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Heliotail models

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Most of the existing models for the solar wind's interaction with the ambient interstellar medium focus on the upwind direction, where hydrodynamic pressure compresses the different shock surfaces into a relatively small radial interval, and for which the Voyager spacecraft allowed predictions to be verified through comparison with in-situ data. The opposing downwind region, which traditionally had not received quite as much attention, has recently seen a surge in interest triggered by new ground-based observations. In this overview talk I shall present and discuss several models of varying complexity aiming at the downwind region, and compare their predictions for the physical properties of the heliotail, in particular its shape and spatial extent.