COROTATING INTERACTION REGIONS CORONAL MASS EJECTIONS AND ENERGETIC PARTICLES







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Corotating Interaction Region - CIR



Objective (1)

- Study the effects of solar activity from a near-ecliptic vantage point ~5 AU from the Sun, CME-CIR interaction and the beginning of formation of GMIRs
- We present energetic particle measurements in the 1-20 MeV/n range by the COSPIN/LET instrument focusing in particular on the origin of the complex particle increases observed at the location of the spacecraft
- Composition analysis can provide useful clues in this regard, allowing distinction between particles accelerated in transient events associated with CMEs (i.e. SEPs) and particles accelerated at SIRs or CIRs
 - Composition signatures during periods of CME/CIR combinations observed by ULS in Aug/Sept 2005





| | CIR | SEP | CIR/SEP |
|------|------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| He/O | 159 ± 1 | 55.2 ± 3 | 2.9 ± 0.2 |
| C/O | 0.89 ± 0.04 | 0.48 ± 0.02 | 1.9 ± 0.1 |
| N/O | 0.14 ± 0.01 | 0.13 ± 0.01 | 1.1 ± 0.1 |
| Ne/O | 0.17 ± 0.02 | 0.15 ± 0.01 | 1.1 ± 0.2 |
| Fe/O | 0.097 ± 0.01 | 0.16 ± 0.02 | 0.6 ± 0.1 |

Mason and Sanderson (1999)



Aug/Sept 2005 events

- ULS observes the arrival of a compound stream resulting from the merging of individual transient flows generated by a series of solar events in Aug/Sept 2005 and their interaction with the pre-existing pattern of SIRs in the ambient medium
- The EP intensities remained elevated at ULS for at least 20 days following the X17/3B flare/associated CME on Sept 7
- <u>During the CIR/CME combination period</u>: Composition analysis identifies the EPs as an SEP population ⇒ transient related
- In the trailing edge of the CME/CIR combination, following a recurrent FR shock: an enhanced He/O ratio observed ⇒ evidence of Reverse shock accelerated pickup He originating as interstellar neutrals
- Non-observation of a C enhancement by ULYSSES ⇒ bulk of the particles observed dominated by the ambient SEP population/CIR re-accelerated a pre-existing population of SEPs

Objective (2)

•We present and compare multi-point plasma and energetic particle observations of the same CIR events by the twin **STEREO** spacecraft and the **ACE** spacecraft, during the recent unusually low solar activity minimum (CR 2067-2082)

 We present and discuss several cases where the presence of Interplanetary Coronal Mass Ejections (ICMEs) in the vicinity or embedded in the CIR is accompanied by significant changes in the CIR structure and in the associated energetic ions (STEREO/SEPT).
(STEREO/PLASTIC, STEREO/MAG, ACE/SWEPAM complementary measurements used)

STEREO A & B twin spacecraft









$$t_{A} - t_{B} = \frac{\phi_{A} - \phi_{B}}{\Omega_{s}} + \frac{r_{A} - r_{B}}{Vsw}$$

STA STB ACE







ICME-CIR interactions at ~1 AU

- A source of temporal evolution of CIRs: presence of transient structures in the solar wind preceding the high-speed streams.
- Several cases where the presence of an ICME in the vicinity or embedded in the CIR for one s/c is accompanied by enhanced **CIR-ion acceleration** in 100-keV energy.
 - During the ICME-CIR events showing enhanced hundredkeV ion acceleration, the several MeV ion fluxes remain unaffected and the higher intensities are normally measured by the outer s/c (STB)

⇒ MeV protons come mainly from CIR-shocks located beyond the s/c, while at energies of hundred-keV particles are accelerated in the vicinity of the s/c (local phenomena important for the acceleration of ~100 keV ions)