



Image Credit:ESA



# Models and Applications for Assessing Space Weather Hazards to Satellites from Earth to the Moon

J.C. Green, T.P. O'Brien, R. Quinn, A. Kellerman, A. Boyd,  
S. Claudepierre, J. Likar, Y. Shprits, I. Parker, D. Turner,  
C. Keys, D. Pitchford

# GOAL

---

To provide a suite of easy to access applications that give the unique real time and retrospective space weather hazard to specific satellite systems along any satellite orbit.

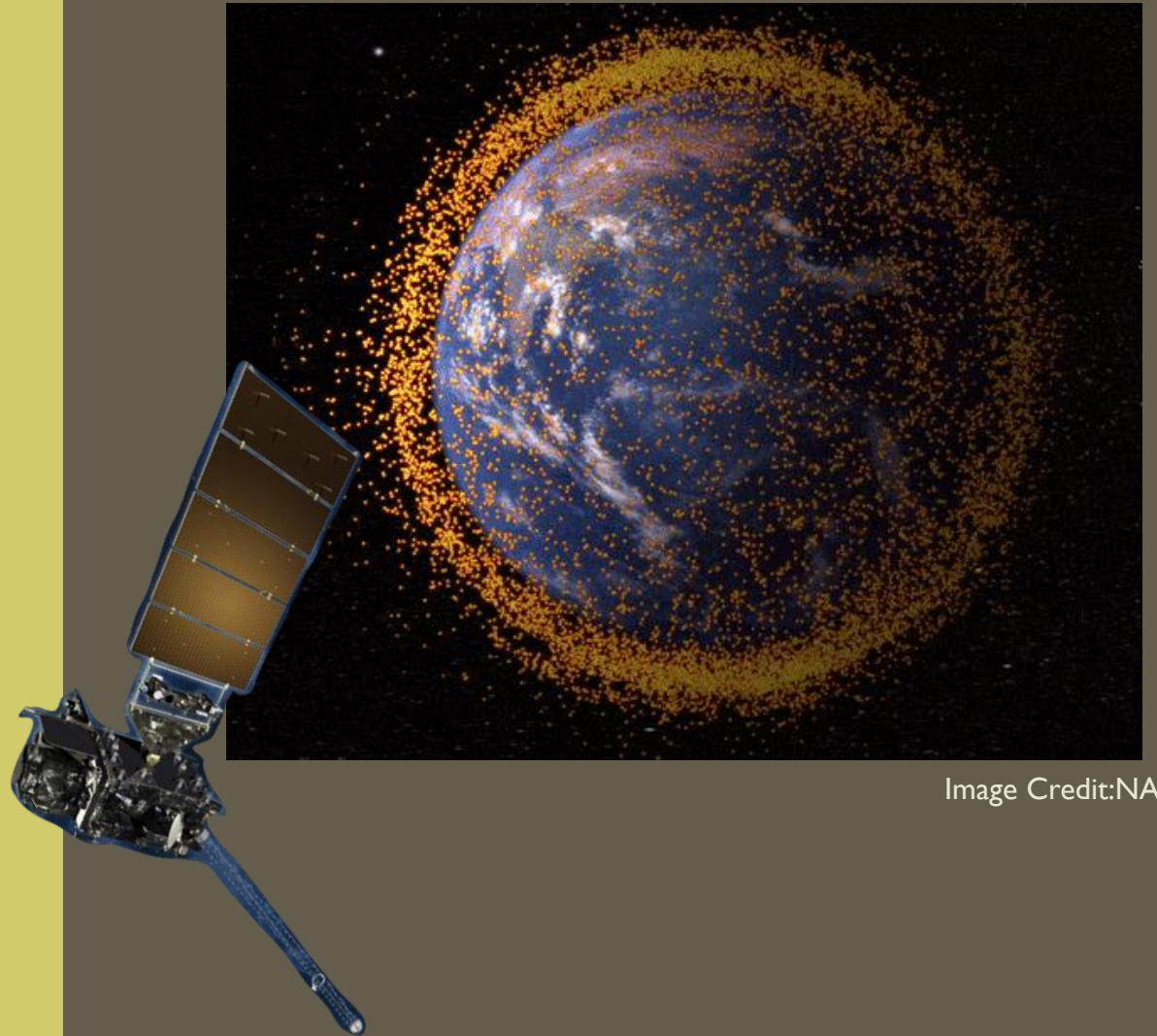
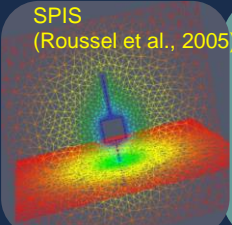


Image Credit: NASA

# Particle Radiation Hazards

## Regions



### Surface Charging:

Charged particles collect on satellite surfaces producing high differential voltages, electrostatic discharges, and electromagnetic interference.

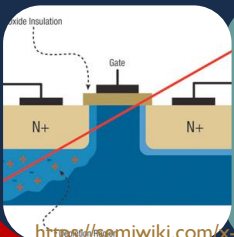
Low energy  
protons  
/electrons



### Internal Charging:

Energetic electrons accumulate in dielectrics (circuit boards, cable insulators) and on ungrounded metal (spot shields, connector contacts) leading to damaging discharges.

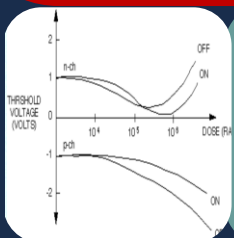
High energy  
electrons



### Single Event Upsets:

Energetic ion passage through microelectronic device node causes catastrophic device failure, latent damage, or uncommanded mode/state changes.

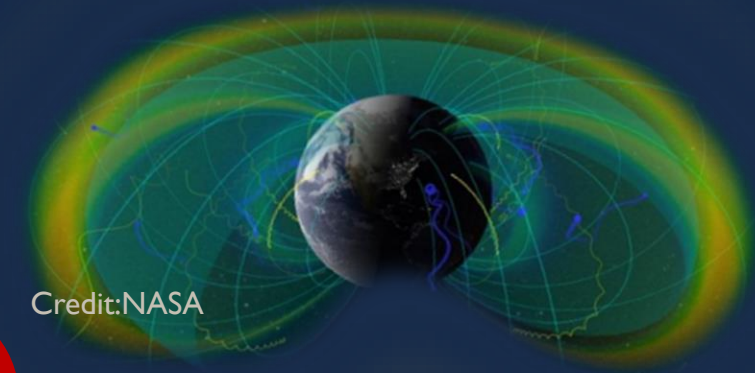
High energy  
protons/ions



### Total Dose:

Energy loss when proton/electrons pass through microelectronic devices causing degradation and reduced performance that accumulates over mission (or step-wise during high dose rate events).

High energy  
protons  
electrons



Magnetosphere



Moon

# Models And Applications

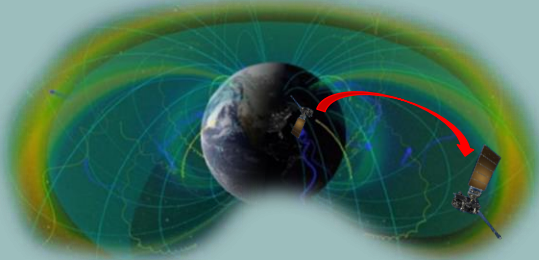
Internal Charging

Single Event Effects

Surface Charging

Lunar Impacts

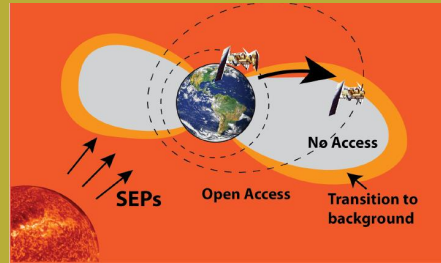
SHELLS-hires  
Electron Radiation Belt  
Model



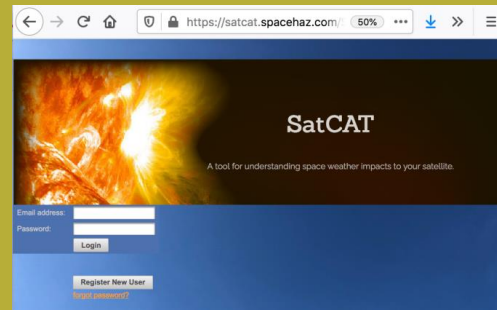
Satellite Charging  
Assessment Tool



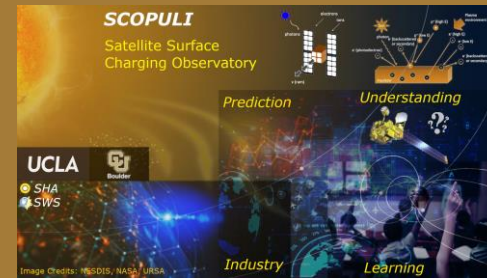
Solar Particle  
Access Model (SPAM)



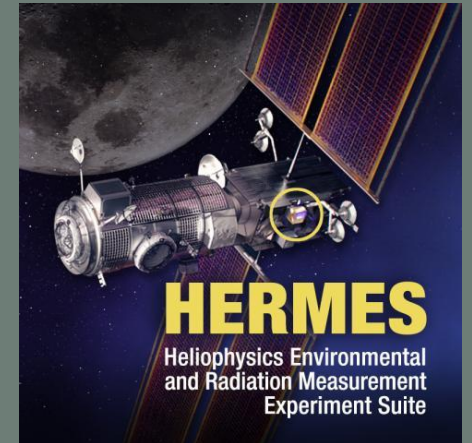
Satellite Hazard  
Assessment Tool



SCOPULI



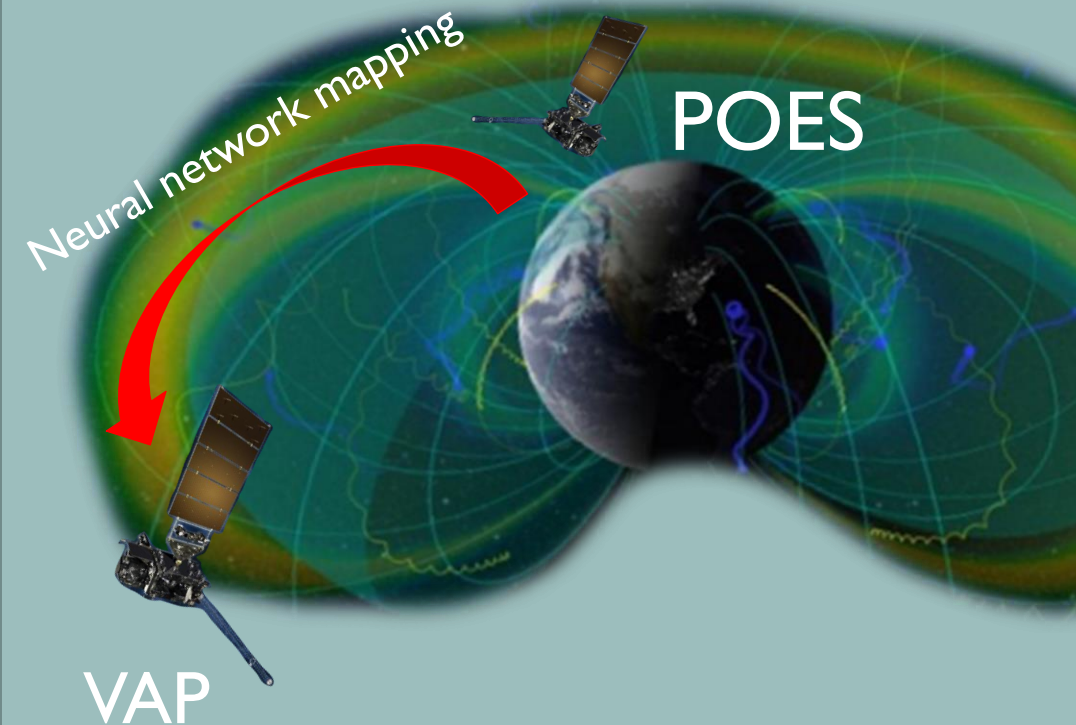
NASA HERMES  
Interdisciplinary  
Science Team



# Internal Charging: SHELLS-hires Model

## SHELLS-hires

Electron radiation belt model that extends sparse data coverage

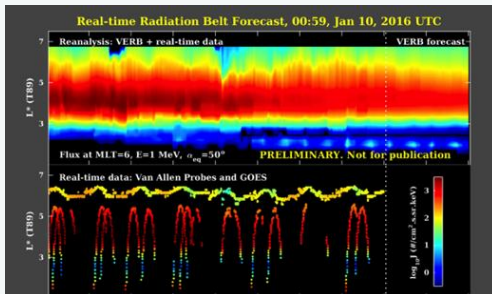


- Neural network learns the mapping from low (POES) to high altitude (VAP) electron fluxes
- Specifies electron flux in near real time globally with just low altitude data based on the learned mapping
- Can produce a historical climatology
- Proof of concept developed based on daily averaged POES data [Claudepierre and O'Brien]. SHELLS-hires runs at a cadence of 10's of minutes [Boyd et al., 2023]

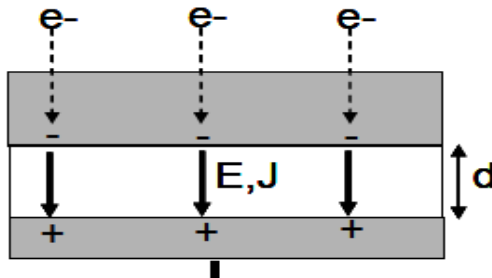
# Internal Charging: SatCAT Application

- Online interactive web application allows users to generate, display, and analyze a unique accumulated charge time-line for any user chosen satellite, shielding, and materials
- Provides a timeline of the hazard over the whole mission and updates in real time

Environment

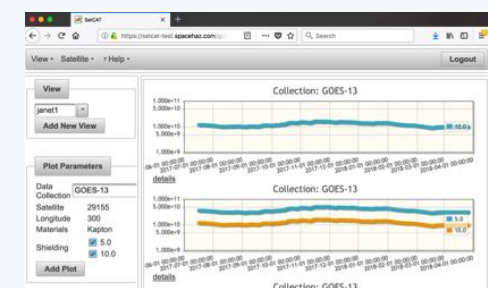


Engineering Effect



Bodeau, 2010

User Interface /Application



# Internal Charging: SatCAT

## Easy to use online interface

Satellite Charging Assessment Tool (SatCAT)/  
Solar Particle Access Model (SPAM)

ABOUT SPAM   CREATE/MANAGE DATA COLLECTIONS   ADD ANOMALY LISTS   ADD PARTS   FIXED GEO DISPLAY   USER DEFINED DISPLAYS >

### New Collection Parameters

Create a new dataset by setting the parameters and clicking 'Create Dataset'. Choose a satellite trajectory from the drop down list or add a new one with the [+]. An email will be sent when generation is complete and data is ready for viewing. (It may take several hours to generate a year of data)

Collection Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Satellite:  +

Start Time: 2022-07-30 02:15:06

End Time: 2022-07-30 02:15:06

Real-time:

Internal Charging:

Materials:

### Available Data Collections

Below are descriptions of datasets available for analysis and display. Four sets of GEO data for virtual satellites at fixed longitudes are openly available to all users. All other are accessible only by the user who created the data. To delete your datasets click the [x] in the last column.

Name	Satellite	Type	Parameters	Time (UTC)	Delete Collection
GEO 90 degree E long		Internal Charging	IC: Kapton (298-473 K), mils	2016-01-01T00:00:00Z - Invalid date	<input type="checkbox"/>
GEO 180 degree E long		Internal Charging	IC: Kapton (298-473 K), mils	2016-01-01T00:00:00Z - Invalid date	<input type="checkbox"/>
GEO 360 degree E long		Internal Charging	IC: Kapton (298-473 K), mils	2016-01-01T00:00:00Z - Invalid date	<input type="checkbox"/>
Van Allen B	Van Allen B	Internal Charging	IC: Teflon generic (273 K), 520-100-200 mils	2016-01-01T00:00:00Z - 2016-01-	<input type="checkbox"/>

- Create a dataset by filling in selections on the left panel
- Existing datasets are shown on the right
- Choose a satellite
- Add start and stop time (or real time updates)
- Choose the material of the component
- Add different shielding layers
- The tool collects TLE's, creates the trajectory, gets the electron flux from VERB, translates to internal charge for material and shielding layers, and stores in a database for display and download

# Internal Charging: SatCAT

## Plot Parameters

To add a new plot to a workspace, choose the data collection and click 'Add Plot'. To delete plot panels, download data, or save images use the top right button on each plot panel. Click on any data trace for a detailed view with cumulative data distributions and 10 highest days.

Data Collection

Charging Example ▾

Plot Type



IC



Species



LET



SEU

Percent Line at

102

Internal Charging

Satellite

GOES 16

Materials

Kapton (298-473 K)

Shielding



5



50



100

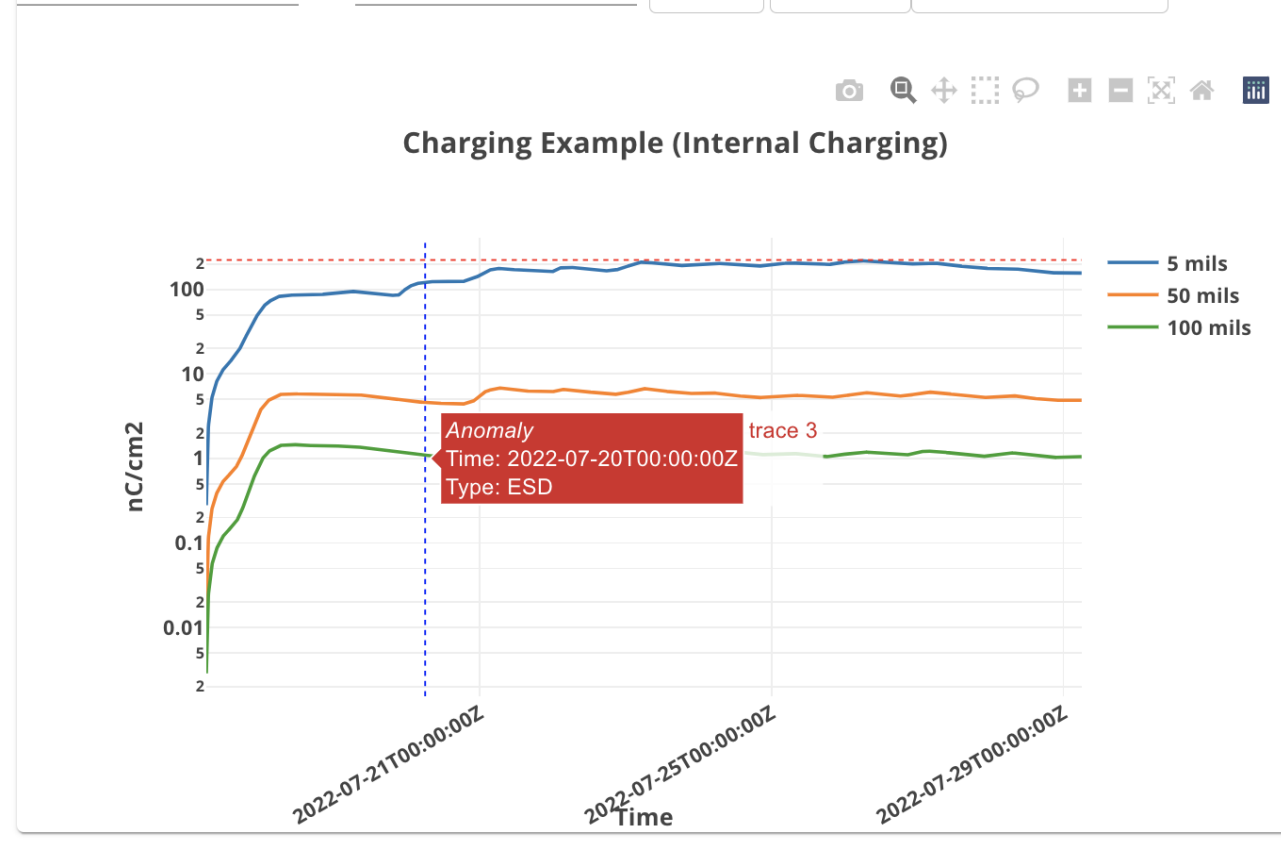
2022-07-17 00:00:00

To: 2022-07-29 00:00:00

PLOT

DELETE

DOWNLOAD DATA



Data along with anomaly times can be displayed within the app or downloaded for analysis



# SATCAT

Van Allen Probes anomalies

VAP B transceiver POR 2017-11-12 17:34:15

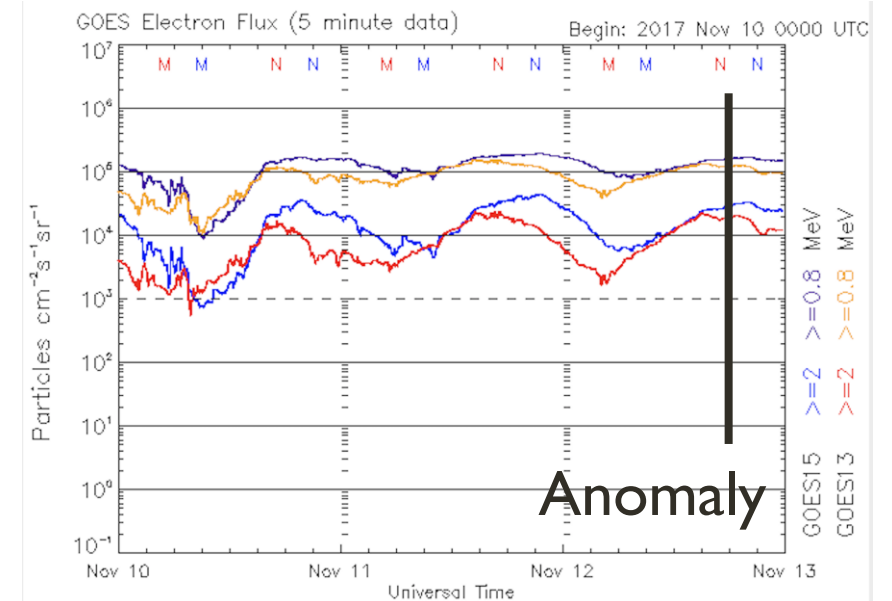
Analysis tools available from SWPC

## 1) GOES electron fluxes

- On Nov 12<sup>th</sup> fluxes were above the threshold
- Fluxes had been elevated for several days
- Not clear how GOES flux translates to GTO orbit

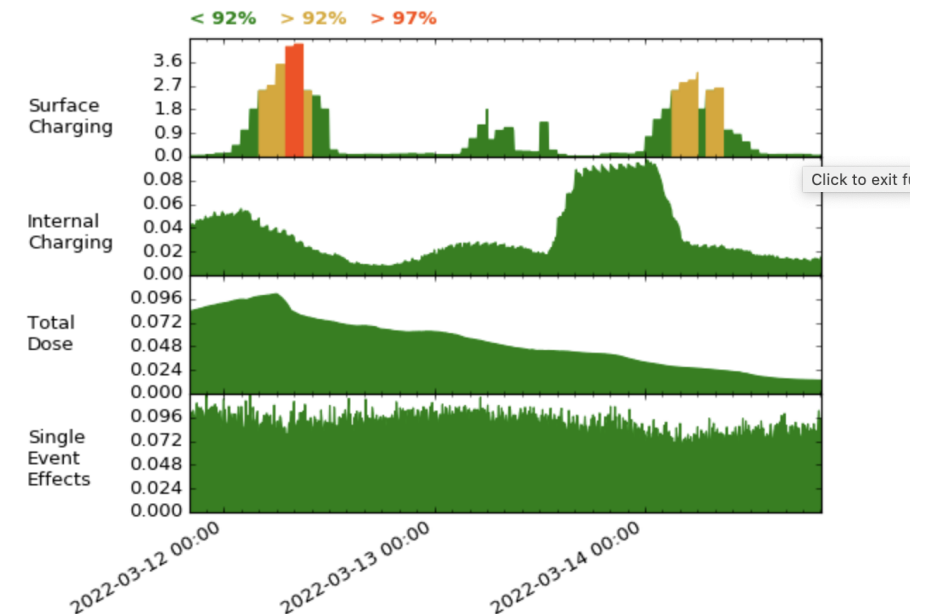
## 2) SEAESRT

- Provides hazard quotients (Likelihood of an anomaly at this time relative to overall)
- Only available for 3 days so post-anomaly assessment is not possible



Updated 2017 Nov 12 23:56:03 UTC NOAA/SWPC Boulder, CO USA

SEAESRT Hazard Quotients Time Series (270 °E)



NOAA/SWPC

# SATCAT

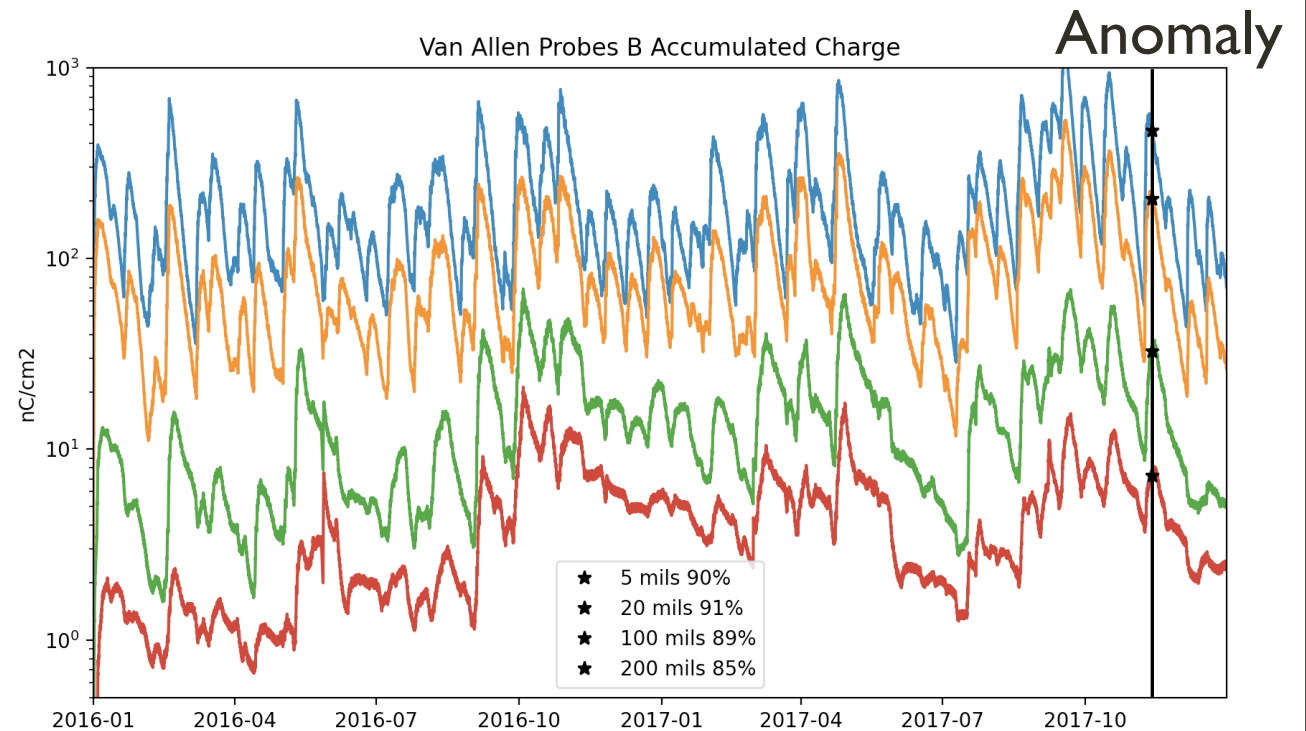
*Van Allen Probes B*

Teflon material (2 day decay)

Generated datasets of internal charging levels from 2016-2018 for 5,20,100,200 mils along the Van Allen probes B trajectory.

Charging would have been at the 91% level for lightly shielded (20 mils) Teflon.

Shielding (mils)	Material and decay constant	Charging level
5	Teflon generic ( $t = 2.2d$ )	90%
20	Teflon generic ( $t = 2.2d$ )	91%
100	Teflon generic ( $t = 2.2d$ )	89%
200	Teflon generic ( $t = 2.2d$ )	85%



# SATCAT

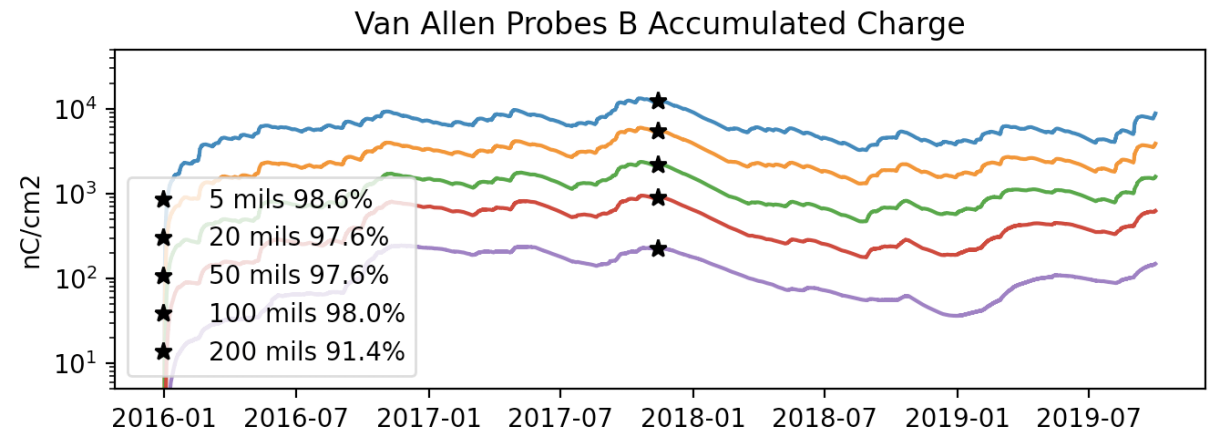
*Van Allen Probes B*

Tefzel material (82 day decay)

Generated datasets of internal charging levels from 2016-2019 for 5,20,50,100,200 mils.

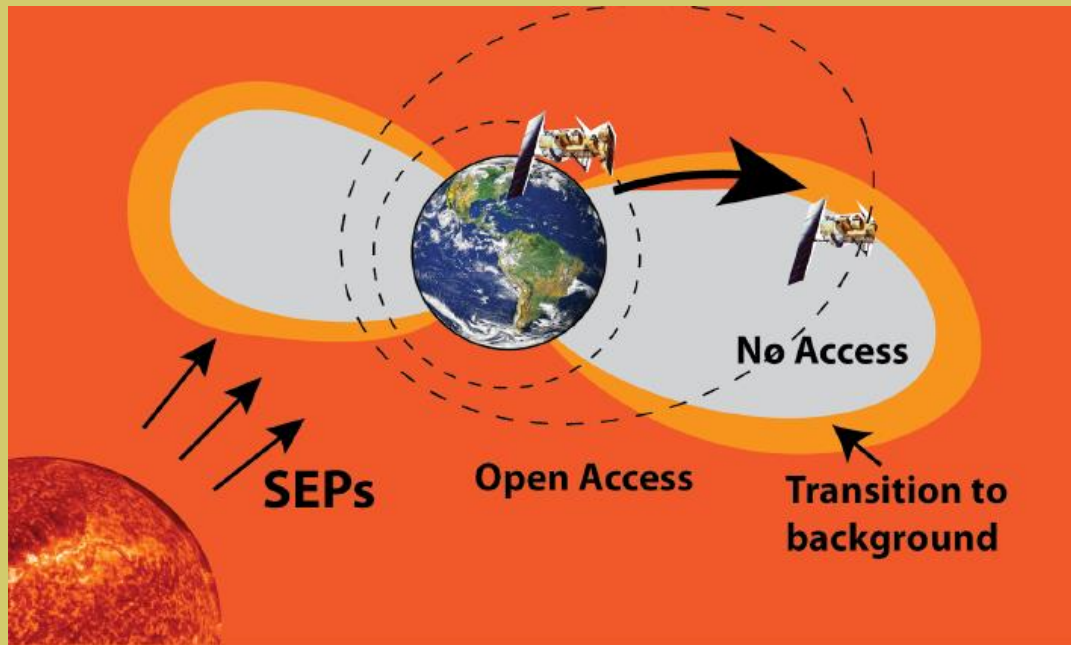
Charging would have been at the 98-99% level for Tefzel with shielding 5-100 mils.

Shielding (mils)	Material and decay constant	Charging level
5	Tefzel (t = 82 d)	99%
20	Tefzel (t = 82 d)	98%
50	Tefzel (t = 82 d)	98%
100	Tefzel (t = 82 d)	98%
200	Tefzel (t = 82 d)	91%



# Single Event Effects: SPAM Model

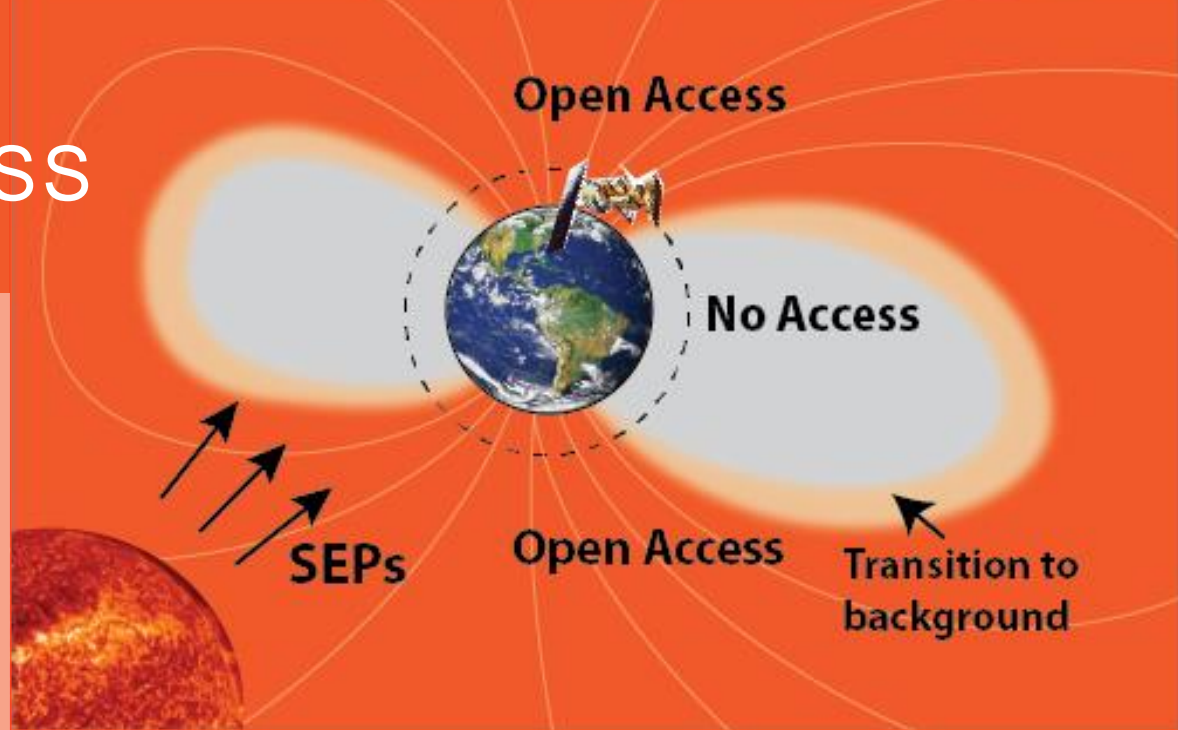
Solar Particle  
Access Model (SPAM)



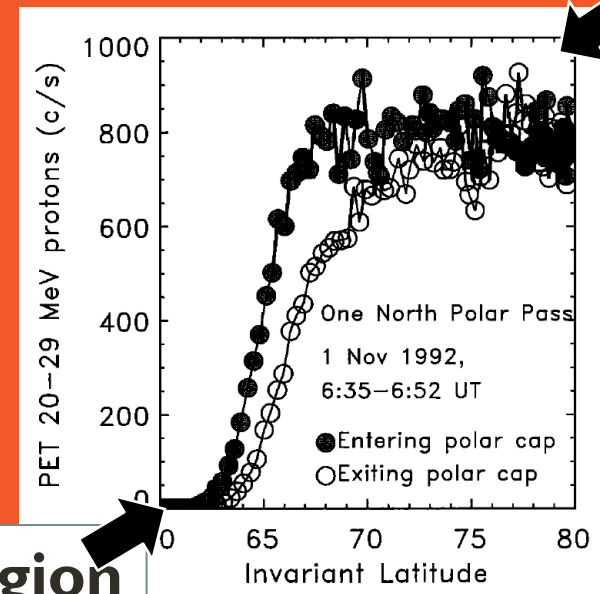
An empirically derived data driven model for mapping solar particle flux throughout the magnetosphere for satellite anomaly monitoring and attribution

# SOLAR PARTICLE ACCESS

- Some regions are shielded as ions are deflected by Earth's magnetic field.
- Polar orbiting MEO/LEO satellites will pass in and out of high flux regions.
- Monitoring the threat from these ions requires knowledge of where they have access or are deflected.
- Access regions change as the magnetic field is distorted by the oncoming solar wind.



## Particle Flux

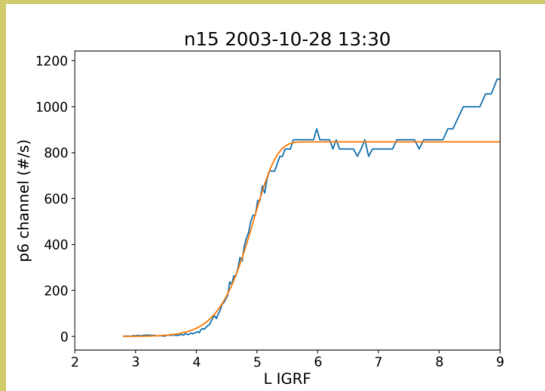


**Polar Cap**

**Shielded region**

# Single Event Effects: SPAM Model

POES proton flux



SPAM defines SEP access using real time observations of ions in Low Earth Orbit (POES/MetOP)

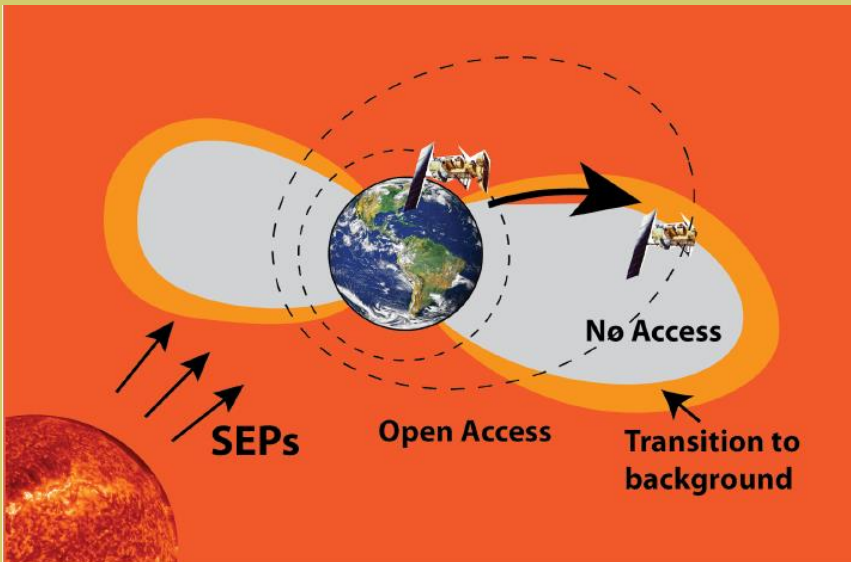
Empirically maps each POES/MetOp pass through the cutoff regions to:

All Magnetic Local times

All altitudes

All ion species

Translates to LET spectrum and SEU rate



# SATCAT/SPAM

**Solar Particle Options**

None  Species  LET  SEU

Thickness: e.g. 50 (mils)  
20

---

**Species Flux**

Species:  h+  all species

Output

Energies: 1.0,5.0,10.0 (MeV/nuc)

---

**LET Flux**

LET (MeV/(g/cm2)):  
1.0,5.0,10.0 etc

Material: None

---

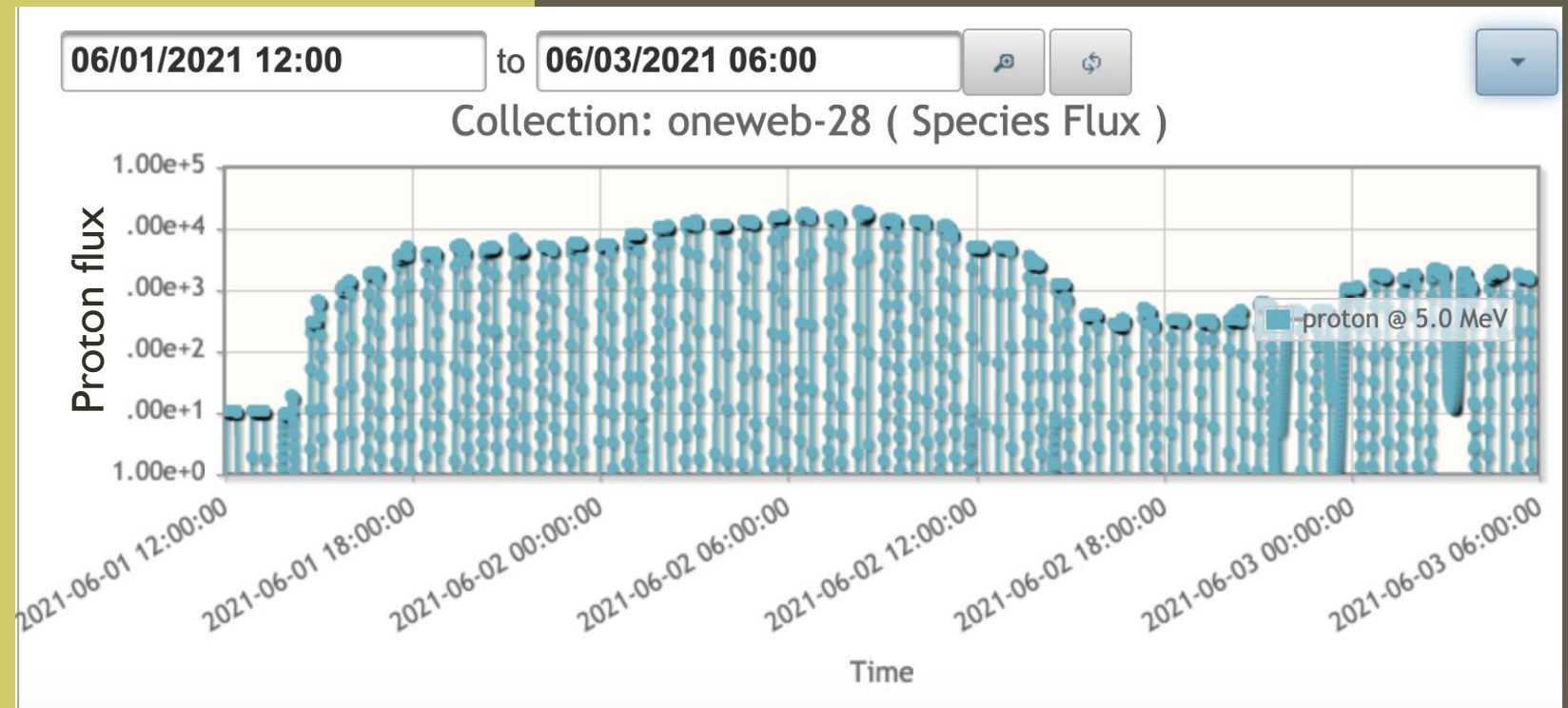
**SEU Rate**

SEU Parts: +

Add new part: +

---

**CREATE DATASET**

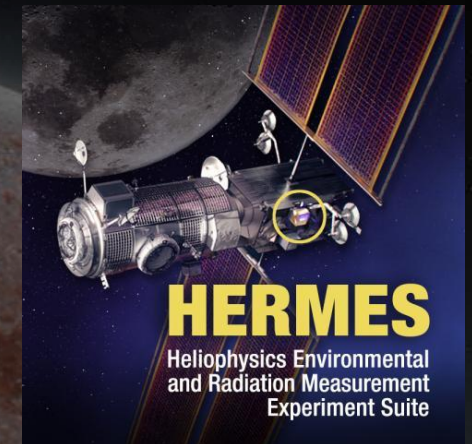


Example using SPAM to show the proton flux expected along a Oneweb satellite orbit had it been in orbit during the Halloween 2003 storms when one of the most intense proton events occurred

# Lunar Models And Applications

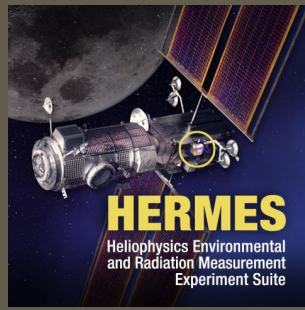
## Goal:

- 1) To understand/model the space particle environment encountered as the moon orbits Earth
- 2) Create a prototype awareness tool to specify and predict the environment, its impacts, and the hazard to space systems
  - Surface charging, internal charging, SEE



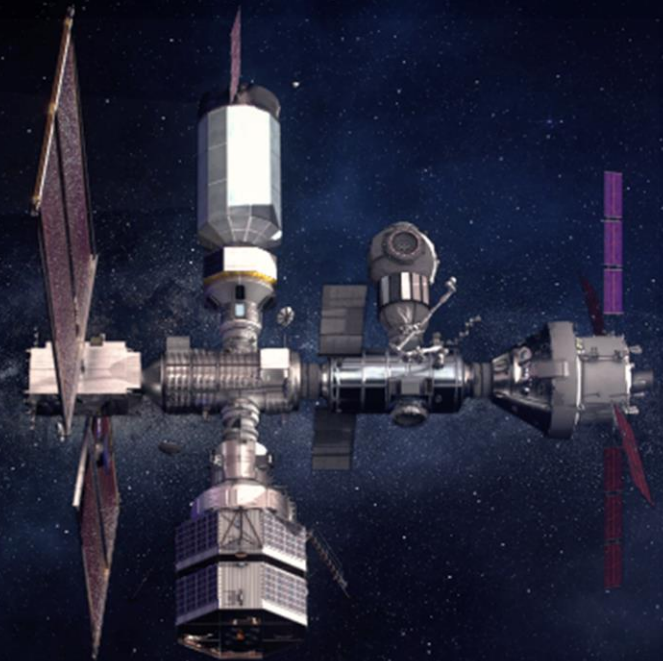


# Lunar Surface Charging



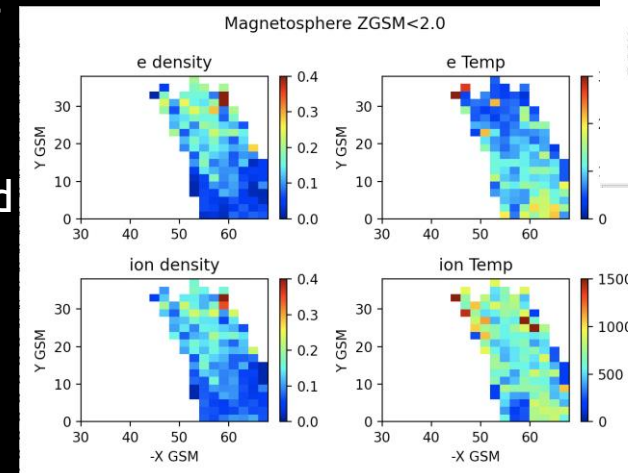
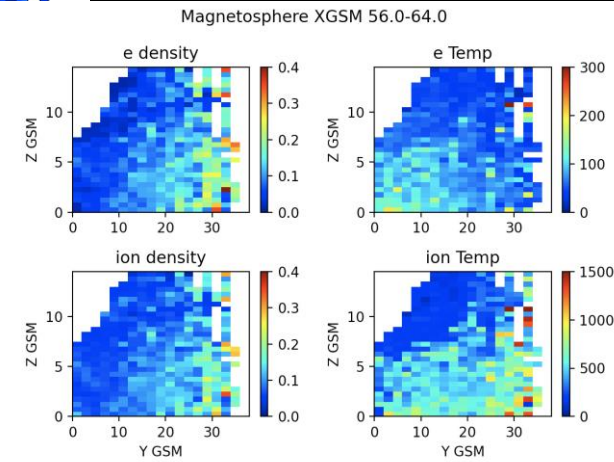
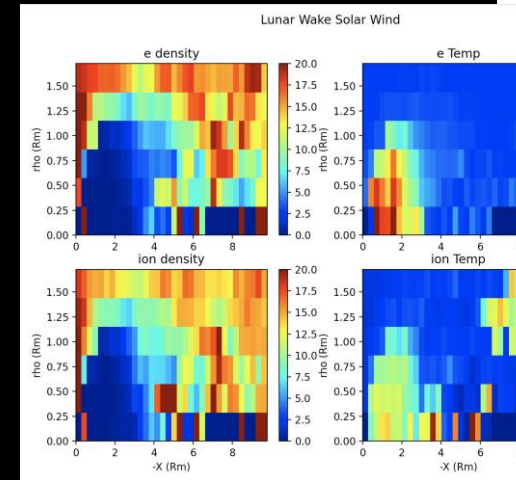
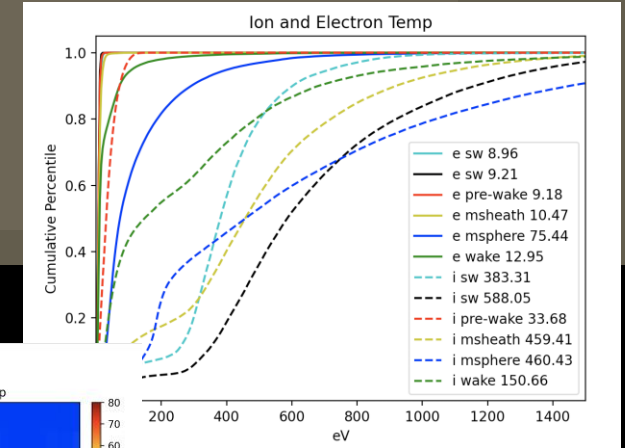
## Statistical plasma model

- Use Themis/Artemis data to create statistical representation of plasma environment at the moon (similar to DSNE but with better resolution)
- Use Nascap and Gateway design to specify charging and create a look-up table to go from environment to expected charging
- Assess sensitivity of charging to surface properties
- Implement a real time application that would give charging potentials based on lunar location



# SURFACE CHARGING MODEL

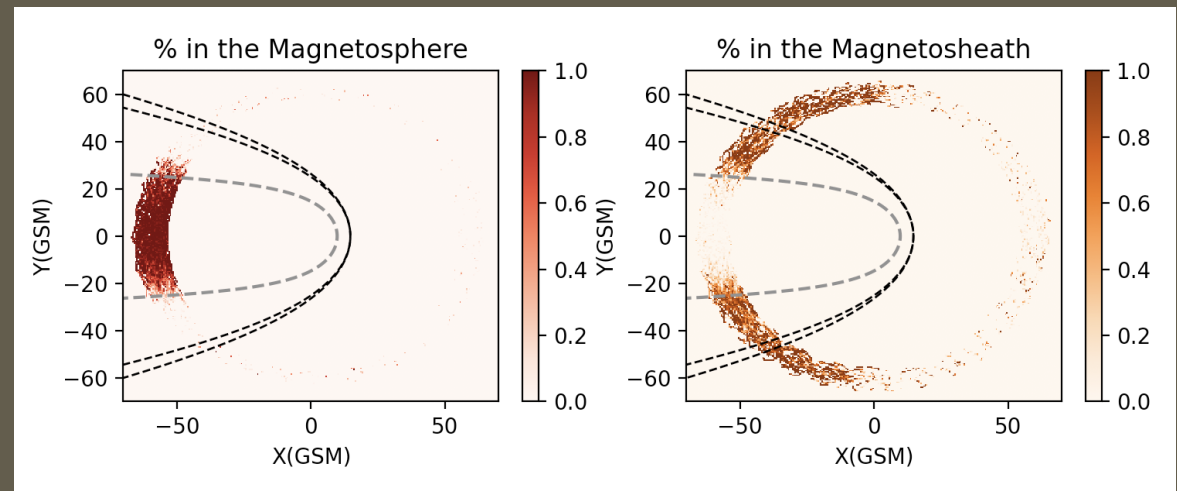
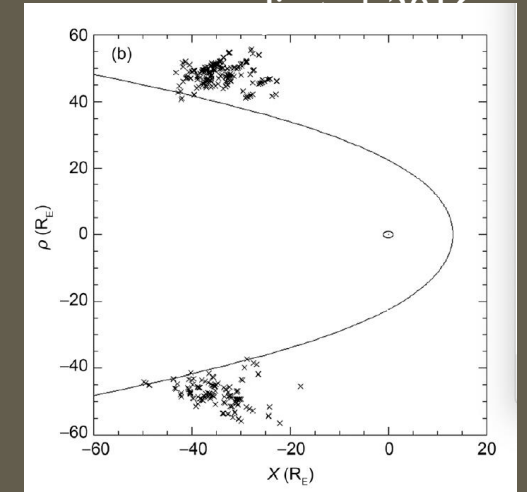
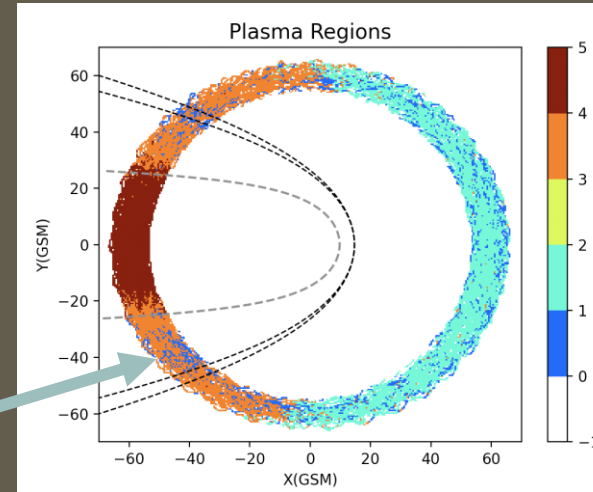
1. Defined plasma regions (using a Gaussian mixture model)
2. Created cumulative distribution functions of electron and ion density/temperature in each region
3. Refined the statistics further for certain regions
  - Lunar Wake in each region (distributions for  $x$  and  $\rho$  bins)
  - Magnetosphere (distributions for  $X, Y, Z$  GSM)
4. Defined where those regions occur along the lunar orbit
5. Simple statistical model that can give the most likely plasma region that you are in (with percentages) for any  $X, Y, Z$ , and the full distribution of the plasma encountered at that location for the last 10 years (based on THEMIS)



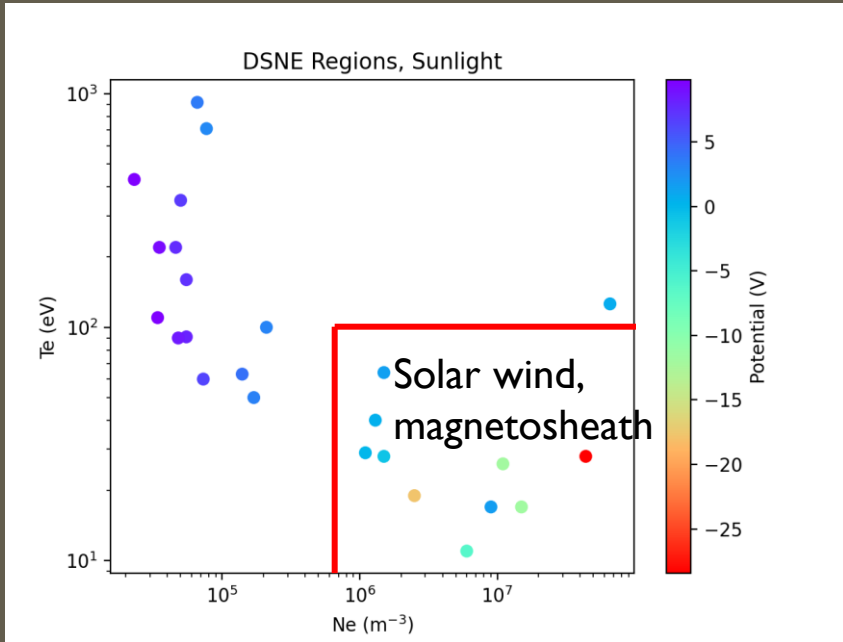
# Surface Charging: Statistical Lunar Plasma Model

## Location of plasma regions

- Magnetosphere is well defined
- Magnetosheath type plasma region extends outside model bow shock (Chao et al 2002)
  - Is consistent with recent bow shock identification study using Artemis (Ji et al, 2016)



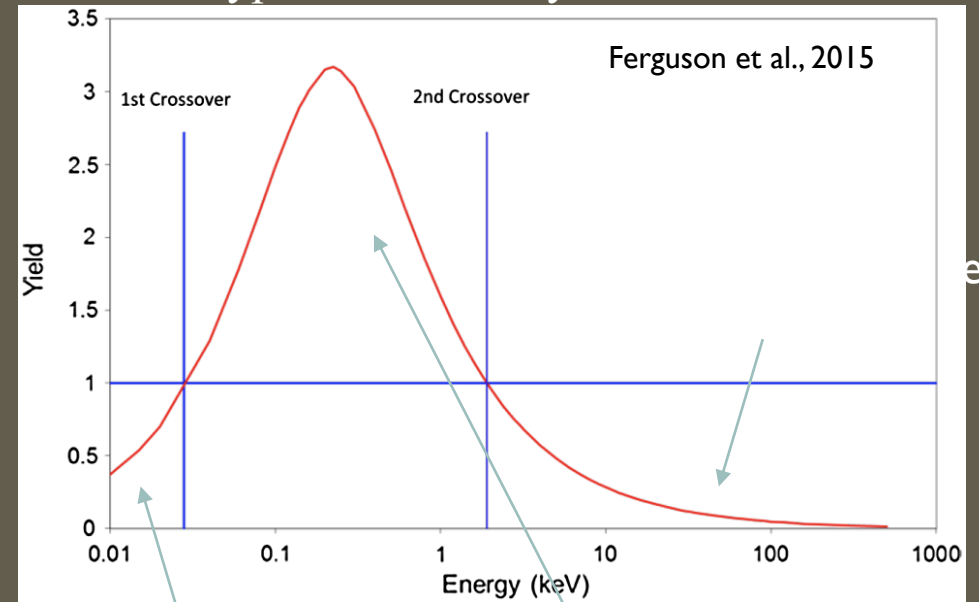
# NASCAP Potentials



## Negative and large differential potentials

- Occur in solar wind and magnetosheath (not plasmashet)
- *low temperature and high density*  
( $T_e < 100 \text{ eV}$ ,  $N_e > 10^6 \text{ m}^{-3}$ )
- Likely due to the secondary electron yield of materials used

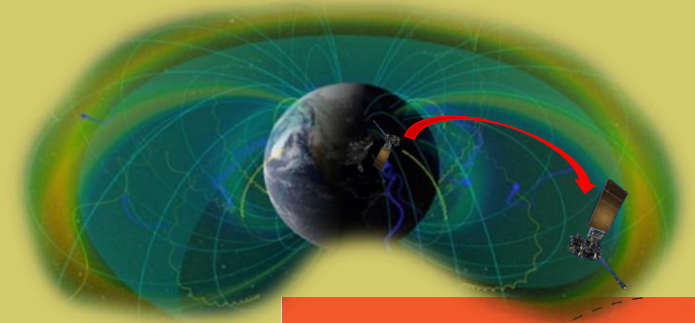
## Typical Secondary Electron Yield



Lots of low energy electrons (i.e. low T) will charge negative

Moderate energy electrons will charge positive

# SUMMARY



We've developed a suite of easy to access models and applications for understanding unique real time space weather impacts to satellite systems.

## Internal charging

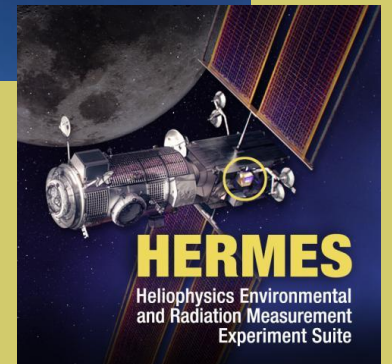
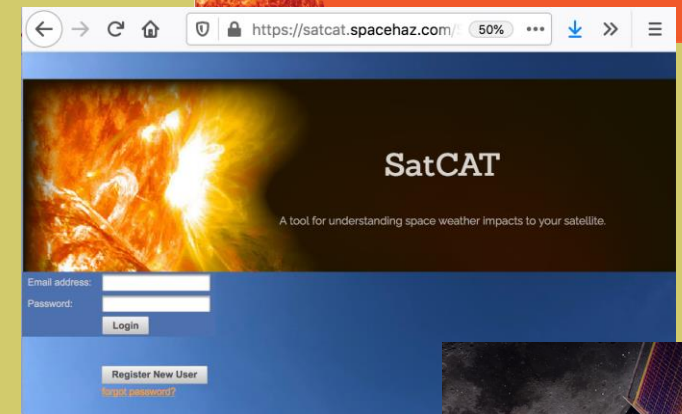
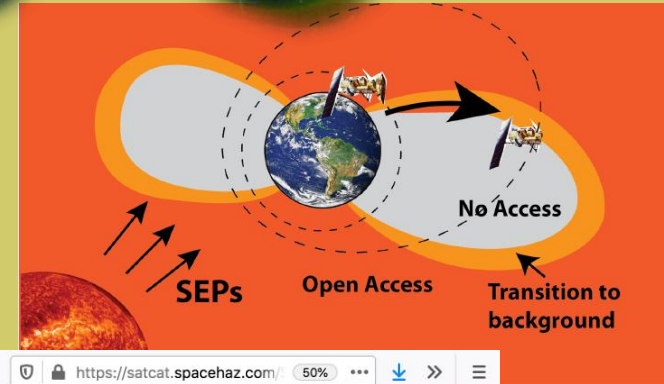
- SHELLS-hires model, SatCAT application

## SEE

- SPAM model, SPAM/SatCAT application

## Lunar Orbit

- surface charging environment and impacts



# SATCAT

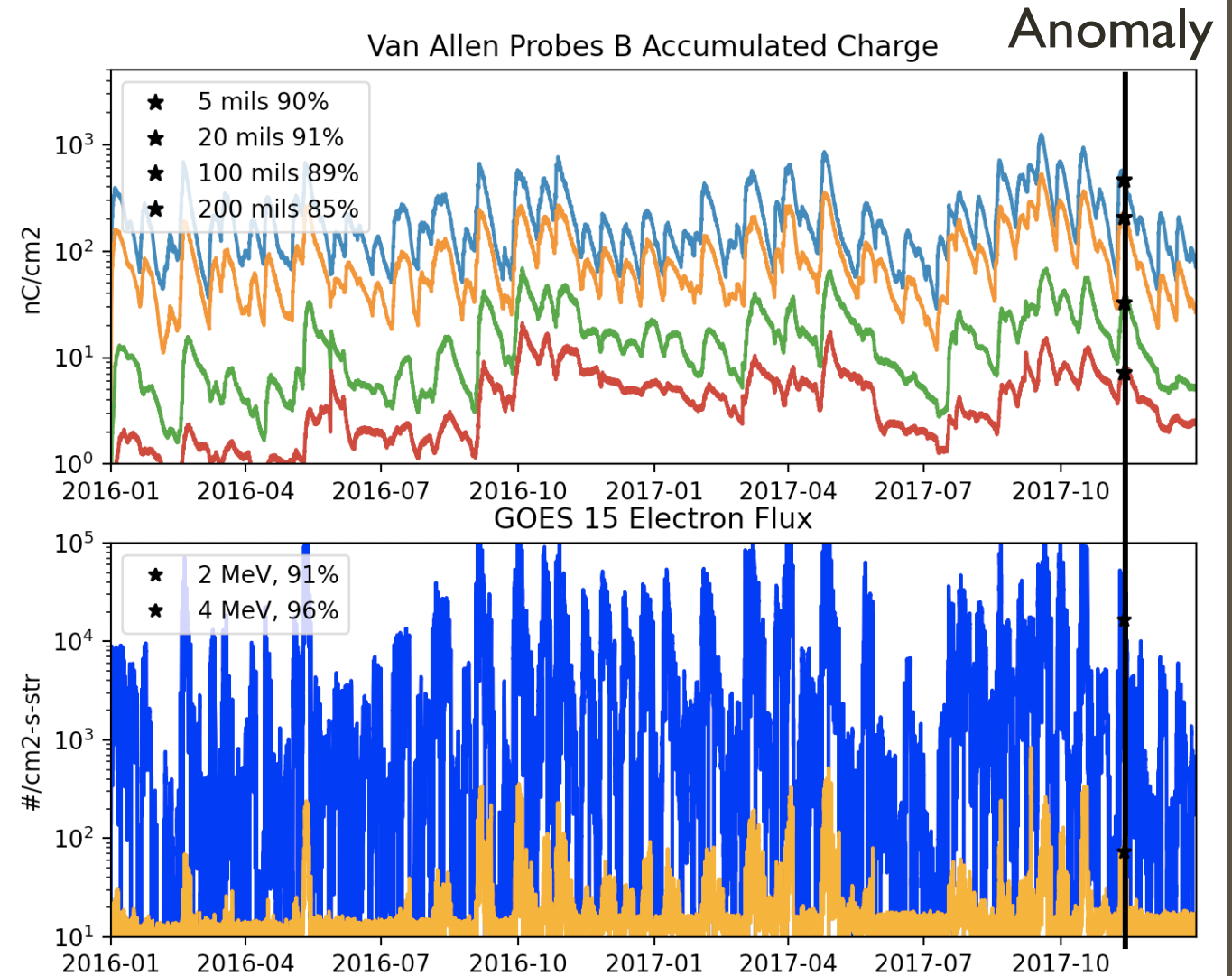
## Van Allen Probes B

Comparing SatCAT charge to GOES fluxes

GOES electron fluxes were high

- 2 MeV flux 91% level
- 4 MeV 96% level

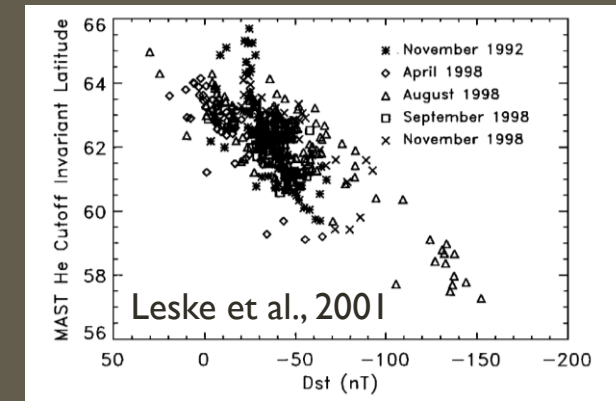
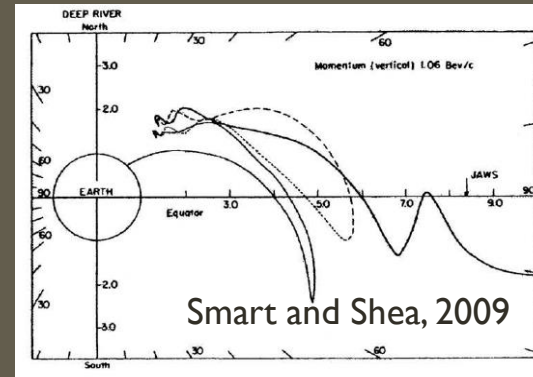
Inferences would have to be made about the flux at GTO and how the changing energy spectrum is affecting the system



# WHY SPAM?

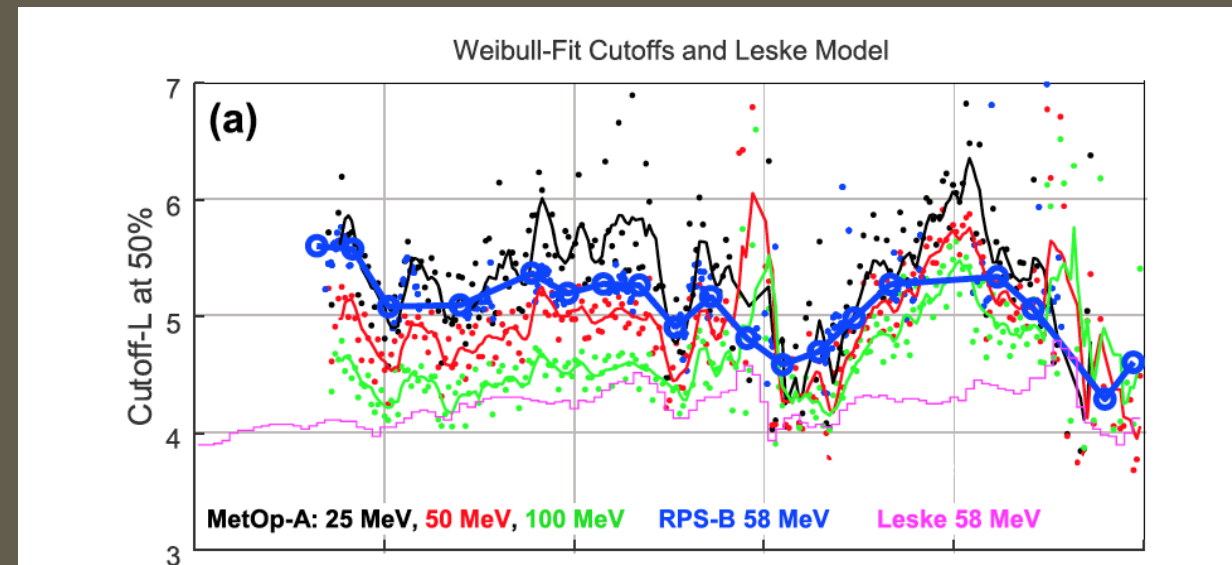
## Current models:

- Physics based: trace particle trajectories
- Statistical: Define average locations based on past event



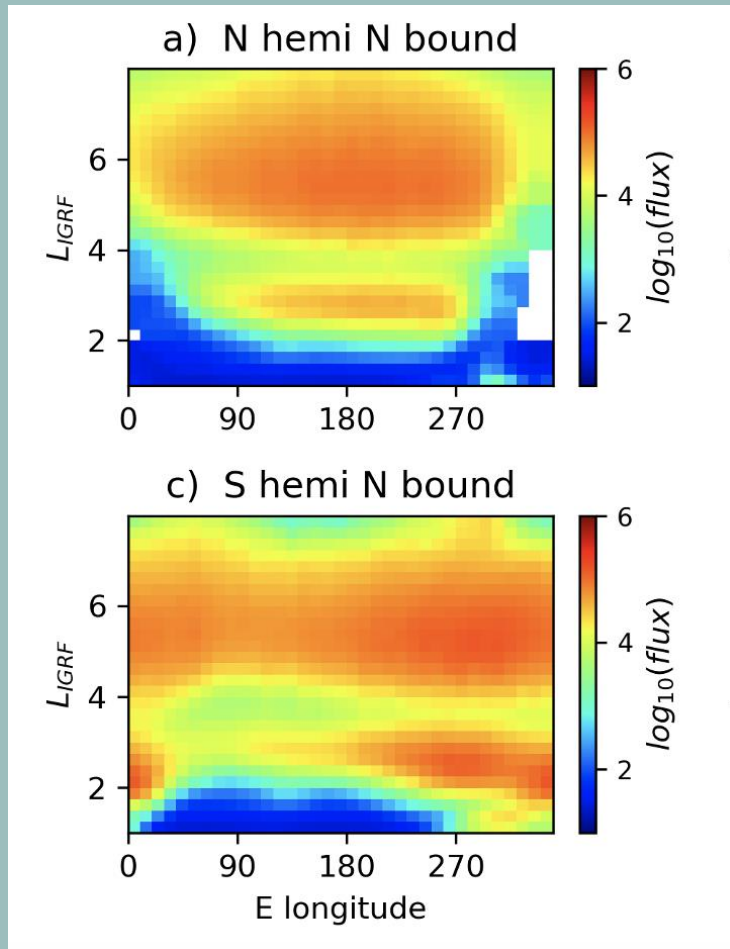
## Issues:

- Don't capture dynamic variations
- Don't apply to all latitudes and altitudes.
- Give single cutoff locations that don't describe how the flux increases across the boundary which is important for satellite impacts.
- Not easily accessible to satellite operators.



# Internal Charging: SHELLS

POES electron fluxes vary with longitude



- SHELLS-hires
  - Removes orbital variations by mapping each POES pass to a consistent longitude using statistical asynchronous regression [Green et al., 2020]
  - Updates ~10's of minutes (L=3-6.3)
  - Alex Boyd et al., updating to extend to larger L
- Could be used for data assimilation input to predictive physics models such as VERB
- Working on implementation at CCMC

[https://github.com/poes-metop-sem/poes\\_metop\\_sem/tree/master/src/SHELLS](https://github.com/poes-metop-sem/poes_metop_sem/tree/master/src/SHELLS)