



St. Petersburg
University



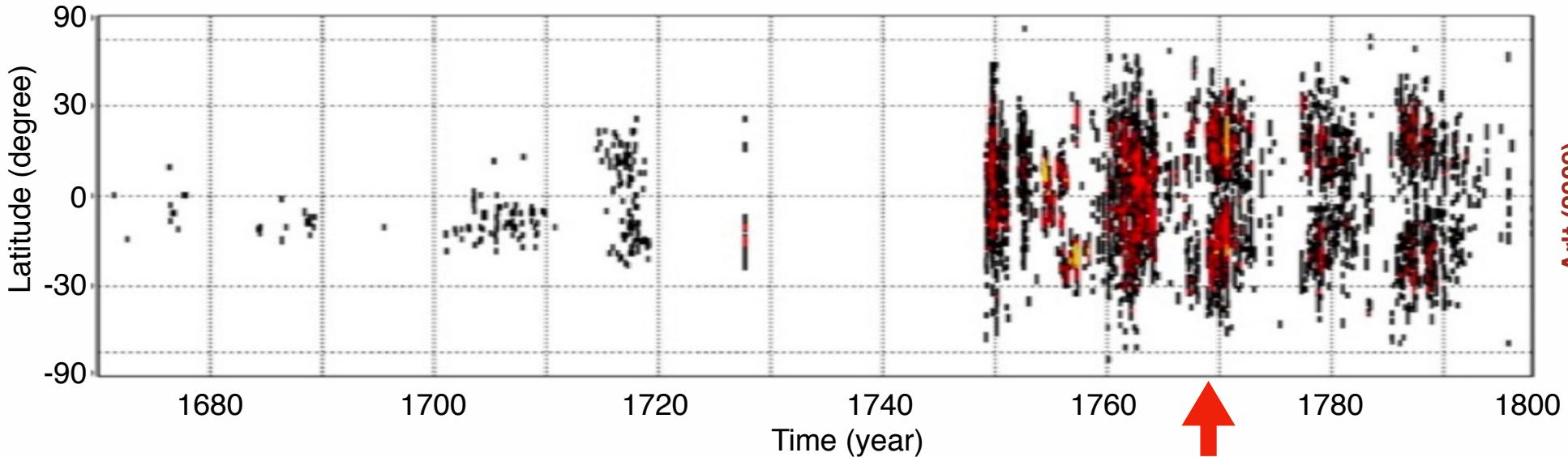
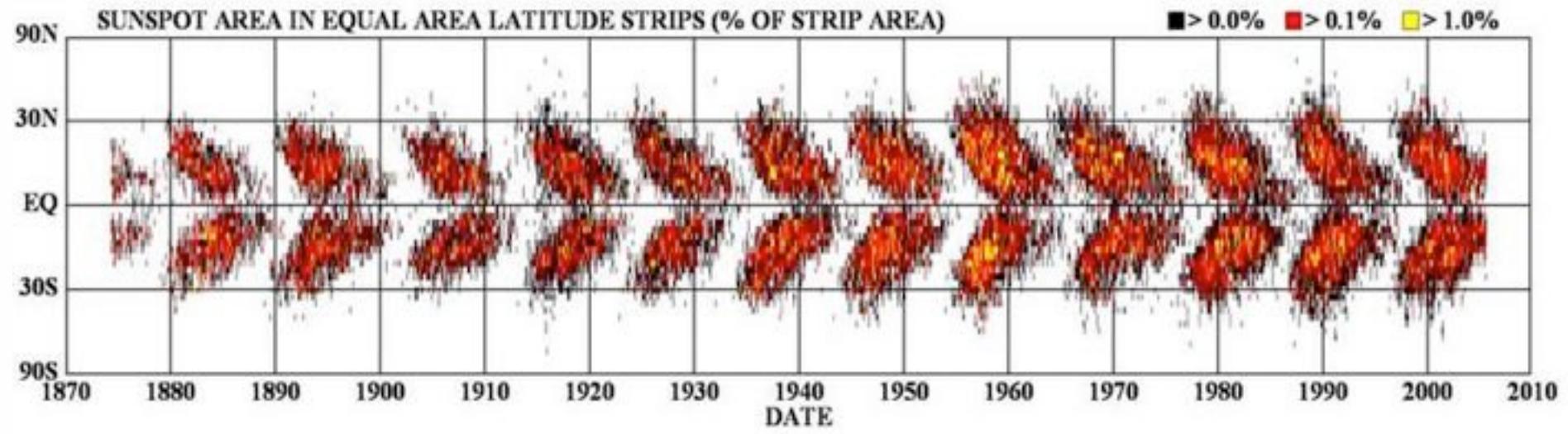
Solar activity reconstruction from the Georg Eimmart's archive of 1616 – 1720

Nadezhda Zolotova, Mikhail Vokhmyanin, and Rainer Arlt

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IAUS 364, Yerevan, Armenia, 21-25 August 2023

Spatio-temporal distribution of sunspots: has it always been like this?



Different drawing style starting
in the end of 1768

Archives of the Eimmart observatory

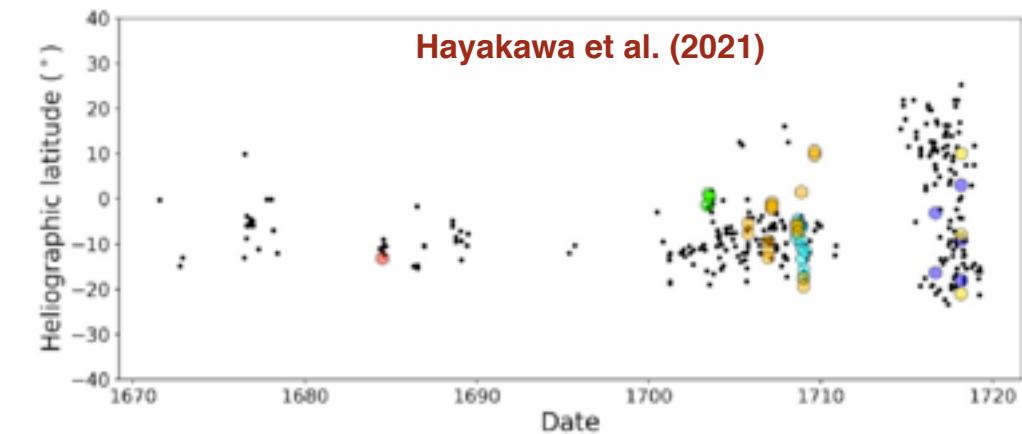
The second-richest sunspot data set covering the Maunder minimum: **551** sunspots on **109** drawings of the solar disk reported by eight observers:

Petrus Saxonius, 5–27 March 1616;
Johann Wurzelbau, 11–12 June 1684;
Georg Eimmart, 2–8 July 1684;
Johann Hoffmann, 26 May–16 July 1703;
Maria Eimmart, 30–31 May and 9 July 1703;
Eustachio Manfredi, 28 May–29 June 1703;
Johann Heinrich Müller, short series in 1705–1709;
Johann Christoph Müller, April 1719–May 1720.

Instruments:

Eimmart's observatory: telescopes (length 16, 12, and 10 foot, **no information on the aperture**), astronomical (pendulum) clocks, cameras obscuras, helioscopium, and machina helioscopia;

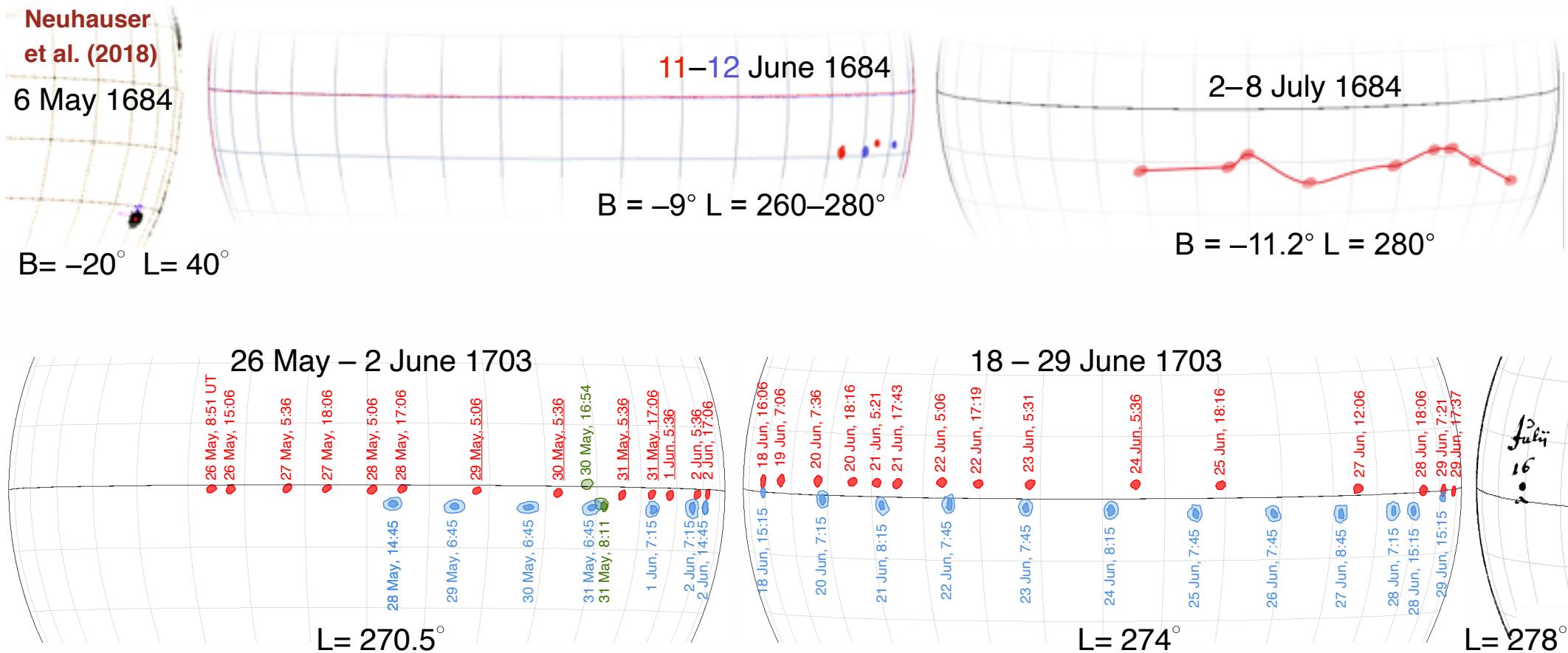
J. Chr. Müller: telescope length 7 foot, lens diameter of 3–4 cm, magnification of 30–60.



Are there very long-lived sunspots?

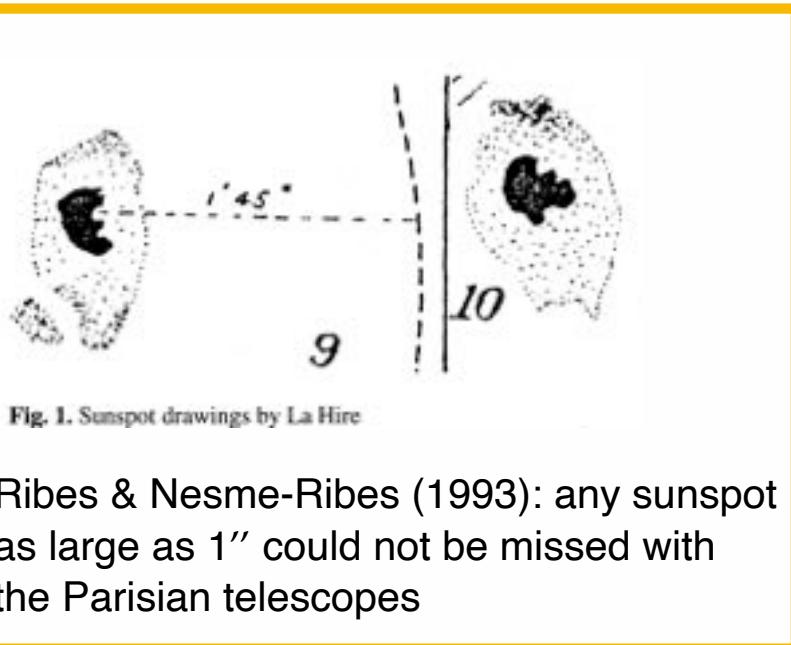
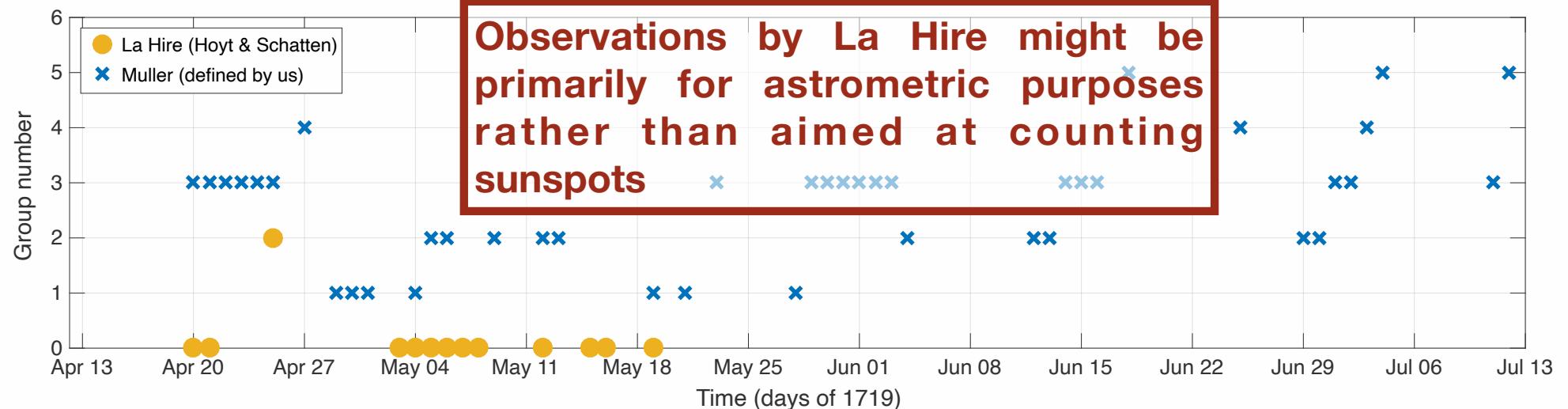
Spoerer (1889): Cassini observed a sunspot during three rotations from May to July 1684 at latitude of -10° .

Kirch: the sunspot is large and **might possibly** live four solar rotations.

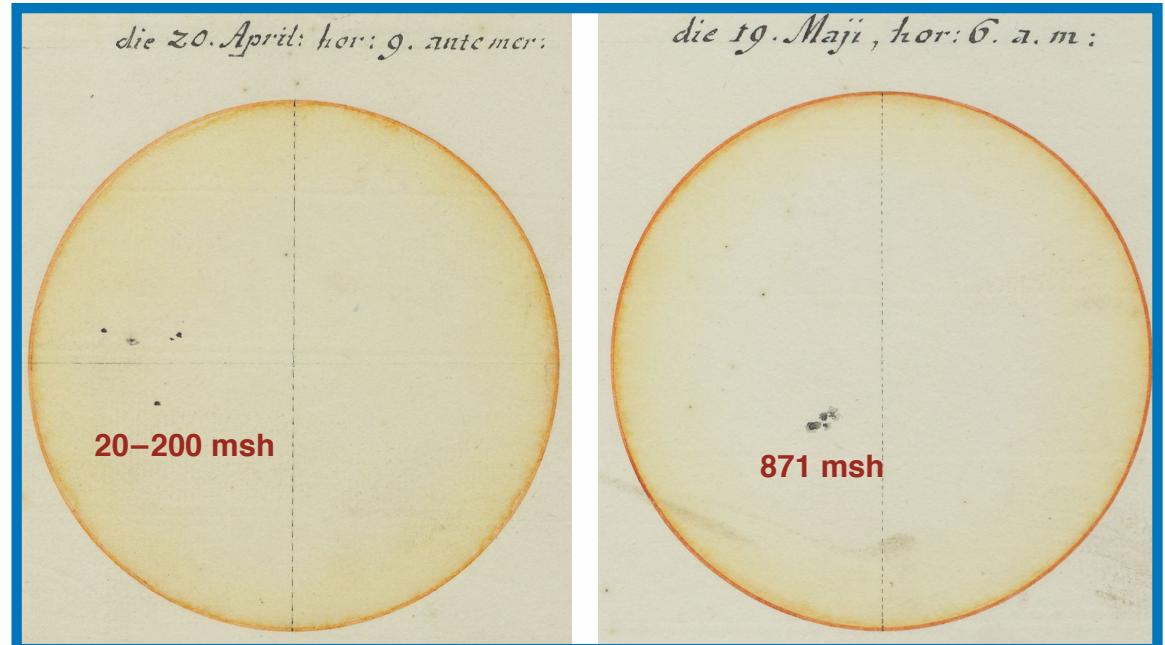


Long-liv sunspots $\rightarrow \eta \downarrow \rightarrow A_p \uparrow \rightarrow A_p/A_u \uparrow$ but Greenwich $A_p/A_u \geq$ Maund min A_p/A_u

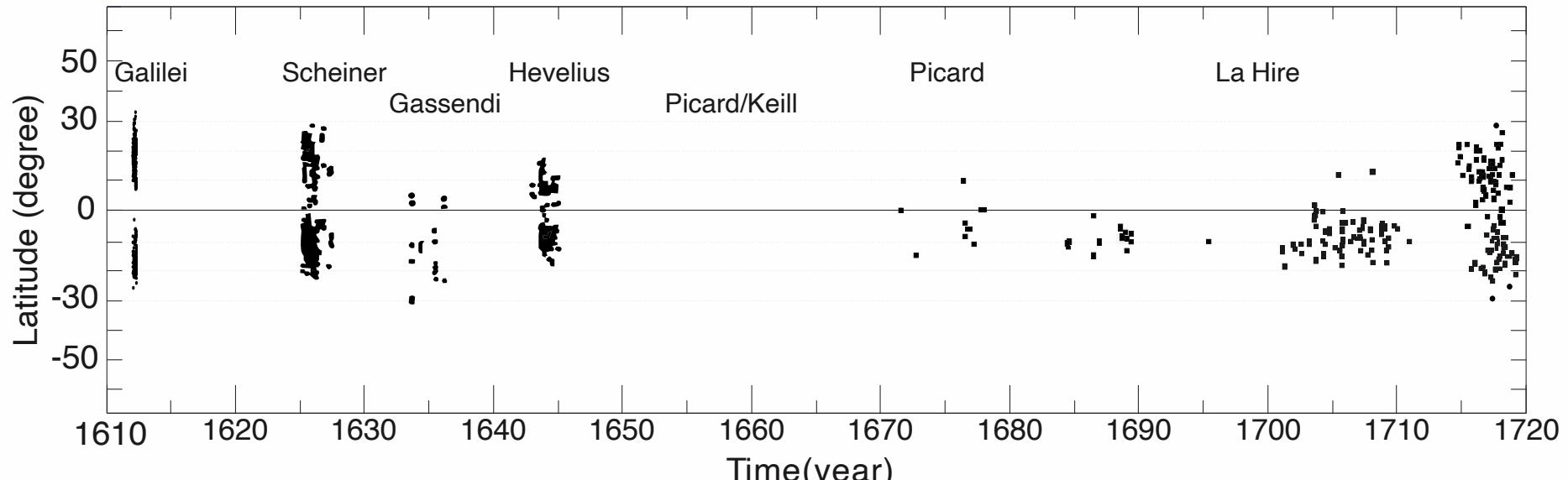
Sunspot counting vs astrometric measurements



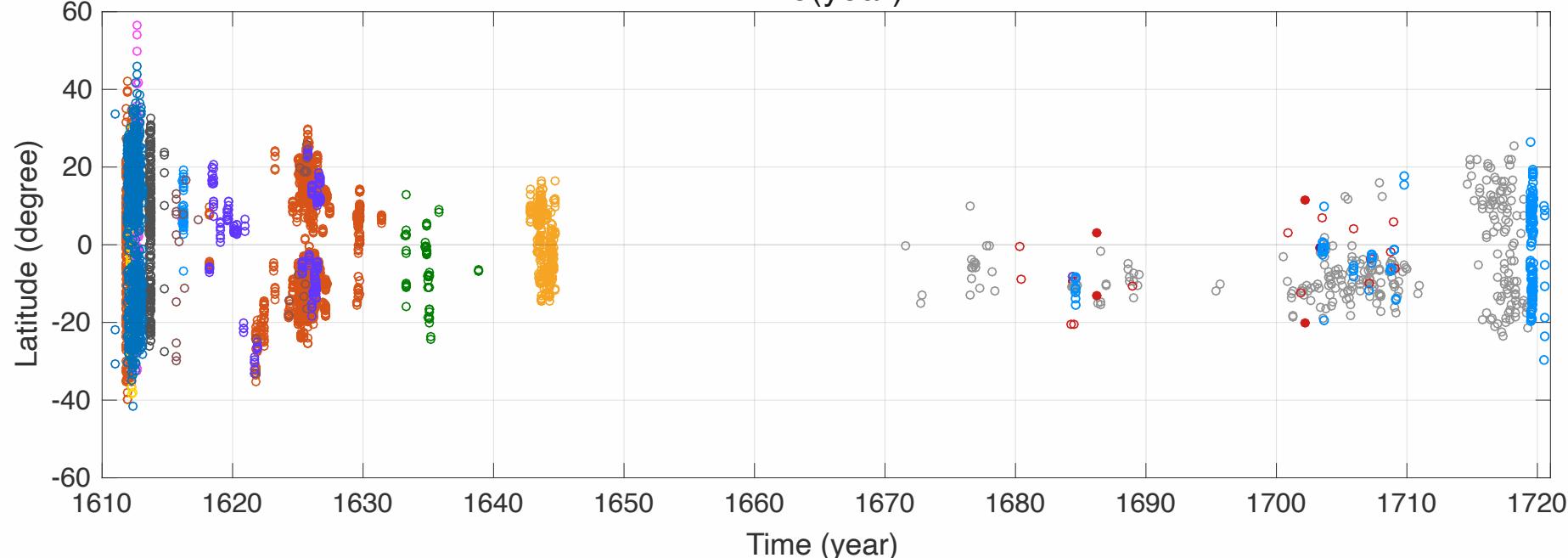
Ribes & Nesme-Ribes (1993): any sunspot as large as $1''$ could not be missed with the Parisian telescopes



Spatio-temporal distribution of sunspot groups



Ribes & Nesme-Ribes (1993)
Soon & Yaskell (2003)
Casas et al. (2006)



Arlt et al. (2016) Carrasco et al. (2019a,
2019b, 2021) Hayakawa et al. (2021a,
2021b) Neuhauser et al. (2018)
Vokhmynian & Zolotova (2018a, 2018b)
Vokhmynian et al. (2020, 2021) etc.

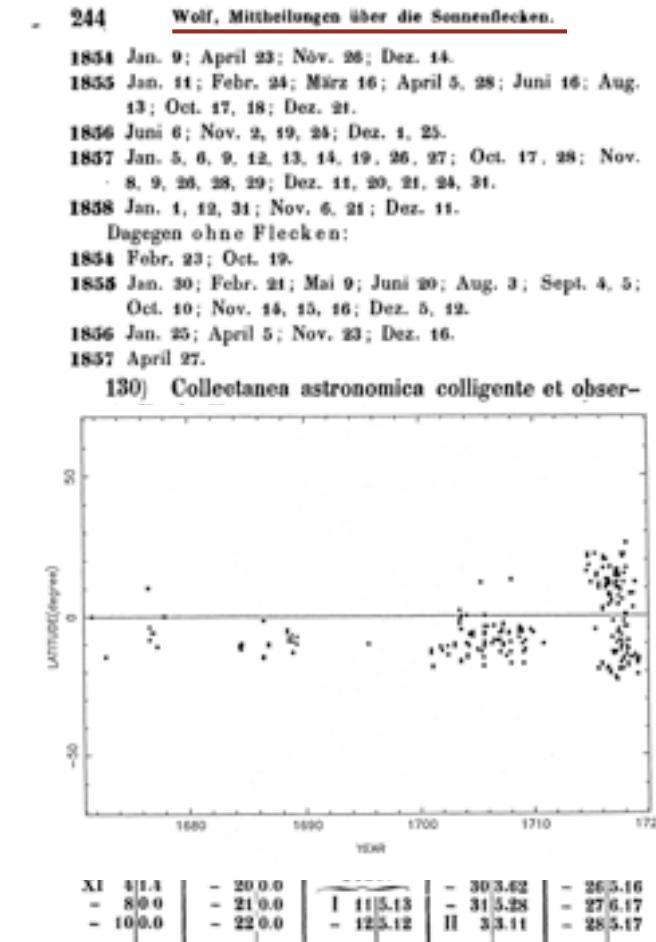
Where's the data, Lebowski?

Hoyt & Schatten (1998): only tabular database

Observations by F. von Hagen of 1739–1751
of which Wolf said they are stored in Pulkovo
observatory – **LOST**

Archives of Ribes and Nesme-Ribes (1993) –
LOST, there is only picture and a machine-
readable catalogue by Vaquero et al. (2015)

Clette et al. (2023): Zürich archives between
1919 and 1944 – **LOST**



Open catalog of historical sunspot drawings



 **Sunspots from the past**

About Methods Drawings Data

Catalogue of sunspot data extracted from historical drawings

This project is aimed to provide open access to historical sunspot drawings. We want to make the processing procedure transparent and open for correction. For instance, the separation of sunspots into groups is a non-trivial task. Also, different approaches aimed to compensate the uncertainty of sunspot drawing result in discrepancy of sunspot positions defined by various researchers. Assigning different criteria for the boundary of an object (sunspot, umbra, penumbra, etc.) also result in a different area of this object. For the benefit of an open discussion, here we describe our technique and post the processed drawings.

Updates

The data obtained can be revised taking into account gradually emerging new information, for example, comparisons of observations of contemporaries. All changes will be displayed here.

Solar Activity Level in 1611–1813: Sunspot Groups and Areas
S. V. Kostylev and S. V. Savchenko
Institute of Terrestrial Magnetism, Ionosphere, and Radiophysics, Russia
Received 22 March 2012; revised 20 August 2012; accepted 25 September 2012
Abstract Early reference sources describing possible sunspot drawings are analyzed and the solar activity level is estimated for the possible objects. In order to obtain more reliable results, the data from early reference sources are compared with the data from historical drawings. The regions of sunspot groups have been divided into two types: the groups with large umbrae and the groups with small umbrae. The size of the groups with small umbrae has been determined by the position of the 1811–1812 equinoctial drawings of sunspot groups.
Keywords: sunspots—sunspot groups—solar activity—historical data

INTRODUCTION Description and analysis of the historical sunspot drawings were performed by many authors (e.g., Gao, 1985; Gao and Zhou, 1991; Gopalswamy et al., 2001; Gopalswamy and Vaquero, 2002; Gopalswamy and Vaquero, 2003; Gopalswamy and Vaquero, 2005; Gopalswamy and Vaquero, 2006; Gopalswamy and Vaquero, 2007; Gopalswamy and Vaquero, 2008; Gopalswamy and Vaquero, 2009; Gopalswamy and Vaquero, 2010; Gopalswamy and Vaquero, 2011; Gopalswamy and Vaquero, 2012). The study described in this paper is the first attempt to analyze the historical sunspot drawings and to compare them with the modern sunspot drawings. The historical sunspot drawings were analyzed by the method used by the Japanese astronomer Hidetoshi Tanaka (1984) to compare and determine the solar activity level. The method used by Tanaka (1984) is the ratio of the total area of sunspot groups to the area of the solar disk. This ratio is called the “percentage of sunspot areas.” The percentage of sunspot areas was calculated for the historical sunspot drawings from 1611 to 1813. The sunspot drawings from 1611 to 1813 were taken from the following reference sources: the Catalog of Historical Sunspot Drawings (Kostylev and Savchenko, 2012), the Catalog of Sunspot Drawings (Gopalswamy and Vaquero, 2003), and the Catalog of Sunspot Drawings (Gopalswamy and Vaquero, 2008).

In this paper, we compare estimates of the fraction of sunspot areas in historical sunspot drawings with the corresponding values provided in the historical sunspot drawings from 1611 to 1813. We use reference sources of the 1611–1813 sunspot drawings from 1611 to 1813. The sunspot drawings from 1611 to 1813 are compared with those of Gopalswamy and Vaquero (2003) and Gopalswamy and Vaquero (2008).

2. DATA
We analyze sunspot drawings from 1611 to 1813. The reference sources include data from observations by Thomas Harriot from 20 December 1610 to

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The screenshot shows a website interface with a header featuring a logo of an eagle and the text "Sunspots from the past". Below the header is a navigation bar with tabs: "About", "Methods", "Drawings" (which is selected), and "Data". Under "Drawings", there are links for "Calendar", "Catalogue of sunspots", and "Observers". The main content area is titled "Catalogue of sunspots derived from historical drawings". It contains a text block describing the project's goal of providing open access to historical sunspot drawings and the challenges involved in processing them. Below this is a section titled "Updates" with a note about revising the data based on new information. To the right of the main content is a sidebar with a scientific article abstract:

What can Observations of Comets Tell Us about the Solar Wind at the Maunder Minimum?

N. V. Boheme¹, V. V. Shematova², M. V. Vodopivec³ and S. N. Vodopivec^{1,2,4}

¹ Institute of Space Research of Russian Academy of Sciences, Kosygin Str. 4, 117810 Moscow, Russia; <http://space.sci.kosmos.ru>

² Institute of Space Research of Russian Academy of Sciences, Kosygin Str. 4, 117810 Moscow, Russia; <http://space.sci.kosmos.ru>

³ Institute of Plasma Physics, Kosygin Str. 4, 117810 Moscow, Russia

⁴ Space Research Institute, Kosygin Str. 4, 117810 Moscow, Russia

Abstract. This paper discusses whether 17th century observations left historical records of the plasma tails of comets that would be suitable to model or to extract the physical parameters of the solar wind at the time. The authors have analyzed the available data on the positions of the tails of the last plumes of four 17th century comets. By comparing Shematova's calculation of the plasma tails for 17th century observations during the Maunder minimum (1645–1715) with the theoretical model of the solar wind tails, it is shown that the physical parameters of the solar wind at the time of the Maunder minimum are similar to those of the solar wind at the time of the comet observations. The results of the analysis of the physical parameters of comet tails made in the 17th century are not suitable for deriving just values of the physical parameters of the solar wind.

Keywords: history and philosophy of astronomy, (17th) solar wind, comet, plasma tails, comet

1. Introduction

The first historical reports of remote-century observations of plasma tails indicate the existence of the solar wind phenomena. Even before the discovery of the plasma tails, Borel (1662) suggested that a repulsive force splits particles from the cometary nuclei and carries them to the sides. The author of the first report on the plasma tails of the comet of 1665 is not known. The first detailed description of the plasma tails of the comet of 1665 was given by Scheiner (1665). This idea was supported by Scheiner (1670, 1676, 1680, 1685), who developed a classification of comet tails. Although the theory of the solar wind was not yet proposed at that time for the comet tails, a qualitative diagram of the comet tails of different types (Fig. 1) in the Scheiner's monograph – 10 comets were reported, most of them with nearly straight tails.

2. Orientation of comet tails

Fig. 1 illustrates the frequency of a comet with straight plasma and curved tail tails in relation to its orbit around the Earth. α is the angle between the plasma tail and the orbital plane of the comet, and β is the angle between α and the orbital speed of the comet, and γ is the angle between α and the orbital velocity of the comet. These are circumstances in which the short tail may appear to the observer to be straight. Those include a non-necessary number of cometary particles, so that

Open catalog of historical sunspot drawings



 **Sunspots from the past**

About Methods Drawings Data Calendar Observers

Catalogue of sunspots deduced from historical drawings

This project is aimed to provide open access to historical sunspot drawings. We want to make the processing procedure transparent and open for correction. For instance, the separation of sunspots into groups is a non-trivial task. Also, different approaches aimed to compensate the uncertainty of sunspot drawing result in discrepancy of sunspot positions defined by various researchers. Assigning different criteria for the boundary of an object (sunspot, umbra, penumbra, etc.) also result in a different area of this object. For the benefit of an open discussion, here we describe our technique and post the processed drawings.

Updates

The data obtained can be revised taking into account gradually emerging new information, for example, comparisons of observations of contemporaries. All changes will be displayed here.

Article
Sunspots Areas and Heliographic Positions on the Drawings Made by Galileo Galilei in 1612
Mikhail V. Vol'kogorskiy and Nadezhda V. Zolotova
In: Proceedings of the National Conference "Modern Problems of Space Research", 2012, No. 12, pp. 12–15.
Published online in the journal's website on 10 October 2012.
© Institute of the Earth's Crust, Russian Academy of Sciences, 2012
Keywords: Sun activity, Sunspots, Galileo Galilei, 1612.

Abstract. In 1612, Galileo Galilei made very accurate drawings of the solar disk. Currently, all of them are in the open source. It is the first time that such drawings are used for the reconstruction of historical sunspot areas and their heliographic positions. The main idea of the reconstruction is to determine the positions of the sunspots from day to day. The size of the solar rotation cell is not constant, which varies from 12 to 14.7°, given in the literature of the solar rotation rate and the position of the sunspots from the drawings of Galileo Galilei. The results of the reconstruction are very similar to the results of the latest quasi-observational techniques. This confirms the quality of the author's drawings.

Keywords: Sun activity, Sunspots.

1. Introduction
Historical sunspot observations are highly potential data source on the long-term behavior of the solar activity. One of the long-standing problems is the reconstruction of heliographic positions of the sunspots in the past. The main problem is the lack of observational data. The main source of the data is the visual observations of the sunspots. The sun is a star with a regular periodicity of three sun periods within the heliospheric cycle.

The first systematic publication of sunspots was carried out in 1612 by Galileo Galilei. He made drawings of the sunspots and their positions. He used the same technique as other scientists and drew sunspot positions on the solar disk in details. Continuous observations from June 16 to July 4 and August 16–18, and it was pointed to the location of the sunspots on the solar disk every day. The drawings were very accurate (approximate at 1 degree). Note that these observations are highly accurate in comparison with modern drawings of other observers in the beginning of the twentieth century. The drawings of the sunspots were very accurate and precise. The sunspots were depicted. Every day a new image of the solar disk was made.

Draw and fully drawings were provided by Zhou et al. (2000). To define the difference in the sunspot sizes they compared positions of sunspots which appear on the next day. From these positions they calculated the distance between sunspots. Zhou et al. (2000) reported a higher than that had been observed at local scale.

In this paper, we present the reconstruction of the heliographic positions of all sunspots from the drawings of Galileo Galilei. We show that the results are very similar to the results of the latest quasi-observational techniques. This confirms the quality of the author's drawings.

2012
Published from <http://www.ice.sci-nnov.ru/12/>. Full-text available in the following electronic form(s):
<http://www.ice.sci-nnov.ru/12/12.pdf> (PDF version)

Open catalog of historical sunspot drawings



Sunspots from the past

About Methods Drawings Data

Calendar

1610

January	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
February	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28			
March	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
April	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
May	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
June	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
July	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
August	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
September	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
October	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
November	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
December	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

1611

January	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
February	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29		
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December	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

1612

January	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
February	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29		
March	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Open catalog of historical sunspot drawings



Sunspots from the past

About Methods Drawings Data

06 Aug 1612 <-- **10 Aug 1612** --> **12 Aug 1612**

Thomas Harriot

Original note:
Syon, July, 31. Venus, ho, 5 1/4. (5 1/2. mane
some somewhat to bright. Thick ayer only no mist, nor clouds.
4 spots in all. 3 of a greater sort. 1 of a small & dim.

Group (G)	Area (msh)
148	186
152	195
153	76

Method I **Method II**

Positions of individual sunspots are in [Data](#)

Group (G)	Method I		Method II	
	Lat (deg)	Long (deg)	Lat (deg)	Long (deg)
148	20.51	269.14	17.69	267.48
152	-16.06	227.98	-17.19	224.94
153	-21.38	183.27	-20.08	180.01

Open catalog of historical sunspot drawings



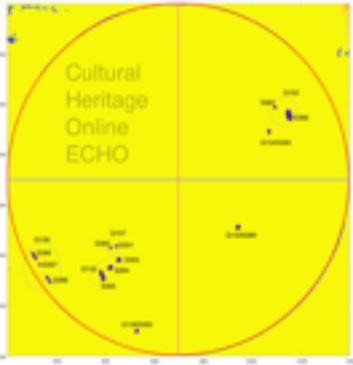
Sunspots from the past

About Methods Drawings Data

10 Aug 1612 <-- 12 Aug 1612 --> 14 Aug 1612

Thomas Harriot

Original note:
Syon, August, 2. Sun, 5 1/2. (5 mane.
somewhat to bright. Thick ayer only.
13 spots in all.
The 4 nerest the edge not so black as the rest.



Group (G)	Area (msh)
152	535
153	112
154	90
155	607
156	944
157	104
158	171

Method I **Method II**

Positions of individual sunspots are in [Data](#)

	Method I		Method II	
Group (G)	Lat (deg)	Long (deg)	Lat (deg)	Long (deg)
152	-12.57	224.1	-15.68	220.94
153	-19.29	179.15	-19.12	175.24
154	-10.37	212.72	-12.76	209.6
155	7.27	138.54	10.28	136.72
156	24.01	107.87	28.32	106.22
157	10.83	147.46	13.27	145.93
158	-14.13	119.99	-10.18	117.18

Open catalog of historical sunspot drawings



Sunspots from the past

About Methods Drawings Data

12 Aug 1612 <-- 14 Aug 1612 --> 17 Aug 1612

Thomas Harriot

Original note:
Syon, August, 4. Mars. ho. 5. (5 1/2 mane.
Thick ayer only.
16 spots in all.
The 2 uppermost of the 5, small dim & interminate(?)
The long spot neare the limbe long & very dim, & interminate. The next also not black & somewhat
interminate.

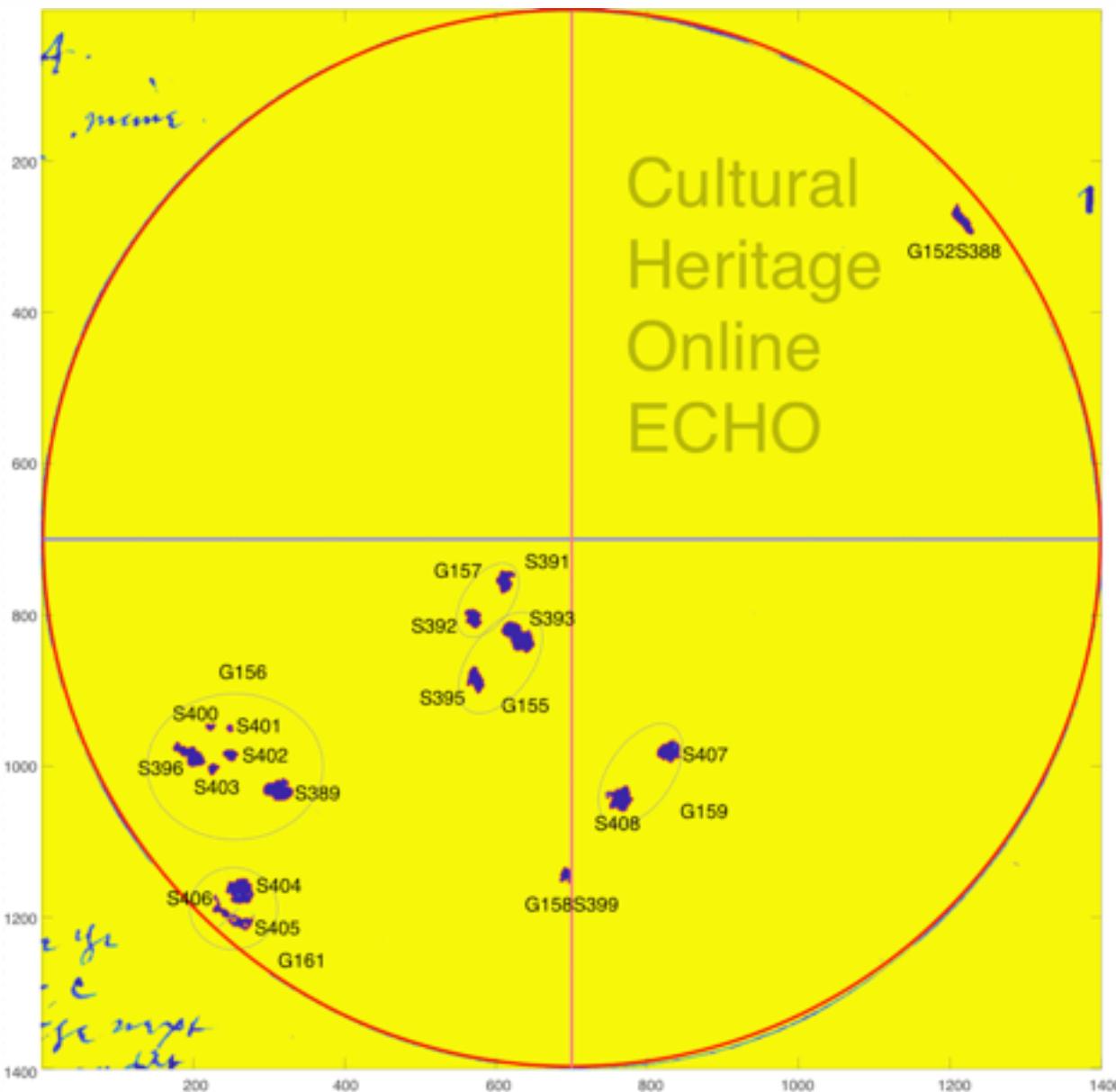
Group (G)	Area (msh)
152	499
155	510
156	1001
157	275
158	91
159	496
160	1456

Method I **Method II**

Positions of individual sunspots are in [Data](#)

	Method I		Method II	
Group (G)	Lat (deg)	Long (deg)	Lat (deg)	Long (deg)
152	-12.74	224.53	-18.18	221.36
155	5.5	139.67	6.94	137.66
156	20.55	103	25.01	101.9
157	10.12	143.44	11.16	141.89
158	-15.44	120.82	-12.2	117.02

Open catalog of historical sunspot drawings



Open catalog of historical sunspot drawings



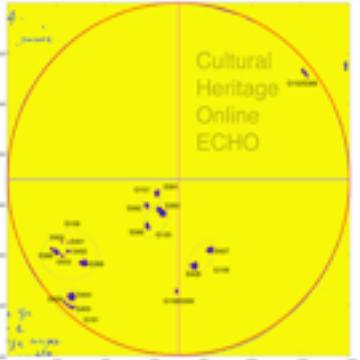
Sunspots from the past

About Methods Drawings Data

12 Aug 1612 <-- 14 Aug 1612 --> 17 Aug 1612

Thomas Harriot

Original note:
Syon, August, 4. Mars. ho. 5. (5 1/2 mane.
Thick ayer only.
16 spots in all.
The 2 uppermost of the 5, small dim & interminate(?)
The long spot neare the limbe long & very dim, & interminate. The next also not black & somewhat
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Group (G)	Area (msh)
152	499
155	510
156	1001
157	275
158	91
159	496
160	1466

Method I **Method II**

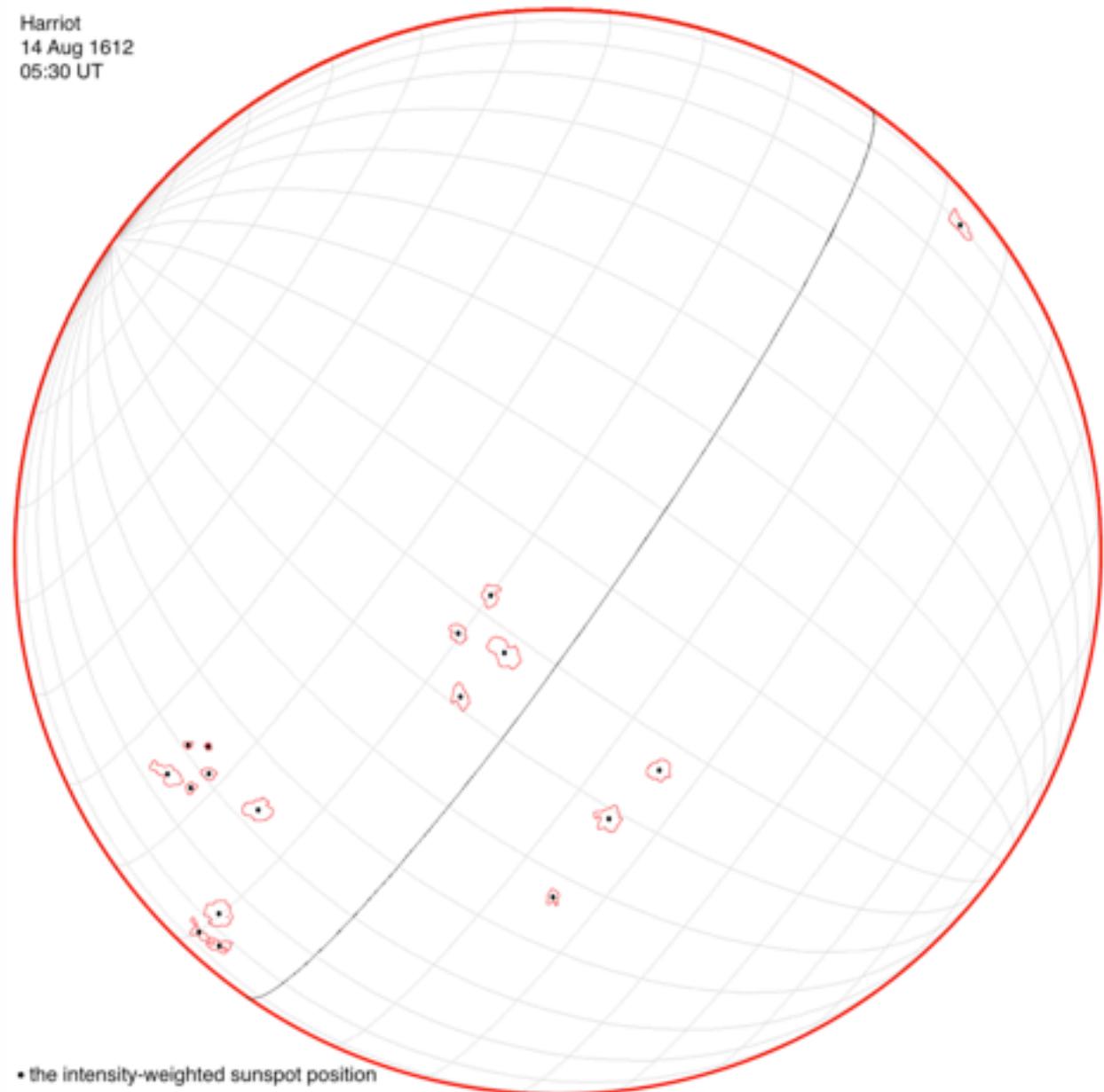
Positions of individual sunspots are in [Data](#)

	Method I		Method II	
Group (G)	Lat (deg)	Long (deg)	Lat (deg)	Long (deg)
152	-12.74	224.53	-18.18	221.36
155	5.5	139.67	6.94	137.66
156	20.55	103	25.01	101.9
157	10.12	143.44	11.16	141.89
158	-15.44	120.82	-12.2	117.02

Open catalog of historical sunspot drawings



Harriot
14 Aug 1612
05:30 UT



Open catalog of historical sunspot drawings



Sunspots from the past

About Methods Drawings Data

12 Aug 1612 <-- 14 Aug 1612 --> 17 Aug 1612

Thomas Harriot

Original note:
Syon, August, 4. Mars. ho. 5. (5 1/2 mane.
Thick ayer only.
16 spots in all.
The 2 uppermost of the 5, small dim & interminate(?)
The long spot neare the limbe long & very dim, & interminate. The next also not black & somewhat
interminate.

Group (G)	Area (msh)
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155	510
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157	275
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160	1466

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Positions of individual sunspots are in [Data](#)

	Method I		Method II	
Group (G)	Lat (deg)	Long (deg)	Lat (deg)	Long (deg)
152	-12.74	224.53	-18.18	221.36
155	5.5	139.67	6.94	137.66
156	20.55	103	25.01	101.9
157	10.12	143.44	11.16	141.89
158	-15.44	120.82	-12.2	117.02

Open catalog of historical sunspot drawings



Sunspots from the past

About Methods Drawings Data

Sunspot data

To define sunspot positions, we applied two methods (see [Heliocoordinates](#)). Both of them only optimize latitudes of sunspots, omitting their longitudinal displacement. The first one (Method I) exploits the time of observation provided by the observer. Another method (Method II) to extract sunspot positions does not take into account time of observation. Its goal is to minimize the cumulative latitude dispersion of sunspots.

The question arises: **the results of which method are more relevant?** Both methods have their advantages, nevertheless, in general, we would recommend exploiting both sunspot latitudes and longitudes from Method I. Method II itself is not aimed to precisely define the time of observation, but gives the best image rotation to define an average picture of sunspot positions. Results of Method II became more relevant comparing to those of Method I, if they were derived from small schematic drawings or in the case of large uncertainties, e.g. if the drawings were made without a projection apparatus. In these cases, sunspot data should be taken with extreme care.

Observer	Data	Reference
Thomas Harriot 18 Dec 1610 – 28 Jan 1613	Method I Method II	GN VAZ, 2020
Lodovico Cardi known as Cigoli 18 Febr – 23 Mar, 29 Apr – 6 May 18–25 Aug 1612	Method I Method II	GN VAZ, 2021
Galileo Galilei 12 Febr – 3 May 1612 19–21 Aug 1612	Method I Method II	GN VAZ, 2021
Galileo Galilei 3–11 May, 2 Jun – 8 Jul 1612	Method II	GN VZ, 2018
Sigismondo di Cologna 6 Sept – 9 Oct 1612	Method I Method II	GN VAZ, 2021
Fabio Colonna 1 Aug – 30 Sept 1613, 3 Oct 1614; Christoph Scheiner 1 Aug 1613	Method I Method II	GN VAZ, 2021
Petrus Saxonius 5–27 Mar 1616	Method II	GN VZ, 2023
Pierre Gassendi 1633 – 1638	Method II	GN VZ, 2018

Uncertainty of Sunspot Parameters Reconstructed from Early Telescopic Sunspot Observations

Natalia Zaitseva and Mikhail Vasilievsky

Abstract We present the results of the reconstruction of the parameters of solar activity from astronomical observations in the sixteenth century. Despite of the fact that the data are very sparse, it is possible to estimate the heliographic longitude and latitude. The distribution of the sunspot group areas from historical activities compared with that of the modern spots. A lack of small groups of sunspots was found in early observations. This, in turn, leads to an uncertainty in the number of sunspot groups in terms of position. Additional uncertainty of group numbers is introduced by dividing the sunspots into groups. The latitude-time distribution of sunspots is also discussed.

Keywords Sunspots – Solar cycle – Observations

1. Introduction

Counting sunspots and their mapping on the solar disk apparently might be viewed as the longest-lasting astrophysical measurements. Then, the primary is the so-called long-time series on solar activity. However, these indices, i.e. the Sunspot Number and the Group Sunspot Number [1], gradually change [2] below the Greenwich epoch (1854 AD). Therefore, the reconstruction of the solar activity in the past is not an easy task. At least, one of these measures increasingly represents sunspot activity in the past. A long-scale decrease of sunspot indices began in 2011 on the Sunspot Number Workshops [3]. Revised and reconstructed sunspot data [4–10] gradually improve our knowledge of the solar activity through the ages [11–13].

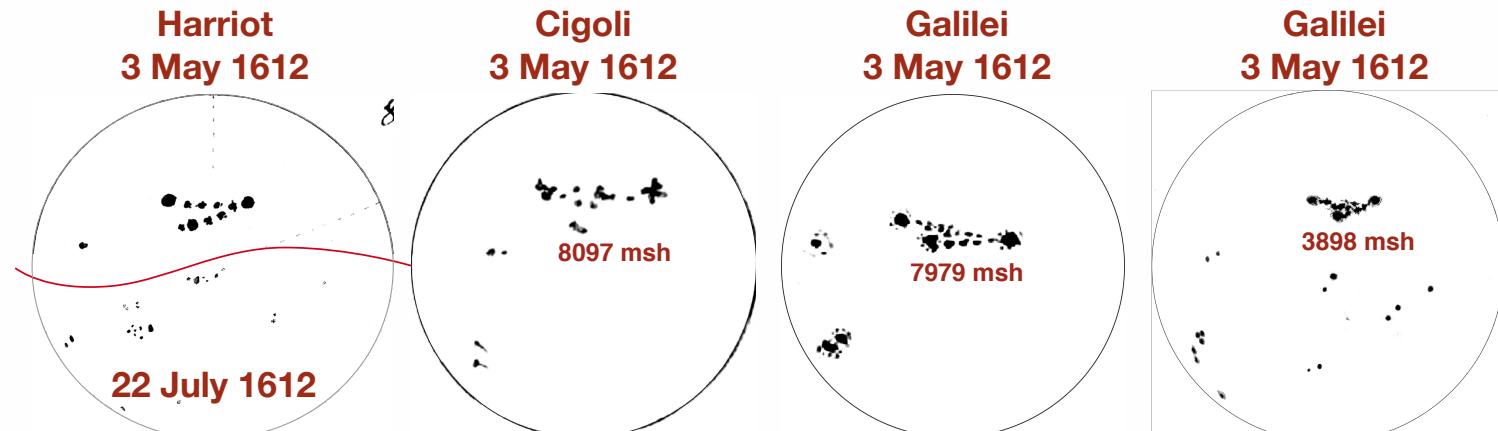
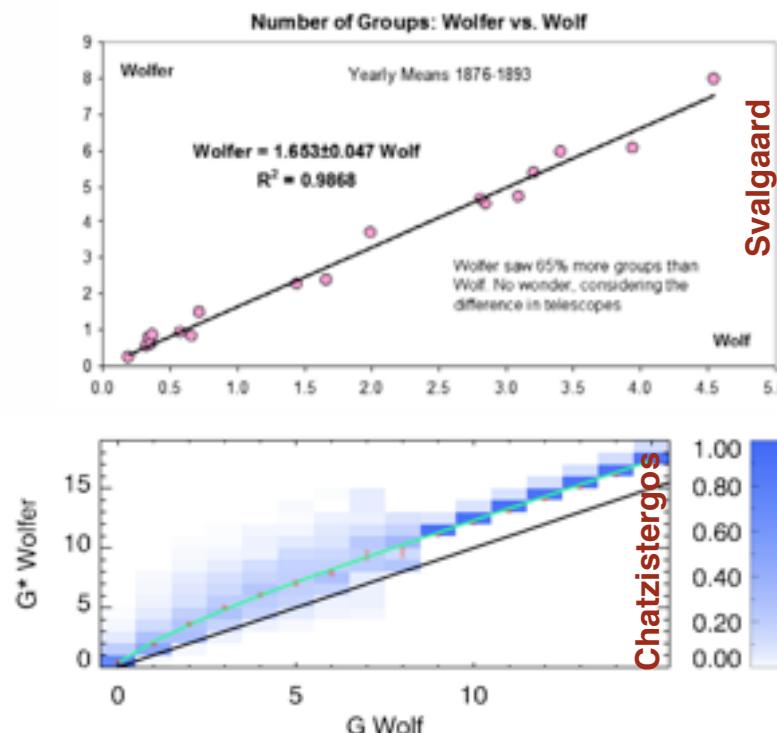
Figure 1 schematically shows the history of the historical diagrams. The period of the Maunder Minimum is known as a period of weak solar activity and almost

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<https://geo.phys.spbu.ru/~ned>

Why do we need an open catalog of historical sunspot drawings?

observer #1	observer #2
11	5
12	8
18	7
24	5
23	6
26	7
22	3
18	6
15	3
11	7
11	6
12	8
17	6
25	8
23	3
25	7
19	9
15	2
13	8
11	6



$$GN_1 = k \cdot GN_2$$

Reconstructed sunspot parameters crucially depend on the observation technique and size of drawings;
Analysis of original drawings may improve recalibration of the Sunspot-Number

Conclusions

We reconstruct numbers, areas (umbra and penumbra) and positions of individual sunspots and their groups in the 17th century. An open catalog of historical sunspot drawings may be helpful for the sunspot-number recalibration effort.

The majority of the observations by the Eimmart Observatory were primarily for astrometric purposes (like solar altitude measurements) rather than aimed at counting sunspots. The same is suggested for the observations by La Hire in Paris.

Long-living sunspots apparently were an activity nests or magnetic activity complex, where new magnetic flux emerges near a pre-existing active region.

The spatio-temporal distribution of sunspots is gradually reconstructed. The butterfly pattern is persisted in the 17th century.

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