Monitoring ultra un-energetic bosons with magnetic loop antennas

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Monitoring solar and interplanetary radio emissions with magnetic loop antennas

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LPC2E

Solar radio bursts are one of the very few precursors of geoeffective perturbations (CMEs).

[Reiner (2001), Gopalswamy (2006), Pick (2008), Lobzin (2010), Klein (2018), ...]



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Solar radio bursts have distinctive signatures (30 kHz - 30 MHz)





Solar radio bursts have distinctive signatures (30 kHz - 30 MHz)





Most events are more complex



Radio bursts are best measured from space

ionospheric cutoff below ~20 MHz

observations made by several missions (Ulysses, Wind, Stereo, Parker Solar Probe, soon Solar Orbiter, ...)

They are usually measured by means of **electric** field antennas



Stereo



Magnetic field antennas offer advantages over electric field antennas

- Lighter and more compact : no need for spinning spacecraft or for long rigid E field antennas
- Better dynamic range above cosmic noise background (f > 10 MHz)

→ use magnetic field measurements to monitor solar radio bursts

Measurement principle







Diameter: 20 cm diameter for monitoring solar radio bursts

- Bandwidth : 0.05–50 MHz
- Mass < 300 g (one loop)</p>
- Power < 300 mW





loop antennas for HF/VHF radio amateurs





Loop antennas = magnetic component of a electromagnetic field Standard antennas (e.g. dipole, Yagi, etc) = electric component.

25

Heritage



CHARM sounding rocket (2008)



Magnetic loop antenna (LPC2E). Area 0.03 m² LPC2E



Diameter of the loop antenna = sensitivity





Diameter of the loop antenna = sensitivity



To locate the source of the radio emissions, two (three) orthogonal antennas are required.

needs larger volume or unfolding system



with several spacecraft : source location by triangulation

LPC2E



- Requires electromagnetic cleanliness > 100 kHz
 - Synchronised clocks, shielded cabling (beware of harmonics)
 - Better but not mandatory to place the sensor on a boom

Instrument output is processed by a multichannel spectral analyser

- Used routinely on multiple missions
- May include artificial intelligence to automatically identify type II/III emissions

High TRL (≥ 6)



Coronographs + monitoring of solar radio bursts are the only means for detecting geoeffective events

Magnetic field measurements offer an interesting alternative to electric field measurements

lighter, more compact

better adapted for a distributed system (triangulation)

