

# Electromotive force measurements in interplanetary space

Yasuhito Narita

Space Research Institute,  
Austrian Academy of Sciences  
Graz, Austria

Many thanks to:  
Phillipe Bourdin & Bernhard Hofer

Acknowledgment: SOHO LASCO

# Upcoming in situ interplanetary trio

ESA JAXA BepiColombo  
launch planned in Oct. 2018  
7.2-year cruise in the inner heliosphere  
with magnetic field measurements (down to 0.3 AU)

ESA Solar Orbiter  
launch planned in Feb. 2019  
simultaneous optical and in situ measurements  
heliocentric distance down to about 0.3 AU  
inclination about 30 degrees from Earth ecliptic plane

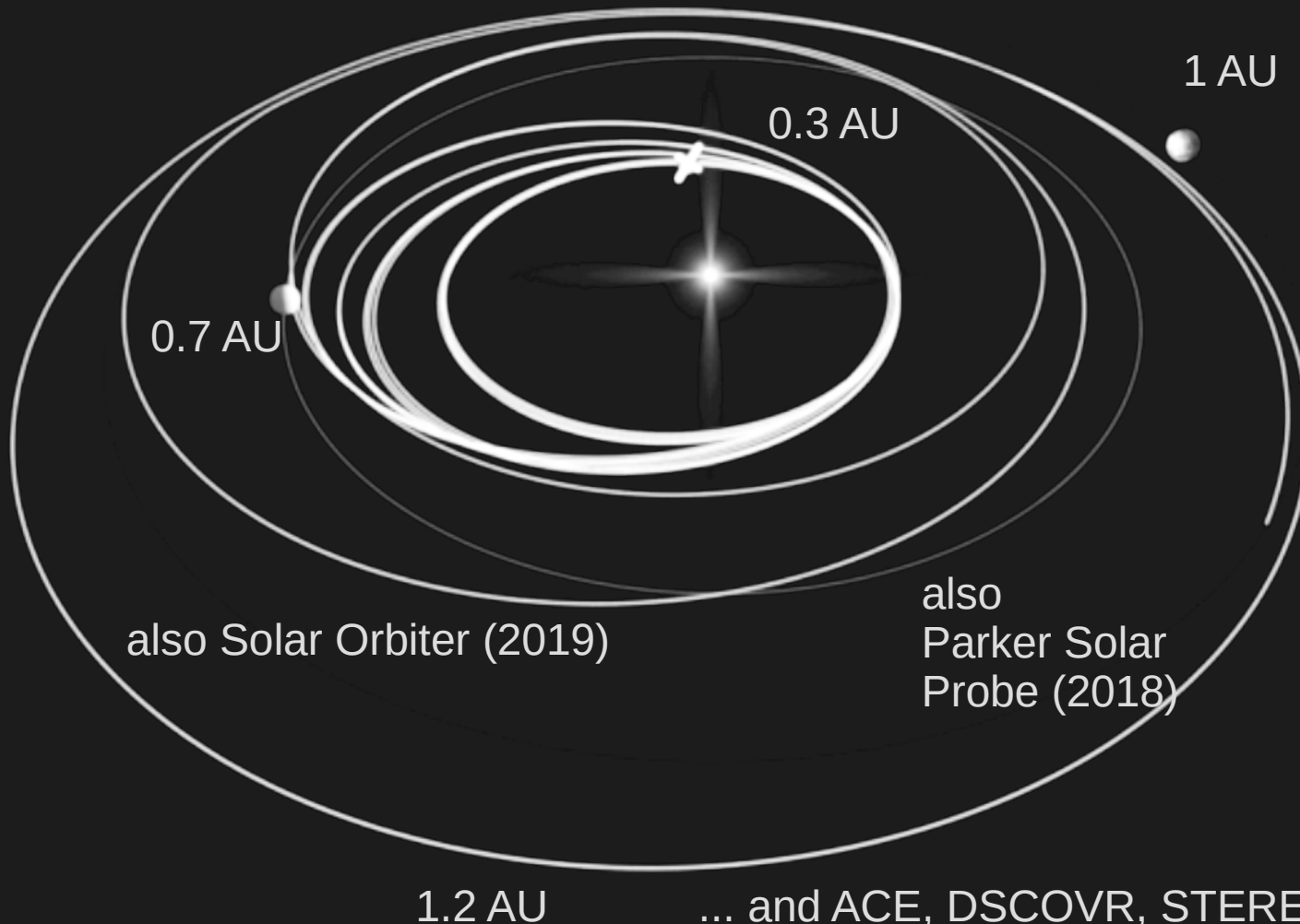
NASA Parker Solar Probe  
launch planned in Aug. 2018  
in situ measurements as close as 10 solar radii

# Multi-point measurements!



BepiColombo cruise plan (2018-2025)

**05 Dec 2025**



05 Oct 2018 - Launch

**Flybys**

06 Apr 2020 - Earth

12 Oct 2020 - Venus

11 Aug 2021 - Venus

02 Oct 2021 - Mercury

23 Jun 2022 - Mercury

20 Jun 2023 - Mercury

05 Sep 2024 - Mercury

02 Dec 2024 - Mercury

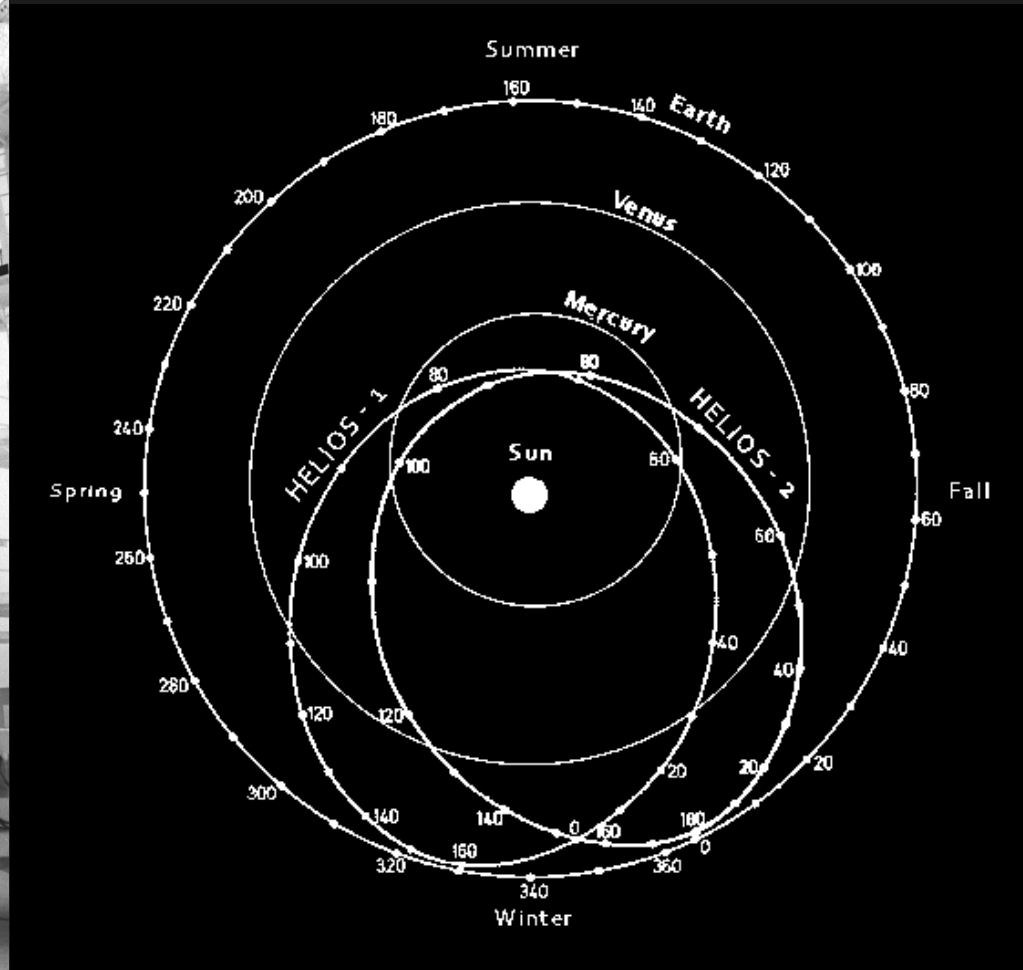
09 Jan 2025 - Mercury

**05 Dec 2025 - Arrival**

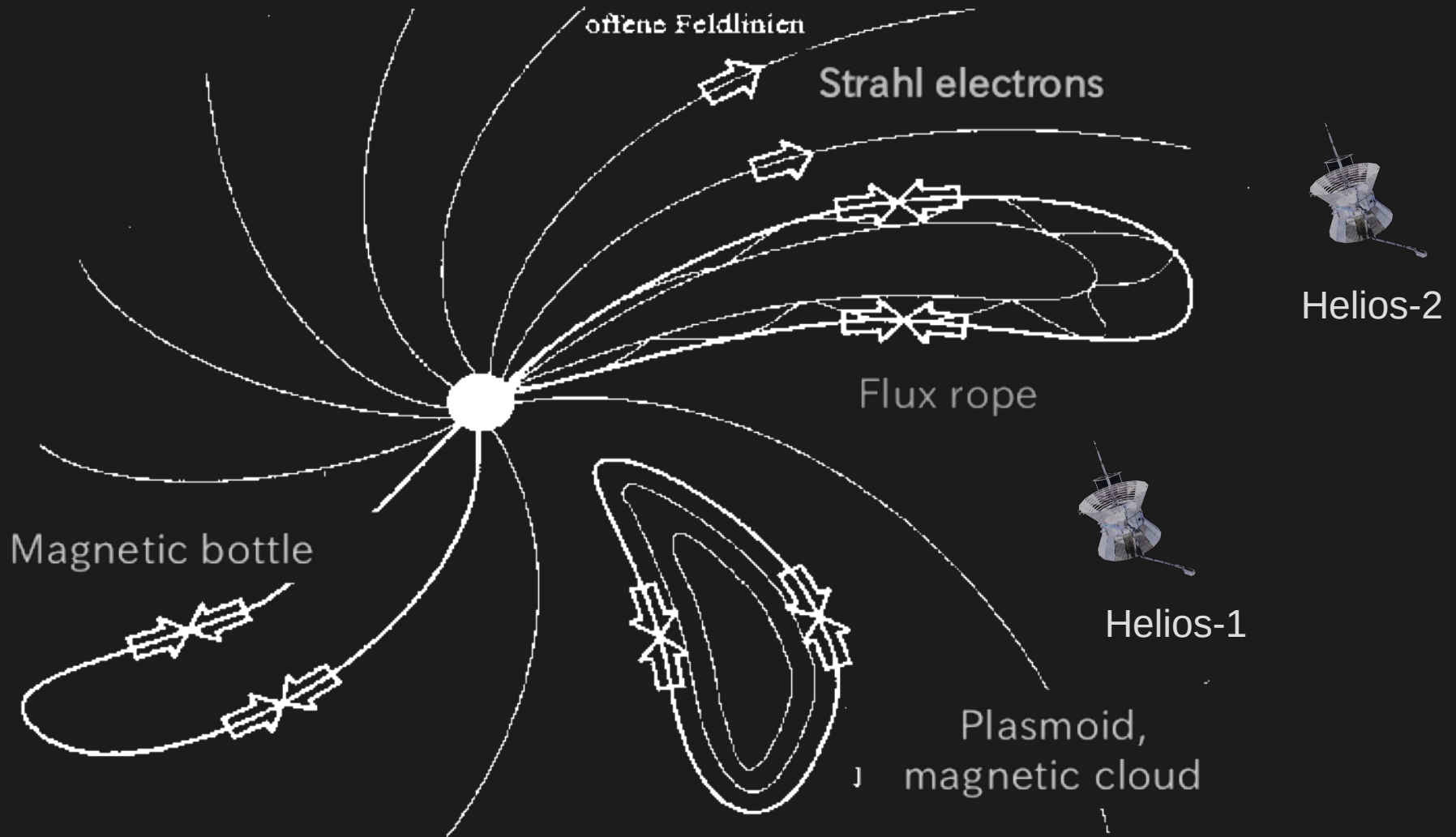
Acknowledgment: ESA

... and ACE, DSCOVR, STEREO spacecraft

# Helios mission (1974-1985, 1976-1979)



# Natural laboratory of helicity

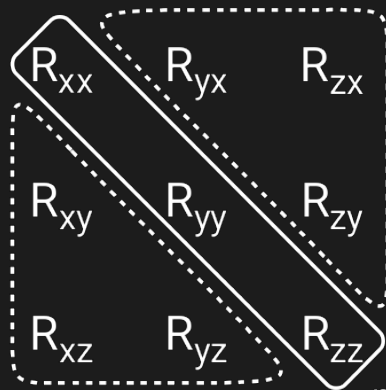


# Why do we care electromotive force?

Second-order quantities: energy, helicity, and electromotive force

magnetic field  
BB-tensor

magnetic  
helicity

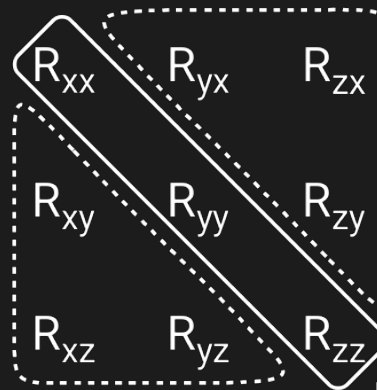


h.c.

magnetic  
energy

flow velocity  
UU-tensor

kinetic  
helicity

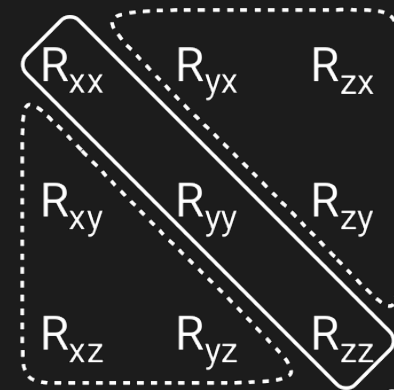


h.c.

kinetic  
energy

magnetic field - flow velocity  
UB-tensor

electromotive  
force



h.c.

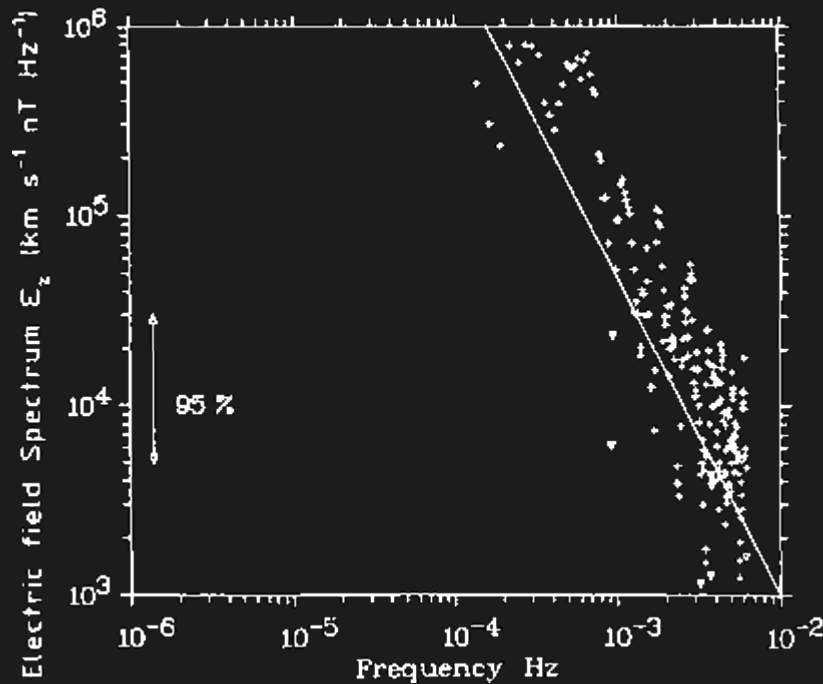
cross  
helicity

Narita, Nonlin. Processes Geophys. 2017

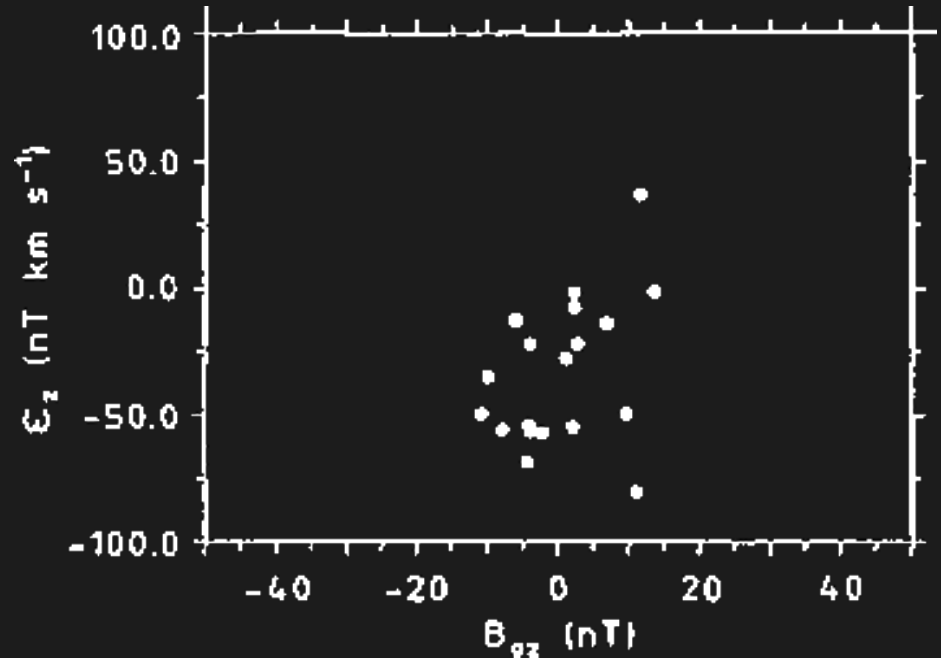


# Pioneering work by Marsch & Tu

Frequency spectrum of electromotive force



Electromotive force vs. mean magnetic field



Marsch & Tu, Solar Wind Seven Conf. 1991

Electromotive force looks in a turbulent state (power-law spectrum) but does not show a clear dependence on the mean magnetic field.

## Coefficients alpha and beta

a simplified model of electromotive force (no cross helicity term yet)

$$\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}_{\text{em}} = \alpha \mathbf{B}_0 - \beta \nabla \times \mathbf{B}_0$$

coefficient beta ... eliminate alpha term by cross product with  $\mathbf{B}_0$

$$\beta_{\text{obs}} = -\frac{1}{H^2} \mathbf{H} \cdot (\mathbf{B}_0 \times \boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}_{\text{em}})$$

$$\mathbf{H} = \mathbf{B}_0 \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{B}_0)$$

coefficient alpha ... scalar product with  $\mathbf{B}_0$  and use beta\_obs

$$\alpha_{\text{obs}} = \frac{1}{B_0^2} \mathbf{B}_0 \cdot \boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}_{\text{em}} + \frac{\beta}{B_0^2} \mathbf{B}_0 \cdot (\nabla \times \mathbf{B}_0)$$



# A magnetic cloud event of Helios-2

magnetic field

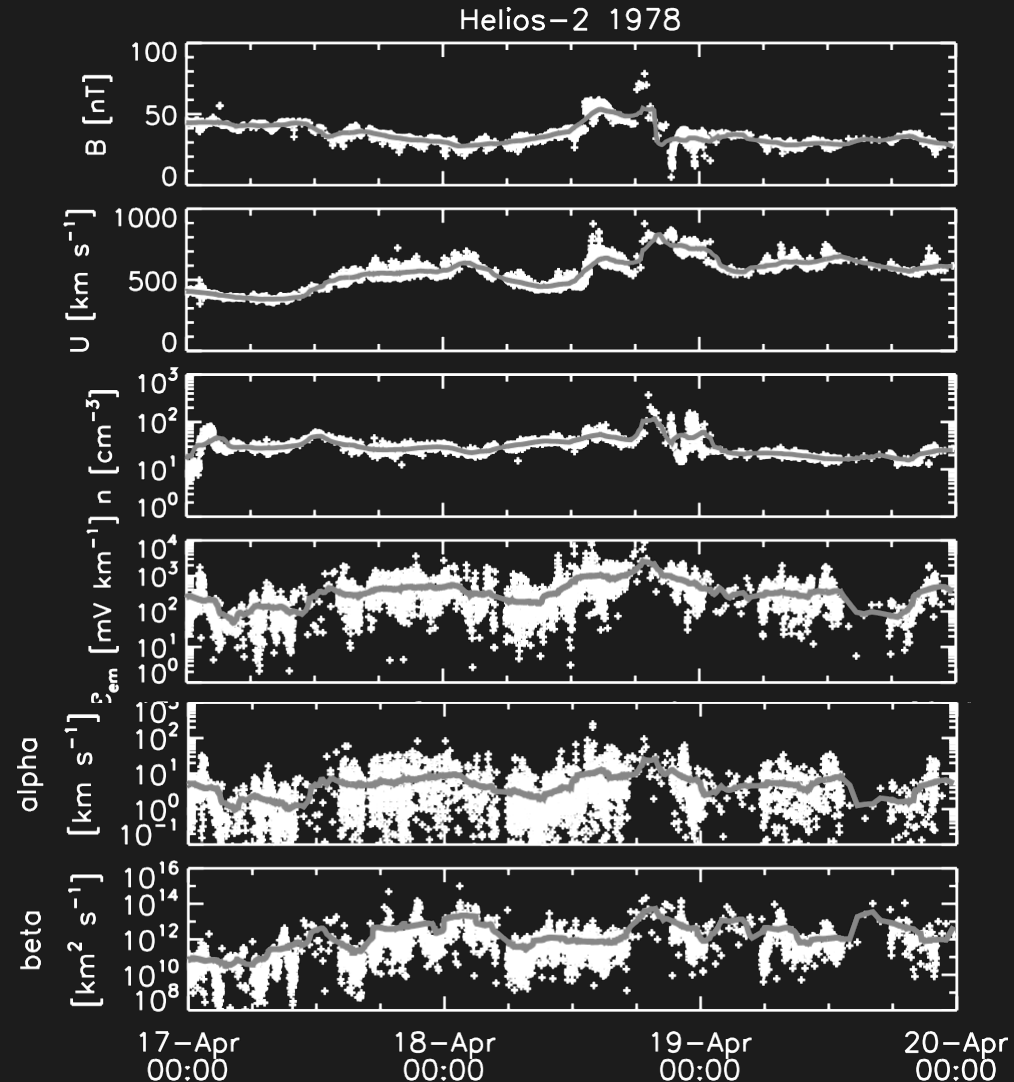
flow velocity

plasma density

electromotive force

coefficient alpha

coefficient beta

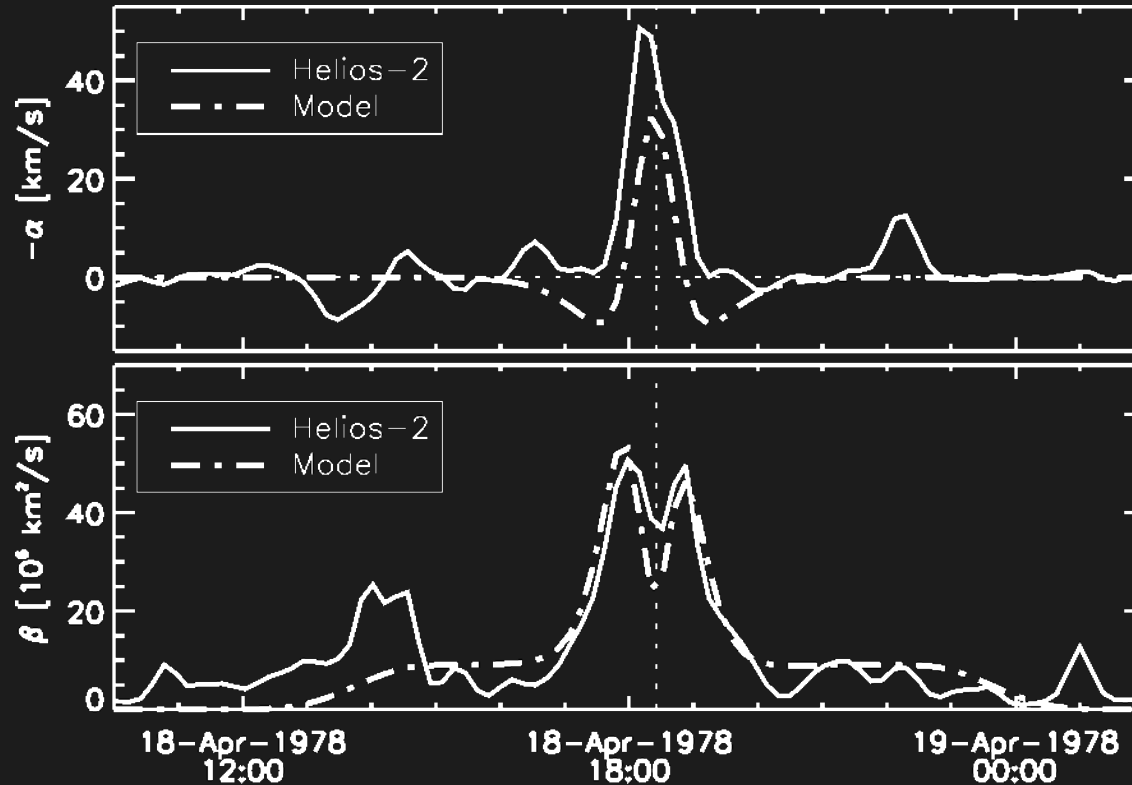


# Another approach using a vortex model

An analytic expression for the flow velocity.

Fitting of the time series data in the parameter space.

Reconstruction of the Helios measurements of alpha and beta



## Discussion & conclusions

- Follow-up of the first-time test (Marsch & Tu 1991) for the electromotive force against the solar wind data
- Enhancement of alpha and beta terms confirmed during a magnetic cloud event in the Helios-2 data
- Short-period magnetic field amplification possible locally in interplanetary space, but unlikely to grow on a long time scale due to the transient phenomenon nature
- We have a problem... What do we mean by “mean” of the mean field  $B_0$ ? Is it a smoothing, a low-pass filter, or some fitting methods?