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PERIODICITIES IN THE  
SOLAR-CONSTANT MEASURES

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# PERIODICITIES IN THE SOLAR-CONSTANT MEASURES

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### INTRODUCTION

This paper, based on over 40 years of observations of solar radiation, ties together the following conclusions:

1. The sun's output of radiation varies.
2. It varies in at least 23 regular periodicities, all proceeding simultaneously.
3. The periods of solar variation are integral submultiples of  $22\frac{3}{4}$  years.
4. Synthesis of curves representing the 23 periodicities reproduces the original observations of the "solar constant" to within about 0.1 percent.
5. Synthesis of these curves for 12 years as a prediction, prior to the observations on which they depend, shows rough agreement with Mount Wilson observations of the solar constant, in the years 1908 to 1920.
6. A much more satisfactory agreement is found between this predicted synthetic solar-constant curve and the Mount Wilson determinations of the march of contrast along the east-west diameter of the sun, of 1913 to 1920.
7. Higher contrast attends higher solar-constant values.

In several former publications<sup>2</sup> I have discussed the periodic changes in observed values of the solar constant of radiation.

For several years I have been investigating the effect on terrestrial weather of these periodic changes in the sun's emission. I had become convinced by the earlier solar-constant studies, just cited, that the sun's radiation varies simultaneously in many regular periods, all

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<sup>1</sup> I wish to express my sincere acknowledgments to L. B. Aldrich, Director of the Astrophysical Observatory, who made the data available for this paper and gave highly valuable criticisms; to Frederick E. Fowle, deceased, whose careful measurements of solar contrast appear in table 6; to Mrs. A. M. Bond, deceased, whose critical judgment and accurate computations aided in the preparation of the data; to the many observers on high mountains in distant lands who sacrificially kept up this long campaign of measurement; to Mrs. I. W. Windom, who assisted in preparing this text; and to Miss M. A. Neill, who continuously over many years greatly assisted me in keeping the observing stations in operation.

<sup>2</sup> *Annals Astrophys. Obs., Smithsonian Inst.*, vol. 5, p. 250 et seq., 1932; vol. 6, p. 178 et seq., 1942. *Smithsonian Misc. Coll.*, vol. 111, No. 7, 1949.

aliquot parts of  $22\frac{3}{4}$  years. I hoped, by using a long interval of scores of years of an unbroken series of monthly weather records, that I could discover from them all the submultiples of  $22\frac{3}{4}$  years which yield effective periodic variations of the solar radiation.

But I found that the variations of the atmospheric conditions from time to time, some associated with the seasons and some with the sunspot cycle, so badly confuse the phases of responses to solar variation that I could not be certain that all the suspected solar periodicities, inferred from weather records, are real. Hence I felt constrained to reinvestigate the observed fluctuations of the solar constant, to determine directly which of the submultiples of  $22\frac{3}{4}$  years are truly periods in solar variation.

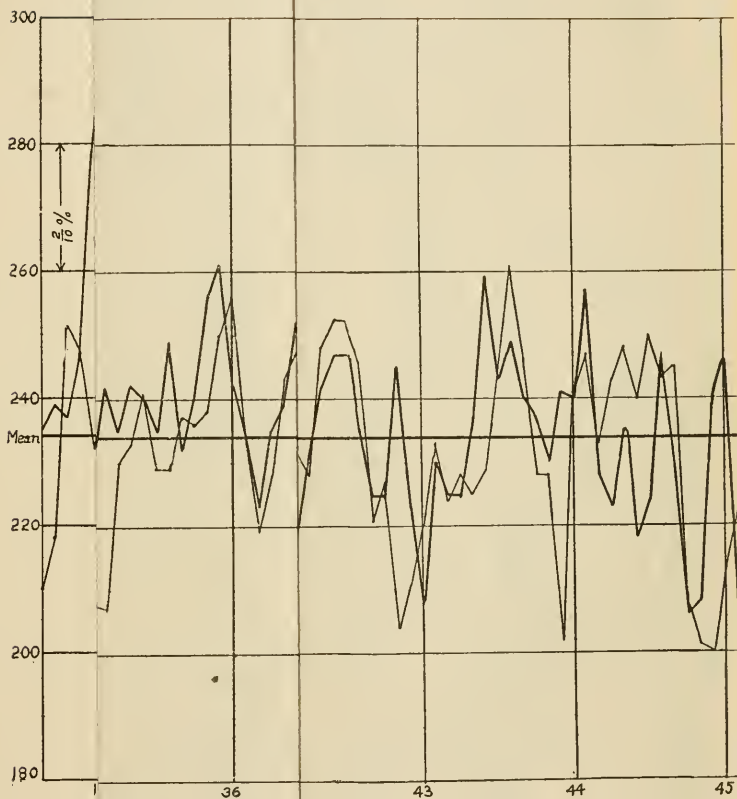
In former papers I have used 273 months as the master period, of which the others are integral submultiples. My present work leads me to prefer 272 months. All the periods which I have found lie within less than 1 percent of being integral fractions of 272 months.

#### ADVANTAGES OF METHOD

Some investigators would prefer to submit the available solar-constant data to a Fourier analysis based on 272 months. I prefer to tabulate the data according to each suspected possible period. There are several advantages in this method. In so doing, I divide the total interval covered by the data into several parts, if periods are short enough to furnish a large number of repetitions. In this way the phases of features may be compared in the several independent tabulations of one period. Graphs showing this procedure are given in figure 1. Slight shifts,<sup>3</sup> from one to another of the successive tabulations, indicate small corrections to the assumed period. The form of the curve of fluctuation is determined by the tabulations. Also the amplitude of the periodic variation is found. If it is too small to be certainly exceeding the probable error, then the periodicity is to be rejected altogether. Proceeding in this way, I found 23 periodicities in solar-constant results which meet the tests of veridity just indicated. Fifteen other periods were tabulated, but rejected. Each search involved tabulating more than a thousand decade mean values of the solar constant. The results appear in table 1.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>3</sup> See the curves, 6 1/30, of figure 1, in comparison with table 1C, below.

<sup>4</sup> In tabulating any one periodicity, all the others exercise confusing influences, which are not wholly eliminated, because of the small numbers of repetitive columns going to make up the tables. Hence, irregularities in the curves of figure 1 are caused by conflicting periodicities, in addition to the effects of accidental errors of observation.



mpared to a synthesis





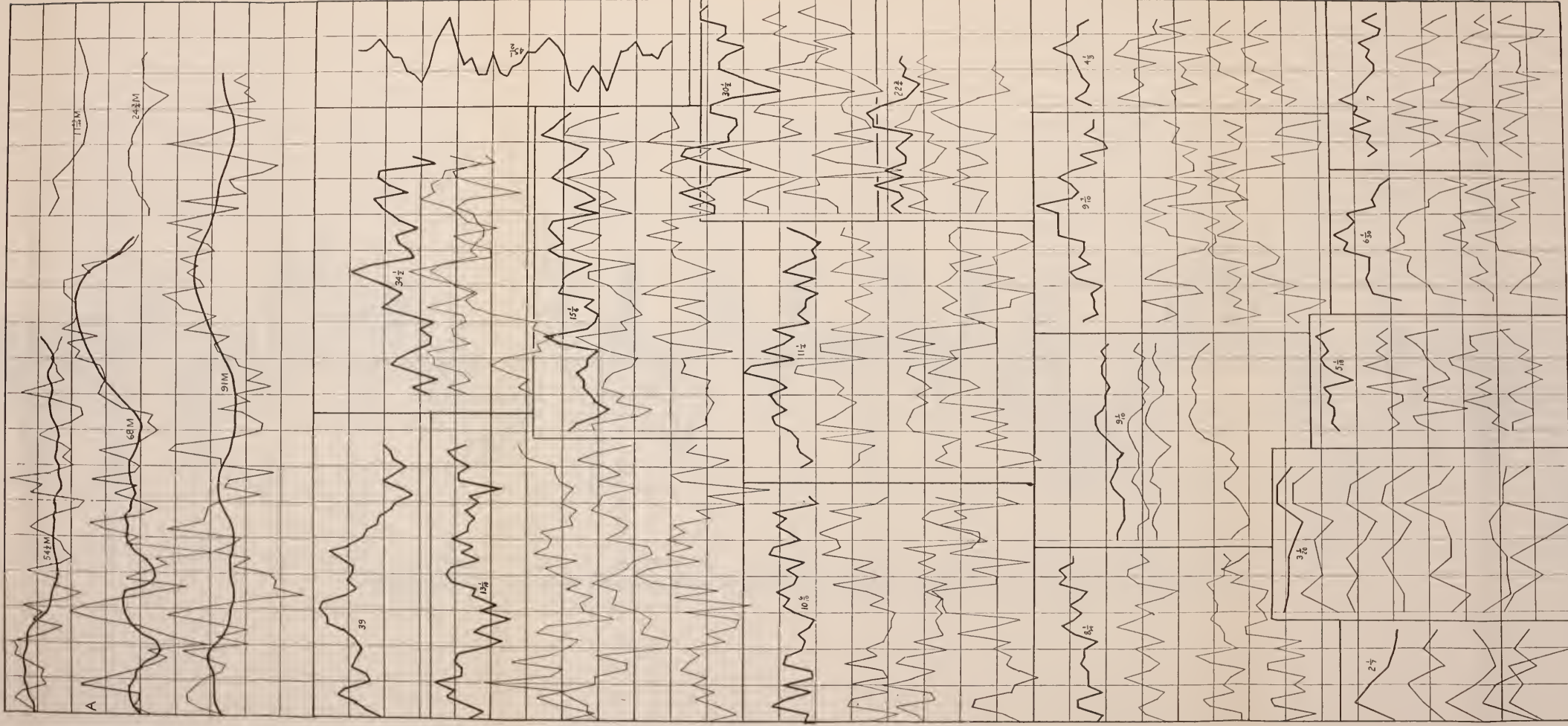
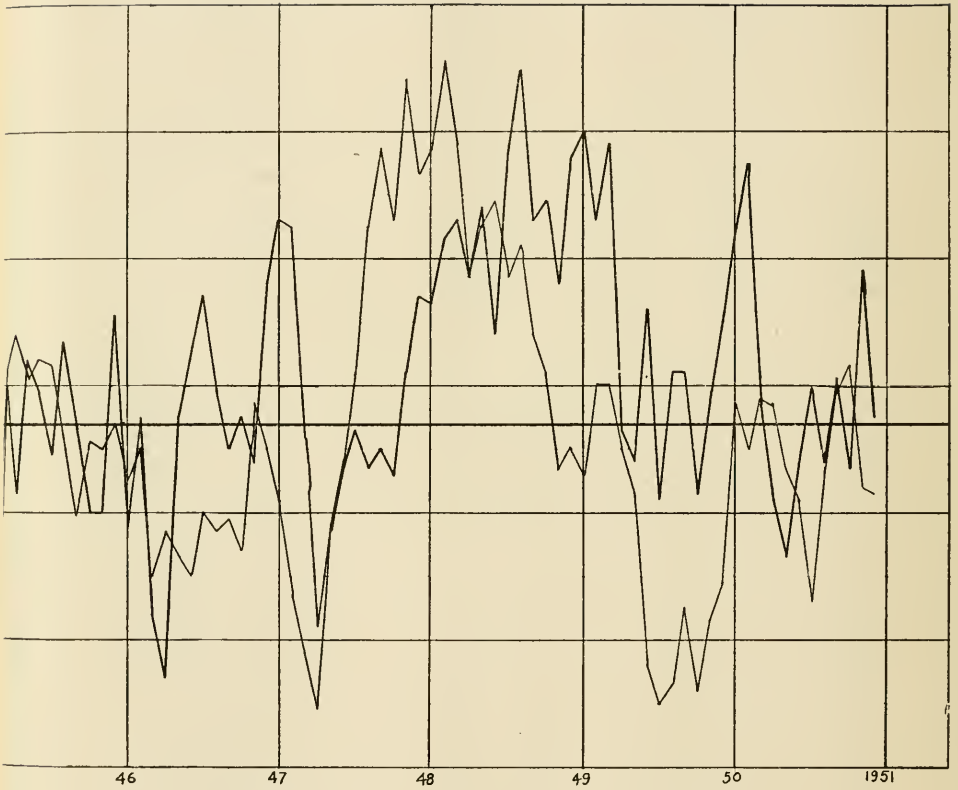


FIG. 1.—Consecutive partial determinations and general means of periodic forms in the variation of the solar constant of radiation as observed 1920 to 1950. Periods are indicated in months. Spaces in ordinates represent 1/10 percent variation in solar radiation.





It may aid to fix ideas on the method of tabulation to give an example. Table 1C is a facsimile of the computation for the period  $6\frac{1}{30}$  months. I select it as indicating how fractional parts of months and of 10-day means are treated, so as to preserve the exact average period. I had at first assumed that  $6\frac{1}{15}$  months was the proper length of period. The data were separated into three groups. The assumed period corresponds with  $18\frac{1}{5}$  10-day intervals. When the mean values for the three groups were computed, they were plotted, superposed. It was then apparent that the maximum ordinates shifted progressively toward earlier dates, as time went on. This indicated that the assumed period is too long by  $\frac{4}{700}$  of itself. Making this correction, the true period is  $6\frac{1}{30}$  months.

#### PREPARATION OF DATA

L. B. Aldrich, Director of the Astrophysical Observatory, and his associates had painstakingly considered every circumstance affecting every daily solar-constant observation, at all the Smithsonian mountain stations in various lands. By consensus of three individual opinions, they had assigned to every observed day its most probable solar-constant value, as indicated by the checked results of all stations. Many days were not observed at all. However, there was no decade of any month, from 1920 to 1950, which did not have at least more than one observation.

Mr. Aldrich having been good enough to place these daily solar-constant results in my hands, I computed 10-day and monthly mean values from them for the 31 years 1920 to 1950. To have them in most convenient form for my use, I took their departures from the value 1.900 calories per square centimeter per minute and divided these departures by 1.940. Thus the results became expressed in percentage departures of the solar constant from 1.900 calories. In that form any well-evidenced periodic change resulting from a tabulation shows at once its amplitude in percentage of the solar constant. All values are positive as thus treated, which is convenient in tabulation. These data are given in table 4, appendix I.

#### PERIODS FOUND AND NOT FOUND

With these clarifying remarks, I now introduce the results. The following periodic changes in the solar constant were found well evidenced. Their approximate relation to 272 months and their amplitudes in percentage of the solar constant are given in table 1A.

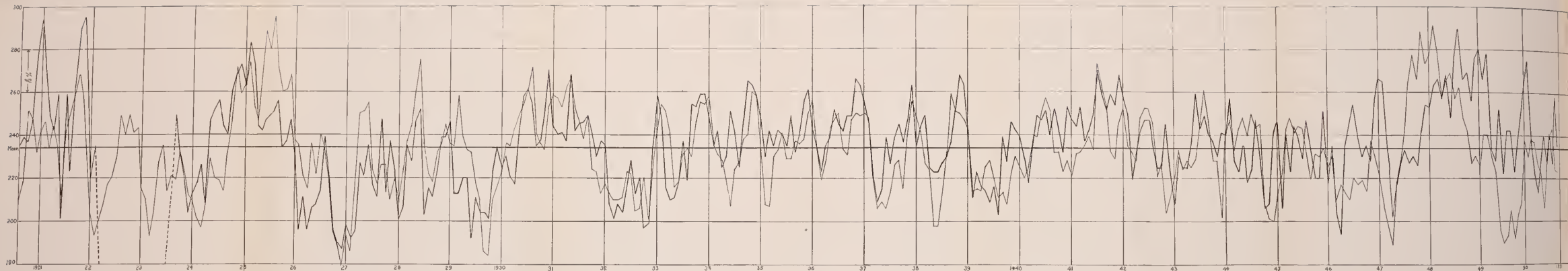


FIG. 4.—The march of solar variation, 1920 to 1950 (heavy lines), compared to a synthesis of the 23 regular periodicities given in table 2, shown here in light lines



The following periodic changes, given in table 1B, if real, are too small in percentage to be verified.

TABLES 1A, 1B.—Periodicities in solar-constant observations

A. Periodicities confirmed *			B. Periodicities sought but not found	
Period Months	Amplitude Percent	Period Fraction of 272	Period Months	Period Fraction of 272
2 1/7	0.05	1/127	4 1/2	1/60
3 1/20	0.05	1/90	5 1/2	1/50
4 1/3	0.06	1/63	6 1/2	1/42
5 1/18	0.05	1/54	7 5/6	1/35
6 1/30	0.12	1/45	8 1/2	1/32
7	0.08	1/39	10 1/9	1/27
8 1/14	0.06	1/34	10 9/10	1/25
9 1/10	0.08	1/30	13 6/10 †	1/20
9 7/10	0.10	1/28	14 4/10	1/19
10 6/10	0.06	1/26	17	1/16
11 1/5	0.17	1/24	18 1/5	1/15
11.43	0.11	1/24	19 1/2	1/14
12.0	0.20	....	21	1/13
13 1/10	0.11	1/21	24 8/10	1/11
15 1/6	0.09	1/18	136	1/2
22 3/4	0.07	1/12		
24 3/4	0.12	1/11		
30 1/3	0.13	1/9		
34 1/2	0.15	1/8		
39	0.20	1/7		
45 1/2	0.13	1/6		
54 1/2 †	0.13	1/5		
68	0.25	1/4		
91	0.12	1/3		
272	...	1		

\* The periodicities of 11.43, 12.0 (the periodicity of 12 months is not used in preparing figure 4; if it were, that figure would present closer accord between the curves), and 24 3/4 months were added to the list after search among the departures of the synthetic values, found by summing 21 periodicities, from the observed solar-constant values. It is indeed curious to find two periodicities both within 1 percent of 1/24 of 272 months. Both of them are excellently evidenced and of good amplitude. The 12-month period is of terrestrial, not solar, causation. When one reflects that the pyrheliometer observes only about 70 percent of the solar constant, the remaining 30 percent being supplied by our estimates of atmospheric transmission, it is perhaps not surprising that the yearly (terrestrial) periodic error in the solar-constant values is as large as 0.2 percent in amplitude. The periodicity of 24 3/4 months was the only other one which could be discerned in a residual plot of differences, smoothed by 7-month running means.

† After this work was done, I computed a table of the periodicity 54 8/10 months in the precipitation of Peoria, Ill., 1856 to 1939. It showed no periodicity of 54 8/10 months, but four strong, well-shaped periodicities of  $54 \frac{8}{10} \div 4 = 13 \frac{7}{10}$  months. Hence I think the sun's radiation has a periodic variation of one-twentieth of 22 3/4 years, though it did not impress me as real in the tabulation of the solar constant.

All periods of these two lists were separately sought for by tabulating over 1,000 solar-constant 10-day means for each suspected periodicity. The investigation does not cover entirely the years 1922 and

1923. I have elsewhere discussed the large solar change observed in those years.<sup>5</sup> I still think it was a real one. But it may be either a very unusual sporadic solar change, or it may be a periodic change related to a longer period than 272 months.

#### CONCERNING DOUBTS OF SOLAR VARIATION

For those who do not have intimate association with the Smithsonian observations of the solar constant of radiation, it seems difficult to accept the results as having the high degree of accuracy claimed for them. Observers, familiar with the clouds, dust, and water-vapor load which the lower atmosphere bears to make it milky, do not readily visualize a sky so clear that, if one holds his little finger at arm's length before the sun, the sky seems deep blue right down to the sun's edge. But even if the superior excellence of stations like Montezuma, Table Mountain, and St. Katherine be granted, it still seems incredible to many that the fraction, amounting to about 30 percent of the solar constant, cut off by the atmosphere, can be so correctly estimated that variations of the order of 1/10 percent of the solar constant can be evaluated.

Still more doubtful does it appear to many that, lacking any theoretical support, it can be proved from the observations that the solar variation consists of 23 simultaneously operating regular periodicities, all aliquot parts of  $22\frac{3}{4}$  years. Yet it seems to me this cannot longer be doubted. I have tried to demonstrate by a couple of examples that it is necessary to use integral fractions of  $22\frac{3}{4}$  years, rather than any other intervals, to represent the the sun's periodic variation. The two periods I have chosen to experiment upon are those which are  $1/7$  and  $1/45$  of  $22\frac{3}{4}$  months. In figure 1 the longer period is plotted as 39 months.

I made a new tabulation in four parts for a period lying between  $1/45$  and  $1/44$  of  $22\frac{3}{4}$  years. It was assumed to be  $6\frac{1}{2}$  months, or 19 10-day intervals. In each of the four groups tabulated there are 14 columns. Taking the mean values, they are as plotted in figure 2, A. Evidently, if the four mean results were combined directly, they would so contradict each other that the general mean would show no periodicity at all. But the principal feature, marked A at its right-hand edge in each plot, is equally displaced from curve to curve toward the left by about 6 10-day intervals. The displacement is 19

<sup>5</sup> Monthly Weather Rev., U. S. Weather Bureau, February 1923. Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci., vol. 9, No. 6, pp. 194-198, 1923. Smithsonian Misc. Coll. vol. 77, No. 5, 1925 (see fig. 11); vol. 80, No. 2, 1927.

10-day intervals, in all, from curve I to curve IV. Between these curves I and IV lies a stretch of time of about 800 10-day intervals. Hence the period should have been taken less than  $6\frac{1}{6}$  months by  $19/800 \times 6\frac{1}{6} = 0.146$ . Subtracting from 6.163, this yields a corrected period of 6.017 months. Within the error of determination, this checks

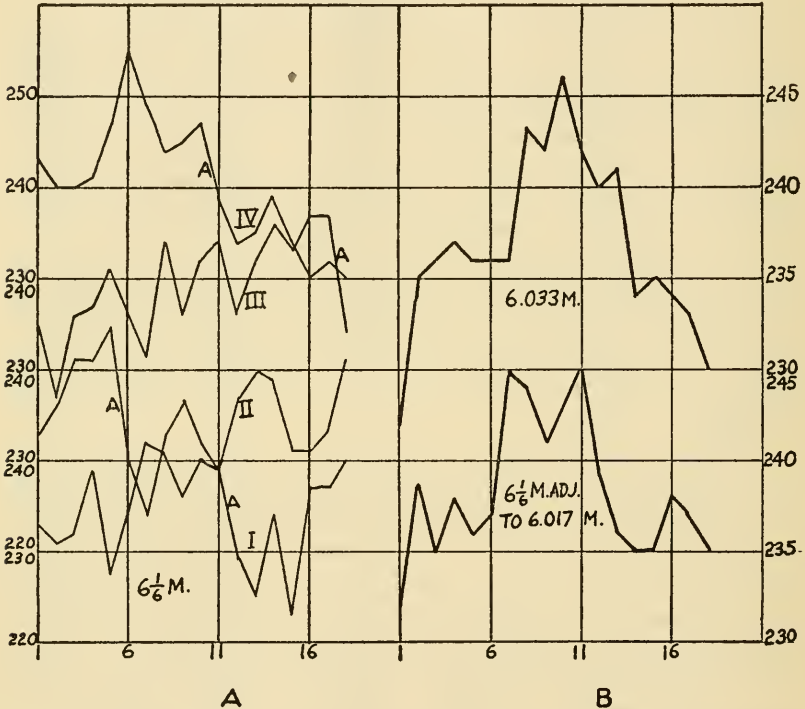


FIG. 2.—The periodicity 6.033 months, confirmed by the displacement of the feature A gradually from I to IV, when the period is assumed to be  $6\frac{1}{6}$  months, as shown in figure A. In figure B this displacement is adjusted to a period of 6.017 months, which nearly agrees with the true period, 6.033 months.

with 6.003, which is the period given in table 1C. Having displaced curves II, III, and IV by 6, 12, and 19 10-day intervals respectively, and having taken the general mean of the four and plotted it, the result appears in figure 2,B. It is to be compared with the curve of 6.033 months above it, representing the mean value as given in table 1C. It must be admitted that the agreement is striking.

Proceeding similarly, I computed two curves<sup>6</sup> for the seventh of

<sup>6</sup> There being but four columns in these part computations for 39 and 37 months, the plots of the results are very ragged, owing to the disturbing influences of 22 other periodic factors superposed.



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19		Σ	+18	Mean	Δ
1	254	237	211	206	200	211	232	288	273	180	252	154	237	247	201	242	191	211	227	3998	222	231	229	227
2	238	263	211	232	211	216	258	273	247	237	247	201	242	191	211	216	232	241	236	222	231	229	227	
3	239	263	211	232	211	216	258	273	247	237	247	201	242	191	211	216	232	241	236	222	231	229	227	
4	265	278	190	252	252	232	263	288	273	232	216	216	247	221	216	206	211	227	240	4051	232	241	239	236
5	263	299	227	252	252	232	263	288	273	232	216	216	247	221	216	206	211	227	240	4178	232	241	239	236
6	227	206	203	242	216	352	263	288	273	201	234	206	221	227	247	175	227	247	233	4115	229	233	245	236
7	227	242	206	237	216	258	273	288	273	201	234	206	221	227	247	206	232	242	235	4080	227	235	245	236
8	277	242	206	237	216	258	273	288	273	201	234	206	221	227	247	206	232	242	235	4105	228	240	244	236
9	206	242	206	237	216	258	273	288	273	201	234	206	221	227	247	206	232	242	235	4105	228	240	244	236
10	278	247	206	237	216	258	273	288	273	201	234	206	221	227	247	206	232	242	235	4305	239	240	251	243
11	258	247	206	237	216	258	273	288	273	201	234	206	221	227	247	206	232	242	235	4305	239	240	251	243
12	201	263	209	221	227	252	283	337	247	190	170	233	227	278	206	237	278	278	248	4434	246	245	246	242
13	294	185	273	216	247	273	258	258	258	211	191	232	252	206	237	216	232	258	248	4412	238	239	248	242
14	263	206	247	175	203	242	263	278	247	221	206	216	242	206	237	216	232	278	242	4311	234	240	247	240
15	278	211	208	216	247	263	278	288	273	216	216	247	221	232	242	216	216	242	248	4688	233	240	245	242
16	299	258	165	211	208	283	278	288	273	216	216	247	221	232	242	216	216	242	248	4702	235	242	239	235
17	304	268	247	211	252	278	288	273	247	227	211	206	247	252	216	216	242	248	248	4864	238	244	228	233
18	278	252	247	221	252	278	288	273	247	227	211	206	247	252	216	216	242	248	248	4864	238	244	228	233
19																				4140	230	227	234	230
																				4140	230	227	234	230

Adjusting period  
 $\frac{4}{700} \times 6 = 0.034$

$6.067 - 0.034$   
 is 6.033  
 or 6 1/30

Total displacement, 4 places on 700 places.

Mean values when plotted show progressive displacement.



$22\frac{3}{4}$  years, assumed as 39 months. In this new tabulation I used monthly mean values, instead of 10-day means, as had been done in computing for the curve shown in figure 1. I also computed two curves for a period of 37 months. They show opposition rather than similarity. It now appeared that in both the 39-month and the 37-month computations, the principal features were displaced toward the right in the second half of the 31-year interval. The corrected interval from the 39-month tabulation is  $39\frac{1}{2}$  months. Plots of the 37-month tabulation shown in figure 3,A indicated a displacement toward the right of 8 months in an interval of 180 months of time. This gives a positive correction of  $\frac{8}{180} \times 37 = 1.6$  months. Thus combined, the contrary curves of figure 3,A yield the lower curve of figure 3,B. Thus the 37-month tabulation yields an adjusted period of 39.6 months, closely agreeing with that yielded by the adjusted 39-month tabulation which was 39.5 months. This later period agrees within slightly more than 1 percent of being  $\frac{273}{7}$ , or 39.0 months. (See figure 3,B.)

If critics feel that still more evidence is needed to prove that only integral fractions of  $22\frac{3}{4}$  years are to be found in the solar variation, I will remind them that many of the periodicities plotted in figure 1 show integral fractions of the periods in question superposed upon them. Conspicuous examples in figure 1 are periodicities of  $15\frac{1}{6}$ ,  $34\frac{1}{2}$ , 39,  $45\frac{1}{2}$ , and  $54\frac{1}{2}$  months.

#### ACCURACY OF DATA

As shown in *Annals of the Astrophysical Observatory of the Smithsonian Institution* (vol. 6, p. 163), the comparison of daily solar-constant values, independently measured at stations thousands of miles apart, in opposite hemispheres of the earth, extending over many years, yields a probable error for a well-observed solar-constant value, resulting from work of two stations on a single day, of  $\frac{0.164}{\sqrt{2}}$  percent or  $\frac{1}{8}$  percent. Using the familiar relation (the probable error of a mean is that of the individual divided by the square root of the number of values), this indicates that a 10-day mean of good quality should be assigned a probable error of  $1/25$  percent. Then if nine such 10-day means are tabulated in searching for a solar periodicity, the probable error of their mean becomes only  $1/75$  percent. These considerations indicate not only that real solar variations of  $1/10$  percent of the solar constant might be detected, but that the features

of the march of a periodic variation of this small amplitude would appear well delineated from a tabulation.

To be sure, these optimum conditions do not always prevail. Not infrequently no more than three or five days of a decade yielded solar-constant observations. Often no more than one station reported. Dur-

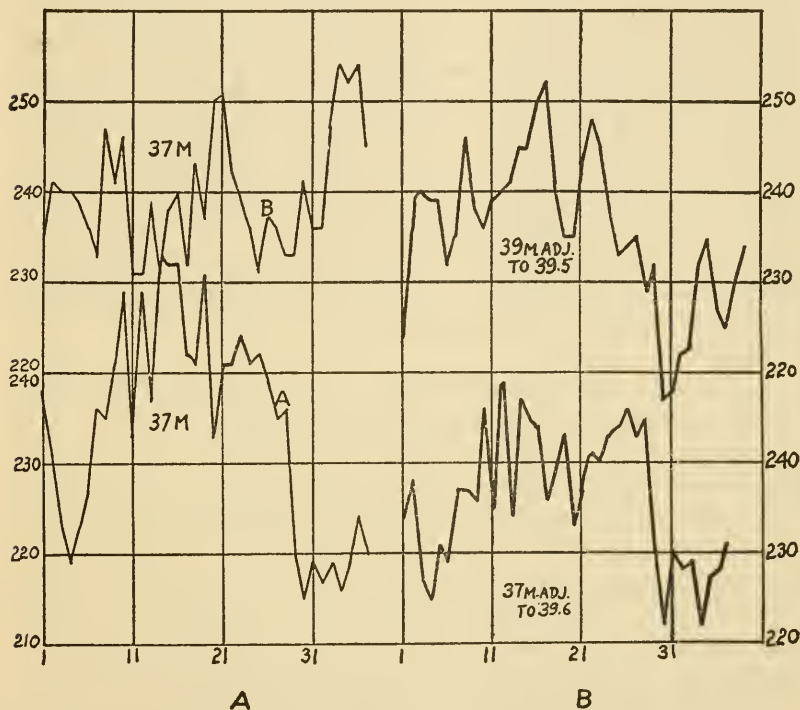


FIG. 3.—The periodicity of approximately  $\frac{1}{4} \times 272$  months, tested just as the periodicity of approximately  $\frac{1}{45} \times 272$  months was tested in figure 2.

ing parts of the year less favorable conditions prevailed at one or other of the stations. Such is the case at Table Mountain from March through June, and at Montezuma from November through January. (See figs. 7, 8, pp. 70, 71, *Annals*, vol. 5.)

On these accounts it need not surprise us that, as shown below, while the sum of periodic variations represents the variation of monthly mean solar-constant results to within an average deviation of 1/10 percent, much larger departures sometimes occur. However, divergences depend not only on accidental errors of the observations, but, in part also on imperfect determination of the form, amplitude, and period of the periodicities, for reasons explained above.

## SUPPORTING EVIDENCES OF VERIDITY OF PERIODICITIES

There are several indications, not flowing from a consideration of probable errors, that strongly support the veridity of periodicities here disclosed:

1. In tabulating periodicities, the data have been treated independently in several parts. That is to say, there being nearly 1,100 consecutive 10-day means covering an interval of 30 years, it is possible to tabulate in three or more groups, each with numerous columns, all periodicities of less than 20 months in length. For periodicities of between 20 and 40 months I use two tables, covering consecutive intervals of time. (See fig. 1.) Unless these independent part-tabulations agree within their measure of accuracy to indicate continuance of the same form of periodic variations, and with maxima in the same phase throughout the whole time, then such a supposed period is thrown out as nonexistent. For periods exceeding 40 months, the data were not numerous enough to be thus separated into several groups.

2. There is an integral relationship between the periods disclosed. All the periods, which the first criterion certifies as veridical, are, to within a deviation of 1 percent, integral submultiples of 272 months. For example, those approximately 91, 68, 54, 45, 39, 34, 30, and a dozen others of shorter period, are all integral fractions, to within 1 percent, of 272 months. We know that a period of about 272 months is related to the average sunspot period of  $11\frac{1}{3}$  years, and it was found by G. E. Hale in the behavior of sunspots and magnetism. It is also approximately the period discovered by meteorologists in many climatic phenomena, as well as by Douglass in the growth of trees.

I cannot but think that the fact of the integral relationship, each to each, of the solar-radiation periodicities here disclosed, and the relationship of all of them to a master period of 272 months, well known in other solar and terrestrial phenomena, strengthens the case for validity of these periodicities. If that be granted, surely the existence of these integral solar-radiation relationships, so reminiscent of the overtones of the vibrations of musical instruments, is a phenomenon well worth investigating by astronomers and by students of hydrodynamics.

I have just stated three arguments for the reality of numerous regularly periodic variations of the output of radiation from the sun as follows: A. Measurements whose small probable error is consistent with the amplitudes of the apparent periodicities display them. B. Tabulations of a chosen periodicity, with the data separated into

independent groups, covering successive time intervals, show separately the periodicity in similar amplitudes, forms, and phases. C. The periods are integrally related, each to each, and all are approximately exact integral submultiples of 272 months, itself a well-known period in other solar and terrestrial phenomena. A fourth supporting evidence is to be referred to later.

The argument B is undoubtedly the most telling. In order to display its full weight, I give, in figure 1, a résumé of all the periodicities which I consider real. It is my firm expectation that scientists who examine without bias the arguments A, B, and C and carefully scan figure 1 and table 1C, will yield to the conviction that the sun's contribution of radiation that warms the earth varies in a complex way. In short, they will admit that, like the overtones of a musical note, the radiation of the sun varies simultaneously in a period of approximately 272 months, and in periods, exceeding 20 in number, which are integral submultiples of approximately 272 months. If scientists go thus far, I cannot but think they will go farther and investigate theoretically the hydrodynamics of the phenomenon.

#### PERIODICITIES OF $22\frac{1}{3}$ AND $11\frac{1}{3}$ YEARS

I have not tabulated the data so as to display the periodicity of 272 months, because the values are insufficient. There would be too few repetitions to fairly fix the form of this curve. As for the periodicity of  $\frac{272}{2} = 136$  months, though it is the well-known  $11\frac{1}{3}$ -year sunspot period, it is inconspicuous in the variation of the solar constant. I have twice sought for it. First, I tabulated the original data in columns of 136 months and smoothed their mean values. Second, I smoothed by 7-month running means the residual departures, which separate the original data from the synthetic reproduction of them in figure 4 by 23 periodic terms. Neither treatment gave conclusively a periodicity of 136 months. Its well-evidenced weather influence, I think, is attributable to fluctuation of the intensity of the bombardment of the atmosphere by electric ions, acting as centers of condensation of water vapor and dust, as sunspot numbers wax and wane.

#### GRAPHS OF RESULTS

Figure 1 is introduced to emphasize the force of the argument B by a graphical appeal to the eye. The figure shows the mean result of every partial tabulation of the values used to compute table 1A, and also the general mean of these partial tabulations for almost all perio-



dicities included in table 1A. Curves for periodicities of  $2\frac{1}{7}$  and  $3\frac{1}{20}$  months are given on a scale of abscissae  $2\frac{1}{2}$  times as great as the other curves. Horizontal lines in figure 1 are separated by  $\frac{1}{10}$  percent of the solar constant. The curves for periodicity  $2\frac{1}{7}$  months are given on a scale of ordinates twice as great as that used for all others. Up to a periodic length of  $22\frac{3}{4}$  months, all the curves are plotted at 10-day intervals. Periodicities of  $22\frac{3}{4}$  months and longer are plotted in monthly intervals. Of periodicities less than  $22\frac{3}{4}$  months in length, one, that of  $9\frac{1}{10}$ -months period, is shown smoothed throughout by 5-decade running means. It has a small amplitude and would perhaps have seemed doubtful to many had not running means of 5-decade values been shown, instead of the separate 10-day mean values. This smoothing brings out plainly the similarity of the partial tabulations.

The amplitudes of the 23 periodicities plotted in figure 1 may seem to some critics too small to be of any significance. Not so. For it is shown in figure 4 that the synthesis of these 23 periodic fluctuations produces a curve closely matching, and of the same amplitude of variation as, the curve of original observation. A 12-month period of terrestrial origin with amplitude of 0.2 percent is not introduced into figure 4. Its inclusion would improve the agreement there. No additional regular periodicities were discernible. The analysis appears to be exhaustive.

As the periods grow longer, they are apt to display integral sub-multiples riding upon the period under examination. This is strongly marked with the period of  $15\frac{1}{6}$  months. It shows seven subperiods of  $2\frac{1}{7}$  months very plainly. Similarly the  $30\frac{1}{2}$ -month curve shows also the  $6\frac{1}{30}$ -month influence. The  $34\frac{1}{2}$ -month curve shows influence of the  $11\frac{1}{4}$ -month period. Other examples are obvious. Note the curves for periodicities of  $54\frac{1}{2}$ , 68, and 91 months shown in figure 1. Owing to superposed periods of less length, these long periodicities had to be smoothed by 5- or 7-month running means.

In addition to the direct mean results for each period, I give in a few cases also the smoothed mean, resulting from taking 5-value or 7-value running means for the entire length of the periodicity under consideration. These smooth curves give a more convincing and truer idea of the periodicities, thought to be real, than do the rougher direct means, affected by accidental errors of observation and influences of extraneous periods. Readers should bear in mind that the knicks in the broken lines, which look so large, really average less than  $\frac{1}{10}$  percent of the solar constant. This bears witness to the high accuracy

of the Smithsonian solar-constant observing. Its probable error has been discussed above.

### INTEGRAL RELATIONSHIPS

I had long been of the opinion that the regular periodicities of solar variation are all integrally related to approximately 272 months. This impression is supported by the fact, so obvious in figure 1, that the longer periods shown, themselves being integrally related to 272 months, have in several instances shorter periodicities riding on their backs, which are integral submultiples of them. Further proof of the integral relationships is shown in figures 2 and 3, already described.

Assuming that this integral relationship to 272 months is a condition necessary to the real existence of a regular period in solar variation, the number of such periods that are of considerable amplitudes seems not to exceed 23. At least a rather extensive search has not yielded others strong enough to be certainly real. If these be all, and their forms and amplitudes are as shown in figure 1, then a synthesis of them ought to represent the march of solar variation from 1920 to 1950, except for the interval of 1922 and 1923, when exceptionally large solar variations were observed and which is excluded from this analysis. I have made such a synthesis, and compare it with the march of the solar variation in figure 4.

### SYNTHESIS OF PERIODICITIES

To determine the quantities plotted in figure 4, I have computed the departures, plus and minus, from the mean ordinate for each smoothed periodicity, as expressed monthly, which together fix the form of its curve. This gives, in each case, a short series of small monthly departures suitable to the form of each periodicity. All the tabulations begin with August 1920 as zero time. In table 2 they are all tabulated in the smoothed form actually used in preparing the synthetic curve shown in figure 4. In computing the mean periodic forms, and afterward in using them for synthesizing the solar-constant values, I allow for fractions of a decade, or of a month, by adding or withdrawing a value from certain columns, or at appropriate intervals in synthesizing, so as to preserve the correct period.

I tabulate these series, end to end, over the whole interval of more than 30 years. Thus I make a great table of 23 columns and 367 lines. Adding algebraically the plus and minus values of the lines across the table, I find the total synthesized monthly departures, in ten-

thousandths of the solar constant, from the mean solar constant 1.94 calories. The results, covering 367 months, are compared in figure 4 with the monthly observational values recorded in table 4.

#### CLOSE AGREEMENT BETWEEN SYNTHESIS AND OBSERVATION

Table 3, below, shows the high degree of accuracy with which the synthesis of the original 21 periodicities (before those of 11.43 and  $24\frac{3}{4}$  months were found) corresponded to the observations.

These results came from the comparison of observation with the synthesis of 21 periodicities. The average departures are reduced below these figures when periodicities of 11.43, 12.0,<sup>7</sup> and  $24\frac{3}{4}$  months are introduced. The value for the best 233 months then becomes 1.00-tenths percent. The larger average departures prior to July 1926 are attributable to the then imperfect development of the "short method" of solar-constant work. The larger departures after 1945 are thought by Mr. Aldrich to be caused by temporary errors in the scales of pyrheliometers used in the field. He hopes to correct this discrepancy.

Some minds may still prefer to think that the solar-constant observations do not prove the variability of solar radiation. They may point out that the average deviation of the observations from their mean is 0.15 percent, and the average deviation of the synthetic curve from that of observation is still 0.10 percent. They may urge that this amount of improvement is not sufficient to warrant belief in the thesis that the sun's radiation varies in the discovered 23 regular periods, all integral submultiples of 272 months.

Such critics may be reminded that the "weight" of any measurement, that is, its claim to respectful recognition, is proportional to the number of observations that enter into the result; but the probable error (proportional to the average deviation from the mean) is proportional to the square root of the number of observations. It follows that the "weight," or credibility of a solution, is proportional to the square of the average deviation of its components. Hence the weight of the solution here advocated is  $\left(\frac{15}{10}\right)^2 = 2.25$  times the weight of the conclusion of an invariable sun.

But it must also be considered that a certain irreducible minimum of accidental error, comparable in a graph to the teeth of a saw, adheres to the solar-constant observations. Whatever excursions from the mean value may be produced by real solar variations, these acci-

<sup>7</sup> The 12-month period is not used in preparing figure 4; its use would improve the agreement of the curves.



TABLE 2.—*Twenty-three solar periodicities in ten-thousandths of the solar constant, based on August 1920. Also the 12-month terrestrial period, same unit*

2 1/7 M: +2 -2. 3 1/20 M: 0 -2 +2. 4 1/3 M: -1 -2 +3 ±0.  
5 1/18 M: -1 ±0 -2 +2 +2. 6 1/30 M: -4 -1 +3 +6 ±0 -5.  
7 M: -1 +1 +5 +2 -1 -1 -2. 8 1/14 M: -2 -2 -1 -1 +1 +1 +3 +2.  
9 1/10 M: -2 -4 -3 -1 ±0 +2 +3 +1. ±0.  
97/10 M: -4 -3 -1 +1 +5 +5 +2 -1 -4 -3.  
10 6/10 M: -1 -1 -1 -1 -3 +1 +1 +2 +3 +1 -1.  
11 1/5 M: -4 -2 ±0 +3 +1 +9 +3 -1 +4 -2 -8.  
11.43 M: +7 +4 +6 +1 -3 -4 -3 -3 -4 -3 -1.  
13 1/10 M: +1 +4 +3 -2 -6 -4 +2 +2 +1 ±0 -2 +1 +3.  
15 1/6 M: -3 -6 -6 -1 ±0 +2 +1 +2 +3 +2 ±0 ±0 +2 +1 +1.  
22 3/4 M: -1 +1 ±0 +1 +1 +1 +1 +1 ±0 ±0 +1 +2 +3 +3 +2 +2 +1 -1 -2 -3 -3 -2 -1.  
24 3/4 M: -2 -2 -1 +1 +2 +3 +3 +4 +4 +4 +3 +3 +2 +1 ±0 -2 -5 -7 -2 ±0 ±0 ±0 ±0 -1 -1.  
30 1/3 M: +6 +5 +4 +3 +3 +4 +3 +1 +1 ±0 ±0 ±0 -1 -3 -5 -6 -6 -5 -5 -6 -6 -4 -3 -2 -1 -1 ±0 +3 +3 +4.  
34 1/2 M: -5 -6 -4 -3 -3 -2 -3 -5 -7 -6 -3 -1 -1 +2 +5 +6 +8 +7 +6 +4 +1 -1 ±0 +1 +2 +3 +3 +4 +5 +5 +2 +1 -1 -3.  
39 M: -4 +1 +2 +2 +2 +2 +1 +1 +1 +2 +2 +4 +6 +8 +10 +10 +8 +7 +5 +3 +4 +5 +5 +4 +3 +3 +1 -1 -4 -6 -8 -10 -10 -10 -9 -9 -9 -8 -6.  
45 1/2 M: -3 -4 -3 -3 -2 -1 ±0 +1 +1 +3 +4 +6 +6 +3 +2 +1 ±0 -2 -3 -1 -1 +1 +1 +2 +3 +2 +2 ±0 -1 -3 -4 -5 -4 -3 -2 ±0 +1 +1 ±0 -2 -3 -4 -2 -2 -1.  
54 1/2 M: +4 +4 +5 +6 +6 +7 +7 +7 +7 +6 +6 +6 +5 +3 ±0 -1 -1 -1 -2 -4 -4 -3 -3 -2 -2 -2 -2 -3 -2 -3 -2 -4 -5 -4 -3 -4 -2 -3 -3 -4 -3 -2 -1 -1 -1 -2 -1 ±0 ±0 -2 -2 -1 +1 +2.  
68 M: -7 -5 -4 -4 -4 -6 -6 -8 -12 -13 -12 -9 -5 -4 -2 -3 -2 -2 -8 -11 -11 -10 -6 -4 -3 -4 -4 -3 -5 -5 -6 -5 -4 -4 -4 -6 -7 -8 -7 -8 -6 -4 -2 ±0 +2 +4 +5 +6 +7 +8 +9 +10 +10 +11 +11 +12 +12 +11 +11 +10 +8 +5 +2 -2 -3 -7.  
91 M: ±0 +1 +2 +2 +2 +2 +2 +3 +4 +2 +1 -1 -2 -3 -3 -3 -4 -4 -4 -3 -3 -3 -3 -4 -4 -4 -4 -4 -4 -4 -4 -4 -3 -2 -1 ±0 ±0 ±0 ±0 -1 -2 -3 -3 -4 -4 -4 -4 -4 -4 -4 -4 -4 -4 -3 -2 -1 ±0 +1 +2 +2 +3 +4 +5 +6 +6 +7 +7 +7 +7 +7 +6 +5 +4 +3 +2 +2 +1 +1 +1 ±0 ±0 -1 -2 -2 -3 -4 -4 -4 -4 -3 -2 -1 -1 ±0 ±0 ±0.

*The 12-month period of terrestrial causation*

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
+0.1	+0.6	-2.1	-6.7	-0.9	+1.7	+1.4	+2.1	+4.3	+6.2	+13.2	+13.5

dental errors of observation will still load the curve with their saw-toothlike vibrations about its true course. No system of periodicities, which may truly represent the true courses of the solar variation, can possibly follow these small accidental errors of observation. It is therefore unreasonable to demand that such a system of periodicities, even though the true one, can be expected to reduce the average deviation of its curve from the curve of observation below the one-tenth

TABLE 3.—Average departures of synthetic from observational curve

Aug. 1920—Mar. 1922,	20 months,	2.01	tenths percent.
Aug. 1923—July 1926,	36 months,	1.82	“ “
Aug. 1926—Dec. 1945,	233 months,	1.10	“ “
Jan. 1945—Dec. 1950,	60 months,	2.38	“ “
Aug. 1920—Dec. 1950,	349 months,	1.45	“ “

of a percent found. For though, as stated, the probable error of *first-rate* 10-day means, as found by comparing the simultaneous observations of two solar-constant observations, is  $1/25$  percent, very many 10-day means are not first rate, as explained above. Moreover the “average deviation” is  $5/4$  of the “probable error,” as is well known, raising the figure to  $1/19$  percent for the average deviation of first-rate 10-day means.

The real crux of the question, as between the hypothesis of constant solar radiation, and solar radiation varying in 23 regular periods, painstakingly determined and tested by several criteria of reality, lies in considering the large excursions of the curve of observation from its mean. Examples of such methodically marching excursions are found from 1924 to 1927, from 1929 to 1933, from 1937 to 1942, and from 1947 to 1949. The hypothesis of a constant solar radiation offers no explanation for them. On the other hand, the synthetic curve follows these large, methodically marching excursions with some fidelity.

Yet notwithstanding this striking harmony in the principal features between the curve of observation and the synthetic curve of regular periodicities, there are limited intervals of substantial disagreement. Among these the major one occurs in 1922 and 1923, regarding which I have already written. The disagreement in 1920 and 1921 may be attributed to the incomplete development of the short method of solar-constant determination in those earliest years. The same perhaps applies to the disagreement in the years 1924 and 1925, for even then the short method was not fully developed, as now used. As for the period 1946 to 1950, Mr. Aldrich inclines to think the scales of pyrheliometry may have varied a little in those years. There is also

a possibility that, in carrying the computations so far forward as 1950 from their base in 1920, slight errors in the length of the periods have accumulated so as to mar the results of synthesis.

Brief intervals of unusually large divergence between the synthetic and the observed curves occur in 1927, 1929, 1934-1935, 1938, 1940-1941, and 1944. Nearly all these cases occur at the times of the year when sky conditions for observing are inferior at one or both stations, as indicated by figures 7 and 8, pages 70 and 71, *Annals*, volume 5, already cited. It is not probable, however, that regular periods of variation include *all* the variations of solar radiation. We know, indeed, that outbursts of sunspots and flares cause changes in the sun's output of radiation. Some of the discrepancies referred to are doubtless due to such causes.

I hope the reader will agree that the synthesis of 23 independently and separately computed periodic terms has represented, to within the error of observation, the march of the solar constant as given by the monthly means of the original observations from 1920 to 1950, excluding the extraordinary values of 1922 and 1923. This close agreement in form and amplitude between the observed and the synthetic curve seems to me a fourth kind of evidence supporting the existence of a complex of over 20 regular periods all approximately integral sub-multiples of 272 months in the observed variation of the sun's output of radiation.

It will occur to the reader that curves of solar observation should tend to repeat their features after 272 months, or approximately 23 years. There is a slight indication that the curve of 1921 in figure 4 is similar to that of 1944, but the work of 1921, as mentioned elsewhere, is too inaccurate to prove it. In the years 1922 and 1923 occurred a unique large depression of the curve of observation. A real test must begin with the year 1924. Unfortunately, as stated elsewhere, there appears to have been a change of scale of about  $\frac{1}{3}$  percent in 1948. To correct for it, I subtract 32 units from all the monthly means, July 1948 to February 1950.

In figure 4A, I superpose the corrected curve 1947 to 1950 (light line) upon the observed curve of observation 1924 to 1927 (heavy line). The similarity is striking. During 48 months there are five large divergencies: 0.55, 0.50, and three of 0.45 percent. The extreme range of the great feature shown in figure 4A is 0.9 percent, and the average deviation between the curves is but 0.19 percent—less than the expected combined probable errors of observing. One regrets that the interval, 276 months, exceeds the expected interval,

272 months. But as solar conditions modify the lengths of the sun-spot cycles, they may also slightly modify that of the 272-month cycle from time to time.



FIG. 4A.—Comparison of solar constants 1924-1927 (heavy lines) and 1947-1950 (light lines).

#### SCALE OF SOLAR CONSTANT NEARLY UNCHANGED IN 30 YEARS

It is very pleasing that the comparison of synthesized and original curves shows the features generally with equal amplitudes in the two curves. The comparison gives no indication that the scale of observation has changed in 30 years, except perhaps for a rise of 3/10 percent from June 1948 to January 1950. This is remarkable in view of many changes of instruments and of procedures that have taken place meanwhile.

## APPENDIX 1

## SOLAR-CONSTANT MONTHLY AND 10-DAY MEANS, 1920-1950

Doubtless there are those who are engaged in research on cycles in various lines who may wish to know the Smithsonian results on solar variability as nearly as possible up to date. Mr. Aldrich kindly permits me to publish the following table (table 4) giving the percentage excesses of solar-constant values above 1.900 calories from 1920 to 1950. These percentage excesses are in the form of means of 10 days (i.e., decades of months) and means of months. Taking the first trio of values, given here for illustration, the table may be explained as follows. We have:

2, 8, I, 0, 1, 154  
 2, 8, II, 0, 2, 139, 153<sup>8</sup>  
 2, 8, III, 0, 3, 165

The above figure 2, with the figure 0, makes 20, meaning the year 1920. The figure 8 means August, the eighth month of 1920. The Roman numerals I, II, III stand for the first, second, and third decades of August. That is: August 1-9, 10-19, 20-31. The values 154, 139, 165 represent decade-means of the daily excesses of the solar constant by which these observations exceeded in ten-thousandth parts of the mean solar constant (taken as 1.94 calories) the value 1.9000 calories. Thus the value 154 signifies that the mean solar constant for the first decade of August 1920 was 1.54 percent of 1.94 or 0.0299 calorie above 1.90 calories. Finally, the value 153 is the mean of the three decade values and signifies that the average solar constant for August 1920 was 1.90+1.53 percent of 1.94 calories, or 1.930 calories.<sup>8</sup> As stated above, the percentages of excess over 1.90 calories was chosen to suit my investigation because, first, all values are positive, and second, results come out in percentages of the solar constant.

## APPENDIX 2

## PROBABLE SOLAR-CONSTANT VALUES BEFORE 1920

Smithsonian solar-constant observations were made in the summers on Mount Wilson, Calif., in most years from 1905 to 1920. But partly because of experimental crudity, and partly from the variability of sky transparency, and mainly because those measurements were all made by the fundamental "long method," which requires constant sky transparency for hours, the results were wide-ranging, from about

<sup>8</sup> This result is far out of line, and indicates experimental error. In drawing figure 4 I have assumed, instead, 235, given in parenthesis in table 4.



TABLE 4.—Ten-day and monthly means

2, 8	I, 0	1 154	2, 11	I, 2	82 134	2, 2	I, 5	163 278
	II	2 139(235)		II	83 154		II	164 283
	III	3 165 153		III	84 98 129		III	165 288 283
2, 9	I, 0	4 263	2, 12	I, 2	85 124	2, 3	I, 5	166 299
	II	5 227		II	86 113		II	167 263
	III	6 227 239		III	87 118 118		III	168 258 273
2, 10	I, 0	7 227	2, 1	I, 3	88 232	2, 4	I, 5	169 263
	II	8 278		II	89 185		II	170 252
	III	9 206 237		III	90 154 190	2, 4	III, 5	171 216 244
2, 11	I, 0	10 278	2, 2	I, 3	91 160	2, 5	I, 5	172 221
	II	11 258		II	92 142		II	173 258
	III	12 201 246		III	93 77 126		III	174 247 242
2, 12	I, 0	13 294	2, 3	I, 3	94 160	2, 6	I, 5	175 237
	II	14 263		II	95 175		II	176 247
	III	15 278 278		III	96 160 165		III	177 258 247
2, 1	I, 1	16 299	2, 4	I, 3	97 175	2, 7	I, 5	178 263
	II	17 304		II	98 134		II	179 278
	III	18 278 294		III	99 165 158		III	180 206 249
2, 2	I, 1	19 237	2, 5	I, 3	100 175	2, 8	I, 5	181 258
	II	20 288		II	101 180		II	182 221
	III	21 278 268		III	102 191 182		III	183 273 251
2, 3	I, 1	22 299	2, 6	I, 3	103 118	2, 9	I, 5	184 263
	II	23 206		II	104 170		II	185 263
	III	24 242 249		III	105 165 151		III	186 242 256
2, 4	I, 1	25 242	2, 7	I, 3	106 180	2, 10	I, 5	187 232
	II	26 242		II	107 144		II	188 237
	III	27 242 242		III	108 227 184		III	189 232 234
2, 5	I, 1	28 267	2, 8	I, 3	109 216	2, 11	I, 5	190 216
	II	29 247		II	110 206		II	191 252
	III	30 263 259		III	111 211 211		III	192 242 237
2, 6	I, 1	31 185	2, 9	I, 3	112 252	2, 12	I, 5	193 247
	II	32 206		II	113 252		II	194 237
	III	33 211 201		III	114 242 249		III	195 258 247
2, 7	I, 1	34 258	2, 10	I, 3	115 237	2, 1	I, 6	196 237
	II	35 268		II	116 221		II	197 258
	III	36 252 259		III	117 237 232		III	198 196 230
2, 8	I, 1	37 211	2, 11	I, 3	118 221	2, 2	I, 6	199 201
	II	38 263		II	119 227		II	200 266
	III	39 196 223		III	120 211 220		III	201 180 196
2, 9	I, 1	40 227	2, 12	I, 3	121 221	2, 3	I, 6	202 211
	II	41 263		II	122 216		II	203 232
	III	42 268 253		III	123 175 204		III	204 191 211
2, 10	I, 1	43 268	2, 1	I, 4	124 216	2, 4	I, 6	205 170
	II	44 294		II	125 211		II	206 201
	III	45 309 290		III	126 211 213		III	207 216 196
2, 11	I, 1	46 294	2, 2	I, 4	127 221	2, 5	I, 6	208 201
	II	47 283		II	128 201		II	209 206
	III	48 309 295		III	129 232 218		III	210 211 206
2, 12	I, 1	49 273	2, 3	I, 4	130 252	2, 6	I, 6	211 196
	II	50 247		II	131 211		II	212 216
	III	51 268 263		III	132 216 226		III	213 211 208
2, 1	I, 2	52 165	2, 4	I, 4	133 196	2, 7	I, 6	214 221
	II	53 247		II	134 206		II	215 211
	III	54 247 220		III	135 221 208		III	216 211 214
2, 2	I, 2	55 206	2, 5	I, 4	136 237	2, 8	I, 6	217 232
	II	56 252		II	137 252		II	218 232
	III	57 247 235		III	138 252 247		III	219 252 239
2, 3	I, 2	58 221	2, 6	I, 4	139 247	2, 9	I, 6	220 216
	II	59 201		II	140 247		II	221 216
	III	60 154 192		III	141 263 252		III	222 227 220
2, 4	I, 2	61 165	2, 7	I, 4	142 247	2, 10	I, 6	223 201
	II	62 165		II	143 268		II	224 206
	III	63 139 156		III	144 252 256		III	225 180 196
2, 5	I, 2	64 139	2, 8	I, 4	145 278	2, 11	I, 6	226 185
	II	65 160		II	146 221		II	227 185
	III	66 165 156		III	147 232 244		III	228 201 190
2, 6	I, 2	67 129	2, 9	I, 4	148 211	2, 12	I, 6	229 170
	II	68 72		II	149 232		II	230 201
	III	69 72 91		III	150 278 240		III	231 191 187
2, 7	I, 2	70 21	2, 10	I, 4	151 252	2, 1	I, 7	232 206
	II	71 88		II	152 268		II	233 196
	III	72 72 60		III	153 263 261		III	234 191 198
2, 8	I, 2	73 98	2, 11	I, 4	154 263	2, 2	I, 7	235 175
	II	74 124		II	155 268		II	236 242
	III	75 103 108		III	156 273 268		III	237 160 192
2, 9	I, 2	76 160	2, 12	I, 4	157 283	2, 3	I, 7	238 154
	II	77 52		II	158 263		II	239 216
	III	78 88 100		III	159 273 273		III	240 216 195
2, 10	I, 2	79 144	2, 1	I, 5	160 242	2, 4	I, 7	241 247
	II	80 129		II	161 263		II	242 232
	III	81 93 122		III	162 283 263		III	243 201 227

TABLE 4.—Continued

2, 5	I, 7	244 206	2, 8	I, 9	325 201	3, 11	I, 1	406 221
	II	245 242		II	326 206		II	407 232
	III	246 216 221		III	327 206 204		III	408 237 230
2, 6	I, 7	247 258	2, 9	I, 9	328 211	3, 12	I, 1	409 221
	II	248 221		II	329 191		II	410 247
	III	249 227 235		III	330 211 204		III	411 242 237
2, 7	I, 7	250 232	2, 10	I, 9	331 211	3, 1	I, 2	412 242
	II	251 216		II	332 216		II	413 242
	III	252 232 227		III	333 175 201		III	414 221 235
2, 8	I, 7	253 211	2, 11	I, 9	334 206	3, 2	I, 2	415 227
	II	254 221		II	335 227		II	416 232
	III	255 232 227		III	336 237 223		III	417 165 208
2, 9	I, 7	256 237	2, 12	I, 9	337 237	3, 3	I, 2	418 175
	II	257 258		II	338 237		II	419 221
	III	258 247 247		III	339 227 234		III	420 206 201
2, 10	I, 7	259 221	3, 1	I, 0	340 211	3, 4	I, 2	421 191
	II	260 206		II	341 232		II	422 221
	III	261 211 213		III	342 232 225		III	423 211 208
2, 11	I, 7	262 232	3, 2	I, 0	343 211	3, 5	I, 2	424 232
	II	263 232		II	344 232		II	425 227
	III	264 247 237		III	345 247 230		III	426 154 204
2, 12	I, 7	265 242	3, 3	I, 0	346 232	3, 6	I, 2	427 206
	II	266 227		II	347 211		II	428 221
	III	267 201 223		III	348 216 220		III	429 221 216
2, 1	I, 8	268 221	3, 4	I, 0	349 221	3, 7	I, 2	430 263
	II	269 196		II	350 206		II	431 206
	III	270 216 211		III	351 227 218		III	432 216 228
2, 2	I, 8	271 237	3, 5	I, 0	352 232	3, 8	I, 2	433 196
	II	272 211		II	353 252		II	434 227
	III	273 201 216		III	354 242 242		III	435 216 213
2, 3	I, 8	274 237	3, 6	I, 0	355 242	3, 9	I, 2	436 191
	II	275 247		II	356 273		II	437 232
	III	276 221 235		III	357 258 258		III	438 237 220
2, 4	I, 8	277 216	3, 7	I, 0	358 232	3, 10	I, 2	439 211
	II	278 227		II	359 278		II	440 180
	III	279 242 228		III	360 273 261		III	441 201 197
2, 5	I, 8	280 227	3, 8	I, 0	361 242	3, 11	I, 2	442 211
	II	281 263		II	362 268		II	443 185
	III	282 247 246		III	363 252 254		III	444 201 199
2, 6	I, 8	283 247	3, 9	I, 0	364 247	3, 12	I, 2	445 258
	II	284 278		II	365 227		II	446 237
	III	285 232 252		III	365 232 235		III	447 211 235
2, 7	I, 8	286 232	3, 10	I, 0	367 227	3, 1	I, 3	448 258
	II	287 221		II	368 237		II	449 247
	III	288 216 223		III	369 247 237		III	450 268 258
2, 8	I, 8	289 191	3, 11	I, 0	370 242	3, 2	I, 3	451 258
	II	290 227		II	371 242		II	452 242
	III	291 227 215		III	372 263 249		III	453 242 247
2, 9	I, 8	292 201	3, 12	I, 0	373 268	3, 3	I, 3	454 237
	II	293 237		II	374 278		II	455 206
	III	294 196 211		III	375 263 270		III	456 206 216
2, 10	I, 8	295 227	3, 1	I, 1	376 216	3, 4	I, 3	457 211
	II	296 232		II	377 247		II	458 227
	III	297 211 223		III	378 268 244		III	459 191 210
2, 11	I, 8	298 227	3, 2	I, 1	379 247	3, 5	I, 3	460 106
	II	299 252		II	380 258		II	461 206
	III	300 237 239		III	381 216 240		III	462 232 211
2, 12	I, 8	301 237	3, 3	I, 1	382 227	3, 6	I, 3	463 206
	II	302 227		II	383 237		II	464 216
	III	303 252 239		III	384 258 241		III	465 232 218
2, 1	I, 9	304 242	3, 4	I, 1	385 237	3, 7	I, 3	466 247
	II	305 258		II	386 237		II	467 242
	III	306 237 246		III	387 237 237		III	468 221 237
2, 2	I, 9	307 232	3, 5	I, 1	388 288	3, 8	I, 3	469 221
	II	308 211		II	389 258		II	470 221
	III	309 196 213		III	390 258 268		III	471 216 219
2, 3	I, 9	310 242	3, 6	I, 1	391 247	3, 9	I, 3	472 252
	II	311 191		II	392 247		II	473 247
	III	312 206 213		III	393 232 242		III	474 263 254
2, 4	I, 9	313 191	3, 7	I, 1	394 237	3, 10	I, 3	475 263
	II	314 242		II	395 252		II	476 237
	III	315 227 220		III	396 247 245		III	477 263 253
2, 5	I, 9	316 216	3, 8	I, 1	397 247	3, 11	I, 3	478 242
	II	317 216		II	398 258		II	479 263
	III	318 227 220		III	399 232 246		III	480 273 259
2, 6	I, 9	319 206	3, 9	I, 1	400 252	3, 12	I, 3	481 268
	II	320 175		II	401 232		II	482 252
	III	321 196 192		III	402 263 249		III	483 258 259
2, 7	I, 9	322 206	3, 10	I, 1	403 263	3, 1	I, 4	484 258
	II	323 211		II	404 221		II	485 237
	III	324 216 211		III	405 237 249		III	486 247 247



TABLE 4.—Continued

3, 2	I, 4	487 263	3, 5	I, 6	568 237	3, 8	I, 8	649 227
	II	488 216		II	569 232		II	650 232
	III	489 227 235		III	570 247 239		III	651 232 230
3, 3	I, 4	490 247	3, 6	I, 6	571 258	3, 9	I, 8	652 237
	II	491 221		II	572 252		II	653 232
	III	492 258 242		III	573 247 252		III	654 242 237
3, 4	I, 4	493 232	3, 7	I, 6	574 252	3, 10	I, 8	655 247
	II	494 221		II	575 242		II	656 247
	III	495 221 225		III	576 242 245		III	657 263 252
3, 5	I, 4	496 227	3, 8	I, 6	577 232	3, 11	I, 8	658 268
	II	497 242		II	578 252		II	659 268
	III	498 221 230		III	579 242 242		III	660 268 268
3, 6	I, 4	499 242	3, 9	I, 6	580 232	3, 12	I, 8	661 258
	II	500 258		II	581 252		II	662 273
	III	501 252 251		III	582 263 249		III	663 258 263
3, 7	I, 4	502 258	3, 10	I, 6	583 252	3, 1	I, 9	664 ...
	II	503 232		II	584 252		II	665 237
	III	504 232 241		III	585 242 249		III	666 242 240
3, 8	I, 4	505 211	3, 11	I, 6	586 268	3, 2	I, 9	667 216
	II	506 237		II	587 273		II	668 185
	III	507 227 225		III	588 258 266		III	669 232 211
3, 9	I, 4	508 232	3, 12	I, 6	589 278	3, 3	I, 9	670 221
	II	509 247		II	590 263		II	671 216
	III	510 263 247		III	591 247 263		III	672 232 223
3, 10	I, 4	511 263	3, 1	I, 7	592 247	3, 4	I, 9	673 221
	II	512 268		II	593 273		II	674 227
	III	513 263 265		III	594 242 254		III	675 201 216
3, 11	I, 4	514 268	3, 2	I, 7	595 247	3, 5	I, 9	676 211
	II	515 263		II	596 237		II	677 221
	III	516 258 263		III	597 252 245		III	678 211 214
3, 12	I, 4	517 268	3, 3	I, 7	598 211	3, 6	I, 9	679 211
	II	518 258		II	599 221		II	680 196
	III	519 247 258		III	600 227 220		III	681 221 209
3, 1	I, 5	520 242	3, 4	I, 7	601 201	3, 7	I, 9	682 221
	II	521 268		II	602 211		II	683 227
	III	522 232 247		III	603 216 209		III	684 201 216
3, 2	I, 5	523 237	3, 5	I, 7	604 180	3, 8	I, 9	685 201
	II	524 237		II	605 227		II	686 180
	III	525 216 230		III	606 237 215		III	687 227 203
3, 3	I, 5	526 221	3, 6	I, 7	607 237	3, 9	I, 9	688 252
	II	527 242		II	608 237		II	689 232
	III	528 263 242		III	609 242 239		III	690 232 239
3, 4	I, 5	529 237	3, 7	I, 7	610 221	3, 10	I, 9	691 221
	II	530 242		II	611 227		II	692 237
	III	531 227 235		III	612 232 227		III	693 227 228
3, 5	I, 5	532 247	3, 8	I, 7	613 242	3, 11	I, 9	694 258
	II	533 232		II	614 232		II	695 258
	III	534 247 242		III	615 242 239		III	696 221 246
3, 6	I, 5	535 237	3, 9	I, 7	616 252	3, 12	I, 9	697 227
	II	536 237		II	617 247		II	698 258
	III	537 247 240		III	618 237 245		III	699 242 242
3, 7	I, 5	538 247	3, 10	I, 7	619 242	4, 1	I, 0	700 237
	II	539 227		II	620 227		II	701 242
	III	540 232 235		III	621 242 237		III	702 237 239
3, 8	I, 5	541 247	3, 11	I, 7	622 247	4, 2	I, 0	703 227
	II	542 263		II	623 247		II	704 227
	III	543 237 249		III	624 247 247		III	705 232 229
3, 9	I, 5	544 232	3, 12	I, 7	625 258	4, 3	I, 0	706 232
	II	545 237		II	626 252		II	707 211
	III	546 227 232		III	627 278 263		III	708 211 218
3, 10	I, 5	547 237	3, 1	I, 8	628 232	4, 4	I, 0	709 227
	II	548 242		II	629 268		II	710 211
	III	549 242 240		III	630 206 235		III	711 268 235
3, 11	I, 5	550 247	3, 2	I, 8	631 221	4, 5	I, 0	712 242
	II	551 268		II	632 237		II	713 237
	III	552 252 256		III	633 273 244		III	714 268 249
3, 12	I, 5	553 247	3, 3	I, 8	634 268	4, 6	I, 0	715 247
	II	554 263		II	635 237		II	716 252
	III	555 273 261		III	636 242 240		III	717 242 247
3, 1	I, 6	556 237	3, 4	I, 8	637 232	4, 7	I, 0	718 258
	II	557 263		II	638 206		II	719 252
	III	558 227 242		III	639 237 225		III	720 242 251
3, 2	I, 6	559 242	3, 5	I, 8	640 237	4, 8	I, 0	721 242
	II	560 263		II	641 227		II	722 237
	III	561 196 234		III	642 206 223		III	723 242 240
3, 3	I, 6	562 201	3, 6	I, 8	643 211	9	I	724 263
	II	563 237		II	644 227		II	725 252
	III	564 232 223		III	645 232 223		III	726 242 252
3, 4	I, 6	565 232	3, 7	I, 8	646 227	10	I	727 247
	II	566 237		II	647 232		II	728 227
	III	567 237 235		III	648 221 227		III	729 252 242

TABLE 4.—Continued

11	I	730 252	2	I	811 216	5	I	892 237
	II	731 227		II	812 242		II	893 237
	III	732 216 232		III	813 232 230		III	894 242 239
12	I	733 242	3	I	814 206	6	I	895 232
	II	734 258		II	815 247		II	896 227
	III	735 258 253		III	816 221 225		III	897 227 229
4, 1	I, I	736 232	4	I	817 211	7	I	898 258
	II	737 268		II	818 227		II	899 242
	III	738 242 247		III	819 237 225		III	900 242 247
2	I	739 216	5	I	820 242	8	I	901 247
	II	740 247		II	821 232		II	902 232
	III	741 273 245		III	822 237 237		III	903 221 233
3	I	742 258	6	I	823 252	9	I	904 232
	II	743 232		II	824 263		II	905 216
	III	744 268 253		III	825 263 259		III	906 211 220
4	I	745 247	7	I	826 252	10	I	907 232
	II	746 242		II	827 221		II	908 221
	III	747 221 237		III	828 257 243		III	909 206 220
5	I	748 247	8	I	829 247	11	I	910 258
	II	749 216		II	830 242		II	911 242
	III	750 263 242		III	831 257 249		III	912 252 251
6	I	751 263	9	I	832 232	12	I	913 221
	II	752 216		II	833 247		II	914 216
	III	753 268 249		III	834 242 240		III	915 216 218
7	I	754 258	10	I	835 232	4, 1	I, 6	916 221
	II	755 268		II	836 247		II	917 227
	III	756 283 270		III	837 232 237		III	918 258 235
8	I	757 283	11	I	838 237	2	I	919 211
	II	758 252		II	839 247		II	920 201
	III	759 242 259		III	840 206 230		III	921 201 204
9	I	760 278	12	I	841 232	3	I	922 191
	II	761 263		II	842 227		II	923 185
	III	762 216 252		III	843 263 241		III	924 206 194
10	I	763 273	4, 1	I, 4	844 252	4	I	925 252
	II	764 258		II	845 242		II	926 242
	III	765 247 259		III	846 227 240		III	927 211 235
11	I	766 268	2	I	847 257	5	I	928 252
	II	767 247		II	848 263		II	929 252
	III	768 247 254		III	849 252 257		III	930 227 244
12	I	769 263	3	I	850 216	6	I	931 258
	II	770 258		II	851 242		II	932 247
	III	771 283 268		III	852 227 228		III	933 258 254
4, 1	I, 2	772 288	4	I	853 216	7	I	934 237
	II	773 237		II	854 227		II	935 258
	III	774 247 257		III	855 227 223		III	936 221 239
2	I	775 247	5	I	856 242	4, 8	I, 6	937 221
	II	776 252		II	857 237		II	938 216
	III	777 247 249		III	858 227 235		III	939 252 230
3	I	778 221	6	I	859 237	9	I	940 252
	II	779 221		II	860 221		II	941 232
	III	780 216 219		III	861 227 228		III	942 221 235
4	I	781 227	7	I	862 237	10	I	943 216
	II	782 237		II	863 227		II	944 232
	III	783 232 232		III	864 237 234		III	945 237 228
5	I	784 227	4, 8	I, 4	865 263	11	I	946 247
	II	785 242		II	866 216		II	947 258
	III	786 257 242		III	867 206 228		III	948 263 256
6	I	787 257	9	I	868 206	12	I	949 304(?)
	II	788 237		II	869 221		II	950 273(?)
	III	789 247 247		III	870 191 206		III	951 221(?) 266
7	I	790 252	10	I	871 232	4, 1	I, 7	952 278
	II	791 257		II	872 206		II	953 258
	III	792 232 247		III	873 185 208		III	954 258 265
4, 8	I, 2	793 232	11	I	874 247	2	I	955 216(?)
	II	794 237		II	875 237		II	956 237
	III	795 237 235		III	876 232 239		III	957 242 232
9	I	796 247	12	I	877 237	3	I	958 185
	II	797 196		II	878 268		II	959 206
	III	798 232 225		III	879 232 246		III	960 216 202
10	I	799 232	4, 1	I, 5	880 201	4	I	961 191
	II	800 227		II	881 211		II	962 227
	III	801 216 225		III	882 206 206		III	963 232 217
11	I	802 237	2	I	883 242	5	I	964 232
	II	803 242		II	884 247		II	965 232
	III	804 257 245		III	885 232 240		III	966 216 227
12	I	805 232	3	I	886 232	6	I	967 211
	II	806 211		II	887 232		II	968 247
	III	807 227 223		III	888 206 223		III	969 242 233
4, 1	I, 3	808 206	4	I	889 232	7	I	970 237
	II	809 206		II	890 253		II	971 232
	III	810 211 208		III	891 247 244		III	972 211 227

TABLE 4.—Concluded

8	I	973	216	10	I	1015	258	12	I	1057	263
	II	970	221		II	1016	258		II	1058	242
	III	975	252 230		III	1017	253 356		III	1059	288 264
9	I	976	221	11	I	1018	278	5, 1	I, 0	1060	288
	II	977	237		II	1019	268		II	1061	268
	III	978	221 226		III	1020	283 276		III	1062	268 275
10	I	979	227	12	I	1021	278	2	I	1063	227
	II	980	237		II	1022	283		II	1064	237
	III	981	263 242		III	1023	278 280		III	1065	247 237
11	I	982	273	4, 1	I, 9	1024	278	3	I	1066	227
	II	983	242		II	1025	247		II	1067	227
	III	984	247 254		III	1026	273 266		III	1068	211 222
12	I	985	258	2	I	1027	304	4	I	1069	221
	II	986	237		II	1028	294		II	1070	211
	III	987	263 253		III	1029	232 278		III	1071	206 213
4, 1	I, 8	988	278	3	I	1030	242	5	I	1072	232
	II	989	247		II	1031	252		II	1073	206
	III	990	263 263		III	1032	206 233		III	1074	247 228
2	I	991	273	4	I	1033	221	6	I	1075	242
	II	992	268		II	1034	206		II	1076	232
	III	993	258 266		III	1035	258 228		III	1077	247 240
3	I	994	278	5	I	1036	242	7	I	1078	211
	II	995	247		II	1037	273		II	1079	242
	III	996	247 257		III	1038	242 252		III	1080	232 228
4	I	997	293(?)	6	I	1039	232	5, 8	I, 0	1081	253
	II	998	252		II	1040	191		II	1082	253
	III	999	258 268		III	1041	242 222		III	1083	216 241
5	I	1000	258	7	I	1042	237	9	I	1084	206
	II	1001	252		II	1043	242		II	1085	237
	III	1002	263 258		III	1044	247 242		III	1086	237 227
6	I	1003	283	8	I	1045	242	10	I	1087	243
	II	1004	273		II	1046	263		II	1088	249
	III	1005	273 276		III	1047	221 242		III	1089	283 258
7	I	1006	200	9	I	1048	227	11	I	1090	263
	II	1007	288		II	1049	237		II	1091	227
	III	1008	283 290		III	1050	206 223		III	1092	252 247
4, 8	I, 8	1009	283	10	I	1051	232	12	I	1093	232
	II	1010	278		II	1052	221		II	1094	247
	III	1011	237 266		III	1053	263 239		III	1095	227 235
9	I	1012	252	11	I	1054	268				
	II	1013	278		II	1055	247				
	III	1014	278 260		III	1056	237 251				

1.9 to 2.0 calories, or even more. Still, by forming these less-accurate solar-constant values into large groups of days, according to magnitude, H. H. Clayton was able to correlate solar changes with weather elements.<sup>9</sup>

It now occurs to me that since the periodicities now discovered in the solar emission have been expressed as to form and amplitude, and since 1920 seem to be permanent as far as known in period, amplitude, and form, it may be worth while to synthesize monthly mean solar variation *backward* from 1920. This done, it would be possible to compare the values synthesized with monthly mean solar-constant values observed on Mount Wilson. If, on the whole, high, medium, and low solar constants as synthesized correspond to high, medium, and low Mount Wilson values, it will be a confirmatory evidence of the sun's real variability, of the constancy of periodicities, of their comprising nearly the total solar variation, and of the value of Clayton's work on the correlation of solar variation with weather.

Table 5 gives the synthesized monthly solar-constant values from

<sup>9</sup> Smithsonian Misc. Coll., vol. 68, No. 3, 1917.

August 1908 to December 1920. These results are given graphically in figure 5,C. These are actual estimated solar constants in calories per square centimeter per minute, not, as in table 4, percentage departures from 1.90 calories.

#### COMPARISON OF SYNTHETIC WITH MOUNT WILSON SOLAR-CONSTANT VALUES

From table 53, page 193, volume 4, *Annals of the Astrophysical Observatory*, I take monthly solar-constant values determined from Mount Wilson observations in the months May to November, 1908 to 1920. I omit four values, July and August 1912, because the sky was then very much fouled by dust from the volcano, Mount Katmai.<sup>10</sup> I also omit July values of 1910 and 1917 because they are very wild indeed, far beyond the limits of dispersal of the others.

Having plotted the Mount Wilson values and such parts of the synthetic series as corresponded in time with them, I saw that there was a gradual rise in values in both observed and synthetic series from 1908 to 1914. I drew straight lines best following this trend to represent the means of the values over that interval, and read off the departures of the individual solar-constant values on the plot from these lines. For the rest of the total interval, that is 1915 to 1920, I read departures from straight horizontal lines drawn in the mean of ordinates. The plot was in arbitrary units, with the units for ordinates in the synthetic plot twice as large as those for the Mount Wilson data. These departure values follow in table 6.

Taking the sums of the data in the columns of table 6 they yield:

Mount Wilson  $\div$  synthetic =  $\frac{593}{284} = 1.77$ . Recalling the ratio of units, 2 to 1, it appears that the dispersal of Mount Wilson data is 3.54 times as great as that of the synthetic data. The synthetic curve 1920-1950, however, as plotted in figure 4, shows practically the same range of variation as does the curve of original modern observations. Hence it appears that the Mount Wilson solar-constant observations of 1908 to 1920 are probably  $3\frac{1}{2}$  times less accurate than the modern work set forth in table 4.

Taking account of the numbers of departures of the same sign in the columns of table 6, and the numbers of them of opposite signs, the sums are 28 and 21.

Taking the sums of departures that are of the same sign in both columns, the results are 324 for Mount Wilson and 170 for the syn-

<sup>10</sup> See *Smithsonian Misc. Coll.*, vol. 60, No. 29, 1913.

TABLE 5.—*Synthesized solar constant, 1908-1920*

Values to be prefixed by 1.9

1908	Aug. 49	1912	Jan. 45	1915	Jan. 45	1918	Jan. 47
	Sept. 49		Feb. 46		Feb. 50		Feb. 46
	Oct. 48		Mar. 48		Mar. 48		Mar. 43
	Nov. 46		Apr. 45		Apr. 51		Apr. 44
	Dec. 45		May 46		May 48		May 43
1909	Jan. 45		June 45		June 45		June 46
	Feb. 44		July 43		July 42		July 45
	Mar. 43		Aug. 44		Aug. 38		Aug. 46
	Apr. 40		Sept. 42		Sept. 40		Sept. 47
	May 39		Oct. 44		Oct. 42		Oct. 48
	June 39		Nov. 47		Nov. 43		Nov. 50
	July 42		Dec. 46		Dec. 45		Dec. 51
	Aug. 43	1913	Jan. 45	1916	Jan. 43	1919	Jan. 52
	Sept. 42		Feb. 47		Feb. 51		Feb. 49
	Oct. 45		Mar. 46		Mar. 53		Mar. 46
	Nov. 42		Apr. 48		Apr. 52		Apr. 47
	Dec. 40		May 45		May 47		May 48
1910	Jan. 40		June 46		June 42		June 46
	Feb. 41		July 47		July 40		July 44
	Mar. 43		Aug. 49		Aug. 36		Aug. 44
	Apr. 49		Sept. 48		Sept. 39		Sept. 48
	May 47		Oct. 46		Oct. 43		Oct. 47
	June 47		Nov. 45		Nov. 42		Nov. 44
	July 46		Dec. 43		Dec. 44		Dec. 41
	Aug. 47	1914	Jan. 46	1917	Jan. 43	1920	Jan. 43
	Sept. 46		Feb. 48		Feb. 44		Feb. 46
	Oct. 46		Mar. 48		Mar. 47		Mar. 45
	Nov. 44		Apr. 52		Apr. 46		Apr. 42
	Dec. 42		May 51		May 44		May 44
1911	Jan. 45		June 44		June 44		June 43
	Feb. 45		July 40		July 42		July 42
	Mar. 46		Aug. 41		Aug. 44		Aug. 41
	Apr. 48		Sept. 41		Sept. 43		Sept. 42
	May 52		Oct. 41		Oct. 46		Oct. 48
	June 48		Nov. 41		Nov. 50		Nov. 48
	July 47		Dec. 43		Dec. 48		Dec. 46
	Aug. 46						
	Sept. 45						
	Oct. 44						
	Nov. 40						
	Dec. 41						



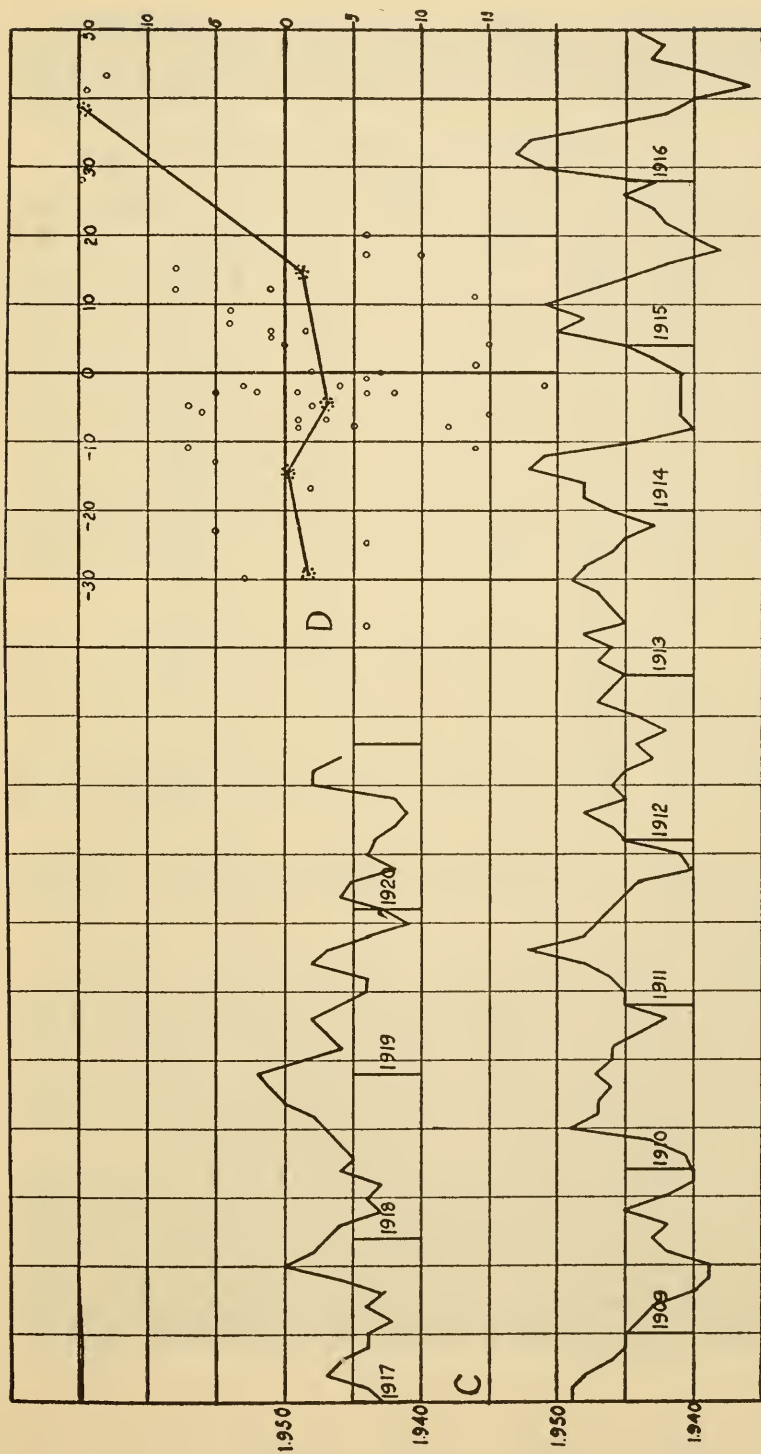


FIG. 5.—C, Solar-constant values in calories, as synthesized from 23 periodicities, 1908 to 1920. D, A comparison of mean monthly solar-constant departures from the mean, Mount Wilson (abscissae) vs. synthetic (ordinates).

thetic data. The corresponding sums for departures of opposite signs are 199 and 135. Thus, according to Mount Wilson, agreeing departures preponderate in total magnitude over disagreeing departures

TABLE 6.—*Comparison of Mount Wilson and synthetic values*

	Mount Wilson	Syn.		Mount Wilson	Syn.		Mount Wilson	Syn.
1908			1912			1916		
Aug.	+45	+16	May	+ 5	+ 1	June	- 1	- 6
Sept.	+28	+15	June	- 8	- 1	July	- 3	-10
Oct.	+43	+13	1913			Aug.	+ 2	-18
1909			Aug.	- 7	+ 5	Sept.	- 8	-12
June	+17	- 6	Sept.	-30	+ 3	1917		
July	- 3	- 1	1914			July	+20	- 6
Aug.	+12	+ 1	June	± 0	- 7	Aug.	+ 6	- 2
Sept.	- 7	- 1	July	+ 4	-15	Sept.	- 2	- 4
1910			Aug.	+11	-14	1918		
May	+12	+ 8	Sept.	-11	-14	June	- 7	+ 2
June	- 5	+ 7	Oct.	- 6	-15	July	+ 4	± 0
July	-24	+ 5	1915			Aug.	- 3	+ 2
Aug.	-11	+ 7	June	- 8	± 0	Sept.	+ 9	+ 4
Sept.	-13	+ 5	July	- 3	- 6	1919		
Oct.	+ 3	+ 5	Sept.	+ 1	-14	June	+ 7	+ 4
1911			Oct.	+17	-10	July	± 0	- 2
June	+15	+ 8				Aug.	- 5	- 2
July	-13	+ 5				Sept.	- 6	+ 6
Aug.	- 2	+ 3				1920		
Sept.	+ 6	+ 1				July	-25	- 6
Oct.	-17	- 2				Aug.	- 3	- 8
						Sept.	-37	- 6

tures as  $\frac{324}{199} = 1.6$ . Similarly, for synthetic values the results are

$$\frac{170}{135} = 1.3.$$

Finally, I show in figure 5,D, the Mount Wilson departures as abscissae against the synthetic departures as ordinates. The plotted points are greatly scattered, as the inaccuracy of Mount Wilson solar-constant values would lead us to expect. Yet, on the whole, the comparison indicates that high departures tend to occur simultaneously in both sets of data, and low departures similarly.

Thus four kinds of rough indications agree to confirm the view that the synthetic solar-constant values of 1908 to 1920 are supported as to their validity, at least in some degree, by the evidences from Mount Wilson observations. The four evidences are: 1. Both sets of data yield upward trends from 1908 to 1914. 2. Departures from representative lines have the same signs 28 times, opposite signs, 21.



3. The summation of departures of the same sign exceeds that for those of opposite sign about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  times. 4. The plot of departures indicates a positive correlation between Mount Wilson and synthetic solar-constant values.

The great inferiority in accuracy of Mount Wilson values of the solar constant forbids a high degree of correlation, even if the synthetic values are as correct from 1908 to 1920 as they are from 1920 to 1950. This inferiority arises from the fact that all the Mount Wilson values result from observations by the "long method." That method requires for accuracy a sky of constant transparency over several hours. If the sky improves, the solar-constant value is too high, and vice versa. Moreover, only one value was obtained per day with the "long method." In modern solar-constant work by the "short method," several values are obtained and combined on each day of observation. The sky is required to retain uniform transparency only during about 10 minutes of each observation. It might vary decidedly from one determination to another of the day's group, and yet all the solar-constant values of the day be closely agreeing.

#### SOLAR CONSTANT AND SOLAR CONTRAST

The Mount Wilson work offers another test of the probable validity of the synthetic solar-constant curve of 1908 to 1920. From 1913 to 1920 we were accustomed to produce drift energy curves in several wavelengths, observing intensities along the east-west diameter of an 8-inch solar image, on every day that we observed the solar constant of radiation. These U-shaped curves, which show the contrast in brightness between the center and edges of the sun's disk, were all measured as described in volume 4 of the *Annals of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory*. We used an empirical formula to obtain a value to represent the average contrast between center and edge of the sun's disk on each day of observation. These data are given in tables 75 to 82 of volume 4 of the *Annals*.

It was thought probable that the "solar contrast" would be greater on days when the "solar constant" was higher. Some figures, indicating that this is so, are given in volumes 3 and 4 of the *Annals*.

Table 7, which follows here, is prepared from the "solar contrast" tables of the *Annals*, volume 4, and from table 6, just given, which presents synthetic solar-constant values of 1908 to 1920. To prepare the solar-contrast values for this use, means of the daily values are taken of every month given in *Annals* 4. Then, in order to eliminate systematic errors which might introduce inconsistencies, a separate

mean value is computed for the available months of each year, 1913 to 1920. Differences from these yearly means are given in column 2 of table 7. To make the synthetic solar-constant values entirely com-

TABLE 7.—*Comparison of synthetic solar-constant departures with solar-contrast values of 1913-1920*

Solar-constant departures in thousandths of a calorie.

Solar constant	Solar contrast
+17	+19
- 3	-32
-13	+14
+36	-35
+ 6	-24
-34	-18
-14	+28
+ 6	+49
+20	+10
0	-29
-40	-75
-10	0
+30	+ 4
-17	-18
+ 3	+15
- 7	+14
-14	-23
- 4	-12
+ 6	+ 8
+16	+16
+ 5	- 8
-15	-13
-15	+13
+25	+40
+ 3	+46
- 7	+18
+ 3	-70
+23	-13
- 4	+ 9

parable to these contrast values, separate means of them are taken for each year of the comparison, including only the months used in obtaining the separate contrast means. Differences from these synthetic solar-constant means, expressed in thousandths of a calorie, form column 1 of table 7.

Counting the numbers of months when values in columns 1 and 2 have the same sign and opposite signs, the numbers (counting zero

values into each group) are 18 and 13, respectively. So here is another straw pointing to the reliability of the synthetic solar-constant values. But more convincing, and more informing, is figure 6. Here the

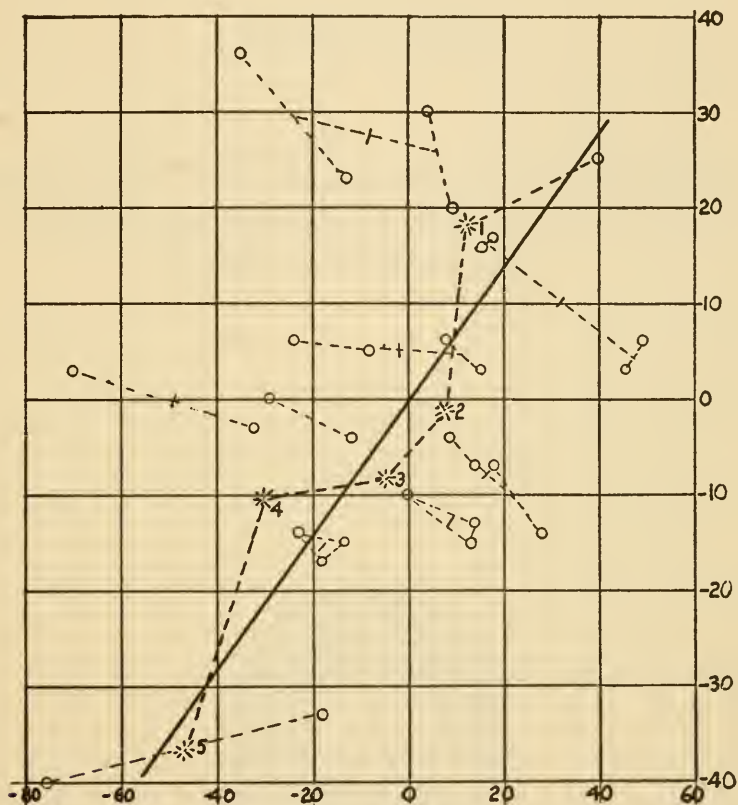


FIG. 6.—Mount Wilson solar contrast (abscissae) vs. synthetic solar constants (ordinates).

values in the columns of table 7 are plotted against each other, solar constants as ordinates, solar contrasts as abscissae. In order to bring out plainly the fact that higher contrast values attend higher synthetic solar-constant values, stars 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, have been plotted to give the centers of gravity of groups of 8, 8, 5, 5, and 2 months, respectively. A full heavy line has been drawn to show the trend of the results.