Towards a better assessment of the solar activity during the Maunder minimum

José Vaquero
Universidad de Extremadura, Departamento de Física, Mérida, Spain (jvaquero@unex.es)

More than forty years ago, John A. Eddy showed that solar activity was very low during the period 1645-1715 approximately, which was named as Maunder minimum. Nowadays, the exact level of solar activity during this grand minimum remains unclear (although several studies have confirmed a low level of solar activity). In this work, we will use the original sunspot observations of that time to improve our knowledge of the solar activity of the past, including the observations made by Hevelius in the onset of the Maunder minimum. Some sunspot drawings made during the Maunder minimum have been analyzed in detail and, finally, some considerations about the solar radius measured using meridian lines are established.