The solar chromosphere at millimetre and ultraviolet wavelengths

I. Radiation temperatures and a detailed comparison

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ABSTRACT

Solar observations with the Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA) provide us with direct measurements of the brightness temperature in the solar chromosphere. We study the temperature distributions obtained with ALMA Band 6 (in four sub-bands at 1.21, 1.22, 1.29, and 1.3 mm) for various areas at, and in the vicinity of, a sunspot, comprising quasi-quiet and active regions with different amounts of underlying magnetic fields. We compare these temperatures with those obtained at near- and far-ultraviolet (UV) wavelengths (and with the line-core intensities of the optically-thin far-UV spectra), co-observed with the Interface Region Imaging Spectrograph (IRIS) explorer. These include the emission peaks and cores of the Mg ii 279.6 nm and Mg ii 280.4 nm lines as well as the line cores of C iv 133.4 nm, O i 135.6 nm, and Si iv 20.4 nm, sampling the mid-to-high chromosphere and the low transition region. Splitting the ALMA sub-bands resulted in an slight increase of spatial resolution in individual temperature maps, thus, resolving smaller-scale structures compared to those produced with the standard averaging routines. We find that the radiation temperatures have different, though somewhat overlapping, distributions in different wavelengths and in the various magnetic regions. Comparison of the ALMA temperatures with those of the UV diagnostics should, however, be interpreted with great caution, the former is formed under the local thermodynamic equilibrium (LTE) conditions, the latter under non-LTE. The mean radiation temperature of the ALMA Band 6 is similar to that extracted from the IRIS C ii line in all areas with exception of the sunspot and pores where the C ii poses higher radiation temperatures. In all magnetic regions, the Mg ii lines associate with the lowest mean radiation temperatures in our sample. These will provide constraints for future numerical models.

Key words. Sun: chromosphere – Sun: transition region – Sun: radio radiation – Sun: UV radiation

1. Introduction

The highly structured chromosphere of the Sun exhibits high temperatures implying that this layer is heated. Various heating mechanisms have been proposed (e.g. Cram 1977; Kalkofen 2007; Carlsson et al. 2010). The magnetic field, in particular, is shown to play a crucial role in the dynamics and energetics of the chromosphere (and of the transition region), and thus affects its temperature distribution (e.g. Withbroe & Noyes 1977; Judge & Peter 1998; Rutten 2007; Hasan & van Ballegooijen 2008; de la Cruz Rodríguez et al. 2013a). Among different mechanisms, two magnetic processes have mainly been favoured in this context: magnetic reconnection (Joule heating; Parker 1988) and propagation of magneto-acoustic (or magneto-hydrodynamic; MHD) waves (mechanical heating; Osterbrock 1961; Rabin & Moore 1984). The latter have been shown to carry a large enough energy flux to, in principle, heat the chromosphere, but it remains unclear whether their dissipation contributes significantly to the local energy balance (e.g. De Pontieu et al. 2007, 2012; Khomenko et al. 2008; Morton & McLaughlin 2013; Gafeira et al. 2017; Jafarzadeh et al. 2017a,b; see Jess et al. 2015 and Khomenko & Collados 2015 for recent reviews).

Using numerical simulations, Carlsson & Stein (1995) showed that the rise of the gas temperature with height in the quiet-Sun chromosphere is different compared to the rise of the radiation temperature. The former changes very little, whereas the latter shows a chromospheric rise similar to the standard models, such as the FAL model atmospheres (Fontenla et al. 1993). Moreover, it has been shown that there is not always a one-to-one relationship between gas temperatures ($T_{\text{gas}}$) and radiation temperatures ($T_{\text{rad}}$) of UV channels (i.e. the source functions of the UV lines are not always coupled to the Planck function). For instance, Leenaarts et al. (2013a) shows that the source function of emission peaks of the Mg ii lines (forming in the mid-chromosphere) is partially decoupled from the local temperature, thus they only find a good $T_{\text{gas}} \sim T_{\text{rad}}$ correlation for larger intensities. For a far-UV spectral line (i.e. C ii 133.4 nm), Rathore et al. (2015a) found a $T_{\text{gas}} = 2T_{\text{rad}}$ relationship (from radiation MHD simulations).

The radiation temperature at UV wavelengths can be determined by the so-called radiometry of the emergent intensity, where calibrated data numbers are converted to intensity, and hence to radiation temperature by solving the Planck function.

Despite the UV observations of the solar chromosphere in the past decades (e.g. Burton et al. 1967; de Wijn et al. 2005; Rutten & Uitenbroek 2012), substantial progress has been made recently thanks to near and far UV observations at high spectral and high spatial resolution with the Interface Region Imaging Spectrograph (IRIS; De Pontieu et al. 2014) explorer. Thus,
the radiation temperature in the solar chromosphere can be approximated to a higher accuracy by, for example, resolving relatively small-scale structures, which improves the derived chromospheric temperature distributions.

Observations at millimetre wavelengths are complementary to the UV diagnostics in the sense that the source function varies linearly with temperature. With the millimetre wavelengths being in the Rayleigh–Jeans limit, the temperature can be simply measured under the assumption of local thermodynamic equilibrium (LTE), in contrast to UV diagnostics for which deviations from LTE cannot be neglected and thus significantly complicate the computation and interpretation of such measurements. Although a non-thermal contribution to the millimetre radiation can lead to an overestimation of the temperature in the chromosphere (Shklovskii & Kononovich 1958), its contribution is negligible apart from during flares.

Measuring the brightness temperature at millimetre and sub-millimetre wavelengths has a long history (e.g. Kundu 1965, 1982; White & Kundu 1992, and references therein). However, older studies have been limited to a very low spatial resolution, mainly due to the fact that they were based on single-dish measurements (see discussion in White et al. 2017). Yet, interferometric observations at millimetre and sub-millimetre wavelengths have been challenging in the past, mainly due to effects from the Earth’s atmosphere for observations from low-altitude sites (White et al. 2006; Loukitcheva et al. 2006). Only recently, the Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA; Wootten & Thompson 2009; Hills et al. 2010) provides a leap forward for this type of chromospheric diagnostics (Wedemeyer et al. 2016a,b).

For an optically thick line, the radiation temperature gives information on the source function around optical depth unity. In LTE, this translates directly to the gas temperature while in non-LTE the source function is typically more or less decoupled and typically lower than the Planck function. For an optically thin line, the radiation temperature is not a meaningful quantity since the intensity is given by an integral of the emissivity along the line of sight and is not given by the source function.

Agreements between the gas temperature deduced from the brightness temperature of the UV and millimetre observations in the solar chromosphere have been previously reported using low resolution observations and model atmospheres (Curry 1971; Vernazza et al. 1981). Such agreements, to some degree, have been also provided for the millimetre and UV observations with ALMA and IRIS by Bastian et al. (2017, 2018), who compared the brightness temperature of the ALMA’s band 6 at 1.25 mm and the radiation temperature of the average of the emission peaks of the IRIS Mg h.h.

The present work provides distributions of the radiation temperature at various chromospheric heights sampled by the ALMA 1.3 mm passband and the IRIS observations at near- and far-UV wavelengths (Sects. 2 and 3). The comparison between the different distributions are performed for various solar regions with different amounts of underlying magnetic fields. In addition, intensities of the optically thin lines in the IRIS far-UV range have been compared with those of the millimetre observations. The concluding remarks of our study are addressed in Sect. 4.

2. Observations

This study is primarily based on observations of the solar active region AR 12470 by ALMA on 18 December 2015. These have been complimented by co-observations of the same target with the IRIS explorer and with the Solar Dynamic Observatory (SDO; Pesnell et al. 2012). All images from IRIS and SDO are precisely co-aligned with that from ALMA (i.e. the IRIS and SDO images are first re-scaled to the ALMA images, then they are transformed (spatially shifted and/or rotated) based on cross-correlation of common features). The images from the different instruments are analysed with their original spatial resolution (but they are all re-sampled to match the ALMA’s image scale) when distributions of radiation temperature are determined (see Sect. 3.1). The exception is when the one-to-one comparison between radiation temperatures (and intensities) of ALMA and IRIS is performed (see Sect. 3.2). In the latter case, the IRIS raster images are convolved with the point spread function (PSF) of the ALMA map.

2.1. Observations with ALMA

A mosaic image with 149 points, covering an area of (≈140 × 140) arcsec² on the Sun (with a sampling resolution of ≈0.15 arcsec pixel⁻¹), was obtained in ALMA band 6 (centred at 239 GHz; 1.25 mm) on 18 December 2015 between 19:39:25–20:02:34 UT (in the 6th solar commissioning science verification campaign). The mosaic observations were performed with a pointing separation of 1.2 arcsec (corresponding to Nyquist sampling) and an integration time of 6,048 s for each point. The field of view (FOV) includes the leading sunspot of the active region AR 12470 surrounded by plages and quasi-quiet¹ areas, close to the solar disc-center (with cosine of heliocentric angle ≈0.97).

The data was taken using a heterogeneous array configuration consisting of twenty-one 12 m and nine 7 m antennas. Four spectral windows (sub bands), with a bandwidth of 2 GHz each, were recorded. Each spectral window (SW) includes 128 channels (with time domain mode (TDM) as the spectral setup). In addition, full-disc total power maps were simultaneously obtained through single dish observations (i.e. with the total power (TP)-array in fast-scanning mode). The TP maps are used to derive absolute brightness temperatures for the interferometric data (Shimojo et al. 2017; White et al. 2017). We have optimised the standard reduction pipeline by tuning various parameters, also separating the sub-bands and the spectral channels (instead of a spectral integration, which is done by default in the standard pipeline). The first version of this Solar ALMA Pipeline (SoAP) will be described in a forthcoming publication Szydlarski et al., in prep.

Extraction of the four different spectral windows (i.e. with ALMA identity numbers 5, 7, 9, and 11) included standard CASA calibrations, imaging, and feathering steps (see Shimojo et al. 2017 for details). Thus, brightness temperature maps of the four sub bands (i.e. SW3, SW2, SW1, and SW0), corresponding to wavelengths 1.209, 1.219, 1.292, and 1.303 mm, respectively, were obtained. These correspond to frequencies 248, 246, 232, and 230 GHz, respectively. Figure 1 illustrates the four sub bands. Small differences between the sampling wavelengths (hence, close heights of formation) resulted in a very similar appearances of the images. However, they represent slightly different heights of formation, thus, averaging these sub-bands (as has been commonly done), results in losing the height information and can lead to spatial smearing (i.e. reduced spatial resolution). The circles in the four panels of Fig. 1 serve to guide the eye to a few examples where structures have different appearances in the different sub bands. We note that the

¹ The somewhat quiet area within the immediate vicinity of the active region, in the photosphere. Thus, it is largely influenced by the magnetic canopy at the chromospheric heights and beyond.
Fig. 2. Distributions of brightness temperature of the entire field-of-view of the ALMA sub-band images shown in Fig. 1. The histograms are normalized to their maximum occurrence frequency. The shaded areas mark the 5% measurements' uncertainty.

beam size, which represents the spatial resolution, slightly varies between the four sub-bands, by about 7% from Sw0 to Sw3 (while the first- and last-two sub bands have much smaller differences in beam size). The structures marked with the circles in Fig. 1 are in the order of, or larger than, the beam sizes (indicated with the red ellipses in the lower-left corner of each panel in Fig. 1). We therefore argue that the different appearances of the small-scale structures are mostly due to the slightly different formation heights for the sub bands although the small differences in the spatial resolution of the four sub-bands may contribute to some extent for features with sizes close to the beam sizes.

Distributions of brightness temperature of the four sub-bands of ALMA band 6 (for the entire FOV) are shown in Fig. 2. The shaded areas around the histograms indicate the approximate 5% uncertainty in measurements of the brightness temperatures. A detailed discussion on the error of the temperature measurements by ALMA and of the calibrations (and to what degree the initial 5% estimation is realistic) are subject of a forthcoming paper. The small differences of the histograms lie within the measurement error of the brightness temperature by ALMA, thus no detailed comparison of the sub bands is provided. However, it is clear that separating the sub bands (along with other improvements in the data reduction procedures) has resulted in resolving finer structures, compared to the same data reported earlier in the literature (e.g. Bastian et al. 2017; Shimojo et al. 2017; Loukitcheva et al. 2017). Resolving small-scale structures can improve the temperature distributions (otherwise spatial smearing influences the distributions; Wedemeyer et al. 2004). We note that although the 5% uncertainty in measuring the brightness temperatures could also play a role in the different appearances of the small-scale structures, the spatial coherence of the features in various parts of the FOV implies that the differences are caused by real differences in the structures at the height ranges mapped by the sub-bands.

Among the four sub-bands, we use, in the following, the brightness temperature at 1.3 mm which supposedly corresponds to the highest sampled layer in the solar atmosphere. The ALMA 1.3 mm image is shown in the top-left panel of Fig. 3, cropped to the same FOV of the IRIS images.

2.2. IRIS observations

The ALMA observations were supported by the IRIS spacecraft in the “very large dense 320-step raster” mode with 2 s exposure.
Fig. 3. Radiation temperature maps of the ALMA 1.3 mm (panel a) and of a few IRIS line features at UV wavelengths: line core of C ii 133.4 nm (panel c); blue emission peak, line core, and red emission peak of Mg ii k 279.6 nm (panels d–f) and of Mg ii h 280.4 nm (panels g–i). For comparison, line-core intensity of the IRIS Si iv 139.4 nm is illustrated in panel c. Blue pixels are regions where the corresponding line features could not be determined.
time per step. This comprises an FOV of (105 × 175) arcsec$^2$
(with the sampling resolution of 0.33 arcsec pixel$^{-1}$ along the
slit and the step size of 0.35 arcsec, overlapping a large frac-
tion of the solar region observed by ALMA. Three full IRIS
scans were recorded between 19:33:14–20:24:20 UT, of which,
the first two are the closest in time to the ALMA observa-
tions (with the second one having the longest time overlap with
ALMA).

We note that the IRIS raster images were spatially and spec-
trally binned by two pixels (on board the satellite), resulting in a
higher signal-to-noise ratio (S/N). The IRIS spectrograph covers
a wide wavelength range in the UV, which particularly includes the
C$\alpha$ 133.4 nm doublet, O$\alpha$ 135.6 nm, the Si IV doublet
(at 139.4 nm and 140.3 nm), Mg II k 279.6 nm, and Mg II h 280.4 nm.
Among which, the magnesium lines are typically formed under
optically thick conditions (Leenaarts et al. 2013a), the O$\alpha$ and
Si IV lines are typically optically thin (Lin & Carlsson 2015), and
the C$\alpha$ line is generally thick but also with optically-thin condi-
tions in some solar structures (Rathore et al. 2015a,b).

Numerical simulations of quiet Sun suggest that the Mg II h
and k lines are excellent chromospheric diagnostics in the
near UV, providing information at various heights in the
chromosphere (Pereira et al. 2013). For comparison, we study
both magnesium doublet lines in the present work, although
their formation is very similar (with the k line forming a bit
higher in the chromosphere due to a larger oscillator
strength, by a factor of two, compared to the h line). We refer
the reader to Leenaarts et al. (2013a,b), Pereira et al. (2013),
and Pereira et al. (2015) for details on the formation of IRIS
diagnostics.

Here, we aim at determining radiation temperatures (and
intensities) of a few line-features of the IRIS spectra where
each represents a particular formation height range in the solar
chromosphere (and the low transition region). The line features,
mainly the blue and red emission peaks and core of the mag-
esium k line (i.e. Mg II k2v, Mg II k2r, and Mg II k3, respec-
tively) and of the magnesium h line (i.e. Mg II h2v, Mg II h2r,
and Mg II h3) as well as the line cores of O I 135.6 nm, C$\alpha$
133.4 nm and Si IV 139.4 nm, are computed with the MOSiC analysis tool
(Rezaei 2017). In short, after correcting the spectra for the orbital
velocity of the satellite, among others, the various line features
are determined at each pixel using a Gaussian fit, for which the
degree of freedom gradually increases. It begins with a single
Gaussian fit, then a higher level of multiple Gaussian (with a
larger number of free parameters), if the previous one fails. Each
fit provides an initial guess for the next one. The goodness
of the fits at each step is evaluated by means of reduced chi-square
statistics (Bevington & Robinson 1992). Only pixels with clear
single and double peaked profiles are included in further analysis
(i.e. complicated profiles are excluded). For the magnesium and
carbon lines, the spectra have, in some places, only one emis-
sion peak (e.g. in the umbra), whereas in other areas they have
two emission peaks with a central reversal. In the former case,
the emission peak represents the line core, in the latter, the cen-
tral reversal (i.e. k3 and h3 features). We note that no h2v, h2r,
k2v, or h2r are identified in singly peaked profiles.

The IRIS raster images were spatially co-aligned with the
ALMA scan by cross correlating the Mg II k2v and
ALMA 1.3 mm images. In addition, we verified the alignments
by means of a cross correlation of common features between the
SDO/HMI continuum (which was separately co-aligned with
ALMA) and the IRIS Mg II raster image at 283.2 nm (see Fig.
5b for the latter scan; also Sect. 2.4 for the co-alignment of ALMA
and SDO images).

2.3. Observing-time difference

Although the observing times of the entire FOV by ALMA and
IRIS overlap, the two instruments scanned the FOV in different
ways. (ALMA did a mosaic of small FOVs with a zigzag-like
path, whereas IRIS’ slit scanned the entire FOV from east
to west). The sampling time of each pixel was extracted for
both ALMA and IRIS maps, thus, their observing-time differ-
cence could be determined.

The scanning patterns of the ALMA image as well as the first
two scans of IRIS are illustrated in Figs. 4a–c, respectively. The
observing times (in minutes) from the UT midnight are colour
coded. We note that the IRIS images were rotated with respect
to the ALMA, as a result of the spatial alignment. The center of
the original FOV of the ALMA was sampled first (but also later
during the observations), before the zigzag pattern started from
the lower left corner.

Figures 4d and e show the observing-time difference maps
between the ALMA and the first and second scans of IRIS,
respectively, where the IRIS’ observing time (corresponding to
the middle of each exposure at each pixel) is subtracted from
that of the ALMA. The colours represent the observing-time
differences. These figures reveal a relatively large time differ-
ence between sampling of a large fraction of the FOV by the
two instruments. The highly dynamic Sun, particularly the solar
chromosphere (of which most of the observations studied here
are represented), varies in time-scales much shorter than 10 min.
Hence, the time differences must be taken into account when
one-to-one comparison between the two observations is per-
formed. Luckily, it turned out that the two IRIS scans have
sampled two different regions of the FOV closest in time with
ALMA. Thus, a larger area with relatively small observing-time
differences can be reconstructed when the two IRIS scans are
combined accordingly. Such combined regions for various areas
where the maximum time difference is 5 min (white area), 2 min
(blue hatched area), and 0.5 min (red hatched area) are depicted
in Fig. 4f.

2.4. SDO images

Images from SDO/AIA (Lemen et al. 2012) and SDO/HMI
(Schou et al. 2012), corresponding to the ALMA scan, were also
collected. The SDO–ALMA alignments were performed for the
SDO images recorded close to the middle of the ALMA obser-
vations. We use a combination of the AIA 170 nm and 30.4 nm
images to perform a precise spatial alignment with the ALMA
scan. The combination of the two AIA channels (which sam-
ple the low chromosphere and the transition region, respectively)
results in a similar scene to that observed with the ALMA’s band
6, hence, facilitates the cross correlation of common features in
the alignment procedure.

We also use the results of the Milne–Eddington Stokes
inversion of the HMI data with the VFISV code (Borrero et al.
2011) to obtain the photospheric magnetic field strength. This
is used for partitioning the entire FOV into areas with differ-
ent amounts of (photospheric) magnetic fields, underlying their
chromospheric (and transition region) counterparts sampled with
ALMA and IRIS.

2.5. Definition of regions

The kinematics and brightness of different types of region in the
solar photosphere have been shown to be dependent on the mag-
netic flux (Jafarzadeh et al. 2017c; Borrero et al. 2017), which is
likely true for the chromospheric temperature, too. The conventional approach to study such dependency is to partition the FOV into regions with distinct amounts of magnetic fields. We define different regions based on the level of magnetic field strength, $B$, deduced from inversions of full Stokes SDO/HMI observations (of the magnetically sensitive line Fe \textsc{i} 617.3 nm). A $B$-map, corresponding to the middle of the observing time window of the ALMA scan, is shown in Fig. 5a, ranging between 0.02 and 3.6 kG. Five areas are chosen: $B \geq 2$ kG comprising only the umbra, $B \geq 0.8$ kG including the whole sunspot and the small pores, $2$ kG $> B \geq 0.8$ kG that is similar to the previous region except the umbra and thus comprises the penumbra and pores, $0.8$ kG $> B \geq 0.2$ kG defining the plage areas, and $B < 0.1$ kG to represent the quasi-quiet regions. Although the “umbra” and “penumbra and pores” are the two distinct (strong) magnetic regions of interest, for comparison with the less active areas, we have also included the “sunspot and pores” which includes the two former regions together. Also, we will show the radiation temperature distributions for the entire FOV, comprising all magnetic areas.

Figures 5d–f show the sunspot and pore, plage, and quasi-quiet-Sun masks, respectively. The umbral region is marked by a contour on all maps in Fig. 5. For reference, two intensity images sampling the continuum and a height close to the temperature minimum or low chromosphere are also presented in Fig. 5b and 5c, respectively. The sunspot and small pores are clearly visible in panel b, whereas the plage and quasi-quiet regions are better seen in panel c.
3. Analysis and results

We study radiation temperatures throughout the solar chromosphere from observations at millimetre wavelengths with ALMA and in the UV with IRIS. The calibrated ALMA data product as output of the pipeline (both, the official ALMA pipeline and SoAP) is the brightness temperature (with an uncertainty in the order of 5%). Thus, it directly enters our analysis with no further processing.

We calculate the near- and far-UV radiation temperature \( T_{\text{rad}} \) in the solar chromosphere at a given wavelength \( \lambda \) by solving the Planck function as

\[
T_{\text{rad}} = \frac{h c}{k \lambda} \ln \left( \frac{(2 h c^2/\lambda^5) / I + 1} {I} \right),
\]

where \( h \), \( c \), and \( k \) are the Planck’s constant, the speed of light in vacuum, and the Boltzmann’s constant, respectively. \( I \) is the intensity, converted from the IRIS data numbers \( (I_{\text{DN}}; \text{in the spectral units}) \):

\[
I = \frac{I_{\text{DN}} \, C_f \, (h c / \lambda)} {A_{\text{eff}} \, \text{Pix}_y \, \text{Pix}_x \, t_{\text{exp}} \, W_{\text{slit}}},
\]

where \( C_f \) is the number of photons per data number, \( A_{\text{eff}} \) is the effective area, \( \text{Pix}_y \) and \( \text{Pix}_x \) are respectively the sizes of the spatial and spectral pixels, \( t_{\text{exp}} \) is the exposure time, and \( W_{\text{slit}} \) is the slit width. These parameters were obtained using the latest version (version 4) of the IRIS radiometric calibration-routine (with an uncertainty of about 15%). We note that, however, the radiation temperatures are estimated with an uncertainty of 2% (due to the exponential of the Planck function).

The resulting radiation temperature maps for the particular line-parameters, computed using the MOSiC tool.
Fig. 6. Distributions of radiation temperature of ALMA 1.3 mm (filled grey) and of various features of the IRIS Mg ii line at 279.6 nm (see the legend to the figure in the upper right panel). The histograms are plotted for the entire field-of-view and for the various isolated regions with different levels of magnetic fields (see main text).

3.1. Radiation temperature distributions

Distributions of the radiation temperature measured at 1.3 mm by ALMA and at the multiple line features of the UV spectra by IRIS are plotted in Figs. 6 and 7. In each figure, the ALMA’s radiation temperature is compared with those from the UV channels, measured at all pixels corresponding to the entire FOV and the five different solar regions (sunspot and pores, umbra, penumbra and pores, plage, and quasi-quiet area). For simplicity and better comparison, the distributions of the Mg ii line features and of the Mg ii line features along with the C ii line core are separately compared with those from ALMA in the two figures (i.e. Figs. 6 and 7), respectively. Please note that we aim here to present a statistical (not one-to-one) comparison of the radiation temperatures in similar magnetic regions. Hence, the IRIS radiation temperatures correspond to those computed from the second scan of the IRIS raster with its original spatial resolution. This means that there can be a substantial time difference between the observations in part of the FOV. The one-to-one comparison of the radiation temperatures are provided in Sect. 3.2 between the ALMA map and the IRIS images degraded to that of the ALMA, and only for pixels with small observing-time differences.

The ranges, means, and standard deviations of the radiation temperature distributions of the different lines, and for the various areas, are summarised in Table 1. The mean radiation temperatures of the millimetre and of the seven UV channels are also compared in Fig. 8 for the six different solar regions under study. The error bars in Fig. 8 represent the standard deviations of the $T_{\text{rad}}$ histograms. For clarity, the two Mg ii lines are marked with two coloured stripes. We note that no statistics are shown for the blue and red emission peaks of the Mg ii lines in the
The brightness temperature at 1.3 mm varies between 4.6–8.1 kK in the entire FOV with an average and standard variation of 6.6 kK and 0.5 kK, respectively. Its mean value is the smallest in the umbra (5.6 ± 0.4 kK; where the uncertainty is the standard deviation of the distribution), and is the largest in the plage region (7.0 ± 0.4 kK). In comparison with the UV radiation temperatures, the ALMA distribution has the best overlap with that from the C ii in all regions except in the umbra where the far-UV line poses higher $T_{rad}$ compared to that from the mm band. However, we note that the radiation temperature distributions of ALMA 1.3 mm are always wider (by a factor of about two larger standard deviations; the exception is in the umbra, since almost no double emission peaks were identified there.

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plage area) than those of C\textsc{n}. This may suggest that the ALMA 1.3 mm sub-band includes contributions from a wider range of chromospheric heights than the C\textsc{n} line.

The emission peaks and line cores of the two magnesium lines pose the smallest (similar) mean radiation temperatures in our study, the line cores have slightly lower \( T_{\text{rad}} \) compared to the emission peaks. This is in agreement with an IRIS diagnostic study (from a numerical simulations with the Bifrost code) where the source function was found to be typically decoupled from the Plank function at the Mg\textsc{n} line cores (Leenaarts et al. 2013a). Among all the distinct areas under study, the Mg\textsc{n} lines have the largest mean \( T_{\text{rad}} \) in the plage region and the smallest in the umbra (i.e. a similar behaviour to those of the ALMA 1.3 mm). The \( T_{\text{rad}} \) distributions of the Mg\textsc{n} lines have small overlaps with that of the ALMA Band 6.

We remind the reader that the \( T_{\text{rad}} \) of the Mg\textsc{n} lines (and of the C\textsc{n} line) is not equal to their actual gas temperature (Leenaarts et al. 2013a; Rathore et al. 2015a), thus the comparison of their \( T_{\text{rad}} \) with ALMA should be done with great caution (ALMA’s \( T_{\text{rad}} \) is a good representative of the gas temperature at the heights sampled by the mm line; the non-LTE formation of the UV lines versus the LTE formation of the ALMA Band 6). Furthermore, different heights of formation of the various spectral lines can play a role in the differences observed between the \( T_{\text{rad}} \) distributions. When comparing the histograms presented in this section, one should also keep in mind that there can be a substantial time differences between observations at UV and mm wavelengths in part of the FOV.

### 3.2. Relationships between ALMA and IRIS

Next, we compare the brightness temperature of the ALMA 1.3 mm with those computed from the IRIS UV channels by means of scatter plots. To this end, we plot pixel-to-pixel relationships of the radiation temperature of the seven UV channels discussed in the previous section, as well as the line-core intensities of the IRIS Si\textsc{iv} and O\textsc{i}, versus the ALMA Band 6 brightness temperature. Prior to the comparison, the IRIS images are (1) convolved with the PSF of the ALMA map (i.e. equivalent to a 2/2 x 0/7 Gaussian kernel), and (2) re-sampled to the same pixel size as in the ALMA map. Hence, all maps for the comparison have the same spatial resolution (i.e. the spatial resolution of the ALMA Band 6 image). More importantly, we only include pixels, from either of the first two IRIS scans, which have a maximum observing-time difference of two minutes with their corresponding pixels in the ALMA map (i.e. areas marked with blue hatched in Fig. 4f; see Sect. 2.3 about the time differences). Although this selection limits us to only 28\% of the entire FOV, the one-to-one comparison is free from temperature changes happening on time scales longer than 2 min. We note that large temperature variations of, for instance, up to \( \approx 1 \) K, occurring within 2–3 min, have been observed in the upper chromosphere of sunspots (de la Cruz Rodríguez et al. 2013b; Henriques et al. 2017; Joshi & de la Cruz Rodríguez 2018). Thus, a large time-difference (e.g. larger than 2 min) between an observed pixel in the two images can significantly bias the one-to-one comparison. Furthermore, we also investigate the relationships for pixels with a more conservative time difference of maximum 0.5 min between sampling of the UV diagnostics and of the millimetre channel (i.e. areas marked with red hashed in Fig. 4f; about 8\% of the entire FOV).

Figures 9–14 show these relationships for the six different regions introduced in Sect. 2.5 (for which, their temperature distributions were discussed in Sect. 3.1). The colour of the scatter points represents the density number of the scatter plots (from red and yellow to green and dark-blue...
indicating the highest concentrations to the lowest). We note that no scatter plots are shown for the blue and red emission peaks of the magnesium lines in the umbra (Fig. 11), since the double emission peaks were only identified in a few pixels there.

In order to test for a potential linear relationship between the radiation temperature (or intensity) values of the UV diagnostics and that of the ALMA, the Pearson correlation coefficient $r$ is calculated for each pair. The coefficient $r$ varies between ±1, where $r = +1$ represents a perfect linear correlation and $r = -1$ a perfect linear anti-correlation. Furthermore, the linear regression coefficient of the linear fit $m$, which measures the steepness of a linear relationship, is calculated. However, in several cases, the relationships between radiation temperatures of the pair lines appear to be non-linear. Hence, we also calculate the Spearman’s rank correlation coefficient $\rho$, which better models non-linear relationships and is not sensitive to outliers. The values of $m$, $r$, and $\rho$ are printed in all scatter plots in Figs. 9–14. The dashed lines in all $T_{\text{rad}} - T_{\text{rad}}$ plots indicate the $y = x$ line. It is evident that even with a relatively large correlation coefficients (and/or large slopes), there is a large offset between the scatter clouds and the $y = x$ line, suggesting a disagreement between each of the two distributions under comparison. The only exception is when the temperatures of the IRIS C $\text{II}$ line and ALMA 1.3 mm are compared, despite their non-linear relationships. However, it is important to note that the disagreements are between the radiation temperatures. It has been shown that the actual gas temperatures measured by the Mg $\text{II}$ and C $\text{III}$ diagnostics are in fact higher than their $T_{\text{rad}}$, resulting in an offset between their linear trend of $T_{\text{gas}} - T_{\text{rad}}$ scatter points and the $y = x$ line (the source and Planck functions are, to some extent, decoupled in those cases; Leenaarts et al. 2013a; Rathore et al. 2015a).

We note that if the time difference had not been considered, different correlation coefficients and/or slopes would be found.

The majority of the $T_{\text{rad}} - T_{\text{rad}}$ scatter plots (for all solar regions, except the umbra) show a moderate-to-good positive correlation.

**Fig. 9.** Scatter plots of radiation temperatures derived from various near and far ultraviolet line-features from IRIS versus those obviated with ALMA at 1.3 mm. The plots represent the pixel-to-pixel relationships for the pixel where their sampling time difference are equal to or smaller than two minutes, corresponding to the blue hatched area in Fig. 4. The colours represent density of the scatter points (with the highest density number being coloured red and the lowest density dark blue). At each plot, the regression slope of the linear fit ($m$), the Pearson correlation coefficient ($r$), and the Spearman’s rank correlation coefficient ($\rho$) are also indicated.
Fig. 10. Same as Fig. 9, but limited to pixels included in the sunspot and the small pores.

By inspecting the 3D radiation MHD simulations from the Bifrost code (Gudiksen et al. 2011; Carlsson et al. 2016), we found a similar behaviour in the solar chromosphere (in quiet and enhanced network regions). The larger height difference between two distinct layers in the model chromosphere resulted in a wider scatter in their pixel-to-pixel relationships of gas temperatures (while the positive correlations always maintained).

We note that we cannot completely rule out non-linear relationships between the radiation temperatures (or intensities) derived from the various UV bands (particularly, from the far-UV channels) and that from ALMA band 6 in individual pixels. However, linear relationships in an average sense are seen across all the plots as well as the offsets between their linear trends and the $y = x$ line could still partly be due to the sampling time-differences remained in the above analyses (i.e. the maximum 2 min time differences between observations of the UV and mm
diagnostics). To investigate the effect of rapid solar evolution in time scales shorter than 2 min, we also repeated the analyses with a maximum time difference of 0.5 min. However, this limits the number of data points, which in turn may introduce some uncertainties in determining the correlations. The correlation coefficients \( r \) as well as slopes of the scatter plots \( m \) for pixels with a maximum time difference of 0.5 min have somewhat small differences compared to those with larger time lags of up to 2 min. Figure 15 visualizes the comparison of \( r \) (red) and \( m \) (blue) parameters between the two analyses, where the filled circles correspond to the \( \Delta t = 2 \) min comparison (i.e. those shown in Figs. 9–14) and the open rectangles represents those for \( \Delta t = 0.5 \) min. It is evident that reducing the observing time differences has resulted in a larger Pearson correlation coefficients in most cases, but smaller slopes. The smaller time difference has, however, insignificant effect on the offsets between the linear trends and the \( y = x \) line in the scatter plots. The offsets, as previously noted, are likely due to the non-LTE formation of the UV diagnostics, thus their \( T_{rad} \neq T_{gas} \), and/or differences in their heights of formation. We note that the distributions of the radiation temperature are generally similar in both cases of \( \Delta t = 2 \) and 0.5 min, but the scatter points are less spread in the latter case. This, additionally, stresses the importance of accounting for time differences for one-to-one comparisons.

3.3. Agreements between temperature distributions

To investigate how the distributions of the radiation temperatures, compared in the scatter plots in Sect. 3.2 (i.e. from the similar spatial-resolution data; sampled within two minutes in time), are compared, we also employ the Kolmogorov–Smirnov (K–S) test. In this statistical approach, the maximum differences \( d \) between cumulative distribution functions (CDFs) serve as a goodness of fit between a pair of distributions. The \( d \) parameter varies between 0 and 1, the former indicates the best match and the latter means no agreement at all.

Figure 16 illustrates the CDFs of \( T_{rad} \) distributions shown in Fig. 9, for the ALMA (black solid line), C \( \text{ii} \) (dot-dashed line) and for the blue and red emission peaks (blue and red, respectively) and line core (dark green) of the Mg \( \text{ii} \) (dashed lines) and of the Mg \( \text{h} \) (double-dotted-dashed lines). The \( d \) values, as a result of the K–S test, are printed in the figure. It is evident that only \( T_{rad} \) distribution of the C \( \text{ii} \) line has, to some extent, agreement with that of the ALMA 1.3 mm. However, we note that although the radiation temperatures may be different between Mg \( \text{ii} \) and ALMA 1.3 mm maps (i.e. the offsets between their CDFs), their distributions are reasonably correlated when the one-to-one comparison was performed (see the correlation coefficients in Figs. 9–14; also the comparison in Fig. 15). The offsets between their radiation temperatures can be due to the non-LTE formation of the Mg \( \text{ii} \) lines (i.e. the source function is somewhat decoupled from the Planck function), resulting in different (lower) radiation temperatures compared to their actual gas temperatures (whereas the ALMA brightness temperatures represent, to a large extent, the actual gas temperatures). Hence, we cannot rule out (nor confirm) possible agreements between the actual temperature distributions that would be obtained from observations of the Mg \( \text{ii} \) diagnostics and of the ALMA Band 6 (particularly, because there are good correlations between their \( T_{rad} \) distributions).

A better agreement between the \( T_{rad} \) distributions of the ALMA and C \( \text{ii} \) line core has been obtained. In addition, we have found relatively good correlations between their one-to-one comparison (see Fig. 15). However, a \( T_{gas} = 2T_{rad} \) relationship was found by Rathore et al. (2015a) from a numerical simulation. Thus, the degree of agreements and/or correlations between the actual gas temperatures of the C \( \text{ii} \) line-core and of the ALMA 1.3 mm remains unclear.

For simplicity, we only showed here the K–S test for pixels from all magnetic fields regions together. A very similar result
was obtained for the individual regions of interests studied in Sect. 3.2. The only difference was the shifts in temperatures while the K–S test resulted in similar parameters as shown in Fig. 16.

4. Summary and conclusions

Our prime emphasis in this paper has been to present the distributions of radiation temperature in the solar chromosphere inferred from observations at millimetre and ultraviolet wavelengths with ALMA and IRIS. In particular, we have shown the radiation temperature distributions in various solar regions with different levels of underlying magnetic fields.

It was revealed that spectral splitting of the ALMA observations in a particular Band (here, in Band 6) results in a slightly higher spatial resolution. Otherwise, the standard spectral averaging smears out small-scale structures, which as a result, biases, to some extent, the temperature distributions.

The ALMA Band 6 represents a mean brightness temperature of $5.6 \pm 0.4$ kK in the umbra (with the largest amount of magnetic fields compared to the other solar regions under study). That is $6.5 \pm 0.4$ kK in the quasi-quiet regions in the immediate vicinity of the sunspot. The ALMA’s band 6 poses its highest brightness temperature in plage areas (with a mean value of $7.0 \pm 0.4$ kK).

We found that in all solar regions the IRIS magnesium lines represent the lowest mean radiation temperature in the order of 4.2–5.7 kK within the lines under study, with the magnesium line-cores the lowest.

The brightness temperature measured with the ALMA observations at band 6 (i.e. at 1.3 mm) is, on average, compatible with that retrieved from the line core of the C ii, with an exception in the umbra, where the latter is, on average, hotter by 1 kK. This may suggest a very different formation heights between the non-LTE C ii line and the LTE ALMA band in the umbra, compared to the other regions under study.

The lower mean radiation temperatures of all the UV and millimetre bands in the umbra compared to other regions under study may in part be caused by Wilson depression (Bray & Loughhead 1964) causing lower formation heights, due to the larger magnetic fields (hence, larger spectral-line weakening; lower density and/or opacity). Also, it has been shown that the sunspot atmospheres are simply cooler compared to the other regions because of reduced local heating in there...
In plage areas, we found the highest radiation temperatures in all spectral channels. In particular, these radiation temperatures are considerably larger than the quasi-quiet areas for the magnesium lines and the ALMA 1.3 mm. The excess brightness of the magnesium lines in plage can be associated with the enhanced emission peaks at the presence of magnetic field which results in an elevated formation height compared to the average quiet-Sun (similar to the discussion on Ca II H line by Jafarzadeh et al. 2017b). We further examined the pixel-to-pixel relationships between radiation temperatures of the various UV bands (as well as intensities of two optically-thin lines) from IRIS and the brightness temperature of the millimetre band from ALMA. Only pixels with a maximum observing-time difference of 2 and 0.5 min between the two observations were included in two similar analyses. We found a good overall (direct) correlations between most of the UV channels and the millimetre band in various solar regions. This suggests that the spatial variation of the UV radiation temperatures (in a particular region of interest under study) is similar to that of the ALMA 1.3 mm. The relationships between the far-UV channels and the ALMA 1.3 mm were found to be non-linear. Despite the (good) degree of correlations between the radiation temperatures of the ALMA Band 6 and the UV diagnostics, there is always an offset between the $T_{rad}$ trend of the scatter points and the $y = x$ line (the exception is when the C II line-core is compared to ALMA; see below). The offsets are likely due to the non-LTE formation of the UV channels, which in turn, causes the source function to be different from the Planck function. Hence, the radiation temperatures do not represent the gas temperatures (whereas in the case of ALMA Band 6, the radiation temperature is representative of the gas temperature). In addition, the sampling time differences between the ALMA and IRIS scans (although it was, somewhat, taken into account) as well as (possibly) the different heights of formation of the various spectral channels, could contribute, to some degree, in the offsets, depending on the spectral line. In particular, different formation heights should be kept in mind when the distributions of radiation temperature of the IRIS C II and ALMA 1.3 mm are compared (in addition to the non-LTE effect of the C II line), even if there is only a small offset between the linear trends and the $y = x$ line in their scatter plots.

Bastian et al. (2017) also compared the radiation temperatures from ALMA to those from a combination of the average of the
h2v and h2r emission peaks with the singly peaked spectra (of the Mg II line). In the present work, we studied the associations separately for each emission peaks and the line core. Also, the singly peaked spectra were interpreted as line core intensities in the present work. The linear correlation coefficients reported by Bastian et al. (2017, 2018) for three different regions of umbra, plage and quiet regions are, respectively, higher by a factor of 8.5, 1.04, and 1.03 compared to those found here. We note that the two studies have used different line parameters, slightly different FOV, different conventional approach to define the magnetic regions, and consideration of the sampling time when pixels in the two maps are compared. The consideration of the time differences is particularly essential in the umbra where solar scene changes in time scales shorter than 2 minutes occur (e.g. umbral flashes). How these differences could result in different correlations is, however, unclear. The very small correlation coefficients we found in the umbra could partly be due to a large uncertainty introduced by the very few data points entering the analysis (because of the consideration of small time differences).

To summarize, we have provided radiation temperatures in various magnetic regions in the solar chromosphere. Relatively good correlations were found between the $T_{\text{rad}}$ of various UV diagnostics from IRIS and that of the millimetre band from ALMA. The only exception is in the umbra where fewer data points entered the analysis. In addition, we expect a larger variation in temperature with height in the umbra (due to, e.g. sunspot waves). The comparison suggested that the ALMA Band 6 and the various IRIS diagnostics provide information about the heating events in likely different chromospheric heights; ALMA represents the actual gas temperature, the UV channels the radiation temperatures (which are, to some extent, lower than the gas temperatures).

Inspection of similar solar regions from the synthetic UV and millimetre bands studied here, as well as their characteristic analysis, could clarify the relationships between radiation and gas temperatures of the different spectral channels and between their heights of formation. Future work will aim at such investigations.

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Fig. 15. Comparison of Pearson correlation coefficients $r$ (red; left $y$-axis) as well as regression slopes of linear fits $m$ (blue; right $y$-axis) in different solar regions between radiation temperatures of various UV pixels and their corresponding ALMA 1.3 mm. The filled circles and open rectangles indicate the parameters for two sets of pixels with maximum observing time differences of 2 and 0.5 min, respectively.

Fig. 16. Cumulative distribution functions of radiation temperature of pixels with maximum sampling time difference of two minutes between the ALMA (solid line) and UV diagnostics (see the legend). The Kolmogorov–Smirnov statistics ($d$) has been provided for distribution comparison of each UV channel with ALMA.

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