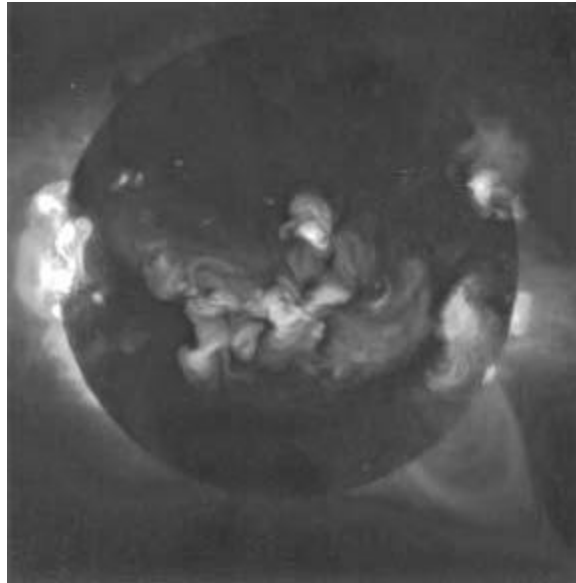


The Sun



This image of the Sun, taken January 24, 1992, is viewed from space at x-ray wavelengths. The image, as seen by the Soft X-ray Telescope on the Japan/US/UK Yohkoh Mission (orbiting solar observatory), reveals the hot, three-dimensional geometry of the corona across the full disk of the Sun. The large bright areas are regions where the Sun's magnetic field is so strong that it can trap hot gasses even though the temperature of the region is over 1 million degrees K. The dark areas are coronal holes, which are the origin of streams of particles, called the high speed solar wind, that flows past Earth and through the solar system at about 700 kilometers per second. (Courtesy of NASA)