

The need for synoptic solar observations from the ground.



**Alexei A. Pevtsov**  
US National Solar Observatory



“Breaking news: Monstrous CME hits the Earth”

# Brief History of Early Synoptic Programs

- Sunspot numbers (1600-present; Rudolf Wolf, 1848), sunspot drawings, RGO photographic observations (1874-1976), CaK observations (Kodaikanal, India 1907-1999, MWO 1915-1985), Meudon synoptic maps (1919-), sunspot field strength measurements (MWO, 1917-present), etc (other e.g., NAOJ).
- **Modern era (late-1940<sup>th</sup>):** Kislovodsk Mountain Astronomical Station (1948), Sacramento Peak Observatory (1949), radio (2800 MHz/10.7 cm, Ottawa/Dominion 1946-present), magnetographic measurements (NSO, MWO, WSO).
- **Networks (late-1950<sup>th</sup>):** "Sun Service" program (USSR, mid-1950<sup>th</sup>-2010), the Solar Observing Optical Network (SOON, 1970<sup>th</sup>-present), helioseismology networks, GONG (1995-present), global high resolution H-alpha network (GHN).

# Synoptic. But Why?

## Pure science (curiosity):

- Solar and stellar processes and their changes (e.g., solar flares, coronal mass ejections, etc.).
- Sun-Earth connections and space climate

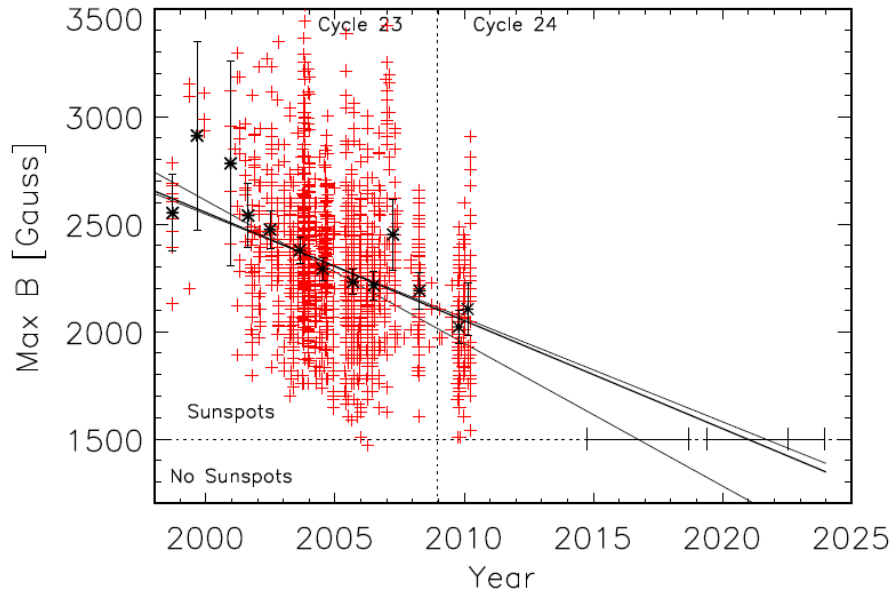
**Observations are not well-defined.  
Monitor as long as possible !**

## Applied science (space weather):

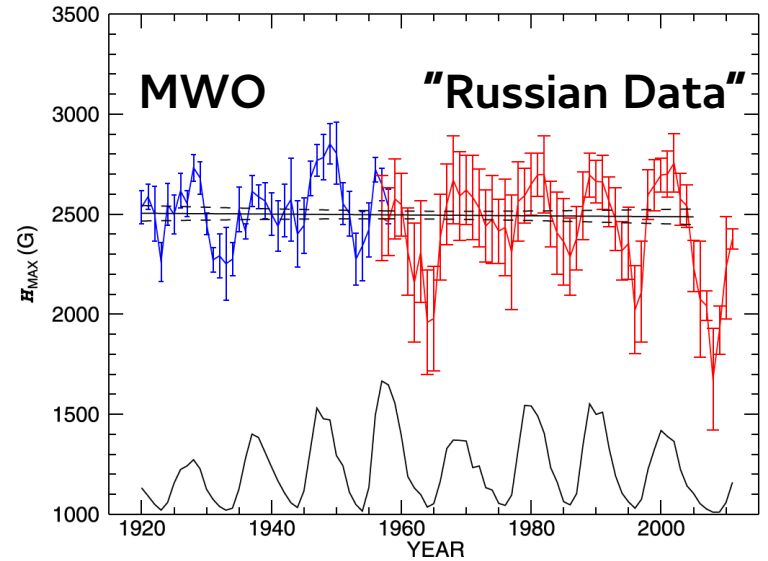
- Providing routine observations for space weather forecasting.

**Observations are well- (better) defined.  
Monitor as long as needed !**

# Example 1: Do properties of sunspots change?

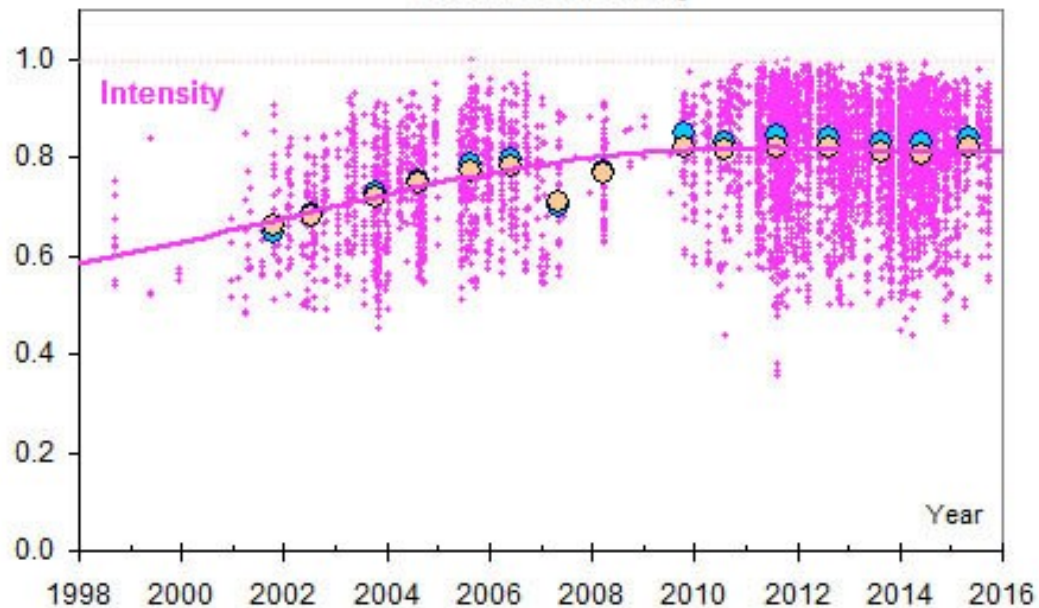


**Penn and Livingston (2011)**

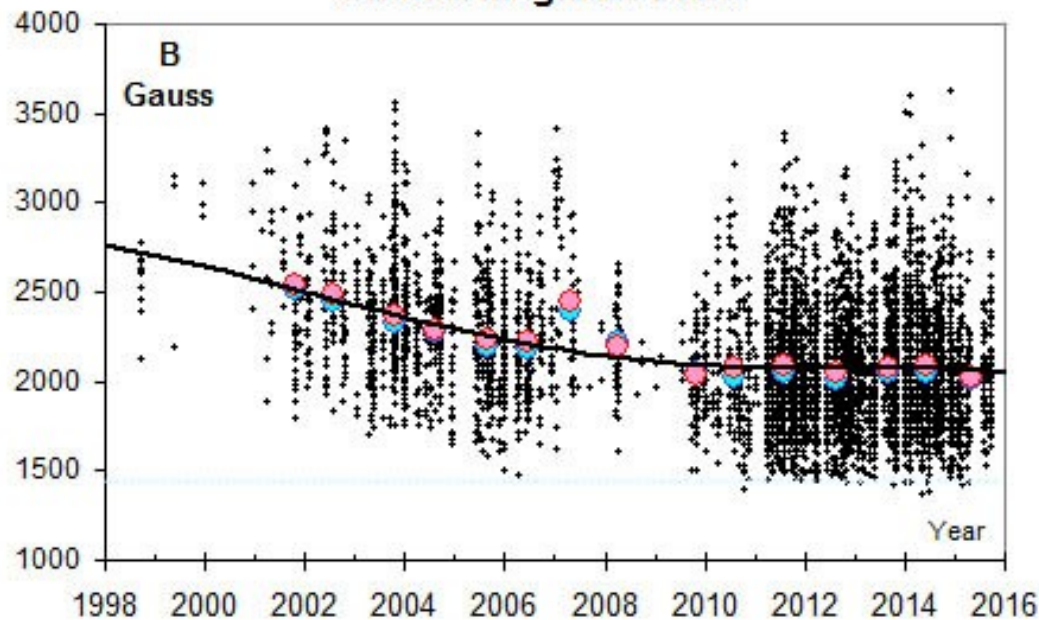


**Pevtsov et al (2014)**

### Umbral Intensity

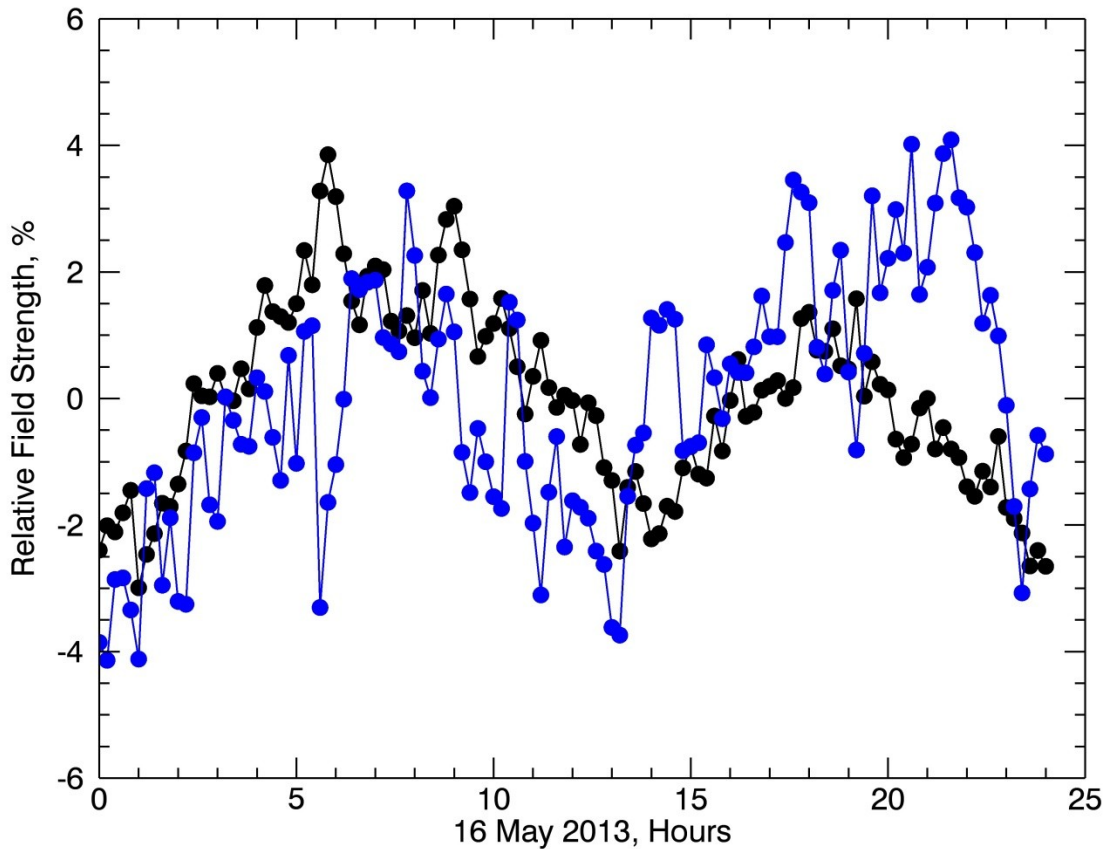


### Umbral Magnetic Field



# Space - vs. Groundbased

- Day-night cycle/seeing
- Extended coverage
- Longevity
- Cost
- Flexibility
- Intern



Investigated via use of  
the optics

(exist)

(50 yrs+),

can be repaired and

parts can be added

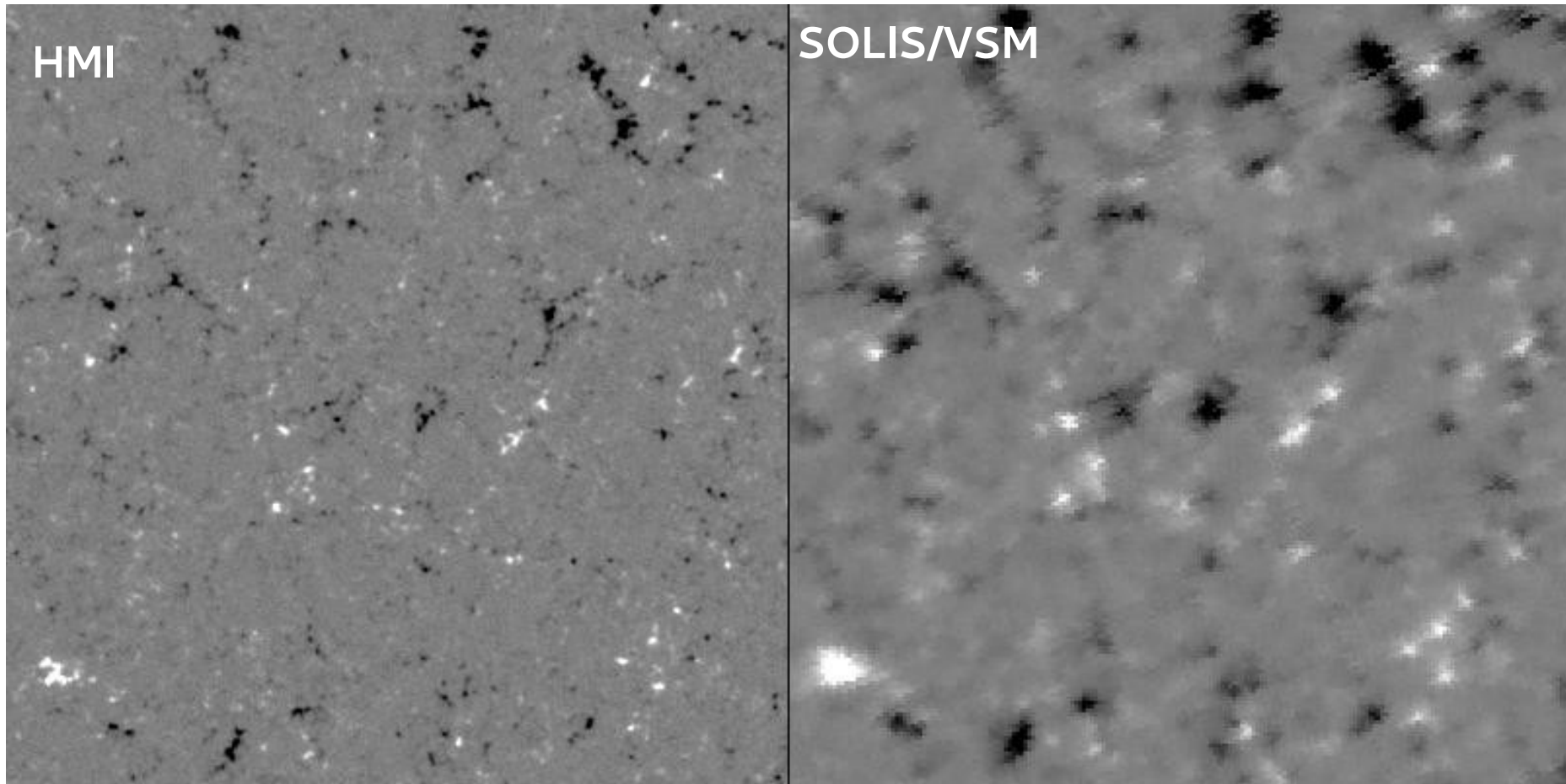
restricted

largely unrestricted

Requires central coordination

**Can** be run under a loose coordination

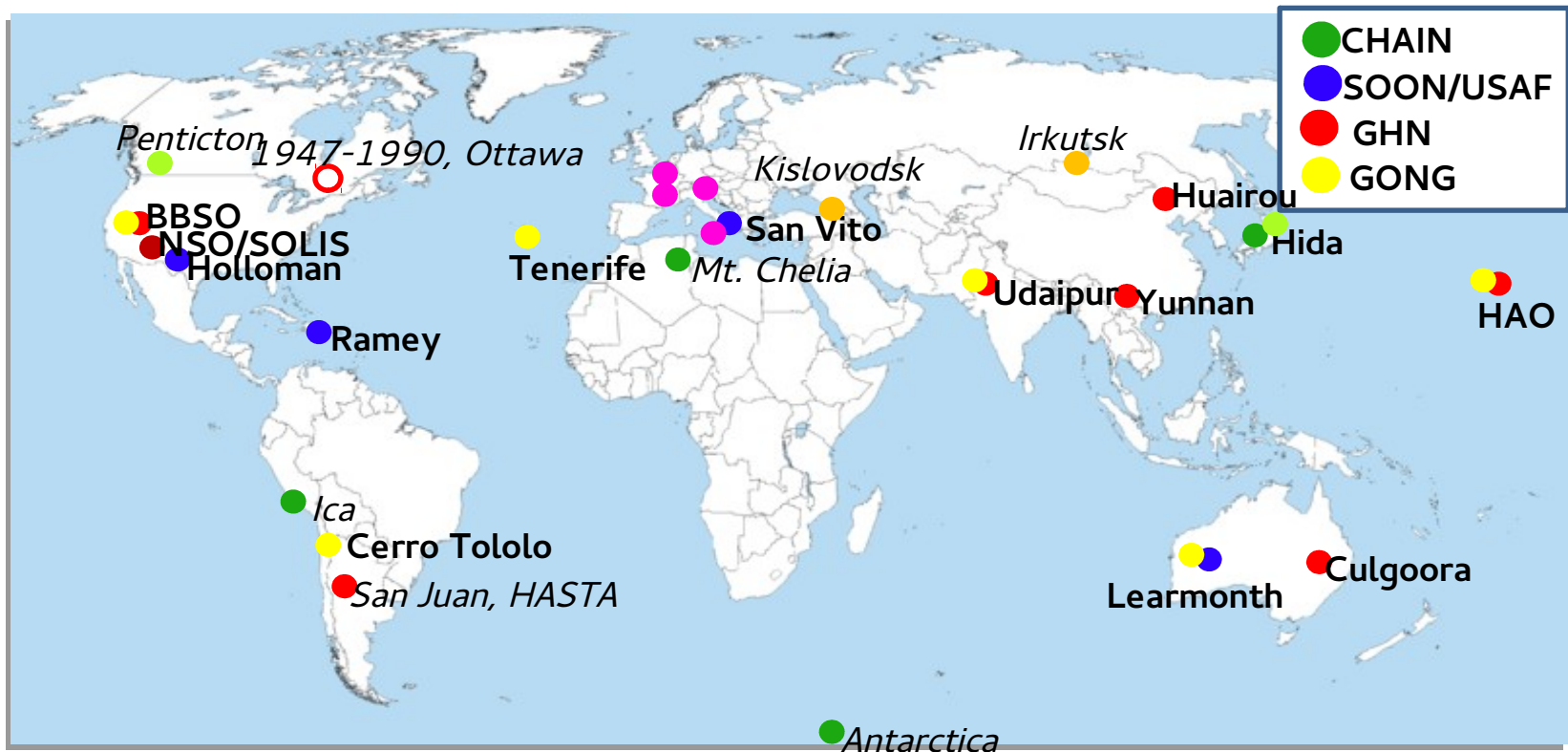
# Space vs. Ground



- Data are largely comparable (depending on goals); higher resolution and cadence could be achieved if needed.

# Main international solar monitoring networks

- **SOON**/ISOON: visual, WL, H-alpha, 5 stations, NSO-USAF (USA)
- GONG: helioseismology, magnetograms, WL, H-alpha, 6 stations (NSO, USA)
- CHAIN:FMT: WL, H-alpha (core-wings), 2 stations + 2 (Hida, Japan)
- GHN, Global H-alpha High-Resolution Network: informal portal (NJIT, USA)





# Some current issues

- Lack of coordination between national programs/observatories (non-uniform/duplicate data).
- No critical evaluation (what do we need to observe, what is missing etc).
- Lack of long-term planning (not well-defined goals, diminishing funding, aging facilities).
- Data preservation...

- Lack of coordination - "Everybody observes H-alpha" syndrome
- No uniformity in instrumentation and data reduction

## Global High Resolution H-alpha Network

Home

The Network

Data Center

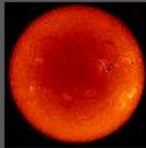
Links

Contact Us

### Latest Images

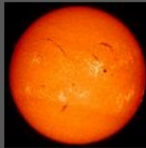
[Click Here for offband images](#)

**Big Bear  
Solar  
Observatory**



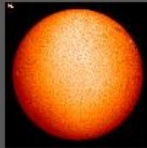
18:48:10 UT Nov 20, 2013

**Observatory  
de Paris,  
Meudon**



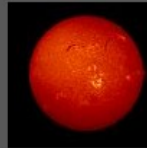
10:12:10 UT Nov 20, 2013

**Uccle Solar  
Equatorial  
Table**



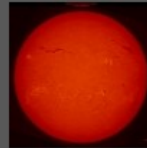
11:01:26 Nov 24, 2013

**Observatoire  
Midi-  
Pyrénées**



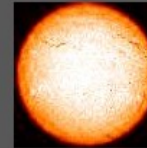
10:12:34 UT Nov 09, 2013

**Kanzelhöhe  
Solar  
Observatory**



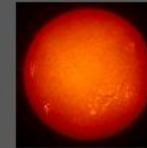
08:47:59 UT Nov 25, 2013

**Catania  
Astrophysical  
Observatory**



06:57:00 UT Nov 25, 2013

**Yunnan  
Astronomical  
Observatory**

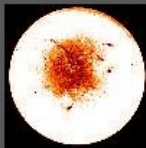


01:54:13 Aug 09, 2012

**Huairou  
Solar  
Observatory**



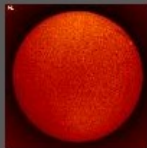
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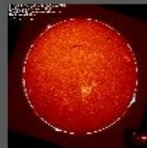
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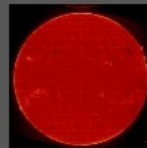
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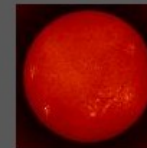
10:12:34 UT Nov 09, 2013



08:47:59 UT Nov 25, 2013



06:57:00 UT Nov 25, 2013



01:54:13 Aug 09, 2012



03:24:00 UT Nov 25, 2013

Observatory	BBSO	KANZELHÖHE	CATANIA	MEUDON	Uccle	Pic du Midi	YUNNAN	HUAIROU
Time zone	UTC-8	UTC+1	UTC+1	UTC+1	UTC+1	UTC+1	UTC+8	UTC+8
APT	10 cm	10 cm	15 cm	25 cm	8 cm	9 cm	18 cm	14 cm
F/S	Filter	Filter	Filter	Spctrgr p	Filter	Filter	Filter	Filter
B-PASS	0.025nm	0.07nm	0.05/0.025 <sub>nm</sub>	0.025nm	0.05nm	<0.05nm	0.06nm	0.05nm
Range	±0.3nm	±0.3nm	±0.1 <sub>nm</sub>	N/A	±0.25nm*	±0.05nm	±0.05nm	±3.2nm
CCD	2048x2048	2048 x2048	1360 x1200	1500 x1340	2048x2048	2048x2048	2Kx2K	2Kx2K
Bits	12	12	16	14	12	16	8	8
Cadence				1/min – one image	15 min, 1/d, 20/ <sub>sec</sub>			10 min

# Some current issues

- Lack of coordination between national programs/observatories (non-uniform/duplicate data).
- No critical evaluation (what do we need to observe, what is missing etc).
- Lack of long-term planning (not well-defined goals, diminishing funding, aging facilities).
- Data preservation...

# Should be "Define clear goals and revisit them on a regular basis?"

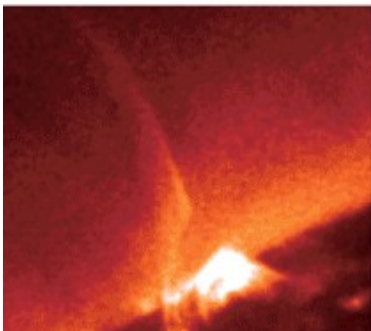
- Q: Understanding energy flow through solar atmosphere.
  - Importance: chromospheric/coronal heating, flares.

## Small scale, rapid processes:

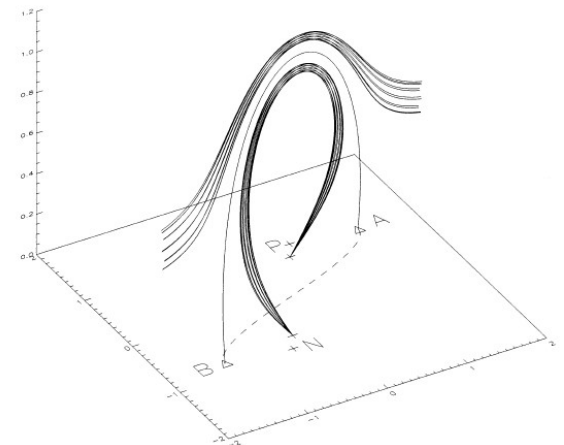
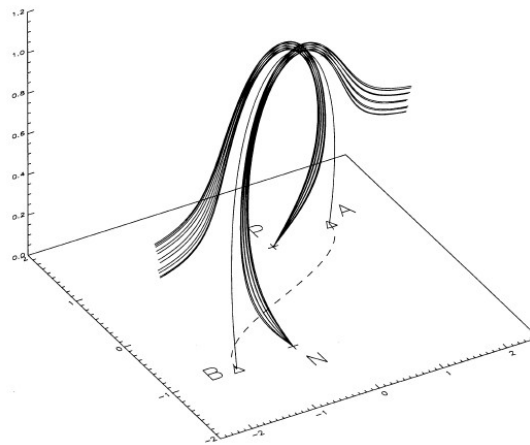
- Jets, flare triggers

## Large-scale connectivity:

- remote eruption triggering

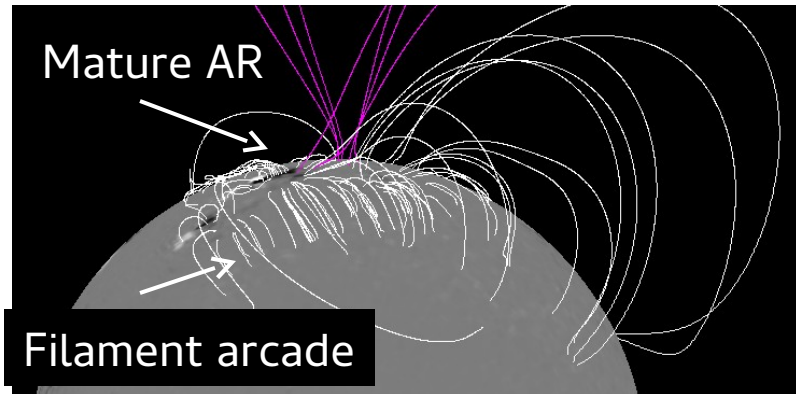


Cheung et al. 2014

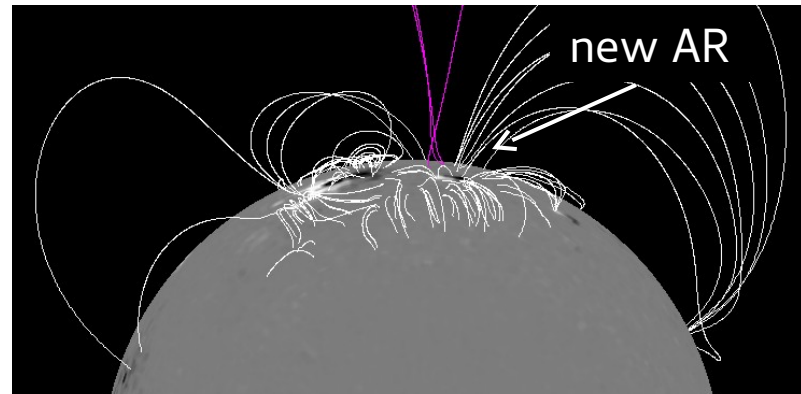


Longcope & Kankelborg (1999)

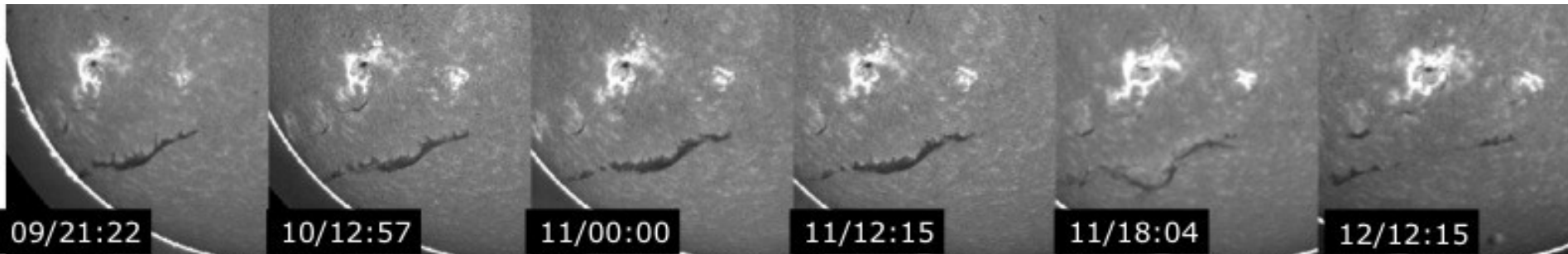
# Large-scale connectivity



9 June 2003



11 June 2003



Magnetic field of emerging AR reconnects with mature AR, which in its turn, "steals" field lines from magnetic arcade above filament.

# Historical Data Preservation

- H-alpha flare patrol data (~1955-2002)
- Sunspot drawings (1947-2004)
- Filament, plage drawings
- Historic photographs, slides (e.g., DST construction, telescopes, scientists).
- Spectroheliograms (H-alpha (on-/off band), CaK (on-/off band),  $D_3$ , 1965-2002).
- White light patrol film (~1960-2002)
- "Green" corona (film, ~1954-mid-1970<sup>th?</sup>)
- H-alpha prominences (film, ~1950-mid-1970?)
- Coronal spectra (glass plates, 35-mm film ~1950-mid-1970?)
- One shot coronagraph (H-alpha disk and prominences (1970?-1990?, 4-inch film)
- (...)
- Other "stuff" (IR and UV spectra from Feb. 5, 1962 total eclipse, data on Exabyte, 9-track tapes, records from ATST (DKIST) sites survey, educational movies, flare spectra from DST, observing logs, official copy of Skylab spectra, etc).

# Current developments/Future Plans

- SPRING: new network to replace GONG/SOLIS (aimed at multi-wavelength helioseismology and vector magnetography) – Markus Roth
- NAOJ and Nat. Obs. of Athens' plans (see posters by Hanaoka and Kontogiannis).
- Digitization of historical data (Sac Peak, BBSO, Kodaikanal, MWO, Baikal Astrophys. Observatory)
- IAU Working Group on Coordination of Synoptic Observations of the Sun



# Develop requirements for data?

- Wavelength ranges
- Cadence, spatial and spectral resolution
- Derived parameters (magnetic field/vector or LOS), Doppler velocities?
- Which data are necessary/supplementary?

# Announcements with Inter-Division B-E WG

## Coordination of Synoptic Observations of the Sun

CO-CHAIRS

[Clette, Frederic](#)

[Pevtsov, Alexei](#)

[Kitt Peak](#) [Sacramento Peak](#) [DKIST](#) [NISF](#) [VSO](#)

NATIONAL SOLAR OBSERVATORY

### IAU Inter-Division B and E Working Group

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#### *Inter-Division B and E WG on Coordination of Synoptic Observations of the Sun*

The mission of this working group is to facilitate international collaboration in synoptic long-term solar observations, which includes past, current, and future synoptic programs, preservation, calibration, and access to synoptic solar data products. The working group provides a forum for discussion of all issues relevant to synoptic long-term observations of the Sun including (but not limited to) coordination between synoptic programs in different countries (both in respect to exchange of information and planning for future synoptic programs) and a proper calibration of historic data from different sources (e.g., sunspot drawings, CaK plage indices, magnetic field measurements etc).

**Get Involved!**

<http://www.nso.edu/IAU-Com12>

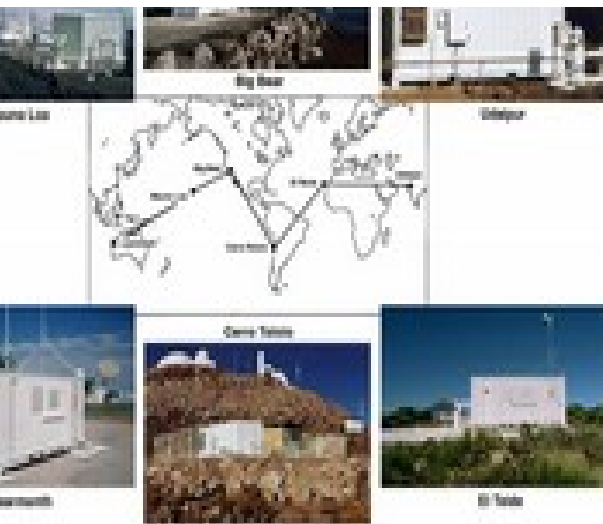
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# Other developments

- ILWS (2013) meeting encouraged creation of WGs on closer collaboration between space missions and groundbased observatories: Solar-Probe Plus – Ground Based Network working group (white paper in preparation)
- L5 mission (Carrington?); working group on groundbased observatories



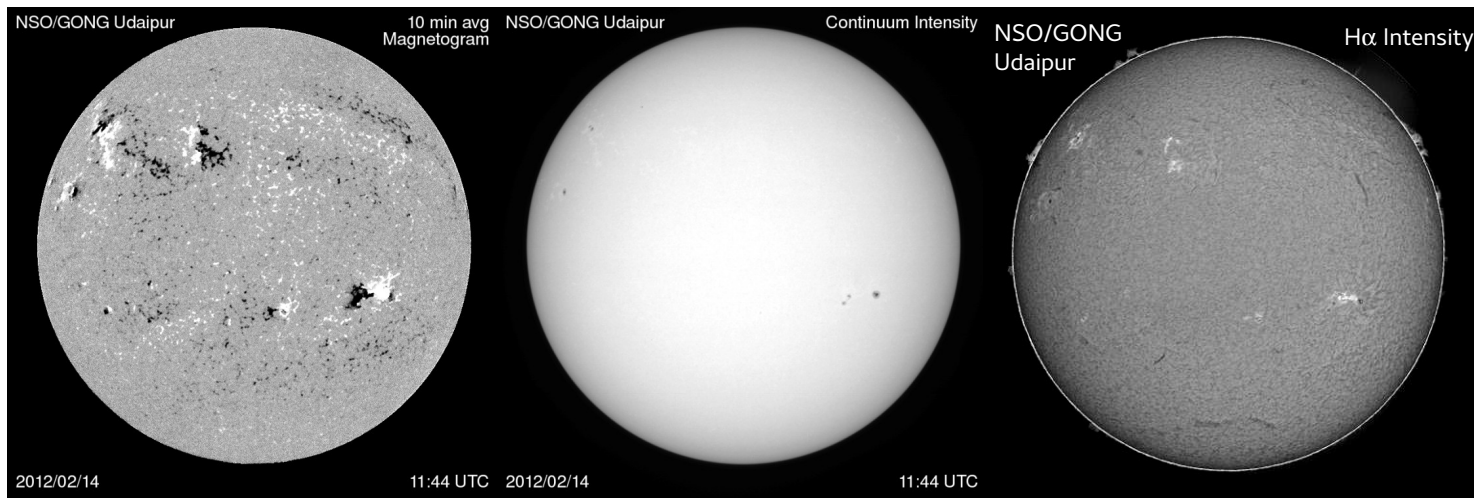
The NSO Integrated Synoptic Program (NISP) provides long-term synoptic observations of the Sun to national and international solar and solar-terrestrial physics communities in support of scientific research and for operational forecast applications in the framework of space weather and climate. NISP operates a suite of instruments from the [Global Oscillation](#)



*The GONG Network*

*SOLIS instrumentation on Kitt Peak*

# Basic Data from GONG



The above images are returned in near-real time and are available on the Internet



Dopplergrams for helioseismology. Left – full velocity field. Right – oscillatory velocity field

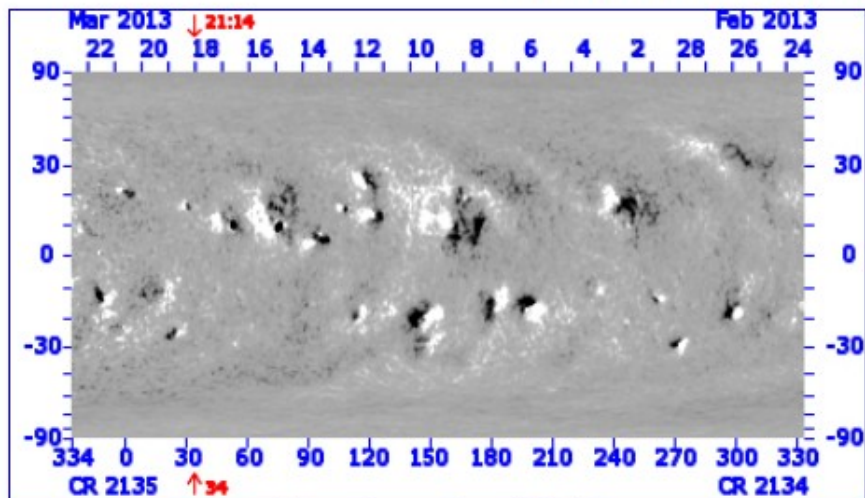
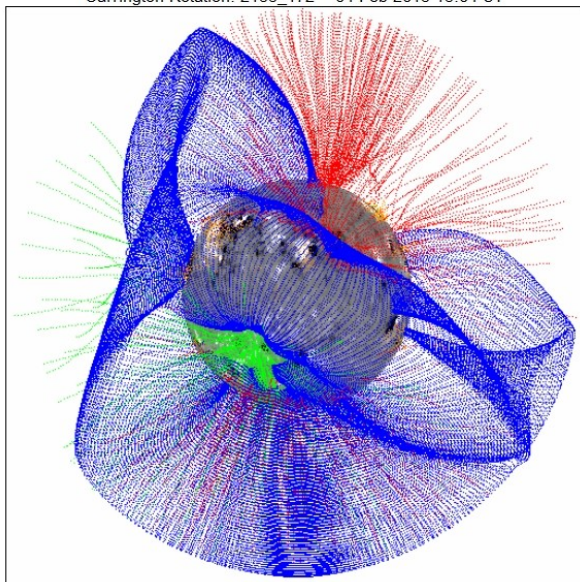
# Space Weather Products from GONG

- Far-side helioseismic maps every 12 hours
  - Used by NOAA/SWPC
- Magnetic field
  - 10-min average & variance
  - Synoptic magnetic field map & PFSS coronal field extrapolation
  - Used by NOAA/SWPC for solar wind and geomagnetic storm forecasts
  - Used by NASA/CCMC
- H- $\alpha$  intensity every 20 sec around the clock
  - Used by US Air Force Weather Agency

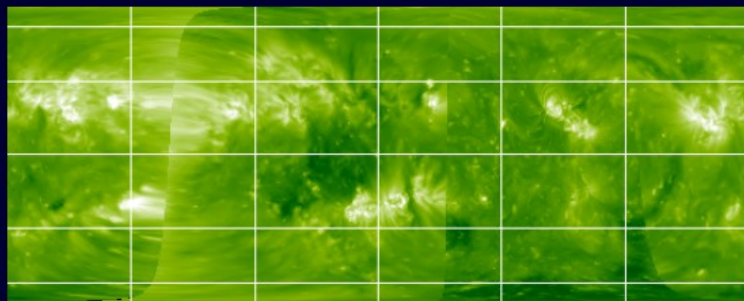
# Data products from SOLIS

- Full disk LOS and vector magnetic field maps (photosphere and chromosphere); 1-2 per day
- Full disk narrow band images (H-alpha, He10830, ...); 10 second cadence
- Sun-as-a-star spectra in 8 wavelength bands.

Carrington Rotation: 2133\_172 04 Feb 2013 13:04 UT



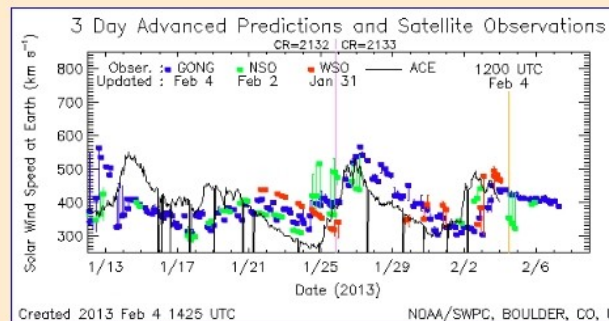
Magnetogram Count: 8991



EUVI image revised: Tuesday, 19-Apr-2011 17:05:32 EDT

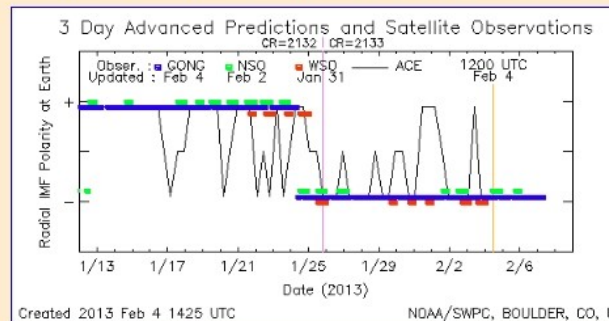


**Predicted Solar Wind Speed at Earth**



Click on plot to see last three rotations

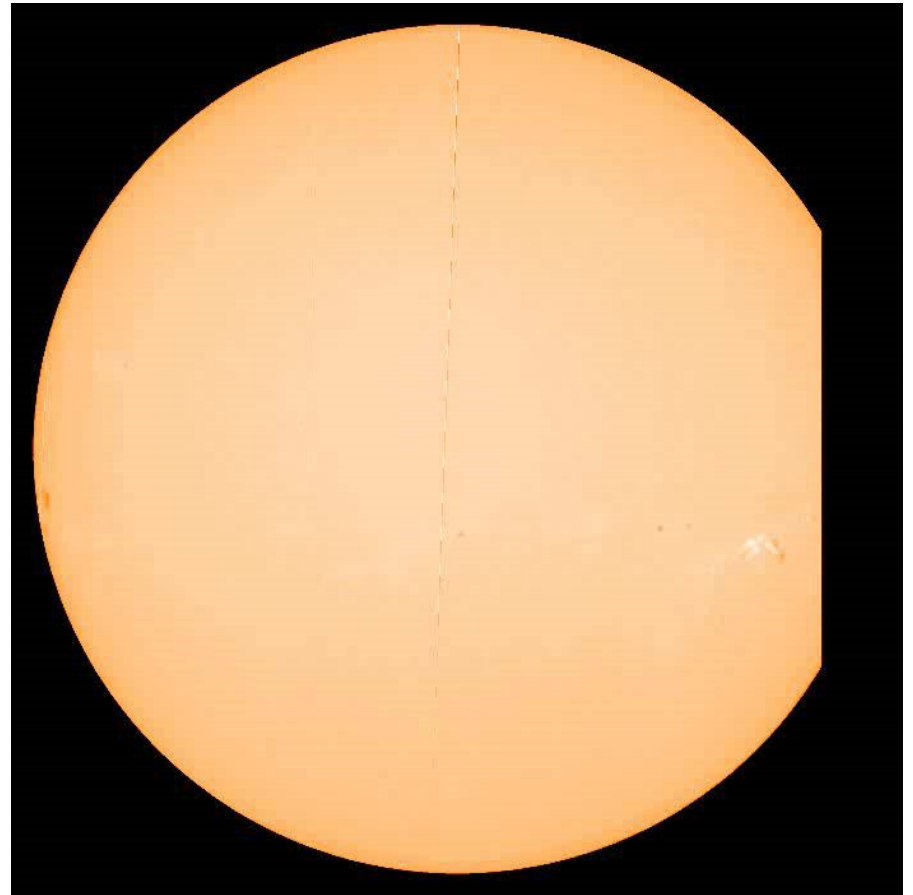
**Predicted Interplanetary Magnetic Field (IMF) Polarity at Earth**



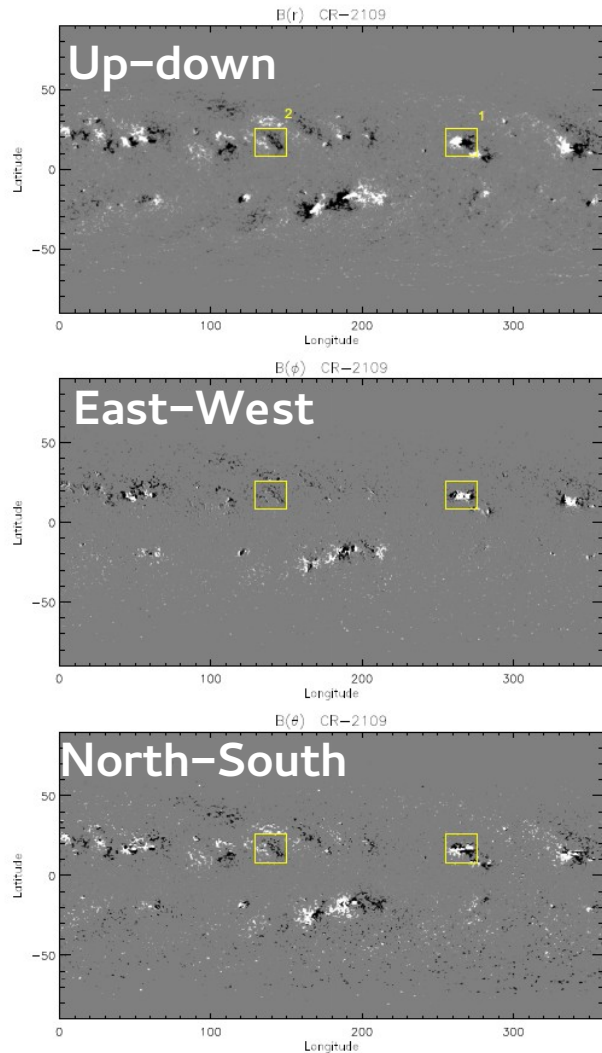


# Solar Atmosphere in 3D

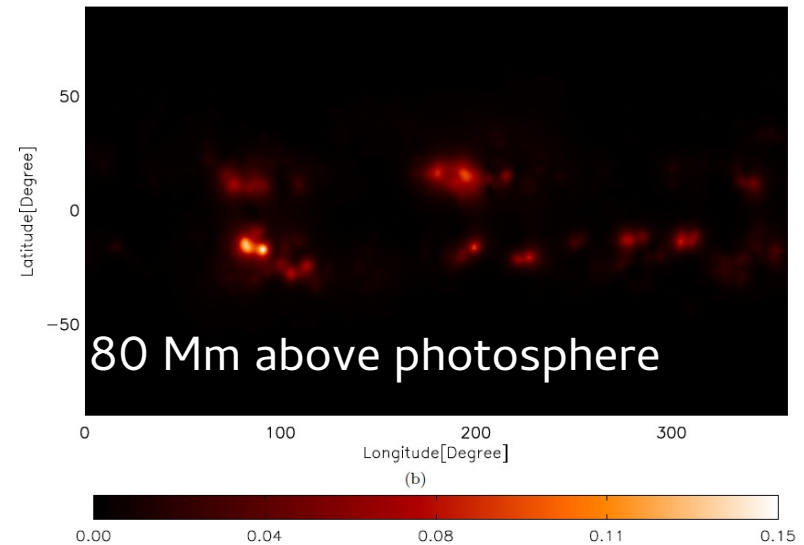
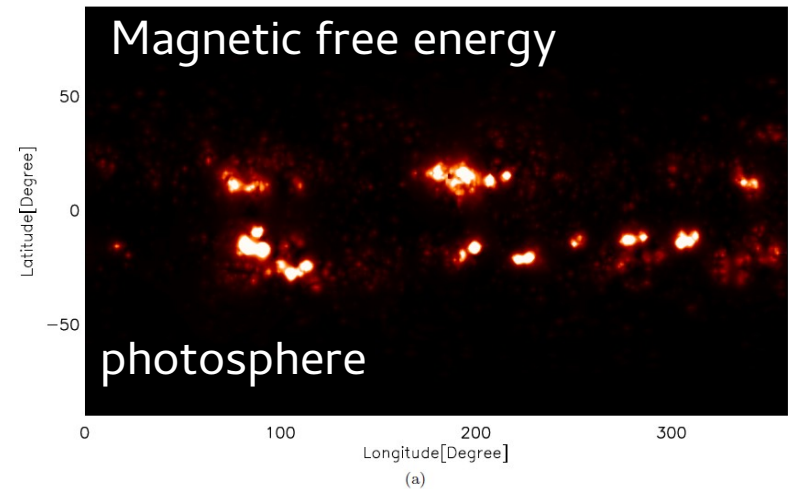
- Set of full-disk spectroscopic data in Ca II IR 854 nm taken with SOLIS
- About 2,000,000 profiles
- Time for inversion: about 1 week with a single job
  - SOLIS data are taken daily...
- “Flight” through solar atmosphere



# New synoptic data?



Gosain et al (2013)



Tadesse et al (2013)

# Helicity?

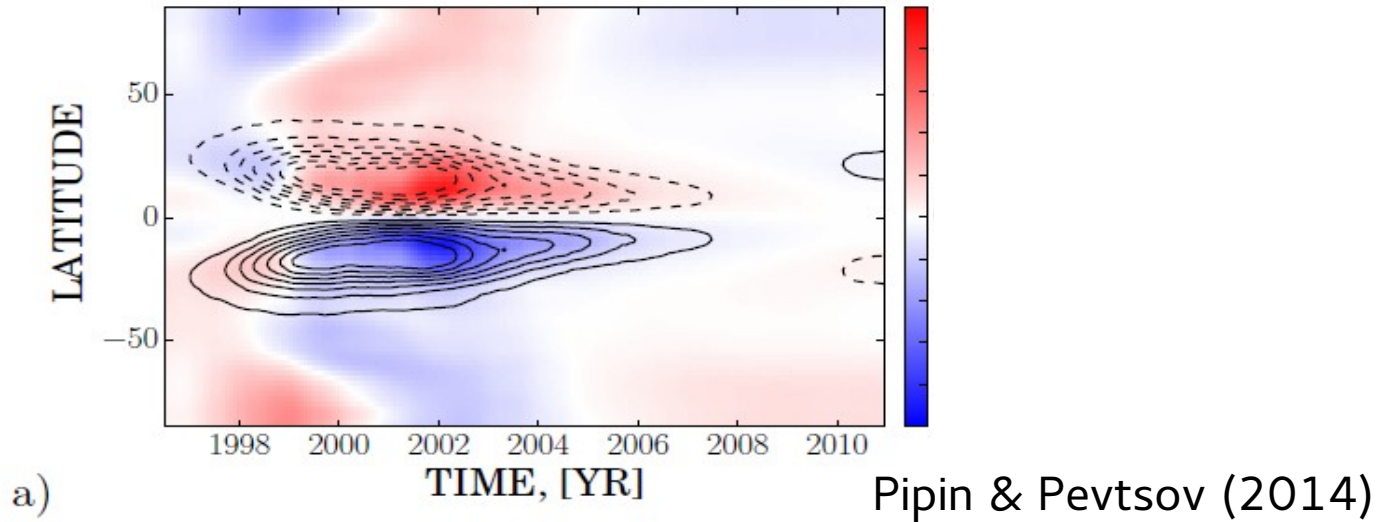


Fig. 7.— The magnetic helicity density for the asymmetric (relative to solar equator) part of the large-scale magnetic field. The panel a) shows the  $\bar{\mathcal{A}} \cdot \bar{\mathcal{B}}$  (background images) and the toroidal magnetic field (contours) for the radial field approximation;

$$\int \bar{\mathcal{A}}_\phi \bar{\mathcal{B}}_\phi d\mu \approx \int \bar{\mathcal{A}}_r \bar{\mathcal{B}}_r d\mu$$



$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{H}_S &= \int_{-1}^1 (\bar{\mathcal{A}}_\phi \bar{\mathcal{B}}_\phi + \bar{\mathcal{A}}_r \bar{\mathcal{B}}_r) d\mu = \\ &= 2 \int_{-1}^1 \bar{\mathcal{A}}_\phi \bar{\mathcal{B}}_\phi d\mu + \sin \theta \bar{\mathcal{A}}_r \bar{\mathcal{A}}_\phi \Big|_{-1}^1 \end{aligned}$$

Kislovodsk Mountain astronomical station of Pulkovo observatory.

Founded in 1948 by M. Gnevyshev.

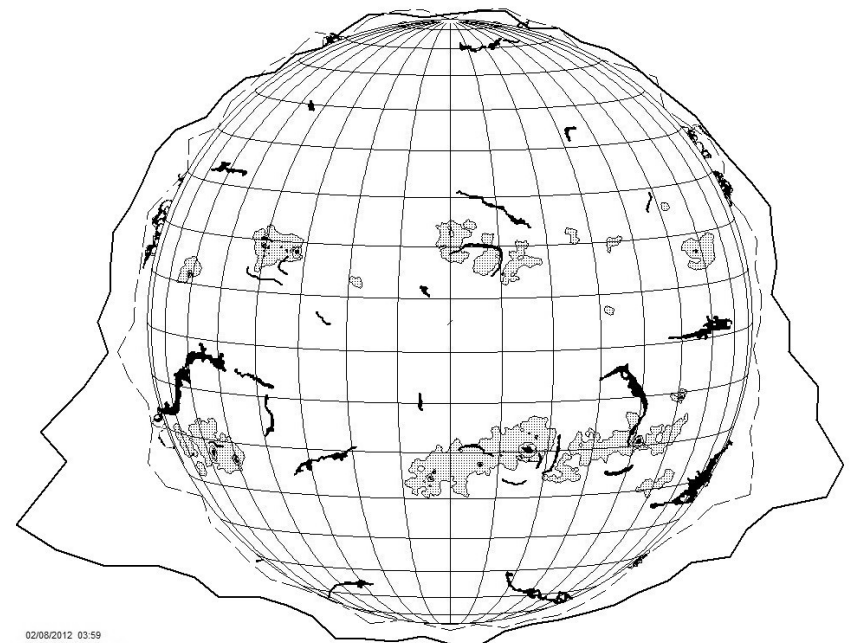


- H-alpha filaments and prominences (1960-present)
- Plages in CaIIK (from 1957-)
- Sunspots (from 1948-)
- Solar corona 5303 и 6374 (from 1953)
- Radio observations 5 и 3 cm.
- Sunspot field strengths 1960<sup>th</sup> – 1995.

UT: 03:59 (2,17)  
Nrot 2126

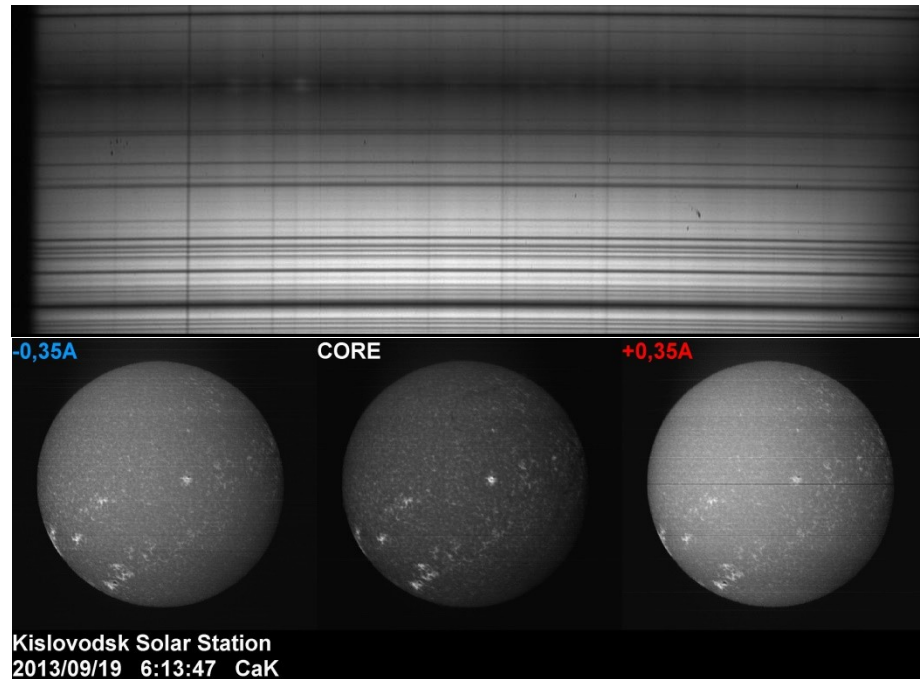
02.08.2012  
L0: 170,2

D +5,9



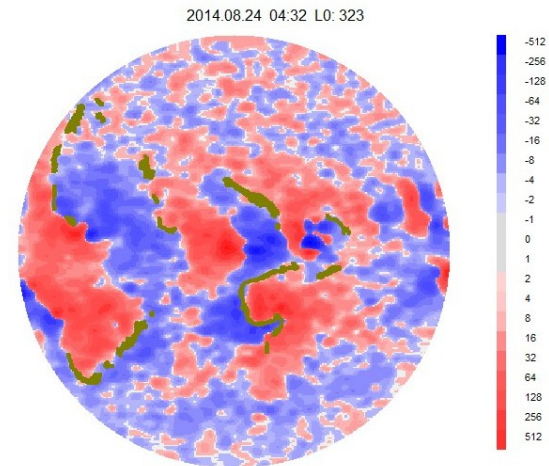
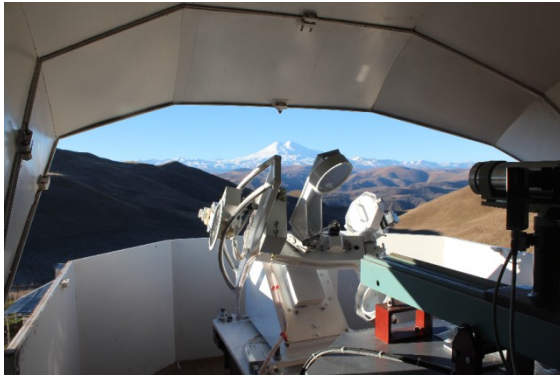
02/08/2012 03:59  
P=322 D: 5.9 L0: 170,2  
201208020359.tif

Programs under development: (1) new observing capabilities at permanent observatories (corona, large-scale magnetic fields) and (2) observing capabilities at university observatories

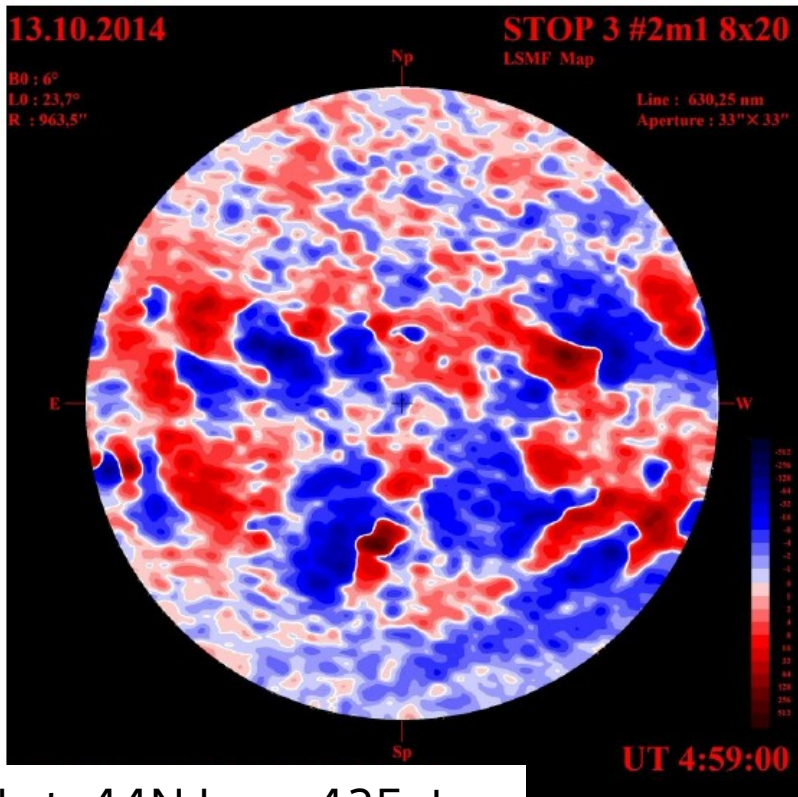


Development of a network of automatic telescopes/spectro-heliographs for universities for observing in H-alpha and Ca II K.

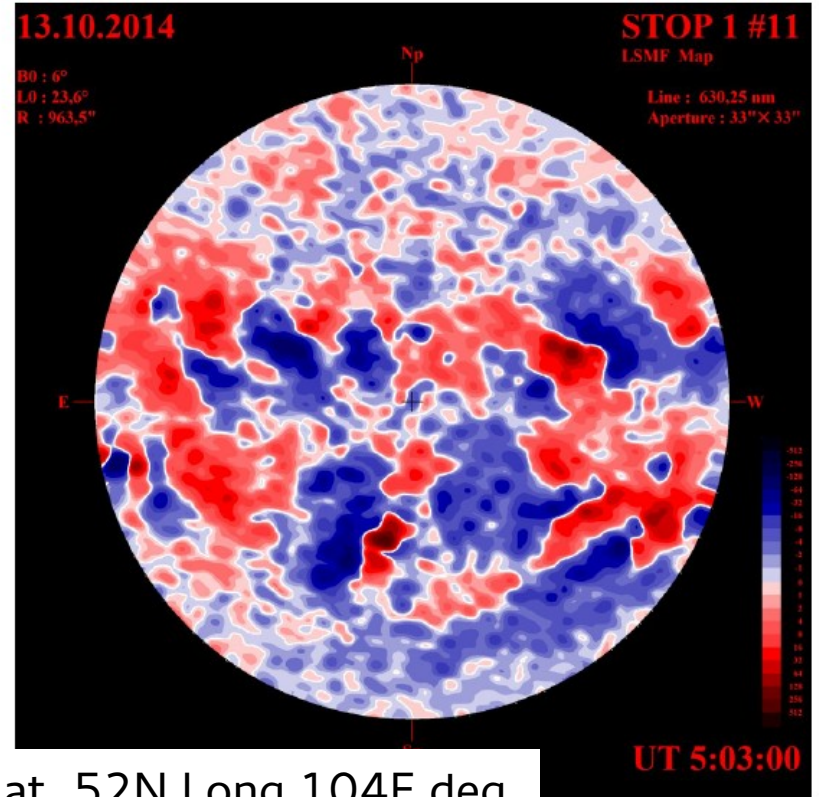
Programs under development: (1) new observing capabilities at permanent observatories (corona, large-scale magnetic fields) and (2) observing capabilities at university observatories



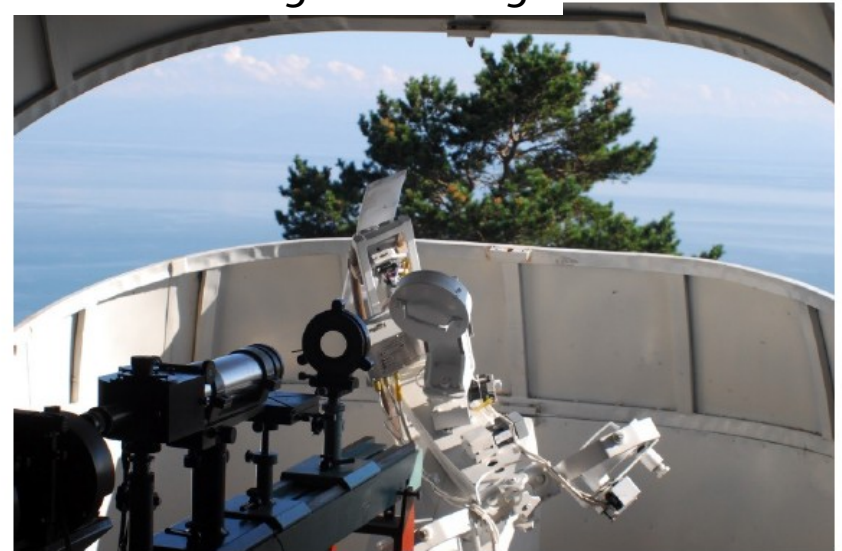
New full disk longitudinal magnetograph for observing large-scale magnetic fields and forecasting the of recurrent streams of solar wind.

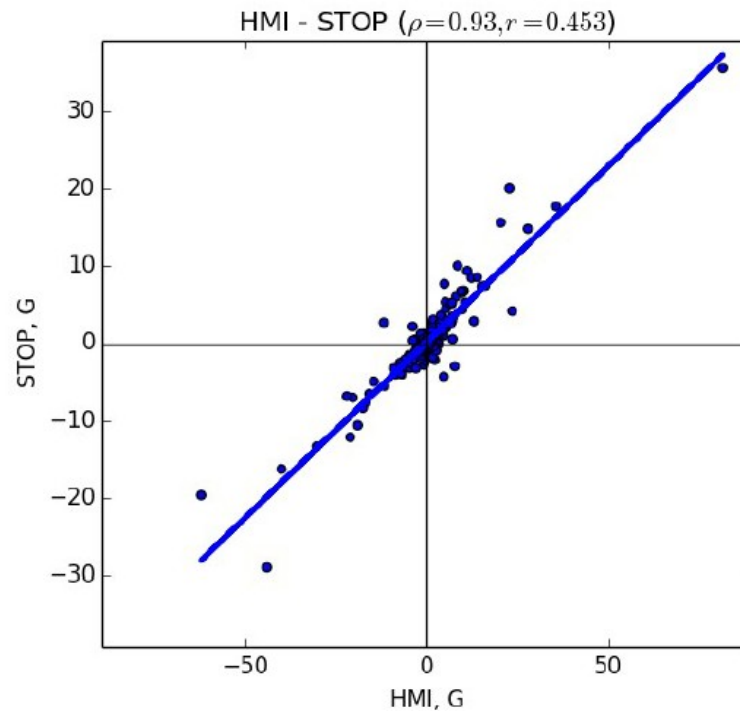
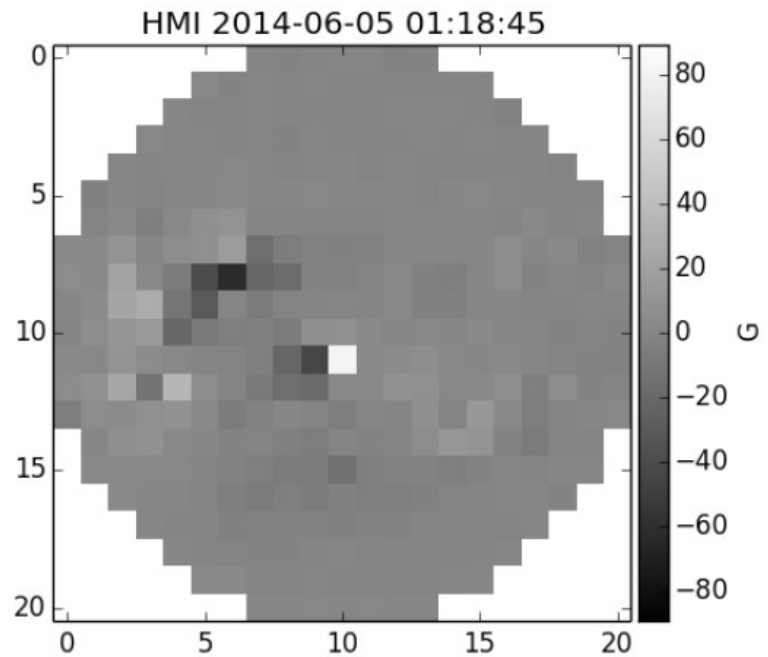
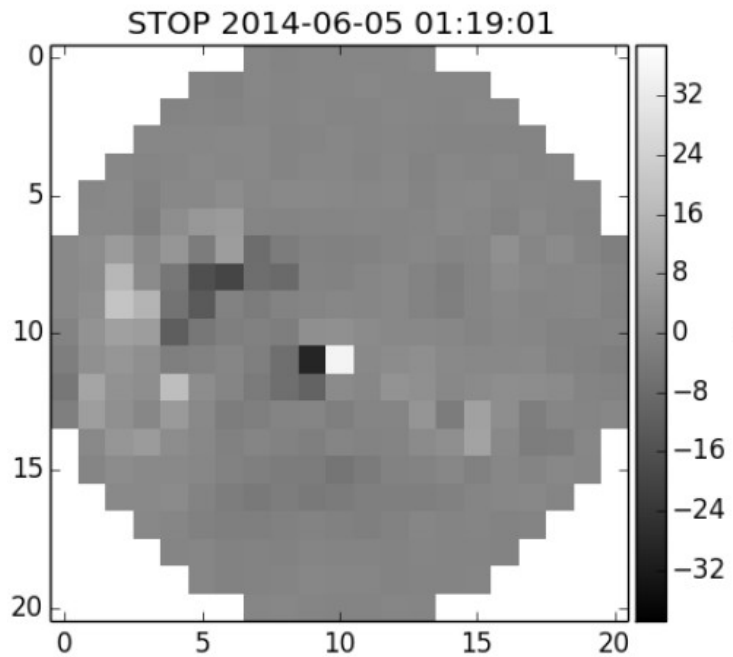


Lat. 44N Long 42E deg.



Lat. 52N Long 104E deg.





Institute of Solar-  
Terrestrial Physics,  
Irkutsk, Russia



# Badary Solar Radio Observatory of ISTP Siberian Radio Heliograph

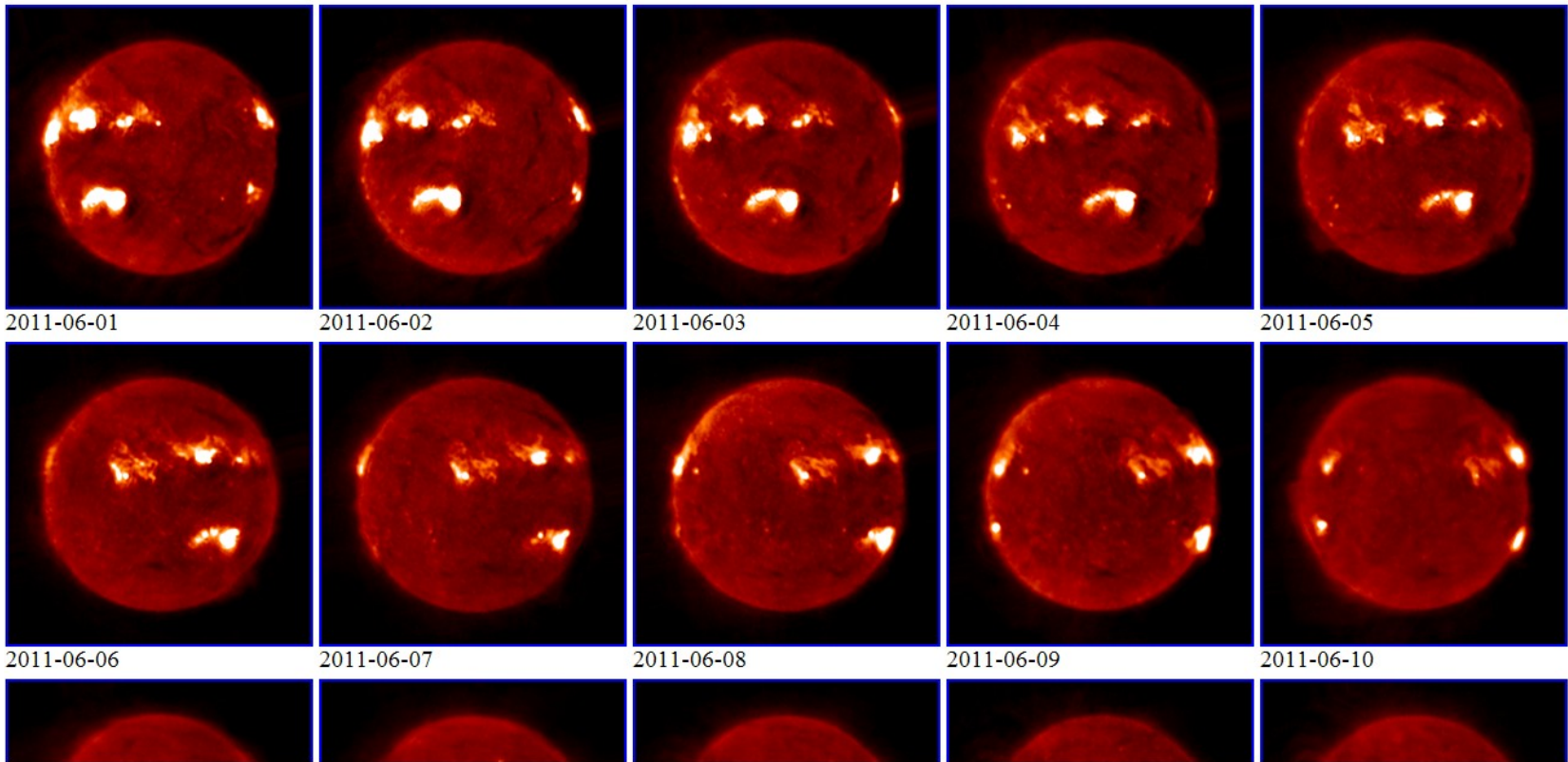


SSRT daily images - Windows Internet Explorer  
http://ssw.iszf.irk.ru/ssrt\_daily/

# Siberian Solar Radio Telescope

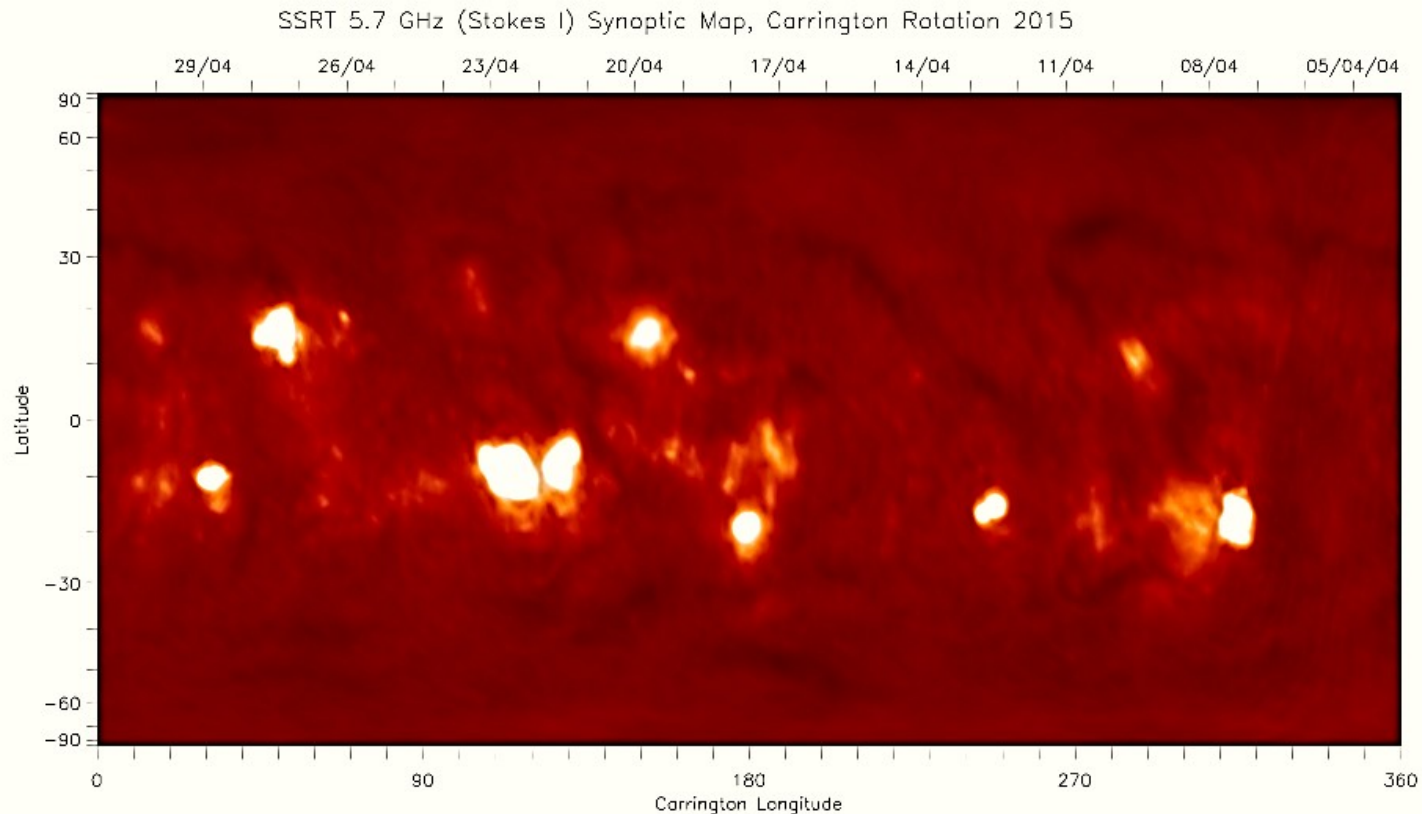
## Daily images of the Sun

June 2011



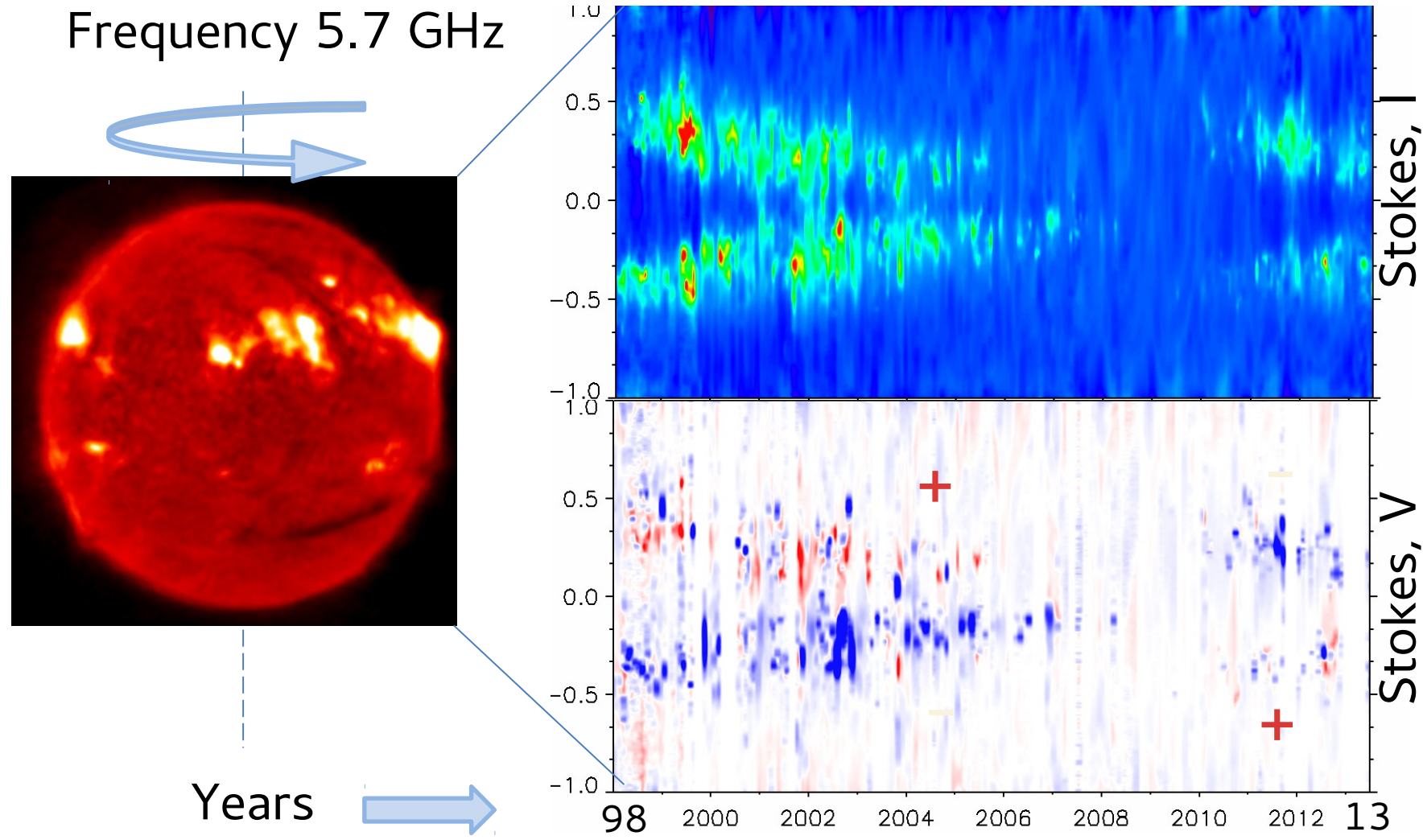
# Synoptic Radio Observations at 5.7 GHz:

- ✓ Daily radio brightness distributions of the total intensity and the polarized emission are accumulated in our data base for the period of 1998-2013.
- ✓ Synoptic distributions for the Carrington rotations of the Sun are calculated.



- ✓ Global synoptic maps are obtained for the period of 1998-2013.

# Long-term solar activity in microwaves



# Summary

- Groundbased synoptic observations are necessary both for research and space weather forecast.
- It is necessary to develop close coordination between national synoptic programs/observatories on the long-term goals, data requirements and data sharing.
- Strategy should be developed for historical data preservation and calibration.