

The Solar Wind and the Sun in the Past

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Exposure to the solar wind can have significant consequences for planetary atmospheres, especially for planets such as Mars that are not protected by global magnetospheres. Estimating the long term effects of solar wind exposure requires knowledge of the history of the solar wind. Much of what we know about the Sun's past behavior is based on inferences from observations of young solar-like stars. Stellar winds analogous to that of the Sun cannot be detected directly, but the interaction regions between these winds and the interstellar medium have been detected and used to estimate wind properties. I here review these observations, with emphasis on what they suggest about the history of the solar wind.