

Investigating the 3D Morphology and Kinematics of CMEs via Multipoint Synthetic White-Light Imagery

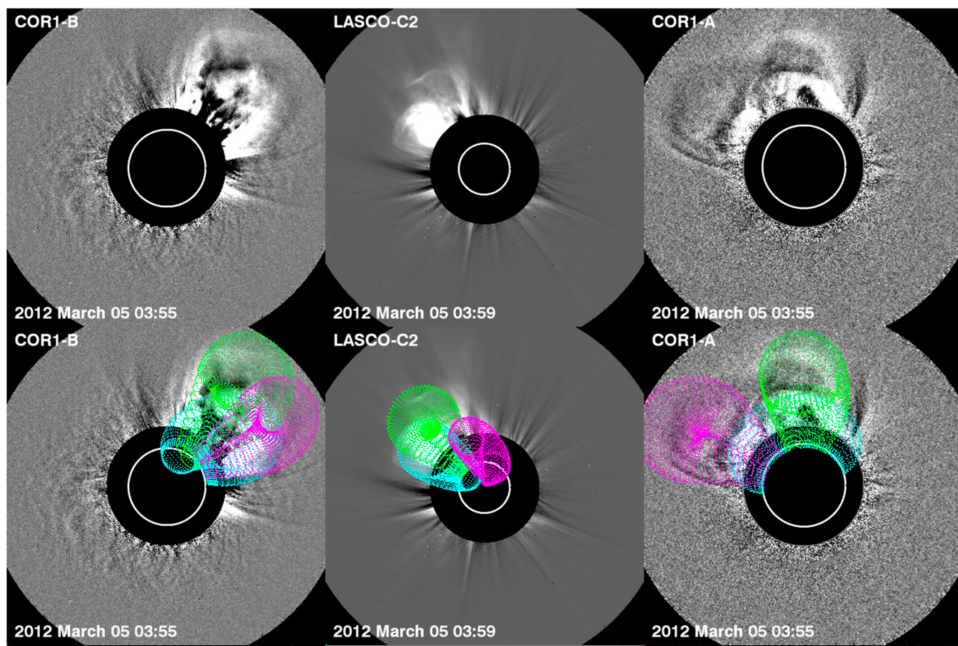
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Luke Barnard • Maïke Bauer • Jaša Čalogović • Phillip Hess
Christina Kay • Kenny Kenny

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The Hard Life of a CME Chaser 🥲

- Major issue in coronal mass ejection (CME) forecasts: Most input parameters for prediction models—usually derived from remote-sensing obs—are not well constrained and have large uncertainties
- CMEs are observed in white light via coronagraphs and wide-angle heliospheric imagers (HIs)
- Usually, forward-modelling techniques are applied to these data to derive CME morphology and kinematics—often used as input parameters for CME propagation models
- BUT #1: Forward-modelling has to assume a parameterised CME shape, does not always work well
- BUT #2: Not enough viewpoints (atm, usually 2–3) to properly constrain our models

Figure: Colaninno et al. [2015]



Graduated Cylindrical Shell (GCS)

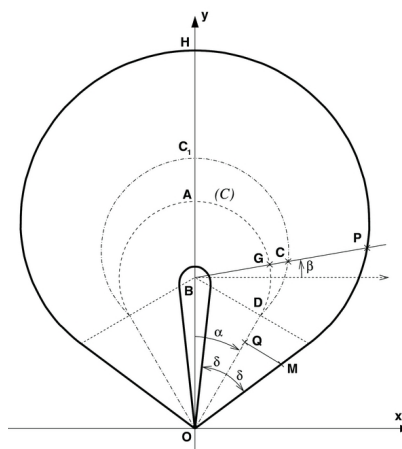


Figure: Thernisien [2011]

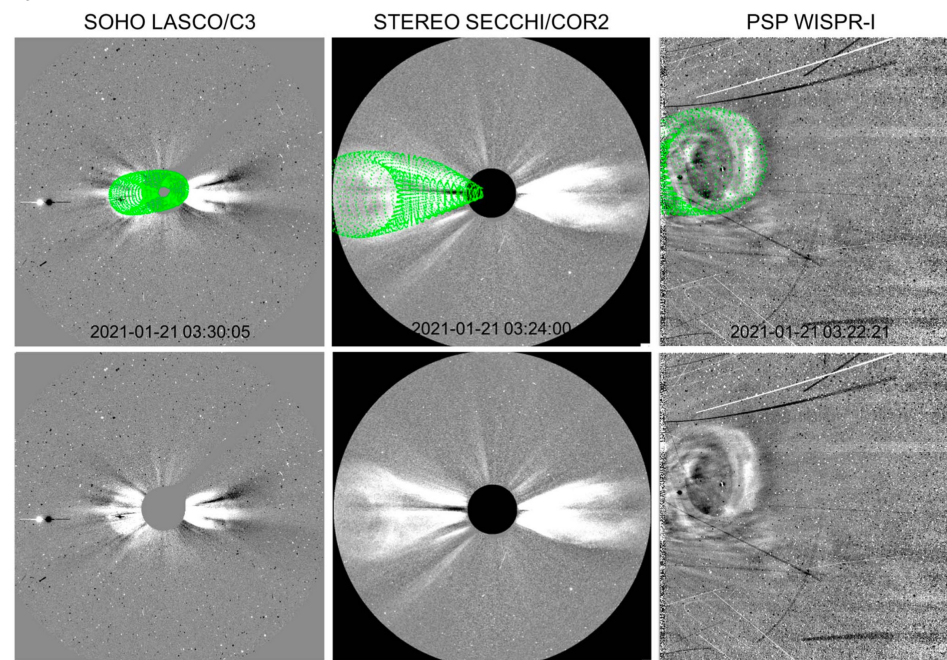
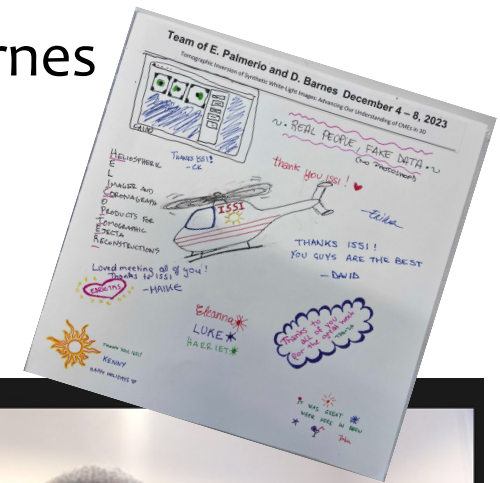


Figure: Braga et al. [2022]

So... We put together an ISSI team to play with fake CMEs!

“Tomographic Inversion of Synthetic White-Light Images: Advancing Our Understanding of CMEs in 3D”

- Leaders: E. Palmerio & D. Barnes
- Team selected in 2023
- 1st meeting: Dec 2023



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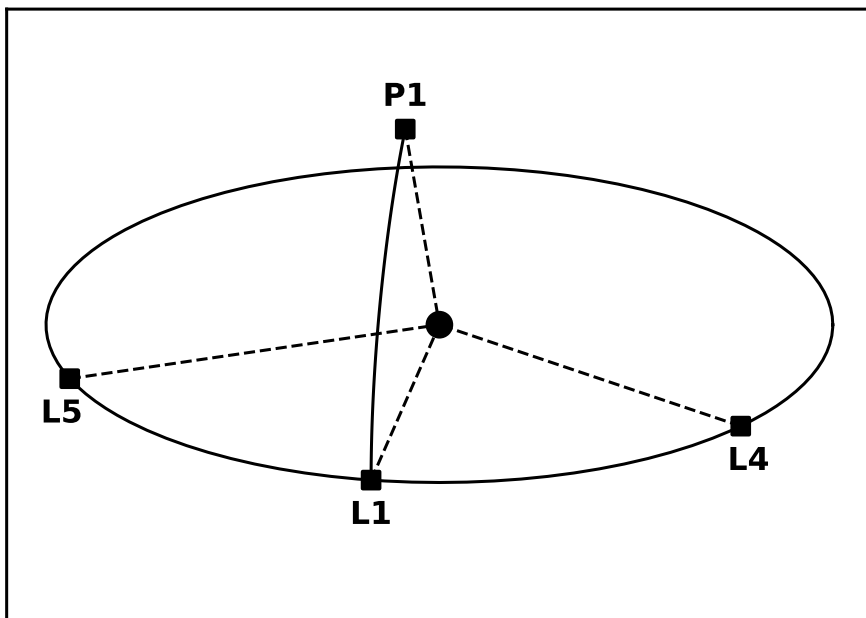
Team webpage



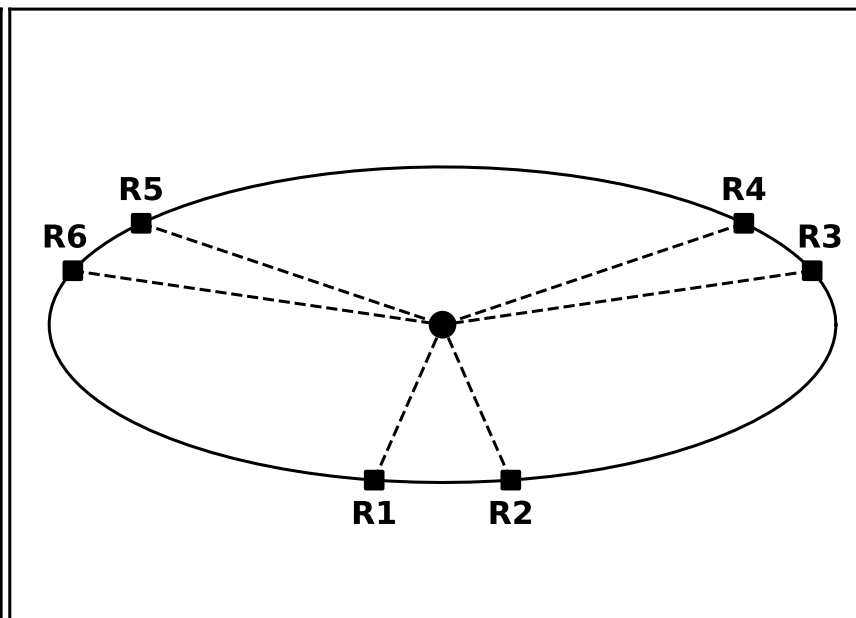
Overview of Our Research Questions and Project

- Simulated Sun-to-1 au CMEs with state-of-the-art, 3D MHD modelling (MAS/CORHEL)
- Synthetic spacecraft through the sim domain! No limitations → the heliosphere is your oyster
- Do more observers make a difference when evaluating CMEs in 3D with forward modelling?
- Can we retrieve the irregular shape of CMEs with inverse modelling? And with how many s/c?
- Does all of this make a difference in actual space weather applications (CME models assume simplified shapes as input conditions to begin with)?

(a) 3L + Polar



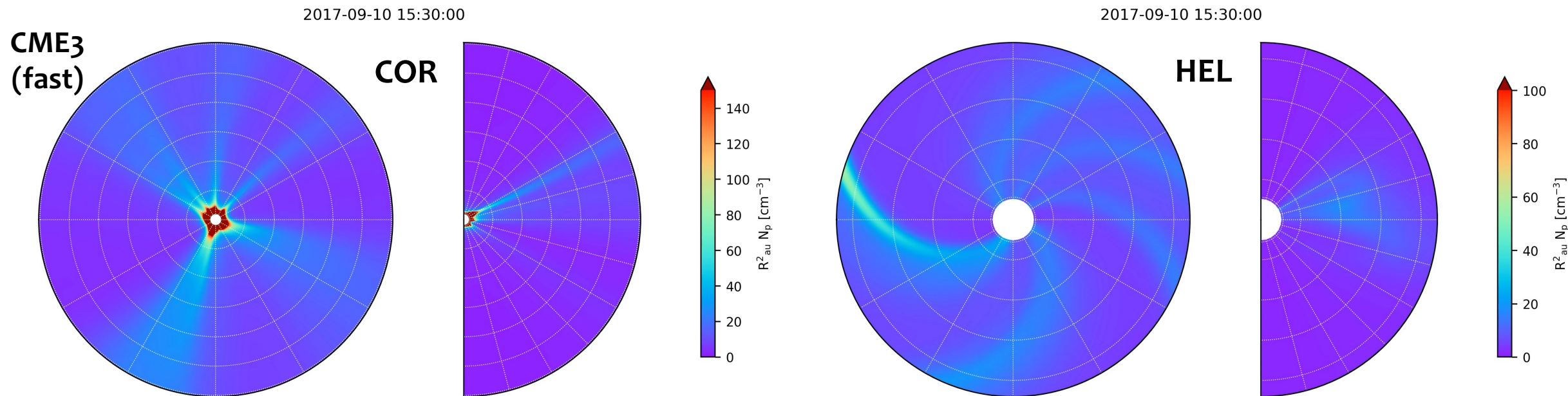
(b) Solar Ring



We have decided to begin our efforts using these two s/c configurations (1 au) —not attained as of yet, but still technologically realistic and economically feasible (no sci-fi regime!)

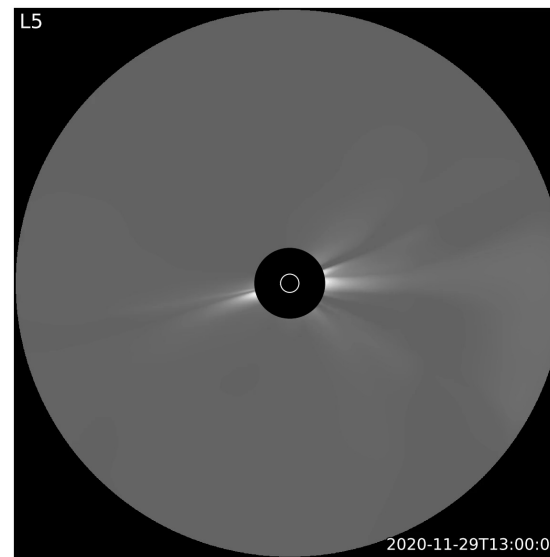
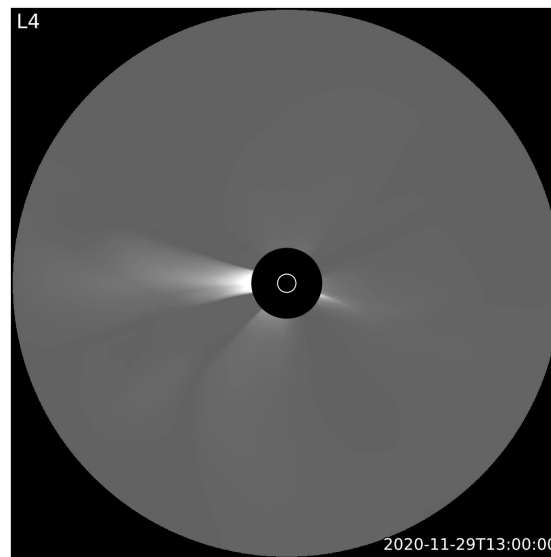
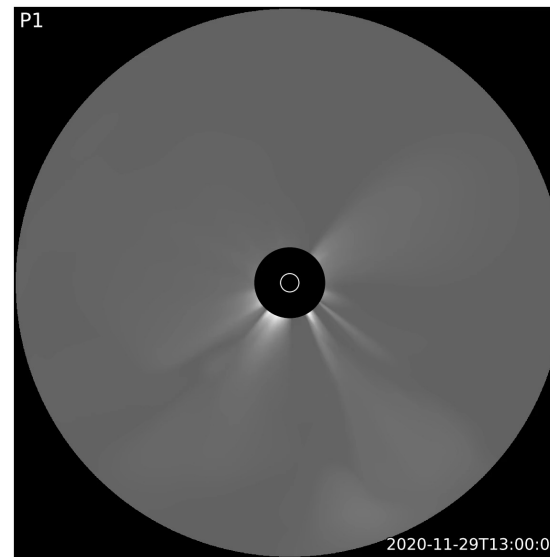
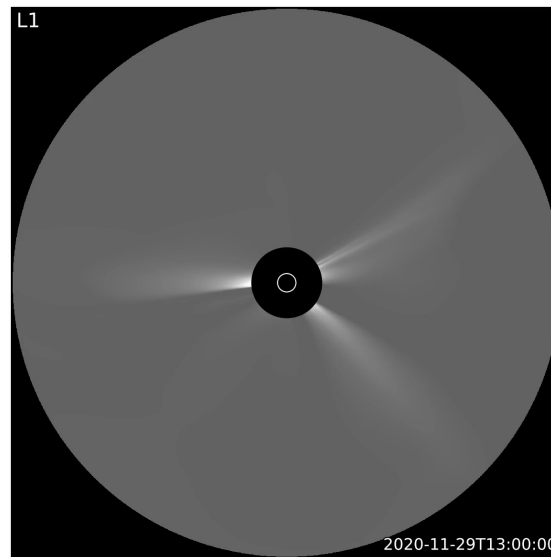
Simulating the CMEs: The MAS/CORHEL Model

- **MAS** = Magnetohydrodynamic Algorithm outside a Sphere (the code), **CORHEL** = Coronal Heliospheric (the model)
- MHD code that can model the coronal magnetic field, the solar wind, and the propagation of CMEs through them
- 2 domains: COR (usually 1–30 R_{\odot}) and HEL (usually 28–230 R_{\odot})
- CMEs modelled from their eruption at the Sun with a full flux-rope description [here RBSL; [Titov et al. 2018](#)]
- The runs for this project utilised CORHEL-CME [[Linker et al. 2024](#)], our tool to model the eruption and propagation of CMEs with MAS/CORHEL via a web-based interface—[PS: it’s available for runs-on-requests at CCMC!]
- We modeled 3 CMEs “inspired” by real events, generating a slow (~ 800 km/s), a medium (~ 1500 km/s), and a fast (~ 2500 km/s) sample event—inspiration from 2021-10-28, 2020-11-29, and 2017-09-10, respectively



Producing White-Light Images From CORHEL Simulations

By solving Equations (29) and (17) in [Howard & Tappin \[2009\]](#), we can obtain the total and polarised brightness for any observer that is looking at a specific volume of the simulation time-dependent data cubes
→ line-of-sight integration involved



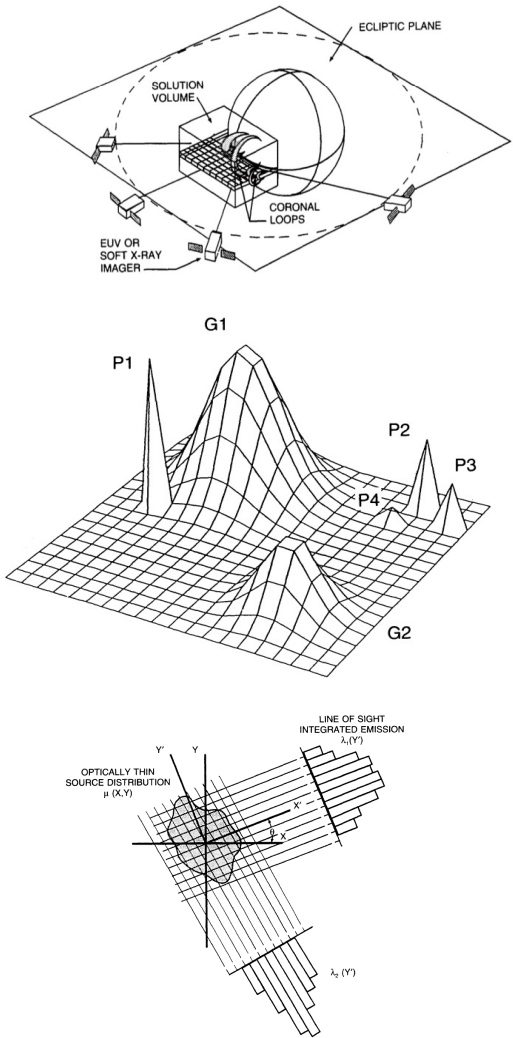
Our initial work has focussed on coronagraph-like synthetic images with a field of view of $30 R_{\odot}$ (and that we have nicknamed Fake-C3—but Fake-NFI also works 😊)

(Fake) heliospheric imagers will be the main focus of our 2nd ISSI meeting in October 2024 (but watch out for a sneak peek at the end of this talk!)

CME₂
(medium)

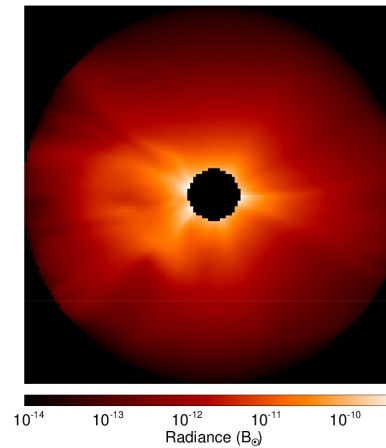
The Inverse-Modelling Technique: Discrete Tomography

Figures: Davila [1994]

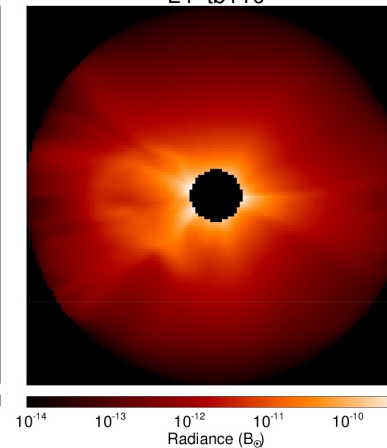


- Tomography in general: Inversion problem
- By defining a grid over the heliosphere (or the specific FOV of an instrument), the LOS integral can be approximated as a sum
- Each spacecraft measures different intensities based on the angle at which it observes structure
- These are used to constrain density in each grid cell
- It is expected that the multiple-spacecraft method would require 4+ vantage points to permit CME reconstructions

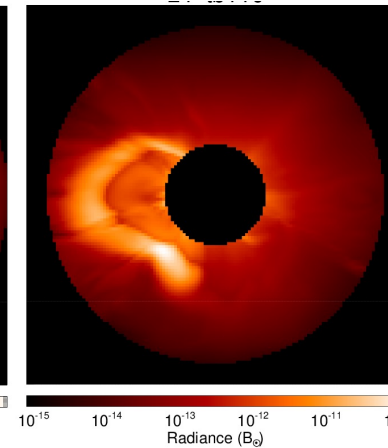
Raw image (128x128 px)



Bkg minimum



Processed image



Discrete tomography pipeline

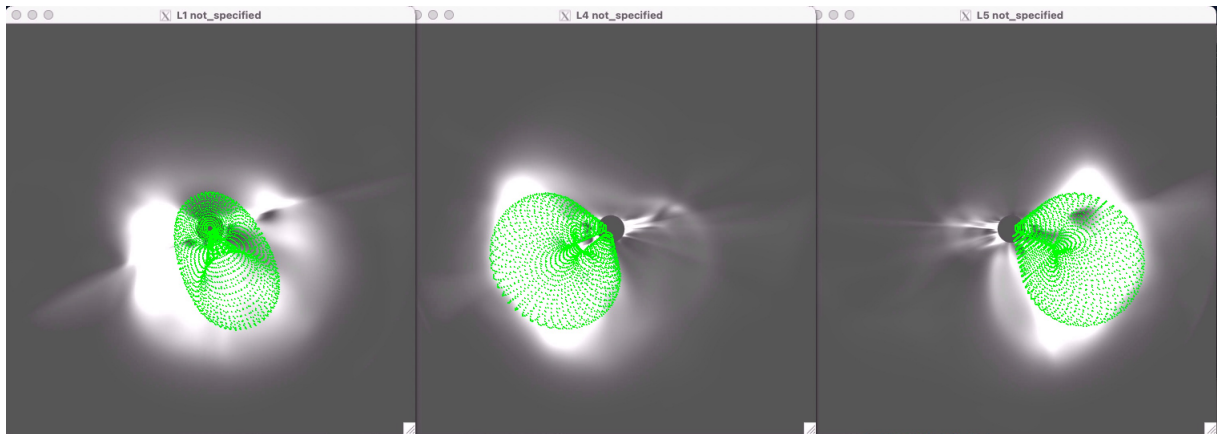
Solving inverse equation $y = H \cdot x$

- y is an array containing data
- x is unknown density distribution over grid
- H is a physical operator relating y to x

- (1) Process images to reveal CME structure
- (2) Re-sample data over a grid
- (3) Calculate H
- (4) Solve for x

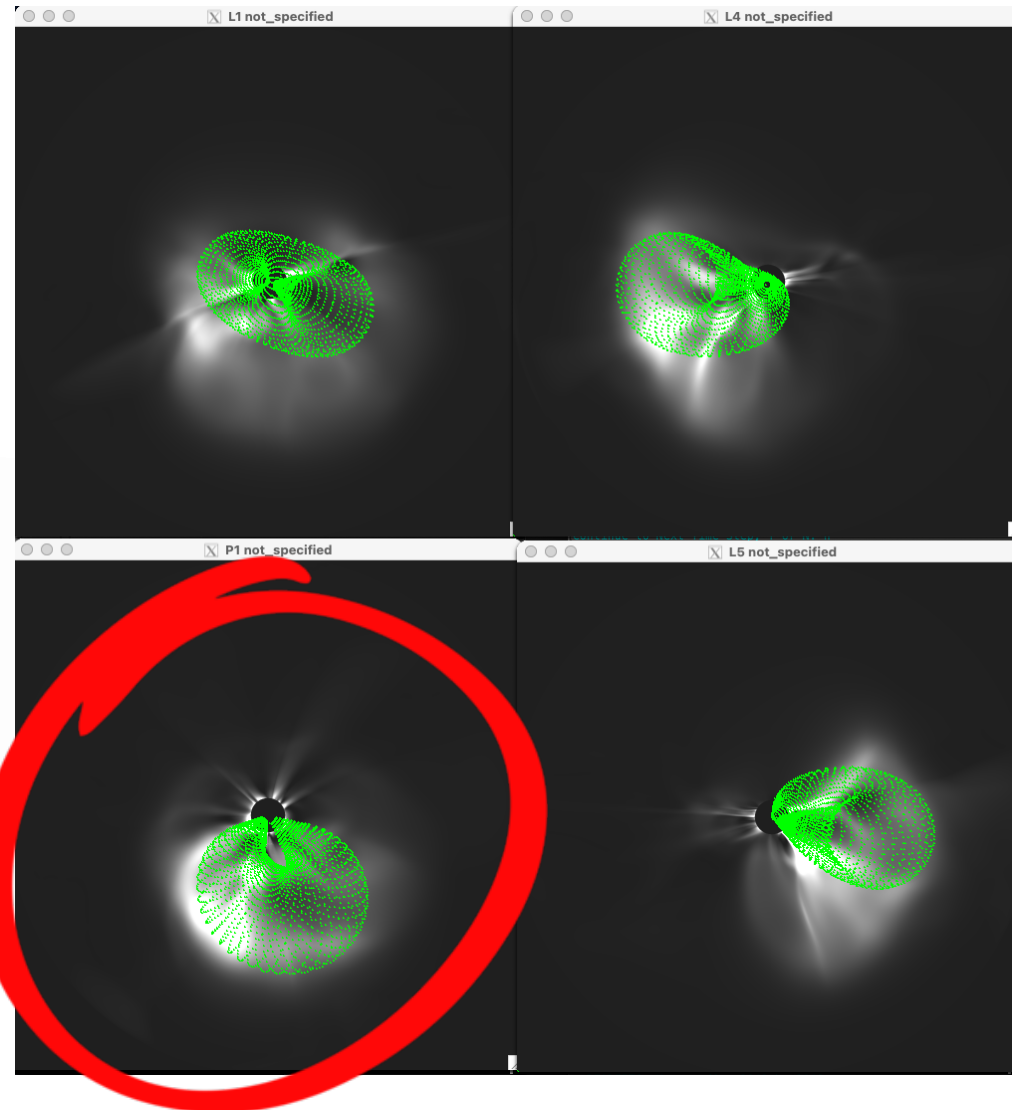
First of All: How Do These CMEs & Observers Do With Forward-Modelling?

3 observers: L1, L4, L5



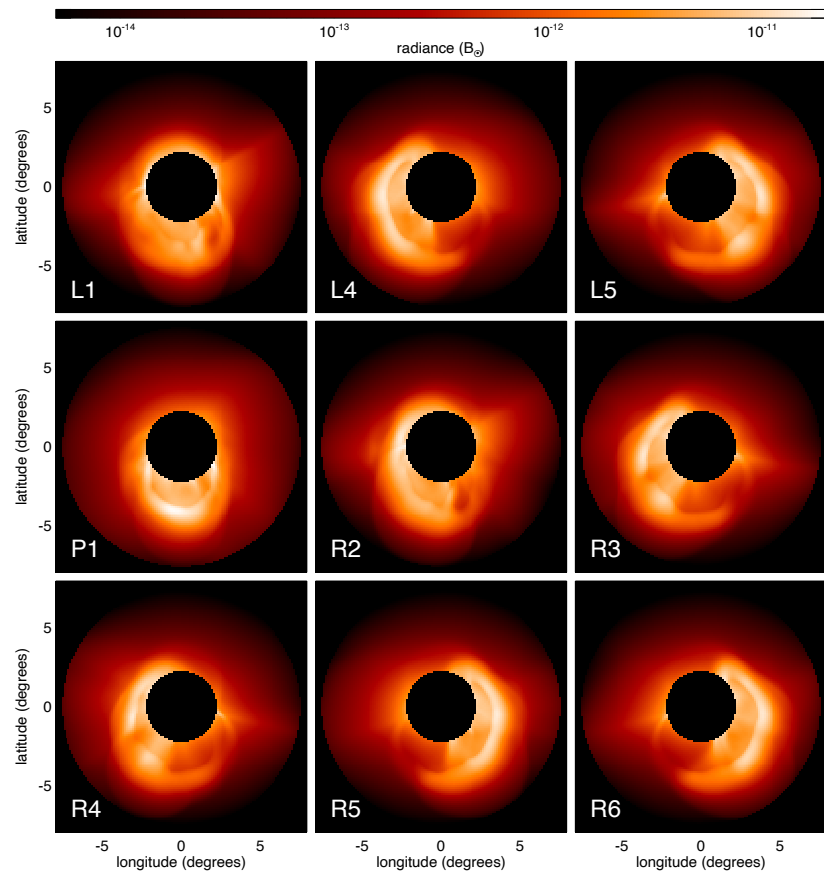
...adding the polar view:

- First impressions: We have found that 3 vs 6 s/c on the ring does not make much of a difference in fitting, but adding the polar view to the 3 Ls does
- Btw: CME shape not very GCS-friendly!

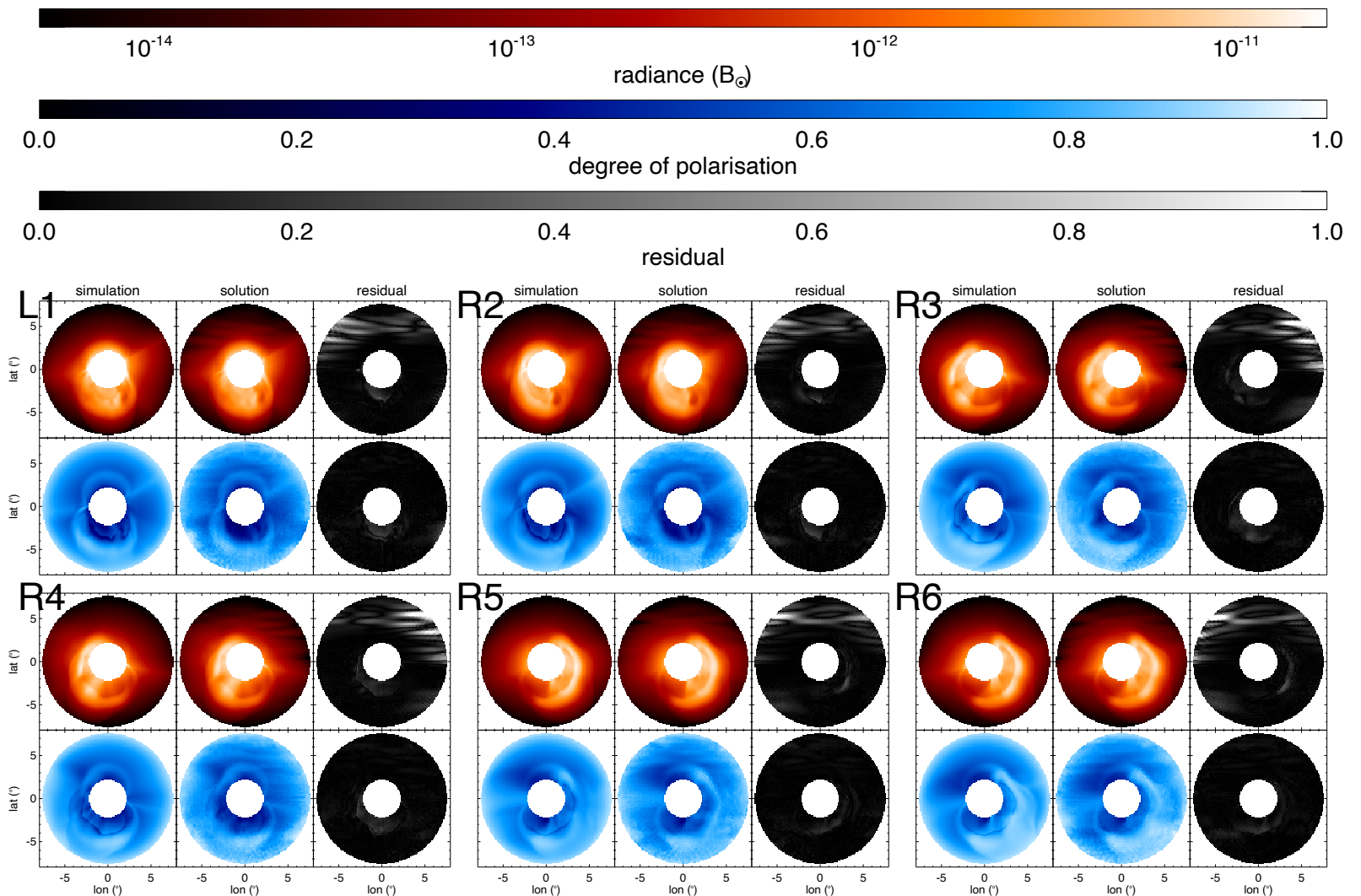


Preliminary Results With Discrete Tomography: Simulation vs Inversion

Comparing CORHEL imagery of the CME with tomography-reconstructed images from the same views



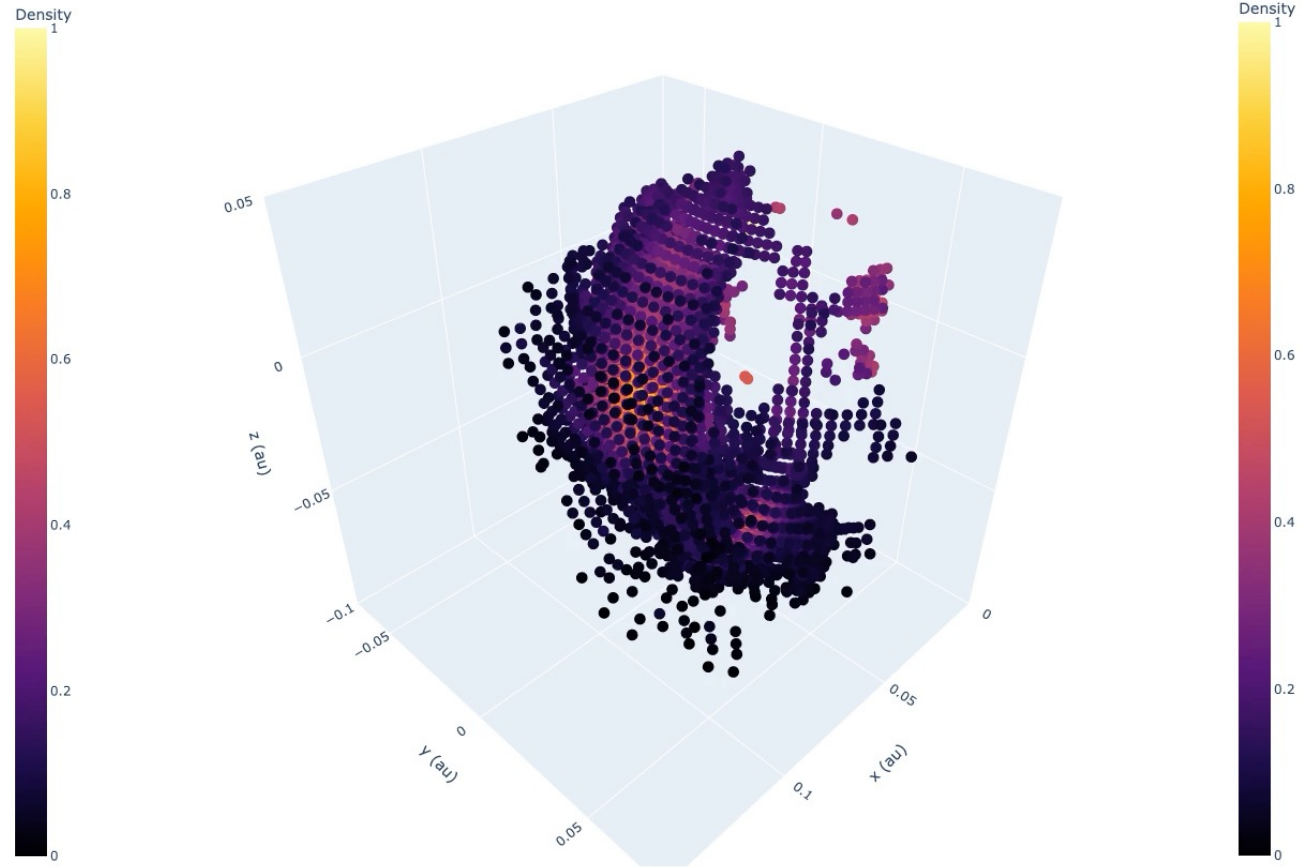
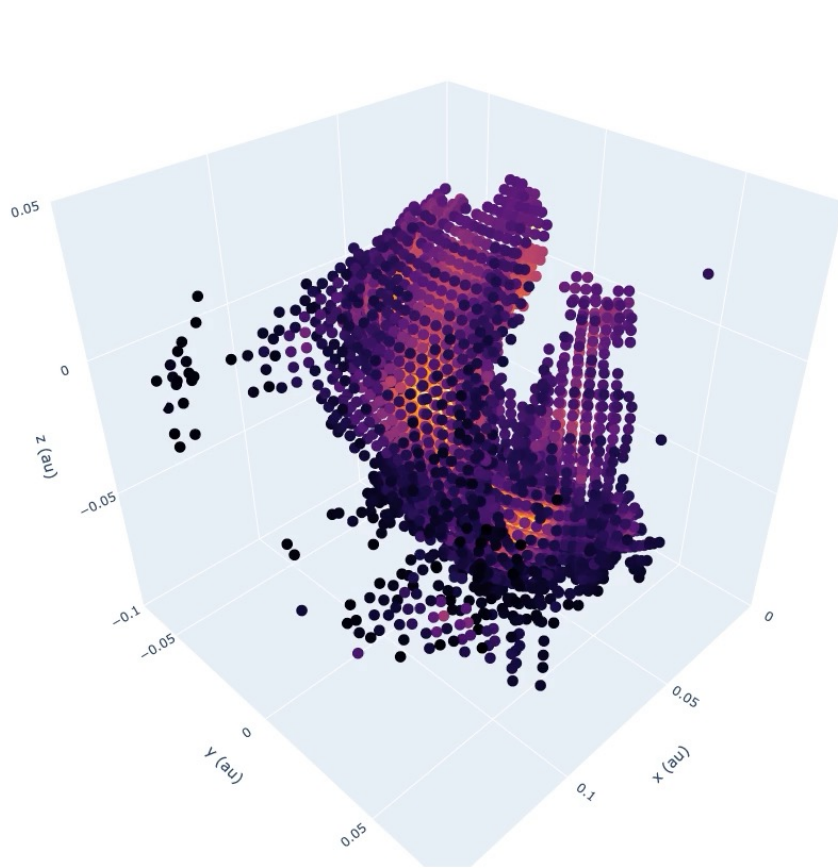
CME2 (medium) rebinned to 128x128



Preliminary Results With Discrete Tomography: Effect of the Number of s/c

tb, 3 spacecraft

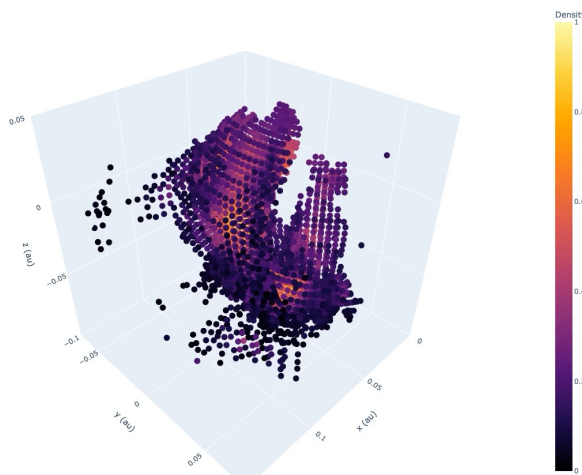
pb, 3 spacecraft



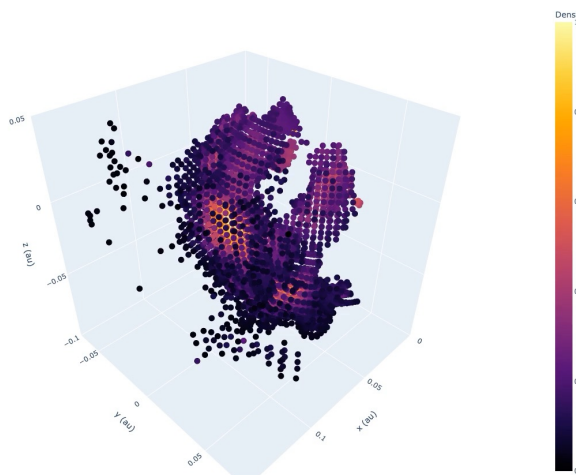
The number of s/c employed for the inversion has a big effect on the reconstructed 3D structure and on the “noise” level

Preliminary Results With Discrete Tomography: Total vs Polarised Brightness

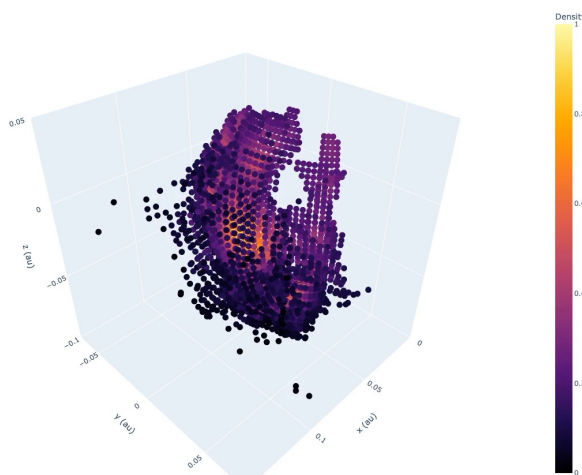
tb, 3 spacecraft



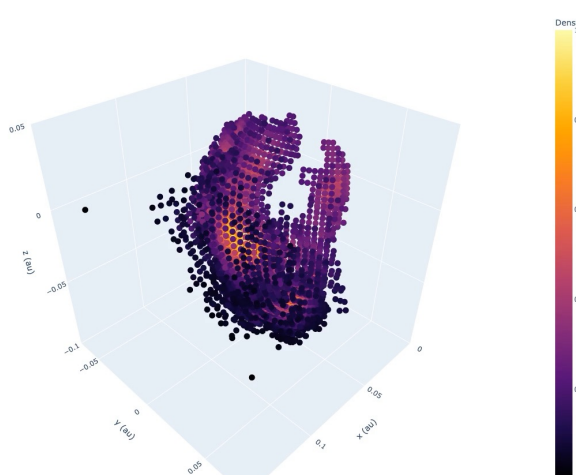
tb, 4 spacecraft



tb, 6 spacecraft



tb, 7 spacecraft

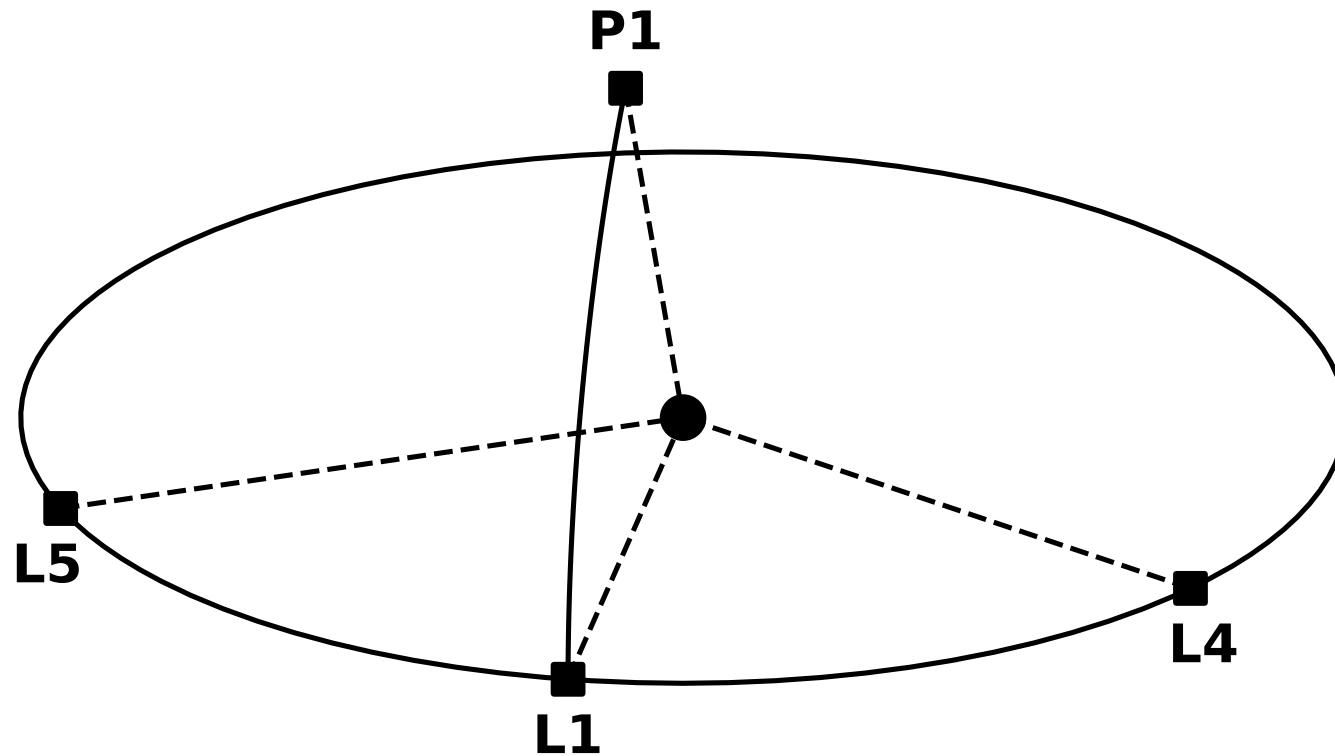


Employing total versus polarised brightness images seems to have a larger effect with decreasing number of spacecraft, with polarised brightness giving cleaner results

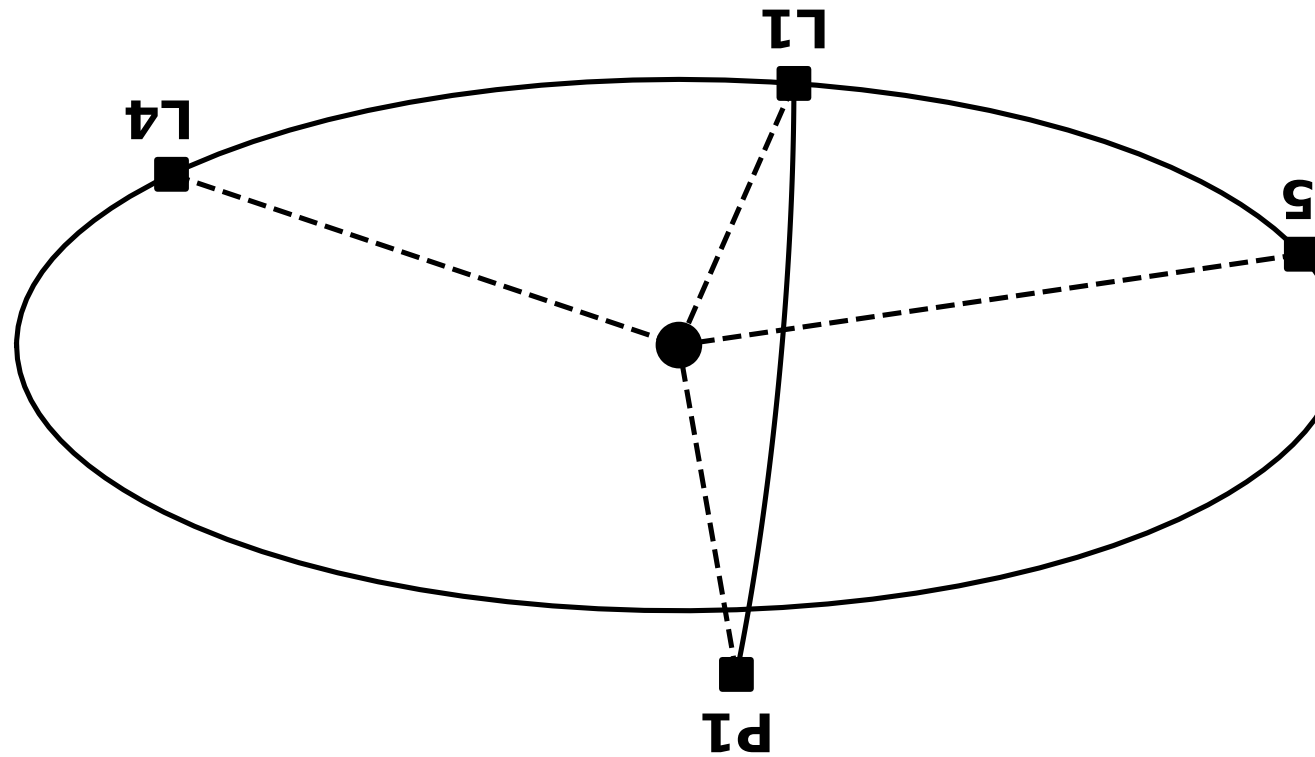
Important implications in real life, since we are unlikely to get 6,7,... 10+ imagers out there in the near future 😓

Future instrumentation should carry polarisers to enhance our inverse reconstruction capabilities (good job PUNCH!)

Sneak Peek: A Fake-HI Extravaganza



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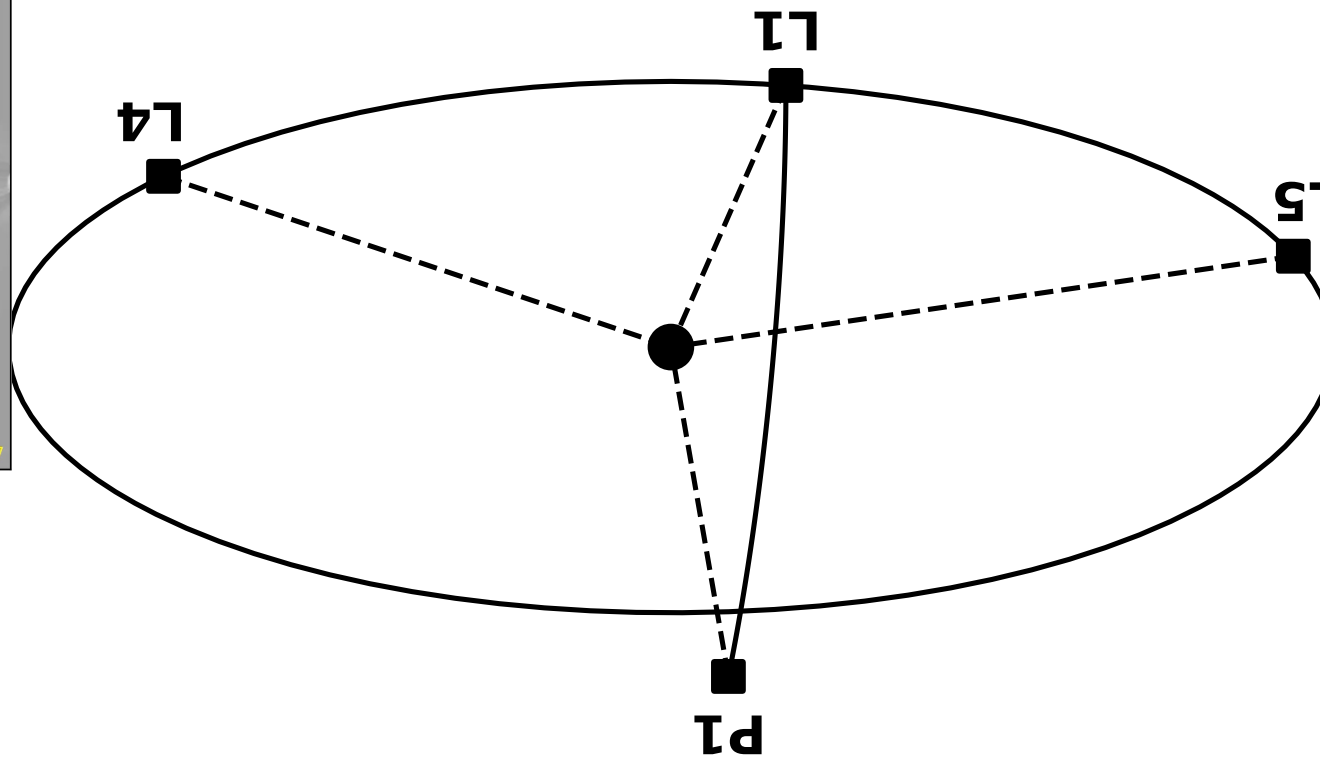
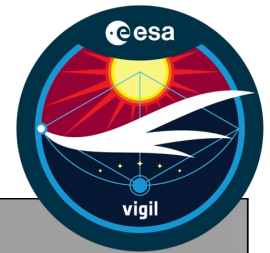
CME1
(slow)

Sneak Peek: A Fake-HI Extravaganza

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Opening New Horizons with the L4 Mission: Vision and Plan
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Space Weather
RESEARCH ARTICLE
10.1029/2021SW002777

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A Multi-Purpose Heliophysics L4 Mission
A. Pommer¹, C. N. Arge², J. Stank³, G. C. McTyg⁴, D. Polz⁵, S. K. Solanki⁶,
R. D. T. Strain⁷, F. Hoffberger⁸, A. Gaudinot⁹, M. Heber¹⁰, C. J. Hansen¹¹,
J. Hirtberger¹², S. I. Jones¹³, P. Klotz¹⁴, D. Malanowski¹⁵, and V. J. Stieker¹⁶

Special Section:
Heliophysics and Space Weather
or similar from the Space Weather
Leadership Panel

Key Points:
• First through analysis of
observations of Earth-Sun L4 location
at observations of Earth-Sun L4
location of Earth-Sun L4 mission
mission

The L4 view of solar radiation

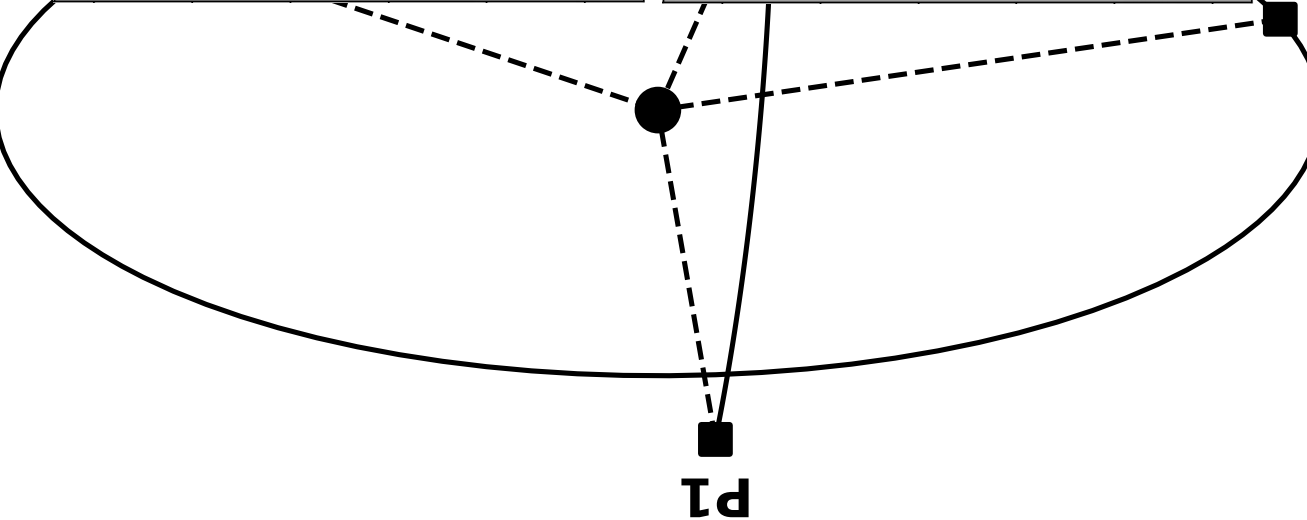
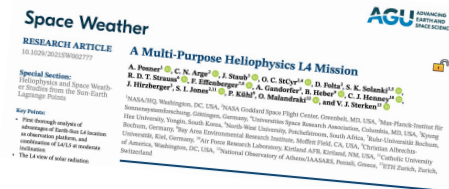
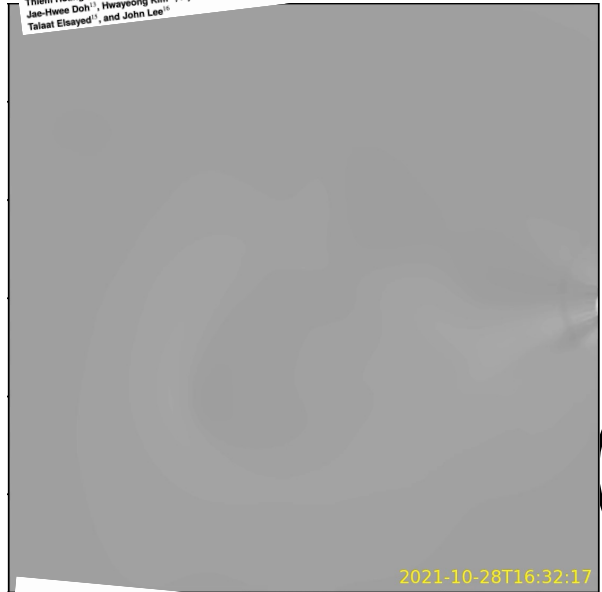
CME1
(slow)

Sneak Peek: A Fake-HI Extravaganza



Opening New Horizons with the L4 Mission: Vision and Plan

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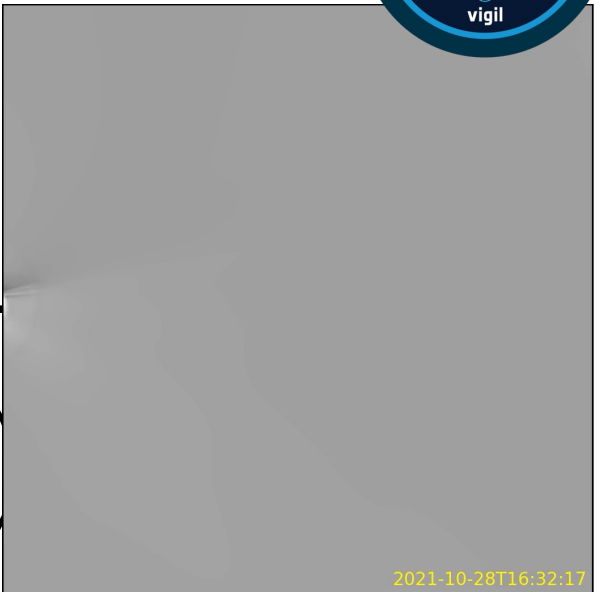
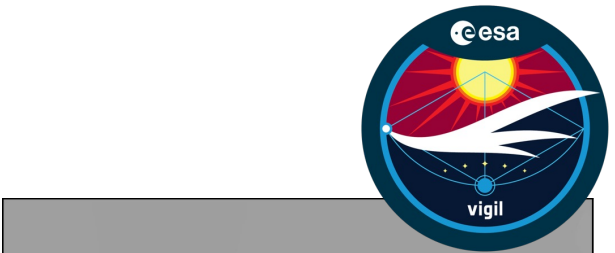
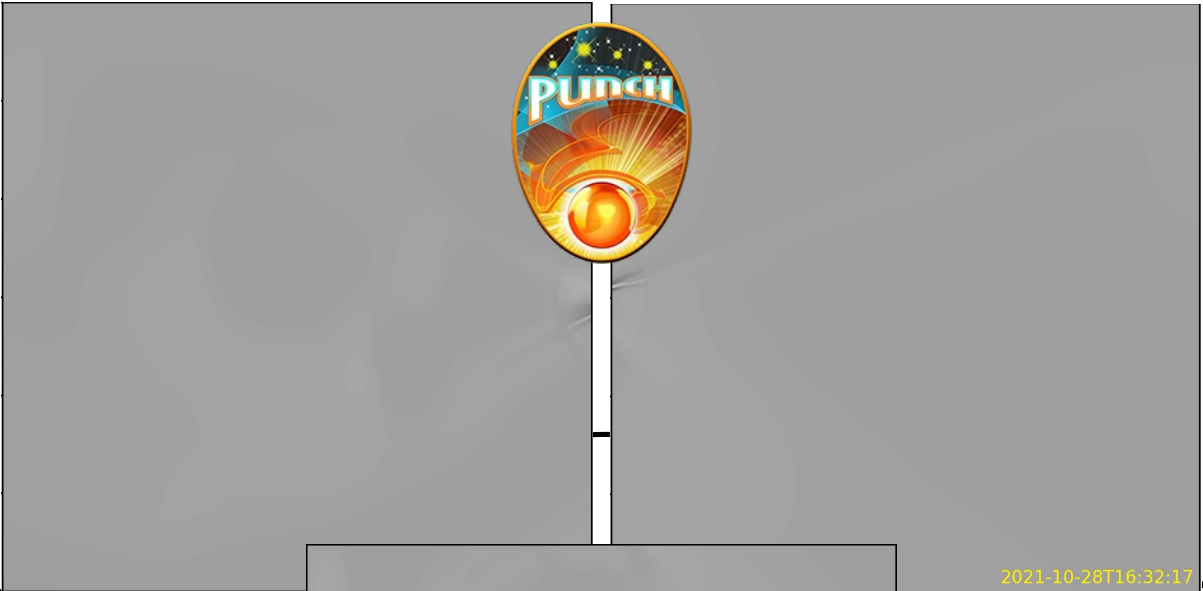
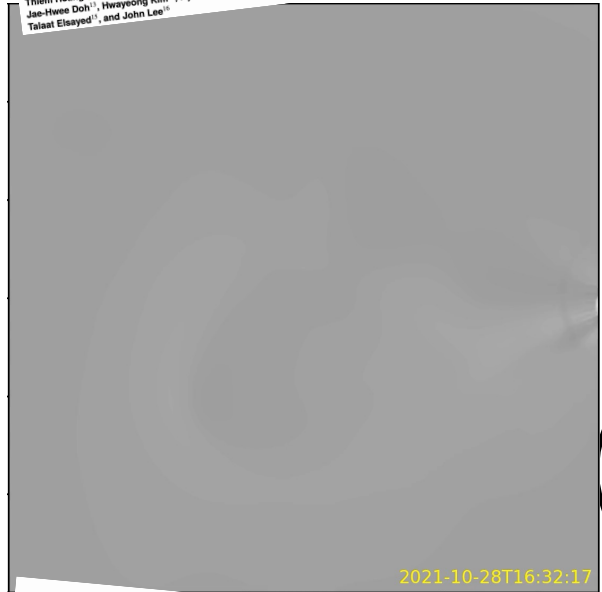


CME1 (slow)

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Key Points
 • First through analysis of observations from the L4 location at approximately 60°E and 60°W
 • Contribution of L4 L4 mission to heliophysics
 • The L4 view of solar radiation



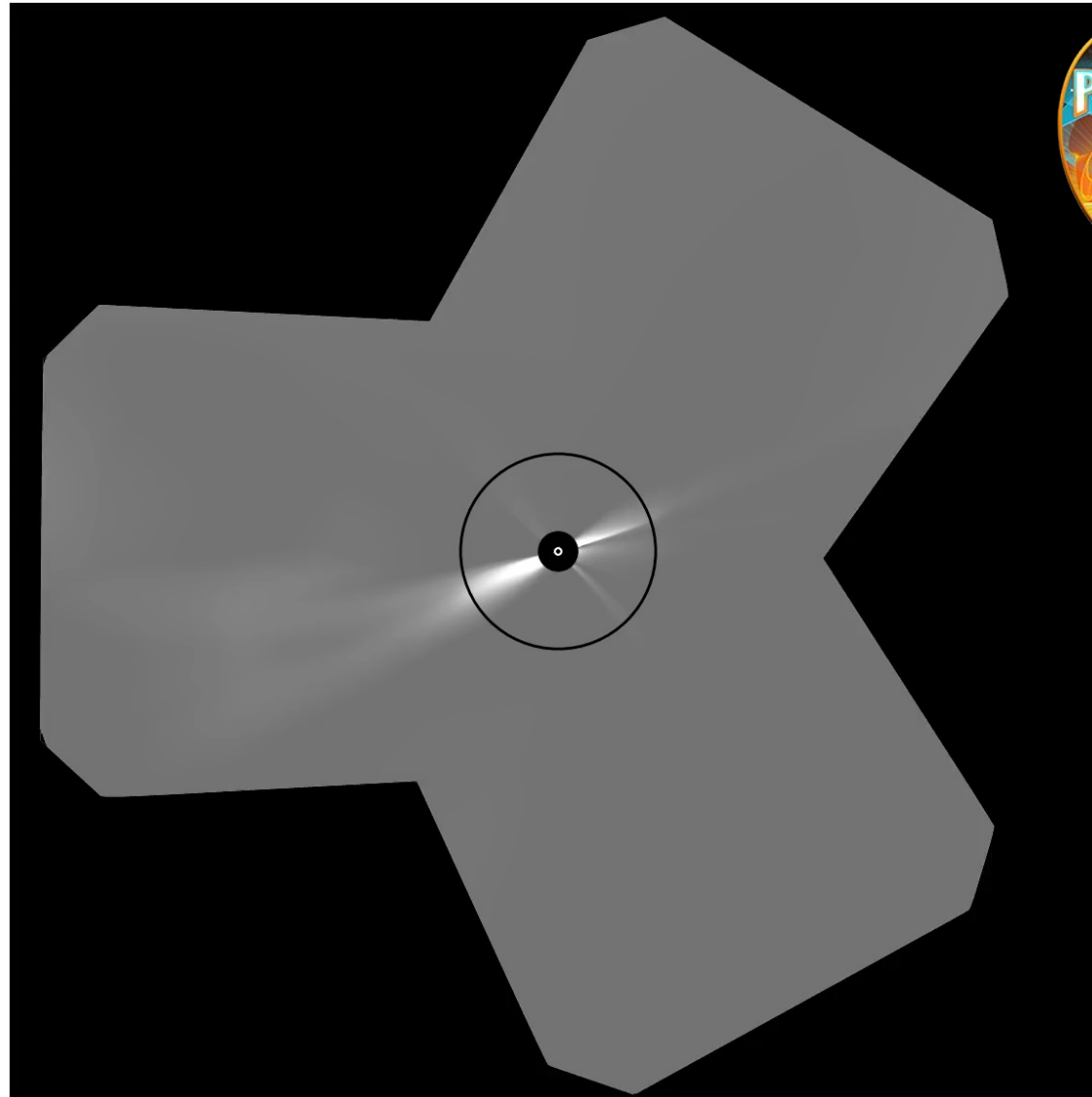
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CME1 (slow)

Future Team Plans & Bonus “Fake-PUNCH” Movie

Future plans include:

- Tomography analysis using the fake-HI fields of view
- Creation of a possible realistic future scenario: Using ephemeris data for some time in 2025–2026, generate (and analyse) synthetic imagery for STEREO-A, Parker, SoLO, & PUNCH



View from PUNCH of a halo CME!!

The “all-around” view afforded by PUNCH will allow us to observe CMEs in the heliosphere in a whole new way!

For context:

- Frame Δt : 1 hour
- Movie time: ~4 days

Thank you for
your attention!



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