

# How do ultra-low frequency waves access the inner magnetosphere during geomagnetic storms?

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#### How do Ultra-Low Frequency waves access the inner magnetosphere during 1 geomagnetic storms? 2

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#### **Key Points:** 12

13 14	•	We determine the Alfvén continuum and enhancement of global Ultra-Low Frequency (ULF) waves during the 2013 St. Patrick's Day geomagnetic storm
15 16	•	When the Alfvén continuum plummets, lower frequency waves are able to penetrate far deeper into the magnetosphere than expected
17 18	•	Both solar wind and internal geomagnetic conditions must be considered for the penetration of ULF waves into the inner magnetosphere.

## 20 Abstract

- 21 Wave-particle interactions play a key role in radiation belt dynamics. Traditionally, Ultra-Low
- 22 Frequency (ULF) wave-particle interaction is parameterised statistically by a small number of
- 23 controlling factors for given solar wind driving conditions or geomagnetic activity levels. Here,
- 24 we investigate solar wind driving of ultra-low frequency (ULF) wave power and the role of the
- 25 magnetosphere in screening that power from penetrating deep into the inner magnetosphere. We
- 26 demonstrate that, during enhanced ring current intensity, the Alfvén continuum plummets,
- allowing lower frequency waves to penetrate deeper into the magnetosphere than during quiet
- 28 periods. With this penetration, ULF wave power is able to accumulate closer to the Earth than
- characterised by statistical models. During periods of enhanced solar wind driving such as
- 30 coronal mass ejection driven storms, where ring current intensities maximise, the observed 31 penetration provides a simple physics-based reason for why storm-time ULF wave power is
- penetration provides a simple physics-based reason for why storm-time U
   different compared to non-storm time waves.

## 33 Plain Language Summary

- 34 Geomagnetic storms are the most dynamic and unpredictable phenomena in near-Earth space.
- 35 During geomagnetic storms, the Van Allen Radiation Belts can be significantly enhanced, via a
- number of physical processes. One of these processes is the action of large-scale Ultra-Low
- 37 Frequency (ULF) waves which are in large part directly related to the prevailing solar wind
- conditions. In this study, we show that the conditions and internal structuring in near-Earth
- 39 space during a geomagnetic storm dictate how close to the Earth these large-scale waves can
- 40 reach. Through a combination of ground-based and in-situ measurements, we show how
- 41 magnetic field strength and heavy ions control where these waves can access. We show that
- 42 conditions both internal and external to near-Earth space must be taken into account to
- 43 understand the behavior of waves, and therefore radiation belt particle dynamics, during
- 44 geomagnetic storms.
- 45

#### **1** Introduction 46

To provide a physically sound basis for models of energetic, relativistic electron dynamics (with 47

energies >500 keV) in the radiation belts, the balance between acceleration, transport and loss 48 processes must be known. Electromagnetic waves across a large range of frequencies mediate

49

the energy transfer processes in the plasma through a myriad of wave-particle interactions. This 50 is especially true during geomagnetic storms, where the electrons in the radiation belt and the 51

electromagnetic waves shaping their dynamics are at their most variable (Murphy et al., 2016; 52

- 53 Watt et al., 2017).
- 54 Very Low Frequency (VLF) chorus waves play a fundamental role in radiation belt electron

dynamics driving loss to the upper atmosphere (O'Brien et al., 2004) and acceleration within the 55

56 heart of the outer radiation belt (Reeves et al., 2013). These waves are a critical process for

modeling storm-time dynamics of the outer radiation belt (Thorne et al., 2013). Electromagnetic 57

ion cyclotron (EMIC) and VLF hiss waves are largely associated with rapid and slow loss from 58

the radiation belts respectively (Loto'aniu et al., 2006; Thorne et al., 2013). ULF waves transport 59

and energize electrons via discrete resonances (e.g., Mann et al., 2013) and diffusive radial 60

transport (e.g. Falthammer, 1965). 61

Recent work demonstrated both ULF and VLF waves are highly variable during storms and 62

poorly characterized by empirical wave models (e.g., Ma et al., 2018; Murphy et al., 2016; Tu et 63

al., 2013; Watt et al., 2017). For instance, Tu et al. (2013) have shown that event-specific VLF 64

chorus diffusion coefficients can be two orders of magnitude larger than to those derived from 65

empirical models. Murphy et al. (2016) demonstrated that storm-time ULF wave power is highly 66 67 variable and can be several orders of magnitude larger than that predicted by empirical wave

models. 68

69 It is not well understood why differences should exist between storm-time and non storm-time

waves. The basic concept of MHD wave propagation in the magnetosphere is that, for a given 70

wave frequency, its penetration is determined by the background magnetic field profile, the mass 71

- density and azimuthal wavenumber (Lee, 1996; Figure 4). MHD waves will partially reflect and 72
- 73 the wave power will evanesce where the MHD wave mode reaches a turning point (i.e. the cut-

off frequency exceeds the wave frequency). The fundamental mode eigenfrequency lies 74

earthward of the turning point. Consequently, the global eigenfrequency configuration is 75

indicative of how deeply ULF wave power of a given frequency and wavenumber can access the 76 77 inner magnetosphere. Here, we investigate a storm occurring during the Van Allen Probe era, to

determine why storm-time ULF wave power may be so different than statistical norms. 78

#### 79 2 2013 St Patrick's Day Storm

#### 80 2.1 General Overview

The 2013 St. Patrick's Day storm forms one of the radiation belt challenge events from the 81

Quantitative Assessment of Radiation Belt Modeling focus group of the Geospace Environment 82

Modeling (GEM) program (http://bit.ly/28UnLpw) that has already been remarkably well studied 83

in the literature (e.g., Albert et al., 2018; Engebretson et al., 2018; Ma et al., 2018). Figure S1 84

shows an overview of the solar wind and magnetospheric observations from 15-21 March 2013
 inclusive and the overview of the event.

87 2.2 Background Alfvén Continuum

88 ULF waves generated at the magnetopause as a result of the interaction of the Earth's

magnetosphere with the solar wind are reflected and refracted as they approach the inner

90 magnetosphere by the Alfvén continuum (e.g., Mathie et al., 1999). The Alfvén continuum

91 determines how deep fast mode waves with a specific frequency may propagate into the

92 magnetosphere from the magnetopause. ULF waves generated at the magnetopause propagate

radially inwards without generally losing energy. The Alfvén continuum determines the location
 at which the fast mode would enter the evanescent regime, and at which point the fast mode can

- couple to the Alfvén mode and drive toroidal-mode field line resonances (FLRs) (Samson et al.,
- 96 1971).

97 It is difficult to determine the global Alfvén continuum from space-based measurements, however

this is routinely possible for the dayside hemisphere from ground-based magnetometer

measurements (e.g., Waters et al., 1991). Cross-phase analysis can determine the fundamental

100 resonant eigenfrequency between two magnetometer stations (Supplementary material S2) and

101 we use the CARISMA (Canadian Array for Realtime Investigations of Magnetic Activity; Mann

102 et al., 2008) array, using the technique documented by Sandhu et al. [2018a].

103 Figure 1 shows the results of this automated cross-phase analysis. Each panel displays the

median field line eigenfrequency as a function of L-shell, separated into dawn sector (0600-1200

MLT, solid lines) and dusk sectors (1200-1800MLT, dashed lines) for each of the days of 15-21

106 March 2013 inclusive.

107 Field line eigenfrequencies are dependent upon the length of, and Alfven velocity along, a given

108 field line. During normal conditions, the eigenfrequency decreases monotonically with radial

109 distance in regions inside and outside the plasmapause because the dominant magnetic field

strength decays and field line lengths increase. Across the plasmapause, the plasma density drops

sharply with radial distance, and the eigenfrequency will increase with radial distance over a

short span of L (see Figure F1, Kale et al., 2007).

113 On 15 March 2013, the Alfvén eigenfrequency continuum displays the same behavior described

above, with a small plasmapause reversal between L = 4.2 - 4.3 in the dusk sector. During 16

115 March 2013, the eigenfrequency profile is highly variable, at increased or similar frequencies

across all L-shells in the dawn sector. In the dusk sector, eigenfrequencies decrease slightly at

117 low-L and increase sharply at L~5, which may indicate the presence of a plasmaspheric plume.

118 On 17 March 2013, however, there is little evidence of any increasing plasmapause gradient in

the continuum across all L and the eigenfrequencies have reduced across all L-shells outside L =

120 3.4. There is some evidence of an MLT asymmetry; that dawn eigenfrequencies are higher than

those at dusk. This reduction in the Alfvén continuum is concurrent with the arrival of the CME

and the initiation of this geomagnetic storm around 0500 UT.

123 On 18 March 2013, there are still some dawn-dusk differences in eigenfrequency profiles inside

of L = 4.2, whereby dawn frequencies are up to 50% higher than their dusk counterparts. All

- eigenfrequencies inside of L~5 are also higher than their counterparts on the previous day. Both
- increases in eigenfrequencies and asymmetries in the plasmaspheric density are consistent with
- 127 the presence of the remnants of a plasmaspheric density plume of the previous day (e.g.,
- 128 Borovsky and Denton, 2008).

129 On 19 March 2013, the eigenfrequency profiles return to similar values as 17 March 2013, and

the differences between the dawn and dusk asymmetries have reduced. Towards the end of the

period examined, on 20 and 21 March 2013, significant MLT and L-shell variations are found.

The eigenfrequency profiles are very different in each MLT sector, and the eigenfrequency values at around L=5 are much larger than they were on 19 March 2013. These major changes

are coincident with the arrival of the secondary CME (see previous section) at around 1200 on 20

March 2013. We discuss these changes in the eigenfrequency profile in terms of plasma density

- evolution through the two consecutive geomagnetic storms.
- 137 2.3 Storm-time ULF wave power

138 We take the vector summed power from the CARISMA (Mann et al., 2008) and IMAGE (Lühr,

139 1994) magnetometer networks throughout the storm across 51 magnetometers in the same

manner as Murphy et al. (2015; 2016) and Mann et al. (2015) and limit our analysis to the

141 dayside hemisphere only and compare this with Figure 1. We limit the analysis to the dayside

such that the powers are not influenced by substorm activity (Murphy et al., 2011; Rae et al.,

143 2011).

We use 51 magnetometers to calculate the summed ULF power between 0.83-15.83 mHz at 1

145 hour resolution throughout the storm period and interpolated onto a uniform 2D grid (original

146 data - Supplementary Material S3.

Figure 2 (top) shows the results of this ground-based analysis of summed ULF wave power as a function of L and time from 15-22 March 2013. Clear from Figure 2 (top) is that the ULF wave activity is highly time-dependent during the period of interest. The ULF wave power across the

150 storm varies both in strength and in penetration depth into the magnetosphere and across multiple

151 frequencies (see Supplementary Material S4).

152 There are also interesting ULF wave signatures at other times that can be associated with other

solar wind drivers. Two enhancements in ULF wave power across all L are seen early on 15

- 154 March 2013 and the morning of 16 March 2013. Using the statistical results of Bentley et al.
- 155 (2018) as an aid, the ULF wave power enhancements on the morning of 15 March 2013 are
- likely related to the large change in plasma density and negative IMF Bz seen in the solar wind.
- 157 A similar negative IMF Bz deflection accompanied by a smaller change in plasma density are
- also seen on the morning of 16 March 2013. Prior to the CME arrival (17 March 2013), the ULF wave activity was quiet and significant ULF wave power (10  $nT^2/mHz$ ) was not seen any further
- wave activity was quiet and significant ULF wave power ( $10 \text{ nT}^2/\text{mHz}$ ) was not seen any further inside the magnetosphere than L~6. However, on arrival of the CME, the ULF waves are
- enhanced across all L-shells, the power increasing to  $>10^3$  nT<sup>2</sup>/mHz at high L, and reaching

 $10^{2}$  nT<sup>2</sup>/mHz at L=3. The increase in ULF wave activity at high L is likely associated with the

163 significant increase in solar wind velocity and negative IMF Bz that accompany the start of the

164 CME, but what is most interesting is just how far inside the magnetosphere the increase in ULF

165 wave power is seen.

- In the ensuing recovery phase on 18 March 2013, the ULF wave power reduces in strength
- across all locations. Interestingly, the wave amplitude at high L is fairly constant throughout 18
- March and into the morning of 19 March 2013. However, the wave activity increases abruptly at
- lower L in the early hours of 19 March 2013 before decreasing again to a background level a few
- 170 hours later.
- 171 Finally, on the morning of the 21 March 2013, ULF wave power is once again enhanced,
- reaching 103 nT<sup>2</sup>/mHz at high L, and >101 nT<sup>2</sup>/mHz at L=3, presumably due to the arrival of the
- second CME with its increase in solar wind velocity and subsequent ULF energization. We
- discuss the role of external driving and internal background Alfvén continuum in this
- 175 energization below.
- Figure 2 (bottom) shows a 2D interpolation of the results shown in Figure 1 of the Alfvén
- continuum as a function of L-shell and time where colour indicates frequency. A similar type of
- interpolation has been performed as in the top panel, with a 6 hour time scale, and 0.5 L spatial
- scale. Overplotted on Figure 2 (bottom) are isocontours of specific frequencies (5, 7 and 9 mHz)
- to highlight the variability of the location of a particular eigenfrequency over the course of the
- 181 interval.
- 182 Figure 2 (bottom) shows that there is significant structuring of the Alfvén continuum as a
- 183 function of L and time. Specifically, if we consider the propagation of ULF waves inwards
- through the magnetosphere, then the continuum structure prior to the storm (i.e. on 15 and 16
- 185 March 2013) would enable ULF wave energy at high frequencies (>10mHz) to access the inner
- 186 magnetosphere, but frequencies lower than that would be reflected and refracted or evanesce.
- However, once the storm main phase has commenced, the eigenfrequency profile reduces
   dramatically, such that wave frequencies of 5 mHz could propagate into the inner magnetosphere
- dramatically, such that wave frequencies of 5 mHz could propagate into the inner magnetospher without hindrance. The 9 mHz contour moves in to L<3.5 after the storm modifies the
- 190 magnetosphere, as compared to the period prior to the storm where the 9 mHz contour exists at
- L>5. Figure S4 shows ULF wave power at these specific frequencies of 5, ~7 and ~9 mHz, and
- demonstrates that the ULF wave power at given frequencies does indeed penetrate to lower-L
- 193 when the eigenfrequency continuum is suppressed.
- As the storm moves into the recovery phase, the ULF wave power in Figure 2 (top) wanes at
- 195 higher L-shells, at the same time as the Alfvén continuum relaxes, such that 5 mHz contours are
- now around L=6. On 19 March 2013, the Alfvén continuum again reduces to a storm-like level,
- and we observe another ULF wave penetration event (Figure 2 (top)). Finally, Figure 2 (bottom)
- shows that towards the end of the interval, at the same time as the second, smaller storm, the
- pattern of the eigenfrequency continuum is reversed such that low frequencies are observed at
- 100 low L and vice versa. We conclude that either the plasmapause is around L~4 and the
- eigenfrequency continuum returns to a more typical profile (c.f., Figure 1, Kale et al., 2007) or
- that there may be a complicated Alfvén continuum due to the recovery phase of one storm
- 203 coinciding with another.

# **3 Discussion and Conclusions**

- 205 ULF waves are a key component of any storm-time study of relativistic electron dynamics,
- whether they are responsible for direct energization (Claudpierre et al., 2013), transport (Mann et

al., 2015; Ozeke et al, 2018), or losses (e.g., Rae et al., 2018). Here, we investigate the role of

208 ULF waves during a geomagnetically active period, with the critical addition of using the

eigenfrequency continuum to monitor the changes in the internal environment of the

210 magnetosphere, as seen by the ULF waves.

211 It is now established that the main source of global-scale ULF wave power is the solar wind. Global-scale ULF waves have low azimuthal wavenumbers, *m*, the value of which describes the 212 number of wavelengths around the Earth at a given radial distance. Solar wind speed (Mathie 213 214 and Mann, 2001; Murphy et al., 2011; Rae et al., 2012) and dynamic pressure (Kepko et al., 2002; Sibeck et al., 1989) have both been studied as controlling factors. However, the 215 interdependence of solar wind parameters can often mask the underlying factors that result in 216 enhanced ULF wave power, necessitating a systematic statistical study. Recently, the relative 217 contributions of solar wind drivers of ULF wave power have been quantified by Bentley et al. 218 (2018). In this work, Bentley et al. (2018) found that solar wind speed was the dominant driver, 219 followed by the southward component of IMF Bz and, in contrast to previous work, the variance 220 in number density, as opposed to the derived dynamic pressure. Statistically, as solar wind 221 driving enhances, ULF wave power increases monotonically at all radial distances in the inner 222 magnetosphere (e.g., Georgiou et al., 2018; Mathie et al., 1999; Rae et al., 2012). However, 223 none of these previous statistical studies take into account the time history of the solar wind, 224 including the temporal behavior of CMEs, corotating interaction regions (CIRs) or other solar 225 wind transients. Hence, the time-dependent nature of the solar wind may be a critical missing 226

factor in empirical models of solar wind driven ULF wave activity.

Equally, the internal plasma conditions of the magnetosphere are typically not considered in

parameterized models of ULF wave power. Such models often use a geomagnetic index as a

proxy for the external solar wind driving and internal magnetospheric dynamics (e.g. the Kp

model of Ozeke et al., (2014)). Physically, ULF wave activity in the magnetosphere is dictated

by the background magnetic field strength and the number density and composition of the cold

233 plasma. It is these parameters that control the Alfvén eigenfrequency profile and hence the

accessibility of ULF wave power into a given magnetospheric location.

Figure 1 shows the variation of the Alfvén continuum with L-shell, frequency and time

throughout the 2013 St. Patrick's Day storm. During the storm main phase, the Alfvén

continuum is suppressed at the vast majority of L-shells, other than around L=3.4 where there is

some evidence of a newly formed or refilling plasmapause. The consequence of this is that

prior to the storm, only frequencies greater than 12 mHz could access the inner magnetosphere

without evanescently decaying. During the main phase of the storm, suddenly any frequencies

greater than 5 mHz can now penetrate into the inner magnetosphere as deep as L=3.4.

During this storm, the ULF wave power (Figure 2 (top)) is highly dynamic, varying by 3 orders of magnitude. Storm-time ULF wave power has been shown to be significantly variable during the main phase of the storm (e.g., Loto'aniu et al., 2006; Murphy et al., 2016). During one of the largest geomagnetic storms in recent history, the "Halloween storm" of 2003, Loto'aniu et al. (2006) found that ULF wave power varied by 4 orders of magnitude. Interestingly these authors also found that ULF wave power was most enhanced during the two storm main phases. More specifically, the largest ULF wave power during the Halloween storm occurred during the three

249 periods of increasingly negative Dst index.

250 During periods where the eigenfrequencies are lower, ULF wave power reaches deeper into the

- 251 magnetosphere (Figure 2). ULF wave power inside the magnetosphere has a power law like
- power spectrum (Bentley et al., 2018; Rae et al., 2012). Hence, when lower frequencies can
- access lower L-shells, the summed ULF wave power is generally higher. When the Alfvén
   profile recovers between 19-20 March 2013, ULF wave power is screened from the inner
- magnetosphere. However, when the second geomagnetic storm occurs on the 20 March 2013,
- 256 ULF wave power again accesses the inner magnetosphere. By inspection of Figure 1 and Figure
- 257 2, it is clear that the eigenfrequency variations are complex, but this may result in plasmaspheric
- 258 plumes significantly complicating the simple ULF wave dynamics that are described in the
- current literature. Essentially, when there are both radial and azimuthal gradients in the Alfvén
- 260 continuum, there is a frequency dependent accumulation and penetration of ULF wave power
- through, and indeed within, the plume (c.f., Figure 3(a), Degeling et al., 2018), which will
- complicate the magnetospheric location of ULF wave powers.

The natural eigenfrequency of geomagnetic field lines is determined by its magnetic field profile 263 and the mass density along the field line. During geomagnetic storms, it is usually thought that 264 heavy ion outflow increases the mass density sufficiently to lower the Alfvén continuum (e.g., 265 Engwall et al. 2009; Kale et al., 2009; Kronberg et al., 2014; Loto'aniu et al., 2006; Yau et al., 266 1988). Certainly heavy ions must play a role. However, Sandhu et al (2018b) constructed a 267 statistical model of the average mass densities as a function of Dst index. Sandhu et al. (2018b) 268 found that, although the average ion mass did increase significantly with increasingly negative 269 270 Dst index, the electron densities in the inner magnetosphere reduced.

Hence on average, lower Dst index values reduce the plasma mass density, rather than increasing 271 it as previously thought. Sandhu et al. (2018b) concluded that the changes in the magnetic field 272 drove the changes in eigenfrequency; during sudden increases in dayside compression, the 273 geomagnetic field strength in the outer magnetosphere increases across the dayside. It is 274 important to remember that when using a proxy such as Dst index, two very different intervals 275 are averaged, decreasing Dst during the main phase and increasing Dst during the recovery phase 276 even though both phases pass through the same values of Dst. However, Sandhu et al's (2018b) 277 model provides useful context for interpreting our results. We now consider the role of the ring 278 current itself in reducing the Alfvén continuum in the inner magnetosphere. Commonly, the "Dst 279 effect" (Kim and Chan, 1997) is specifically limited to the effect of ring current enhancement 280 encouraging electron loss. Here we suggest that the strengthening ring current significantly 281 changes the Alfvén continuum during key periods of the storm. 282

Relationships between ring current intensity and ULF wave power have been discussed previously (e.g., Mann et al., 2012; Murphy et al, 2014), suggesting a causal link between ring current ions and the generation of storm-time high-m waves that could play additional roles in energization (eg., Ozeke and Mann, 2008) and loss (e.g., Rae et al., 2018). Clearly, it is the interplay between magnetic field and plasma mass densities that is key during the dynamic period in main phase of the storm. Figures 2 and 3 (bottom) show that the eigenfrequencies are suppressed during this storm main phase.

In order to reduce the Alfvén continuum across a wide range of L-shells, the magnetic field
 strength must reduce, or the mass density must increase, or a combination of both. Figure 3(a)

demonstrates the effect of the ring current in reducing the local magnetic field strength at the

293 Van Allen Probes A and B throughout the storm, by displaying the ratio between the magnetic

field strength observed by Van Allen Probes (Kletzing et al., 2014) relative to the IGRF

295 (International Geomagnetic Reference Field). Note that there is a clear reduction in the ratio

away from 1.0 in the same manner as Shen et al. (2014) discussed that is mirrored by the

negative enhancement in the Dst index. This implies that the expected magnetic field as

measured by the Van Allen Probes is significantly suppressed during the storm main phase and

in response to the evolving ring current.

There are a number of factors at play here, however. Field line eigenfrequencies are influenced 300 by the magnetic field strength and by plasma mass density along the field. In this paper, we 301 discuss how the inner magnetosphere could respond differently to geomagnetic storms than the 302 outer magnetosphere. Ion outflow during geomagnetic storms (e.g., Yau et al., 1988) would 303 certainly influence the plasma mass density at all locations during the main phase of the storm. 304 However, there is also a secondary effect, which is that there is also enhanced helium and 305 oxygen ring current ions in the inner magnetosphere (e.g., Sandhu et al., 2018c). The enhanced 306 ring current (and its contribution to mass densities) will increase the heavy ion content in the 307 inner magnetosphere, whilst also reducing the local magnetic field strength at ring current radial 308 distances (Kim and Chan, 1997; Kronberg et al., 2014). Regardless of which effect is dominant, 309 these additive effects lead to a net decrease in the Alfvén continuum, allowing deep penetration 310 of ULF wave power into the inner magnetosphere during periods of increase ring current 311 intensity. It must be stressed that the amplitude of this ULF wave accessibility is dependent 312 313 upon the solar wind driver and, while penetration can occur during ring current enhancements, large amplitude wave power at low-L will occur during periods of enhanced solar wind driving 314 and ring current intensities (e.g., Loto'aniu et al., 2006). The plasmapause role on Pc5 315 penetration has been reported before by Hartinger et al. [2010]. Here, we discuss that multiple 316 storm-time factors of plasma composition and density, global magnetic field configuration and 317 the suppression of the inner magnetospheric field by the ring current can depress the Alfven 318

319 continuum.

320 Figure 3(b-e) shows ion data from the Van Allen Probes HOPE (Helium Oxygen Proton Electron) instruments (Funsten et al., 2013; Spence et al., 2013) during the storm. Figure 3(b-e) 321 shows (b) H+, (c) O+ energy fluxes as a function of energy and time, and (d) the ratio between 322 these fluxes. Figure 3(c) shows the increase in both low energy oxygen (<100 eV) on 17 March 323 2013 at ~12 UT, and the delayed increase of higher energy oxygen (100eV-100keV) later in the 324 geomagnetic storm from 12 UT on 18 March 2013, and with a slow decay lasting ~1-2 days. 325 326 This two-step heavy ion increase is consistent with the sharp increase in ion outflow at the start of the geomagnetic storm (e.g., Gkioulidou et al., 2019; Kronberg et al., 2014) and the longer-327 term penetration of heavy ions convected into the inner magnetosphere from substorms (e.g., 328 Sandhu et al., 2018). Figure 3(d) shows the ratio of oxygen to hydrogen as a function of energy, 329 and (e) summed over energy to demonstrate intervals where the heavy ion content of the ring 330 current should be considered to be significant; the dashed horizontal line indicating unity. On 331 17 March, the increase in low energy oxygen and the decrease in low energy hydrogen leads to a 332 large increase in the ratio. The hydrogen content of the ring current recovers over the course of 333 the 18 March 2013 and there is an additional higher energy oxygen content which maintains an 334 elevated ratio as seen in Figure 3(e). The additive effect of reduced magnetic field and two-step 335 heavy ion content leads to a suppressed Alfvén continuum that is highly variable throughout the 336 entire storm-time period, enabling mHz frequencies to penetrate the inner magnetosphere as a 337

- consequence. We conclude that solar wind driving as well as current internal conditions must
- both be considered for realistic storm-time ULF wave conditions in the inner magnetosphere.
- 340 It is interesting to note that the lowering of the continuum and penetration of ULF wave power is
- closely coincident with the time and location of rapid enhancement in MeV electron fluxes
- 342 (Figure S1), as both ULF wave power and enhancements occur around L=3-3.5. Such
- penetration may also explain slot region filling during very large storms, where both ULF wave
- powers and ring current intensities are largest (Ozeke et al., 2018). What role this ULF wave
- power plays in shaping the radiation belt enhancement remains to be seen, but what is clear is
- that ULF wave powers must be taken into account during radiation belt modelling of such
- 347 enhancements.
- One of the primary challenges of the Quantitative Assessment of Radiation Belt Morphology
- 349 (QARBM) Geospace Environment Modeling (GEM) challenge is to assess the validity of
- diffusion coefficients during specific geomagnetic storms. Since the accessibility of ULF wave
- power is strongly dependent upon internal geomagnetic conditions, we conclude that the radial
- dependence of ULF wave diffusion coefficients will vary significantly during geomagnetic
- storms not only on external driving but also critically on internal factors that have not yet been
- 354 fully considered.
- 355

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f [mHz] 

Figure 1. Eigenfrequency profiles from the CARISMA magnetometer array "Churchill Line" (see Supplementary S2). Figure 1 contains the cross-phase results using the automated algorithm from Sandhu et al. [2018a] from measurements from station pairs shown in Supplementary Material S2. 

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Figure 2. (top) Summed ULF wave power from the IMAGE and CARISMA magnetometer
chains for the 15-22 March 2013 storm over the dayside magnetosphere (06-18 MLT)
interpolated onto a 2D grid with 1hour resolution and 0.1L step (original data in Supplementary
Material S2). (bottom) a 2D interpolation with 6 hours in time and 0.25 L spatial scales of the
Alfvén continuum shown in Figure 1.





Figure 1.



Figure 2.



Figure 3.

