

Minutes of the 14th Monthly Meeting Telecon December 19-20, 2007

The 14th Monthly Meeting, chaired by Tetsuya Watanabe was held at 7:00 AM (JST) on December 19, 2007. The Agenda circulated by Prof. Watanabe was accepted.

1. Instrument and Spacecraft Status

SOT: Tarbell reported that SOT was nominal except for the tuneable filter limitations. NaD is currently the default line for the NFI. The other filters are only used when absolutely necessary.

EIS: Harrah reported that the instrument was still operating normally although they were still having problems with the data base and a telecon to discuss this problem was scheduled for tomorrow (12/20-21).

XRT: DeLuca stated that the main concern remains the contamination problem and whether or not to initiate another bake out. The contamination on the CCD is beginning to restrict the usefulness of the aluminum mesh filter, which is of particular concern during this period of low solar activity. The counter argument is that it was during a bake out that the "permanent" contamination appeared. Several telecons are scheduled that will result, hopefully, in a mutually agreed solution.

Spacecraft: Shimizu reported that the spacecraft performance was nominal.

2. Campaign Review for November

Watanabe summarized the past months observations.

HOP 35 was led by Paolo Romano to study the conditions for dependence of filament eruption on the shear / twist of the filament magnetic field or on the interaction between the highly sheared core field of the filament and the overlying flux rope. Although there were no active filaments on the disk there was one quiescent filament. An e-mail from Romano indicated that he was satisfied with the observations but did not report on the seeing at the DST.

HOP 15 is the joint helioseismology observations with SOHO MDI. Sekii reported that all went well and that from a preliminary look the data appeared very good. The low wave number region did appear to have some orbital motion contamination but overall the data looked very promising.

HOP 46 the irradiance scans had run very well in November, Berger reported, and were currently in the middle of the two scans for December. There had not been too much consternation from the other observers but perhaps this was because AR 10978 had just gone over the limb and it may be more of an issue when activity builds.

It was agreed that in future monthly a specific choice for extended AR observations using all three instruments would be designated so as to be ready when a good target appears. For January the choice is HOP 59.

3. New Proposals

Watanabe introduced the new proposals for January. These were predominantly from core team members as January had been designated a core team month.

HOP 56 Berger (LMSAL) proposed a study of quiescent prominence structure and dynamics. It involves observations by all three instruments of a polar crown filament. This is a target of opportunity observation and requires observations for four hours a day for three to four days.

HOP 57 Katsukawa, Sekii (NAOJ) reported that the program for the observation of dynamical activities in sunspot penumbrae was directed towards a study of penumbral jets. The study required a well developed sunspot and had two different modes and required 4-6 hour observations. Shimizu asked whether a sunspot was essential. Sekii believed so but the question should be addressed to Katsukawa.

HOP 58 Young (RAL) proposed to measure coronal outflows in coronal loops. This was observation intensive program that requires essentially 24 hour coverage for six consecutive days. They also requested an increase in the EIS telemetry allocation to as high as 36%. This would be at the expense of SOT whose allocation would be reduced to 50%. The optimum time would be Jan. 8 ± 3 days assuming that AR 10987 reappeared.

HOP 59 Is a second Young (RAL) proposal to obtain a long sequence (72 hrs.) of quiet sun observations with all three instruments to create an observational baseline for the three instruments. An increased telemetry allocation (26%) for EIS was requested.

Tarbell requested that that Na D magnetograms be substituted for Mg I and agreed to the telemetry reassignment. He also suggested that HOP 57 could be run simultaneously and would take an action to check into it.

HOP 60 Warren/Mariska (NRL): Quiet Sun Dynamics This is a 24 hour observation using EIS slot images to track the flow of energy into the transition region and corona from the photosphere. The ability of EIS to observe the release of energy over a wide range of temperatures at high temporal resolution provides the incentive for this observation. Mariska noted that they are developing a data compression scheme that would allow EIS to remain within its data allocation.

HOP 61 Savcheva (SAO) Long Duration Studies of Equatorial Coronal Holes. The proposal is to track a coronal hole from near disk center to the limb for 12 hours per day with four days off on-disk and four days of limb observations to study jets. The limb observations would be coordinated with UVCS. SOT is requested to provide weak field magnetograms and CaII images during limb observations. EIS would provide thermal and velocity diagnostics. Doschek suggested Fe XII as a possible candidate. DeLuca expressed concern about the duration of the observations.

HOP 62 Weber (SAO) The primary science objective is to study the thermal distribution and evolution of loop structures in active regions as well as XBPs, and cooler coronal structures, through joint XRT and EIS observations. A secondary objective is a cross-calibration of XRT and EIS with TRACE that might allow TRACE to be used as a low-temperature imaging "channel" for XRT thermal analysis. Culhane asked for confirmation that the study was not interested in velocities. DeLuca confirmed that this was true.

HOP 63 Wolfgang Finsterle (SU)/Sekii This is a study of magneto-acoustic shocks in the chromosphere in collaboration with the MOTH II telescope at the South Pole and MDI. Requested data are high cadence Dopplergrams and line-of-sight magnetograms from SOT. A question was raised about Scott McIntosh's role, if any, in this observation and Tarbell/Berger took an action to clarify his role.

Four ongoing programs were discussed namely HOPs 15, 46, 52 and 53. One focus of these discussions was on the assignment of the telemetry. The existing programs were already starved for data rate and many of the new requests also had long duration, high telemetry requirements. Mariska commented that it wasn't clear that we couldn't accommodate all the requests but we needed to start developing a schedule. It was acknowledged that the difficulty in developing a schedule was that many of the programs required the presence of certain solar features whose occurrence was difficult to predict. For instance, would the presence of an active region override a previously scheduled quiet sun program? The consensus appeared to be yes. There was general agreement that certain programs that were closely coordinated with other spacecraft time specific observations should have priority e.g. HOP 52 the STEREO/SECCHI high data rate observation. This observation was expected to occur between 1/7-20/08 although a preferred date and time had not yet been received. The monthly irradiance measurements (HOP46) were tentatively planned for late in the third week of January. A general discussion followed with various periods assigned to the different HOPs that suggested that all the requirements could be met although clearly more detailed planning was needed.

Finally Thursday January 24, 2008 at 7:00 AM JST (and at various times on January 23 in the UK and US) was selected for the next Monthly Meeting

John Davis, January 18, 2008

Attendees: Watanabe, Shibasaki, Sekii, Shimizu, Davis, Cirtain, Doschek, Mariska, Harra, Culhane, Tarbell, Berger, DeLuca, Golub and others.