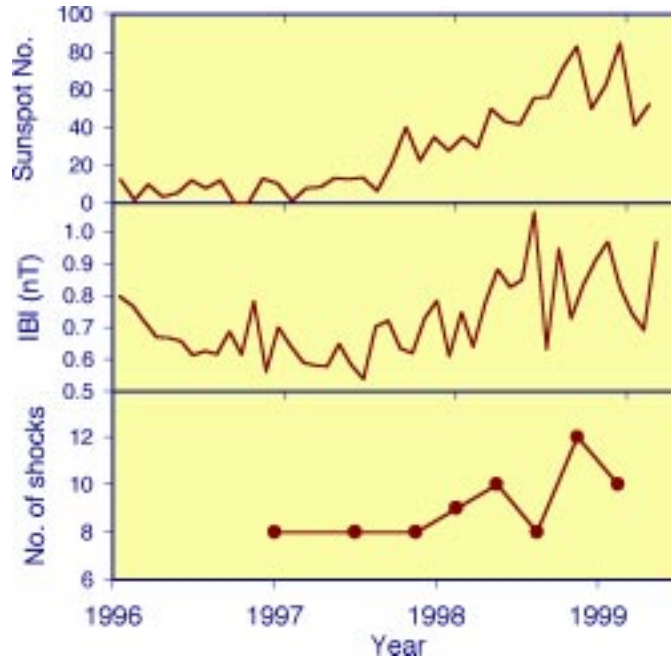
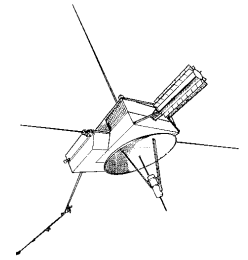


Upturn in Solar Activity – Ulysses Magnetic Field



Plots (from top to bottom) of the Sunspot Number, the magnetic field strength seen by Ulysses, and the number of shocks seen at Ulysses in the past two years.

- Ulysses observes effects of the solar activity, indicated by Sunspot number, upon the interplanetary magnetic field. There is an increase in the magnetic field strength along with the increase in sunspot numbers. Another way to measure the strength of solar activity is by the shock waves that are generated in the solar wind. The number of shocks seen at Ulysses in the past two years starts to increase at the same time as the sunspot number. This increase, even if not spectacular yet, points clearly towards the more disturbed conditions in the heliosphere that Ulysses will encounter in the next year two or three years.