

# Outer radiation belt dropout dynamics following the arrival of two interplanetary coronal mass ejections

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1 Magnetopause shadowing and wave-particle interactions are recognized as the two primary  
2 mechanisms for losses of electrons from the outer radiation belt. We investigate these mecha-  
3 nisms, using satellite observations both in interplanetary space and within the magnetosphere  
4 and particle drift modeling. Two interplanetary shocks/sheaths impinged upon the magnetopause  
5 causing a relativistic electron flux dropout. The magnetic cloud (MC) and interplanetary struc-  
6 ture sunward of the MC had primarily northward magnetic field, perhaps leading to a concomitant  
7 lack of substorm activity and a ten day-long quiescent period. The arrival of two shocks caused  
8 an unusual electron flux dropout. Test-particle simulations have shown  $\sim 2$  to 5 MeV energy,  
9 equatorially mirroring electrons with initial values of  $L \geq 5.5$  can be lost to the magnetosheath  
10 via magnetopause shadowing alone. For electron losses at lower L-shells, coherent chorus wave-  
11 driven pitch angle scattering and ULF wave-driven radial transport have been shown to be viable  
12 mechanisms.

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## 1. Introduction

13 The relativistic electron population trapped in the outer radiation belt in the Earth's  
14 magnetosphere is known to be highly dynamic [Reeves *et al.*, 2003; Turner *et al.*, 2013].  
15 The particles are known to be accelerated and to be lost by various competing mechanisms  
16 operating in time scales from a few seconds to several days [Green and Kivelson, 2004;  
17 Horne *et al.*, 2005; Miyoshi and Kataoka, 2005; Borovsky and Denton, 2006; Bortnik *et al.*,  
18 2006; Su *et al.*, 2010, 2011a, b; Reeves *et al.*, 2013; Turner *et al.*, 2014a; Hajra *et al.*, 2015].  
19 Kilpua *et al.* [2015] showed that the radiation belt response is organized according to the  
20 large-scale solar wind driver structure and the sequence at which they arrive. In particular  
21 sheaths and coronal mass ejection (CME) can lead to the deep and long radiation belt  
22 depletion (see also Hietala *et al.* [2014]). Our interest in this paper is the loss process.

23 There are some well known loss processes, including “magnetopause shadowing” where  
24 particles gradient drift in an overcompressed dayside magnetosphere into the magne-  
25 topause and are lost to the magnetosheath [Keika *et al.*, 2005; Matsumura *et al.*, 2011;  
26 Glauert *et al.*, 2014]. The particle's motion to outer L-shells can be caused by adia-  
27 batic and nonadiabatic transport mechanisms [Shprits *et al.*, 2006; Su *et al.*, 2010, 2011a].  
28 Also, cyclotron resonant wave particle interactions cause particles to be pitch angle scat-  
29 tered into the loss cone and lost into the ionosphere (e.g. [Shprits *et al.*, 2008]). For  
30 the latter mechanism, there are two possible wave modes that have been mentioned as  
31 being important: electromagnetic whistler mode chorus which is generated by the 10-100  
32 keV electron temperature anisotropy [Tsurutani and Smith, 1974, 1977; Shprits *et al.*,  
33 2007, 2008; Lakhina *et al.*, 2010; Lam *et al.*, 2010; Tsurutani *et al.*, 2013] and electro-

34 magnetic ion cyclotron (EMIC) waves which are generated by the 10-100 keV proton  
35 temperature anisotropy [*Thorne and Kennel, 1971; Lyons and Thorne, 1972; Thorne,*  
36 *2010; Turner et al., 2014a*]. For the latter interaction, the relativistic electrons overtake  
37 the waves or are in “anomalous cyclotron resonance” [*Tsurutani and Lakhina, 1997*].

38 On late September 11, 2014 an interplanetary coronal mass ejection (ICME) hit the  
39 Earth’s magnetosphere. Around 17 hours later a second shock reached the Earth. Follow-  
40 ing these two events, an unusual relativistic outer belt electron flux dropout was observed  
41 by multiple spacecraft at different local times wherein the fluxes fell  $\sim 1$  order of mag-  
42 nitude below their previous undisturbed levels. Such a scenario lasted for at least 10  
43 days.

44 Section 2 describes the electron flux dropout event. Section 3 is devoted to an investiga-  
45 tion of the possible loss mechanisms previously invoked to explain observed electron flux  
46 decreases occurring at  $L^* \gtrsim 4$  such as coherent chorus wave-driven pitch angle scatter-  
47 ing (Section 3.1), magnetopause shadowing (Section 3.2), and adiabatic and nonadiabatic  
48 radial transport (Section 3.3). Although EMIC waves can interact efficiently with rel-  
49 ativistic electrons, leading to rapid flux dropouts during storm-time periods [*Ukhorskiy*  
50 *et al., 2010; Su et al., 2011b, 2012*], in this event there was no spacecraft coverage on  
51 the dusk side to identify EMIC waves. Thus, the contribution of EMIC waves is out of  
52 the scope of this work. Nevertheless, the Van Allen Probe A data covered the dawn side  
53 of the magnetosphere where they could detect whistler mode chorus waves. Lastly, the  
54 summary and discussion are presented in Section 4.

## 2. Electron Flux Dropout after the Arrival of two Interplanetary Shocks

55 Data from the Magnetometer (MAG) [*Smith et al.*, 1998] and Solar Wind Electron,  
 56 Proton, and Alpha Monitor (SWEPAM) [*McComas et al.*, 1998] instruments onboard the  
 57 Advanced Composition Explorer (ACE) satellite are used to identify the magnetic field and  
 58 plasma characteristics of both September 11 and 12, 2014 interplanetary shocks/sheaths  
 59 which are associated with the relativistic electron flux dropout event reported in this work.  
 60 The shocks are characterized, respectively, by magnetosonic mach numbers ( $M_{ms}$ ) of  $\sim$   
 61 2.0 and  $\sim 2.4$ , [*Paschmann and Daly*, 1998]. They were detected by the ACE satellite  
 62 at 22:57:58 UT on September 11 and, at 15:22:42 UT on September 12, respectively, as  
 63 indicated by the two vertical solid lines in Figure 1.

64 The shock structures are evidenced by the sharp and simultaneous changes in solar wind  
 65 speed (Figure 1c), dynamic pressure (d), and interplanetary magnetic field (IMF) inten-  
 66 sity,  $B_t$ , and north-south  $B_z$  component (e). Following the arrival of these interplanetary  
 67 structures, the outer radiation belt ( $4.0 \lesssim L^* \lesssim 5.5$ ) electron flux underwent an approxi-  
 68 mately 1 order of magnitude decrease at the 1.8–4.5 MeV energy range as measured by the  
 69 Relativistic Electron Proton Telescope (REPT) [*Baker et al.*, 2013] instrument onboard  
 70 the Van Allen Probes A and B. Figure 1 (a) shows REPT’s A 1.8 MeV energy channel  
 71 electron flux as a function of time and the  $L^*$  parameter [*Roederer*, 1970] which is related  
 72 to the third adiabatic invariant. Right after the first shock ( $M_{ms} \sim 2.0$ ) arrival, the flux  
 73 decreased primarily in the outskirts of the outer belt, i.e., at  $L^* \gtrsim 5$  (horizontal continuous  
 74 line), in around 12 hours. For this case, the post-shock IMF  $B_z$  component was fluctuating  
 75 about a mean value near zero ( $B_z^{average} \sim 0.3$  nT), and reached negative values as large

76 as -14 nT. Large auroral activity ( $AE > 500$  nT) was present during that time, although  
77 no major ring current response occurred ( $SYM-H > -25$  nT). The second (and stronger)  
78 shock ( $M_{ms} \sim 2.4$ ) reached the magnetosphere approximately 17 hours later, causing a  
79 further decrease in electron fluxes within the same energy channels mentioned above, but  
80 this time for the entire outer belt (Figure 1 (b)). This decrease took place when both au-  
81 roral and ring current activities were enhanced, i.e.,  $AE > 500$  nT and minimum  $SYM-H$   
82  $= -75$  nT, respectively, which coincided with the period when the sheath's Bz compo-  
83 nent was oscillating between positive and negative values. The magnetic cloud (MC) that  
84 followed the second shock and the interplanetary structure sunward of the MC had a  $\sim$   
85 3 day-long positive IMF Bz component and thus no significant auroral activity occurred  
86 during that time. This observation agrees with previous work [*Tsurutani and Gonzalez,*  
87 *1995; Du et al., 2008*] which has shown that auroral activity is needed for the radiation  
88 belt repopulation. Meanwhile, the entire outer radiation belt remained in a quiescent  
89 state where fluxes remained low and practically no sign of repopulation was detected by  
90 the REPT's instrument for a period of ten days. This unusual relativistic electron flux  
91 dropout with no concurrent repopulation nicely separated loss and acceleration processes  
92 for relativistic electrons.

93 The electron flux dropout which occurred after the second interplanetary shock arrival  
94 was also observed at different local times (LT) and energies. The Solid State Telescopes  
95 (SST) onboard the THEMIS A, D, and E [*Angelopoulos, 2008*] spacecraft (Figure S1)  
96 measured a nearly one order of magnitude decrease in the electron flux at  $L \sim 5$  for the  $\sim$   
97 719 keV energy channel around 22:30 LT. At geosynchronous orbit the high-energy (0.6 -

98 2 MeV) electron flux decreased also by roughly one order of magnitude as observed near  
 99 12 LT by the Energetic Particle Sensor (EPS) onboard the GOES 13 satellite (not shown).

### 3. Loss Mechanisms for $L^* \gtrsim 4$

#### 3.1. Whistler Mode Chorus Waves Contribution

100 Discrete whistler mode chorus waves were excited within the outer radiation belt ( $3 \lesssim$   
 101  $L^* \lesssim 7$ ), and detected by the Van Allen Probe A in the dawn side sector (05–07 Magnetic  
 102 Local Time, MLT) on September 12 (Figure S2). We investigate analytically [*Kennel and*  
 103 *Petschek, 1966*] at 05:00 MLT, and  $L^* \sim 5$ , whether observed chorus waves amplitudes  
 104 were high enough to pitch angle-scatter those electrons into the loss cone, after the second  
 105 interplanetary shock arrival (vertical dashed line in Figure S2).

106 We concentrate our analysis by looking at the 21:25 – 22:00 UT interval (gray shaded  
 107 area in Figure S2) for two reasons: 1) the spacecraft was within 2 degrees of the mag-  
 108 netic equator where chorus waves are expected to be generated [*Tsurutani and Smith,*  
 109 *1974, 1977; Omura et al., 2008*] and therefore they can be assumed to be coherent, and 2)  
 110 high intensity magnetic spectral density related to chorus waves was detected (Figure 2a).  
 111 Additionally, EMFISIS [*Kletzing et al., 2013*] magnetic field data acquired in burst mode  
 112 ( $\sim 10$ – $12.000$  Hz) were available for some short intervals in this period (black and red  
 113 arrows in Figure 2a).

114 For our calculation, we considered the interaction of relativistic, parallel (to the equa-  
 115 torial ambient magnetic field vector  $\mathbf{B}_o$ ) propagating electrons with several chorus subele-  
 116 ments [*Tsurutani et al., 2009; Santolík et al., 2014*] as shown in Figure 2 (b). For each  
 117 subelement, we compute the change in pitch angle ( $\Delta\alpha$ ) undergone by an equatorially

118 mirroring ( $90^\circ$  pitch angle) electron as a result of the cyclotron resonant interaction for  
 119 two different cases: for the first one we consider the electron to be in resonance with the  
 120 chorus wave for the whole subelement period ( $\tau$ ), but the second one for only one wave  
 121 cycle period ( $T$ ) (see Figure 2b). In this way, we estimate  $\Delta\alpha$  [Kennel and Petschek, 1966]  
 122 for both longer ( $\Delta\alpha_\tau$ ) and shorter ( $\Delta\alpha_T$ ) times of interaction, since one cannot know in  
 123 advance for how much time the particle is going to be in resonance with the wave.

$$\Delta\alpha_i = \frac{B_{max}}{B_o} \frac{\Omega}{\gamma} \Delta t_i. \quad (1)$$

124 In equation 1,  $B_{max}$  and  $B_o$  are, respectively, the peak instantaneous wave packet am-  
 125 plitude and the equatorial ambient magnetic field magnitude,  $\Omega$  the electron cyclotron  
 126 frequency,  $\gamma$  the Lorentz factor, and  $\Delta t_i = iV_g/V_s$  the estimated interaction time [Lakhina  
 127 *et al.*, 2010], where  $i$  can be either  $\tau$  or  $T$ . The term  $\Delta t_i$  is the ratio between the chorus  
 128 subelement's scale size  $iV_g$ , where  $V_g$  is the group velocity, and the relativistic relative ve-  
 129 locity  $V_s$  between the chorus wave and the electron's parallel resonant velocity calculated  
 130 in the satellite frame.

131 Table 1 shows the parameters obtained from direct data observation namely,  $\tau$ ,  $T$ ,  $B_{max}$ ,  
 132  $B_o$ , and  $f$  (chorus subelement frequency,  $f \approx 1/T$ ) and the derived parameters  $\Omega$ ,  $\Delta t_\tau$ ,  
 133  $\Delta t_T$ ,  $\Delta\alpha_\tau$ ,  $\Delta\alpha_T$ , for the chosen time interval, 21:25–22:00 UT. The majority of chorus  
 134 subelements had a duration  $\tau$  corresponding to 3.0 to 4.5 wave cycles  $T$  (see Figure 2 b),  
 135 i.e.,  $\tau \sim 4T$ . Only for one case (subelement 9) we had  $\tau \sim 6 - 7T$ .

136 On the one hand, considering the longer interaction times between the electron and  
 137 chorus subelements, i.e., larger than three wave cycle periods, the estimated change in

138 pitch angle  $\Delta\alpha_T$  was within  $\sim 3.0^\circ$  and  $\sim 10.3^\circ$ . On the other hand, for shorter interaction  
 139 times  $\Delta\alpha_T$  was considerably lower with values ranging from  $\sim 0.8^\circ$  up to  $1.5^\circ$ . Thus, for  
 140 the analysed case of  $\sim 2.0$  MeV relativistic electrons interacting with coherent chorus waves  
 141 observed during 21:25–22:00 UT on September 12, the pitch angle scattering contribution  
 142 for the outer belt electron loss can be relevant only in the limit where the resonant  
 143 interaction exceeds at least three wave cycle periods. For higher electron energies, our  
 144 calculation shows a decrease in  $\Delta\alpha$ , which indicates the cyclotron resonant interaction is  
 145 less effective as the electron energy increases.

### 3.2. Test-particle Magnetopause Shadowing Modeling

146 We investigate whether magnetopause shadowing alone would be sufficient to deplete  
 147 the entire outer radiation belt. Thus, a test-particle approach is employed in order to  
 148 follow the azimuthal drift orbit of a single equatorially mirroring ( $90^\circ$  pitch angle) electron  
 149 during the time when the magnetosphere was most compressed due to the arrival of the  
 150 second interplanetary shock on September 12, 2014. Looking at ACE’s time-lagged plasma  
 151 data, the solar wind dynamic pressure was the highest ( $\sim 14$  nPa), around 17:00 UT on  
 152 September 12. We have run the global MHD Block-Adaptive Tree Solarwind Roe Upwind  
 153 Scheme (BATS-R-US) code [Tóth *et al.*, 2011] coupled to the Comprehensive Ring Current  
 154 Model (CRCM) [Glocer *et al.*, 2013] in a steady-state mode for the perturbed period to  
 155 obtain a realistic configuration for the near-Earth magnetic environment. In particular,  
 156 the IMF value used for running the code was  $(B_X, B_Y, B_Z) = (-9.63, 13.48, 11.20)$  nT. The  
 157 next step was to integrate the relativistic Lorentz equation

$$\frac{d\mathbf{V}}{dt} = -\frac{e}{\gamma m_e} \mathbf{V} \times \mathbf{B}, \quad (2)$$

158 for an electron with an equatorial pitch angle of  $90^\circ$  using the magnetic field vector  $\mathbf{B}$   
 159 modeled by BATS-R-US. In equation 2,  $\gamma = 1 + E/m_e c^2$  is the Lorentz factor,  $E$  is the  
 160 electron initial energy,  $m_e$  the electron rest mass,  $-e$  the electron charge,  $c$  the speed of  
 161 light, and  $\mathbf{V}$  the electron velocity. For the electron initial energy  $E$ , we used both 1.8 and  
 162 4.5 MeV values corresponding to the energy range at which the electron flux dropout was  
 163 observed by the REPT's instrument. Lastly, equation 2 is solved by means of a fifth-order  
 164 Runge-Kutta method.

165 We test the consequence of different initial locations in the integration of the electron  
 166 azimuthal drift orbit. Electron orbits are set to start at distinct points in the Geocentric  
 167 Solar Magnetospheric (GSM) equatorial plane, i.e.  $(Y,Z) = (0,0)$ , with the following X  
 168 coordinates: -8, -7, -6.6, -6, -5.5, -5 and -4.5  $R_E$ . In all cases the electron initially drifts  
 169 towards the dawn side magnetosphere, as expected. For orbits starting at distances greater  
 170 than or equal to geosynchronous orbit ( $X \leq -6.6 R_E$ , Figure 3a) the electron does not  
 171 complete a full azimuthal orbit. Instead, a sharp change in its orbit occurs when it reaches  
 172 the modeled BATS-R-US magnetopause in the 06–09 local time sector: its guiding center  
 173 moves towards increasingly negative values of the  $Z_{GSM}$  coordinate while the particle  
 174 continues its drifting path towards the noon-meridian. Upon reaching the southern cusp  
 175 the electron escapes to the magnetosheath region (Figure 3a). Thus, the outermost part  
 176 of the outer belt, i.e. at or beyond geosynchronous orbit, could have their electrons lost to  
 177 the magnetosheath by magnetopause shadowing. For orbits with radial distances starting

178 inside geosynchronous ( $X = -6 R_E$ , Figure 3b), the electron does complete a full azimuthal  
 179 orbit, but it is lost to the magnetosheath in the second one. Initially, as the electron  
 180 approaches the modeled dayside magnetopause, its original bouncing path is distorted,  
 181 i.e. its mirror points are increased from  $Z \sim \pm 0.8 R_E$  at the nightside sector up to  $Z$   
 182  $\sim \pm 2 R_E$  at the dayside sector. Such a distortion is further enhanced during the following  
 183 (second) orbit causing the loss of the electron to the magnetosheath (Figure 3b). We note  
 184 that for energies higher than 2.0 MeV (and lower than or equal to 4.5 MeV), the electrons  
 185 are also lost for orbits starting at  $L \geq 5.5$ . Our simulations showed that electrons located  
 186 deeper ( $L < 5.5$ ) in the outer radiation belt, however, are not lost to the magnetosheath  
 187 region due to magnetopause shadowing alone (Figure 3c). Hence, concurrent mechanisms  
 188 are required to accomplish the observed loss of relativistic electrons deeper inside the  
 189 outer belt.

### 3.3. Outward Radial Diffusion and Adiabatic Transport Contributions

190 According to numerical simulations carried out by *Su et al.* [2010], for  $L^* \gtrsim 5$ , the ob-  
 191 served equatorially mirroring relativistic electron loss (Figure 1b) can be primarily caused  
 192 by the combined effect of fully adiabatic transport and radial (nonadiabatic) diffusion dur-  
 193 ing the main phase period, i.e., when the SYM-H is decreasing towards its minimum value  
 194 (-75 nT). In their simulations the latter mechanism which is caused by ULF wave-particle  
 195 interactions played a minor role. However, for this same period ground magnetometer  
 196 data (not shown) from the 16–19 LT sector, which differs from that covered by Van Allen  
 197 Probe A (05–06 LT) indicate the presence of increased ULF waves activity after the first  
 198 and second interplanetary shock arrivals. We discuss possible causes for electron losses

199 deep inside the outer radiation belt related to these observations. According to a model-  
 200 data comparison carried out by *Shprits et al.* [2006] outward radial diffusion may explain  
 201 nonadiabatic electron flux dropouts down to  $L^* \sim 4$  during storm-time conditions. In fact,  
 202 from Figure 1 (b) and Figure S3 one can see that the electron flux decrease at  $L^* \sim 4$   
 203 is observed along with enhanced global ULF wave activity which in turn is associated  
 204 with outward radial diffusion. Thus, for the observed electron losses at  $L^* \sim 4$  we inter-  
 205 pret that both outward radial diffusion and adiabatic transport may lead to relativistic  
 206 electron flux dropout possibly due to magnetopause losses [*Loto'aniu et al.*, 2010].

#### 4. Summary and Discussion

207 The relativistic ( $1 \lesssim E \lesssim 4.5$  MeV) outer radiation belt electron flux dropout event  
 208 observed here occurred in  $\lesssim 12$  hours following the arrival of two interplanetary shocks  
 209 with distinct shock strengths,  $M_{ms} \sim 2.0$  and  $2.4$ . Data from multipoint observations  
 210 showed a large scale electron flux decrease from  $\sim 22:00 - 12:00$  LT which lasted for  
 211 around 10 days.

212 The relativistic outer belt electron flux dropout observed during the storms main phase  
 213 is understood as the result of several physical processes occurring simultaneously. Besides,  
 214 different mechanisms may cause electron flux dropout in different L-shells [*Bortnik et al.*,  
 215 2006; *Turner et al.*, 2014b, and references therein]. Among them, resonant wave-driven  
 216 scattering has been claimed to cause electron losses deep into the magnetosphere ( $L \lesssim 5$ );  
 217 whilst for higher L-shells ( $L > 5$ ), nonadiabatic and adiabatic radial transport have been  
 218 proposed to transport electrons to the compressed dayside magnetosphere where they  
 219 were lost.

220 For the relativistic electron flux deep in the magnetosphere, the interaction with whistler  
221 mode chorus waves result in two concurrent processes namely energy diffusion, i.e., elec-  
222 trons are locally accelerated, and pitch angle scattering to the loss cone. Some recent  
223 works using different models have found that wave-particle interaction via chorus waves  
224 can be an efficient mechanism for local electron acceleration [*Summers et al.*, 2004; *Li*  
225 *et al.*, 2007; *Thorne*, 2013], even during non storm-time period [*Su et al.*, 2014]. Besides,  
226 coherent chorus waves may also be associated to rapid loss in low L-shells [*Horne and*  
227 *Thorne*, 2003; *Thorne et al.*, 2005; *Summers et al.*, 2007, and references therein].

228 Coherent whistler mode chorus wave activity was enhanced right after the second inter-  
229 planetary shock arrival, which corresponds to the time interval when Van Allen Probes  
230 travel from dawn to noon, i.e. from 5 to 8 MLT. For this period, we estimate analytically  
231 the pitch angle scattering of relativistic, equatorially mirroring electrons due to the cy-  
232 clotron resonant interaction with these waves. We have shown that a pitch angle change  
233 in the range of  $3^{\circ}$ – $10^{\circ}$  can be achieved when the interaction time exceeds at least three  
234 wave cycle periods. This result indicates that wave-particle interaction via coherent cho-  
235 rus waves could have played an important role in the relativistic electron loss observed in  
236 this dropout event, despite pitch angle scattering being effective only for those relativistic  
237 electrons which are in the vicinity of the loss cone.

238 The interaction between whistler mode chorus wave and relativistic electrons results in  
239 a competition between local acceleration and loss of relativistic electrons into the loss cone  
240 [*Horne et al.*, 2003; *Summers et al.*, 2004; *Li et al.*, 2007; *Bortnik and Thorne*, 2007; *Shprits*  
241 *et al.*, 2008]. In particular, the coherent chorus wave-driven pitch angle scattering can

242 be effective when waves are observed to interact with relativistic electrons on the dayside  
243 [*Shprits et al.*, 2008]. For relativistic electron's energy below 3 MeV, the acceleration rate  
244 is not favoured in regions of high  $\omega_{pe}/\Omega_e$ , i.e.  $\geq 5$  [*Horne et al.*, 2003] which is true for the  
245 present analyzed case where  $\omega_{pe}/\Omega_e \geq 6$ . Furthermore, chorus wave activity intensified  
246 between 5 to 8 MLT, i.e. from dawn side magnetosphere toward the noon region. In such  
247 a region chorus wave-driven pitch angle scattering of relativistic electrons is expected to  
248 be effective [*Shprits et al.*, 2008]. Thus, our results are in accordance with *Shprits et al.*  
249 [2008] and *Horne et al.* [2003], and show an example of the wave-particle interaction  
250 which resulted in a net loss of outer belt electrons. We note that EMIC waves may have  
251 contributed to the electron depletion at local times other than those covered in this study.

252 The successive arrival of two interplanetary shocks left different consequences to the  
253 outer radiation belt. Following the arrival of the first shock, we verified a dropout mostly  
254 restricted to  $L^* \geq 5$ . The outer belt had not recovered yet when a second and stronger  
255 shock hit the Earth's magnetosphere and a second dropout reached the heart of the  
256 radiation belt, i.e.,  $L^* \sim 4$ . This scenario is consistent with magnetopause shadowing  
257 playing a minor (major) role at the time of the first (second) shock [*Turner et al.*, 2014a, b].  
258 Our test-particle simulations in a compressed, time-stationary magnetic field simulated by  
259 the 3D MHD BATS-R-US code showed magnetopause shadowing alone as a plausible loss  
260 mechanism for electrons located at or above  $L = 5.5$ . Below that limit, other mechanisms  
261 would be required. We note that our simulations did not include ULF waves, which have  
262 shown to play an important role in outer belt electron precipitation [*Brito et al.*, 2015].

263 According to *Shprits et al.* [2006] nonadiabatic radial transport driven by ULF waves,  
264 and adiabatic radial transport can account for the rapid loss of particles from locations  
265 that lie deep in the magnetosphere, i.e. from drift paths that do not intersect the mag-  
266 netopause [*Morley et al.*, 2010a, b; *Bortnik et al.*, 2006]. In this event, such a possibility  
267 is reinforced by data observation which showed the electron flux dropout subsided on  
268 September 13, roughly at the same time when ULF wave activity was strongly suppressed  
269 (see Figure S3).

270 During the three days following the second shock arrival, i.e., from September 13 up to  
271 16, no substorm activity as probed by the AE index was observed, due to the persistent  
272 northward IMF Bz component of both the MC and the interplanetary structure sunward  
273 of the MC. During this period, the outer radiation belt was quiet with no sign of relativistic  
274 electron repopulation, and chorus wave activity was also strongly suppressed (Figure S4).

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280 sis tools. Solar wind parameters presented in Sections 2 and 3 measured by the ACE  
281 satellite are available at [http://www.srl.caltech.edu/ACE/ASC/DATA/browse-data/  
282 browse-curr/](http://www.srl.caltech.edu/ACE/ASC/DATA/browse-data/browse-curr/). The Van Allen Probes' and THEMIS' missions datasets presented in  
283 Section 3 and Supplementary Material are available at CDAWeb <http://cdaweb.gsfc>.

284 [nasa.gov/istp\\\_public/](http://nasa.gov/istp\_public/). The SPEDAS code for THEMIS data analysis is available at  
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290 K. Hubbell, M. Kien, S. Knappmiller, S. Wade, B. Lamprecht, K. Stevens, J. Wal-  
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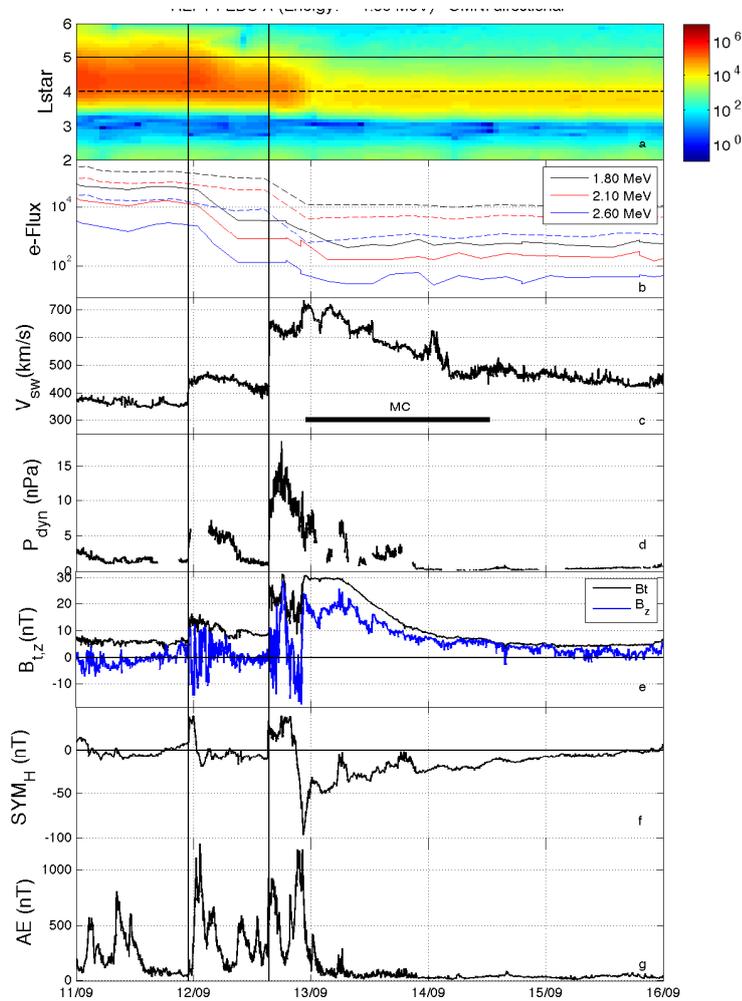
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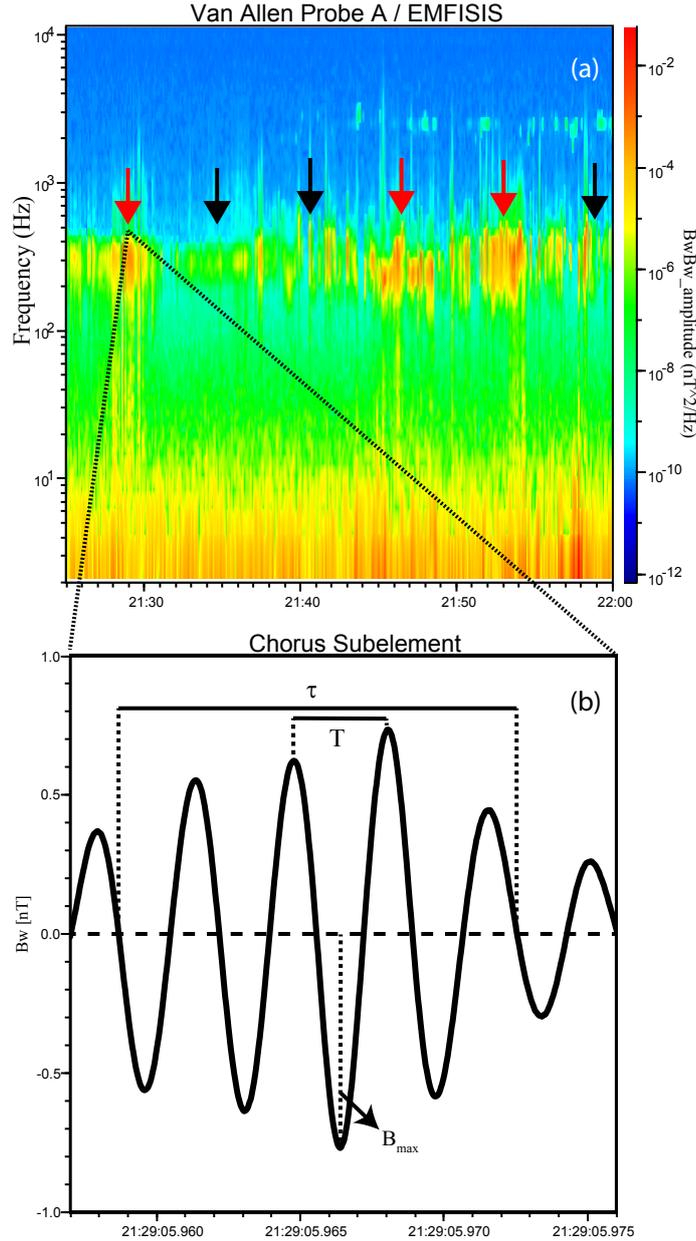
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**Table 1.** Parameters used in equation 1 for the 21:25 – 22:00 UT interval on September 12, 2014.

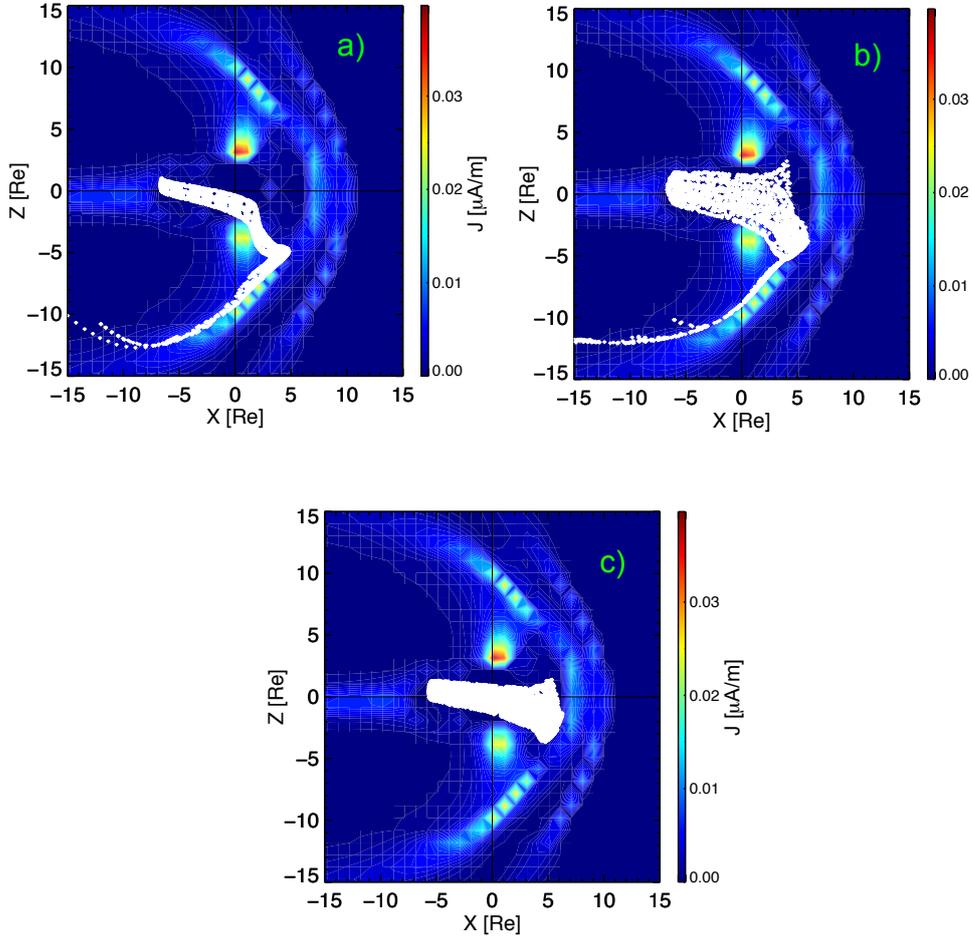
	Chorus Subelement	Initial Time (UT)	$\tau$ (ms)	$T$ (ms)	$B_{max}$ (nT)	$B_o$ (nT)	$2\pi f/\Omega$	$\Delta t_r$ (ms)	$\Delta t_T$ (ms)	$\Delta\alpha_r$ (°)	$\Delta\alpha_T$ (°)
1		21:29:05.233	13	3.0	0.80	78	0.155	2.80	0.64	4.59	1.06
2		21:29:05.362	14	3.0	0.76	78	0.155	3.00	0.65	4.70	1.00
3		21:29:05.959	14	3.5	0.76	78	0.155	3.00	0.75	4.70	1.18
4		21:29:06.584	11	3.5	0.97	79	0.153	2.30	0.75	4.66	1.48
5		21:46:56.248	13	3.5	0.63	69	0.145	2.60	0.71	3.42	0.92
6		21:52:55.444	13	3.0	0.88	65	0.185	2.30	0.76	5.94	1.37
7		21:52:55.906	11	2.5	1.16	65	0.185	2.80	0.63	6.62	1.50
8		21:52:56.524	14	2.5	0.92	65	0.185	3.50	0.63	6.68	1.19
9		21:52:58.480	22	3.0	0.90	65	0.185	5.60	0.76	10.28	1.40
10		21:52:59.071	9	2.5	0.65	65	0.185	2.30	0.63	3.03	0.84
11		21:52:59.332	11	3.0	0.86	65	0.185	2.80	0.76	4.90	1.34



**Figure 1.** Relativistic electron flux in the outer radiation belt, solar wind parameters and geomagnetic indexes observed from September 11 – 16, 2014. (a) Electron flux in the 1.8 MeV energy channel measured by REPT on board Van Allen Probe A as a function of time and  $L^*$ ; (b) electron flux measured for three energy channels at  $L^* \sim 4$  (dashed lines) and  $L^* \sim 5$  (solid lines) as a function of time; (c) solar wind speed, and the solid bar indicating the magnetic cloud (MC) period; (d) dynamic pressure; (e) IMF strength ( $B_t$ , black line) and north-south component ( $B_z$ , blue line); (f) symmetric disturbance time index Sym-H and (g) auroral electrojet AE index. The two vertical line indicate the first and second shock arrival times, 23:50 UT on September 11 and 16:00 UT on September 12, respectively.



**Figure 2.** (a) EMFISIS' magnetic field spectrogram measured at  $L^* \sim 5$  and MLAT  $\sim 2^\circ$  for a 35 minutes period within the storm's main phase on late September 12. The electron cut-off gyrofrequency divided by two varied between 5.2 and 7.4 kHz, and the corresponding mean value was 6.3 kHz. Arrows indicate when burst mode data was available for the selected period. Red arrows indicate periods when a selected chorus subelement (panel b) had a wave magnetic field amplitude  $B_w \gtrsim 0.5nT$ . Panel (b) shows high resolution magnetic field measurements corresponding to a period of higher magnetic spectral density. Several chorus subelements were identified in this dataset and panel (b) shows an example of it. Relevant parameters used in equation (1) are identified as:  $B_{max}$ , the maximum instantaneous absolute value of the wave amplitude,  $T$  corresponding to one wave-cycle period, and  $\tau$  the subelement's time duration.



**Figure 3.** Electron’s drift orbit calculation during the time when the magnetosphere was most compressed due to the arrival of the second interplanetary shock. The time-stationary magnetic field used in the orbit’s calculation was simulated by the 3D MHD BATS-R-US code. The color contour represent the magnetospheric current density as simulated by BATS-R-US. The orbits showed are representative for the following starting positions (a)  $-8 \leq X \leq -6.6 R_E$ , (b)  $-6.6 < X \leq -5.5 R_E$ , and (c)  $X > -5.5 R_E$ . All orbits starts at the equatorial plane, i.e.,  $(Y,Z) = (0,0)$ .