



Do flow bursts penetrate into the inner magnetosphere?

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Recent studies have shown that only a small part of the fast flow bursts observed at mid-tail penetrate into the inner magnetosphere, rising questions regarding their role for particle injections. Motivated by these findings we compared observations at two radially aligned spacecraft in the high-beta nightside plasma sheet to investigate which physical parameter controls the penetration efficiency of the flow burst observed at the outer spacecraft. We showed that the inferred plasma tube entropy $PV^{5/3}$ demonstrates the best prediction efficiency compared to other parameters (e.g. V_x or B_z). Its minimal value at the outer probe during the flow burst compared to its preflow value at the inner probe is able to discriminate between “penetrating” and “non-penetrating” events. Our results give an explanation for the relatively small fraction of deeply penetrating BBFs and provide a strong argument in favor of the bubble model of fast flow bursts and plasma injections.