



1 **Variation in altitude of high-frequency enhanced plasma line by the pump near**
2 **the 5th electron gyro-harmonic**

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9 **Abstract**

10 During an ionospheric heating campaign carried out at the European Incoherent
11 Scatter Scientific Association (EISCAT), the ultra high frequency incoherent scatter
12 (IS) radar observed a systematic variation in the altitude of the high-frequency
13 enhanced plasma line (HFPL), which behaves depending on the pump frequency.
14 Specifically, the HFPL altitude becomes lower when the pump lies above the 5th
15 gyro-harmonic. The analysis shows that the enhanced electron temperature plays a
16 decisive role in the descent in the HFPL altitude. That is, on the traveling path of the
17 enhanced Langmuir wave, the enhanced electron temperature can only be matched by
18 the low electron density at a lower altitude so that the Bragg condition can be satisfied,
19 as expected from the dispersion relation of Langmuir wave.

20 **Keywords:** ionospheric heating, incoherent scatter radar, enhanced plasma line,
21 altitude, Bragg condition.

22



23 1. Introduction

24 The oscillation two stream instability (OTSI) and the parametric decay instability
25 (PDI) have been extensively investigated [Silin 1965; DuBois and Goldman 1965,
26 1967; Perkins and Flick 1971; Rosenbluth 1972; Drake et al., 1974; Perkins, et al.,
27 1974; Kuo and Cheo 1978; Wu et al., 2006; Wu et al., 2007). As the signatures of
28 the PDI and OTSI, the high-frequency enhanced plasma line (HFPL) and the
29 high-frequency enhanced ion line (HFIL) are observed by the incoherent scattering
30 (IS) radar during the ionospheric heating campaign. Using those observations of IS
31 radar, the IS spectrum (Kuo and Fejer, 1972; Stubbe et al., 1992; Kohl et al., 1993;
32 Carlson et al., 1972; Gordon and Carlson, 1974; Kantor, 1974; Hagfors et al., 1983;
33 Dubois et al., 1988; Nordling et al., 1988 ; Stubbe et al., 1985), the pump threshold
34 for the PDI and OTSI (Fejer, 1979; Bezzerides and Weinstock, 1972; Weinstock and
35 Bezzerides, 1972), the temporal properties of the PDI and OTSI (Kohl et al., 1993;
36 Gordon and Carlson, 1974; Kantor, 1974; Stubbe et al., 1985; Carlson et al., 1972;
37 Jones et al., 1986) and the altitude properties of the HFPL and HFIL (Stubbe et al.,
38 1992 ; Kohl et al., 1987, 1993; Djuth et al., 1994; Ashrafi et al., 2006; Wu et al.,
39 2017a, 2018b) were examined.

40 The enhanced Langmuir wave and ion acoustic wave are usually excited in the
41 altitude range from the reflection altitude of the pump to the altitude where the heavy
42 Landau effect on Langmuir wave may take place (Stubbe et al., 1992). However, the
43 enhanced Langmuir wave and ion acoustic wave can't be observed by IS radar in the
44 exciting altitude range, but at an altitude where the Bragg condition is satisfied



45 (Stubbe et al., 1992; Kohl et al., 1987, 1993). Some usual observations of the ultra
46 high frequency (UHF) radar at European Incoherent Scatter Scientific Association
47 (EISCAT) show that the HFIL altitude is about ~ 3 km – ~ 5 km higher than the HFPL
48 altitude (Stubbe et al., 1992; Kohl et al., 1993). Additionally, the altitude extending of
49 ~ 3 km – ~ 5 km frequently appears in the power profile of the HPIL, but does not in
50 the power profile of the HFPL (Stubbe et al., 1992; Kohl et al., 1993). Moreover, some
51 observations at EISCAT illustrated that a descent in the altitude of the plasma
52 turbulence took place over tens of seconds after the pump on, which was most likely
53 attributed to the modification in electron density by the ionospheric heating (Djuth et
54 al., 1994). UHF radar at EISCAT observed the descent in the HFIL altitude from \sim
55 230 km to ~ 220 km within ~ 60 s, which was also attributed to the modification in
56 electron density (Ashrafi et al., 2006).

57 Although those variations in the HFPL and HFIL altitudes were attributed to the
58 enhanced electron temperature and the modified electron density, the dominant one of
59 which was not clearly identified (Wu et al., 2017a). Furthermore, it was identified that
60 the enhanced electron temperature dominated over the modified electron density in
61 the variation in the HFIL altitude (Wu et al., 2018b). As a further work, this paper
62 examines the variation in the HFPL altitude in more detail. Indeed, the dispersion
63 behavior of Langmuir wave is very different from that of ion acoustic wave.

64 **2. Experiment and data**

65 An ionospheric heating campaign was performed at EISCAT at 12:32:30 UT –
66 14:30 UT (universal time) on Mar. 11, 2014. The experiment arrangement has been



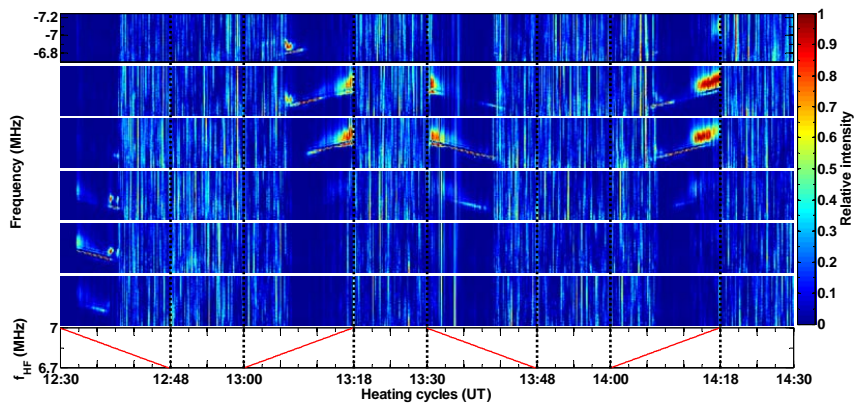
67 described in more detail by Wu et al., (2016, 2017b). Briefly, the EISCAT heater
68 (Rietveld et al., 1993, 2016) radiated the O mode pump in the frequency band of 6.7
69 MHz – 7 MHz, and the UHF IS radar was operated as the leading diagnostic means.
70 The pump frequency f_{HF} was stepped down and up in a step of 2.804 kHz with a
71 period of 10 s as shown in those bottom panels in **Figure 1**, **Figure 2** and **Figure 3**.
72 During the experiment, the local geomagnetic was relatively quiet. At an altitude of
73 200 km, the total geomagnetic varied in the range of 49202 nT – 49233 nT.

74 Considering the variation in the intensity of ion line, we adopt a convention for
75 the following discussion: the f_{HF} band of 6.7 MHz – 7 MHz can be divided into
76 three daughter bands, that is, the higher band (HB, above $5f_{\text{ce}}$), the gyro-harmonic
77 band (GB, very close to $5f_{\text{ce}}$) and lower band (LB, below $5f_{\text{ce}}$), where f_{ce}
78 represents the electron gyro-frequency (Wu et al., 2016, 2017a, 2017b, 2018a, 2018b,
79 2019). For instance, in the 1st heating cycle, the HB is set as 7 MHz – ~ 6.871028
80 MHz, the GB as ~ 6.868224 MHz – ~ 6.837383 MHz and the LB as ~ 6.834579
81 MHz – 6.7 MHz, which temporally correspond to the time intervals of 12:30:00 UT
82 – 12:37:40 UT, 12:37:50 UT – 12:39:40 UT and 12:39:50 UT – 12:48:00 UT,
83 respectively. Actually, the frequency division in each heating cycle should be
84 somewhat different from each other due to the slight disturbance of the geomagnetic.

85 From the 1st panel to the 6th panel in **Figure 1**, the normalized plasma lines at
86 those altitudes of 210.25 km, 207.32 km, 204.39 km, 201.45 km, 198.52 km and
87 195.58 km are successively given, which lie in the frequency range of -6.7 MHz –
88 -7.25 MHz. One can find that those HFPLs in the GB and HB lie at frequency



89 $f_{\text{HF}} - 9.45\text{kHz}$ as the expected decay line from the PDI. In the GB, those strong
 90 HFPLs of up to ~ 1 occur at an altitude of 201.45 km in the 1st heating cycle, at an
 91 altitude of 210.25 km in the 2nd heating cycle and at an altitude of 207.32 km in the
 92 3rd and 4th heating cycles respectively. In the HB, however, those strong HFPLs of
 93 up to ~ 1 descend in altitude, that is, they are located at an altitude of 198.52 km in the
 94 1st heating cycle, at altitudes of 207.32 km and 204.39 km in the 2nd heating cycle, at
 95 an altitude of 204.39 km in the 3rd and 4th heating cycles. On the other hand, in the
 96 LB, the HFPL has not appeared at any of those altitudes due to the absence of the PDI
 97 and OTSI (Wu et al., 2019).

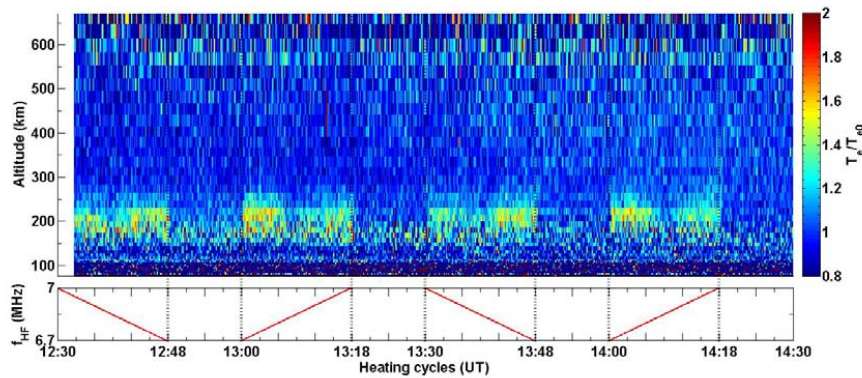


98
 99 **Figure 1.** The plasma lines versus f_{HF} (the heating cycles), where the 1st panel is for
 100 an altitude of 210.25 km, the 2nd panel for 207.32 km, the 3rd panel for 204.39 km,
 101 the 4th panel for 201.45 km, the 5th panel for 198.52 km, the 6th panel for 195.58 km
 102 and the 7th panel for f_{HF} (the heating cycles), successively from top to bottom.

103 **Figure 2** gives the altitude profile of T_e/T_{e0} as a function of f_{HF} , where T_e
 104 is the electron temperature and T_{e0} the undisturbed electron temperature. At an
 105 altitude of ~ 200 km, T_e/T_{e0} immediately enhances when heating on, and obviously
 106 varies with f_{HF} . T_e/T_{e0} strongly enhances up to ~ 1.5 in the LB, whereas it slightly



107 enhances up to ~ 1.25 in the HB. In the GB, T_e/T_{e0} approximately reach ~ 1.2 .
 108 Evidently, $(T_e/T_{e0})_{LB} > (T_e/T_{e0})_{HB} > (T_e/T_{e0})_{GB}$, where $(T_e/T_{e0})_{LB}$, $(T_e/T_{e0})_{HB}$ and
 109 $(T_e/T_{e0})_{GB}$ represent T_e/T_{e0} in the LB, HB and GB respectively. This variation in
 110 T_e/T_{e0} depends on the dispersion behavior of the excited upper hybrid waves at the
 111 upper hybrid altitude (Wu et al., 2017b), where is ~ 2 km – ~ 10 km below the
 112 reflection altitude of the pump (Gurevich, 2007).

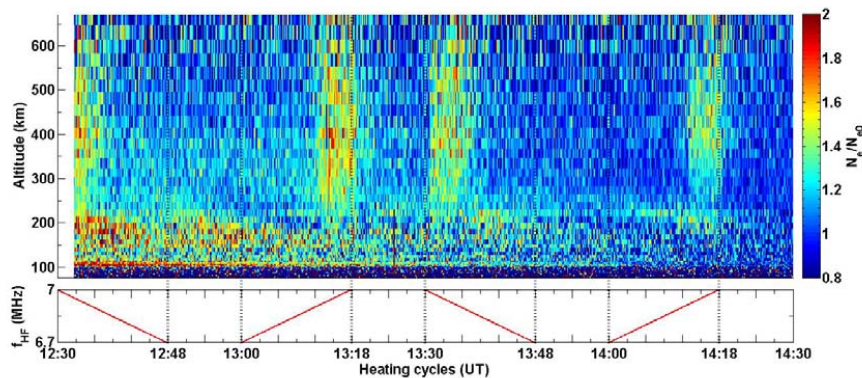


113
 114 **Figure 2.** T_e/T_{e0} versus f_{HF} (the heating cycles), where T_{e0} is obtained by
 115 averaging the electron temperature over the final 5 minutes of the UHF radar
 116 observations at 14:25 UT – 14:30 UT.

117 **Figure 3** is the altitude profile of N_e/N_{e0} as a function of f_{HF} , where N_e is
 118 the electron density and N_{e0} the undisturbed electron density. In the 3rd and 4th
 119 heating cycles, the enhanced N_e/N_{e0} of up to ~ 1.4 take place in the GB and HB and
 120 can be seen in a narrow region around an altitude of ~ 200 km. In accordance with the
 121 standard IS analysis, the enhanced N_e/N_{e0} should not correspond to the real
 122 enhancement in the electron density, but to the HFIL excited by the PDI and OTSI (Wu
 123 et al., 2017b). On the other hand, no apparent enhancement in N_e/N_{e0} takes place
 124 around an altitude of ~ 200 km in the 1st and 2nd heating cycles. This may be due to



125 the high background electron density and the ambiguity of radar measurement (Wu et
 126 al., 2017b). Additionally, the enhanced N_e/N_{e0} appears over a wide altitude range of
 127 ~ 250 km – ~ 670 km, which is hardly explained by the standard IS analysis and is
 128 open (Wu et al., 2017b).



129
 130 **Figure 3.** N_e/N_{e0} versus f_{HF} (the heating cycles), where N_{e0} is obtained by
 131 averaging the electron density over the final 5 minutes of the UHF radar observations
 132 at 14:25 UT – 14:30 UT.

133 In summary, **Figure 1** shows that (1) the HFPL altitude in the 1st heating cycle is
 134 far lower than that in the 2nd, 3rd and 4th heating cycles; (2) interestingly enough,
 135 those HFPL altitudes in the GB and HB systematically vary with f_{HF} , that is, the
 136 HFPL altitude in the HB is slightly lower than that in the GB. Additionally, **Figure 2**
 137 implies that T_e also systematically varies with f_{HF} , whereas N_e does not as
 138 illustrated in **Figure 3**.

139 3. Discussion

140 OTSI and PDI can be excited in the altitude range of (Stubbe et al., 1992)

$$141 \quad h_0 - 0.1H \leq h_{ex} < h_0 \quad (1)$$

142 where h_0 is the reflection altitude of the pump, H is the scale altitude and h_{ex} is



143 the exciting altitude of the PDI and OTSI. For a typical ionosphere, due to the
144 monotonous change in the profile of N_e below the ionospheric peak, h_{ex} in the HB
145 should be higher than that in the GB. In **Figure 3**, it is evident that N_e/N_{e0} in the 1st
146 heating cycle reaches ~ 1.7 near an altitude of 200 km and is far larger than that in the
147 2nd, 3rd and 4th heating cycles. This implies that h_0 in the 1st heating cycle should
148 be far lower than that in the 2nd, 3rd and 4th heating cycles. Correspondingly, h_{ex}
149 and the HFPL altitude in the 1st heating cycle should be far lower than that in the 2nd,
150 3rd and 4th heating cycles.

151 However, function (1) fails to explain that the HFPL altitude in the HB is slightly
152 lower than that in the GB. Considering an field-aligned and monostatic operating
153 observation, the enhanced Langmuir wave traveling in a non-uniform and stationary
154 ionosphere should satisfy the dispersion relation (Kohl et al., 1993)

$$155 \quad \omega_L^2 = \omega_{pe}^2 + \gamma \frac{K_B T_e}{m_e} k_L^2 \quad (2)$$

156 where ω_L is the angular frequency of Langmuir wave, ω_{pe} is the Langmuir angular
157 frequency of ionospheric plasma, γ is the adiabatic index, K_B is the Boltzmann
158 constant, k_L is the wave number of Langmuir wave, and m_e is the electron mass.

159 When the enhanced Langmuir wave travels in a non-uniform and stationary
160 ionosphere, k_L may change, whereas ω_L will not change. That is, k_L should
161 depend on ω_{pe} and T_e on the traveling path of the enhanced Langmuir wave, as
162 expected from function (2). This implies that at a particular altitude, k_L will satisfies
163 the Bragg condition, namely, $k_L = 2k_r$, and the enhanced Langmuir wave should be
164 observed by radar, where k_r is the wave number of radar. Then, considering $T_e = T_e'$,



165 the enhanced Langmuir wave should be observed at an altitude of h' where

166
$$2k_r = k_L = \sqrt{\frac{(\omega_L^2 - \omega_{pe}^2)m_e}{\gamma K_B T_e'}}$$
, which is a derivation of function (2). On the other hand,

167 $T_e = T_e''$ is considered, then the enhanced Langmuir wave should be observed at other

168 altitude of h'' , where
$$2k_r = k_L = \sqrt{\frac{(\omega_L^2 - \omega_{pe}''^2)m_e}{\gamma K_B T_e''}}$$
. Obviously, $\frac{\omega_L^2 - \omega_{pe}''^2}{T_e''} = \frac{\omega_L^2 - \omega_{pe}'^2}{T_e'}$

169 can be obtained. Furthermore, if $T_e'' > T_e'$, then $\omega_{pe}'' < \omega_{pe}'$. Due to the monotonous

170 profile of ω_{pe} below the ionospheric peak, $h'' < h'$ will be obtained. In other word,

171 on the traveling path of the enhanced Langmuir wave, the higher T_e is, the lower the

172 observing altitude of the enhanced Langmuir wave is. The fact is

173 $(T_e/T_{e0})_{HB} > (T_e/T_{e0})_{GB}$ as shown in Figure 2. As a result, the HFPL altitude in the

174 HB should be lower than that in the GB as shown in Figure 1.

175 As an example, the HFPL in the 4th heating cycle is examined. The left panel of

176 **Figure 4** respectively gives the profiles of $\omega_L^2 - \omega_{pe}^2$, T_{eGB} and T_{eHB} in the altitude

177 range of 190 km – 230 km in the 4th heating cycle. Here, the profile of $\omega_L^2 - \omega_{pe}^2$ is

178 not distinguished in the GB and HB, implying an assumption that the profiles of N_e

179 was not modified by the ionospheric heating. Indeed, it is difficult to measure the

180 slight modification in electron density due to (1) N_e is much variable in space and

181 time, and (2) the artificial modification in N_e is relatively small (Rietveld et al.,

182 2003). Also, **Figure 3** really exhibits that no real modification in N_e/N_{e0} is induced

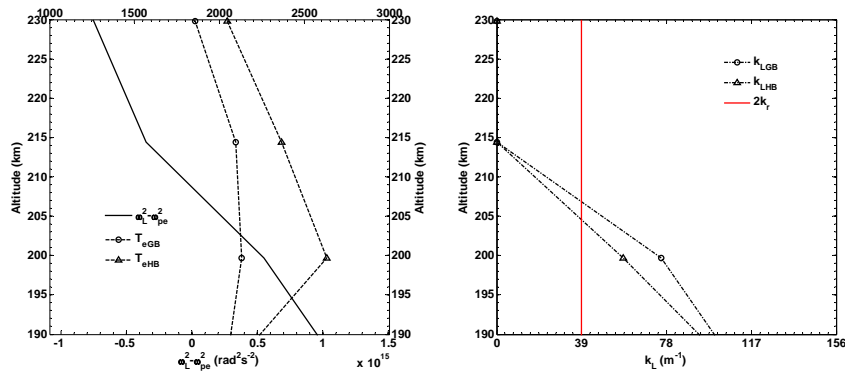
183 by the ionospheric heating in the altitude range examined (Wu et al., 2017b).

184 Obviously, $\omega_L^2 - \omega_{pe}^2$ monotonically decreases with the ascent in altitude and has a

185 vertical gradient of $\sim -3.1 \times 10^{15} \text{ rad}^2 \text{ s}^2 \text{ km}^{-1}$ in the altitude range of 200 km – 230



186 km. Moreover, $\omega_L^2 - \omega_{pe}^2$ becomes negative above an altitude of ~ 208.5 km due to
 187 the increasing N_e with the ascent in altitude. In addition, the profile of T_{eGB}
 188 demonstrates the gradient of ~ 6.09 Kkm $^{-1}$ within the altitude range of 190 km -
 189 200 km and ~ -8.85 Kkm $^{-1}$ within the altitude range of 200 km - 230 km,
 190 whereas T_{eHB} demonstrates the gradient of ~ 40.82 Kkm $^{-1}$ within the altitude range
 191 of 190 km - 200 km and ~ -17.77 Kkm $^{-1}$ within the altitude range of 200 km -
 192 230 km. This implies that the strongest enhancement in T_e takes place an altitude of
 193 ~ 200 km and the thermal energy should be conducted along the magnetic field within
 194 an extending altitude range.



195
 196 **Figure 4.** The altitude profiles of $\omega_L^2 - \omega_{pe}^2$, T_{eGB} , T_{eHB} (the left panel), k_{LGB} , k_{LHB}
 197 and k_r (the right panel), where $\omega_L = 2\pi \times 6.8$ MHz, $\omega_{pe} = 2\pi \times 8.9\sqrt{N_e}$, N_e is
 198 obtained by averaging over the time interval of [14:07:20 UT, 14:09:10 UT], T_{eGB}
 199 and T_{eHB} are obtained by averaging over the time intervals of [14:07:20 UT,
 200 14:09:10 UT] and [14:11:20 UT, 14:18:00 UT], respectively, and $k_r = 19.5$ m $^{-1}$ is the
 201 wave number of EISCAT UHF radar.

202 In the right panel of **Figure 4**, the profiles of k_{LGB} and k_{LHB} in the altitude



203 range of 190 km – 230 km in the 4th heating cycle are demonstrated, where k_{LGB} and
204 k_{LHB} represent the wave numbers of the enhanced Langmuir wave in the GB and HB.
205 The profile of k_{LGB} has a gradient of $\sim -2.78 \text{ m}^{-1}\text{km}^{-1}$ within the altitude range of
206 190 km – 200 km and $\sim -5.1 \text{ m}^{-1}\text{km}^{-1}$ within the altitude range of 200 km – 214.4
207 km, and $k_{LGB} = 2k_r$ takes place at an altitude of ~ 206.8 km. Moreover, the profile of
208 k_{LHB} demonstrates a gradient of $\sim -3.15 \text{ m}^{-1}\text{km}^{-1}$ within an altitude range
209 examined, and $k_{LHB} = 2k_r$ at an altitude of ~ 204.5 km. This indicates that the
210 enhanced T_e on the traveling path can remarkably impact on k_L , and the enhanced
211 Langmuir waves in the GB and HB should be observed at different altitude, namely, \sim
212 206.8 km in the GB and ~ 204.5 km in the HB respectively. Thus, the altitude
213 difference between the HFPL altitudes in the GB and HB is 2.3 km as illustrated in the
214 right panel of **Figure 4**. Taking the height resolution of ~ 3 km of EISCAT UHF radar
215 into account, the HFPL altitudes in the GB and HB in the 4th heating cycle shown in
216 **Figure 1** are in perfect agreement with the altitudes of $k_{LGB} = 2k_r$ and $k_{LHB} = 2k_r$
217 illustrated in the right panel of **Figure 4**. In addition, k_{LGB} and k_{LHB} become zero
218 above an altitude of ~ 208.5 , implying the enhanced Langmuir wave will be reflected
219 at an altitude of ~ 208.5 km.

220 Usually, ω_{pe} is on the order of 10^6 and $\sqrt{\gamma \frac{K_B T_e}{m_e}} k_L$ is on the order of 10^3
221 for a typical ionosphere, implying that N_e dominates over T_e in k_L . However, this
222 does not imply that the enhanced T_e is independent of the HFPL altitude. Indeed, on
223 the traveling path of Langmuir wave, an remarkable enhancement in electron
224 temperature owing to an ionospheric heating will take significant impact on k_L . For a



225 large gradient profile of N_e , an somewhat enhancement in T_e may lead to an
226 remarkable descent in the HFPL altitude. Moreover, if a small gradient profile of N_e
227 is considered, that is, N_e can be approximately considered as a constant, then k_L
228 will be mainly determined by the profile of T_e .

229 4. Conclusions

230 A systematic variation in the HFPL altitude induced by the pump near the 5th
231 gyro-harmonic at EISCAT, is paid attention. The IS radar observation demonstrates
232 that the HFPL altitude and the electron temperature behave as a function of the pump
233 frequency. More specifically, when the pump frequency approaches the 5th
234 gyro-harmonic from below, the electron temperature is somewhat enhanced, and the
235 HFPL is observed at an altitude as expected. When the pump frequency sweeps above
236 the 5th gyro-harmonic, however, the electron temperature is prominently enhanced,
237 and the HFPL altitude slightly plunge downward.

238 In conclusion, the HFPL altitude is dependent on the dispersion behavior of the
239 enhanced Langmuir wave and the Bragg condition, and is determined by the profiles
240 of the electron density and the enhanced electron temperature. When heating above
241 the 5th gyro-harmonic, the HFPL altitude plunge downward owing to the thermal
242 effect of ionospheric heating on the traveling path of the enhanced Langmuir wave. In
243 other word, when the pump sweeps above the 5th gyro-harmonic, the IS radar should
244 observe the enhanced Langmuir wave at an lower altitude, where the low electron
245 density can compensate the remarkably enhanced electron temperature so that the
246 Bragg condition can be satisfied, as expected by the dispersion relation of Langmuir



247 wave.

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