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## RESEARCH LETTER

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### Key Points:

- There are few measurements of ultralow frequency (ULF) wave geoelectric fields ( $E_{GEO}$ ), despite the hazard these fields can represent
- A coordinated investigation of ULF waves and  $E_{GEO}$  reveals significant spatial inhomogeneities in  $E_{GEO}$  related to Earth conductivity
- Measured storm time ULF wave  $E_{GEO}$  amplitudes of  $\sim 300\text{--}1000$  mV/km suggest that they should be considered in future geoelectric hazard analysis

### Supporting Information:

- Supporting Information S1
- Text S1
- Figure S1
- Figure S2
- Figure S3
- Movie S1

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## Simultaneous Observations of Geoelectric and Geomagnetic Fields Produced by Magnetospheric ULF Waves

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**Abstract** Geomagnetic perturbations ( $B_{GEO}$ ) related to magnetospheric ultralow frequency (ULF) waves induce electric fields within the conductive Earth—geoelectric fields ( $E_{GEO}$ )—that in turn drive geomagnetically induced currents. Though numerous past studies have examined ULF wave  $B_{GEO}$  from a space weather perspective, few studies have linked ULF waves with  $E_{GEO}$ . Using recently available magnetotelluric impedance and  $E_{GEO}$  measurements in the contiguous United States, we explore the relationship between ULF waves and  $E_{GEO}$ . We use satellite, ground-based radar,  $B_{GEO}$ , and  $E_{GEO}$  measurements in a case study of a plasmaspheric virtual resonance (PVR), demonstrating that the PVR  $E_{GEO}$  has significant spatial variation in contrast to a relatively uniform  $B_{GEO}$ , consistent with spatially varying Earth conductivity. We further show ULF wave  $E_{GEO}$  measurements during two moderate storms of  $\sim 1$  V/km. We use both results to highlight the need for more research characterizing ULF wave  $E_{GEO}$ .

**Plain Language Summary** A variety of phenomena in the near-Earth space environment produce disturbances in the magnetic field observed on the ground, including plasma waves in the ionized portion of the Earth's upper atmosphere. Though numerous studies have characterized magnetic disturbances related to waves with frequencies below a few hertz, few studies have addressed the electric fields they can induce in the Earth: geoelectric fields ( $E_{GEO}$ ). The latter are important because they drive potentially damaging electrical currents in power grids and other infrastructure. This study addresses the lack of constraints on wave  $E_{GEO}$  fields by taking advantage of recently available models and measurements. The results show that extreme wave events can produce  $E_{GEO}$  of significant amplitude, comparable to once-per-century values obtained in other studies. The results also indicate that more work is needed to characterize wave  $E_{GEO}$ .

### 1. Relationship Between ULF Waves and Geoelectric Fields

Geomagnetic perturbations ( $B_{GEO}$ ) related to a variety of phenomena in the near-Earth space environment induce electric fields at the Earth's surface. These geoelectric fields ( $E_{GEO}$ ) in turn drive potentially damaging geomagnetically induced currents (GIC) in technological infrastructure such as power grids (e.g., North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), 2012; Pulkkinen et al., 2017; Thomson, 2007). The GIC intensities depend on the spatial and temporal structure of geoelectric fields and the geometry and the electrical resistances of the technological infrastructure of interest; in other words, all GICs are fundamentally driven by geoelectric fields, although the particular relation between GICs and geoelectric fields depends upon the specific technological infrastructure. Thus,  $E_{GEO}$  is an important link between magnetospheric phenomena and GICs, and significant research effort is directed toward characterizing the geoelectric field (Kelbert et al., 2017; Love et al., 2019; Lucas et al., 2018, 2020), which can then be used to characterize GIC via tailored engineering assessments (Pulkkinen et al., 2017). As noted in section 3 of (Pulkkinen et al., 2017, page 833), "... the 'division of work' is now clear: science activities need to characterize the geoelectric field, which is the input for further engineering analyses."

Geoelectric fields can be measured directly (e.g., Ferguson, 2012) or estimated at a given position using

$$\mathbf{E}_{GEO}(\omega) = \frac{1}{\mu} \begin{pmatrix} Z_{xx}(\omega) & Z_{xy}(\omega) \\ Z_{yx}(\omega) & Z_{yy}(\omega) \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{B}_{GEO}(\omega) \quad (1)$$

where  $\omega$  is the frequency,  $E_{GEO}$  and  $B_{GEO}$  are the frequency-dependent geoelectric and geomagnetic fields,  $\mathbf{Z}$  is a tensor corresponding to an impedance from a magnetotelluric (MT) survey, and  $\mu$  is the magnetic permeability (e.g., Bedrosian & Love, 2015).  $\mathbf{Z}$  depends on the electrical conductivity of the Earth, which varies in three dimensions and is a function of rock composition, including physical, chemical, and thermal state.  $\mathbf{Z}$  is an effectively stationary function (time independent for periods relevant to GIC) that can be used to map a time-varying  $B_{GEO}$  to  $E_{GEO}$ . Equation 1 also assumes a plane wave source, in which the inducing magnetic field at the Earth's surface is coherent over length scales larger than the skin depth of induced currents; this assumption holds for the  $B_{GEO}$  examined in this letter based on comparisons between measured and calculated geoelectric fields and the fact that the waves in this study have spatial scales of  $> \sim 1,000$  km, significantly larger than the skin depth in the region of interest. Using Equation 1 with an assumed  $B_{GEO}$  and measured  $\mathbf{Z}$ , Bedrosian and Love (2015) demonstrated that  $E_{GEO}$  can exhibit rapid spatial variations even in the presence of a spatially uniform  $B_{GEO}$ . In particular, they assumed monochromatic  $B_{GEO}$  with 1-, 10-, and 100-mHz frequency and spatially uniform amplitude; using  $\mathbf{Z}$  (from MT survey) and Equation 1, they estimated  $E_{GEO}$  and found significant spatial variations related to variations in the electrical conductivity of the Earth.

The frequencies examined by Bedrosian and Love (2015) are in the ultralow frequency range (ULF) defined by Jacobs et al. (1964) to classify pulsations, or waves, in the magnetosphere-ionosphere system; in this work, we focus on waves with frequencies below 22 mHz, referred to as Pc5 ( $\sim 2$ – $7$  mHz), Pc4 (7–22 mHz, continuous wave train), and Pi2 (7–22 mHz, waves only last a few cycles) waves. Some types of ULF waves have spatially uniform amplitudes and polarizations very similar to the  $B_{GEO}$  assumed by Bedrosian and Love (2015). For example, the cold, dense plasma of the inner magnetosphere, or plasmasphere, can act as a resonator and partially trap ULF wave energy leading to a wave mode known as a plasmaspheric virtual resonance (PVR; Lee & Kim, 1999). PVR models predict a spatially uniform (amplitude and frequency)  $B_{GEO}$  at low and midlatitudes with roughly 100s period (Lee & Takahashi, 2006; Takahashi et al., 2009), appropriate for use with Equation 1. Shi et al. (2017) identified a PVR using ground magnetometer data from a similar geographic region as Bedrosian and Love (2015), finding waves very similar to the  $B_{GEO}$  imposed by Bedrosian and Love (2015):  $\sim 1$  nT spatially uniform amplitude (on scales  $\sim > 1,000$  km) with 10-mHz frequency.

Several studies have demonstrated that magnetospheric ULF waves can drive intense GIC and thus represent a hazard (e.g., Belakhovsky et al., 2019; Pulkkinen & Kataoka, 2006). However, few studies have focused on ULF waves as a driver of  $E_{GEO}$ , despite the recognition by the GIC research community that geoelectric field constraints are needed for tailored engineering assessments and forecasting, in particular that “improved understanding and specification of the field over different spatial and temporal scales is needed” (Pulkkinen et al., 2017, pages 832–833). For example, ULF wave  $E_{GEO}$  are not generally covered in review papers and monographs examining a wide variety of ULF wave research (e.g., Keiling et al., 2016; McPherron, 2005; Takahashi et al., 2006), and there are few past reports of ULF wave  $E_{GEO}$  measurements. Motivated by these facts—and taking advantage of a recent, significant increase in the availability of  $B_{GEO}$ ,  $E_{GEO}$ , and  $\mathbf{Z}$  measurements in the contiguous United States—we have three objectives with this letter:

1. Section 2: Apply the Bedrosian and Love (2015) techniques, along with direct  $E_{GEO}$  measurements, to the event of Shi et al. (2017) to demonstrate how one particular ULF wave mode can drive  $E_{GEO}$ . This is the first coordinated investigation using satellite, ground-based radar, and spatially distributed  $B_{GEO}$ ,  $E_{GEO}$ , and  $\mathbf{Z}$  measurements to identify a specific magnetospheric ULF wave mode and link this wave mode to a spatial distribution of  $E_{GEO}$ .
2. Section 3: Use measured geoelectric fields during two additional storm time ULF wave case studies to characterize more extreme ULF wave  $E_{GEO}$ .
3. Section 4: Place these results in context with past work to highlight the need for more research into the relationship between ULF waves and  $E_{GEO}$ .

## 2. Case Study: Geoelectric Fields Driven by a PVR

Shi et al. (2017) reported global Pi2 pulsations (“Pi2” refers to irregular, or lasting only a few wave cycles, pulsations with frequencies from 7–22 mHz) occurring on 25 September 2014, observed around a sub-storm onset at ~06:04 UT by space and ground-based instruments. Time History of Events and Macroscale Interactions during Substorms (THEMIS) satellites (Angelopoulos, 2008) measurements of in situ driving conditions, wave perturbations (electric and magnetic field), and electron densities (to identify plasma-pause boundary) were collected near the magnetic equatorial plane at a range of distances. These data were compared with Super Dual Auroral Radar Network (SuperDARN) radar (Chisham et al., 2007; Nishitani et al., 2019) line of sight measurements of ionospheric flows to identify the location of wave measurements and for additional contextual information in the ionosphere. As described below, these data provided the lines of evidence needed to identify the wave mode as a PVR. Further details of these radar and satellite measurements can be found in Shi et al. (2017).

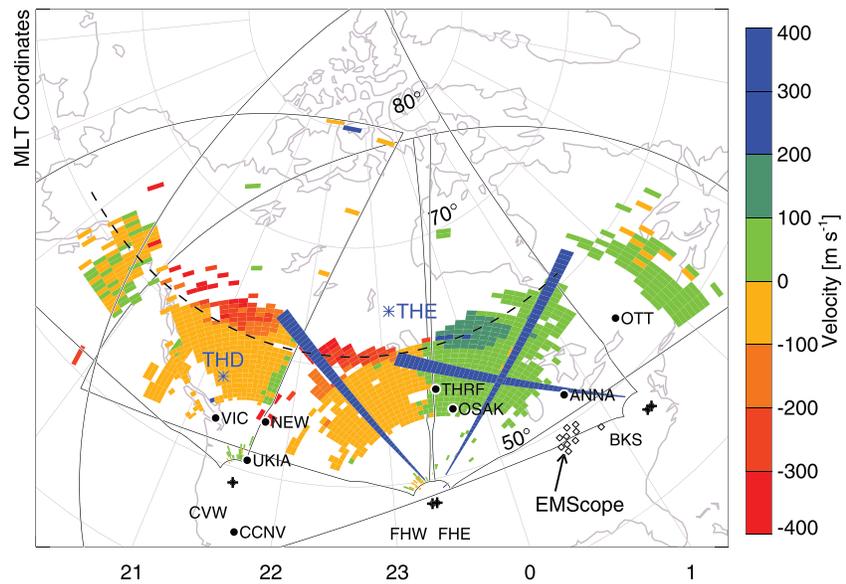
The main focus of this study is on the analysis of ground-based  $E_{GEO}$ ,  $B_{GEO}$ , and  $\mathbf{Z}$  measurements—the coordinates of ground stations are in Table S1 in the supporting information:

1. Ground-based  $B_{GEO}$  from the CARISMA (Mann et al., 2008), THEMIS (Russell et al., 2008), U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) (Love & Finn, 2011), and CANMOS (Nikitina et al., 2016) ground magnetometer networks: These data were examined in Shi et al. (2017), and they will be further used in this study to estimate  $E_{GEO}$  using Equation 1. The THEMIS  $B_{GEO}$  data are provided in geomagnetic coordinates; for consistency with other data sets, these are rotated to geographic coordinates by using the declination angle from the International Geomagnetic Reference Field model (IGRF-13/year 2014):  $x$  points toward geographic North Pole,  $y$  points eastward, and  $z$  points down to complete the right hand orthogonal set.
2. Ground-based  $B_{GEO}$ ,  $E_{GEO}$ , and  $\mathbf{Z}$  from ElectroMagnetic EarthScope (EMScope, the magnetotelluric component of USArray; Schultz, 2010; Schultz et al., 2006–2018, which is in turn a component of the multifaceted EarthScope project; Williams et al., 2010): Each temporary EMScope station, located at a quasi-regular 70-km grid across the contiguous United States, records two horizontal components of  $E_{GEO}$  and all three components of  $B_{GEO}$  for roughly 3 weeks. This is accomplished using two orthogonal 100-m electric field dipoles (100-m electric cables terminated at each end with electrodes) and a three-axis fluxgate magnetometer. The  $E_{GEO}$  and  $B_{GEO}$  measurements were provided at 1s cadence and were originally in geomagnetic coordinates; they were rotated to geographic coordinates to be consistent with other measurements. Measurements of  $E_{GEO}(t)$  and  $B_{GEO}(t)$  are used to calculate the MT impedance tensor (Schultz et al., 2006–2018) as a function of frequency,  $\mathbf{Z}(\omega)$ . All  $\mathbf{Z}$  used in this study are in geographic coordinates. At a location where the MT impedance tensor and magnetic field measurements are available,  $E_{GEO}$  can be estimated using Equation 1. The measured and calculated  $E_{GEO}$  and  $B_{GEO}$  shown in this section were high-pass filtered with a 6.7-mHz cutoff in order to focus on the PVR signal, while the measured  $E_{GEO}$  and  $B_{GEO}$  shown in section 3 were high-pass filtered with a 1-mHz cutoff to examine a wider-frequency range that includes the Pc5 band.

As shown in Figure 1, the combination of THEMIS satellites, SuperDARN radars, and ground magnetometers enables global specification of wave activity. This event is ideal for studying ULF wave  $E_{GEO}$  because of the availability of the above data sets and the fact that Shi et al. (2017) has already characterized the global wave fields (apart from  $E_{GEO}$ ).

Shi et al. (2017) used observations similar to those shown in Figures 1 and 2 to identify the ULF wave mode as a PVR. We briefly summarize their results:

1. Based on satellite electron density measurements and radar measurements of ionospheric flow speeds, the THEMIS-D satellite is located inside the plasmasphere while THEMIS-E is outside. The dashed line in Figure 1 indicates the plasmopause boundary based on satellite and radar measurements; the darker colors indicate larger flows, consistent with larger flows expected just outside the plasmopause. THEMIS-D has azimuthal ULF electric field (Figure 2b) perturbations that are coherent with ground magnetic perturbations (i.e., have the same frequency and phase relationships over several wave cycles, Figures 2c–2e) observed equatorward of the plasmopause, while THEMIS-E (Figure 2a) observes



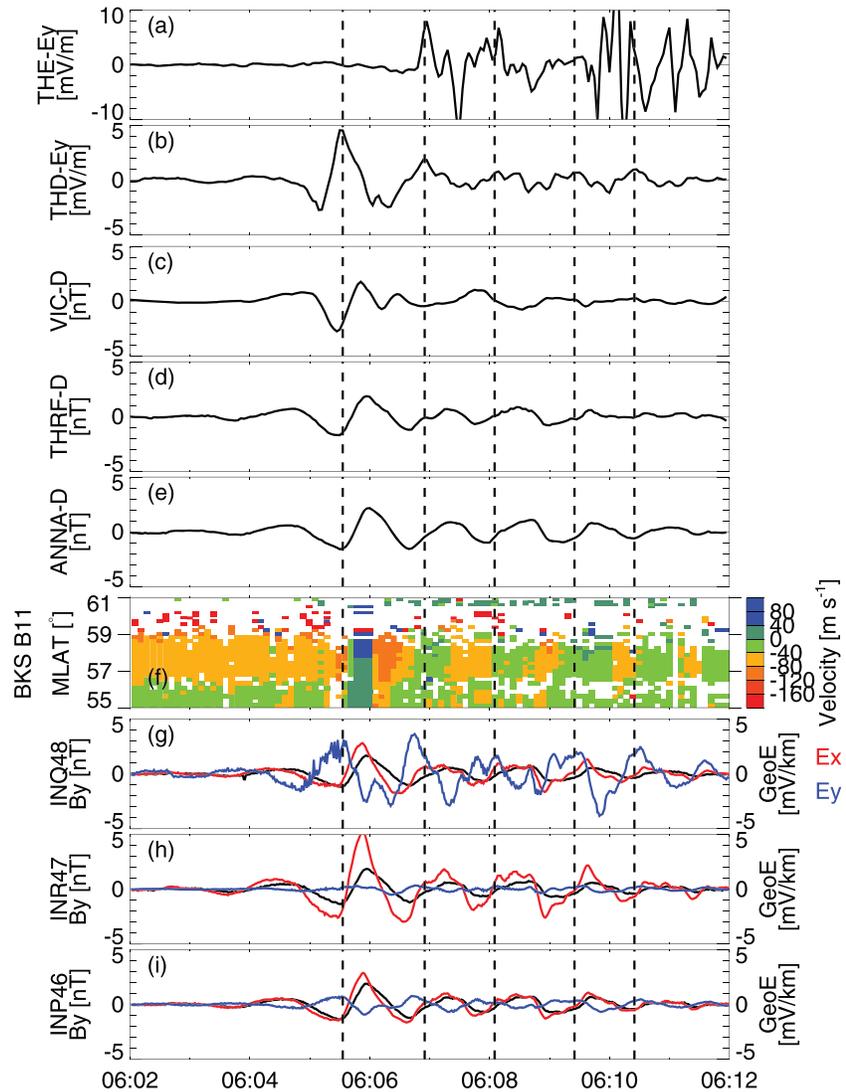
**Figure 1.** Adapted from Figure 1 in Shi et al. (2017), this figure overlays ground-based observation locations and satellite foot points on ionospheric flow patterns on 25 September 2014 at ~0600 UT. In the figure, blue stars indicate satellite magnetic foot points, black dots indicate ground magnetometer stations, white diamonds indicate EMScope stations, black “+” signs indicate SuperDARN radar sites, blue bars indicate SuperDARN high-resolution beams, color indicates line of sight (LOS) ionosphere velocities in regions with backscatter, and black dashed line indicates latitude corresponding to plasmapause.

irregular electric field variations that are not coherent with the ground magnetometer observations. This suggests a wave mode primarily confined to the plasmasphere.

2. Ground magnetic perturbations have the same frequencies, polarizations, and amplitudes across wide spatial regions (i.e., vary on spatial scales  $> \sim 1,000$  km, Figures 2c–2e, 2g–2i black lines), consistent with a global mode such as a PVR (Allan et al., 1996). SuperDARN radar observations (Figure 2f) of ionospheric flows are consistent with ground magnetometers; they have the same frequency, and increases/decreases in SuperDARN velocities occur at nearly the same time at different magnetic latitudes. Additional observations in Shi et al. (2017) indicate ground magnetic perturbations have constant frequency across a wide range of longitudes, extending from midnight to the dayside, also consistent with the PVR model.
3. Additional satellite and ground-based polarization analysis from Shi et al. (2017) is consistent with fast mode waves partially trapped in the plasmasphere. Local time variations in polarization are consistent with the location of the wave energy source (substorm related processes including flow bursts and related current systems located near midnight).

In general, a combination of data sets (including satellites and/or radar) is needed to identify PVR and other ULF wave modes (e.g., cavity modes, waveguide modes, and Alfvén modes that do not generate a strong ground magnetic signature). Thus, in order to characterize  $E_{GEO}$  related to PVR and other ULF wave modes, coordinated observations such as those shown in Figure 2 are needed.

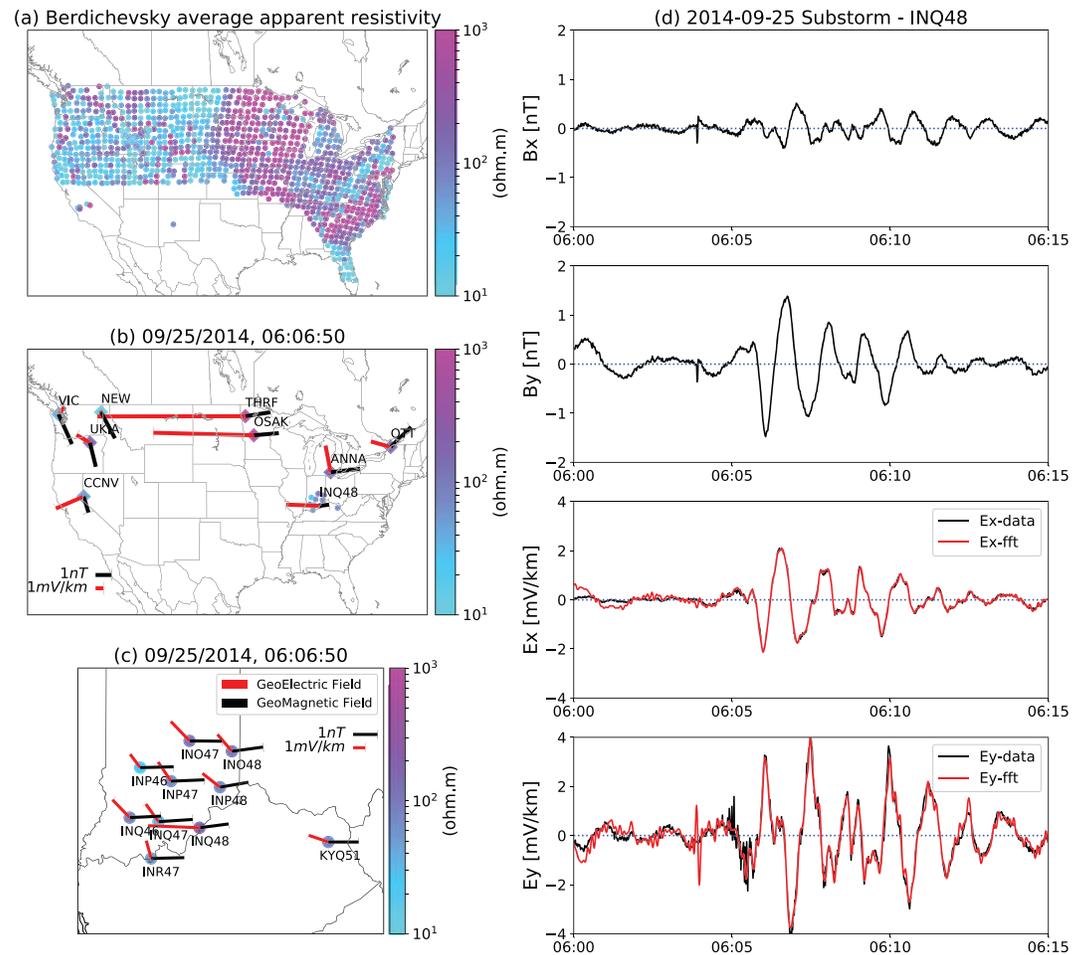
Figure 3 explores the PVR spatial variation further by showing measured  $B_{GEO}$  and measured (sites with IN and KY prefixes) and modeled (all other sites)  $E_{GEO}$ ; note that agreement between modeled and observed  $E_{GEO}$  during this event is excellent (bottom two panels of Figure 3d). Colored circles in this figure are for a frequency-dependent scalar that provides context on local ground conductivity ( $\sigma$ ) or the Earth’s resistivity ( $\rho = 1/\sigma$ ); in particular, the Berdichevsky average apparent resistivities (Berdichevsky & Dmitriev, 1976) are shown as colored circles for  $T_0 = 100$  s perturbations (see Figure S2 for an example of the full, frequency-dependent resistivity at one station). Figure 3b shows the measured  $B_{GEO}$  (black) at eight additional ground magnetometers and the modeled  $E_{GEO}$  (red) at 0607 UT;  $E_{GEO}$  is obtained using Equation 1 and the closest measured EarthScope  $\mathbf{Z}$  (in all cases within 40 km of magnetometer). Both the amplitude and polarization of  $E_{GEO}$  vary considerably in response to regional variations in subsurface resistivity. Even for a



**Figure 2.** Adapted from results in Shi et al. (2017), this figure shows in situ and ground-based observations during the 25 September 2014 PVR event. From top to bottom, the figure shows THEMIS-E (a) and THEMIS-D (b) satellite east-west electric fields, east-west magnetic perturbation observed by VIC (c), THRF (d), and ANNA (e) ground stations, line of sight velocity in the Blackstone SuperDARN radar beam 11 (f, blue bar originating from BKS in Figure 1), east-west magnetic perturbations (black), and north-south (red)/east-west (blue) electric field perturbations at three EMScope stations (g–i). Dashed lines are shown at times corresponding to the local maxima in the THEMIS-D electric field; these are provided as a reference for the phase relationships with the time series in other panels.

small region with direct measurements of  $E_{GEO}$  and  $B_{GEO}$  from 10 EMScope stations (Figure 3c), the polarization of  $E_{GEO}$  changed significantly while  $B_{GEO}$  is constant, for example, comparing INQ48 and INR47 with the rest of the stations. Furthermore, the stations with maximum  $E_{GEO}$  do not necessarily have maximum  $B_{GEO}$  in Figures 3b and 3c. These points are further demonstrated in the supporting information: Figure S1 shows the time series of  $B_{GEO}$  and  $E_{GEO}$  for all 10 EMScope stations, Figure S3 shows the measured  $B_{GEO}$  and modeled  $E_{GEO}$  for the eight magnetometers shown in Figure 3b, and Movie S1 shows the time evolution of Figure 3c from 06:00 to 06:15 UT.

The  $E_{GEO}$  and  $B_{GEO}$  observations shown here provide further confirmation of the results of Bedrosian and Love (2015):  $E_{GEO}$  driven by the magnetospheric ULF wave is nonuniform even in the presence of a spatially uniform  $B_{GEO}$ . Thus, ULF waves are subject to the same limitations under the 1-D Earth conductivity assumption as other sources of  $B_{GEO}$ . Direct  $E_{GEO}$  measurements and/or realistic MT impedances that capture the 3-D conductivity structure of the Earth are needed (Kelbert et al., 2019).

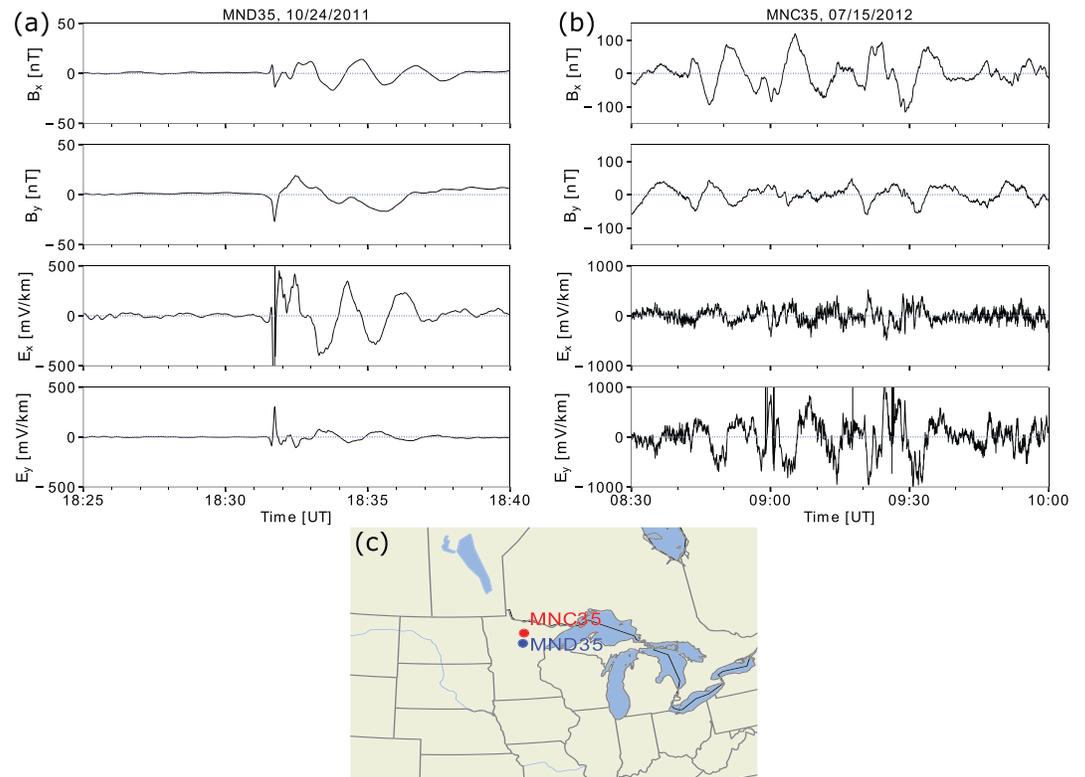


**Figure 3.** (a) Map showing Berdichevsky average apparent resistivity for  $T_0 = 100$  s perturbations. (b) The measured horizontal  $B_{GEO}$  (black) and modeled  $E_{GEO}$  (red) vectors at 06:06:50 UT on 25 September 2014 from eight ground magnetometer stations shown as black dots in Figure 1 (zoomed out)— $E_{GEO}$  is calculated at the wave period using the measured  $B_{GEO}$ , the closest measured EarthScope  $\mathbf{Z}$  (always within 40 km of magnetometer), and Equation 1. (c) The measured horizontal  $B_{GEO}$  (black) and measured  $E_{GEO}$  (red) vectors at 06:06:50 UT on 25 September 2014 from 10 EMScope stations shown as black diamonds in Figure 1 (zoomed in). (d) Time series of measured horizontal  $B_{GEO}$ , measured (black) and modeled (red)  $E_{GEO}$  from the INQ48 site.

### 3. ULF Waves Drive Goelectric Fields of Significant Amplitude at Midlatitudes

The Shi et al. (2017) PVR event had a frequency of  $\sim 10$  mHz and occurred during relatively geomagnetically quiet conditions on the nightside at middle to low latitudes, yet PVR and other ULF wave modes can occur in a wider range of conditions, locations, and frequencies. The aim of this section is to demonstrate that ULF waves can drive more extreme  $E_{GEO}$  amplitudes at midlatitudes, similar to the latitude range examined in the previous section ( $\sim 30\text{--}60^\circ$ ).

Concerning ULF wave  $B_{GEO}$ , Bloom and Singer (1995) examined a similar geographic region to that shown in Figure 1, finding that power for all types of ULF  $B_{GEO}$  varies with local time, latitude, frequency, and activity level by roughly 5 orders of magnitude even when restricting to geomagnetic latitudes of  $40\text{--}55^\circ$  (see Figure 4 in that study); this corresponds to amplitude variations in  $B_{GEO}$  of 2–3 orders of magnitude and suggests that  $E_{GEO}$  varies by more than 3 orders of magnitude, given its dependence on both  $B_{GEO}$  and  $\mathbf{Z}$  (Equation 1). A few examples of ULF wave activity occurring in similar spatial regions and with similar properties to the PVR shown in this study, but with much larger amplitudes of  $\sim 50\text{--}100$  nT can be found in Fukunishi (1979) (Figure 1 of that study, multiple wave cycles seen in H component by DUR magnetometer 1100–1110 UT) and Villante et al. (2005) (Figure 3b, NUR and HAN magnetometers, multiple wave cycles



**Figure 4.** (a) Measurements of  $B_{GEO}$  and  $E_{GEO}$  from station MND35 during a ULF wave event at the initial stages of the geomagnetic storm on 24 October 2011. From top to bottom, the north-south  $B_{GEO}$  component, east-west  $B_{GEO}$  component, north-south  $E_{GEO}$  component, and east-west  $E_{GEO}$  component. (b) The same format as (a) but for station MNC35 and ULF wave activity during the later stages of a geomagnetic storm on 15 July 2012. (c) Map showing the position of stations MND35 and MNC35.

seen in D component from 1105 to 1120 UT). These and numerous other examples of storm time ULF wave activity at midlatitudes ( $30\text{--}60^\circ$  magnetic latitude) show that ULF wave  $B_{GEO}$  amplitudes often reach 100 nT.

No similar case or statistical studies of ULF wave  $E_{GEO}$  measurements during storms are available. Thus, we next examine direct measurements of  $E_{GEO}$  and  $B_{GEO}$  during two storm time ULF wave case studies. The top two panels of Figure 4a show measurements of the north-south and east-west components of  $B_{GEO}$  from station MND35 (location shown in Figure 4c) during the initial stages of the geomagnetic storm on 24 October 2011. Multiple wave cycles with roughly 2-min period are seen in the top panel with amplitudes of 10–15 nT. The bottom two panels shown the north-south and east-west components of  $E_{GEO}$ , with ULF waves in the north-south component of  $E_{GEO}$  having amplitudes of 300–400 mV/km. Figure 4b is the same format as 4a, but for measurements from station MNC35 (location shown in Figure 4c) during the later stages of a geomagnetic storm on 14–15 July 2012. In this event, the Pc5 ULF waves have periods of roughly 5 min,  $\sim 100$ -nT amplitude in  $B_{GEO}$  and  $\sim 500$ - to 1,000-mV/km amplitudes in  $E_{GEO}$ .

These two ULF wave events occurred during storms with Dst reaching as low as  $-150$  nT (24 October 2011) and  $-140$  nT (14–15 July 2012), yet far more severe storms are possible. There were 40 more intense storms with minimum Dst less than  $-250$  nT in the period January 1957 to May 2005 alone (Gonzalez et al., 2011). Since ULF wave amplitudes increase with increasing geomagnetic activity (e.g., Bloom & Singer, 1995), it is highly likely that more extreme storms will have midlatitude ULF wave  $E_{GEO}$  amplitudes that exceed the measured 300–1,000 mV/km  $E_{GEO}$  amplitudes shown in Figure 4. At higher latitudes, the amplitudes may be larger since ULF wave amplitudes also generally increase with latitude. It thus seems reasonable that extreme storm time ULF wave  $E_{GEO}$  amplitudes at middle and high latitudes could approach the 4- to 10-V/km range, which has been linked to GIC of significant intensity during extreme storms (Winter, 2019). It should also be noted that 1 V/km is at the 1-in-100-year event threshold in 70% of the contiguous United

States (Lucas et al., 2020), although in the specific geographic region shown in Figure 4, the threshold for 1-in-100-year events is much higher (10–20 V/km).

Additional geoelectric hazard analysis focused on ULF wave activity is needed to assess whether different wave modes can drive a significant percentage of 1-in-100-year events, since past hazard analysis did not consider ULF waves:

1. Past analysis (e.g., Lucas et al., 2020) used 1-min cadence  $B_{GEO}$  to calculate  $E_{GEO}$ , suppressing contributions from most of the ULF range that are above the Nyquist frequency of 8.3 mHz (e.g., waves shown in Figures 2, 3, and the left part of Figure 4).
2. Past analysis did not account for the phenomenology of magnetospheric ULF waves; all sources of  $B_{GEO}$  were combined together, whether wave related or not. Thus, the fraction of extreme events that are driven by ULF waves cannot be determined.
3. Past analysis relied on the plane wave assumption to calculate  $E_{GEO}$  (section 1), which may not be applicable to all ULF wave events (Murphy & Egbert, 2018).

This study addresses these issues by being the first coordinated investigation linking magnetospheric ULF wave activity to 1 second  $E_{GEO}$  measurements and using simultaneous  $B_{GEO}$  and  $E_{GEO}$  measurements related to ULF waves during storms, but it is not a statistical analysis. Significantly more work is needed to assess the full range of  $E_{GEO}$  that might be associated with ULF waves, including a better survey of past storm events for a wider range of wave modes.

#### 4. More Work Is Needed to Characterize ULF Geoelectric Fields

There have been few previous reports linking ULF waves and  $E_{GEO}$  (references and discussion in section 1), despite significant past research into the properties of magnetospheric ULF waves and their related  $B_{GEO}$  (e.g., Southwood & Hughes, 1983; Takahashi et al., 2006). Moreover, there are very few past measurements of ULF wave  $E_{GEO}$ , in contrast to  $B_{GEO}$ . We speculate this is due to (1) the lack of widespread, publicly available  $E_{GEO}$  and  $\mathbf{Z}$  measurements and (2) the fact that  $E_{GEO}$  is not well suited to remote sensing magnetospheric ULF waves due to its dependence on local  $\mathbf{Z}$  (Equation 1).

Though most past ULF wave reviews do not discuss ULF  $E_{GEO}$  (e.g., Keiling et al., 2016; McPherron, 2005; Takahashi et al., 2006), a notable exception is the recognition of the relevance of ULF  $E_{GEO}$  to magnetotelluric sounding methods (e.g., Gul'el'mi, 1989; Murphy & Egbert, 2018; Orr, 1973; Pilipenko, 1990; Pilipenko & Fedorov, 1994). Pilipenko (1990) noted on page 1207 “One of the most urgent problems in the physics of geomagnetic pulsations is to unify the ‘magnetospheric’ and ‘magnetotelluric’ approaches to ULF wave studies.” Since the review of Pilipenko (1990), these two research areas have tended to develop in parallel, with little consideration of the impact of one upon the other (cf. Murphy & Egbert, 2018). Three recent developments now provide additional motivation for new studies linking these research areas: (1) the increasingly recognized role of ULF waves in driving GIC (e.g., Belakhovsky et al., 2019), (2) the need for modeled and measured  $E_{GEO}$  for tailored assessments of GIC (e.g., Pulkkinen et al., 2017), and (3) increases in the quality, quantity, and availability of  $E_{GEO}$  and  $\mathbf{Z}$  measurements from magnetotelluric surveys (e.g., Schultz, 2010).

This letter represents the first coordinated investigation of ULF waves and  $E_{GEO}$  using satellite measurements, ground-based radar, ground-based  $B_{GEO}$ , and ground-based  $E_{GEO}$  measurements;  $E_{GEO}$  measurements are supplemented with calculated  $E_{GEO}$  using Equation 1 with measured  $E_{GEO}$  and  $\mathbf{Z}$ , providing estimates of ULF  $E_{GEO}$  across the contiguous United States for a PVR. Additional ULF wave case studies during two storms show ULF wave  $E_{GEO}$  amplitudes—whether PVR-related or otherwise—can reach 300–1,000 mV/km. We argue that additional case and statistical studies using similar combinations of data sets and tools are needed to characterize  $E_{GEO}$  for other ULF wave modes that may have very different spatial, frequency, and geomagnetic activity dependences than PVR. Significantly more effort is needed to examine the role of magnetospheric ULF waves in the generation of  $E_{GEO}$ , including collaboration between the magnetotelluric and magnetospheric ULF wave research communities.

#### Data Availability Statement

The ground-based magnetic field data used in this work are freely available via the INTERMAGNET (<https://www.intermagnet.org>, CANMOS and USGS), CARISMA (<http://carisma.ca/>, CARISMA), and THEMIS

repositories (<http://themis.ssl.berkeley.edu/>). The code used to produce the modeled electric fields is freely available on github (<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3765861>).

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