

STCE Newsletter

13 Jul 2015 - 19 Jul 2015



Published by the STCE - this issue : 23 Jul 2015. Available online at <http://www.stce.be/newsletter/>.

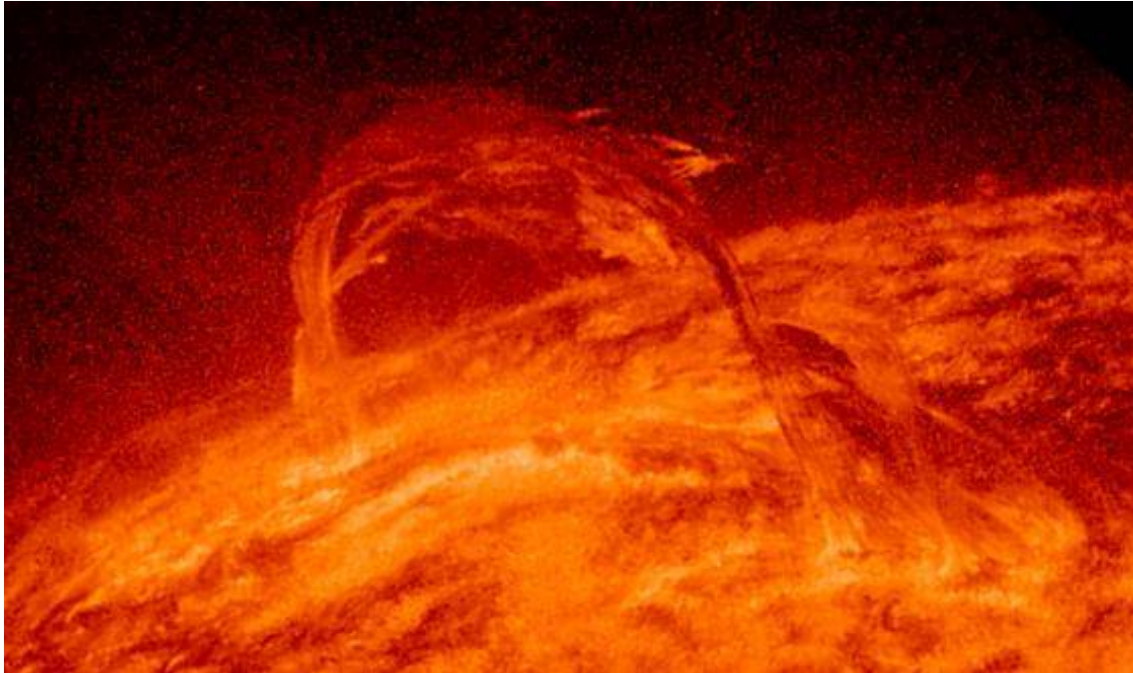
The Solar-Terrestrial Centre of Excellence (STCE) is a collaborative network of the Belgian Institute for Space Aeronomy, the Royal Observatory of Belgium and the Royal Meteorological Institute of Belgium.

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Final Editor : Petra Vanlommel
Contact : R. Van der Linden, General Coordinator STCE,
Ringlaan - 3 - Avenue Circulaire, 1180 Brussels,
Belgium

1. A complex filament eruption

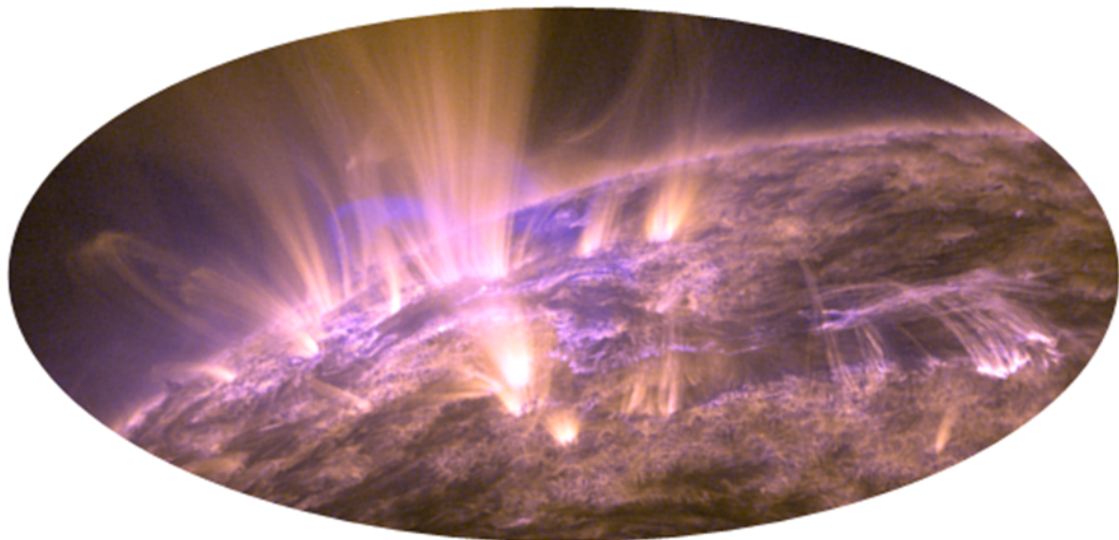
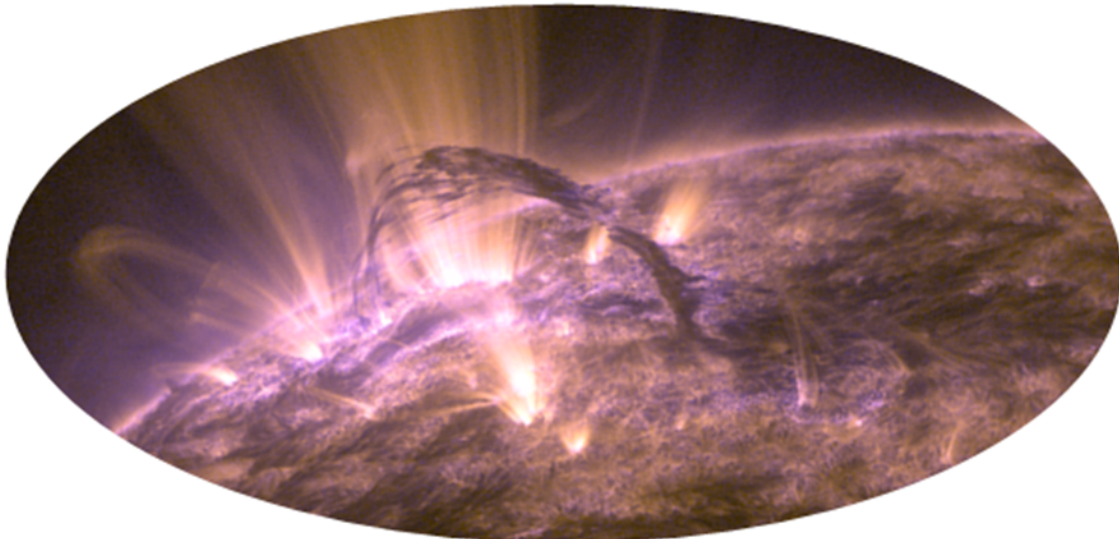
A very nice filament eruption occurred during the morning hours of 19 July. It was associated with a long-duration C2.1 flare that started at 09:22UT, peaked at 10:40UT, and ended at 13:02UT though it would take another 6 to 8 hours before the x-ray flux was back at its pre-event levels. The eruption of the filament itself took place between 07:00 and 10:00UT.

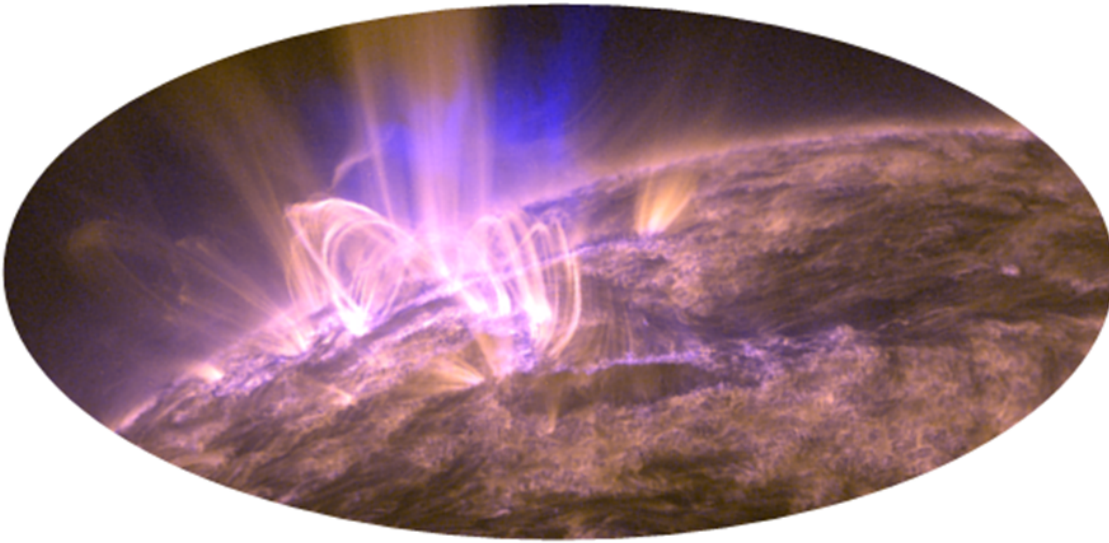


This eruption was very likely the result of an instability created by an earlier filament eruption in the northwest quadrant between 00:00 and 03:00UT. Indeed, in the first clip of this movie at <https://youtu.be/kEkuJhA7c8s> (SDO/AIA304; 00:00-12:00UT), one can see how this filament rises, but with a substantial

part gliding back to the solar surface along the magnetic field lines very close to the up-to-then rather quiet filament near the southwest limb. After a brief eruption between 04:00 and 06:00UT, the filament then fully erupted starting around 07:00UT. The intricate details can be seen in a zoom of the region, i.e. in clip 2 (SDO/AIA304; 06:30-12:30UT), as well as in clip 3 combining AIA171 and AIA131 imagery showing a better contrast between the cold (dark purple) and hot (sky blue) areas of the eruption.

The images below are rotated stills from this combo clip showing the rise of the filament at 07:50UT, the eruption itself with some coronal dimming to the southeast ("bottom right") at 09:35UT, and finally the post-eruption coronal loops and the hot material on top of these series ("top left") at 11:55UT.



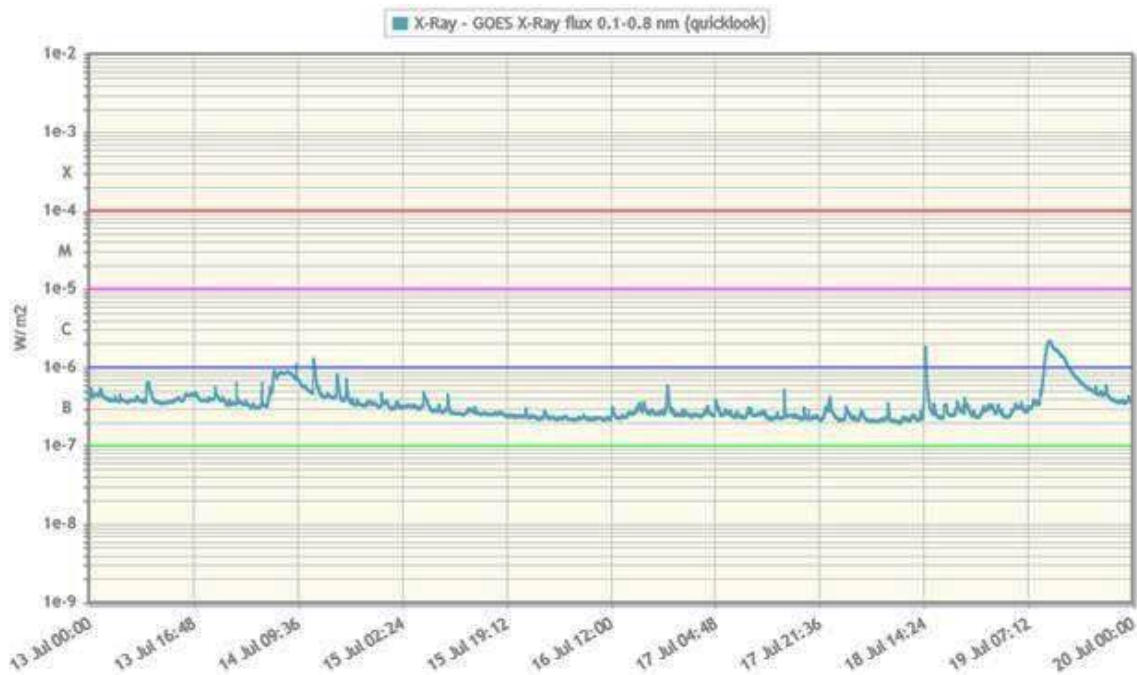


The associated coronal mass ejection (CME) was rather wide (about 120 degrees) and coincided with another, smaller CME to the northwest. It had a plane-of-the-sky speed of about 760 km/s and, though it was mostly directed away from the Earth, analysis of coronagraphic imagery revealed that this CME could deliver a glancing blow on 22-23 July.

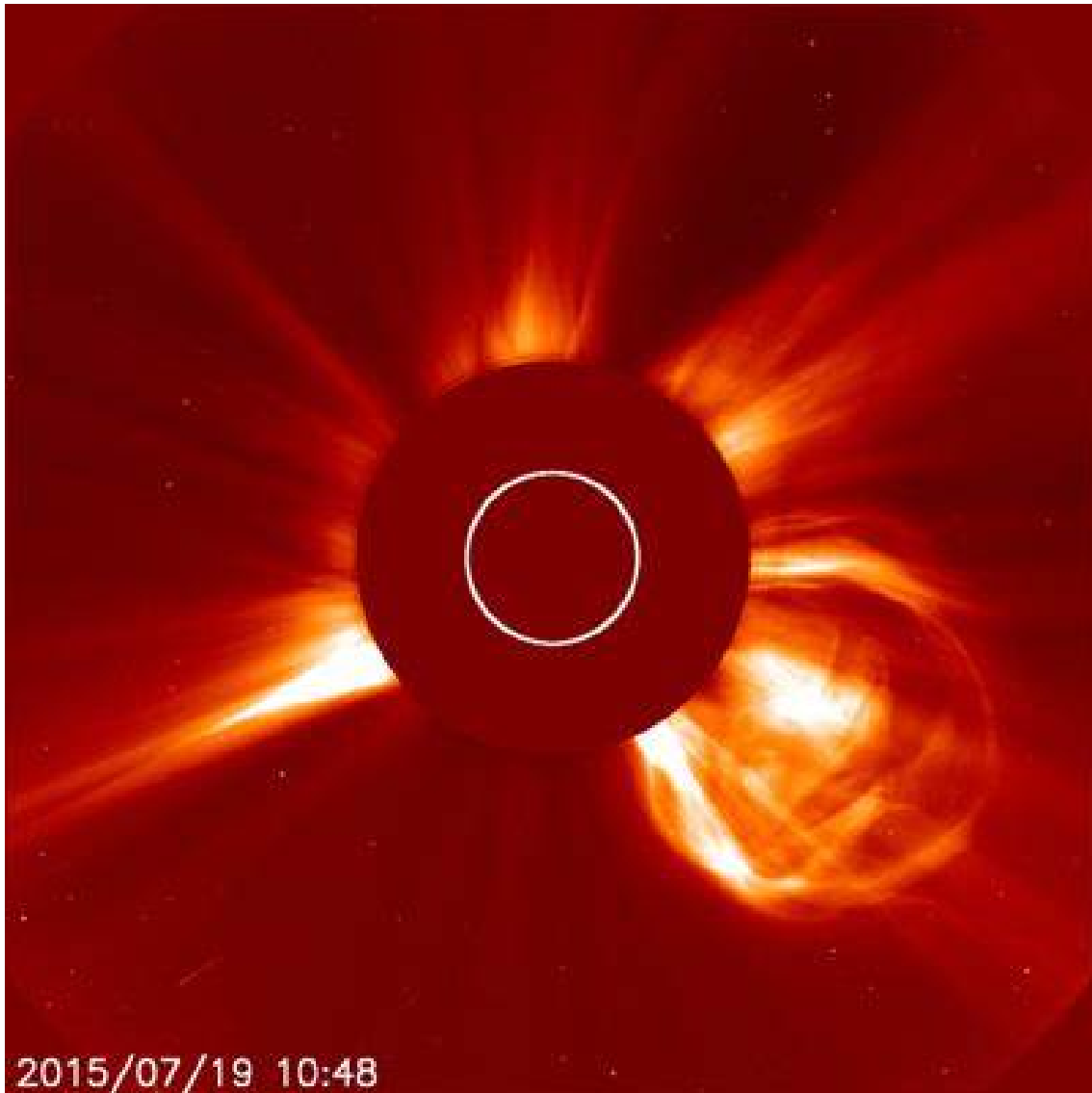
Credits - Imagery from SDO (<http://sdo.gsfc.nasa.gov/data/aiahmi/>) and (J)Helioviewer (<http://helioviewer.ias.u-psud.fr/helioviewer/#>).

2. Review of solar activity

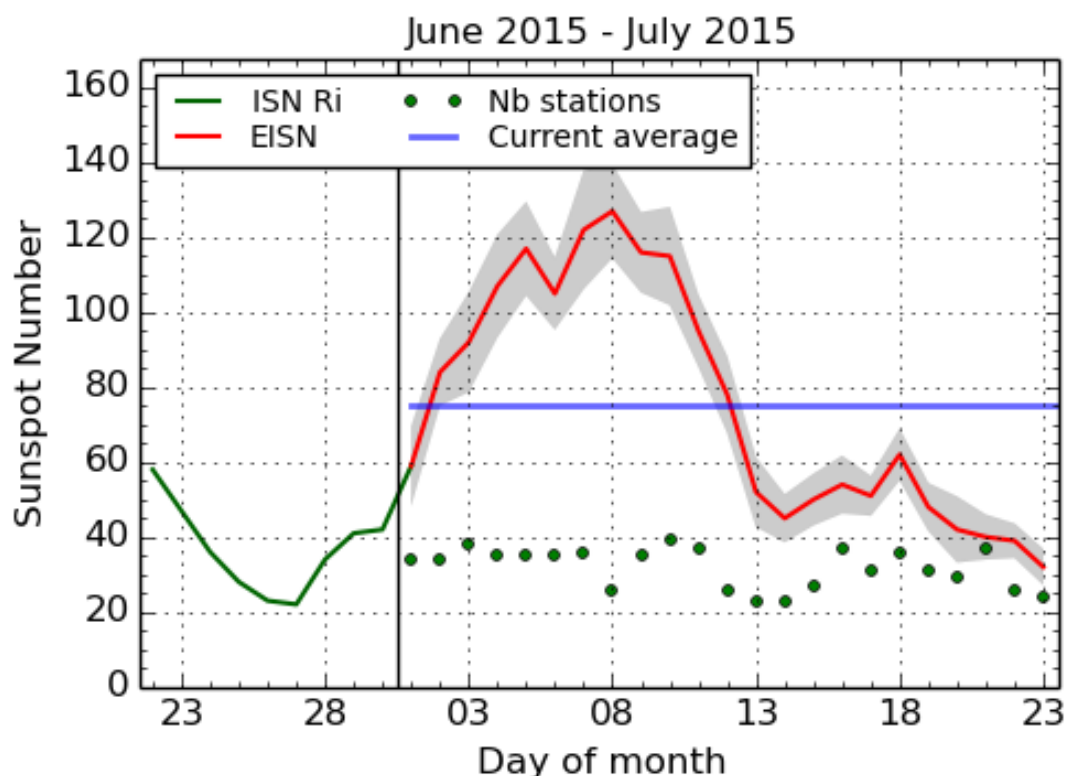
Solar activity was very low during the week, with only 4 low C-class flares recorded.



The strongest flare was a long-duration C2.1 flare related to a complex filament eruption in the southwest quadrant, peaking on 19 July at 10:40UT. The associated coronal mass ejection (CME) had a plane-of-the-sky speed of 760 km/s, and was first seen in LASCO/C2 imagery by CACTus on 09:48UT. Though the bulk of this CME was directed away from Earth, coronagraphic imagery indicated that a glancing blow could impact Earth on 22 or early 23 July.



3. Estimated International Sunspot Number



SILSO graphics (<http://sidc.be/silso>) Royal Observatory of Belgium, 2015 July 23

Daily Estimated International Sunspot Number (EISN, red curve with shaded error) derived by a simplified method from real-time data from the worldwide SILSO network. It extends the official Sunspot Number from the full processing of the preceding month (green line). The plot shows the last 30 days (~ one solar rotation). The horizontal blue line shows the current monthly average, while the green dots give the number of stations included in the calculation of the EISN for each day.

4. PROBA2 Observations

Solar Activity

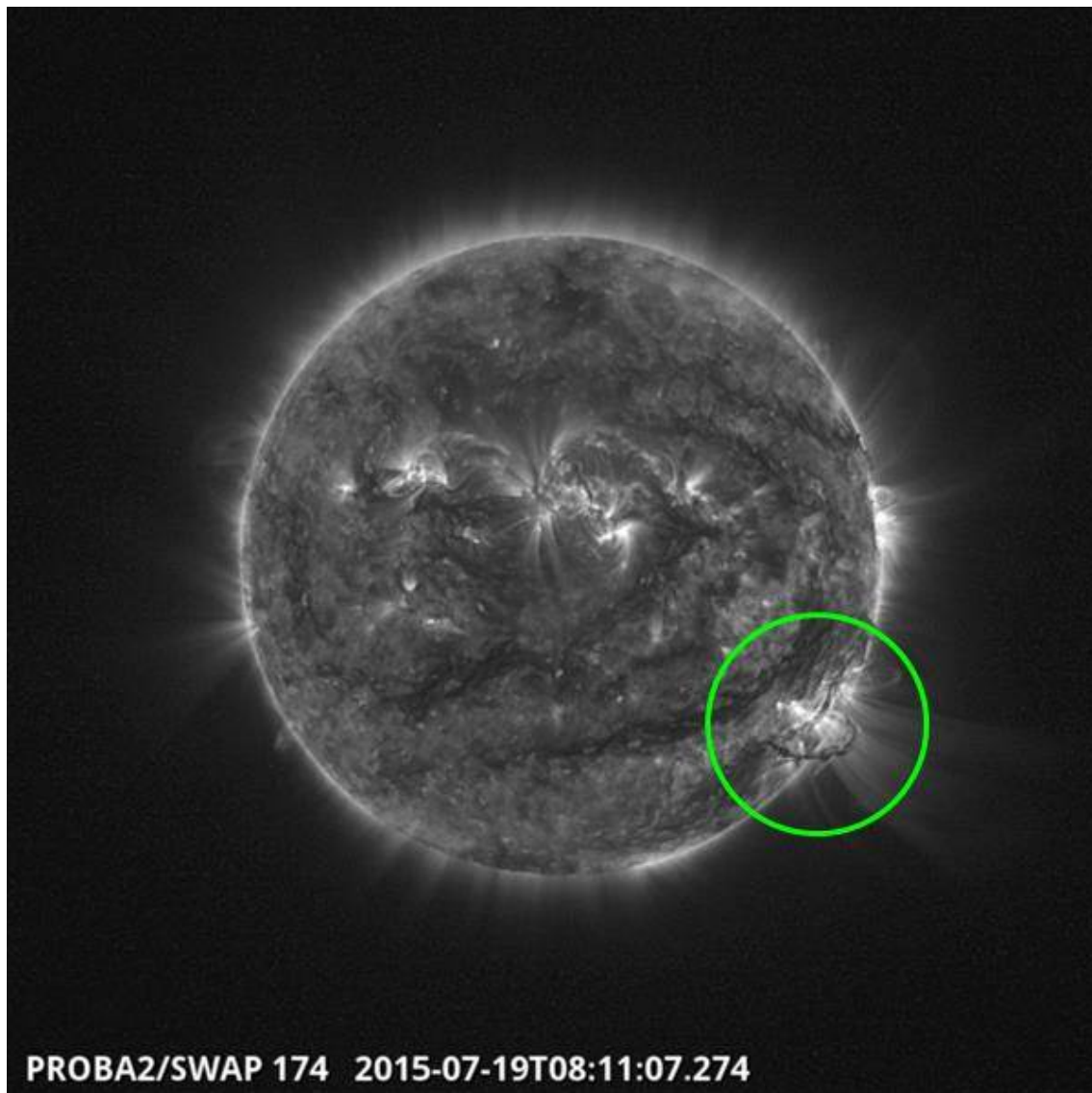
Solar flare activity fluctuated between very low and low during the week.

In order to view the activity of this week in more detail, we suggest to go to the following website from which all the daily (normal and difference) movies can be accessed: <http://proba2.oma.be/ssa> This page also lists the recorded flaring events.

A weekly overview movie can be found here at http://proba2.oma.be/swap/data/mpg/movies/weekly_movies/weekly_movie_2015_07_13.mp4 (SWAP week 277).

Details about some of this week's events, can be found further below.

Sunday Jul 19



Large-scale filament eruption (southwest quadrant) at about 07:00 UT - SWAP image
Find a movie of the event here (SWAP movie) at http://proba2.oma.be/swap/movies/20150719_swap_movie.mp4

This eruption was apparently linked to an earlier eruption from the northwest, which began early in the day, shortly after 00:00 UT. The northern eruption activated a filament channel that extended as far south as the erupting filament seen in the image above. The eruption of the southern filament was a multi-step process and is not well understood at the moment. An analysis of this event is ongoing.

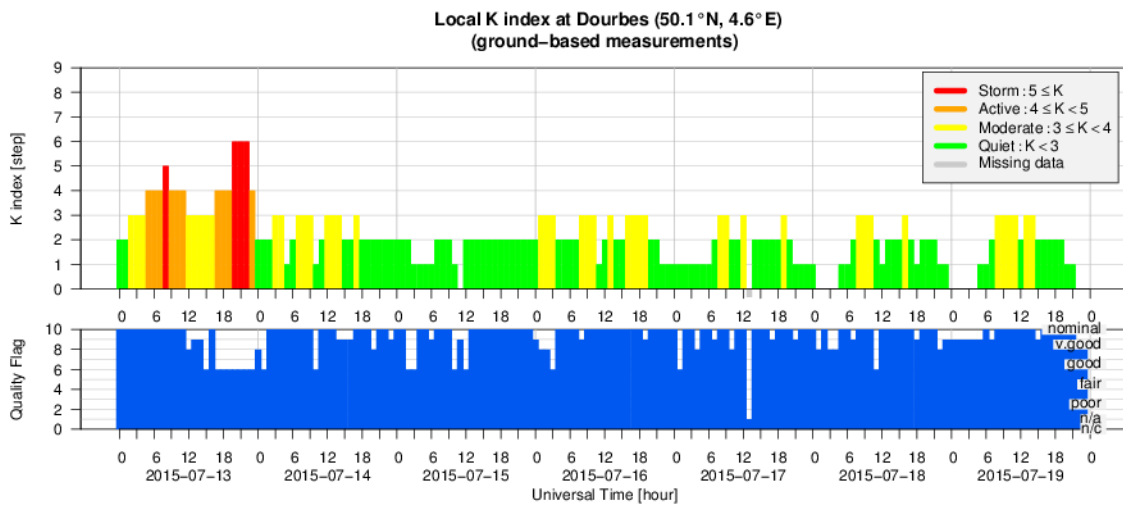
5. Review of geomagnetic activity

On 13 July, there were several episodes of minor ($K_p=5$) to locally moderate ($K=6$ at Dourbes) geomagnetic storming under the influence of a coronal hole high speed stream. Solar wind speed started

with values near 650 km/s, but ended the week with only about 280 km/s. The geomagnetic field was quiet to unsettled for the rest of the week.

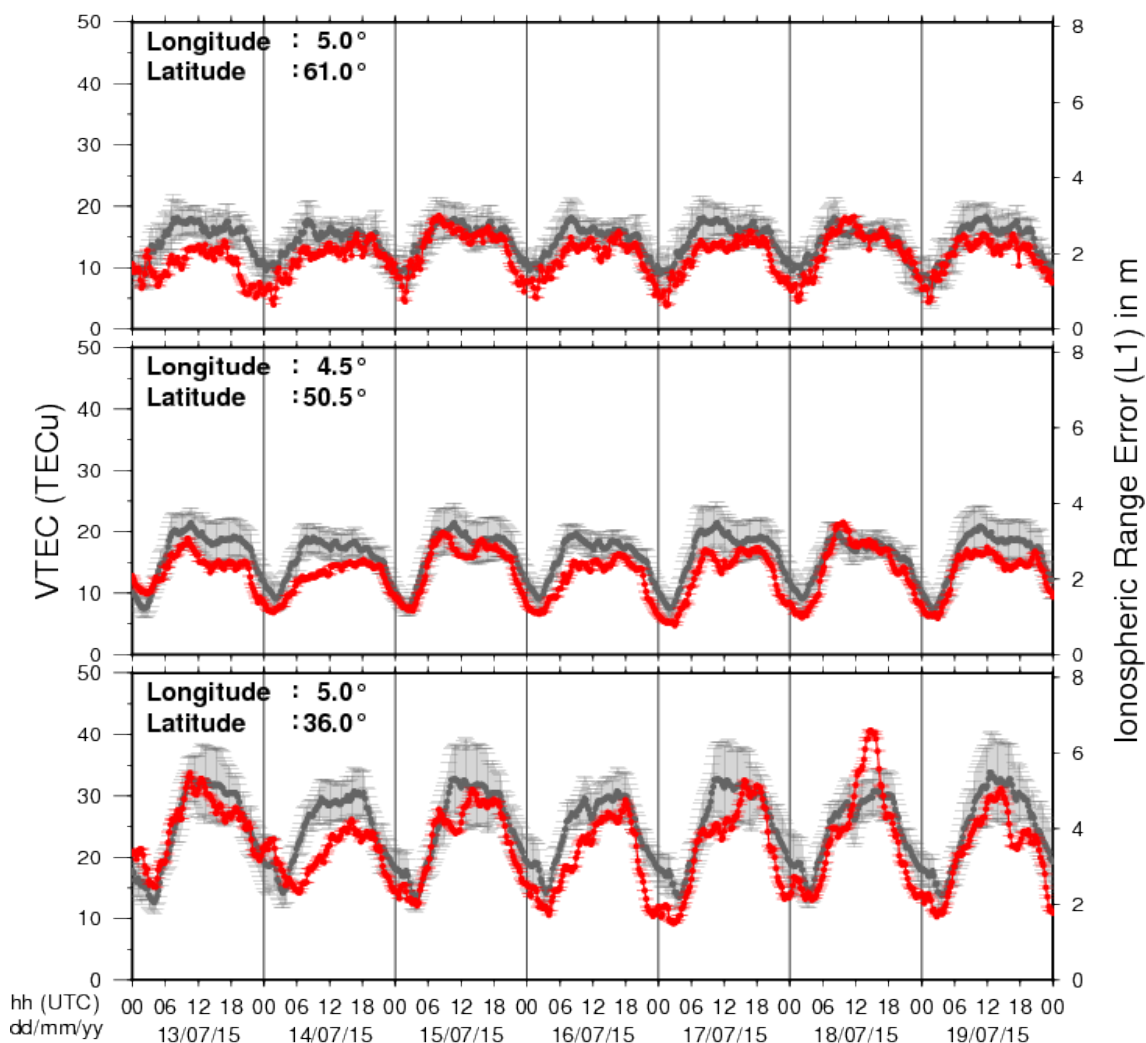


6. Geomagnetic Observations at Dourbes (13 Jul 2015 - 19 Jul 2015)



7. Review of ionospheric activity (13 Jul 2015 - 19 Jul 2015)

VTEC Time Series



The figure shows the time evolution of the Vertical Total Electron Content (VTEC) (in red) during the last week at three locations:

- in the northern part of Europe (N61°, 5°E)
- above Brussels (N50.5°, 4.5°E)
- in the southern part of Europe (N36°, 5°E)

This figure also shows (in grey) the normal ionospheric behaviour expected based on the median VTEC from the 15 previous days.

The VTEC is expressed in TECu (with $\text{TECu} = 10^{16}$ electrons per square meter) and is directly related to the signal propagation delay due to the ionosphere (in figure: delay on GPS L1 frequency).

The Sun's radiation ionizes the Earth's upper atmosphere, the ionosphere, located from about 60km to 1000km above the Earth's surface. The ionization process in the ionosphere produces ions and free electrons. These electrons perturb the propagation of the GNSS (Global Navigation Satellite System) signals by inducing a so-called ionospheric delay.

See http://stce.be/newsletter/GNSS_final.pdf for some more explanations ; for detailed information, see http://gnss.be/ionosphere_tutorial.php

8. Future Events

For more details, see <http://www.spaceweather.eu/en/event/future>

Heliophysics Summer School 2015: Seasons in Space: Cycles of variability of Sun-Planet systems, in Boulder, CO, USA

Start : 2015-07-28 - End : 2015-08-04

Heliophysics is all of the science common to the field of the Sun-Earth connections. This fast-developing field of research covers many traditional sub-disciplines of space physics, astrophysics, and climate studies. The NASA Living with a Star program, with its focus on the basic science underlying all aspects of space weather, acts as a catalyst to bring the many research disciplines together to deepen our understanding of the system of systems formed by the Sun-Earth connection.

Website:

<http://www.heliophysics.ucar.edu/>

34th International Cosmic Ray Conference (ICRC) in The Hague, The Netherlands

Start : 2015-07-30 - End : 2015-08-06

The 34th International Cosmic Ray Conference (ICRC) will be held from July 30 to August 6, 2015, in The Hague, The Netherlands. It is an important and large conference in the field of Astroparticle Physics. The ICRC covers: cosmic-ray physics, solar and heliospheric physics, gamma-ray astronomy, neutrino astronomy, and dark matter physics.

Website: <http://icrc2015.nl>

SOLARNET III / HELAS VII: The Sun, the stars, and solar-stellar relations, in Freiburg (Germany)

Start : 2015-08-31 - End : 2015-09-04

The purpose of this conference is to discuss the latest questions and results in solar and stellar physics. Solar and stellar seismology will be one particular focus but contributions on all aspects of solar-stellar relations will be welcome. We aim to establish links and synergies between the day- and night-time fields of astrophysics.

Website:

<http://www.iac.es/congreso/solarnet-3meeting/>

1st Joint Solar Probe Plus-Solar Orbiter Workshop, in Florence (Italy)

Start : 2015-09-02 - End : 2015-09-04

The Workshop will address how the joint exploration of the corona and inner heliosphere will lead to advances in our understanding of coronal heating and solar wind acceleration, the magnetic and plasma structure of the heliosphere, and the acceleration of energetic particles at shocks and flares. The workshop will inspire research that will make use of SO and SPP observations within the context of the NASA Heliophysics Observatory System and identify key areas for preparatory research. Synergistic observations from other ground based and space based assets will also be addressed.

Website:

<http://www.solarprobeplus.org/2015/>

International Workshop and School on Solar System plasma in Mamaia, Romania

Start : 2015-09-06 - End : 2015-09-13

The International Workshop and School on solar system plasma turbulence, intermittency and multifractals (STORM 2015) focus on the quantitative experimental, theoretical and numerical investigation of turbulence, intermittency, fractal/multifractal features, waves and coherent structures interaction, criticality and non-linear cross-scale coupling. As widely documented by in-situ satellite measurements and remote or ground-based observations, turbulence, intermittency and dynamical complexity are quite ubiquitous processes observed in the dynamics of solar, planetary and interplanetary plasmas, as well as in the dynamical evolution of proxies linked to magnetospheric and ionospheric variability.

Unfolding the spatio-temporal structure of magnetic field and plasma fluctuations from experimental observations and numerical simulations provides further insight on the structure of plasma turbulence and intermittency. On the theoretical side, the understanding of such complex dynamical behavior cannot be simply surmised from the basic fluid/kinetic equations, but instead requires novel theoretical, experimental and data analysis approaches. The workshop is a forum to present and discuss latest results in these fields. The purpose of the school is to give to a young audience of Graduate, Ph.D. students, and postdoc scientists, which ideally represents the next generation of scholars in the physics of space plasmas, an overall view of both theoretical and data analysis tools apt to fully exploit unique and unprecedented observations that will be provided by future upcoming mission like Solar Orbiter and Solar Probe Plus.

Website:

<http://www.space-science.ro/conferences/storm2015/>

3rd UK-Ukraine-Spain meeting on solar physics and space science in Lviv, Ukraine

Start : 2015-09-07 - End : 2015-09-11

The meeting will cover various aspects of solar physics and space weather related processes. The special emphasis will be paid to progress in data-driven simulations and high-resolution spectropolarimetry as powerful diagnostic techniques to unravel information about magnetic fields in the photosphere and chromosphere of the Sun.

Website:

http://sbg.group.shef.ac.uk/Conferences/Ukraine_UK_2015/index.html

Summer School on Computational Solar and Astrophysical Modeling in Juelich, Germany

Start : 2015-09-14 - End : 2015-09-18

This summer school will acquaint a generation of young researchers (advanced master students, PhDs, and junior postdoctoral researchers) to modern open-source software efforts adapted to High Performance Computing platforms, with a deliberate focus on hands-on sessions. In these sessions, participants will work with three different open-source software packages, learn about their typical applications and evaluate their performance aspects on massively parallel systems.

Website:

http://www.fz-juelich.de/ias/jsc/EN/Expertise/Workshops/Conferences/CSAM-2015/_node.html

Hinode 9 - International Science Meeting in Belfast, UK

Start : 2015-09-14 - End : 2015-09-18

Hinode is a solar satellite funded jointly by JAXA, NASA, ESA and STFC/UKSA that has entered its ninth year of operations. It has had a major impact across many areas of solar physics and facilitated many fundamental discoveries. These findings are documented in over 850 papers in the refereed literature and hundreds of papers in conference proceedings. With 96 refereed publications in 2013 and more than 81 papers in 2014, Hinode has remained scientifically highly productive. A non-exhaustive list indicates over 100 students globally who are undertaking or have completed PhDs using Hinode data. With the Solar Orbiter on the horizon, there is a good chance that the two missions will operate at the same time. The meeting will help the solar physics community to maximise the science return from the Orbiter.

Website:

<https://star.pst.qub.ac.uk/wiki/doku.php/public/hinode9/start>

RADECS-2015 in Moscow, Russia

Start : 2015-09-14 - End : 2015-09-18

The aim of RADECS conferences is to provide an annual European forum for the presentation and discussion of the latest advances in the field of radiation effects on electronic and photonic materials, devices, circuits, sensors, and systems. The scope of the conference encompasses technological processes and design techniques for producing radiation tolerant systems for space, aeronautical or terrestrial applications, as well as relevant methodologies for their characterization and qualification. The conference features a technical program, an Industrial Exhibition, and one day tutorial or "short course" on radiation effects. The technical program includes oral and poster sessions and round tables.

Website:

<http://www.radecs2015.org/>

Multi-wavelength Studies of the Solar Atmosphere: Celebrating the Career of Costas Alissandrakis in Ioannina, Greece

Start : 2015-09-21 - End : 2015-09-24

On the occasion of the forthcoming retirement of Prof. Costas Alissandrakis, we organize an international solar physics conference as a tribute to his career. Speakers will address the present state of knowledge of topics that include: The quiet Sun; Coronal/chromospheric heating; Solar magnetic fields; Active regions; Flares; Coronal mass ejections; and Shocks.

Website: <http://solar15.uoi.gr/>

Heliospheric physical processes for understanding Solar-Terrestrial Relations in L'Aquila, Italie

Start : 2015-09-21 - End : 2015-09-26

A good understanding of solar-terrestrial processes is fundamental to modelling the influence of solar variability on the Earth's environment and climate. To capture all the physical aspects of the solar wind-magnetosphere-ionosphere-atmosphere interaction, and also the impact of solar variability on climate, the Sun-Earth system has to be studied as a whole. The main purpose of this school is to provide graduate, PhD students and also young post-doc researchers with a global view of the main physical processes by which solar variability affects the Earth's environment. In addition, an overview of different data analysis and methods for describing solar-terrestrial relations will be given. The school will provide a mix of lectures and activities requiring students participation.

Website:

<http://www.cifs-iss.org/>

Ground-based Solar Observations in the Space Instrumentation Era in Coimbra, Portugal

Start : 2015-10-05 - End : 2015-10-09

This CSPM-2015 scientific meeting will cover various aspects of solar dynamic and magnetic phenomena which are observed over the entire electromagnetic spectrum: white-light, H α , Ca II, and radio from ground and in a variety of other wavelengths (white light, UV and EUV, and X-rays) from space. Emphasis will also be placed on instrumentation, observing techniques, and solar image processing techniques, as well as theory and modelling through detailed radiative transfer in increasingly realistic MHD models. The long-term (cyclic) evolution of solar magnetism and its consequence for the solar atmosphere, eruptive phenomena, solar irradiation variations, and space weather, will be in focus. Here, special attention will be devoted to the long-term observations made in Coimbra and also to the results of the SPRING / SOLARNET and SCOSTEP VarSITI studies. In particular, the weak solar activity during the current solar maximum will be discussed. Finally, since this meeting is organised around the 90th anniversary of performing the first spectroheliographic observations in Coimbra, a session will be specially dedicated to new solar instruments (both ground-based and space-borne) that will give access to unexplored solar atmospheric features and dynamic phenomena over the coming years.

Website:

<http://www.mat.uc.pt/~cspm2015/>

AMS-02 Energetic Particle Workshop in Hawaii, USA

Start : 2015-10-18 - End : 2015-10-24

The workshop aims to bring together experts in the field of cosmic rays and solar energetic particles with an additional focus on their propagation inside the heliosphere and their interaction with the magnetosphere. The talks will present the most recent results related to solar energetic particles (SEPs), solar modulation, space radiation and related phenomena.

Website:

<http://www.phys.hawaii.edu/ams02/pages/workshop.php>

Third Remote Sensing of the Inner Heliosphere and Space Weather Applications Workshop in Morelai, Michoacan (Mexico)

Start : 2015-10-19 - End : 2015-10-23

The workshop aims to gather experts from the various fields of remote sensing observations of the inner heliosphere, including white light, EUV, and radio observation, together with modellers in order to tackle key outstanding science and space weather operational issues, establish closer working relations, and devise the best ways to move the field forward as a whole. In addition, the science learned from remote sensing observations is critical to improving our capabilities of space weather forecasting. The workshop aims to look at ways in which we can more easily and efficiently share and access the various types of data between individual groups and subcommunities and to officially launch the IPS Common Data Format v1.0 (IPSCDFv1.0) now in use. It also aims to allow investigations into ways in which we model the inner heliosphere looking at the advantages and disadvantages of the available modelling, updates on present and future remote sensing capabilities, and investigating further the ways in which these data sets all complement each other and are necessary to gain knowledge and understanding of the fundamental physical processes that occur within the inner heliosphere. These are critical processes that are key to both Heliophysics science as well as to space weather operations and forecasting.

Website:

<http://www.sciesmex.unam.mx/workshop2015/>

12th Potsdam Thinkshop in Potsdam, Germany

Start : 2015-10-26 - End : 2015-10-29

In the tradition of the series of »Potsdam Thinkshops«, we invite instrument specialists, observers, modellers, and theorists to exchange ideas, to stimulate discussion, to initiate future collaborations among participants, and to attract new users of instruments by showcasing the capabilities. The aim is to make progress towards a comprehensive description of solar eruptive events effectively aggregating their global properties as well as their highly dynamic fine structure.

Website:

<https://thinkshop.aip.de/12/cms/>

SEST/MiniMax Workshop in Mexico City, Mexico

Start : 2015-10-26 - End : 2015-10-30

The workshop is to improve the scientific understanding of the origin and propagation of solar transients, and develop the prediction capacity of these transients' arrival and potential impact on the Earth. The workshop engages coordinated international activities in observation, theory and modeling, and involves scientists in both developed and developing countries, and provides an online platform for educational opportunities for students.

Website:

<http://cintli.geofisica.unam.mx/congreso/>

2015 Sun-Climate Symposium in Savannah, Georgia, USA

Start : 2015-11-10 - End : 2015-11-13

Observations of the Sun and Earth from space have revolutionized our view and understanding about impacts of solar variability and anthropogenic forcing on Earth climate. For more than three solar cycles since 1978, the total and spectral solar irradiance (TSI and SSI) and global terrestrial atmosphere/surface have been observed continuously, enabling unprecedented quality data for Sun-climate studies. The primary objective of this symposium is to convene climate scientists, solar physicists, and experimentalists together for a better understanding how Earth climate system changes and responds to solar variability.

Website: <http://lasp.colorado.edu/home/sorce/news-events/meetings/2015-sun-climate-symposium/>

European Space Weather Week in Ostend, Belgium

Start : 2015-11-23 - End : 2015-11-27

The European Space Weather Week (ESWW) is the European forum for Space Weather users, forecasters, scientists and the involved industries, as proven by the high attendance to the ESWW 11 in November 2014.

The ESWW 12 will be held in Belgium in November, 23-27, 2015 and its organisation has already started and is benefiting from the experience and inputs from the past editions.

Website: <http://stce.be/esww12/>

AGU Chapman Conference on Currents in Geospace and Beyond in Dubrovnik, Croatia

Start : 2016-05-22 - End : 2016-05-27

Electric currents are fundamental to the structure and dynamics of space plasmas, including our own near-Earth space environment (also called "geospace"). This recognition is one of the great achievements in space research, going back to the beginning of the last century. With the current multi-spacecraft missions, such as Cluster, THEMIS and Swarm, we have unprecedented opportunities to unravel many of the intriguing puzzles about electric currents.

The conference will provide a forum in which various space science communities can come together to discuss recent achievements of observational, theoretical, and modelling studies. The emphasis will be on cross-disciplinary science sessions.

Website:

<http://chapman.agu.org/spacecurrents/general-informationabout-conference/>

41st COSPAR Scientific Assembly in Istanbul, Turkey

Start : 2016-07-30 - End : 2016-08-07

The 41st COSPAR Scientific Assembly will be held in Istanbul, Turkey from 30 July - 7 August 2016. This Assembly is open to all bona fide scientists.

Website:

<https://www.cospas-assembly.org/>

IAU Symposium 327: Fine Structure and Dynamics of the Solar Atmosphere in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia

Start : 2016-10-09 - End : 2016-10-13

The scientific goal of this symposium is to discuss recent results on the processes shaping the structure of the solar atmosphere and driving plasma eruptions and explosive events. Activity of the solar atmosphere entails numerous multi-scale processes. State-of-the-art solar instrumentation is revealing the dynamics of the Sun with unprecedented temporal and spatial resolutions. Together with advanced numerical simulations these investigations are making new steps in our understanding of the complex dynamical structure of the solar atmosphere.

Major unsolved problems of astrophysics such as how the solar corona is heated and how the solar wind and heliosphere are powered have their roots in the origin of small-scale magnetic fields constituting the Sun's 'magnetic carpet' in the photosphere and appearing as 'magnetic canopy' in the chromosphere.

Website:

<http://www.iau.org/science/meetings/future/symposia/1160/>

9. New documents in the European Space Weather Portal Repository

See <http://www.spaceweather.eu/en/repository>