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# NONLINEAR INTERACTION OF A FAST MAGNETOGASDYNAMIC SHOCK WITH A TANGENTIAL DISCONTINUITY 

by

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## Abstract

A basic problem, which is of considerable interest in geoastrophysical applications of magnetogasdynamics, is the nonlinear interaction of a fast shock $\left(S_{f}\right)$ with a tangential discontinuity ( $T$ ). The problem is treated for an arbitrary $S_{f}$ interacting with an arbitrary $T$ under the assumption that in the frame of reference in which $S_{f}$ and $T$ are at rest the flow is super-fast on both sides of $T$ and that a steady flow develops. As a result of the nonlinear analysis a flow pattern is obtained consisting of the incident discontinuities $S_{f} 1$ and $T 2$ and $a$ transmitted fast shock $S_{f} \mathbf{3}$, the modified tangential discontinuity $T 4$ and a reflected fast shock $S_{f} 5$ or fast rarefaction wave $R_{f} 5$. The results can be discussed in terms of seven significant similarity parameters. The uniqueness of the solution is investigated as well as the region of dimensionless parameter space in which a solution of the type described above is possible. Varying the similarity parameters the solutions of type $S_{f} 1, T 2, S_{f} 3, T 4, S_{f} 5$ are bounded in parameter space by the disappearance of $S_{f} 5$, by the maximum total pressure ratio across $S_{f} 5$ at which the flow direction on both sides of T4 can just be matched and by the limiting cases of $S_{f} 3$ or $S_{f} 5$ being switch-on shocks. The following analytical and numerical results concerning the dependence of the interaction on the type of tangential discontinuity $T 2$ are obtained: $A T 2$ with a velocity shear only in the direction perpendicular to the plane $X Y$ spanned by the normals of $S_{f} 1$ and $T 2$ leaves the incident shock unchanged and no reflected wave $S_{f} 5$ or $R_{f} 5$ develops. A velocity shear across $T 2$ in the plane $X Y$ can be compensated by a density change such
that the incident shock is not deflected or changed at all and that no $S_{f} 5$ or $R_{f} 5$ develops although appreciable changes of density and velocity may occur across $T 2$. In addition special cases like changes in magnetic field direction only, changes in density or velocity shear only etc. are discussed in some detail.

In recent years plasma and magnetic field experiments on satellites and space probes have proved the existence of all proposed types of magnetogasdynamic discontinuities in the interplanetary plasma with the exception of the contact discontinuity with nonvanishing normal magnetic field. A comprehensive classification of the possible discontinuities taking into account the evolutionarity conditions is given in the book by Jeffney and Taniuti ${ }^{1}$. The pertinent space observations are reviewed in a recent article by Burlaga ${ }^{2}$. For many problems of the physics of discontinuities in the collisionless interplanetary plasma, magnetogasdynamics or even gasdynamics can give a reasonable answer, although it is realized that the properties of the discontinuities are modified by pressure anisotropies $3,4,5$, the possible change in heat flux across the discontinuity ${ }^{6}$ and a background wave spectrum ${ }^{6,7}$.

The observations show more specifically that in addition to continuous fluctuations of the physical quantities the spatial and time structure of the solar wind is characterized by the frequent occurrence of tangential discontinuities and in somewhat smaller numbers of rotational discontinuities ${ }^{8}$. On the other hand, the interplanetary plasma is the propagation medium for fast magnetogasdynamics shocks which produce major disturbances in the space environment of the earth and therefore are of considerable interest.

A basic physical process during the propagation of interplanetary shocks is their interaction with the large number of tangential discontinuities. Other applications of this basic
process are the interaction of tangential discontinuities with the earth's bow shock and the interaction of interplanetary shocks with the magnetopause of the earth after modification of the shock by i.ts collision with the earth's bow shock.

It is the purpose of this paper to investigate the nonlinear interaction of a fast magnetogasdynamic shock wave with
a tangential discontinuity in the nonrelativistic case. Both discontinuities are considered to be arbitrary in their orientation to each other and in all other physical parameters with the only restriction being that in the rest frame of both discontinuities a steady flow pattern is possible. Other possible solutions include a break-up of the shock, a propagation of part of a disturbance upstream along the initial discontinuities etc. The case of a steady flow is most important because the flow pattern depends on the local physical properties in the vicinity of the line of intersection of both discontinuities only.

In the discussion of the numerical results we shall emphasize the case of only fast shocks in the resulting flow. Two limiting cases of this more general problem have been considered so far. Jaggi and wolf ${ }^{9}$ have investigated the problem of a weak tangential discontinuity interacting with a fast shock. The case with vanishing magnetic field is well known in the gasdynamic literature ${ }^{10}$. The special case, where both discontinuity planes are parallel, is included in the discussion of the general magnetogasdynamic Riemann problem by Gogosov ${ }^{11}$.

In Section II we derive the resulting flow pattern from general arguments. In Section III the equations for the solution of the problem are formulated and seven dimensionless parameters
are derived, which characterize the problem and lead to some interesting similarity laws. Section IV contains a graphical representation of the mathematical problem and a discussion of the uniqueness of the results. In addition, those regions in parameter space are identified in which solutions of the type considered are possible.

In Section $V$ some numerical results for the interaction are presented.

Except for the requirement that each of the participating discontinuities has to be evolutionary, we shall not consider the stability of the solutions.

## II. Derivation of Basic Flow Pattern

The problem under consideration is the interaction of a plane fast magnetogasdynamic shock and a plane tangential discontinuity, which according to the nomenclature of Jeffrey and Taniuti ${ }^{12}$ is a contact discontinuity with a vanishing magnetic field component in the normal direction. Both discontinuities may have an arbitrary orientation to each other. If the planes are not parallel, it is always possible to find the line of intersection of both discontinuities, which we shall call the interaction line. We can then always find a frame of reference in which the fast shock and the tangential discontinuity are at rest. In this frame of reference we define a right-handed Cartesian coordinate system $X, Y, Z$ with the $Z$-axis parallel to the interaction line and the $X$-axis in the direction of propagation. This is shown in Fig. 1, which will be used to develop the basic magnetogasdynamic flow pattern throughout this section. The incident fast shock is shown as a solid line called $S_{f} 1$ and the initial tangential discontinuity $T 2$ is shown as a dashed line. A straight line in the plane of Figure 1 evidently corresponds to a plane perpendicular to the XY plane, since the problem is two-dimensional. In defining our frame of reference we have not yet made use of the degree of freedom in the $Z$-direction. For definiteness we assume the velocity component $V_{Z, 1}$ in sector 1 between $S_{f} 1$ and $T 2$ to be zero without loss of generality.

The physical state in sector 1 characterized by the velocity vector $\underline{V}_{1}$, the magnetic field vector $\underline{B}_{1}$, the pressure $p_{1}$ and density $\rho_{1}$ is given as well as the physical quantities $\mathrm{V}_{2}$,
$\underline{B}_{2}, P_{2}, \rho_{2}$ on the other side of $T 2$. It is clear that it is impossible to find a steady-state solution for all choices of initial parameters. The parameter range for which this is possible will also be investigated in this study.

It is illuminating to consider the cases in which one of the initial discontinuities $S_{f} 1$ and $T 2$ is weak, where the weakness is characterized by a parameter $\varepsilon \ll 1$. The case of T2 being weak ${ }^{9}$ leads to a sector pattern, in which the shock $S_{f} 1$ is changed by an amount of $O(\varepsilon)$ resulting in a transmitted fast shock $S_{f} 3 . T 2$ is modified into the tangential discontinuity T4 with a strength of $O(\varepsilon)$. A reflected weak fast shock $S_{f} 5$ or rarefaction wave $R_{f} 5$ is generated with the strength of $O(\varepsilon)$. The direction of $S_{f} 5$ or $R_{f} 5$ is given by the fast Mach line going out from the interaction line and making an acute angle with the $Y$-axis. Here we have used the following convenient notation. The homogeneous sectors between the various disturbances are counted counterclockwise giving the subscripts for the physical quantities in these sectors. The disturbances are counted in the same sense and the characters $R, S, T$ give the type of discontinuity. Physical quantities defining the disturbances themselves have subscripts according to this counting. The subscripts $f$ and $s$ define fast or slow shocks ( $S$ ) or rarefaction waves (R) in the magnetogasdynamic sense.

The results for $T 2$ being weak of $O(\varepsilon)$ suggest by the continuous dependence of the solutions on the initial conditions that for a range of tangential discontinuities $T 2$, which are finite in amplitude, the flow pattern will be $S_{f} 1, T 2, S_{f} 3, T 4$, $R_{f} 5$ or $S_{f} 5$. For the appropriate range of velocities $\underline{V}_{2}$ there could also be real characteristics or Mach lines of the slow
mode in sector 2 and therefore solutions involving slow shocks. However, we shall restrict ourselves to the case of fast transmitted waves only.

These considerations could be used to establish the basic magnetogasdynamic flow pattern in the frame of reference chosen by their extension to the general case of $S_{f} 1$ and $T 2$ being of finite strength. A more satisfactory and instructive way is to derive this basic flow pattern from basic principles and the known properties of magnetogasdynamic discontinuities and rarefaction waves. This is especially important for the question of the uniqueness of the solutions.

We derive the basic type of solution by the following five arguments.

1. Since the initial conditions given by the angle $\alpha_{2}$ (see Fig. 1) and the physical quantities $\underline{v}_{1}, \underline{B}_{1}, \rho_{1}, p_{1}$ and $\underline{v}_{2}, \underline{B}_{2}$ 。 $\rho_{2}{ }^{\prime} p_{2}$ do not contain any characteristic length and since the magnetogasdynamic equations contain no characteristic length, we immediately get the result that the solution to our problem depends on the angle $\varphi$ only and not on $r$, where $r, \varphi$ and $z$ are cylindrical coordinates around the z -axis, i.e., we have $\frac{\partial}{\partial r} \equiv 0$ and $\frac{\partial}{\partial z} \equiv 0$. The solution must then be composed of a sector pattern of discontinuities and rarefaction waves centered at the origin, and homogeneous regions in between.
2. The vector $\underline{v}_{1}$ and $\underline{B}_{1}$ must be parallel to the plane of $T 2$ by the definition of a tangential discontinuity, i.e., the projections of $\underline{v}_{1}$ and $\underline{E}_{1}$ on the $X, Y$-plane called $\underline{v}_{p}, 1$ and ${ }_{-}^{B}, 1$, respectively, must be parallel or antiparallel to each other. Because of $\underline{E}=-\underline{v} \times \underline{B}$ we must therefore have $E_{Z}=0$ in sectors 1 and 2 and because of Faraday's law $E_{Z} \equiv 0$ everywhere.

Therefore $\underline{v}_{p}$ and $\underline{B}_{p}$ must be parallel or antiparallel everywhere. This immediately excludes a contact discontinuity with nonvanishing normal component of the magnetic field $B_{n} \neq 0$ from further consideration, because it would imply $E_{Z}=-(\underline{v} \quad \underline{B})_{Z} \neq 0$.
3. There can be at most one tangential discontinuity in addition to $T 2$ as the result of the interaction. Suppose, there are more than one newly created tangential discontinuities among them $T_{k}$ and $T_{n}$ with $n>k>2$, say. Since a tangential discontinuity is characterized by vanishing normal components of $\underline{v}$ and $\underline{B}$ and the continuity of the total pressure $p_{t}=p+\frac{B^{2}}{8 \pi}$ across the discontinuity only, the state between $T_{k}$ and $T_{n}$ is not completely determined by the initial conditions. There is for example no way to determine the density or densities between $\mathrm{T}_{\mathrm{k}}$ and $\mathrm{T}_{\mathrm{n}}$. As we have to require at least piecewise continuous dependence of the solutions on the initial conditions such a configuration is impossible unless it is required by additional initial conditions. The statement at the beginning of this paragraph is proven thereby.
4. An important quantity in the classification of discontinuities is the Alfven Mach number $A_{n}$ based on the normal components of the velocity and magnetic field with respect to a shock or rarefaction wave under consideration. Using the normal vector $\underline{n}$, which points in the direction of propagation of the shock or rarefaction wave, we obtain

$$
\begin{equation*}
A_{n}=\frac{\left|\underline{v}^{\circ} \underline{n}\right|}{\left|\underline{B^{\circ}} \underline{n}\right|} \sqrt{4 \pi \rho}=\frac{\left|\underline{v}_{p}{ }^{\circ} \underline{n}\right|}{\left|\underline{\mathrm{B}}_{\mathrm{p}} \cdot \underline{\mathrm{n}}\right|} \sqrt{4 \pi \rho}=\frac{\left|\underline{\mathrm{v}}_{\mathrm{p}}\right|}{\left|\underline{\underline{B}}_{\underline{p}}\right|} \sqrt{4 \pi \rho} \tag{1}
\end{equation*}
$$

since the direction cosines of $\underline{v}_{p}$ and $\underline{B}_{p}$ with respect to an arbitrary normal $\underline{n}$ are equal in magnitude as shown under item 2 .

That is, the Alfvén Mach number $A_{n}$ is independent of the normal direction, if the state in front of the wave is specified. This property has interesting consequences. Before we investigate these consequences some inequalities for shocks and rarefaction waves (including strength zero) have to be recalled:

$$
\begin{equation*}
S_{f}: \text { upstream: } \quad A_{n} \geq 1, \frac{v_{n}}{c_{f}} \geq 1 \tag{2}
\end{equation*}
$$

downstream: $A_{n} \geq 1, \frac{v_{n}}{c_{f}} \leq 1$

$$
\begin{equation*}
R_{f}: \text { upstream and downstream: } A_{n} \geq 1, \frac{v_{n}}{c_{f}}=1 \tag{3}
\end{equation*}
$$

$$
\begin{equation*}
s_{s}: \text { upstream: } \quad A_{n} \geq 1, \frac{v_{n}}{c_{s}} \geq 1 \tag{4}
\end{equation*}
$$

$$
\text { downstream: } A_{n} \geq 1, \frac{v_{n}}{c_{s}} \leq 1
$$

$$
R_{s}: \text { upstream and downstream: } A_{n} \leq 1, \frac{v_{n}}{c_{s}}=1
$$

Here $c_{f}$ and $c_{s}$ are the fast and slow magnetoacoustic speeds, respectively. For finite shocks $A_{n}=1$ is valid on the downstream side for switch-on shocks only and on the upstream side for switch-off shocks only.

Using equation 1 and inequalities 2, 3, 4, 5 it immediately turns out that a streamline starting in sector 1 can pass through fast waves (i.e., fast shocks or rarefaction waves) only, because the initial shock wave $S_{f} 1$ has been chosen to be of the fast type, i.e., $A_{n}>1$ everywhere on the streamline starting in sector 1. Here we always assume that no switch-on or switch-off waves occur as part of the general solution. We shall return to this question later. A stream line starting in sector 2 will also pass through 'fast waves only, if

$$
\begin{equation*}
A_{n, 2} \geq \max \left(1 \sqrt{s_{2}}\right) \tag{6}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $s_{2}$ is given by

$$
\begin{equation*}
s_{2}=5 / 3 \frac{p_{2}}{B_{2}^{2} / 4 \pi} \tag{7}
\end{equation*}
$$

as the square of the ratio of sound-speed over Alfvén speed ${ }^{1,13}$. It has already been mentioned that we shall consider the case of fast transmitted waves only which requires incquality 6 to be valid.
5. We now have to introduce the important notion of "outgoing" waves and "incoming" waves, where by waves we mean shock waves or rarefaction waves. "Outgoing" fast waves are defined such that a weak fast disturbance can travel along the wave away from the interaction line and thereby modify the wave. It is based on the requirement that a change in the initial conditions must influence the various disturbances resulting in the $S_{f} 1, T 2$ interaction. This implies, that behind the shock or downstream of the shock the state must be sub-fast, superAlfvénic and super-slow. This condition restricts the allowable angle with the streamlines of the incident plasma as schematically shown in Figure 2a. Since the fan which characterizes a fast rarefaction wave is made out of fast characteristics, we have the situation shown in Figure 2 b . We shall call "incoming" waves those waves which are not "outgoing".

Since in the interaction only outgoing waves can be created, i.e., disturbances which are connected to the interaction line by causality, the number of possible shocks or rarefaction waves going out from the interaction line can be further reduced. For example, behind an outgoing fast shock or rarefaction wave $A_{n}>1$ and $\frac{v_{n}}{C_{f}}<1$ for all possible normal directions of a wave
following the outgoing fast wave. Therefore, no further shock or rarefaction wave is possible on a streamline passing through an outgoing fast shock.

A streamline starting in sector 2 can therefore pass through one outgoing fast wave $S_{f} 3$ or $R_{f} 3$ only and has to reach infinity in sector 3. If $S_{f} 1$ is an outgoing shock no further fast wave could be crossed by a streamline until infinity is reached behind $S_{f} 1$. This is impossible, since there is only one unknown namely the strength of $S_{f} 3$ or $R_{f} 3$, whereas two conditions have to be fulfilled when sector 3 and the state behind $S_{f} 1$ are separated by a tangential discontinuity or seven conditions if all physical quantities have to be continuous from sector 3 to the state behind $S_{f} 1$. Here we have used $\underline{v}_{p} X \underline{B}_{p}=0$ everywhere.

Consequently $S_{f} 1$ must be an incoming shock in agreement with the fact that $S_{f} 1$ is given by the initial conditions. The general solution can then be given as $S_{f} 1, T 2$ leading to $S_{f} 3$, T4, $R_{f} 5$ or $S_{f} 5$. We also have five homogeneous sectors 1 to 5 , where 5 is the sector behind $S_{f} 1$. With the arbitrary strength parameters $\varepsilon_{3}$ and $\varepsilon_{5}$ for $S_{f} 3$ and $S_{f} 5$ or $R_{f} 5$ considered as unknowns, two equations have to be fulfilled

$$
\begin{equation*}
p_{t, 3}\left(\varepsilon_{3}\right)=p_{t, 4}\left(\varepsilon_{5}\right) \tag{8}
\end{equation*}
$$

and $\alpha_{v, 3}\left(\varepsilon_{3}\right)=\alpha_{v, 4}\left(\varepsilon_{5}\right)$
where $\alpha_{v, j}$ is the angle between $v_{p}$ and the $Y$-axis in sector $j$. A solution involving a rarefaction wave $R_{f} 3$ is not possible, because it would require $\alpha_{v, 3}<\alpha_{v, 4}$. Because of $p_{t, 5}>p_{t, 1}$, equation 8 and $p_{t, 1}=p_{t, 2}$ we get $p_{t, 5}>p_{t, 4}$, which requires
a wave $R_{f}$. Since $\alpha_{v, 1}=\alpha_{v, 2}$ and $\alpha_{v, 4}>\alpha_{v, 5}>\alpha_{v, 1}$ and $\alpha_{v, 3}<\alpha_{v, 2}$ we obtain $\alpha_{v, 3}<\alpha_{v, 4}$ in contradiction to equation 9.

The condition, that $S_{f} 1$ is an "incoming" wave, leads to a limitation of $\alpha_{2}$ :

$$
\begin{equation*}
\alpha_{M_{f}}<\alpha_{2}<\alpha_{\text {crit }}<90^{\circ} \tag{10}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $\alpha_{M_{f}}$ is the Mach angle of the fast wave i.e., the angle $\alpha_{2}$ at which the fast Mach number equals one for given $s_{1}$, $\alpha_{i B, 1}$ and $A_{n, 1}$. The angle $\alpha_{\text {crit }}$ is given by solving equation

$$
\begin{equation*}
A_{n, 5}^{2}=\frac{1}{2} \frac{s_{5}+1}{\cos ^{2} \alpha_{i B, 5}}+\left(\left(\frac{1}{2} \frac{s_{5}+1}{\cos ^{2} \alpha_{i B, 5}}\right)^{2}-\frac{s_{5}}{\cos ^{2} \alpha_{i B, 5}}\right)^{1 / 2} \tag{11}
\end{equation*}
$$

for $\alpha_{2}=\alpha_{\text {crit }}$, where $A_{n, 5}$ and $s_{5}$ are functions of $s_{1}, \alpha_{2}$, $\alpha_{i B, 1}$ and $A_{n, 1}$ and where $s_{1}, \alpha_{i B, 1}$ and $A_{n, 1}$ are considered to be given. $s_{5}$ is defined analogously to $s_{2}$ in equation 7. $\alpha_{i B, 1}$ is the inclination of the magnetic field in sector 1 with respect to the $X Y-p l a n e$ with $\alpha_{i B, 1}=0$ for $B_{Z, 1}=0$ and $\mathrm{B}_{\mathrm{y}, 1}>0$.

We rewrite equations 8 and 9 using $p_{t, 1}=p_{t, 2}$ and $\alpha_{v, 1}=\alpha_{v, 2}{ }^{\circ}$

$$
\frac{\mathrm{p}_{\mathrm{t}, 3}}{\mathrm{p}_{\mathrm{t}, 2}}=\frac{\mathrm{p}_{\mathrm{t}, 4}}{\mathrm{p}_{\mathrm{t}, 5}} \cdot \frac{\mathrm{p}_{\mathrm{t}, 5}}{\mathrm{p}_{5,1}}
$$

or
$Y_{t, f}\left(s_{2}, \alpha_{i B, 2}, A_{n, 2}, \alpha_{3}-\alpha_{v, 2}\right)=Y_{t_{,} f}\left(s_{5}, \alpha_{i B, 5}, A_{n, 5}, \alpha_{5}+\alpha_{v, 5}\right)$.

$$
\begin{equation*}
\cdot Y_{t, f}\left(s_{1}, \alpha_{i B, 1}, A_{n, 1}, \alpha_{2}\right) \tag{12}
\end{equation*}
$$

and

$$
\alpha_{v_{1,3}}-\alpha_{v, 2}=\alpha_{v_{1,4}}-\alpha_{v_{1,5}}+\alpha_{v, 5}-\alpha_{v, 1}
$$

or
$\delta_{f}\left(s_{2}, \alpha_{i B, 2}, A_{n_{2}}, \alpha_{3}-\alpha_{v, 2}\right)=-\delta_{f}\left(s_{5}, \alpha_{i B, 5}, A_{n, 5}, \alpha_{5}+\alpha_{v, 5}\right)$

$$
\begin{equation*}
+\delta_{f}\left(s_{1}, \alpha_{i B, 1}, A_{n, 1}, \alpha_{2}\right) \tag{13}
\end{equation*}
$$

Equations 12 and 13 have to be solved for the unknowns $\alpha_{3}$ and $\alpha_{5}$. The angles $\alpha_{3}$ and $\alpha_{5}$ are the angles between the discontinuities $S_{f} 3$ and $S_{f} 5$ and the $Y$-axis as shown in Fig. 1. $R_{f} 5$ is characterized by the angle between the weak discontinuity at its downstream side and the y-axis. The functions $Y_{t, f}$ and $\delta_{f}$ are derived from the general jump relations in the appendix for shocks. The appendix also contains the functional dependence of $s_{5}, \alpha_{i B, 5}, A_{n, 5}$ and $\alpha_{v, 5}$ on $s_{1}, \alpha_{2}, \alpha_{i B, 1}, A_{n, 1}$. Inspection of equations 12 and 13 shows, that the initial conditions define seven dimensionless parameters $s_{1}, \alpha_{2}, \alpha_{i B, 1}$, $A_{n, 1}, s_{2}, \alpha_{i B}, 2$ and $A_{n, 2}$, which characterize the complete problem.

We have started with 17 quantities $\alpha_{2}, \rho_{1}, p_{1}, \underline{v}_{1}, \underline{B}_{1}, \rho_{2}, p_{2}$, $\underline{v}_{2}, \underline{B}_{2}$ or 14 quantities, if the jump relations across $T 2$ are taken into account. This reduction in parameters to seven dimensionless parameters is very convenient for a further discussion and leads to what can be referred to as similarity laws. The problem of the uniqueness of the solutions of equations 12 and 13 will be treated in Section IV.

The solution determines the dimensionless quantities characterizing each sector and each discontinuity or rarefaction wave, i.e., $\alpha_{j}, s_{j}, \alpha_{i B, j}, \alpha_{v, j}, A_{n, j}, r_{B, j}$ with $j=3,4,5$ and the fast Mach numbers $M_{f}$ for $S_{f} 3$ and $S_{f} 5$ or $R_{f} 5$, where $r_{B, j}$ is the magnetic field magnitude in sector $j$ measured in units of $\left|\underline{B}_{1}\right|$ 。

The parameters entering equations 12 and 13 are independent of the velocity component in the $Z$-direction. Introducing $\alpha_{i v, j}$ the inclination of the velocity vector in sector $j$ the quantities $\alpha_{i v, 5}$ and $\alpha_{i v, 4}$ are determined by the choice $\alpha_{i v, 1}=0^{\circ}$. To determine $\alpha_{i v, 3}$ it is necessary to specify an eigth initial parameter $\alpha_{i v, 2} \alpha_{i v, 2}$ only influences $\alpha_{i v, 3}$, however.

Obviously, the solution for given physical parameters $\alpha_{2}$ 。 $\rho_{1}, \mathrm{p}_{1}, \underline{\mathrm{v}}_{1}, \underline{B}_{1}, \rho_{2}, \mathrm{p}_{2} \underline{\mathrm{v}}_{2}, \underline{B}_{2}$ can easily be obtained by using the results of the dimensionless problem. The initial conditions must be compatible with a tangential discontinuity connecting sector 1 and sector 2 .

Symmetries in the discontinuity jump relations immediately lead to a number of simple results. Replacing $\alpha_{i B, 1}$ by $-\alpha_{i B, 1}$ leads to $\alpha_{i B, 5} \rightarrow-\alpha_{i B, 5} \alpha_{i B, 4} \rightarrow-\alpha_{i B, 4} \alpha_{i B, 2} \rightarrow-\alpha_{i B, 2}$ in sector 2 leads to $\alpha_{i B, 3} \rightarrow-\alpha_{i B, 3}$ in sector 3 , etc.

Jaggi and Wolf ${ }^{9}$ consider the generation of fast magnetoacoustic waves (in our notation $S_{f} 5$ or $R_{f} 5$ ) by weak tangential discontinuities: They show results for all five linearly independent types of discontinuities. As our dimensionless parameters show, there are only three parameters $s, \alpha_{i B}$ and $A_{n}$, the changes of which characterize the kind of interaction generating $S_{f} 5$ or $R_{f} 5$. Their Figures 5, 7, 8 can therefore be simply related by comparing the corresponding changes in $A_{n}$ from sector 1 to sector 2.

The similarity laws included in the seven or eight dimensionless parameters can be used to immediately derive some important results. Suppose $\alpha_{2}<\alpha_{\text {crit }}$ to be given together with $\rho_{1}, \mathrm{p}_{1}, \underline{\mathrm{v}}_{1}, \underline{B}_{1}$ and $\rho_{2}=\rho_{1}, \mathrm{p}_{2}=\mathrm{p}_{1}, \underline{\mathrm{v}}_{2}=\underline{\mathrm{v}}_{1}$ and $\underline{B}_{2}=\underline{B}_{1}$. Since T2 is a zero-strength discontinuity we would expect no interaction and no change in the shock flow pattern at all, i.e. $S_{f} 3$ would be identical to $S_{f} 1$ and there would be no $S_{f} 5$ or $R_{f} 5$. There would be a zero-strength discontinuity $T 4$ with an angle $\alpha_{4}<\alpha_{2}$ because of the bending of the stream-lines as they pass through $S_{f}$. We also have $s_{2}=s_{1}, \alpha_{i B, 2}=\alpha_{i B, 1}, A_{n, 2}=A_{n, 1}$ and $\alpha_{i v, 2}=\alpha_{i v, 1}$. If we introduce a velocity shear in the Z-direction by choosing $v_{Z, 2} \neq 0$, none of the seven characteristic parameters, and therefore also the solution just described, change except for $\mathrm{v}_{\mathrm{Z}, 3}=\mathrm{v}_{\mathrm{Z}, 2}+\mathrm{v}_{\mathrm{Z}, 5}$. Consequently, a shock $S_{f} 1$ interacting with a tangential discontinuity with a velocity shear in the direction of the interaction line only will not be modified, i.e., $\underline{n}_{S_{f}}=^{n} \underline{n}_{f} 1$, and all properties of the shock $S_{f} 1$ are identical to those of shock $S_{f} 3$. Only the $Z-$ components of the velocity vector will be different for both shocks. The angle $\alpha_{4}$ will be less than $\alpha_{2}$ and $T 4$ is characterised
by the same velocity shear as T 2 and no change in any other physical quantity. There will be no generated or reflected wave $S_{f} 5$ or $R_{f} 5$. The same nondimensional solution applies for T2 having a velocity shear in the XY-plane, if it is compensated by a density change such that $A_{n, 1}=A_{n, 2}$ and $s_{2}=s_{1}$ as well as $\alpha_{i B, 2}=\alpha_{i B, 1}$. For the density ratios we must have

$$
\frac{\rho_{2}}{\rho_{1}}=\frac{v_{p, 1}^{2}}{v_{p, 1}^{2}}=\frac{\rho_{3}}{\rho_{4}}=\frac{v_{p_{1} 4}^{2}}{v_{p_{1} 3}^{2}}
$$

These considerations show that a small change in the dimensionless quantities $s, \lambda_{n}$ and $\alpha_{i B}$ across $T 2$ is a sufficient condition for the interaction to be weak, i.e., for the change $S_{f} 1 \rightarrow S_{f} 3$ to be small and the strength of $S_{f} 5$ or $R_{f} 5$ to be weak. This condition is evidently much less restrictive than the condition of a small change in the dimensional quantities $p, \rho$, $\underline{V}$, .

The uniqueness of the solutions $\alpha_{3}$ and $\alpha_{5}$ can be discussed with the help of the graphical representation in Figure 3 in the $\alpha_{v}, p_{t} / p_{t, 1}$ plane. We consider the seven initial parameters $s_{1}, \alpha_{2}, \alpha_{i B, 1}, A_{n, 1}, s_{2}, \alpha_{i B, 2}, A_{n, 2}$ to be given. The point Se 1,2 then gives the state in sectors 1 and 2. The curve labelled $S_{f} 1$ is the locus of all points $\left(\alpha_{v, 5}, p_{t, 5} / p_{t, 1}\right)$ obtained by keeping $s_{1}, \alpha_{i B, 1}$ and $A_{n, 1}$ in sector 1 constant and varying $\alpha_{2}$ between $\alpha_{M_{f}}\left(s_{1}, \alpha_{i B, 1}, A_{n, 1}\right)$ and $\alpha_{\text {crit }}\left(s_{1}\right.$, $\alpha_{i B, 1}, A_{n, 1}$ ). Beyond the point $B_{1}$, corresponding to $\alpha_{2}=\alpha_{\text {crit }}$ the shock wave $S_{f} 1$ would be outgoing. The initial value of $\alpha_{2}$ chosen in the initial parameter set leads to point Se5, which is also the upstream state for $S_{f} 5$ or $R_{f} 5$. The curve labelled $S_{f} 5$ is the locus of all points $\left(\alpha_{v, 4}, p_{t, 4} / p_{t, 1}\right)$ obtained by varying $\alpha_{5}$ such that a shock $S_{f} 5$ is given with the upstream state $s_{5}, \alpha_{i B, 5}, A_{n, 5}$. It contains outgoing and incoming solutions. The outgoing and therefore allowed part of the curve $S_{f} 5$ starts at $S e 5$, passes through $S e 4, T$ and $\operatorname{Se}^{\prime} 4$ and ends shortly thereafter. The curve $S_{f} 5$ is connected continuously up to second order derivatives with the rarefaction wave branches $R_{f} 5$, which are not shown completely. Similarly, the curve $S_{f} 3$ is the locus of the $S_{f} 3$ shocks obtained by varying $\alpha_{3}$. It depends on $s_{2}, \alpha_{i B, 2}$ and $A_{n, 2}$. The intersections of curve $S_{f} 3$ with curve $S_{f} 5, R_{f} 5$ give the solutions to equations 8 and 9 or 12 and 13. Every point on these curves is uniquely given by an angle $\alpha_{3}$ or $\alpha_{5}$, respectively. The case shown permits two solutions given by the points $S e 4$ and $S^{\prime} 4$, in which $S_{f} 3$ and $S_{f} 5$ are both "outgoing". However, the curves $S_{f} 3$
and $S_{f} 5$ could also include switch-on shock waves for $s_{2}<1$ and/or $s_{5}<1$, respectively. For example, the curve $S_{f} 5$ then ends in a switch-on shock as a limiting case, before it reaches the line $\alpha_{v, 4}=\alpha_{v, 5}$ with infinite slope. In such cases there is the possibility of one solution only. If $s_{f} 3$ misses the allowed part of $R_{f} 5, S_{f} 5$, no solution is possible. One invariable feature of these curves is that the curve labelled $S_{f} 5, R_{f} 5$ is symmetric to the horizontal line $\alpha_{v, 4}=\alpha_{v, 5}$, if for a moment we do not distinguish between "incoming" and "outgoing" waves. In addition. on each of the symmetric parts the second derivative does not change sign.

If more than one solution is possible, we pick the admissible one by the following postulate: The admissible solution Se4 must continuously tend to the point se5 without $S_{f} 3$ ever being tangent to $s_{f} 5$ or $R_{f} 5$ during the approach, when $s_{2}{ }^{\prime} x_{i B}, 2$ and $A_{n, 2}$ tend to $s_{1}, \alpha_{i B, 1}, A_{n, 1}$, respectively, in a continuous manner. Although this device works remarkably well in gasdynamics, a more physical selection of the correct solution would be desirable. It could possibly be provided by a stability analysis of the type carried through for a plane shock by Gardner and Kruskal ${ }^{14}$. The solution of this problem is outside the scope of this work. It would be interesting to investigate experimentally the question whether under certain conditions a flipping from solution Se4 to Se'4 is possible as a result of an instability of solution Se4. Solutions of the type Se' 4 could also occur as part of a more complicated interaction pattern outside the range of the initial parameters making a stcady flow pattern possible. The numerical results in Section $V$ will only contain the admissible solutions se4. Finally we note a
necessary condition for $S \in 4$ to be admissible. It may be admissible only, if it lies on the branch from Se5 to the point $T$ in Fig. 3, which is obtained by drawing the tangent from se1,2 at curve $S_{f} 5$.

An important problem is to find the region in the sevendimensional space of our initial parameters, in which the steady-state solution is possible. If the orientation of both discontinuities and the physical parameters in front of $S_{f} 1$ are given, $s_{1}, \alpha_{2}, \alpha_{i B, 1}, A_{n, 1}$ are determined. From Figure 3 and the previous discussion we see that three limiting cases exist for the basic steady flow pattern $S_{f} 1, T 2, S_{f} 3, T 4, S_{f} 5$. Firstly the shock $S_{f} 5$ can tend to zero strength, i.e., the fast Mach number $M_{f, 5}=1$. Secondly, the curves $S_{f} 5$ and $S_{f} 3$ can become tangent. After a further change of the parameters $s_{2}, \alpha_{i B, 2} A_{n, 2}$ in the right direction, no solution could exist any more. Thirdly, the parameter range is limited by the case of Se4 tending to a switch-on shock. A similar situation is given for the basic pattern $S_{f} 1, T 2, S 3, T 1, R_{f} 5$. In the following we restrict ourselves to the solution involving $\mathrm{S}_{\mathrm{f}} 5$.

Each of the three limiting cases involves a relationship between the seven initial parameters. As an example we consider the relationship between $A_{n, 2}$ and $s_{2}$ for a given set of $s_{1}{ }^{\prime} \alpha_{2}$, $\alpha_{i B, 1} A_{n, 1}$ and $\alpha_{i B, 2}$ as shown in Figure 4. In the case $A_{n, 1}=8$ shown in Fig. 4a the limiting curve corresponding to the fast Mach number of shock $S_{f} 5$ being $M_{f, 5}=1$ extends from $s_{2}=0$ to $\infty$. The same is true for the limiting curve describing the tangency condition. Between these curves the solution $S_{f} 1, T 2$, $S_{f} 3, T 4, S 5$ is possible. Below the curve $S_{f} 5=0$ the solution is $S_{f} 1, T 2, S_{f} 3, T 4, R_{f} 5$. The latter type of solution is limited
by another curve below the curve $M_{f, 5}=1$ expressing the tangency condition for the rarefaction wave. This curve has not been computed, however. In the other case $A_{n, 1}=4$ shown in Fig. 4b there must always be a reflected wave called generated wave by Jaggi and Wolf ${ }^{9}$ above $s_{2} \sim 55$ for a steady-state solution to exist in our frame of reference. Again an upper limit exists for the Alfvén Mach number $A_{n_{0}}$, as a function of $s$. The curve expressing the tangency condition extends continuously beyond the point, where it meets the curve $M_{f, 5}=1$, thereby limiting the solutions of type $S_{f} 1, T 2, S_{f} 3, T 4, R_{f} 5$.

Inspection of Figure 3 shows, that an upper limit to $A_{n, 2}$ due to the tangency limit can only be found if the minimum of curve $S_{f} 5$ fulfills the inequality $\alpha_{v, 4}>-\alpha_{2}$, since the curve $S_{f} 3$ is stretched progressively with increasing Mach number $A_{n, 2}$, when all other parameters are kept constant. The marginal case can be expressed as a condition on $s_{1}, \alpha_{2}, \alpha_{i B, 1}$, and $A_{n, 1}$.

In addition to the cases illustrated in Figure 4 a large number of other possibilities exists. It is for example also possible, that only above a minimum value of $s_{2} \quad M_{f, 5}$ can be equal to one.

The disappearance of $S_{f} 5$ from the flow pattern requires one condition on the seven initial parameters to be fulfilled. $S_{f} 3$ cannot disappear by the argument in section $I I$, item 5 proving the impossibility of a wave $R_{f} 3 . T 4$ can disappear, however. For this to happen three conditions must be fulfilled by the seven initial parameters leading to $s_{3}=s_{4}$. $\alpha_{i B, 3}=\alpha_{i B, 4}$ and $A_{n_{p} 3}=A_{n, 4}$. The condition $\alpha_{i v, 3}=\alpha_{i v, 4}$ can be enforced separately by the correct choice of $\alpha_{i v, 2}$. A trivial case is apparently given by the parameter set
$s_{1}, \alpha_{2}, \alpha_{i B, 1}, A_{n, 1}, s_{2}=s_{1}, \alpha_{i B, 2}=\alpha_{i B, 1}$ and $A_{n, 2}=A_{n, 1}$. Since the disappearance of $T A$ is a very special case due to the three required conditions on the initial parameters the possible existence of nontrivial solutions will not be considered.

In closing this section we make two more points. In section II, item 4 the assumption has been made that no switchon or switch-off waves occur in the general solution. The development of the theory in this section is consistent with this assumption, since switch-on shocks occur as limiting cases only. Switch-off waves are not necessary at all to construct a solution, since they are of the $S_{s}-t y p e$.

The second point concerns the poles in the generation coefficients of the paper by Jaggi and Wolf ${ }^{9}$. These poles do not occur in the nonlinear analysis. They are due to the linear approximations in the vicinity of points Se5 and Se4.

In this section we present a limited parametric study of our interaction problem. Instead of attempting a complete presentation of the characteristics of the physical solution, we consider a few cases of geoastrophysical interest. We shall exclude from consideration results for large $s_{1}$ and $s_{2}$ and large $A_{1}$ and $A_{2}$ since these are well known in the gasdynamic literature. Although the magnetic field does not greatly influence the results in these cases, it may be very important as a diagnostic tool. Here we introduce a new Alfvén Mach number

$$
\begin{equation*}
A=A_{n} \cos \alpha_{i B}=\frac{\left|\underline{v}_{p}\right| \sqrt{4 \pi \rho}}{|\underline{B}|} \tag{14}
\end{equation*}
$$

which is often more convenient than $A_{n}$ for applications. For example,

$$
\hat{A}_{1}=\frac{\left|\underline{\mathrm{v}}_{1}{ }^{\circ} \underline{\mathrm{n}}_{\mathrm{S}_{\mathrm{f}}}\right|^{\sqrt{4 \pi \rho_{1}}}}{\sin \alpha_{2} \quad\left|\underline{\mathrm{~B}}_{1}\right|}
$$

We note that the value of $s=1$ is typical for the solar wind in the vicinity of the earth. Typical values for $A_{1}$ are 4 and 12 for interplanetary shocks and the earth's bow shock near the subsolar point, respectively. These values will not be chosen exclusively, however.

The first case we consider is the interaction of $S_{f} 1$ with $T 2$, where $T 2$ is characterized by a change in magnetic field direction only i.e., $\rho_{1}=\rho_{2}, p_{1}=p_{2}, \underline{v}_{1}=\underline{v}_{2}$ or $s_{1}=s_{2}$, $A_{1}=A_{n, 1} \cos \alpha_{i B, 1}=A_{2}=A_{n, 2}{ }^{\circ} \cos \alpha_{i B, 2}$ but $\alpha_{i B, 1}$ generally different from $\alpha_{i B, 2}$. This type of discontinuity, corresponding
to a type (a) discontinuity in Jaggi and Wolf's ${ }^{8}$ treatment of weak discontinuities, is most commonly found in interplanetary space ${ }^{2,8}$. It illustrates most clearly the influence of the magnetic field. For the typical interplanetary values of $s_{1}=s_{2}=1$ and $A_{1}=A_{2}=4$ and $\alpha_{2}=45^{\circ}$ Figures $5 a, b$ illustrate various interesting quantities as a function of $\alpha_{i B, 1}$ and $\alpha_{i B, 2}$. Figure 5a shows $\Delta \omega=\omega_{3,4}-\omega_{2,1}$ i.e., the change of the angle between the $B$-vectors on both sides of the tangential discontinuity during the interaction. We have defined $\omega_{k, e}=\alpha_{i B, k}-\alpha_{i B, e}$ The curves can be continued to values of $\alpha_{i B, 2}>90^{\circ}$ by use of some of the symmetry properties of the solutions. Thus if $\alpha_{i B, 3}$ and $\alpha_{i B, 4}$ and therefore $\omega_{3,4}$ are solutions for $s_{1}, \alpha_{2}, \alpha_{i B, 1}$, $A_{n, 1}, s_{2}, \alpha_{i B, 2}{ }^{\prime} A_{n, 2}$ given with $\alpha_{i B, 2}<90^{\circ}$, say, the transformation $\alpha_{i B, 2} \rightarrow 180^{\circ}-\alpha_{i B, 2}$ yields $\alpha_{i B, 3} \rightarrow 180^{\circ}-\alpha_{i B, 3^{\prime}}$ $\alpha_{i B, 4} \rightarrow \alpha_{i B, 4}$ and therefore $\omega_{3,4} \rightarrow 180^{\circ}-\alpha_{i B, 3}-\alpha_{i B, 4}$ and finally $\Delta \omega \rightarrow 2 \Delta \omega\left(\alpha_{i B, 2}=90^{\circ}\right)-\Delta \omega$, i.e..
the curves $\Delta \omega\left(\alpha_{i B, 2}\right)$ can be continued to $\alpha_{i B, 2}>90^{\circ}$ by reflection with respect to their points of intersection with the line $\alpha_{i B, 2}=90^{\circ}$. Only in the case $\alpha_{i B, 1}=0^{\circ}$ an $S_{f} 5$ shock occurs all the time. Increasing $A_{1}=A_{2}$ with $s_{1}=s_{2}$ and $\alpha_{2}$ kept constant leads to a further limited increase of $\Delta \omega$.

If the magnetic field could be neglected in the dynamics of the problem, we would expect $\alpha_{3}=0$ in the case considered above with $s_{1}=s_{2}$ and $A_{1}=A_{2}$. That the magnetic field influences the dynamics is shown in Figure $5 b$, where angles of $\alpha_{3}$ up to $4^{\circ}$ are shown. The curves can be reflected at the line $\alpha_{i B, 2}=90^{\circ}$ to obtain values for $\alpha_{i B, 2}>90^{\circ}$. Increasing the Mach numbers $A_{1}=A_{2}$ leads to lower values of $\alpha_{3}$, since the pressure forces become more and more important compared with
the magnetic forces. The shocks $S_{f} 5$ are very weak in all these cases. The largest value of $M_{f, 5}=1.04$ is attained for $\alpha_{i B, 1}=0^{\circ}$ and $\alpha_{i B, 2}=90^{\circ}$. An interesting feature of these solutions is, that whereas $T 2$ shows a change in direction of $B$ (given by $\omega_{2,1}$ ) only, the modified tangential discontinuity can display additional changes e.g. in $|\underline{B}|$. In contrast to $\left|\underline{B}_{1}\right|=$ $\left|\underline{B}_{2}\right|$ we have a maximum ratio of $\left|\underline{B}_{3}\right| /\left|\underline{B}_{4}\right|=1.12$ at $\alpha_{i B, 1}=0^{0}$ and $\alpha_{i B, 2}=90^{\circ}$, and a minimum density ratio of $\sim 0.9$ across $T 4$ for the same parameters compared with a value of one at T2. Increasing $A_{1}=A_{2}$ to a value of 8 leads to a maximum $\left|\underline{B}_{3}\right| /\left|\underline{B}_{4}\right|$ of 1.24 at the same $\alpha_{i B, 1}$ and $\alpha_{i B, 2}$.

The next case we consider involves density changes across T2 or equivalently a velocity shear. The results for $\alpha_{3}$ are shown in Figure 6, where $\alpha_{3}$ is plotted as a function of $A_{2}$ with $s_{1}=s_{2}=1, \alpha_{2}=+45^{\circ}, \alpha_{i B, 1}=\alpha_{i B, 2}=0^{\circ}$ and $A_{2}=4$ and 12. It is expected that the change in direction of the shock normal is much more pronounced in this case. An increase in density across $T 2$ by a factor of 2 , corresponding to a ratio $A_{2} / A_{1}=\sqrt{2}$, leads to $\alpha_{3}=-10.9^{\circ}$ and a fast Mach number $M_{f, 5}=1.1$ for $A_{1}=4$ and $\alpha_{3}=-9.3^{\circ}$ and $M_{f_{1} 5}=1.13$ for $A_{1}=12$. The density ratio across $T 4$ is 1.84 and 1.68 for $A_{1}=4$ and 12 , respectively, compared with two across T2. On the other hand the density ratios across $S_{f} 5$ are 1.14 and 1.21 and magnetic field magnitude ratios 1.1 and 1.14 , respectively. The last example illustrates the influence of a change in $s$ across $T 2$ with $\alpha_{i B, 1}=0^{\circ}, s_{1}=1, \Lambda_{1}=A_{2}=8$ on the relationship $\Delta \omega\left(\alpha_{i B}, 2\right) \%$ Since a change in $s$ across $T 2$ implies $\left|\underline{B}_{1}\right| \neq\left|\underline{B}_{2}\right| \quad A_{1}=I_{2}$ implies an additional change in density or velocity $\underline{v}_{p}$ across $T 2$. The results are shown in Figure 7.

We see, that an increase in $\left|\underline{B}_{2}\right| /\left|\underline{B}_{1}\right|$ implied by a decrease in $s_{2} / s_{1}$ leads to progressively smaller changes in $\Delta \omega=\omega_{3,4}-\omega_{2,1}$.

In conclusion we have shown that for a range of initial conditions the interaction between a fast shock $S_{f} 1$ and a tangential discontinuty $T 2$ can lead to a steady flow pattern in the frame of reference in which both discontinuities are at rest. For $A_{n, 2} \geq \max \left\{1, \sqrt{s_{2}}\right\}$ two solutions are possible, $s_{f} 1$, $T 2, S_{f} 3, T 4, S_{f} 5$ and $S_{f} 1, T 2, S_{f} 3, T 4, R_{f} 5$, which are adjacent in the parameter space $s_{1}, \alpha_{2}, \alpha_{i B, 1}, A_{n, 1}, s_{2}, \alpha_{i B, 2}, A_{n_{q}}$. Uniqueness of the solutions has been enforced by the requirement of continuous connection to the limiting cases of linear interaction, a device, which works remarkably well in gasdynamics. Further work is necessary in this area concerning the stability of the solutions obtained. Also laboratory experiments and space observations could be used to finally decide the question of uniqueness.

The set of seven dimensionless parameters turns out to be very economical in ordering the large number of solutions. The similarity laws defined thereby show that a velocity shear parallel to the interaction line constitutes a very weak interaction leading to $S_{f} 3$ essentially identical to $S_{f} 1$ and no wave $S_{f} 5$ or $R_{f} 5$. These laws also show that velocity shears perpendicular to the interaction line and density changes across T2 are equivalent. The computations for individual cases show that a tangential discontinuity $T 2$ with a change in direction of the magnetic field only and $s_{1}=s_{2}=1$ produces a very weak reflected or generated fast wave, whereas the tangential discontinuity $T 4$ has more complicated characteristics than $T 2$, i.e., a change in magnetic field magnitude,
density, temperature and velocity shear. Because of the deviation of the shock normal to up to $4^{\circ}$ for $s_{1}=s_{2}=1$, $\alpha_{2}=45^{\circ}$ and $A_{1}=A_{2}=4$ the propagation of a shock through an ensemble of tangential discontinuities of this type like in the solar wind can lead to an appreciable random walk of the normal direction and other shock properties.

An initial tangential discontinuity with a density jump leading to a sudden impulse in the geomagnetic field accordingto Burlaga ${ }^{15}$ splits into two disturbances after interacting with the earth's bow shock which due to their different propagation velocities would have different travel times. Since in this case $S_{f} 5$ or $R_{f} 5$ are not weak the initiating signal at the magnetopause is a broad signal and not a one step signal as often assumed in the past.

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## APPENDIX

In this appendix we shall collect the functional relationships needed in equations 12 and 13. Figure 8 shows the geometry of the problem. The upstream region is denoted by the subscript zero and the downstream region by one. The upstream region is then characterized by $s_{0} \alpha_{i B, 0}$ and $A_{n, 0}$ and the shock or rarefaction wave by the angle $\alpha$ between the downstream edge of the $S_{f}$ or $R_{f}$-disturbance and the projection of the streamline on the $x, y$-plane. This definition of $\alpha$ is useful for both $S_{f}$ and $R_{f}$. For a shock the downstream and upstream edges are parallel trivially. For the rarefaction wave the direction of the upstream weak discontinuity is given by the initial conditions already, whereas the direction of the downstream weak discontinuity can be used to characterize its strength.

In the following we restrict ourselves to the shock case. We use the formulas derived by Bazer and Ericson ${ }^{13}$ and also given by Jeffrey and Taniuti ${ }^{16}$ with the evolutionarity conditions imposed by them. Note, that in our case $\underline{n}$ is pointing in the direction of propagation. The angle between $\underline{n}$ and $\underline{B}_{0}$ is called $\theta_{0}$ and without loss of generality we can write $0 \leq \theta_{0}<180^{\circ}$ or $\sin \theta_{0} \geq 0$. We obtain

$$
\begin{equation*}
\cos \theta_{0}=-\sin \alpha \cos \alpha_{i B, 0} \tag{A1}
\end{equation*}
$$

A shock is then possible for the angular range

$$
\begin{equation*}
\alpha_{M_{f}} \leq \alpha \leq 180^{\circ}-\alpha_{M_{f}} \tag{A2}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $\alpha_{M_{f}}$ is given by
$\sin \alpha_{M_{f}}=\frac{1}{\left|\cos \alpha_{i B, O}\right| A_{n, O}^{2}}\left(-s_{0}+\left(s_{o}+1\right) A_{n, O}^{2}\right)^{1 / 2}$
with $0<\alpha_{M_{f}} \leq 90^{\circ}$ and $A_{n, 0} \geq \max \left(1, \sqrt{s_{o}}\right)$.
Introducing the quantity

$$
\begin{equation*}
h=\frac{B_{t, 1}-B_{t, 0}}{\left|\underline{B}_{0}\right|} \tag{A4}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $B_{t}$ is the magnitude of the component of $B$ in the shockplane, we obtain the following cubic equation for $h$
$h^{3}+h^{2} \frac{1}{3} \sin \theta_{0}\left(A^{2} n, 0+11\right)$

$$
\begin{align*}
& +h\left[A_{n, 0}^{4} \frac{2}{3} \cos ^{2} \theta_{0}+A_{n, 0}^{2}\left(-\frac{10}{3}+2 s_{0}+\frac{17}{3} \sin ^{2} \theta_{0}\right)+\frac{8}{3}-2 s_{0}\right] \\
& \quad+2 \sin \theta_{0}\left[-A_{n, 0}^{4} \cos ^{2} \theta_{0}+A_{n, 0}^{2}\left(1+s_{0}\right)-s_{0}\right]=0 \tag{A5}
\end{align*}
$$

where we have used the ratio of specific heats $\gamma=5 / 3$. The equation has one root fulfilling the requirement $0 \leq \bar{\eta}_{f} \leq 3$ necessary for a fast shock. The relative density change $\bar{n}_{f}$ is given by

$$
\begin{equation*}
\bar{n}_{\mathrm{f}}=\frac{\rho_{1}}{\rho_{0}}-1=\frac{A_{n_{n, 0}}-1}{h+A_{n, 0}^{2} \sin \theta_{0}} h \tag{A6}
\end{equation*}
$$

The relative pressure change $\bar{Y}_{f}$ is given by

$$
\begin{equation*}
\overline{\mathrm{Y}}_{\mathrm{f}}=\frac{\mathrm{p}_{1}}{p_{o}}-1=\frac{5}{3 s_{o}}\left\{-\frac{1}{2} h^{2}+h\left(\frac{\bar{n}_{f}-h \sin \theta_{o}}{h-\bar{\eta}_{f} \sin \theta_{o}}\right)\right\} \tag{A7}
\end{equation*}
$$

We are interested in the quantities $s_{1}, \alpha_{i B, 1}, A_{n, 1}, Y_{t, f}, \delta_{f}$. Using $\left|\underline{B}_{1}\right| / \underline{B}_{0} \mid=\left(1+2 h \sin \theta_{0}+h^{2}\right)^{1 / 2}$ we obtain

$$
\begin{gather*}
s_{1}=\frac{1+\bar{Y}_{f}}{1+2 h \sin \theta_{o}+h^{2}} s_{o}  \tag{A8}\\
y_{t, f}=\frac{p_{t, 1}}{p_{t, 0}}=\frac{10 \bar{n}_{f} \cos ^{2} \theta_{o}}{h-\bar{n}_{f} \sin \theta_{o}} \frac{h}{6 s_{o}+5}+1  \tag{A9}\\
A_{n, 1}=n_{n, 0}\left(1+\bar{n}_{f}\right) \tag{A10}
\end{gather*}
$$

The quantities $\delta_{f}$ and $\alpha_{i B, 1}$ are a little more difficult to obtain:
$\sin \alpha_{i B, 1}=\sin \alpha_{i B, 0} \frac{\sin \theta_{0}+h}{\sin \theta_{0}\left(1+2 h \sin \theta_{0}+h^{2}\right)^{1 / 2}} ;$
where $\alpha_{i B, 1}$ is in the same quadrant as $\alpha_{i B, O}$ from $0^{\circ}$ to $360^{\circ}$ and
$\sin \delta_{f}=h \sin \alpha \cos \alpha\left(h^{2} \cos ^{2} \alpha+\sin ^{2} \theta_{0}+2 h \sin \theta_{o} \cos ^{2} \alpha\right)^{-1 / 2}$,
where $\left|\delta_{f}\right|<90^{\circ}$.

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Figure 1 Magnetogasdynamic steady flow pattern as a result of the interaction of the fast shock $S_{f} 1$ and the tangential discontinuity $T 2$.

Figure 2 (a) Illustration of angular ranges of "outgoing" and "incoming" shocks for given upstream conditions.
(b) Illustration of "outgoing" and "incoming" fast rarefaction waves.

Figure 3 Graphical representation of the uniqueness problem in the mathematical solution of the interaction. Both points Se4 as well as Se'4 fulfill equations 8 and 9, i.e., $p_{t, 3}=p_{t, 4}$ and $\alpha_{v, 3}=\alpha_{v, 4}$.
Figure 4 (a) Limiting curves due to tangency condition and $M_{f, 5}=1$ for the steady solution $S_{f} 1, T 2$, $S_{f} 3, T 4$, $S_{f} 5$. For the case of $R_{f} 5$ instead of $S_{f} 5$ only the limit of an infinitely weak $R_{f} 5$ is shown i.e., the curve labeled $M_{f, 5}=1$. Both limiting curves are completely separated in this case.
(b) A more complicated case of limiting curves, in which tangency and $\mathrm{M}_{\mathrm{f}, 5}=1$ are possible at the same time.

Figure 5 (a) Change $\Delta \omega$ of the angle between magnetic field vectors on both sides of the tangential discontinuity during the interaction as a function of $\alpha_{i B, 1}$ and $\alpha_{i B, 2}$ with velocity, pressure and magnetic field magnitude as well as density continuous across T 2 at the beginning.
(b) Deflection $\alpha_{3}$ of the shock normal during the interaction.

Figure 6 Deflection $\alpha_{3}$ of the shock normal and fast magnetoacoustic Mach number of the reflected wave $S_{f} 5$ for tangential discontinuities with density change and/or velocity shear for $\lambda_{1}=4$ and 12 . Note the large deflections compared with Figure 5a.

Figure $7 \quad \Delta \omega$ as a function of $\alpha_{i B, 2}$ for various values of $s_{2}$ expressing magnetic field increases and plasma pressure decreases. $T 2$ is of a mixed type, since $|\underline{B}|$ changes as well as $\left|\underline{v}_{p}\right|_{\rho}^{2}$.
Figure 8 Geometry of a stationary oblique shock.


Figure 1


Figure $2 a$


Figure 2b


Figure 3


Figure $4 a$


Figure 4b


Figure $5 a$
42


Figure 5b
43


Figure 6


Figure 7


Figure 8

