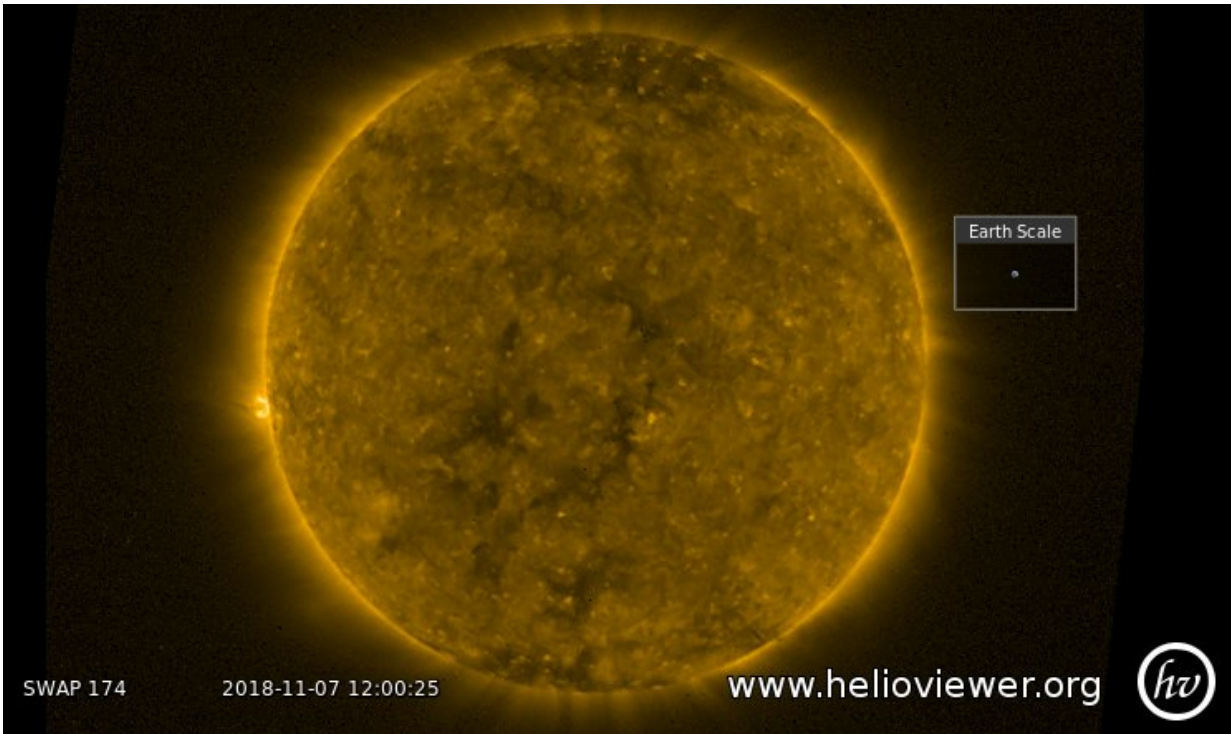


Image: Coronal holes

November 9 2018



Credit: ESA/ROB via helioviewer.org

This image shows dramatic dark areas in the Sun's corona and was acquired by the SWAP instrument on ESA's Proba-2 mission at midday on Wednesday, 7 November.

The dark areas are 'coronal holes' – areas of open magnetic field in the Sun's corona that emit charged particles as high-speed [solar wind](#) that

spreads into space.

When it reaches Earth, this solar wind can affect the functioning of satellites in orbit.

The nice thing is that these are predictable events, as we can see these gaps or holes on the [solar disc](#) before the high-speed wind hits Earth.

ESA's future Lagrange mission will significantly improve our ability to detect these [holes](#) and forecast solar wind effects, providing a lead time of three to five days.

Provided by European Space Agency

Citation: Image: Coronal holes (2018, November 9) retrieved 24 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2018-11-image-coronal-holes.html>

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