

**<sub>1</sub> Interpretation of the Cross Correlation Function of**  
**<sub>2</sub> STEREO Solar Wind Velocities using a Global MHD**  
**<sub>3</sub> Model**

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4 **Abstract.** The unique trajectories of the STEREO A and B spacecraft  
5 are allowing an unprecedented view of the structure of the three-dimensional  
6 heliosphere. One aspect of this is the degree to which the measurements at  
7 one spacecraft correlate with those at the other. We have computed the cross  
8 correlation function (CCF) for STEREO *in situ* observations of the bulk so-  
9 lar wind velocity as the spacecraft moved progressively farther away from  
10 one another. Our results confirm previous studies that the phase lag between  
11 the signals becomes linearly larger with time. However, we have identified  
12 two intervals where this appears to break down. During these “lulls,” the CCF  
13 reveals a phase lag considerably less than that which would be predicted based  
14 only on the angular separation of the spacecraft. We modeled the entire STEREO  
15 time period using a global MHD model to investigate the cause for these “lulls.”  
16 We find that a combination of time-dependent evolution of the streams as  
17 well as spatial inhomogeneities, due to the latitudinal separation of the space-  
18 craft, are sufficient to explain them.

## 1. Introduction

19 The STEREO (Solar Terrestrial RElations Observatory) mission launched on October  
20 25th, 2006 on a Delta II rocket. Since early 2007, it has been continuously returning  
21 a wide range of remote solar and *in situ* measurements of the Sun's corona and the  
22 inner heliosphere. Charged with a number of fundamental scientific objectives, one of  
23 particular relevance to this study is to improve our understanding of the structure of the  
24 ambient solar wind. With nearly identical instrumentation, the STEREO ahead (A) and  
25 behind (B) spacecraft are separating by  $\sim 45^\circ$  per year. Restricted to the ecliptic plane,  
26 in addition to the monotonically-increasing longitudinal separation, the spacecraft also  
27 separate from one another in radial separation (up to a maximum of  $\sim 0.15$  AU) as well  
28 as in heliographic latitude (up to a maximum separation of  $\sim 14.4^\circ$ ). The measurements  
29 from STEREO A and B thus represent a unique dataset from which to study the effects  
30 of spatial and temporal evolution of solar wind streams, and, in particular, to assess the  
31 degree of correlation between them.

32 Previous studies have investigated the correlation of solar wind stream structure from  
33 one and multiple spacecraft. The first comprehensive auto-correlation analysis of *in situ*  
34 solar wind data was performed by *Gosling and Bame* [1972]. Using solar-wind speed  
35 data from the Vela 2 and 3 missions, they assessed to what extent solar wind structure  
36 persisted from one rotation to the next. They found that the average correlation was  
37 only 0.3, suggesting that most structure did not persist from one rotation to the next;  
38 However, this coefficient varied from 0.1 to 0.7 at different times. They also noted that  
39 differential rotation affected the results, the implication being that a wide range of helio-

latitudes contributed to the solar wind measured at Earth. In a more comprehensive analysis, *Gosling et al.* [1976] found that the most stable stream structure occurred during the declining phase of the solar cycle. *Richardson et al.* [1998] cross-correlated data from ISEE 3 at L1 and IMP 8 at Earth for times corresponding to near-solar maximum conditions. They found that the temporal lag between the structures observed at the two spacecraft depended on both the radial and azimuthal separation. Additionally, they found that the lag required a correction due to corotation, that is, that the stream normals are tilted away from the radial direction and toward the direction of planetary motion. In contrast, *Paularena et al.* [1998], investigating the correlation between data observed by IMP 8, Interball-1, and Wind during near-solar minimum conditions, found that the correlation depended only on the radial separation of the spacecraft and not on the azimuthal separation. Moreover, they did not find any need to correct for corotation. *Richardson et al.* [1998] suggested that the smaller angular separation of the spacecraft in the *Paularena et al.* [1998] study, together with the fact that the two investigations used data from different extremes of the solar cycle could account for these apparent contradictions.

*Podesta et al.* [2008] first reported on the correlation length of large-scale solar wind velocity fluctuations measured at STEREO A and B. They focused on the interval between February 2007 and August 2007, corresponding to near-solar minimum conditions. They found that the transverse correlation length was  $0.25 \pm 0.02$  AU. *Opitz et al.* [2009] analyzed the solar wind velocity from STEREO A and B from March to August of 2007. Their study focused on the temporal evolution of the solar wind at the two spacecraft by removing spatial effects caused by the radial and angular separation of the two spacecraft. In

63 particular, they time-shifted STEREO B, accounting for both longitudinal and radial  
 64 separation and computed the correlation coefficient between it and STEREO A data.  
 65 They found that the correlation decreased with increasing separation (and time). However,  
 66 they noted some exceptions to the otherwise good correlations found: (1) Day 142, 2007,  
 67 which coincided with an ICME; (2) Day 155, 2007, associated with a CIR; (3) day 201,  
 68 2007, which coincided with significant velocity gradient bisecting the  $\sim 2^\circ$  latitudinal  
 69 separation of the spacecraft [Rowillard *et al.*, 2009]; and (4) days 227 - 235, 2007. They  
 70 ascribed the poor correlation during the first portion of this last interval (days 227 - 231)  
 71 to temporal evolution of the solar wind source as it moved from under one spacecraft to  
 72 the other. Since the stream structure of the second half of this interval remained intact one  
 73 rotation later, they suggested that the poor correlation was due to spatial inhomogeneities.

## 2. The STEREO Orbits

74 The relative locations of the two STEREO spacecraft obviously play an important role  
 75 in understanding the large-scale correlation of solar wind parameters. Figure 1 summa-  
 76 rizes the heliocentric distance, latitude, and longitude of the spacecraft, together with the  
 77 differences between them. In the top panel,  $R - 1$  is plotted, showing that the spacecraft  
 78 oscillate about values slightly less or more than 1 AU. These oscillations are synchronous  
 79 so that during mid/late 2007, 2008, and 2009 the spacecraft have a maximum radial separa-  
 80 tion of  $\sim 0.13$  AU. We can estimate the maximum temporal lag between the spacecraft  
 81 due to the radial separation using  $\Delta t = \Delta r / v_{sw}$ . Assuming  $v_{sw} = 600 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ , we obtain  
 82  $\Delta t \sim 9$  hours. The temporal lag due to longitudinal effects obviously begins to dominate  
 83 once the spacecraft are separated by  $\sim \frac{1 \text{ day}}{27 \text{ days}} \times 360^\circ \sim 13^\circ$ . Following launch, the two  
 84 spacecraft maintained their position in the ecliptic plane, but as they moved farther apart,

85 their heliographic latitudinal separation began to oscillate, the amplitude of which became  
86 progressively larger. The black curve in the middle panel summarizes this effect: Maxi-  
87 mum latitudinal differences occurred at the shortly before the beginning of, and midway  
88 through each year. Finally, in the bottom panel, the inertial longitude of the spacecraft is  
89 shown, together with their monotonically-increasing azimuthal separation. Of particular  
90 note is that this separation is not strictly linear: Prior to, and during the early portion  
91 of each calendar year, the increase in separation is modest, whereas, for the remainder of  
92 the year, it is more pronounced.

93 In this study, we investigate the evolving cross correlation function (CCF) between solar  
94 wind velocity measurements from the PLASTIC instruments [*Galvin et al.*, 2008] onboard  
95 STEREO A and B. Unlike the previous study of *Opitz et al.* [2009], we do not assume  
96 and apply a phase lag between the measurements from which a correlation coefficient  
97 is computed, but rather compute the temporal phase lag between the two STEREO  
98 spacecraft that maximizes the CCF. To a first approximation, the results match our  
99 intuition and previous studies, that the phase lag increases linearly with the angular  
100 separation of the spacecraft; However, there are two interesting intervals where the phase  
101 lag “pauses.” We use global MHD model solutions to show that these intervals are due  
102 to a combination of both temporal and spatial effects.

### 3. Analysis of STEREO in situ Bulk Solar Wind Speed Observations

103 In general, the CCF between two continuous functions is the integral of the complex  
104 conjugate of one variable and the time-shifted value of the other variable:

$$(f \star g)(\Delta t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f^*(\tau)g(\Delta t + \tau)d\tau \quad (1)$$

105 Extending this to real-valued discrete functions of finite length, which in this study  
 106 are the bulk solar wind velocities measured at the two spacecraft ( $v_A$  and  $v_B$ ) over some  
 107 temporal lag,  $\Delta t$ , we can define the CCF to be:

$$\begin{aligned} (v_A \star v_B)(\Delta t) &= = \frac{\sum_{k=0}^{N-|\Delta t|-1} (v_{A,k+|\Delta t|} - \bar{v}_A)(v_{B,k} - \bar{v}_B)}{\sqrt{\left[\sum_{k=0}^{N-1} (v_{A,k} - \bar{v}_A)^2\right] \left[\sum_{k=0}^{N-1} (v_{B,k} - \bar{v}_B)^2\right]}} \text{ for } L < 0 \\ &= \frac{\sum_{k=0}^{N-|\Delta t|-1} (v_{A,k} - \bar{v}_A)(v_{B,k+\Delta t} - \bar{v}_B)}{\sqrt{\left[\sum_{k=0}^{N-1} (v_{A,k} - \bar{v}_A)^2\right] \left[\sum_{k=0}^{N-1} (v_{B,k} - \bar{v}_B)^2\right]}} \text{ for } L > 0 \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

108 where  $\bar{v}_A$  and  $\bar{v}_B$  are the mean values of variables between 0 and  $N - 1$ <sup>1</sup>.

109 Thus, for two real-valued functions ( $v_A$  and  $v_B$ ), which differ only by a shift along the  
 110 time axis, we can compute the CCF for a range of time lags ( $\Delta t$ ). Where the functions  
 111 match, the peaks and troughs become aligned, making a positive contribution to the sum-  
 112 mation, and the CCF is maximized. In the specific case of bulk solar wind velocities, which  
 113 are always positive, the CCF maximum is weighted more by the fast solar wind streams,  
 114 than the slow wind, since these contribute proportionately more to the summations.

115 Figure 2 illustrates graphically how the time shift that maximizes the CCF increases as  
 116 the angular separation of the spacecraft becomes larger. We can estimate how we would  
 117 expect the time lag ( $\Delta t$ ) that maximizes the CCF to increase with angular separation  
 118 ( $\Delta\lambda$ ). It is simply the fraction of a solar rotation by which the spacecraft are separated.  
 119 Thus, we anticipate that the phase lag should change by:

$$\Delta t = -\frac{\tau_{rot}}{360^\circ} \Delta\lambda \quad (3)$$

120 where  $\tau_{rot}$  is the rotation period of the Sun, and we have chosen a negative decrease to  
121 reflect a convention that it is the amount of time that measurements from spacecraft A  
122 must be shifted back in time to align with spacecraft B. As a concrete example, at a  
123 separation of  $55.5^\circ$ , the predicted absolute phase lag would be  $\sim 100$  hrs, or a little over  
124 4 days. It is worth noting that the synodic ( $\tau_{rot} = 27.27$  days), rather than the sidereal  
125 ( $\tau_{rot} = 25.38$  days) period is the appropriate interval to use, since the two spacecraft are  
126 drifting apart from the Earth and not some fixed inertial point in space.

127 In Figure 3 (top), we have identified and plotted the phase lag of the peak of the  
128 computed CCF as a function of spacecraft separation. A CCF was computed every  $10^{-3}$   
129 years and each CCF was computed using a window of 0.1 years. The phase lag was  
130 identified automatically by locating the peak in the CCF and all CCFs were visually  
131 inspected to verify that the peak represented a pronounced maximum in the distribution.  
132 The anticipated phase lag from equation (3) is shown by the dashed line. To a first  
133 approximation, then the computed phase lag matches the simple formula. That is, the  
134 phase lag increases linearly with time. However, two obvious deviations are apparent.  
135 Since they represent intervals where the phase lag appears to “pause” from its trend of  
136 increasing, we refer to them as “lulls.” The first is centered on Carrington rotation (CR)  
137 2061 (which spanned from 09/10/07 to 10/08/07, or days 253 through 281), while the  
138 second is centered on CR 2069 (which spanned from 04/16/08 to 05/13/08, or days 107  
139 through 134). Both intervals encompass approximately the same duration in longitude,  
140  $\sim 12.5^\circ$ , corresponding to  $\sim 3.5$  months or 101 days. Whereas the first has the appearance  
141 of a “pause,” in the sense that the phase lag holds steady at -45 hours before returning  
142 to its expected value, the second shows a significant reversal in the trend of increasing



lag: Where the predicted lag would have been -90 hours, the computed lag was only -55 hours, a difference of 35 hours, or  $19.4^\circ$  in effective longitude.

In Figure 3 (bottom), we have plotted the value of the peak correlation coefficient at that phase lag. Thus, until the spacecraft reached a separation of  $\sim 75^\circ$ , the correlation coefficient exceeded 0.6 and, for the majority of the time remained near 0.8. Beyond  $\sim 75^\circ$ , as the peak correlation coefficient decreased, multiple peaks appeared, and, while it would have been possible to force a local phase lag that matched our expectations based on equation (3), the low value of the correlation coefficient would cast doubt on any inferences drawn.

#### 4. Global MHD Model Solutions for the STEREO Mission

The first MHD models of the solar corona were developed almost 40 years ago [Endler, 1971; Pneuman and Kopp, 1971]. Over the years they have become progressively more sophisticated [Steinolfson et al., 1982; Linker et al., 1990; Mikić and Linker, 1994], culminating in models that include the photospheric field as a boundary condition [Usmanov, 1993; Mikić et al., 1996; Riley et al., 2001a; Roussev et al., 2003]. Complementary efforts focusing on heliospheric models, where the inner boundary was placed beyond the outermost critical point, have also been pursued [Dryer et al., 1978; Pizzo, 1978; Smith and Dryer, 1990; Detman et al., 1991; Odstrcil, 1994]. Most recently, coronal and heliospheric models have been coupled [Riley et al., 2001a, 2002; Odstrcil et al., 2002; Riley et al., 2003; Odstrcil et al., 2004; Manchester et al., 2006; Riley et al., 2007] and more sophisticated descriptions of energy transport processes have been included [Lionello et al., 2001; Lionello et al., 2009].

164 We have computed global coronal and heliospheric polytropic MHD solutions span-  
 165 ning more than 35 years, and, in particular, for the entire STEREO mission to date  
 166 (<http://www.predsci.com/stereo>). An important feature that makes our approach unique  
 167 is the use of observed photospheric magnetograms to drive the solutions. Studies com-  
 168 paring model results with eclipses [*Mikić et al.*, 2002; *Mikić et al.*, 2007] as well as *in*  
 169 *situ* observations at Ulysses and near Earth have shown that we can reproduce the basic  
 170 features of the solar corona and inner heliosphere [*Riley et al.*, 1996, 2001a, b, 2002, 2003;  
 171 *Riley*, 2007].

172 In general, our three-dimensional, time-dependent algorithm solves the following form  
 173 of the resistive MHD equations on a non-uniform grid in spherical coordinates:

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{B} = \frac{4\pi}{c} \mathbf{J}, \quad (4)$$

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{E} = -\frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t}, \quad (5)$$

$$\mathbf{E} + \frac{\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B}}{c} = \eta \mathbf{J}, \quad (6)$$

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho \mathbf{v}) = 0, \quad (7)$$

$$\frac{1}{\gamma - 1} \left( \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} + \mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla T \right) = -T \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} + \frac{m_p}{2k\rho} S \quad (8)$$

$$\rho \left( \frac{\partial \mathbf{v}}{\partial t} + \mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{v} \right) = \frac{1}{c} \mathbf{J} \times \mathbf{B} - \nabla(p + p_w) + \rho \mathbf{g} + \nabla \cdot (\nu \rho \nabla \mathbf{v}), \quad (9)$$

$$S = (-\nabla \cdot \mathbf{q} - n_e n_p Q(T) + H_{\text{ch}}), \quad (10)$$

174 where  $\mathbf{B}$  is the magnetic field,  $\mathbf{J}$  is the electric current density,  $\mathbf{E}$  is the electric field,  
 175  $\rho$ ,  $\mathbf{v}$ ,  $p$ , and  $T$  are the plasma mass density, velocity, pressure, and temperature,  $\mathbf{g} =$   
 176  $-g_0 R_S^2 \hat{\mathbf{r}}/r^2$  is the gravitational acceleration,  $\eta$  the resistivity, and  $\nu$  is the kinematic  
 177 viscosity. Equation (10) contains the radiation loss function  $Q(T)$ ,  $n_e$  and  $n_p$  are the

178 electron and proton number density (which are equal for a hydrogen plasma),  $m_p$  is the  
 179 proton mass,  $\gamma$  is the polytropic index,  $H_{\text{ch}}$  is the coronal heating term, and  $\mathbf{q}$  is the heat  
 180 flux. The wave pressure term  $p_w$  in Eq. (9) represents the contribution due to Alfvén  
 181 waves and is evolved using the WKB approximation for time-space averaged Alfvén wave  
 182 energy density  $\epsilon$  [Mikić *et al.*, 1999]. The method of solution of equation (6) through  
 183 (9), including the boundary conditions, has been described previously [Mikić and Linker,  
 184 1994; Linker and Mikić, 1997; Lionello *et al.*, 1999; Mikić *et al.*, 1999; Linker *et al.*, 2001;  
 185 Lionello *et al.*, 2009]. In the work presented here, however, we simplify these equations  
 186 by employing a “polytropic” energy equation, where  $S = 0$  [Usmanov, 1993; Mikić *et al.*,  
 187 1996; Usmanov, 1996; Linker *et al.*, 1999; Mikić *et al.*, 1999; Riley *et al.*, 2001a, 2002, 2003;  
 188 Rousev *et al.*, 2003] and employ an empirical technique for deriving the speed profile for  
 189 the inner boundary of the heliospheric model. Although such an approximation is at odds  
 190 with observations (it requires that we set  $\gamma = 1.05$  in the coronal model, for example), we  
 191 have found that that this approach for deriving solar wind speed is, at least currently, more  
 192 accurate than can be obtained from the more self-consistent thermodynamic approach.

193 Figure 4 compares model results with STEREO and ACE observations for CR 2060,  
 194 which occurred during one the intervals identified as “lulls.” The solid lines show model  
 195 solutions, which were extracted by flying the spacecraft trajectories through the simulation  
 196 domain. We note that the relative phasing of the streams at the three locations is captured  
 197 in the model results. The fast stream centered on day 240, for example, is first seen  
 198 at STEREO A, then ACE (Earth), and finally at STEREO B. Moreover, the general  
 199 large-scale stream structure for this rotation is reproduced by the model: Generally slow  
 200 and variable wind during the first half, followed by a large stream at day 240, and two

201 smaller streams following it. The precise phasing of the modeled streams relative to the  
202 observations does not match up well, however: The first stream is predicted to arrive  
203 earlier than it actually does and the second stream is predicted to arrive later. Overall,  
204 however, these relatively typical results match sufficiently well that the model can be used  
205 to interpret the observations. The bottom panel summarizes the polarity of the radial  
206 component of the magnetic field. Both model and observations suggest an essentially  
207 two-sector pattern for this rotation.

208 Figure 5 summarizes the computed coronal hole boundaries for CRs 2058 through 2063.  
209 These maps mark regions of open field lines (dark grey) and closed field lines (light  
210 grey) at the photosphere. We note that, during this time, there were well-defined polar  
211 coronal holes, together with equatorward extensions to these holes, as well as low and  
212 mid-latitude holes, not obviously connected to other open field regions. The quantitative  
213 steps taken to compute the speed profiles in the model are described by *Riley et al.*  
214 [2001a]. In brief, a velocity profile at the photosphere, consisting of fast wind everywhere  
215 with slow wind localized at the boundaries between the open and closed field lines, is  
216 mapped outward along the field lines to  $30R_S$ . Figure 6 shows the results of that mapping.  
217 Specifically, it shows the bulk radial solar wind velocity at  $30R_S$  for each of these six  
218 rotations. The trajectories of Earth, STEREO A, and STEREO B are overlaid. Since  
219 Carrington longitude increases from left to right in each panel, time proceeds from right  
220 to left. Thus, with increasing time, the spacecraft sample progressively earlier Carrington  
221 longitudes.

222 The connection between the computed coronal holes in Figure 5 and the high-speed  
223 streams within Figure 6 can, at least qualitatively, be understood; however, it is clear

224 that the topology of the field lines between  $1R_S$  and  $30R_S$  has added a great deal of  
 225 complexity to the velocity map. From Figure 6, we note the following points. First, the  
 226 spacecraft were essentially located at the same heliographic latitude during this interval.  
 227 Certainly, based on the quality of the match shown in Figure 4, we could not reliably  
 228 ascribe any spatial inhomogeneities to these modest separations. Second, the three high-  
 229 speed streams intercepted by all three spacecraft, initially at  $\sim 120^\circ$  in CR 2059 and  
 230  $\sim 210^\circ$  and  $\sim 340^\circ$  in CR 2060 drift westward in the ensuing rotations.

231 Figures 7 and 8 show coronal hole boundaries and speed profiles for CRs 2067 through  
 232 2072, which span the second “lull.” For this interval, we note the following. First, the  
 233 spacecraft were separated more substantially in heliographic latitude. Second, again,  
 234 there was a westward progression of the high-speed streams that were intercepted by the  
 235 spacecraft. Third, the stream boundaries tended to have a systematic tilt to them. This  
 236 can be seen more clearly in the low-latitude coronal holes, which are orientated from SE  
 237 to NW. The fast streams have a more complex profile, however, there is a tendency for  
 238 STEREO A, which is at a higher heliographic latitude, to intercept the matching stream  
 239 interface at a more westerly longitude.

## 5. Interpretation

240 There are two obvious ways that the linear relationship between time lag and the in-  
 241 creasing longitude of the two STEREO spacecraft can be broken: temporal changes and/or  
 242 spatial inhomogeneities. In the case of the latter, the pattern at the Sun does not change in  
 243 time so that the structure of the solar wind in a frame rotating with the Sun is stationary;  
 244 that is, it is strictly corotating. However, if the two spacecraft are not located at exactly  
 245 the same heliographic latitude, they will intercept different plasma sources. Consider, for

246 example, an idealized, elongated low-latitude coronal hole, oriented so that one end is in  
247 the SE and the other end lies in the NW. This is shown schematically in Figure 9. If  
248 STEREO A is located at a higher heliographic latitude than STEREO B, then the CH,  
249 and hence fast solar wind stream, will arrive slightly earlier than predicted since it is  
250 rooted in a more western source. Temporal effects can be understood in a similar way. If  
251 a low-latitude CH evolves in time so that it shifts toward the west as the structure passes  
252 from STEREO B to A, then the stream will arrive earlier than predicted by equation (3).  
253 Both of these examples, thus, lead to the “lulls” we have identified in the data. Clearly,  
254 in principle, it is possible for the opposite effects to take place: Structure that is oriented  
255 from the NE to SW or temporal evolution of structure that tends to precess in the Car-  
256 rington frame would drive larger time lags. Our model results, however, do not provide  
257 any examples of this occurring during the STEREO timeframe. Instead, surrounding CR  
258 2061, the general trend was for structures intercepted by the spacecraft to drift westward,  
259 while surrounding CR 2070, both spatial and temporal effects likely contributed to the  
260 “lulls.” In particular, the stream interfaces were oriented from the SE to NW, so that  
261 wind from the same coronal hole arrived earlier than would have been predicted, and the  
262 coronal hole structure evolved such that the fast wind streams migrated westward.

263 As a final verification of this interpretation, we consider the first 6 Carrington rotations  
264 of the STEREO mission. During this interval, the phase lag of the signals at the two  
265 spacecraft matched the linear increase predicted by Equation (3). The computed solar  
266 wind velocities at  $30R_S$  for this interval are shown in Figure 10. During CR 2053 through  
267 2055 the CCF was driven by a stable pattern involving two long-lived equatorial coronal  
268 holes (at longitudes of  $\sim 110^\circ$  and  $\sim 270^\circ$ ). The spacecraft were not significantly separated

269 in latitude, and thus, we would not expect spatial inhomogeneities to drive a deviation in  
 270 the time lag. Moreover, there was no systematic evolution of the coronal holes during this  
 271 interval. Based on these results, then, we would not expect any deviations in the time lag  
 272 profile. During the second half of this interval, the wind sampled by the two spacecraft  
 273 was slow, variable, and unorganized. Again, there were no obvious systematic trends.

274 Finally, it is worth noting that our analysis has tacitly assumed a fixed rotation period  
 275 of 27.27 days. However, due to the super-radial expansion of the solar magnetic field, the  
 276 plasma may originate from a range of heliographic latitudes. *Lee et al.* [2008] have shown  
 277 that long-lived, high-speed streams may recur with periodicities in the range of 26.5 to 27.3  
 278 days. Using the Snodgrass formula for differential rotation of the photosphere [*Snodgrass,*  
 279 1983], this would suggest a source latitude lower than  $43.4^\circ$ , which  $\tau_{rot} = 27.3$  days would  
 280 imply. Although the sense of this effect is in the same direction as the lulls we have  
 281 identified, its magnitude is too small to explain them: The lulls suggest deviations of  
 282  $> 30$  hours away from 27.27 days, whereas the effects described by *Lee et al.* [2008] were  
 283 limited to a fraction of a day. Nevertheless, this effect may contribute to some of the  
 284 smaller deviations evident in Figure 3(top).

## 6. Summary

285 In this study, we have applied a cross-correlation analysis to STEREO A and B bulk  
 286 solar wind velocity measurements for the period from launch through mid 2009. We found  
 287 that, as with previous studies [*Podesta et al.*, 2008; *Opitz et al.*, 2009], there is a general  
 288 trend for the phase lag between the streams to increase within increasing separation  
 289 of the spacecraft. We also identified two intervals that deviated significantly from this  
 290 trend. The first, centered around CR 2060, was previously identified by *Opitz et al.*

291 [2009]. We used global MHD simulation results to understand these “lulls” in terms of  
292 both temporal evolution of the streams, as they swept first past B and then A, as well  
293 as spatial inhomogeneities, such that the two spacecraft, separated in latitude by up to  
294  $\sim 14^\circ$  sampled different portions of the streams. Finally, beyond a separation of  $\sim 80^\circ$ ,  
295 the CCF peaked at values  $< 0.5$ , suggesting that from this point, correlation analysis  
296 must be applied and interpreted with considerably more caution.

297 **Acknowledgments.** PR, ZM, and JAL gratefully acknowledge the support of the LWS  
298 Strategic Capabilities Program (NASA, NSF, and AFOSR), the NSF Center for Integrated  
299 Space Weather Modeling (CISM), NASA’s Heliophysics Theory Program (HTP) and the  
300 NASA STEREO IMPACT and SECCHI teams. AO would also like to thank the entire  
301 STEREO team.

## Notes

1. The algorithm used to compute this function is available as part of the Interactive Data Language (IDL) numerical  
302 package (`c_correlate.pro` in the main library directory).

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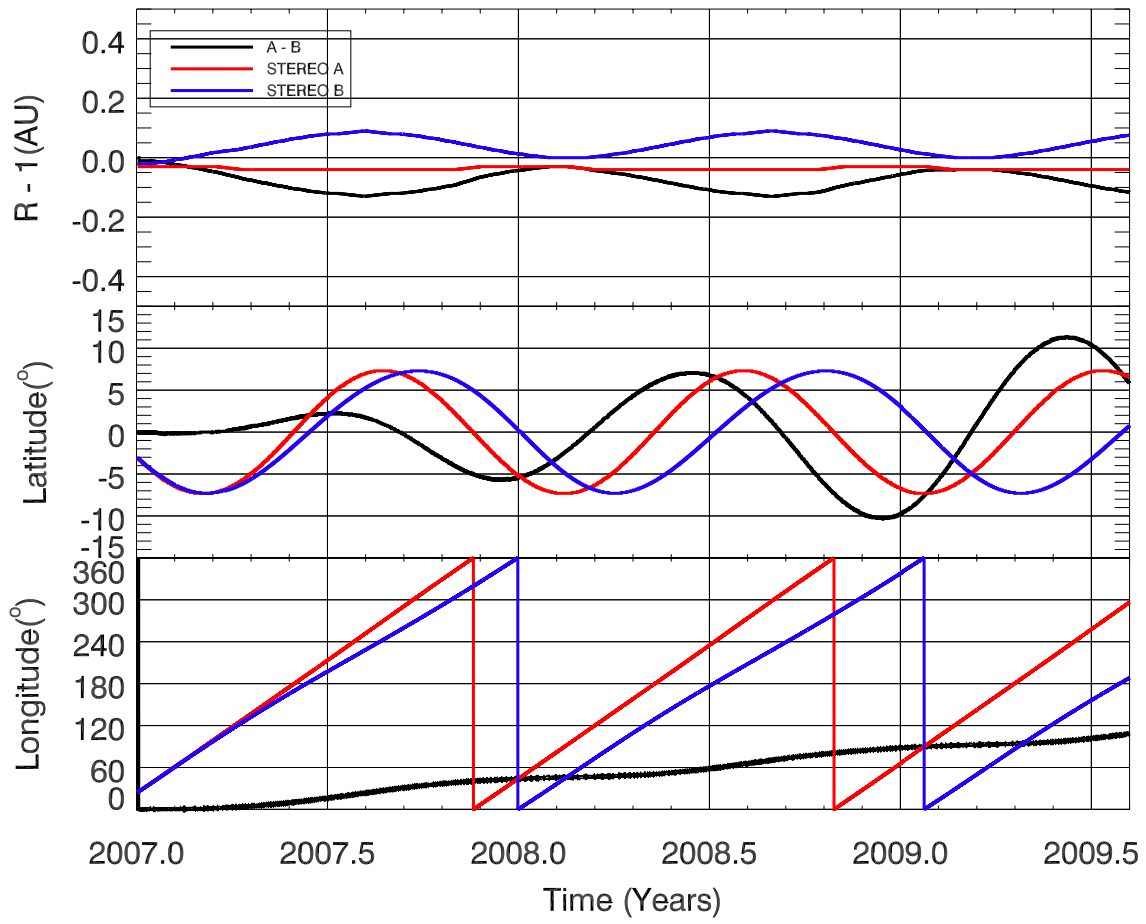


Figure 1

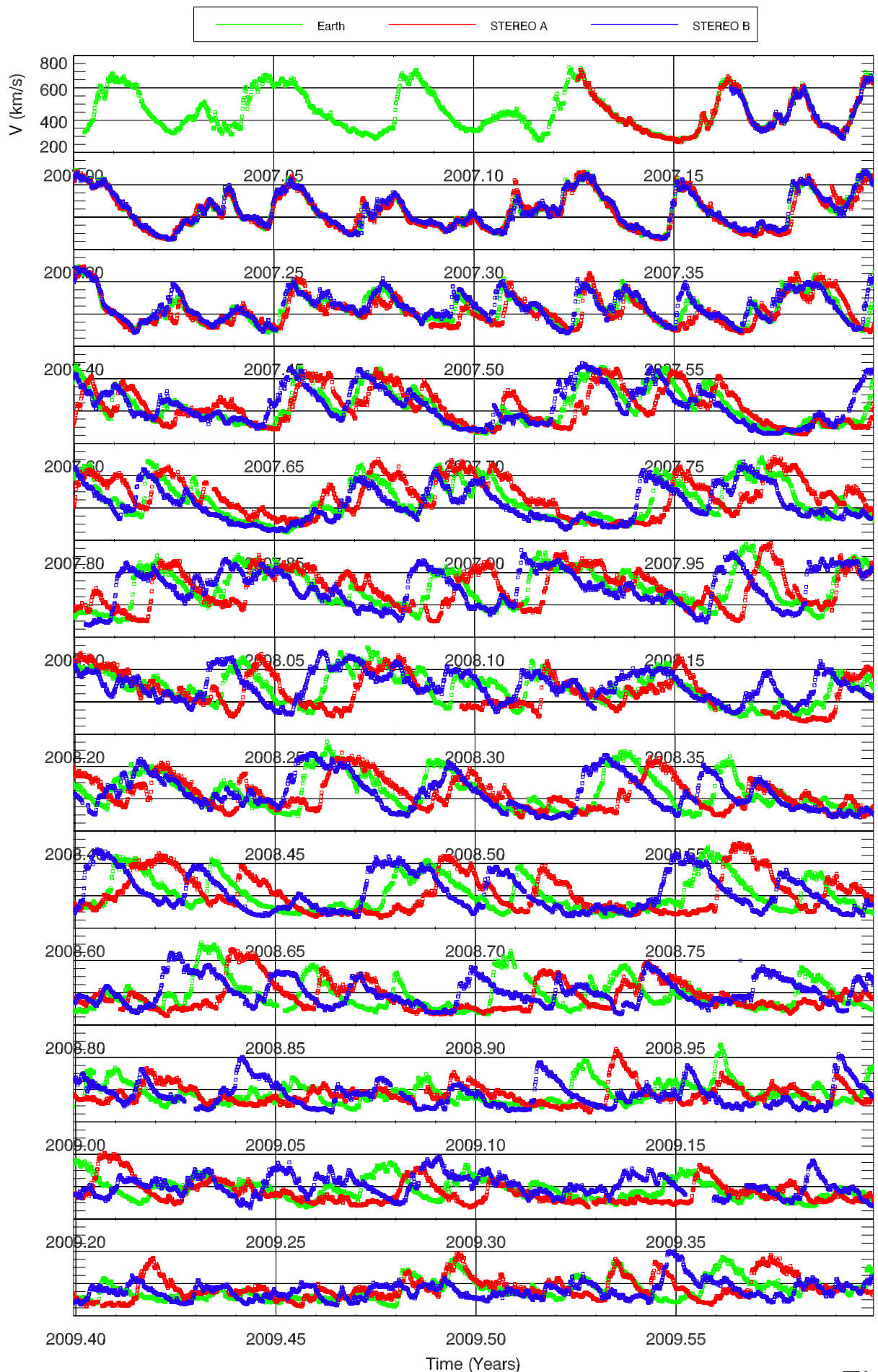


Figure 2

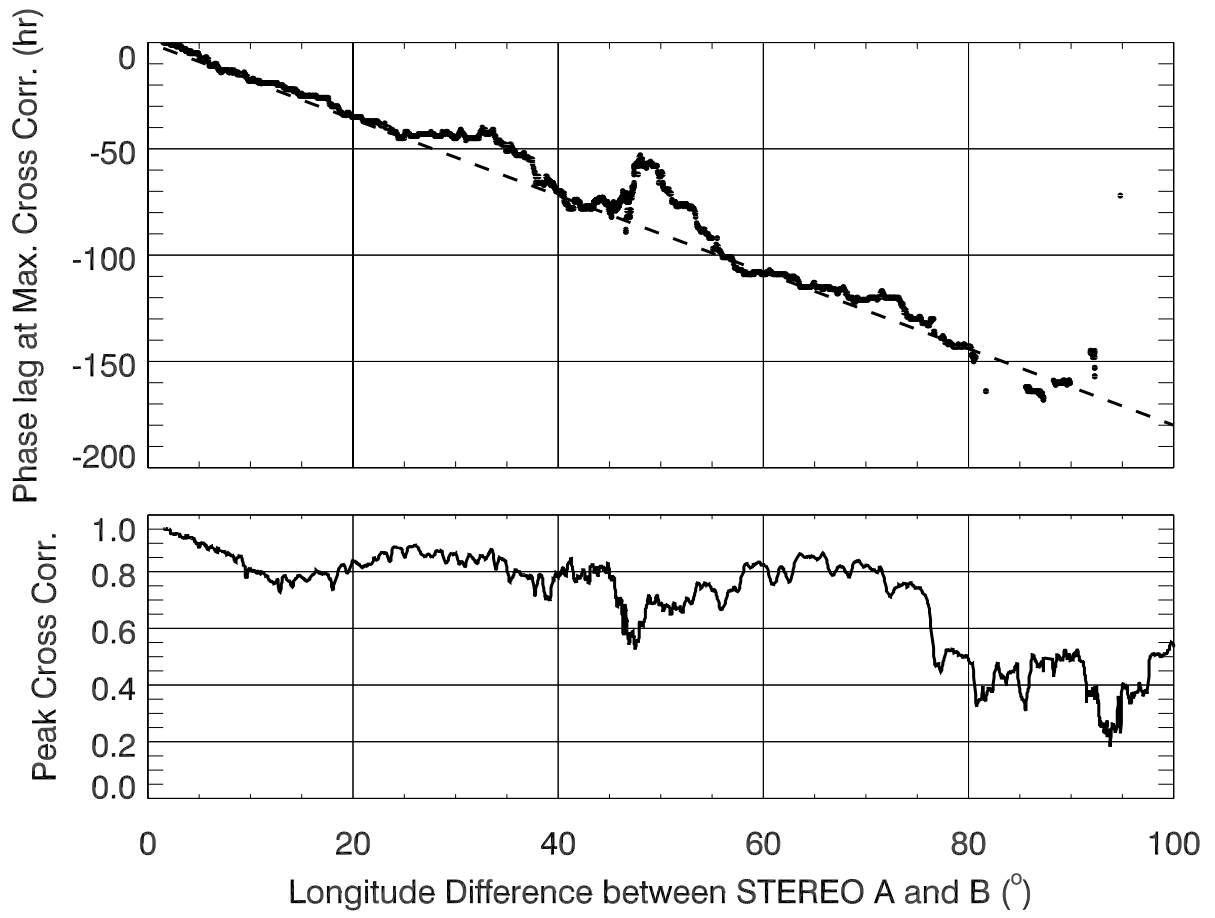


Figure 3



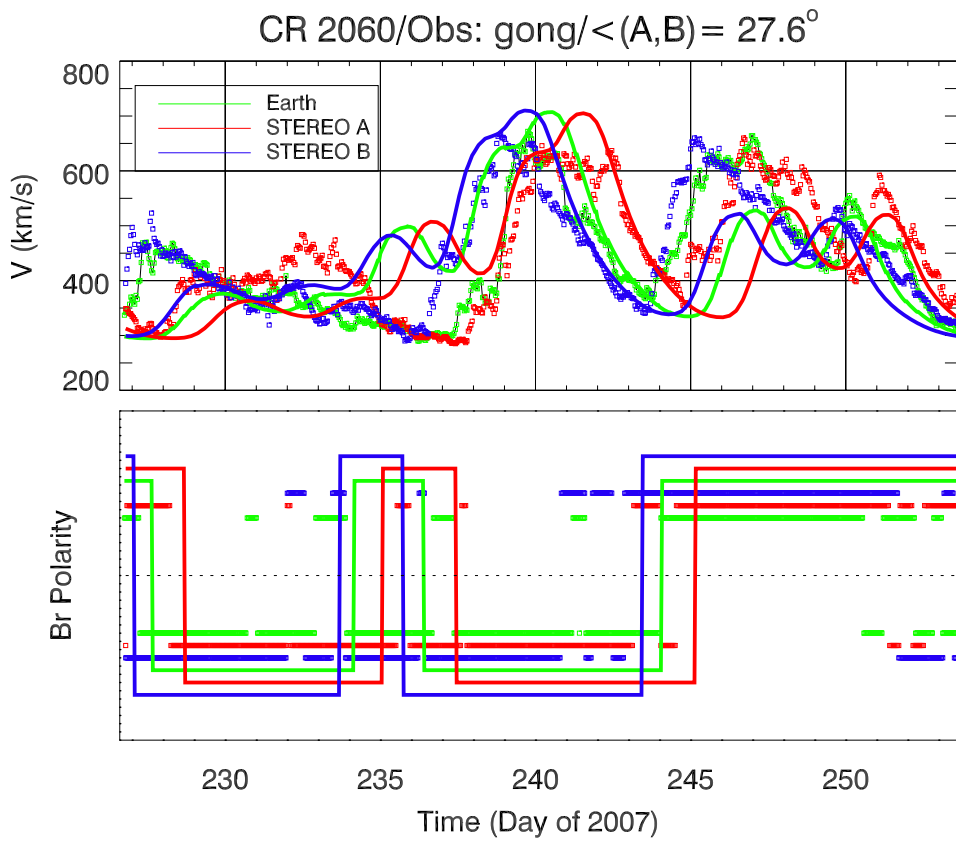


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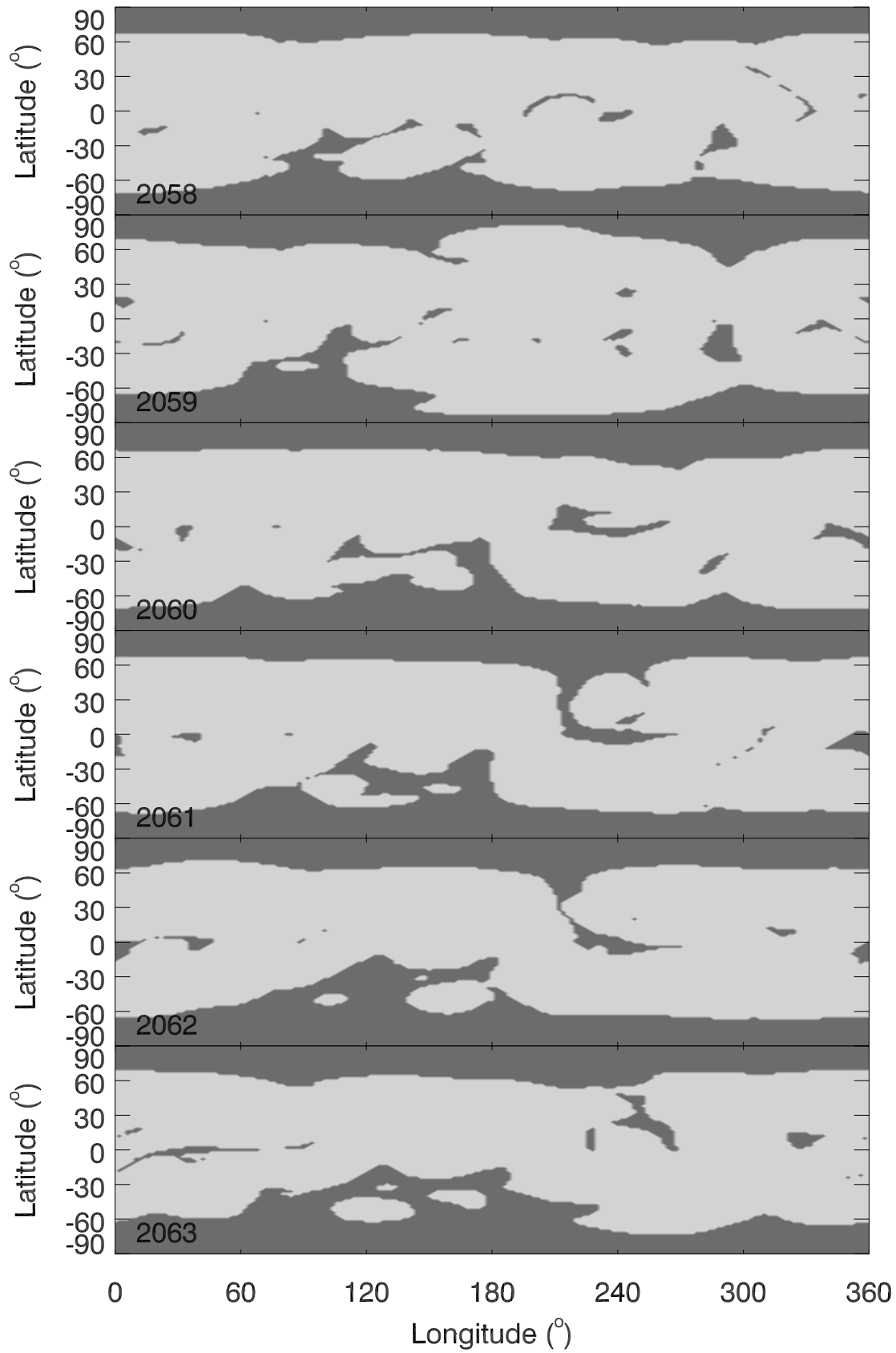


Figure 5

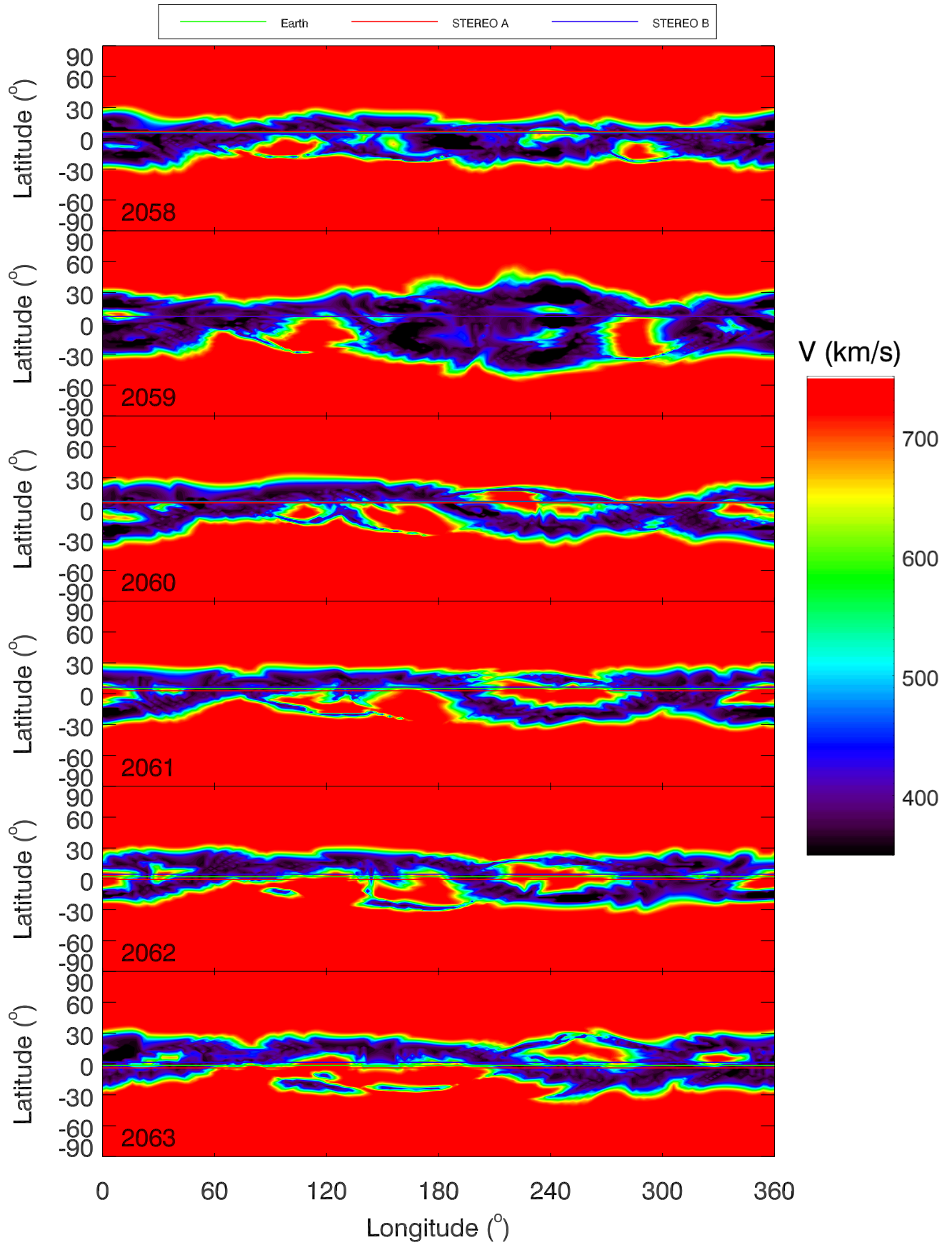


Figure 6

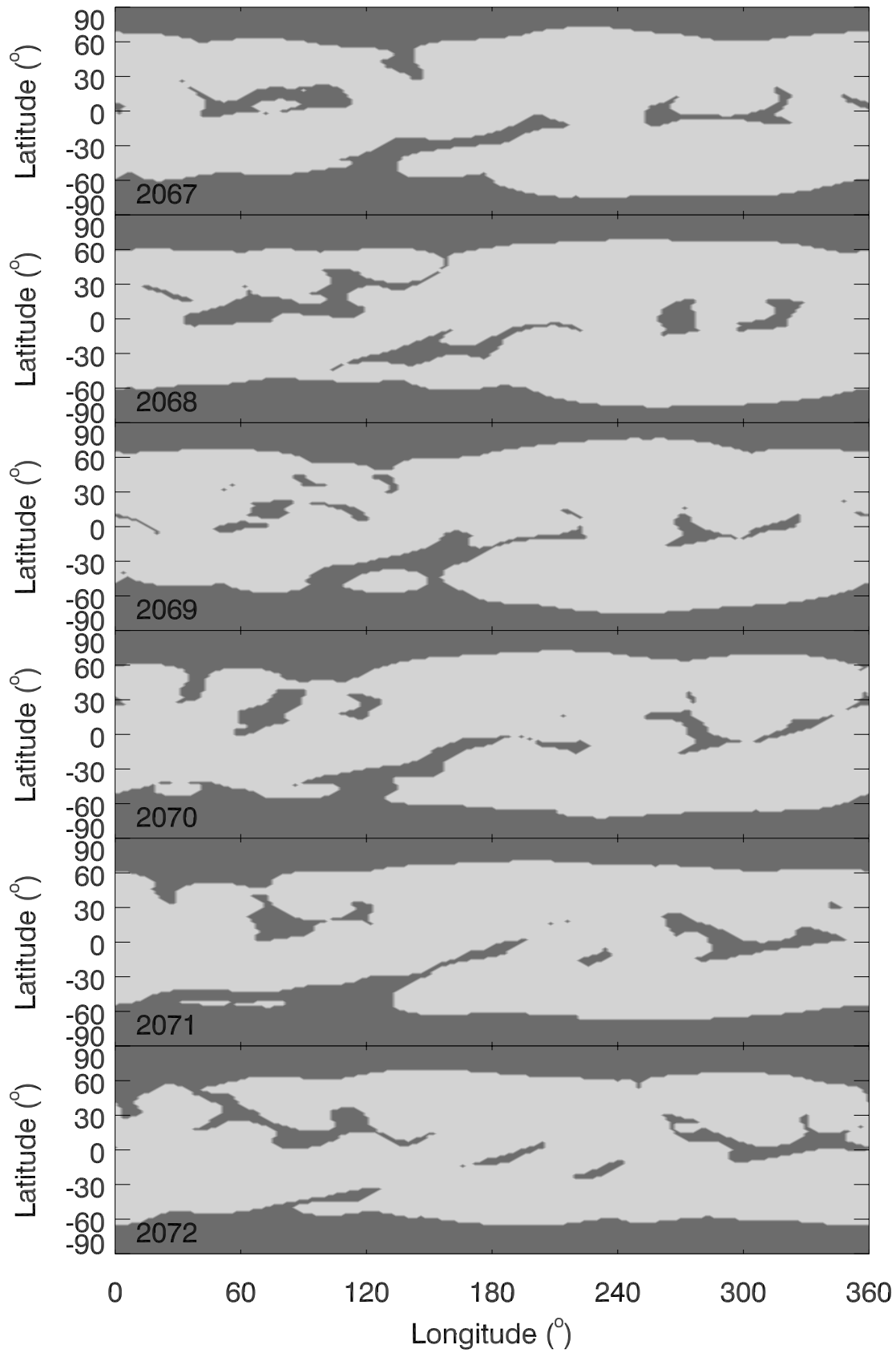


Figure 7

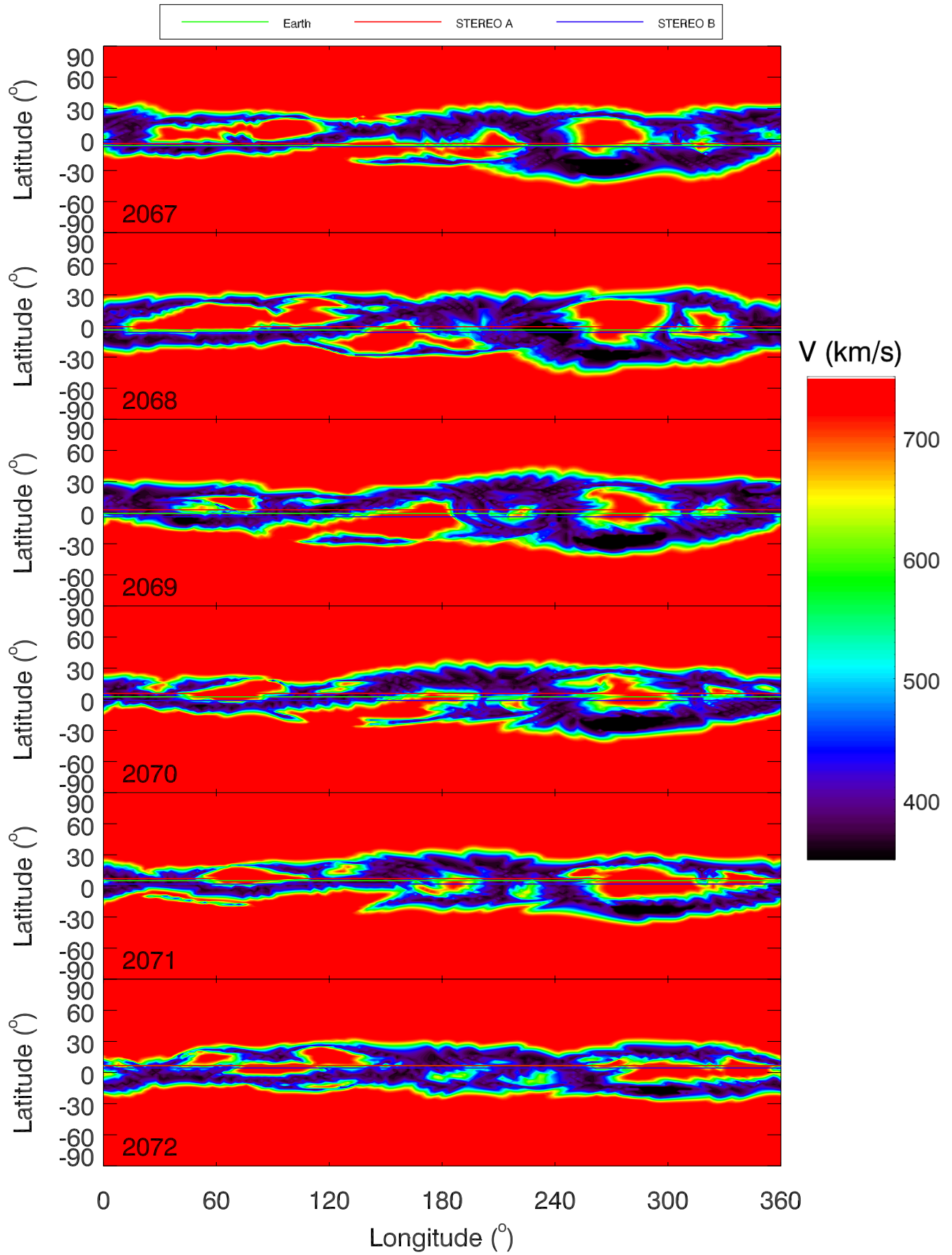


Figure 8

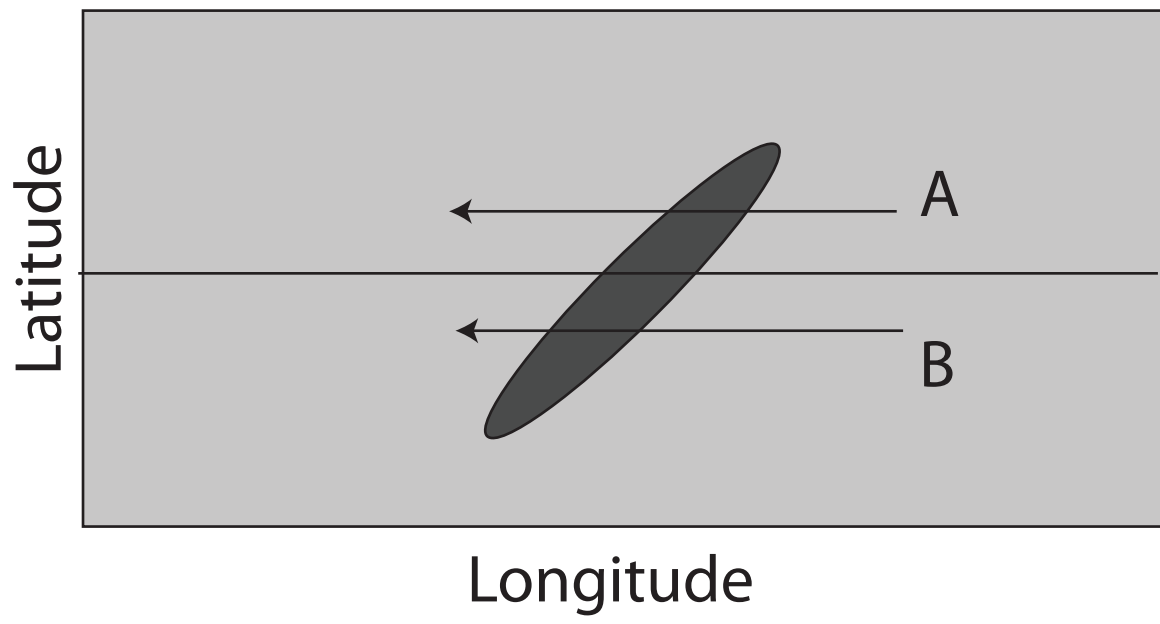


Figure 9

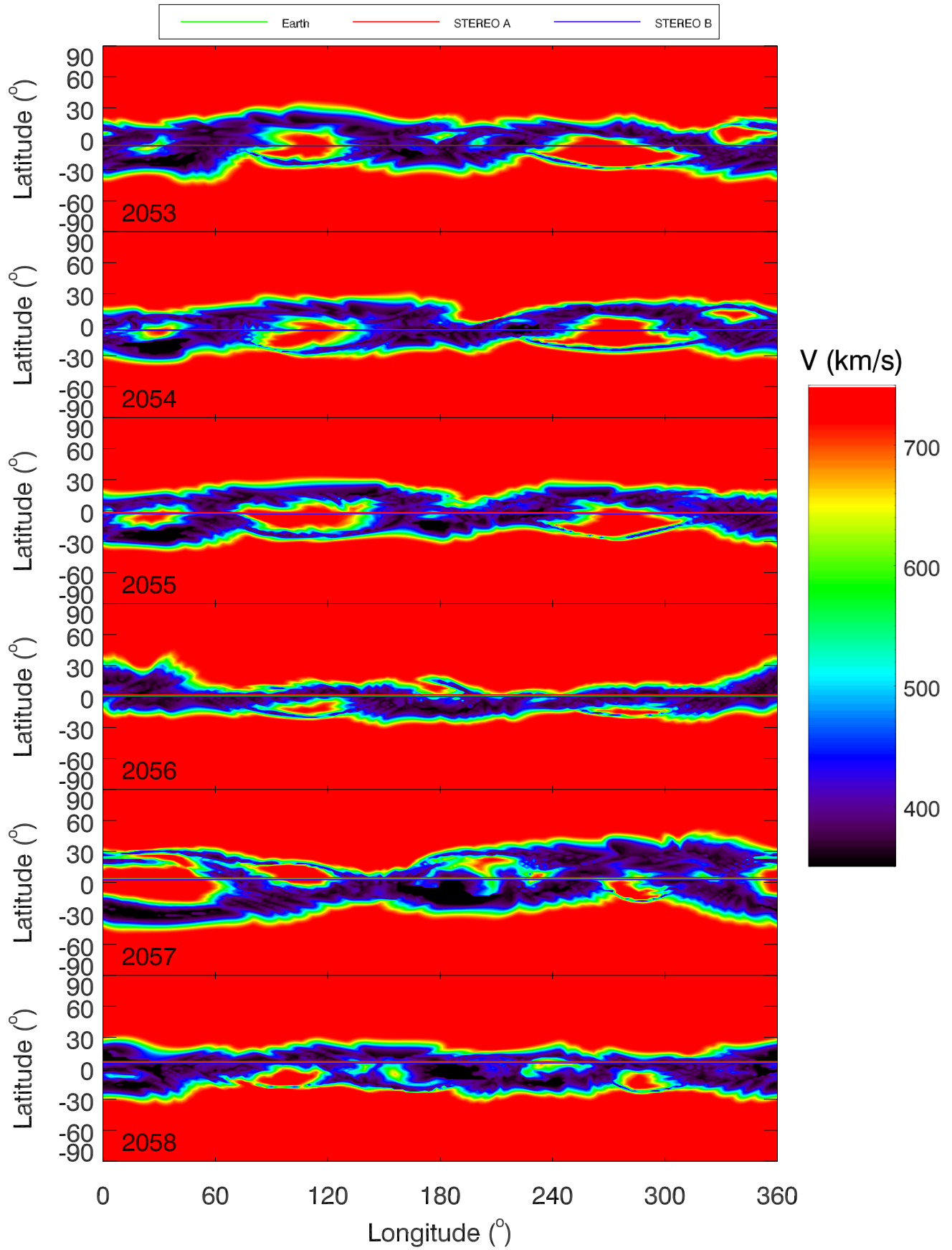


Figure 10