

1 Long term Geomagnetically Induced Current Observations from New Zealand:
2 Peak Current Estimates for Extreme Geomagnetic Storms

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16 **Main point # 1:** Analysis of a 14 year dataset of GIC in a transformer in Islington, New
17 Zealand, shows peaks correlated with local H' .

18 **Main point # 2:** Peak GIC values are very poorly correlated with global geomagnetic
19 indices (a_p , K_p , Aa^*), and weakly correlated with local a_k index values.

20 **Main point # 3:** Estimated peak GIC at Islington for a 100 year return period geomagnetic
21 storm is ~155-605 A, and ~155-910 A for 200 years.

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23

24 **Abstract.** Geomagnetically Induced Current (GIC) observations made in New Zealand
25 over 14 years show induction effects associated with a rapidly varying horizontal magnetic
26 field (dB_H/dt) during geomagnetic storms. This study analyses the GIC observations in
27 order to estimate the impact of extreme storms as a hazard to the power system in New
28 Zealand. Analysis is undertaken of GIC in transformer number six in Islington,
29 Christchurch (ISL M6), which had the highest observed currents during the 6 November
30 2001 storm. Using previously published values of 3000 nT/min as a representation of an
31 extreme storm with 100 year return period, induced currents of ~455 A were estimated for
32 Islington (with the 95% confidence interval range being ~155-605 A). For 200 year return
33 periods using 5000 nT/min, current estimates reach ~755 A (confidence interval range 155-
34 910 A). GIC measurements from the much shorter dataset collected at transformer number 4
35 in Halfway Bush, Dunedin, (HWB T4), found induced currents to be consistently a factor of
36 three higher than at Islington, suggesting equivalent extreme storm effects of ~460-1815 A
37 (100 year return) and ~460-2720 A (200 year return). An estimate was undertaken of likely
38 failure levels for single phase transformers, such as HWB T4 when it failed during the 6
39 November 2001 geomagnetic storm, identifying that induced currents of ~100 A can put
40 such transformer types at risk of damage. Detailed modeling of the New Zealand power
41 system is therefore required put this regional analysis into a global context.

42

43 **1. Introduction**

44 The most intense geomagnetic storm ever recorded [*Cliver and Svalgaard, 2004*], now
45 known as the Carrington Event, followed a white light solar flare in September 1859
46 [*Carrington et al., 1859*]. Should a storm of similar intensity occur today, technological
47 systems around the world are expected to be severely affected. According to some scenarios,
48 a future occurrence of an extreme geomagnetic storm of magnitude similar to the Carrington
49 storm would cause widespread failure of electric power networks on regional scales due to
50 the impact of Geomagnetically Induced Currents (GIC). Lately a number of popular scientific
51 articles have been published about the growing realization that GIC pose a potential risk to
52 our technological societies [e.g, *Kelleher, 2016; Witze, 2016*], and the new policy and
53 strategic planning which is coming from that realization [e.g., *MacAlester and Murtagh,*
54 *2014; National Science and Technology Council, 2015*]. It should be noted that GIC are one
55 of a wide range of Space Weather impacts which occur during extreme storms, some of
56 which have been described as "extraordinary" [*Knipp et al., 2016; Love and Coïsson, 2016*].

57 A United States National Academy of Sciences (NAS) report [*Baker et al., 2008*] indicated
58 that the most extreme geomagnetic storms could destroy 300 or more of the 2,100 high-
59 voltage transformers that are the backbone of the U.S. electric grid. The academy's report
60 noted that replacements for transformers might not be available for a year or more, and the
61 cost of damage in the first year after a storm could be as high as USD\$2 trillion [*Baker et al.,*
62 *2008; JASON, 2011*]. It should be noted that economic impacts of such extreme events are
63 difficult to estimate [e.g., *Oughton et al., 2017*], with another study suggesting 20-40 million
64 people would be affected for 16 days to ~2 years creating a total financial impact to the USA
65 of USD\$0.6-2.6 trillion [*Lloyd's, 2013*]. Similar levels of economic global supply chain
66 disruption (\$0.5-2.7 trillion) have been estimated due to the impact on the US electrical
67 transmission network of differing extreme geomagnetic storm scenarios [*Oughton et al.,*

68 2016]. Clearly, it is widely agreed that the impact of an extreme geomagnetic storm would be
69 substantial, while the wider uncertainties make establishing the specific technological and
70 economic impact highly challenging.

71 Large GICs are usually closely associated with geomagnetic field disturbances that have a
72 high rate of change ($d\mathbf{B}/dt$) and in particular the rate of change of the magnetic component in
73 the horizontal direction [*Mäakinen*, 1993; *Viljanen*, 1998, *Bolduc et al.*, 1998]. In the current
74 study we represent the rate of change of the magnetic horizontal component, dB_H/dt , by H' .
75 Recently, a ~14 year record of GIC measured in multiple transformers in New Zealand were
76 contrasted with geomagnetic field variations, confirming that for the majority of locations the
77 best correlation was clearly with H' [*Mac Manus et al.*, 2017]. The primary argument for
78 considering the time derivative of the magnetic field is that it is a good indicator of the
79 expected magnitude of the geomagnetically induced electric field on the Earth's surface
80 [*Cagniard*, 1953], which is the primary driver of GICs [e.g., *Viljanen et al.*, 2001].

81 There have been a number of fairly large geomagnetic storms in the last decades, in
82 particular March 1989, November 2001 and October 2003. However, the historical record
83 demonstrates more extreme geomagnetic storms can occur, for example those of September
84 1859 or May 1921, which may have been ~10 times larger than occurred in March 1989
85 [*Hutchins and Overbye*, 2011]. It has been suggested that there is a 6-7% probability of an
86 1859-type solar storm in the next 10 years [*Love*, 2012; *Cannon et al.*, 2013], corresponding
87 to a recurrence period of 138-162 years. These values correspond to a ~27-30% probability in
88 the next 50 years. Extreme space weather events are low-frequency, high-risk phenomena and
89 as such, are necessarily studied through statistical methods. A large range of probabilities
90 regarding the recurrence of another Carrington level storm have been reported (spanning ~3-
91 12% [*Riley*, 2012; *Kataoka*, 2013]), likely due to differing statistical approaches. This is well
92 demonstrated by the finding that the probability of a Carrington storm occurring in the next
93 10 years ranges from 3% for a log-normal distribution to 10.3% for a power-law distribution

94 [Riley and Love, 2016]. There are also large uncertainties associated with these extreme event
95 analyses. While Love (2012) indicated that the most likely occurrence of an 1859-type solar
96 storm with 10 year return period is 6.3% they also reported that the 68.3% confidence range
97 for 10 year return is 1.6-13.7%.

98 When contrasted with major seismic events, the likelihood of another significant
99 Carrington-level geomagnetic storm is reasonably high. For example, there is a ~14% chance
100 of a very large earthquake (magnitude>7) on the New Zealand Alpine Fault in the next 50
101 years [Berryman *et al.*, 2012], corresponding to a recurrence period of ~330 years. The
102 Alpine Fault is one of the longest, straightest, and fastest-moving plate boundary transform
103 faults on Earth and poses a substantial seismic hazard to the country of New Zealand. In
104 contrast an extreme geomagnetic storm would not only effect New Zealand, but would likely
105 have global consequences.

106 Across the world there has been increasing interest in understanding the potential impact of
107 GIC on electrical networks in order to mitigate the potential hazards. One example is a recent
108 GIC research consortia operating across Europe, looking at European hotspots, providing
109 monitoring and looking at the worst case scenarios [EURISGIC, 2013]. Multiple countries are
110 now investigating the hazards to the electrical network [Beck, 2013], focusing on large to
111 extreme storms.

112 To the best of our knowledge, the largest GIC reported to date is 269 A measured at
113 Simpevarp-2 in Southern Sweden on 6 April 2000 [Wik *et al.*, 2008], which was associated
114 with a magnetic field rate of change of only ~200 nT/min at the nearest magnetic observatory
115 (Uppsala). This rate of change is large, but not particularly extreme. The Hydro Quebec
116 collapse in 1989 has been associated with a substorm-linked H' of 479 nT/min [Fiori *et al.*,
117 2014], although the largest rate of change ever reported was ~2000 nT/min in the lower
118 Baltic [Kappenman, 2004]. The latter event occurred on 13-14 July 1982 where disturbances
119 of ≥ 2000 nT/min were measured in central and southern Sweden, coincident with geo-electric

120 field readings of 9.1 V/km and were associated with tripping of transformers and lines [*Wik et*
121 *al.*, 2009]. During May 1921 in the same region geo-electric fields of ~20 V/km are thought
122 to have occurred, suggesting peak magnetic field changes of ≥ 4000 nT/min [*Kappenman,*
123 2004].

124 At mid and low-latitudes, large GIC have been related to storm sudden commencements and
125 sudden impulses, rather than substorms [e.g., *Watari et al.*, 2009 (Japan); *Marshall et al.*,
126 2012 (New Zealand); *Marshall et al.*, 2013 (Australia); *Carter et al.*, 2015 (geomagnetic
127 equator)]. This has been discussed in more detail by *Fiori et al.* [2014]. One example of a
128 significant GIC impact in this latitude range is the destruction of a transformer at
129 Dunedin/Halfway Bush (HWB T4), New Zealand. This occurred on 6 November 2001 at
130 1:53 UT, within a few minutes of a storm sudden commencement. That event has been
131 described qualitatively in the scientific literature [*Béland and Small*, 2004], and was
132 subsequently analyzed in detail [*Marshall et al.*, 2012].

133 Clearly, indicative values of extreme geomagnetic field changes are required to consider the
134 impact of extreme storms and GIC magnitudes. *Thomson et al.* [2011] used extreme value
135 statistics (EVS) and one-minute data from 28 European magnetic observatories over 30 years
136 and found that peak H' increased with geomagnetic latitude, with a distinct maximum in
137 levels between ~53-62° latitude. This study concluded that across 55-60° geomagnetic
138 latitude the estimated 100 year return period maxima for H' is 1000-4000 nT/min, while the
139 200 year values range from 1000-6000 nT/min (with the range representing 95% confidence).
140 These maximum H' values should be contrasted with the "reasonable worst case scenario" of
141 5000 nT/min considered for the United Kingdom grid [*Canon et al.*, 2013].

142 In this study we investigate GIC observations made in New Zealand during 14 years of
143 significant geomagnetic storms. Our focus in this work is to consider how large storms can be
144 used to estimate the impact of extreme storms as a GIC hazard in New Zealand. As GIC are
145 closely linked to the rate of change of the horizontal magnetic field component we focus on

146 the time periods with significant H' , and examine how these events contrast with global and
147 local disturbance indices. We focus on measurements made at transformer number 6 in
148 Islington, Christchurch (ISL M6), which had the highest observed currents during the 6
149 November 2001 storm [*Marshall et al.*, 2012; *Mac Manus et al.*, 2017]. This allows us to
150 estimate likely GIC magnitudes expected for this location during extreme storms. By
151 contrasting GIC measurements from the much shorter dataset collected at HWB T4, we
152 estimate a GIC "danger level" for that style of single phase transformer.

153 **2. Experimental Datasets**

154 **2.1 New Zealand GIC Observations**

155 A detailed description of the New Zealand GIC measurements in the South Island has been
156 previously reported [*Mac Manus et al.*, 2017]. The following section is a brief summary, and
157 the reader is directed to the earlier study for a more complete explanation.

158 Transpower New Zealand Limited has measured DC currents in multiple South Island
159 transformers. Near continuous archived DC current data exist since 2001, initially starting
160 with 12 different substations, and gradually expanding from 2009 to include 17 substations.
161 The more recent expansion in measurement locations, from about 2013 onwards, were driven
162 by an increasing interest in monitoring potential Space Weather impacts. This later expansion
163 incorporated the Halfway Bush substation, including the replacement number 4 transformer
164 (HWB T4, location shown by the red star in Figure 1) one phase unit of which was written
165 off due to the effect of GIC on 6 November 2001 [*Béland and Small*, 2004]. Over the time
166 period 2001-2015 a total of 61 distinct transformers have been monitored using Hall effect
167 current transducers (Liaisons Electroniques-Mécaniques (LEM) model LT 505-S). The
168 primary purpose for the DC observations is monitoring stray currents when the high voltage
169 DC link between the South and North Islands operates in single wire earth return mode or

170 with unbalanced currents on the conductors. *Marshall et al.* [2012] has previously described
171 DC observations from the LEM sensors during the 6 November 2001 storm.

172 The process by which this dataset is corrected to remove stray earth return currents and any
173 calibration offsets was given in detail by *Mac Manus et al.* [2017]. Once these return
174 currents, which can be >10 A in some locations, were removed, a substantial GIC dataset was
175 produced. For some transformers this corresponds to a nearly continuous set of GIC
176 measurements from 2002-2015. One example is the number 6 transformer in Islington (ISL
177 M6), the location of which is shown by the yellow star in Figure 1. As noted before, ISL M6
178 measured the highest observed currents during the 6 November 2001 storm, peaking at ~ 33 A
179 [*Mac Manus et al.*, Fig. 5, 2017]. As ISL M6 experiences rather large GIC magnitudes and
180 has measurements over a long time period, we focus on it in the current study. In addition, we
181 note that as shown in Figure 1 the Islington substation is close to the Eyrewell magnetic
182 observatory, described below. All the GIC observations reported here are after the corrections
183 described in *Mac Manus et al.* [2017] have been undertaken.

184

185 **2.2 Magnetometer**

186 The location of the magnetometer station at Eyrewell (EYR) is shown in Figure 1 as a blue
187 hexagon. EYR is part of INTERMAGNET (<http://www.intermagnet.org/>) and is operated by
188 GNS Science, New Zealand. This station provides 1 min (and for some periods higher time
189 resolution) magnetic field data with coordinates X (positive to geographic north), Y (positive
190 to the east), and Z (positive vertically downwards) to the INTERMAGNET collaboration,
191 with a resolution of 0.1 nT. Absolute magnetic field measurements are provided by a DI-
192 fluxgate magnetometer and a proton precession magnetometer. The 1-minute resolution
193 magnetic field observations are constructed from higher time resolutions samples by applying
194 a Gaussian filter centred on the minute and calculating the mean, following the
195 INTERMAGNET guidelines. One minute mean values are only calculated when 90% or

196 more of the values required for calculation of the mean are available. When fewer than 90%
197 of the required values are available, the one minute value is flagged as missed. As discussed
198 later in the paper the highest time resolution available has changed with time.

199 The magnetic horizontal component, H , were determined from the North (X) and East (Y)
200 components in the usual way (i.e., $H = \sqrt{X^2 + Y^2}$) and the rate of change of the horizontal
201 component, H' , from $d(\sqrt{X^2 + Y^2})/dt$.

202 **3. Large H' events from New Zealand-regional observations**

203 As noted earlier, it has been previously reported that GIC magnitudes are linked to the rate
204 of change of the magnetic component in the horizontal direction. For the New Zealand
205 region, *Mac Manus et al.* [2017] found that the time variation of South Island GIC was
206 typically well correlated with H' measured by the Eyrewell magnetic observatory. In order to
207 study the occurrence and properties of GIC in New Zealand, we investigate periods in which
208 large $|H'|$ values were observed at Eyrewell. We limit ourselves to the time period from 2001-
209 2015 in which there are archived GIC measurements, and set a threshold of 40 nT/min in the
210 one-minute resolution EYR $|H'|$ observations to represent "large" rates of change. This value
211 is somewhat arbitrary, to provide an event list of reasonable size. Only one event was allowed
212 per UT day, represented by the peak $|H'|$ value for that time period. The resulting list was then
213 manually checked to remove any events produced by data errors, which affected two
214 potential events. This process produced 31 events, the times of which are listed in Table 1,
215 ordered by decreasing $|H'|$.

216 Note that the first event listed in Table 1 is at 1:52 UT on 6 November 2001, which is the
217 most significant $|H'|$ -value observed by the New Zealand magnetic observatory from 2001-
218 2015. As has been previously mentioned this is also the time of the most significant space
219 weather impact suffered in the New Zealand electrical network. While *Béland and Small*
220 [2004] and *Marshall et al.* [2012] both report on operational procedures put in place to

221 manage the risk of GIC to the New Zealand grid, from 2001 to date a similarly sized event
222 has yet to affect the South Island. In addition to the New Zealand rank number, peak $|H'|$
223 value and UT time, Table 1 also lists the associated geomagnetic indices (aa^* ranking, K_p ,
224 ap , and the EYR ak -index, each of which describe various variations in the geomagnetic
225 field) and GIC observations for these events Note that we have used the traditional format for
226 reporting K_p values on the "scale of thirds". Some readers may be more familiar with the
227 alternative format, where 9- is given as 8.7, 8+ as 8.3, and 8o as 8. aa^* is the 8-point (or 24-
228 hour) running average of the 3-hour aa index [Clilverd *et al.*, 2002]. This filters out
229 longitudinal differences and enables a simple index, based on only two measurement points
230 to be representative of global activity, whilst at the same time retaining the 3-hour time
231 resolution. The aa^* rank value is the ordered rank of the storm and is based on the maximum
232 aa^* reached in that storm. For 6 events of the 31 (4, 15, 17, 20, 24, and 29) there were no
233 GIC observations from ISL M6. All of these events occurred in 2001 when the archiving of
234 the South Island DC observations were inconsistent, and thus ~20% of the large $|H'|$
235 disturbances across the ~15 year window have been lost. This leaves us with 25 distinct
236 examples of New Zealand large $|H'|$ disturbances for which we have ISL M6 GIC
237 observations.

238

239 **3.1 Contrast with Global Index Values**

240 Table 1 includes a number of different geomagnetic indices against each one of the H'
241 events. Most are global indices (e.g., aa^* rank, K_p , and ap), while the EYR K -index is local
242 to the Eyrewell magnetometer. It is well known that the "global" indices can be more or less
243 biased to different parts of the world depending on the magnetic observatory data used to
244 determine them. Of the global indices, this should be less of an issue for the aa^* index, as this
245 is made up of only 2 stations, one in the northern hemisphere and the other in the southern
246 hemisphere, approximately antipodal from one another. In contrast the K_p and ap indices are

247 created from observations by 13 observatories, 2 in the southern hemisphere (Australia and
248 New Zealand), and 11 in the northern hemisphere (7 in Europe, 4 in North America)
249 [Mayaud, 1980]. This is likely to explain the relatively poor correlation between the global
250 index values and the peak $|H'|$ value observed in New Zealand.

251 The upper two panels of Figure 2 show a comparison between the EYR-reported peak $|H'|$
252 values and the a_p (upper panel) and K_p (middle panel) for all 25 events considered. It is
253 particularly clear from the middle panel that there is a poor "by eye" correlation between
254 global magnetic field disturbances measured by the K_p index and EYR local peak $|H'|$ value
255 observed in New Zealand. K_p is both quantized and non-linear, and hence a linear fit is not
256 particularly valuable. In contrast, the a_p index is a linear index and thus we examine the
257 coefficient of determination (r^2) to test the quality of a linear correlation between a_p and
258 EYR-reported peak $|H'|$. However, r^2 is only 0.39, demonstrating a low-quality relationship.
259 As noted above, this may be partly explained by the contrast of global indices derived from
260 non-uniformly spread observatories with the local South Island magnetometer measurements
261 which are best correlated with local GIC observations [Mac Manus *et al.*, 2017]. Consistent
262 with this idea we see from Table 1 the largest peak $|H'|$ value of 190.8 nT/min at 1:52 UT on
263 6 November 2001 was associated with a K_p of 8.7 and a_p of 300 nT, while event 10 at
264 18:36 UT on 20 November 2003 has the same K_p/a_p values but a EYR peak $|H'|$ value of
265 78 nT which is ~ 2.4 times smaller than on 6 November.

266 One might expect the aa^* index to better correlate with EYR peak $|H'|$, as this is a global
267 measure which is less spatially biased, with the Southern Hemisphere observatory located
268 comparatively close to New Zealand in Canberra, Australia. Table 1 shows the aa^* ranking of
269 geomagnetic storms from 2001-2015 associated with each of our 25 events. However, once
270 again, the global index is a poor predictor of the local peak $|H'|$ values. Event 1 was globally
271 ranked as the 7th largest aa^* storm ($aa^*=152$ nT), with event 10 ranked 2nd ($aa^*=250$ nT)
272 and event 20 ranked 4th ($aa^*=216$ nT). While the Halloween storm in October 2003 is the

273 highest ranked aa* storm (aa*=333 nT) and is associated with events 2 and 3, it is worth
274 noting that event 2 with peak EYR $|H'|$ of 170.6 nT/min occurred for the global Kp value of
275 7.7, while the smaller event 3 with peak EYR $|H'|$ of 166.2 nT/min happened during the more
276 globally intense period with a global Kp value of 9.0.

277 While it is not scientifically unexpected for the GIC-driving local geomagnetic field
278 variations to be fairly poorly correlated with global geomagnetic indices, this is an important
279 message to stress to the electrical industry who are becoming increasingly Space Weather
280 conscious. It is not uncommon to find the industry players focused on the internet-available
281 global geomagnetic index values and forecasts. This is also the case in New Zealand with the
282 Transpower procedures for managing GIC [Transpower, 2015] requiring a geomagnetic
283 storm to be G2 or greater on the NOAA Space Weather scale (equivalent to Kp=6) before
284 investigating generation and transmission constraints and G3 or greater (equivalent to Kp=7)
285 before advising the duty operations manager. The poor correlations in Figure 2 suggests that
286 the link between the Kp index values and the local magnetic field changes which drive GIC is
287 fairly poor, in line with other published work, such that other approaches might need to be
288 considered in order to create an effective warning system or “GIC danger” level.

289

290 3.2 Contrast with Local Index Values

291 One alternative option would be to rely on warnings from the local New Zealand magnetic
292 observatory. *Mac Manus et al.* [2017] reported that the time variation in observed GIC was
293 typically well correlated with H' , as expected. The lower panel of Figure 2 shows a
294 comparison between the EYR-determined ak-index value and the EYR-peak $|H'|$ values. In
295 this case there is a better "by eye" agreement between the two parameters, which is
296 unsurprising given they are determined from the same fundamental observations. The
297 coefficient of determination (r^2) in this case has a value of 0.59, suggesting a weak
298 correlation. The highest 3-hourly K-index values from EYR do not correspond to the highest

299 peak $|H'|$ values, likely due to the large time window over which the ak-indices are
300 determined relative to H' . One might suggest that near real time H' warnings may assist
301 Transpower during large geomagnetic storms. At this time EYR observations are available
302 with a ~ 1 hour delay, but there are plans to decrease this to 10 min. While that information
303 could be useful during a GIC event, in practice Transpower already has realtime information
304 on GIC at their control centers from the LEM units, and more value would come from
305 forecasting of likely GIC activity. New Zealand is located at mid-geomagnetic latitudes
306 where the large $|H'|$ values tend to be linked to sudden commencements and sudden impulses
307 [*Fiori et al.*, 2014] that occur at the beginning of geomagnetic storms, hence making accurate
308 prediction more challenging. Significant additional research is required in this area in order to
309 allow useful warnings of mid-latitude GIC. This is part of an international-scale scientific
310 problem at the heart of contemporary Space Weather work.

311 **4. Case Study: 29 October 2003**

312 The largest Space Weather event with the most significant New Zealand GIC impact
313 occurred on 6 November 2001. However this event has been described in detail in the
314 existing literature, both in terms of its technical impact [*Béland and Small*, 2004; *Marshall et*
315 *al.*, 2012], and the GIC measurements that occurred both at ISL M6 and also across other
316 South Island sites [*Marshall et al.*, 2012; *Mac Manus et al.*, 2017]. The later study
317 specifically examined the correlation between the time variation of the GIC measured at ISL
318 M6 and the EYR H' values for this storm, reporting they were fairly strong ($r^2=0.71$). Table 1
319 includes the magnitude of the GIC observed at ISL M6 for this event (33.1 A). These values
320 are the peak current reported within ± 2 min of the EYR-peak $|H'|$ values to allow for varying
321 levels of induction and changes in the driving field.

322 However, it is apparent from the next columns values in Table 1 that the relationship
323 between the EYR H' values and the peak ISL M6 GIC magnitude is not directly linear. While

324 the EYR-peak $|H'|$ values decrease slowly across the first three events (i.e., 190.8, 170.2, and
325 166.2 nT/min) the peak ISL M6 GIC magnitude behaves very differently (33.1, 21.1, and
326 34.1 A). As is immediately obvious, the largest GIC measurement at ISL M6 across the 25
327 events occurred on 29 October 2003. Peak currents occurred at 06:12 UT, shortly after a
328 storm sudden commencement at 06:11 UT. Figure 3 shows the time variation of the ISL M6
329 GIC observations on 29 October 2003. The timing of the 06:11 UT sudden commencement is
330 marked with a heavy magenta line, which clearly coincides with the beginning of significant
331 GIC activity. A second, slightly smaller GIC peak (22.3 A), is also marked in this Figure at
332 19:21 UT.

333 One possible, and simple, explanation for the different scaling relationships between the
334 EYR-peak $|H'|$ values and peak ISL M6 GIC magnitudes seen across the first three events in
335 Table 1 is differing time resolution between the data. Other possible explanations are
336 modifications in the electrical grid topology from event to event, or variations in the direction
337 of the magnetic field change in the horizontal plane giving rise to different E_x and E_y fields
338 that depend on the conductivity structure. Here we examine the first, and simplest,
339 explanation.

340 The peak $|H'|$ values come from the 1 min resolution EYR observations. In contrast, the time
341 resolution of the GIC data for the Halloween Storm period (Table 1 events 2 and 3) was
342 ~ 10 s, such that faster variations in $|H'|$ might cause different responses in the GIC. We
343 explore this by examining 5 s time resolution EYR measurements which were available for
344 that storm period (this was the highest EYR time resolution at that time). Figure 4 contrasts
345 the time variation of the $|H'|$ values from the 60 s (upper panel) and 5 s (lower panel)
346 resolution data. In both cases the rate of the change of the H -component is shown with the
347 same units of nT/min. For the 60 s resolution data the 06:11 UT sudden commencement has a
348 peak $|H'|$ value of 166.2 nT/min, while the $|H'|$ value at the time of the second pulse of GIC
349 seen at 19:21 UT in Figure 3 was 86.7 nT/min. In contrast the $\sim 06:11$ UT sudden

350 commencement has a peak $|H'|$ value of 583.1 nT/min in the 5 s resolution data, with the
351 ~19:21 UT value being 434.3 nT/min. The ratio of the first and second GIC peaks is ~1.53
352 (i.e., 34.1/22.3), which is more similar to the ratio of 1.34 between the corresponding peaks in
353 the 5 s resolution data, rather than those for the 60 s data, which is 1.92. In addition, the
354 higher time resolution $|H'|$ values have a more similar time variation to that seen in the GIC
355 measurements (Figure 3), suggesting that the higher time resolution magnetic field
356 measurements are better at capturing the driving of the GIC.

357 **5. Comparison between 60 s and 5 s resolution H' values**

358 *Mac Manus et al.* [2017] examined the correlation between the time variations of the
359 geomagnetic fields and the GIC observations. We now examine the correlation between the
360 peak GIC magnitudes at the ISL M6 transformer and the peak $|H'|$ values for the 25 events
361 described previously. As a starting point we make use of the one minute EYR magnetometer
362 data, as this is available for all 25 events. A plot of the GIC magnitudes against 60 s
363 resolution peak $|H'|$ values is shown by the blue crosses in Figure 5. A linear fit is shown by
364 the red dashed line. The coefficient of determination (r^2) is 0.71, suggesting a fairly strong
365 correlation, although there is still significant scatter. It seems unlikely that this is due to the
366 distance from the Islington substation to the EYR magnetic observatory, as this is only
367 ~12 km. The scatter might in part be due to the use of 60 s resolution magnetic field data,
368 which we consider in the next section.

369 Following on from the results of the case study presented in Section 4, we investigate the
370 relationship between the ISL M6 GIC and the available higher time resolution H' values. The
371 available information is summarized in Table 2. While one minute EYR magnetometer
372 observations have always been available, across the 2001-2015 time window various levels
373 of higher time resolution measurements have sometimes been collected. These are 20 s, 5 s,
374 and 1 s resolution data. Generally only one level of higher time resolution measurements

375 have been available at a given time, although in some rare cases there have been two (e.g., for
376 the storm on 15 May 2005 at 8:17 UT, both 5 s and 20 s are available in addition to the 60 s
377 resolution observations.

378 The higher time resolution data provide some explanation for the observed ISL M6 GIC
379 responses. As was detailed in Section 4, the 5 s H' peak values for events 2 and 3 appear to
380 better explain the magnitudes of the ISL M6 GIC. Event 16 (11 Sep 2005 5:37 UT) also
381 supports using the value of higher resolution magnetic field observations to investigate peak
382 GIC magnitude. Here the H' value of ~ 295 nT/min is very similar to that for event 2
383 (~ 298 nT/min), as are the GIC magnitudes (19.2 A c.f., 21.1 A). However, this apparent
384 pattern is at least partially confounded by event 5 (18 Feb 2003 5:08 UT), where both the 60 s
385 and 5 s resolution H' peak values would imply a larger GIC than that observed. Nonetheless,
386 as is shown in Figure 6, typically the higher resolution H' values predict the GIC magnitudes
387 at ISL M6 better than the one minute value do. While we are restricted to only 13 events, due
388 to data availability, there is a significantly improved r^2 value of 0.88 seen for the fit in Figure
389 6 when compared to that for Figure 5 ($r^2=0.71$). Note that moving to even higher time
390 resolution magnetometer observations leads to very poor correlations. As can be seen from
391 Table 2 the 1 s resolution H' peak values do not seem to relate well to the GIC, confirmed by
392 the extremely poor r^2 value of 0.08 for the associated linear fit. This most likely reflects noise
393 problems with the EYR 1 s observations used to derive the rates of change, rather than a
394 sudden transition in the fundamental physics on this time scale.

395 Although the changing geomagnetic field is the fundamental driver of the GIC, the GIC are
396 caused by the induced geo-electric field. While the geo-electric field is determined from the
397 rates of change of the magnetic field through Faraday's Law, the geo-electric field depends
398 on both the electrical structure of the Earth and the time history of the changing magnetic
399 field, not the immediate value of dB/dt . As such there can be phase lags between the changing
400 magnetic field and peak GIC levels; from fundamental physical theory such offsets will vary

401 depending on the frequency variations in the driving magnetic field and the varying
402 penetration of these time varying fields into the Earth.

403 **6. Extrapolation to Extreme Storms**

404 The goal of this study is to provide an estimate of the maximum GIC which might be
405 expected in New Zealand transformers during an extreme geomagnetic storm. In a general
406 sense this style of question is best answered through modeling studies [e.g., *Beggan et al.*,
407 2013; *Kelly et al.*, 2017], and at this point such a model is being developed for New Zealand,
408 to be validated by the South Island GIC measurements. Nonetheless, the work presented in
409 the preceding sections of the current study allows some preliminary estimates to be made. We
410 follow similar studies undertaken using 30 years of European magnetic observatories
411 [*Thomson et al.*, 2011], as many of these lie at similar geomagnetic latitudes to New Zealand
412 (particularly those in the United Kingdom). *Thomson et al.* [2011] concluded that the
413 estimated 100 year return period maxima for H' is 1000-4000 nT/min, while the 200 year
414 return period values range from 1000-6000 nT/min (with the range representing 95%
415 confidence). Following the United Kingdom estimate for an extreme event of 5000 nT/min
416 [*Cannon et al.*, 2013] we use 3000 nT/min and 5000 nT/min as an initial representation of
417 extreme storms with 100 and 200 year return periods, respectively, but take the 95%
418 confidence interval range as an indication of the possible span.

419

420 **6.1 ISL M6 Extreme Storm Estimates**

421 Figure 7 linearly extrapolates the fitted line of ISL M6 GIC magnitudes from Figure 5 to $|H'|$
422 values that cover the extreme storm range. In this figure the estimated peak GIC at ISL M6
423 for two suggested representations of a 100 year return period storm are shown in magenta,
424 while the red stars and current values are for the representations of a 200 year return period
425 storm. As the differences between the various H' extreme storm representations are large,
426 there are also significant differences in the GIC estimates. For a 100 year return period

427 geomagnetic storm the peak GIC predicted for ISL M6 is 455 A, while for a 200 year return
428 period geomagnetic storm this is 755 A. If we use the full 95% confidence interval range of
429 1000-4000 nT/min reported by *Thomson et al.* [2011] for a 100 year return period storm the
430 peak GIC predicted for ISL spans 153-605 A. This should be contrasted with the *Thomson et*
431 *al.* [2011] 95% confidence interval range for a 200 year return period storm of 1000-
432 6000 nT/min, leading to GIC spanning 153-907 A. The confidence interval ranges are shown
433 by the ringed points in Figure 7. Such a large range emphasizes the large uncertainties
434 associated with extreme event analysis.

435 Again, we note that these results should be re-examined once a model is produced and
436 validated to predict GIC in New Zealand.

437

438 **6.2 HWB T4 Extreme Storm Estimates**

439 Since 2012 GIC has been monitored at HWB T4, the location of the transformer written
440 off after the 6 November 2001 storm (event 1 in Table 1). As might be expected by the
441 sensitivity shown by HWB to the 6 November 2001 event, the currents observed at HWB
442 T4 during significant geomagnetic storms are large; in most cases the GIC observed in
443 Dunedin and specifically Halfway Bush are the largest of all the measuring locations across
444 the South Island. An example of this was shown by *Mac Manus et al.* [Fig. 7, 2017] for a
445 storm on 2 October 2013. The observed GIC peaked at 1:56 UT (event 9 in Table 1), with
446 the HWB T4 GIC nearly reaching 49 A, in contrast to the ~19 A at ISL M6.

447 Generally, the GIC at HWB T4 are considerably larger than those at ISL M6. Table 1
448 includes the HWB T4 GIC magnitudes for the five events for which measurements were
449 being made at that transformer, as well as the ratio between the GIC at HWB T4 and ISL
450 M6. For most events (4 of the 5) there is a fairly consistent ratio between the GIC
451 magnitudes at the two locations, ranging from 2.6-3.3 with a mean of 2.9 and median of
452 2.85. The exception is event 25 (22 Jun 2015 18:34 UT) for which it is clear that the HWB

453 T4 current measurements failed to capture the peak of the ~2 min spike at the start of the
454 event, while the ISL M6 data does capture this spike. For the remainder of the 16 hour
455 period for which there was significant GIC present, the HWB T4 observations were ~3
456 times larger than ISL M6 (not shown) consistent with the other 4 events.

457 On the basis of these observations we suggest that there is consistently an approximate
458 factor of 3 between the HWB T4 and ISL M6 GIC, such that the currents expected during
459 extreme storms will be ~3 times larger at HWB T4 than at ISL M6. Using the extrapolation
460 shown in Figure 7 would therefore predict that for a 100 year return period geomagnetic
461 storm the peak GIC predicted for HWB T4 spans from ~460-1815 A (using the 95%
462 confidence interval range), while for a 200 year return period geomagnetic storm this is
463 ~460-2720 A. At this point the reason for the factor of three difference between the GIC
464 observed at the two different transformer locations is unclear. It likely depends upon
465 network layout and electrical properties, and the varying ground conductivity, and will be
466 one of the questions we hope to answer through the modeling studies we have now started.

467

468 **6.3 Hazard Estimates**

469 While the extreme storm GIC magnitudes discussed above are clearly rough estimates,
470 albeit based on empirical evidence, the size of these currents are concerning. They are very
471 large, and it seems like they will produce failures in the South Island grid. As is evident
472 from the scientific literature, it is unclear what level of GIC will produce difficulties or
473 failure of transformers. In most cases the transformers which form the backbone of
474 electrical networks are built to order, with significant differences from transformer to
475 transformer. Nonetheless, we can use the New Zealand observations to estimate the peak
476 GIC at HWB T4 when this transformer failed on 6 November 2001 (event 1 of Table 1).
477 While GIC were not monitored at HWB T4 at this time, the peak GIC at ISL M6 was
478 measured as 33.1 A. As the HWB T4 GIC are typically ~3 times those at ISL M6 this

479 suggests the one of the single phase transformers making up HWB T4 failed at ~100 A.
480 While 100 A appears a fairly low value compared to the very large GIC values we found for
481 extreme storms, this estimate is similar to another already in the literature. Modeling of the
482 GIC experienced at the large step-up transformer which failed at the Salem Nuclear Power
483 Plant during the Hydro Quebec storm of March 1989 suggested the maximum GIC at that
484 time was ~95 A [*Kappenman*, Fig 4-8, 2010], close to the maximum possible for a
485 transformer of this design [*Girgis and Ko*, 1992]. Note, however, that the 100 A value is
486 only a rather rough indication of the level at which a transformer may be damaged in a rapid
487 event. Much more detailed analysis is required to understand the transformer response to
488 given GIC amplitudes and waveforms. In addition, it has been suggested that multiple
489 exposures to comparatively low levels of GIC can lead to degradation and subsequent
490 failure [*Moodley and Gaunt*, 2017], without a single large GIC event.

491 Based on Table 1 it is tempting to conclude that the highest GIC risk in the South Island
492 electrical network is to transformers in Dunedin. However, while rather large GIC have
493 been observed there during the geomagnetic storms of the last years, a comprehensive
494 modeling study (or more comprehensive measurements) are needed to establish where the
495 largest currents are occurring. Nonetheless, New Zealand seems to experience higher GIC
496 than other island countries located at mid-latitudes. It may be that New Zealand's
497 comparatively sparse electrical network with long distances between substations contributes
498 to the higher GIC levels. During the 30 October 2003 severe geomagnetic storm, the
499 measured and modeled GIC magnitudes in the Scottish part of the UK grid exceeded ~40 A
500 [*Thomson et al.*, 2005]. The largest currents seen during two years of GIC observations
501 from Hokkaido, Japan was ~4 A [*Watari et al.*, 2009], with modeling suggesting the
502 maximum GIC expected at this location for the 6 November 2001 storm would have been
503 ~15 A [*Pulkkinen et al.*, 2010].

504 **7. Summary and Discussion**

505 In this study we have focused on GIC observations available from 2001-2015 at the
506 number 6 transformer in the Islington substation (Christchurch, New Zealand). Our goal has
507 been to better understand the properties of GIC at this location, which was the site of the
508 largest measured currents during New Zealand's most significant space weather event to
509 date, such that estimates can be made of the GIC expected for extreme storms.

510 We have shown that:

511 1. The highest rate of change of the horizontal component of the magnetic field (H')
512 observed in New Zealand magnetometer data across these 15 years was on 6 November
513 2001, at the time of the most serious Space Weather impact to the South Island electrical
514 grid.

515 2. The size of the New Zealand H' values correlates poorly to global geomagnetic indices
516 (ap, Kp, and aa* rank). While it is clear that our large H' values occur during geomagnetic
517 storms that are significant on a global scale, the New Zealand H' values are not well linked
518 to the global intensities.

519 3. The size of the New Zealand H' values are better linked to the local geomagnetic activity
520 index, the Eyrewell magnetic observatory K values. However, there is no direct correlation
521 between these parameters, likely due to the very different time scales on which activity is
522 measured.

523 4. In general, the peak GIC magnitude reported from ISL M6 shows a good correlation
524 ($r^2=0.71$) with the magnitude of the New Zealand H' values derived from 60 s resolution
525 observatory data.

526 5. In some cases the ISL M6 peak GIC magnitudes are better explained by H' values
527 determined from higher resolution observatory data. In general, there is a strong correlation
528 ($r^2=0.88$) between ISL M6 GIC and 5 s resolution H' values. We suggest that monitoring of

529 the high time resolution H' values would be of value to the New Zealand grid operator,
530 Transpower Ltd.

531 6. We consider two approaches for determining the likely peak GIC at ISL M6 for extreme
532 geomagnetic storms. Using H' values with a time resolution of 60 s the peak GIC predicted
533 for a 100 year return period geomagnetic storm of ~455 A was estimated (with the 95%
534 confidence interval range being ~155-605 A). For 200 year return periods using
535 5000 nT/min, current estimates reach ~755 A (confidence interval range 155-910 A). The
536 large ranges in these peak GIC values come from the large range in suggested extreme
537 storm H' values.

538 7. Peak GIC at transformer number 4 of the Halfway Bush substation (HWB T4, Dunedin,
539 New Zealand) tends to be ~3 times larger than those observed at ISL M6. As such the
540 extreme storm GIC will be ~3 times larger than those given in point 6, i.e., maximum values
541 for a 100 year return period storm of 1815 A, and a 200 year return period maximum of
542 2720 A.

543 8. Based on the failure of HWB T4 during the storm of 6 November 2001, the risk level for
544 this transformer is ~100 A, similar to some other estimates for other transformers in the
545 literature.

546

547 The size of the peak GIC we have estimated for extreme geomagnetic storms at HWB T4
548 is significantly higher than those recently reported for potential maximum values in the
549 United Kingdom network. *Beggan et al.* [2013] suggested that the maximum GIC in one
550 network node (equivalent to a substation) was 460 A for a 200 year return level storm,
551 while *Kelly et al.* [2017] suggested an extreme "Carrington level" storm lead to a maximum
552 computed node value of 832 A. One assumes that the substation corresponding to the node
553 will include more than one transformer, and the current will be distributed amongst those
554 transformers, making the comparison more extreme. Nonetheless our estimate is based on

555 an extrapolation from experimental observations. While the estimates and analysis in this
556 study are specific to New Zealand, they should be relevant to GIC investigations in other
557 mid-latitude locations. It may be that the New Zealand network structure and ground
558 conductivity makes the South Island more vulnerable than the United Kingdom. We are
559 currently undertaking modeling studies to explore this, which will be reported in a future
560 paper.

561

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565 study.

566 Data availability is described at the following websites:

567 http://www.intermagnet.org/imos/imos-list/imos-details-eng.php?iaga_code=EYR

568 (Eyrewell magnetometer). K indices for Eyrewell are available by contacting one of the

569 coauthors, Tanja Petersen (T.Petersen@gns.cri.nz). The New Zealand LEM DC data from

570 which we determined GIC measurements were provided to us by Transpower New Zealand

571 with caveats and restrictions. This includes requirements of permission before all

572 publications and presentations. In addition, we are unable to directly provide the New

573 Zealand LEM DC data or the derived GIC observations. Requests for access to the

574 measurements need to be made to Transpower New Zealand. At this time the contact point

575 is Michael Dalzell (Michael.Dalzell@transpower.co.nz). We are very grateful for the

576 substantial data access they have provided, noting this can be a challenge in the Space

577 Weather field [*Hapgood and Knipp*, 2016]. The Kp and ap data came from the World Data

578 Centre for Solar-Terrestrial Physics, Chilton, UK

579 (https://www.ukssdc.ac.uk/wdcc1/geophy_menu.html), the aa* data from British Geological

580 Survey (http://www.geomag.bgs.ac.uk/data_service/data/magnetic_indices/aaindex.html).

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729

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731

732

#	Peak Time [UT]	Peak $ H' $ [nT/min]	aa* rank	ap [2 nT]	Kp	EYR ak [nT]	ISL M6 GIC [A]	HWB H4 GIC [A]	Ratio
1	6 Nov 2001 1:52	190.8	7	300	9-	480	33.1	-	-
2	31 Oct 2003 5:36	170.6	1	179	8-	480	21.1	-	-
3	29 Oct 2003 6:11	166.2	1	400	9o	480	34.1	-	-
4	24 Nov 2001 5:56	115.3	8	56	5+	160	-	-	-
5	18 Feb 2003 5:08	109.4	19	56	5+	160	12.5	-	-
6	15 May 2005 8:17	97.9	17	236	8+	480	15	-	-
7	8 Nov 2004 7:12	90.2	3	236	8+	800	14.9	-	-
8	29 May 2003 22:09	88.7	4	236	8+	160	14.3	-	-
9	2 Oct 2013 1:56	85.6	68	56	5+	96	19.1	48.8	2.6
10	20 Nov 2003 18:36	78	2	300	9-	800	12.1	-	-
11	10 Nov 2004 2:42	74.9	3	179	8-	280	14.2	-	-
12	4 Nov 2003 6:27	73.9	3	94	6+	160	13	-	-
13	17 Mar 2015 4:46	68.6	6	39	5-	96	17	47.9	2.8
14	23 Apr 2002 4:49	66.9	289	39	5-	96	11.1	-	-
15	25 Sep 2001 23:15	64.7	64	154	7+	160	-	-	-
16	11 Sep 2005 5:37	62.6	14	132	7o	160	19.2	-	-
17	22 Oct 2001 1:36	60.8	16	132	7o	160	-	-	-
18	21 Jan 2005 23:18	60.3	26	154	7+	160	8	-	-
19	26 Jul 2004 22:50	57.6	5	154	7+	280	18.6	-	-
20	31 Mar 2001 4:34	57.5	4	300	9-	280	-	-	-
21	5 Dec 2004 7:47	56.8	382	32	4+	96	8.6	-	-
22	17 Mar 2013 6:01	54.3	44	111	7-	96	13.2	43.9	3.3
23	24 Oct 2003 15:25	52.5	81	111	7-	96	7.3	-	-
24	11 Apr 2001 21:41	51.4	12	236	8+	160	-	-	-
25	22 Jun 2015 18:34	51.2	15	236	8+	480	12.2	12.8	1.0
26	17 Apr 2002 11:07	47.8	22	80	6o	96	6.5	-	-
27	12 Sep 2014 15:55	43.3	105	48	5o	54	9.8	28.6	2.9
28	9 May 2003 7:43	42.7	70	48	5o	96	4.6	-	-
29	13 Apr 2001 10:42	42.4	12	154	7+	160	-	-	-
30	18 Mar 2002 13:23	41.6	206	48	5o	54	5.9	-	-
31	26 Sep 2011 19:38	40.6	46	94	6+	14	8.7	-	-

733

734 **Table 1.** Properties of the time periods where the rate of change of the horizontal
735 component of the magnetic field (H') observed from the Eyrewell (EYR) magnetometer
736 was >40 nT/min. aa*, ap and Kp are global geomagnetic indices, while the EYR ak is the ak
737 index derived from the Eyrewell magnetic observations. The two GIC columns are the
738 magnitudes of the currents observed at the number 6 transformer at Islington substation
739 (ISL M6) and the number 4 transformer at Halfway Bush substation (HWB T4), while Ratio
740 is the ratio of the two GIC quantities (HWB T4/ISL M6). Complete data is only given for
741 events when there are GIC observations at ISL M6.

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#	Time [UT]	60 s [nT/min]	20 s [nT/min]	5 s [nT/min]	1 s [nT/min]	ISL M6 GIC (A)
1	6 Nov 2001 1:52	190.8	273.0	-	-	33.1
2	31 Oct 2003 5:36	170.6	-	297.8	-	21.1
3	29 Oct 2003 6:11	166.2	-	583.1	-	34.1
5	18 Feb 2003 5:08	109.4	-	347.5	-	12.5
6	15 May 2005 8:17	97.9	198.6	223.2	-	15.0
7	8 Nov 2004 7:12	90.2	111.9	-	-	14.9
8	29 May 2003 22:09	88.7	-	248.2	-	14.3
9	2 Oct 2013 1:56	85.6	-	-	165.0	19.1
10	20 Nov 2003 18:36	78.0	-	161.3	-	12.1
11	10 Nov 2004 2:42	74.9	-	-	-	14.2
12	4 Nov 2003 6:27	73.9	-	161.3	-	13.0
13	17 Mar 2015 4:46	68.6	-	-	246.7	17.0
14	23 Apr 2002 4:49	66.9	-	186.1	-	11.1
16	11 Sep 2005 5:37	62.6	245.1	295.2	-	19.2
18	21 Jan 2005 23:18	60.3	77.4	-	-	8.0
19	26 Jul 2004 22:50	57.6	328.8	-	-	18.6
21	5 Dec 2004 7:47	56.8	-	-	-	8.6
22	17 Mar 2013 6:01	54.3	-	-	228.2	13.2
23	24 Oct 2003 15:25	52.5	-	86.9	-	7.3
25	22 Jun 2015 18:34	51.2	-	-	237.5	12.2
26	17 Apr 2002 11:07	47.8	-	62.0	-	6.5
27	12 Sep 2014 15:55	43.3	-	-	82.0	9.8
28	9 May 2003 7:43	42.7	-	62.0	-	4.6
30	18 Mar 2002 13:23	41.6	-	62.0	-	5.9
31	26 Sep 2011 19:38	40.6	-	-	195.6	8.7

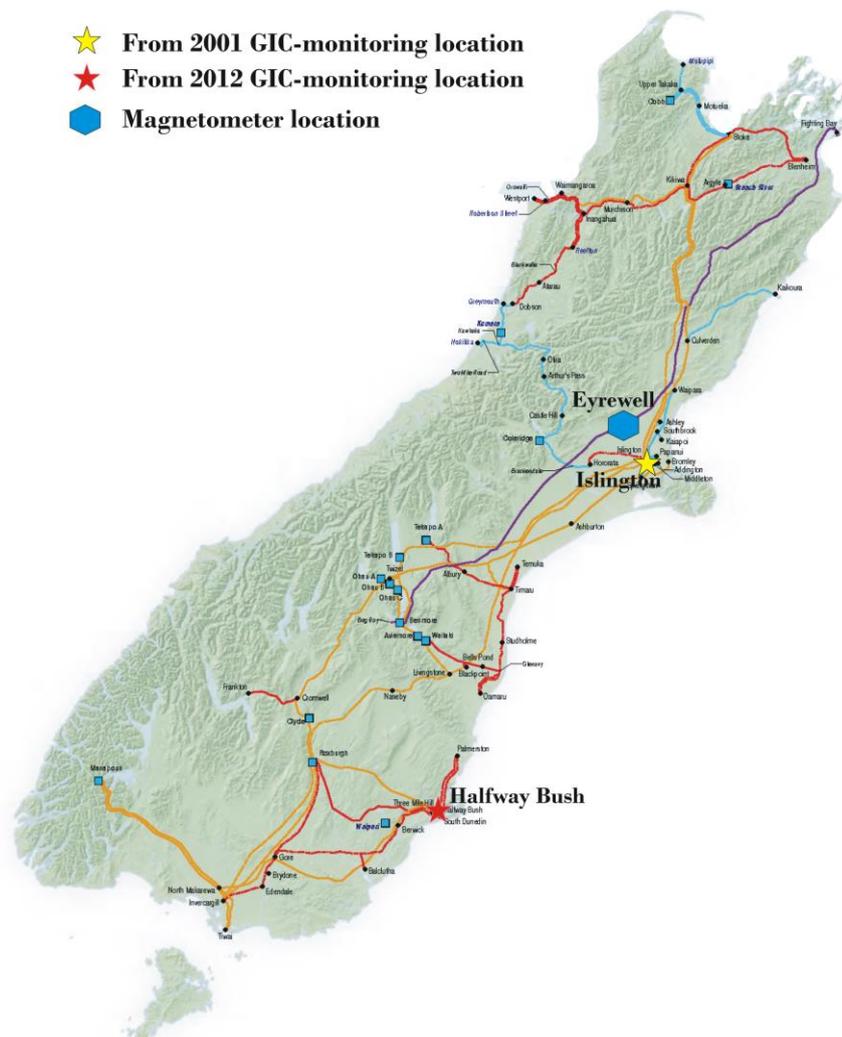
745

746 **Table 2.** Additional information on the EYR magnetic field observations of $|H'|$ for the
747 events shown in Table 1. In all cases there are additional observations of the rate of change
748 of the horizontal component of the magnetic field ($|H'|$) made at higher time resolution,
749 either 20 s, 5 s, or 1 s resolution. Events have been included in the table only when there are
750 GIC observations at ISL M6.

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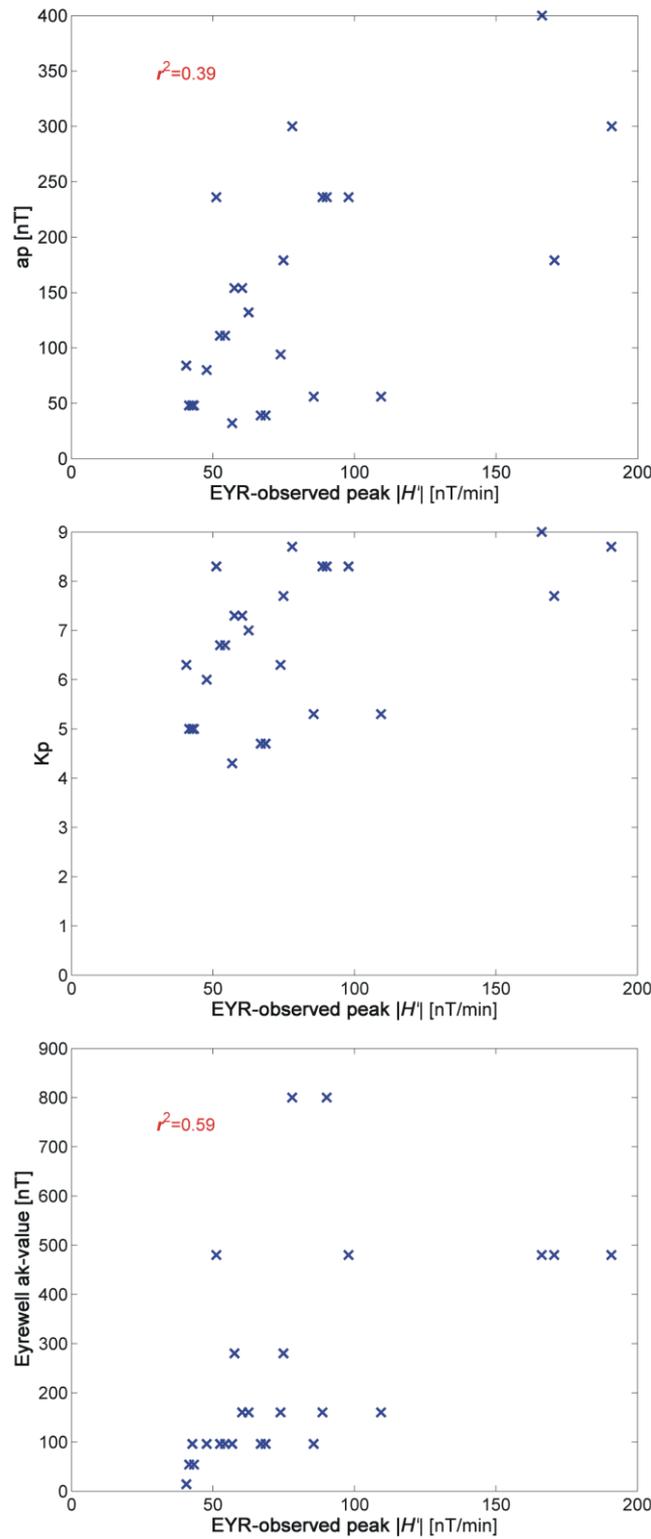
754

755 **Figure 1.** Map of the South Island of New Zealand showing the Transpower New Zealand
 756 electrical transmission network (colored lines). The heavy purple line is the HVDC line
 757 linking the South Island and North Island electrical networks. The other colored lines in this
 758 figure show the routes of the Transpower transmission lines, with different colors
 759 representing different voltages (orange = 220 kV, red = 110 kV, light blue = 50/66 kV).
 760 Stars show the location of the Islington and Halfway Bush substations. The location of the
 761 primary New Zealand magnetic observatory, Eyrewell, is given by the blue hexagon.

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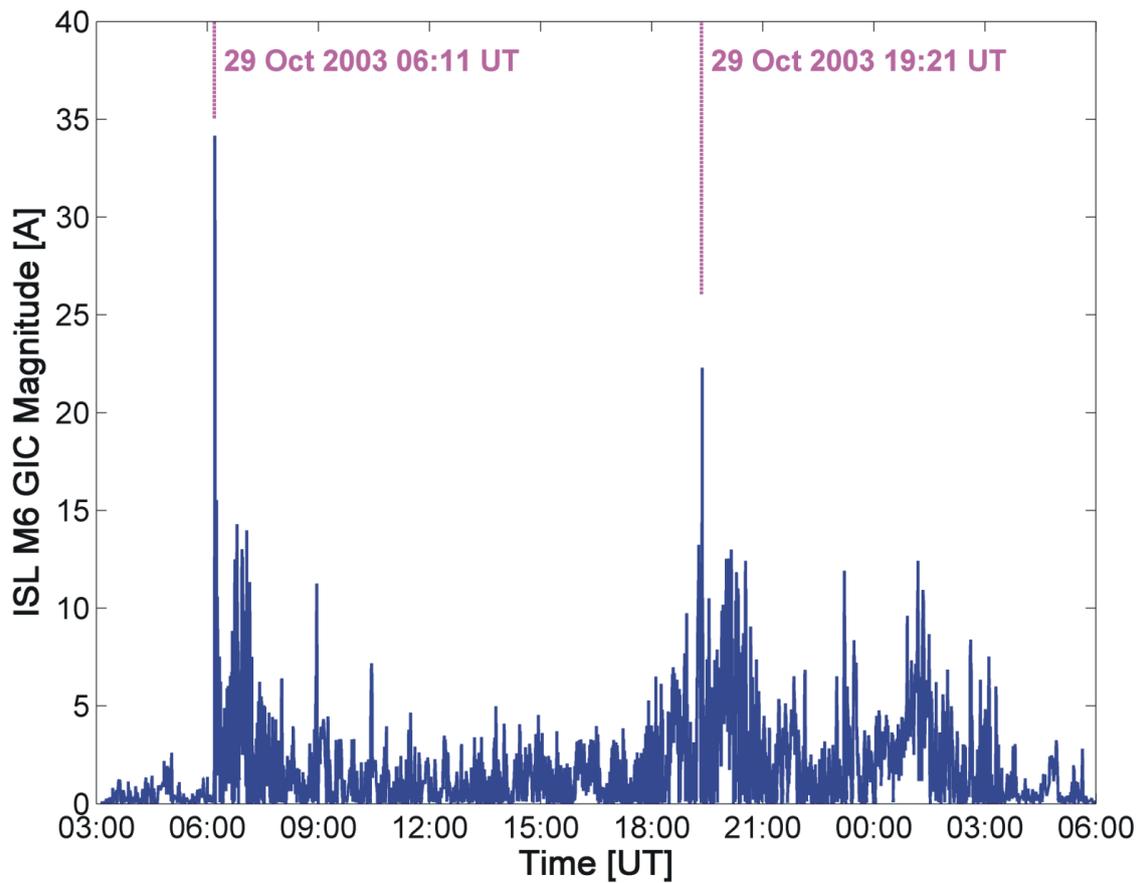


765

766 **Figure 2.** Comparison between geomagnetic index values and the peak $|H'|$ value
 767 determined from the Eyrewell (EYR) magnetic observatory data. The upper two panels are
 768 the global indices ap and Kp , while the lower panel is the Eyrewell-derived ak -index.

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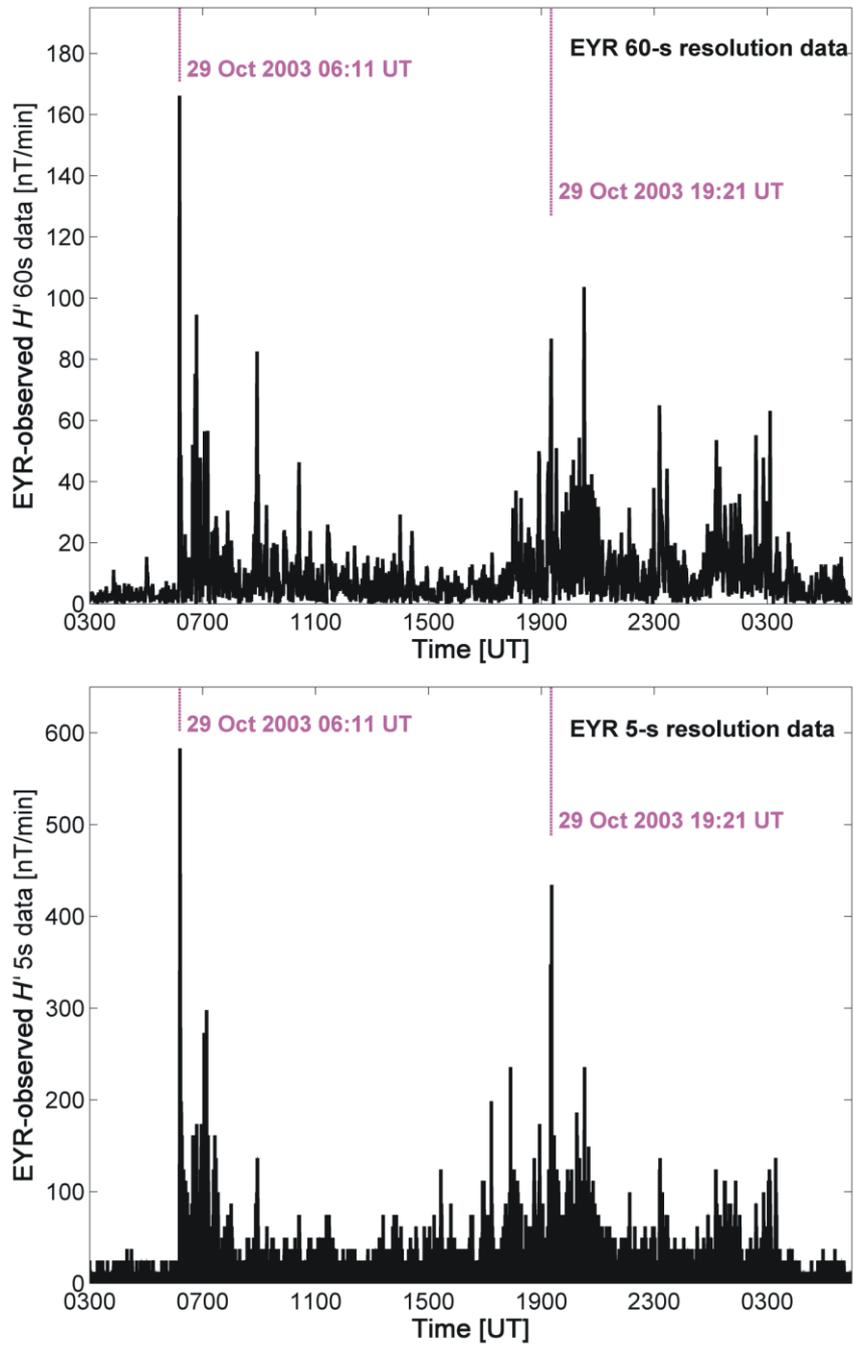


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772 **Figure 3.** Time variation of GIC observed at the number 6 transformer at Islington
 773 substation (ISL M6) at the start of the 2003 Halloween storm. This began with a sudden
 774 storm commencement at 06:11 UT on 29 October 2003, as marked by the first magenta line.
 775 A second significant GIC impulse is marked at 19:21 UT.

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779 **Figure 4.** Time variation of $|H'|$ values derived from Eyrewell (EYR) magnetic observatory

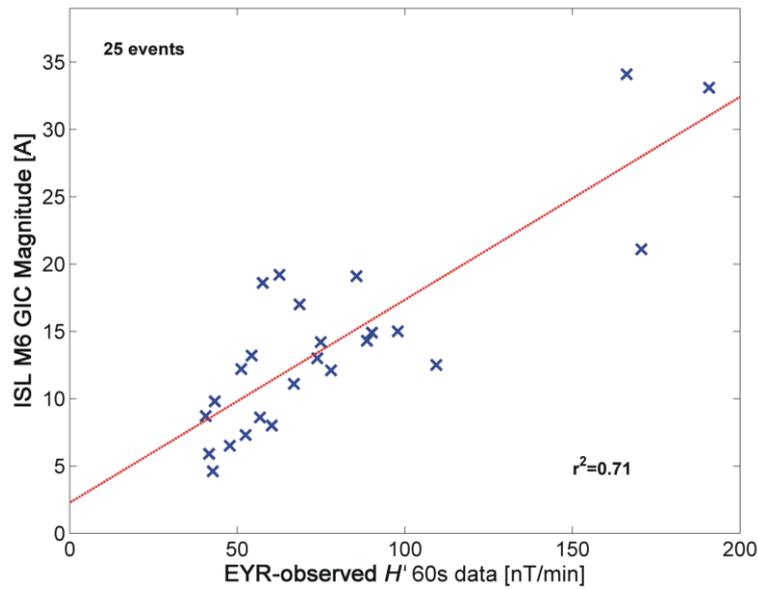
780 data at the start of the 2003 Halloween storm, in a format similar to Figure 3. The upper

781 panel uses 60 s resolution magnetic field data, while the lower panel uses the 5 s data.

782

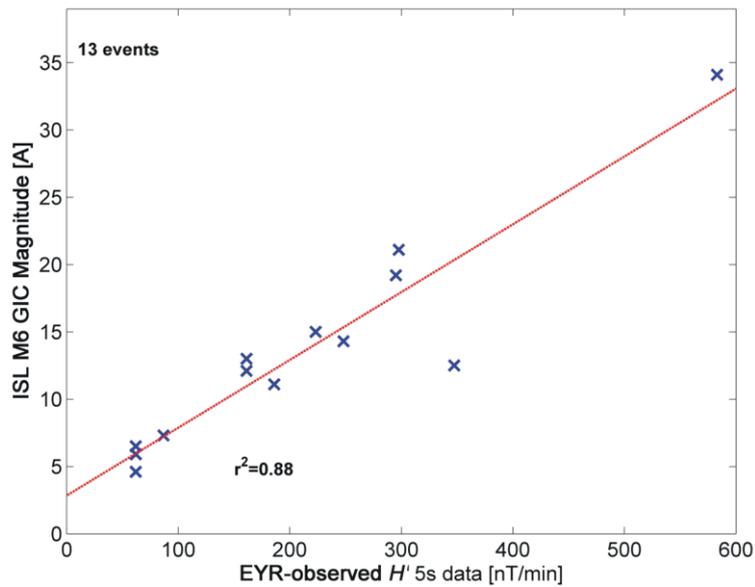
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786 **Figure 5.** Comparison between the magnitude of the GIC observed at the number 6
 787 transformer at Islington substation (ISL M6) with peak $|H'|$ values derived from 60 s
 788 Eyrewell (EYR) magnetic observatory data. The dashed red line is a linear fit to the 25
 789 events.



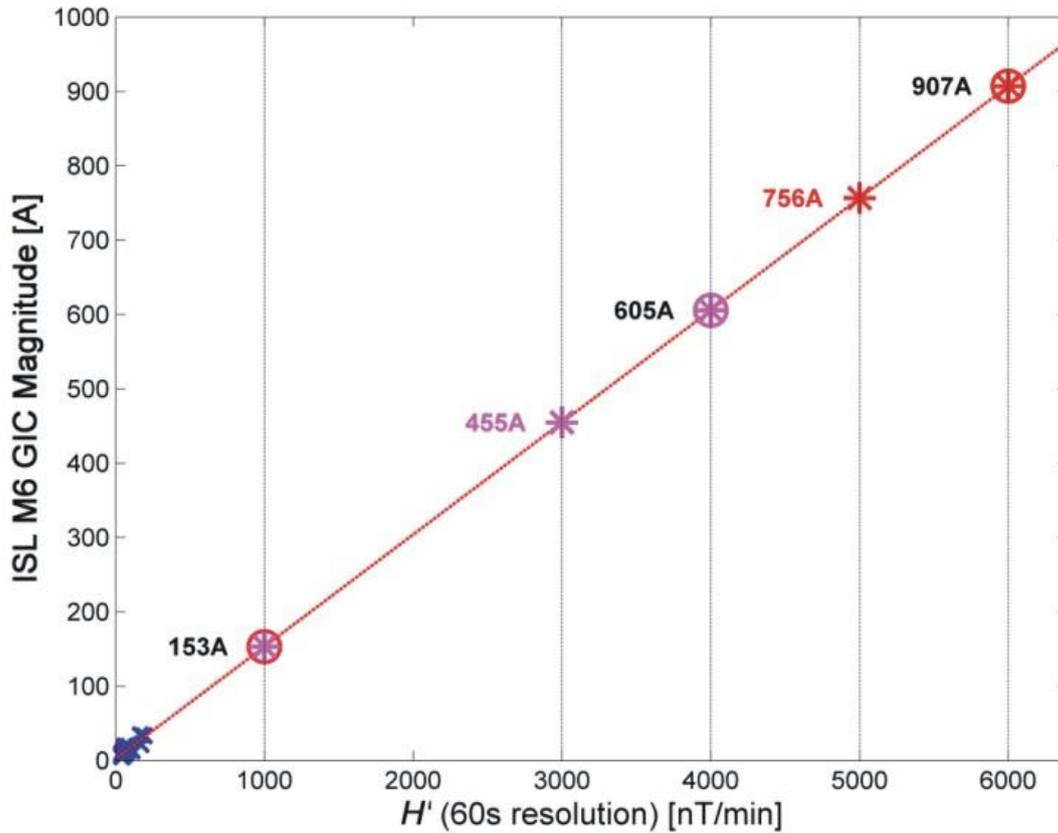
790

791 **Figure 6.** Comparison between the magnitude of the GIC observed at the number 6
 792 transformer at Islington substation (ISL M6) with peak $|H'|$ values derived from 5 s
 793 Eyrewell (EYR) magnetic observatory data, in the same format as Figure 5.

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798 **Figure 7.** Estimates of the peak GIC predicted for transformer number 6 at the Islington
 799 substation (ISL M6) based on H' rates for extreme storms and an extrapolation from the
 800 fitting in Figure 5. Results for return periods of 100 years are shown by magenta stars, and
 801 200 year return periods by red stars. The 95% confidence interval range is show by the
 802 ringed values (1000-4000 nT/min for 100 years and 1000-6000 nT/min for 200 years).

Figure 1.



From 2001 GIC-monitoring location



From 2012 GIC-monitoring location



Magnetometer location



Figure 2.

Figure 3.

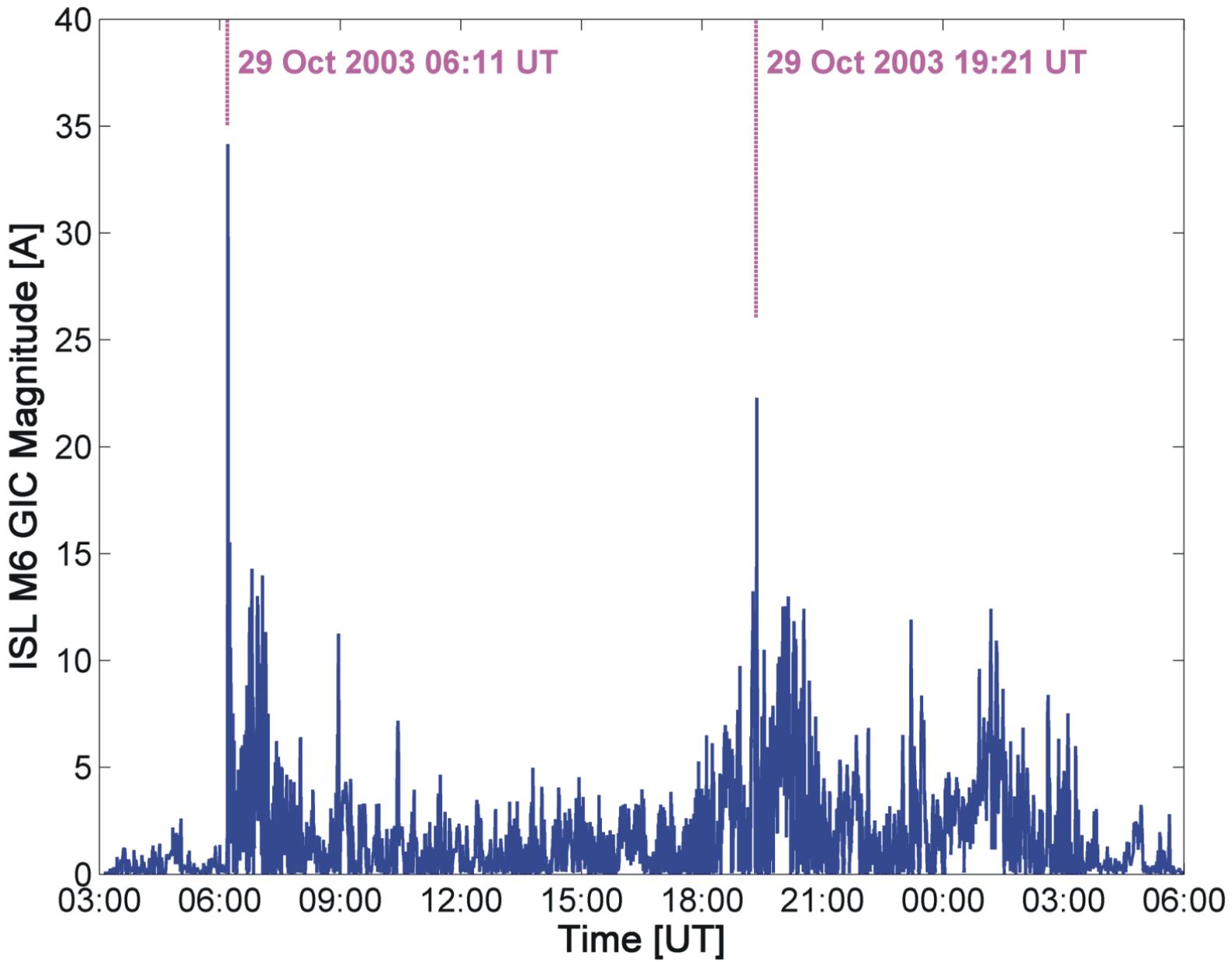


Figure 4.

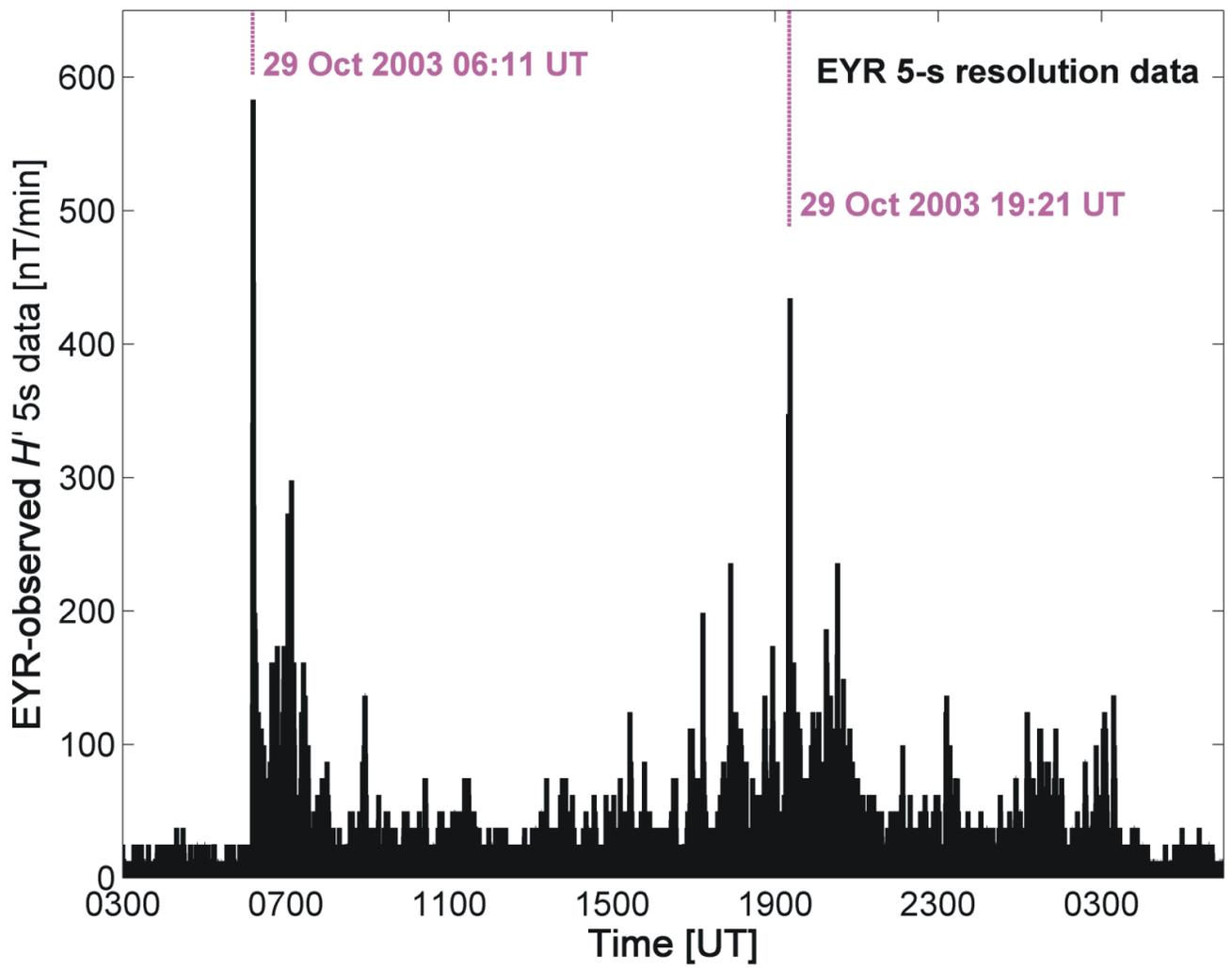
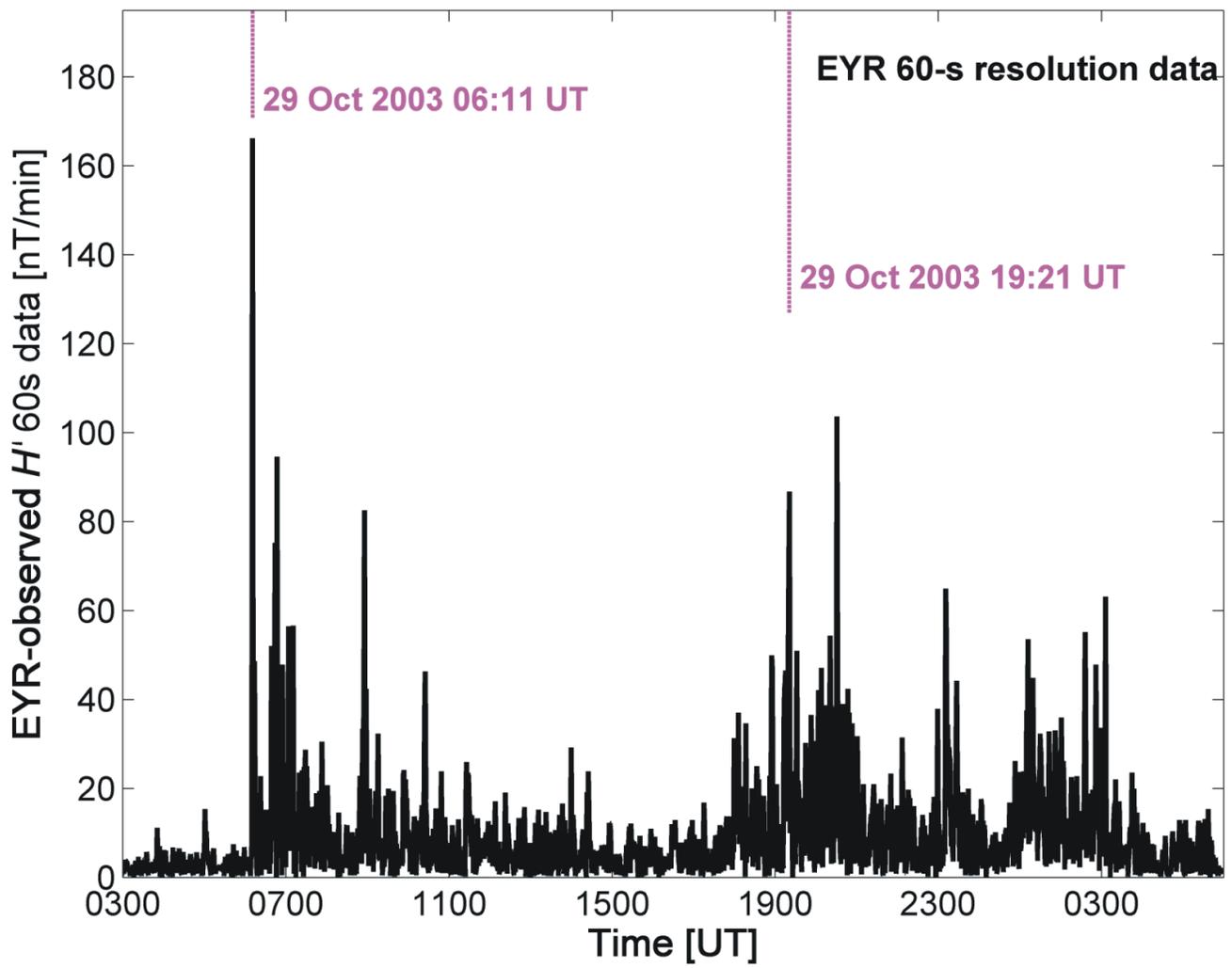


Figure 5.

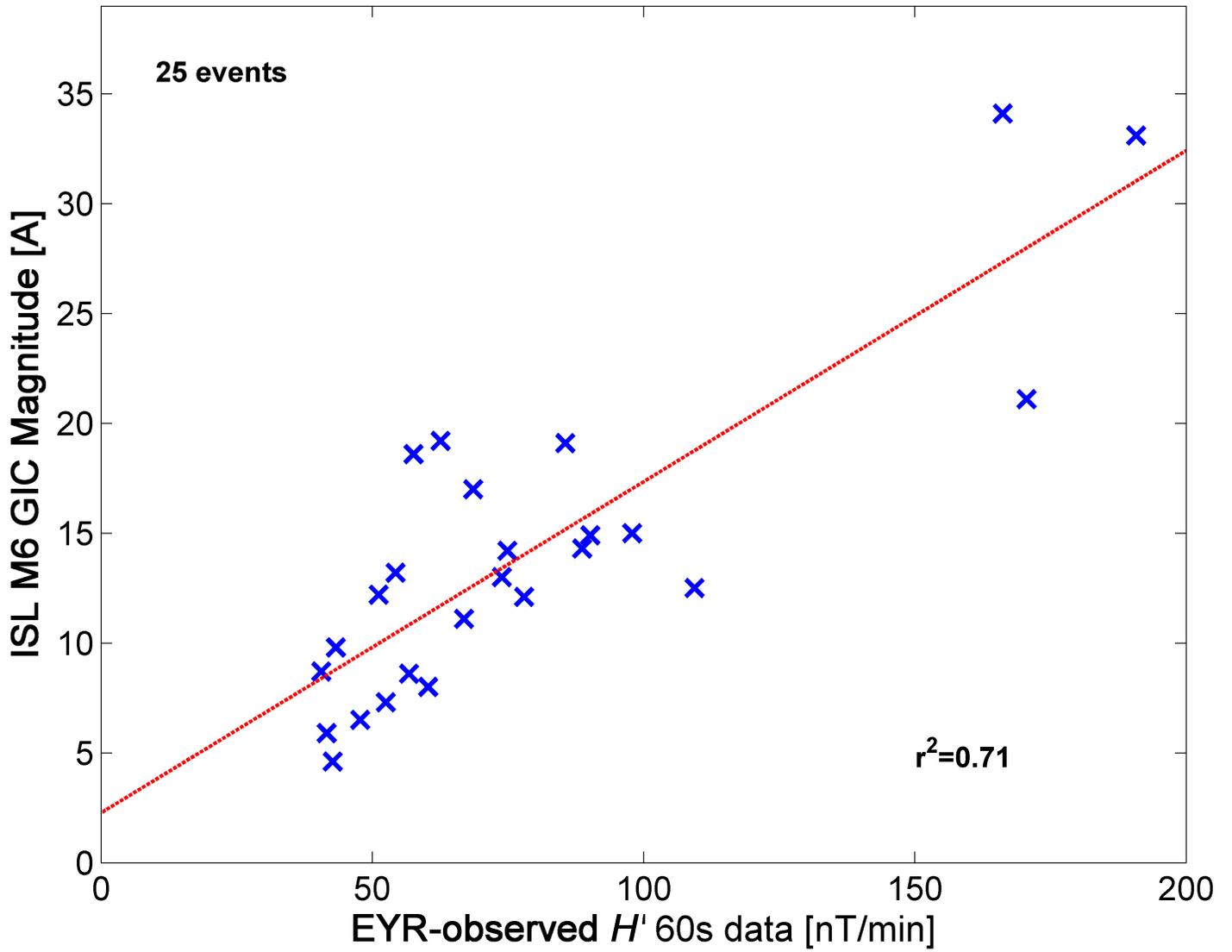


Figure 6.

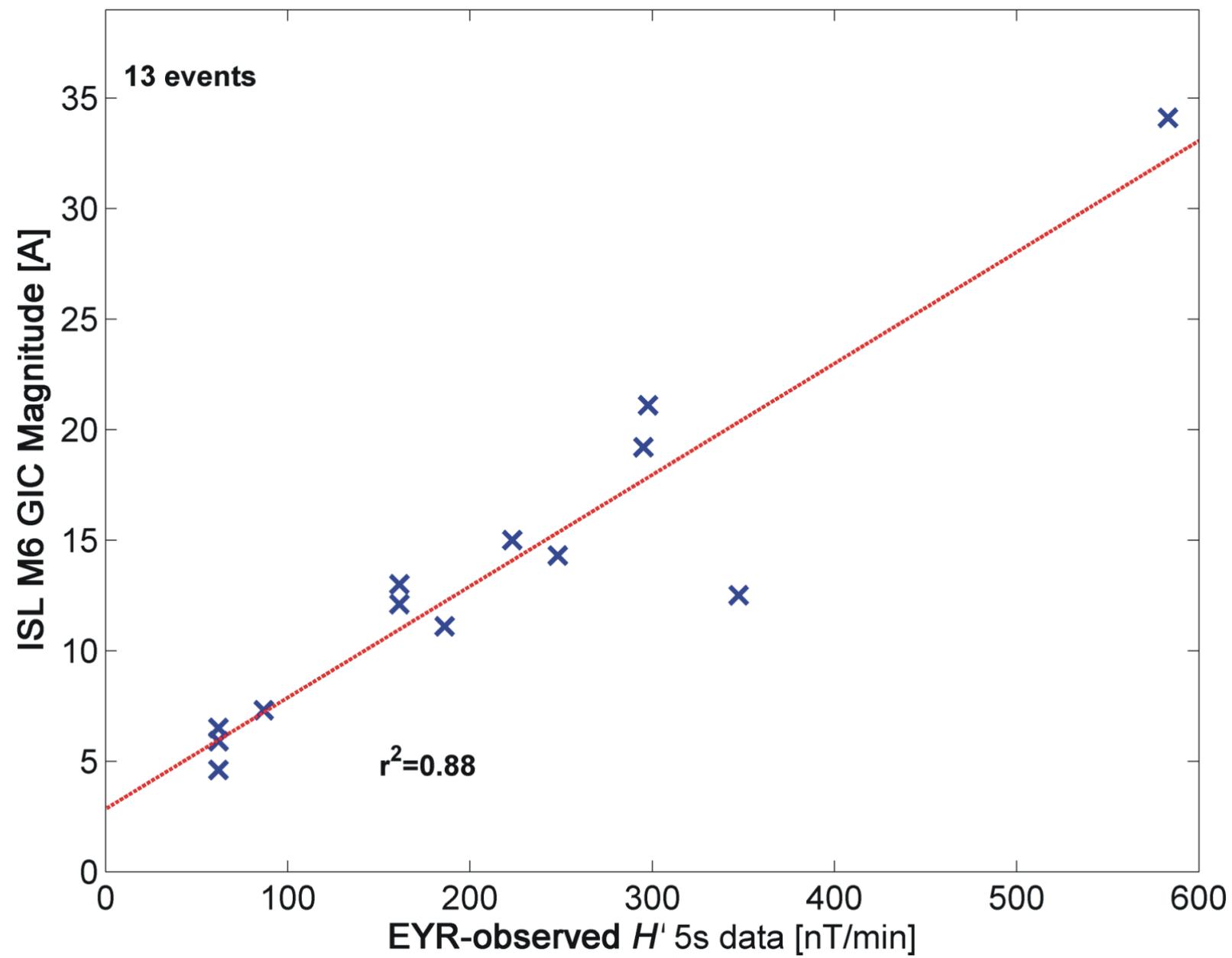


Figure 7.

