

## Center

*Data Analysis Service supported by the FAGS*

**SUNSPOT BULLETIN**

2011

n° 3

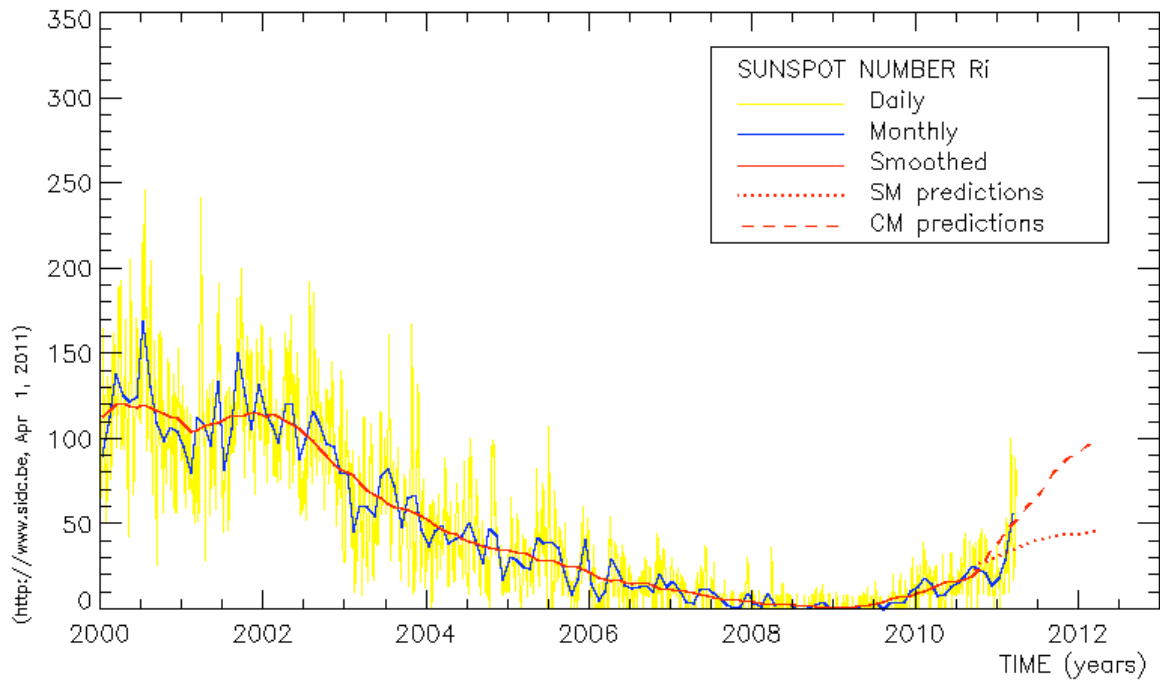
---

**Provisional international and normalized hemispheric daily sunspot numbers for March 2011**


---

computed at the *Royal Observatory of Belgium* using observations from an international network with the *Locarno Specola Solare* as reference station.

Date	R' <sub>1</sub>	R' <sub>N</sub>	R' <sub>s</sub>
1	47	34	13
2	37	25	12
3	52	43	9
4	70	59	11
5	76	58	18
6	92	68	24
7	98	76	22
8	100	79	21
9	80	69	11
10	67	60	7
11	59	59	0
12	59	59	0
13	66	66	0
14	43	43	0
15	34	34	0
16	27	15	12
17	27	14	13
18	20	0	20
19	29	29	0
20	21	21	0
21	17	17	0
22	32	22	10
23	30	17	13
24	39	18	21
25	69	29	40
26	72	24	48
27	84	36	48
28	88	36	52
29	74	36	38
30	68	31	37
31	66	31	35
<b>Monthly mean</b>	<b>56.2</b>	<b>39.0</b>	<b>17.2</b>
<b>Cooperating stations</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>60</b>



**Predictions of the monthly smoothed Sunspot Number**  
 using the last provisional value, calculated for September 2010: 19.6 ( $\pm 5\%$ )

		SM	CM		SM	CM		SM	CM		
2010	Oct	21	23	2011	Apr	32	55	2011	Oct	42	85
	Nov	24	29		May	33	60		Nov	43	88
	Dec	25	35		Jun	35	64		Dec	43	91
2011	Jan	27	40		Jul	37	68	2012	Jan	44	93
	Feb	29	46		Aug	39	74		Feb	44	96
	Mar	30	50		Sep	40	80		Mar	45	99

**SM : SIDC classical method** : based on an interpolation of Waldmeier's standard curves. The estimated error ranges from 7% (first month) to 35% (last month)

**CM : Combined method** : the combined method is a regression technique coupling a dynamo-based estimator with Waldmeier's method of standard curves, due to K. Denkmayr.

Ref. : **K. Denkmayr, P. Cugnon**, 1997 : "About Sunspot Number Medium-Term Predictions", in "Solar-Terrestrial Prediction Workshop V", eds G.Heckman et al., Hiraiso Solar Terrestrial Research Center, Japan, 103

Brussels, April 1, 2011 10:15 UT  
 Reproduction permitted if source mentioned.

Ed. Frédéric Clette, Ass. Ed. Petra Vanlommel, with contributions from various members of the SIDC team.  
 3, avenue Circulaire, B-1180 Bruxelles, Belgium  
 Fax: ..32/(0)2/374.98.22 Tel: ..32/(0)2/373.02.33 E-mail: arille@oma.be frederic.clette@oma.be

FTP anonymous : omaftp.oma.be, directory: dist/astro/sidcdata  
 Web: http://sidc.oma.be, "Sunspots" section in sidebar.

## S.I.D.C. SUMMARY OF THE URSIGRAMS

Date	R' <sub>i</sub>	PPSI	600	2800	COS	SFI	XI	Ak	SEA
28	31	32	-	96	////	3	1/0	3	
1	47	57	-	111	////	2	0/0	30	
2	37	66	-	113	////	1	0/0	25	
3	52	70	-	121	////	15	0/0	20	
4	70	102	-	127	////	1	0/0	15	
5	76	196	-	135	////	4	0/0	8	
6	92	118	-	143	////	13	0/0	8	
7	98	143	-	153	////	32	7/0	12	
8	100	164	-	155	////	25	5/0	6	
9	80	154	-	143	////	5	2/1	4	
10	67	162	-	131	////	5	1/0	19	
11	59	144	-	123	////	8	0/0	30	
12	59	121	-	121	////	4	1/0	22	
13	66	90	-	113	////	1	0/0	14	
14	43	45	-	107	////	18	1/0	2	
15	34	20	-	102	////	14	1/0	2	
16	27	10	-	95	////	3	0/0	2	
17	27	12	-	90	////	0	0/0	6	
18	20	9	-	88	////	0	0/0	3	
19	29	15	-	89	////	0	0/0	4	
20	21	16	-	92	////	0	0/0	8	
21	17	23	-	101	////	0	0/0	8	
22	32	23	-	100	////	2	0/0	9	
23	30	33	-	105	////	1	1/0	15	
24	39	40	-	108	////	23	1/0	4	
25	69	62	-	113	////	2	1/0	4	
26	72	85	-	115	////	1	0/0	1	
27	84	101	-	///	////	1	0/0	2	
28	88	72	-	119	////	2	0/0	3	
29	74	75	-	116	////	0	0/0	4	
30	68	86	-	118	////	0	0/0	4	
31	66	53	-	113	////	3	0/0	3	

- R'<sub>i</sub>** : provisional international sunspot numbers from the S.I.D.C.
- PPSI** : prompt photometric sunspot index from the S.I.D.C. in  $10^{-5} \text{ w/m}^2$  : the quantity to be subtracted from the mean solar constant to account for the sunspot contribution.
- 600** : 600 Mhz solar flux from the station at Humain (Belgium).
- 2800** : 2800 Mhz solar flux from Ottawa (origin : Ursigrams - UGEOI). The 10.7cm Flux data are a service of the National Research Council of Canada.
- COS** : thousands of the cosmic ray counts (origin : Ursigrams - UCOSE Terre Adélie).
- SFI** : From October 1992, Solar Flare Index from the S.I.D.C. (origin : Ursigrams – UGEOR, evaluation :  $1 \times \text{Sn} + 10 \times "1" + 100 \times ">1"$ ).
- XI** : X-flares index from the Ursigrams (M-flares/X-flares) (origin : Ursigrams – UGEOR, UGEOI).
- Ak** : geomagnetic index from Wingst, Germany (origin : Ursigrams).
- SEA** : sudden enhancements of atmospherics from Uccle & Humain (Royal Observatory, Belgium).

**Note that due to problems of interferences saturating our receivers, no SEA could be detected this month.**

SOLAR PHYSICS DEPARTMENT

UCCLE DAILY PROVISIONAL RELATIVE SUNSPOT NUMBERS FOR MARCH 2011

DATE	UT	NUMBER		RELATIVE SUNSPOT NUMBERS			PPSI 10-5 WM-2	QUAL	OBS	
		OF GROUPS	OF SPOTS	TOTAL	NORTH	SOUTH				CENTRAL
1	1010	2	29	49	35	14	14	36.3	3	OB
2	1010	2	18	38	24	14	14	23.2	3	OB
3	930	2	21	41	41	0	0	19.3	3	OB
4	830	5	46	96	80	16	0	63.4	3	OB
6	940	3	60	90	65	25	0	90.4	3	OB
7	900	5	49	99	79	20	42	84.7	3	AE
8	900	6	54	114	88	26	41	88.5	3	AE
9	1615	4	46	86	74	12	38	87.6	2	AE
11	930	2	47	67	67	0	25	88.9	2	AE
12	1215	3	36	66	66	0	26	46.5	2	AE
14	950	2	10	30	30	0	0	18.7	1	SV
15	845	3	13	43	43	0	11	8.8	2	SV
16	1040	2	13	33	17	16	0	7.7	4	SV
19	930	2	16	36	23	13	36	5.9	2	OL
20	750	2	13	33	33	0	0	4.9	3	OL
21	800	1	13	23	23	0	0	13.8	4	OL
22	800	3	13	43	30	13	0	13.2	3	OL
23	835	2	8	28	12	16	0	8.0	3	OL
24	820	3	16	46	26	20	14	13.0	4	OL
25	755	5	38	88	39	49	0	53.0	3	SV
26	800	5	31	81	22	59	33	74.2	3	SV
27	800	7	42	112	45	67	48	84.7	3	SV
28	830	7	29	99	42	57	49	52.7	2	OB
29	800	5	38	88	37	51	51	72.9	2	OB
30	740	5	41	91	34	57	28	81.1	2	OL

The relative mean sunspot number is 64.8.

NORMALISED UCCLE OBSERVATIONAL SUNSPOT NUMBERS U'=K'U FOR MARCH 2011

K'= 0.811 (\*)

1	40	7	80	13	***	19	29	25	71
2	31	8	92	14	24	20	27	26	66
3	33	9	70	15	35	21	19	27	91
4	78	10	***	16	27	22	35	28	80
5	***	11	54	17	***	23	23	29	71
6	73	12	54	18	***	24	37	30	74
								31	***

The normalized relative monthly mean sunspot number is 53.

(\*) K' is the mean of the monthly K' for the last five years.

The Sun has been observed 25 days on 31 possible.

UCCLE OBSERVATIONAL MAJOR SUNSPOT GROUPS FOR MARCH 2011  
E AND F BRUNNER'S TYPE GROUPS

Uccle Nø	East Limb Date	Date and type			West Limb Date
		1st obs	CMP	Last obs	
4-2107	2 24.8	1 D	3 3.5	9 D	3 10.3
5-2107	3 2.1	3 C	3 8.8	14 C	3 15.6
6-2108	3 21.4	22 D	3 28.1	30 G	4 3.9
14-2108	3 25.9	27 B	4 1.7	30 E	4 8.4

PROBABLE RETURN OF MAJOR GROUPS FOR APRIL 2011

Nø	New East Limb	New CMP	New West Limb
4	3 24.6	3 31.4	4 7.1
5	3 29.7	4 5.5	4 12.2

Notice: new "Sunspot" Director

In March 2011, Dr. Ronald Van der Linden handed over the Direction of the World Data Service "Sunspot" to Dr. Frédéric Clette, who has been involved in the WDS for many years.

***Therefore, the contact address has been updated. From now on, please send your requests or special messages to F.Clette (see full address and credits on page 2 of this Bulletin).***

There is no change for the observing reports, which must be imported as usual through the WOLF web input form.

Note also that this change of WDS Director does not modify anything to the continuing support of the Royal Observatory of Belgium to the WDS "Sunspot", which is hosted by the ROB since 1981.

F. Clette wishes to acknowledge the constant efforts of Dr. Van der Linden to keep the WDS fully alive and to ensure the quality of the output data during the last 9 years, while endorsing the parallel heavy charge of Director of the ROB.

## MONTHLY SUMMARY OF SOLAR AND GEOMAGNETIC ACTIVITY

### **I. Solar Activity**

*Solar activity was elevated: the background X-ray radiation stayed several days in the C-level, 2 proton events reached the Earth, several active regions released all together 21 M-flares, one X-flare and a series of CME's.*

On Mar 03, a plasma cloud was ejected into the direction of the Earth. According to CACTus applied on STEREO B/COR2 images, the cloud had a speed of 312 km/s. There was no clear on disk signature linked with this CME. The structure could not be clearly traced in the solar wind data at the expected time arrival.

Mar 07 - 09, the background X-ray radiation was in the C-level. Three active regions, NOAA AR 1164/Cat 18, AR 1165/Cat19, AR 1166/Cat 22 were the source of the flaring activity which was accordingly very high during this period. All three regions had a complex magnetic structure at the level of the photosphere. AR 1166/Cat 22 produced an X1.5 flare on Mar 09. On Mar 07, there were 3 CME's linked with the flaring activity that were candidates for a glancing blow at Earth.

A long duration M-flare of Mar 07 triggered by NOAA AR 1164, at that moment located near the west-limb, was associated with an EIT-wave and a CME, one of the three mentioned in the previous paragraph. This energy release in the form of radiation and kinetic energy, initiated a proton event. Only after the arrival the series of CME's on Mar 10, the  $\geq 10$  MeV flux dropped below the threshold.

From Mar 10, NOAA AR 1169/Cat 26 came slowly into the running with first a few C-flares and finally an M-flare on Mar 15. From Mar 07 until Mar 15, we counted 18 M-flares and an X1.5 flare.

From Mar 23 until Mar 25, NOAA AR 1176/Cat 35 was responsible for the next M-flare period with one M-flare a day. These spiky flares did not take long to radiate and were confined in time. On Mar 23, the beta-gamma region was located at S14E56.

The proton flux was elevated on Mar 21 and 22. The curve passed slightly and for a very short time the proton event threshold. The initial increase was probably linked with a back sided CME of Mar 21, 02:54UT. The Earth is magnetically connected with the source site behind the Sun. The Parker spiral has bended magnetic field lines that guide the electrically charged protons. The Earth is near such field lines along which these protons travel. This is a rare but not an unprecedented event.

On Mar 25, a slow magnetic structure left the Sun. The coronagraph STEREO A-B/COR2 could catch it in its field of view. CACTus, a software to detect CME's in coronagraphic images, estimated the speed to be 223 km/s.

A large extension towards the equator of a recurrent northern polar coronal hole (CH), reached the central meridian (CM) on Feb 28. From Mar 11, the southern polar CH was clearly present. It did not reach the equator. On Mar 19, a fragmented CH reached the CM: one part was located in the northern hemisphere, two smaller CHs were located near the equator.

### **II. Geomagnetic Activity**

*A strong recurrent CH and a series of CME arrivals were the cause of two major magnetic storms.*

The solar wind profile that reached Earth from Mar 01, resembled to a CH structure. Since the maximum solar wind reached the value of 700 km/s, we can assume the wind to come from the solar pole linking it to the recurrent northern polar CH mentioned in the previous section. The north-south component of the magnetic field was more than 1 day negative. The lowest value reached was -12 nT. The planetary geomagnetic conditions reached a major storm level ( $K_p=6$ ) on Mar 01. By Mar 04, unsettled to quiet conditions by measured.

On Mar 10, a small shock was seen in the total magnetic field carried by the solar wind, the north-

south component of it and the solar wind speed measured by ACE. The high part of the shock had a speed less than 400 km/s, conform with the speed of the Mar 03 CME calculated by CACTus. The following two days, the magnetic field strength carried by the solar wind was near 10 nT. The solar wind profile of those days can possibly be linked with the series of CME's of Mar 07. These arrivals resulted in major geomagnetic storm conditions (Kp=6) from Mar 10 until the morning on Mar 12.

The solar wind reaching the Earth from Mar 11 until Mar 15, can be associated with the southern polar CH mentioned in the previous section. This solar wind could not produce any geomagnetic disturbance.

The unsettled conditions on Mar 22 can be associated to the fragmented CH mentioned in the previous section. The solar wind reached its maximum speed of 550 km/s on Mar 23.

Late on March 29, a weak shock and solar wind disturbance, possibly associated with the plasma structure being ejected on Mar 25, reached the Earth. The Bz rotated over the course of 1.5 day from 12 nT to -5nT. The Kp became one period 4 on Mar 30.

### III. Noticeable solar events

DAY	BEGIN	MAX	END	LOC	XRAY	OP	TENCM	TYPE	Cat	NOAA
07	0500	0513	0519		M1.2				19	1164
07	0749	0754	0756	S20W78	M1.5	SF		III/1		1165
07	0759	0807	0815	N25W47	M1.4	1F	100		19	1164
07	0914	0920	0928	N23W50	M1.8	SF	190		19	1164
07	1345	1430	1456	N10E18	M1.9	SF		III/2, II/2, IV/1	22	1166
07	1943	2012	2058		M3.7		23000	II/3	19	1164
07	2145	2150	2155		M1.5			III/1	18	1165
08	0224	0229	0232	S18W79	M1.3	1N			18	1165
08	0337	0358	0420		M1.5		130	II/2, III/1, IV/1		1171
08	1035	1044	1055	S17W86	M5.3	1F			18	1165
08	1808	1828	1841		M4.4			VI/2	18	1165
08	1946	2016	2119		M1.4			VI/2	18	1165
09	1035	1107	1121	N08W03	M1.7	SF		III/2	22	1166
09	1317	1402	1413	N09W06	M1.7	SF		VI/1	22	1166
09	2313	2323	2329	N08W09	X1.5	2B		V/1, III/1	22	1166
10	2234	2241	2249		M1.1					
12	0433	0443	0448	N05W36	M1.3	2N		II/1	22	1166
14	1930	1952	1954	N18W48	M4.2	1N			26	1169
15	0018	0022	0024		M1.0				26	1169
23	0203	0217	0224	S18E70	M1.4			III/2	35	1176
24	1201	1207	1211	S16E43	M1.0	1F		V/2	35	1176
25	2308	2322	2330	S12E26	M1.0		170	II/1, IV/1	35	1176

**LOC:** approximate heliographic location

**XRAY:** X-ray flare class

**OP:** optical flare class

**10CM:** peak 10 cm radio flux

**RADIO TYPE:** radio burst type

**Cat:** Catania sunspot group number

**NOAA:** NOAA active region number

**NOTES:** p = proton event

**CME = coronal mass ejection**

### IV. Noticeable radio bursts in Humain

DAY	BEGIN	END	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	BRIGHTNESS	START FREQ	STOP FREQ
02	11:15:51	11:22:40	III	GG	3	79	45X
03	14:19:20	14:20:03	III	G	3	80	45X
05	14:56:28	14:56:38	III	B	3	205	45X
05	15:25:28	15:25:45	III	B	3	208	45X
06	12:15:43	12:17:27	III	G	3	80	45X
06	12:43:21	12:45:27	III	G	3	80	46

06	13:36:34	13:37:15	III	G	3	159	45X
07	14:15:53	15:33:00	IV	FS	3	375	45X
07	15:22:56	15:25:43	III	G	3	80	45X
07	15:29:29	15:32:39	III	G	3	80	45X
09	16:34:52	16:35:06	III	G	3	80	45X
09	17:00:33	17:04:11	III	G, N	3	175	46
10	06:21:45	06:21:56	III	B	3	158	46
10	06:52:50	06:54:07	III	G	3	80	45X
10	07:54:12	07:55:25	III	G	3	205	46
10	09:42:37	09:42:53	III	G	3	172	45X
10	12:10:46	12:14:54	III	G, N	3	173	45X
10	13:25:55	13:26:22	III	G	3	173	45X
12	15:26:14	15:31:38	II	F, SH	2	251	46
13	11:10:43	11:12:51	III	G	3	159	45X
18	06:59:32	07:02:19	III	GG	3	80	45X
18	08:15:47	08:19:28	III	G	3	80	45X
18	12:00:07	12:02:25	III	G	3	171	45X
18	14:34:15	14:35:47	III	G	3	79	45X
19	11:20:50	11:21:18	III	G	3	80	45X
21	15:50:51	15:52:23	III	G	3	79	45X
22	07:57:53	07:59:29	III	G	3	80	45X
22	08:31:28	08:31:47	III	G	3	79	45X
22	09:06:25	09:07:00	III	G	3	166	45X
22	09:54:56	09:58:24	III	G	3	79	45X
22	10:15:06	10:20:23	III	G	3	311	45X
22	12:06:52	12:07:01	III	B	3	205	45X
22	14:07:11	14:10:51	III	GG	3	161	45X
23	17:07:54	17:09:33	III	G	3	300	45X
24	07:18:51	07:20:07	III	G	3	80	45X
24	07:46:36	07:53:24	III	G, N	3	79	45X
24	11:11:08	11:11:43	III	G	3	158	45X
24	12:03:23	12:06:53	III	GG	3	388X	45X
24	12:43:36	12:44:01	III	G	3	80	45X
24	13:33:41	13:34:47	III	G	3	80	45X
24	15:34:00	15:38:18	III	G	3	388X	45X
24	16:18:06	16:18:33	III	B	3	79	45X
24	16:57:11	16:59:12	III	G	3	205	45X
24	17:01:46	17:06:45	III	GG	3	254	45X
24	17:14:17	17:16:16	III	G	3	79	45X
25	07:00:02	07:00:51	III	G	3	203	45X
25	07:48:17	07:56:57	III	G, N	3	203	45X
25	11:14:23	11:14:38	III	B	3	289	45X
26	08:57:07	08:57:21	III	G	3	80	45X
26	14:43:45	14:44:47	III	G	3	336	45X
27	07:59:25	07:59:47	III	B	3	79	45X
27	13:13:04	13:13:27	III	G	3	80	45X
27	17:01:14	17:02:34	III	G	3	79	45X
28	06:17:26	06:27:34	III	GG	3	78	45X
28	13:13:33	13:15:34	III	G	3	205	45X
28	14:16:54	14:20:00	III	G	3	79	45X
29	07:09:42	07:11:16	III	G	3	79	45X
29	11:03:07	11:05:26	III	G	3	309	45X
31	14:33:45	14:34:31	III	G	3	79	45X
31	15:09:41	15:10:28	III	G	3	79	45X

**Explanations:** times are in UT. G and GG mean respectively group of less and more than 10 type III bursts; N means sporadic occurrence; B means single burst; FS means fine structure (for type IV bursts); F means fundamental, SH secondary harmonic emissions (all three refer to type II). Frequencies are expressed in MHz. An X in the frequency column means that the burst extends beyond the frequency range of the instrument. Only the brightest bursts (brightness of 3) or the ones significant for space weather are reported.