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Study the features of ICME/shock associated with Geomagnetic storms during ascending phase of solar cycle 23 and 24

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Abstract— In this presented work we study the characteristics, features and occurrence rates of Interplanetary Coronal Mass Ejections (ICMEs) and interplanetary shock during the rising phase of solar cycle 23 (January 1996–December 2000) and 24 (January 2008– December 2012). In particular, we give a detailed list of such events, in this given list, based on in situ observations, we consist a subsets of interplanetary shock, ICMEs and magnetic clouds corresponding with intense/ superintense geomagnetic storms. Here we select total 67 geomagnetic storm events (50 events for solar cycle 23 and 17 events for solar cycle 24) which have Dst \leq -75 nT. In our analysis we found that there were differences in the general properties of ICMEs between the SC 24 rising phase and same phase of the solar cycle 23. It is concluded that the geomagnetic storms during solar cycle 23 and 24 are such intense due to four major interplanetary structures (Interplanetary shock, ICMEs and magnetic clouds, southward component of IP magnetic field). On the comparison of solar cycle 23 and 24, we observed that the during the rise phase (first 5 years) of solar cycle 24, the Geomagnetic activity levels were lower than the comparable period of solar cycle 23 and ICME activities were less in the sunspot cycle 24 compared to cycle 23 during rising phase.

Keywords— *Coronal Mass Ejections, Interplanetary shock, ICME, Geomagnetic storms.*

I. INTRODUCTION

In our solar system, Coronal Mass ejection is one of the most energetic activity. It is now well established that the chain of events originating from the Sun and evolving into the flow of a geo-effective solar wind in interplanetary medium and near‐ Earth region are the cause of geomagnetic storms [1][2][3]. Depending on their origins, these type of geoeffective solar wind flows can be distinguish into two types, one of them is associated with Interplanetary coronal mass ejections (ICME). An ICME are conventionally known as magnetic cloud (MC) and/or ejecta. The second type of geoeffective solar wind flows is associated with fast solar wind from coronal holes [4][5]. To assess the magnetic storms, Disturbance storm time index (Dst) used for the geomagnetic activity measurement and it is affected by outputs of Sun. From last three decades, the relationship between CMEs and geomagnetic storms studied and observed by many researchers. Coronal mass ejections (CMEs) are obtained and identified in the observed images of the solar corona obtained by the Large Angle and Spectrometric Coronagraph (LASCO) onboard Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (SOHO) since 1996. As we know that, CMEs travel outward from the Sun into the interplanetary space, typically at an

average speed of approximately \sim 450 kms⁻¹. But in interplanetary region it can be faster than \sim 3000 kms⁻¹ or slow as ~100 kms⁻¹. Large sunspot active regions erupt fastest CMEs. These fastest CMEs powered by the photospheric strongest magnetic field concentrations [6][7]. These fast Earth directed CMEs can reach at 1 AU in \sim 15 -18 hours after the launch from Sun surface and caused major disturbances on Earth's magnetosphere[8][9]. Several studies [10][11][12][13] have found that geomagnetic activities during the following solar cycle 23 was exceptionally low, and associated with unusual solar wind conditions, slow flow speed and in particular low magnetic field intensities on the comparison on just previous sunspot cycles. In this paper, we summarize the characteristics of geomagnetic activity and the interplanetary features during the first 5 years of solar cycle 24 and 23. Particularly, we point out that during the rise phase of cycle 24, geomagnetic activity continued to be at exceptionally low levels compared to similar intervals in solar cycles 23, and discuss the contributing factors.

Rest of the paper is organized as follows, Section I contains the introduction of solar eruption and their effect on earth's magnetic field, section II is Data Collection, in that section

we provide the detail of data selection and sources. This is followed by detailed list of selected Geomagnetic storms along with their associated CMEs, IP-shcoks, ICMEs, Solar wind speed, southward component of interplanetary magnetic field and magnetic clouds (MCs) (Table 1 and Table 2). Section III is devoted to analyzing the data and comparison of solar cycle 24 and 23. This section is divided into parts, in first part we present the yearly distribution of geo-magnetic storms for both the cycles. In the second part, we identify the significance of south component of interplanetary magnetic field (Bz). Third part of section III is for identifying the significance of ICME/shock and geomagnetic activity. We present the rate of shock association with geomagnetic storm in Table 3 for both the sunspot cycle**.** Section IV concludes research work with future directions.

II. DATA COLLECTION

For this study include all the 17 geomagnetic storm events (DST index \leq -75 nT) for ascending phase of solar cycle 24 (period from 1996-2000) and 50 geomagnetic storm events (DST index \leq -75 nT) for ascending phase of solar cycle 23 (period from 2007-2012) (DST index) , which is shown in Table 1. To understanding the development of intense storms, total magnetic field and the southward component of the interplanetary magnetic field (IMF) values are important parameters, which obtained from the ACE data archive. From previous studies and observations, an intense geomagnetic storm defining as the one whose value of Dst (Disturbance Storm-Time) index is less than -100 nT and associated with interplanetary structures involving longduration $(T > 3$ hours) negative values of Bz and large intensity ($BT > 10$ nT). We further classify the storms as super-intense (DST \leq -200 nT), intense (-200 nT \leq DST \leq -100 nT) and moderate (-100 nT \leq DST \leq -50 nT). The values of Dst indices were obtained from [http://swdcwww.kugi.kyoto-u.ac.jpt](http://swdcwww.kugi.kyoto-u.ac.jp/)he geomagnetic activity web page of the World Data Center, Japan. As we know that solar cycle 24 is less active comparted to previous cycles, and a large data set is required to understand the behavior of geomagnetic activity, so that we have chosen storms having Dst \leq -75 nT. Interplanetary coronal mass ejections (ICMEs) are the interplanetary manifestations of coronal mass ejections (CMEs) seen in light scattered from enhanced electron densities in the solar corona. Identification of Earthaffecting ICMEs were observed using in situ data obtained from the Advanced Composition Explorer [14]. The ACE a satellite placed at the L1 point near the Earth that observing both plasma properties in the solar wind and magnetic fields. The magnetic clouds are classic signature of an ICME [15], the MCs can be identified as depressed temperature and density and an incensement of magnetic field strength with a gradual transition between positive and negative in at least one component direction. This direction is indicating the flux rope magnetic field rotation around a central axis. The data

(Such as date and time of occurrence; speed etc) for ICMEs and interplanetary shock are collected from the list of Richardson and Hilary Cane 'Near-Earth interplanetary coronal mass ejections since January 1996', which is available at a structure at

[http://www.srl.caltech.edu/ACE/ASC/DATA/level3/icmetabl](http://www.srl.caltech.edu/ACE/ASC/DATA/level3/icmetable2.htm) [e2.htm](http://www.srl.caltech.edu/ACE/ASC/DATA/level3/icmetable2.htm)

Table 1 list of Geomagnetic storms ($Dst \le -75$ nT) corresponding associated interplanetary magnetic field index, IP shock event and ICME features for solar cycle 23.

Int. J. Sci. Res. in Physics and Applied Sciences Vol.**6**(**6**), Dec **2018**, E-ISSN: **2348-3423**

In this given table the first and second column shows the time and date respectively of peak of geomagnetic storms.

Column third consist the value of Dst in nT. For Interplanetary magnetic field, here we are taking southward component Bz with time.

We collect the data of interplanetary shock features (forward and reversed shock) we calculate the speed of IP shock we follows

$$
V_{sh} = (n_2v_2 - n_1v_1)/(n_2 - n_1)
$$

Where v and n denote the flow speed and density of the solar plasma and the subscripts 1 and 2 represent the pre-shock and post-shock solar wind properties.

For interplanetary CMEs we took out the duration and mean solar wind speed in the ICME.

MC is magnetic cloud: the 0,1 and 2 identify the different states of MC. Where 0 is for when the magnetic field shows small evidence of rotation; when a more subjective assessment suggests evidence of a relatively organized field rotation within the ICME, but a magnetic cloud has not been reported, then MC identified as 1; and 2, the ICME has been

reported as a magnetic cloud which can be modeled by a force-free flux rope.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Statistical investigation of the solar wind features of reported geomagnetic storms that occurred during the rising phase of solar cycle 23 and 24. The investigation further indicates that most of four interplanetary features: Interplanetary shock, solar wind velocity, southward component of interplanetary magnetic field, magnetic cloud can be used as a significant predictor in forecasting of space weather. It is also important to understand the interplanetary consequences of geoeffective CMEs for predicting the magnitude and the onset time of geomagnetic storms. In the recent past decades several studies have been undertaken to understand the interplanetary causes of major geomagnetic storms $[16][17][18][19][20][21]$. In this following section we discuss the characteristics of the interplanetary sources of major geo-magnetic storms that occurred during 1996–2000 (ascending phase of SC-23) and 2008-2012 (ascending phase of SC-24). We attempt to relate these characteristics to their solar origins.

1. Yearly distribution of Geomagnetic storms

Figure 1 (a) $\&$ (b) shows the occurrence of geo magnetic storm (Dst -Disturbance storm time index) during the first 5 years of cycles 23 and 24 respectively; Dst is available since 1957; "Intense" storm specified by Dst \leq -100 nT and "super intense" storm identified by Dst \le -200 nT [22]. By the inspection of Figure clarify that severe storms were present during the rising phase of each cycle except for SC 24, and the occurrence of intense and super intense geomagnetic storms was also reduced in SC 24.The yearly distribution of reported storms events with Dst values as seen in the histograms for solar cycle 23 and 24 of [Figure 1](https://agupubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1029/2006GL028879#grl22753-fig-0001) (a) and (b), As we know that, Solar cycles are followed dual– peak distribution[23], on that the first peak appeared at solar maximum and the next peak at the early part of the declining phase after the solar maximum. Here in this paper we are only focus on the ascending phase of solar cycle 23 and 24.

Figure 2: *(a) & (b) shows the yearly distribution of geomagnetic storms with their Dst value for solar cycle 23 and 24 respectively.*

2. Significance of Bz in Geomagnetic Activity:

When the solar wind come towards the Earth, the magnetic reconnection between the Interplanetary magnetic field and the Earth's magnetic field is primary physical mechanism for energy transfer from the solar wind to the Earth's magnetosphere. The strength and efficiency of this process mainly depends on the strength of the southward component of interplanetary magnetic field (B_7) . The geo-effective solar wind is usually a period of prolonged and enhanced southward directed magnetic field (B_s) that allows efficient solar wind energy transport into the Earth's magnetosphere (Dungey et al 1961). This enhanced B_s field could be embedded within any part (front or rear) of ICMEs, SHs, and CIRs [24][25].

We find a correlation coefficient of 0.71 for solar cycle 24 and 0.75 for solar cycle 23, between the maximum southward component of the interplanetary magnetic field, i.e., B_z and the D_{st} values. This high correlation implies that the accurate predictions of geo-effectiveness of interplanetary magnetic field, it is necessary to know the configuration of it at the time of arrival at 1 AU. By understanding and analysis of interplanetary magnetic fields we can avoid the false alarms of magnetic storms. Notably, the variation in the southward component of interplanetary magnetic field (B_z) plays a crucial role in determining the amount of solar wind energy, this energy is transferred to the Earth's magnetosphere. The high correlation coefficient between the $|B_z|$ and $|Dst|$ suggests that $|B_z|$ are the reliable predictor for the geomagnetic storm intensity.

Figure 3. *(a)Correlation between |Bz| and |Dst| index for the chosen geo-effective events for solar cycle 24. (b) Correlation between |Bz| and |Dst| index for the chosen geo-effective events for solar cycle 23.*

3. Significance of ICME/shock and Geomagnetic activity:

Interplanetary coronal mass ejections (ICMEs) are the interplanetary manifestations of coronal mass ejections (CMEs) seen in light scattered from enhanced electron densities in the solar corona. In situ data from the Advanced Composition Explorer (ACE: Stone et al., 1998) are using to identify the Earth-affecting ICMEs. In this instrument a satellite located near the Earth at the L1 point that is capable

Int. J. Sci. Res. in Physics and Applied Sciences Vol.**6**(**6**), Dec **2018**, E-ISSN: **2348-3423**

of observing both magnetic fields and plasma properties in the solar wind. ICME can be identified by examine the basic signature a magnetic cloud. A magnetic cloud consists of a depressed temperature and density and mostly an enchantment in magnetic field strength with a gradual transition between negative and positive in at least one component direction, which shows the rotation of the magnetic field of flux rope around central axis. The dropping of the temperature and density inside the flux rope lead to a less plasma pressure in the ICME than in the ambient solar wind. Furthermore, interplanetary shocks are often observed ahead of these features, identified by nearly instantaneous and sharp increases in magnetic field, density and temperature (Jackson, 1986). Zhang, Poomvises, and Richardson, 2008 has been studied that the sheath region of compressed solar wind plasma between the shock and the flux rope has been shown to contribute about 30% of the energy of a Earth's geomagnetic storm. In practice, observation shows that ideal signatures of ICMEs are presented by very few ICMEs. When the CMEs travels through interplanetary space, the interaction between two or more CMEs can lead to complex in situ signatures. These signatures are more difficult to predict, interpret, and may be more likely to lead to extreme space weather situations [26][27]. CMEs that are not pointed directly at Earth can also lead to in situ data that are not observed as a perfect magnetic cloud because the leg of the CME impacts the Earth [28][29].

Figure 4: *(a) Shows the animated diagram of solar eruption, in this picture we can classified different parts of solar eruption and their effects and identification features at 1 AU (Source : Richardson 2013). (b) The Dst index, and solar wind magnetic field (in GSE coordinates) and plasma parameters, for the July 15, 2012, geomagnetic storm with minimum Dst = -133 nT, associated with passage of a magnetic cloud with a southward magnetic field (* B *_z* \leq *0) indicating between red lines the Green line indicating the IP shock and red line are marked for showing arrival of ICME.*

Int. J. Sci. Res. in Physics and Applied Sciences Vol.**6**(**6**), Dec **2018**, E-ISSN: **2348-3423**

Table 3: This list provided the Geomagnetic storm events during Solar cycle 23 and 24 and associated IP shock and ICME.

Solar Cycle	Dst Event s	Association with IP shock	Association with ICME
SC 23	50	Forward shock $=74\%$; Reversed Shock $=4\%$	78%
SC 24	17	Forward shock $=$ 78%; Reversed shock = 14%	47%

Figure 5: *(a) Shows the scattered plot between IP shock speed and CME speed value with correlation coefficient 0.77 for SC 23 and 0.80 for solar cycle 24 (b) Shows the scattered plot between ICME speed and CME speed with correlation coefficient 0.63 for SC 23 and 0.54 for SC 24.*

As we can see from Figure 5 (a), where we compare the features of IP shock Speed and CME speed correlation for solar cycle 23 and 24. It has good correlation for both SC 23 $(CC=0.77)$ and SC 24 $(CC=0.80)$. And Figure (b) shows the scattered plot between ICME speed and CME speed with correlation coefficient 0.63 for SC 23 and 0.54 for SC 24. Our analysis (Table 3) shows that in solar cycle 23, there are 39 events associated with interplanetary shock and 75% of them are associated with Forward shock and only 4% geomagnetic storm events are associated with reversed shock. There are 78% (43 events) have association with interplanetary CMEs. While in rising phase of solar cycle 24 (from 2008 to 2012) we have 17 Geomagnetic events (Dst≤- 75nT), there are 15 events associated with interplanetary

shock and 76% (14 events) of them are associated with Forward shock and only 14% (3 events) geomagnetic storm events are associated with reversed shock. There are 47% (9 events) have association with interplanetary CMEs.

IV. **CONCLUSION**

In this presented work, we have done a statistical study of the occurrence rates and properties of ICMEs/IP shock with geomagnetic storms and their relation to the variations in the solar wind activity and magnetic field parameters during ascending phase of solar cycles 23 and 24. As previous studies shows that the SC 23 rising phase is different in many respects from the same phase of the previous sunspot cycle[30][31][32][33]. We have pointed out in this paper that there were differences in the general properties of ICME/IP shock between the rising phase of SC 24 and corresponding phase of the solar cycle 23.

- 1) We have prepared a comprehensive list of IP shock/ ICMEs for Dst \leq -75 nT recorded at 1 AU during the period January 1996 through December 2000 (phase of SC-23) and January 2008 to December 2012 (ascending phase of SC-24). We find the following:
- 2) The geo-magnetic activities were lower during the ascending phase (first 5 years) of solar cycle 24 comparatively to corresponding duration of solar cycle 23.
- 3) During rising phase of solar cycle 24, Super-intense storm rates are only comparable to or below the minimum rates observed in previous cycle.
- 4) In the ascending phase of Sunspot cycle 24, ICME activity were reduced in comparison of rising phase of SC 23.
- 5) Based on the Richardson & Cane (updated -June 2018) catalog used in this study, ~20% fewer ICMEs passed Earth during the ascending of SC 24 compared to SC 23.
- 6) The mentioned in Table 2, that 90% and 78% of all reported geo-magnetic storms (Dst \le -75 nT) are associated with the IP shocks for solar cycle 24 and 23 respectively. This suggests that occurrence of major geomagnetic storms are not always caused by strong IP shocks. In general, the absence of shock/ ICMEs would give rise to intense geomagnetic storms. These events may be the result of a combination of a fewer ICMEs with speeds exceeding average solar wind speeds (450 kms-1) and lack of such structures with strong southward magnetic fields having $Bz > 20$ nT compared with cycle 23.

As mentioned in Table 1, it is important to mention that sometimes identification of magnetic clouds within ICMEs little difficult by following the methods suggested by [34][35]. However, this is a problem associated with a observation from single satellite that would be solved by multi‐ satellite observation in near future.

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