Origin of Universal Correlation between Temperature and Emission Measure for Solar/Stellar Flares

K. Shibata

Kwasan Observatory, Kyoto University

T. Yokoyama

National Astronomical Observatory of Japan

We study the reconnection and the chromospheric evaporation in flares using the numerical code including nonlinear anisotropic heat conduction effect (Yokoyama & Shibata 1998; 2001). The two-dimensional, nonlinear, time-dependent, resistive, compressible MHD equations are solved. The evolution from the rise phase to (the early part of) the decay phase of a solar flare is qualitatively reproduced in this simulation. Based on the results, we obtained a relationship between the flare temperature and the coronal magnetic field strength. If we assume that the input of energy to a loop balances with the conduction cooling rate, the temperature at the loop apex is

\[ T_A \approx \left( \frac{2QL^2}{\kappa_0} \right)^{2/7} \]

where \( Q \) is the volumetric heating rate, \( L \) is the half-length of the loop, and \( \kappa_0 = 10^{-6} \) CGS is the Spitzer's thermal conductivity constant. In our simulations, the heating mechanism is magnetic reconnection so that the heating rate is described as

\[ Q = \frac{B^2}{(4\pi) \cdot V_{in}/L \cdot 1/\sin \theta} \]

where \( B \) is the coronal magnetic field strength, \( V_{in} \) is the inflow velocity (\( \approx 0.1V_A \) from our result and also from Petschek’s theory), and \( \theta \) is the angle between the slow-mode MHD shock and the loop and is approximately given by

\[ \sin \theta \approx V_{in}/V_A \]

By manipulating the equations, we find

\[ T_A \approx \left( \frac{B L^{3/2}}{2\pi \kappa_0^{1/4} \pi \rho} \right)^{3/7} \propto B^{8/7} \beta^{-1/7}, \]

where \( \rho \) is the mass density of the corona. The simulation results show very good agreement with this scaling law.

We also develop a theory to explain the observed universal correlation between flare temperature \( T \) and emission measure \( EM = n^2V \) for solar and stellar flares (including solar microflares observed by Yohkoh as well as protostellar flares observed by ASCA), where \( n \) is the electron density and \( V \) is the volume (Figure 1; Shibata & Yokoyama 1999). The theory is based on the above magnetic reconnection model with heat conduction and chromospheric evaporation, assuming that the gas pressure of a flare loop is comparable to the magnetic pressure. This theory predicts the relation

\[ EM \propto B^{-5}T^{17/2} \]
Figure 1. The log-log plot of emission measure vs. electron temperature of solar flares, solar microflares, four stellar flares (asterisks), a protostellar flare (diamond, class 1 protostar far IR source R1 in the R CrA cloud), a T-Tau stellar flare (diamond, weaklined T-Tauri star V773 Tau), and a stellar flare on AB Dor (K0 IV ZAMS single star). The $EM - T$ relation curves ($EM \propto B^{-5}T^{17/2}$) are superposed on the $EM - T$ diagram. The $L = \text{constant}$ curves (dashed lines; $EM \propto L^{5/3}T^{8/3}$) are also superposed on this diagram.

which explains well the observed correlation between $EM$ and $T$ in the range of $6 \times 10^6$ K $< T < 10^8$ K and $10^{44} < EM < 10^{55}$ cm$^{-3}$ from solar microflares to protostellar flares, if the magnetic field strength of a flare loop, $B$, is nearly constant for solar and stellar flares.

References