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The causes of MDs in interplanetary space: Ulysses

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Magnetic Decreases (MDs) have been speculated to be related to the mirror mode instability and have also been shown to occur in association with the dissipation of nonlinear interplanetary Alfvén waves. Recent work has noted that MDs are not isotropic in the interplanetary medium. Our effort will be to examine this anisotropic occurrence frequency further and determine the mechanism for MD generation: mirror mode instability or Alfvén wave dissipation.