Magnetism, from Earth to the Cosmos

Dr Cormac Purcell









Fe₃O₄

Ye olde magnetism

Magnetite : Lodestone

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- 2500 BC: Foggy Chinese general
- 2000 BC: Greek shepherd stuck
- 1000 BC: Viking explorers
- 1500 AD: Earth's magnetic field
- 1800 AD: Maxwell links electricity
 & magnetism























Ye olde magnetism



All moving charge, or "current" creates a magnetic field.





Ye olde magnetism



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Solar Cycle Variations





























Magnetism on Earth and in the Sun

If the magnetic pole is in the southern hemisphere, the rocks record a reverse magnetic pattern.

Magnetism on Earth and in the Sun

Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America

Magnetic alignment in grazing and resting cattle and deer

Sabine Begall^{*,†}, Jaroslav Červený^{‡,§}, Julia Neef^{*}, Oldřich Vojtěch^{‡,¶}, and Hynek Burda^{*}

PNAS

Magnetism on Earth and in the Sun

Hart et al. Frontiers in Zoology 2013, 10:80 http://www.frontiersinzoology.com/content/10/1/80

RESEARCH

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Open Access

Dogs are sensitive to small variations of the Earth's magnetic field

Vlastimil Hart¹, Petra Nováková¹, Erich Pascal Malkemper^{2†}, Sabine Begall^{2†}, Vladimír Hanzal¹, Miloš Ježek¹, Tomáš Kušta¹, Veronika Němcová¹, Jana Adámková¹, Kateřina Benediktová¹, Jaroslav Červený¹ and Hynek Burda^{1,2*}

Magnetism on Earth and in the Sun

"Dogs preferred to excrete with the body being aligned along the North–South axis ..."

Magnetism in Space

Why do we care about magnetism in space?

• Magnetic fields are everywhere in space!

Magnetism in Space

Magnetism in Space

Image credit: NRAO Adam Ginsburg and John Bally (Univ of Colorado - Boulder), Farhad Yusef-Zadeh (Northwestern), Bolocam Galactic Plane Survey team; GLIMPSE II team

Magnetism in Space

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Magnetism in Space

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Magnetism in our Galaxy

Planck Satellite

Magnetism in our Galaxy

Problem: we can't see very far using visible light.

Solution: look at radio wavelengths and cut through the dust!

Magnetism in our Galaxy

Polarised image of the sky made using the VLA

Magnetism in our Galaxy

Polarised image of the sky made using the VLA

JinLin Han, 2013

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Magnetism in our Galaxy

RM (rad m⁻¹)

-200

-250

-300

5

10

15

Angular Offset o (deg)

20

160

140

80

60

40

20

25

Magnetic field angle

 Θ = 0 degrees

Magnetism in our Galaxy

Offset Latitude (deg)

Polarised Image

Magnetic field angle

 Θ = 5 degrees

Magnetism in our Galaxy

RM (rad m⁻¹)

Offset Latitude (deg) RM (rad m⁻² **Polarised Image** -50 -100 -150-200 Angular Offset ϕ (deg)

Magnetic field angle

 Θ = 15 degrees

Magnetism in our Galaxy

RM (rad m⁻¹)

Offset Latitude (deg) RM Irad m⁻² **Polarised Image** 120 100 100 80 60 Brotile Angle (deg) -50 -100-150Angular Offset o (deg)

Magnetic field angle

 Θ = 20 degrees

Magnetism in our Galaxy

RM (rad m⁻¹)

Magnetic field angle

 Θ = 50 degrees

Magnetism in our Galaxy

RM (rad m⁻¹)

Magnetic field angle

 Θ = 80 degrees

Magnetism in our Galaxy

Polarised Image

Magnetic field angle

 Θ = 90 degrees

ASKAP – Australia on the cutting edge

Summary

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