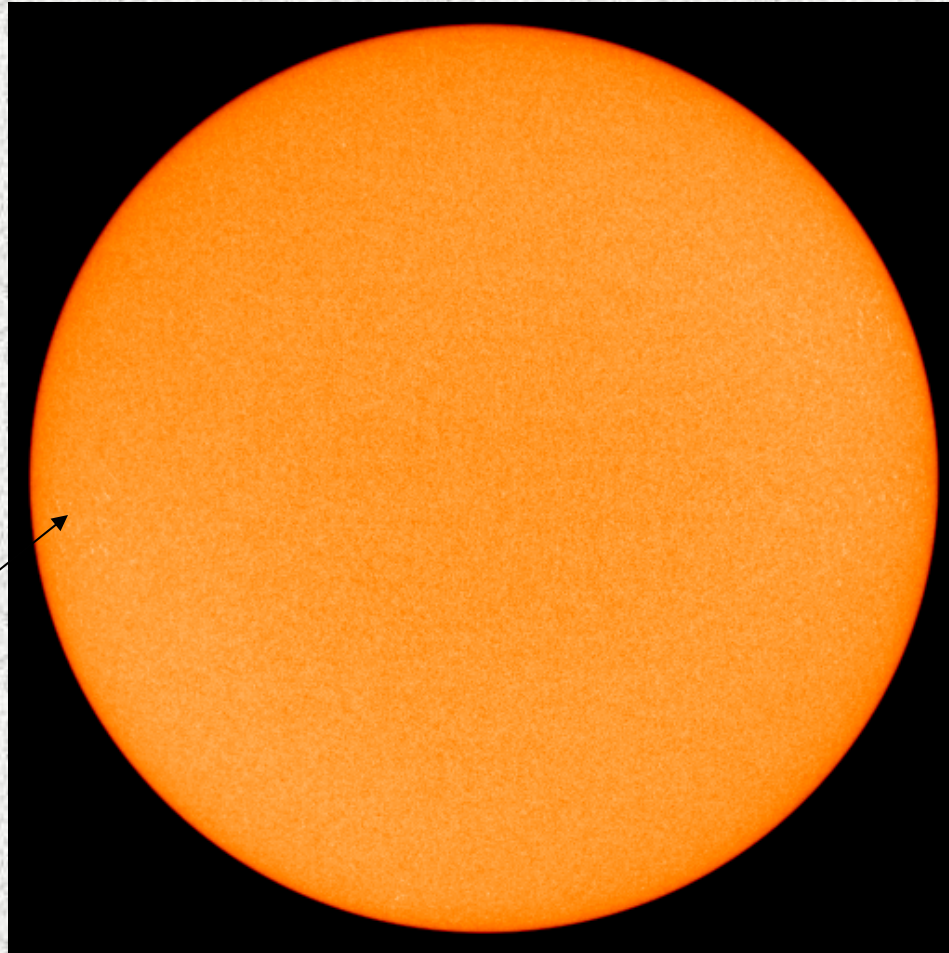


Developing Sunspot - 2006

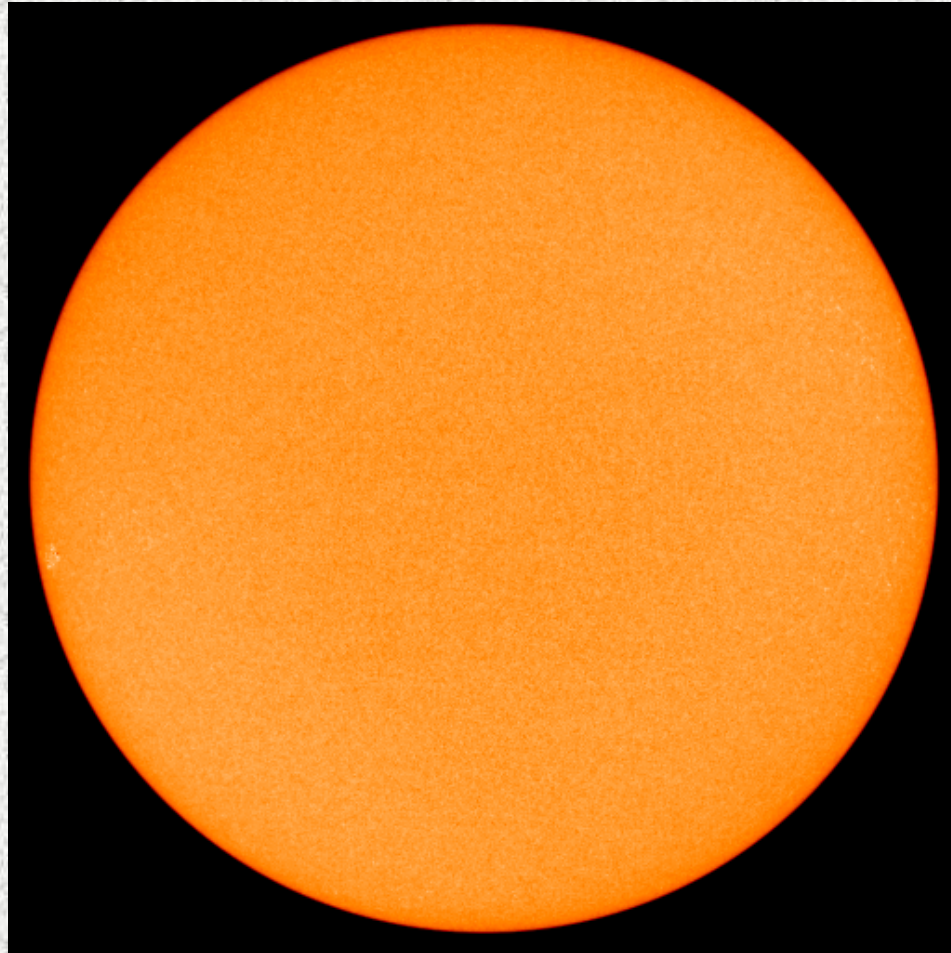
March 27



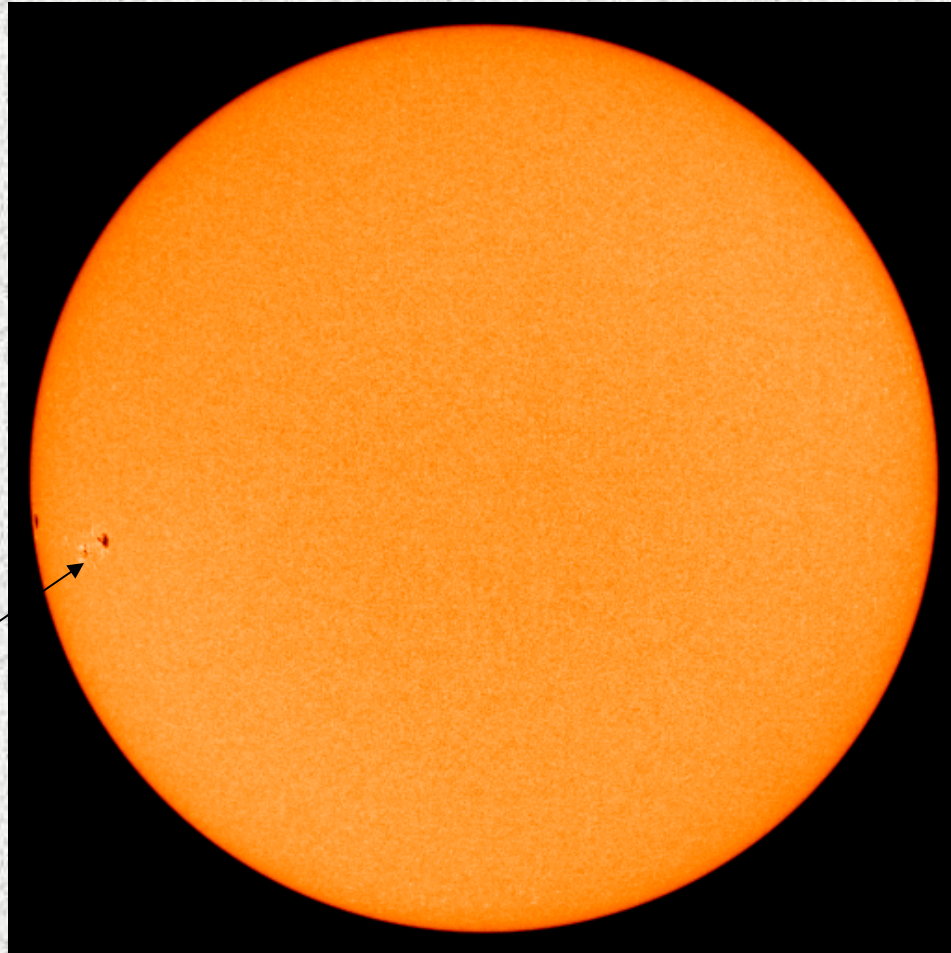
**WATCH
HERE !!!**

All sun images courtesy of SOHO/MDI consortium. SOHO is a project of international cooperation between ESA and NASA

March 28



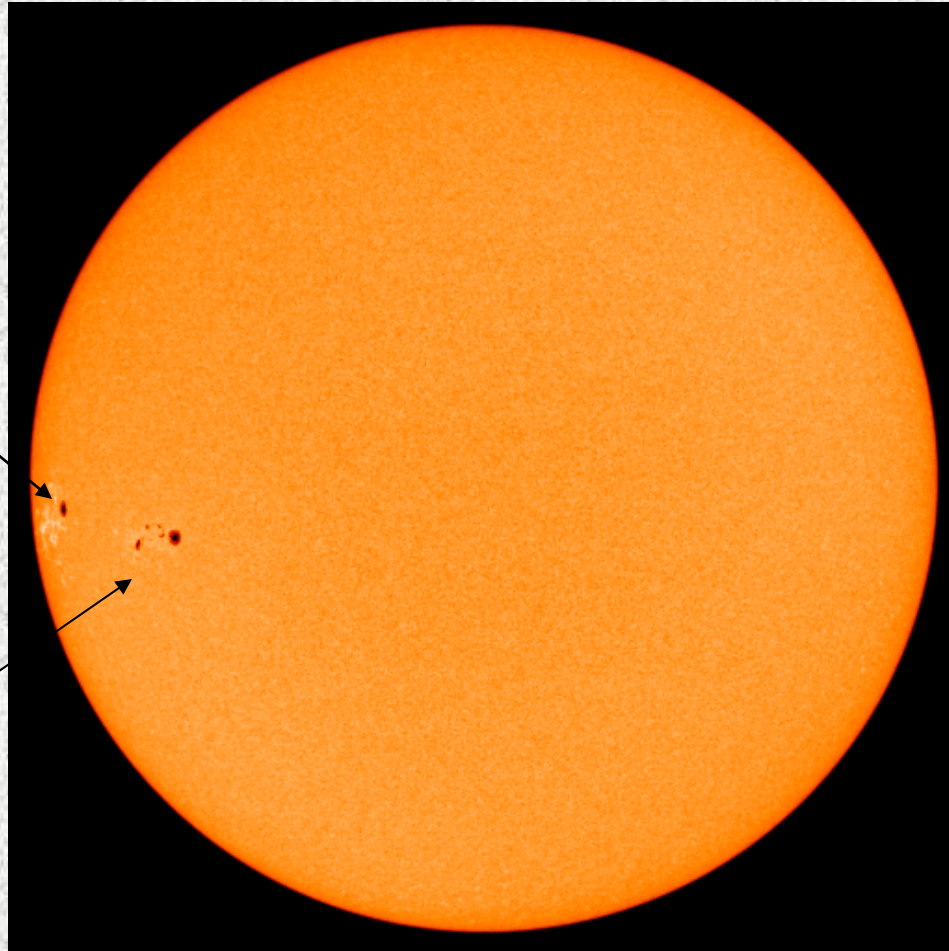
March 29



SUNSPOT
865

March 30

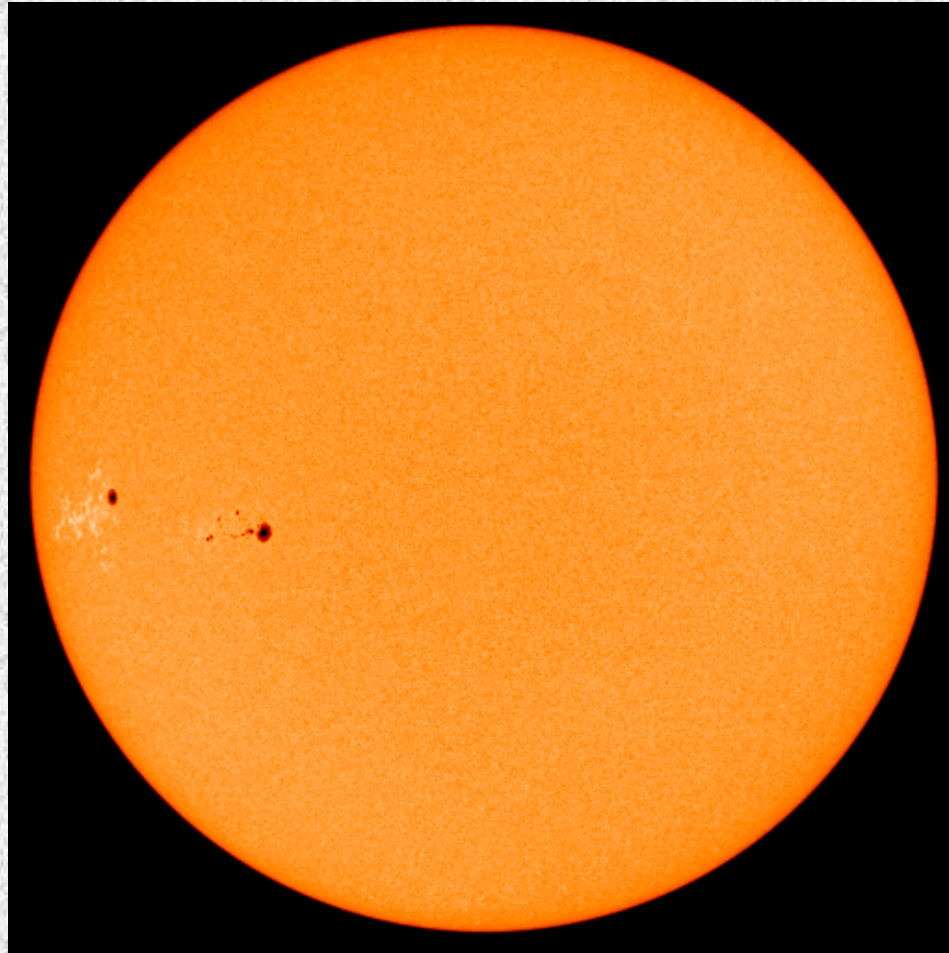
SUNSPOT
#866



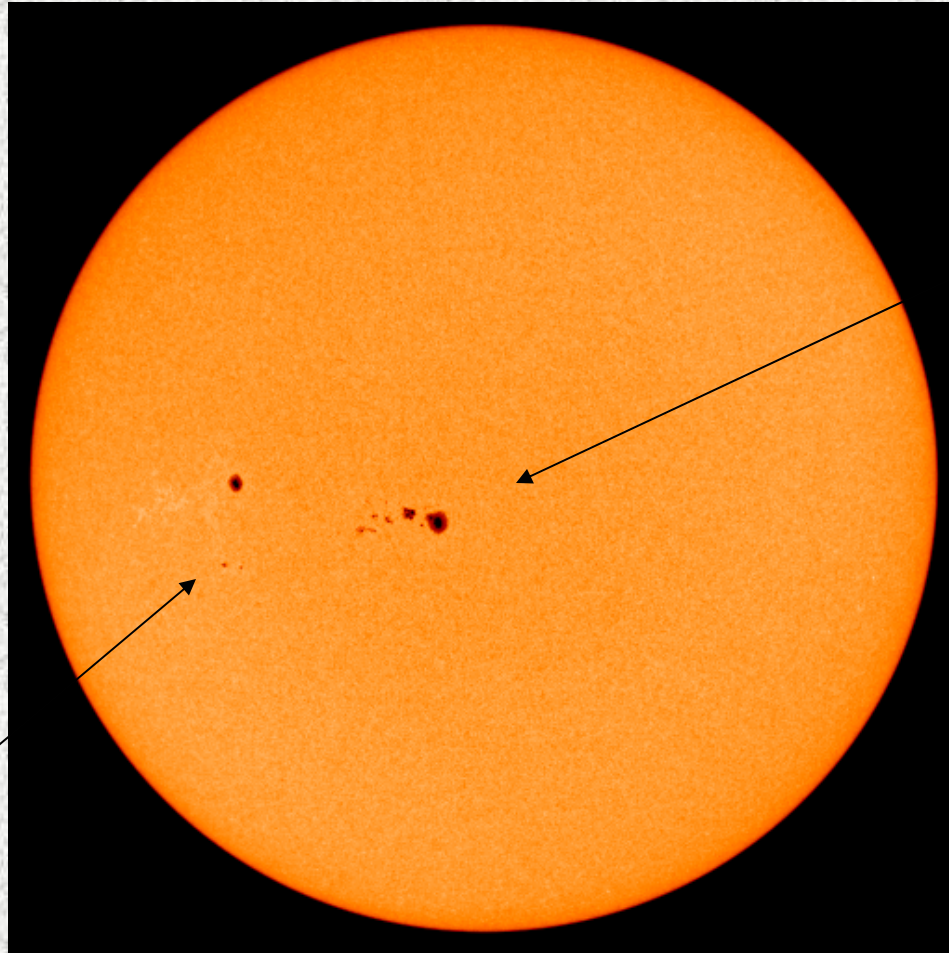
SUNSPOT
#865
doubles in
size and its
pair
appears

March 31

865
becomes
more
complex,
with
many
different
individual
spots



March 32*

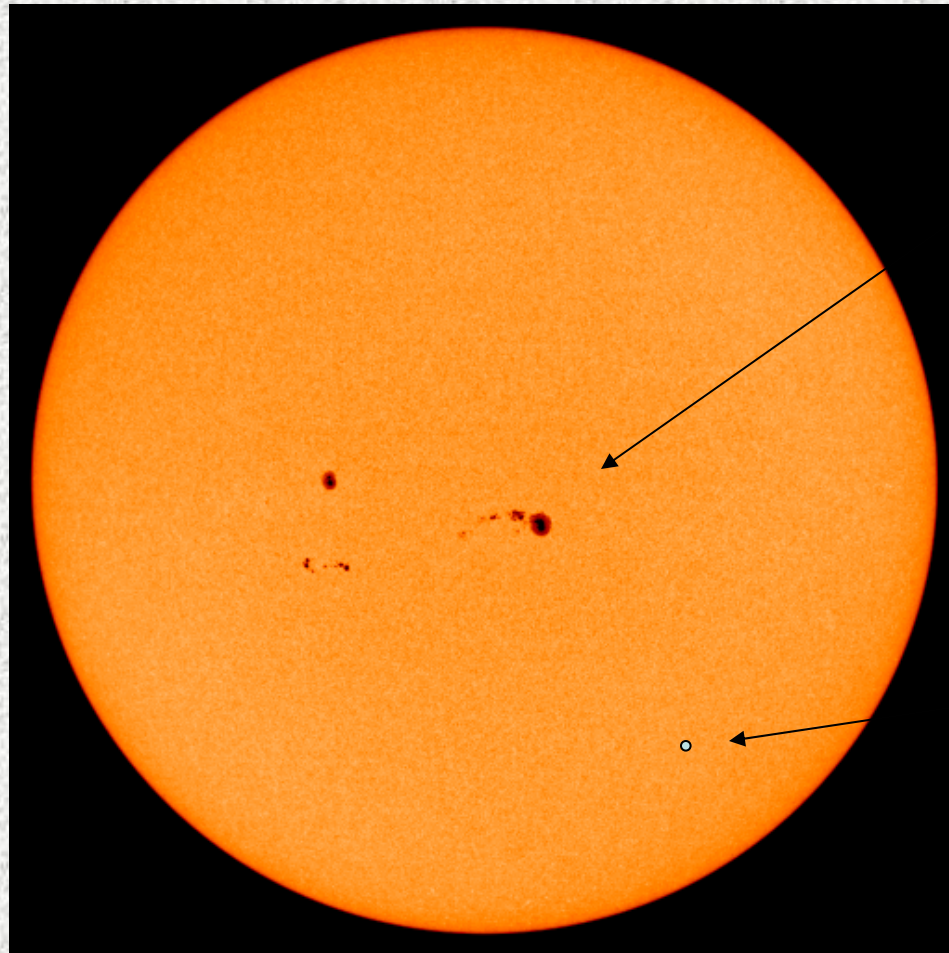


865 is now
the biggest
sunspot of
2006

867
BEGINS

(* April 1)

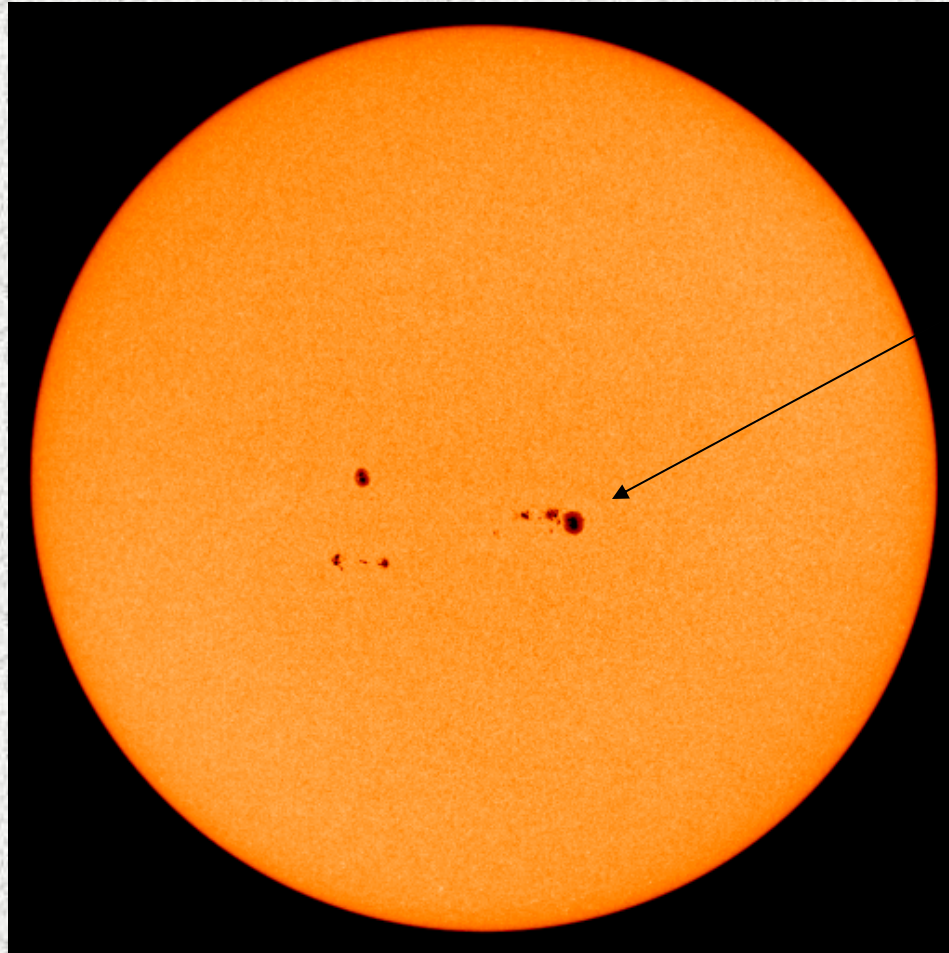
April 2



#865 is
actually a
sunspot
group

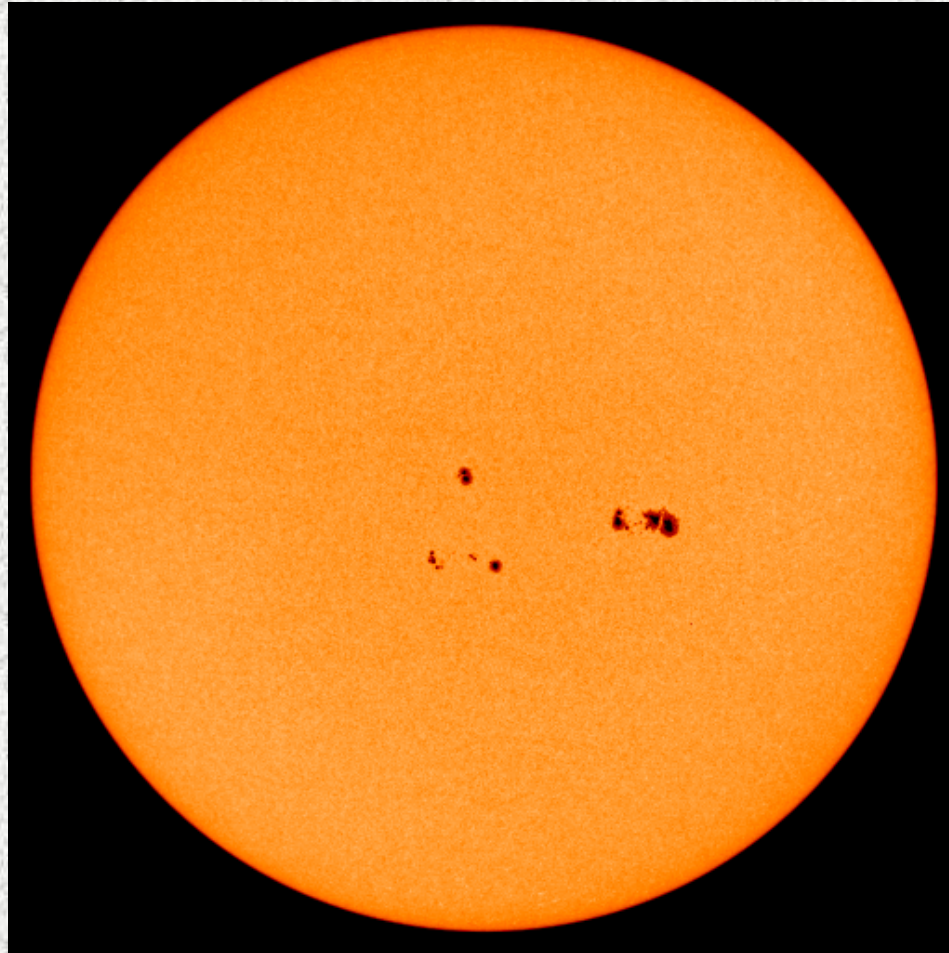
EARTH

April 3



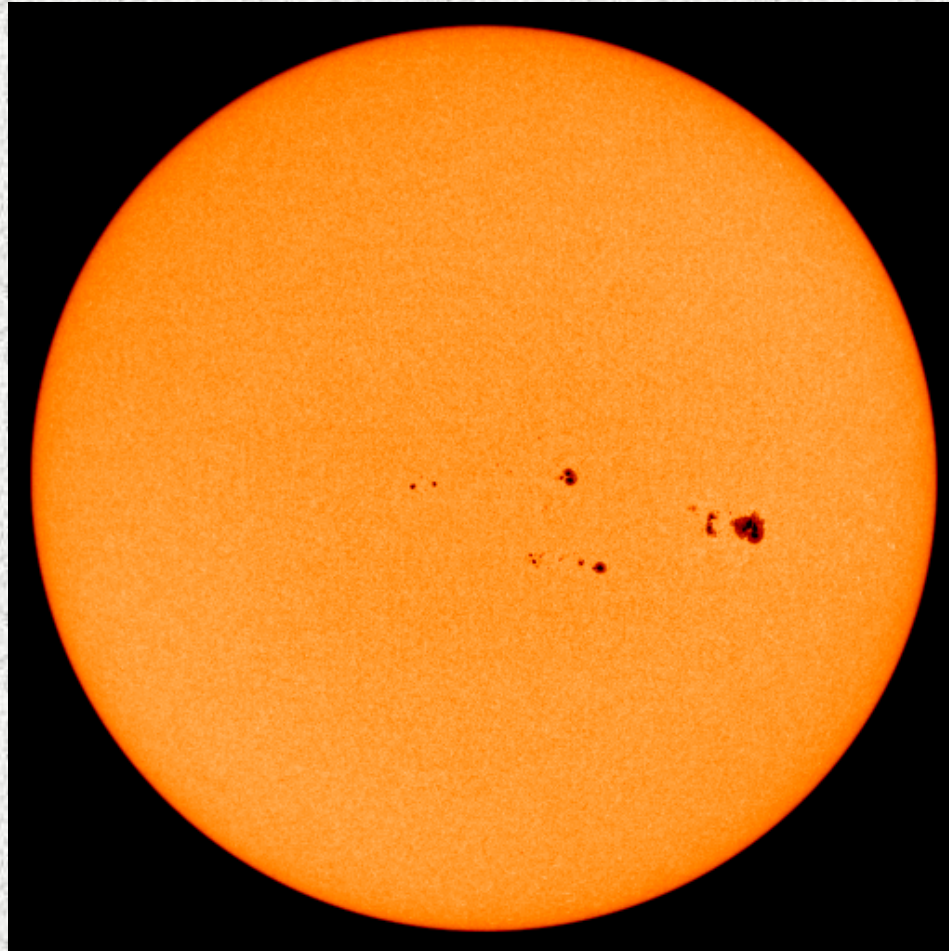
865 is now
10 times
wider than
the Earth

April 4



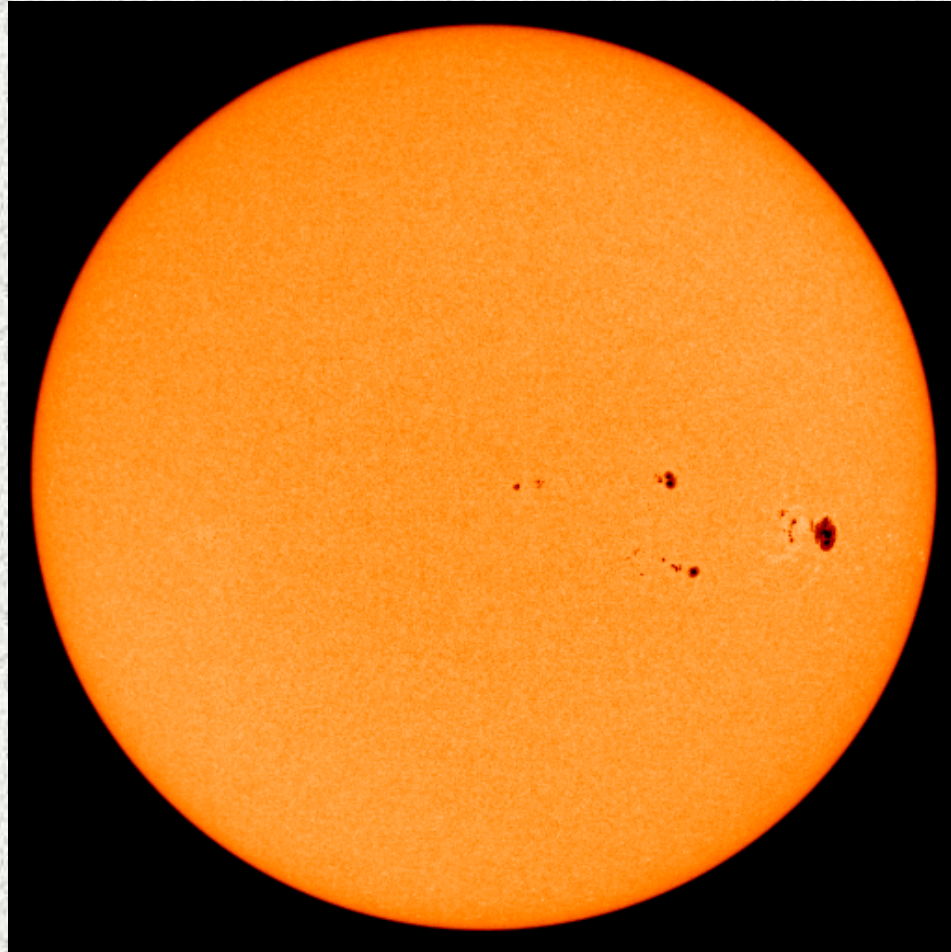
865 is now
ready to
release a
solar flare

April 5



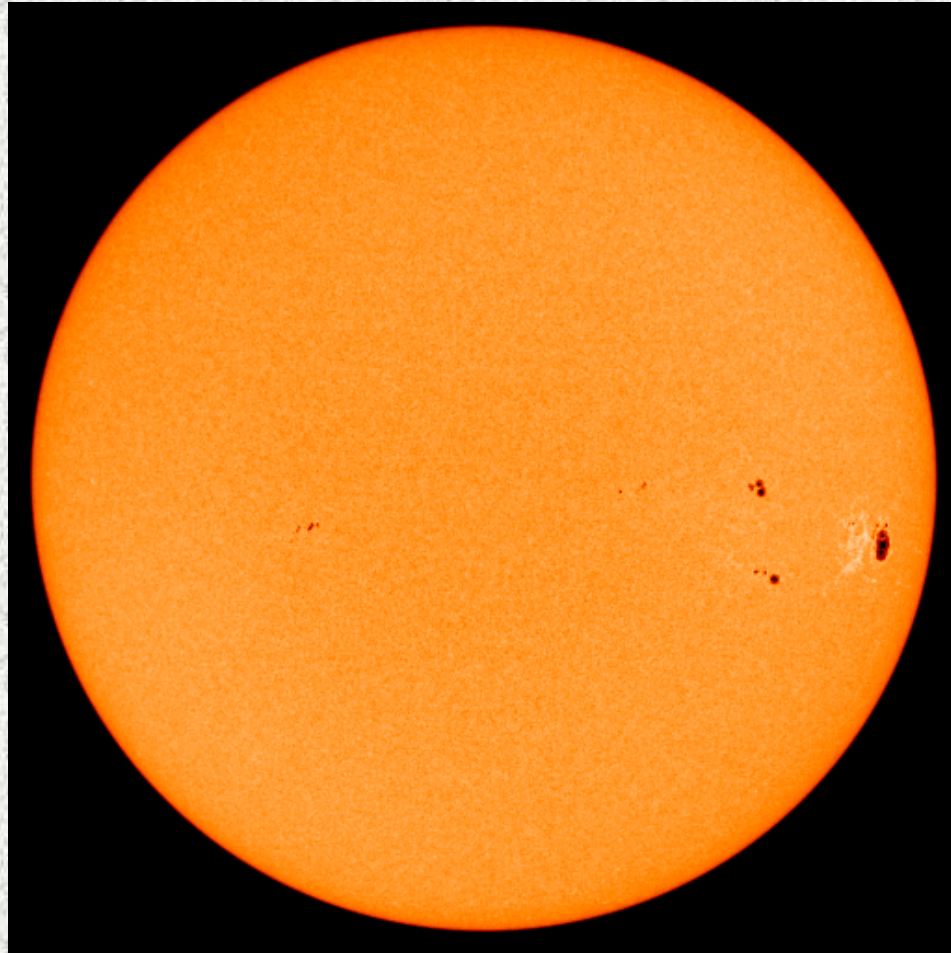
#865
has
rotated
so that it
is no
longer
facing
Earth

April 6

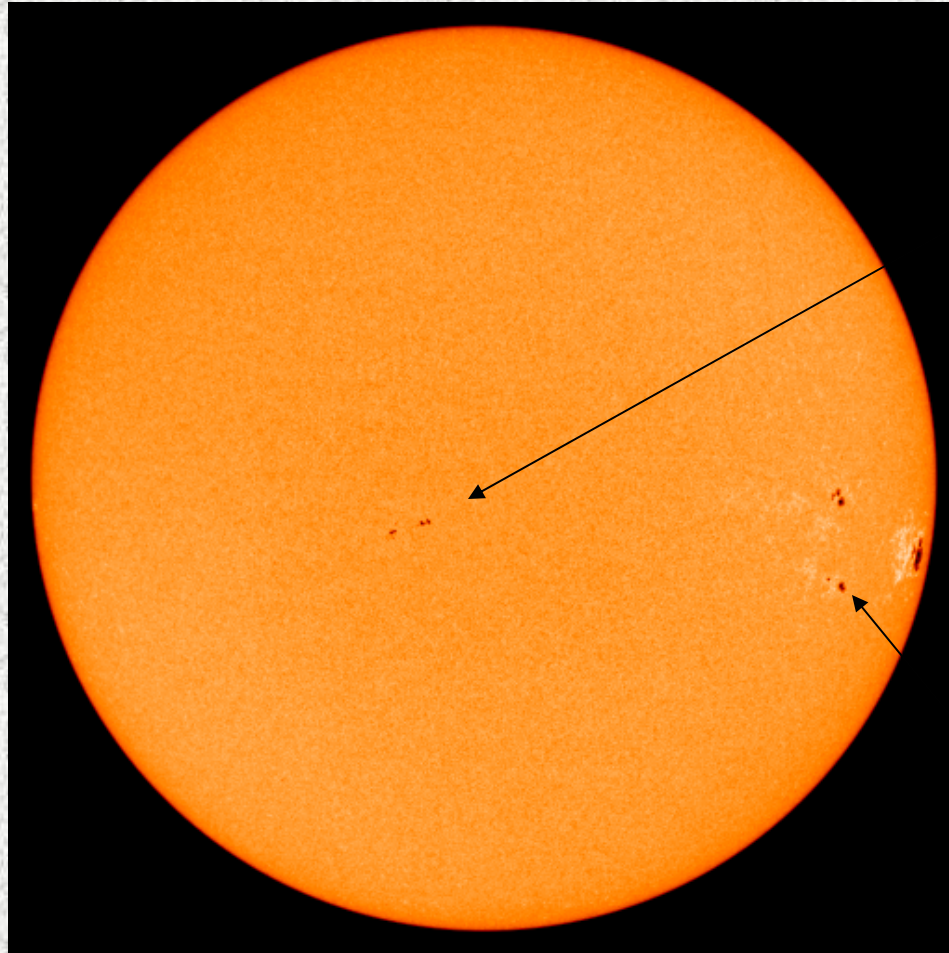


865's shape is distorted as we see it on the sun's curved surface.

April 7



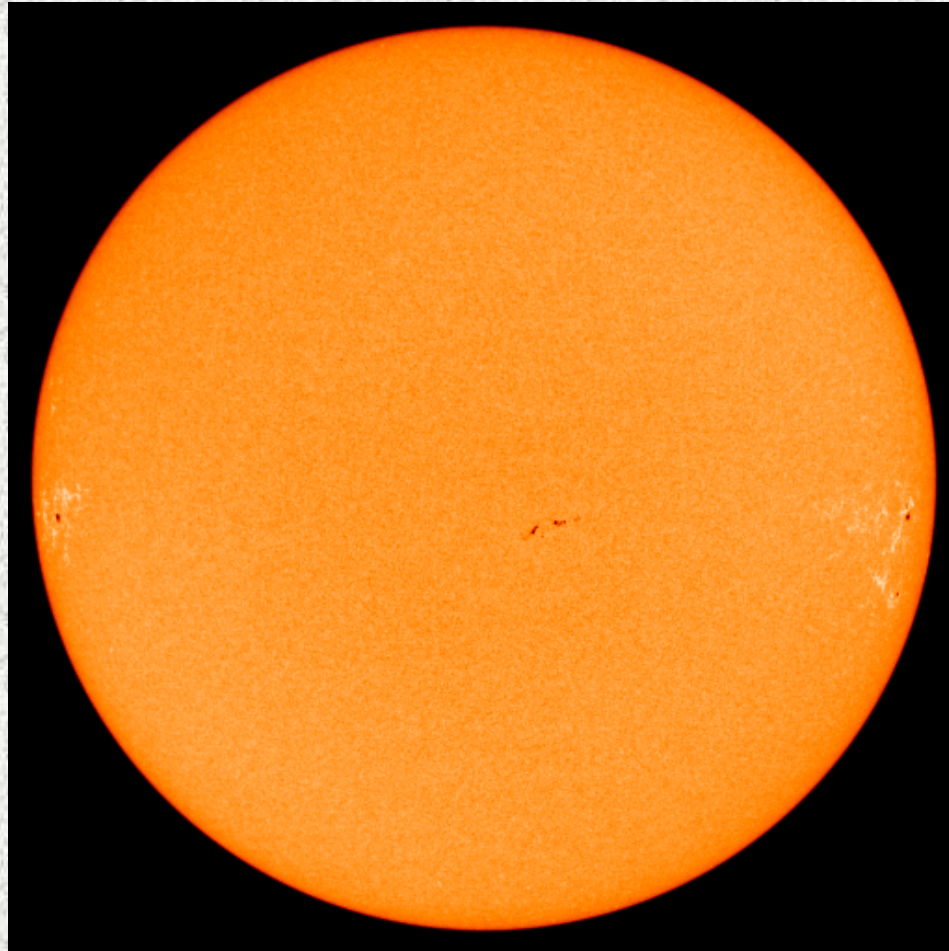
April 8



Notice that the other sunspot groups did not develop the same way.

April 9

After 13 days on our side of the photosphere, sunspot 865 is now out of sight.



How long does it take the sun to rotate?
HINT: trick question !!!