3 - Avenue Circulaire B - 1180 BRUXELLES

AERONOMICA ACTA

A - N°99 - 1972

The effect of photoelectrons on kinetic polar wind models by J. LEMAIRE and M. SCHERER

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BELGISCH INSTITUUT VOOR RUIMTE-AERONOMIE

3 - Ringlaan B - 1180 BRUSSEL

FOREWORD

The article by J. Lemaire and M. Scherer entitled "The effect of photoelectrons on kinetic polar wind models" is a discussion of the influence of a photoelectron escape flux on an ion-exospheric polar wind model. It will be published in the Bulletin de l'Académie des Sciences de Belgique.

AVANT-PROPOS

L'article intitulé "The effect of photoelectrons on kinetic polar wind models" par J. Lemaire et M. Scherer constitue une discussion de l'influence d'un flux d'échappement de photoélectrons sur un modèle théorique de l'exosphère ionique polaire. Il sera publié dans le Bulletin de l'Académie des Sciences de Belgique.

VOORWOORD

Het artikel "The effect of photoelectrons on kinetic polar wind models" door J. Lemaire en M. Scherer, is een studie over de invloed van een uitstromende flux van fotoelektronen op een theoretisch model van de ion-exosferische polaire wind. Het zal gepubliceerd worden in de Mededelingen van de Belgische Academie voor Wetenschappen.

VORWORT

Der Text "The effect of photoelectrons on kinetic polar wind models" durch J. Lemaire und M. Scherer ist eine Analyse der Einwirkung eines Photoelektronenausfluss auf einem exosphärischen Polarwindmodel. Er wird in den "Bulletin de l'Académie des Sciences de Belgique" herausgegeben werden.

THE EFFECT OF PHOTOELECTRONS ON KINETIC POLAR WIND MODELS

par

J. LEMAIRE and M. SCHERER

Abstract

The influence of photoelectrons in the polar ion-exosphere is discussed by means of a kinetic model calculation. The escape flux, the bulk velocity, and the parallel and perpendicular temperatures of the thermal electrons depend strongly on the value of the photoelectron flux, whereas the number density distributions remain unchanged. Although the photoelectrons remain a minor constituent, they carry almost the total energy flux of the negatively charged particles.

Résumé

L'influence des photoélectrons sur un modèle de l'exosphère ionique polaire a été considérée. Le flux d'échappement, la vitesse moyenne, les composantes parallèle et perpendiculaire de la température des électrons thermiques dépendent fortement de la valeur du flux de photoélectrons. Par contre la distribution de la densité ionique ne dépend pratiquement pas de la valeur du flux d'échappement des photoélectrons. Bien que le nombre des photoélectrons reste très inférieur au nombre des électrons thermiques, ces premiers transportent pratiquement toute l'énergie électronique hors de l'atmosphère polaire.

Samenvatting

De invloed van foto-elektronen in de polaire ion-exosfeer wordt besproken aan de hand van berekeningen voor een kinetisch model. De uitstromende flux, de gemiddelde snelheid, en de evenwijdige en loodrechte temperatuur van de thermische elektronen hangen in grote mate af van de waarde van de foto-elektronenflux, terwijl de foto-elektronendichtheid onveranderd blijft. Alhoewel de foto-elektronen een minoritair bestanddeel uitmaken, dragen ze toch bijna de ganse energieflux van de negatief geladen deeltjes.

Zusammenfassung

Der Einfluss der Photoelektronen in der polaren Ionenexosphäre is besprochen. Der Ausfluss, die mittleregeschwindigkeit und die parallele und perpendikulare Temperaturen sind sehr beinflusst durch den Photoelektronenausfluss. Die Einwirkung dieser Photoelektronen auf die Dichteverteilung ist unbedeutend . Obwohl die Photoelektronendichte viel kleiner als die Dichte der thermischen Elektronen bleibt, ist der Energieausfluss der Photoelektronen viel grösser als der jenige der thermischen Elektronen.

1. INTRODUCTION

Direct evidence of an outward flow of ionized hydrogen along the polar magnetic field lines has been established experimentaly by Hoffman (1968, 1970). This hydrogen depletion in the polar ionosphere is suggested by : (a) the existence of "troughs" in the latitudinal density distributions of the electrons and the light ions (Muldrew, 1965; Sharp, 1966; Taylor *et al.*, 1969; Thomas and Rycroft, 1970; Grebowsky *et al.*, 1970); (b) the existence of a "knee" in the equatorial electron density observed by Carpenter (1963,1966), Gringauz (1963), and Binsack (1967); and (c) the depression in the Lyman-alpha emission from the polar region (Meier, 1970; Mange, 1970).

Early arguments were given by Dungey (1961), Dessler and Michel (1966), and Bauer (1966) that the thermal plasma could gradually flow out of the polar ionosphere into the magnetotail. Nicolet (1961) suggested that the large amount of He⁴ produced in the Earth's mantle could possibly escape as ionized particles and Axford (1968) emphasized that these helium ions are dragged out of the topside polar ionosphere by the escaping photoelectrons. In view of this, Banks and Holzer (1968, 1969) proposed a hydrodynamic description of this outward flowing plasma which was called the Polar Wind.

In the transition region near 2000 - 3000 km altitude the deflection mean free path of the charged particles (e^- , H^+ , O^+ , He^+) becomes equal to the density scale height, and the validity of Euler's hydrodynamic equations above 2000-3000 km, i.e. in the *ion-exosphere*, was therefore questioned by Dessler and Cloutier (1969). They proposed a simple kinetic model in which it was assumed that the polarization electric field is given by the Pannekoek-Rosseland field

$$e \vec{E} = -\frac{1}{2} m_0^+ \vec{g} ,$$

where \vec{E} is the electric field, \vec{g} the gravitational acceleration, e the elementary electric charge, and m_0 + the mass of the oxygen ion.

Lemaire and Scherer (1969) have shown that this field, which maintains the quasineutrality for an $(O^+ - e)$ isothermal plasma in hydrostatic equilibrium, cannot be assumed in the collisionless region of the ionosphere, because it would lead to an escape flux of the electrons which would be approximately 43 times larger than the escape flux of the protons. To reduce the electron escape flux and to increase the outward ion flux a larger polarization electric field is required. In a stationary model these fluxes must be equal to satisfy the zero-electric current condition. Kinetic models for a polar ion-exosphere in which the total electric current along the magnetic field lines is zero and for which the plasma is quasineutral, have been proposed by the authors (Lemaire and Scherer, 1970, 1971).

The supersonic proton flow predicted by Banks and Holzer (1968, 1969) has been confirmed by the exospheric theory. The kinetic approach, however yielded an O^+ escape flux which was 10^4 times smaller than the O^+ flux in the hydrodynamic and semi-kinetic models (Banks and Holzer, 1968, 1969; Holzer *et al.*, 1971).

In the present paper we discuss the effect of photoelectrons on the polar wind. We consider a model ion-exosphere in which oxygen ions, protons and electrons are present. The collision dominated region or barosphere is assumed to be separated from the collision free exosphere by a sharply defined surface, called the baropause. Moreover we assume that at this level the actual velocity distribution for each species, can be approximated by the Maxwellian

$$f_j(\vec{r_0}, \vec{v}) = N_j (m_j/2 \pi k T_j)^{3/2} \exp(-m_j(\vec{v} - \vec{u_j})^2/2 k T_j)$$

where j stands for O⁺, H⁺, and e respectively; r_0 is the radial distance of the baropause; k is Boltzmann's constant; and N_j, T_j, and $\vec{u_j}$ are parameters which are determined in such a way that the calculated densities temperatures and bulk velocity are equal to the actual values at the baropause. For a detailed description of the method of calculation we refer to our previous papers (Lemaire and Scherer, 1971, 1972).

Since the effusion velocity of the electrons and oxygen ions is much smaller than the corresponding thermal speed, we assume $u_0^+ = u_e^- = 0$. For the hydrogen ion, however, the effusion velocity is nearly sonic, and it is quite reasonable to assume that

$$u_{H^+} = \frac{1}{4} C_{H^+} = \left(\frac{k T_{H^+}}{2 \pi m_{H^+}}\right)^{1/2}$$

Moreover, we have shown that most properties of such an $(0^+ - H^+ - e)$ - exosphere are not affected qualitatively by considering an asymmetry in the velocity distribution (Lemaire and Scherer, 1972).

2. THE PHOTOELECTRON FLUX

It has been argued by Axford (1968) that a photoelectron flux of 2×10^8 cm⁻² sec⁻¹ is required at 400 km altitude to drag into the magnetotail the protons and helium ions produced in the sunlit ionosphere. Nisbet (1968), Nagy and Banks (1970), and Shawhan *et al.* (1970) have shown that photoelectron fluxes of this order of magnitude escape from a sunlit ionosphere. Maier and Rao (1970), and Heikkila (1971) recently observed in the high altitude (~ 2000 km) polar ionosphere suprathermal electron (i.e. with an energy larger than 5 eV) fluxes of 5 - 10 x 10⁷ cm⁻² sec⁻¹.

In this section we will show how the exospheric plasma distribution in the polar regions will be modified by increasing values of the photoelectron flux. The total ion escape flux, mainly carried by the lightest ions, is, at the baropause, of the order of

$$F_i \approx F_{H^+}(r_0) = \frac{1}{2} n_{H^+}(r_0) C_{H^+} \left[\sqrt[4]{\pi} U_{H^+} + \exp(-U_{H^+}^2) / \operatorname{erfc}(-U_{H^+}) \right]$$

where $U_{H^+} = (m_{H^+/2} \ k \ T_{H^+})^{1/2} \ u_{H^+}$; $n_{H^+} \ (r_0)$ denotes the actual proton density at the baropause; and the complementary error function is defined by

erfc (z) =
$$\frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \int_{z}^{\infty} \exp(-t^2) dt.$$

Unless the thermal electron gaz implodes (i.e. $F_{th.e} < o$), the total photoelectron flux, $F_{ph.e}$, cannot much exceed the value of $F_{H^+}(r_o)$. For $T_{H^+} = 3000^{\circ}$ K, $n_{H^+}(r_o) = 100$ cm⁻³, and $u_{H^+} = o$, the proton escape flux is equal to 4×10^7 cm⁻² sec⁻¹. Photoelectron fluxes larger than this value imply a higher proton density or/and temperature, or a highly asymmetric velocity distribution $(u_{H^+} >> C_{H^+})$ at the baropause. For example, to support a photoelectron flux of 10^8 cm⁻² sec⁻¹, the minimum proton density at the baropause would be 250 cm^{-3} if $u_H^+ = 0$ and $T_H^+ = 3000^{\circ} \text{ K}$. If however $n_H^+(r_0) = 100 \text{ cm}^{-3}$, and $T_H^+(r_0) = 3000^{\circ} \text{ K}$, the minimal value of u_H^+ required to support the same photoelectron flux would be 10 km sec⁻¹.

In the ensuing discussion an intermediate case is chosen in which $n_{\rm H}$ +($r_{\rm o}$) = 217 cm⁻³, which is approximately the minimum proton density required at the baropause, to support a photoelectron flux of 10⁸ cm⁻² sec⁻¹ when $u_{\rm H}$ + = $C_{\rm H}$ +/4. Table 1 gives the values of the particle fluxes (F), the number densities (n), the scale heights (H), the bulk velocities (w), the perpendicular and parallel temperatures ($T_{\rm L}$ and $T_{\rm H}$), the total energy and conduction fluxes (ϵ and c) parallel to the magnetic field, and the electric field intensity (E) at an altitude of 10000 km for three models which differ by the photoelectron flux entering the base of the ion-exosphere as follows: (a) no photoelectron flux; (b) $F_{\rm ph.e} = 2 \times 10^7 \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ sec}^{-1}$, and (c) $F_{\rm ph.e} = 10^8 \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ sec}^{-1}$. The other parameter values are the same for the three models and are given by: $n_{\rm O}$ +($r_{\rm o}$) = 783 cm⁻³, $n_{\rm H}$ +($r_{\rm o}$) = 217 cm⁻³ and $n_{\rm e}(r_{\rm o}) = 1000 \text{ cm}^{-3}$; $T_{\rm O}$ + = $T_{\rm H}$ + = $T_{\rm e} = 3000^{\circ}$ K; $u_{\rm H}$ + = 2 km sec⁻¹. The baropause is chosen at 2000 km above the polar cap; i.e. $r_{\rm o} = 8371 \text{ km}$.

3. DISCUSSION

From Table 1 it can be seen that when the photoelectron flux is much smaller than the ion flux, case (b), the plasma distribution does not differ much from the model (a), where the photoelectron flux is zero. The slightly larger electric field in model (b) decelerates the thermal electrons and, as a consequence, reduces their escape flux by an amount exactly equal to the photoelectron flux, while the proton flux remains unchanged. In case (c), where the photoelectron flux is nearly equal to the proton flux, the electric field intensity is significantly larger than in case (a), and, the thermal electron flux is reduced to a relatively small value compared to the total ion flux.

Fig. 1 illustrates the ratio of the electric force to the gravitational force acting upon an oxygen ion $(eE/m_O^+ g)$ as a function of altitude. The larger electric field in model (c), which is a consequence of the large photoelectron flux, accelerates the ions to higher

TABLE 1.- Properties of three model exospheres at an altitude of 10000 km above the geomagnetic pole. The models differ by the photoelectron flux at the baropause :(a) $F_{ph.e} = 0$; (b) $F_{ph.e} = 2 \times 10^7 \text{ cm}^{-2}\text{sec}^{-1}$; (c) $F_{ph.e} = 10^8 \text{ cm}^{-2}\text{sec}^{-1}$. The other conditions at the baropause are the same for the three models and are given by $r_0 = 8371 \text{ km}$; $T_H^+ = T_0^+ = T_e = 3000^{\circ}\text{K}$; $u_H^+ = 2 \text{ km} \text{ sec}^{-1}$, $u_0^+ = u_e = 0$; $n_H^+(r_0) = 217 \text{ cm}^{-3}$. $n_0^+(r_0) = 783 \text{ cm}^{-3}$. $n_e(r_0) = 10^3 \text{ cm}^{-3}$.

Physical quantities at 10000 km	Units	Symbols	а	Ь	c
$\begin{array}{c} ph.e\\ th.e\\ O^{+}\\ H^{+} \end{array}$ flux	cm ⁻² sec ⁻¹	^F ph.e ^F th.e ^F 0 ⁺ F _H +	0 1.39 x 10 ⁷ 4.38 x 10 ⁻³ 1.39 x 10 ⁻⁷	2.67 x 10 ⁶ 1.12 x 10 ⁷ 5,54 x 10 ⁻³ 1.39 x 10 ⁷	1.33 x 10 ⁷ 5.74 x 10 ⁵ 1.35 x 10 ⁻¹ 1.39 x 10 ⁷
th.e 0 ⁺ density H ⁺	cm ⁻³	ⁿ th.e n ₀ + n _H +	8.47 2.30 x 10 ⁻² 8.44	8.41 2.42 x 10 ⁻² 8.40	8.16 3.13 x 10 ⁻² 8.21
$\begin{array}{c c} \text{th.e} \\ \text{o}^+ \\ \text{H}^+ \end{array} \text{ beight}$	km	H _{th.e} H ₀ + H _H +	5020 1020 5070	5000 1210 5060	4910 1270 4980
th.e 0 ⁺ bulk velocity H ⁺	km sec ⁻¹	^w th.e w ₀ + w _H +	16.4 1.9 x 10 ⁻⁶ 16.5	13.4 2.3 x 10 ⁻⁶ 16.6	7.0 x 10 ⁻¹ 3.7 x 10 ⁻⁵ 16.9
th.e 0 ⁺ temperature H ⁺	°K	T _{ith.e} T _{i0} + T _{iH} +	1773 2999 374	1895 2999 374	2850 2997 375
th.e 0 ⁺ H ⁺	٥K	Τ _{ιι th.e} Τ _{ιι 0} + Τ _{ιι Η} +	2212 2999 473	2270 2999 470	2880 2998 452
Energy flux	erg cm ⁻²	e	5.1 x 10 ⁻⁵	1.3 x 10 ⁻⁴	4.5 x 10 ⁻⁴
Conduction flux	erg cm ⁻²	с	7.9 x 10 ⁻⁶	1.0 x 10 ⁻⁵	1.3 x 10 ⁻⁵
Electric field	Volt/m	E	3.8 x 10 ⁻⁸	4.0 x 10 ⁻⁸	5.1 x 10 ⁻⁸

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velocities than in models (a) and (b). This is shown in Fig. 2, where the bulk velocity of the H⁺ ions (solid lines and lower scale in km sec⁻¹) and the O⁺ ions (dashed lines and upper scale in cm sec⁻¹) are given versus altitude for the three models considered in Table 1. The density distributions (n_{H^+} , n_{O^+} , $n_{th.e}$) do not depend significantly on the values of the photoelectron flux. The flux ($F_{th.e}$), the bulk velocity ($w_{th.e}$) and the temperatures (T_{11} th.e, T_{\perp} th.e) of the thermal electrons are, on the contrary, strongly dependent on the value of $F_{ph.e}$.

For sufficiently high values of the photoelectron flux and a fixed value of the escaping proton flux, the flux of thermal electrons may even become negative. Such a low energy (0.5 eV) electron precipitation can probably exist at the time of a sudden enhancement of the photoelectron emission. Conversely, a large precipitation of highly energetic electrons can be balanced by a nearly equal outward flux of thermal electrons (Shawhan *et al.*, 1970).

In a steady state model, however, where an inward flux of thermal electrons must be excluded, the light ion density $n_{H^+}(r_0)$ and flux $F_{H^+}(r_0)$, will be strongly dependent on the value of the photoelectron flux; very large values of this photoelectron flux must be balanced by correspondingly large values of F_{H^+} and $n_{H^+}(r_0)$ to keep the total electric current equal to zero.

Considering the photoelectrons as a separate type of collisionless particle with a Maxwellian velocity distribution at the baropause and a mean energy of 10 eV, it can be calculated that the escape flux $F_{ph.e}$ is precisely $10^8 \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ sec}^{-1}$ when the number density $n_{ph.e}(r_0) = 1.05 \text{ cm}^{-3}$, and $T_{ph.e} = 1,16 \times 10^{50} \text{ K}$, (i.e. $3/2 \text{ k} T_{ph.e} = 10 \text{ eV}$). With these boundary conditions and those already defined for the model c, we determined the photoelectron density, bulk velocity and energy flux carried by these energetic particles. Fig. 3 shows the bulk velocity of the protons (solid line), thermal electrons (dotted line), and photoelectrons (dashed-dotted line) up to an altitude of $5 \times 10^5 \text{ km}$ (i.e. approximately 80 Earth radii). It can be seen that at large altitudes, and under the assumption that the charged particles do not interact either by Coulomb collisions or by wave-particle interactions, the protons will have a kinetic energy $\frac{1}{2} \text{ m}_{\text{H}} + \text{w}_{\text{H}}^2 + = 2.64 \text{ eV}$, while the energy of the photoelectrons has decreased to 8.53 eV.

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Fig. 2.- Bulk velocities of H⁺ (solid lines and lower scale in km/sec) and 0⁺ (dashed lines and upper scale in cm/sec) for three kinetic models of the polar ion-exosphere. The baropause conditions are $r_0 = 8371$ km; $T_{H^+} = T_0^+ = T_e = 3000^{\circ}$ K; $u_{H^+} = 2$ km sec⁻¹; $u_0^+ = u_e = 0$; $n_{H^+}(r_0) = 217$ cm⁻³; $n_0^+(r_0) = 783$ cm⁻³; $n_e(r_0) = 1000$ cm⁻³. The models differ by the value of the photoelectronflux at the baropause : a) $F_{ph.e}(r_0) = 0$; b) $F_{ph.e}(r_0) = 2 \times 10^7$ cm⁻² sec⁻¹; c) $F_{ph.e}(r_0) = 10^8$ cm⁻² sec⁻¹.



Fig. 3.- Bulk velocities of the proton (solid line), of the thermal electrons (dotted line), and of the photoelectrons (dotted-dashed line) as a function of altitude above the geomagnetic pole in a kinetic model of the polar ion-exosphere, with baropause conditions: $r_0 = 8371 \text{ km}$; $T_{H^+} = T_0^+ = T_{th.e} = 3000^{\circ}\text{K}$; $T_{ph.e} = 1.16 \times 10^{5} \text{ }^{\circ}\text{K}$; $u_{H^+} = 2 \text{ km sec}^{-1}$; $u_0^+ = u_{th.e} = u_{ph.e} = 0$; $n_H^+(r_0) = 217 \text{ cm}^{-3}$; $n_0^+(r_0) = 783 \text{ cm}^{-3}$; $n_{th.e}(r_0) = 998.949 \text{ cm}^{-3}$; $n_{ph.e}(r_0) = 1.051 \text{ cm}^{-3}$; $F_{ph.e}(r_0) = 10^8 \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ sec}^{-1}$.

Fig. 4 shows the density distributions of the protons (solid line), the oxygen ions (dashed line), the thermal electrons (dotted line), and the photoelectrons (dashed - dotted line) for the model (c).

Finally, it must be mentioned that in all the model calculations it was assumed that the magnetic field strength was proportional to r^{-3} , and therefore, the proton and electron density distributions display a r^{-3} radial distance dependance. If, at large distances, the magnetic field intensity tends to a constant, these densities would decrease to constant asymptotic values. Neverthless, the example of Fig. 4 shows that the photoelectrons always remain a minor constituant (i.e. $n_{ph.e} << n_{th.e}$) although they carry the total flux of the negatively charged particles (i.e. $F_{ph.e} >> F_{th.e}$).

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We appreciate the valuable advice and continuous interest of Prof. Dr. M. NICOLET during the preparation of this work.



Fig. 4.- Density distribution of the protons (solid line), oxygen ions (dashed line), thermal electrons (dotted line), and photoelectrons (dotted - dashed line) as a function of altitude above the geomagnetic pole, in a kinetic model of the polar ion-exosphere with baropause conditions : $r_0 = 8371 \text{ km}$; $T_{H^+} = T_{0^+} = T_{th.e} = 3000^{\circ}\text{K}$; $T_{ph.e} =$ $1.16 \times 10^5 \text{ }^{\circ}\text{K}$; $u_{H^+} = 2 \text{ km sec}^{-1}$; $u_0^+ = u_{ph.e} = u_{th.e} = 0$; $n_H^+(r_0) = 217 \text{ cm}^{-3}$; $n_0^+(r_0) = 783 \text{ cm}^{-3}$; $n_{th.e}(r_0)$ $= 998.949 \text{ cm}^{-3}$; $n_{ph.e}(r_0) = 1.051 \text{ cm}^{-3}$; $F_{ph.e}(r_0) = 10^8 \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ sec}^{-1}$.

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