Effect of EMIC Waves on Relativistic and Ultra-Relativistic Electron Populations: Ground-based and Van Allen Probes Observations

Maria Usanova (1), Alexander Drozdov (2,3), Ksenia Orlova (2,3), Ian Mann (1), Yuri Shprits (2,4,5), Matthew Robertson (1), Drew Turner (2), David Milling (1), Andy Kale (1), Dan Baker (6), Geoff Reeves (7), Harlan Spence (8), Craig Kletzing (9), and John Wygant (10)

(1) University of Alberta, Physics, Canada (musanova@ualberta.ca), (2) Department of Earth, Planetary, and Space Sciences, University of California Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA, USA, (3) Lomonosov Moscow State University Skobeltsyn Institute of Nuclear Physics, Moscow, Russia, (4) Skolkovo Institute of Science and Technology, Skolkovo, Russia, (5) Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge MA, USA, (6) Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics (LASP), University of Colorado, Boulder, USA, (7) Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, NM, USA, (8) Institute for the Study of Earth, Oceans, and Space, University of New Hampshire, (9) University of Iowa, Iowa City, USA, (10) School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Minnesota, USA

We study the effect of electromagnetic ion cyclotron (EMIC) waves on the loss and pitch-angle scattering of relativistic and ultra-relativistic electrons during the recovery phase of a moderate geomagnetic storm on October 11, 2012. The EMIC wave activity was observed in-situ on the Van Allen Probes and conjugately on the ground across the CARISMA array throughout an extended 18-hour interval. However, neither enhanced precipitation of >0.7 MeV electrons, nor reductions in Van Allen Probe 90° pitch-angle ultra-relativistic electron flux were observed. Computed radiation belt electron pitch-angle diffusion rates demonstrate that rapid pitch-angle diffusion is confined to low pitch angles and cannot reach 90°. For the first time, from both observational and modeling perspectives, we show evidence of EMIC waves triggering ultra-relativistic (∼2-8 MeV) electron loss, but which is confined to pitch angles below around 45 degrees and not affecting the core distribution.