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Jet Propulsion Laboratory California Institute of Technology



Unifying the Physical Understanding of CMEs Through Remote Sensing Observations in the PSP/SolO Era

Alessandro Liberatore

alessandro.liberatore@inaf.it

2nd Metis Science Meeting



January 27-29, 2025 Capodimonte Astronomical Observatory, Naples, Italy

01/06

Coronal Mass Ejections

➢ Observed for the first time only ~50y ago! [Howard et al., 2023]



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SolO & PSP remote sensing instruments

Spacecraft	Remote Sensing Instruments	Products
Solar Orbiter • Up to $\approx 60 \text{ R}_{\odot} = 0.28 \text{ AU}$ • 33° outside the ecliptic	EUI [Extreme Ultraviolet Imager]	High-resolution (E)UV images of the solar chromosphere, transition region and corona.
	Metis [Coronagraph]	Simultaneous images of the corona in (polarized) visible and ultraviolet wavelengths stretching out from 1.7 to 4.1 solar radii.
	PHI [Polarimetric Helioseismic Imager]	High-resolution measurements of photospheric magnetic field, VL maps of its brightness, and photosphere velocity maps.
	SoloHI [SolO Heliospheric Imager]	VL images of the inner heliosphere over a wide FoV, observing photospheric light scattered by electrons in the solar wind and interplanetary dust.
	SPICE [Spectral Imaging of the Coronal Environment]	High-resolution imaging spectrometer operating at extreme ultraviolet wavelengths.
	STIX [Spectrometer/Telescope for Imaging in X-rays]	Hard X-ray imaging spectrometer in the energy range from 4 to 150 keV energy range.
Parker Solar Probe • Up to $\approx 9.86 \text{ R}_{\odot} = 0.046 \text{ AU}$ • $v_{\text{M}} \approx 192 \text{ km/s} \ (\approx 3 \times \text{SolO})$	WISPR [Wide Field Imager for Solar Probe]	VL wide-field images of the solar corona and outflows.

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PSP & SolO era: additional remote-sensing (and in-situ) viewpoints

New viewpoints inside 1 AU (i.e., different radial distances), very fast, different longitudes and latitudes, closest images of the Sun and wide-field (E)UV corona (SolO/EUI + Metis), high-resolution VL images of the corona/inner heliosphere at different longitudes by SoloHI & WISPR.

➤ Useful S/C configurations:



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What is a Coronal Mass Ejection?

- Rapid ejection of magnetic field and plasma from the Sun into the heliosphere
- ➢ One of the major drivers of the most severe Space Weather disturbances (geoeffectiveness → north-south B component) [Temmer, 2021]
- CMEs eruption: loss of equilibrium, force imbalance, instability threshold
- Twisted magnetic fields

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→ flux rope (complex magnetic field structures; main components: axial, helical) [Bothmer and Schwenn, 1998; Mulligan et al., 1998; Palmiero et al., 2018]





Figure 1. Magnetic reconnection and the standard model for solar eruptive events. (a) In magnetic reconnection, oppositely directed magnetic field lines (blue) flow inward and reconnect, releasing much of their magnetic energy to the ambient plasma. The reconnected field lines (green) flow outward, and their associated plasma is ejected in reconnection jets. In the reconnection region (gray), a sheet of current flows perpendicular to the plane of the page. (b) In a solar eruptive event, reconnection occurs in an arcade of loops rising above the visible surface of the Sun. (c) Because of shearing of the original arcade, the loops generally reconnect with their neighbors, not with themselves. A twisted magnetic flux rope forms and expands upward to become a coronal mass ejection.

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CME structure... a global picture



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CME structure

Classic 3-Part Structure



Halo CME

- Expanding shock wave front
- CME leading edge density enhancement

Plane of the sky

- Expanding shock wave front
- CME leading edge density enhancement
- Cavity due to the expanding magnetic ejecta
- Intensity enhancement





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Solar Orbiter highly detailed observations

Metis VLD 580-640 nm | pB (2022-03-26, 14:15-14:35) EUI FSI 17.4 nm (2022-03-26 14:20) [@0.32 A.U.]



From EUI to Metis



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Solar Orbiter highly detailed observations

SoloHI vs STA/HI-1



P. Hess, Solar Orbiter Meeting 10/25/2023

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2022-03-31 T04:10:19.975

SoloHI vs SECCHI vs LASCO

$2022/03/29 6-50 R_{\odot}$

$2022/04/02 6-30 R_{\odot}$



Adapted from P. Hess, Solar Orbiter Meeting 10/25/2023



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SoloHI vs SECCHI vs LASCO

$2022/03/29 6-50 R_{\odot}$

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Adapted from P. Hess, Solar Orbiter Meeting 10/25/2023

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ISTITUTO NAZIONALE DI ASTROFISICA NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR ASTROPHYSICS \blacktriangleright Highly detailed observations / interior structures (FoV \Rightarrow coronagraphs + HI)

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PSP highly detailed observations

STA vs **WISPR**



[Howard et al., 2022]

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PSP highly detailed observations

STA vs **WISPR**



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Is the 3-part structure too simplistic?

High complexity... some (of many) examples



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Is the 3-part structure too simplistic?

- > Nested rings
- N-part structure
 (as variation of the 3-part structure)
- Complex structure but organized





Coherence of the nested ring structure

- Systematic evolution of the fronts
- Rings propagate as a single structure (LN within error limits)

[Shaik et al., 2024 (in prep)]



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Anisotropic front [corrugated observation of the front]

- Shocks in SoloHI can provide physical characteristics of shocks
- Density compression ratio (density jump) for shock strength

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CME structure... a global picture

- ➤ Is the classic 3-part structure too simplistic? (What is erupting?)
- Many papers show CME with a clear 3-part structure. Is it really a so common or they are just beautiful and then studied? ("observational selection" effect)
- > Nested-rings: origin? Coherence of the nested ring structure.
- Corrugated observation of the front (and shock).
- SHINE 2024: "Very high-resolution global simulations of CMEs reveal that CME structures exhibit a significant degree of variation within a small angular width!"

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Internal magnetic field structures and flows



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Solar Orbiter highly detailed observations

From EUI to Metis



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Parker Solar Probe highly detailed observations **WISPR** vs **STA/Cor2**

PSP Encounter 10; Nov. 2021



[Howard et al., 2022]



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Parker Solar Probe highly detailed observations **WISPR** vs **STA/Cor2**

PSP Encounter 10; Nov. 2021



[Howard et al., 2022]



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WISPR L3 vs LW



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2021 Nov 21-22 WISPR observed flows with blobs



Adapted from C.Braga, COSPAR 2024

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... comparison of PSP/WISPR images with in-situ data in progress!

- Determine when Parker is inside CMEs, or related flows
- Identify properties to understand processes that produce them

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2021 Nov 21-22 WISPR observed flows with blobs Origin of these blobs?



In situ data shows near HCS, but not crossing

<complex-block>

Parker intercepts the wake of a CME on Nov 21st and 22nd 2021

➢ Flow of blobs may be associated with HCS current sheet (<u>Liewer et al., 2024</u>), post-CME CS/flows?

(C.Braga, work in progress)

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3D reconstruction with PSP

PSPE14 2022-12-08 23:00:00



1) Twisted magnetic field structures with C- and J-shapes,



2) Thread-like

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patterns





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3D reconstruction with PSP

Why do these enhancements of density (blobs) in the wake of the CME have different longitudes?

- Multiple post-CME CS (?)
- Interchange reconnection (?)
- Solar wind interaction (?)
- Instabilities (?)

...any other ideas?



-Basic elements of the CSHKP two-ribbon flare model in two (left) and three (right) dimensions-



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Internal magnetic field structures and flows

- ➤ Are flows associated with HCS current sheet, post-CME CS/flows?
- "Organized" distribution of internal structures?
 Longitudinal distribution of blobs (Why no-thick post-CME CS?)
- Observation of downflows
- > Pre-CME flows?



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CME propagation



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CME evolution in corona and heliosphere

What determines the evolution of the CMEs in corona and interplanetary space?

During the CME evolution in the solar corona and heliosphere, we observe:

Deflected/non-radial propagating CMEs [Liu et al., 2010; Liewer et al., 2015; ...]

- Distorted CMEs [Braga et al., 2022; Liberatore et al., 2024; ...]
- ➤ CME-CME interaction [Lugaz et al., 2012; Scolini et al., 2020; …]
- CME-Solar Wind interaction [Heinemann et al., 2019; Kay et al., 2022...]







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- Coronal Mass Ejection Deformation at 0.1 au Observed by WISPR
- ➤ The event was observed by multiple white-light imagers on 2021 January 20–22.
- > CME becomes distorted at ~0.1 au \rightarrow differences in the background solar wind speeds.
- > The CME deformation seems to cause a time-of-arrival error of 16 hr at ~ 0.5 au.
- ➤ The deformation is evident only in WISPR observations → Such deformations may help explain the time-of-arrival errors in events where only coronagraph observations are available (8-10h)

Challenges in Forecasting the Evolution of a Distorted CME

- > The event was observed by multiple white-light imagers on 2022 March 25.
- > Distortion of the CME in both latitude (thanks to SoloHI) and longitude.
- Strongly deformed CME; the GCS cannot fit the entire CME shape.
- ➢ Partial fit and fine-tuning with SoloHI → DBM → WSA-Enlil
 → 4 h error at 3 different S/C (BepiC at 0.5AU, STA and WIND at 1 AU with >30° LN diff)



[Braga et al., 2022]



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[Liberatore et al., 2024]


CME/CME interaction – SOHO and STEREO coronagraphs



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CME/CME interaction – PSP and SolO heliospheric imagers



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CME/CME interaction – CME deflection

[CME3 interact with CME2]



We have CME-CME interaction in their very early phase (1-2 R_{\odot})

Post-CME current sheet deflection ($\sim 6^{\circ}$) and "bouncing effect" on CME3

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Non-radial propagation of CMEs



Source Region (LN, LT)	CME1	CME2	CME3	CME4
Observed Carrington	(229, 20)	(205, 27)	(209, 14)	(233, 16)
GCS Carrington	(226, 11)	(205, 28)	(206, 1)	(233, -11)



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CME propagation

- > What determines the evolution of the CMEs in corona and interplanetary space?
- The role of PSP and SolO in studying the CME evolution (taking into account distortions, deflections, rotations, CME-CME interactions, ...)
- ➢ How can we improve the ETA forecasting? [To date: ~8-10h error -average-] [e.g., Colaninno et al. 2013; Riley et al. 2018]
- ➤ WISPR and SoloHI as fine-tuning tool for GCS parameters and CME evolution models?
- ➢ 3D reconstruction with SolO and PSP?
- > More viewpoints \rightarrow more distortions \rightarrow we need more GCS for a single strongly distorted event?

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About high temporal resolution

➤ Are we missing something because of a too low temporal resolution?



A. Bemporad (work in progress)

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LASCO-C2 vs Metis (2022-03-22)



2022-03-22T00:00:07.604

LASCO-C2 vs Metis (2022-03-22)



2022-03-22T03:55:41.321

- > Several activities in regions correlated with the CME eruptions: flares, filaments, etc...
- ➤ It is logical to assume that the effects of violent processes will not remain confined in the in active region area:
 - → EIT/EUV Waves (first obs. in 1997)



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Open question: What is the nature of EUV waves & Interrelation with CMEs



- > Several activities in regions correlated with the CME eruptions: flares, filaments, etc...
- It is logical to assume that the effects of violent processes will not remain confined in the in active region area:
 > EIT/EUV Waves (first obs. in 1997)

Open question: What is the nature of EUV waves & Interrelation with CMEs

Main interpretations [Wang 2000; Wills-Davey et al., 2007; ...]:

• Pseudo-waves — "[...] EUV waves are the disk projection of the CME's expanding envelope and not a true wave phenomenon."

$$Slow/Fast MHD wave \longrightarrow v_{f,s}^2 = \frac{1}{2} \left(v_A^2 + c_s^2 \pm \sqrt{(v_A^2 + c_s^2)^2 - 4c_s^2 v_A^2 \cos^2 \theta} \right) \text{ where } v_A^2 = B^2 / (4\pi\rho)$$

 \rightarrow Hybrid \longrightarrow A combination of both pseudo-waves and MHD wave.

Can be interpreted as a phenomenon that starts as a **driven wave** at the flanks of the CME (due to a rapid lateral expansion of the associated CME) **and** then propagates as a **fast-mode MHD wave** (once the CME lateral expansion ceases).

Patsourakos & Vourlidas (2009); Kienreich et al. (2009)

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/Iain i	interpretations [Wang	g 2000; Wills-Davey et al., 2007;]:	
	Pseudo-waves	> "[] EUV waves are the disk projection of the CME's expanding envelope and not a true wave phe	momenon."
	Slow Last <u>Living</u>	<i>Rev. Solar Phys.</i> on Coronal Waves (Warmuth, 2015) still debates on the ure of these perturbations going back and forth between the different scenarios.	$(4\pi\rho)$
	physical flat	are of these perturbations going such and forth between the anterent sechartos.	
	Hybrid \longrightarrow A	combination of both pseudo-waves and MHD wave.	

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Interrelation between CMEs and EUV waves

First Solar Orbiter close perihelion (March 2022)



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Interrelation between CMEs and EUV waves \rightarrow EUV wave observation



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Interrelation between CMEs and EUV waves \rightarrow EUV wave observation



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Interrelation between CMEs and EUV waves \rightarrow EUV wave observation



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About high temporal resolution

➤ Are we missing something because of a too low temporal resolution?



Metis VL RD regular cadence (5min)

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"New present" & Future

> Additional viewpoints

at different LN, LT, inside 1AU (SolO, PSP) new S/C (PROBA-3? CODEX?)

High temporal & spatial resolution (SolO, PSP)

➢ High speed (PSP)

\succ "Observing the Sun in 4π "

- leaving the ecliptic plane (SolO)
- additional viewpoints (Vigil)
- spacecraft constellations (PUNCH)

- ...

Remote measure of CME magnetic fields?



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CORHI Explorer

Investigating Heliospheric Events Through Multiple Observation Angles and Heliocentric Distances



[G. Cappello et all. (work in progress)]

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Polarization in the solar corona

K-corona \rightarrow Thomson scattering \rightarrow *linear* polarization \rightarrow <u>Stokes formalism</u>

Ι

Polarization tangent to the solar limb

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CSHKP two-ribbon flare model



Figure 1 Basic elements of the CSHKP two-ribbon flare model in two (a) and three (b) dimensions. Open field lines (A) are separated by a current sheet (CS). They reconnect at a magnetic X-point (X) to create closed field lines (C) and a plasmoid (P). The energy released by reconnection creates chromospheric flare ribbons (R) on either side of the PIL, just inside the separatrix (S). In the three-dimensional version (b) reconnection occurs at several sites (X) to create closed field lines (C) and a twisted flux rope (FR) instead of the plasmoid.

[Longcope et al., 2007]

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Different stages of CME evolution

Based on "the standard CME-flare model" and "the standard magnetic cloud model"

- CMEs are driven by the free magnetic energy stored in the nonpotential magnetic fields.
- The erupted structure is twisted, where the most common magnetic structure employed in modeling is a flux rope (i.e., a cylindrical plasma structure with a magnetic field draped around the central axis).
- The eruption of the twisted magnetic structure is interrelated with the magnetic reconnection of the surrounding coronal magnetic field, releasing both thermal and non-thermal energy and producing a number of effects.
- The magnetic dips of the flux rope can support cool plasma, in which case also an eruptive filament can be observed.
- ➢ In "the standard magnetic cloud model" the erupting flux rope propagates away from the Sun, expanding at the same time, but stays attached to the Sun, i.e., remains a closed structure.



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Lower atmospheric signatures

Filament eruptions



- Hα filament disappears (erupts)
- Two-ribbon flare structure forms after the disappearance

[Adapted from Lucie Green UCL presentation, 2017]



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- Magnetic reconnection
- Reconfiguration of coronal field \Rightarrow liberates stored B energy

Flare loops



etc...

CME Analysis Tools

- > CMEs are highly dynamic events. To analyze them, we need their time-series \rightarrow movies.
- Most common analysis tasks:
 - Height-time plots (HT-plots) \rightarrow velocity, acceleration
 - Size & position measurements
 - Mass/energetics → mass, density, kinetic/potential energy (pre-event image is subtracted, sum over appropriate features, ...)
- > Analysis software available in SolarSoft & SunPy.



➢ Graduated Cylindrical Shell model (GCS), Drag Based Model (DBM), MHD model (e.g., WSA-Enlil).

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CME Analysis Tools

GCS [Thernisien 2011]

Geometry: conical legs and a pseudo-circular front (that expands in a self-similar way)







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Interrelation between CMEs and EUV waves

\rightarrow Solar Orbiter and STEREO-A synergy



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Interrelation between CMEs and EUV waves \rightarrow STA/EUVI-195 & SolO/FSI-174 ...and analysis





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EUV waves vs Hα vs CME occurence (Warmuth et al., 2001)

-Frequency of occurrence-

Solar Max

EUV waves: 100/year

Type II: consistent

<u>Hα waves:</u>

- Smith and Harvey (1971):
 15 Moreton waves in 8 years (1960 1967)
 Considering ground-based solar observation → 7/year
- Warmuth et al., 2004a: ~ 3-4/year (1997 2001)
- Warmuth (2010): 4/year (1997 2006)
- Zhang et al. (2011): ~ 7/year (1997 2006)

Moreton waves occur at a rate of only $\approx 5\%$ the rate of than coronal EUV waves



CME: ~180 per year in solar minimum up to ~1500 in solar max (Yashiro et al., 2004) \approx 6-7% occurrence (?)

Highly detailed observations From EUI to Metis



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UV channel (HI Ly,: 121.6 nm)

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Helioprojective Latitude (Solar-Y)

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Metis polarimeter Müller matrix



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Metis UV detector



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UV Micro-channel plate





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alessandro.liberatore@inaf.it

Metis FoV

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Zoom effect in the field of view due to the orbit eccentricity.

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EUI-HRI

Table 2. Optical design parameters of the HRI_{EUV} and HRI_{Lya} channels.

	HRI _{EUV}	HRI _{Lya}
Focal length	4187 mm	5804 mm
Entrance pupil	47.4 mm	30 mm
Field of view	$1000 \operatorname{arcsec}^2$	$1000 \operatorname{arcsec}^2$
Plate scale	$50 \operatorname{arcsec} \mathrm{mm}^{-1}$	$31.5 \operatorname{arcsec} \mathrm{mm}^{-1}$
Detector	2048×2048 , 10μ m pixels	2048×2048 , 14.1 μ m virtual pixel size
Primary mirror (M1)	66 mm (54 mm useful) 80 mm off-axis	$42 \text{ mm} \bigcirc (38 \text{ mm useful}), 80 \text{ mm off-axis}$
	RC = 1518.067 mm CC = -1	RC = 1143 mm CC = -1
Secondary mirror (M2)	$25 \text{ mm} \oslash (12 \text{ mm useful}), 11.44 \text{ mm off-axis}$	20 mm Ø (18 mm useful), 7 mm off-axis
	RC = 256.774 mm CC = -2.04	RC = 91 mm CC = -0.65



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[Rochus et al., 2020]

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	Table 3 WISPR instrument characteristics			00/30		
WISPR				Telescope Type	Wide-angle lenses, aperture stop placed in front of lens: Inner: $f = 28$ mm, aperture = 42 mm ² , 490–740 nm (bandpass) Outer: $f = 19.8$ mm, aperture = 51 mm ² , 475–725 nm (bandpass)	
				Plate Scale	1.2-1.7 arcmin/pixel (inner-outer)	
				FOV	95° radial \times 58° transverse, inner field limit 13.5° from Sun center	
				Image Quality	Predicted RMS spot including allowable tolerances at 20° from boresight. Inner: 19.5 microns (2.34 arcmin) Outer: 19.9 microns (3.38 arcmin)	
Table 1 Comparison of WISPR capabilities to other coronagraphs and imagers			Detector	APS, 10 micron pitch, 2048×1920 pixels		
Telescope	Heliocentric Distance (AU)	FOV (R _s , AU _{eq})	Spatial Resolution (arcsec AU _{eq})	Cadence (min)	Telescope 2	
WISPR	0.25	9.5–83	94	60	Telescope 1	
	0.1	4.0-41	26	7		
	0.044	2.2–20	17	0.05		
SoloHI	0.28	5.1–47	25	5		
LASCO/C2	1	2.2–6	24	24		
SECCHI/COR2	1	2.5–15	30	15		
SECCHI/HI1	1	15–90	108	40		
SECCHI/HI2	1	74–337	250	120	0.050 AU spacecraft to Sun 2-20-2024 Solar Probe Plus 1-26-2011 SECCHI images	
SMEI	1	74->337	1440	102		

PSP will be a unique mission designed to orbit as close as 7 million km (9.86 solar radii) from Sun center.

> WISPR employs a 95° radial by 58° transverse field of view to image the fine-scale structure of the solar corona.

[Vourlidas et al., 2016]



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SoloHI

Parameter	Value (M)easured (C)alculated	
SIM mass	15.18 kg (M)	
SPS mass	1.38 kg (M)	
Volume	$66.0 X_{\text{SIM}} \times 40.5 Z_{\text{SIM}} \times 29.1 Y_{\text{SIM}}$ (M)	
	(Door Closed) \times 50.8 Y_{SIM} (M) (Door	
	Open)	
Power	13.5 (w) (average)	
Telemetry	53.2 Gbits/Orbit	
FOV	$40^{\circ} \times 40^{\circ}$ square limited to 48° at the	
	detector corners	
Image	3968×3968 Pixels (M); Note: Left 10	
array	columns and bottom 10 rows of each die	
	are opaque	
Boresight	Nominal: 25° from Sun centre	
direction	Measured: 25° 7′26.3″	
Angular	5° – 45° from Sun centre	
range	$5.25 R_{\odot}$ -47.25 R_{\odot} at 0.28 AU	
Angular	36.7 arcsec (Full) 73.5 arcsec $(2 \times 2 \text{ bin})$;	
resolution	10.3 arcsec (Full) 20.6 arcsec $(2 \times 2 \text{ bin})$	
	equivalent at 0.28 AU	
Spectral	500–850 nm (M)	
bandpass		
Exposure	Nominal 30 s (C); Range 0.1–65 s (M)	
time per		
image		
Number of	Varies from 1-30 (C) depending on	
summed	observing program, heliocentric distance	
images		



[Howard et al., 2020]

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Outflows

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CME/CME interaction – PSP and SolO heliospheric imagers

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20° 10° 0 -10 -20° Encounter 17 2023-09-22 23:00 UT Speed 69.87 km/ -30° Distance: 53.71 Rs Carr Lon: 120.86° FOV Range at 0° Lat: [12.48, 97.67] Rs 15° 30° 45° 60° 75° 90 105° NASA Parker Solar Probe / WISPR; WISPR.NRL.NAVY.MIL HPLN NASA/NRL/JHUAPL

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New sunspot observed by SolO/PHI associated with CME2



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CME/CME interaction – CME deflection

[CME3 interact with CME2]



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Source regions observed by SolO/EUI (FSI-174)



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Challenges in Forecasting the Evolution of a Distorted CME





Jet Propulsion Laboratory California Institute of Technology

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