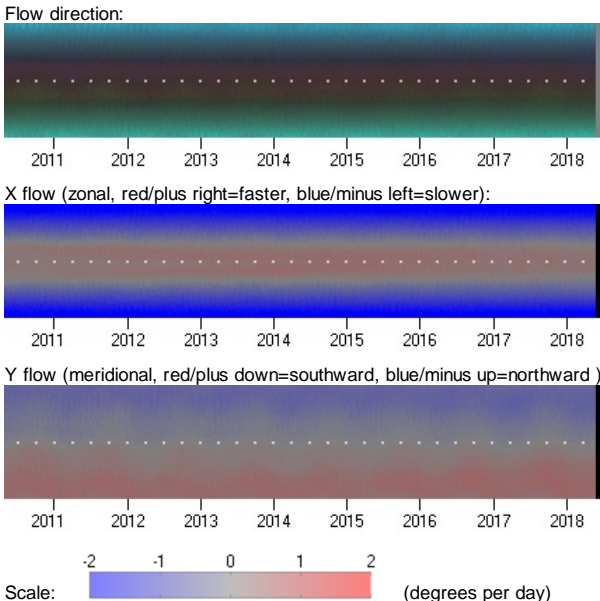


# Average Solar surface flow

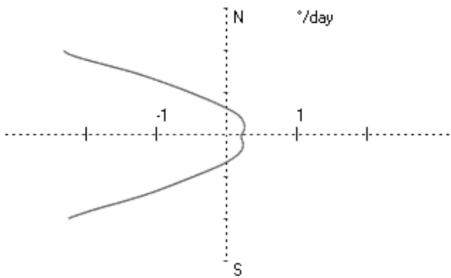
(as detected from HMI magnetograms)  
(A very preliminary version still)

13 Jul 2018 16:09:19 P.A.Semi  
updated 10 Jul 2020 19:36:54 P.A.Semi

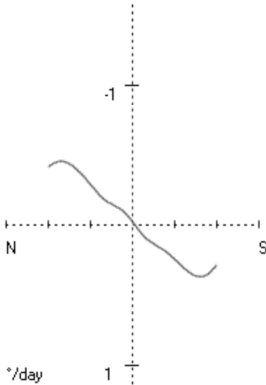
The source of HMI data is the [SDO HMI and AIA Joint Science Operations Center \(JSOC\)](#)  
Data processing by P.A.Semi, 2017..2020 ...



Average X flow (differential rotation) :



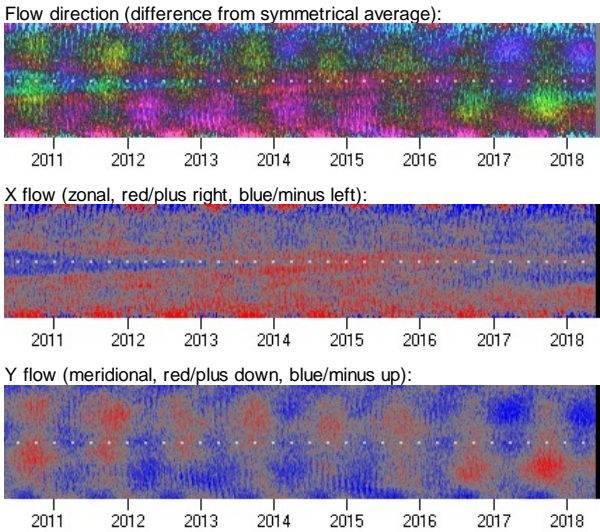
Average Y flow (poleward flow) :



(N-S axis shows latitude with marks by 30°  
Data are available below 60°lat, but already above 45°the data is very noisy.  
The other axis is flow speed in degree/day...)

## Difference from symmetrical global average

(05/2010 - 03/2017)  
(Subtracting average from pixels, X,Y red/blue color code amplified, flow-direction code amplified)

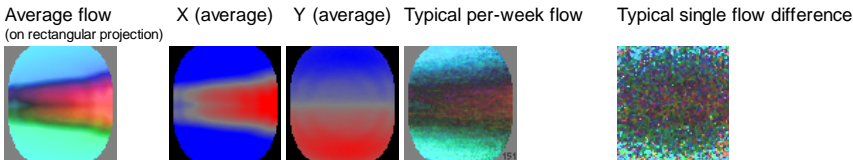


Flow direction color code:



Scale of difference maps:  
Actual range: X: -0.4946 .. 0.9285 %d, Y: -0.342 .. 0.1597 %d

This was analysed from 69,000 magnetograms, 1 image per hour since 2010.  
Each magnetogram is projected onto rectangular projection surface map (2880x1440 from 1024x1024 input images) using perspective projection and two neighbouring maps are compared square by square, in 3°squares in 1.5°spacing, avoidin g limb by using only ±60°, producing 81 squares with 2D flow (X,Y), normalized to degree/day units. These are then averaged per week, discarding corners. The process is very noisy, but after averaging >100 images per week, typically 168 images per week, the noise is significantly reduced...



Top row is color-coded direction of flow (both X and Y combined in one picture, with hue encoding direction and lightness+saturation encoding intensity. Red means right/faster flow in X direction, green left/slower down/southward, blue left/slower up/northward -- see "Flow direction color code").  
Then X,Y rows with blue minus (left,up) and red plus (right,down).  
Images are 1 pixel per week horizontally, and 3°bin in 1.5°spacing vertically, until ± 60° latitude.

Differential rotation can be viewed as huge flow on equator rightward (faster rotation) and on poles leftward (slower rotation). Further, there is constant flow north up and south down toward poles.

Right column: direction code, X-flow and Y-flow in degree/day within ± 60°latitude. At 60deg there is alm ost 2 degree / day slower rotation, and 0.38 degree/day poleward flow.

Bottom part (difference from symmetrical average) is interesting.  
(Per-latitude average from both hemispheres of either X or Y flow is subtracted from data and color code is amplified.)

There can be seen:

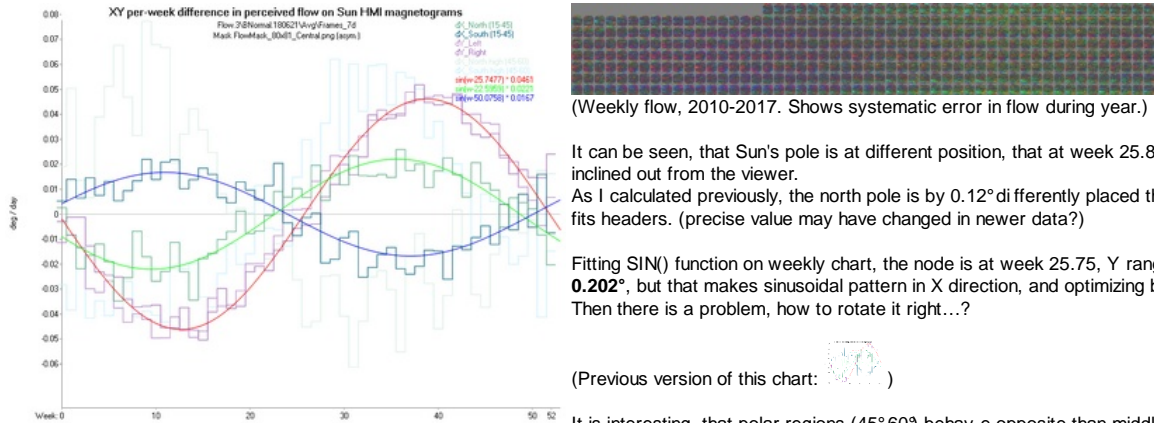
- Faster-than-average rotating belt of sunspots, visible on X near equator, red spikes getting toward equator, which is blue/slower initially. Mt.Wilson observatory has similar images for previous Sunspot cycles since 1980's...
- Zebra pattern of yearly flow in Y direction – this is ERROR of the north-pole specification in SOHO/SDO data. I have calculated the error as 0.178°, not sure yet. In the next section below, data are averaged on week of year and it is clearly visible, that as the Earth circles around Sun, the perceived “flow” goes up/down, and north/south X goes left-right... It should be possible to calculate proper position of Sun's pole from this...? Due to this problem the data has not been released yet.
- There is at 2010 north side and 2016-2017 south side huge southward flow ANOMALY, which corresponds with Jupiter position above/below solar equator and possibly something else. It can best be visible on right side third row Y-difference, as red smudge at 2010 north and 2017 south...
- This is, what is most interesting on this data for me...
- South hemisphere rotates faster than north hemisphere (visible on X-difference, bottom part 2nd row, south is red and north is blue, which should not be... Can it be related to wrong pole rotation?)

Should it be possible to clear the yearly zebra of incorrect pole rotation, the data could be published or better analysed...

Downloading and quality control of some 60Gb data took few weeks, and single calculation pass takes around 24 hours on 8 CPUs. (And I repeated it at least 10 times due to various problems.) It's problematic to make try-test rotations of North pole, since every such test takes at least 24 hours of computation until results are seen...

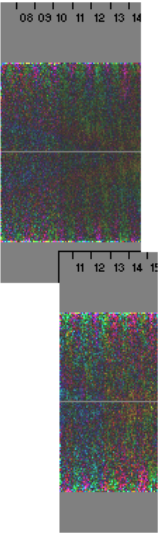
Someone asked me, why I want to get rid of that Zebra, since it may be a real phenomenon. But earlier similar calculations, it is visible on SOHO data, it is visible in Stereo data, but in Stereo, looking from different position onto Sun, the flow is different in other parts of year, so it is a problem of view-point and Sun's pole rotation, not a real phenomenon...

Week of year averages:



It is interesting, that polar regions (45°-60°) behave opposite than middle latitudes (15°-45°).

Comparing flow on EIT304 channel between SDO and Stereo A shows, that yearly "zebra" pattern is moved in different part of year, as the Sun is viewed from different side.

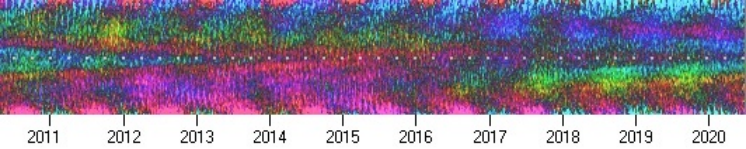


Stereo A

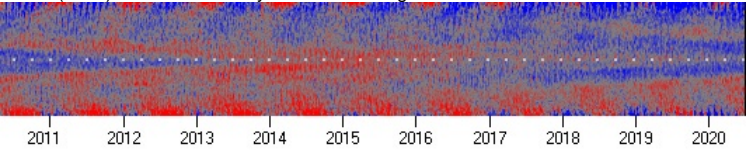
SDO

Sun North pole rotated by 0.12°

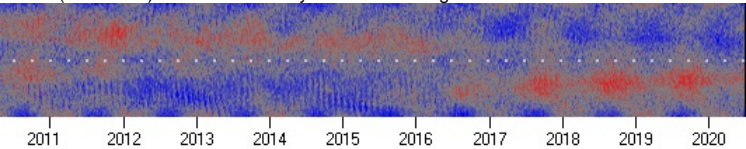
(probably not correctly yet?)  
Difference from symmetrical average:

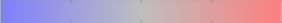


X flow (zonal) difference from symmetrical average:



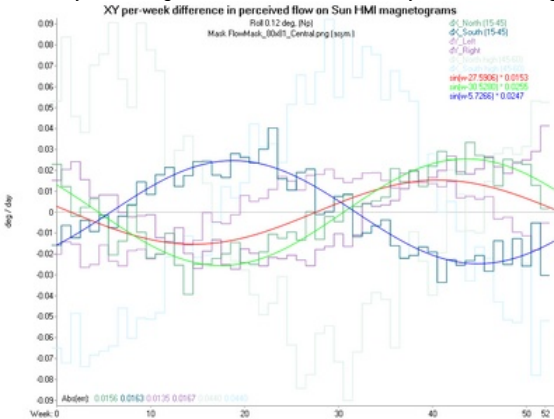
Y flow (meridional) difference from symmetrical average:



Scale:   
Actual range: X: -0.6044 .. 0.5106 %d, Y: -0.2477 .. 0.1893 %d

- Zebra pattern in Y is almost cleared.
- Another zebra pattern in X is introduced, mostly in high-latitude regions.
- Still is north X blue (slower) and south X red (faster)

Week of year averages of flow difference from asymmetrical average in Y, northern X and southern X:



Problem with the rotation is, that the source images are somehow rotated (P\_Angle) and specify coordinates in Distance, Carrington latitude, Carrington longitude. Cartesian coordinates of the observatory are not available.

To apply the rotation, I modify P\_Angle of the image (rotate image clockwise or counter-clockwise) by  $\cos((\text{FractionalYear}-0.74345)*2\pi) * 0.12^\circ$ , and I modify Carrington latitude by  $\sin((\text{FractionalYear}-0.74345)*2\pi) * 0.12^\circ$ . I do not modify Carrington longitude nor Distance.

Again need to say, that it is problematic to make try-test different rotations, since it needs to process 69,000 images to get some result. Flow in each pair of images is *very* noisy, but averaging 168 frames per week together gives some usable results...  
The flow is detected by comparing two images, 3x3 degree boxes, square by square, and seeing, where it best matches when moved, with centi-pixel resolution (0.01 pixel), linear interpolation ...

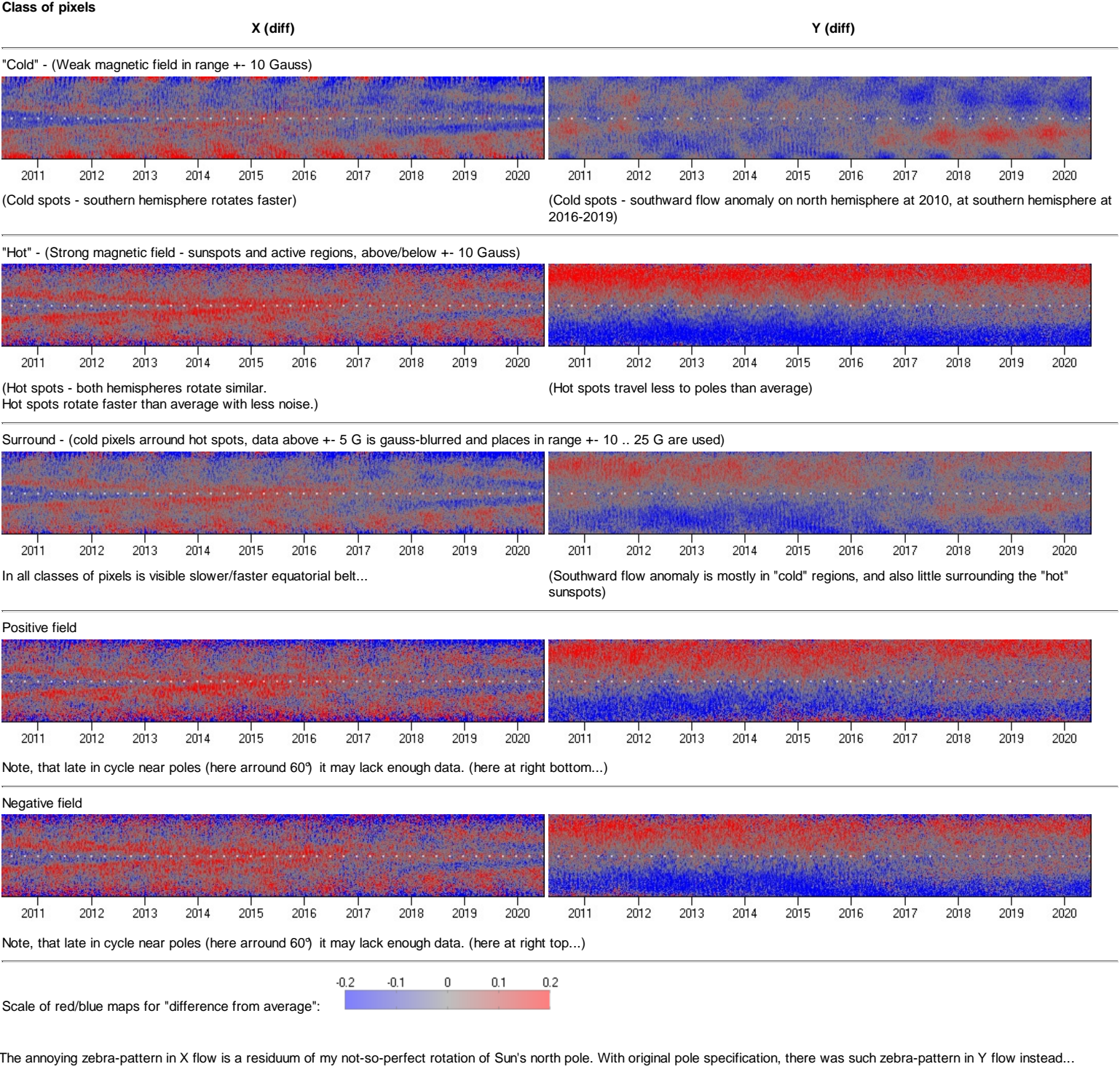
(SOHO and SDO use Carrington pole position from mid 19th century, and getting it wrong only by 0.12° was really good back then, but is somehow harassing now...)

The difference in position of Solar north pole from Carrington parameters is already known and described:

- The Astrophysical Journal, 621:L153–L156, 2005 March 10, [HELIOSEISMIC DETERMINATION OF THE SOLAR ROTATION AXIS, J. G. Beck and P. Giles](#)
- some additional comments in the systematic errors section of Solar Phys (2015) 290:3221–3256 DOI 10.1007/s11207-015-0792-y by Tim Larson and Jesper Schou. (Also using MDI data.) [Improved Helioseismic Analysis of Medium-L Data from the Michelson Doppler Imager](#)

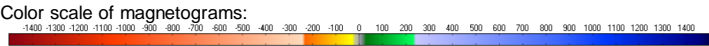
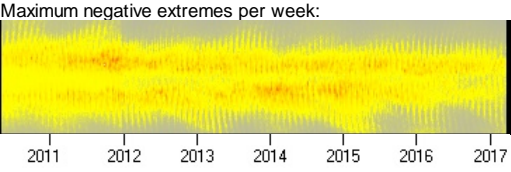
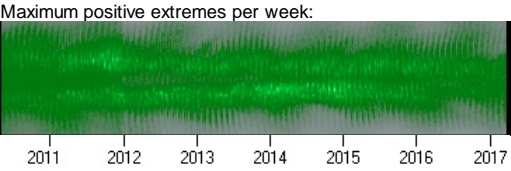
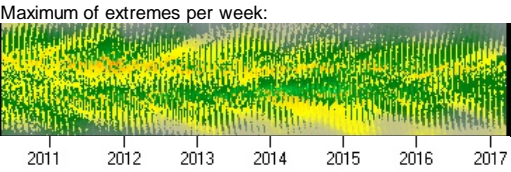
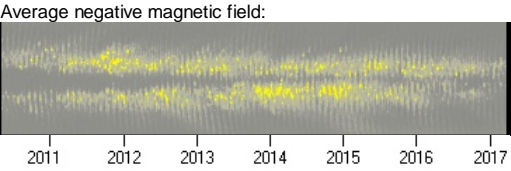
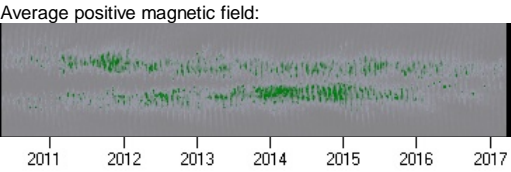
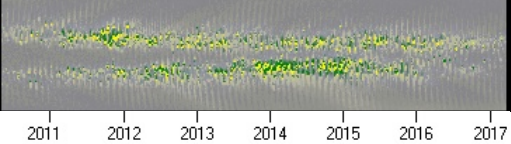


Flow separated by class of pixel, as pole is rotated by 0.12° (which still leaves some yearly zebra-pattern in X charts, while it almost clears yearly zebra-pattern in Y charts) :



Magnetic field

(LOS Magnetic field, to +- 60° latitude...)  
Average magnetic field: (abs.maximum of pos or neg averages)

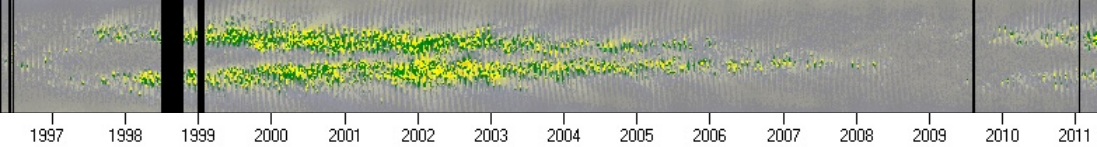


Geometric scale of these synoptic maps: 1 pixel per week horizontally, 1 pixel per 1.5 °vertically, r angng from ± 60°...  
Flow-maps use 3x3 degree boxes on synoptic map (rectangular projection) with 1.5 degree stepping. 1 hour spaced magnetograms (cca 69,000 images), values are scaled into degree/day on synoptic map, differences from carrington rotation rate, as reported in FITS headers.  
When converting degree/day to m/s be careful to take care of high-latitude horizontal (zonal) degrees shorter in metres, on rectangular projection map...  
  
The yearly pattern in maximum extremes *may* be (at least partially) introduced by LoS (Line of Sight), as Earth on orbit sees better north or south hemisphere...?  
It is also possible, that it is a real effect...

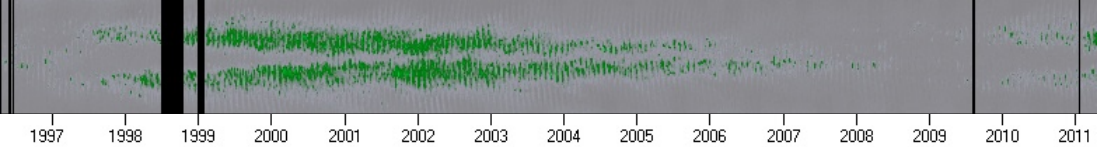
# Magnetic field - SC 23

(Similar technique used on NASA/ESA SOHO MDI magnetograms for previous Solar Cycle 23)  
From appearance of high-latitude sunspots with SC-24 polarity, the SC 24 started in middle of year 2008 (possibly Aug 21 2008, more probably Sep 22 2008) shy with a very long minimum of suppressed activity in 2009.  
It may be noticed, that magnetic activity was much stronger and lasted longer in all that cycle 23...

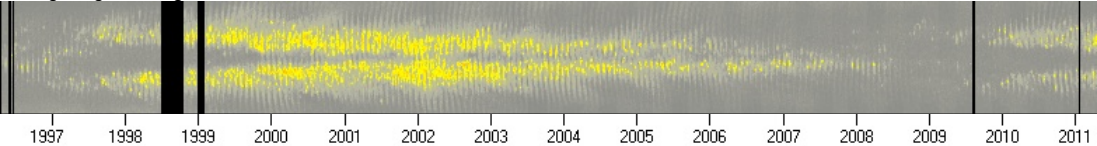
Average magnetic field: (abs.maximum of pos or neg averages)



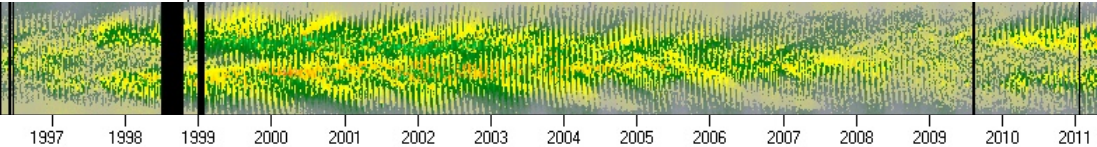
Average positive magnetic field:



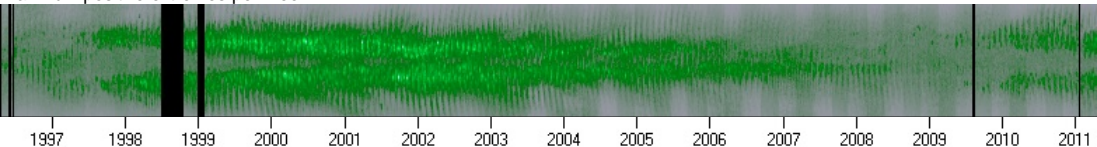
Average negative magnetic field:



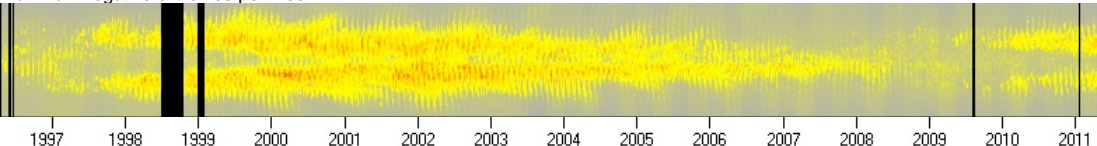
Maximum of extremes per week:



Maximum positive extremes per week:



Maximum negative extremes per week:

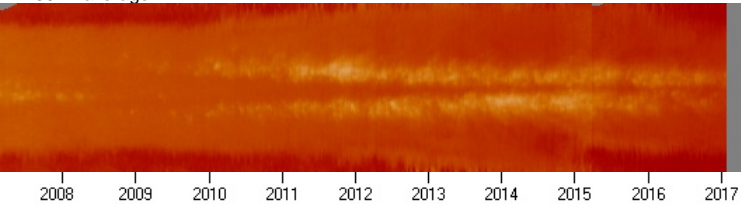


The cca 3-month pattern in high-latitude "maximum extremes" charts since cca 2003 (two vertical stripes per year) is due to SOHO turning upside down, which makes one side more noisy, probably not matching the flat-field mask well ?  
The input images are heavily noisy. Noise is removed by FFT windowing with cut-off for single-pixel features, and in case of short-duration exposures (interval=30), three neighbouring images are used, de-rotated to common center and averaged. As possible, long-duration exposures (with interval=300) are used, but on some times there are multiple days without long-exposure (interval=300) magnetogram...  
Earth-yearly pattern of high-latitude magnetic fields is also noticeable, although weaker than in SDO/HMI magnetograms of SC 24.  
Due to smoothing, SDO/HMI magnetograms are much sharper and so the maximum-of-extremes map seem stronger than in smoothed SOHO/MDI magnetograms...

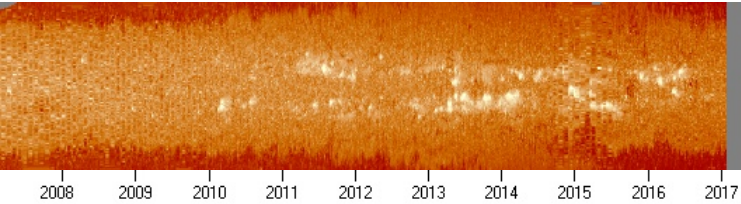


EIT304 - extreme ultra violet

EIT 304A average:



EIT 304A extremes:



Data from Stereo A (Mar 2007 - Sep 2014, Jul 2015 - now), Stereo B (Mar 2007 - Sep 2014), and from SDO (May 2010 - now), one image per day contributes to weekly pixel column average... With same scale as above charts (1 pixel per week, 1 pixel per 1.5°lat), but here in rectangular projection from m pole to pole.

Preceding magnetogram and flow charts show typical "zebra-like" pattern of 4-pixel 4 weeks synoptic rotation pattern, because they are from single-face sources. We always see only half of Solar surface, and if one half is "hotter" than the other, it blinks once in 28-days of average rotation, as it rolls in and out. This chart of EIT 304 avoids this single-face problem and uses continuous synoptic map. Prior to year 2011, last state of surface is remembered, until it is seen again. Since year 2011 until summer 2014, due to Stereo A,B and SDO observing whole Solar surface all the time, there is no "far-side" any more, which allows to avoid 28-day false pattern in Solar activity, and so to avoid unnecessary monthly smoothing... Since summer 2014 and in year 2015, Stereo were in eclipse behind Sun and their signal unavailable. Since middle 2015, only Stereo A is available of those two, so there is short gap between SDO and Stereo A coverage, but again almost whole surface can be seen at once...

Calibration of SDO-304 response:

SDO-304 channel is getting very much darker over time... By comparing SDO and relatively stable Stereo images, the SDO-304 channel is calibrated this way:

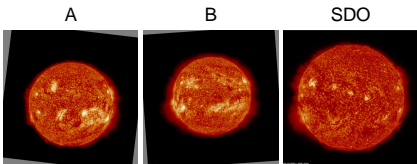
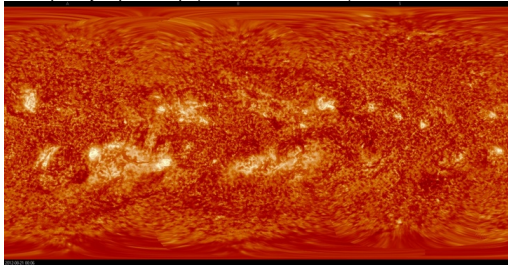


As a simplification, I use linear interpolation with different coefficients in specified times:  
`return 1 / (Item.F1 + (Date-Item.D1) * (Item.F2-Item.F1)/(Item.D2-Item.D1) )`

From date	D1	F1	D2	F2
2010-05-10	2010-06-01	1.8508	2011-01-25	1.0206
2011-01-28	2011-02-01	1.25995	2011-03-08	1.04495
2011-03-07	2011-03-08	1.04495	2011-10-04	0.60345
2011-10-06	2011-10-11	0.64635	2011-10-31 23:00	0.64345
2011-11-01	2011-11-01	0.6157	2012-04-10	0.6137
2012-04-12	2012-04-17	0.7247	2012-12-18	0.8344
2012-04-18	2012-04-18	0.8344	2013-10-01	0.6963
2013-10-01	2013-10-01	0.6963	2014-07-08	0.49175
2014-07-08	2014-07-08	0.49175	2015-06-01	0.307146
2015-06-01	2015-06-01	0.307	2016-02-14	0.22
2016-02-14	2016-02-14	0.22	2017-01-19	0.18018
2017-01-19	2017-01-19	0.18018	2018-01-01	0.18018 = 1/5.55
2018-01-01	2018-01-01	0.18018	2018-05-01	0.16949 = 1/5.9
2018-05-01	2018-05-01	0.16949	2018-06-07	0.16949 = 1/5.9
2018-06-07	2018-06-07	0.16949	2018-07-07	0.17857 = 1/5.6
2018-07-07	2018-07-07	0.17857	2019-02-28	0.17857 = 1/5.6
2019-02-28	2019-02-28	0.17857	2019-04-13	0.17094 = 1/5.85
2019-04-13	2019-04-13	0.17094	2019-08-10	0.18348 = 1/5.45
2019-08-10	2019-08-10	0.18348	2019-12-18	0.18518 = 1/5.4
2019-12-18	2019-12-18	0.18518	2030-12-31	0.18518 = 1/5.4

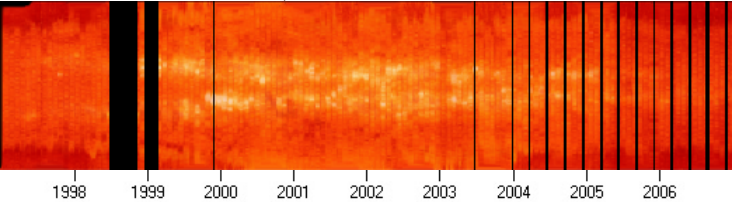
This response ratio has been detected by comparing SDO 304 channel with Stereo A,B 304 channels, where they overlap, possibly spaced by few days to roll that region into other's view...

Example synoptic map (2012-08-21 00:00):



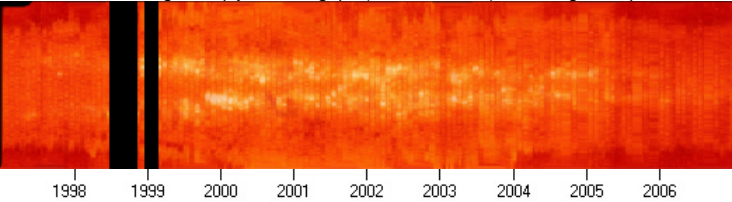
EIT304 - extreme ultra violet - SC 23 (SOHO)

EIT 304 A from NASA/ESA SOHO, Years 1997-2006.

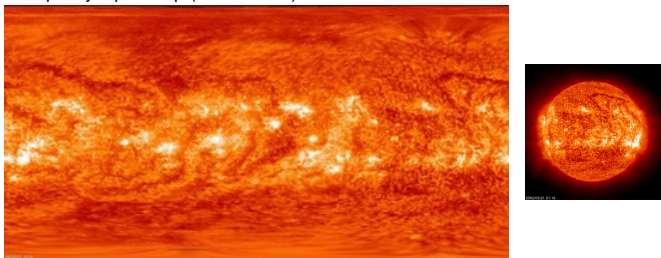


This version is converted from daily synoptic maps (with remembering last state until seen again after next rotation), stitched from 1024x1024 JPG source images (with auto-detected solar position). Each synoptic map (11613 maps used) is descaled in two steps to 1x120 pixel image, which are averaged into weekly columns (using floating-point RGB) into synoptic chart. Unlike all prior maps, there is no floating point data version, all processing is done on JPG images... It also uses little different color-map than the EIT-304 above...

EIT 304 - same image, simply re-filled gaps (CCD bakeouts) from neighbour pixels:

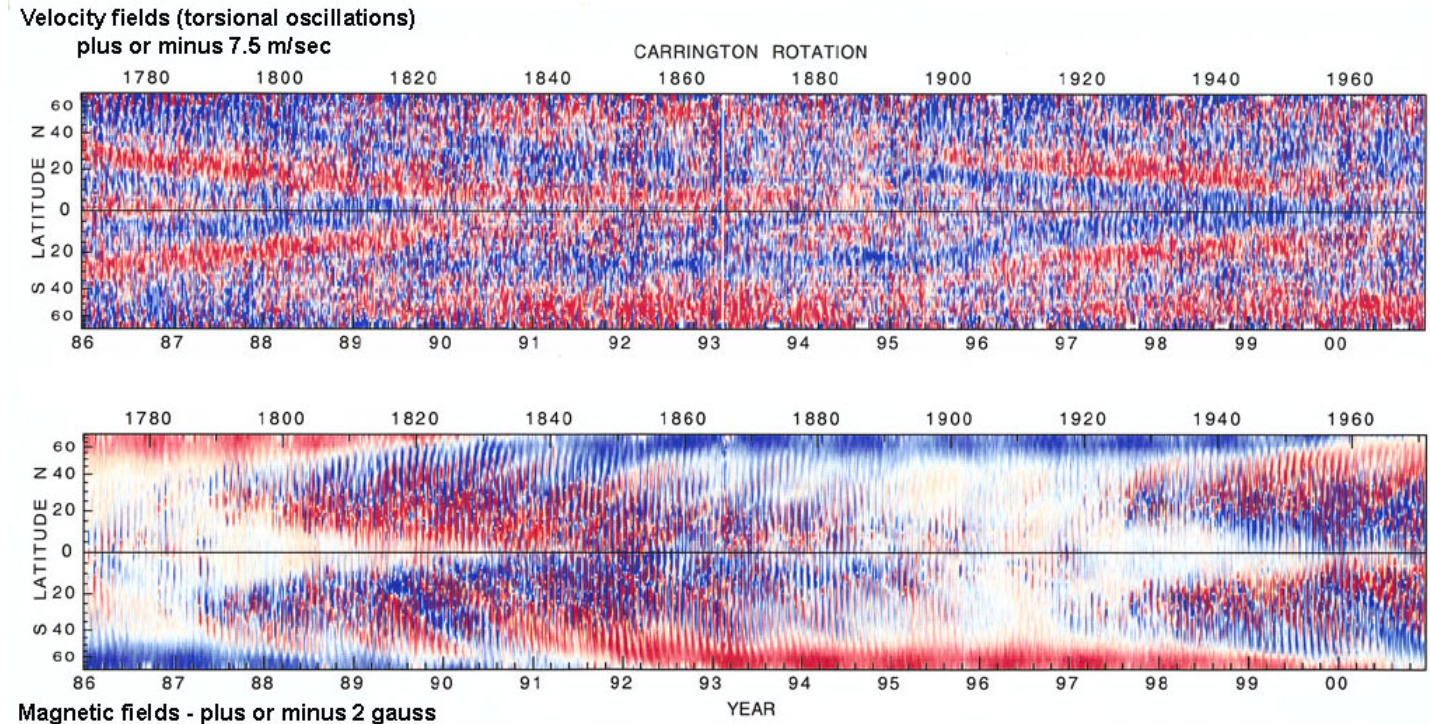


Example synoptic map (2002-03-21) :

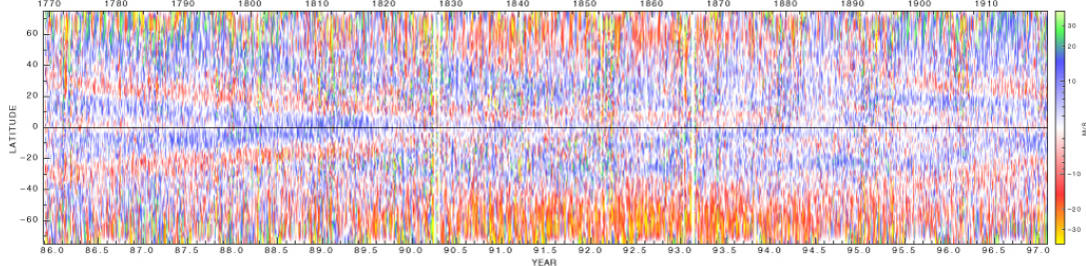




For comparison, I add here data from Mt. Wilson observatory by [Roger K. Ulrich](#) covering SC22 and start of SC23, as downloaded in year 2006:



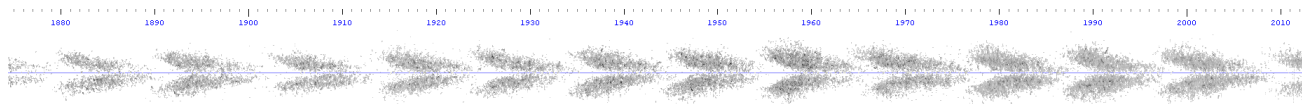
And some newer version of similar data (torsional oscillation - probably a difference in zonal rotation velocity):



Current version including data can probably be accessed here: [The Pattern of Rotation Rate Deviation Known as the Torsional Oscillations](#)

Sunspot data since year 1874, as compiled from:

- GREENWICH SUNSPOT GROUP REPORTS 1874-1981
- SUNSPOT GROUP REPORTS from Mt. Wilson Jan 1962 - 2012 and USAF/NOAA Dec 1981 - 2012



A conjecture: Where there are sunspots, there and then is the faster surface flow...