

FAST TRACK PAPER

The 10th-Generation International Geomagnetic Reference Field

International Association of Geomagnetism and Aeronomy (IAGA), Division V,
Working Group VMOD: Geomagnetic Field Modeling

Participating members: S. Maus*, S. Macmillan, T. Chernova, S. Choi, D. Dater, V. Golovkov, V. Lesur, F. Lowes, H. Lüth, W. Mai, S. McLean, N. Olsen, M. Rother, T. Sabaka, A. Thomson, and T. Zvereva

Accepted 2005 March 15. Received 2005 February 28; in original form 2005 February 28

SUMMARY

The International Association of Geomagnetism and Aeronomy (IAGA) on 2004 December 12 has released the 10th-Generation International Geomagnetic Reference Field—the latest version of a standard mathematical description of the Earth's main magnetic field used widely in studies of the Earth's deep interior, its crust, ionosphere and magnetosphere. The coefficients were finalized by a task force of IAGA. The IGRF is the product of a large collaborative effort between magnetic field modellers and the institutes involved in collecting and disseminating magnetic field data from satellites and observatories around the world.

Key words: geomagnetic field model, geomagnetic reference field, IGRF, secular variation.

The IGRF is a series of mathematical models of the Earth's main field and its annual rate of change (secular variation). In source-free regions at the Earth's surface and above, the main field, with sources internal to the Earth, can be represented as the negative gradient of a scalar potential V , expanded into spherical harmonics as

$$V(r, \theta, \lambda, t) = R \sum_{n=1}^{n_{\max}} \left(\frac{R}{r}\right)^{n+1} \sum_{m=0}^n [g_n^m(t) \cos m\lambda + h_n^m(t) \sin m\lambda] P_n^m(\theta),$$

where r , θ , λ are geocentric coordinates (r is the distance from the centre of the Earth, θ is the colatitude, i.e. $90^\circ - \text{latitude}$, and λ is the longitude), R is the magnetic reference radius (6371.2 km); $g_n^m(t)$ and $h_n^m(t)$ are the coefficients at time t , and $P_n^m(\theta)$ are the Schmidt semi-normalized associated Legendre functions of degree n and order m . The main-field coefficients are functions of time. For the IGRF the change is assumed to be linear over 5-year intervals. For the upcoming 5-year epoch, the rate of change is given by predictive secular variation coefficients \dot{g}_n^m and \dot{h}_n^m . For more details on main-field modelling the reader is referred to Chapman & Bartels (1940) and Langel (1987).

The coefficients of the 10th-generation IGRF are listed in Table 1 and are available in digital form from the IAGA web site www.iugg.org/IAGA and the World Data Centers listed at the end of this paper, along with software to compute magnetic field values from them. The new coefficients are the preliminary main-field coefficients for 2005.0 and the predictive secular-variation coefficients for 2005.0–2010.0. The previous (9th) generation IGRF with the definitive coefficients for 1995.0 and 2000.0 (Macmillan *et al.*

2003) was finalized at the XXIII General Assembly of the International Union of Geophysics and Geodesy, held at Sapporo in Japan in 2003 July.

The satellite magnetic missions of the International Decade of Geopotential Research (Ørsted launched 1999, CHAMP launched 2000) are providing an unprecedented wealth of highly accurate magnetic field measurements. In order to ensure that the accuracy of the IGRF reflects the high quality of available data, IAGA decided in 2001 that the main-field coefficients of the IGRF from the year 2000 onwards should extend to degree $n_{\max} = 13$ and be quoted to 0.1 nT precision (to reflect improved spatial resolution and instrument precision). Pre-2000 coefficients extend to degree 10 and are quoted to 1 nT precision. The predictive secular-variation coefficients \dot{g}_n^m and \dot{h}_n^m for the upcoming 5-year epoch are given to degree 8 with a precision of 0.1 nT yr^{-1} .

With the previous 9th-generation IGRF, there was an update in the nomenclature. Table 2 gives the new nomenclature that should be used henceforth, and provides a summary of the history of the IGRF. It is recommended that the term IGRF should always be used with reference to the generation; otherwise, it is difficult to establish which coefficients were actually used. For example, one cannot recover the original full-field data from an aeromagnetic anomaly data set in order to tie it with adjacent surveys if one does not know which generation of the IGRF was used. Finally, it is now recommended that the World Geodetic System 1984 (WGS84, $a = 6378.137 \text{ km}$, $b = 6356.752 \text{ km}$) should be used when specifying the IGRF in geodetic coordinates.

Details of the geomagnetic modelling methods will be published later this year in a special issue of *Earth, Planets and Space*. The 10th-generation IGRF coefficients were computed from candidate sets of coefficients produced by the participating members of the IAGA Working Group VMOD, listed at the head of this announcement.

*Corresponding author: NOAA/NGDC, 325 Broadway, Boulder, CO 80305, USA. E-mail: Stefan.Maus@noaa.gov

Table 1. (Continued.)

<i>g/h</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>m</i>	1900.0	1905.0	1910.0	1915.0	1920.0	1925.0	1930.0	1935.0	1940.0	1945.0	1950.0	1955.0	1960.0	1965.0	1970.0	1975.0	1980.0	1985.0	1990.0	1995.0	2000.0	2005.0	SV	
s	7	6	18	18	18	18	19	19	18	18	17	15	5	9	17	13	13	12	11	10	9	8	7.3	5.5	-0.5	
h	7	6	-12	-12	-13	-15	-16	-17	-18	-19	-20	-17	-18	-20	-18	-23	-23	-23	-23	-23	-23	-24	-25.4	-26.4	-0.3	
h	7	7	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	5	29	19	18	8	1	-2	-5	-2	0	0	-2	-1.2	2.0	0.9	
h	7	7	-22	-22	-22	-20	-21	-21	-20	-19	-19	-22	-16	-18	-17	-12	-11	-12	-10	-7	-4	-6	-5.8	-4.8	0.3	
s	8	0	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	13	22	11	15	13	14	14	18	21	23	25	24.4	24.8	-0.2	
s	8	1	8	8	8	8	7	7	7	7	7	7	15	9	6	5	6	6	6	6	5	6	6.6	7.7	0.2	
h	8	1	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	12	5	10	11	7	7	6	7	8	10	11	11.2	11.2	-0.2	
s	8	2	-4	-4	-4	-4	-3	-3	-3	-3	-3	-8	-4	-6	-4	-4	-2	-1	0	0	-1	-6	-9.2	-11.4	-0.2	
h	8	2	-14	-15	-15	-15	-15	-15	-15	-14	-14	-21	-22	-15	-14	-12	-15	-16	-18	-19	-19	-21	-21.5	-21.0	0.2	
s	8	3	-9	-9	-9	-9	-9	-9	-9	-9	-10	-10	-1	-14	-11	-14	-13	-12	-11	-11	-10	-9	-7.9	-6.8	0.2	
h	8	3	7	7	6	6	6	6	5	5	5	-12	0	7	7	9	6	4	4	5	6	8	8.5	9.7	0.2	
s	8	4	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	1	1	9	11	6	2	0	-3	-8	-7	-9	-12	-14	-16.6	-18.0	-0.2	
h	8	4	-13	-13	-13	-13	-14	-14	-14	-15	-15	-7	-21	-23	-18	-16	-17	-19	-22	-23	-22	-23	-21.5	-19.8	0.4	
s	8	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	6	7	15	10	10	4	6	4	4	4	3	9	9.1	10.0	0.2	
h	8	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	2	-8	3	4	4	6	6	9	11	12	15	15.5	16.1	0.2	
s	8	6	-9	-8	-8	-8	-7	-7	-6	-6	-5	-10	-13	-7	-5	0	0	0	3	4	4	6	7.0	9.4	0.5	
h	8	6	16	16	16	16	17	17	18	18	19	18	17	23	23	24	21	18	16	14	12	11	8.9	7.7	-0.3	
s	8	7	5	5	5	6	6	6	7	8	9	7	5	6	10	11	11	10	6	4	2	-5	-7.9	-11.4	-0.7	
h	8	7	-5	-5	-5	-5	-5	-5	-5	-5	-5	3	-4	-4	1	-3	-6	-10	-13	-15	-16	-16	-14.9	-12.8	0.5	
s	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	7	7	2	-1	9	8	4	3	1	-1	-4	-6	-7	-7.0	-5.0	0.5	
h	8	8	-18	-18	-18	-18	-19	-19	-19	-19	-19	-11	-17	-13	-20	-17	-16	-17	-15	-11	-10	-4	-2.1	-0.1	0.4	
s	9	0	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	5	3	4	4	8	8	7	5	5	4	4	5.0	5.6	9.8	
h	9	1	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	-21	-7	9	6	10	10	10	10	10	9	9	9.4	9.4	9.8	
s	9	1	-20	-20	-20	-20	-20	-20	-20	-20	-21	-27	-24	-11	-18	-22	-21	-21	-21	-21	-20	-20	-19.7	-20.1	-20.1	
h	9	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	-1	-4	0	2	2	2	1	1	1	3	3.0	3.6	3.6	
h	9	2	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	15	15	17	19	12	12	15	16	16	16	15	15	15	13.4	12.9	12.9	
s	9	3	-11	-11	-11	-11	-11	-11	-12	-12	-12	-11	-25	-5	-9	-13	-12	-12	-12	-12	-12	-10	-8.4	-7.0	-7.0	
h	9	3	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	29	12	7	2	7	6	7	9	9	9	11	12	12.7	12.7	
s	9	4	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	11	11	3	10	2	1	10	10	9	9	9	8	6.3	5.0	5.0	
h	9	4	-3	-3	-3	-3	-3	-3	-3	-3	-3	-9	2	6	0	-4	-4	-4	-5	-6	-7	-6	-6.2	-6.7	-6.7	
s	9	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	16	5	4	4	-1	-3	-3	-4	-4	-4	-8	-8.9	-10.8	-10.8	
h	9	5	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-3	4	2	-2	-3	-5	-5	-6	-6	-7	-8	-8	-8.4	-8.1	-8.1	
s	9	6	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-3	-5	1	-1	-1	0	-1	-1	-1	-2	-1	-1.5	-1.3	-1.3	
h	9	6	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	10	9	10	10	10	9	9	9	8	8.4	8.1	8.1	
s	9	7	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	-4	-2	2	-2	5	3	4	7	7	7	10	9.3	8.7	8.7	
h	9	7	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	11	11	6	8	7	8	10	11	11	10	9	8	5	3.8	2.9	2.9	
s	9	8	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	-3	3	2	3	1	1	2	1	2	1	-2	-4.3	-6.7	-6.7	
h	9	8	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	1	-11	-6	0	-4	-2	-3	-6	-7	-7	-8	-8.2	-7.9	-7.9	
s	9	9	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-2	-2	-2	-4	8	5	-1	-2	-1	-2	-5	-5	-6	-8	-8.2	-9.2	-9.2	
h	9	9	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	8	-7	5	5	1	1	2	2	2	2	3	4.8	5.9	5.9	
s	10	0	-3	-3	-3	-3	-3	-3	-3	-3	-3	-3	-8	-3	-3	-2	-3	-3	-4	-4	-3	-3	-2.6	-2.2	-2.2	
h	10	1	-4	-4	-4	-4	-4	-4	-4	-4	-4	11	4	-5	-3	-3	-3	-3	-4	-4	-4	-6	-6.0	-6.3	-6.3	
s	10	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	5	13	-4	4	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	1.7	2.4	2.4	
h	10	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	-1	-1	4	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	1.7	1.6	1.6	
s	10	3	-5	-5	-5	-5	-5	-5	-5	-5	-5	-5	-2	0	0	2	3	3	3	3	3	4	4.0	4.4	4.4	
h	10	3	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-20	-10	-8	0	-2	-3	-3	-3	-5	-5	-4	-3.1	-2.5	-2.5	
s	10	4	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-5	-4	-3	-1	-2	-1	-2	-2	-2	-2	-1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.1	
h	10	4	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	2	2	2	6	6	6	6	6	6	5	4.9	4.7	4.7	
s	10	5	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	-1	4	7	4	4	6	5	5	5	4	4	3.7	3.0	3.0	
h	10	5	-4	-4	-4	-4	-4	-4	-4	-4	-4	-6	-3	-4	-5	-4	-4	-4	-4	-4	-4	-5	-5.9	-6.5	-6.5	
s	10	6	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	8	12	4	6	4	4	4	3	3	3	2	1.0	0.3	0.3	
h	10	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	6	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	-1	-1.2	-1.0	-1.0	
s	10	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-1	3	-2	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	2	2.0	2.1	2.1	
h	10	7	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-3	-3	-3	-1	-2	-1	-1	-1	-1	-2	-2	-2.9	-3.4	-3.4	
s	10	8	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	-2	6	7	6	3	3	3	4	4	4	3	1	0.2	-0.9	-0.9
h	10	8	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	-2	5	10	-2	2	2	3	3	3	3	1	0.3	-0.1	-0.1	
s	10	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	-1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	-2	-2.2	-2.3	-2.3	
h	10	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-1	-2	-2	-2	

Table 1. (Continued.)

g/h	n	m	1900.0	1905.0	1910.0	1915.0	1920.0	1925.0	1930.0	1935.0	1940.0	1945.0	1950.0	1955.0	1960.0	1965.0	1970.0	1975.0	1980.0	1985.0	1990.0	1995.0	2000.0	2005.0	SV
s	10	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-2	3	0	0	0	-1	0	0	0	0	0	-1.1	-2.2	-1.1
h	10	10	-6	-6	-6	-6	-6	-6	-6	-6	-6	-2	8	-3	-7	-6	-4	-5	-6	-6	-6	-7	-7.4	-8.0	-7.4
s	11	0																					2.7	2.9	2.7
s	11	1																					-1.7	-1.6	-1.7
h	11	1																					0.1	0.3	0.1
s	11	2																					-1.9	-1.7	-1.9
h	11	2																					1.3	1.4	1.3
s	11	3																					1.5	1.5	1.5
h	11	3																					-0.9	-0.7	-0.9
s	11	4																					-0.1	-0.2	-0.1
h	11	4																					-2.6	-2.4	-2.6
s	11	5																					0.1	0.2	0.1
h	11	5																					0.9	0.9	0.9
s	11	6																					-0.7	-0.7	-0.7
h	11	6																					-0.7	-0.6	-0.7
s	11	7																					0.7	0.5	0.7
h	11	7																					-2.8	-2.7	-2.8
s	11	8																					1.7	1.8	1.7
h	11	8																					-0.9	-1.0	-0.9
s	11	9																					0.1	0.1	0.1
h	11	9																					-1.2	-1.5	-1.2
s	11	10																					1.2	1.0	1.2
h	11	10																					-1.9	-2.0	-1.9
s	11	11																					4.0	4.1	4.0
h	11	11																					-0.9	-1.4	-0.9
s	12	0																					-2.2	-2.2	-2.2
s	12	1																					-0.3	-0.3	-0.3
h	12	1																					-0.4	-0.5	-0.4
s	12	2																					0.2	0.3	0.2
h	12	2																					0.3	0.3	0.3
s	12	3																					0.9	0.9	0.9
h	12	3																					2.5	2.3	2.5
s	12	4																					-0.2	-0.4	-0.2
h	12	4																					-0.2	-0.4	-0.2
s	12	5																					-2.6	-2.7	-2.6
h	12	5																					0.9	1.0	0.9
s	12	6																					0.7	0.6	0.7
h	12	6																					-0.5	-0.4	-0.5
s	12	7																					0.3	0.4	0.3
h	12	7																					0.3	0.5	0.3
s	12	8																					0.0	0.0	0.0
h	12	8																					-0.3	-0.3	-0.3
s	12	9																					0.0	0.0	0.0
h	12	9																					-0.4	-0.4	-0.4
s	12	10																					0.3	0.3	0.3
h	12	10																					-0.1	0.0	-0.1
s	12	11																					-0.9	-0.8	-0.9
h	12	11																					-0.2	-0.4	-0.2
s	12	12																					-0.4	-0.4	-0.4
h	12	12																					-0.4	0.0	-0.4
s	13	0																					0.8	1.0	0.8
s	13	1																					-0.2	-0.2	-0.2
h	13	1																					-0.9	-0.9	-0.9
s	13	2																					0.3	0.3	0.3
h	13	2																					0.2	0.3	0.2
s	13	3																					0.1	0.3	0.1
h	13	3																					1.8	1.7	1.8
s	13	4																					-0.4	-0.4	-0.4
h	13	4																					-0.4	-0.5	-0.4
s	13	5																					1.3	1.2	1.3

Table 1. (Continued.)

g/h	n	m	1900.0	1905.0	1910.0	1915.0	1920.0	1925.0	1930.0	1935.0	1940.0	1945.0	1950.0	1955.0	1960.0	1965.0	1970.0	1975.0	1980.0	1985.0	1990.0	1995.0	2000.0	2005.0	SV
h	13	5																							-1.0
h	13	6																							-0.4
h	13	6																							-0.1
h	13	6																							0.0
h	13	7																							0.7
h	13	7																							0.7
h	13	7																							0.7
h	13	8																							-0.3
h	13	8																							-0.4
h	13	8																							0.3
h	13	8																							0.2
h	13	9																							0.3
h	13	9																							0.4
h	13	9																							0.6
h	13	10																							0.6
h	13	10																							-0.1
h	13	10																							-0.1
h	13	11																							0.3
h	13	11																							0.4
h	13	11																							0.4
h	13	11																							-0.2
h	13	11																							-0.2
h	13	12																							0.0
h	13	12																							0.0
h	13	12																							-0.5
h	13	12																							-0.5
h	13	13																							0.1
h	13	13																							-0.3
h	13	13																							-0.9
h	13	13																							-1.0

Table 2. Summary of nomenclature and IGRF history.

Full name	Short name	Valid for	Definitive for
IGRF 10th generation (revised 2004)	IGRF-10	1900.0–2010.0	1945.0–2000.0
IGRF 9th generation (revised 2003)	IGRF-9	1900.0–2005.0	1945.0–2000.0
IGRF 8th generation (revised 1999)	IGRF-8	1900.0–2005.0	1945.0–1990.0
IGRF 7th generation (revised 1995)	IGRF-7	1900.0–2000.0	1945.0–1990.0
IGRF 6th generation (revised 1991)	IGRF-6	1945.0–1995.0	1945.0–1985.0
IGRF 5th generation (revised 1987)	IGRF-5	1945.0–1990.0	1945.0–1980.0
IGRF 4th generation (revised 1985)	IGRF-4	1945.0–1990.0	1965.0–1980.0
IGRF 3rd generation (revised 1981)	IGRF-3	1965.0–1985.0	1965.0–1975.0
IGRF 2nd generation (revised 1975)	IGRF-2	1955.0–1980.0	—
IGRF 1st generation (revised 1969)	IGRF-1	1955.0–1975.0	—

Their institutes and the many organizations involved in operating magnetic survey satellites, observatories and World Data Centers are thanked for their continuing support of the IGRF project.

WORLD DATA CENTERS

WDC for Solid Earth Geophysics
 National Geophysical Data Center
 325 Broadway
 Boulder
 CO 80303-3328
 USA
 E-mail: Susan.McLean@noaa.gov
 Internet: www.ngdc.noaa.gov

WDC for Geomagnetism
 Data Analysis Center for Geomagnetism and Space Magnetism
 Graduate School of Science, Kyoto University
 Kyoto 606-8502
 Japan
 E-mail: iyemori@kugi.kyoto-u.ac.jp
 Internet: swdcwww.kugi.kyoto-u.ac.jp

WDC for Geomagnetism
 British Geological Survey
 Murchison House
 West Mains Road
 Edinburgh
 EH9 3LA
 UK
 E-mail: smac@bgs.ac.uk
 Internet: www.geomag.bgs.ac.uk

REFERENCES

Chapman, S. & Bartels, J., 1940. Geomagnetism (2 Vols) Oxford University Press, London.
 International Association of Geomagnetism and Aeronomy (IAGA) Division V, Working 8, 2003. The 9th-Generation International Geomagnetic Reference Field, *Geophys. J. Int.*, **155**(3), 1051–1056.
 Langel, R.A., 1987. Main field in *Geomagnetism*, Vol. 1, pp. 249–512, ed. Jacobs, J. A., Academic Press, London.