



Acceleration and loss of oxygen ions in the terrestrial magnetosphere

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We study spatial asymmetries of the oxygen ion intensity distributions in the Earth magnetosphere. The results are based on 7 years of Cluster observations of oxygen intensity measurements from the RAPID and CIS instruments. The energetic ions (>270 keV) seems to be effectively accelerated in the central near-Earth magnetotail, drift around the Earth within about 16 Re and get lost at the noon side. The medium oxygen ions (~10 keV) show similar trend but without spatial confinement: they are more evenly distributed in the magnetosphere. Our findings constrain models for ion acceleration and loss processes.