National Aeronautics and Space Administration



### Beyond the Flare: An SWF-AAS Briefing on Space Weather

NASA's effort to characterize, understand and predict space weather events

Lika Guhathakurta Heliophysics Division Science Mission Directorate

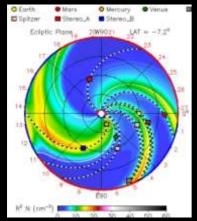
November 20, 2014

## What is Heliophysics



Heliophysics is an environmental science: a unique hybrid between meteorology and astrophysics

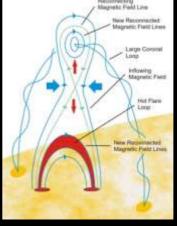
### It has an applied branch space weather



Propagation models of solar disturbances out to 2 AU

National Space Weather Program 1995Living With a Star 2000International Heliosphysical Year 2007

### And a pure branch fundamental physical process

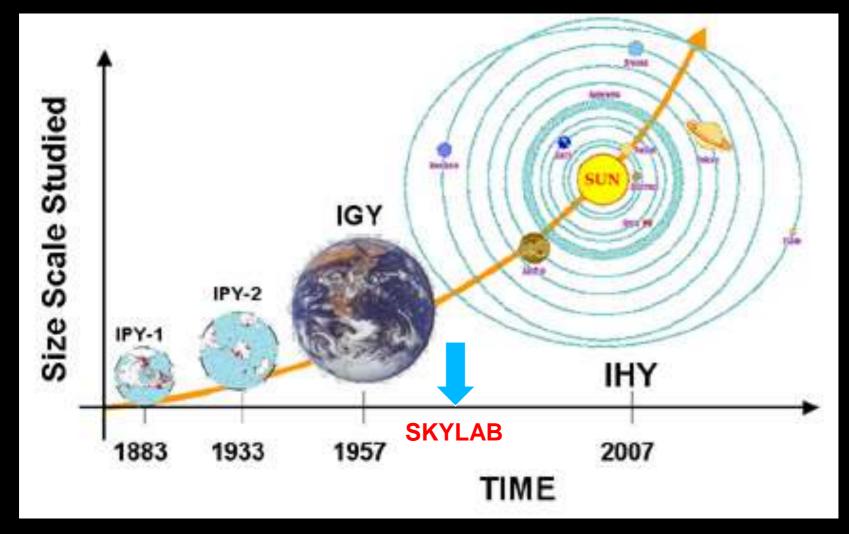


Magnetic reconnection



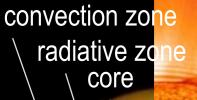
# **Evolution of System Studies**





Heliophysical: A broadening of the concept "geophysical," extending the connections from the Earth to the Sun & interplanetary space.





# HELIOPHYSICS

particles and magnetic fields

photons

bow shock

surface // atmosphere

sunspot plage / coronal mass ejection solar wind

heliosphere

atmosphere ionosphere plasmasphere magnetosphere

EARTH

NASA

not to scale

Sun-Earth System Science: Growth from a "consuming" science to a "producing" science for the benefit of humankind



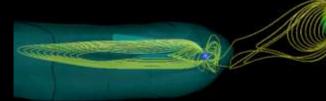
Space Weather is no longer the domain of Earth only!

Space Weather is now Interplanetary!!

Space Weather just became Exopla MAGE/EUV

**Extreme Space Wea** 

T=00:00





will a state

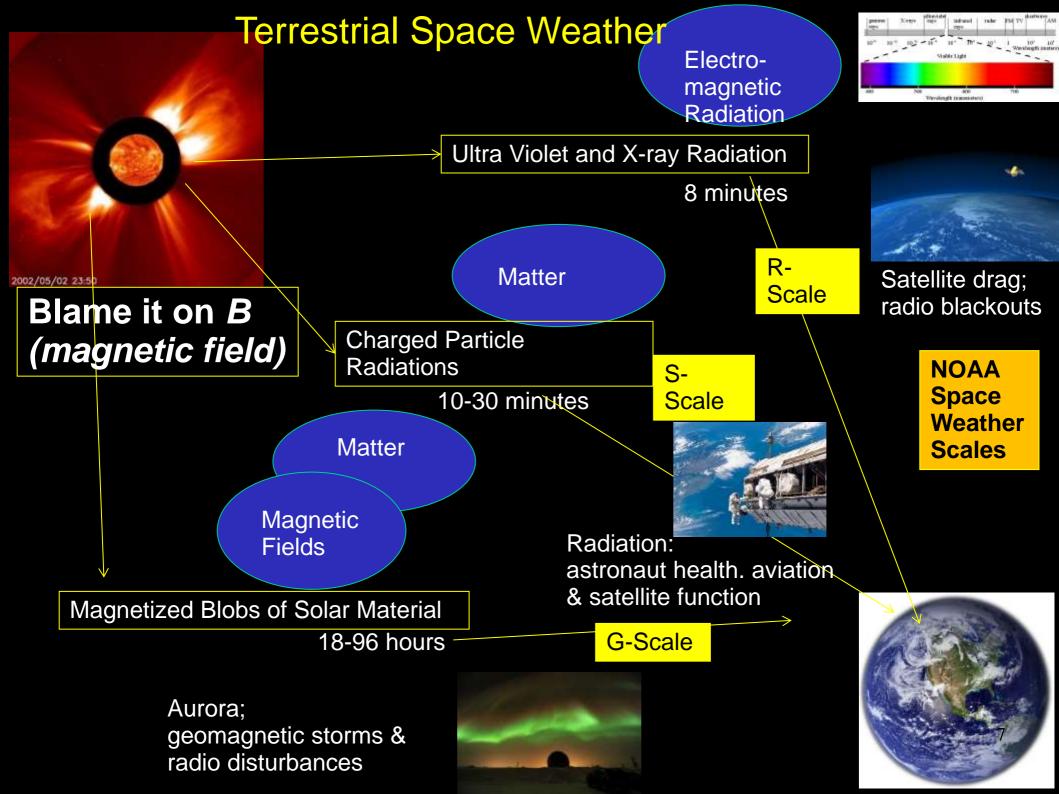
## SkyLab Heliophysics GAME CHANGERS

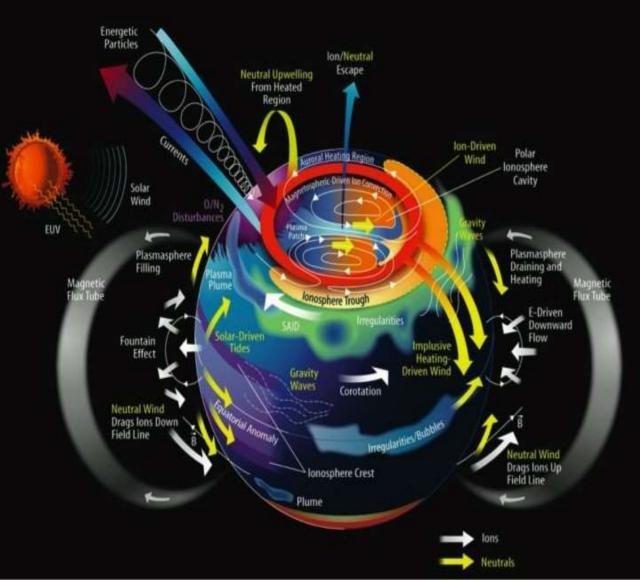


The Corona is hot and controlled by magnetic fields
→ X-Ray and EUV Variability at Earth (NOAA R-Scale)

High-Speed Solar Wind originates from coronal holes → Solar Particles Impact Earth (NOAA S-Scale)

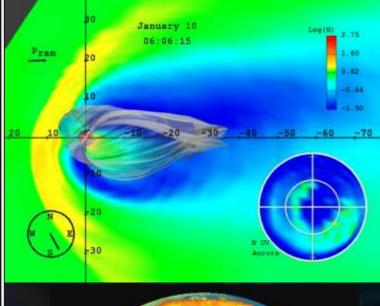
Mass from the corona is ejected into interplanetary space → Solar catastrophic events can impact Earth's magnetosphere (NOAA G-Scale)

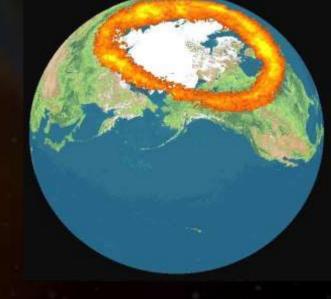




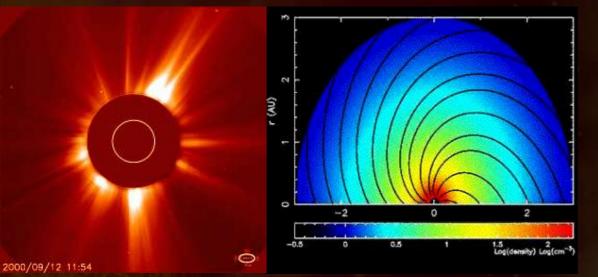
Space weather interacts with Earth's B-Field and can dramatically affect the Earth

### Space Weather's NASA Terrestrial Influence (an example)



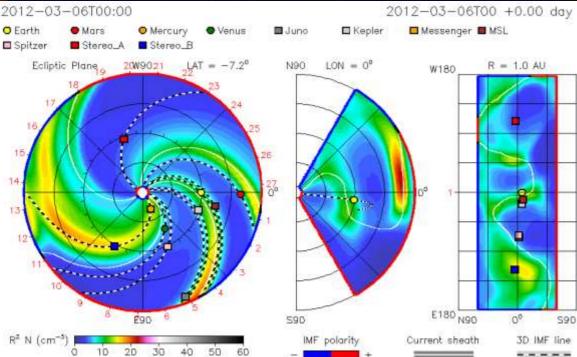


## **Forecasting Space weather**



#### Courtesy: Dr. G. Zank UAH-CSPAR

#### 2011-11-19 03:00:00

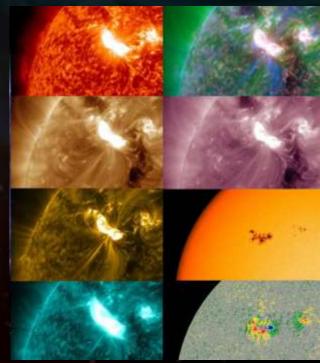


•Semi-empirical near-Sun module that approximates the outflow at the base of the solar wind

•Sophisticated 3-D magnetohydrodynamic numerical model that simulates the resulting flow evolution out to Earth.

AR1429 unleashed a powerful X5-class solar flare on 7 March 2012, commencing the "St. Patrick Day storms" of 2012. The blast also propelled a massive coronal mass ejection (CME) toward Earth. NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory recorded the flare at multiple extreme ultraviolet wavelengths

3D CME model run from CCMC/iSWA shows how the CME would propagate through the inner solar system.

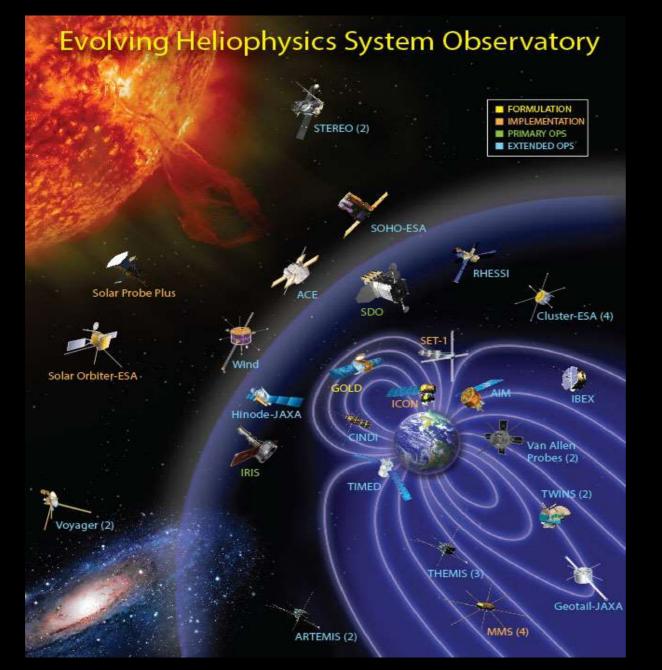




# Heliophysics System Observatory



A coordinated and complementary fleet of spacecraft to understand the Sun and its interactions with Earth and the solar system



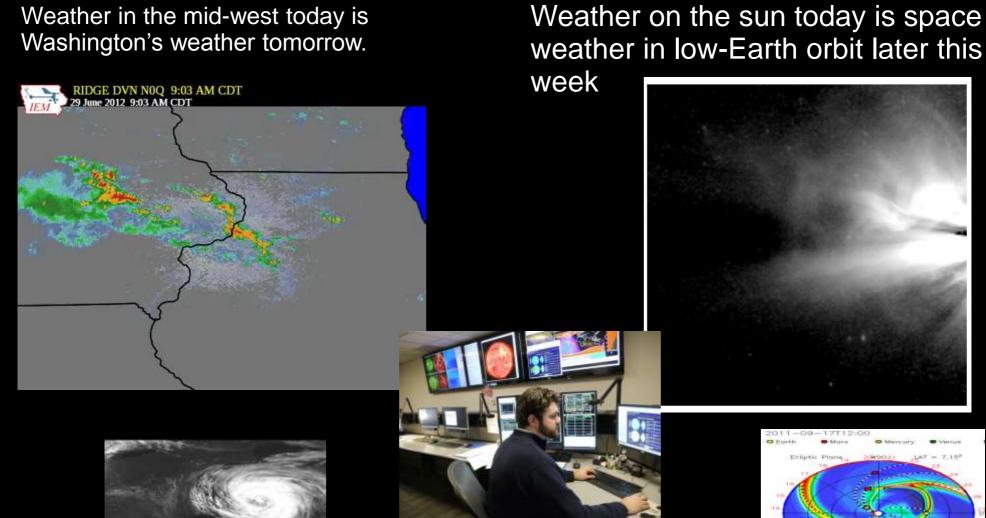
Heliophysics has 18 operating missions (on 29 spacecraft): Voyager, Geotail, Wind, SOHO ACE Cluster, TIMED, RHESSI, TWINS, Hinode, STEREO THEMIS/ARTEMIS, AIM, CINDI, IBEX, SDO Van Allen Probes IRIS

(Missions in **red** contribute to operational Space Weather.)

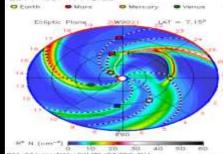
6 missions are in various phases of development: SET, MMS, SOC, SPP, ICON, and GOLD

# Heliophysics is an environmental science

- a hybrid between meteorology and astrophysics



At NOAA's SWPC, forecaster Dave Marshall sits at the crossroads.

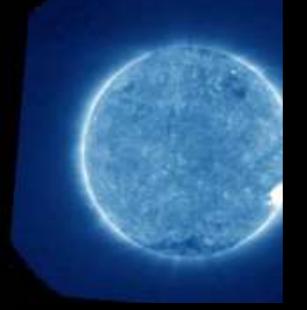


meteorology

astrophysics

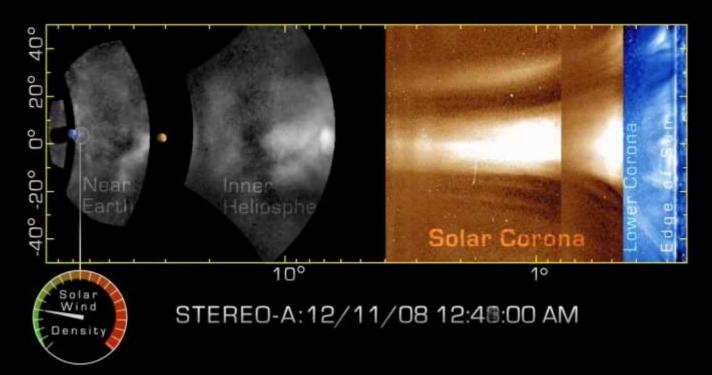
The next frontier in space weather forecasting involves the uninterrupted tracking of storm clouds from the sun to the planets.





NASA's STEREO spacecraft and new data processing techniques have succeeded in tracking space weather events from their origin in the Sun's ultra hot corona to impact with the Earth's magnetosphere

STEREO includes 5 telescopes that monitor the sky at large angles from the Sun



Spontaneous Generation Of structures and Transients \* Flux ropes-filaments \* Current Sheets \* Cellular Structures \* Turbulence \* Wayes & Emissions

**Generation of** 

Penetrating Radiation
\* GCRs

\* ACRs

\* Radiation Belts

**Explosive Energy Conversions** 

\* Solar (Stellar) Flares

\* CMEs

Substorms

Bursty Bulk F

### Heliophysics Text Books & Summer School Eddy Postdoctoral Fellowship

Creation and Annihilation of Magnetic Fields

> \* Dissipation \* Reconnection

## Heliophysics

Magnetic Coupling \* Non-Local (Non-Contact \* Flow-object \* Cross-Scale (Hierarchical) \* Dusty Plasmas

> Coupling Sun, Heliosphere, Galactic Environment, and Planetary Climate \* Dynamos in stars and planets \* Radiative and electromagnetic couplings

Heliophysics Plasma Physics of the Local Cosmos

> Carolus J. Schrijver and George L. Siscoe

Heliophysics Space Storms and Radiation Causes and Effects

Heliophysics Evolving Solar Activity and Climates of Space and Earth

Carolus J. Schrijver and George L. Siscoe



Since 2007-2014, we have had:

Total Students ~250 International Students ~120 PhD Level ~220 Masters Level ~30

# Jack Eddy Postdoctoral Fellowship 2010-2014, 17 appointments

To train the next generation of researchers needed in the emerging field of heliophysics, in honor of the pioneering interdisciplinary researcher, Jack Eddy.

## "Space Weather Impacts: They Happen All the Time"



