

The Plasma Environment of the Moon

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The Moon is a Keystone

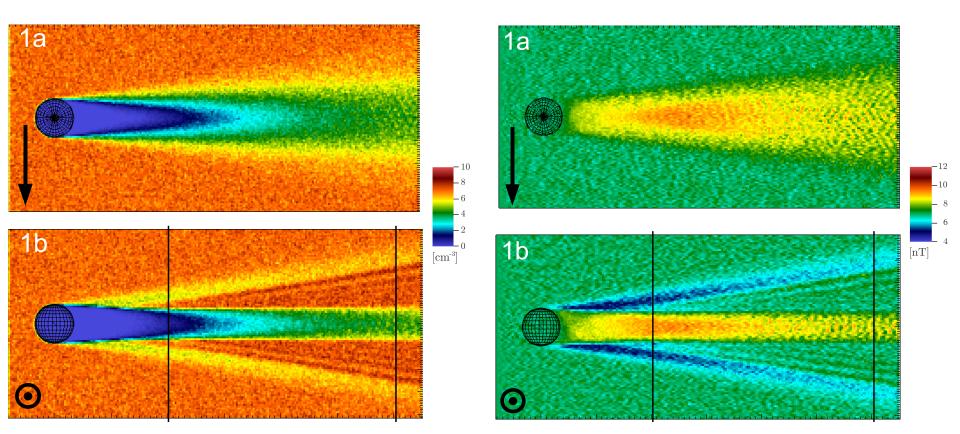


Overview: A Moon of Many Scales

Exosphere = $1-? R_{L}$

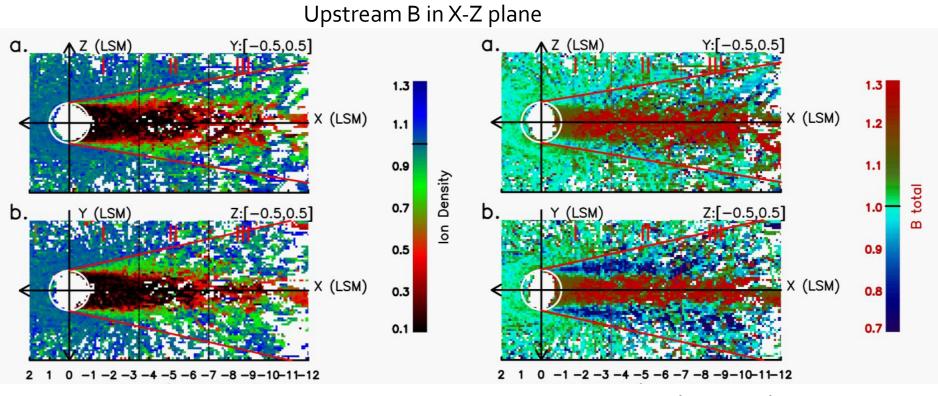
Wake = $10-30 R_1$ hν Solar Wind Anomalies ~1-500 km Sheath ~1 km Sheath ~1-10 m R_{L} =1737 km ~15 c/ ω_{pi}

The Wake: Simulations



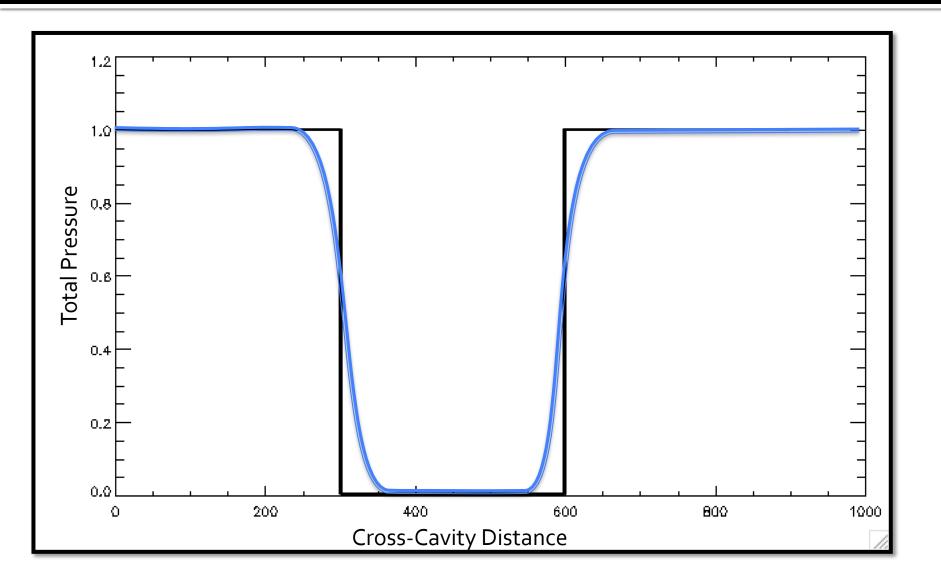
Holmstrom et al., 2012

The Wake: Observations

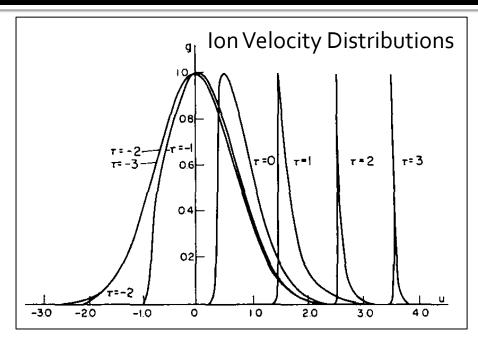


Zhang et al., 2014

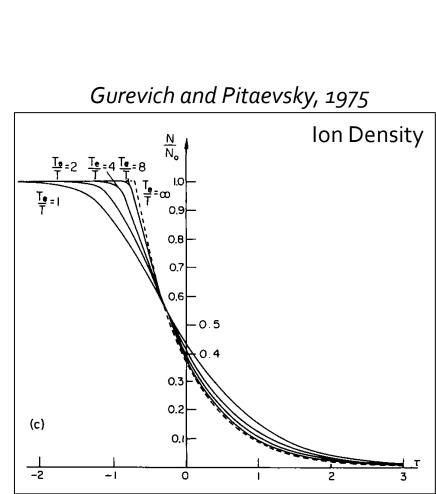
Parallel Expansion



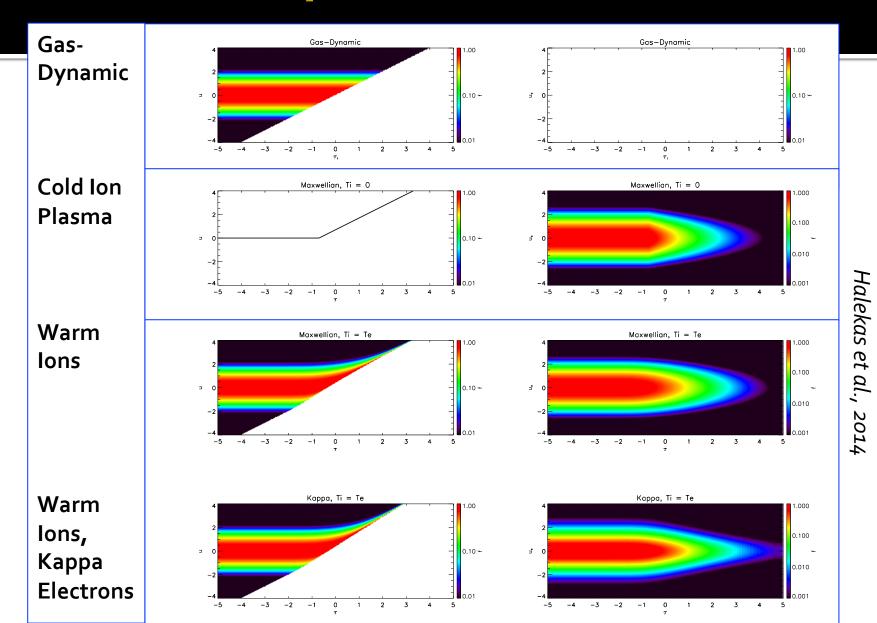
Parallel Expansion Theory



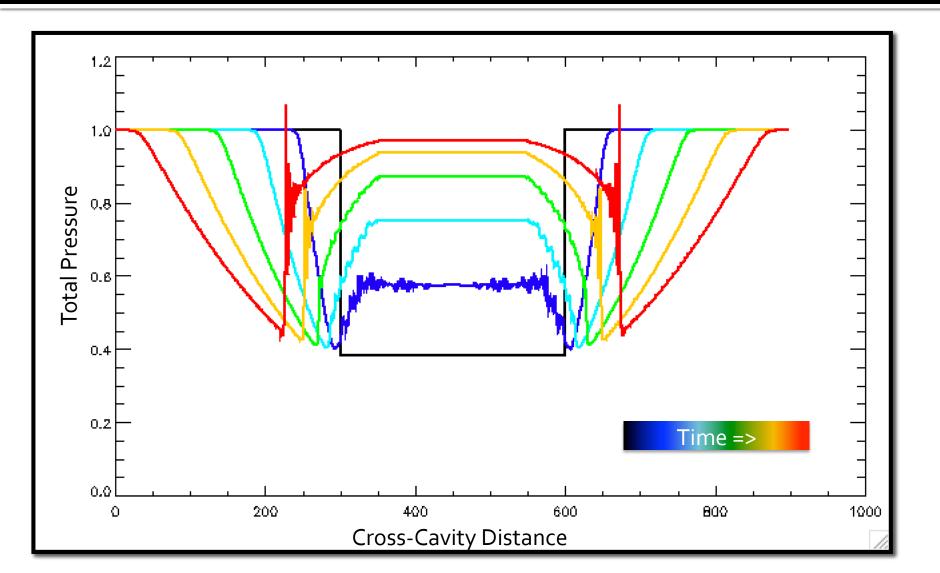
Electric field maintains quasineutrality – retards electrons and accelerates ions into wake



Parallel Expansion Theories

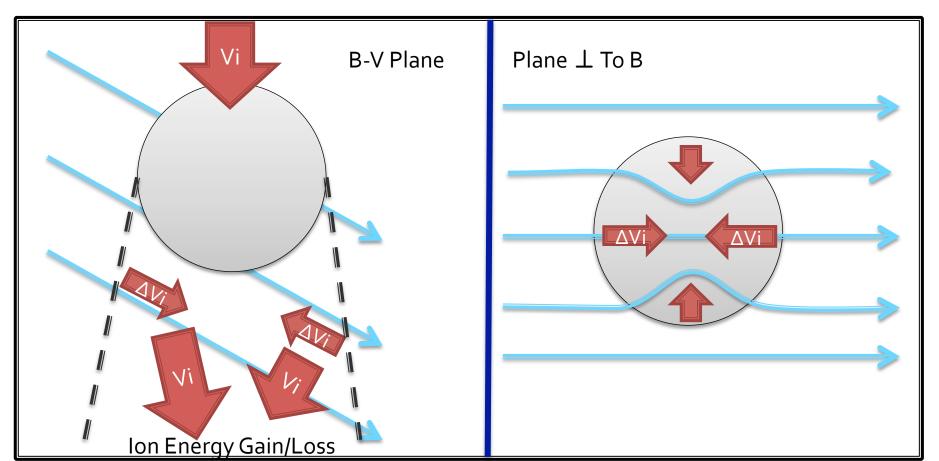


Perpendicular Expansion

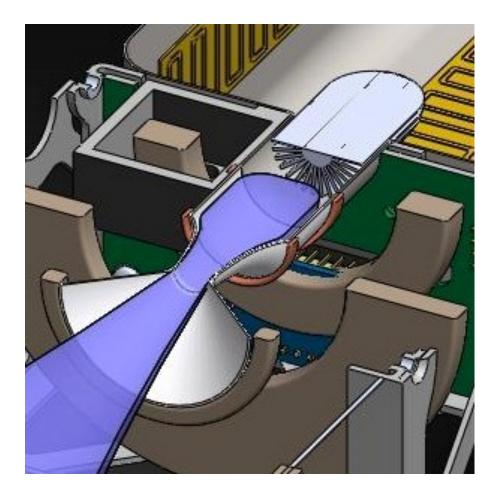


Role of Magnetic Field

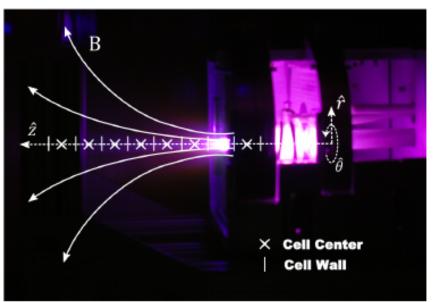
 R_i << R_m => particles flow along magnetic field
If [particle pressure]/[magnetic pressure] significant, magnetic field can be compressed by perpendicular flows



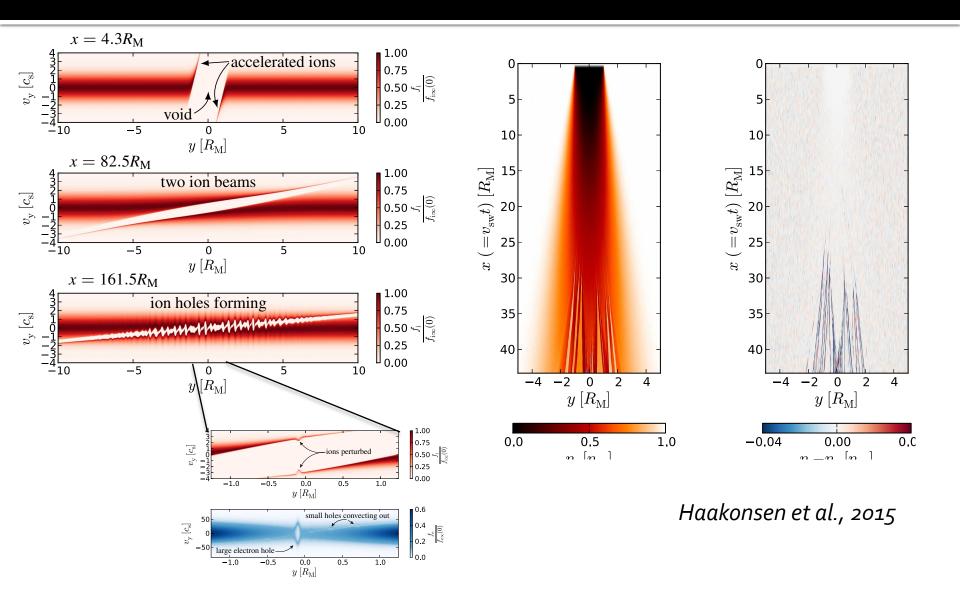
Plasma Expansion into a Vacuum



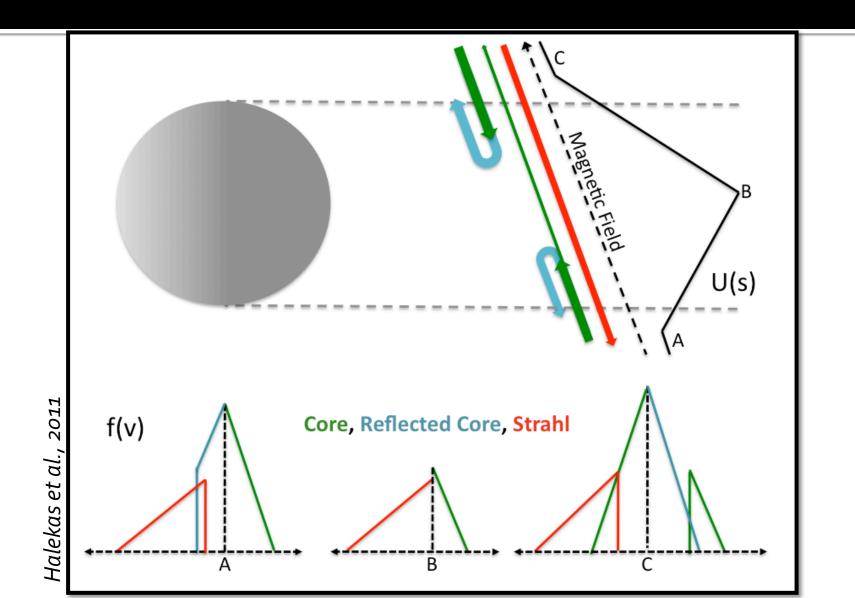
"Cubesat Ambipolar Thruster"



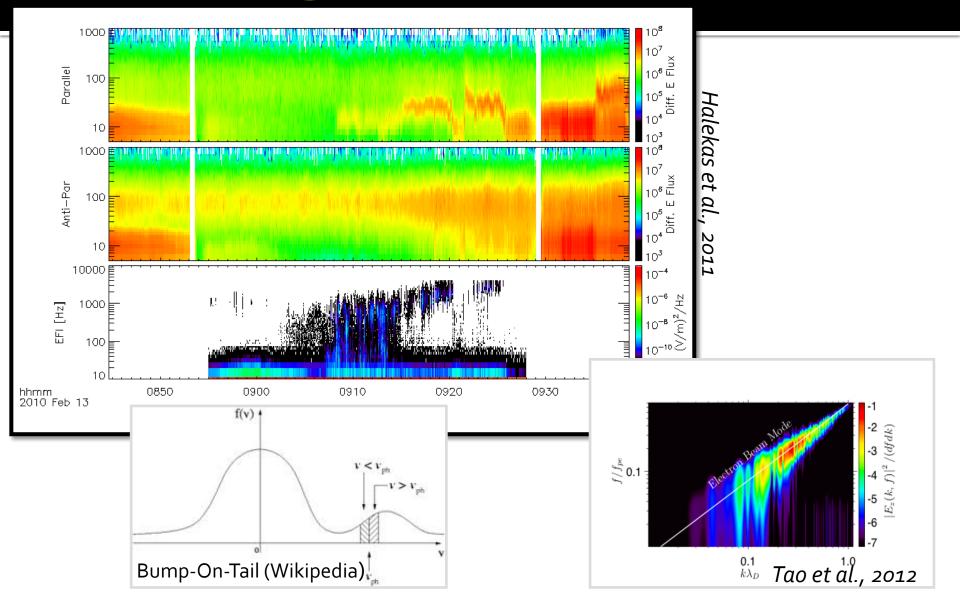
The Wake: An Instability Generator



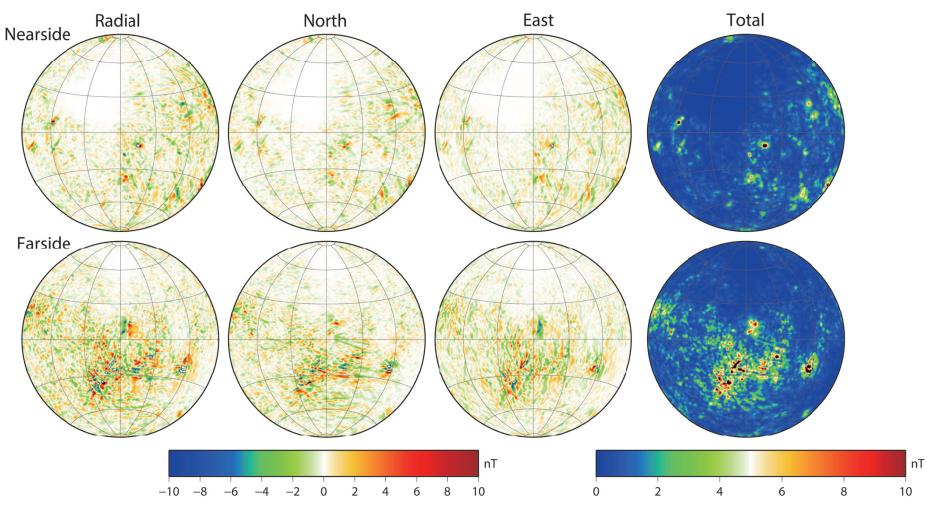
Velocity-Filtered Electrons



Streaming Instabilities



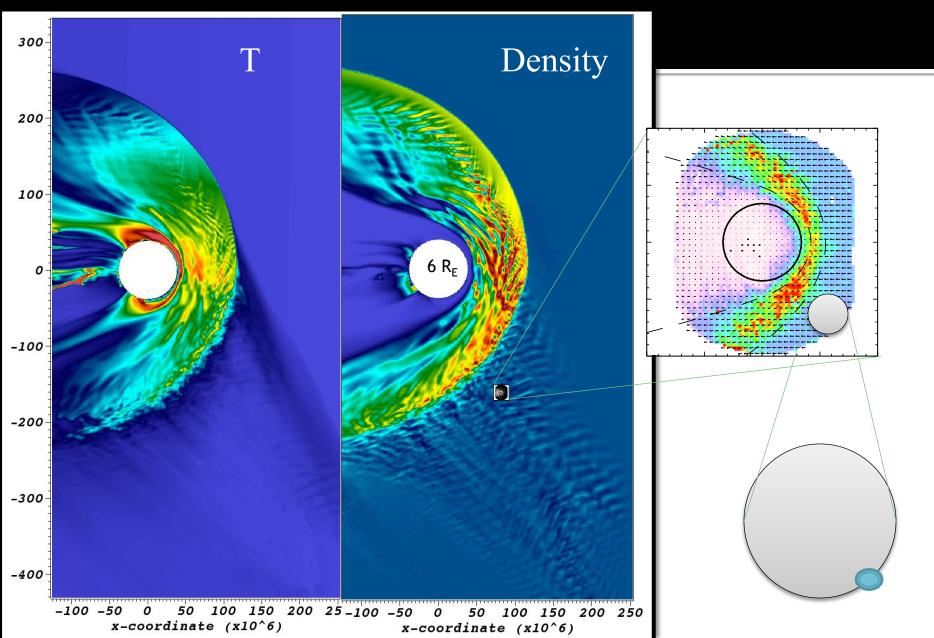
Lunar Magnetic Anomalies



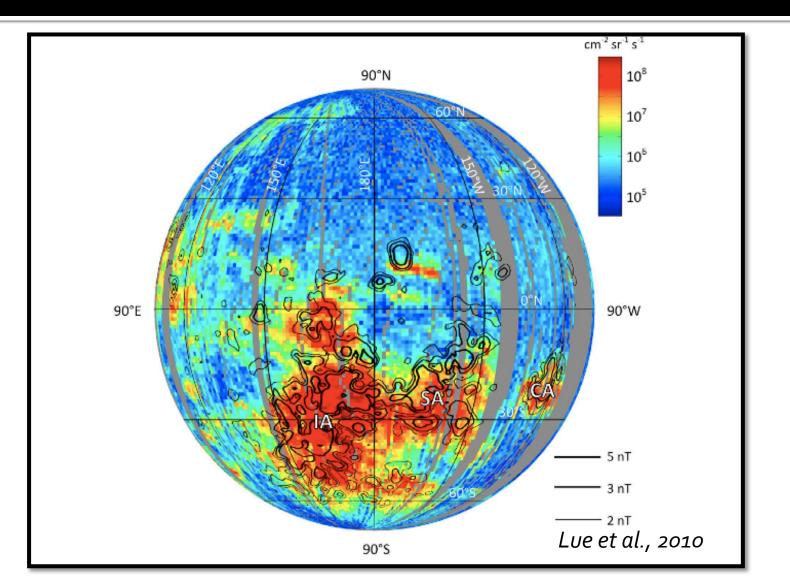
30 km altitude

[Tsunakawa et al., 2015]

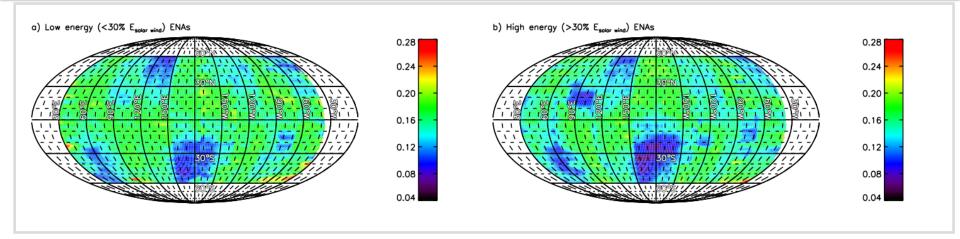
The Moon is Small

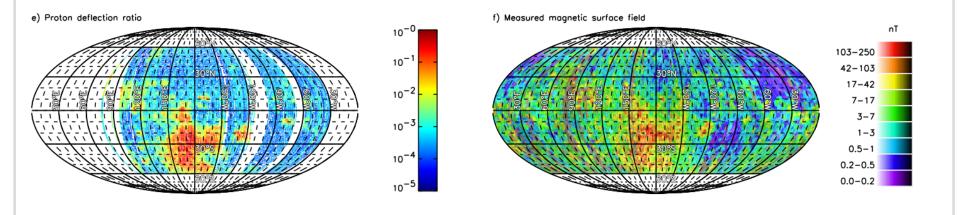


Solar Wind Reflection



Solar Wind Reflection

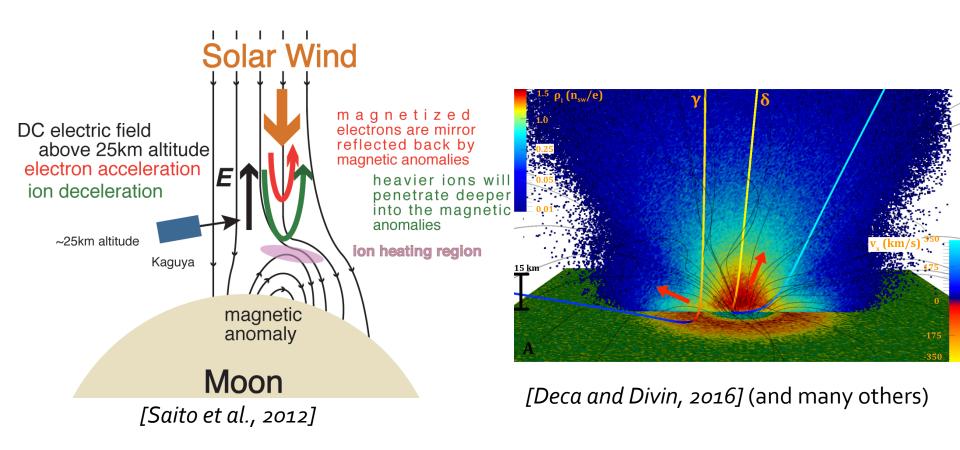




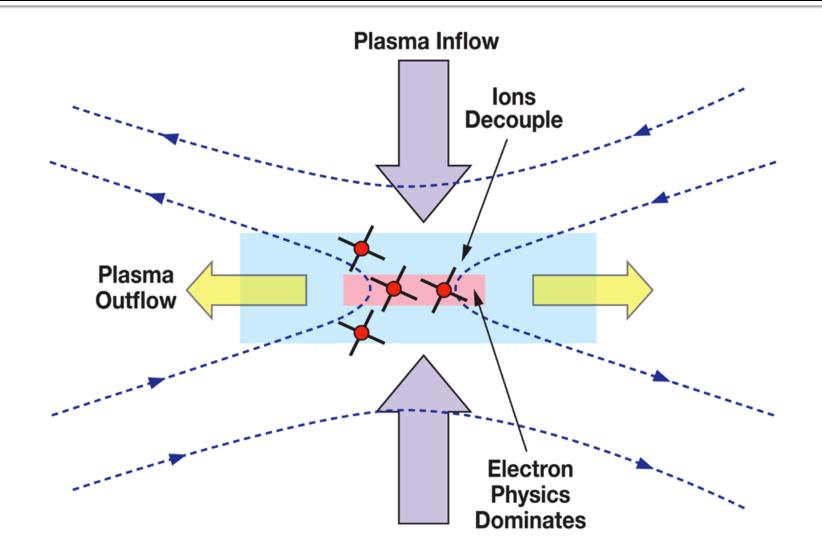
Vorburger et al., 2013

Low Altitude Microphysics

It's all in the E!



Electron-Scale Magnetic Gradients



Reflection: Observed vs. Simulated

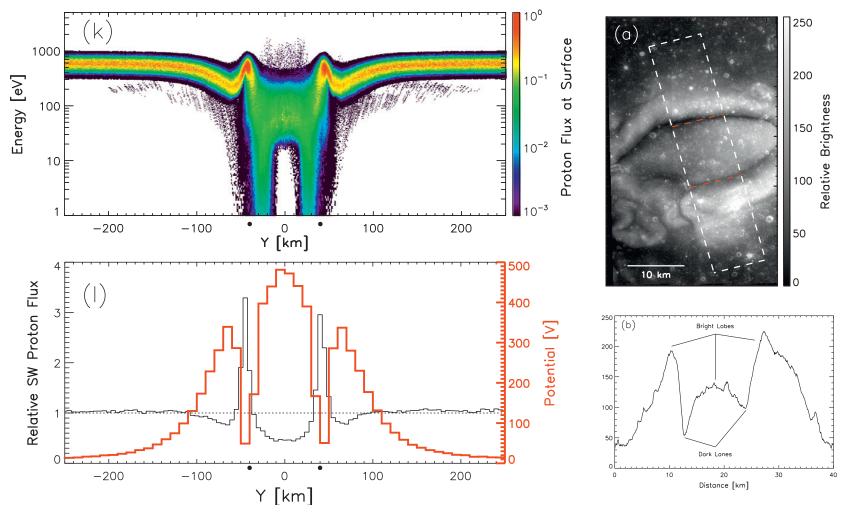
• Observed:

>50% locally [Saito et al., 2010; Lue et al., 2011]

Simulated:

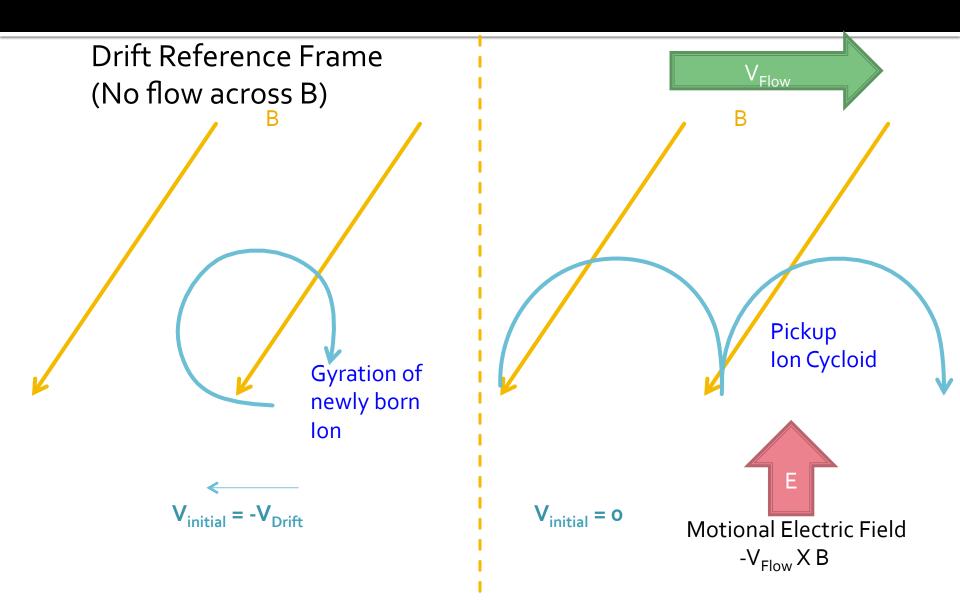
- 10% [Deca et al., 2014]
- <10%? [Jarvinen et al., 2014]</p>
- <5% [Giacalone et al., 2015]</p>
- 50% for 10,000 nT field [Poppe et al., 2012]
- 50-100% in very small (sub-km) regions [Zimmerman et al., 2014]

Connecting to the Surface

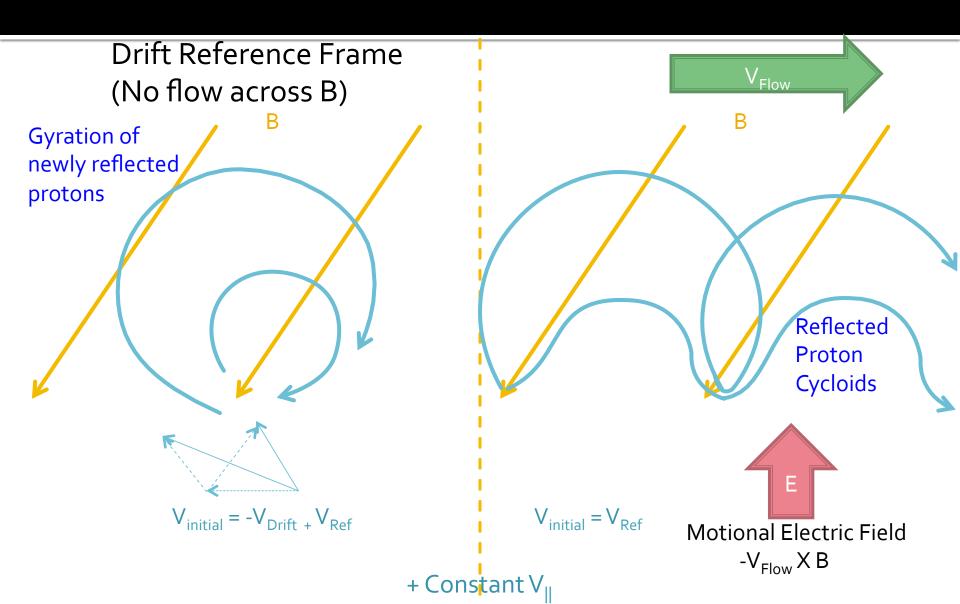


Poppe et al., 2016

Pickup Ion Physics

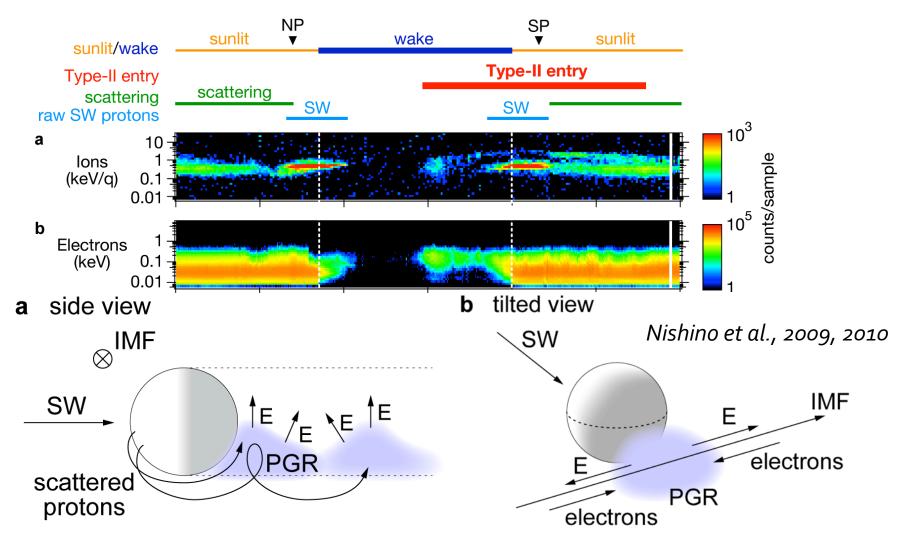


Reflected Proton Physics

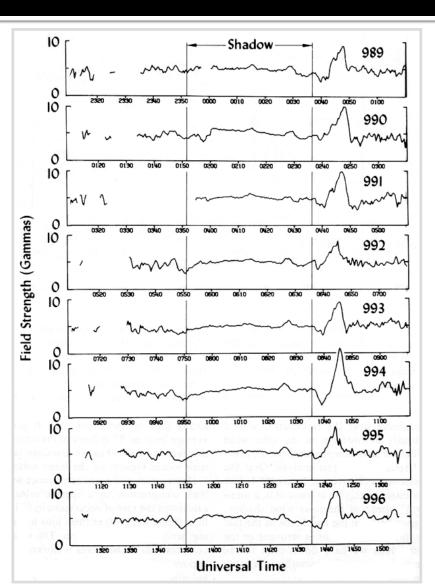


Type-II Entry

SELENE PACE and LMAG September 24, 2008 09:10-11:10 UT



Macroscopic Interactions

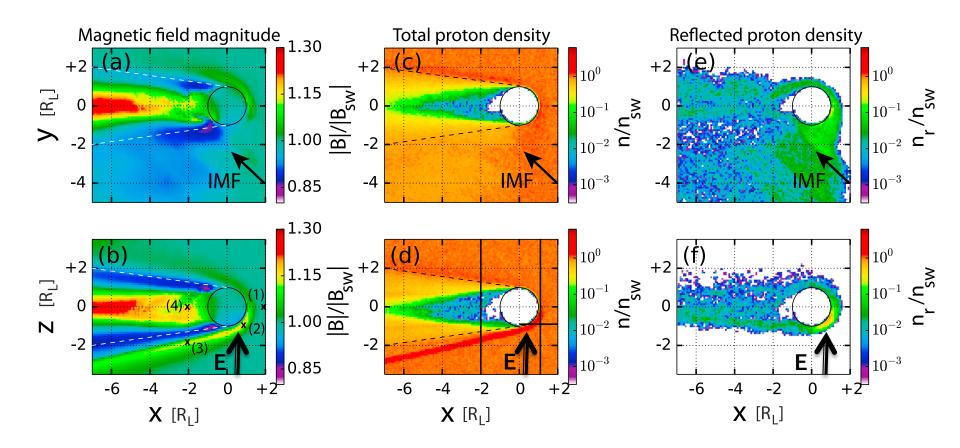


Limb Shocks? Limb Compressions?

"there is no evidence that the plasma is shocked on passage through the features" [Russell and Lichtenstein, 1975]

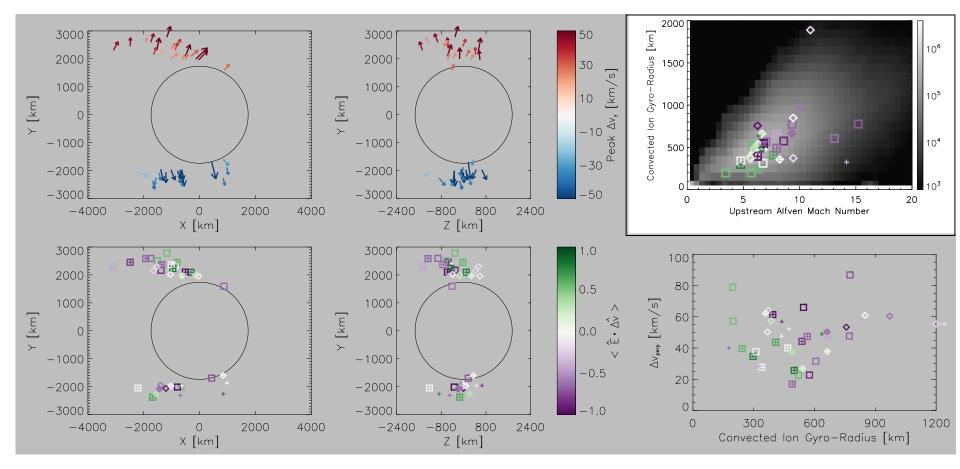


Connecting Microphysics to Macroscopic Effects



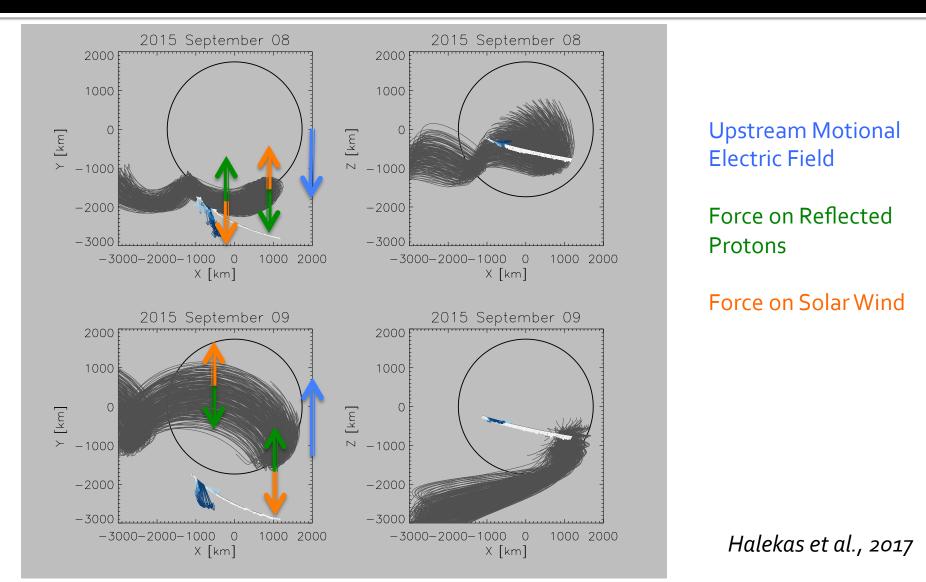
[Fatemi et al., 2014]

Two Kinds of "Limb Shocks"

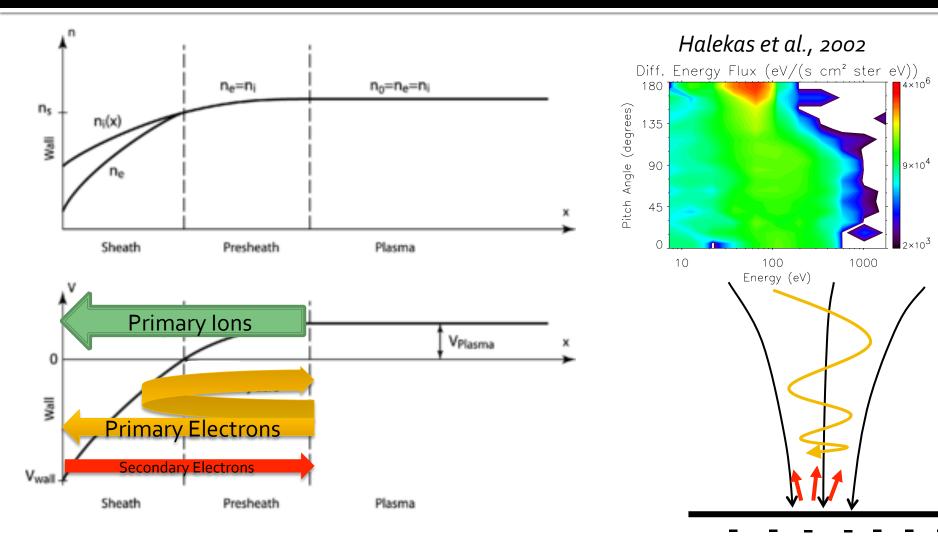


Halekas et al., 2017

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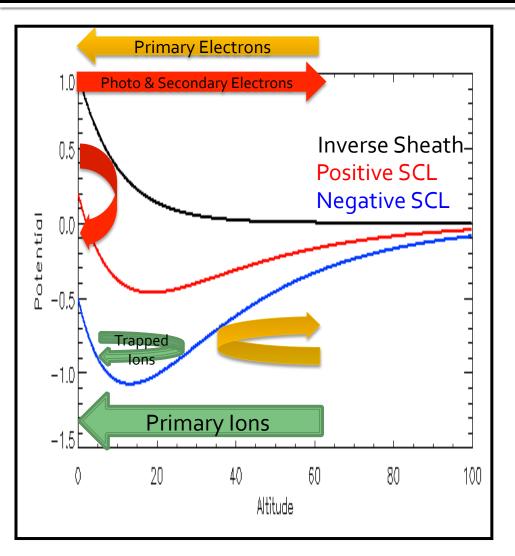


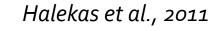
Night Side: Ion Sheath

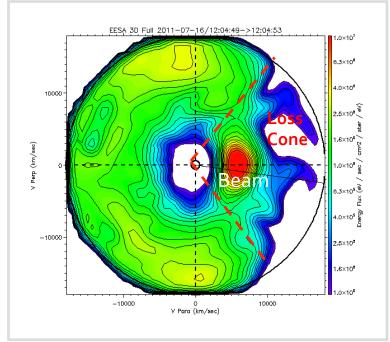


Negative Surface Charge Layer

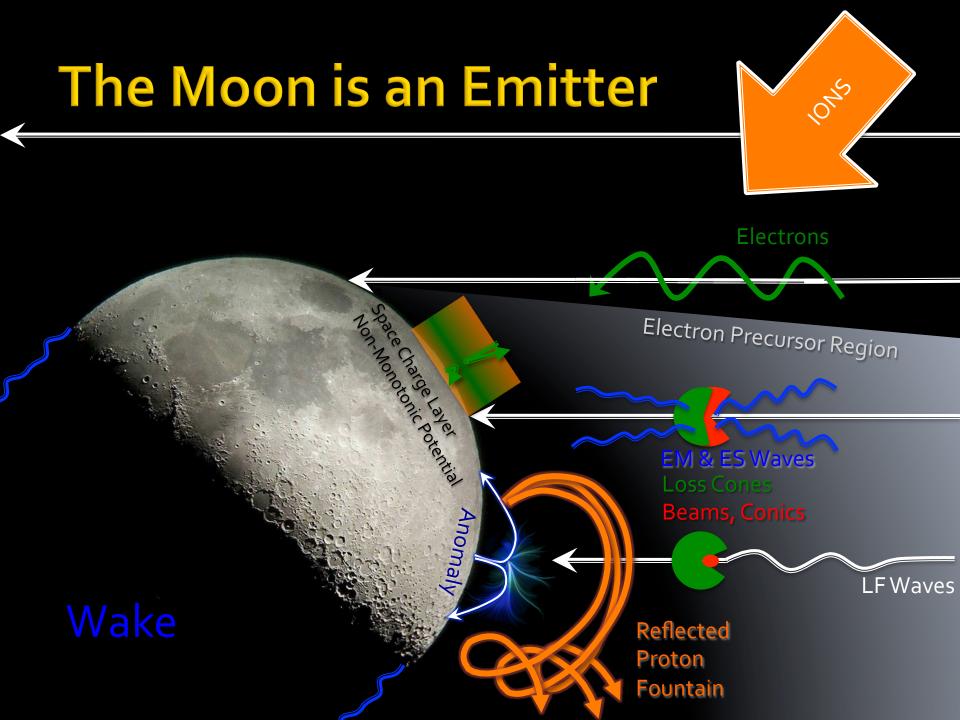
Day Side: Photoelectron Sheath



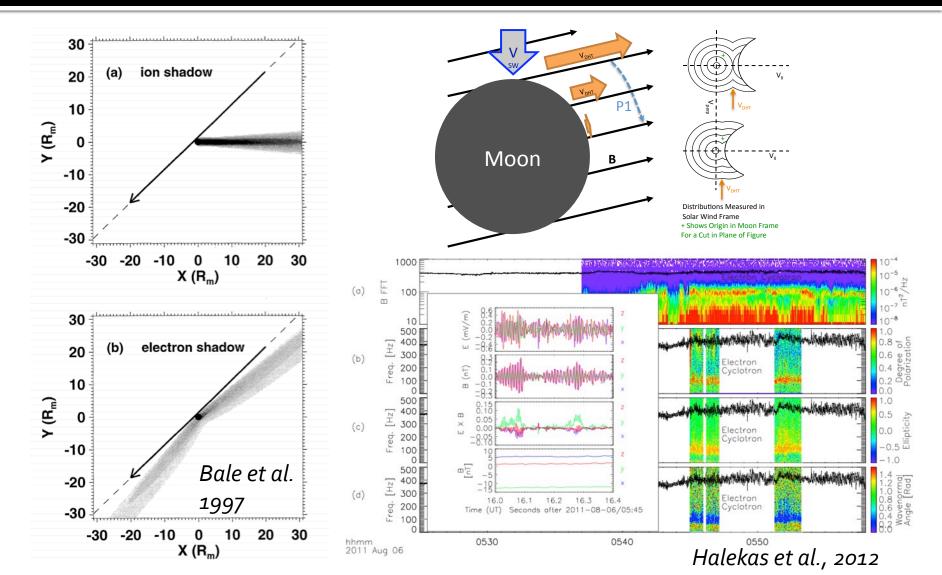




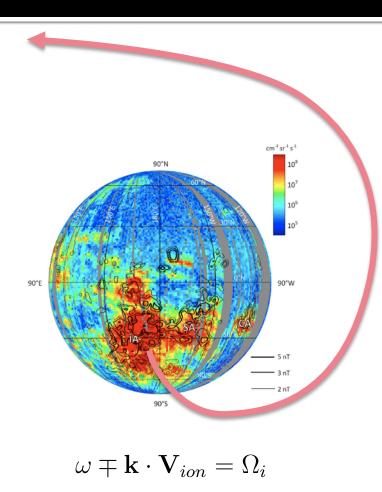
Beam + Loss Cone: Produced By Combined Magnetic & Electrostatic Effects Near Surface

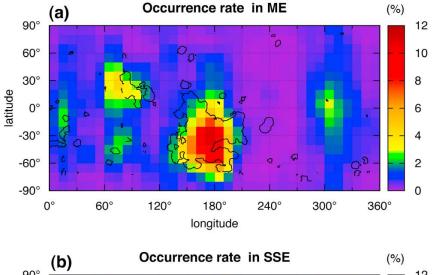


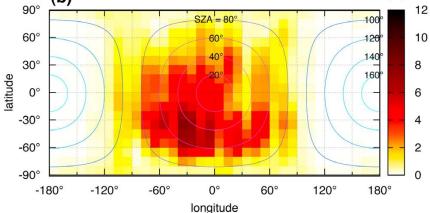
Electron-Driven Waves in the "Foremoon" and "Forewake"



Ion-Driven Low Frequency Waves

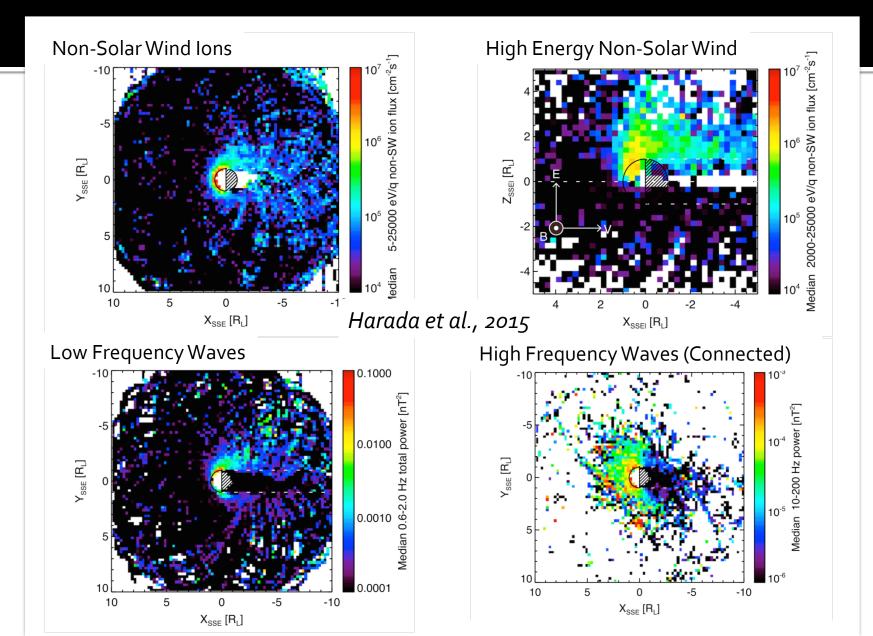




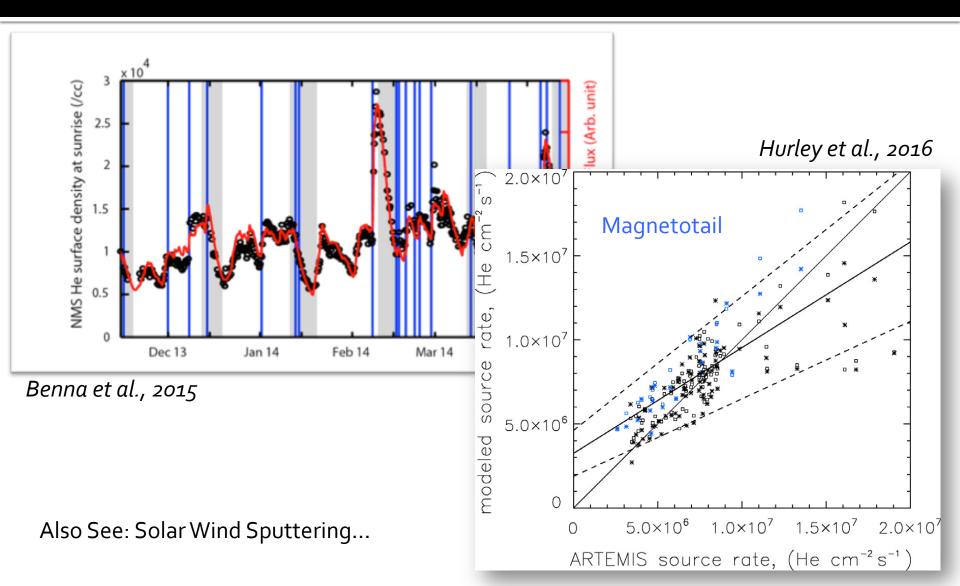


Tsugawa et al., 2012

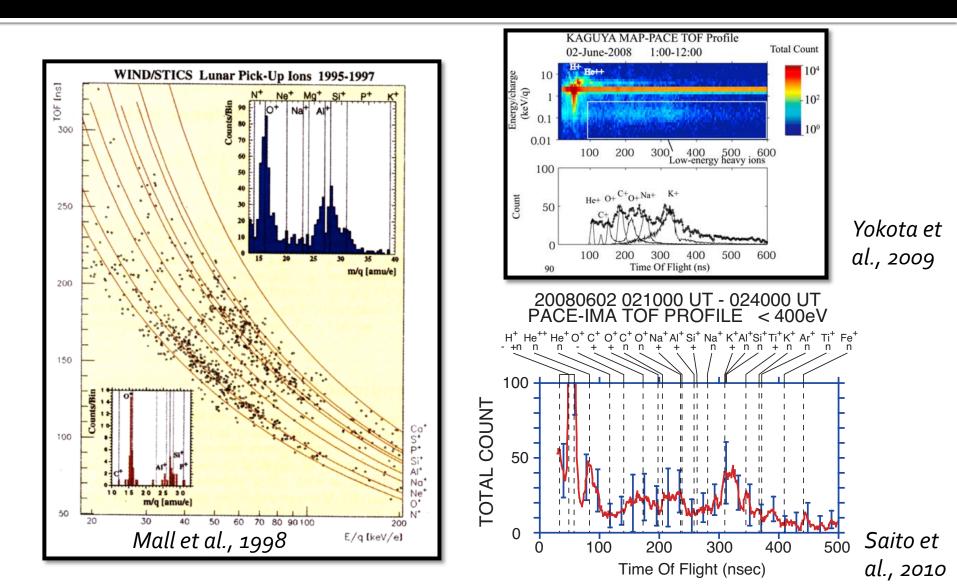
Widespread Lunar Influence



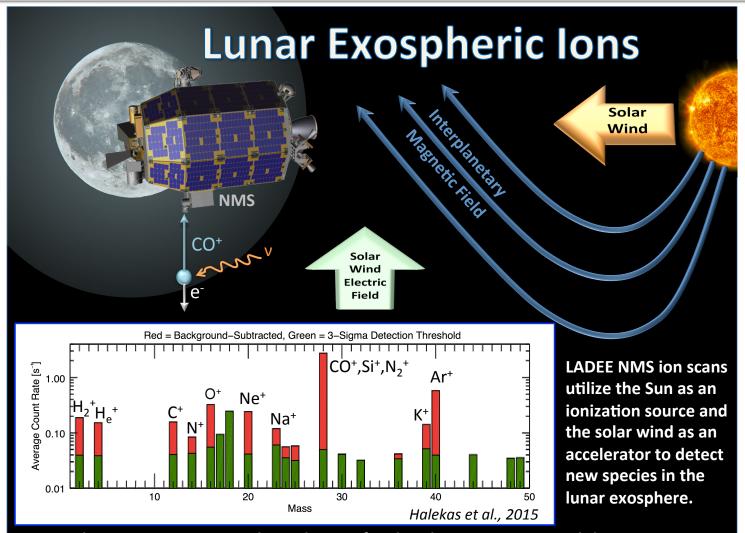
Plasma as an Exospheric Source



Plasma as an Exospheric Sink

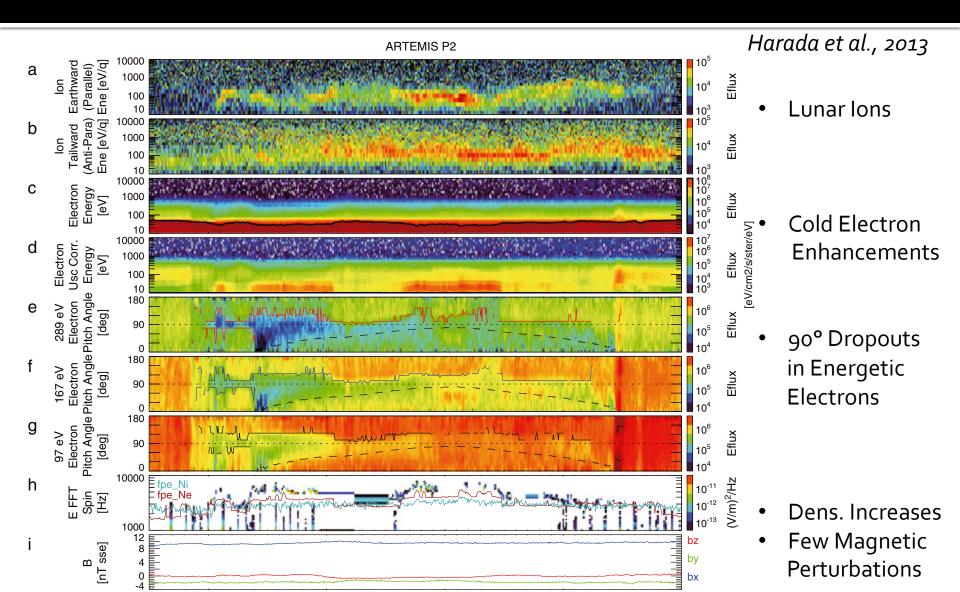


Plasma as an Exospheric Sink

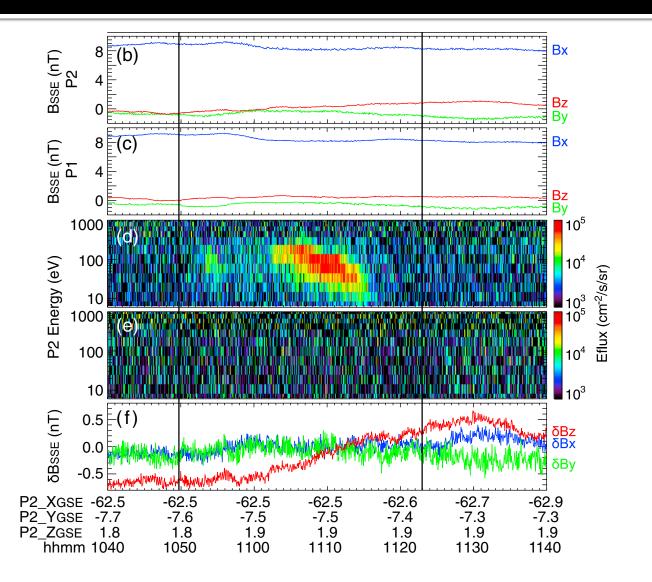


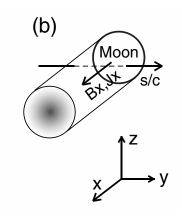
LADEE discovers an unexpected population of carbon-bearing ions around the Moon

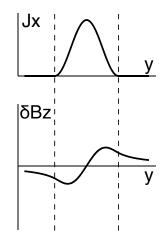
Weirdness: Moon in Magnetotail



Weirdness: Moon in Magnetotail







Zhou et al., 2014

Moon in Magnetotail: Some Thoughts

- The Moon in the magnetotail is not a "pickup" situation
 - The density of lunar exo-ions exceeds that of the lobe plasma
- The Moon is more like a comet...
 - But, it's a very very low-beta comet
 - The dominant force on lunar ions in the magnetotail should probably be J X B (not -v X B!)

Frontiers

[Paraphrased from Schubert and Lichtenstein, 1974]

- What properties of the solar wind or lunar surface are responsible for the highly variable nature of the interaction?
- What is the structure of the lunar cavity far downstream from the Moon?
- What are the sources of the limb disturbances?
- The physics of the Moon-magnetosheath and the Moon-plasma sheet interactions.
- Possible upstream influences of the Moon in the solar wind, especially at high frequencies
- What is the nature of the Moon-solar wind interaction over the lunar polar regions?

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"New Frontiers"

- What is the time-dependent 3-d electric field structure of the wake?
- How do lunar interactions compare with other smallscale magnetic field gradients (e.g. RX diffusion regions, shocks) in the heliosphere?
- How does the presence of the surface and sheath affect the magnetic anomaly interaction?
- What is the composition of lunar exo-ions and what do they tell us about the exosphere and/or surface?
- How does the Moon interact with the Earth's magnetotail?