

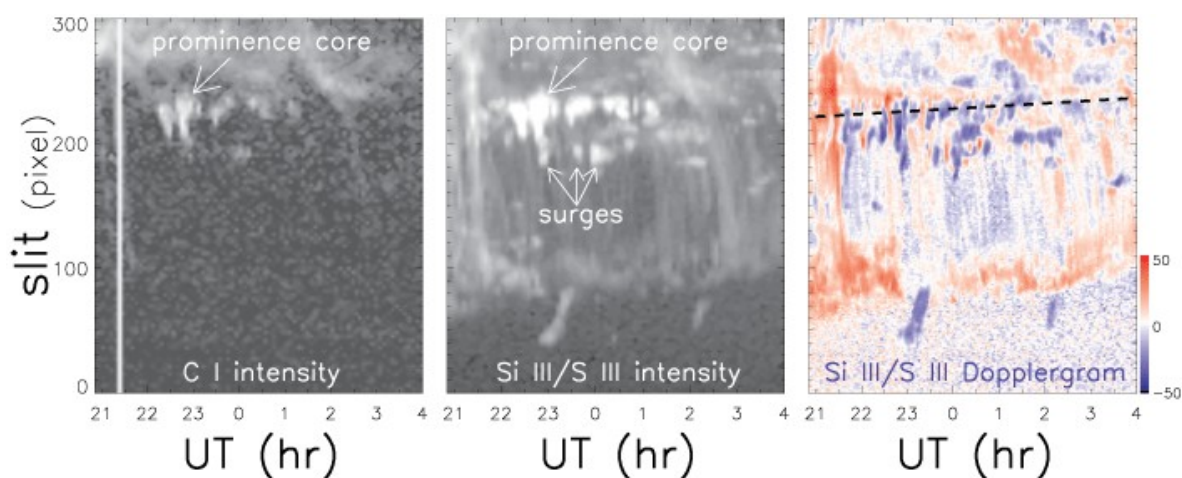
HIGHLIGHTS: this week in A&A

Volume 484-2 (June III 2008)

In section 9. The Sun

"SOHO/SUMER observations of prominence oscillation before eruption", by P. F. Chen, D. E. Innes, S. K. Solanki, *A&A* 484, p. 487

This paper presents a nice array of observations of siphon flow, surging, and filament oscillations leading to the eruption of the filament in a narrow CME. This is consistent with a picture where emerging magnetic flux drives the flow.



In section 13. Astronomical instrumentation

"The achromatic chessboard, a new concept of a phase shifter for nulling interferometry. I. Theory", by D. Rouan and D. Pelat, *A&A* 484, p. 581

Direct detection of the light from extrasolar planets in the glare of the very much brighter star that they orbit requires the ability to attenuate its light by very large factors. The authors present a novel concept for achieving this attenuation, based on a chess-board pattern of square phase-shifting mirrors. A 64x64 grid achieves an attenuation of 10^6 over a one-octave wavelength range, for a perfect component.

