

From Solar Min to Solar Max; Half a solar cycle of SOHO observations
Status: R

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Since its launch on 2 December 1995, the Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (SOHO) has provided an unparalleled breadth and depth of information about the Sun, from its interior, through the hot and dynamic atmosphere, and out to the solar wind. SOHO has continued to revolutionize our understanding of the Sun with its 24 hour per day observations of our daylight star. The main objectives of the SOHO mission was to study the structure and dynamics of the solar interior, the heating of the solar corona, and the acceleration of the solar wind. Five years later, science teams from around the world have made great strides toward answering these "big three" questions. At the same time, SOHO's easily accessible, spectacular data and basic science results have captured the imagination of the space science community and the general public alike. This presentation will summarize some of the scientific highlights and illustrate how SOHO is monitoring the energy output from the Sun and acts like a solar watchdog for solar eruptions.