Solar Physics in The Netherlands — 1998

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Solar physics research in the Netherlands is carried out at Utrecht, Nieuwegein and Noordwijk.

At the *Sterrekundig Instituut Utrecht* solar physics was done by Rob Rutten with graduate students Thijs Schrijver and Mandy Hagenaar (the latter in close collaboration with Karel Schrijver at the Lockheed-Martin Palo Alto Research Laboratories), and parttime by Max Kuperus and Jan Kuijpers with students. Kees Zwaan (emeritus) remained active as well.

Nick Schutgens (supervised by Max Kuperus and Bert van den Oord) obtained his PhD ("Oscillating Prominences") in 1998 and took a job at the Dutch meteorology service. (Recently, Bert van den Oord also left solar physics for that service.)

Rob Hammerschlag's Dutch Open Telescope (DOT) came to a standstill during most of 1998 due to lack of funding. The technology foundation STW that funded the DOT completion and installation on La Palma regarded the official First Light Ceremony (October 1997) as the completion of its support, and it took the astronomical funding agencies in The Netherlands and Utrecht University about a year to make up their mind to support a three-year "science verification" period. It started September 1 1998. The effort concentrates on installing G-band, Ca II K and Hα imaging in support of TRACE and SOHO. More information at the DOT website `http://www.astro.uu.nl/~rutten/dot/`.

Another 1998 activity was the start of the EU-TMR-funded European Solar Magnetometry Network in which eight solar physics groups (at Utrecht, Oslo, Stockholm, Potsdam, Estec, Meudon, Naples and La Laguna) will spend 1.3 million ECU on postdoc salaries, joint observing campaigns and meetings. More information at `http://www.astro.uu.nl`

At the *Utrecht Space Research Institute*, a non-University institute, partial interests in solar physics are retained by Peter Hoyng (dynamo theory), Rolf Mewe and Jelle Kaastra (plasma diagnostics).

At the *FOM Institute for Plasmaphysics* at Nieuwegein (also non-University) Hans Goedbloed leads a plasma physics group that in 1998 included Rony Keppens (postdoc) and graduate students Bart van der Holst and Ronald Nijboer. Ronald succesfully defended his thesis "Waves and Instabilities of Magnetohydrodynamic Flows in Flux Tubes" in 1998. The group concentrates on linear and nonlinear MHD aspects of laboratory and astrophysical plasmas using analytical and numerical methods. Examples are shown at `http://www.phys.uu.nl/~mpr/` and `http://www.phys.uu.nl/~toth/`.

At *ESTEC* (Noordwijk) there is an international (and rather transient) ESA solar physics group that is involved, among other projects, in SOHO and Ulysses. At the end of 1998 the group at ESTEC consisted of Martin Huber (Head ESA Space Science Department), Peter Wenzel (Head of the Solar System Division; Ulysses data), Vicente Domingo (irradiance variations, SOHO data, SOHO Project Scientist until 30 June 1998) Bernard Foing (solar and stellar spectroscopy), Thierry Appourchaux (helioseismology, SOHO), William Chaplin (research fellow, helioseismology, SOHO and BISON data, from October 1998) Richard Marsden (Ulysses), Trevor Sanderson (Ulysses), David Lario (research fellow, energetic particles, Ulysses data), Karin Muglach (research fellow; chromospheric fields and dynamics, SOHO/GCT+VTT data; until October 1998), Salvatore Orlando (research fellow; Coronal Loops, SOHO/Yohkoh data), Milan Maksimovic (research fellow; Solar Wind, Ulysses data) and David Lario (research Fellow; ion acceleration, Ulysses data)

Finally, the *SOHO Project Scientist Team* consisting of Bernhard Fleck (SOHO Deputy Project Scientist since 1 July 1998; chromospheric oscillations), Luis Sanchez (SOHO Science Data Coordinator; helioseismology), Piet Martens (SOHO Science Operations Coordinator; coronal heating and flares), Alexander Belien (ESA external research fellow; coronal heating, MHD modelling), and Jack Ireland (ESA external research fellow; coronal heating, MHD modelling) resided at Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland.

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