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PMSE observations at three different frequencies in northern Europe during summer 1994

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Abstract. Simultaneous observations of polar mesosphere summer echoes (PMSE) have been carried out during summer 1994 in northern Norway using three radars on different frequencies: the ALOMAR SOUSY radar at Andenes on 53.5 MHz, the EISCAT VHF radar at Tromsø on 224 MHz and the MF radar at Tromsø on 2.78 MHz. During the common measuring period in July/August 1994, PMSE could be detected at 224 and 53.5 MHz, and there are strong hints that PMSE also occur at 2.78 MHz. Reliable correlations between hourly backscattered power values indicate that the PMSE structures have zonal extensions of more than 130 km and can be detected at very different scales (half wavelength) between 0.67 (EISCAT VHF radar) and 54 m (MF radar). Using the wind values derived by the MF radar it can be shown that the mesospheric wind field influences the structure of PMSE. The diurnal variation of PMSE is strongly connected with tidal-wind components, whereas spatial differences of PMSE can partly be explained by the mean wind field.

1 Introduction

Since the first detection of polar mesosphere summer echoes (PMSE) by Ecklund and Balsley (1981) with a VHF radar (50 MHz) at Poker Flat, Alaska, further observations have been made using radars in the VHF range, e.g. on 53.5 MHz (Czechowsky *et al.*, 1989) or on 224 MHz (Hoppe *et al.*, 1988), as well as in the UHF range on 933 MHz (Röttger *et al.*, 1990) and on 1.29 GHz (Cho *et al.*, 1992b). PMSE are normally observed during summer (middle of May until middle of August) at northern polar latitudes, whereas at the southern hemisphere no, or only weak PMSE have been found until now (Balsley *et al.*, 1995).

The physical reasons for the PMSE are not yet known in all details. According to the turbulence theory of Hocking (1985), the irregularities necessary for the scattering of VHF radar waves from the mesopause region should be in the viscous subrange of the neutral turbulence spectrum, thus preventing strong radar backscatter. However, large water cluster ions (Kelley *et al.*, 1987), large charged aerosols (Cho *et al.*, 1992a) or small ice particles (Klostermeyer, 1994b) may shift the turbulence-driven spectrum of irregularities in the electron density to markedly shorter scales than those observed in the neutral turbulence itself. As these different particles preferentially occur in the cold summer mesopause region they may play an important role in the PMSE phenomena observed in the VHF range. According to Hoppe *et al.* (1994), ion density structures observed by a rocket instrument can also explain PMSE at 46.8 and 224 MHz. In the UHF range enhanced Thomson scatter by dressed dust particles was suggested by Havnes *et al.* (1990); however, Hagfors (1992) demonstrated that this effect is too small. Klostermeyer (1994a) discussed the effect of small ice particles on Thomson scattering. In the HF and MF range, however, partial reflections should be the dominant scattering mechanism. Comprehensive reviews of PMSE observations and theories can be found in Cho and Kelley (1993) and Röttger (1994).

Simultaneous PMSE observations at different frequencies have been carried out by Kelley *et al.* (1990) during the MAC/SINE campaign with the SOUSY radar at 53.5 MHz near Andenes and the EISCAT VHF radar (224 MHz) at Tromsø (mainly on 15 July 1987, 1155–1320 UT). Kirkwood *et al.* (1995) reported more extensive simultaneous measurements during the NLC-91 campaign with the CUPRI radar (46.9 MHz) at Esrange near Kiruna and EISCAT VHF radar at Tromsø between 24 July and 10 August 1991 (72-h common measurements). In both cases significant connections between PMSE features have been observed in spite of the different frequencies used and distances of about 130 or 200 km between the observation sites.

Table 1. Technical parameters of the radar systems used in summer 1994

| | EISCAT VHF | ALOMAR SOUSY | MF-Tromsø |
|-------------------|-------------------|--|-------------------|
| Coordinates | 69.6°N; 19.2°E | 69.3°N; 16.0°E | 69.6°N; 19.2°E |
| Peak power | 1.5 MW | 150 kW | 50 kW |
| Frequency | 224 MHz | 53.5 MHz | 2.78 kHz |
| Height range | 72–95 km | 77–95 km | 43–136 km |
| Height resolution | 300 m | 150 m | 3 km |
| Time resolution | 2 s | 36 s | 5 min |
| Beam width | 1.7°N–S, 0.6°E–W | 6.5° | |
| Beam direction | Vertical | Vertical N, S, E, W (8° off-zenith) | Vertical |
| Observation time | 25/7/94–10/8/1994 | 23/7/94–22/8/1994 | 25/7/94–11/8/1994 |

In this paper we will report on simultaneous PMSE observations during July and August 1994 with three different radar systems in northern Norway: the ALOMAR SOUSY radar on 53.5 MHz located at Andenes, the EISCAT VHF radar (224 MHz) at Tromsø, as well as the Canadian/Norwegian MF radar (2.78 MHz) at Tromsø. Some important details of these experiments are summarized in Table 1. With the ALOMAR SOUSY radar we have nearly continuous observations during the period between 23 July and 22 August, and with the MF radar between 25 July and 1 August, whereas with the EISCAT VHF radar the measurements are usually restricted to 4–5 h around local midnight between 25 July and 10 August. First results mainly restricted to the PMSE observations with the EISCAT VHF and the ALOMAR SOUSY radar have recently been published by Bremer *et al.* (1996). Here these investigations will be extended by the PMSE data detected with the MF radar.

2 Experimental results

As demonstrated in detail by Bremer *et al.* (1996), during the main part of the PMSE observation time in summer 1994 the solar activity was relatively small, with a solar 10.7-cm radio flux of $F_{10.7} \approx 75$ s.f.u. (solar flux unit: $10^{-22} \text{ W m}^{-2} \text{ Hz}^{-1}$). Only near 14 August was a small enhancement in the solar activity observed ($F_{10.7} = 94$). Also, the geomagnetic activity was relatively undisturbed, only interrupted on 28 July by a very small event ($A_p = 17$) and near 13 and 14 August by a small disturbance ($A_p = 27$). The latter event is connected with enhanced cosmic noise absorption at polar latitudes due to increasing particle precipitation.

In Fig. 1 the signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) of the backscattered power of the ALOMAR SOUSY radar is shown as a function of height and time; a seasonal and diurnal variation is evident. The SNR values decreased during the observation time, and after 20 August almost no PMSE were detected. The geomagnetic disturbance after 13 August could be the reason for the small PMSE recovery between about 13 and 18 August.

The diurnal variation of PMSE in Fig. 1, which is more clearly to be seen in the upper part of Fig. 11, is character-

ized by a pronounced maximum near noon, a secondary maximum near midnight, a very marked minimum in the evening and a small minimum in the morning hours. This diurnal variation is also reflected in the mean SNR profiles shown in Fig. 2 for typical time-intervals during the day. Especially remarkable differences occur between the PMSE maximum near noon and the clearly reduced values in the evening. A very similar diurnal variation of PMSE has also been derived by Williams *et al.* (1995) using EISCAT observations with the VHF Common Programme CP6 during the summers of 1988, 1990 and 1991. In general, PMSE were mainly observed at heights between about 82 and 88 km. From Fig. 1 the height-interval with PMSE is more extended at the beginning of the observation period and markedly decreased at the end. The seasonal trend demonstrates reductions in both the maximum backscattered power and the height-interval with PMSE observations.

The mean SNR profiles of Fig. 2 show a double-peak structure, with maxima near 84 and 86 km. Such double layers are also often observed during individual PMSE events.

2.1 Comparison of ALOMAR SOUSY and EISCAT observations

For all 84 h of simultaneous observations with the EISCAT and ALOMAR SOUSY radar we calculated hourly mean SNR values over a height-interval of 3 km for five heights between 79 and 91 km. In Fig. 3 the correlograms of these data sets are shown for the heights 82, 85 and 88 km, together with the corresponding best-fit lines. The scatter of the hourly values increases with height, resulting in a decreasing correlation coefficient R . The correlation coefficients for all five heights investigated are shown in Fig. 4 (circles connected with solid lines). Using the Fisher F-test, a significant correlation with a reliability level of more than 99% could be found between about 80.5 and 87.5 km taking into consideration the persistence tendency of the hourly SNR values (Taubenheim, 1969). By a correlation analysis between SNR values of the ALOMAR SOUSY radar at a fixed height and EISCAT observations at different heights (Bremer *et al.*, 1996), the maximum correlation has been found for

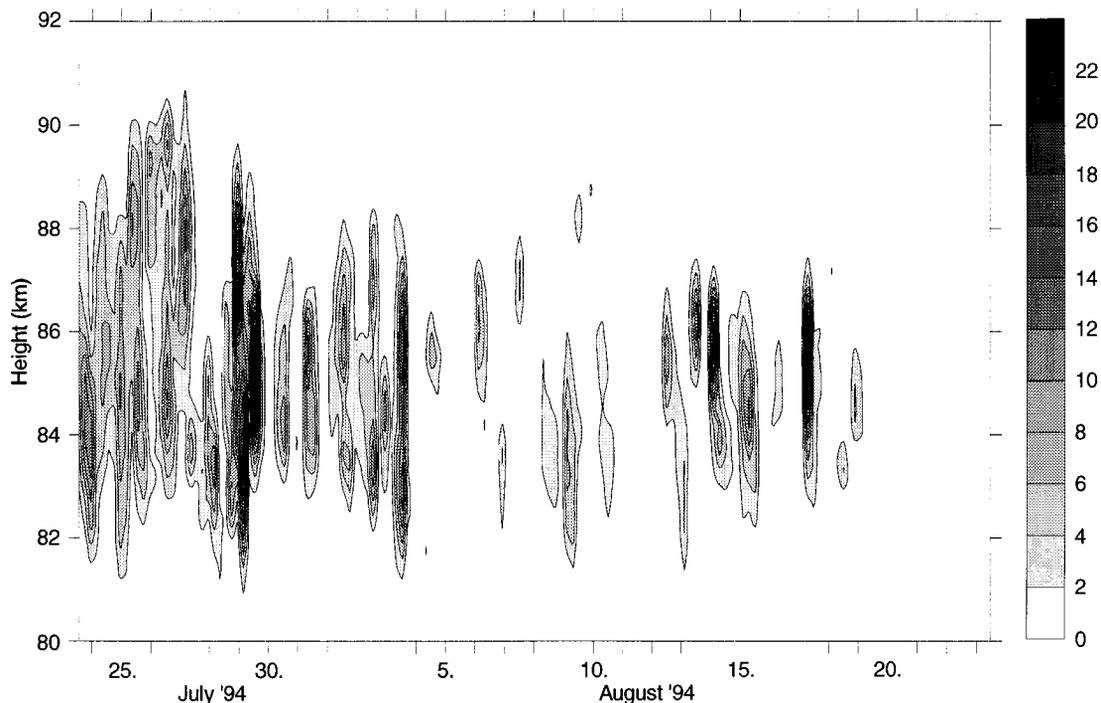


Fig. 1. Mean backscattered echo power measured with the ALOMAR SOUSY radar as a function of height and time

As expected these correlation values are only slightly higher than those of the corresponding values obtained for equal heights.

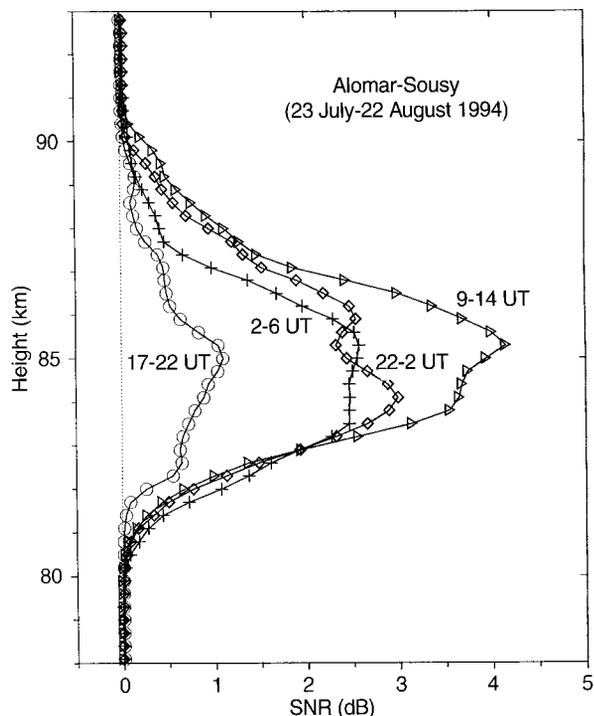


Fig. 2. Mean profiles of the SNR obtained by ALOMAR SOUSY radar observations for different time-intervals during the day

$h(\text{EISCAT}) = h(\text{ALOMAR SOUSY}) + 0.4 \text{ km}$. The corresponding correlation coefficients using hourly SNR values with these slightly different height-intervals are presented in Fig. 4 by crosses connected with dashed lines.

2.2 Comparison of ALOMAR SOUSY with MF-radar observations

Until now it has been very difficult to detect PMSE structures with MF radars. Using the PRE (partial reflection experiment) radar on 2.78 MHz at Tromsø, Hoppe *et al.* (1990) did not find such echoes. Only Vlaskov *et al.* (1995) reported some indirect indications of PMSE-similar features in their MF-radar data at 2.7 MHz near Murmansk. In this paper the first more directly detected PMSE structures will be presented using the observations made by the upgraded (1993) Canadian real-time wind system operating with the Tromsø MF-radar.

In Fig. 5 hourly SNR profiles of the ALOMAR SOUSY data (solid lines) are compared with corresponding profiles of the MF radar (circles connected with dotted lines) for the period between 20 UT on 28 July and 14 UT on 29 July 1994. There are some general differences between both series of profiles. Whereas the ALOMAR SOUSY radar detects PMSE only in the known height-interval between about 80 and 90 km, the SNR profiles of the MF-radar are more extended. This behaviour is caused on the one hand by the reduced height resolution of the MF-radar (3 km), but on the other hand by the fact that the SNR data consists of two components: the normal non-PMSE and a possibly PMSE-caused part. The former is known to be considerable (Manson and Meek, 1989). In principle it is impossible to separate exactly both these components. But it seems that some peaks in

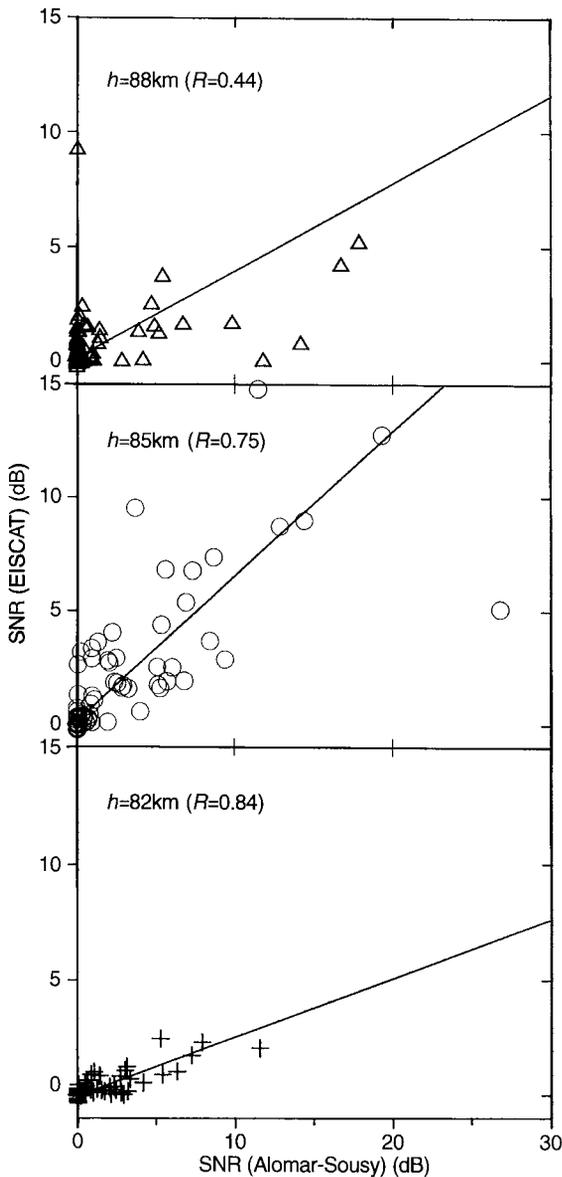


Fig. 3. Correlograms of hourly SNR values derived from EISCAT and ALOMAR SOUSY observations for different heights together with the best-fit lines

the MF profiles are connected with the PMSE structures deduced from the VHF radar. Increases in MF-radar SNR near 85 km correspond well to those enhancements in ALOMAR SOUSY observations (centred on 1–2 and 12–13 UT). Sometimes the peaks in MF and VHF profiles appear at the same height (e.g. 22–24 and 7–9 UT) but more often the MF peaks seem to occur at lower heights than in the VHF profiles (0–6 and 9–14 UT). In the VHF and UHF range PMSE are often observed with extremely small spectra (Röttger *et al.*, 1988, 1990). In the MF measurements, however, spectra are not calculated. Therefore, an identification of PMSE by their spectral form is impossible in the MF range.

In Fig. 6 a correlogram is shown of MF and VHF mean values (time-interval: 1 h, height-interval: 3 km) at an

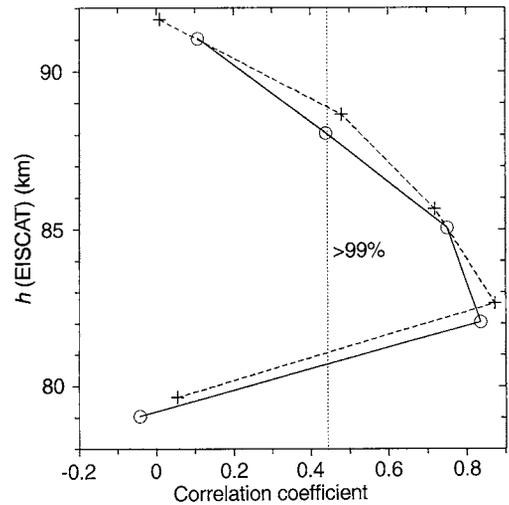


Fig. 4. Correlation between hourly SNR values obtained by EISCAT and ALOMAR SOUSY observations as a function of height using SNR values at equal heights (solid lines) and at different heights (dashed line: $h(\text{EISCAT}) = h(\text{ALOMAR SOUSY}) + 0.4 \text{ km}$)

altitude of $h = 82 \text{ km}$, using all 456 data points (19 days) which are available from simultaneous observations. Comparing the results of Figs. 3 and 6, the scatter between the MF and ALOMAR SOUSY data is markedly more extended than between EISCAT and ALOMAR SOUSY values. The main reason for this enhanced scatter should be the non-PMSE-caused part in the SNR values of the MF radar (but note that MF noise levels can change drastically, and this also effects the SNR). In Fig. 7 the correlation coefficients using MF and ALOMAR SOUSY data at the same heights are plotted against heights (circles connected with solid lines). Comparing these data with the corresponding results between ALOMAR SOUSY and EISCAT data in Fig. 4, the correlation between ALOMAR SOUSY and MF data is markedly weaker. Nevertheless, this correlation is significant between 80 and 87 km due to the large number of data included in the analysis. Here the same statistical-significance test has been carried out as in Fig. 4.

In Fig. 8 the ALOMAR SOUSY data at different heights are correlated with the MF data at a constant height ($h = 82 \text{ km}$). The maximum correlation is obtained for $h(\text{ALOMAR SOUSY}) = 84.3 \text{ km}$. We found a corresponding result if we used MF data at 85 km. Here we obtained a maximum correlation with ALOMAR SOUSY data at $h = 87.3 \text{ km}$. Using this height difference of 2.3 km, the dashed curve in Fig. 7 was derived by a correlation between SNR values of ALOMAR SOUSY radar at a height $h + 2.3 \text{ km}$ with MF values at height h . The correlation coefficients represented by the dashed curve are markedly higher than those of the solid curve, thus confirming the result of Fig. 8, that the SNR values of the ALOMAR SOUSY radar correlate best with MF-radar data if a height difference of 2.3 km between both data sets is introduced.

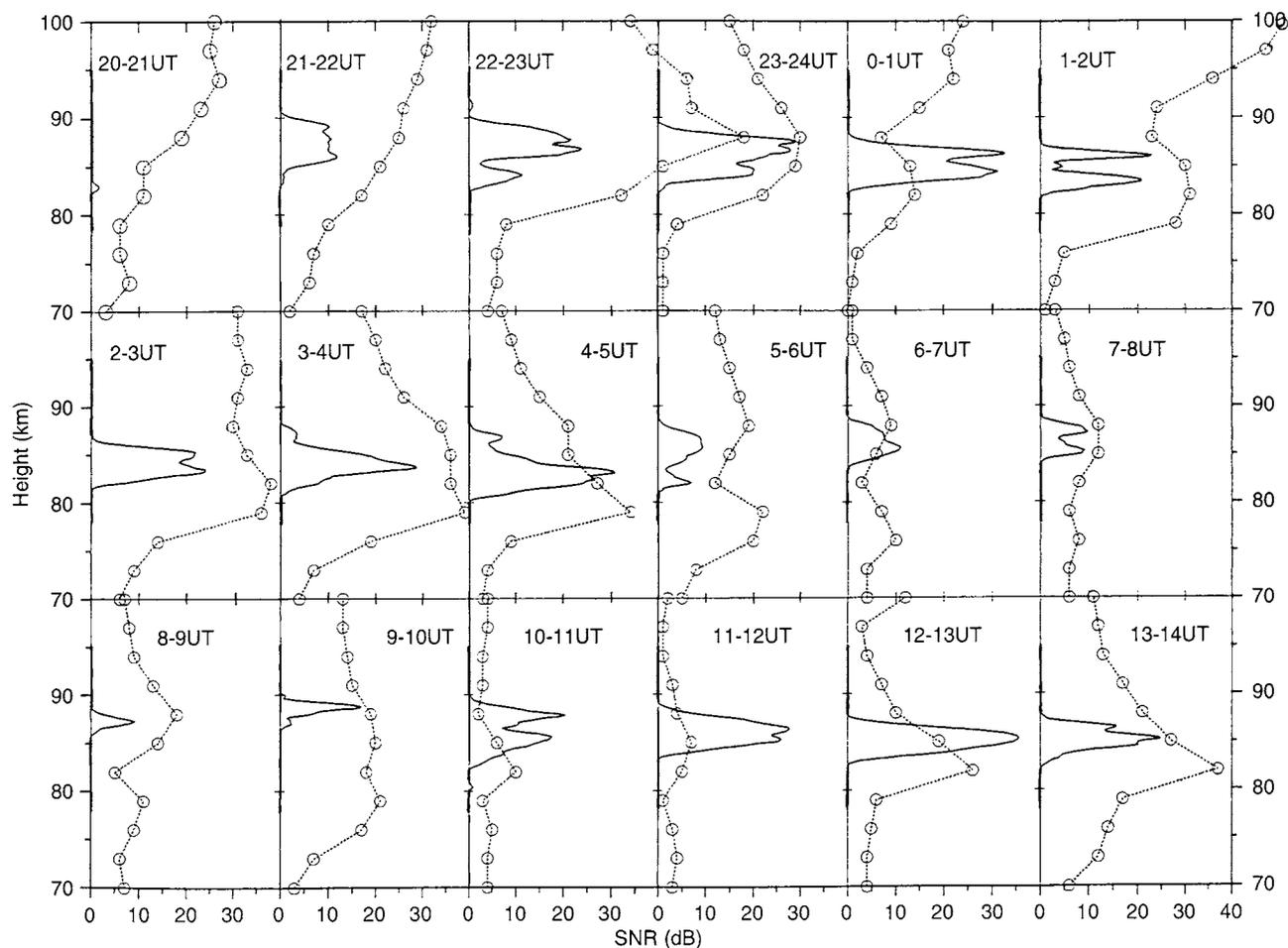


Fig. 5. Mean hourly SNR profiles deduced from ALOMAR SOUSY (solid lines) and MF-radar observations (dotted lines) on 28–29 July 1994

2.3 Comparison of EISCAT VHF with MF-radar observations

For 84 mean SNR values (time-interval: 1 h, height-interval: 3 km) of EISCAT VHF and corresponding MF values a correlation analysis has been carried out in a similar way as described in Sects. 2.1 and 2.2. In Fig. 9 the correlation coefficients are shown against height using data at the same heights (solid curve) as well as data with a height difference $h(\text{EISCAT}) - h(\text{MF}) = 2.5$ km (dashed curve). Whereas the correlation coefficients for equal heights are not reliable with more than 99%, the correlation between data with a height difference of 2.5 km is highly reliable, with more than 99% significance between 81 and 86 km.

The height difference of 2.5 km has been derived by the correlation analysis between the MF data at a fixed height and SNR data of EISCAT observations at different heights. In Fig. 10 the result of this analysis is shown for the fixed MF height $h(\text{MF}) = 82$ km with a maximum correlation at $h(\text{EISCAT}) = 85.6$ km, thus resulting in a height difference $\Delta h = 3.6$ km. Using other fixed MF heights, however, we obtained smaller differences [$h(\text{MF}) = 79$ km: $\Delta h = 2.9$ km; $h(\text{MF}) = 85$ m: $\Delta h = 0.9$ km]. These different results may be caused by the smaller number of hourly mean values available in this analysis ($N = 84$) in contrast to the same analysis between

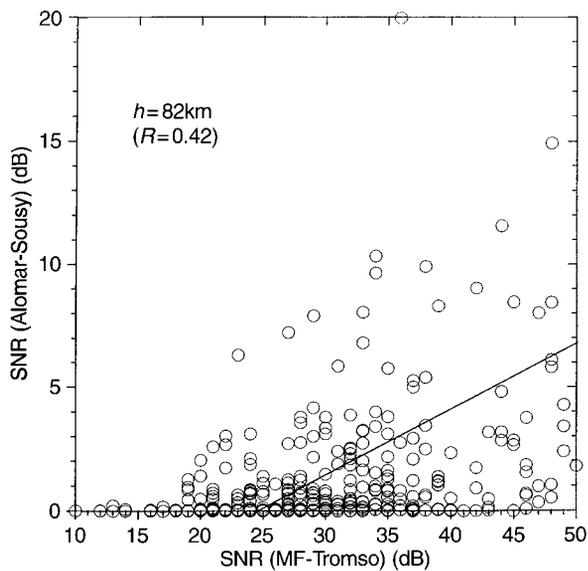


Fig. 6. Correlogram of hourly SNR values derived from ALOMAR SOUSY and MF-radar observations at an altitude of 82 km together with the best-fit line

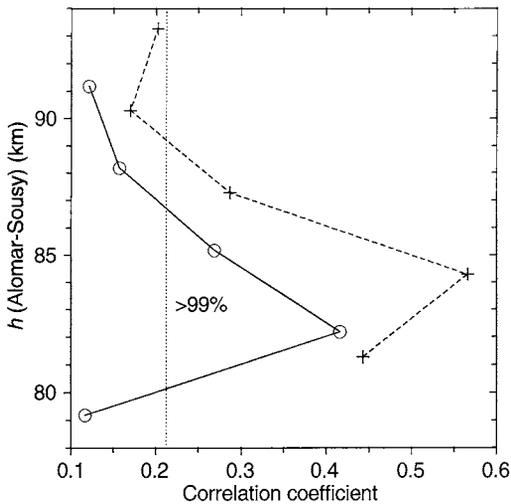


Fig. 7. Correlation between hourly SNR values obtained by ALOMAR SOUSY and MF-radar observations as a function of height using SNR values at equal heights (*solid line*) and at different heights (*dashed line*: $h(\text{ALOMAR SOUSY}) = h(\text{MF}) + 2.3 \text{ km}$)

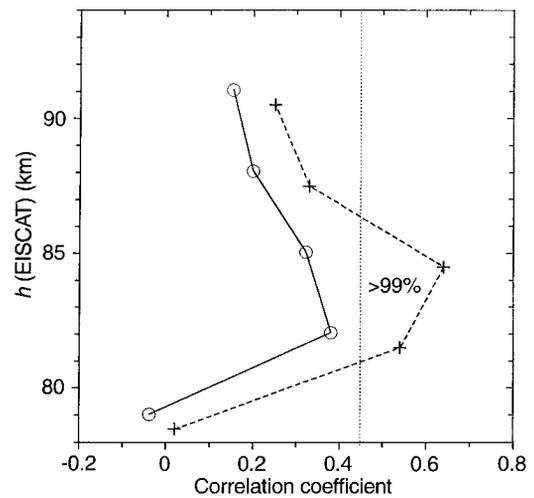


Fig. 9. Correlation between hourly SNR values deduced from EISCAT VHF and MF-radar observations as a function of height using SNR values at equal heights (*solid line*) and at different heights (*dashed line*: $h(\text{EISCAT}) = h(\text{MF}) + 2.5 \text{ km}$)

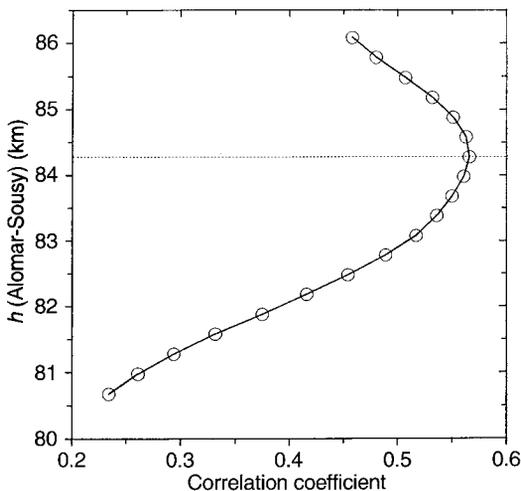


Fig. 8. Correlation between hourly SNR values measured with the ALOMAR SOUSY radar at different heights and data of the MF radar at a constant height ($h = 82 \text{ km}$)

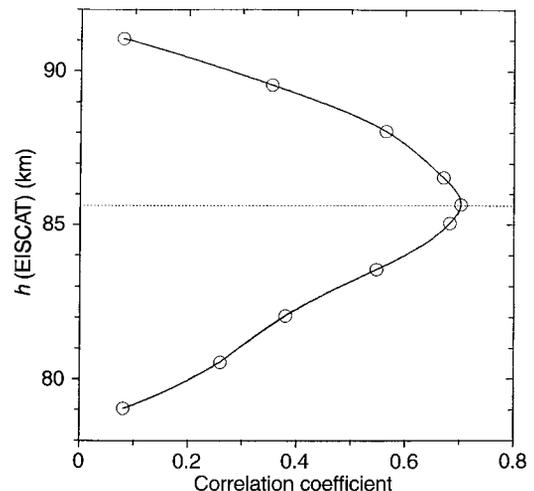


Fig. 10. Correlation between hourly SNR values observed with the EISCAT radar at different heights and the data of the MF radar at a constant height ($h = 82 \text{ km}$)

ALOMAR SOUSY and MF radar data ($N = 456$) in Sect. 2.2. We believe that the mean value of $\Delta h = 2.5 \text{ km}$ is the best approximation for the mean height difference of maximum correlation between SNR values detected with the co-located EISCAT VHF and MF radar.

3 Discussion

3.1 Heights of PMSE

During summer 1994 simultaneous PMSE observations have been carried out with the co-located EISCAT VHF radar (224 MHz) and the Canadian/Norwegian MF radar (2.78 MHz) at Tromsø, as well as with the ALOMAR

SOUSY radar (53.5 MHz) at Andenes. As shown above (Sects. 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3) the PMSE structures observed with these three different radars show significant correlation if hourly mean values of the backscattered power are used. Best correlation has been found between EISCAT VHF and ALOMAR SOUSY observations in spite of the spatial difference of 130 km between both measuring places. Also, the height difference where maximum correlation was detected [$h(\text{EISCAT}) - h(\text{ALOMAR SOUSY}) = 0.4 \text{ km}$] is very small. Therefore, it can be stated that the scales which cause strong radar backscatter for both sets of equipment (half wavelength = 0.67 m for EISCAT and 2.8 m for ALOMAR SOUSY) occur during PMSE conditions at nearly the same height (assuming a thin, non-tilted scattering layer). An essential reason for the good

correlation between the PMSE observations by these two VHF radars is that during summertime both radars seldom detect the (weaker) non-PMSE structures. Only the EISCAT VHF radar is slightly affected by some incoherent-scatter echoes at the upper part of the PMSE region (Hoppe *et al.*, 1988; Bremer *et al.*, 1996). The SNR values of the MF radar, however, are strongly influenced by non-PMSE echoes. This fact is well known and is the basis of “partial-reflection” measurements during the whole year for heights above 60 or 70 km up to the bottom of the E layer (Manson and Meek, 1989). In spite of this ubiquitous non-PMSE part, we obtained a statistically significant correlation between MF observations and ALOMAR SOUSY, as well as EISCAT data. Maximum correlation was found, however, if we used SNR values of the MF radar at lower heights than at the VHF radars. The height differences are 2.3 km for the ALOMAR SOUSY data and about 2.5 km for EISCAT data. The reason that the PMSE echoes were apparently detected by the MF radar at lower heights is not yet clear. It could be that the PMSE scales in the MF range (half wavelength = 54 m) are more pronounced at lower heights than PMSE at shorter scales. There are for instance some indications of partially reflected echoes at very low altitudes detected by a dynasonde in summer 1995 at Tromsø, near or even below 80-km altitude (private communication with M. Rietveld, 1995). A detailed comparison of these data with PMSE observations of the EISCAT VHF radar is, however, not yet available.

Comments on height calibration are relevant here. For the EISCAT and ALOMAR SOUSY radars the time-delays in the equipment (mainly filters of the receiver and antenna feed lines) were carefully measured and taken into account in the detected echo heights. The EISCAT VHF radar was also compared with the EISCAT UHF system using backscattered echoes from a satellite (private communication by M. Rietveld, 1996). The agreement between heights observed by both EISCAT radars was better than 100 m. Therefore, we believe that the accuracy of both the ALOMAR SOUSY and the EISCAT VHF radars is in the order of 100 m. The MF Tromsø receiving system is virtually identical to that at Saskatoon, the height calibration of which was the subject of exhaustive study during 1993–1994. As Phillips *et al.* (1994) show, a combination of laboratory measurements and detection from a high-altitude balloon was used. With this calibration the preferred height for the OI (558-nm) emission layer, following wind comparisons with the radar and FPI (Fabry-Perot interferometer) systems, was 97 km, which is the generally preferred height for this layer. The same calibration then, was applied to the Tromsø MF radar. The differences between heights of the PMSE found by the three radar systems are therefore interesting and certainly worthy of further assessment. For example, the electronic components that differ between Tromsø and Saskatoon (the transmitter and transmission lines) could contribute approximately 1 km in the right direction, but probably not 2.5 km. Detailed comparisons of wind profiles deduced from the ALOMAR SOUSY and MF radar are in preparation, and these should help to resolve any remaining discrepancy. Our present conclusion is that up to 2.5 km

a real difference exists between heights of PMSE detected by the MF radar (lower height) and the ALOMAR SOUSY/EISCAT radars. On the other hand, if the PMSE layers were at a constant height over the several weeks, a height error of up to ± 1.5 km would be possible, because the “calibrated MF height” refers to the centre of a 3-km-range resolution bin.

3.2 Diurnal variation of PMSE and tides

Hints of a pronounced diurnal variation of PMSE were found by Hoppe *et al.* (1988) and Czechowsky *et al.* (1989). These authors, as well as Ruster (1995), Cho and Morley (1995) and Williams *et al.* (1995), suggest an influence of atmospheric tides on the variation of the PMSE. Therefore, in the upper part of Fig. 11 the mean diurnal variation of SNR derived from the ALOMAR SOUSY observations between 23 July and 22 August 1994 is shown for an altitude of 85 km, whereas in the lower part of this figure the mean zonal wind presented is derived from MF-radar measurements taken between 17 July and 11 August 1994 (the MF transmitter failed on 12 August), also for a height of 85 km. Clearly, a strongly negative correlation between both data sets exists. The mean SNR as well as the mean zonal wind of Fig. 11 is dominated by a diurnal and a semidiurnal variation, as documented by the results of a harmonic analysis shown in Table 2. As expected, marked diurnal and semidiurnal components were found in both parameters. A phase shift of 180° is observed between the zonal components of the diurnal and semidiurnal tides and the respective backscattered power. A physical explanation of the negative correlation

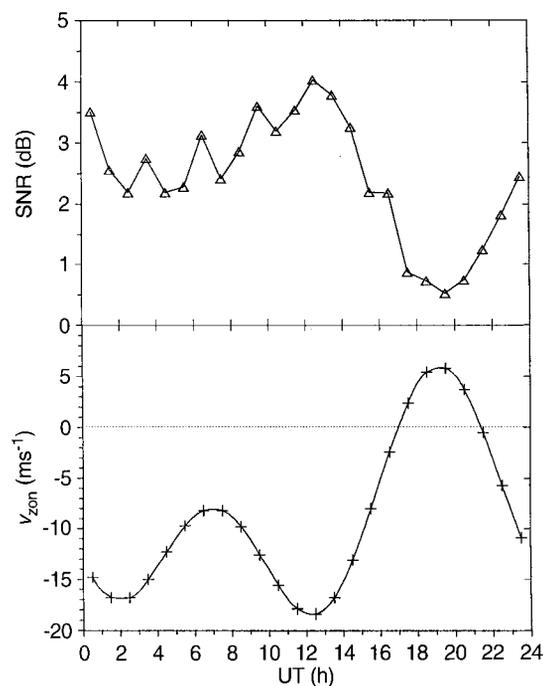


Fig. 11. Comparison of the mean diurnal variation of SNR obtained by ALOMAR SOUSY measurements with the zonal wind deduced from MF-radar observations at 85-km altitude

Table 2. Diurnal and semidiurnal tidal components of the mean SNR after ALOMAR SOUSY and zonal-wind data from MF-radar observations at an altitude of 85 km shown in Fig. 11

| | A_0 | A_{24} | φ_{24} | A_{12} | φ_{12} |
|------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|----------------|------------------------|----------------|
| SNR | 2.42 dB | 1.01 dB | 10.0 LMT | 0.87 dB | 1.8 LMT |
| v_{zon} | -9.0 m s^{-1} | 7.0 m s^{-1} | 20.5 LMT | 8.0 m s^{-1} | 8.1 LMT |

can be given if we assume that the phase of the tidal zonal wind components has the same phase as the tidal temperature perturbances. According to a comprehensive numerical modelling of tides by Aso (1993), this is at least true for the diurnal tidal mode. Assuming that this relation is also valid for the semidiurnal tide, we find maximum PMSE during times of minimum temperature and vice versa. As discussed in Sect. 1 of this paper, low temperatures in the mesopause region are favourable conditions for large water cluster ions, large charged aerosols and small ice particles which may support PMSE backscatter. From the results presented here, negative correlation between the backscattered power and the tidal components of the zonal wind [or temperature according to Aso (1993)] supports the assumption that these particles are mainly responsible for production of PMSE. It is, however, difficult to decide which type of particle is most important for the PMSE phenomena. If water cluster ions dominate then a phase shift between backscattered power and temperature near 180° is to be expected, due to the fast water-cluster forming processes.

If, however, ice particles or charged aerosols are more dominating, then an additional time-delay $\Delta\varphi$ is expected, resulting in a total phase shift of $180^\circ + \Delta\varphi$. Cho and Morley (1995) found from a cross-spectral analysis of PMSE and vertical-wind observations with the Poker Flat radar during 1979 and 1985 an additional delay $\Delta\varphi = 10^\circ\text{--}20^\circ$ for tidal components. This result is very close to the results presented here. Ruster (1995) found in his investigations of PMSE observations in June 1987 at Andenes a phase-delay of about 180° between the northward-directed radial velocity and the backscattered power. For the interpretation of this observation a phase shift $\Delta\varphi \approx 90^\circ$ is necessary between the wave-induced minimum temperature and the maximum radar echo intensity. According to Jensen and Thomas (1994), temperature oscillations lead to variations in ice-crystal radii, which are phase shifted by about 90° . In principle all three results agree, only the additional phase-delay is different. Further investigations are necessary to solve this question.

Another possible explanation of the results presented in Fig. 11 considers the meridional wind. The diurnal variation for the meridional wind component (not shown) has oscillations which are of similar magnitude to the zonal but lead it by about 3 h (as expected for the semidiurnal tide). The advection of colder/warmer air from the north/south also modifies the PMSE structures. The phase-lag for the PMSE response is consistent with this; viz. the meridional wind changes from northwards to southwards at about the time when the zonal wind maximizes eastwards, and at this time the air over the radar is that which has been transported from the furthest north.

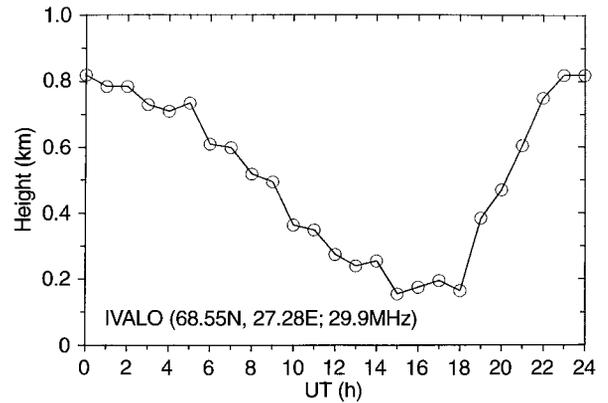


Fig. 12. Mean diurnal variation of cosmic noise absorption observed at the Finnish station Ivalo during July/August 1994 (from Ionospheric Absorption Data, Geophysical Observatory Sodankylä)

3.3 PMSE and precipitating particles

Besides the tidal components of the mesospheric wind field, the diurnal variation of the ionization near the mesopause region could influence the diurnal variation of PMSE. Therefore, in Fig. 12 the mean monthly variation of cosmic noise absorption (CNA) observed at the Finnish stations Ivalo during July/August 1994 is presented. The CNA of this station qualitatively describes the variation of ionization in the polar D region. Comparing the CNA variation with the mean SNR variation (upper part of Fig. 11), it can be seen that nearly no similarities exist. Only the clear ionization minimum in the evening could partly be connected with the evening SNR minimum. However, the CNA minimum seems to be about 3 h earlier than the corresponding minimum in the PMSE observations. Therefore, the influence of the diurnal variation of ionization should be only a second-order effect. Day-to-day variability of PMSE, however, may be modulated by ionization effects due to geomagnetic disturbances. As mentioned, the small recovery of SNR in connection with the small geomagnetic disturbance near 13–14 August 1994 (see Fig. 2) may be an example.

3.4 PMSE and mean mesospheric wind field

PMSE structures should be influenced by tidal waves, as already demonstrated, by gravity waves (e.g. Williams *et al.*, 1989; Hall, 1990; Bremer *et al.*, 1995), but also by the mean mesospheric wind field (Kelley *et al.*, 1990; Bremer *et al.*, 1996). The latter authors used observations with the EISCAT VHF radar at Tromsø and the SOUSY radar (Kelley *et al.*, 1990) or the ALOMAR SOUSY radar (Bremer *et al.*, 1996) at Andenes. In both cases some signatures have been found that the PMSE structures are partly transported by the mean wind field. This feature can also be demonstrated if we use observations made with the east and west beams of the ALOMAR SOUSY radar. With an off-zenith angle of 8° of the oblique beams (see Table 1), the mean radar volumes at 85-km altitude

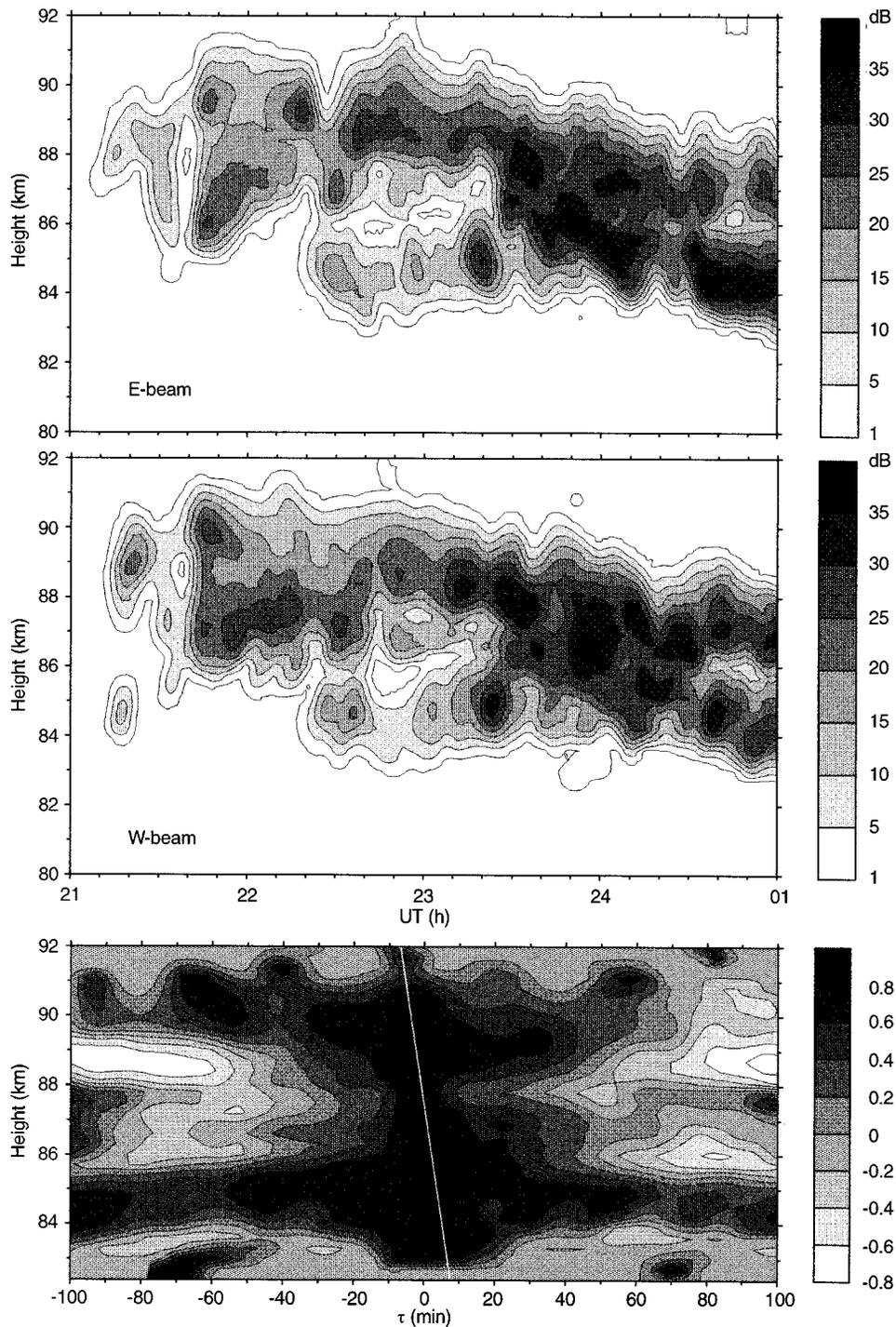


Fig. 13. PMSE event observed with the oblique E and W beams of the ALOMAR SOUSY radar on 28–29 July 1994 (*upper and middle part*) and cross-correlation function between $SNR(t)$ of the E beam and $SNR(t + \tau)$ of the W beam as a function of height and time-delay τ (*lower part*). The *white line* approximately connects areas with maximum correlation

are spaced by about 24 km. In the upper part of Fig. 13 the PMSE event on 28–29 July 1994 is presented for both beams, whereas in the lower part the results of a cross-correlation analysis between both observations are presented as a function of height and time-delay τ . The dark areas with a correlation coefficient greater than 0.8 are connected by a white line. Below about 86 km maximum correlation has been observed with a positive time-delay τ and above this height with a negative delay. These

different time-delays are caused by the zonal mean wind as shown by the wind profile in Fig. 14 (the meridional winds are very small in comparison). This profile has been derived from a multiple regression analysis of hourly wind values measured between 27 and 29 July 1994 by the MF radar at Tromsø, but it is restricted to the time-interval between 21 and 01 UT. The westward-directed wind below 86 km causes positive τ , and the eastward-directed winds above 86 km negative τ values. However, the

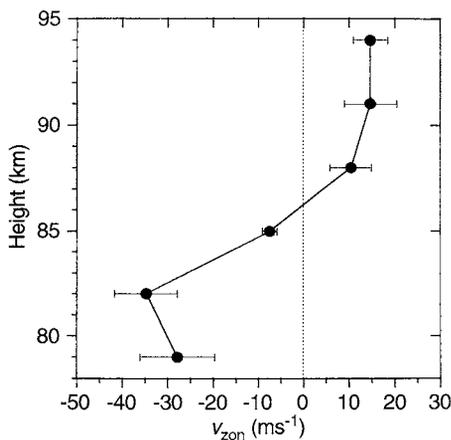


Fig. 14. Height profile of mean zonal wind deduced from MF-radar measurements carried out between 27 and 29 July 1994 between 21 and 01 UT

observed time-delays (Fig. 13) agree only qualitatively with the expected delays calculated from the MF wind profile. Wind speeds required to produce the cross-correlation analysis values are about a factor of 2 larger than those in Fig. 14. The reason for this discrepancy is not known at this time. Kelley *et al.* (1990) speculate that the PMSE structures are not carried by winds but might be associated with a wave phase. If we assume a saturated wave with a phase speed equal to the wind speed then the velocity along the Tromsø-Andoya baseline (nearly east-west) should be twice the zonal wind speed for a 45° propagation angle. This angle is supported by MF-radar observations with nearly equal zonal-meridional winds.

3.5 Previous wind comparisons

It must be noted that extensive system comparisons have been carried out (1987–1989) between Tromsø MF radar and rocket, SOUSY radar and EISCAT (Manson *et al.*, 1992). In this earlier MF system, the MF wind magnitudes were found to be 35% reduced from other systems (directions and tidal phases were consistent between systems). At that time it was considered that low SNR problems due to minimal receiving antennas and amount of signal integration were affecting the analysis used to obtain wind vectors. Since that time, and including the observations discussed here, better antennas and improved receivers and analysis have brought the system quality closer to that at Saskatoon. This change is expected to have led to an increase in the estimated wind speeds. No significant difference in speeds was found in the Saskatoon FPI/MF-radar wind comparisons mentioned in Sect. 3a (Phillips *et al.*, 1994). The future ALOMAR SOUSY/Tromsø MF-radar wind comparisons will undoubtedly help to resolve this discrepancy. Other factors affecting the speed obtained from the PMSE structures include their actual orientation and advection direction, and temporal changes in the structures.

4 Conclusions

Using simultaneous observations of polar mesosphere summer echoes with three different radars in northern Norway during summer 1994, the following results were obtained:

- PMSE have been observed at 224 and 53.5 MHz. Also, at 2.78 MHz, we found strong indications of PMSE which are superposed, however, by the normal non-PMSE-caused partial reflections. The backscattered power of all three observations are significantly correlated.
- The zonal extent of PMSE is more than 130 km.
- The detailed structure of PMSE is markedly modulated by waves (tidal and gravity), and PMSE structures are partly transported by the mean wind field.

Complex observations with different methods at nearly the same location, as well as observations with comparable equipment at different places are planned in future, in order to obtain more detailed information about the polar mesopause region in summer. This will lead to a better understanding of the structure and dynamic of this region in general and of the polar mesosphere summer echoes in particular.

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