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## [ALMA] How close can ALMA observe to the sun?

Mark Lacy - 2024-10-08 - General

ALMA can actually point at the sun, small grooves or etchings in the antenna surface are designed to ensure that sunlight is not reflected up to the secondary subreflector, and observations of the sun have already been made during commissioning. Detectable solar emission is seen in the antenna sidelobes out to several degrees from the sun, however, so for observations, it would not be advisable to point closer than a couple of primary beamwidths from the solar photosphere to avoid a large amount of contamination of the beam sidelobes by solar emission. In fact, it is likely that the dynamic scheduler will be set up to avoid objects behind, or within a few arcseconds of, the sun.