



Flare-induced Sunquake Signatures in the Ultraviolet as Observed by the Atmospheric Imaging Assembly

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Abstract

Sunquakes (SQs) have been routinely observed in the solar photosphere, but it is only recently that signatures of these events have been detected in the chromosphere. We investigate whether signatures of SQs are common in ultraviolet (UV) continua that sample the solar plasma several hundred km above where SQs are typically detected. We analyze observations from the Solar Dynamics Observatory's Atmospheric Imaging Assembly (SDO/AIA) 1600 and 1700 Å passbands, for SQ signatures induced by the flares of Solar Cycle 24. We base our analysis on the 62 SQs detected in the recent statistical study presented by Sharykin & Kosovichev. We find that 9 out of 62 SQ candidates produced a response that is clearly detected in running-difference images from the AIA 1600 and 1700 Å channels. A binary frequency filter with a width of 2 mHz, centered on 6 mHz, was applied to the data. The first signature of each SQ was detected at distances between 5.2 and 25.7 Mm from the associated flare ribbon. Time–distance and regression analysis allowed us to calculate the apparent transverse velocities of the SQs in the UV data sets and found maximum velocities as high as 41 km s^{-1} , 87 Mm away from the SQ source. Our analysis shows that flare-induced SQ signatures can be detected in the SDO/AIA 1600 and 1700 Å passbands, hinting at their presence in the lower chromosphere. There was no apparent correlation between GOES flare classification and the appearance of the SQ at these heights.

Unified Astronomy Thesaurus concepts: Solar physics (1476); Helioseismology (709); Solar atmosphere (1477)

1. Introduction

The photospheric perturbations that often accompany solar flares can generate helioseismic waves, commonly known as “sunquakes” (SQs). The suggestion that solar flares could produce some form of seismic response in the solar interior was first reported by Wolff (1972) and more recently investigated by Kosovichev & Zharkova (1995). The first detection of an SQ created by a solar flare was detected by Kosovichev & Zharkova (1998), using the Michelson Doppler Interferometer (Scherrer et al. 1995) onboard the Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (Domingo et al. 1995). SQs manifest as expanding, anisotropic waves in running-difference dopplergrams.

The creation of SQs is usually attributed to dense plasma refracting acoustic wavefronts that are traveling into the solar interior. It is thought that hydrodynamic shocks are created when a beam of high-energy particles, either an electron beam (Kosovichev & Zharkova 1998; Kosovichev 2007) or a proton beam (Zharkova & Zharkov 2007), is accelerated deep into the solar atmosphere from the corona during a flare, depositing large amounts of energy and momentum via collisions with the atmospheric plasma. The collisions result in heating and the generation of EUV and soft X-Ray emission through the process of chromospheric evaporation. The resulting overpressure leads to chromospheric condensation pushing the plasma deeper into the solar atmosphere, where it collides with the denser photosphere or dissipates after some time. The particle beams create a high-pressure compression in the photosphere and the generation of an acoustic shock front propagating into the internal layers of the Sun (Kosovichev 2006). The acoustic shock is reflected due to temperature and density fluctuations in the solar interior, causing a change in the sound speed (Green et al. 2017), which results in the creation of expanding ripples on the solar surface. This theory of SQ generation could be linked to the

thick-target model and arguments have been made for SQ generation to be added to these models (Kosovichev 2015; Sharykin & Kosovichev 2018).

The acceptance that SQs are an intrinsic aspect of a model such as the thick-target model would imply SQs should be present in most solar flares. However, SQs are still observed events during a fraction of the solar flares that occur on the Sun. With this in mind, there are a number of alternative interpretations of SQ generation that have been proposed in the literature. Potential scenarios for SQ excitation include: heating by continuum radiation (Lindsey & Donea 2008), wave heating of the plasma (Matthews et al. 2015), and magnetic field changes and the creation of a Lorentz force (Hudson et al. 2008; Fisher et al. 2012). Interestingly, Zharkov et al. (2011) reported SQs whose acoustic sources were detected away from their hard X-Ray sources, indicating that the SQs were not formed at the location of particle injection. They concluded that the magnetic field reconfiguration was responsible for a flux rope eruption and the subsequent creation of the SQ. The launch of the Solar Dynamics Observatory (SDO; Pesnell et al. 2012), which carries the Helioseismic and Magnetic Imager (HMI; Scherrer et al. 2012), has allowed the wide-spread detection of flare-induced SQs over the past decade (Kosovichev 2015).

To date, the majority of detections of the seismic responses associated with flares have been confined to the solar photosphere. However, high spatial and temporal resolution observations of the 2017 September 6, X9.3 flare (the largest of Solar Cycle 24) displayed evidence that a chromospheric response to SQs was also possible (Quinn et al. 2019). The photospheric components of this SQ have been widely reported (Sharykin & Kosovichev 2018; Zhao & Chen 2018). The detection of the SQ response in the chromosphere was based on observations obtained with the Swedish 1 m Solar Telescope

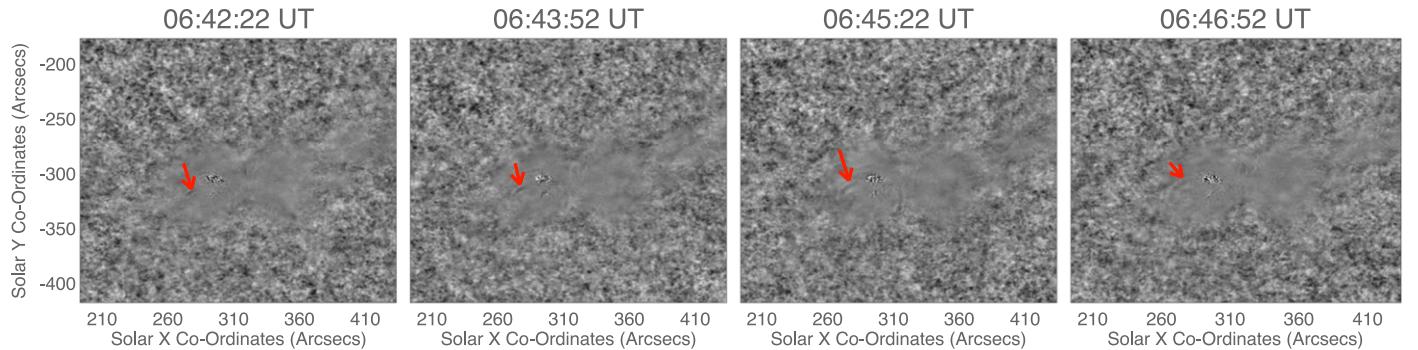


Figure 1. A $240'' \times 240''$ field-of-view (FOV) image constructed using a running-difference (specifically, $fr[n+1]-fr[n]$) technique on the SDO/HMI LOS for the M5.2 flare from 2014 February 2, plotted at four time steps. The time of each panel is indicated in the title of each panel. The red arrows point to one of the propagating wavefronts of the SQ, but more can be seen in the bottom right of the flare ribbon.

(Scharmer et al. 2003) Ca II 8542 Å and H α 6563 Å lines, as well as the Atmospheric Imaging Assembly (AIA; Lemen et al. 2012) onboard SDO. Specifically, the 1600 Å and AIA 1700 Å filters were studied in the work of Quinn et al. (2019).

It is currently unknown why some flares create SQs and others do not, as well as why some SQs have responses in the chromosphere and others only photospheric. The conversion of flare energy into acoustic waves is still a matter of great interest, as is a unified model of SQ generation. The main motivation behind this research is to investigate how common are the signatures of SQs in the SDO/AIA 1600 and 1700 Å continua, and if there is any correlation between the presence of any such response and the strength of the flare that created it. The starting point for this investigation is the statistical study of the SQs of Solar Cycle 24, recently presented by Sharykin & Kosovichev (2020). A subset of events from this sample are investigated to determine if these SQs produce a detectable signature in the SDO/AIA 1600 and 1700 Å passbands. In Section 2 we provide an overview of the observations analyzed in this article. In Section 3 we present the methodology used in this analysis. In Section 4 we present our results. In Section 5 we draw our conclusions.

2. Observations

The observations analyzed in this article were acquired by the SDO/HMI and SDO/AIA instruments over the course of the past decade. The SDO/HMI instrument acquires both full-disk and line-of-sight (LOS) magnetic field, velocity, and photospheric continuum images, each with a cadence of 45 s. The SDO/HMI LOS velocity channel has been shown to best display the presence of an SQ in running-difference images and, for this reason, it is considered to be the photospheric representation of an SQ in this article. The signatures of SQs can be better observed by applying frequency filtering to the data. A filter centered at 6 mHz is typically used (Donea & Lindsey 2005; Matthews et al. 2015). An example of an SQ in unfiltered running-difference images (constructed by removing the previous frame from each image) is shown in Figure 1. This example is from the M5.2 flare of 2014 February 2 at 03:57 UT, where the SQ ripple is highlighted by the red arrow. It should be noted that running differences of the SDO/HMI continuum can also show the presence of seismic responses; however, SDO/HMI LOS velocities provide the clearest signatures.

The SDO/AIA instrument observes a wide range of wavelengths, sampling from the photosphere to the corona,

but for the purpose of this work we only investigate the emission in the ultraviolet (UV) 1600 Å and 1700 Å continuum filters. The focus on these channels is based on the work of Quinn et al. (2019) who reported that SQ responses were present in data from these SDO/AIA filters for the single flare studied in that article. To build on the earlier work of Quinn et al. (2019), we utilize the homogeneous flare list presented in Sharykin & Kosovichev (2020), which provides a comprehensive catalog of 507 M and X-class flares of Solar Cycle 24, to search for SQ signatures in the 1600 and 1700 Å channels. The full-disk data from the SDO/HMI LOS, SDO/AIA 1600 Å, and SDO/AIA 1700 Å filters were downloaded as level 1.5 data. For all channels, 1 hr and 30 minutes of data were downloaded for all relevant flares (detailed in the Section 3), starting approximately 10 minutes before the flare peak. The SDO/HMI LOS data have a cadence of 45 s and a postreduction pixel scale of $0''.6$, whereas these SDO/AIA UV data had a cadence of 24 s and a pixel scale of $0''.6$. The observations were cropped to a $240'' \times 240''$ FOV, centered on the active region (AR) where the flare occurred.

In the quiet Sun, the main contribution of the intensity in the SDO/AIA 1700 Å channel comes from the photospheric continuum, while the intensity in the SDO/AIA 1600 Å channel comes from a combination of C IV 1550 Å and photospheric continuum (Lemen et al. 2012). The intensity in these channels, therefore, samples diagnostics that originate from the upper photosphere and transition region (Lemen et al. 2012). However, in a recent paper, Simoes et al. (2019) concluded that during a flare, both the SDO/AIA 1600 Å and 1700 Å passbands are dominated by spectral lines that form in the chromosphere and transition region: the C IV 1550 Å doublet and Si I continua for the SDO/AIA 1600 Å channel and the C I 1656 Å multiplet and He II 1640 Å line for the SDO/AIA 1700 Å channel. It should be noted that the slit spectra of Simoes et al. (2019) lacked detailed spatial information, but included emission from the ribbon in the vicinity of the flare. We are, therefore, unable to accurately assess the height at which these filters sample during the flares and SQs studied here but we are confident that these data sample a region of the solar atmosphere at least several hundred km above the region observed by the SDO/HMI instrument.

3. Methodology

The Sharykin & Kosovichev (2020) investigation into the detection of flare-induced SQs was based on three methods: (a) the movie method where the search for SQs was based on

running-difference dopplergrams; (b) the holography method which looks for acoustic sources from which a SQ would be generated; and (c) time–distance analysis where a characteristic ridge appears in a time–distance diagram. Using these detection methods, the authors determined that of the 507 flares, 181 had a photospheric perturbation, meaning the photosphere responded in some way to the flare. Of these 181 flares, 114 resulted in the detection of at least one SQ. It is these 114 detections that form the basis for the sample studied in this article.

The flares that displayed evidence of SQs ranged in strength from M1.0 to X9.3. We removed any SQs from our sample that had not been detected by eye (i.e., not visible in the running-difference images). Those detected purely via time–distance analysis were omitted, as responses in the SDO/AIA 1600 and 1700 Å bands are extremely short lived and for them to be picked up on a time–distance diagram, it was necessary in this work to have an accurate propagation angle and distance determined by the SDO/HMI LOS response first. Finding any responses in the SDO/AIA bands using solely time–distance analysis would have been extremely difficult as the propagation angle and direction was not supplied in Sharykin & Kosovichev (2020). We, therefore, leave this task for future work. After limiting the flares to only those present in running-difference movies, the total number of events that we considered here was reduced to 62, with 49 being M-Class and 13 X-Class. These flares are listed in Table 3, in the [Appendix](#).

We applied a binary frequency filter centered at 6 mHz, with a width of 2 mHz, to all data sets (Jess et al. 2017). Using these filtered data sets, we began our analysis by investigating the SDO/HMI observations of the 62 flares to confirm all SQ detections. This aided our search for SQ signatures in the SDO/AIA 1600 and 1700 Å channels. For every SQ identified in the SDO/HMI LOS velocity running-difference images, the SDO/AIA running differences were also investigated. Looking in the same region as the wavefronts in the SDO/HMI LOS running difference, the presence of SDO/AIA 1600 and 1700 Å wavefronts was determined by eye in the first instance. An example of such a detection in the SDO/AIA 1600 and 1700 Å running-difference images can be seen in Figure 2. We initially searched by eye, as all of the SQs we analyzed had been detected using the movie method in Sharykin & Kosovichev (2020). Automated methods optimized for detecting SQ signatures in SDO/AIA data could be developed in the future using this sample as a test data set.

The first step for creating time–distance diagrams from the SDO/AIA data was to find an approximate point of origin for each SQ. This was determined for each flare by tracing the SDO/HMI LOS velocity wavefronts back by eye to their apparent source, which coincided with one of the flare footpoints. The flare footpoints were identified as the locations of the brightest emission (Fletcher et al. 2004). Once this epicenter was identified, a pixel range and an angular range in which the wave front propagated were selected. The angular range was varied to make sure that the clearest SQ ridge would be present in the time–distance diagram. Once these inputs are selected, the same criteria was then used to create cospatial and cotemporal time–distance diagrams for the AIA observations. The time–distance diagrams were created by averaging across all pixels in the arc between the previously inferred angular range of interest, for each distance from the origin. Filtering

was applied when creating these diagrams to reduce the noise. Following this analysis, several SQs appeared as ridges on the time–distance diagrams. The ridges were fitted with a regression trend of $\alpha * x^{0.5}$, which SQs commonly follow (Kosovichev & Zharkova 1998), where “ α ” has units of $s km^{-\frac{1}{2}}$. Figure 3 displays an example of such a ridge in the SDO/HMI LOS velocity time–distance diagram (A) together with SDO/AIA 1600 Å (B) and SDO/AIA 1700 Å (C) time–distance diagrams. The presence of multiple ridges indicates that multiple, sufficiently strong wavefronts are present (see Quinn et al. 2019).

4. Results and Discussion

Of the 62 flares that were investigated (see Table 3 in the [Appendix](#)), all had an SQ observable in running-difference SDO/HMI LOS images as expected. Of these events, 25 SQs had some varying degree of visibility by eye in the SDO/AIA 1600 and 1700 Å channels. A detailed list of these 25 SQs is provided in Table 1. The approximate time at which each SQ is first visible in the filtered SDO/HMI LOS velocity running differences and the approximate direction of propagation of the wave front are included for reference. Five of these SQs had very clear wavefronts in running-difference images (see middle and bottom row of Figure 2 for an example). These responses were approximately cospatial and cotemporal with the SQs in the SDO/HMI LOS velocity images. These events are labeled “Clear.” Additionally, 12 SQs had comparatively faint responses in the SDO/AIA 1600 and 1700 Å running-difference images. These are labeled as “Faint.” Finally, eight data sets displayed a faint SDO/AIA 1700 Å response, but no SDO/AIA 1600 Å response, and are labeled “Potential” responses. We note that although the majority of these SQ were detectable in unfiltered running-difference images, six only possessed a possible response once the data had been frequency filtered. These events are marked with a “†” in Table 1.

In order to better categorize these flare/SQ events, we created time–distance diagrams for the SDO/HMI LOS velocity observations and both SDO/AIA channels for all responses listed in Table 1. If the characteristic SQ ridge was present in the SDO/AIA time–distance diagrams for the faint and potential responses, cospatial and cotemporal to the SDO/HMI LOS velocity time–distance diagrams, we classify that SQ to have had a “Visible” response in the sixth column of Table 1. Our analysis revealed that four of the faint and potential responses in running-difference images had an SQ ridge present in both the SDO/AIA 1600 and 1700 Å time–distance diagrams (these have been marked by an asterisk in Table 1), bringing the total number of SQs with obvious responses in the SDO/AIA UV filters to nine. Additionally, four more of the faint and potential responses did have a possible ridge, in one or both AIA diagrams; however, these were deemed to be inconclusive and have not been counted as a “Visible” responses (labeled “Unclear” in Table 1). It is worth noting, one flare (2014 February 4 at 03:57 UT) produced its most apparent SQ response by eye in the SDO/AIA images in a different direction to the most apparent SDO/HMI LOS velocity response, with an angular difference of approximately 45°. These SDO/AIA responses did have a cotemporal and cospatial SDO/HMI LOS velocity response, but these SQ ripples were not the most obvious of those detectable in the SDO/HMI LOS running-difference images for that flare.

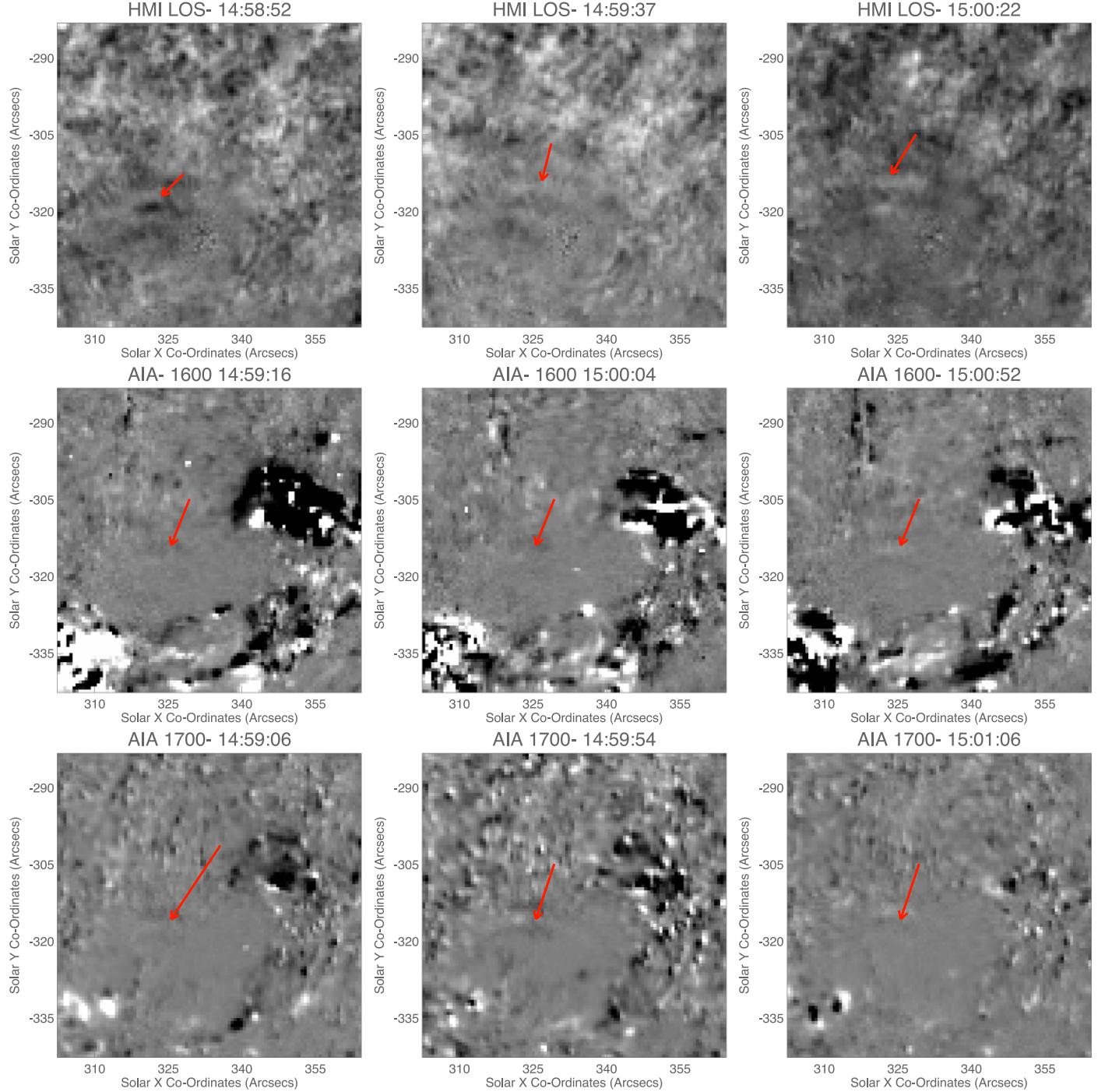


Figure 2. A $60'' \times 60''$ FOV covering the M1.3 flare from 2012 February 4 including: SDO/HMI LOS running-difference images (top row), SDO/AIA 1600 Å running-difference images (middle row), and SDO/AIA 1700 Å running-difference images (bottom row). Images from each channel are plotted at three time steps that are as cotemporal as possible. The red arrows in each image indicate the wave front of the SQ in the SDO/AIA channels, as it evolves across the solar surface. These images are centered on $X = 332''$, $Y = -313''$. We have zoomed in from the original $240'' \times 240''$ data set to make the wavefronts clearer.

A χ^2 test was performed to determine the best regression fits to the SQs detected in the time–distance diagrams for all flare/SQ pairs. The χ^2 ($= \sum((\text{observed} - \text{expected})^2/\text{expected})$) test was conducted to measure the difference between a number of pixels that the SQ ridge was present in and the corresponding positions of the expected regression trend ($\alpha * x^{0.5}$). In order to determine the closest regression trend, we calculated χ^2 values across a range of “ α ” values. The lowest χ^2 value was considered to be the best fit, with velocity and acceleration

values then being inferred from that regression trend. The red crosses in Figure 3 indicate the points along the SQ that were used for the χ^2 test for this event. These points were selected manually at points corresponding to the strongest SQ ridge in each of the diagrams from the different passbands. They differ slightly between instruments, and are considered the “observed values” for each SQ. The blue regression trends overlaid on Figure 3 are considered to be the “expected values,” with the fit being the best fit for this event. Nine points were selected for

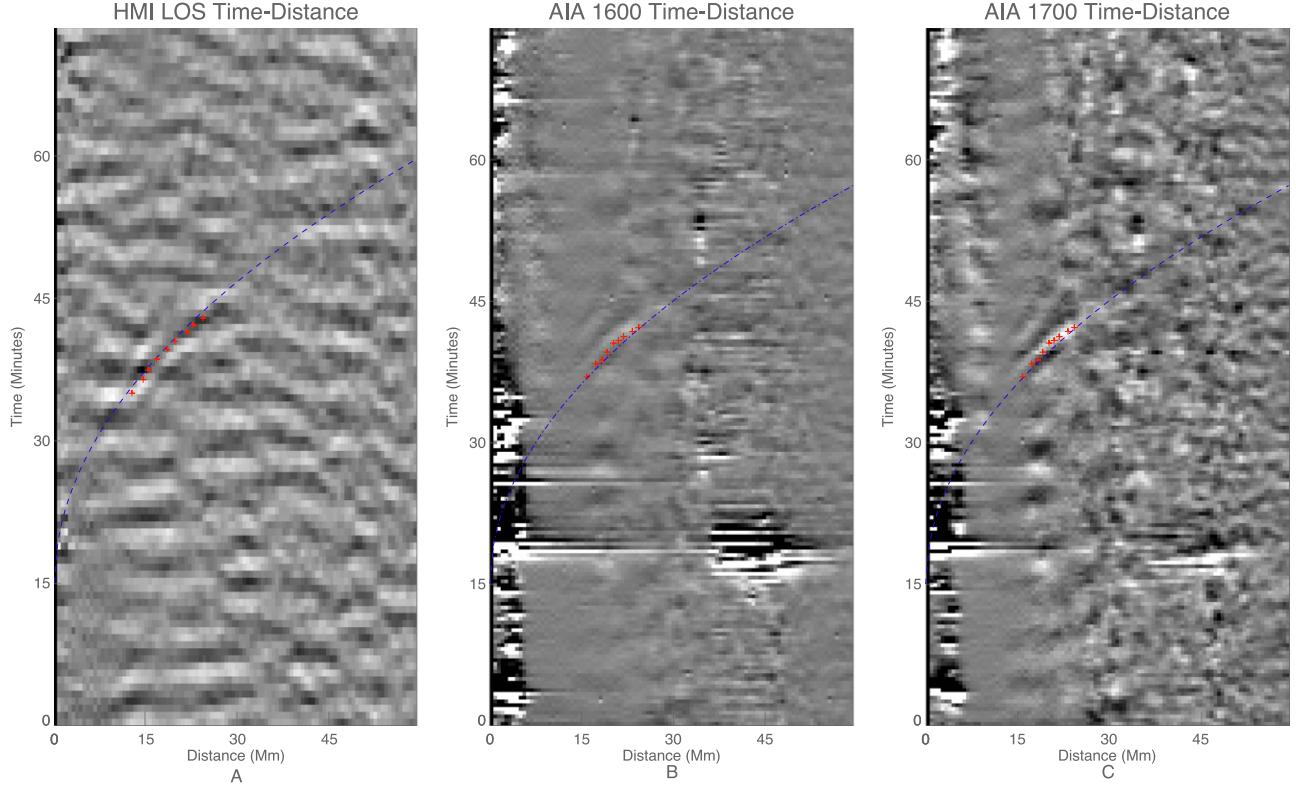


Figure 3. Unfiltered time–distance diagrams for the M1.3 flare from 2012 July 4 from SDO/HMI LOS velocity (A), temporally degraded SDO/AIA 1600 Å (B), and SDO/AIA 1700 Å (C) channels. The corresponding regression trends are overplotted as blue curves. This trend has been shifted vertically so as not to obscure the ridge. The red crosses indicate the points that were selected for the χ^2 test to determine the accuracy of the fit. These points have also been offset by the same amount as the blue trend line.

each time–distance diagram, although the spatial size of the fit for each diagram depended on the spread of these points. We only selected points that were unequivocally created by the helioseismic responses of each SQ and were present in the SDO/HMI LOS velocity time–distance diagram and both SDO/AIA time–distance diagrams, respectively.

Five further examples of SQs that were deemed to have “Visible” responses in time–distance diagrams are plotted in Figure 4. We note that two of the SQs plotted in Figure 4 have helioseismic waves visible by eye in running-difference images (third and fifth rows), whereas the other three SQs were only apparent after analyzing the time–distance diagrams. In addition to the SQs highlighted by the regression trends overlaid on Figure 4 there are also inclined ridges in the top and bottom AIA diagrams. These are more difficult to see in the full time–distance diagrams but are clearly present upon closer inspection. These inclined ridges resemble the atmospheric, acoustic-gravity waves modeled in Stefan & Kosovichev (2020). These features could have also been created by the flare ribbon entering into the regions from which the diagrams were created.

The regression trend of the nondegraded time–distance diagrams derived from the SDO/HMI LOS velocity and SDO/AIA UV filters are different by a factor of 1.875, due to the different cadence of the instruments. As such, we temporally degraded the SDO/AIA 1600 and 1700 Å data to match the cadence of the SDO/HMI LOS velocity data. New time–distance diagrams were created for both SDO/AIA 1600 and 1700 Å channels. By degrading the SDO/AIA data, we were able to accurately determine whether the ridges were cospatial and cotemporal with SDO/HMI. We expected that each pair of

SDO/AIA time–distance diagrams would have the same ridge, as these passbands are sampling similar layers of the solar atmosphere. This would suggest that the wavefronts have traveled the same distance and the ridges on their time–distance diagrams should be at the same position. We found that to be the case.

Once again, a χ^2 test was undertaken for each degraded SDO/AIA regression fit. Interestingly, some of the ridges that were clear in the nondegraded time–distance diagrams were no longer visible in the degraded diagrams. We attributed this to the reduction in temporal resolution obscuring the ridges. Table 2 shows the χ^2 values obtained for the nine flares, before and after their cadence had been degraded to match the SDO/HMI LOS data. The χ^2 for all visible degraded trends were less than two, indicating good fits. We note that the SDO/AIA maximum apparent velocities and accelerations were calculated from the temporally degraded data so that the values could be more easily compared to those inferred from the SDO/HMI LOS velocities. Errors were calculated by shifting the “ α ” value by one data point ($\pm 0.249 \text{ s km}^{-\frac{1}{2}}$ in the SDO/HMI fits and $\pm 0.182 \text{ s km}^{-\frac{1}{2}}$ for the SDO/AIA data) in each direction from the best fit. No errors are reported for the accelerations as these were below three decimal places. Two of these SQs had no signature in the temporally degraded data. No maximum apparent velocities and accelerations or degraded χ^2 values are reported for these events. We refer to the measured maximum velocities and accelerations as apparent as these wavefronts are not moving horizontally across the surface of the Sun, but are thought to be the reflections from the deeper internal layers of an initial photospheric perturbation (Kosovichev 2006).

Table 1

The 25 Flares that Produced Some Response Associated with a SQ in Both the SDO/AIA 1600 and 1700 Å Running-difference Images Once the Frequency Filter had been Applied

Flare Start Time (UT)	GOES Class	AR	Center of Field of View (Arcsecs)	Visibility by Eye	Visibility in Time-Distance Diagrams	HMI SQ Appearance Time (UT)	SQ Propagation Direction
15.02.2011 01:44	X2.2	11158	$X = 197'', Y = -224''$	Clear	Visible	02:28:00	North–Northeast
30.07.2011 02:04	M9.3	11261	$X = -497'', Y = 195''$	Faint	*Visible	02:24:22	Southeast
25.09.2011 08:46	M3.1	11302	$X = -666'', Y = 137''$	Potential	Not Visible	08:55:52	Southeast
04.07.2012 14:35	M1.3	11515	$X = 334'', Y = -313''$	Clear	Visible	12:55:07	Northwest
†05.07.2012 06:49	M1.1	11515	$X = 392'', Y = -313''$	Faint	Not Visible	07:08:49	North
05.07.2012 11:39	M6.1	11515	$X = 496'', Y = -262''$	Potential	Not Visible	12:01:52	North
06.07.2012 01:37	M2.9	11515	$X = 576'', Y = -323''$	Potential	*Visible	02:01:52	Southwest
09.07.2012 23:00	M1.1	11520	$X = -528'', Y = -328''$	Faint	Not Visible	23:21:22	Northwest
23.10.2012 03:13	X1.8	11598	$X = -777'', Y = -265''$	Clear	Visible	03:31:52	West
17.02.2013 15:45	M1.9	11675	$X = -343'', Y = 305''$	Potential	Not Visible	16:02:37	West–Southwest
†24.10.2013 10:30	M3.5	11875	$X = 349'', Y = 31''$	Faint	Not Visible	10:51:22	Northwest
05.11.2013 22:07	X3.3	11890	$X = -639'', Y = -231''$	Faint	*Visible	22:25:37	West
07.11.2013 14:15	X2.4	11890	$X = -342'', Y = -238''$	Faint	Unclear	14:42:22	North–Northeast
†10.11.2013 05:08	X1.1	11890	$X = -238'', Y = -266''$	Faint	Unclear	05:30:22	North–Northeast
02.02.2014 06:24	M2.6	11968	$X = -297'', Y = 314''$	Faint	Unclear	06:54:22	East
04.02.2014 03:57	M5.2	11967	$X = 160'', Y = -98''$	Clear	Visible	04:16:07	North
†07.02.2014 10:25	M1.9	11968	$X = 695'', Y = 292''$	Potential	Not Visible	10:40:07	Southeast
†10.03.2015 03:19	M5.1	12297	$X = -615'', Y = -196''$	Potential	Not Visible	03:39:22	Southwest
22.08.2015 21:19	M3.5	12403	$X = -229'', Y = -349''$	Faint	*Visible	22:37:52	Northeast
28.09.2015 14:53	M7.6	12422	$X = 406'', Y = -446''$	Faint	Not Visible	15:13:07	Northeast
†06.09.2017 08:57	X2.2	12673	$X = 527'', Y = -247''$	Potential	Not Visible	09:16:52	West
06.09.2017 11:53	X9.3	12673	$X = 557'', Y = -265''$	Clear	Visible	12:13:52	Southwest
07.09.2017 04:49	M2.4	12673	$X = 677'', Y = -235''$	Faint	Not Visible	05:20:37	Southwest
07.09.2017 10:11	M7.3	12673	$X = 677'', Y = -235''$	Faint	Not Visible	10:29:48	Southeast
07.09.2017 14:20	X1.3	12673	$X = 732'', Y = -232''$	Potential	Unclear	14:48:22	Southeast

Note. The approximate time of the helioseismic responses first observation in SDO/HMI LOS running differences and approximate propagation direction are also included. Five of these SQs are clearly visible by eye, 12 have a faint visibility, and eight are considered as potential responses. The five that are clearly visible had varying degrees of visibility in the time–distance diagrams. Three of the faintly visible SQ responses had obvious SQ ridges in their time–distance diagrams and are also labeled as “Visible.” One of the “Potential” responses had an obvious SQ ridge in its time–distance diagram, and is also labeled as “Visible,” bringing the total of SQs detectable in SDO/AIA data to nine. Those SQs that are more obvious in the time–distance diagrams than in the running-difference movies have been marked with a “*.” Six additional SQs that only possess a possible response when filtered are marked with a “†.”

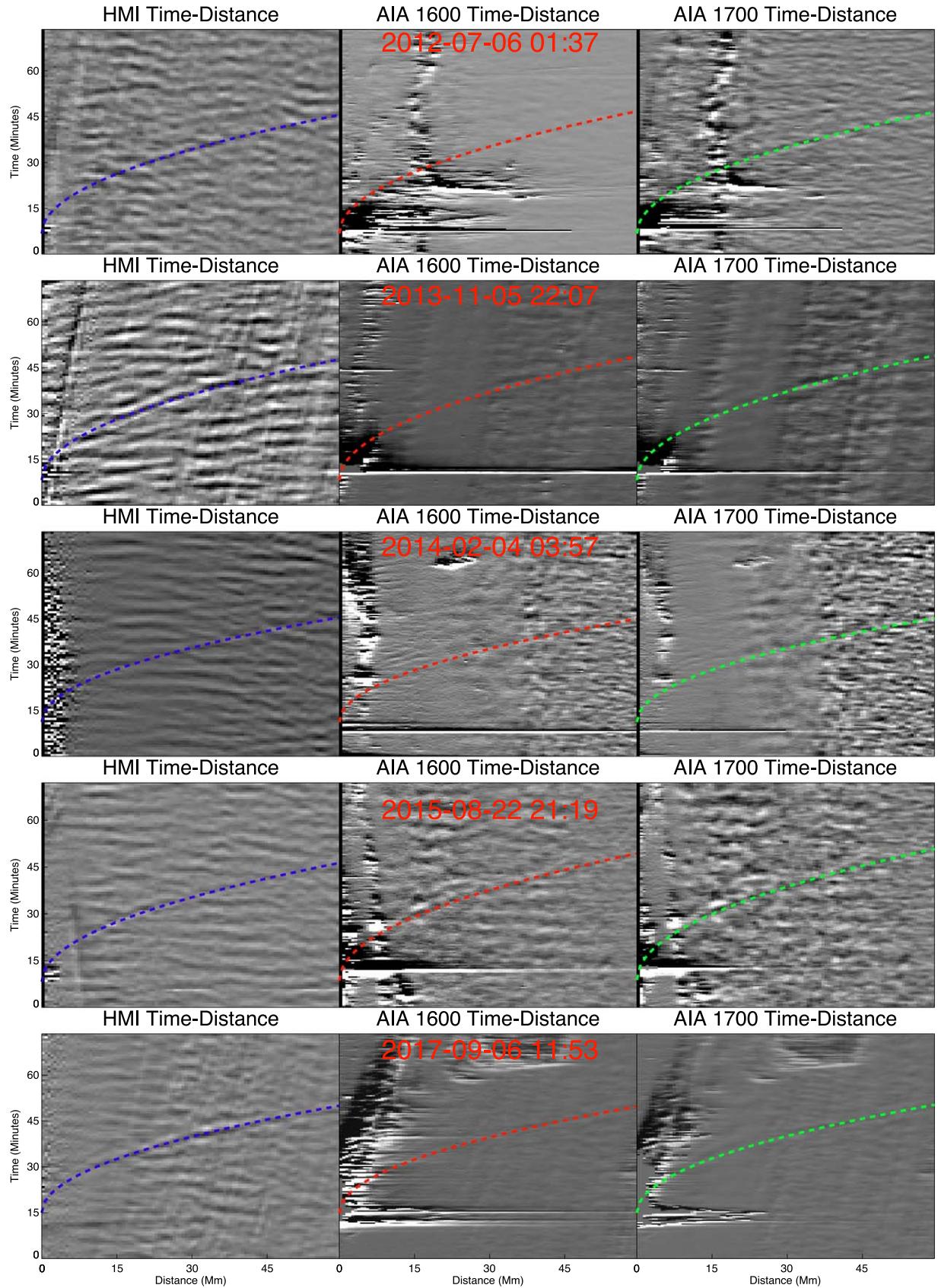


Figure 4. The time–distance diagrams created for five “Clear” responses (see Table 1). The SQs are difficult to detect in the full time–distance diagrams but become more apparent when these diagrams are studied in detail. The approximate locations of the SQs (and the regression trends) are highlighted in blue for the SDO/HMI LOS velocity panels, red for the SDO/AIA 1600 Å panels and green for SDO/AIA 1700 Å panels to help the reader. It can be seen that the ridge in the SDO/HMI LOS velocity diagrams is cospatial and cotemporal to the ridges in the SDO/AIA 1600 Å and 1700 Å diagrams. The flares in question are labeled in red in the middle panel of each row.

Table 2
The Nine Flares that were Considered to have Clear Evidence of SQs in the SDO/AIA Channels (from Table 1)

Flare Start Time (UT)	GOES Class	HMI V_{MAX} (km s $^{-1}$)	HMI Acceleration (km s $^{-2}$)	AIA V_{MAX} (km s $^{-1}$)	AIA Acceleration (km s $^{-2}$)	HMI χ^2 Value	AIA χ^2 Value (Nondegraded)	AIA χ^2 Value (Degraded)	${}^*\alpha$ Value HMI/AIA (s km $^{-\frac{1}{2}}$)
* 15.02.2011 01:44	X2.2	$37.7^{+1.5}_{-0.7}$	0.017	N/A	N/A	0.811	3.19	...	1.27/1.66
30.07.2011 02:04	M9.3	$35.7^{+1.2}_{-0.6}$	0.015	$35.7^{+0.2}_{-0.2}$	0.015	0.316	0.147	0.208	1.34/1.85
04.07.2012 14:35	M1.3	$32.1^{+0.9}_{-0.4}$	0.012	$32.1^{+0.2}_{-0.1}$	0.012	0.69	0.253	0.566	1.49/1.93
06.07.2012 01:37	M2.9	$37.0^{+1.0}_{-0.7}$	0.016	$37.0^{+0.2}_{-0.2}$	0.016	0.335	0.253	0.168	1.30/1.82
* 23.10.2012 03:13	X1.8	$36.7^{+1.1}_{-0.5}$	0.013	N/A	N/A	0.519	1.38	...	1.43/1.91
05.11.2013 22:07	X3.3	$36.4^{+1.3}_{-0.6}$	0.015	$33.5^{+0.2}_{-0.2}$	0.014	0.212	1.87	0.34	1.32/1.86
04.02.2014 03:57	M5.2	$41.0^{+2.0}_{-1.0}$	0.020	$41.0^{+0.3}_{-0.3}$	0.020	1.024	1.02	0.264	1.14/1.56
22.08.2015 21:19	M3.5	$37.7^{+1.5}_{-0.7}$	0.017	$33.0^{+0.2}_{-0.2}$	0.013	0.508	0.288	0.249	1.27/1.79
06.09.2017 11:53	X9.3	$41.0^{+1.9}_{-0.9}$	0.020	$38.5^{+0.3}_{-0.3}$	0.017	1.631	3.43	0.666	1.17/1.62

Note. We present the GOES Class, the apparent maximum transverse velocities, and accelerations of the SQs in the SDO/HMI LOS velocity data together with the apparent maximum transverse velocities and accelerations in the SDO/AIA 1600 and 1700 Å channels. The χ^2 values for the fits to the SDO/HMI LOS velocity and SDO/AIA ridges, both pretemporal and posttemporal interpolation, are also provided. The α value is constant in the fitted regression trends. Varying the value of “ α ” in the regression trend fits (used to calculate the errors in the maximum apparent velocities) returns errors in the calculated acceleration at three decimal places or smaller. Therefore, no errors are reported in the acceleration columns in the table. The flares highlighted with stars displayed evidence of a SQ in their original SDO/AIA data; however, these signatures disappeared after the cadence was interpolated to match the SDO/HMI cadence. As the maximum apparent velocities and accelerations in the FOV are reported from the temporally degraded data, no velocity and acceleration values are reported for these flares. The maximum velocities were recorded at a distance of approximately 87 Mm from the estimated epicenter of each SQ. This distance was dictated by the creation of the time-distance diagrams.

Overall, we find good agreement in the maximum apparent velocities and accelerations determined from SDO/HMI and SDO/AIA.

In observations of three of the SQs, the HMI and AIA velocities and accelerations are not in exact agreement with each other, the HMI velocities and accelerations seem to always be higher. This is further highlighted by the slight shift in their regression trends in Figure 4, with the HMI ridges leaving the FOV slightly earlier than their AIA counterparts. The exact cause for this difference is unclear and may be related to the different heights that the signal originates from.

5. Conclusions

We analyzed SDO/AIA 1600 and 1700 Å and SDO/HMI LOS velocity observations of 62 flares of Solar Cycle 24 and find that nine of these events show clearly detectable SQ signatures. The SDO/AIA UV channels typically sample plasma in the upper photosphere, several hundred km above the region sampled by the SDO/HMI instrument, allowing us to infer SQ properties higher in the atmosphere. The flares analyzed here range from low M-class to high X-class but there is no clear correlation between the GOES classification and the detection of the SQ. The apparent lack of correlation between the presence of an SQ and the driving flare GOES class has also been mentioned by Kosovichev (2006). Time–distance analysis revealed that the maximum apparent transverse velocities in the FOV and accelerations for these nine responses range between $30.8\text{--}41.0\text{ km s}^{-1}$ and $0.011\text{--}0.020\text{ km s}^{-2}$, respectively, for both instruments. However, previous studies have shown that such helioseismic waves can significantly exceed the maximum apparent velocities reported here (Kosovichev 2006).

Simoes et al. (2019) carried out a thorough investigation of the temperature sensitivity of the SDO/AIA instrument and concluded that the flare ribbon emission in the 1600 and 1700 Å channels originates from the chromosphere and transition regions, respectively. It is, therefore, possible that the SQs detected in these channels could be located in the chromosphere, similar to the event discussed by Quinn et al. (2019). The first SQ response was detected at distances of 5.2–25.7 Mm from the flare ribbons for the five flares seen in running differences. Their close correspondence with the SDO/HMI LOS observations allow us to conclude that the observed signatures reflect SQ signatures above the photosphere.

The SQ signatures in the SDO/AIA 1600 and AIA 1700 Å images should not be confused with other atmospheric wave phenomena, such as Moreton waves (Moreton & Ramsey 1960; Chen et al. 2011). Moreton waves are known to have velocities of up to $500\text{--}2000\text{ km s}^{-1}$ and propagate across very large distances ($5 \times 10^5\text{ km}$; Chen et al. 2011). These are distinctly different from our results, which have maximum apparent transverse velocities in the FOV of approximately 41 km s^{-1} and propagate over smaller distances (approximately 10 Mm). These oscillations are also distinct from those mentioned in Milligan et al. (2017), not possessing a 3 minute oscillation, and appearing away from the flare footpoints. As such responses in the SDO/AIA 1600 and 1700 Å passbands have not been widely reported, any future work could attempt filtering at frequencies other than 6 mHz to evaluate if they yield additional detections.

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Appendix

Table 3
The 62 Flares That Matched Our Selection Criteria and were, Therefore, Studied in this Article

Flare Start Time (UT)	GOES Class	AR	X Location (Arcsecs)	Y Location (Arcsecs)
* 15.02.2011 01:44	X2.2	11158	197	-224
18.02.2011 09:55	M6.6	11158	749	-312
* 30.07.2011 02:04	M9.3	11261	-497	195
07.09.2011 22:32	X1.8	11283	486	118
25.09.2011 08:46	M3.1	11302	-666	137
26.09.2011 05:06	M4.0	11302	-558	138
02.10.2011 17:19	M1.3	11302	778	158
03.11.2011 20:16	X1.9	11339	-794	281
09.03.2012 03:22	M6.3	11429	-5	409
09.05.2012 21:01	M4.1	11476	-417	250
10.05.2012 04:11	M5.7	11476	-361	260
04.07.2012 09:47	M5.3	11515	284	-288
04.07.2012 12:07	M2.3	11515	332	-313
* 04.07.2012 14:35	M1.3	11515	334	-313
05.07.2012 01:05	M2.4	11515	392	-313
05.07.2012 03:25	M4.7	11515	436	-312
05.07.2012 06:49	M1.1	11515	392	-313
05.07.2012 10:44	M1.8	11515	512	-313
05.07.2012 11:39	M6.1	11515	496	-313
05.07.2012 20:09	M1.6	11515	512	-313
* 06.07.2012 01:37	M2.9	11515	576	-323
06.07.2012 13:26	M1.2	11515	632	-313
06.07.2012 23:01	X1.1	11515	812	-253
09.07.2012 23:03	M1.1	11520	-528	-328

Table 3
(Continued)

Flare Start Time (UT)	GOES Class	AR	X Location (Arcsecs)	Y Location (Arcsecs)
* 23:10:2012 03:13	X1.8	11598	-777	-265
17.02.2013 15:45	M1.9	11675	-343	305
24.10.2013 10:30	M3.5	11875	349	31
05.11.2013 18:08	M1.0	11890	-639	-231
* 05.11.2013 22:07	X3.3	11890	-639	-231
06.11.2013 13:39	M3.8	11890	-533	-276
07.11.2013 03:34	M2.3	11890	-444	-283
07.11.2013 14:15	M2.4	11890	-342	-283
08.11.2013 04:20	X1.1	11890	-214	-275
10.11.2013 05:08	X1.1	11890	238	-266
07.01.2014 10:07	M7.2	11944	-361	-269
02.02.2014 06:24	M2.6	11968	-297	314
* 04.02.2014 03:57	M5.2	11967	160	-98
07.02.2014 10:25	M1.9	11968	695	292
16.02.2014 09:20	M1.1	11977	-6	-56
08.05.2014 09:59	M5.2	12056	-737	112
20.10.2014 18:55	M1.4	12192	-654	-478
22.10.2014 01:16	M8.7	12192	-344	-268
22.10.2014 14:02	X1.6	12192	-224	-268
26.10.2014 18:07	M4.2	12192	599	-292
20.12.2014 00:11	X1.8	12242	471	-277
03.01.2015 09:40	M1.1	12253	-302	-41
10.03.2015 03:19	M5.1	12297	-615	-195
15.03.2015 09:36	M1.0	12297	404	-205
25.06.2015 08:02	M7.9	12371	487	67
* 22.08.2015 21:19	M3.5	12403	-229	-349
28.09.2015 14:53	M7.6	12422	406	-446
29.09.2015 06:39	M1.4	12422	542	-420
30.09.2015 13:18	M1.1	12422	702	-389
04.09.2017 20:28	M5.5	12673	216	-260
05.09.2017 01:03	M4.2	12673	252	-260
06.09.2017 08:57	X2.2	12673	527	-247
* 06.09.2017 11:53	X9.3	12673	557	-265
07.09.2017 04:59	M2.4	12673	677	-235
07.09.2017 10:11	M7.3	12673	677	-235
07.09.2017 14:20	X1.3	12673	732	-232

Table 3
(Continued)

Flare Start Time (UT)	GOES Class	AR	X Location (Arcsecs)	Y Location (Arcsecs)
08.09.2017 02:19	M1.3	12673	799	-231
08.09.2017 07:40	M8.1	12673	759	-215

Note. Running-difference images constructed from the SDO/AIA 1600 Å and 1700 Å filters were analyzed for each flare in order to investigate whether any signature of SQs was present. This list includes all flares that produced an SQ signature in SDO/HMI running-difference images from Table 1 in Sharykin & Kosovichev (2020). Those flares marked with a star were flares that produced a “Visible” (see Table 1) solar atmosphere response.

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