

Shirsh

Soni

University of Iowa

Ritesh Patel, South West Research Institution, Boulder, Colorado, USA

Craig DeForest, South West Research Institution, Boulder, Colorado, USA

Sarah Gibson, High Altitude Observatory, NSF NCAR, Boulder, Colorado, USA

Oral

Successive coronal mass ejections (CMEs) frequently interact during heliospheric propagation, leading to substantial reorganization of plasma structures and amplifying geoeffectiveness; however, the timing and morphological evolution of these interactions remain largely unconstrained by direct observations. We investigate a sequence of Earth-directed CMEs launched between November 4-10, 2025, using continuous heliospheric white-light imaging from PUNCH. The imaging reveals the onset, evolution, and completion of CME-CME interaction, characterized by front convergence, localized brightness enhancement, and the formation of a compound density structure in the inner heliosphere. The interaction onset time and duration are identified directly from imaging signatures. Near-Earth solar wind observations show that the compound structure maps to a single, enhanced sheath region, which drives the primary geomagnetic response. This study demonstrates that CME-CME interaction can be diagnosed directly from heliospheric imaging and that interaction-driven sheath formation plays a central role in enhancing geoeffectiveness.

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