STCE Newsletter

24 Jun 2013 - 30 Jun 2013

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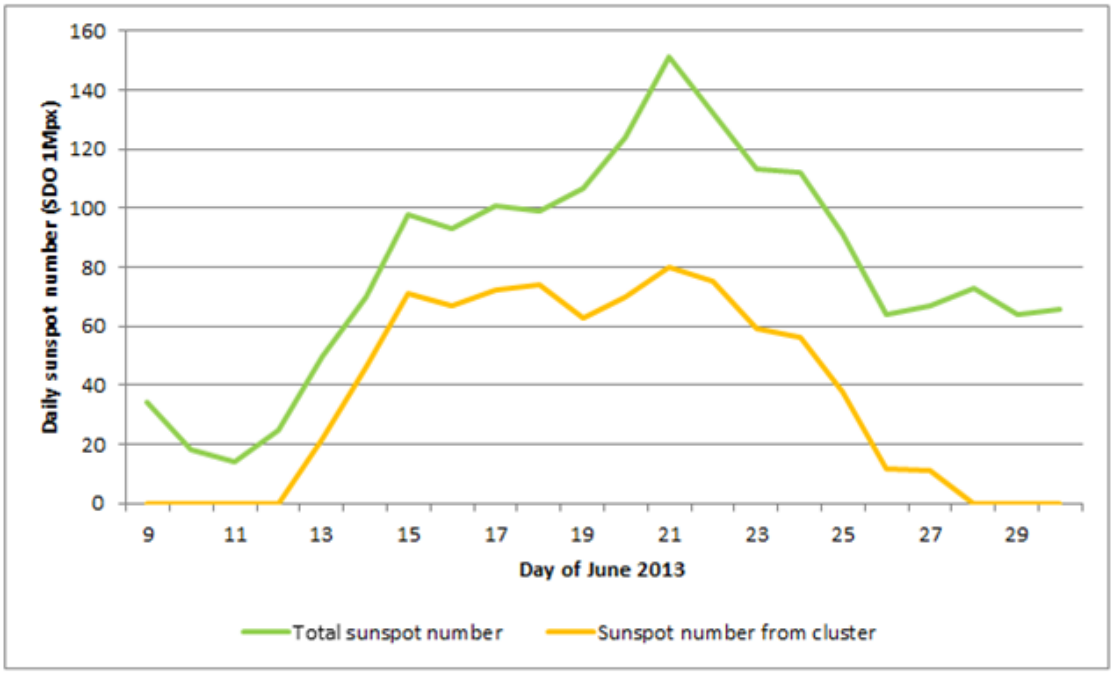
The Solar-Terrestrial Centre of Excellence (STCE) is a collaborative network of the Belgian Institute for Space Aeronomy, the Royal Observatory of Belgium and the Royal Meteorological Institute of Belgium.

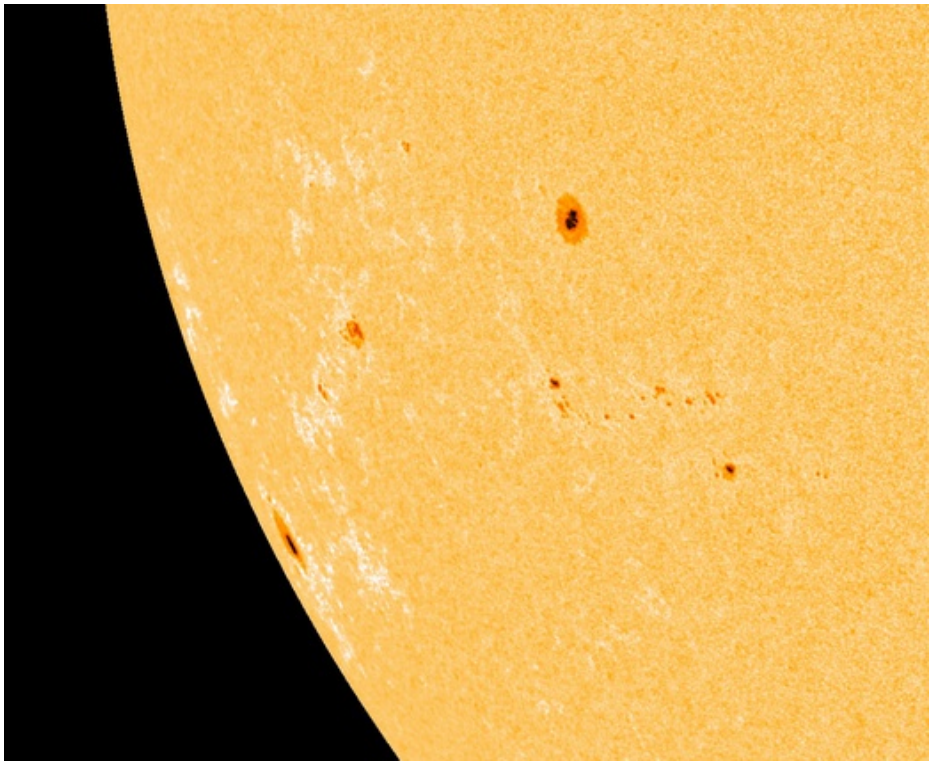
Final Editor : Petra Vanlommel
Contact : R. Van der Linden, General Coordinator STCE,
Ringlaan - 3 - Avenue Circulaire, 1180 Brussels,
Belgium

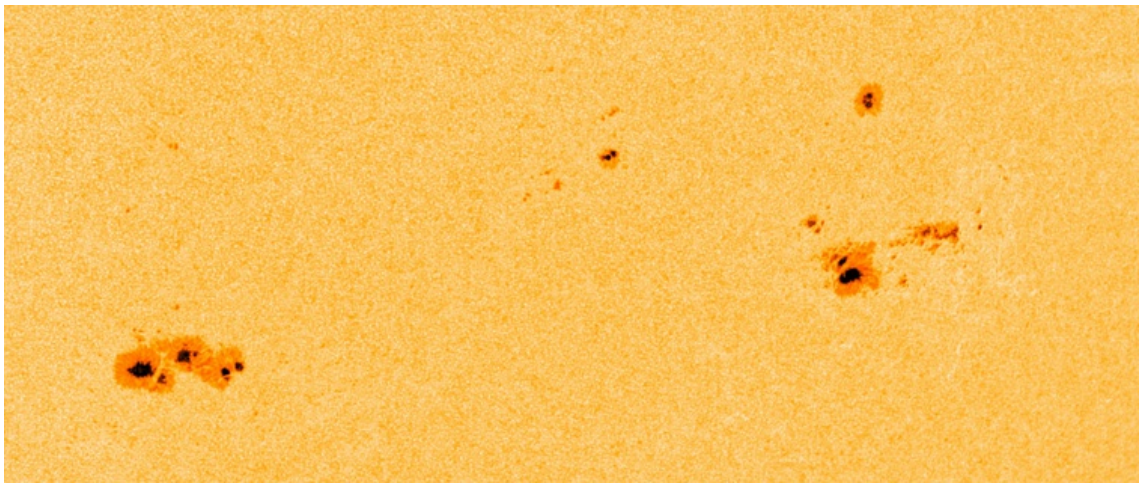
1. A quiet sunspot's nest (24 Jun 2013 - 30 Jun 2013)

Last week, the remainder of a large sunspot complex rounded the west limb. For more than 2 weeks, it had dominated the outlook of the Sun. Initially consisting of 6 groups, only the two largest groups survived the transit over the solar disk. The graph underneath shows the daily sunspot number from 9 till 30 June as determined from SDO/HMI continuum images (1024x1024; http://sdo.gsfc.nasa.gov/data/).

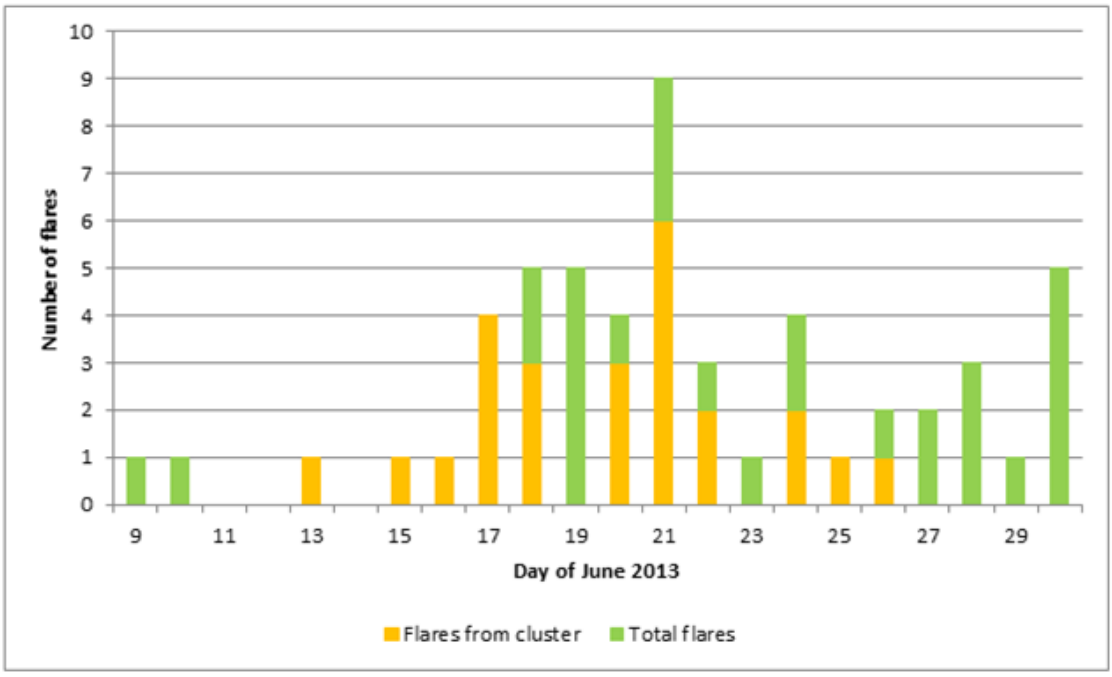


As can be seen, this sunspot cluster pushed the daily sunspot number to a higher level for more than a week. On some days, it contributed as much as 75% of the total sunspot number. The 6 groups were packed together in an area measuring roughly "only" 220 times the surface of the Earth. Images underneath show the cluster on 15 June (all 6 groups) and on 21 June (most flares in one day). Most prominent were active regions NOAA 1772 (stretched region on the right) and NOAA 1775 (compact region to the left).

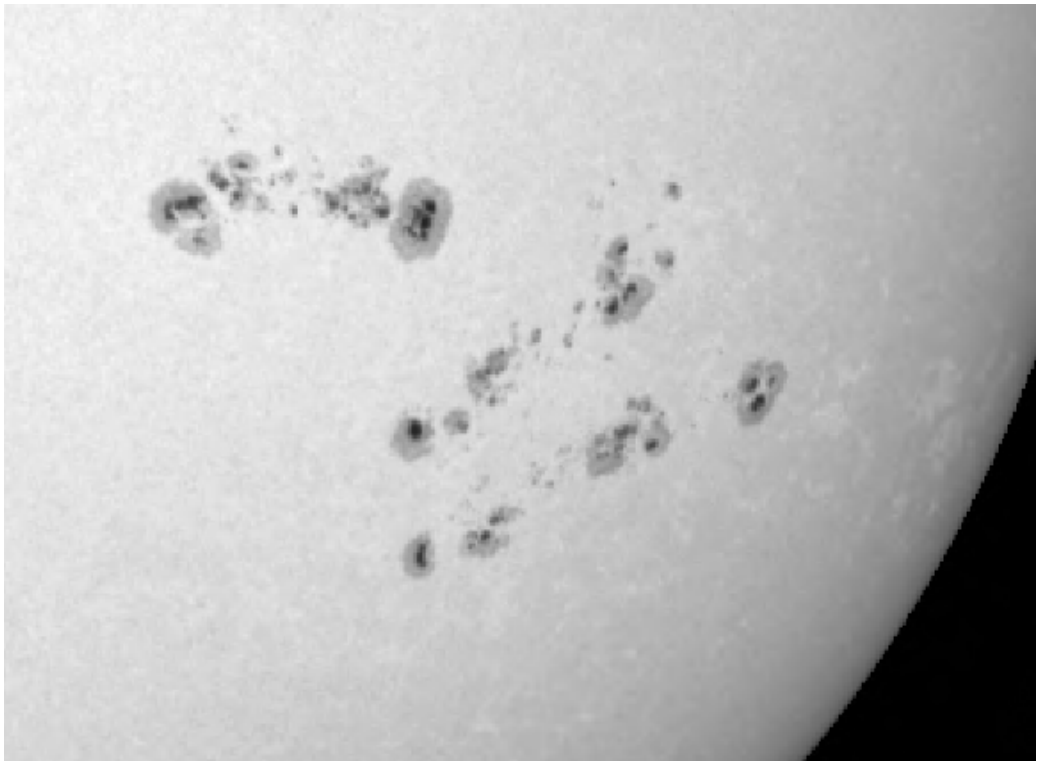




Despite the high sunspot numbers, flare activity from these mostly simple regions remained modest. During the visibility period of the sunspot cluster, about 80% of its 25 flares had their origin in either NOAA 1772 or NOAA 1775. These were all relatively weak C-class flares, no medium-class flares were registered. The peak in flare activity on 21 June corresponds to an upswing in sunspot area in NOAA 1772. It is noteworthy that none of the two M-class flares during this period were produced by one of the cluster groups, as can be seen e.g. in this news item at http://www.stce.be/news/204/welcome.html on the 21 June event. NOAA 1775 really did not live up to the expectations, despite some spots with opposite magnetic polarity being close together.



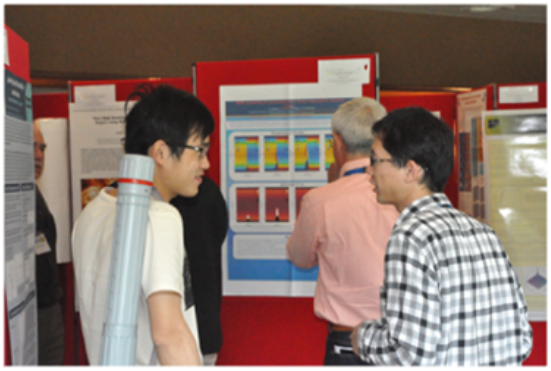
The appearance of this kind of sunspot group clusters is not so unusual. Quite often, these regions do produce substantial solar flares during their transit. A nice example is a trio of large sunspot groups that was visible from 21 July till 4 August 2002 in an area that was comparable in size to the most recent outbreak (SOHO-image underneath; http://sohowww.nascom.nasa.gov/). At the time, the 3 groups produced a total of 78 flares, including 10 M-flares and 2 strong X-class flares. A really good reason to keep an eye on those sunspot's nests!



2. Looking back on CLW6 (24 Jun 2013 - 30 Jun 2013)

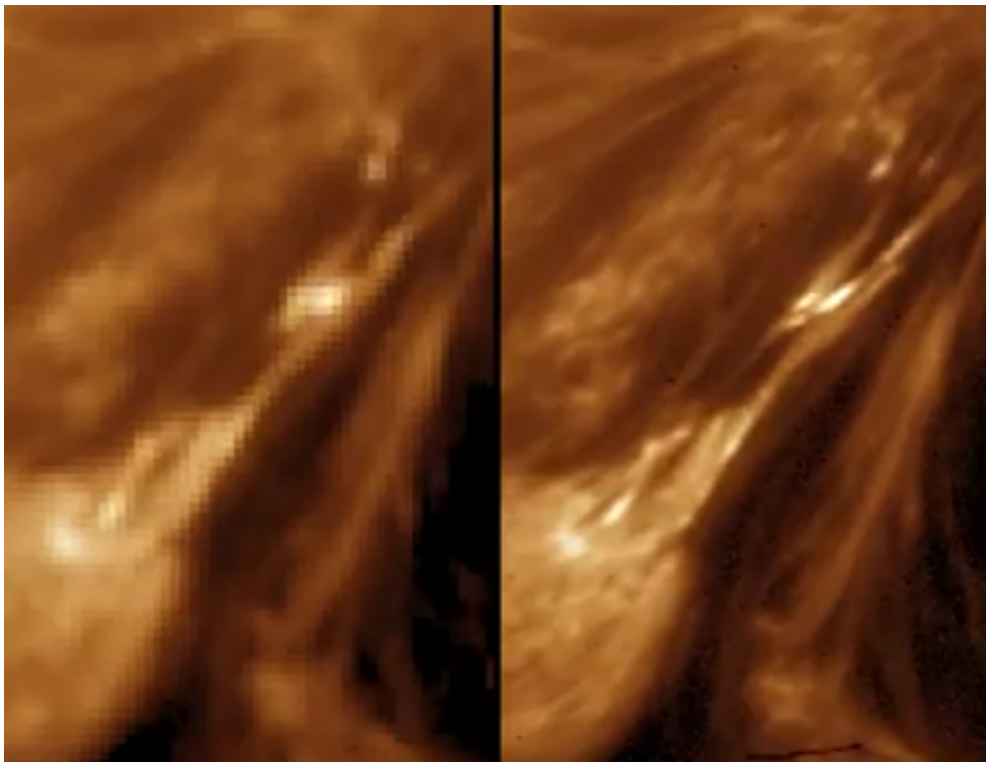
The sixth Coronal Loop Workshop (CLW6 - http://www.stce.be/coronalloops/) took place in La Roche-en-Ardenne (Belgium) from 25 till 27 June. Organized by the Solar-Terrestrial Centre of Excellence (STCE), it gathered more than 60 scientists from all over the world discussing the latest in coronal loops research. Understanding the fine-structure and evolution of these loops is of fundamental importance in our knowledge on solar eruptions and on the million degree hot corona, thus providing key elements on space weather itself.

The 36 oral presentations and 33 posters focused on the 4 main topics of the workshop. These concerned the temporal and spatial resolution of the images and data, the energy release in the corona, insights in the way the different layers of the solar atmosphere are coupled, and the tools that are required to observe the various features and their key characteristics. Despite the different points of views, the discussions were courteous, constructive and inspiring. No wonder that in some cases the Q-and-A session lasted longer than the presentation itself!

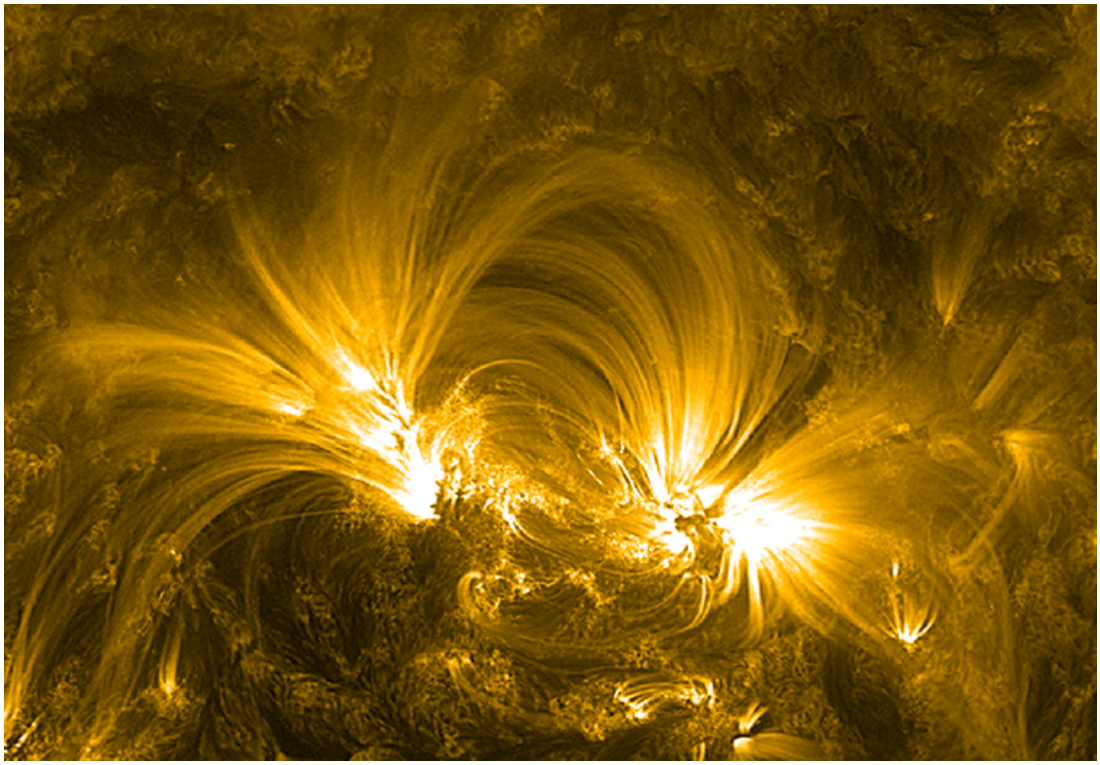


Another interesting aspect was that data and imagery of many solar observing satellites were used. So, aside the obvious SDO, SOHO and STEREO, satellites such as Hinode, Coronas-F and RHESSI were regularly mentioned too. Quite a few talks featured also the latest results from the High-Resolution Coronal Imager (Hi-C; http://www.nasa.gov/topics/solarsystem/features/hic-briefing-materials.html). This EUV-telescope was launched on 11 July 2012 aboard a NASA sounding rocket and gathered only for about 5 minutes worth of imagery. However, its resolution was 5 times better than the current SDO-

images (see comparison underneath), and the results obtained so far excite the entire coronal loop research community.



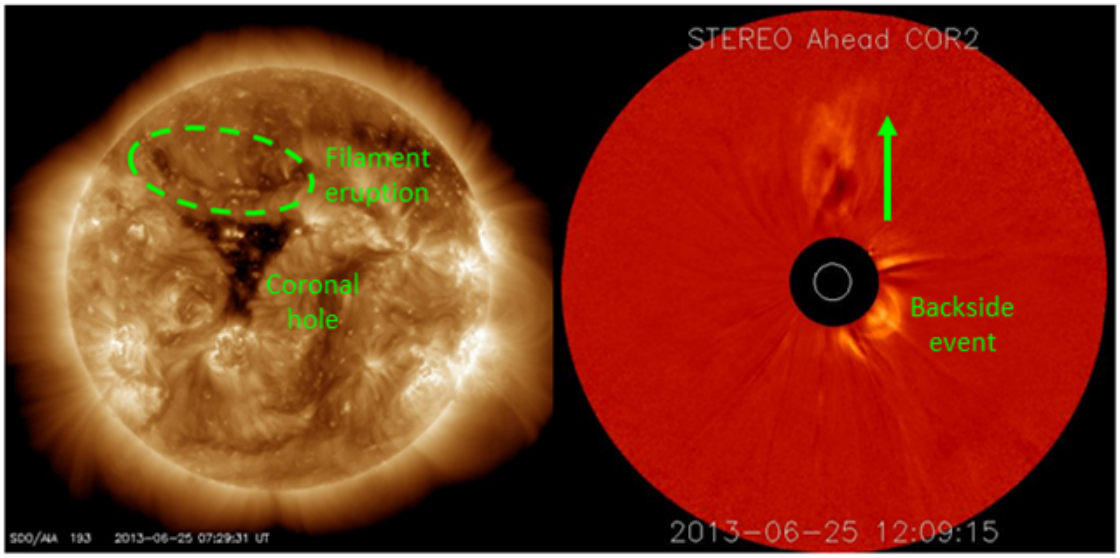
The participants also cheered the successful launch of IRIS (Interface Region Imaging Spectrograph). This satellite will study the interface region of the solar atmosphere and will hopefully shed more light on how the Sun manages in just a few kilometers to increase the temperature of her atmosphere by a factor of 100. The mission should last 2 years, and will probably give the researchers a lot to talk about during CLW7. This workshop is scheduled for 2015, and the venue is expected to be somewhere warmer and drier than the scenic but rainy La Roche-en-Ardenne.

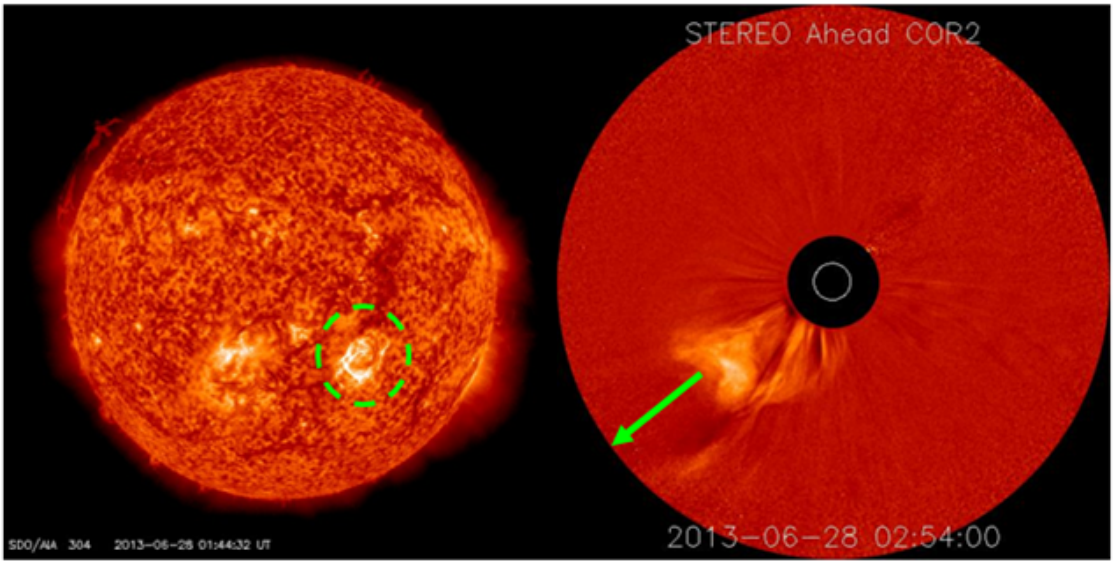


3. Review of solar activity (24 Jun 2013 - 30 Jun 2013)

Solar activity was at eruptive levels (at least one C flare a day) for the entire week. 18 C-class solar flares were registered, from active regions NOAA 11778, 11781, 11775, 11774, 11776, 11777 and 11780.The proton event from the M2-flare (21 June) ended on 24 June.

During the period, various filament eruptions occurred. Most of these were not squarely directed to the Earth or were backside events. Notable eruptions were the 25 June event on the northern hemisphere (just north of an equatorial coronal hole), and the 27/28 June eruptions in NOAA 11777 (southern hemisphere).





4. PROBA2 Observations (24 Jun 2013 - 30 Jun 2013)

Solar Activity

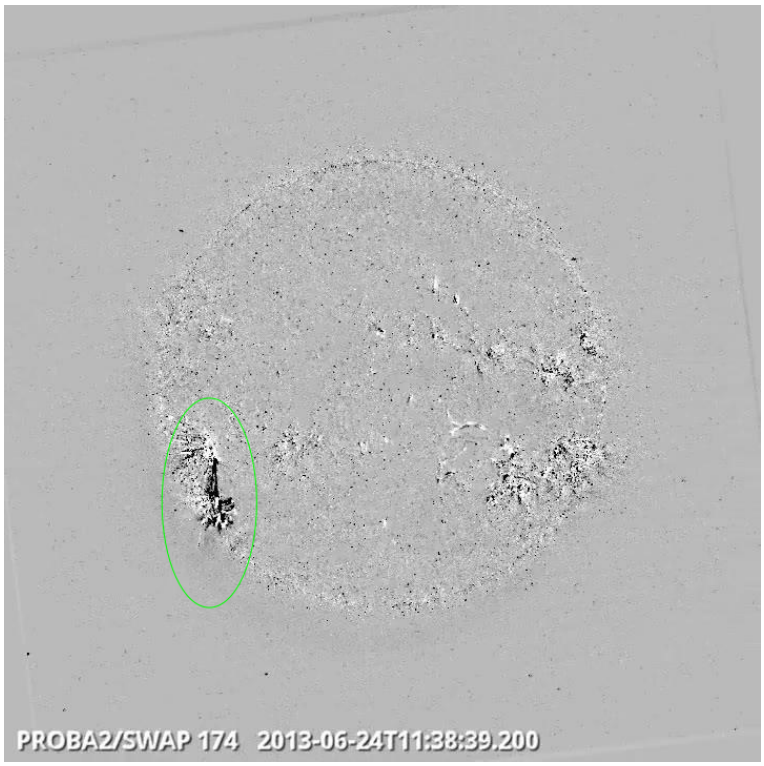
Solar (flaring) activity was very low to low this week. A new set of sunspot groups emerged around the East limb, but not much activity has been seen.

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.

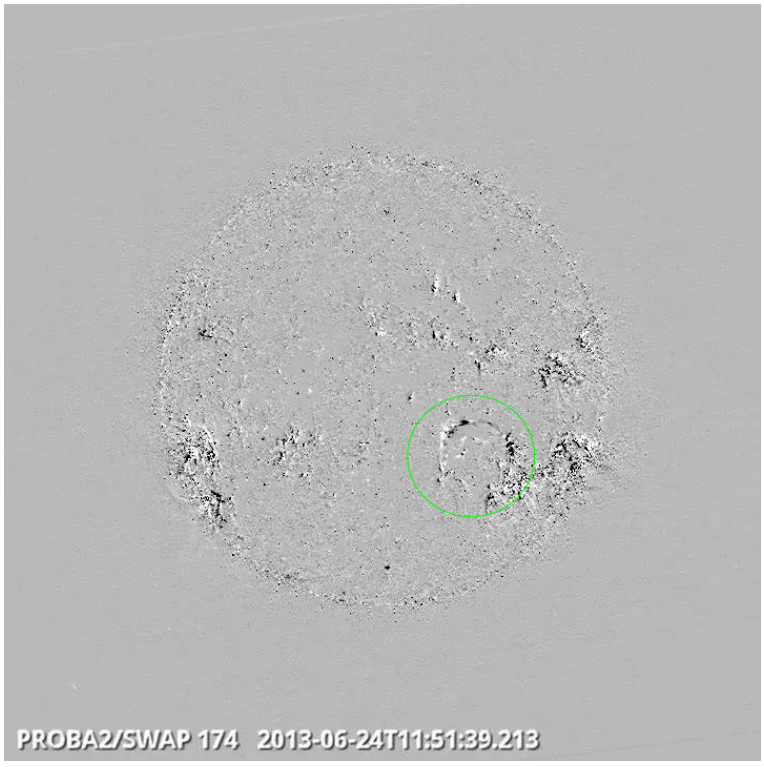
This page also lists the recorded flaring events.

Further details about some of this week's events, can be found below.

Monday June 24th



Eruption South East Quadrant at 11:38 - SWAP difference image



Prominence Eruption South West Quadrant at 11:51 - SWAP difference image

Tuesday June 25th

On Tuesday, a huge filament erupted during the morning in the Northern hemisphere. By doing so, it expanded an already big and north-centered coronal hole. Find a SWAP movie of this event here (SWAP difference movie).

Another small eruption took place near the south west limb (image underneath).

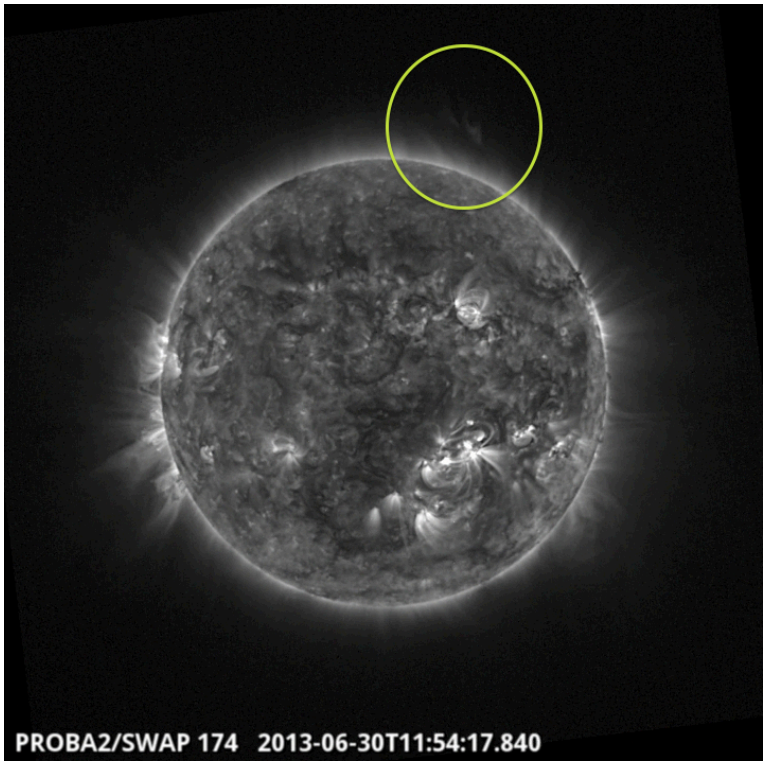
Eruption South West Limb at 17:30 - SWAP difference image

Friday June 28th

This eruption caused a minor geomagnetic storm on June 30 when it reached Earth.

Prominence Eruption South West Quadrant at 1:43 - SWAP difference image

Sunday June 30th



Slow cavity eruption on the North West Limb at 04:30 - 23:00 - SWAP image

5. Review of geomagnetic activity (24 Jun 2013 - 30 Jun 2013)

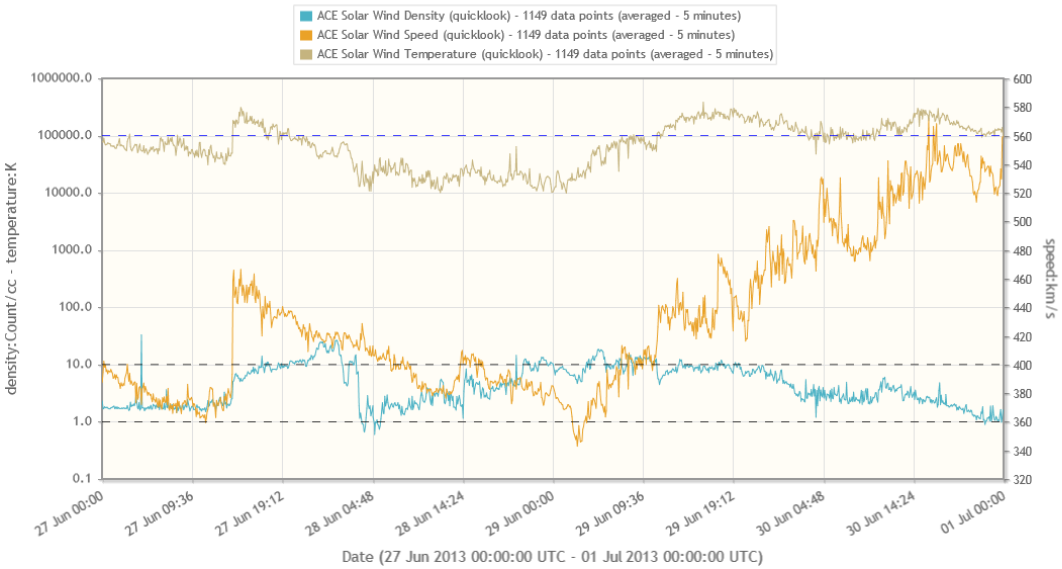
The geomagnetic field was at unsettled to active levels from 23 till 25 June due to the high speed stream of a coronal hole, and at quiet levels on 26 and 27 June.

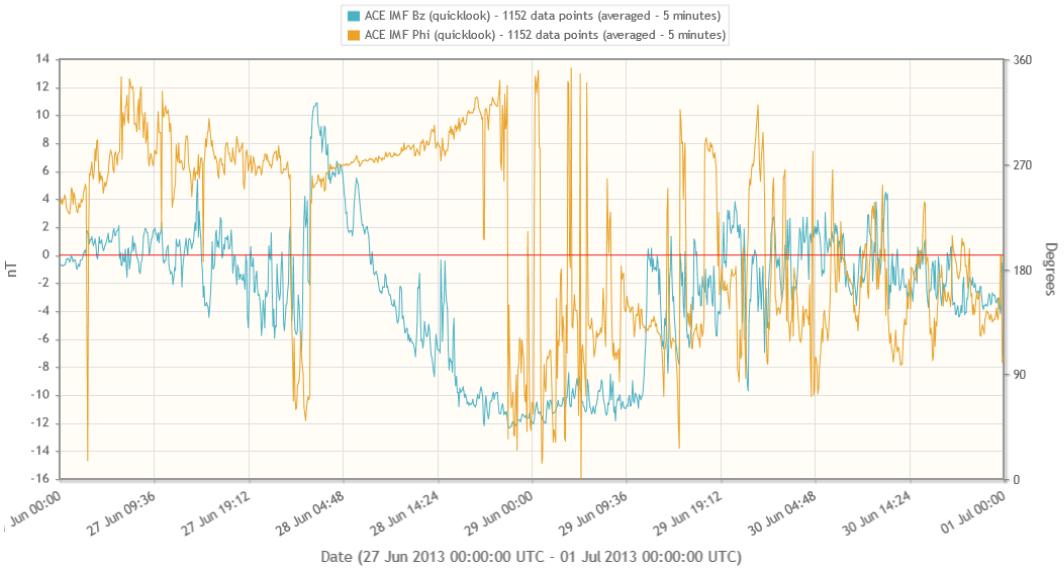
Around noon on 27 June, a jump in solar wind speed (from about 370 km/s to 460 km/s) and other parameters was observed. This was probably due to a (modest) hit from one of the many coronal mass ejections (CMEs) from the previous days. This resulted in active geomagnetic levels early on 28 June. In the course of 28 June, the magnetic field of the solar wind turned southward and maintained a nearly constant value around -11 nT until noon the next day. The solar wind speed then gradually started to increase from 360 km/s up to values of 550 km/s late 30 June, with a weakening magnetic field and "hotter" particles. This corresponded to the arrival of high speed stream of the coronal hole that had passed the Sun's central meridian on 25-26 June.

The sustained negative values of the solar wind for nearly 20 hours on 28 and 29 June resulted in minor to strong geomagnetic storm levels (Dourbes: minor storm).

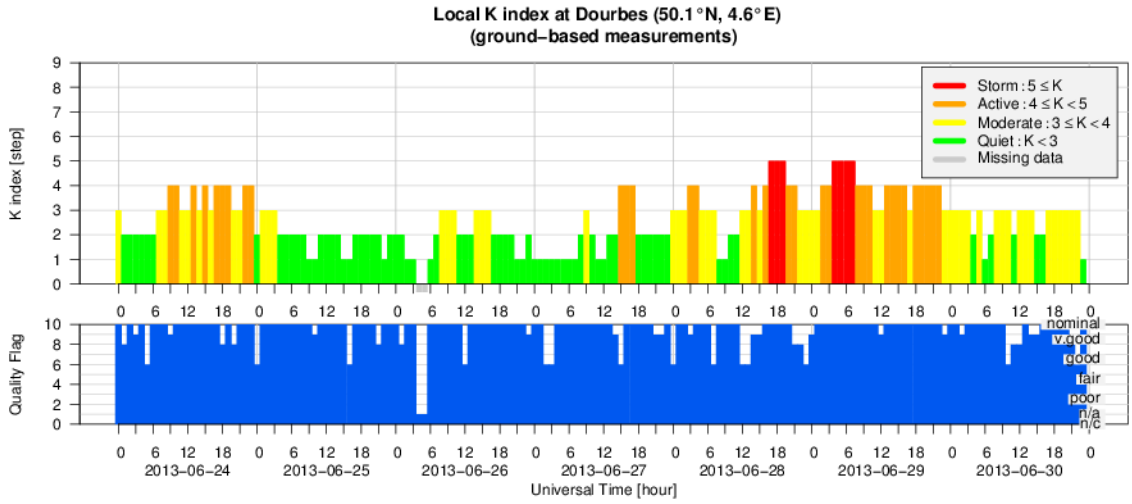
Though there certainly seems to have been some pushing from the coronal hole's fast solar wind stream on the slower moving trailing part of the CME, the geomagnetic storm seems mainly to be due to the long-lasting southward field inside the magnetic cloud.

The afternoon of 30 June saw a return to unsettled and active levels.

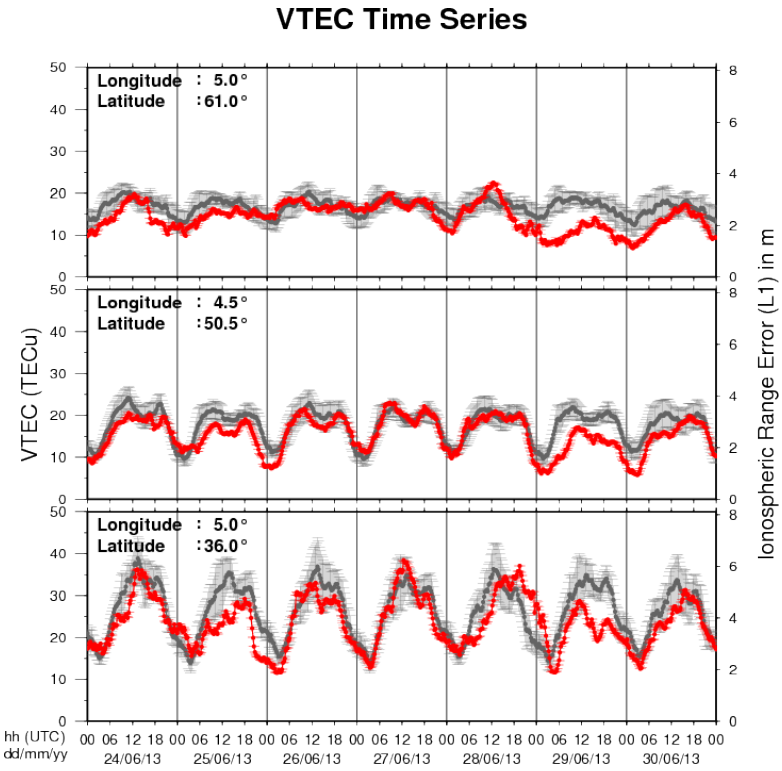




6. Geomagnetic Observations at Dourbes (24 Jun 2013 - 30 Jun 2013)



7. Review of ionospheric activity (24 Jun 2013 - 30 Jun 2013)



The figure shows the time evolution of the Vertical Total Electron Content (VTEC) (in red) during the last week at three locations:
a) in the northern part of Europe(N61°, 5°E)
b) above Brussels(N50.5°, 4.5°E)
c) 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 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. New documents in the European Space Weather Portal Repository

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

eHEROES - Zonnewaarnemingen

This lecture was given at MIRA Public Observatory on 5 June. It is an introduction to solar observations both in white light as in H-alpha. It gives a general overview on telescopes and filters to be used,

observation methods, know-how of a solar observation, solar features to be monitored, data exploitation, internet links,... (15 attendees; in Dutch).
http://www.spaceweather.eu/en/repository/show?id=473

9. Future Events

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

Solar Activity and its Manifestations in the Whole Heliosphere in Logomo, Turku, Finland

Start : 2013-07-08 - End : 2013-07-09
The goal of the symposium is to present and discuss new results on solar activity and its manifestations in the entire heliosphere, including geospace and other planetary environments. The new space-borne solar observatories (SDO, Hinode, STEREO) have recently made important new discoveries on the dynamics of the magnetized solar atmosphere and solar wind, and on solar eruptive events that are the main driver of variable conditions in geospace and other planetary environments.
We now also better understand the changes of long-term solar activity, from the low levels of 100 years ago to the all-time maximum in the late 1950s, and to the very weak activity of the recent minimum. Although solar and geomagnetic activity during the ongoing cycle 24 has remained abnormally low, the increasing activity after the long solar quiescence has recovered the attention to space weather.
We solicit presentations covering the entire domain from the solar surface (and below) to the heliopause, covering all time scales of variations from a fraction of a second to millenia. The practical aspects of solar-driven variability in space environments (space weather) and the long-term changes in the solar activity and its effects in the heliosphere (space climate) will be covered as well.
Website:
http://theory.physics.helsinki.fi/~ravainio/ewass-13/

2013 Heliophysics Summer School in Boulder, Colorado (USA)

Start : 2013-07-12 - End : 2013-07-19
Applications are invited for the 2013 Heliophysics Summer School, which will be held in beautiful Boulder, Colorado. We are seeking students and undergraduate level teachers and instructors to join us this coming summer for a unique professional experience. Students and teachers will learn about the exciting science of heliophysics as a broad, coherent discipline that reaches in space from the Earth's troposphere to the depths of the Sun, and in time from the formation of the solar system to the distant future. At the same time, a goal of the Summer School is for the group of instructors to develop materials from Heliophysics that can be applied in their classes.
The Heliophysics Summer School focuses on the physics of space weather events that start at the Sun and influence atmospheres, ionospheres and magnetospheres throughout the solar system. The solar system offers a wide variety of conditions under which the interaction of bodies with a plasma environment can be studied: there are planets with and without large-scale magnetic fields and associated magnetospheres; planetary atmospheres display a variety of thicknesses and compositions; satellites of the giant planets reveal how interactions occur with subsonic and sub-Alfvenic flows whereas the solar wind interacts with supersonic and super-Alfvenic impacts.
Encompassed under a general title of comparative magnetospheres are processes occurring on a range of scales from the solar wind interacting with comets to the interstellar medium interacting with the heliosphere. The school will address not only the physics of all these various environments but will also go into the technologies by which these various environments are being observed. The program is complemented with considerations of the societal impacts of space weather that affects satellites near Earth and elsewhere in the solar system.
The school will be based on lectures, laboratories, and recitations from world experts, and will draw material from the three textbooks Heliophysics I-III, published by Cambridge University Press.

Several teachers along with about 35 students will be selected through a competitive process organized by the UCAR Visiting Scientist Programs. The school lasts for eight days, and each participant receives full travel support for airline tickets, lodging and per diem costs.
Website:
http://www.vsp.ucar.edu/Heliophysics/

Space weather summer school in Alpbach, Austria

Start : 2013-07-16 - End : 2013-07-25
The Summer School Alpbach enjoys 36 years of tradition in providing in-depth teaching on different topics of space science & technology, featuring lectures and concentrated working sessions on mission studies in self-organised working groups. 60 young highly qualified European science and engineering students converge annually for stimulating 10 days of work in the Austrian Alps. 4 teams compete to design a space mission judged by a jury of experts. Students learn how to approach the design of a satellite mission and explore new and startling ideas supported by experts. The Summer School 2013 will focus on Space Weather .
The purpose of the Summer School is to foster the practical application of knowledge derived from lectures, to develop organisational and team-work skills and to encourage creativity. Teams will compete to design the best project, judged by an independent jury. The teams themselves are responsible for the selection of the subject of the project and for the team structure and working methods.
Website:
http://www.summerschoolalpbach.at/

2013 CISM Summer School, in Boulder, Colorado, USA

Start : 2013-07-22 - End : 2013-08-02
The CISM Summer School is intended to give students a comprehensive immersion in the subject of space weather: what it is, what it does, and what can be done about it. Space weather is many things: beautiful when seen through the eyes of a sun-viewing telescope, fascinating when studied for its alien worlds of magnetic structures and phenomena, awesome when witnessed as a solar eruption or auroral storm, and devastating to the users of services it disrupts. Space weather links the Sun, the Earth, and the space in between in a branching chain of consequences. Weather systems on the Sun can spawn interplanetary storms of colossal size and energy that envelop the whole planet in electrical hurricanes. Such storms attack high-tech, complex, and expensive technological systems that provide much of the infrastructure that allows modern society to function.
Website:
https://www2.hao.ucar.edu/docs/2013-cism-summer-school

1st SOLARNET - 3rd EAST/ATST meeting in Oslo, Norway

Start : 2013-08-05 - End : 2013-08-08
The goal of this workshop is to foster collaborations between ground and space solar projects. This workshop is expected
* to provide a forum to discuss the use of current and future observational solar facilities, and how to optimise their scientific returns;
* to identify the potentially paradigm-shifting observations that will become possible with the next generation ground- and space-based solar telescopes and their advanced instrumentation;
* to foster collaborations between researchers working at the development of ground- and space-based projects and creation of synergies between research programs at different wavelength bands.
Website:
http://folk.uio.no/matsc/oslo-13/info.html

1st SOLARNET Workshop, 3rd EAST/ATST meeting: 'Synergies between ground- and space-based solar research', in Oslo, Norway

Start : 2013-08-05 - End : 2013-08-08

The goal of this workshop is to foster collaborations between ground and space solar projects. This workshop is expected 1) to provide a forum to discuss the use of current and future observational solar facilities, and how to optimise their scientific returns; 2) to identify the potentially paradigm-shifting observations that will become possible with the next generation ground- and space-based solar telescopes and their advanced instrumentation; 3) to foster collaborations between researchers working at the development of ground- and space-based projects and creation of synergies between research programs at different wavelength bands.
A workshop webpage and more information will follow shortly - the purpose of this pre-announcement is to enable early bookings in your calendar.

XIIth IAGA Scientific Assembly in Merida, Yucatan, Mexico

Start : 2013-08-16 - End : 2013-08-31
The Local Organising Committee and the Mexico National Committee of IUGG have the great pleasure to welcome you to the 11th Scientific Assembly of the International Association of Geomagnetism and Aeronomy (IAGA) which is held in MÃ©rida YucatÃ¡n, Mexico from 26 to 31 August 2013 with the motto: "Living on a Magnetic Planet". Our Magnetic Planet Capricious (Changeable or Unpredictable) Field.
In order to increase the visibility and attractiveness of IAGA to young researchers, to motivate them to play active role within IAGA and to create (and enhance) their awareness of IAGA and sense of belonging to IAGA, the first IAGA Summer School will be organized just prior the Assembly. The summer school will provide overview of the activities carried out within all the IAGA divisions, with subjects from paleomagnetism and magnetic anisotropy through observatories and geomagnetic field modeling to ionospheric and aeronomic research. At least 20 young scientists from all around the world will be invited based on the nominations from Working Groups and Divisions. Special call and more information will be published before the end of 2012.
Website: http://iaga2013.org.mx/

Solar Physics and Space Weather Instrumentation V in San Diego, CA (USA)

Start : 2013-08-25 - End : 2013-08-29
This conference will focus on instrumentation, observatories, space missions, and programs for observations from the Sun to Earth's upper atmosphere and space environment. The aim is to bring together diverse communities working on all elements of solar physics and space weather instrumentation.
Studying solar phenomena and monitoring space weather requires observations using both space- and ground-based instrumentations covering the different regions of the Sun-Earth system, the Sun, interplanetary medium, magnetosphere, ionosphere, and thermosphere. Papers are solicited concerning all instrumentation-supporting solar physics and space weather. This includes, but is not limited to, concepts, designs, fabrication processes, calibration, data trending, information technologies, solar data mining, instrument modeling, and satellite lifetime prediction modeling. We are also interested in all past, current, and future solar space missions and satellite and ground constellations of space weather instrumentation with a strong focus on Space Situational Awareness.
This conference is intended to provide the solar physics community and that of Earth's space environment with a forum for discussing the latest updates on instrumentation, observation techniques, and programs in their respective fields, and for proposing innovative ideas for future Sun-Earth coordinated observations.
Website: http://spie.org/op423

2013 Meeting of the Italian Community in Solar and Heliospheric Physics in Catania, Italy

Start : 2013-09-04 - End : 2013-09-06
The purpose of the meeting is to provide a forum for the italian scientists in the field (some of which are abroad) to consolidate on-going collaborations and establish new ones, for example in future projects such as Solar Orbiter and EST, where several of us are involved.
The meeting is obviously open to scientists from all the countries!

Website:
http://www.oact.inaf.it/weboac/SoHe2013/

14th European Solar Physics Meeting in Dublin, Ireland.

Start : 2013-09-08 - End : 2013-09-12
The European Solar Physics Meetings aim to highlight all aspects of modern solar physics, including observation and theory that span from the interior of the Sun out into the wider heliosphere. These meetings provide a broad, yet stimulating, environment for European and international scientists to share their research in solar physics.
The meeting will mostly comprise of contributed talks and poster presentations, with several invited review talks (typically one per session). Posters will be on display for the whole meeting in close proximity to the lecture theatre. Refreshments will be served in the poster viewing area during two dedicated coffee/poster breaks on each full day.
Website: http://www.espm14.ie/

7th International Workshop on Solar Polarization in Kunming, China

Start : 2013-09-09 - End : 2013-09-14
We gain information about the universe through analysis of the spectra from celestial objects. However, while the intensity spectrum represents a scalar quantity but electromagnetic radiation occurs in the form of transverse waves, the polarized spectrum provides us with a 4-vector, the Stokes vector. The increased amount of information space opens new windows to the universe, in particular for the exploration of magnetic fields. It is well recognized that the magnetic field is a primary agent responsible for structuring and the source of all variability on intermediate time scales, which manifests itself in all forms of solar and stellar activity.
It is therefore not surprising that every year there are many scientific meetings organized with the objective of studying the role of magnetic fields in cosmic objects. What is largely missing in these meetings is however an in-depth investigation of the fundamental aspects of how magnetic fields can be determined by the means of spectro-polarimetry, our main gateway to cosmic magnetism. The primary aim of our series of Workshops is to address these fundamental aspects, with less emphasis on the morphological and physical properties of cosmic magnetic fields.
Website: http://spw7.ynao.ac.cn/

2nd UK-Ukraine meeting on Solar Physics and Space Science (UKU SPSS) in Kiev, Ukraine

Start : 2013-09-16 - End : 2013-09-20
The meeting will cover a broad range of aspects of solar physics, space science and solar-terrestrial relations. We aim to include every side of solar and space research, including observations, theory, and numerical modelling. The main idea behind the meeting is to treat the entire solar-terrestrial domain as one system, rather than each region independently.
The topics to be covered are:
* advanced solar observations
* waves and flows in the Solar atmosphere
* structure and dynamics of solar magnetic fields
* connecting analytical theory and modern numerical simulations to observations
* new physics in numerical modelling
* linking solar interior with heliosphere
* particle acceleration in the Sun and heliosphere
* non-linear phenomena in space plasmas
* physics of magnetosphere and ionosphere
Website:
http://swat.group.shef.ac.uk/Conferences/Ukraine_UK_2013/index.html

Space science training week: data driven modeling and forecasting in Leuven, Belgium

Start : 2013-09-16 - End : 2013-09-19
This summer school targets to introduce a generation of young researchers (advanced master students, PhDs, and junior postdoctoral researchers) to the diverse aspects of space weather related research.
It will introduce theoretical approaches to space weather and its drivers, present modern solar data analysis tools, and cover state-of-the-art solar and space science simulations. Participants will learn about forecasting aspects and their quality control for space weather events, but also experience hands-on training in scientific proposal writing and receive do-and-don't tips for scientific presentations.
The scientific program is enriched by a public evening lecture on the solar influence on our climate, and the lecturers are invariably expert scientists with international standing.
The school is open to a maximum of 40 participants, and can benefit from its embedding within two international research network activities: an Interuniversity Attraction Pole P7/08 CHARM connecting heliospheric to astrophysical communities with 7 partner institutes, and a European FP7 Project eHeroes with 15 different partner institutes. Participation from outside both network activities is strongly encouraged. Within Belgium, the school links up expertise from universities (KU Leuven, ULB, Gent University) to federal research institutes (the Solar-Terrestrial Centre of Excellence, the Royal Observatory of Belgium and the Belgian Institute for Space Aeronomy).
Website:
http://wis.kuleuven.be/CHARM/events/school/SSTW2013/

STEREO/WAVES & WIND/WAVES workshop on Solar Radio Emissions on Santorini, Greece

Start : 2013-10-07 - End : 2013-10-11
The aim of the workshop is to review the "state of the art" theories about generation and propagation of Solar radio burst and discuss the observational constrains and results that have been provided in this area by the WIND & STEREO missions during the last 20 years. Furthermore the STEREO & WIND observations will be put in the context of other missions such as RHESSI and ground based observatories. Finally, the preparation for the future explorations foreseen with Solar Orbiter and Solar Probe Plus will be discussed.
Website:
http://type3stereo.sciencesconf.org/

2nd Asian-Pacific Solar Physics Meeting, in Hangzhou, China

Start : 2013-10-24 - End : 2013-10-26
Initiated by Profs. Fang and Choudhury, the first Asian-Pacific Solar Physics Meeting (APSPM) was held in Bangalore two years ago. During the meeting, a consensus was achieved that it might be a good idea to have the APSPM every three years. Somehow the second APSPM was proposed to be held by mainland China in 2013. APSPM is aimed to exchange the recent research results in solar physics in the emerging asian-pacific region.
Asian-pacific regions are getting more and more active in solar physics, as signified by the construction of big facilities, including the Hinode satellite (Japan), SOXS (India), Chinese Solar Radio Heliogragh, and Optical & Near-Infrared Solar Eruption Tracer (ONSET). Therefore, colleagues have agreed to hold regional solar physics meetings regularly. The first Asian-Pacific Solar Physics Meeting (APSPM) was held in Bangalore during March 22-24 2011. During the meeting, a consensus was achieved that it might be a good idea to have the APSPM every three years. Somehow the second APSPM was proposed to be held by mainland China in 2013. APSPM is aimed to exchange the recent research results in solar physics in the emerging asian-pacific region.
Website:
http://sdac.nju.edu.cn/~solar/

Helicity Thinkshop on Solar Physics in Beijing, China

Start : 2013-10-27 - End : 2013-10-31
Magnetic helicity has been intensively studied from observational, theoretical, and many other aspects of solar physics. For this meeting we would like to invite solar physicists who are interested in the observational and theoretical studies of the helicity, to encourage thorough discussions on the relevant hot issues. The 1st Helicity Thinkshop was held successfully in 2009, and now the 2nd one will be held on October 27-31, 2013 in Beijing, China.
Website:
http://sun.bao.ac.cn/meetings/HT2013/

25th Winter School of Astrophysics: Cosmic Magnetic Fields, in La Laguna, Tenerife, Spain.

Start : 2013-11-11 - End : 2013-11-22
Magnetic fields play an important role in many astrophysical processes. But magnetic are difficult to detect and to model or understand, since the fundamental equations describing the behavior of magnetized plasmas are highly non-linear. Hence, magnetic fields are often an inconvenient subject which is overlooked or simply neglected. Such difficulty burdens the research on magnetic fields, which has evolved to become a very technical subject, with many small disconnected communities studying specific aspects and details.
The school tries to amend the situation by providing a unifying view of the subject. The students would have a chance to understand the behavior of magnetic fields in all astrophysical contexts, from cosmology to the Sun. From star-bursting regions to AGNs in galaxies. The school will present a balanced yet complete review of our knowledge. Extensions into the unknown are also important to indicate present and future lines of research.
The Winter School will bring together in a relaxed working atmosphere a number of the leading scientists in this field, PhD students and recent postdocs. The conditions for a successful interaction will be granted, including two special sessions for those students that want to present their own work.
Website:
http://www.iac.es/winterschool/2013/

7th Hinode science meeting in Takayama, Japan

Start : 2013-11-12 - End : 2013-11-15
Since its launch in Sep-2006, more than 600 refereed papers have been published based on Hinode observations, presenting many new and important findings to the scientific community. However, due to the unexpectedly low levels of solar activity, until now the focus has mainly been on the more quiescent aspects of the solar cycle. With the solar maximum expected this year, through cooperative observations with SDO, IRIS, and ground based observatories, Hinode observations should lead to our understanding of active Sun phenomena, such as solar flares and CMEs, to be greatly improved. Making Hinode-7 an excellent opportunity to discuss solar activity in the current solar cycle and the related science through the use Hinode data, as well as other solar/space weather data. It will also be interesting to use this meeting to broaden our focus to include the solar-stellar connection as a means to deepen our understanding of solar activity.
Momentum is also gaining for Solar-C, which is being developed as an international collaboration between Japan, US and Europe. To further discuss this mission, the Solar-C science meeting will be held on 11-Nov.
Website:
http://www.kwasan.kyoto-u.ac.jp/hinode-7/

International CAWSES-II Symposium in Nagoya, Japan

Start : 2013-11-18 - End : 2013-11-22
This International CAWSES-II Symposium hosted by SCOSTEP (Scientific Committee on Solar-Terrestrial Physics) will provide an excellent opportunity to discuss the scientific accomplishments of

CAWSES-II and look forward to SCOSTEP's future programs at a moment toward the end of its five-year period. The symposium will cover the six major themes of CAWSES-II tasks: 1) What are the solar influences on the Earth's climate?, 2) How will geospace respond to an altered climate?, 3) How does short-term solar variability affect the geospace environment?, 4) What is the geospace response to variable inputs from the lower atmosphere?, 5) Capacity Building, 6) Informatics and eScience. The main functions of CAWSES-II are to help coordinate international activities in observations, modeling, and applications crucial to achieving this understanding, to involve scientists in both developed and developing countries, and to provide educational opportunities for students of all levels. The symposium offers keynotes/lectures that will be interesting for all participants every morning and more specific sessions of presentations in the afternoon. We welcome all those who are involved and/or interested in CAWSES-II to Nagoya in the autumn when we will have the pleasure of being surrounded by beautiful colorful leaves of this season.
Website:
http://www.cawses.org/CAWSES/leaflet_CAWSES-II_120229.pdf

European Space Weather Week in Belgium

Start : 2013-11-18 - End : 2013-11-22
The 10th Edition of the European Space Weather Week will take place on 18-22nd November 2013 in Belgium. The venue will be confirmed early next year, but mark your calendars now for the 10th Anniversary of this growing European event.
The ESWW will again adopt the central aim of bringing together the diverse groups in Europe working on different aspects of Space Weather . This includes but isn't limited to the scientific community, the engineering community, applications developers, service providers and service end users. The meeting organisation will again be coordinated by the Belgian Solar-Terrestrial Centre of Excellence (STCE), ESA and the Space Weather Working Team. The local organisation will be done by the STCE.
Website:
http://www.stce.be/esww10/

40th COSPAR Scientific Assembly in Moscow, Russia

Start : 2014-08-02 - End : 2014-08-10
The 40th COSPAR Scientific Assembly will be held in Moscow, Russia from 2 - 10 August 2014. This Assembly is open to all bona fide scientists.
Website:
http://www.cospar-assembly.org/