

Evolution of the 5 January 2005 CMEs associated with eruptive filaments in inner heliosphere

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Abstract. On 5 January 2005, LASCO/SoHO observed two CMEs associated with eruptive filaments with different initial velocities and acceleration. The second CME accelerates much faster than the previous and the resulting interaction has been revealed in in-situ spacecraft measurements by the presence of magnetic holes at border of the two distinct magnetic clouds. At their interface region, these magnetic clouds have embedded filament plasma that shows complex magnetic structures with a distinct magnetic flux rope configuration; these have been modeled by the Grad - Shafranov reconstruction technique. The geomagnetic consequences of these structures have been associated with substorms in recovery phase of a storm and detailed analysis is presented in Sharma et al. (2013). In the present paper, we highlight the comparison of shape and extent of two filament plasma remnants in magnetic clouds as revealed by three - dimensional (3D) reconstruction and analysis from the Solar Mass Ejection Imager (SMEI) data. The results provide an overview of the two eruptive filaments on 5 January 2005 and their interplanetary propagation.

Keywords. Solar filaments, ICMEs, geomagnetic storms, substorms

1. Introduction

Despite of the fact that around 70% of the Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs) in interplanetary medium are associated with eruptive filaments (Webb & Hundhausen, 1987), there remain a number of questions concerning identification of their remnants in in-situ data and propagation patterns in heliosphere. As the CME propagates, the associated magnetic fields may reconnect with solar wind fields or those of other CMEs creating complicated signatures in spacecraft data. Also, CMEs kinematically elongate in angular extent, expand from high internal pressure and may distort due to inhomogeneous ambient solar wind environment. We focus on the evolution of two CMEs associated with eruptive filaments on 5 Jan 2005, in inner heliosphere with identification of filament remnants. The angular extents and general shapes of the associated structures were reconstructed using SMEI data while magnetic topology of embedded flux ropes is modeled using Grad-Shafranov reconstruction technique.

2. Data, Analysis and Results

Solar disk observations were taken from ground-based (KSO and YNAO) and space-borne (SoHO-EIT/MDI/LASCO) instruments. The in-situ properties were investigated through measurements from ACE (MAG, SWEPAM, SWICS) and Wind (MFI, 3DP, SWE) spacecraft. 3D reconstruction of the plasma structures and their extents were done using SMEI data. Filament plasma remnants were identified in magnetic clouds by techniques described by Sharma & Srivastava (2012). Magnetic topology of embedded magnetic flux ropes is modeled using Grad-Shafranov reconstruction technique (Hu & Sonnerup, 2002). 3D rendering of associated plasma structures is done by the use of time dependent reconstruction algorithm (Jackson et al., 2002, and references therein).

Sharma et al. (2013) reported the event by the study of remote and in-situ observations of two CME eruptions associated with an active region and quiescent filaments on 5 Jan 2005. The first CME was associated with an east - west oriented filament and was slow in velocity and acceleration as compared to the second north - south oriented filament. Due to this difference, the two CMEs interacted in interplanetary medium through magnetic reconnection which resulted in complex magnetic structures at interface region, which was further confirmed by modeling of magnetic configuration of flux rope structures using G-S technique. The in-situ signatures of solar wind for the events studied also provide evidence for filament plasma remnants.

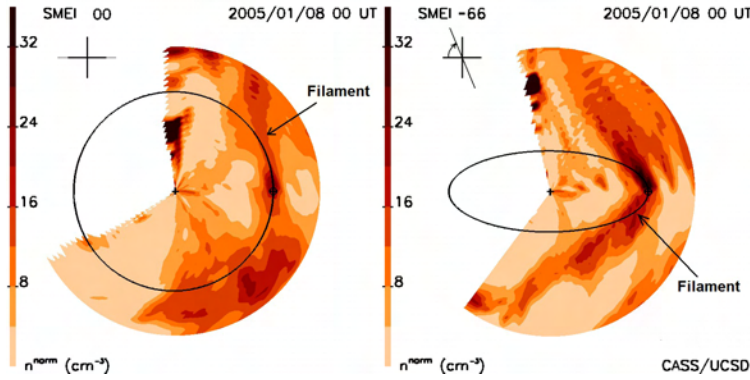


Figure 1. SMEI 3D reconstructed ecliptic cuts viewed from the north just prior to the arrival of the 5 January CMEs. The Sun is at the center with the Earth (\oplus) shown to the right on its elliptical orbit. Blank areas are regions not accessed by SMEI and thus were not reconstructed.

3D reconstructions from SMEI data (Fig. 1) reveal that the filament structure(s) near 1 AU have expanded in their latitude and longitude extent on the solar surface to nearly twice the size and volume at 1 AU. The first filament and its associated CME to the west could be interpreted as dense expanded knotted lower structure. The second filament is observed as a slower -moving structure perhaps a half AU from Earth. A qualitative comparison with in-situ data suggests that spacecraft (ACE/Wind) encountered a dense, flank edge of the filament structures, associated with 5 January 2005 solar eruptions.

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