



Observing geomagnetic secular variation

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Geomagnetic observatories and satellite missions provide the observations that allow to describe the Earth's magnetic field and its time variations. The very successful recent satellite missions and the prospect of ESA's upcoming Swarm mission have proven to be very inspiring also for the ground observation community and have triggered initiatives towards a better global coverage with ground stations and a faster dissemination of observatory data. Recent developments in observational geomagnetism will be highlighted and the different principles behind ground based and satellite borne measurements will be discussed with their respective advantages and disadvantages for secular variation studies.