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D Mourenas, A.V. Artemyev, J.-F Ripoll, O. V. Agapitov, V.V. Krasnoselskikh. Timescales for electron quasi-linear diffusion by parallel and oblique lower-band chorus waves. *Journal of Geophysical Research Space Physics*, 2012, 117, A06234 (17 p.). 10.1029/2012JA017717 . insu-01179755

HAL Id: insu-01179755

<https://insu.hal.science/insu-01179755>

Submitted on 23 Jul 2015

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Timescales for electron quasi-linear diffusion by parallel and oblique lower-band chorus waves

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Received 12 March 2012; revised 25 April 2012; accepted 21 May 2012; published 30 June 2012.

[1] The loss of relativistic electrons from the Earth's radiation belts can be described in terms of the quasi-linear pitch angle diffusion by cyclotron-resonant waves, provided that their frequency spectrum is broad enough. Chorus waves at large wave-normal angles with respect to the magnetic field are often present in CLUSTER and THEMIS measurements in the outer belt at moderate to high latitudes. An approximate analytical formulation of diffusion coefficients has been derived in the low-frequency limit, leading to a simplified analytical expression of diffusion coefficients and lifetimes for energetic trapped electrons. Large values of the wave-normal angles between the Gendrin and resonance angles are shown to induce important increases in diffusion, thereby strongly reducing the particle lifetimes (by almost two orders of magnitude). The analytical diffusion coefficients and lifetimes obtained here are found to be in a good agreement with full numerical calculations based on CLUSTER chorus waves measurements in the outer belt for electron energies ranging from 100 keV to 2 MeV. Such very oblique chorus waves could contribute to a predominantly perpendicular anisotropy of the global equatorial electron population on the dayside and to a relative isotropization at low energy under disturbed conditions. It is also suggested that they might play a significant role in pulsating auroras.

Citation: Mourenas, D., A. V. Artemyev, J.-F. Ripoll, O. V. Agapitov, and V. V. Krasnoselskikh (2012), Timescales for electron quasi-linear diffusion by parallel and oblique lower-band chorus waves, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 117, A06234, doi:10.1029/2012JA017717.

1. Introduction

[2] Understanding the dynamics of the Van Allen radiation belts is of both theoretical and practical importance. Intense fluxes of relativistic (MeV) electrons occurring during periods of important geomagnetic disturbances can damage satellites electronic components, which has spurred increasing interest in the field of “space weather” forecasting [e.g., see *Barker et al.*, 2005]. Different competing acceleration and loss mechanisms can be simultaneously at work, however, making global belt modeling a very challenging task. Multidimensional codes have been developed to simulate the dynamics of the radiation belts, some of them with a special focus on the outer belt where radial diffusion is believed to be of major importance [*Bourdarie et al.*, 1996; *Barker et al.*, 2005; *Ukhorskiy et al.*, 2005; *Shprits et al.*, 2008; *Varotsou et al.*, 2008; *Xiao et al.*, 2009; *Fok et al.*, 2011]. The

outer radiation belt exhibits a very high variability, due to rapidly evolving natural conditions such as convection and geomagnetic activity levels in response to solar wind changes [*Meredith et al.*, 2001; *Lyons et al.*, 2005]. In particular, an important population of plasma sheet low-energy electrons ($E \sim 10 - 100$ keV) are injected near midnight in the outer belt during storms or substorms. Drifting from midnight through dawn to noon, such low-energy electrons are believed to excite lower-band chorus waves near the equator through thermal anisotropy or loss cone instability at small pitch angles, the generated quasi-parallel whistler waves in turn accelerating some electrons to relativistic energies at large pitch angles in the night sector and scattering particles into the loss cone at small pitch angles on the dawnside, finally leading to precipitations in the atmosphere and pulsating auroras [*Horne et al.*, 2005; *Li et al.*, 2007; *Summers et al.*, 2007b; *Ni et al.*, 2008; *Nishimura et al.*, 2011]. The inferred timescales for precipitation range from hours to days during periods of storm-enhanced convection [*Horne et al.*, 2005; *Li et al.*, 2007]. But these previous studies have focused on parallel or moderately oblique waves dominant near the equator [*Shprits et al.*, 2007; *Summers et al.*, 2007b; *Ni et al.*, 2008; *Shprits and Ni*, 2009], while recent CLUSTER measurements have demonstrated that very oblique chorus waves become statistically predominant at moderate to high latitudes $>15^\circ$, especially on the dayside where they reach high amplitudes [*Agapitov et al.*, 2011; *Artemyev et al.*, 2012]. In order to

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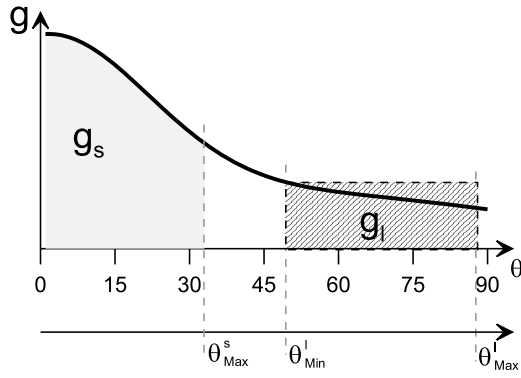


Figure 1. Schematic view of $g(\theta)$ distribution.

properly model the outer belt dynamic evolution, it is therefore important to take into account the dependence of electron-chorus wave interaction on latitude and wave-normal angle [Glauert and Horne, 2005; Shprits and Ni, 2009] and to understand its impact on timescales as a function of electron energy, plasma density and L -shell.

[3] Chorus waves are intense whistler mode electromagnetic waves of time-varying frequencies occurring outside the plasmopause in two distinct frequency bands [Tsurutani and Smith, 1977]. Here, we shall focus on the lower-band chorus waves in the low-frequency limit, i.e. $\Omega_{ci} \ll \omega < \Omega_c/2$ and $\Omega_{pe}^2 \gg \omega\Omega_c$ where ω is the wave frequency, and Ω_{ci} , Ω_c and Ω_{pe} are the local ion gyrofrequency, electron gyrofrequency, and plasma frequency, respectively. Occurring mainly in the dawn sector, they represent the most intense chorus measured in disturbed conditions and are probably generated close to the geomagnetic equator by anisotropic injected electrons [Tsurutani and Smith, 1977; Goldstein and Tsurutani, 1984; Muto et al., 1987; Hattori et al., 1991; Trakhtengerts, 1999; Pokhotelov et al., 2008; Santolik et al., 2009; Agapitov et al., 2010, 2011; Haque et al., 2011].

[4] Pitch angle scattering by resonant interaction with whistler waves has long been known as one of the main loss processes of trapped electrons [Andronov and Trakhtengerts, 1964; Kennel and Petschek, 1966]. Quasi-linear theory can be used to quantify such losses [Lyons et al., 1971, 1972; Lyons, 1974] in the limits of moderate amplitude broadband waves or for ensemble averages of narrowband waves of space-varying frequencies, such that the trapped particles displacements can be considered stochastic [Summers et al., 2007a; Tao et al., 2011]. However, multidimensional simulations require a very large number of diffusion coefficient evaluations. In order to calculate them as quickly as possible, Summers [2005] and Albert [2007] have proposed different useful approximations based on the selection of a given wave normal angle θ representative of the average over the whole distribution. Shprits et al. [2006] showed in particular that for high-energy electrons ($E > 100$ keV), the particle lifetimes can be estimated from the diffusion coefficients calculated for first cyclotron resonance with parallel-propagating chorus waves when $\theta < \pi/4$.

[5] In the present paper, analytical expressions for the diffusion coefficients and lifetimes are derived after performing both an analytical wave-normal averaging and a rough bounce-average, following a method introduced by Mourenas and Ripoll [2012]. However, the latter work focused on

moderately oblique very low frequency hiss waves, appropriate for the inner radiation belt [Meredith et al., 2009]. Here, higher-order terms in $\gamma\omega/\Omega_c$ and $\omega/(\Omega_c \cos \theta)$ are retained to allow for the treatment of energetic ($\sim$ MeV, i.e. relativistic factor $\gamma \sim 3$) electron interaction with very oblique lower-band chorus emissions. In addition, the distribution in wave-normal angle $g(\theta)$ is written as a sum of two parts corresponding to small and large θ , allowing us to account for the large variance and mean value of the measured distribution of chorus waves in the outer belt [Haque et al., 2010; Agapitov et al., 2011; Li et al., 2011]. Approximate scaling laws of electron lifetimes as a function of energy, ambient density and L -shell are also derived in section 2, and the importance of electron diffusion by very oblique chorus waves is stressed. In section 3, the analytical model is compared to electron loss timescales [Shprits et al., 2007] obtained from numerical computations of the diffusion coefficients using Summers [2005] parallel propagation approximation and to full numerical calculations including a realistic wave-normal distribution. The analytical estimates are found to be in good agreement with the full numerical results and help to provide a better understanding of the important reduction of timescales obtained when taking into account very oblique waves. Some potential physical implications concerning the dynamics of the outer radiation belt are also outlined.

2. Analytical Estimates of Diffusion Coefficients

[6] Observation of oblique whistler wave propagation [Haque et al., 2010; Agapitov et al., 2011; Li et al., 2011] can be taken into account for estimates of diffusion rates by introducing a double θ -distribution $g(\theta)$. Instead of considering only a narrow distribution around $\theta = 0$, one should treat a distribution containing a “heavy” tail (see scheme in Figure 1). This non-Gaussian tail includes θ around the resonance angle and, as a result, can be responsible for the intensification of high order resonances in the electron interaction with whistler waves. In this paper we estimate the role of this tail by separating the distribution dependence upon the wave-normal angle θ into two parts $g(\theta) = g_s(\theta) + g_l(\theta)$. The small- θ part $g_s(\theta)$ is such that its maximum occurs at $\theta_m^s \approx 0$ with lower and upper cutoffs at $\theta_{\min}^s \approx 0$ and $\theta_{\max}^s$. The large- θ part is taken as a step-function $g_l(\theta)$ equal to a constant between its lower and upper cutoffs ($\theta_{\min}^l$ and $\theta_{\max}^l$) being zero otherwise. Below we show that final estimates do not depend on the actual form of $g_l(\theta)$. We further assume that $\theta_{\max}^s \leq \theta_{\min}^l$.

[7] The local pitch angle quasi-linear diffusion coefficient D of Lyons [1974] has been conveniently rewritten by Albert [2007] under the form of a weighted-average between $\theta_{\min}$ and $\theta_{\max}$, so that $D \sim \langle D \rangle_\theta$. Moreover, Albert [2007] emphasized that this weighted average of relatively constant factors is expected to be rather insensitive to the exact form of the weighting function. Therefore, the averaged function may be taken at a “carefully chosen point” using the Mean Value Approximation (MVA) [Albert, 2007, 2008], yielding to $D \sim D(\theta_0)$. The parallel propagation approximation (PPA) derived earlier [Summers, 2005] essentially consists in taking $\theta_0 = 0$.

[8] Although the present approach starts from the above mentioned weighted-average formulation, it is performed slightly differently to keep at least some of the variations of the averaged function with θ . As discussed in a previous

paper [Mourenas and Ripoll, 2012], the diffusion coefficient for each harmonic can be estimated near the maximum of each cyclotron resonance n , corresponding to a Bessel function maximum. However, we shall focus here on lifetimes. Albert and Shprits [2009] have demonstrated that lifetimes are defined by the minima of the total diffusion coefficient multiplied by tangent of pitch angle α . Thus, for the small- θ part we shall neglect all the resonances except for the cyclotron ones at small pitch angles and the Landau resonance at large pitch angles, which should roughly define the actual lifetimes, since the diffusion coefficient is usually the smallest either near the loss cone angle α_{LC} or, at large pitch angles, between the Landau and first cyclotron resonances [Shprits et al., 2006, 2007; Albert and Shprits, 2009; Mourenas and Ripoll, 2012]. For large- θ waves, it is the moderate to large pitch angles region which will be more important. Here, the situation is substantially more complicated and many resonances contribute to diffusion.

2.1. Generalities

[9] The local pitch angle quasi-linear diffusion coefficient D of Lyons [1974] (with dimensions of s^{-1}) has been rewritten by Albert [2005, 2007] as

$$D = \frac{D^{\alpha\alpha}}{p^2} = \frac{\Omega_c B_{\text{wave}}^2}{\gamma^2 B^2} \sum_{n=-\infty}^{+\infty} \sum_{\omega} D_n^{\alpha\alpha} \quad (1)$$

$$D_n^{\alpha\alpha} = \int_{\theta_{\min}}^{\theta_{\max}} \sin(\theta) d\theta \Delta_n G_{\omega} G_{\theta}$$

with

$$\Delta_n = \frac{\pi \Phi_n^2}{2 \cos \theta |v_{\parallel}| / c l^3} \frac{|\sin^2(\alpha) + n \Omega_c / \gamma \omega|^2}{|1 - (\partial \omega / \partial k_{\parallel})_{\theta} / v_{\parallel}|} \quad (2)$$

$$G_{\omega} = \frac{\Omega_c B_s^2(\omega)}{\int_{\omega_L}^{\omega_U} B_s^2(\omega') d\omega'}, \quad G_{\theta}(\omega, \theta) = \frac{g(\theta)}{N(\omega, \theta)} \quad (3)$$

$$N(\omega, \theta) = \int_{\theta_{\min}}^{\theta_{\max}} d\theta' \sin(\theta') \Gamma g(\theta') \quad (4)$$

$$\Gamma(\theta', \omega(\theta)) = \mu^2 |\mu + \omega \partial \mu / \partial \omega|$$

where $\mu(\omega, \theta) = kc/\omega$ is the wave refractive index, B is the local magnetic field amplitude, Φ_n^2 accounts for the relationship between the electric and magnetic field components of the wave and it is given in equation (9) of Lyons [1974]; it contains Bessel functions $J_{n\pm 1}$ with argument $x = (\omega\gamma/\Omega_c + n) \tan \alpha \tan \theta$, which can be approximated by $x \sim n \tan \alpha \tan \theta$ at low frequency when $\omega\gamma/\Omega_c \ll 1 \leq n$, where γ is the relativistic factor. $B_s^2(\omega) = \exp(-(\omega - \omega_m)^2 / \Delta\omega^2)$ is the wave spectral density, with a half-width $\Delta\omega < \omega_m/2$ and lower and upper cut-offs at $\omega_L \sim \omega_m/2$ and $\omega_U \sim 1.5\omega_m$. In equation (1), $G_{\theta}(\omega, \theta)$ and $D_n^{\alpha\alpha}$ are both evaluated at the resonant frequency ω corresponding to a θ , a harmonic number n , and a pitch angle α as determined from the cyclotron resonance condition

$$\omega + n\Omega_c/\gamma = kv \cos \theta \cos \alpha \quad (5)$$

where v denotes the electron velocity. There may be several roots of ω , hence the sum over ω in equation (1). An important point is that for each n , $D_n^{\alpha\alpha}$ and $G_{\theta}(\omega, \theta)$ depend only on θ . Cyclotron resonances occur during the bounce motion of electrons from the equator to their mirror point, and bounce averaging is described in the classic paper of Lyons et al. [1972].

2.2. Estimates of Contributing Cyclotron Resonances

[10] In the low-frequency limit $\omega/\Omega_c \ll \min(\Omega_{pe}^2/\Omega_c^2, 1)$, the dispersion relation is $\mu^2 = \Omega_{pe}^2/(\omega_m \Omega_c |\cos \theta| - \omega_m^2)$ [Helliwell, 1965] where the resonance maximum is hereafter assumed to always occur at $\omega \sim \omega_m$. The first-order approximation $\omega \sim \omega_m$ introduced in Mourenas and Ripoll [2012] can be justified by: (1) the nearly constant ω up to $\theta \sim 60^\circ - 70^\circ$ for low-frequency chorus waves [Albert, 2007, 2008] using the full dispersion relation and (2) the narrow width $\Delta\omega < \omega_m/2$ assumed for $B_s^2(\omega)$, implying that significant contributions to the diffusion coefficient will mainly come from frequencies close to ω_m .

[11] In Appendix A we derive the equation for resonant value of pitch angle α_R (see equation (A1)) and we note in Appendix B that most significant contributions to diffusion at low latitudes come from the maximum of the Bessel functions of argument x . This condition in turn leads to a relationship between θ and α values (see equation (B1) in Appendix B). Subscript “M” is used throughout the paper to indicate values taken at the maximum of the Bessel functions. To estimate the input of various resonances we separate the domain of θ (and α) integration into two subregions: before and after the maximum of Bessel function. The use of a $\pm$ superscript will hereafter differentiate the domains $x \geq x_M$ and $x \leq x_M$, respectively. The first part of the integral corresponds to $x \geq x_M$, i.e. $\tan \alpha_R \tan \theta > 1$ or wave-normal angles θ greater than the value θ_M at the Bessel function maximum $\theta > \theta_M = \pi/2 - \alpha_R$. The second one concerns the $x < x_M$ (or $\tan \alpha_R \tan \theta \leq 1$) domain (see Appendix B).

[12] In the limit where $\theta \sim \theta_{\text{Max}}$, the maximum number of contributing resonances is given by equation (A1) with $\cos \alpha_R \sim \sin \theta_{\text{Max}}$. We get

$$N_r \approx \frac{p \varepsilon_m \sqrt{\cos \theta_{\text{Max}}} \sin \theta_{\text{Max}}}{\left|1 - \frac{\omega_m}{\Omega_c \cos \theta_{\text{Max}}}\right|^{1/2}} + \frac{\gamma \omega_m}{\Omega_c} \quad (6)$$

which is a generalization of equation (22) of Mourenas and Ripoll [2012]. Here $\varepsilon_m = \Omega_{pe}/\Omega_c \sqrt{\omega_m/\Omega_c}$ and p is electron momentum normalized on $m_e c$ (see Appendix A). Note that equation (6) gives the total number of contributing resonances over the whole range of pitch angles. In the special cases of small equatorial pitch angles near the loss cone at small- θ and for moderate pitch angles at large- θ we can derive new estimates concerning the number of contributing resonances.

[13] For the small- θ part, we show in Appendix B that only the first cyclotron resonance $n = -1$ provides a significant contribution to the diffusion coefficient near the loss cone edge. In such a case, the J_0 term is indeed dominant in Φ_{-1}^2 . As concerns the $n = +1$ resonance, it is negligible at small $\theta < \pi/4$ as compared to the $n = -1$ one [Mourenas and Ripoll, 2012], and still small at higher θ for typical distributions such that $g_s(\theta_g) \ll g_s(0)$ and/or $E \leq 1$ MeV,

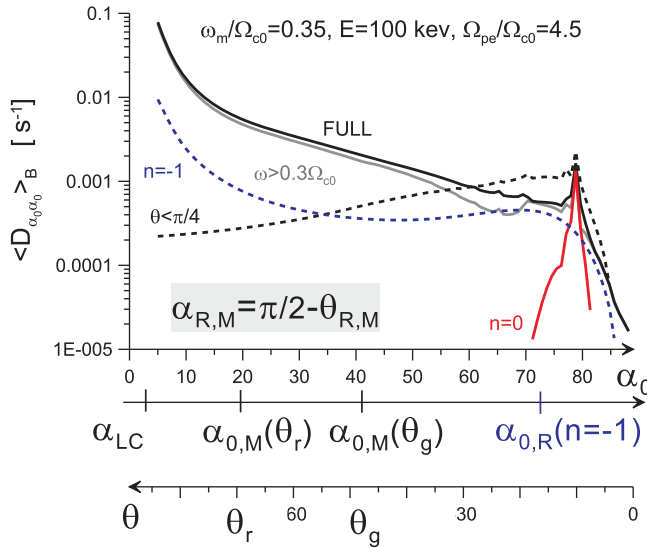


Figure 2. Bounce-averaged pitch angle diffusion coefficient as a function of equatorial pitch angle α_0 for 100 keV electrons interacting with lower-band chorus waves such that $\omega_m = 0.35\Omega_{c0}$ and $\Delta\omega = 0.15\Omega_{c0}$, with a realistic wave number angular distribution obtained from CLUSTER measurements [Agapitov *et al.*, 2011] at $L \sim 4.5$ ($\Omega_{pe}/\Omega_{ce} = 4.5$). The full-numerical solution is plotted (solid black line) with the solutions for high-frequency waves only (grey line) and for small- θ ($< 45^\circ$) part of the distribution only (dashed black line). Also shown are the $n = -1$ and $n = 0$ resonances solutions (blue and red lines). The main characteristic pitch angles are displayed, as well as the corresponding wave-normal directions on the lowest axis. Description of calculations can be found in Appendix E.

where $\theta_g = \arccos(2\omega_m/\Omega_c)$ is Gendrin angle. This contribution is essentially equivalent to the Parallel Propagation Approximation (PPA) proposed by Summers [2005].

[14] For the large- θ part $\theta > \max(\pi/4, \theta_g)$, full numerical calculations of the bounce-averaged diffusion coefficients show that diffusion always increases very strongly toward small equatorial pitch angles (e.g., see Figure 2). This increase occurs only at high latitudes, for high values of the ratio $\Omega_c(\lambda_R)/\Omega_{c0}$ and close to the resonance cone, where the full Bessel function expressions must be kept (here, as in the rest of the paper, the subscript “0” indicates that the variable value is taken at the equator). Variable λ_R is the “resonant” latitude for which the resonance condition (5) is satisfied for the wave and particle considered. It can be calculated making use of adiabatic invariance $\Omega_c(\lambda_R)/\Omega_{c0} = \sin^2\alpha_R/\sin^2\alpha_0$. This means that the upper-bound of the resonant latitude decreases with increasing α_0 , so that the considered increase of diffusion toward small α_0 is concentrated mainly at $\sin\alpha_0 < 1/3$, as in Figure 2.

[15] Now, Albert and Shprits [2009] have demonstrated that lifetimes are mainly governed by the minima of $\langle D \rangle_{B \tan \alpha_0}$ (where $\langle D \rangle_B$ is the bounce-averaged coefficient) i.e., the minima of $\langle D \rangle_B$ at small pitch angles. Thus, we can safely neglect the small- α_0 part of the large- θ diffusion coefficients and consider only their portion going from about $\pi/12$ up to about $\pi/2$, where resonance occurs at moderate latitudes $\lambda < 40^\circ$. There and at the equator, θ at $\lambda_R = 0$ from

equation (6) may take any value ranging from the Gendrin angle $\theta_{g0} = \arccos(2\omega_m/\Omega_{c0})$ up to nearly the resonance angle $\theta_{r0} = \arccos(\omega_m/\Omega_{c0})$. A rough estimate of the maximum $|n|$ for resonance at the equator at (ω_m, θ_{g0}) is simply

$$N_r(\theta_{g0}) \approx 2 \cos \alpha_0 p \epsilon_{m0} \sqrt{\frac{\omega_m}{\Omega_{c0}}} + \frac{\gamma \omega_m}{\Omega_{c0}}. \quad (7)$$

[16] In order to have resonance up to nearly θ_{r0} (at $\cos \theta_R \sim 1.1 \cos \theta_{r0}$), equations (7) and (A1) indicate that ω must be diminished by a factor $\sqrt{2/5} \sim 2/3$. Consequently, the number of resonances at the equator present over the full θ -range from θ_{g0} to θ_{r0} is simply

$$\Delta N_{r0} \approx \left(\frac{2\Delta\omega}{\omega_m} - \frac{1}{3} \right) N_r(\theta_{g0}). \quad (8)$$

[17] If $\Delta N_{r0} < 0$ at the equator, resonance at θ close to θ_r for $|n| < N_r(\theta_{g0})$ occurs only at higher latitudes. When the θ -range of resonance decreases, D decreases in proportion (see equation (D2) in Appendix D). The different contributions to the total diffusion coefficient are calculated in the following sections. But it is already clear from equation (6) that near the loss cone edge at $L > 4$ ($\alpha_{LC} < 5^\circ$), the small- θ part’s most important contributions comes from very small n resonances (mainly $n = -1$), while equations (7) and (8) show that for the large- θ part, higher- n resonances contribute. This agrees well with full numerical calculations in Figure 2.

[18] According to experimental data [see Agapitov *et al.*, 2011], $g_s(\theta)$ is dominant in the vicinity of the equator, while $g_r(\theta)$ corresponds mainly to moderate magnetic latitudes $\lambda > 15^\circ$, where $g_s(\theta)$ has a relatively small amplitude. For analytical estimates we do not take into account the dependence of $g_s(\theta)$ on magnetic latitude λ and assume that $g_r(\theta)$ bounds vary with latitude like θ_r with Ω_c , in rough agreement with observations. The validity of this approach is tested by comparisons of analytical formulas with the full numerical calculations of the diffusion coefficients in section 3. In numerical calculations, we use the full $g(\theta)$ depending on λ . For comparison, we also calculate in Figure 2 the diffusion coefficient for $g(\theta) = g_s(\theta)$ without any dependence on λ (such wave normal distributions are often used for calculation of diffusion coefficients [see Glauert and Horne, 2005; Horne *et al.*, 2005; Shprits and Ni, 2009]).

2.3. Contribution of Cyclotron Resonances

[19] As the electron leaves the equator and moves toward its mirror point along a magnetic field line, pitch angle increases due to adiabatic invariance, allowing the resonance to be restored over some latitudes. The full diffusion coefficient is obtained by integration over the bounce motion [Lyons *et al.*, 1972]:

$$\langle D \rangle_B(\alpha_0) = \int_{\lambda_{\min}}^{\lambda_{\max}} \frac{D(\alpha) \cos \alpha \cos^7 \lambda}{T(\alpha_0) \cos^2 \alpha_0} d\lambda \quad (9)$$

where the bounce period is written as $T(\alpha_0) \approx 1.38 - 0.64 \sin^{3/4} \alpha_0$ [Davidson, 1976].

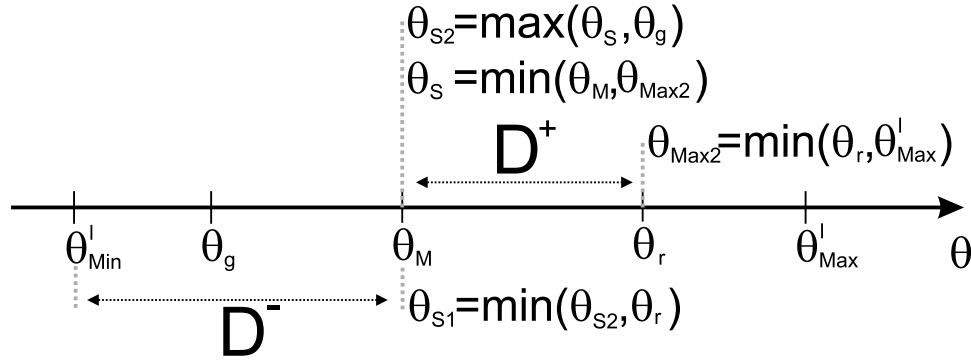


Figure 3. Schematic view of the separation of interval $[\theta_{\text{Min}}^l, \theta_{\text{Max}}^l]$ into two subintervals corresponding to D^- and D^+ .

[20] Taking into account the weighted-average reformulation of the diffusion coefficient by *Albert* [2007], we estimate the bounce-averaged diffusion coefficient coming from the small- θ part in Appendix C:

$$\langle D_{-1}^{\alpha\alpha} \rangle_B^s(\alpha_{LC}) \approx \frac{\pi^{3/2} \text{erf}(1) B_{\text{wave}}^2 \omega_m G_{w0}(\omega_m)}{4\gamma B_0^2 (p\epsilon_{m0})^{13/9} T(\alpha_{LC})} s \times \frac{\Delta\lambda_R (1 + 3 \sin^2 \lambda_R)^{7/12} \left(1 - \frac{\omega_m}{\Omega_c}\right)}{\left| \frac{\gamma\omega_m}{\Omega_c} - \frac{2\gamma\omega_m^2}{\Omega_c^2} + 1 \right| \left| 1 - \frac{\gamma\omega_m}{\Omega_c} \right|^{4/9}} \quad (10)$$

where λ_R and $\Delta\lambda_R$ are resonance latitude and range of variation of resonance latitudes, respectively (see Appendix C). In equation (10) $\Omega_c/\Omega_{c0} \approx (p\epsilon_{m0})^{2/3}$ can be used for small values of ω_m/Ω_{c0} and small to moderate latitudes. The term $\lambda_R + \Delta\lambda_R/2$ is assumed to be smaller than the upper-bound in latitude where the considered waves are present.

[21] Let us turn now to the more complicated large- θ part of $g(\theta)$, such that $\theta_{\text{Min}}^l \geq \max(\pi/4, \theta_g)$. Important contributions to diffusion then come from resonant value θ_R lying between the Gendrin angle θ_g and the resonance angle θ_r (cf. Appendix B). These contributions can even be more important than those of the small- θ range, since Δ_n/Γ in equation (1) shows a singularity at the resonance angle, which can be seen in equation (A3) and which is absent at small θ . The large- θ contribution to diffusion must therefore be calculated very carefully, even if it contains a much smaller amount of wave intensity than the small- θ range. Such oblique chorus waves are commonly observed in the outer belt [*Hayakawa et al.*, 1990; *Santolik et al.*, 2009; *Tsurutani et al.*, 2009; *Haque et al.*, 2010; *Agapitov et al.*, 2011]. At the Gendrin angle, the waves remain guided along the geomagnetic field line as they propagate. However, density and magnetic field variations from moderate to high latitude usually increase the wave-normal angle until it reaches the resonance cone, potentially leading to reflection at low altitude and tending to fill the radiation belts with magnetospherically reflected whistlers [*Edgar*, 1976; *Helliwell*, 1995; *Boskova et al.*, 1990; *Shklyar and Jiříček*, 2000; *Jiříček et al.*, 2001; *Chum and Santolik*, 2005]. We need to separate the interval $[\theta_{\text{Min}}^l, \theta_{\text{Max}}^l]$ into two subintervals ($\theta < \theta_M$ and $\theta > \theta_M$) taking into account relative positions of θ_g , θ_r (see scheme in Figure 3). Defining $\theta_{\text{Max2}} = \min(\theta_{\text{Max}}^l, \theta_r)$, $\theta_S = \min(\theta_M, \theta_{\text{Max2}})$, $\theta_{S2} = \max$

(θ_S, θ_g), and $\theta_{S1} = \min(\theta_{S2}, \theta_r)$, the wave-normal angle integral of diffusion coefficient (see Appendix C) can be performed by splitting the integral into two parts D^+ and D^- , the upper-part going from θ_{S2} to θ_{Max2} and the lower-part going from θ_{Min}^l to θ_{S1} . Roughly speaking, the upper and lower parts correspond, respectively, to the $x > x_M$ and $x < x_M$ limits in the Bessel series expansions (see equation (B2)).

[22] At pitch angles larger than 20° , the upper-bound of latitude for resonance is less than 40° and the D^+ part is expected to prevail (see Appendix B). The average latitude range $\Delta\lambda_R$ over which resonance exists over the whole large- θ range (from θ_g to θ_r) can then be estimated from equations (6) and (7) where Ω_c is now allowed to vary with latitude. For a given $|n|$ such that $N_r(\theta_{g0}, (4/3)\omega_m - \Delta\omega) < |n| < N_r(\theta_{g0}, \omega_m + \Delta\omega)$, $(\Omega_c/\Omega_{c0})^2$ can be increased by a factor $(1 + (2/3)(\omega + \Delta\omega)/(\omega - \Delta\omega))/2$ on average. Adiabatic invariance implies that $\Omega_c(\lambda_R)/\Omega_{c0} \sim 1 + 9\lambda_R^2/2 < \sin^{-2}\alpha_0$, leading to

$$\lambda_{\text{max}} \approx \min\left(\frac{1}{3\sqrt{2}} \sqrt{\frac{2}{3} \frac{\omega_m + \Delta\omega}{\omega_m - \Delta\omega}} - 1, \frac{\sqrt{2}}{3 \tan \alpha_0}\right) \quad (11)$$

for the average maximum latitude of resonance. At smaller n -values (closer to 1), equation (7) is satisfied only away from the equator. There, the range of resonant latitudes $\Delta\lambda_R$ is slightly smaller than λ_{max} , while $\cos \alpha_0$ in equation (7) should actually be replaced by $\cos \alpha_R$ from equation (A1) to be more exact away from the equator. From adiabatic invariance, one finds $\cos \alpha_R \sim (1 - \sin^2 \alpha_0 \Omega_c/\Omega_{c0})^{1/2} \sim (\cos \alpha_0)^\mu$ with μ ranging from $\Omega_c(\lambda_{\text{max}})/\Omega_{c0}$ at small α_0 to $2\Omega_c(\lambda_{\text{max}})/\Omega_{c0}$ at large α_0 , yielding $\mu \sim 2$ for $\alpha_0 = 15^\circ$ to 70° . Therefore, it is reasonable to consider that roughly $2N_r(\theta_{g0}, \omega_m) \cos \alpha_0$ positive and negative resonances exist over the whole large- θ range with $\Delta\lambda_R \sim \lambda_{\text{max}}$ for $\alpha_0 > 15^\circ$. The details of the derivation of D^+ are given in Appendix D. With θ -bounds taken as θ_g and θ_r , this leads finally to the simplified approximate expression for the sum of resonances coefficients

$$\langle D^+ \rangle_B^l = \frac{\left(1 + \frac{\omega_m^2}{\Omega_{c0}^2}\right) B_{\text{wave}}^2 \omega_m G_{w0}(\omega_m) N_r \lambda_{\text{max}}}{\gamma B_0^2 (p\epsilon_{m0})^2 \cos \alpha_0 \sin \alpha_0} \quad (12)$$

[23] At pitch angles larger than 65° , $\langle D^+ \rangle_B$ has other maxima of comparable magnitude up to α_0^{Max} given by equation (B8), coming from the small- θ part contribution, and which are given by equation (30) and equation (34) of *Mourenas and Ripoll* [2012] for $n > 0$ and $n = 0$, respectively. This contribution somewhat compensates the reduction of λ_{max} at pitch angles larger than 60° in equation (11). Moreover, the high- α_0 part of $\langle D^+ \rangle_B$ is much less important than the small- α_0 part in the lifetime integral of $1/\langle D^+ \rangle_B \tan \alpha_0$. From equations (7), (11) and (12), it follows that $\langle D^+ \rangle_B$ varies roughly like $1/\sin \alpha_0$, which is confirmed by full numerical calculations in section 3. Comparing equation (10) and equation (12), it is easy to see that large- θ diffusion can be much stronger than the small- θ diffusion, provided that a significant amount of wave energy lies inside the large- θ range.

2.4. Total Cyclotron Diffusion Coefficient

[24] Actually, the total D is obtained in equation (1) by integration over ω of the weighted sum of expression (10) and expression for $\langle D \rangle_B^l$ (see Appendix D). The latter reads as

$$\langle D \rangle \approx \frac{\int_{\tan \theta_{\text{Min}}^s}^{\tan \theta_{\text{Max}}^s} \Gamma(y)g(y)ydy + \langle D \rangle_B^l \int_{\tan \theta_{\text{Min}}^l}^{\tan \theta_{\text{Max}}^l} \Gamma(y)g(y)ydy}{\int_{\tan \theta_{\text{Min}}^s}^{\tan \theta_{\text{Max}}^s} \Gamma(y)g(y)ydy} \quad (13)$$

where $y = \tan \theta$.

[25] Apart from $g(y)$, the weighting function $\Gamma(y)g(y)y = \sqrt{1+y^2}yg(y)$ is very rapidly increasing with y for $y = \tan \theta > 1$. It means that even if the large- θ part of g has a much smaller value than the small- θ part, its relative weight in equation (13) will tend to be similar due to factor $\sqrt{1+y^2}y > 1$, so that

$$D \approx (\langle D \rangle^l + \langle D \rangle^s)/2 \quad (14)$$

is a good first-order approximation at moderate to large pitch angles for a typical proportion of wave intensity in the large- θ range lying between 50% and 10% of the total intensity [Burton and Holzer, 1974; Haque et al., 2010; Agapitov et al., 2011].

2.5. Landau Resonance

[26] The calculation of the Landau resonance diffusion coefficient for low-frequency whistler waves has already been performed in *Mourenas and Ripoll* [2012], and it still applies here, at least for the small- θ part (see their equations (25) and (34)). One finds a maximum near $\cos \alpha_{M0} \sim |1 - \omega_m/\Omega_{c0}|^{1/2} \gamma \omega_m/(\Omega_{c0} p \epsilon_{m0})$ at the equator, in agreement with simulation results, which show that the small- θ diffusion generally dominates (cf. Figure 2). The bounce-averaging procedure used above applies for the Landau resonance when $\sin \alpha_R \sim 1 \sim \sin \alpha_{M0}$, provided that $p > \gamma \omega_m/(\Omega_{c0} \epsilon_{m0})$ from the resonance condition: it corresponds to relatively high energy electrons $E > 10$ keV typically for chorus waves, in agreement with numerical results from *Shprits and Ni* [2009]. However, comparing Landau and cyclotron diffusion for chorus waves shows

that Landau diffusion is similar to or smaller than cyclotron diffusion at high energies $E > 300$ keV. It can, thus, be neglected to estimate trapped electron timescales for $E > 300$ keV [Albert and Shprits, 2009]. At lower energy and small ω_m/Ω_{c0} , it can be included from the Landau part in equation (36) of *Mourenas and Ripoll* [2012]. This is indeed confirmed by different numerical simulations [Shprits et al., 2006; Shprits and Ni, 2009].

2.6. Estimates of Trapped Electrons Timescales

[27] Albert and Shprits [2009] have derived a simplified but very useful estimate of electron lifetime τ , which can be used together with our analytical approximate expressions for D :

$$\tau \approx \sigma \int_{\alpha_{LC}}^{\pi/2} \frac{\cos \alpha_0}{2\langle D \rangle_B \sin \alpha_0} d\alpha_0. \quad (15)$$

[28] The numerical coefficient $\sigma \sim 1/2$ in our case allows to recover precisely numerical simulations where the minimum of $\langle D \rangle_B$ is close to the loss cone, or else when a minimum occurs at large pitch angles but remains moderately deep [Albert and Shprits, 2009]. It suggests that a rough estimate of lifetimes can be obtained by neglecting the parameter range wherein $\langle D \rangle_B$ is large, integrating only the expression for the small- θ part $\langle D \rangle_B^s$ over the domain situated close to the loss cone angle α_{LC} and the large- θ part $\langle D \rangle_B^l$ between about $\pi/12$ and $\pi/2$. For the small- θ part, $T(\alpha_0)$ can be approximated by $T(\alpha_{LC}) \sim 1.3$, so that $1/(\langle D \rangle_B^s \tan \alpha_0) \propto 1/\tan \alpha_0$ can be integrated analytically from the loss cone angle α_{LC} up to an angle α_+ comprised between α_{LC} and $\pi/2$. One can take $\alpha_+ \sim 7\alpha_{LC}$, as numerical calculations show that the integral does not increase significantly at larger α_0 for $L = 4$ to 6.5. Finally, one obtains respectively for the small- θ part alone and for the total $g(\theta)$ distribution:

$$\begin{aligned} \tau_s &\approx \sigma \frac{\ln \left(\frac{\sin \alpha_+}{\sin \alpha_{LC}} \right)}{2\langle D \rangle_B^s}, \quad g = g_s \\ \tau_{\text{total}} &\approx \tau_{\text{Landau}} + \sigma \frac{\frac{1}{2} \ln \left(\frac{\sin \alpha_+}{\sin \alpha_{LC}} \right)}{\langle D^+ \rangle_B^l \left(\frac{\pi}{4} \right) + \langle D \rangle_B^s}, \quad g = g_s + g_l \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

where the Landau part (minimum of D) above α_0^{Max} ($n = -1$) is given by *Mourenas and Ripoll* [2012] with $\langle D_0 \rangle_B/2$ and an additional factor for large ω_m/Ω_{c0} :

$$\begin{aligned} \tau_{\text{Landau}} &\approx \frac{B_0^2 |1 - \omega_m/\Omega_{c0}|^{-3/2}}{2.4 \gamma B_{\text{wave}}^2 G_{\omega 0}(\omega_m) \Delta \omega} \left(\frac{p \Omega_{pe}}{\Omega_{c0}} \right)^4 \frac{\sigma_\theta}{\sin^3 \alpha_{M0}} \\ &\times \frac{\frac{\pi}{2} - \alpha_0^{\text{Max}} - \frac{2}{3} \sin(2\alpha_0^{\text{Max}}) - \frac{1}{12} \sin(4\alpha_0^{\text{Max}})}{g_s(\theta_{M0}) + \min \left(\frac{(\sigma_\theta p \epsilon_{m0})^3}{11}, \frac{1}{p \epsilon_{m0} \sigma_\theta} \right)} \end{aligned} \quad (17)$$

with $\sigma_\theta = \tan \Delta \theta \sim 1$ in the small- θ part, where $\Delta \theta = \theta_{\text{Max}}^s - \theta_{\text{Min}}^s$. Term $g_s(\theta_{M0}) \sim \exp(-(\tan \theta_{M0}/\sigma_\theta)^2)$ is assumed for the Landau part, where $\tan \theta_{M0} \sim 1.84/p \epsilon_{m0}$ and α_{M0} is given in section 2.5. A theoretical estimate of the threshold for increased lifetimes due to a sufficiently deep minimum of $\langle D \rangle$ between the peaks of first cyclotron and

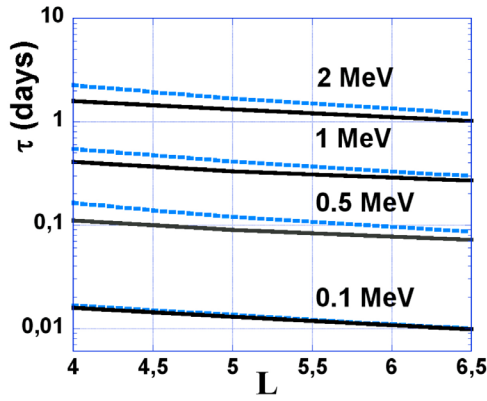


Figure 4. Lifetimes of 0.1 MeV, 0.5 MeV, 1 MeV, and 2 MeV (from bottom to top) electrons interacting with small- θ day-side low-frequency chorus waves in the outer zone of the radiation belts, as a function of L . The numerical parameterization of equation (3) of *Shprits et al.* [2007] is shown (black solid line) as well as analytical estimate (10) and (16) (blue dashed line).

Landau resonances can be obtained from equations (16) and (17). It reads as

$$p < \frac{0.65}{\sigma_\theta^{2/5}} \left(\frac{\Omega_{c0}^{5/2}}{\Omega_{pe} \omega_m^{3/2}} \right) \left(1 - \frac{\omega_U}{\Omega_{c0}} \right) \quad (18)$$

giving $E < 100$ keV in the case where $\omega_m/\Omega_{c0} = 0.2$ and $\Omega_{pe}/\Omega_{c0} = 4.5$, in good agreement with the full numerical solution (see Figure 7). This minimum of $\langle D \rangle$ is deeper when the pitch angle interval between the maxima of the Landau and first Cyclotron resonances is wider, for larger values of $\cos \alpha_{M,0} - \cos \alpha_0^{\text{Max}} (n = -1)$. It corresponds to small energy, frequency and density, and large magnetic field, as already apparent in numerical results shown in Figure 10 of *Lyons et al.* [1972].

[29] Considering only small- θ diffusion from equation (10) at $L \geq 4$, with electron density $N_e \propto L^{-4}$ [as in *Sheeley et al.*, 2001], and with a ratio ω_m/Ω_{c0} kept fixed, we find that in the relevant regime of interaction with small- θ -only chorus waves, electron lifetimes scale roughly as:

$$\tau \propto \frac{p^{3/2} \gamma_m^{7/9} \Omega_{c0}^{14/9} \ln(\sin \alpha_{LC})}{\Omega_{c0}^{12/9}} \propto \frac{E^2}{L} \quad (19)$$

for

$$p \varepsilon_{m0} > 1.84 / \sigma_\theta$$

$$\gamma p^{4/3} > \frac{\Omega_{c0}^{17/6} \sqrt{\sigma_\theta}}{12 \Omega_{pe}^{4/3} \omega_m^{3/2}}.$$

[30] With the ratio ω_m/Ω_{c0} fixed, lifetimes should vary roughly like E^2/L at high energies and/or L (as actually observed in Figure 1 of *Shprits et al.* [2007]) for 1 MeV electrons scattered by chorus waves such that $\theta \sim 0$.

[31] This behavior stems from the integrand in (9) being roughly $(\Omega_{c0}/\Omega_c(\lambda_R))^2 \sim 1/(p \varepsilon_{m0})^{3/2}$ from resonance condition (A1), corresponding to decreasing $\langle D \rangle$ at higher resonant latitudes, i.e. at large energy, frequency and density,

and at smaller magnetic field values, in agreement with numerical results in Figure 10 of *Lyons et al.* [1972]. Note also that lifetimes τ in equation (19) do not depend upon $\Delta\omega$ and $\Delta\theta$ at moderate and large E , only increasing with $\Delta\omega$ at very low energies.

[32] An insensitivity of $\langle D_{-1} \rangle_B^s$ at $\alpha_0 < 50^\circ$ to the chorus wave-normal distribution has already been emphasized from recent numerical simulations [*Shprits and Ni*, 2009] performed in the special case of small- θ diffusion ($< 45^\circ$). It leads directly to a similar insensitivity of τ . However, properly taking into account large- θ diffusion terms (12) based on CLUSTER chorus wave observations [*Agapitov et al.*, 2011] leads to more complicated dependencies upon the parameters at low energy. Nevertheless, at high energy where $\tau_{\text{total}} \ll \tau_s$, one gets

$$\tau_{\text{total}} \propto \gamma p \Omega_{pe} \propto E^{3/2} / L^2. \quad (20)$$

[33] Comparing (19) and (20), one can see that $\tau_{\text{total}}/\tau_s \propto E^{-1/2} L^{-1}$ so that the reduction of lifetimes is more important at large L and high energy. A striking new feature is that the lifetimes are strongly reduced in realistic cases, by as much as a factor of 10 at high energy. It is mainly due to the fact that the number of large- θ resonances (7) increases with energy and density.

[34] Momentum and energy diffusion coefficients can easily be obtained from the above D pitch angle diffusion coefficients [see *Lyons*, 1974; *Glauert and Horne*, 2005]. A significant decrease of acceleration timescales is expected when large- θ diffusion by lower-band chorus becomes important at $E > 30$ keV on the day-side in the outer belt. This will be the topic of a future work.

3. Comparisons With Full Numerical Simulations and Discussion

[35] First, the analytical estimate (16) of electron lifetimes for small- θ diffusion only, calculated with diffusion coefficient's expression (10), is compared with the numerical calculations of *Shprits et al.* [2007] for interaction of electrons with the low-frequency band of chorus whistler waves dominant on the day-side in the outer radiation belt, where $\omega_m/\Omega_{c0} \sim 0.2$. We use the same initial conditions: 100 pT storm-time chorus waves and dayside plasma trough density $N_e \sim 100(3/L)^4 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ for $L \geq 3$ from *Sheeley et al.* [2001]. In order to compare with the small- θ PPA approximation used in *Shprits et al.* [2007], we take here $\theta_{\text{Max}} < \pi/4$. Comparisons with equation (3) of *Shprits et al.* [2007] are restricted to $E \geq 0.1$ MeV because their parameterization is stated to remain accurate within about 20% for $0.1 \text{ MeV} \leq E \leq 2 \text{ MeV}$ only. Note that equation (3) of *Shprits et al.*, 2007 reads $\tau = 0.039E^2 + 0.047/L + 1.41E^2/L$, which is consistent with their Figures 1 and 2. Moreover, chorus waves are assumed to be present up to $\lambda \approx 35^\circ$, peaking between $\lambda \approx 15^\circ$ and $\lambda \approx 30^\circ$.

[36] The numerical solutions are fairly recovered by the analytical estimate (10) and (16) in Figure 4. In particular, one finds that lifetimes vary roughly as $\sim E^2/L$, especially for $L > 4.5$. The discrepancy is most often much smaller than 30%, which is much smaller than the inaccuracies associated to both the electron density profile and the wave amplitude models. Figures 5 and 6 display the variation of analytical

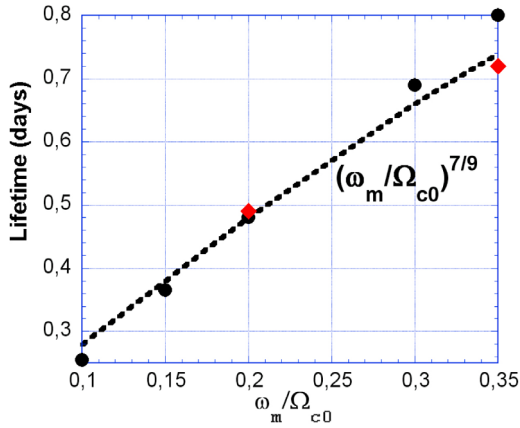


Figure 5. Lifetime variation as a function of the central chorus frequency ω_m at $L = 4.5$ for $E = 1$ MeV, with the same other parameters as in Figure 4. The analytical estimate (10) and (16) is plotted (black circles) as well as the scaling $\omega_m^{7/9}$ from equation (19) (dashed line) and the full numerical results (red diamonds).

and numerical lifetimes for $\theta < \pi/4$ as a function of density and frequency. The rough scaling (19) deduced from (16) appears approximately correct, with analytical lifetimes varying like $\tau \propto (N_e \omega_m)^{7/9}$ over a large parameter range. These variations were not provided by *Shprits et al.* [2007] in their parameterization based on a large number of numerical simulations.

[37] We also compare lifetime estimates with or without the large- θ part (16) with our full numerical calculations based on the CLUSTER measurements (description of numerical code can be found in Appendix E). Pitch angle diffusion coefficients are calculated with $g(\theta)$ consisting of $g_l(\theta)$ and $g_s(\theta)$ parts. The comparisons are performed for two different values of the ratio Ω_{pe}/Ω_{c0} corresponding to different L values above $L = 4$ (or different natural conditions) and also for two different values of the mean chorus frequency $\omega_m/\Omega_{c0} = 0.2$ and $\omega_m/\Omega_{c0} = 0.35$, with the same other parameters as before (see Figure 7).

[38] One can see that lifetime estimate (16) for the small- θ part is in fair agreement with the full numerical results for both ω_m and Ω_{pe} values. The τ_{total} estimate for the complete small- θ and large- θ distribution is also in relatively good agreement with the full numerical results. The discrepancy between analytical and numerical lifetimes is often much smaller than a factor of 2, especially at high energy $E > 400$ keV. Considering the simplifications done in the course of the analytical calculations and the rough average over the small and large θ -parts made in (14), it is a satisfactory result. The discrepancy between the analytical estimates and the full numerical results is actually much smaller than the uncertainties stemming from outer-belt density modeling and intrinsic variability [e.g., see *Sheeley et al.*, 2001; *Denton et al.*, 2002] as well as from chorus waves intensity models [*Meredith et al.*, 2001; *Horne et al.*, 2005; *Shprits et al.*, 2007; *Li et al.*, 2011] which show a large spread of measured intensities in relation to the highly variable geomagnetic activity. Since the analytical lifetimes lie well within the uncertainty range surrounding the full numerical results, they could prove useful (albeit approximate) substitutes inside

global radiation belt codes relying on similar density and wave intensity models for more quickly evaluating energetic electron fluxes (at least in the parameter range studied here). On the other hand, full numerical solutions should obviously be preferred for any simulation aiming at accurately reproducing specific storm-related events when the different plasma/wave parameters can be determined more precisely from satellite measurements.

[39] Lifetimes in Figure 7 are one order of magnitude smaller with large- θ waves included (red crosses and solid blue line) than with small- θ waves only (diamonds and dashed blue line). At large energy $E > 400$ keV, we observe a significant input of higher-order cyclotron resonances, as expected from equation (7). This strong reduction of timescales suggests that the storm-time mechanism of energy transfer from low-energy injected electrons to high-energy ones through chorus excitation by loss cone instability [e.g., see *Horne et al.*, 2005] could become even more efficient at moderate to high latitudes in the presence of highly oblique waves. This is left as the topic of a further work. Comparing lifetimes τ_{total} of electrons to their azimuthal drift period τ_{drift} [*Hamlin et al.*, 1961], one finds that $\tau_{total}/\tau_{drift} < 1/4$ at $E \sim 15$ keV to 200 keV for 100 pT dayside storm-time chorus waves such that $\omega_m/\Omega_{c0} \sim 0.35$ (below 15 keV, the Landau term (17) leads to a rapidly increasing τ_{total}). Such electrons should generally be lost during their first drift from dawn to noon. The actual large- θ lifetimes of low-energy electrons are therefore such as plotted in Figure 7 and given by (16), while large- θ lifetimes of higher-energy electrons and small- θ -only lifetimes must be multiplied by a factor ~ 4 to account for the 25% occurrence rate of the waves over a full drift period [*Shprits et al.*, 2007]. Let us consider moderate-latitude chorus of about 140 pT at $L = 4.5$ and 100 pT at $L = 6.5$. The corresponding large- θ lifetimes $\tau_{total}(s) \sim (\gamma p/L^2)(10^4/B_w[pT])^2$ are 1 minute at 15 keV and 3 min at 100 keV. Numerical results in Figure 7 imply nearly 3 times smaller lifetimes at $E < 100$ keV. It is worth noting that the resulting minimum timescales of 20 s to 60 s for 15 keV to 100 keV electrons are similar to the observed

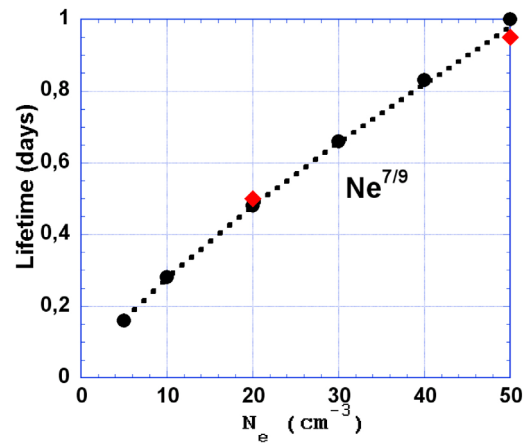


Figure 6. Lifetime variation given by (10) and (16) as a function of the electron density N_e at $L = 4.5$ for $E = 1$ MeV, with the same other parameters as in Figure 4, and the scaling $N_e^{7/9}$ from equation (19) (dashed line) and the full numerical results (red diamonds).

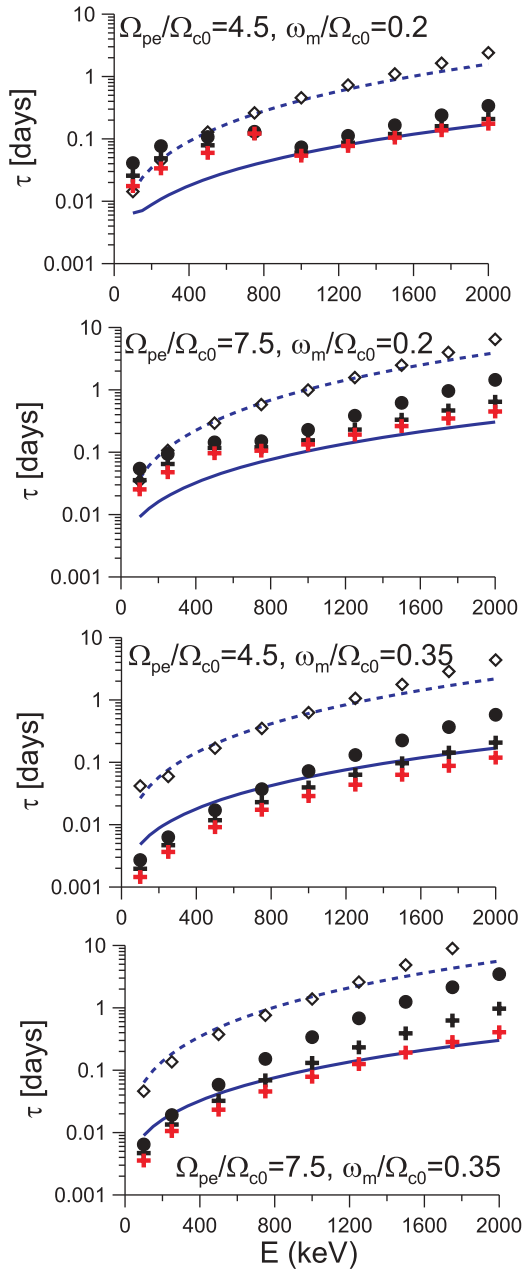


Figure 7. Lifetime variations given by (16) with large- θ part (solid blue curve), without large- θ part (dashed blue curve) are compared with those obtained by numerical scheme (filled circles show results obtained with large- θ part and $|n| \leq 5$, black crosses correspond to $|n| \leq 10$, red crosses correspond to $|n| \leq 20$, and diamonds show results obtained without large- θ for $|n| \leq 5$; τ is calculated for $\alpha_+ = \pi/2$).

periods of pulsating auroras, which were recently shown to be highly correlated with lower-band chorus [Nishimura *et al.*, 2011]. These timescales are also similar to, or lower than strong diffusion timescales of isotropization $\tau_{sd} \sim 1.8LR_E\gamma/(pc\alpha_{LC}^2)$, where R_E is the Earth's radius [Lyons, 1973; Schulz, 1974]. Quasi-linear scattering of substorm-injected electrons in the loss cone by very oblique chorus waves, leading successively to enhanced wave growth [Horne *et al.*, 2005], loss cone filling, and instability quenching on similar timescales

[Davidson, 1986], might therefore account for the pulsation periods of some dawnside auroras, lending further credibility to models of chorus-generated pulsating aurora [see Nishimura *et al.*, 2011, and references therein]. On a more global scale, the dayside large- θ diffusion rates plotted in Figure 8 are much stronger at small pitch angles $\alpha_0 < \pi/4$ than at larger values. As a result, the outer belt eastward-drifting energetic electron population could exhibit a predominantly perpendicular anisotropy on the dayside at times of low disturbances, while showing some isotropization in the strong diffusion regime at low energy during very active periods. Similar anisotropy variations have actually been observed, although drift shell-splitting is also believed to produce a perpendicular dayside anisotropy at large L [see Gu *et al.*, 2011; Borovsky and Denton, 2011, and references therein].

[40] In Figure 8, bounce-averaged diffusion coefficients obtained with the full wave-normal angle distribution and with the small- θ part only, are displayed for different energies, for the same parameters as before ($L \sim 4.5$ and 100 pT chorus). It is worth pointing out in Figure 8 the deep minimum in total diffusion rate between the Landau and first cyclotron resonances at $\alpha_0 \sim 75^\circ$ for small mean frequency $\omega_m/\Omega_{c0} = 0.2$ and at low energy $E < 200$ keV. Such a deep minimum increases lifetimes [Albert and Shprits, 2009]. At $E = 100$ keV, this minimum being slightly wider when large- θ waves are included, it leads to a total lifetime (including small and large θ -parts and plotted in Figure 7 as red crosses) climbing slightly above the small- θ lifetime (diamonds symbols in Figure 7), contrary to what happens in all the other examples shown. This is in good agreement with equation (18), which gives a threshold $E \sim 100$ keV for this effect, although the shape and values of the lifetimes are not precisely recovered by equations (16) and (17).

[41] For $\omega_m/\Omega_{c0} = 0.35$, the actual minimum of $\langle D \rangle \tan \alpha_0$ in the numerical simulations does occur at $\alpha_0 \geq 20^\circ$ as assumed in the analytical developments. For $\omega_m/\Omega_{c0} = 0.2$, however, improperly neglecting high-order resonances $|n| > 5$ leads to a clear minimum at smaller pitch angles, which increases significantly the numerical lifetimes (for instance at 100–300 keV in Figure 7). These high- n resonances occur at high latitudes for $\theta \sim \theta_r$ near the loss cone. High-order resonances must therefore always be taken into account, even at low energy.

[42] To assess the impact of high- n resonances we plot diffusion coefficients obtained numerically with $|n| \leq 5$, $|n| \leq 10$ and $|n| \leq 20$ in Figure 9. High- n resonances are involved into diffusion only for particle with small to moderate pitch angles $\alpha_0 < 60^\circ$. These particles can reach high-latitudes where mean value of $g(\theta)$ distribution is situated relatively close to θ_r , i.e. $\theta_m + \Delta\theta^l > \theta_r$, where $\Delta\theta^l \approx \theta_{\text{Max}}^l - \theta_{\text{Min}}^l$. In this case the number of resonances increases rapidly as seen from equation (7). Note also that the analytical estimate $\langle D \rangle$ agrees well with the numerical solution for $\alpha_0 > 15^\circ$ in Figure 9. The ratio Π of diffusion coefficients calculated for $|n| \leq 20$ and $|n| \leq 5$ is also plotted in Figure 9, as well as our corresponding analytical estimate $\sim 2N_r \cos \alpha_0(\theta_{g0}, \omega_m)/5$ (see Appendix D). It demonstrates that the related increase of diffusion is more important at $\alpha_0 < 45^\circ$, as expected from equation (7). This increase of diffusion is rather well reproduced by the analytical estimate. From equation (7), one also finds

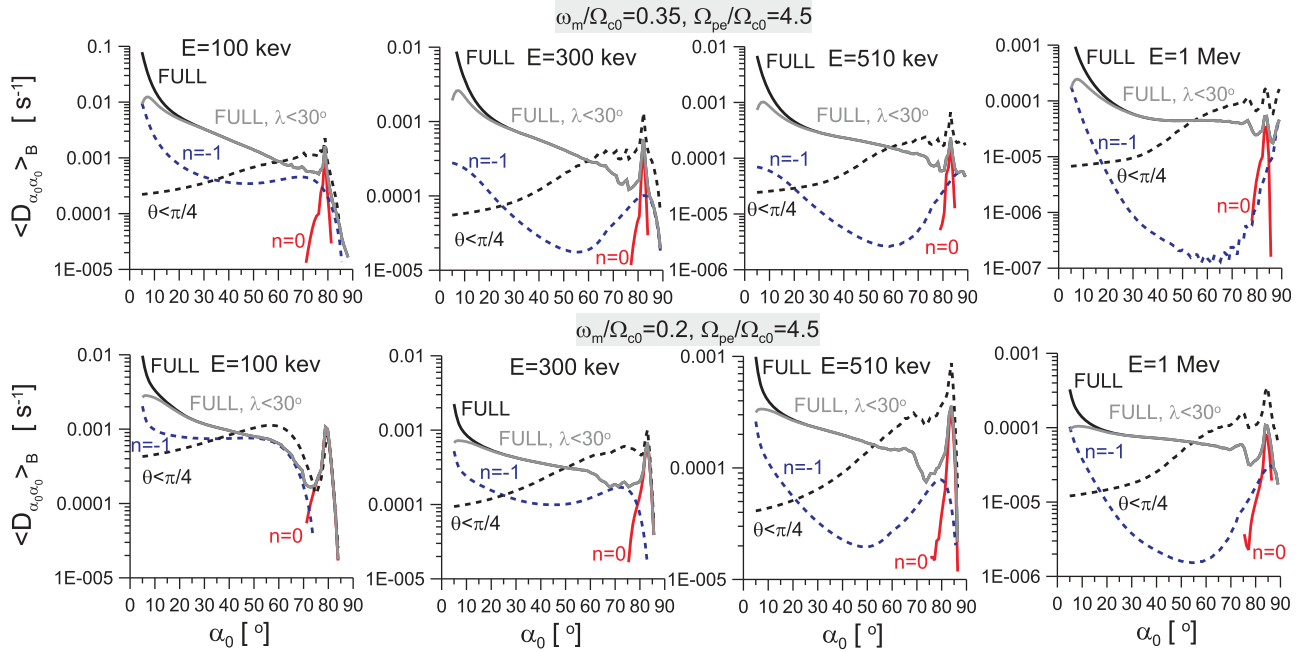


Figure 8. Numerical bounce-averaged diffusion coefficients as a function of equatorial pitch angle for $|n| \leq 5$. The full solution with $g(\theta) = g_s(\theta) + g_\lambda(\theta)$ is plotted (solid line) as well as the full solution with latitudes bounded at 30° (grey line), and the $n = 0$ and $n = -1$ resonances alone (solid red and dashed blue lines). The solution with $g = g_s(\theta)$ is also shown for $\theta < \pi/4$ (dashed black line).

$N_r \leq 10$ for $\alpha_0 \sim 45^\circ$ in our test-cases at $E < 2$ MeV, except for $\omega_m/\Omega_{c0} = 0.35$ and $\Omega_{pe}/\Omega_{c0} = 7.5$ where $N_r \leq 14$.

4. Conclusions

[43] In this paper, analytical estimates of energetic electron lifetimes in the radiation belts have been derived, based on the use of the *Lyons et al.* [1972] quasi-linear model with the weighted-average reformulation of *Albert* [2007], on the approximation of the Bessel functions by their envelop maximum, and on the assumption of a resonance maximum occurring at the mean frequency ω_m (for $\Delta\omega \leq \omega_m/2$). We consider low-frequency ($\Omega_{ci} \ll \omega < \Omega_c/2$, $\omega_{\Omega_c} \ll \Omega_{pe}^2$) oblique chorus whistler waves, such as observed in the outer belt by CLUSTER [*Agapitov et al.*, 2011]. The analytical model captures quite well many features of the full-numerical solution, and provides new lifetime scaling laws as a function of energy, L -shell, density and wave frequency, bringing a better understanding of the simulations results. In particular, numerical as well as analytical calculations presented here demonstrate that timescales can be strongly reduced when the waves reach large wave-normal angles, between the Gendrin and resonance angles. Such very oblique chorus waves are often present at low to moderate latitudes, where they represent from 10% to 50% of the occurrences [*Hayakawa et al.*, 1990; *Santolik et al.*, 2009; *Verkhoglyadova and Tsurutani*, 2008; *Agapitov et al.*, 2011; *Haque et al.*, 2010, 2011]. Chorus waves can be directly generated with high wave-normal angles inside the source region [*Santolik et al.*, 2009; *Haque et al.*, 2011] or experience an increase of their wave-normal angle as they propagate along a geomagnetic field line away from the source region, believed to be located close to the equator [*Lauben*

et al., 2002; *Chum and Santolik*, 2005; *Bortnik et al.*, 2011]. Scattering of moderate pitch angle electrons into the loss cone appears to be much more efficient for such very oblique chorus waves, potentially reaching the strong diffusion limit, which might explain some features of pulsating

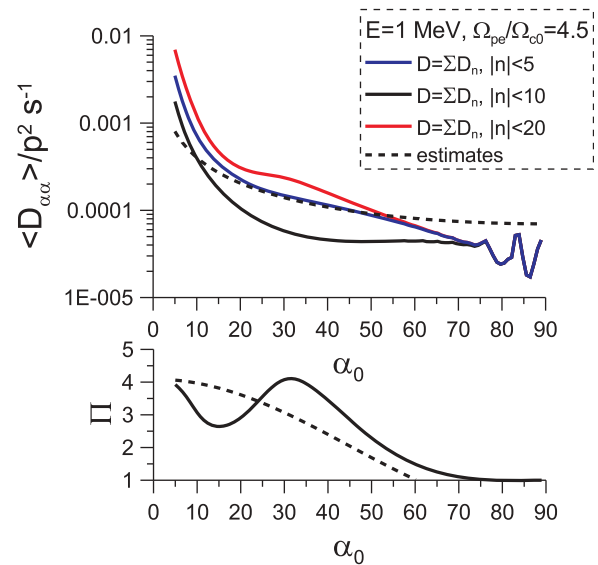


Figure 9. (top) Numerical bounce-averaged diffusion coefficients for θ distribution $g(\theta) = g_s(\theta) + g_\lambda(\theta)$ and (bottom) ratio of $|n| \leq 20$ over $|n| \leq 5$ diffusion coefficients as a function of equatorial pitch angle for 1 MeV electrons. The analytical estimates of $\langle D \rangle$ and $2N_r \cos \alpha_0/5$ are also plotted (dashed black lines).

auroras as well as translate into a predominantly perpendicular anisotropy of relativistic outer belt electrons on the dayside. Further work will be needed to examine in details all the consequences of this increased scattering, concerning in particular the energization of relativistic electrons [Horne *et al.*, 2005; Li *et al.*, 2007; Summers *et al.*, 2007b].

[44] Energy diffusion, radial transport, and finite burst durations must also be taken into account in the highly variable environment of the outer belt, requiring the use of global multidimensional codes [Shprits *et al.*, 2008; Varotsou *et al.*, 2008; Fok *et al.*, 2011]. In this growing field of space weather forecasting for satellite warning, the proposed analytical estimates might prove useful for quickly evaluating the sensitivity of particle fluxes calculated by global radiation belt codes to often insufficiently known wave and plasma parameters. Nevertheless, one should bear in mind that the proposed model has only been partially validated against numerical simulations in a restricted parameter range. Analytical estimates cannot be expected to replace full numerical calculations, which are becoming more and more rapid with the advent of massively parallel supercomputers and will always remain the gold standard of radiation belts physics.

[45] Further tests of the accuracy of our analytical estimates are planned in the future. Still, magnetosonic, EMIC and high-frequency chorus waves are also important above $L \sim 4$ [Summers *et al.*, 2007a, 2007b; Li *et al.*, 2007] and have not been treated here. The full numerical resolution of the Fokker-Planck diffusion equation is required in the highly variable environment of the outer radiation belt to take into account pitch angle diffusion by all these waves as well as energy diffusion, radial transport and finite burst durations.

Appendix A: Derivation of Δ_n/Γ

[46] Here we derive an expression for the resonant value of pitch angle α_R . Combining the simplified dispersion relation with the resonance condition leads to the relation

$$\cos \alpha_R = \frac{|n| \left| 1 + \frac{\gamma \omega_m}{n \Omega_c} \right| \left| 1 - \frac{\omega_m}{\Omega_c \cos \theta} \right|^{1/2}}{p \varepsilon_m \sqrt{\cos \theta}}$$

with $\varepsilon_m(\lambda) = (\Omega_{pe}/\Omega_c) \sqrt{\omega_m/\Omega_c}$, where λ is the geomagnetic latitude, $p = v\gamma/(m_e c)$ is the electron momentum, m_e the electron mass, c the speed of light. Considering adiabatic motion along the bounce trajectory, one can rewrite the above equation as

$$\frac{\cos \alpha_R}{\sin^3 \alpha_R} = \frac{|n| \left| 1 + \frac{\gamma \omega_m}{n \Omega_c} \right| \left| 1 - \frac{\omega_m}{\Omega_c \cos \theta} \right|^{1/2}}{p \varepsilon_{m0} \sqrt{\cos \theta} \sin^3 \alpha_0} \quad (\text{A1})$$

where ε_{m0} is the value of ε_m at the equator and α_0 is the equatorial pitch angle (we use the relation $\sin^2 \alpha = \sin^2 \alpha_0 (\Omega_c/\Omega_{c0})$ where Ω_{c0} is the equatorial value of Ω_c). We assume in equation (A1) that the density remains roughly constant along a geomagnetic field line up to a maximum latitude of interaction of about 35° [Denton *et al.*, 2002; Horne *et al.*, 2005]. We use subscript “0” for equatorial values of variables.

[47] In a previous paper [Mourenas and Ripoll, 2012], we simplified the different relations and the diffusion coefficients expressions by taking the limits $\gamma \omega_m/\Omega_c \ll 1$ and

$\cos \theta \sim 1$. While these are reasonable and convenient approximations for moderately oblique plasmaspheric hiss waves such that $\omega_m/\Omega_{c0} < 0.06$ and $E < 3$ MeV, it is not anymore always correct for outer zone chorus waves interacting with energetic particles, where higher-order terms must be kept.

[48] Keeping terms $\sim \gamma \omega_m/\Omega_c$, we can rewrite the term at the denominator of equation (2) as

$$\left| 1 - \frac{(\partial \omega / \partial k_{\parallel})_r}{v \cos \alpha} \right| \approx \left| 1 - 2 \frac{1 - \frac{\omega_m}{\Omega_c \cos \theta}}{1 + \frac{n \Omega_c}{\gamma \omega_m}} \right|$$

where $(\partial \omega / \partial k_{\parallel})_r$ is the parallel component of the group velocity at resonance. We have also $\Gamma = \frac{1}{2} |\mu|^3 |\Omega_c \cos \theta / (\Omega_c \cos \theta - \omega_m)|$. Using the resonance condition, it can be rewritten

$$\Gamma = \frac{\left| 1 + \frac{n \Omega_c}{\gamma \omega_m} \right|^3}{2 \left| 1 - \frac{\omega_m}{\Omega_c \cos \theta} \right| |v_{\parallel} \cos \theta / c|^3}$$

and it can be further simplified at small θ . Simplified expressions of Φ_n^2 valid at small and large values of θ can be derived from the exact formula given in equations (9), (11), and (12) of Lyons [1974]. To this aim, let us first recall that θ is necessarily smaller than the (maximum) resonance angle $\theta_r = \arccos(\omega_m/\Omega_c)$, so that $\Omega_c \cos \theta / \omega_m > 1$. Assuming further that $(\omega_m/\Omega_c)^2 \ll 1$ and $\Omega_c/\omega_m \gg \cos \theta$ at large θ , such that $\theta \geq \theta_g$, with $\theta_g = \arccos(2\omega_m/\Omega_c)$ the Gendrin angle at which the waves group velocity in the magnetic field direction reaches its maximum, the waves being guided along the field line [Gendrin, 1961]. It yields the desired expressions

$$\Phi_n^2 \approx \begin{cases} \frac{\left(\left(1 + \cos \theta - \frac{\omega_m}{\Omega_c} \right) J_{n+1} + \left(1 - \cos \theta + \frac{\omega_m}{\Omega_c} \right) J_{n-1} \right)^2}{8 \cos^2 \theta \left(1 - \frac{\omega_m}{\Omega_c \cos \theta} \right)^2}, & \theta \geq \max \left(\theta_g, \frac{1}{4} \pi \right) \\ \frac{((1 + \cos \theta) J_{n+1} + (1 - \cos \theta) J_{n-1})^2}{8 \cos^2 \theta}, & \theta < \max \left(\theta_g, \frac{1}{4} \pi \right) \end{cases} \quad (\text{A2})$$

[49] The ratio Δ_n/Γ is readily obtained from equation (A2) and equation (2) in the limit $\sin^2 \alpha < |n| \Omega_c / (\gamma \omega_m)$:

$$\frac{\Delta_n}{\Gamma} \approx \begin{cases} \frac{\pi \left(\left(1 + \cos \theta - \frac{\omega_m}{\Omega_c} \right) J_{n+1} + \left(1 - \cos \theta + \frac{\omega_m}{\Omega_c} \right) J_{n-1} \right)^2}{8 \left| 1 - \frac{\omega_m}{\Omega_c \cos \theta} \right| \left| 1 - \frac{2\omega_m}{\Omega_c \cos \theta} - \frac{n \Omega_c}{\gamma \omega_m} \right| \left(1 + \frac{\gamma \omega_m}{n \Omega_c} \right)^2}, & \theta \geq \max \left(\theta_g, \frac{1}{4} \pi \right) \\ \frac{\pi ((1 + \cos \theta) J_{n+1} + (1 - \cos \theta) J_{n-1})^2 \left| 1 - \frac{\omega_m}{\Omega_c \cos \theta} \right|}{8 \left| 1 - \frac{2\omega_m}{\Omega_c \cos \theta} - \frac{n \Omega_c}{\gamma \omega_m} \right| \left(1 + \frac{\gamma \omega_m}{n \Omega_c} \right)^2}, & \theta < \max \left(\theta_g, \frac{1}{4} \pi \right) \end{cases} \quad (\text{A3})$$

[50] We recover $\Delta_n/\Gamma \sim (\pi/2)J_0^2\gamma\omega_m/\Omega_c$ for $n = -1$ in the limits $\Omega_c/(\gamma\omega_m) \gg 1$ and $\theta \sim 0$, as in *Mourenas and Ripoll* [2012]. From equation (A3), it is easy to see that the most important contributions to diffusion come from the maxima of the Bessel functions. Examining the denominator of equation (A3), one can see that three different singularities may occur, which will be investigated in this paper. It is already clear from equation (A3), however, that in the large- θ range, Δ_n/Γ can experience a large increase near the resonance angle as compared to the small- θ case.

Appendix B: Resonance Domains

[51] It has already been shown in *Mourenas and Ripoll* [2012] that the resonant wave-normal angle is linked to the harmonic number and the pitch angle at the Bessel function's maximum, where the contribution to $D_n^{\alpha\alpha}$ is dominant at moderate latitudes. Indeed, the first maximum of the Bessel functions occurs at $x = x_M(n) \approx |n| + 0.81|n|^{1/3} \approx |n| + 1$, except when $n = 0$ [Abramowitz and Stegun, 1972]. The error in the $x_M(n) \approx n + 1$ approximation is less than $1/n$ at large n , which is small. Taking $\Phi_n^2 \propto J_{|n|-1}^2$ and resonance relation one obtains $\tan \alpha \tan \theta \sim 1$ at the Bessel maxima, except for J_0 , in which case $\tan \alpha \tan \theta < 1$. This gives

$$\begin{cases} \alpha_{R,M} \approx \frac{1}{2}\pi - \theta_R, & |n| > 1 \\ \alpha_{R,M} \leq \frac{1}{2}\pi - \theta_R, & |n| = 1 \end{cases} \quad (B1)$$

[52] Neglecting the phase terms, classic asymptotic expansions of Bessel functions for large arguments $x > n$ and ascending series at small $x \ll n$ can be used. Since the first maximum of the $J_n(x)$ functions occurs at $x = x_M(n) \sim |n| + 1$ (except when $n = 0$), the Bessel functions can be rewritten as

$$\begin{aligned} J_{|n|-1}^2 &\approx \frac{2}{\pi|n|} \frac{x_M}{x}, & x > x_M(|n| - 1) \\ J_{|n|-1}^2 &\approx \frac{2}{\pi|n|} \left(\frac{x}{x_M}\right)^{2|n|-2}, & x < x_M(|n| - 1), \quad |n| \neq 1 \end{aligned} \quad (B2)$$

[53] Also we have $J_0^2 = 1$.

[54] Let us first consider the domain $\theta < \min(\theta_{\text{Max}}^s, \theta_g, \pi/4)$. For $\sqrt{\cos\theta} \sim 1$ and at small equatorial pitch angles close to loss cone value $\alpha_0 \sim \alpha_{LC}$ such that $\sin \alpha_0(p\epsilon_{m0}/|n| + \gamma\omega_m/\Omega_c)^{1/3} \leq 1$, one finds $B(\lambda)/B_0 \sim (\sin \alpha_R/\sin \alpha_0)^2 \sim (p\epsilon_{m0}/|n| + \gamma\omega_m/\Omega_c)^{2/3}$ from equation (A1), with $B(\lambda)$ and B_0 the local and equatorial magnetic field amplitudes. We have then roughly $\sin \alpha_R/\sin \alpha_0 < (p\epsilon_{m0})^{1/3}$ at resonance for $n \neq -1$. α_{LC} is smaller than 5° for $L > 4$ in the outer belt and $p\epsilon_{m0} < 100$ for $E \leq 3$ MeV and $L < 7$ for typical density profiles [Sheeley et al., 2001]. Moreover, $\omega_m/\Omega_{c0} \leq 0.35$ typically for lower-band chorus [Agapitov et al., 2011; Shprits et al., 2007; Horne et al., 2005], so that for $E \leq 3$ MeV at least, one obtains $\sin \alpha_R < (p\epsilon_{m0})^{1/3} \sin \alpha_{LC} < 0.5$. Consequently, the resonant value of θ at the Bessel function maximum, given by $\theta_{R,M} = \pi/2 - \alpha_R$, is larger than $\pi/3$ for $n \neq -1$. This means that only the first cyclotron resonance $n = -1$ provides significant pitch angle diffusion near the loss cone edge. In such a case, the J_0 term is indeed dominant in Φ_n^2 . As concerns the $n = +1$ resonance, it is negligible at small $\theta < \pi/3$ as compared to the $n = -1$ one [Mourenas and Ripoll, 2012]. Since $J_0(x)$ has a maximum $J_0(x) \sim 1$ for $x < 1$,

most of the contribution then comes from $x < x_M$, i.e. from $\theta < \pi/2 - \alpha_R$ and thus from D^- .

[55] In the intermediate domain $\pi/3 < \theta < \theta_g(\lambda)$, some other resonances might contribute for $\cos \theta_g < \cos \theta_R < (p\epsilon_{m0})^{1/3} \sin \alpha_{LC}$. For typical lower-band chorus frequencies $\omega \geq 0.2\Omega_{c0}$ [Agapitov et al., 2011], it requires $p > 2(\omega/\omega_{c0})^{1/2} \Omega_{c0}/(\omega_{pe} \sin \alpha_{LC}) > 2.4$, corresponding to high energies $E > 1$ MeV only. And even at such high energies, equations (A3)-(B2) imply that Δ_n/Γ decreases like $1/n^2$. This leads to additional contributions smaller than for $n = -1$ in general, especially for $g_s(\theta_g) \ll g_s(0)$ at low to moderate latitudes.

[56] Let us turn now to the complementary domain $\theta > \theta_{\text{Min}} \geq \max(\theta_g, \pi/4)$. We shall consider only moderate latitudes $< 40^\circ$ corresponding to equatorial pitch angles larger than 15° – 20° . Then, the main contributions to diffusion mainly come from the first maximum of the Bessel functions so that equation (B1) applies. From equation (6), it looks like N_r might go to $+\infty$ at the resonance angle. However, we shall see below that θ actually never reaches θ_r , so that the actual number of the contributing resonances depends on how fast the $D_n^{\alpha\alpha}$ coefficients decrease with n . To derive analytical expressions for these coefficients, bounds of integration are needed. These bounds for resonance can be obtained from equation (A1) rewritten as a function of θ only:

$$\begin{aligned} \cos \theta_R &= \eta^{-1} \left(1 - \frac{\omega_m}{\Omega_c \cos \theta_R} \right) \\ \eta &= \left(p\epsilon_m \cos \alpha_R / \left| n + \frac{\gamma\omega_m}{\Omega_c} \right| \right)^2 \end{aligned} \quad (B3)$$

which is a second-order equation in $\cos \theta_R$. Real solutions exist only for positive discriminant, which is equivalent to $\eta \leq \Omega_c/(4\omega_m)$. The solution $\cos \theta_R$ smaller than $\cos \theta_g$ reads as

$$\cos \theta_R = \frac{1 - \sqrt{1 - 4\frac{\omega_m\eta}{\Omega_c}}}{2\eta} \approx \frac{\omega_m}{\Omega_c} \left(1 + \frac{\omega_m\eta}{\Omega_c} + 2\left(\frac{\omega_m\eta}{\Omega_c}\right)^2 \right) \quad (B4)$$

from which it can be shown that the resonant angle θ_R is comprised between the Gendrin angle θ_g and the resonance angle θ_r , being always strictly smaller than the latter since η is finite for finite frequency at a finite distance from mirror points. Actually keeping the ion terms in the dispersion relation would lead to a minimum frequency equal to the lower-hybrid frequency [Smith and Brice, 1964]. It follows immediately that

$$0 < 1 - \frac{\omega_m}{\Omega_c \cos \theta_R} \approx \frac{\eta \frac{\omega_m}{\Omega_c} + 2\left(\eta \frac{\omega_m}{\Omega_c}\right)^2}{1 + \eta \frac{\omega_m}{\Omega_c} + 2\left(\eta \frac{\omega_m}{\Omega_c}\right)^2} \leq \frac{1}{2} \quad (B5)$$

where the value $1/2$ is obtained for $\theta_R = \theta_g$. The estimate equation (B5) stands as a good approximation, since it always remains within less than 45% of the exact value. Now, since $\theta_R < \theta_r$, significant diffusion occurs only for $\alpha_R > \pi/2 - \theta_r$ (except for $|n| = 1$) and $\alpha_R \leq \pi/2 - \theta_g$. It follows from equation (B1) at the Bessel function's maximum that diffusion is important at low to moderate latitudes only for

$$\frac{\omega_m}{\Omega_c} < \sin \alpha_{R,M} \leq \frac{2\omega_m}{\Omega_c}, \quad \text{for } |n| > 1 \quad (B6)$$

[57] Rewriting equation (B6) with $(\sin \alpha_{R,M}/\sin \alpha_0)^2 = \Omega_c/\Omega_{c0}$ from adiabatic invariance, one gets

$$\left(\frac{\omega_m}{\Omega_{c0} \sin \alpha_0}\right)^{2/3} < \frac{\Omega_c}{\Omega_{c0}} \leq \left(\frac{2\omega_m}{\Omega_{c0} \sin \alpha_0}\right)^{2/3}, \text{ for } |n| > 1 \quad (\text{B7})$$

[58] Equations (B7), (A3), and (B1) imply that for $\sin \alpha_0 > \sin \alpha_{0,M}(\theta_g) = 2\omega_m/\Omega_{c0}$, one has $\alpha_R \geq \alpha_0 > \alpha_{R,M}(\theta_g) > \alpha_{R,M}(\theta_r)$, equivalent to $x > x_M$. From equation (B2), Δ_n should therefore decrease like $x_M/x = \tan \alpha_{R,M}/\tan \alpha_R$ at larger equatorial pitch angles. The largest contribution to diffusion corresponds to the largest θ -integration range, going from θ_g to θ_r . Since $\theta_R > \theta_g$, taking $\theta_R \sim \theta_g$ therefore defines a point of maximum contribution. The location of the maximum of each $D_n^{\alpha\alpha}$ may then be estimated as the value of $\alpha_{0,R}$ for the n th resonance, with equation (A1) taken for θ_g at the equator. It is valid for $\alpha_{0,R} > \alpha_{0,M}(\theta_r)$. For α_0 larger than both $\alpha_{0,R}$ and $\alpha_{0,M}(\theta_g)$, the peak diffusion value must decrease at least like $1/\tan \alpha_R$ as the θ -integration range decreases ($\theta_R > \theta_g$ then tends toward θ_r to fulfil equation (A1), with η going down). Actually, bounce-integration only broadens the maxima reached at the equator when $x > x_M$, as already noticed in *Mourenas and Ripoll* [2012]. This gives an upper-bound on equatorial pitch angle, above which diffusion coefficient $D \sim D^+$ decreases:

$$\sin \alpha_0^{\text{Max}} \approx \text{Max} \left[\frac{2\omega_m}{\Omega_{c0}}, \sin \alpha_p \right] \quad (\text{B8})$$

where

$$\cos \alpha_p = \sqrt{\frac{\Omega_{c0}}{4\omega_U}} \left| \frac{\max \left(0; |n| - \frac{\gamma\omega_U}{\Omega_{c0}} \right)}{p\epsilon_{U0}} \right|.$$

[59] At equatorial pitch angles larger than the limit given by equation (B8), $D_n^{\alpha\alpha}$ actually decreases faster than $1/\tan \alpha_0$, because $\alpha_R \geq \alpha_0$.

[60] On the other hand, $\theta_g < \theta_r$ defines the upper-bound of resonant α_R . Therefore, if $\alpha_R(\theta_g)$ given by the resonance condition (A1) becomes smaller than $\alpha_{R,M}(\theta_r)$ given by the first inequality in equation (B7), then for $|n| > 1$ one gets $x < x_M$ and D^+ should decrease very quickly as equatorial pitch angle decreases. This happens for

$$\max \left[1, \left(\frac{4\omega_m}{\Omega_{c0}} \right)^{1/4} \sqrt{\frac{\cos \alpha_R(\theta_g) p \epsilon_{m0}}{|n + \frac{\gamma\omega_m}{\Omega_{c0}}|}} \right] < \max \left[1, \left(\frac{\omega_m}{\Omega_{c0} \sin \alpha_0} \right)^{2/3} \right] \quad (\text{B9})$$

which for $|n| \geq 2$ and not too high energy (such that $\gamma\omega_m/|n|\Omega_{c0} \ll 1$) leads to

$$\sin \alpha_0 < \sin \alpha_0^{\text{Min}} = \min \left[\frac{\omega_m}{\Omega_{c0}}, \left(\frac{\omega_m}{\Omega_{c0}} \right)^{5/8} \left(\frac{|n|}{2p\epsilon_{m0}} \right)^{3/4} \right]. \quad (\text{B10})$$

[61] In the domain defined by (B10), it is the D^- part of D which becomes dominant. It is evaluated in Appendix C in the small- θ range where $\langle D \rangle_B \tan \alpha_0$ is small at small α_0 and therefore of major importance for lifetime estimates [*Albert*

and *Shprits*, 2009]. Conversely, it is neglected in lifetime calculations when the large- θ part of $g(\theta)$ is included, because $(\langle D \rangle_B \tan \alpha_0)^{-1}$ is then always small in the full numerical calculations for the considered parameter range $\Omega_{pe}/\Omega_{c0} > 3$, $L > 4$, and $E > 100$ keV (see Figure 7).

Appendix C: Small- θ Part $g_s(\theta)$ Contribution of Cyclotron Resonances

[62] Making use of the very convenient weighted-average re-formulation of the diffusion coefficient by *Albert* [2007], one has

$$D_n^{\alpha\alpha} \approx \frac{\int_{\theta_{\min}}^{\theta_{\max}} \sin \theta g(\theta) \Delta_n G_\omega d\theta}{\int_{\theta_{\min}}^{\theta_{\max}} \sin \theta g(\theta) \Gamma d\theta} = \left\langle \frac{\Delta_n G_\omega}{\Gamma} \right\rangle_\theta \quad (\text{C1})$$

with a weighting function $\Gamma \sin \theta g(\theta)$. Let us treat here the small- θ part of $g(\theta)$, such that $\theta_{\text{Max}}^s < \min(\pi/4, \theta_g)$, allowing us to take $\cos \theta \sim 1$ in general. Such small- θ waves are actually predominant at low latitudes [*Burton and Holzer*, 1974; *Agapitov et al.*, 2011; *Li et al.*, 2011]. Then, $\Gamma \propto 1/(\omega_m \cos \theta)^3$, and we have $\Gamma \sin \theta d\theta \sim \Gamma_{\theta=0} \tan \theta / \cos^2 \theta d\theta = \Gamma_{\theta=0} y dy$ with the new variable $y = \tan \theta$. As discussed in Appendix B, for small to moderate equatorial pitch angles ($\alpha_0 \leq \pi/2 - \theta_{\text{Max}}^s \sim 45^\circ$ to 60° , where D^+ is also small [*Mourenas and Ripoll*, 2012]), we just need to evaluate the $n = -1$ resonance's contribution. Moreover, taking $(J_0(1 + \cos \theta) + J_{-2}(1 - \cos \theta))^2 \sim (2J_0)^2$ is then a reliable first-order approximation. Neglecting the phase terms, it is reasonable to assume that the Bessel function is nearly constant ($J_0(x) \sim 1$) for $x \sim \tan \alpha_R \tan \theta \sim 0$ to 1, for $\theta < \theta_{\text{Max}}^s \leq \pi/3$ and α_R lying between 3° and 25° , not too far from the loss cone. As shown in Appendix B, only the $x < x_M$ part is actually contributing. This allows us to write

$$\frac{\Delta_{-1} G_\omega}{\Gamma} \approx \frac{\frac{\pi}{2} \left| 1 - \frac{\omega_m}{\Omega_c} \right| G_\omega}{\left| 1 - \frac{2\omega_m}{\Omega_c \cos \theta} + \frac{\Omega_c}{\gamma\omega_m} \right| \left(1 - \frac{\gamma\omega_m}{\Omega_c} \right)^2} \quad (\text{C2})$$

which is nearly a constant as a function of θ (it is justified for $\theta < \pi/3$ and $\Delta\omega < \omega_m/2$: see the discussion at the start of section 2.2 and *Mourenas and Ripoll* [2012]). The term $\Delta_{-1} G_1/\Gamma$ can therefore be taken outside of the integral in equation (C1). One obtains the remarkable result that the θ -integrals at the numerator and denominator of equation (C1) cancel each other. This means that the precise shape of $g(\theta)$ is unimportant there. One may use a Gaussian or a step-function, the final result will be the same, essentially equivalent to taking $\theta \sim 0$ as in the PPA scheme [*Summers*, 2005].

[63] This leads to the following expression at the equator for the principal cyclotron harmonic diffusion coefficient near the loss cone edge:

$$D_{-1} \approx \left(\frac{\Omega_c B_{\text{wave}}^2}{\gamma^2 B^2} \right) \frac{\pi^{3/2} \text{erf}(1) G_\omega(\omega_m) \left| 1 - \frac{\omega_m}{\Omega_c} \right|}{4 \left| 1 - \frac{2\omega_m}{\Omega_c} + \frac{\Omega_c}{\gamma\omega_m} \right| \left(1 - \frac{\gamma\omega_m}{\Omega_c} \right)^2}. \quad (\text{C3})$$

[64] One singularity might occur in (C3) for $\gamma\omega_m/\Omega_c = 1$. Nevertheless, the constraint of the resonance relation (A1) must be taken into account to find the latitude at which resonance eventually occurs, which is equivalent to finding Ω_c/Ω_c . Numerically solving (iteratively) for the solution in a dipolar geomagnetic field with a typical trough density on the dayside [Sheeley *et al.*, 2001] for $L > 4$, $E < 8$ MeV, and $\theta < \pi/3$, it appears that $\gamma\omega_m/\Omega_c < 1/3$ for $\omega_m/\Omega_{c0} < 1/3$. It remains true for other resonances $n < 1$. Thus, the term $1/(1 + \gamma\omega_m/n\Omega_c)$ does not lead to a singularity.

[65] In equation (C3) we take $G_\omega(\omega_m) = \Omega_c B_s^2(\omega_m)/\int_{\omega_L}^{\omega_U} B_s^2(\omega')d\omega' \approx \Omega_c/(\sqrt{\pi}\Delta\omega\text{erf}(1))$ and $\langle G_\omega \rangle_\omega \sim (\pi^{1/2}/2)\text{erf}(1)G_\omega(\omega_m)$. Taking directly $\theta = 0$ gives in this case essentially the same result as the weighted-average over $\theta = 0$ to $\Delta\theta$ as already noticed by Shprits *et al.* [2006], Albert [2007], and Mourenas and Ripoll [2012]. One can check also that equation (20) from Mourenas and Ripoll [2012] is recovered from equation (C3) in the limit $(p\epsilon_{m0})^{2/3}\Omega_{c0}/(\gamma\omega_m) \gg 1 - 2\omega_m/\Omega_c$.

[66] Provided that $p\epsilon_{m0}$ is not too small, as it is usually the case, the contribution to the bounce averaged integral (9) is negligible except over only a small λ -domain around resonant latitude λ_R . The bounce-integral can therefore be approximated by $\langle D \rangle_B \approx D(\lambda_R)(\lambda_{\max} - \lambda_{\min})\cos\alpha_R\cos^7\lambda_R/(T(\alpha_0)\cos^2\alpha_0)$. The domain $(\lambda_{\max} - \lambda_{\min})$ is approximated by $\lambda_{\max,\min} \approx \lambda_R \pm \delta\lambda_R$. Using equation (A1), the resonant latitude λ_R is given by $\cos\lambda_R/(1 + 3\sin^2\lambda_R)^{1/2} \sim (\sin\alpha_0/\sin\alpha_R)^{1/3} \sim (11 - \gamma\omega_m/\Omega_c/p\epsilon_{m0}\cos\alpha_R)^{1/9}$. $\delta\lambda_R$ is obtained from the same expression evaluated at $\omega_m + \Delta\omega$. Series expansions near the first cyclotron resonance assuming small λ , small $\Delta\omega/\omega_m$, and moderate α_R , finally give $\lambda_{\max} - \lambda_{\min} \approx 2\delta\lambda_R \approx \Delta\lambda_R \approx 2\left(\sqrt{\lambda_R^2 + 2\Delta\omega/(27\omega_m)/(p\epsilon_{m0})^{1/9}} - \lambda_R\right)$ where

we have $\lambda_R \approx (2/3^{1/2})\sqrt{1 - (11 - \gamma\omega_m/\Omega_c/p\epsilon_{m0})^{1/9}}$. It leads to a first-order estimate of the diffusion coefficient near the loss cone edge:

$$\langle D_{-1}^{\alpha\alpha} \rangle_B^s(\alpha_{LC}) \approx \frac{\pi^{3/2}\text{erf}(1)B_{\text{wave}}^2\omega_m G_\omega(\omega_m)}{4\gamma B_0^2(p\epsilon_{m0})^{13/9}T(\alpha_{LC})} \times \frac{\Delta\lambda_R(1 + 3\sin^2\lambda_R)^{7/12}\left(1 - \frac{\omega_m}{\Omega_c}\right)}{\left|\frac{\gamma\omega_m}{\Omega_c} - \frac{2\gamma\omega_m^2}{\Omega_c^2} + 1\right|\left|1 - \frac{\gamma\omega_m}{\Omega_c}\right|^{4/9}}$$

where $\Omega_c/\Omega_{c0} \approx (p\epsilon_{m0})^{2/3}$ is generally a good approximation.

Appendix D: Large- θ Part $g_l(\theta)$ Contribution of Cyclotron Resonances

[67] Since $\Gamma \propto (\omega_m \cos\theta)^{-3}|1 - \omega_m/(\Omega_c \cos\theta)|^{-1}$ we have $\Gamma \sin\theta d\theta \approx \Gamma_{\theta=0} \tan\theta/(\cos^2\theta|1 - \omega_m/(\Omega_c \cos\theta)|)d\theta = \Gamma_{\theta=0} y dy/(1 - \omega_m/(\Omega_c \cos\theta))$ with the new variable $y = \tan\theta$. Using equation (A1) to replace the term $|1 - \omega_m/(\Omega_c \cos\theta)|$ by a term proportional to $\cos\theta = (1 + y^2)^{-1/2}$, $D_{\pm n}^{\alpha\alpha}$ can then be analytically integrated with respect to y , provided the Bessel function is conveniently approximated.

[68] Now, we integrate from θ_{S2} to $\theta_{\text{Max}2}$ (see scheme in Figure 3). Let us examine first the singularity in equation (A3) occurring at $1 - \omega_m/(\Omega_c \cos\theta) = 0$. The latter expression must actually be taken at its value for $(\theta_R, \omega_R(\theta_R))$ satisfying the resonance condition (A1). This additional constraint

allows substituting the value of $1 - \omega_m/(\Omega_c \cos\theta)$ by its finite expression given by equation (A1). Now, the Φ_n term can be approximated using $((\dots)J_{\pm n+1} + (\dots)J_{\pm n-1})^2 \approx (\pm 1 - \omega_m/\Omega_c)^2 J_{|n|-1}^2$ at its maximum value for $\theta \sim \theta_g$, since the largest Bessel function is that of the smallest index. Further using equation (B2), the integration of $\Delta_n G_\omega$ with respect to θ in equation (C1) can then be carried out with the assumption that the term $|1 - 2\omega_m/(\Omega_c \cos\theta) - n\Omega_c/(\gamma\omega_m)|$ is only weakly dependent on θ , actually taking it at θ_g since $\theta_g \leq \theta_R$. With the variable $y = \tan\theta$, it is equivalent to integrating $1 + y^2$ in the numerator of equation (C1) with respect to y . This leads to

$$\langle D_{\pm n}^+ \rangle_{\theta_{S2}}^{\theta_{\text{Max}2}} \approx \frac{\sqrt{\pi}\text{erf}(1)B_{\text{wave}}^2\Omega_c G_\omega(\omega_m)lnl\left(1 \mp \frac{\omega_m}{\Omega_c}\right)^2}{8B_0^2\left|\frac{n\Omega_c}{\gamma\omega_m}\right|(\gamma p\epsilon_m \cos\alpha)^2 \tan\alpha} \times \frac{\tan\theta_{\text{Max}2}(3 + \tan^2\theta_{\text{Max}2}) - \tan\theta_{S2}(3 + \tan^2\theta_{S2})}{(1 + \tan^2\theta_{\text{Max}}')^{3/2} - (1 + \tan^2\theta_{\text{Min}}')^{3/2}} \quad (\text{D1})$$

[69] The diffusion coefficient (D1) can be large at moderate to large pitch angles given by equation (8), since the n -resonances levels in equation (D1) are nearly independent of n , so that many resonances can contribute. Nevertheless, pitch angle α_R is limited by condition (A1) with $\cos\alpha_R < \sin\theta_r$, showing that $\theta_R(\lambda_R)$ can take any value smaller than $\theta_r(\lambda_R)$ only if $lnl < N_r(\theta_{g0})$ given in equation (7). At larger n -values, $\theta_R(\lambda_R)$ tends toward $\theta_r(\lambda_R)$ so that the integration range $\cos\theta_R(\lambda_R) - \cos\theta_r(\lambda_R) \approx \eta \propto 1/n^2$ from equation (B3), leading in equation (D1) to $D_n^{\alpha\alpha} \propto 1/n^2$ at large n , shrinking quickly at higher lnl and/or Ω_c (or higher latitudes). Consequently, the D^+ diffusion coefficient may be rewritten as

$$\sum D_n \approx 2N_r(\theta_{g0})(D_{+1} + D_{-1}).$$

[70] Aside from the θ -bounds, the integrand in equation (9) with equation (D1) is proportional to $\Omega_c^{3/2}\cos^7\lambda \sim \Omega_c^{1/2}$, meaning it is only slowly varying with latitude. As concerns the θ -bounds, it is reasonable to expect mean value $\theta_m^l \approx (\theta_{\text{Min}}^l + \theta_{\text{Max}}^l)/2$ to increase as the waves propagate away from the equator, varying roughly like (or slightly more than) the Gendrin angle, leading to $1/\tan\theta_m^l \propto \cos\theta_g \propto \omega_m/\Omega_c$. Dayside chorus observations seem to confirm this, showing in addition that variance $\sim \theta_{\text{Max}}^l - \theta_{\text{Min}}^l$ also increases in a similar fashion with latitude [Agapitov *et al.*, 2011; Burton and Holzer, 1974; Artemyev *et al.*, 2012]. Assuming for simplicity that the bounds of integration $\theta_{\text{Max}2} \sim \theta_r$ and $\theta_{S2} \propto \theta_g$ vary similarly too, the total variation of the integrand is weaker than $\Omega_c^{1/2}$. Since $\lambda_{\max}$ is small, the bounce-integral (9) can then be approximated by the value of its integrand at $\lambda_R \sim 0$ multiplied by the domain $\lambda_{\max} - \lambda_{\min}$. It leads to a first-order estimate:

$$\langle D_{\pm n}^+ \rangle_B^l(\alpha_0) \approx \frac{\sqrt{\pi}\text{erf}(1)B_{\text{wave}}^2\omega_m G_\omega(\omega_m)\lambda_{\max}\left(1 + \frac{\omega_m^2}{\Omega_{c0}^2}\right)}{8\gamma B_0^2T(\alpha_0)\cos^2\alpha_0 \sin\alpha_0(p\epsilon_{m0})^2} \times \frac{\tan\theta_{\text{Max}2}(3 + \tan^2\theta_{\text{Max}2}) - \tan\theta_{S2}(3 + \tan^2\theta_{S2})}{(1 + \tan^2\theta_{\text{Max}}^l)^{3/2} - (1 + \tan^2\theta_{\text{Min}}^l)^{3/2}} \quad (\text{D2})$$

[71] In equation (D2), the θ -bounds are evaluated at $\lambda_R = 0$. The magnitude of large- θ $D_{\pm n}^+$ is almost independent of n in equation (D2), so that the contributions of many resonances can lead to large increase in diffusion in the domain of moderate to large equatorial pitch angles $\alpha_0 > \alpha_0^{\text{Min}}$, with α_0^{Min} given by equation (B10). This is indeed confirmed by full numerical calculations of the diffusion coefficients (see Figures 2 and 8 and Artemyev *et al.* [2012]). The lower-part of integration from θ_{Min}^l to θ_{S1} , has yet to be evaluated. But the latter term, which leads to integration of $J_{m-1}^2(y)(1+y^2)$ in the numerator of equation (C1), is negligible by construction as compared to D^+ at moderate to large pitch angles. The small- θ part of D^+ , which becomes important above 60° has already been estimated in equations (30) and (34) of Mourenas and Ripoll [2012], which remain approximately valid here when $(p\varepsilon_{m0})^{2/3}\Omega_{c0}/(\gamma\omega_m) \gg |1 - 2\omega_m/\Omega_c|$.

Appendix E: Numerical Calculation of the Diffusion Coefficients and Lifetimes

[72] In this paper we use the scheme of calculation of the diffusion coefficients (1) described by Glauert and Horne [2005]. However, we also take into account significant improvements for distribution $g(\theta)$ based on CLUSTER statistics of whistler wave propagations [Agapitov *et al.*, 2011]. We use a Gaussian function $g(\theta) = \exp(-(\tan \theta - \tan \theta_m)^2/\tan^2 \Delta\theta)$ with $\tan \theta_m$ and $\tan \Delta\theta$ depending on the magnetic latitude λ . These dependencies are obtained from CLUSTER statistics and approximated by polynomials of λ [see details in Artemyev *et al.*, 2012]. The calculation of local pitch angle diffusion coefficient $D_n^{\alpha\alpha}$ for given λ , electron energy and pitch angle α consists in the following steps:

[73] 1. For each value of $\theta \in [\theta_{\text{min}}, \theta_{\text{max}}]$ we solve the system consisting of the resonance condition (5) and dispersion relation $\omega = \Omega_c \cos \theta/(1 + \Omega_{pe}^2/(kc)^2)$ to obtain resonant frequency $\omega_{i,n}$ and corresponding wave number $k_{i,n}$. Here n is the order of cyclotron harmonic resonance and i is the index of the resonant root.

[74] 2. For all obtained sets $\{\omega_{i,n}, k_{i,n}\}$ we calculate the corresponding power density $G_{\omega}(\omega_{i,n}, k_{i,n})$ according to equation (3).

[75] 3. Then we integrate over θ with function G_θ , where $g(\theta) = \exp(-(\tan \theta - \tan \theta_m)^2/\tan^2 \Delta\theta)$ is obtained for a given λ .

[76] As a result, we obtain $D_n^{\alpha\alpha}$ depending on λ , α and electron energy. Then we sum all cyclotron harmonics and integrate over bounce oscillations according to equation (9), recalculating pitch angle by using conservation of the magnetic moment:

$$\sin^2 \alpha = \sin^2 \alpha_{eq} b(\lambda)$$

where $b(\lambda) = \sqrt{1 + 3 \sin^2 \lambda} / \cos^6 \lambda$. We average over bounce oscillations up to $\lambda = \min(\lambda_{\text{mirror}}, 40^\circ)$, where λ_{mirror} corresponds to mirror points, i.e. $\sin^2 \alpha_{eq} b(\lambda_{\text{mirror}}) = 1$. This gives the final diffusion coefficients $\langle D \rangle$. We also use these pitch angle diffusion coefficients $\langle D \rangle$ to calculate lifetimes according to Albert and Shprits [2009].

[77] In some cases, we also calculate diffusion coefficients with constant parameters $\tan \theta_m = 0$, $\tan \Delta\theta = 0.577$

with $\theta_{\text{Max}} = 45^\circ$. These parameters are the same as used by Glauert and Horne [2005] and Horne *et al.* [2005]. Results obtained for these parameters are named in the paper as calculation without large- θ part.

[78] According to CLUSTER observations the mean value $\tan \theta_m$ as well as the variance $\tan \Delta\theta$ grow with magnetic latitude [Agapitov *et al.*, 2011]. As a result, for moderate to large values of λ one has significantly oblique direction of wave propagation ($\tan \theta_m \gg 1$) and distribution $g(\theta)$ is more dispersive (i.e. $\tan \Delta\theta \gg 1$). This effect leads to the intensification of higher order cyclotron harmonics [see, e.g., Shklyar and Matsumoto, 2009] and results in an increase of pitch angle diffusion [Shprits and Ni, 2009; Artemyev *et al.*, 2012].

[79] **Acknowledgments.** The work of A.V.O. was supported by the STUDIUM program of the Region Centre in France. The work of A.V.A. was supported by the grant CNES Modele d'ondes.

[80] Robert Lysak thanks the reviewers for their assistance in evaluating this paper.

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