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Enormous solar eruption that sent a cool--50,000--asymmetric arch of helium 800,000 km. (500,000 mi.) into the hot rarefied gas of the 1.5-2,000,000K solar corona is processed in two types of false color for study by scientists. The pattern (above) is seen in the light of ionized helium in the Naval Research Laboratory/Bell Brothers Research Skylab 5082 spectroheliograph during the Skylab 3 mission. Some material--other ions besides helium also are present--forms fine threads at top, as if it were starting to rain back onto the surface but hangs suspended part way in flight. Plasma may be trapped in strong magnetic fields to form such structures, but the experimenters say neither magnetic nor gravitational fields alone can explain this unusual pattern and behavior. Color processing of same image (below) relates to density; the darker the color the thicker the eruption.

x-8.946 Science: Astronautics (Skylab: Sklab-3) - Astronomy

~~x-8.947~~

Una enorme erupción solar que envió un frío arco asimétrico de helio 800.000 kilómetros al interior del gas caliente enrarecido de la corona solar, es procesada en dos tipos de falso color para estudio de los científicos. La forma (arriba) puede verse ~~en color~~ a la luz de helio ionizado en el espectro-heliógrafo del Laboratorio de Investigaciones Navales durante la misión del Skylab-3. Algunas materias - otros iones junto al helio también están presentes - forman unas finas hebras arriba, como si estuvieran comenzando a llover regresando a la superficie, pero cuelgan suspendidas parte de la ruta en el vuelo. El plasma puede atraparse en fuertes campos magnéticos para formas esas estructuras, pero los investigadores dicen que ni los campos magnéticos ni los gravitatorios solos pueden explicar esta extraña forma y conducta.

(Foto NASA)