Global Observations of Geomagnetically Induced Currents Caused by an Extremely Intense Density Pulse During a Coronal Mass Ejection

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Key Points:

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| 22 | • A density pulse embedded in a coronal mass ejection drives global geomagnetic |
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| 23 | disturbances (GMD) and geomagnetically induced currents (GIC) |
| 24 | • Measured GIC's comparable to or exceed reference values in several regions, in- |
| 25 | cluding 58.1A in the mid-latitude region of United States |
| 26 | • Large-amplitude density pulses are an important driver of GIC and GMD for mid- |
| 27 | latitude regions with large populations |

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28 Abstract

A variety of magnetosphere-ionosphere current systems and waves have been linked to 29 geomagnetic disturbance (GMD) and geomagnetically induced currents (GIC). However, 30 since many location-specific factors control GMD and GIC intensity, it is often unclear 31 what mechanisms generate the largest GMD and GIC in different locations. We address 32 this challenge through analysis of multi-satellite measurements and globally distributed 33 magnetometer and GIC measurements. We find embedded within the magnetic cloud 34 of the 23-24 April 2023 Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) storm there was a global scale den-35 sity pulse lasting for 10-20 min with compression ratio of \sim 10. It caused substantial 36 dayside displacements of the bow shock and magnetopause, changes of $6R_E$ and 1.3– 37 $2R_E$, respectively, which in turn caused large amplitude GMD in the magnetosphere and 38 on the ground across a wide local time range. At the time this global GMD was observed, 30 GIC measured in New Zealand, Finland, Canada, and the United States were observed. 40 The GIC were comparable (within factors of 2-2.5) to the largest ever recorded during 41 \geq 14 year monitoring intervals in New Zealand and Finland and represented \sim 2-year max-42 ima in the United States during a period with several Kp>7 geomagnetic storms. Ad-43 ditionally, the GIC measurements in the USA and other mid-latitude locations exhib-44 ited wave-like fluctuations with 1-2 min period. This work suggests that large density 45 pulses in CME should be considered an important driver of large amplitude, global GMD 46 and among the largest GIC at mid-latitude locations, and that sampling intervals $\leq 10s$ 47 are required to capture these GMD/GIC. 48

⁴⁹ Plain Language Summary

We explore how disturbances in the Earth's magnetic field, known as geomagnetic 50 disturbances (GMD), and the resulting geomagnetically induced currents (GIC) in power 51 systems are influenced by different electrical currents and waves in near-Earth space. One 52 challenge is the lack of easily accessible data on GIC over long periods, which makes it 53 hard to figure out what factors are most responsible for changes in GIC in different places. 54 Also, there is limited research combining data from satellites with data collected on the 55 ground to figure out exactly how GMD and GIC are generated. To tackle these issues, 56 we looked at data collected by multiple satellites in different parts of near-Earth space 57 along with data from ground magnetometers and GIC measurements distributed around 58 the world. Our results suggest that density pulses from Coronal Mass Ejections, a par-59 ticular type of structure in the solar wind, are important in causing significant distur-60 bances in the Earth's magnetic field globally and contribute to some of the largest GIC 61 seen in the mid-latitude region of United States. We emphasize the importance of tak-62 ing measurements with high sampling rates ($\leq 10s$) to accurately capture these distur-63 bances and the resulting GIC. 64

65 1 Introduction

A variety of electric current systems and waves in the coupled solar wind-magnetosphere-66 ionosphere system cause variations in the magnetic field at the Earth's surface. These 67 geomagnetic field variations induce electric field variations in the Earth, or geoelectric 68 field variations. Geoelectric field variations in turn can drive geomagnetically induced 69 currents (GIC) that are capable of damaging power grids, telecommunications cables, 70 and oil and gas pipelines, as well as disrupting railroad switching systems (e.g., Pulkki-71 nen et al., 2017; Pilipenko, 2021; Patterson et al., 2023). The intensity of the GIC for 72 a particular geomagnetic field variation depends on several factors, including the ampli-73 tude/frequency/polarization/duration of the geomagnetic field variations, the local elec-74 75 trical conductivity of the Earth, and the configuration of the power system that the GIC flows through (e.g., Zheng et al., 2014; Love et al., 2019; Lucas et al., 2020; Shi et al., 76 2022). 77

A particular geomagnetic field variation may lead to GIC that cause damage/disruptions 78 to power systems in some situations and GIC that have no impacts on power systems 79 in others. For example, the electrical conductivity of the Earth is a major factor con-80 trolling the amplitude of both geoelectric field and GIC (e.g., Love et al., 2018; Cordell 81 et al., 2021), and it varies significantly from location to location; thus geoelectric haz-82 ard maps indicate that at fixed geomagnetic field variation amplitude, certain regions 83 are much more likely to have large amplitude thus potentially hazardous geoelectric fields 84 and GIC (e.g., Love et al., 2022). The particular network topology, power system con-85 figuration, and its susceptibility to GIC which is primarily contingent upon the charac-86 teristics of the transformers involved, are also important. Reference values for geomag-87 netic field variation, geoelectric field variation, and GIC are thus important for assess-88 ing whether a particular event might represent a hazard. These values may be based on 89 long-term monitoring (e.g., Viljanen et al., 2010; Rodger et al., 2017) or observations from 90 past events representing major geomagnetic storms that may have been linked to a power 91 system failure, transformer failure, etc., or a combination (e.g., Love et al., 2023). While 92 geomagnetic and geoelectric field values can be generalized. GIC reference values can-93 not typically be generalized from one type of power system to another or from one power 94 grid to another. For example, a reference GIC value for a gas pipeline would not be ap-95 plicable to a power grid, or vice versa. Table 1 provides reference values for GIC for a 96 few different power grids and a gas pipeline in Finland taken from long-term monitor-97 ing intervals and/or recent geomagnetic storms. Although the GIC reference values from 98 Table 1 have different reference types (e.g., length from 2 years to 25 years) and are not directly comparable, they provide important context to the event-specific GIC measure-100 ments shown in this study. 101

There are a multitude of different magnetosphere-ionosphere current systems and 102 waves that have been linked to hazardous GMD and GIC (e.g., Schillings et al., 2022; 103 Hartinger et al., 2023; Juusola et al., 2023). Some of these phenomena are associated with 104 global geomagnetic disturbance seen at a wide range of latitudes and longitudes (e.g., 105 Fiori et al., 2014; Marin et al., 2014; Love et al., 2023), while others are more localized 106 (e.g., Espinosa et al., 2019; Apatenkov et al., 2020). Reports of the most intense GIC, 107 including those that have been linked to power system disruptions, are often associated 108 with geomagnetic storms caused by Coronal Mass Ejections (CME). During CME-storms, 109 intense GIC have been linked to the initial arrival of the CME (e.g., Oliveira et al., 2024), 110 i.e., the impact of the CME's interplanetary shock on the Earth's magnetosphere; this 111 creates several types of magnetic latitude and longitude dependent current systems and 112 waves (Araki, 1994). Although the GMD associated with these shocks have amplitudes 113 that vary with spatial location including some locations having very weak GMD, they 114 are often referred to as a "global" response since, in contrast to more localized mesoscale 115 current systems (spatial scale < 500 km) or large scale current systems confined to a nar-116 row range of local times or latitudes, the GMD related to these currents/waves are mea-117 surable at a wide range of local times and latitudes. Hereafter, we shall use the same con-118 vention when referring to GMD as being "global." Intense GIC have also been linked 119 to disturbances within the CME-sheath that arrive after the interplanetary shock, in-120 cluding fluctuations in the CME (Kilpua et al., 2019) that create global geomagnetic dis-121 turbance. Finally, CMEs are often associated with intense magnetic fields with favor-122 able orientation (opposite to the Earth's magnetic field direction, i.e., southward inter-123 planetary magnetic field, IMF) for magnetic reconnection that in turn causes intensifi-124 cation of global plasma transport, ring current intensification, increased nightside recon-125 nection, and the intensification and equatorward expansion of auroral electrojets. Many 126 of these effects have been linked to geomagnetic disturbance and intense GIC; for exam-127 ple, nightside auroral electrojet intensifications have been linked to power grid disrup-128 tions during the March 1989 storm in Quebec (Boteler, 2019). 129

While most studies of GIC related to CME have focused on interplanetary shocks (sudden impulse) and on periods with intense southward IMF (e.g., Smith et al., 2024),

| Study | Magnetic Latitude (°) | Power System Type | Reference Type | GIC (Amperes) |
|---|--------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| Rodger et al. (2017) | -50.09 | NZ Power Grid Transformer ISL M6 | 14-year Maximum | 34.1 |
| This Study, 24 April 2023 storm | -49.95 | NZ Power Grid Transformer ISL M6 | Event Maximum | 16.2 |
| Altalink Maximum Reported 2022-2023 | $60.0 \\ 57.5$ | AB Power Grid Transformer 320P Transformer 520S | Seven Storms Kp>6 in 2022-2023 | 131 28 |
| This Study, 24 April 2023 storm | | Transformer 320P Transformer 520S | Event Maximum | $\begin{array}{c} 64 \\ 15 \end{array}$ |
| NB Power Maximum Reported Recent Storms Kp≥7 | 54.56 | Canada Power Grid Transformer (10628) | Four Storms $Kp \ge 7$ in 2022-2023 | 24.8 |
| This Study, 24 April 2023 storm | 54.56 | Canada Power Grid Transformer (10628) | Event Maximum | 24.8 |
| ATC Maximum Reported Nov 2021-Jan 2024 | 51.75 | US Power Grid Transformer (10659) | \sim 2-year maximum | 58.1 |
| ATC Maximum Reported Recent Storms Kp≥7 | 51.75 | US Power Grid Transformer (10659) | Two Storms $Kp \ge 7$ in 2023 | 58.1 |
| This Study, 24 April 2023 storm | 51.75 | US Power Grid Transformer (10659) | Event Maximum | 58.1 |
| Viljanen et al. (2010), extended-2023 | $\sim \! 57 \text{-} 58$ | Finland Gas Pipeline | 25-year Maximum | 57 |
| This Study, 24 April 2023 storm | 57.35 | Finland Gas Pipeline | Event Maximum | 35 |

 Table 1. GIC reference values compared to maximum GIC in this study

other structures related to CME may also drive potentially hazardous GIC. This includes 132 pressure-balanced density pulses, which can be mirror mode and slow mode in nature, 133 frequently observed in the solar wind and sheath region of CMEs (e.g., Howes et al., 2012; 134 Ala-Lahti et al., 2018; Chandrasekhar et al., 1958; Hasegawa, 1969; Tu & Marsch, 1995; 135 Dimmock et al., 2015; He et al., 2015; Narita & Marsch, 2015; Dimmock et al., 2022). 136 Both modes are fundamental plasma phenomena, characterized by anti-correlation be-137 tween the magnetic field strength and density, on MHD or kinetic scales. Associated with 138 field strength depletion, the density enhancement and thus dynamic pressure enhance-139 ment could lead to back-and-forth motion of the bow shock and magnetopause, and thus 140 create geomagnetic disturbances (e.g., Sibeck, 1990) including pulsations, also referred 141 to as Ultra Low Frequency (ULF) waves. 142

There is still debate on which phenomena can lead to potentially hazardous GIC 143 (i.e., can potentially cause damage/disruption to power systems), and recent work sug-144 gests that the answer can change from storm to storm. For example, power system fail-145 ures in Quebec during the March 1989 storm were attributed to an auroral electrojet on 146 the nightside (Boteler, 2019), while other studies suggest that dayside phenomena re-147 lated solar wind disturbances related to interplanetary shocks, the impact of multiple 148 CMEs, and quasi-periodic variations may lead to power system disruptions and/or dam-149 age during the 1940 and 2003 storms (Pulkkinen et al., 2005; Love et al., 2023). It is cru-150 cial to identify which specific mechanisms - whether CME-related or not - can drive po-151 tentially hazardous GIC, and at which locations intense GIC might occur for a given mech-152 anism. This information is needed to improve both physics-based models (e.g., to en-153 sure model configurations are appropriate for capturing the relevant phenomena) and 154 data-driven models (e.g., to ensure the measurements constraining the models are cap-155 tured at the appropriate spatial and temporal resolution and in the appropriate loca-156 tions). 157

In this study, we examine the drivers of global GMD as well as observations of GIC 158 at several widely distributed locations during the 23-24 April 2023 CME-storm, focus-159 ing on the impact of a large density pulse embedded within the CME. In particular, we 160 analyze multi-satellite measurements in the solar wind, magnetosheath, magnetosphere, 161 as well as globally distributed magnetometer and GIC measurements, with the GIC mea-162 surements referenced against long monitoring intervals and past geomagnetic storms. As 163 we shall show, (1) the CME-density pulse led to among the largest, or in some cases the 164 largest, GIC values reported at mid-latitude locations, and (2) these GIC exhibited fluc-165 tuations with 1-2 minute periodicity at some locations during this time period. This sug-166 gests that large density pulses in CME should be considered an important driver of large 167 amplitude, global GMD and among the largest GIC at mid-latitude locations, and that 168 sampling intervals < 10s are required to capture these GMD/GIC. 169

170 2 Datasets

We use observations from the Magnetospheric Multiscale mission (MMS) (Burch 171 et al., 2016) and Time History of Events and Macroscale Interactions during Substorms 172 mission (THEMIS) (Angelopoulos, 2008) in the dayside region, as well as the ARTEMIS 173 mission (TH-C spacecraft) at lunar orbit which was part of THEMIS before 2010. Plasma 174 data from the MMS fast plasma investigation (FPI) instrument suite (Pollock et al., 2016) 175 and the THEMIS electrostatic analyzer (ESA) (McFadden et al., 2008) and DC mag-176 netic field data from fluxgate magnetometer onboard MMS (Russell et al., 2016) and THEMIS 177 (Auster et al., 2008) are used. Ion composition is measured from MMS Hot Plasma Com-178 position Analyzer (HPCA) (Young et al., 2016). We also use Deep Space Climate Ob-179 servatory (DSCOVR) observations at L1 (Loto'aniu et al., 2022) and Korean Multi-Purpose 180 Satellite (KOMPSAT) magnetometer observations at geosynchronous orbit (Kim, 1999; 181 Magnes et al., 2020). 182

As noted in section 1, the GIC in a given power system depends on many factors 183 including spatial and temporal GMD variations, local ground conductivity, and power 184 system configuration and resistances. To explore and quantify a range of GIC responses 185 that are possible, we examine GIC data from multiple widely spread sites, all referenced 186 against extended monitoring intervals or past storms. This type of analysis is rarely con-187 ducted (e.g., Clilverd, Mark A. et al., 2021); most past studies showing GIC measure-188 ments examine a single geographic region/power system and/or do not reference their 189 results. The GIC data used in this study from multiple different sources as listed below: 190

- Finland: recordings of GIC in the Finnish natural gas pipeline are carried out close to the Mäntsälä compressor station in southern Finland (60.6° N, 25.2° E).
- 2. North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) Geomagnetic Distur-193 bance (GMD) database: The NERC GMD database includes North American GIC 194 monitor and ground magnetometer data during geomagnetic storms of Kp≥7. GIC 195 data from two sites (device 10659 and 10628) are used in this study. Device 10628 196 is operated by New Brunswick Power in Eastern Canada; it corresponds to an ECLIPSE 197 GIC monitoring device from Advanced Power Technologies. The measurement is 198 taken with a split-core Hall-effect CT. The other device 10659 is operated by Amer-199 ican Transmission Company, LLC in the Upper Midwest region of the United States; 200 it also corresponds to a split-core Hall sensor. This monitor (device 10659) runs 201 with an offset DC value of about 5 Amperes which was subtracted during the anal-202 vsis in this study. 203
- 3. Alberta: GIC in Alberta is measured by AltaLink on transformers at Keephills
 substation (320P) in central Alberta and Bennett substation (520S) in southern
 Alberta. The GIC sensors used by AltaLink are also ECLIPSE GIC monitoring
 devices from Advanced Power Technologies, the same as those used by New Brunswick
 Power. For more information on the GIC measurements see Cordell et al. (2024).
- 4. New Zealand: GIC measurements from Transpower New Zealand Limited consisting of direct current (DC) measured in several transformers in the South Island
 of New Zealand. Data from the Islington (ISL) number 6 transformer are used for
 this study as ISL is close to the EYR magnetometer; the measurements at this transformer are referred to as ISL M6. For further details on this GIC dataset, see Mac Manus
 et al. (2017), Rodger et al. (2020), and Clilverd et al. (2020).

To assess the ground response, we use ground magnetometer data from Finnish Meteorological Institute (FMI) with 1-sec cadence, several networks that are obtained from the SuperMAG database with 1-min cadence in standard SuperMAG format (Gjerloev, 2012), and MAGStar with 1-sec cadence (Gannon, 2023). Ground magnetic field perturbations (ΔB) are obtained by subtracting their mean within the time interval showed in each figure. The time derivative of horizontal magnetic field perturbations (dH/dt) is obtained from $dH/dt = \sqrt{dB_x/dt + dB_y/dt}$.

3 Results

On 23 — 24 April 2023, a CME caused a geomagnetic storm. The storm had a min-223 imum in Dst of -213 nT (provisional Dst index obtained from WDC for Geomagnetism, 224 Kyoto, https://wdc.kugi.kyoto-u.ac.jp/dst_provisional/202304/index.html), 225 which is considered intense, though not among the most extreme geomagnetic storms 226 ever reported (Gonzalez et al., 1994). Recent studies by Despirak et al. (2023), Ghag et 227 al. (2024), and Zou et al. (2024) have examined this CME and/or corresponding GMD 228 and GIC responses; we discuss some of these results in later sections. For now, we note 229 that some of these studies have labeled 23-24 April 2023 as being two geomagnetic storms 230 (Despirak et al., 2023), while others have labeled this as a single two-step geomagnetic 231 storm (Ghag et al., 2024); these studies are referring to the fact that Dst has two dis-232 tinct minima likely related to the time evolution of IMF Bz (note that two geomagnetic 233

storms are not necessarily related to two CMEs). Whether this event is labelled a single two-step geomagnetic storm or two separate geomagnetic storms matters little to the
present work. We focus on one particular time interval near the time of the second Dst
minimum at 6 UT on 24 April 2023.

3.1 Upstream analysis

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In this subsection we focus on a transient scale structure during this CME event, 239 while following subsections will examine global GMD and GIC. TH-C at lunar orbit (see 240 position in Figure 1) observed that there was a sharp density gradient at $\sim 01:30$ UT that 241 decreased the plasma density to $\sim 2-6 \ cm^{-3}$ (Figure 2c) while the IMF strength re-242 mained ~ 30 nT (Figure 2a), signifying a transition from CME sheath to magnetic cloud 243 (Ghag et al., 2024). At 03:30 - 03:50 UT, there were two density peaks of greater than 244 $40 \text{ } \text{cm}^{-3}$ (Figure 2c) with slight field strength decrease (Figure 2a). As a result, the dy-245 namic pressure increased by a factor of more than 10 (Figure 2e). Similar observations 246 were also seen by DSCOVR (Figure S1 in the supporting information), ACE, and Wind 247 (not shown). Thus, this structure was not locally formed but already existed at least be-248 fore L1. As the variations of IMF magnitude and plasma parameters are inconsistent with 249 an interplanetary shock (as seen from Figure 2 and Figure S1), we call it an extremely 250 intense density pulse. 251



Figure 1. Spacecraft positions relative to the bow shock and magnetopause before and during the density peaks. The Merka et al. (2005) bow shock model and Shue et al. (1998) magnetopause model are used. Because of the extreme upstream conditions (e.g., very low Alfvén Mach number), the model bow shock shape may be unrealistic.

Corresponding to the two density peaks, the ion energy flux shows clear enhancement at ~7 keV (Figure 2b). This flux enhancement is from heavy ions based on ion distribution functions (just like the secondary beam at ~3 keV from alpha particles) because ESA instrument assumes all ions to be protons causing the energy of heavy ions to be overestimated by a factor of mass-to-charge ratio (4-5 in this case). The appear-



Figure 2. TH-C observations of the event. The top left plot shows the overview of the event. From top to bottom are (a) magnetic field in GSE, (b) ion energy spectrum, (c) electron density, (d) ion bulk velocity in GSE, (e) dynamic pressure. The top right plot is the zoom-in plot of the density peaks. From top to bottom are (f) magnetic field in GSE, (g) magnetic field in LMN coordinates, (h) electron density, (i) ion bulk velocity in LMN coordinates, (j), the angle between the magnetic field variation and velocity variation (by subtracting the ambient background), (k) magnetic pressure (blue), electron thermal pressure (magenta), and the sum (black). The sketch on the bottom indicates the magnetic field line shapes (blue arrows) in the GSE-YZ plane (not a 3D plot), at different time (t1-t7 in panel f) when the spacecraft cross it. The dotted arrow is time axis, and its crossing at the field lines indicate the locally observed field line direction in the GSE-YZ plane. The field line shapes are sketched based on the assumption that the field lines are eventually along the background field direction far away from the perturbations. The short black arrow indicates the L direction (maximum variation direction) and red arrows indicate the velocity variation direction.

ance of these heavy ions in the energy spectrum could be either due to the extremely intense density enhancement that increased their flux to above the instrument noise level
 or due to a source of heavy ions associated with the structure.

MMS around the dawn flank (Figure 1) observed the response of the bow shock. 260 Figure 3 shows that MMS was initially in the solar wind, and then due to the density 261 and thus dynamic pressure decrease observed by TH-C (a sharp decrease at $\sim 01:30$ UT 262 and gradual decrease later on in Figures 2c and 2e), the bow shock moved outward caus-263 ing MMS to enter the magnetosheath. Later, because of the density pulses and the as-264 sociated significant dynamic pressure enhancement, the bow shock was pushed back, and 265 MMS observed the first density peak interacting with the bow shock and the second den-266 sity peak in the solar wind. After the density peaks, there was back-and-forth motion 267 of the bow shock as well as density and velocity perturbations in the magnetosheath caused 268 by the solar wind density/dynamic pressure perturbations (Figures 2c and 2e). Similar 269 to TH-C observations, MMS also observed the flux enhancement of heavy ions at the sec-270 ond density peak (also see ion distributions in Figure S2). 271



Figure 3. MMS observations of the event. The left and right plots are in a similar format as Figure 2, except that the electron and ion temperature in the perpendicular and parallel directions are shown in panel (k). Time intervals between two vertical dotted lines and dashed lines in the right plot are for ion distributions from FPI and HPCA in Figure S2.

Z72 Zooming in and transforming to the local LMN coordinates using minimum vari-273 ance analysis (MVA, Sonnerup and Scheible (1998)) on the magnetic field around the 274 second density peak, TH-C (Figure 2g), MMS (Figure 3g), and DSCOVR (Figure S1g) 275 observed the same field variation: a unipolar B_L variation without any clear change in 276 B_M and B_N (thus we cannot trust M and N direction). Using the timing method be-277 tween TH-C and MMS in the direction perpendicular to the L direction (e.g., Schwartz 278 (1998)), we calculate that the structure normal is mostly along GSE-X (~[0.89, 0.26, - 0.36]). Based on the field variation and spacecraft crossing direction, we construct the field geometry of this structure in Figure 2l.

Initially (t1 in Figure 2l), the IMF lines were mostly in the -Y and -Z direction in 281 GSE. While crossing the structure (mostly along GSE-X direction perpendicular to the 282 field), the field lines became more and more curved leading to more negative B_{y} and less 283 negative B_z (t2-t4 in Figure 2l). After crossing the center (t4-t7), the field lines grad-284 ually changed back to the background geometry. (The first density peak shows similar 285 field variation except in the opposite direction.) Based on the field geometry, the struc-286 ture is consistent with a magnetic bottle in the YZ plane with thickness along GSE-X 287 of $\sim 17 R_E$ (3 min \times 600 km/s), which confined plasma within it. Because all TH-C, MMS, 288 and DSCOVR observed similar field variation with spatial separation in the GSE-YZ plane 289 by $\sim 70 R_E$, such a magnetic bottle should be elongated along the field lines by a very 290 long distance compared to the transect. 291

The ion bulk velocity shows variation in a direction opposite to that of the mag-292 netic field variation (see L component in Figures 2j, 3j, and S1j). As sketched in Figure 293 2l, such velocity variation indicates that the curved field lines tended to recover. Thus, 294 this structure was very likely dissipating. Note that, the V_M enhancement in Figures 2i 295 and 3i corresponding to V_X enhancement in Figures 2d and 3d was mostly due to the 296 appearance of heavy ions with energy/bulk speed overestimated by ESA and FPI instru-297 ments (DSCOVR did not observe such a V_M or V_X enhancement as Faraday Cup mea-298 surement is more accurate than ESA and FPI). 299

Figures 2k and 3l show that the magnetic pressure decrease (blue) can be almost 300 balanced by the electron thermal pressure enhancement (magenta). Because ESA and 301 FPI cannot measure solar wind ion temperature correctly, the ion thermal pressure is 302 not shown. DSCOVR observations show that due to ion temperature decrease, the ion 303 thermal pressure decreased to a very small value within the structure (Figure S1k). Over-304 all, this was roughly a pressure balanced structure. Thus, the extremely intense density 305 enhancement was likely due to the very low plasma β (on the order of 0.1) that even a 306 slight magnetic pressure decrease, the plasma density had to increase significantly to bal-307 ance it. 308

Because of the magnetic bottle-like geometry and anti-correlation between the mag-309 netic field strength and density with balanced pressure, the nature of this structure was 310 very likely a mirror mode or slow mode. If it was a mirror mode, there should be strong 311 perpendicular temperature anisotropy within the structure. Figure 3k shows significant 312 enhancement in ion perpendicular temperature compared to parallel temperature, even 313 though field strength depletion tended to cause betatron cooling. This can also be seen 314 by comparing ion/proton distributions inside the density peak and the nearby background 315 (corresponding to dotted and dashed vertical lines, respectively), measured from FPI and 316 HPCA instruments (Figure S2 in the supporting information). Thus, the perpendicu-317 lar temperature anisotropy of ions might be the free energy source of the structure. How-318 ever, FPI measured protons were convolved with the heavy ions, and the HPCA instru-319 ment requires special processing for deadtime corrections during the event, so these re-320 sults have to be treated with caution. 321

Because the plasma β was very low (~0.1), to satisfy the mirror mode criterion $(T_{\perp}/T_{\parallel})$ 322 $1+1/\beta$; Hasegawa (1969)), the perpendicular temperature should be more than 10 times 323 the parallel temperature, which can be hardly achieved. One possible cause of this in-324 consistency is that this structure was a remnant of a mirror mode structure formed when 325 the plasma β was not low. While it was propagating towards L1 and Earth, the struc-326 ture started to dissipate as suggested by the velocity variation direction opposite to that 327 of the field. Another possibility is that this structure may be a slow mode (e.g., He et 328 al., 2015; Narita & Marsch, 2015), which can exist at a low plasma β environment. Its 329 wave vector direction could be quasi-perpendicular to the background field (mostly in 330

the YZ plane) so that it was quasi-static. Additionally, modelling by L. Zhang et al. (2018) suggested that such a kind of structures could be a mixture of mirror mode and slow mode.

Mirror modes and slow modes are very common across the heliosphere (e.g., Winterhalter et al., 1994; T. L. Zhang et al., 2009; Ala-Lahti et al., 2018; Howes et al., 2012; He et al., 2015). The complicated plasma environments, such as around CMEs, could sometimes cause them to have extreme density/dynamic pressure variations. Several more examples can be found in the supporting information. Such extremely intense dynamic pressure variations can lead to significant bow shock and magnetopause back-and-forth motion as demonstrated in the next section.

3.2 Downstream response

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During this event, three THEMIS spacecraft (TH-A, TH-D, and TH-E) were around 341 the subsolar region (Figure 1). They were initially in the solar wind and crossed the bow 342 shock at $X \sim 11R_E$ at ~00:50 UT. Right before the arrival of the sharp density gra-343 dient observed by TH-C, three THEMIS spacecraft observed back-and-forth motion of 344 the bow shock ($\sim 01:40 - 01:50$ UT). Due to the sharp density/dynamic pressure de-345 crease, the bow shock moved outward globally. After the three spacecraft entered the 346 magnetosheath again at $\sim 01:50$ UT, they observed the gradual decrease in plasma den-347 sity (Figures 4c, 4g, and 4k), speed (Figures 4d, 4h, and 4l and see decreasing energy in 348 Figures 4b, 4f, and 4j), and temperature (see narrower energy band in Figures 4b, 4f, 349 and 4j). Such plasma parameter variations were caused by the gradual expansion of the 350 bow shock/magnetosheath due to the gradual density/dynamic pressure decrease observed 351 by TH-C. Due to the global expansion as well as the extremely low Alfvén Mach num-352 ber $(\sim 1-3)$, the magnetosheath density was even closer to the solar wind density. Such 353 global expansion caused MMS to cross the bow shock at $X \sim 13.9 R_E$ around the flank 354 at ~02:30 UT (so the bow shock nose should be at $X > 13.9R_E$). 355



Figure 4. Three THEMIS observations of the event. From top to bottom are magnetic field in GSE, ion energy spectrum, electron density, and ion bulk velocity.

At ~03:40 UT, TH-E temporarily crossed the magnetopause into the magnetosphere at $X \sim 7.7R_E$ likely due to the global expansion. Then the two large density peaks encountered the bow shock causing TH-A and TH-D to suddenly enter the solar wind at $X \sim 8R_E$. Because MMS crossed the flank bow shock at $X \sim 13.7 - 13.9R_E$ before

and after the density peaks, the bow shock nose moved back-and-forth by more than 6

 R_E driven by the density peaks. (The time delay between MMS and THEMIS is con-361 sistent with the normal of density peaks.) Meanwhile, KOMPSAT at $X \sim 6.4R_E$ around 362 noon (Figure 1) entered the magnetosheath from the magnetosphere and back (Figure 363 5d), meaning that the magnetopause moved inward by more than 1.3 R_E , up to $\sim 2R_E$ 364 estimated from the time delay from TH-E to KOPMSAT and to the center time in the 365 magnetosheath. Because the bow shock moved inward more significantly than the mag-366 netopause, the dayside magnetosheath was compressed leading to field strength enhance-367 ment up to $\sim 200-250$ nT as observed by TH-E and KOMPSAT (Figures 5c and 5d). 368 The compression by a factor of $\sim 2-2.5$ was roughly consistent with the estimated thick-369 ness decrease of the subsolar magnetosheath (from ~ 6.2 to 2.2 R_E based on the bow shock 370 and magnetopause displacements discussed above). 371

Such extreme back-and-forth motion of the bow shock within a short time drove 372 significant phenomena in the magnetosphere and ionosphere as well as on the ground seen 373 from large geomagnetic field perturbations ($\sim 500 \text{ nT}$ in Figure 5e and $\sim 10 \text{ nT/s}$ in Fig-374 ure 5f) and GIC (~ 60 A in Figure 5g) in the United States. These measurements from 375 the HET ground magnetometer from the MAGStar array and NERC GIC site device 10659 376 were located in the pre-midnight sector slightly below 55° MLAT and shown as green 377 dot (HET) and red triangle (Device 10659) in Figure 6. More details on the ground re-378 sponse will be shown in the next section. 379

After the density peaks, THEMIS crossed the magnetopause and observed clear northward flow (Figures 4d and 4h). This was very likely magnetopause reconnection outflow due to the southward IMF. In the magnetosphere, clear magnetospheric ULF waves were observed with oscillation predominantly in the radial direction, likely caused by the global back-and-forth motion of the magnetopause. The magnetic reconnection and the ULF waves are beyond the scope of this study and are a topic for future work. However, another type of shorter period ULF wave activity will be discussed in the context of GMD and GIC in the next subsection.

388

3.3 Ground response: Geomagnetic disturbances and GIC

Measurements from multiple widely spread ground magnetometers and GIC sites 389 as shown in Figure 6 are used to investigate the ground response (geomagnetic distur-390 bances and GIC) to the upstream density pulse structure. The black dots clustered around 301 dawn indicate locations of ground magnetometers from the Finnish Meteorological In-392 stitute (FMI). The blue dots widely spread in local time are ground magnetometers lo-393 cated at 57-60° MLAT in the evening sector that detected the strongest geomagnetic field 394 perturbations at their specific local times (see Figure 8 and the corresponding text for 395 more details). Red triangles show GIC sites from Finland (dawn) and North America 396 (pre-midnight to midnight). The red diamond shows the conjugate magnetic footprint 397 of the New Zealand ISL M6 site located in the afternoon sector at 03:50 UT on 24 April 398 2023. While we don't focus on dayside ground-based observations due in part to a lack of coverage in the latitudinal range shown in Figure 6 and our desire to focus on regions 400 where GIC measurements are available and large GIC were observed, we can at least say 401 that large dayside GMD would be expected given (1) the dayside satellite observations 402 that showed the large inward magnetopause displacement (previous section) and (2) the-403 ory, modeling, and observation that have all linked such large solar wind density/pressure 404 pulses and magnetopause excursions to global GMD including on the dayside (Araki, 1994; 405 Sibeck, 1990) and (3) low-latitude stations in India, Vietnam, and other locations (Fig-406 ure S7) at the time of the density pulse showing a clear GMD response consistent with 407 expectations from past theory, modeling, and observation studies. 408

⁴⁰⁹ A latitudinal ground magnetometer chain from the FMI array (black dots in Fig-⁴¹⁰ ure 6) is used to study the dawn sector latitudinal dependence of the magnetic field per-⁴¹¹ turbations and shown in Figure 7. The strongest magnetic field perturbations ($\Delta B \geq$



Figure 5. THEMIS observations and ground response to the upstream magnetic bottle structure. From top to bottom are (a) THC dynamic pressure, (b) THE dynamic pressure, (c) THE total magnetic field (B_t , blue line) and the northward component (B_z , black line) in GSM coordinates, (d) KOMPSAT total magnetic field (B_t , blue line) and the northward component (B_z , black line) in GSM coordinates, (e) horizontal geomagnetic field perturbations (black: ΔB_x and blue: ΔB_y) from the HET ground magnetometer, (f) the time derivative of horizontal magnetic field perturbations (dH/dt) from the HET ground magnetometer, (g) GIC measurements at device 10659 from the NERC GMD database. The pink and yellow bars in panels (c-d) indicate the time intervals when the satellite was located in the magnetosheath and magnetosphere, respectively. The vertical red line marks 03:55 UT, the moment when multiple sites detected an enhanced GIC.

⁴¹² 1000 nT) were observed to be localized between 58-60° MLAT around dawn. These per-⁴¹³ turbations are characterized by a negative bay mainly in the northward magnetic field ⁴¹⁴ component (black line) lasting for ≤ 10 min. This magnetic depression suggests a strong ⁴¹⁵ westward electrojet in the dawnside ionosphere. For ground magnetometers located above ⁴¹⁶ the MEK site at 60° MLAT and below the NUR site at 58° MLAT, the magnetic field ⁴¹⁷ perturbations are much weaker compared to the three sites (MEK, HAN, and NUR) lo-⁴¹⁸ cated between 58-60° MLAT.

A longitudinal ground magnetometer chain at about 57-60° MLAT from SuperMAG (blue dots in Figure 6, this includes data from several individual magnetometer networks obtained from the SuperMAG database) is used to study the local time dependence of



Figure 6. MLAT-MLT map shows the location of ground instruments used in this study at 03:50 UT on 24 April 2023. Black dots show FMI ground magnetometers; blue dots show a longitudinal chain at 58-62° MLAT from SuperMAG; red triangles show GIC sites from Finland and North America (US and Canada); red diamond shows the conjugate footprint of the New Zealand ISL M6 site.

the magnetic field perturbations and is shown in Figure 8. This narrow range of latitudes 422 was chosen to explore whether the latitudinally localized disturbance seen at dawn ex-423 tended to other local time sectors. The largest perturbations are observed by the DOB 424 site ($\sim 2000 \text{ nT}$) located at $\sim 5 \text{ h}$ MLT. Note that we use the 1-min cadence SuperMAG 425 data in Figure 8, therefore the actual perturbation amplitude could be larger since some 426 phenomena may be undersampled or eliminated in 1-min data (Trichtchenko, 2021; Hartinger 427 et al., 2023). It can also be seen that the magnetic field perturbations (mainly in the north-428 ward component from a local magnetic coordinate system) are much stronger in the post-429 midnight sector compared to the pre-midnight sector. To summarize, the overall ground 430 magnetic field perturbations in response to the upstream density pulse are global with 431 the largest perturbations observed around the dawn at $\sim 60^{\circ}$ MLAT. These results are 432 consistent with results from Zou et al. (2024) reporting an extreme auroral electrojet spike 433 during the same 2023 April 24th storm. Stated another way, the density pulse created 434 an overall global response based on both satellite and ground-based observations span-435 ning the dayside and nightside, with more locally intense GMD in some regions due, for 436 example, to the presence of an intense auroral elecrojet. 437

GIC measurements from multiple sites across the world including Finland, United 438 States, Canada, and New Zealand are shown in Figure 9. With the exception of the top 439 panel for the Finnish gas pipeline, all other panels are for measurements related to power 440 grids. As can be seen from Figure 9, GIC measurements from Finland (dawnside), North 441 America (US and Canada on the nightside), and New Zealand (afternoon) all have a clear 442 response to the upstream solar wind density pulse. Note that the New Zealand GIC mea-443 surements from the southern hemisphere (panel (f)) respond almost simultaneously with 444 the Finnish (panel (a)) and North American (panel (b-d)) GIC without significant time 445



Figure 7. Ground magnetic field perturbations in the northward (black: ΔB_x) and eastward (blue: ΔB_y) component from a latitudinal ground magnetometer chain from the FMI array around dawn. The vertical red line marks 03:55 UT.

delay, with amplitudes ranging from \sim 15-65 A. There are notable differences in ampli-446 tude and time dependence between the different GIC measurements shown in the pan-447 els of Figure 9. These differences are due to many factors, including the interplay be-448 tween the spatial variations of the GMD related to the density pulse, the directional bi-449 ases of each network, and more (see next paragraph). Detailed analysis of all factors is 450 an important topic for future work; here, we only claim that the rapid changes in GIC 451 seen near the time of the density pulse originate from the density pulse, whether directly 452 or indirectly via an intermediate current system/wave that was excited by the density 453 pulse. 454

There is value in comparing GIC observations between sites, especially when they are referenced to past geomagnetic storms and/or long-term monitoring intervals. Indeed, this is one of the approaches used to understand what types of geomagnetic disturbance generally lead to the largest amplitude GIC and expected power system im-



Figure 8. Ground magnetic field perturbations in the northward (black: ΔB_x) and eastward (blue: ΔB_y) component from a longitudinal ground magnetometer chain at 57-60° MLAT from SuperMAG. The vertical red line marks 03:55 UT.

pacts at different magnetic latitudes and local times (Kappenman, 2003; Clilverd, Mark 459 A. et al., 2021) and to assess for a given type of event where power system impacts might 460 be expected since GIC measurements are the quantity most closely associated with power 461 system performance (Pulkkinen et al., 2017). However, it is important to recognize that 462 simply comparing GIC values across different sites in a given event may not provide mean-463 ingful insights without additional contextual information, such as reference values to past 464 monitoring intervals at each site. This is because GIC levels for a given GMD are influ-465 enced by the interplay between multiple factors including the specific configurations of 466 power systems and the underlying conductivity structure of the Earth. For example, GIC 467 recordings in a natural gas pipeline (e.g., top panel of Figure 9) would likely exhibit sig-468 nificant differences from those in a power grid. Although the fundamental physics might 469 remain the same, the grounding setup differs substantially between the two — while a 470 power grid is earthed only at transformer grounding points, a gas network remains al-471



Figure 9. GIC measurements from multiple sites across the world including (a) Finland (Finnish natural gas pipeline, MLAT: 57.35°), (b) Canada (power grid, NERC device 10628, MLAT: 54.56°), (c) United States (power grid, NERC device 10659, MLAT: 51.75°), (d) Canada (power grid, 320P, MLAT: 60.00°), (e) Canada (power grid, 520S, MLAT: 57.5°), and (f) New Zealand (power grid, ISL-M6 site, MLAT: -49.95°). The vertical red line marks 03:55 UT.

most continuously earthed. Moreover, the magnitude of GIC heavily depends on factors 472 such as the electrical resistance of the network elements (e.g., transmission lines and trans-473 former windings), the layout of the grounded systems, and the conductivity of the Earth 474 itself, all of which vary widely across different networks, such as power grids in the US, 475 Canada, and Finnish pipelines. Finally, there is an interplay between the event-specific 476 geoelectric field properties and power system properties that further determines GIC am-477 plitude for a given power system in a given event, e.g., relative orientation of the event-478 specific geoelectric field and power lines in the network (Cordell et al., 2024). 479

We address the above concerns by focusing on comparing GIC measurements at different sites after referencing them to past monitoring intervals, or at least a set of past geomagnetic storm events. This allows us to more quantitatively demonstrate that this type of CME density pulse can drive GIC comparable to other more firmly established sources of GIC that occurred during these monitoring intervals (e.g., interplanetary shocks),

thus assess whether this type of density pulse should be considered an important driver 485 of GIC; this type of analysis provides valuable additional insight when compared to, for 486 example, past studies that relied exclusively on GMD measurements to estimate GIC 487 amplitudes or studies that used GIC measurements from a single location. Table 1 shows 488 the maximum values reported at each of the sites shown in Figure 9 compared against 489 reference values from long monitoring intervals or recent geomagnetic storms of compa-490 rable magnitude. From this, we can see that measurements from both NERC GMD de-491 vices reported their largest GIC during the time interval shown in Figure 9. This includes 492 the value of 58.1 A reported by NERC Device 10659 (Figure 9c), which was the largest 493 measured over a 2-year interval from Nov 2021-Jan 2024 (SI Figure S6). At other mid-494 latitude locations, the measured GIC were large but smaller than maximum values re-495 ported over extended monitoring intervals, ranging from $\sim 21-62\%$ of peak values. These 496 results suggest that the density pulses embedded in CME should be considered an im-497 portant driver of GIC, at least relative to other disturbances that occurred during the 498 extended monitoring intervals and $Kp \geq 7$ geomagnetic storm events listed in Table 499 1, including GMD related to other types of density pulses such as those associated with 500 interplanetary shocks. 501

It is perhaps not surprising that the maximum GIC in this study from the New Zealand site (16A) is only half of the GIC amplitude in 14-year maximum (34.1 A). In this study when the solar wind density pulses arrived, the New Zealand ISL site was located in the afternoon sector (red diamond in Figure 6), while the largest geomagnetic perturbations were observed from the pre-midnight to the dawn sector (Figure 8). The geomagnetic perturbations from a nearby ground magnetometer site (EYR, shown in the SI Figure S5) are large but not exceptionally large, with maximum perturbations up to ~100 nT in ΔB and ~3 nT/s in dH/dt from 1-sec sampling rate data.

In the location where significant geomagnetic perturbations were observed around 510 dawn (~1000 nT in ΔB and ~18 nT/s in dH/dt from 1-sec sampling rate NUR ground 511 magnetometer data shown in the SI Figure S5), large GIC were observed from the Fin-512 land gas pipeline in this study with maximum amplitude of ~ 35 A at 03:56:40 UT (note 513 the FMI GIC fluctuations after about 04:10 UT is due to noise). It is comparable to but 514 does not exceed the 25-year maximum value of 57 A (Table 1) which was produced dur-515 ing the 2003 Halloween storm (Viljanen et al., 2010; Dimmock et al., 2019; Tsurutani 516 & Hajra, 2021). The FMI GIC site is located at relatively higher latitudes (57.35° MLAT) 517 compared to other GIC sites used in this study, thus high latitude auroral electrojets dur-518 ing substorms or the main phase of storms may play a more important role driving GIC 519 there. Despirak et al. (2023) also examined GIC during this storm in a power grid at a 520 still higher latitude location but similar local time region: the Kola Peninsula in Rus-521 sia. At the Vykhodnoy (VKH) site located at MLAT of 65.53 degrees, they find a max-522 imum GIC of \sim 45A during the storm, at the same time as the peak GIC was observed 523 in the present study ($\sim 0350-0400$ UT) and is associated with "local substorm-like in-524 tensification with intense pulsations" (Despirak et al., 2023), in other words the same 525 electrojet structure indicated in Figure 7 (see Figure 6 of Despirak et al. (2023) for a com-526 parable plot). For context, this GIC is notable but it is not the largest GIC ever reported 527 at VKH; for example Apatenkov et al. (2020) found GIC of \sim 120-140A during an au-528 roral omega band event (though we do not know if there were any changes to the Kola 529 power grid between the two measurements). A similar scenario also applies to the Al-530 berta GIC observations at similar magnetic latitudes as the FMI GIC site, although the 531 geomagnetic perturbations were much weaker in Alberta compared to Finland (SI Fig-532 ure S5). Note that some GIC measurements have inherent errors and may be suscepti-533 ble to drift (Cordell et al., 2024). In particular, the Alberta sensor has an inconsistent 534 sample rate resulting in gaps in the time series which are linearly interpolated, for ex-535 ample, the temporal resolution before 04:08 UT is lower than those after as can be seen 536 in Figure 9e. 537

Figure 9 panels b and c show perhaps the most surprising results in this study: this 538 solar wind density pulse led to intense GIC at low- and mid-latitude locations. In par-539 ticular, for both NERC sites (NB Power and ATC in Table 1), the maximum GIC in this 540 study is the maximum value in the NERC GMD database with four $Kp \geq 7$ storms in 541 2022-2023 for the NB Power device and two $Kp \geq 7$ storms in 2023 for the ATC de-542 vice. ATC also provided a GIC plot (SI Figure S6) for a two year interval from Nov 2021 543 to Jan 2024 confirming that the reported maximum GIC of 58.1 A for this site is the largest 544 in the past two years. Note that the reference values for the NERC sites are derived from 545 storms with $Kp \geq 7$ in 2022-2023. These reference periods are relatively short compared 546 to the 14-year period for New Zealand and the 25-year period for Finland, with the lat-547 ter including information from stronger storms, such as the 2003 Halloween storm, which 548 generated the maximum GIC value (57 A) for a 25-year period in the Finnish gas pipeline. 549

Finally, several panels of Figure 9 show wave-like GIC variations that may be re-550 lated to ULF waves that have a range of periods, from \sim 5-10 minute (e.g., panel b) to 551 ~ 1 minute (e.g., panel c), the latter occurring during the period with the 58.1 A max-552 imum GIC. As noted in recent studies, many of these wave-like GIC variations would have 553 been undersampled or removed if the GIC measurements had been collected with 1 minute 554 sampling intervals (Trichtchenko, 2021; Hartinger et al., 2023). Moreover, they would 555 also have been easily missed in visual inspection of geomagnetic disturbance plots that 556 tend to emphasize the larger, slow varying disturbances that may not always contribute 557 significantly to GIC (e.g., compare panels e and g of Figure 5, especially from 0405-0415 558 UT). More work is needed to determine the source of these wave-like variations, includ-559 ing possible connections with magnetospheric ULF waves. 560

⁵⁶¹ 4 Discussion and Conclusions

In this study, we use a range of satellite and ground-based measurements to identify the upstream driver of global geomagnetic disturbance and GIC during the 23-24 April 2023 geomagnetic storm, focusing on one particular time interval with significant GIC observed at many locations (see Table 1)

In particular, we identify a global-scale density pulse with field geometry similar 566 to a magnetic bottle mainly in the GSE-YZ plane, associated with a CME event. It was 567 a pressure-balanced structure, and due to the very low plasma β , a very slight field strength 568 depletion caused an extremely intense density enhancement, leading to significant dy-569 namic pressure enhancement. As a result, when the structure encountered the bow shock, 570 571 the entire bow shock moved inward by more than 6 R_E and the magnetopause moved inward by 1.3-2 R_E over ~ 10-20 min. Due to this extremely large magnetopause dis-572 turbance, ground magnetic field perturbations of $\sim 1000\text{-}2000 \text{ nT}$ were observed at $\sim 60^{\circ}$ 573 MLAT from midnight to dawnside in the northern hemisphere. At the same time inter-574 val, GIC measured in New Zealand, Finland, Canada, and the United States were ob-575 served comparable (within factors of 2-2.5) to the largest ever recorded during ≥ 14 year 576 monitoring intervals in New Zealand and Finland and represented \sim 2-year maxima in 577 the United States during a period with several $Kp \geq 7$ geomagnetic storms. 578

Pressure-balanced structures have been commonly observed across the heliosphere 579 which can frequently reach the Earth. When they are embedded in some extreme plasma 580 conditions like those which occur around CMEs, they can become extreme intense den-581 sity/dynamic pressure pulses, leading to significant back-and-forth motion of the bow 582 shock and magnetopause. This indicates that during magnetic storms, there are not only 583 long-time scale disturbances driven by the CMEs but also some structures on the scale 584 of 10 minutes with very significant amplitudes, which could cause unexpected space weather 585 hazards. Such structures last long enough for the magnetosphere and ionosphere to re-586 spond but also provide sufficiently sharp time variation to generate large geoelectric fields 587 and GIC. For example, Lugaz et al. (2015) observed an interplanetary shock (driven by 588

an overtaking CIR) embedded in a CME. The combined effects of sudden dynamic pressure increase by the interplanetary shock and strong southward IMF within the CME lead to intense GMD, even though the CME itself is rather weak. In the future, a statistical survey is needed to examine the occurrence rate of such significant transient-scale density pulses and further investigate their impacts.

The density pulse and related magnetopause disturbance caused magnetosphere-594 ionosphere currents (Sibeck, 1990), and these currents in turn led to global scale GMD 595 as well as GIC at several locations. Most studies of GMD do not include simultaneous 596 GIC measurements, or if they do have GIC measurements they are taken from a single 597 power system/power grid. In this study, we compare GIC measurements from multiple 598 power systems distributed around the world, each compared to reference values unique 599 to each system. This allowed us to show that a particular solar wind transient generated 600 significant GIC at many widely separated locations. Although the GIC did not lead to 601 any power system disruptions, the values measured were among the largest, or were the 602 largest, ever reported during extended monitoring intervals at several locations. Thus, 603 to the extent that any source of GIC in these power systems (Table 1) can be considered significant, these density pulses should be considered significant. It is also worth 605 noting that GIC values reported for this event (Table 1) approach the thresholds of 75A 606 (benchmark event) and 85A (supplemental event) required for a transformer thermal im-607 pact assessment based on the NERC TPL-007-4 reliability standard (North American Electric Reliability Corporation, 2020). While this event did not produce significant power 609 system impacts, it is also not among the largest geomagnetic storms ever reported; it is 610 plausible that future CME density pulses could lead to GIC that exceed these thresh-611 olds, especially since we have limited historic solar wind measurements available to as-612 sess the types of density pulses that might have occurred during historic geomagnetic 613 storms that produced known power system impacts. 614

In this study, we reported GIC measurements from 5 different power systems at 615 a wide range of magnetic latitudes and longitudes (Table 1, Figure 9). This allows us 616 to glean important insights not typically discussed in past studies, as GIC measurements 617 are rarely available at multiple locations for the same event. Although previous stud-618 ies have acknowledged that GICs depend on various factors, including the spatial and 619 temporal variability of GMDs, local ground conductivity, and power system configura-620 tion, the wide range of potential responses for the same event is seldom examined or re-621 ported likely due to the scarcity of multi-point GIC measurements. Therefore, compar-622 isons between sites as shown in Figure 9 and Table 1 offer important new insights into 623 the diverse responses observed in different locations, in addition to demonstrating that 624 density pulses embedded in CME can drive significant amplitude GIC (previous para-625 graph). 626

Although the density pulse produced GMD globally, there was significant regional 627 variability concerning amplitude and frequency content, likely due to various M-I cur-628 rent systems and waves driven by the density pulse. At the dawnside and nightside, where 629 intense GICs were observed at FMI, NERC, Alberta sites, our analysis suggests a driver 630 related to the westward ionospheric auroral electrojet. This is due to enhanced ionospheric 631 conductivity caused by diffuse precipitation, as suggested by Zou et al. (2024), who con-632 633 ducted a detailed analysis using magnetospheric and ionospheric measurements (e.g., GOES, AMPERE, Swarm, and TREx auroral camera). For the New Zealand site located at about 634 -50° MLAT in the afternoon sector, the potential driver could be an enhanced magne-635 topause current due to the compression effects of the density pulse. The magnetic field 636 perturbations from the EYR site (near the NZ Power Grid Transformer ISL M6) show 637 similar signatures to those in the dayside low-latitude regions due to the magnetopause 638 current (see SI Figure S7). Additionally, ULF waves, also known as geomagnetic pul-639 sations, are usually generated following solar wind density pulses or during magnetic storms, 640 as reported by many previous studies (Ngwira et al., 2018; Oliveira et al., 2021), and may 641

be related to the wave-like GIC signatures shown in Figure 9. For example, at the ATC 642 transformer where the largest GIC were reported, wave-like structures with periods of 643 ~ 1 minute were observed during the period with maximum GIC (58.1 A). These GIC 644 variations are similar to other large amplitude GIC events reported in the continental 645 USA and in other mid-latitude locations (Kappenman, 2003; Heyns et al., 2021; Oye-646 dokun et al., 2020; Hartinger et al., 2023). They highlight the need to better understand 647 how these variations are produced, particularly since power system modeling work sug-648 gests that high-frequency GICs ($\sim 4-25mHz$), whether from pulsations or impulses, 649 may be more of a concern for power system voltage stability than lower frequency com-650 ponents (Jankee et al., 2022). In general, more work is needed to understand how den-651 sity pulses generate GMD and ultimately GIC in comparison (and contrast) to other sources 652 of solar wind density and pressure variations and other mechanisms that lead to night-653 side GMD/GIC. This work also highlights the need to collect GMD and GIC measure-654 ments at uniform, 1s sampling intervals (Trichtchenko, 2021). 655

Space weather models are increasingly being used to provide nowcasts and fore-656 casts of geomagnetic activity, GMD, and geoelectric fields (e.g., Kelbert et al., 2017; Malone-657 Leigh, John et al., 2023). This work suggests that such models should be able to cap-658 ture density pulses in the solar wind , not just the interplanetary shocks most often dis-659 cussed in conjunction with GMD and GIC. Different modeling techniques may be nec-660 essary compared to those required for modeling density pulses linked to locally formed foreshock transient phenomena or fluctuations in the solar wind associated with Alfvén 662 waves. Some large scale density pulses may form close to the Sun and evolve relatively 663 slowly as they move towards the Earth, potentially making it possible to provide usable 664 predictions further in advance. More work is needed to explore what factors (simulation grid resolution, boundary condition, etc) are needed to model the development, evolu-666 tion, and magnetosphere-ionosphere impacts of these structures. 667

5 Open Research

THEMIS, MMS, and DSCOVR dataset are available at NASA's Coordinated Data 669 Analysis Web (CDAWeb, http://cdaweb.gsfc.nasa.gov/). KOMPSAT dataset is avail-670 able at https://swe.ssa.esa.int/sosmag. The SPEDAS software (see Angelopoulos 671 et al. (2019)) is available at http://themis.ssl.berkeley.edu. 1-sec resolution FMI 672 ground magnetometer data are available at: https://space.fmi.fi/image/plasmon/. 673 FMI GIC recording are at: https://space.fmi.fi/gic/index.php?page=gasum_final. 674 MAGStar site HET ground magnetometer are at: http://cedar.openmadrigal.org/. 675 SuperMAG data are available at: https://supermag.jhuapl.edu/info/. North Amer-676 ican Electric Reliability Corporation Geomagnetic Disturbance Database last accessed 677 on 01/05/2024 at: https://eroportal.nerc.net/gmd-data-home/. Following the con-678 fidentiality restriction on data use, the GIC network and transformer details and exact 679 location are not provided in this paper. The New Zealand LEM DC and harmonic dis-680 tortion data were provided to us by Transpower New Zealand with caveats and restric-681 tions. This includes requirements of permission before all publications and presentations. 682 In addition, we are unable to directly provide the New Zealand LEM DC data or derived 683 GIC observations. Requests for access to the measurements need to be made to Trans-684 power New Zealand. At this time the contact point is Michael Dalzell 685 (Michael.Dalzell@transpower.co.nz). 686

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10659 GIC measurements as well as for providing the corresponding 2-year GIC plot in
the SI (Figure S6).

We dedicate this study to the memory of Dr. Jennifer Gannon, who was a leader in the GIC, GMD, and broader space weather research communities (https://agupubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full Gannon provided the MagStar magnetometer measurements used in this study and valuable insights into the data quality.

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Figure 1.





Figure 2.







Figure 3.

Figure 4.

Figure 5.

Figure 6.

Figure 7.

Figure 8.

Figure 9.

04/24/2023

