STEREO Space Weather Beacon:
December 2003

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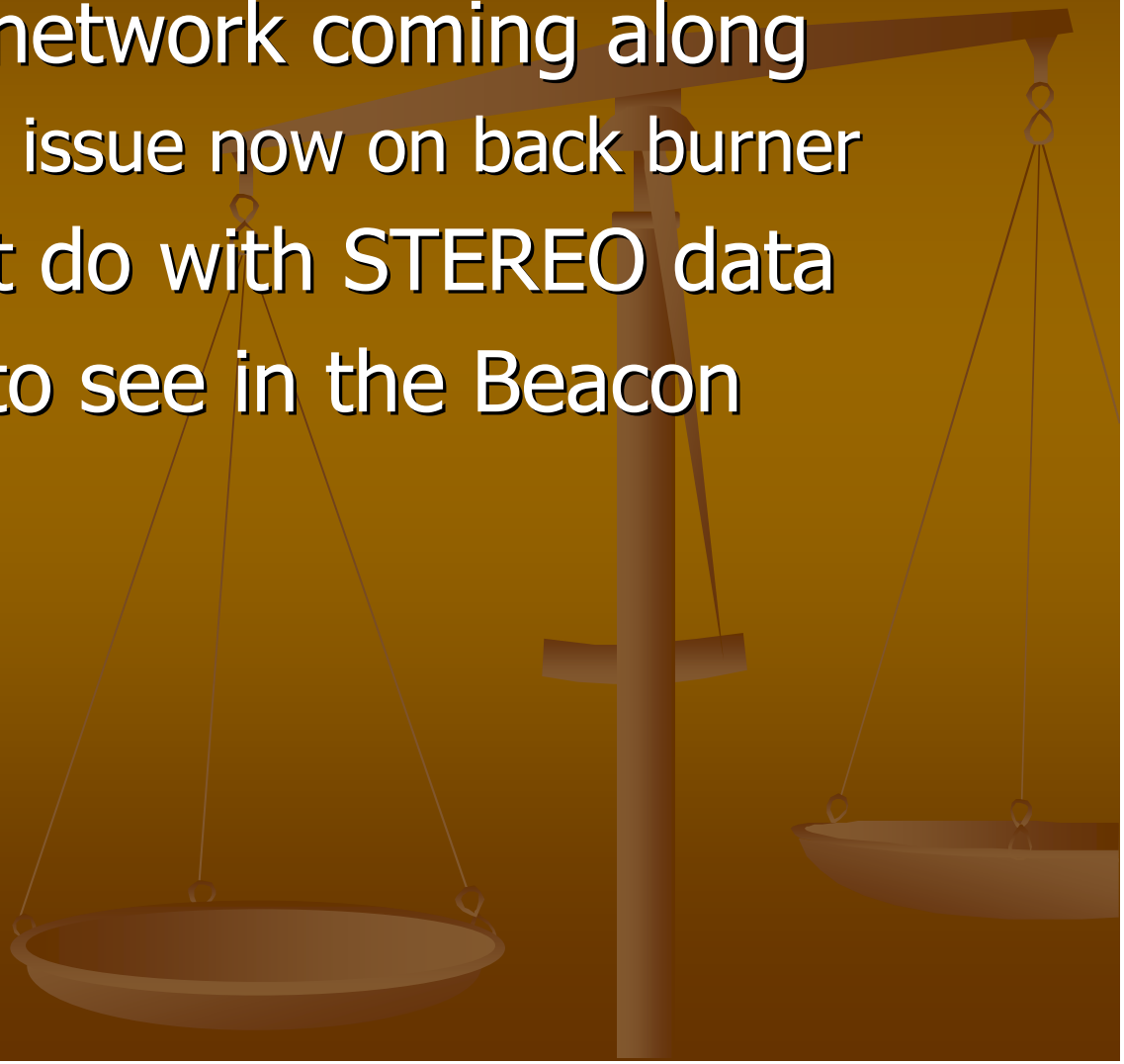
NOAA/SEC

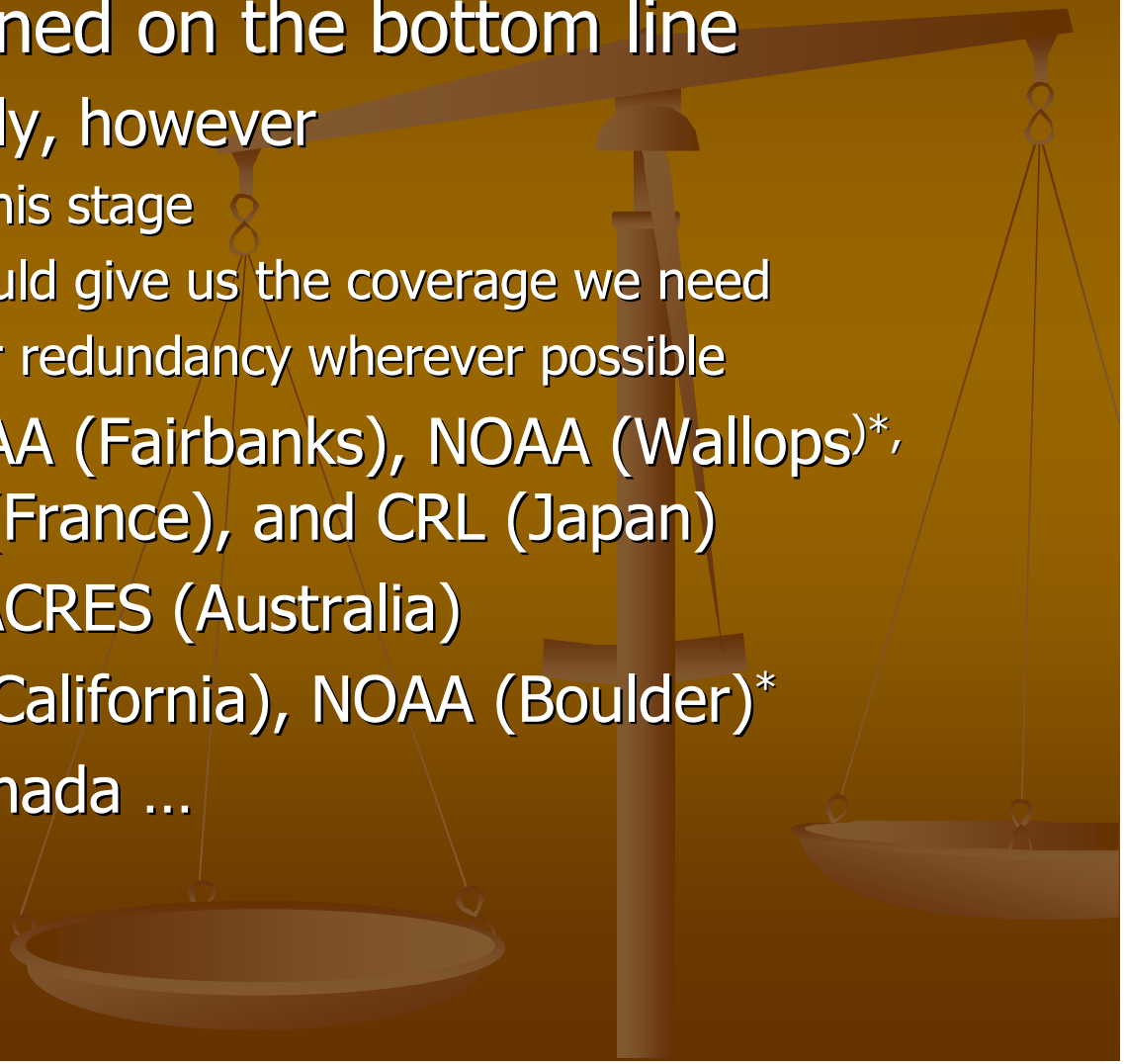
Outline

- Ground station network coming along
  - Turbo encoding issue now on back burner
- What SEC might do with STEREO data
- What we'd like to see in the Beacon



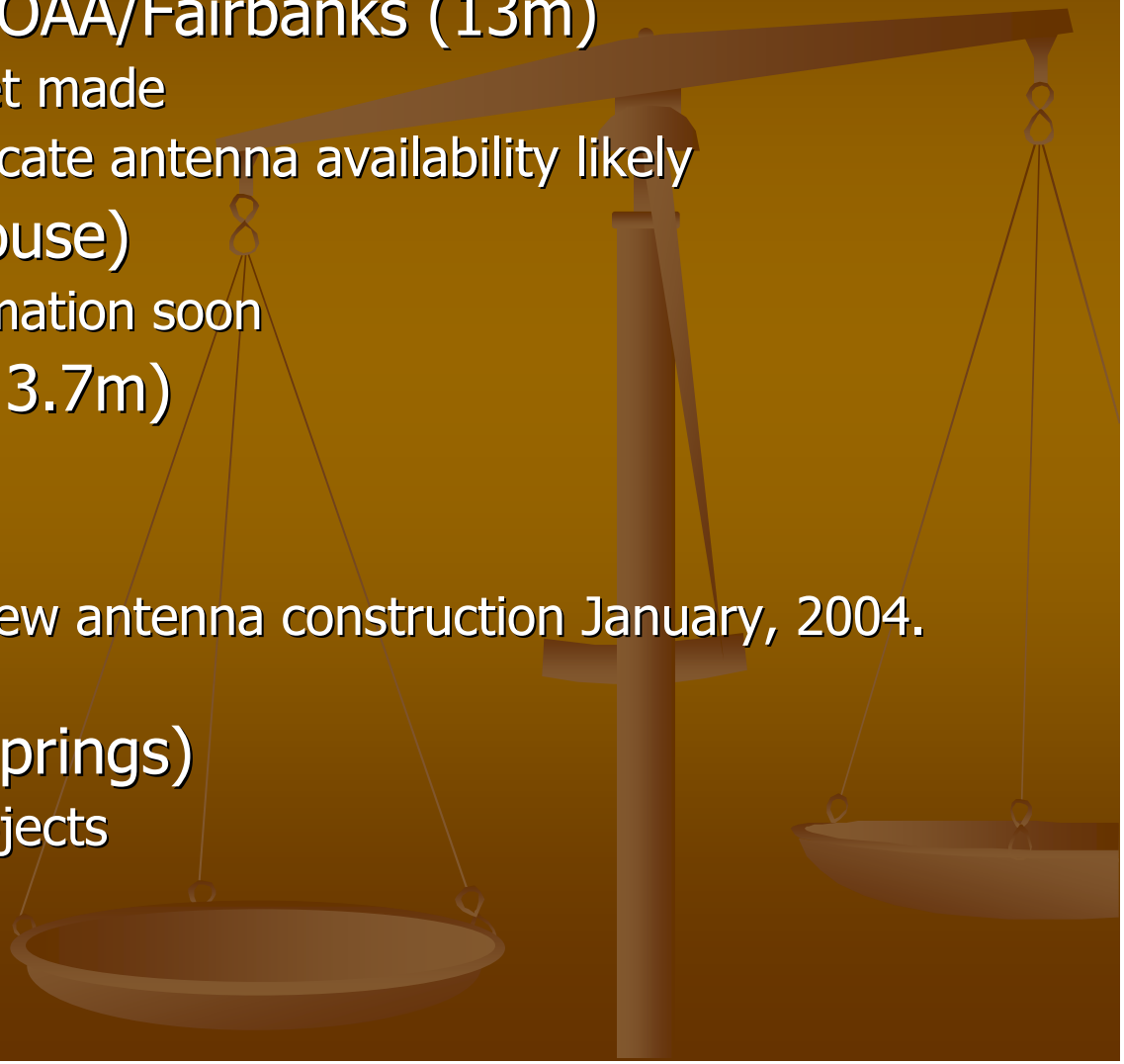
Ground Station Partners

- None have yet signed on the bottom line
  - Moving along nicely, however
    - Ahead of ACE at this stage
    - The probables would give us the coverage we need
    - We are looking for redundancy wherever possible
  - Probables are NOAA (Fairbanks), NOAA (Wallops)*, RAL* (UK), CNES (France), and CRL (Japan)
  - Near probable is ACRES (Australia)
  - Possible is USAF (California), NOAA (Boulder)*
  - Others? Brazil, Canada …



Ground Station Particulars

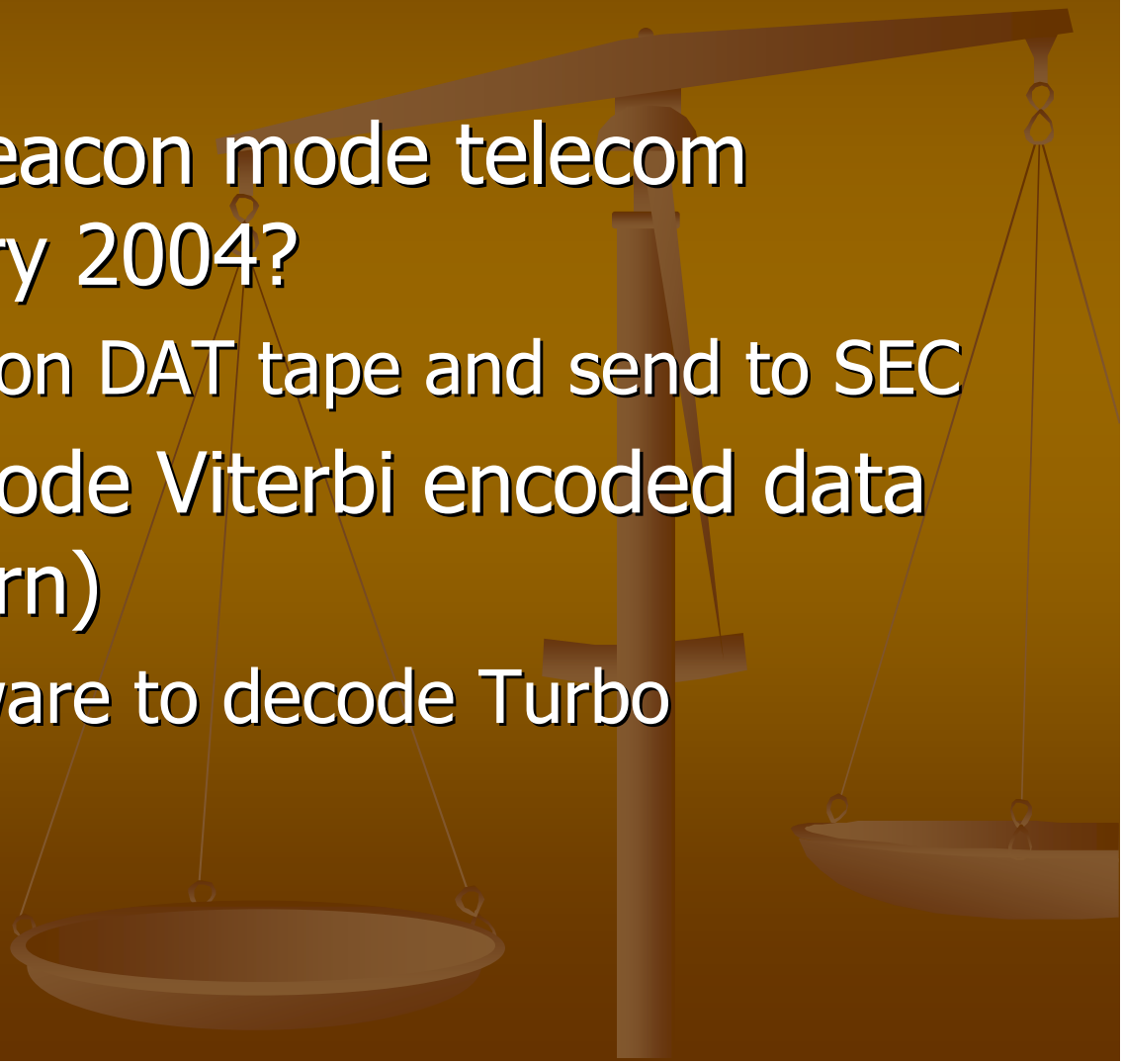
- NOAA/Wallops and NOAA/Fairbanks (13m)
  - Formal request not yet made
  - Informal contacts indicate antenna availability likely
- CNES (9m near Toulouse)
  - Should receive confirmation soon
- RAL (12m, 2.4m and 3.7m)
  - ACE is primary here
- CRL (6m)
  - Funding request for new antenna construction January, 2004. Highly rated.
- ACRES (9m in Alice Springs)
  - Lots of competing projects



Turbo vs Viterbi

- Telemetry encoding options in the beacon mode are rate 1/6 Viterbi, rate ½ Viterbi*, and Turbo encoding.
- Issues regarding Turbo were licensing and cost.
  - Licensing appears to not be a problem
  - JPL wants ~$56k for decoding software
- Turns out we can live without Turbo for at least 3 years: 6m good for 3 years; 9m for 4.9 years
- Turbo only gives about 1 additional year

Other beacon issues



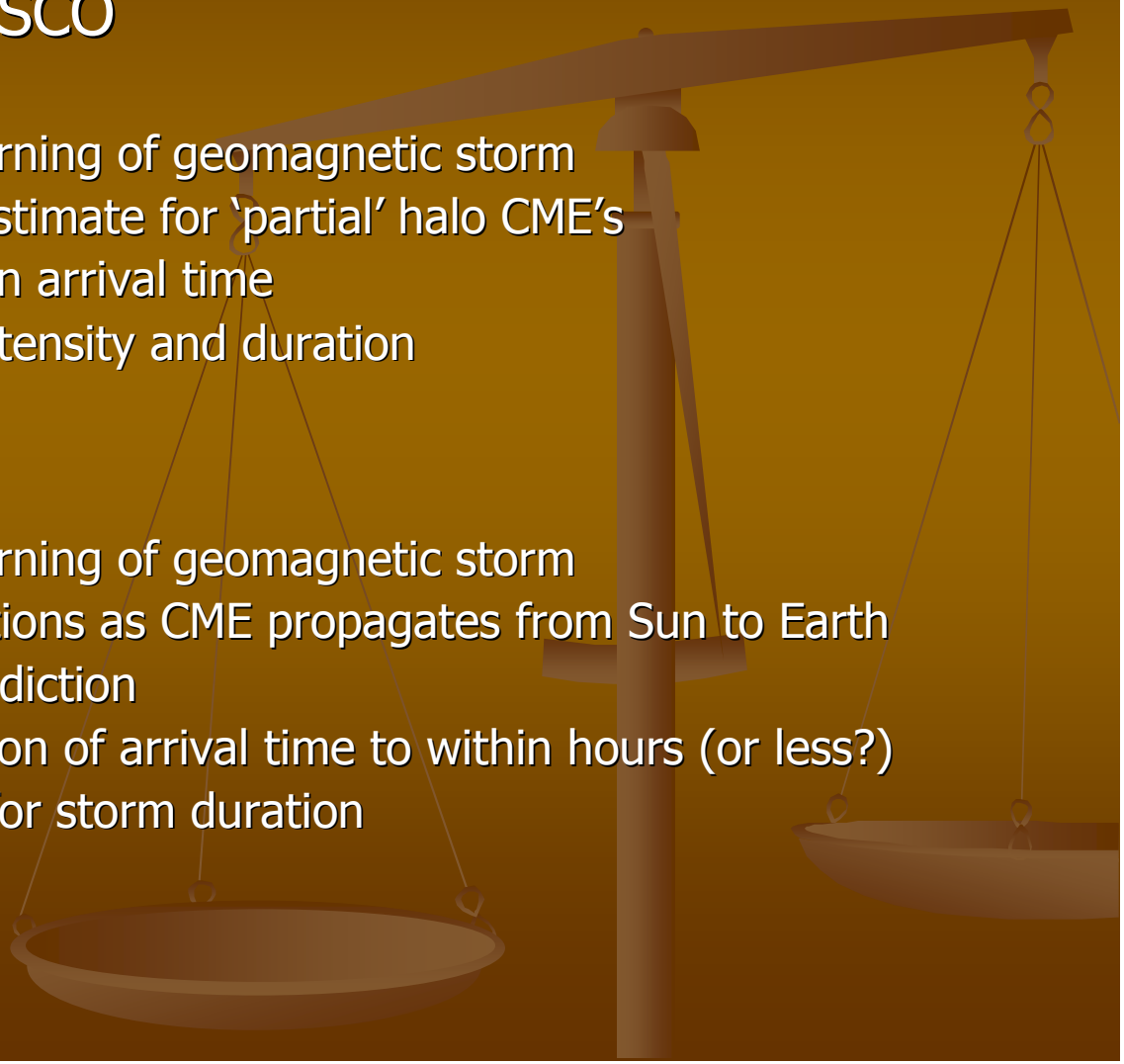
- Ready for s/c beacon mode telecom testing – January 2004?
  - APL will record on DAT tape and send to SEC
- Software to decode Viterbi encoded data in work (Phil Karn)
  - May write software to decode Turbo

STEREO Science Relevant to SEC

- Geomagnetic Storms
  - Coronal Mass Ejections
  - High speed streams
  - Solar Wind properties
- Long Term Forecasts
- Lots of other potential improvements

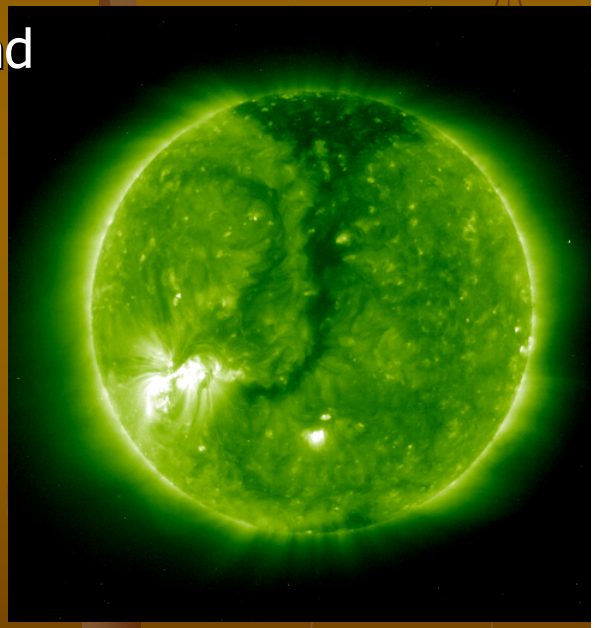
Coronal Mass Ejections

- Currently – SOHO/LASCO
  - Halo CME's
    - 1-3 day advance warning of geomagnetic storm
    - Uncertain hit/miss estimate for 'partial' halo CME's
    - error of ±11 hours in arrival time
    - rough estimate of intensity and duration
- STEREO
  - 3-d views of CME's
    - 1-3 day advance warning of geomagnetic storm
    - Continuous observations as CME propagates from Sun to Earth
    - Reliable hit/miss prediction
    - Potential for prediction of arrival time to within hours (or less?)
    - Improved estimate for storm duration



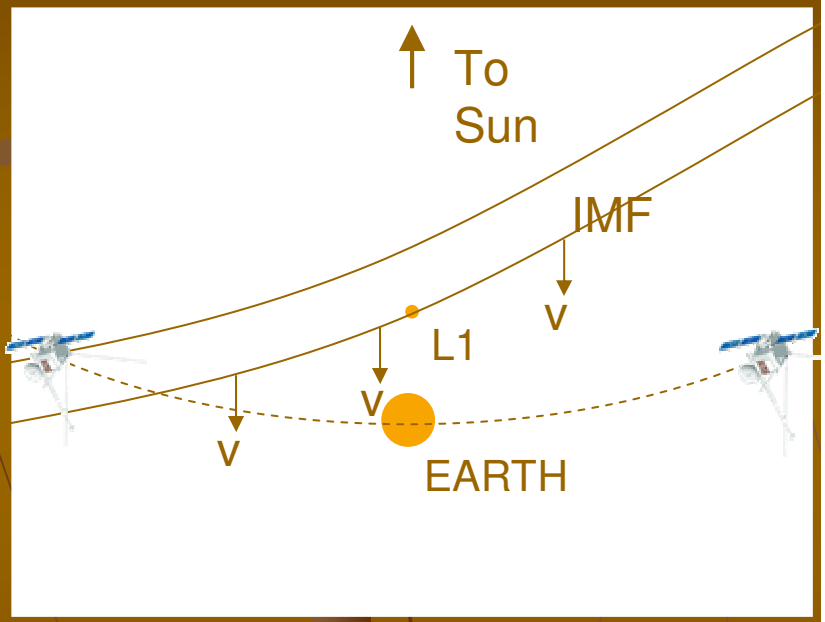
Recurring Solar Wind Streams

- Currently
  - For first time stream – estimate from longitude
  - Recurring stream – use previous occurrence and changes in coronal hole since then – 27 days
- STEREO – Lagging spacecraft
  - Use actual observation from ~few days earlier
  - Improved start time of high speed wind
  - Improved end time of high speed wind
  - Determination of high speed wind properties (*e.g.* velocity)



Solar Wind Discontinuities (and more)

- Currently
  - In-situ observation at L1
  - ~1 hour warning of
    n, V, B

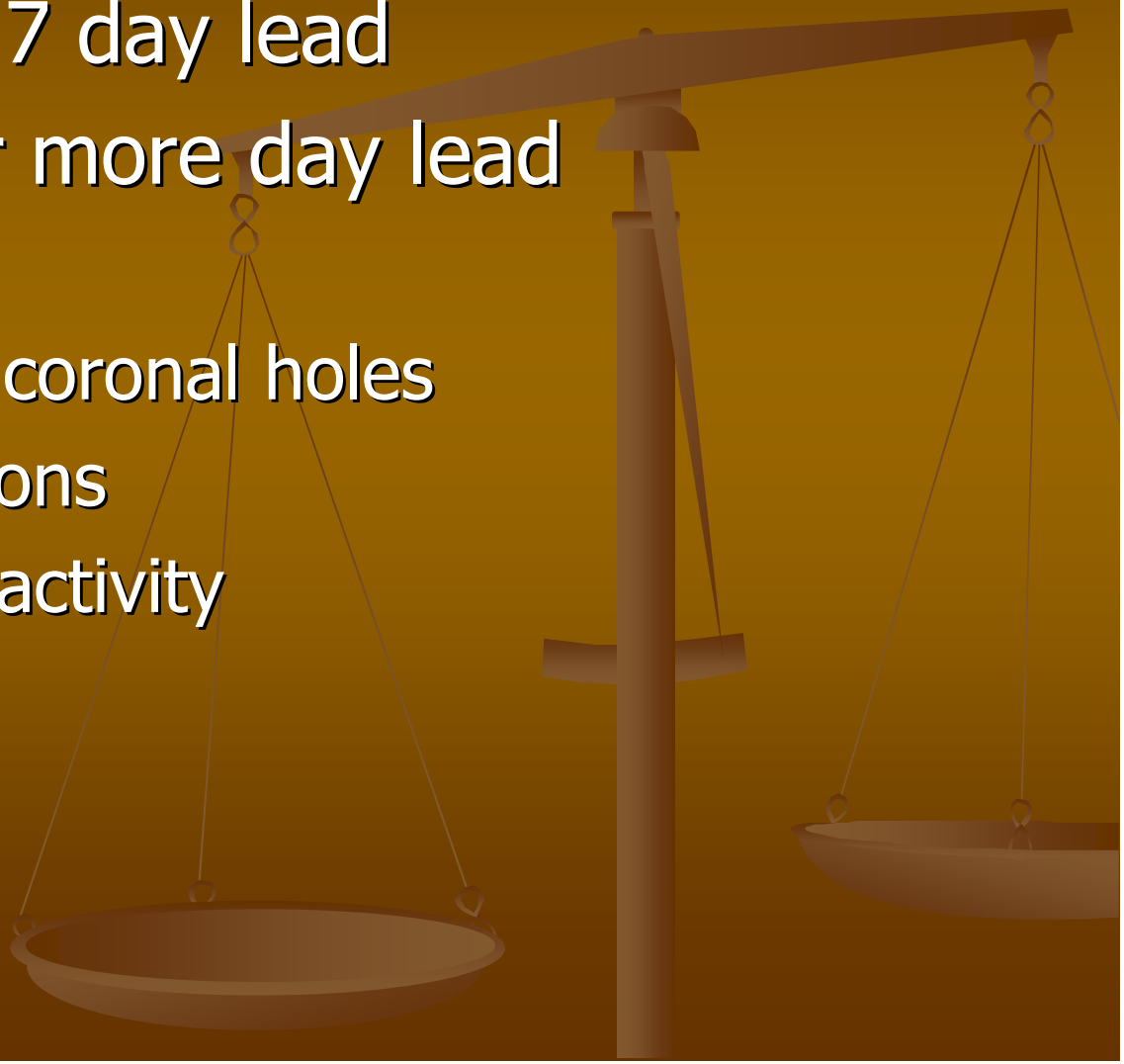


- STEREO
  - Either spacecraft, depending on heliosphere
    - May potentially provide ~ 1 day warning of V, B

    Weimer *et al.* (2003)

Long-term Forecasts

- Current – up to 7 day lead
- STEREO – 14 or more day lead
  - EUV Flux
  - New equatorial coronal holes
  - New active regions
  - Level of flaring activity

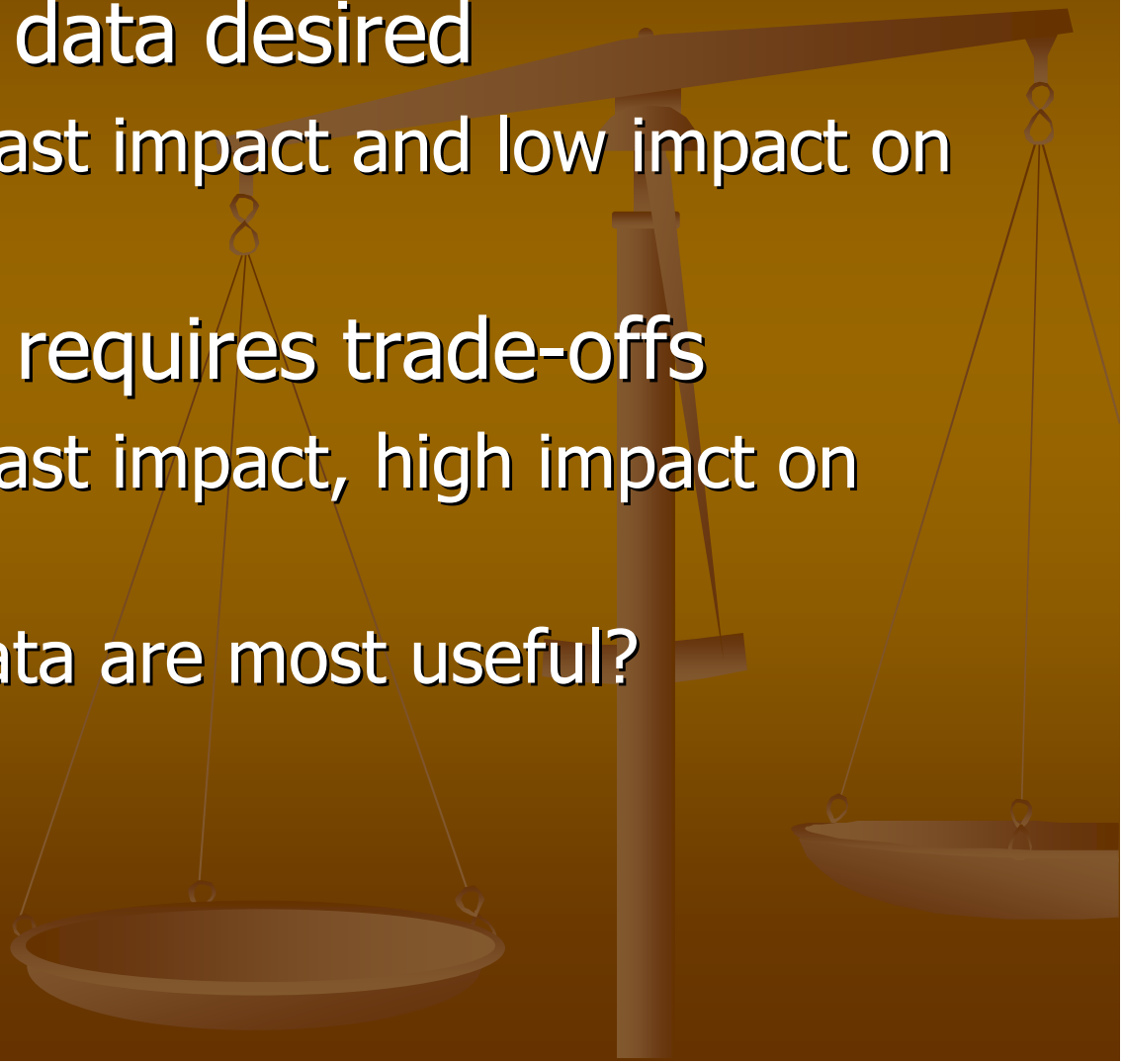


The Far Future

- STEREO will be of 'limited' use in forecasting – due to short mission lifetime
- I think of it as a proof of concept for space/solar monitors of the future.
  - When technologies such as solar sails are mature, missions like this could be common.
  - STEREO needs to show that highly accurate, and useful forecasts can be made.
    - What's the $$$ impact?

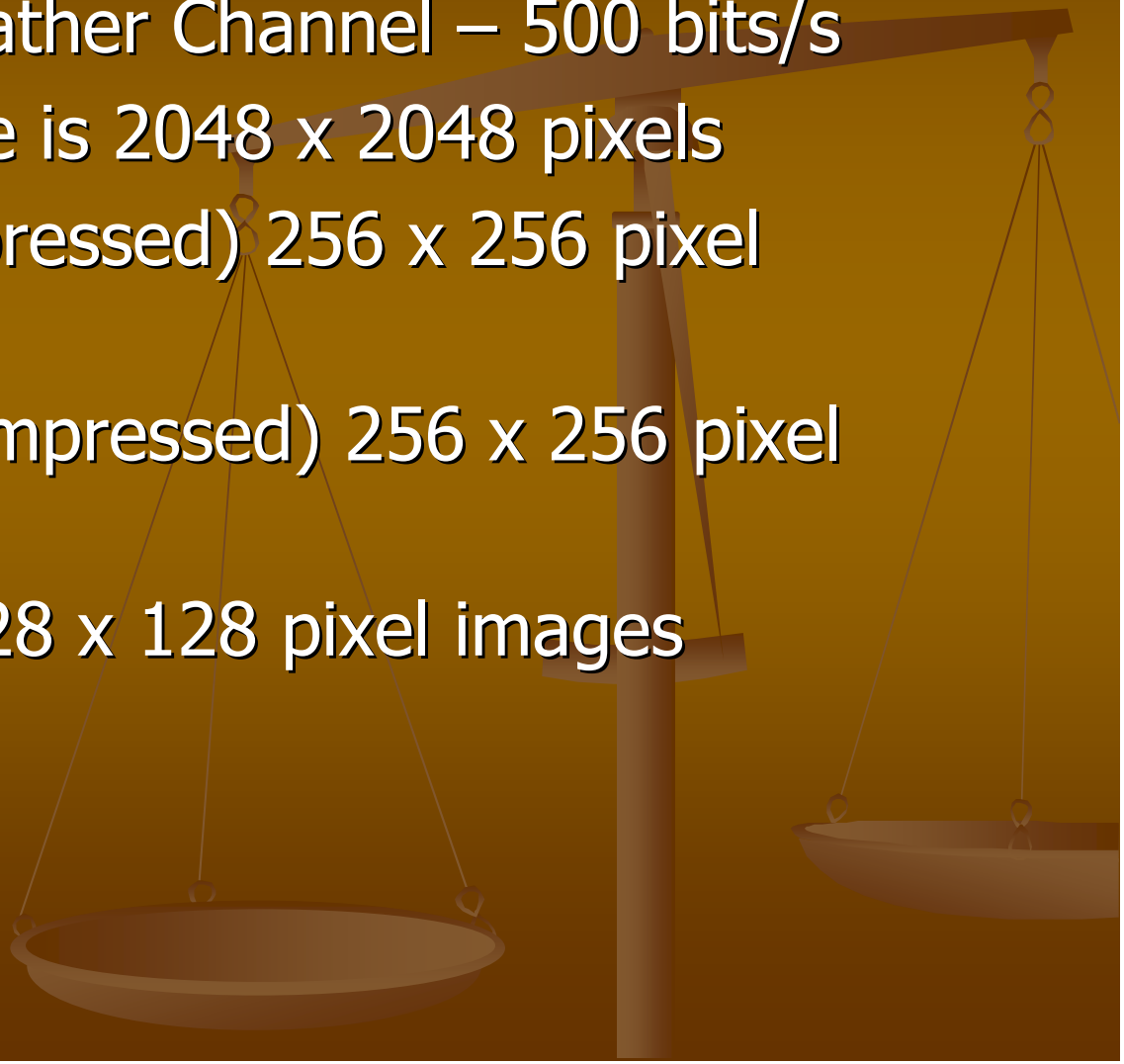
Space Weather Beacon Data

- All non-imaging data desired
  - High SWx forecast impact and low impact on telemetry
- The image data requires trade-offs
  - High SWx forecast impact, high impact on telemetry
  - Which image data are most useful?



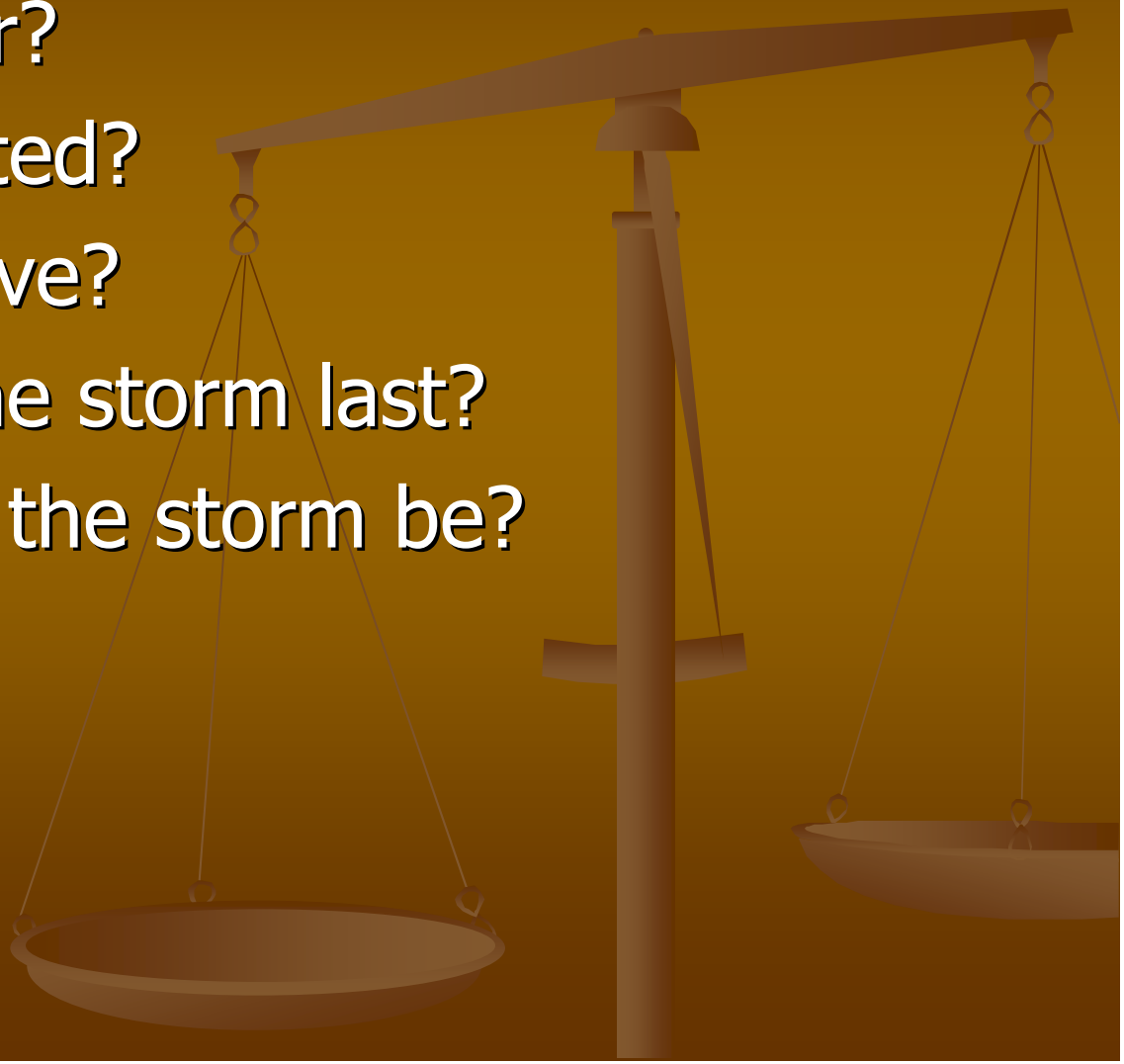
SECCHI Proposed Beacon Content

- SECCHI Space Weather Channel – 500 bits/s
- Original CCD image is 2048 x 2048 pixels
- 6-7 lossy (5x compressed) 256 x 256 pixel images per hour
- 2 lossless (2.3x compressed) 256 x 256 pixel images per hour
- 4x cadence with 128 x 128 pixel images



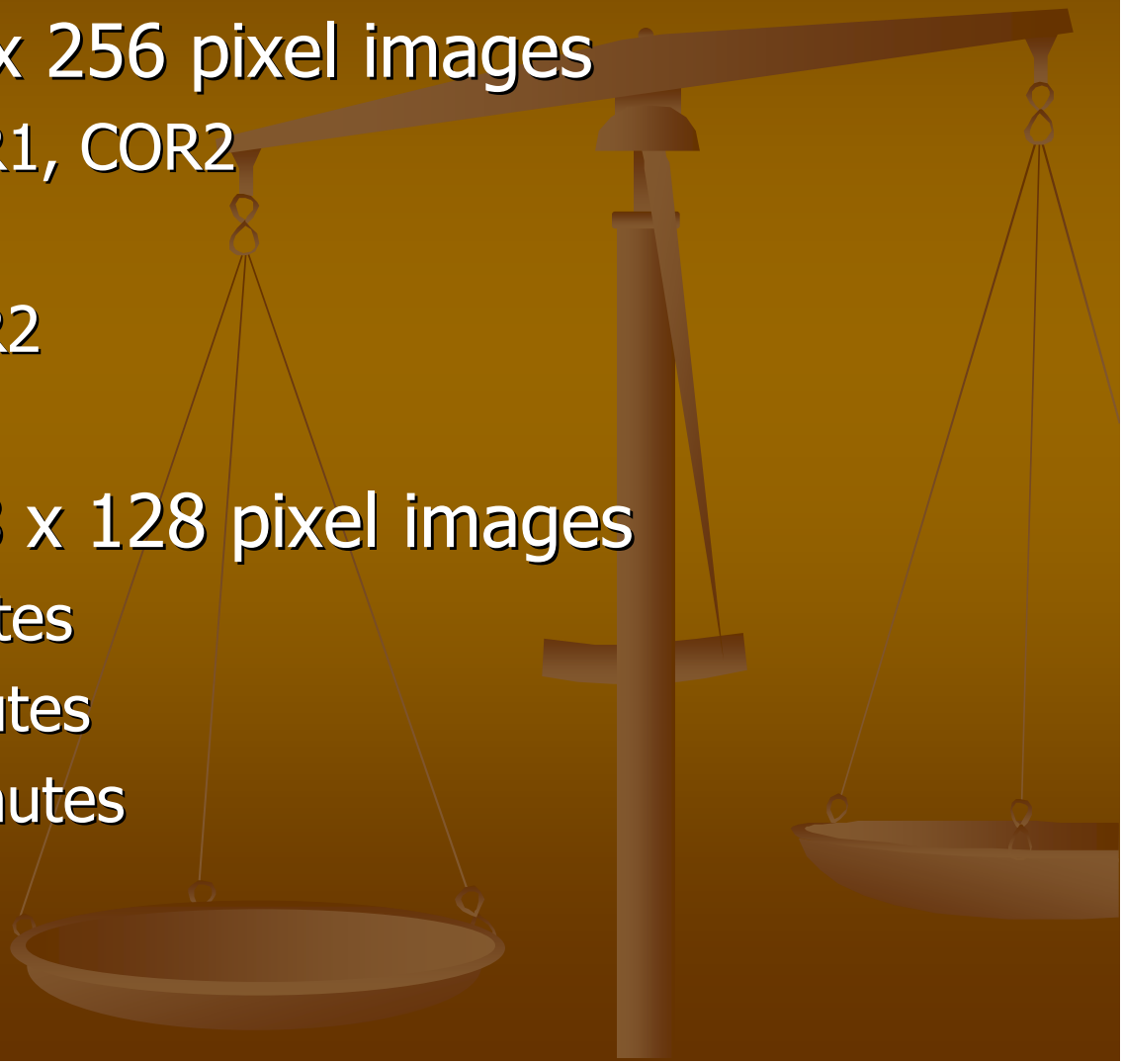
e.g. CME related geomag storm

- Did a CME occur?
- Is it Earth directed?
- When will it arrive?
- How long will the storm last?
- How strong will the storm be?



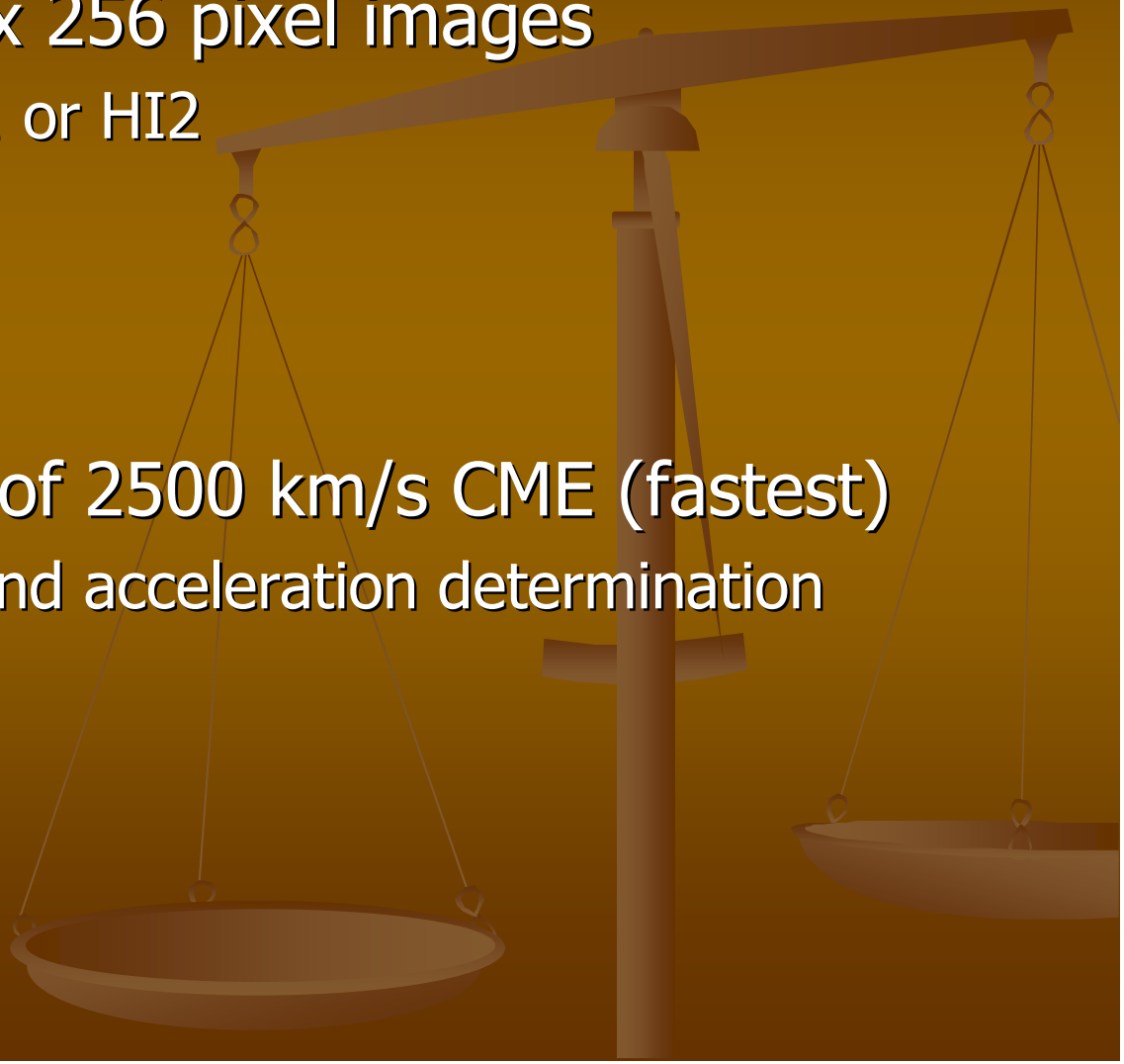
SECCHI Draft Observing Plans

- Hourly Plan 7 256 x 256 pixel images
  - 00 mins EUVI, COR1, COR2
  - 15 mins COR2
  - 30 mins EUVI, COR2
  - 45 mins COR2
- Hourly Plan 28 128 x 128 pixel images
  - EUVI every 5 minutes
  - COR1 every 6 minutes
  - COR2 every 10 minutes

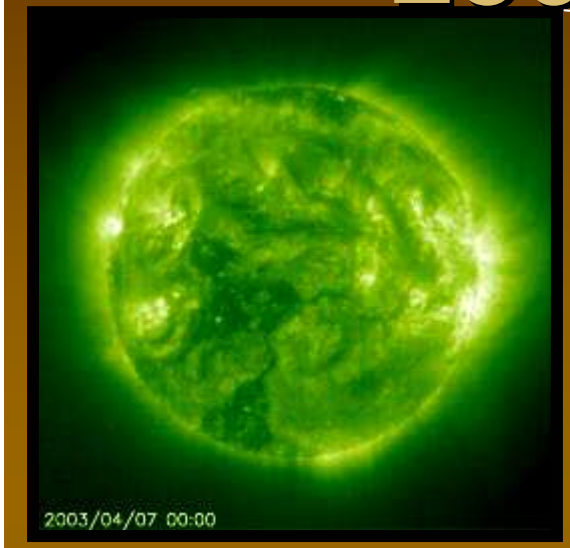


SEC Preferred Observing Plans

- Hourly Plan 7 256 x 256 pixel images
  - 00 mins COR2, HI1 or HI2
  - 15 mins COR2
  - 30 mins COR2
  - 45 mins COR2
- Provides 4 images of 2500 km/s CME (fastest)
  - 'Reliable' velocity and acceleration determination

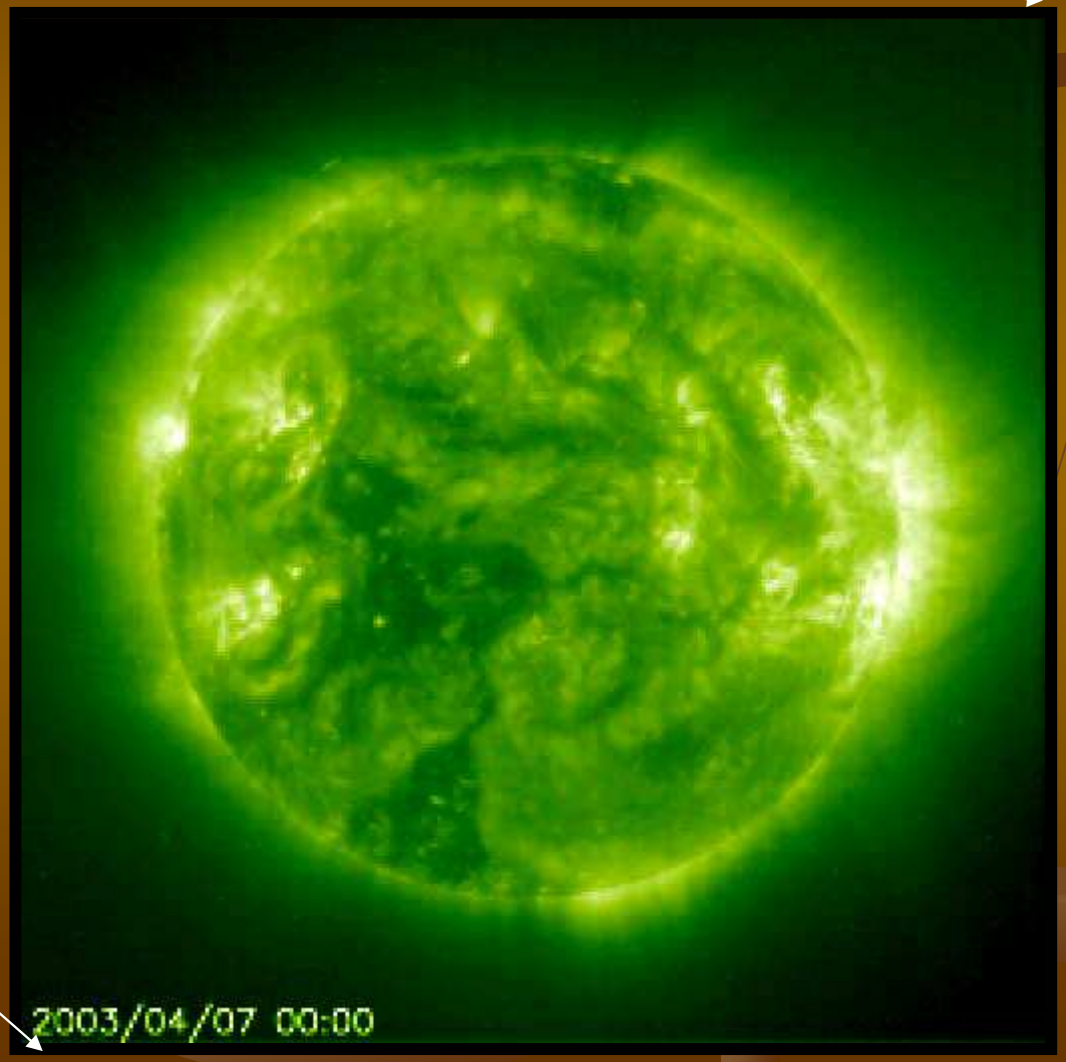


256 x 256 EIT Images

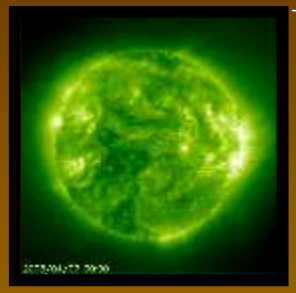


12 min cadence
10.4”/pixel

2x Enlargement

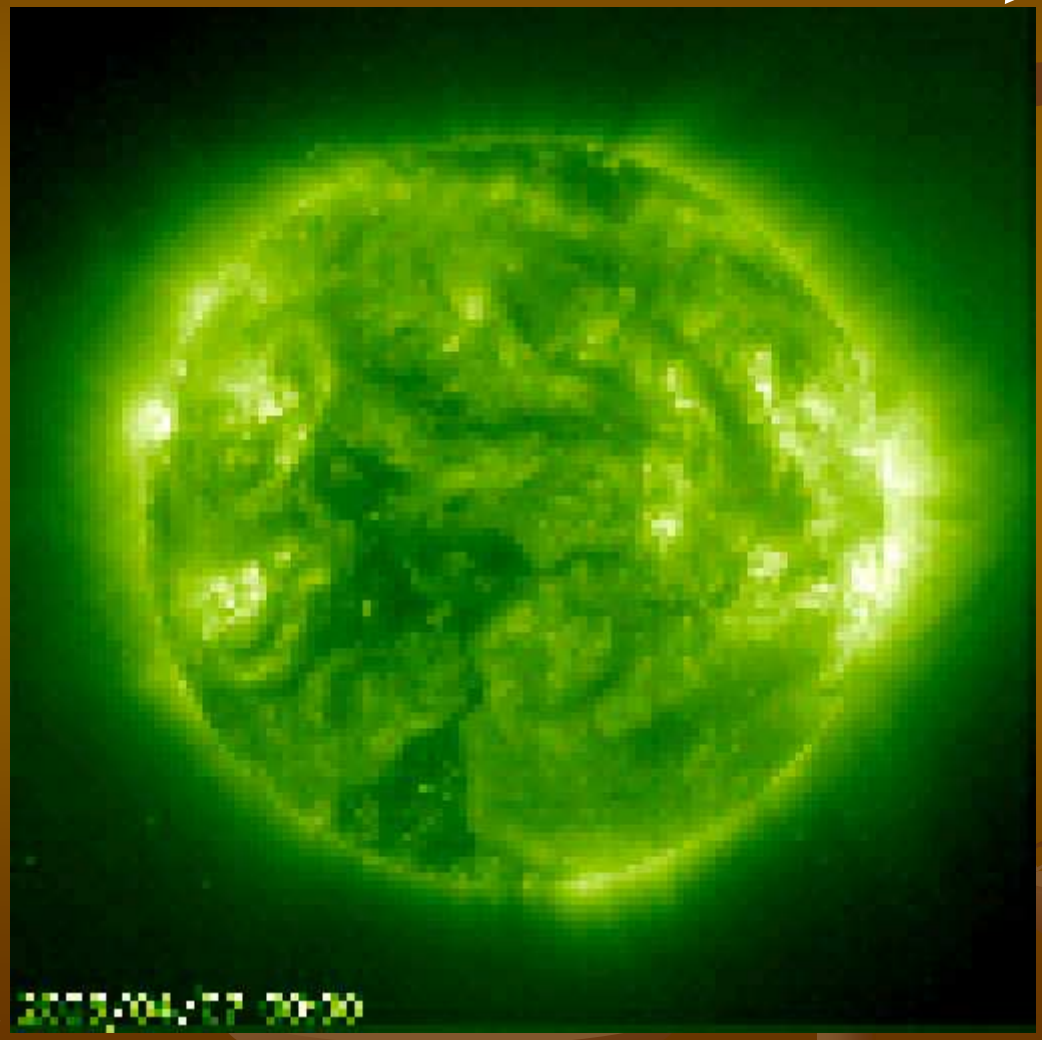


128 x 128 EIT Images

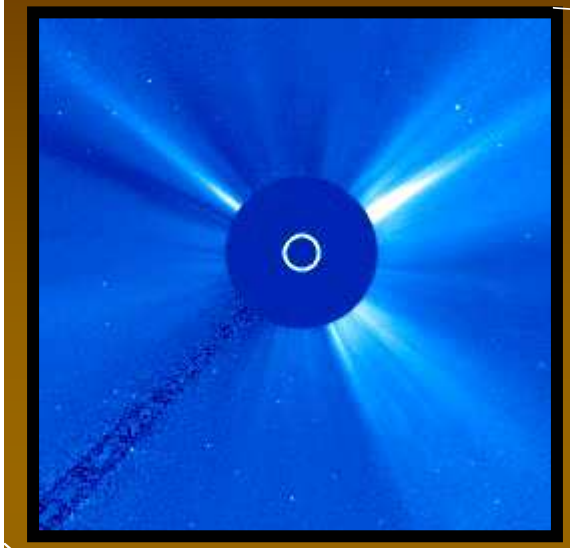


12 min cadence
20.8”/pixel

4x enlargement



256 x 256 LASCO C3 Images



~30 min cadence
224”/pixel

2x Enlargement

128 x 128 LASCO C3 Images