Intermediate Wave Pulses in the Outbound Upstream Region of Comet p/Halley

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The outbound upstream region of comet p/Halley is characterized by short lived transverse perturbations of the interplanetary magnetic field. These predominantly intermediate wave pulses have typical durations of about 100 s and amplitudes of about 8 nT in a background field of about 8 nT. Thus they are classified as nonlinear wave effects. The nonlinear character is also exhibited in the wave form with the initial deflection of the field lasting for about 20-30 s, while returning to the unperturbed direction takes about 20-30 s. Hodograms indicate that the total magnetic field vector is almost moving along a semi-circle that is only a partial rotation is observed. The steep edge is observed both as the leading and the trailing print of the pulse.

American Geophysical Union
Abstract Form

Reference # 0000
Session 0.00

1. 1994 Fall Meeting
2. 002097090
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4. SH
5. (*) SH03 Comet/Solar Wind Interaction
   (b) 6026, 2780, 0030
   (c)
6. N/A
7. 0% published elsewhere
8. Charge $50 to K.H. Glassmeier MC card 5'23263023002605, expires 12/94
9. C
10. No special instructions
11. Regular author

Date received: 11 Aug 94
Date reformatted: September 6, 1994
Form version: 1.1