

A-Core Container

Solar First Cycle System



Overview

When was the first solar cycle discovered?

Swiss astronomer Rudolf Wolf studied historical sunspot records and proposed the scheme still used for numbering solar cycles, with solar cycle 1 beginning in 1755, the earliest year for which he found reliable sunspot numbers. The 22-year magnetic cycle was discovered in 1925 by the American astronomer George Ellery Hale.

What is the solar cycle?

The solar cycle is a nearly periodic change in the Sun's activity between the time where we can observe the most and least number of sunspots, and generally lasts around 11 years. Sometimes the surface of the Sun is very active with lots of sunspots, while other times it is quieter with only a few or even none.

When does a solar cycle start and end?

The beginning of a solar cycle is a solar minimum, or when the Sun has the least sunspots. Over time, solar activity—and the number of sunspots—increases. The middle of the solar cycle is the solar maximum, or when the Sun has the most sunspots. As the cycle ends, it fades back to the solar minimum and then a new cycle begins.

How many solar cycles are there?

Extensive recording of sunspots began in 1755. Since then, we have officially gone through 24 complete solar cycles. Solar cycle 24 began in December of 2008, where sunspots and overall activity were at a minimum. Its maximum activity was reached in April 2014.

How is a solar cycle predicted?

The predicted progression for the current solar cycle (Cycle 25) is given by the magenta line, with associated uncertainties shown by the shaded regions. This

prediction is based on a nonlinear curve fit to the observed monthly values for the sunspot number and F10.7 Radio Flux and is updated every month as more observations become available.

How long does a solar cycle last?

Solar cycles have an average duration of about 11 years. Solar maximum and solar minimum refer to periods of maximum and minimum sunspot counts. Cycles span from one minimum to the next. Samuel Heinrich Schwabe (1789–1875), German astronomer, discovered the solar cycle through extended observations of sunspots.

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