

The Solar and interplanetary Causes of Geomagnetic Activity and Quiet

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Magnetic storms are composed of three distinct phases: initial, main and recovery. We will show that each of the three phases can have considerably different characteristics during solar minimum than during solar maximum. The interplanetary causes of these differences will be illustrated using several interplanetary spacecraft data. We will also illustrate that a year during the descending phase of the solar cycle had significantly greater auroral activity than a year of solar maximum. The solar and interplanetary causes of these phenomena are understood and will be discussed in depth.

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