

HIGHLIGHTS OF SOLAR OBSERVATIONS WITH TWO BRAZILIAN RADIO TELESCOPES

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ABSTRACT. Solar radio emission originates from the solar atmosphere, and basically consists of emission from the quiet Sun, active regions, and flares. The slowly varying emission from the quiet solar atmosphere follows the periodicity of the 11-year Solar Activity Cycle. Active regions on the solar surface produce emission that varies on timescale of days or weeks, also known as the quiescent component. Finally, solar bursts are a sudden increase of the emission on timescales of seconds to hours resulting from solar magnetic activity. These three components are produced by different emission mechanisms at distinct radio wavelengths. At microwave and millimeter wavelengths, the quiet Sun emission is produced by bremsstrahlung from thermal electrons. The height on the solar atmosphere where the submillimeter emission is mostly produced was determined to be ≤ 3000 km from center-to-limb observations at multiple radio frequencies. The quiescent radio emission from the active regions, usually brighter than the surrounding solar disk, is dominated by thermal gyroresonance at microwaves and by optically thick thermal bremsstrahlung at millimetric and submillimetric waves. Lastly, gyrosynchrotron radiation from nonthermal electrons is responsible for the flare emission at high radio frequencies. In this review, the discoveries about the Sun obtained from two Brazilian radio telescopes installed at CASLEO (Argentina): the Submillimeter Solar Telescope (SST, 212 and 405 GHz) and the Polarization Emission of Millimeter Solar Activity (POEMAS, 45 and 90 GHz) are presented. The main result from SST was the discovery of a new spectral component increasing toward even higher frequencies.

Keywords: Solar emission, Radio observations, Quiet Sun, Solar active regions, Solar flares

INTRODUCTION

Due to its **distance** to the Sun, **within the Solar System habitable zone**, Earth is capable of sustaining life as we know it, mainly because the solar radiation maintains a comfortable temperature on our planet's surface and our Sun is not too active. Nevertheless, its activity especially in the form of flares and coronal mass ejections sometimes destabilizes Earth's geomagnetic field and technological devices in orbit and on the ground. The impacts resulting from solar activity phenomena are known as Space Weather.

The oldest indicators of solar activity are sunspots, small dark regions commonly seen on the surface of the Sun ([Fig. 1](#)). Since 1610, when Galileo and others pointed their primitive telescopes to the Sun, the number of sunspots has been monitored.

Nevertheless, there have been reports of sunspots by the Chinese as early as 800 BC. These are regions of strong magnetic fields of approximately 100 to 4000 G ([Valio et al., 2020](#)). Sunspots are darker than the surrounding photosphere due to their lower temperature, between 4000 - 5000 K. This occurs because the magnetic field lines within a sunspot obstruct the overturning of the convective cells below the solar surface, which transport energy from the solar interior.

In 1843 Schwabe discovered that sunspot occurrence followed a periodicity of approximately 11 years, which became known as the solar Activity Cycle. Today it is known that not only sunspots follow the 11-year cycle, but also the occurrence of flares (see Figure 19 of [Hathaway, 2015](#)) and CMEs ([Webb and Howard, 2012](#)). During periods of maximum activity of the Sun, many flares happen, as well as mass

ejections, while during the years of minimum activity very few, if any, of these phenomena occur. Moreover, the X-ray emission from the Sun is higher during solar maxima (Takeda et al., 2019). Currently the Sun is in its rising phase of activity from the minimum which occurred in 2020. The last solar maximum occurred around 2013.

All solar active phenomena occur in the solar atmosphere at or above regions of enhanced magnetic fields. Groups of sunspots are known as active regions. Magnetic loops connect spots of different polarity and traverse the solar atmosphere all the way to the corona. When there is a reconfiguration of the magnetic loops, energy is released. This sudden energy release may produce solar flares and/or mass ejections (Benz, 2008).

A solar flare is a sudden release of energy of the order of 10^{32} erg, which happens in a few seconds or can last for at most an hour (Hudson and Willson, 1983; Emslie et al., 2004). As mentioned above, the energy source is supplied by the magnetic fields within active regions. This energy accelerates particles, ions and electrons, up to energies of MeV, producing copious amounts of radiation, and also heating the local plasma (Hevvaerts et al., 1977; Melrose, 1990). This hot plasma fills the magnetic loops which become bright in X-rays. A flare is a complex phenomenon in which several magnetic loops may be involved (Kerr, 2022).

Another type of activity phenomenon is coronal mass ejection (CME), when $10^{15} - 10^{16}$ g of matter (electrons, protons, and ions) wrapped into magnetic fields are thrown into interplanetary space (Kahler, 1987). The total energy of a CME is similar to that of a large flare, that is, 10^{32} erg (Wagner, 1984). CMEs are usually associated with a prominence eruption or flares (Compagnino et al., 2017). When CMEs are directed toward Earth, they are called halo CMEs (Gopalswamy et al., 2010), due to a bright ring around the occulting disk of the coronagraph. Halo CMEs are the most effective in generating geomagnetic storms (Lee et al., 2014) and causing damages to our technology such as satellites, power lines, GPS system, among others.

In this review, we will focus on the radio emission of the Sun from (1) the Quiet Sun emission following the solar cycle of 11 years, (2) active regions which vary according to the lifetime of sunspots (days to weeks), and (3) the sudden energetic flares that last from seconds to about an hour. The solar radio emission is detailed in the next section. More specifically, the goal of this review is on the main discoveries made with two Brazilian radio telescopes installed at the *Complejo Astronómico El Leoncito* (CASLEO) in Argentina that are described in the succeeding section. The main results from the

observations of these telescopes are reported in the section that follows, whereas the conclusions are listed in the final section.

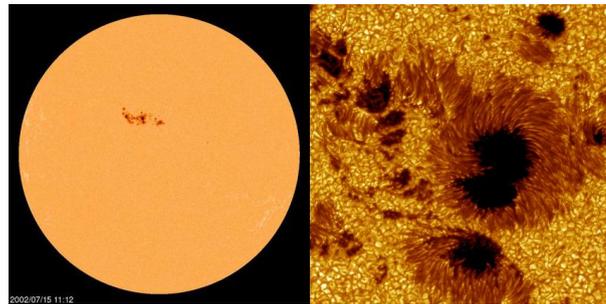


Figure 1: Images of the Sun on July 15th, 2002. Left: Image taken by MDI on board the SOHO (Solar and Heliospheric Observatory) spacecraft, at optical wavelengths (centered on the Ni I photospheric absorption line at 6767.8 \AA). Right: Blowup of NOAA AR 10030 (dominant in the solar disk shown in the left panel) observed by the Swedish Solar Telescope, also at optical wavelengths.

SOLAR RADIO EMISSION

The Sun emits radiation throughout the whole electromagnetic spectrum, from the short wavelength X-rays to the radio long wavelengths, with the peak of the quiet Sun emission in the visible portion. The solar radio emission spans about 7 orders of magnitudes in frequency, from kHz to THz. The telescopes described here detect the high frequency emission of the Sun, from 45 to 405 GHz. Thus, here we concentrate on this frequency band. For a review of the radio emission on a broader spectra see Kundu (1965); Krüger (1979); Raulin and Pacini (2005); Bougeret and Pick (2007), and references therein.

Quiet Sun

Most of the long wavelength radio emission from the Sun originates from the corona, whereas the shorter wavelength radio waves arise generally from the lower chromosphere. The quiet solar radiation at radio wavelengths is produced by thermal free-free emission (Dulk, 1985) in the solar atmosphere. The height of the atmosphere where the emission of a certain frequency is produced can be determined from the radius measured in images of the Sun at that specific wavelength. Nevertheless, the uncertainty in the measurements at radio wavelengths is affected by the limb brightening (Selhorst et al., 2004) at these frequencies and also by the beam width of the instrument. Moreover, the method used for the radius calculation will also affect the results (Menezes et al., 2022).

Previous measurements of the solar radius from microwaves to submillimeter wavelengths are shown in [Figure 2](#). The results in the figure clearly show that the radius of the solar limb, or the height above the photosphere where the emission is mostly produced, decreases as the frequency increases. This means that the higher frequency radio emission is produced at low heights in the solar atmosphere as compared to lower frequencies.

Active regions

The quiescent solar emission is produced at or above active regions. At radio wavelengths, active regions are usually bright (see [Fig. 6](#)) instead of the dark patches seen in white light images of the solar disk ([Fig. 1](#)). However, high resolution images of active regions observed by ALMA have shown the penumbra of sunspot to be dark at 230 GHz but not at 100 GHz ([Loukitcheva et al., 2017](#)). Nevertheless, [Selhorst et al. \(2014\)](#) reported that some active regions in radio were not associated to sunspots.

By detecting the emission of active regions at different radio wavelengths, the mechanism producing the radio emission can be determined. Moreover, the temperature, density, and even the magnetic field of the source of emission can be estimated. The emission mechanism responsible for the radio emission from active regions depends on the frequency ([Dulk, 1985](#)). Microwave emission, such as that observed by the Nobeyama Radio Heliograph (NoRH) at 17GHz, is known to be due to gyroresonance from the thermal electrons gyrating around the magnetic field lines ([Selhorst et al., 2008](#)). On the other hand, high frequency emission (≥ 200 GHz) is believed to be due to free-free emission from thermal electrons, or thermal bremsstrahlung.

Flares

The transient radio emission is characteristic of solar activity such as flares. Chiefly, the radiation is produced throughout the whole electromagnetic spectrum, from the longest km waves all the way to the very short wavelength gamma-rays, by the energetic particles accelerated during the sudden energy release due to magnetic reconnection. Energetic electrons gyrating around the magnetic field lines emit microwaves by the gyrosynchrotron mechanisms, whereas coherent plasma emission produces the lower frequency (< 1 GHz) radio emission ([Dulk, 1985](#); [McLean and Labrum, 1985](#)).

The temporal evolution of a solar flare can be divided into three main phases: the preflare, the impulsive, and the decay phases ([Benz, 2008](#)). The flare evolution at different wavelength is shown in [Figure 3](#). Depending on the emission mechanisms at work during each phase, different electromagnetic radiation dominates. During the impulsive phase, the accelerated electrons produce high frequency radio emission (such as microwaves, millimeter, and submillimeter) as they gyrate around magnetic field lines. These same electrons will also produce hard X-rays as they precipitate into the chromosphere and interact with the ions of the atmosphere ([Benz, 2017](#); [Cliver et al., 2022](#)). On the other hand, as particles thermalize and the plasma is heated, soft-X rays are produced.

Since the temporal evolution of the radio emission during solar flares is very similar to that of the X-rays (see [Fig. 3](#)), it is believed that both emissions are produced by a common population of accelerated electrons ([White et al., 2011](#)). In this scenario, nonthermal electrons emit X-rays due to bremsstrahlung once they collide with the denser lower chromosphere. On the other hand, accelerated electrons from the same population produce radio emission by different mechanisms depending on the frequency: microwaves originate from gyrosynchrotron, whereas millimetric and submillimetric wavelength emissions arise from a combination of gyrosynchrotron (during the impulsive phase) and thermal bremsstrahlung (during the decay phase) ([Dulk, 1985](#)).

THE RADIO TELESCOPES: POEMAS AND SST

Two Brazilian radio telescopes, located at CASLEO in Argentina, have been monitoring the Sun daily. The solar dedicated radio antennae are the Polarization Emission of Millimeter Solar Activity (POEMAS), a system of two polarimeters operating at the frequencies of 45 and 90 GHz, and the Solar Submillimeter Telescope (SST) that observes the Sun at 212 and 405 GHz. SST has been monitoring the Sun since 1999, for over two activity cycles.

POEMAS telescope - 45 and 90 GHz

The POEMAS consists of two telescopes that measure right- and left-hand circular polarizations of solar emission at 45 and 90 GHz ([Valio et al., 2013](#)). Installed at CASLEO, the telescope shown in [Figure 4](#)

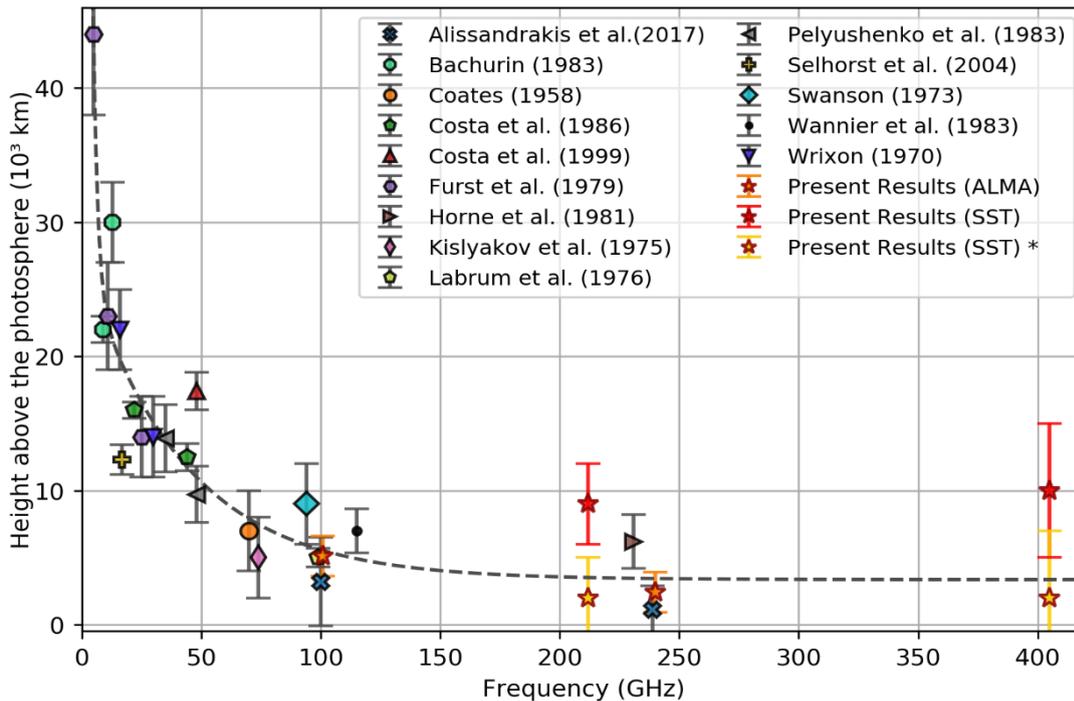


Figure 2: Height above the photosphere of the radio solar emission as a function of the frequency, from 1 to 400 GHz. The points identified as "Present results (SST)" are previous SST results from [Menezes et al. \(2021\)](#), whereas the updated values using the inflection point method reported in [Menezes et al. \(2022\)](#) are marked as "Present results (SST)*". Data of solar limb measurements at other radio frequencies were collected from several works ([Coates et al., 1958](#); [Wrixon, 1970](#); [Swanson, 1973](#); [Kislyakov et al., 1975](#); [Labrum et al., 1978](#); [Fuerst et al., 1979](#); [Horne et al., 1981](#); [Bachurin, 1983](#); [Pelyushenko and Chernyshev, 1983](#); [Wannier et al., 1983](#); [Costa et al., 1986, 1999](#); [Selhorst et al., 2004](#); [Alissandrakis et al., 2017](#)).

observes the full disk of the Sun with a time resolution of 10 ms at both frequencies, and a sensitivity of 2 – 4 K which corresponds to 4 and 20 solar flux unit (1 SFU = 10^4 Jy). The telescope was installed in November 2011 and operated successfully until December 2013. During this period POEMAS detected over 30 solar flares from 2012 through 2013 ([Hidalgo Ramírez et al., 2019](#)).

Solar Submillimeter Telescope - 212 and 405 GHz

Since 1999, the SST has been monitoring the Sun from the CASLEO Observatory ([Kaufmann et al., 1997](#)). It consists of a 1.5m antenna with 6 total-power heterodyne room temperature receivers, four at 212 GHz and two at 405 GHz. The half beam width of the antenna is nominally 4 arcmin at 212 GHz and 2 arcmin at 405 GHz. The temporal resolution of the observations is 5ms. A photograph of the radome enclosed telescope is shown on the left panel of [Figure](#)

[5](#). A projection of the 6 beams of the telescope onto the yellow solar disk is shown in the left panel of [Figure 5](#).

Because the beam of the SST telescope at both frequencies (212 and 405 GHz) is smaller than the solar disk, to produce an image of the Sun, also called a map, the telescope has to scan the solar disk (see right panel of [Fig. 5](#)). This mosaic of observations is then put together to produce the images shown in the top panels of [Figure 6](#). As can be seen from the maps, active regions are seen as slightly brighter regions both at 212 and 405 GHz. At least 3 maps are produced daily from SST data, resulting in several thousand maps for the more than two decades of operation.

Both telescopes, POEMAS and SST, detected flares with high temporal resolution of less than 100ms. An interesting feature of flare emission at these high radio frequencies is that both the impulsive and the gradual phases are observed. From these observations new discoveries were made, which are described in the next section.

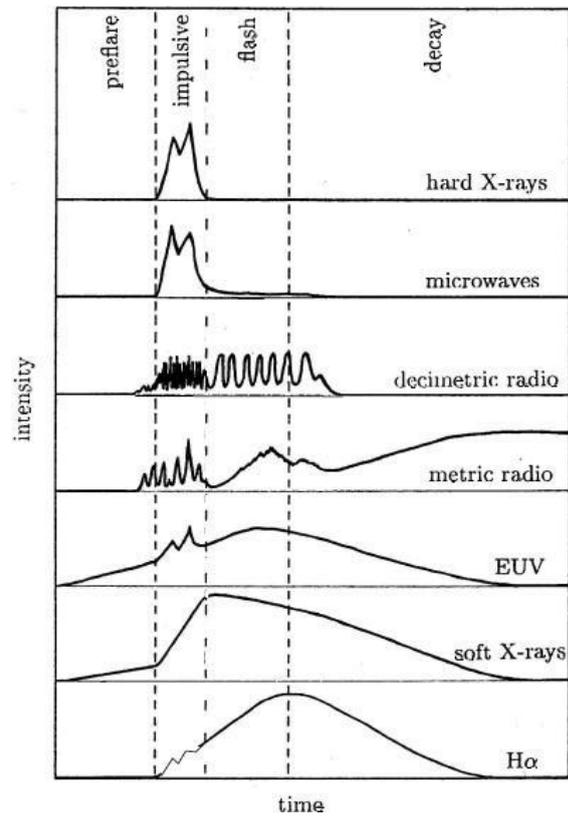


Figure 3: Temporal profile of the flare emission throughout the electromagnetic spectrum. There are basically three phases for the flare time evolution: preflare, impulsive, and decay (from [Benz, 2008](#)).



Figure 4: The POEMAS telescope at CASLEO Observatory in Argentina. The 44cm diameter antenna for the 45 GHz receiver is seen on the right of the image, whereas the 90 GHz telescope utilizes a 16.5 cm diameter lens, seen on the left (from [Hidalgo Ramírez et al., 2019](#)).

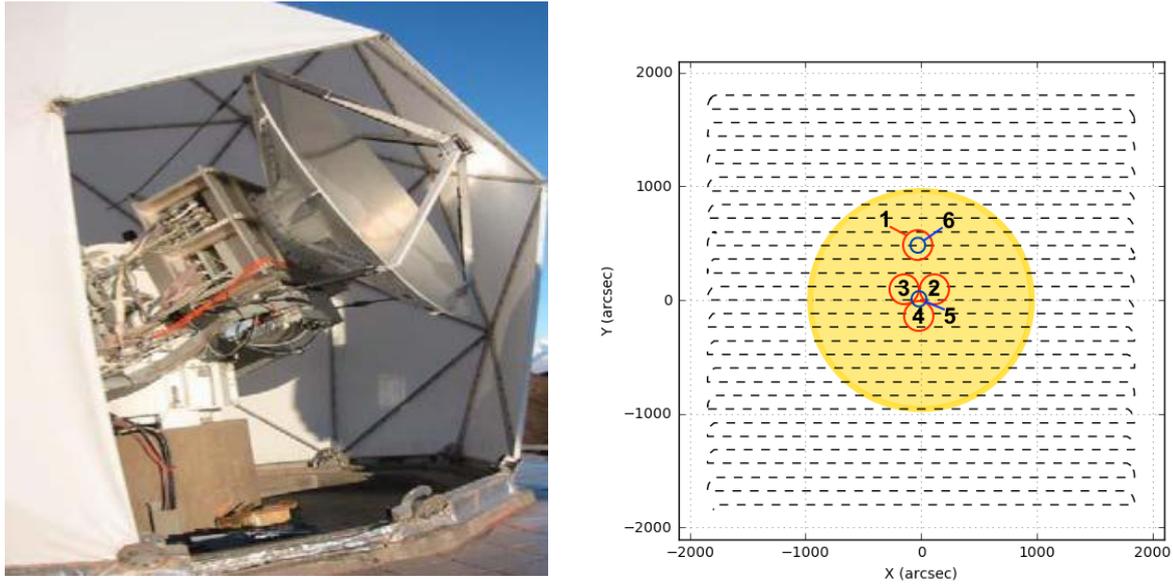


Figure 5: **Left:** Image of the Solar Submillimeter Telescope during installation. **Right:** Schematics of the Sun (yellow circle) with the projection of the four 212 GHz receivers (red circles) and the two 405 GHz receivers (blue circles). The dashed lines represent the path of the telescope while making a raster scan of the solar disk to produce a map of the Sun at submillimeter wavelengths

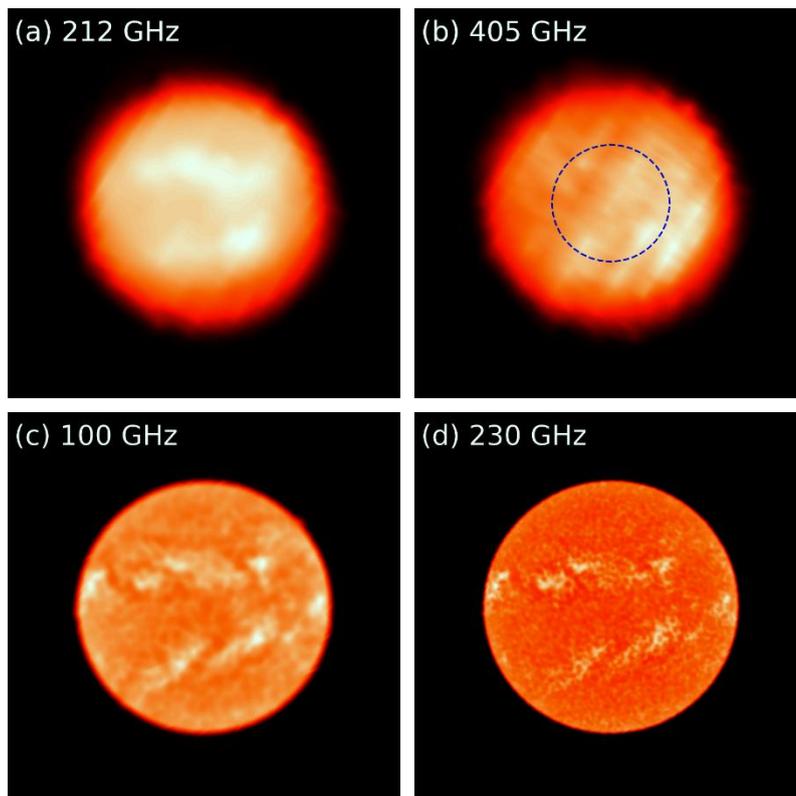


Figure 6: Maps of the Sun on December 17th, 2015. The top row is from SST at 212 (a) and 405 GHz (b). Bottom row maps were obtained from ALMA observations at 100 (c) and 230 GHz (d) (from [Menezes et al., 2021](#)).

SOLAR RADIUS, ACTIVE REGIONS, AND FLARES

Quiet Sun - solar radius

To determine at which height in the solar atmosphere the submillimeter emission is produced, the radius of the Sun is calculated. This is done by determining the limb of the Sun on the maps such as those shown in [Figure 6](#). First, each raster scan of the Sun, or a row of the image (black line in [Fig. 7a](#)), is analyzed and the position of the limb is obtained from the inflection points ([Thuillier et al., 2011](#)). For that, the derivative of the scan profile (red curve in [Fig. 7a](#)) is calculated and the maximum and minimum points correspond to the inflection points, or limb coordinates. Next, all the limb points are then fit by a circumference (see [Fig. 7b](#)).

[Menezes et al. \(2021\)](#) analyzed over two decades of data from SST solar maps. Unfortunately, the first years had calibration problems and were discarded. Nevertheless, about 13 years of data were available for radius determination from SST maps. These results were further refined by [Menezes et al. \(2022\)](#) yielding measured average solar radius values of $963'' \pm 3''$ (212 GHz) and $963'' \pm 5''$ (405 GHz), indicated in [Figure 2](#) as "Present Results (SST)*". The measured average radius at 212 GHz agrees very well with that obtained from the degraded ALMA maps at 230 GHz ([Menezes et al., 2022](#)). These average radii correspond to heights ≤ 3000 km above the photosphere, that is, the quiet submillimeter emission most likely originates from the lower chromosphere. [Menezes et al. \(2022\)](#) also estimated the limb brightening at submillimeter wavelengths by using forward modeling that resulted in 2 %-12 % at 212 GHz and 3 %-17 % at 405 GHz.

Moreover, the variation of the solar radius in time along many years may reflect changes in the solar atmosphere related to the solar cycle. Therefore, crucial for the calibration of atmospheric models, the solar radius provides a better understanding of the solar atmospheric structure. Measurements of the solar radii at 212 and 405 GHz throughout many years ([Menezes et al., 2022](#)) are shown in the left and right panels of [Figure 8](#), respectively. The temporal evolution of the SST radii over 13 years (2007 - 2019) is seen to be correlated to solar activity proxies such as the 10.7 flux or the mean magnetic field when considering equatorial regions of the solar atmosphere. On the other hand, an anticorrelation with the activity proxies is observed when considering the solar radius measured at polar regions. Since the submillimeter frequencies (212 and 405 GHz) are produced low in the solar atmosphere, these results may reflect the

behavior from both the photosphere and the lower chromosphere. Perhaps this would explain the weak (212 GHz) and the moderate (405 GHz) correlation of the radii with the solar activity proxies.

Quiescent Sun - active regions

To determine the emission mechanism, the flux density spectra of the radio emission from active regions have to be constructed. Therefore, observations at different frequencies are needed. To characterize the radio source of active regions, [Silva et al. \(2005\)](#) studied 23 active regions observed in SST maps during the period of June/July of 2002. Maps at 212 and 405 GHz, such as those shown in the upper panel of [Figure 6](#), were used in combination with maps of the Sun at 17 and 34 GHz from NoRH, where the brightest active region in the 212 GHz map was chosen for each day. The excess brightness temperature and their sizes were measured for each active region at the four frequencies. The quiet Sun level was estimated to be 5900 K and 5100 K at 212 and 405 GHz, respectively, from measurements of the new Moon at the same frequencies. A brightness excess in the range of 3 to 20 % was observed for the active regions, that is, 200-1000 K hotter, at both 212 and 405 GHz. The diameter of the submm source was estimated in the range of 2 - 7 arcmin and is approximately the same at both frequencies. The flux density spectra of all active regions, constructed from combining the submm and the microwave data, were seen to increase toward higher frequencies, with an average slope of 2. This slope is typical of free-free emission from thermal electrons in an optically thick source. Fits of the spectra by a thermal bremsstrahlung yield radio emitting sources with effective temperatures in the range of 6000 to 29000 K, and a lower limit to the density of 10^{10} cm^{-3} , assuming that the optical depth is unity at 405 GHz.

More recently, [Valle Silva et al. \(2021\)](#) analyzed active regions observed from 14 to 20 December 2015, a period of low solar activity. Besides maps from NoRH (17 GHz) and SST (212 and 405 GHz), the authors also considered Atacama Large Millimeter Array (ALMA) maps at 107 and 238 GHz. Spectra were constructed from the observations at these 5 frequencies and are shown in [Figure 9](#). A linear fit was performed to the flux density spectra and again the spectral index is close to 2. These results are in agreement with those of previous works ([Tsuchiya and Takahashi, 1968](#); [Efanov et al., 1969](#); [Kundu, 1970](#); [Bastian et al., 1993](#); [Tapping and Zwaan, 2001](#)) and demonstrate that the emission from

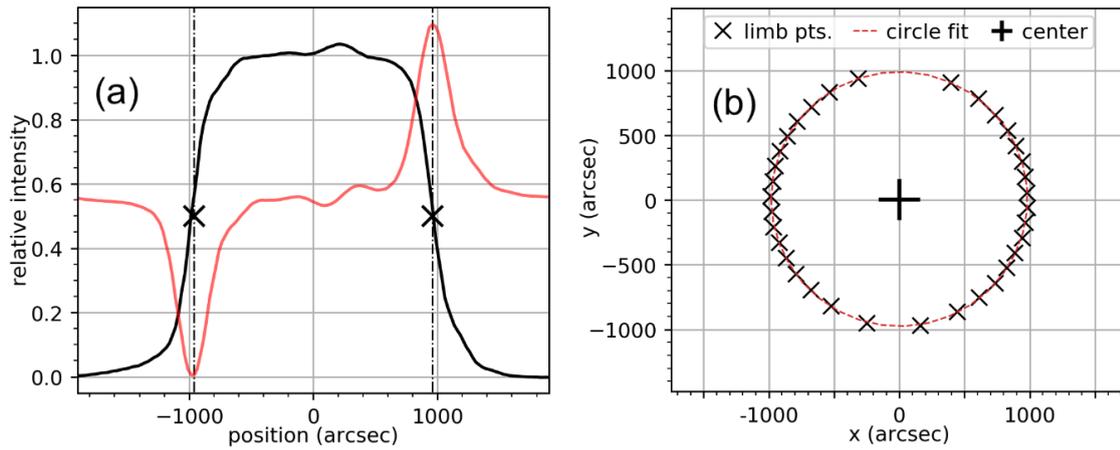


Figure 7: Estimate of the solar radius at submillimeter wavelengths. **(a)** Solar scan in black and its derivative in red. The inflection points of the scan are depicted by the crosses at the points of maximum and minimum inflection. **(b)** Limb points (crosses) fit by a circumference (red circle) (from [Menezes et al., 2021](#)).

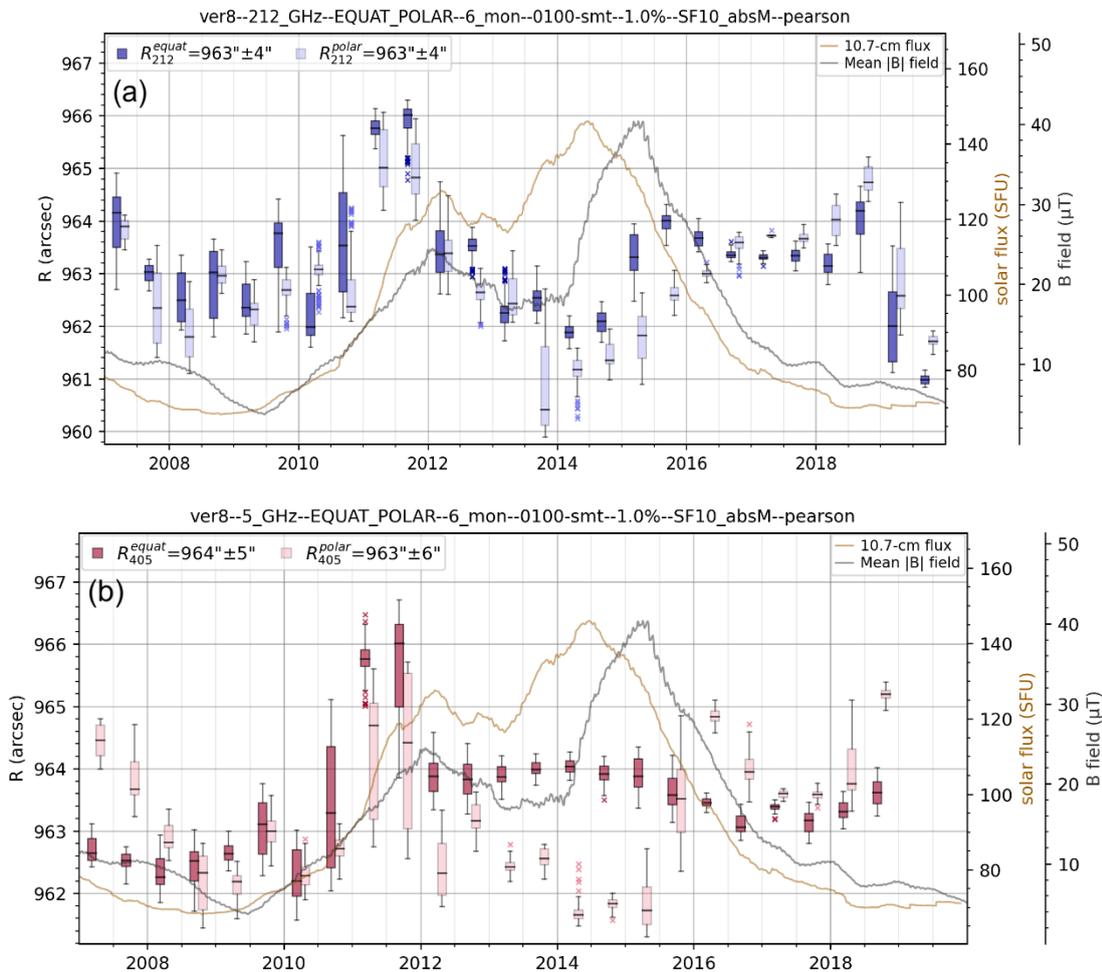


Figure 8: Solar radius at 212 and 405 GHz from January 2007 to December 2019. **(a)** Time series for equatorial (dark blue) and polar (light blue) radii at 212 GHz. **(b)** Time series for equatorial (red) and polar (pink) radii at 405 GHz. The orange and gray lines represent the 10.7cm flux and the mean magnetic field, respectively (from [Menezes et al., 2021](#)).

active regions at millimetric and submillimetric wavelengths is produced by thermal bremsstrahlung from sources located low in the chromosphere.

Active Sun - Flares

As mentioned earlier, a solar flare emits radiation throughout the entire electromagnetic spectrum. At radio wavelengths, the high frequency millimeter (45 and 90 GHz) and submillimeter (212 and 405 GHz) radiation may be due to gyrosynchrotron or thermal emission.

[Silva and Valio \(2021\)](#) studied in detail the solar flare that occurred on May 13th, 2013, observed by the POEMAS telescope at both 45 and 90 GHz and in hard X-rays above 1 MeV by RHESSI and Fermi space missions. The temporal profiles of the flare at both wavelengths were very similar, thus leading to believe that they originated from the same population of accelerated electrons. To determine if this was true, the radio spectrum and the hard X-ray spectrum were fit separately. From these fits, the electron energy distribution was determined. The result is shown in [Figure 10](#) for three-time intervals during the flare.

The observed radio spectrum was fit by the Ramaty gyrosynchrotron emission model ([Ramaty, 1969; Ramaty et al., 1994](#)) and the optically thin radio spectral index was determined (red line of [Fig. 10](#)). Conversely, the hard X-ray spectral index was obtained by assuming thermal emission plus a nonthermal broken power-law distribution (black curve of [Fig. 10](#)). As can be seen from the electron energy distribution depicted on [Figure 10](#), the index obtained from the radio spectrum agrees with the index of the X-ray spectrum for energies above a break energy of ~600 keV. Therefore, hard X-rays above 600 keV

and millimeter emission of solar flares are produced by the same population of high-energy accelerated electrons. This result implies that the energy distribution of accelerated electrons during large solar flares is best described by a broken power law, with a breakup above energies of 1 MeV.

Another interesting result from POEMAS is that of the polarized millimeter emission of the flares that occurred on February 17th, 2013 ([Fig. 11](#)) and November 5th, 2013. Polarization measurements at millimeter wavelengths of the two flares showed that the February 17th flare produced a smaller polarization degree, of only 5 %, in comparison to the 30 % degree of polarization of the November 5th, 2013 event ([Silva et al., 2020](#)). To determine the cause of this difference in polarization, we investigated the magnetic field configuration at the region of the two

flares. For this analysis, we also combined data from 1-15 GHz of the Radio Solar Telescope Network (RSTN) and 212 GHz from SST. Both flares were also observed in hard X-rays by the RHESSI satellite. To determine the magnetic configuration at the flaring source, a model that simulates gyrosynchrotron emission in a spatially-varying 3D magnetic field loop structure was applied ([Simões and Costa, 2006](#)). In this model, the magnetic loop geometry is fixed and the field strength is the only free parameter of the magnetic field. Moreover, a uniform electron distribution was considered with two free parameters, the number density of energetic electrons and the electron spectral index.

Then, the flux and polarization radio spectra from 5 to 200 GHz of both flares were fit by this model. A good fit was obtained yielding the physical parameters of the loop and flaring sources. The best model fit to the 45 GHz data is shown in [Figure 12](#) for both flares. The main result of this study was that the degree of polarization of a flare at millimeter wavelengths is related to the degree of asymmetry of the magnetic loop. High degree of polarization in a solar flare can be explained by two sources located at the footpoints of highly asymmetric magnetic loops, whereas low polarization degrees arise from footpoint sources of symmetric magnetic loops.

Strong solar flares are known to be preferentially **observed if they are** located near the solar limb in hard X- and γ -rays ([Vestrand et al., 1987](#)). Searching for a center-to-limb variation at millimeter wavelengths, [Hidalgo Ramírez et al. \(2019\)](#) analyzed a total of 30 flares detected by POEMAS at 45 GHz in both senses of polarization during a period of maximum solar activity. About half of these events were also detected at 90 GHz. The location of these 30 flares for three ranges of the 45 GHz flux density (<500 sfu, 500 – 1000 sfu, and >1000 sfu) is shown in [Figure 13](#). From the results plotted in this figure, it is possible to see a slight correlation between the flux density of the flares and their heliocentric angle, implying that solar bursts with higher flux density have a higher probability to be located closer to the solar limb.

From this same data set, [Hidalgo Ramírez et al. \(2019\)](#) reported the reversal of the polarization sense for sources from east to west and from north to south, with few exceptions. Moreover, the degree of polarization at 45 GHz was larger than at 90 GHz for most of the events. These results are consistent with the sense of polarization given by the gyrosynchrotron emission model at high frequencies. According to the model, the degree of circular polarization in solar flares reflects the

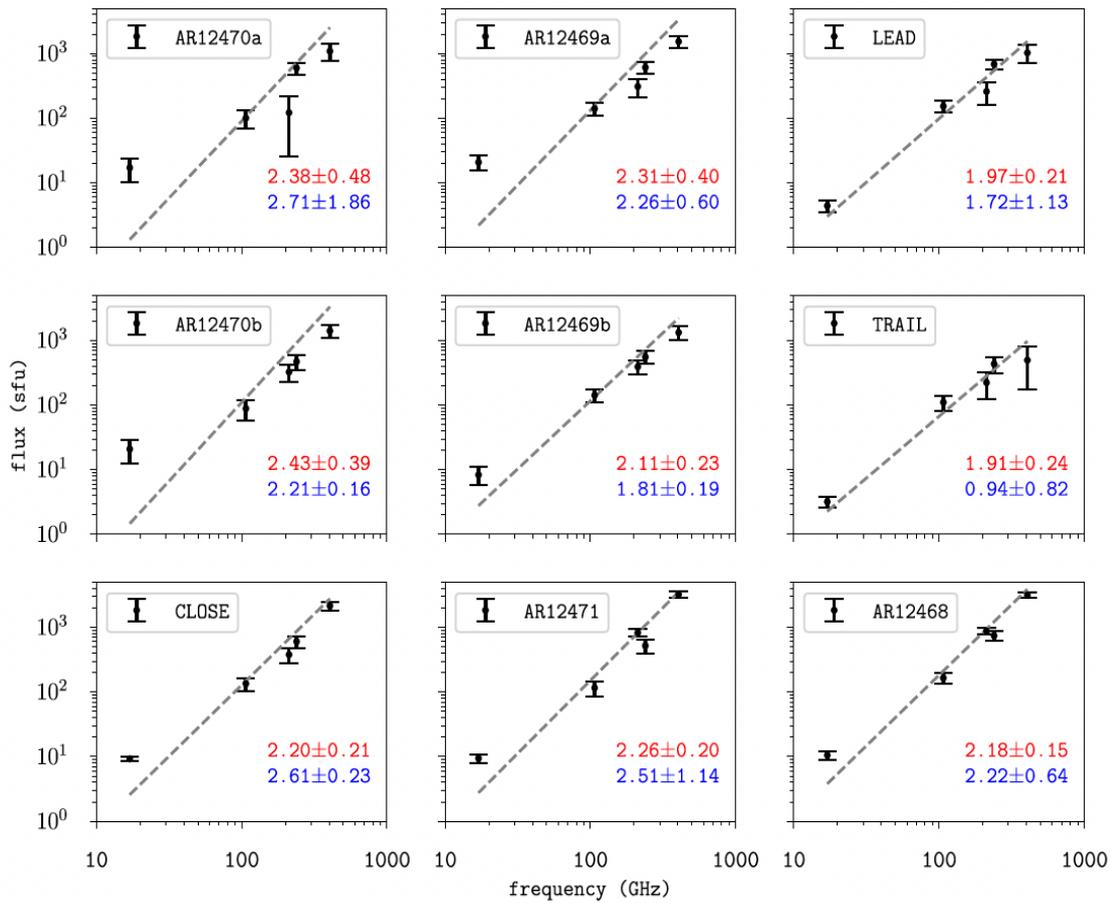


Figure 9: Density flux spectra of active regions. The spectral indexes fit to the spectra are given in each panel for frequencies between 17 and 405 GHz (red) and for frequencies above 100 GHz (blue) (from [Valle Silva et al., 2021](#)).

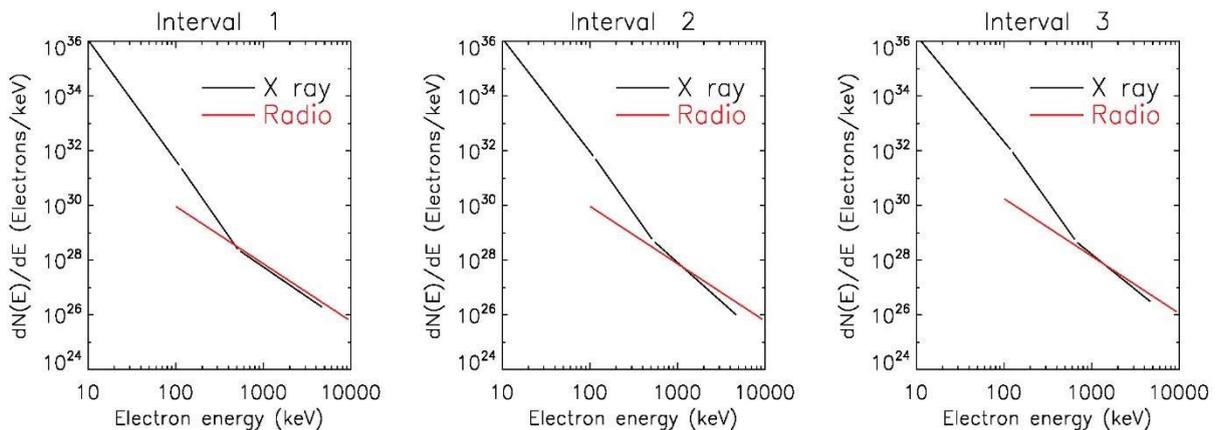


Figure 10: Broken power-law spectrum of the accelerated electron energy distribution for three-time intervals during the flare. The black curve was extracted from the hard X-ray data, whereas the red line, from the radio emission (from [Silva and Valio, 2021](#)).

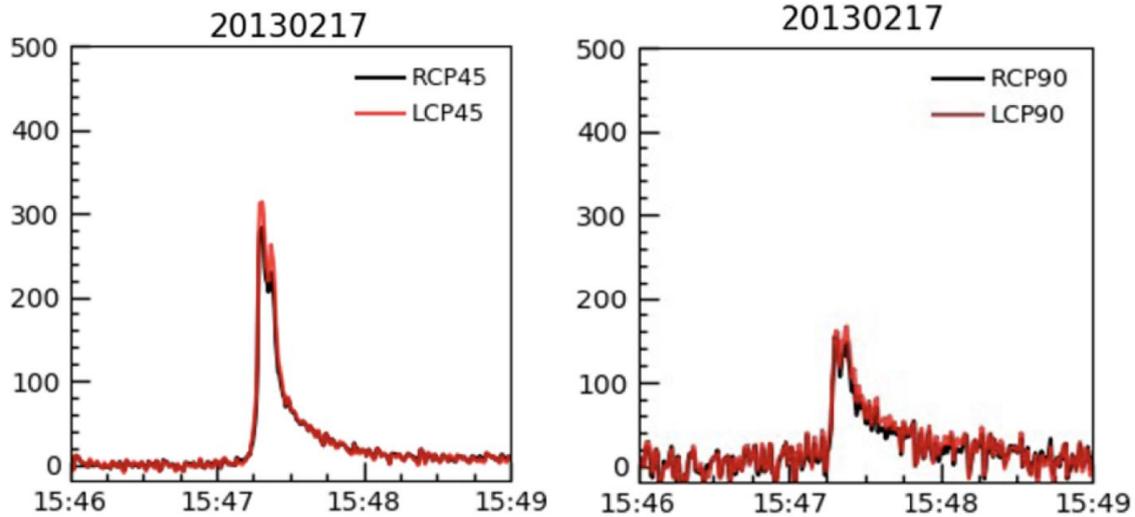


Figure 11: Millimeter light curve of the flare that occurred on February 17th, 2013, at around 15:47:22 UT. The right- (RCP in black) and left-hand (LCP in red) circular polarization emissions at 45 GHz and 90 GHz are shown in the left and right panels, respectively. Extracted from [Hidalgo Ramírez et al. \(2019\)](#).

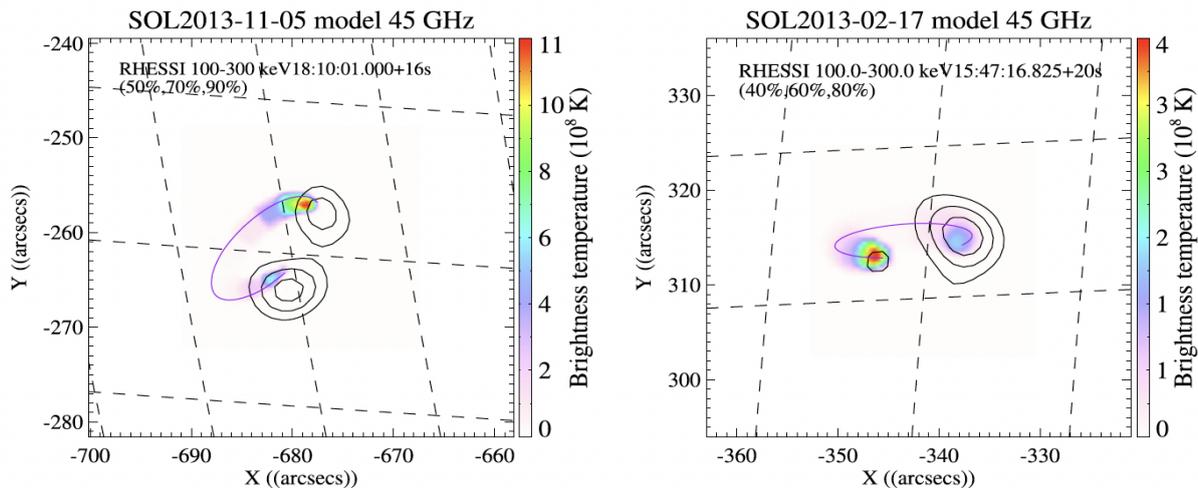


Figure 12: Maps of 45 GHz brightness temperature from the model calculations for February 17th (right) and November 5th, 2013 (left) solar flares. RHESSI HXR contours are shown for reference. The magnetic loop geometry resulting from the model is depicted by the purple line (from [Silva et al., 2020](#)).

dominant magnetic polarity of the flaring region instead of the large scale magnetic loop of the active region ([Tanaka and Kakinuma, 1959](#)).

Finally, probably the most important result from observations of the Solar Submillimeter Telescope is the detection of a new spectral component that increases toward higher frequencies, contrary to what was expected. Because there was a lack of flare observations at frequencies higher than 100 GHz, this spectral component went unnoticed. [Kaufmann et al. \(2004\)](#) reported on the submm observations of the November 4th, 2003, the largest flare ever detected,

X28 according to GOES classification. This event was also observed by the Owens Valley Solar Array (OVSA) at microwaves from 1.2 to 18 GHz and also at 44 GHz by the Itapetinga Observatory (today renamed to Pierre Kaufmann Radio Observatory). Light curves of the submm emission and that of the 15.6 GHz are shown in the left panel of [Figure 14](#). Spectra were collected at the time intervals marked in this panel that combined microwave and submm data. The spectra at time intervals P1 and P4 are shown in the right panel of [Figure 14](#). As can be seen from the figure, the two submm flux densities at 212 and 405 GHz

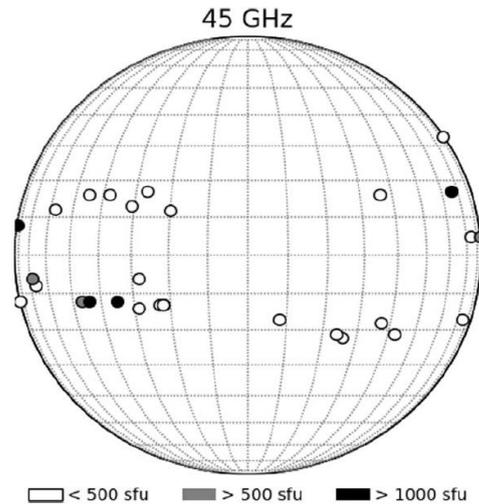


Figure 13: Distribution of the heliographic coordinates and intensity of solar bursts at 45 GHz observed by POEMAS. White circles represent peak flux < 500 sfu, gray circles represent peak flux in the range of 500-1000 sfu, and black circles represent peak flux > 1000 sfu (from [Hidalgo Ramírez et al., 2019](#)).

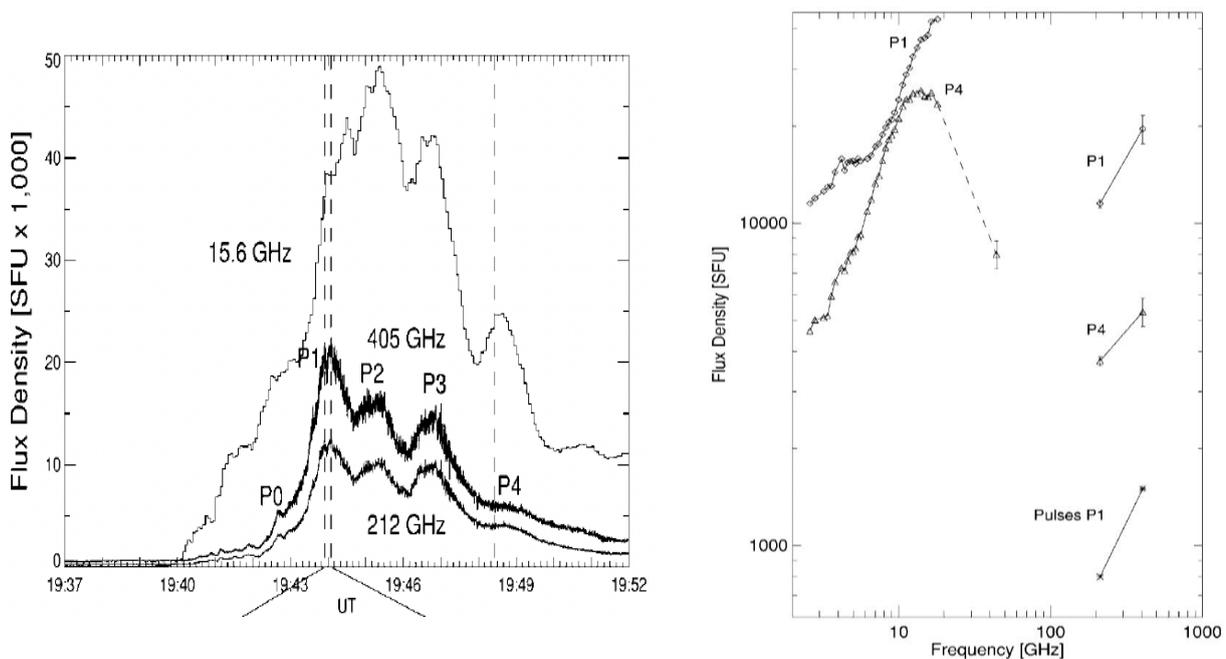


Figure 14: **Left:** Light curve of the burst at 405, 212, and 15.6 GHz in units of 10^3 sfu. The temporal resolution is 40 ms for the submillimeter data, while that of OVSA data is 4 s. **Right:** Spectra of the burst exhibiting two distinct components for the major peak P1 (diamonds) and for the smaller peak P4 (triangles). The spectra consist of OVSA 1.2–18 GHz microwave data and SST 212 and 405 GHz. During peak P4, there were 44 GHz data obtained by Itapetinga (from [Kaufmann et al., 2004](#)).

do not fall into the decreasing prolongation of the microwave spectrum, but rather indicate a new rising spectral component, which should peak somewhere in the THz frequency domain.

The origin of this new spectral THz component is still unknown. One possible explanation is that this component arises from a small source located near the magnetic loop footpoint, deep within the solar

chromosphere. This source is different from the source emitting in microwaves which would be somewhere in the magnetic loop top. This double source scenario was able to explain the radio emission of yet another large solar flare detected at submm, microwaves, hard- and γ -rays ([Silva et al., 2007](#)). Another possible cause is based on laboratory accelerator experiments, where perturbations produce electron beam density

modulations, called microbunching (Klopf et al., 2014). These instabilities produce broadband coherent synchrotron emission at wavelengths similar to the size of the microbunch. This coherent synchrotron radiation is much stronger and peaks at larger frequencies than the “normal” microwave component. Other solar flares have been observed at submm wavelengths, but not all present this increasing spectral component (Raulin et al., 2004; Cristiani et al., 2005; Giménez de Castro et al., 2009, 2013; Trotter et al., 2011; Raulin et al., 2014).

CONCLUSIONS

Highlights of recent observations from two solar dedicated radio telescopes (SST and POEMAS) have been presented. These were mainly the results from the analysis of maps of the quiet Sun, spectra of active regions, and multiwave-length studies of solar flares. Measurements of the solar radius from solar maps determine approximately the height in the atmosphere where the radio emission originates. The emission at frequencies of 212 and 405 GHz arises from approximately 3", or ≤ 3000 km above the photosphere (Menezes et al., 2022). The solar submm radius is also seen to vary with the 11-year Solar Activity Cycle.

Active regions were seen as bright areas on solar submm radio maps. From the modeling of their combined radio spectra, the emission of active regions at high frequencies (>17 GHz) was determined to be due to optically thick thermal bremsstrahlung radiation.

Solar flares observed at millimeter wavelengths exhibited a broken power-law spectra of the energy distribution of nonthermal electrons, in accordance with the hard X-ray observations, implying thus that both the millimeter and the hard X-rays are produced by the same population of accelerated electrons. The degree of polarization observed for some flares seems to be related to the asymmetry of the magnetic loop where the flare occurred. Symmetric loops produce flares with lower polarization degree, whereas highly asymmetric loops produce higher polarization. A slight directivity of the flare emission at millimeter wavelengths was also found, where more intense burst had a tendency to be located closer to the solar limb.

Finally, a new spectral component of radio emission at very high frequencies (THz) was discovered from the observation of the largest solar flare detected to date, which occurred on November 4, 2003. The flux density spectrum at submm wavelengths increased toward higher frequencies showing it not to be a mere prolongation of the known microwave component generally attributed to

gyrosynchrotron mechanism. Further observations at even higher frequencies (for example, in the far infrared) are **needed** to shed light onto this new phenomenon.

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