

Earth's Magnetic Field

N. D. Opdyke Victoria Mejia (Department of Geological Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611; ph: 352 392-6127; fax 352 392-9294; e-mail: drno@ufl.edu)

Recent studies of the Paleosecular Variation of lavas (PSVL) by the authors and others, shows that the variability of Earth's magnetic field over the last several million years is less than the variability of the present Earth's magnetic field. The present magnetic field is asymmetric between the northern and southern hemispheres. The dispersion in the southern hemisphere being much greater than in the northern. If the present earth's magnetic field were a good template for the field in the past then a larger VGP dispersion would be expected than is observed. The present field may therefore be leading to an excursion or a reversal of Earth' magnetic field.

1. Chapman Conference on Timescales of the Geomagnetic Field 2. Contributed 3. (a) N.D. Opdyke, Department of Geological Sciences, University of Florida, POB 112120, Gainesville, FL 32611, USA; (b) 352 392-6127, (c) 352 392-9294, (d) drno@ufl.edu 4. No