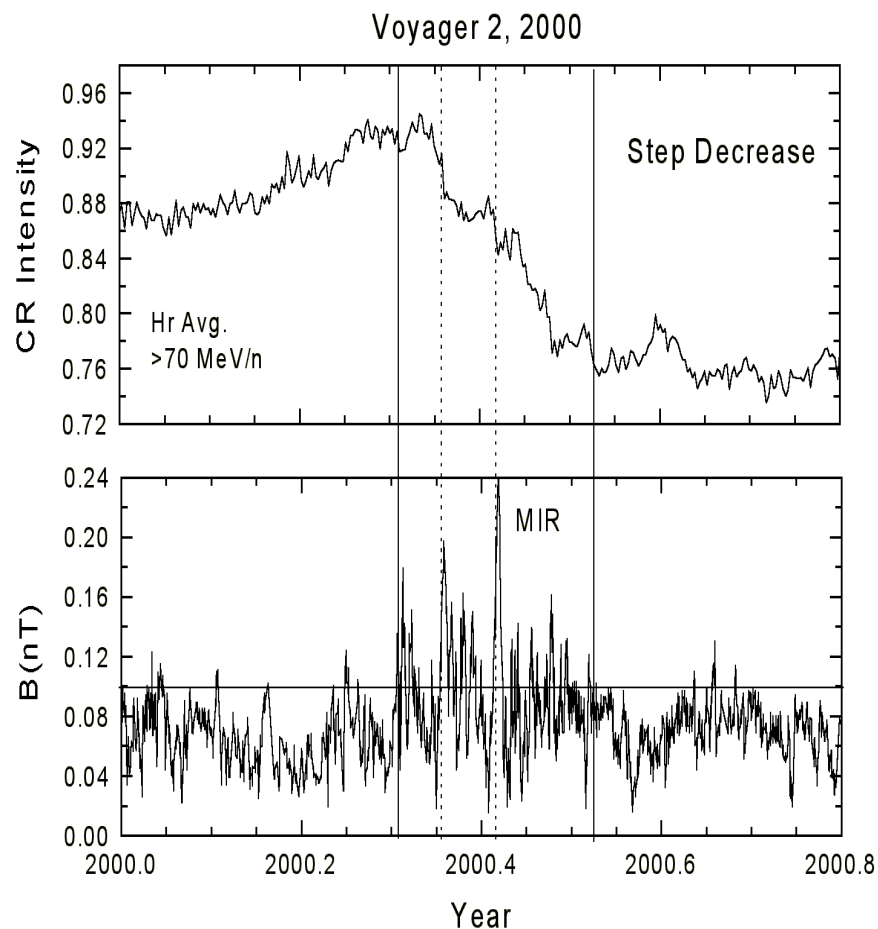
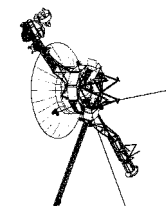


A Global Merged Interaction Region and Cosmic Ray Step Decrease at 61 AU



- A Global Merged Interaction Region, a shell-like region surrounding the sun with thickness of 15 AU and strong magnetic fields B , was observed by Voyager 2 at 61 AU.
- This GMIR caused the first step decrease in cosmic ray intensity in the distant heliosphere in solar cycle 23. Even in the distant heliosphere, modulation is strongly influenced by GMIRs moving away from the sun at a million miles/hour