

# Directly comparing coronal and solar wind elemental fractionation

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## ABSTRACT

**Context.** As the solar wind propagates through the heliosphere, dynamical processes irreversibly erase the signatures of the near-Sun heating and acceleration processes. The elemental fractionation of the solar wind should not change during transit, however, making it an ideal tracer of these processes.

**Aims.** We aim to verify directly if the solar wind elemental fractionation is reflective of the coronal source region fractionation, both within and across different solar wind source regions.

**Methods.** A backmapping scheme was used to predict where solar wind measured by the Advanced Composition Explorer (ACE) originated in the corona. The coronal composition measured by the Hinode Extreme ultraviolet Imaging Spectrometer (EIS) at the source regions was then compared with the in situ solar wind composition.

**Results.** On hourly timescales, there is no apparent correlation between coronal and solar wind composition. In contrast, the distribution of fractionation values within individual source regions is similar in both the corona and solar wind, but distributions between different sources have a significant overlap.

**Conclusions.** The matching distributions directly verify that elemental composition is conserved as the plasma travels from the corona to the solar wind, further validating it as a tracer of heating and acceleration processes. The overlap of fractionation values between sources means it is not possible to identify solar wind source regions solely by comparing solar wind and coronal composition measurements, but a comparison can be used to verify consistency with predicted spacecraft-corona connections.

**Key words.** Sun: abundances – Sun: corona – Sun: heliosphere – solar wind

## 1. Introduction

The solar wind is a stream of plasma, originating at the surface of the Sun and flowing out via the corona to fill interplanetary space. Despite a long history of remotely observing the Sun and locally sampling the solar wind, the source regions, acceleration, and heating mechanisms of the solar wind are still not comprehensively known (e.g. see [Abbo et al. 2016](#); [Cranmer et al. 2017](#), for recent reviews).

In terms of number density, the solar wind is primarily composed of fully ionised hydrogen and helium, but a host of trace positive heavy ions are also present ([Bame et al. 1975](#); [Bochsler 2007](#)). Since these ions form a super-sonic beam of particles flowing away from the Sun ([Ogilvie et al. 1980](#); [Bochsler 2007](#)) and as their collisional frequency is very small ([Hundhausen et al. 1968](#)), the relative elemental and charge fractionation of the solar wind should be preserved during transit. Plasma processes occurring close to the Sun, which cause variations in the heavy ion fractionation, can therefore be inferred from these in situ measurements, even when taken far away from the Sun.

The relative abundance of different elements is the same everywhere in the photosphere ([Asplund et al. 2009](#)), meaning any variances in solar wind abundances must be due to processes happening above the photosphere, either in the chromosphere or corona. Indeed, remote sensing measurements of the corona reveal a spatial variation of elemental abundances: in active regions, elements that are more easily ionised (low first ionisation potential (FIP) elements) are more abundant than those that are less easily ionised (high FIP elements) (e.g. [Meyer 1985](#);

[Uzzo et al. 2004](#); [Brooks & Warren 2011](#); [Baker et al. 2018](#); [Doschek & Warren 2019](#)). A similar overabundance of high FIP elements is also seen in coronal streamers (e.g. [Ko et al. 2002](#); [Uzzo et al. 2006, 2007](#)). In contrast, no such enhancements are seen above coronal holes ([Feldman et al. 1998](#)).

The enhancement of low FIP elements can be explained by the existence of an upward force that is exerted only on ionised elements. Low FIP elements are more easily ionised; therefore in areas where an upward force is acting, their vertical flux relative to high FIP elements is enhanced, causing a relative overabundance on the low FIP elements (e.g. [Vauclair 1996](#); [Arge & Mullan 1998](#); [Diver et al. 2005](#); [Laming 2004, 2017](#)). This fractionation takes time to build up, typically 2 to 3 days ([Widing & Feldman 2001](#); [Baker et al. 2018](#)), so plasma must be confined in the chromosphere or corona over these timescales for this fractionation to develop (see [Laming 2015](#), for a review of the FIP effect). As a result, plasma on closed active region loops tends to fractionate, but plasma on open coronal hole field lines that rapidly escapes the corona does not ([Geiss et al. 1995](#); [von Steiger et al. 2000](#)).

Previous attempts to track coronal compositional signatures into the solar wind have primarily focused on active regions, using magnetic field modelling to assess whether outflows measured in the corona were on open field lines that extended into the solar wind. Only some active regions contain open magnetic field lines ([Edwards et al. 2016](#)), but of those that do, the remote compositional signatures sometimes match the solar wind compositional signature measured a few days later at 1 AU ([Brooks & Warren 2011](#); [van Driel-Gesztelyi et al. 2012](#)).

Recently, more detailed mapping has confirmed the match in compositional signatures from a handful of isolated active region solar wind sources (Slemzin et al. 2013; Culhane et al. 2014; Macneil et al. 2019). Compositional signatures have also been successfully tracked from above the streamer belt into the solar wind (Bemporad et al. 2003). Although the compositional signatures of isolated sources have been directly matched between the corona and solar wind, as far as we are aware there has not yet been a study of whether changes in composition are traceable, either within a single source region or across multiple source regions.

In this paper we preform these studies using a full disc observation of the Sun taken by the Extreme ultraviolet Imaging Spectrometer (EIS) on board Hinode, and a subsequently derived full Sun composition map. This map was first used by Brooks et al. (2015) to identify the source regions of slow solar wind, and estimate their collective mass flux from the coronal measurements. We expanded on this study by using magnetic field modelling to estimate source regions of the solar wind measured by the Advanced Composition Explorer (ACE) spacecraft at 1 AU. We found 3 distinct source regions measured by the ACE, and present in the full Sun composition map. We then compared the composition variations both within and between these sources in both the solar wind and the corona.

Section 2 describes the data used in this study, and Sect. 3.1 presents the backmapping procedure used. In Sect. 3.2 the direct comparison between coronal and solar wind composition is presented, and Sect. 4 concludes and discusses our results, which have a particular relevance for the recently launched Solar Orbiter mission.

## 2. Data

### 2.1. Remote sensing

#### 2.1.1. Coronal composition

In order to measure elemental fractionation in the corona, a full disc set of observations taken by the EIS instrument (Culhane et al. 2007) aboard the Hinode spacecraft (Kosugi et al. 2007) were used<sup>1</sup>. The scans were carried out from the 16–18 Jan. 2013, and were first analysed by Brooks et al. (2015). Over the three days, 26 individual rasters were taken to build up a full Sun view. The wavelengths measured were primarily iron emission lines<sup>2</sup> that can be used to determine electron density and the differential emission measure (DEM), along with individual silicon and sulphur emission lines<sup>3</sup>, which can be used to make elemental abundance measurements.

The electron density and DEM estimations were used to model the intensity ratio of the Si and S lines, giving the silicon to sulphur abundance ratio ( $n_{\text{Si}}/n_{\text{S}}$ ). For a full account of the method, see Brooks et al. (2015). When normalised to the Si/S photospheric abundance ratio of 2.34 (Scott et al. 2015a), this ratio is used as a proxy for the First Ionisation Potential (FIP) bias ratio. The map of FIP bias ratios is shown later in Fig. 3. Although sulphur is commonly used as a high FIP element in

studies, it lies close to the boundary between low and high FIP elements, and it has been suggested that it can exhibit both low and high FIP behaviour (Reames 2018; Kuroda & Laming 2020). Ideally another element with a higher FIP would be used, but emission lines from other high FIP elements are challenging to measure with Hinode/EIS (Feldman et al. 2009).

### 2.1.2. Context

As part of the backmapping scheme a global Potential Field Source Surface (PFSS) model of the coronal magnetic field at the time of the EIS observations was used. As the input to this model, a solar surface line-of-sight magnetogram measured by the Global Oscillations Network Group (GONG) consortium was used, which was last updated on 20 Jan. 2013<sup>4</sup>. Although the solar magnetic field evolved over the ~half a solar rotation of in situ data studied here, the open and closed field regions predicted by different maps measured over this time span did not vary significantly, so for simplicity a single synoptic map was used. This is shown in Fig. 1, and discussed later in Sect. 3.1.

For visual context, extreme ultra-violet (EUV) images at 193 Å were taken<sup>5</sup> from the Atmospheric Imaging Assembly (AIA, Lemen et al. 2012) on board the Solar Dynamics Observatory (SDO, Pesnell et al. 2012). These EUV images show emission primarily from Fe XII and XXIV in the corona, and reveal coronal holes (areas of dark emission with open field lines), quiet Sun areas (areas of intermediate emission with weak magnetic field footpoints and closed field lines), and active regions (areas of bright emission, with strong magnetic field footpoints that may be open or closed). A full sun EUV map for the interval of this study is shown in Fig. 1.

### 2.2. In situ

The solar wind in situ data used were measured by the ACE spacecraft (Stone et al. 1998), which was located at the Sun-Earth L1 point, approximately 1 AU away from the Sun. Heavy ion composition measurements were taken from the swi\_h3b dataset<sup>6</sup> measured by the Solar Wind Ion Composition Spectrometer (SWICS, Gloeckler et al. 1998).

After August 2011 the SWICS instrument underwent re-configuration, which meant the in situ silicon to sulphur ratio (Si/S) was not available for direct comparison with the coronal measurements. Instead the in situ iron to oxygen ratio (Fe/O) was used, which is expected to show similar trends to Si/S, even if the absolute magnitudes of the ratios differ, as they both represent the ratio of a low to high FIP element.

During data analysis we found that the provided SWICS Fe/O values were systematically higher after the re-configuration compared to before. We therefore manually corrected the more recent values to match the distribution of pre-re-configuration values, when SWICS was operating as originally intended. Details of the correction are given in Appendix A. Similarly to the Si/S ratio, the Fe/O ratio can be normalised by its photospheric abundance ratio of 0.13 (Scott et al. 2015b) to give another proxy for the FIP bias. In addition to heavy ion data, in situ magnetic field measurements from the ACE Magnetic Fields Experiment (MFI, Smith et al. 1998) were used to

<sup>1</sup> Data available at <http://solar.ads.rl.ac.uk/MSSL-data/eis/level2/>

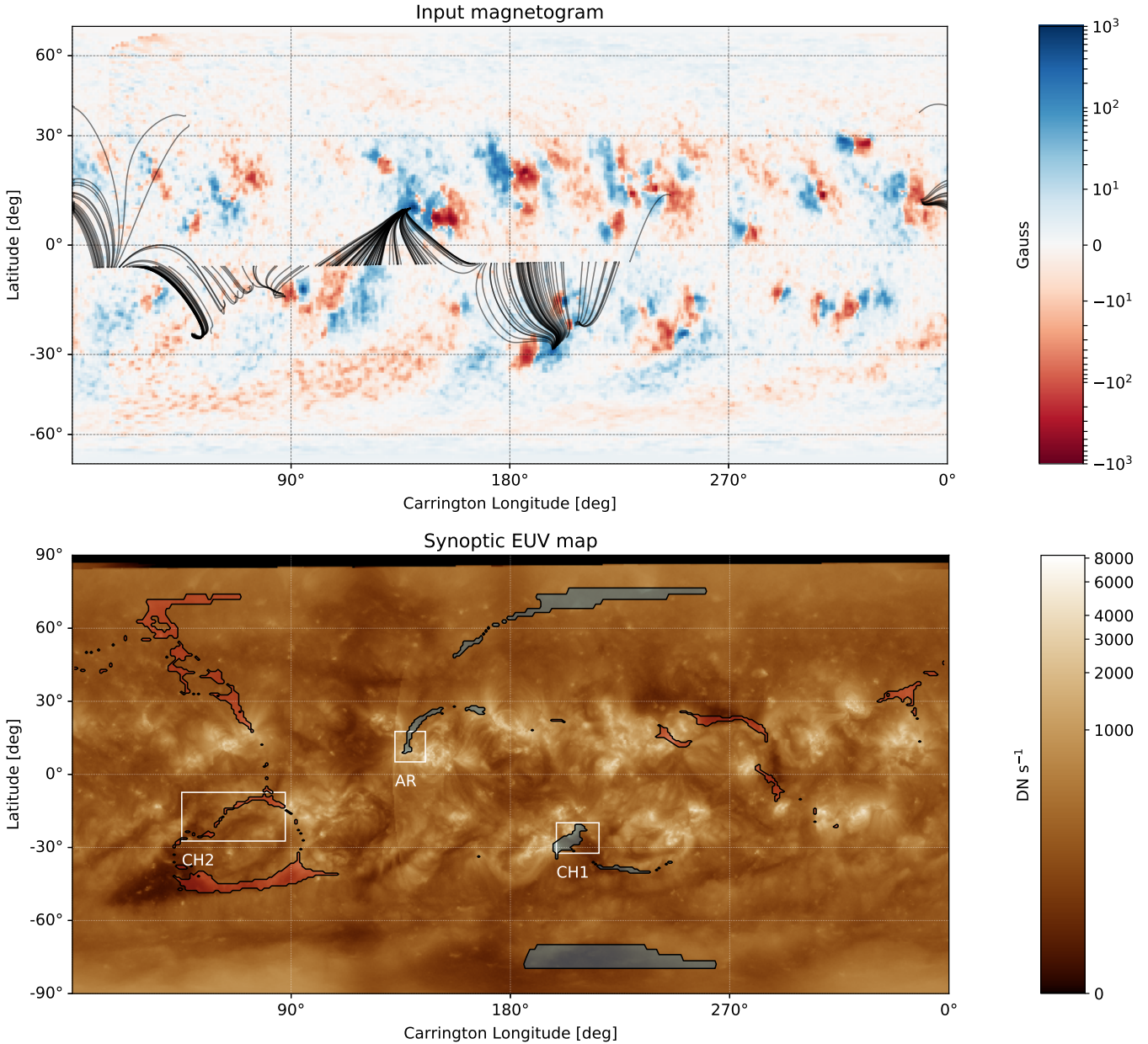
<sup>2</sup> Fe VIII 185.213 Å, Fe IX 188.497 Å, Fe X 184.536 Å, Fe XI 188.216 Å, Fe XI 188.299 Å, Fe XII 195.119 Å, Fe XII 203.72 Å, Fe XIII 202.044 Å, Fe XIII 203.826 Å, Fe XIV 264.787 Å, Fe XV 284.16 Å, and Fe XVI 262.984 Å.

<sup>3</sup> Si X 258.37 Å and S X 264.22 Å.

<sup>4</sup> Available at <ftp://gong2.nso.edu/oQR/zqs>

<sup>5</sup> Available at <http://jsoc.stanford.edu/ajax/exportdata.html>

<sup>6</sup> Available at [https://cdaweb.sci.gsfc.nasa.gov/misc/NotesA.html#AC\\_H3\\_SW2](https://cdaweb.sci.gsfc.nasa.gov/misc/NotesA.html#AC_H3_SW2)



**Fig. 1.** Overview of magnetic field mapping. *Top panel:* GONG radial field magnetogram used as input to PFSS modelling. Black lines show magnetic field lines traced through the PFSS solution from the source surface to the solar surface. *Bottom panel:* synoptic AIA 195 Å EUV map, with overplotted contours showing the open field regions of the PFSS model. The white and associated labels identify the three solar wind source regions discussed in the text.

measure the local magnetic polarity, and proton solar wind speed measurements from the ACE Solar Wind Electron Proton Alpha Monitor (SWEPAM, McComas et al. 1998) were used for ballistic backmapping.

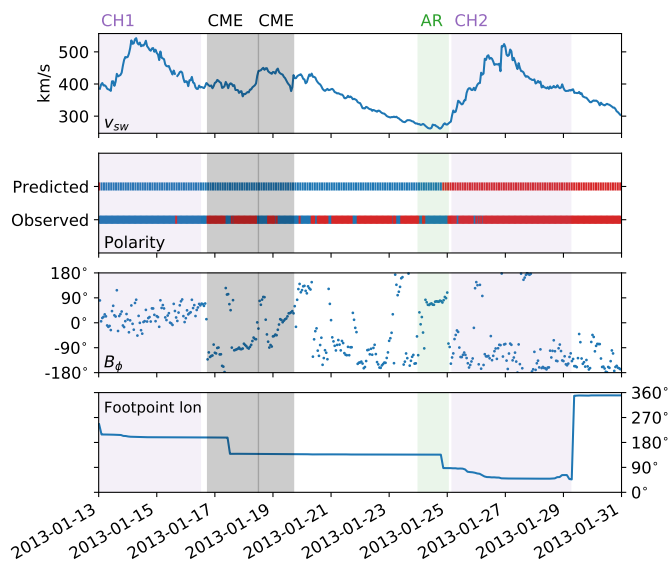
### 3. Results

#### 3.1. Identifying solar wind source regions

In order to assign source regions for the solar wind measured in situ by ACE at 1 AU, a common two step backmapping procedure was used (e.g. Neugebauer et al. 1998). The solar wind was mapped ballistically back to a source surface at  $2.3 R_{\odot}$  using the radial proton velocity measured in situ by ACE. Although a simple ballistic backmapping scheme can cause un-physical

streamline crossover (e.g. Riley & Lionello 2011), checks showed this was minimal and the source surface Carrington longitude almost always increased as a function of time.

Between  $2.3 R_{\odot}$  and  $1 R_{\odot}$  a potential field source surface (PFSS, Schatten et al. 1969; Altschuler & Newkirk 1969) model was computed, using the *pfsspy* software package (Yeates 2018; Stansby 2020). The GONG magnetogram was used as the lower boundary condition, with the solution calculated at the  $360^{\circ} \times 180^{\circ}$  resolution of the input magnetogram on 60 radial grid points. Below the source surface, the solar wind was assumed to flow directly along magnetic field lines traced through the PFSS solution to the solar surface. The source surface height of  $2.3 R_{\odot}$  was chosen empirically to maximise the coverage of coronal holes in the EUV image by open field regions as predicted by the PFSS model.



**Fig. 2.** Overview of ACE solar wind measurements from 4 Jan. 2013 to 31 Jan. 2013. From top to bottom, solar wind speed, predicted (from the PFSS model) and observed (from in situ measurements) magnetic field polarity, in situ magnetic field azimuth, and mapped solar footpoint Carrington longitude.

The results of this mapping over an 18-day period are shown in Fig. 1, with the input magnetogram and traced PFSS field lines (top panel), and an open-closed field map overlaid on an AIA 193 Å synoptic map (bottom panel). The solar footpoint of the traced field lines as a function of time transitions from right to left in the Carrington frame of reference used for the synoptic maps. The footpoint at the start of the interval rested in a positive polarity coronal hole region south of equator at around 200° longitude, labelled as CH1 near the middle of Fig. 1. From there it crossed north of the equator to a positive polarity active region at around 130° longitude (labelled as AR in Fig. 1), and then crossed the polarity inversion line and connected to a small negative polarity active region at 90° longitude before transitioning to an adjacent thin coronal hole from 90° to 45° longitude, labelled as CH2 on the left-hand side of Fig. 1.

To verify the mapping from the solar surface to ACE, Fig. 2 shows a comparison between in situ solar wind properties and the predicted magnetic polarity over the 18-day period. The top panel shows the solar wind speed, with slow wind in the middle of the interval bookended by two faster streams. The predicted polarity (given by  $\text{sign}(B_r)$  on the PFSS source surface), and in the in situ polarity (given by  $\text{sign}(\mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{B}_{\text{spiral}})$ , where  $\mathbf{B}_{\text{spiral}}$  is the predicted Parker spiral field (Parker 1958)) are shown in the second panel. The in situ magnetic field clock angle in the ecliptic plane shown in the third panel.

Before 17 Jan. 2013 and after 25 Jan. 2013 the measured and model polarity agreed, but between these two dates the positive polarity predicted by the PFSS model did not agree with the in situ measurements. This is most likely because of two CMEs that erupted and arrived at ACE during this time period, listed on the Richardson & Cane ICME list<sup>7</sup>. These are observed as large scale magnetic field rotations in  $B_\phi$ , (Fig. 2, third panel), and indicated by black shaded bars. As well as locally disrupting solar wind structure, the wake of the CMEs presumably also disrupted the trailing solar wind, resulting in the mis-match

between predicted and in situ polarity from 17 Jan. 2013 to 23 Jan. 2013, and therefore an incorrect connection prediction. For this reason, this period was excluded from further analysis.

The beginning and end of the whole time interval, which both contain relatively faster solar wind, have magnetic polarities that agree. The bottom panel of Fig. 2 shows the footpoint longitude as a function of time, with the backmapping predicting footpoints inside coronal holes. This agrees with the measurement of faster wind, giving confidence in the backmapping for these intervals. These two coronal hole intervals are labelled “CH1” and “CH2”, and shown with light purple bars in Fig. 2.

On 24 Jan. 2013 there is also an interval of solar wind where the PFSS polarity matches the polarity observed in situ. We therefore take this as evidence that mapping for this smaller time period is also correct. The mapping for this period points back to an active region outflow, so is labelled “AR”, and shown with a light green bar in Fig. 2.

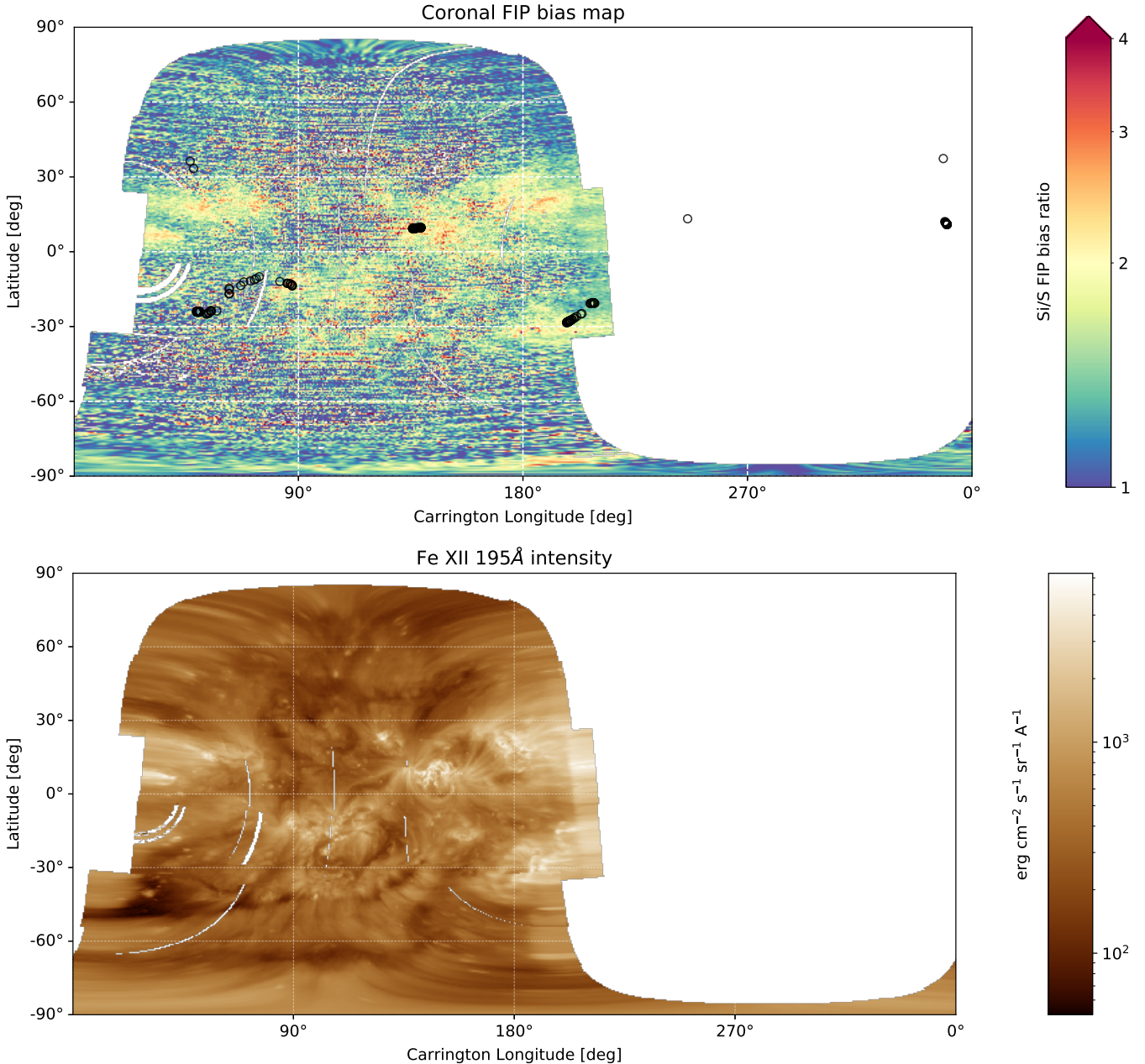
### 3.2. Comparing coronal and in situ properties

In order to project the magnetic footpoints on to the composition maps derived from EIS data, each of the 26 individual EIS maps observed in a helioprojective frame (ie. solar  $X$  and solar  $Y$ , as seen by the telescope) was projected into a Heliographic Carrington frame (ie. longitude and latitude on the surface of the Sun). Each of the reprojected images were then added to form the final map. Where the images overlapped, the mean FIP bias in the overlapping pixels was taken. This FIP bias Carrington map is shown in the top panel of Fig. 3, with the predicted solar wind source footpoints overplotted as circles. The bottom panel of Fig. 3 shows the EIS 195 Å EUV intensity for context, where bad pixels in the original data show up as white lines. These bad pixels were straight vertical lines in the original helioprojective frame, but when transformed into the Carrington frame have been distorted into curves. Comparing the EUV intensity and FIP bias maps reveals a trend for higher FIP bias ratios in areas of brighter EUV emission, i.e. active regions, as expected (Brooks et al. 2015; Doschek & Warren 2019).

The coronal composition at the predicted sources of the solar wind measured by ACE can be extracted from the Carrington version of the full Sun composition map, by taking the FIP bias values at the predicted footpoints. Figure 4 shows a direct comparison between coronal footpoint composition and in situ composition. The top panel again shows the solar wind speed for reference, with the second panel showing the coronal footpoint Si/S ratio. Across the whole interval the coronal Si/S values split into three regions, associated with three different solar wind sources. At the start of the interval (14 Jan. 2013 to 18 Jan. 2013) low Si/S ratios  $\sim 4$  are associated with a coronal hole source. This then transitions to a predicted active region source (18 Jan. 2013–25 Jan. 2013) with high Si/S ratios  $\sim 6$ , before transitioning back to a second coronal hole source (25 Jan. 2013–30 Jan. 2013) with lower Si/S values  $\sim 2$ –3.

By contrast, the solar wind Fe/O ratio, shown in the third panel of Fig. 4, is highly variable during this time period. Despite this, (excluding the CME intervals) there are two clear dips to low Fe/O values  $\sim 0.1$ , corresponding to relatively unfractionated plasma, during the coronal hole intervals. On daily timescales, the lack of a 1:1 correspondence between the in situ measurements and remote measurements is not particularly surprising, due to inherent uncertainties in the mapping. This includes the limitations of the PFSS model, and the limitations of the ballistic backmapping.

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.srl.caltech.edu/ACE/ASC/DATA/level3/icmetable2.htm>



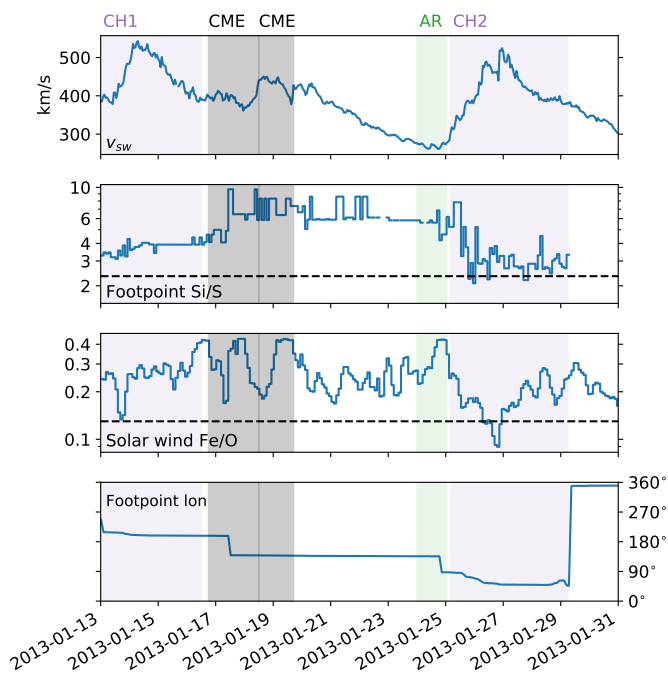
**Fig. 3.** Synoptic maps showing FIP bias and EUV emission. *Top panel:* map of the Si/S First Ionisation Potential (FIP) bias ratio, with predicted ACE solar wind source regions overlain with black circles. *Bottom panel:* total intensity in the Fe XII 195.120 Å line, which lies close to the AIA 193 Å passband shown in Fig. 1. The brighter areas of EUV emission, corresponding to active regions, can be seen to exhibit larger FIP biases.

On larger time scales a difference should persist between different sources, as the mapping was earlier validated by comparing the model and in situ magnetic field polarities. As such, Fig. 5 compares the distribution of solar wind and coronal compositions during the three intervals marked by bands in Figs. 2 and 4. On average, the mean FIP bias of each stream appears to behave in a similar way both remotely and in situ, with the first coronal hole having on average intermediate values  $\sim 2$ , the active region having larger values  $>2$ , and the second coronal hole having smaller values between 1 and 2.

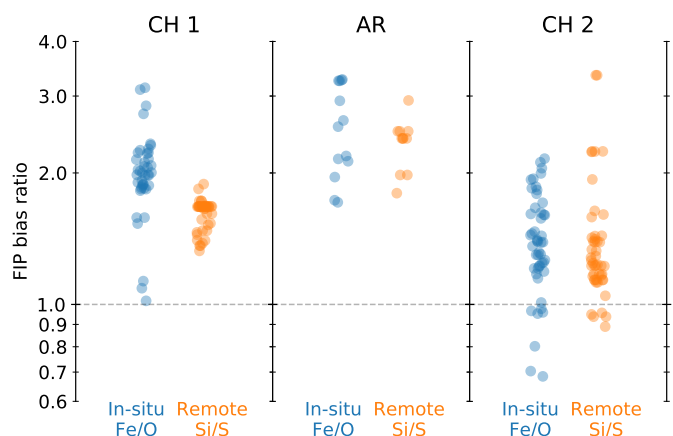
There is a large spread in values in all three cases however, particularly within the two coronal holes. In pure coronal hole wind we would expect very little fractionation (Feldman et al. 1998; von Steiger et al. 2000), and therefore FIP bias ratios

close to 1. The in situ observations show narrow time windows of around 6 hours where the coronal hole origin wind has ratios around 1, but for the majority of time the ratios are much higher. This is consistent with suggestions that fast wind emitted in a steady state in these coronal holes is relatively rare, and that interchange reconnection is responsible for the wind where the FIP bias is  $>1$  (e.g. Baker et al. 2009; Crooker & Owens 2012; Owens et al. 2020). This is most probably because the prevalence of active regions during this interval at solar maximum disrupts the otherwise steady outflow of coronal hole wind (e.g. Macneil et al. 2019).

The distributions of FIP bias ratios for the three distinct sources overlap, meaning in the case studied here it is challenging to identify the type of solar wind source (coronal hole, active



**Fig. 4.** Direct comparison of inferred coronal Silicon to Sulphur coronal abundance (*second panel*) at the predicted solar wind source regions and solar wind Iron to Oxygen abundance (*third panel*). Dashed horizontal lines show photospheric abundances taken from Scott et al. (2015a,b). *Top panel*: in situ measured solar wind speed for context, and the *bottom panel* shows the predicted footpoint Carrington longitude.



**Fig. 5.** Distributions of FIP bias ratios in the three identified solar wind source regions. Solar wind Fe/O ratios are shown in blue, and coronal Si/S ratios are shown in orange.

region) using only the in situ composition measurements. This confirms recent statistical studies, that show the same overlap in distributions of in situ elemental fractionation between different solar wind sources (Zhao et al. 2017; Fu et al. 2017). In our case this is particularly clear from the timeseries measurements of the two intervals of faster wind (Fig. 4), which show highly variable abundance ratios above the photospheric values.

#### 4. Discussion and conclusions

We have presented a direct comparison of solar wind heavy ion composition and coronal composition at the predicted sources, over a period of 18 days at solar maximum. On daily timescales,

within individual solar wind sources, the coronal and solar wind composition is poorly correlated (Fig. 4, middle panels), most likely because of the inherent uncertainties in the simple backmapping scheme used. On larger scales, the distribution of fractionation values within each distinct stream is similar and exhibits similar stream-to-stream variations in both the corona and solar wind (Fig. 5). Although it is promising that the elemental fractionation from different sources matches, our method comes with some limitations. We are assuming that the coronal composition as measured by EIS did not change between the time of observation (16–18th January) and the solar wind interval (13th–31st January). This is a limitation of the Hinode/EIS observing plan, and in theory could be removed by a longer duration observation spanning two weeks. In addition the connection model (PFSS and ballistic back-mapping) could be replaced by more advanced heliospheric magneto-hydro-dynamic (MHD) models (e.g. Riley & Lionello 2011; Riley et al. 2019; Odstřil et al. 2020).

In the future, the methodology and data processing framework employed here can be used as a generic tool to perform more comparisons between coronal and solar wind plasma properties. For example, EIS also has the capability to measure coronal electron temperatures, densities, and mass fluxes (e.g. Brooks et al. 2015), which could be compared to similar in situ measurements in the near-sun solar wind (e.g. Halekas et al. 2020; Berčič et al. 2020; Macneil et al. 2020) to study the evolution of plasma as it transitions from the corona to the solar wind.

Finally, our results have particular implications for the recently launched Solar Orbiter mission (Müller & Marsden 2012), which carries both a coronal spectrometer (SPICE, The Spic Consortium 2020) and solar wind plasma analysers (SWA, Owen et al. 2020). These two instruments will allow for a replication of the methodology presented here (with SPICE replacing Hinode/EIS, and SWA replacing ACE/SWICS). One of the key goals of Solar Orbiter is exploiting links between remote and in situ measurements to make new discoveries, and it has been envisioned that comparing remote and in situ heavy ion composition will help facilitate this goal. The results shown here suggest that it will not be possible to use composition information to identify the spacecraft-corona connection on daily or smaller timescales. However, our demonstration that the distribution of fractionation values between different sources is consistent provides a new method to check a predicted connection.

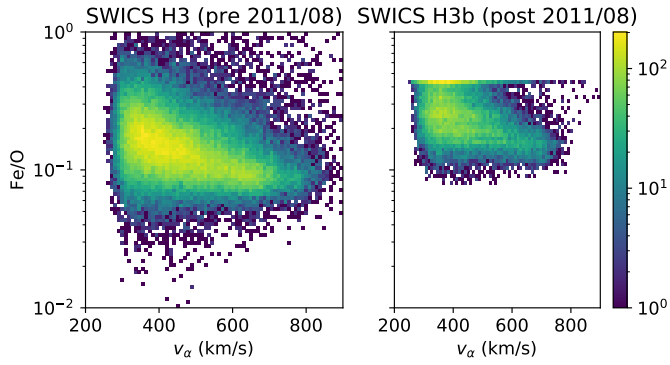
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processing was carried out with the help of Heliopy v0.10.1 (Stansby et al. 2020), astropy v4.0.1 (Astropy Collaboration 2018), and SunPy v1.1.3 (The SunPy Community et al. 2020; Mumford et al. 2020). Figures were produced using Matplotlib v3.1.3 (Hunter 2007; Caswell et al. 2020). Code to reproduce the figures in this paper is available at <https://github.com/dstansby/publication-code>.

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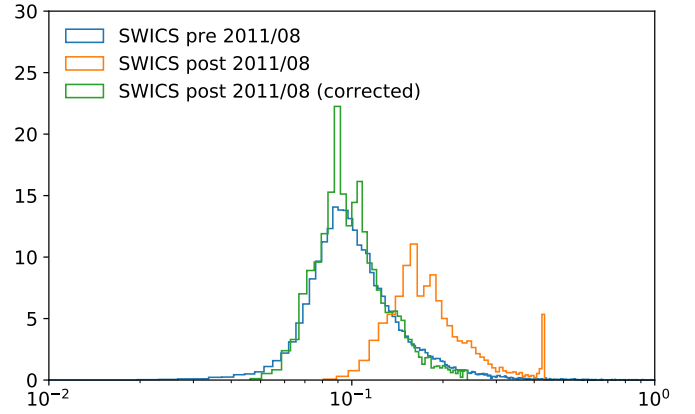
## Appendix A: Correcting recent ACE SWICS data



**Fig. A.1.** Comparison of the variation of Fe/O charge state ratio with velocity before (*left-hand panel*) and after (*right-hand panel*) the ACE SWICS reconfiguration in 08/2011.

After 08/2011 the SWICS instrument on board ACE had to undergo an operational reconfiguration, and the number of heavy ions it could resolve was reduced. Both oxygen and iron charge states continued to be measured after this point, but the distribution of Fe/O abundance ratios in the new data is systematically higher than the pre-08/2011 dataset, and large values are clipped. Figure A.1 shows the joint distribution of Fe/O ratio and alpha particle speed both before and after 08/2011. In the newer data, the ceiling is visible at  $\text{Fe}/\text{O} \approx 0.4$ , and the distribution of charge states is systematically higher than the data before the re-configuration.

In order to correct for these differences, two steps were taken. First, data with  $\text{Fe}/\text{O} > 0.42$  in the new dataset were discarded.



**Fig. A.2.** Histograms of Fe/O ratios in the range  $600 \text{ km s}^{-1} < v_\alpha < 700 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  before reconfiguration (blue) and after reconfiguration (orange). Corrected values for the post-reconfiguration data are shown in green.

Secondly, the pre-configuration data were considered a ground truth, and a multiplicative constant between the old and new data estimated by matching the distributions of Fe/O values with alpha particle velocities in the  $600\text{--}700 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  speed range. The correction is

$$\left(\frac{\text{Fe}}{\text{O}}\right)_{\text{corrected}} = 0.573 \left(\frac{\text{Fe}}{\text{O}}\right). \quad (\text{A.1})$$

Figure A.2 shows distributions of Fe/O in this speed range, showing the original and post-reconfiguration data distribution, along with the empirically corrected values.