

Image: Crackling with solar flares

October 21 2010

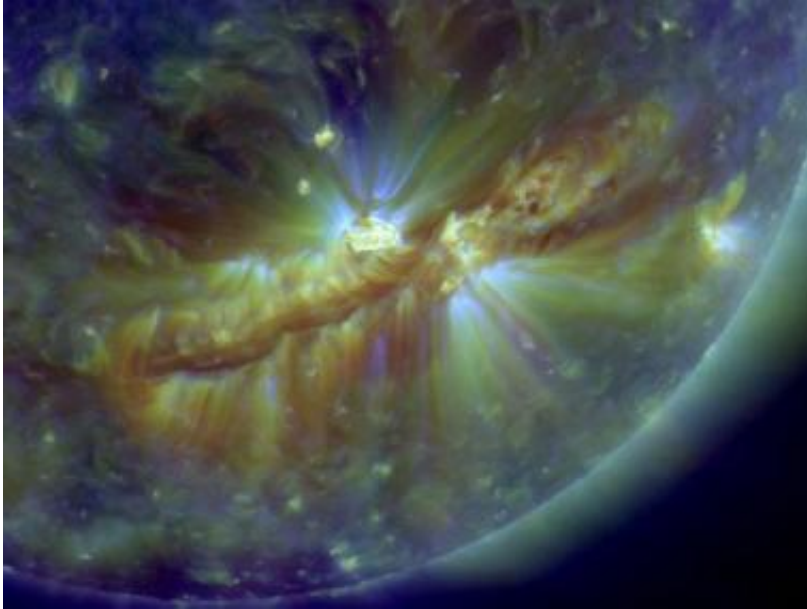


Image Credit: NASA

Fast-growing sunspot 1112 is crackling with solar flares.

So far, none of the blasts has hurled a substantial CME, or coronal mass ejection, toward Earth. In addition, a vast filament of magnetism is cutting across the sun's southern hemisphere.

This filament is so large it spans a distance greater than the separation of Earth and the moon.

A bright 'hot spot' just north of the filament's midpoint is UV radiation

from sunspot 1112. The proximity is no coincidence; the filament appears to be rooted in the sunspot below.

If the [sunspot](#) flares, it could cause the entire structure to erupt.

Thus far, none of the flares has destabilized the filament.

Provided by JPL/NASA

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