fig. 2.** ACE and IMP-8 spacecraft observations during the ULF wave event on 16 April 1998 between 09:00 UT–11:00 UT. Magnetic field data are displayed in the GSM (Geocentric Solar Magnetic) coordinate system. Panels (a) to (d) show the three magnetic field components recorded by the ACE and IMP-8 spacecraft, ( $B_x$ ,  $B_y$ ,  $B_z$ ) and the magnetic field magnitude,  $B_{\text{total}}$ , respectively. Panels (e), (f) and (g) show the solar wind velocity, the solar wind proton number density, and the solar wind dynamic pressure as recorded by ACE. The ACE data, with a 57 min lag are shown by the solid black lines, whereas the IMP-8 data, lagged by 14 min, are shown by the solid red lines. The dashed grey lines show a range of lag times (50–61 min) for the IMF and solar wind data as observed by ACE (see text for details).

## 3 Observations

This section presents data associated with a ULF wave, which occurred on 16 April 1998 between the hours of 09:45 UT and 10:45 UT and was detected simultaneously in the ionosphere by the DOPE sounder and on the ground by the IMAGE magnetometer array. An impulsive increase in solar wind dynamic pressure was detected by the ACE spacecraft preceding the onset of FLR activity and this upstream data is presented first.

### 3.1 IMF analysis

The origin of the ULF wave may be revealed by an examination of upstream IMF and solar wind data. Figure 2 presents the lagged ACE and IMP-8 data sets for the ULF wave event on 16 April 1998 between 09:00 UT–11:00 UT. The ACE data, lagged by 57 min as predicted by the OMNI dataset (King and Papitashvili, 2005) are shown by the solid black lines and reveal a rise in dynamic pressure from 2 nPa to 7 nPa occurring at approximately 10:03 UT. This increase in dynamic pressure coincides with a rotation of the IMF, and a drop in magnetic field magnitude (and hence pressure). The plasma thermal pressure rises at this time (not shown), although the total pressure drops slightly. The IMF and solar wind data are thus consistent with the arrival of a tangential discontinuity at this time. In order to confirm the validity and accuracy of this applied lag, magnetic field data from the IMP-8 spacecraft are also examined (no plasma data are available from IMP-8). The solar wind propagation time from IMP-8 was found using the method of Khan and Cowley (1999). This technique for determining the lag time comprises three parts: the solar wind advection time, the magnetosheath transit time, and the Alfvén transit time along the geomagnetic field lines from the subsolar magnetopause to the ionosphere. The subsolar bow shock location is found using a model (Peredo et al., 1995). The transit time from the subsolar magnetopause to the ionosphere was approximated as 2 min. The transit time from IMP-8 to the terrestrial ionosphere, using the solar wind velocity recorded by ACE as a guide, was determined to be  $14.1 \pm 2$  min. IMP-8 data at this lag are shown in Fig. 2 by the solid red lines. The IMP-8 data have been used to compare structures within the IMF at IMP-8 with those recorded by the ACE spacecraft. Cross-correlating the ACE data with the IMP-8 data for the total magnetic field and for each component of the IMF over a variety of timeseries lengths centred between 09:00 UT and 11:00 UT provided a range of time delays for the ACE data between 50 min and 61 min. The limits of these calculated lags on the ACE upstream data are presented in Fig. 2 as dashed grey lines, and indicate that the effect of the increase in solar wind dynamic pressure is expected to arrive in the ionosphere between 09:56 UT and 10:07 UT. This time interval is marked as a grey box on the time series of the ground-based measurements of the wave activity under investigation presented in Fig. 3. The interval is consistent with the arrival of the effects of the solar wind impulse being coincident with the start of the wave event recorded in the ground magnetometer data, indicative of a wave source originating from the solar wind dynamic pressure impulse. An alternative source of wave power on the ground is direct driving by oscillatory activity at a suitable frequency within the IMF or solar wind. An FFT analysis of the lagged ACE IMF and solar wind data reveals that between 09:45 UT–10:45 UT (and over the longer interval 07:00 UT–12:00 UT) the peak spectral power occurs at a frequency of approximately 2.0 mHz.

There is a little spectral power close to 3 mHz (the dominant frequency of the ground-based magnetometer data) at a steady level from 09:20 UT–11:00 UT in the lagged solar wind data which might result in weak steady state driving at 3 mHz, but the main wave source is consistent with the pressure impulse.

### 3.2 Ionospheric and ground observations

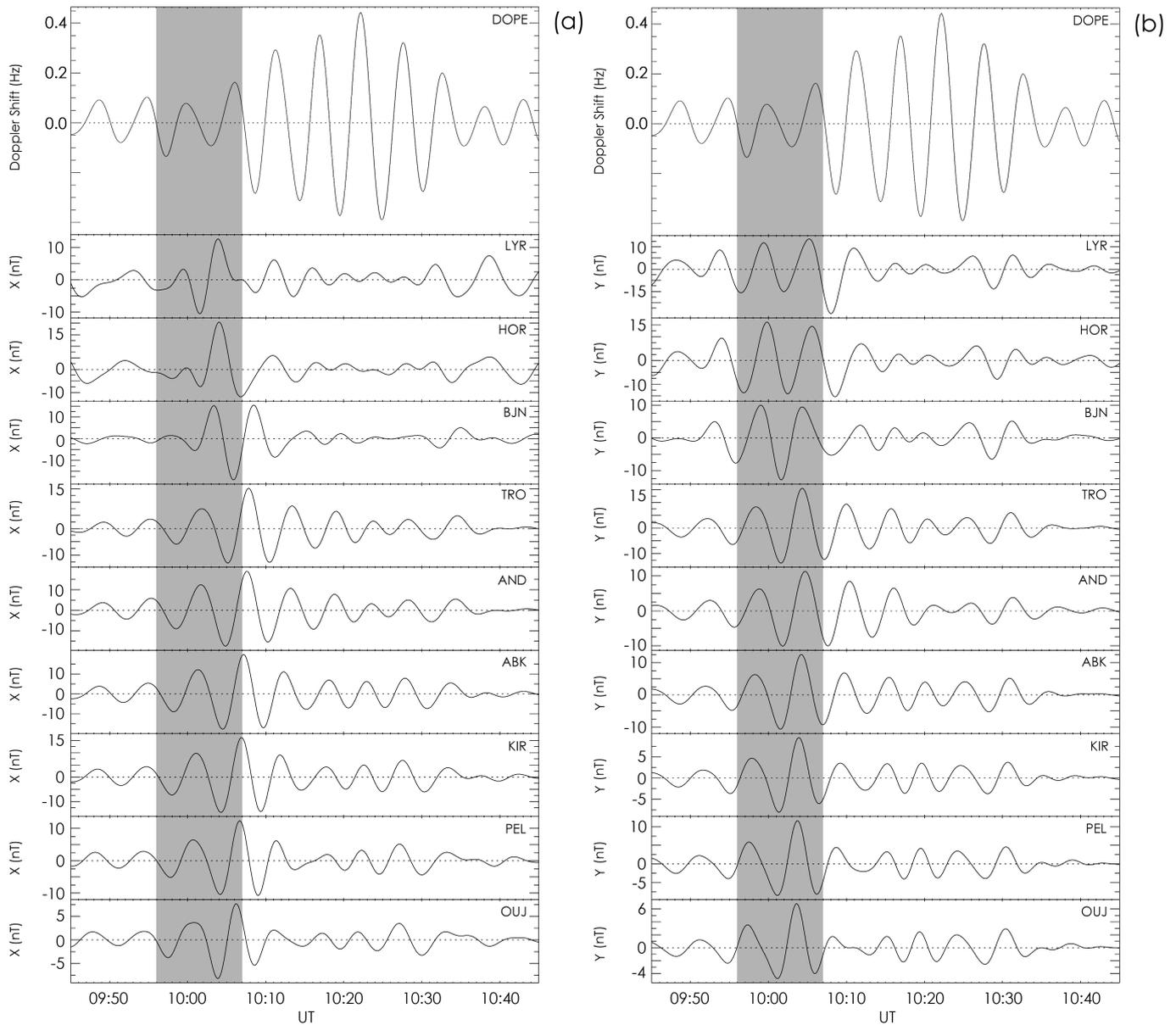
The top panels in Fig. 3 display HF Doppler data from DOPE, bandpass filtered between 250 s to 500 s (2 mHz–4 mHz), along with identically filtered X and Y component magnetic field data from nine IMAGE magnetometer stations, covering geomagnetic latitudes from  $75.12^\circ$  (Longyearbyen, LYR), to  $60.99^\circ$  (Oulujarvi, OUI). The IMAGE data are presented with latitude decreasing from top to bottom. A series of wave cycles are clearly visible in the data, which started at 09:45 UT and continued until about 10:45 UT. A coherent wave packet can be seen across the magnetometer chain, with maximum amplitude of 15 nT, at 10:08 UT, observed in the X component magnetic field between the latitudes of TRO, and Abisko, (ABK). The wave signature in the magnetometer data was strongest in the interval 09:55 UT–10:30 UT.

The time development of the amplitudes in the Doppler and magnetometer traces is different, with peak amplitude seen early on in the wave packet in the magnetometer data (10:04 UT), but later in the Doppler trace (10:22 UT).

The grey shaded region on both panels of Fig. 3 shows the possible range of arrival times of the effects of the solar wind dynamic pressure increase as measured by the ACE spacecraft, as determined in Fig. 2.

Fourier power spectral analysis of the DOPE instrument and the X and Y components of the data from the IMAGE magnetometer array reveal a consistent wave period of 330 s (3 mHz).

Figure 4 panels (a) and (b) show the latitudinal Fourier power and phase profiles for the X component of the magnetic field, at a frequency of 3 mHz, for the IMAGE Magnetometer data displayed in Fig. 3. The overlaid dot-dash line shows the location of the DOPE instrument. A clear phase change with latitude centered across the resonant peak can be seen in panel (b) of Fig. 4. These plots confirm that we have a FLR close to the latitude of Andenes (AND). The azimuthal phase variation was also examined for this wave, using the Y component data from a number of longitudinally separated IMAGE magnetometers. The azimuthal wave number was found to be  $-6$ , where the negative sign indicates westward propagation. The Ap and Kp indices were 6 and 2+ during the event, respectively. The Ap index is used as an input to the numerical model detailed in Sect. 4.1.

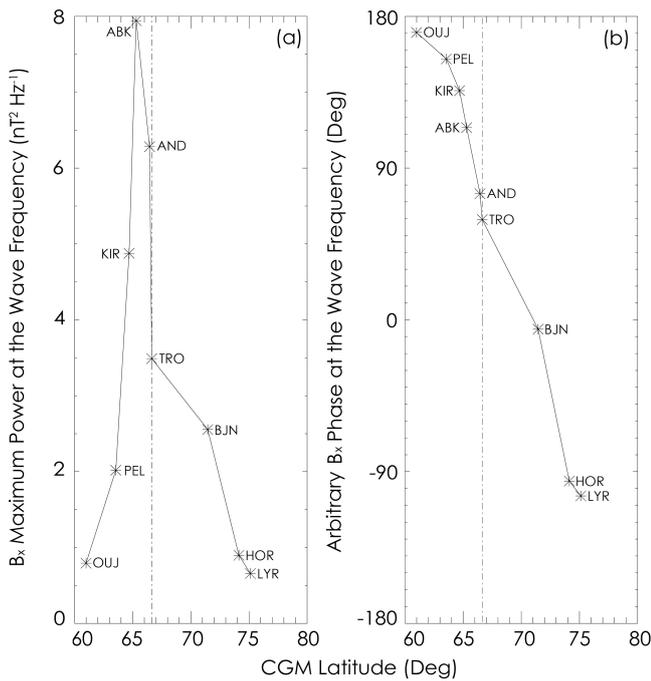


**Fig. 3.** DOPE and IMAGE Magnetometer data for the ULF wave event on 16 April 1998. Panels (a) and (b) display data from the X and Y components of nine stations of the IMAGE magnetometer array bandpass filtered between 250 and 500 s. The upper panel in both (a) and (b) show the bandpass filtered DOPE data also excluding variations with time periods outside of the range 250 s to 500 s, resampled from 12.8 s to 10.0 s. The grey shaded region shows the possible range of arrival times of the effects of the solar wind dynamic pressure increase as measured by the ACE spacecraft. The time series plots have been scaled individually to provide the highest clarity of the wave signature.

### 3.3 Wave evolution

As mentioned in Sect. 3.2, the different temporal development observed in the amplitudes of the combined Doppler sounder and magnetometer datasets indicate an evolution in the wave mode, azimuthal or meridional scale-size of the wave. This evolution is investigated further here, through a dynamic Fourier analysis of the wave phase and ampli-

tude. Fourier amplitude rather than power is used in order to provide a more direct relationship with the time-domain variation of the wave amplitude presented in Fig. 3. Here a 100 point (1000 s) FFT with a slip of 30 points (5 min) is used. Using this shorter FFT a frequency resolution of 1 mHz is available, and the peak wave power occurs at 3 mHz. Panel (a) of Fig. 5 presents the HF Doppler amplitude variation calculated from an integrated Fourier amplitude over

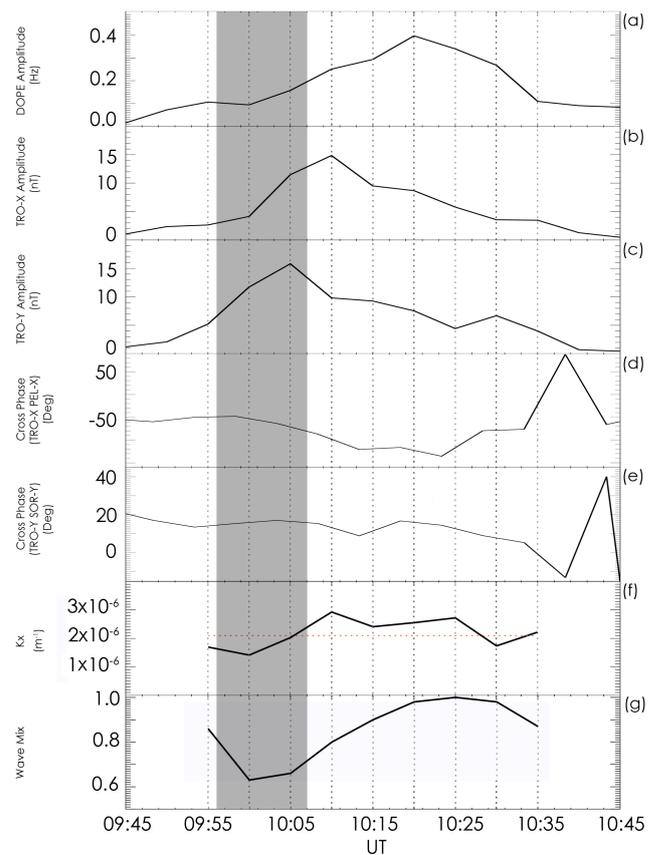


**Fig. 4.** IMAGE Magnetometer data for the ULF wave event on 16 April 1998. Panels (a) and (b) show the latitudinal Fourier power and phase profiles for the X component of the magnetic field, respectively. In both panels the overlaid dot-dash line shows the location of the DOPE instrument.

a frequency range of 1.7–5.1 mHz. The HF Doppler amplitude rises from 0.1 Hz at approximately 10:00 UT to a peak of 0.4 Hz at roughly 10:20 UT. Panels (b) and (c) show the TRO-X and TRO-Y amplitudes found using the same technique as panel (a). Panel (b) shows TRO-X peaks with an amplitude of 15.0 nT at roughly 10:10 UT while panel (c) shows TRO-Y attaining a peak amplitude of 16.0 nT at approximately 10:05 UT. Panel (d) of Fig. 5 shows the cross phase between the X component of IMAGE stations TRO and Pello (PEL), at the peak frequency of 3 mHz.

This cross phase calculation allows an examination of the time evolution of the relative phase between the wave signatures measured at the two stations. At the beginning of the wave event PEL leads TRO by approximately  $60^\circ$ . As the wave progresses, this phase lead increases, maximising at approximately  $140^\circ$  between 10:15 UT and 10:25 UT. After this time the wave amplitudes start to decrease. The phase difference between the stations thus starts with a small phase lead at the lower latitude station, evolving towards the  $180^\circ$  phase lead expected between stations equatorward of and poleward of a field line resonance. This suggests a wave with an impulsive origin, which then exhibits a time dependent phase evolution as an FLR develops.

Panel (e) of Fig. 5 shows a comparable analysis of the Y component of the magnetic field data from two azimuthally



**Fig. 5.** Panel (a) presents the HF Doppler amplitude variation calculated from an integrated Fourier amplitude over a frequency range of between 1.7 mHz–5.1 mHz using a slip of 5 min. Panels (b) and (c) show the TRO-X and TRO-Y amplitudes found using the same technique as for panel (a). Panel (d) shows the X component cross phase between IMAGE stations TRO and PEL. Panel (e) shows the Y component cross phase between the azimuthally separated IMAGE stations TRO and SOR. Panel (f) shows the  $k_x$  time evolution determined from the ratio of the amplitudes of TRO-X and TRO-Y. The overplotted horizontal red dotted line shows the constant value of  $k_x$  assumed during the study. Panel (g) shows the implied ULF wave mix evolution. The overplotted dot-dash lines show the 5 min intervals when the wave mix is calculated. The grey shaded region shows the possible range of arrival times of the effects of the solar wind dynamic pressure increase as measured by the ACE spacecraft.

separated stations of TRO and Sørøya (SOR) and shows an approximately constant phase difference, indicating a steady value of effective azimuthal wavenumber,  $m$ . The value of azimuthal wavenumber deduced from this phase difference is consistent with that derived from a number of IMAGE stations in Sect. 3.2, namely  $m \approx -6$ . The grey shaded region shows the possible range of arrival times of the effects of the solar wind dynamic pressure increase as measured by the ACE spacecraft as shown in Figs. 2 and 3. Panels (f) and (g) will be discussed in Sect. 5.1.

## 4 The numerical model

### 4.1 Introduction

The 1-D numerical model used here is that described in Sciffer et al. (2005) which develops the existing work of Hughes (1974); Hughes and Southwood (1976b) and Zhang and Cole (1995). The new 1-D model formulates the altitude variation of the ULF wave electric and magnetic fields, allows for an oblique geomagnetic background field,  $B_0$ , and includes both Alfvénic and fast mode waves incident from the magnetosphere.

As described in Waters et al. (2007), the ULF wave energy, which is incident from the magnetosphere, is described as an electromagnetic disturbance. The two required Maxwell equations are

$$\nabla \wedge \mathbf{E} = -\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} \quad (3)$$

and

$$\nabla \wedge \mathbf{H} = \mathbf{J} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{D}}{\partial t}, \quad (4)$$

where the current density,  $\mathbf{J}$ , and the magnetic flux density,  $\mathbf{B}$  may be expressed as

$$\mathbf{J} = \vec{\sigma} \mathbf{E} \quad (5)$$

and

$$\mathbf{B} = \mu \mathbf{H}, \quad (6)$$

where  $\vec{\sigma}$  is the conductivity tensor. The same Cartesian coordinate system as described in Sciffer and Waters (2002) is used here, where X is northward, Y is westward and Z is radially outward from the surface of the Earth.  $B_0$  lies in the XZ plane at an angle  $I$  to the horizontal. If there is no background electric field ( $E_0 = 0$ ) then  $\mathbf{B}$  and  $\mathbf{E}$  may be expressed as

$$\mathbf{B} = (B_0 \cos(I), 0, B_0 \sin(I)) + (b_x, b_y, b_z), \quad (7)$$

and

$$\mathbf{E} = (e_x, e_y, e_z). \quad (8)$$

If the ionospheric medium varies only in the vertical direction, then the horizontal spatial and temporal dependence is

$$\exp^{i(k_x x + k_y y - \omega t)} \quad (9)$$

and the governing equations in their full component form may be written as

$$\begin{aligned} & i \left[ \frac{k_y^2}{\omega} - \frac{\omega}{c^2} \left( \epsilon_{11} - \frac{\epsilon_{13}\epsilon_{31}}{\epsilon_{33}} \right) \right] e_x \\ & - i \left[ \frac{k_x k_y}{\omega} + \frac{\omega}{c^2} \left( \epsilon_{12} - \frac{\epsilon_{13}\epsilon_{32}}{\epsilon_{33}} \right) \right] e_y - i k_y \frac{\epsilon_{13}}{\epsilon_{33}} b_x \\ & + \frac{\partial b_y}{\partial z} + i \frac{k_x \epsilon_{13}}{\epsilon_{33}} b_y = 0, \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

$$\begin{aligned} & i \left[ \frac{k_x k_y}{\omega} + \frac{\omega}{c^2} \left( \epsilon_{21} - \frac{\epsilon_{23}\epsilon_{31}}{\epsilon_{33}} \right) \right] e_x \\ & - i \left[ \frac{k_x^2}{\omega} - \frac{\omega}{c^2} \left( \epsilon_{22} - \frac{\epsilon_{23}\epsilon_{32}}{\epsilon_{33}} \right) \right] e_y + i k_y \frac{\epsilon_{23}}{\epsilon_{33}} b_x \\ & + \frac{\partial b_x}{\partial z} - i \frac{k_x \epsilon_{23}}{\epsilon_{33}} b_y = 0, \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

$$\begin{aligned} & i k_y \frac{\epsilon_{31}}{\epsilon_{33}} e_x + \frac{\partial e_y}{\partial z} + i k_y \frac{\epsilon_{32}}{\epsilon_{33}} e_y + i \left( \omega - \frac{c^2 k_y^2}{\omega \epsilon_{33}} \right) b_x \\ & + i k_x k_y \frac{c^2}{\omega \epsilon_{33}} b_y = 0, \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{\partial e_x}{\partial z} + i k_x \frac{\epsilon_{31}}{\epsilon_{33}} e_x + i k_x \frac{\epsilon_{32}}{\epsilon_{33}} e_y - i k_x k_y \frac{c^2}{\omega \epsilon_{33}} b_x \\ & - i \left( \omega - \frac{c^2 k_x^2}{\omega \epsilon_{33}} \right) b_y = 0, \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

where  $\epsilon_{ij}$  are the elements of the dielectric tensor,  $\boldsymbol{\epsilon}$  (Waters, 2006). The conductivity tensor,  $\vec{\sigma}$ , may be expressed in terms of the dielectric tensor,  $\vec{\boldsymbol{\epsilon}}$ , as

$$\vec{\boldsymbol{\sigma}} = \vec{\mathbf{I}} - \frac{i}{\epsilon_0 \omega} \vec{\boldsymbol{\epsilon}}, \quad (14)$$

where  $\vec{\mathbf{I}}$  is the identity tensor (Zhang and Cole, 1995). Equations (10), (11), (12) and (13) are four first order differential equations that only consider derivatives in the vertical direction,  $Z$ . To complete the set, the  $e_z$  and  $b_z$  ULF wave field components are

$$e_z = -\frac{\epsilon_{31}}{\epsilon_{33}} e_x - \frac{\epsilon_{32}}{\epsilon_{33}} e_y - k_y \frac{c^2}{\omega \epsilon_{33}} b_x + k_x \frac{c^2}{\omega \epsilon_{33}} b_y \quad (15)$$

and

$$b_z = -\frac{k_y}{\omega} e_x + \frac{k_x}{\omega} e_y. \quad (16)$$

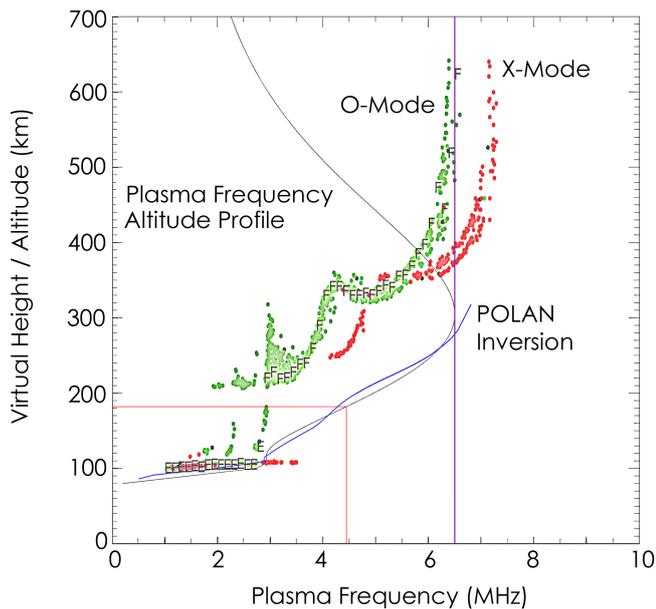
A total of four boundary conditions are required to solve the system. The ground specifies two of these. The Earth is assumed to be a uniform, homogenous conductor of finite conductivity. The ULF waves decay in amplitude in the medium due to the small frequency and are described by

$$\frac{\partial e_x}{\partial z} - \gamma(\sigma_g, k_x, k_y, \omega) e_x = 0 \quad (17)$$

and

$$\frac{\partial e_y}{\partial z} - \gamma(\sigma_g, k_x, k_y, \omega) e_y = 0, \quad (18)$$

where  $\gamma$  specifies the ground to be a uniform medium with a conductivity of  $\sigma_g = 10^{-2}$  Mho  $m^{-1}$ .



**Fig. 6.** Plasma frequency as a function of altitude for the ULF wave event at 10:04 UT on 16 April 1998. The green dots represent the O-mode ionogram trace and the red dots represent the X-Mode. The curved black line presents the dual Chapman function fitting to the POLAN inversion which is in blue. The vertical and horizontal red lines on the panel show the DOPE transmission frequency. The reflection altitude for this event was 184 km. The vertical purple line shows the approximate frequency corresponding to peak  $F_oF2$ .

The top boundary is set at 1000 km where resistive MHD plasma conditions are assumed. The model allows for the existence of both the shear Alfvén and fast mode waves up to the top boundary. For more information on the mathematical foundation of the numerical model see Sciffer et al. (2005).

In the model the atmospheric composition is found from a thermosphere model based on satellite mass spectrometer and ground-based incoherent scatter data (MSISE90) (Hedin et al., 1991). The ionospheric composition is found from the IRI model with the exception of the electron density profile, which is determined using the POLynomial ANALysis (POLAN) algorithm (Titheridge, 1985) and will be detailed in Sect. 4.2. The final step in the process is to calculate the Doppler shift contributions for the three mechanisms outlined in the model of Poole and Sutcliffe (1988) and the Altar-Appleton-Hartree equation is used for this purpose.

#### 4.2 Observational inputs

The characteristics of the observed ULF wave are used as input parameters to the Sciffer et al. (2005) model which computes the propagation of ULF waves from the magnetosphere, through the ionosphere to the ground for oblique magnetic fields.

Using the  $m$  number determined from the IMAGE magnetometer data recorded on 16 April 1998, the east-west wave number was  $k_y = 2.4 \times 10^{-6} \text{ m}^{-1}$ .

Since  $\nabla \wedge \mathbf{b} = 0$  in the atmosphere the north-south wavenumber may be calculated from the ratio of the X to Y components of the magnetic field recorded on the ground (Hughes, 1974) and here was set at,  $k_x = 2.1 \times 10^{-6} \text{ m}^{-1}$ .

The computation of observed Doppler shifts from the ULF wave model is highly sensitive to the electron density profile, so care must be taken in accurately measuring this parameter. Here ionospheric electron density inputs for the model were determined from local ionosonde measurements. Figure 6 presents the Tromsø dynasonde data for 16 April 1998 recorded at 10:04 UT. The peak  $F_oF2$  was found for the O-mode data (green circles) using the overplotted purple line as a guide and was determined to be 6.5 MHz. The ionospheric inputs to the model were provided by inverting the ionosonde trace with the POLAN algorithm (Titheridge, 1985). POLAN determines the real height by inverting the virtual height as found from ionosonde measurements.

Finally, a dual chapman function profile is fitted to the output from POLAN, which is shown by the blue line, to generate an electron density profile. The plasma frequency profile is represented in Fig. 6 by the black line. The vertical and horizontal red lines on Fig. 6 show the DOPE transmission frequency and reflection altitude, respectively. The reflection altitude for this event was approximately 184 km.

#### 4.3 The model output

Observations are used to generate input parameters for the ULF event recorded on the 16 April 1998 09:45 UT–10:45 UT. The model magnetic amplitude on the ground was matched to observed ground values using the IMAGE magnetometer array. At TRO typical magnetic field amplitudes, in the centre of the wave event at 10:14 UT, were roughly 10.0 nT and 9.0 nT for the X and Y components, respectively, yielding a total ground field of approximately 13.5 nT.

Panels (a) to (d) of Fig. 7 present the results of one run of the model for a purely shear Alfvénic incident wave mode. The magnetic and electric fields are scaled such that the total ground magnetic field matched that from observation (roughly 13.5 nT). Panel (a) presents the variation of the three magnetic field components with altitude. Panel (b) shows the magnetic field phase variation for the same three components. Panel (c) shows the electric field variation for the three field components as a function of altitude. Panel (d) shows the electric field phase for the same three components.

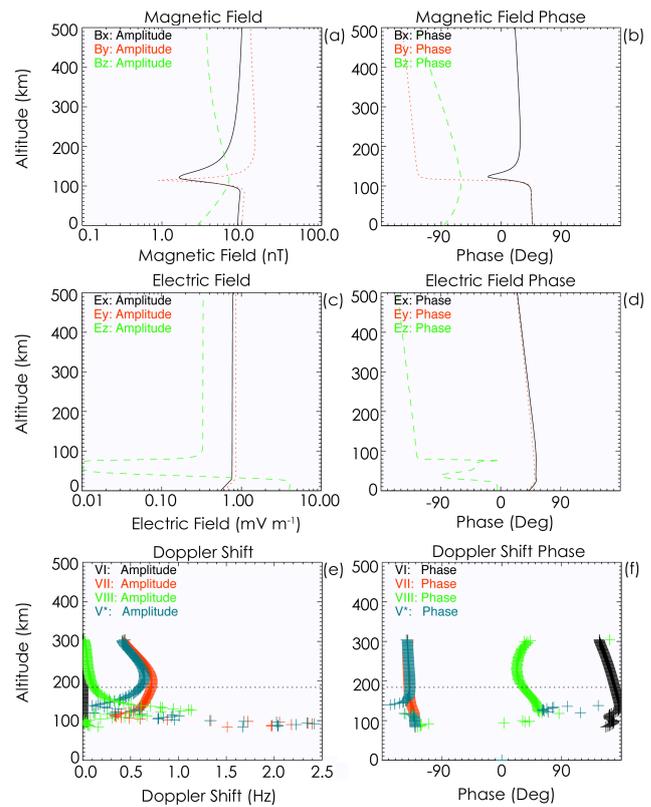
The effect that the ULF wave has upon the DOPE radio waves can be calculated using a model (Poole and Sutcliffe, 1988), as described in subsequent work by Waters et al. (2007). Panel (e) shows the Doppler shift mechanism amplitude, as a function of altitude. Black is the magnetic mechanism contribution ( $V_I$ ). Red is the advection mechanism contribution ( $V_{II}$ ), Green is the compression mechanism

contribution ( $V_{III}$ ) and blue is the overall Doppler shift ( $V^*=V_I+V_{II}+V_{III}$ ). Panel (f) shows the phase variation for the same mechanisms as in panel (e) and is colour coded in an identical fashion. The overplotted black dotted line highlights the DOPE reflection altitude, at roughly 184 km. The overall Doppler shift for a purely shear Alfvénic incident wave is dominated by the advection mechanism ( $V_{II}$ ) as there are very small contributions from the other two mechanisms. There are also very large E region values of Doppler shift which is a characteristic of these calculations. The large Doppler shift results from the “knee” in the electron density profile corresponding to a transmission frequency of approximately 3 MHz at 100 km, as seen in Fig. 6.

As is clear from Figs. 4 and 5, the wave event under study here has a complicated spatial and temporal structure in amplitude and phase. The 1-D model is too simplistic to reproduce accurately the details of the phase relationships between the various magnetic and electric field components, but Waters et al. (2007) demonstrated that Doppler amplitudes are predicted well. Accordingly only model amplitude information is considered in subsequent plots.

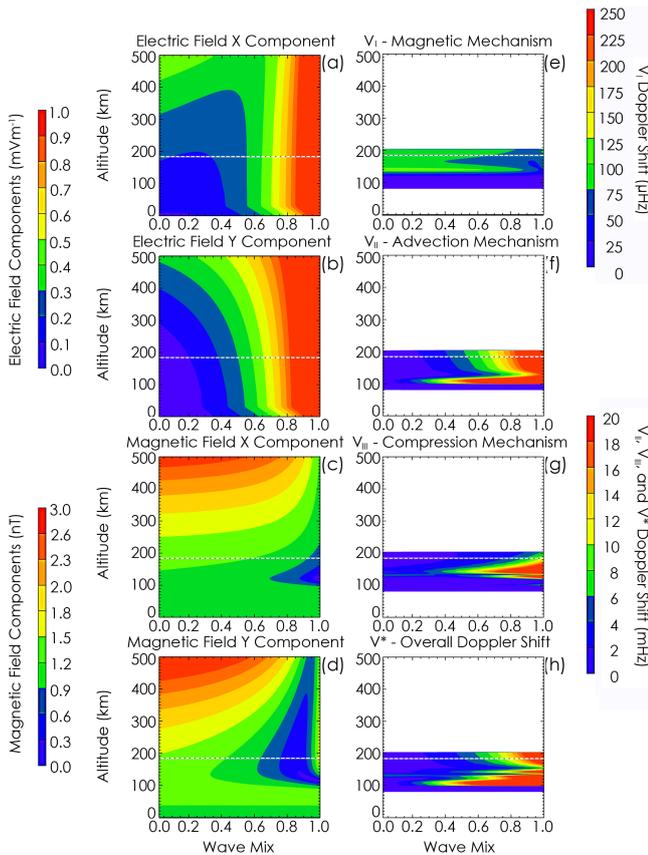
For magnetic field amplitudes recorded on the ground by TRO of 10.0 nT and 9.0 nT, in the X and Y components of the field respectively, the overall Doppler amplitude at the DOPE reflection altitude for a purely shear Alfvénic incident wave determined by the model is roughly 0.5 Hz. This is quite comparable with the typical Doppler Shift as found by the DOPE instrument in the centre of the wave event, of approximately 0.3 Hz at 10:14 UT. However, the ULF wave does not show steady state behaviour throughout the event. The amplitudes in DOPE appear to increase as the wave evolves towards an FLR and the relative phase between magnetometer stations evolves also (see Fig. 5). One factor which strongly influences the predicted Doppler shift is the wave mix of the incoming ULF wave between fast compressional and Alfvénic wave power. Therefore, an investigation of the effect of wave mix is required in order to determine the predicted Doppler shift that best matches observation throughout the evolution of the wave. Figure 8 presents the electric field, magnetic field and Doppler shift mechanism results as functions of altitude for different wave mixes normalised such that there is a total magnetic field magnitude of 1 nT on the ground. A wave mix of 1.00 is a purely shear Alfvénic incoming wave mode whereas a wave mix of 0.0 is a purely fast/compressional incoming wave mode. Panels (a) and (b) show the X and Y components of the electric field respectively. Panels (c) and (d) show the X and Y components of the magnetic field respectively. The electric field in the ionosphere is clearly a strong function of wave mode for a given ground magnetic field signature, and hence so will be the Doppler signature.

Figure 8 also presents the corresponding Doppler shift amplitude variation as a function of incoming wave mix and altitude. These plots show how a variation in the incoming Alfvénic wave mix affects the Doppler Shift amplitude.



**Fig. 7.** Results of one run of the 1-D Numerical Model for a purely shear Alfvénic incident wave mode for an altitude range from the ground to 500 km. Panel (a) presents the variation of the three magnetic field components with altitude. Panel (b) shows the magnetic field phase variation for the same three components. Panel (c) shows the Electric field variation for the three field components as a function of altitude. Panel (d) shows the electric field phase for the same three components. Panel (e) shows the Doppler shift mechanism contributions as a function of altitude. Black is the magnetic mechanism contribution ( $V_I$ ), red is the advection mechanism contribution ( $V_{II}$ ), green is the compression mechanism contribution ( $V_{III}$ ) and blue is the overall Doppler shift given by the vector addition of the three Doppler shift components ( $V^*=V_I+V_{II}+V_{III}$ ). Panel (f) shows the phase variation for the same mechanisms as given in panel (e) and is colour coded in an identical fashion. The overplotted black dotted line highlights the DOPE reflection altitude, at roughly 184 km.

Panel (e) shows the magnetic mechanism. Panel (f) shows the advection mechanism. Panel (g) shows the compressional mechanism. Finally, panel (h) shows the overall Doppler shift, ( $V^*=V_I+V_{II}+V_{III}$ ). As the wave mix tends towards a purely shear Alfvénic mode the Doppler shift amplitude increases across all mechanisms. The advection mechanism is the dominating mechanism at a purely shear Alfvénic incident wave mix. The phase contributions from the different mechanisms, although not presented here, highlight that although significant differences occur at lower altitudes, at the

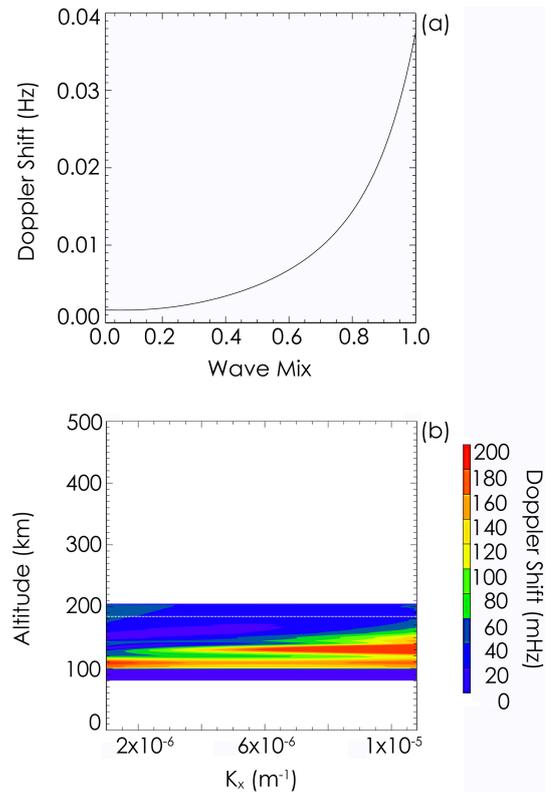


**Fig. 8.** Electric field, magnetic field and Doppler shift mechanism results for the ULF wave event on 16 April 1998 between 09:45 UT–10:45 UT as a function of altitude and wave mix scaled to make the magnetic field magnitude 1 nT on the ground. Panel (a)  $E_x$ . (b)  $E_y$ . (c)  $B_x$ . (d)  $B_y$ . (e)  $V_I$ . (f)  $V_{II}$ . (g)  $V_{III}$ . (h)  $V^*$ .

DOPE reflection altitude of 184 km, the overall Doppler shift phase looks similar to the “advective” phase.

Panel (a) of Fig. 9 presents the overall Doppler shift variation as a function of wave mix at the DOPE reflection altitude (184 km), scaled such that we have 1 nT measured on the ground. The scaling allows the determination of the predicted Doppler shift for a given wave mix at different times throughout the event. Matching the observed magnitude of the Doppler amplitudes at various times during the wave event allows the actual wave mode mix to be determined assuming  $k_y$  and  $k_x$  are constant.

The values of  $k_y$ ,  $k_x$  and the wave mode mix all affect the overall Doppler magnitude. Eliminating these variables one by one provides an explanation for the model Doppler shifts presented in Fig. 9. Section 3.3 presented a cross phase analysis of the Y components of two azimuthally separated IMAGE stations (TRO and SOR). A constant effective azimuthal wavenumber was determined, implying a constant east-west wavenumber.  $k_y$ , therefore, may be neglected as



**Fig. 9.** Panel (a) shows the overall Doppler shift model results of the ULF wave event on 16 April 1998 between 09:45 UT–10:45 UT for wave mixes ranging between zero and unity. The panel shows the variation of total Doppler shift with wave mix at the DOPE reflection altitude of 184 km. Panel (b) presents the variation in the total Doppler shift contributions as a function of altitude and  $k_x$ . The overplotted white dashed line shows the DOPE reflection altitude at approximately 184 km. The ground magnetic field in both panels has been scaled to 1 nT.

the cause of variations in the Doppler signature. Thus, the parameter responsible for the nature of Fig. 5 must be either a changing wave mode mix, or the north-south wavenumber,  $k_x$ , or a combination of the two. Panel (b) of Fig. 9 presents the variation in the total Doppler shift contributions similarly to Fig. 8 but now as a function of altitude and  $k_x$  for a ground magnetic field magnitude scaled to 1 nT on the ground. Larger Doppler shifts are expected at larger  $k_x$  (smaller-scale) values for a given ground magnetic field magnitude due to attenuation effects (Hughes and Southwood, 1976a). One would expect an evolving  $k_x$ , and an increase in the X component of the field, as the system tends towards FLR, and this will also affect the total Doppler shift. An analysis of the relative importance of  $k_x$  and incoming wave mode mix will be discussed in the next section.

## 5 Discussion

Employing the DOPE HF Doppler sounder in conjunction with the IMAGE network of ground magnetometers, the Tromsø dynasonde, the ACE and IMP-8 spacecraft, and a numerical model, it is possible to fully characterise the nature of a magnetospheric ULF wave both in the ionosphere and at the ground. The event, which occurred on 16 April 1998, is the result of a low- $m$  ( $-6$ ) FLR with a large characteristic scale-size. Figure 3 presented the filtered HF Doppler and TRO magnetometer data for the event. The time development of the amplitudes in the Doppler and magnetometer traces was different, with the peak amplitude seen early on in the wave packet in the magnetometer data (10:10 UT), but later in the Doppler trace (10:20 UT). This implies some evolution of the wave characteristics (wave mode, azimuthal or meridional scale-size) during the wave. Panel (d) of Fig. 5 showed a phase difference of approximately  $-60^\circ$  between stations TRO and PEL at 10:00 UT evolving to approximately  $-140^\circ$  at 10:15 UT. The increasing cross phase suggests we have a more FLR-like perturbation as time progresses. Panel (g) of Fig. 2 showed an impulsive disturbance in the solar wind, the effects of which are expected to arrive at the ionosphere between 09:56 UT and 10:07 UT. This impulse is interpreted as the source of the observed wave event.

### 5.1 Wave evolution

Section 3.3 presented evidence of the model Doppler amplitude being a result of either variations in  $k_x$  and/or the incident wave mode mix since  $k_y$  remained approximately constant throughout the event. To determine the relative importance of the wave mode and/or the meridional scale-size on the Doppler amplitude, ground magnetic field and Doppler observations are used to find inputs to the numerical model at various times throughout the event. The north-south wavenumber may be calculated from the east-west wavenumber and the ratio of the X and Y components of the magnetic field recorded on the ground (Hughes, 1974), which are presented in panels (b) and (c) of Fig. 5. Panel (f) of Fig. 5 presents the north-south wavenumber variation calculated from these data. The calculated range of  $k_x$  shows a variation from  $k_x = 1.5 \times 10^{-6} \text{ m}^{-1}$  to  $k_x = 3.0 \times 10^{-6} \text{ m}^{-1}$ . Referring to panel (b) of Fig. 9 it can be seen that such a range of  $k_x$  variation has a negligible effect on the derived total Doppler shift. Therefore, the incoming wave mode mix must be the dominant factor affecting the Doppler amplitude and a constant  $k_x$  value of  $2.1 \times 10^{-6} \text{ m}^{-1}$  is used in subsequent calculations, indicated in panel (f) of Fig. 5 by a horizontal red dotted line.

The wave mix variation is calculated by matching the observed Doppler shift to the model Doppler shift at 5 min intervals throughout the event, which are marked by the vertical dotted lines on Fig. 5. At each 5 min interval, the time-evolving Doppler shift,  $B_x$  and  $B_y$  are found by using the

DOPE,  $B_x$ , and  $B_y$  amplitudes presented in panels (a) to (c) of Fig. 5, respectively. The magnetic field components, therefore, are used to scale the predicted Doppler shift using a constant scale size. Panel (g) of Fig. 5 presents the wave mix evolution derived from such an analysis throughout the event. The first point of the Alfvénic wave mix, at 09:55 UT, has a value of 0.86 (implying contributions from both fast mode compressional and Alfvén modes) although at this time the amplitudes of Doppler shift,  $B_x$  and  $B_y$  are small so this point is probably not significant. Once the event is established, at roughly 10:00 UT, the wave mix becomes 0.63 and subsequently rises to unity (a purely shear Alfvén wave) by approximately 10:25 UT. The implied wave mix value of unity occurs just after the peak observed Doppler amplitude as shown in panel (a) of Fig. 5.

### 5.2 The advection mechanism

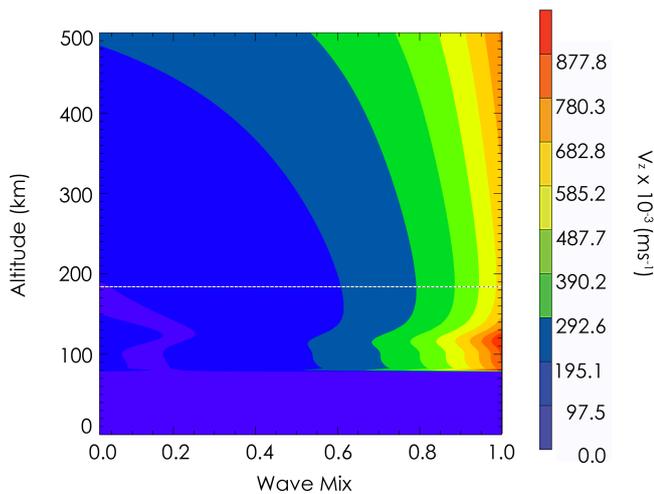
The early theory developed by Rishbeth and Garriott (1964) considered that the Doppler frequency oscillations were due to the ULF electric field, causing a vertical bulk motion of electrons in the ionosphere. The vertical motion is the vertical component of the plasma drift velocity,

$$v = \frac{(\mathbf{E} \wedge \mathbf{B})_z}{B^2}. \quad (19)$$

This vertical motion is now known as the advection mechanism. Following Sutcliffe and Poole (1989), the actual contribution of this mechanism to the observed Doppler shift is given by

$$V_{II} \cong - \int_0^{z_R} \left[ \frac{\partial \mu}{\partial z} V_z \right] dz, \quad (20)$$

where  $\mu$  is the real part of the refractive index and  $z_R = z_R(t)$  is the real height of reflection. Both  $V_z$  and the vertical gradient of the refractive index contribute to the observed Doppler shift. The contribution of these two mechanisms may be separated within the model employed here. If  $V_z$  is plotted as a function of both wave mode mix and altitude, assuming the constant value of  $k_x$ , and using a magnetic field magnitude of 1 nT recorded on the ground, Fig. 10 is the result. The very high similarity with the Doppler variation illustrated in panel (f) of Fig. 8 establishes that the  $V_z$  parameter contained within the advection mechanism is contributing the most to the overall Doppler shift at high-latitude for this impulse-driven large spatial-scale ULF wave. This conclusion, that the signature observed here is well described by a simple advection mechanism as proposed by Rishbeth and Garriott (1964), agrees with the overall results of previous ULF wave studies (e.g., Wright et al., 1997, 1998; Waters et al., 2007) that the advection mechanism dominates the overall Doppler shift observed at high-latitudes.



**Fig. 10.** The plot shows  $V_z$  as a function of both altitude and wave mode mix. The overplotted white dot-dashed line highlights the DOPE reflection altitude at roughly 184 km.

## 6 Conclusions

In this paper we have employed a numerical one-dimensional model developed by Sciffer et al. (2005) to account for the observed relationship between the Doppler velocity oscillations of reflected radio waves from the ionosphere and geomagnetic pulsations. The event that occurred on 16 April 1998 is the result of a low- $m$  ( $-6$ ) FLR with a large characteristic scale-size. An impulsive disturbance is seen in the ACE upstream spacecraft data and the IMF dynamic pressure increased at about the same time as the wave onset as recorded on the ground by magnetometers. Here, the effect of the modelled incident wave field on an HF radio path is calculated, and compared to observation. Ground magnetic field and Doppler observations are used to find model inputs at various points throughout the event. The model, on average, correctly predicts the Doppler amplitudes for this impulse-driven ULF wave event. Presented here, for the first time, are measurements of the wave mode mix evolution. The model demonstrates that the wave mode evolves from a partially Alfvénic wave to a purely shear Alfvén wave. The advection mechanism is contributing the most to the overall Doppler shift at high-latitudes in this instance, agreeing with previous statistical studies of large spatial-scale ULF waves (e.g., Wright et al., 1997, 1998; Waters et al., 2007). For this event it is also confirmed that the vertical velocity dominates the advection mechanism, rather than refractive index effects. 25 ULF wave events with measurements from a high-latitude Doppler sounder and the IMAGE magnetometer array have been analysed. A statistical analysis of large spatial-scale ULF waves will follow this case study.

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