

地球弓激波的旋转非对称性

胡友秋¹, 彭忠², 王赤^{2*}

1 中国科学技术大学地球与空间科学学院, 中科院基础等离子体物理重点实验室, 合肥 230026

2 中国科学院空间科学与应用研究中心, 空间天气学国家重点实验室, 北京 100080

Rotational asymmetry of earth's bow shock

HU You-Qiu¹, PENG Zhong², WANG Chi^{2*}

1 CAS Key Laboratory of Basic Plasma Physics, School of Earth and Space Science, University of Science China

2 State Key Laboratory of Space Weather, Center for Space and Applied Research, Chinese Academy of S

摘要

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摘要

通过对太阳风-磁层-电离层系统的全球MHD模拟, 研究地球弓激波相对日地连线的旋转非对称性. 模拟限于太阳风速度沿地球磁偶极矩和行星际磁场(IMF)与日地连线垂直的简单情况. 模拟结果表明, 即便对于IMF强度为零的情况, 弓激波相也不具备旋转对称性质: 终端面(晨昏子午面)及其向阳侧的弓激波截线的东西宽度大于南北宽度(约9%~11%), 终端激波截线东西宽度小于南北宽度(约8%). 在存在IMF的情况下, 弓激波的位形同时受到磁层顶的形状和快磁声波速度各向异性影响. 磁层顶向外扩张并沿IMF方向拉伸, 且其扩张和拉伸程度随IMF由北转南而增强. 在磁鞘中, 垂直于磁场方向的快磁声平行方向. 因此, 磁层顶拉伸方向与快磁声波速度最大方向垂直, 它们对弓激波位置的效应恰好相反; 弓激波最终形状效应占据主导地位. 对于终端面尾侧, 快磁声波速度的各向异性起主导作用, 弓激波截线沿IMF垂直方向的宽度大于平行方向. 终端面及其向阳侧, 弓激波截线的形状与IMF取向有关: 在准北向或晨昏向IMF情况下, 弓激波截线沿IMF垂直方向的宽度大于平行方向; 在准南向IMF情况下, 弓激波截线沿IMF垂直方向的宽度小于平行方向的. 鉴于弓激波形状同IMF取向之间的密切关系, 以IMF为基准方向, 提取弓激波截线的平行半宽度 $R_{b\parallel}$ 和垂直半宽度 $R_{b\perp}$ 作为尺度参数. 这些尺度参数和通常引入的弓激波东西半宽度 y_b 和南北半宽度 z_b 相比, 更为合理地表征了弓激波的几何性质. 模拟结果表明, 在终端面上, y_b/z_b 和 $R_{b\parallel}/R_{b\perp}$ 向同性取向下的统计平均值均低于1, 与观测得到的结论一致.

关键词: 地球磁层 行星际磁场 弓激波

Abstract:

In terms of global magnetohydrodynamic (MHD) simulations of the solar wind-magnetosphere-ionosphere system, this paper investigates the rotational asymmetry of the Earth's bow shock with respect to the Sun-Earth line. We are limited to simple cases in which the solar wind is along the Sun-Earth line, and both the Earth's dipole moment and the interplanetary magnetic field (IMF) are perpendicular to the Sun-Earth line. It is shown that even for the case of vanishing IMF strength the bow shock is not rotationally symmetric with respect to the Sun-Earth line: the east-west dimension of the cross section of the bow shock exceeds the north-south dimension by about 9~11% on the terminator plane (dawn-dusk meridian plane) and its sunward side becomes smaller than the north-south dimension by about 8% on the tailward side of the terminator plane. In the presence of the IMF, the configuration of the bow shock is affected by both the shape of the magnetopause and the anisotropy of the fast magnetosonic wave speed. The magnetopause expands outward, being stretched along the IMF, and the extent of its expansion and stretch increases when the IMF rotates from north to south. In the magnetosheath, the fast magnetosonic wave speed is higher in the direction perpendicular to the IMF than that in the parallel direction. Therefore, the stretch direction of the magnetopause is perpendicular to the maximum direction of the fast magnetosonic wave speed, and their effects on the bow shock position are opposite. The eventual shape of the bow shock depends on which effect dominates. On the tailward side of the terminator plane, the anisotropy of the fast magnetosonic wave speed dominates, so the cross section of the bow shock is wider in the direction perpendicular to the IMF. On the terminator plane and its sunward side, the shape of the bow shock cross section depends on the orientation of the IMF: the bow shock cross section is wider in the direction perpendicular to the IMF under generic northward or dawn-dusk IMF cases, but it is narrower in the direction perpendicular to the IMF instead under generic southward IMF cases. In line with the simulation results, the statistical average values of y_b/z_b and $R_{b\parallel}/R_{b\perp}$ under isotropic orientation are lower than 1, which is consistent with the observational conclusion.

Intimate relationship between the shape of the bow shock and the orientation of the IMF, it is proposed that the IMF be used as the datum direction so as to extract the parallel half width $R_{b\parallel}$ and the perpendicular half width $R_{b\perp}$ as the dimension parameters. In comparison with the commonly used east-west half width y_b and the north-south half width z_b , these parameters provide a more reasonable description of the geometry of the bow shock. Simulation results show that under the assumption of isotropic orientation of the IMF, the statistical average values of y_b/z_b and $R_{b\parallel}/R_{b\perp}$ are both smaller than 1 on the terminator plane, which agrees with relevant observational conclusions.

Keywords: [Earth's magnetosphere](#) [Interplanetary magnetic field](#) [Bow shock](#)

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