

## The Martian Magnetic Field As Seen By InSight

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The InSight lander carries a very sensitive magnetometer to measure the martian and lander magnetic fields so that the variation of this magnetic field can be decorrelated from the seismometer recordings if they are strong enough to be seen by the seismometer that has a slight sensitivity to magnetic fields. This is the first operating magnetometer on the Mars surface. The data are regularly transmitted at 0.2 Hz and stored on the spacecraft at 20 Hz for later transmission if needed. The range of the magnetometer is  $\pm 20,000$  nT in each of the three directions. The sensors are oriented positive northward, positive eastward and positive downward. It operates continuously day and night.

The field at the InSight landing site is strong. Models of the martian magnetic field at the landing site based on orbital surveys ranged from 19 nT to -243 nT in the north direction, 350 nT to -25 nT in the east direction, and -205 nT to -30 nT in the downward direction, for an average of (-70, 97, -154) nT. The surface field far exceeded this. This field is aligned within  $27^\circ$  of the average extrapolated magnetic field from the five models that have been published on the analyses of the measured fields from Mars orbiters. This result is to be expected if the surface of Mars is strongly magnetized. The InSight field is probably the leakage flux from excavated or demagnetized regions of this magnetized crust. These leakage fields should be roughly aligned with the magnetization in the crustal rocks and be strongest near excavated or demagnetized regions while the orbital measurements will not sense the small-scale “leakage” fields and therefore report weaker average fields. While the surface field at InSight is much stronger than the field at high altitudes, it is very consistent in direction with the high altitude data.

During daylight conditions, ionospheric currents are sensed. These vary but slightly from day to day and

also are close to the expected amplitude. At this writing, it is too early to determine if the annual change in the solar zenith angle due to the rotation axis tilt and the change in the heliocentric distance of Mars affect the ionospheric currents.

During nighttime conditions near midnight local time, long pulsation trains are occasionally detected in the magnetic field. These can last as long as two hours and have wave periods of longer than 1 minute. These waves are strongest in the north direction and weakest vertically.

Vortical wind disturbances are seen at the InSight lander as a pressure drop of up to several Pa. Examination of the magnetic records shows no influence of these vortical winds on the magnetic readings.

These measurements have important implications for future Mars exploration. The ionospheric currents and the wavetrains seen near midnight may enable future electromagnetic sounding of the martian interior. These can be implemented with geomagnetic arrays or rovers. The strong magnetization seen in the surface rocks indicates that much can be learned about the dynamics of the crust from magnetometers carried on rovers. We strongly encourage a cross-disciplinary approach to studying the surface of Mars. Mars magnetization could revolutionize our understanding of the emplacement of the crust of Mars in much the same way as the magnetic surveys of the Earth's oceans have revolutionized our understanding of terrestrial tectonics.