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## RESEARCH ARTICLE

# WHISTLER-TRIGGERED VLF EMISSIONS OBSERVED AT LOW LATITUDE GROUND STATION DURING DAY TIME

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### ABSTRACT

Whistler-triggered VLF emission recorded at low latitude ground station Jammu (Geomagnetic Latitude =  $22^{\circ} 26' N$ ,  $L = 1.17$ ) are reported. The dynamic spectrums of whistler-triggered emissions based on spectral analysis have been carried out. The riser triggered from the bottom side of the whistler spectrum. According to Smirnova theory, the  $L$  – value of rising emissions have been computed. An attempt is made to explain the generation and propagation mechanism of these emissions.

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## INTRODUCTION

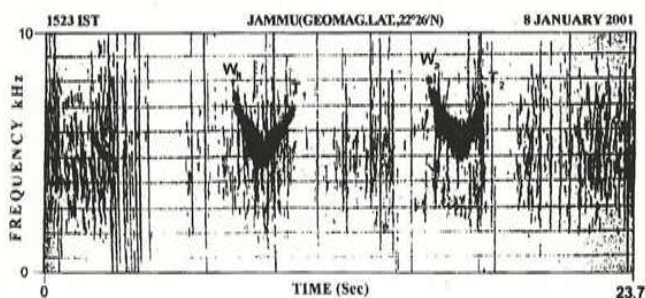
Triggered emissions are different variety of VLF/ELF signals follow the apparent source, which could be whistler (Storey, 1953; Nunn and Smith, 1996). A large numbers of workers have suggested that emissions are categorized as unstructured or hiss and other structured and discrete chorus (riser/faller) emissions (Helliwell, 1965; Sazhin, 1982; Hayakawa *et al.*, 1990; Sazhin and Hayakawa, 1992; Hattori and Hayakawa, 1994). Various features of these emissions have been studied from time to time. Also the signals received from the VLF transmitters are reported by (Helliwell, 1965; Bell *et al.*, 1982) and power line radiation from world's power grid (Helliwell, *et al.*, 1975; Park and Chang, 1978; Luethe *et al.*, 1979). The other type of emissions are excited from the upper boundary frequency of hiss ( Helliwell, 1969; Reeve and Rycroft, 1976 a, b; Koons, 1981; Hattori *et al.*, 1989; Singh *et al.*, 2000b). The study of whistler-triggered emissions plays a significant important role to understanding of magnetospheric parameters.

The non-linear effect can be categorized in to two categories (i) wave-wave interaction and (ii) wave-particle interactions (Harker and Crawford, 1969). He suggested that the responsible mechanism for the generation mechanism of triggered emissions is non-linear interaction between a finite amplitude wave train and the particles that happen to be in resonance with it. The non-linear theory processes have been explained (Helliwell, 1970; Smith and Nunn, 1998, Hobara *et al.*, 1998; Trakhtengerts and Rycroft, 2000). The idea of a second order cyclotron resonance along an inhomogeneous dipolar magnetic field was introduced (Helliwell, 1967; Nunn, 1974; Karpman *et al.*, 1974). This theory is very useful for explanation of the generation mechanism of triggered VLF emissions. The second – order resonance conditions determine the frequency spectrum of the discrete events generated by the electron beam in the inhomogeneous magnetic field. Whistler-triggered emissions, riser, fallers were rarely reported at any low latitude ground stations. In the present paper, we present a detailed analysis of whistler-triggered emissions recorded at low latitude ground station Jammu (Geomagnetic Latitude =

$22^{\circ} 26' N$ ,  $L = 1.17$ ). An attempt is made to explain the generation and propagation mechanism of these emissions.

**Experimental Setup and Data Analysis:** At low latitude ground station Jammu ( $L = 1.17$ ), the whistler – triggered VLF emissions were received by a T-type antenna, pre and main-amplifiers and tape recorder having band with 50 Hz to 15 kHz. T-type antenna is 25 meter in vertical length and 6 meter long horizontally and 3.2 mm in diameter and impedance about  $1M\Omega$ . The antenna is rendered a periodic with the help of a suitable RC network for avoiding any noise effect. The antenna is installed at suitable distance from main building to reduce the power line hum and other man made noise. The observations were taken continuously day and night period. The data are stored on the magnetic tapes, which were analyzed using Advance VLF Data Analysis System (AVDAS) and sonogram.

In this paper, whistler – triggered VLF emissions recorded during day time hours of 8<sup>th</sup> January 2001 at 1523 hours IST and other 29<sup>th</sup> March 2003 at 1515 hours IST are analyzed. These emissions were recorded on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2001, the geomagnetic storm  $K_p$  – index = 2, ( $\Sigma K_p = 17$ ) and  $D_{St}$  – index = 5 and on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2003,  $K_p = 4$ . ( $\Sigma K_p = 35_+$ ) and  $D_{St} = -52$  during the recovery phase of the storm. Typical frequency – time spectrogram of whistler-triggered VLF chorus emissions recorded during daytime at low latitude ground station Jammu on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2001 at 15:23 h IST is shown in Figure 1. These emissions contain two events of whistler-triggered chorus emissions. The observed whistler wave frequency varies between 4.5 kHz to 7.6 kHz for the first and 4.6 kHz to 7.5 kHz in the second event, whereas the frequency of triggered emission varies between 4.5 kHz to 6.5 kHz in the first event and 4.6 kHz to 6.4 kHz in second event. The relative intensity of whistler wave and triggered emission is approximately same, which is given in Table 1. The  $df/dt$  values of the first and second event of triggered emission are found to be 1.61 kHz/sec and 1.51 kHz/sec respectively. The dispersion of the first and second whistlers are  $81.9 s^{1/2}$  and  $82.5 s^{1/2}$  and the corresponding path of propagation are  $L = 4.35$  and  $4.37$  respectively.

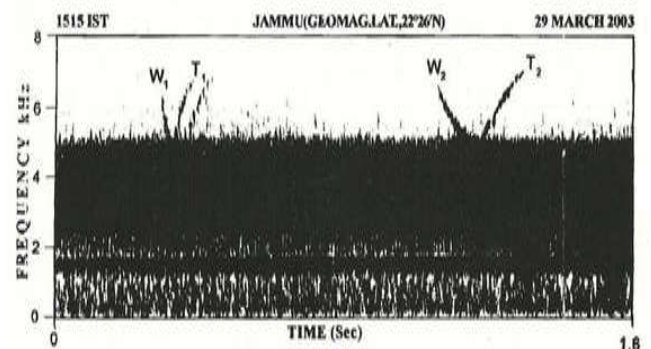


**Figure 1.** Dynamic spectrum of the whistler-triggered emissions recorded at Jammu on 08<sup>th</sup> January 2001 at 1523 hrs (IST)

**Table 1.** Relative intensity of whistler and Triggered emission

Whistler wave		Triggered emission	
Frequency (kHz)	Relative intensity (dB)	Frequency (kHz)	Relative intensity (dB)
8.5	60	7.1	58
7.6	61	6.8	59
6.8	61	6.1	60
6.1	62	5.1	61
5.3	62	4.5	62
4.3	62	-	-

In Figure 2 depicts another events contains two events of daytime WTCEs recorded during disturbed period on 29 March, 2003 at 15:15 h IST, which are triggered from the bottom side of the whistler spectrum. The  $K_p$  – index value at the time of observation varied between 2. to 3<sub>+</sub>. This figure contains two short one hop-whistlers and the relative intensity of the whistler wave and the triggered emissions is approximately same, which is given in Table 2. The whistler wave frequencies of the first and second events are 4.6 to 6.7 kHz and 5.0 to 7.2 kHz, whereas the frequency of triggered chorus riser varies between 5.0 to 7.2 kHz and 5.0 to 7.5 kHz respectively. The  $df/dt$  values of the first and second events of triggered emissions are found to be 22.2 kHz/sec and 21.5 kHz/sec respectively. The dispersion of the two (first and second) triggering whistlers are  $16.4 s^{1/2}$  and  $16 s^{1/2}$  respectively and their propagation path is  $L = 1.9$  and  $1.96$  respectively.



**Figure 2.** Dynamic spectrum of the whistler-triggered emissions recorded at Jammu on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2003 at 1515 hrs (IST)

**Table 2.** Relative intensity of whistler and Triggered emission

Whistler wave		Triggered emission	
Frequency (kHz)	Relative intensity (dB)	Frequency (kHz)	Relative intensity (dB)
7.6	57	6.5	56
6.8	58	6.1	58
6.1	57	5.3	59
5.3	60	4.5	60
4.5	59	-	-

**Generation Mechanism:** We have followed the upper boundary frequency (UBF) method developed by Smirnova (1984) to find out the location of source for the chorus (riser/faller) events. The upper boundary frequency of the ground based observation of discrete chorus events is determined on the assumption of dipolar geomagnetic field configuration, by the half equatorial electron gyrofrequency in the generation region, irrespective of the latitude of the observation station. Using Smirnova (1984) method, the  $L$  – value of the discrete VLF chorus emission source is written as

$$L = (440/f_{UB})^{1/3} \quad (1)$$

Where  $f_{UB}$  is the upper cut of boundary frequency of the observed triggered chorus emissions in kHz. Using eq. (1), the  $L$  – value of the source region for the observed events is found to be  $L_{Source} = 4.07, 4.09$  for the figure 1 and  $L_{Source} = 3.93, 3.88$ . The higher  $L$  – value of the source region compared to the observation station Jammu ( $L = 1.17$ ) shows that the wave may have propagated towards significantly lower latitude (Smirnova *et al.*, 1976). The non-linear self consistent resonant interaction of energetic electrons with narrow band VLF waves in the Earth's magnetosphere has been used to explain many of the qualitative physical features underlying triggered emissions

(Trakhtengerts and Rycroft, 2000). A large number of workers have been made to solve the problem using different numerical model such as sheet current model (Helliwell and Inan, 1982; Carlson *et al.*, 1990), non-linear resonant current model (Nunn, 1984), electromagnetic full particle model (Cuperman and Lyons, 1974; Omura and Matsumoto, 1987), fluid-particle (hybrid) model (Vomvoridis and Denavit, 1980; Vomvoridis *et al.*, 1982) and Vlasov hybrid model (Nunn, 1990; Nunn and Smith, 1996). On the basis of non-linear cyclotron resonant interaction between whistler mode waves and counter streaming energetic electrons, the cyclotron resonance condition is written as

$$\omega - \omega_H / \gamma = k v_{\parallel} \quad (2)$$

Where  $\omega$  and  $k$  are the wave frequency and wave vector of the whistler waves,  $k = |k|$ ,  $\omega_H$  is the electron gyro-frequency,  $v_{\parallel}$  is the field aligned component of the electron velocity,  $\gamma = (1 - v^2/c^2)^{-1/2}$  is the relativistic factor,  $v$  and  $c$  is the interacting particle velocity and light velocity in free space. For ducted whistler propagation  $K \parallel B_0$ ,  $B_0$  being the vector geomagnetic field. In an inhomogeneous magnetic field,  $\omega_H$ ,  $v_{\parallel}$  and  $k$  are functions of the coordinate  $z$  along the magnetic field  $B_0$ . The electrons with different  $v_{\parallel}$  interact with the same wave ( $\omega$ ,  $k$ ) at different points along the geomagnetic field lines. According to non-linear theory, the field equation for slowly varying in magnetic field can be written as (Omura *et al.*, 1991; Trakhtengerts and Rycroft, 2000)

$$(\partial/\partial t + v_g \partial/\partial z) B\omega = (\mu_0/2) v_g J_R \quad (3)$$

where  $B\omega$  is the complex amplitude of the magnetic wave field,  $v_g$  is the group velocity and  $J_R$  is the current due to the resonant electrons. The dispersion relation for the whistler mode waves propagating along the geomagnetic field line is given as

$$k = [(\omega_P \omega^{1/2}/c)(\omega_H - \omega)^{1/2}] \quad (4)$$

where  $\omega_P$  is the electron plasma frequency. Combining equation (2) and (4), the resonant electron energy is written as

$$E_R = mV_R^2/2 \quad (5)$$

where  $m$  is the mass of electron. The resonance velocity  $V_R = V_{\parallel}$  written as

$$V_R = [c \cos \alpha (\omega_H - \omega)^{1/2} [\omega_H \{(\omega_H + \omega)(\omega_H - \omega)^2 + \omega_P^2 \omega \cos^2 \alpha\}^{1/2} - \omega_P \omega^{3/2} \cos \alpha]] / [\omega_H^2 (\omega_H - \omega) + \omega_P^2 \omega \cos^2 \alpha] \quad (6)$$

Where  $\alpha$  is the pitch angle of the electron. In our numerical computation for relativistic parallel resonance energy, we have used normalized electron density verses distance along the field line from the equator according to the collision-less model. We have taken equatorial electron density 550 and 65 electrons  $\text{cm}^{-3}$  for two path of propagation  $L=3$  and 4.5 respectively and the corresponding plasma frequency is  $\sim 211$ , 72 kHz and electron gyro-frequency is  $\sim 32$  and 9 kHz. Calculate the value of parallel velocity is  $V_{\parallel} \sim 2.48 \times 10^8$  m/s and perpendicular velocity is  $V_{\perp} \sim 0.64 \times 10^8$  m/s, which is parallel velocity is greater than the perpendicular velocity of resonant electron. Using equation (5), we calculate the value of relativistic parallel resonance energy for  $L=3$  and 4.5 for

pitch angle ( $\alpha = 30^\circ$ ) and different wave frequency of electrons. We found that the  $E_R \sim 6.61 \times 10^3$  keV to 0.003 keV. For  $L=3$ , wave frequency varies between 0.1 to 30 kHz, and for  $L=4.5$ , frequency varies between 0.1 to 8 kHz,  $E_R$  decreases from 764 keV to 0.028 keV. The resonant energy decreases with increasing wave frequency. Thus, it is clearly seen that in the inner magnetosphere high energy particles are actually participating in the triggering process. As pitch angle ( $\alpha$ ) increases, resonant electron energy increases but the overall pitch angle dependence is non-linear. For low latitude ground station Varanasi, the interaction region corresponding to inner magnetosphere for  $L=2, 3$  and 4,  $E_R$  varies between MeV to keV have presented by (Patel, 2002; Singh *et al.*, 2003).

If the rates of change of electron gyrofrequency and of the wave frequency balance each other, then the electron will remain in resonance for a longer duration and the phase angle remains constant. This means that the full derivative of equation (2) along the particle path is zero. This is concept of second order resonance first formulated by (Helliwell, 1967) and have suggested as necessary for the effective wave-particle interaction in the inhomogeneous magnetic field. The resonant electrons are then phase bunched by the  $(eV_{\perp} \times B\omega)$  force acting along the field line. Solving equation of motion of an electron traveling in an inhomogeneous medium, in the presence of a whistler wave, it can be shown that the wave trapped electrons oscillate with a period (Dysthe, 1971; Inan *et al.*, 1978; Yoshida *et al.*, 1983)

$$T_r = \{(2\pi m V_p)/(eV_{\perp} f B\omega)\}^{1/2} \quad (6)$$

where  $m$  is the mass of electron,  $e$  is the charge of electron,  $f$  is the wave frequency,  $B\omega$  is the wave magnetic field,  $V_p = \omega/k$  is the phase velocity,  $V_{\perp}$  is the velocity of the electron perpendicular to the field. The trapped electron oscillate with a frequency  $\Omega_r = (keV_{\perp} B\omega/m)^{1/2}$ . Yoshida *et al.* (1983) have concluded that electrons whose absolute initial phase ( $\phi$ ) is less than  $90^\circ$ , will be bunched at  $\phi = 0^\circ$  after a period of  $T_r/4$  is called as bunching time ( $T_B$ ). We have used some parameters for computing bunching time, wave frequency  $f = 1$  kHz,  $\phi = 0^\circ$ ,  $B\omega = 1m\gamma$ ,  $\alpha = 15^\circ$ , bunching time  $T_B \sim 17$  ms for  $L=2$ . The same for  $L=4.5$  is 54 ms. As initial geomagnetic latitude increases with decreasing bunching time. Also wave magnetic field increases, bunching time is decreases. As wave frequency increases as in the presence of dense plasma, bunching time decreases.

## CONCLUSION

In this paper, we have reported characteristics of whistler triggered emissions observed at the low latitude ground Jammu during daytime period. These discrete triggered emissions are rising tones, which were rarely observed at any low latitude ground stations. These events may actually be mid-latitude emissions, because our analysis of whistler waves propagated along geomagnetic field line is higher L-values lying between 4.07 to 3.88. They are propagated along the geomagnetic field lines ( $3.88 \leq L \leq 4.07$ ) and after exiting from the ionosphere and excite the Earth-ionosphere wave guide and propagate towards the equator along with whistlers. The relative amplitude of whistlers and triggered emissions are almost same. The relativistic parallel resonance energy of electrons decreases with increasing frequency but energy increases with decreasing L-value. The reported resonance electron energy lies in the keV range. Bunching time decreases with increasing

of both geomagnetic latitude and wave magnetic field. Wave frequency increases as in the presence of dense plasma, bunching time decreases. All these estimated parameters are in good agreement with the results reported by other workers.

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