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## Observation of Polar Mesospheric Summer Echoes with EISCAT VHF Radar

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> 2016 Radar School SGO, Sodankyla, Finland

## **D** Region

- Daytime
- Mesosphere is coldest layer
- Coldest in the summer



#### **Polar Mesospheric Summer Echoes**

- Radar echoes found from 80-90 km altitude in the polar summer
- Where do they come from?
  - Ice particles form around aerosols
  - Electrons from D-region plasma charge the ice particles
  - Charged aerosol particles attract electrons, leading to coherent scatter
  - Turbulence from gravity waves moves the charged ice, leading to changes in the electron number density.



## **Noctilucent Clouds**



**CIPS AIM** 

## What radar settings are needed to observe PMSE?

#### Radar

#### Tromsø, Norway 69° 35' N 19° 14' E

Licitie for

VHF: 224 MHz

#### **Additional Radar Considerations**

CP1



**EISCAT Experiments, 2015** 

#### **Additional Radar Considerations**

#### CP1

#### Code: Manda

Table 3: EISCAT	VHF radar	standard	experiments	. The top	three	experiments
have tri-static su	pport.					

Name	Code length [bit]	Baud length [µs]	Sampling rate [µs]	Range span [km]	Time resolution [s]	Plasma line	Raw data
manda	61	2.4	1.2	19-209	4.8	-	Yes
beata	32	20	20	52-663	5.0	Yes	-
bella	30	45	45	63-1344	3.6	Yes	-
tau7	16	96	12	50-2001	5.0	-	
arc_dlayer	64	2	2	60-139	5.0	-	-
tau1	16	72	24	104-2061	5.0	-	-



Figure 2: Overview of the ranges covered at the EISCAT VHF radar by the experiments used in the common programmes.

**EISCAT Experiments, 2015** 

### **Additional Radar Considerations**

CP1

Code: Manda

Time of experiment: 14:30-16:30



Zecha and Röttger, 2009



#### **Power Spectrum**



#### **Electron density**

TRO VHF log10( Ne ) (m^(-3)) 200 12 150 11 alt (km) 10 100 9 50 8 15.0 16.0 15.5 UT (h)

#### lonosonde data

TRO Dynasonde log10( Ne ) (m^(-3))



#### Signal to noise ratio

TRO VHF Signal to noise ratio (dB)



#### Signal to noise ratio Svalbard

ESR 32 Signal to noise ratio (dB)



#### **Esrange MST Radar (52 MHz)**

ESRAD Signal to noise ratio (dB)



#### Reflectivity

100 95 3e-18 90 alt (km) 85 2e-18 80 1e-18 75 0e+00 70

TRO VHF Reflectivity (m<sup>(-1)</sup>)

UT (h)

15.5

16.0

15.0

### Reflectivity

Table 1. PMSE studies at different frequencies.

Reflectivity	Reference	Location	Frequency
[m <sup>-1</sup>			(Bragg scale) [MHz (m)]
	Bremer et al. (1996b)	Tromsø, (69° N)	2.78 (53.9)
	Karashtin et al. (1997)	Vasil'surk, Russia (56° N)	8-9 (18.8)
	Kelley et al. (2002)	Gakona, Alaska, (62° N)	3.3, 4.9, 7.6
	Ogawa et al. (2003)	Hankasalmi, Finnland, (62° N)	9, 11, 13. 15
2.0.10-1	Röttger et al. (1990)	Tromsø, (69° N)	49.6 (3.0)
	Ecklund and Balsley (1981)	Poker Flat (65° N)	50.0 (3.0)
9.0.10-1	Kelley and Ulwick (1988)		
	Huaman et al. (2001)	Resolut Bay (75° N)	51.5 (2.9)
4.0-10-1	Inhester et al. (1990)	Andøya, (69° N)	53.5 (2.8)
2.2.10-1	Röttger (2001)	Svalbard, (78° N)	53.5 (2.8)
1.5.10-1	Hoppe et al. (1988)	Tromsø, (69° N)	224 (0.67)
	Röttger et al. (1988)		
1.3.10-1	Hocking and Röttger (1997)		
5.3.10-1	Röttger (2001)	Svalbard, (78° N)	500 (0.3)
1.2.10-1	Röttger et al. (1990)	Tromsø, (69° N)	933 (0.16)
	Cho and Kelley (1992)	Sondrestrom, (67° N)	1290 (0.12)

Rapp, M. and Lübken, F.-J., 2004

#### **Geomagnetic Activity and PMSE**

#### Does geomagnetic activity influence the occurrence of PMSEs?



No geomagnetic storms (Dst=-15, -5 nT ) or substorms (AE < 500 nT) were observed during this day

25 day decrease of Dst. Small CIR storm?





## Solar wind and IMF parameters

#### ACE spacecraft

- -V < 500 km/s
- - Increase of Np of the solar wind at 26 July 2016, > 10 cm^3.
- It may cause compression of the magnetosphere on the dayside and increase the level of precipitating particles into the ionosphere.
- Bz-component of the IMF has a short excursion to the southward direction



#### **IMAGE** magnetometers (mainland)

- X-component
- No strong geomagnetic disturbances was observed during our experiment

### Cosmic noise absorption (CNA)



No strong energetic electron precipitation (30 keV) was registered in the D layer of the ionosphere by the riometers in Scandinavia

No IRIS riometer data in Kilpisjarvi

PMSE occur during the low level of geomagnetic activity and low level of the electron precipitation into the D region of the high latitude ionosphere

But this question needs more statistical analyses.

#### Summary

- We carried out an investigation of Polar Mesosphere Summer Echoes (PMSE) on 26/07/2016 between 14:30 16:30 UT using an EISCAT VHF Radar (224 MHz)
- Manda pulse code mode
- We have analysed and interpreted our data with data from other instruments
- PMSE were seen between 82 87 km altitude with peak value around 14:50 UT
- The reflectivity value observed appears to be in the same range with the values from previous studies, e.g Rottger et al, 1988, 1990, 2001
- PMSE were observed during low level of geomagnetic activity, also the level of the charged particles precipitation at the D region of the ionosphere was observed to be low
- Our science goal of observing PMSE was achieved even though we have 30% chances.

#### **Future studies & Conclusion**

- Long term studies of PMSE using large data sets from other Incoherent Scatter Radars including PFISR, UHF and MST radars
- Does the occurrence of PMSE depends on Solar Activity?
- Do PMSE have a hemispheric dependence (Northern or Southern)?

# Kiitos!