

August 2017 has been a less active month in the sense of geomagnetic activity. A number of 24 CMEs has been spotted with angular width less than 90° resulting into distinct modulation of the galactic cosmic rays (source (<http://sidc.oma.be/cactus/catalog.php>)). August was a more active month in the sense of proton flux levels of solar flares (SFs). A number of 52 SFs were spotted, the most energetic one being an M1.1 one on 20/08/2017 at 01:36 UT (start time) from AR2672 with coordinates N06E89 (Fig. 1).

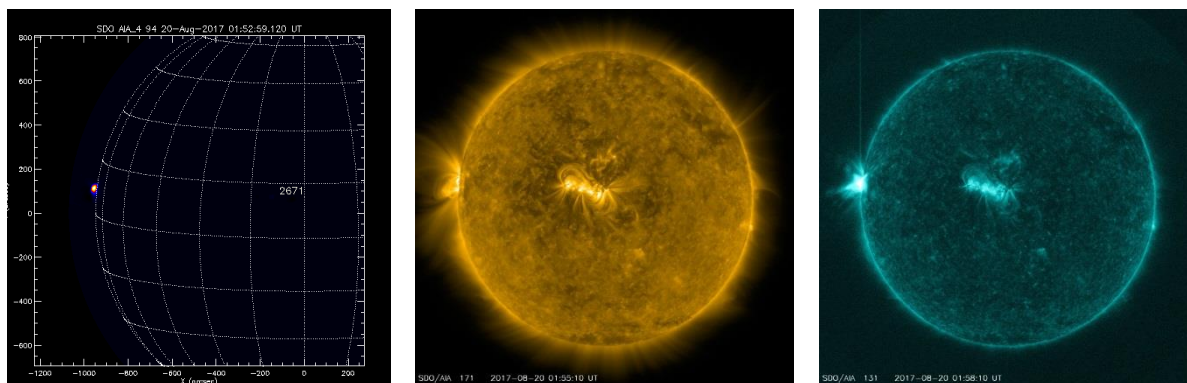
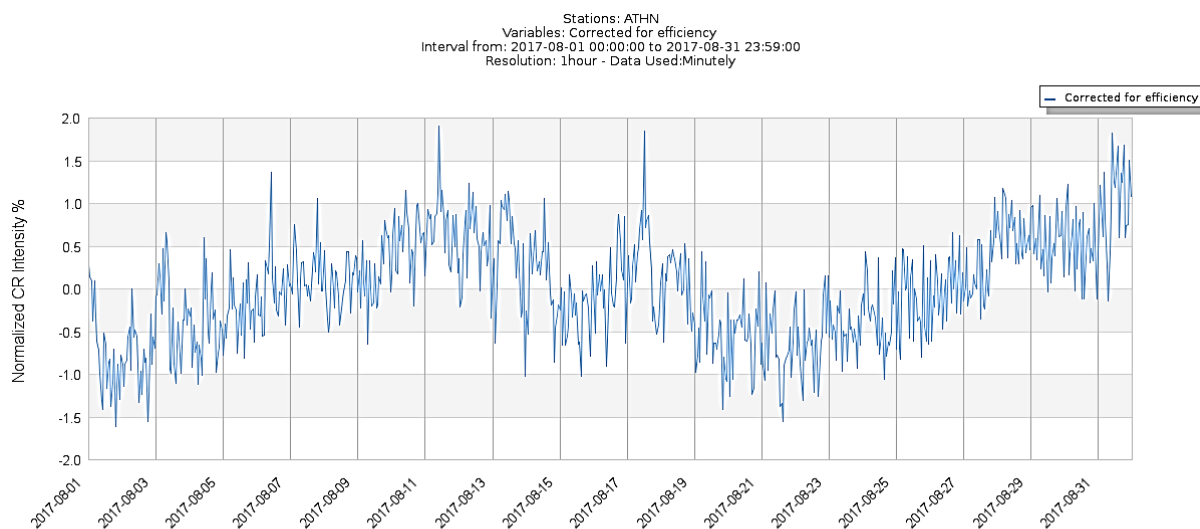


Figure 1: The M1.1 SF of 20/08/2017 at 01:52 UT peak time (from <http://www.lmsal.com/solarsoft> and <http://sdo.gsfc.nasa.gov/data/aiahmi/>)

The interaction of high speed streams of solar wind from coronal holes on August 3-6, 17-20 and 31 as well as disturbed solar wind on August 22-23, was triggered geomagnetic storms of G1 and G2 levels. The results of these events were spotted on the cosmic ray intensity as Forbush decreases during this month, recorded at Athens Neutron Monitor Station (cut-off rigidity 8.53 GV) with amplitudes varied from 1.5% up to almost 3.5% (Fig. 2).



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Figure 2: Hourly corrected for pressure and efficiency values of the cosmic ray intensity recorded by Athens Neutron Monitor Station from 01-31/08/2017 (From the multi station data service of Athens NM Station).