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On the propagation of gravity waves in the lower solar atmosphere in different magnetic configurations

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Abstract

Gravity waves are generated by turbulent subsurface convection overshooting or penetrating locally into a stably stratified medium. While propagating energy upwards, their characteristic negative phase shift over height is a well-recognized observational signature. Since their first detailed observational detection and estimates of energy content, a number of studies have explored their propagation characteristics and interaction with magnetic fields and other waves modes in the solar atmosphere. Here, we present a study of the atmospheric gravity wave dispersion diagrams utilizing intensity observations that cover photospheric to chromospheric heights over different magnetic configurations of quiet-Sun (magnetic network regions), a plage, and a sunspot as well as velocity observations within the photospheric layer over a quiet and a sunspot region. In order to investigate the propagation characteristics, we construct two-height intensity - intensity and velocity- velocity cross-spectra and study phase and coherence signals in the wavenumber - frequency dispersion diagrams and their association with background magnetic fields. We find signatures of association between magnetic fields and much reduced coherence and phase shifts over height from intensity-intensity and velocity-velocity phase and coherence diagrams, both indicating suppression/scattering of gravity waves by the magnetic fields. Our results are consistent with the earlier numerical simulations, which indicate that gravity waves are suppressed or scattered and reflected back into the lower solar atmosphere in the presence of magnetic fields.

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1. Introduction

Waves in a compressible stratified medium in the presence of a gravitational field, like the atmosphere of the Earth or the Sun, can be driven by both compressional and buoyancy forces, resulting in a rich spectrum of acoustic-gravity waves. In the lower solar atmosphere, such waves are well recognised as an agent of non-thermal energy transfer, especially through their interactions with and transformations by the highly structured magnetic fields that thread these layers. These waves are generated by turbulent convection within and near the top boundary layers of the convection zone (Schwarzschild, 1948; Lighthill,

1952; Stein, 1967; Goldreich & Kumar, 1990) and the acoustic part of the spectrum resonate to form *p*-modes in the interior of the Sun. In the solar atmosphere, the behaviour of waves become more complicated owing to the sharp fall in density and the preferred direction imposed by gravity in the fluid: the propagation characteristics are anisotropic, in general. In addition, the stratification of the atmosphere also imposes height-dependent cutoff frequencies below which gravity modified acoustic waves cannot propagate (Mihalas & Mihalas, 1995) upward of the respective heights. The internal or atmospheric gravity waves (IGWs) are generated by turbulent subsurface convection overshooting or penetrating locally into a stably stratified medium (Lighthill, 1967). This is a normal response generated by a gravitationally stratified medium to any

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perturbations from its equilibrium position, and buoyancy acting as a restoring force. Lighthill (1967) suggested that the oscillations observed in the upper photosphere and lower chromosphere can be interpreted as gravity waves, and also that radiative damping of such gravity waves provides a mechanism of heating of the lower chromosphere. One of the interesting properties of IGWs is that, while transporting energy upward from the photosphere to higher layers, they show a characteristic downward phase propagation (Lighthill, 1978). These waves play an important role in the transportation of energy and momentum and mixing the material in the regions that they propagate in. For example, the IGWs in the solar radiative interior and in other stars, despite no clear detection of their signatures at the solar surface, are theorized to play key roles in the mixing and transport of angular momentum. The investigation of Mihalas & Toomre (1981, 1982) revealed that gravity waves can reach a maximum height of 900 - 1600 km in the solar atmosphere depending upon the energy flux carried by these waves, before nonlinearities lead to wave breaking. Following the above initial studies, the propagation characteristics of IGWs in the solar atmosphere have been examined utilizing velocityvelocity, intensity-intensity observations or simulations or both by a good number of authors (Deubner & Fleck, 1989; Krijger et al., 2001; Rutten & Krijger, 2003; Straus et al., 2008; Kneer & Bello González, 2011; Nagashima et al., 2014; Vigeesh et al., 2017, 2019; Vigeesh & Roth, 2020; Vigeesh et al., 2021). Kriiger et al. (2001), utilizing the 1700 Å and 1600 Å intensity observations obtained from the Transition Region and Coronal Explorer (TRACE) instrument of a quiet region observed in the disk centre, identified gravity waves in the $k_h - \nu$ phase diagram (c.f. Figure 24, Krijger et al. (2001)). Subsequently, Rutten & Krijger (2003) using the simultaneous UV intensities (1700 Å and 1600 Å intensity images) obtained from the TRACE also detected the gravity waves in $k_h - \nu$ phase diagram (c.f., Figure 3, Rutten & Krijger (2003)). They have also found the signature of gravity waves in the $k_h - \nu$ phase diagram constructed from white light and 1700 Å intensity images (c.f., Figure 5, Rutten & Krijger (2003)). Using V - V observations along with 3D numerical simulations, Straus et al. (2008) detected the upward propagating atmospheric gravity waves. They also estimated that the energy flux carried by gravity waves was comparable to the radiative losses of the entire chromosphere. Using observations of Fe I 5576 Å and Fe I 5434 Å lines, Kneer & Bello González (2011) studied acoustic and atmospheric gravity waves in the quiet Sun and estimated their energy transport to the chromosphere. They concluded that gravity waves also contribute in the chromospheric heating. Using multi-height velocity extractions from the Fe I 6173 Å line filtergrams provided by the HMI/SDO, Nagashima et al. (2014) also reported the presence of atmospheric gravity waves in the solar atmosphere. More recently, using realistic 3D numerical simulations of the solar atmosphere to investigate the propagation dynamics of acoustic-gravity waves, Vigeesh et al. (2017) conclude that IGWs are absent or partially reflected back into the lower layers in the presence of the magnetic fields. They further argue that the suppression is due to the coupling of IGWs to slow magnetoacoustic waves still within the high plasma- β region of the

upper photosphere. Vigeesh et al. (2019) found that the propagation properties of IGWs depend on the average magnetic field strength in the upper photosphere and therefore these waves can be potential candidates for magnetic field diagnostics of these layers.

In this article, we report our results from a detailed study of the atmospheric gravity wave dispersion diagrams utilizing intensity observations that cover photospheric to chromospheric heights over regions of different magnetic configurations: quiet-Sun (magnetic network regions), plage, and sunspot. Additionally, we have used two-height velocities estimated within Fe I 6173 Å line over a quiet and a sunspot region. In order to investigate the propagation characteristics, we construct two-height intensity - intensity and velocity - velocity cross-spectra and study the phase and coherence signals in the wavenumber - frequency $(k_h - \nu)$ dispersion diagrams and their association with background magnetic fields, utilizing long duration data sets situated at different locations on the solar disc. We compare the derived signatures of the interaction between the IGWs and magnetic fields with those reported using numerical simulations by Vigeesh et al. (2017, 2019), and Vigeesh & Roth (2020). The article is structured as follows: Section 2 discusses the observations, data sets, and analysis procedures, Section 3 presents the results obtained in this investigation, followed by Section 4 that presents discussions and conclusions.

2. Observational Data and Analyses

We employ two-height cross-spectra of intensities and velocities observed over regions of interest to study the height evolution of wave phases and interaction with the background magnetic fields. Intensity - intensity (I - I) cross spectra utilise observations obtained from the Helioseismic and Magnetic Imager (HMI; Schou et al. (2012) instrument onboard the Solar Dynamics Observatory (SDO; Pesnell et al. (2012)) for the photosphere using the Fe I 6173 Å line, and from the Atmospheric Imaging Assembly (AIA; Lemen et al. (2012)) onboard the SDO for the 1700 Å and 1600 Å UV channels that sample the photosphere - chromosphere. Velocity - Velocity (V - V)cross spectra utilise observation obtained using photospheric Fe I 6173 Å line from the Interferometric BI-dimensional Spectrometer (IBIS; Cavallini (2006)) instrument installed at the Dunn Solar Telescope (DST) at Sacramento Peak, New Mexico. We analyze observations of three large regions, identified as data set 1, 2, and 3, of widely differing magnetic configurations. These regions are also situated on the different locations on the Sun. The data set 1 covers quiet or weak magnetic patches identified by red dashed boxes and labelled M1 and M2, a plage and sunspot (NOAA AR 11092) areas identified by green and white dashed boxes labelled P, S, respectively (c.f., Figure 1). This whole region was situated near the disk centre (63",150" solar coordinates) and was observed on August 03, 2010. The observables include photospheric line-of-sight magnetograms (B_{LOS}), continuum intensity (I_c), UV intensities in 1700 (I_{uv1}) and 1600 (I_{uv2}) Å filters, and the data have been tracked and remapped for a duration of 14 hours; this data set has previously been used for a study of high-frequency acoustic

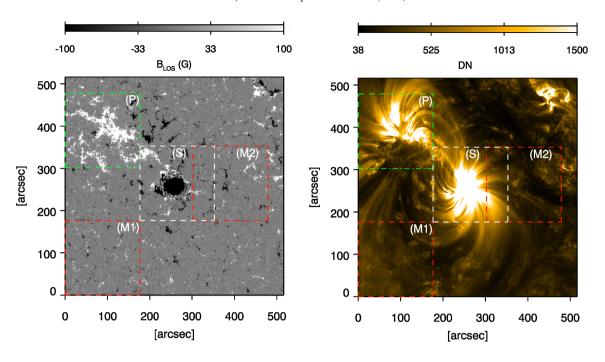


Fig. 1. Left panel: HMI line-of-sight magnetic field of a large region observed on August 3, 2010 corresponding to the start time of data used in this work. The colored dashed regions mark the boundaries of sub-regions studied in this work: regions enclosed in red, white and green colored boxes mark the quiet magnetic network, sunspot and plage regions, and also denoted by M1, M2, S, P, respectively. The magnetic field grey scale has been saturated at \pm 100 G to view better the small scale magnetic fields. Right panel: Same as left panel but from AIA 171 Å channel.

halos by Rajaguru et al. (2013) and also for a study of the propagation of low-frequency acoustic waves into the chromosphere by Rajaguru et al. (2019). The data set 2 includes a quiet patch identified by red dashed square box labelled Q, and two further sub-regions near the sunspot (NOAA AR 12186) demarcated by green square boxes labelled R1 and R2 (c.f. Figure 2). This large region was away from the disk centre (-309",-418" solar coordinates) and was observed on October 11, 2014, and the same observables as for data set 1 are tracked and remapped for a duration of 12 h 47 minutes. The data set 3 covers a guiet and a sunspot (NOAA AR 10960) region demarcated as black square box and labelled A and B (c.f. Figure 3), which are identified from the field-of-view of the IBIS instrument. The observed region was also located close to the disk centre (276",-227" solar coordinates) on June 8, 2007. The identified regions (quiet (A) and sunspot (B)) comprise 3 hours 44 minutes duration and utilized two height velocities within Fe I 6173 Å line formation region. This IBIS data set has been previously used for various studies (Rajaguru et al., 2010; Couvidat et al., 2012; Zhao et al., 2022). The values of average of absolute line-ofsight magnetic fields integrated over whole observation period in the M1, M2, P, S, Q, R1, R2, A, and B region are tabulated in Table 1. Brief descriptions of the instruments and data reductions done for the above observations are provided in the following sub-sections.

2.1. HMI and AIA Observations

The HMI instrument observes the photosphere of the Sun in Fe I 6173 Å absorption spectral line at six different wavelength positions. It provides full disk (4096×4096 pixel²) con-

tinuum intensity, line depth, Dopplergrams, and line-of-sight magnetograms at a spatial sampling of 0.504" per pixel and at a temporal cadence of 45 s. It also provides full-disk vector magnetic field at a slightly lower cadence (12 minutes) as a standard product, although it can also be obtained at a cadence of 135 s (Hoeksema et al., 2014). The AIA instrument observes the outer atmosphere of the Sun in seven extreme ultraviolet (EUV) filters at 94, 131, 171, 193, 211, 304 and 335 Å, two ultraviolet (UV) filters at 1600 and 1700 Å and one white light filter at 4500 Å wavelengths. It provides full disc images (4096×4096 pixel²) at a spatial sampling of 0.6" per pixel. The temporal cadence is 12 s for EUV, 24 s for UV, and 3600 s for the white light filter. Here, we have used photospheric continuum intensity (I_c) , and line-of-sight magnetograms (B_{LOS}) from the HMI at a cadence of 45 s and UV observations in 1700 (I_{uv1}) and $1600 (I_{uv2})$ Å at a cadence of 24 s obtained from the AIA instrument, respectively. We have tracked and remapped the images of all these observables to the same spatial and temporal sampling as HMI observations. The sub-regions M1, M2, P, and S from data set 1 are of size 176×176 arcsec², as shown in the Figure 1, gives us a wavenumber resolution (Δk_h) of 0.049 rad Mm⁻¹. The total time duration of data set 1 is 14 hours and cadence (45 s), gives us a frequency resolution ($\Delta \nu$) of 19.8 μ Hz, and Nyquist frequency (v_{Ny}) of 11.11 mHz. The spatial resolution $\delta x = 0.504''$ per pixel corresponds to Nyquist wavenumber $(k_{Ny} = \pi/\delta x)$ of 8.55 rad Mm⁻¹. The data set 2 comprise of Q, R1, and R2 regions of 100×100 arcsec² shown in the Figure 2, gives us a wavenumber resolution (Δk_h) of 0.0859 rad Mm⁻¹. The total time duration of data set 2 is 12 h 47 minutes, spatial sampling and temporal cadence are same as data set 1. Hence,

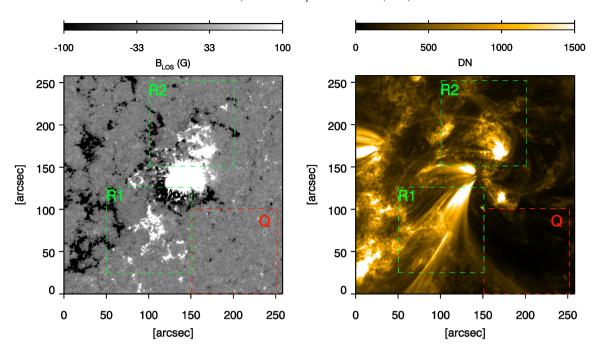


Fig. 2. Left panel: HMI line-of-sight magnetic field of a large region observed on October 11, 2014 corresponding to the start time of data used in this work. The colored dashed regions mark the boundaries of sub-regions studied in this work: regions enclosed in red, and green colored boxes mark the quiet magnetic network, canopy regions, and also denoted by Q, R1, and R2, respectively. The magnetic field grey scale has been saturated at \pm 100 G to view better the small scale magnetic fields. Right panel: Same as left panel but from AIA 171 Å channel.

Table 1. Table represents the values of average of absolute line-of-sight magnetic fields over selected locations.

Location	$\langle B_{LOS} \rangle$ (G)
<i>M</i> 1	3.3
<i>M</i> 2	5.5
P	37.0
S	53.2
Q	2.7
<i>R</i> 1	32.2
R2	32.8
A	5.8
B	74.2

it gives us a frequency resolution ($\Delta \nu$) of 21.7 μ Hz.

2.2. IBIS Observations

The imaging spectropolarimetry data were acquired on June 08, 2007 utilizing the IBIS instrument installed at the DST. The IBIS has a circular FOV of 80" in diameter (\approx 60 Mm). The observed region covers a medium size sunspot and surrounding quiet-Sun situated near the disk center, with full Stokes (I,Q,U,V) images scanned over 23 wavelength positions along the Fe I 6173.3 Å line at a spectral resolution of 25 mÅ. The spatial resolution of these observations is 0.33" (0.165" per pixel) at a temporal cadence of 47.5 s. From these observations Rajaguru et al. (2010) have estimated 10 bisector line-of-sight Doppler velocities starting from line core (level 0) to line wing (level 9). Here, we have used two height velocities at 10% (V_{10}) and 80% (V_{80}) intensity levels in our analysis, in which V_{80} corresponds to lower height, whereas V_{10} corresponds to

upper height within the Fe I 6173 Å line. The data set 3 comprises of a quiet (*A*) and a sunspot (*B*) region of 24×24 arcsec² as shown in Figure 3. The total time duration of data set 3 is 3 hours 44 minutes, and temporal cadence (47.5 s), gives us a frequency resolution ($\Delta \nu$) of 74.4 μ Hz, and Nyquist frequency (ν_{Ny}) of 10.5 mHz. The spatial resolution $\delta x = 0.165''$ per pixel corresponds to Nyquist wavenumber ($k_{Ny} = \pi/\delta x$) of 26.2 rad Mm⁻¹.

2.3. Height Coverage of HMI and AIA Observations

The HMI and AIA observables, as described above, are chosen to cover the photospheric to mid-chromospheric layers of the solar atmosphere. The formation height of Fe I 6173 Å line in the solar photosphere was investigated by Norton et al. (2006), who derived a height range of h = 16 - 302 km above the continuum optical depth at 5000 Å($\tau_c = 1$, which corresponds to z = 0) in the quiet region. However, the formation

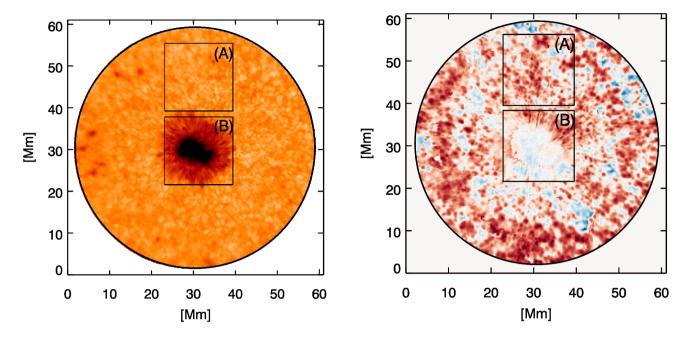


Fig. 3. Left panel: A sample image of continuum intensity showing the field of view of the observation obtained from the IBIS/DST with a sunspot at the center. The black square regions mark the boundaries of sub-regions of a quiet and a sunspot region studied in this work, also denoted by A, and B, respectively. Right panel: A sample image of line-of-sight Doppler velocity estimated by bisector method at 10% intensity levels i.e. V_{10} velocity map.

height of Fe I 6173 Å line in the magnetized region i.e. umbra is lower compare to quiet region. Norton et al. (2006) utilizing the Maltby-M umbral atmosphere model reported that core of Fe I 6173 Å line form around 270 km, while wings form around 20 km above $\tau_c = 1$ continuum optical depth. Non-LTE radiation hydrodynamic simulations done by Fossum & Carlsson (2005) show that the average formation heights of 360 and 430 km for the 1700 and 1600 Å passbands, respectively, although the 1600 Å passband has contributions from a wider height-range extending into upper chromosphere.

2.4. Cross-Spectral Analysis of Wave Propagation

We investigate the cross-spectra of IGWs utilizing different observables covering heights from photosphere (20 km) to chromosphere (430 km). We form two-height intensity - intensity (I - I) and velocity - velocity (V - V) pairs and study their cross-spectra. Cross-spectra of two observables $f_1(x, y, t)$ and $f_2(x, y, t)$ are defined as the complex-valued product of their three dimensional Fourier transforms (Vigeesh et al., 2017),

$$X_{12}(\mathbf{k}, \nu) = f_1(\mathbf{k}, \nu) f^*_2(\mathbf{k}, \nu)$$
 (1)

where f's are the Fourier transforms, with a superscript * representing the complex conjugate, $k = k_h = (k_x, k_y)$ is the horizontal wave vector and v is the cyclic frequency. Here, subscripts 1 and 2 in f_1 and f_2 denote the two heights z_1 and z_2 of the observables. The phase spectrum, $\delta \phi(k, \nu)$, that captures the phase evolution between heights of the two observables is then given by the phase of the complex cross-spectrum $X_{12}(k, \nu)$,

$$\delta\phi(\mathbf{k}, \nu) = \tan^{-1}[Im(X_{12}(\mathbf{k}, \nu))/Re(X_{12}(\mathbf{k}, \nu))]$$
 (2)

The normalised magnitude of $X_{12}(\mathbf{k}, \nu)$ is used to calculate the coherence,

$$C(k,\nu) = \frac{|X_{12}(k,\nu)|}{\sqrt{|f_1|^2 |f_2|^2}},$$
(3)

We focus on studying $\delta\phi(k_h,\nu)$ from the different I-I and V-V cross-spectra that trace photopsheric - chromospheric height ranges, viz. the HMI continuum I_c , AIA UV intensities I_{uv1} (1700 Å) and I_{uv2} (1600 Å) offer pairs of heights from among 20, 360, and 430 km, respectively and two height velocities estimated within Fe I 6173 Å line formation region i.e. V_{80} and V_{10} are correspond to within 16-300 km height range above $\tau_c=1$. In all our analyses, we azimuthally average the three-dimensional spectra in the k_x-k_y plane to derive $k_h-\nu$ diagrams of $\delta\phi(k_h,\nu)$ and $C(k_h,\nu)$, where $k_h=\sqrt{k_x^2+k_y^2}$.

To guide the analysis, we employ the well known dispersion relation, derived under the Cowling approximation that neglects perturbations in the gravitational potential for adiabatic acoustic-gravity waves in the solar interior and atmosphere (Leibacher & Stein, 1981),

$$k_z^2 = \frac{(\omega^2 - \omega_{ac}^2)}{c_z^2} - \frac{(\omega^2 - N^2)}{\omega^2} k_h^2$$
 (4)

where $\omega=2\pi\nu$ is the angular frequency, ω_{ac} is the acoustic cutoff frequency and N is the Brunt-Väisälä frequency. In a $k_h-\nu$ diagram, regions where $k_z^2>0$ demarcates vertically propagating acoustic-gravity waves from the evanescent ($k_z^2<0$) ones. In all our two-height $\delta\phi(k_h,\nu)$ that we derive from observations, we mark such propagation boundaries by evaluating the $k_z^2=0$ condition using the dispersion relation given by Eqn. 4 for the upper height using the VAL-C model of the solar chro-

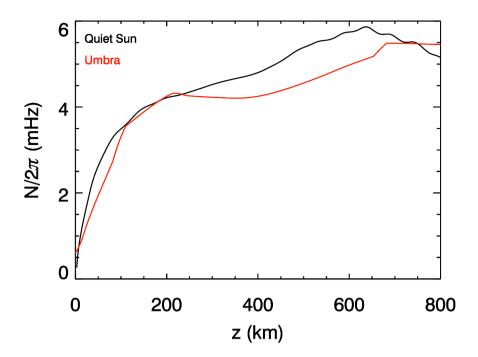


Fig. 4. Height evolution of Brunt-Väisälä frequency (N) for quiet-Sun (black) of a realistic solar atmosphere using the VAL-C model and umbra (red) of a sunspot using Maltby-M model.

mosphere (Vernazza et al., 1981). The expressions for ω_{ac} and N applicable for a gravitationally stratified atmospheres are,

$$\omega_{ac}^{2} = \frac{c_{s}^{2}}{4H_{\rho}^{2}}(1 - 2\frac{dH_{\rho}}{dz})$$
 (5)

$$N^2 = \frac{g}{H_\rho} - \frac{g^2}{c_s^2} \tag{6}$$

We have two solutions for $k_z^2 = 0$, and hence two propagation boundaries separating vertically propagating waves from the evanescent ones in the $k_h - \nu$ diagram: the higher frequency boundary corresponds to the cut-off frequency for acoustic waves while the lower frequency one, typically falling lower than the f-mode frequencies, is that for the internal or atmospheric gravity waves. The locations of these boundaries in the $k_h - \nu$ plane depends on height in the atmosphere, and we typically overplot these boundaries for upper heights (solid black line) involved in each pair of variables for which the cross-spectral phases, $(\delta \phi)$, coherences, (C) are derived. We also overplot the dispersion curve of the surface gravity mode (f-mode) and that of acoustic Lamb mode in each diagrams.

3. Results

The IGWs in the solar atmosphere have their sources in the photospheric granular convection, which overshoots into the stable layers above. As alluded to earlier, the IGWs have the characteristics of transporting energy upward while their phases propagate downward, hence exhibit negative phase in the gravity wave regime of $k_h - \nu$ cross-spectral phase diagram. We first present and analyse the phase and coherence signals in

the I - I cross-spectra that we obtain for the two large regions covering different magnetic configurations, viz. quiet magnetic network, plage, and sunspots, which are shown in Figures 1 and 2. Next, we analyse the phase and coherence diagrams constructed from V - V pair over a quiet and a sunspot region. The wave propagation boundary corresponding to $k_z^2 = 0$ for the IGWs is set by the Brunt-Väisälä frequency, N, which is a function of height in the solar atmosphere and is given by equation 6. Using the VAL-C model (Vernazza et al., 1981) for quiet Sun and the Maltby-M model (Maltby et al., 1986) for sunspot umbra, we have calculated N and plotted in Figure 4. It shows that N increases upto a height of ≈ 600 km and then it starts decreasing, and it also indicates that there is no significant difference between the variation of N in the quiet-Sun and umbra of a sunspot. For the mean height of formation of intensity I_{uv2} , N approaches ≈ 5 mHz.

As the primary objective of this work is to study the effect of magnetic fields on the propagation of IGWs, we first discuss the phase spectra of gravity waves in the quiet magnetic network regions followed by a comparision between the phase obtained for strongly magnetized regions and quiet regions. Results on effects of magnetic fields on the coherence of IGWs are presented at the end.

3.1. Phase Spectra of IGWs in Quiet-Sun Regions

The region labelled M1 in Figure 1 has the average absolute LOS magnetic field of ≈ 3 G (integrated over whole observation period) and is chosen to represent the quiet-Sun. The cross-spectral phase difference, $\delta \phi$, and coherence, C, diagrams obtained for this region (from data set 1) are shown in Figure 5:

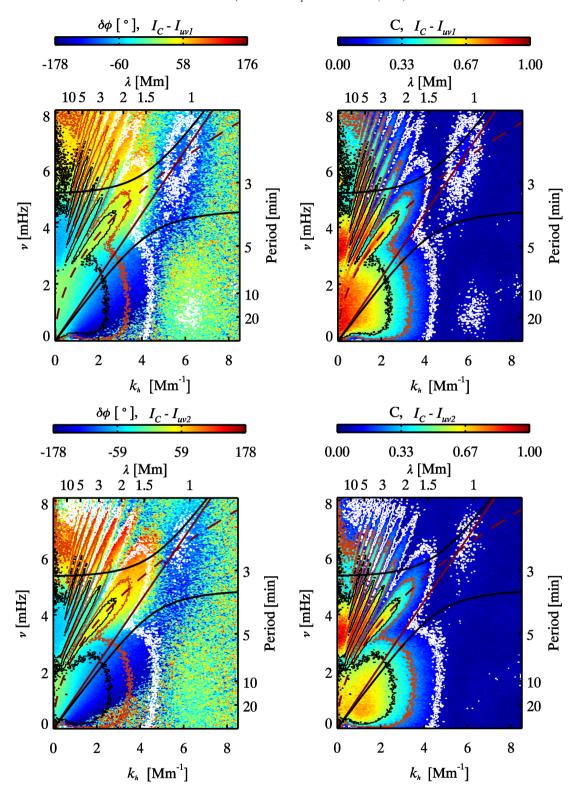


Fig. 5. Top panel: Cross-spectral phase difference, $\delta\phi(k_h, \nu)$ (top left panel), and coherence, $C(k_h, \nu)$ (top right panel), diagrams of M1 region constructed from $I_c - I_{uv1}$ pair of photospheric continuum intensity (HMI) and UV 1700 Å channel of AIA, which correspond to 20-360 km above z=0 in the solar atmosphere. Bottom panel: same as top panel, but from $I_c - I_{uv2}$ pair of photospheric continuum intensity (HMI) and UV 1600 Å channel of AIA, which correspond to 20-430 km above z=0 in the solar atmosphere. The solid black lines separate vertically propagating waves ($k_z^2>0$) from the evanescent ones ($k_z^2<0$) at upper height. The dashed red line is the f-mode dispersion curve and solid red line is the Lamb mode. The overplotted black, red and white contours represent the coherence at 0.5, 0.3 and 0.1 levels, respectively.

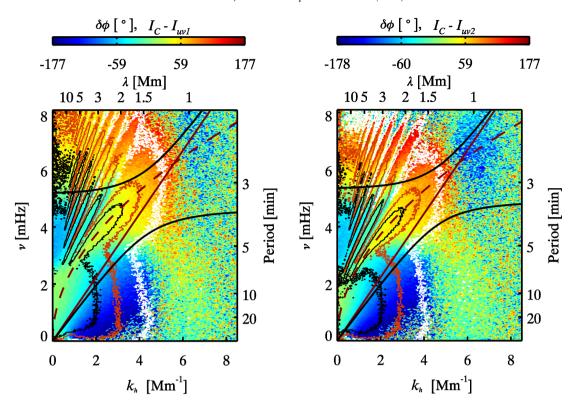


Fig. 6. Cross-spectral phase difference, $\delta\phi(k_h, \nu)$ diagrams of M2 region as indicated by M2 in Figure 1 constructed from $I_c - I_{uv1}$, and $I_c - I_{uv2}$ intensity pairs, respectively. The overplotted black, red and white contours represent the coherence at 0.5, 0.3 and 0.1 levels, respectively.

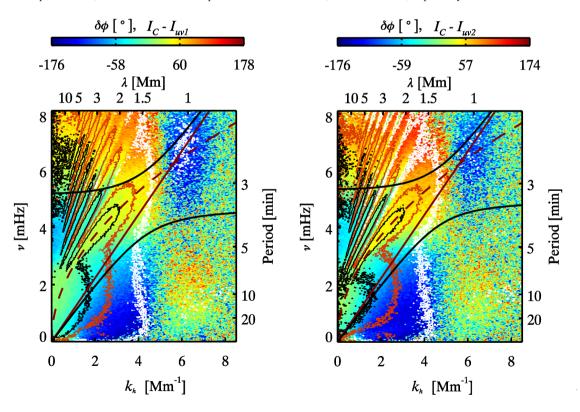


Fig. 7. Same as Figure 6, but for plage region as indicated by P in Figure 1.

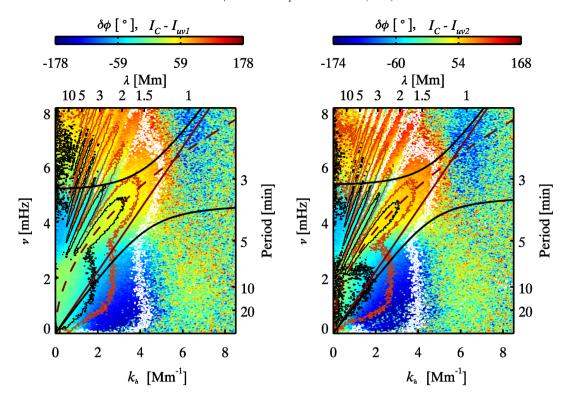


Fig. 8. Same as Figure 6 but for sunspot region as indicated by symbol S in the Figure 1.

top panels are for the $I_c - I_{uv1}$ pair, and bottom panels are for the $I_c - I_{uv2}$ pair.

We mainly focus on the effect of magnetic fields on the gravity waves, and hence are not discussing the acoustic wave regimes. In the gravity wave region of the diagnostic diagrams (c.f. Figure 5), we observe the well known negative phase as expected for IGWs, whose phase and group velocities have opposite signs. In general, in all our $\delta\phi(k_h, \nu)$ diagrams, we observe noisy phase signals with very low coherence C for $k_h > 5.5$ Mm^{-1} and also even at lower k_h when $\nu < 0.5$ mHz. We avoid such regions in (k_h, ν) and focus only on IGWs that have $\nu \ge 0.5$ mHz and $k_h < 5.5 \text{ Mm}^{-1}$. The magnitudes and wavenumberextents of IGWs depend on the height separation in the solar atmosphere, and also vary significantly from region to region or location even in the quiet-Sun. For the quiet-Sun region M1, interestingly, the negative $\delta\phi(k_h,\nu)$ (c.f. left panel of Figure 5) corresponding to IGWs extend over, along a curved band, to the evanescent region and beyond into higher frequency domain, over the $k_h = 4.1 - 6.8 \text{ Mm}^{-1}$ and over ν beyond 4 mHz. This seems to indicate that there are IGW-like waves extending beyond the classical gravity wave boundary expected from the simple dispersion relation given by Equation 4. Interestingly, exactly such a behaviour is seen in the numerical simulations of IGWs performed by Vigeesh & Roth (2020) and as seen in their Figure 5(b), where they also synthesised spectral lines and derived $\delta\phi(k_h, \nu)$ from line core intensities of Fe 5576 Å and Fe 5434 Å lines. However, the coherence $C(k_h, \nu)$ (c.f. right panel of Figure 5) is less than 0.1 in $k_h = 4.1 - 5.5 \text{ Mm}^{-1} \& v >$ 3.5 mHz, corresponding to the negative phase observed in the evanescent wave regimes of $\delta \phi$ diagrams. Hence the reality of these seemingly high frequency IGWs, in the evanescent region and beyond, is doubtful despite their resemblance to the simulation results of Vigeesh & Roth (2020). Nevertheless, there are several factors which can affect the coherence; for example, results of Vigeesh & Roth (2020) from synthetic observations show that coherence decreases as height separation increases, and we also see such behaviour for the $I_c - I_{uv2}$ intensity pair, which corresponds to higher height (h = 20 - 430 km). Additionally, they suggested that the angle of wave propagation with respect to normal for a given wave of a given frequency can also influence the coherence, which is governed by the local Brunt-Väisälä frequency (N). A wave launched at a particular frequency, without any non-linear interaction, will eventually follow a curved trajectory if the local N changes with height. Therefore, the coherency of the waves propagating between two heights for a given Fourier frequency may locally change over the field of view (Vigeesh & Roth, 2020).

We show the $\delta\phi$, and C diagrams constructed from another quiet-Sun sub-region labelled as Q within a larger region including a small sunspot and neighbouring plage region (c.f. data set 2 shown in Figure 2) in Figure 9. Here, we see the negative $\delta\phi(k_h,\nu)$ in the gravity wave region extending upto $k_h=6.2$ Mm⁻¹ and also exhibiting 180 deg. wrapping of phase at low frequencies (less than 0.8 mHz), especially for the higher height pair I_c-I_{uv2} (c.f. bottom left panel of Figure 9). Comparing the two quiet-Sun regions Q and M1 in left panels of Figures 9 and 5, respectively, also reveals significant differences, especially in regard to the curved band of negative $\delta\phi(k_h,\nu)$ that extends

through the evanescent region to higher frequencies in the M1 region – it is absent in the Q region. Furthermore, the $\delta\phi(k_h, \nu)$ and $C(k_h, \nu)$ diagrams of M1 region shows reduced extent of negative phase and coherence over k_h and ν corresponding to Qregion. The observed phase difference of gravity waves in M1 region is similar to the earlier estimation by Rutten & Krijger (2003) utilizing white light and 1700 Å intensity as shown in their Figure 5, where the overplotted contours at C = 0.5, 0.2and 0.1 demonstrate that contour of C = 0.5 is extended only upto $k_h = 1.3 \text{ arcsec}^{-1}$, which in Mm⁻¹ would be approximately 1.8 Mm^{-1} . However, in our analysis the contour of C = 0.5 is extended upto around $k_h = 2.0 \text{ Mm}^{-1}$ (c.f. Figure 5) and $k_h =$ 4.0 Mm^{-1} (c.f. Figure 9). The extent of contour of C = 0.5 in our investigation is better than that earlier reported by Rutten & Krijger (2003). In the M1 region negative $\delta \phi$ and contour of coherence at C = 0.1 is extended only upto $k_h = 4.1 \text{ Mm}^{-1}$ whereas Q region occupies bigger extent than M1, upto $k_h =$ 6.2 Mm⁻¹. This is possibly associated with the slanted propagation of gravity waves in the solar atmosphere. Thus, as we are going away from the disk center, we are probably detecting more and more gravity wave signals compared to that of disk center location. In addition to that, the phase and coherence diagrams constructed from V - V pair i.e. $V_{80} - V_{10}$ over a quiet region (A) as depicted in the Figure 3 are shown in the Figure 12. The gravity wave regime shows the well known negative phase extending upto $k_h = 6 \text{ Mm}^{-1}$ with a very high coherence (c.f. Figure 12). Interestingly, the observed phase difference in the gravity wave regime over a quiet region (A) (c.f. Figure 12) is consistent with the earlier phase difference diagram constructed between two height V - V pair estimated within Fe I 7090 Å line as reported in the Figure 1 of Straus et al. (2008).

3.2. Phase Spectra of IGWs in Magnetic Regions and Comparisons with Quiet Regions

From the data of three large regions (data set 1, 2, and 3), we have several strongly magnetised regions of different configurations, P, S, R1, R2, and B and the $\delta\phi(k_h, \nu)$ and $C(k_h, \nu)$ diagrams of these regions are shown in Figures 7, 8, 10, 11, and 13 respectively. The region M2 is close to the sunspot in data set 1 and has one side of the sunspot canopy field covered within it, and it is clear from the left panels of Figure 6 that the extent of gravity wave regime in the M2region is reduced over ν and k_h as compared to that seen in the quiet network region (c.f. Figure 5): while it occupies v=0 – 4 mHz range extending up to about $k_h = 5.5 \text{ Mm}^{-1}$ in M1, the negative phases taper off and become positive over v > 3 mHz and $k_h > 4.41 \text{ Mm}^{-1}$. In their synthetic observations based on numerical simulations, Vigeesh & Roth (2020) have shown that the magnitude and wavenumber-extent of negative phase reduces as the magnetic field strength increases. We observe a similar trend in the $\delta\phi$ diagrams obtained from magnetized regions. In the phase diagrams of M2, P and S regions negative $\delta \phi$ tapers off at approximately $\nu = 2.5$ mHz and at $k_h = 4.82$ Mm^{-1} . Similarly, the phase diagrams of R1, and R2 regions of data set 2 indicate that negative phase is extended upto only $\nu = 3.0 \text{ mHz}$, and $k_h = 5.8 \text{ Mm}^{-1}$ (c.f. Figures 10, and 11); these two regions also exhibit reduced coherence as compared

to that in the Q region. The above general reducing extents of negative $\delta \phi$ of IGWs in magnetic regions have to be compared with those observed in the quiet-Sun regions M1 (c.f. Figure 5) and Q (c.f. Figure 9), where they extend upto about v = 4mHz, and $k_h = 6.2 \text{ Mm}^{-1}$. It is to be noted that the coherence diagrams constructed from I - I pair over quiet regions (M1 and Q) show that coherence is samll i.e., contour of C at 0.5 extends upto $k_h = 2 \text{ Mm}^{-1}$ and $k_h = 4 \text{ Mm}^{-1}$ as shown in the Figure 5, and Figure 9, respectively. Despite the low coherence over the quiet regions (c.f. see extent of contours in Figure 5 and Figure 9), coherence estimated over magnetized regions (M2, P, S, R1 and R2) is further reduced (c.f. see extent of contours in Figures 6, 7, 8, 10, and 11). Moreover, the phase and coherence diagrams constructed from $V_{80} - V_{10}$ velocity pair from a high magnetic concentrations over a sunspot (B) are shown in the Figure 13. The $\delta\phi(k_h, \nu)$ and $C(k_h, \nu)$ diagrams (c.f. Figure 13) over B region show that phase and coherence both are reduced in the sunspot over k_h and ν extent, compared to quiet (A) region as shown in the Figure 12.

In order to better understand the effect of magnetic fields on the IGWs, we have averaged $\delta \phi$ over $k_h = 1.0 - 3.0, 2.75 - 4.1,$ and $4.1 - 5.5 \text{ Mm}^{-1}$ in M1, M2, P, and S regions of data set 1 and have plotted them in Figure 14. The left panels [(a), (c), and (e)] correspond to intensity $I_c - I_{uv1}$ pair, while right panels [(b), (d), and (f)] are from higher height intensity $I_c - I_{\mu\nu 2}$ pair. We have smoothed $< \delta \phi >$ by taking a smoothing window of 13 point to reduce the noise. In our analysis, the IGWs mostly lie up to $k_h = 7.0 \, \mathrm{Mm}^{-1}$, and ν up to about 3.5 mHz. The panels (a), (b), (c), and (d) of Figure 14, in the $k_h = 1.0 - 3.0$, and 2.75 - 4.1 Mm⁻¹ demonstrate that there is a change in the phase of the order of 30 - 40 and 20 - 30 degrees in the v = 2.5 - 3mHz band estimated over M2, P, and S regions, respectively corresponding to M1 region. Additionally, panels (e) and (f) of Figure 14 indicate that there is a change in the phase of the order of 30 - 70, and 80 - 100 degrees in 2.5 - 3.0 mHz as estimated for the $k_h = 4.1 - 5.5 \text{ Mm}^{-1}$ wavenumber over M2, P, and S regions with respect to M1 region. Interestingly, we find that the phase is reduced in large amount in the higher wavenumber ($k_h = 4.1 - 5.5 \text{ Mm}^{-1}$) in magnetized regions compared to quiet region, almost changing from negative to positive sign as shown in the panel (e) and (f) of Figure 14. We also notice that the $\langle \delta \phi \rangle$ estimated from M2 region, which is very close to the sunspot is notably affected in $k_h = 1.0 - 3.0$, 2.75 - 4.1, and $4.1 - 5.5 \text{ Mm}^{-1}$ (c.f. Figure 14) compared to M1 region. Similarly, the $<\delta\phi>$ vs ν plots over $k_h=1.0$ – 3.0, 2.75 - 4.1, and $4.1 - 5.5 \text{ Mm}^{-1}$ for Q, R1, and R2 regions of data set 2 as shown in the Figure 15 also demonstrate the reduction in phase over R1, and R2 regions upto v = 4.0 mHzband. The panels (a), (b), (c), and (d) of Figure 15 for $k_h = 1.0$ -3.0, and 2.75 - 4.1 Mm⁻¹ indicate the change in $< \delta \phi >$ over $\nu = 2.5 - 3$ mHz band of the order of 10 - 20 degrees, while for panels (e) and (f) for $k_h = 4.1 - 5.5 \text{ Mm}^{-1}$ show the change in $< \delta \phi >$ of the order of 25 – 50 degree in 2.5 – 3 mHz band (c.f. Figure 15) concerning to Q region. The bottom panel [(e), and (f)] of Figure 15 also shows that phase of gravity waves are reduced in larger amount in the higher wavenumber $k_h = 4.1$ –

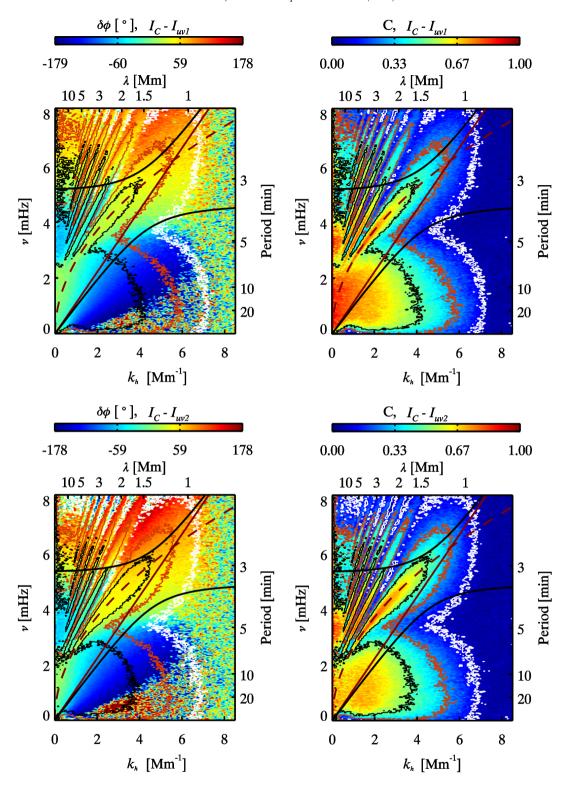


Fig. 9. Top panel: Cross-spectral phase difference, $\delta\phi(k_h, \nu)$ (top left panel), and coherence, $C(k_h, \nu)$ (top right panel), diagrams of Q region constructed from I_c-I_{uv1} pair of photospheric continuum intensity (HMI) and UV 1700 Å channel of AIA, which correspond to 20-360 km above z=0 in the solar atmosphere. Bottom panel: same as top panel, but from I_c-I_{uv2} pair of photospheric continuum intensity (HMI) and UV 1600 Å channel of AIA, which correspond to 20-430 km above z=0 in the solar atmosphere. The black solid lines separate vertically propagating waves $(k_z^2>0)$ from the evanescent ones $(k_z^2<0)$ at upper height. The dashed red line is the f-mode dispersion curve and solid red line is the Lamb mode. The over plotted black, red and white contours represent the coherence at 0.5, 0.3 and 0.1 levels, respectively.

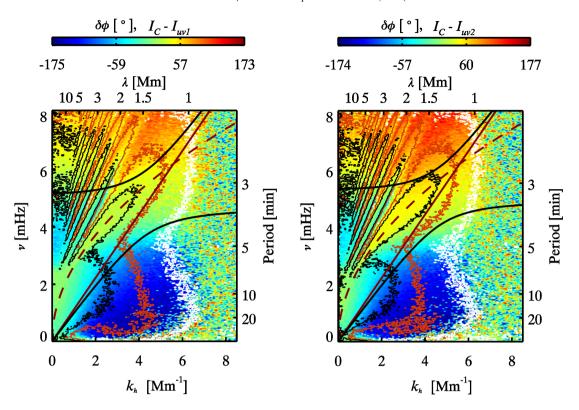


Fig. 10. Cross-spectral phase difference, $\delta\phi(k_h, \nu)$ diagrams of R1 region as indicated in the Figure 2 constructed from $I_c - I_{u\nu 1}$, and $I_c - I_{u\nu 2}$ intensity pairs, respectively. The over plotted black, red and white contours represent the coherence at 0.5, 0.3 and 0.1 levels, respectively.

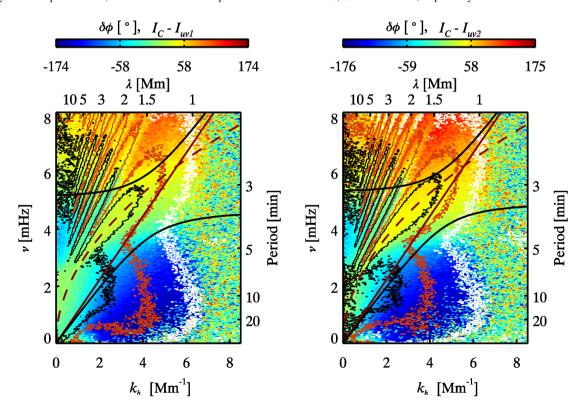


Fig. 11. Same as Figure 10, but for R2 region as indicated in the Figure 2.

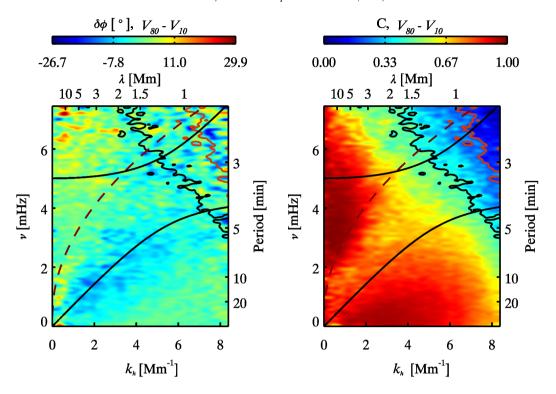


Fig. 12. Cross-spectral phase difference, $\delta\phi(k_h, \nu)$ (left panel), and coherence, $C(k_h, \nu)$ (right panel), diagrams of quiet (A) region constructed from $V_{80} - V_{10}$ velocity pair of photospheric Fe I 6173 Å line observations obtained from the IBIS instrument, which correspond to different heights within 16-302 km above z=0 in the solar atmosphere. The black solid lines separate vertically propagating waves ($k_z^2>0$) from the evanescent ones ($k_z^2<0$) at upper height. The dashed red line is the f-mode dispersion curve. The overplotted black, red and white contours represent the coherence at 0.5, 0.3 and 0.1 levels, respectively.

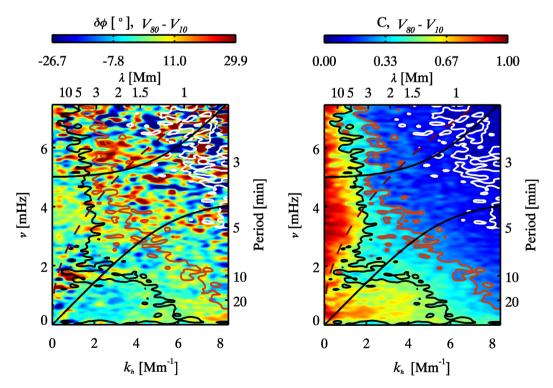


Fig. 13. Same as Figure 12, but for sunspot (B) region as indicated in the Figure 3.

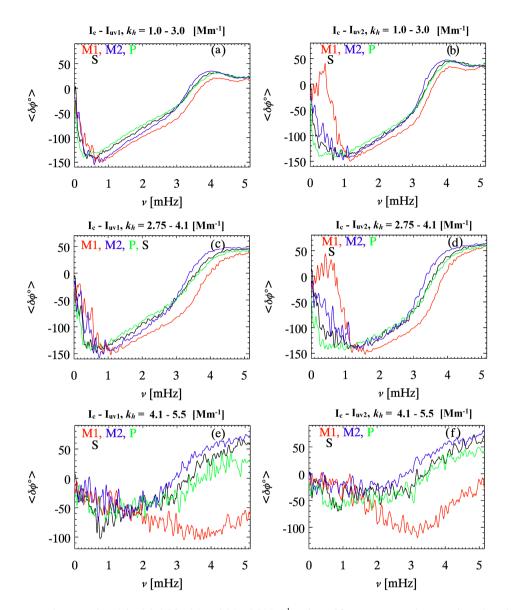


Fig. 14. Plots indicate average phase over $k_h = 1.0 - 3.0$, 2.75 - 4.1, and 4.1 - 5.5 Mm⁻¹, estimated from $I_c - I_{uv1}$, and $I_c - I_{uv2}$ intensity pairs, over M1, M2, P, and S regions, respectively, as indicated in Figure 1.

5.5 Mm^{-1} as compared to quiet region (Q). Further, it is to be noted that M2, and R1 regions cover a large amount of looping magnetic fields, hence they are largely horizontal, as can be seen in the AIA 171 Å passband (c.f. right panel of Figures 1 and 2), respectively. We also find that suppression of phase is more in these regions (M2, and R1) as compared to others.

Additionally, we also estimate and plot $<\delta\phi>$ over quiet (A) and sunspot (B) region over $k_h=2-4$ Mm⁻¹ from $V_{80}-V_{10}$ velocity pair as shown in the Figure 18. It indicates that $<\delta\phi>$ is positive in the sunspot (B) region, while it is negative over the quiet (A) region around $\nu=1.5$ mHz. Further, we also estimate $<\delta\phi>$ over A and B region from pixel by pixel calculation after removing the acoustic wave regime part from $k_h-\nu$ diagram i.e. above the f-mode in the diagnostic diagram utilizing a 3D FFT filter. The $<\delta\phi>$ over A and B regions are shown in the Figure

19 shows that there is a change in sign of the $\langle \delta \phi \rangle$ estimated over sunspot (B) region compare to quiet (A) region. It is to be noted that we have used velocity V_{80} and V_{10} estimated within the Fe I 6173 Å line at two heights. The formation height of Fe I 6173 Å line is different in quiet and magnetized region i.e. sunspot. In the quiet region, Fe I line forms within h = 16 - 300km, whereas in umbra it is around h = 20 - 270 km above the τ_c = 1. Thus, we estimate the percentage change in the formation height of quiet and sunspot region. There is an approximately 12% change in the formation height of Fe I line with respect to a quiet region. However, the percentage change in the $<\delta\phi>$ estimated from Figure 19 at v = 1.5 mHz are found to be of the order of 114.3% compare to quiet region. Nevertheless, the $<\delta\phi>$ estimated over a quiet (A) and a sunspot (B) region from Figure 18 in $\nu = 1.5-3.5$ mHz and $k_h = 2-4$ Mm⁻¹ are of the order of -5.35 degree and 0.255 degree, respectively. Thus,

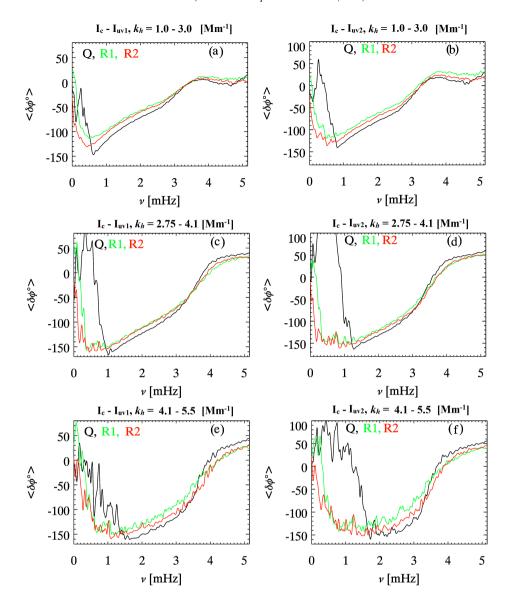


Fig. 15. Same as Figure 14 but, over Q, R1, and R2 regions, respectively, as indicated in Figure 2.

such a change in $<\delta\phi>$ and change in sign is not possibly due to the lowering in the formation height of Fe I 6173 Å line in sunspot, indicating that it is due to the suppression or reflection of gravity waves in the magnetized regions. The formation height of I_{uv1} and I_{uv2} might be decrease in the magnetized regions. However, the observed percentage change in phase over the highly magnetized regions, are more than 50%–100% at v=2.0-2.5 mHz and change in sign between quiet and magnetic regions near 3 mHz (c.f. Figure 14), and their similarities with the phase analysis of V-V spectrum, indicate that it is not due to change in formation heights of observables used but due to the direct effect of magnetic fields on their propagation. This is because, a sign change in phase shifts between quiet and magnetic regions cannot come from the formation height differences, however big they are.

3.3. Coherence and Effects of Magnetic Fields

We analyzed the average coherence on two different wavenumber ranges i.e. $k_h = 1.0 - 3.0 \, \mathrm{Mm^{-1}}$ (pale blue line), and $k_h = 2.75 - 4.1 \, \mathrm{Mm^{-1}}$ (black line) integrated over $v = 1 - 2 \, \mathrm{mHz}$ band from dataset 1, over M1, M2, P, and S regions and plotted them in Figure 16. The plots of $< C > \mathrm{versus} < |B_{LOS}| > \mathrm{obtained}$ from $I_c - I_{uv1}$ (dashed line) and $I_c - I_{uv2}$ (solid line) pair as shown in the Figure 16 demonstrate that as magnetic field strength increases coherence decreases. From the dataset 2, we also estimate $< C > \mathrm{on} \ k_h = 1.0 - 3.0 \, \mathrm{Mm^{-1}}$ (pale blue line), $k_h = 2.75 - 4.1 \, \mathrm{Mm^{-1}}$ (black line), and $k_h = 4.1 - 5.5 \, \mathrm{Mm^{-1}}$ (blue line) integrated over $v = 1 - 2 \, \mathrm{mHz}$ over Q1, R1, and R2 from $I_c - I_{uv1}$ (dashed line) and $I_c - I_{uv2}$ (solid line) pairs, which are depicted in the Figure 17. These also demonstrate that as magnetic field strength increases coherence decreases. It is to be noted that in $k_h = 2.75 - 4.1 \, \mathrm{Mm^{-1}}$ range in Figure 16 and k_h

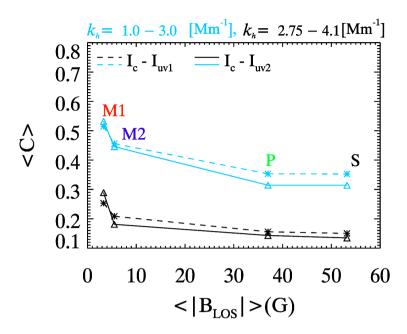


Fig. 16. Plots show $\langle C \rangle$ versus $\langle |B_{LOS}| \rangle$ over $k_h = 1.0 - 3.0$, 2.75 - 4.1 Mm⁻¹, and v = 1 - 2 mHz, estimated from $I_c - I_{uv1}$, and $I_c - I_{uv2}$ intensity pairs, over M1, M2, P and S regions, respectively, as indicated in Figure 1.

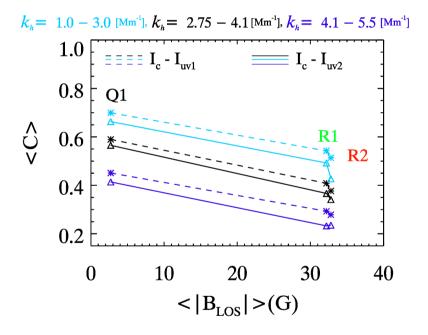


Fig. 17. Plots show $< C > \text{versus} < |B_{LOS}| > \text{over } \nu = 1 - 2 \text{ mHz}$, and $k_h = 1.0 - 3.0$, 2.75 - 4.1, and $4.1 - 5.5 \text{ Mm}^{-1}$, estimated from $I_c - I_{uv1}$, and $I_c - I_{uv2}$ intensity pairs, over Q, R1 and R2 regions, respectively, as indicated in Figure 2.

= 4.1–5.5 Mm⁻¹ regime in the Figure 17 coherence is below 0.5. However, despite the low coherence in quiet regions (M1 and Q1), coherence is further reduced in magnetized regions. Similar reduction in coherence is also observed in the < C > versus v plot constructed over quiet (A) and sunspot (B) regions as shown in the right panel of Figure 18. Figures 16, 17, and right panel of Figure 18 suggest that magnetic fields also affect coherence apart from other factors as suggested by Vigeesh & Roth (2020).

4. Discussion and Conclusions

The IGWs in the solar atmosphere, which are thought to be generated by the turbulent convection penetrating locally into a stably stratified medium are believed to dissipate their energy by radiative damping just above the solar surface (Lighthill, 1967). Earlier studies (Mihalas & Toomre, 1981, 1982) suggest that IGWs can reach upto the middle chromosphere, before breaking of these waves due to nonlinearities resulting in a complete dissipation. Recent simulations done by Vigeesh

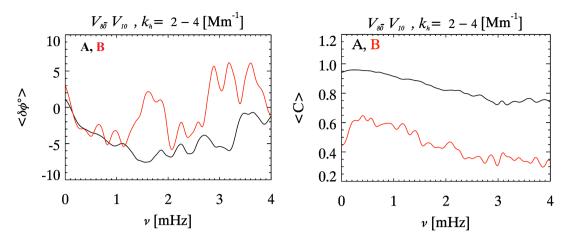


Fig. 18. Plots indicate average phase (left panel) and coherence (right panel) over $k_h = 2.0 - 4.0 \text{ Mm}^{-1}$, estimated from $V_{80} - V_{10}$ velocity-velocity pairs, over A, and B regions, respectively, as indicated in Figure 3.

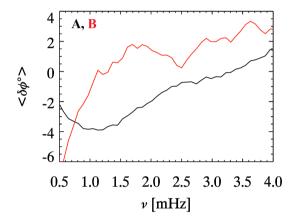


Fig. 19. Plots indicate average phase estimated over A and B regions from $V_{80} - V_{10}$ pairs from pixel-by-pixel calculation, after removing the acoustic wave regime part above the f-mode region in the $k_h - v$ diagram.

et al. (2017), Vigeesh et al. (2019), and (Vigeesh & Roth, 2020) have shown that these waves are still present in the higher atmosphere, where the radiative damping time scale is high, and that magnetic fields suppress or scatter IGWs in the solar atmosphere.

Our investigations of $k_h - \nu$ phases and coherences of IGWs within the photosphere and from photospheric to lower chromospheric height ranges over a varied levels of background magnetic fields and their configurations have brought out clear signatures of reduced extent of negative phase and coherence and a change of sign in phases in the gravity wave regime due to the magnetic fields as compared to quiet regions – as demonstrated in Figures 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11. The above finding from intensity observations is also strengthened from the phase and coherence diagrams estimated from velocity - velocity cross-spectral pairs observed over a quiet (*A*) and a sunspot (*B*) region (c.f. Figure 12, and 13). Further, from the comparison of average phase in $k_h = 1.0 - 3.0$, 2.75 - 4.1, and 4.1 - 5.5 Mm⁻¹ over quiet and magnetic regions from data set 1 and 2 as shown in the Figures 14, and 15, we find

that the phase of IGWs are much reduced in the magnetized regions. Moreover, this effect is more prominent in the higher wavenumber regions i.e. for the waves of lower wavelength $(\lambda = 2.175 - 2.75 \text{ Mm})$ suggesting that these gravity waves are scattered by the background magnetic fields or partially reflecting from the upper atmospheric layers leading to positive phase in the gravity wave regime. The average phase estimated from V - V pair in $k_h = 2 - 4 \text{ Mm}^{-1}$ (c.f. Figure 18) also indicate change in sign at v = 1.5 mHz in sunspot (B) compare to quiet (A) region. Moreover, the average phase estimated from V - V pair from pixel-by-pixel analysis over quiet (A)and sunspot (B) regions also demonstrate the change in sign of the phase. Furthermore, the observed percentage change in phase in the sunspot (B) compared to quiet (A) region is much higher than percentage change in the formation height of Fe I line in sunspot compared to quiet region, strongly favouring the suppression or reflections of gravity waves in the high magnetized region i.e. sunspot (c.f. Figur 19). It is to be noted that the observed differences in the B region compared to the A region could be due to lack of excitation of gravity waves over sunspot in the photosphere, but there is still a possibility of scattering/suppression of gravity waves that propagate from the surrounding quiet Sun over the sunspot location. Importantly, we also find a reduction in coherence in the presence of background magnetic fields as shown in the Figures 16, and 17 as well as shown in the right panel of Figure 18. Previously, Straus et al. (2008) showed that the rms wave velocity fluctuations due to IGWs were suppressed at locations of magnetic flux. Here, we have provided further observational evidence in the $k_h - \nu$ diagrams for the suppression or scattering or partial reflection of gravity waves in the magnetized regions of the solar atmosphere.

In general, the above nature of IGWs in magnetized regions are broadly consistent with the simulation results of Vigeesh et al. (2017) and Vigeesh et al. (2019); Vigeesh & Roth (2020) suggesting the suppression of gravity waves in magnetized regions. This led to identifying our reported differences between quiet and magnetic regions as observational evidences for such influences of magnetic fields. We anticipate that several of our analyses and findings reported here will be examined in more detail in the near future containing bigger FOV, involving coordinated simultaneous multi-height observations of photosphere and chromosphere utilising Dopplergrams data from the newer Daniel K Inouye Solar Telescope (DKIST; Rimmele et al. (2020)) (National Solar Observatory USA) facility along with MAST (Mathew, 2009; Venkatakrishnan et al., 2017) and HMI, AIA onboard SDO spacecraft.

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