Possible effects of galactic cosmic rays on climate and weather



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Topics

- Radiocarbon dating
- Reconstruction of Galactic Cosmic Rays (GCRs) and solar activity in the past
- GCR variations at the Maunder Minimum (AD1645-1715)
- Detecting the GCR impact on climate variations
- Possible pathway of GCR impact on climate system
- 27-day solar rotational period found in tropical cloud activities and global lightning activities

Production of carbon-14

P

R

D

D

0 N

D

ECAY



GCRs are modulated by heliospheric & geomagnetic magnetic field



http://www.physics.arizona.edu/ams/education/product.htm

Radiocarbon dating



Before AD1993, the variations of carbon-14 production had not been taken into account.

Construction of the Calibration Curve for the radiocarbon dating





Figure 2. Radiocarbon calibration curve obtained by dating tree rings (Stuiver and Kra 1986, Kromer and Becker 1993).

The "wiggles" in the calibration curve is due to1. the secular variation of geomagnetic field intensity (>3000 yrs)2. solar magnetic field variations (<3000 yrs)



Regional offset of carbon-14 concentration





(National Museum of Japanese History)



Regional effect of Beryllium-10 concentration in ice core

EDML: Antarctica GR: Greenland

Common pattern + occasional offset



(Steinhilber et al., PNAS, 2012)

"Best" reconstruction of cosmic ray intensity obtained by Principal Component Analysis of all of the data available so far.



Red: Secular variation of geomagnetic field intensity Residue: 100-300 yr variations of solar activity level

Uncertainty also comes from ^{1.4} the secular variation of geomagne-B ^{1.8} tic field intensity ^{1.6}



(Steinhilber et al., PNAS, 2012)

Cause of the uncertainties in the reconstructed incident GCR flux

- Regional climate effect (geographical)
- Global climate effect (deduction of oceanic circulation, change in carbon cycle etc.)
- Uncertainty of reconstructed geomagnetic field intensity
- (Measurement errors)

Deriving the information of Galactic Cosmic Rays (GCRs) and solar activity

Solar modulation of Galactic Cosmic Rays (GCRs)



Charged particles (mainly protons)
Accelerated at supernova remnant



- diffusion
- advection by solar wind
- B×∇B drift

"11-year" cycles of solar activity and the flux of galactic cosmic rays



(SOHO)





Amplified "22-year" period in GCRs at the Maunder Minimum



Oulu neutron monitor data

22-year period of solar magnetic polarity reversals



Tilt angle

Heliospheric current sheet



(based on Washimi et al.)

One wave = $\sim 5AU$ $\Rightarrow 100AU = 20$ months

Drift effect of cosmic rays $\implies B \times \nabla B$ drift



(based on Washimi et al.)

Drift effect of cosmic rays $\implies B \times \nabla B$ drift



(based on Washimi et al.)

Tilt angle vs GCR flux



Possibly extremely flattened current sheet at the Maunder Minimum

Based on Kota&Jokipii, 1983; 2003

(a) 0 deg. at cycle min(b) 5 degs. at cycle min





Kataoka, Miyahara et al., 2012

Detecting the GCR impact on climate variations

Evidence from the past: Influence of Solar activity on climate variations



Bond et al., 2001



Climate change

How to detect the cosmic ray effect?

- Astronomical phenomena
 - Crossing the galactic arms (Shaviv, 2003)
 - Vertical oscillation of solar system in the galaxy (Medvedev & Melott, 2007)
- Geomagnetic Excursions / M-B Geomagnetic Reversal

• Some evidence of cooling from low latitude region (Kitaba et al., 2010; 2012)

Forbush Decrease (daily)

Positive results (Kniveton, 2004; Svensmark, 2009; Kataoka 2010)
Negative results (Sloan & Wolfendale, 2008; Kristjánsson+, 2008; Calogovic+, 2010)

- Maunder Minimum/Medieval Period
 - unique periodicities ~22-years in cosmic rays (Miyahara+, 2008; Yamaguchi+, 2010)
- Maunder-like period during the Glacier period
 - Under much more ice forming condensation nuclei (suggested by Tinsley, 2009)
- Nuclear bomb test/nuclear power plant accident
 - No effect found (Erlykin et al., 2009)

How to detect the cosmic ray effect?

Evidence from the Matsuyama-Burunhes Geomagnetic reversal

Kitaba et al., PNAS, 2012



- A: Paleo-geomagnetic field intensity anomaly (Hyodo et al., 2006)
- F: Calculated galactic cosmic ray intensity (inverted)
- G: Reconstructed annual mean temperature around Osaka (Kitaba, 2010, Kitaba et al., 2012)

Climate response to cosmic-ray spikes during the Maunder Minimum



Superposition of four 1-year spikes for ¹⁴C (GCR) and ¹⁸O (climate)



Yamaguchi, Miyahara et al., PNAS, 2010

How GCRs affect climate system?

- Possible impact of GCRs on tropical cloud activities

Important findings of CLOUD experiment at CERN





Kirkby et al., Nature 2011



CERN experiment finds

- Nucleation is more efficient at lower temperature (correspond to middle to upper troposphere)
- •NH₃ in addition to SO₂ is needed for efficient nucleation

Where can be the most sensitive place?

Sufficient water vapor & SO₂ Low temperature Sufficient ionization



n(cm⁻³)



Solar rotational period in tropical cloud activity



Monthly-scale cloud activity is known to present at Equatorial region (Madden-Julian Oscillation) but the origin of the cyclicity is unknown.

Solar rotational period in lightning activity

Sato et al., 2005



FIG. 12. A maximum entropy analysis of periodicities in the thunderstorm-related events shown in Fig. 11, showing the presence of a 26-day period (line). The dashed line and dotted line correspond to 4σ and 3σ fluctuations expected for white noise in each period, respectively.



Figure 2. Plot of SR power spectrum. Spectral peaks (A), (B), and (C) correspond to the periods of 28, 12, and $\sim 4-6$ days, respectively.

Solar flare and Forbush decrease

Kataoka 2009





Forbush decreases

Sector structure

Next step: Observational study on the GCR effects on cloud microphysics



Future prospects

- Trace the impact of GCR on equatorial cloud activities and its propagation by utilizing the 27-day GCR variations
- Improve the accuracy of climate and weather forecast
- Search for the impact of astrospheres on the climate condition of extra-solar planets
- Reinterpretation of the history of the Earth