

Statistical properties and propagation characteristics of unusual high-frequency VLF emissions observed at Kannuslehto, Finland

Claudia MARTINEZ-CALDERON¹, J. K. Manninen², J. T. Manninen², and T. Turunen²

¹ISEE, Nagoya University; ²SGO, University of Oulu

March 17, 2021

44th Physics of Auroral Phenomena Seminar

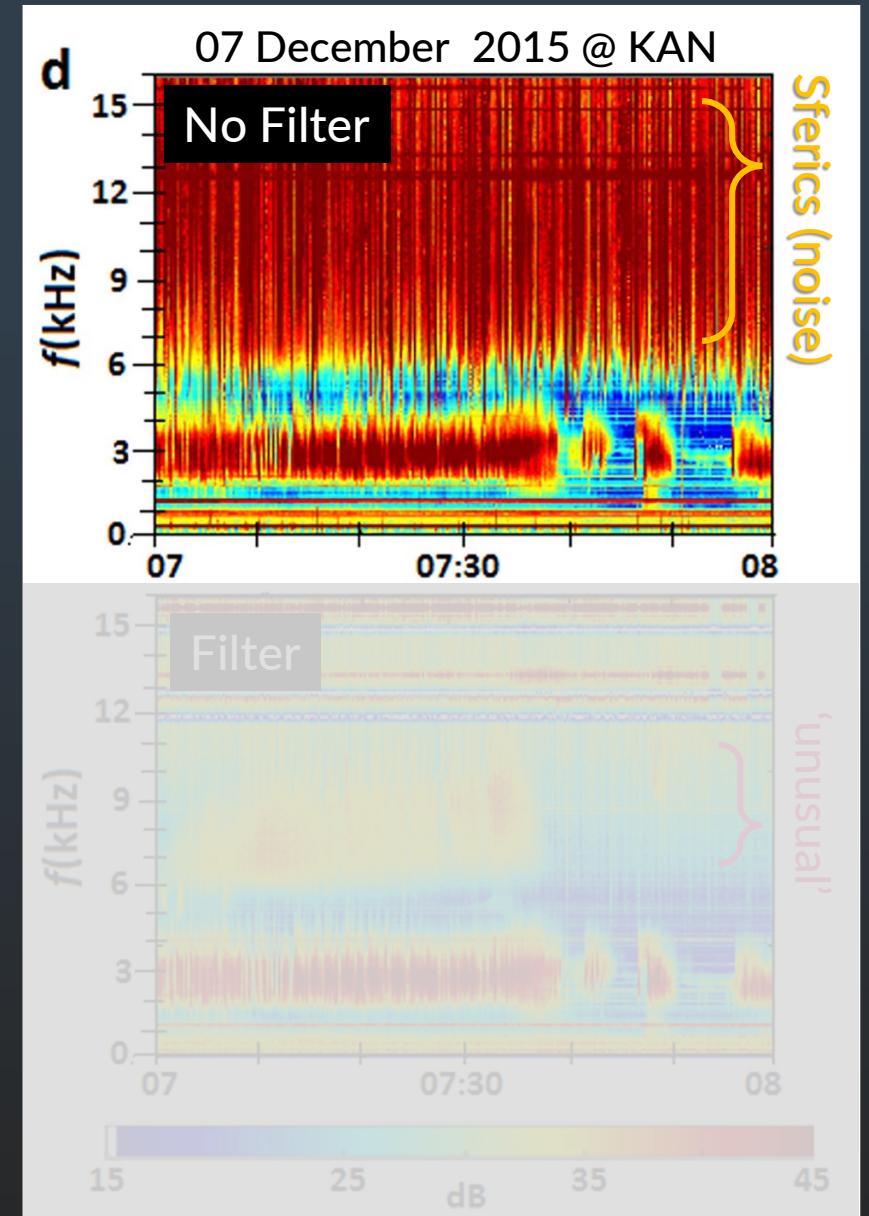


What are these 'unusually' high frequency emissions?

Sferics filtering

Problem: On the ground sferics are too strong, covering large frequency ranges, for our study they are 'noise'.

How to remove this noise? Creating a sferics filter!



What are these 'unusually' high frequency emissions?

Sferics filtering

Problem: On the ground sferics are too strong, covering large frequency ranges, for our study they are 'noise'.

How to remove this noise? Creating a sferics filter!

! Unexpected result !

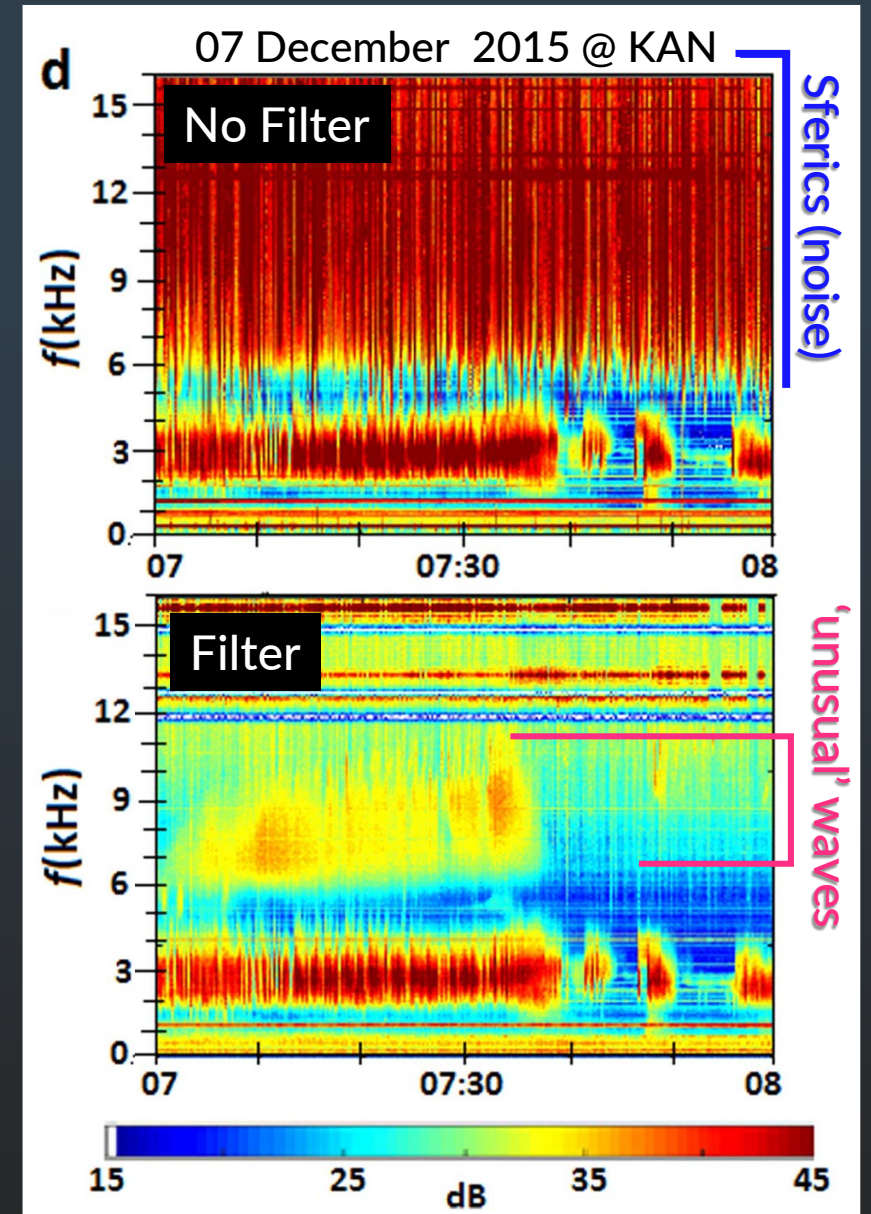
There are waves at higher frequencies behind the sferics

→ Are these usual VLF waves or a different phenomena?

Usually waves travel along field lines and propagate below local gyrofrequency at KAN ~ 5-6 kHz.

More questions...

- Are 'unusual' waves coming from different lower source region?
- Are they linked to the waves observed below?
- If not, how are they propagating?
- What parameters are affecting their propagation to the ground?



Ground-based Measurements: Kannuslehto, Finland

Kannuslehto (KAN)

- ✓ Campaign-based VLF measurements since 2006
- ✓ Recently more or less continuous for 8-9 months/year
- ✓ Sampling frequency : 78.125 kHz

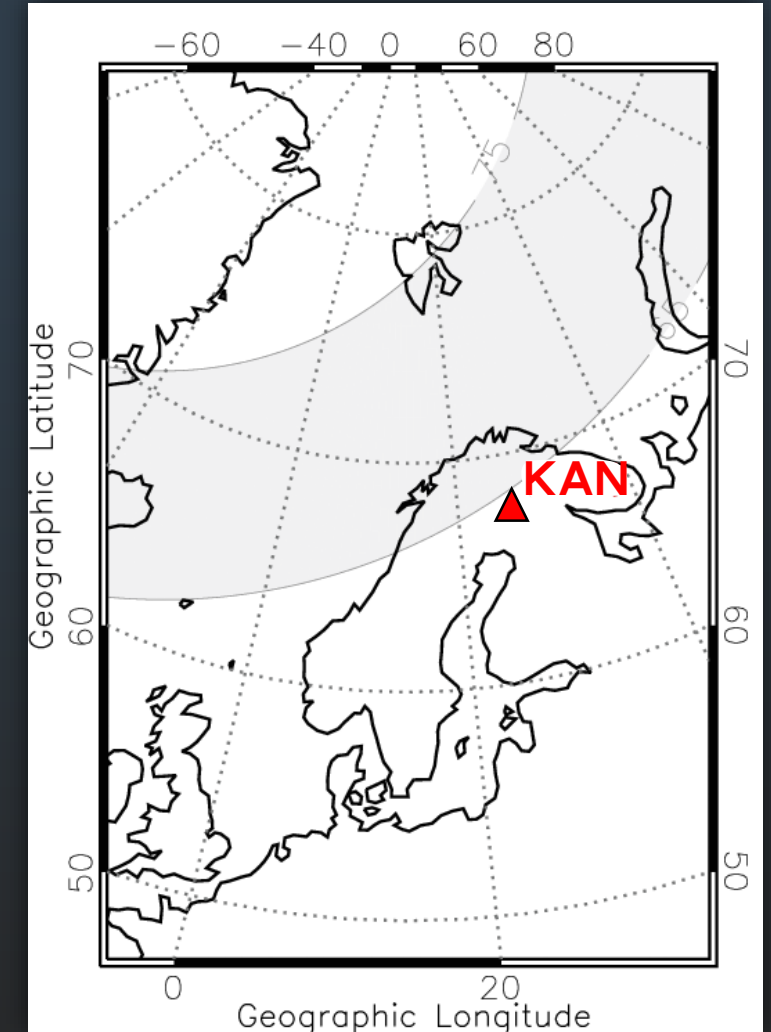
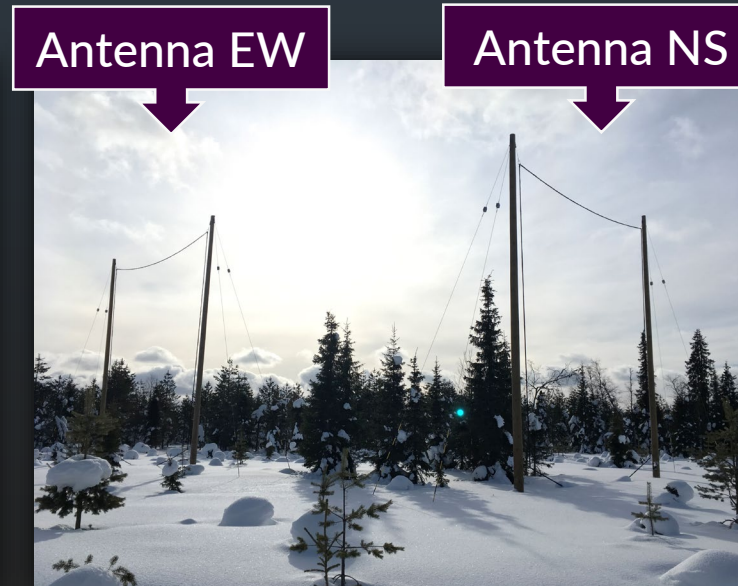
Location: Auroral latitudes

GLAT: 67.74° N

GLON: 26.27° E

L-shell: **5.5**

MLAT: 64.4° N



Data Selection

Total: ~8 months x 4 years (2017 – 2020)

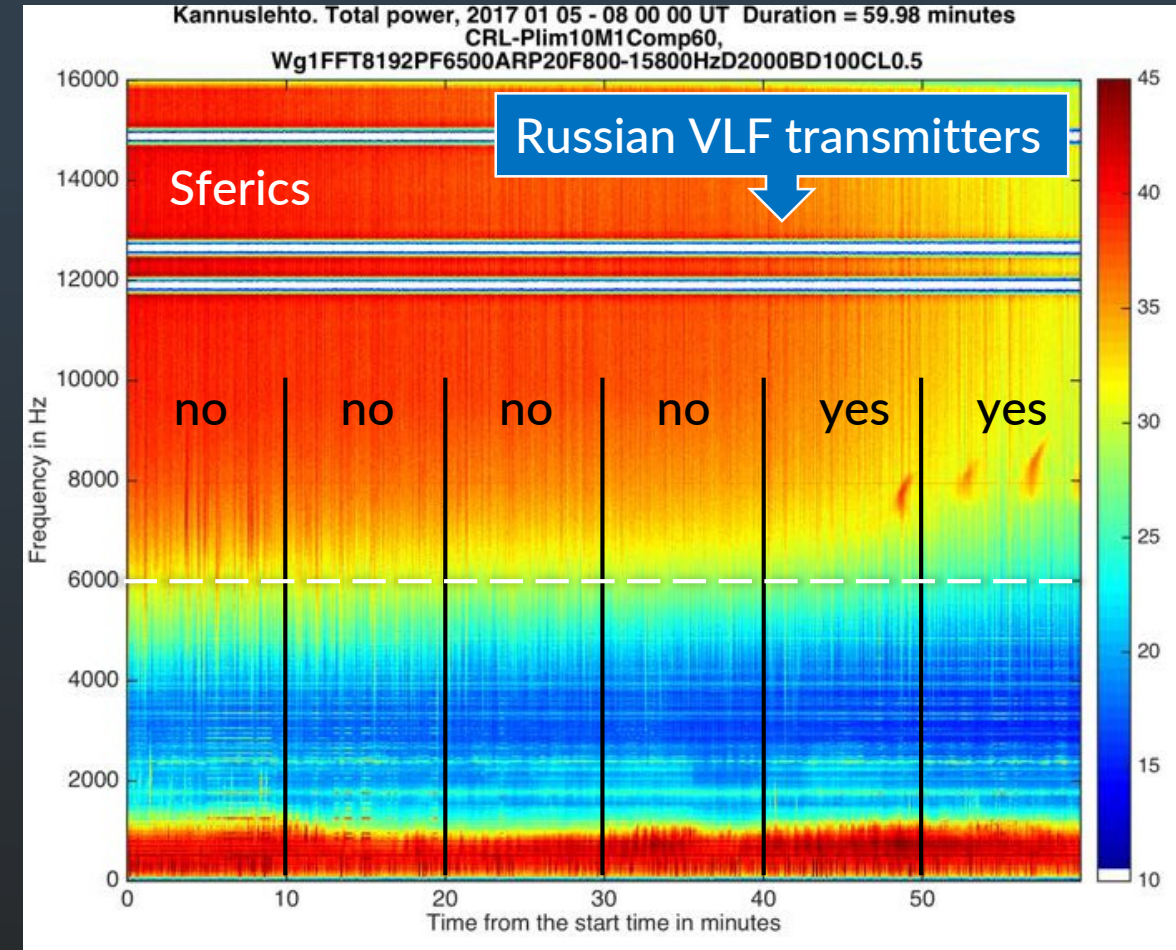
January – March + September – December

→ Receiver is not operational in the summer months!

Processed now: **24 months** ⇔ **2017 – 2019**

Available observation hours: **16 072 in 3 years**
(coverage ~ 92% of all possible hours)

'Unusual' wave hours: **377 in 3 years**
→ **2.4% global occurrence rate**



1 hour time frame divided into 10 min bins

Data Selection

Total: ~8 months x 4 years (2017 – 2020)
January – March + September – December
→ Receiver is not operational in the summer months!

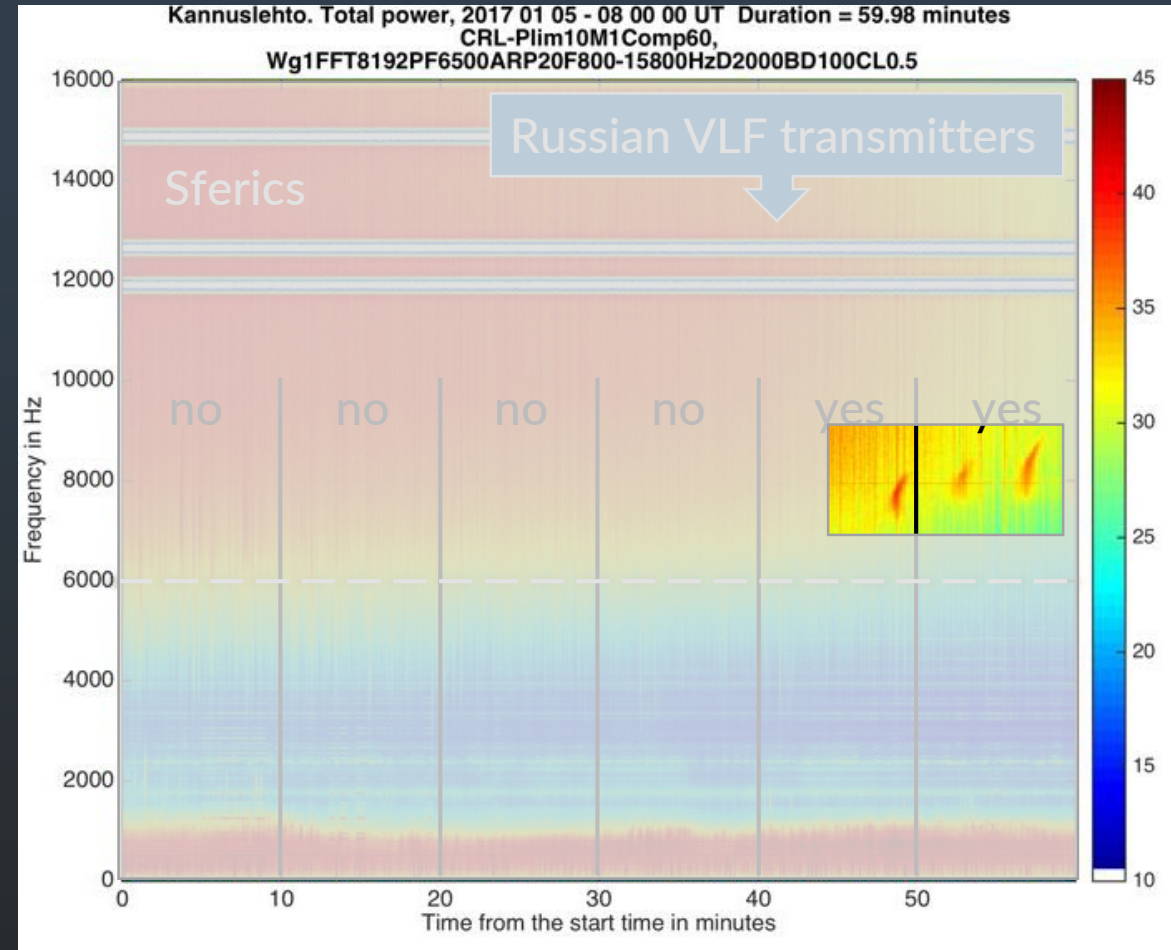
Processed now: **24 months** ⇔ **2017 – 2019**

Available observation hours: **16 072 in 3 years**
(coverage ~ 92% of all possible hours)

'Unusual' wave hours: **377 in 3 years**
→ **2.4% global occurrence rate**

Primary Selection Criteria

→ Any clear emission above 6 kHz
(1-hr figures but counting by 10-min bins)



1 hour time frame divided into 10 min bins

Data Selection

Total: ~8 months x 4 years (2017 – 2020)
January – March + September – December
→ Receiver is not operational in the summer months!

Processed now: **24 months** ⇔ 2017 – 2019

Available observation hours: **16 072 in 3 years**
(coverage ~ 92% of all possible hours)

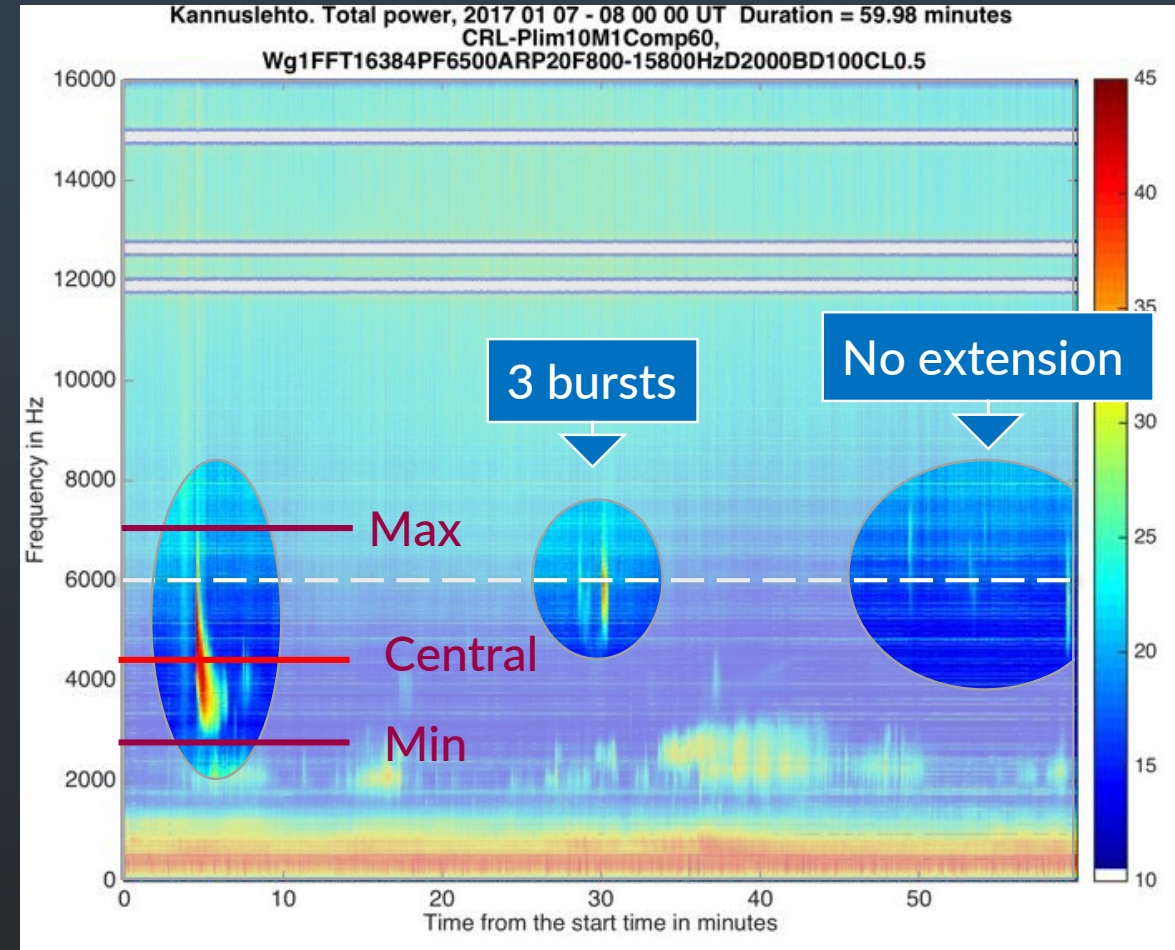
'Unusual' wave hours: **377 in 3 years**
→ **2.4% global occurrence rate**

Primary Selection Criteria

→ Any clear emission above 6 kHz
(1-hr figures but counting by 10-min bins)

We also consider:

Frequency, type, number of bursts, other emissions etc...



1 hour time frame divided into 10 min bins

Data Selection

Total: ~8 months x 4 years (2017 – 2020)
January – March + September – December
→ Receiver is not operational in the summer months!

Processed now: **24 months** ⇔ 2017 – 2019

Available observation hours: **16 072 in 3 years**
(coverage ~ 92% of all possible hours)

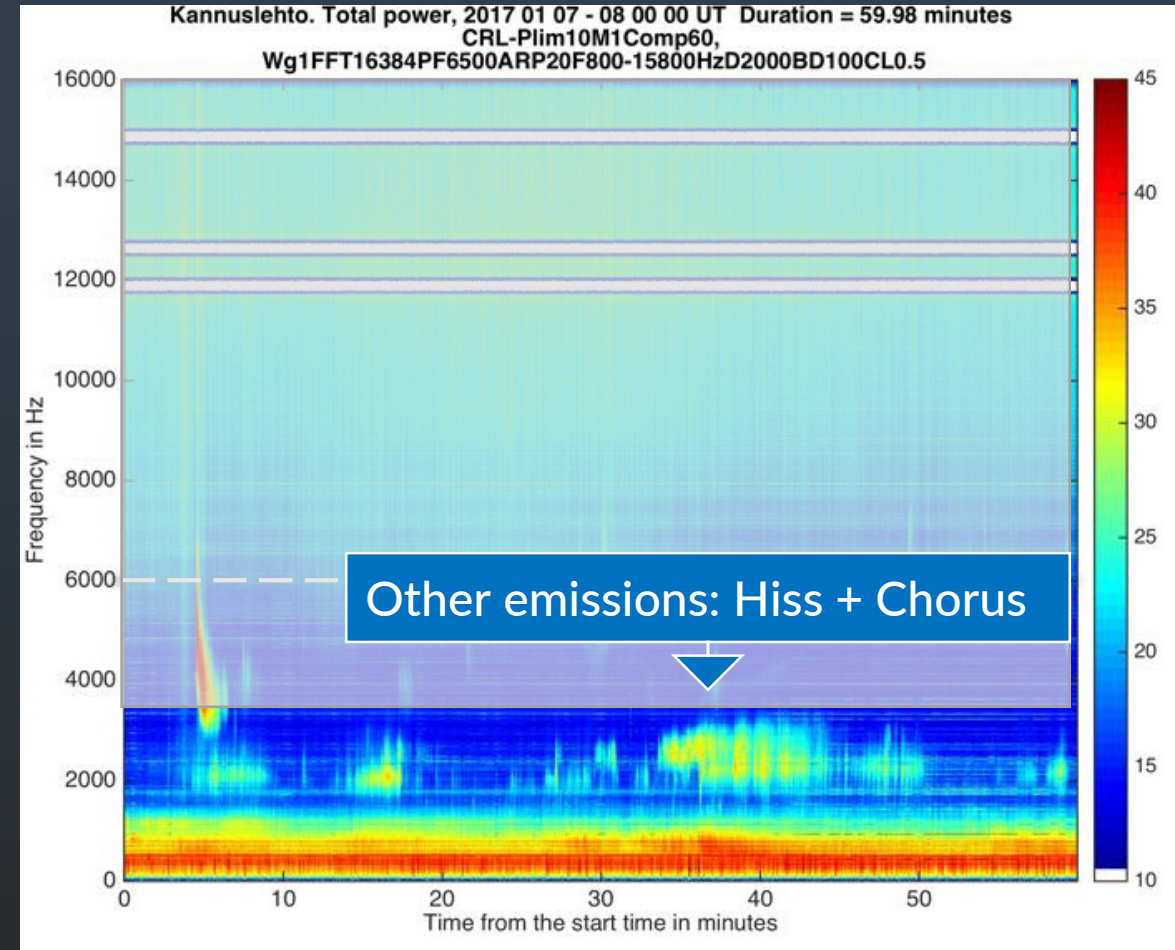
'Unusual' wave hours: **377 in 3 years**
→ **2.4% global occurrence rate**

Primary Selection Criteria

→ Any clear emission above 6 kHz
(1-hr figures but counting by 10-min bins)

We also consider:

Frequency, type, number of bursts, other emissions etc...



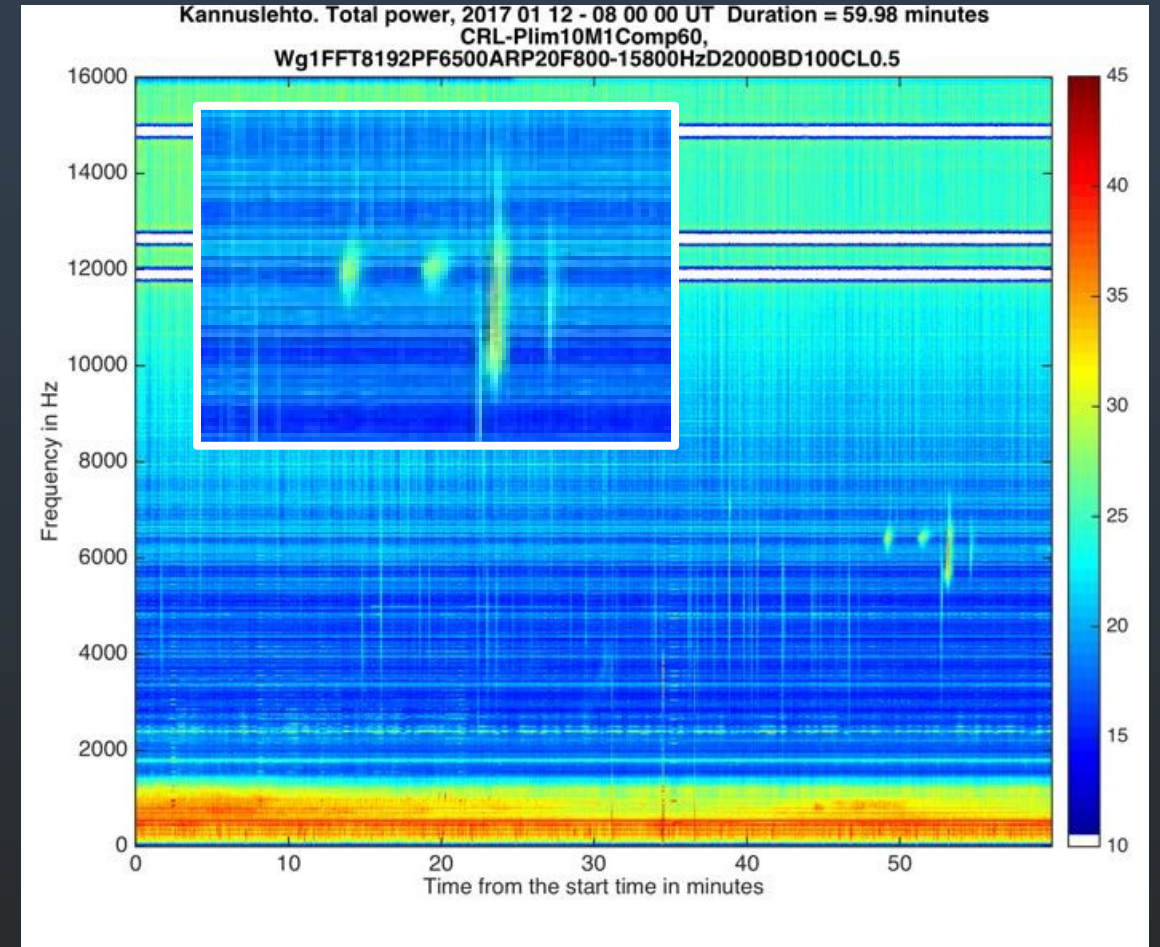
1 hour time frame divided into 10 min bins

Type of 'unusual' high frequency emissions

Separate the type by observing differences in spectral features in the 1-hour plots

Examples:

- **Bursts: anything discrete**, lasting a few minutes and not extending $\Delta f \sim 1$ kHz

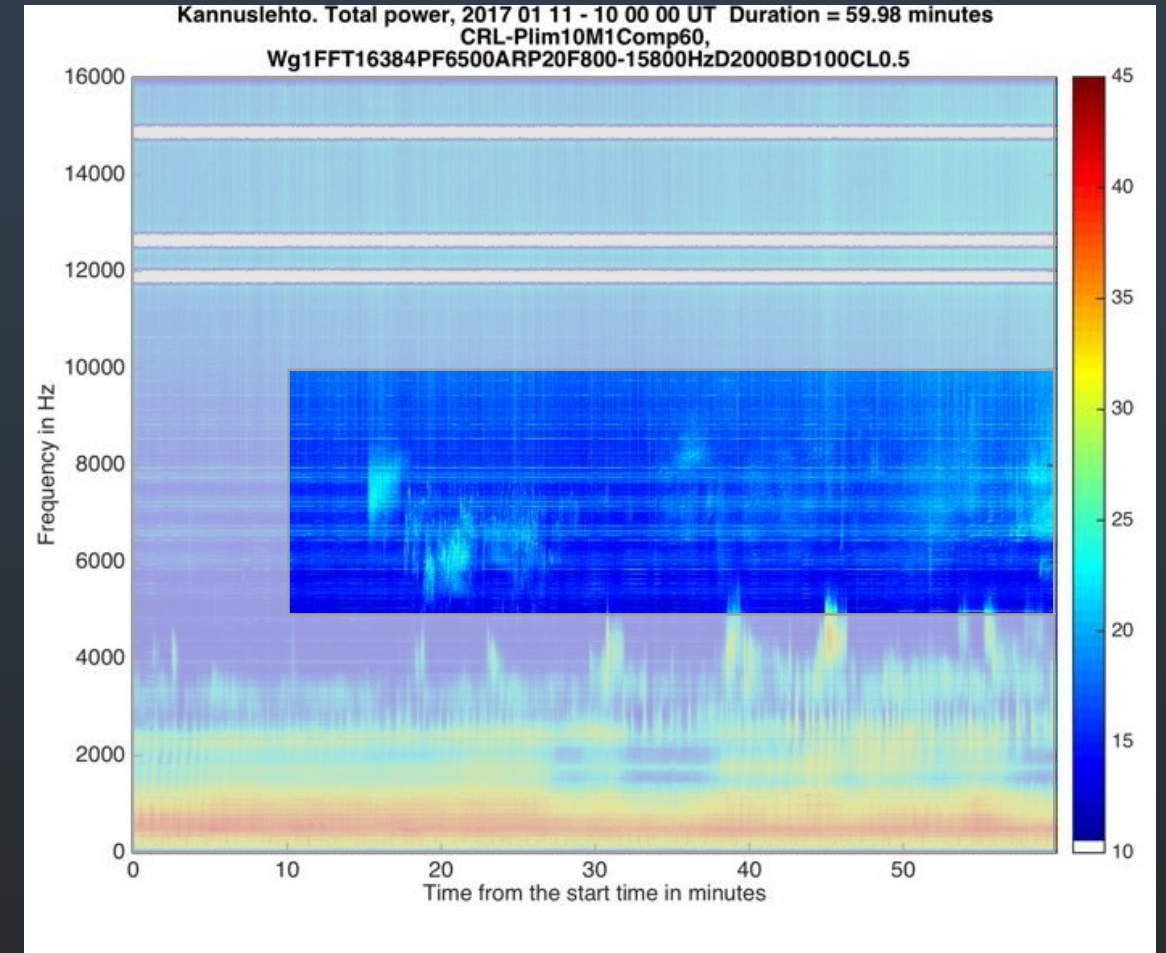


Type of 'unusual' high frequency emissions

Separate the type by observing differences in spectral features in the 1-hour plots

Examples:

- Bursts: anything discrete, lasting a few minutes and not extending $\Delta f \sim 1$ kHz
- **Hissy**: $\Delta t >$ few minutes + **hiss looking** ('noisy' bursts elongated in time or diffuse)

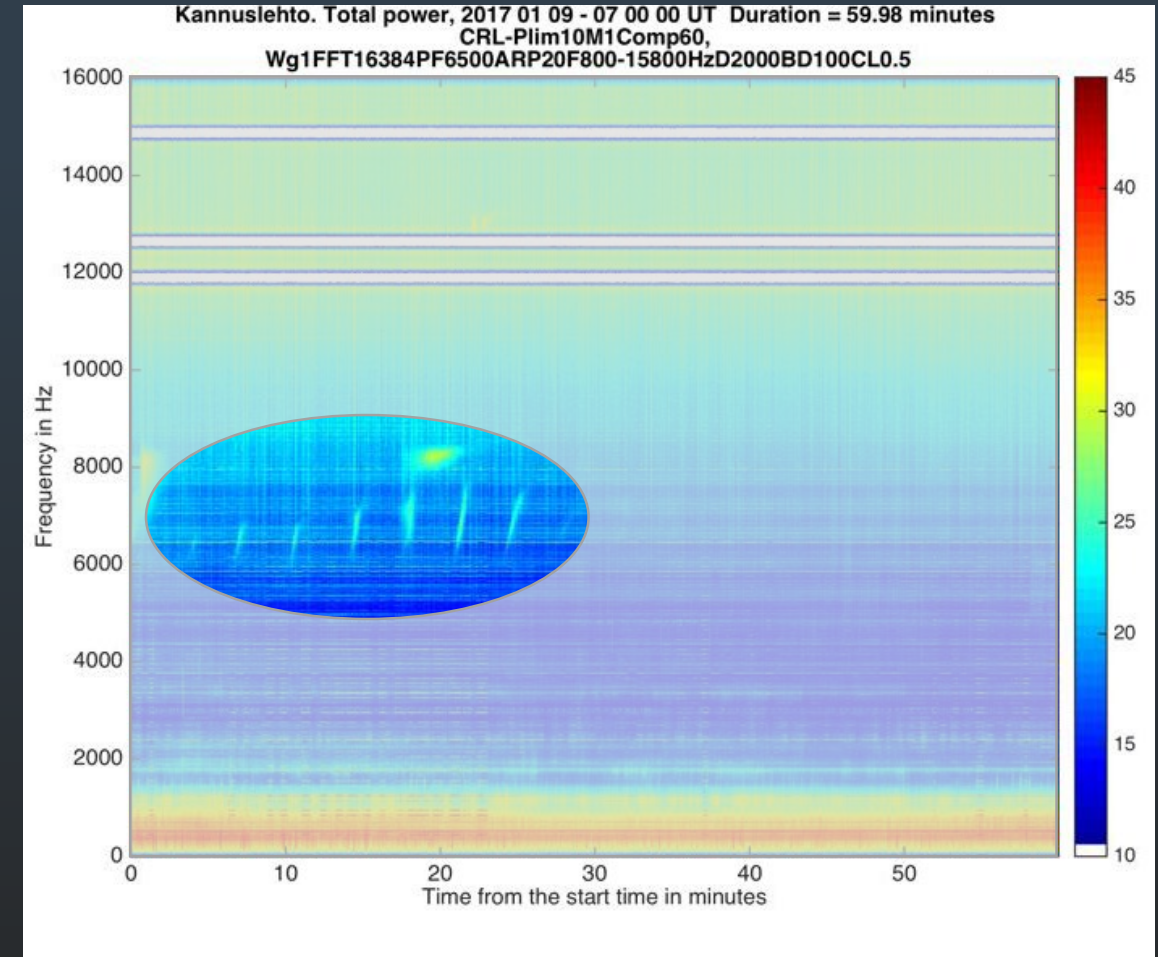


Type of 'unusual' high frequency emissions

Separate the type by observing differences in spectral features in the 1-hour plots

Examples:

- Bursts: anything discrete, lasting a few minutes and not extending $df \sim 1$ kHz
- Hissy: $dt >$ few minutes + hiss looking ('noisy' bursts elongated in time or diffuse)
- Q: similar to standard QP emissions but observed at higher frequencies, sometimes slanted in time or showing an S-shape.

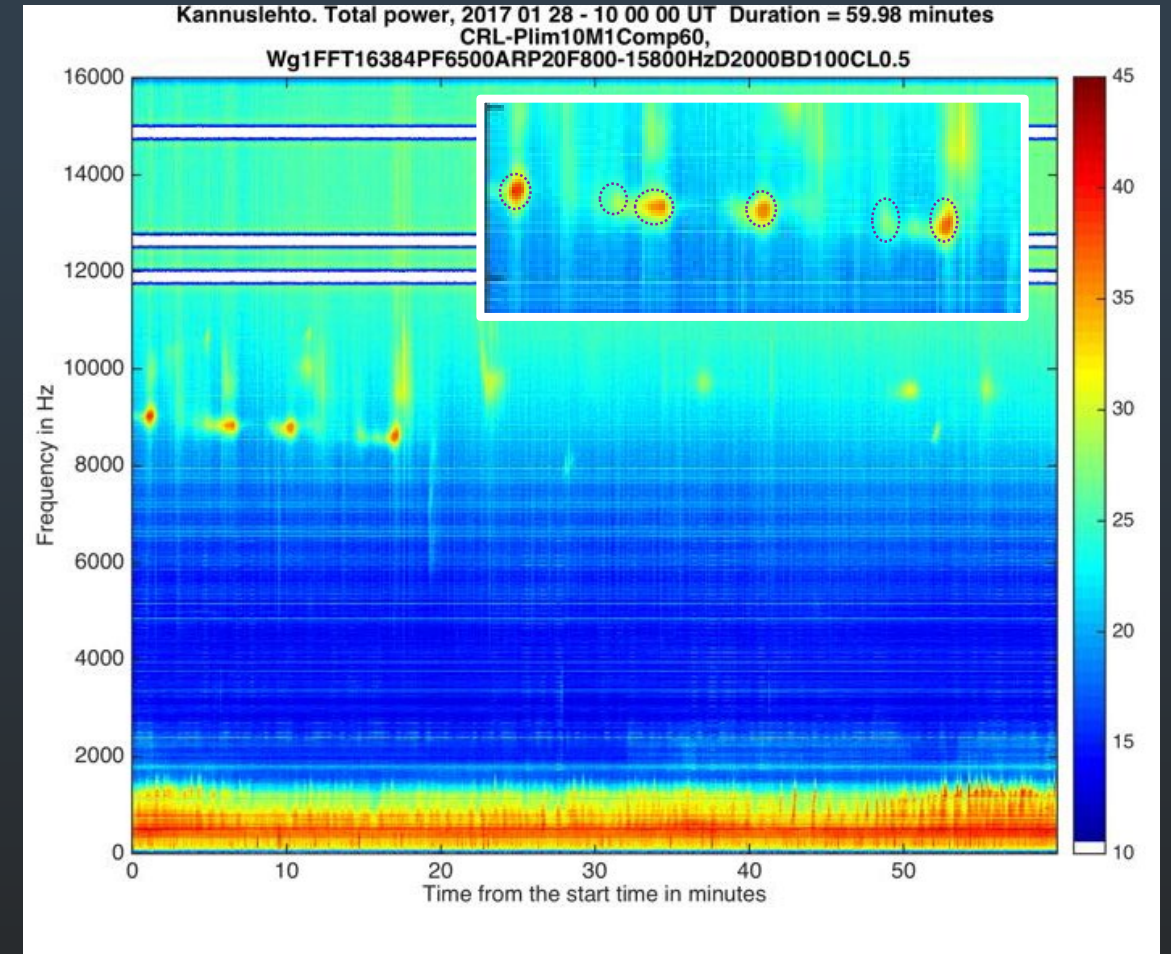


Type of 'unusual' high frequency emissions

Separate the type by observing differences in spectral features in the 1-hour plots

Examples:

- **Bursts:** anything discrete, lasting a few minutes and not extending $\Delta f \sim 1$ kHz
- **Hissy:** $\Delta t >$ few minutes + hiss looking ('noisy' bursts elongated in time or diffuse)
- **Q:** similar to standard QP emissions but observed at higher frequencies, sometimes slanted in time or showing an S-shape.
- **Round:** bursts that have rounded or oval shapes



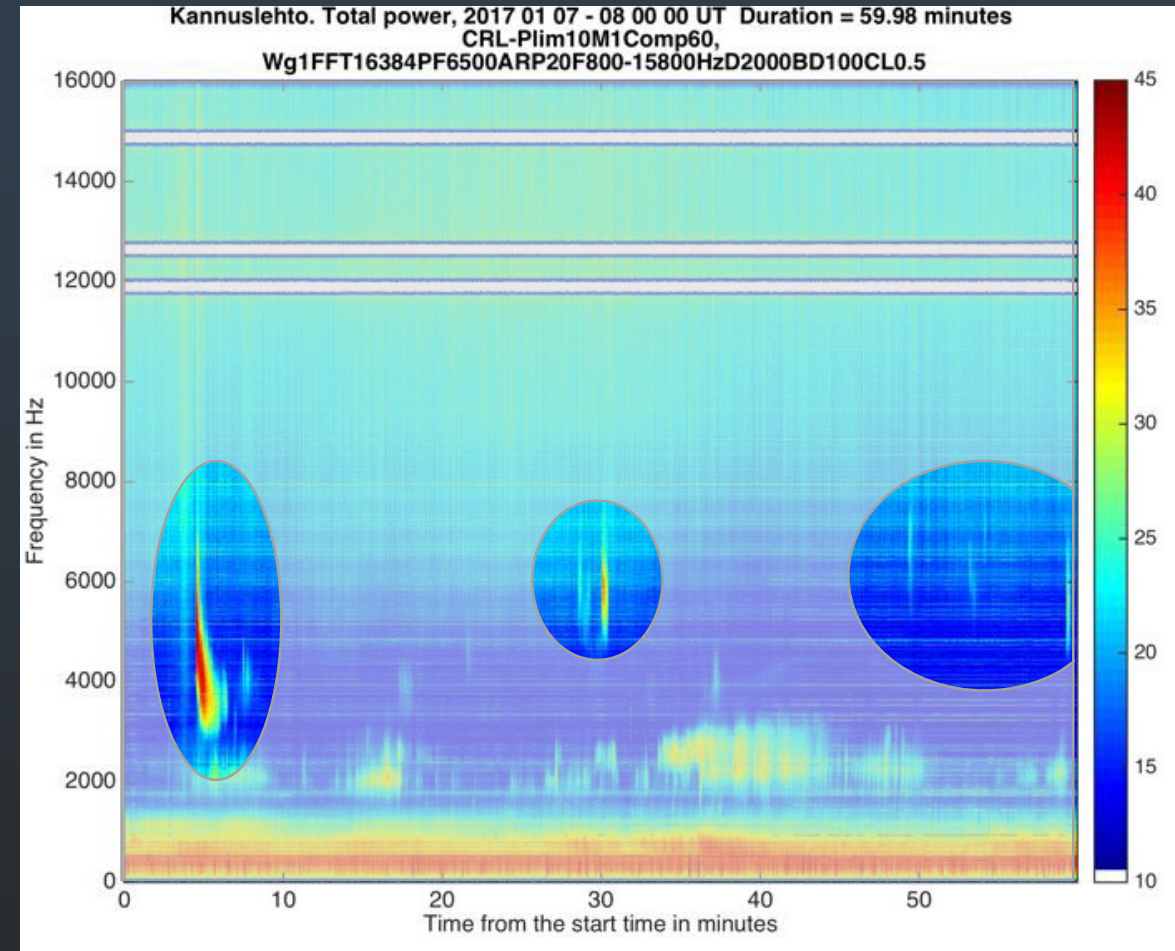
Type of 'unusual' high frequency emissions

Separate the type by observing differences in spectral features in the 1-hour plots

Examples:

- Bursts: anything discrete, lasting a few minutes and not extending $\Delta f \sim 1$ kHz
- Hissy: $\Delta t >$ few minutes + hiss looking ('noisy' bursts elongated in time or diffuse)
- Q: similar to standard QP emissions but observed at higher frequencies, sometimes slanted in time or showing an S-shape.
- Round: bursts that have rounded or oval shapes

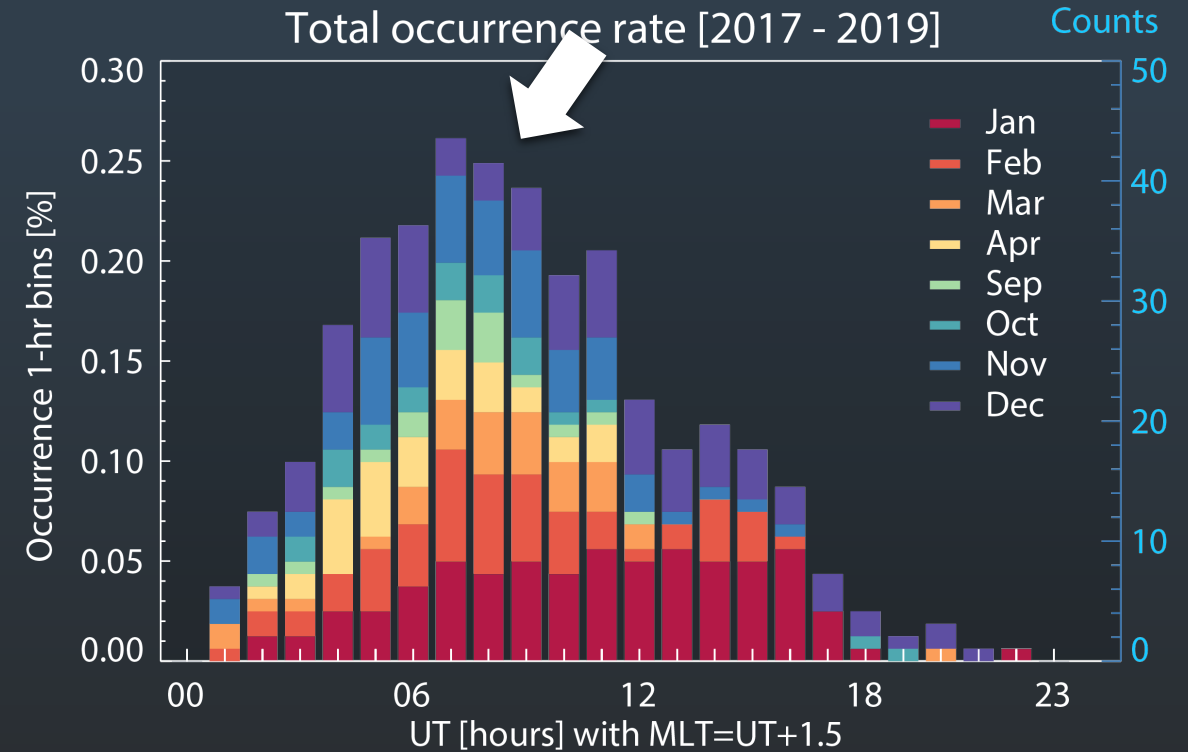
For short, these 'unusual' high frequency emissions will be shortened as **KHF** in the following presentation.



Statistical Results / Discussion

Overall occurrence

- High occurrence between 05 – 11 UT corresponding to the **morning sector** (06.5 – 12.5 MLT)

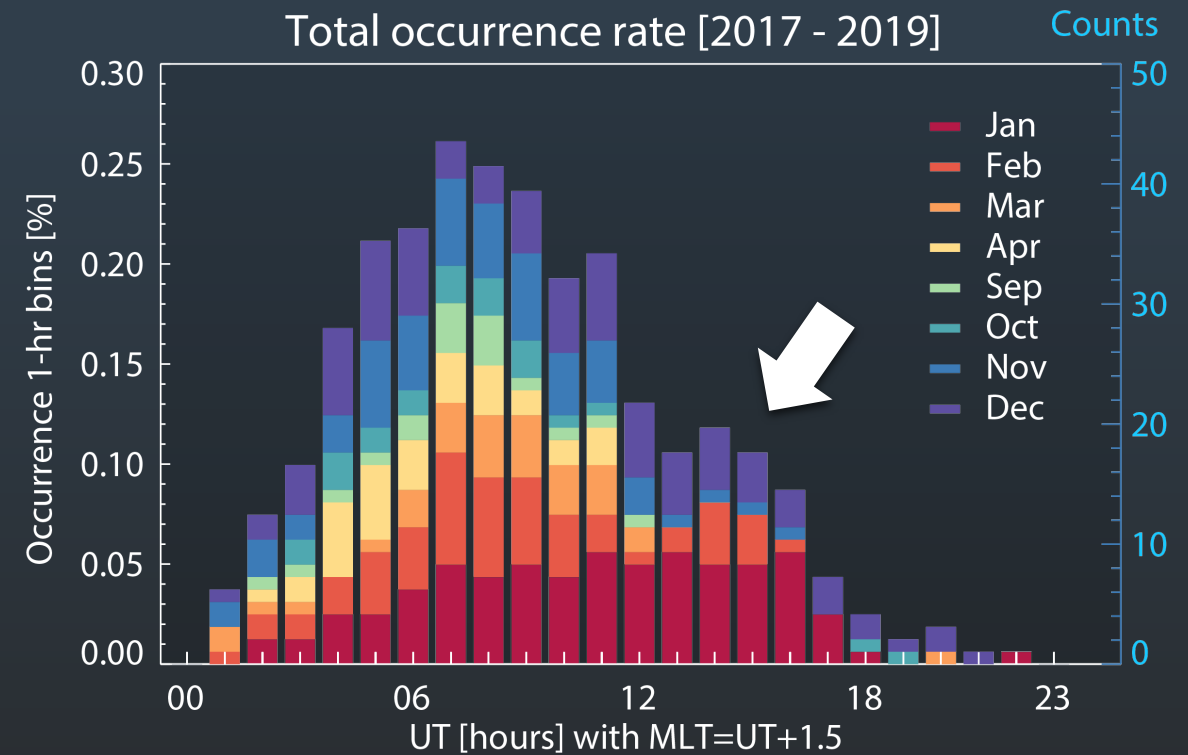


$$\text{Rate} = \text{occurrence} * 100 / \text{total available hours}$$

Statistical Results / Discussion

Overall occurrence

- High occurrence between 05 – 11 UT corresponding to the **morning sector** (06.5 – 12.5 MLT)
- Possibly secondary occurrence peak in the afternoon sector 14 – 15 UT (15.5 – 16.5 MLT)

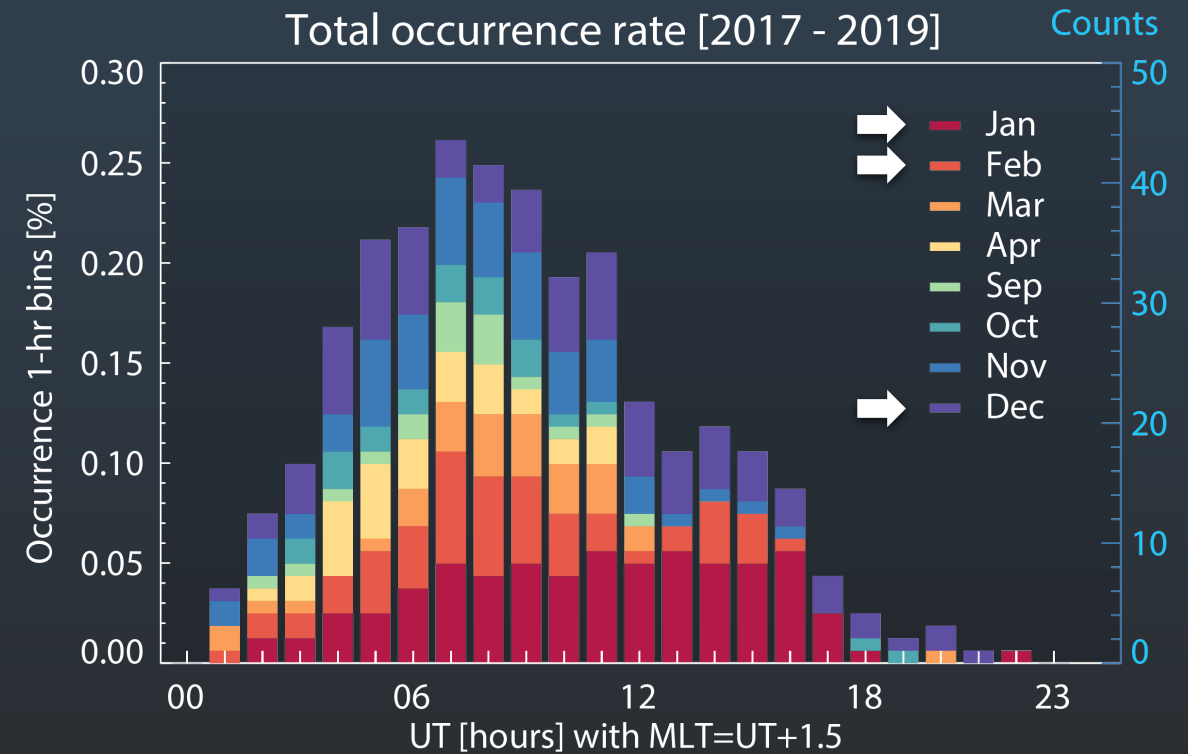


Rate = occurrence * 100 / total available hours

Statistical Results / Discussion

Overall occurrence

- High occurrence between 05 – 11 UT corresponding to the **morning sector** (06.5 – 12.5 MLT)
- Possibly secondary occurrence peak in the afternoon sector 14 – 15 UT (15.5 – 16.5 MLT)
- Highest occurrence during winter months (December to February)

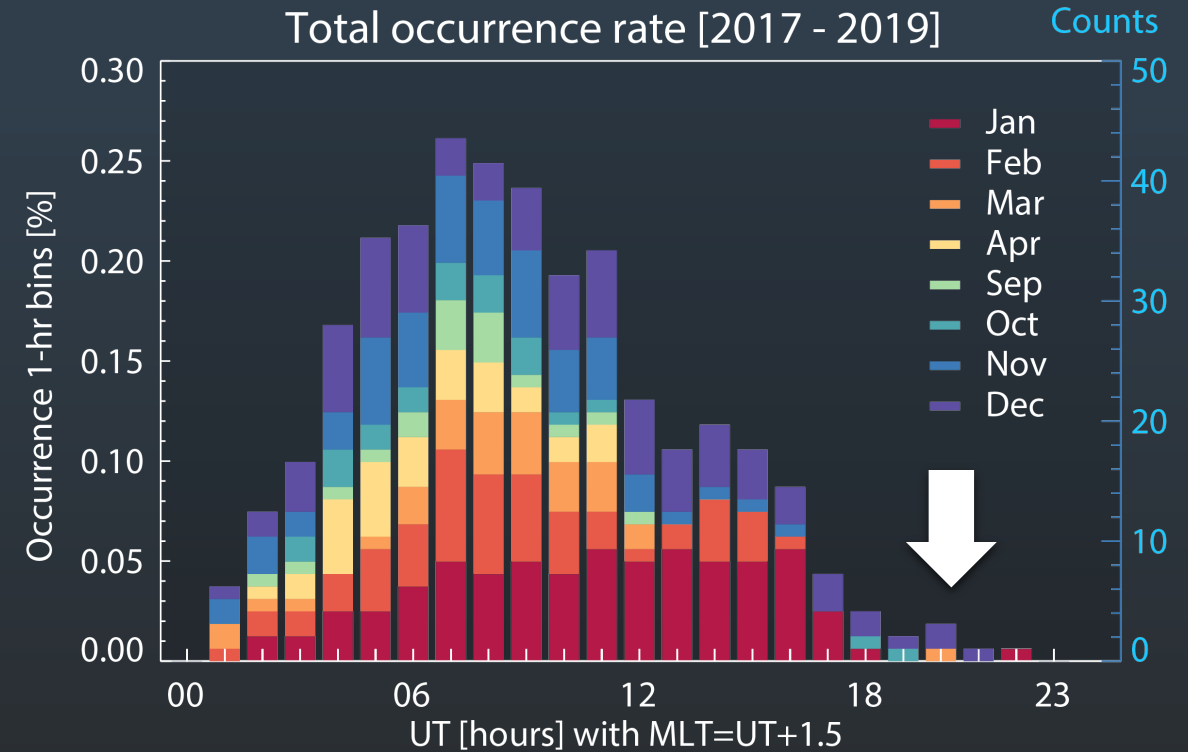


Rate = occurrence * 100 / total available hours

Statistical Results / Discussion

Overall occurrence

- High occurrence between 05 – 11 UT corresponding to the **morning sector** (06.5 – 12.5 MLT)
- Possibly secondary occurrence peak in the afternoon sector 14 – 15 UT (15.5 – 16.5 MLT)
- Highest occurrence during winter months (December to February)
- Almost no cases after 19 UT (20.5 MLT)
→ Are KHF not being generated or not propagating in the night time?



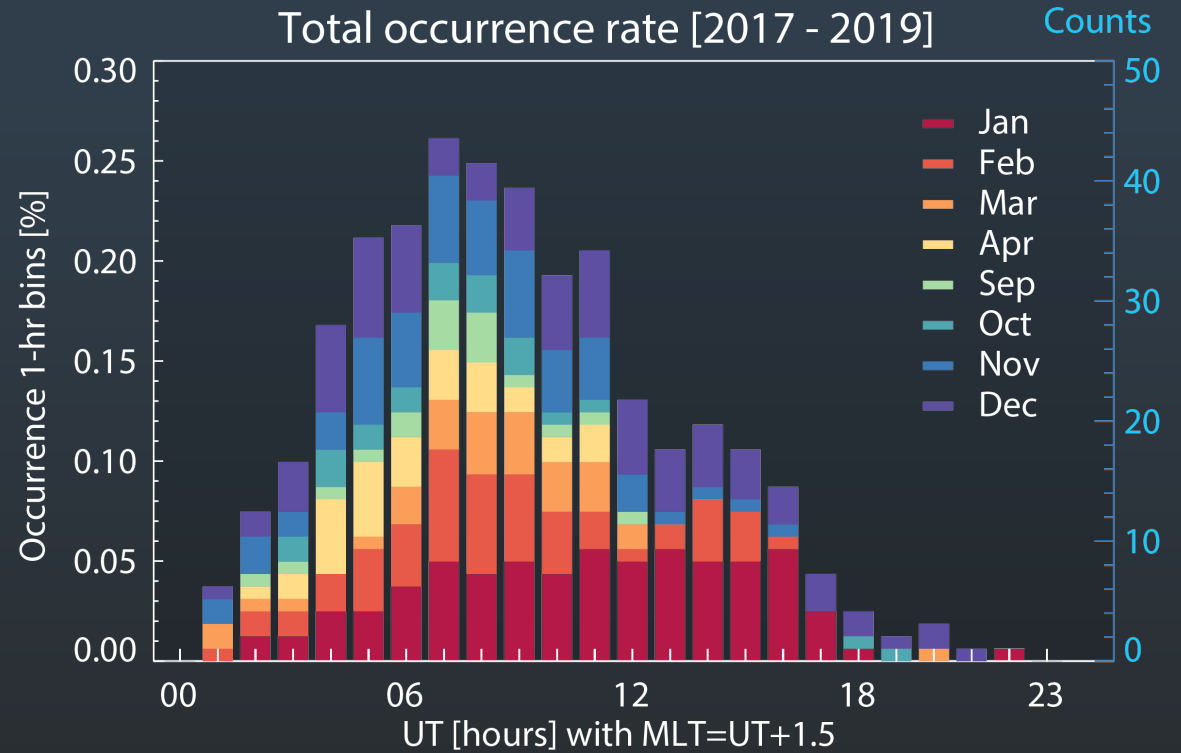
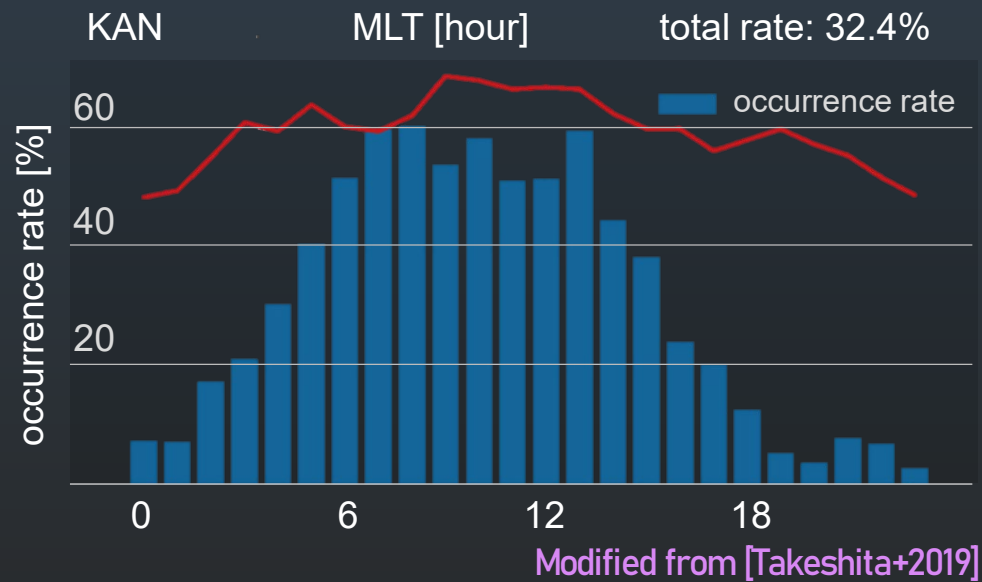
$$\text{Rate} = \text{occurrence} * 100 / \text{total available hours}$$

Statistical Results / Discussion

Overall occurrence

- High occurrence between 05 – 11 UT corresponding to the **morning sector** (06.5 – 12.5 MLT)

General VLF occurrence rate is high at 07 – 13 MLT



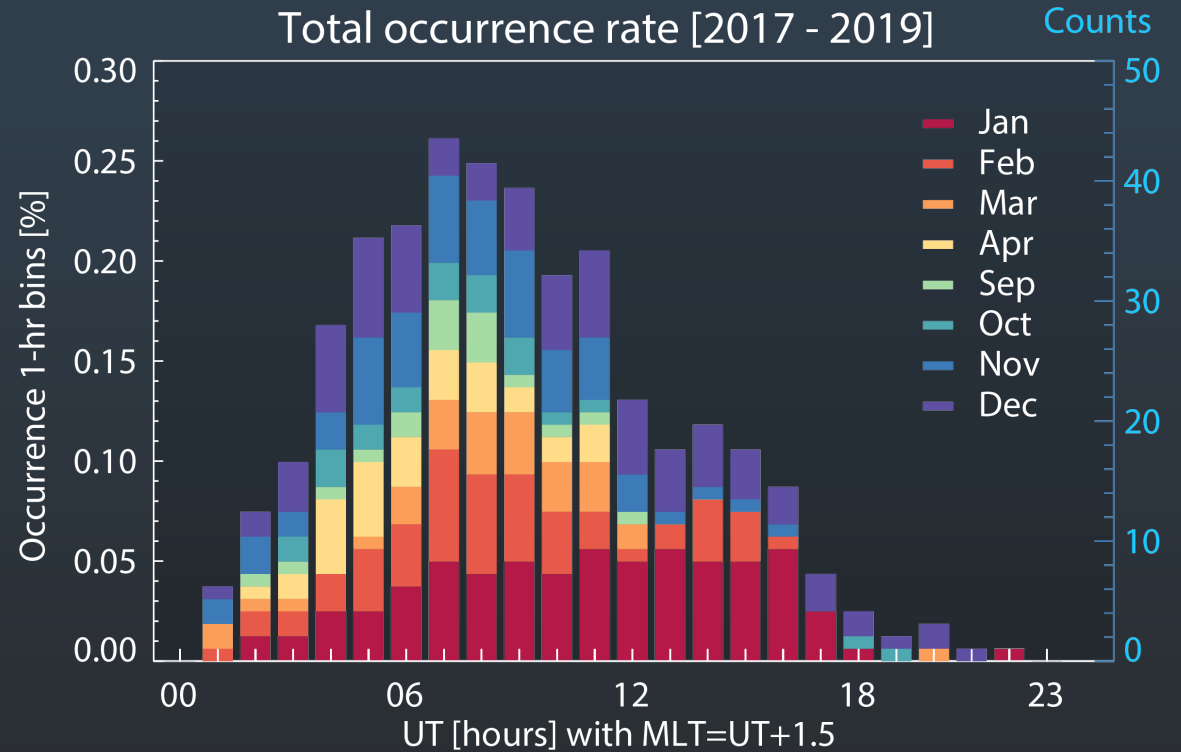
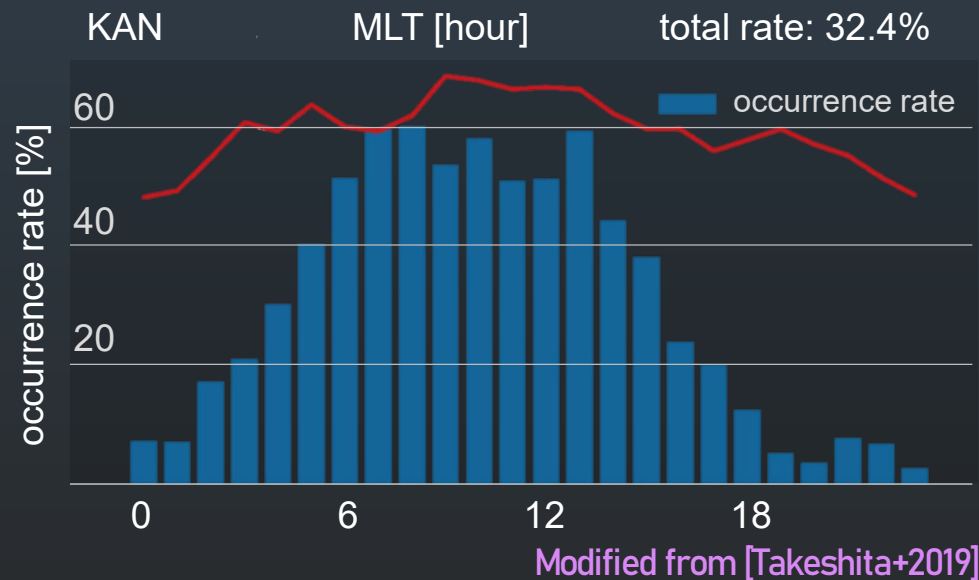
$$\text{Rate} = \text{occurrence} * 100 / \text{total available hours}$$

Statistical Results / Discussion

Overall occurrence

- High occurrence between 05 – 11 UT corresponding to the **morning sector** (06.5 – 12.5 MLT)

General VLF occurrence rate is high at 07 – 13 MLT



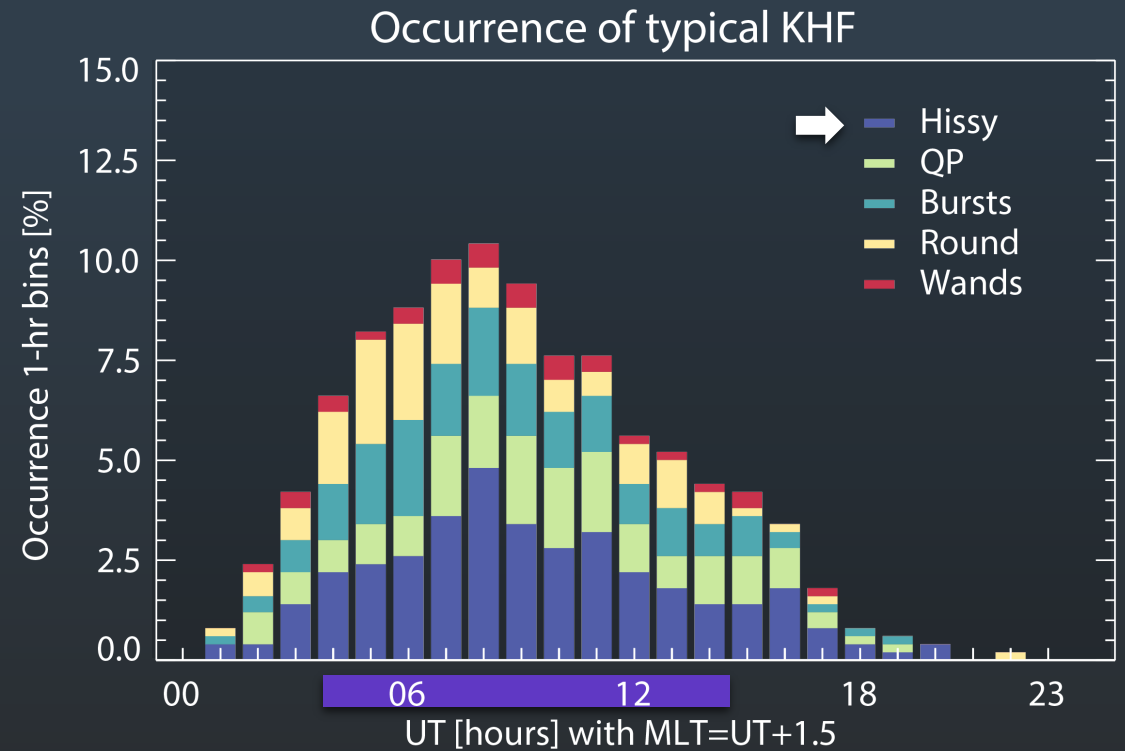
Rate = occurrence * 100 / total available hours

- similar generation mechanism as more usual lower frequency VLF emissions ?
- In general, is it easier for VLF waves to reach the ground at this time?

Statistical Results / Emission Type

Occurrence by type

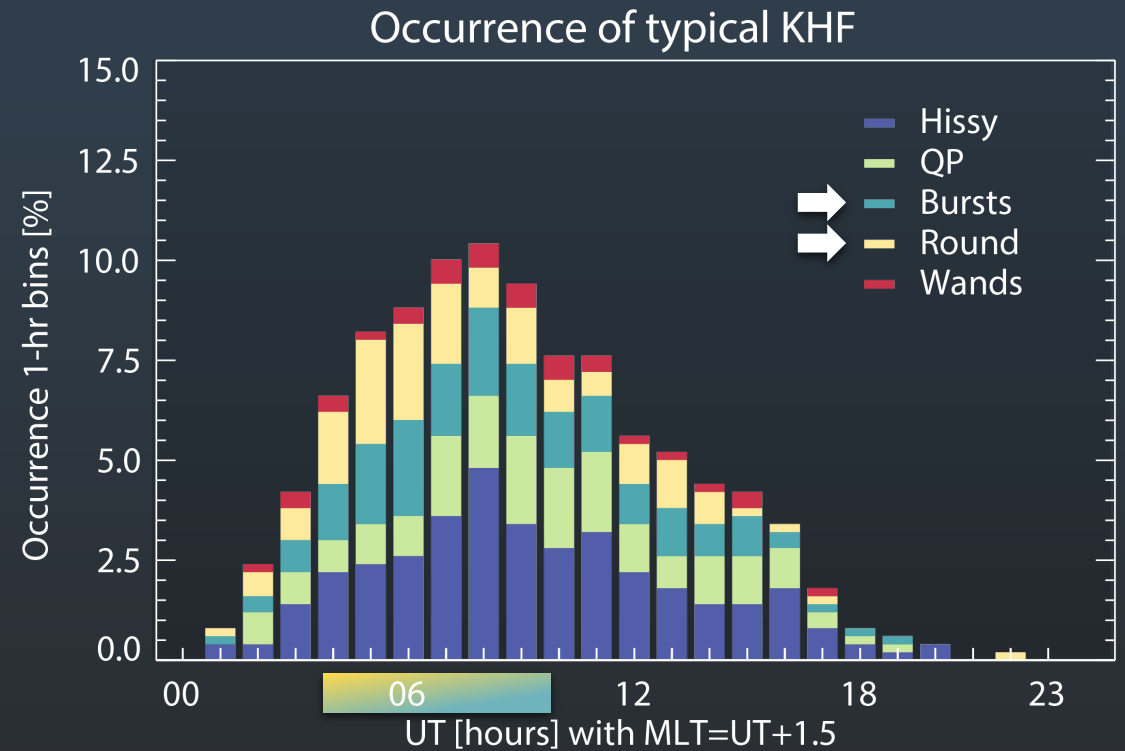
- Most common type globally is hiss-like KHF or 'Hissy'
→ largest occurrence 05.5 – 14.5 MLT



Statistical Results / Emission Type

Occurrence by type

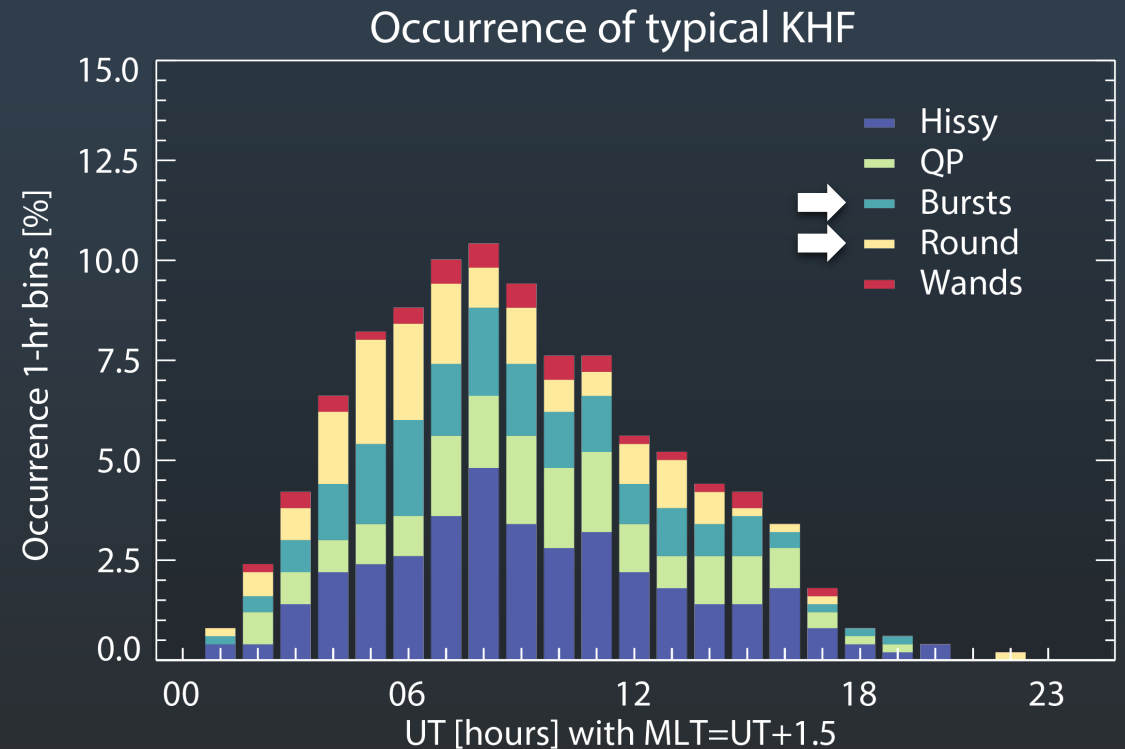
- Most common type globally is hiss-like KHF or 'Hissy'
 - largest occurrence 05.5 – 14.5 MLT
- Also common are discrete emissions
 - 'Bursts' or 'Round'
 - show clear early morning preference with the higher occurrences between 05.5 – 10.5 MLT



Statistical Results / Emission Type

Occurrence by type

- Most common type globally is hiss-like KHF or 'Hissy'
 - largest occurrence 05.5 – 14.5 MLT
- Also common are discrete emissions
 - 'Bursts' or 'Round'
 - show clear early morning preference with the higher occurrences between 05.5 – 10.5 MLT
- Most cases show no changes in frequency tones, followed by rising tones and small percentage of falling tones (not shown here)



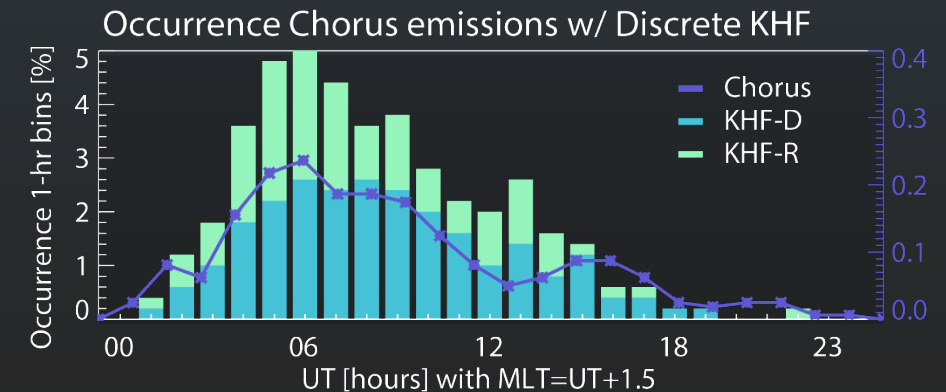
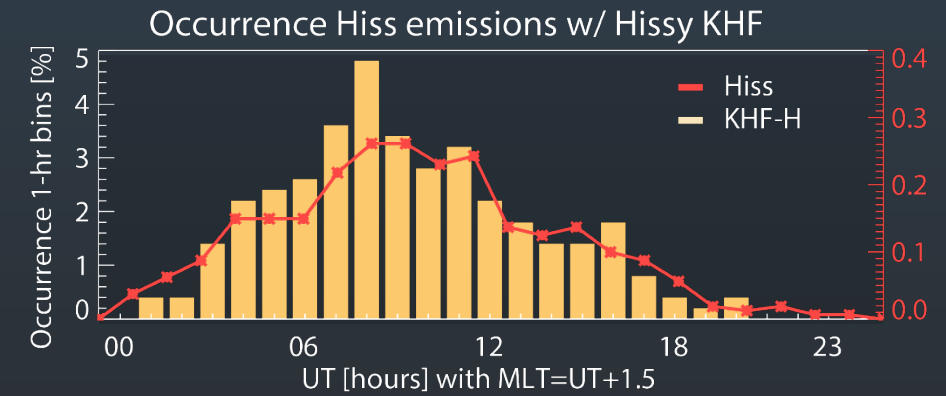
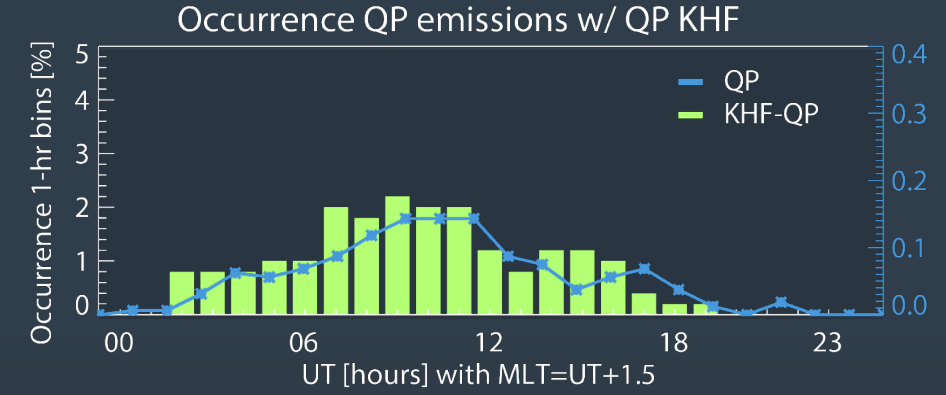
Rate = occurrence * 100 / total KHF hours

Statistical Results / Emission Type

Occurrence by type

- We compared the lower frequency waves observed at the same time as the 'unusual' KHF waves.

Rate = occurrence * 100 / total available hours

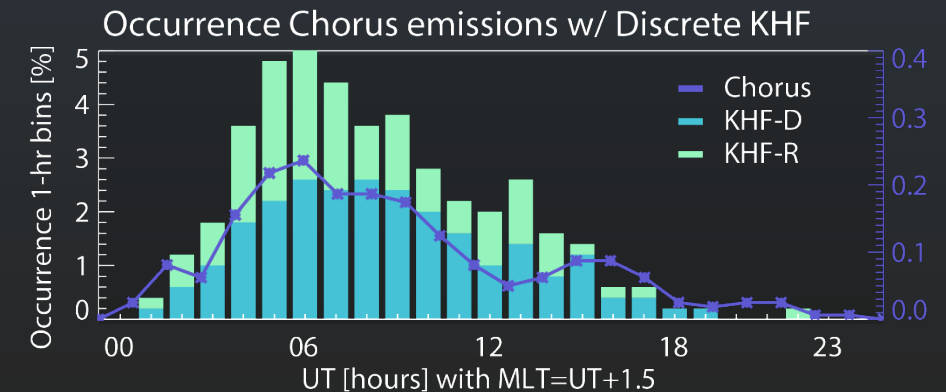
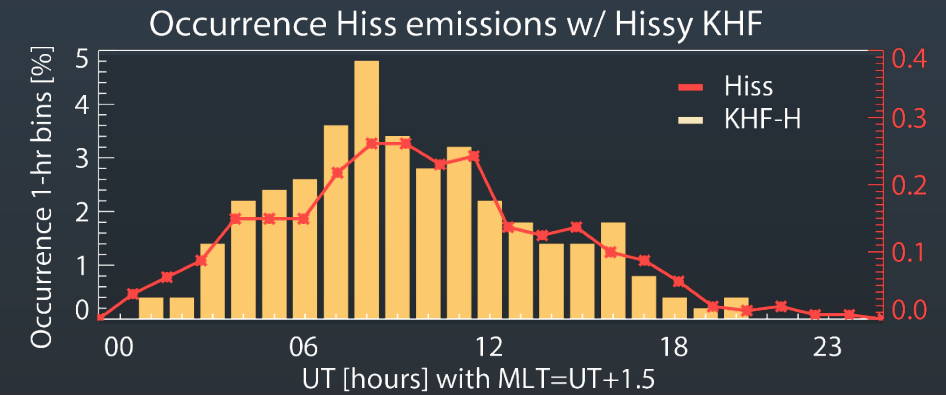
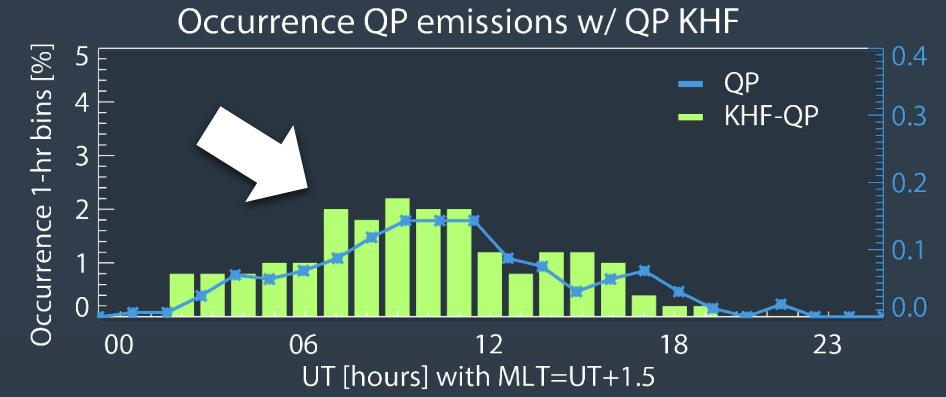


Statistical Results / Emission Type

Occurrence by type

- We compared the lower frequency waves observed at the same time as the 'unusual' KHF waves.
→ QP to KHF-QP (Q + S-shaped)

Rate = occurrence * 100 / total available hours

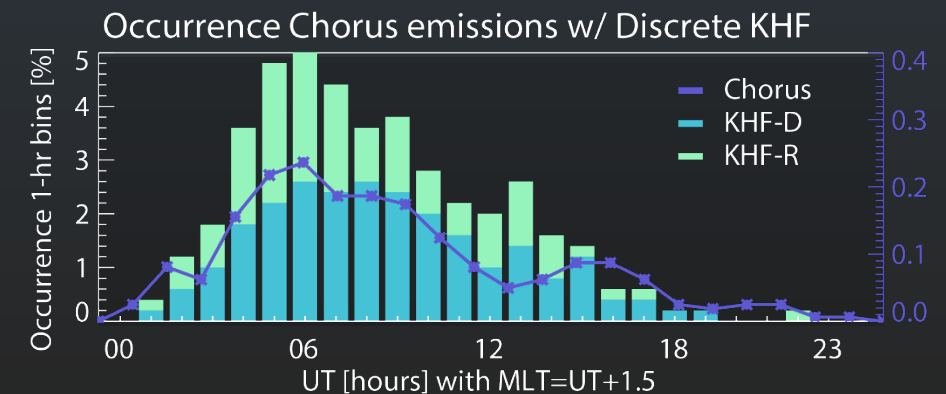
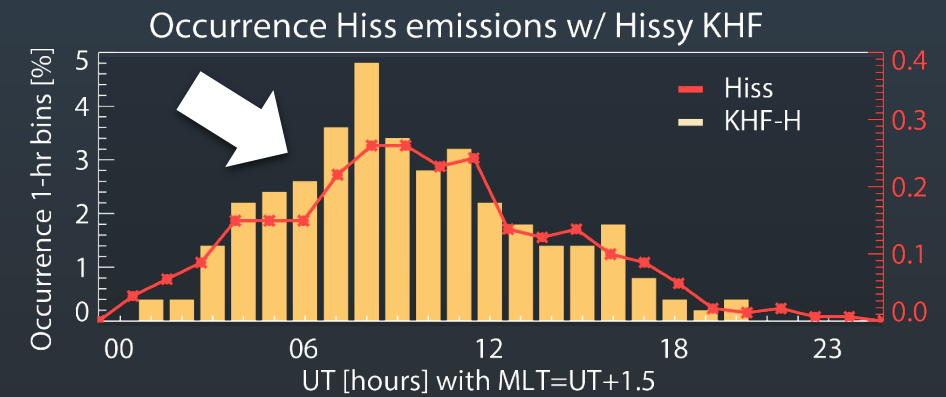
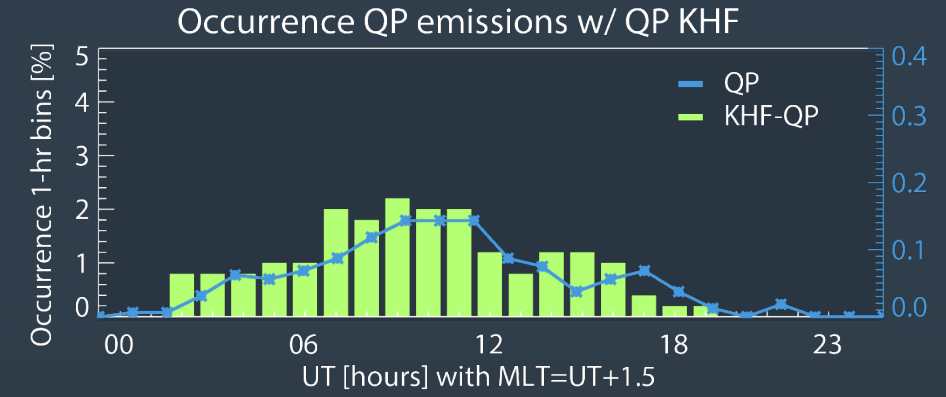


Statistical Results / Emission Type

Occurrence by type

- We compared the lower frequency waves observed at the same time as the 'unusual' KHF waves.
 - QP to KHF-QP (Q + S-shaped)
 - Hiss to KHF-Hissy

Rate = occurrence * 100 / total available hours

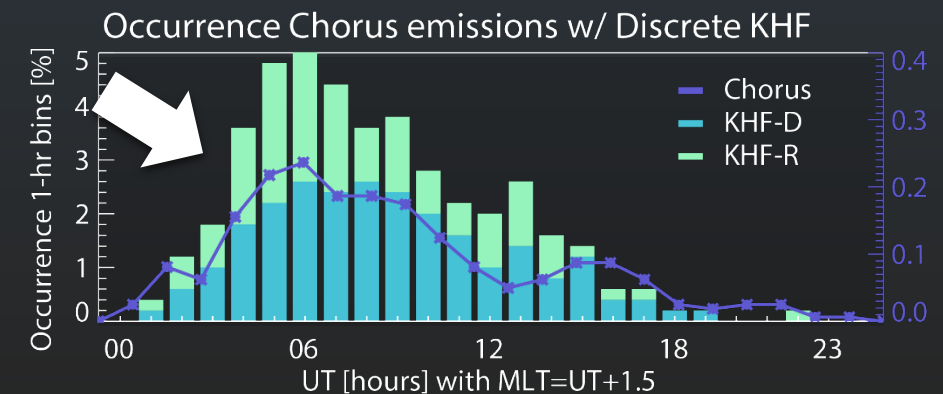
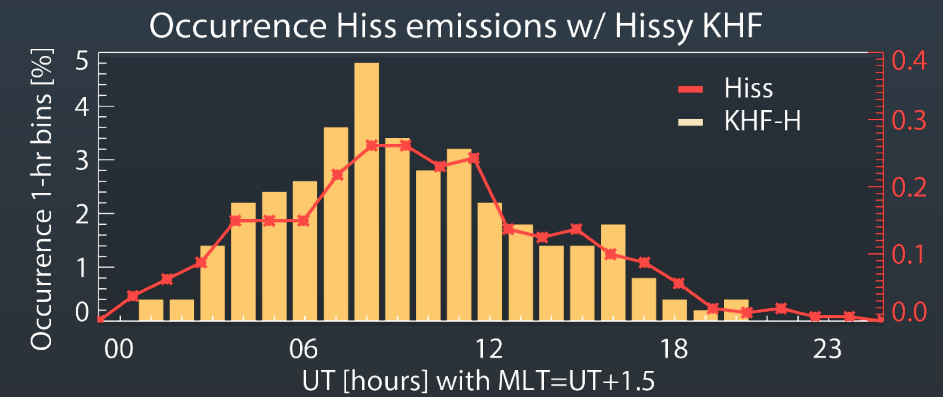
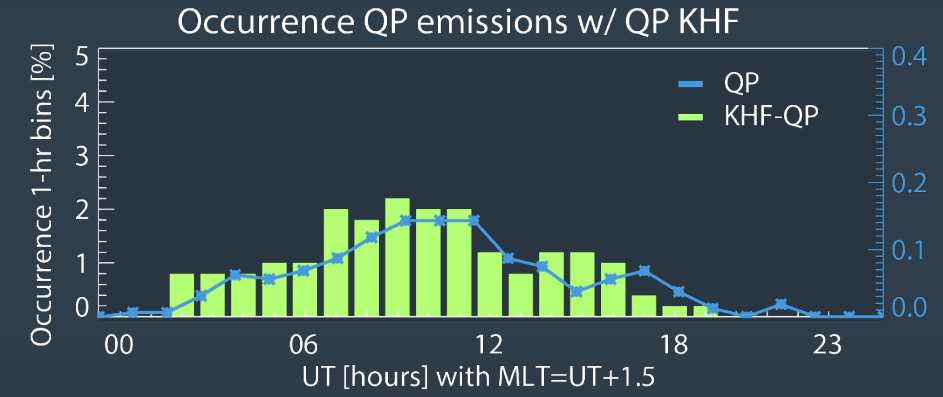


Statistical Results / Emission Type

Occurrence by type

- We compared the lower frequency waves observed at the same time as the 'unusual' KHF waves.
 - QP to KHF-QP (Q + S-shaped)
 - Hiss to KHF-Hissy
 - Chorus to KHF-D (discrete) and KHF-R (round)

Rate = occurrence * 100 / total available hours

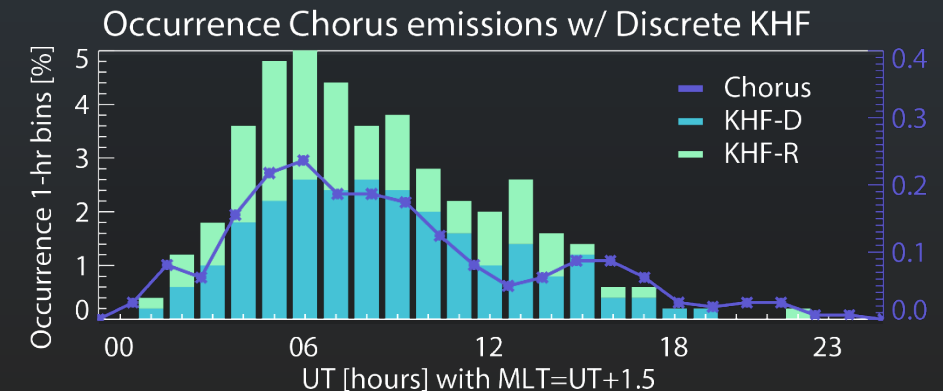
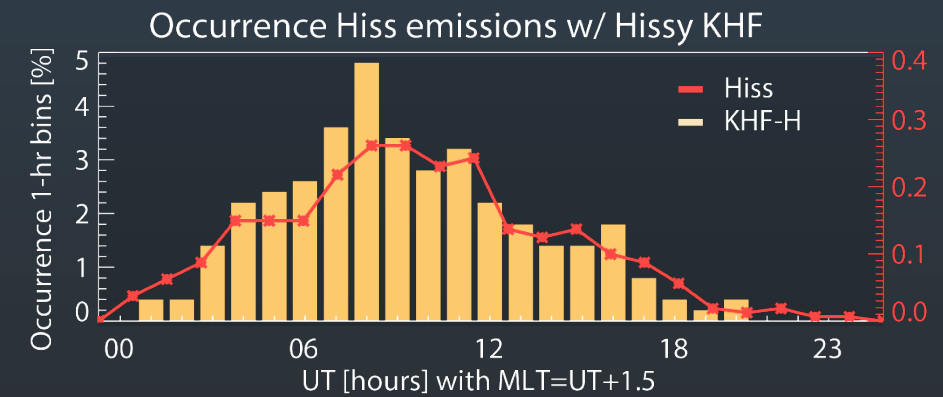
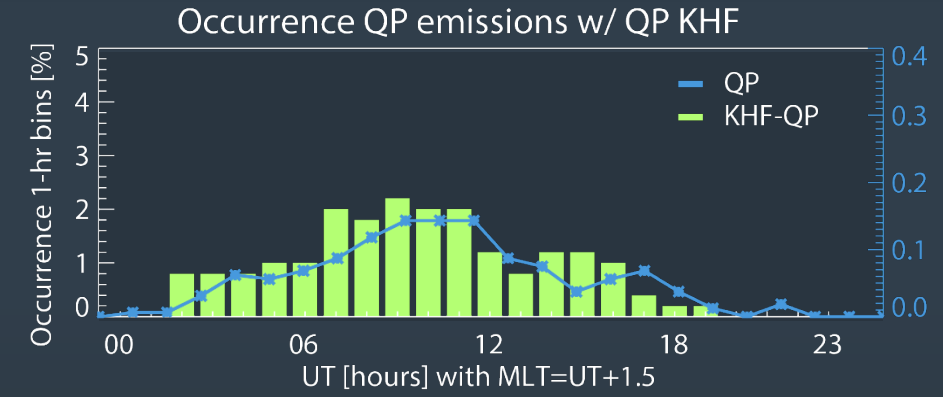


Statistical Results / Emission Type

Occurrence by type

- We compared the lower frequency waves observed at the same time as the 'unusual' KHF waves.
 - QP to KHF-QP (Q + S-shaped)
 - Hiss to KHF-Hissy
 - Chorus to KHF-D (discrete) and KHF-R (round)
- When separated by similar type of emission, the occurrence rate for KHF and accompanying VLF waves follow very similar trends

Rate = occurrence * 100 / total available hours



Statistical Results / Emission Type

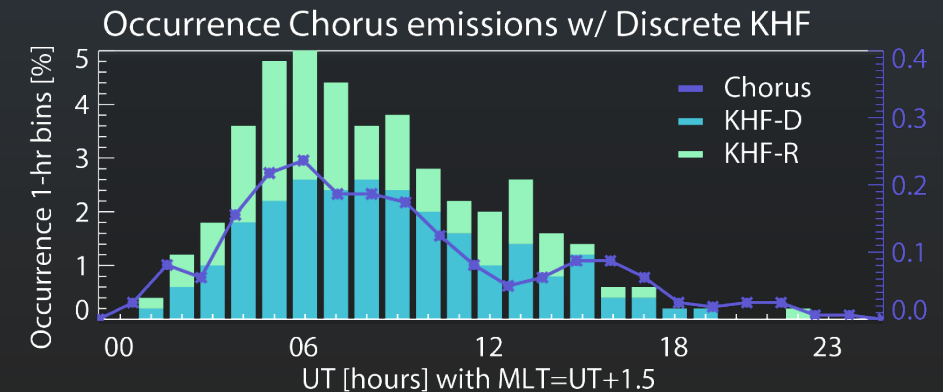
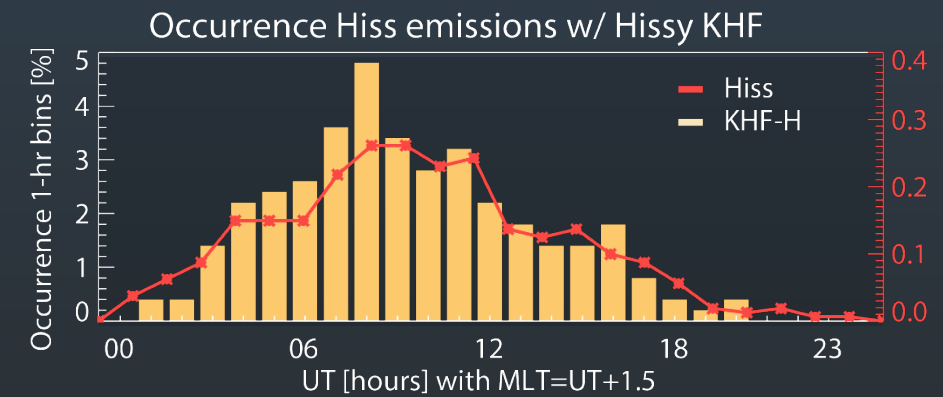
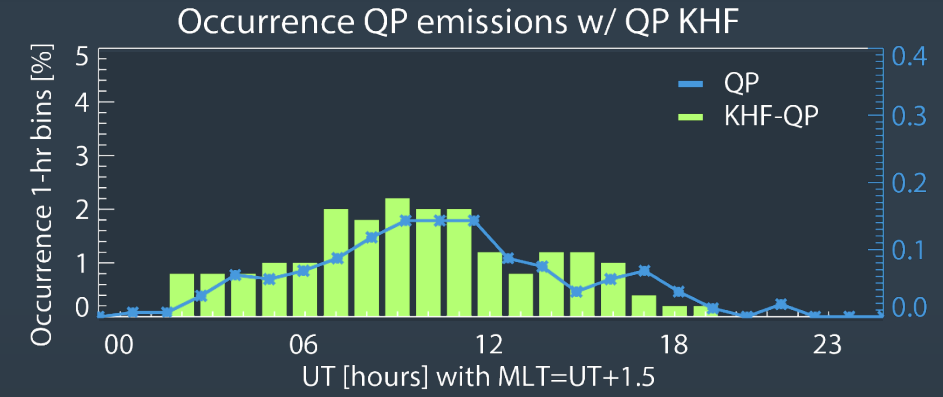
Occurrence by type

- We compared the lower frequency waves observed at the same time as the 'unusual' KHF waves.
- When separated by similar type of emission, the occurrence rate for KHF and accompanying VLF waves follow very similar trends

→ Both KHF and usual VLF emissions with similar characteristics are being generated at the same time in the magnetosphere.

KHF are not ionospheric in nature but generated by temperature anisotropy like usual VLF emissions.

Rate = occurrence * 100 / total available hours



Statistical Results / Emission Type

Occurrence by type

- We compared the lower frequency waves observed at the same time as the 'unusual' KHF waves.
- When separated by similar type of emission, the occurrence rate for KHF and accompanying VLF waves follow very similar trends

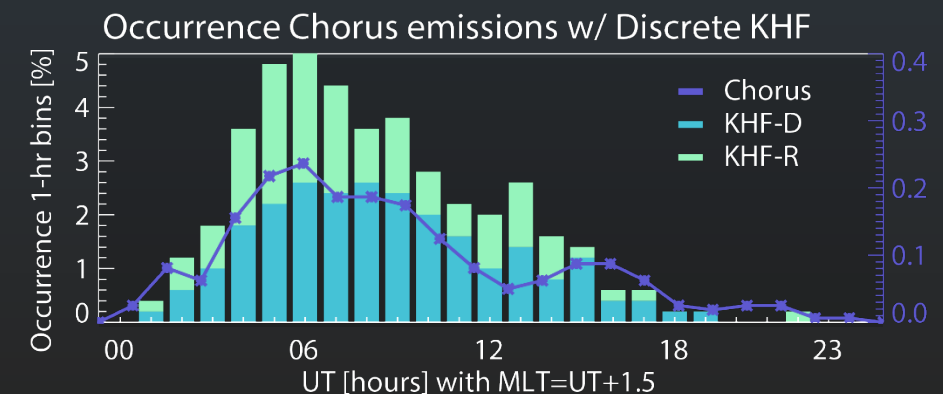
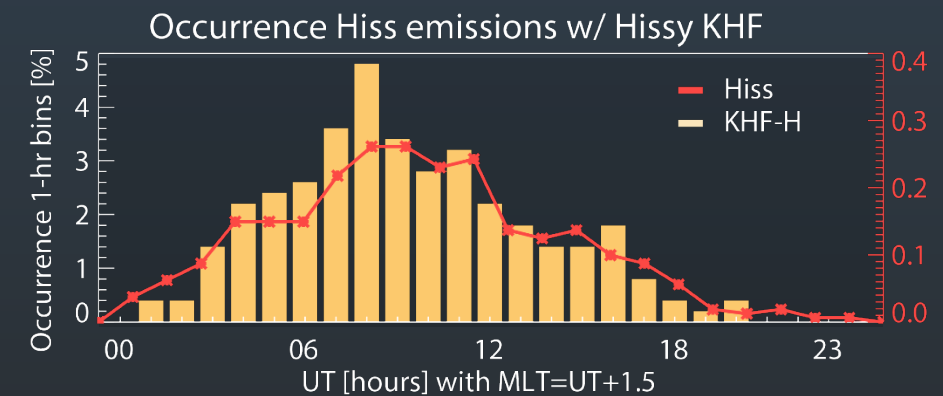
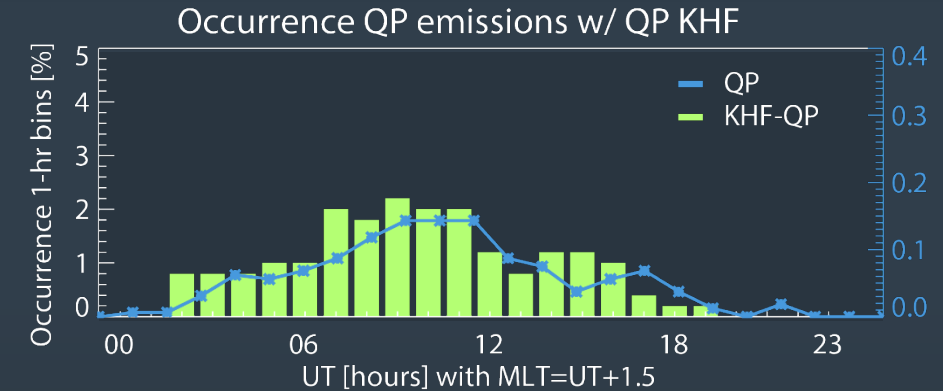
→ Both KHF and usual VLF emissions with similar characteristics are being generated at the same time in the magnetosphere.

KHF are not ionospheric in nature but generated by temperature anisotropy like usual VLF emissions.

→ are these waves coming from the same source ?

→ how are they propagating to KAN?

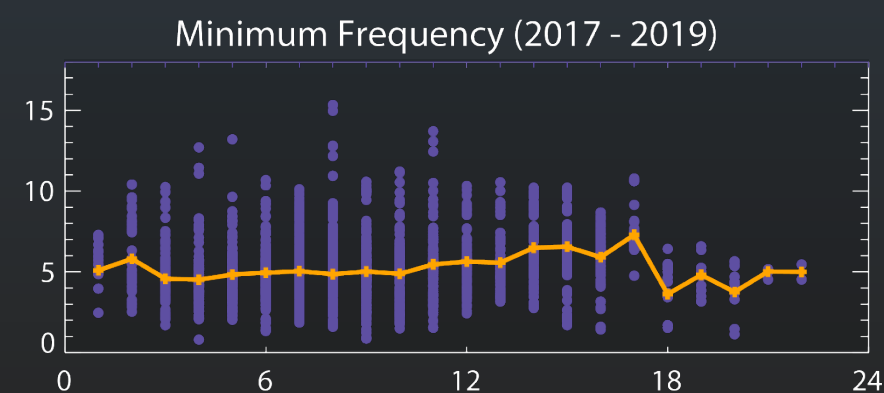
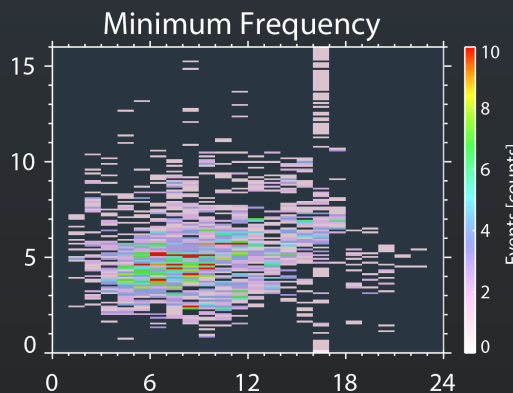
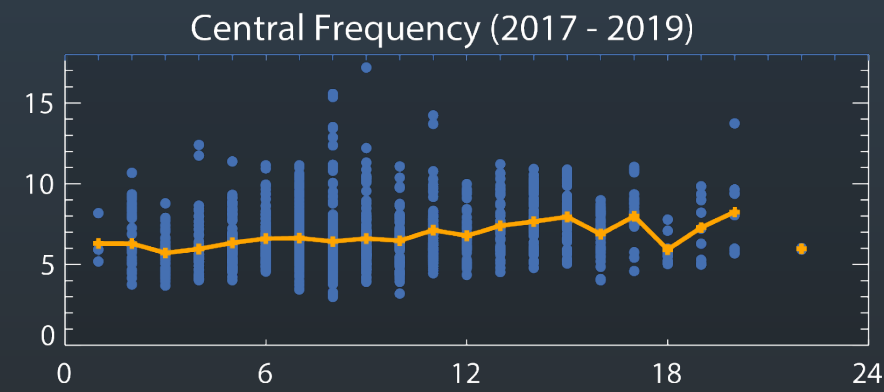
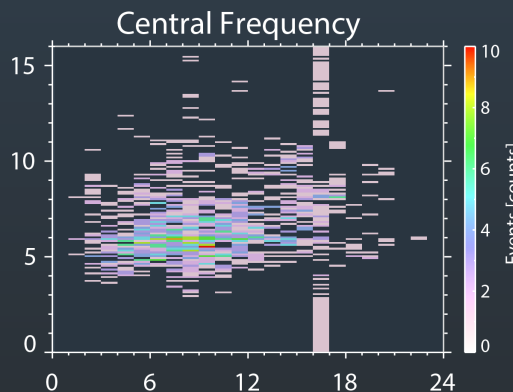
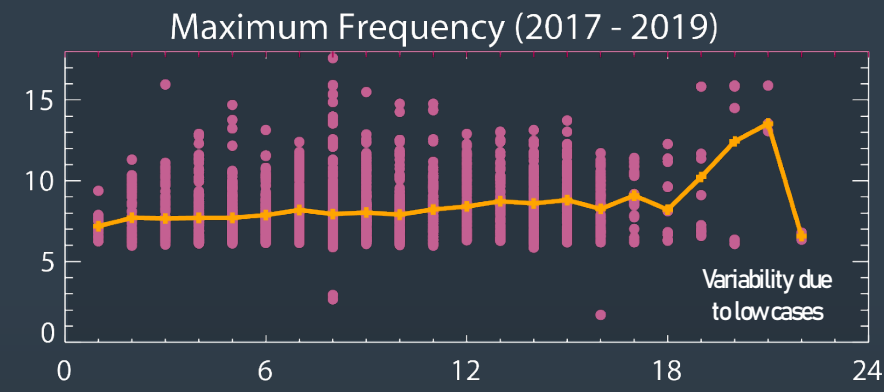
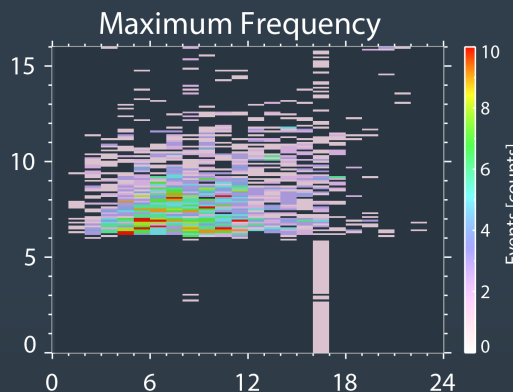
Rate = occurrence * 100 / total available hours



Statistical Results / Frequencies

Frequency distribution

Maximum frequency is less variable while central and minimum frequency shows more variability.



UT [hours] with MLT=UT+1.5

UT [hours] with MLT=UT+1.5

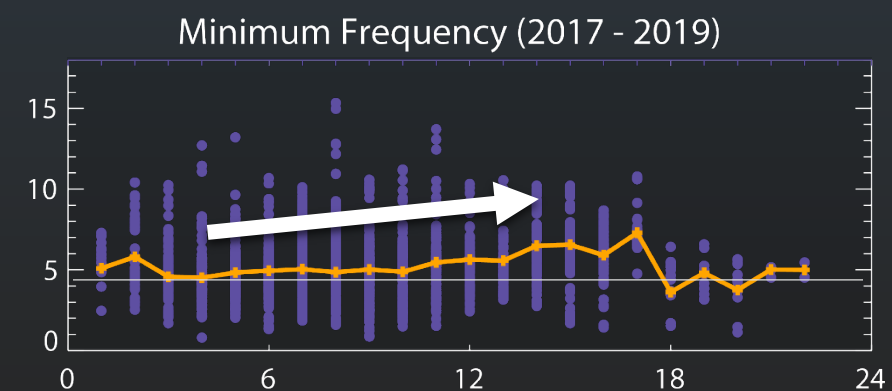
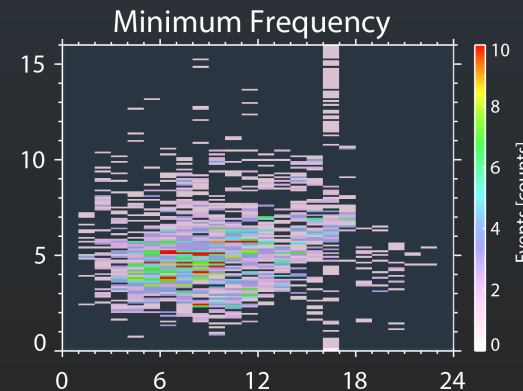
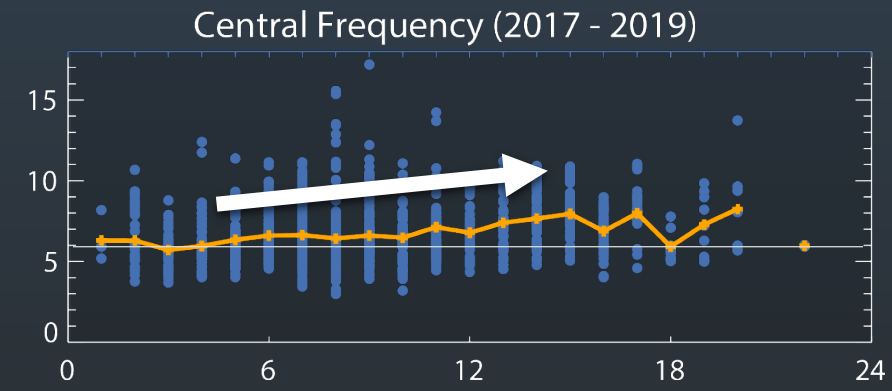
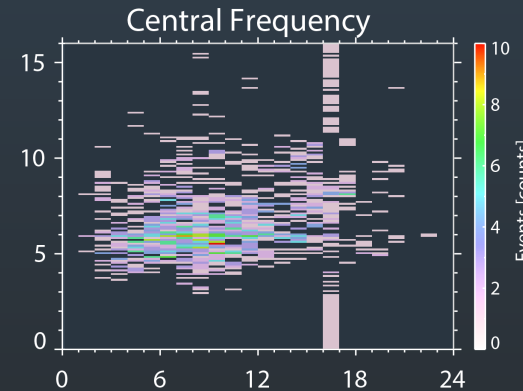
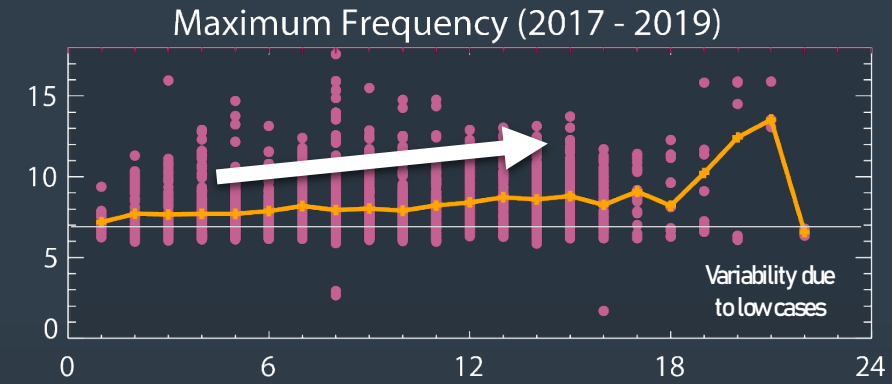
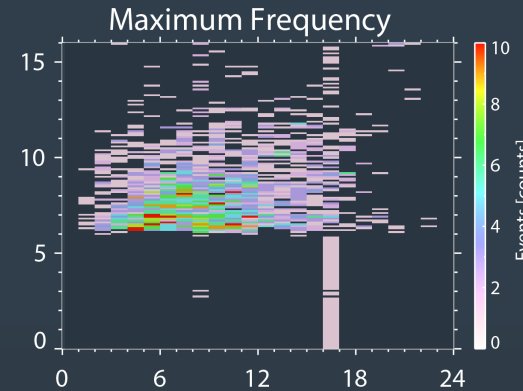
Statistical Results / Frequencies

Frequency distribution

Maximum frequency is less variable while central and minimum frequency shows more variability.

Slight upwards trend for all frequencies
→ global mean increases with MLT

Is it possible that the source region gets closer to the Earth in afternoon MLT?



UT [hours] with MLT=UT+1.5

UT [hours] with MLT=UT+1.5

Statistical Results / Propagation

Relationship with AE index ?

Some correlation between KHF occurrence and substorm activity however, not systematic.

→ likely KHF are generated by standard anisotropy but can only reach the ground under some conditions

Statistical Results / Propagation

Relationship with AE index ?

Some correlation between KHF occurrence and substorm activity however, not systematic.

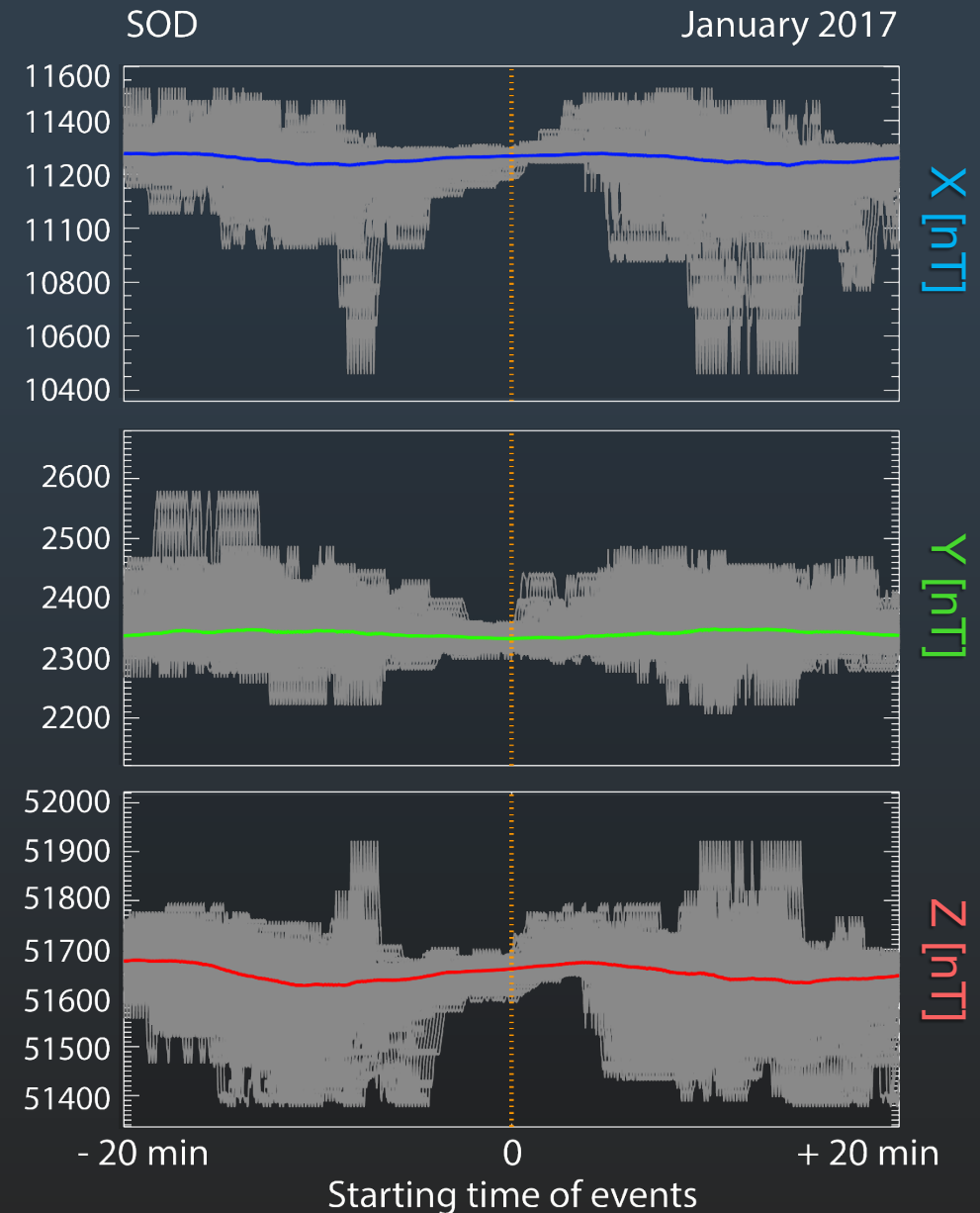
→ likely KHF are generated by standard anisotropy but can only reach the ground under some conditions

Relationship with magnetic field?

Superposed epoch analysis of X, Y, Z component from magnetometer at Sodankyla (~ 40 km from KAN).

→ **KHF are detected when the magnetic field has a local minimum**, suggesting propagation of KHF to the ground might be only when magnetic activity is low.

Valid for magnetic field variations in 2017, however I still need to check for 2018-2020 data!

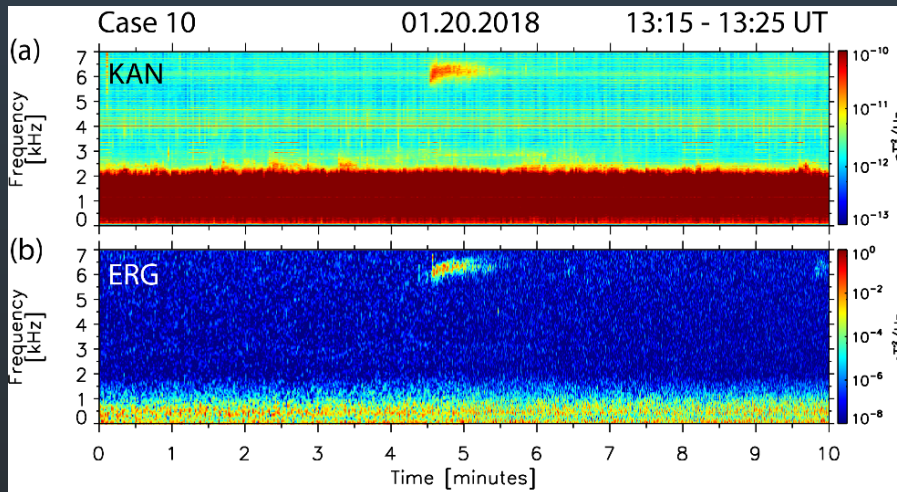


Ray Tracing / Propagation

KAN-ERG conjugated event

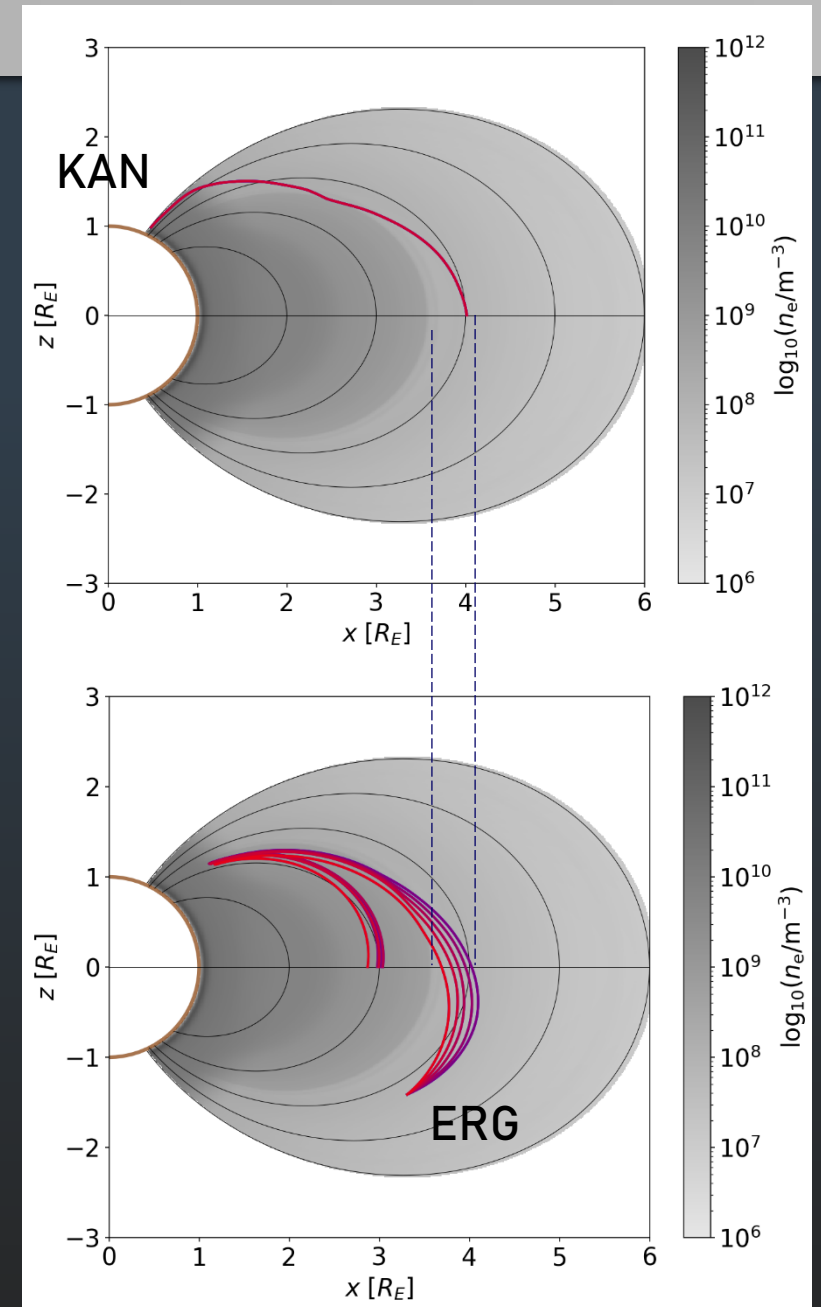
We have one case of a 2-min burst showing 1-to-1 correspondence between ERG and KAN.

Also observed by LOZ (400 km E of KAN)!



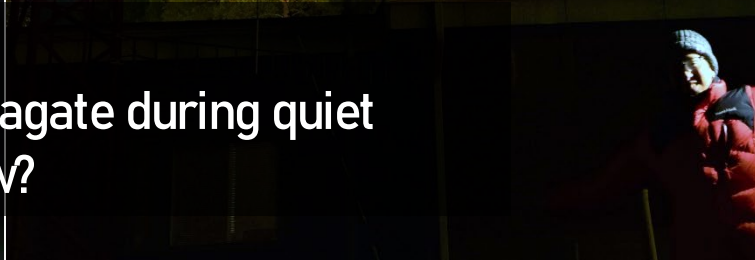
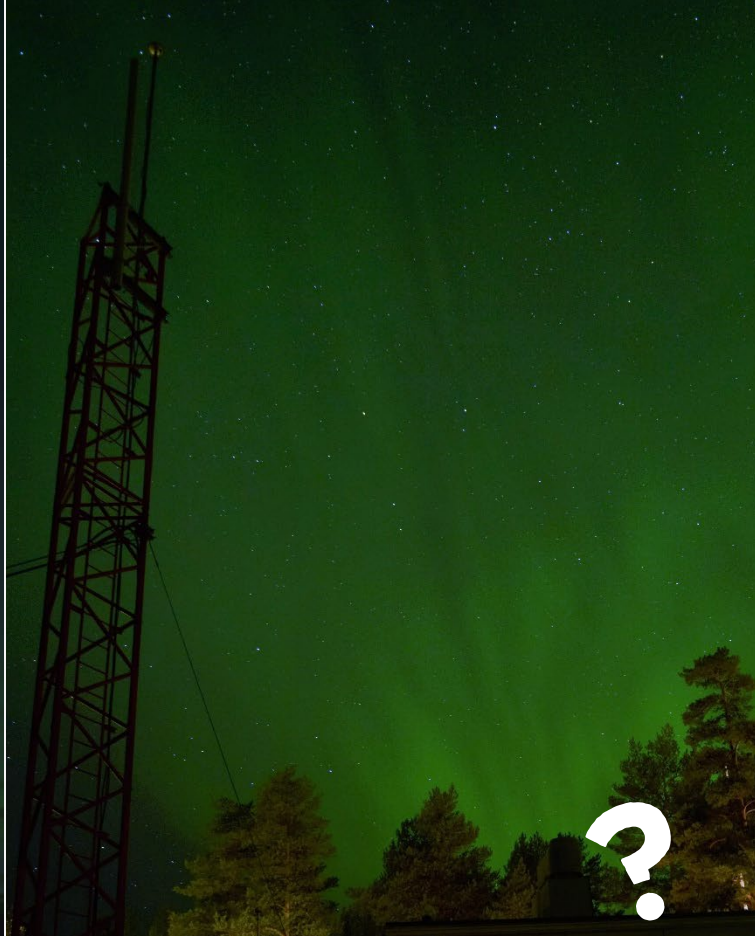
💣 I cannot stress enough how very preliminary these ray tracing results are!

[Thanks to M. Hanzelka (IAP) for the ray tracing program]





In a nutshell:
KHF are generated like usual VLF waves but propagate during quiet times and local minimum magnetic field... but how?



Thank you!
Questions? Comments?

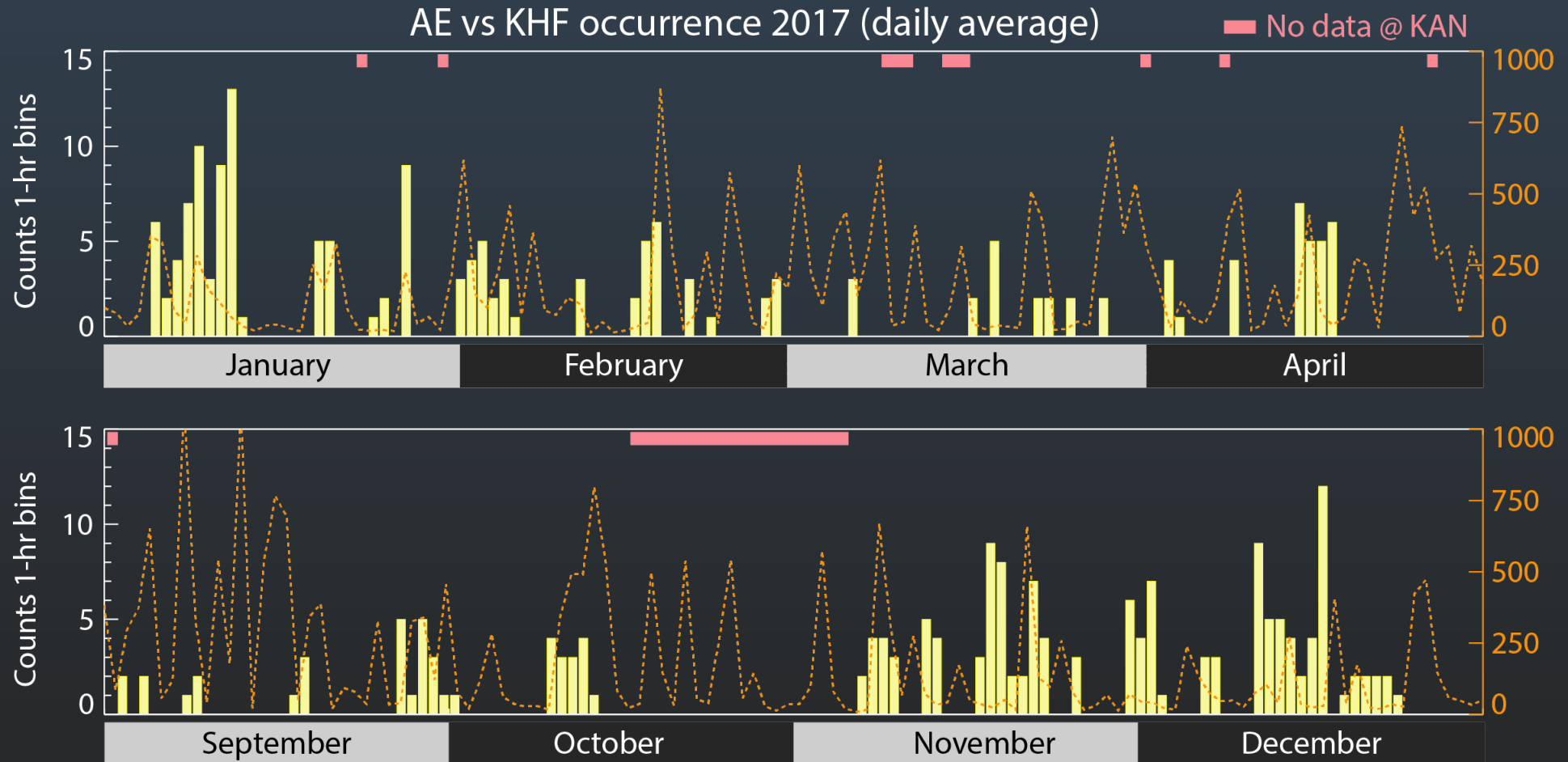


Extra / AE index

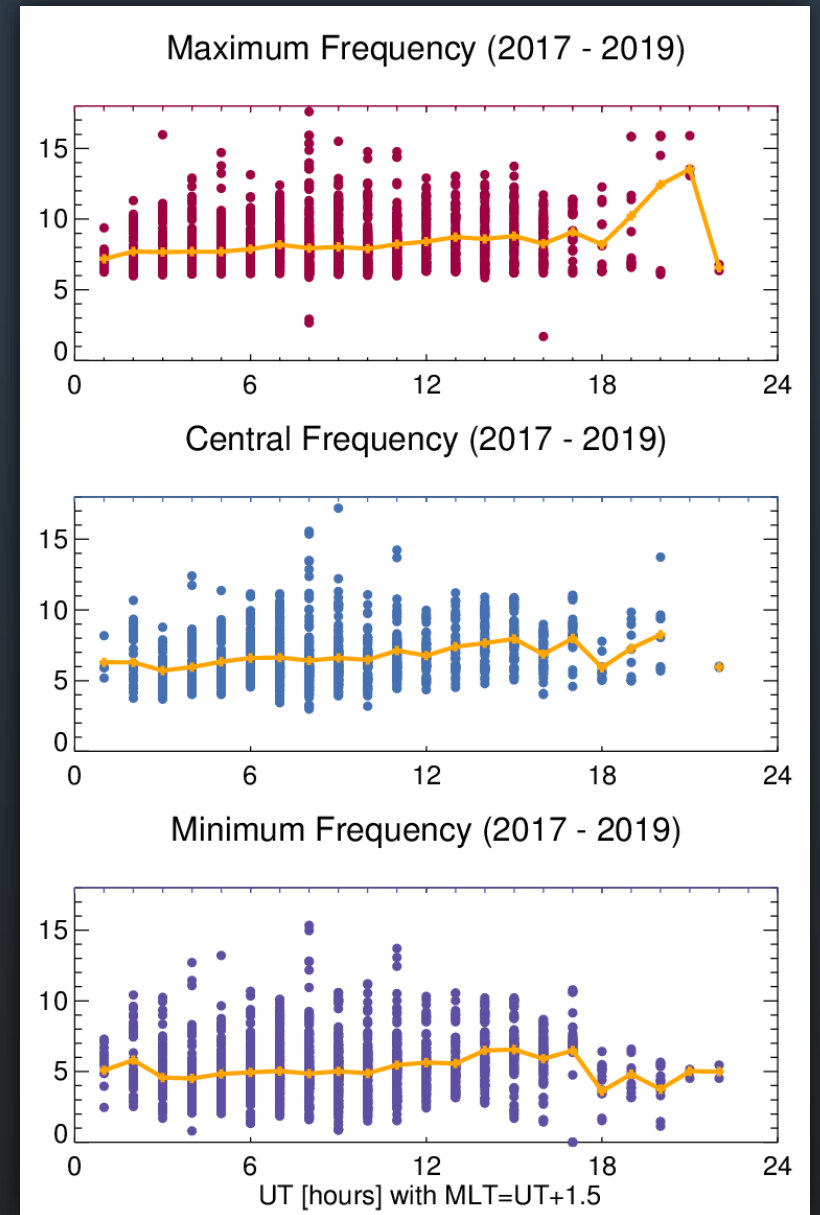
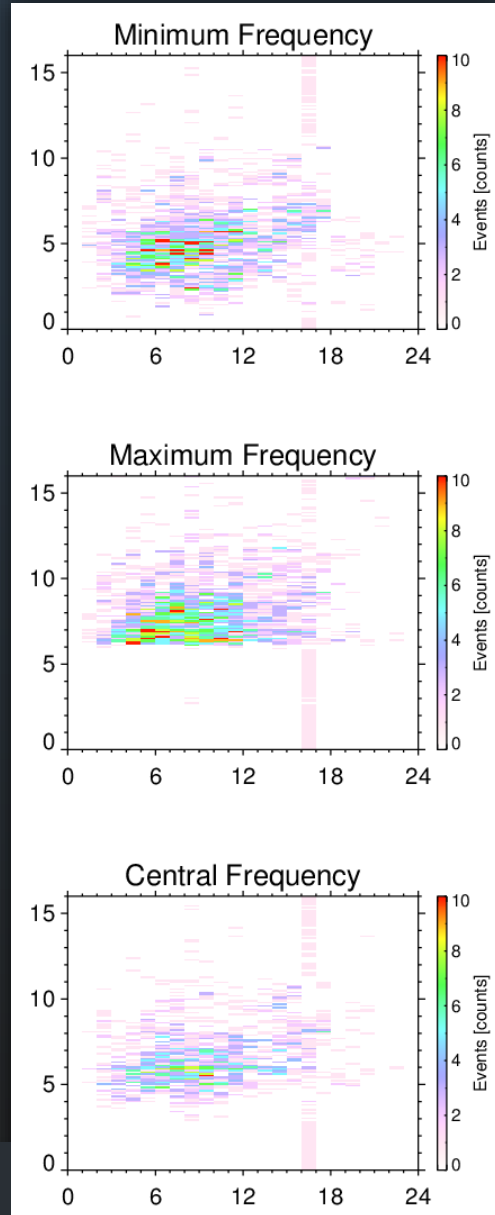
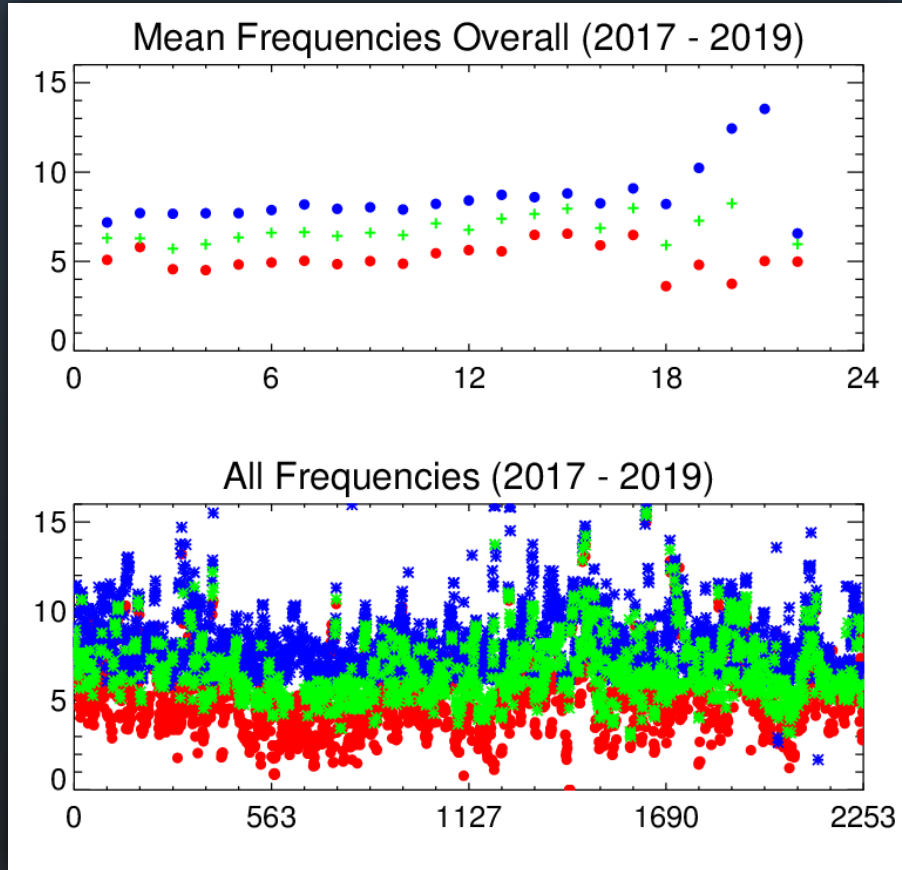
Relationship with AE index ?

Some correlation between KHF occurrence and substorm activity however, not systematic.

→ likely KHF are generated by standard anisotropy but can only reach the ground under some conditions



Extra / Frequency



Frequency vs MLT