

EXTREMELY UNUSUAL SOLAR WIND FLOWS OBSERVED AT 1 AU

P. Janardhan^{1,2}, J. F. Valle¹, H. S. Sawant¹

1 - INPE

2 - Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad, India

The solar wind at Earth orbit (1 AU) is known to be strongly supersonic and super Alfvénic with Mach and Alfvén numbers being on average 12 and 9 respectively. Also, solar wind densities (average $\sim 10 \text{ cm}^{-3}$) and velocities (average $\sim 450 \text{ km s}^{-1}$) at 1 AU are known to be inversely correlated with low velocities having higher than average densities and vice versa. However, there have been several events when unusually low densities ($< 0.1 \text{ cm}^{-3}$) and low velocities ($< 350 \text{ km s}^{-1}$) with Alfvén Mach numbers significantly less than 1 have been observed at 1 AU, for durations of ~ 1 day or more. These extreme low density and long lasting events have come to be known as solar wind disappearance events. In this paper we will presents the result obtained from a detailed study of three disappearance events that took place in May 1999, March 2002 and May 2002 respectively. We will show that all three events originated from large active regions located at central meridian on the solar disk. We will also present arguments to show that the solar wind flows responsible for these events were stable and unipolar flows originating in coronal holes or active region open fields. Furthermore, we will examine the reasoning behind speculations about the association of such events with global phenomena like solar polar field reversals that take place at the maximum of each solar cycle and show that these events are not associated with large scale solar phenomena like polar field reversals.

SOLAR BURST SUBMILLIMETER WAVE EMISSION COMPONENTS ASSOCIATED TO MICROWAVES, UV, X- AND GAMMA - RAYS CONTINUUM IN TIME AND SPACE

Pierre Kaufmann^{1,2}, Gerard Trottet³, Carlos Guillermo Geiménez de Castro¹,

Jean-Pierre Raulin¹, Dale E. Gary⁴, German Fernandez⁵, Rodolfo Godoy⁵,

Hugo Levato⁵, Adolfo Marun⁵, Pablo Pereyra⁵

1 - CRAAM/Mackenzie

2 - UNICAMP

3 - Observatoire de Paris Meudon

4 - Physics Dept., NJIT

5 - Complejo Astronomico El Leoncito (CASLEO)

The presence of a solar burst spectral component peaking somewhere in the terahertz (THz) range, along with, but distinct from, the well-known microwave spectral component, bring new possibilities to explore the flaring physical processes, both observational and theoretical. The solar event of December 6, 2006, starting at about 18:30 UT, exhibited a particularly well-defined double

spectral structure, with the THz spectral component detected at 212 and 405 GHz by SST and microwaves (1-18 GHz) observed by OVSA. The burst was observed by instruments in satellites at high energies, UV by TRACE, soft X-rays by GOES, X- to gamma- rays by RHESSI. Although the event occupied a rather extended area at optical and UV wavelengths, showing various brightnings extending along several arcminutes, the hard X-ray emission region is more restricted (contained within a region $30'' \times 50''$) and shows three sources at low energies ($< 150 \text{ keV}$) and a single source above 300 keV . At submillimeter-waves, a precursor was observed, followed by a rapid impulsive event and a post-burst long-enduring component. This post-burst component was also accompanied by the largest flux-density decimeter burst ever reported, reaching 1 million solar flux units. The submillimeter impulsive burst centroid position at 212 GHz was clearly displaced from the precursor component by almost 1 arc-minute. The maximum limit sizes, estimated at 212 GHz, were of the order or smaller than the beam-sizes (4?). The microwave spectra for the precursor and long-enduring burst components peak at about 5-10 GHz. The submillimeter precursor spectrum might be optically thick emission of the cold chromospheric plasma. Despite the complexity in space, time and spectra of the superimposed impulsive and post-impulsive emission, it was remarkable that the THz impulsive component had its closer counterpart only in the higher energy X- and gamma-rays ranges, suggesting that they are part of the same physical process, produced by a source of continuously accelerated high-energy particles.

OBSERVATIONS OF SOLAR PHENOMENA AT METER WAVELENGTHS WITH COMBINED DATA FROM GMRT & GRH

Felipe Ramos Hald Madsen¹, R. Ramesh², S. Ananthakrishnan³,

José Roberto Cecatto¹, Hanumant Shankar Sawant¹

1 - DAS/INPE

2 - Indian Institute of Astrophysics

3 - National Centre for Radio Astrophysics

The present knowledge about Solar phenomena at meter wavelengths is limited to the angular resolution of $\sim 2'$ that is achieved by the dedicated telescopes in operation until the present time. Such synthesized beams are generally larger than the structures observed on the Sun, hardening the physical interpretation of the observed phenomena. Here, an attempt is made to obtain observations with high angular resolution and combine them with neighbouring frequencies with better UV coverage, so as to increase the dynamic range of the images. The main phenomena investigated are Coronal Holes. A large interferometer like the Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope (GMRT) is capable of producing images of celestial sources with $\sim 20''$ at 150 MHz. However, the sparse uv coverage of GMRT at low spatial frequencies, limits the dynamic range of the solar maps. On the other hand, the Gauribidanur Radio Heliograph (GRH), operating at 115 MHz,