**An Introduction to the PDS PPI Website**

Hello. This is an introduction to the Planetary Data System’s Planetary Plasma Interactions web also known as PDS/PP.

**Getting Started**

~~The Planetary Plasma Interactions, or PPI, is a discipline node of NASA’s Planetary Data System, or PDS.~~

**The PDS-PPI web page**

To begin let’s go to the PDS/PPI web site located at <https://pds-ppi.igpp.ucla.edu>. On the PPI web pages there are 4 areas. Along the top are links to navigate the PDS/PPI web site. On the right are links for useful information, on the left are data discovery links and data related information. In the center is where results from a query are displayed.

**Searching for data**

To explore the features of the PDS/PPI web site we’ll use it to find the magnetic field data from the Voyager 1 spacecraft.

From the home page there are two ways to find data. One way is to choose a category from the discovery links on the left and work your way to the data. The other is to enter terms in the search box.

**Search**

Let’s perform a search using the search box, enter “voyager magnetic” and press return.

**Results**

In the results area is now a list of collections which are related to the search terms. For each collection there is summary. A collection that is “certified” has completed a PDS review and is considered ready for general use.

For each summary there is a set of action buttons. The first button will show details about the collection. Clicking on it will show the contents of the collection. The next button is for displaying the errata information associated with the collection. Errata describes errors or issues with the data you might need to be concerned about. The next button is for displaying the “readme” – or detailed description of the collection. The next button is for downloading the data and the final button is for ordering the data.

**Selecting a Collection**

To explore a collection click on the details button or the title in the collection.

**Collection Contents**

After clicking you will see a listing of the contents of the collection. This will include any products at the top level of the collection and folders which contain different types of products. Clicking on the data folder will display the data products.

**Product Listing**

The listing of data products shows the name of each product, time range of the data and a description when available. Clicking on a product will show more information about the product.

**Data Product**

As part of the product information is a listing of the files that comprise the product. This includes the label which contains metadata and the files that contain data. A new type of button is now visible, it’s the view button. Clicking it will show a list of ways the product can be viewed.

**Let’s View**

Let’s view the data. Click on the view button and select “View with Vista”.

**Vista**

Vista is a browser based time series visualization tool which allows you quickly inspect the data. It shows a plot of each field of data. With Vista you can choose which parameters to display, zoom in and out on the data and more.

**Download**

If you would like to download the data, return to the data product page and click the download icon. Selecting “Download as zip” will bundle up all the files into a zip file and deliver it through your browser.

**Zip file content**

The contents of the zip file includes all the files for each product along with an “info.txt” file which describes how to the download the files again. There is also an “acknowledgement.txt” which contains any requested acknowledgements to make when using the data.

We’ve now found and downloaded the Voyager 1 magnetometer data.

**The End**

To visit the PDS/PPI web site go to <https://pds-ppi.igpp.ucla.edu>.

For more information about PDS visit <https://pds.nasa.gov>