

An Overview of Big Bear Solar Observatory

Wenda Cao

- Big Bear Solar Observatory (BBSO) of NJIT is a remote facility in California.
- BBSO now operates one of the highest resolution solar telescope – the 1.6-meter off-axis Goode Solar Telescope (GST).
- The dome sits at the end of a 1,000-foot causeway on Big Bear Lake's north shore at 6,750-foot elevation.
- The surrounding waters of Big Bear Lake reduce ground level convection and provide superb conditions for solar observing.
- GST opens its observing time and data to the Solar Physics and Space Science
- Communities.







OREGON

NEVADA



Turbulence in Earth's Atmosphere

- Turbulence in earth's atmosphere makes astronomical targets twinkle.
- Turbulence changes rapidly with time.
- Temperature fluctuations in small patches of air cause changes in index of refraction.
- Atmospheric perturbations cause distorted wavefronts.
- When light rays reach telescope, they are no longer parallel, hence they can't be focused to a point.













- * <u>"Coherence Length"</u> from all atmosphere contribution and can be seen as an average turbulence cell size.
- r₀ is diameter of the circular pupil for which the diffraction limited image and the seeing limited image have the same angular resolution.
- Any telescope with diameter $D > r_0$ has no better spatial resolution than a telescope for which $D = r_0$



Seeing Characteristic r_o at Big Bear

- Big Bear Lake reduce ground level convection, and predominant winds bring smooth air flows across the flat surface of the lake.
- Seeing character at Big Bear differs markedly from the high altitude, volcanic island sites measured in the DKIST site survey. The median r₀ for BBSO is shown in black (Hill et al. 2004).
- Observations using AO will be viable for extended periods during a typical day.
- ↔ Median $r_0 \simeq 6$ cm @ 500 nm, and wind speed $\simeq 4-6$ m/s.





BBSO – History

- BBSO was constructed by Caltech in 1960s.
- Its 26-inch (65 cm) telescope advanced our understanding to our star in high resolution.
- In 1997, the first BBSO director, Prof. Zirin retired. Caltech decided to direct their resources to their nighttime astronomy program.
- New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT), in Newark, NJ took over the observatory operation.
- Prof. Phil Goode became the second director of BBSO.









- GST presentation to NSF December 2002. Construction grants awarded.
- Fabrication of the primary mirror began 2003.
- Designs continued into 2005.
- DFM contracted for telescope structure 2005
- Old dome removed October <u>November 2005</u>.
- New dome built in December 2005 January 2006.
- Dome drives installed March June 2006.
- Mirror testing in last half of 2006, some problems with test procedures.
- Figuring and testing of mirror continued to June 2008.
- Old telescope removed in <u>February 2007</u>
- New pier built in March-April 2007.
- Work deck (new observing floor) built <u>April 2007</u>.
- Dome drive rebuilt in <u>2008</u>.
- Telescope structure built at DFM Engineering in January 2007 September 2008.
- Final telescope assembly began in <u>September 29, 2008</u>
- First light in January 19, 2009.
- Commissioning started in 2009 for one year

NST Construction Milestones







1.6 m Off-axis NST/GST

- The GST is an off-axis section of a 5.3meter, f/0.73 Gregorian telescope. The result is an f/2.4, 1.7-meter system.
- The design offers an unobstructed pupil allowing superior adaptive optics (AO) performance and low scattered light.
- The prime focus, where most of the solar radiation must be absorbed, is accessible without obstructing the light path.
- A small (3.5 mm) field stop at prime focus limits the radiation loads transmitted to the downstream optics.









GST and its Scientific Instruments

- Adaptive Optics System (AO: AO-308, MCAO)
 SPIE.9148.100, SPIE.9148.193, SPIE.11448.1144924
- Visible Imaging Spectrometer (VIS)
 - SPIE.9147.15, AN.331.636
- Near Infrared Imaging Spectro-polarimeter (NIRIS) – ASPC.463.291, SPIE.9147.127
- Fast Imaging Solar Spectrograph (FISS)
 - Solar Phys.288.1
- Broad-band Filter Imager (BFI) SPIE.7735.77355v
- Cryogenic Infrared Spectrograph (CYRA)
 - SPIE.11447.11447AG, SPIE.9147.129
- NASA Mid-Infrared Imager (MIRI)









Adaptive Optics (AO) Principle

- AO system uses a computer to control deformable mirror to correct for distortions caused by observing through the Earth's atmosphere.
- Wavefront sensor: measure details of blurring from the target you want to observe.
- Control system: calculate the shape to apply to deformable mirror to correct blurring.
- Deformable mirror: light from observing target is reflected from DM and distortions are removed.



GST AO and MCAO

- 1st Generation AO-76: Strehl ratio: 0.7 in the NIR under median BBSO seeing.
- 2nd Generation AO-308: Acquire diffraction limited imaging over the telescope's full range of operation.
- String Generation GLAO & MCAO: Expand field of view of diffraction limited observations to ~ 1' in the visible.
- Limb-AO for observing solar prominences.
- WFS Profiler to measure seeing as a function of height in a real time.
- Successful collaboration between BBSO/NJIT, NSO and KIS.









2nd Generation AO: AO-308

- AO-308 is operational, AO-308 is a collaboration between BBSO, NSO and KIS.
- Shack Hartmann WFS with 308 sub-apertures (AO-308):
 20 sub-apertures across the GST primary mirror.
- Xinetics Deformable Mirror with 357 actuators and 5 mm spacing.
- Adimec camera with a frame rate of 1700 Hz for 400 by 400 pixels sub-array with a large full well.
- Using KAOS program with a high-performance computer.
- Closed-loop Bandwidth: 120 Hz.
- Adjustable number of corrected modes up to 285.
- Acquire diffraction limited imaging over the telescope's full range of operation.



3rd Generation AO: MCAO

- Multi-Conjugate AO (MCAO) is a collaboration with BBSO, NSO and KIS.
- MD SH WFS with 208 sub-apertures and 9 guide regions.
- Three DMs with 357 actuators conjugated to pupil (1km), 3 km (2km), and 8 km (3km).
- Multi-CPU parallel computation.
- MichroTron high speed camera.
- Closed-loop Bandwidth: 120 Hz.
- One-click switch between MCAO, GLAO and CAO depending seeing conditions.
- Expand field of view of diffraction limited observations to ~ 1' in the visible.

Limb AO

- Limb AO is a modified version of GST AO-308
 Mk II for the prominence observations.
- Correlating Shack-Hartmann WFS.
- Sub-aperture size:
- Number of sub-apertures: pupil).

across

- Maximum frame rate:
- WFS Wavelength:
- WFS field of view:

01:58

 Successful collaboration between BBSO/NJIT, NSO and KIS, serving as the pathfinder for DKIST & EST.

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Imaging Spectroscopy

- Imaging spectroscopy can be be defined as acquisition of images in hundreds of contiguous, registered, spectral band.
- Imaging spectroscopy generates a data cube with 3 dimensions: x, y, and λ.
- Unfortunately, instruments can only observe
 2 simultaneously.
- Spectrograph observers x, λ at once and slit scan across y for imaging spectroscopy.
- Filter observers x, y and image scan over λ
 for imaging spectroscopy.
- Imaging spectro-polarimetry.

NSP

Broad-band Filter Imager - BFI

- Highest possible spatial and temporal resolution photospheric observations.
- Reference images for alignment with space instruments
- ✤ Typical exposure: 0.8 1.5 ms
- ✤ Typical burst cadence: 10 15 s.
- Available channels:

	Central	Height	Filter	Field of	Image	Minimum
	Wavelength	above $\tau_{500}{=}1$	Bandpass	View	Scale	Cadence
G-band	430.5 nm	$\sim 50 \ \mathrm{km}$	5 Å	55"	0.027"/pix	7-10 secs
TiO	705.7 nm	$\sim 150 \; km$	10 Å	70"	0.034"/pix	7-10 secs

- ✤ Each burst is analyzed on the fly with 70 best contrast frames out of 100 images.
- ✤ All BFI bursts are processed with speckle interferometry to achieve the diffraction-limit.

Visible Imaging Spectrometer – VIS

- High spatial resolution spectrosc
 the solar chromosphere with Ha
 - Narrow band tunable filter base
 single Fabry-Pérot etalon (D = 70 ___
 - ✤ Band pass: 5.8 8.2 pm
 - ✤ Wavelength coverage: 550 700
 - ✤ Field of view (FOV): 75" by 64".
 - Cadence ranges from 0.8 s (one to 25 s (13 positions).

Wang, Cao, Liu, et al., Nature Communications, 6, 7008, 2015

Upgrading Visible Imaging Spectrometer – VIS-II

- Replace the VIS with a dual FPIs system, each with a 100 mm aperture to cover a broader wavelength range in the visible and have a larger FOV and scanning range.
- ✤ Wavelength coverage: 480 860 nm.
 - Ha 656.3 nm chromosphere dynamics
 - He I 587.6 nm D3 flares
 - Fe I 617.3 nm photospheric magnetic fields
 - Ca II 854.2 nm chromospheric magnetic fields
 - 543. 5 nm or 769.9 nm
- ✤ FOV TBD: 85" by 85".
- ✤ Scanning range > 0.15 nm @ Ha line
- Spatial resolution: < 0.1" with AO and speckle reconstruction processing.

Near Infrared Imaging Spectro-polarimeter - NIRIS

- High quality and sensitivity vector magnetic fields measurement.
- Imaging spectro-polarimeter based on dual Fabry-Perot interferometer.
- ♦ Wavelength coverage: 1.0 1.75 um (Fe I 1565 nm and He I 1083 nm).
- ✤ Field of view: 85" round.
- Cadence: ~40 s for a 40-positions sampling spectro-polarimetry.
- Polarimetry accuracy: 10 Gauss for longitudinal magnetic signals.
- Offer Stokes Inversion per request.
- Apply deep learning to Stokes Inversion.

NIRIS Data Processing

- ✤ Dark/Flat Fielding.
- Align frames with features.
- Align dual beams.
- Subtract dual beams w/ de-stretch (registration).
- Combine 16 frames to create initial Stokes profiles.
- Correct for phase offset between modulator & detector.
- ✤ Calibrate instrumental crosstalk.
- Offer ME Stokes Inversion per request.
- Apply deep learning to Stokes Inversion.

 $(I' Q' U' V')^{T} = M (I Q U V)^{T}$ $M = M_{n} M_{n-1} M_{n-2} \dots M_{3} T$ $(I Q U V)^{T} = M^{-1} (I' Q' U' V')^{T}$ $M (dec,ha) = M_{rest} R(\varphi_{3},ha) M_{4} R(\varphi_{2},dec) M_{3} R(\varphi_{1})$ $M_{rest} = M [R(\varphi_{3},ha) M_{4} R(\varphi_{2},dec) M_{3} R(\varphi_{1})]^{-1} = constant$

NIRIS, Hinode-SP and HMI

Fast Imaging Solar Spectrograph - FISS

Solar Physics, vol. 288, 2013. "Initial Results from FISS"

- High resolution imaging spectroscopy in solar atmosphere.
- Echelle grating with order-selecting filters in quasi-Littrow configuration.
- Slit-scan simultaneous imaging at dualband spectra with two CCD cameras.
- Default setting: Ha & Ca II 854.2 nm.
- Field of view: 60" by 40".
- Spectral resolving power: > 1.4×10^5 .
- Cadence: < 60 s for a 60" by 40" scan.

Upgrading Fast Imaging Solar Spectrograph - FISSP

- ✤ Upgrade FISS to be a spectropolarimeter FISSP.
- A slit assembly with an integrated context imager.
- A large-format spectrum camera for dualbeam polarimetry.
- An FLC-based polarimetric modulator and a polarimetric calibration unit.
- This setup is specifically designed to make use of an image restoration scheme developed for spectrograph data (van Noort 2017).
- ✤ FISSP can simultaneously measure dozens of unique spectral lines in a wide spectral range.

WHISPER

- US NSF-MRI: Development of Wide-band Highresolution Imaging Spectro-Polarimetric Explorer (WHISPER) for GST at BBSO.
- ✤ Joint project with BBSO, TSL MPS, SNU, KASI.
- ✤ 3-year project with 1 M\$ starting on 9/1/24.
- ✤ WHISPER spectral range: 516-526 nm.
- WHISPER employs an image reconstruction scheme developed for slit spectrographs to undo the effect of the residual seeing, optical aberrations and modulation transfer.
- WHISPER allows us to obtain diffraction-limited spectropolarimetry of 0".067 at 520 nm.

Cryogenic IR Spectrograph - CYRA

- Fully cryogenic IR solar spectrograph operating at 77 K to minimize background thermal emission
- \checkmark Spectral range 1.0 to 5.0 μm with a FOV of 75"
- ✤ Spectral resolving power > 10⁵
- High spatial resolution, high cadence spectrometry and polarimetry
- ✤ Image rotation compensator and image scanner
- Interest of IR spectral lines

Tal	ble 1: Spectr	ograph Cov	erage of CY	RA for Its Current Conj	figuration
Region	Species	λ [nm]	g eff	Mag Sensitivity λg _{eff} [nm]	Note
Photosphere	Fe I	1565	3	4695	
	Ti I	2231	2.5	5578	Sunspot only
	Fe I	4063.7	1.25	5080	
	Si I	4236.5	1.625	6732	
			or 2.25	or 9321	
Chromosphere	Ca I	3697.4	1.1	4067	
	Mg I	3681.6	1.17	4307	
	Fe I	4132	n/a	n/a	Spectroscopic
	СО	4666	n/a	n/a	Spectroscopic
Corona	Si X	3934	1.5	5901	

Develop wavefront sensor and context imager

- MIRI is a broad-band filter imager operating in Mid-IR, contributed by NASA/GSFC.
- QWIP is a two-color detector with 320 × 256 pixels, offering 20% of maximum response of 4.2-6.2 μm for 5 μm channel and 7.0-9.3 μm for the 8 μm channel.
- Typical exposure 10 ms and frame rate 15 fr/s.
- MIRI/GST provides diffraction limited imaging of 0."67 at 5.2 μm and 1."06 at 8.2 μm, simultaneously.
- MIRI fills observational gap in Mid-IR spectral region of flare events, help us to understand the energy flow in the flare process.

BBSO_MIRI_B_20240222_222134

A X1.8 flare on 02/22/24 captured with MIRI 5 μm & 8 μm

GST Data Pipeline and Mining

- VIS Spectroscopy and BFI Photometry Data:
 - Dark and flat fielding
 - Speckle reconstruction (Wöger, F.; von der Lühe, O.; Reardon, K., 2008)
- NIRIS Spectro-polarimetry Data:
 - Dark and flat fielding, polarization signals extraction
 - Telescope polarization calibration
 - Stokes inversion to offer physical parameter (B, v, T, azi) maps
- FISS spectroscopy Data:
 - Dark and flat fielding, correction of curvature, dust removal
 - Spectra calibration to generate temperature and velocity maps
- GST Data Mining:
 - Deep learning for NIRIS Stokes inversion
 - Scale-invariant feature transform and optical flow methods
 - GST image registrations with NASA space data (HMI, SDO ...)
 - High-precise co-alignment between all GST instruments

Synoptic Program at BBSO

BBSO Supports NASA Missions

- Skylab the First US Space Station NASA
- Spacelab a Reusable Space Laboratory ESA & NASA
- Yohkoh "Solar-A" JAXA & NASA
- SOHO Solar and Heliospheric Observatory ESA & NASA
- TRACE Transition Region and Coronal Explorer NASA
- SDO Solar Dynamics Observatory NASA
- Hinode "Solar-B" JAXA & NASA
- IRIS Interface Region Imaging Spectrograph NASA
- NuSTAR Nuclear Spectroscopic Telescope Array NASA
- RHESSI Reuven Ramaty High Energy Solar Spectroscopic Imager NASA
- Hi-C II High Resolution Coronal Imager Rocket Mission NASA
- CLASP-2 Chromospheric Layer Spectropolarimeter Rocket Mission NASA
- PSP Parker Solar Probe NASA
- SO Solar Orbiter ESA & NASA
- BITSE & CODEX KASI & NASA
- EUVST "Solar-C" JAXA & NASA

GST Time and Data Opening to Community

- BBSO TAC has approved 78 PI-driven observing proposals covering 1,028 observing days in past three years. Test service mode with 30 observing proposals in AY21.
- 56.1% (AY18), 75.0% (AY19), 82.6% (AY20) and 80.0% (AY21) of GST observing time allocated to external users.
- ◆ GST observing proposals deadline on March 31 for premium observing season (Apr. 15 – Oct. 30).

Cli	Click on a "blue/yellow" day to see data; "clear" days - no obs; "gray" days - data are not available; "yellow" - PSP support; Total: 194 "open" days and 183 data days.																														
2020 Jan	01	02	03	04	05	<u>06</u>	07	08	09	10	11	12	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	17	18	19	20	21	22	<u>23</u>	24	25	26	27	<u>28</u>	29	30	31
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- Submit observing proposal: <u>http://www.bbso.njit.edu/cgi-bin/GSTObsForm</u>
- GST data download request: <u>http://www.bbso.njit.edu/~vayur/NST_catalog/</u>
- GST data browse: <u>http://www.bbso.njit.edu/~vayur/gst_logs/</u>

- Instituto de Astrofisica de Canarias IAC, Spain
- Universidad de La Laguna, Department of Astrophysics, Spain
- Seoul National University SNU, Korea
- Korea Astronomy and Space Science Institute KASI, Korea
- Indian Institute of Astrophysics IIA, India
- Indian Institute of Technology IIT BHU, India
- University of Sydney USYD, Australia
- University of Graz IGAM, Austria
- University of Oslo RoCS, Norway
- Observatorire de Paris LESIA, France
- Institut d'Astrophysique Spatiale IAS, France
- Tel Aviv University, Israel
- National Solar Observatory of Japan NAOJ, Japan
- Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency ISAS, Japan
- Nagoya University STEL, Japan
- Nanjing University NJU, China
- Peking University PKU, China
- University of Science and Technology of China USTC, China
- National Astronomical Observatory of China NAOC, China
- University of Warwick Center for Fusion Space and Astrophysics, UK

Northumbria University – NU, UK

New Jersey Institute of Technology – SUPA, Scotland

University of St Andrews – RCSP & ITA, Scotland

High Impact of GST Research

- 250+ peer-reviewed publications from GST observations since 2010, mostly in top journals, like Nature, Science, ApJ, A&A, MNRAS, ApJS, and ApJL, etc.
- Significant discoveries in the fields of quiet Sun, sunspot oscillations, structure of sunspots and pores, Ellerman bombs, small-scale reconnection, chromosphere flows, filaments and prominence, solar flares, corona heating, etc.
- ✤ One Science and six Nature journal papers.
- 80+ PhD Students graduated/working on their thesis with GST data.

https://ui.adsabs.harvard.edu/public-libraries/IBI9h5Y7TXWdf_A4CCKCMA

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