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A system science methodology develops a new composite highly predictable index of magnetospheric activity for the community: the whole-Earth index E₍₁₎

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For community use, a new composite whole-Earth index $\mathrm{E}_{(1)}$ and its matching composite solar wind driving function $\mathsf{S}_{(1)}$ are derived. A system science methodology is used based on a time-dependent magnetospheric state vector and a solar wind state vector, with canonical correlation analysis (CCA) used to reduce the two state vectors to the two time-dependent scalars $E_{(1)}(t)$ and $S_{(1)}(t)$. The whole-Earth index $E_{(1)}$ is based on a diversity of measures via six diverse geomagnetic indices that will be readily available in the future: SML, SMU, Ap60, SYMH, ASYM, and PCC. The CCA-derived composite index has several advantages: 1) the new "canonical" geomagnetic index $E_{(1)}$ will provide a more powerful description of magnetospheric activity, a description of the collective behavior of the magnetosphere-ionosphere system. 2) The new index $E_{(1)}$ is much more accurately predictable from upstream solar wind measurements on Earth. 3) Indications are that the new canonical geomagnetic index $E_{(1)}$ will be accurately predictable even when as-yet-unseen extreme solar wind conditions occur. The composite solar wind driver $S_{(1)}$ can also be used as a universal driver function for individual geomagnetic indices or for magnetospheric particle populations. To familiarize the use of the new index $E_{(1)}$, its behavior is examined in different phases of the solar cycle, in different types of solar wind plasma, during high-speed stream-driven storms, during CME sheath-driven storms, and during superstorms. It is suggested that the definition of storms are the times when E(1) >1.

KEYWORDS

geomagnetic indices, geomagnetic activity, magnetosphere, solar wind, system science, canonical correlation analysis, ionosphere

1 Introduction

The objective of this paper is to develop and present a convenient, accurate, highly predictable composite geomagnetic index that can be used by the space physics community to gauge global magnetospheric activity. This project addressed a prime goal of the NSF GEM program: "The goal of the GEM program is to make accurate predictions of the geospace

environment" Accurate predictions of individual geospace indices have been difficult; this project took an innovative approach based on system science (Borovsky and Valdivia, 2018) and developed a magnetospheric activity index $E_{(1)}$ that is highly predictable based on the knowledge of solar wind on Earth [e.g., a knowledge of the properties of solar wind yields a high prediction efficiency for the value of the activity index $E_{(1)}$], and the new activity index $E_{(1)}$ is useful for gauging of the magnitude of magnetospheric activity.

Magnetospheric activity occurs in reaction to the solar wind (Dungey, 1961; Axford and Hines, 1961). This activity takes a number of forms (cf. Table 4 of Borovsky and Valdivia, 2018) and is measured by a number of geomagnetic indices that are sensitive to diverse current systems (cf. Table 1): magnetospheric (and ionospheric) convection, auroral activity, cross-polar cap current, plasma diamagnetism, cross-tail current, ULF wave activity, and Pc1 activity. There are well-known correlations between geomagnetic indices and solar wind, enabling the geomagnetic indices to be predicted (to some degree) from a knowledge of upstream solar wind parameters. Two examples appear in Figure 1, where for the years 1991-2007, the 1-hr-lagged auroral electrojet index AE(t) is plotted in panel (a) as a function of the "Newell" driver function $d\Phi/dt = \frac{4/3}{v_{sw}} \frac{2/3}{B_{\perp}} \frac{2/3}{\sin 8/3(\theta \operatorname{clock}/2)}$ (Newell et al., 2007) and where the 1-hr-lagged Kp index is plotted in panel (b) as a function of the "quick reconnection function," $R_{quick} = n_{sw}^{1/2} v_{sw}^2 \sin^2(\theta_{clock}/2)$ $M_A^{-1.35}$ [1 + 680 $M_A^{-3.30}$]^{-1/4} (Borovsky and Yakymenko, 2017a), where v_{sw} represents the solar wind speed; n_{sw} represents the solar wind number density; B₁ represents the component of the solar wind magnetic field, which is perpendicular to the Sun-Earth line; θ_{clock} represents the clock angle of the solar wind magnetic field relative to the Earth's magnetic dipole; and MA represents the Alfven Mach number of upstream solar wind. Each point in Figure 1 represents 1 h of data. In Figure 1B, the discrete values of Kp are spread vertically in the plot to aid the eye by adding random numbers between -0.3 and +0.3. In both panels, the red line is a least-squares linear regression fit to the black points, and the blue curve is a 50-point vertical running average of the black points.

In Figure 1A, the Pearson linear correlation coefficient between AE(t) and the Newell $d\Phi/dt(t)$ is $r_{corr} = 0.723$. The amount of variance of AE(t) that is not described by $d\Phi/dt(t)$ is

 $1-r_{corr}^2 = 0.477$; i.e., 47.7% of the variance of AE cannot be predicted from a knowledge of the value of d Φ /dt. As can be noticed by the local vertical spread in points in Figure 1A, there can be large errors in the value of AE, as predicted from a known value of d Φ /dt.

Single geomagnetic indices are predicted from solar wind measurements to gauge the upcoming space weather. For example, the NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center (https:// www.swpc.noaa.gov) predicts the Kp index and uses it as a gauge of the strength of the activity. The IZMIRAN Space Weather Prediction Center (http://spaceweather.izmiran.ru/eng/forecasts.html) and the Parsec vzw SpaceWeatherLive (spaceweatherlive.com) also predict Kp. The British Geological Survey geomagnetic and solar activity forecast service (http://geomag.bgs.ac.uk/data_service/ space_weather/forecast.html) and the Royal Observatory of Belgium Solar Influences Data Center (http://sidc.oma.be/products/ meu/) both predict Ap. The University of Colorado LASP Space Weather Data (http://lasp.colorado.edu/space_weather/dsttemerin/ dsttemerin.html) predicts Dst and AE. The single geomagnetic index Dst is used to gauge the intensity of storms (e.g., Sugiura and Chapman, 1960; Loewe and Prolss, 1997), as is the single geomagnetic index Kp (e.g., the NOAA SWPC Space Weather Scales). Borovsky and Sprits (2017a) have criticized the use of the single geomagnetic index Dst for gauging storm properties, in particular because one category of geomagnetic storms (highspeed stream-driven storms) occurs without producing strong Dst signatures (Borovsky and Denton, 2006).

The new composite magnetospheric activity index (Earth index) $E_{(1)}$ introduced in this paper will provide two, and possibly a third, improvements for magnetospheric research and space weather over the use of a single geomagnetic index. 1) The new "canonical" geomagnetic index $E_{(1)}$ will provide a more powerful description of magnetospheric activity: a description of the collective behavior of the magnetosphere–ionosphere system. 2) The new canonical geomagnetic index $E_{(1)}$ will be more accurately predictable from upstream solar wind measurements on Earth. Furthermore, 3) indications are that the new canonical geomagnetic index $E_{(1)}$ will be accurately predictable even when as-yet-unseen extreme solar wind conditions occur. The new magnetospheric activity index is described in Section 4.

From a systems science point of view, a "state vector" comprising several measures would provide a superior indication of the intensity

TABLE 1	Some geomagnetic indices an	d the processes	that they respond to.
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Index	Indicative of
AE, AL, AU, SME, SML, and SMU	Nightside and dayside auroral currents
PCN, PCS, and PCC	Polar cap currents and polar cap convection
Kp, Ap, Hp60, Ap60, AM, and MBI	Magnetospheric convection
Dst, SYMH, and ASYM	Plasma diamagnetic currents and cross-tail currents
S_{grd} , S_{geod} , T_{grd} , and T_{geod}	ULF wave intensities
mP _e	Electron precipitation power
mPi	Ion precipitation power
Wp	Pi2 pulsation level
MPB	Mid-latitude current



of global geospace activity (Vassiliadis, 2006; Luo, 2010). In this paper, a composite scalar magnetospheric index $E_{(1)}$ will be derived from vector–vector correlations between a magnetospheric state vector and a solar wind state vector.

The outline of this paper is as follows: Section 2elaborates the advantages of a system-wide (whole-Earth) index. Section 3explains the canonical correlation analysis (CCA) methodology used to derive the composite Earth index $E_{(1)}$. Section 4provides the composite index $E_{(1)}(t)$ created from six geomagnetic indices, along with its matching composite solar wind driver $S_{(1)}(t)$. Section 5examines the importance of individual indices and individual solar wind variables. Section 6 examines the behavior of $E_{(1)}$ in different phases of the solar cycle and in different types of solar wind plasma. Section 7 uses the composite index $E_{(1)}$ to examine geomagnetic storms. Section 8 discusses future work needed to better understand $E_{(1)}$ and its driving by $S_{(1)}$.

2 Advantages of a system-wide (whole-Earth) index

Single geomagnetic indices can be predicted from solar wind measurements to gauge the upcoming space weather, but single geomagnetic indices tend to measure a single aspect of magnetospheric activity (cf. Table 1), and their prediction efficiency from a knowledge of solar wind on Earth is usually weak.

In developing and studying composite magnetospheric activity indices derived with the mathematical technique called canonical correlation analysis (Borovsky, 2014; Borovsky and Denton, 2014; Borovsky and Denton 2018; Borovsky and Osmane, 2019), several properties have been learned that make composite indices ideal for describing magnetospheric activity levels and the solar wind driving of the magnetosphere–ionosphere system. These advantages are enumerated in Table 2.

The first advantage listed in Table 2 (more accurately predictable) comes about for a number of reasons: 1) the composite index is describing a global mode of reaction of the magnetosphere

to the solar wind with an aggregate variable (which is a weighted average of multiple variables that react to the solar wind in similar fashions), which has less noise than a single variable (a single index). 2) The methodology uses a complex solar wind description that is much more sophisticated than commonly used driver functions based on solar wind electric fields or the amount of magnetic flux delivered to the magnetosphere; composite solar wind driving can account for Mach number effects, number density effects, dipole tilt effects, B_y effects, turbulence effects, solar ionization effects, etc.

The second advantage listed in Table 2 is the robustness of the derivation of the composite index and its solar wind driver. This is an important advantage. Borovsky and Denton (2018) found that comparing derivations made on different subsets of the magnetospheric and solar wind data demonstrates the robustness of the definition of the composite activity index. For example, 1) if the composite variables are derived using only slow solar wind, the method is still very accurate for fast solar wind; 2) if the composite variables are derived using only the low-geomagnetic activity data, the method is still very accurate for high levels of activity; and 3) if the composite variables are derived using only solar-minimum data, they are still very accurate at the solar maximum. This ability to accurately predict when radically different data are presented indicates that this method may be able to predict the magnetospheric composite index accurately if very extreme, not-yet-seen solar wind parameters occur. This will be discussed in Section 7.

The third advantage listed in Table 2 is the linearity of the response of the composite geomagnetic index to the composite solar wind driver via the CCA-derived scalar functions [cf. Figure 2A of Borovsky and Denton (2018)]. This linearity means that the response of the magnetosphere–ionosphere system to solar wind is the same at strong driving (and high activity) as it is at weak driving (and low activity). This is related to the robustness found in deriving with one category of data and testing with another category (advantage 2 in Table 2). The linearity of the response eliminates the consideration of polar cap potential saturation (Wygant et al., 1983; Reiff and Luhmann, 1986; Weimer et al., 1990; Borovsky et al., 2009;

#	Advantage of a composite index
1	More accurately predictable from upstream solar wind measurements
2	Training/testing robustness indicates the description, and its predictions may be accurate for extreme (and as-yet-unseen) solar wind parameters
3	Description shows a linearity between the solar wind driver strength and the magnetosphere-ionosphere reaction, overcoming the need to consider whether the polar cap potential saturates
4	Describes a global reaction of the magnetosphere-ionosphere system to the solar wind, not just a single current system
5	Develops and exploits a more sophisticated description of the solar wind pertinent to the driving of the magnetosphere-ionosphere system
6	Unlike machine learning approaches, straightforward algebraic formulas are obtained to make the composite index and its solar wind driver

TABLE 2 Advantages of CCA-derived composite magnetospheric activity indices over single geomagnetic indices.

TABLE 3 Standardizing the variables for the 1997–2020 dataset [XX units].

	Variable	Mean value	Standard deviation		
Magnetospheric indices					
1	$\log_{10}(1+\left \text{SML}\right)$	1.9160	0.40865		
2	$\log_{10}(1 + SMU)$	1.8089	0.31363		
3	$\log_{10}(1 + \text{Ap60})$	0.83552	0.38671		
4	SYMH	-11.273	18.119		
5	ASYM	19.560	14.274		
6	PCC	1.2537	1.2858		
Solar wind variables					
7	V _{sw}	422.90	96.655		
8	$\log_{10}(n_{sw})$	0.68806	0.29543		
9	-B _{z3}	4.177E-02	2.5584		
10	log ₁₀ (F _{10.7})	1.9965	0.14995		
11	$\sin^2(\theta_{clock}/2)_3$	0.50462	0.25811		
12	Tilt	0.46986	18.398		
13	$\log_{10}(0.1+\Delta B)$	0.25320	0.27810		
14	B _{mag}	5.6019	2.9914		
15	θ_{Bn3}	53.154	18.077		
16	$\log_{10}(M_A)$	0.92086	0.18969		

Myllys et al., 2017), which causes some individual geomagnetic indices to saturate under low-Mach number solar wind conditions (Lavraud and Borovsky, 2008; Borovsky, 2021a). The observed linearity may be interpreted as follows: if the "correct" description of magnetospheric activity is used and if the "correct" solar wind driving function is used, the reaction of the magnetosphere to solar wind driving is linear.

The fourth advantage listed in Table 2 is that the composite magnetospheric activity index describes a global mode of reaction of the magnetosphere–ionosphere system to solar wind. Canonical correlation analysis has so far found three independent modes of reaction of the magnetosphere–ionosphere system to solar wind (Borovsky and Osmane, 2019): the mode that will be described by the "canonical" geomagnetic index $E_{(1)}$ in this paper is the fundamental (first) mode, in which all measures of geomagnetic activity increase together or decrease together. Using a composite geomagnetic index is akin to

describing economic activity with a stock-market index instead of a single stock.

The fifth advantage listed in Table 2 is that the processes of using CCA to develop a composite geomagnetic index also develops a much more sophisticated solar wind driver $S_{(1)}$ than the driver functions developed empirically (Holzer and Slavin, 1982; Newell et al., 2007; 2008; McPherron et al., 2015) or developed via physical derivations (Borovsky, 2008; 2013; Borovsky and Birn, 2014) [for extensive lists of existing driver function, see Table 1 of Newell et al., (2008) and Table 1 of Lockwood and McWilliams (2021)]. The CCA composite solar wind driver can account for Mach number effects, dipole tilt effects, B_y effects, solar ionization effects, upstream turbulence effects, etc., and $S_{(1)}$ can serve as a "universal driver function" with improved correlations with individual geomagnetic indices.

The sixth advantage listed in Table 2 is that two simple algebraic formulas are given, one to generate the composite magnetospheric index $E_{(1)}(t)$ from the geomagnetic indices and the other to generate the associated solar wind driver function $S_{(1)}(t)$ from upstream solar wind variables. Unlike machine learning methods, one does not need to run the data analysis algorithm to obtain $E_{(1)}(t)$ and $S_{(1)}(t)$. The algebraic formulas yield straightforward interpretations of what $E_{(1)}$ and $S_{(1)}$ are. If machine learning (e.g., neural network) algorithms were used for magnetospheric predictions, no such straightforward interpretation would be possible: one would need to run numerical experiments on the machine learning algorithm to determine how it works.

3 Methodology and data used to develop the composite index $E_{(1)}$ and its solar wind driver $S_{(1)}$

A multivariable time-dependent "Earth" dataset comprising six commonly available geomagnetic indices is used, along with a multivariable time-dependent "solar wind" dataset comprising 10 standard measurements of solar wind on Earth. The variables of each of the two datasets are listed in Table 3. One-hour averages of all quantities are used for the years 1997–2020, with 1-hrresolution geomagnetic indices commonly available. The 10 solar wind variables were extracted from the 1-hr-resolution OMNI2 solar wind dataset (King and Papitashvili, 2005), with no time lags between the solar wind on Earth (OMNI2) and the geomagnetic indices (time lags in the CCA analysis between the solar wind

and the magnetosphere were studied in Borovsky (2020a) and were found to have little effect). The geomagnetic indices in Table 3 should be mostly familiar. SYMH is very similar to Dst. SML and SMU are SuperMAG (Gjerloev et al., 2012) improvements to the AL and AU auroral electrojet indices. Ap60 is a 60-minute-resolution version of the Ap index. The PCC index is a combination of the PCInorth and PCI-south indices (Stauning, 2021). Standard values for the indices are used where SML, SMU, SYMH, and ASYM are in units of nT; PCC is in units of mV/m, and Ap60 is dimensionless. The solar wind variables in Table 3 should also be mostly familiar; the solar wind flow speed is represented by v_{sw} (in km/s), n_{sw} (in $\rm cm^{-3})$ represents the solar wind number density, $\rm B_{z3}$ (in nT) represents the GSM Z component of the solar wind magnetic field, B_{mag} (in nT) represents the magnetic field strength in the solar wind, and $F_{10.7}$ (in 10^{-22} W m⁻² Hz₋₁) represents the 10.7cm radio flux from the Sun; the tilt (in degrees) is the Sunward tilt of the Earth's northern magnetic pole, going from -34.8° to +34.8°, which governs the angle at which the solar wind hits the dayside magnetosphere and relates to the amount of hinging of the cross-tail current sheet. The dipole tilt angle can be calculated using Eq. 3 of Nowada et al. (2009). The variable θ_{Bn} (in degrees) represents the angle between the solar wind magnetic field line and the Sun-Earth axis, going from 0° (radial field) to 90°. The angle θ_{clock} (in degrees) represents the (GSM) clock angle θ_{clock} = $\arccos(B_z/(B_v^2+B_z^2)^{1/2})$. ΔB represents the rms amplitude of the vectormagnetic field fluctuations in the upstream solar wind during each hour of the OMNI2 dataset, measured typically at L1. Finally, M_A (dimensionless) is the Alfven Mach number of the upstream solar wind given by $M_A = B_{mag}/(4\pi m_i n_{sw})^{1/2}$. Three of the solar wind variables in Table 3 (with subscript "3") are 3-h averages into

the past, involving the present hour and two previous hours: the CCA process is significantly improved when these two 3-h averages are implemented. Most of the solar wind variables used here have appeared in "standard" solar wind driver functions (cf. Table 1 of Newell et al., 2008 or Table 1 of Lockwood and McWilliams (2021): rarer cases are the tilt angle and θ_{Bn} (e.g., Hoilijoke et al., 2014) and ΔB (e.g., Borovsky, 2013).

The data used are available as follows: Ap60 is available at ftp://ftp.gfz-potsdam.de/pub/home/obs/Hpo. SML and SMU are available at http://supermag.jhuapl.edu/indices. SYMH, ASYM, and all solar wind variables are available at https://omniweb.gsfc.nasa.gov/. The PCC index is PCC = (PCN + PCS)/2 if PCN and PCS are both positive, PCC = PCN/2 if PCN is negative, PCC = PCS/2 if PCN is negative, and PCC = 0 if both PCN and PCS are negative (Stauning, 2021). PCN and PCS are available at http://isgi.unistra.fr.

The composite Earth index $E_{(1)}(t)$ and its solar wind driver function $S_{(1)}(t)$ are derived using canonical correlation analysis, which finds two projections (linear combinations) of the variables of each of the two datasets such that the two linear combinations $E_{(1)}(t)$ and $S_{(1)}(t)$ have the maximum Pearson linear correlation coefficient between each other. The two time-dependent multivariable datasets can be thought of as two time-dependent state vectors, and CCA can be thought of as the vector-vector correlation. CCA is a matrix (linear algebra) solution; it is not an iterative solver or a machine learning method. Data are not used to "train," they are used to derive a solution. CCA is a well-known mathematical methodology (Muller, 1982; Johnson and Wichern, 2007; Gatignon, 2010; Nimon et al., 2010; Borovsky, 2014); it has often been used to identify causal factors or correlative

#	Standardized variable	Coefficient in $E_{(1)}$	Coefficient in $S_{(1)}$	Correlation with $E_{(1)}$	Correlation with $S_{(1)}$	Reduction [%]
1	$\log_{10}(1 + SML)^*$	0.1472		0.880	0.798	0.24
2	$\log_{10}(1 + SMU)^*$	0.2983		0.883	0.800	1.26
3	$\log_{10}(1 + \text{Ap60})^*$	0.3157		0.897	0.813	1.08
4	SYMH*	-0.1108		-0.659	-0.598	0.22
5	ASYM*	0.1109		0.765	0.654	0.20
6	PCC*	0.1988		0.837	0.759	0.61
7	v _{sw} *		0.5708	0.512	0.565	3.93
8	log ₁₀ (n _{sw})*		0.2284	0.016	0.018	0.32
9	-B ₂₃ *		0.4329	0.566	0.624	2.53
10	log ₁₀ (F _{10.7})*		0.0909	0.230	0.254	0.31
11	$\sin^2(\theta_{clock}/2)_3^*$		0.2177	0.522	0.576	0.65
12	tilt*		0.1261	0.109	0.120	0.61
13	$\log_{10}(0.1 + \Delta B)^*$		0.0956	0.459	0.507	0.22
14	B _{mag} *		0.2590	0.529	0.584	0.36
15	θ_{Bn3}^{*}		0.0757	0.121	0.133	0.22
16	log ₁₀ (M _A)*		-0.0964	-0.285	-0.315	0.06

TABLE 4 Coefficients (weights) and correlations (loadings) for the variables going into $E_{(1)}(t)$ and $S_{(1)}(t)$ and the reduction (in percent) of the $E_{(1)}(t) \leftrightarrow S_{(1)}(t)$ correlation when that variable is removed.



-SYMH and -B₂

factors, often in epidemiology (Lassig and Duckett, 1979; Frie and Janssen, 2009). Recently, it has been adapted as a systems science tool for the reaction of complicated (multivariable) systems with time-dependent drivers, e.g., the time-dependent solar winddriven magnetosphere-ionosphere system (Borovsky and Osmane, 2019).

4 The composite whole-Earth index $E_{(1)}$

Using the two sets of variables from Table 3 for the years 1997–2020, the CCA yields the two "first canonical variables" as the "Earth" index,

$$\begin{split} E_{(1)} &= 0.1472 \log_{10}(1+|SML|)^* + 0.2983 \log_{10}(1+|SMU|)^* \\ &+ 0.3157 \log_{10}(1+Ap60)^* - 0.1108 \, \text{SYMH}^* + 0.1109 \, \text{ASYM}^* \\ &+ 0.1987 \, \text{PCC}^*, \end{split}$$

and the "solar wind driver" of the Earth index as

$$\begin{split} S_{(1)} &= 0.5707 \, v_{sw}^{*} + 0.2284 log_{10} (n_{sw})^{*} - 0.4329 \, B_{z3}^{*} + 0.0909 log_{10} (F_{10.7})^{*} \\ &+ 0.2177 sin^{2} (\theta_{clock}/2)_{3^{*}} + 0.1261 \, tilt^{*} + 0.0956 log_{10} (0.1 + \Delta B)^{*} \\ &+ 0.2590 \, B_{mag}^{*} + 0.0757 \, \theta_{Bn3^{*}} - 0.0964 log_{10} (M_{A})^{*} \end{split}$$

Both $E_{(1)}(t)$ and $S_{(1)}(t)$ are time-dependent scalars. In Formulas 1, 2, the variables with asterisks are standardized: to standardize the variable X, the mean value of X is subtracted from X, and then the result is divided by the standard deviation of X so that the standardized variable X* has a mean value of 0, a standard deviation of unity, and no units. Hence, in expressions (1) and (2), the magnitudes of the coefficients of each standardized variable are indications of the "importance" or "contribution" of the variable to either $E_{(1)}$ or $S_{(1)}$. These coefficients (known as "weights") are listed in the first two data columns of Table 4, and they are plotted in Figures 2A and B. As can be seen in Figure 2A, the contribution of SYMH and ASYM to $E_{(1)}$ is substantially weaker than that of the other four geomagnetic indices. Note in expression (1) the positive coefficient for the dipole tilt (tilt*), indicating that the solar wind statistically drives E(1) stronger when the northern hemisphereis tilted toward the Sun: this may be a result of the SML and SMU indices focusing on ground magnetometers in the northern hemisphere.

The factor's mean value and standard deviation values used to standardize the hourly values of the 16 variables for the years 1997-2020 are listed in Table 3. Using these factors' expressions, (1) and (2) are rewritten in terms of the 16 non-standardized variables as

$$\begin{split} E_{(1)} &= 0.36022 \log_{10}(1 + |SML|) + 0.95106 \log_{10}(1 + |SMU|) \\ &+ 0.81583 \log_{10}(1 + Ap60) - 0.0061187 SYMH \\ &+ 0.0077747 ASYM + 0.15468 PCC - 3.5072 \end{split}$$

and

$$S_{(1)} = 0.0059043 v_{sw} + 0.77249 \log_{10}(n_{sw}) - 0.16923 B_{z3}$$

+ 0.60634 log_{10}(F_{10.7}) + 0.84342 sin²($\theta_{clock}/2$)₃
+ 0.0068518 tilt + 0.34336 log_{10}(0.1 + Δ B) + 0.086675 B_{mag}
+ 0.0041892 θ_{Bn3} - 0.50686 log_{10}(M_A) - 5.0033. (4)

For expressions (3) and (4), the units of all variables are noted in Section 3.

The new composite magnetospheric activity index $E_{(1)}(t)$ of expression (1) or (3) is plotted in Figure 3A as a function of its composite solar wind driver function $S_{(1)}(t)$ given by expression (2) or (4) is plotted in Figure 3A, each black point being 1 h of data from the years 1997-2020. As a result of the CCA process that derived them, the values of $E_{(1)}(t)$ and $S_{(1)}(t)$ are standardized, with mean values of 0.00, standard deviations of 1.00, and no units. The standardization of $E_{(1)}(t)$ means that $E_{(1)}(t) < 0$ represents belowaverage magnetospheric activity and E(1)(t) >0 represents aboveaverage magnetospheric activity. Similarly, $S_{(1)}(t)$ <0 represents below-average solar wind driving and $S_{(1)}(t) > 0$ represents aboveaverage driving. In Figure 3A, the Pearson linear correlation coefficient is $r_{corr} = 0.907$, meaning that only $1 - r_{corr}^2 = 17.8\%$ of the variance of $E_{(1)}(t)$ is not described by a knowledge of $S_{(1)}(t)$. It should be noted that this high correlation comes about without introducing

time lags between solar wind variables and magnetospheric variables. An earlier study (Borovsky, 2020a) found that introducing and optimizing time lags between the magnetospheric variables and the solar wind variables do not significantly improve the results of the CCA process (the reason why time lags are not important in the CCA systems science methodology is not yet understood).

In Figure 3A, a least-squares linear regression fit is plotted as the blue line and a 200-point vertical running average is plotted as the red points. Note the linearity of the plot in Figure 3A, with the 200point running average (blue) tracking the linear-regression fit (red). Using the linear-regression fit

$$E_{(1)}(t) = 0.9069S(1)(t) - 2.81 \times 10^{-4}$$
(5)

to predict $E_{(1)}(t)$ from a knowledge of the value of $S_{(1)}(t)$, the error $E_{(1)}(t)-E_{(1)predicted}(t)$ is binned in Figure 4. The standard deviation of this distribution of errors is 0.446, and an error value of magnitude unity [which is one standard deviation of M(t)] is far on the tail of the distribution in Figure 4, with only 1.5% of the values having that magnitude of unity or greater. The prediction efficiency 1 - $VAR(E_{(1)predict}(t)-E_{(1)}(t))/VAR(E_{(1)}(t)) = 82.2\%$. In Figure 4, it is noted that the standard deviations of $E_{(1)}$ and $S_{(1)}$ are both $\sigma = 1.0$, and the standard deviation of the error $E_{(1)}(t)-E_{(1)predicted}$ is $\sigma =$ 0.421.

It should be noted that using the CCA process composite magnetospheric indices E(1) can be derived that has higher correlations with their S(1) drivers if a larger diversity of measurements of the magnetosphere are included in the process, e.g., including ULF indices (Borovsky and Denton, 2014) or including particle population and particle precipitation measurements (Borovsky and Denton, 2018; Borovsky and Osmane, 2019). However, for the purpose of creating this communityuseful composite index, the index must be based on measurement quantities that will be easily available in the future; hence, spacecraftbased measurements of particles and precipitation cannot be included.



In panel (A), the data points for E₍₁₎ (t) are plotted as a function of S₍₁₎ (t) for the years 1997–2020. Each black point is 1 h of data. The red line is a linear regression fit to the black points, and the blue points are 200-point vertical running averages of the black points. In panel (B), the black points are replotted and the times of six superstorms are highlighted in six colors



FIGURE 4

Values of E(t) (green), S₍₁₎(t) (blue), and the error $E_{(1)}(t) - E_{(1)predict}(t)$ (red) are binned for the years 1997–2020 to form occurrence distributions.



It is known that some of the vertical error in the CCAgenerated $E_{(1)} \leftrightarrow S_{(1)}$ relationship is associated with the occurrence of substorms (Borovsky and Osmane, 2019), the timing of which is not predicted in the CCA process. This is shown in Figure 5, where 1,117 isolated substorms in the years 1997–2007 are used to create a superposed epoch average plot of $E_{(1)}$ and $E_{(1)}-E_{(1)predicted}$, with the zero epoch being the onset time of each substorm (substormonset collection is from Borovsky and Yakymenko (2017b), where the onsets were determined by a numerical algorithm that examines temporal changes in the 1-min-resolution SML index.). The lower curve in Figure 5 is $E_{(1)}-E_{(1)predicted}$, where $E_{(1)predicted}$ is given by the linear regression fit of expression (5). Note in Figure 5 the increase in the magnitude of the error $|E_{(1)}-E_{(1)predicted}|$ at the time of a substorm occurrence.

Examining Figure 3A, it is noted that a slightly more accurate predictor equation for $E_{(1)}$ could possibly be created by using a curve fit to the 200-point running average in Figure 3A. Note the nonlinear curvature of the running average (blue) away from the linear-regression fit (red) in the bottom left portion of Figure 3A; it has been argued (Borovsky, 2021a) that this curvature might be owed to an atmospheric flywheel effect (Richmond and Matsushita, 1975), wherein residual geomagnetic activity persists after solar

wind driving ceases, owing to upper atmospheric convection driven by the prior activity; adding a time-integrated solar wind variable representing the past 10 h of driving by solar wind reduces the curvature.

5 Relative importance of individual geomagnetic indices and solar wind variables

The relative importance of the various individual variables in the CCA derivations of $E_{(1)}$ and $S_{(1)}$ can be judged by the magnitude of the variable's coefficient in the expressions (1) and (2). These coefficients are listed in Table 4, and they are plotted in Figure 2. The CCA research literature (Conger, 1974; Tzelgov and Henik, 1991; MacKinnon et al., 2000; Nimon et al., 2010; Hair et al., 2010) discusses further indications of the importance of the individual variables that can be gleaned by examining the correlations of the individual variables with $E_{(1)}$ and $S_{(1)}$ (known in the literature as "loadings"), in addition to examining the coefficients (known in the literature as "weights"). The correlations of the individual variables with the composites $E_{(1)}$ and $S_{(1)}$ are also listed in Table 4.

Another way to determine the relative importance of the individual variables is explored in the last column of Table 4, where the reduction in the percentage of the Pearson linear correlation coefficient between CCA-derived $E_{(1)}$ and $S_{(1)}$ composite variables is listed for cases where one geomagnetic index or one solar wind variable is eliminated from the CCA derivation procedure. This column provides further information about the importance of each index or each variable to the definition of $E_{(1)}$ and its solar wind driver $S_{(1)}$. In response to the solar wind, all geomagnetic variables act similarly to 0th order. Hence, as seen in the first six entries in the last column of Table 4, eliminating any one geomagnetic index from the CCA derivation of $E_{(1)}$ does not significantly reduce the correlation between $E_{(1)}$ and $S_{(1)}$.

Solar wind driver variables are different. The last column of Table 4 shows that if the value of v_{sw} is not known or if the value of B_{z3} is not known, then the Pearson linear correlation coefficient between the CCA-derived composite variables $E_{(1)}(t)$ and $S_{(1)}(t)$ decreases very noticeably. According to Table 4, for the set of variables chosen, variables that have a more minor impact are ASYM in the Earth dataset and $F_{10.7}$, $log_{10}(0.1+\Delta B)$, B_{mag} , θ_{Bn3} , and $log_{10}(M_A)$ in the solar wind dataset. It should be noted, however, that information carried in M_A is also carried in n_{sw} and B_{mag} . The contribution of the upstream magnetic field fluctuation amplitude ΔB to solar wind/magnetosphere coupling is controversial and is of interest in physics (Borovsky and Funsten, 2003; Osmane et al., 2015; D'Amicis et al., 2007; 2009; 2010; Borovsky, 2022c).

Among the individual geomagnetic variables and solar wind variables, there is also redundant information. This can be discerned in the CCA derivation process, where elimination of one variable results in a substantial increase in the CCA coefficient of the related variable. Exploration of this shows that for the Earth driving (1), B_{mag} and n_{sw} carry similar information (cf. Borovsky, 2018) and that for (2), B_{mag} , n_{sw} , and M_A are related (of course by the definition $M_A = B_{mag}/(4\pi m_p n_{sw})^{1/2}$). Surprisingly, PCC and SML, which are both high-latitude indices that are highly correlated with each other, do not indicate that they are carrying similar information in the

solar wind driving problem: eliminating one of these two variables does not result in a noticeable increase in the magnitude of the CCA coefficient of the other variable.

6 $E_{(1)}$ and the solar cycle and type of solar wind

In this section, the relations of $E_{(1)}(t)$ to $S_{(1)}(t)$, as defined by expressions (1) and (2), are examined in the different phases of the solar cycle and in the different types of solar wind plasma that drive the Earth's magnetosphere.

The top panel of Figure 6 plots the yearly average values of $E_{(1)}$ (green) and the yearly average of $S_{(1)}(t)$ (red). It should be noted that the value of $E_{(1)}(t)$ is typically slightly less than the value of $S_{(1)}$ [see also expression (5)]. The bottom panel of Figure 6 plots the Pearson linear correlation coefficient r_{corr} between $E_{(1)}(t)$ and $S_{(1)}(t)$ for each year. It should be noted the drop in the value of r_{corr} around the year 2010 corresponds to weak activity $E_{(1)}$ and weak driving $S_{(1)}$ in the top panel. The years of weaker correlation in the bottom panel are probably owed to a common property of linear regression, wherein if the range of values of the points [e.g., $S_{(1)}(t)$ and $E_{(1)}(t)$] becomes

reduced (because of weak activity), the correlation coefficient tends to drop in magnitude (Borovsky, 2022a), related to the property of "regression dilution bias" (Liu, 1988; Hutcheon et al., 2010; Sivadas and Sibeck, 2022).

In Figure 7A, 1997–2020 data are binned into four solar cycle phases and $E_{(1)}(t)$ is plotted as a function of $S_{(1)}(t)$ separately for each of the four phases, and a 100-point vertical running average of the data points is created. In Figure 7A, only the points of the four running averages are plotted, and the four running averages are color-coded as indicated in the figure. As can be seen in Figure 7A, the $E_{(1)} \leftrightarrow S_{(1)}$ relationship is consistent between the various solar cycle phases.

It should be noted that prior solar wind/magnetosphere coupling studies (Nakai and Kamide, 1999; Nagatsuma, 2006; McPherron et al., 2009, McPherron et al., 2013) have argued that solar wind coupling changes the strength in the different phases of the solar cycle, i.e., that the ratio of geomagnetic activity to the solar wind driver function varies systematically with the phase of the solar cycle. The CCA-derived $E_{(1)} \leftrightarrow S_{(1)}$ relationship does not show a solar cycle variation. With a better solar wind driver function $S_{(1)}$ and a better magnetospheric index $E_{(1)}$, no such solar cycle trend is seen. It should be noted that in Figure 7A, theEarth activity $E_{(1)}$



FIGURE 6

In the top panel, the yearly averages of $E_{(1)}(t)$ (green) and $S_{(1)}(t)$ (red) are plotted for years 1997–2020. In the bottom panel, the yearly Pearson linear correlation coefficient r_{corr} between $E_{(1)}(t)$ and $S_{(1)}(t)$ for each year is plotted.



each phase (not shown) and 100-point running averages of the data in each phase (not shown) and 100-point running averages of the data in each phase are plotted in the four colors. In panel (**B**), the 1997–2020 data are separated into the types of solar wind plasma on Earth, and $E_{(1)}$ is plotted as a function of $S_{(1)}$ for the data in each type (not shown) and 100-point running averages of the data in each type are plotted in the four colors.

and solar wind driving $S_{(1)}$ do not go as high in magnitude during the solar minimum (green) as during other phases. In Figure 8A, the values of $E_{(1)}$ are again binned for each of the four solar cycles and the occurrence distributions are plotted, showing the weaker distribution of activity in the solar minimum (green).

In Figure 7B, the Xu and Borovsky (2015) solar wind categorization scheme is applied to each hour of the OMNI2 solar wind data in the years 1997–2020 to categorize each hour into the four types of solar wind plasma that bathe the Earth. As seen in Figure 7A, $E_{(1)}$ is plotted as a function of $S_{(1)}$ separately for the four types, and separate 100-point running averages are created and plotted for each of the four types. As labeled in Figure 7B, the



four types of solar wind plasma are ejecta (blue), coronal holeorigin plasma (red), streamer belt-origin plasma (green), and sector reversal-region plasma (purple). The four types of solar wind plasma have systematically different properties concerning the driving of the Earth's magnetosphere. Coronal hole-origin plasma is typically fast (high v_{sw}), with a low number density, weak magnetic field strength, high Alfvenicity, and its magnetic field orientation is Parker spiral-oriented. Streamer belt-origin plasma typically demonstrates medium speed and Alfvenicity, with the magnetic field Parker spiral-oriented. Sector reversal-region plasma is usually very slow, has high number density, and is non-Alfvenic, with a non-Parker spiral orientation of the magnetic field. Ejecta varies, but it can be extremely fast, with strong or weak magnetic field strength, low Alfven Mach numbers, and non-Parker spiral magnetic field orientations. The plotted running averages in Figure 7B indicate that the relationship between $E_{(1)}(t)$ and $S_{(1)}(t)$ is very similar for the four types of solar wind. It should be noted that in Figure 7B, ejecta plasma (blue) is capable of driving the magnetosphere to higher levels of activity [larger values of $E_{(1)}$]. This is also seen in Figure 8B, where the values of $E_{(1)}$ for the years 1997–2020 are binned into the four types of solar wind plasma and the occurrence distributions of $E_{(1)}$ values are plotted. The high $E_{(1)}$ tail on the ejecta distribution (light blue) is clearly seen. Note also the strong driving of $E_{(1)}$ in coronal-hole-origin plasma (red) and the weak driving of $E_{(1)}$ in sector-reversal-region plasma.

7 Using the new composite index $E_{(1)}$

In the left column of Figure 9, the superposed epoch averages of four quantities are plotted for 25 high-speed stream-driven storms from the collection of Borovsky and Denton (2016). The zero epoch (trigger) for the superposition is the MBI index (Gussenhoven et al., 1983; Madden and Gussenhoven, 1990), crossing 60.7° equatorward (Borovsky and Denton, 2010), which is approximately when the magnetospheric convection index Kp exceeds 4.3 (cf. Borovsky and Denton, 2008). In the left column of Figure 9, the vertical red dashed line is the zero epoch where the high-speed stream-driven storms commence according to the MBI index. In the top two panels of Figure 9, the superposed average of the new composite magnetospheric index $E_{(1)}$ and its solar wind driver $S_{(1)}$

is plotted. As can be seen in $E_{(1)}$ index transitions from lower activity $[E_{(1)} \sim 0]$ to high activity $[E_{(1)} > 1]$ at the onset of storms. The behavior of the driver functions $S_{(1)}$ in the second panel reflects this. In the bottom two panels of Figure 9, the superposed averages of the two geomagnetic indices Hp60 (magnetospheric convection strength, similar to Kp) and SME (auroral activity) show their transitions from low activity to high activity. One takeaway from the left panel of Figure 9 is that a high-speed stream-driven geomagnetic storm might be defined as commencing when the magnetospheric index $E_{(1)}$ exceeds 1, which is one standard deviation of the $E_{(1)}$ distribution of values. For the years 1997–2020, $E_{(1)}$ is greater than the unity 15.4% of the time, which includes high-speed stream-driven storms, CME and CMEsheath driven storms, and other intervals of strong magnetospheric activity.

In the right column of Figure 9, the superposed-epoch averages of the quantities that were plotted in the left column are replotted with the zero epoch for the superposition chosen to be the time at which $E_{(1)}$ exceeds unity, a suggested new definition of storm activity. The plots of the right-hand Figure 9 are quite similar to the



FIGURE 9

Superposed-epoch average plots for 25 high-speed stream-driven storms. In the left-hand column, the zero epoch for the superposition is the storm onset time as determined by the MBI index, and in the right-hand column, the zero epoch is the storm onset time determined as the time when $E_{(1)}$ first exceeds 1. The zero epoch is marked as the vertical red dashed line.



plots of the left column, where the zero epoch was triggered by the convective MBI index.

In Figure 10, the superposed-epoch average of the composite index $E_{(1)}$ is plotted for 43 CME-sheath-driven storms. The zero epoch is the time of shock passage at ACE at L1 upstream of the Earth. For these shocks, the magnetic cloud appears at ACE from 2.5–22 h after the shock; hence, the early part of the curve after the zero epoch is the uncontaminated sheath-driven storm data, and the later data are a mix of sheath-driven and cloud-driven storms. Comparing Figures 9, 10, it is seen that $E_{(1)}$ can be significantly higher for the sheath-driven storms than for the high-speed stream-driven storms, $E_{(1)}$ is approximately 1 or more standard deviations from 0, whereas for sheath-driven storms, $E_{(1)}$ is 2 or more standard deviations from 0.

In Figure 3B, the data of Figure 3A are replotted with the data from six superstorms (|SYMH| >250 nT) highlighted in six different colors. The hours just before and just after the superstorms are also plotted, with lines connecting the data points. The dark-blue line is the linear regression fit to $E_{(1)}$ as a function of $S_{(1)}$ (expression (5) for the entire 1997–2020 dataset). As can be seen, the data points of the superstorms track the linear regression fit quite well, with the linear regression blue line serving as a predictor of $E_{(1)}$ for a known value of $S_{(1)}$. The good tracking of the superstorm data to the prediction line may indicate that $E_{(1)}(t)$ can be fairly well-predicted, even when asyet-unseen extreme solar wind driving occurs, such as Carrington event driving (e.g., Li et al., 2006; Ngwira et al., 2014).

8 Future work

8.1 Exploring the $S_{(1)}$ driving of individual indices

As noted in Section 2, the CCA-derived solar wind driving function, $S_{(1)}$, can act as a universal driver function for geomagnetic activity with high correlations with individual geomagnetic indices and with magnetospheric particle populations [cf. Table 2 of Borovsky and Denton (2018)]. The quality of the $S_{(1)}$ universal driver derived here can be seen by examining the correlation coefficients listed in the first six entries of the second-to-last column



In panel **(A)**, the 1-hr-lagged SME index is plotted (not shown) as a function of R_{quick} or the years 1997–2020, and a 21-point running average is created and plotted in green. In panel **(B)**, the 1-hr-lagged SME index is plotted (not shown) as a function of S₍₁₎ or the years 1997–2020, and a 21-point running average is created and plotted in green. In both panels, linear regression fits are made (red line) for the 50th to 90th percentile of the driver strength, and then the regression line is extended toward the top of each plot.

of Table 4 (Note that these correlations are high, even without time lagging the indices from the solar wind). In future, the driving of other geomagnetic indices by this new S(1) should be explored. Furthermore, driving issues beyond the single global correlation coefficient should be examined [see also the warning by Lockwood (2022)], e.g., the correlation coefficients of data sorted by the solar cycle phase and the data sorted by the four types of solar wind plasma. Furthermore, questions about which geomagnetic indices saturate under strong driving (which is under low solar wind Mach numbers) in the driving of single indices by S₍₁₎ [cf. Figure 5 of Borovsky (2021a), which uses a different functional form for $S_{(1)}$ than the one given in this paper]. Using a different functional form for $S_{(1)}$, Borovsky (2021a) showed that in general, the individual indices exhibit less saturation when driven by a CCA-derived $S_{(1)}$ function than they do when driven by standard solar wind driver functions. An example of this is shown in Figure 11, using the new $S_{(1)}$ function of expression (2) or (4). In the top panel, the 1-h lagged SME index is plotted as a function of the solar wind driver R_{auick} (Borovsky and Birn, 2014), and in the bottom panel, the 1-hr-lagged SME index is plotted as a function of $S_{(1)}$. The plotted green points are 21-point running vertical averages of the full data. Linear regression fits are made to the full data from the 50th to the 90th percentile of the strength of the driver function; these fits are the red lines, with the red lines extending toward the top of the plots. As can be seen in Figure 11A, at large values of R_{quick}, the green running average curves downward away from the red line and flatten out; this is what is meant by "saturation" of the index under strong driving (Note also the saturation in both panels of Figure 1.) In Figure 11B, this flattening-out effect is seen to a lesser degree when SME is driven by the $S_{(1)}$ value introduced in Section 4, given by the expression (2) or (4). Note in Figure 11B the flattening of the SME curve for weak S(1) driving (similar to the flattening in Figure 3A): as discussed in Section 4, this might be owed to an atmospheric flywheel effect, where residual geomagnetic activity persists after solar wind driving ceases, owing to the inertia of atmospheric convection driven by the prior activity.

8.2 The role of upstream solar wind fluctuations

Several studies have shown that geomagnetic activity levels are positively correlated with the amplitude of magnetic field fluctuations ΔB in the upstream solar wind (Borovsky and Funsten, 2003; Borovsky and Steinberg, 2008; Osmane et al., 2015; D'Amicis et al., 2007; D'Amicis et al., 2009; D'Amicis et al., 2010; D'Amicis et al., 2020). The question is whether there is a physical mechanism that underlies these correlations since ΔB could be acting as a proxy for other solar wind variables (Borovsky, 2022c). The CCA process, with the information it uncovers via the magnitudes of its coefficients and the strength of the index-versus- $S_{(1)}$ correlations (e.g., Table 4), can provide rich insight about the role of ΔB in the coupling process. Future versions of CCA based on information flow (Wing et al., 2016; Wing and Johnson, 2019) rather than the Pearson linear correlation are under development; these versions will be particularly helpful in finding out how much ΔB drives the magnetosphere.

8.3 Explore the use of the projection state/vectors to identify different types of magnetospheric activity

One of our future goals would be to use $E_{(1)}$ to identify highspeed stream-driven activity, CME-driven activity, CME-clouddriven activity, non-cloud ejecta-driven activity, etc., and to develop the critical $E_{(1)}$ level for the onset of different types of storms. Every time, a six-element state vector of magnetospheric activity can be created (SME*, SMU*, Ap60*, SYMH*, ASYM*, and PCC*). A pathway for a future project would be as follows: 1) to collect examples of known magnetospheric activity, 2) to create an average factor for each type of activity, and 3) for all other times the state vector of activity can be the dot product with the average state vector of each type of activity to see how close a vector is to one of the average vectors. Developing closeness criteria will allow magnetospheric activity to be categorized into one of the different types of activities.

8.4 Exploring the effects of noise and errors in the individual variables going into $E_{(1)}$ and $S_{(1)}$

Noise and/or errors in the solar wind variables and geomagnetic indices change the interpretation of how solar wind/magnetosphere coupling works, as seen in data analysis; noise lowers correlations and alters best-fit formulas of solar wind versus the geomagnetic index data (Borovsky, 2022a; Borovsky 2022b). Understanding how the coupling physically works is also made difficult by the multiple intercorrelations between all of the solar wind variables (Borovsky, 2020b; Borovsky 2021b). When fitting formulas by maximizing correlation coefficients, there are math-versus-physics reasons for the optimal correlations (Borovsky, 2021b). Noise in the solar wind variables comes, of course, from inaccuracies in the spacecraft measurements. The error in the solar wind measurements is much larger because, typically, the solar wind that hits an L1 monitor is not the solar wind that hits the Earth (Burkholder et al., 2020; Walsh et al., 2020). There is a triple dawn-dusk aberration that leads to the measured solar wind, typically missing the Earth off on the dusk side (Borovsky, 2022c). This is particularly bad for the smallscale magnetic structure of the solar wind that produces the on-off driving of the magnetosphere with sudden spatial changes in the solar wind magnetic field orientation. Additionally, geomagnetic indices are not perfect indicators of magnetospheric activity. A future project would be to explore the effects of noise and errors (a) in the $S_{(1)} \leftrightarrow E_{(1)}$ derivation process and (b) in the behavior of the $S_{(1)} \, \leftrightarrow \, E_{(1)}$ interactions for the $E_{(1)}$ and $S_{(1)}$ derived in Section 4.

Data availability statement

The original contributions presented in the study are included in the article/Supplementary Material; further inquiries can be directed to the corresponding author.

Author contributions

JB and CL performed all of the research and all of the writing of the manuscript. All authors contributed to the article and approved the submitted version.

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