

New research group at AIUB

In July 2022, a new research group was established at the Astronomical Institute of the University of Bern (AIUB). Prof. Dr. Lucia Kleint leads the space weather group, formerly located at the University of Geneva. The group studies eruptions on the Sun, known as flares, which can have a significant influence on Earth: Particles from the Sun that reach Earth can cause Aurorae, but also issues with satellite electronics and their orbits, or power grid failures. Our goal is to understand the physics of flares and ultimately be able to forecast them. By understanding space weather, we can protect sensitive equipment on and around Earth better. To this purpose, we use ground- and space-based data and machine learning to be able to efficiently analyze millions of images and spectra. Our research is supported by a PRIMA grant from the Swiss National Science Foundation.

As the vice-director of the Zimmerwald observatory, Prof. Kleint leads its daily operations with the goal of determining orbits of various satellites and investigating space debris.

<https://sml.aiub.unibe.ch>