

1           **Is the relation between the solar wind dynamic**  
2           **pressure and the magnetopause standoff distance so**  
3           **straightforward?**

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10           **Key Points:**

- 11           • We reconsider the relation between the solar wind dynamic pressure and magne-  
12           topause standoff distance  
13           • The magnetopause reacts differently to density and velocity increases for the same  
14           dynamic pressure  
15           • A new scaling law for magnetopause standoff distance is proposed

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16 **Abstract**

17 We present results of global magnetohydrodynamic simulations which reconsider  
 18 the relationship between the solar wind dynamic pressure ( $P_d$ ) and magnetopause stand-  
 19 off distance ( $R_{SUB}$ ). We simulate the magnetospheric response to increases in the dy-  
 20 namic pressure by varying separately the solar wind density or velocity for northward  
 21 and southward interplanetary magnetic field (IMF). We obtain different values of the power  
 22 laws indices  $N$  in the relation  $R_{SUB} \sim P_d^{-1/N}$  depending on which parameter, density  
 23 or velocity, has been varied and for which IMF orientation. The changes in the stand-  
 24 off distance are smaller (higher  $N$ ) for a density increase for southward IMF and greater  
 25 (smaller  $N$ ) for a velocity increase. An enhancement of the solar wind velocity for a south-  
 26 ward IMF increases the magnetopause reconnection rate and Region 1 current that move  
 27 the magnetopause closer to the Earth than it appears in the case of density increase for  
 28 the same dynamic pressure.

29 **Plain Language Summary**

30 The magnetopause is the boundary between the near-Earth space, which is gov-  
 31 erned by the magnetic field produced in the Earth's core, and interplanetary space pop-  
 32 ulated by the plasma emitted from the Sun called the solar wind. It is well-known that  
 33 the position of this boundary is defined by the balance of the pressures from both sides  
 34 of the magnetopause and in a unique way depends on the velocity and density of the plasma  
 35 in the interplanetary space. In this work, we re-examine the relationship between the  
 36 magnetopause position and parameters of the solar wind by means of computer mod-  
 37 elling. It is shown that the relationship between solar wind velocity and density and mag-  
 38 netopause position is more complex than originally thought. It is suggested that the pres-  
 39 sure balance condition through the magnetopause depends on the continuing magnetic  
 40 reconnection between the interplanetary and magnetospheric magnetic field lines, and  
 41 that the consequences of the reconnection change the relationship between the solar wind  
 42 dynamic pressure and magnetopause boundary location.

43 **1 Introduction**

44 The magnetopause is one of principal magnetospheric boundaries which separates  
 45 dense solar wind plasma in the magnetosheath and tenuous and hot magnetospheric plasma.  
 46 In response to strong solar wind pressure pulses, the magnetopause comes closer to the  
 47 Earth and geosynchronous spacecraft may exit the magnetosphere and cross the mag-  
 48 netosheath in the subsolar region or even enter into the supersonic solar wind. To date,  
 49 more than 15 empirical models of the magnetopause have been developed based on a great  
 50 number of magnetopause crossings under different solar wind conditions (a list of 14 mod-  
 51 els published by (Suvorova & Dmitriev, 2015)). Chapman and Ferraro (1931) suggested  
 52 that the magnetopause location can be determined from the pressure balance condition  
 53 between the solar wind dynamic pressure ( $P_d$ ) and the magnetic pressure of the Earth's  
 54 dipole. Besides the dynamic pressure, the second important solar wind parameter influ-  
 55 encing the magnetopause position is the interplanetary magnetic field (IMF)  $B_z$  com-  
 56 ponent (Aubry et al., 1970; Fairfield, 1971). A strong southward IMF ( $B_z < 0$ ) results  
 57 in magnetic reconnection at the dayside magnetopause and intensification of the large  
 58 scale field-aligned (Region 1) currents connecting the magnetosphere and ionosphere and  
 59 moving the magnetopause closer to the Earth (Hill & Rassbach, 1975; Sibeck, 1994). The  
 60  $P_d$  and  $B_z$  are the only two input parameters in several popular magnetopause models,  
 61 e.g. (Petrinec & Russell, 1996; Roelof & Sibeck, 1993; Shue et al., 1997; Shue et al., 1998;  
 62 Sibeck et al., 1991). The recent (Lin et al., 2010) empirical model replaces the solar wind  
 63 dynamic pressure by the sum of dynamic and magnetic pressures and takes into account  
 64 the Earth's dipole tilt. Moreover, several papers (Dušík et al., 2010; Grygorov et al., 2017;  
 65 Merka et al., 2003; Samsonov et al., 2017; Suvorova et al., 2010) note that the magne-

66 topause significantly expands during radial IMF intervals concluding that the IMF cone  
67 angle (the angle between IMF and the Sun–Earth line) may also be an important param-  
68 eter for calculation of the magnetopause location.

69 Recently, Němeček et al. (2016) compared observed magnetopause crossings with  
70 the Shue et al. model (Shue et al., 1997) for half of the last solar cycle and found sys-  
71 tematic differences between the model and observations. They argued that the ionospheric  
72 conductivity and the solar wind velocity are additional parameters that influence the mag-  
73 netopause position. Their statistical analysis shows that the average magnetopause is  
74 farther from the Earth than predicted during time intervals with lower conductivity and  
75 higher solar wind velocity. They suggested that intensification of UV radiation results  
76 in an increase in the magnetospheric-ionospheric currents that decreases the magnetic  
77 pressure inside the magnetosphere and the magnetopause moves earthward. On the con-  
78 trary, enhancement of the velocity intensifies the viscous interaction between the solar  
79 wind and magnetosphere increasing the global magnetospheric convection and bringing  
80 more magnetic flux to the dayside magnetosphere. We will discuss these assumptions  
81 below in the paper.

82 Another topic under debate is the power law index in the relation between the  $P_d$   
83 and the magnetopause standoff distance  $R_{SUB}$ . The simple pressure balance condition  
84 predicts

$$R_{SUB} \sim P_d^{-1/N} \quad (1)$$

85 with  $N = 6$  (Beard, 1960), however most empirical models use other power law indices,  
86 both larger and smaller than the theoretical one, e.g.  $N = 6.6$  in (Shue et al., 1998)  
87 and  $N = 5.263$  (for the sum of dynamic and magnetic pressures) in (Lin et al., 2010).  
88 Dušík et al. (2010) studied variations of the observed magnetopause location in depen-  
89 dence on the dynamic pressure and IMF cone angle and obtained  $N = 4.8$ . Lu et al.  
90 (2011) used MHD simulations to derive the relation between solar wind parameters and  
91 magnetopause position and obtained  $N = 5.2$ . Liu et al. (2015) continued to develop  
92 this approach taking into account more input parameters than in Lu et al. (2011) and  
93 found  $N = 5.89$ . We note, however, the limitation of the above studies in calculations  
94 of the  $R_{SUB}$ . Empirical models use magnetopause crossings over a large area and have  
95 to assume some functional dependence for the magnetopause shape. Even in the MHD  
96 simulations, Lu et al. (2011) and Liu et al. (2015) used a modified function developed  
97 from one suggested by Shue et al. (1997) and applied multiple parameter fitting to find  
98 unknown coefficients.

99 In this study, we focus our attention on variations of the magnetopause standoff  
100 distance and use several versions of recent global MHD models to study the dependence  
101 of the  $R_{SUB}$  on solar wind parameters. In particular, we reconsider the relation between  
102  $R_{SUB}$  and  $P_d$ . Since dynamic pressure is a product of the density and velocity square,  
103 both density and velocity variations make input in the  $P_d$  changes. However, MHD mod-  
104 els allow us to get magnetospheric response to artificial solar wind variations and inves-  
105 tigate how the standoff distance depends on the density and velocity independently of  
106 each other.

## 107 2 MHD simulations

108 We use the Space Weather Modeling Framework (SWMF) global MHD model (Tóth  
109 et al., 2005, 2012) coupled and also noncoupled with the Comprehensive Inner-Magneto-  
110 sphere Ionosphere (CIMI) Model (Fok et al., 2014) and the Lyon-Fedder-Mobarry magneto-  
111 sphere–ionosphere model (LFM–MIX) (Lyon et al., 2004; Merkin & Lyon, 2010). The  
112 models are available through Community Coordinated Modeling Center (CCMC) runs  
113 on request. We employ several versions of the SWMF model (as explained below) and  
114 only one version of the LFM model for comparison. The grid spacing near the dayside  
115 magnetopause is  $0.25 R_E$  for the SWMF model; the grid spacing for the LFM–MIX model

116 is of the same order of magnitude but non-uniform depending on the geocentric distance  
 117 and direction. The magnetopause position is determined as the boundary between open  
 118 and closed field lines and calculated by CCMC software for every run.

119 For each version of the models, we make four runs. In run 1, we increase only the  
 120 solar wind density and keep constant all other parameters. In run 2, we increase the so-  
 121 lar wind velocity in a such way to get exactly the same variations of the dynamic pres-  
 122 sure as in run 1. All other parameters are the same and the IMF is northward in these  
 123 two runs. In runs 3 and 4, we impose the same variations of the density and velocity as  
 124 in runs 1 and 2 respectively but for a southward IMF, the IMF magnitude being the same  
 125 in all runs. The variations of the solar wind dynamic pressure (the same in all runs) are  
 126 shown in Figure 1. The  $P_d$  grows from 0.8 to 8.0 nPa, this corresponds to an increase  
 127 in density from 3 to 30  $\text{cm}^{-3}$  or to an increase in velocity from 309.84 to 979.80 km/s  
 128 for the fixed other parameter. In those runs when we keep these parameters constant,  
 129 the density is 5  $\text{cm}^{-3}$  and the velocity is 400 km/s which is close to the averages. The  
 130 IMF components are equal to  $(-2, 2, \pm 4)$  nT.

131 Figure 2 shows the changes in the magnetopause standoff distance with time in the  
 132 four runs for the noncoupled SWMF model (v20140611). The left panel corresponds to  
 133 runs 1-2, and the right panel corresponds to runs 3-4; blue and red lines indicate results  
 134 for the density and velocity increases respectively. For comparison, we also show results  
 135 of the (Shue et al., 1998) and (Lin et al., 2010) empirical models which depend on the  
 136 dynamic pressure and  $B_z$ , but give the same response for the density and velocity changes  
 137 (i.e. if comparing runs 1 and 2, or 3 and 4). However, the MHD model does not predict  
 138 the same variations in the magnetopause standoff distance for the density and velocity  
 139 increases. It becomes very clear, in particular for the southward IMF, that the slope of  
 140 the red line is greater than of the blue line, i.e. the change in  $R_{SUB}$  is higher for the ve-  
 141 locity increase. The northward case displays a difference in the density and velocity runs  
 142 too, but the effect is weaker than in the southward case. In general, the slope of the MHD  
 143 curves is similar to that in the (Shue et al., 1998) model, but less than in the (Lin et al.,  
 144 2010) model.

145 When pressure pulses arrive at the subsolar point, the magnetopause is briefly over-  
 146 compressed and then relaxes to a new equilibrium. The overcompression is probably re-  
 147 lated to fast compressional waves in the magnetosphere moving earthward at the begin-  
 148 ning of compression and being reflected from the inner boundary in the numerical mod-  
 149 els (Samsonov et al., 2007; Samsonov & Sibeck, 2013), and from the ionosphere or plasma-  
 150 pause in the observations (Samsonov et al., 2011). When the reflected wave reaches the  
 151 magnetopause, the inward magnetopause motion is replaced by outward motion. Sev-  
 152 eral cycles of heavy damped magnetic field oscillations may be excited in the dayside mag-  
 153 netosphere (Freeman et al., 1995; Němeček et al., 2011; Samsonov et al., 2011). How-  
 154 ever, we ignore these temporal variations in the present work and exploit only final quasi-  
 155 stationary positions. Note that the time interval between two step-like increases in the  
 156 density or velocity is 20 min, which is shown to be enough to establish a new equilib-  
 157 rium. We have considered a time interval twice as long (i.e. 40 min instead of 20 min)  
 158 in another run and obtained very similar results.

159 Next, we show the dependence between the  $R_{SUB}$  and  $P_d$  in logarithmic scale in  
 160 Figure 3. Equilibrium points in the MHD simulations are shown by red crosses. Blue lines  
 161 display linear interpolation of the MHD points. In all runs, the simulation points are well  
 162 interpolated by straight lines with the corrected standard deviations of about 0.001. The  
 163 coefficients of the linear interpolation provide the power law index in (1), and we col-  
 164 lect these numbers in Table 1 below.

165 We suggest that the difference in the magnetospheric response to the density and  
 166 velocity increases is explained by magnetopause magnetic reconnection. If the density  
 167 increases and the velocity is constant, even for a southward IMF, the solar wind elec-

168 tric field remains the same and the magnetopause reconnection rate would vary insignif-  
 169 icantly. On the contrary, if the velocity increases, the electric field and reconnection rate  
 170 increase too. In turn, this enhances the magnetospheric-ionospheric currents, in partic-  
 171 ular the Region 1 current. The intensification of this current system weakens the mag-  
 172 netospheric magnetic field and moves the dayside magnetopause earthward, in the same  
 173 way as occurs in the case of southward IMF turning (Sibeck, 1994).

174 We show the  $y$  component of the magnetosheath electric field in the inflow region  
 175 (at the sunward boundary of the magnetopause current layer), absolute reconnection rate,  
 176 the ratio of the inflow velocity to the magnetosheath Alfvén speed, and the recon-  
 177 nection rate normalized to the total solar wind electric field in Figure S2 in Supporting  
 178 information. The reconnection rate has been calculated at the boundaries of the magne-  
 179 topause current layer as explained in Cassak and Shay (2007), Borovsky et al. (2008),  
 180 Borovsky and Birn (2014). (Figure S1 and the corresponding explanation in Support-  
 181 ing information provide additional information on the method.) We find that the dif-  
 182 ference in the magnetosheath electric field and reconnection rate between the two runs  
 183 with density and velocity increases is related to the difference in the solar wind electric  
 184 field, and for the case with the increased velocity the absolute reconnection rate (as well  
 185 as the  $E_y$  electric field) in the inflow region increases with time and at the end of sim-  
 186 ulation run becomes 2.5 times larger than the absolute reconnection rate (or  $E_y$ ) for the  
 187 case with the increased density. However, the reconnection rates normalized to the so-  
 188 lar wind electric field are nearly the same in both runs and slightly decrease during the  
 189 runs from about 0.55 to 0.4. These values are close to those obtained in simulation A  
 190 in Borovsky et al. (2008).

191 Higher reconnection rate intensifies the Region 1 current and increases the cross  
 192 polar cap potential (CPCP). Figure S3 shows temporal variations of the CPCP in four  
 193 runs. For the both northward and southward IMF, the CPCP grows faster in the case  
 194 of velocity increase, but again the difference becomes substantial for the southward IMF.  
 195 The CPCP seems to remain mainly below a saturation level (Hill et al., 1976; Siscoe et  
 196 al., 2002), although it might be close to the saturation for a largest CPCP used in this  
 197 work (southward IMF, high velocity). Anyway, we do not observe the effect of satura-  
 198 tion on the magnetopause location, e.g. while considering the dependencies in Figure 3.

199 The increases in the CPCP in Figure S3 are accompanied by overshoots and un-  
 200 dershoots, especially in runs 2 and 4 with the velocity increase. The reason of these tran-  
 201 sients could be explained by the following. Both the density and velocity jumps are non-  
 202 stationary structures because both of them do not meet the Rankine–Hugoniot relations.  
 203 In the both cases, the total pressure increases through the discontinuities but the increase  
 204 in the velocity immediately results in an increase in the density while the structure prop-  
 205 agating in the solar wind from the inflow boundary to the bow shock. This may cause  
 206 a larger increase in the dynamic pressure near the magnetopause. We have inspected a  
 207 possible increase in the density near the subsolar bow shock in runs 2 and 4 and found  
 208 that the solar wind density really increases at the jumps in velocity, but only at several  
 209 first jumps. If the solar wind velocity is low, the propagation time from the inflow bound-  
 210 ary to the bow shock is long so the density has enough time to pile up. However, the den-  
 211 sity enhancement drops below 1% for the velocity higher than 500 km/s. Since this ef-  
 212 fect is negligible most of the time, we think that it does not influence the slopes in Fig-  
 213 ure 3. Besides, the increases in the solar wind velocity results in other discontinuities in  
 214 the magnetosheath and magnetosphere as those forward and reflected compressional waves  
 215 mentioned above. Anyway, we use only quasi steady-state values after the transients in  
 216 our study.

217 Another signature of the enhanced magnetic reconnection can be observed at day-  
 218 side geosynchronous orbit. Figure S4 compares variations of the magnetic field magni-  
 219 tude for the same runs on the Sun–Earth line at  $x = 6.6 R_E$ . Since magnetopause re-  
 220 connection is stronger for high velocity (electric field) and southward IMF (run 4), we

eventually get a weaker magnetic field at geosynchronous orbit in this case. The difference in the magnetic field magnitude between runs 1 (density increase for northward IMF) and 4 (velocity increase for southward IMF) grows with the solar wind dynamic pressure from 7 ( $t=03:00$ ) to 16 ( $t=07:00$ ) nT.

Using relatively short (20 min) time intervals between the dynamic pressure steps, we implicitly assume that the changes in the magnetopause position mostly result from the changes in the solar wind pressure and variations of the dayside field-aligned Region 1 currents. Meanwhile, Tsyganenko and Sibeck (1994) noted that the cross-tail current and in a less degree the ring current besides the Region 1 currents determine the magnetic field on the magnetospheric side of the magnetopause. An increase in the magnetotail current as well increase in the Region 1 currents weakens the magnetospheric magnetic field and moves the dayside magnetopause earthward. Although the magnetotail current may have a slightly larger response time, but in general it only intensifies the effect of the Region 1 current. On the contrary, an enhanced ring current during magnetic storms may push the subsolar magnetopause outward (e.g., some estimations were made in Samsonov et al. (2016)), however (1) the noncoupled MHD model which results have been presented above does not reproduce the ring current and (2) the time scale of the ring current intensification is usually more than the 3-4 hours used in these simulations. We show results of the coupled models below which qualitatively similar to the results of the noncoupled model, so this does not change our conclusions.

Finally, we would like to compare several runs to confirm that our results are model-independent. Table 1 collects the power law indices  $N$  in (1) calculated from six versions of three global MHD models. The first is the non-coupled SWMF model whose results were presented above. In addition to the basic runs (version 1), we simulated three other versions of the the same non-coupled model, two with a higher ionospheric conductivity and one with a dipole tilt. The height-integrated Pedersen conductivity is assumed to be equal to 5 S in all the versions, except versions 2 and 3 for which the integrated conductivity is 10 and 100 S respectively. In version 4, we simulated the magnetosphere with a dipole tilt  $30^\circ$ . Changes in  $N$  between versions 1 and 2 and versions 1 and 4 are small, and between versions 1 and 3 are moderate, but only for the southward IMF. Note that the ionospheric conductivity 100 S is extremely high and can be hardly observed in reality. We show it only to illustrate the role of conductivity since the two times increase in conductivity in version 2 changes  $N$  only for the velocity increase with southward IMF.

Version 5 stands for runs of the SWMF model coupled with CIMI (inner magnetosphere-ionosphere), and version 6 is the LFM-MIX model. For each version, we make four runs for the northward/southward IMF and for the density and velocity increases as explained above (24 runs in total). Recall that  $N = 6$  in the ideal theoretical case if the magnetopause position meets the pressure balance between the solar wind dynamic pressure and the Earth's dipole field and  $N = 6.6$  in the empirical (Shue et al., 1998) model. In fact, most of the obtained  $N$  are between these two values or slightly less. Five of six versions predict  $N$  larger or equal to 7 in the runs with the density increase for southward IMF. Even if version 5 predicts  $N$  smaller than 7,  $N$  is systematically highest in this case for every model.

In addition to the comparison of different models, we investigate the influence of grid resolution on our results. We have calculated two runs for the same southward IMF with density and velocity changes using the non-coupled SWMF model with the  $1/16 R_E$  grid spacing around the subsolar magnetopause. We obtain different power laws,  $N=6.712$  and  $6.132$ , in the density and velocity runs respectively (instead of 7.80 and 6.69 for the same model with a low resolution). Moreover, the normalized (to the solar wind electric field) reconnection rates in the low resolution runs are smaller than those in the high resolution runs (but are about the same in the density and velocity runs for the same resolution). We also find some differences in the CPCP and the magnetic field magni-

274 tude at geosynchronous orbit. We note that the grid resolution influences the magnitude  
 275 of maximal electric current density at the magnetopause and possibly may change the  
 276 total magnetopause current, but this problem requires more careful studies and it stays  
 277 outside of the scope of the paper.

278 Even if the models predict different  $N$ , the relations between the runs 1-4 in Ta-  
 279 ble 1 are similar for all models. (1) For all models except one case, the runs with veloc-  
 280 ity increase correspond to a smaller  $N$  than the runs with density increase, however the  
 281 difference between the density and velocity runs is substantial only for the southward  
 282 IMF. On the contrary,  $N$  is slightly higher in the velocity run than in the density run  
 283 for the case with northward IMF and tilted dipole. (2) In the runs with density increase,  
 284  $N$  is always smaller for the northward IMF than for the southward IMF. (3) In the cases  
 285 with two times higher ionospheric conductivity (10 S instead of 5 S) or with 30° dipole  
 286 tilt,  $N$  changes relatively small. However, a significant increase in the ionospheric con-  
 287 ductivity up to 100 S (what is probably unrealistic) or inclusion of the inner magneto-  
 288 sphere - ionosphere block in the model results in decrease in  $N$ . To be precise, the high  
 289 ionospheric conductivity influences the results only for southward IMF, while using the  
 290 coupled model changes  $N$  both for northward and southward IMF. Simulations with a  
 291 higher grid resolution at the subsolar magnetopause also yield the power law with a smaller  
 292  $N$ . Note also that the magnetopause position in the LFM-MIX model for southward IMF  
 293 is not stable (because of reconnection), therefore the estimations of  $N$  may be less ac-  
 294 curate.

### 295 3 Discussion and Conclusions

296 Most empirical magnetopause models assume a general relation between the so-  
 297 lar wind dynamic pressure and the magnetopause standoff distance (1), where  $N$  remains  
 298 constant for all solar wind conditions. We make a series of MHD runs to check this as-  
 299 sumption. In the artificial runs, we change only one solar wind plasma parameter, ei-  
 300 ther the density or velocity, getting the same step-like increases in the dynamic pressure  
 301 in both cases. We make the simulations for northward and southward IMF and calcu-  
 302 late the power law index  $N$ . We compare several versions of the SWMF and LFM-MIX  
 303 models and obtain similar trends for all models as explained below.

304 In all cases,  $N$  is largest ( $\geq 7$  in 5 of 6 cases) for the density increase and south-  
 305 ward IMF. In most cases,  $N$  is smallest for the velocity increase both for the northward  
 306 and southward IMF. A smaller  $N$  means larger variations of the  $R_{SUB}$  for the same changes  
 307 in the dynamic pressure. We also compare the CPCP and the magnetic field in the sub-  
 308 solar point at geosynchronous orbit for these runs and obtain the greatest CPCP and  
 309 weakest magnetic field for the run with high velocities and southward IMF. Summariz-  
 310 ing these results, we conclude that the increase in the solar wind velocity for southward  
 311 IMF enhances the magnetopause reconnection rate and dayside Region 1 currents and  
 312 moves the magnetopause closer to the Earth than it appears in the case of density in-  
 313 crease for the same IMF and dynamic pressure. Note that most empirical magnetopause  
 314 models use the IMF  $B_z$  as an input parameter, but that they do not allow IMF  $B_z$  to  
 315 influence the index  $N$ . We show here that  $N$ , in general, depends on the IMF orienta-  
 316 tion, and, moreover, it depends on which parameter, density or velocity, produces  $P_d$  vari-  
 317 ations. We suggest that a new generation of empirical magnetopause models would be  
 318 more accurate using a new relation

$$R_{SUB} \sim \rho_{SW}^{-1/N} V_{SW}^{-2/M} \quad (2)$$

319 where  $M \neq N$  and both  $M$  and  $N$  may depend on the sign of  $B_z$ .

320 Our results also show that increase in the ionospheric conductivity or the use of  
 321 a model with the additional inner magnetosphere - ionosphere block result in decrease  
 322 in  $N$ . Therefore we cannot derive a single  $N$  from the MHD simulations because the dis-

323 person in  $N$  between the models is large, however all models predict the same changes  
324 between different runs related to the density and velocity increases, and  $B_z$  sign.

325 The simulations we present suggest that dayside magnetopause reconnection in-  
326 fluences the magnetic field magnitude at geosynchronous orbit near subsolar point. We  
327 obtain different geosynchronous magnetic fields in northward and southward IMF runs  
328 with the same dynamic pressure. Moreover, the magnetic field magnitude is also differ-  
329 ent when comparing the runs in which both the dynamic pressure and  $B_z$  are kept the  
330 same and only the ratio between the solar wind  $\rho$  and  $V$  is different. Increasing veloc-  
331 ity instead of density for a southward IMF, we increase the magnetopause reconnection  
332 rate and this results in an observable difference in the magnetic field at geosynchronous  
333 orbit with a smaller  $|B|$  corresponding to a larger  $V_{SW}$ . Similar variations at geosynchronous  
334 orbit are observed in northward/southward turning events with a constant solar wind  
335 dynamic pressure (Samsonov et al., 2017).

336 Our results partly agree with the results in Němeček et al. (2016). We find that  
337 an increase in the ionospheric conductivity causes stronger variations of the magnetopause  
338 standoff distance, but, contrary to Němeček et al. (2016), an increase in the solar wind  
339 velocity may also enhance variations of the standoff distance. However, we cannot com-  
340 pare our results with Němeček et al. (2016) directly. Němeček et al. (2016) normalized  
341 observed  $R_{SUB}$  by the (Shue et al., 1997) model and obtained that the model underes-  
342 timates  $R_{SUB}$  for high velocities. First, we note that it would agree with a numerical  
343 model for which  $N > 6.6$  since  $N = 6.6$  in (Shue et al., 1997). Second, variations of  
344 the solar wind velocity cannot be treated independently in the observations, they cor-  
345 relate with variations of the magnetic field (Owens & Cargill, 2002), and even (on a large  
346 time scale) with the ionospheric conductivity because higher velocities are usually ob-  
347 served at solar maximum. Therefore it is difficult to make a straightforward conclusion  
348 from these results.

349 In our work, we use only MHD simulations and make runs with the artificial so-  
350 lar wind conditions. However, we believe that MHD models reproduce reasonably well  
351 the magnetopause standoff distance for typical solar wind conditions (Samsonov et al.,  
352 2016). We anticipate that this work will help in the development of future empirical mag-  
353 netopause models. One of the forthcoming missions which will study variations of the  
354 dayside magnetopause is the Solar Wind Magnetosphere Ionosphere Link Explorer (SMILE)  
355 (Raab et al., 2016). Using SMILE, we will be able to obtain a continuous time series of  
356 the magnetopause standoff distance for variable solar wind conditions and also validate  
357 prospective empirical models.

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360 sity of Michigan Center for Space Environment Modeling and the LFM-MIX model avail-  
361 able through the NASA Community Coordinated Modeling Center (<http://ccmc.gsfc.nasa.gov>).  
362 In particular, we used results of the runs *Andrey\_Samsonov\_072419\_(1-4)*. AAS and GBR  
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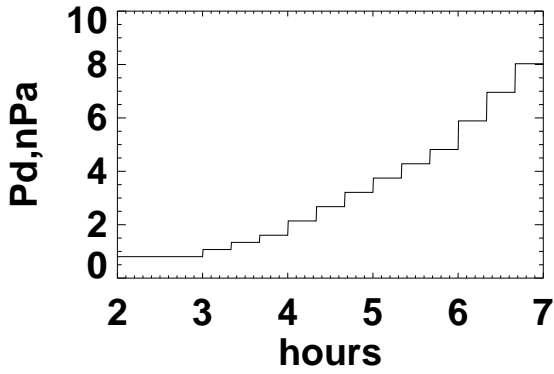
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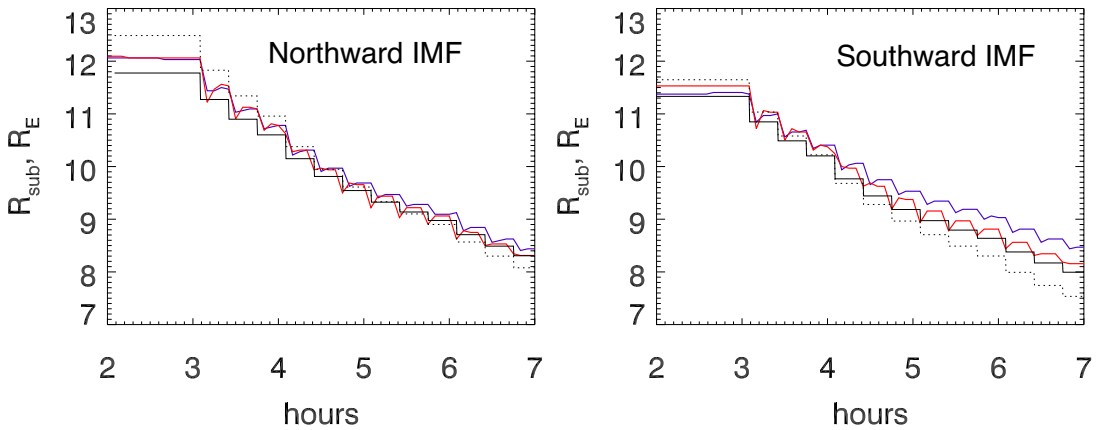
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**Table 1.** Index  $N$  in expression  $R_{SUB} \sim P_d^{-1/N}$  obtained in MHD simulations. Runs: 1 – the non-coupled SWMF (v20140611), 2 – the same non-coupled SWMF with ionospheric conductivity of 10 S instead of 5 S, 3 – the same model with a very large ionospheric conductivity 100 S, 4 – the same model with a dipole tilt  $30^\circ$  in  $xz$  plane, 5 – the SWMF SIMI (inner magnetosphere-ionosphere) v20180525, 6 – the LFM-MIX. The words "Density" and "Velocity" indicate that only density and velocity have been increased, "Northward" and "Southward" mean the IMF orientation.

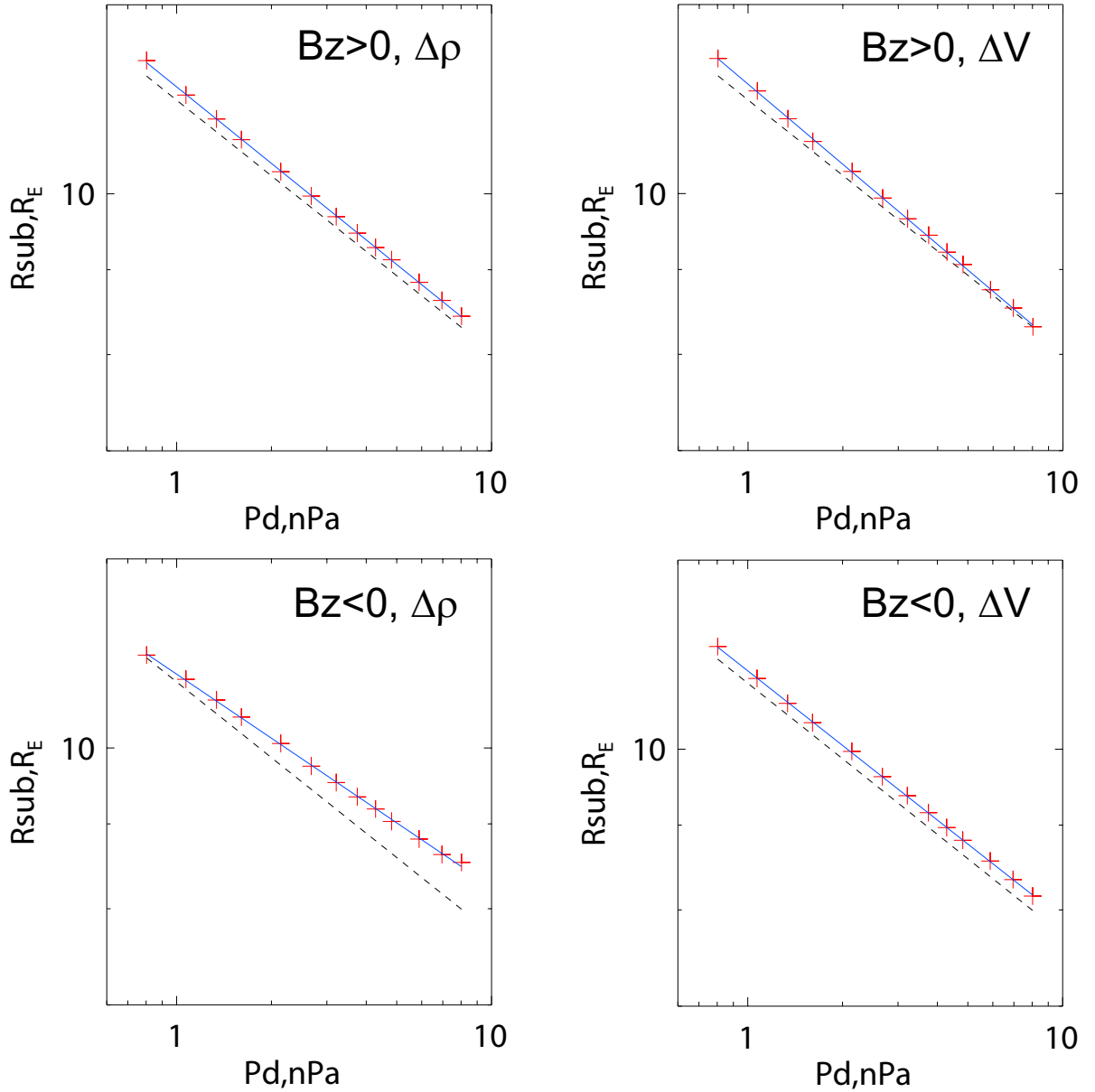
Model	1	2	3	4	5	6
Density/Northward	6.53	6.51	6.31	6.27	5.95	6.40
Velocity/Northward	6.23	6.19	6.24	6.48	5.92	6.30
Density/Southward	7.80	7.82	7.00	7.51	6.32	7.98
Velocity/Southward	6.69	6.16	6.21	6.64	5.83	6.38



**Figure 1.** Input solar wind conditions: dynamic pressure.



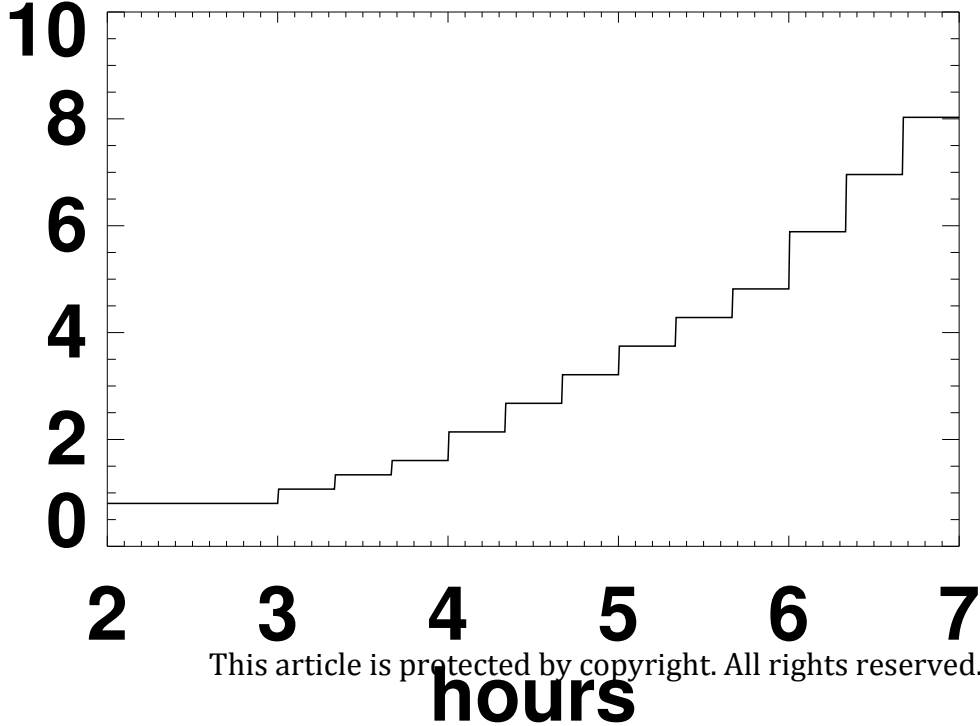
**Figure 2.** Left panel (runs 1-2), right panel (runs 3-4). Blue and red lines correspond to density (runs 1,3) and velocity increases (runs 2,4) in the noncoupled SWMF model. Results of the empirical (Shue et al., 1998) (black solid) and (Lin et al., 2010) (black dotted) models are shown for comparison.



**Figure 3.**  $R_{SUB}$  dependence on  $P_d$  in runs 1-4 of the noncoupled SWMF model. Red crosses correspond to MHD results, and blue lines show linear interpolation for these points. Black dashed lines display the results of the empirical (Shue et al., 1998) model.

Figure 1.

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hours

Figure 2.

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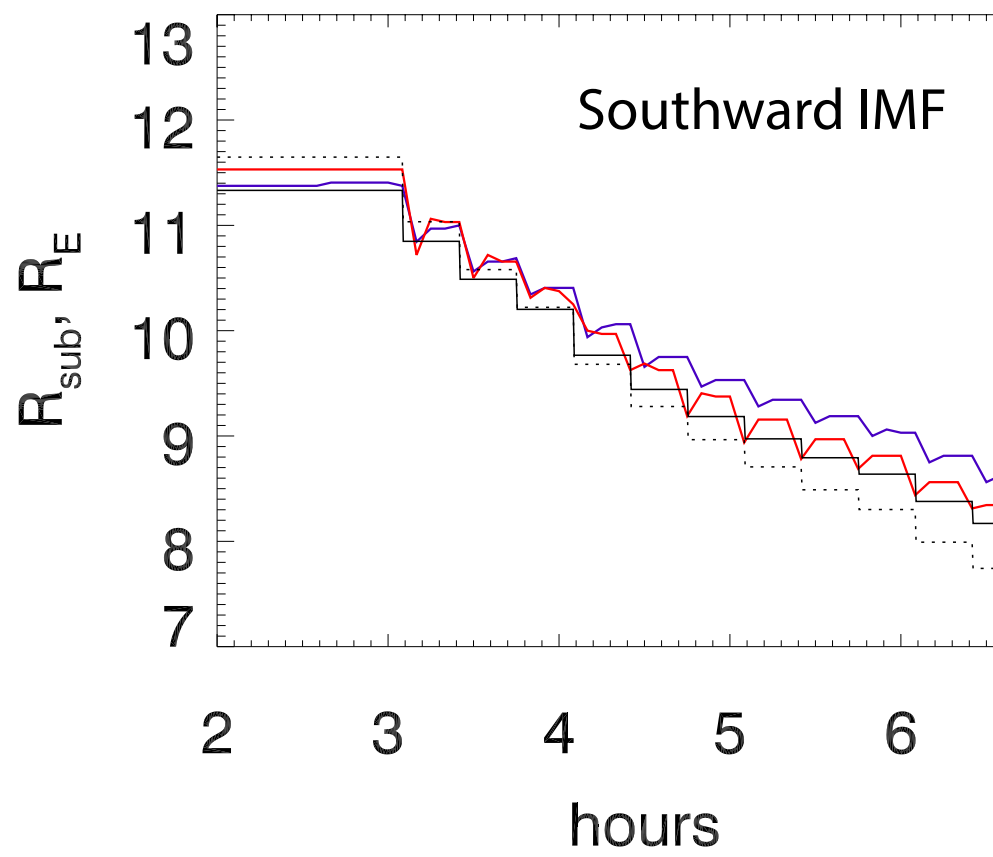
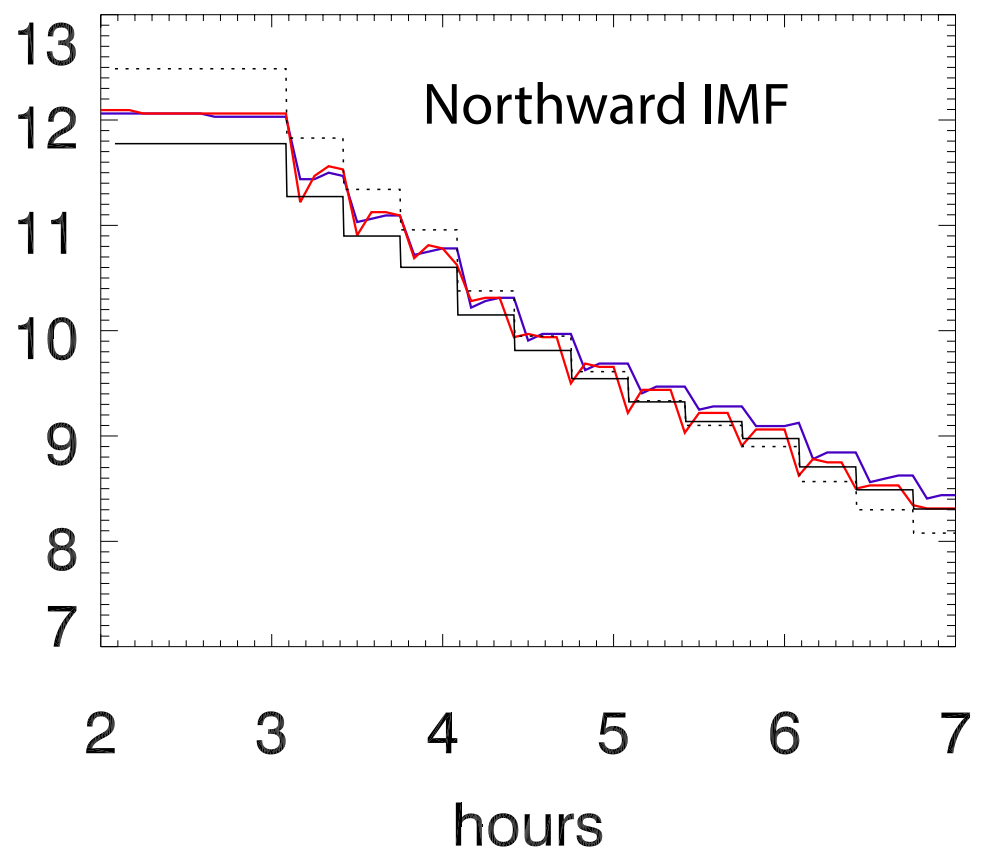
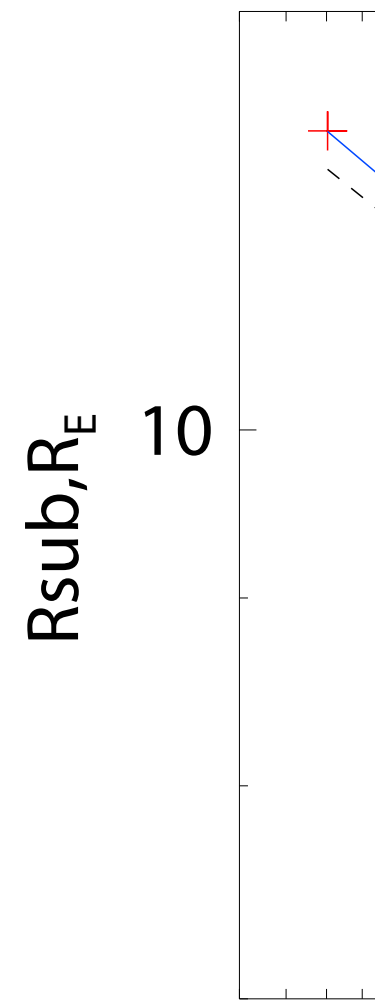
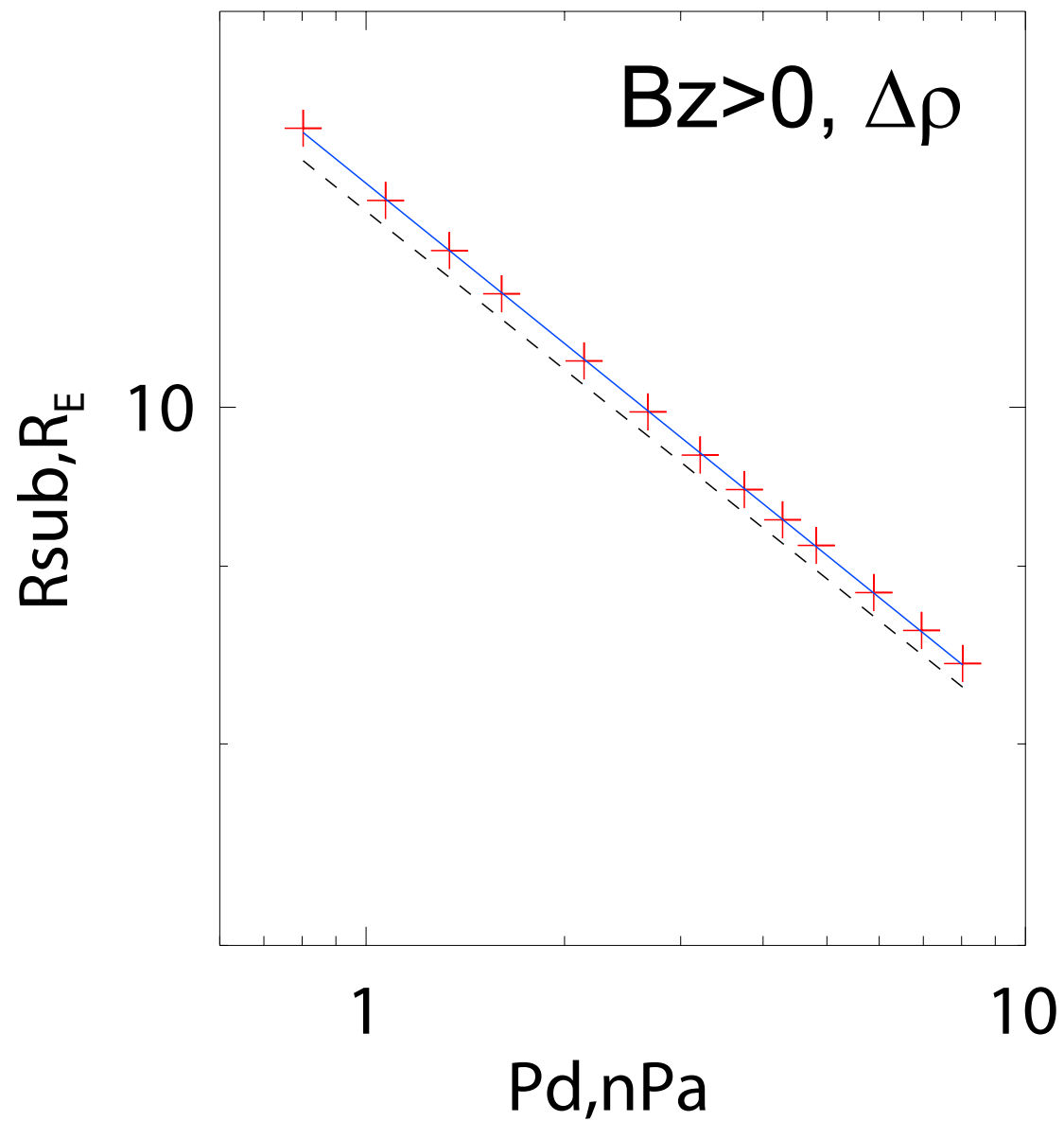


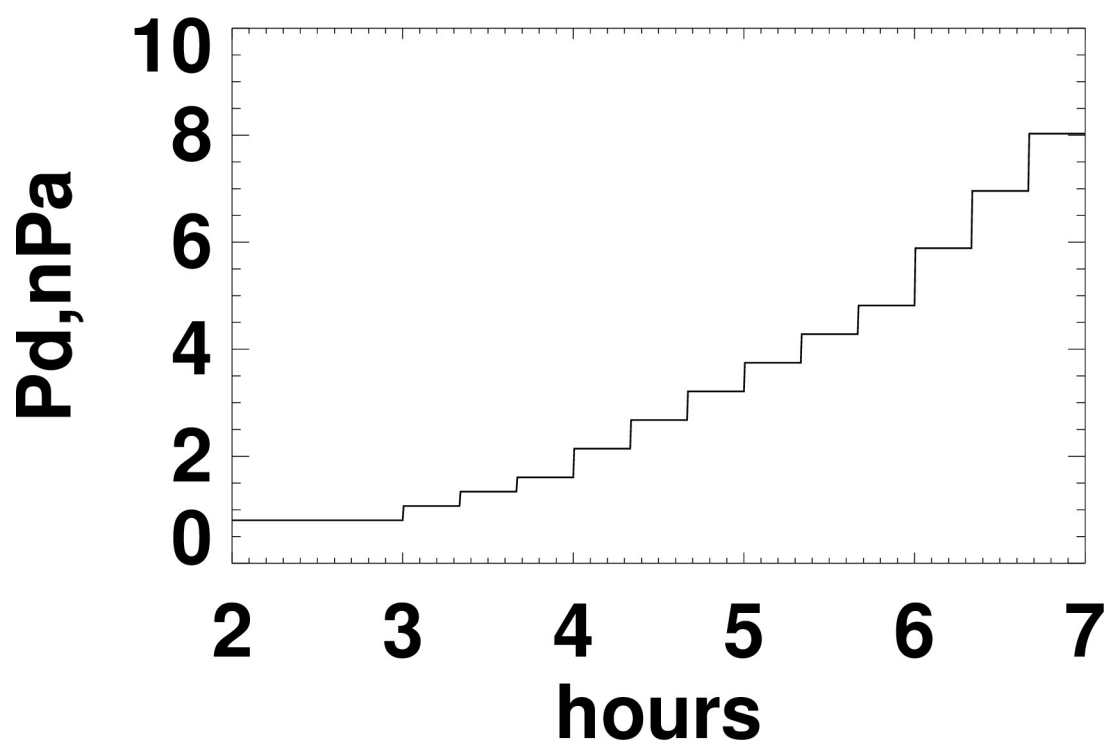
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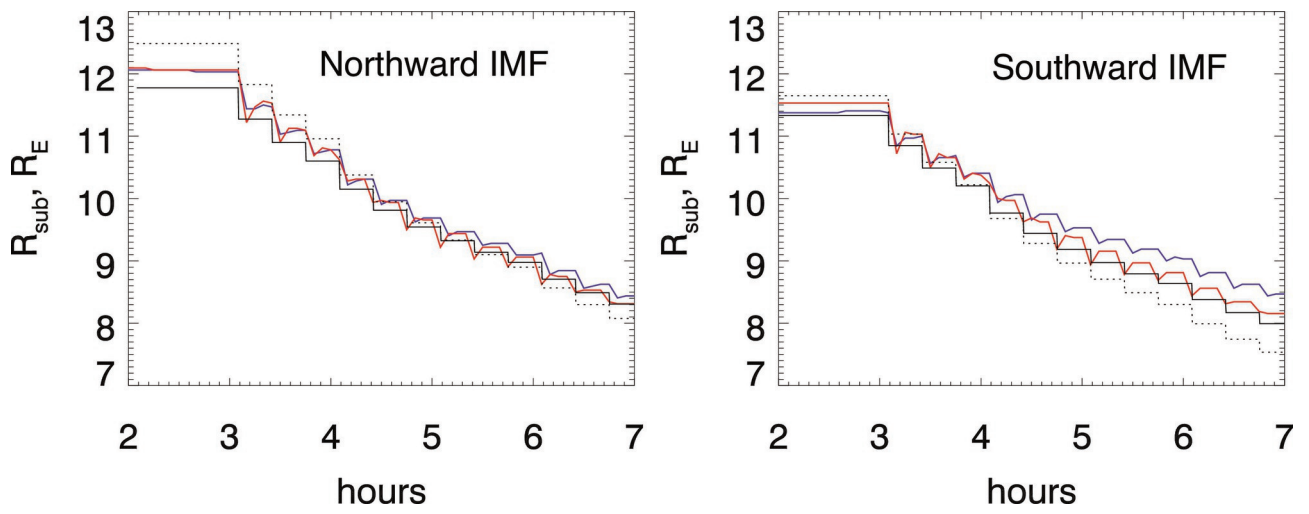


$B_z < 0, \Delta\rho$

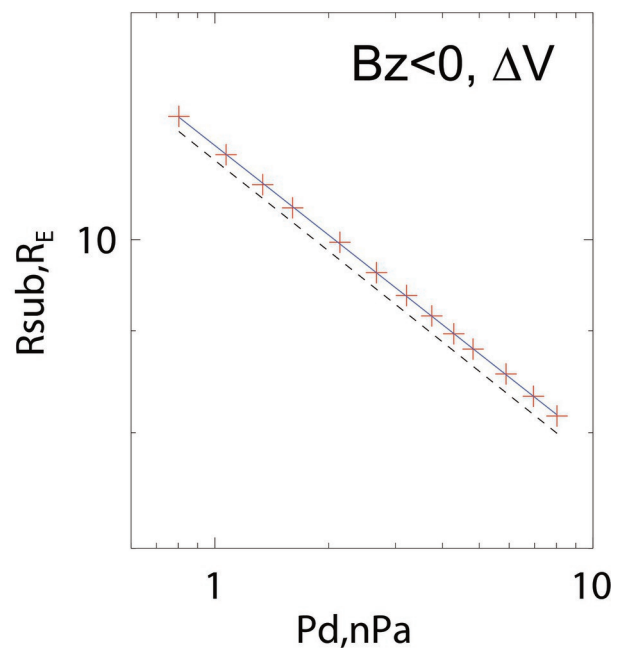
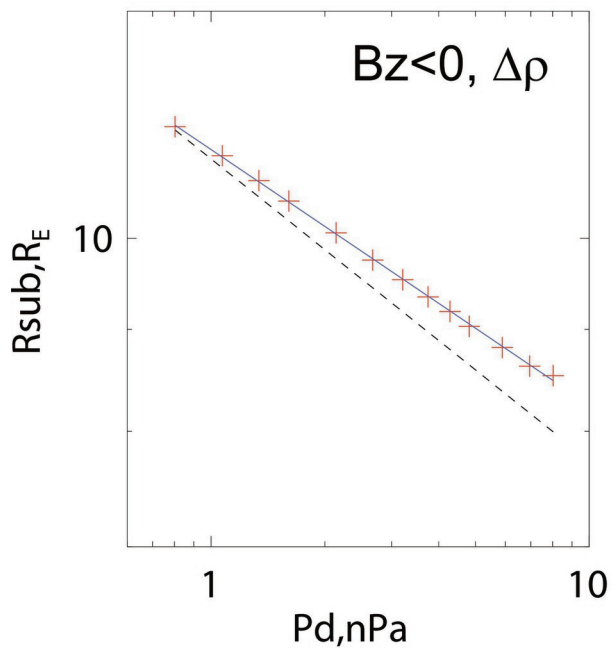
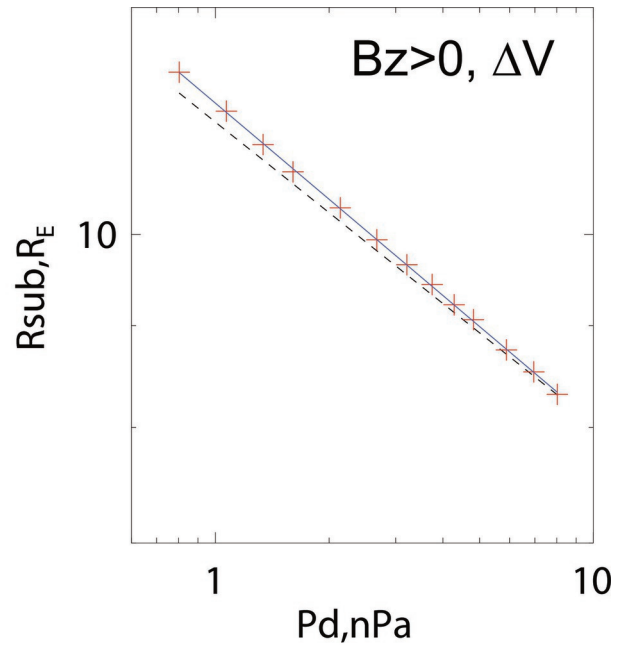
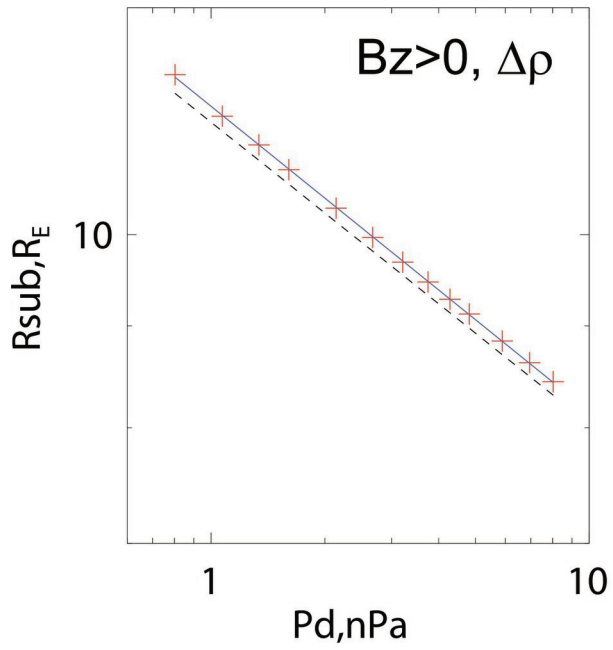




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