



Cassini magnetometer observations during the Huygens descent through Titan's atmosphere

M. K. Dougherty (1), F. M. Neubauer (2), P. Slootweg (1), S. Kellock (1) and I. Mueller-Wodarg (1)

(1) Space and Atmospheric Physics, Imperial College, London, SW7 2AZ, UK and (2) Institute of Geophysics and Meteorology, University of Cologne, 50678 Cologne, Germany

During the eight-day quiet period leading up to and including the descent of the Huygens probe through the atmosphere of Titan the Cassini Magnetometer instrument was placed in a muted state rather than switched off so as to preserve the instrument offsets as well as to ensure that there was no activity on the spacecraft bus during this critical period. However twelve hours of magnetic field data including the period of the descent were stored onboard the instrument in snapshot mode. These observations reveal that Titan was inside the Saturnian magnetosphere during the Huygens descent through Titan's atmosphere and this will allow an understanding to be gained of the influence of the state of the magnetosphere on the upper atmosphere of Titan.