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JAN 78 P E ARGO, W LOOMIS

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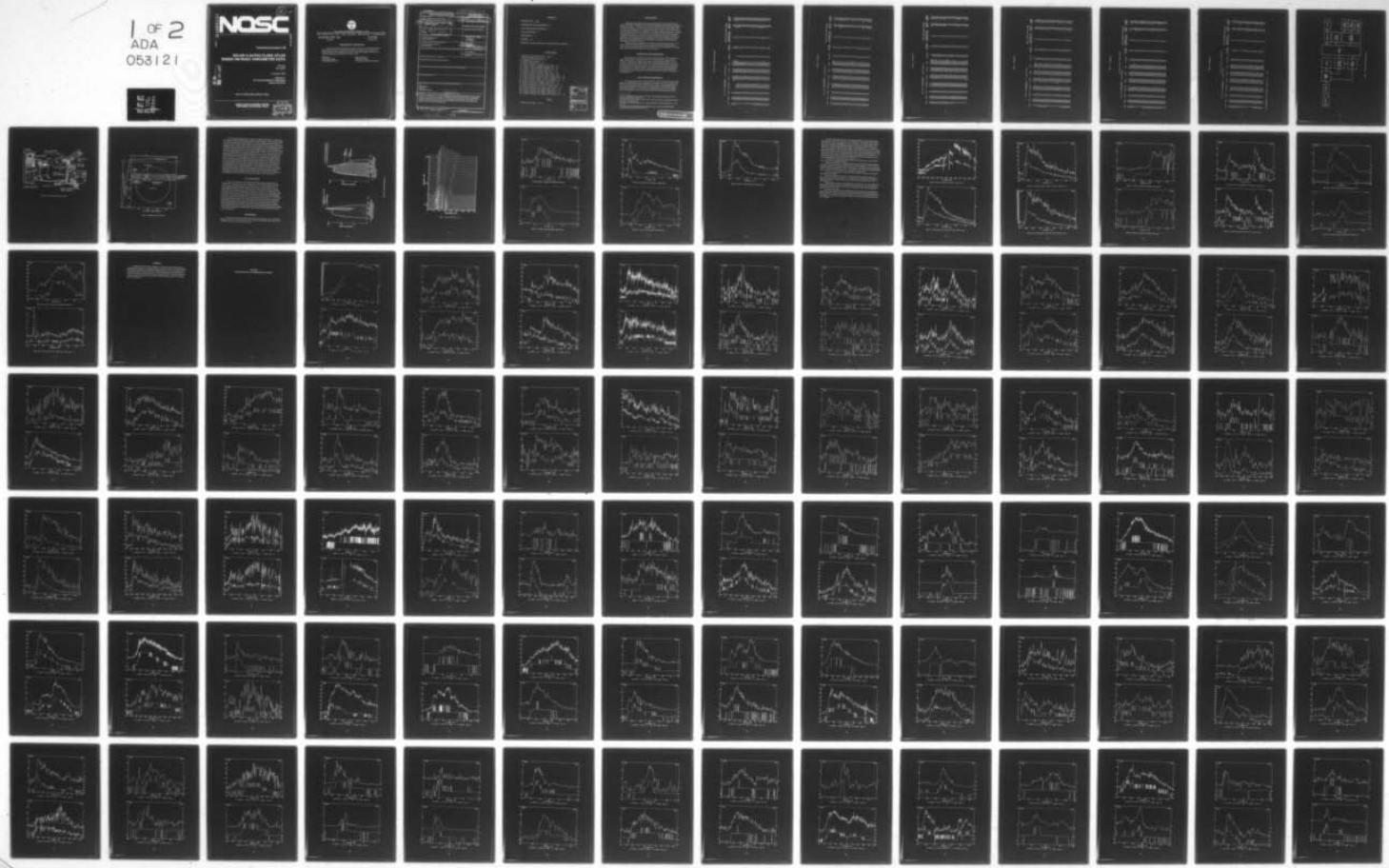
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SOLAR H-ALPHA FLARE ATLAS BASED ON NOSC VIDEO METER DATA

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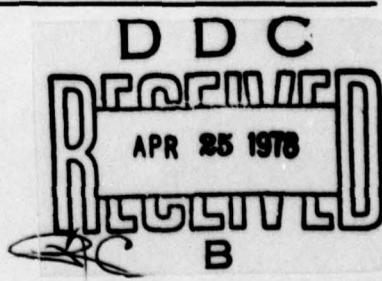
PE Argo
W Loomis

5 January 1978

Prepared for
Air Force Geophysics Laboratory
Bedford, MA 01730

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NAVAL OCEAN SYSTEMS CENTER
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92152





NAVAL OCEAN SYSTEMS CENTER, SAN DIEGO, CA 92152

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Released by
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TABLE

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INTRODUCTION

Solar H_α flare measurements are commonly used as the reference point for solar geophysical studies, even though a review of the collected H_α data reveals wide discrepancies between observations.¹ Therefore, the Naval Ocean Systems Center has developed a digital solar flare measuring system that employs semiautomated computer-video techniques for use in flare patrol networks. The "videometer" has made possible the study of fine temporal structure during optical flares and offers direct comparison with both radio and x-ray data.² Periodically from early 1971, two systems were run simultaneously; the series included a separation test in which one system was moved to Hawaii (from San Diego). During these operations, 150 flare observations were catalogued, with 23 being seen by both systems. Most of the events observed have been small (subflares), although a 3B flare observed on 24 January 1971 will also be shown.

This document is a compendium of the flare data collected between January 1971 and June 1974. A summary of the peak area, brightness, and times is given in table 1; more complete time history profiles on an event-by-event basis are displayed in the ensuing pages. These profiles are the major reason for this report.

VIDEOMETER SYSTEM DESCRIPTION

The videometer system has been described in detail elsewhere,^{3,4} so it will be discussed only briefly here. The system consists of a 5-inch telescope, a high-resolution (945-line) TV system, and associated electronics, an 8K digital minicomputer, and the necessary readout devices. The overall system concept is diagrammed in fig 1; an artist's conception of the system is shown in fig 2. The tracking telescope, 0.8Å H_α hybrid filter, and closed-circuit television system form one unit (which is positioned at an appropriate viewing location). A computer, interface, stripchart recorder, and video monitor form the second unit, which, along with the input/output teletype, is housed in a building near the telescope site.

ACTIVE REGION MEASUREMENTS

The videometer digitizes the brightness levels of picture elements in an array taken within a rectangular region, usually enclosing an active region (see fig 3). Each element in the array covers approximately one millionth of the solar disc. The brightness levels can range from 1 to 64, with 1 being a very dark sunspot and 64 set higher than the highest expected flare brightness. The elements at each brightness level (1–64) are summed so that the stored data are in an "area" (number of points)-versus-brightness-level format.

¹Air Force Cambridge Research Laboratory TR 73-0181, The Construction and Testing of a Pair of Matched Solar Telescopes, 14 March 1973

²NELC TR 1890, Solar Videometer: An Automatic Solar Flare Identification and Classification System, by PE Argo et al, 23 August 1973

³Ward, FR, et al, Solar Flare Observations from a Pair of Matched Instruments, Solar Physics, 31, p 131–141, 1973.

⁴Argo, PE, et al, Analysis of Digital H_α Solar Flare Measurements, International Symposium Solar-Terrestrial Physics, Sao Paulo, Brazil, June 1974.

Table 1. H-Alpha flare catalogue.

Table 1. (Continued)

Table 1. (Continued)

Table 1. (Continued)

Table 1. (Continued)

H ALPHA FLARE CATALOGUE						DATA SPECIFICATIONS			
	TIME OF OCCURRENCE (UNIVERSAL)			END	SYSTEM	S-CLASS	CHANGE IN PEAK BRIGHT.	UPPER AREA	
DAY	MON	YEAR	REGUN	START	PEAK				
30	AUG	73	R209	1931	1932	LP	229	229	
31	AUG	73	R203	1913	1916	LP	191	191	
31	AUG	73	R208	1730	1739	LP	172	172	
31	AUG	73	R203	1844	1847	LP	60	60	
31	SEP	73	R202	2147	2150	LP	130	130	
31	SEP	73	R202	1543	1549	LP	509	509	
31	SEP	73	R219	1551	1555	LP	353	353	
31	SEP	73	R212	1927	1934	LP	203	203	
31	SEP	73	R219	1708	1712	LP	103	103	
31	SEP	73	R215	1817	1907	LP	124	124	
31	SEP	73	R219	1719	1744	LP	185	185	
31	SEP	73	R219	2101	2110	LP	150	150	
31	SEP	73	R219	1809	1809	LP	222	222	
31	SEP	73	R219	1807	1811	LP	442	442	
31	SEP	73	R219	1840	1840	LP	186	186	
31	SEP	73	R219	1843	1847	LP	482	482	
31	SEP	73	R219	1959	2021	LP	48	48	
31	SEP	73	R219	2011	2026	LP	113	113	
31	SEP	73	R219	2023	2026	LP	66	66	
31	SEP	73	R219	1649	1654	LP	104	104	
31	SEP	73	R219	1621	1656	LP	175	175	
31	SEP	73	R219	2111	2112	LP	35	35	
31	SEP	73	R219	2111	2114	LP	266	266	
31	SEP	73	R219	1615	1615	LP	136	136	
31	SEP	73	R219	1615	1620	LP	90	90	
31	SEP	73	R219	1620	1620	LP	32	32	
31	SEP	73	R219	1620	1630	LP	52	52	
31	SEP	73	R219	1620	1630	LP	78	78	
31	SEP	73	R219	1620	1630	LP	108	108	
31	SEP	73	R219	1622	1622	LP	79	79	
31	SEP	73	R227	1710	1722	LP	138	138	
31	SEP	73	R227	1827	1832	LP	89	89	
31	SEP	73	R227	1827	1833	LP	28	28	
31	SEP	73	R227	1827	1833	LP	16	16	
31	SEP	73	R227	1827	1834	LP	67	67	
31	SEP	73	R227	1827	1834	LP	75	75	
31	SEP	73	R227	1827	1834	LP	95	95	
31	SEP	73	R227	1827	1834	LP	86	86	

Table 1. (Continued)

H ALPHA FLARE CATALOGUE						DATA SPECIFICATIONS					
DAY	MON	YEAR	REGION	START	PEAK	END	SYSTEM	S.G.B. CLASS.	CHANGE IN PEAK BRIGHT.	UPPER AREA	LOWER AREA
25	OCT	73	R 262	2035	2049	2048	LP	-F	47	73	45
25	OCT	73	R 264	2048	2100	2100	LP	U	45	89	19
25	OCT	73	R 264	2129	2134	2134	LP	Z	53	53	25
25	OCT	73	R 264	2131	2136	2144	LP	Z	59	59	25
29	OCT	73	R 267	1822	1944	1944	LP	Z	34	34	18
31	OCT	73	R 267	1930	1946	1951	LP	Z	193	196	70
27	NOV	73	R 267	1930	1956	2112	LP	Z	41	41	24
27	NOV	73	R 267	1930	1943	1952	LP	Z	62	62	58
27	NOV	73	R 267	2053	2055	2103	LP	Z	24	24	58
2	DEC	73	R 267	1823	1830	1832	LP	Z	79	79	23
2	DEC	73	R 267	1901	1903	1908	LP	Z	56	56	38
13	DEC	73	R 300	1700	1703	1713	LP	Z	38	38	38
14	JUN	74	K 410	1542	1546	1551	LP	Z	189	189	189
1	JUN	74	K 416	1950	1955	2032	LP	Z	202	202	202
3	JUN	74	K 416	2058	2102	2102	LP	Z	329	329	329
3	JUN	74	K 416	2144	2229	2249	LP	Z	102	102	102
3	JUN	74	K 416	2343	2349	2354	LP	Z	193	193	193
4	JUN	74	K 416	1623	1625	1636	LP	Z	49	49	49
6	JUN	74	K 416	1420	1423	1457	LP	Z	60	60	60
6	JUN	74	K 416	1537	1541	1641	LP	Z	65	65	65
10	JUN	74	K 420	1407	1410	1418	LP	Z	277	277	380
10	JUN	74	K 420	1746	1743	1815	LP	Z	51	51	51
10	JUN	74	K 420	1850	1857	1904	LP	Z	60	60	60
14	JUN	74	K 420	1417	1422	1451	LP	Z	24	24	24
14	JUN	74	K 420	1612	1617	1634	LP	Z	490	490	490
19	JUN	74	K 420	1417	1435	1445	LP	Z	47	47	47
21	JUN	74	R 428	1433	1438	1445	LP	Z	10	10	51

THE NUMBER OF FLARES CATALOGUED = 177

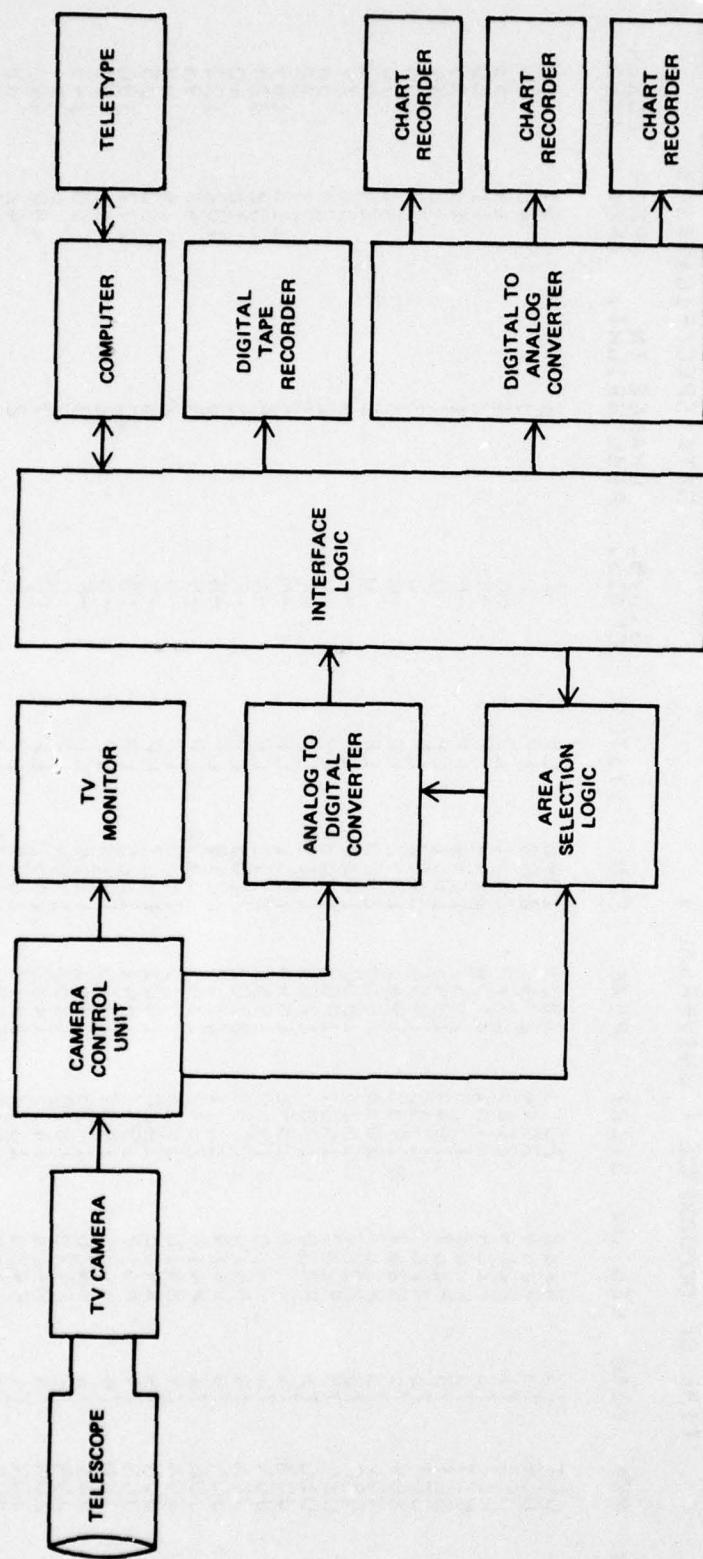


Figure 1. Solar flare data acquisition system.

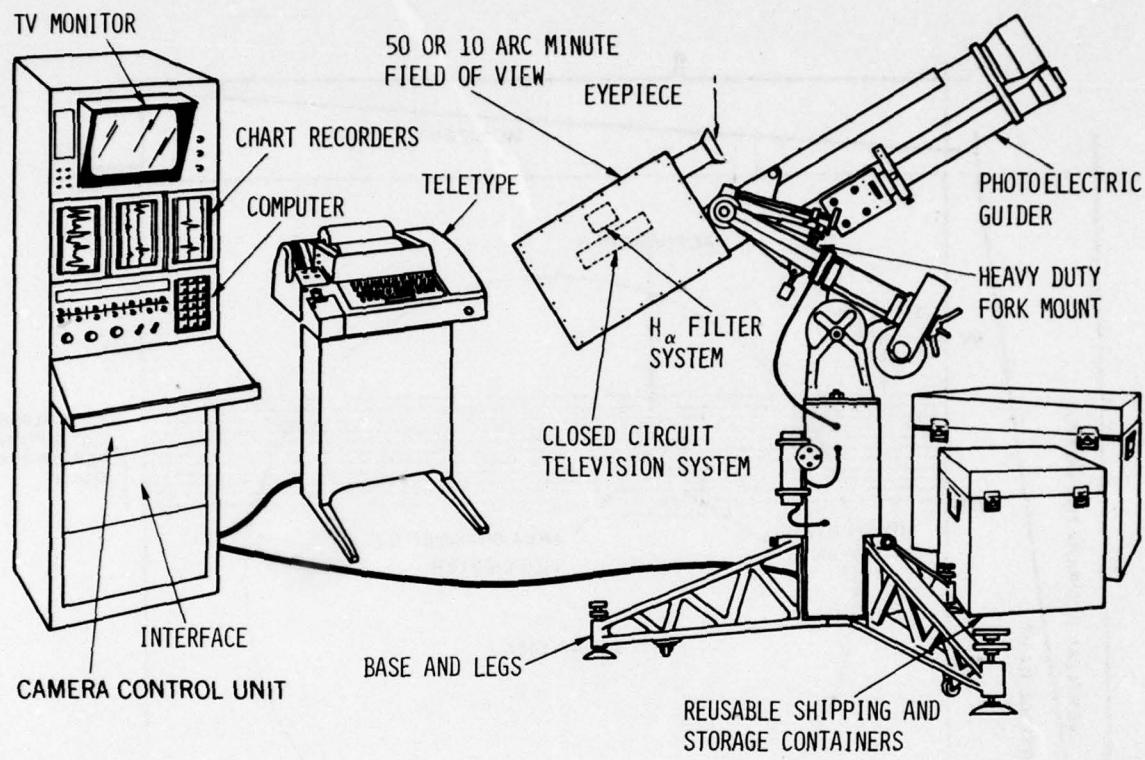


Figure 2. Solar flare digital videometer system.

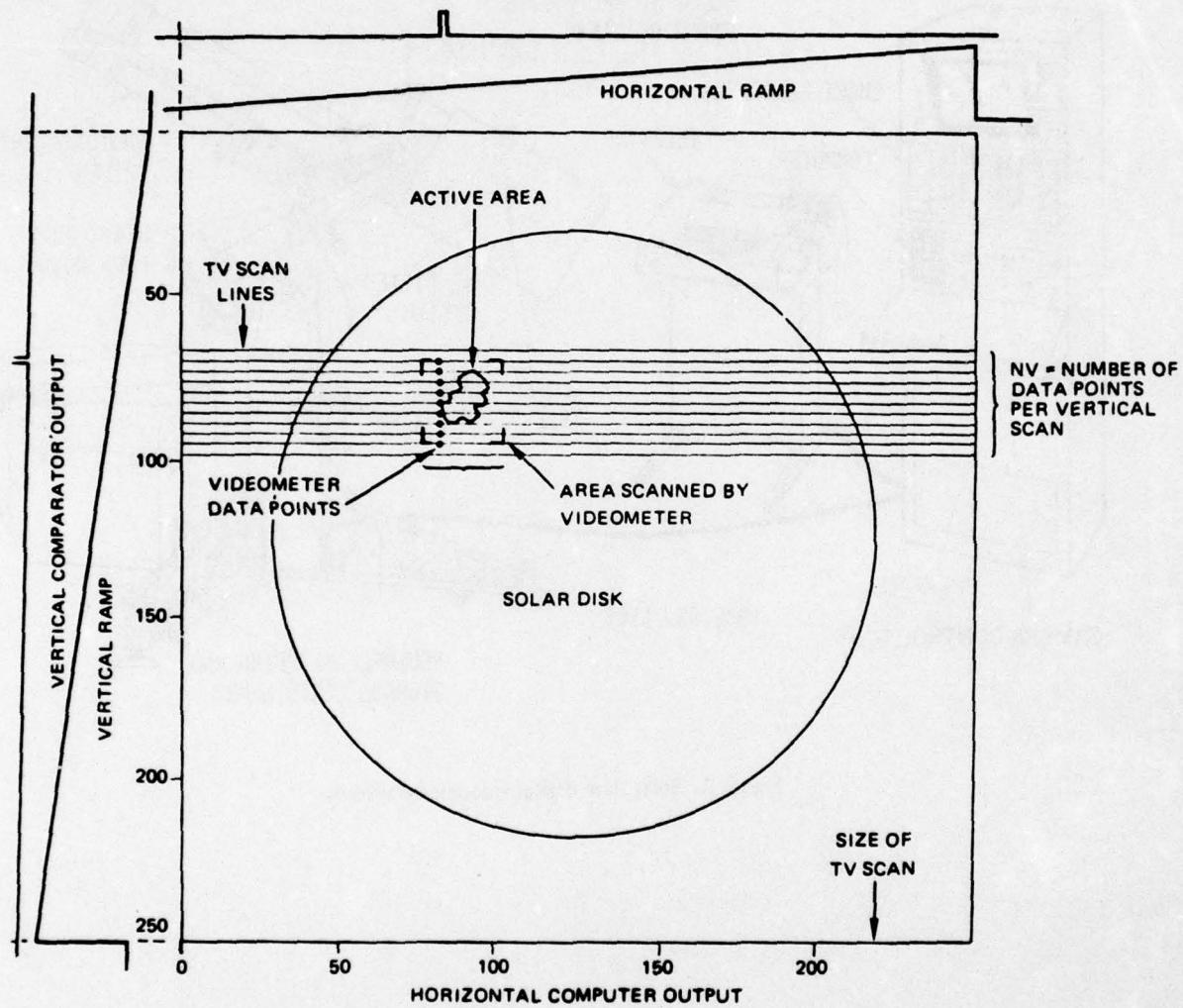


Figure 3. Videometer scan of TV output.

This area-versus-brightness curve is called a "brightness distribution." Notice that this technique discards all positional information within the region. A region which contains a minimum of solar features typically will have a range of brightness values from three to five units wide (see fig 4a), with the largest number of points (area) existing in two or three brightness levels. An active region will have a wider distribution (fig 4a), although the largest number of elements will again lie in two or three brightness levels. The brightness levels below this "average brightness" are indicative of the filamentary and sunspot features, while the higher brightness levels correspond to the plage region. A flare, viewed optically, is typically seen as an increase in the maximum brightness level, as well as enhanced areas in the brighter plage regions. Figure 4b shows data from the system collected at the peak of a flare on 12 March 1972. The dashed curve is the pre-event brightness distribution and is used as the reference level from which the flare data are measured. The brightness distribution of the region at flare maximum falls beneath the solid line in the figure, with the actual flare defined as the increased area in the brighter (higher) levels. Time histories for optical flaring events are then readily available by performing the subtraction of the pre-flare distribution from the flaring distribution, as indicated above for each measurement. By varying the lowest bin used in the actual flare area, subtractions can look at the strictly energetic portion (higher brightness levels) or include the more diffuse and less bright flaring region (lower flare brightened levels; fig 4b). Figure 5 shows the time variations of the distribution from the active region, which gave a 3B flare on 24 January 1971.

DATA DESCRIPTION

Table 1 gives a summary of the flare data recorded by the videometer systems, spanning a time range from early 1971 through June 1974. During this period the videometer systems were undergoing design development and so the data cannot strictly be intercompared throughout. The 24 January 1971 data were taken during the very early design phase, and must stand alone. The data from 5–7 May 1972 were taken with both systems from the La Posta Astrogeophysical Observatory at Campo, CA; in this same series, the data from 8–18 May 1972 were with the videometer separated, system B being located in Saugus, CA. Between May and October 1972, the systems were improved by installing new, more sensitive video amplifiers, and so the following data (October 1972 – June 1974) also must be considered separately. The shape of the time histories should be comparable throughout the whole data set—it is the actual values that cannot be intercompared. The upper and lower flare areas indicated in the table are those corresponding to the higher and lower thresholds (bin level), respectively, used in the distribution subtraction process. If the numbers are the same, it indicates that the pre-event active region did not show enough contrast to the distinguished two thresholds. The profiles are all presented with respect to the lower threshold.

TIME PROFILES

The time profile plots (fig 6 and beyond) contain both the flare "area" and the peak brightness variations. The area scale is on the left and the peak brightness (or "peak") is on the right; the area curve is above the peak curve.

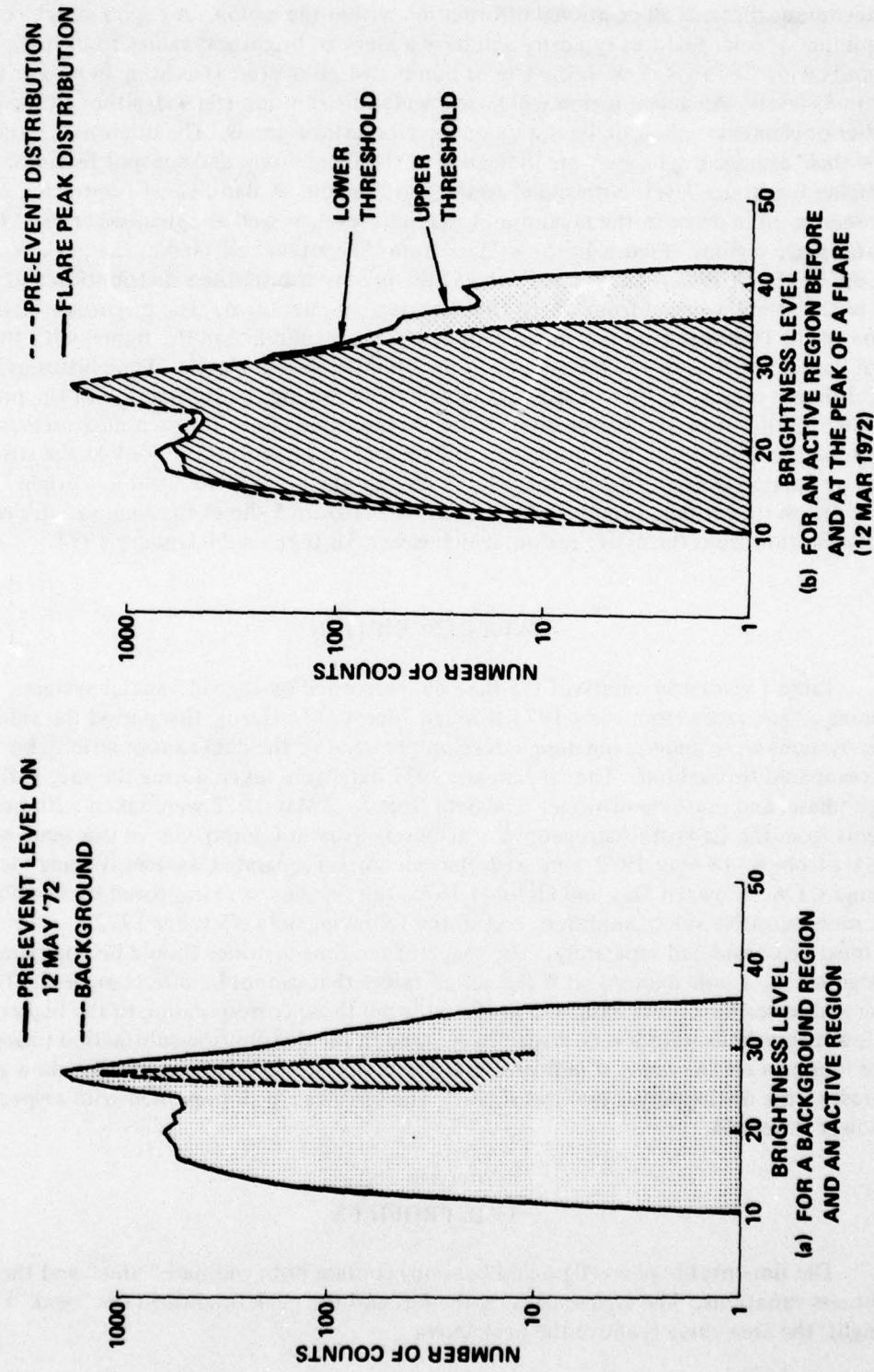


Figure 4a-b. Brightness distributions.

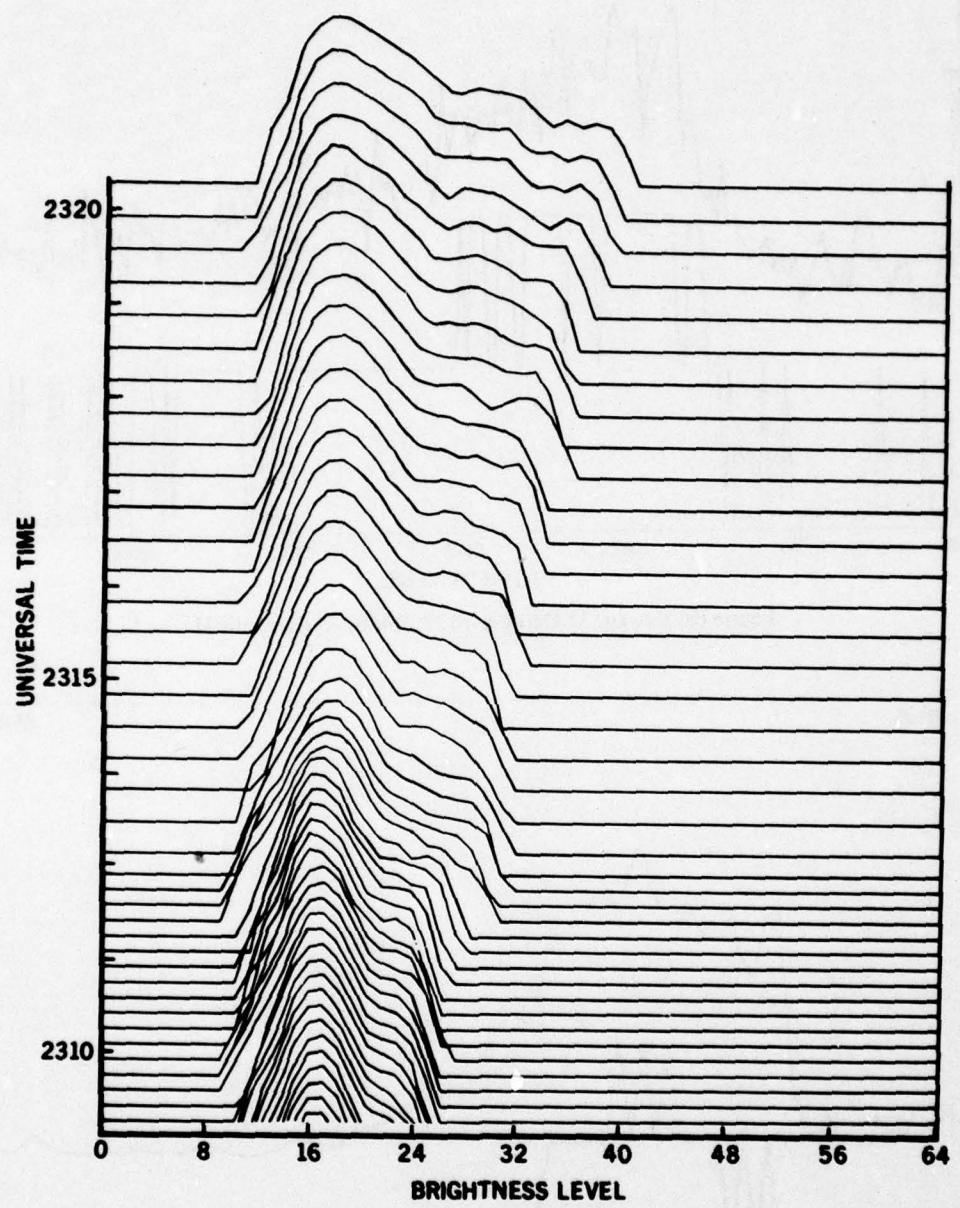


Figure 5. 2-B flare, 24 January 1971.

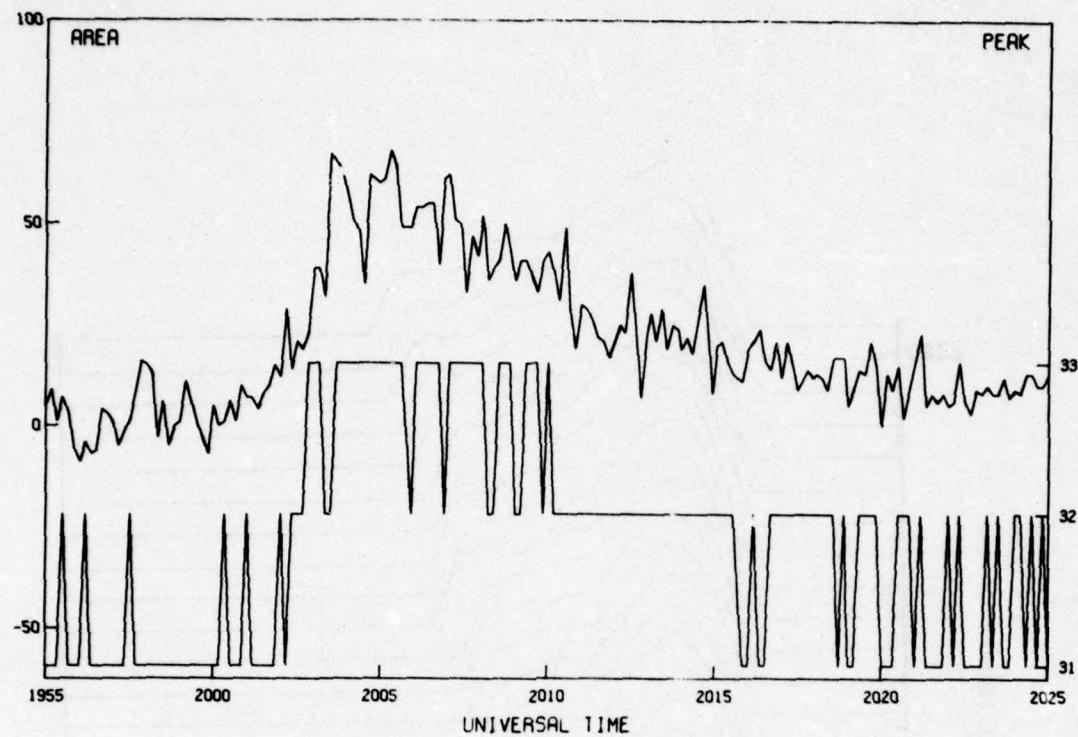


Figure 6a. Hawaii, 31 October 1972; R460, -F flare, bin 31.

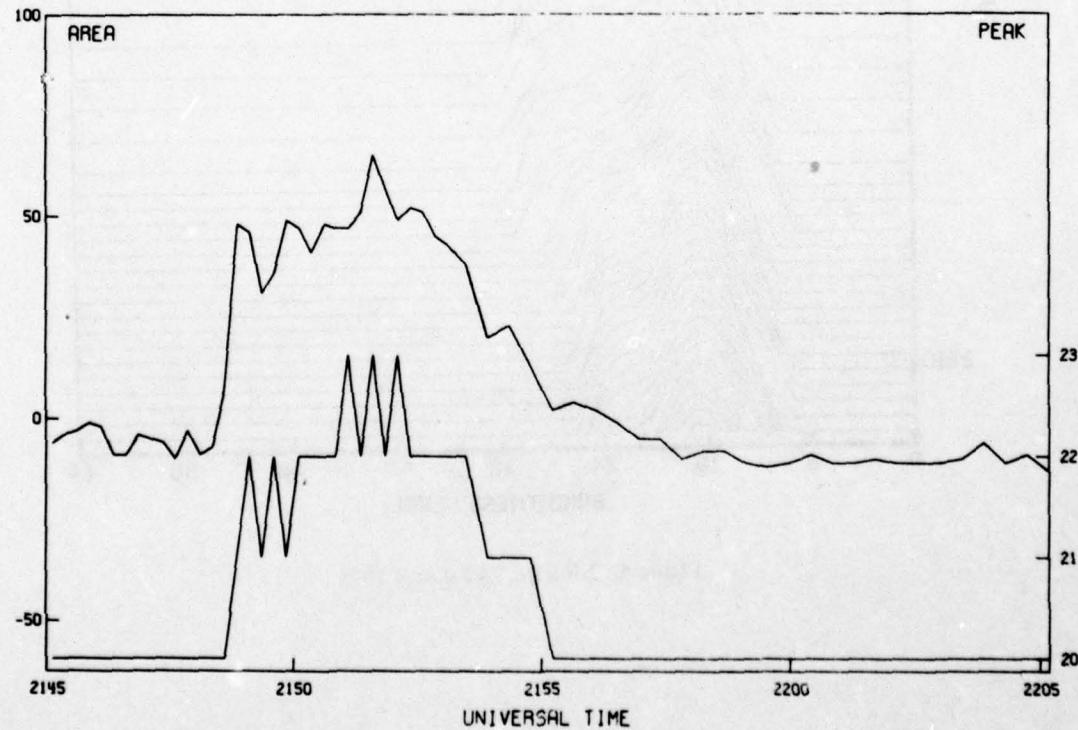


Figure 6b. La Posta, 2 May 1973; R092, -N flare, bin 20.

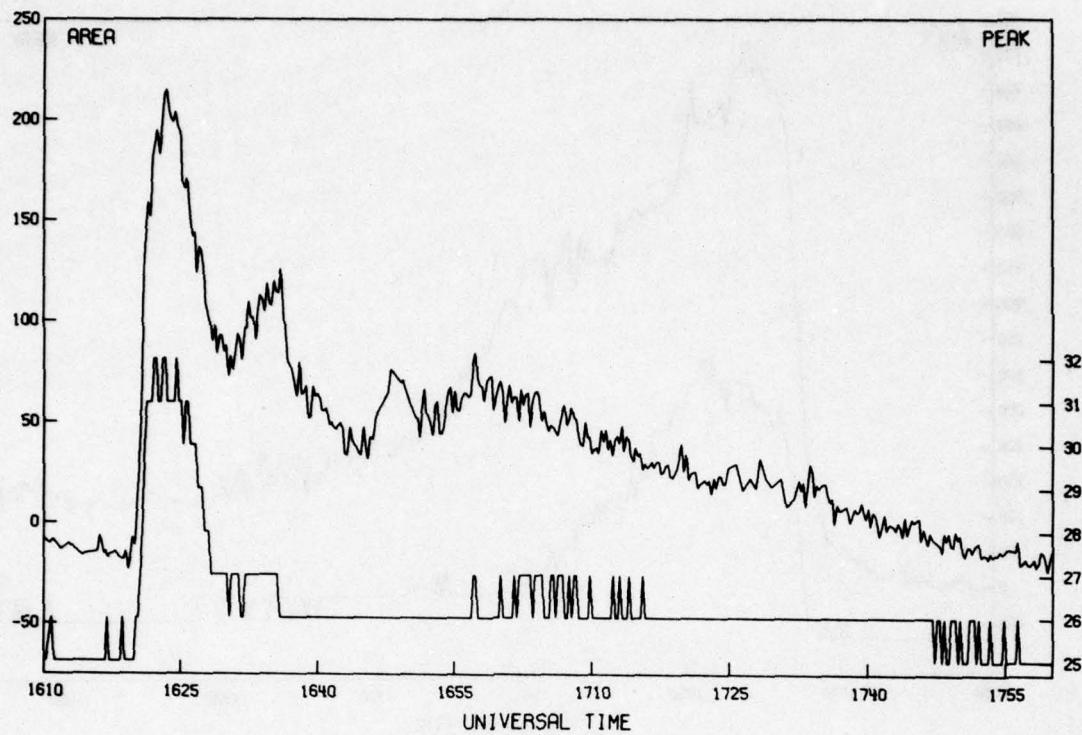


Figure 6c. La Posta, 11 April 1973; R077, -B flare, bin 25.

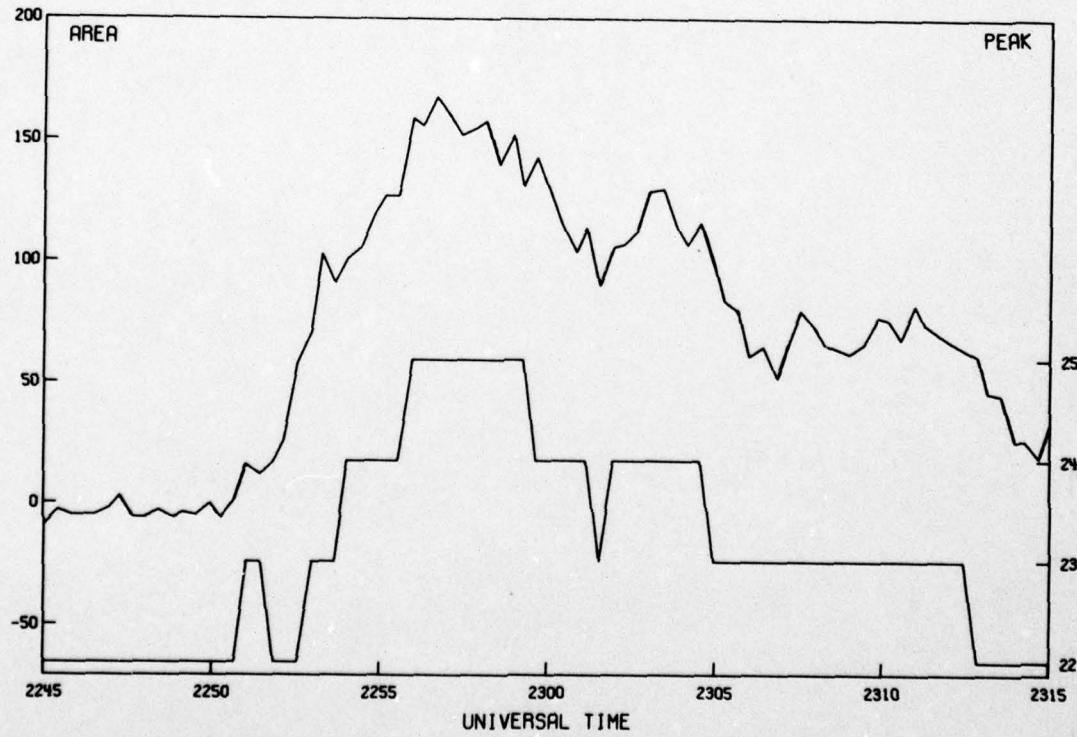


Figure 6d. La Posta 7 April 1973; R078, 1N flare, bin 22.

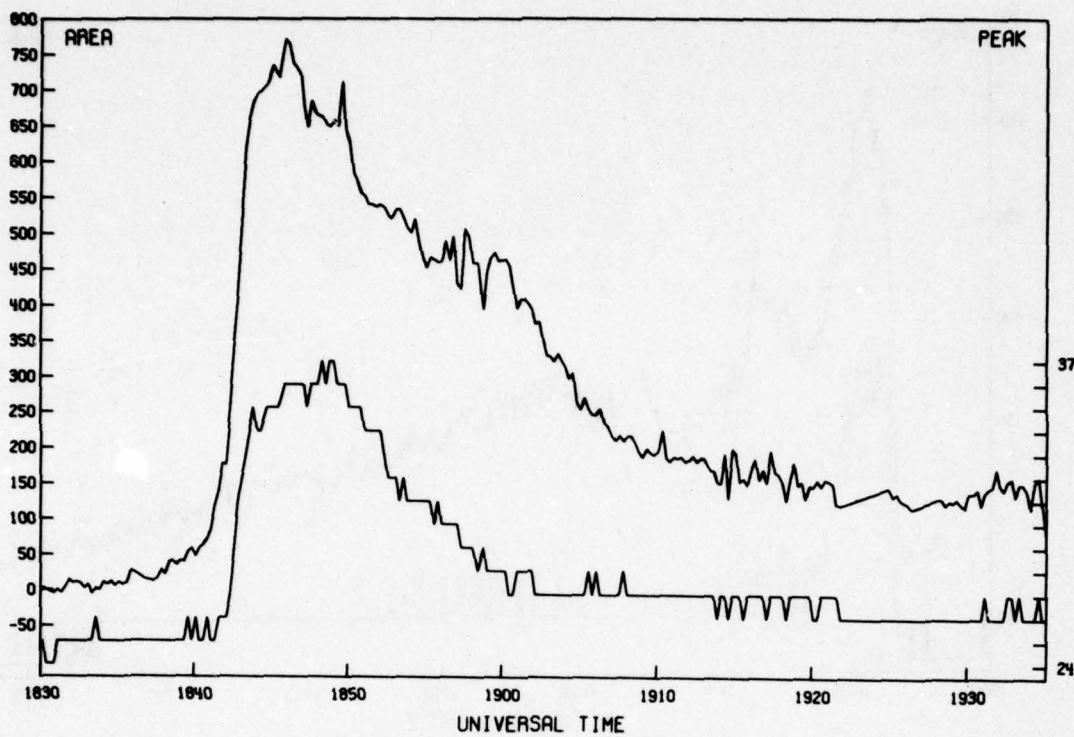


Figure 6e. La Posta, 11 April 1973; R077, 1B flare, bin 24.

Rather than discuss each of the 150 events separately, the authors have chosen specific sample events, both "classical" and "anomalous." The standard classification of solar flares has an area scale from the type 0 (or -) subflare to the largest (type 4) flare. There is also a brightness classification, ranging from faint (F) through normal (N), to bright (B). Our choice of representative classical events ranges from a -F to a 1B, and can be seen in fig 6a-e. These events rise rapidly, reach a definite peak, and have a smooth monotonic return to the pre-event level. Notice that the time, peak, and area axes are not similar from event to event, but rather are scaled to keep each event filling the plot. These events were chosen so that the classification from solar geophysical data (the labeled classification) corresponds to the size and brightness measured by the videometer, in the sense that subflares are smaller than type 1 flares, etc.

The videometer and solar geophysical data do not always agree on event classification, however, as indicated in fig 7a-d.

Figure 7a is a classified -F flare that had very large enhanced areas and brightness increases, but apparently because of the long time to the event peak ($\sim 1 \frac{1}{2}$ hr), the event slipped by observers virtually unnoticed. The -N (fig 7b-c) appears to have no such problem, and in profile shape appears "classic." Although its area is less than a 2B that followed (fig 7d; ~ 300 vs ~ 1350), the brightness variations are actually greater.

The preceding "anomalous" events have been included to stress the usefulness of the digitized time profiles.

The next two figures (8a-b and 9a-b) show flare data collected during the La Posta-Hawaii separation test. There was an unfortunately small amount of simultaneous flare data because of the small number of events and the lack of simultaneity in solar observing periods.

Figures 10a-d are a series of flares happening on 25 October 1972 from region 460. These events are well behaved in that subflares are smaller than type 1 flares and B flares are brighter than N flares. None of the events was long-lived; notice that the 1B is gone within ~ 5 minutes of its start.

In the data presentation, circles at data points indicate shifts in the background average brightness of greater than one bin; data gaps are indicative of extreme background shifts (usually >5). Shifts in the background level tend to come from obscurations of the sun (clouds, etc), and if these changes are too large, we expect our normalization routines to be unreliable.

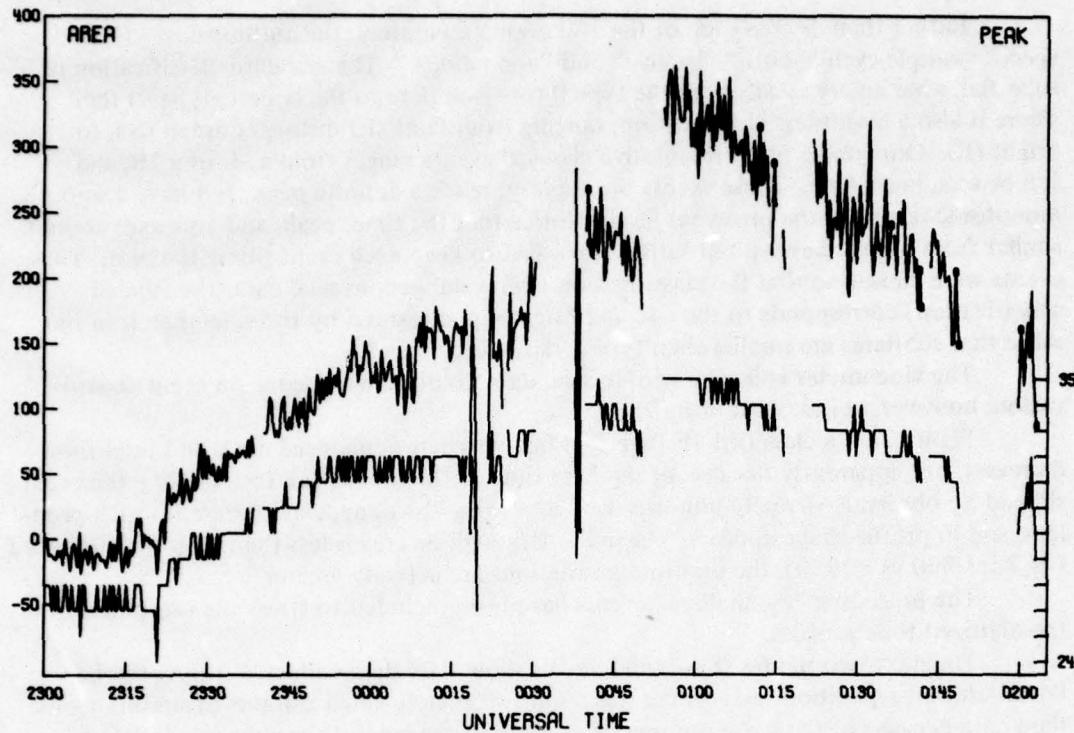


Figure 7a. Hawaii, 24 October 1972; R448, -F flare, bin 26.

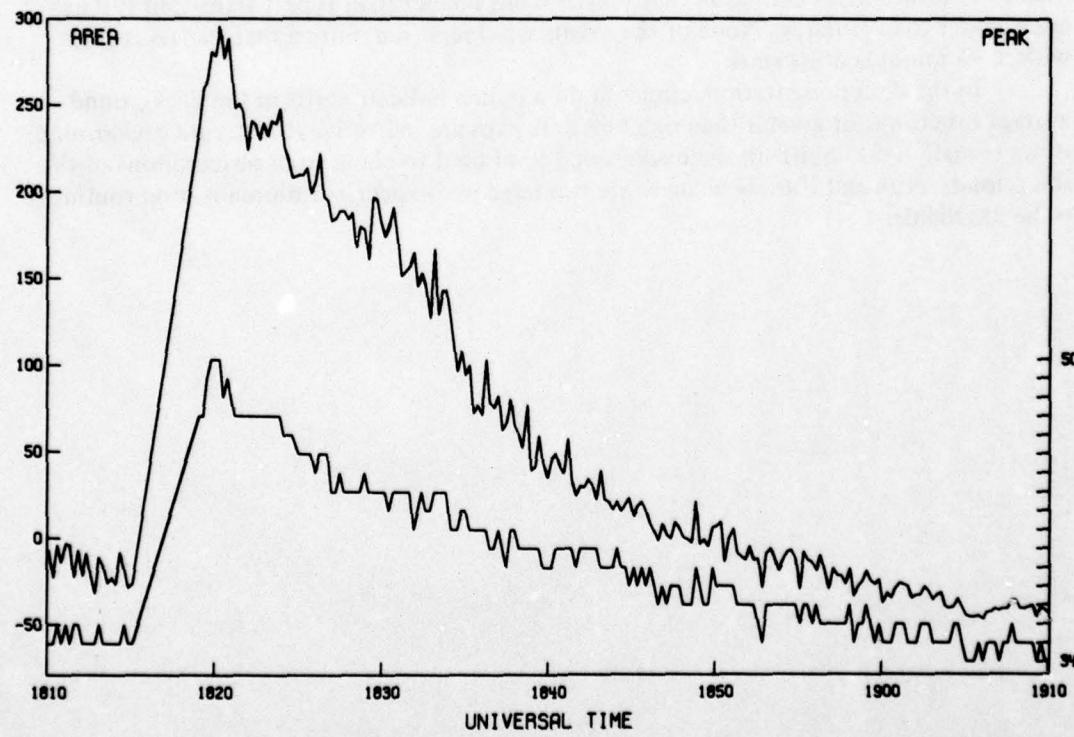


Figure 7b. La Posta, System A, 10 May 1972; R176, -N flare, bin 34.

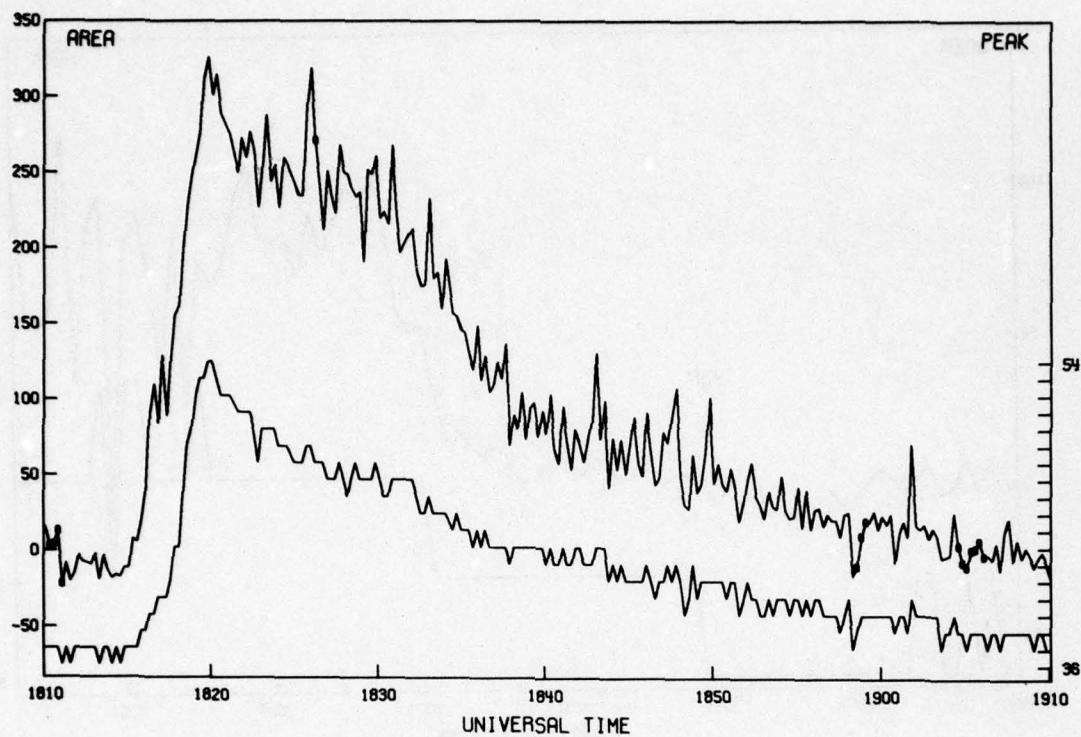


Figure 7c. La Posta, System B, 10 May 1972; R176, -N flare, bin 36.

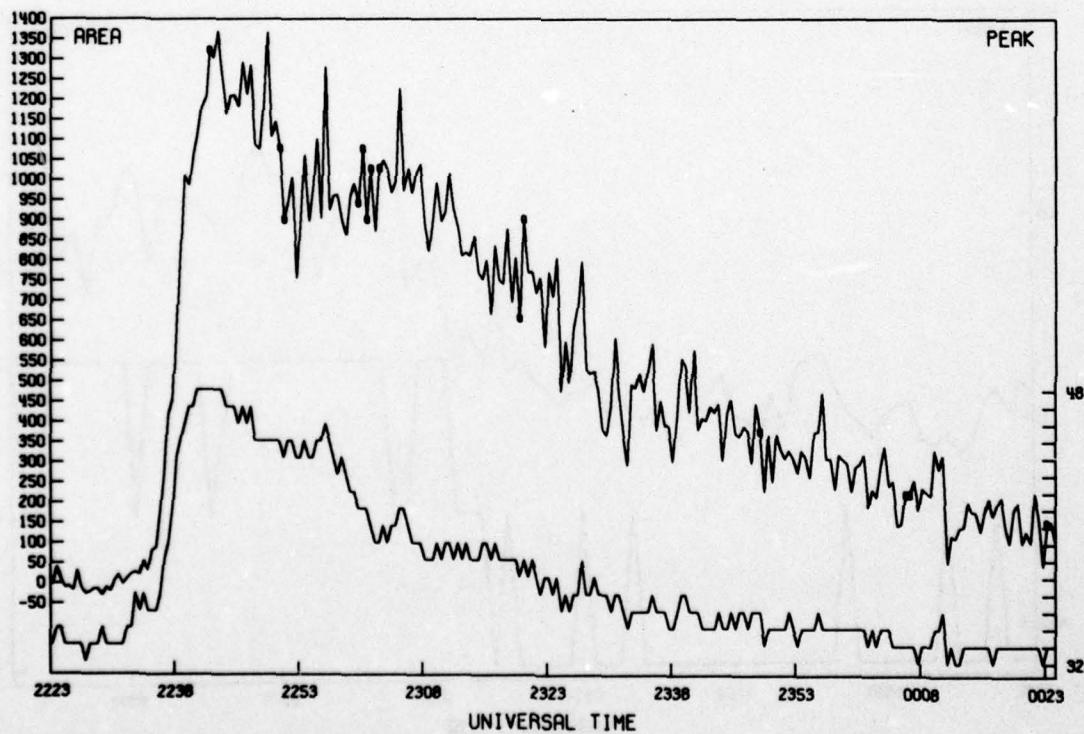


Figure 7d. La Posta, System B, 17 May 1972; R195, 2B flare, bin 30.

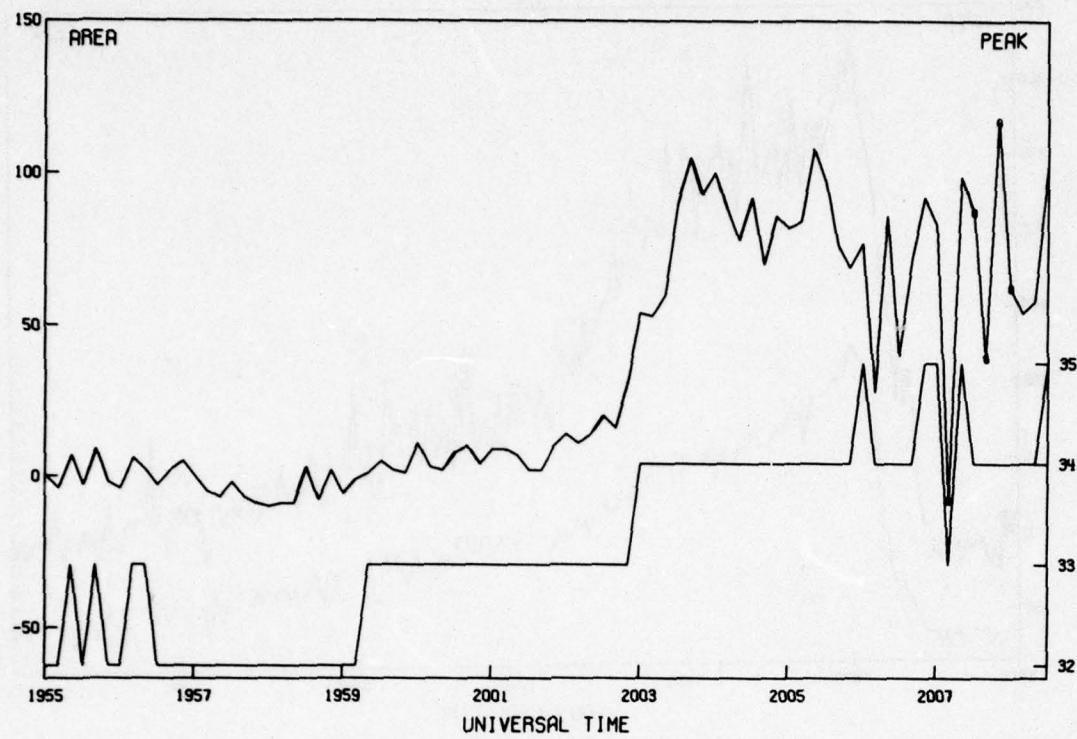


Figure 8a. La Posta, 31 October 1972; R460, -F flare, bin 32.

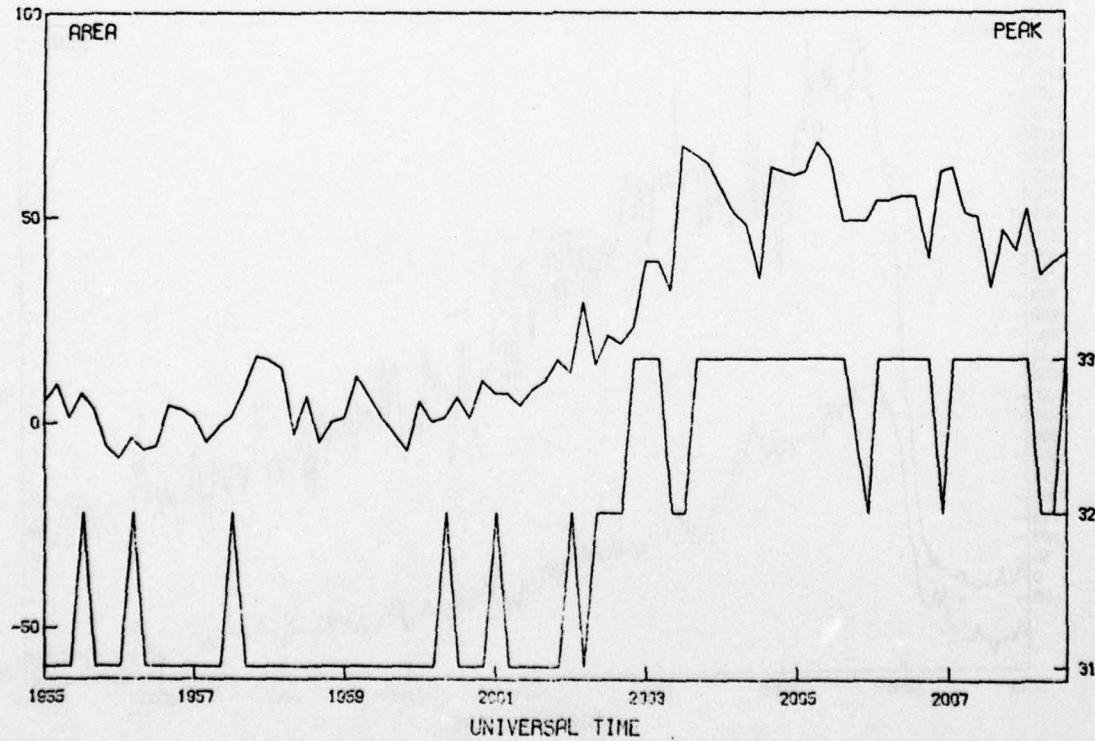


Figure 8b. Hawaii, 31 October 1972; R460, -F flare, bin 31.

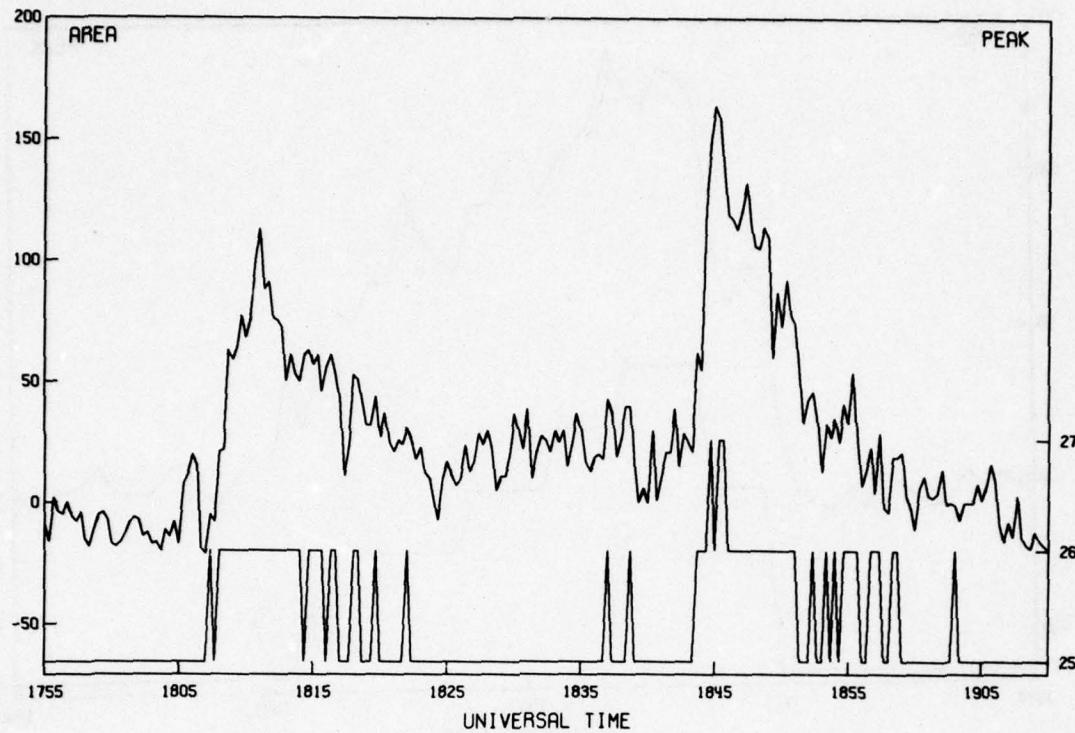


Figure 9a. La Posta, 10 September 1973; R219, U -F flares, bin 25.

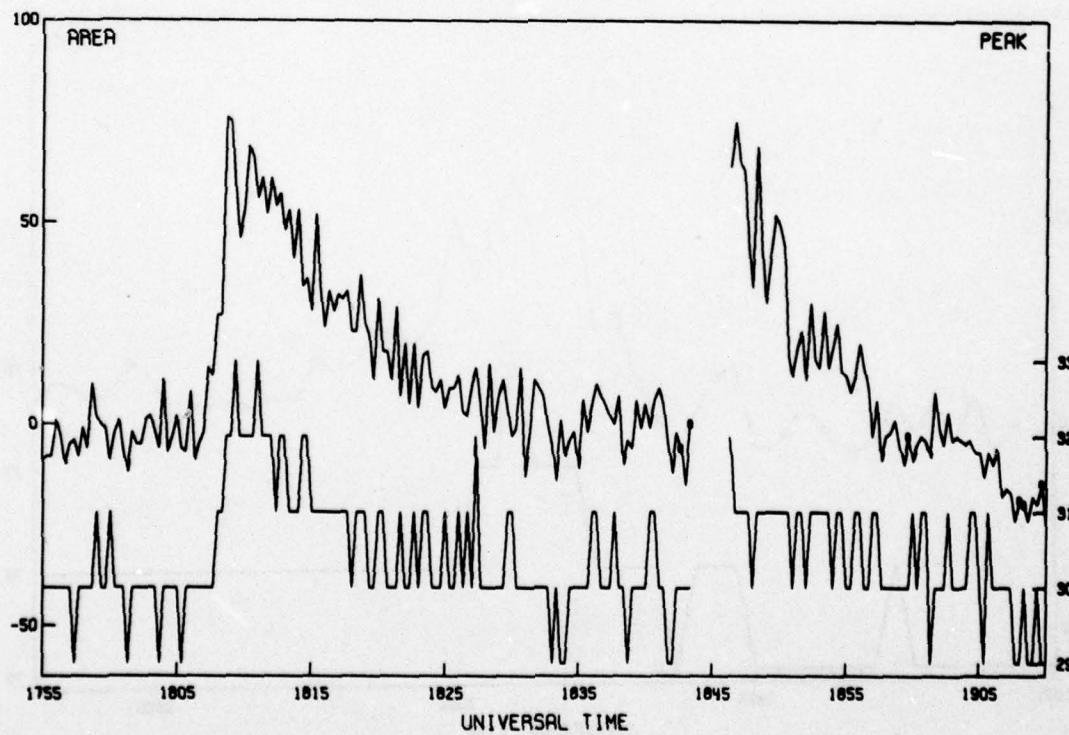


Figure 9b. Hawaii, 10 September 1973; R219, U -F flares, bin 29.

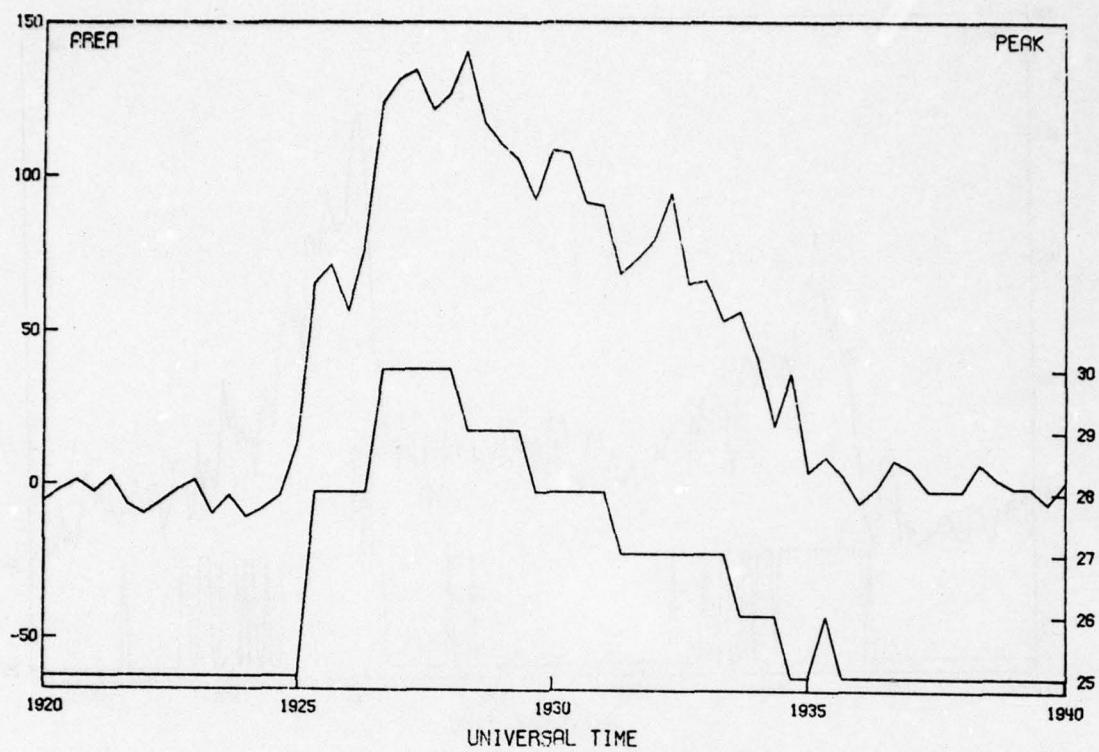


Figure 10a. La Posta, 25 October 1972; R460, -B flare, bin 25.

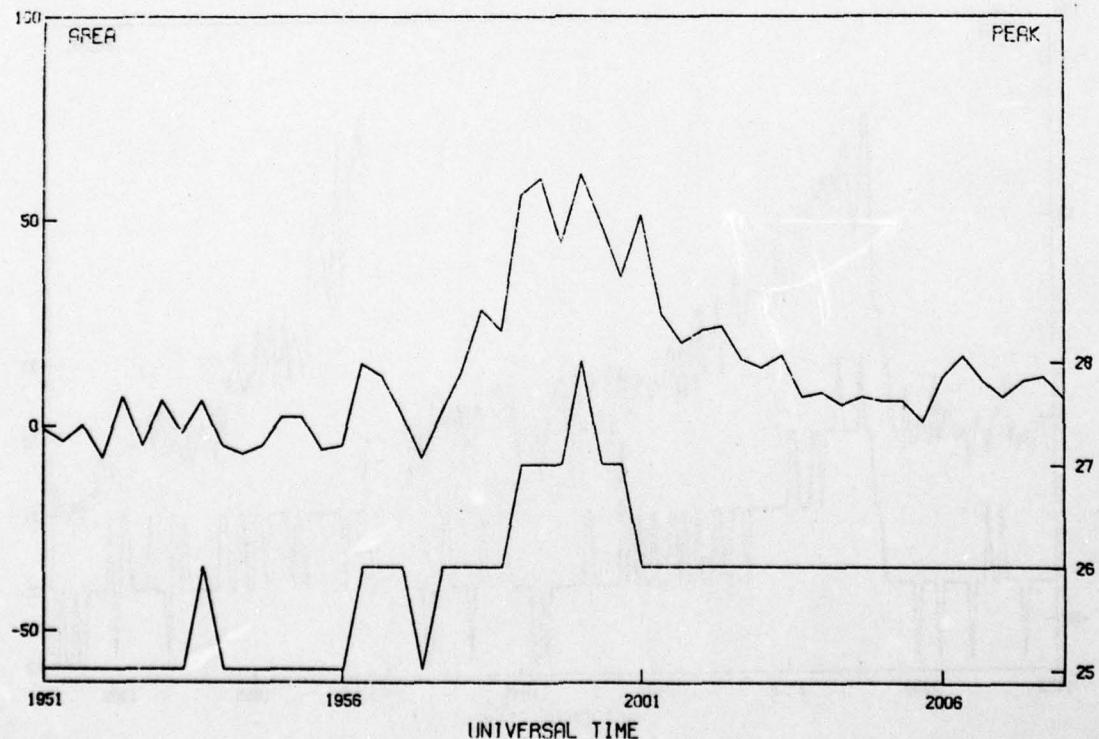


Figure 10b. La Posta, 25 October 1972; R460, -N flare, bin 25.

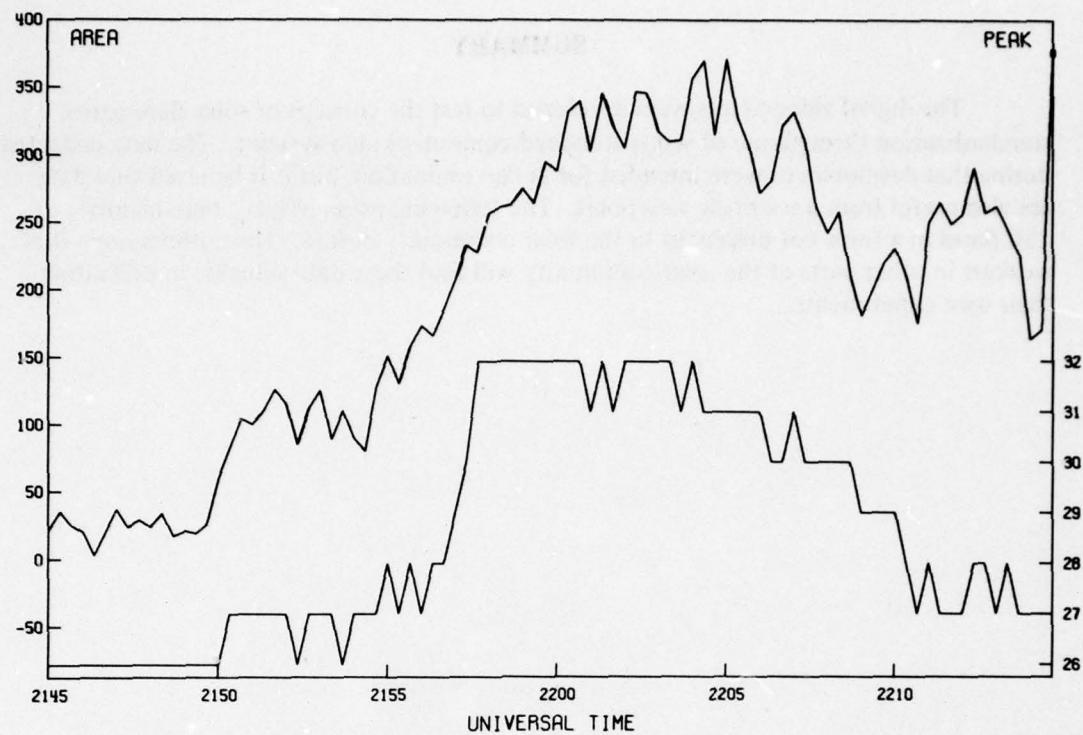


Figure 10c. La Posta, 25 October 1972; R460, 1N flare, bin 25.

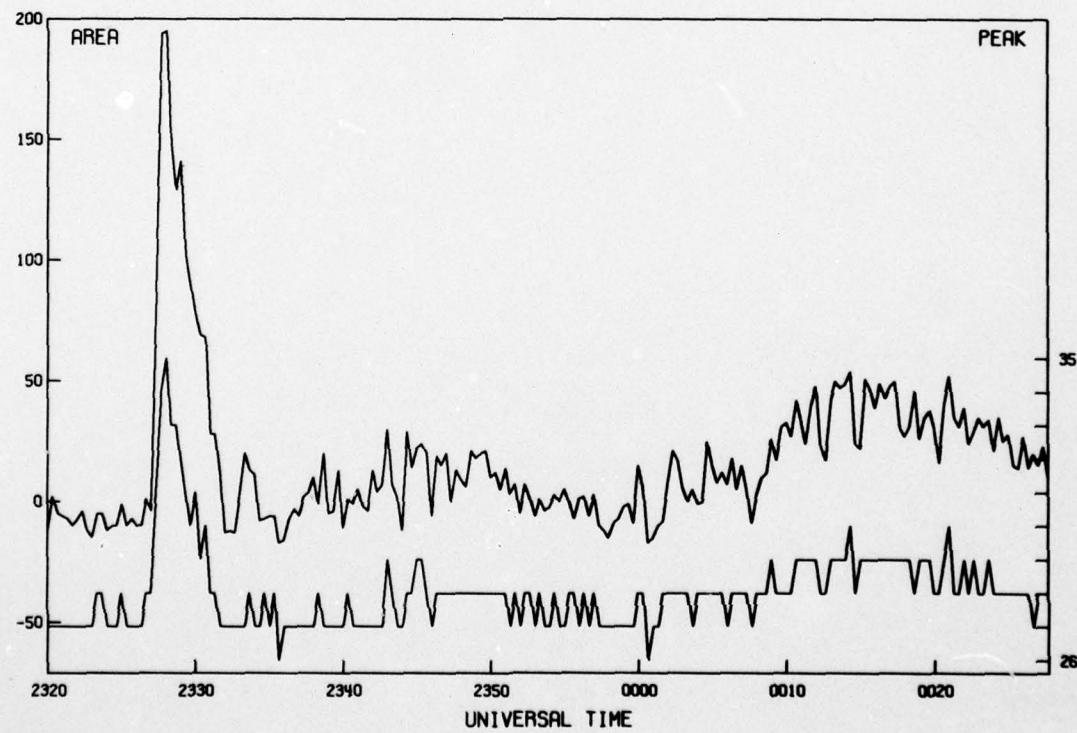
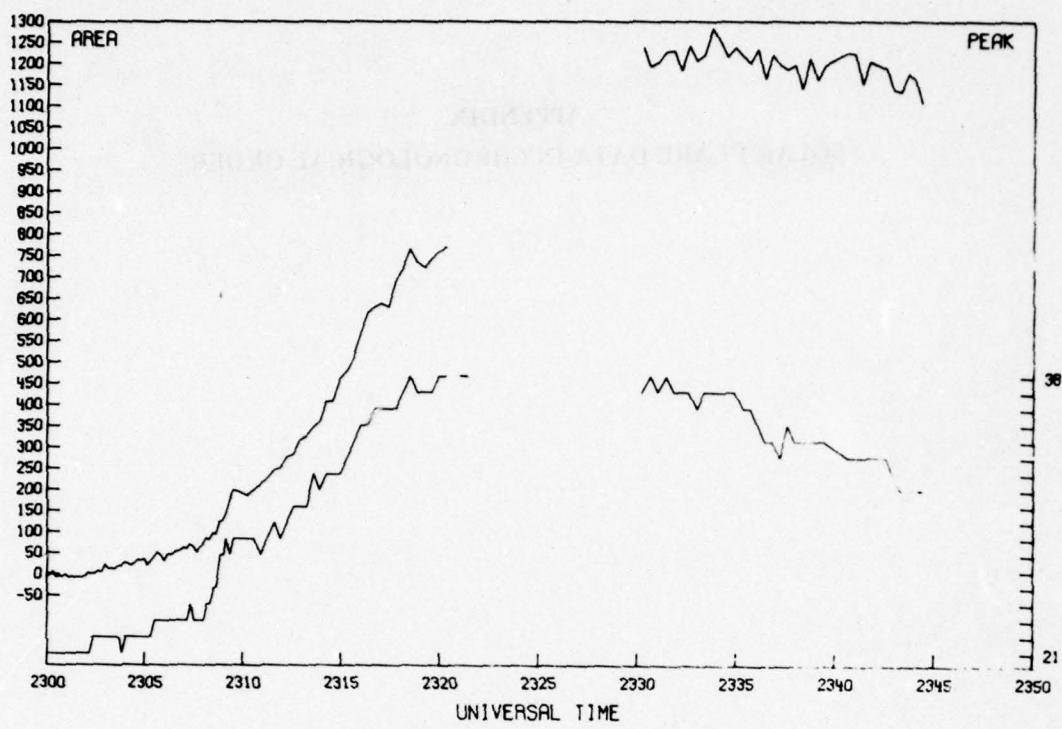


Figure 10d. La Posta, 25 October 1972; R460, 1B -N -N flares, bin 27.

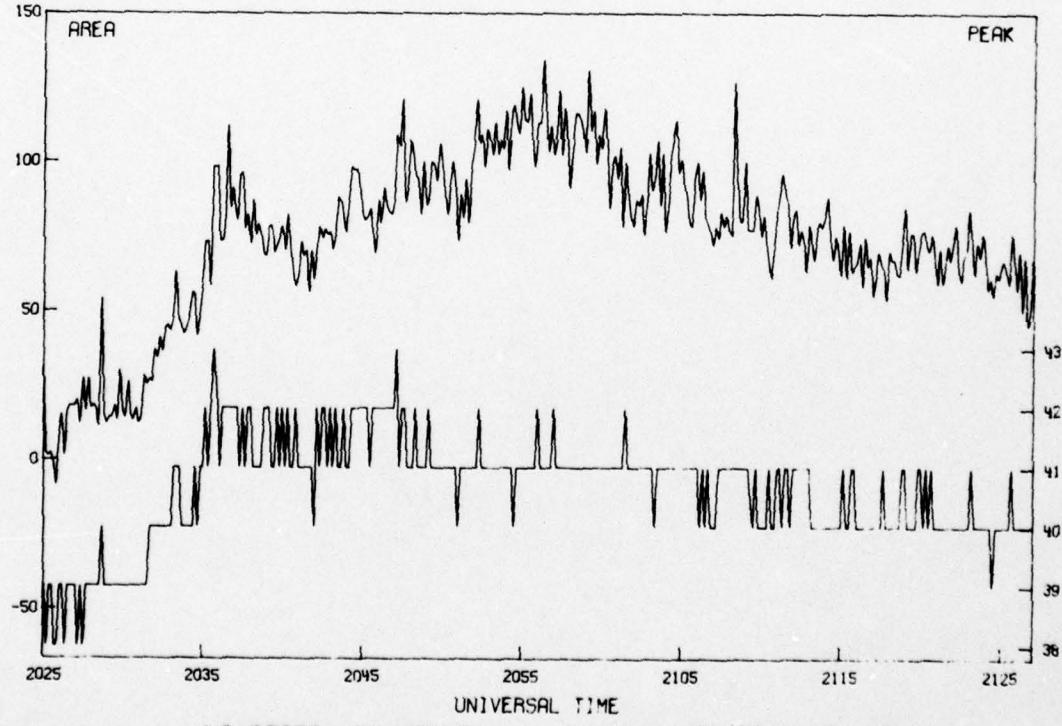
SUMMARY

The digital videometers were developed to test the concept of solar flare patrol standardization through use of semiautomated computer-video systems. The data collected during that development were intended for design evaluation, but it is believed that data are also useful from a scientific viewpoint. The following pages give H_{α} time histories of 150 flares in a form not presented to the solar community before. The authors hope that workers in other parts of the solar community will find these data valuable in evaluating their own experiments.

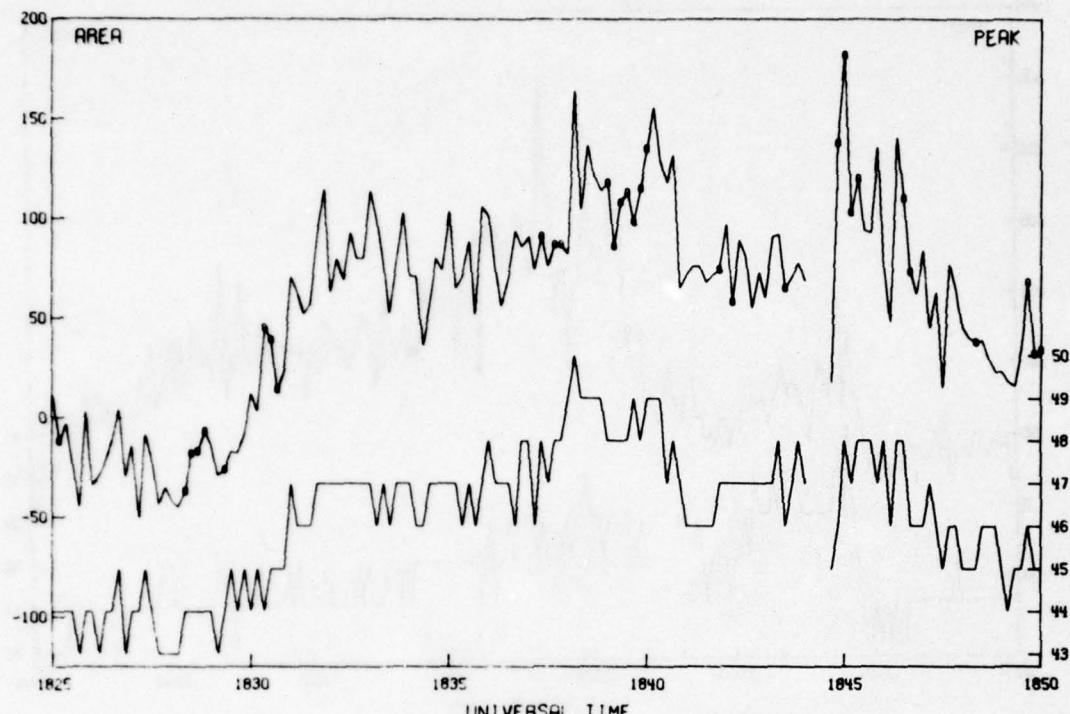
APPENDIX
SOLAR FLARE DATA IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER



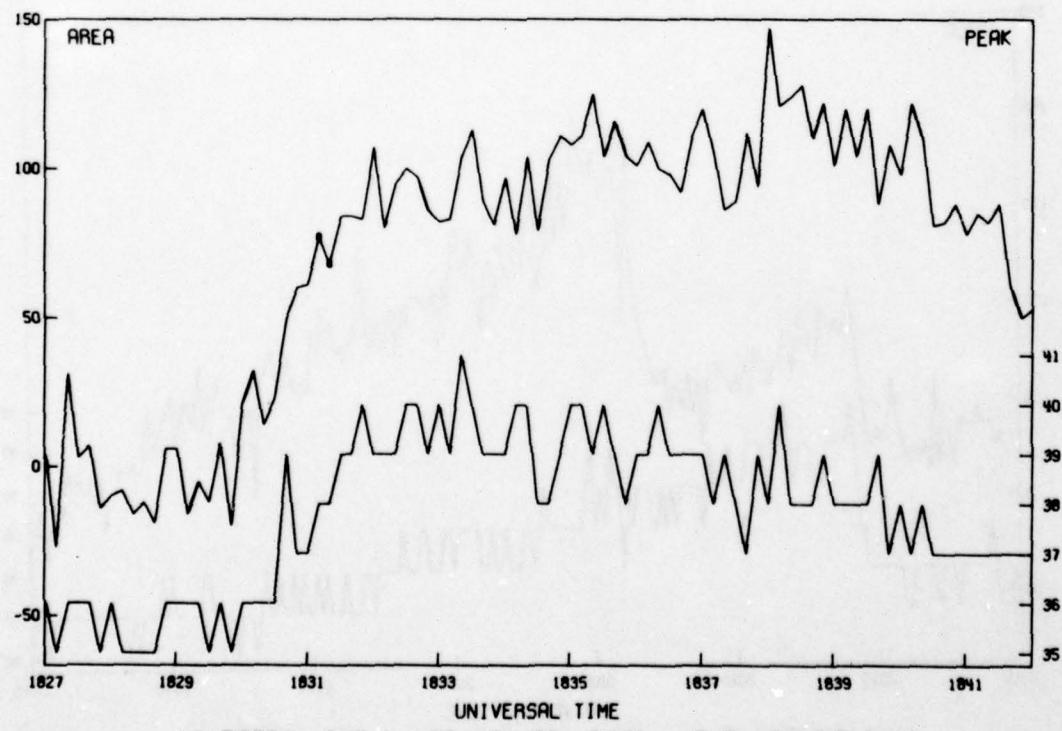
LA POSTA 24 JAN 71 3B FLARE BIN 21



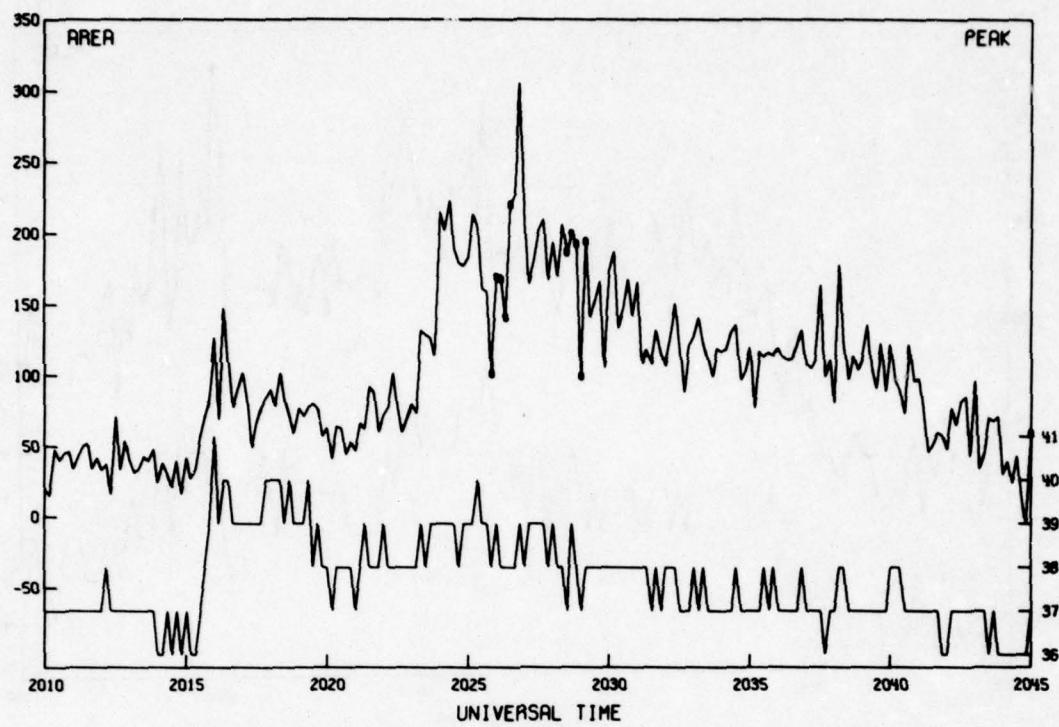
LA POSTA 24 JAN 71 1N -N FLARES BIN 38



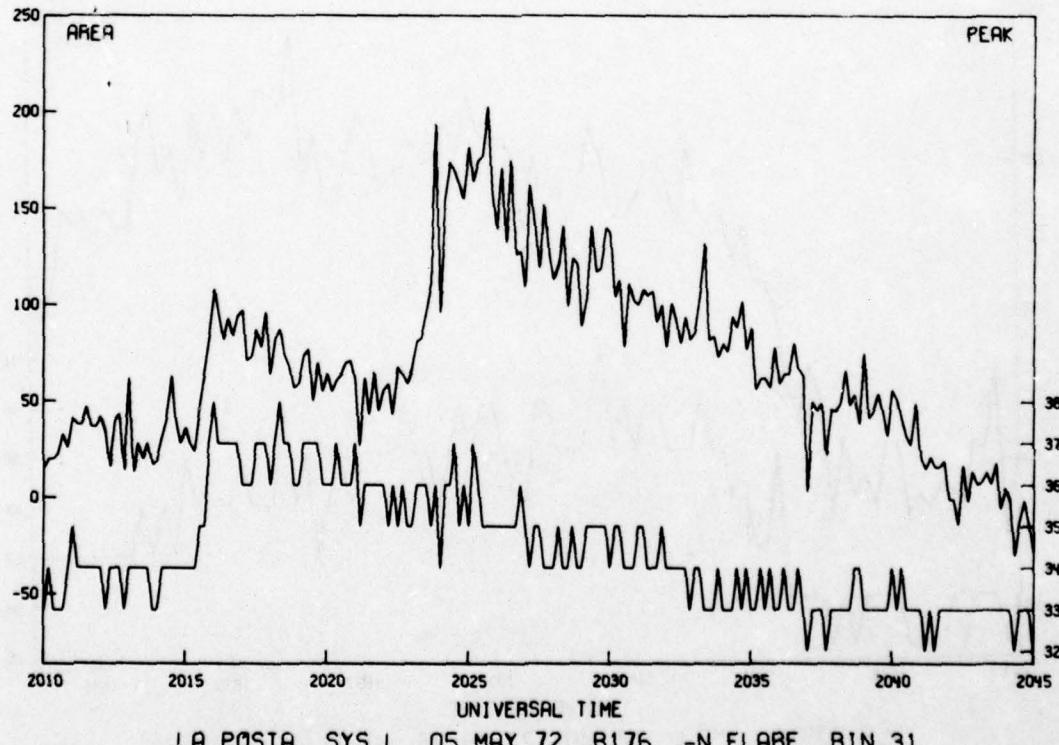
LA POSTA SYS R 05 MAY 72 R176 -F FLARE BIN 42



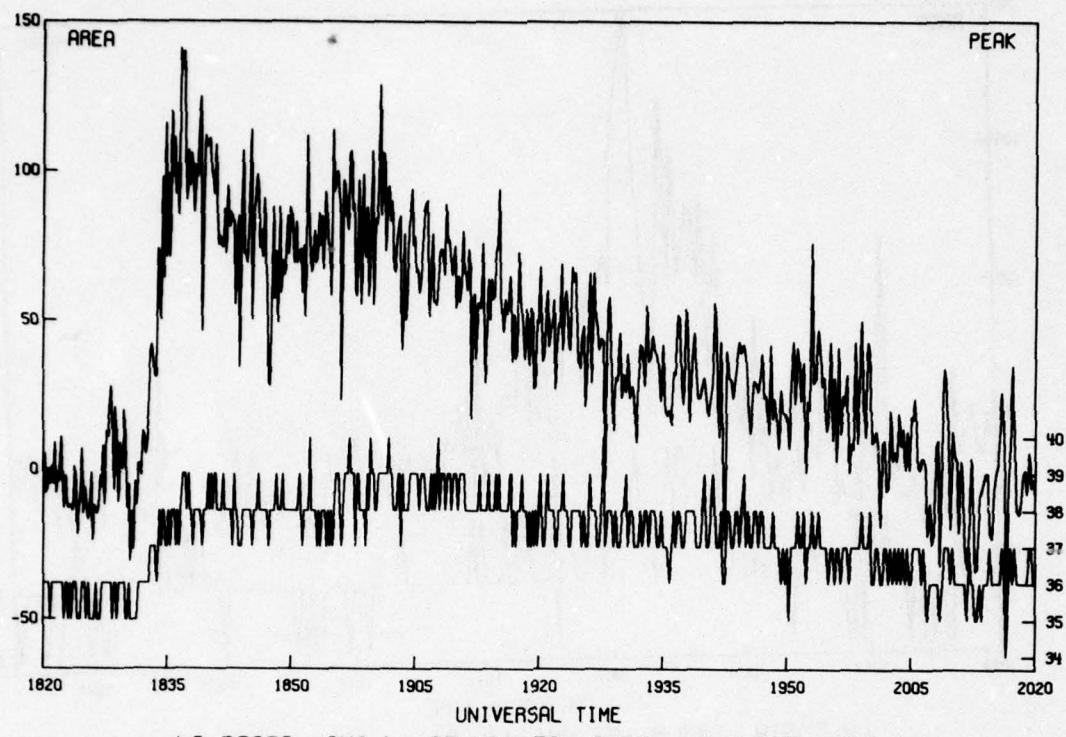
LA POSTA SYS L 05 MAY 72 R176 -F FLARE BIN 33



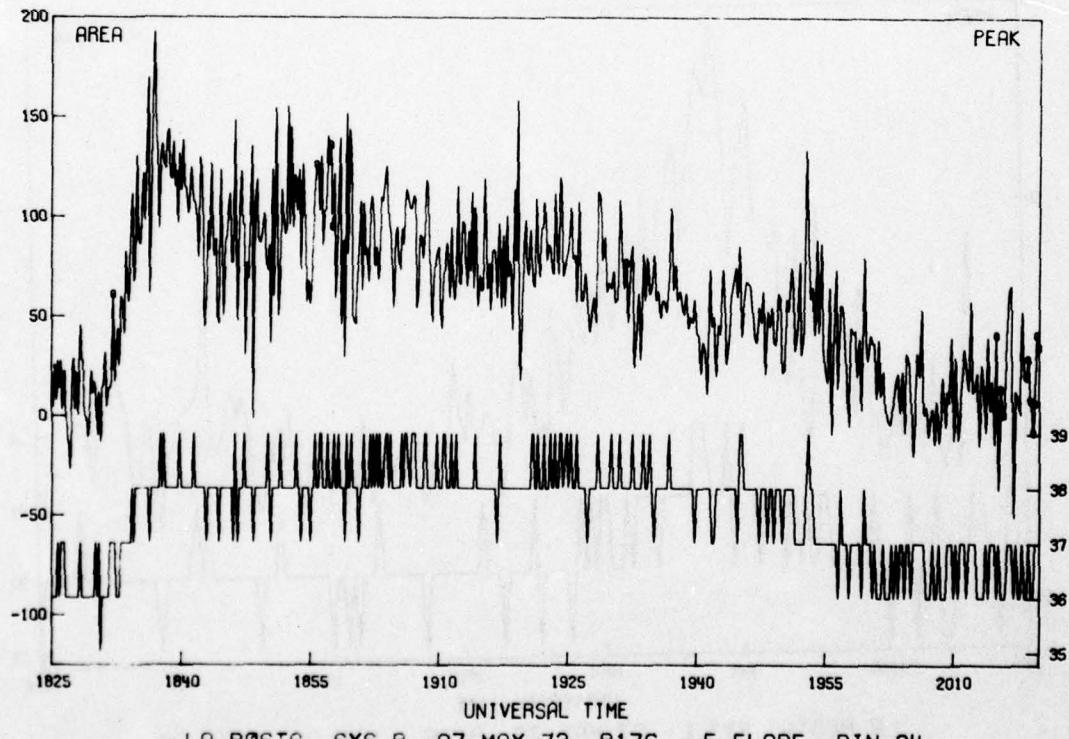
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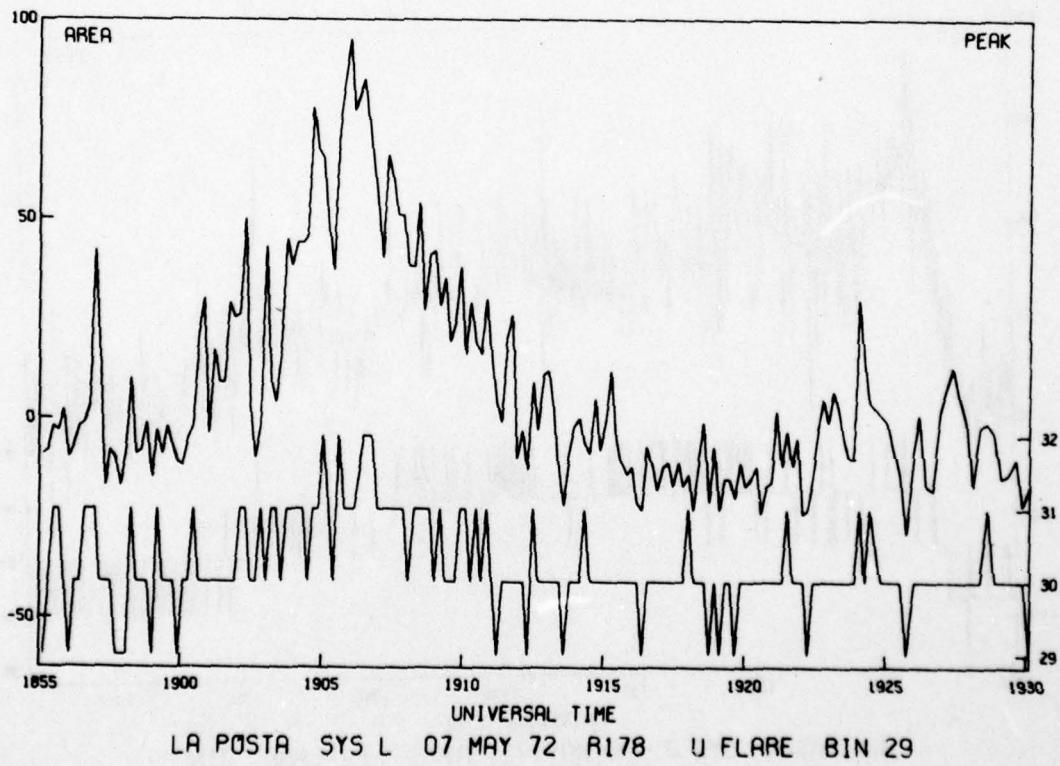
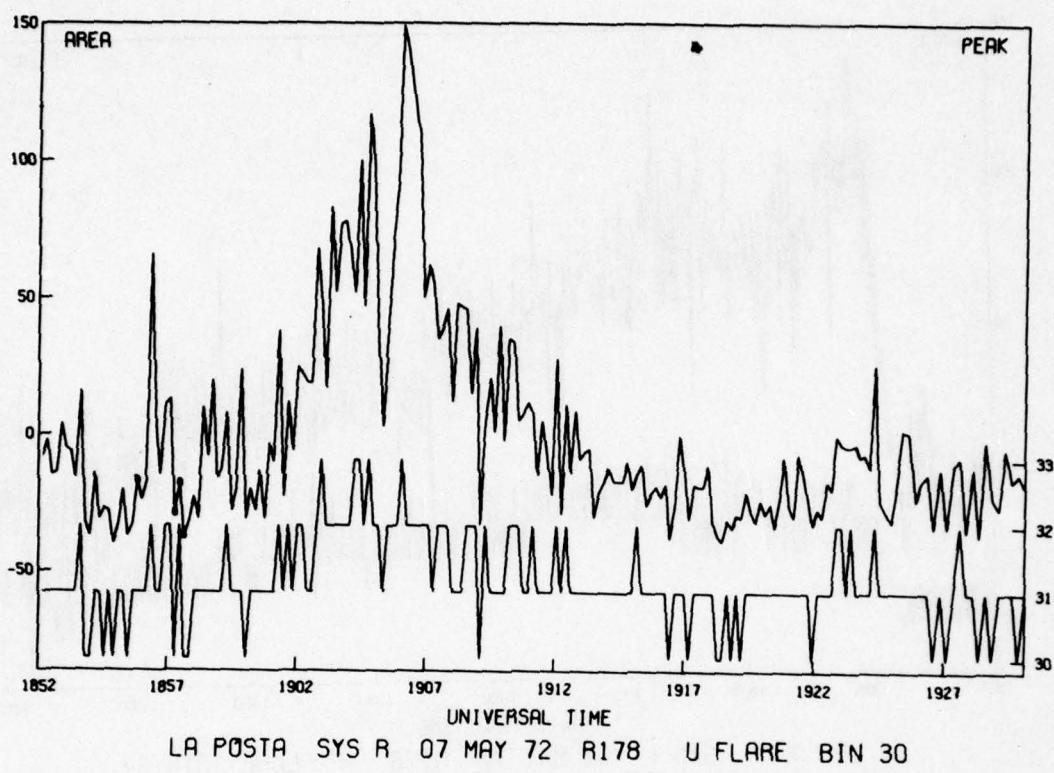
LA POSTA SYS L 05 MAY 72 R176 -N FLARE BIN 31

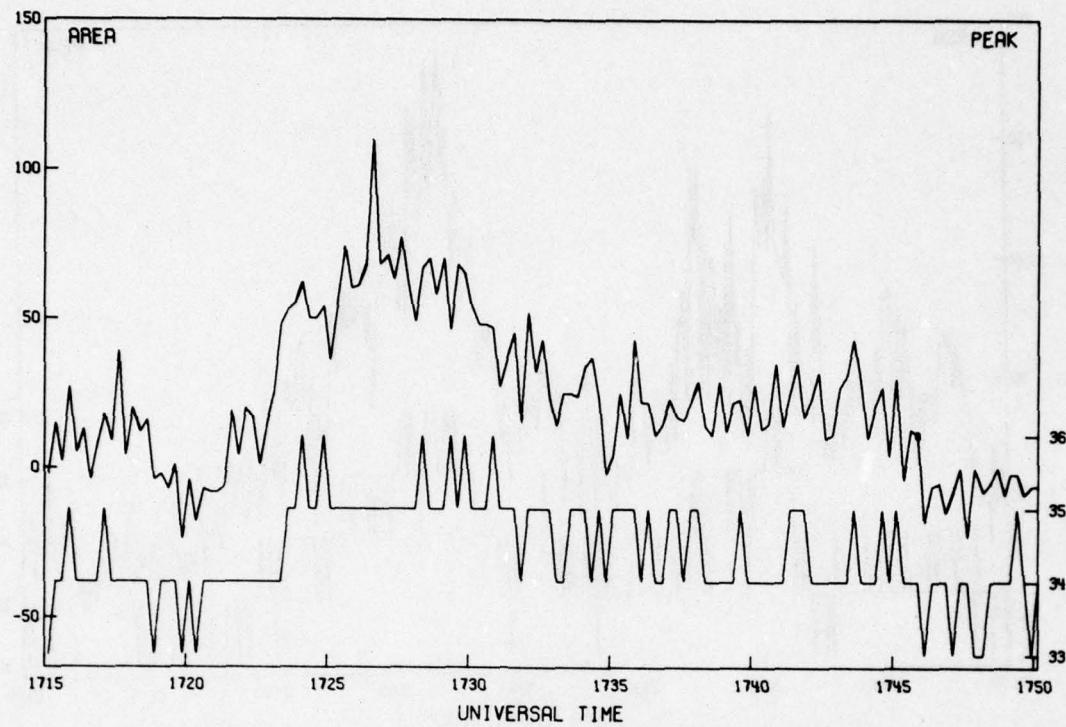


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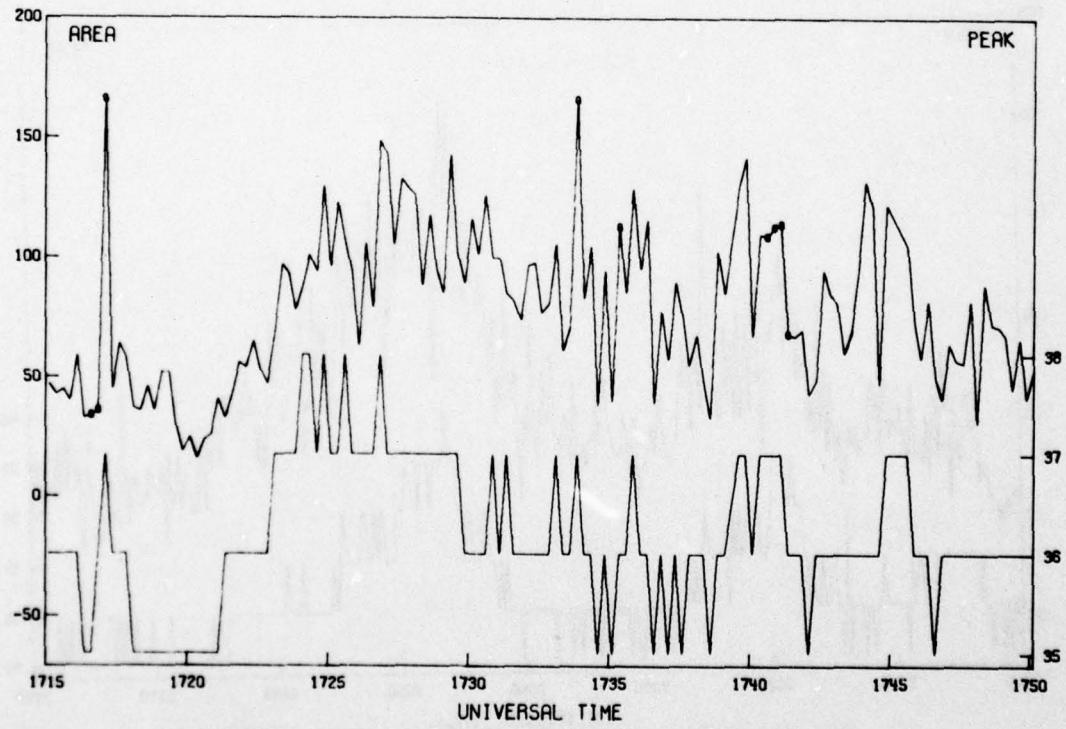


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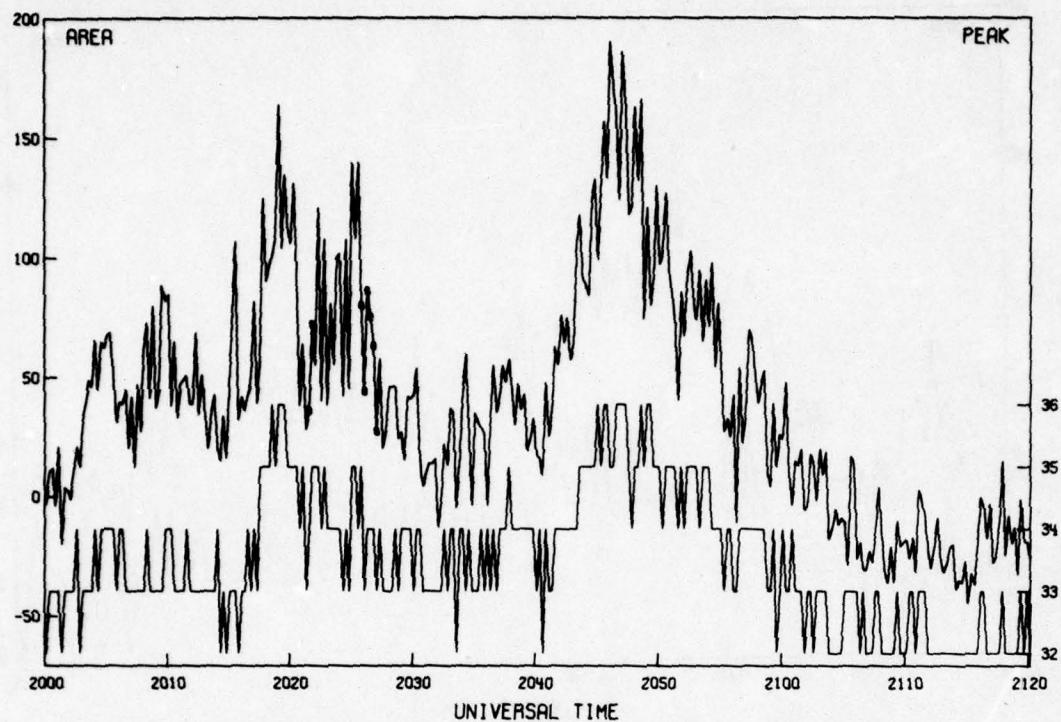




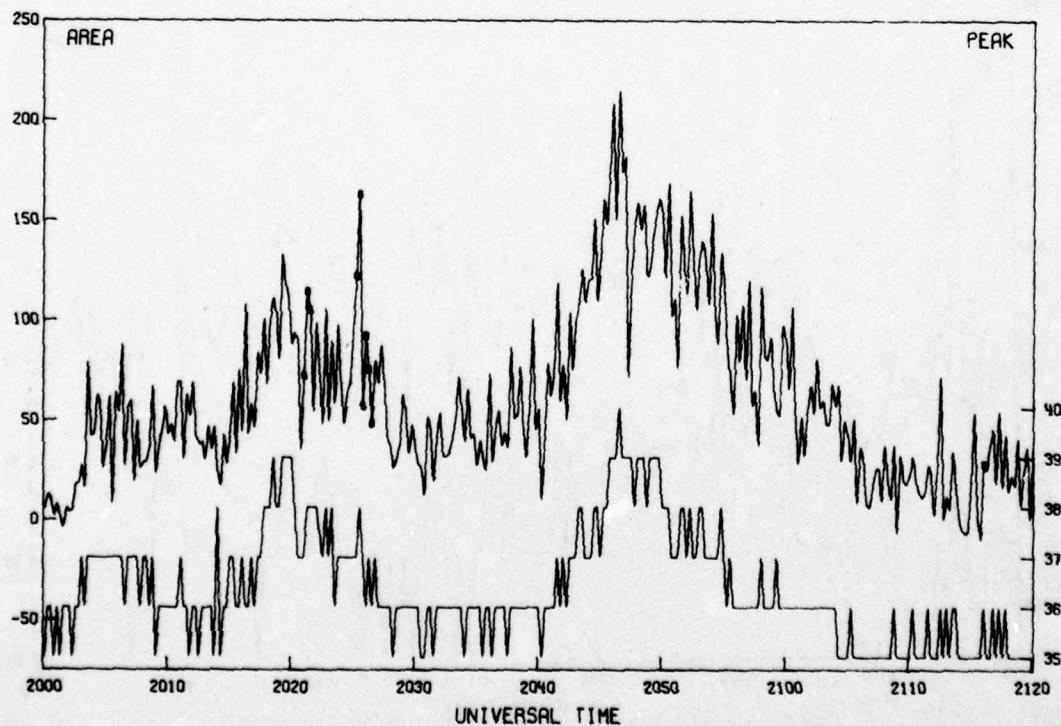
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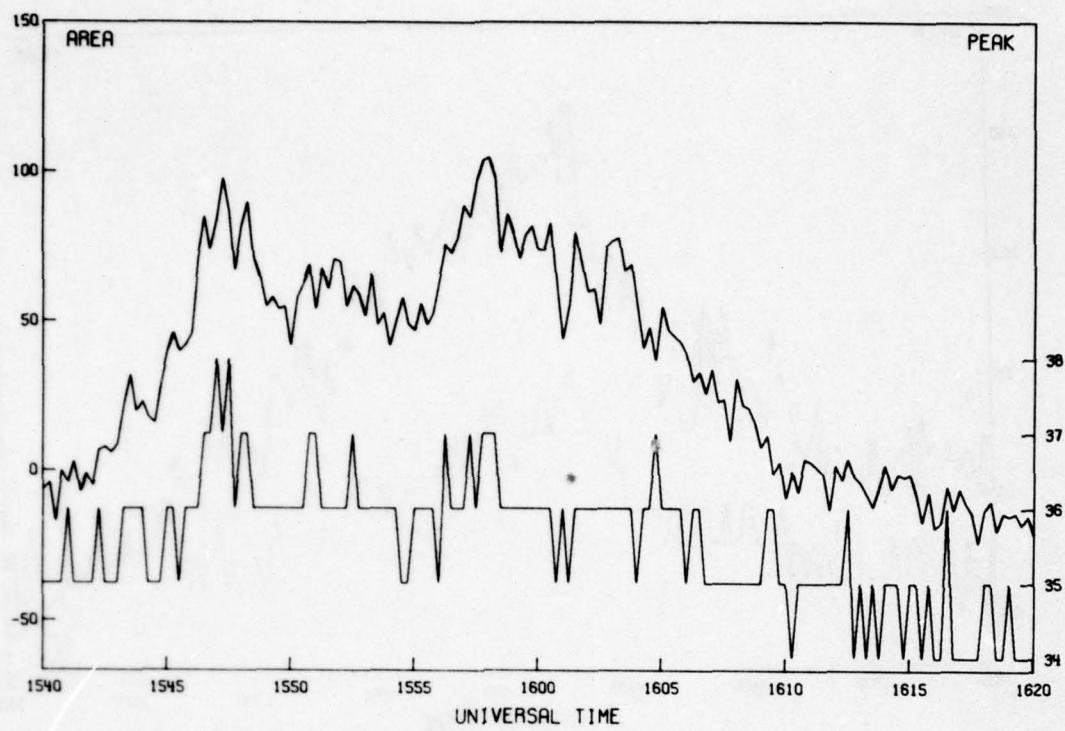
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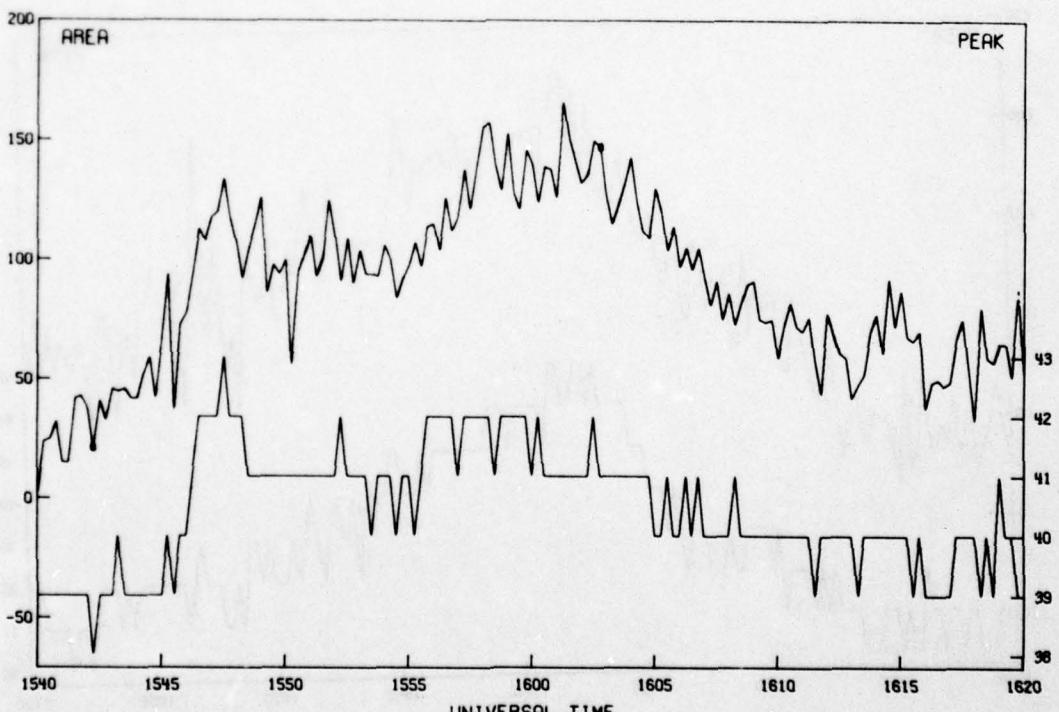
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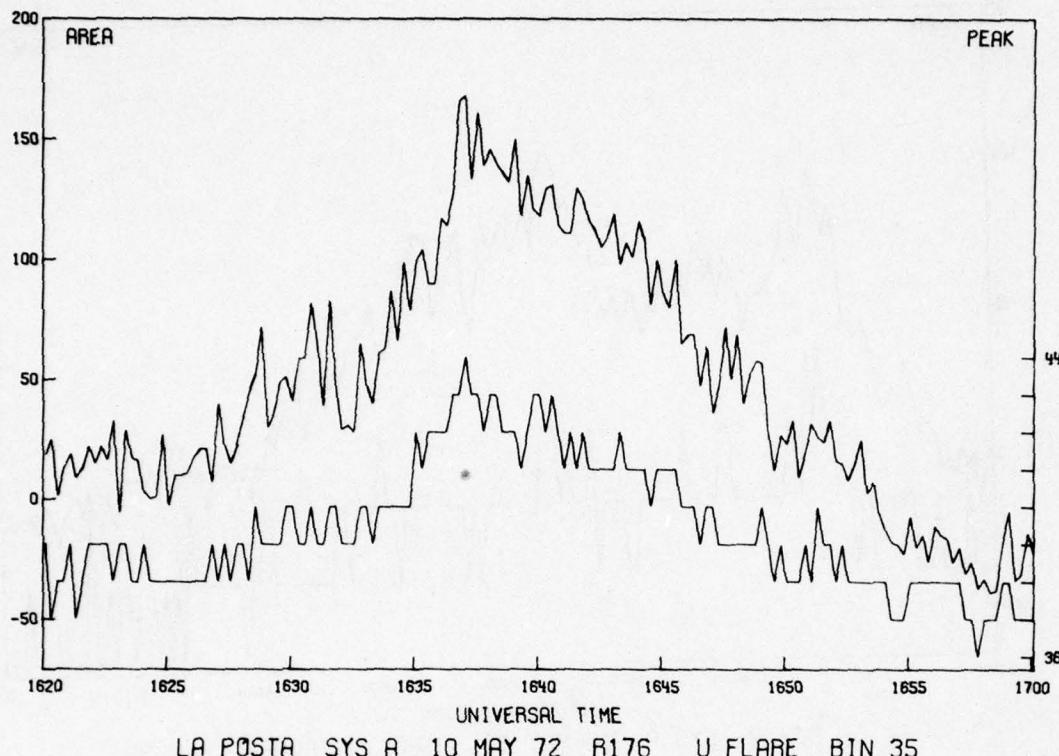
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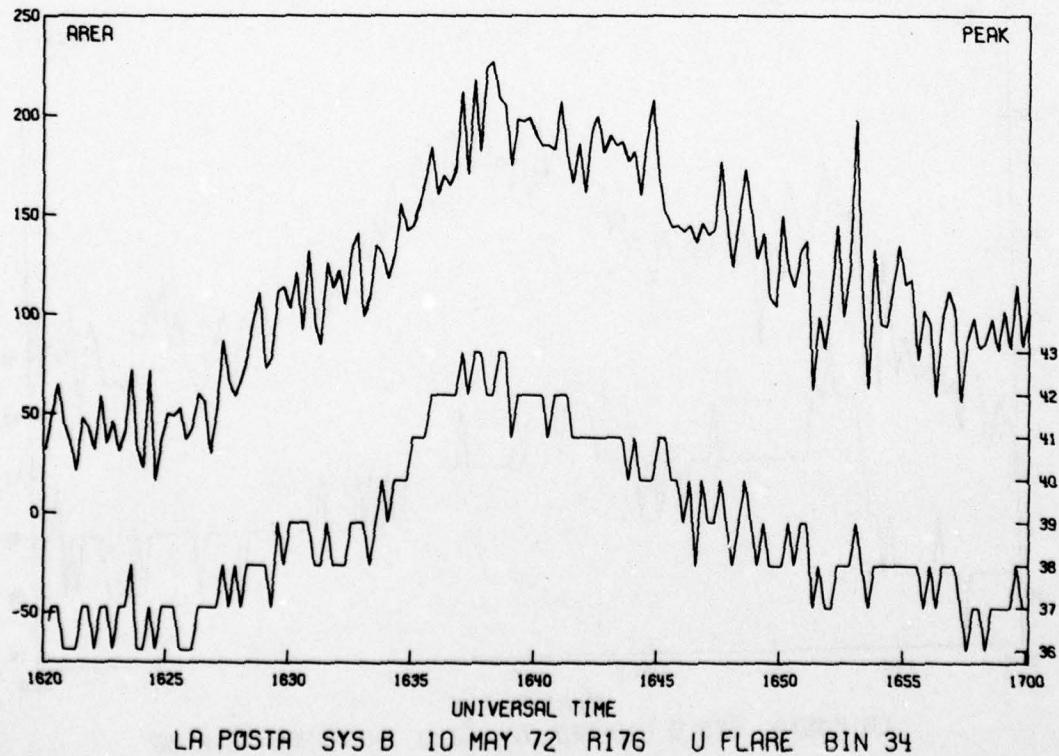
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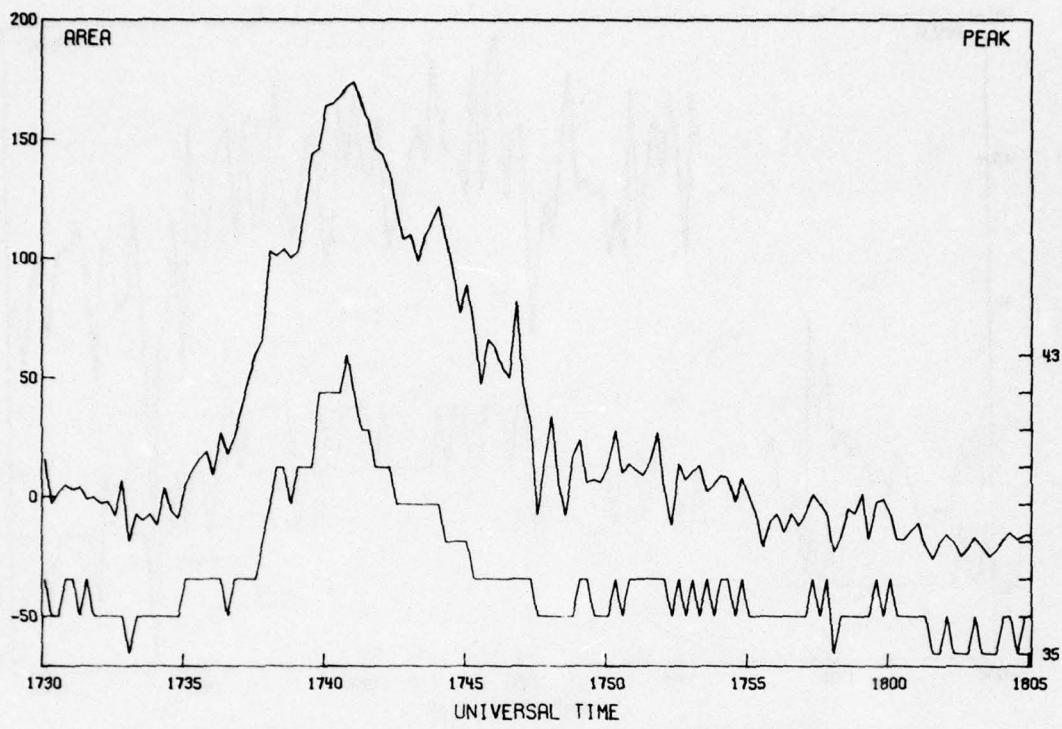
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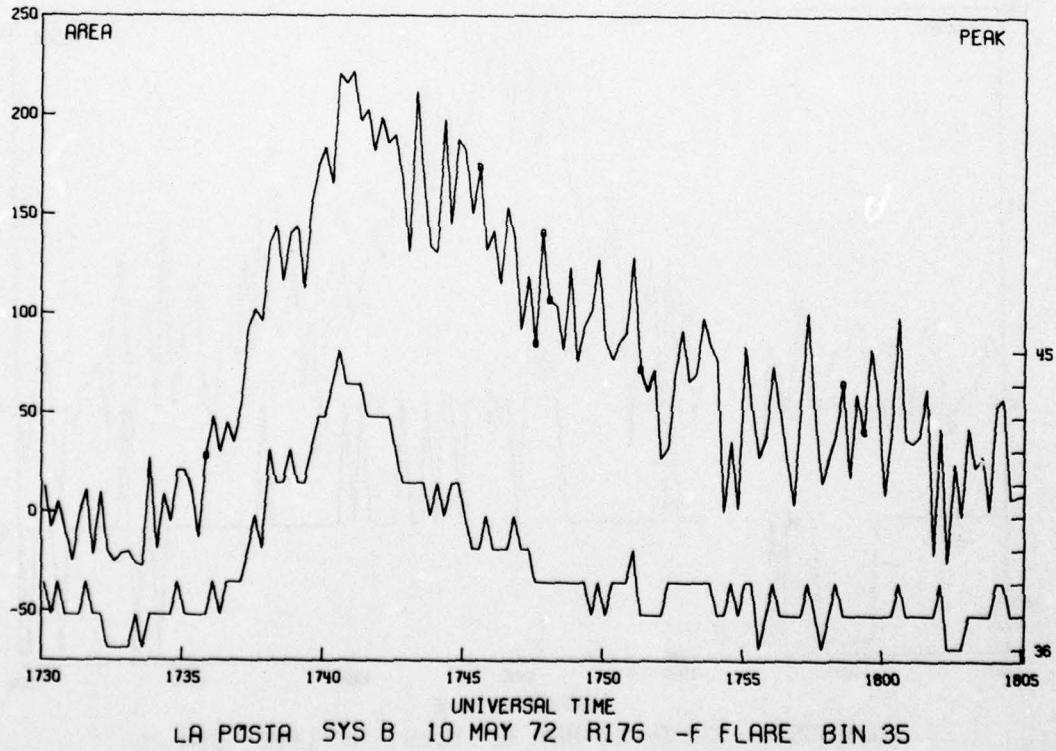
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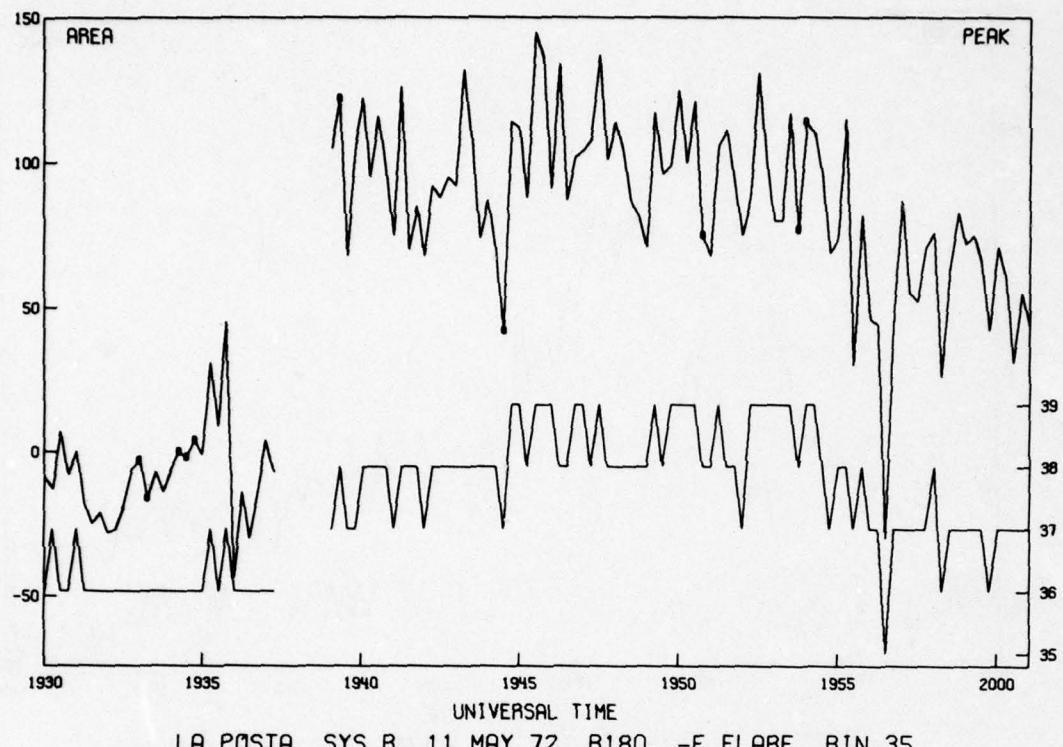
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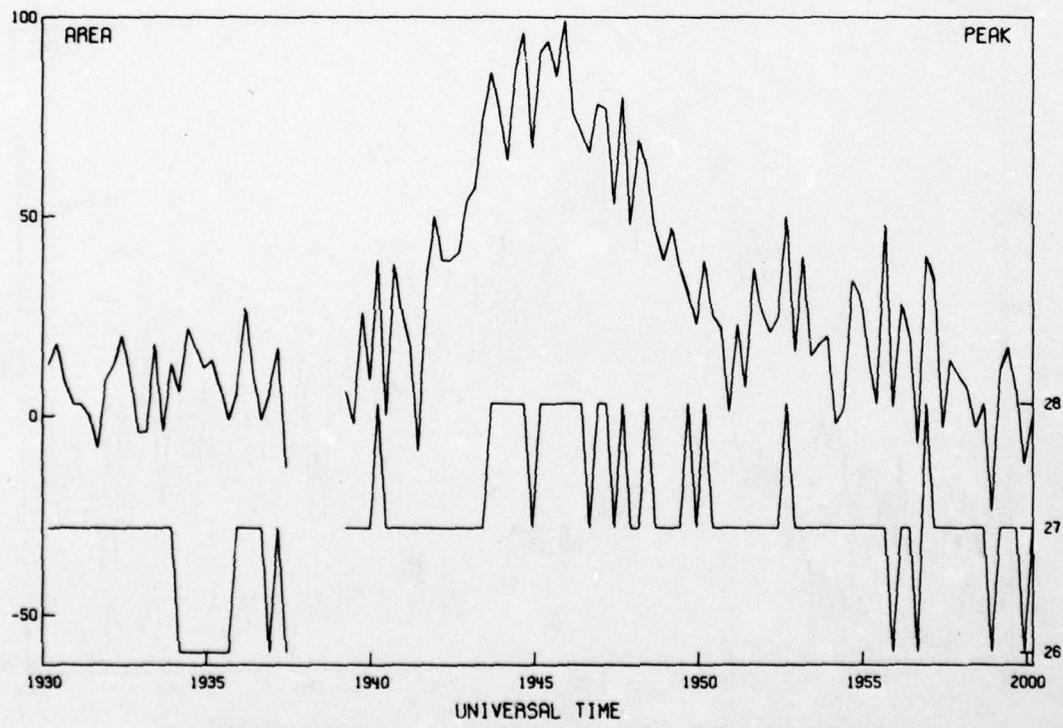
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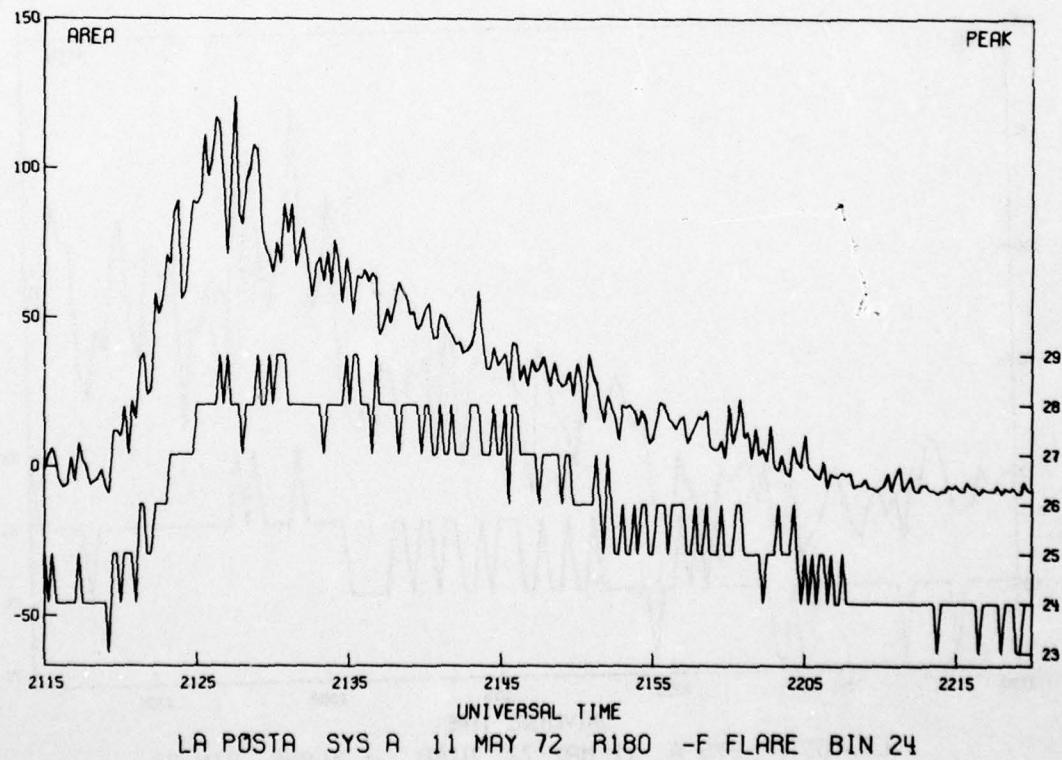
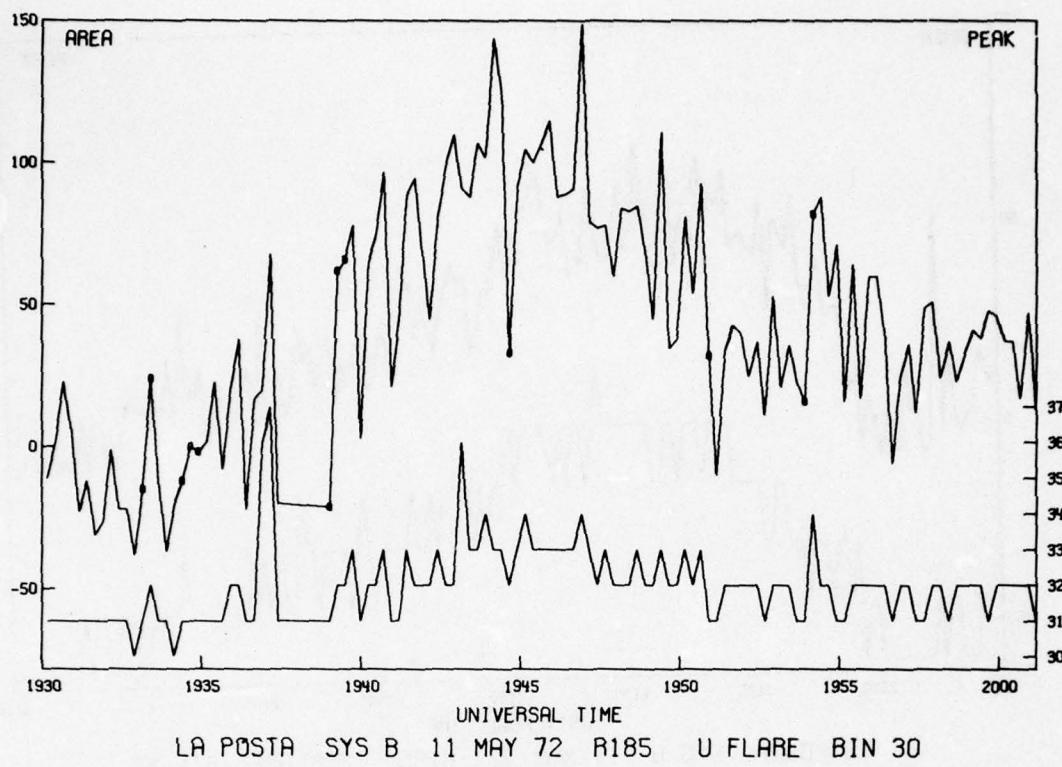
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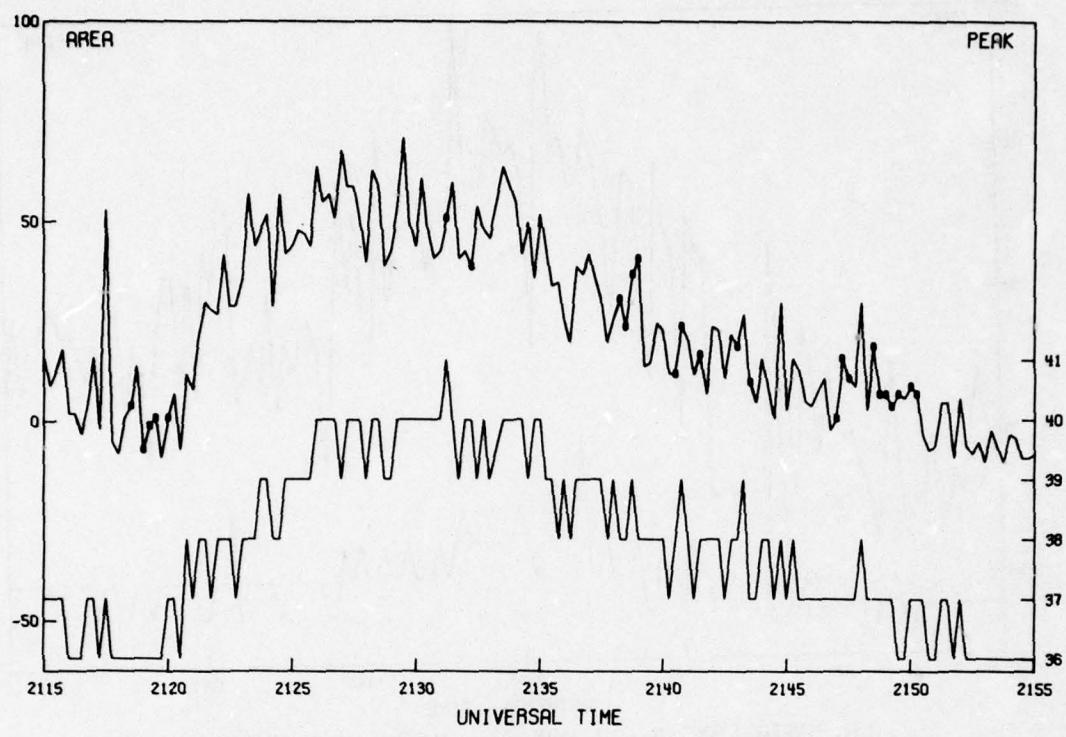


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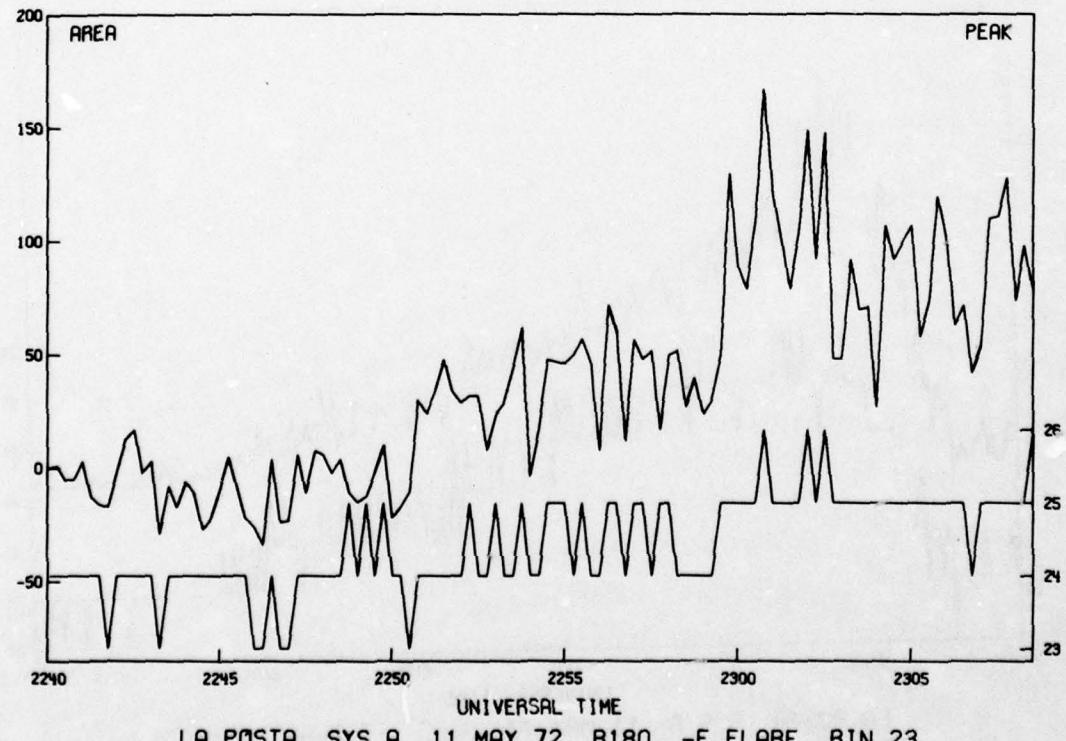


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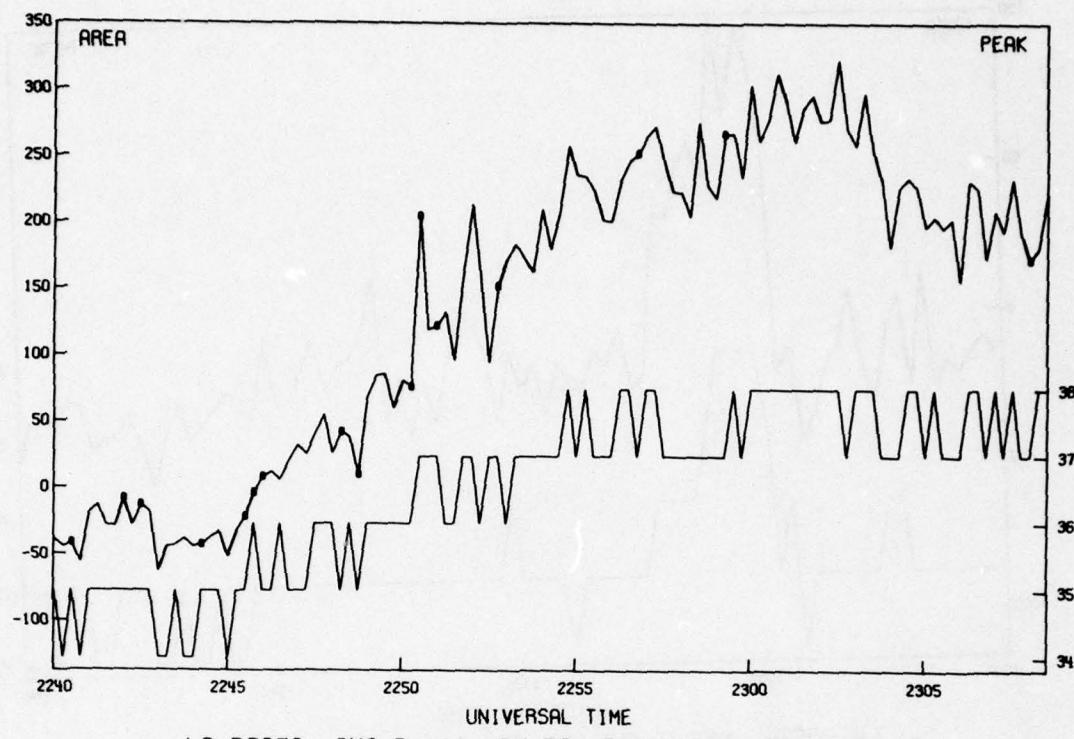




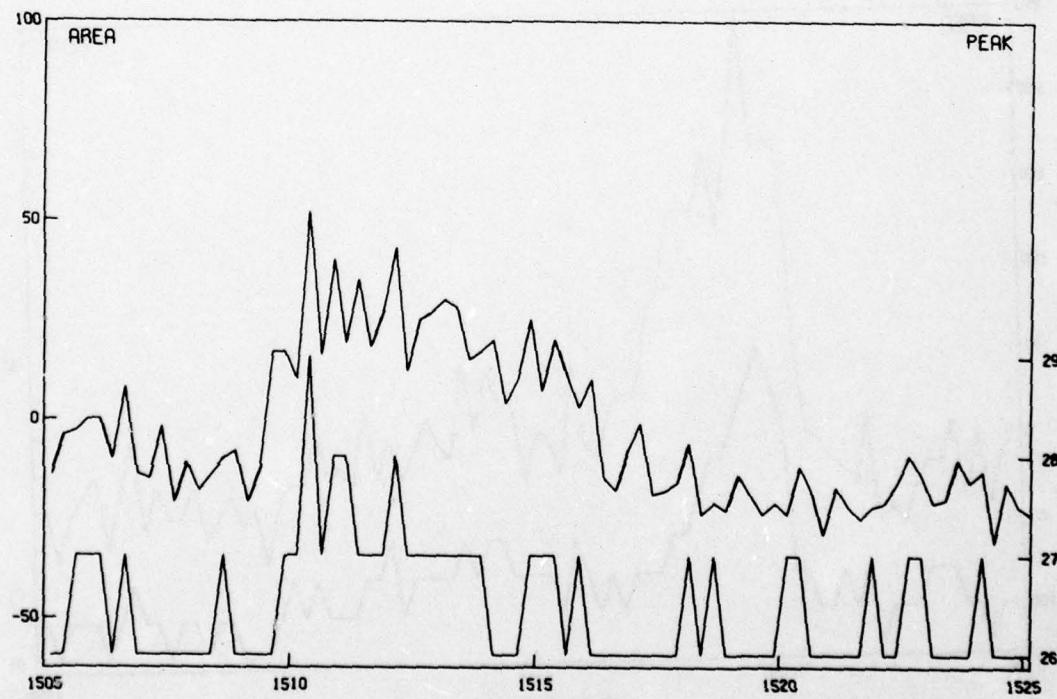
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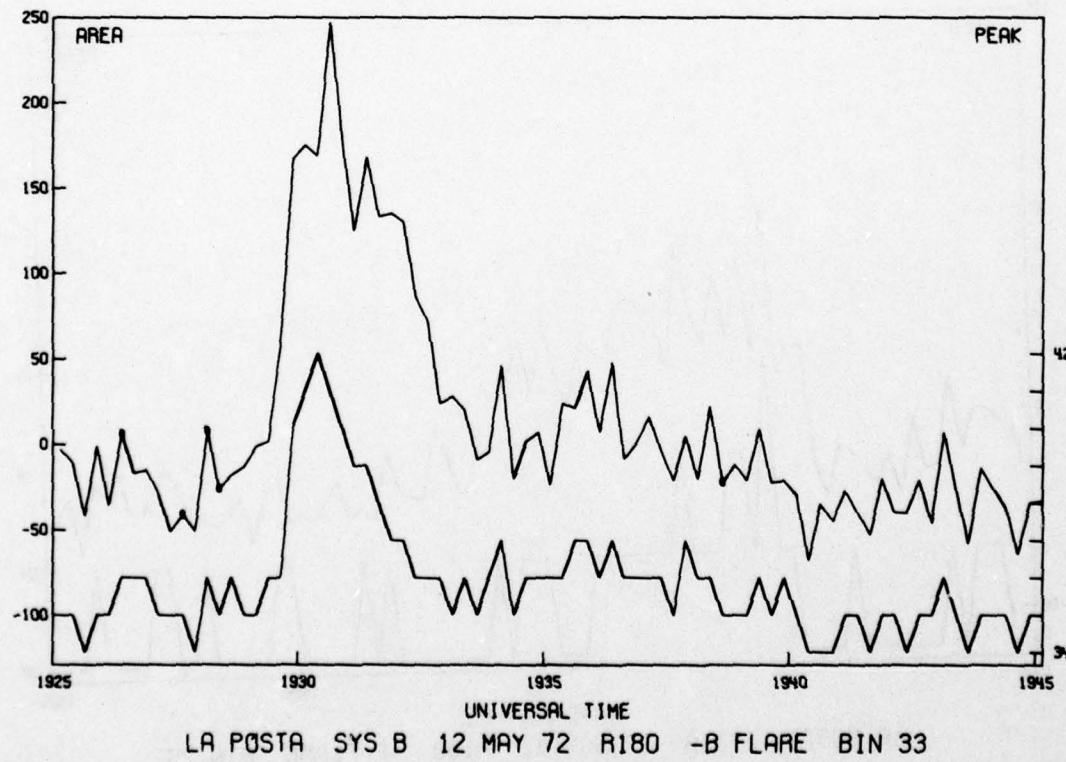
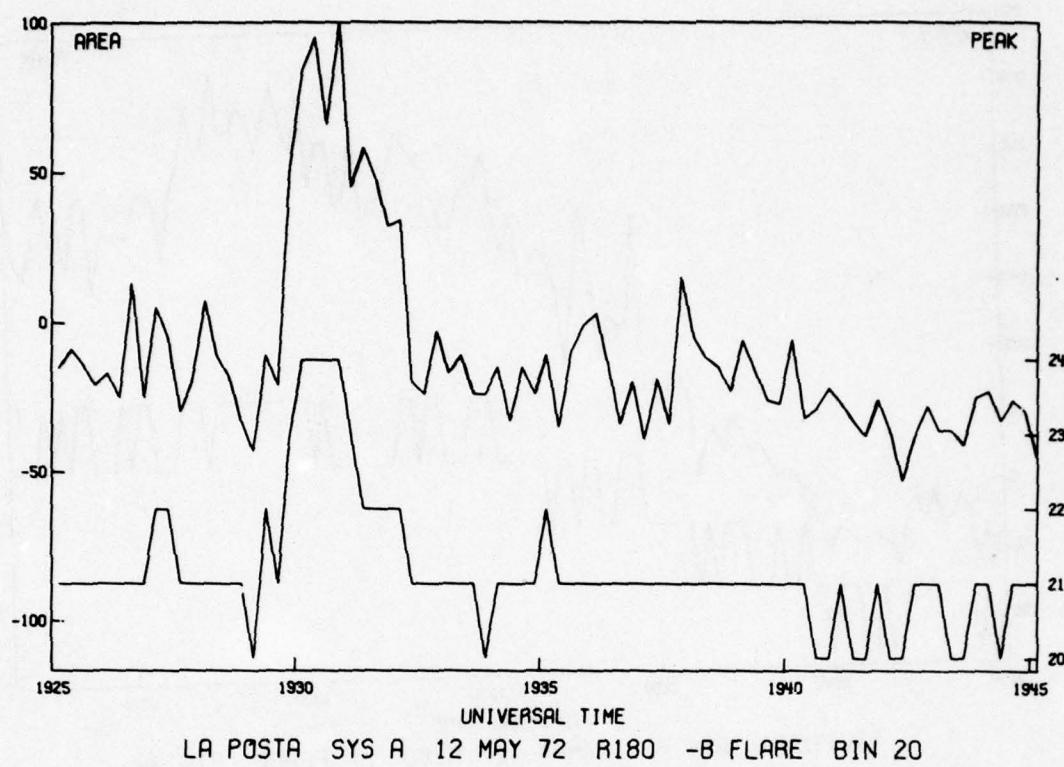
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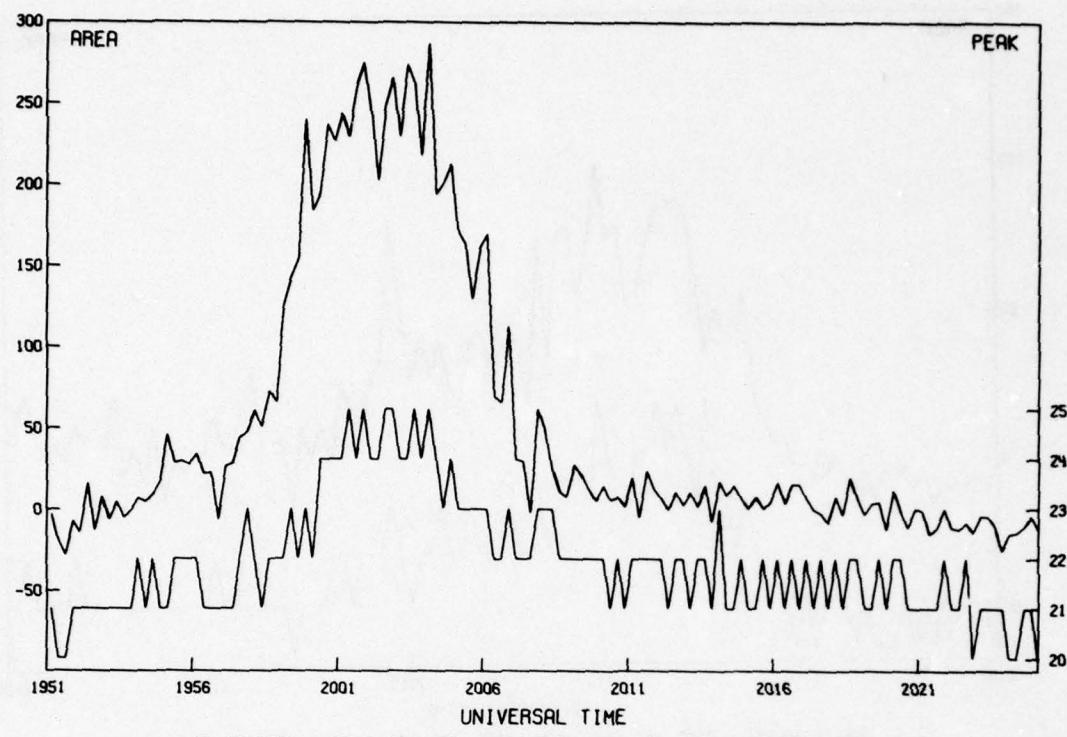


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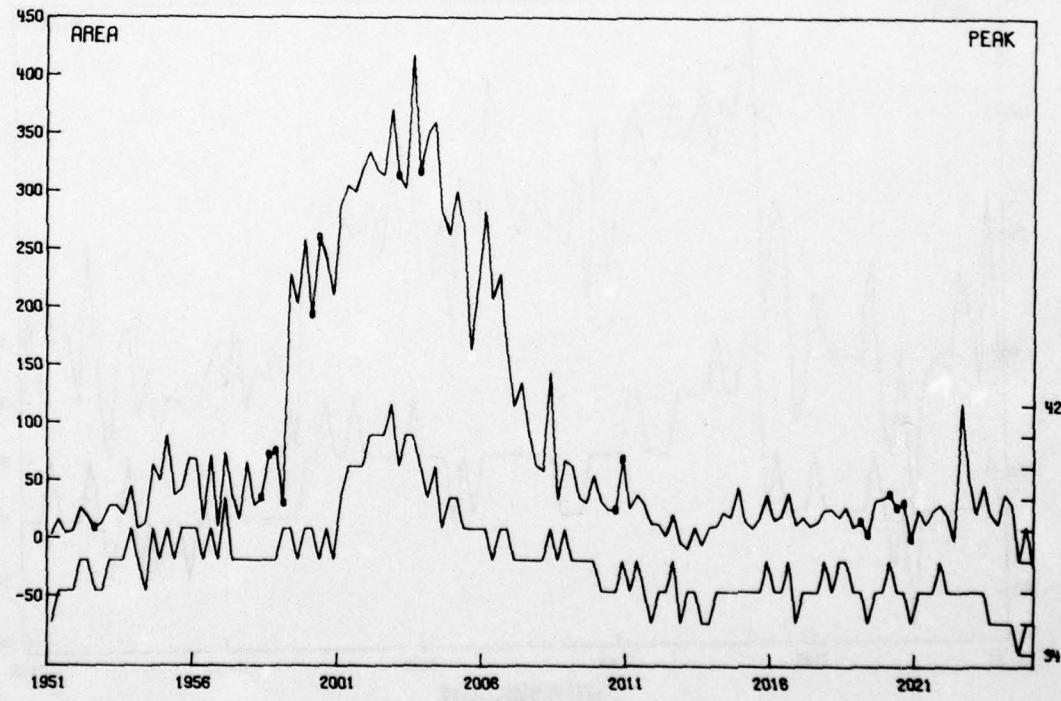


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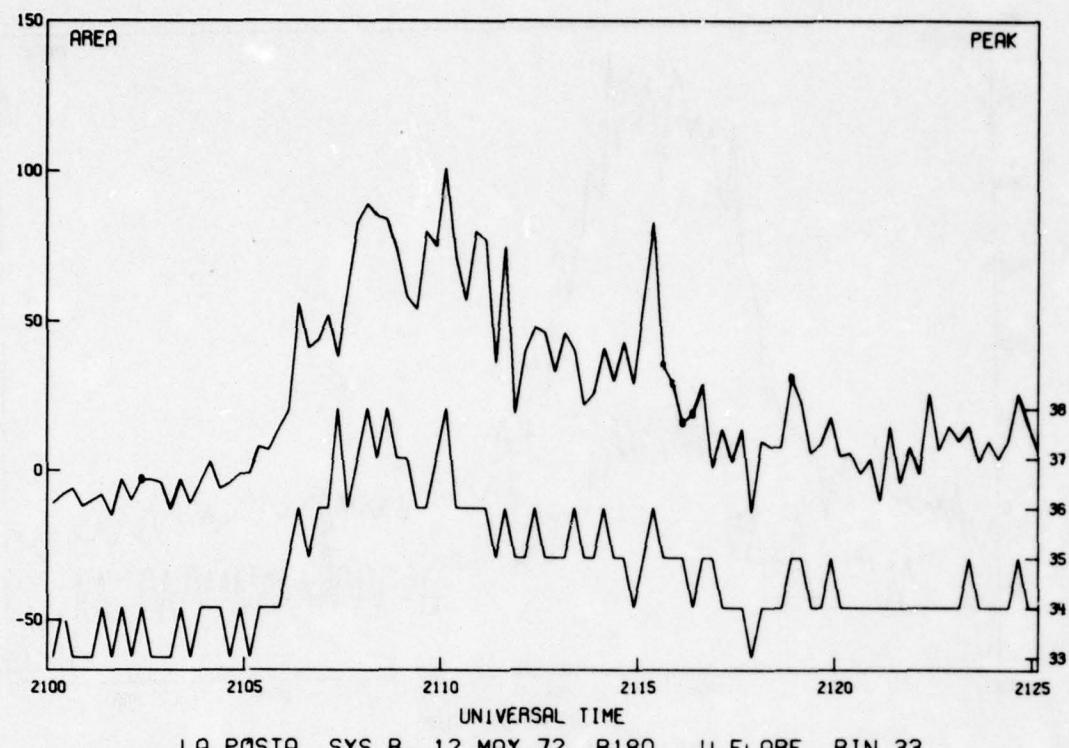




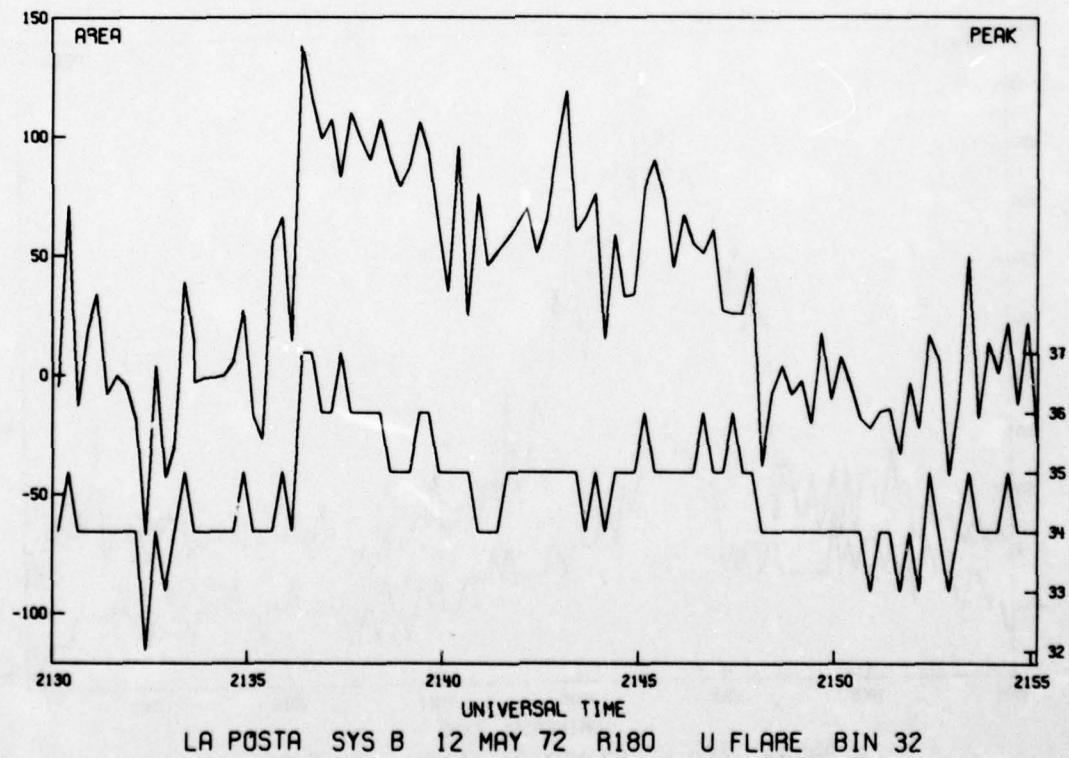
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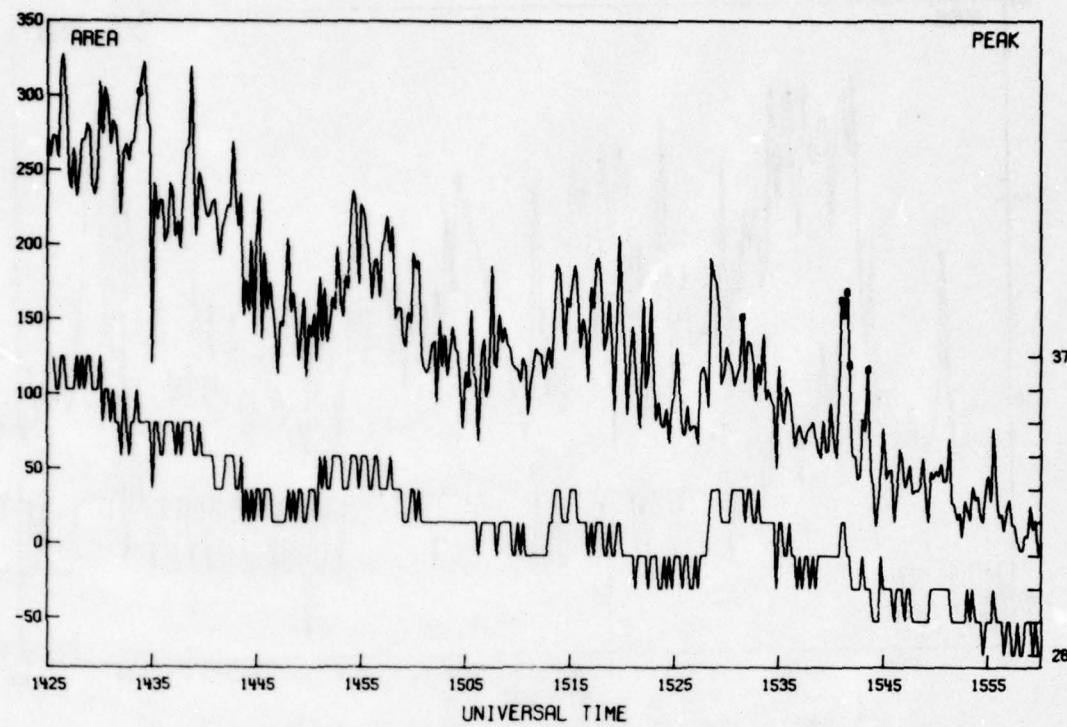
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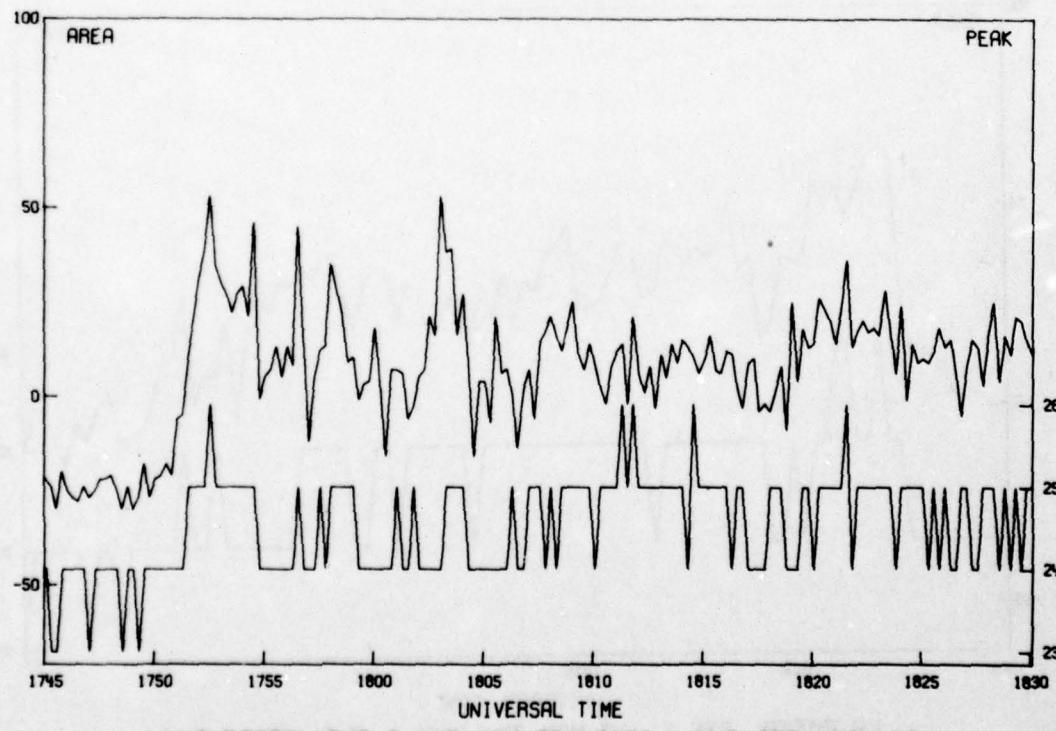
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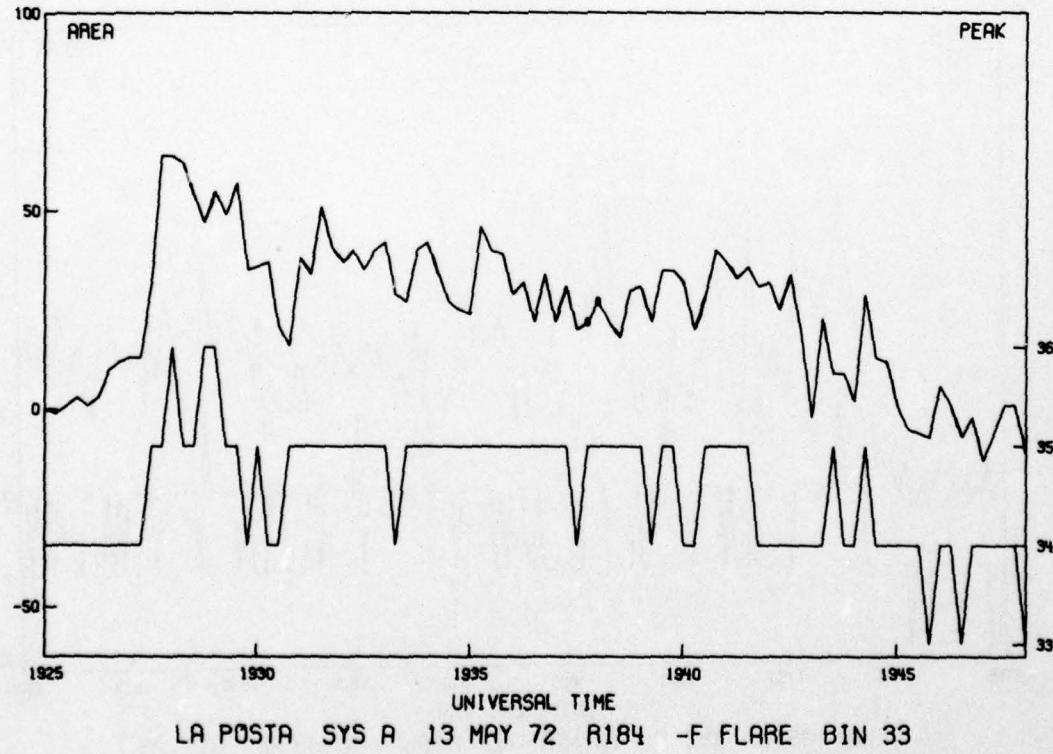
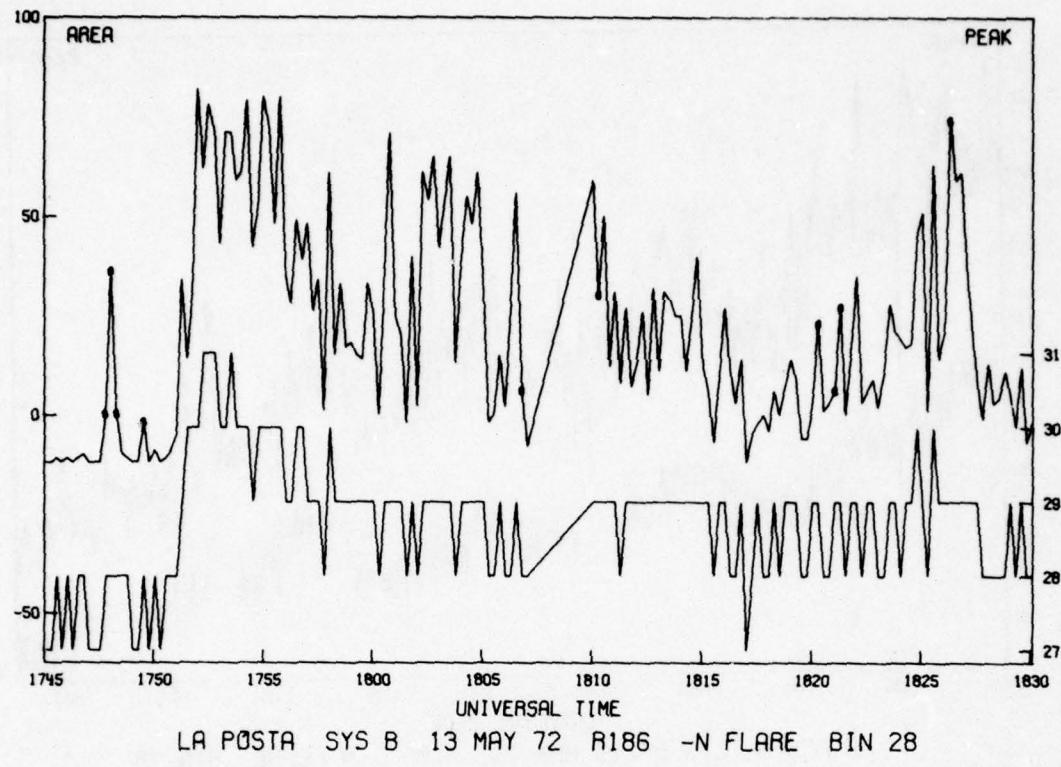
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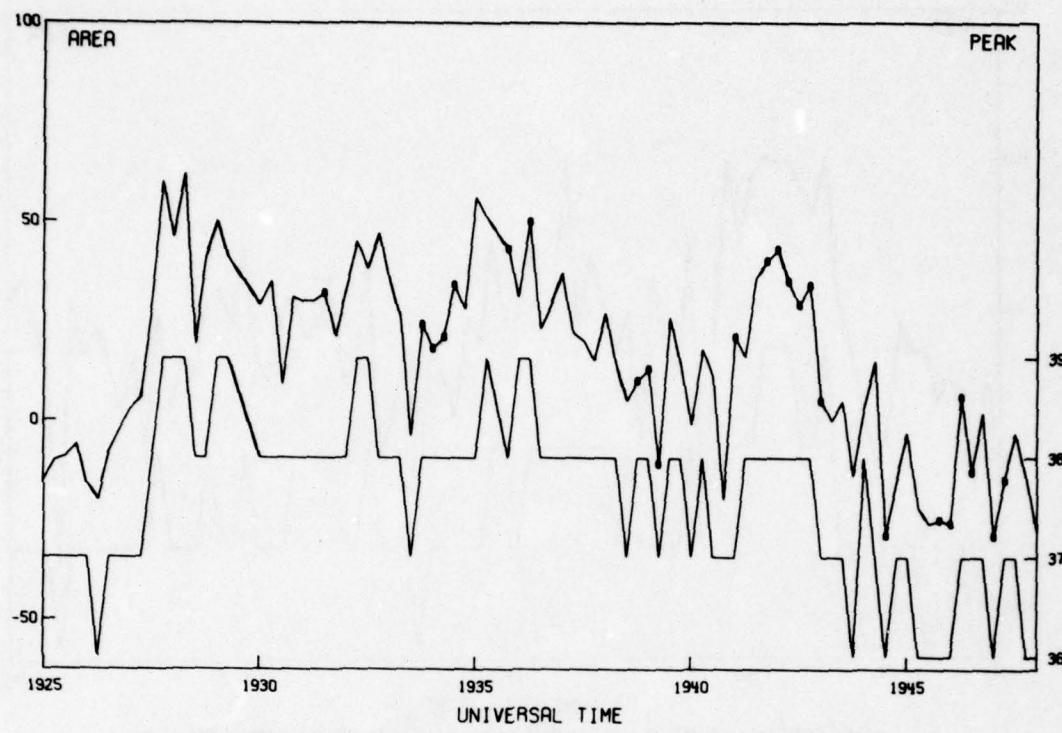


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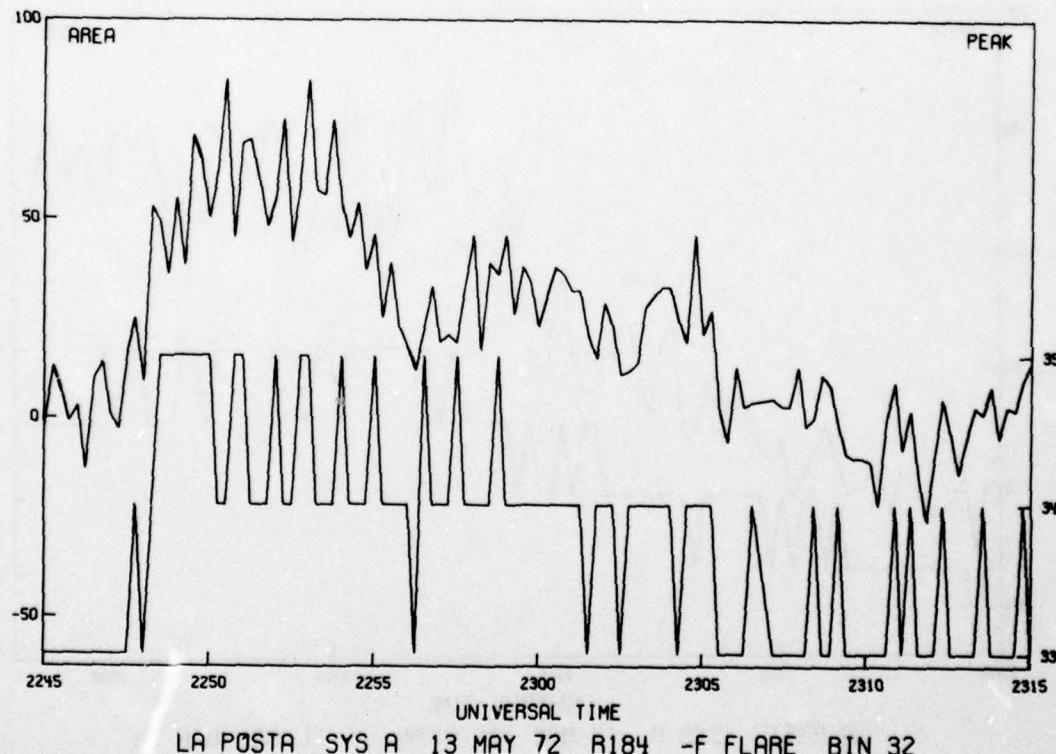


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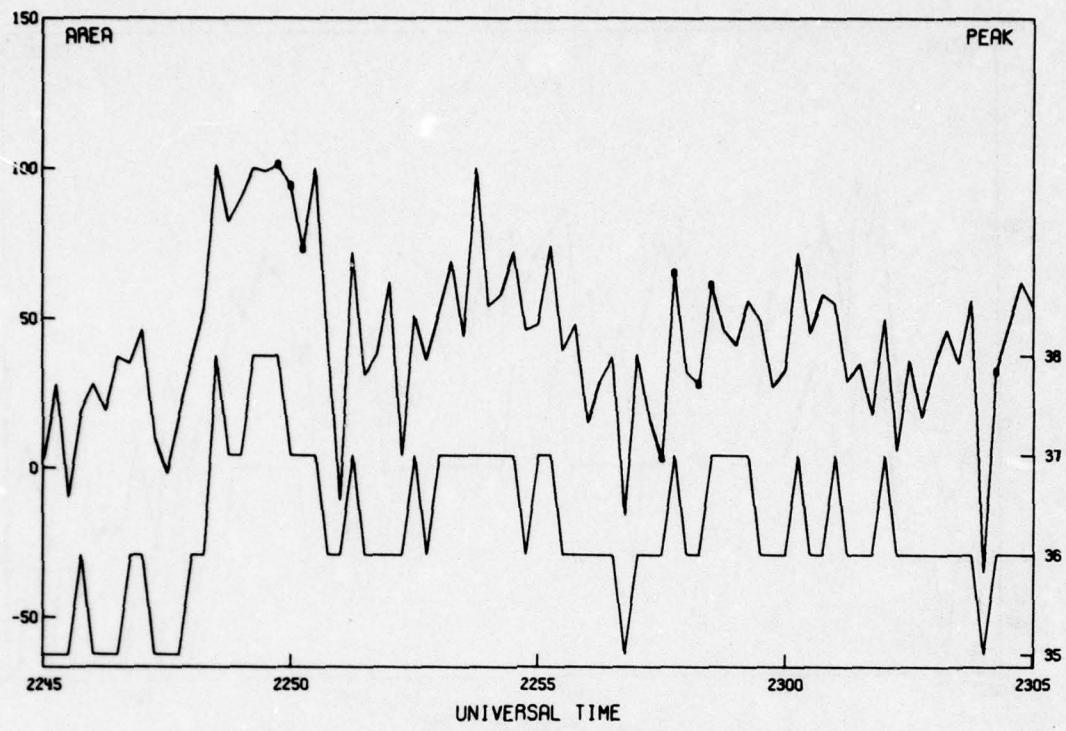




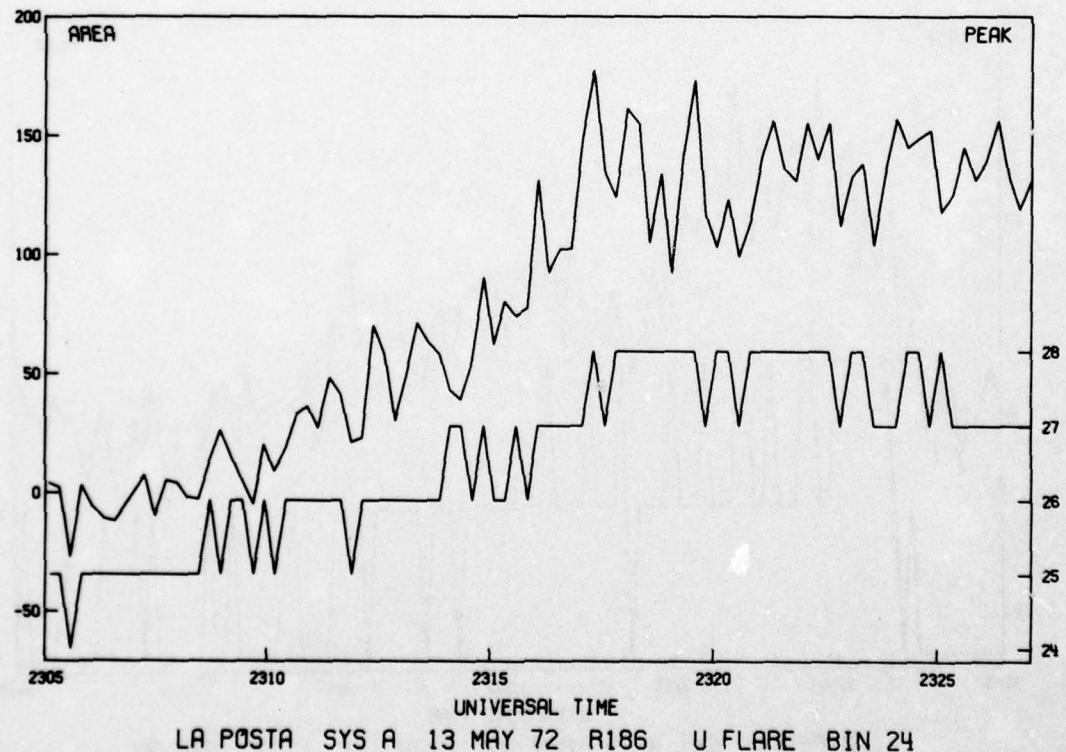
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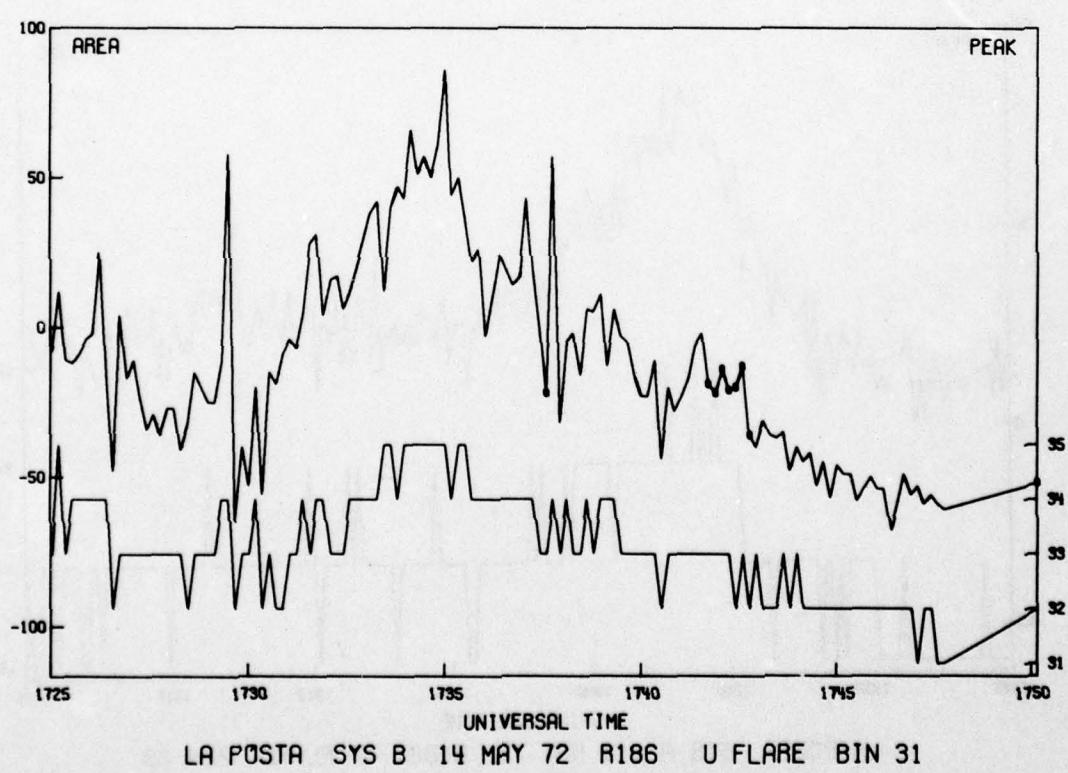
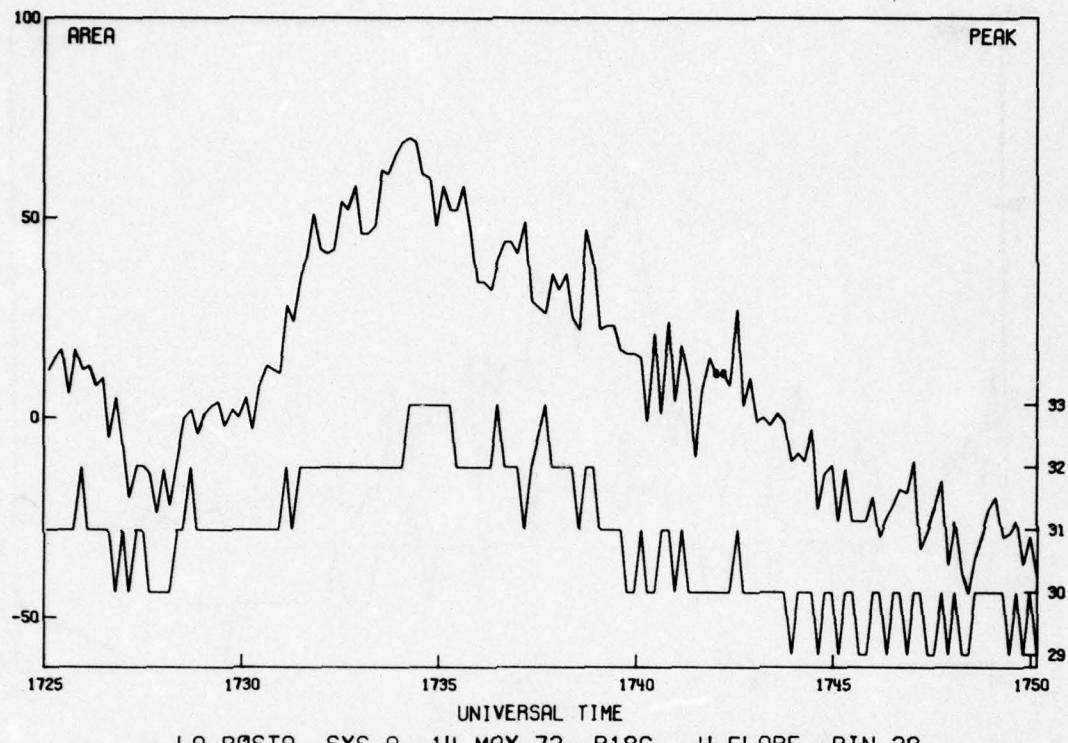
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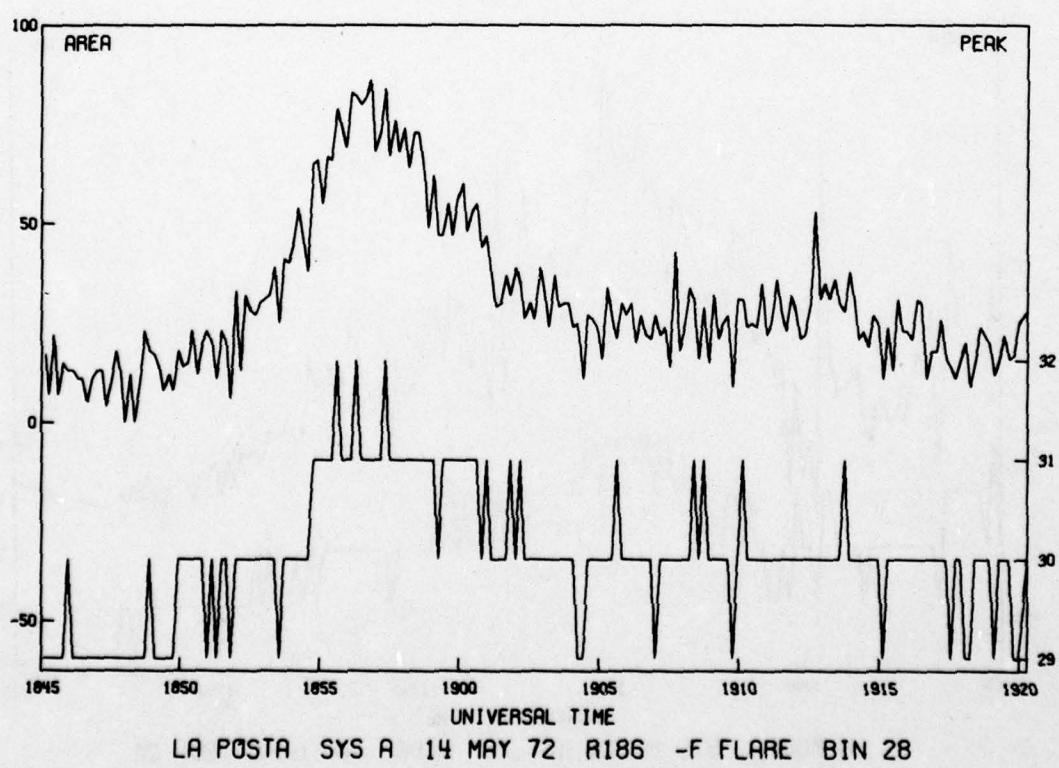
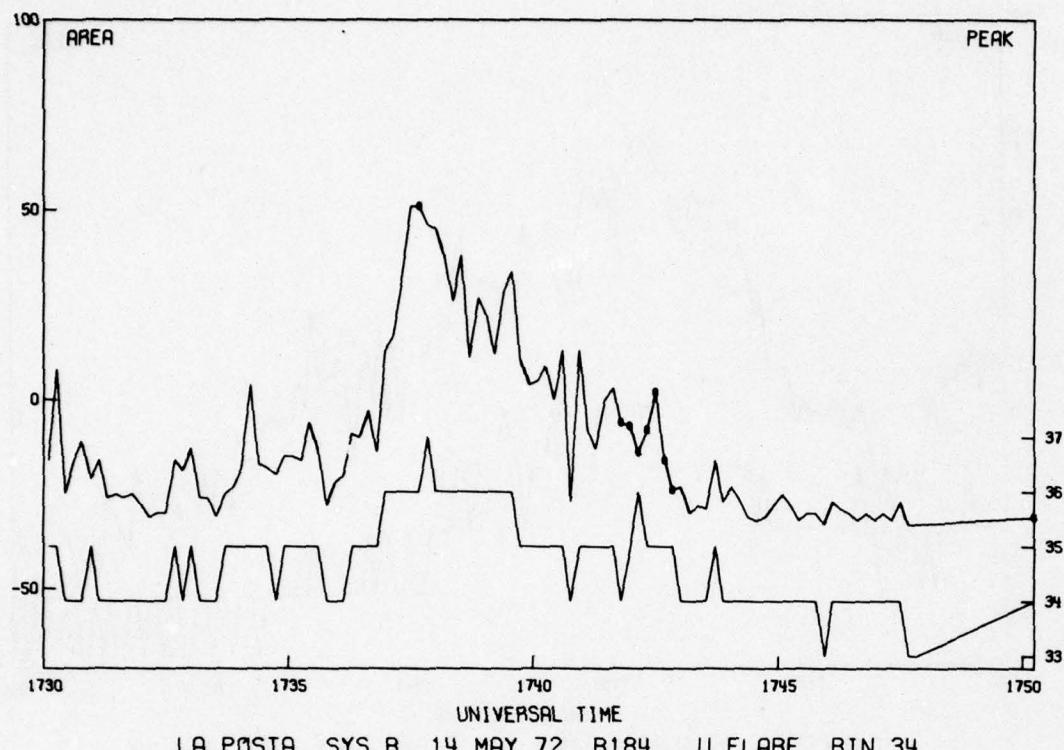


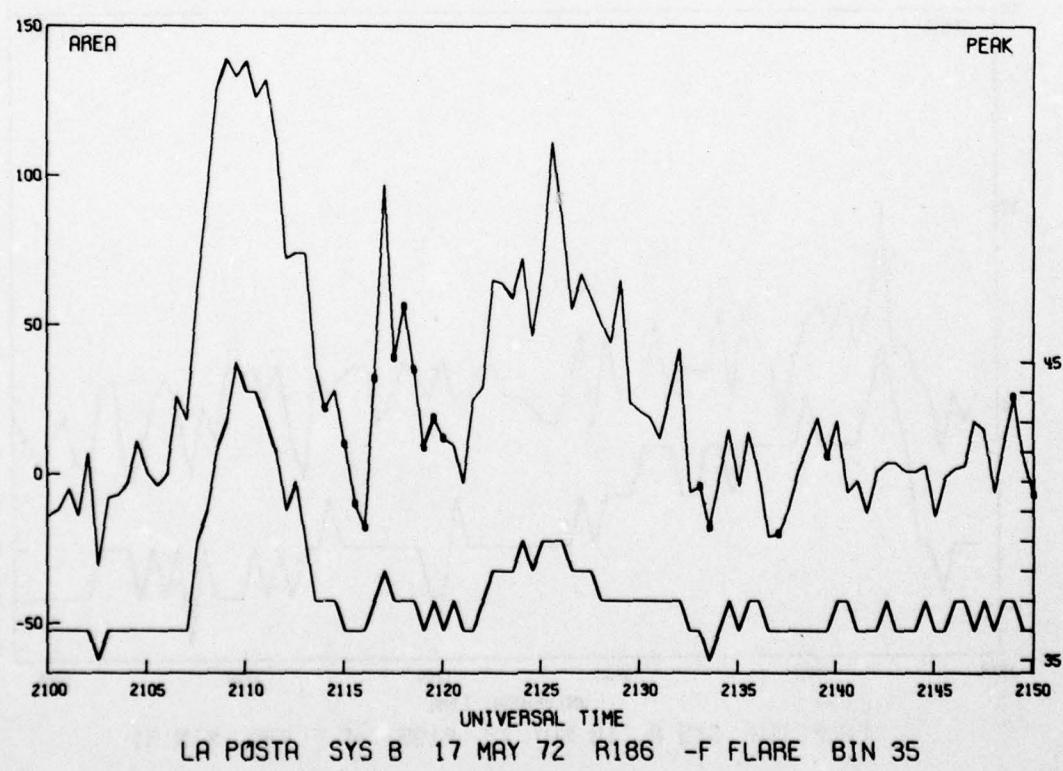
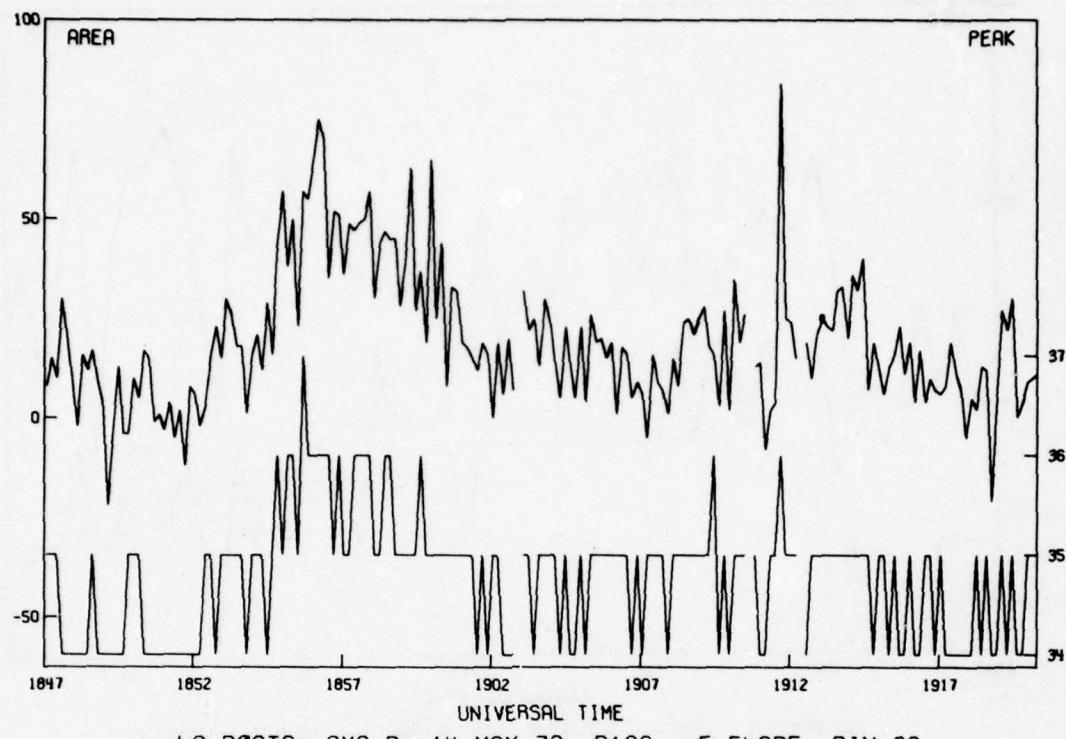
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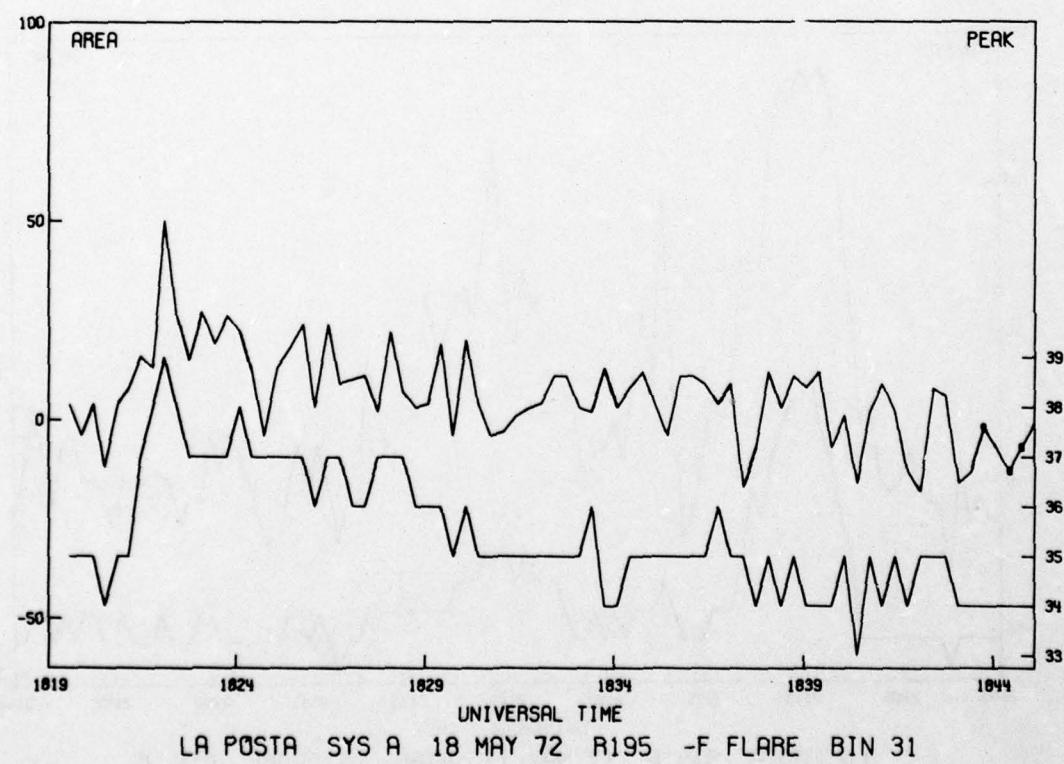
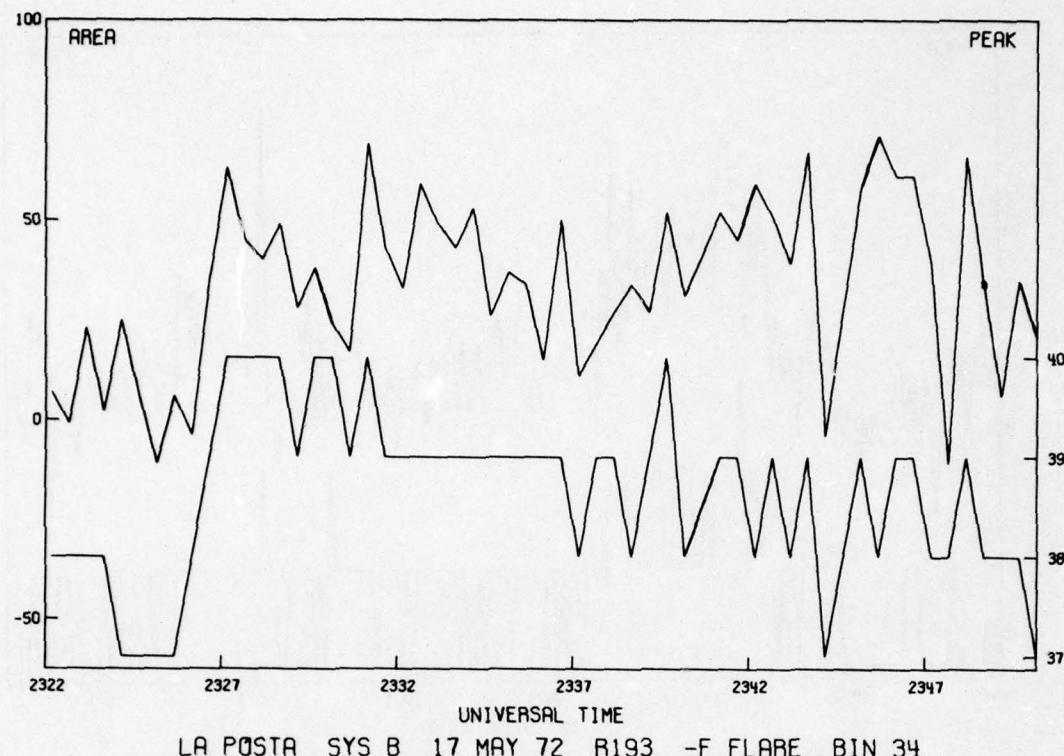


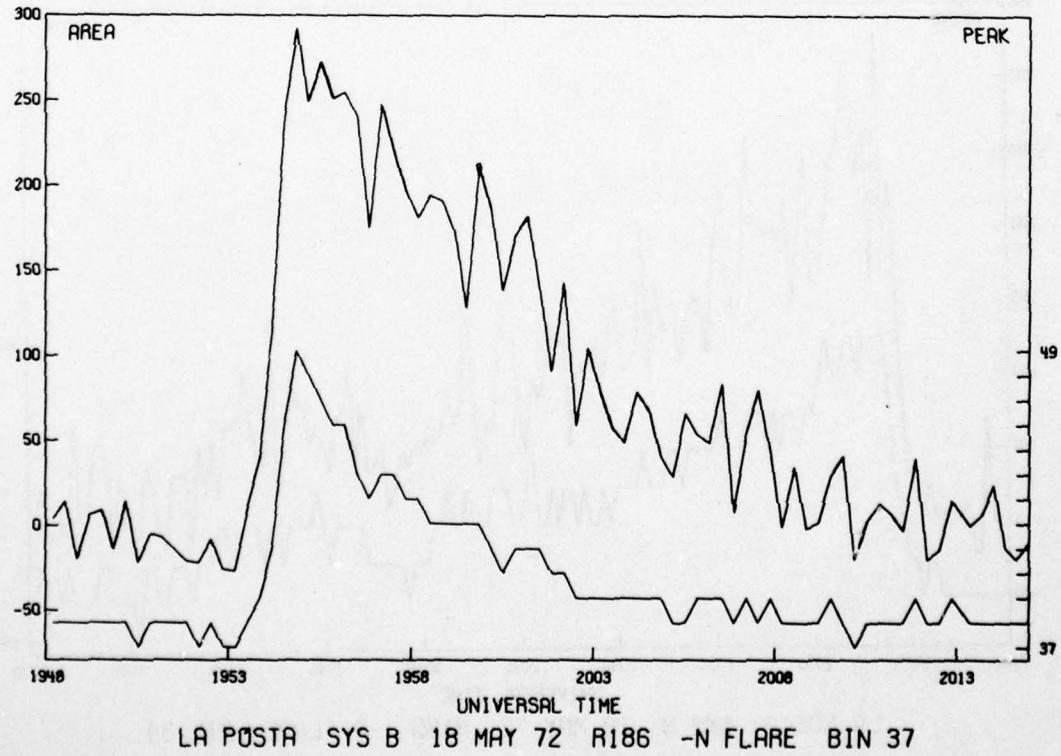
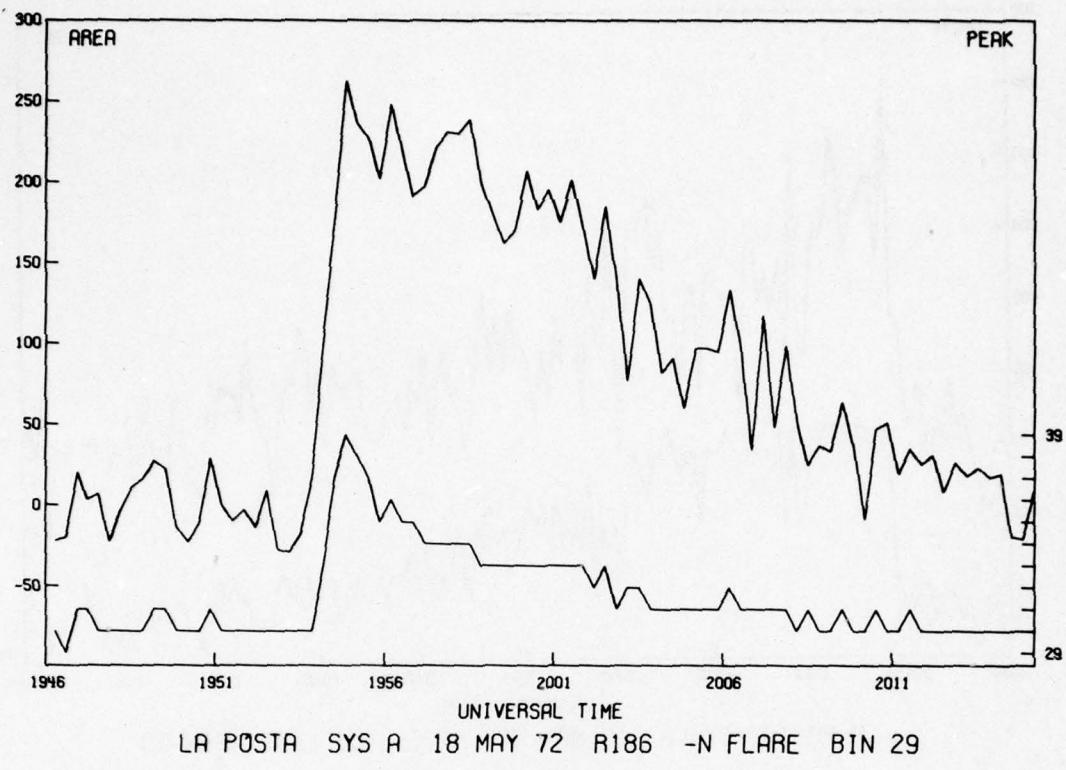
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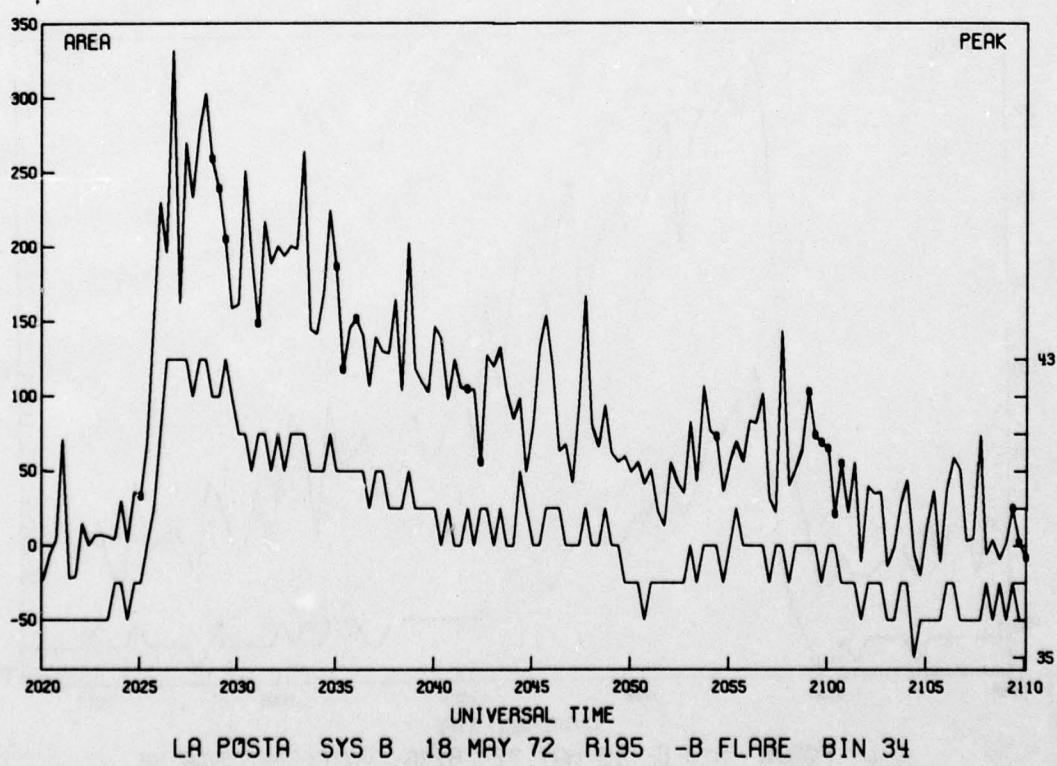
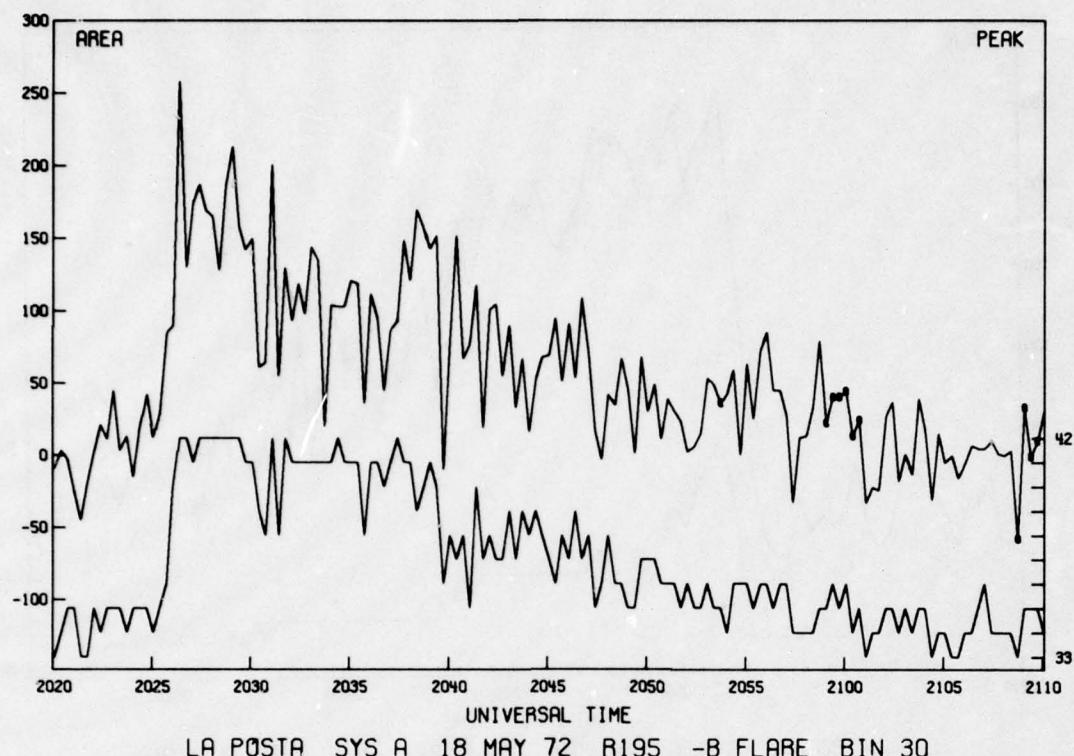


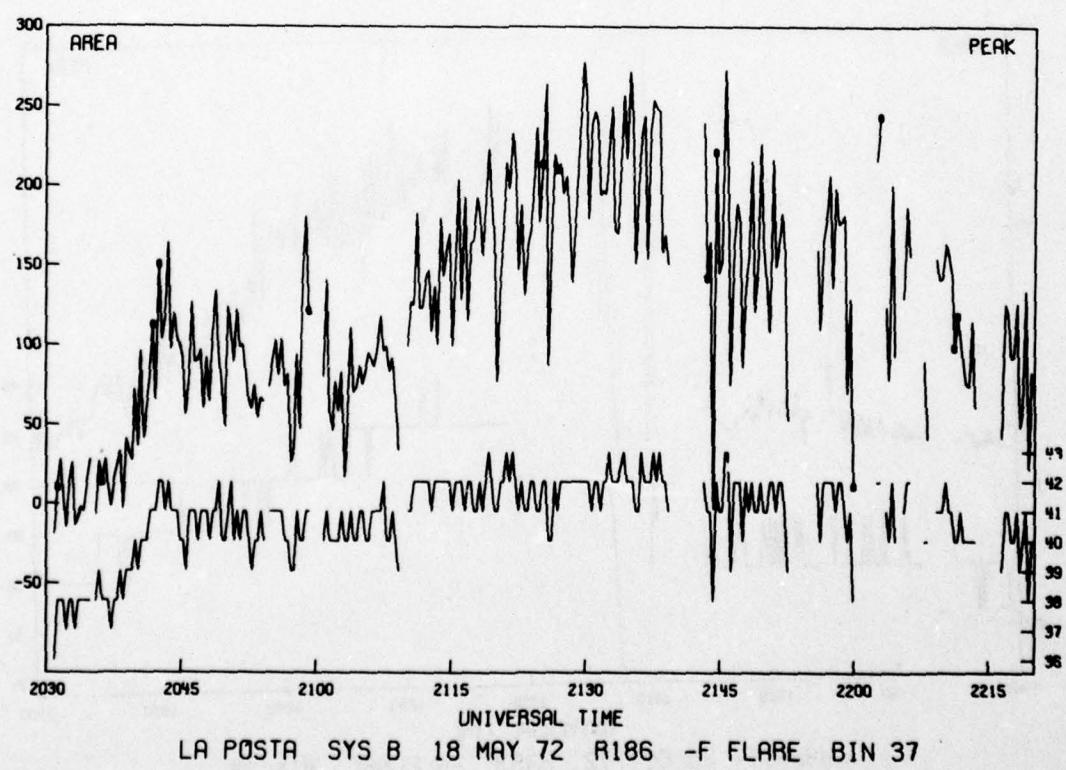
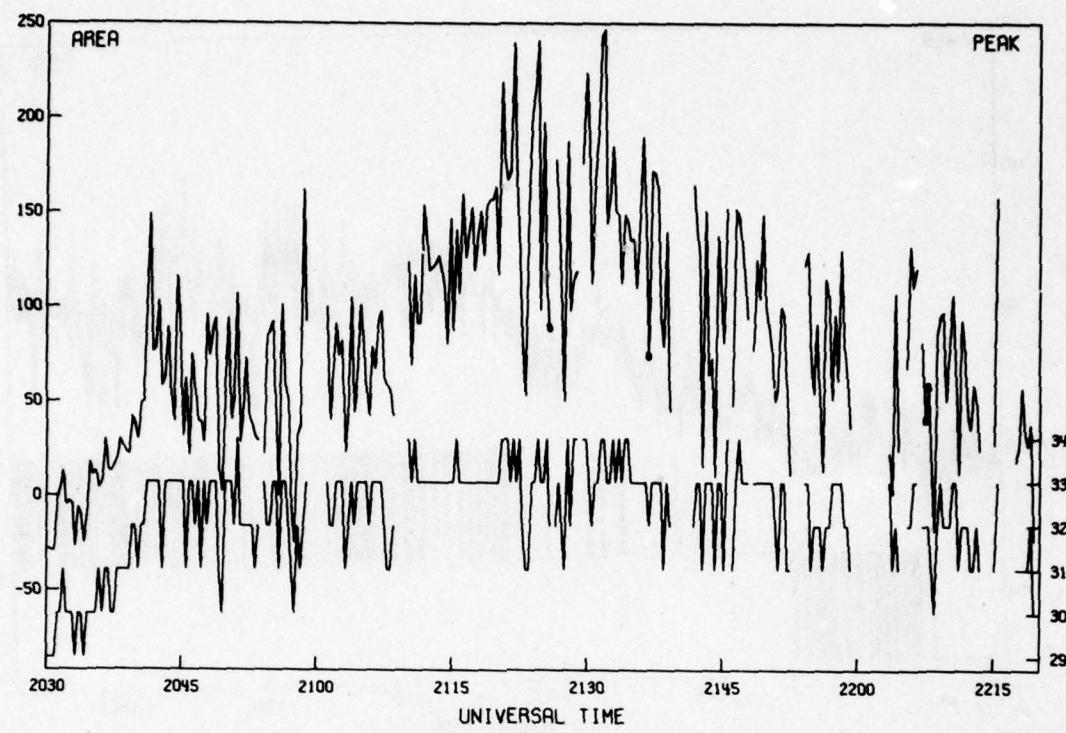


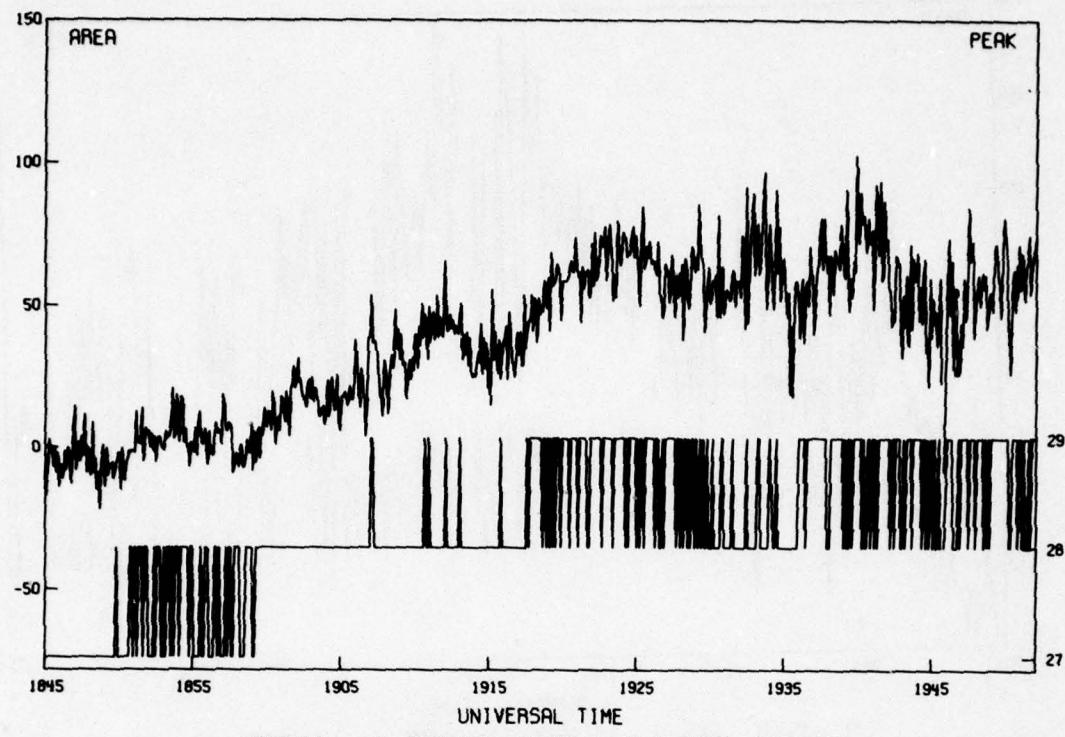




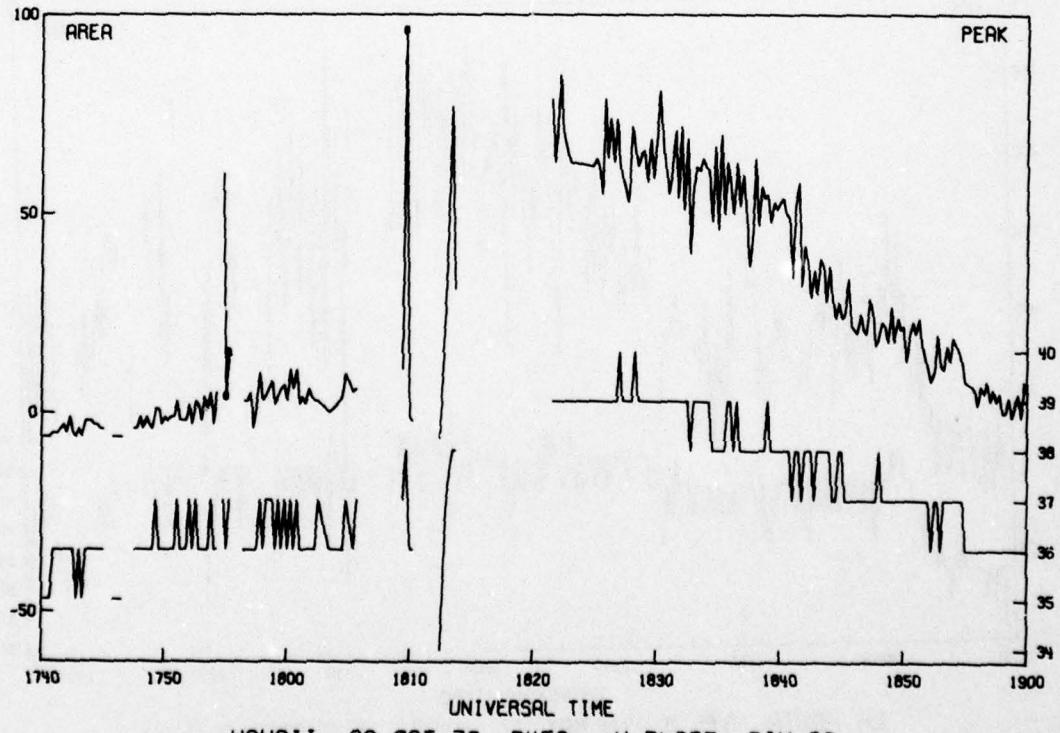




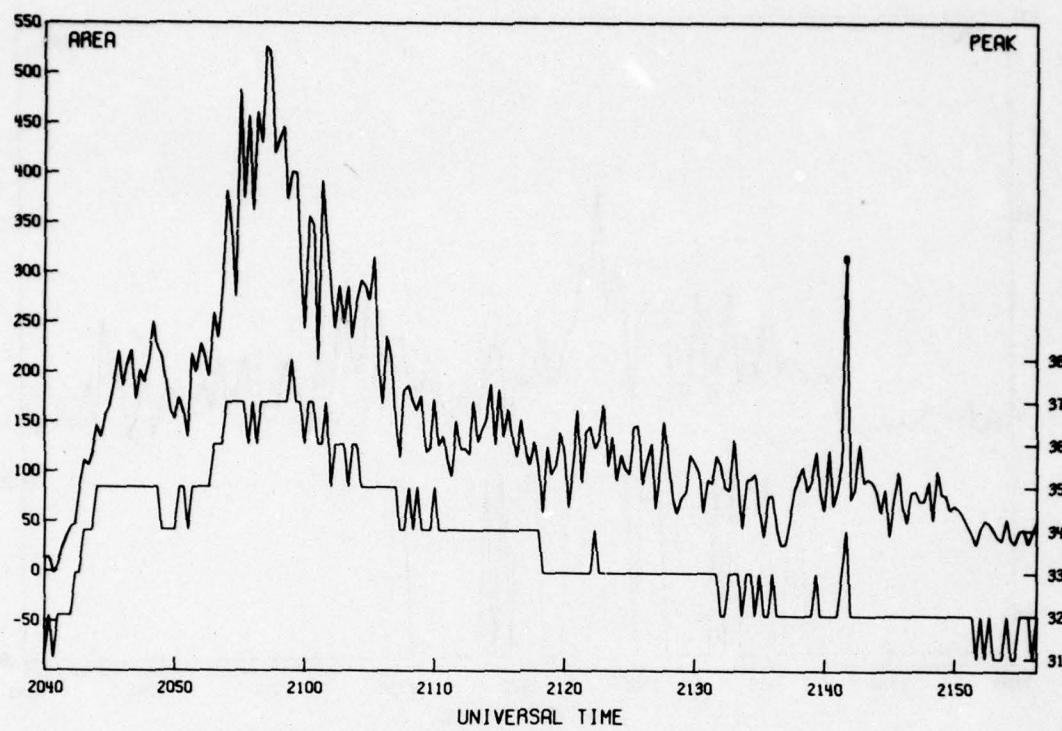




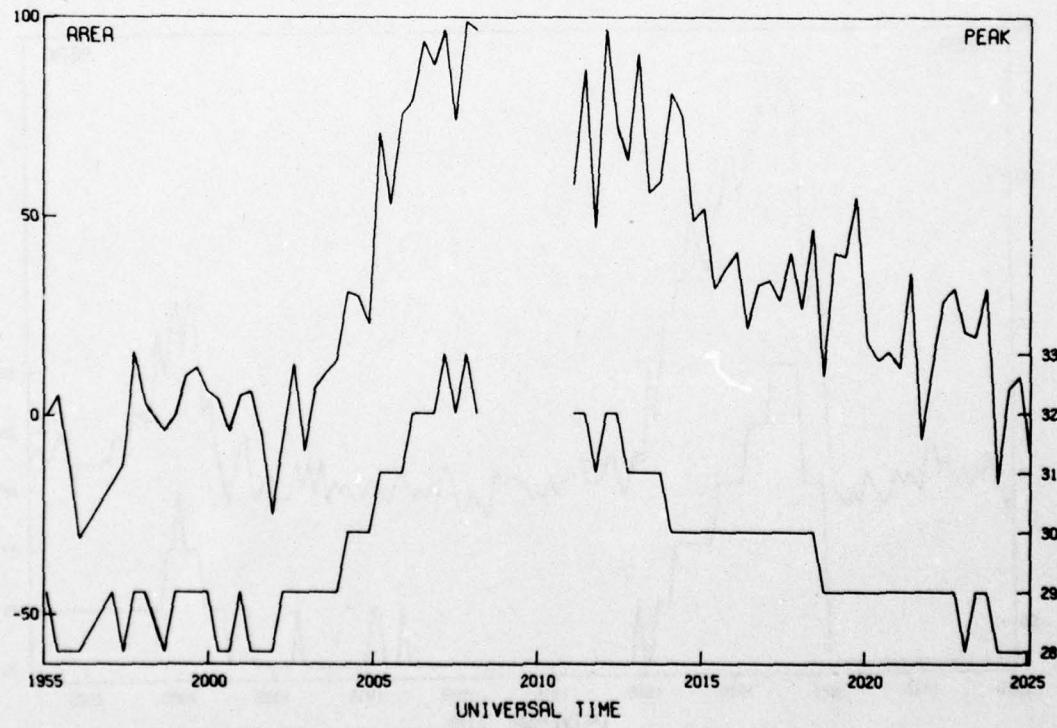
HAWAII 18 OCT 72 R448 -N FLARE BIN 26



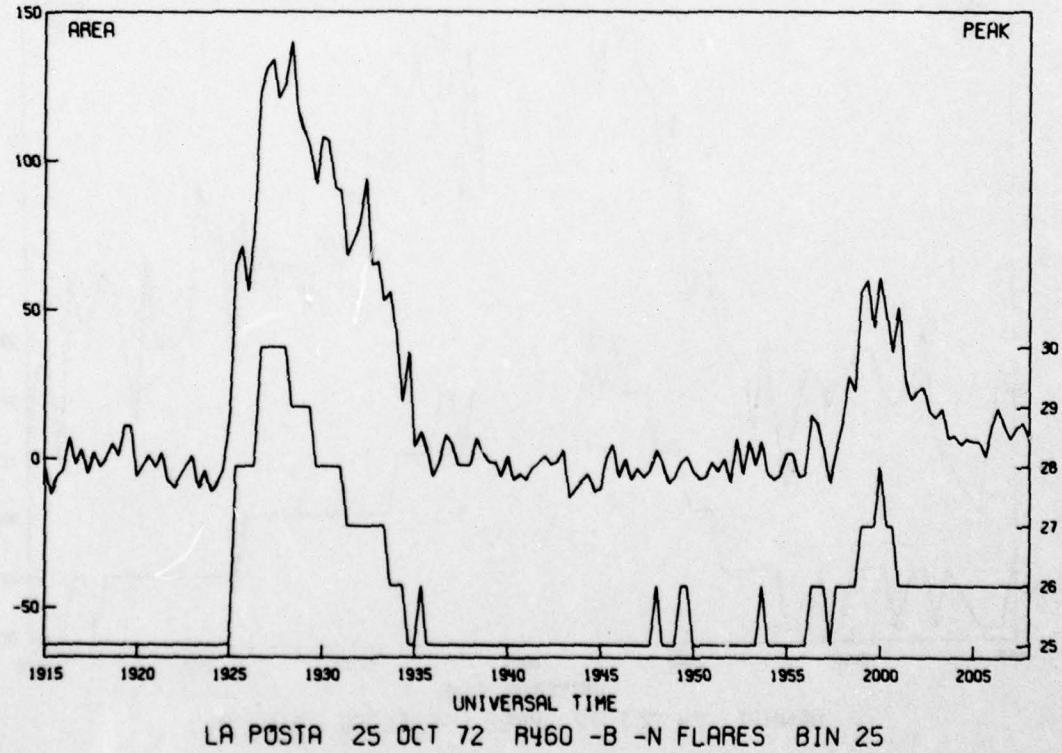
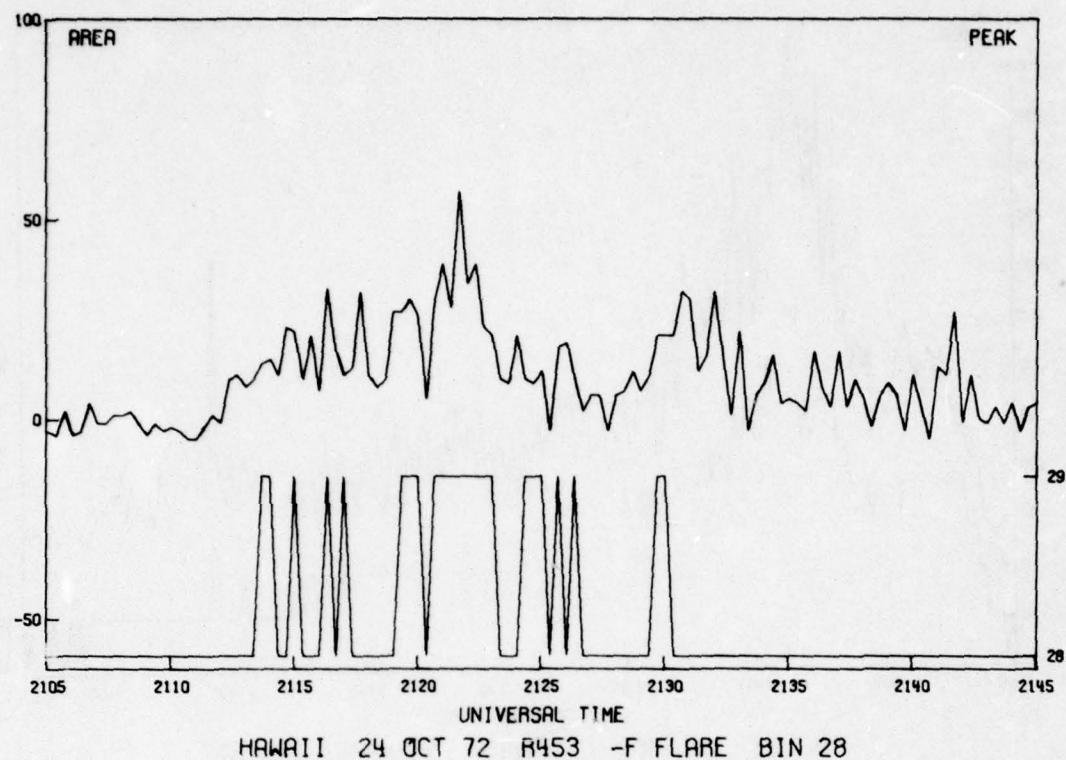
HAWAII 20 OCT 72 R453 -N FLARE BIN 36

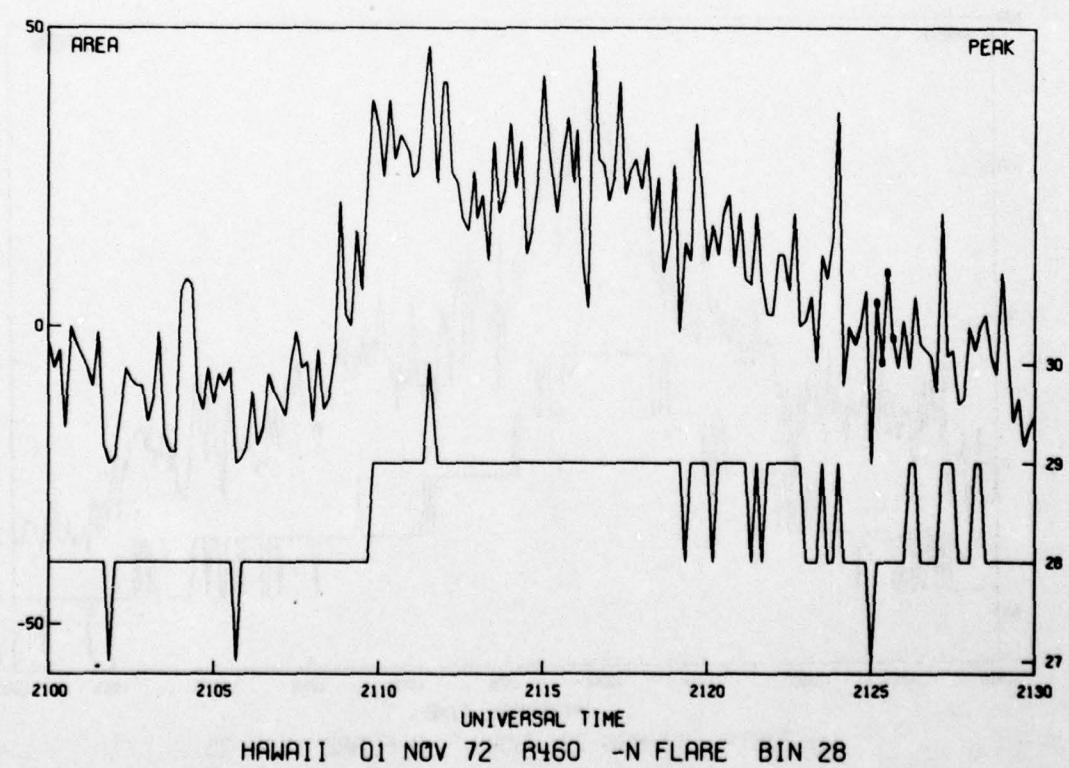
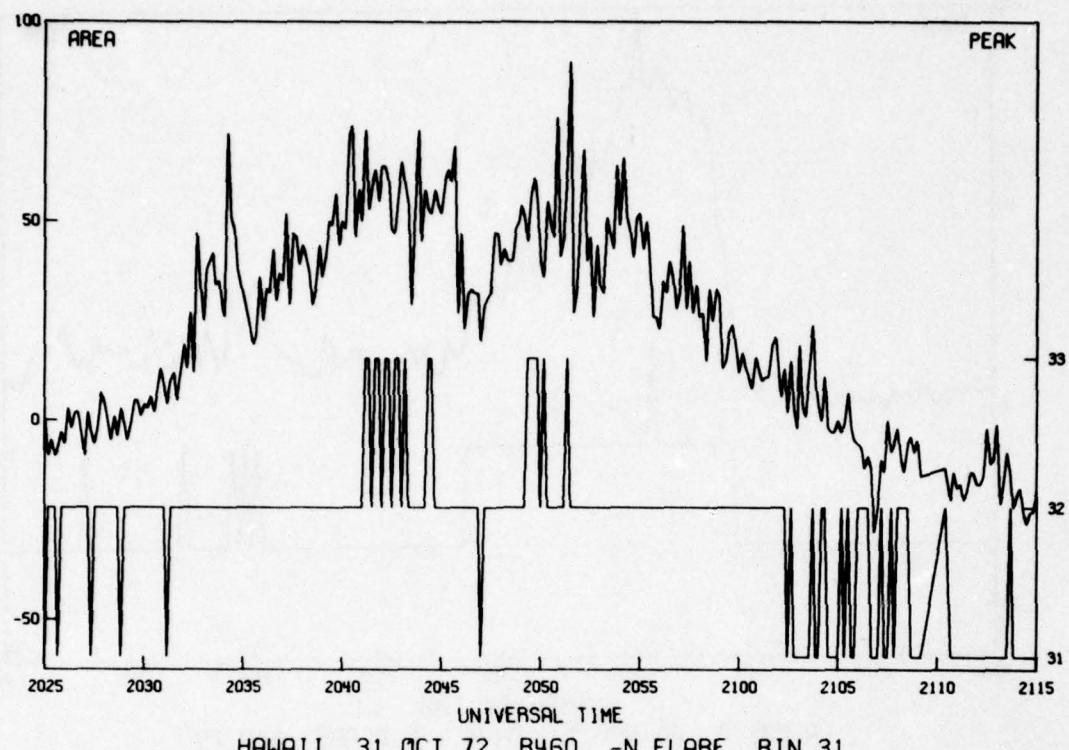


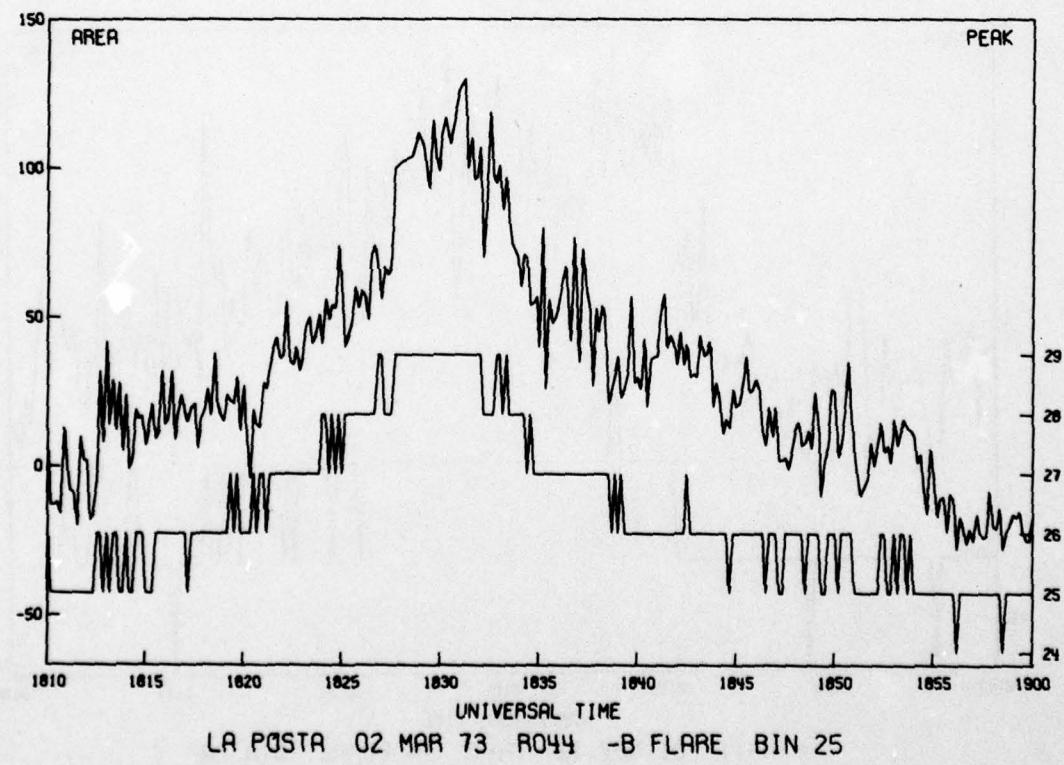
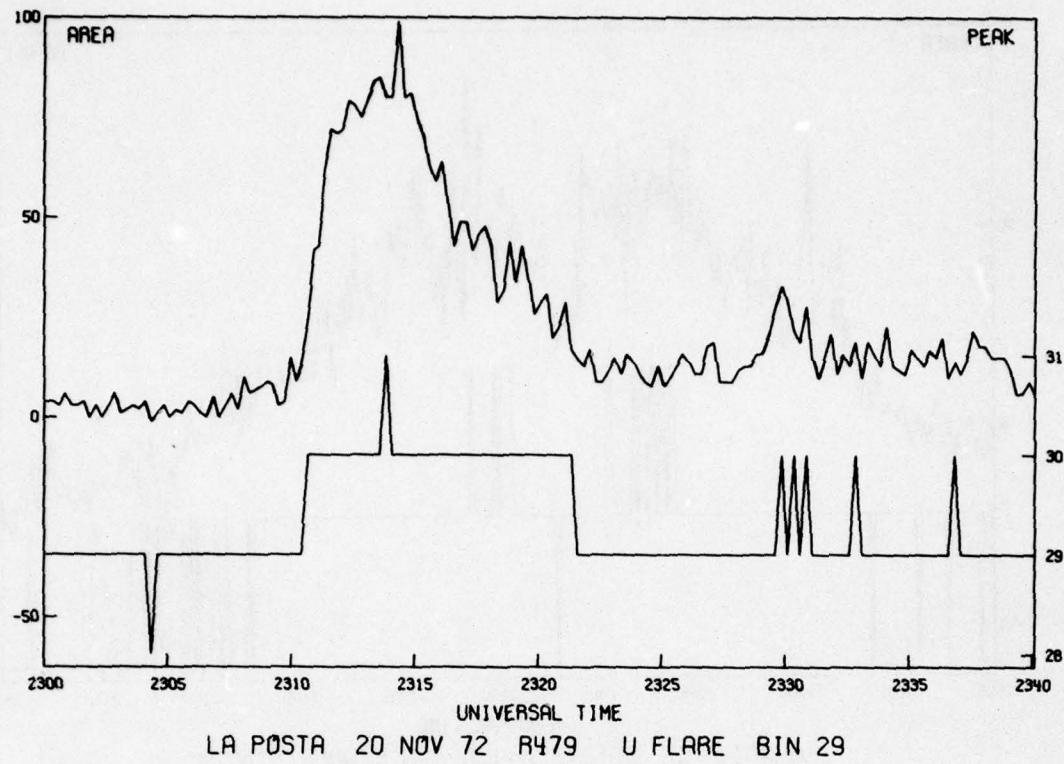
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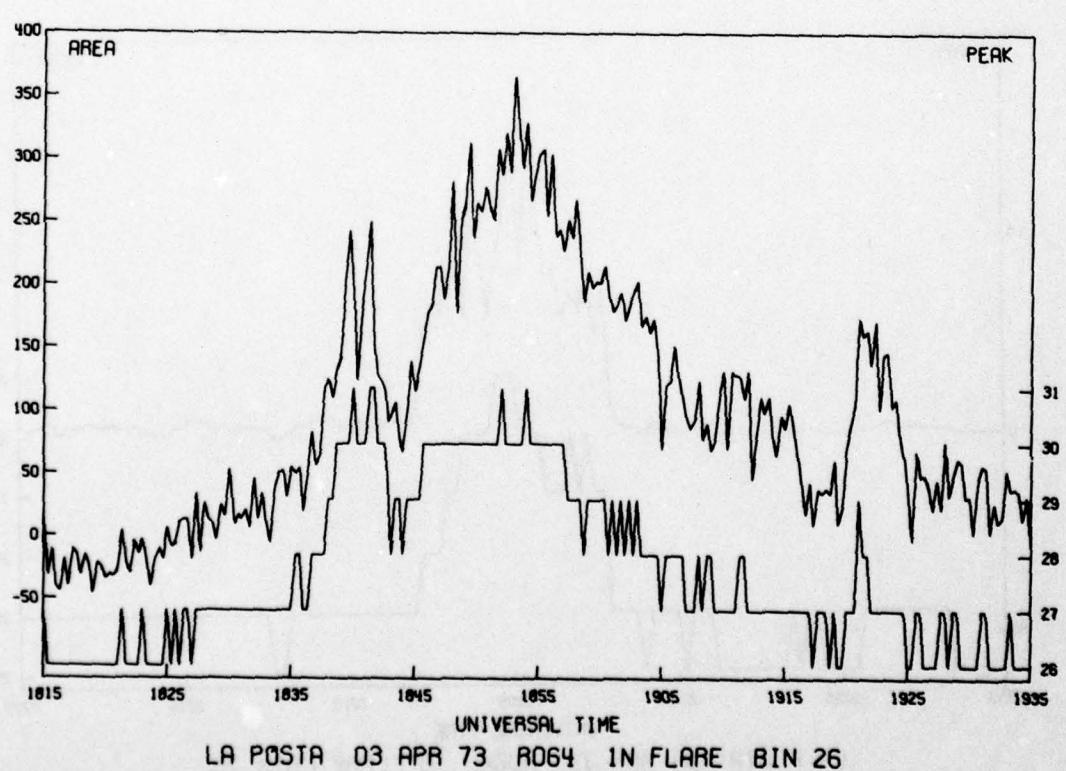
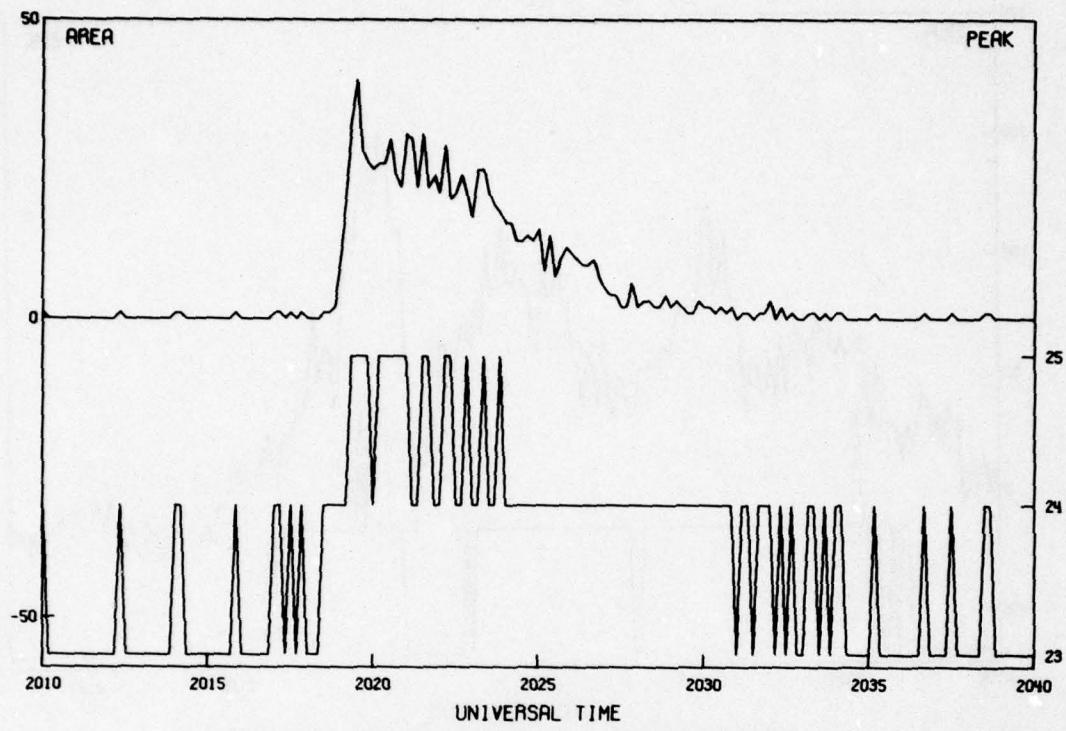


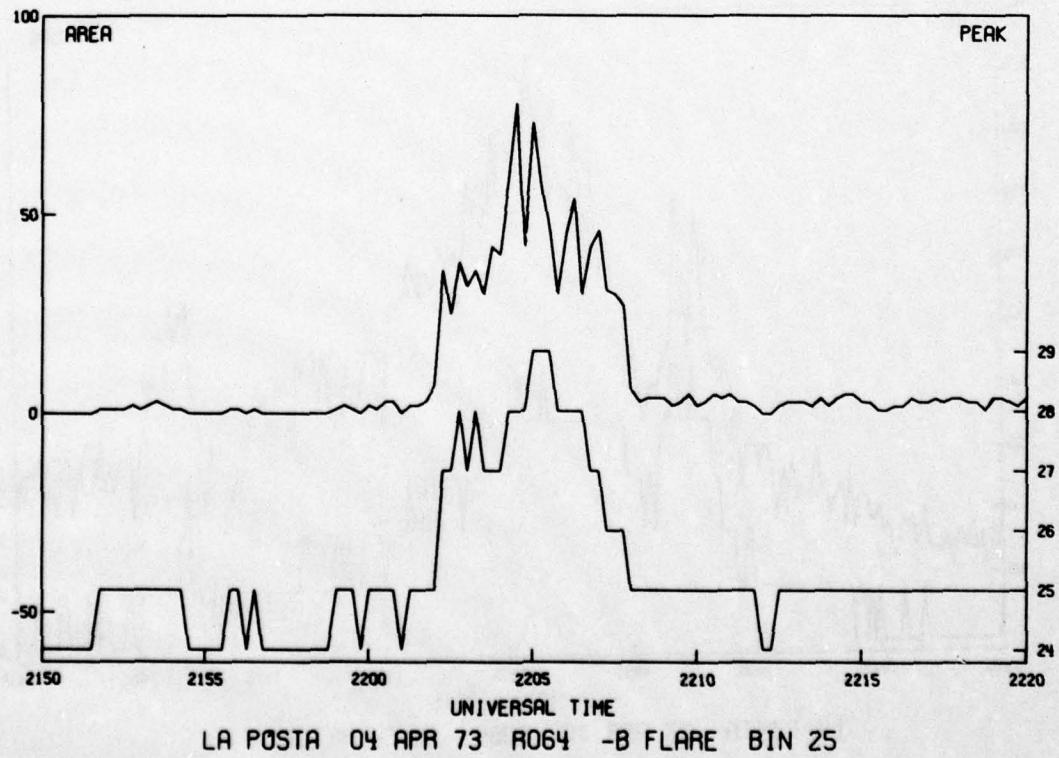
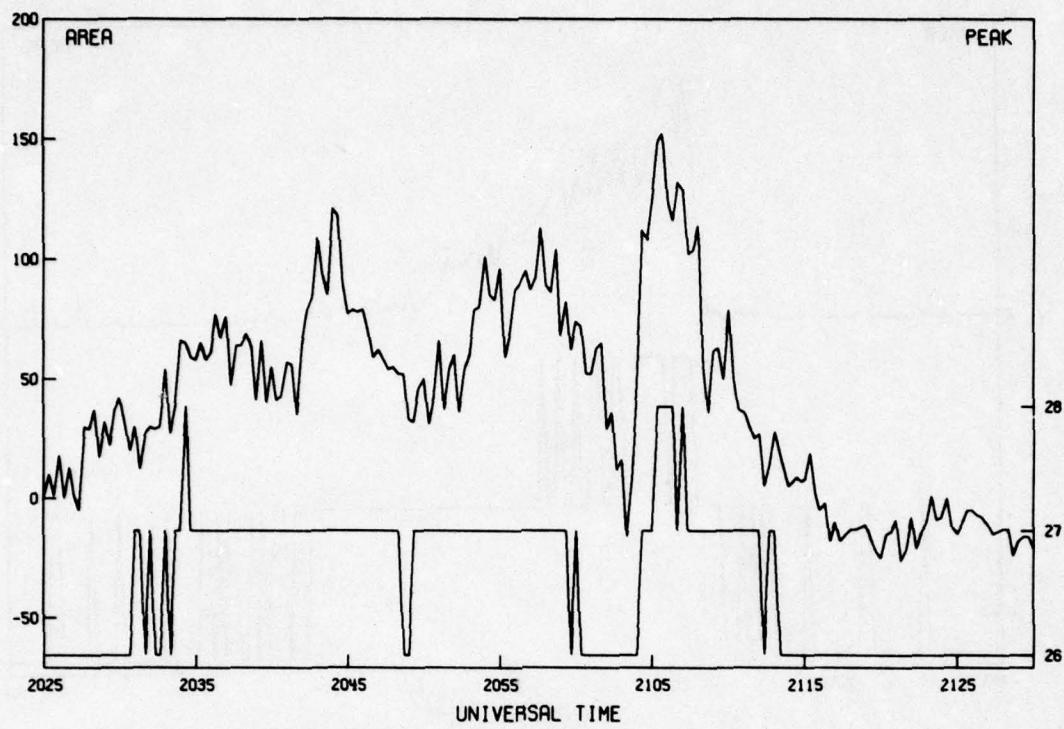
HAWAII 24 OCT 72 R453 -F FLARE BIN 28

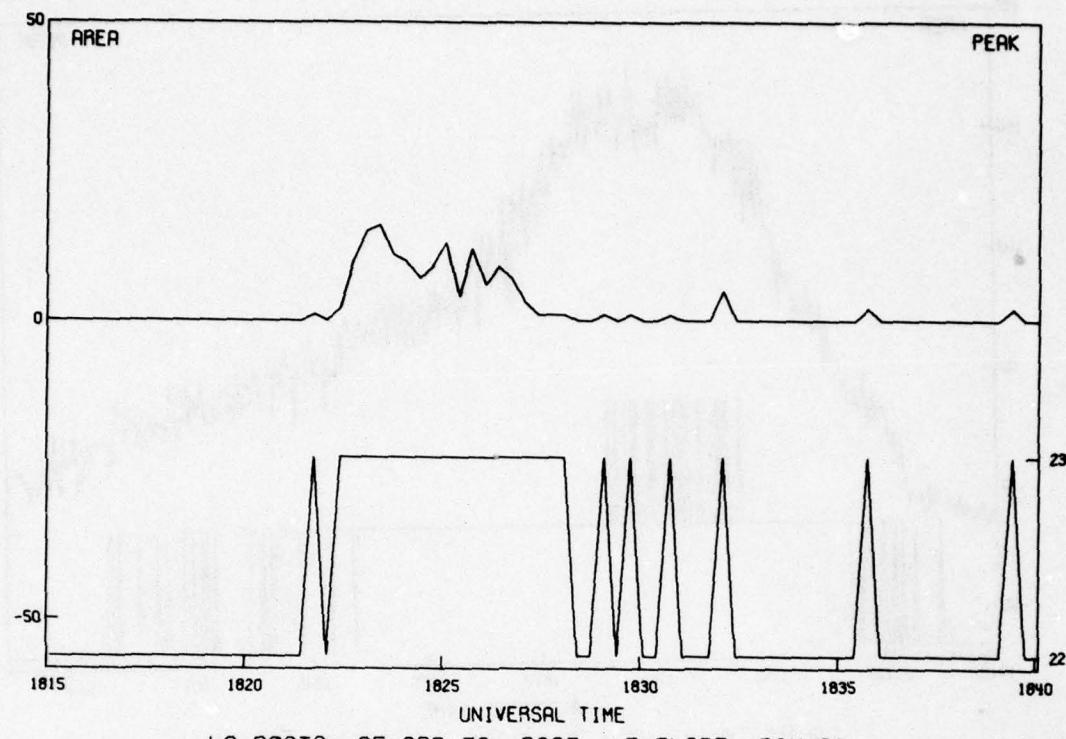




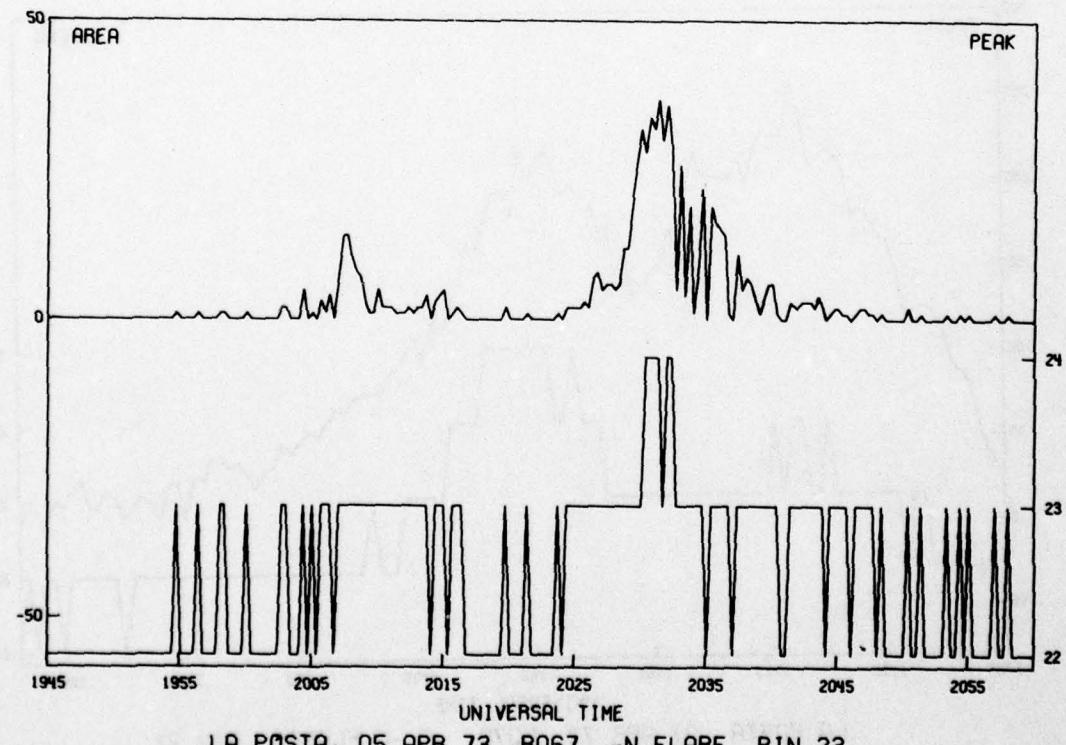




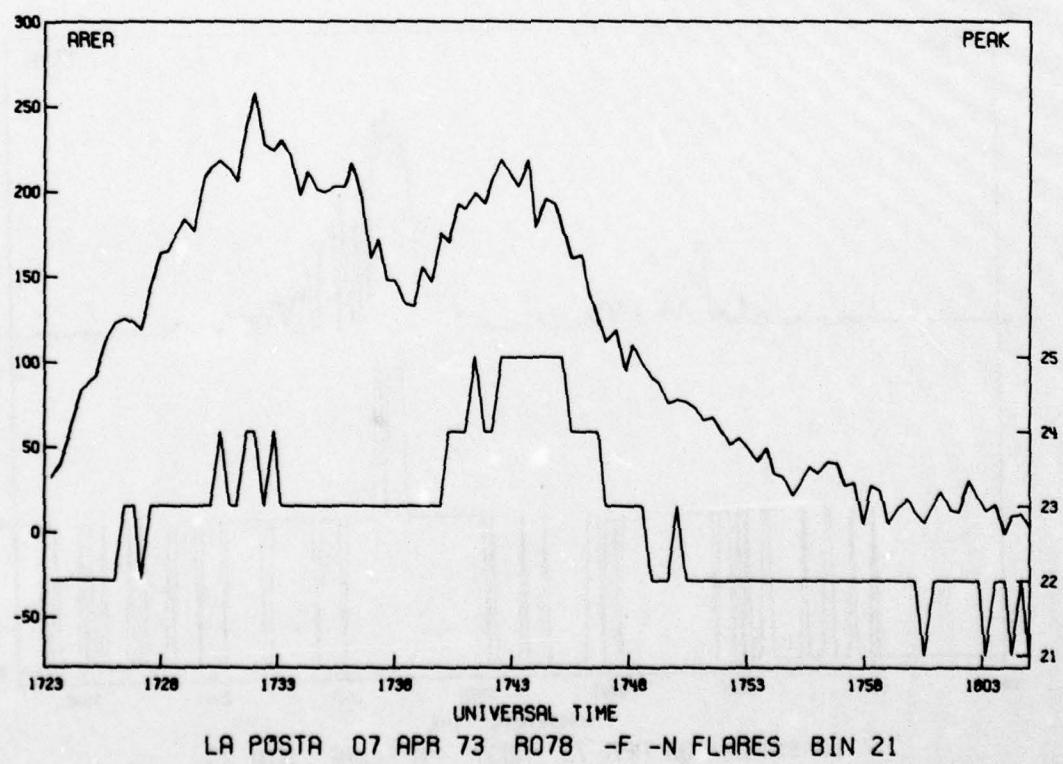
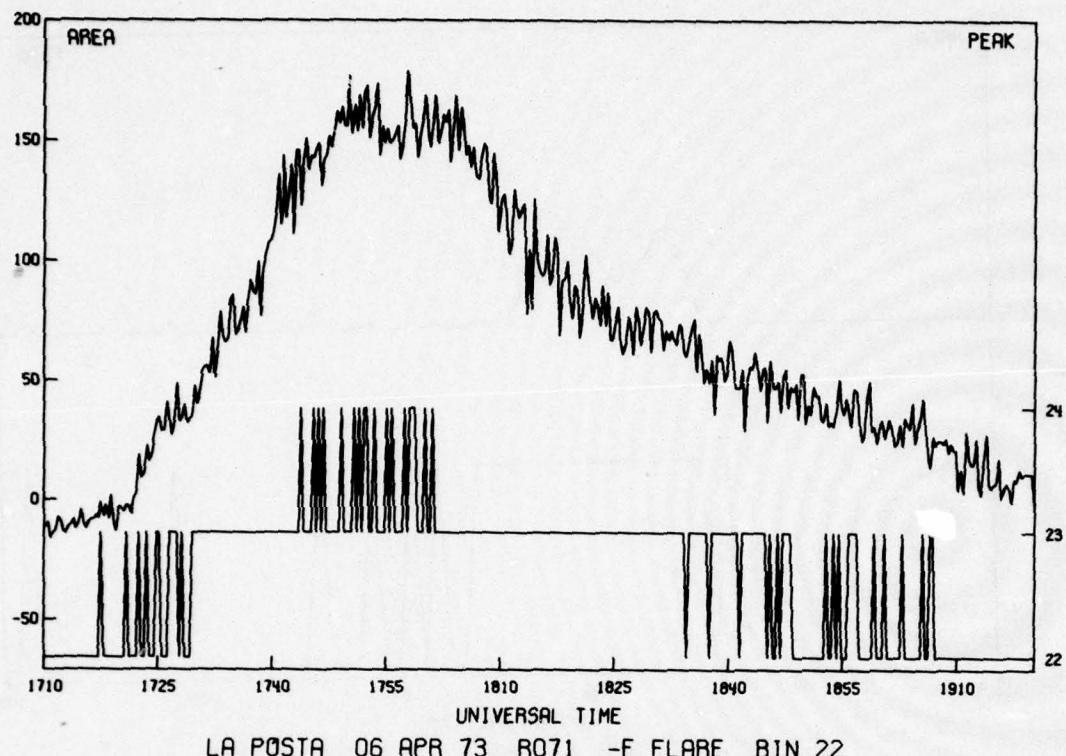


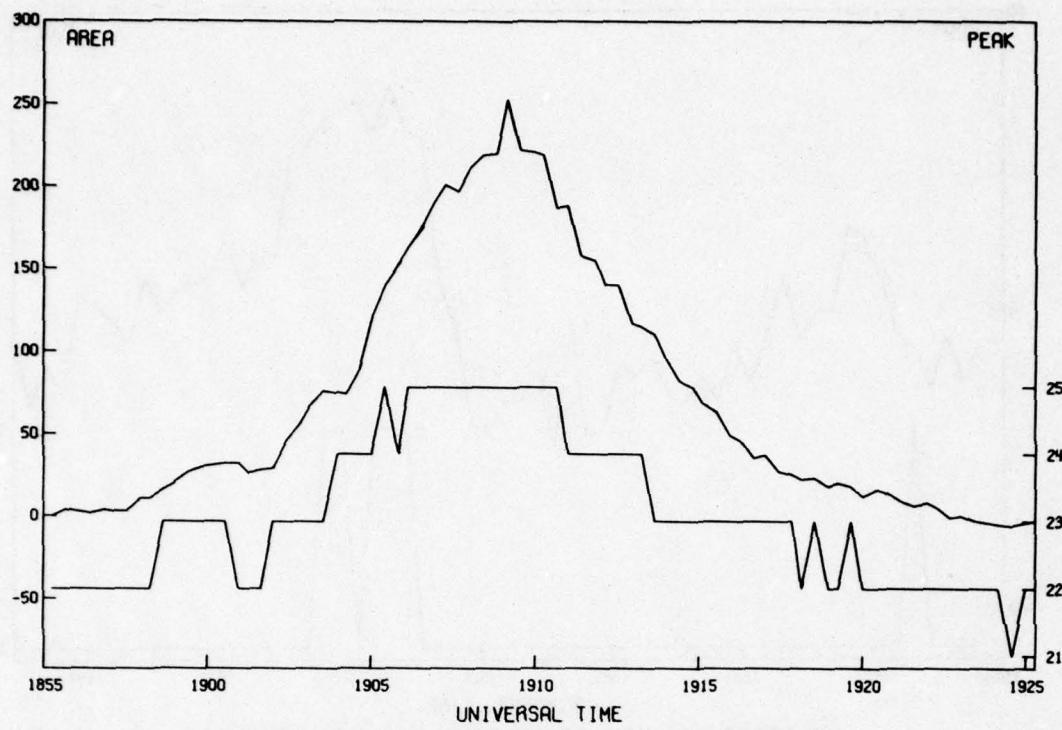


LA POSTA 05 APR 73 R067 -F FLARE BIN 23

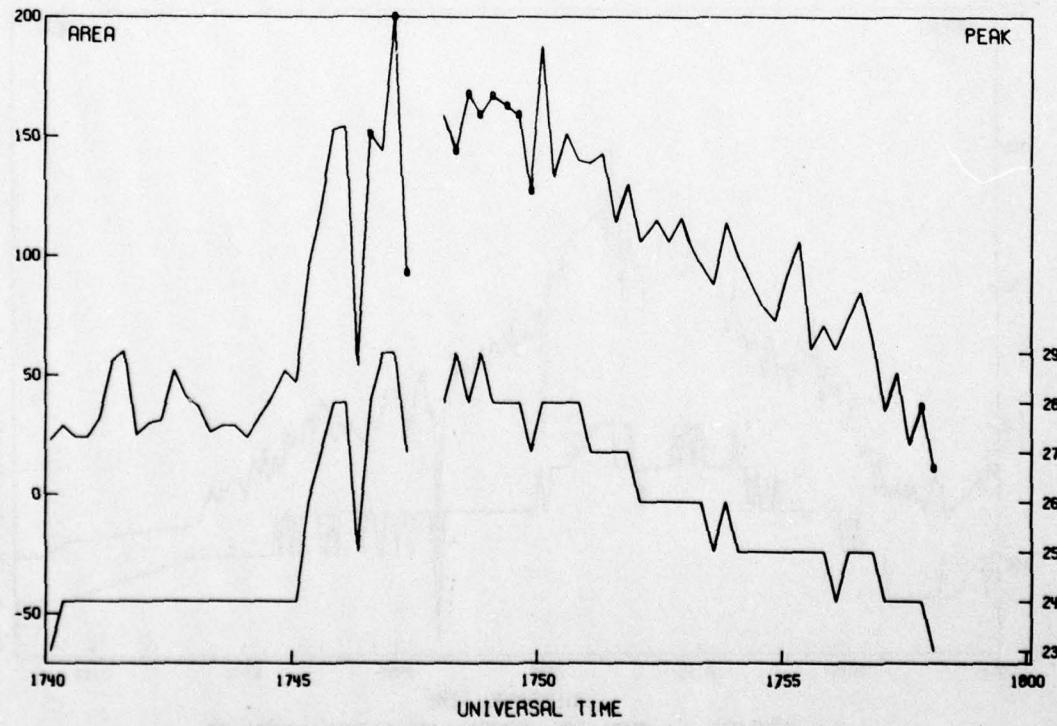


LA POSTA 05 APR 73 R067 -N FLARE BIN 23

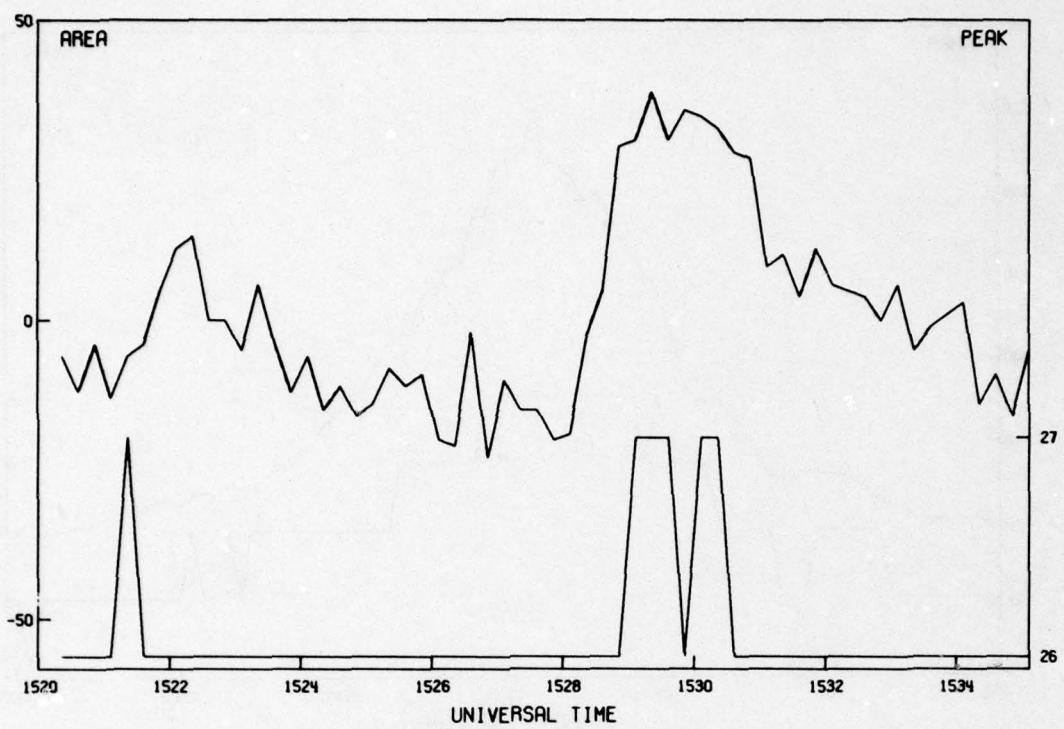




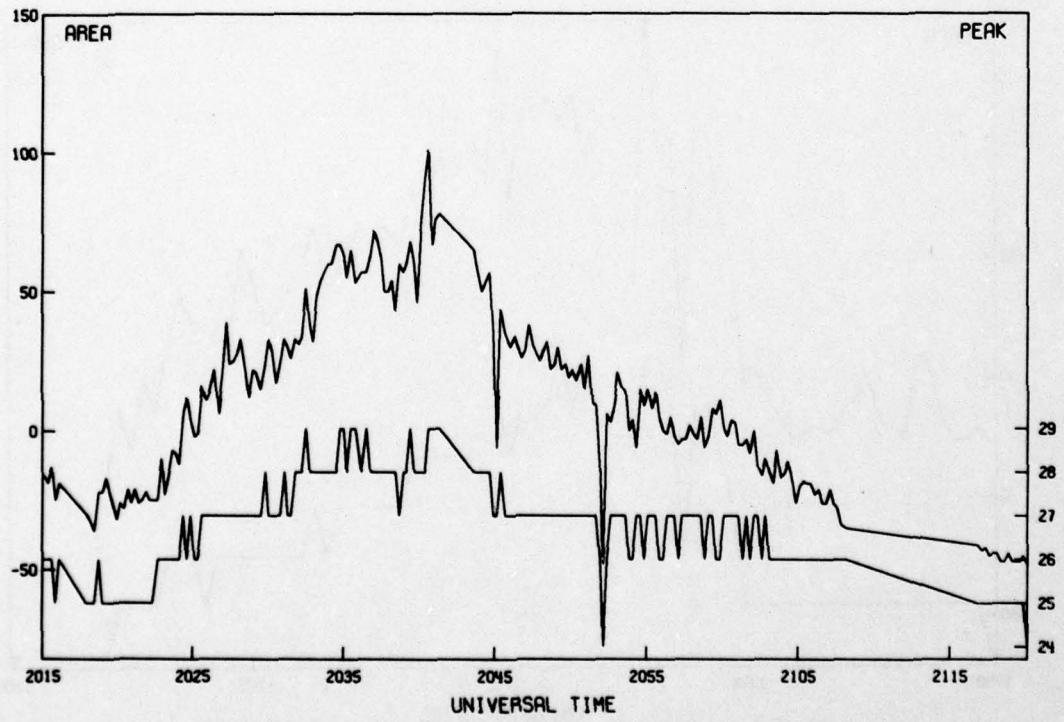
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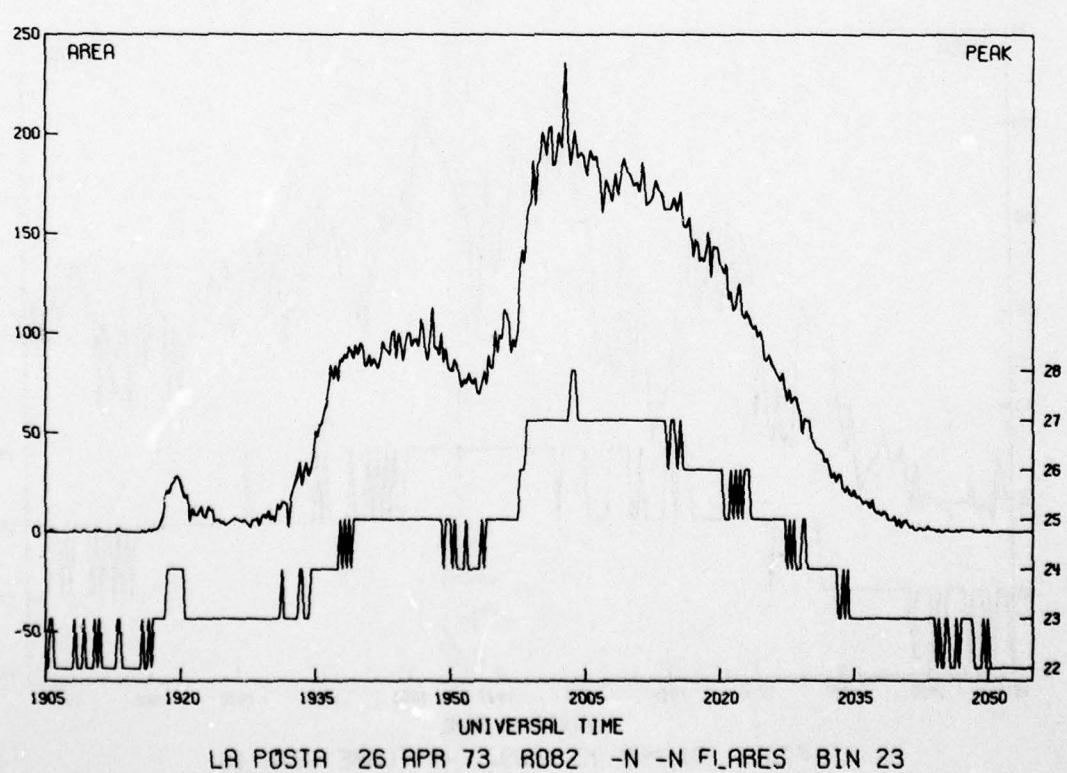
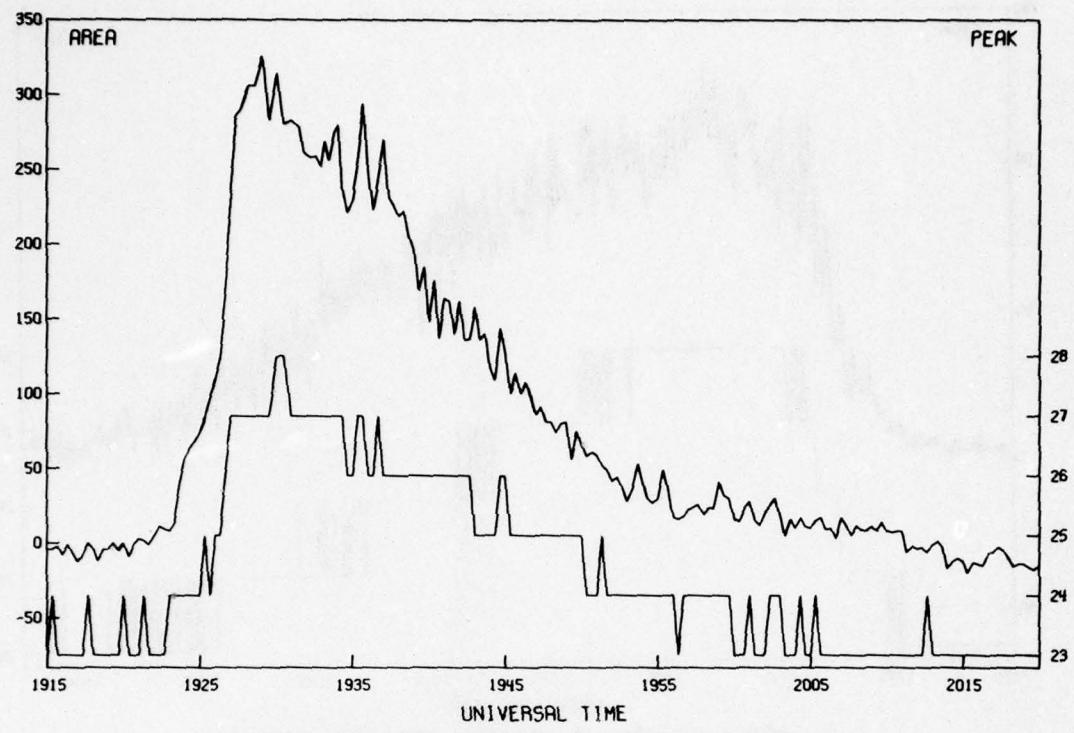
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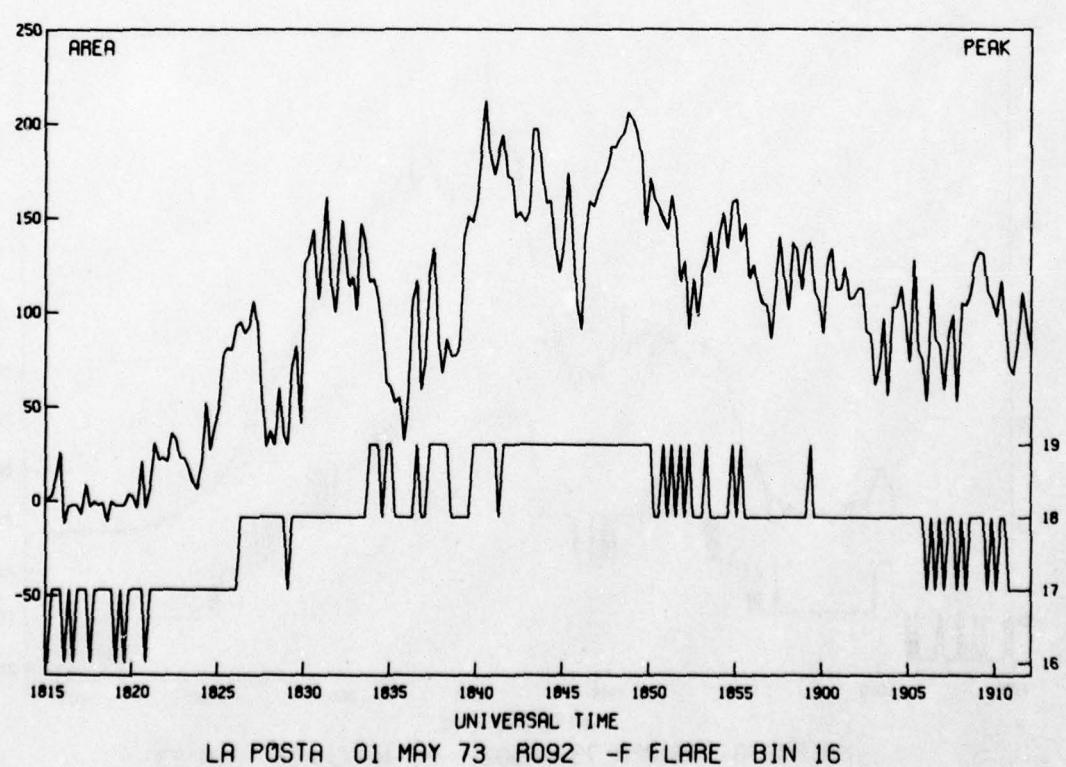
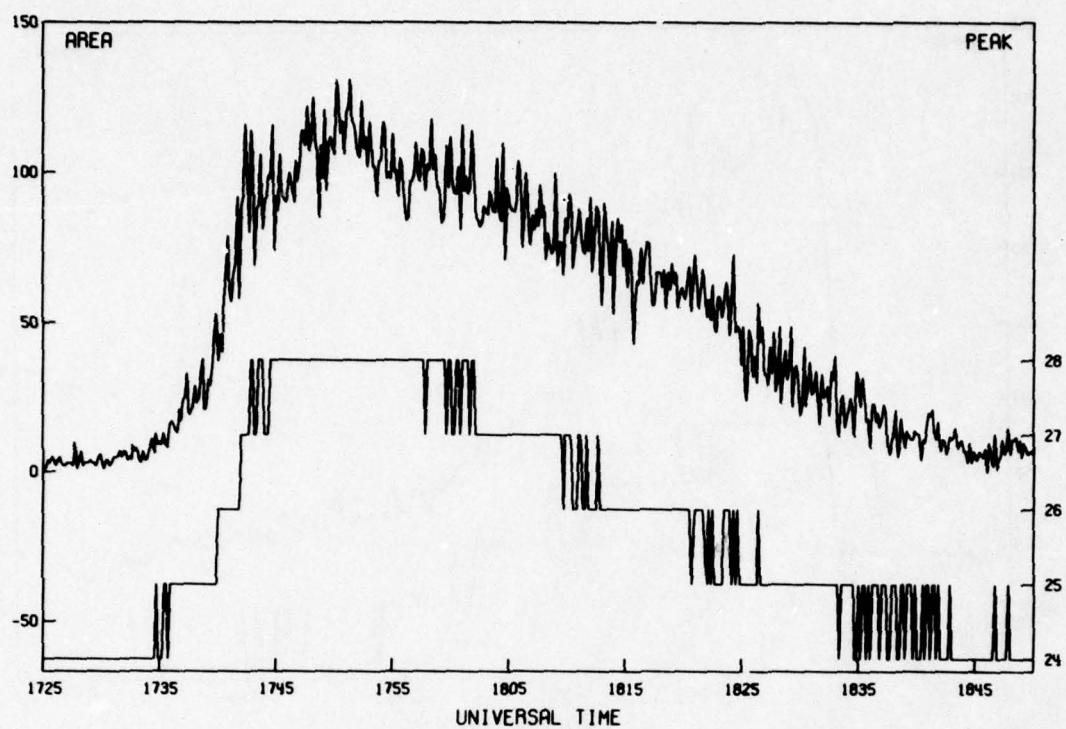


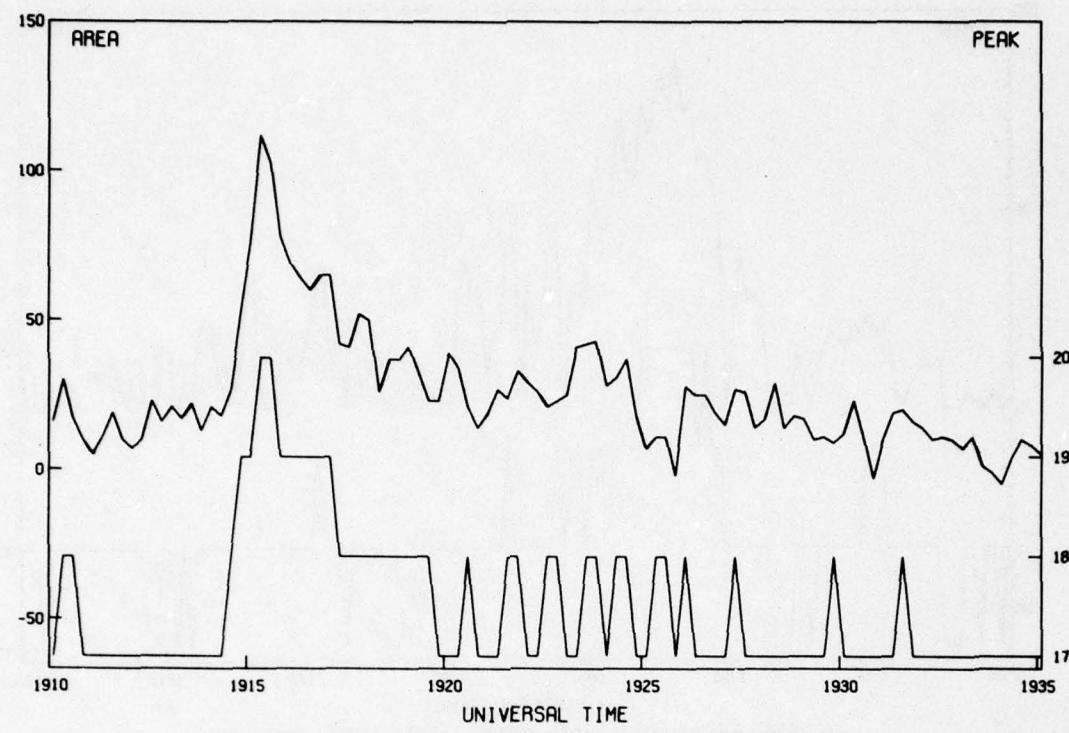
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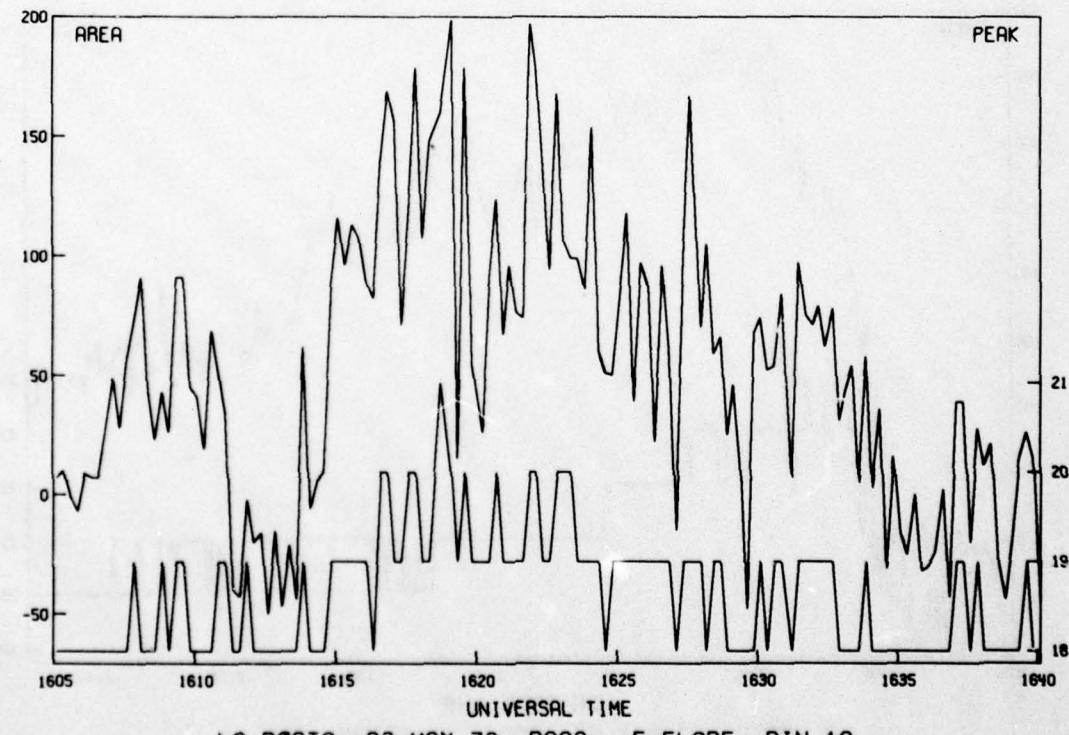
LA POSTA 11 APR 73 R077 1B FLARE BIN 25



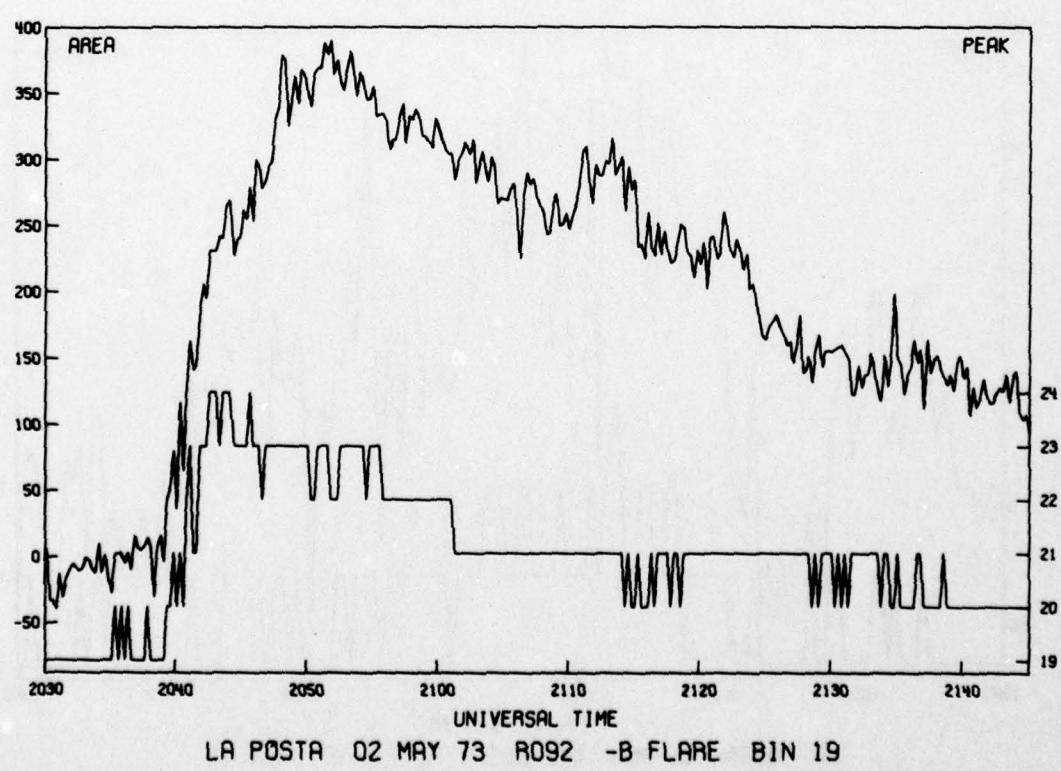
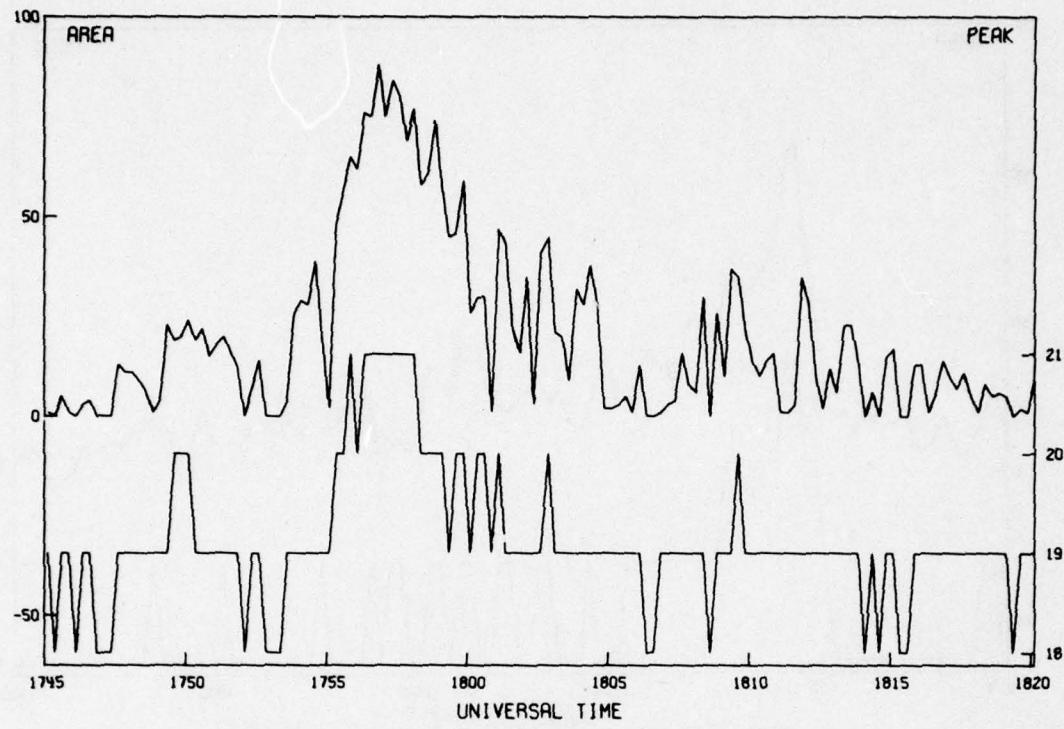


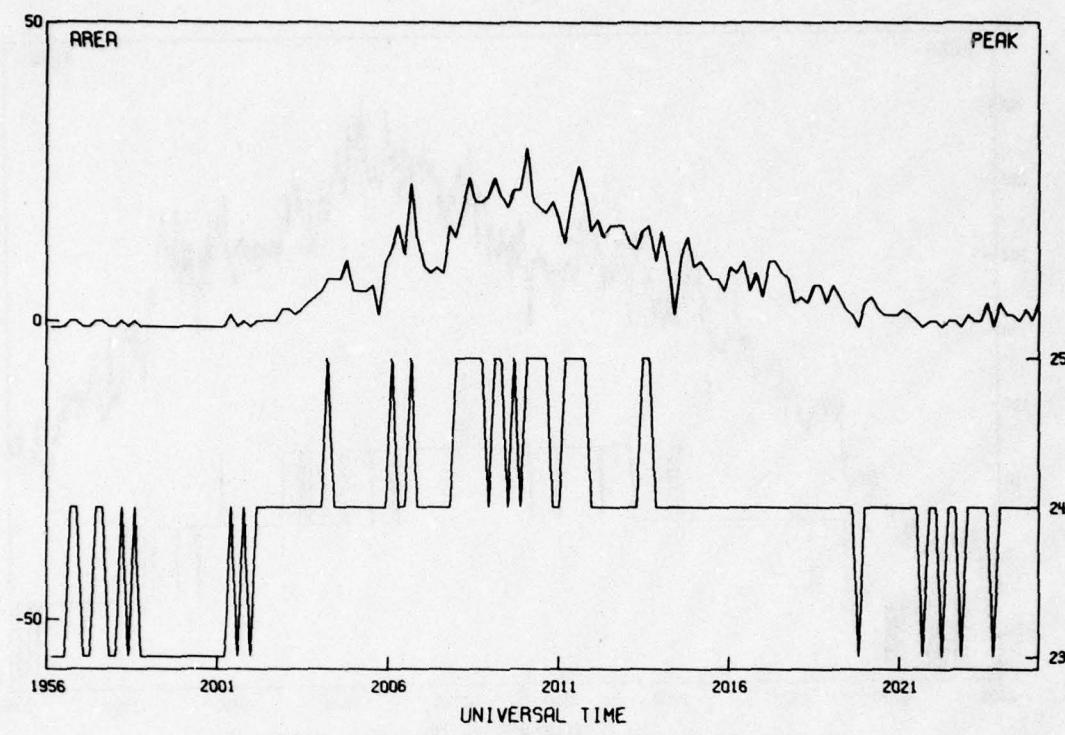


LA POSTA 01 MAY 73 R092 -F FLARE BIN 17

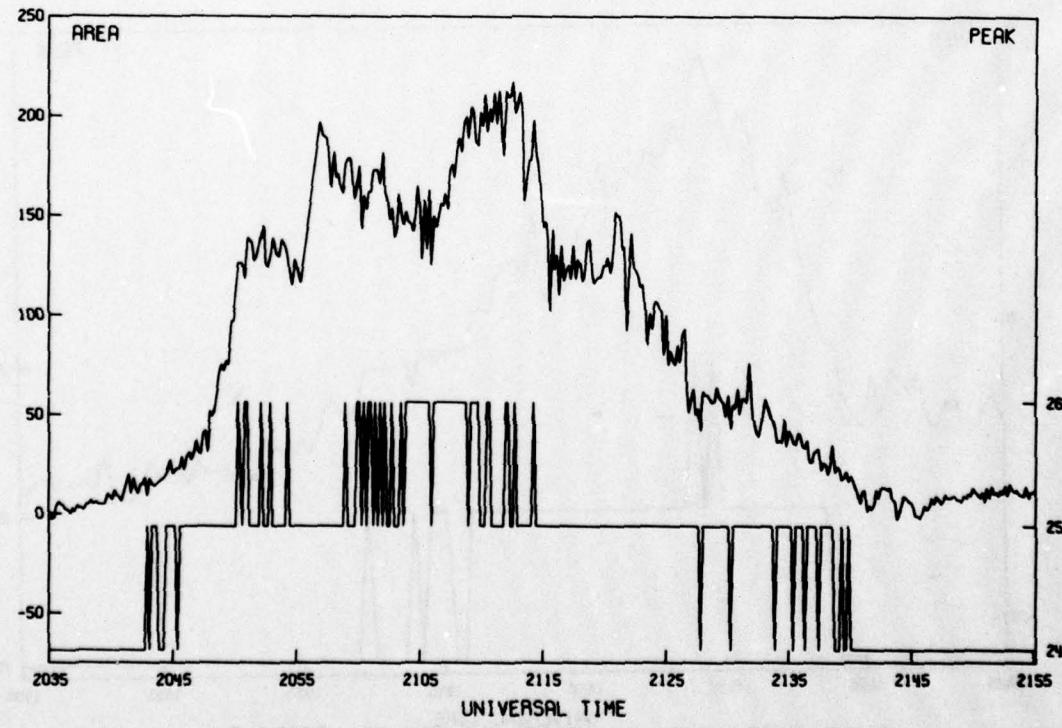


LA POSTA 02 MAY 73 R092 -F FLARE BIN 18

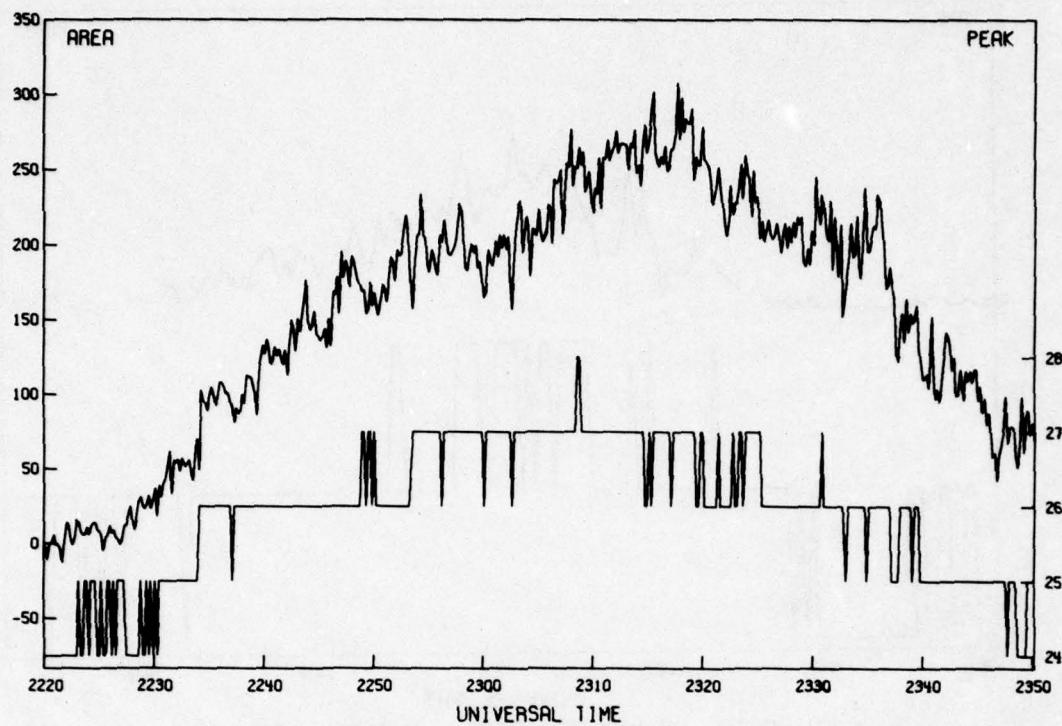




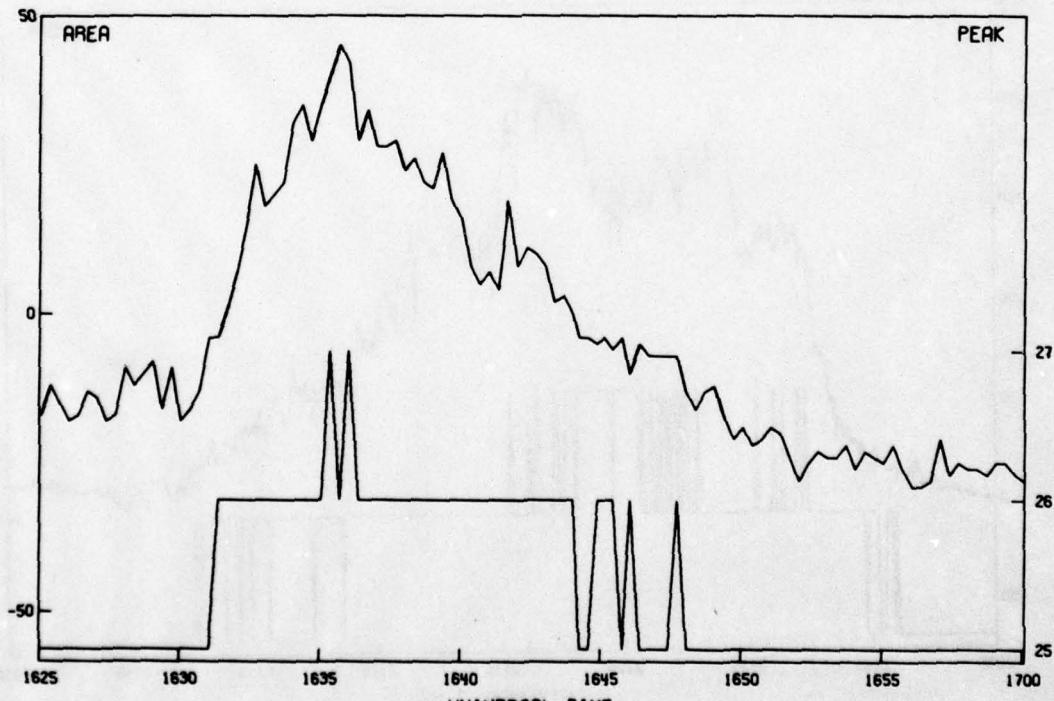
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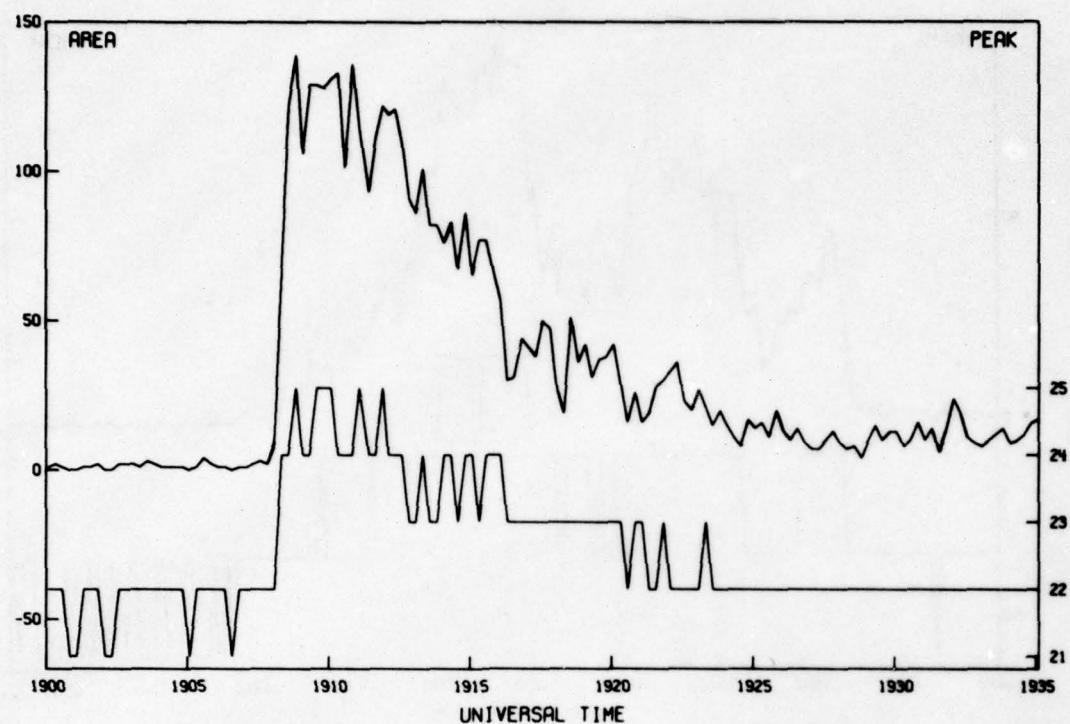
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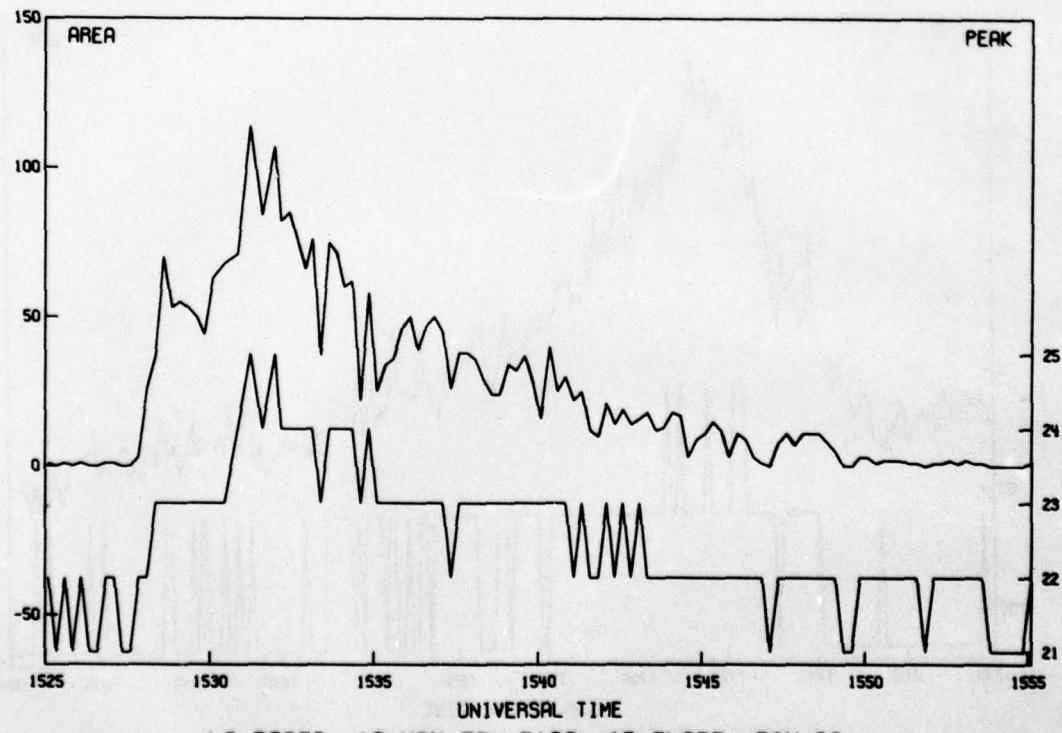
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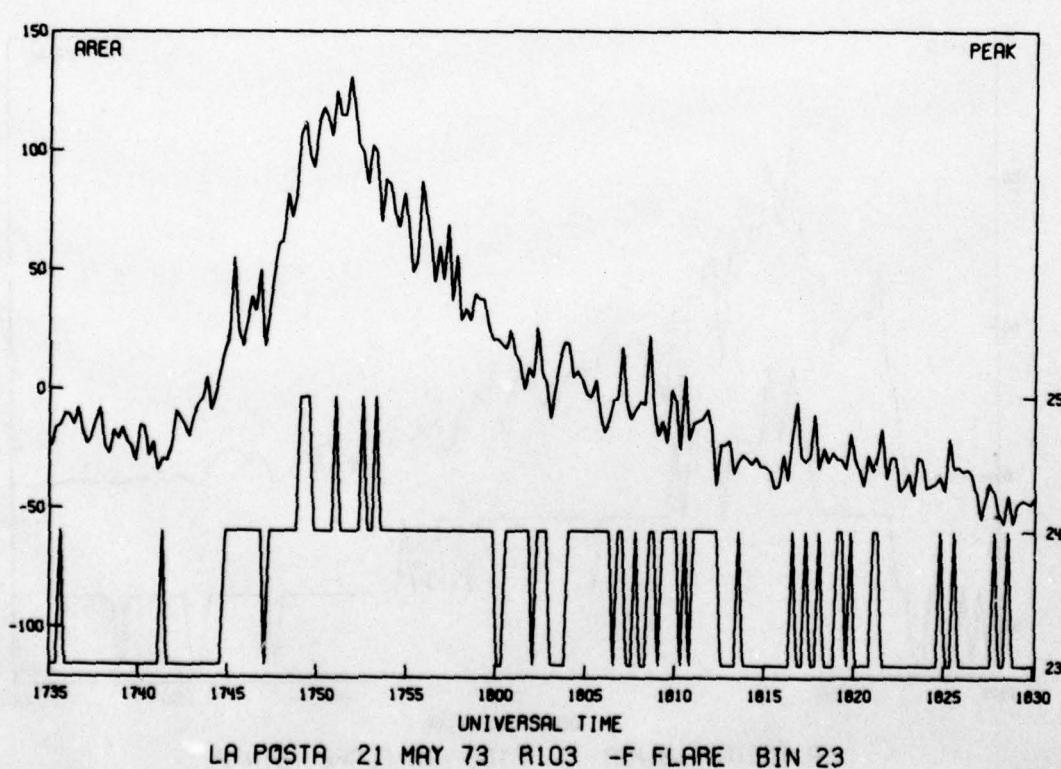
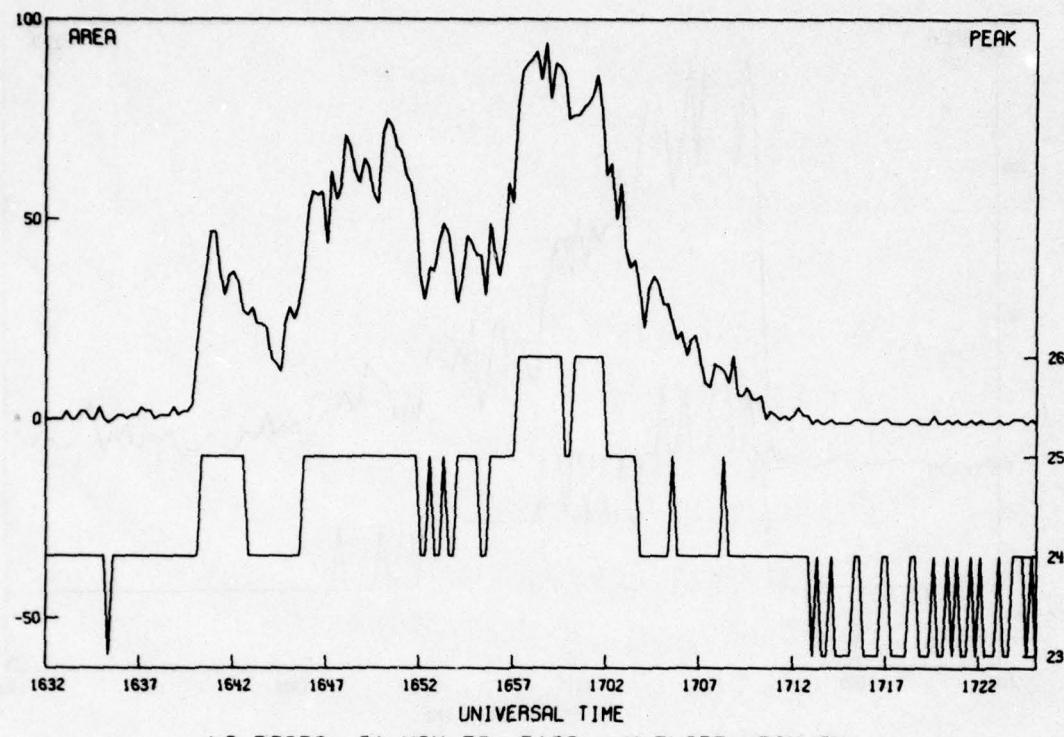
LA POSTA 09 MAY 73 R092 -F FLARE BIN 25

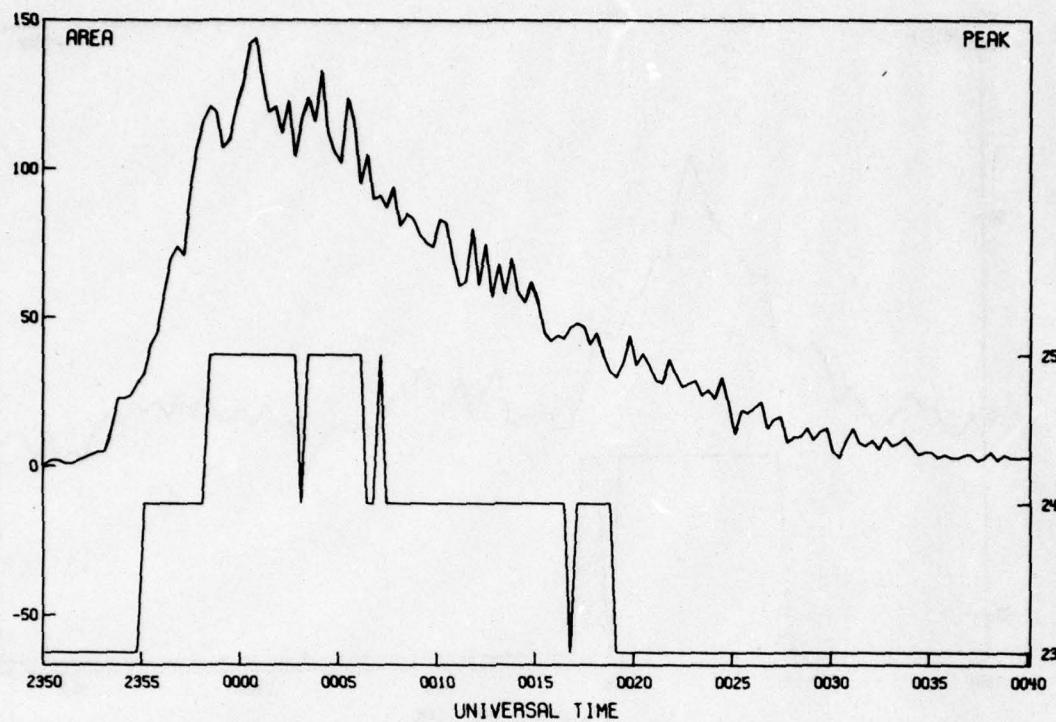


LA POSTA 17 MAY 73 R103 1B FLARE BIN 22

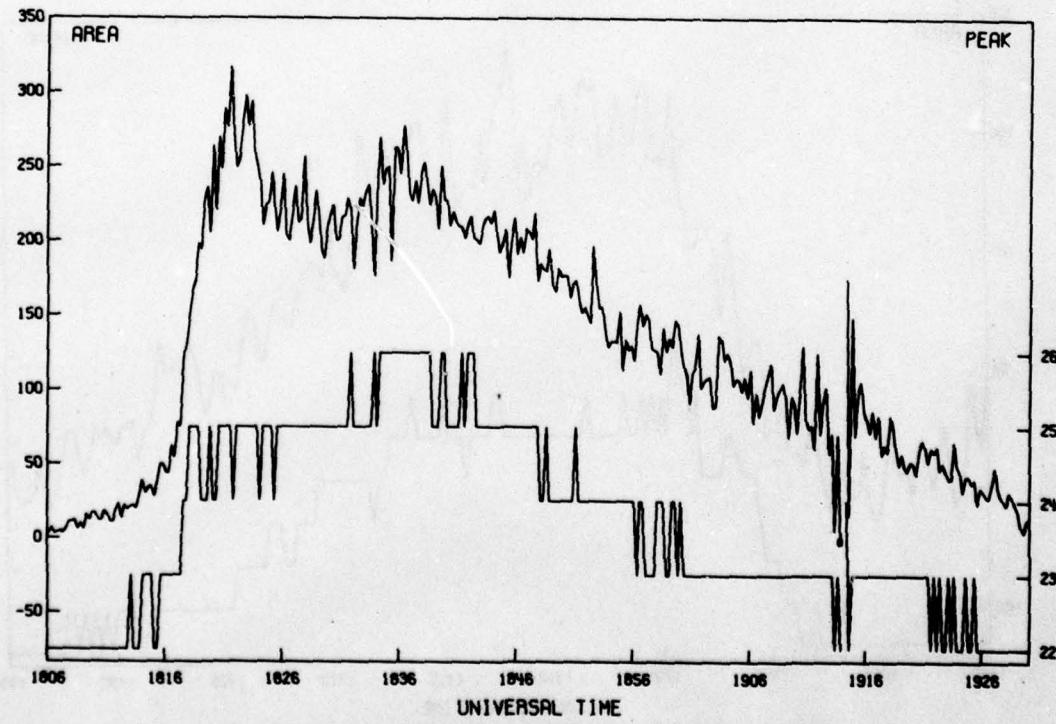


LA POSTA 18 MAY 73 R103 1B FLARE BIN 22

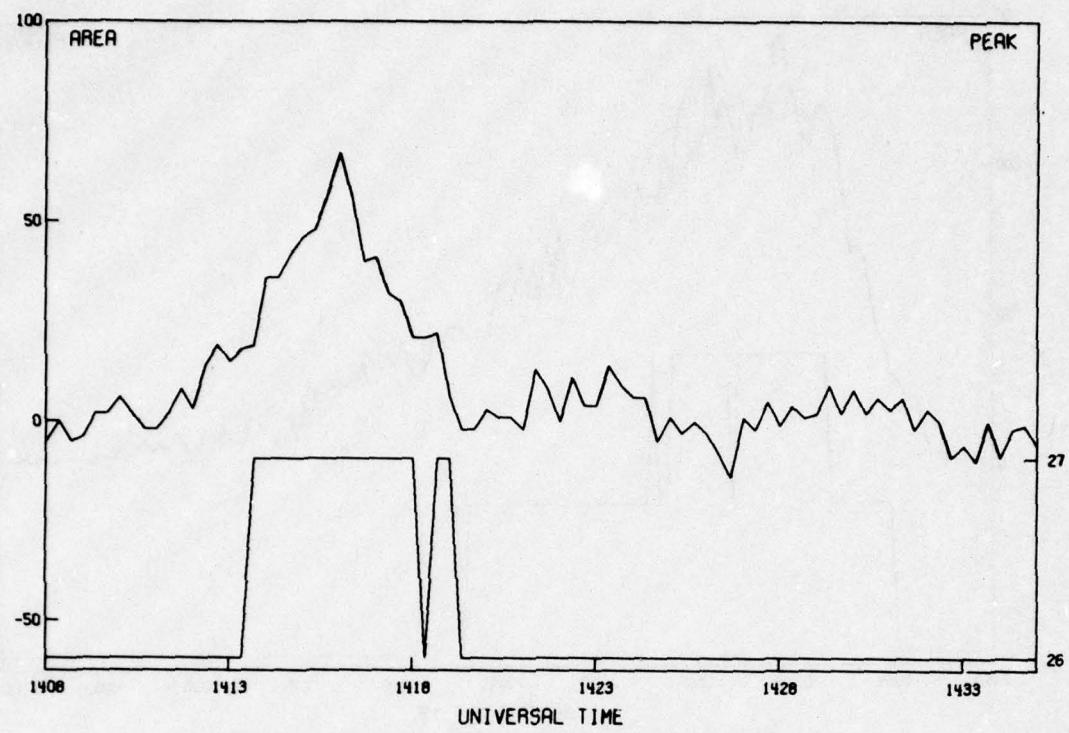




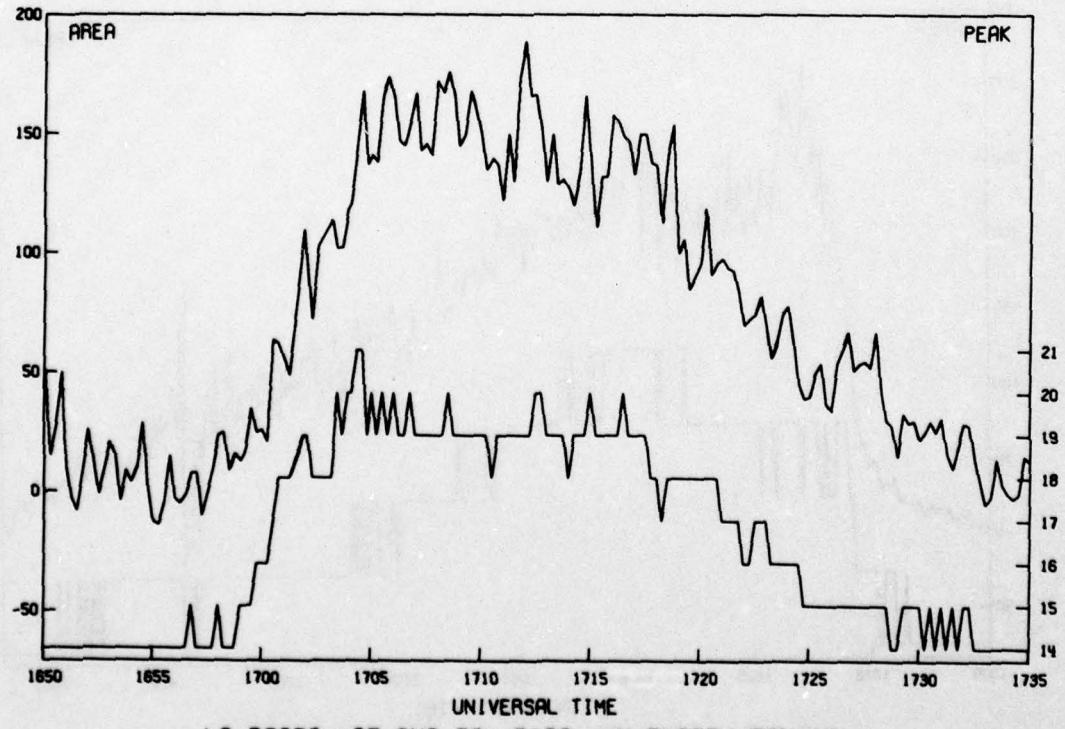
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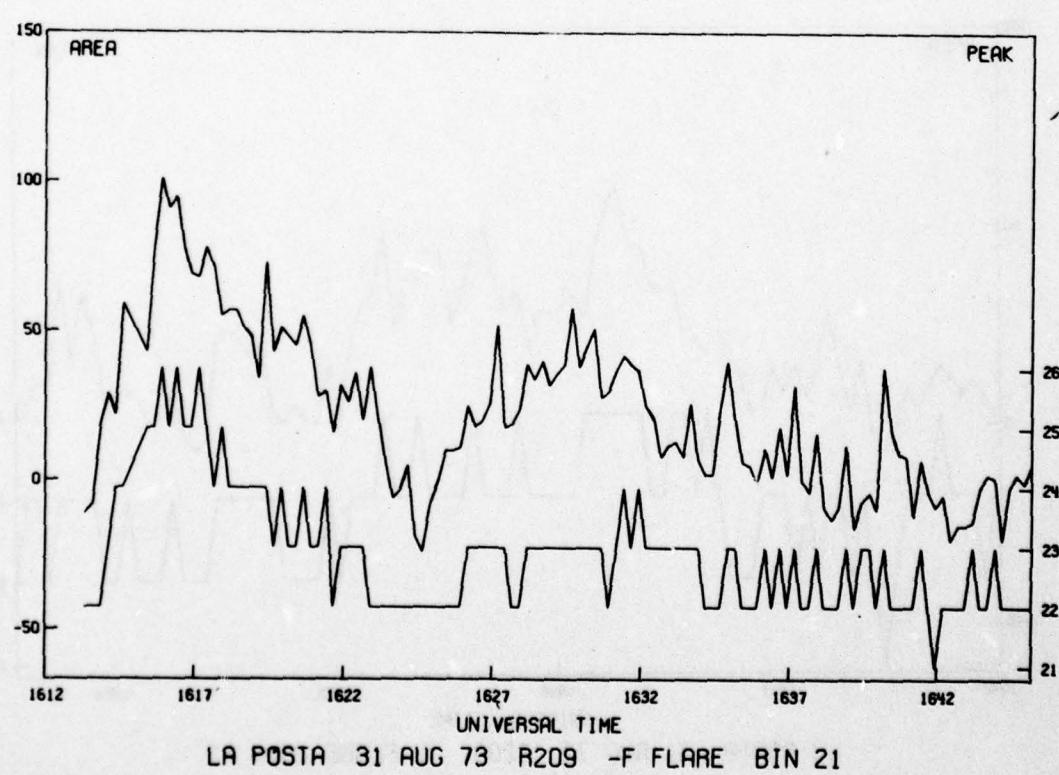
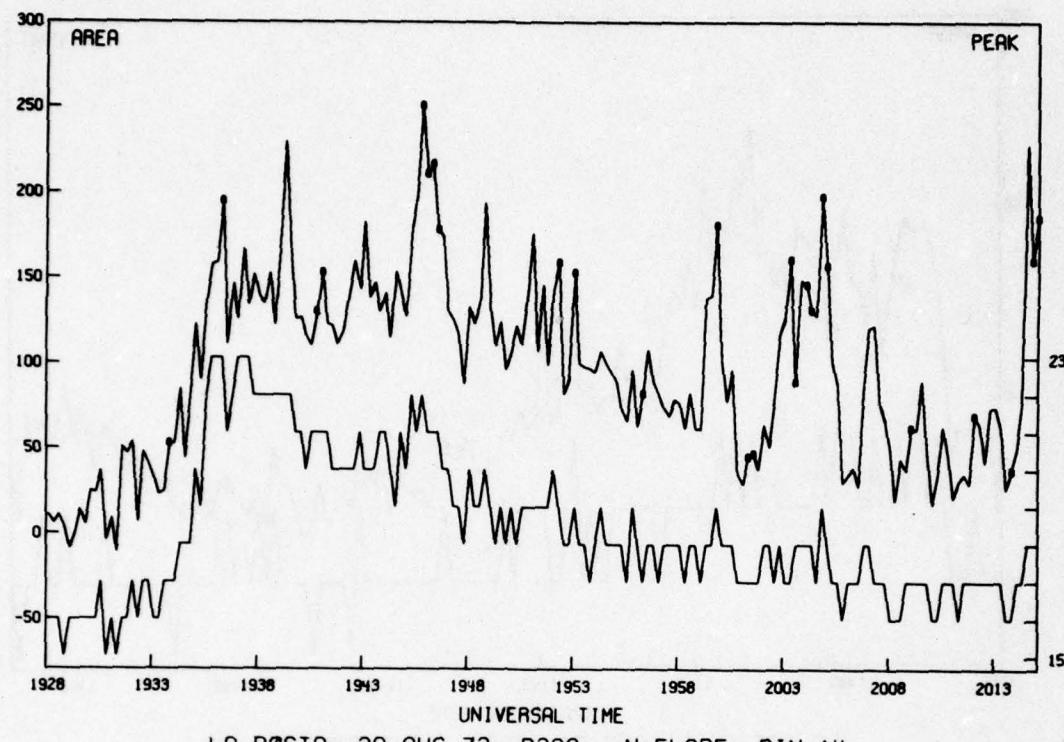
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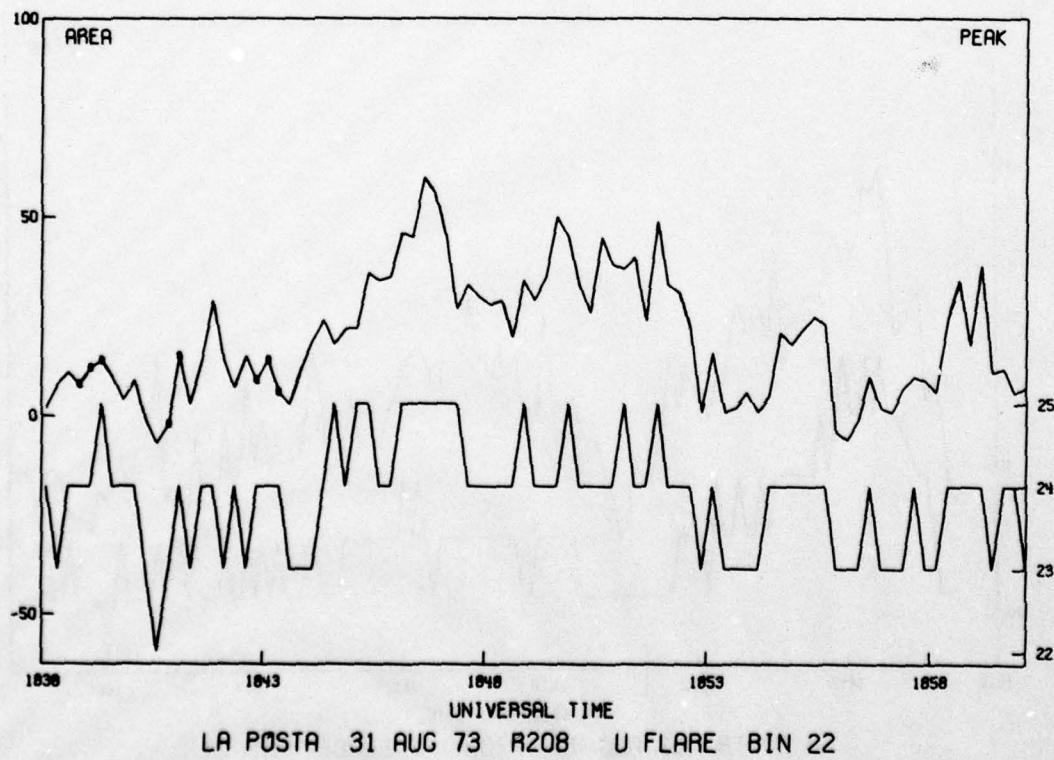
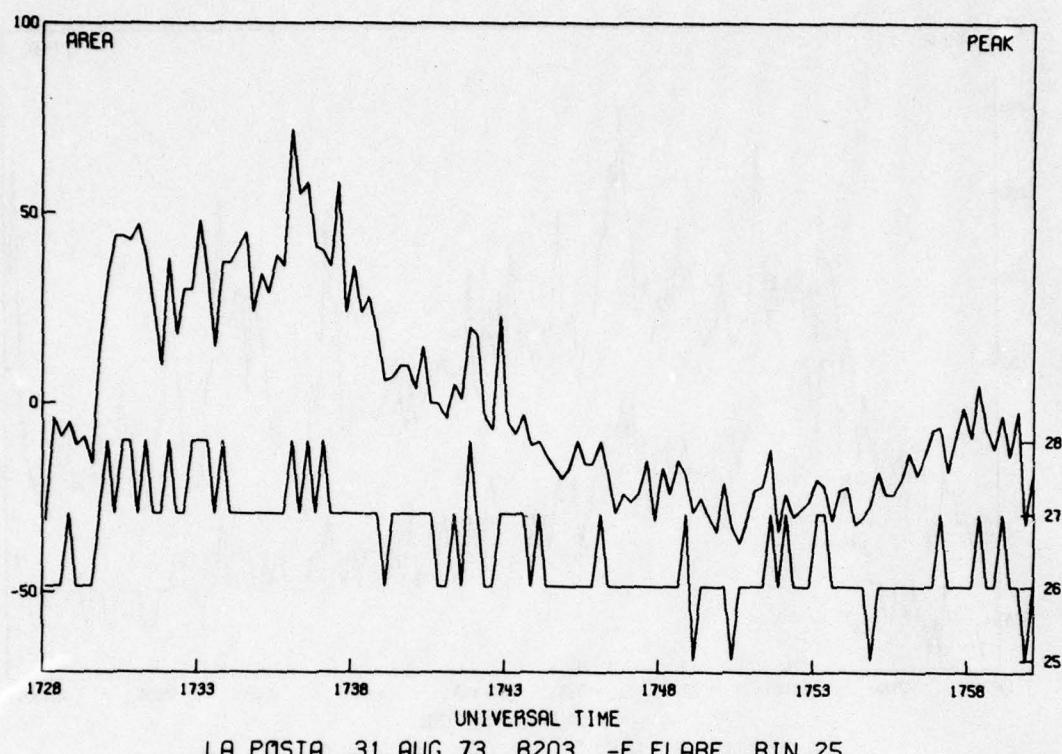


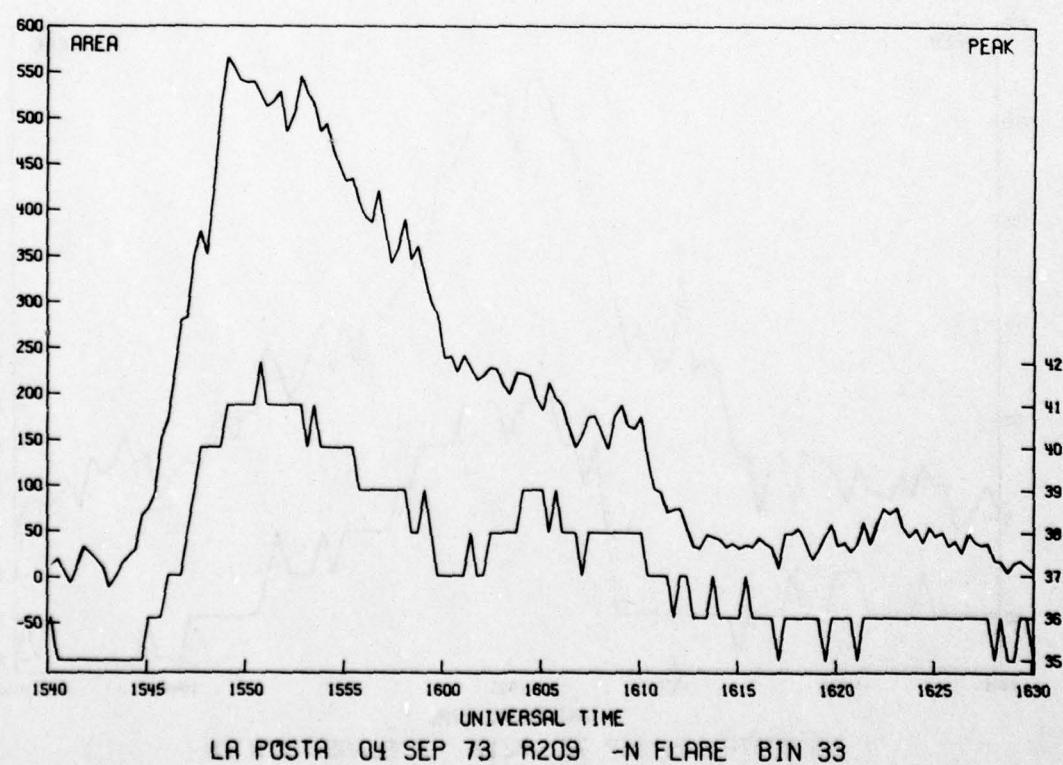
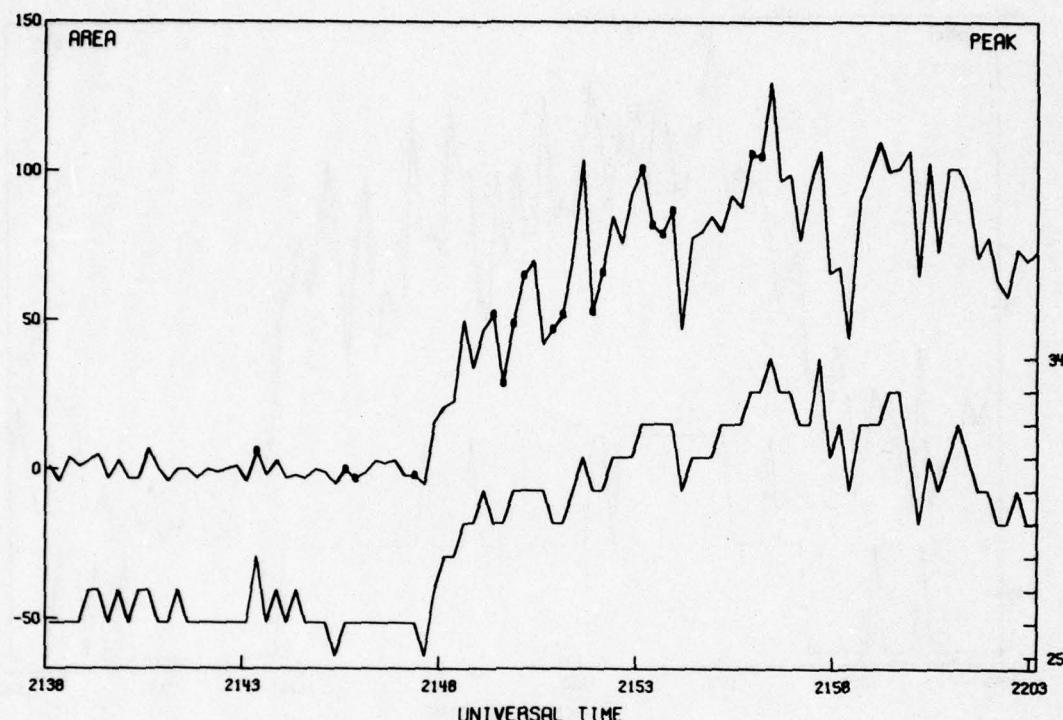
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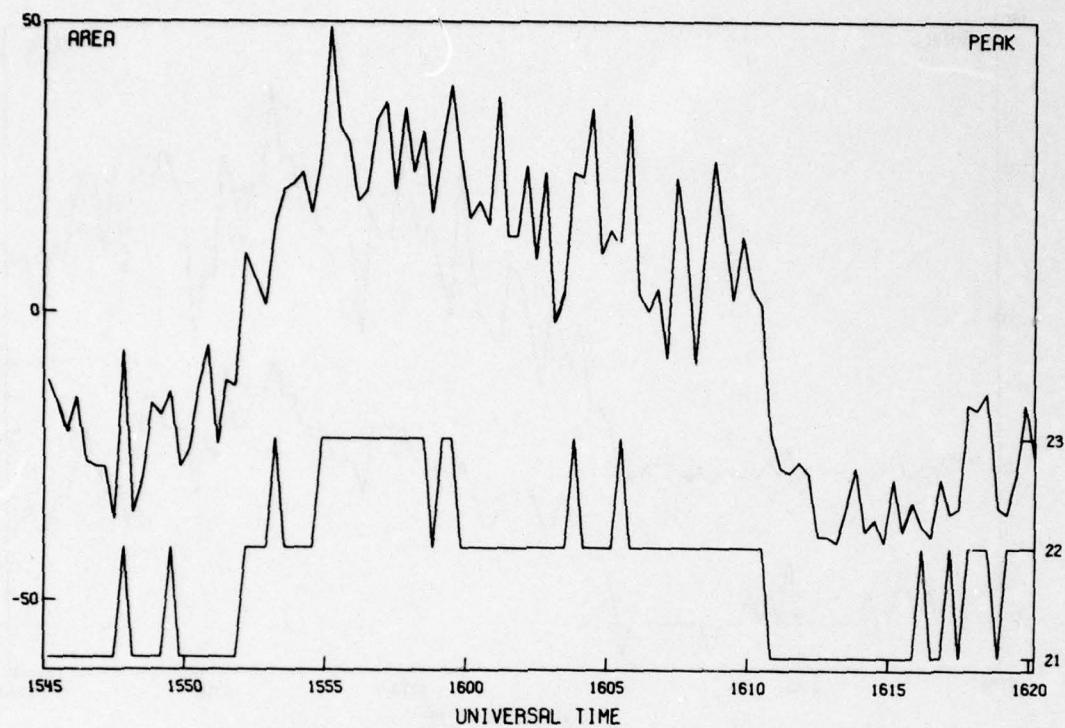


LA POSTA 27 AUG 73 R193 -N FLARE BIN 13

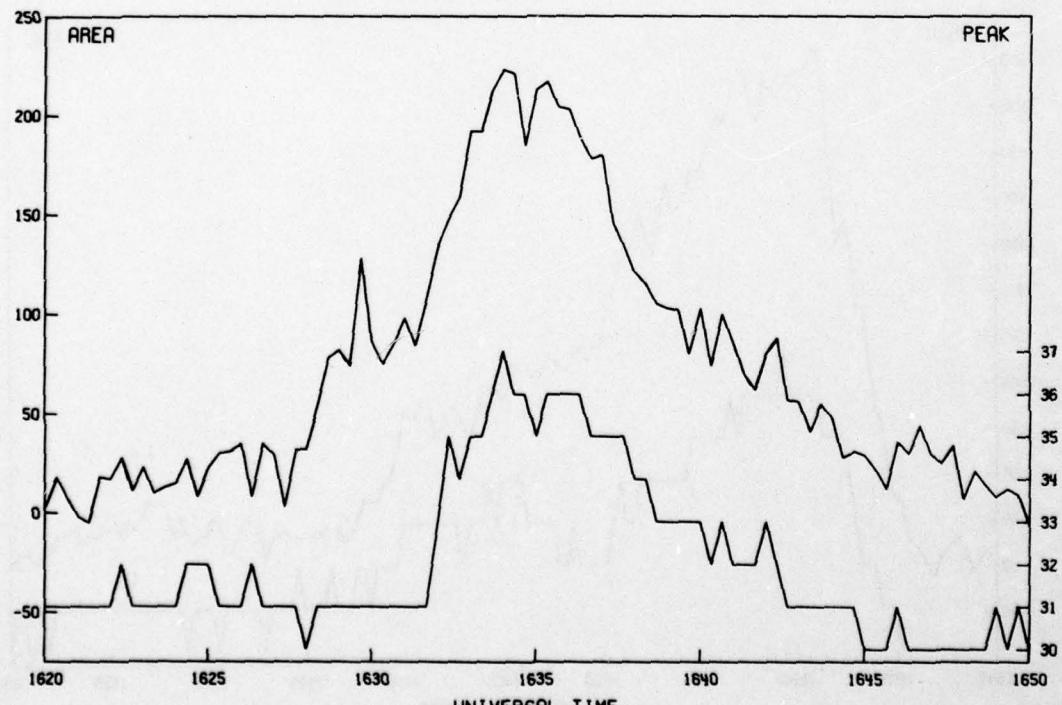




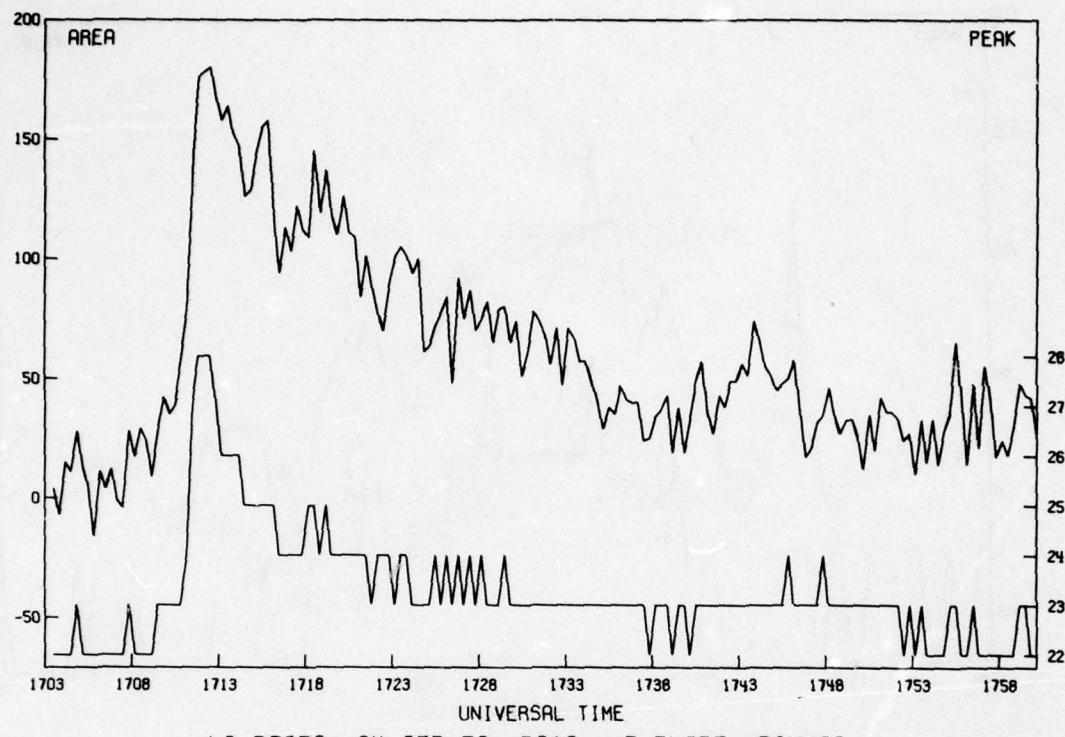




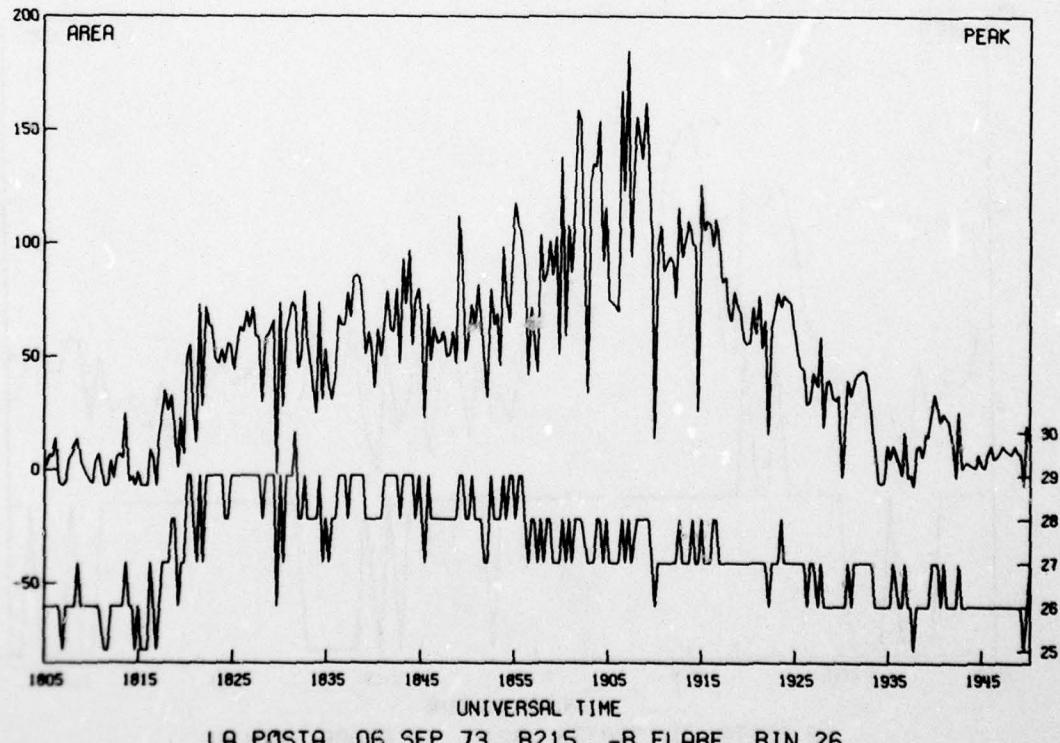
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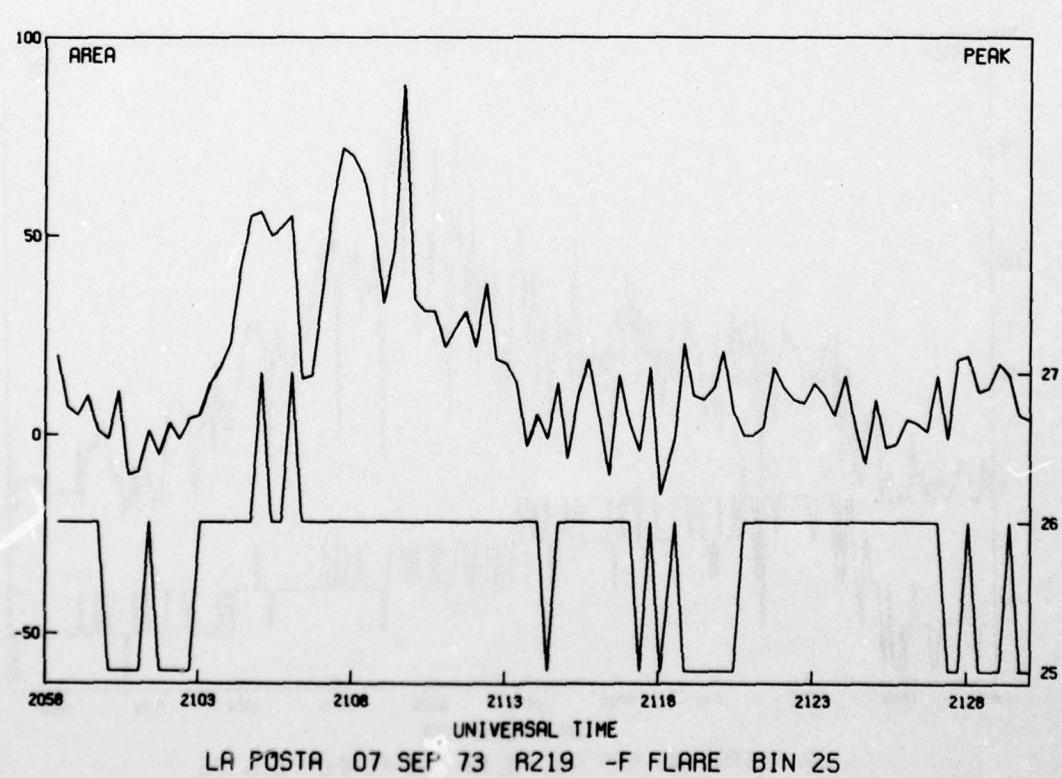
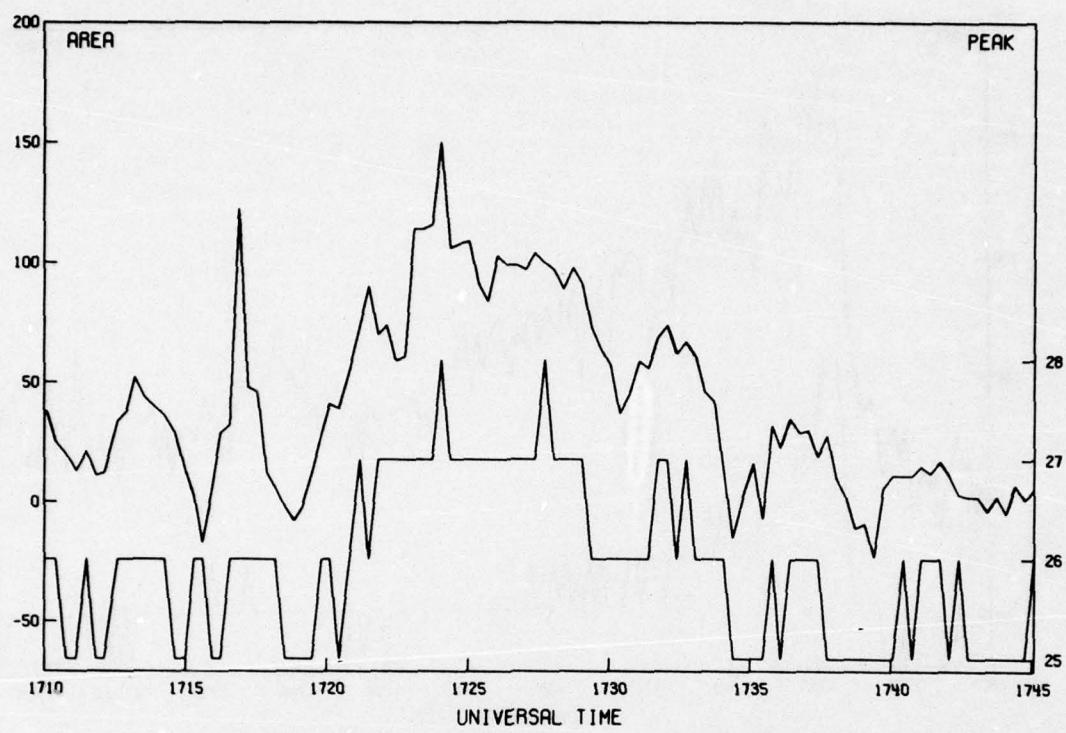
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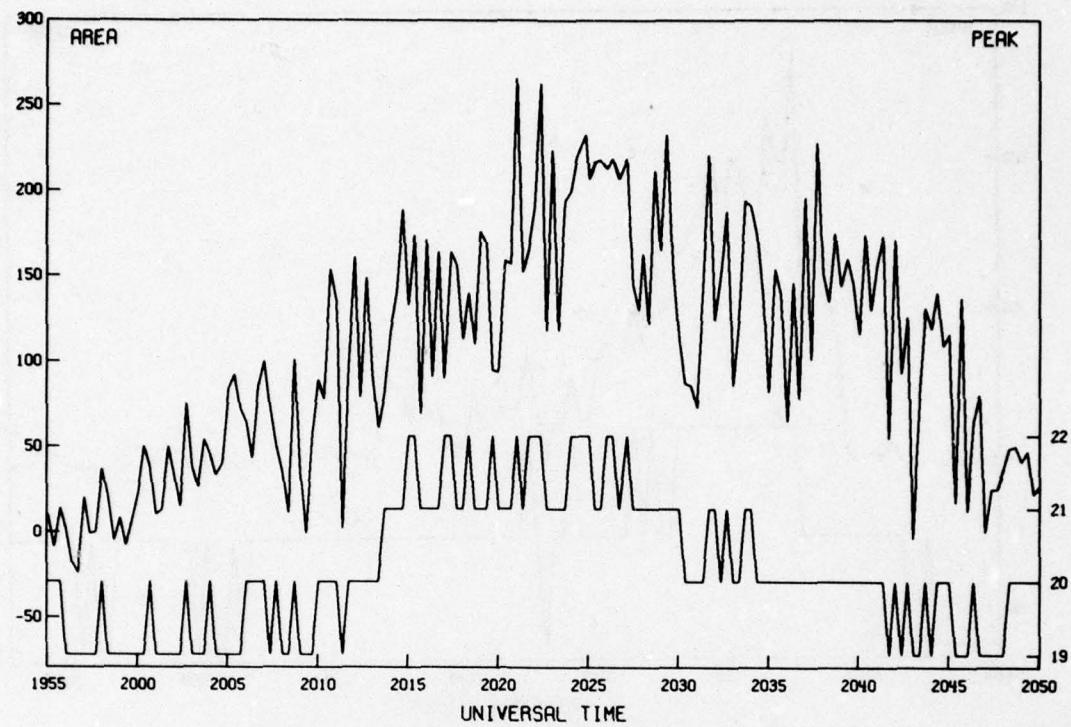


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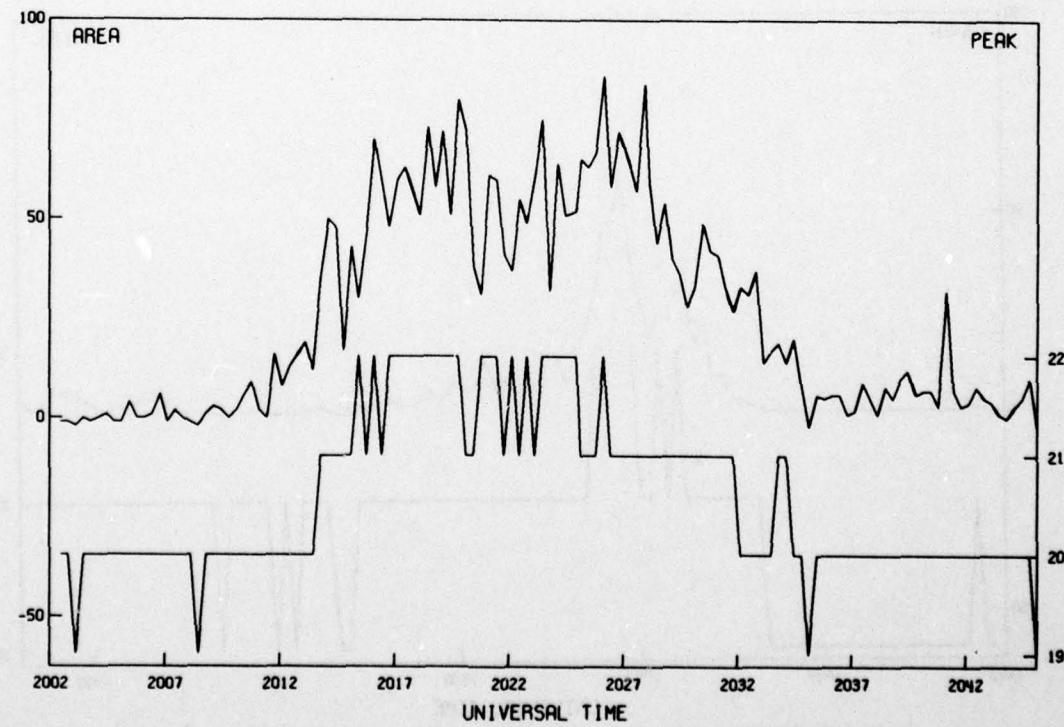


LA POSTA 06 SEP 73 R215 -B FLARE BIN 26

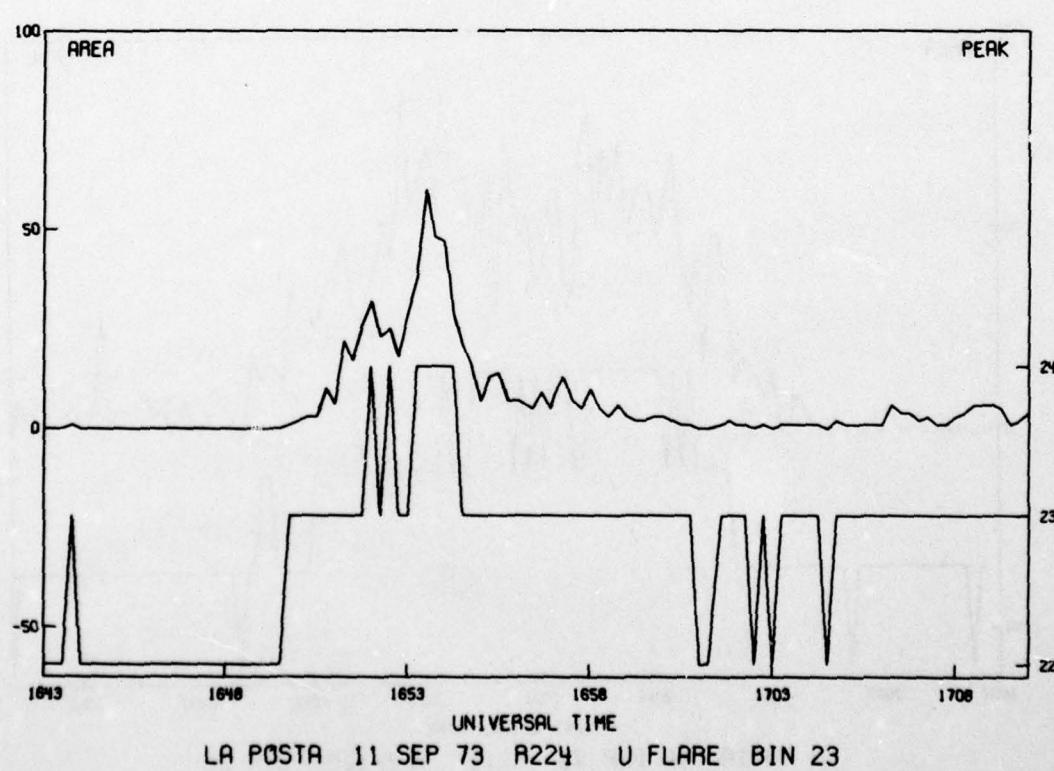
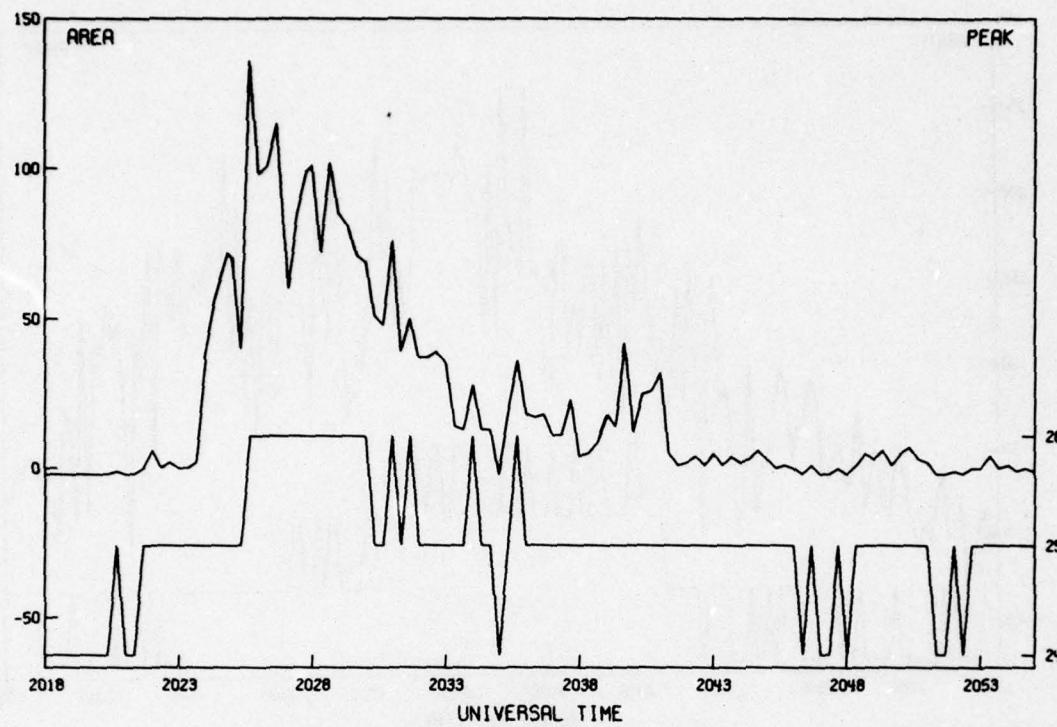


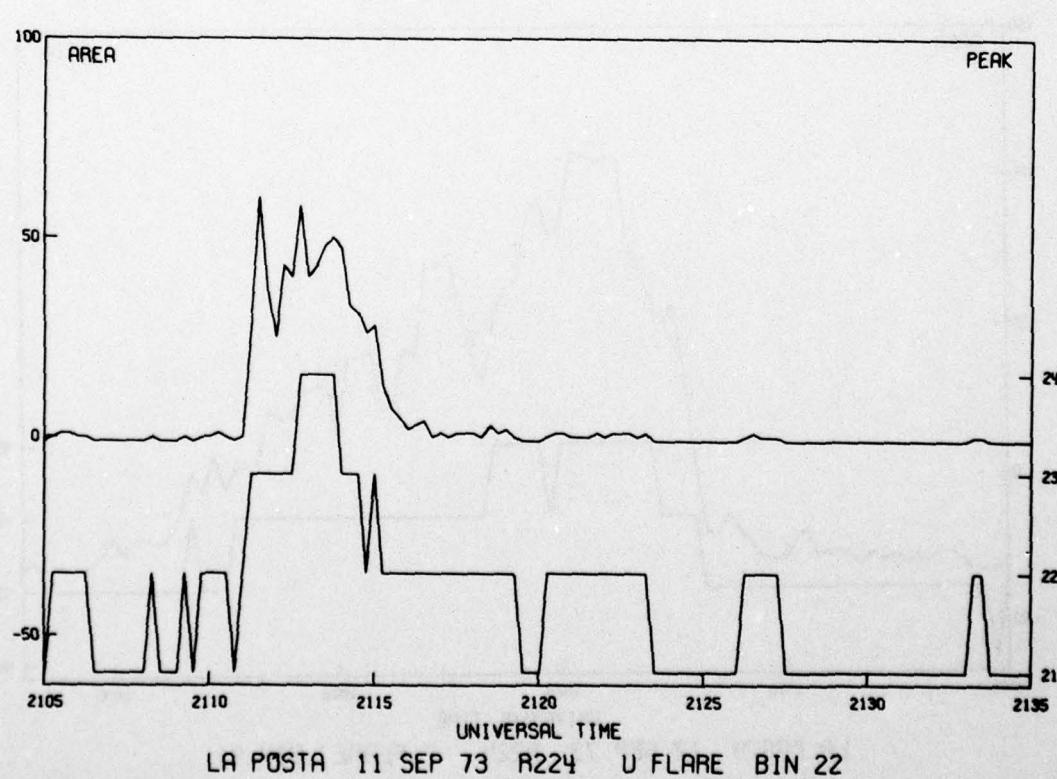
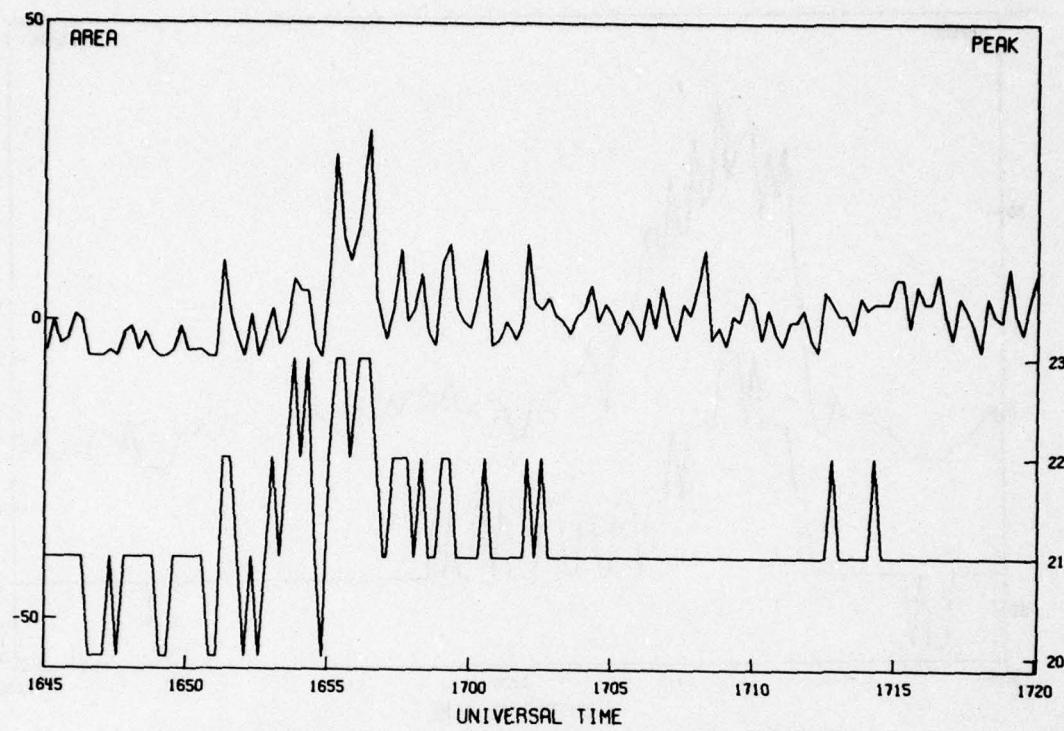


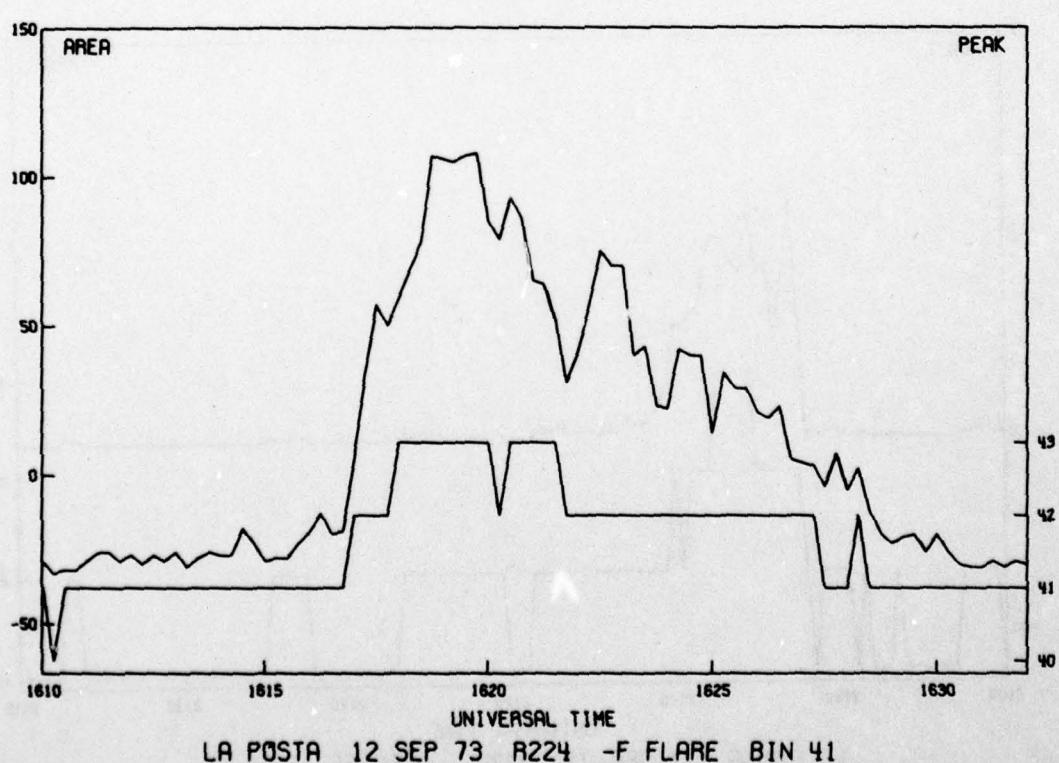
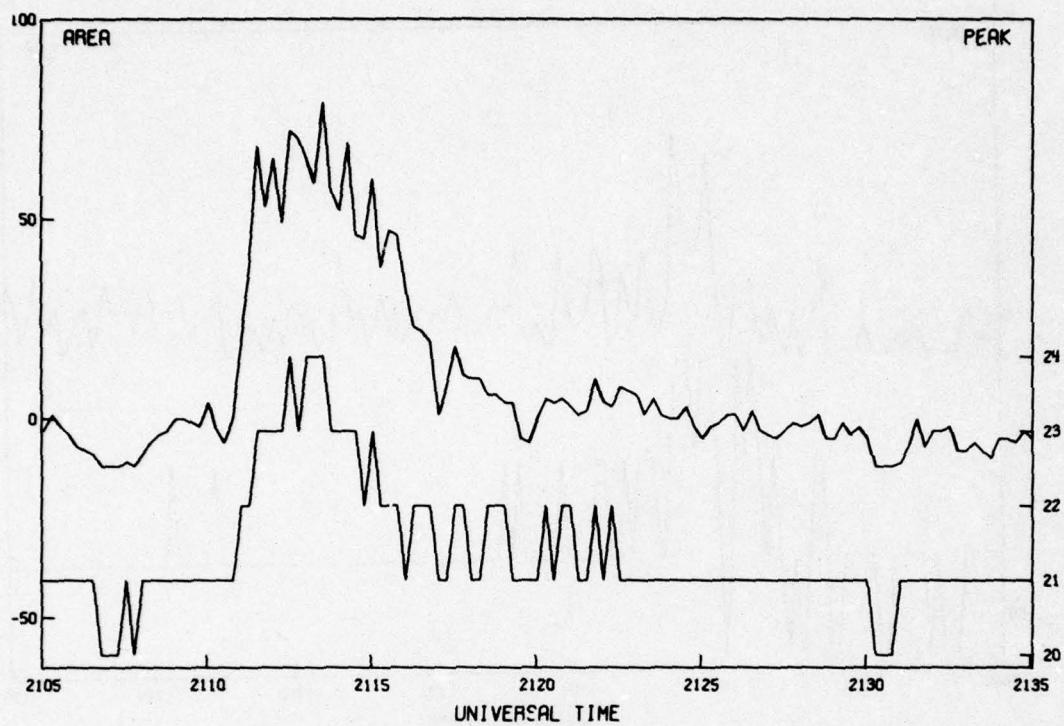
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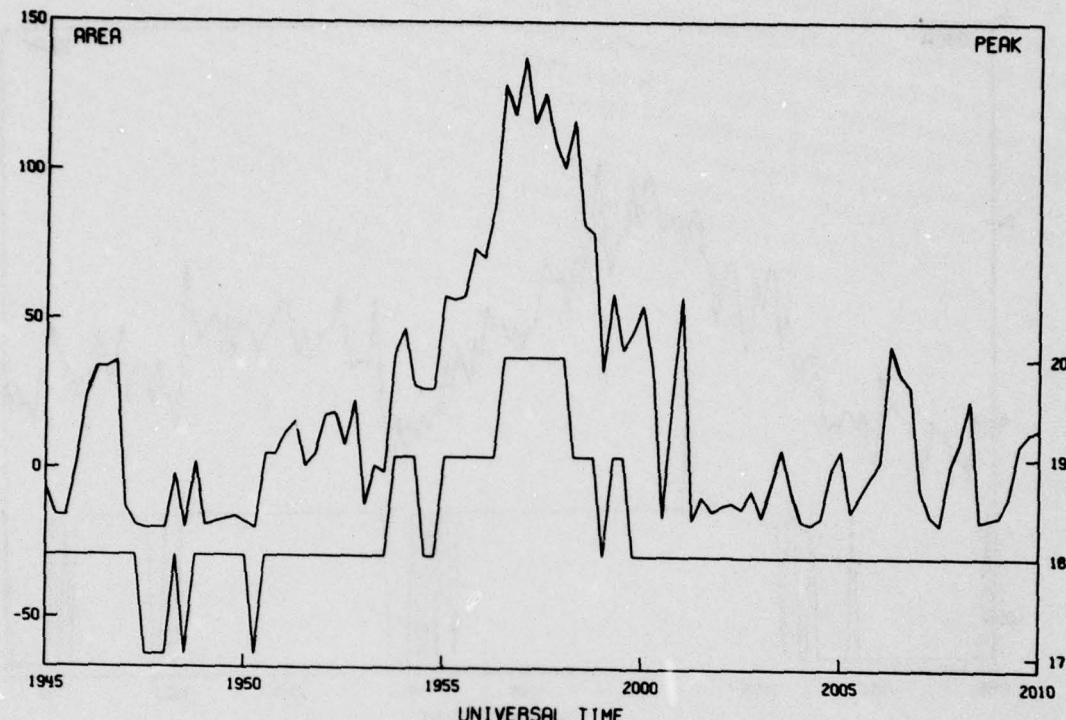


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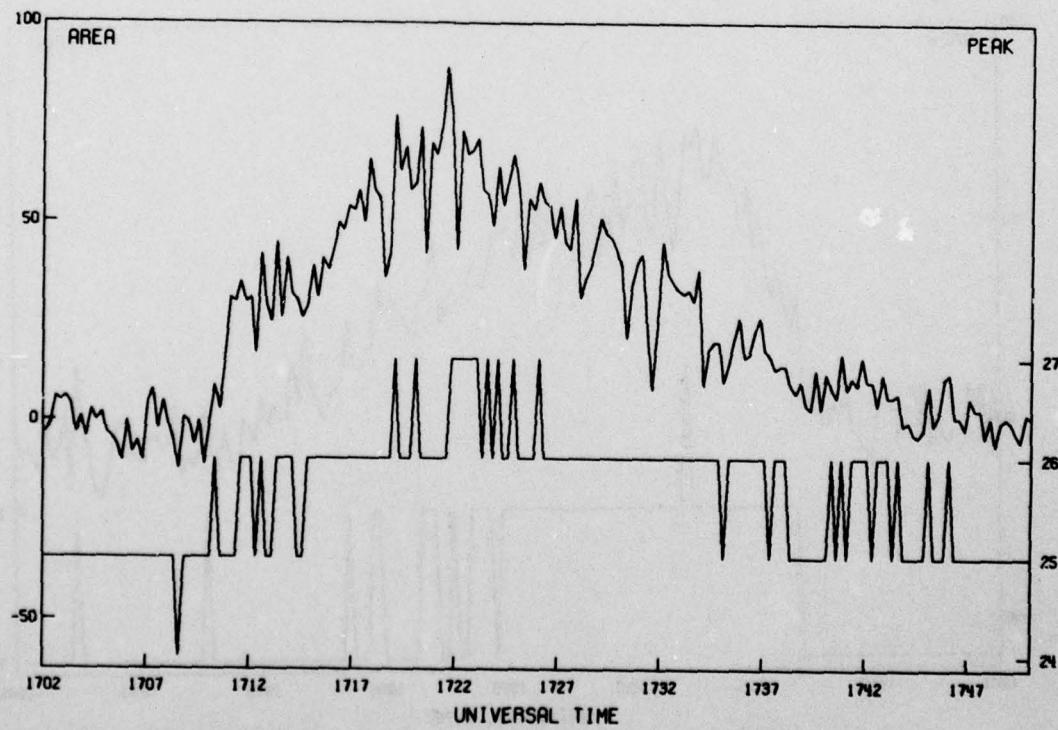




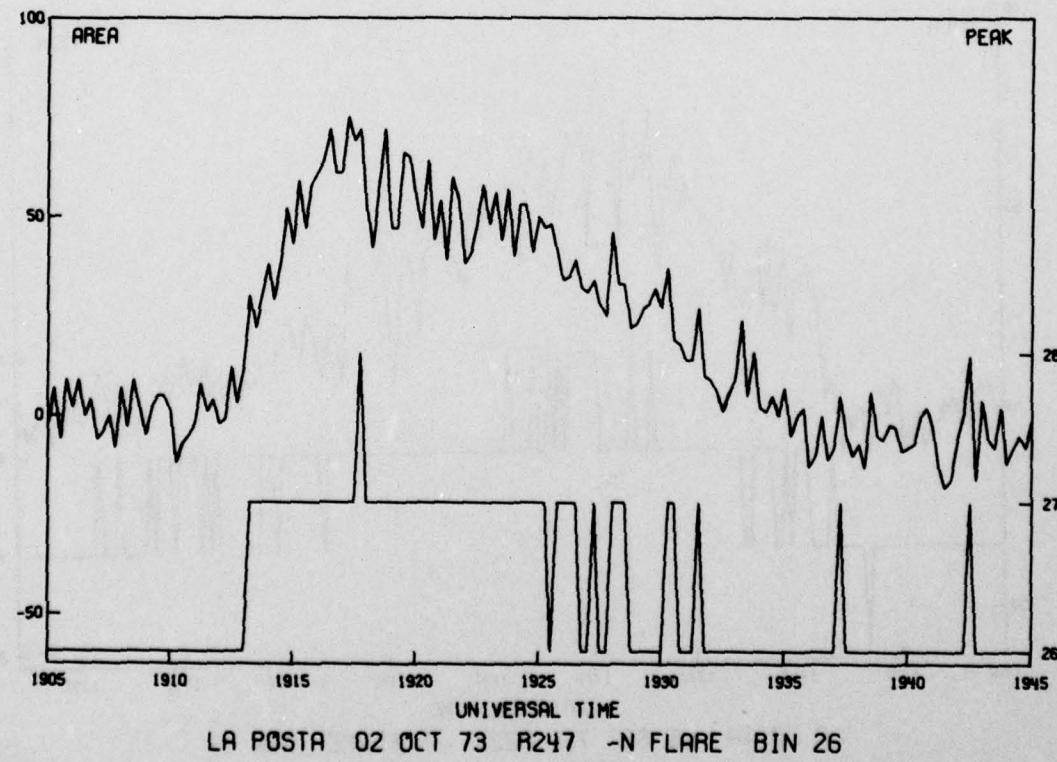
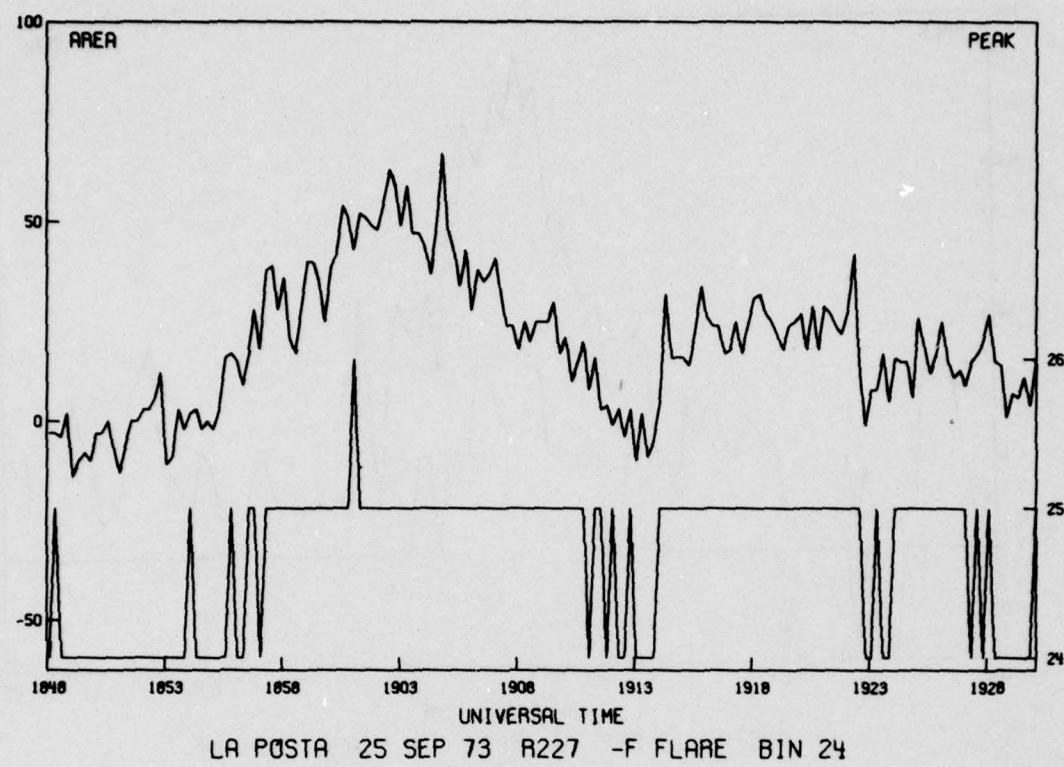


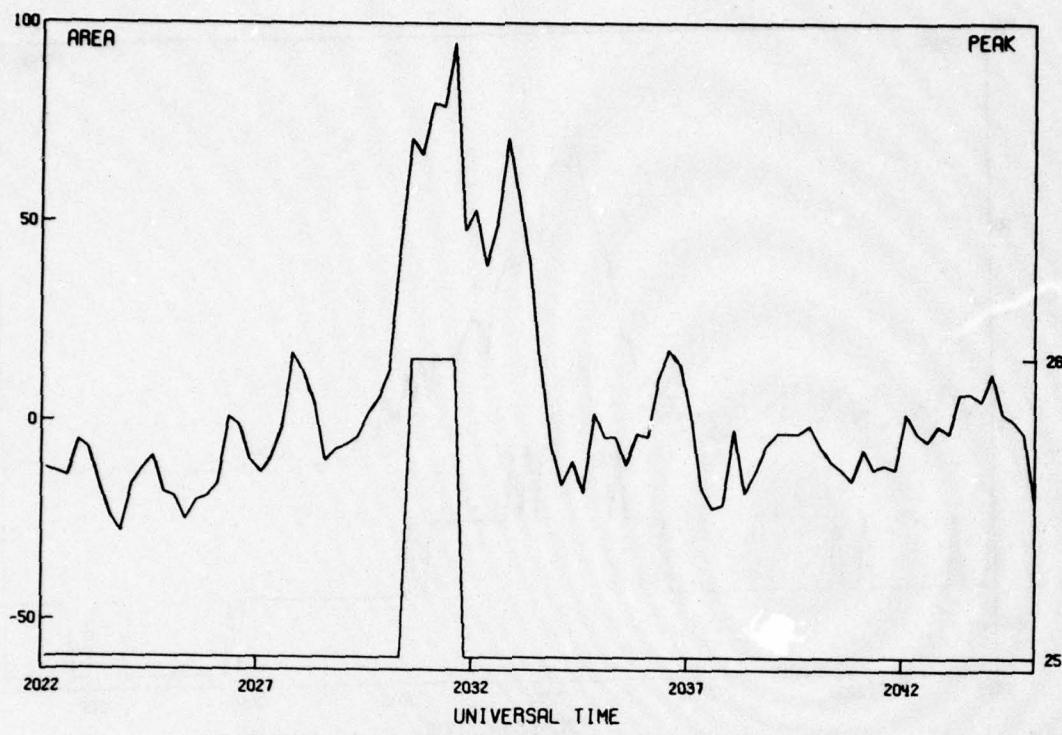


LA POSTA 12 SEP 73 R224 U FLARE BIN 18

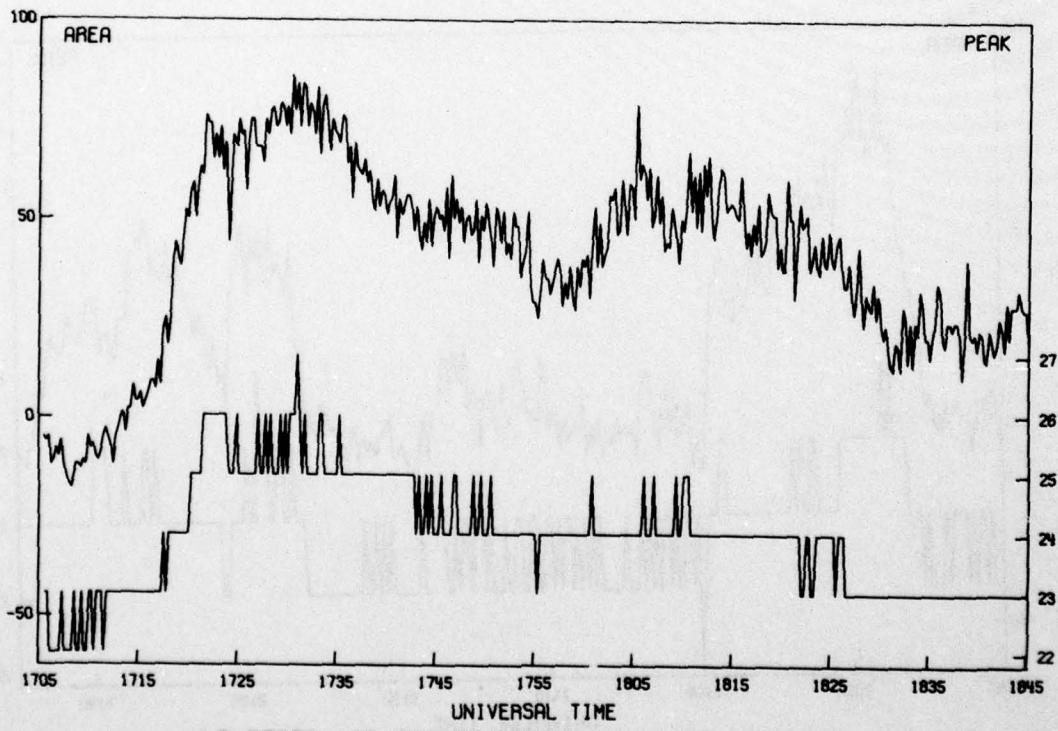


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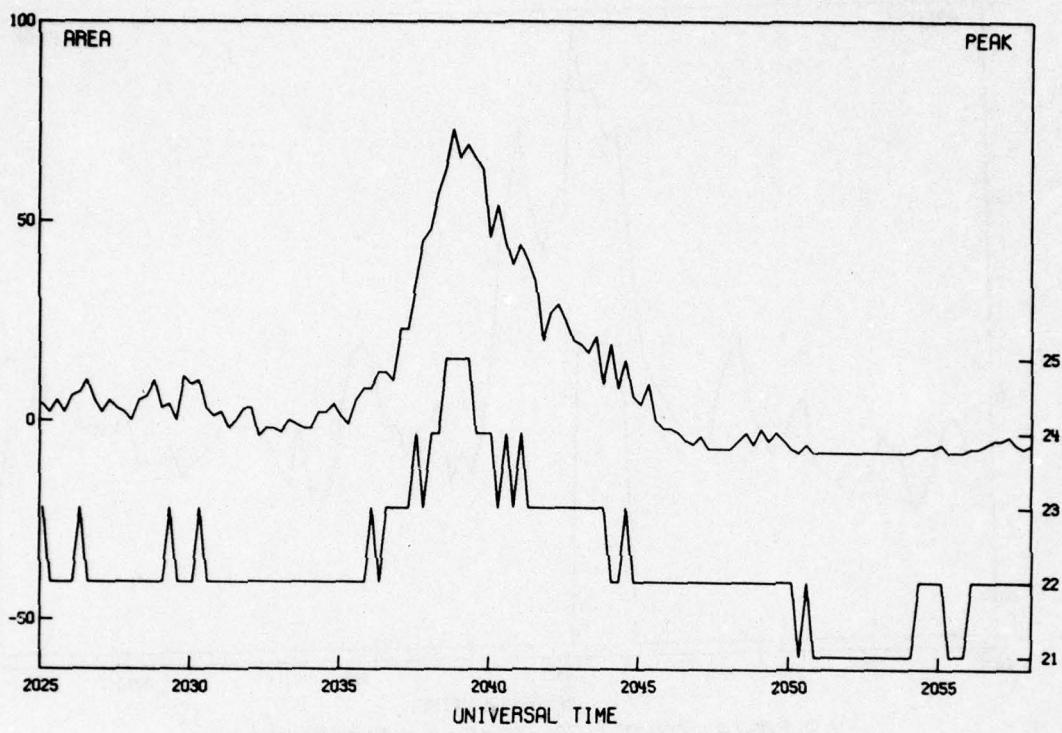




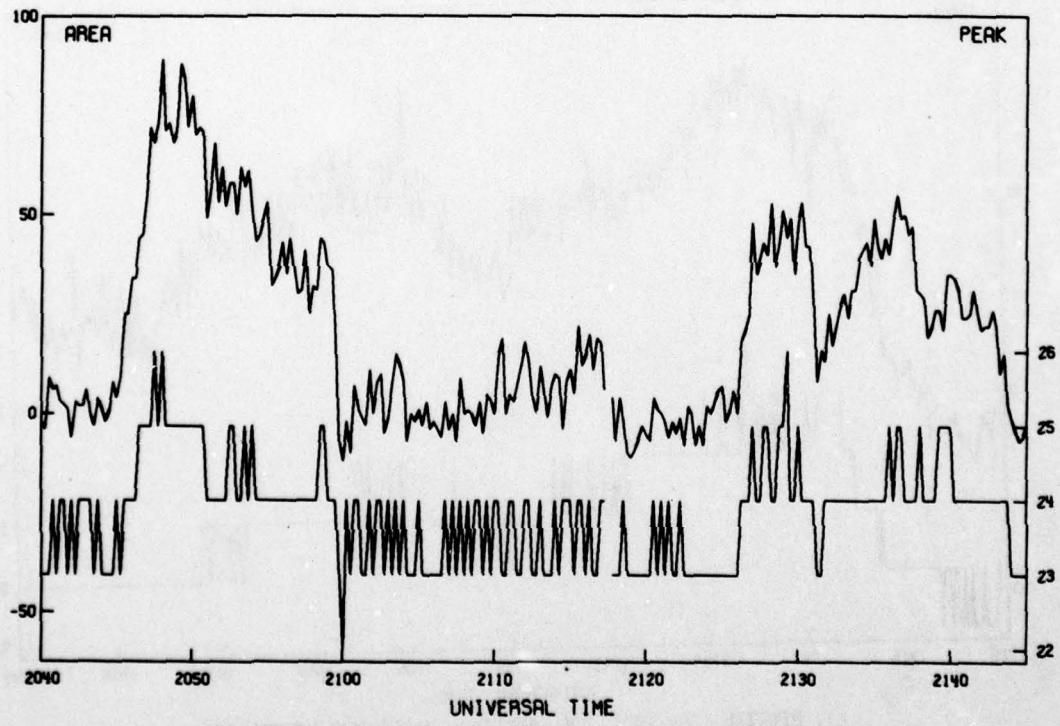
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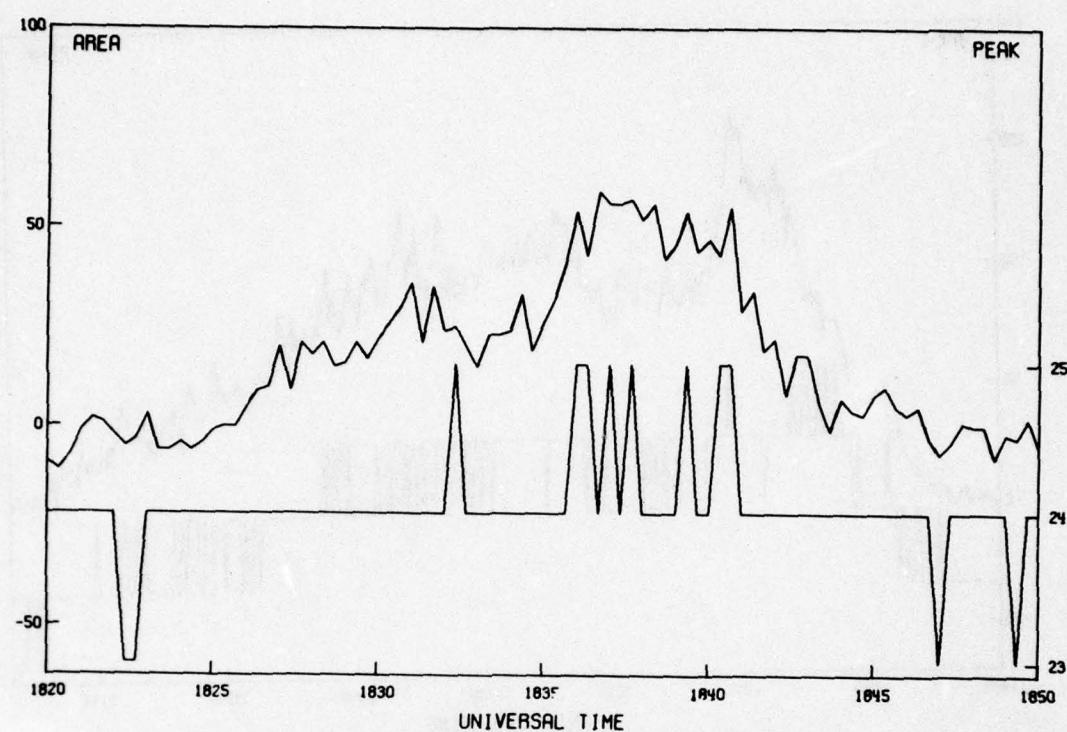
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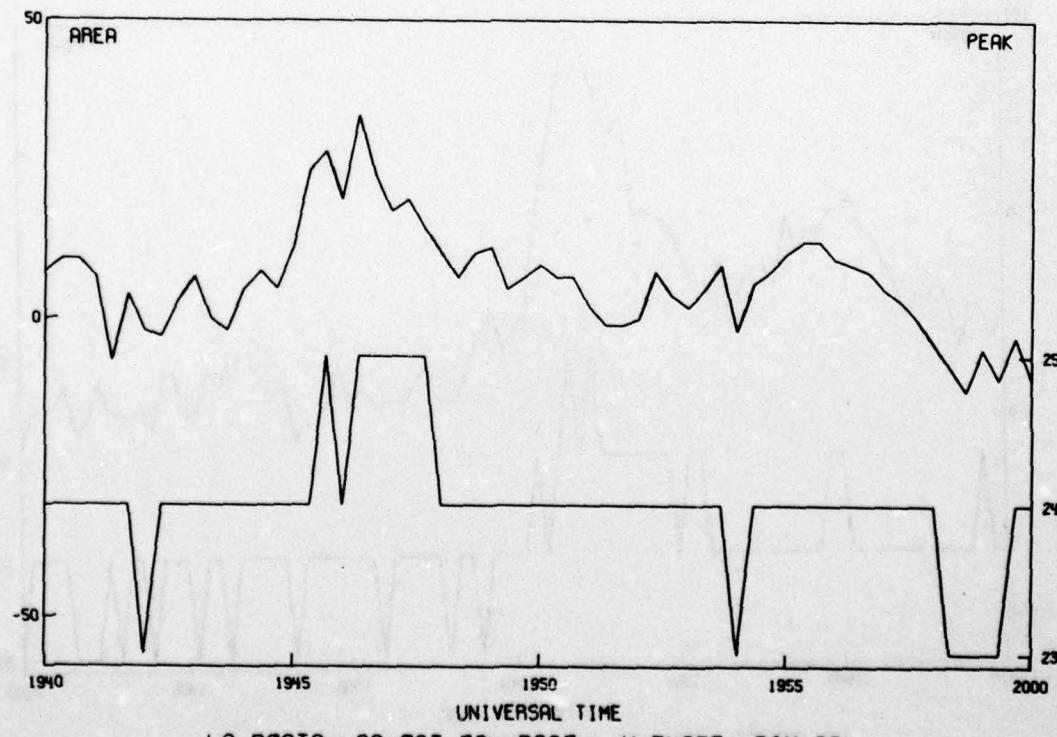
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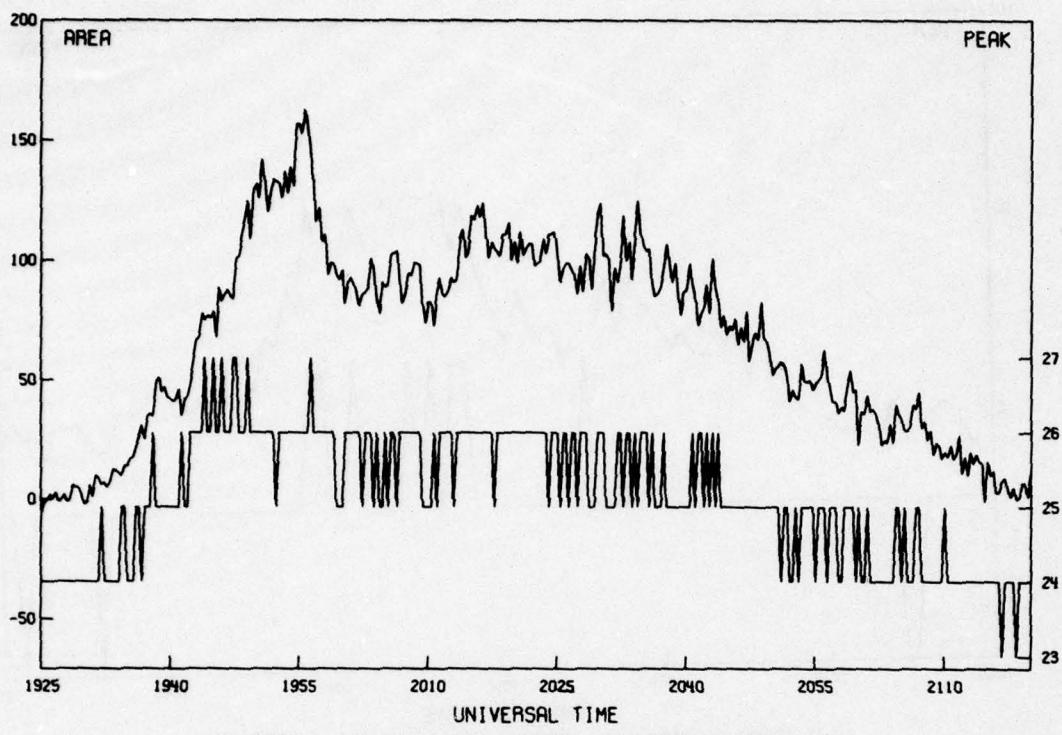
LA POSTA 25 OCT 73 R264 U-N-N FLARES BIN 23



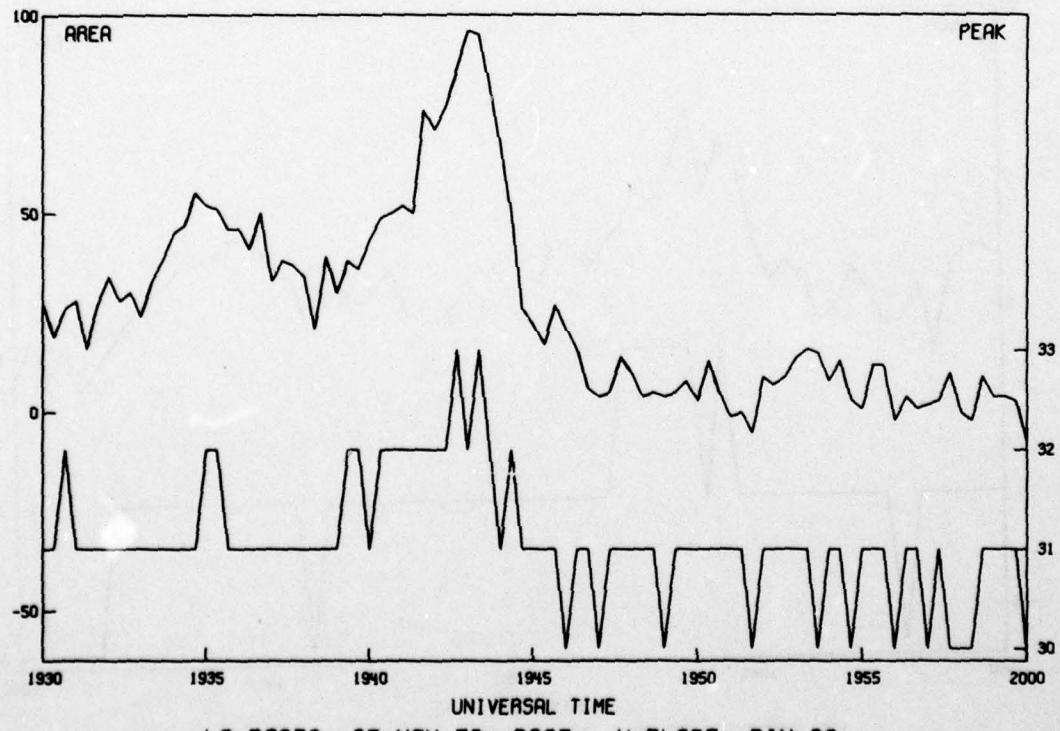
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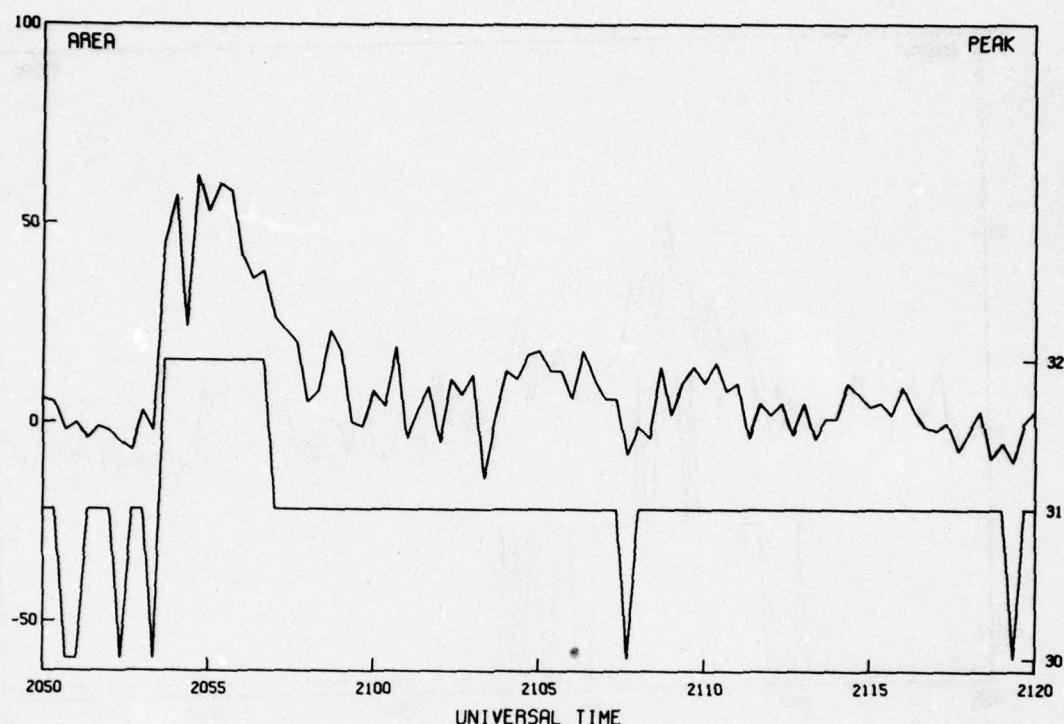
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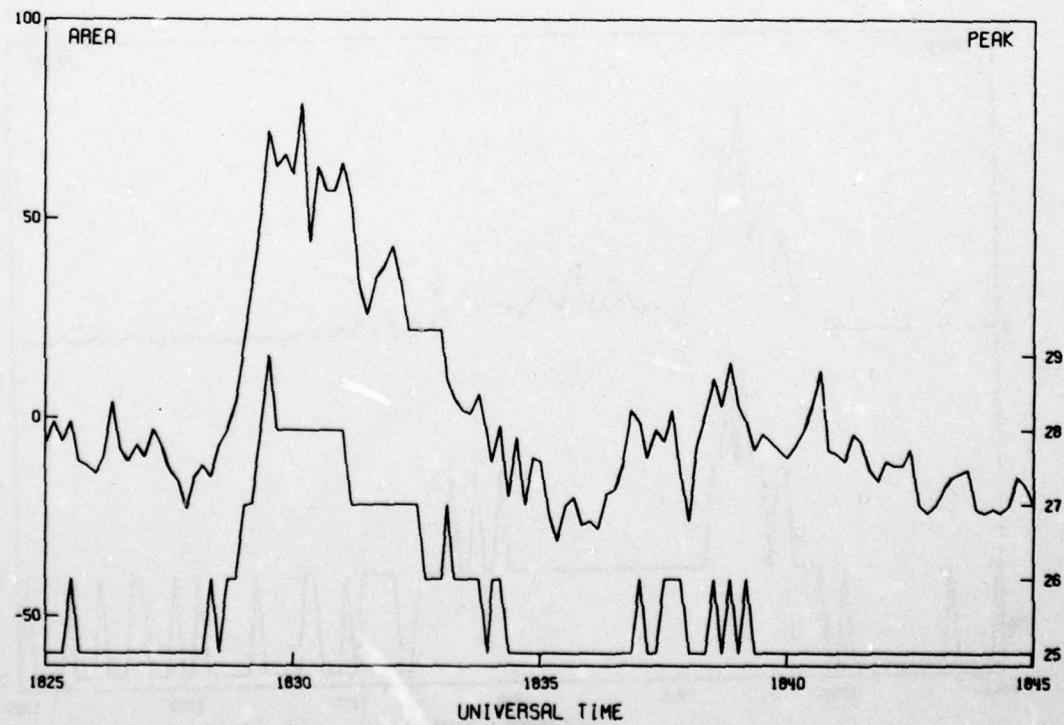
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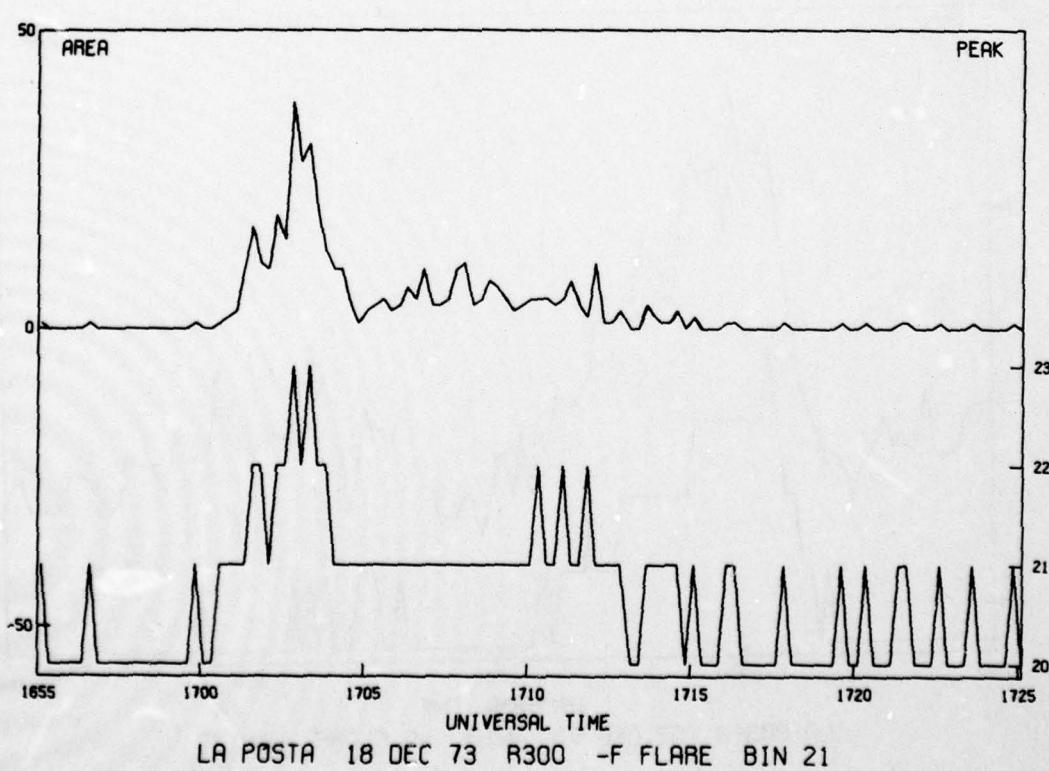
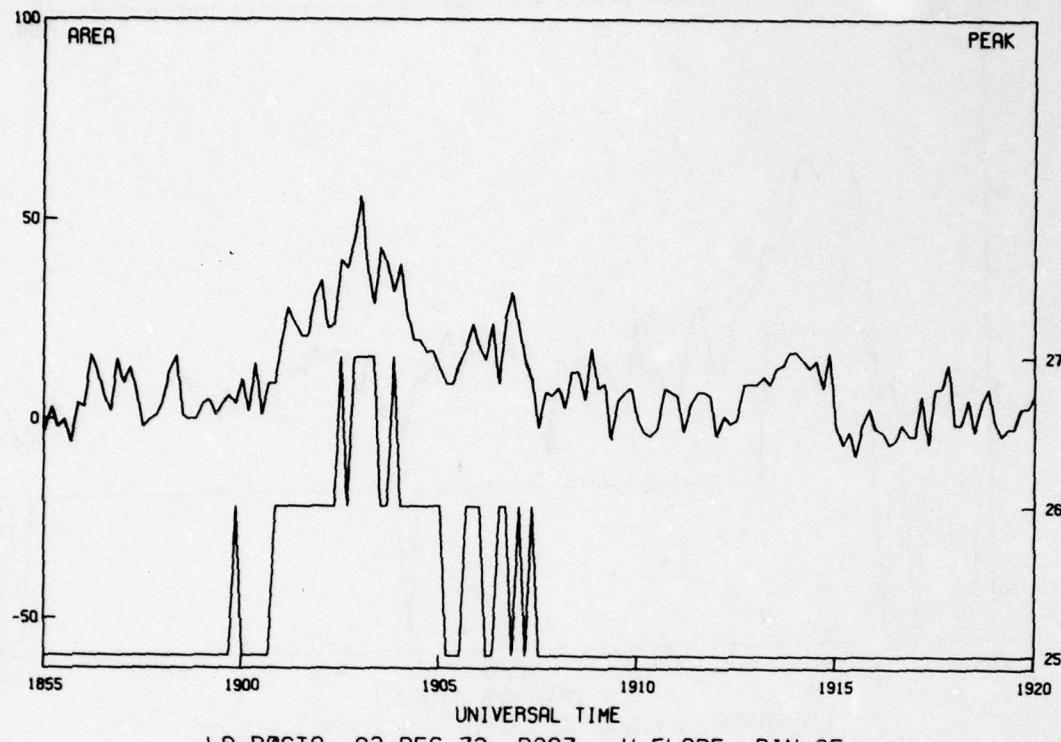
LA POSTA 27 NOV 73 R287 U FLARE BIN 30



LA POSTA 27 NOV 73 R287 U FLARE BIN 30



LA POSTA 02 DEC 73 R287 -F FLARE BIN 25



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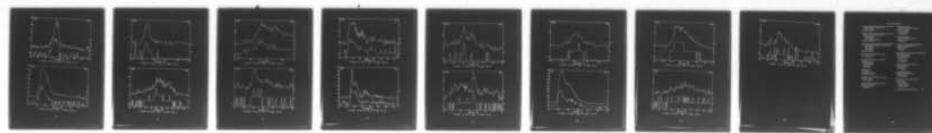
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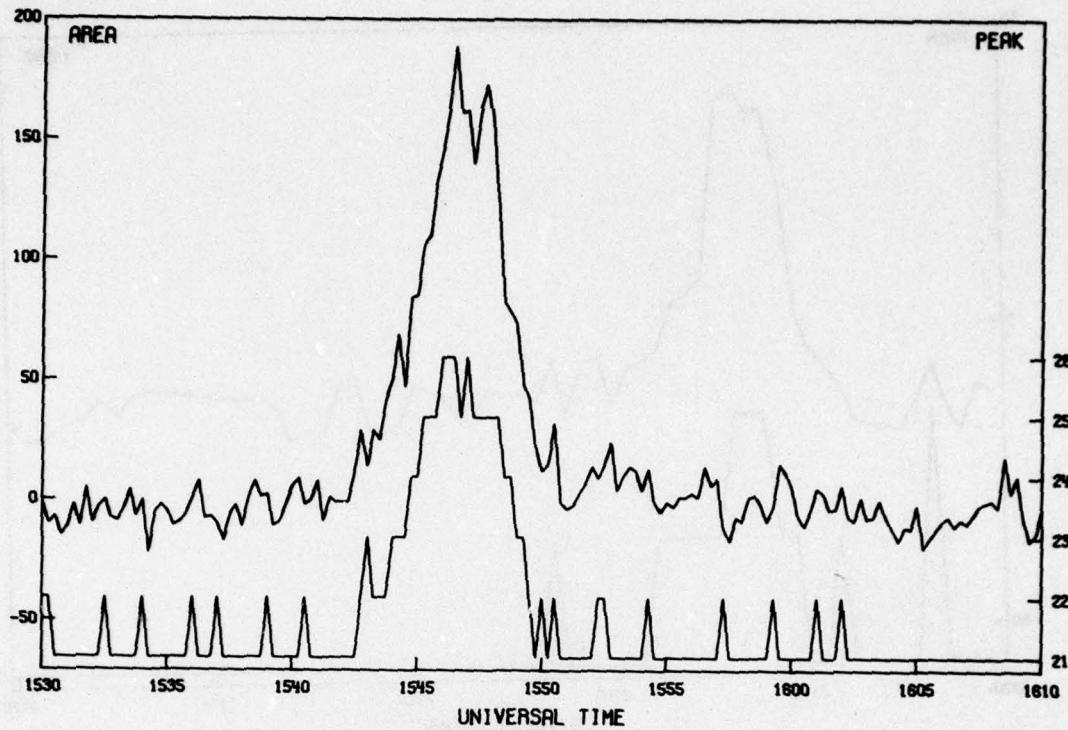
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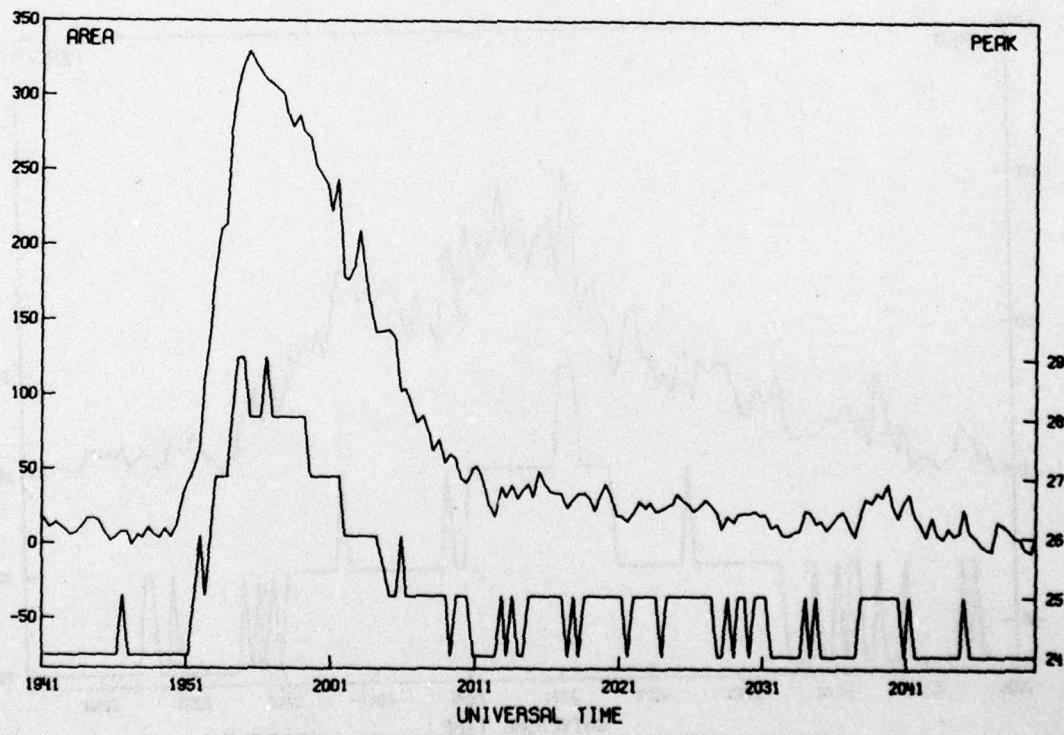
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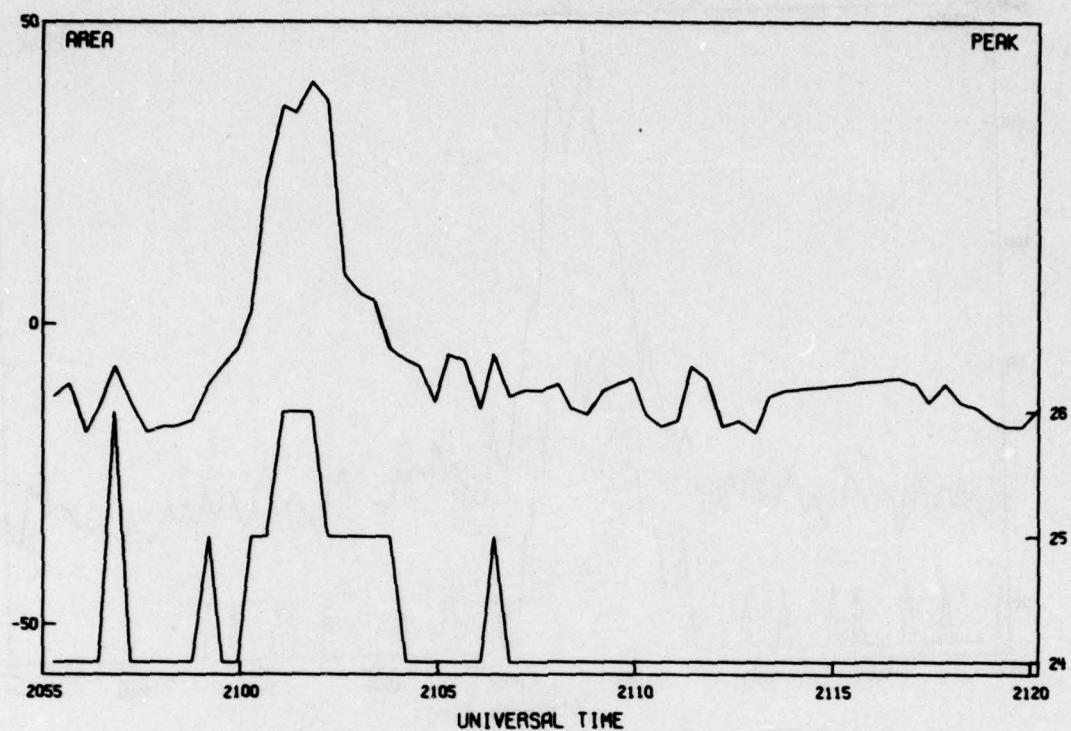
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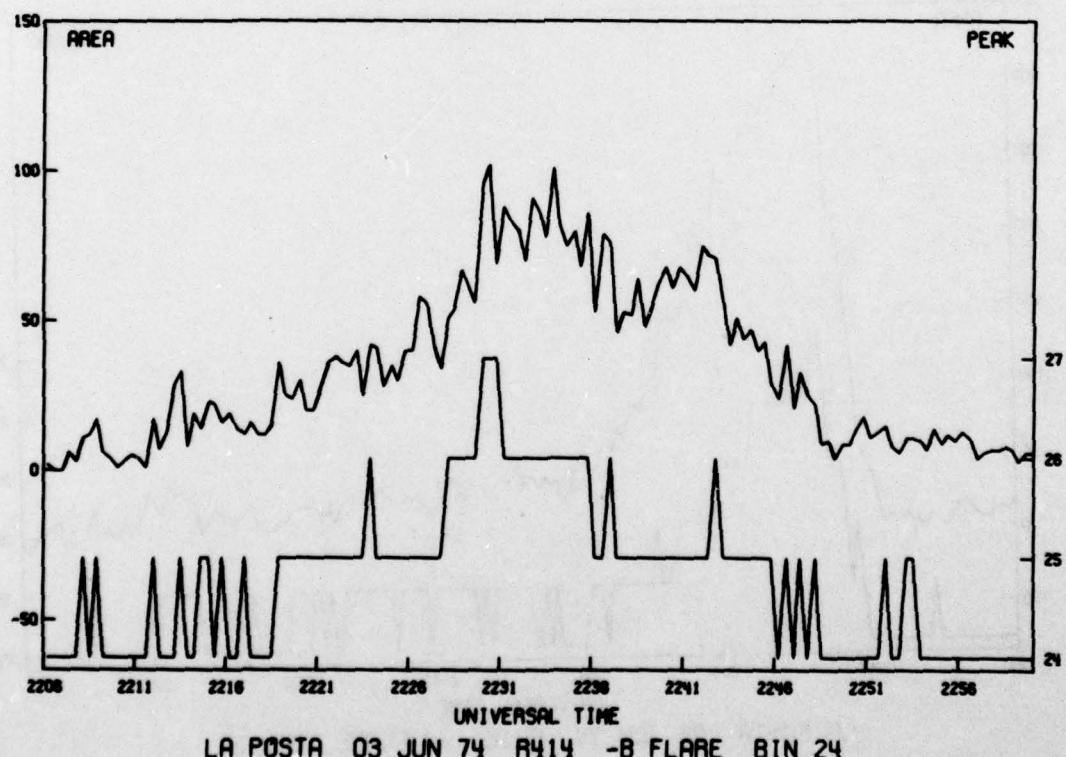
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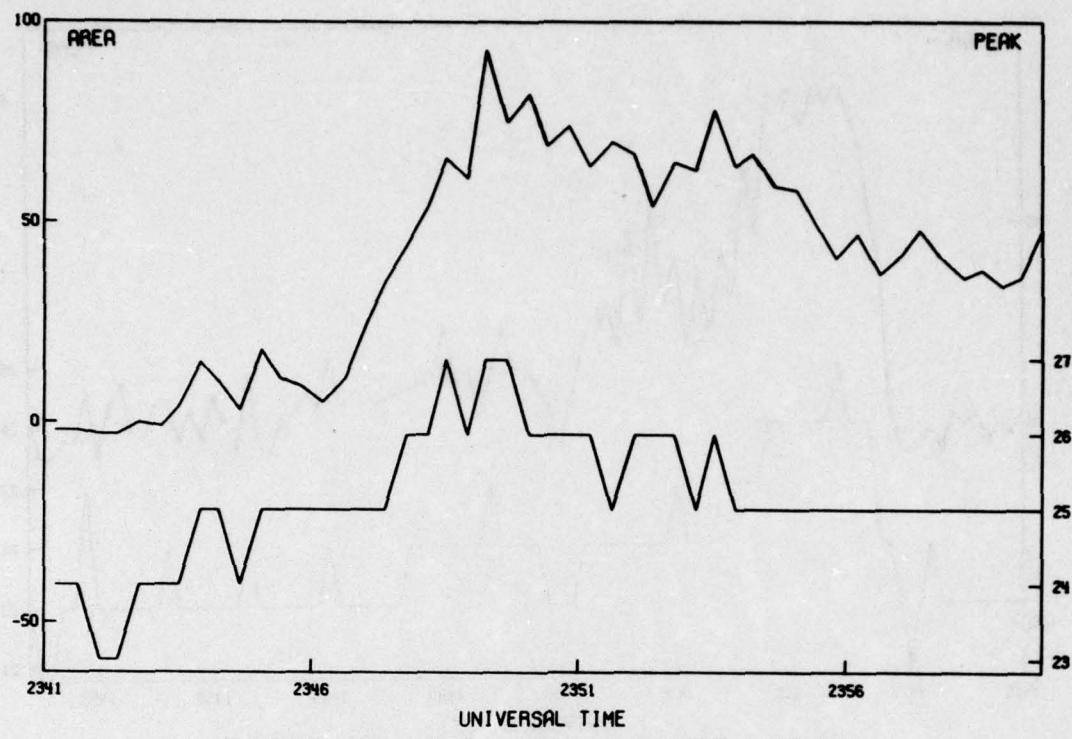
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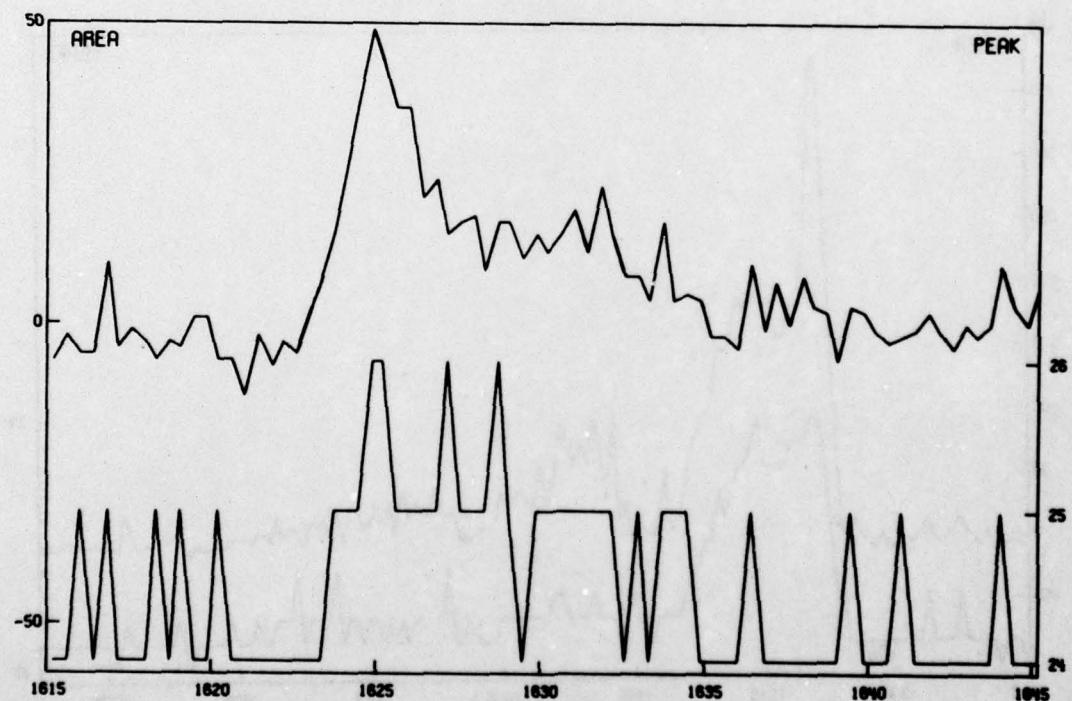
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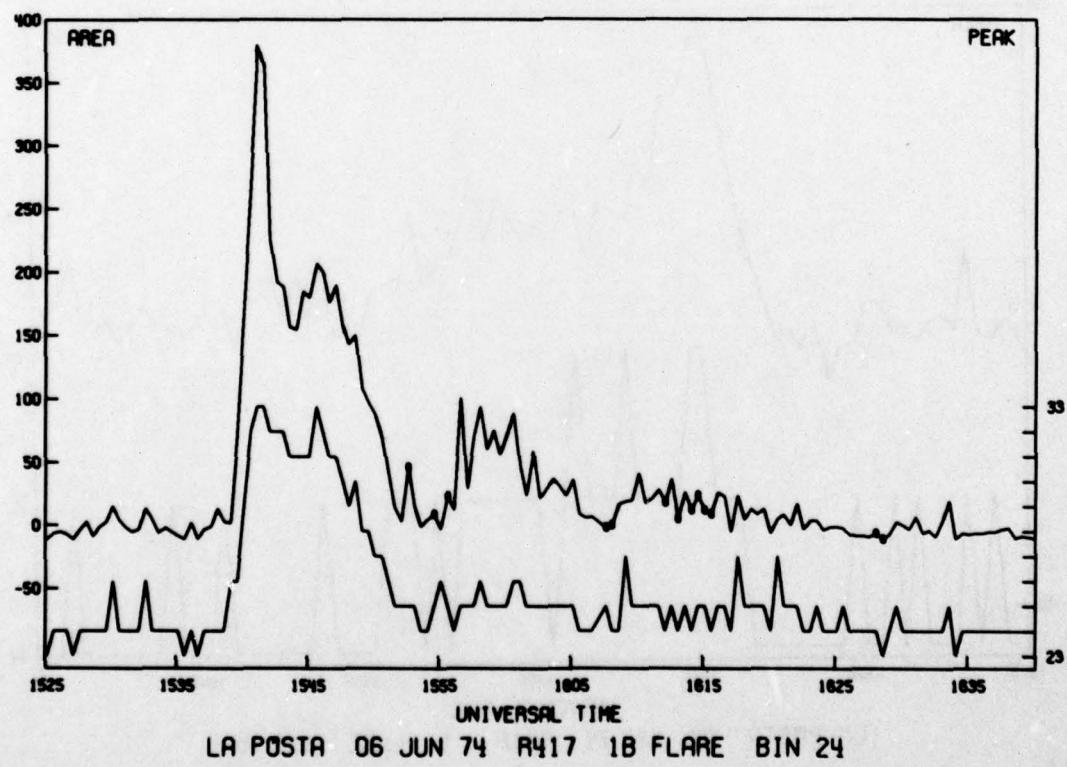
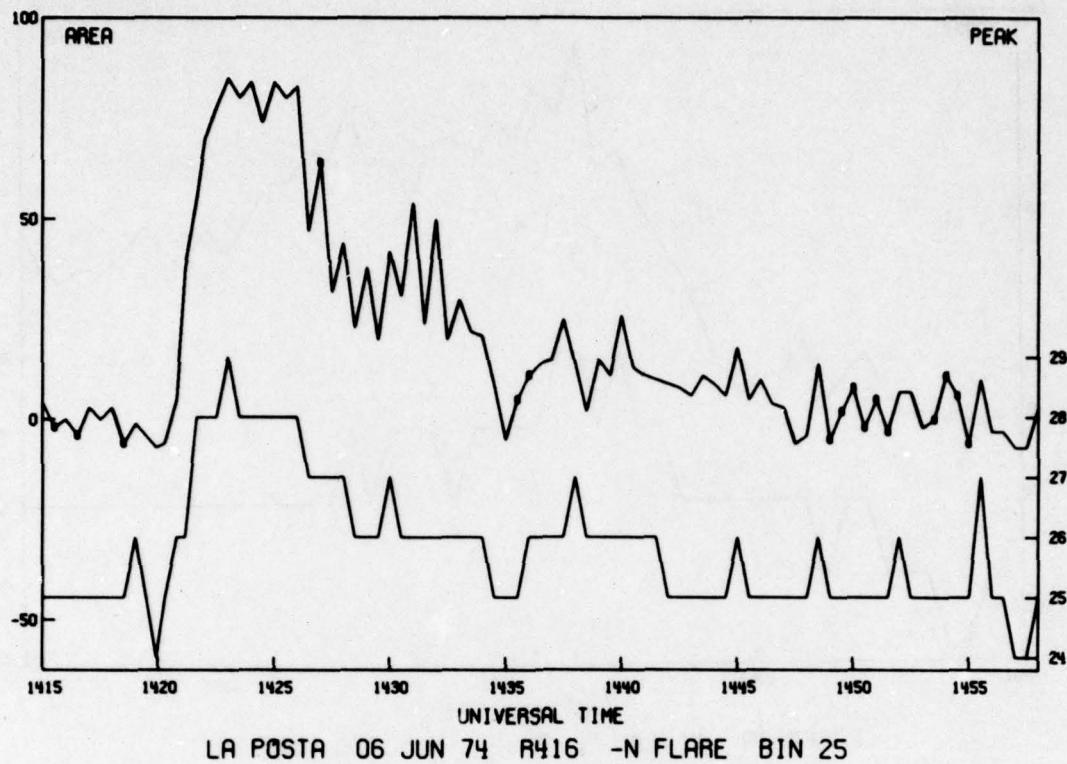
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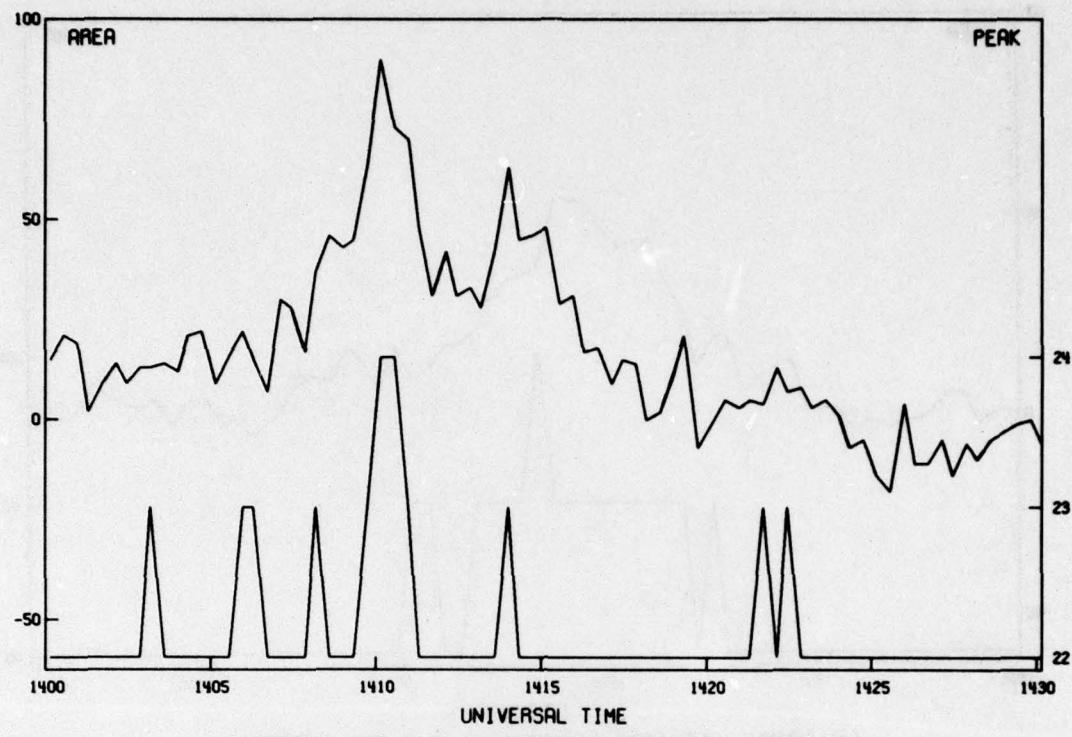


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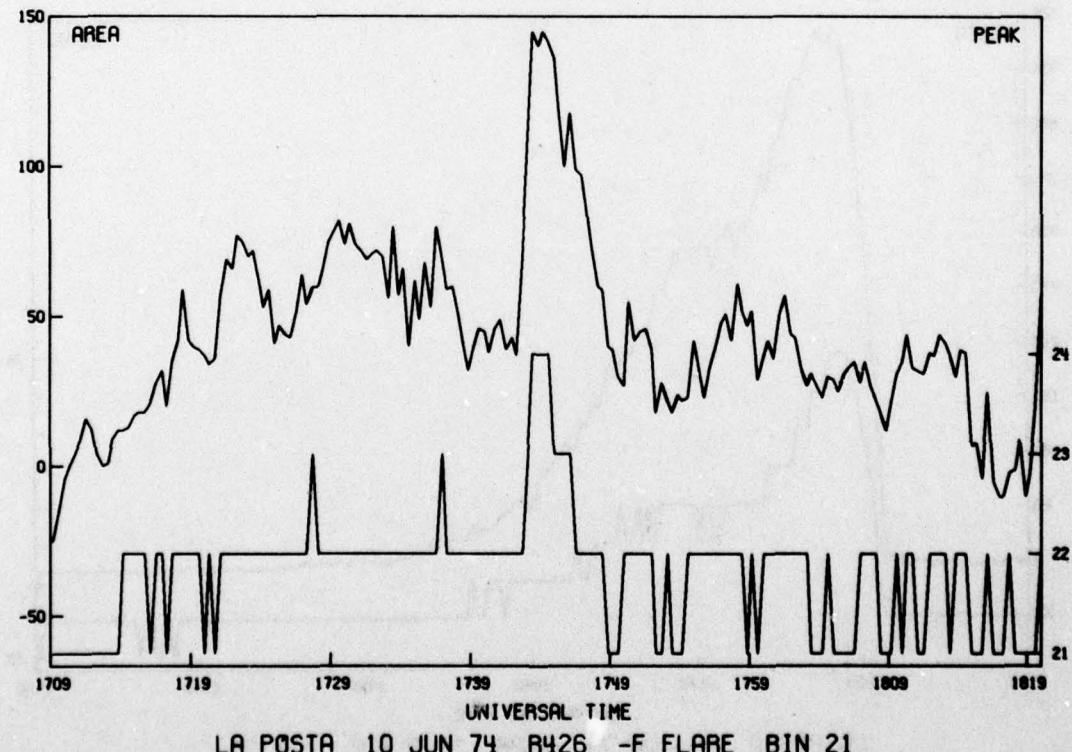


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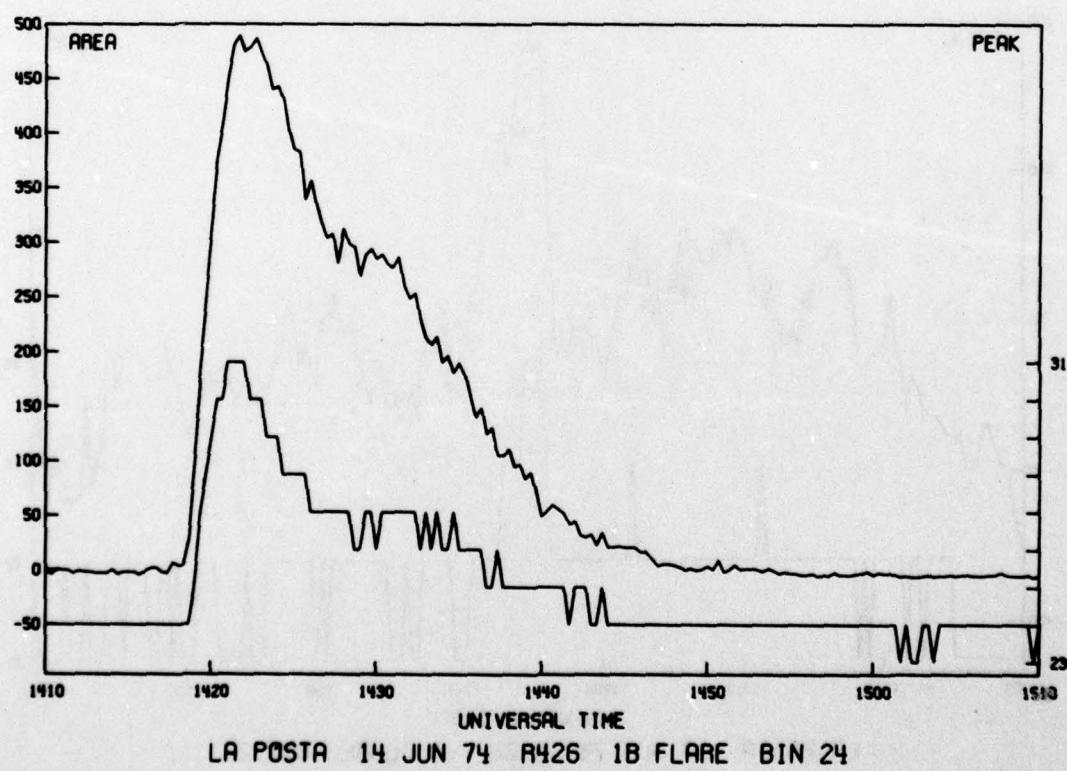
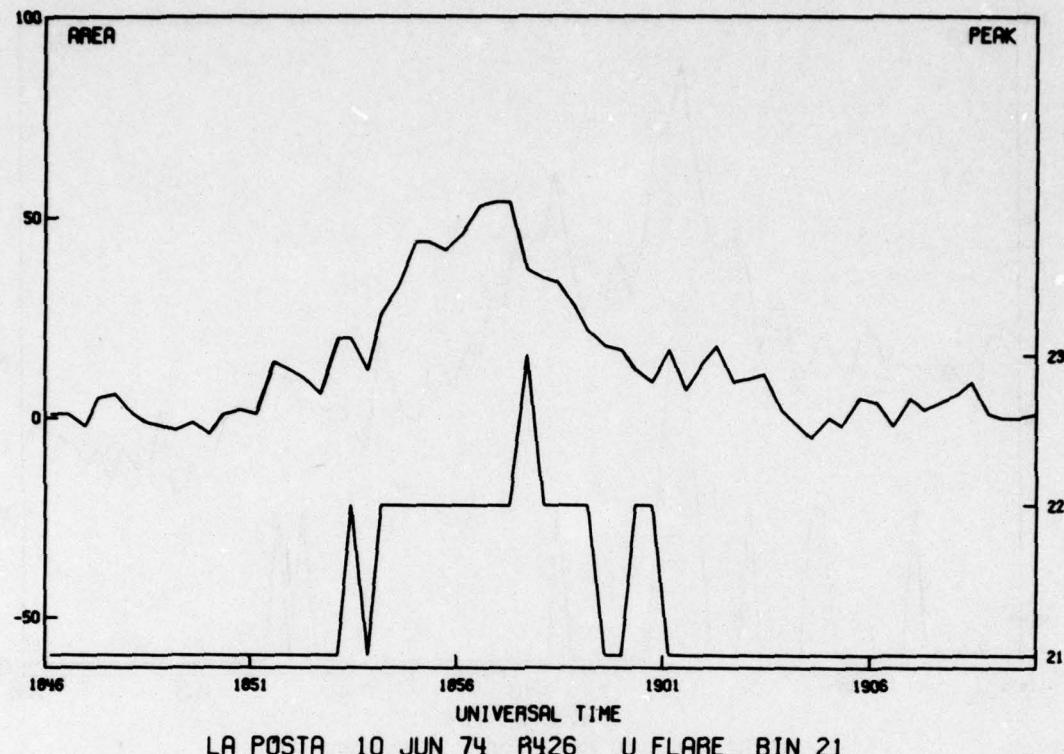


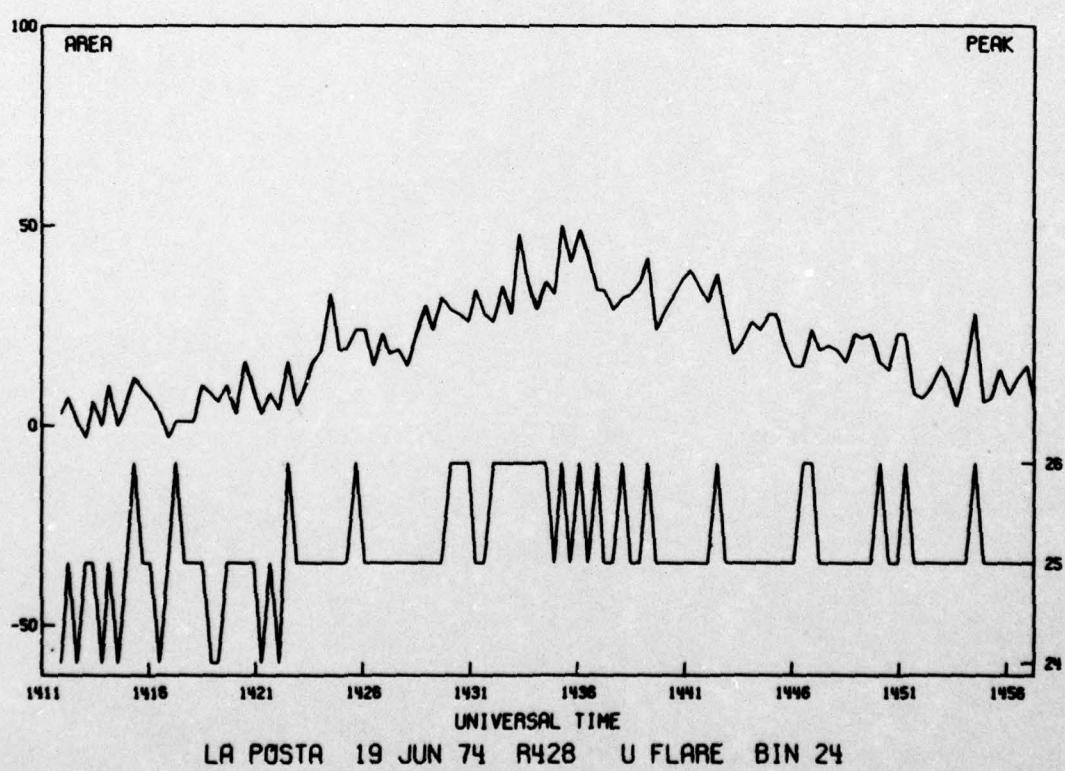
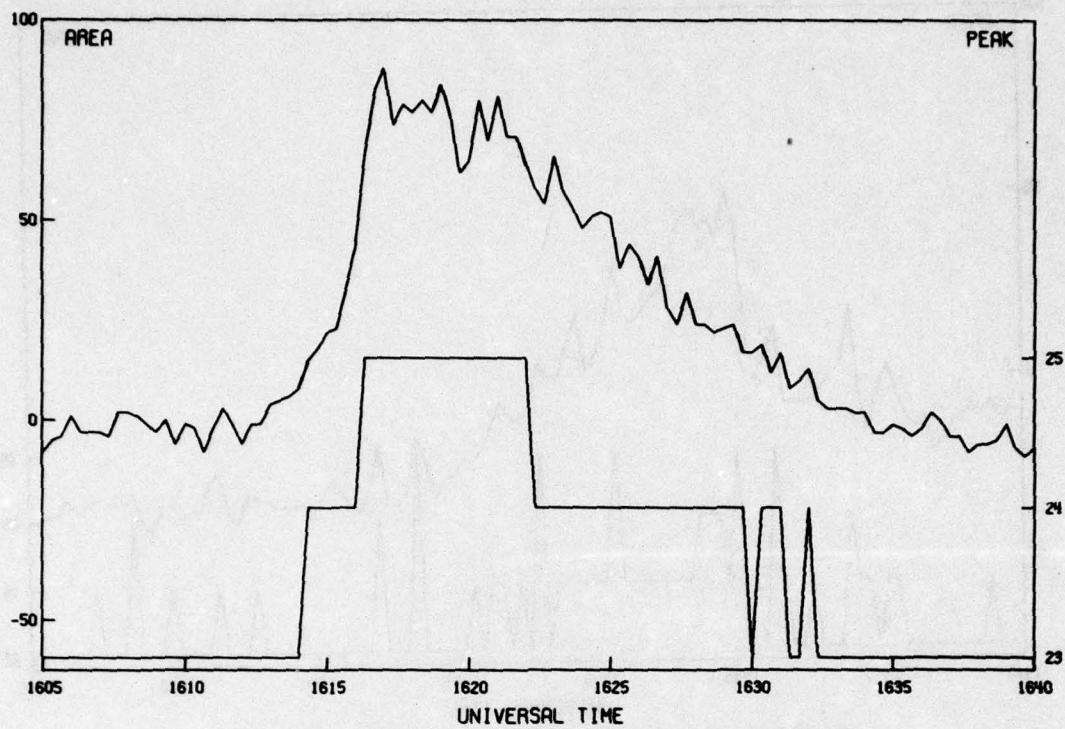


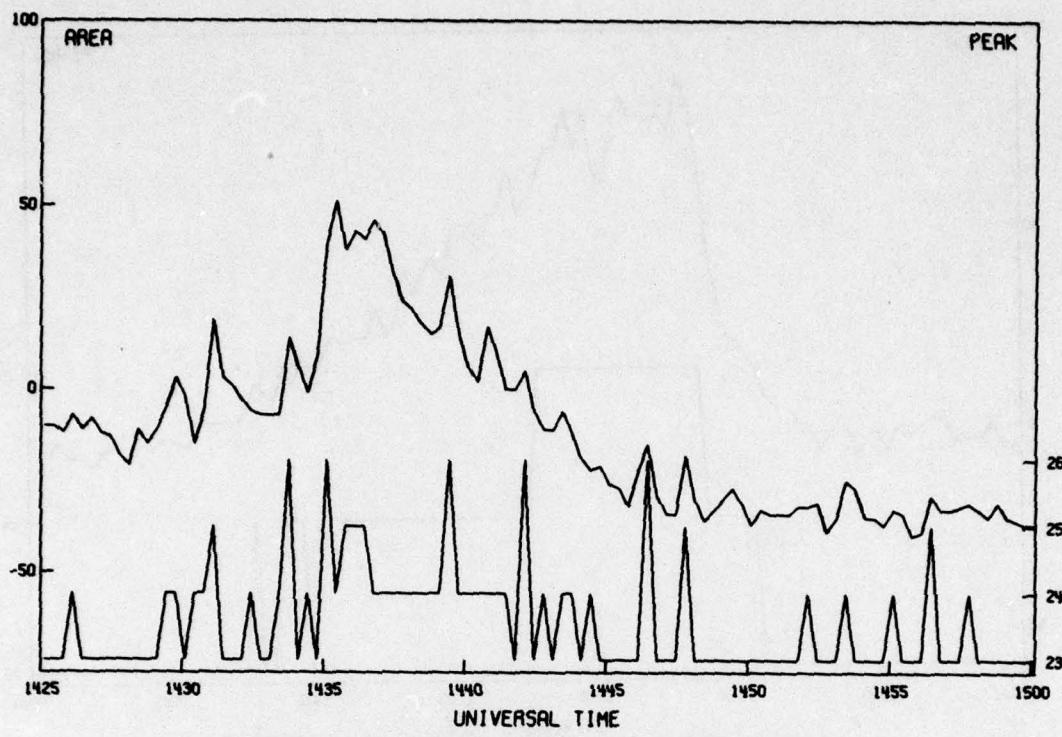
LA POSTA 10 JUN 74 R426 -N FLARE BIN 21



LA POSTA 10 JUN 74 R426 -F FLARE BIN 21







LA POSTA 21 JUN 74 R428 IN FLARE BIN 23

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