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The active Sun and its implication for the heliosphere  
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## **The role of coronal mass ejections in reconfiguring the coronal magnetic field**

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The question of the role of CMEs in reconfiguring the coronal magnetic field has been a matter of debate since their discovery. While CMEs do not represent a significant mass-loss process, they may be effective in removing the magnetic flux and helicity that would otherwise accumulate and thus making room for the incoming flux of the new cycle. We are exploring the interaction of CMEs with the streamer belt using synoptic maps of of unsurpassed spatial and temporal resolutions generated from the LASCO-C2 images with a dual approach. First, a statistical analysis of the deviation of the neutral sheets after a CME passage has been performed over 15 years so as to globally characterize the interaction over a solar cycle. Second, we have analyzed a set of about 30 events in detail to explore in detail the mechanism of the interaction.