

SOLAR CALCIUM

On the Sun, the chromospheric fine structure around sunspots is marked by bright areas called flocculi or plages. When viewed using the K line of calcium, these areas are called calcium plages. Historical archives include full disk daily drawings and summary tables which include the data, the viewing quality, the wavelength used for observation, the plage number, a subjective activity index value, the complete position coordinates, the total area of the associated faculose region, sometimes the total area of sunspots in the active region, and an estimate of the plage intensity. The intensity is measured on a scale of 1 to 5; 1 = faint, and 5 = very bright, referring to the brightest part of the plage. The National Geophysical Data Center archives 8 stations' data (mostly tabulations or photographs) covering the period 1933 to the present.