

THEMIS solar telescope

A new era begins



Laboratoire de Physique des Plasmas

Seminarios de física solar del IAC ; Nov 20th 2025

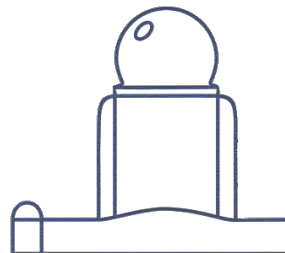
FSLAC
International
Research Lab.



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¹ French-Spanish Laboratory for Astrophysics in Canarias (FSLAC), CNRS, IAC, La Laguna, Tenerife, Spain

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Seminario n°1: 3D MHD modelling of the generation of coronal jets & their propagation toward the inner heliosphere.



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Seminarios de física solar del IAC ; Sept. 25th 2024

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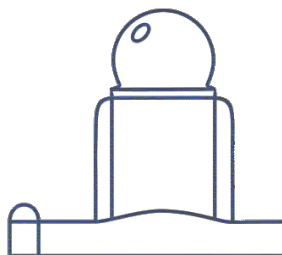


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³ LPC2E, France; ⁴ University of Dundee, UK; ⁵ Durham University, UK.



Seminario n°2: What's new about MAGNETIC HELICITY ?



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Seminarios de física solar del IAC ; Nov. 15th 2025

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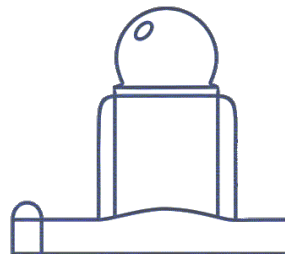


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³ MPS, Germany ; ⁴ KU Leuven, Belgium, ⁵ Univ Ioannina, Greece, ⁶ Univ. Graz, Austria, ⁷ NASA GFSC, USA, ⁸ Univ. Hawaii, USA



Seminario n°3: **THEMIS solar telescope** A new era begins



Laboratoire de Physique des Plasmas

Seminarios de física solar del IAC ; Nov 20th 2025

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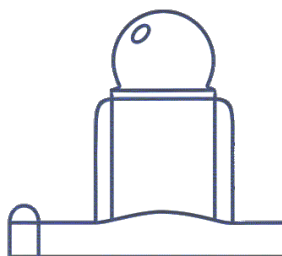
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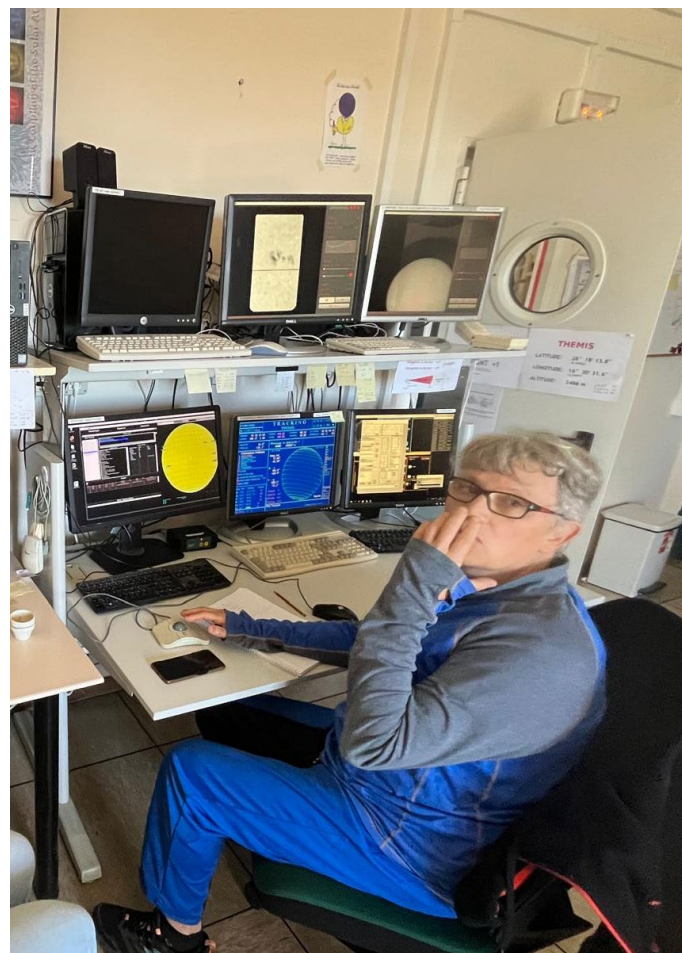
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In memoria of Didier Laforgue

- Didier Laforgue passed away on June 20th 2020, after 23 years working at THEMIS as a system-instrument research engineer, and as a very appreciated observation operator.



French-Spanish Laboratory for Astrophysics in Canarias

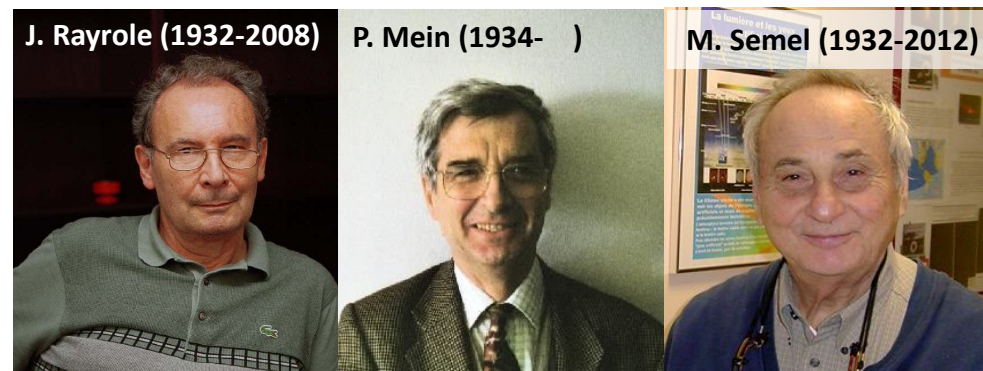


- THEMIS team is part of the **French-Spanish Laboratory for Astrophysics in Canarias (FSLAC)**, joint international research laboratory of CNRS & IAC.
 - FSLAC office located in front of IAC main campus
 - FSLAC spearhead of French-Spanish collaboration
- FSLAC renewed for 5 years: 2026-2030
 - 5 research themes: high energy astrophysics (CTAO), Solar physics (THEMIS, EST), CMB (QUIJOTE), Exoplanets & adaptive optics, Galactic Archaeology (WEAVE)
 - **IAC researchers welcomed to participate to FSLAC activities**
- Present FSLAC team members:
 - Ramon Garcia Lopez, IAC/ULL professor, FSLAC director
 - Bernard Gelly, CNRS professor, THEMIS director, FSLAC deputy director
 - Fabio Acero, CNRS assistant professor
 - Étienne Pariat, CNRS assistant professor
 - Richard Douet, CNRS opto-mechanics engineer, THEMIS technical director
 - ~~Didier Laforge~~, CNRS control-command informatician →  position filled in 2026
 - Jeronimo Foronda, THEMIS administrator
 - + 01/2026 : PhD student Jorge Romero Castañeda
 - + 02/2026 : postdoctoral researcher: Saida Diaz Castillo



- **Introduction: THEMIS time line & characteristics**
- THEMIS overhaul
- THEMIS adaptive optics
- Spectropolarimetry with THEMIS 2.0
- Some 2025 campaign highlights
- Prospectives & conclusions

THEMIS timeline



- 1970's : European JOSO search & test observatory sites for optimum sky quality: selection of Tenerife and La Palma
- 1975 : First presentation of the THEMIS project by **J. Rayrole** at the Institut National d'Astronomie et de Géophysique.
- 1980's : Telescope design & instruments development at Paris Observatory, lead by **J. Rayrole, P. Mein & M. Semel**.
- 1992 : French INSU/CNRS, Spanish CSIS & IAC, & Italian INAF/CNR sign international cooperation agreements
- 1993 : Start of the construction of the THEMIS building

First light of the THEMIS telescope on March 16th 1996

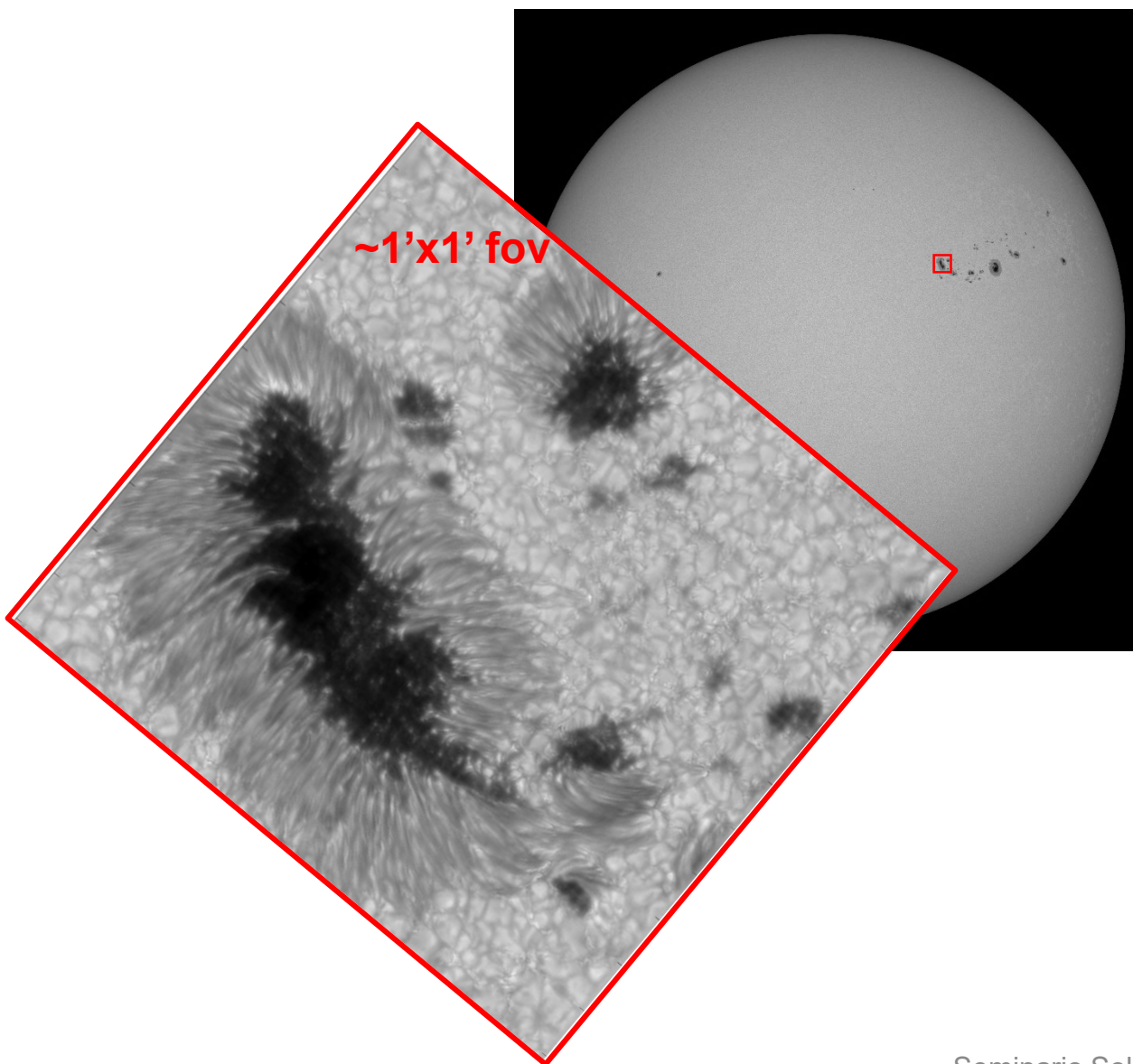
- 1996-1999: THEMIS Commissioning
- 1999-2014: 1st phase of scientific exploitation
- 2009 : Withdrawal of the Italian partner.
- 2015-2018: Closure to observation for optical design overhaul.
- 2019- now : 2nd phase of THEMIS scientific exploitation.**
- Dec. 2020 : 1st light of THEMIS Adaptive Optics in closed-loop.**
- June 2021 : Creation of FSLAC, joint international laboratory of INSU & IAC, overlooking THEMIS activities.

Key THEMIS optical design



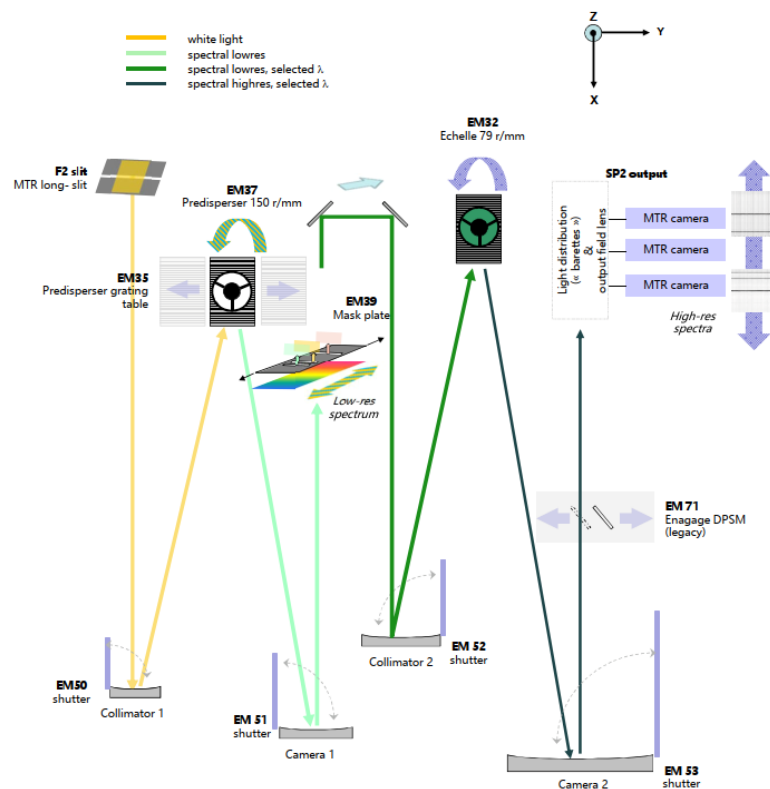
- 92cm Ritchey-Chrétien on alt-azimuthal mount.
 - ~6th largest solar telescope in the world
- **Very high effective focal length (57m) and focal ratio (f/62)**
 - High magnification capacity
 - **One of the world « slowest » optical telescope**
 - High loss of light, compensated by large solar flux
 - Less optical aberrations
- **Polarization analyser at first optical focus**
 - Polarization fixed further along optical path
 - **→ unique polarization calibration free telescope : ideal for spectropolarimetry**
 - Pre adaptive-optic design : not ideal for imagery

THEMIS observation capabilities



- Small field-of-view: 1'x1' to 2'x2'
 - ~human eye resolution
 - Tennis ball at ~250m
 - ~1/215-900th of the solar surface
- 0.15'' theoretical (diffusion) spatial resolution (@ ~600 nm)
 - Tennis ball at ~100 km
- Teide Observatory seeing:
 - Can reach down 0.3'' at night
 - Typical solar condition are closer to 1''

THEMIS Spectrograph



- **As of today the main THEMIS instrument is the MTR2 slit-spectrograph**

- Tunable slit or 0.5" slit-jaw
- Visible & near IR spectral domain: 4000-11000 nm

- **Ultra-high spectral resolving power**

- $R \sim 200\,000$ to $300\,000$

- **User-defined simultaneous multi-spectral lines observations**

- No-instrument determined spectral ranges
- Spectral ranges defined by user
 - fixed set-up for a given campaign
- Up to 6 spectral range (3-4 in general)
- $\sim 6-7 \text{ \AA}$ spectral range/camera
- Spectral resolution down to $\sim 20-30 \text{ m\AA}$ (@6000 $\text{\AA}$)

THEMIS Factsheet



Very well-maintained but,
be at that it may,
a 20th century instrument !



THEMIS @ OT in June 2025

- **Main French solar telescope** designed by J. Rayrole, P. Mein & M. Semel
 - Located at Teide Observatory, Tenerife, Spain
 - 1st light in March 1996, & commissioned in 1999
- 1m-class solar telescope, with **one the world “slowest” optical design:**
 - Aperture: 92 cm
 - Effective focal length: 57m
 - Effective focal ratio: f/62
 - 2’x2’ square field-of-view
- **Ideal for high resolution spectropolarimetry:**
 - Spectrum range: 4000 - 11000 Å
 - Polarization calibration free
 - Ultra-high spectral resolving power:
R ~ 200 000 to 300 000
 - Simultaneous observations of user-defined set of up to 6 spectral lines: 6-7 Å spectral range with ~30 mÅ resolution

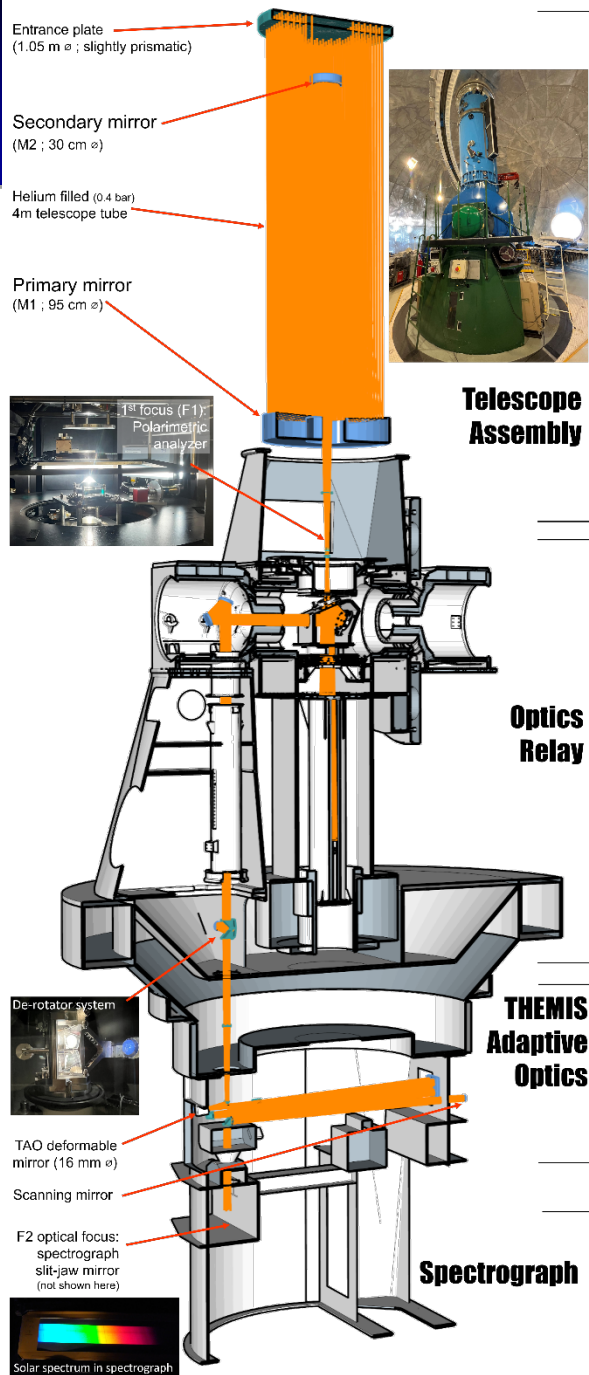
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"Total makeover": 2016 → 2020

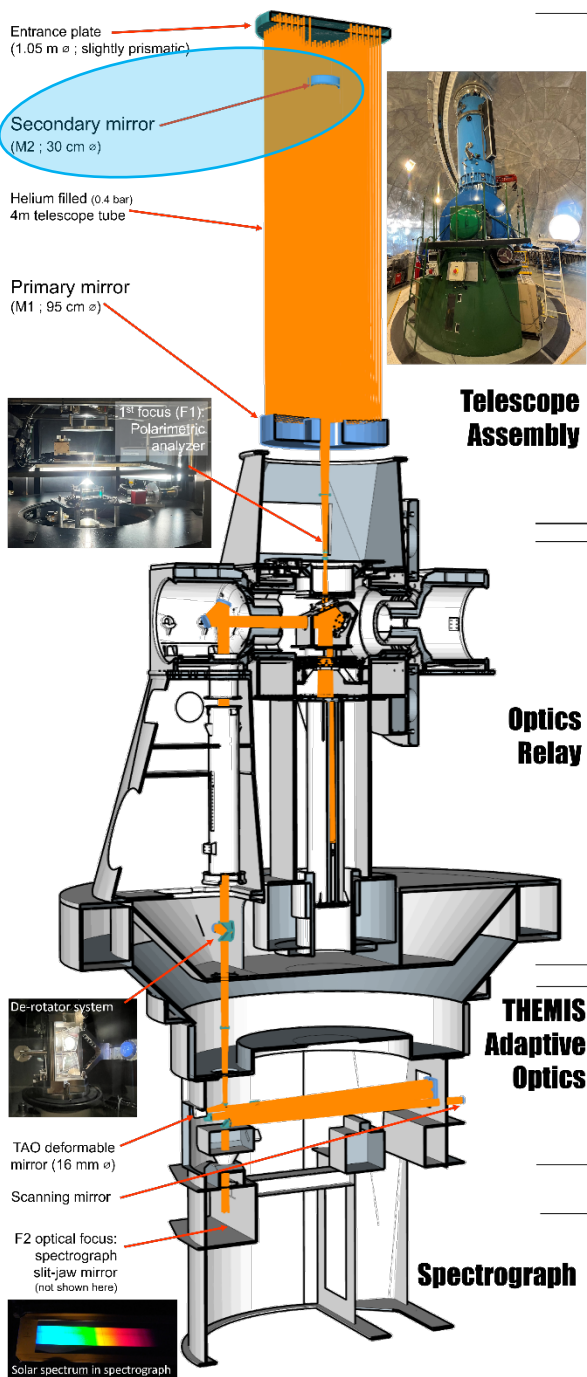


- **THEMIS has been widely renewed and redesigned**

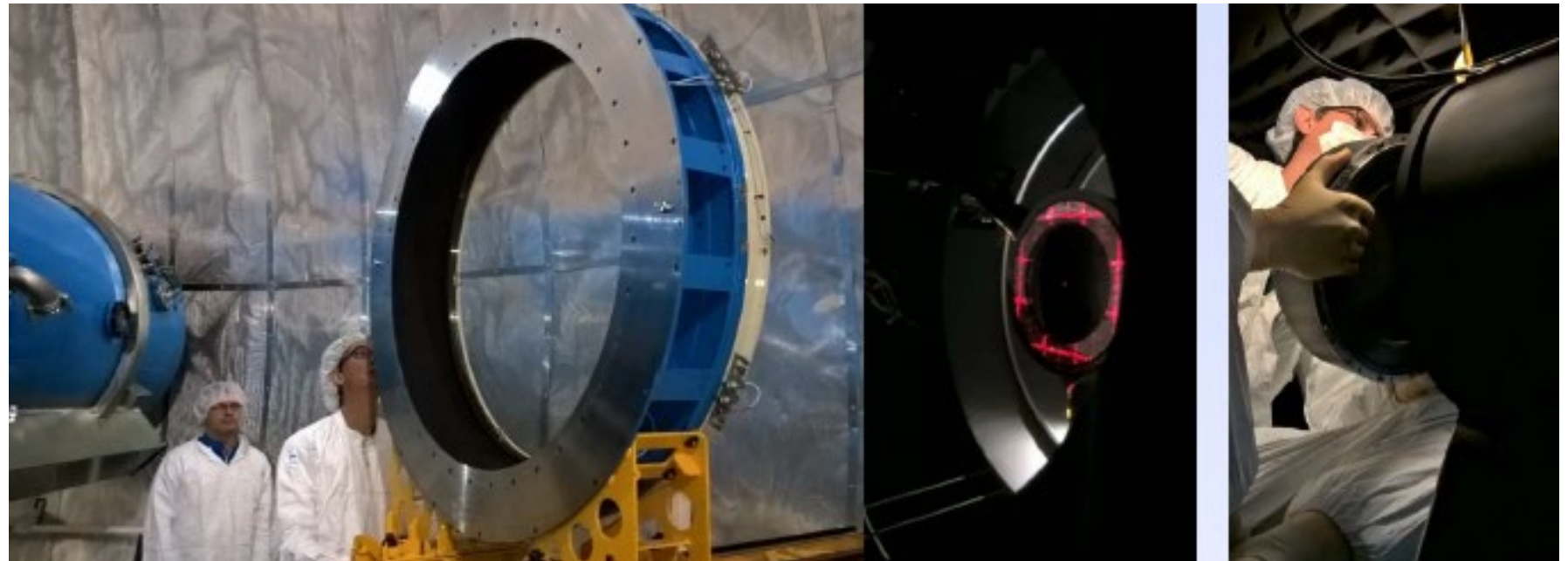
- Thanks to EU funding: ~1M€ from 2 IAC-led SOLARNET programs
- **Successful renovation thanks to several French teams**



"Total makeover": 2016 → 2020

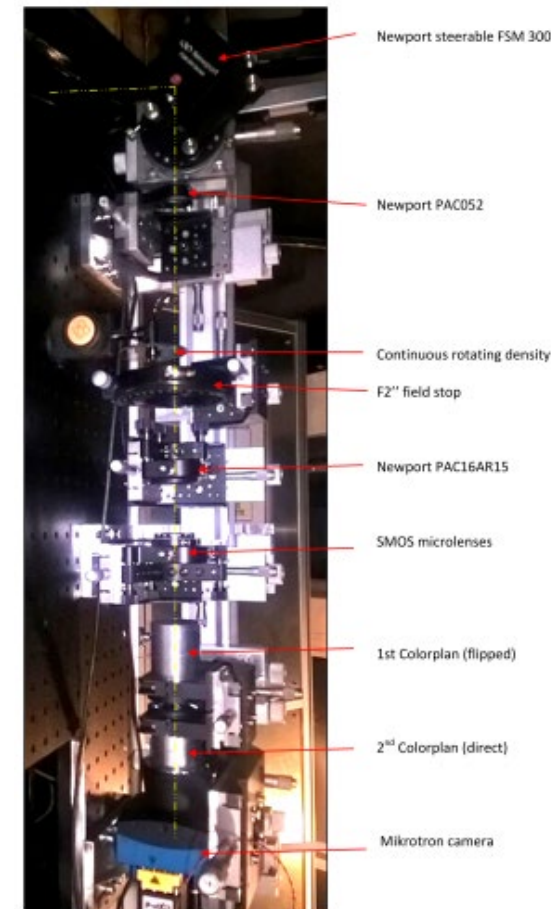
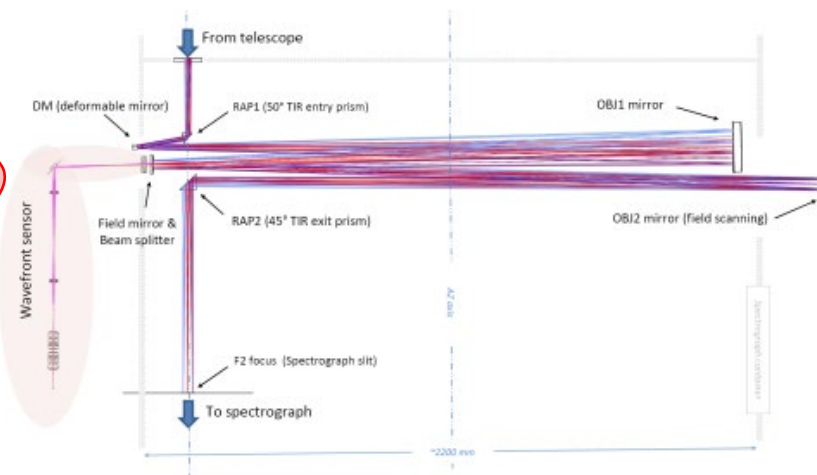
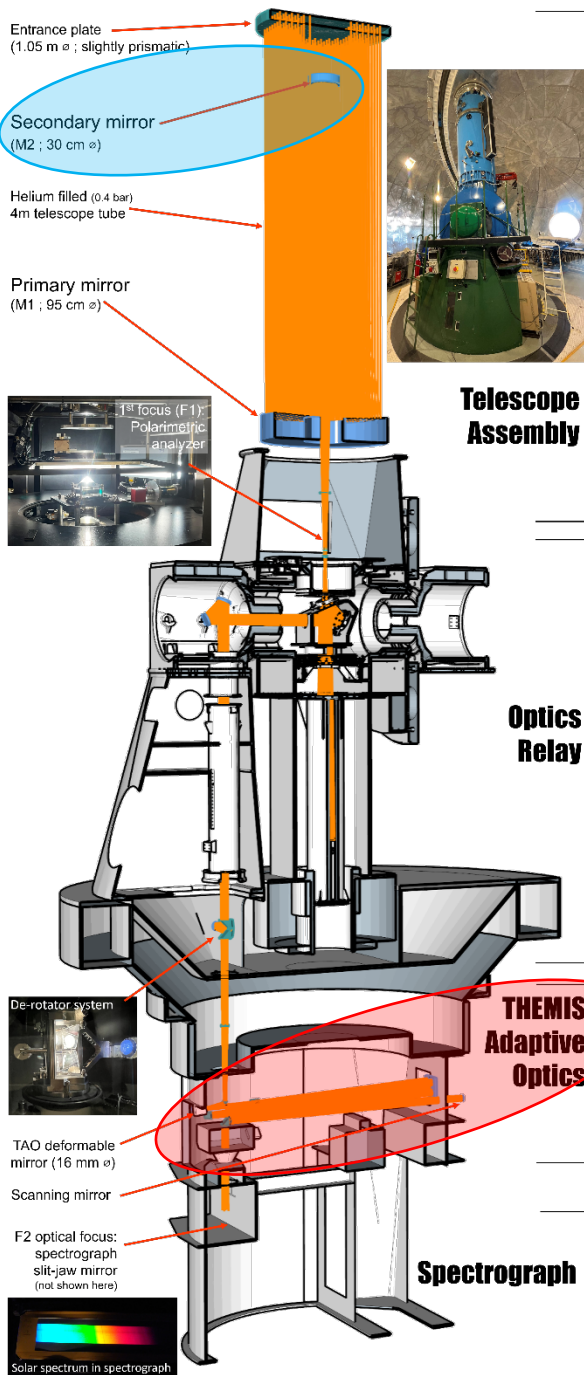


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- **M2 mirror re-aluminising** (William Herschel Telescope & THEMIS teams)

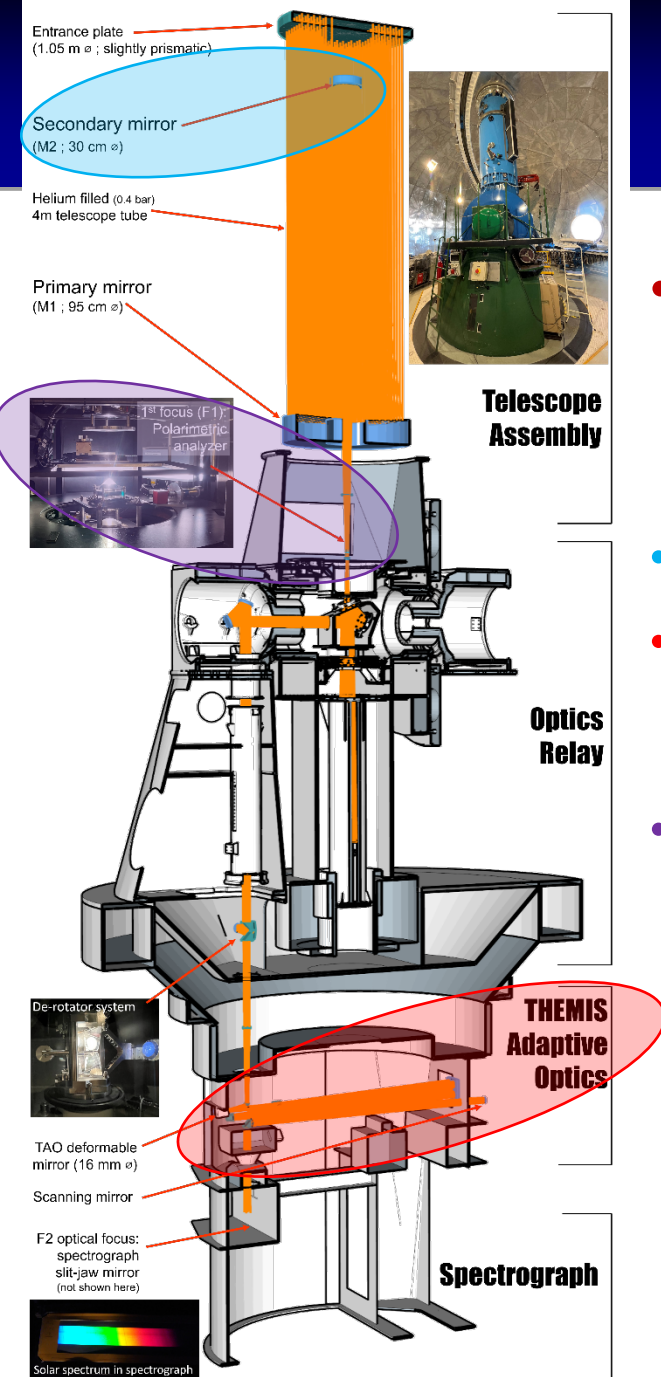


"Total makeover": 2016 → 2020

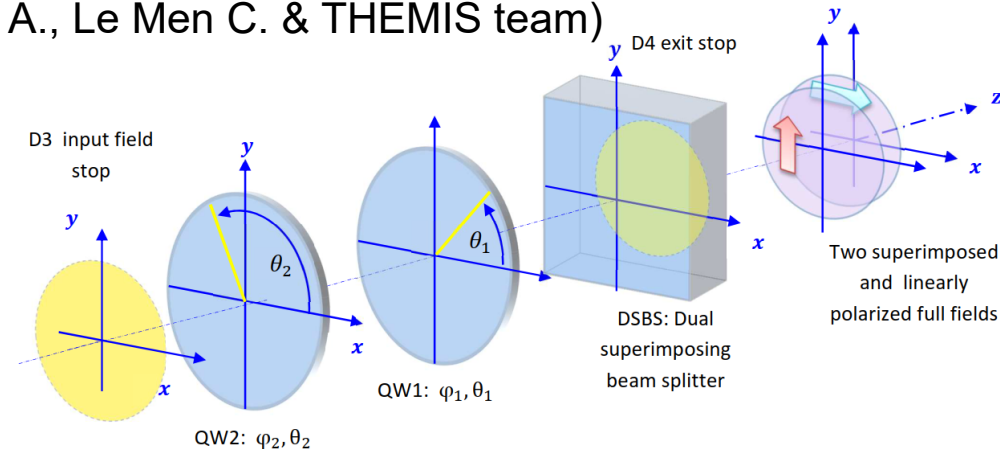
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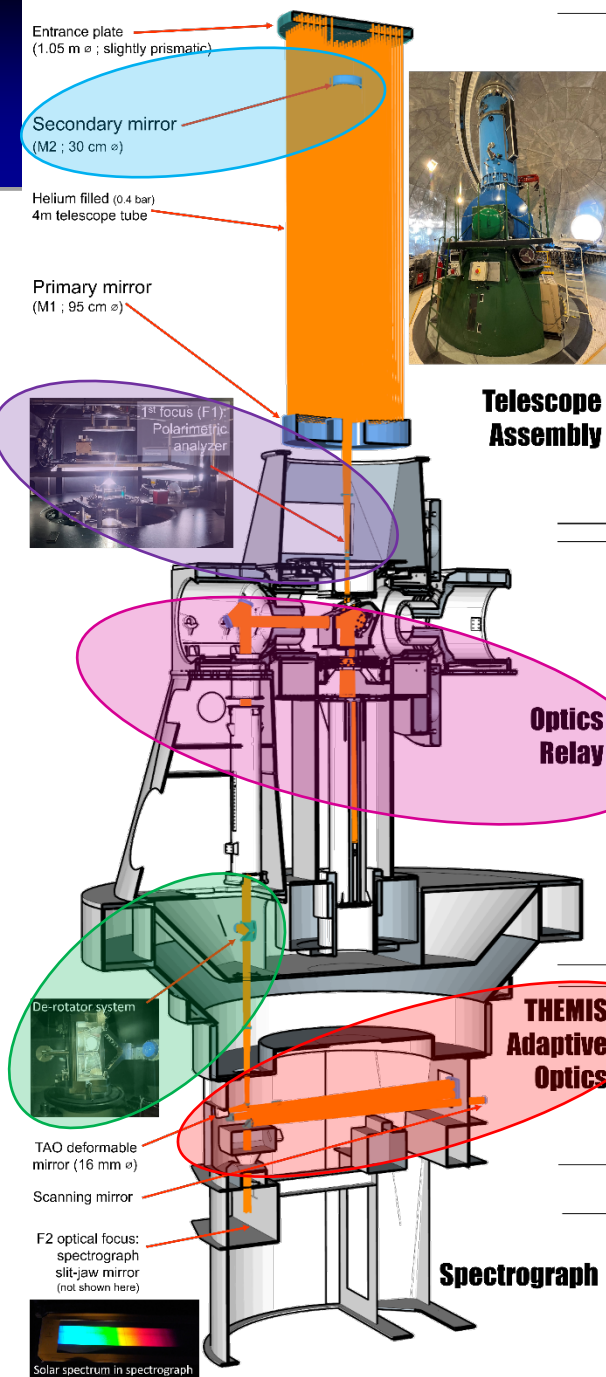
"Total makeover" : 2016 → 2020



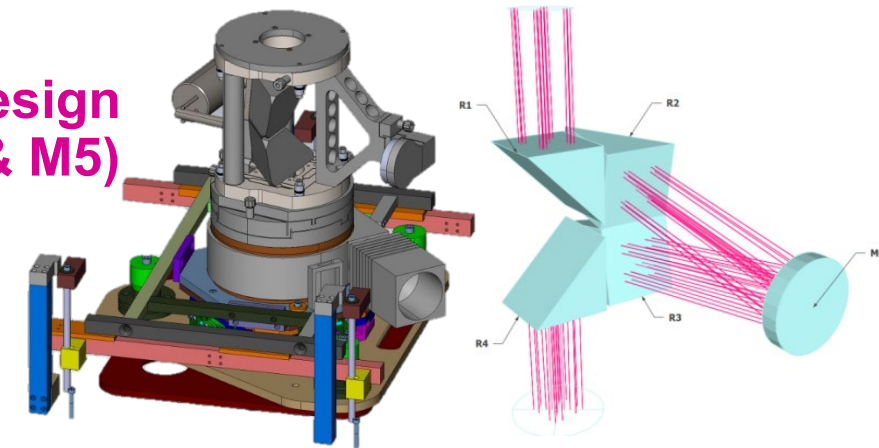
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- **Superimposed dual-beam polarimetric analysis** without field limitation (Semel M., Lopez A., Le Men C. & THEMIS team)



"Total makeover" : 2016 → 2020

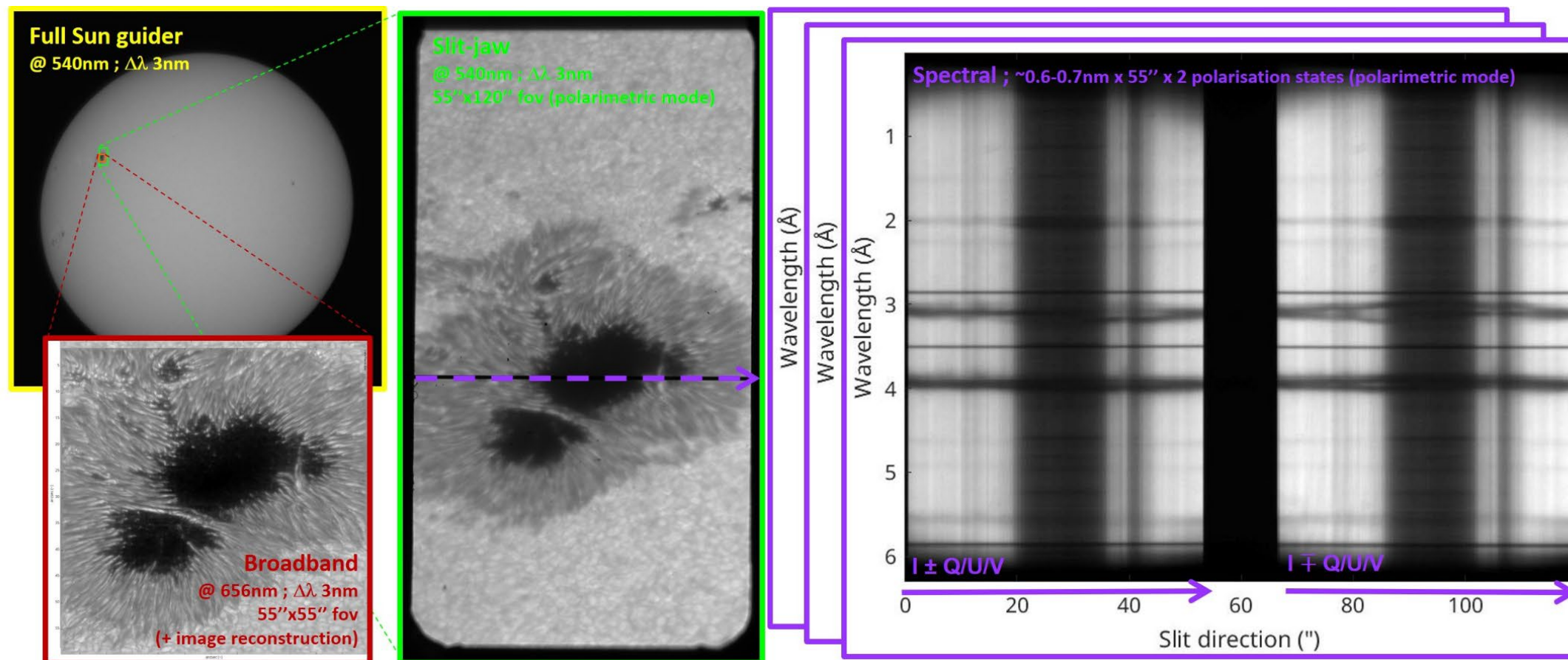


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- **Superimposed dual-beam polarimetric analysis** without field limitation (Semel M., Lopez A., Le Men C. & THEMIS team)
- **“Polarization- friendly” complete redesign of the whole transfer optics (M3, M4 & M5)** (Le Men, C. & THEMIS team)
- **New de-rotator system** (THEMIS team)
- + New context, broadband and spectral cameras.



THEMIS primary data products

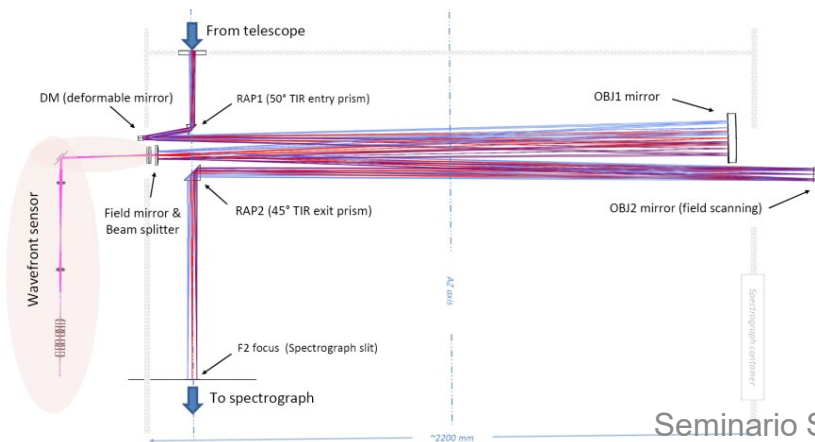
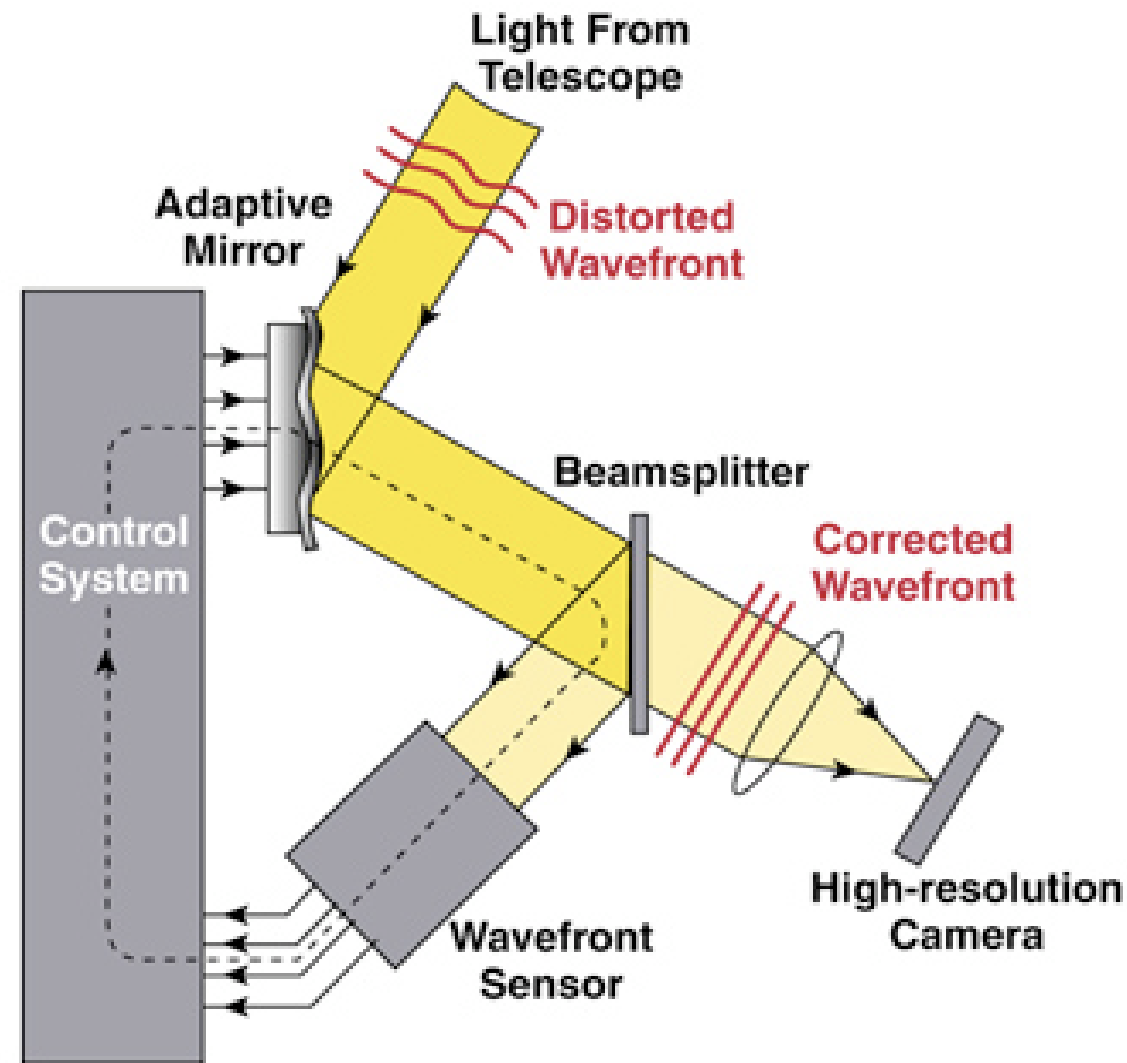
- **Full sun guider** & **spectrograph Slit-jaw** context images
- **BroadBand images (BBI)**
- Main science products: **MTR2 spectrograph spectral images**



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THEMIS Adaptive optics : principles

- Adaptive optics (AO) technology : correct distortions in light wavefronts due to turbulence or imperfections
 - Measures the incoming distorted wavefront thanks to wavefront sensor (WFS).
 - Very dynamically reshapes a deformable mirror in real-time thanks to actuators
 - corrections must be faster turbulence timescales : use of real-time control computer equipped with extremely fast processor
- **THEMIS had a pre-AO era design**
 - **Adapting an AO has been particularly challenging**



TAO linearized model of wavefront sensor data and DM commands in the THEMIS system



WFS data Actual wavefront **Actuator commands** ... some noise

$$\mathbf{d}_t = \mathbf{S} \cdot (\mathbf{w}_t + \mathbf{M} \cdot \mathbf{a}_t) + \mathbf{z}_t$$

Sensor linear response Mirror influence matrix

- Wavefront is represented in the basis of influence functions of the DM
- **Requires to solve an inverse problem (argmin...) at each step (all terms may change with time), in real-time (~1kHz)**

Thiebaut, E., Tallon, M. et al, SPIE proceedings 2022

$$\mathbf{a}_{t+\delta t} = \operatorname{argmin} \{ \|\mathbf{y}_t + \mathbf{G} \cdot \mathbf{a}\|_{\operatorname{Cov}(\mathbf{z}_t)^{-1}}^2 + \mu_t \|\mathbf{a}\|_{\mathbf{W}}^2 + \rho_t \|\mathbf{a} - \mathbf{a}_t\|^2 \}$$

$\mathbf{G} = \mathbf{S} \cdot \mathbf{M}$ is the **interaction matrix**

$\mathbf{y}_t = \mathbf{d}_t - \mathbf{G} \cdot \mathbf{a}_t$ are $\approx$ open loop data

$\mu_t > 0$ and $\mathbf{W} \approx \operatorname{Cov}(\mathbf{w}_t)$ are loop parameters to enforce spatial regularization

$\rho_t > 0$ is a loop parameter to impose temporal continuity

THEMIS Adaptive Optics (TAO): specifications & objectives



- Specifications

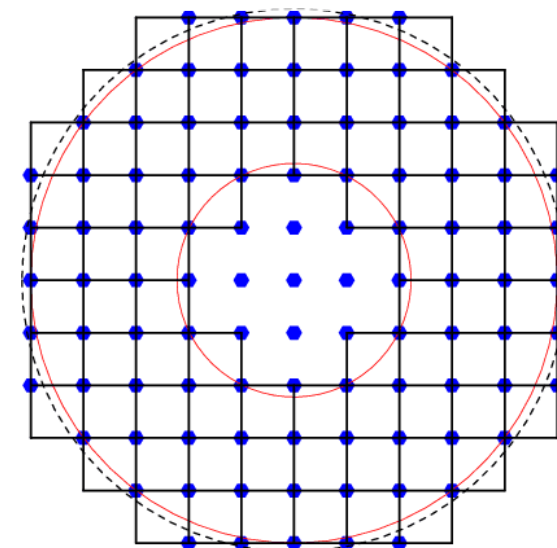
- **76 sub-aperture Shack-Hartmann wavefront sensor** (10×10);
 - 380 $\times$ 380 pixel WFS images, Mikrotron EoSens 4CXP detector
- **THEMIS-optical-path-compatible 16 mm deformable mirror**
- **97 actuators** on ALPAO deformable mirror (11×11 config.)
- Real time correction (RTC)
 - Computer: CPU i7-4790K (Q2'14) at 4.2 GHz, 4 cores, up to 50 Gflops/core with AVX2 + FMA instructions.

- Objectives:

- **✓ Closed AO loop on the Sun**
 - started from scratch mid-2016 $\rightarrow$ operative in December 2020
- **✓ RTC software running in CPU @1250 Hz** (no GPU)
 - flexible RTC software to implement and experiment new algorithms
- **Next objective (December 2025): unsupervised AO system** (optimal correction whatever the conditions)



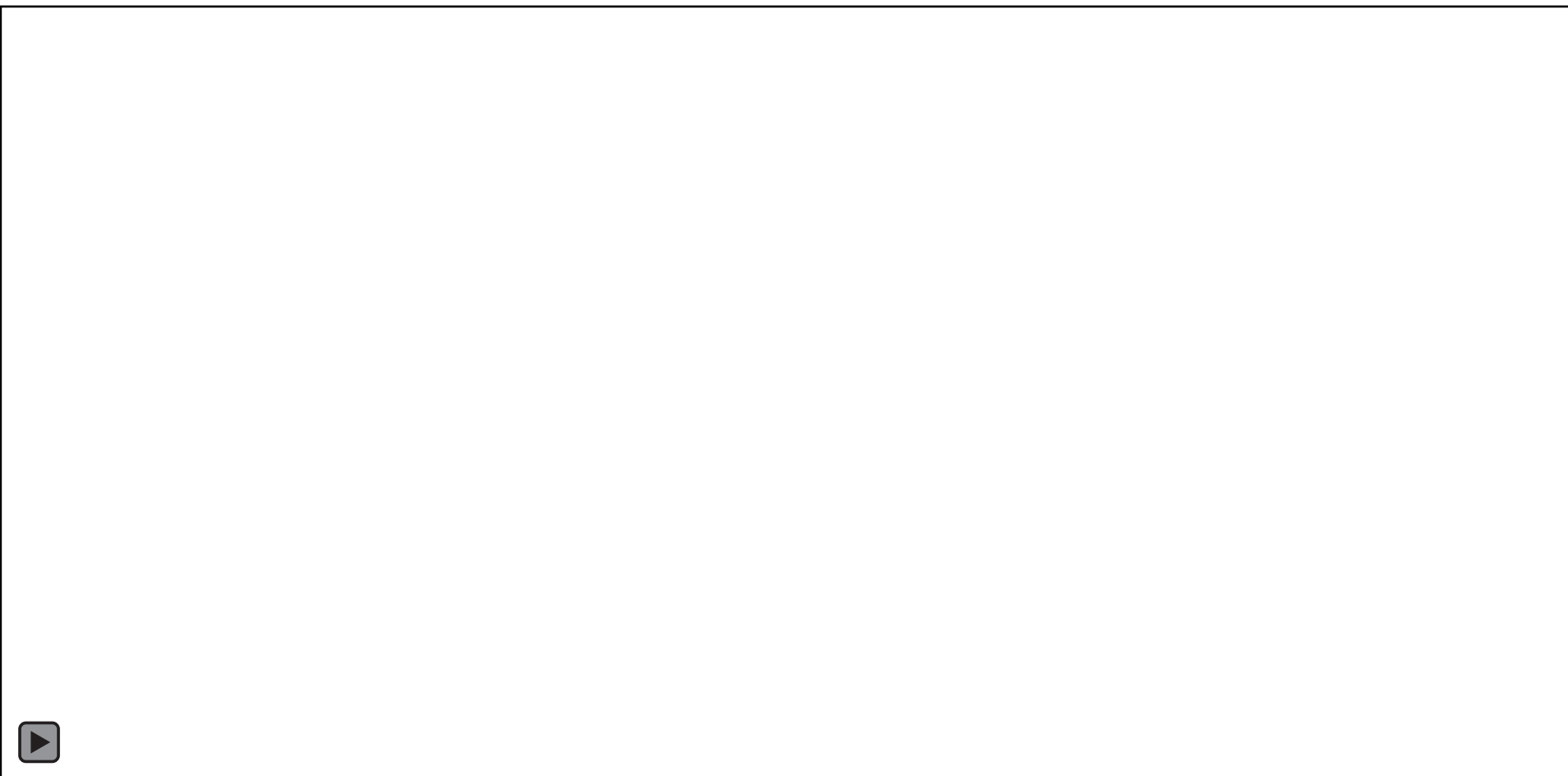
TAO geometry with a combination of DM/wavefront sensor set up in 'Fried configuration' with a spacing number of 10



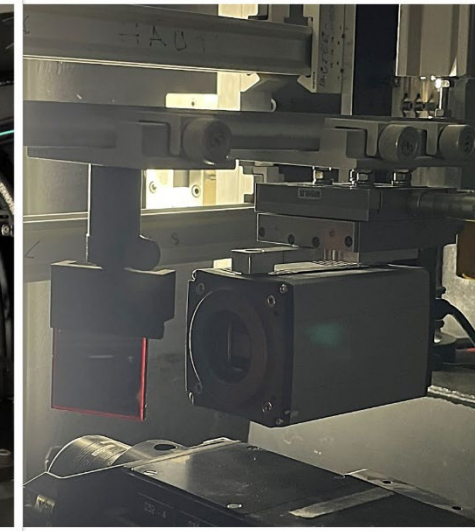
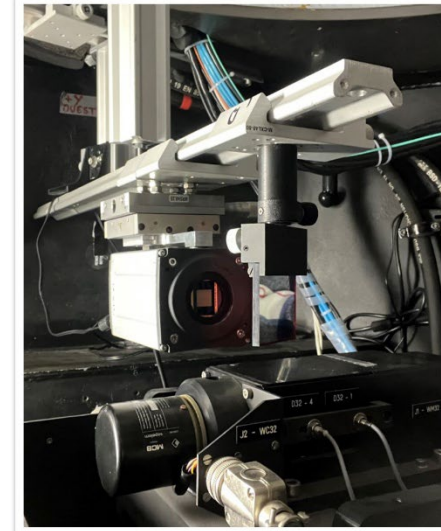
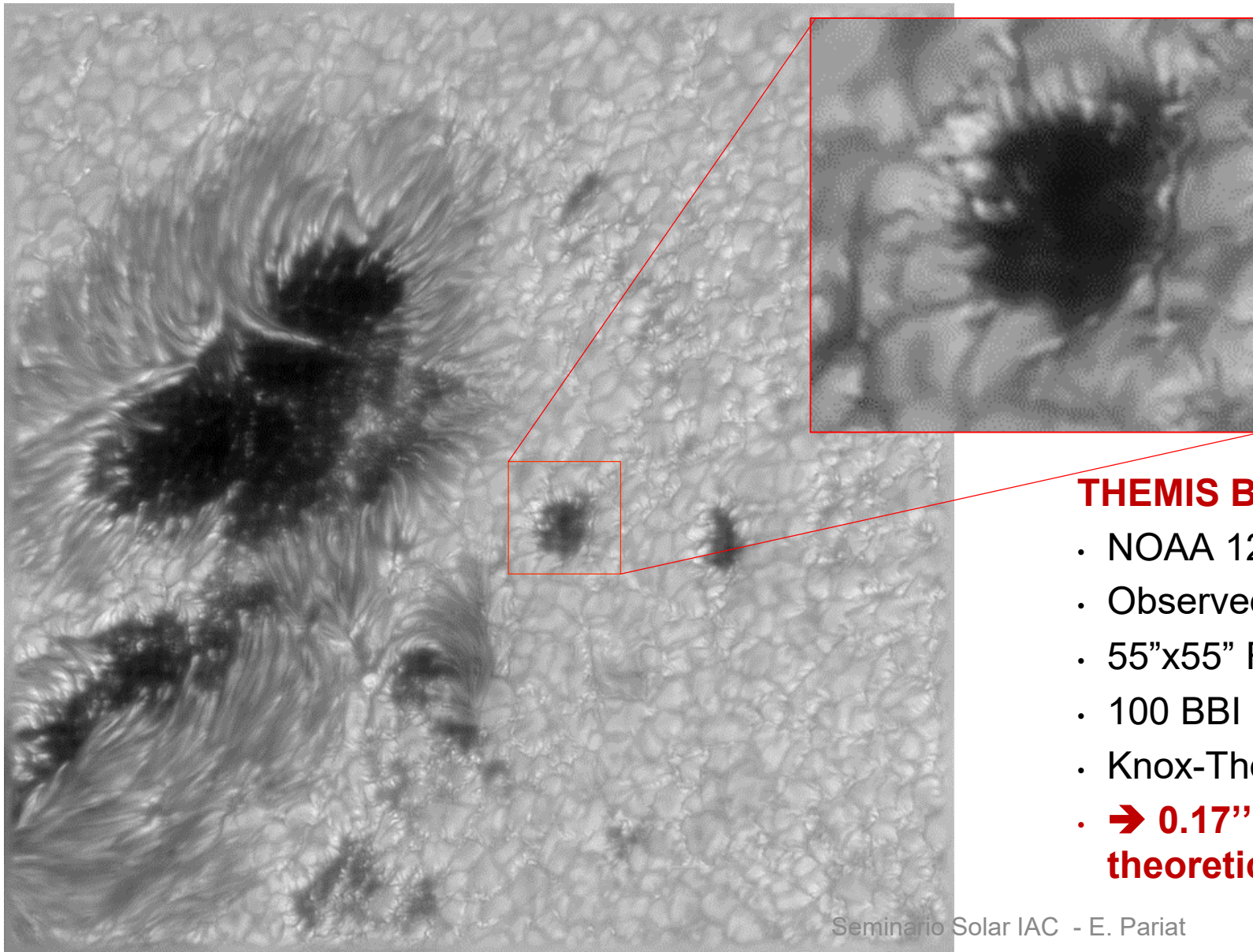
TAO going live on NOAA 12975



- Successive recordings in equivalent seeing conditions
- 55" square field, 20 image/s (0.3 ms), 2k x 2k (0.03" /px) on Broadband Imaging Camera



THEMIS at diffraction limit: NOAA 12975

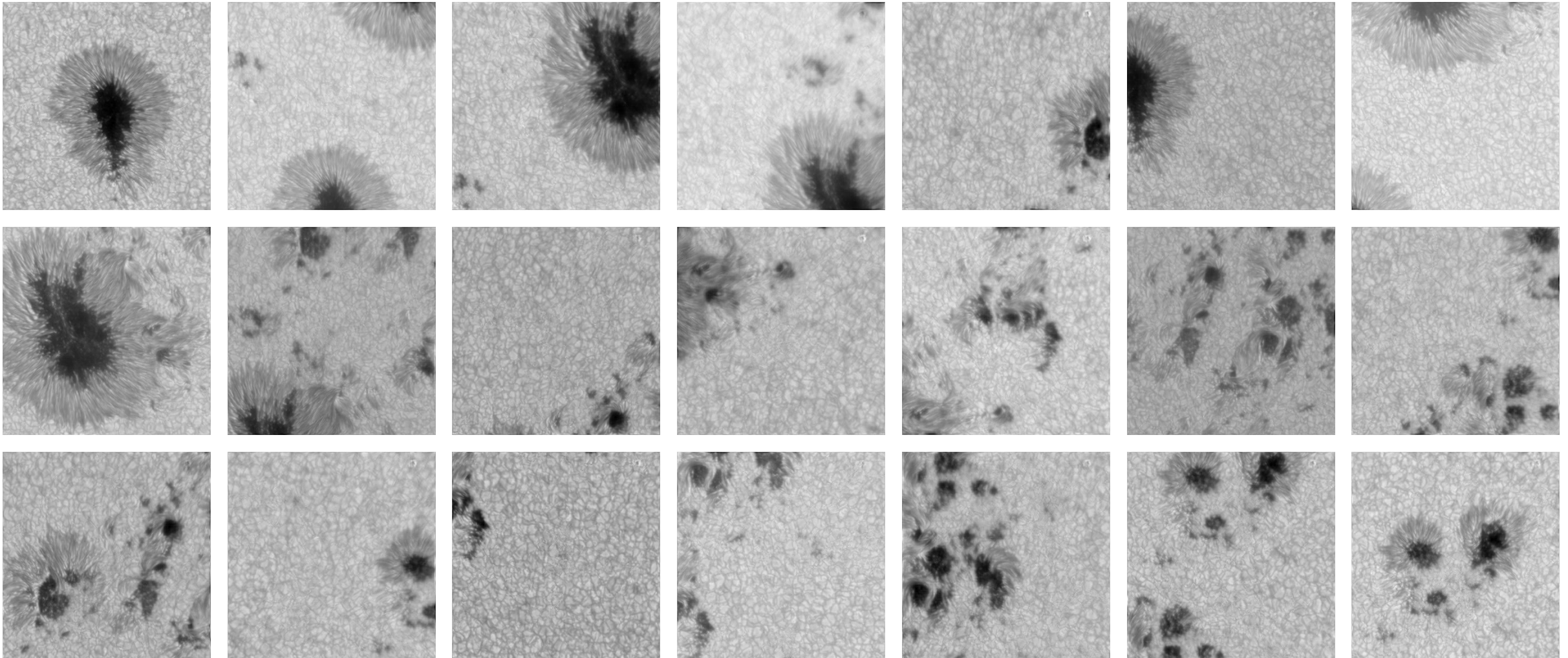


THEMIS Broadband Imaging (BBI)

- NOAA 12975 on 2022/03/31
- Observed @ 630nm ; 1nm broadband red filter
- 55"x55" FOV
- 100 BBI acquisition @ 40 images/s
- Knox-Thompson image post processing
- ➔ **0.17" resolution (0.035"/pixel) near THEMIS theoretical diffraction limit of 0.15"**

THEMIS large FOV reconstruction: NOAA 14114

- Acquisition of sequential 21 BBI bursts (55x55" FOV) of NOAA 14114



**THEMIS composite
Broadband Image (BBI) +
Knox Thompson reconstruction
of active region NOAA 14114 on
June 16th 2025 at 9:08-9:22 UT**

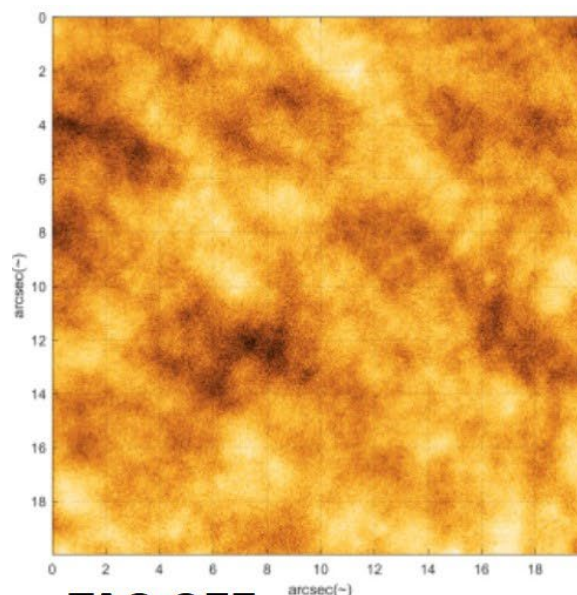
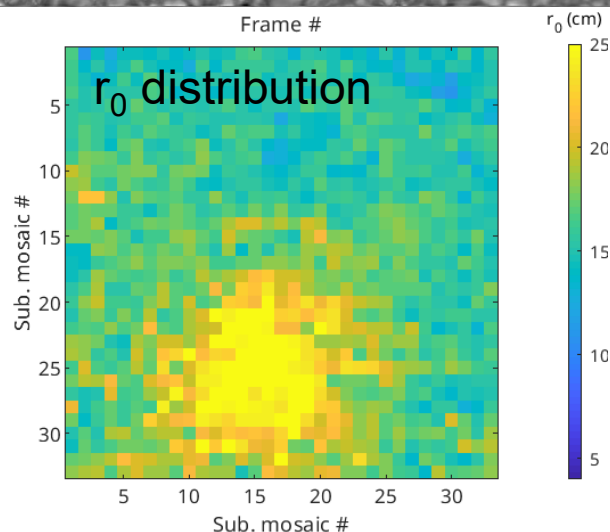
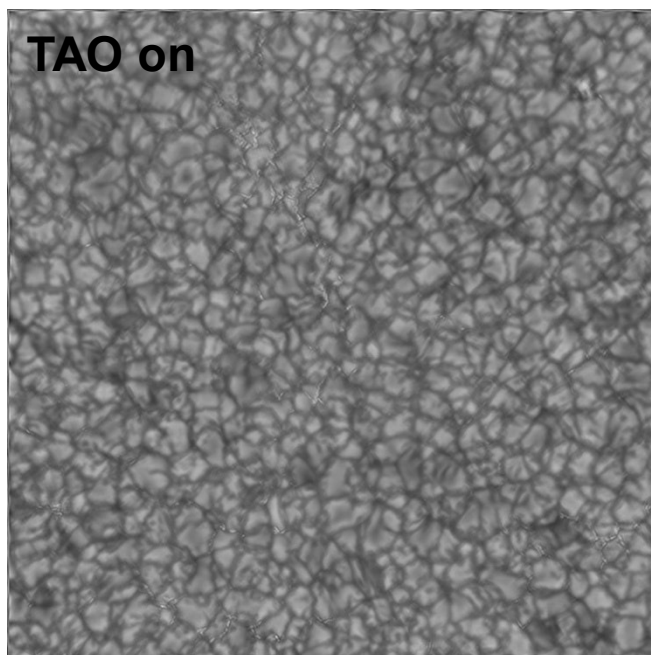
- Average seeing conditions
- **Several 55"x55" FOV
acquisition by BBI camera in
burst mode (40 images/s) +
image restoration from residual
seeing → Routine operation
with pipeline !**
- Images stitched together with
Hugin software
- ~250"x140" composite FOV
- Spatial resolution: ~0.2"

**SDO/HMI (NASA) Continuum
2025/06/16 - 9:15 UT**

Spatial resolution: ~1"

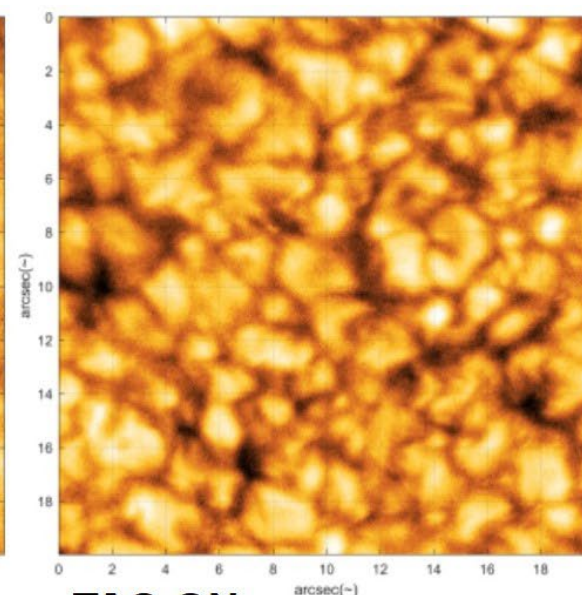
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THEMIS Adaptive Optics (TAO): results on granulation



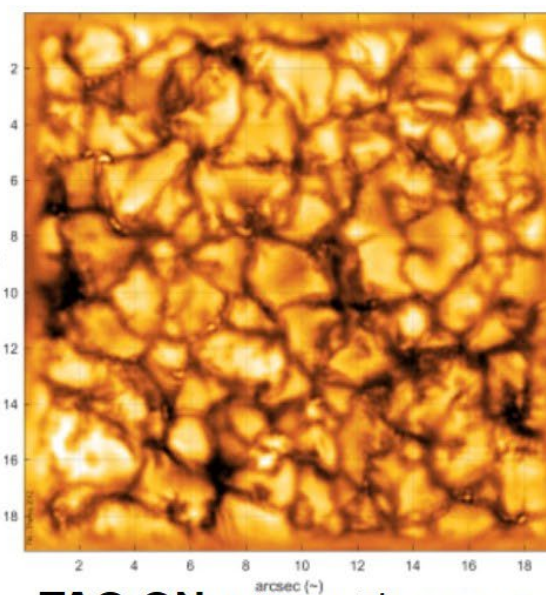
TAO OFF

- seeing “daytime bad” : $r_0 \approx 3-4$ cm
- granulation contrast: 1.6 %



TAO ON

- seeing “daytime bad” : $r_0 \approx 3-4$ cm
- granulation contrast: 4.2 %



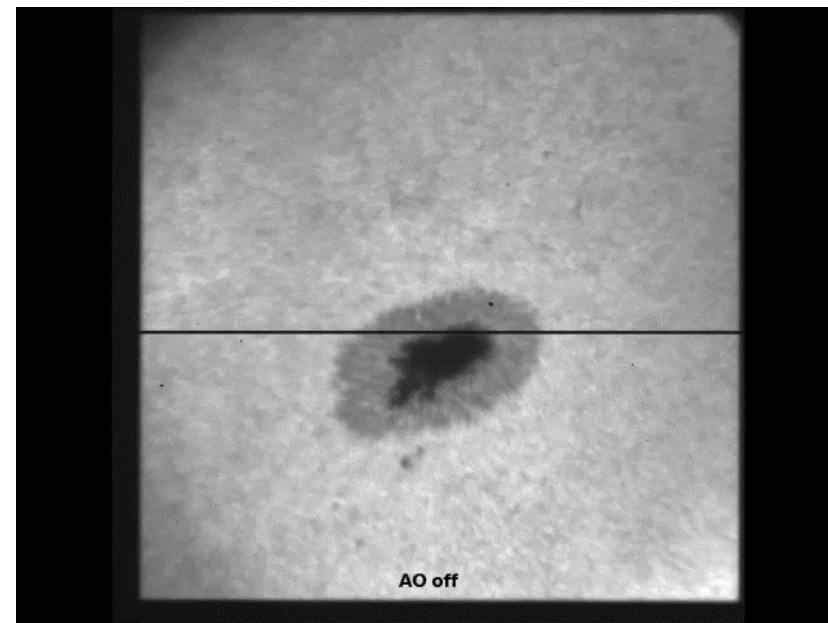
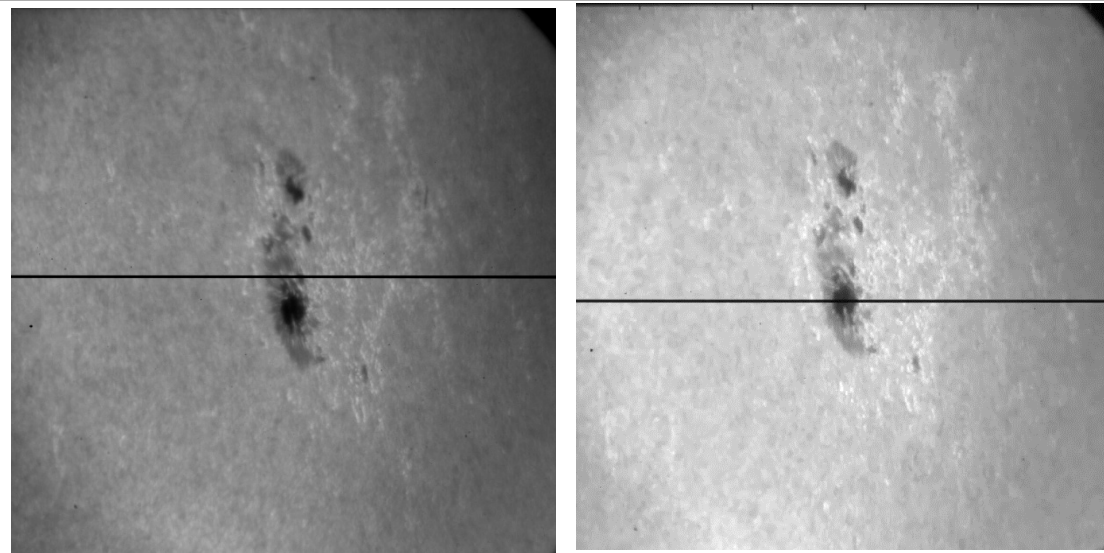
**TAO ON + Knox-Thompson
reconstruction (100 frames)**

- granulation contrast: 9.6 %

- **TAO permits significant quantitative image quality gain:**
 - **in effective seeing:** Fried's coherence length from $r_0 \sim 7$ cm (ave. seeing)
 - ~ 25 cm at TAO focus
 - ~ 17 cm on rest of FOV, away from isoplanatic patch
 - **in granulation contrast:** from $\sim 1-2\%$ (bad seeing)
 - to $\sim 10\%$ (with image reconstruction)

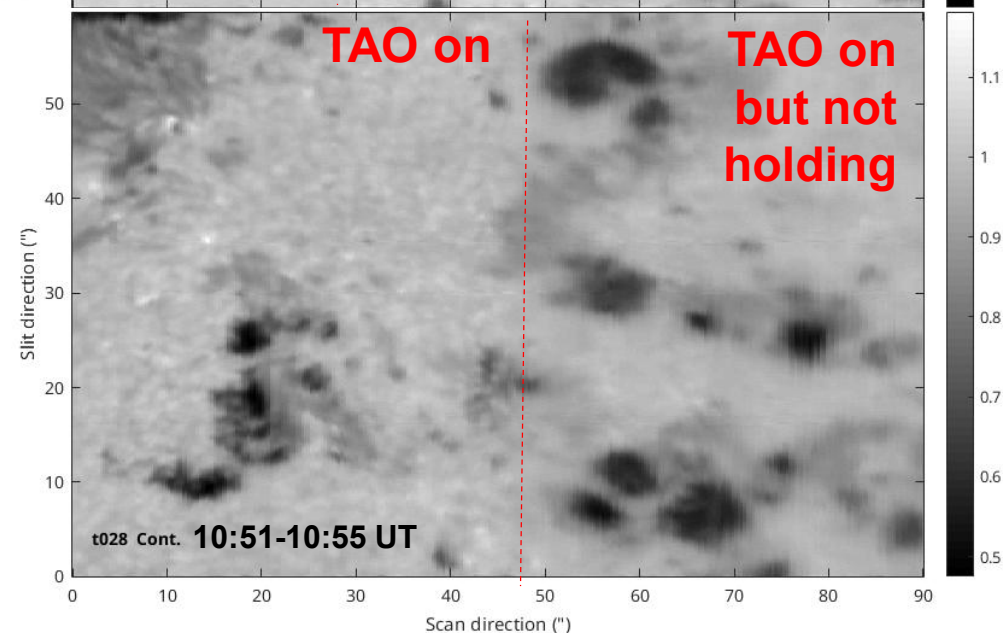
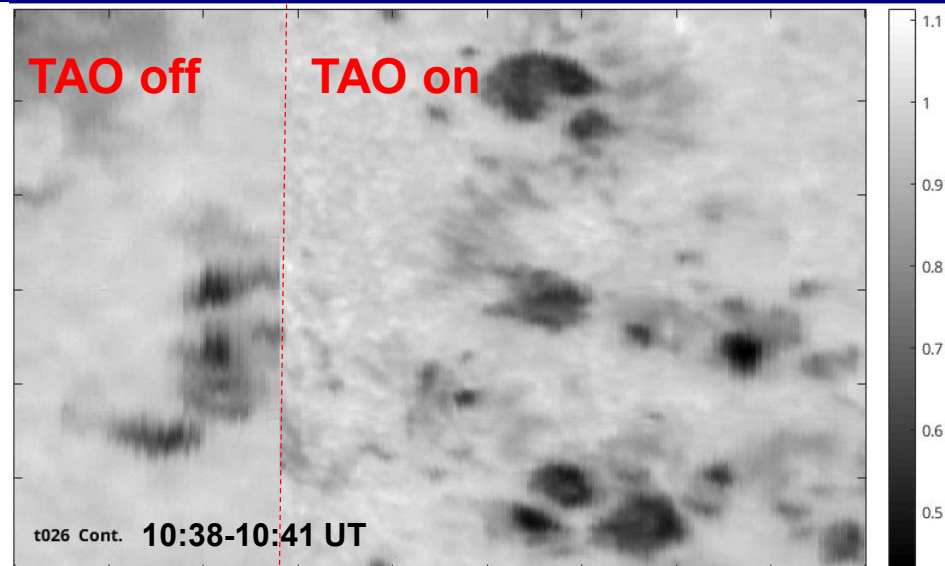
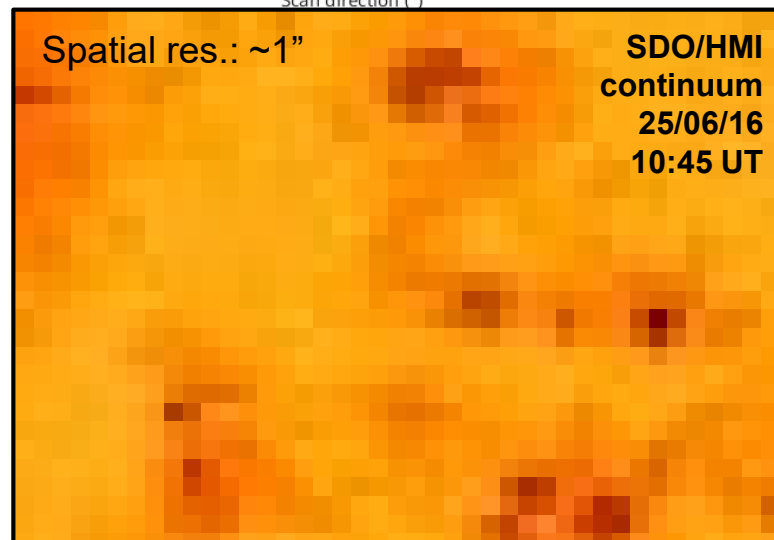
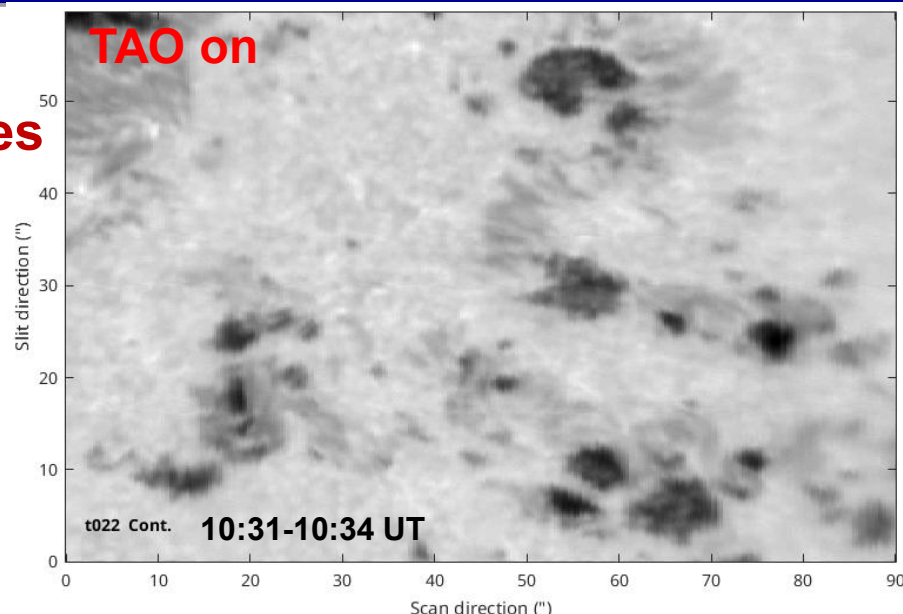
TAO for spectroscopy

- Main strength and raison-d'être of THEMIS is spectropolarimetry!
- Requires scans of the region of interest by the spectrograph slit:
 - Scan duration of a 90" domain with 0.3" steps & 0.1 s spectral camera acquisition time
 - 3 min without polarimetry
 - 25 min with polarimetry
- **Spectroscopic measurement requires that TAO must hold and stabilize wavefront over FOV during extended periods of time.**



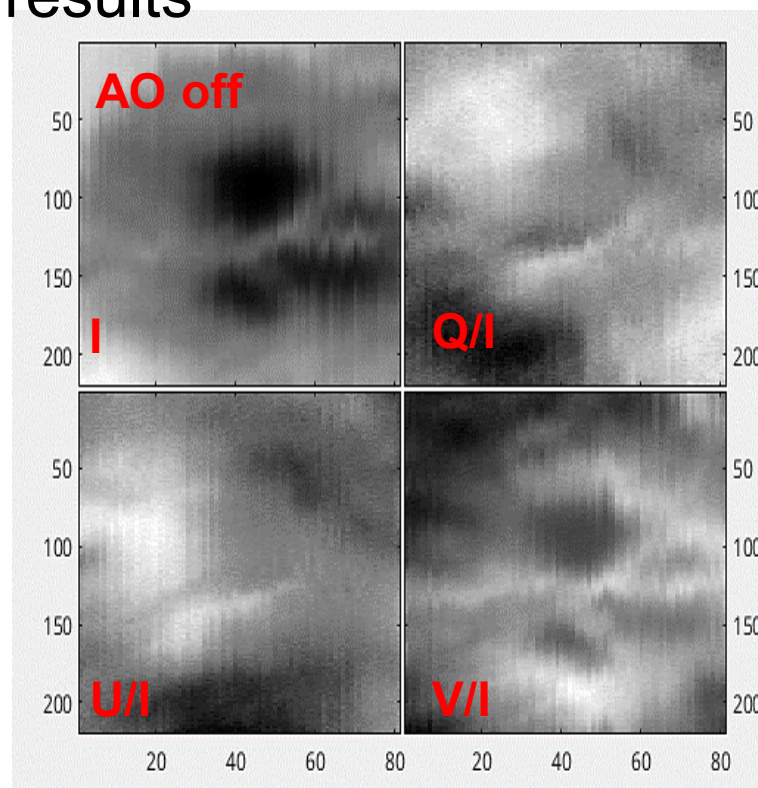
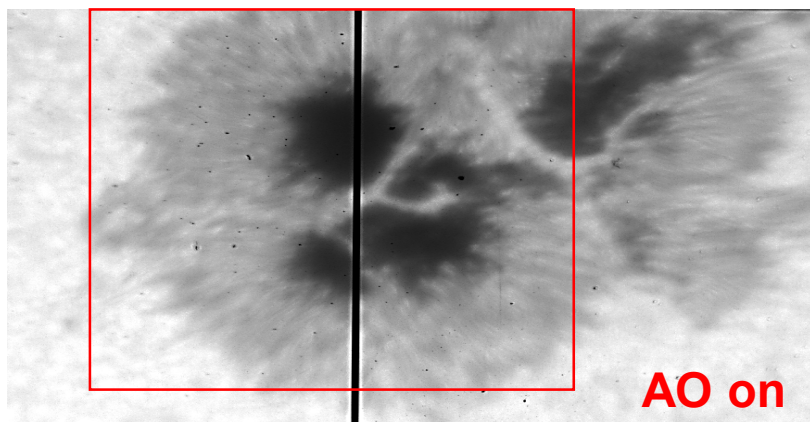
TAO for spectroscopy

- **Spectroscopic measurement requires that TAO must hold and stabilize wavefront over FOV during extended periods of time.**
- Challenging
- Isoplanatic patch away from spectrograph slit in long scan
- Stable seeing over extended period of time remains needed

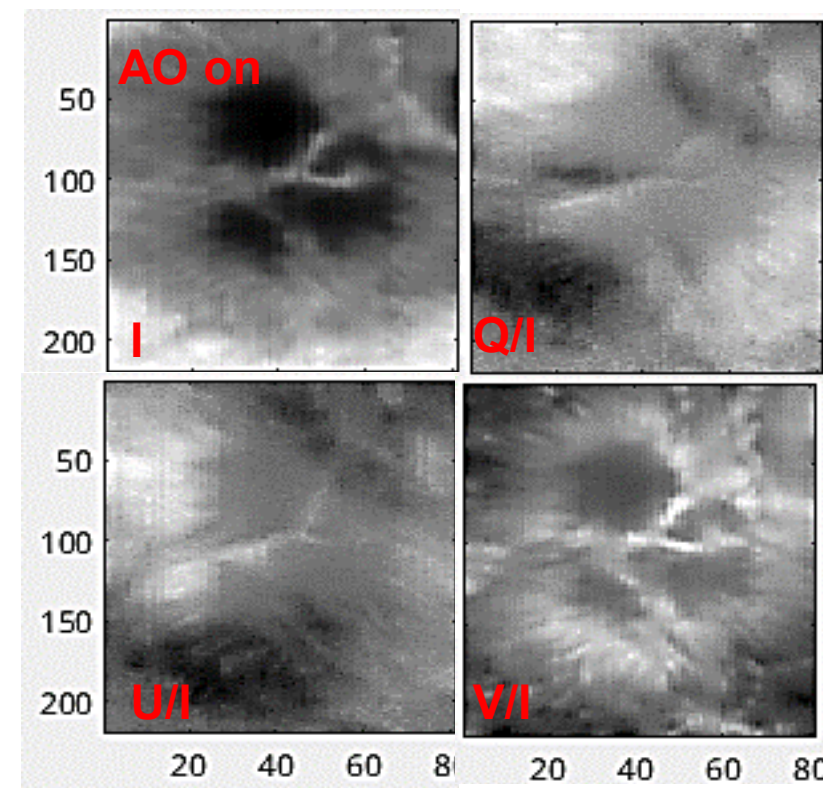


TAO for spectro-polarimetry

- TAO can also give good results on long spectropolarimetric scans
- **THEMIS goals : B maps with spatial resolution better than 0.5'' arcsec**
 - x3 better resolution than before (~1 order magnitude better in area resolution)
 - equivalent to HINODE results



Seminario Solar IAC - E. Pariat

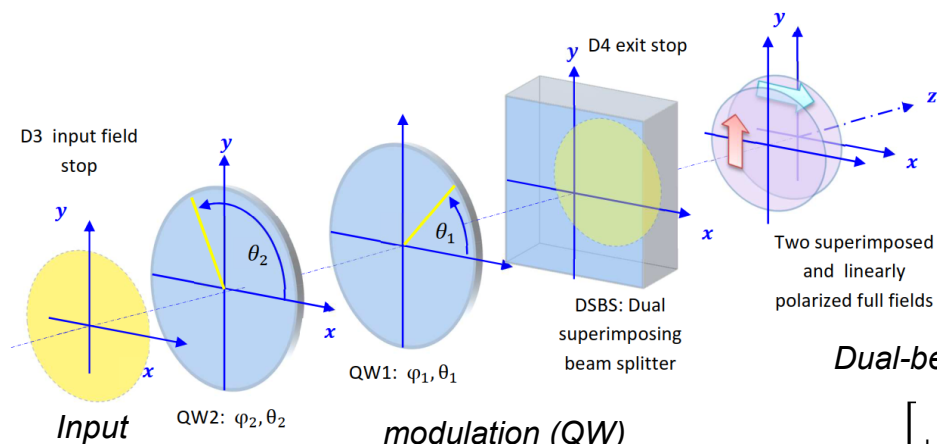


Stokes maps

- Introduction: THEMIS time line & characteristics
- THEMIS overhaul
- THEMIS adaptive optics
- **Spectropolarimetry with THEMIS 2.0**
- Some 2025 campaign highlights
- Prospectives & conclusions

THEMIS new polarimetric analysis scheme - 1

Full-Stokes analyzer (An4) located at the F1 prime focus, delivering dual-beam polarimetry with beam exchange.



$$S = \begin{bmatrix} I \\ Q \\ U \\ V \end{bmatrix}$$

$$S_Q = \begin{bmatrix} I \\ Q \\ U \\ V \end{bmatrix} \quad S_V = \begin{bmatrix} I \\ V \\ Q \\ U \end{bmatrix} \quad S_U = \begin{bmatrix} I \\ U \\ V \\ Q \end{bmatrix}$$

Double Savart plates:

- generate the dual beam feature
- then superimpose both beams: behave as one, differing only by their linear polarization state.

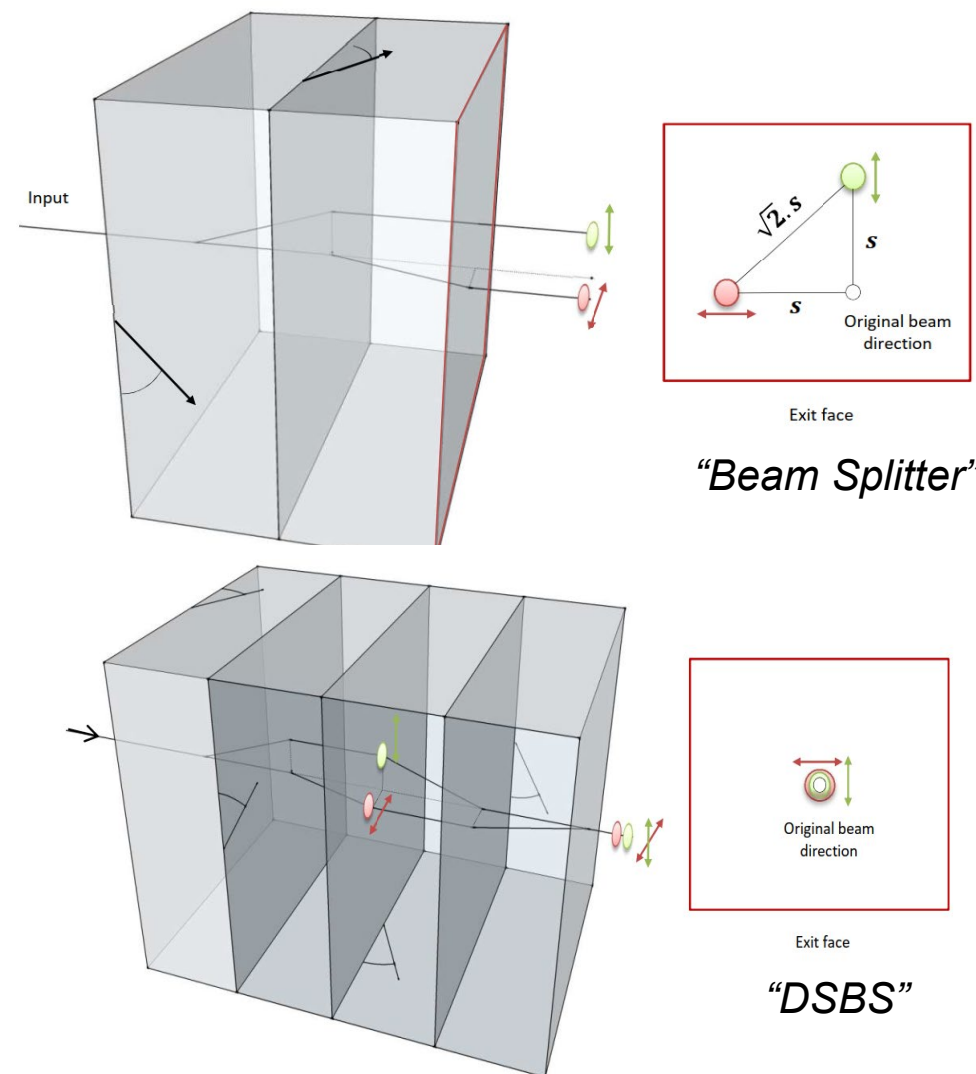
Dual-beam (single Savart plate)

$$S_{+Q} = \begin{bmatrix} I \\ +Q \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad S_{-Q} = \begin{bmatrix} I \\ -Q \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$S_{+V} = \begin{bmatrix} I \\ +V \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad S_{-V} = \begin{bmatrix} I \\ -V \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

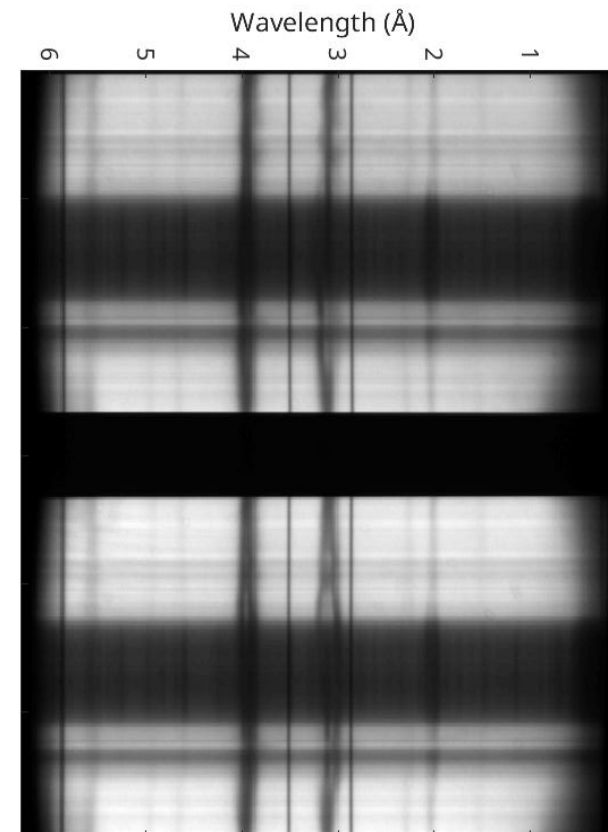
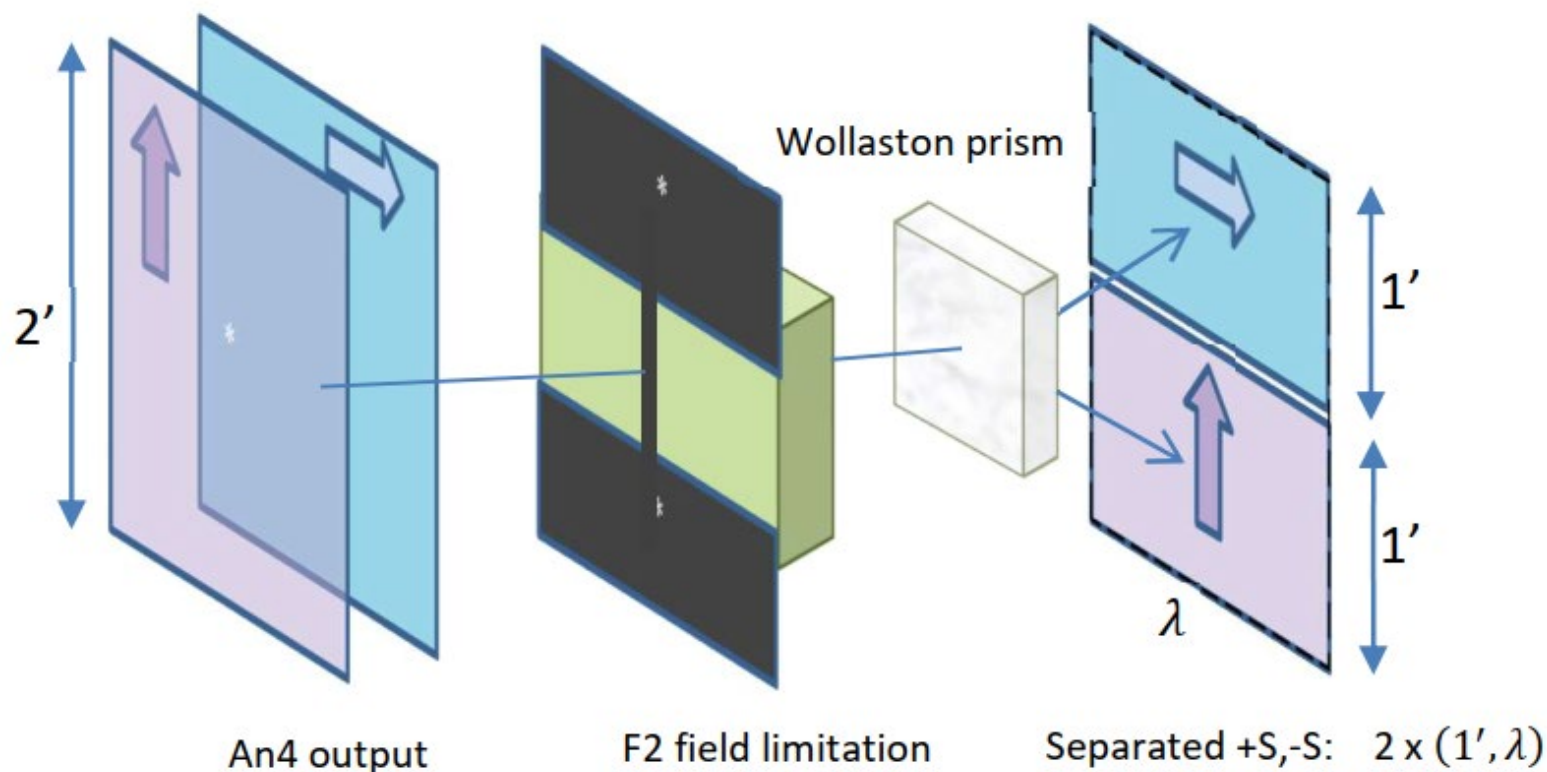
$$S_{+U} = \begin{bmatrix} I \\ +U \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad S_{-U} = \begin{bmatrix} I \\ -U \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Beam exchange



THEMIS new polarimetric analysis scheme - 2

- Thanks to THEMIS “**polarization friendly**” new optical path (**geometry of the elevation axis, field rotator, coatings**), polarizer output can travel through the telescope and reach the spectrograph cameras “minimally perturbed”
- Just in front of each of the spectral cameras, a Wollaston prism splitter separates the superimposed beam into complementary Stokes components** to form the spectral focal plane.



THEMIS Mueller matrix@~600nm



- THEMIS Mueller matrix:

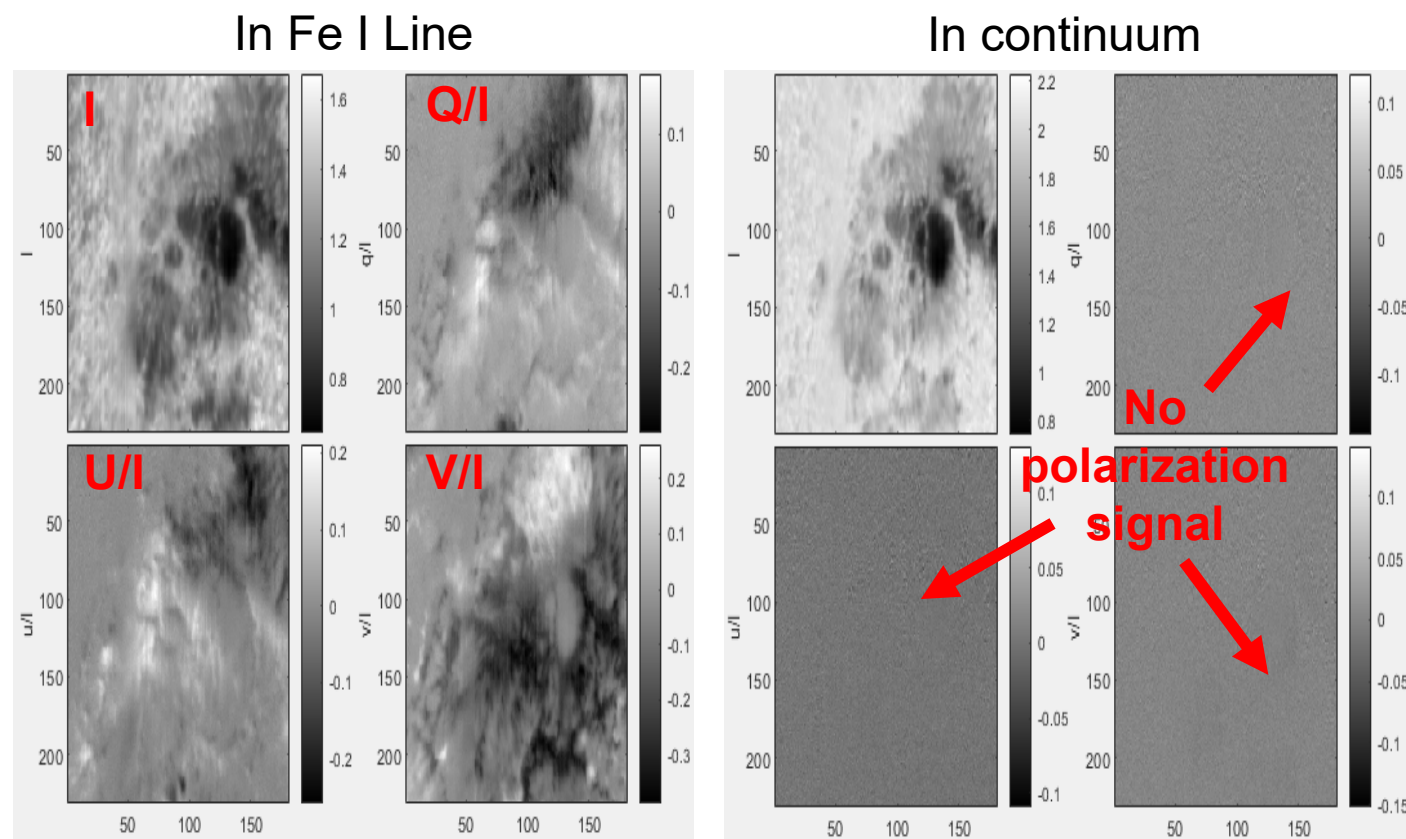
$$M_{THEMIS} = \begin{pmatrix} 1.000 & -0.009 & -0.003 & 0.001 \\ -0.008 & 0.885 & 0.016 & -0.033 \\ 0.014 & -0.436 & 0.872 & 0.033 \\ -0.019 & 0.415 & 0.008 & 0.873 \end{pmatrix}$$

- Averaged over one full day
 - Includes changing elevation axis and field derotation
 - Quite constant along one day
-
- **THEMIS remains a strongly polarization-calibration-free telescope, ideal for excellent spectropolarimetric measurements.**



Stokes parameters

- **Complete polarization signal is now routinely outputted**
 - 4D data array of 4 Stokes parameter (x, y, λ , S).
 - User-friendly software in development.
- THEMIS is on the verge of producing vector B maps



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Mercury Observations

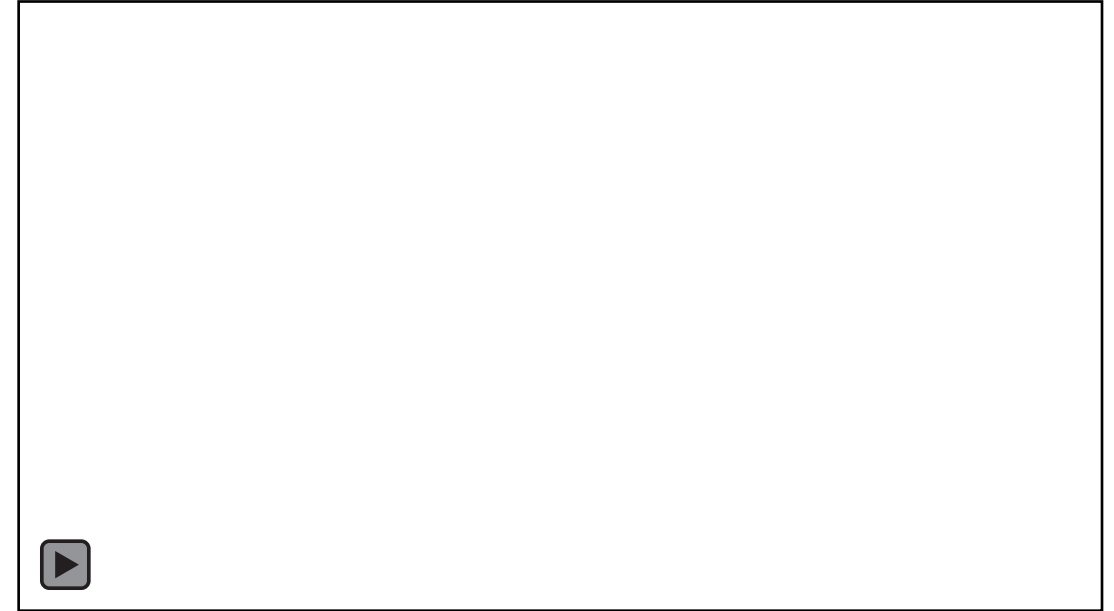


- **THEMIS is one of the best-suited telescope for ground based observation of Mercury.**

- Work in daytime → extended period of observation of Mercury
- Handle the low contrast of herman emission relatively to the diffuse sky emission.
- THEMIS FOV & resolution suited for Mercury
 - Mercury disk: ~6" wide.

- **TAO successfully running for Mercury observations since 2021**

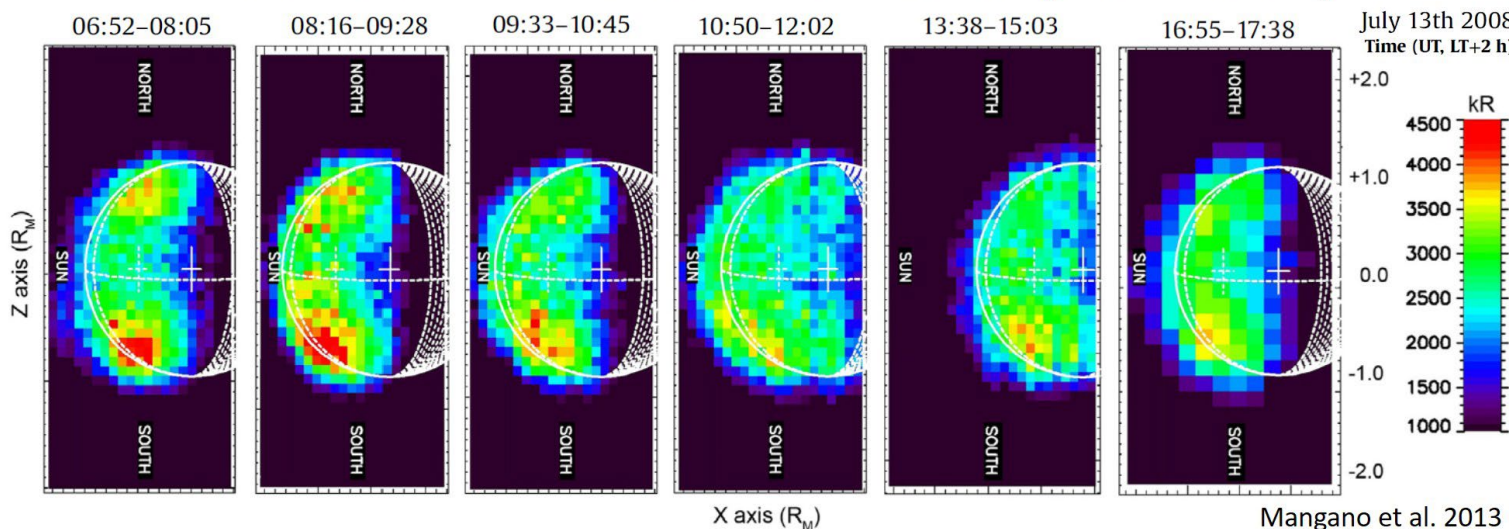
- Hardware and software identical to solar obs.
- Requires slowing down AO from 1kHz to 150Hz
- Recurrent campaigns led by F. Leblanc (LATMOS) & V. Mangano (INAF, Rome, IT)



Mercury Observations

- Sub-arcsecond mapping of Mercury Na exospheric emission
 - Must separate reflected solar Na emission from herman self-emission
 - → Benefit from doppler shift due to Mercury orbital motion.
- **Study hourly dynamics of Na emission distribution due to space weather impact**
 - Peaks of Na emission roughly co-spatial with magnetic footprints.
 - Space weather induced dynamics : varying SW particles penetrating Mercury exosphere and flowing to the surface induces Na emission

Time evolution of the sodium emission in the exosphere of Mercury



Mangano et al. 2013

Seminario Solar IAC - E. Pariat

Sodium emission of Mercury
observed by THEMIS on May 5th, 2025

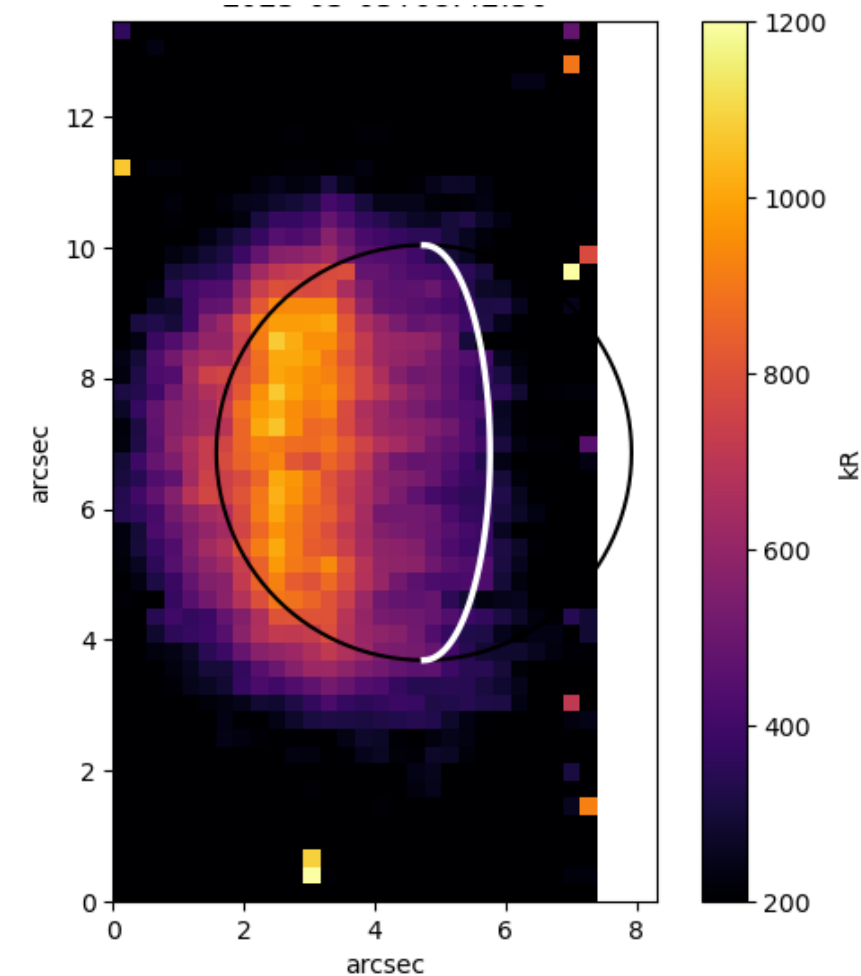
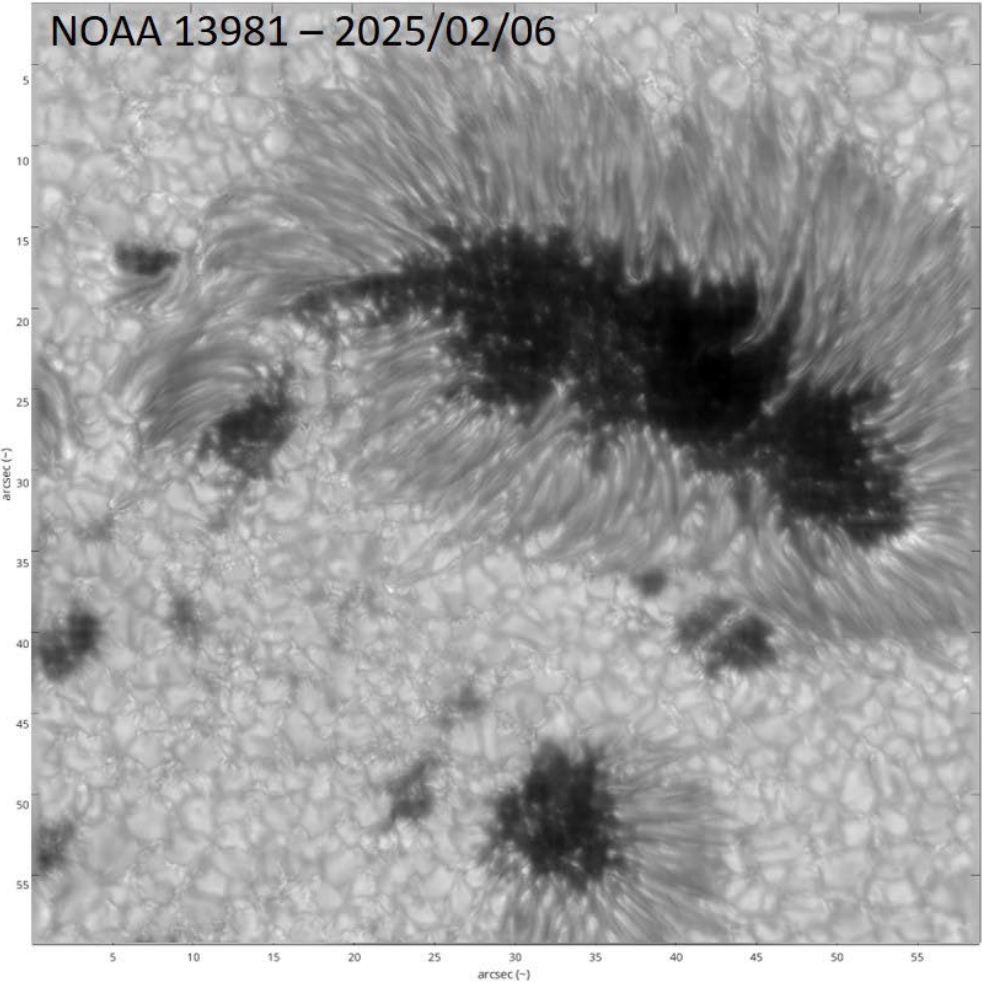


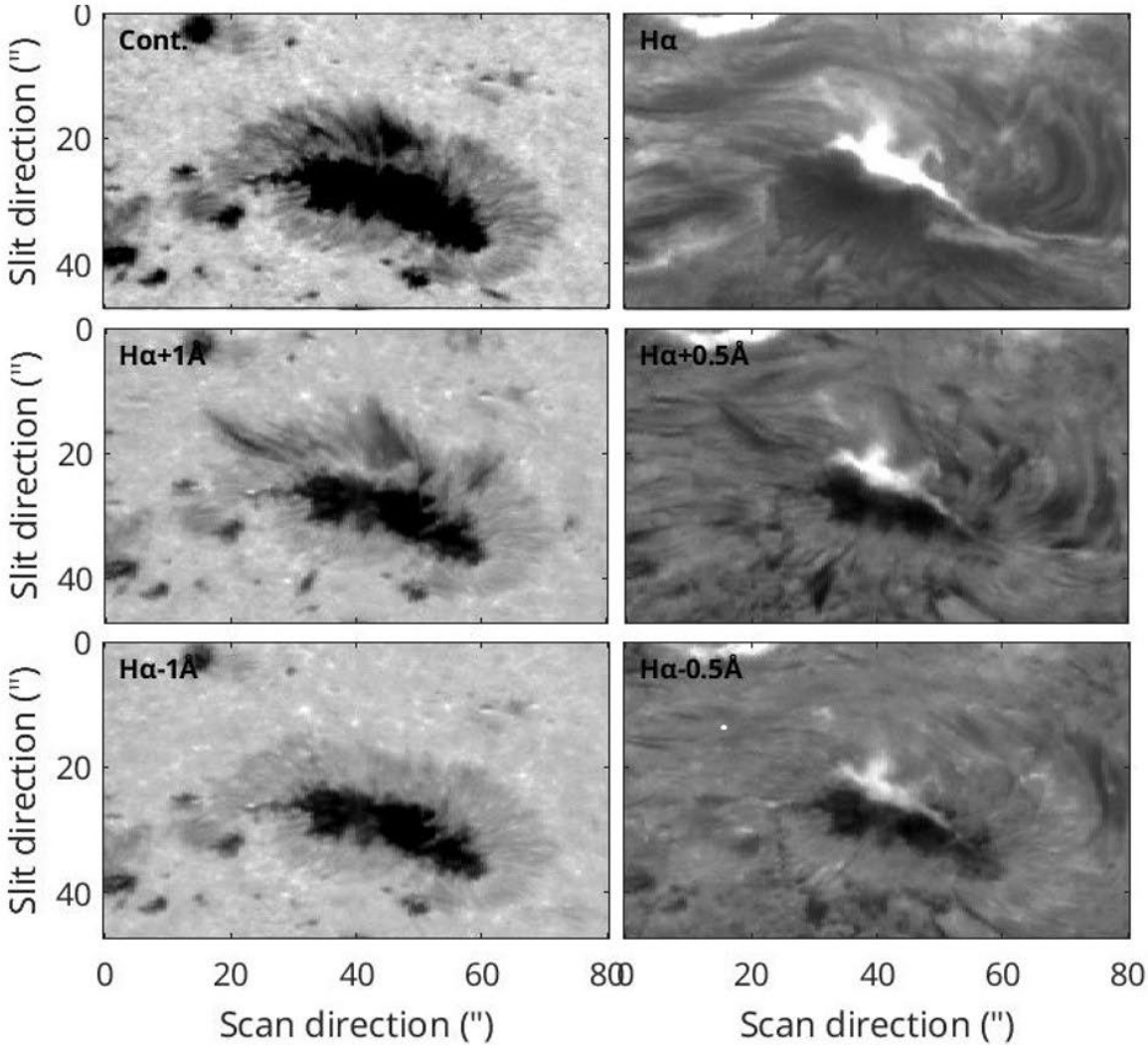
Image Courtesy: Mangano, Leblanc

Solar Flare observations : flare ribbons

Off-campaign
observations
of Jade
Touresse &
Etienne
Pariat during
an M-class
flare



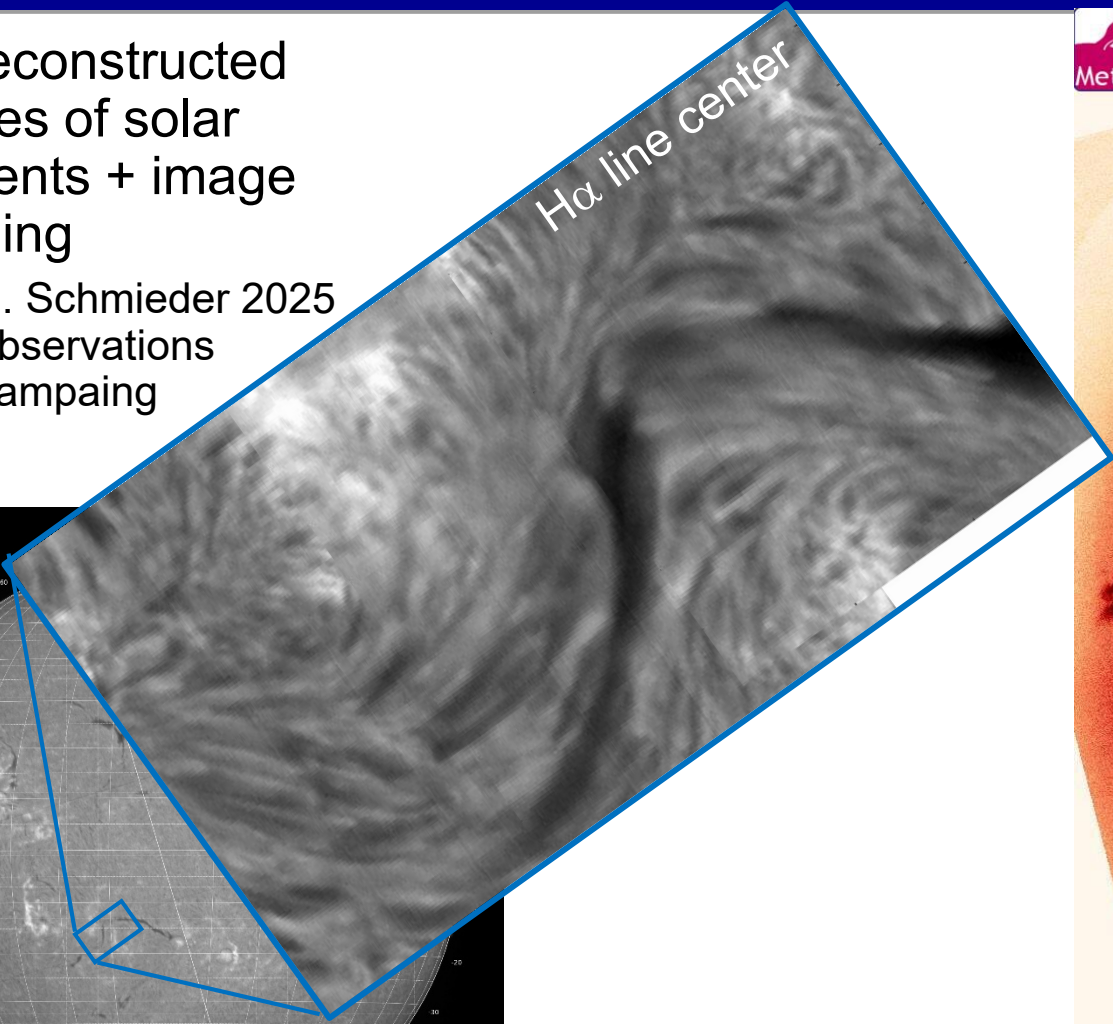
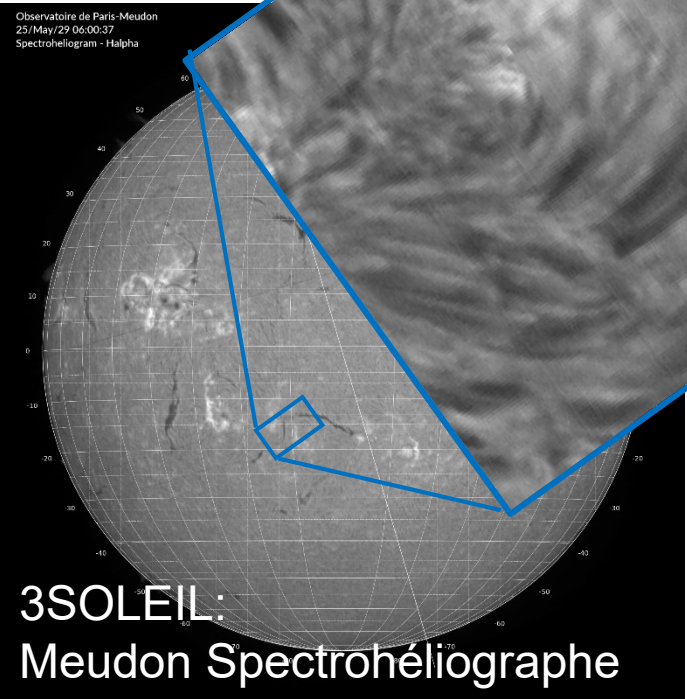
Broadband Image (red continuum)
+ image reconstruction



MTR2 spectrograph
reconstructed intensity maps

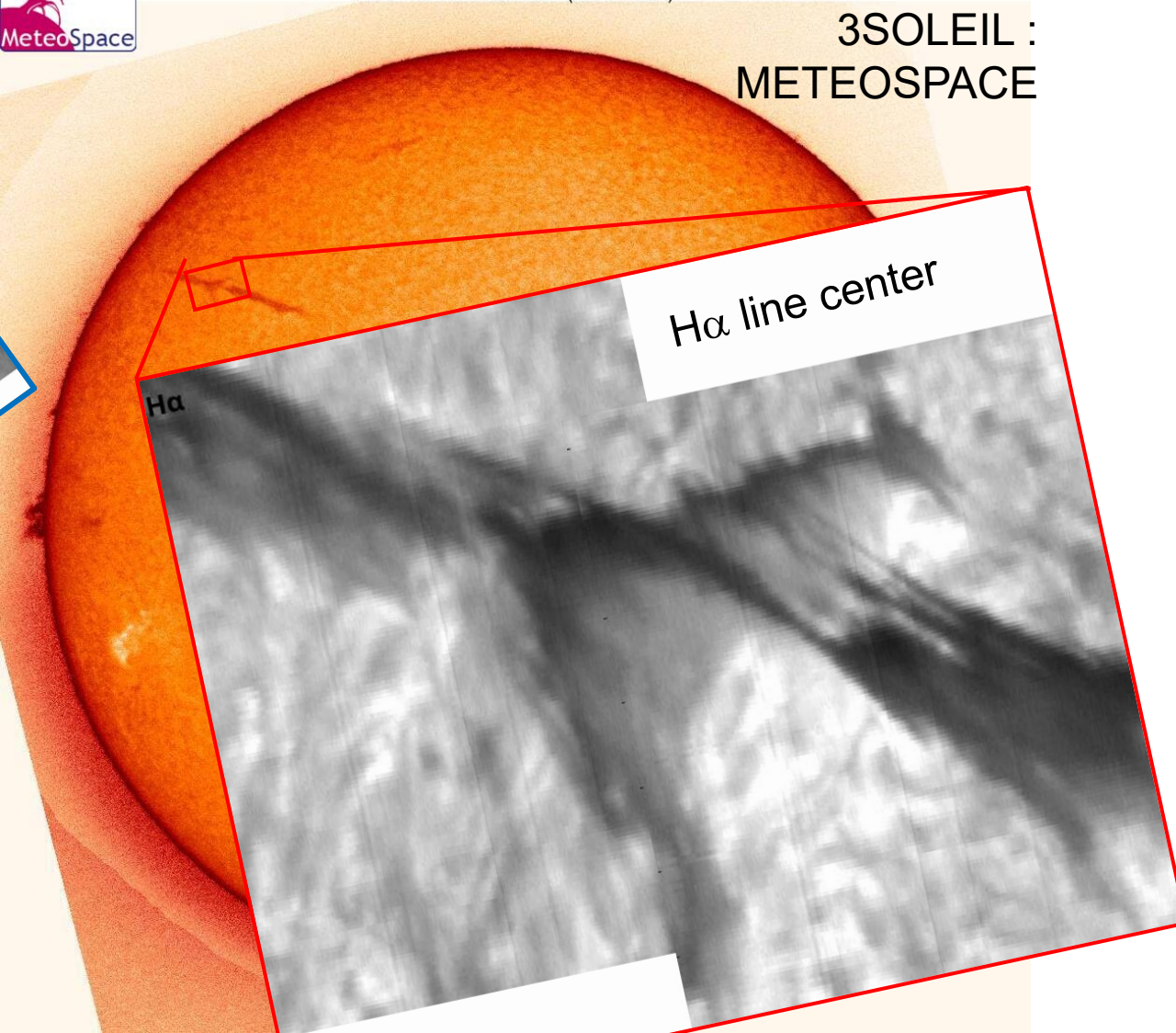
Solar filaments observations

- $H\alpha$ reconstructed images of solar filaments + image stitching
 - B. Schmieder 2025 observations campaign



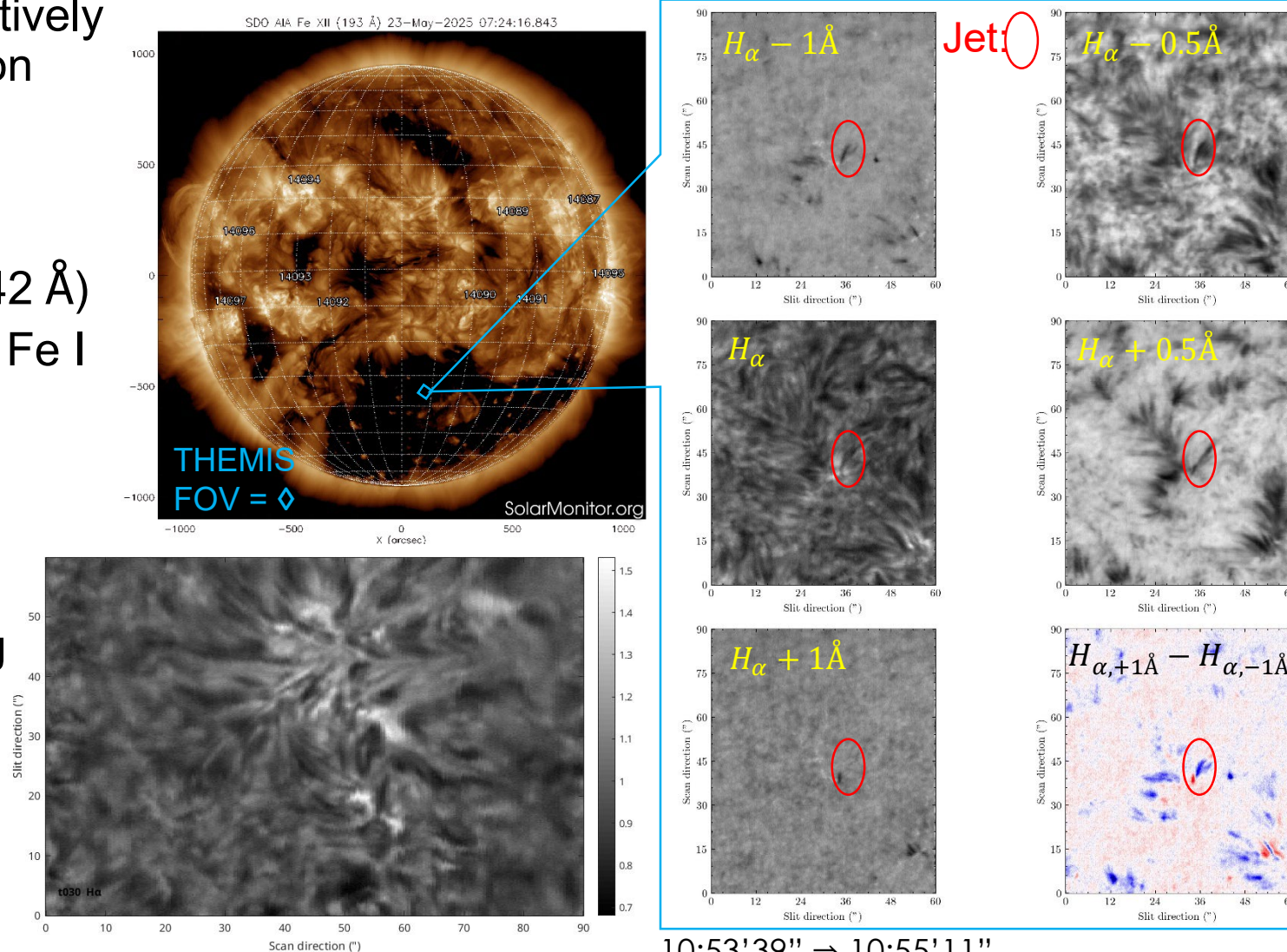
2025-06-05 09:08:16 (6562.80Å)

3SOLEIL :
METEOSPACE



Coronal holes and jet observations

- Two campaigns of observations, respectively led by Jade Touresse & Etienne Pariat on analysis of coronal holes regions
 - ~ 3 weeks in May-June 2025
 - Spectroscopic observations in Chromospheric lines: $H\alpha$, Ca II (8542 Å)
 - Spectropolarimetric observations of Fe I (6301 Å) → magnetic field maps
- Goals:
 - Understand formation of “anemone” structure, jets source region in CH
 - Estimate rotational speeds and mag topology of coronal jets
- Preliminary analysis: quicklooks of $H\alpha$ emission : center, wings, doppler-like



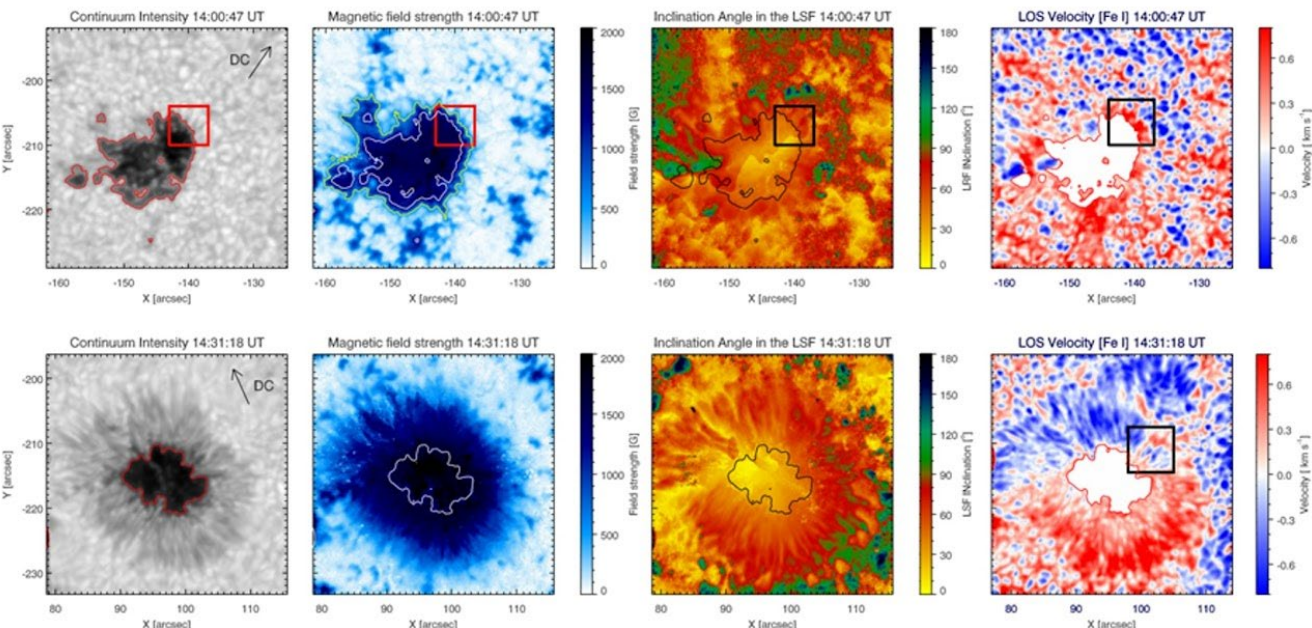
- Introduction: THEMIS time line & characteristics
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Upcoming : IBIS 2.0 @ THEMIS

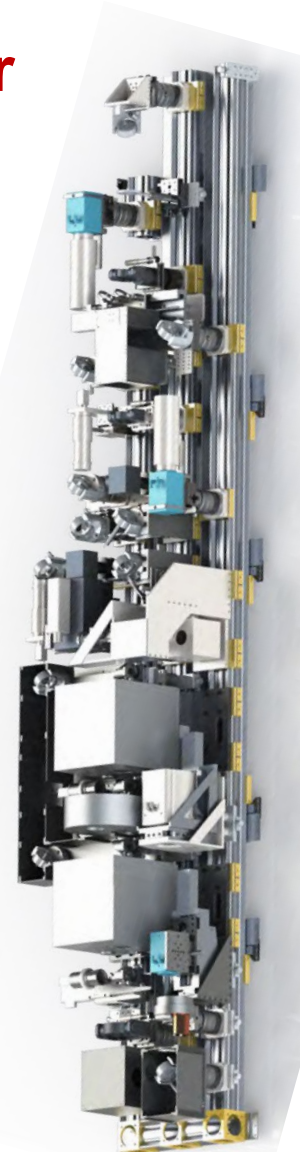


IBIS : Interferometric Bldimensional Spectrometer

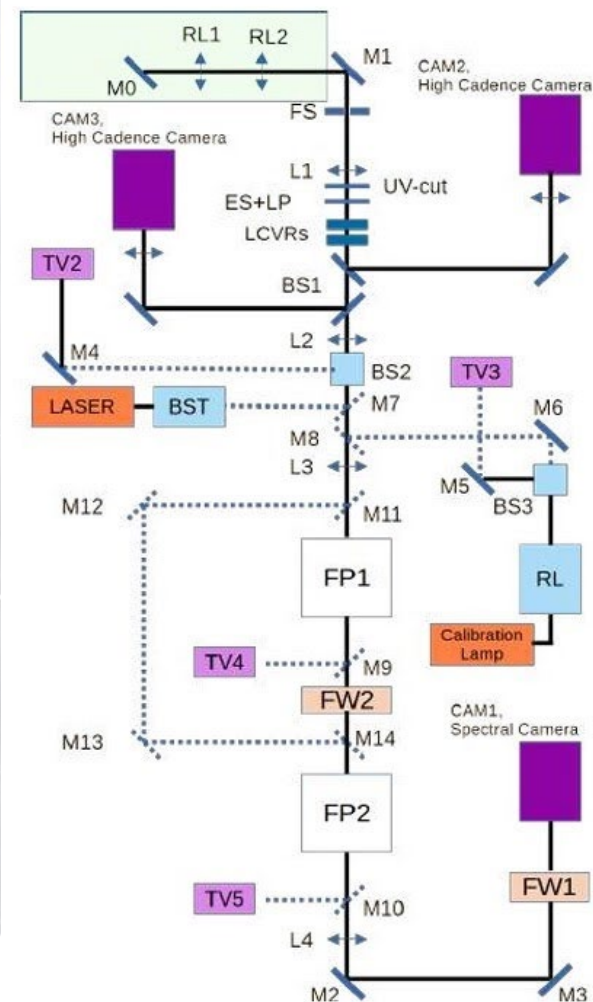
- spectro-imager (x, y, λ) : dual Fabry-Perot & interference filters
- 200 000 spectral resolution
- short exposure times / polarimetric mode



Intensity, magnetic field strength, field inclination angle, and LOS velocities on 2012 May 28 (14:00-14:30 UT): before (top) and after (bottom) penumbra formation. SIR inversion of the Stokes profiles of the Fe I 630.25 nm line acquired by IBIS . (from Murabito et al. 2016)



<https://www.ibis20.inaf.it>



Ermolli et al. 2024

Upcoming : IBIS 2.0 to THEMIS

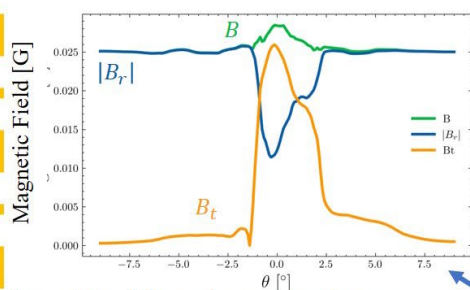


- 2003-2019: running at the Dunn solar tower (DST) ~100 papers based on IBIS over 15 years
 - Upgraded IBIS looking for suitable telescope since 2019
 - TAO performance attractive for IBIS
 - THEMIS has no equivalent instrumental mode
 - ➔ Memorandum of Understanding signed between INAF and CNRS in winter 2024-2025
 - **Nov. 25: preparatory installation of optical bench**
 - **Spring 2026 : IBIS 2.0 installation & commissioning.**
- **IBIS2.0 is an outstanding synergic complement of THEMIS long slit spectrograph**
 - **Foster and renew French-Italian scientific collaboration** in high-resolution solar physics, beneficial at large for EU solar physics (e.g. EST)

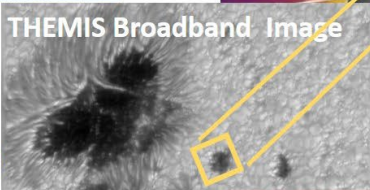
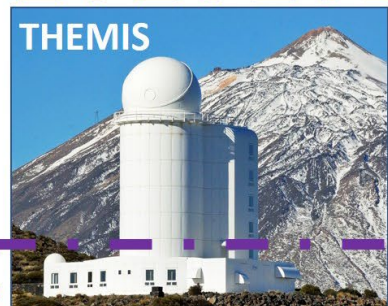


Nov. 2025

JET2SB Project

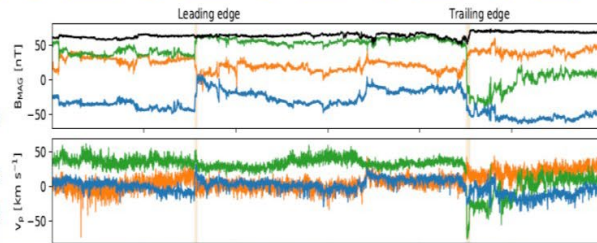


In-situ-like sim. analyses

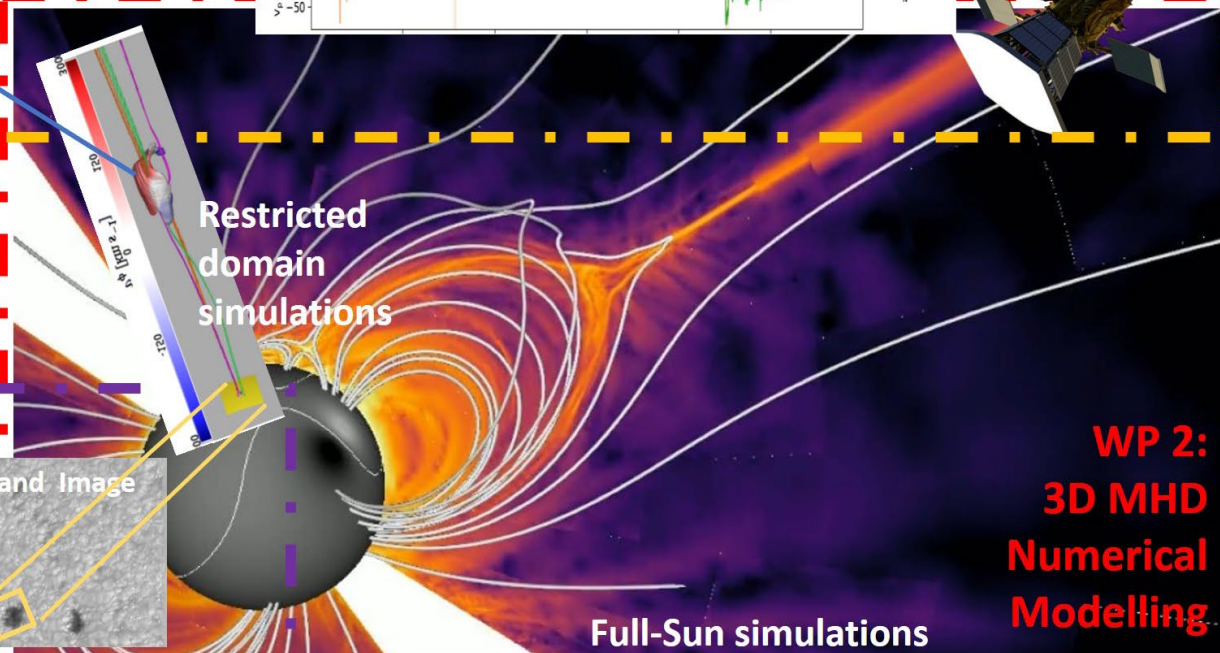
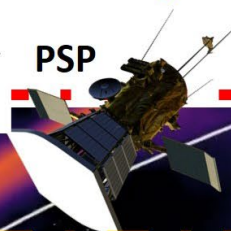


WP 1: solar
atmosphere
observations

In-situ PSP
measurements



WP 3: In-situ
analyses



Full-Sun simulations

WP 2:
3D MHD
Numerical
Modelling



Clara Froment
Thierry Dudok de Wit
+ 1 post-doc



Sophie Masson
G. Aulanier; J. Tournes
+ 2 PhDs: Léa D'Herbomez
Jorge Romero Castañeda

FSLAC

International
Research Lab.



Etienne Pariat
Bernard Gelly
+ 1 post-doc:
Saida Diaz Castillo

- Do/to which extend, solar jet-like events induce Switchbacks?
- How do they contribute to the acceleration of the solar wind?

Outreach



- New THEMIS website:
 - Feedbacks welcomed
- New Instagram account
 - Follow us @themis_solar
- Downloadable posters on THEMIS highlights

THEMIS Solar Telescope

The "Télescope Héliographique pour l'Étude du Magnétisme et des Instabilités Solaires" (THEMIS) of CNRS-INSU is a 1-meter-class optical solar telescope, primarily dedicated to studying solar magnetism and the dynamical processes within the Sun's atmosphere (such as sunspots and solar flares). THEMIS can also perform observation of near-Sun objects such as Mercury and comets.

THEMIS is located at the Teide Observatory of IAC, with a base office in La Laguna, in Tenerife, Canary Islands, Spain.

New : First screw of the Italian IBIS 2.0 Spectro-imager @ THEMIS.

New : Seminar on THEMIS at the Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias (ES).

October : Seminar on THEMIS at the Plasma Physics Laboratory, Paris (FR).

Downloadable posters highlighting recent high-resolution observations of solar active regions by THEMIS

Click for Information on: [How to reach THEMIS locations](#) ; [How to contact the THEMIS team](#)

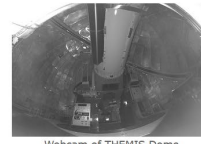
<https://www.themis.iac.es/>



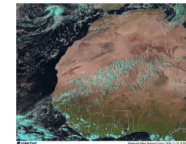
Overview of telescope status



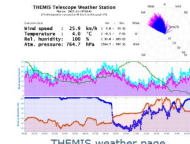
THEMIS from VTT webcam



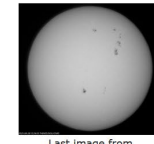
Webcam of THEMIS Dome



Latest EUMETSAT RGB image

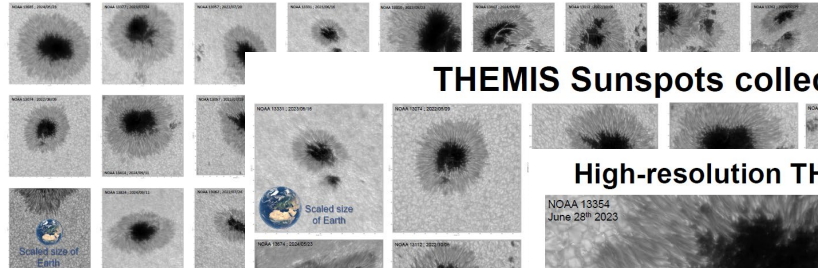


THEMIS weather page



Last image from THEMIS full Sun guider

THEMIS Sunspots collection

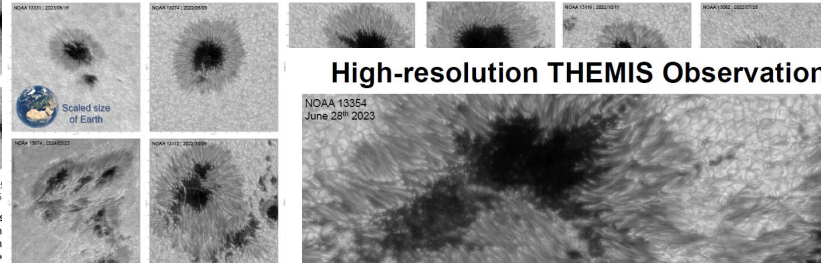


Each image corresponds to a field-of-view of $\sim 55'' \times 55''$ which (~ 10 nm passband centered around 656 nm). T

Active regions are transient features of the Sun's atmosphere. They are characterized by a strong and complex magnetic field. Sunspots are the signature of the presence of such intense magnetic fields. They thus appear cooler & emit less light. They thus appear darker than the quiet solar surface.



THEMIS Sunspots collection

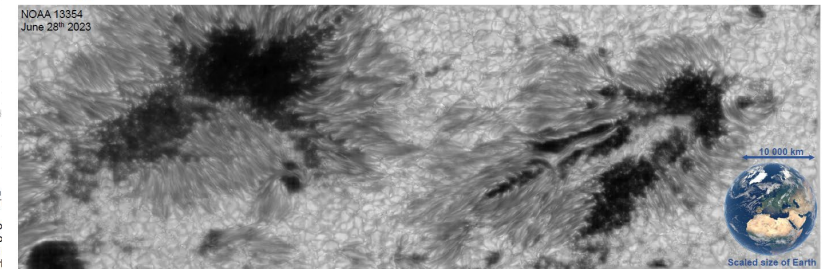


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Active regions are transient features of the Sun's atmosphere. They are characterized by a strong and complex magnetic field. Sunspots are the signature of the presence of such intense magnetic fields. They thus appear cooler & emit less light. They thus appear darker than the quiet solar surface.



High-resolution THEMIS Observation of Solar Sunspots



The "Télescope Héliographique pour l'Étude du Magnétisme et des Instabilités Solaires" (THEMIS) of CNRS-INSU is a 1m-class Ritchey-Chretien optical solar telescope, primarily dedicated to studying solar magnetism and the dynamical processes within the Sun's atmosphere, such as sunspots and solar eruptions.

THEMIS main characteristics are the following:
Observational spectral coverage: 400-1100 nm.
Imaging field-of-view: $\sim 2' \times 2'$, square shaped.
Overall focal ratio: f62.
Effective aperture: 92 cm.
Effective focal length: ~ 57 m.

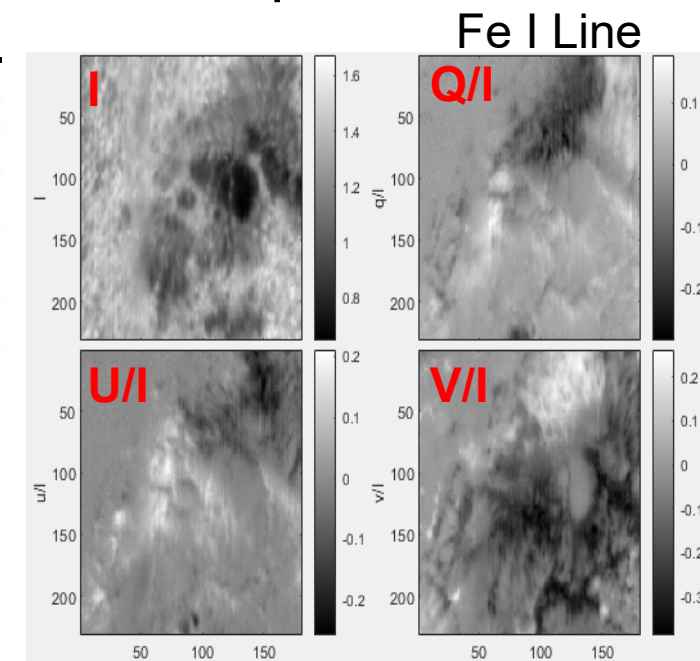
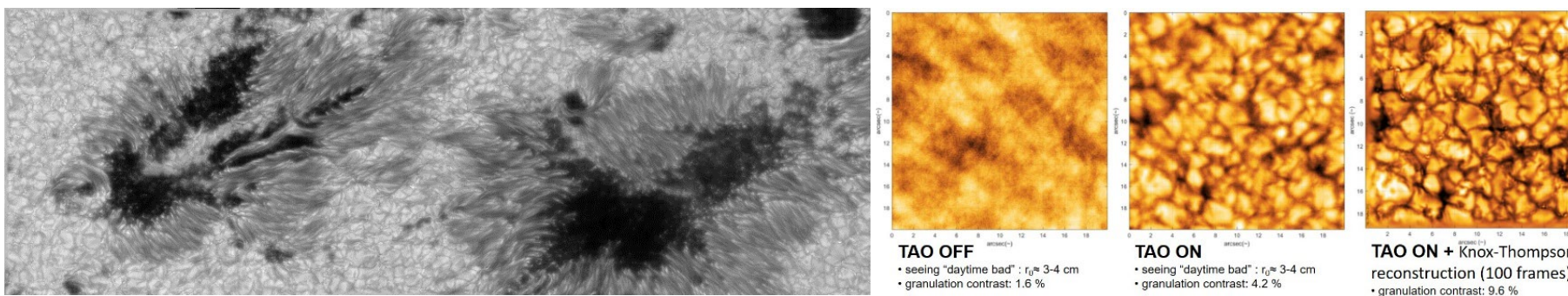
The image correspond to a field-of-view of $\sim 150'' \times 50''$ equivalent to $\sim 109\,000 \times 36\,000$ km² on the Sun. The image has been produced from three series of snapshots side by side. In each sub-image, a Knox-Thompson image reconstruction method has been used from 100 acquired snapshots. The images have been captured in the white-light red continuum (~ 656 nm). The image resolution ($\sim 0.17''$, close to THEMIS diffraction limits ($\sim 0.15''$), is enabled thanks to the use of THEMIS adaptive optics.

Active regions are transient features of the Sun's atmosphere. They are a source of the violent solar eruptions that can affect the magnetic environment of the Earth. They are characterized by a strong and complex magnetic field. Sunspots are a signature of the presence of intense magnetic fields. As the most intense magnetic field concentrations inhibit the transport of energy, such regions are cooler, emit less light. They thus appear darker than the quiet solar surface. Unlike sunspot, the quiet sun regions are dominated by the granulation pattern. Granules are the convection cells in the Sun's photosphere. They are caused by currents of plasma in the Sun's convective zone, directly below the photosphere.



Takeaways ...

- THEMIS is a competitive 21st century telescope with unprecedented capacities
 - THEMIS is a real challenger in the 1m-1.5m class of solar telescopes.



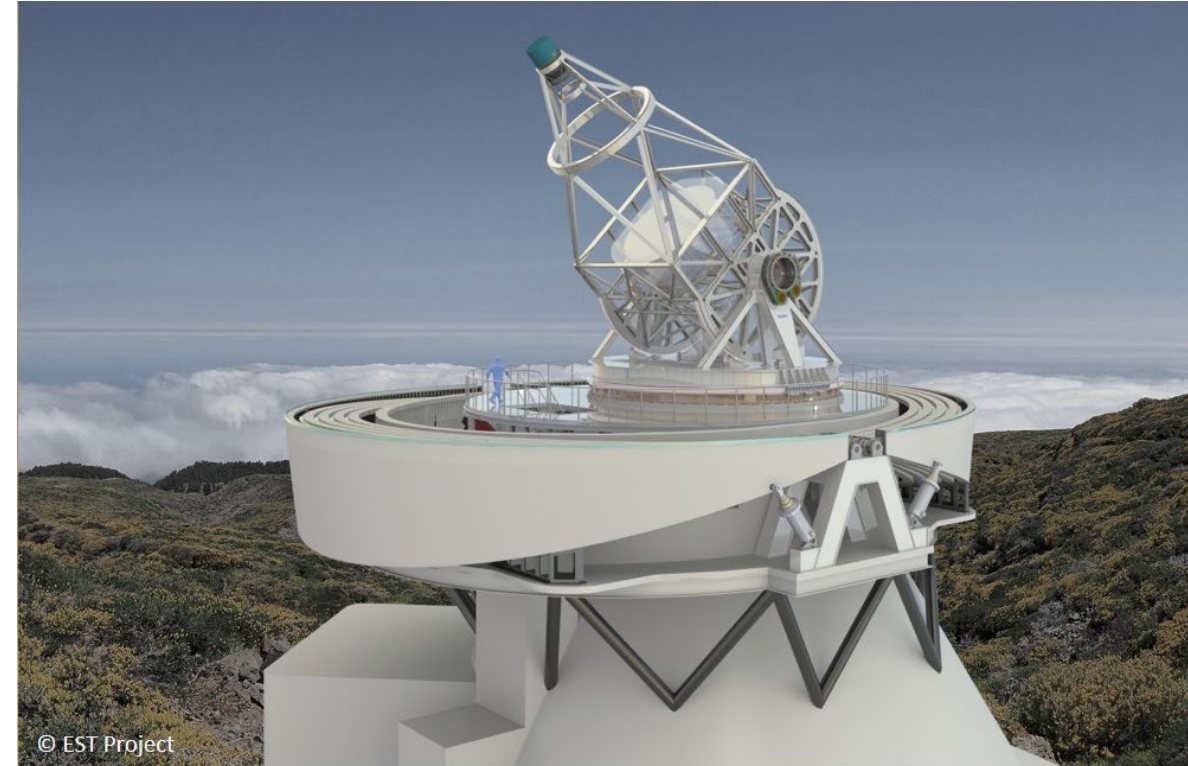
- Installation of the IBIS 2.0 spectro-imager (spring 2026) trigger an even larger European wide interest.
- **Reminder: 20-25% of THEMIS obs. time dedicated to Spanish-lab.-based PIs**
 - THEMIS is highly open to all scientists based in a Spanish laboratory, particularly from IAC
 - The local THEMIS team is dedicated to assist anyone in performing observations with THEMIS
 - Observation at THEMIS is not reserved to an elite of high-resolution spectro-polarimetry expert !
 - **Young-researchers of IAC are highly welcomed to discover/run/follow ground-based solar observations campaigns of THEMIS**

... and nevertheless !

THEMIS **IS NOT** the future of
ground-based solar physics because



the European Solar Telescope
IS THIS FUTURE !



**White paper on interest, contribution &
participation of the French community
to the EST project is being written !**