CONTROLLED MAGNETOSPHERIC WAVE INJECTION USING THE HAARP IONOSPHERIC HEATER

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Controlled magnetospheric wave injection experiments are performed using ELF/VLF waves generated by modulated heating of the ionospheric auroral electrojet currents. The High Frequency Active Auroral Research Program (HAARP) facility in Alaska (L = 4.9) can generate electromagnetic radiation in the 500 Hz - 10 kHz frequency range. In an on-going experiment the HAARP facility is used to inject ELF/VLF waves into the magnetosphere to trigger wave-particle interactions with radiation belt electrons that result in the non-linear amplification of the wave, known as the coherent whistler mode instability. Amplified and triggered waves called 'echoes' are observed on the ground at both ends of the magnetic field line. The amplified signals show temporal growth rates 15-30 dB/sec and triggering of free running emissions. The amplification process is shown to be sensitive to select frequency bands and to selectively amplify specific frequency-time formats in these bands. Dispersion results indicate that HAARP induced echoes are excited primarily directly above the heated region and propagate inside the plasmapause. Accurate phase and amplitude measurements allow for the determination of the spatial average of the magnitude and phase of the nonlinear resonant current vector that drives the non-linear amplification. Transmissions of broadband incoherent signals also show amplification when the bandwidth is less than 50 Hz.

Magnetospheric Amplification, Controlled Wave-injection, Cyclotron Resonance

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