

Observation of Alfvén Ion Cyclotron Waves in ICME Magnetic Clouds at 1 au

Omkar

Dhamane

University of Mumbai

Vinit Pawaskar- Department of Physics, University of Mumbai, Mumbai, India,

Anil Raghav-Department of Physics, University of Mumbai, Mumbai, India,

Zubair Shaikh- Space Sciences Laboratory, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720, USA

Raffaella D'Amicis -National Institute for Astrophysics, Institute for Space Astrophysics and Planetology, Via del Fosso del Cavaliere 100, I-00133 Roma, Italy

Kalpesh Ghag- Department of Physics, University of Mumbai, Mumbai, India

Kishor Kumbhar- Department of Physics, University of Mumbai, Mumbai, India

Daniele Telloni- National Institute for Astrophysics, Astrophysical Observatory of Torino, Via Osservatorio 20, I-10025 Pino Torinese, Italy

Georgios Nicolaou- Department of Space and Climate Physics, Mullard Space Science Laboratory, University College London, Dorking, Surrey, RH5 6NT, UK

Prathmesh Tari-Department of Physics, University of Mumbai, Mumbai, India

Robert Wicks- Department of Mathematics, Physics and Electrical Engineering, Northumbria University, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 8ST, UK

Utsav Panchal- Department of Mathematics, Physics, and Electrical Engineering, Northumbria University, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 8ST, UK

Bhagyashri Sathe-Department of Physics, University of Mumbai, Mumbai, India

Prachi pathare-Department of Physics, University of Mumbai, Mumbai, India

Oral

(Student Speaker)

Plasma waves are crucial to the processes of plasma heating and energy transfer. The in-situ observation of Alfvén ion cyclotron (AIC) waves and their properties within interplanetary coronal mass ejection (ICME) flux ropes are covered in this article. We examined 401 ICME flux ropes that the WIND satellite observed at 1 au between 1995 and 2021. Only five ICME flux ropes explicitly displaying AIC waves were discovered; two have normalized magnetic helicity of $\sigma_m > 0.5$, and the other three exhibit $\sigma_m > 0.5$ polarization. For $\sigma_m < 0.5$, the angle between the magnetic field and velocity (θ_{vB}) is 40° , whereas for $\sigma_m \geq 0.5$, $\theta_{vB} > 140^\circ$. This finding confirms the presence of left-handed polarised AIC waves that are quasi-parallel and quasi-antiparallel within ICME flux-ropes. We propose that (i) proton temperature anisotropy $T_p/T_e > 1$ driven by cyclotron instability and (ii) low-frequency Alfvén waves via the magnetohydrodynamic turbulent cascade may be the sources of AIC waves. This work demonstrates that the ICME flux rope indicates fluid and kinetic scale coupling.

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