What are active region coronal loops?

Ignacio Ugarte-Urra

Naval Research Laboratory George Mason University



Onset of Solar Cycle 24 Meeting. December 9th 2008. Napa, CA. US.



Why do they reach the temperatures they reach?

Why do they reach the temperatures they reach? Why do they evolve the way they do?

What temperatures do they reach?

What temperatures do they reach? Are they really evolving?

What temperatures do they reach? Are they really evolving? What is this structuring anyway?

Is there such a thing as a typical coronal loop?

Is there such a thing as a typical coronal loop? Do all loops share common properties?

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Are the properties sufficiently well constrained to test the models?

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Is there such a thing as a typical coronal loop? Do all loops share common properties? Do we agree on those? and if so... Are the properties sufficiently well constrained to test the models? What do the models need from observations? Are we getting that information?

Is there such a thing as a typical coronal loop? Do all loops share common properties? Do we agree on those? and if so... Are the properties sufficiently well constrained to test the models? What do the models need from observations? Are we getting that information? Ultimately, where is the bottleneck?









Ko et al. (2009)



Ko et al. (2009)



Soft X-ray loops

Pre-SOHO results indicated (Klimchuk 2008):

Soft X-ray loops

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Hot (T > 2MK)

Soft X-ray loops



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- Long lived $(\tau_{life} >> \tau_{cool})$



TRACE 171A 9/23/00



Soft X-ray loops

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- Obey <u>static equilibrium</u> scaling laws



TRACE 171A 9/23/00



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- Consistent with <u>steady heating</u>



TRACE 171A 9/23/00



Soft X-ray loops

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TRACE 171A 9/23/00



Rosner, Peres, Tsuneta, Antiochos, Golub...

Soft X-ray loops



2006/11/16 00:02:19



Soft X-ray loops

Soft X-ray loops

BUT...

Soft X-ray loops

BUT...

• There is a <u>dynamic</u> Soft X-ray component:



Yohkoh/SXT

1993/03/21 01:39:00

Soft X-ray loops

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BUT...



- There is a <u>dynamic</u> Soft X-ray component:
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1993/03/21 01:39:00

- Active region transient brightenings (Shimizu 1992-1995)
- It has a EUV counterpart (Berghmans 2001)
- X-ray loops cool to EUV (Winebarger, Ugarte-Urra, Warren 2005-2008)

Soft X-ray loops



2007/12/11 17:01:12



Soft X-ray loops

Solar Active Region Evolution: Comparing Models with Observations ASP Conference Series, Vol. 68, 1994 K. S. Balasubramaniam and George W. Simon (eds.)

Magnetic Reconnection in the Solar Corona

Saku Tsuneta Institute of Astronomy, The University of Tokyo Mitaka, Tokyo 181, Japan

law distribution over 5 orders of magnitude. Shimizu (1994) concludes that the microflares observed by *Yohkoh* alone cannot heat the active-region corona, assuming that the same power-law continues to weaker undetectable events.

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Saku Tsuneta

, e.g. we need XRT/Hinode.

Institute of Astronomy, The University of Tokyo Mitaka, Tokyo 181, Japan

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Steady AR



2006/11/16 19:01:43.6UT

Impulsive AR

NoAR





Steady AR

Impulsive AR

NoAR



What is the corona we want to explain? Are they exclusive?

- Warm ($0.5 \leq T \leq I-3 MK$)
- Over dense relative to static equilibrium
- Super hydrostatic scale heights
- Short-lived ($\tau_{life} \geq \tau_{cool}$)

EUV loops

• Warm ($0.5 \leq T \leq I-3 MK$)

Over dense relative to static equilibrium

Super hydrostatic scale heights

• Short-lived $(T_{life} \ge T_{cool})$ Fe VIII 194.66 Å (0.6 MK) Fe X 184.54 Å (1.0 MK)

Fe XIII 202.04 Å (1.5 MK)

Fe XIV 274.20 Å (1.9 MK)

Fe XV 284.16 Å (2.1 MK)

Fe XI 192.81 Å (1.2 MK)

Fe XVI 262.98 Å (2.7 MK)

Fe XII 195.12 Å (1.3 MK)



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EUV loops

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EUV loops

Warm ($0.5 \leq T \leq I-3 MK$)

Apex Density (cm⁻³)

- Over dense relative to static equilibrium
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e XV 284.16 Å (2.1 M

Ee XVI 262 98 Å 12 7 Mk

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- Over dense relative to static equilibrium
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Winebarger et al. (2004)

EUV loops

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- Short-lived ($\tau_{life} \geq \tau_{cool}$)







Winebarger et al. (2004)





EUV loops



Ugarte-Urra, Warren & Brooks (2009)

Static vs Dynamic EUV loops

• There is a subset of EUV loops with T \leq 1 MK

Del Zanna, Del Zanna & Mason (2003), Young et al. (2007), Ugarte-Urra et al. (2009)

• These loops host (slow magnetoaccoustic) waves

De Moortel et al. (2002), Marsh (2006)



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EUV loops



Thermal non-equilibrium: steady foot-point heating

Mueller, Peter, Hansteen (2003-2005)





• Have we seen elementary strands?



- Have we seen elementary strands?
- Fundamental building blocks:





- Have we seen elementary strands?
- Fundamental building blocks:
 - homogeneous density and temperature across loop's axis





- Have we seen elementary strands?
- Fundamental building blocks:
 - homogeneous density and temperature across <u>loop</u>'s axis
 - homogeneous density and temperature across <u>strand</u>'s axis





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Structuring: are loops <u>multi-stranded</u>?



TRACE (0.5 arcsec)



Multi-Thread Model



Aschwanden et al. (2000)



Structuring: are loops <u>multi-stranded</u>?



Warren et al. (2003)





Structuring: are loops <u>multi-stranded</u>?





Warren et al. (2003)








Warren et al. (2003)

















Filling factors

EMISSION MEASURE ANALYSIS OF ACTIVE REGION LOOPS OBSERVED WITH EIS														
					ISOTHERMAL			GAUSSIAN						
NO.	DATE	t _{set}	t _{end}	σ_w	EM_{D}	no	T_0	EM_{o}	no	T_0	σ_T	χ_I^2	χ^2_G	f(%)
1	07 Dec 10	03:36:43	03:37:25	1.18	26.52	9.25	6.16	26.63	9.29	6.19	5.45	1.71	0.79	9.1
2	07 Dec 11	13:11:02	13:11:43	1.42	27.18	9.77	6.11	27.28	9.86	6.15	5.44	2.13	0.88	2.0
3	07 Dec 11	12:57:50	13:01:18	1.35	26.90	9.56	6.13	27.06	9.66	6.16	5.55	2.86	1.44	3.3
4	07 Dec 12	06:31:29	06:36:21	1.36	26.72	9.58	6.06	26.79	9.57	6.07	5.44	2.14	1.49	2.6
5	07 Dec 12	06:29:24	06:30:47	0.97	27.66	9.61	6.07	27.90	9.84	6.01	5.70	5.49	1.52	19.6
6	07 Dec 12	14:52:33	14:53:56	1.17	27.25	9.28	6.07	27.34	9.43	6.08	5.54	4.68	1.49	24.2
7	07 Dec 12	15:01:34	15:07:08	1.54	26.62	9.20	6.08	26.64	9.24	6.08	5.18	1.42	1.31	6.8
8	07 Dec 13	15:35:17	15:36:41	1.19	27.47	9.71	6.20	27.49	9.65	6.20	5.28	1.69	1.58	12.0
9	07 Dec 13	13:45:32	13:46:55	0.97	26.68	9.34	6.16	26.83	9.32	6.12	5.45	3.91	1.65	18.4
10	07 Dec 15	03:40:08	03:41:31	1.03	26.44	9.29	6.12	26.45	9.31	6.12	4.99	0.79	0.85	7.0
11	07 Dec 15	01:44:07	01:44:49	1.20	26.64	9.50	6.13	26.80	9.62	6.20	5.62	3.73	3.59	2.8
12	07 Dec 15	21:17:07	21:23:22	2.30	26.72	9.27	6.17	26.77	9.27	6.16	5.31	2.69	1.48	3.5
13	07 Dec 15	19:50:59	19:52:22	1.69	26.17	9.39	6.16	26.35	9.41	6.16	5.55	1.46	0.85	1.3
14	07 Dec 18	02:15:51	02:17:14	1.07	27.53	10.98	6.19	27.55	10.50	6.18	5.44	2.98	1.52	0.3
15	07 Dec 18	01:11:14	01:14:43	1.57	26.51	9.15	6.19	26.68	9.13	6.16	5.55	3.16	1.66	11.5
16	07 Dec 18	01:39:43	01:44:35	2.73	27.05	9.43	6.15	27.14	9.50	6.17	5.42	1.85	1.12	2.1
17	07 Dec 18	19:51:37	19:55:05	1.16	26.75	9.86	6.20	26.84	9.76	6.17	5.52	1.86	1.34	1.7
18	07 Dec 10	03:27:00	03:32:33	1.28	26.89	9.39	6.22	26.92	9.34	6.21	5.36	1.36	1.18	11.6
19	07 Dec 11	13:13:48	13:15:53	0.90	26.60	9.99	6.19	26.69	10.02	6.20	5.40	1.00	0.42	0.6
20	07 Dec 13	16:08:38	16:10:01	1.04	26.49	9.47	6.10	26.58	9.51	6.09	5.33	2.13	1.20	3.7



Filling factors



Warren et al. (2008)







Let's <u>suppose</u> some of them are!!



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Do the strands evolve coherently or not?



Let's <u>suppose</u> some of them are!!

Do the strands evolve coherently or not?

Narrow DEM Homogeneous



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Do the strands evolve coherently or not?

Narrow DEM Homogeneous



Broad DEM Inhomogeneous

Filter Analysis of 234 Loops (Aschwanden &



Filter Analysis of 234 Loops (Aschwanden &



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					Is	Isothermal			Gauss	_				
#	Date	t_{start}	t_{end}	σ_w	EM_0	n_0	T_0	EM_0	n_0	T_0	σ_T	χ_I^2	χ^2_G	f(%)
1	10-Dec-07	03:36:43	03:37:25	1.18	26.52	9.25	6.16	26.63	9.29	6.19	5.45	1.71	0.79	16.8
2	11-Dec-07	13:11:02	13:11:43	1.42	27.18	9.77	6.11	27.28	9.86	6.15	5.44	2.13	0.88	3.7
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5	12-Dec-07	06:29:24	06:30:47	0.97	27.66	9.61	6.07	27.90	9.84	6.01	5.70	5.49	1.52	36.2
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11	15-Dec-07	$01{:}44{:}07$	01:44:49	1.20	26.64	9.50	6.13	26.80	9.62	6.20	5.62	3.73	3.59	5.1
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14	18-Dec-07	$02{:}15{:}51$	02:17:14	1.07	27.53	10.98	6.19	27.55	10.50	6.18	5.44	2.98	1.52	0.6
15	18-Dec-07	01:11:14	01:14:43	1.57	26.51	9.15	6.19	26.68	9.13	6.16	5.55	3.16	1.66	21.3
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'Narrow' DEM (with exceptions)



'Narrow' DEM (with exceptions)

Broad DEMs in previous studies (Schmelz & co)



TEMPERATURE

Can we reconcile these observations with coronal heating?

Nanoflares

Convection \Rightarrow Braiding \Rightarrow Stress \Rightarrow Reconnection (nanoflare)



Nanoflares

Convection \Rightarrow Braiding \Rightarrow Stress \Rightarrow Reconnection (nanoflare)

Pros:



Nanoflares

Convection \Rightarrow Braiding \Rightarrow Stress \Rightarrow Reconnection (nanoflare)

Pros: Impulsive nature



Cons:

Nanoflares

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Pros: Impulsive nature Can explain overdens.



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Pros: Impulsive nature Can explain overdens. Multi-strands



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Implications for heating

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Nanoflare storms \Rightarrow narrow DEMs

Parker, Cargill, Klimchuk, Patsourakos, Reale, Walsh...





Reconnection at chromospheric level



Reconnection at chromospheric level

Cross-field diffusion more efficient



Reconnection at chromospheric level
 Cross-field diffusion more efficient
 U



Reconnection at chromospheric level
 Cross-field diffusion more efficient

 ↓
 coherence



Reconnection at chromospheric level
 Cross-field diffusion more efficient

 U
 coherence

• Possible explanation for:



Aschwanden et al. 2005-2008

Reconnection at chromospheric level

 Possible explanation for: upflows, waves



Aschwanden et al. (2007)



Gudiksen & Nordlund (2002)

Open questions:

- Coronal heating can also explain: upflows and chromospheric evaporation
- How much of that dissipation at lower heights goes into heating the corona: explosive events, blinkers, etc.
- Radiative losses?

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Cons:

- Hinode: no mixed polarities in plages (Title, 2008)
- Un-tangling of the corona

Brooks

Ugarte–Urra & Warren

EIS Fe XVI 40'' slot raster

on SOT Magnetograms

START

• EUV loops \Rightarrow impulsive heating

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multi-threads

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multi-threads

 \downarrow

• Multi-thread + Narrow T distrib. \Rightarrow coherence

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The debate has shifted to heat localization

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Spectroscopic + Time dependent properties of multiple loops / multiple AR's

Magnetic complexity

Dalla et al. (2007) 2880 sunspot regions from NOAA catalog

Subset	number of reg	ions α	·(%) β	3 (%)	βγ (%)	$\beta\delta$ (%)	βγδ (%)
All	2880		10	73	11	0.8	5.2
NERs	1449		10	82	6	0.3	1.7
companions	468		6	73	13	0.6	7
old regions	1003		8	61	18	1.6	11
Cutoff	All (%)	a (%)	B (%)	Br	(%)	88 (%)	Bris (%)
Elacos > C1	29	5	20	- 17	$\frac{(n)}{n}$	97	100
riares > C1	50		50	2		07	100
Harpe > C5	- 20	07	11	6		71	80

Table 1 Mt. Wilson classification rules.				
Class	Feature/classification rule			
α	A single dominant spot often linked with a plage of opposite magnetic polarity			
β	A pair of dominant spots of opposite polarity			
γ	Complex groups with irregular distribution of polarities			
β_{γ}	Bipolar groups with more than one clear North – South polarity inversion line			
ð	Umbrae of opposite polarity together in a single penumbra			
I ———				

Ireland et al. (2008)

Other topics

Full active region modeling

3D forward modeling