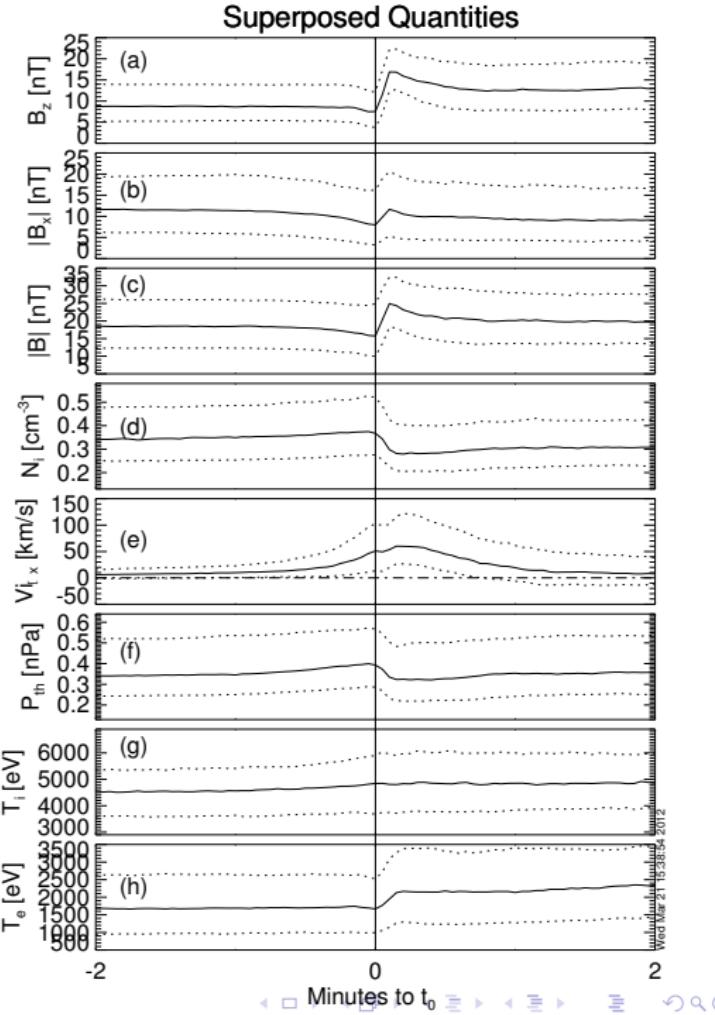


The Properties of the Dipolarization Front Current Sheet (DFCS): Statistics

J. Liu, V. Angelopoulos, A. Runov and X. -Z. Zhou

2012

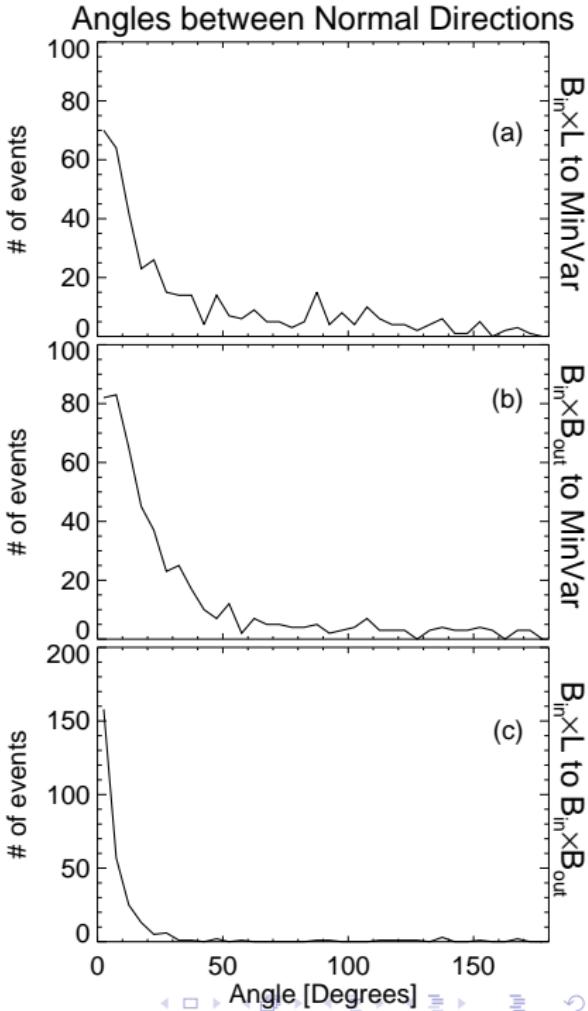
- Event selection on 4 THEMIS tail seasons:
 - ① $dB_z/dt > 0.5 nT/s$ (3-point smoothed data). The first point that meets this criterion is the event's t_0 .
 - ② The maximum B_z of $[t_0, t_0+30 \text{ seconds}]$ should be greater than that of $[t_0-30 \text{ seconds}, t_0]$ by 5 nT.
- Make sure the plasma sheet is quiet before the events.
- The database contain ~ 1300 events.



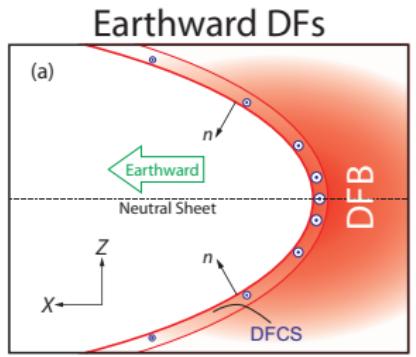
Three methods to determine the dipolarization front (DF) normal direction \mathbf{n} :

- ① Minimum \mathbf{B} Variance direction.
 - Traditionally used.
- ② $\mathbf{B}_{\text{in}} \times \mathbf{B}_{\text{out}}$.
 - Assuming the DF is a tangential discontinuity.
- ③ $\mathbf{B}_{\text{in}} \times \mathbf{L}$.
 - \mathbf{L} is the maximum \mathbf{B} variance direction.
 - The maximum \mathbf{B} variation direction created by a sheet current is parallel to the current sheet.

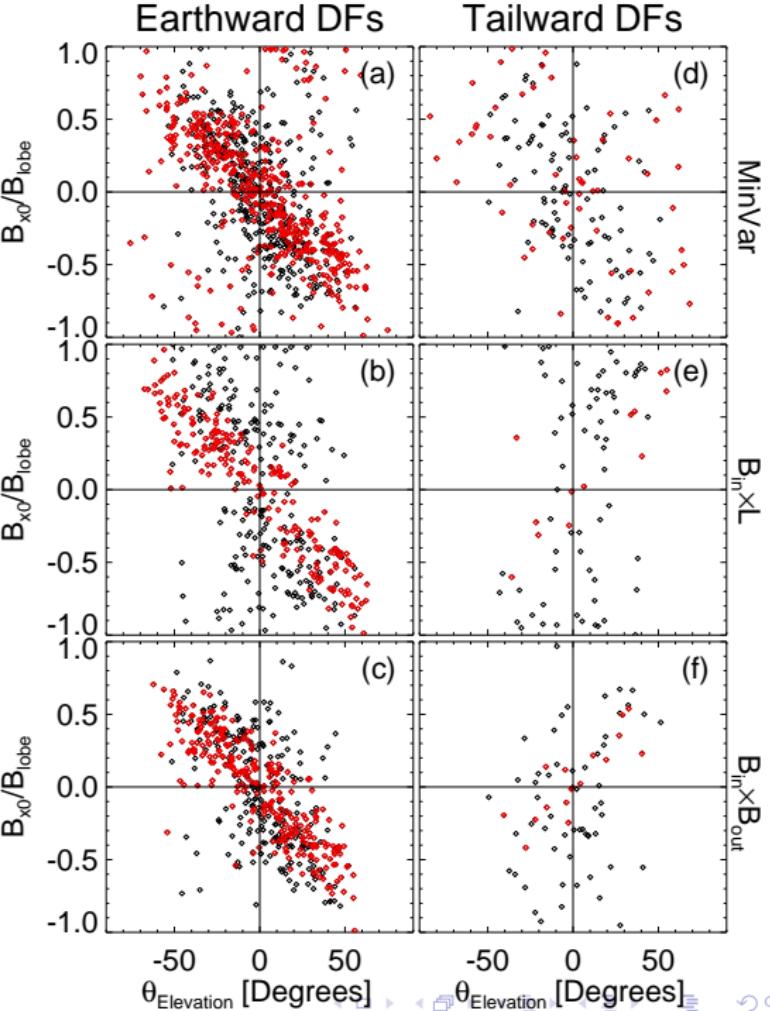
We force \mathbf{n} of Earthward/tailward propagating DFs to point Earthward/tailward.



Earthward DFs Tailward DFs

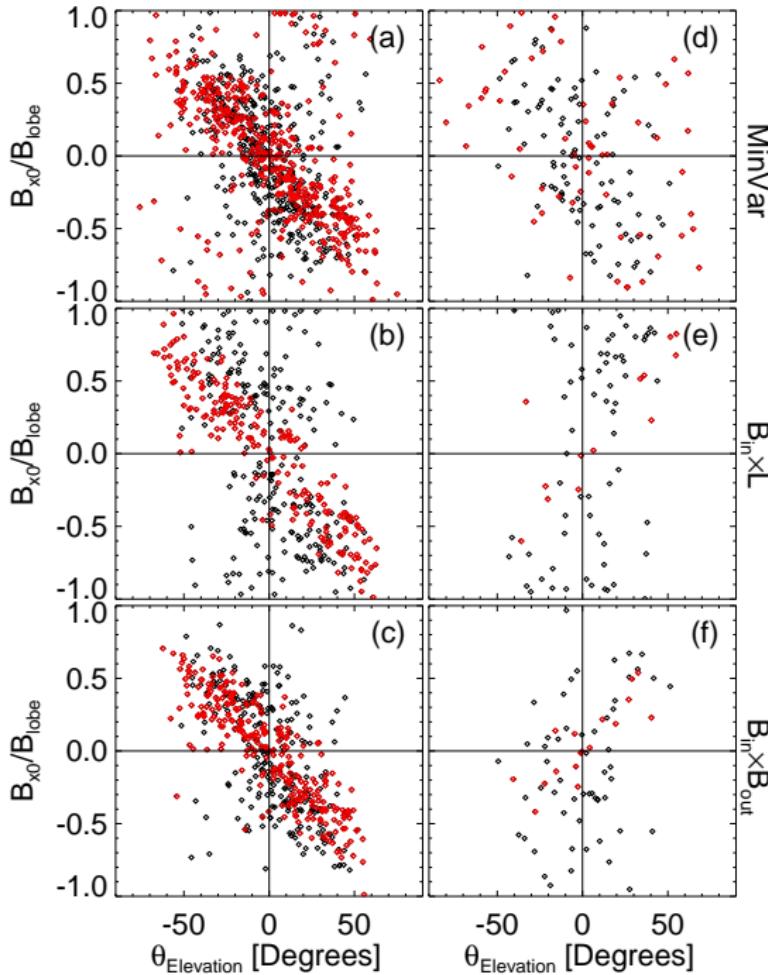


- $\theta_{Elevation} = \sin^{-1} n_z$
- Red points: $n_y < 0.5$



Earthward DFs

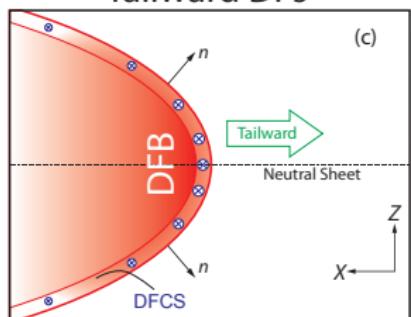
Tailward DFs

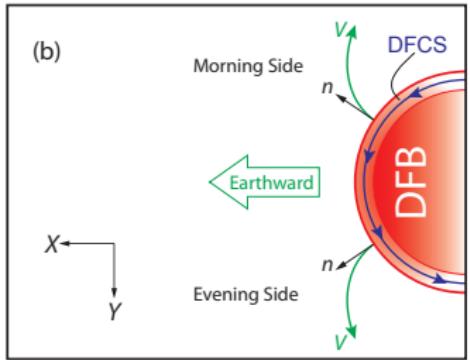


MinVar

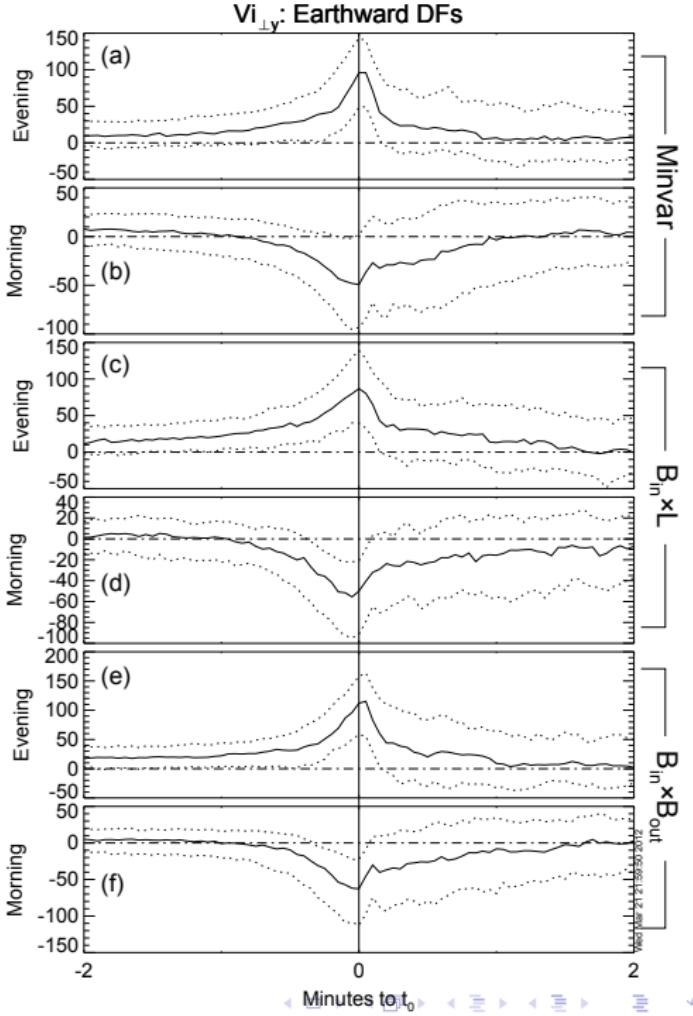
 $B_{in} \times L$ $B_{in} \times B_{out}$

Tailward DFs





- Evening side:
 $n_y > 0.2$
- Morning side:
 $n_y < -0.2$



$V_{t\perp y}$: Tailward DFs

