DOT Tomography of the Solar Atmosphere

VII. Chromospheric Response to Acoustic Events

R.J. Rutten\textsuperscript{1,2} · B. van Veelen\textsuperscript{1} · P. Sütterlin\textsuperscript{1}

Received: 10 October 2007 / Accepted: 29 December 2008

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Abstract We use synchronous movies from the Dutch Open Telescope sampling the G band, Ca\textsc{ii} H, and H\textalpha{} with five-wavelength profile sampling to study the response of the chromosphere to acoustic events in the underlying photosphere. We first compare the visibility of the chromosphere in Ca\textsc{ii} H and H\textalpha{}, demonstrate that studying the chromosphere requires H\textalpha{} data, and summarize recent developments in understanding why this is so. We construct divergence and vorticity maps of the photospheric flow field from the G-band images and locate specific events through the appearance of bright Ca\textsc{ii} H grains. The reaction of the H\textalpha{} chromosphere is diagnosed in terms of brightness and Doppler shift. We show and discuss three particular cases in detail: a regular acoustic grain marking shock excitation by granular dynamics, a persistent flasher which probably marks magnetic-field concentration, and an exploding granule. All three appear to buffet overlying fibrils, most clearly in Dopplergrams. Although our diagnostic displays to dissect these phenomena are unprecedentedly comprehensive, adding even more information (photospheric Doppler tomography and magnetograms, chromospheric imaging and Doppler mapping in the ultraviolet) is warranted.

Keywords: Chromosphere, Granulation, Oscillations, Waves

1. Introduction

“Acoustic events” (or “seismic events”) is the term used by P. Goode and coworkers (Stebbins and Goode, 1987; Goode, Gough, and Kosovichev, 1992; Restaino, Stebbins, and Goode, 1993; Rimmele \textit{et al.}, 1995; Goode \textit{et al.}, 1998; Strous, Goode, and Rimmele, 2000) to describe localized small-scale happenings in the granulation that produce excessive amounts of upward-propagating acoustic waves in the upper photosphere, with the claim that these indicate the kinetic sources of the global $p$-modes, “the smoke from the fire exciting the solar..."
oscillations" (Goode, 1995). Their technique was to sample the Doppler modulation of a suitable spectral line at different profile heights through Fabry-Perot imaging with rapid wavelength shifting, and then isolate the surface locations with the largest oscillatory amplitude at five-minute periodicity and upward propagating phase. Their result was that this measure of “acoustic flux” tends to be maximum above intergranular lanes, in particular those in which a small granule has vanished in so-called granular collapse.

Acoustic excitation through granular dynamics was also addressed theoretically and through numerical hydrodynamics simulations by Rast (1995, 1999), Skartlien and Rast (2000) and Skartlien, Stein, and Nordlund (2000), confirming the picture of small vanishing granules, especially at mesogranular downdraft boundaries, acting as “collapsars” to excite upward-propagating waves, in particular at three-minute periodicity corresponding to the photospheric acoustic cut-off frequency.

In this paper we address the reaction of the overlying chromosphere to such events. Skartlien, Stein, and Nordlund (2000) suggested that they may also cause Ca II H and K cell grains, an enigma during many decades (see review by Rutten and Uitenbroek, 1991) that was eventually solved by Carlsson and Stein (1994, 1997) who identified them as marking upward-propagating acoustic shocks. The announcement by Goode (2002) that indeed acoustic events cause such acoustic grains in the chromosphere was followed up by Hoekzema, Rimmelle, and Rutten (2002) who found that, while extreme acoustic events do tend to correlate with the subsequent appearance of exceptionally bright Ca II K internetwork grains, this correspondence is far from a one-to-one correlation.

We now turn to Hα rather than H and K as diagnostic of the chromospheric response to acoustic events. It is important to note and to explain that Hα is a much better chromospheric diagnostic than the Ca II H and K lines are. This is not the case for simple Saha-Boltzmann LTE partitioning in which H and K have larger opacity than Hα throughout the atmosphere (see Figure 6 of Leenaarts et al., 2006 and the second student exercise at http://www.astro.uu.nl/~rutten/education/rjr-material/ssa), and it is also not the case in the standard NLTE statistical and hydrostatic equilibrium VAL modeling of Vernazza, Avrett, and Loeser (1973, 1976, 1981) in which the line center of Ca II K is formed higher than the line center of Hα (see the celebrated Figure 1 of Vernazza, Avrett, and Loeser, 1981). We use displays from older data here to argue that the real Sun does not conform.

Figure 1 compares Dutch Open Telescope (DOT) images using the two diagnostics. The upper image is taken in Ca II H and shows a mixture of mid- and upper-photospheric contributions (reversed granulation and acoustic grains) and chromospheric contributions (bright plage, network, and straws in hedge rows as described by Rutten, 2007). The lower panel shows the same area observed in Hα line center. Comparison of the two demonstrates unequivocally that in such filter imaging Hα presents a much more complete picture of the chromosphere. In our opinion, the chromosphere is best defined as the collective of ubiquitous fibrils seen in this line. Most of these are internetwork-spanning structures, which probably outline magnetic canopies. Only truly quiet internetwork areas (there are some in the lower part of the image) are not masked off by such canopy fibrils.
but show much shorter, highly dynamic loops and grainy brightness patterns that are not connected to network (see also Rouppe van der Voort et al., 2007). None of these structures is observed in the upper panel, except for the straws which correspond to bright Hα fibril endings.

What about the spectral passbands in this comparison? The Doppler cores of H and K are much narrower than for Hα, but H and K filter bandpasses are usually wider: FWHM 3 Å for Hinode, 1.4 Å for the DOT, 0.6 Å for the Lyot filter at the German VTT (e.g., Tritschler et al., 2007), 0.3 Å for the Lockheed-Martin filter at the former SVST (Brandt et al., 1992; Lites, Rutten, and Berger,
Figure 2. Various diagnostic measures of Ca II H plotted as space-time “timeslice” evolution plots, assembled by B.W. Lites from a spectral sequence taken by himself and W. Kalkofen in 1984 with the Dunn Solar Telescope at the National Solar Observatory/Sacramento Peak. The waves in the network part (bright strip at the center) were analyzed by Lites, Rutten, and Kalkofen (1993). The waves in the internetwork columns identified by numbers along the top were numerically simulated by Carlsson and Stein (1997). The spatial coordinate is measured along the slit of the spectrograph. The first three panels have logarithmic greyscales to reduce the large contrast between network and internetwork. Horizontal greyish “erasures” are due to lesser seeing. First panel: intensity integrated over a spectral band of 0.9 Å width centered on line center. Second panel: the same for 0.16 Å bandpass. Third panel: intensity of the core-profile minimum. Fourth panel: wavelength variation of the core-profile minimum. Fifth panel: Dopplergram ratio \((R - V)/(R + V)\) with \(R\) and \(V\) the intensities in 0.16 Å passbands at \(H_\lambda R\) and \(H_\lambda V\).
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internetwork, brightest at H\textsubscript{2}V, remain visible even in the line-core intensity in the third panel. The line-core shift in the fourth panel confirms the acoustic nature of these patterns. Thus, even at full spectral resolution the Ca\textsc{ii} H core in this internetwork sample is dominated by radial three-minute waves, without obliteration by overlying fibrils or fibril-aligned motions. The final panel showing the H\textsubscript{2R}—H\textsubscript{2}V Dopplergram ratio strengthens this conclusion. This measure comes closest to exhibiting chromospheric fibrilar structure in the form of oscillatory branches jutting out from the network with time, but regular three-minute oscillation patterns dominate further away in the internetwork.

The lower-left panel of Figure 21 of Krijger et al. (2001) demonstrated the close correspondence between Ca\textsc{ii} H line-center dynamics and underlying photospheric dynamics in the internetwork parts of these spectrograms in Fourier terms. In fact, it should be strange if the line-center formation layer would not fully partake in the shock dynamics in these data because substantial in-phase upper-atmosphere downdraft, above the next upcoming grain-causing acoustic shock, is required to give the H\textsubscript{2}V and K\textsubscript{2}V grains their characteristic spectral asymmetry as shown in the formation breakdown diagrams of Carlsson and Stein (1997). They actually obtained their best sequence reproduction for near-network column 110 in Figure 2, suggesting that even there the field was too weak to upset H\textsubscript{3} acoustic shock signatures.

Thus, these well-studied Ca\textsc{ii} H spectrograms contradict the presence of opaque chromospheric fibrils masking upper-photosphere (or “clapotispheric”) internetwork dynamics in H and K, whereas H\textalpha canopyst fibrils ubiquitously do so. The notion that the Ca\textsc{ii} core generally forms higher than the H\textalpha core, or that chromospheric structures should generally be more opaque in H and K than in H\textalpha, seems questionable. The observations suggest instead that the fibrils that constitute the H\textalpha chromosphere are either transparent in H and K or, when opaque, are either pummeled by shocks from below without hindrance (such as magnetic tension) or represent a featureless, very dark blanket located well above the clapotisphere.

In summary, we suspect that much of the K\textsubscript{3} internetwork dynamics is dominated by shock modulation at heights around 1000 km, well below the VAL3C K\textsubscript{3} formation height of 1800–2000 km and far below most H\textalpha canopy fibrils.

This large discrepancy with equilibrium modeling may become understandable with the recent simulation of Leenaarts et al. (2007) implementing non-instantaneous hydrogen ionization and recombination. Three aspects combine in such an explanation. Firstly, the simulated chromosphere is pervaded by shocks. Secondly, the large difference between hydrogen ionization/recombination balancing speed in hot shocks and in cool post-shock gas implies that instantaneous statistical equilibrium does not apply to the latter. Carlsson and Stein (2002) already explained why this is so. The large 10 eV excitation energy of its n = 2 level causes hydrogen to be ionized fast in shocks but to recombine slowly in the cool inter-shock phases so that the ionization degree remains high also in the latter. Thirdly, the population of H\textalpha’s lower n = 2 level is closely coupled to the ion population (through the Balmer continuum; see also Rutten and Carlsson, 1994) and therefore remains similarly high at low post-shock temperature. Thus, the large n = 2 excitation energy, being the very reason why H\textalpha has very small
cool-gas opacity in Boltzmann balancing, slows down the hydrogen recombination in post-shock cool gas so much that its Hα opacity exceeds the LTE value by many orders of magnitude. Therefore, fibrils can be opaque in Hα whether they are shock-hot or post-shock cool, and they even may be more opaque in Hα than in H and K at any temperature – in utter conflict with equilibrium modeling.

The chromospheric non-equilibrium balancing between Ca II (12 eV ionization energy) and Ca III is probably faster (no top-heavy term diagram) but has not yet been analyzed in similar detail; it is of interest to evaluate the opacity ratio between H and K and Hα in dynamic conditions. Another point of interest is that chromospheric fibrils seem to be more obvious in Ca II 8542 Å than in H3 and K3, possibly due to larger Doppler sensitivity (Cauzzi et al., 2007).

Thus, Hα is the key diagnostic of the internetwork chromosphere. Recent analyses of the chromosphere observed at high cadence in Hα line-center with the Swedish 1-m Solar Telescope (SST) have shed new light on chromospheric fibrils, showing that near network and plage “dynamic fibrils” tend to have repetitive mass loading at three–five-minute shock periodicity (De Pontieu et al., 2007) whereas the little loops in quiet-sun internetwork are even more dynamic, presumably due to stronger buffeting by shocks where the magnetic field is weak (Rouppe van der Voort et al., 2007).

In this paper we use image sequences from the Dutch Open Telescope (DOT) with lower cadence than Hα really requires (van Noort and Rouppe van der Voort, 2006), but with Hα profile sampling and synchronous co-spatial imaging in other wavelengths including Ca II H. They permit us to isolate specific events in the photosphere and inspect the chromospheric response in the apparent brightness of Ca II H and Hα, and particularly in Hα Doppler modulation. We do this here by presenting three exemplary cases: an acoustic grain, a persistent flasher, and an exploding granule.

2. Observations and Reduction

The image sequences used here were obtained with the Dutch Open Telescope (DOT) on La Palma on 14 October 2005 during 10:15:43–10:30:42 UT. The telescope, instrumentation, and data processing are described by Rutten et al. (2004).

Synchronous and co-spatial images were taken in blue and red continuum passbands, the G band around 4305 Å, Ca II H alternatingly at line center and at Δλ = −1 Å, and at five Hα wavelengths: line center, the Hα ± 350 mÅ inner-wing pair, and the Hα ± 700 mÅ outer-wing pair. The seeing had mean Fried parameter r0 = 7 cm for the G band, just about good enough that the standard DOT speckle reconstruction produced angular resolution close to the diffraction limit of the 45-cm aperture (0.2 arcsec in the blue). The field of view measured 79×60 arcsec² (56×43 Mm²), covering a very quiet area at disk center containing only few and sparse weak-network clusters of magnetic elements (bright points in the G band, bright grain clusters in Ca II H) as evidenced by the first two sample images in Figure 3. This area was sufficiently quiet that Hα shows only short, highly dynamic fibrils concentrated around the magnetic clusters.
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Figure 3. Simultaneous sample images. In row order: G band, Ca\textsc{ii} H line center, H\textalpha{} - 700 mA, H\textalpha{} line center, and HaDouter and H\textalpha{} ± 350 mA Dopplergrams with bright implying downdraft. The G-band image is Fourier filtered to pass only subsonic components. The H\textalpha{} images and Dopplergrams are filtered to pass only supersonic components. The white boxes specify the three subfields analyzed in Figures 4 – 6, from left to right respectively. The cutout boxes are larger for Ca\textsc{ii} H and H\textalpha{} to show more spatial context in the timeslices of Figures 4 – 6.

The image sequences had slightly irregular cadence and were interpolated to 30-image sequences at strict 30-second cadence. The G-band images were subsonically Fourier-filtered in \((k, \omega)\) space, passing only components with apparent motion below the sound speed of 7 km s\(^{-1}\) to remove the brightness modulation due to the \(p\)-mode oscillations since in this study granular dynamics is emphasized as pistoning agent. Horizontal flows were measured using the cross-correlation tracking algorithm of November (1986) and November and Simon (1988), using Gaussian FWHM widths of 1.5 arcsec and 330 seconds as boxcar averaging parameters. Differences between neighboring pixels were used to evaluate derivatives to determine the local horizontal divergence and vorticity in the flows.

The H\textalpha{} sequences were also cone-filtered in \((k, \omega)\) space but in this case reversely, only passing the supersonic components because here the oscillatory response of the chromosphere is of interest. Our intention was to remove sta-
ble fibrils in order to enhance the visibility of oscillatory modulations such as spreading rings, but in this very quiet area the fibrils are so dynamic that the differences between the filtered and unfiltered sequences are small. Finally, Hα Dopplergrams were constructed from the filtered Hα ± 700 mA and Hα ± 350 mA image pairs.

We used a live multi-panel on-screen display similar to Figures 4–6 to inspect the various diagnostics simultaneously and in mutual correspondence at large local magnification, varying both the location and time coordinates of the point of scrutiny within these image sequences. The three cases discussed below have been selected in this subjective manner as being the most informative – they are not “typical” but “best” examples. However, since the field of view and the sequence duration were small, they are nevertheless indicative of common occurrences on the solar surface. Automation of such a vision-based selection process for larger data sets is nontrivial.

Figure 3 shows that all three examples lie in pure internetwork without magnetic elements and with grainy rather than fibrilar Hα fine structure. They sample the thinnest and lowest sort of Hα chromosphere.

3. Acoustic Grains

Figure 4 shows the appearance of a regular Ca II H 2V “grain train.” The caption specifies the complex figure layout which also holds for Figures 5 and 6. The cutout image sequences (time increasing upward in compliance with the x−t timeslices at the bottom) are centered on the sudden appearance of a Ca II H grain (fourth row, fourth column). It re-appeared three and six minutes later, marking a regular H 2V shock sequence much like the triple grain occurrence at the top of column 30 in the first panel of Figure 2, shown also in Figures 9 and 10 of Krijger et al. (2001) and Fourier-analyzed there in detail, noting that such clear three-minute periodicity requires absence of large five-minutes modulation but spatial coincidence with the slower-evolving reversed-granulation background pattern. The latter was subsequently analyzed by Rutten, De Wijn, and Sütterlin (2004), Leenaarts and Wedemeyer-Böhm (2005), and Cheung, Schüssler, and Moreno-Insertis (2007). Such spatial coincidence is indeed seen to be the case in the Ca II H cutouts and timeslice in Figure 4. (Note that reversed granulation is not seen in Hα which has insufficient opacity in the middle photosphere.) These three grains undoubtedly mark acoustic shocks as the ones simulated by Carlsson and Stein (1997) including the column-30 ones of Figure 2 (their Figure 17, Plate 21).

Do these Ca II H grains mark an acoustic event? If so, one expects that a small granular feature disappeared about two minutes before the grain train onset. The corresponding area does show an intergranular space in the wake of a bright granule that split apart and disappeared five–two minutes earlier (G-band timeslice, not fully covered by the cutout sequence). Before the grain appeared there was weak divergence meeting weak convergence at the splitting-granule site, eventually followed by stronger convergence which bordered marked vorticity (dark blobs in the upper panels of the second and third columns) which
Figure 4. Acoustic $H_{\alpha}$ grain. The first seven rows are small image cutouts, in this case corresponding to the leftmost box in Figure 3. Each panel is spatially centered on the acoustic grain. The diagnostics are specified at the top; the last two columns are the $H_{\alpha} \pm 700$ mÅ and $H_{\alpha} \pm 350$ mÅ Dopplergrams. The cutouts are wider for the upper-atmosphere diagnostics (Ca ii H and $H_{\alpha}$) in order to show more context in their $x-t$ timeslices at the bottom. The latter show the brightness evolution along the horizontal cut through the center of the subfield defined by the white markers in each image cutout. The time step between the consecutive image rows is one minute, with time increasing upward to correspond with the time direction of the slices. The image cutout sequences span seven minutes centered on the first appearance of the grain (bright small Ca ii H blob in the fourth column and fourth row). In the second column bright and dark measure divergence and convergence, respectively. In the third column bright implies counter-clockwise rotation. In the Dopplergrams (last two columns) bright implies downdraft. The grey scaling is the same per column throughout Figures 4 – 6 to enable intercomparison. The timeslices have been temporally interpolated to 15-second cadence to gain display height.

earlier was located in the lane besides the splitting granule (third timeslice). Together, the photospheric diagnostics suggest that these grains mark acoustic excitation by a small whirlpool downdraft.

What happened in the overlying chromosphere? This subfield is located, as are the other two, in quiet internetwork without clear $H_{\alpha}$ fibrils. The $H_{\alpha}$ line-center column shows nothing special at the grain location. The top $H_{\alpha} - 700$ mÅ panel shows marked brightening there, followed within two minutes by yet stronger darkening (seen the timeslice, which extends longer). The same pattern appears in the $H_{\alpha} \pm 700$ mÅ Doppler timeslice so this dark-after-bright pattern is mostly Doppler modulation, shifting the line out and into the passband. Due to the curvature of the line profile such Doppler darkening tends to be stronger than counter-phase brightening, as is the case here. The same bright-dark pair is also recognizable in the $H_{\alpha} \pm 350$ mÅ timeslice, more clearly preceded by another, smaller bright-dark pair at the grain location, and with apparent connectivity to longer features towards the top of the timeslice (beyond the top cutout im-
ages), extending over four to five arcseconds. Comparison with the Hα ± 700 mÅ timeslice shows that these are weakly present there as well. Their extent might suggest wide wave spreading with height, but the Dopplergram cutouts do not show corresponding rings around the grain location. Either the spreading wave ran into a finely structured atmosphere, or made already-existing Hα fibrils shake over extended lengths through shock buffeting. If so, these fibrils are not very distinct in Hα line center (also not in the unfiltered images) and obtain their clearest mark of presence through Doppler modulation.

Note that the simultaneous appearance of the second Ca ii H grain and the marked Hα - 700 mÅ downdraft in the top row fits the scenario for spectrally asymmetric grain formation of Carlsson and Stein (1997). Comparison of the Ca ii H and Hα ± 350 mÅ timeslices confirms that all three Ca ii H grains indeed had concurrent chromospheric downdrafts.

4. Persistent Flasher

Figure 5 is again centered on the first appearance of a bright repetitive Ca ii H grain, but this one had continuous brightness underlying its repeated brightening and was accompanied by a small bright point in the G-band images and timeslice. This behavior suggests that it was a “persistent flasher” marking the presence of a small internetwork magnetic flux concentration (Brandt et al. 1992, 1994). These are more easily located in Ca ii H image sequences than as G-band bright points and tend to come and go in the form of intermittent “magnetic patches”.

**Figure 5.** Persistent Hβ flasher which likely marks a magnetic patch, in the format of Figure 4. The cutouts correspond to the uppermost box in Figure 3. The mid-moment sampled by the fourth-row panels corresponds to the sudden appearance of a persistent flasher in Ca ii H (fourth column).
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showing up as bright grains when squeezed together and vanishing when their
concentration becomes less dense as imposed by the granular flows advecting
their field (De Wijn et al., 2005). Neither the Ca II H flasher nor the G-band
bright point is seen in the bottom half of the timeslices, indicating that the
concentration was initially more spread-out. The second timeslice indeed shows
persistent convergence which is already evident from the squeezing together of
the large granules in the first timeslice. The largest convergence is in the neigh-
boring lanes, up to the bright-point appearance (lower cutouts in the second
column). Another speculation might be the incidence of fluxtube collapse, but
the convergence should then maximize at the bright-point site.

The chromosphere shows marked response in the Hα - 700 mÅ and Doppler
columns: a dark blob in the second row which again is seen to result from
an up-down dark-bright Doppler stroke in the timeslices, most clearly in the
Hα ± 350 mÅ Doppler slice in the last column (partially mimicked at lower con-
trast by the Hα line-center intensity in the fifth slice), but in this case preceded
by a brief bright downstroke. The size of the oscillatory blob is much larger than
the Ca II H grains, especially in the second row, again suggesting response by
extended fibrilar structures. The second row also indicates strong updraft above
the (very sharp) Ca II H grain, suggesting another mechanism than acoustic
H2V grain formation. Fibril loading from the granular squeezing seen in the
first timeslice, sending gas upward along the field concentration indicated by the
Ca II H flasher, may occur here following the scenario suggested by Babcock and
Babcock (1955).

5. Exploding Granule

Our third example in Figure 6 concerns an exploding granule to assess the sug-
gestion of Rast (1995) that such features may act as acoustic sources. The cutout
sequences are centered on the moment at which the marked divergence in the
second timeslice ends. The granule had already a large dark center and was about
to become three small granules with some shards in between. A minute later,
the Ca II H line became very bright at that location, and after two more minutes
very dark (top row). The same dark blob is seen along the top row in the Hα
wing columns, implying large updraft. The Hα ± 350 mÅ Doppler timeslice in the
last panel again shows much more spatially extended oscillatory behavior than
the other diagnostics, suggesting fibril buffeting. The Hα line-center intensity
timeslice again mimics the Doppler behavior partially. The exploding granule
seems to cause oscillation amplitude increase above it which modulates the Hα
core intensity.

6. Discussion

Each example shows large morphological difference between the low-photosphere
scene in the G-band, the high-photosphere scene in Ca II H, and the chromo-
spheric scene in Hα. The Hα cutouts do not contain internetwork-spanning
fibrils in this quiet region; each of the three events therefore shows chromospheric response that would otherwise have been blocked by overlying canopy fibrils. The responses are not very striking; in no case may one locate the photospheric happening uniquely from its subsequent Hα signature.

The Hα chromosphere sampled by the image cutouts comes close to our tentative description above of the Ca II H and K internetwork chromosphere as a featureless opaque blanket pummeled from below. They may indeed be about the same, as suggested by the Hα downdrafts in Figure 4 above grains requiring H3 downdraft for H2V profile asymmetry. The much smaller temperature sensitivity of the H and K opacity then indeed diminishes the H and K feature contrast. Thanks to being an excited and narrower line, Ca II 8542 combines larger temperature and Doppler sensitivity to such pummeling but at smaller blanket opacity.

Fibrilar structuring appears most clearly in the Hα Dopplergram timeslices. Our impression is that indeed this quiet Hα chromosphere is continuously pummeled by internetwork waves, gaining much dynamics from these in the quietest areas where the magnetic fields have low tension but yet enough to impose slight fibrillarity. We suspect that slanted internal gravity waves contribute significantly in this pummeling (see Lighthill 1967, pp. 440–443), and together with the primarily vertically growing acoustic shocks cause intricate and fast-changing interference patterns at granular to mesogranular scales. Only the fiercest events punch through to be individually recognizable directly above their sources.

Our three examples whet the appetite for even more comprehensive multi-diagnostic solar-atmosphere tomography. The complexity of the panel layout in
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Figures 4–6 already demonstrates that the dynamical coupling between photosphere and chromosphere can only be addressed holistically with diverse diagnostics. The complexity of the solar scenes shown in these panels and their large differences between diagnostics strengthen this conclusion. In fact, our data is yet incomplete: we lack the principal acoustic-event measure of “acoustic flux” in this analysis, requiring Fabry-Perot Doppler mapping of the photosphere at multiple heights. Sensitive photospheric magnetic field mapping and ultraviolet chromospheric image and Doppler diagnostics would also be welcome – preferably all at similar or better angular resolution, cadence, duration, and field size than used here.

In this paper we have limited the discussion to three hand-picked cases from an early set of tomographic DOT image sequences. The large DOT database collected in the meantime (openly available at http://dotdb.phys.uu.nl/DOT) now permits wider statistical study of such various types of events. Rapid-cadence Fabry-Perot imaging at the SST promises unprecedented Hα diagnostics. Space-mission co-pointing adds EUV diagnostics of the transition region. Pertinent numerical simulations including realistic formation of Hα are also coming into reach.

Acknowledgements The DOT is owned by Utrecht University and located at the Spanish Observatorio del Roque de los Muchachos of the Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias. We are deeply indebted to V. Gaizauskas concerning the DOT Hα filter. We thank M. Carlsson, Ø. Langangen, S.E.M. Keek, J.M.D. Kruijssen and A.G. de Wijn for inspiring debates. This research made much use of SST hospitality and of NASA’s Astrophysics Data System. R.J. Rutten thanks the Leids Kerkhoven-Bosscha Fonds and the organizers of the SOHO 19/GONG 2007 meeting for travel support.

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