Solar terrestrial modelling: Application of systems methodologies

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The response of the magnetosphere to changes in the solar wind is the result of the a complex series of processes, each acting over disparate scales in both space and time. The basic premise of physics based modelling is to understand each of these processes separately before coupling them into a single model. This diversity in process mechanisms and their temporal/spatial scales is one of the main reasons that such models have not been developed. Systems science provides a complementary route for modeling. This data driven approach involves the study of the evolution of a system as a whole based on a set of driving parameters. In this presentation we show how the application of systems modelling can be used to investigate such complex problems in space physics as magnetospheric response to the solar wind to the evolution of turbulence. In contrast to other data driven methodologies, systems techniques can also advance understanding of the micro-processes within the system. In addition, use of the systems approach, and especially frequency domain analysis, may be employed to validate analytical and numerical models.

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