

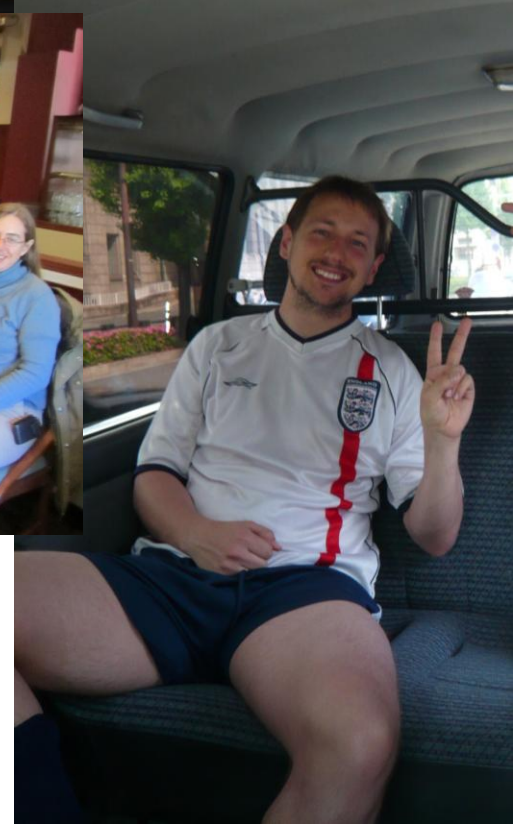
About Me

Name: Andrew Hillier

Age: 28

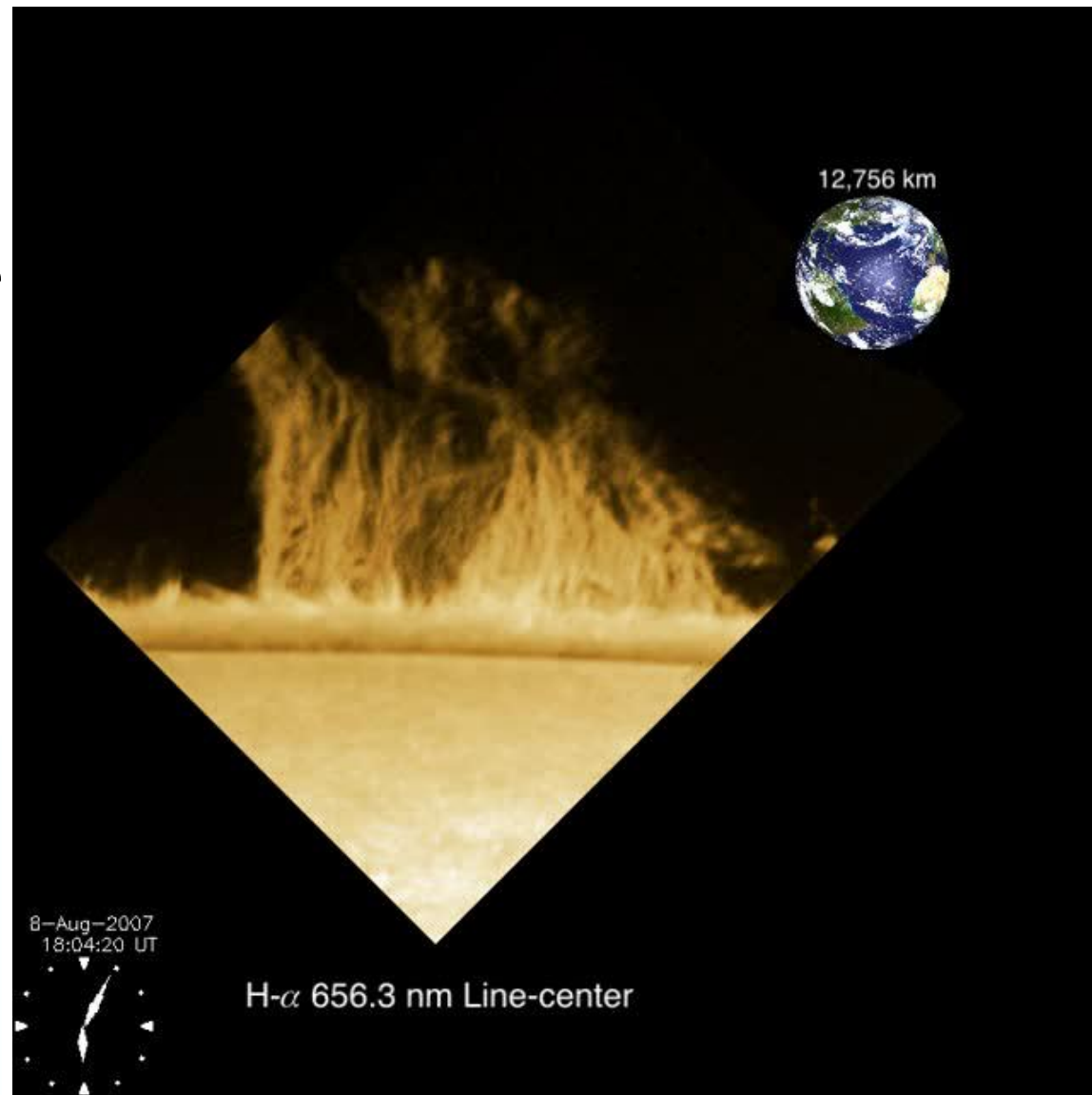
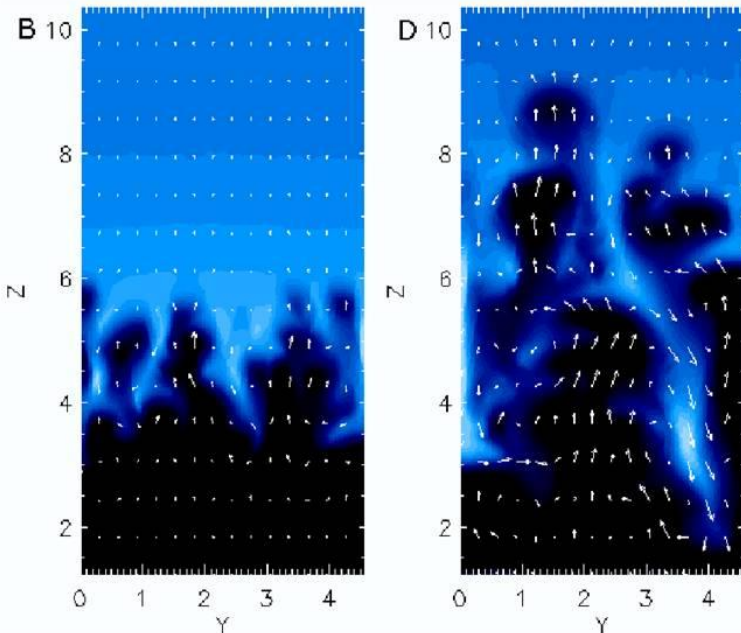
Nationality: British

What I am doing in Japan: I came to Japan almost 5 years ago to work in a High School. Initially my plan was to return to England, but I eventually decided to stay in Japan for my Ph.D.



My Research

I study solar prominences (“cool” clouds that form in the solar atmosphere). I take observational data and then try to perform Magnetohydrodynamic simulations to understand the underlying physics involved.



Left: Simulation results for magnetic Rayleigh-Taylor instability in a prominence
Top: Movie of plume formation in a prominence

What I gained from Studying Japanese

There are many benefits to learning a language. Here I have provided a few examples of what learning Japanese has done for me.

1) Qualifications (Japanese Language Proficiency Test Level 2)



2) Working as a translator (an interesting way to earn some spare cash)



3) Giving talks in Japanese (This photo is from a press conference last week)



4) Making friends (however strange they are)

English Advice

- It is better to be wrong than not speak at all
 - At school, you would have been taught how to write English with great emphasis on being correct. Speaking is very different, if you spend all your time trying to be correct you will not say anything at all and this will not help you improve.
- Pronunciation and Listening are more related than you think
 - In my experience, people who have good listening skills have good pronunciation (& vice versa). Therefore, when you practice pronunciation, listen as carefully as possible.
- Find ways to have fun when you study
 - This may sound strange, but studying English (especially speaking and listening) can be a lot of fun. For example, try singing English songs at Karaoke or watching English films using only English subtitles