

Solar flare effects on the geomagnetic elements during normal and counter electrojet periods

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The paper describes the study of solar flare effects (*sfe*) on horizontal (*H*), eastward (*Y*) and vertical (*Z*) components of the geomagnetic field at the Indo-USSR chain of magnetic observatories extending from the magnetic latitudes 0° to 45°N, a network not available anywhere else in the world. Events are selected when strong, normal and reversed (counter) equatorial electrojet are in existence as well as when only a partial counter electrojet is present.

During a strong and normal electrojet event time, *sfe* consists of a positive impulse in *H* at all stations, the amplitude of *H* following the latitudinal variation similar to that of the quiet day monthly mean, *Sq* (*H*). The *sfe* in *Y* is negative at all the stations. *Sfe* in *Z* shows positive impulse at the four-electrojet stations and negative at other stations. During a counter electrojet period the effect of solar flare on *H* field is negative impulse at electrojet stations, positive at low latitude and again negative at stations north of *Sq* focus. *Sfe* in *Y* is small at all the equatorial and negative at higher latitude stations. However, *sfe* (*Z*) is negative at the equatorial latitudes.

During a partial counter electrojet period the observed effect is the combination of an increase of the planetary current component and the decrease of the electrojet component, giving rise to a negative impulse in *H* at equatorial stations and a positive impulse in *H*, increasing with increasing distance from the equator. These results are presented and discussed.

1. Introduction

An interrelation between the optical solar flare and the magnetic crochet was first identified by Carrington (1859) and Hodgson (1859) on September 1, 1859. Dellinger (1935) reported simultaneous occurrence of short wave fade out (SWF) during the crochet time. The concomitant phenomena of solar flare, crochet and short wave fade out soon received much interest of many scientists (Fleming, 1936; Richardson, 1936; Torrison *et al.*, 1936). The effects of solar flares on the geomagnetic field records, vertical incidence pulsed ionosphere sounding records and earth current records all at an equatorial station Huancayo were first described by McNish (1937). He showed that the flare disturbance vectors in *H* were similar in direction to that of the pre-flare *Sq* (*H*) vectors. This led to the notion that the crochet current system was mostly the augmentation of the *Sq* current. Nagata (1952) studied the characteristics of solar flare observed at Huancayo, Kakioka and Watheroo. He found that the time from the beginning to the peak as well as the ratio of the magnitudes of the peak crochet deviation to the *Sq* at the corresponding time were nearly the same at the three stations. However, the absolute magnitudes of crochet vari-

ations at Huancayo were abnormally large as the *Sq* (*H*) at the same station was.

With the establishment of number of geomagnetic observatories at low latitudes an interest is generated again for the study of crochet. Current systems were drawn for individual solar flares using multi station magnetograms (Veldkamp and Van Saben, 1960; Van Saben, 1961).

Nagata (1966) made a study of the global distribution of 15 typical *sfes* during the IGY and found an almost perfectly simultaneous relationship between optical and radio solar flares, geomagnetic *sfes* and the sudden ionospheric disturbances. Ohshio *et al.* (1967) studied *sfe* on geomagnetic field on global basis and suggested that the seat of ionospheric current due to solar flares is a little lower than the layer for *Sq* current system. Richmond and Venkateswaran (1971) suggested that the crochet consists of a 'fast' component presumably due to EUV radiation (100–1000 Å) and a 'slow' component produced by soft X-rays (1–100 Å).

Forbush and Casaverde (1961) first took a proper attention to the crochet at equatorial electrojet region and showed that the enhancement of *sfe* in *H* at Peruvian stations varied in a manner similar to the enhancement of *Sq* (*H*) itself. Rastogi (1965) showed longitudinal inequality in the latitudinal enhancement of *sfe* (*H*) amplitude similar to that of electrojet current itself. Srivastava (1974) described a *sfe* event at 0830 UT on May 3, 1973 recorded at all the

Table 1. Coordinates and geomagnetic parameters at the Observatories whose data are utilised in this paper during June 1982.

Observatory	Code	Geog		H nT	D o	Z nT	I o	Sensitivity/mm			Chart speed mm/hr
		Lat°N	Long°E					H nT	Y	Z nT	
Trivandrum	TRD	8.5	77.0	39846	-2.8	-39	-0.6	2.1	1.4	2.5	20
Ettaiyapuram	ETT	9.2	78.0	39850	-3.0	978	2.2	4.8	4.4	2.6	15
Kodaikanal	KOD	10.2	77.5	39190	-2.4	2580	3.8	2.8	16.0	12.0	15
Annamalai-Nagar	ANN	11.4	79.7	40230	-2.6	4414	6.3	1.8	4.0	3.1	20
Hyderabad	HYB	17.4	78.6	39624	-1.6	15347	21.1	4.5	3.5	3.7	15
Alibag	ABG	18.6	72.9	38190	-0.7	17700	24.4	1.7	1.6	1.7	20
Ujjain	UJJ	23.2	75.8	36969	-0.5	24441	33.5	1.6	1.5	2.1	20
Jaipur	JAI	26.9	75.8	35628	-0.8	29628	39.7	1.7	1.6	1.5	20
Shillong	SHL	25.6	91.8	37409	-0.8	27479	36.3	1.4	4.5	2.8	20
Sabhawala	SAB	30.4	77.6	33758	+0.4	34499	45.6	3.3	4.9	3.4	20
Gulmarg	GUL	34.1	74.6	31676	+1.6	38919	50.9	1.5	2.4	2.2	20
Tashkant	TKT	41.3	69.6	25670	+4.7	45400	60.1	3.2	3.2	2.1	20
Alma Ata	AAA	43.3	76.9	25270	+4.5	47920	62.2	3.0	3.0	2.0	20
Koraganda	KGD	49.8	73.1	20120	+1.8	52370	68.9	3.0	3.0	2.0	20
Novarabersk	NVS	55.1	82.9	17130	+0.5	52570	71.9	1.9	2.1	3.2	20

three components of the geomagnetic field D , H and Z at Indian Observatories. The amplitude of sfe in H was found to be smaller at equatorial electrojet stations Annamalai-nagar, Kodaikanal and Trivandrum compared to those at non-jet stations, Hyderabad, Alibag and Sabhawala. Rastogi *et al.* (1975) showed that this anomaly in the latitudinal distribution of amplitude in sfe (H) is due to a partial counter electrojet being in existence during the period of the solar flare.

Utilising the Indian geomagnetic data, the sfe was extensively studied and complexities are well discussed by Raja Rao and Rao (1963), Rastogi *et al.* (1975), Sastri (1975), Rangarajan and Rastogi (1981), Rastogi *et al.* (1983), Rastogi (1996) etc. Some of the above studies also considered the ionospheric data to explain the flare effects.

Since 1975, a chain of nine magnetic observatories has been operating in India extending from the latitude of the center of the electrojet to the latitude of Sq focus. Stations north of Sq focus in former USSR states supplement this. The data from these observatories provide a unique possibility of studying the detailed latitudinal effects of solar flares along a restricted longitude sector. Rastogi *et al.* (1997) have described the effect of an intense solar flare event at 1311 LT on 15 June 1991 at Indian stations. The solar flare effects appeared to be an augmentation of the ionospheric current system existing at the time of the flare. ΔH (sfe) was positive at all stations and decreased progressively with latitude. ΔY (sfe) were negative at all the stations, ΔZ (sfe) were positive at equatorial and negative at non-electrojet observatories. In this communication, it is aimed to describe the flare events under varied equatorial electrojet conditions employing the

observations that were made in the unique Indo-USSR network of observatories.

2. Observations

The stations whose data are utilised are shown in Fig. 1(a) and are listed in Table 1 together with other relevant facts about the stations. It may be noted that the speed of the magnetograms was 15 mm/hr at Kodaikanal, Ettaiyapuram and Hyderabad while at all other stations it was 20 mm/hr. These examples of crochet were selected during June 1982 from the published IAGA listing.

In Fig. 1(b), are shown the mean solar daily variations on five international quiet days Sq of Y , H and Z fields at each of the stations for the month of June 1982. Y at TRD showed a small positive deviation around 06 hr and a prominent negative deviation at 12 hr. With increasing distance from the equator the morning peak becomes stronger such that at GUL both the morning maximum and noon minimum are almost equal in magnitude. At stations north of GUL ΔY was maximum at 07–08 hr and minimum at 13–14 hr. ΔH at TRD showed a minor minimum around 06 hr and a larger maximum around 11 hr. With increasing latitude, the magnitude of the midday peak decreased and at SAB and GUL a minimum at 09 and a maximum at 14 hr was observed. At GUL ΔH showed a minimum of -23 nT at 09 and a maximum of 24 nT at 13 LT. At stations north of GUL, ΔH showed a strong minimum around noon hours. ΔZ at TRD showed a maximum in the forenoon (10 LT) and a minimum in the afternoon (15 LT) similar but decreased variation was observed at ETT. At ANN a prominent mini-

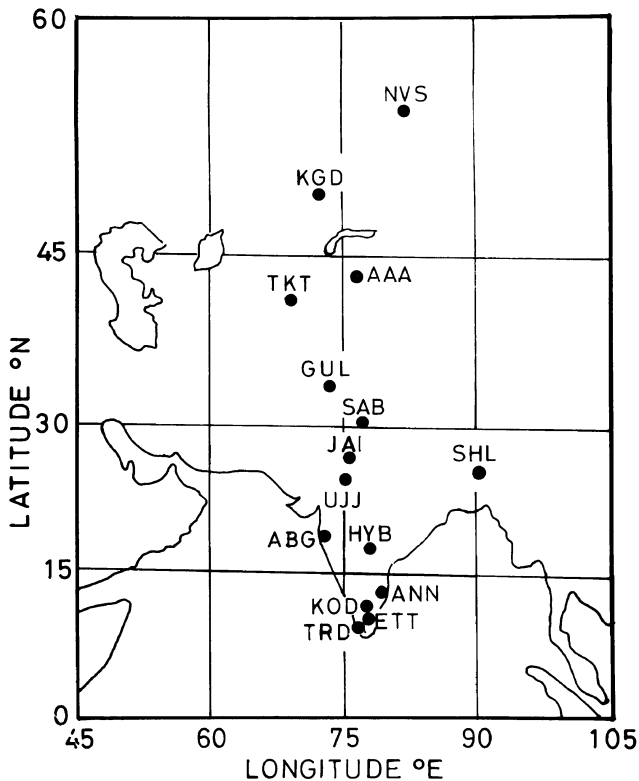


Fig. 1(a). Location map of geomagnetic observatories. The abbreviations of observatories are defined in Table 1.

imum was observed suggesting the station is at the fringe of the electrojet. At other stations the prominent feature was a minimum around midday. The ΔH (TRD-ABG) characterizing the strength of the electrojet current showed a midday peak of 30 nT and a partial counter electrojet effect around 15 hr, even in monthly mean quiet day variations.

Fukushima (1993) has shown that the daily variation of Z field at Koror followed the temporal gradient in H field and hence concluded that Z was affected by the induction effects due to ocean currents. The abnormal variation of ΔZ at Trivandrum has been attributed to the increase electromagnetic induction due to ocean currents by Nityananda *et al.* (1977) and Srivastava and Abbas (1978); and due to conducting channel between India and Sri Lanka by Rajaram *et al.* (1979). From the present curves of Sq (Z) it is to be noted that whatever may be reasons for induction, the effect is present at Trivandrum (by abnormal diurnal variation of the element) and to a lesser extent at Ettaiyapuram. At Kodaikanal and Annamalaiagar, the effects due to the electrojet currents appear to be much stronger than that of induction.

2.1 Crochet on 4 June 1982 (normal electrojet day)

In Fig. 2 are reproduced the Y , H and Z tracings of the magnetograms on 4 June 1982 at the station at the centre of electrojet, TRD, near the edge of the electrojet, ANN, and a station well outside the range of electrojet, UJJ. The traces are so reproduced that an upward movement of the trace indicates the increase of either of the components of the field, H , Y or Z . The sensitivities of individual traces are also indicated and it is to be noted that these are not uniform.

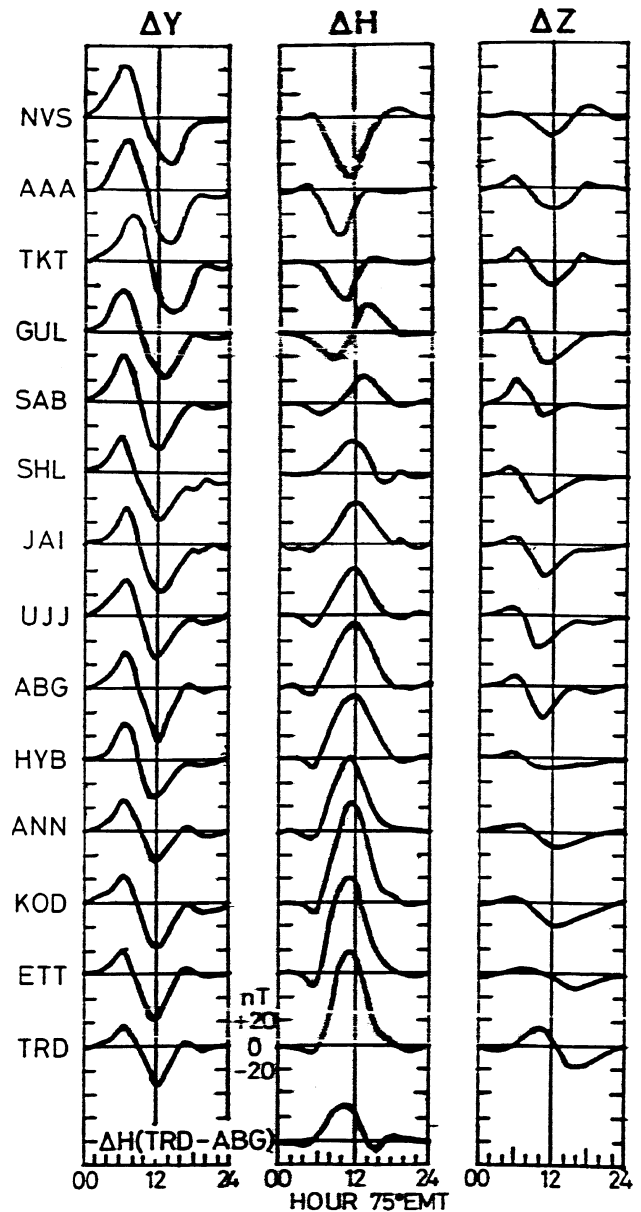


Fig. 1(b). Monthly mean solar daily variations of ΔY , ΔH and ΔZ at each of the stations for the month of June 1982.

The solar daily range of H on this day is estimated to be 73 nT at TRD compared to Sq (monthly mean) of 79 nT. Thus, the day is classified as a normal electrojet day. Two solar flares have occurred at 1006 and 1131 hr at 75°E time. At TRD, the flares have produced positive crochets in H and Z and a small negative impulse in Y traces. At ANN, similar positive impulses in H and Z and negative impulses in Y fields are recorded. At UJJ, the sfe impulses are positive in H and negative for Z and Y fields. It is to be noted that the sign of the sfe impulses at all the stations correspond to the sign of the component with respect to the early morning (or midnight) field values. Thus this example confirms the earlier results that solar flare effects are primarily the augmentation of the ambient current system.

Next the deviations of H , Y and Z just prior to the flare are estimated with respect to the midnight values and are designated as ΔH_0 , ΔY_0 and ΔZ_0 respectively. The amplitudes

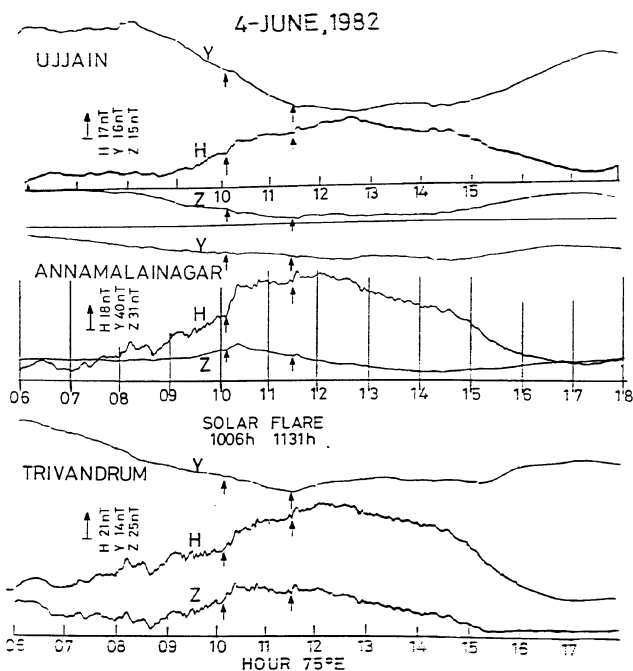


Fig. 2. Tracings of the magnetograms at Trivandrum, Annamalainagar and Ujjain on 4 June 1982 showing solar flare effect at 1006 hr and 1131 hr 75° EMT.

(from starting time of the flare to its peak on the magnetogram) are scaled in H , Y and Z fields and are denoted as ΔH_f , ΔY_f and ΔZ_f respectively. In Fig. 3 are shown the latitudinal variations of ΔH_o , ΔY_o and ΔZ_o and ΔH_f , ΔY_f and ΔZ_f for both the flares. As the flares occurred at the time close to local noon, the ΔH_o has shown enhancement at low latitudes. The magnitudes of sfe in H indicate systematic increase towards the equator. The magnitudes of ΔY_o before the impulse were negative at low latitudes and positive at stations north of the Indian latitudes for the first flare. The impulses due to solar flare were negative at the equatorial and low latitude stations and slightly positive at higher latitude stations. The latitudinal variations of ΔZ_o showed positive values at equatorial station TRD, ETT, KOD and ANN and negative value at ABG and other higher latitude stations. The solar flare impulse in Z showed very small value at low and higher latitude stations but at equatorial latitude stations ΔZ_f were uniformly positive with measurable magnitudes.

2.2 Crochets on 5 June 1982 (strong normal electrojet day)

Three solar flares occurred at 0627 hr (75°E time), 1115 hr and 1227 on 5 June 1982. Figure 4 shows the daily variations of ΔY , ΔH and ΔZ on 5 June 1982. It is seen that on this day the ionospheric currents were abnormally larger than the monthly mean values. The values of ΔH (TRD-ABG) are negative around sunrise period but are exceedingly large and positive during the rest of the day. ΔH at stations north of GUL has shown midday minimum. The daily variations of ΔY as well as ΔZ are also larger at equatorial stations KOD and ANN as expected because of the enhanced eastward electrojet currents during the daytime hours. The daily variations of Z field at TRD and ETT have a peak in the

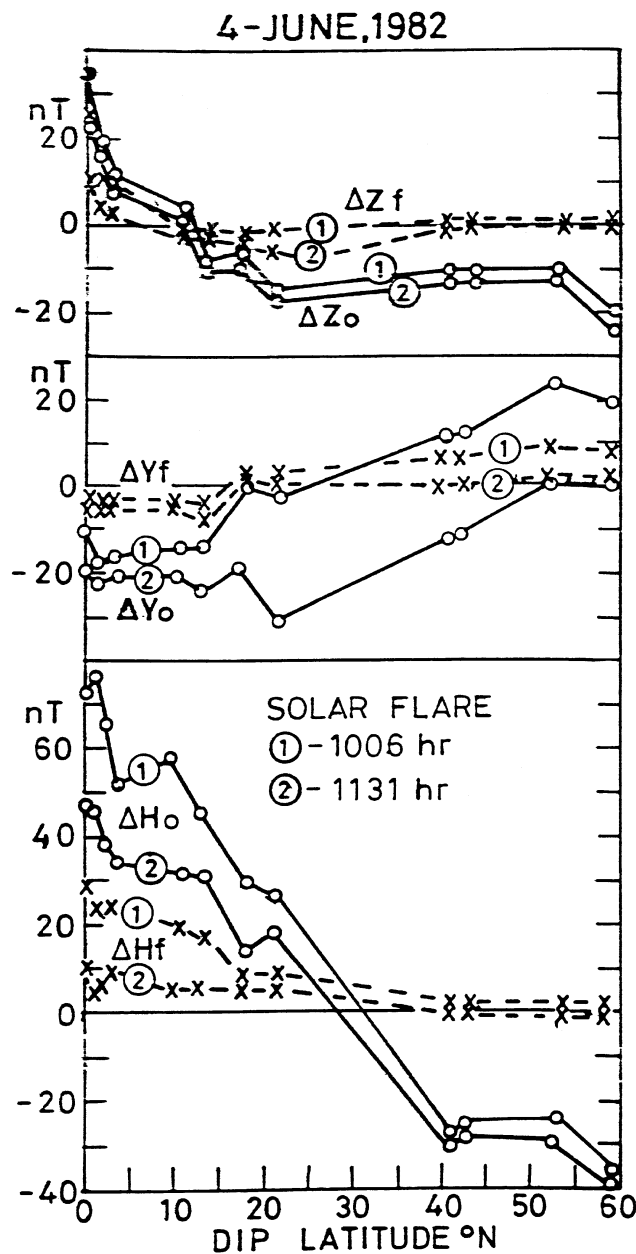


Fig. 3. Latitudinal variations of the pre-flare amplitudes and sfe amplitudes in H , Y and Z associated with two flares on 4 June 1982.

forenoon and a minimum in the afternoon hours, a feature generally attributed to the effect of induction within the conducting regions of the solid earth.

In Fig. 5 are shown the latitudinal variations of ΔH , ΔY and ΔZ on 5 June 1982, in comparison with the corresponding values for monthly mean Sq variation. It is seen that the range of H field at low latitudes is larger on 5 June 1982 when compared to the monthly mean Sq variations. At the electrojet stations, TRD and ETT the range in H is more than double the monthly mean value. Similar enhancements of ΔY are observed at the equatorial stations on this day. The ΔZ near noon is positive at TRD and ETT and negative at other stations.

In Fig. 6 are reproduced the traces of H , Y and Z fields at each of the stations on 5 June 1982. The first crochet oc-

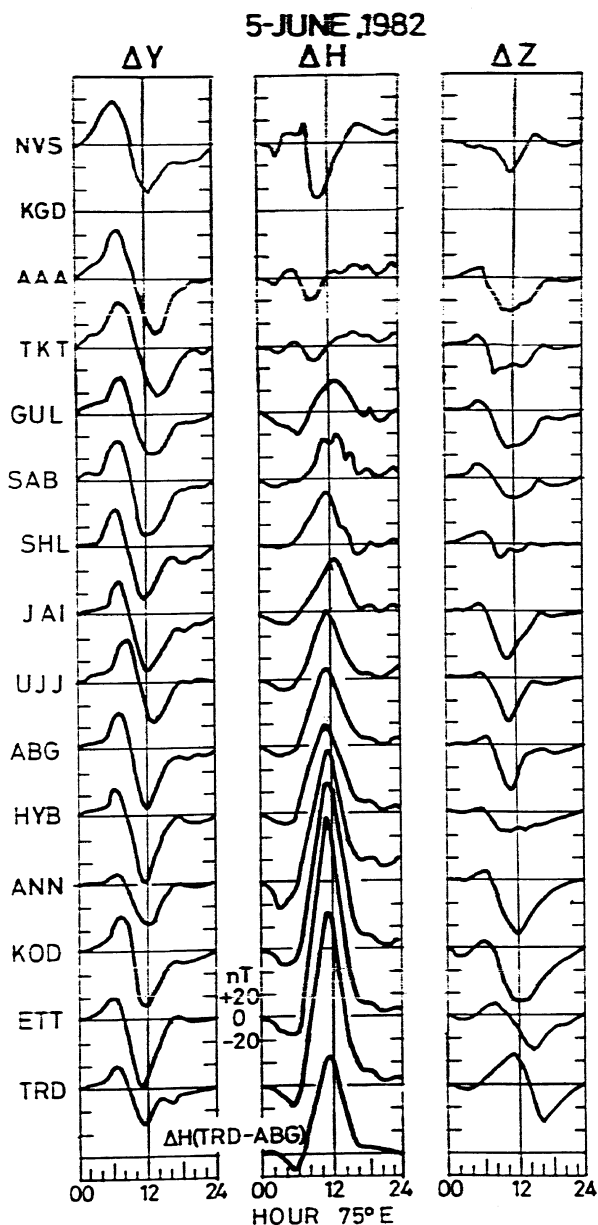


Fig. 4. Solar daily variations of ΔY , ΔH and ΔZ at each of the stations on 5 June 1982. The H on this day was distinctly larger than the corresponding Sq variations.

curred around the sunrise period (0627 hr) when ΔH (TRD) was negative at the equatorial latitudes and consequently the impulse of crochet on H at TRD, ETT, KOD and ANN were all negative. At higher latitudes, no significant sfe were seen due to almost zero ΔH fields at that time. At stations north of India, the impulse was clearly positive. The signatures of this flare on Y field were too small at the northern latitude stations. The sfe in Z were small and positive at TKT and AAA.

Another two solar flares occurred at 1115 hr and 1227 hr when the normal electrojet current was quite strong. The signatures of the crochet on H are consequently positive at each of the stations from Trivandrum to AlmaAta and negative at Karaganda and Novosibirsk following the Sq current pattern. It is to be noted that the signatures of crochet on Y

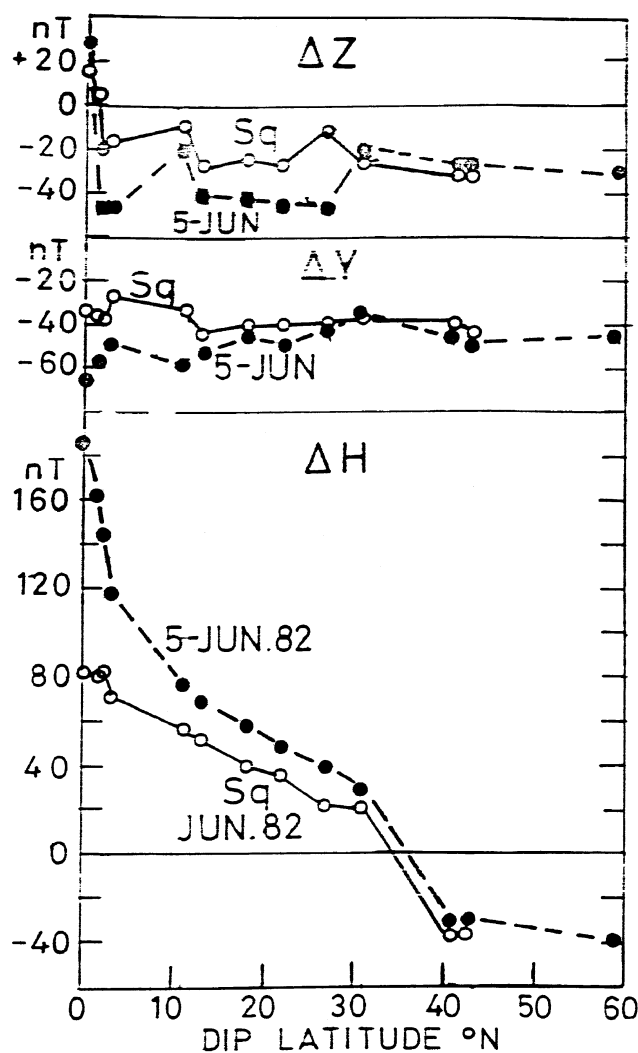


Fig. 5. Latitudinal variations of the daily ranges of ΔH , ΔY and ΔZ on 5 June 1982 compared with the corresponding variations on Sq days.

were negative at all the stations. The signature of crochet on Z was positive at equatorial stations TRD, ETT, KOD and ANN, and negative at stations outside the electrojet belt. The effect of sfe in Z at HYB was too small to ascertain the sign correctly. It is to be noted that the positive deviations of ΔZ_0 at TRD and ETT have been extended even upto midday hours on this day.

In Fig. 7 are shown the latitudinal plots of the pre-flare values of ΔH_0 , ΔY_0 and ΔZ_0 and the sfe magnitudes in these fields ΔH_f , ΔY_f and ΔZ_f for the two flares (1) at 1115 hr and (2) at 1227 hr. It is seen that the pre-flare ΔH_0 for both the first and second have shown a strong enhancement over the magnetic equator. The solar flare effect in H is the same enhancement towards the equator. The pre-flare ΔY_0 is around -30 and -40 nT at all the stations. The flare magnitude in Y (ΔY_f) at all the stations are around -10 nT. The value of Z field just before the flare, ΔZ_0 has indicated an increase, from a value of -40 at Jaipur to a value around $+15$ nT at Trivandrum. The flare effect in Z , i.e. ΔZ_f is around -5 nT to -10 nT at low and higher latitude stations. But between ANN and TRD, it showed an increase from a value of $+30$ to $+40$ nT. Thus, the sfe in Z at the equatorial

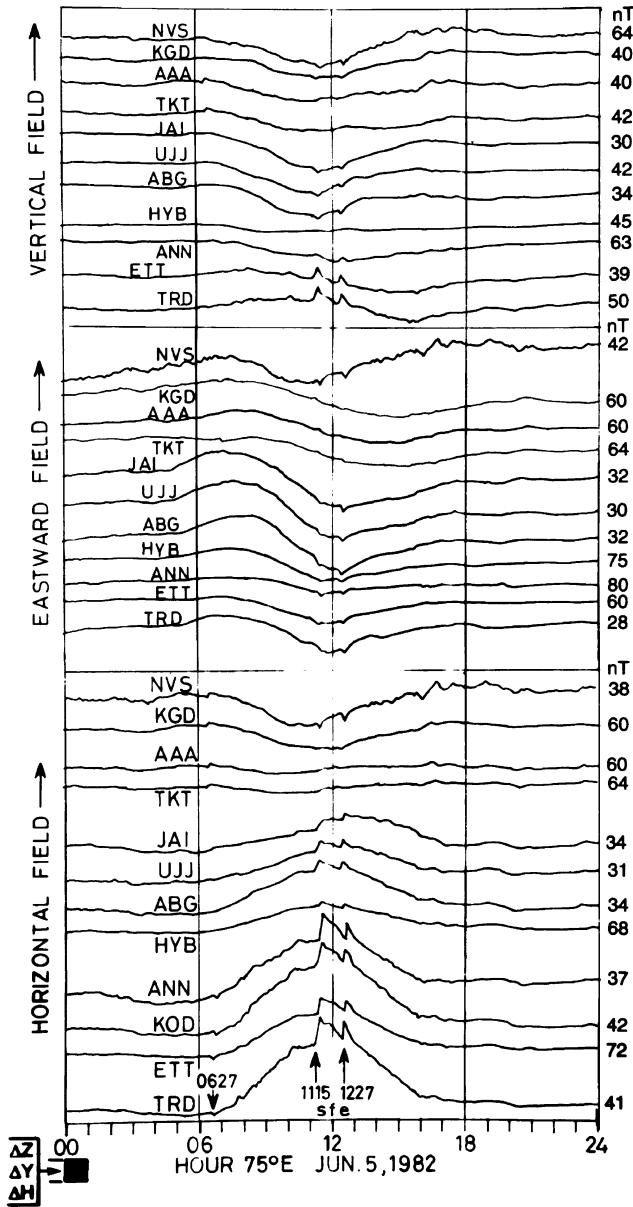


Fig. 6. Reproduction of the traces of H , Y and Z magnetograms on 5 June 1982 at different stations showing the signature of the effects of solar flares at 0627, 1115 and 1227 LT. The magnitude of the field change is indicated as vertical side of a square included in the diagram. The side of the square is the same as one hour duration.

stations can be considered as abnormally large.

2.3 Crochet on 15 June 1982 (strong counter electrojet day)

A solar flare has occurred at 1520 hr on 15 June 1982. The daily variations of ΔH , ΔY and ΔZ on 15 June 1982 are shown in Fig. 8. The range of H at TRD on 15th June 1982 was very close to the monthly mean values. The flare occurred in the afternoon hours when ΔH at TRD was significantly negative over the midnight level. The value of ΔH (TRD-ABG) was negative exceeding 40 nT during the flare. This event was thus during a full strong counter electrojet conditions.

In Fig. 9 are reproduced vertical incidence ionograms at Kodaikanal from 1500 hr to 1600 hr on 15 June 1982. It is

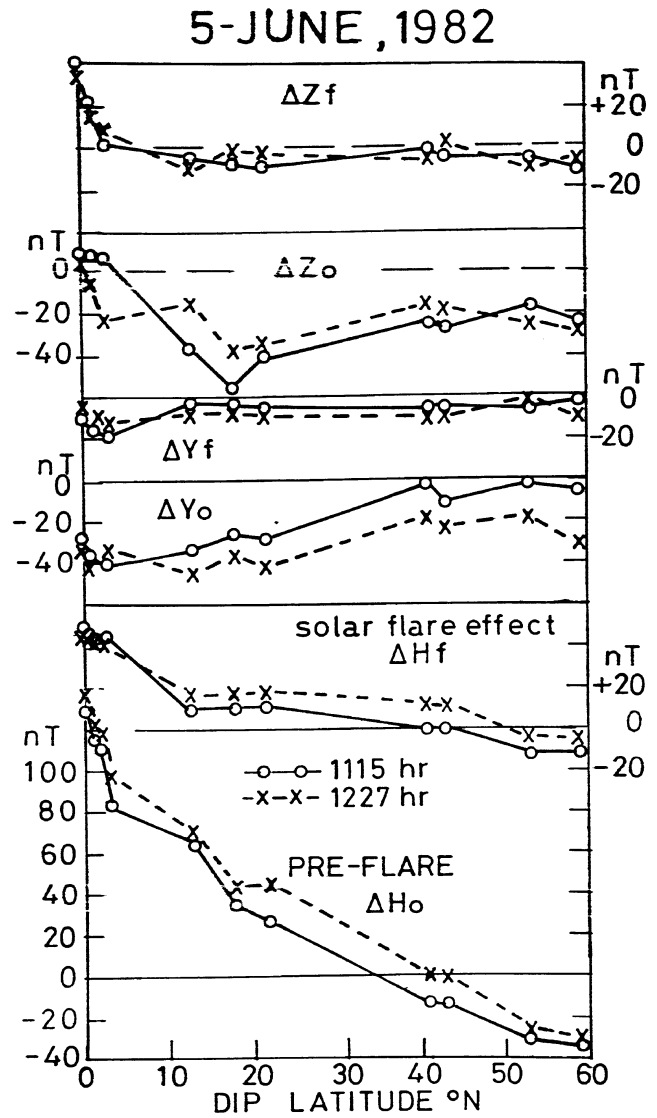


Fig. 7. Latitudinal variations of pre-flare values (ΔH_o , ΔY_o and ΔZ_o) of the flare impulse (ΔH_f , ΔY_f and ΔZ_f) of the flares at 1115 and 1227 LT on 5 June 1982.

to be noted that at 1500 and 1515 hr echoes were recorded from frequencies lower than 2 MHz. At 1530 hr no echo was seen below 6 MHz and even the reflections at higher frequencies were weak. Noting that the flare had started at 1520 hr, this absence of low frequency echoes are due to the sudden increase of ionospheric absorption due to the flare ionization at lower E and D regions. The absorption decreased on subsequent records at 1545 hr and 1600 hr.

Figure 10 shows the reproduction of the H , Y and Z traces of the magnetograms at each of the stations on 15 June 1982. This seems to be a very rare occasion when the flare occurred during strong counter electrojet event and a set of data at all the stations in India and former USSR states are available. The signature of ΔH_f due to crochet is significantly negative at the equatorial stations TRD, ETT, KOD and ANN. It is positive at all stations at higher latitude upto TKT and negative at KGD and NVS. The signature of ΔZ_f was very clearly negative at TRD and ETT and positive at ANN, HYB and at other stations in India. ΔZ_f is again positive at sta-

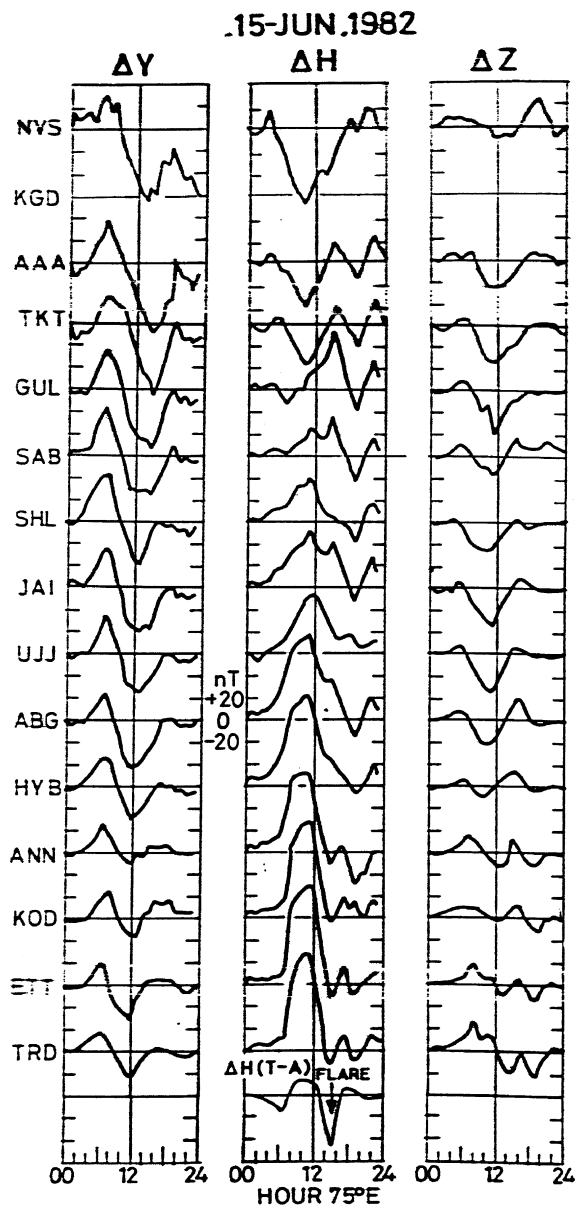


Fig. 8. Solar daily variations of ΔY , ΔH and ΔZ at each of the stations on 15 June 1982, a solar flare had occurred at 1520 LT during a counter electrojet event.

tions north of Indian latitudes.

Figure 11 shows the latitudinal variations of the pre-flare values of ΔH_o , ΔY_o and ΔZ_o as well as the amplitude of crochet ΔH_f , ΔY_f and ΔZ_f . It is remarkable to note that the latitudinal variations at ΔH_o as well as ΔH_f show decreasing trend with decreasing latitude. The actual values of ΔH_o and ΔH_f at TRD, ETT, KOD and ANN are negative but the effect of the counter electrojet is evidenced at all the other stations in India. It has been shown earlier that the effect of very strong counter electrojet is not confined only to the stations at equatorial latitudes but can extend upto the northernmost station in India (Rastogi, 1991). The latitudinal variations of ΔZ and ΔY are very similar just prior to the onset and at the peak of crochet.

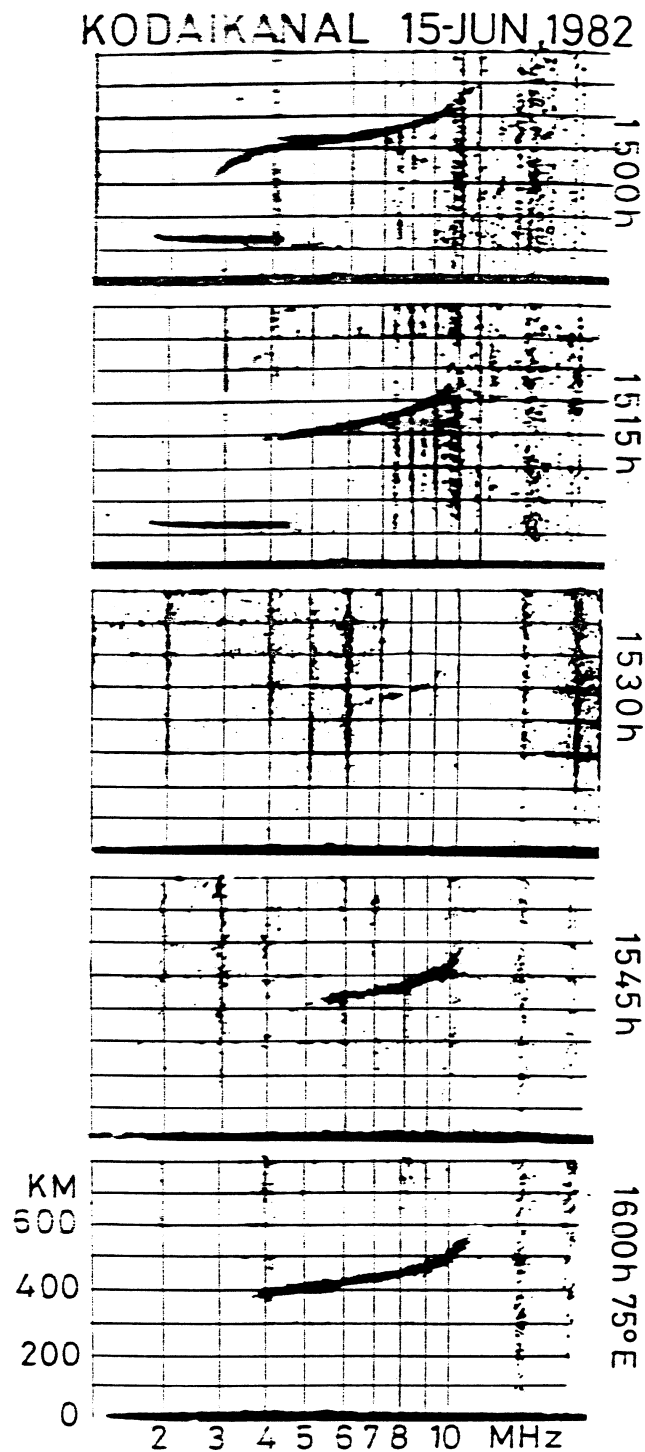


Fig. 9. Reproduction of the vertical incidence ionospheric p'-f records at Kodaikanal on 15 June 1982 around the time of flare which occurred at 1520 hr 75° EMT.

2.4 Crochet on 3 June 1982 (a partial counter electrojet day)

A crochet occurred at 1642 hr on 3 June 1982. Figure 12 shows the S_q daily variations of H , Y and Z at all the stations on 3 June 1982. The electrojet on this day was close to the monthly mean value. ΔH (TRD) was positive at the time of the solar flare but ΔH (TRD-ABG) was negative, suggesting a partial counter electrojet condition during the flare. In

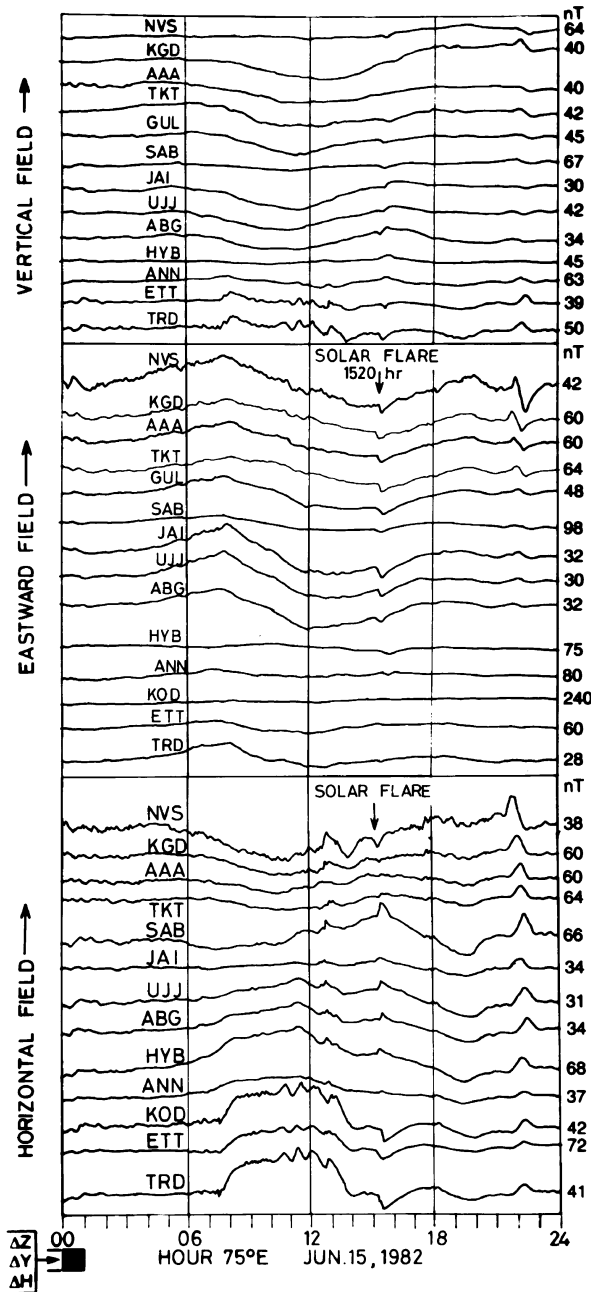


Fig. 10. Same as Fig. 6 but for 15 June 1982. The flare occurred at 1520 LT.

Fig. 13 are reproduced the traces of H , Y and Z at each of the stations. It is to be noted that the crochet signature in H is a negative one at all the equatorial stations TRD, ETT, KOD and ANN while positive amplitude resulted at other non-equatorial stations. ΔY due to the crochet is positive at the equatorial stations and negative at UJJ, JAI and GUL while an insignificantly small value is recorded at HYB and ABG. The signature of ΔZ appears to be positive at equatorial and negative at higher latitudes. Figure 14 shows the latitude variations of the pre-flare signatures ΔH_0 , ΔY_0 and ΔZ_0 as well as flare impulse ΔH_f , ΔY_f and ΔZ_f . The pre-flare values of ΔH_0 were practically constant with latitude suggesting that there was a partial counter electrojet when ΔH (TRD) was positive but ΔH (TRD-ABG) was

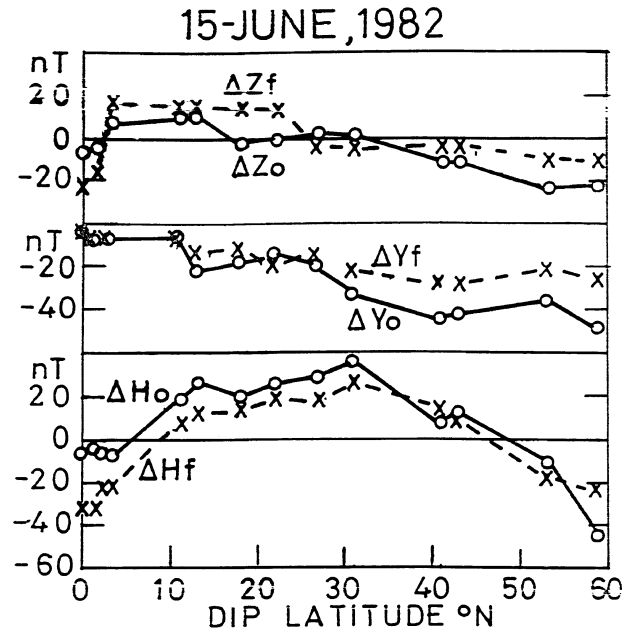


Fig. 11. Latitudinal variations of the pre-flare values (ΔH_0 , ΔY_0 and ΔZ_0) and peak flare values of peak flare impulses (ΔH_f , ΔY_f and ΔZ_f) of the flare at 1520 LT on 15 June 1982 during a counter electrojet period.

negative. Rastogi (1975) has explained these events as due to the superimposing of a westward flowing current at 100 km altitude over the global S_q current flowing eastward at 107 km, such that the net current is weakly eastward. The latitudinal variations of H are greatly reduced during these events. The signature of crochet on H shows decreasing amplitude from ABG to TRD in conformity to the characteristics of partial counter electrojet. The values of pre-flare ΔY_0 are positive at each of the stations while the flare signature is positive at low latitudes and negative at higher latitudes. The pre-flare values of ΔZ_0 are positive at each of the stations again indicating a westward flowing electrojet current.

3. Results and Discussions

The effect of solar flare on the geomagnetic field has been, since the earliest work, assumed to be a simple augmentation at the pre-flare ionospheric currents over the station. There has been little attention paid to the *sfe* on Z field due to uncertain induction effects on this component of the geomagnetic field. However, the flare is a temporary increase of solar ionization as such we assume there will be no significant change in electric fields. These *sfes* can be very useful in understanding the electromagnetic induction effects on the various components of the fields at the station. The unique Indo-USSR chain of magnetic observatories provide data for the ionospheric current system not available anywhere else in the world.

The solar flare occurring during the period of strong eastward currents at low latitudes produce positive impulse in H field at all the stations. The magnitudes of ΔH due to *sfe* follow the latitudinal variation very similar to that of S_q (H). The *sfe* for the midday events on the eastward field (ΔY) show a negative impulse at all the stations. The *sfe* in Z results in an abnormal positive impulse at electrojet

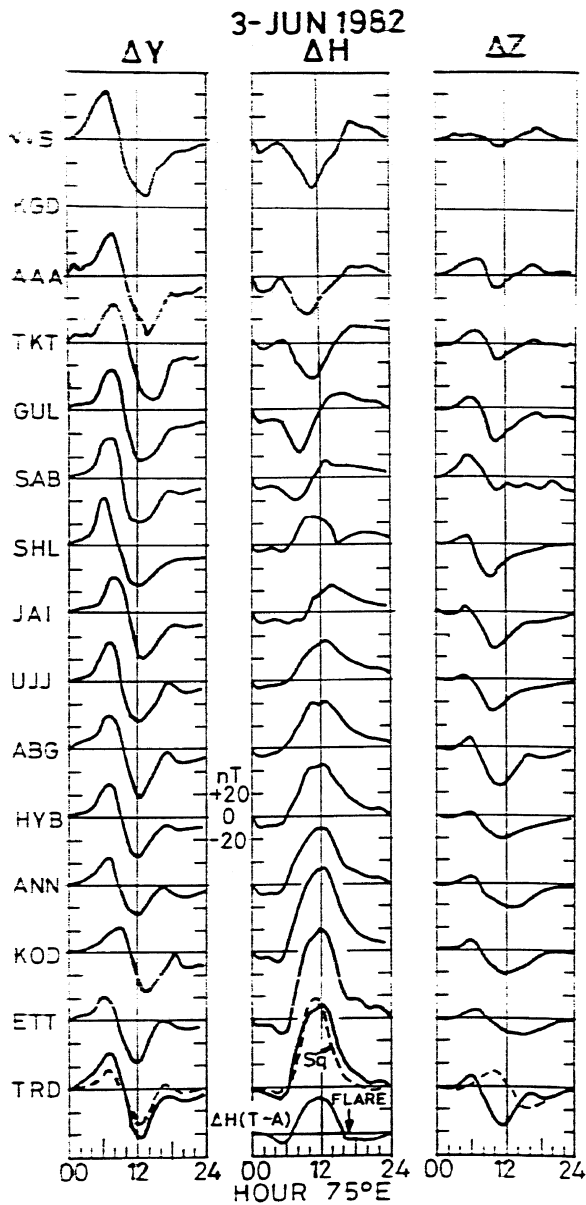


Fig. 12. Solar daily variations of ΔY , ΔH and ΔZ at each of the stations on 3 June 1982, a solar flare had occurred at 1642 LT when a partial counter electrojet period.

stations, TRD, ETT, KOD and ANN even though induction effects may not distinctly be seen at KOD or ANN on Sq (Z) variations. This is due to the shorter period of sfe duration compared to that of Sq variation, and the induction effects are well known to be stronger and sensitive for shorter period variations (Carlo *et al.*, 1982).

The solar flare effect in H during the interval of strong counter electrojet consist of a negative impulse at all the electrojet stations and a positive impulse at low latitude stations outside the electrojet belt. This can be understood as the ionospheric current, during counter electrojet period, is reversed to westward direction over the equatorial stations but remains eastward at other low latitude stations. The effect of solar flare during a counter electrojet period on Y shows negative impulse at low latitude stations and insignificantly small negative impulse at equatorial stations. During

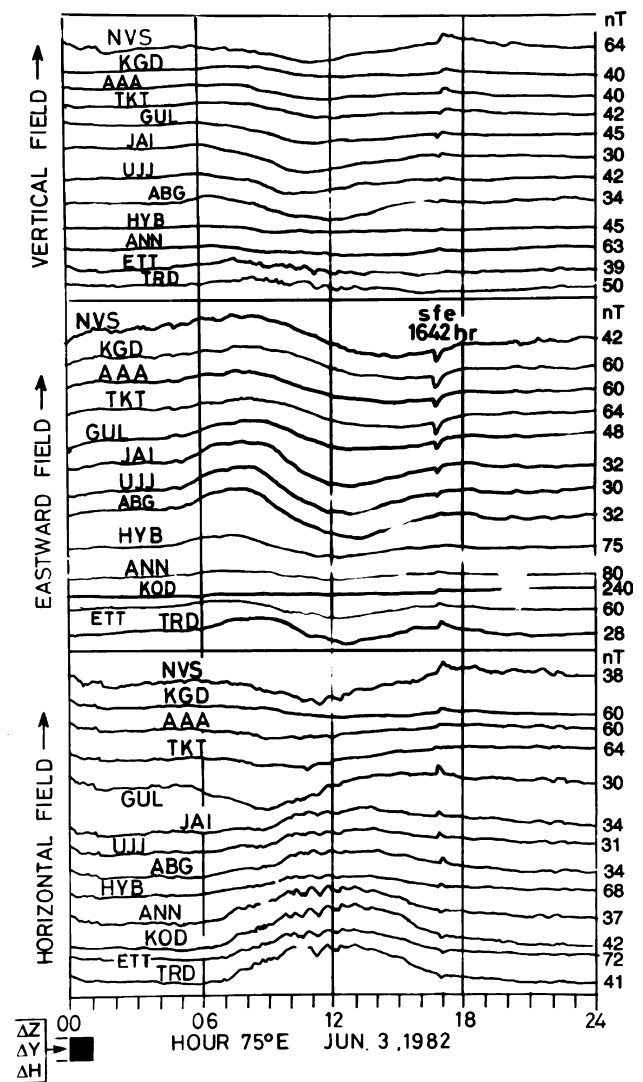


Fig. 13. Same as Fig. 6 but for 3 June 1982. Flare occurred at 1642 LT.

the normal electrojet times, the zonal current is eastward giving positive ΔH and the meridional current is away from the magnetic equator giving a negative ΔY . During the counter electrojet period, the zonal current is reversed to the westward direction giving a negative value of ΔH ; the meridional current associated with the electrojet is also reversed to equatorward direction giving a positive impulse in ΔY . The absence of strong effect in ΔY due to solar flare during the counter electrojet time may be due to the cancellation of the effects of Sq and the electrojet components of the equatorial currents during that period. The solar flare effect in Z during the counter electrojet period is interestingly the observation of abnormally large negative impulse at stations within the electrojet belt. This can be explained in terms of positive induction effect on Z during normal electrojet and negative effect on ΔZ during counter electrojet times. Rastogi (1999) has described the effect of solar flares on the H and Y fields at Huancayo. During normal electrojet condition which consists of a positive impulse in H and Y and a negative impulse in Z field. During counter electrojet periods a solar flare produced a negative impulse in H and Y fields and a positive

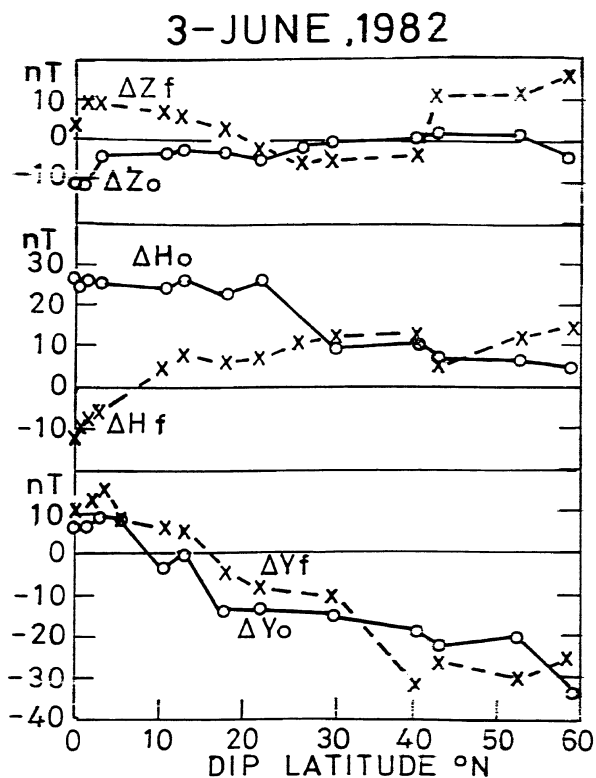


Fig. 14. Latitudinal variations of the pre-flare values (ΔH_o , ΔY_o and ΔZ_o) and the peak flare impulses (ΔH_f , ΔY_f and ΔZ_f) of the flare at 1642 LT on 3 June 1982 during a partial counter electrojet.

impulse in Z field at Huancayo. Thus, it was shown that a flare effect is just an augmentation of both the zonal as well as the meridional components at the electrojet currents prevailing at pre-flare level. Their effect on the vertical field is also an increase of the existing field.

During the partial counter electrojet period when the westward current is not strong compared to the eastward one, the sfe in ΔH may be a mere reduction in amplitude at the equatorial latitudes as in the case of flare on 3 May 1973 (Rastogi, 1996). Similarly, the sfe in ΔY and ΔZ may be different at the equatorial and at low latitude stations.

The results of flare effects in Z included in Fig. 11 (15th June 1982) during the counter electrojet time show the positive magnitude upto the station at the latitude of JAI. However, at TRD to KOD stations which are very close to the axis of the electrojet, flare effects in Z are negative or close to zero. Similar trends in Z during partial counter electrojet time (refer to Fig. 14) are noticed but the positive variations, including the stations close to the electrojet axis, are confined upto the latitudes of ABG station. However, the latitudinal variation of Sq (Z) of the June month shown on the top panel of Fig. 5 has not shown any deviation from the seasonally expected pattern. Thus, it is quiet evident that the signs of Z during the flare, the ambient pre-flare fields (Z_o 's) and the associated electromagnetic induction effects will vary with the flare time equivalent current systems (not shown but can be considered by the magnitude and directions of changes in H and Y). The counter and partial counter electrojet effects on the flare in Z are quiet intriguing as the variations during these

times are very different for latitudes far beyond the equatorial electrojet region. It is well known, the Z -component of the field is very sensitive to the local inhomogenities of the earth's internal conductivity. In the frequency intervals of the flares, the magnitudes of the induced components due to electromagnetic induction within the earth are not too small to be ignored. Also, during the flare, radiation of different wavelengths of varying intensities may be responsible for the additional ionization. Perhaps all these factors may have restricted the studies of sfe effect on Z so far.

The fact that magnitudes and the signs of flare and pre-flare fields, especially in the Y and Z components, indicates that simultaneous existence of zonal and meridional currents responsible for Sq and equatorial electrojet. These results further confirm the recent suggestion made by Rastogi (1996) that the solar flare effect on the meridional current at low latitudes consist of a component associated with the global Sq current and another component directly related with the electrojet current which may change direction depending on whether the electric field at 100 km is eastward or westward. Thus, this anomalous induction effect of sfe in Z extends to larger latitudinal belt than that of the induction effects with Sq (Z). During strong counter electrojet event, sfe produces a negative impulse at equatorial stations and positive impulse at higher latitudes. The sfe in Y at higher latitudes is a negative impulse but at equatorial latitudes the sfe in Y is small due to the cancellation of negative effect in Sq component by the positive impulse due to the electrojet component of ionospheric current at equatorial latitudes. The sfe in Z consists of a negative impulse at all latitudes.

During a partial counter electrojet event sfe appear to be the combined effects on the Sq and electrojet components of the ionospheric currents especially on the relative strengths of the two currents depending upon the magnitude of the partial counter electrojet event.

These results confirm the existence of the zonal and meridional components of the ionospheric currents over the equatorial latitudes causing the daily H and D variations. Further at equatorial latitudes besides the global Sq currents, there exist zonal and meridional currents associated with the equatorial electrojet fields, which combine with the Sq currents to produce the complex effects.

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