Space Physics

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Space Physics

IGY to IPY: Understandings of Earth's Space Environment

Important Relevance for Operations of Many Modern Technologies

Siple Station, Antarctica, to Cross Polar Cap Automatic Geophysical Observatory (AGO) Array: 1970s to Today

Science and Model Validation: Example





The Sun in ultra violet, solar minimum to near solar maximum (left to right)



Solar wind at Earth: about 10 particles per cubic cm average velocity about 400km/sec imbedded magnetic field about 0.0003 Earth's field at surface



The flare was reported by

By WILLIAM R. STEVENS

Amundsen-Scott IGY South-Pole Station 12 February 1957

(All pictures courtesy of Dr. Robert Benson, IGY South Pole winter over)

IGY South Pole Ionogram: communications research

Dr. Paul Siple Amundsen-Scott IGY South-Pole Station Leader





Very brief, incomplete, personal "history":

Move instrumentation to South Pole: magnetometers (fluxgate and induction coil), photometers, all-sky camera, VLF receivers: Early 1980s U. Maryland, Stanford, U. New Hampshire, Bell Laboratories, Tohoku U.

- Close to magnetosphere boundary at certain times of day and under certain solar/geomagnetic activity conditions South Pole conjugate site near Iqualuit, Nunavut, Canada
- Recognized importance of latitude studies and conjugate studies with comprehensive set of low power instrumentation
- Began workshops and design studies for comprehensive experimental program in Antarctica: Late 1980s onward



Global arrays of instruments provide one of the best resources for investigating the Atmosphere-Ionosphere-Magnetosphere system and validating models

Geomagnetic poles are intrinsically asymmetric against the Earth's rotation axis: shifted by ~ 9° toward central Canada in the north and ~15° in the Antarctic.

• Large asymmetries introduced in the distribution of physical quantities and characteristics in the two polar regions.

Intense scientific and practical interests to investigate both polar regions to achieve global understanding required for accurate space weather models and space environment forecasts.

Only Antarctic continent has land mass for extended geomagnetic range of investigations



Murr et al, JGR, 2002







Original AGO locations determined by:

Geomagnetic science requirements: Span auroral zone to the pole Cross magnetosphere cusp latitude Longitudinal spacing as feasible

Accessible by LC130 Hercules

Induction coil magnetometer data, acquired along the "<u>red line</u>" Left hand vertical scale: frequency in mHz





Example: Latitude dependence of space plasma waves: Only feasible in Antarctica.

Determine magnetosphere boundary: observation and model validations



Standing plasma waves (Alfvén Waves) on geomagnetic field lines. Spectral analysis of geomagnetic field fluctuations provides measurements of field line lengths and thus open and closed lines.





Comparison of experimentally-determined open field lines [green] and closed field lines [red] as measured by the presence of "Pc5" magnetic field oscillations (plasma waves to the predicted openclosed boundary by the BATSRUS (U. Michigan) model.

Pre-magnetic storm period. Model uses measured interplanetary solar wind

data at each of the event time intervals.

K. Urban et al., J. Geophys. Res., 2010

Polar Regions Geomagnetic Conjugacy Greenland and Eastern Antarctica: Global Space Environment





Greenland Magnetometer Chains West: ~40° CGM meridian (12) Eastern Antarctica Magnetometer Sites ~40° CGM meridian (6)

THUS Antarctica is a *Geospace Observatory Platform*:

Geomagnetic activity and substorms at the highest geomagnetic latitudes

Determination of dynamics of magnetosphere boundary

Dayside physical processes (such as magnetic impulse events and traveling convection vortices) that transfer energy from interplanetary medium to Earth's space environment

Auroral zone dynamics driven by solar activity

LEADING to better understanding and prediction of <u>space weather</u> processes that impact technologies on Earth and in near-Earth space, including:

 \blacktriangleright Radiation belt particle energization and loss into ionosphere

 \blacktriangleright Effects of solar particles incident on polar cap ionosphere

 \blacktriangleright Enabling kinetic and MHD modeling of physical processes

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The Future: Denser Conjugate Arrays; Close Coupling of Models and Observations; Model Validations; Space/Ground Observations and comparisons; Better Forecasts Presentation Today by Bob Melville



Wind and solar-powered Automatic Geophysical Observatory (AGO): site P1.





Determine magnetosphere boundary: observation and model validations



Residual power spectral density of fluxgate magnetometer north-south variations from P2, P3, MCM, and SPA, beginning 7 August 2008. Solar wind disturbance hits Earth's magnetosphere on the UT morning of August 9 (i.e., hour 48). Frequency components change after storm time.