Diagnostics of Coronal Magnetic Field in Terms of Radio Burst and Fine Structures

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Abstract. A complex solar radio burst was observed on 19 October 2001 with the spectrometers of NAOC (National Astronomical Observatory of China) and Nobeyama Radioheliograph (NoRH). Basing on the analysis of brightness temperature spectra of radio sources and various fine spectral structures, we get a diagnosis of magnetic field of radio active region.

Keywords. Sun: coronal mass ejections (CMEs), magnetic fields, radio radiation

1. Introduction

Radio spectral observation is effective for studying the acceleration process, while the image observation is effective for studying the magnetic field configuration. Basing on a analysis of a solar radio burst observed by the spectrometer (0.65–7.60 GHz) of NAOC and NoRH, we give a diagnosis of magnetic fields in the radio active regions.

2. Observations and data analysis

2.1. NoRH observation and magnetic field diagnosis

In the radio image of NoRH, we find three sources, one is a pre-existing source named PS and the others are newly emerging sources named NES1 and NES2, respectively. From the polarization degrees of Sources NES1 and PS, we can calculate the range of θ (the angle between the line of sight and the magnetic fields), under the assumption that the emissions of these two sources are due to non-thermal gyro-synchrotron radiation. According to the Equation (38) of Dulk (1985), for the harmonic number $10 \le s \le 50$ and $\delta = 3.5$ (for Source NES1) and 5.3 (for Source PS), θ should be between 83–158° for Source NES1 and between 30–66° for Source PS. We refer that the peak frequency is 9400 MHz for both Source NES1 and PS according to the data from SGD. According to the Equation (36), (37), and (39) of Dulk (1985), for the reasonable values of NL (about $10^{18-19}cm^{-2}$), we get that the values of magnetic field strength are 80-160 and 300-400 Gauss for Source NES1 and PS, respectively.

2.2. Spectral observation and magnetic field diagnosis

The highly polarized type III bursts in the frequency range of 2.6–3.8 GHz are due to fundamental plasma emissions. Using the method of Wang *et al.* (2003), we get the corresponding magnetic field should be about 120 Gauss.

Zebra patterns are due to upper hybrid waves or whistler waves. The frequency space between the Zebra patterns gives the diagnosis to the magnetic field of the source, because the frequency space is roughly equal to the local gyrofrequency. From the observed frequency space of about 30-40 MHz, we get the magnetic field is about 15 Gauss.

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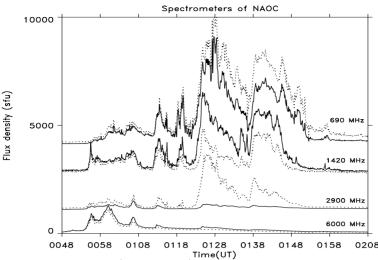


Figure 1. The spectrogram (time profiles) of radio bursts on 19 October, 2001 at selected frequencies, the dashed lines represent the right polarization, the solid lines left polarization.

We found some lower frequency fibers with normal frequency drifting rate of about 25 MHz/s and some higher frequency fibers with normal frequency drifting rate of about 90 MHz/s. The drift rates of fibers are relates to the local Alfvén speed (Treumann, Güdel, and Benz, 1990). For 0.65-0.8 GHz and 2.6-3.8 GHz, we can take density scale height λ_n be about 10^{10} and 0.5×10^{10} cm, respectively. We take frequency f_1 =770 MHz and f_2 =3000 MHz, electron density n_1 =1.8 × 10⁹ cm⁻³, and n_2 =2.7 × 10¹⁰ cm⁻³ (assuming harmonic emission), we get the Alfvén speeds v_{A1} = 1400km/s and v_{A2} =3500 km/s, that means the local magnetic fields are 210 and 130 Gauss, respectively.

The observed 6-minute and 1-minute pulsations should be attributed to the standing Alfvén wave in the coronal loops driven by the photospheric velocity fields which modulate the radio emission and the kink fast magneto-acoustic mode, respectively. For 1-minute pulsations, according to Aschwanden et al. (1999), for the observed period about 60 s, assuming second harmonic emission, n=2.8 × 10^{10} cm⁻³ and L=0.94 × 10^{10} cm, we get B=170 G. For 6-minute pulsations, L= 5.0×10^{10} cm, according to Strauss, Kaufmann, and Opher (1980), we get the Alfvén speed $V_A=2550$ km/s. At the height of 3 GHz emission, the electron density n=1.3 × 10^9 cm⁻³, so the magnetic field B= 50 gauss; for the height of 17 GHz emission, n = 1.0×10^{11} cm⁻³, we get B= 380 Gauss.

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