The search for exoplanets in radio

Philippe Zarka

LESIA & USN, philippe.zarka@obspm.fr

Special thanks to Jake Turner & Jean-Mathias Grießmeier

Jupiter's auroral radio emissions



Frequency



[Zarka et al., 2004, 2012]

Jovian decameter emission as intense as solar emissions



Detectability



Detectability

| Radio emission | С | N (dipoles) | b (kHz) | τ |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|-----------|
| Jovian radio components | 10 ¹ -10 ² | 1 | 10 | 1 s |
| | | | 100 | 10 ms |
| SKR | $10^2 - 10^3$ | 1 | 100 | 1-10 s |
| UKR and NKR | 10 ⁴ -10 ⁵ | 1 | 200-500 | 10-60 min |
| | | 10 ¹ -10 ² | 100 | 10 s |
| SED | 10 ⁵ | 10 ² | 10 ⁴ | 300 ms |
| LIED | 10 ⁶ | 10 ³ | 104 | 300 ms |
| Radio-exoplanet | 10 ⁷ | 100-500 | $10^{3} - 10^{4}$ | 10-60 min |
| | | ~10 | 2×10^{4} | 1 day |



[[]Zarka et al., 2012]

Scaling law & Predictions



Potentially detectable signals with LOFAR, UTR-2, NenuFAR



[Grießmeier et al., 2011; Grießmeier, 2018]

Motivations

B, internal structure, exo-magnetospheric physics, SPI, habitability ...



[Hess & Zarka, 2011]

Intense observational efforts, no confirmed detection until recently



Beamformed observations with LOFAR







Phased array (beamformed) mode, core only 24 stations x 48 dipoles = 1152 antennas 15-74 MHz, IQUV multi-beam (1 ON, 2 OFFs), 2-3° apart high time-frequency resolutions \Rightarrow RFI mitigation

[Turner et al., 2017]

Beamformed observations with LOFAR : strongly disturbed at low frequencies



« Benchmarking » on Jupiter

[Turner et al., 2017]

A&A 624, A40 (2019) https://doi.org/10.1051/0004-6361/201832848 © J. D. Turner et al. 2019



The search for radio emission from exoplanets using LOFAR beam-formed observations: Jupiter as an exoplanet

Jake D. Turner^{1,2,3}, Jean-Mathias Grießmeier^{1,4}, Philippe Zarka^{4,5}, and Iaroslavna Vasylieva⁶

Jupiter observation with LOFAR & NDA





Jupiter observation & exoplanetary targets with LOFAR

| Parameter | Obs #1 | Obs #2 | Obs #3 | Obs #4 |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| LOFAR OBS ID | L568467 | L570725 | L569123 | L547645 |
| Date (UT) | February 11, 2017 | February 18, 2017 | February 26, 2017 | September 28, 2016 |
| Time (UT) | 02:30 05:30 | 01:12 04:12 | 01:16 04:16 | 23:00 04:00 |
| Target | Jupiter | Tau Boötis | Tau Boötis | Upsilon Andromedae |
| ON-beam RA (2000) | 13:27:49.42 | 13:47:15.74 | 13:47:15.74 | 01:36:47.84 |
| ON-beam Dec (2000) | -07:39:01.70 | +17:27:24.90 | +17:27:24.90 | +41:24:19.60 |
| OFF-beam 1 RA (2000) | 13:25:51.27 | 13:54:44.95 | 13:54:44.95 | 01:40:00 |
| OFF-beam 1 Dec (2000) | -09:35:11.94 | +16:49:29.20 | +16:49:29.20 | +38:00:00 |
| OFF-beam 2 RA (2000) | 13:35:55.97 | 13:58:10.366 | 13:58:10.366 | 01:30:00 |
| OFF-heam 2 Dec (2000) | -09:05:16.10 | +19:00:01.37 | +19:00:01.37 | +48:00:00 |



Transposition of the Jovian signal in Stokes I & V and in frequency

$$I_{\text{sim}} = I_{\text{S2}} + \alpha I_{\text{J2}},$$
$$= I_{\text{S2}} \left(1 - \alpha \frac{I_{\text{J1}}}{I_{\text{S1}}} \frac{S_{\text{S1}}}{S_{\text{S2}}} \right)$$

 $V_{\rm sim} = V_{\rm S2} \left(\frac{\alpha}{I_{\rm S1}} \right) \left(\frac{I_{\rm S2}}{I_{\rm S1}} \right) \left(\frac{S_{\rm S1}}{S_{\rm S2}} \right)$

$$\mu_{10} \sim \mu - 1.3\sigma_g$$
$$I_{\text{S1}} = \mu = \mu_{10} \left(1 - \frac{1.3}{\sqrt{n_{\text{pol}} \ b \ \tau_r}} \right)^{-1}$$

+ correction of the instrumental response in polarization





Detection of attenuated signal: slowly varying (minutes)

|V|, $\alpha = 10^{-4}$



 \rightarrow slowly varying emissions

Detection of attenuated signal: bursts (~1 sec)





Detection limit

| S _J (ref; Jy at 5 AU) | Distance (pc) | Stokes- $I \alpha_J$ | Stokes-V α_J |
|----------------------------------|---------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| $4 \times 10^{4(a)}$ | 5 | 1×10^{7} | 1×10^{6} |
| " | 10 | 4×10^{7} | 4×10^{6} |
| " | 20 | 2×10^{8} | 2×10^{7} |
| $4 \times 10^{5(b)}$ | 5 | 1×10^{6} | 1×10^{5} |
| " | 10 | 4×10^{6} | 4×10^{5} |
| " | 20 | 2×10^{7} | 2×10^{6} |
| $6 \times 10^{6(c)}$ | 5 | 6×10^{4} | 6×10^{3} |
| " | 10 | 3×10^{5} | 3×10^{4} |
| " | 20 | 1×10^{6} | 1×10^{5} |

Table 5. Detection limit of LOFAR LBA beam-formed observations found by observing "Jupiter as an exoplanet".

Notes. All calculations were done with Eq. (21) where the scaling factor $\alpha = 10^{-3.5}$ for Stokes-*I* and $\alpha = 10^{-4.5}$ for Stokes-*V* and *S*_J(obs) = 3 × 10⁴ Jy (Sect. 3.1, Fig. 2). ^(a)The level of Jupiter's burst emission exceeded in ≥50% of Jupiter bursts (Zarka et al. 2004, Fig. 7). ^(b)The mean level of Jupiter's burst emission exceeded in ~1% of Jupiter bursts. ^(c)Maximum peak of Jupiter's S-burst emission (Queinnec & Zarka 2001).

\rightarrow 10⁴ to 10⁵ x Jupiter's bursts detectable at 5-20 pc range

Test on LOFAR survey data



Observations of 55 Cnc, υ And, τ Boo

[Turner et al., 2017]

A&A 645, A59 (2021) https://doi.org/10.1051/0004-6361/201937201 © ESO 2021



The search for radio emission from the exoplanetary systems 55 Cancri, v Andromedae, and τ Boötis using LOFAR beam-formed observations

Jake D. Turner^{1,2}, Philippe Zarka^{3,4}, Jean-Mathias Grießmeier^{3,5}, Joseph Lazio⁶, Baptiste Cecconi^{3,4}, J. Emilio Enriquez^{7,8}, Julien N. Girard^{9,10}, Ray Jayawardhana¹, Laurent Lamy⁴,

Jonathan D. Nichols¹¹, and Imke de Pater¹²

| | units | 55 Cnc b | 55 Cnc e | v And b | τ Boo b |
|--------------------------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| * type | | $G8V^a$ | $G8V^a$ | F9V | F7V |
| d | [pc] | 12.5^{b} | 12.5^{b} | 13.5 ^b | 15.6 ^b |
| t _* | [Gyr] | 10.2 ± 2.2^{a} | 10.2 ± 2.2^{a} | 3.8 ± 1^{b} | 1.0 ± 0.6^{b} |
| а | [AU] | 0.114 ^a | 0.0156 ^a | 0.057 ^c | 0.0462 ^c |
| $M_{\rm p}$ | $[M_{\rm J}]$ | 0.81 ^a | 0.024^{a} | $\geq 0.68^{\circ}$ | $\geq 3.87^{\circ}$ |
| $R_{\rm p}$ | $[R_{\rm J}]$ | unknown | 0.194 ^a | unknown | unknown |
| V _{max} ^{NR} | [MHz] | 20^d | 30^d | 14^{d} | 74 ^d |
| Φ_{max}^{NR} | [mJy] | 2.9^{d} | 150 ^d | 75^d | 170 ^d |
| v_{max}^R | [MHz] | 3.3 ^d | 19 ^d | 2.2^{d} | 15 ^d |
| Φ_{max}^R | [mJy] | 5.3 ^d | 170^{d} | 140^{d} | 290^{d} |

Observations of 55 Cnc, υ And, τ Boo

[Turner et al., 2017]

Choice of 3 targets from scaling law predictions

Distance ~12-15 pc

Coverage of orbital phase with 20-45 hours / target





Table 3: Parameters for the post-processing pipeline.

| Parameter | Value | Units |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------|
| Frequency ranges | 26-74, 26-50, 50-74 ^a | MHz |
| | 15-62, 15-38, 38-62 ^b | MHz |
| Q1 Time bins (δT) | 2 | minutes |
| Q1 Frequency Bins (δF) | 0.5 | MHz |
| Q2-Q4 rebin times ($\delta \tau$) | 1, 10 | sec |
| Mask threshold | 90 | % |
| Smoothing window | | |
| for high-pass filtering | 10 | $\delta \tau$ |
| Threshold (η) range | 1 - 6 | σ |

^a Frequency ranges for the 55 Cnc observations.

^b Frequency ranges for the v And and τ Boo observations.

Possible detection of bursts from τ Boo (session #1)



Reality and origin of the radio signal ?

Stokes V, LHC « Objective » detection no simultaneous Jupiter emission A few tens bursts ~1 sec (not at 10 sec) 15-21 MHz , S≥890 mJy Confidence level 3.2σ ON & OFF curves ≠ with 98% probability (K-S test)

No large flare from τ Boo A B = 1.7-3.9 G (ZDI) Flares from τ Boo B M-dwarf ? Requires strong coronal B field Scaling law

 $\begin{array}{ll} \mbox{If τ Boo b, $B_{surface} = 5.4-7.5$ G} \\ \mbox{P} = S \ \Omega d^2 \ \Delta f \ \sim 10^{15} \ W \qquad \Rightarrow \ \sim 10^5 \ x \ Jupiter \\ \mbox{S} = k \ T_B \ \omega \ / \ \lambda^2 \qquad \qquad \Rightarrow \ T_B \ \sim \ 10^{18} \ K \ for \ a \ 1 \ R_J \ \varnothing \ source \\ \mbox{ = κ Jupiter for a 10-100 km \varnothing source } \end{array}$



Slowly variable emission of τ Boo ? (session #6)



 \Rightarrow likely spurious but unexplained origin

Marginal detection of bursts from v And



υ And : marginal detection ~2σ55 Cnc : no detection of bursts

In parallel : LOFAR imaging survey results



Ongoing ...



NenuFAR, 10-85 MHz

Massive observations \Rightarrow orbital / rotational radio period ?

Perspective



SKA (Low), 50-350 MHz, 2027-30?

Even before the discovery of the first exoplanet in 1995, radio observations inspired by the intensity of Jupiter's radio emissions had begun. They proved to be extremely difficult, but also motivated the development of ever larger antenna arrays. The theory rather predicts emissions at low radio frequencies and of very low intensity. But the predictions are subject to large uncertainties on both intensity and emitted frequencies, and there was no guarantee that these radio emissions could be detected before the advent of SKA. In recent months, several papers have suggested that the tip of the radio detection iceberg is now emerging above the galactic background. If these detections are confirmed, they will open up a new and promising field of study: comparative exo-magnetospheric physics, i.e. the physics of star-planet plasma interactions. In this field, we know only 6 planetary magnetospheres in the solar system, all quite different from each other. The detection of tens or hundreds of analogs will be a revolution comparable to the one that the discovery of exoplanets' orbital parameters has brought to solar system formation models. I will make a brief review of the theoretical bases of this research, an inventory of the observations with emphasis on recent detections, and I will give some perspectives.