

Induction by long period geomagnetic variations in the Indian sub-continent

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Abstract. In the present paper storm time variations and 27-day geomagnetic periodicity have been analysed to estimate the depth of the substitute conductor, assuming an infinitely (super) conducting core model of the earth. The advantage of using data from a restricted longitude range is that the uncertainties arising from lateral contrasts in the upper mantle and contributions from Sq current systems are considerably reduced. The result of the present analysis, which has been done in the time domain, gives a value of 522 km for the depth of the substitute conductor in case of storm time variations which rises to 870 km for 27-day recurrent storms. A higher value of the depth for 27-day variations indicate that the rise in conductivity inside the earth is not like a step function rather is a gradual one. The value of 522 km for storm time variations for the Indian region is smaller than the global average. This is natural to expect because the Indian sub-continent is known to be a tectonically active region.

Keywords. Storm time variations; geomagnetic periodicity.

1. Introduction

Features of transient geomagnetic variations have been identified as useful diagnostic tools to probe the deeper interior of the earth. A major limitation has been the availability of a good network of observatories. Even with a limited number of observatories, accurate results can be obtained for those geomagnetic variations, where the source field geometry is accurately known. In the present paper we analyse data for sc-storm-time variations and 27-day recurrent geomagnetic activity. Both these variations have fairly well-known source field geometry and in both cases the potential of the field is very well represented by a $P_1^0(\cos \theta)$ term (Chapman and Price 1930; Eckhardt *et al* 1963). Chapman and Price (1930) have determined, using a uniform core model, both the conductivity and depth of penetration which best fit the sc-storm time data. In this paper we have used the infinitely (super) conducting core model (Jady *et al* 1979); the difference in the two models is given by Banks (1969). We have used data from observatories on the Indian sub-continent which have a very small longitudinal spread. It may be emphasized that, Kingan *et al* (1980) have expressed doubt about the validity of the assumption that the Dst field is independent of longitude. By restricting ourselves to a very small range of longitudes, any local time dependence of the Dst field, if present, will not affect the analysis. The aim of the present study is to find the depth of the substitute conductor using storm time variations and 27-days recurrent storms, assuming a super conducting core model. The 27-day recurrent storms have been chosen from Bartel's

diagram. We wish to see if the response of the earth is the same for both these variations. Further, considering the problems associated with accurate determination of phase we have done the analysis in time domain. We know that India lies on a tectonically active area, the Indian plate is still drifting (Gough 1977). Information on the electrical structure of its deeper layer is therefore of special significance in wider perspectives of geophysics.

2. Analysis

For the analysis of both the sc-storm-time variations and the 27-day recurrent storms, we have assumed that in the general magnetic potential of these fields, only the first term ($n = 1$) is dominant and the components of the magnetic field at the surface of the earth are given by

$$X = -(e_1 + i_1) \sin \theta \text{ and } Z = (e_1 - 2i_1) \cos \theta,$$

(Rikitake and Sato 1957), where θ is the geomagnetic colatitude of the place and e_1 and i_1 are respectively the contributions from external and internal current systems. In the Indian region, X and H are nearly the same as the declination, D , is very small. For any given time, a least squares fit to the observed H and Z variations at the different stations is made to estimate e_1 and i_1 .

Further, using an infinitely conducting core model of the earth, the radius of the inner conducting core is determined, following Jady *et al* (1979). From the evaluated e_1 and i_1 values for each of the N time intervals, the parameter a is calculated. a is defined by

$$a = \frac{\sum_{j=1}^N e_1(t_j) i_1(t_j)}{\sum_{j=1}^N [e_1(t_j)]^2} \quad (1)$$

From a the normalised radius, q , of the perfectly conducting core is evaluated ($a = q^{3/2}$) from which the depth of the perfect substitute conductor is estimated for both sc-storm-time variations and 27-days recurrent storms. The depth of the substitute conductor is given by the relation: $d = (1 - q) R$; where R is radius of the earth.

2.1 Storm-time variation

The magnetic storm of November 21-22, 1975 has been used for this study. The details of the data used and their analysis are given in Rajaram *et al* (1979). The standard errors in e_1 and i_1 were computed as in Anderssen and Seneta (1969). Plot of e_1 and i_1 thus obtained is given in figure 1. We shall call this e_{obs} and i_{obs} . Then we evaluated a from (1). We obtained $a = 0.38$ and i_1 was calculated as $i_1 = a e_{\text{obs}}$

(t_1) (Jady *et al* 1979). We shall denote this by i_{cal} . A plot of i_{cal} is also given in figure 1. It may be noted that the observed and calculated values agree well. This value of α gives the depth of the perfect conductor at 522 km.

2.2 27-days variation

The signal of the 27-day recurrent storm is usually very weak and therefore to be able to isolate the signal, the method of superposed epoch analysis (Chapman and Bartels 1940) was used. From the Bartels diagram sequences of 27-d cycles of well-defined recurrent storms were noted. The spectral peaks of the 27-d period and its harmonics are best defined during low levels of solar activity (Banks 1969), therefore, we selected the sequence of five 27-d recurrent storms in 1976 (rotation numbers 1948 to 1952), period of solar minimum. From the Bartels diagram the first day of each 27-d rotation period was taken as the key day. To remove shorter period fluctuations, five-day running mean for the entire period was taken. Therefore data collection started 2 days before the key day of the first cycle up to 2 days after the end of the fifth cycle. Thus daily mean hourly H and Z values of the different Indian stations were taken from January 11 to May 28, 1976. Table 1 lists the stations used for this

Table 1. The geographic and geomagnetic co-ordinates of the observatories whose records have been used in daily analysis of 27-day variations

Station Name	Abbreviation	Geographic		Geomagnetic	
		Latitude	Longitude	Latitude	Longitude
Trivandrum	TRV	8° 29'N	76° 57'E	1·11° S	146·83°E
Kodaikanal	KOD	10° 14'N	77° 29'E	0·57° N	147·53°E
Annamalainagar	ANR	11° 22'N	79° 41'E	1·51° N	149·81°E
Hyderabad	HYD	17° 25'N	78° 33'E	7·61° N	149·35°E
Alibag	ALB	18° 38'N	72° 52'E	9·43° N	144·06°E
Ujjain	UJN	23° 11'N	75° 49'E	13·50° N	147·00°E
Shillong	SHL	25° 34'N	91° 53'E	14·6 ° N	162·04°E
Jaipur	JAI	26° 35'N	75° 48'E	17·20° N	147·40°E
Sabhawala	SAB	30° 22'N	75° 47'E	20·52° N	150·11°E

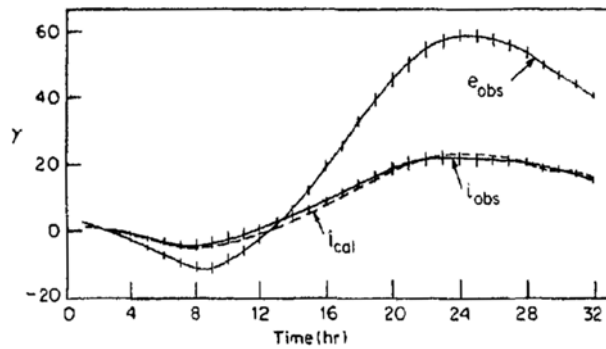


Figure 1. Variations of the observed $e(t)$ and $i(t)$ and calculated $i(t)$ (---) for the storm-time variations of 1975, November 21-22. Standard errors in observed $e(t)$ and $i(t)$ and also shown.

analysis and their geomagnetic co-ordinates. After taking the five-day running mean, the various 27-d cycles were stacked. The mean of the five cycles for each day in the 27-d period was noted. Further, the mean of the first three days was removed from each of the 27-days. This was done for each of the nine stations listed in table 1. Least square fit of the observed H and Z values were then made, to obtain e_{obs} and i_{obs} , for each of the 27-days. Further, α was evaluated from (1) and was found to be $= 0.32$ from which i_{cal} was calculated for each day. Plots of e_{obs} , i_{obs} and i_{cal} are given in figure 2. Here again the agreement between i_{obs} and i_{cal} is excellent. The depth of the perfectly conducting core evaluated from the 27-day variation is 870 km.

It may be added that a similar analysis carried out using the data directly for a single 27-day cycle (March 7-April 2, 1976) did not yield a good fit to the observed variations. A plot of the fit of the observed H and Z variations for 16th day, when the signal is strongest is given in figure 3. It is evident that the fit using a single 27-day period is poor as the signal to noise ratio, particularly in Z is very low. For comparison a plot of the fit to the observed H and Z variations using the superposed epoch analysis for the 16th day, is also made in the same figure (3a). From the figure it is clear that to be able to make any study related to the 27-day variation, the choice of data is of paramount importance, so that the signal can be isolated from the background noise.

3. Discussion and conclusions

The depth of the substitute conductor over the Indian sub-continent, as obtained in the present sc-storm-time analysis is 522 km. This is shallower when compared with the depth estimated by various workers, which are listed by Jady *et al* (1979). Before making any critical comparison, it would be proper to emphasize that lateral contrasts are now known to exist in the upper mantle and an estimate of the depth of substitute conductor from storm-time analysis using data from observatories spread all over the globe can only be an indication of a global average value. However, one point is obvious that a smaller value for this depth under the Indian sub-continent is natural to expect because the Indian sub-continent is still drifting, which indicates that it might be floating over a well-developed asthenosphere providing a medium of larger conductivity at shallower depths. The depth of this substitute conductor for the 27-d

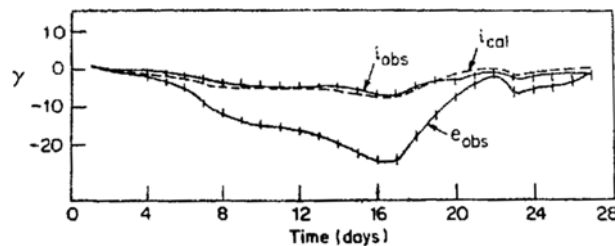


Figure 2. Variations of observed $e(t)$ and $i(t)$ for the 27-day variations of 1976 January 11 to May 28, using the superposed epoch method. Standard errors in $e(t)$ and $i(t)$ are shown. Calculated $i(t)$ (- -) is also plotted.

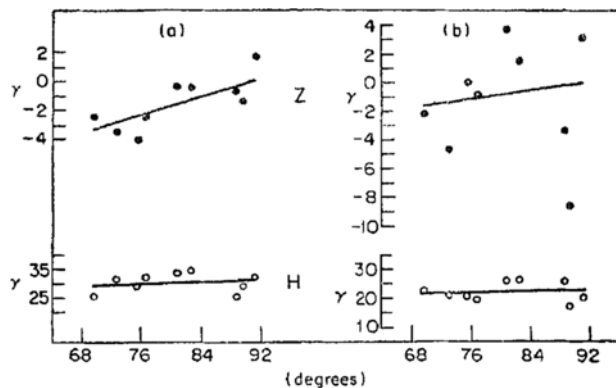


Figure 3. Plot of the observed horizontal (○) and vertical (●) magnetic fluctuations against colatitude (in degrees) for the 16th day of the 27-d variation (a) using the superposed epoch analysis (b) using data directly for a single 27-d recurrent storm period. The solid lines are least squares fit of the P_1 mode to the observed H and Z values.

analysis is found at 870 km which is a bit larger than that obtained for the sc-storm-time variations, indicating that the response of the earth is not frequency independent for the range of periods from a few days to a few tens of days. In case of a step function, where the conductivity rises sharply to infinity, the depth of penetration would be frequency independent. The present results indicate that one should not expect the conductivity σ to rise sharply in the earth's interior, rather the increase in σ with depth is gradual.

It may be added that analysis of the 27-d variations was also carried out in the frequency domain as has been done, by most of the earlier workers (Banks 1969). But for the low latitudes of the Indian region, the Z amplitude of the 27-d variation is very small and consequently the signal to noise ratio is too weak to provide reliable estimates of the response function. Particular difficulty was encountered in estimating phase values.

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