

RELATIONSHIP OF THE ASY-H INDEX WITH INTERPLANETARY MEDIUM PARAMETERS AND AURORAL ACTIVITY IN MAGNETIC STORM MAIN PHASES DURING CIR AND ICME EVENTS

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Abstract. In this study, we examine the relationship of the ASY-H index characterizing the partial ring current intensity with interplanetary medium parameters and auroral activity during the main phase of magnetic storms, induced by the solar wind (SW) of different types. Over the period 1979–2017, 107 magnetic storms driven by CIR and ICME (MC + Ejecta) events have been selected. We consider magnetic storms with $Dst_{\min} \leq -50$ nT. The average ASY-H index (ASY_{aver}) during the magnetic storm main phase is shown to increase with increasing SW electric field and southward IMF B_z regardless of SW type. There is no relationship between ASY_{aver} and SW velocity. For the CIR and ICME events, the average AE (AE_{aver}) and K_p ($K_{p\text{ aver}}$) indices have

been found to correlate with ASY_{aver} . The highest correlation coefficient between AE_{aver} and ASY_{aver} ($r=0.74$) is observed for the magnetic storms generated by CIR events. A closer relationship between $K_{p\text{ aver}}$ and ASY_{aver} ($r=0.64$) is observed for the magnetic storms induced by ICME events. The ASY_{aver} variations correlate with Dst_{\min} . The relationship between ASY_{aver} and the rate of storm development is weak.

Keywords: magnetic storm, ASY-H index, Dst index, solar wind, electric field.

INTRODUCTION

It is known that during magnetic storms large-scale magnetospheric current systems are enhanced, auroral electrojets shift to lower latitudes, and intense substorm disturbances occur. Simultaneously there is a significant decrease in the horizontal magnetic field component at low latitudes. Overall, geomagnetic indices vary considerably [Akasofu, Chapman, 1974; Nishida, 1980]. The low-latitude Dst index is used to evaluate the ring current intensity during magnetic storms and is a measure of geoeffectiveness of interplanetary disturbances [Sugiura, 1964; Burton et al., 1975]. The high-latitude AE index and the mid-latitude K_p index characterize the auroral current intensity during magnetic storms and are indicators of substorm activity [Davis, Sugiura, 1966]. During a magnetic storm, the geomagnetic activity indices correlate [Lyatsky, Maltsev, 1983]. Development of the ring current is, however, not associated with substorms. According to [Iyemori, Rao, 1996; Sharma et al., 2003], the main cause of ring current development is the enhancement of magnetospheric convection during periods of the long-term southward IMF B_z component whose efficiency is attributed to the SW electric field effect: $E_{\text{sw}}=V_{\text{sw}}\times B_z$ [Gonzalez et al., 1994; Kane, 2005]. Among IMF (IMF B , B_z) and SW (velocity, plasma density and temperature) parameters, the electric field associated with SW plasma motion and southward B_z is the main factor in the development of a magnetic storm [Gonzalez et al., 1994; Kane, 2005].

Results of statistical and morphological studies show that the intensity of magnetospheric-ionospheric dis-

turbances (magnetic storms and substorms) also depends on SW type [Borovsky, Denton, 2006; Despirak et al., 2009]. At present, the following SW types are distinguished: interplanetary coronal mass ejections (ICME) comprising magnetic clouds (MC) and ejecta, corotating interaction regions (CIR), and compression areas before ICME (sheath). Each SW type has a specific set of SW and IMF parameters. Dremukhina et al. [2018] have examined coupling functions representing expressions for the SW electric field E_{sw} , calculated through the SW velocity V_{sw} and magnetic field B with regard to the hour angle and the plasma dynamic pressure effect. The use of the Barton coupling function relating the SW integral electric field E_{sw} to Dst has been shown to provide the highest correlation coefficients for all SW types. The highest geoeffectiveness is observed for the sheath and CIR driven magnetic storms, whereas the ICME induced storms (MC+Ejecta) exhibit Dst minimum in modulus $|Dst_{\min}|$ for large values of E_{sw} [Plotnikov, Barkova, 2007; Nikolaeva et al., 2011; Yermolaev et al., 2012]. The AE index, unlike Dst , during the magnetic storm main phase does not depend on E_{sw} for almost all SW types except MC. There is a nonlinear dependence of AE on E_{sw} in MC. The relationship between K_p and E_{sw} is characterized by a linear empirical dependence for CIR and a non-monotonic dependence for MC [Plotnikov, Barkova, 2007; Yermolaev et al., 2012]. Boroyev and Vasiliev [2018] have, however, shown that for CIR, unlike ICME, AE increases with increasing SW electric field. The K_p index correlates with E_{sw} only for ICME. The

difference between the results is likely to arise from different methods of determining auroral activity during the magnetic storm main phase. The papers [Plotnikov, Barkova, 2007; Nikolaeva et al., 2011; Yermolaev et al., 2012] have compared extreme Dst , AE , and K_p with minimum B_z and E_{sw} or Dst_{min} , AE and K_p with B_z (E_{sw}) for Dst_{min} . These approaches compare only individual (extreme) points during development of a process and weakly account for the dynamics of magnetic storm generation. Boroyev and Vasiliev [2018] have examined average AE and K_p during the magnetic storm main phase and compared them with the average SW electric field.

During a magnetic storm, in addition to global current systems small-scale local current systems such as the partial ring current are formed which contribute greatly to Dst variations [Fok et al., 2001; Liemohn et al., 2001; Kozyra, Liemohn, 2003]. Unlike the symmetric ring current, the partial ring current is related to auroral currents through the system of field-aligned currents of the evening-night sector of the magnetosphere [Grafe et al., 1997; Feldstein et al., 2005; Barkhatova, 2013]. The occurrence of the partial ring current, as in the case of the symmetric ring current, is attributed to the injection of plasma particles into the inner magnetosphere during a magnetospheric convection enhancement [Bakhmina, Kalegaev, 2008; Kalegaev et al., 2008]. The partial ring current intensity is estimated using the average *ASY-H* index [http://wdc.kugi.kyoto-u.ac.jp]. Of particular interest are the studies of the relationship of the dynamics of the partial ring current with auroral disturbances and symmetric ring current during magnetic storms induced by SW of different types.

The purpose of this work is to examine the correlation relationships of *ASY-H* with interplanetary medium parameters and substorm activity indices during the main phase of magnetic storms induced by the solar wind of different types.

EXPERIMENTAL DATA

We estimate geomagnetic activity in this work, using the AE , K_p , *ASY-H*, and Dst indices [http://swdcwww.kugi.kyoto-u.ac.jp/index.html]. Over the period from 1979 to 2017, 107 CIR and ICME induced magnetic storms (MC+Ejecta) with $Dst_{min} \leq -50$ nT have been selected. We do not address other SW types here. A magnetic storm is considered to be related to SW of a given type if the main phase and the minimum Dst coincide in time with SW of this type. The method of classifying SW types is described in detail in [Yermolaev et al., 2009; Yermolaev et al., 2010]. On the website [ftp.iki.rssi.ru/pub/omni/catalog] is a catalog of SW types. For each event, as in [Boroyev, Vasiliev, 2018], we calculate average AE , K_p , and *ASY-H* and the rate of magnetic storm development ($|\Delta Dst|/\Delta T$) in the main phase.

Duration ΔT of the magnetic storm main phase was defined as an interval from the beginning of a sharp decrease in Dst (Dst_0 — value at this point) to the moment of recording of Dst_{min} ; $|\Delta Dst| = |Dst_{min} - Dst_0|$. To account for the SW and IMF parameters, hourly average data [http://www.omniweb.com] is used to determine average values of the SW azimuth

electric field, southward B_z , and SW velocity for a period coinciding with the magnetic storm main phase. The average interplanetary medium parameters and geomagnetic activity indices in general allow us to assess the development of the magnetic storm main phase.

To identify the relationship between the geomagnetic indices and the SW and IMF parameters, we utilize a linear approximation as the simplest way to establish the relationship between the values. We calculate Pearson correlation coefficients and probabilities of determining statistical significance.

RESULTS

Figure 1 shows the relationship between the average *ASY-H* ASY_{aver} and the average SW electric field $E_{sw\ aver}$ in the main phases of CIR and ICME driven storms. Table 1 lists equations of linear regression between ASY_{aver} and $E_{sw\ aver}$, as well as correlation coefficients r and significance level P . Figure 1 shows that during the magnetic storm main phase ASY_{aver} increases with $E_{sw\ aver}$ for both CIR and ICME. Consequently, the SW type is not reflected in *ASY-H* variations.

The azimuth electric field $E_{sw} = V_{sw} \times B_z$ is known to be associated with one of the significant geoeffective SW parameters — the southward IMF B_z component [Gonzalez et al., 1994; Kane, 2005]. With SW type considered, we have made a correlation analysis of *ASY-H*, southward B_z , and SW velocity V_{sw} .

Figure 2, *a, c* shows the average *ASY-H* as a function of the average modulus of southward B_z $|B_{z\ aver}|$ in the main phases of magnetic storms for SW of two types; Table 2 lists r , P , and equations of linear regression between ASY_{aver} and $|B_{z\ aver}|$. Figure 2, *a, c* indicates that for SW of both the types ASY_{aver} increases linearly with $|B_{z\ aver}|$ ($r=0.63$ for CIR and $r=0.56$ for ICME). For both CIR and ICME there is, however, no clear linear relationship between ASY_{aver} and $V_{sw\ aver}$ (see Figure 2, *b, d*; correlation coefficients are omitted).

The relationship of *ASY-H* with AE and K_p is shown in Figure 3. Table 3 presents r , P , and equations of linear regression between AE_{aver} , $K_{p\ aver}$, and ASY_{aver} in the magnetic storm main phases for SW of two types.

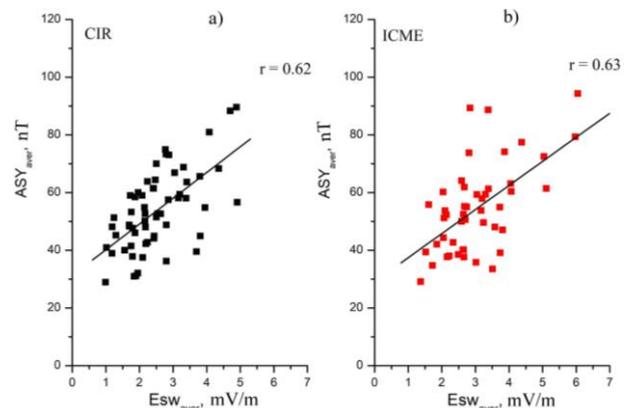


Figure 1. Average *ASY-H* (ASY_{aver}) as a function of the average SW electric field ($E_{sw\ aver}$) in the main phases of CIR and ICME induced magnetic storms: squares are individual magnetic storms; straight lines indicate a linear approximation

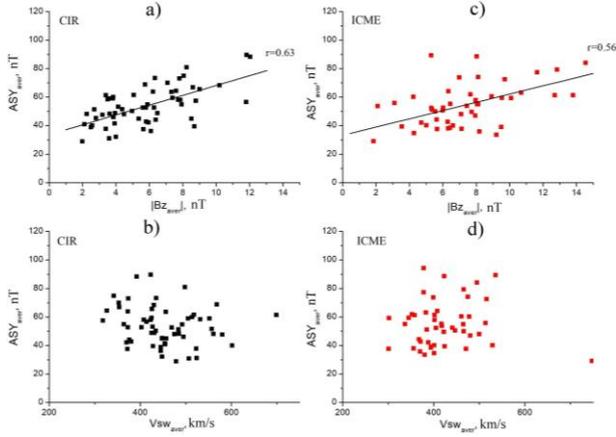


Figure 2. ASY_{aver} as a function of average values of the southward B_z modulus and SW velocity in the main phases of CIR and ICME induced magnetic storms: squares are individual magnetic storms; straight lines indicate a linear approximation

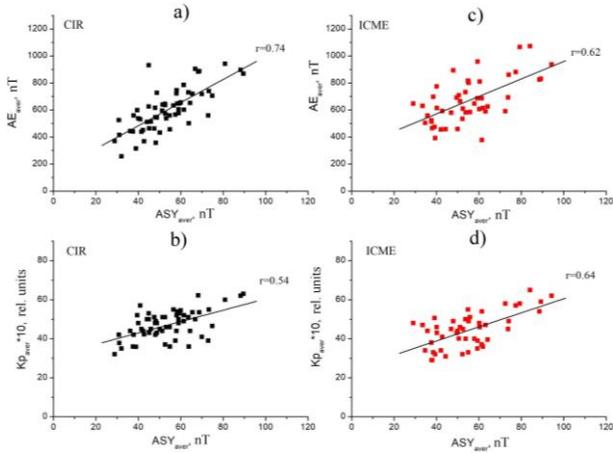


Figure 3. AE_{aver} , K_p_{aver} versus ASY_{aver} in the main phases of CIR and ICME induced magnetic storms: squares are individual magnetic storms; straight lines indicate a linear approximation

Table 1

The number of magnetic storms N , correlation coefficients r , significance levels P , and equations of linear regression between ASY_{aver} and $E_{sw\,aver}$ for CIR and ICME

SW type	N	$E_{sw\,aver}$		
		r	P	approximation
CIR	59	0.62	0.99	$y = 8.9x + 31.2$
ICME	48	0.63	0.99	$y = 8.3x + 29$

Table 2

The number of magnetic storms N , correlation coefficients r , significance levels P , and equations of linear regression between ASY_{aver} and $|B_{z\,aver}|$ for CIR and ICME

SW type	N	$ B_{z\,aver} $		
		r	P	approximation
CIR	59	0.63	0.99	$y = 3.44x + 33.8$
ICME	48	0.56	0.99	$y = 2.89x + 33.3$

Figure 3, *a, c* shows that during the magnetic storm main phase average AE increases with average $ASY-H$ for both CIR and ICME, but for CIR (Table 3) the correlation between AE_{aver} and ASY_{aver} is higher ($r=0.74$).

High correlation coefficients between K_p_{aver} and ASY_{aver} (Figure 3, *e*) are observed for ICME ($r=0.64$).

To elucidate the role of the partial ring current in developing low-latitude geomagnetic disturbances, we have performed a comparative analysis of $ASY-H$ and Dst_{min} , as well as the rate of development of the magnetic storm main phase for SW of two types.

Figure 4, *a, c* plots average $ASY-H$ as a function of $|Dst_{min}|$ for CIR and ICME driven magnetic storms. ASY_{aver} as a function of the rate of development of the magnetic storm main phase $|\Delta Dst|/\Delta T$ for SW of two types is presented in Figure 4, *b, d*. Figure 4, *a, c* indicates that in the magnetic storm main phase average $ASY-H$ increases with $|Dst_{min}|$ for SW of both the types, with a higher correlation coefficient between ASY_{aver} and $|Dst_{min}|$ (Table 4) observed for CIR ($r=0.71$). The CIR and ICME induced magnetic storms (Figure 4, *b, d*) exhibit low correlation coefficients between ASY_{aver} and the rate of development of the main phase.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

The difference between SW and IMF parameters in SW types is known to reveal itself in AE , K_p , and Dst variations. For example, in the case of CIR, unlike ICME, during the magnetic storm main phase there are high SW velocities and small southward B_z (e.g., [Nikolaeva et al., 2011]).

The geomagnetic indices depend not only on the intensity of current systems related to the interplanetary medium parameters, but also on their position relative to the station whose data is used to calculate the indices. The position of auroral (ionospheric) current systems depends on the auroral oval size: the wider is the oval, the lower are the latitudes at which auroral currents are observed. In turn, the auroral oval size depends largely on variations in the southward B_z component: a decrease in IMF B_z causes the oval to expand and its boundaries to shift to low latitudes. This effect is most pronounced on the nightside of the magnetosphere. Considerable changes in IMF B_z occur during the magnetic storm main phase. Boroyev and Vasiliev [2018] assume

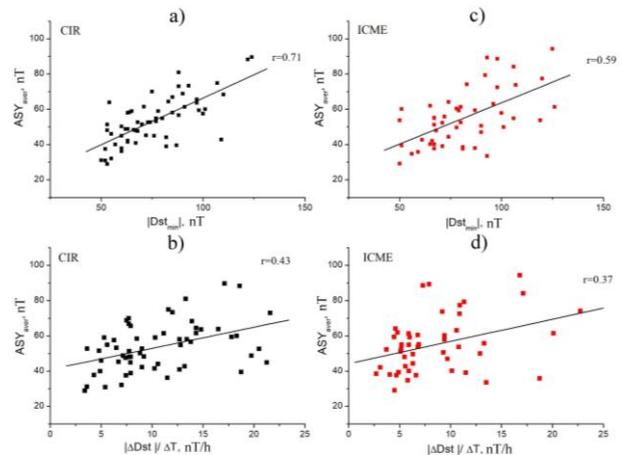


Figure 4. ASY_{aver} versus $|Dst_{min}|$ and the rate of development of the main phases of CIR and ICME induced magnetic storms $|\Delta Dst|/\Delta T$: squares are individual magnetic storms; straight lines indicate a linear approximation

Table 3

The number of magnetic storms N , correlation coefficients r , significance levels P , and equations of linear regression between AE_{aver} , K_p_{aver} , and ASY_{aver} for CIR and ICME

SW type	N	AE_{aver}			K_p_{aver}		
		r	P	approximation	r	P	approximation
CIR	59	0.74	0.99	$y=8.6x+142$	0.54	0.99	$y=0.29x+31.4$
ICME	48	0.62	0.99	$y=6.5x+312$	0.64	0.99	$y=0.36x+24.5$

Table 4

The number of magnetic storms N , correlation coefficients r , significance levels P , and equations of linear regression between ASY_{aver} and $|Dst_{min}|$, $|\Delta Dst|/\Delta T$ for CIR and ICME

SW type	N	$ Dst_{min} $			$ \Delta Dst /\Delta T$		
		r	P	approximation	r	P	approximation
CIR	59	0.71	0.99	$y=0.5x+13.5$	0.43	0.99	$y=1.2x+41$
ICME	48	0.59	0.99	$y=0.47x+17$	0.37	0.99	$y=1.3x+44$

that it is the SW type that determines the magnitude of shift of current systems relatively to the stations whose data is used to calculate the AE and K_p indices. During ICME, unlike CIR, low values of the southward B_z component cause the auroral oval to expand and hence auroral currents to shift to lower latitudes. As a result, we can see higher correlation coefficients between E_{sw} and K_p_{aver} than between E_{sw} and AE_{aver} .

The auroral activity indices AE and K_p during a magnetic storm characterize the intensity of ionospheric currents. The question about the influence of SW type on magnetospheric currents remains open. In this paper, we have examined variations of the *ASY-H* index, which characterizes the intensity of the partial ring current, during CIR and ICME induced magnetic storms. According to some authors [Grafe et al., 1997; Feldstein et al., 2005; Barkhatov et al., 2008; Barkhatova, 2013], the partial ring current associated with auroral (ionospheric) currents is a magnetospheric part of the unified current system. For example, Barkhatov et al. [2008] have assessed the role of magnetospheric-ionospheric current systems in the asymmetry of geomagnetic disturbance, as well as have examined the temporal dynamics of indices of partial ring current and auroral electrojets in the magnetic storm main phase regardless of SW type.

We, unlike [Barkhatov et al., 2008], have carried out a correlation analysis of *ASY-H* and interplanetary medium parameters in the main phases of CIR and ICME induced magnetic storms, and have calculated average values of the indices and interplanetary medium parameters regardless of their temporal dynamics. The results confirm that the SW electric field and its related southward IMF B_z component are the key geoeffective factors in the development of the partial ring current in the main phases of CIR and ICME driven magnetic storms. Figures 1, 2 suggest that in both the cases *ASY-H* depends on E_{sw} and IMF B_z with high correlation coefficients ($r>0.5$), but there is no clear relationship between *ASY-H* and SW velocity. SW type does not affect *ASY-H* variations during the magnetic storm main phase. Development of the magnetospheric current systems (partial ring current) probably does not depend on SW type. Dynamics of the partial ring current is completely determined by the magnetospheric convection depend-

ing on the SW electric field. SW type has, however, no effect on the ionospheric part of the current system associated with the partial ring current. Figure 3 shows that *ASY-H* correlates with the intensity of auroral currents in the main phases of CIR and ICME induced magnetic storms. The highest correlation coefficient ($r=0.74$) between the average values of AE and *ASY-H* at a sufficiently high statistical significance ($P=0.99$) is observed for CIR driven magnetic storms. On the contrary, a closer relationship between average K_p and *ASY-H* is observed for ICME induced magnetic storms. The difference between the AE and K_p variations is likely to be due to the position of auroral electrojets relative to the stations whose data is used to calculate these indices [Boroyev, Vasiliev, 2018].

In this paper, we have also examined the relationship of the partial ring current with the intensity and rate of development of the main phases of CIR and ICME induced magnetic storms. Figure 4 indicates that the partial ring current has no significant effect on the rate of development of a magnetic storm. The calculations show low correlation coefficients between *ASY-H* and $|\Delta Dst|/\Delta T$ for CIR ($r=0.43$) and ICME ($r=0.37$). This is likely to be due to the fact that the partial ring current as a local current system can be observed in the magnetic storm main phase for only a few hours in contrast to large-scale magnetospheric current systems (current at the magnetopause symmetric ring current, magnetotail currents). Hence, the contribution of the partial ring current to the rate of development of a magnetic storm will be negligible.

The partial ring current, however, affects the Dst index. The analysis has shown that *ASY-H* correlates with Dst_{min} for CIR and ICME induced magnetic storms. These results agree with those obtained previously [Liemohn et al., 2001; Feldstein et al., 2005]. Thus, according to the model [Liemohn et al., 2001], during the magnetic storm main phase and early recovery phase the contribution of the asymmetric part of the ring current to Dst variations predominates over the contribution of magnetotail currents. According to the estimates made by other authors [Feldstein et al., 2005], contributions of the partial ring current and magnetotail currents vary from 25 to 80 %. Thus, the partial ring current in the

magnetic storm main phase further contributes to the dawn–dusk asymmetry of low-latitude geomagnetic disturbances [Love, Gannon, 2009].

In the future, we plan to analyze the ring current asymmetry in the main phases of magnetic storms induced by SW of different types, using satellite ENA observations and data from ground-based magnetometers.

We have obtained the following results:

1. The average $ASY-H$ index (ASY_{aver}) in the magnetic storm main phase depends on the SW electric field and the southward IMF B_z componen. The SW type does not affect ASY_{aver} variations. There is no relationship between ASY_{aver} and SW velocity.

2. The average AE (AE_{aver}) and K_p (K_p_{aver}) indices correlate with ASY_{aver} for both CIR and ICME. The highest correlation coefficient between AE_{aver} and ASY_{aver} ($r=0.74$) is observed for the CIR driven magnetic storms, whereas a closer relationship between K_p_{aver} and ASY_{aver} ($r=0.64$) is observed for the ICME induced magnetic storms.

3. ASY_{aver} correlates with minimum Dst for both CIR and ICME. The relationship between ASY_{aver} and the rate of development of the magnetic storm main phase is weak.

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