Appendix A. A scheme for quality estimation

The values used for the discriminating features among $Q_0=1$, 2, and 3 were mainly developed from experience in applying the MC model of Lepping et al. (1990). No thermodynamic properties, such as plasma beta, density, nor bulk speed, for example, are used. Three kinds of qualities, Q_0 for measurement: 1 for excellent/good, 2 for fair, and 3 for poor. Definition of these three qualities are listed as follows.

- 1. The Q₀=1 cases must satisfy all of the following criteria: $|check| \le 20\%$, $|<B_y>_{Cl}| \le 3.0$ nT, ASF $\le 30\%$, $45 \le \beta_{CA} \le 135^\circ$, and $\chi_R \le 0.165$. These are the "Q₀=1 set."
- 2. Q₀=3. This category arises from satisfying any one of the following: $|Check| \ge 55\%$, $|CA| \ge 97\%$, $\langle B_x \rangle_{Cl} \le -1.5$ nT, f flag=NOT OK, Diameter ≥ 0.45 AU, ASF $\ge 40\%$, Cone angle (β_{CA}) $\le 25^\circ$ or $\beta_{CA} \ge 155^\circ$, and $\chi_R \ge 0.215$.
- 3. $Q_0=2$. Case is nor satisfying the $Q_0 = 1$ criteria, neither falling into $Q_0 = 3$.

In which,

"Check" =
$$(R_{\Delta T} - R_0)/R_0$$
, where $R_{\Delta T} = \sqrt{(Y_0^2 + (\sin\beta_{CA}V_C\Delta T/2)^2)}$,

and where R is the MC's radius, ΔT is the duration of MC-passage, V_C is the center speed of the MC (being close to the average speed across the cloud), β_{CA} is the angle between the MC's axis and the Sun-Earth line (where $\cos \beta_{CA} = \cos \varphi_A \cos \theta_A$: φ_A , θ_A are the longitude and latitude of the MC's axis, respectively), Y₀ is the estimated closest approach distance, and R_0 is the estimated MC radius. Note that $CA \equiv |Y_0|/R_0$ is the relative closest approach. That is, the value of the quantity "check" tests for consistency between two different means of obtaining estimates of the MC's radius, one directly from the fitting technique, where ΔT was not needed, and the other ($R_{\Delta T}$) requiring duration. Other useful quantities are:

 $ASF=|(1-2t_0/Duration)| \times 100\%$, (Called the asymmetry factor, where 0% is excellent),

and consideration of the average field components (taken across the MC) in Cloud (Cl) coordinates, $\langle B_x \rangle_{Cl}$, $\langle B_y \rangle_{Cl}$, $\langle B_z \rangle_{Cl}$. Ideally $\langle B_x \rangle_{Cl}$ should be always positive and $\langle B_y \rangle_{Cl}$ should be zero, because of the definition of the MC coordinate system and the fundamental field structure of the force free structure. In the Cl system the X_{Cl}-axis is along the MC axis, positive in the direction of the positive polarity of the axial magnetic field, the Z_{Cl}-axis passes through the MC axis and is aligned with the projection of the trajectory of the spacecraft (relative to the MC velocity, which is approximately aligned with the X_{GSE}-axis) onto the cross-section of the MC, and Y_{Cl} = Z_{Cl} × X_{Cl} (see Appendix B in Lepping et al. 2020). The displacement of the B-field (or magnetic field) is the same as the measured velocity of the plasma indicated above. i.e., we may consider either the magnetic field frozen to the plasma or the plasma frozen in the magnetic field.





















