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geomagnetic storms and
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ABSTRACT

In the work presented here we performed a statistical analysis of possible correlation between the strength of geomagnetic storms on Earth and the corresponding evolution of interplanetary magnetic field. To perform this task, we analysed the evolution of Dst index and the corresponding evolution of the interplanetary field strength between 1998 and 2012, during all major storms (defined as those with $Dst < -50$ nT) occurred in this time interval. Results show the existence of a quite strong anti-correlation (coefficient $C_{cor} = -0.61 \pm 0.06$) between the minimum values of the Dst index (Dst_{min}) attained during the storms, and the maximum values of the interplanetary magnetic field in 24h time intervals centred on the storms. Moderately strong correlations are also observed between Dst_{min} and the average interplanetary magnetic field B_{avg} ($C_{cor} = -0.55 \pm 0.14$), and between Dst_{min} and the variance of the field B_{sig} ($C_{cor} = -0.56 \pm 0.11$). On average, the maximum value of interplanetary magnetic field is reached 3.0 hours before the minimum value of Dst on Earth. A full list of considered geomagnetic storms is provided in the Appendix.

Results presented here have been obtained after a 2-months student mobility period for traineeship under ERASMUS Program.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Sun is a continuous source of plasma (mostly protons, electrons, and alpha particles) expanding in the whole interplanetary space and creating the heliosphere. This plasma is ejected in a superposition between stationary processes – leading to the solar wind flow – and sporadic processes – leading to solar eruptions (flares, erupting prominences, Coronal Mass Ejections – CMEs). The interaction between plasmas expelled from the Sun and the magnetic fields surrounding the Earth creates the magnetosphere: this is the natural shield that prevent most of the energetic particles (of solar and other origins) to penetrate the inner magnetosphere and interact with the higher layers of the Earth’s atmosphere creating (with a chain of nuclear reactions) the so-called “air showers” of particles, that could endanger any form of life living on the planet.

Nevertheless, in the most extreme cases, fluxes of Solar Energetic Particles (SEPs) being accelerated in solar flares and/or during CME early acceleration phases can penetrate the Earth’s magnetosphere resulting in dangerous populations of high-energy particles, that could endanger astronauts, spacecraft and satellites, result in enhanced particle shower, and generate ionospheric disturbances. A few days after the flare, an interplanetary shock wave and the associated Interplanetary CME may impact the Earth’s magnetosphere, generating a sequence of events that finally result in a global disturbance of the geomagnetic field, called “geomagnetic storm”. All these effects (and many other effects; see Fig. 1) are being studied over the last 20 years by many scientists working on a broad discipline called “Space Weather”.

Strengths of geomagnetic storms are measured with many different geomagnetic indices, and one of the most important ones is the so-called “Dst-index” (from “disturbance storm time”), which is mostly representative of the intensity of ring currents formed around the Earth during the storm. In quiet conditions the value of Dst is around zero (because Dst measures the deviation of the geomagnetic field from quiet conditions); then

usually the geomagnetic storm is classified as “moderate” or “intense” for Dst values being < -50 nT and < -100 nT, respectively.

Unfortunately forecasting of geomagnetic storms is at present not possible, but very important information are provided by spacecraft in orbit around the Sun-Earth Lagrangian point L1, located between the Sun and the Earth approximately at $1.5 \cdot 10^6$ km from the Earth. From this vantage point many spacecraft are monitoring in situ the interplanetary space conditions, and data acquired in L1 can be used to provide short-term alerts, considering that a solar plasma disturbance traveling at ~ 1000 km/s takes approximately 40 minutes to cover the distance between L1 and the nose of the Earth’s magnetosphere.

For all the above reasons, in this work we analysed the evolution of the interplanetary magnetic fields measured during geomagnetic storms, looking for possible correlations between different properties of the interplanetary field and the strength of the resulting storm. To search similar correlations is very important, not only to improve our understanding of physical processes responsible for the storms, but also to forecast future storms based on the interplanetary in situ data measured in L1.

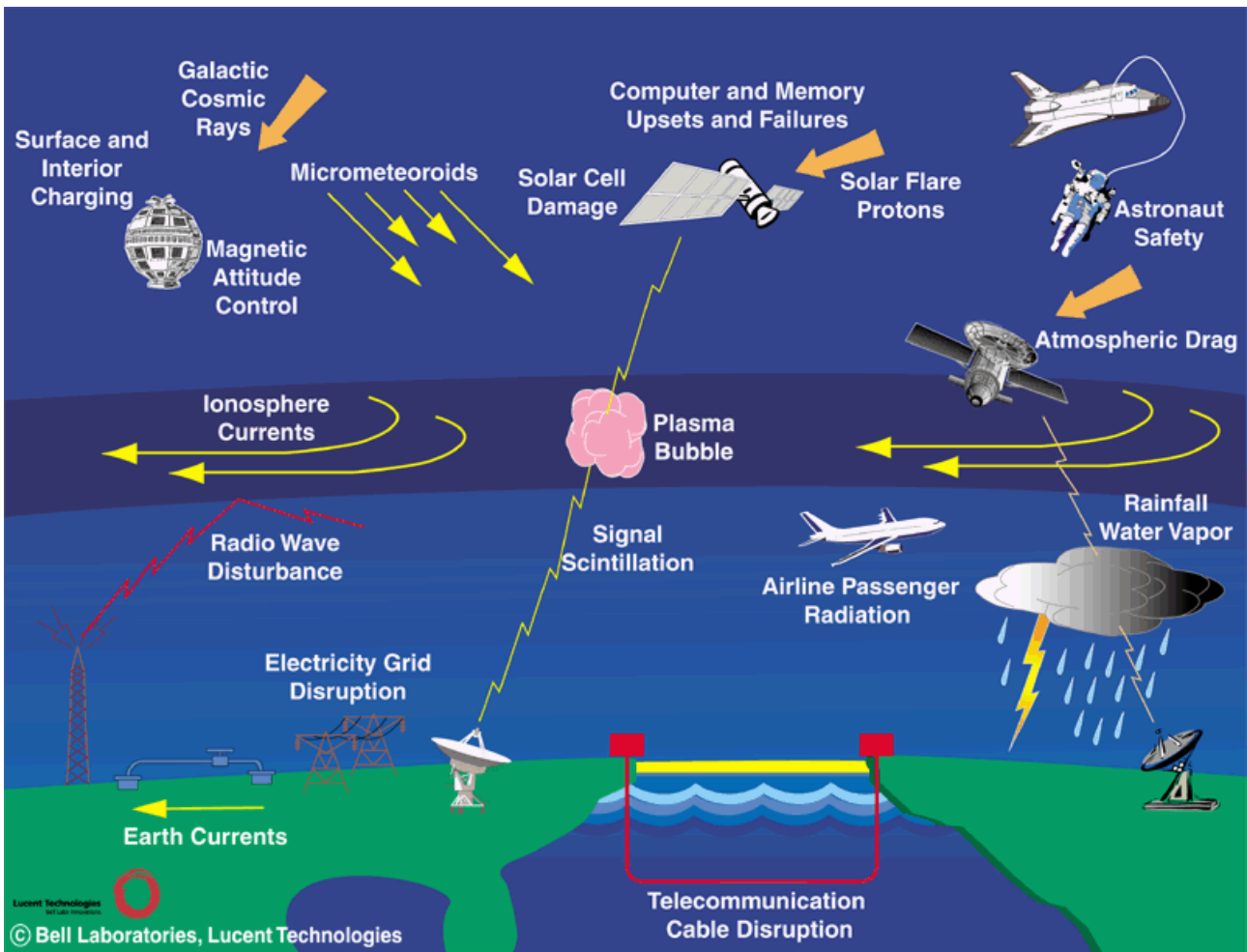


Figure 1: list of possible effects on Earth of major geomagnetic storms (Spacegrant.montana.edu/msiproject/spaceweather)

Previous authors (e.g. Kim et al., 2005; Gonzalez & Echer 2005) found for instance a quite good correlation between the maximum value of $|Dst|$ and the average value B_z of the z -component of interplanetary magnetic field (the field vector component perpendicular to the ecliptic plane), as it is shown in Fig. 2. The usual interpretation for this correlation is that when the interplanetary field has a significant component $B_z < 0$ this enhance the probability of magnetic reconnection between the interplanetary and magnetospheric fields, thus increasing the magnetospheric convection process and allowing part of the disturbed plasma to penetrate the magnetosphere. Correlations between Dst index values and CME properties have been studied as well (e.g. Kim et al. 2010).

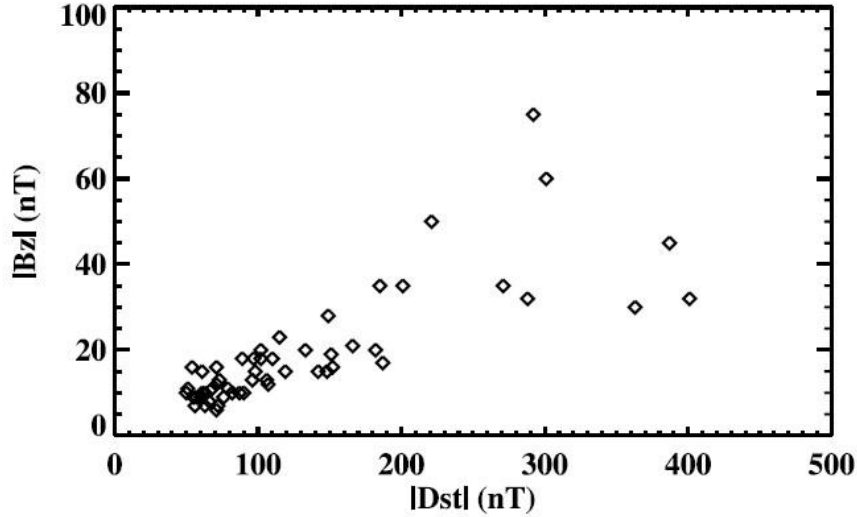


Figure 2: relationship between B_z and $|Dst|$ (from Kim et al. 2005).

Other authors (e.g. Ji et al. 2010) focused on the possible correlations between the minimum Dst value (Dst_{min}) and the so-called convection electric field, whose y -component (aligned with the dawn-to-dusk direction) is given by $E_y = V_x B_y$, where V_x is the radial component of the interplanetary plasma outflow speed.

In this work we focused on the evolution of planetary (Earth) Dst index between years 1998 and 2012 (15 years of data) by making a comparison with the evolution of interplanetary magnetic field strength measured in L1 during the storms. After a description of datasets analysed, we describe the analysis methods and provide our results and conclusions.

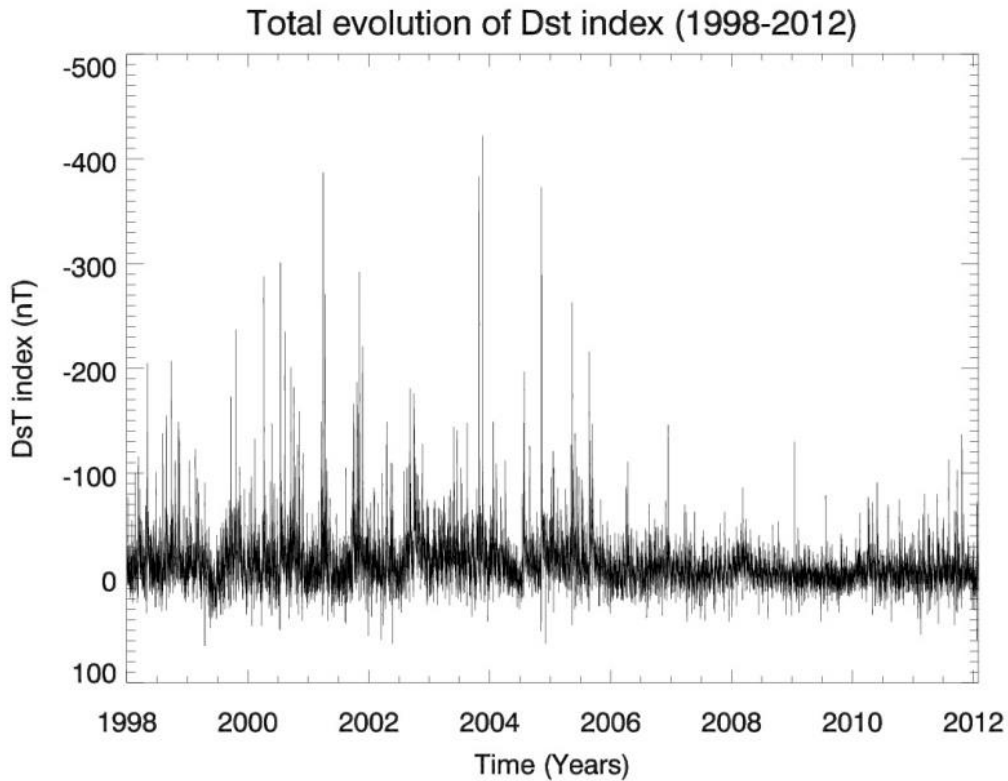


Figure 3: total evolution of Dst index values considered in the present analysis.

2. SELECTED DATA AND ANALYSIS

2.1 Evolution of the planetary Dst index

The evolution of the Dst index has been downloaded from the NOAA catalog available on-line via anonymous FTP (ftp://ftp.ngdc.noaa.gov/STP/GEOMAGNETIC_DATA/INDICES/DST/). For this analysis we downloaded the values of Dst reported for years between 1998-2008, and the quick-look preliminary files available for years 2009-2012. The Dst values (units of nT) are provided with cadence by one hour.

After data download, we first created a single data file containing all the values for the Dst index in the above period. In the input files the time is provided for each year in units of “day-of-year” (DoY), hence the first step to create a single file was to convert all the different time values for each year to the same starting day. This has been done with the IDL routine ANYTIM (distributed within *SolarSoftware*), by converting all the provided time values from units of DoYs to units of seconds starting from January 1st 1979, and then by subtracting to all the values the number of seconds corresponding to January 1st 1998. The resulting total evolution of Dst index starting from 1998 to 2012 is shown in Figure 3.

As a second step we identified all major geomagnetic storms; in particular for this work we considered as a “major storm” when during the storm $Dst < -50$ nT. With this definition we selected a total of $N_{storm} = 592$ storms that occurred between 1998 and 2012. For each storm we extracted the minimum Dst value reached during the storm (Dst_{min}), and the corresponding time (t_{min}). The list of events was provided as an output file in TXT format; full list of the considered events is provided in the APPENDIX 1 at the end of this paper, together with the corresponding values of Dst_{min} .

2.2 Evolution of the interplanetary $L1$ magnetic field

The evolution of the interplanetary magnetic field B_{L1} as measured in the Sun-Earth Lagrangian-point $L1$ by the MAG instrument on-board ACE spacecraft has been downloaded via anonymous FTP from the on-line catalog (<ftp://mussel.srl.caltech.edu/pub/ace/level2/mag/>). The MAG catalog provides the acquired data in HDF format, with time cadence by 16 seconds, one file per year; each file is about 270 MB.

After the data download, it is necessary to read all the files and to extract only the information required for this analysis, hence the values for the total interplanetary magnetic field B_{L1} ; in this first analysis we didn't consider different components of the magnetic field (B_x , B_y , B_z), but simply the total field strength. To read all the data we employed the IDL routine HDF_READ: this routine requires (with a graphical user interface – GUI) to select for each file the quantities to be exported in the IDL input arrays. Hence, in order to run the routine iteratively over all different files, it was necessary first to define a template defining the data to be extracted from the HDF files. This was done by using the HDF_BROWSER routine. Once the template file was created, this was used as an input for the HDF_READ routine to import all the HDF files, extract the selected information, and save only the extracted evolution of B_{L1} and the corresponding times (converted again as done before for the Dst evolution) in output SAV files.

2.3 Comparison between planetary Dst values and interplanetary magnetic field evolutions

Once the geomagnetic storms with $Dst < -50$ nT have been identified, for each time t_{min} we extracted the corresponding time evolution $B_{storm}(t)$ of B_{L1} over a 24h time interval centred on time t_{min} . Moreover, for reference comparison we also extracted for each storm the time evolution $B_{pre}(t)$ of B_{L1} over a 24h time interval but centred on time $t_{min} - 24h$, to have also the pre-storm evolution of B_{L1} in a 24h time interval before time t_{min} . A few examples of B_{L1} evolutions over 24h during the first 9 selected geomagnetic storms are shown in Figure 4 and Figure 5 for years 2003 and 2006, respectively. The corresponding evolutions of interplanetary field B_{L1} observed one day before each storm are shown in Figure 6 and Figure 7 for years 2003 and 2006, respectively.

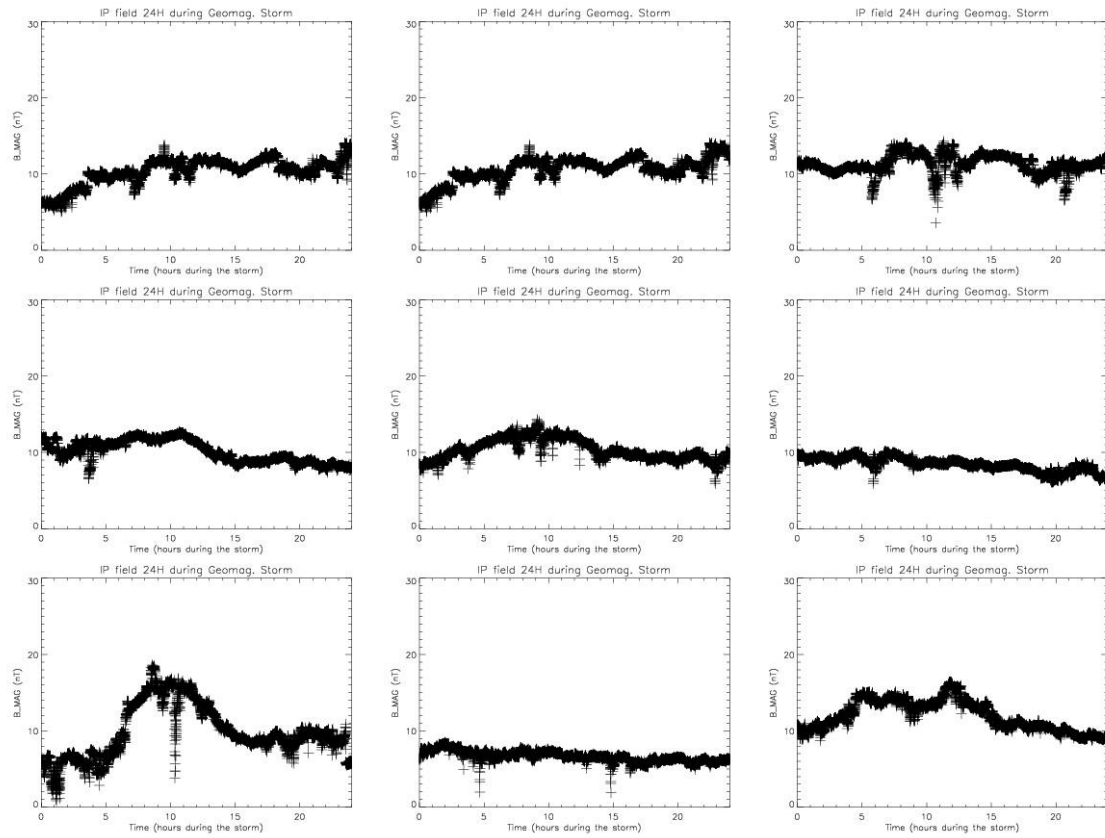


Figure 4: 24h evolution of the interplanetary magnetic field B_{L1} during the first 8 selected geomagnetic storms ($Dst < -50$ nT) that occurred in 2003.

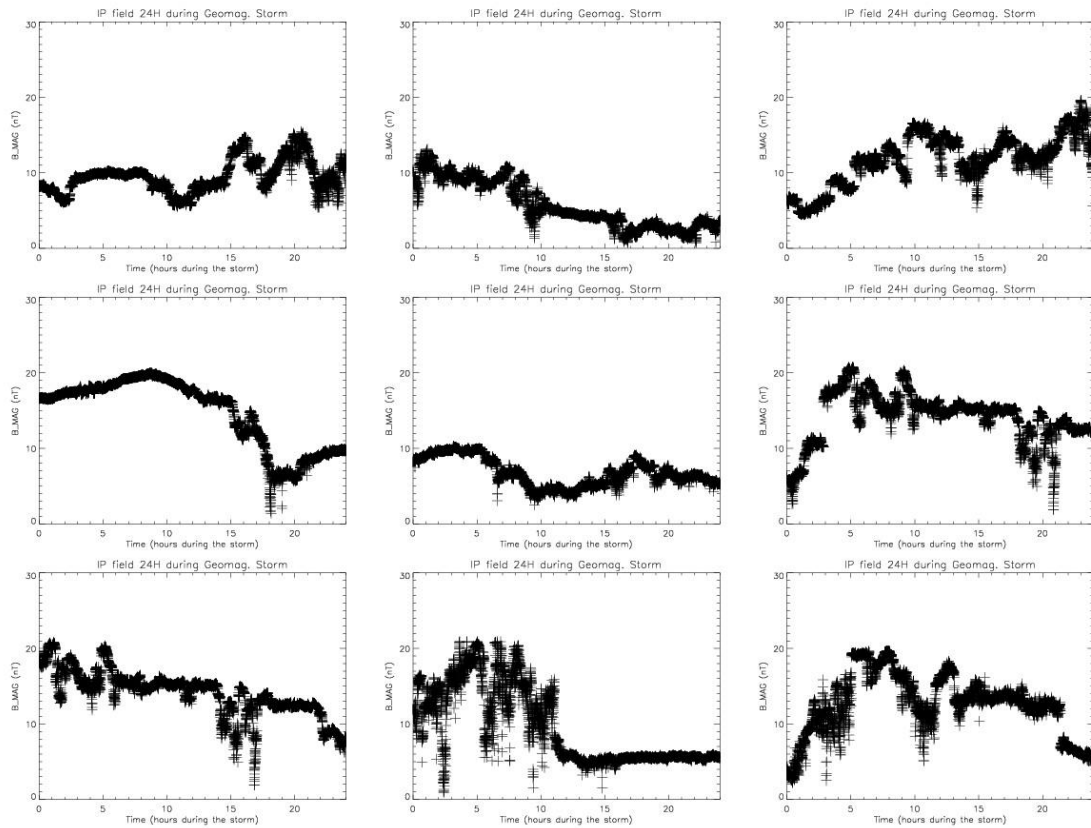


Figure 5: same as Figure 4 plotted for year 2006.

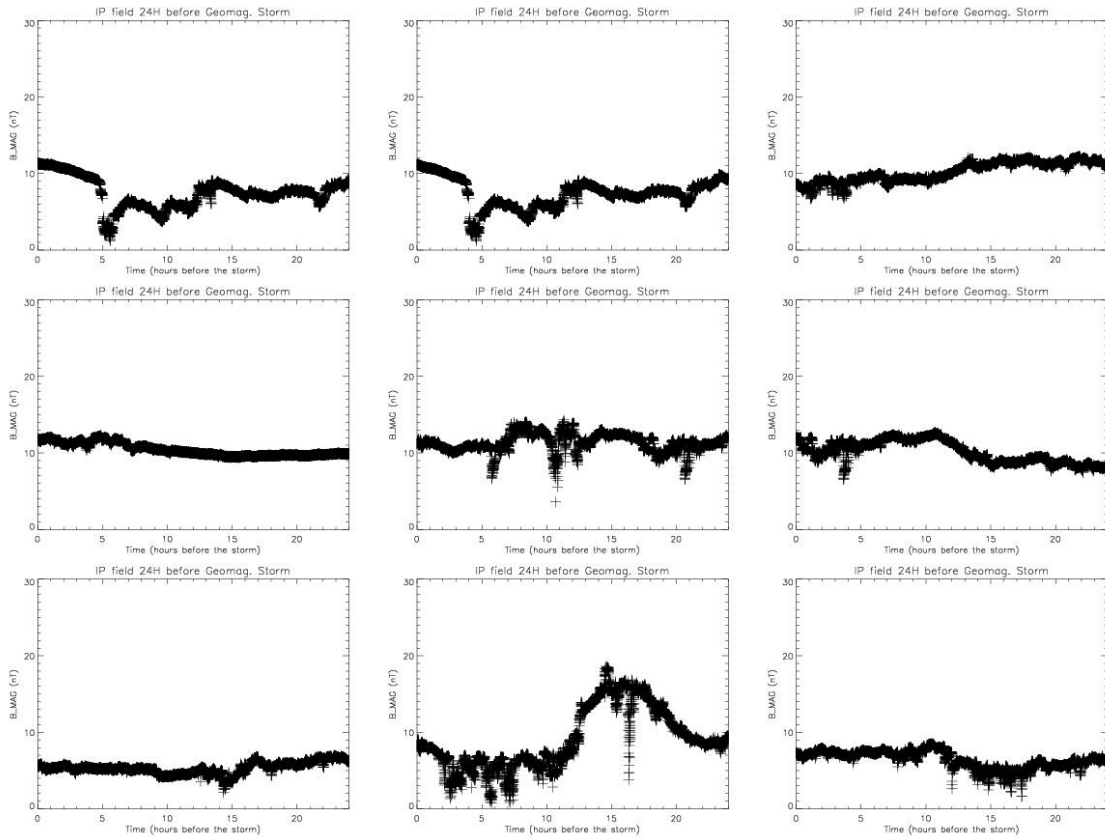


Figure 6: 24h evolution of the interplanetary magnetic field B_{11} 1 day (24h) before the first 8 selected geomagnetic storms ($Dst < -50$ nT) that occurred in 2003 and shown in Figure 4.

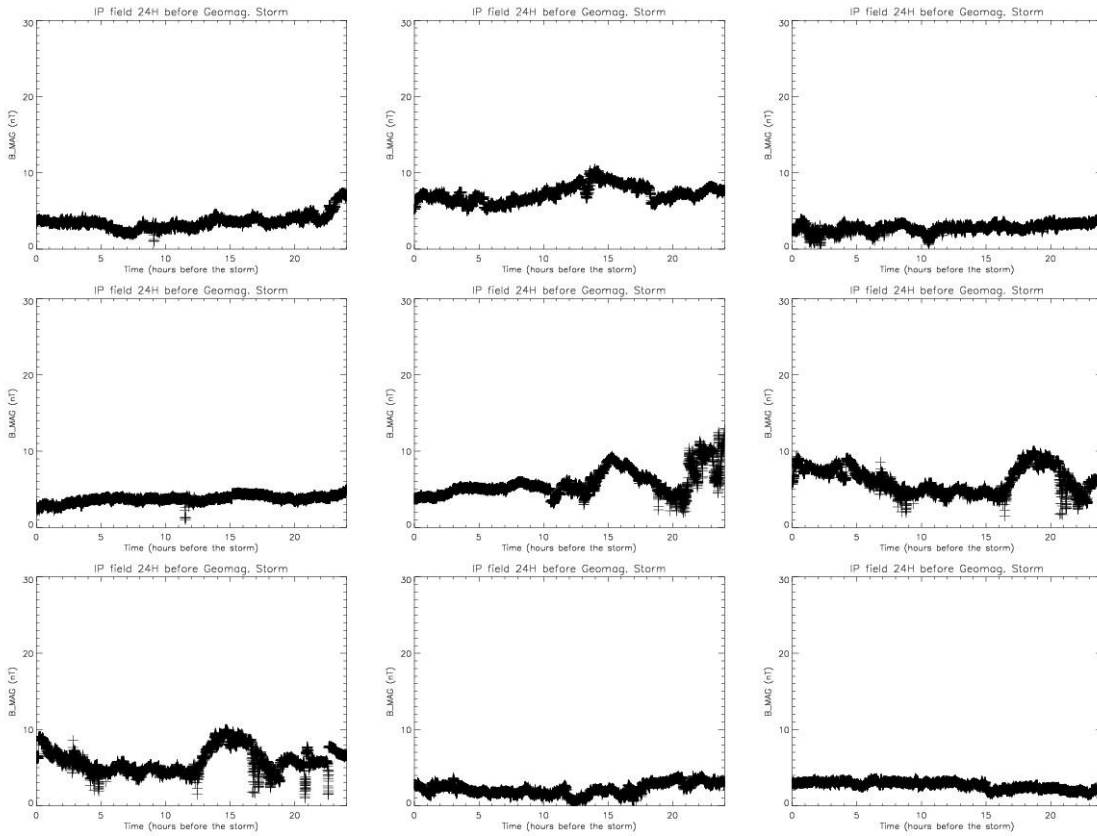


Figure 7: same as Figure 6 plotted for year 2006.

The aim of this work was to identify possible correlations between Dst_{min} and the evolution of B_{LI} . Hence, for each selected 24h time interval we extracted the following quantities characterizing the interplanetary magnetic field before and during the storms:

- Average interplanetary magnetic field B_{avg} ;
- Maximum interplanetary magnetic field B_{max} ;
- Variance of interplanetary magnetic field B_{sig} ;
- Skewness of interplanetary magnetic field B_{ske} ;

Each one of the above quantities has been determined for each geomagnetic storm and before each geomagnetic storm. The resulting values of B_{avg} , B_{max} , B_{sig} , and B_{ske} have been then correlated with the corresponding values of Dst_{min} for all the selected geomagnetic storms. This has been done year by year with the CORRELATE routine in IDL, thus providing us with a yearly sequence of correlation coefficients C_{cor} between each one of the above parameters and Dst_{min} values. For comparison, the same correlation coefficients have been computed also with the magnetic field evolution in the 24h interval one day before the storm.

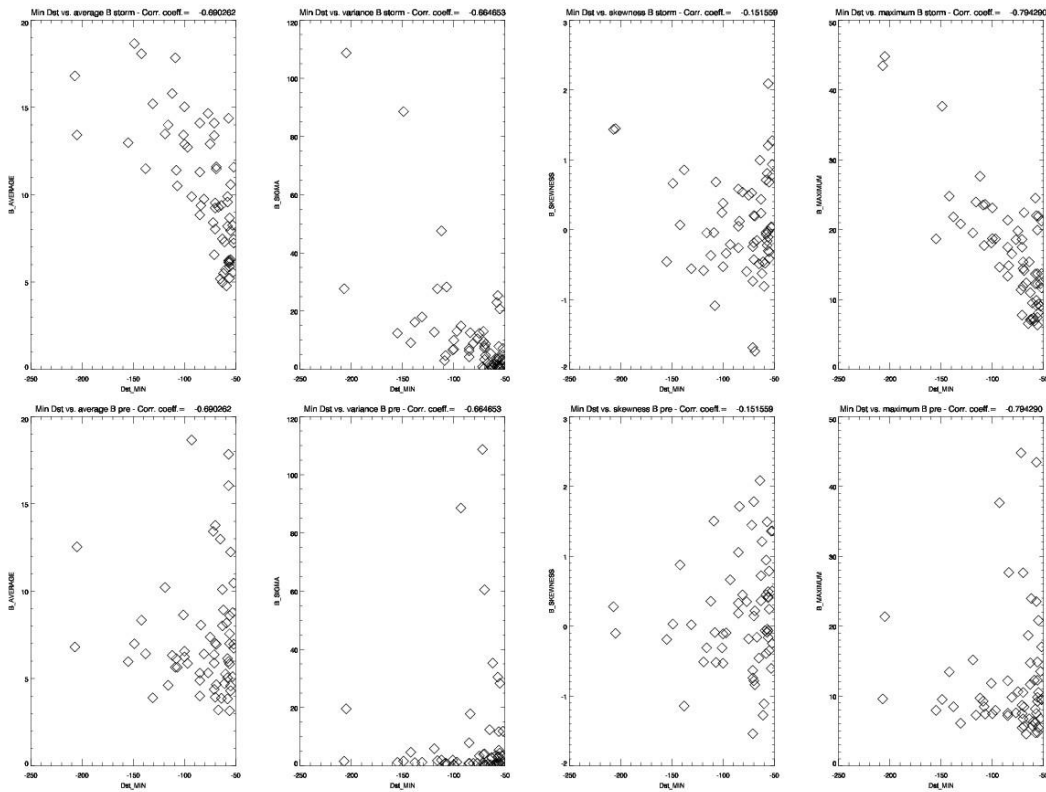


Figure 8: example of correlation plots for year 1997. The plots show the distribution of B_{avg} (first column left), B_{sig} (second column), B_{ske} (third column) and B_{max} (fourth column) as a function of corresponding Dst_{min} for all identified geomagnetic storms. Top row shows the distributions computed with magnetic field during the storm, bottom row show the distributions computed with magnetic field one day before the storm.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

An example of resulting scatter plot distributions for B_{avg} , B_{max} , B_{sig} , and B_{ske} values as a function of corresponding Dst_{min} values are shown in Figure 8 for year 1997. This Figure shows that during the storms (top row) some correlation is present between Dst_{min} and B_{avg} (left column), B_{max} (right column), and B_{sig} (middle left column), while no apparent correlation seems to exist between Dst_{min}

and B_{ske} (middle right column). Moreover, this Figure also demonstrates that (as expected) no correlation exist between Dst_{min} and all above parameters when we consider the interplanetary magnetic field evolution in a time interval one day before the storm (bottom row).

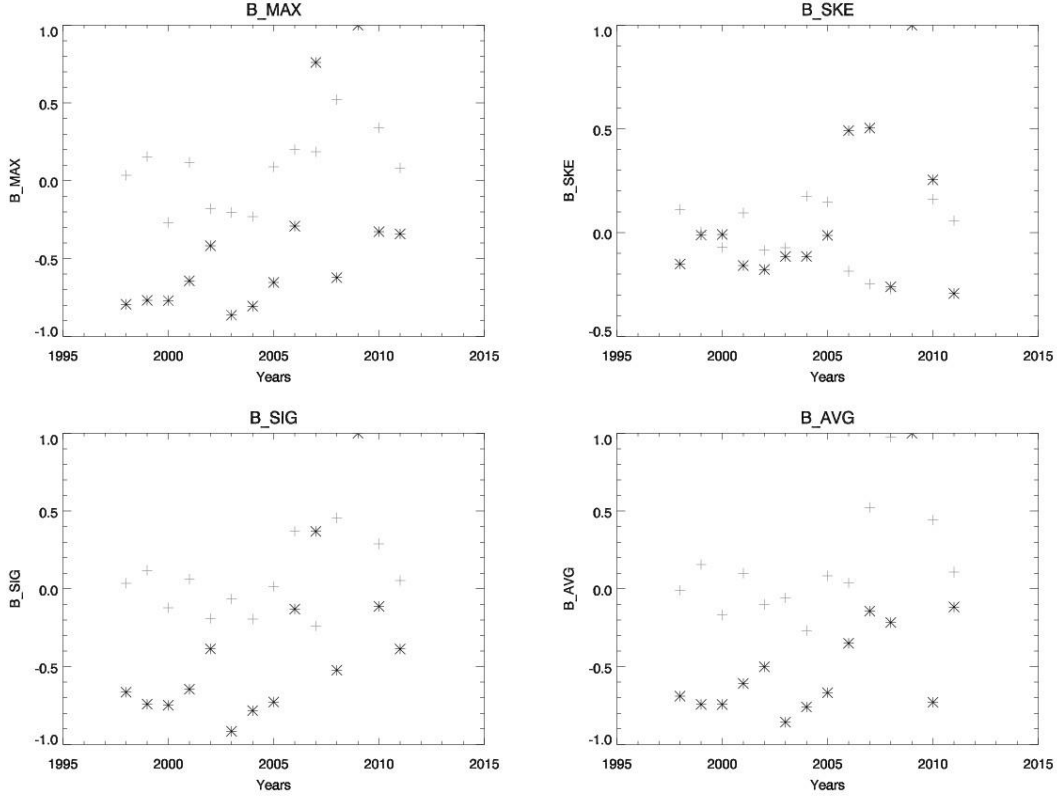


Figure 9: evolution of yearly averaged correlation between Dst_{min} and the maximum interplanetary magnetic field B_{max} (top left), its variance B_{sig} (bottom left), skewness B_{ske} (top right), and average value B_{avg} (bottom right). In each plot we show the values of correlation computed for 24h intervals during the storms (asterisk symbols) and one day before the storms (plus symbols).

By considering all years with available both Dst and B measurements, and by performing yearly averages of correlation coefficients C_{cor} measured for different storms, we obtained yearly values plotted in Figure 9 as a function of time. According to this Figure, B_{avg} , B_{max} , and B_{sig} are in general all anti-correlated with Dst_{min} , while no clear correlation is present between B_{ske} and Dst_{min} . Also, considering that the minima of solar activity cycle occurred during years 1996 and 2008, no clear trend is present as a function of time during the solar cycle.

In the end, by averaging all the yearly correlation coefficients C_{cor} as a function of time, we obtained the values listed in Table 1. Values in this Table led us to conclude that the largest correlation is observed between Dst_{min} and B_{max} , while the smaller correlation is observed between Dst_{min} and B_{ske} . Values of correlation coefficients obtained with the magnetic field measurements acquired one day before the storm have been used as an estimate of uncertainty in the correlation coefficients measured on average during the storms.

Average correlation between	During the storm	One day before the storm
Dst_{min} and B_{avg}	$C_{cor} = -0.55 \pm 0.14$	$C_{cor} = +0.14$
Dst_{min} and B_{max}	$C_{cor} = -0.61 \pm 0.06$	$C_{cor} = +0.06$
Dst_{min} and B_{sig}	$C_{cor} = -0.56 \pm 0.11$	$C_{cor} = +0.11$
Dst_{min} and B_{ske}	$C_{cor} = -0.13 \pm 0.02$	$C_{cor} = -0.02$

Table 1: summary of average correlation coefficients between Dst_{min} and different parameters of interplanetary magnetic field.

4. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

In this work we showed that a significant correlation ($C_{cor} = -0.61 \pm 0.06$) exists between the minimum values of the Dst index measured during major geomagnetic storms ($Dst < -50$ nT) and the maximum values of the interplanetary magnetic field measured in 24 hours long time intervals during the storms. Nevertheless, despite this quite good correlation, the quantity B_{max} cannot be easily used as a proxy to forecast the possible strength of the incoming geomagnetic storm.

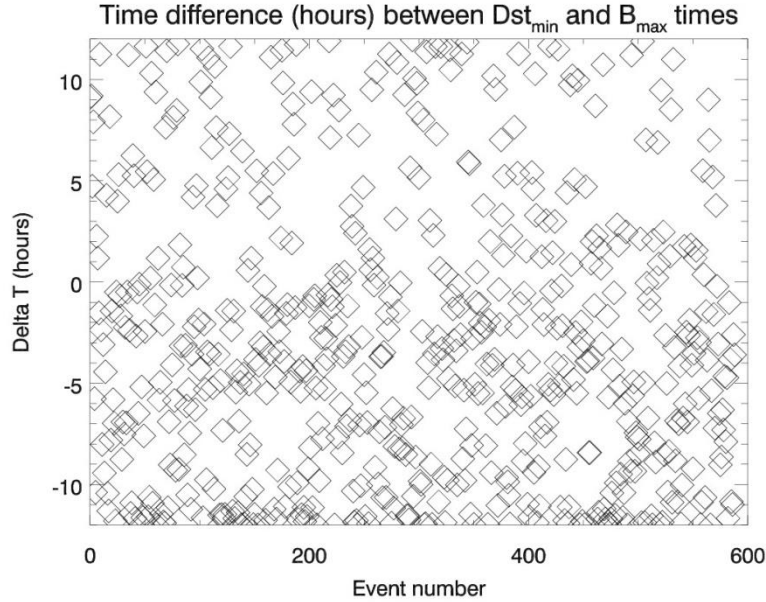


Figure 10: scatter plot of time differences (hours) between Dst_{min} and B_{max} times.

The reason for this conclusion is given in Figure 10, showing the scatter plot of time differences Δt between Dst_{min} and B_{max} times. This plot shows that the time difference distribution is quite uniform, and basically all possible cases are observed, with positive and negative values of Δt . In particular, by averaging over the almost 600 considered events we obtain an average Δt equal to $\langle \Delta t \rangle = (-3.0 \pm 6.8)$ hours, hence the maximum value of interplanetary magnetic field is reached on average 3.0 hours before the minimum value of Dst on Earth. This result is in quite good agreement for instance with Gonzalez & Echer (2005), but with a very large ($1-\sigma$) distribution by ± 6.8 hours, making any forecasting based on interplanetary B_{max} values not possible.

In a future development of this work we plan to consider not only values of total field $|B|$, but also single components of B , as well as the convection electric field which is given by $E_y = V_x B_y$.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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 Ji, E.-Y., Moon, Y.-J., Kim, K.-H., & Lee, D.-H. 2010, JGR, 115, A10232
 Kim, R.-S., Cho, K.-S., Moon, Y.-J., et al. 2005, JGR, 110, A11104
 Kim, R.-S., K.-S. Cho, Y.-J. Moon, et al. 2010, JGR, 115, A12108

APPENDIX 1: list of selected major geomagnetic storms ($Dst_{min} < -50$) and Dst_{min} values.

Day (UT)	Hour (UT)	Dst_{min} (nT)
98/01/07	02:00:00.014	-77
98/01/30	11:00:00.055	-55
98/02/17	19:00:00.110	-100
98/02/18	00:00:00.000	-100
98/03/10	15:59:59.780	-116
98/03/11	00:00:00.000	-107
98/03/12	00:00:00.000	-62
98/03/15	03:59:59.780	-71
98/03/21	14:00:00.220	-85
98/03/25	15:00:00.000	-56
98/03/29	18:59:59.780	-56
98/04/24	05:00:00.220	-69
98/04/26	15:00:00.000	-63
98/05/02	11:00:00.220	-85
98/05/03	03:00:00.000	-70
98/05/04	00:00:00.000	-205
98/05/05	00:00:00.000	-119
98/05/06	00:00:00.000	-72
98/05/07	08:00:00.220	-52
98/05/08	18:59:59.780	-56
98/05/09	18:00:00.000	-63
98/06/14	09:00:00.000	-67
98/06/26	01:59:59.561	-101
98/07/16	15:00:00.000	-58
98/08/06	07:59:59.561	-138
98/08/07	00:00:00.000	-108
98/08/20	16:59:59.561	-71
98/08/26	22:59:59.561	-97
98/08/27	00:00:00.000	-155
98/08/28	00:00:00.000	-84
98/08/29	00:00:00.000	-65
98/08/30	01:59:59.561	-56
98/08/31	10:00:00.439	-60
98/09/01	16:00:00.439	-55
98/09/18	12:59:59.121	-52
98/09/24	06:00:00.000	-85
98/09/25	02:00:00.879	-207
98/09/26	00:00:00.000	-75
98/09/27	00:00:00.000	-57
98/09/30	23:00:00.879	-53
98/10/01	00:00:00.000	-58
98/10/02	18:59:59.121	-56
98/10/03	02:00:00.879	-59
98/10/07	18:00:00.000	-70
98/10/08	00:00:00.000	-64

98/10/19	03:59:59.121	-112
98/10/20	00:00:00.000	-71
98/10/21	00:00:00.000	-70
98/10/22	17:00:00.879	-53
98/10/24	00:00:00.000	-52
98/11/06	06:59:59.121	-61
98/11/07	12:59:59.121	-81
98/11/08	00:00:00.000	-149
98/11/09	05:00:00.879	-142
98/11/10	00:00:00.000	-93
98/11/13	06:00:00.000	-131
98/11/14	00:00:00.000	-109
98/11/15	00:00:00.000	-55
98/11/16	00:00:00.000	-57
98/12/11	06:59:59.121	-69
98/12/25	09:59:59.121	-57
98/12/29	09:59:59.121	-58
99/01/13	17:00:00.879	-112
99/01/14	00:00:00.000	-101
99/01/15	03:59:59.121	-56
99/01/23	21:59:59.121	-55
99/02/18	05:00:00.879	-123
99/02/19	00:00:00.000	-106
99/02/20	00:00:00.000	-58
99/02/28	21:00:00.000	-94
99/03/01	00:00:00.000	-95
99/03/02	00:00:00.000	-80
99/03/04	23:00:00.879	-54
99/03/07	06:00:00.000	-57
99/03/10	03:00:00.000	-81
99/03/29	14:00:00.879	-56
99/04/17	00:59:59.121	-91
99/07/31	01:00:01.758	-53
99/08/20	12:00:00.000	-56
99/08/22	22:59:58.242	-66
99/08/23	00:00:00.000	-66
99/08/24	01:59:58.242	-55
99/09/12	19:00:01.758	-61
99/09/13	00:00:00.000	-74
99/09/14	03:00:00.000	-65
99/09/15	09:00:00.000	-55
99/09/16	04:59:58.242	-67
99/09/22	21:00:00.000	-173
99/09/23	00:00:00.000	-155
99/09/27	15:00:00.000	-64
99/09/30	01:59:58.242	-62
99/10/10	13:59:58.242	-67
99/10/11	07:00:01.758	-52

99/10/12	04:59:58.242	-60
99/10/13	00:00:00.000	-61
99/10/15	01:00:01.758	-67
99/10/17	12:00:00.000	-77
99/10/22	01:00:01.758	-237
99/10/23	00:00:00.000	-76
99/10/24	00:00:00.000	-71
99/10/25	00:00:00.000	-54
99/10/27	07:59:58.242	-61
99/10/28	00:00:00.000	-66
99/10/29	00:00:00.000	-59
99/11/07	12:00:00.000	-67
99/11/08	00:00:00.000	-73
99/11/09	04:00:01.758	-57
99/11/11	06:00:00.000	-55
99/11/13	00:00:00.000	-106
99/11/14	00:00:00.000	-87
99/11/16	12:00:00.000	-79
99/12/13	07:00:01.758	-85
00/01/11	19:00:01.758	-81
00/01/12	00:00:00.000	-72
00/01/22	21:00:00.000	-97
00/01/23	00:00:00.000	-97
00/01/24	09:00:00.000	-60
00/02/12	03:00:00.000	-133
00/02/13	00:00:00.000	-61
00/02/14	12:00:00.000	-67
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00/04/05	00:00:00.000	-63
00/04/06	18:00:00.000	-288
00/04/07	00:00:00.000	-288
00/04/08	00:00:00.000	-87
00/04/10	01:00:01.758	-66
00/04/16	01:59:58.242	-79
00/04/24	13:00:01.758	-63
00/05/17	01:59:58.242	-106
00/05/24	03:00:00.000	-147
00/05/25	00:00:00.000	-73
00/05/29	21:00:00.000	-70
00/06/08	16:59:58.242	-90
00/06/09	00:00:00.000	-57
00/06/10	07:00:01.758	-53
00/06/26	10:59:58.242	-76
00/06/27	00:00:00.000	-57
00/07/15	13:00:01.758	-301
00/07/16	00:00:00.000	-301

00/07/17	00:00:00.000	-114
00/07/20	03:00:00.000	-93
00/07/21	00:00:00.000	-60
00/07/22	15:00:00.000	-63
00/07/23	21:00:00.000	-68
00/07/24	00:00:00.000	-55
00/07/28	07:59:58.242	-58
00/07/29	10:00:01.758	-71
00/08/06	04:00:01.758	-62
00/08/10	22:00:01.758	-68
00/08/11	00:00:00.000	-106
00/08/12	03:00:00.000	-235
00/08/13	00:00:00.000	-85
00/08/29	06:00:00.000	-60
00/09/02	10:00:01.758	-57
00/09/12	15:00:00.000	-73
00/09/16	22:00:01.758	-68
00/09/17	00:00:00.000	-201
00/09/18	00:00:00.000	-193
00/09/19	00:00:00.000	-77
00/09/20	00:00:00.000	-56
00/09/26	01:59:58.242	-63
00/09/30	07:00:01.758	-76
00/10/01	00:00:00.000	-57
00/10/03	03:00:00.000	-79
00/10/04	07:59:58.242	-143
00/10/05	00:00:00.000	-182
00/10/06	00:00:00.000	-104
00/10/13	04:00:01.758	-71
00/10/14	00:00:00.000	-107
00/10/23	06:59:56.484	-53
00/10/28	23:00:03.516	-99
00/10/29	00:00:00.000	-127
00/10/30	00:00:00.000	-81
00/11/06	15:00:00.000	-159
00/11/07	00:00:00.000	-152
00/11/10	09:59:56.484	-96
00/11/11	00:00:00.000	-66
00/11/27	00:00:00.000	-80
00/11/28	06:59:56.484	-73
00/11/29	00:00:00.000	-119
00/11/30	02:00:03.516	-60
00/12/23	03:00:00.000	-62
01/01/24	15:00:00.000	-61
01/03/04	23:00:03.516	-71
01/03/05	00:00:00.000	-73
01/03/19	17:00:03.516	-105
01/03/20	00:00:00.000	-149

01/03/21	00:00:00.000	-83
01/03/23	03:00:00.000	-75
01/03/27	23:00:03.516	-51
01/03/28	00:00:00.000	-87
01/03/29	00:00:00.000	-156
01/03/31	05:00:03.516	-387
01/04/01	00:00:00.000	-228
01/04/02	00:00:00.000	-101
01/04/08	15:00:00.000	-59
01/04/09	00:00:00.000	-63
01/04/10	00:00:00.000	-84
01/04/11	17:00:03.516	-271
01/04/12	00:00:00.000	-236
01/04/13	00:00:00.000	-77
01/04/14	00:00:00.000	-94
01/04/18	03:59:56.484	-114
01/04/19	00:00:00.000	-78
01/04/22	12:00:00.000	-102
01/04/23	00:00:00.000	-83
01/05/09	02:00:03.516	-73
01/05/10	00:00:00.000	-76
01/06/18	06:59:56.484	-61
01/08/17	18:59:56.484	-105
01/08/18	00:00:00.000	-68
01/09/13	06:00:00.000	-57
01/09/23	15:00:00.000	-73
01/09/25	23:00:03.516	-70
01/09/26	00:00:00.000	-102
01/09/27	17:00:03.516	-52
01/09/29	11:00:03.516	-56
01/09/30	15:59:56.484	-66
01/10/01	00:00:00.000	-148
01/10/02	00:00:00.000	-104
01/10/03	00:00:00.000	-166
01/10/04	00:00:00.000	-94
01/10/09	14:00:03.516	-70
01/10/11	18:59:56.484	-70
01/10/12	03:00:00.000	-71
01/10/19	18:00:00.000	-93
01/10/21	18:00:00.000	-187
01/10/22	00:00:00.000	-177
01/10/23	00:00:00.000	-165
01/10/24	00:00:00.000	-72
01/10/28	03:59:56.484	-157
01/10/29	00:00:00.000	-83
01/10/30	02:00:03.516	-60
01/10/31	21:59:56.484	-81
01/11/01	00:00:00.000	-106

01/11/02	00:00:00.000	-55
01/11/05	23:00:03.516	-73
01/11/06	00:00:00.000	-292
01/11/07	00:00:00.000	-165
01/11/08	00:00:00.000	-91
01/11/24	06:59:56.484	-221
01/11/25	00:00:00.000	-145
01/11/26	00:00:00.000	-86
01/11/27	00:59:56.484	-55
01/12/21	21:00:00.000	-67
01/12/22	00:00:00.000	-59
01/12/24	09:00:00.000	-58
01/12/30	05:00:03.516	-58
02/01/10	21:00:00.000	-57
02/01/11	03:59:56.484	-72
02/02/02	05:00:03.516	-86
02/02/05	18:59:56.484	-82
02/02/06	00:00:00.000	-73
02/02/28	23:00:03.516	-65
02/03/01	00:00:00.000	-71
02/03/24	03:00:00.000	-100
02/03/25	00:00:00.000	-66
02/04/17	15:00:00.000	-98
02/04/18	00:00:00.000	-127
02/04/19	00:00:00.000	-126
02/04/20	00:00:00.000	-149
02/04/21	00:00:00.000	-74
02/04/22	02:00:03.516	-56
02/04/23	08:00:03.516	-64
02/05/11	15:00:00.000	-110
02/05/12	00:00:00.000	-97
02/05/14	03:59:56.484	-65
02/05/15	00:00:00.000	-65
02/05/19	06:00:00.000	-63
02/05/23	12:59:56.484	-109
02/05/24	00:00:00.000	-82
02/05/27	08:00:03.516	-64
02/08/01	12:59:56.484	-51
02/08/02	00:59:56.484	-102
02/08/03	00:59:56.484	-58
02/08/04	05:00:03.516	-58
02/08/19	06:00:00.000	-71
02/08/20	00:00:00.000	-91
02/08/21	00:00:00.000	-106
02/08/22	03:00:00.000	-55
02/09/04	03:00:00.000	-109
02/09/05	00:00:00.000	-79
02/09/07	17:00:03.516	-181

02/09/08	00:00:00.000	-181
02/09/09	00:00:00.000	-71
02/09/10	00:00:00.000	-82
02/09/11	00:00:00.000	-90
02/09/12	00:00:00.000	-80
02/09/13	05:00:03.516	-58
02/10/01	09:00:00.000	-176
02/10/02	00:00:00.000	-160
02/10/03	00:00:00.000	-125
02/10/04	00:00:00.000	-146
02/10/05	00:00:00.000	-102
02/10/06	00:00:00.000	-72
02/10/07	00:00:00.000	-115
02/10/08	00:00:00.000	-108
02/10/09	00:00:00.000	-72
02/10/10	00:00:00.000	-74
02/10/14	09:00:00.000	-100
02/10/15	00:00:00.000	-70
02/10/16	00:00:00.000	-63
02/10/17	00:00:00.000	-62
02/10/24	03:00:00.000	-98
02/10/25	00:00:00.000	-91
02/10/26	00:00:00.000	-62
02/10/27	08:00:03.516	-65
02/10/28	00:00:00.000	-63
02/10/31	06:00:00.000	-52
02/11/02	12:00:00.000	-65
02/11/03	00:00:00.000	-75
02/11/04	00:00:00.000	-69
02/11/05	03:00:00.000	-60
02/11/06	17:00:03.516	-53
02/11/18	20:00:03.516	-52
02/11/20	18:00:00.000	-87
02/11/21	03:59:56.484	-128
02/11/22	00:00:00.000	-67
02/11/23	00:00:00.000	-65
02/11/24	14:00:03.516	-56
02/11/25	08:00:03.516	-60
02/11/27	02:00:03.516	-64
02/12/19	15:00:00.000	-72
02/12/20	00:00:00.000	-64
02/12/21	00:00:00.000	-75
02/12/23	08:00:03.516	-68
02/12/27	03:59:56.484	-68
03/01/29	23:00:03.516	-66
03/01/30	00:00:00.000	-66
03/02/02	06:59:56.484	-72
03/02/03	00:00:00.000	-59

03/02/04	06:59:56.484	-74
03/02/05	00:00:00.000	-60
03/02/27	02:00:03.516	-66
03/02/28	20:00:03.516	-55
03/03/03	23:00:03.516	-67
03/03/04	00:00:00.000	-67
03/03/16	18:59:56.484	-60
03/03/17	05:00:03.516	-54
03/03/18	00:59:56.484	-55
03/03/20	18:00:00.000	-64
03/03/27	15:59:56.484	-56
03/03/28	23:00:03.516	-58
03/03/29	02:00:03.516	-70
03/03/30	00:00:00.000	-76
03/03/31	00:00:00.000	-78
03/04/01	00:00:00.000	-68
03/04/02	08:00:03.516	-53
03/04/04	14:00:03.516	-62
03/04/05	00:00:00.000	-58
03/04/24	20:00:03.516	-53
03/04/25	21:59:56.484	-53
03/04/29	18:00:00.000	-57
03/04/30	00:00:00.000	-78
03/05/01	00:00:00.000	-78
03/05/10	02:00:03.516	-84
03/05/21	21:00:00.000	-62
03/05/22	00:00:00.000	-73
03/05/29	18:00:00.000	-144
03/05/30	00:00:00.000	-135
03/05/31	00:00:00.000	-82
03/06/02	06:59:56.484	-91
03/06/16	15:00:00.000	-68
03/06/17	00:00:00.000	-81
03/06/18	05:00:03.516	-141
03/06/19	00:00:00.000	-61
03/06/24	12:00:00.000	-55
03/07/11	09:59:56.484	-71
03/07/12	00:00:00.000	-105
03/07/16	09:00:00.000	-90
03/07/17	00:59:56.484	-57
03/07/27	06:59:56.484	-57
03/07/29	23:00:03.516	-58
03/08/06	02:00:03.516	-61
03/08/07	21:00:00.000	-61
03/08/17	22:00:07.031	-63
03/08/18	00:00:00.000	-148
03/08/19	00:00:00.000	-116
03/08/21	06:00:00.000	-68

03/08/22	00:00:00.000	-60
03/08/23	13:59:52.969	-52
03/09/17	06:00:00.000	-65
03/09/18	00:00:00.000	-54
03/09/19	06:00:00.000	-59
03/09/24	07:00:07.031	-59
03/09/25	06:00:00.000	-52
03/10/14	10:59:52.969	-85
03/10/15	00:00:00.000	-77
03/10/16	01:59:52.969	-51
03/10/17	04:59:52.969	-54
03/10/19	18:00:00.000	-57
03/10/20	21:00:00.000	-57
03/10/21	01:59:52.969	-60
03/10/22	03:00:00.000	-61
03/10/27	04:00:07.031	-105
03/10/29	07:00:07.031	-353
03/10/30	00:00:00.000	-383
03/10/31	00:00:00.000	-307
03/11/01	00:00:00.000	-69
03/11/04	10:00:07.031	-69
03/11/11	12:00:00.000	-62
03/11/13	16:59:52.969	-59
03/11/14	00:00:00.000	-68
03/11/20	10:00:07.031	-422
03/11/21	00:00:00.000	-309
03/11/22	00:00:00.000	-87
03/11/23	00:00:00.000	-79
03/12/06	03:00:00.000	-55
03/12/08	21:00:00.000	-54
03/12/09	00:00:00.000	-53
03/12/10	19:00:07.031	-63
04/01/07	06:00:00.000	-69
04/01/10	07:59:52.969	-60
04/01/15	16:00:07.031	-63
04/01/22	10:59:52.969	-149
04/01/23	00:00:00.000	-89
04/01/24	00:00:00.000	-60
04/01/25	00:00:00.000	-86
04/01/26	00:00:00.000	-63
04/01/27	00:00:00.000	-65
04/02/11	13:59:52.969	-109
04/02/12	07:00:07.031	-56
04/02/15	10:00:07.031	-53
04/03/09	16:59:52.969	-71
04/03/10	00:00:00.000	-77
04/03/11	16:59:52.969	-64
04/03/12	00:00:00.000	-54

04/04/03	16:59:52.969	-112
04/04/04	00:00:00.000	-112
04/04/05	18:00:00.000	-81
04/04/06	00:00:00.000	-65
04/07/17	01:00:07.031	-80
04/07/22	22:00:07.031	-89
04/07/23	00:00:00.000	-101
04/07/25	00:00:00.000	-148
04/07/26	00:00:00.000	-94
04/07/27	00:00:00.000	-197
04/07/28	00:00:00.000	-98
04/07/29	00:00:00.000	-76
04/07/30	00:00:00.000	-60
04/08/09	21:00:00.000	-55
04/08/30	09:00:00.000	-126
04/08/31	00:00:00.000	-99
04/10/13	07:00:07.031	-90
04/11/07	21:00:00.000	-192
04/11/08	00:00:00.000	-373
04/11/09	00:00:00.000	-223
04/11/10	00:00:00.000	-289
04/11/11	00:00:00.000	-115
04/11/12	00:00:00.000	-109
04/11/13	00:00:00.000	-75
04/11/14	00:00:00.000	-66
04/11/17	10:00:07.031	-59
04/11/20	12:00:00.000	-60
04/11/21	13:59:52.969	-60
04/11/25	03:00:00.000	-63
04/11/26	06:00:00.000	-55
04/11/27	07:00:07.031	-59
04/11/28	04:59:52.969	-61
04/12/06	12:00:00.000	-58
04/12/07	01:59:52.969	-52
04/12/13	01:00:07.031	-61
04/12/29	04:00:07.031	-57
05/01/01	19:00:07.031	-57
05/01/02	09:00:00.000	-56
05/01/03	13:00:07.031	-59
05/01/07	22:59:52.969	-79
05/01/08	00:00:00.000	-96
05/01/12	07:00:07.031	-64
05/01/17	01:59:52.969	-74
05/01/18	00:00:00.000	-121
05/01/19	00:00:00.000	-93
05/01/20	00:00:00.000	-59
05/01/21	19:59:52.969	-99
05/01/22	00:00:00.000	-105

05/01/23	00:00:00.000	-62
05/02/07	21:00:00.000	-62
05/02/08	00:00:00.000	-55
05/02/16	16:59:52.969	-80
05/02/18	01:00:07.031	-86
05/03/06	15:00:00.000	-65
05/03/07	00:00:00.000	-62
05/03/08	06:00:00.000	-59
05/04/04	22:59:52.969	-55
05/04/05	00:00:00.000	-85
05/04/12	00:00:00.000	-70
05/04/13	04:59:52.969	-71
05/05/08	01:00:07.031	-127
05/05/09	00:00:00.000	-75
05/05/10	00:00:00.000	-63
05/05/13	06:00:00.000	-77
05/05/15	06:00:00.000	-263
05/05/16	00:00:00.000	-116
05/05/17	00:00:00.000	-97
05/05/18	00:00:00.000	-70
05/05/19	10:59:52.969	-67
05/05/20	06:00:00.000	-103
05/05/21	00:00:00.000	-72
05/05/22	04:59:52.969	-59
05/05/30	07:00:07.031	-138
05/05/31	00:00:00.000	-88
05/06/12	19:00:07.031	-106
05/06/13	00:00:00.000	-106
05/06/15	12:00:00.000	-55
05/06/23	07:00:07.031	-97
05/06/24	01:00:07.031	-54
05/07/09	15:00:00.000	-60
05/07/10	12:00:00.000	-94
05/07/11	00:00:00.000	-74
05/07/12	01:00:07.031	-85
05/07/13	10:00:07.031	-63
05/07/18	03:00:00.000	-76
05/08/10	10:00:07.031	-180
05/08/24	10:00:07.031	-216
05/08/25	00:00:00.000	-109
05/08/26	01:59:52.969	-73
05/08/31	13:59:52.969	-131
05/09/01	00:00:00.000	-87
05/09/03	01:59:52.969	-68
05/09/04	04:00:07.031	-76
05/09/10	18:00:00.000	-70
05/09/11	00:00:00.000	-147
05/09/12	00:00:00.000	-90

05/09/13	00:00:00.000	-95
05/09/14	00:00:00.000	-78
05/09/15	13:00:07.031	-86
05/09/16	00:00:00.000	-66
05/09/18	10:59:52.969	-52
05/10/31	15:00:00.000	-75
05/11/01	00:00:00.000	-53
05/11/13	15:00:00.000	-54
05/12/11	10:00:07.031	-54
06/04/05	06:00:00.000	-87
06/04/06	04:59:52.969	-76
06/04/09	06:00:00.000	-80
06/04/14	04:59:52.969	-111
06/04/15	01:59:52.969	-60
06/08/19	19:59:52.969	-71
06/08/20	00:00:00.000	-69
06/09/24	07:00:07.031	-56
06/11/10	01:00:07.031	-56
06/11/30	07:00:07.031	-110
06/12/15	00:00:00.000	-146
06/12/16	00:00:00.000	-56
07/03/24	06:00:00.000	-70
07/04/01	07:00:07.031	-63
07/05/23	12:00:00.000	-63
07/10/25	21:00:00.000	-57
07/11/20	13:59:52.969	-63
08/02/28	22:00:07.031	-57
08/03/09	04:00:07.031	-86
08/03/27	21:00:00.000	-56
08/09/04	04:00:07.031	-54
08/10/11	10:59:52.969	-130
09/01/14	00:00:00.000	-130
09/07/22	03:59:45.938	-79
10/02/15	21:00:00.000	-62
10/02/16	00:00:00.000	-56
10/04/05	15:00:00.000	-63
10/04/06	00:00:00.000	-77
10/04/07	00:00:00.000	-60
10/04/12	00:00:00.000	-66
10/05/02	12:59:45.938	-72
10/05/03	00:00:00.000	-60
10/05/29	06:00:00.000	-91
10/05/30	20:00:14.063	-59
10/08/03	21:59:45.938	-69
10/08/04	00:00:00.000	-70
10/08/05	00:00:00.000	-66
10/10/11	15:00:00.000	-75
10/10/26	11:00:14.063	-56

11/02/04	21:00:00.000	-61
11/03/01	14:00:14.063	-61
11/03/10	21:00:00.000	-56
11/03/11	00:59:45.938	-80
11/03/12	00:00:00.000	-59
11/04/06	17:00:14.063	-73
11/05/28	09:59:45.938	-80
11/05/29	06:00:00.000	-54
11/07/04	23:00:14.063	-57
11/07/05	00:00:00.000	-92
11/08/06	00:00:00.000	-113
11/08/07	03:00:00.000	-60
11/09/09	17:00:14.063	-60
11/09/10	00:00:00.000	-64
11/09/17	15:00:00.000	-73
11/09/26	17:00:14.063	-103
11/09/27	00:00:00.000	-90
11/09/28	06:00:00.000	-66
11/10/24	23:00:14.063	-110

Table 2: list of selected major geomagnetic storms ($Dst_{min} < -50$ nT) between 1998-2012, and corresponding minimum values of the Dst index (nT) reached during the storm.