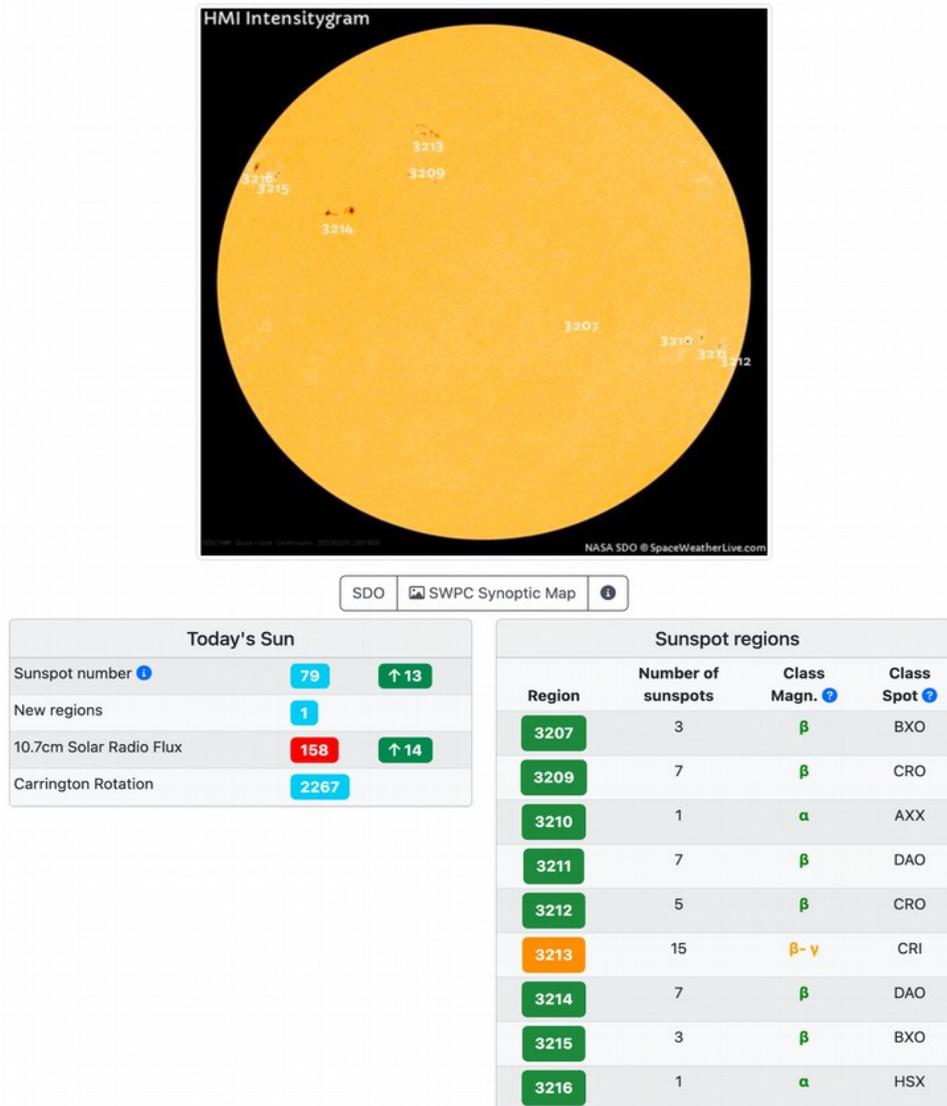


Today's Sunspot Fudge

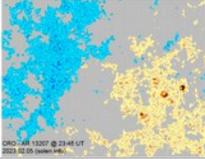
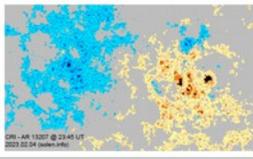
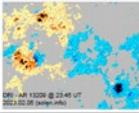
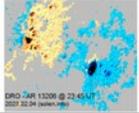
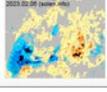
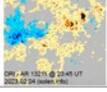
February 6, 2023

Instead of leading with images from Solen.info, as I often do, I will show you images from SpaceWeatherlive.com.

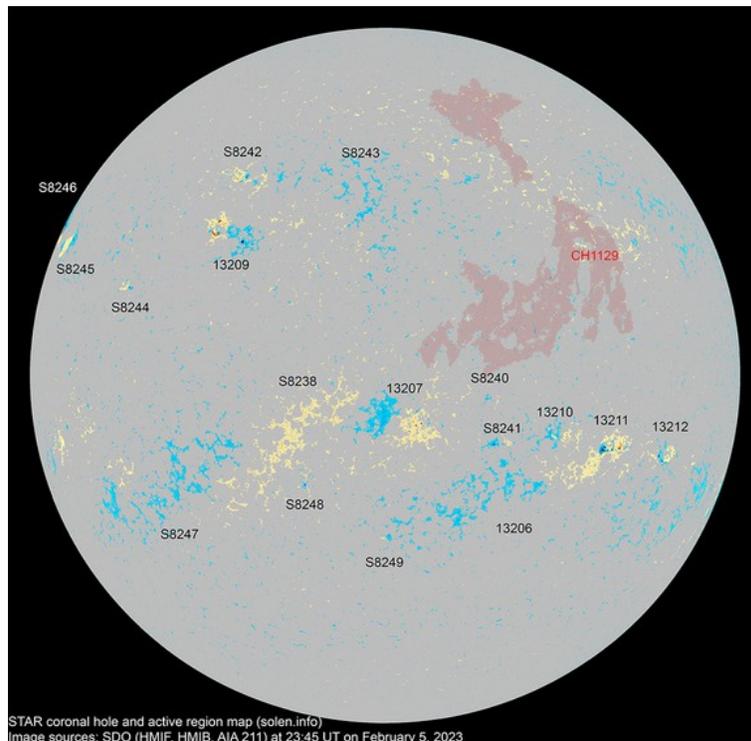


The sunspot number is given as 79, so we ask, how did they get that? If we add up the number of spots in the chart, we get 49. To get a sunspot number, we then take the number of regions and multiply by 10. They list nine regions, so that should be 90. $90 + 49 = 139$, not 79. So do they just think we can't do simple math? No, the problem is, SpaceWeather comes out of Belgium, so they still retain some independence. If they see sunspots, they report them. But the sunspot number is not their own number. These guys at SpaceWeather aren't doing the math. They are just reporting final numbers from. . . check their little blue i. . . WDC-SILSO. And WDC-SILSO is now controlled by? The US Air Force.

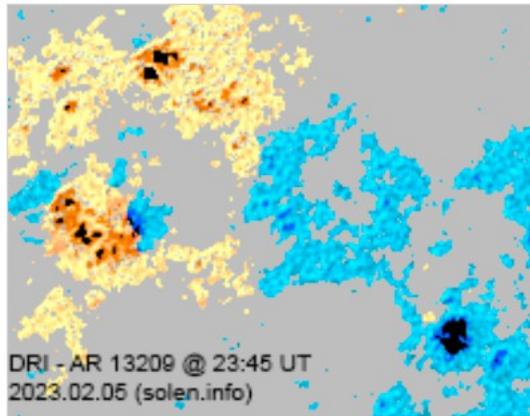
So, to check this, we go back to Solen.info, where we find

13207	2023.01.29 2023.01.30	10	18	11	S14W04	0060	BXO	CRO			area: 0035
S8227	2023.01.30				N29W17						
13212	2023.01.30 2023.02.04	3	11	5	S17W56	0020	BXO	BXI			
13208	2023.02.01 2023.02.01				N15W01						location: N15E02
S8232	2023.02.01				N14W47						
13209	2023.02.01 2023.02.03	6	21	11	N18E26	0060	DSO	DRI			
S8234	2023.02.01				S29E13						
13210	2023.02.02 2023.02.03	4	7	3	S17W41	0020	BXO	BXO			
13211	2023.02.03 2023.02.04	6	17	10	S17W41	0040	CRO	DAI			location: S17W42 area: 0100

So Air Force is only reporting five regions and 29 spots. They are just ignoring SpaceWeather's last four regions, including the largest one where they are reporting 15. That is region 3213, which Solen doesn't list at all. SpaceWeather has it tagged above 3209, right in the middle of the Sun, nowhere near a limb. So how did Solen miss it?

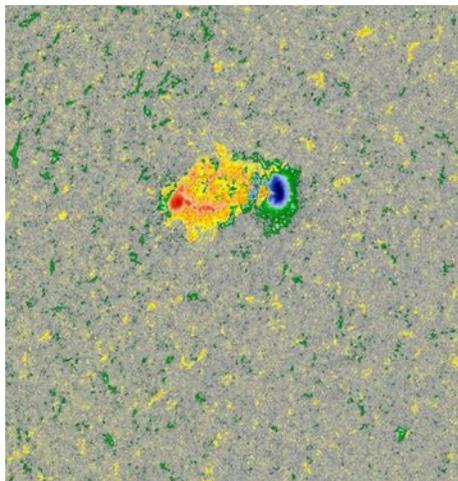


Looks like it is because they are including it with 3209. But, as you see, they list only six for both regions, while SpaceWeather lists 22. And Solen must be wrong, because all we have to do is zoom in on their own photo:

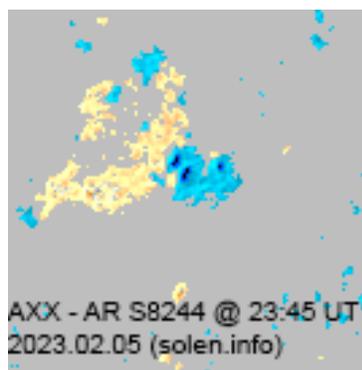


Far more than six spots there any way you look at it.

What about the others Solen and Air Force have just ignored? They don't list 3214, 3215, or 3216, but we can see that their 8244 is the same as SpaceWeather's 3214:



SpaceWeather has a big image of it, so it is hard to believe Air Force's cameras didn't pick that up. Except that they did:



In fact, it looks like Air Forces' photo came after SpaceWeather's, since the region has continued to

increase, with *more* activity. SpaceWeather counts seven in their image, but in the Air Force's image I see more like 12.

The last two regions are on the left limb, so Air Force just posts yesterday's (Feb. 5) large image and pretends they haven't come into view yet. Air Force's active region map is a day behind that of SpaceWeather, as you can see by comparing the two directly.

What this means is, SpaceWeather is telling you right to your face that the reported numbers are wrong. I have found that even their numbers are too low, but their numbers are consistently 50-75% above Air Force. My numbers have been 60-90% above Air Force.