

LARGE-SCALE PROPERTIES OF THE INTERPLANETARY MAGNETIC FIELD

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An invited review

Our knowledge of the large-scale properties of the interplanetary magnetic field is reviewed. The early theoretical work of Parker is presented along with the observational evidence supporting his Archimedes spiral model. The variations present in the interplanetary magnetic field from the spiral angle are related to structures in the solar wind. The causes of these structures are found to be either nonuniform radial solar wind flow or the time evolution of the photospheric field. The coronal magnetic models are related to the connection between the solar magnetic field and the interplanetary magnetic field. The direct extension of the solar field-magnetic nozzle controversy is discussed along with the coronal magnetic models. The effect of active regions on the interplanetary magnetic field is discussed with particular reference to the evolution of interplanetary sectors. The variation of the interplanetary magnetic field magnitude is shown throughout the solar cycle. The percentage of time the field magnitude is greater than 10γ is shown to closely parallel sunspot number. The suggested influence of the sun's polar field on the interplanetary field and alternative views of the magnetic field structure out of the ecliptic plane are presented. In addition, a variety of significantly different interplanetary field structures are discussed.

ABSTRACT

INTRODUCTION

Our knowledge of the large-scale properties of the interplanetary magnetic field began with Parker's work in 1958. Parker reasoned that the kinetic energy of the solar wind plasma as it left the sun should decrease as r^{-2} , whereas the magnetic energy density would decrease as r^{-4} . It followed, therefore, that the general solar dipole field would not significantly influence the motion of the outflowing gas once the gas left the solar corona. Parker then considered the "frozen-in" magnetic field configuration of interplanetary space. "Frozen-in" field lines generally are those that obey the equation $\mathbf{E} + \mathbf{v}/c \times \mathbf{B} = 0$; in terms of a simple physical picture, the field lines are constrained to move with the plasma flow. The field lines thus follow the stream lines of the plasma, which, for a rotating sun and radially flowing solar wind, is the Archimedean spiral configuration.

Figure 1 from *Parker* [1958] shows such an Archimedean spiral field for a solar wind flowing at 1000 km/sec. *Parker* [1963] later revised the solar wind speed to 300 km/sec to correspond to quiet periods; this figure led to the near 45° average interplanetary magnetic field direction from the sun-earth line. Whether the solar active region fields contributed to the general streaming of gas from the sun as proposed by *Biermann* [1951] was an open question. The magnetic energy density associated with the active region fields was very much larger than that associated with the background solar field. Much more energy would be required to extend these fields into interplanetary space; thus, only the background solar field was thought to extend into interplanetary space.

Other than Parker's theoretical treatment of the interplanetary magnetic field, our knowledge of its properties has developed mostly on theories and observations based directly on the results of space

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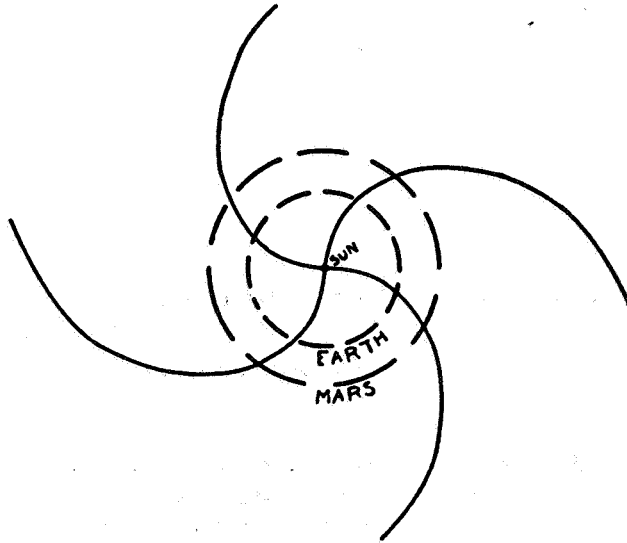


Figure 1. Projection onto the solar equatorial plane of the lines of force of any solar field which is carried away from the sun by outward-streaming gas with a velocity of 10^3 km/sec [Parker, 1958].

experiments. A variety of magnetometers have been employed in the study of the interplanetary magnetic field. The measurement of the interplanetary magnetic field is difficult owing to the low field strength. The field is typically 5γ ($1 \gamma = 10^{-5}$ gauss). Ness [1970a] has recently completed an extensive review of the use of various magnetometers for space research, the most common of which is the fluxgate magnetometer.

Although first evidence showed disagreement with Parker's interplanetary field model, later evidence supported it. Figure 2 from Davis *et al.* [1964] supporting Parker's model, shows a scatterplot of the observed interplanetary magnetic field from Mariner 2. Each point represents a "smoothed" hourly average of five successive hourly averages. The dashed line shows the expected result for the Parker spiral field model. Davis also noted that despite the averaging, one must surely be "impressed by the disorder and irregularity shown in these measurements." This point was dramatically illustrated in the movie of the interplanetary magnetic field by Wilcox *et al.* [1966] where a great deal of variability was seen on a short time scale. This variability, of course, relates to structural properties of the field.

In addition to the unexplained structural variations, our knowledge of the origin of the interplanetary magnetic field was also rather limited at the 1964 solar wind conference. Since then, much knowledge has been acquired concerning both the structural variability and the origin of the interplanetary magnetic field. This

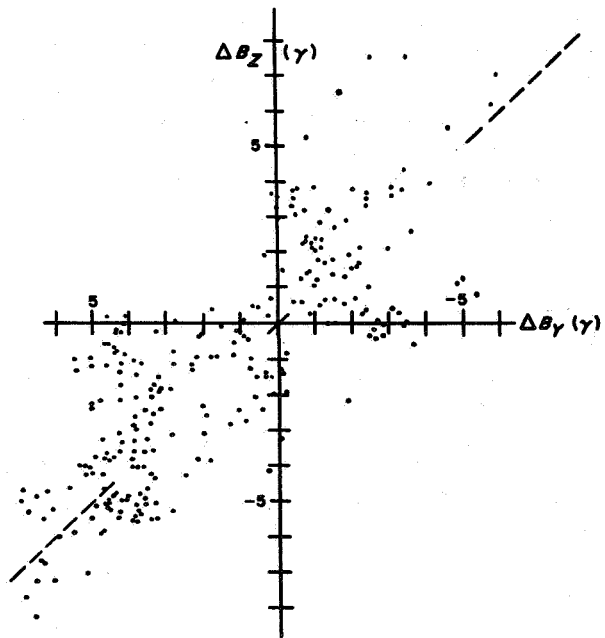


Figure 2. Scatterplot of the radial and azimuthal interplanetary magnetic field component changes from Mariner 2. The dashed line shows the expected average for theoretical spiral field lines from the sun. ΔB_z corresponds to field pointed away from the sun and ΔB_y to field in the direction opposite to the spacecraft motion about the sun [Davis *et al.*, 1964].

paper outlines much of this work and discusses remaining gaps in our understanding of some of these points. An earlier review by *Dessler* [1967] gives a more detailed historical summary of the development of our knowledge concerning the interplanetary magnetic field.

LARGE-SCALE SPATIAL STRUCTURE

Quasi-stationary Structure

The early work of *Ness and Wilcox* [1964] showed that the interplanetary magnetic field had a 27-day periodicity and that it correlated with the average direction of the photospheric magnetic field during three successive solar rotations near the minimum of the last sunspot cycle. The 27-day periodicity was related to the 27-day rotation period of the sun as seen from the earth. This supports Parker's hypothesis that the sun was the origin of the interplanetary magnetic field. A 4-1/2 day time lag was found for their highest correlations, representing the time necessary for a radially flowing solar wind to transport the solar magnetic field to a position near the earth.

It was found that the interplanetary magnetic field as observed near the earth tended to point predominantly away from the sun or toward the sun (along Parker's theoretical spiral angle) for a duration of several days. This repeated every 27 days, forming a pattern referred to as *sector structure*. This early sector structure pattern is shown in figure 3. As can be seen, a definite pattern emerges. There were four sectors, three approximately equal in size and one sector half as large as the other three. In a reference frame rotating with the sun this pattern was quasi-stationary in time and persisted possibly for longer than a year [*Fairfield and Ness*, 1967].

Interplanetary Magnetic Field Mapping

One approach to mapping the interplanetary magnetic field is shown in figure 4 from *McCracken and Ness* [1966]. The 7.5-min average magnetic field was projected into the ecliptic plane and the vectors were placed end to end. The scale of this figure is such that it extends a distance of 5×10^6 km or about 0.03 AU. Localized "kinks" or "regressions" were observed in the magnetic field. The "kinks" in the magnetic field are significant in that high energy particles are affected by them as they travel through space. Figure 4 shows the magnetic field structure as well as the cosmic ray anisotropy on December 30, 1965. During this period, the solar-generated cosmic radiation arriving at the earth was markedly anisotropic and varied considerably in

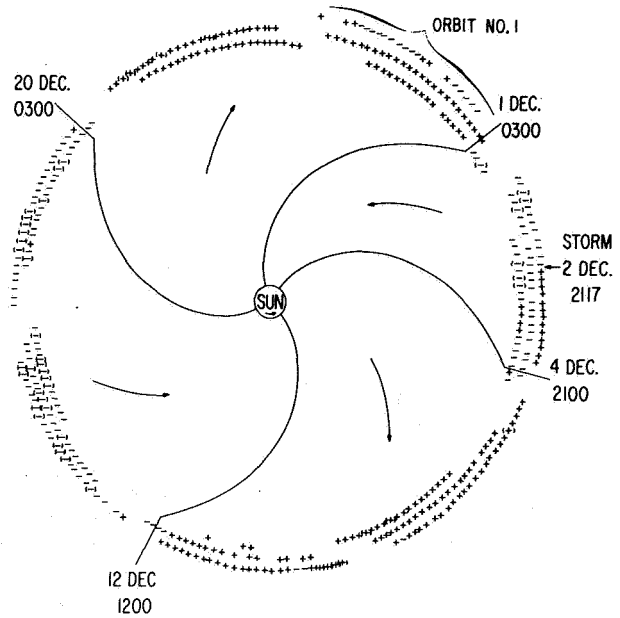


Figure 3. Schematic representation of the sector structure of the interplanetary magnetic field suggested from the IMP-1 observations [*Wilcox and Ness*, 1965]. The + and - signs along the circumference of this figure indicate the direction of the measured interplanetary magnetic field during successive 3-hr intervals. Parentheses indicate times when the field direction is substantially displaced from the spiral angle.

direction. As shown, despite major changes in the interplanetary magnetic field direction, the cosmic ray anisotropy remained well aligned with the field. Thus, the cosmic ray anisotropy can be considered a measurement of the average field direction over the scale of a cyclotron radius of the particles. The observations by *McCracken and Ness* of occasional abrupt changes in cosmic ray anisotropy suggested to them that the interplanetary magnetic field was filamentary in nature. This model of interplanetary field filaments has sometimes been referred to as the "spaghetti" model. (Its geometry shown in panel figure 30(h).)

Although the *McCracken and Ness* method of mapping the interplanetary magnetic field works well on a small scale, it is also necessary to consider the effects of solar rotation and field transport due to the solar wind flow.

At first glance, a time sequence of local magnetic measurements from a single spacecraft at 1 AU would seem inadequate to determine the large-scale geometry of the interplanetary magnetic field. This is not necessarily the case, however, if the feature under

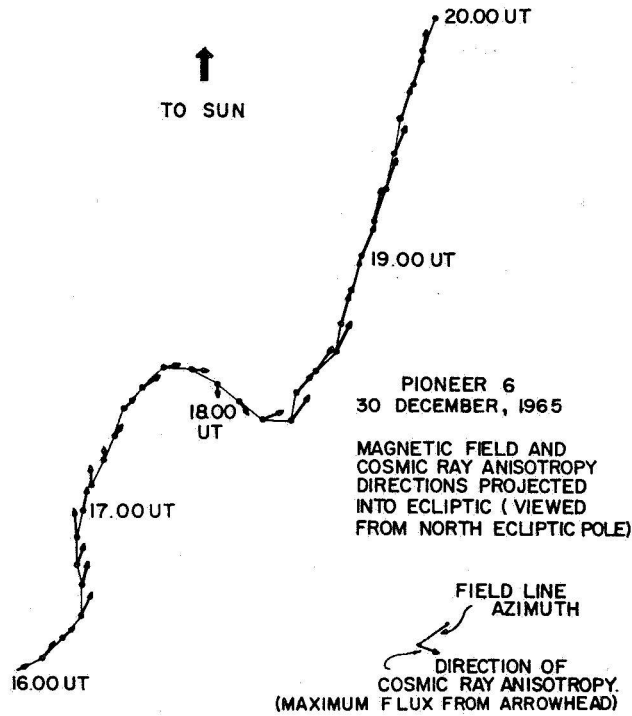


Figure 4. Interplanetary magnetic field and cosmic ray anisotropy on December 30, 1965, from Pioneer 6 observations. The interplanetary magnetic field shows a "kink" structure which is also seen in the cosmic ray anisotropy directions [McCracken and Ness, 1966].

investigation exhibits certain properties that allow extrapolations of the structure of the field. These basic properties are the rapid convection of the field away from the sun; the high conductivity of the solar wind plasma, which apparently inhibits the field from diffusing a substantial distance; the relatively constant nature of the source of the field; and the relatively steady direction and slowly varying magnitude of the solar wind velocity. These last two conditions are at times invalid, resulting in magnetic field extrapolations that are not meaningful. Field patterns that incorrectly show a nonzero field divergence usually indicate that one of the conditions has been violated.

Utilizing a steady radial solar wind velocity, one obtains the following relationships concerning the behavior of the interplanetary magnetic field with distance from the sun:

$$B_r(R_1) = B_r(R_0)(R_0/R_1)^2 \quad (1)$$

$$B_\phi(R_1) = B_\phi(R_0)(R_0/R_1) \quad (2)$$

$$B_\perp(R_1) = B_\perp(R_0)(R_0/R_1) \quad (3)$$

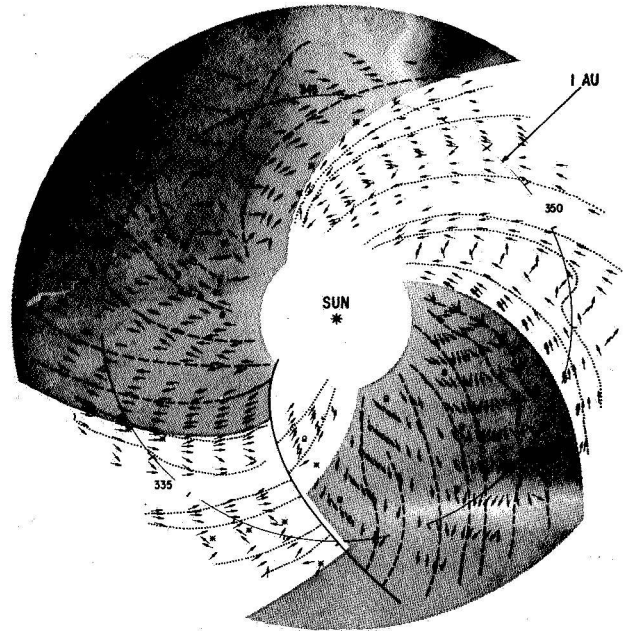


Figure 5. Extrapolated ecliptic magnetic field pattern during Bartels' solar rotation number 1784, prepared from IMP-1 magnetic field measurements. The gaps in the circle at 1 AU and in the data represent times when the satellite is near perigee and unable to sample the interplanetary medium. The tick marks at 1 AU indicate the amount of solar rotation during one day. The interval between the tick marks is labeled with the date of observation. The line drawn at the bottom of the figure separates observations 27 days apart. The observations extend from November 28, 1963 through December 25, 1963 [Schatten et al., 1968].

where B_r , B_ϕ and B_\perp are the three solar ecliptic components of the magnetic field, and R_0 and R_1 are two radial distances from the sun. An extrapolation of the field is then made, taking into account corotation of the field and the radially flowing plasma. Figure 5 from Schatten et al. [1968] shows this extrapolated magnetic field in the plane of the ecliptic for December 1963, prepared from the IMP-1 magnetic field measurements of Ness et al. [1964]. The gaps in the circle at 1 AU represent times when the IMP-1 satellite was near perigee (and therefore within the region influenced by the geomagnetic field) and interplanetary field observations could not be obtained. The data progress clockwise in time since the sun rotates counterclockwise, as seen from the north ecliptic pole. The solid curved line at the bottom separates observations taken 27 days apart. This is the time period necessary for a position on the sun

facing earth to return to the same location. A 400 km/sec solar wind speed and a synodic period near 27 days was employed in this and all the figures of its kind.

As can be seen, the magnetic field calculated is generally well represented by an Archimedean spiral. The sector boundary on day 336 is well defined. Some of the field lines are more radially oriented and others more curved than the average Archimedes spiral. The main point, though, is that the field lines have the same topology as the Archimedean spiral geometry. The field lines can be "tied" to the sun and directed into interplanetary space past the orbit of the earth. The whole system may corotate with little change for many solar rotations.

Magnetic "Kinks" and Velocity Gradient Variations

The field lines in figure 5 are occasionally distorted from a uniform spiral configuration; it is important to understand how such "distorted" structures arise. Schatten [1968] analyzed to first order the effect of radial (or temporal), azimuthal, and poloidal solar wind velocity gradients on the magnetic field structure. The structures analyzed were the large scale kinks, similar to those shown in figure 5 on days 343 and 352.

If one considers the magnetic field embedded within an element of plasma flowing radially away from the sun with an assumed azimuthal velocity gradient, one obtains the following equations governing the components of the field variation with radial distance:

$$B_r R_1 = B_r R_0 \left(\frac{R_0}{R_1}\right)^2 + B_\phi R_0 \left(\frac{R_0}{R_1}\right)^2 \frac{1-R_1}{R_0} \frac{1}{v(dv/d\phi)} \quad (4)$$

$$B_\phi R_1 = B_\phi R_0 \frac{R_0}{R_1} \quad (5)$$

$$B_\perp R_1 = B_\perp R_0 \frac{R_0}{R_1} \quad (6)$$

Computations in table 1 are based on values of R_0 chosen to correspond to a position close to the sun where the velocity gradient has not caused substantial changes in the magnetic field pattern, and a value of R_1 at 1 AU where the field is observed. The table shows that if one assumes azimuthal velocity gradients were responsible for the change in field direction, the directions computed using the ratio of equations (4) and (5) and the solar wind velocity measurements of the MIT plasma probe (next to last column) agree quite well with the observed field directions (last column). The interplanetary magnetic field spiral angle computed from the average (for each time period in table 1) solar wind velocity is in considerable disagreement for these time periods. This indicates that there were regions near the sun at this time emanating plasma at different velocities rather than a single source for each sector with a smooth temporal velocity variation.

Let us now consider in a more general way the causes of these substantial alterations of the magnetic field from the Archimedean spiral geometry. Close to the sun, the plasma is partially constrained by the strong magnetic field to rotate with the sun. Beyond a few solar radii the plasma velocity becomes more radial than azimuthal. At these distances the corotation speed is substantially less than the solar wind velocity. The magnetic field has on the average an almost radial direction with a small, but important, azimuthal component that depends on the rotation rate of the sun.

Table 1. Regions with azimuthal velocity gradients in the solar wind speed

Starting time UT			End time UT			V _{start} km/sec	V _{end} km/sec	φ spiral angle	$1 - \frac{\Delta V}{V} \frac{27.5}{\Delta t + (2\pi)}$	φ azimuthal velocity gradient	φ observed
0300	343	63	0300	344	63	435	283	130°	-0.85	50°	48°
2100	351	63	2100	352	63	305	215	301°	-1.08	223°	227°
0000	011	64	0000	015	64	493	210	310°	0.11	276°	273°
1500	033	64	1500	034	64	378	307	129°	0.07	94°	53°
2100	037	64	2100	038	64	460	350	314°	-0.2	259°	244°
2100	001	64	2100	002	64	310	490	133°	3.0	162°	145°

Beyond this distance the magnetic field is altered continually by the flow of the solar wind according to the equation

$$\frac{d\mathbf{B}}{dt} = (\mathbf{V} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{B} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} = -\mathbf{B}(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{V}) + (\mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{V} \quad (7)$$

which is obtained by using Faraday's law, assuming infinite conductivity, and using the definition of a convective derivative. Thus the initial field after a 5-day transit from sun to earth may be computed from

$$\mathbf{B}(R_1) = \int_0^T [-\mathbf{B}(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{V}) + (\mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{V}] dt \quad (8)$$

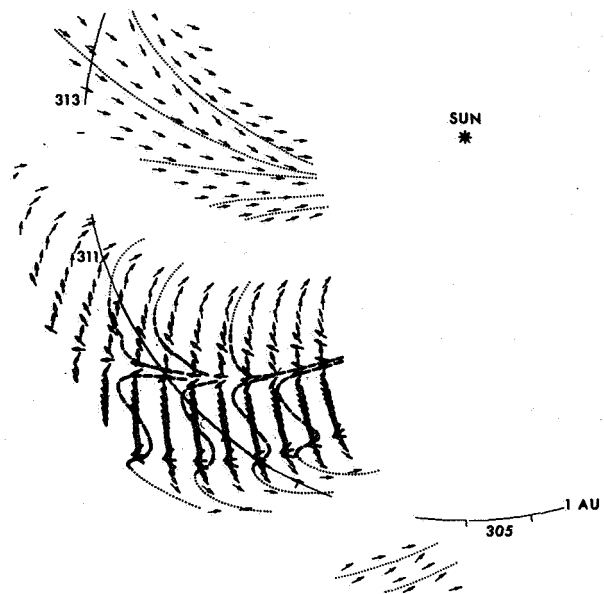
where T equals 5 days and R_1 is 1 AU. Under steady-state conditions, with a constant radial solar wind velocity this condition implies a spiral magnetic field. The first term in the integrand of equation (8) can serve to increase or decrease the field magnitude but not alter its direction. The second term is responsible for the changing direction of the magnetic field. The magnetic field can "know" at what angle to point only by gaining knowledge of the rotation rate of the sun. The velocity field, being essentially radial, carries no such information. Thus the small, initial azimuthal magnetic field serves to inform the interplanetary field of this rotation. The information is transmitted and *amplified* by the solar wind through the dyadic term involving the velocity. Any additional gradients in the velocity field as a result of temporal or spatial variations in the solar wind velocity would tend to significantly alter the interplanetary field direction from the Archimedean spiral angle due to the integration and differentiation of the solar wind velocity in equation (8). Such alteration is exemplified by the kinks in figure 5, where modest longitudinal velocity gradients resulted in significant alterations in the field geometry. Velocity gradients may become more important at greater radial distances from the sun as will be seen in a later section.

Dynamic Effects on Magnetic Field Structure

In addition to the possibility of solar wind velocity variations causing a non-Archimedean spiral interplanetary magnetic field, a variable source of magnetic field near the sun may also produce a nonspiral field

geometry. In this case, the magnetic field near the sun no longer is oriented radially with a slight azimuthal component but rather has some other field geometry, which is then frozen into the plasma and transported to 1 AU. If no large-scale velocity perturbations exist to disrupt the pattern it may then be observed.

Figure 6 shows the interplanetary magnetic field in the ecliptic plane for November 1-9, 1965, from Schatten *et al.* [1968]. A new feature is suggested: Magnetic loops



IMP-3 ECLIPTIC MAGNETIC FIELD
305/65-313/65
NOV. 1, 1965-NOV. 9, 1965

Figure 6. *Enlargement of the magnetic flux loops observed near day 310, 1965. The dip in the field pattern on day 308 has associated with it a strong northward field [Schatten et al., 1968].*

are observed that consist of field lines that appear to leave the sun, reach into interplanetary space, and then connect back to the sun. This magnetic loop configuration represents a dynamic process, in so far as these field lines cannot remain in this shape in a quasi-stationary configuration. This configuration is convected out by the solar wind to form new spiral field lines. The looped field pattern is an enlargement of a structure that presumably existed in the corona 5 days before it was observed a 1 AU. It is thus necessary to examine the

relationship between the interplanetary magnetic field and source of the field near the sun. This particular feature is discussed in greater detail in a later section.

Magnetic Field Diffusion

Coleman and Rosenberg [1970] using Mariner 2, 4, and 5 data have observed an effect in the interplanetary magnetic field, the physical cause of which is not quite clear. It may, however, relate to magnetic field diffusion in interplanetary space. They have investigated in detail the north-south component of the interplanetary magnetic field. They observe a skewing of the magnetic field away from the solar equatorial plane. A particularly good example of their result is shown in figure 7 using the Mariner 4 observations. Twenty-seven day running average values of B_{θ} are computed separately for toward and away sectors. As can be seen $B_{\theta s}$ which represents the field skewing, closely follows heliographic latitude. Note that Mariner 4 was below the solar equatorial plane from day 347 of 1964 until day 230 of 1965. The effect is equivalent to a skewing of the magnetic field away from the solar equatorial plane.

If the field were "frozen-into" the solar wind, the velocity would follow the same pattern. Coleman and Rosenberg estimate such skewing would require a 30 km/sec north-south directed solar wind velocity component. The magnitude of V_{θ} for the same overlapping 27-day averages, using the MIT group's plasma velocity, was typically one-third that required for the alignment of \mathbf{B} and \mathbf{V} ,¹ and the sign of the velocity was opposite to that required for alignment—that is, the observations indicated the solar wind velocity was directed towards the plane of the solar equator. The meaning of their observations is not quite clear; as yet there is no physical explanation for their observations.

Radial Variation of the Interplanetary Magnetic Field

Figure 8 from Burlaga and Ness [1968] shows the interplanetary magnetic field variation from 0.8 to 1.0 AU as observed by Pioneer 6 in 1966. The figure shows the transverse and radial components of the field as well as the magnitude as a function of radial distance. The dashed line (except for B_{total}) corresponds to Parker's

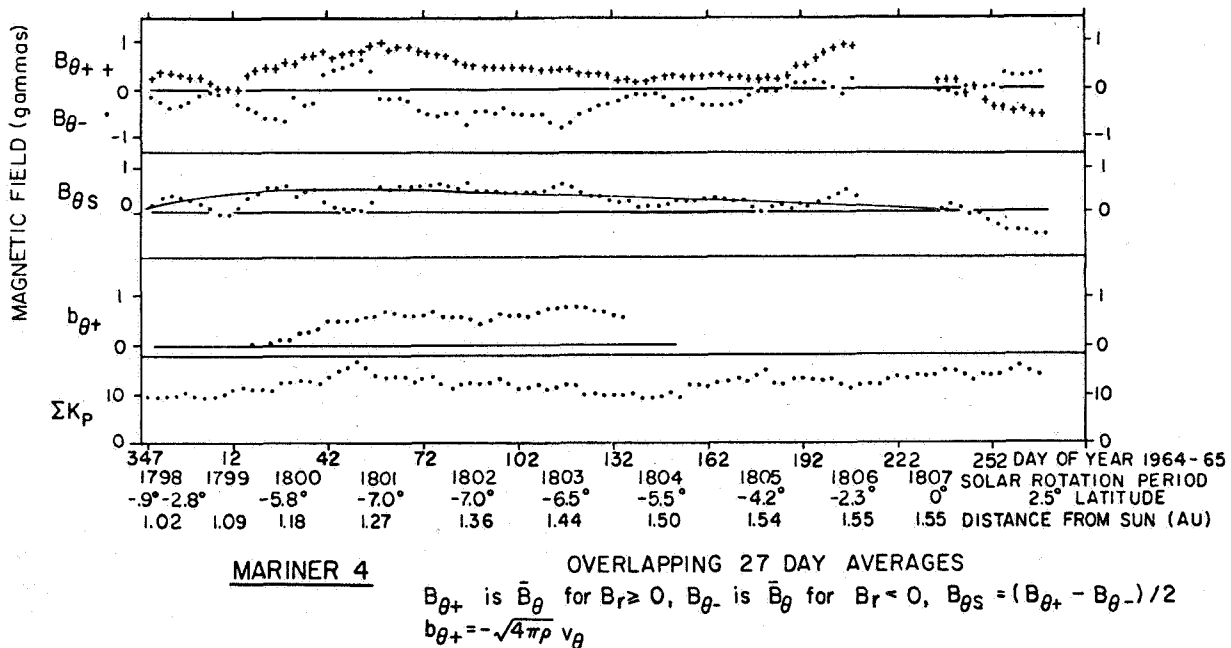


Figure 7. Averages over 27 days of $B_{\theta+}$, $B_{\theta-}$, $B_{\theta s}$, $b_{\theta+}$ and K_p for the interval covered by the Mariner 4 data. The solid curve drawn in the $B_{\theta s}$ panel represents a best fit to $B_{\theta s}$ with a function proportional to heliographic latitude [Coleman and Rosenberg, 1970].

¹Rosenberg in a recent private communication has noted that his calculations of $b_{\theta+}$, related to solar wind velocity, are uncertain for this time period.

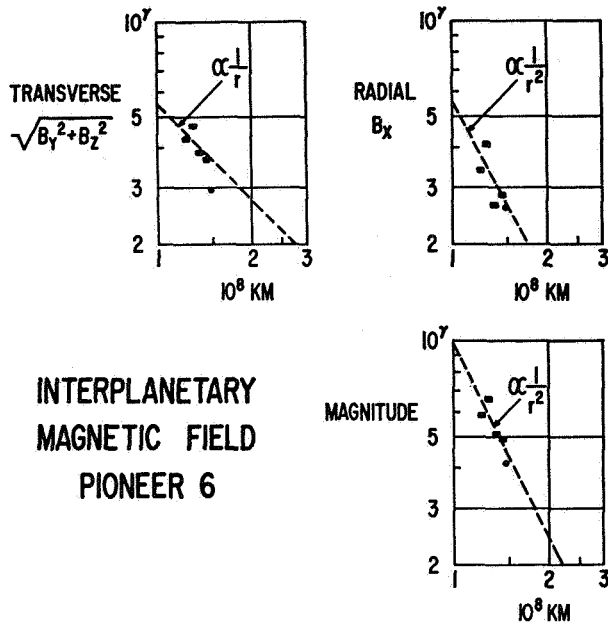


Figure 8. Average interplanetary magnetic field components as a function of radial distance from the sun. The dashed line is that magnitude expected for an Archimedes spiral field geometry. Each point is a 29-day average [Burlaga and Ness, 1968].

theoretical model. Burlaga and Ness observe that the measurements are consistent with Parker's model. Coleman and Rosenberg [1968] analyzed the radial variation of the interplanetary magnetic field between 0.7 and 1.0 AU with similar results.

Coleman *et al.* [1969] utilized the observations of Mariner 4 to ascertain the radial dependence of the field from 1.0 to 1.5 AU. Figure 9 from Coleman *et al.* shows the joint distribution of pairs of components at a radial distance of 1.5 AU and colatitude 95.2° . The distribution of field components appears to be rather similar to the distribution at 1.0 AU. Figure 10 shows the mean values they obtain for various field component magnitudes as a function of radial distance. The quantities B , B_L , B_p , and $|B_r|$ compare well with the theoretical values from Parker's model. Coleman *et al.* also calculated the variation of many quantities according to the best fit to a function of the form $C_0 r^k$. Of interest are the exponents of the radial, azimuthal, and north-south components of the magnetic field. In accordance with a "frozen-in" field and a uniform radial velocity flow these values should be $-2.$, $-1.$, and $-1.$, respectively. Coleman *et al.* calculate values of -1.46 , -1.27 , and -1.29 with RMS deviations near 0.02. Thus the exponent values for the three field components are

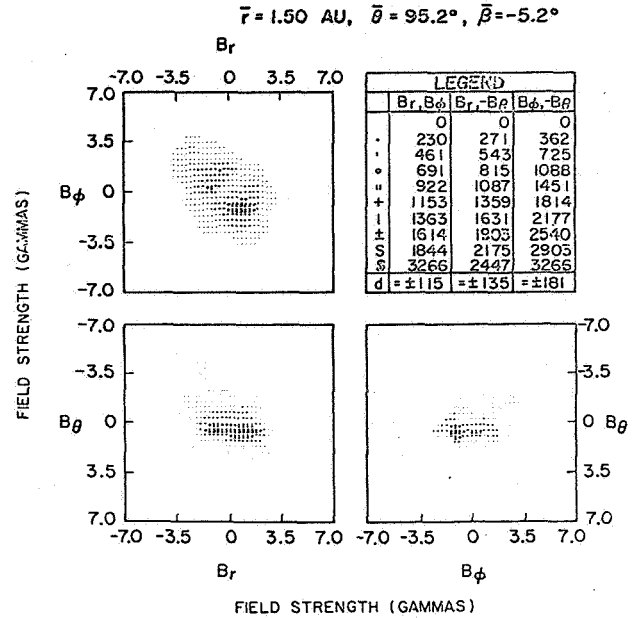


Figure 9. Joint distributions of pairs of component variables from measurements taken near 1.5 AU, Bartels' solar rotation 1804, May 22-June 17, 1965 by Mariner 4 [Coleman *et al.*, 1969]

nearly equal and are decreasing in a more isotropic fashion than would be expected for Parker's model. As was suggested by equations (4) through (8), the dyadic term $\nabla \mathbf{V}$ can serve to alter the configuration of the magnetic field in the solar wind. If the velocity variations become sufficiently large, the magnetic field direction is altered according to equation (8) and the field does not point along the appropriate Archimedean spiral angle. This results in a randomizing effect on the field direction and thus a more isotropic behavior than Parker's model suggests.

This aspect of magnetic field behavior is apparent in the calculations of Coleman *et al.* concerning the field direction. They fit the tangent of the spiral angle with a function of the form $C_0 r^k$ and obtain a value of k equal to 0.16 rather than 1.0. Thus, although the solar wind appears capable of orienting the interplanetary magnetic field in accordance with the spiral model out to 1 AU; beyond this point it becomes increasingly ineffective.

In these analyses of the variation of the interplanetary magnetic field with radial distance, temporal variations due to changing solar activity could cause effects which would apparently be related to radial distance. Coleman *et al.* attempted to remove this aspect of the problem by analyzing a data set with a low geomagnetic activity

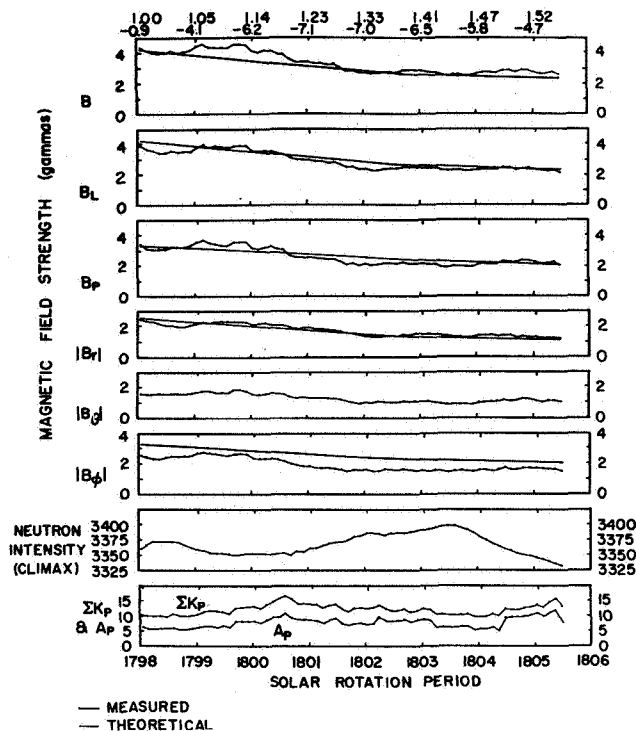


Figure 10. Mean values of the magnitudes of various components used to describe the interplanetary magnetic field versus time, heliocentric range (AU) and solar latitude (degrees). B is field magnitude; B_L is the projection of the field on the $r\phi$ plane and B_p is the projection of the field on the $\theta\phi$ plane. Averages were taken over periods of one rotation of the sun. The time assigned to each solar rotation is the time of the middle of the rotation period. The smooth curves are values expected for an ideal spiral field. Averages of A_p , the daily sum of K_p , and the mean neutron intensity at climax are also plotted [Coleman *et al.*, 1969].

index, thus removing temporal variations by ensuring a somewhat uniform amount of solar activity. The results were nearly equal to those obtained with the entire data set, suggesting that the interplanetary field variations observed were indeed mainly due to radial influences.

It thus appears that the magnetic field components obey the Parker spiral model quite well from 0.7 to 1.0 AU. The magnitude of the field also decreases in accordance with the Parker spiral model from 1.0 to 1.5 AU. The directional aspects of Parker's spiral model appear not to be obeyed as well by the interplanetary magnetic field out to 1.5 AU. The field appears to become more irregular and chaotic. Processes occur that alter the direction of the magnetic field as it is convected outwards, and the random nature (and increasing strength as a function of radial distance) of these

processes may be responsible for the disagreements between the observations of Coleman *et al.* and Parker's idealized model. These processes may be waves, shocks, or high speed streams. Figure 30(h) showing "chaotic" fields may describe the behavior of the interplanetary magnetic field at a few AU.

In discussing the directional aspects of Parker's spiral model, it is worthwhile to note that Dessler [1967] reviewed the theoretical problems associated with any net southward or northward interplanetary magnetic field component. This has been a serious problem in that experimental observations suggest a net southward oriented interplanetary magnetic field of about 1γ .

RELATIONSHIP TO SOLAR FEATURES

Early Thoughts Concerning the Source of the Interplanetary Magnetic Fields

Parker's [1958, 1963] analysis appears to imply that the source of the interplanetary field is the general solar field. For mathematical simplicity, Parker assumed the solar field to be a dipole. Ahluwalia and Dessler [1962] suggested that the polarity of the interplanetary magnetic field might be related to the observations of the photospheric magnetic field. Inspection of solar magnetograms taken by Babcock and Babcock [1955] suggested to Ahluwalia and Dessler that the spiral field be divided into tubes of flux whose diameters range in size from 0.1 AU to 1 AU at the orbit of the earth. Each tube would contain only field lines of a single sense (toward or away from the sun).

Direct Extension of Solar Fields: The Solar Magnetic Nozzle Controversy

The first evidence for a solar origin of the interplanetary magnetic field was obtained by Ness and Wilcox [1964]. They showed that the direction of the interplanetary magnetic field had a 27-day periodicity and that it correlated well with the average direction of the photospheric magnetic field during three solar rotations near the minimum of the last sunspot cycle. Although high correlations were found for many latitudes, the recurrence period of the interplanetary magnetic field suggested a source on the photosphere 10° to 15° from the equator. The large-scale "sector" property of the interplanetary magnetic field discussed earlier was also noted.

The large-scale sector ordering of the interplanetary magnetic field led Davis [1965] to suggest that the interplanetary sectors originated from small regions on the sun, essentially "nozzles," in which the field was essentially unidirectional. Wilcox [1968] supports a contrary position in which a "mapping" hypothesis

allows the sector to originate from large, well-ordered magnetic structures on the sun in which there is a tendency for each longitude near the sun to be connected to a longitude at the orbit of the earth by magnetic field lines.

The amount of “nozzling” or nonradial flow is an important concern. The maximum one might expect would occur if all the field lines from a sector originated in a single sunspot. This would be about a 1:3000 area expansion above that which would occur from direct radial flow. Thus the source of the undirected sectors was debated. Did they arise from a small-scale, large magnitude, undirected field on the sun or a large scale, weak field? The “source surface” model sheds some light on this question.

“Source Surface” and “Zero-Potential” Magnetic Models

Magnetic models have been developed by *Altschuler and Newkirk* [1969] and *Schatten et al.* [1969] that allow calculations of the coronal magnetic field from the observed photospheric magnetic field. Figure 11 from *Schatten et al.* [1969] is a schematic representation of these two similar models. The topology of the magnetic

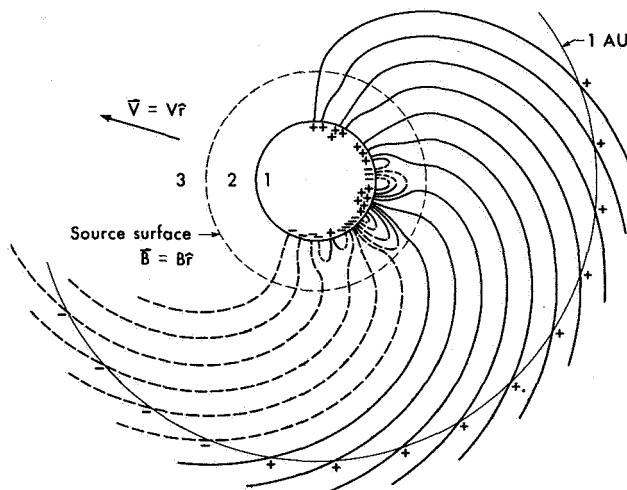


Figure 11. Schematic representation of the source surface model. The photospheric magnetic field is measured in region 1 at the Mt. Wilson Observatory. Closed field lines (loops) exist in region 2. The field in this region is calculated from potential theory. Currents flowing near the source surface eliminate the transverse components of the magnetic field and the solar wind extends the source surface magnetic field into interplanetary space. The magnetic field is then observed by spacecraft near 1 AU [*Schatten et al.*, 1969].

field in the solar corona as suggested by the magnetic models may be examined in figure 11. There are three distinct regions in these models where different physical phenomena occur. Region 1 represents the photosphere, where the magnetic field motion is governed by the detailed motions of the plasma near the photosphere. Above the photosphere the plasma density diminishes very rapidly with only moderate decreases in the magnetic energy density. This results in region 2, where the magnetic energy density is greater than the plasma energy density and hence controls the configuration. One may then utilize the force-free condition, $\mathbf{j} \times \mathbf{B} = 0$, and in fact make the more restrictive assumption that region 2 is current free. The magnetic field in region 2 may then be derived from a potential that obeys the Laplace equation $\nabla^2 \phi = 0$. The scalar potential may then be employed in this region. Substantially farther out in the corona the total magnetic energy density diminishes to a value less than the plasma energy density, and the magnetic field can no longer structure the solar wind flow. The magnetic field has, however, become oriented very much in the radial direction, as suggested by *Davis* [1965]. Thus, before the total magnetic energy density falls below the plasma energy density, a region is reached where the transverse magnetic energy density does so. It is the transverse magnetic field that interacts with the coronal plasma; a radial magnetic field would neither affect nor be affected by a radially flowing plasma. Regions 2 and 3 are separated by the surface where the transverse magnetic energy density falls below the plasma energy density. In region 3 transverse magnetic fields are transported away from the sun by the radially flowing plasma. Thus, fields transverse to the average Archimedean spiral geometry cannot exist in a quasistationary fashion, and the magnetic field passing through the surface boundary between regions 2 and 3 is oriented in approximately the radial direction, serving as a source for the interplanetary magnetic field.

Figure 12 is a synoptic chart of the photospheric magnetic field obtained by the Mt. Wilson Observatory for Carrington solar rotation 1496. The dark grey regions represent magnetic field into the sun and the light gray regions represent magnetic field out of the sun. The contours of the magnetic field calculated on the source surface are shown superimposed. At the bottom of the figure is a strip representing the sector pattern of the interplanetary magnetic field displaced by 5 days, the approximate transit time of the solar wind from the sun to the earth, and a graph of the interplanetary field magnitude.

The smoothing of the photospheric field to a more

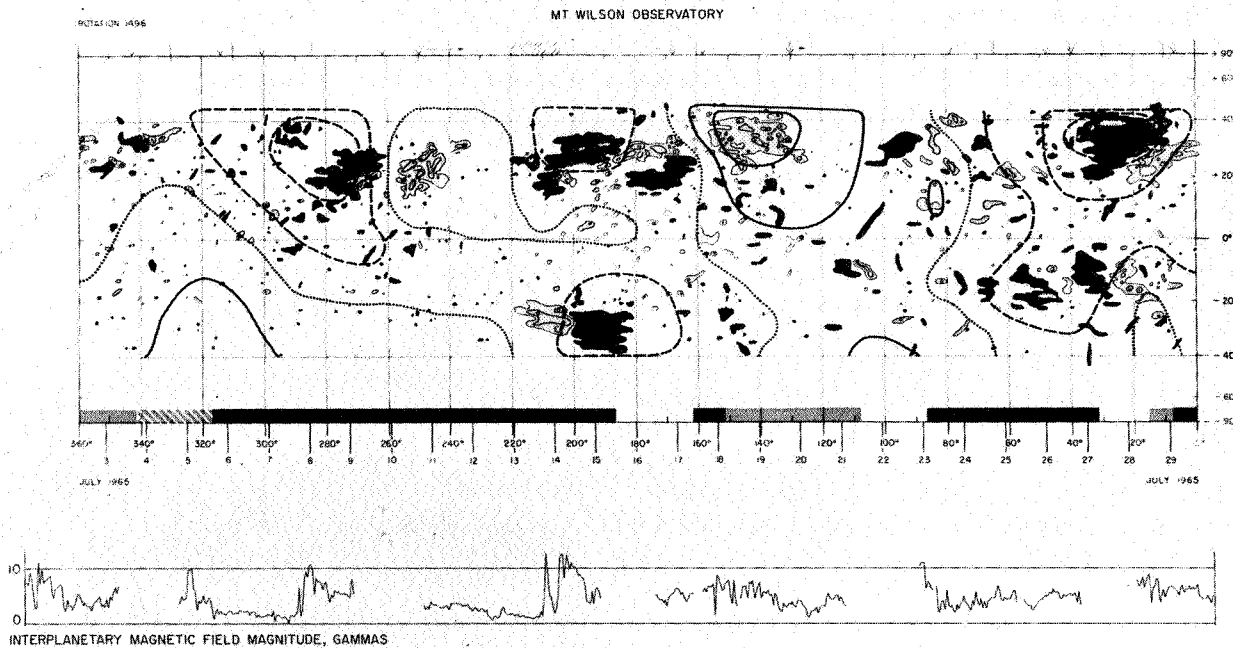


Figure 12. A synoptic chart of the photospheric magnetic field obtained by the Hale Observatory on Mount Wilson for Carrington solar rotation 1496. The dark gray regions represent magnetic field into the sun, the light gray regions magnetic field out of the sun. The contour levels are 6, 12, 20 and 30 gauss. Contours of the magnetic field on the source surface are shown. Dashed contours represent field directed toward the sun and solid contours, field directed away from the sun. Dotted contours represent regions of zero field. Contour levels are 0.25 and 0.75 gauss. Also shown at the bottom of the figure are the interplanetary sector structure and magnetic field magnitude displaced by 5 days. Toward sectors are represented by heavy shading, away sectors by light shading, and mixed polarity fields by diagonal shading.

sectorlike pattern on the source surface is evident. In the regions of the source surface where the field magnitude has reached the first contour level, the agreement with the direction of the interplanetary field is very good. The low magnitude of the interplanetary magnetic field from July 10 through July 14 may be related to the low field magnitude on the source surface at these times. On either side of this interval both the interplanetary and the source surface fields have larger magnitudes. Note that the photospheric field has scattered positive and negative fields over most ranges of longitudes, but the field computed on the source surface has a smoothly varying field quite similar in many aspects to the interplanetary sector pattern field. The large-scale features of the photospheric field appear to persist to the source surface and to be extended out by the solar wind. Correlations between the source surface field and the interplanetary magnetic field show definite peaks near 5 days time lag at all latitudes, whereas the

photospheric interplanetary field correlated poorly at this time. Comparisons of eclipse observations with computed magnetic field structures by Altschuler and Newkirk and by Schatten suggest that the magnetic models, although not perfect, do provide a first-order representation of the coronal and interplanetary magnetic field during quiet times. It has been recognized that flares can seriously disrupt the field patterns calculated.

The calculations of the coronal magnetic field allow the amount of nozzling to be estimated. Schatten [1968] estimated a 1:6 area expansion beyond that expected for radial flow as that typical of sectors during the 1965-66 period studied. The number calculated is not very accurate and probably varies significantly with time. However, the amount of nozzling calculated is not very large compared with the sunspot extension possibility, although it is certainly significantly different from a direct extension of the large scale field of the sun.

“Mean” Solar Field Observations and Suggested Interpretation

Recently observations of a “mean” solar field (the sun seen as a star) have been made using the Crimean solar telescope [Severny, 1969]. The term “disk” field might have been a better notation for the observation as only the visible hemisphere of the sun contributes to the mean solar field. Severny *et al.* [1970] compared this observation with the interplanetary magnetic field (fig. 13). As can be seen, there is good agreement both in sign and magnitude. It is important to note that the interplanetary magnetic field is measured 4-1/2 days after the mean solar field to account for transport of the field from the sun to earth.

An interesting effect is that a cross correlation between the two fields provides high peak at a lag of 4-1/2 days, as expected, but also a larger peak at 27 + 4-1/2 days. Schatten *et al.* [1969] found this same effect earlier in other work and attributed it to a delay of approximately one solar rotation between the appearance of a new magnetic feature in the photosphere and the resulting change in the interplanetary sector pattern.

Severny *et al.* [1970] note that their work implies that large areas on the sun (mostly outside of active regions) have a field whose predominant polarity agrees with the interplanetary magnetic field polarity. This result is important in that it suggests that sunspots and most flares do not affect the interplanetary field structure substantially. In fact, they find an inverse correlation of sign of the sunspot flux with the sign of the mean solar field.

The high correlation that Severny *et al.* [1970] have found suggests that the interplanetary field at the earth in gammas can be predicted either 4-1/2 days or 31-1/2 days in advance from mean solar field measurements simply by multiplying the value of the mean solar field in gauss by 8.

Schatten [1970] has recently shown that the mean solar field–interplanetary field correlation may be explained from the coronal magnetic models. Figure 14 illustrates the manner in which the source surface model suggests the mean solar field–interplanetary field correlation. The observed mean solar field is an average of the photospheric field over the solar disk with an appropriate weighting factor. This factor is a function of the angle from a position on the photosphere to the subsolar point. The main contribution to this factor is a result of the difference between the magnetograph measuring the line-of-sight magnetic field and the angular distribution of the photospheric field (perhaps radial on the average). Limb darkening and effects of

sunspots (not seen by the magnetograph) are also contributing factors.

The source surface model implies that the interplanetary field near the earth results from the source surface field convected by the solar wind outward in about 4-1/2 days. Thus, the field at the earth is the extended field from position A in figure 14. The field at position A may be computed in this model as an integral of the photospheric field as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} B_{INT} &= B_n \sqrt{2} \frac{R_s^2}{(215 R_\odot)^2} \\ &= \frac{\sqrt{2}}{(215)^2} \frac{\int_{\text{sol surf}} B_n (R_s/R_\odot)^2 M d\Omega}{\int_{\text{sol surf}} d\Omega} \\ &= \frac{\sqrt{2}}{4\pi(215)^2} \int_0^\pi B_n \left(\frac{R_s}{R_\odot}\right)^2 M 2\pi \sin \gamma d\gamma \\ &= \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2(215)^2} \int_0^\pi B_{sf} (\text{weighting factor}) d\gamma \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

where (weighting factor) =

$$-\sin \gamma \left(\frac{R_s}{R_\odot}\right) \left[\frac{1 - (R_s/R_\odot)^2}{1 + (R_s^2/R_\odot^2) - (2R_s/R_\odot) \cos \gamma} \right]^{3/2}$$

The quantity B_{INT} is the interplanetary magnetic field, B_n is the magnetic field at position A in figure 14, B_{SF} is the solar field, R_s is the source surface radius, and γ is the angle from any point in the photosphere to the subsolar point. This integral also has a weighting factor as a function of angle from the subsolar point and was shown to be quite similar to the mean solar field integral. Thus, the agreement between interplanetary field and the mean photospheric field is partly due to the fortunate coincidence between the source surface weighting factor and the integrated line-of-sight disk factor.

Effects of Active Regions.

Active regions can influence the interplanetary magnetic field in one of two ways. The first way is through a rapid dynamic process whereby a flare occurring within an active region ejects a plasma outburst with resulting shock effects. The second is through the gradual

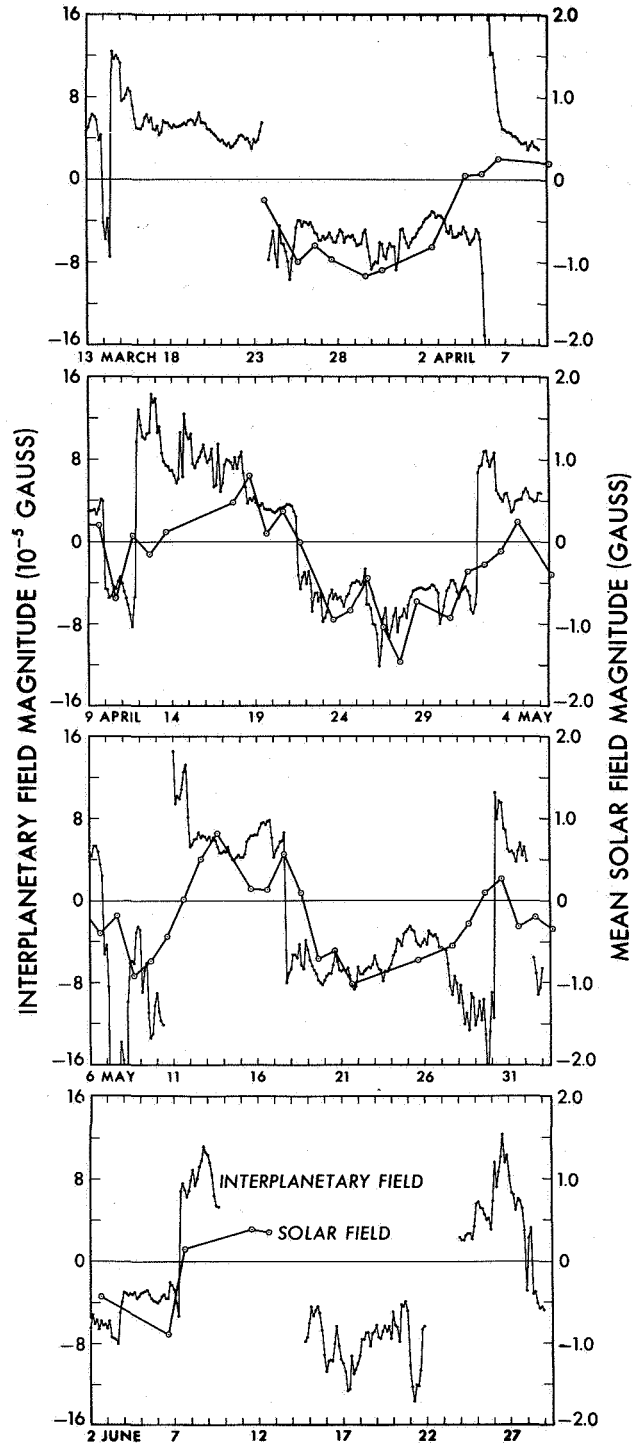


Figure 13. Comparison of the magnitude of the “mean” solar field and of the interplanetary field. The open circles are the daily observations of the mean solar field, and the dots are 3-hr average values of the interplanetary field magnitude observed near the earth. The solar observations are displaced by 4½ days to allow for the average sun-earth transit time. The abscissa is at the time of the interplanetary observations [Severny et al., 1970].

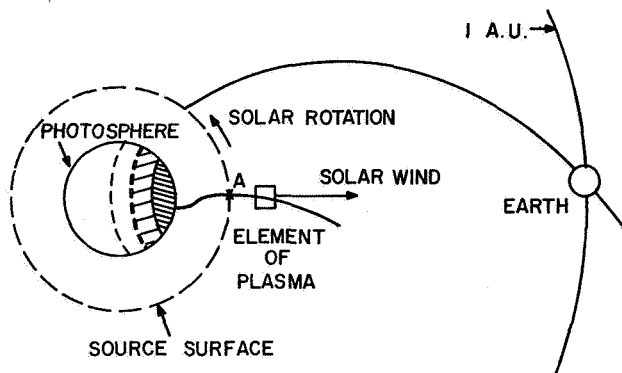


Figure 14. Relationship between the mean solar field, the source surface field, and the interplanetary field. The mean solar field is a weighted average of the disk field (indicated by the shading). The source surface field is the magnetic field on the source surface, position A. This is computed from a weighted average of the photospheric field, quite similar to the mean solar field. The solar wind convects this field to the earth in about 4-½ days while solar rotation twists the field to approximate an Archimedes spiral as shown [Schatten, 1970].

evolutionary effect of the active region field upon the large-scale solar field accompanied by an evolving sector pattern.

Influence of Flares This first aspect suggested to Gold [1959] the possibility of magnetic tongues being ejected by active regions. Parker [1963] considered a blast wave model resulting in “kinked” azimuthally oriented fields due to the faster flare plasma. Taylor [1969] made a statistical study of shock surfaces and their relationship to solar flares. Figure 15 from Taylor shows the orientation of 8 probable shock surfaces relative to the flare position on the sun causing them. The dashed circle is a simplified picture of Hirshberg’s [1968] large-scale shock structure. This line is an arc of a circle of radius 0.75 AU centered on the 0° line, 0.5 AU from the center of the sun. Many of the shock surfaces appear to be tangentially oriented to circles concentric with the one drawn. The shock surfaces imply that the radius of curvature of the shock front is less than, but of the order of 1 AU. All but shock surface 101a and 101b are consistent with the shock circle drawn. One of these, Taylor points out, is consistent with Gold’s model and the other with Parker’s. Needless to say, it would be beneficial to have several spacecraft widely separated in heliographic longitude to determine accurately the structure for individual events rather than relying on the statistical approach. Although shocks from flares appear to distort the plasma and magnetic field in a large region

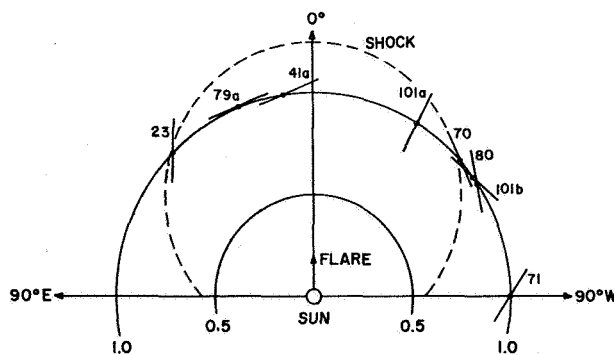


Figure 15. A plot of the orientation of eight probable shock surfaces at the eight appropriate heliocentric longitude relative to the flare. The dashed line is an arc of a circle of radius 0.75 AU centered on the 0° line 0.5 AU from the sun [Taylor, 1969].

of space, they generally do so only for a relatively short period of time.

Evolutionary Influence Figure 16 from Wilcox and Colburn [1970] illustrates the evolutionary changes of the interplanetary magnetic sectors over six years. The observed sector structure is superimposed on the daily geomagnetic character index C9. Near solar minimum, with few active regions present, the sector structure was quasistationary. With the rise of solar activity, the sector patterns began to evolve more rapidly, changing with periods of a few months. New sectors are occasionally born and others decay away. Near the maximum of the solar cycle, there appear to be two large sectors per rotation. Wilcox and Colburn note that even approaching the maximum of the solar cycle, the interplanetary magnetic field retains the property of almost always having the same polarity for several consecutive days. Changes in the sector pattern are often related to the birth or decay of a sector. A classic example of the process will now be reviewed.

The birth of a sector was recorded in November 1965 and traced to the later stages in the evolutionary development of an active region. Figure 6 showing the magnetic loops, represents the birth of these new field lines in space. Figure 17 shows the history of this region as ascertained by Schatten *et al.* [1968].

In the first solar rotation 1498 (fig. 17) one sees old background activity on the sun and toward-the-sun magnetic field present in the interplanetary medium and on the sun. In solar rotation 1499, the new activity is already present by the time the region appears at the east limb. At the central meridian passage of the region, sunspots, major flares, type III radio bursts, and strong coronal Fe XIV emission have developed, together with

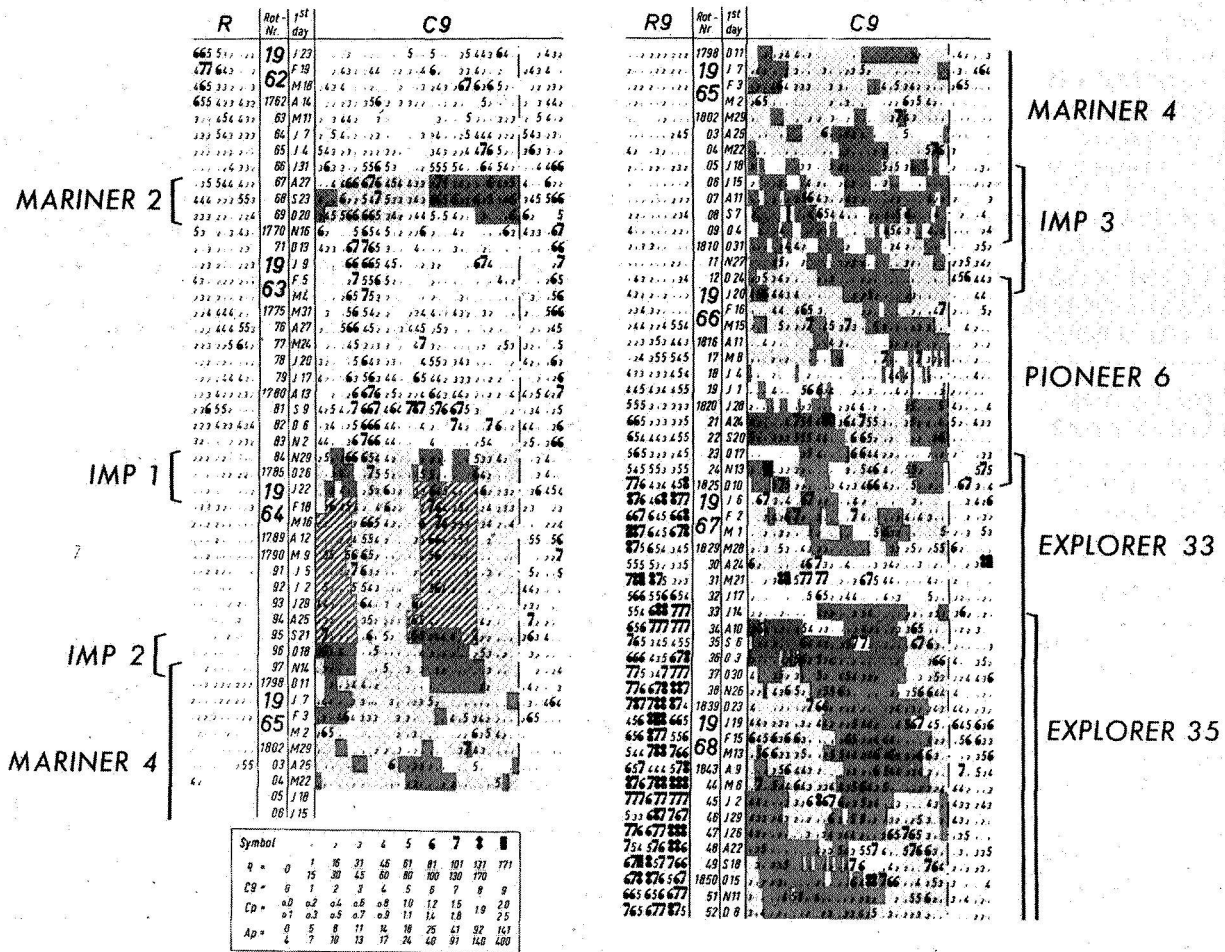


Figure 16. Observed sector structure of the interplanetary magnetic field, superimposed on the daily geomagnetic character index C9, prepared by the Geophysikalisches Institut in Göttingen. Light shading indicates sectors with field predominantly away from the sun. Diagonal bars indicate an interpolated quasi-stationary structure during 1964 [Wilcox and Colburn, 1970].

an extensive plage and bipolar magnetic region. The interplanetary magnetic sector pattern has not been altered appreciably. In solar rotation 1500 magnetic loops appear in the interplanetary medium while strong 5303 emission and a bright plage remain. The bipolar magnetic feature on the sun appears to have grown larger and there is evidence of a north-south filament running through the plage.

During the next solar rotation, 1501, a quasi-static, away-from-the-sun sector has developed in the interplanetary medium, accompanied by an elongation of the plage by differential rotation and a dispersal of the bipolar magnetic fields. It is interesting that the breakup of the bipolar group on the sun is associated with the formation of the away sector. The background magnetic

field on the sun now appears to be oriented away from the sun.

The away sector is seen in the interplanetary medium in solar rotation 1502 as well. The first contour level on the magnetogram has been omitted in this rotation due to increased noise in the instrument, and thus the solar magnetic observations are less accurate here. Other forms of solar activity have subsided.

Calculations of the flux in the magnetic loops show that in the few days in which the loops were seen in interplanetary space, they transported all the flux in the solar bipolar region. Thus the probability of seeing such an event for each occurrence is about 10 percent. Thus it is fortunate that this event was observed during the birth process. Other similar events would not be expected to

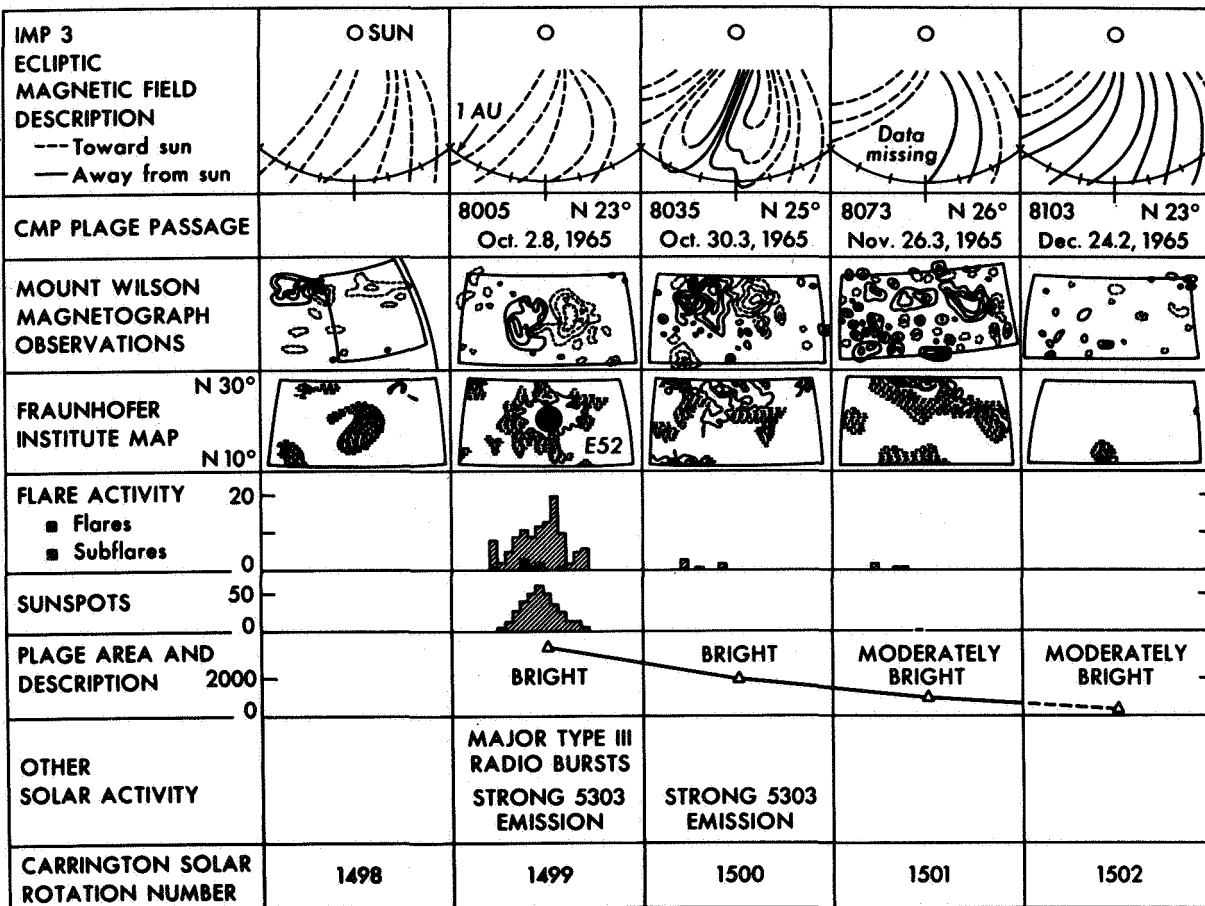


Figure 17. Chart showing the history of the active region associated with the interplanetary magnetic loop event. Each column shows the development of the feature during successive solar rotations. Each row describes different observations of the region. The figures are centered on the central meridian plage passage with the Mount Wilson magnetograph observations and the Fraunhofer Institute maps extending over a scale of 40° in longitude and 20° in latitude. The first contour level on the Mount Wilson magnetogram for solar rotation 1502 has been omitted due to an increase in noise during that time period. The plage area is graphed on a scale of millionths of the solar disk [Schatten et al., 1968].

be so well documented. The solar bipolar region was unusual in that the background flux changed sign from toward-the-sun to away-from-the-sun following the breakup of the active region. *Bumba and Howard* [1965] have shown that most bipolar magnetic regions do not affect the photospheric background field. The amount of flux transported from the bipolar region agrees with the flux observed in the new sector formed. Thus the birth of a sector appears to be the aftermath of the magnetic loop formation process in the interplanetary medium and is related to a change in the background field polarity on the photosphere.

Interplanetary Field near Solar Maximum

In this section several interplanetary magnetic field maps obtained near solar maximum are shown to illustrate the structural properties of the field due to solar activity.

The first solar rotation under discussion is Bartels' rotation 1843 (April 1968) shown in figure 18. This rotation is one of those discussed by *Severny et al.* [1970] where the "mean" solar field correlated well with the interplanetary magnetic field. As is typical of many of the rotations under consideration by *Severny et al.*, the field patterns shown are relatively smooth and obey the Archimedean spiral configuration quite well.

The smooth field pattern is not related to any reduced amount of geomagnetic activity as shown by the indices C9 in figure 16. This period appears relatively placid in terms of sector fields. Thus solar activity at times does not appear to influence the large-scale interplanetary magnetic field structure near 1 AU.

One region of interest in figure 18 is the small 1-1/2 day wide sector of polarity toward-the-sun near day 101 (April 10) as shown in figure 13; it correlates with a negative field pattern on the sun and hence may be classified as a "filament" of solar origin, although it may be rather large for some definitions of "filament." It would be the smallest observed sector related to a solar feature, however. The distorted fields on days 112 and 113, probably represent some unknown field structures in space.

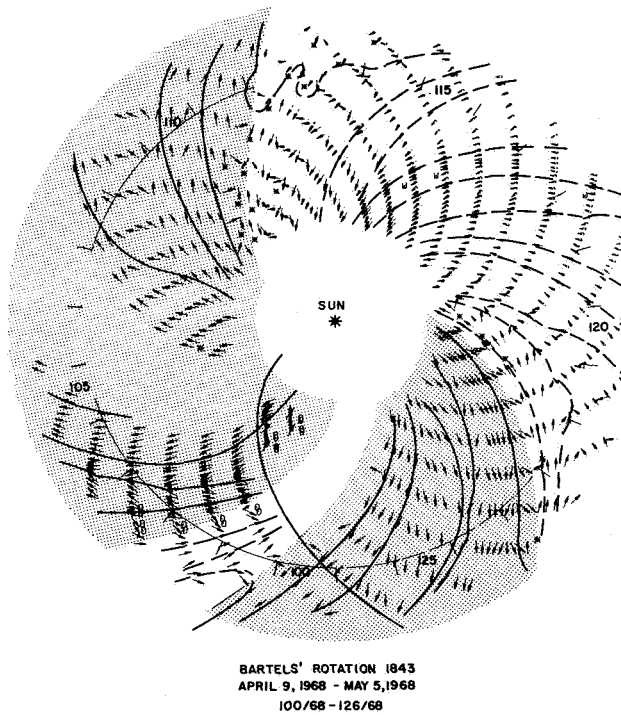


Figure 18. Interplanetary magnetic field map for Bartels' rotation 1843. The field patterns are similar to those observed by IMP-1 although the period is close to solar maximum [Severny et al., 1970].

Figure 19 shows Bartels' rotation 1845 (June 1968). The first eight days of this rotation, still showing relatively placid field patterns, ended the studies of Severny et al. [1970]. Of greater interest here are the field patterns near days 180 and 174. These are similar to those one might expect for decaying sector fields. They are not, however, related to the disappearance of

any of the sectors in which they occur. In fact, the positive sector near day 160, showing no such field patterns, disappeared a few rotations later.

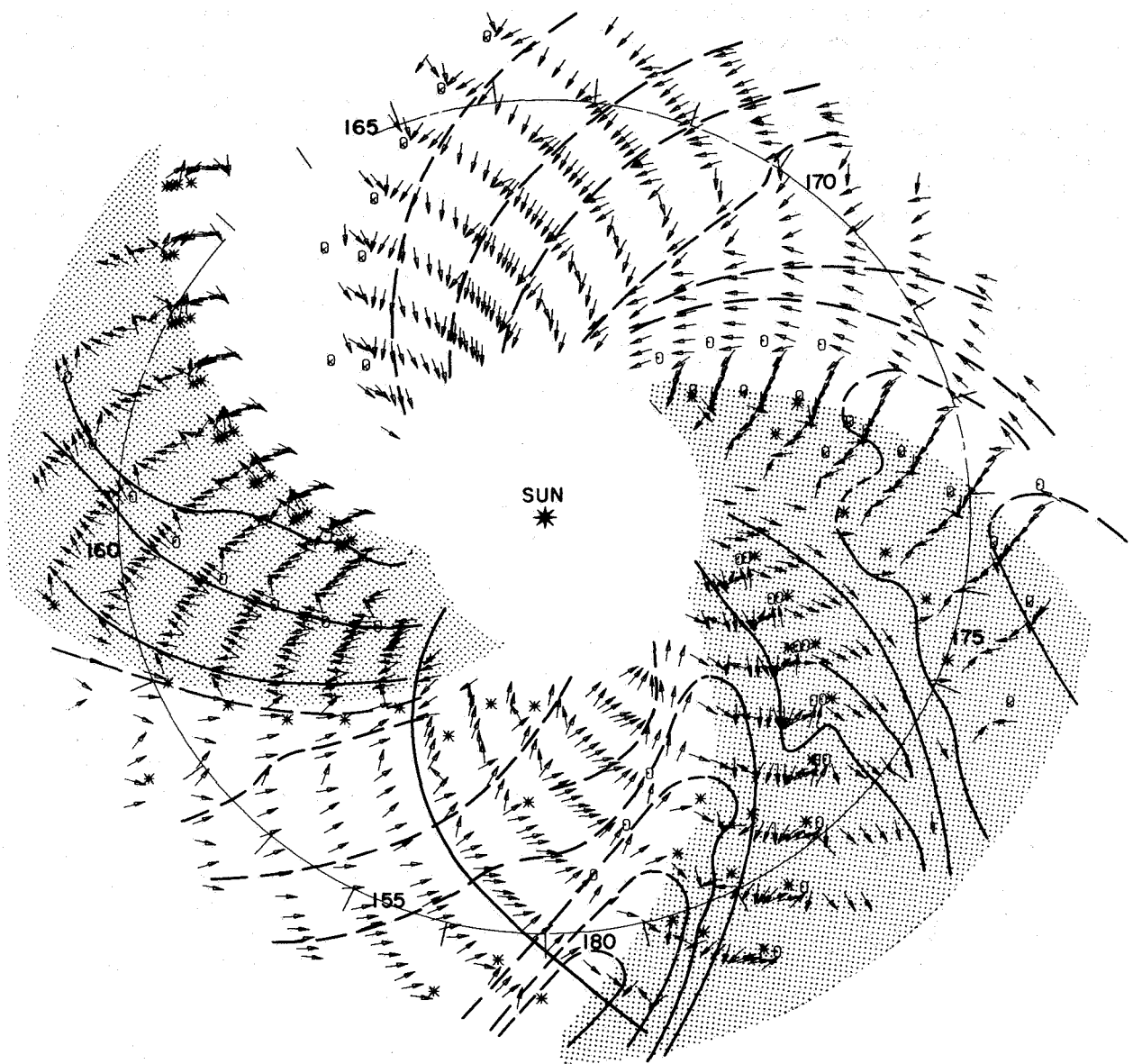
There is an unusual kink in the field on day 178 that probably is not well represented in this map, and on day 175 there are fields directly opposed to each other. These are probably dynamic events of one sort or another with a rather complex structure. The high field strength, chaotic structure beginning near the end of day 162 occurs simultaneously with a geomagnetic storm. It is thus clear that at times the field is non-Archimedean.

Figure 20 shows Bartels' rotation 1849 (September-October 1968); note the completely chaotic fields in one large portion. On days 270 through 276, the field can by no means be represented by a simplified model. It would probably require at least several spacecraft separated in solar longitude, latitude, and radial distance to attempt to unravel the field structures embedded in the solar wind on these days. Surprisingly, in the same rotation, near day 263, there is a perfectly smooth sector boundary repeated 27 days later.

Figure 21 shows details of the sector structure for 1968 from Fairfield et al. [1969]. During the times when the field is twisted in a non-Archimedean structure or is of a filamentary nature, it often appears on this diagram as small opposite polarity regions. As can be seen there are many such polarity filaments, but they are rather limited in time, and although few sectors can be found without them, they do not confuse the sector pattern. This illustrates what may be the major effect of solar activity upon the interplanetary magnetic field: occasional disruptions in the smooth Archimedean field pattern. Farther out in interplanetary space, the effects of these disturbances may be more pronounced with perhaps a significant influence on cosmic ray modulation. It is thus important to analyze the structure and evolution of these twisted field patterns. It will probably be necessary to utilize at least two spacecraft to disentangle the field structure.

Solar Cycle Variations

In addition to the changing sector patterns throughout the solar cycle, other properties of the interplanetary magnetic field are somewhat altered. Figure 22 from Wilcox and Colburn [1970] shows the synodic rotation rate of the interplanetary magnetic field as well as the sunspot number as a function of time. These authors point out that near sunspot minimum the rotation period was close to 27.0 days and that with the rise of new high-latitude solar activity in 1965 the interplanetary field recurrence period increased to about 28.0 days. The period then declined to 27.0 days near solar



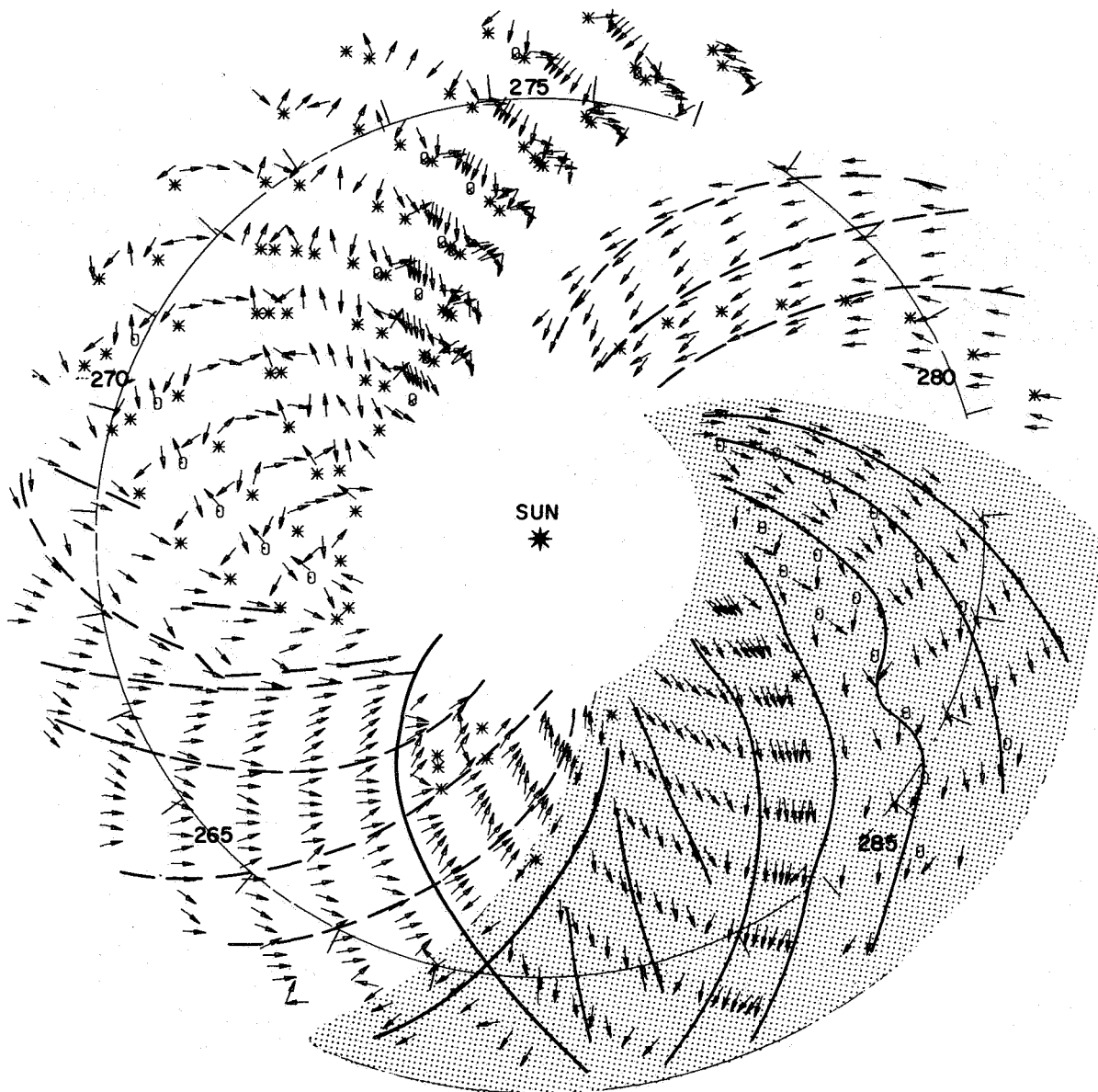
BARTELS' ROTATION 1845
 JUNE 2, 1968 - JUNE 28, 1968
 154/68- 180/68

Figure 19. *Interplanetary magnetic field map for Bartels' rotation 1845. This figure shows looped field lines (near days 180 and 174) which appear to be in the process of being transported out of the interplanetary medium by the solar wind. This process may be related to sector decay [Severny et al., 1970].*

maximum. The authors suggest that the period will remain near 27.0 days until the increase of new sunspot activity near 1975. The data may be correlated not only with the period of the interplanetary field but perhaps also with the average latitude of the source of the field on the sun. This suggests the possibility that the source

of the interplanetary field in the ecliptic is a low-latitude source except when new activity is present and then the latitude is nearer 25° - 30° heliographic latitude.

Hirshberg [1969] studied the average interplanetary magnetic field strength for a limited period and found no significant change. Figure 23 shows a more extensive

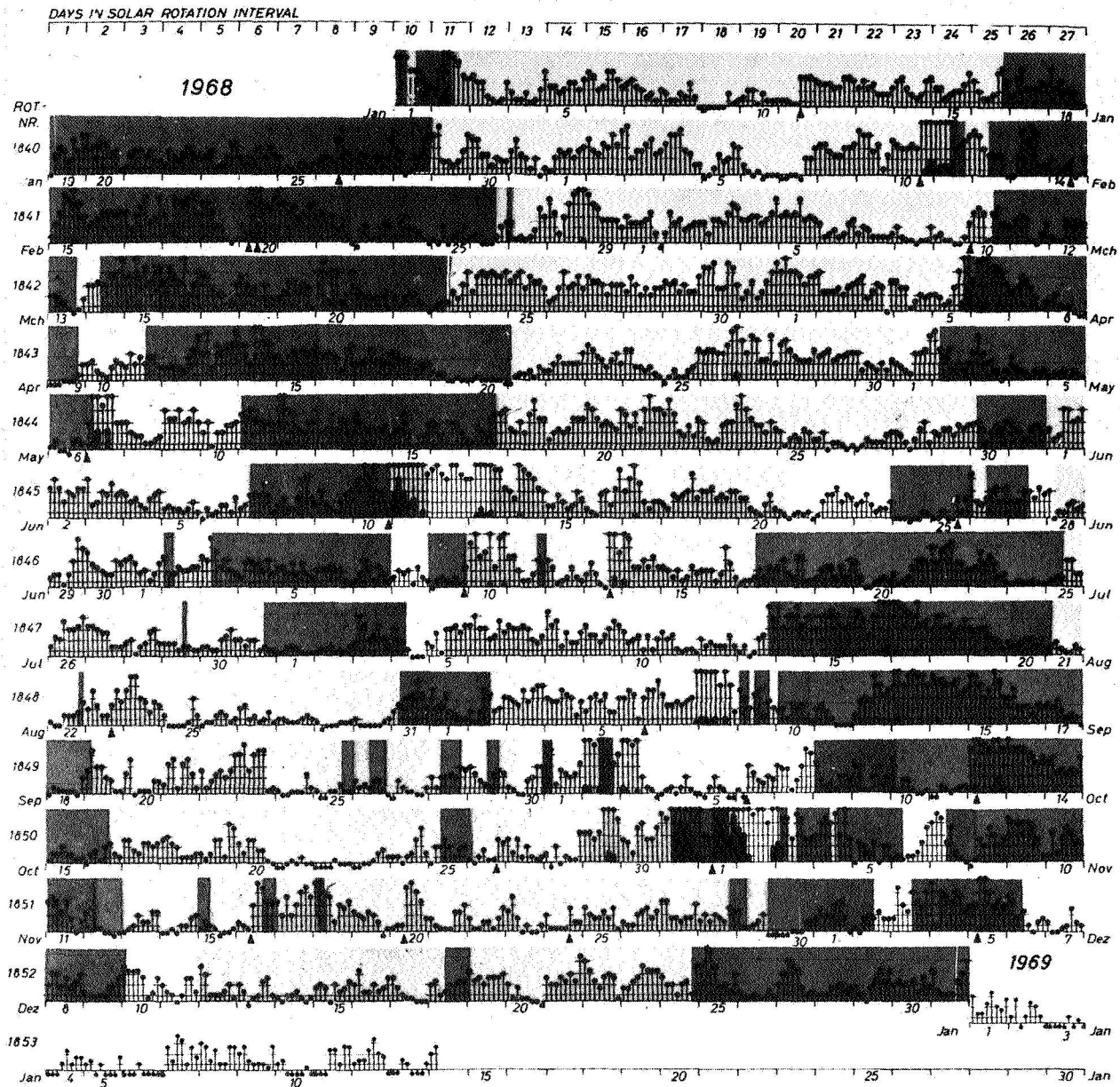


BARTELS' ROTATION 1849
 SEPT 18, 1968-OCT 14, 1968
 262/68 - 288/68

Figure 20. Interplanetary magnetic field for Bartels' rotation 1849. Note the completely chaotic field structure at the top of the figure [Severny et al., 1970].

analysis of the magnetic field magnitude distribution as a function of time. The top panel shows the field magnitude using hourly average IMP-1 data. The other panels utilize hourly average interplanetary magnetic field data from the Goddard Space Flight Center magnetometer experiments on Explorers 33, 34, and 35, which provided fairly complete coverage of the interplanetary field. There is a small shift in the distribution

towards higher field strengths as solar maximum is approached, but variability is not as large as the sunspot number. The average field strength changes from about 4.5γ in 1963-64 and 1965 to about 6.2γ for 1967-68, an increase of 38 percent. Part of this increase may be due to the use of field component averages to compare field magnitudes in the IMP-1 and Explorer 33 analyses whereas later results were based on direct field



PLANETARY MAGNETIC
THREE-HOUR-RANGE INDICES
Kp 1968

(preliminary indices to 1969 January 14)

Figure 21. Interplanetary magnetic sector structure for 1968 overlayed on chart of planetary magnetic 3-hr-indices Kp [after Bartels]. The heavy shading represents magnetic field away from the sun, and the light shading, field toward the sun [Fairfield et al., 1969].

magnitude averages. Fairfield [1971] using IMP 3 obtained field magnitude averages of 4.6γ and 5.7γ for observations and employing only component averages 1965 and 1966, respectively. These results imply that

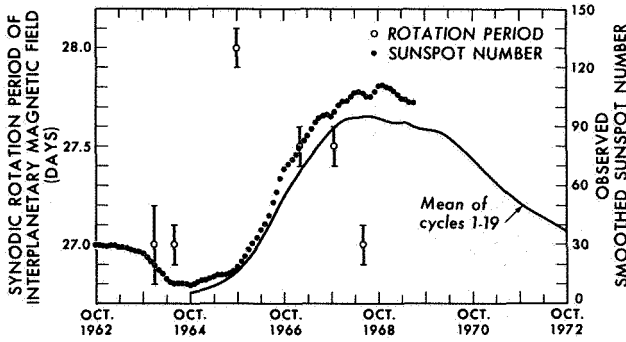


Figure 22. Synodic rotation period of the interplanetary magnetic field and sunspot number as a function of time [Wilcox and Colburn, 1970].

the observed variations in figure 23 are real. The dashed line distribution for the IMP 1 time period from Ness *et al.* [1965] corresponds to the 3-hr field magnitude average computed from 5.46-min field magnitudes rather than field components. The average is shown by the $\langle F_{3H} \rangle$ symbol. The $\langle F_I \rangle$ symbol represents the average instantaneous magnetic field from Ness [1970b] obtained at 20.5-sec intervals.

It is interesting to compare these changes in the interplanetary field magnitude with the changes in the solar field magnitude. Figure 24 shows the large-scale solar magnetic field [Howard *et al.*, 1967] near sunspot minimum (top) and near sunspot maximum (bottom). The top panel contour levels are 4, 8, 16, 24, and 50 gauss, and the bottom panels levels are 5, 10, 20, 40, and 80 gauss. Including the approximate 25 percent field magnitude increase in contour levels, and accounting for the data gap near September 16, 1968, there is approximately twice as much photospheric flux at solar maximum as at solar minimum. This number is very uncertain due to the month-to-month variation in the solar field. Thus the 38 percent increase in interplanetary field magnitude, although by no means insignificant, is small compared with the crude estimate of a 100 percent increase in average photospheric field strength for the same period and the change in sunspot number from 10 to 110 throughout this solar cycle.

An examination of figure 23 shows that the high field strength tail of the distribution is significantly enhanced. It appears that increased solar activity does not influence the field magnitude distribution very much but is associated with occasional enhancements in field strengths greater than 10 γ . Figure 25 shows the percentage of the time that the field magnitude was greater than 10 γ for each of the time periods in figure 23 along with sunspot number. The vertical error bars

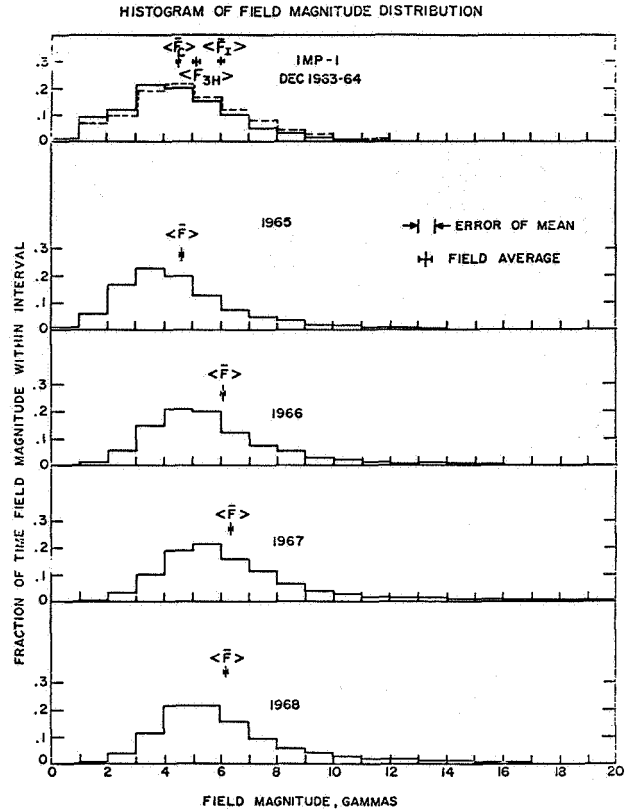


Figure 23. Interplanetary magnetic field magnitude distribution as a function of time. Average field magnitude is shown by the symbols. Somewhat different data processing has occurred throughout the years discussed in the text. Note the change from 1965 to 1966.

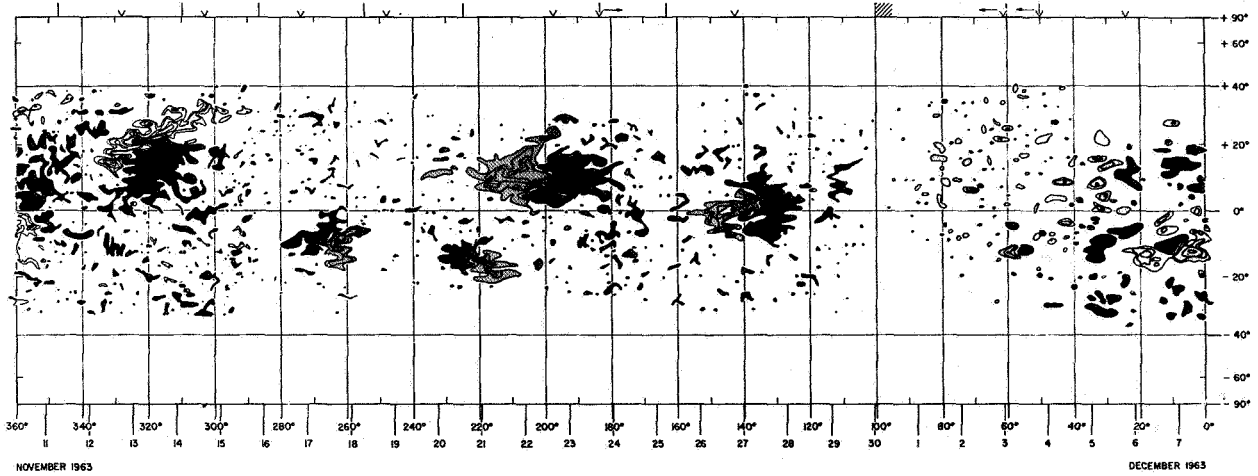
along the 1963–64 result suggest variability due to different averaging methods. The I shows the effect of using instantaneous field magnitudes. The increase in this value is due to not averaging high field strengths with low ones. Surprisingly, the high field magnitudes show variability similar to sunspot number. Although the spacecraft used and the data processing are not identical throughout the years shown, the results suggest that the magnitude enhancements are directly related to solar activity rather than differing data analyses. Many of the enhanced magnetic field magnitudes undoubtedly are also related to high speed streams and shocks, occurrences in the solar wind that may be related to solar “events.”

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS, PROBLEM AREAS, AND FUTURE WORK

Influence of Sun's Polar Fields on the Interplanetary Magnetic Field

Parker [1958] discussed the interplanetary magnetic

ROTATION 1474



ROTATION 1558-39

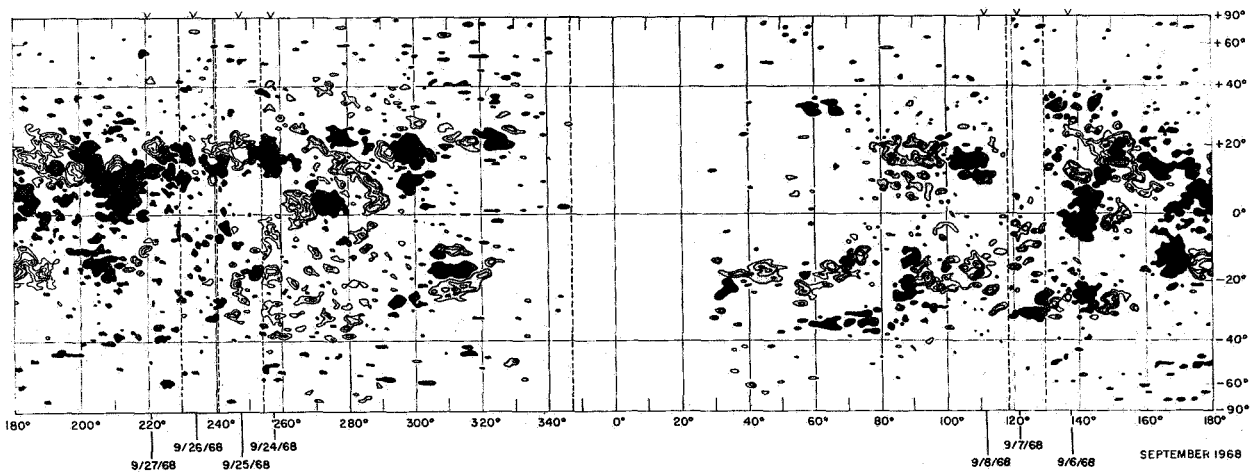


Figure 24. Two synoptic charts of the photospheric magnetic field obtained by the Hale Observatory on Mt. Wilson. One rotation is obtained near sunspot minimum (top) and one near solar maximum (bottom). There is a data gap near the center in the lower panel. The heavy shading indicates into-the-sun magnetic field and the light shading, out-of-the-sun field. The contour levels on the top panel are 4, 8, 16, 24 and 50 gauss and on the bottom, they are 5, 10, 20, 40 and 80 gauss [Howard et al., 1967].

field as an extension of the general solar field, which he assumed to be a dipole for mathematical simplicity. The analyses of Wilcox and Ness [1965] and Schatten et al. [1969] related the interplanetary magnetic field polarities to the predominant polarity areas of the sun's background field. The experimental results showed that the predominant polarity areas of the sun were exerting a greater influence on the interplanetary field polarities in the ecliptic than were the polar fields of the sun.

Recently, however, Rosenberg and Coleman [1969] have looked for an influence of the sun's dipole field

upon the interplanetary magnetic field in the ecliptic. Figure 26 shows Wilcox's [1970a] extension of their analysis. The percentage of time of negative (directed-toward-the-sun) interplanetary field polarity is plotted against time. A sine curve is fitted with a period of one year (shown). The resulting curve indicates a tendency for the interplanetary field to have negative polarity near the earth when the earth is at a positive heliographic latitude. This correlates with the sense of the sun's dipole field. Rosenberg [1970] suggests that this is not the influence of the observed high-latitude polar field

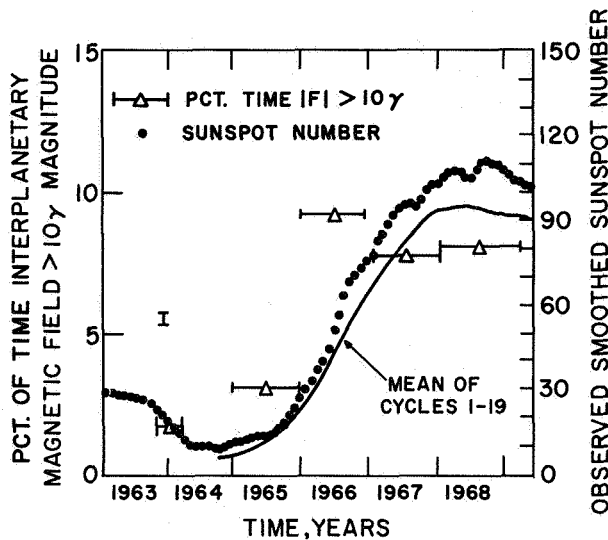


Figure 25. Percentage time the hourly average interplanetary magnetic field magnitude exceeds 10γ and sunspot number as a function of time in years. The enhanced field magnitudes appear to be related to enhanced sunspot number and thus possibly to solar activity. The I refers to the instantaneous field exceeding 10γ .

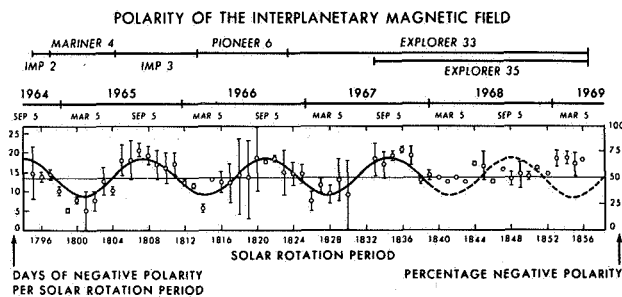


Figure 26. Interplanetary field polarity observed by spacecraft having nearly the earth's heliographic latitude. For each solar rotation period the lower bar is the actual number of days of negative polarity. The upper bar is 27 minus the number of days of positive polarity. The distance between the bars is the number of days of missing data. The sine function is the least-squares, best-fit function to the data (9.1 percent rms deviation) with a 1-yr period. The data for solar rotation periods 1795 through 1840 were used. This function is $50.9 - 17.6 \sin(\omega t - 0.171)$, where t is measured in terms of Bartels' solar rotations. This function leads by only 5° the heliographic latitude of the earth, $\beta(t) = -0.73^\circ \sin(\omega t - 0.085)$. Some of the Mariner 4 and Pioneer 6 data were taken at latitudes differing somewhat from that of the earth [Wilcox, 1970a].

but rather an unobserved extension of the polar field to lower latitudes on the sun (ecliptic latitudes). Wilcox [1970a] has questioned the statistical significance of Rosenberg and Coleman's [1969] result and provided additional data points (1968 and 1969 data) to their curve which fail to support their proposal. Two or three more years of data with a clear sense of the sun's polar field should provide a definite confirmation or rejection of the proposed effect.

Structure out of the Ecliptic Plane

Perhaps the most important aspect of the field out of the ecliptic plane is the three-dimensional average field structure. In accordance with Parker's [1963] model, the magnetic field would be directed along Archimedean spirals wound on cones with a half-angle corresponding to the heliographic co-latitude. This would result in away-from-the-sun sectors possessing an average northward directed field component (if represented in solar ecliptic coordinates) above the solar equator. The sign would reverse for toward-the-sun sectors in the opposite hemisphere.

Another aspect of the field out of the ecliptic plane is the percentage of time spent in away-from-the-sun or toward-the-sun sectors. In the ecliptic plane they occur nearly equally. A consequence of Rosenberg and Coleman's [1969] proposal, should it be correct, relates to the polarity of the interplanetary magnetic field out of the ecliptic plane. They fit the percentage negative polarity to a sine wave as a function of time, implying a direct relationship with heliocentric latitude. The relationship they obtain is such that approximately 70 percent of the time a negative polarity should occur when the earth is at 7.25° north heliographic latitude. Considering a 50 percent probability occurs at zero latitude, this implies that the field is directed toward the sun 100 percent of the time at only 18° north heliographic latitude. Beyond this point, the extrapolation of their result obviously must end and in fact probably does so somewhat earlier.

The unidirected polar fields on the sun begin at higher latitudes near the locations of the polar prominence zones (located at $+70^\circ$ and -55° latitude during 1968). These higher latitude fields still show occasional regions of opposite polarity [Kotov and Stenflo, 1970]. Thus the explanation of the extended sun's polar fields to low latitudes would seem implausible. Independent of the origin of these magnetic fields close to the sun, an extrapolation of Rosenberg and Coleman's analysis, if valid, implies nearly unidirected fields at 20° heliographic latitude at 1 AU.

Wilcox [1970b] suggests a different view in which the

solar sector pattern of approximately equal and opposite fields occurs over a wide range of latitudes. Figure 27 shows a schematic of his model. A boundary exists

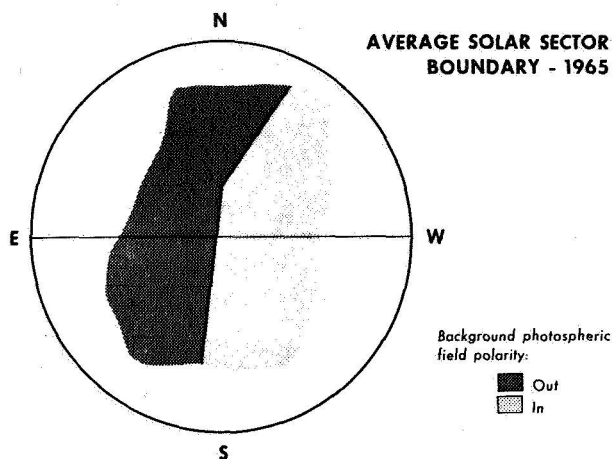


Figure 27. A schematic of Wilcox's average position of a solar sector boundary during 1965. On each side of the boundary the weak background photospheric magnetic field is predominantly of a single polarity in equatorial latitudes on both sides of the equator. This solar sector extends to latitudes near 40° or 50° [Wilcox, 1970b].

approximately in the north-south direction. The pattern exists over a wide range of latitudes on both sides of the equator. The boundary rotates in an approximately rigidly rotating coordinate system. The solar sector pattern is the source of a corresponding interplanetary sector pattern. It has nearly equal amounts of positive and negative field over a wide range of latitude. Thus if the Wilcox model is correct, one would not expect to find much change in the polarity pattern of the interplanetary magnetic field out of the ecliptic until at least 40° or 50° heliographic latitude, in contrast to the Rosenberg and Coleman [1969] analysis.

A compromise between the two proposals appears reasonable. Perhaps a gradually increasing percentage polarity change would occur, resulting in a nearly 100 percent unidirected field not at 20° but more typically at 30° , subject to fluctuations with time. The unidirected fields would occur at a lower latitude at times when the sun's polar fields were large (near solar minimum) and at higher latitudes when they were small (near solar maximum).

The coronal magnetic models might be related to this work. It is not necessary to require the sun's low-latitude polar field to extend to ecliptic latitudes in order to

explain Rosenberg and Coleman's observations. Figure 28 shows how polar fields, in accordance with the coronal models presented earlier, would provide a statistical influence on the field near the ecliptic. Some

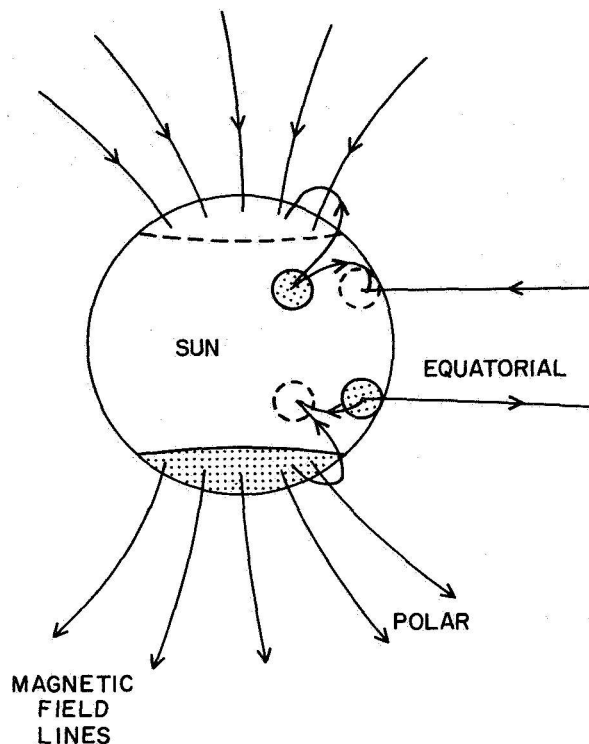


Figure 28. Schematic showing how polar fields can cause coronal magnetic loops to form which will influence the statistical distribution of toward-and-away-from-the-sun sectors at 1 AU with respect to heliographic latitude. Shaded areas represent out-of-the-sun magnetic field. In the northern hemisphere, coronal loops form allowing some magnetic flux to leave the positive (out-of-the-sun) magnetic regions and be directed into the negative polar field. This allows some negative flux to extend to 1 AU north of the solar equatorial plane. The situation is reversed in the southern hemisphere. This process allows Rosenberg and Coleman's hypothesis to be extended to higher latitudes and yet be consistent with the polar field being confined to the sun's polar regions as observed.

field lines in the northern hemisphere from the positive background field pattern would loop back to the northern polar fields, thus freeing additional toward-the-sun magnetic flux and allowing it the possibility of extending to 1 AU at positive heliographic latitudes.

The other possibility is that the high-latitude polar

fields occasionally do extend to low latitudes at 1 AU. Figure 29 from Schatten [1968] shows the structure of the solar eclipse of June 30, 1954, near the minimum of the solar cycle. The drawing was prepared by Kiev astronomers from photographs taken at Kozeletsk, USSR. Note the long equatorial streamers and polar

plumes. The bottom panel shows the field structure that would result from the source surface model with no equatorial magnetic field. Thus, with high polar field values and low equatorial field strengths, the polar fields appear able to reach to very low heliographic latitudes in the corona and presumably near 1 AU.

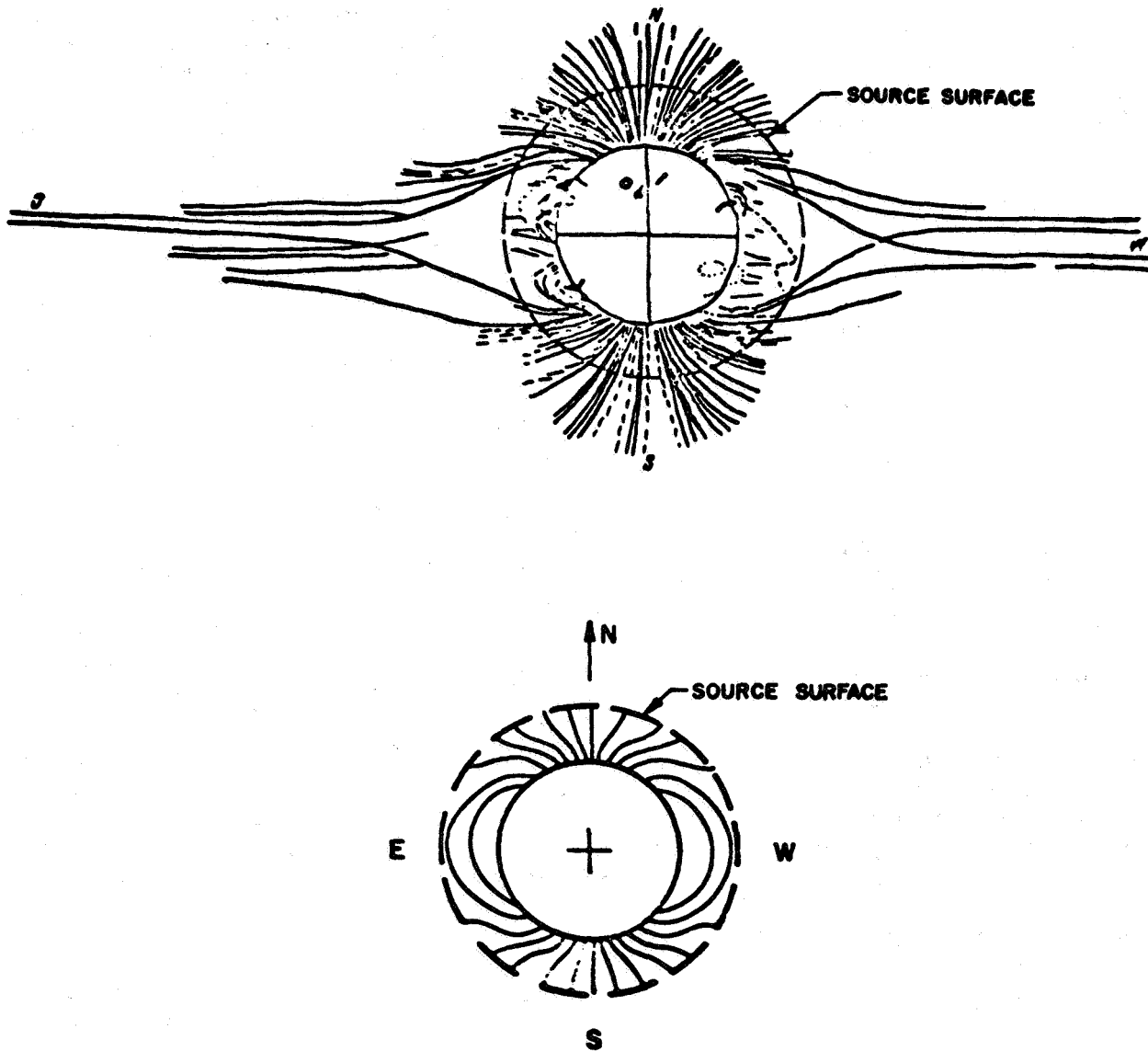


Figure 29. Drawing of the corona at the June 30, 1965 eclipse near solar minimum [Vseskhsvjatsky, 1963] (top). Appearance of the field line configuration in the corona using the “source surface” model with only polar fields present in the photosphere (bottom). These drawings show how the sun’s polar field may extend to lower heliographic latitudes with increasing radial distance in the corona and the solar wind [Schatten, 1968].

Hypothetical Interplanetary Field Structures

The interplanetary magnetic field may form rather unusual structures. Figure 30 shows several possibilities of interest. The first three are structures previously

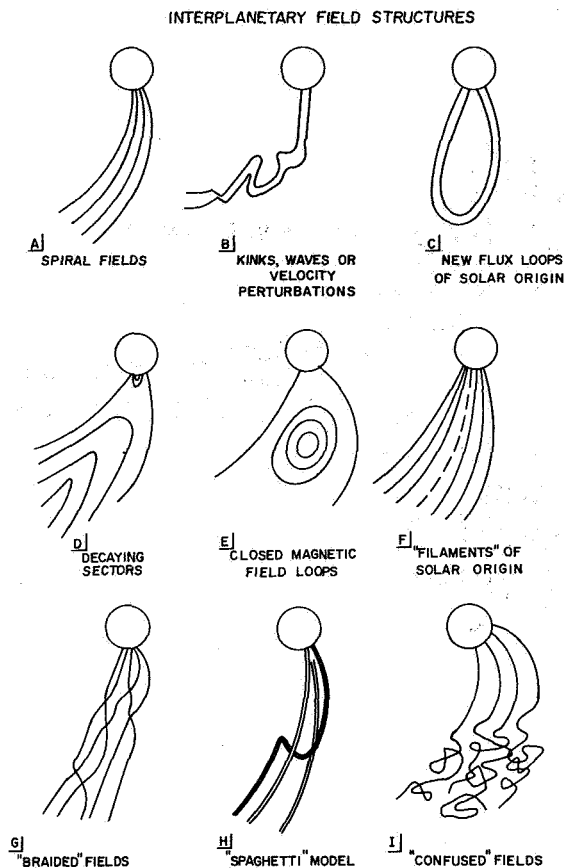


Figure 30. Schematic showing nine types of interplanetary magnetic field structures. The three in the first row have rather strong observational support. The remaining six are suggested field patterns that may occur but probably require several spacecraft or detailed observations to identify. Future work should be devoted to examining and classifying the observed interplanetary magnetic field according to these structures.

discussed. Structure (D) is the inverse process of structure (C) whereby field lines near sector boundaries can decay away through a magnetic reconnection process close to the sun (inside of the Alfvén point). Additional closed field lines in the corona result, along with a U-shaped interplanetary field pattern.

Structure (E) is similar to structure (D) in that magnetic

fields are decaying. However, in structure (E), the sector boundary itself may decay in many such closed magnetic field loops. This process may occur at 1 AU but may be more important farther out in the interplanetary medium where it could result in the dissolution of the sectors. Structure (F) shows a small negative field polarity embedded within a positive sector. Such a filament may represent a "kink" convected past the spacecraft or may be of solar origin as shown here.

Structure (G) is a schematic resulting from the work of *Jokipii and Parker* [1969]. Solar cosmic ray diffusion suggested that interplanetary magnetic field lines could be "braided" due to the granular and super-granular motions on the sun, causing the footpoints of the field lines to undergo a random-walk process. It might be possible to detect this "braiding" of field lines at 1 AU.

Structure (H) is the "spaghetti" model proposed by *McCracken and Ness* [1966] [see also *Michel*, 1967]. The main properties that distinguish this model from some of the previous ones are that "kinks" occur along a particular field line, which is braided with other non-kinked fields, and that the structures are discrete rather than continuous. If velocity perturbations in the solar wind are responsible for the kinks, one might expect all field lines in a particular region of space to be similarly distorted.

Structure (I) represents the ultimate effect of a nonuniform, radially flowing solar wind. The dyadic velocity term $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{V}$, which under a uniform flow results in the Archimedes spiral structure, now results in a "chaotic" field structure with the Archimedes spiral being obeyed weakly. The magnetic field becomes oriented in an almost isotropic distribution.

Future Work

The important physical processes occurring in the solar wind plasma need to be tabulated and quantitatively treated. Their range of validity requires further study and they need to be brought together into a coherent entity. This concerns not only the large-scale field structure but the solar wind plasma as a whole: large-scale, small-scale, individual particle motions, waves, shocks, high speed streams, and so forth.

Many of the models discussed in this paper have received a certain amount of support, but by no means has any of them been shown to be completely valid 100 percent of the time. Many of the interplanetary magnetic field structures discussed earlier need to be sought, and much imaginative work, often with multiple satellite observations, will be required to uniquely identify some of the field structures proposed (and to separate temporal effects properly).

Classifying the interplanetary field in terms of

identified field structures rather than only "toward" or "away" sectors may aid our understanding of the relationship between the field and other phenomena. The relationship of these field structures to the sun needs further study, as does the propagation of both galactic and solar cosmic rays within them. The geophysical effects of various structures may also be important. The variation of the interplanetary magnetic field needs to be more closely related to solar wind plasma parameters and to changing solar conditions. The relationship between microstructure and mesostructure within the solar wind also needs study.

The magnetic field out of the ecliptic plane obviously requires observational work. Observations closer to the sun and farther from the sun than the earth, with a spacecraft located near earth as a monitor would provide useful results. In the near future, Pioneers F and G will explore interplanetary space farther from the sun and Mariner-Venus-Mercury and Helios will explore closer to the sun than has any previous spacecraft.

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DISCUSSION *J. M. Wilcox* The question often comes up of how necessary it is to have continuing observations of the interplanetary medium. The error bars on figure 26 really represent missing days in each solar rotation. If one observes the entire 27-day rotation, then the error bar decreases to zero. If we had continuous coverage, then when these error bars dip down to zero, one would be in much better position to evaluate the proposed effect.