



Inner Source Diffuse Helium Observations

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Sensitive spectropolarimetric observations from the Haleakala SOLARC coronagraph and infrared imaging spectropolarimeter have detected an extended diffuse surface brightness flux at the 1083nm wavelength of neutral helium (He I). This has the polarization signature of light scattered by an extended He I cloud in the vicinity of the Sun. A series of observations obtained during the last two years suggest that this signal originates from an "inner source" of neutral helium atoms in the solar corona.