#### Introduction to Incoherent Scatter 1

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#### Incoherent Scatter Radar

- Incoherent
- Scatter
- Radar

#### Incoherent Scatter Radar

- Radar
- Scatter
- Incoherent

## Radar

- RADAR (RAdio Detection And Ranging)
  - is a technique for detecting and studying remote targets by transmitting a radio wave in the direction of the target and observing the reflection of the wave.
  - Radar is an object detection system which uses radio waves to determine the range, altitude, direction, or speed of objects. (wikipedia)

#### Doppler Radar - time domain



















 $f_0$ 



 $f_0$ 





#### Thomson scattering

- Thomson scattering is the elastic scattering of electromagnetic radiation by a free charged particle, as described by classical electromagnetism.
- In the low-energy limit, the electric field of the incident wave (radar wave) accelerates the charged particle, causing it, in turn, to emit radiation at the same frequency as the incident wave, and thus the wave is scattered.
- As long as the motion of the particle is non-relativistic (i.e. its speed is much less than the speed of light), the main cause of the acceleration of the particle will be due to the electric field component of the incident wave, and the magnetic field can be neglected. The particle will move in the direction of the oscillating electric field, resulting in electromagnetic dipole radiation.



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#### Thermal fluctuating electrons



#### Incoherent...?

- Dictionary: The property of being coherent
- Antonym: Incoherent
- Incoherent=Random, viz. Incoherent scatter is the process by which radiowaves are randomly scattered by electrons in the ionosphere
- Media: Incoherent=Incomprehensible

### Incoherent...?

- Dictionary: The property of being coherent
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- Media: Incoherent=Incomprehensible
  Incoherent scatter is neither incoherent nor
  incomprehensible

#### **Radar Equations**

Hard target:

$$P_r = \frac{P_t G_t A_r \sigma}{(4\pi)^2 R^4}$$

Incoherent Scatter Radar

$$P_{r} = \frac{Cc_{0}G\lambda^{2}}{2(4\pi)^{2}} \frac{P_{t}\tau_{p}}{R^{2}} \frac{\sigma_{e}n_{e}(R)}{(1+k^{2}\lambda_{D}^{2})(1+k^{2}\lambda_{D}^{2}+T_{r})}$$

### The ionospheric plasma

• So now we need electrons in the ionosphere to scatter the radar wave off...



#### The Earth's lonosphere



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#### How ISRs work...



High power transmitter

Very sensitive receiver

Time

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Range









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#### How ISRs work...



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#### Total cross section estimate:

Consider an antenna with a 1degree beam measuring the ionospheric plasma at 300 km range and using a 300 microsecond pulse. If the electron density is  $10^{12}$ m<sup>-3</sup>, the total number of electrons scattering into a given measurement is  $\sim 8.8 \times 10^{23}$ . This yields a total cross-section of 88  $mm^2$  – we need a big radar!



#### For TRUE incoherent scatter...



no collective interactions

$$S_e(\mathbf{k},\omega) = N_e \left| 1 - \frac{\chi_e(\mathbf{k},\omega)}{\epsilon(\mathbf{k},\omega)} \right|^2 \int d\mathbf{v} f_e(\mathbf{v}) \delta(\omega - \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{v}) + N_i \left| \frac{\chi_e(\mathbf{k},\omega)}{\epsilon(\mathbf{k},\omega)} \right|^2 \int d\mathbf{v} f_i(\mathbf{v}) \delta(\omega - \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{v})$$

$$S_e(\mathbf{k},\omega) = N_e \int d\mathbf{v} f_e(\mathbf{v}) \delta(\omega - \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{v})$$



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#### Incoherent scattering - the short story



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## Incoherent scattering - the short



• We only see scattering from the electrons ...but they also tell the story about the ion dynamics...

#### Collective behavior...

 There are a number of wave modes existing inherently in the ionospheric plasma...



Neutrals

**Positive lons** 

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#### **Positive lons**

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**Positive lons** 

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**Positive lons** 

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## Langmuir waves

- High frequency electrostatic waves
- Dispersion relation:

$$w_{r} = (w_{pe}^{2} + 3h^{2} v_{the}^{2})^{1/2} = w_{p}(1 + 3h^{2}h_{be}^{2})^{1/2}$$

$$w_{i} = -c \frac{w_{pe}}{(h n pe)^{3}} e_{xp}(-\frac{1}{2}h^{2}n_{be}^{2}), \quad c = \sqrt{\frac{11}{8}}e^{-\frac{3}{2}}$$

## Ion Acoustic Waves...



"Pressure" waves in the ion density.

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## Ion acoustic waves

\* len accrutic waves:  
(63) 
$$w_r = \frac{ucs}{1+u^2 n_{ee}^2}$$
,  $c_s = \left(\frac{e_s T_z + 3u_e T_i}{m_i}\right)^{1/2}$   
(64)  $w_i = -\sqrt{\frac{11}{8}} \frac{w_r}{(1+u^2 n_{ee}^2)^{3/2}} \left[ \left(\frac{T_e}{T_i}\right)^{3/2} exp \left(-\frac{T_e/T_i}{a(1+u^2 n_{ee}^2)} + \sqrt{\frac{m_e}{m_i}}\right) \right]$ 

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# Plasma Wave Approach (cont'd)



### Landau wave-particle interactions















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# Debye length dependence



$$\begin{aligned} & \textbf{Plasma Line } S_{PL}(\mathbf{k},\omega) & \textbf{ lon Line } S_{IL}(\mathbf{k},\omega) \\ S_{\epsilon}(\mathbf{k},\omega) &= N_{e} \left| 1 - \frac{\chi_{e}(\mathbf{k},\omega)}{\epsilon(\mathbf{k},\omega)} \right|^{2} \int d\mathbf{v} f_{e}(\mathbf{v}) \delta(\omega - \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{v}) + N_{i} \left| \frac{\chi_{e}(\mathbf{k},\omega)}{\epsilon(\mathbf{k},\omega)} \right|^{2} \int d\mathbf{v} f_{i}(\mathbf{v}) \delta(\omega - \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{v}) \end{aligned}$$





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# Debye length dependence Ion Electron cloud Debye length $\lambda_D$ $\lambda_{\rm radar} \propto 1/k_{\rm radar}$

 $(\lambda_D / \lambda_{radar})^2 > 1$  $\Rightarrow (k_{radar} \lambda_D)^2 > 1$ 

 $\Rightarrow$  No collective interactions

#### no collective interactions

$$S_{e}(\mathbf{k},\omega) = N_{e} \left| 1 - \frac{\chi_{e}(\mathbf{k},\omega)}{\epsilon(\mathbf{k},\omega)} \right|^{2} \int d\mathbf{v} f_{e}(\mathbf{v}) \delta(\omega - \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{v}) + N_{i} \left| \frac{\chi_{e}(\mathbf{k},\omega)}{\epsilon(\mathbf{k},\omega)} \right|^{2} \int d\mathbf{v} f_{i}(\mathbf{v}) \delta(\omega - \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{v})$$

$$S_e(\mathbf{k},\omega) = N_e \int d\mathbf{v} f_e(\mathbf{v}) \delta(\omega - \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{v})$$



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# **Debye Length Dependencies**





## **Radar Frequency Dependencies**


With the frequency of the radar chosen (which is a one time thing!), how does the spectra depend on geophysical parameters?

## **Ion-Neutral Collision Frequency**





## Ion Temperature



 $\frac{Parameters}{Freq: 449 MHz} \\ Ne: 10^{12} m^{-3} \\ Te: 2*Ti \\ Comp: 100\% O^{+} \\ \nu_{in}: 10^{-6} KHz \\ \end{cases}$ 

## **Electron/Ion Temperature Ratio**



 $\frac{Parameters}{Freq: 449 MHz} \\ Ne: 10^{12} m^{-3} \\ Ti: 1000 K \\ Comp: 100\% O^{+} \\ v_{in}: 10^{-6} KHz \\ \end{cases}$ 

## Ion Velocity



#### ... or to sum up...



•Ion (and electron) temperature (Ti and Te) to ion mass (mi) ratio from the width of the spectra

•Electron to ion temperature ratio (Te/ Ti) from "peak\_to\_valley" ratio

•Electron (= ion) density from total area (corrected for temperatures)

•Ion velocity (vi) from the Doppler shift

### Spectral space as a function of altitude



# Plasma Parameter Profile



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#### Sondrestrom Radar View (Electron Density)





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# And this is the level data we will work on in the MADRIGAL session...