BOSTON UNIVERSITY

SPACE PHYSICS SEMINAR

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Patterns in the Solar Wind

725 Commonwealth Ave.
Thursday, March 21, 2013
Refreshments at 3:30pm in CAS 500
Talk begins at 4:00pm in CAS 502

Abstract:

The recent solar minimum has changed our understanding of the source of the slow solar wind. That slow wind is somehow different from fast wind was discovered in 1995, thus adding a layer of complexity to the tilted dipole paradigm of heliospheric order developed during the Skylab era in 1974. In that paradigm, all slow wind comes from the vicinity of the streamer belt encompassing the heliomagnetic equatorial plane containing the heliospheric current sheet. The declining and minimum phases of the recent solar cycle, however, revealed a more intricate pattern—a web of pseudostreamer belts connected to the streamer belt that expands and contracts over the surface of the Sun with the waxing and waning of the sunspot cycle.