SUNRISE

HIGH RESOLUTION IMAGING AND POLARIMETRY
WITH A BALLOON-BORNE STRATOSPHERIC
SOLAR OBSERVATORY

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SUNRISE in Brief

- **Aim:** study magneto-convection at a resolution of $\leq 100$ km on the Sun

- **Observables:** time series of near diffraction limited UV images and magnetograms in the visible

- **Instrument:** 1-m balloon-borne telescope, with simultaneously observing postfocus instruments

- **Mission:** circumpolar long-duration stratospheric balloon flight(s) at solstice conditions
The SUNRISE Team

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SUNRISE Key Science Questions

- Study of solar magnetic field
- Investigation of photospheric and chromospheric phenomena
- How is the magnetic field brought to and removed from the solar surface (emergence, concentration, cancellation)?
- How much magnetic flux is there in the quiet Sun?
- How is momentum and energy transported to the outer solar atmosphere?
- What is the underlying physics of solar UV irradiance variability?
- Test of MHD predictions
SUNRISE Basic Requirements

- Analyze small scale interaction of convective flows and magnetic field ($\leq 100$ km, $\sim 0.05$ arcsec) with sufficient field of view
  - Diffraction limited telescope with 1 meter aperture
  - Above atmosphere to cancel seeing effects and to access the UV
  - High precision pointing + image stabilization

- Resolve time dependent characteristics of magneto-convective patterns ($\leq 5$ sec) and cover (hours - days) their evolution
  - High cadence + uninterrupted observations

- Measure 3D-distribution of B vector, plasma velocity and temperature
  - Polarization sensitive spectroscopy in photospheric and chromospheric line(s)

- High-cadence imaging of different layers
  - Visible + UV filtergrams
Why so far above Ground?

- Reduction of “Seeing”:
- Ground based observations have limited resolution due to air turbulence
- Angular resolution typically not better than 1 arcsec

- Sometimes (at specific places) resolution is \( \sim 0.2 \, \text{arcsec} \), but you have to be extremely lucky!

- SUNRISE aims at \( \leq 0.05 \, \text{arcsec} \) !!!
Why so far above Ground?

- Access to the Ultraviolet Spectral Domain:
- Thermospheric Oxygen and stratospheric Ozone absorbs virtually all UV radiation <300 nm at sea level
- Shorter wavelengths can give higher spatial resolution!
SUNRISE Balloon

NASA LDB Flight Program:

- 34 MCF, ~1,000,000 m³ Zero pressure balloon
- Science payload weight ~2000 kg
- Float altitude 34 km – 37 km
- Air pressure at float 3 – 7 hPa

Gondola with Telescope/Instruments

~130 m
SUNRISE Gondola

- Provides stable platform for telescope and instrumentation
- Power supply (batteries and solar panels)
- Azimuth and elevation pointing and tracking to few arcsec accuracy
- Protects instruments during launch and landing
- Carries telemetry and commanding systems

Designed and built by HAO
Telescope

- Gregory configuration (f/25, primary focus field stop)
- M2: 3 degrees of freedom, controlled by wavefront sensor
- Two plane fold mirrors (M3, M4) feed postfocus instruments (movable for fine focus)
Telescope

- Carbon fiber based telescope structure (Kayser-Threde, Munich)
- Zerodur lightweighted primary mirror (SAGEM, France); 1 meter free aperture, diffraction limited in the visible
Telescope

- Heat rejection wedge @ prime focus with radiators + heat pipes
- Secondary mirror with active in-flight alignment
Postfocus Instrumentation

- Carbon-fiber based support structure
- Individual science (IMaX, SuFI) and support instruments (ISLiD, CWS)
- Proximity electronics (mech. controllers, power supplies etc.)
Postfocus Instrumentation

- Sensitive to particle and molecular contamination (UV!)
- Stringent requirements on mechanical and temperature stability
- Foam based thermal insulation for structural elements
- Surface treatments according to results of detailed thermal mathematical models, e.g.
  - White paint (Aeroglaze A276)
  - VDA Mylar as second surface mirrors
  - Silver Teflon
- Wind shield for tropopause transit
IMaX: Imaging Magnetograph Experiment

- 2D maps of magnetic vector & LOS velocity
- Full Stokes vector images every 30s; (I,V) every 5s
- FoV: 50” x 50”
- 525.02 nm, Fe I, g=3
- Spectral resolution: 85 mÅ
- Fabry-Perot etalons, liquid crystal modulators
- 2 CCDs for phase diversity & improved polarimetry

Designed and built by Spanish IMaX consortium
SuFI: Sunrise Filter Imager

- Medium band imager with λ bands (< 1nm wide):
  - 397 nm (Ca II K, 1 Å wide)
  - 388 nm (CN band)
  - 313 nm (OH band)
  - 300 nm pseudo continuum
  - 214 nm pseudo continuum

- FOV: 40x15” with 2048x2048 CCD
- Phase diversity for image reconstr.
- ~ 125 m effective focal length
- 1s cadence at fixed λ
- 2s cadence for diff. λ

Designed and built by MPS
ISLiD: Image Stabilization and Light Distribution

- Complex panchromatic reimager
- Distributes incoming radiation to science instruments
- Fast tip/tilt mirror in pupil image part of CWS system for image stabilization (KIS)

Designed and built by MPS
CWS: Correlation Tracker and Wavefront Sensor

- Shack-Hartmann Sensor with 6 sub-apertures on lenslet array
- Provides focus and coma correction by telescope M2 inflight alignment
- High speed detection of correlated image motion, drives tip-/tilt mirror for image stabilization

Designed and built by KIS
Telescope and Instrument Fields-of-View

a) Full solar disk with circular telescope FoV
b) science instruments FoV and free range of image stabilization
SUNRISE Electronics

- Instrument Control System
  - Main on-board control computer ICU
  - 2 Data storage units (2x 2.4TByte, science data are stored on-board)
  - 2 Power distribution units
  - Harness

- PFI Instrument electronics

- Pointing system computer
- Power system (solar panels)
- Communication systems (‘line-of-sight’ and ‘over-the-horizon’)
  \(\rightarrow\) on gondola
SUNRISE Challenges

Technological challenges like in a space project but
Funding comparable to ground based instruments

• Collaboration of groups with different background, ground based experimenters meet space engineers

• International team, exciting, but also challenging ;-) 

• Technical:
  - COTS products, most parts need qualification, modification or encapsulation in pressure vessels
  - No EM or QM on most of the units
  - Thermal, structural, optical issues
Technological challenge 1: Thermal

- At 3 hPa no convective energy transport
- System is mainly radiatively controlled
- Surface treatments (paints, tapes, foils etc.) are important to control solar absorption \( \alpha \) and infrared emission \( \varepsilon \)
- Variable energy input (Sun, Albedo) and high power dissipating commercial electronics requires detailed thermal modelling
- Tropopause transit gives temperatures below \(-60^\circ C\)
- „Off nominal“ conditions need special consideration, i.e. pointing loss or off-pointing
Technological challenge 2: Mechanical

- Telescope in Alt-Az mount: varying gravity vector!
- Instruments piggy-back on telescope
- Demanding requirements on pointing stability
- Detailed structural analyses and high structural stiffness

Structural Deformations under 1g Load
Technological challenge 2: Mechanical

Eigenfrequency assessment, decoupling important for pointing control loops
Lightweighted 1 meter primary mirror with diffraction limited performance is a challenge of its own, long lead item (2.5 y)

UV optics asks for contamination control (particles and molecular)

Polarization optics requires careful design of coatings, mechanical mounts (bi-refringence) and temperature stability

Telescope in-flight alignment stable to 1 µm (actively controlled)

High spectral resolution requires calibration with real sunlight. On-ground system tests after assembly/integration
Destination:
ESRANGE 68°N, 21°E
close to Kiruna
(Northern Sweden)
SUNRISE Telescope Characterization @MPS

Verification of telescope alignment after transport to MPS
Precision Alignment and Functional Testing

Instrumentation mounted on telescope
Packing and Shipment of SUNRISE

The telescope being stowed in a dedicated sea-container
Packing and Shipment of SUNRISE

Crane lifting of telescope container
Packing and Shipment of SUNRISE

Several tons of equipment leave the institute on March 27, 2009
A few ‘meters’ to ESRANGE, after 2400 km driving...
ESRANGE: the „cathedral”
Unloading the telescope
April 1: Instrument check-out and integration starts
April 18: Integration of telescope/instrumentation into gondola
May 15: Telescope first light
3 Days of Solar pointing ...
Compatibility Test May 30, 2009
Launch on June 8, 08:27 LT
Launch in Esrange, Sweden

8th June 2009
SUNRISE trajectory, ~134 hours (~6d) at 34-37 km float altitude
Recovery from Somerset Island via Resolute Bay and Yellowknife June 17-23, 2009
First Results

- Telescope and instrumentation worked flawlessly
- More than 1.8 TByte science data, IMaX ~480,000 img, SuFI ~150,000 img
- About 33 hours of observation at various pos. on the Solar disk, incl. limb
- Several continuous time series of more than 30 min length
- Achieved spatial resolution: ~0.1 arcsec, ~100 km @ solar surface

- 12 science papers submitted to *Astrophysical Journal*,
  4 instrument papers submitted to *Solar Physics*
- SuFI images show RMS intensity contrast of granulation in the UV of up to 30 %, consistent with numerical simulations
- Bright points in the UV at 312 nm, 300 nm and 214 nm reveal very high intensities, up to a factor 5 above the mean brightness at 214 nm
- High-resolution time sequences of vector magnetic field maps reveal very dynamic small-scale fields
- First ever spatial resolution of the magnetic and brightness structure of small-scale intense magnetic flux concentrations
SUFI Images

214nm  300nm  313nm  388nm  397nm
Comparison SUNRISE with HINODE Data

**SUNRISE**: SUFI 388 nm (filter width 0.8 nm)

**HINODE**: BFI 388 nm (filter width 0.7 nm)

**Same grey scale**

Note that the two images were not taken simultaneously (different granules), but both refer to quiet Sun at $\mu = 1$
Outlook

- Data will be available to science community very soon (open access)
- Data analysis is ongoing, next round of publications submitted in near future
- We plan for a second flight, target 2012 (higher solar activity)
- Improvements shall be implemented for
  - ‘over-the-horizon’ telemetry and
  - stability of telescope pointing
Thank you for your attention