

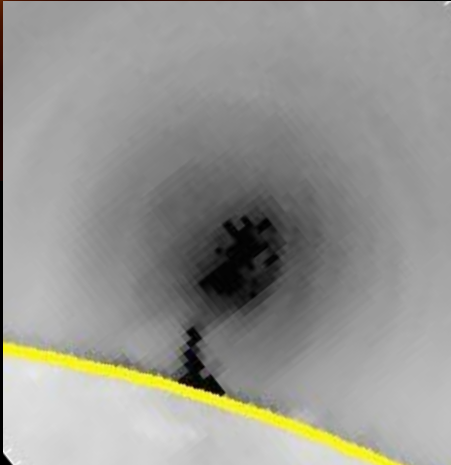
Prominence Cavities

Sarah Gibson

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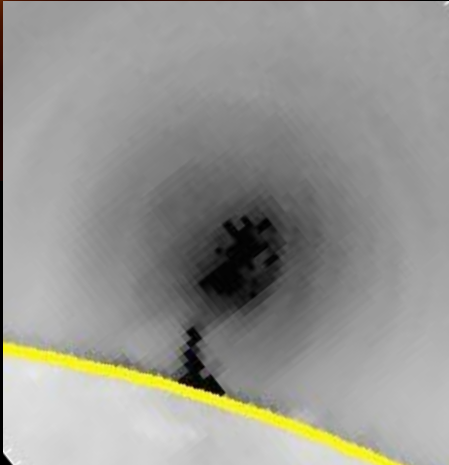
Lollypops,



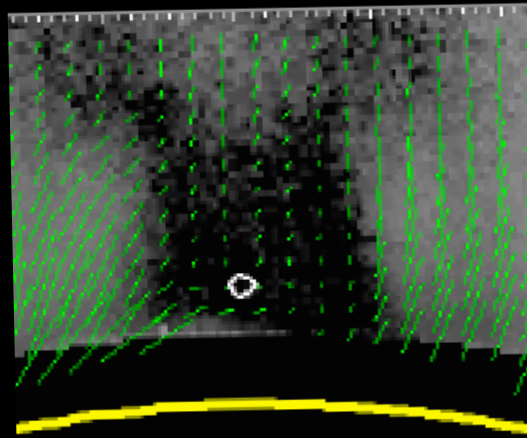
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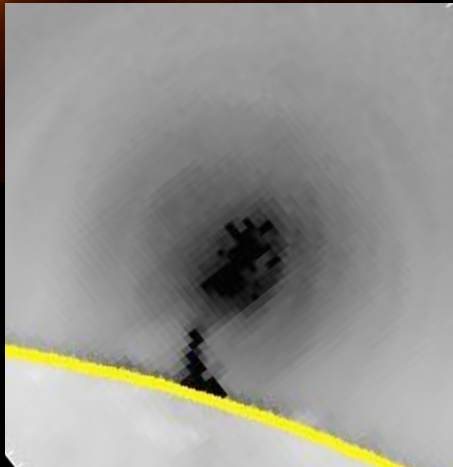
lagomorphs,



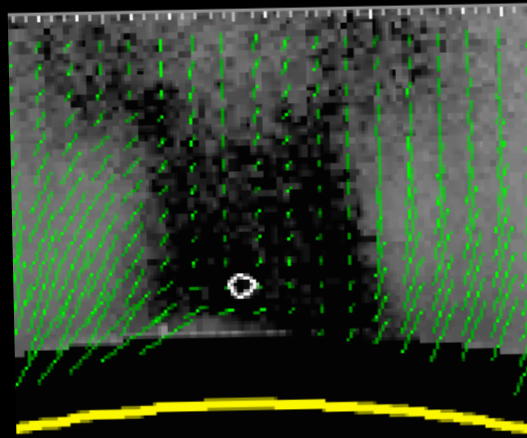
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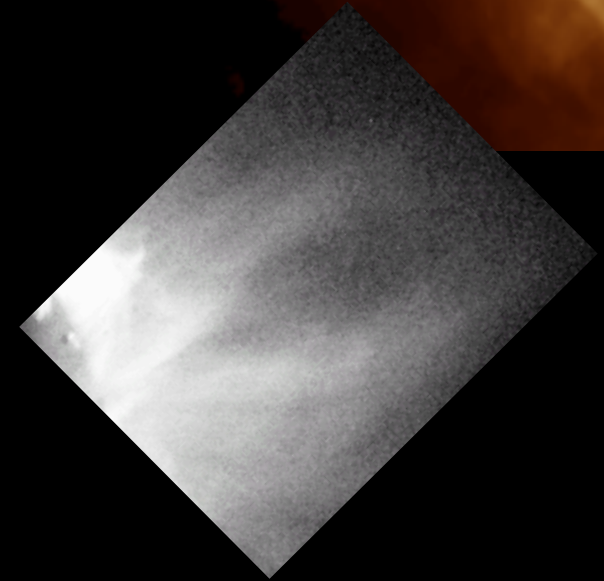
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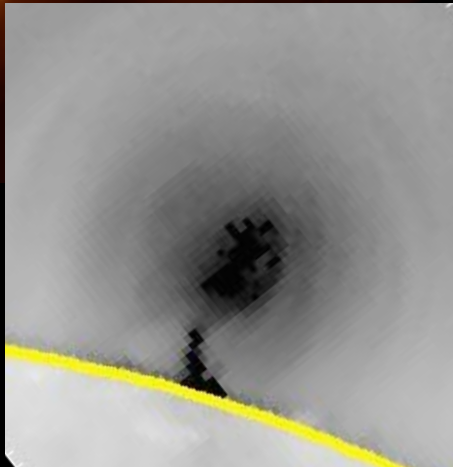
and lift-off!



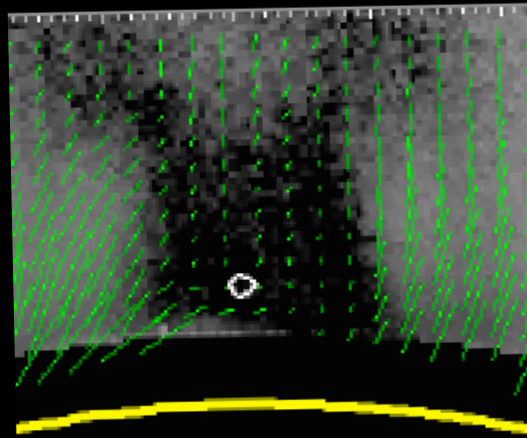
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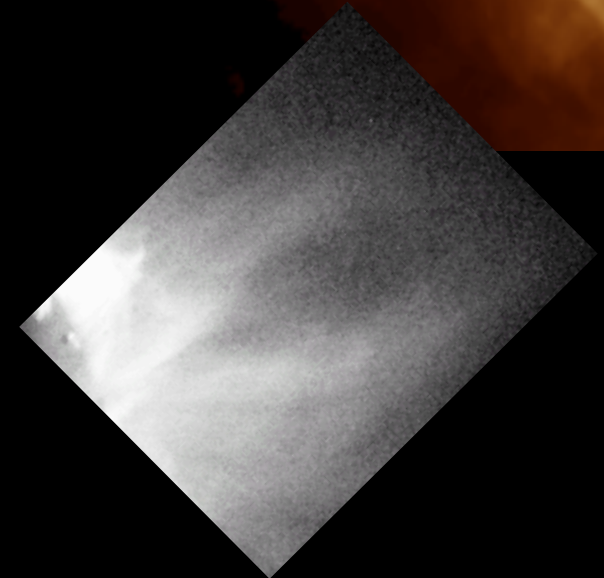
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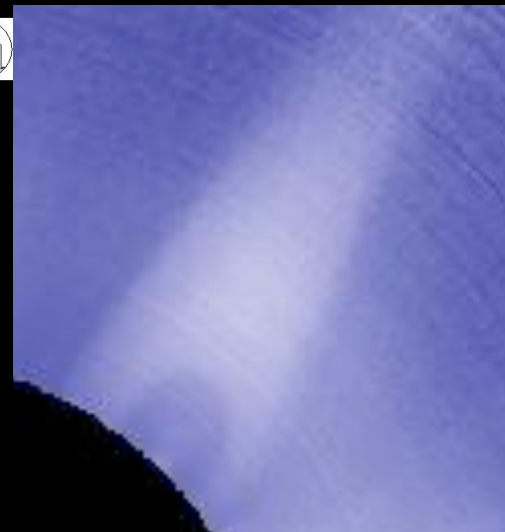
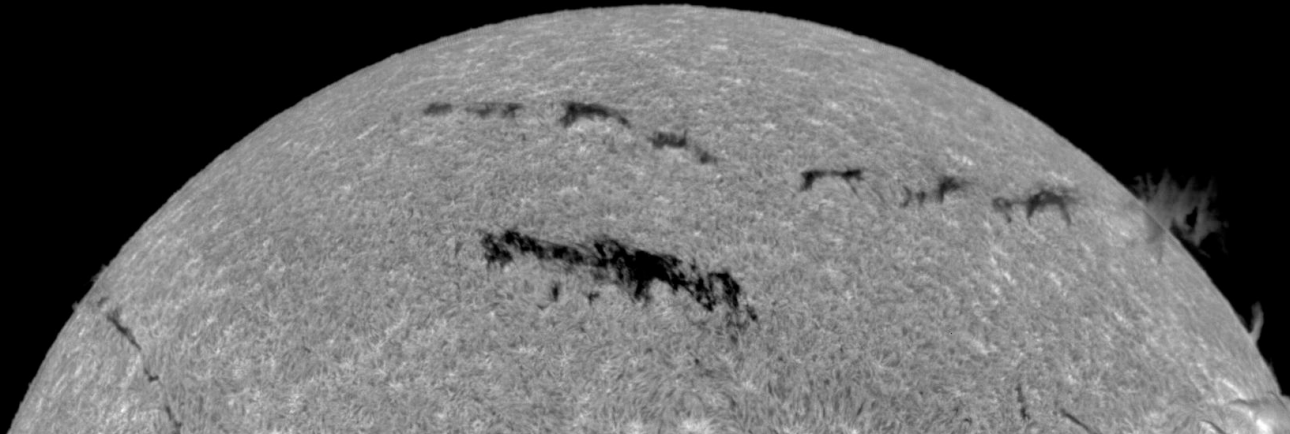


Thanks to Urszula Bak-Steslicka, Giuliana de Toma, Yuhong Fan, Blake Forland, Nishu Karna, Terry Kucera, Laurel Rachmeler, Kathy Reeves, Durgesh Tripathi, and Don Schmit

Prominence Cavities

Prominences and cavities lie above solar-surface magnetic neutral lines; stable for days/weeks

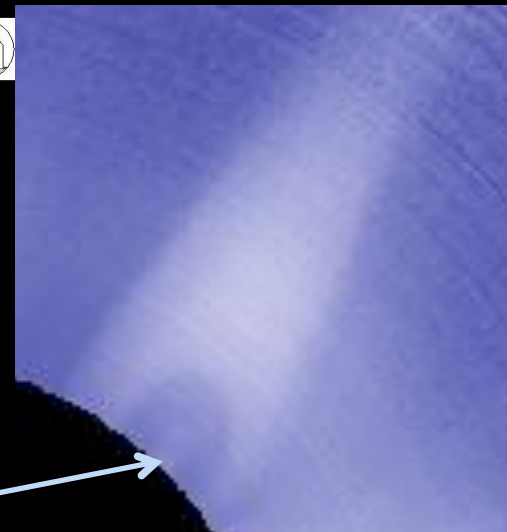
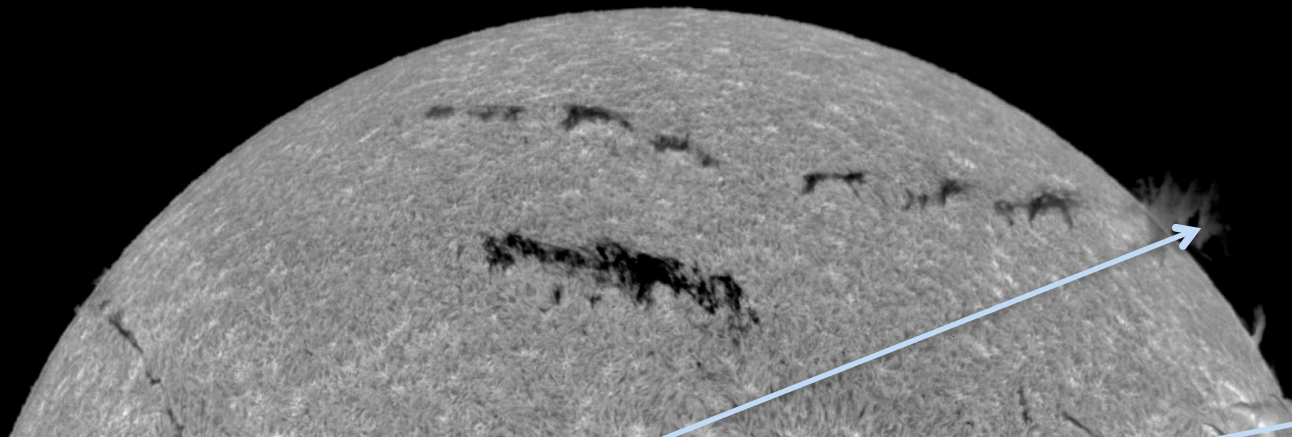
N
E W
S



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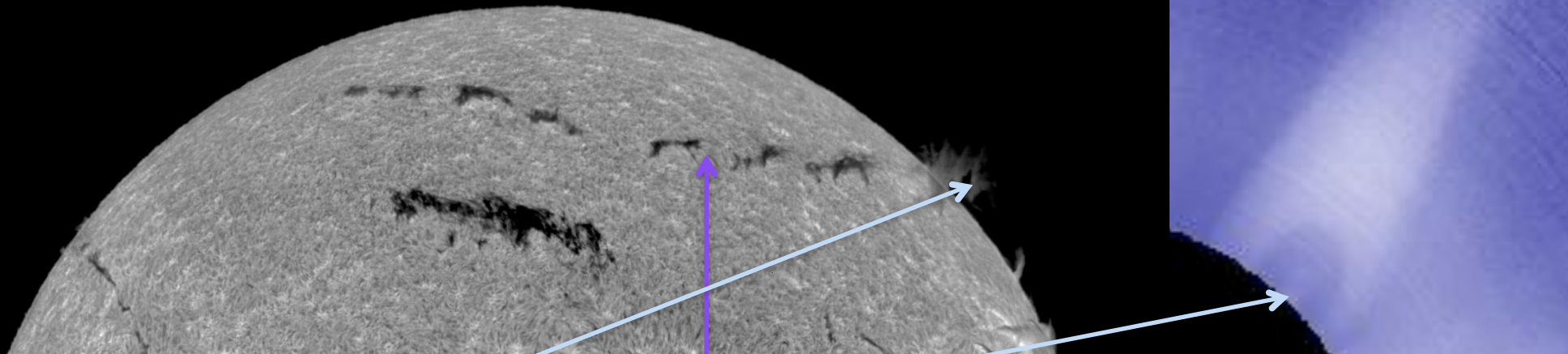


Prominence: (relatively) cool, dense plasma suspended in the corona, supported by magnetic fields

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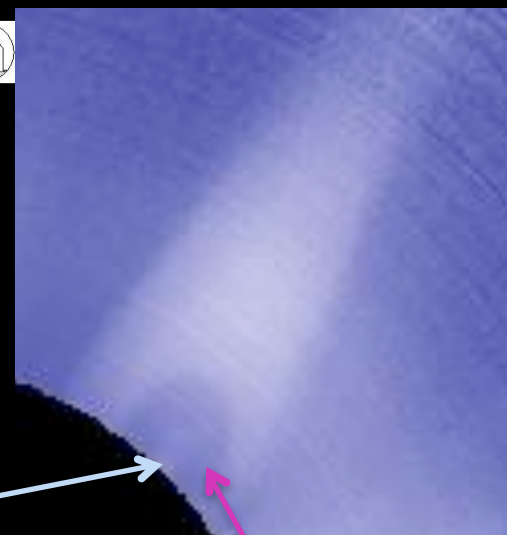
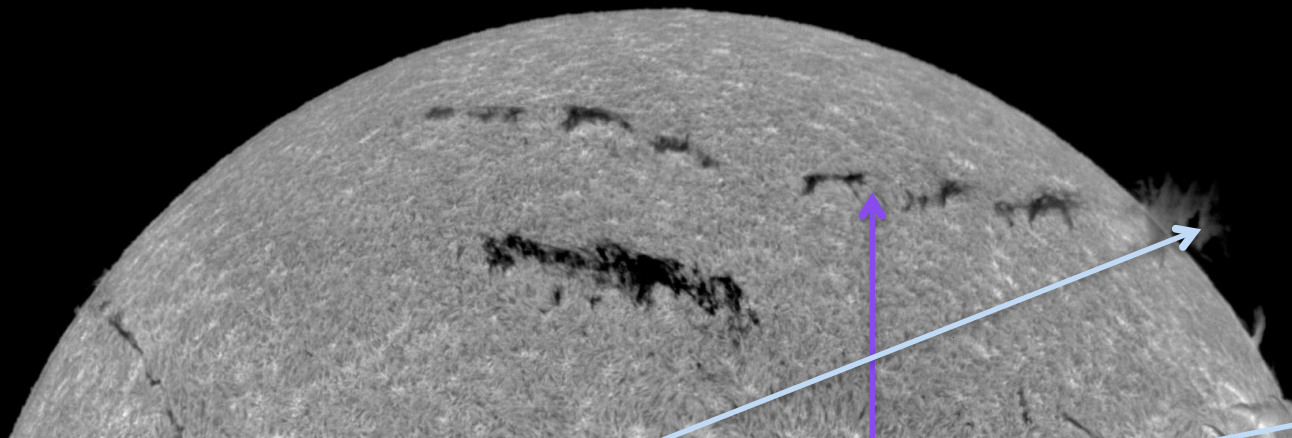
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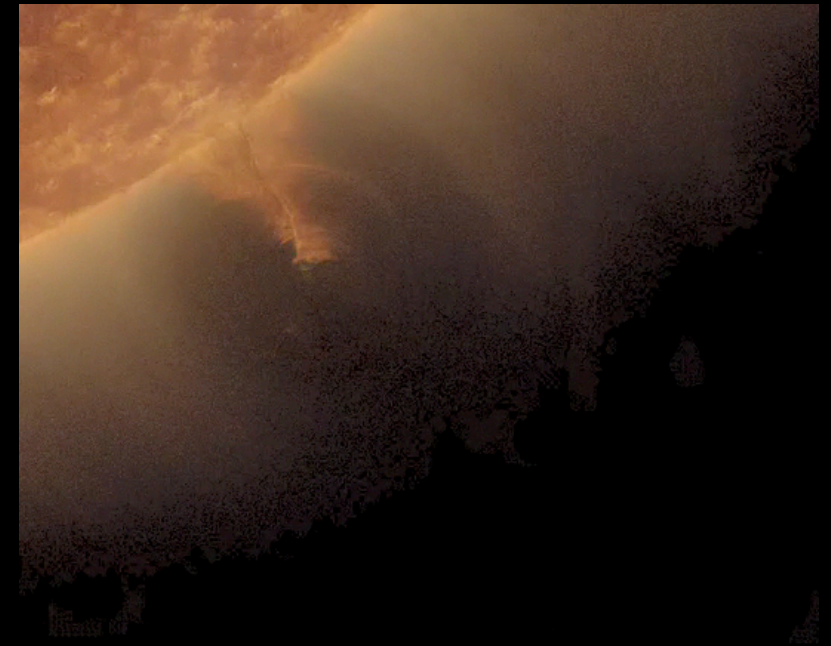
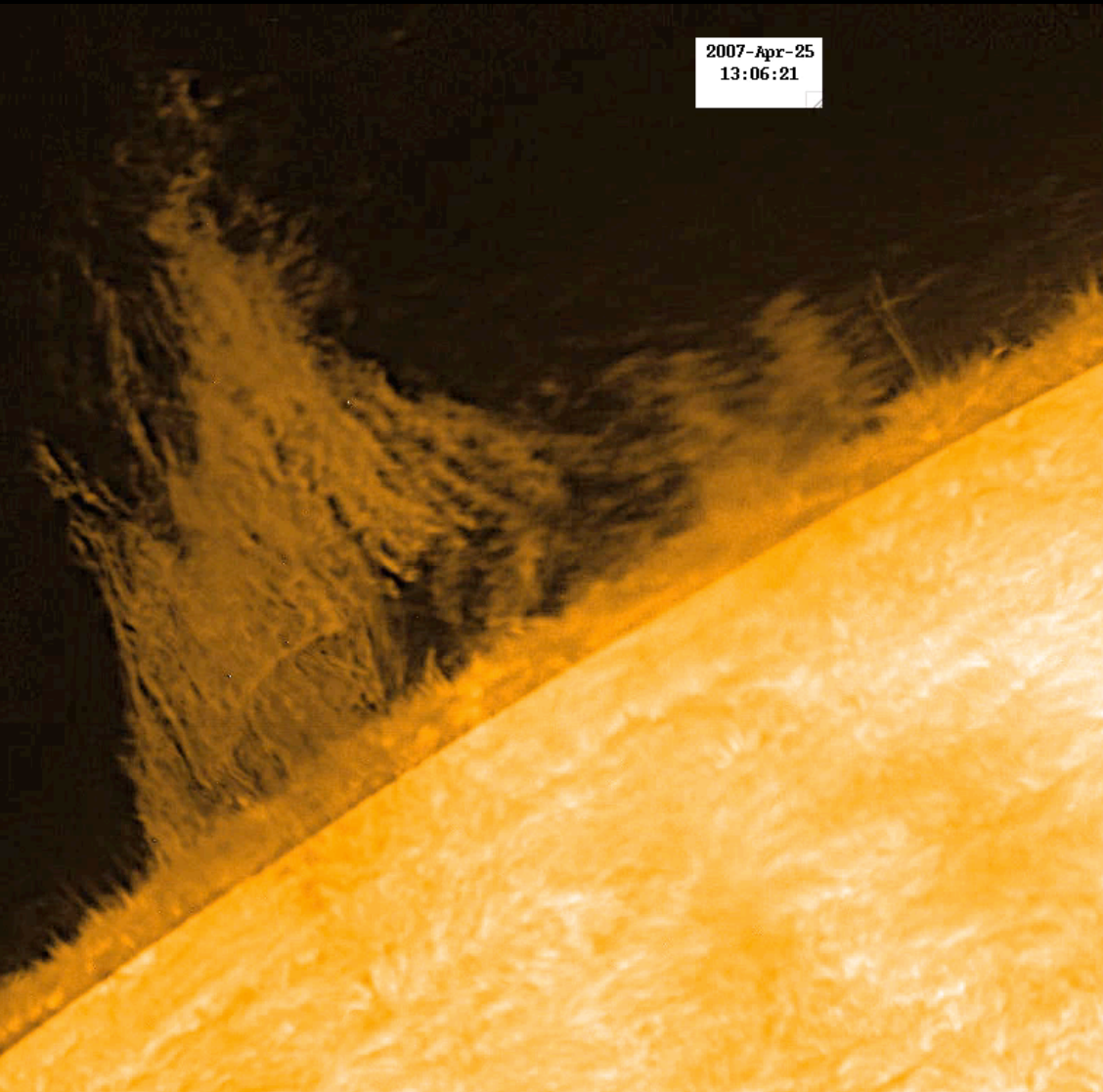


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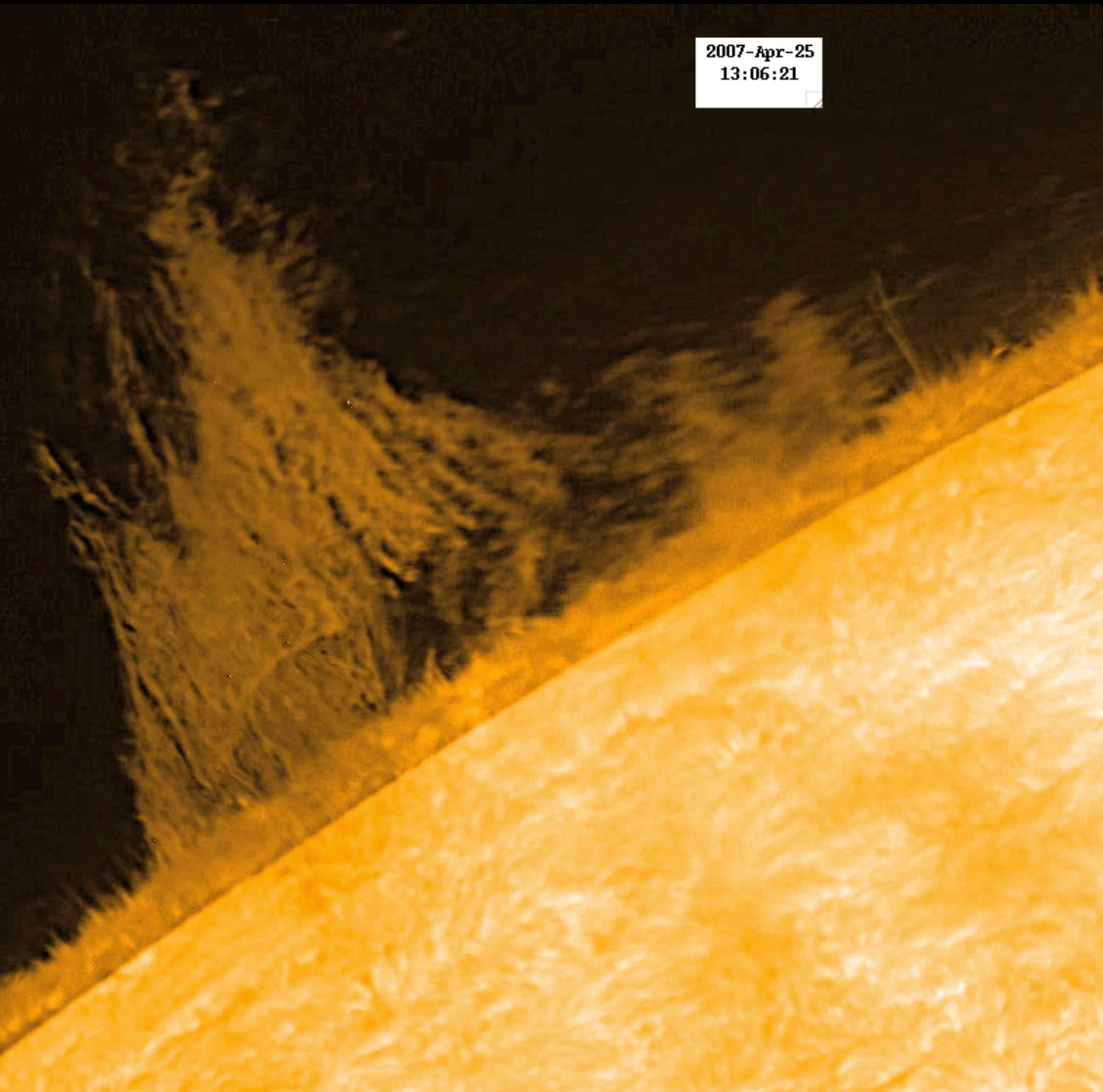
Surrounded by dark, **coronal cavity**

Prominence Cavities

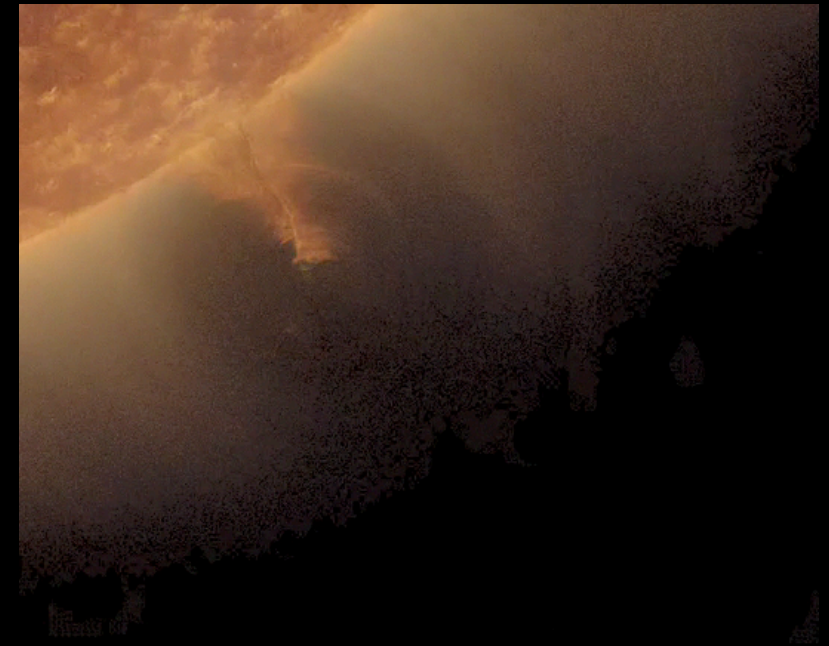


AIA 304 - 2011/09/25 - 10:00:08Z
AIA 171 - 2011/09/25 - 10:00:00Z
AIA 211 - 2011/09/25 - 10:00:00Z
AIA 193 - 2011/09/25 - 10:00:09Z

Prominence Cavities



...Actually they are quite dynamic when you look close enough -- but on large-scale, they pretty much stay put....

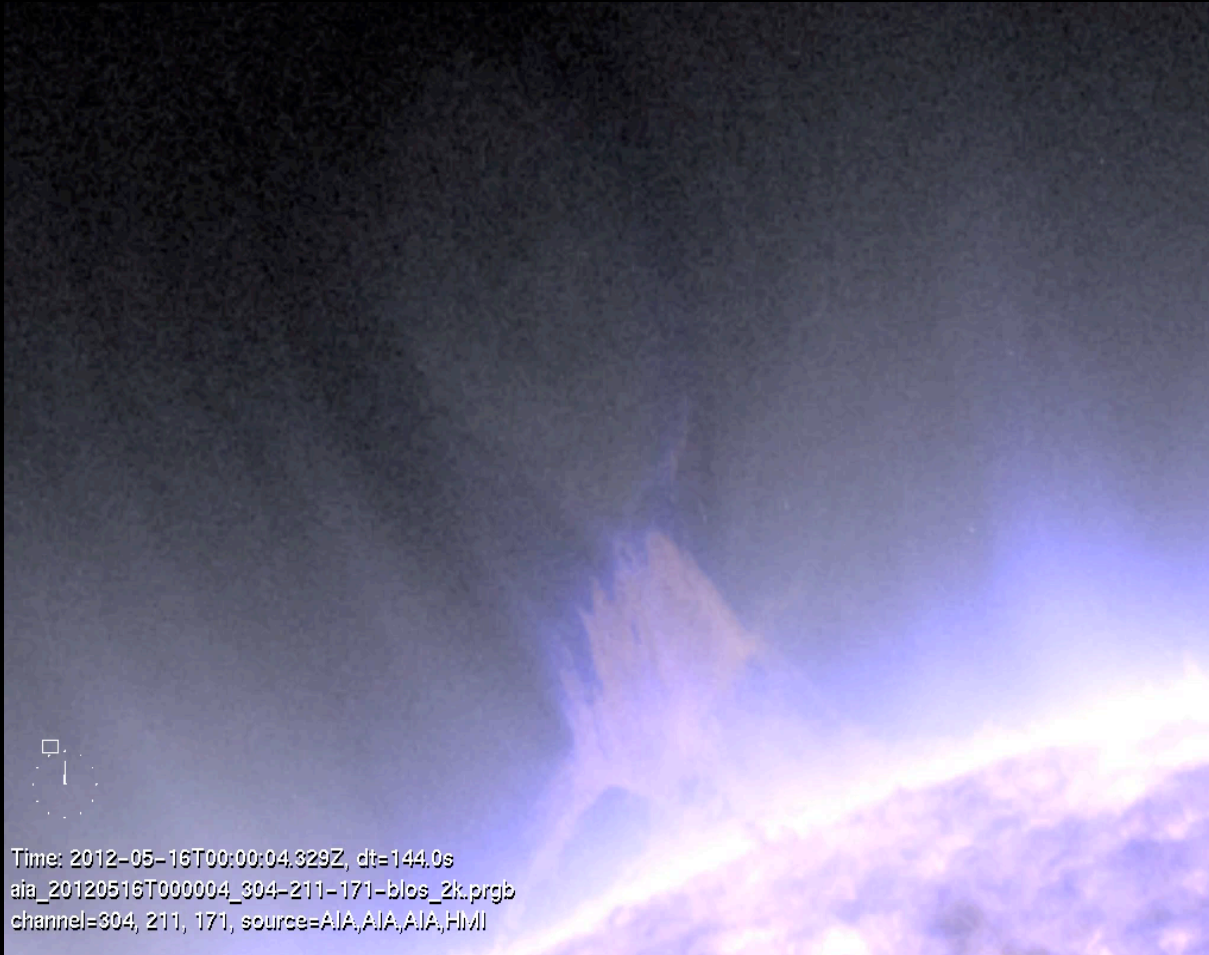


AIA 304 - 2011/09/25 - 10:00:08Z
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Prominence Cavities

...until they don't.

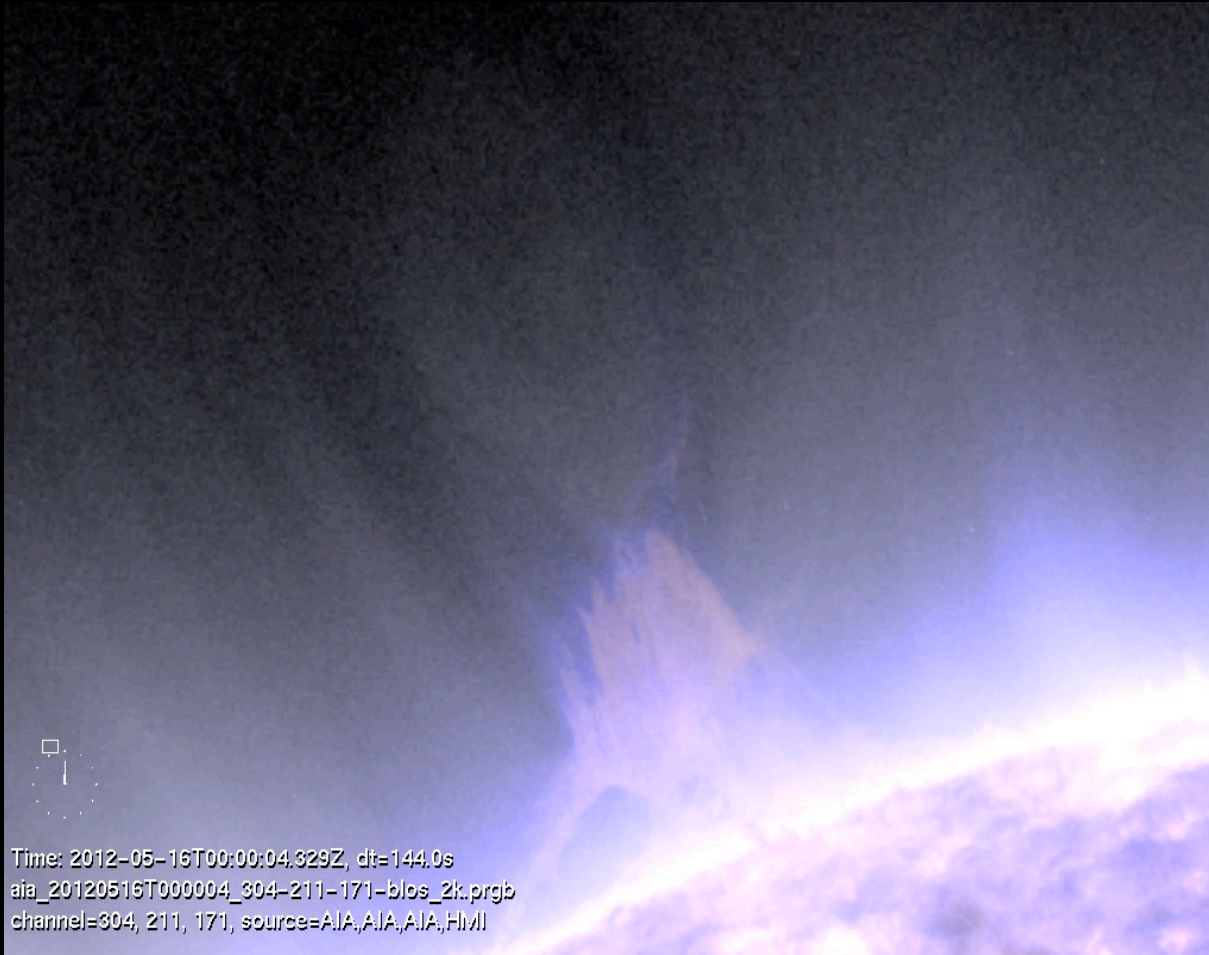
Coronal Mass Ejection



Prominence Cavities

...until they don't.

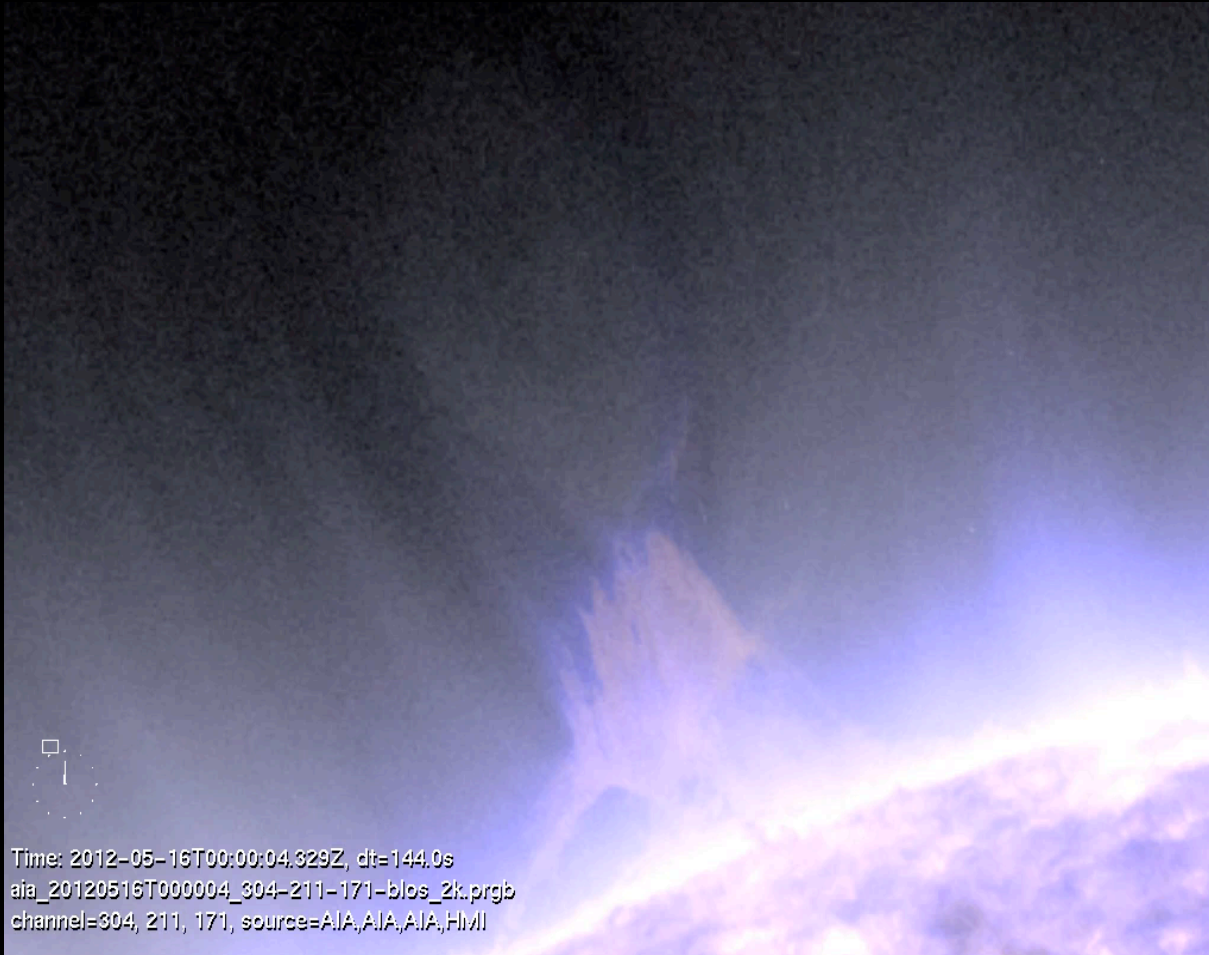
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Coronal Mass Ejection



Outline

Based on recent review chapter in new book:

*Solar Prominences, Astrophysics and Space Science Library,
Vol. 415, Vial, Jean-Claude, Engvold, Oddbjorn (Eds.), Springer,
2015*

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(see also chapter by J. Karpen)

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 - Precursors and predictors of eruption (lift-off!)

Cavity properties: Ubiquity

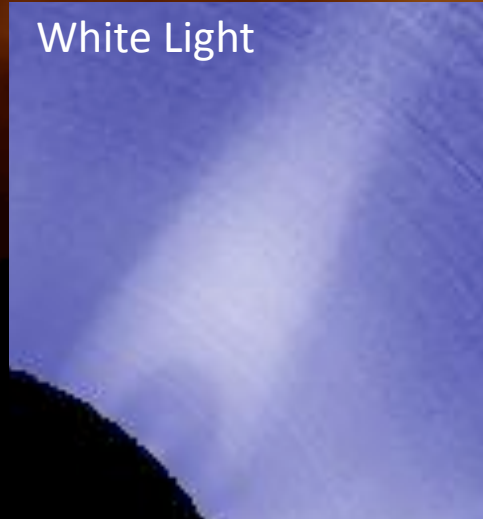


Cavity properties: Ubiquity

Extreme
Ultraviolet

Cavity properties: Ubiquity

White Light



Extreme
Ultraviolet

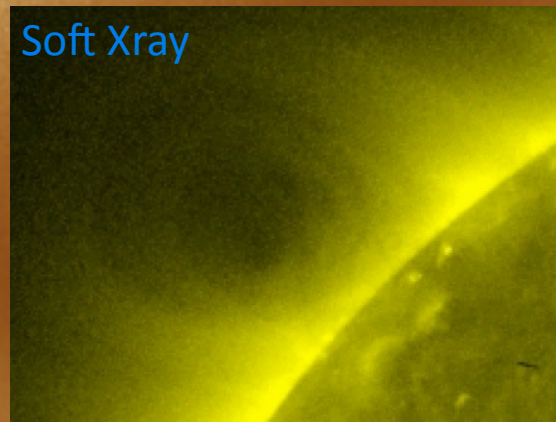
Cavity properties: Ubiquity



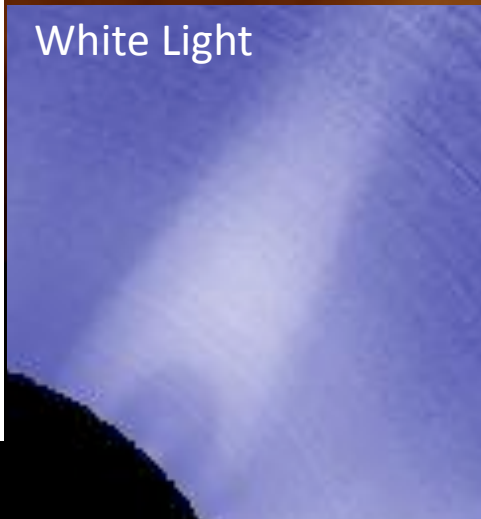
Extreme
Ultraviolet

Cavity properties: Ubiquity

Soft Xray

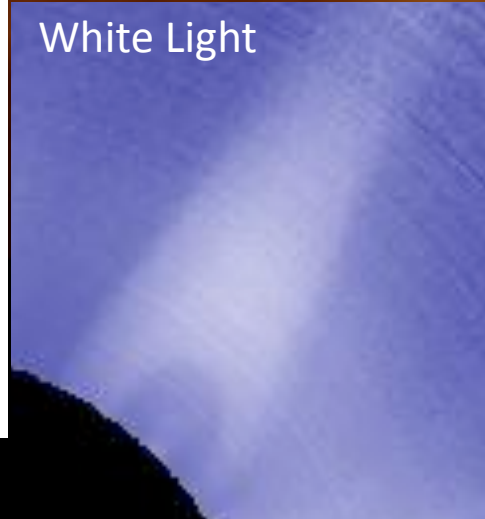
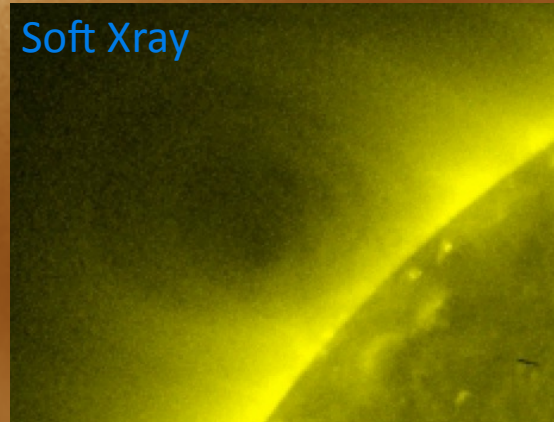


White Light

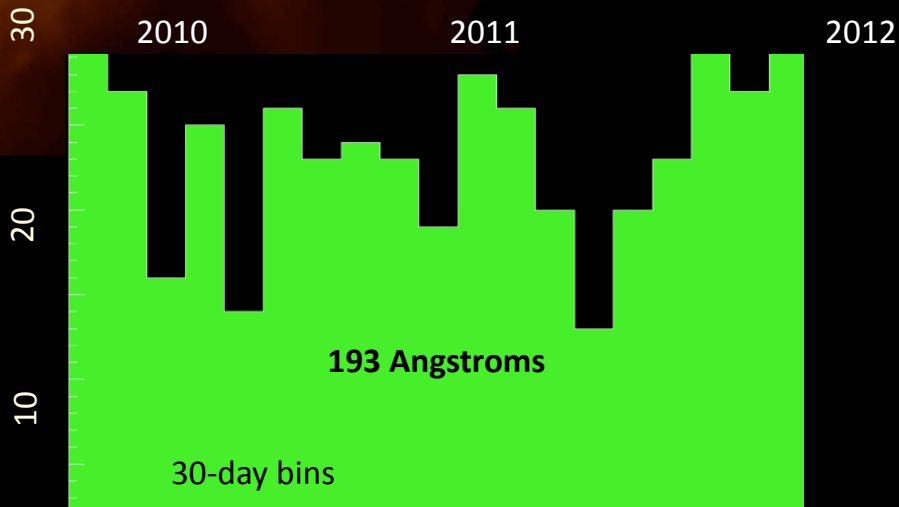


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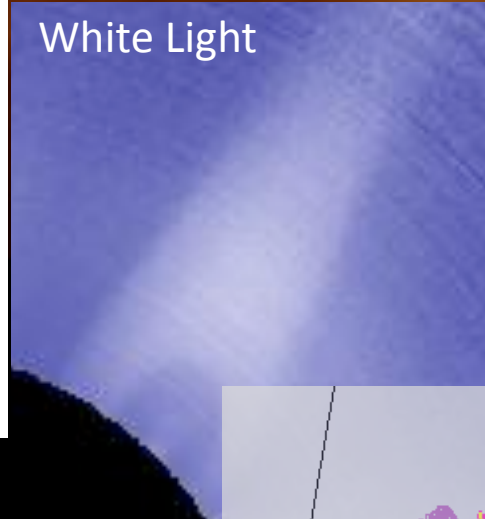
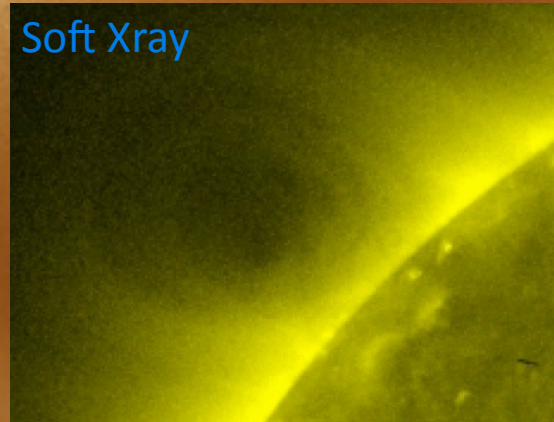
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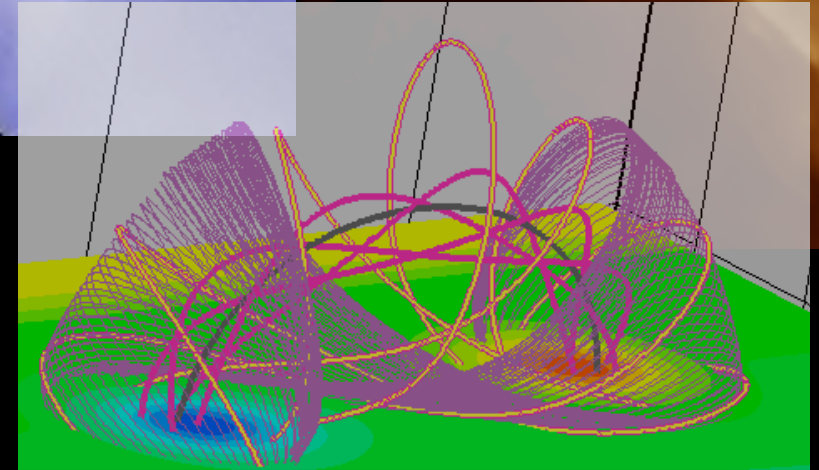
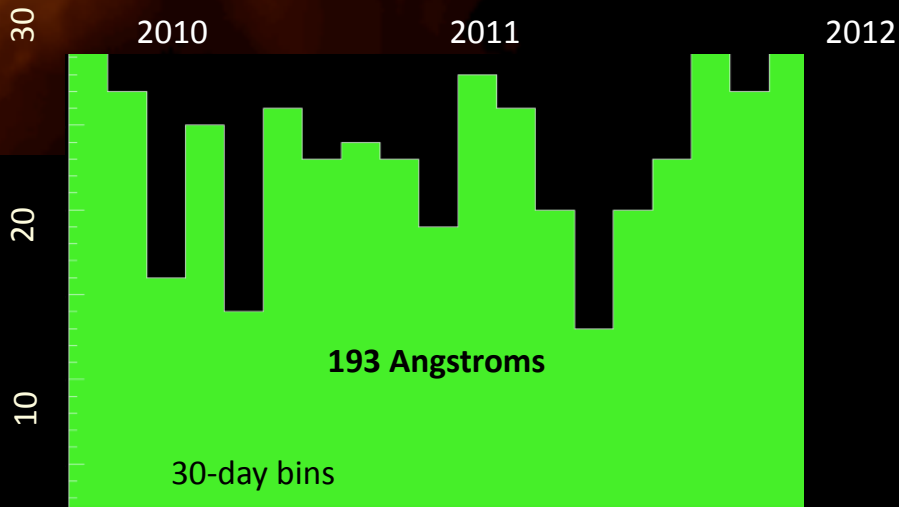
The EUV corona (193 Å) during the ascending phase of the cycle has proven to be an excellent period for studying cavities: **one or more cavities are visible most days.**

Forland et al., 2013

Cavity properties: Ubiquity



Extreme
Ultraviolet



Interpretation: Minimum energy state that conserves helicity (flux rope). In polar crown filament (PCF), helicity can accumulate over days or weeks.

Woltjer, 1958; Taylor, 1974; Mackay, 2014)

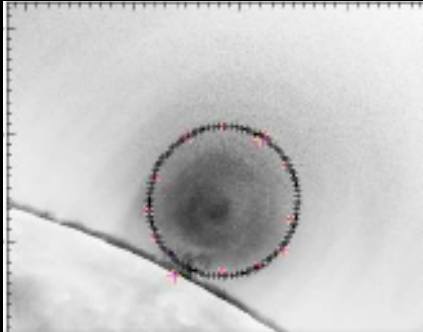
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Cavity properties: Morphology

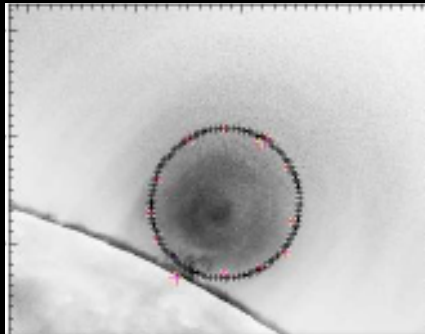


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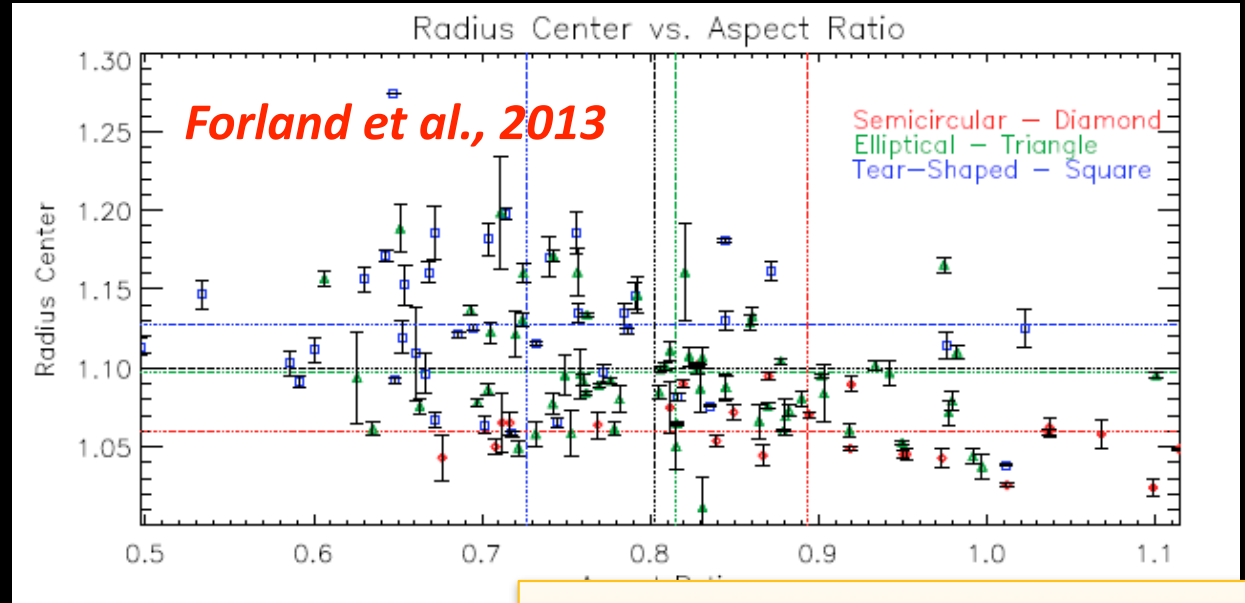


**Cross-section of
cavities can be fit
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Cavity properties: Morphology

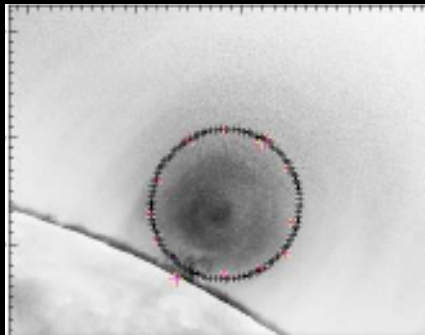


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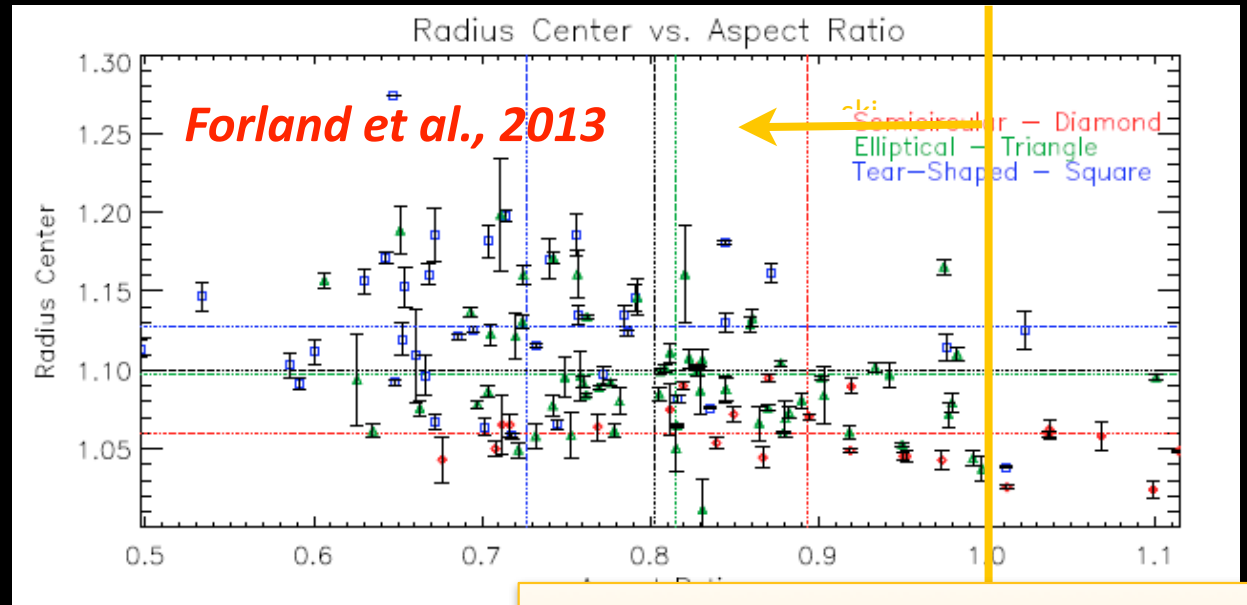


Most cavities are taller than they are wide (“skinny”)

Cavity properties: Morphology

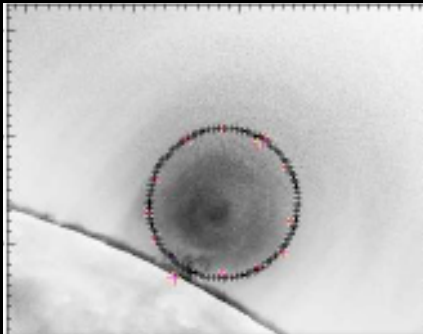


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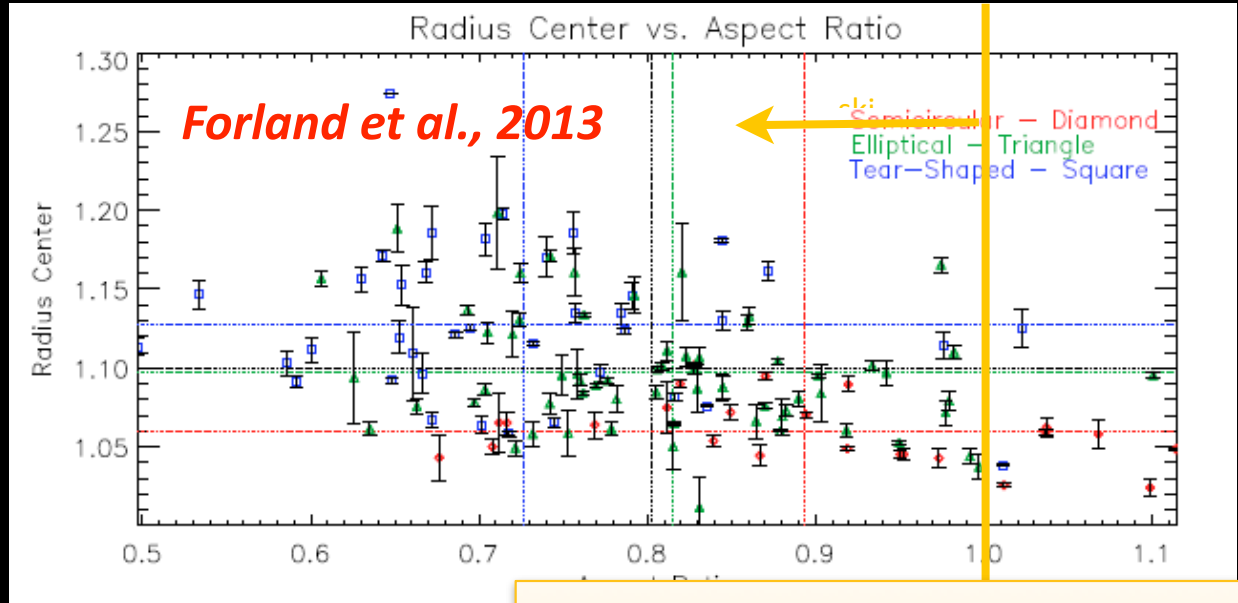


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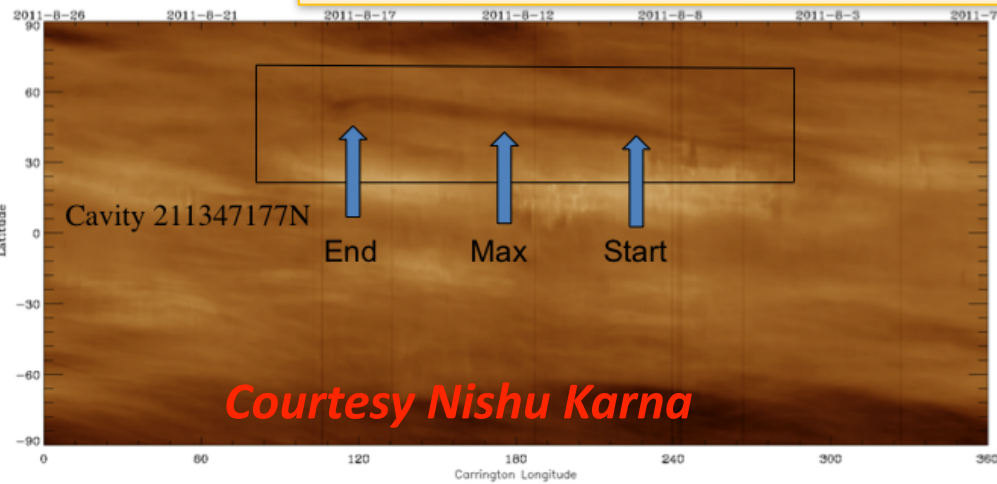


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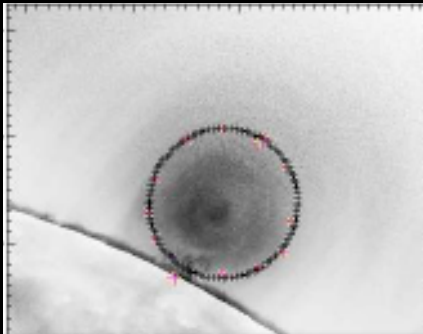


Cavities are extended in longitude

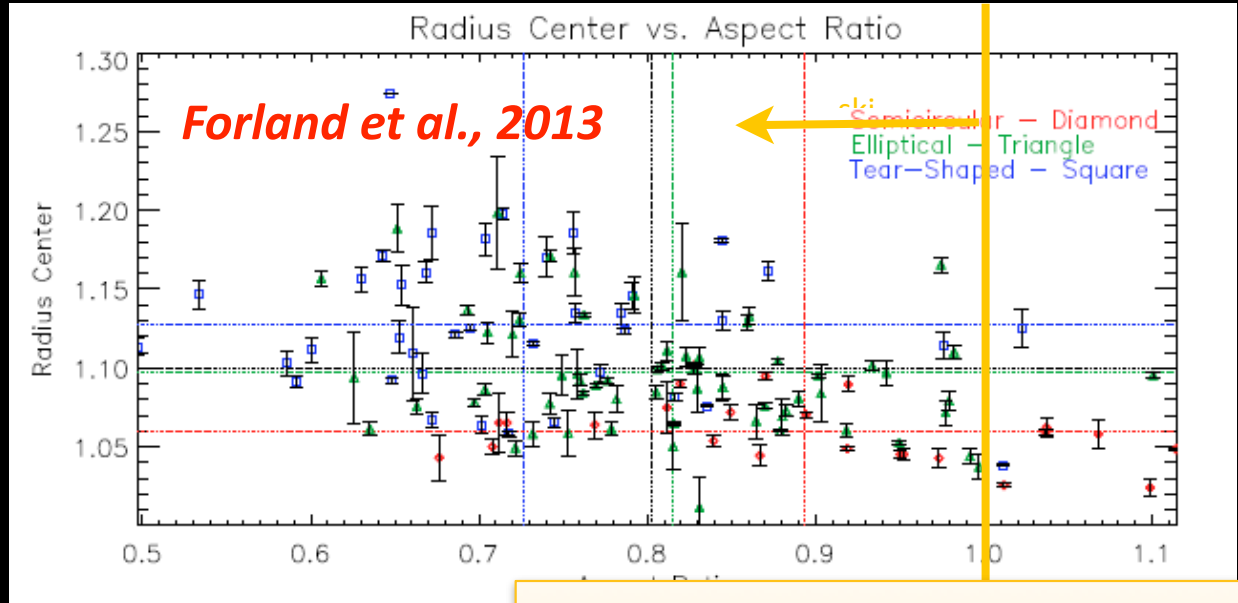
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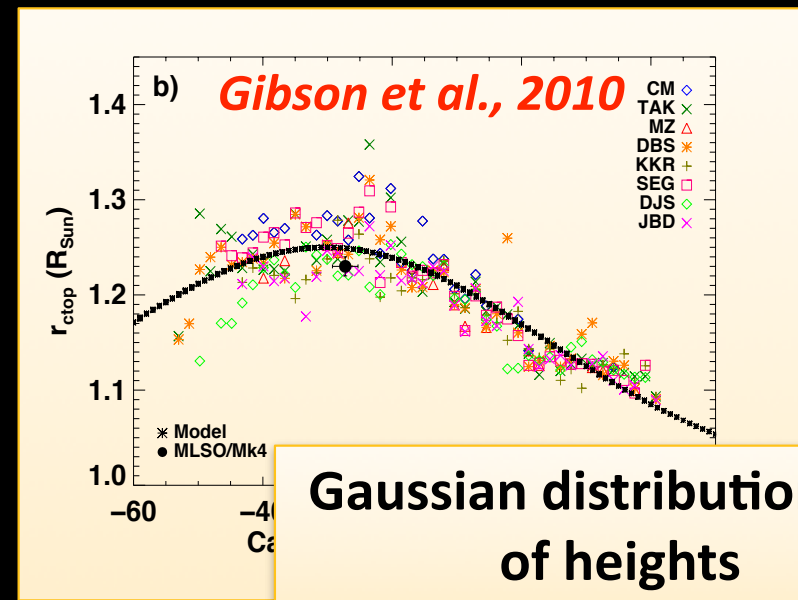


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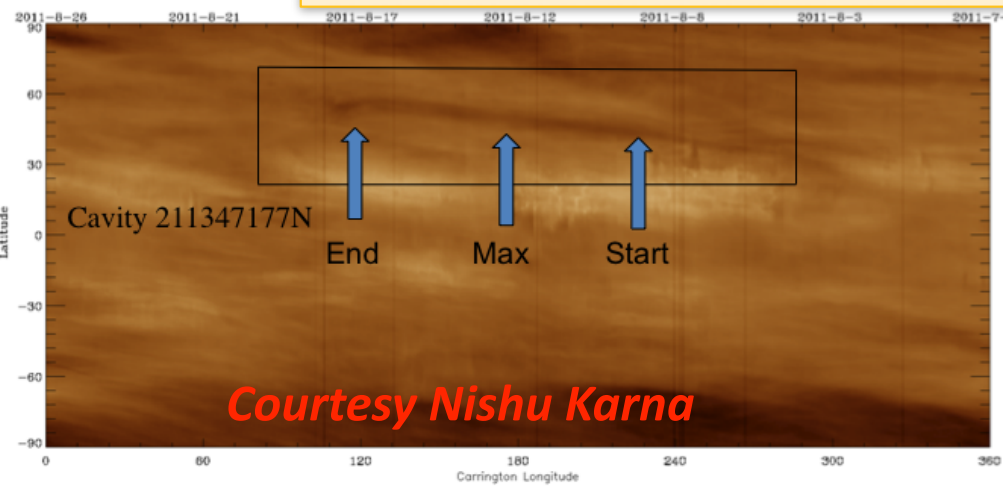


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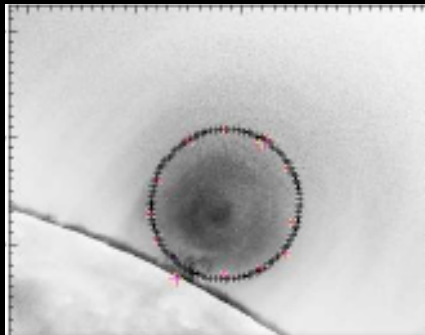


Gaussian distribution of heights

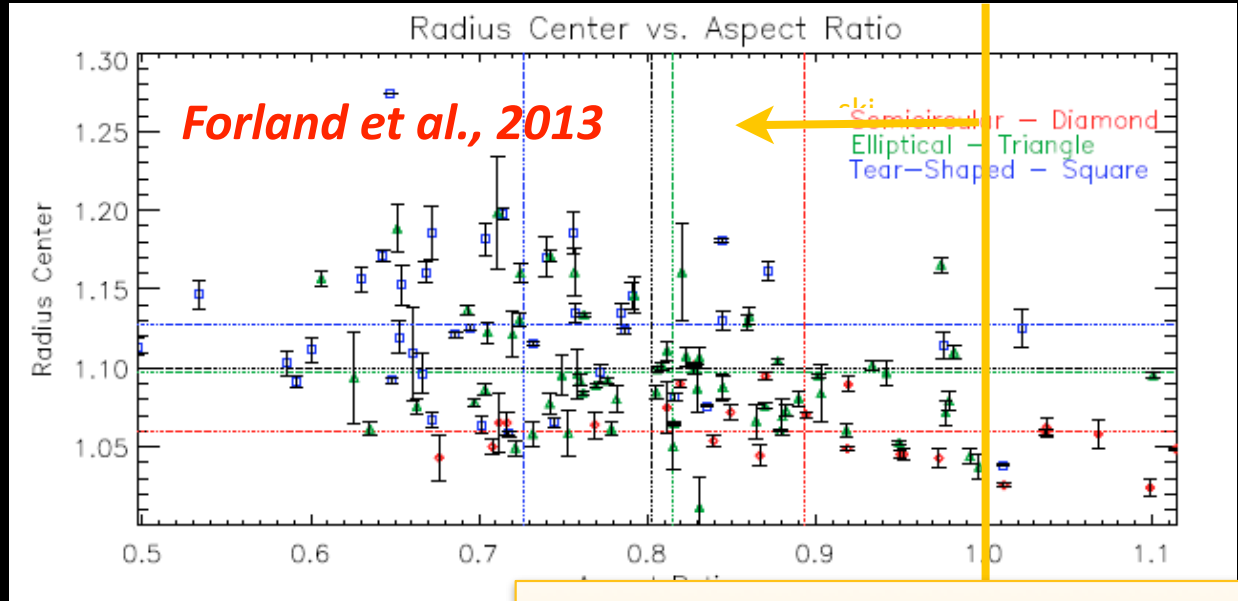


Courtesy Nishu Karna

Cavity properties: Morphology

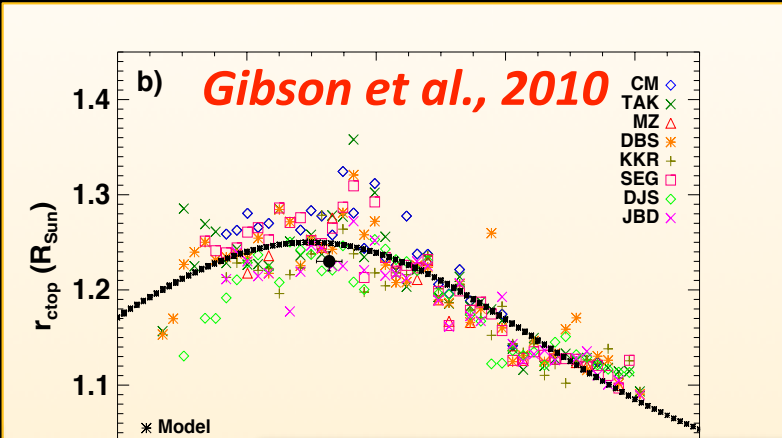


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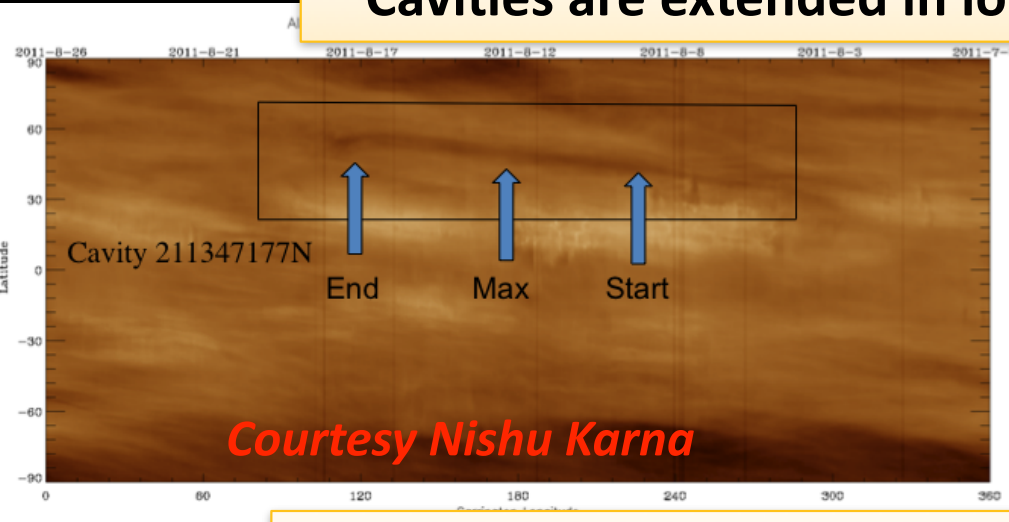


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Gaussian distribution of heights



Prolate-elliptical, arched-cylindrical (croissant-like) morphology

Courtesy Nishu Karna



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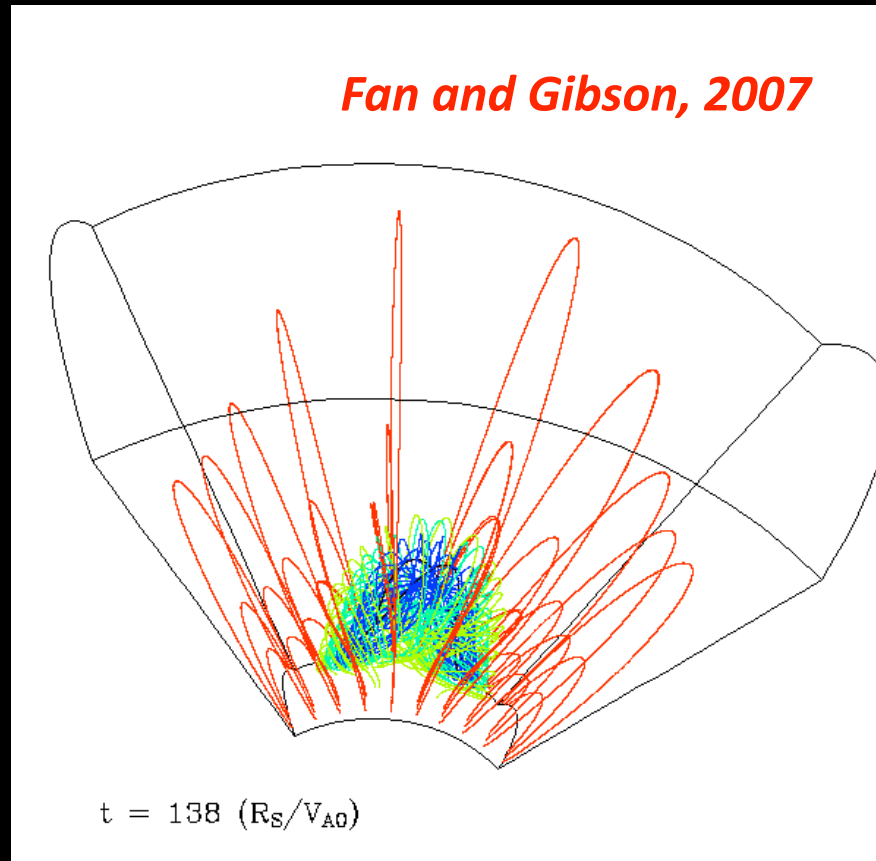
Interpretation: Expanded, but trapped, twisted flux

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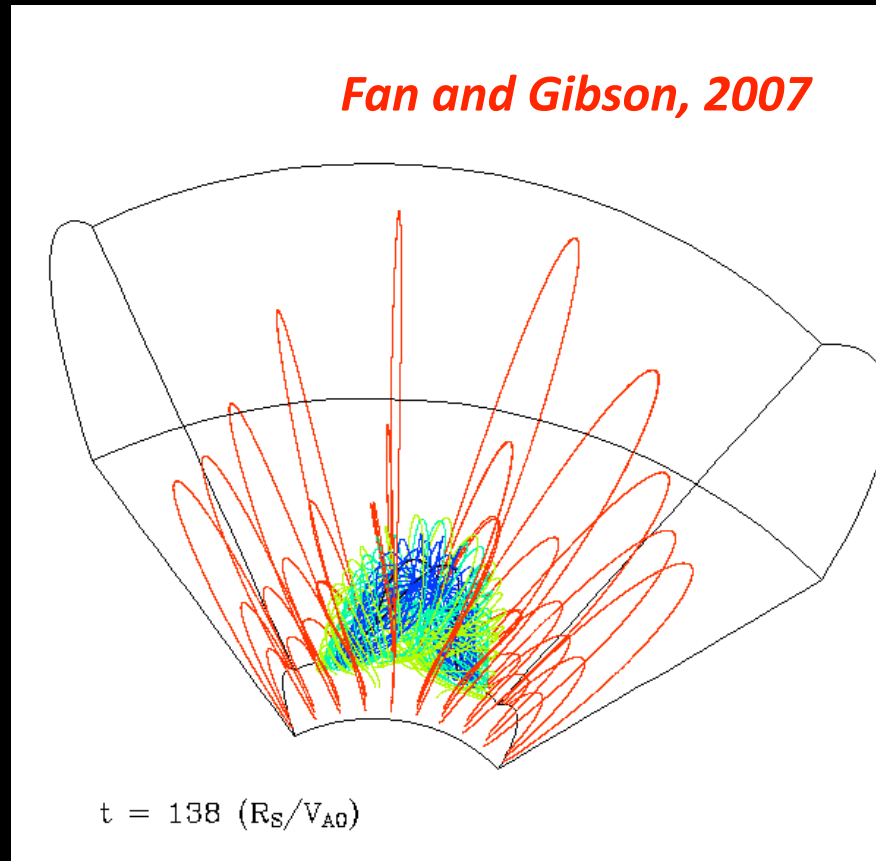


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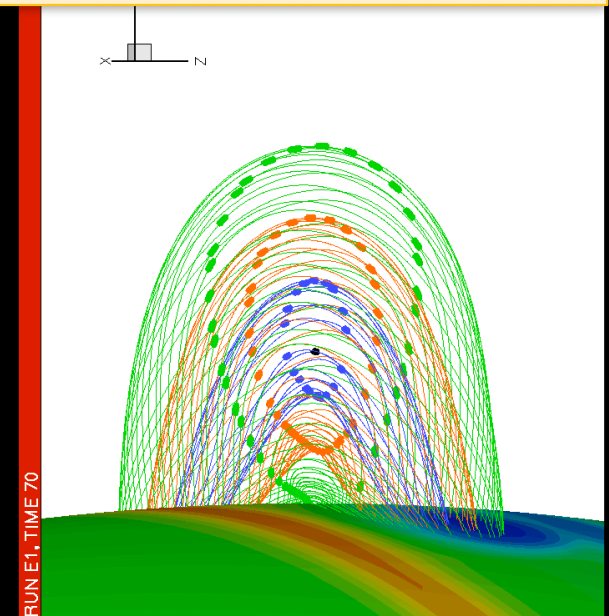
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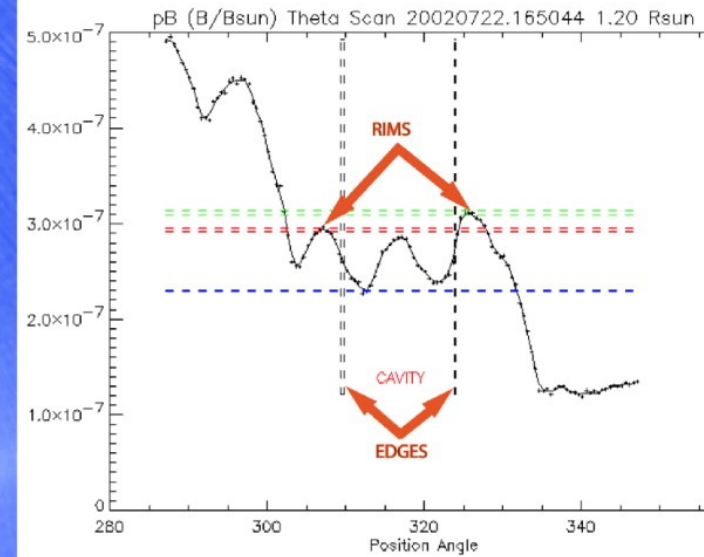
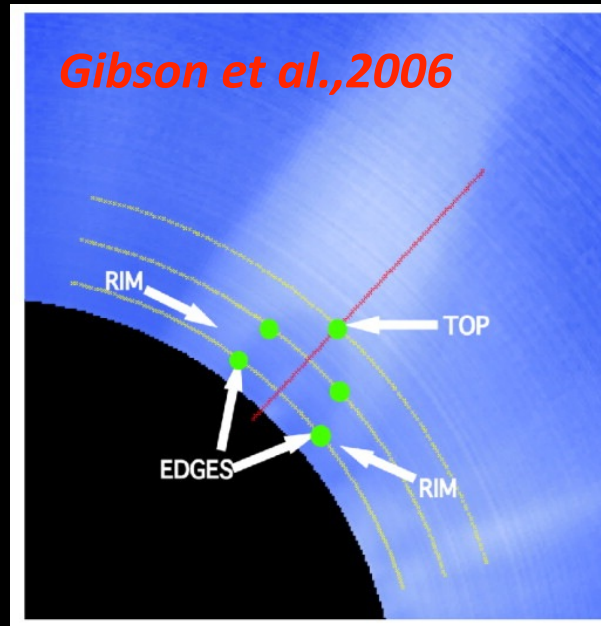


Prolate-elliptical, arched-cylindrical (croissant-like) morphology

Cavity properties: Density

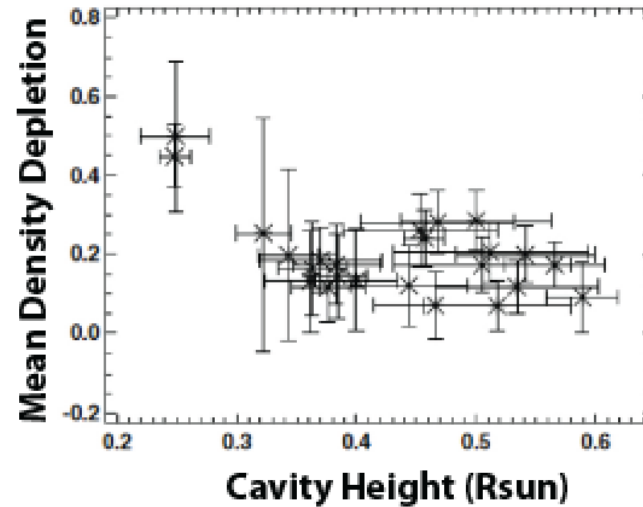
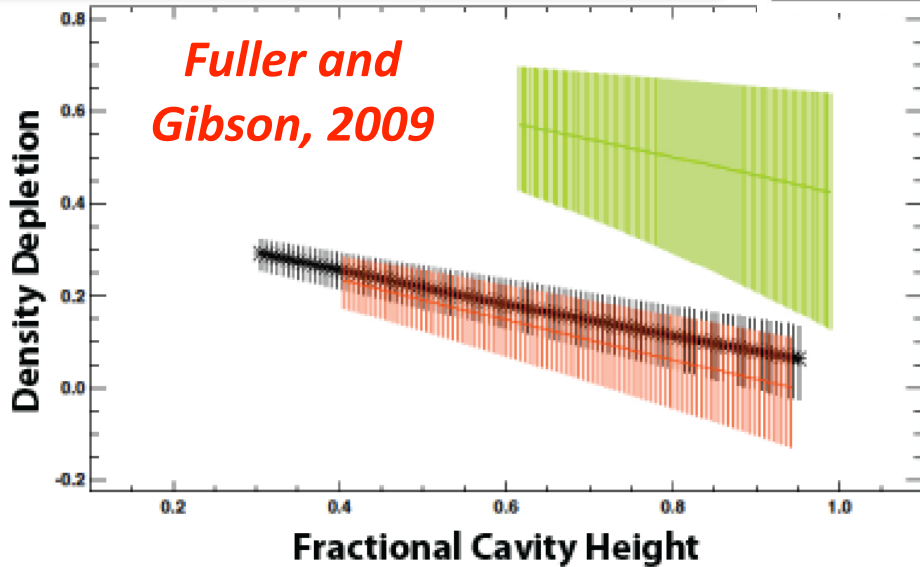
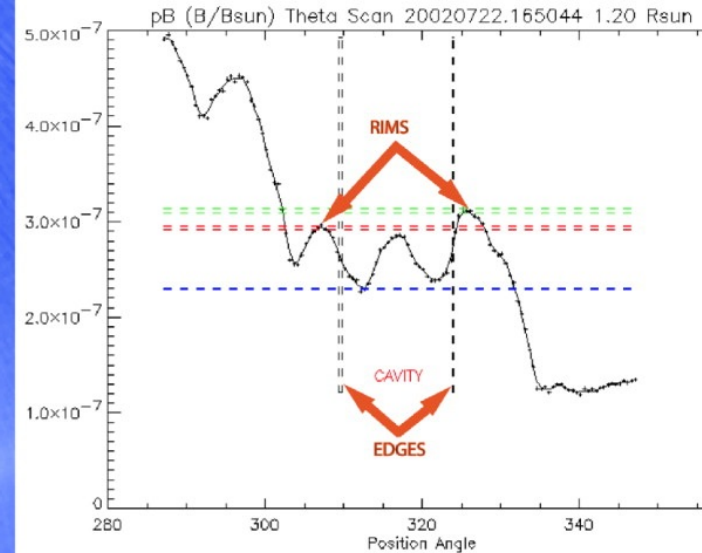
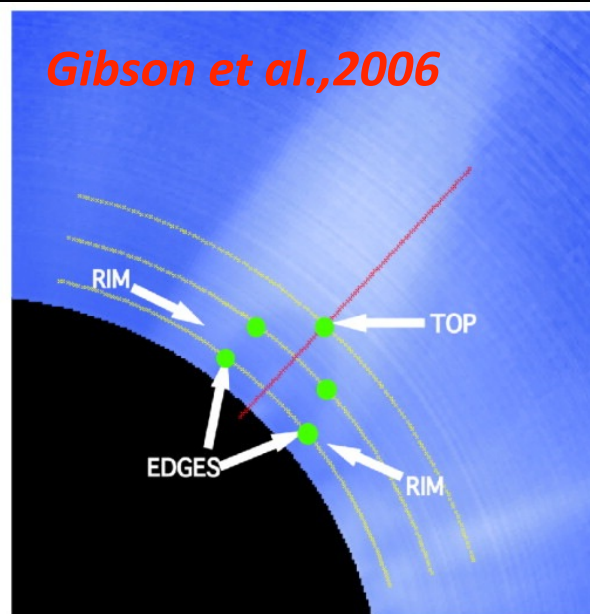


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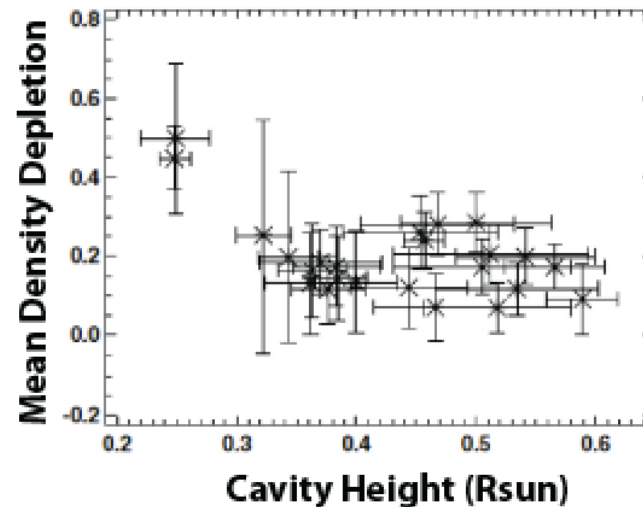
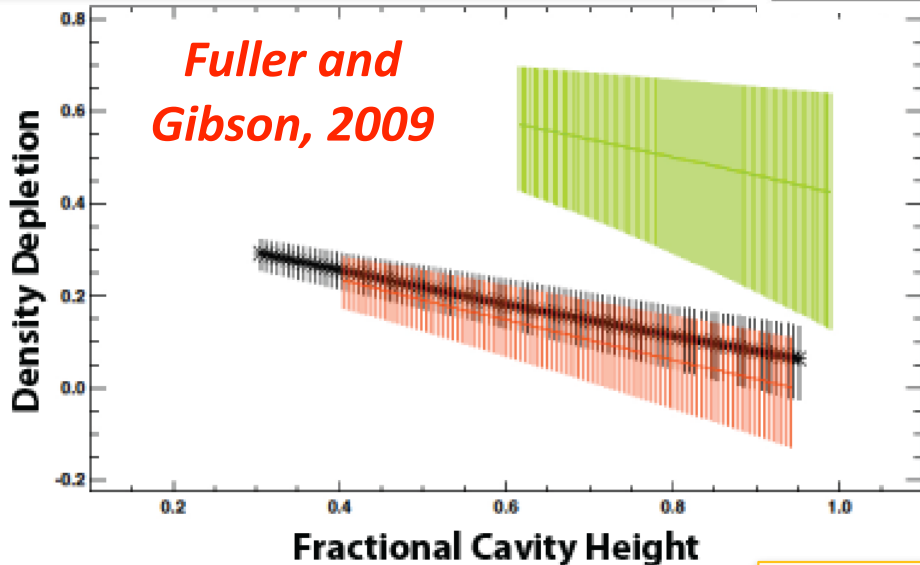
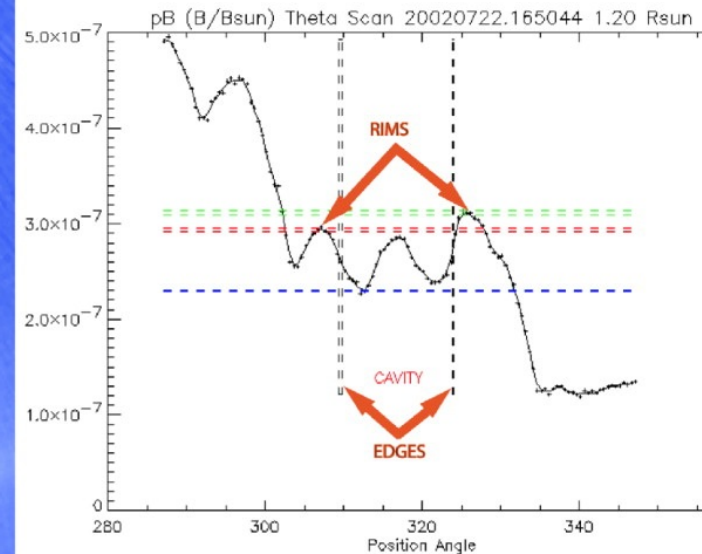
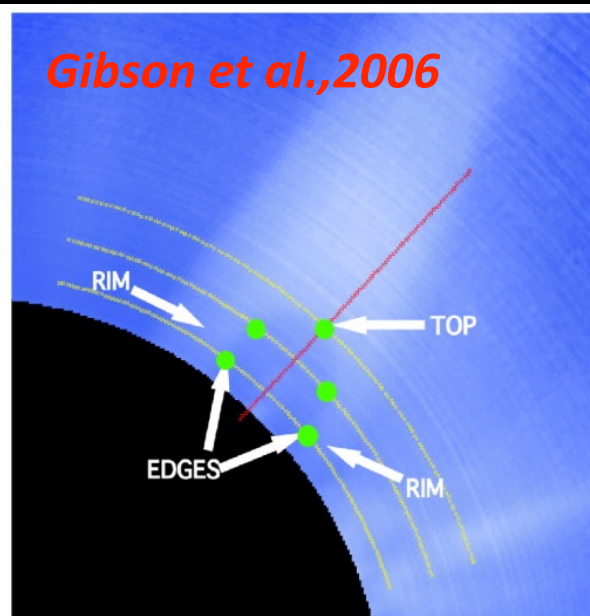
Cavity properties: Density

Analysis of 24 white-light cavities: **25% on average; 60% maximum cavity depletion (relative to surrounding streamer)**



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Depletion maximum at low heights, minimum (usually zero) at top of cavity.

Cavity properties: Density



Cavity properties: Density

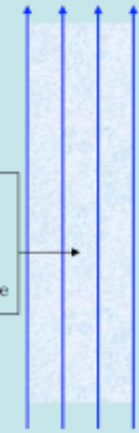
Interpretation: Flux surface/pressure jump...

$$P_{\text{tube}} + \frac{B^2}{8\pi} = P_{\text{ext}}$$

$$P_{\text{tube}} = P_{\text{ext}} - \frac{B^2}{8\pi}$$

Inside
 $\vec{B} = B\hat{z}$
 $P = P_{\text{tube}}$

Outside
 $\vec{B} = 0$
 $P = P_{\text{ext}}$



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Interpretation: Flux surface/pressure jump...

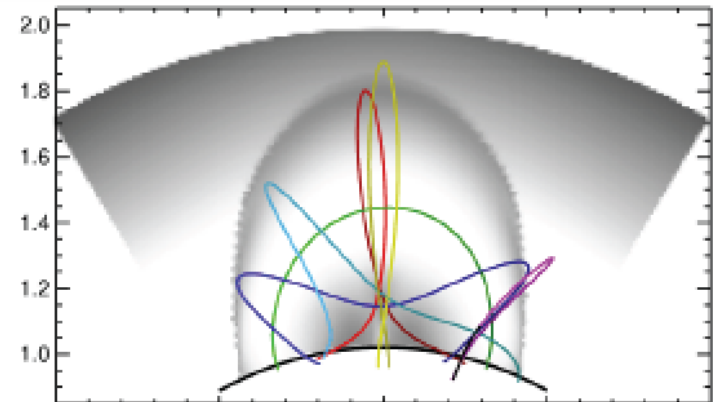
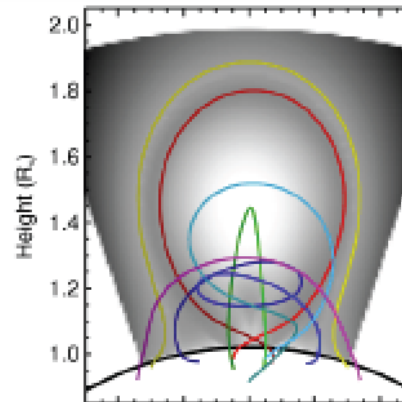
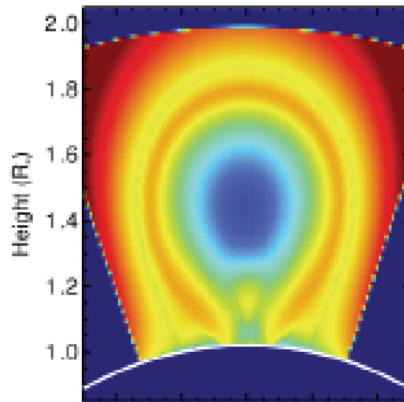
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...short, axial field = density cavity. Hydrostatic model \rightarrow
35% depletion *Schmit and Gibson, 2014*



Cavity properties: Density

Interpretation: Flux surface/pressure jump...

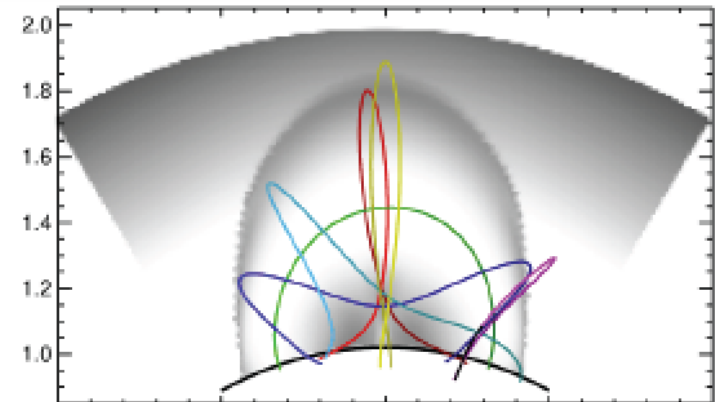
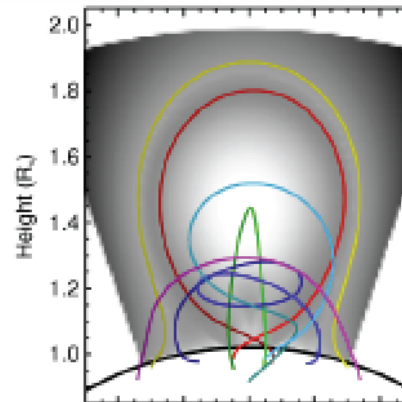
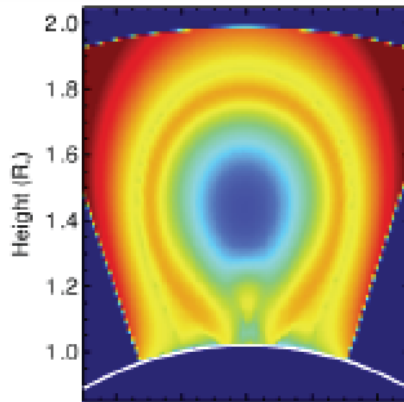
$$P_{\text{tube}} + \frac{B^2}{8\pi} = P_{\text{ext}}$$

$$P_{\text{tube}} = P_{\text{ext}} - \frac{B^2}{8\pi}$$

Inside
 $\vec{B} = B\hat{z}$
 $P = P_{\text{tube}}$

Outside
 $\vec{B} = 0$
 $P = P_{\text{ext}}$

...short, axial field = density cavity. Hydrostatic model \rightarrow
35% depletion *Schmit and Gibson, 2014*



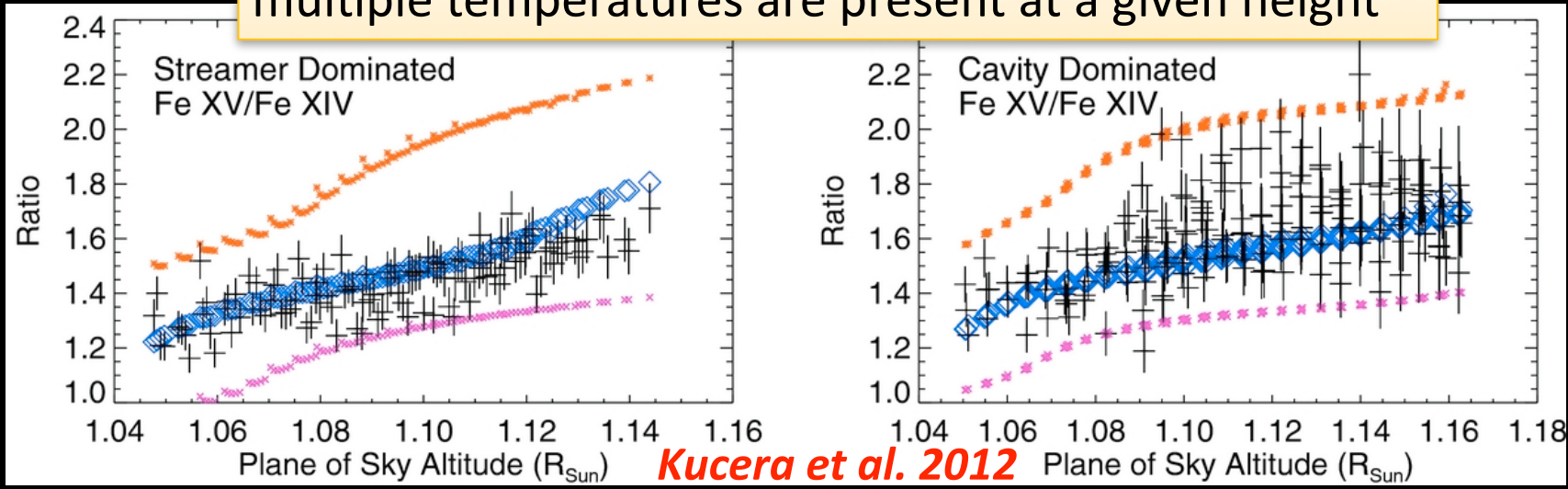
...stability selection effects *Low and Hundhausen, 1995; Gibson, 2014*

Cavity properties: Temperature and Flows



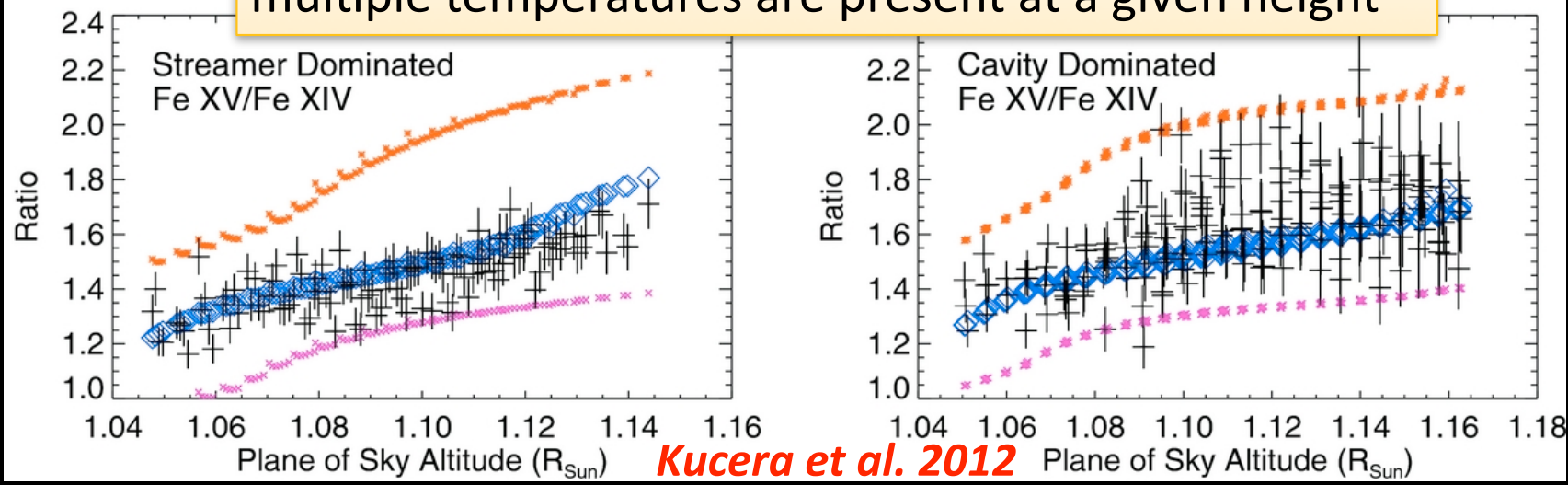
Cavity properties: Temperature and Flows

Variability in temperature-sensitive line ratio indicates multiple temperatures are present at a given height



Cavity properties: Temperature and Flows

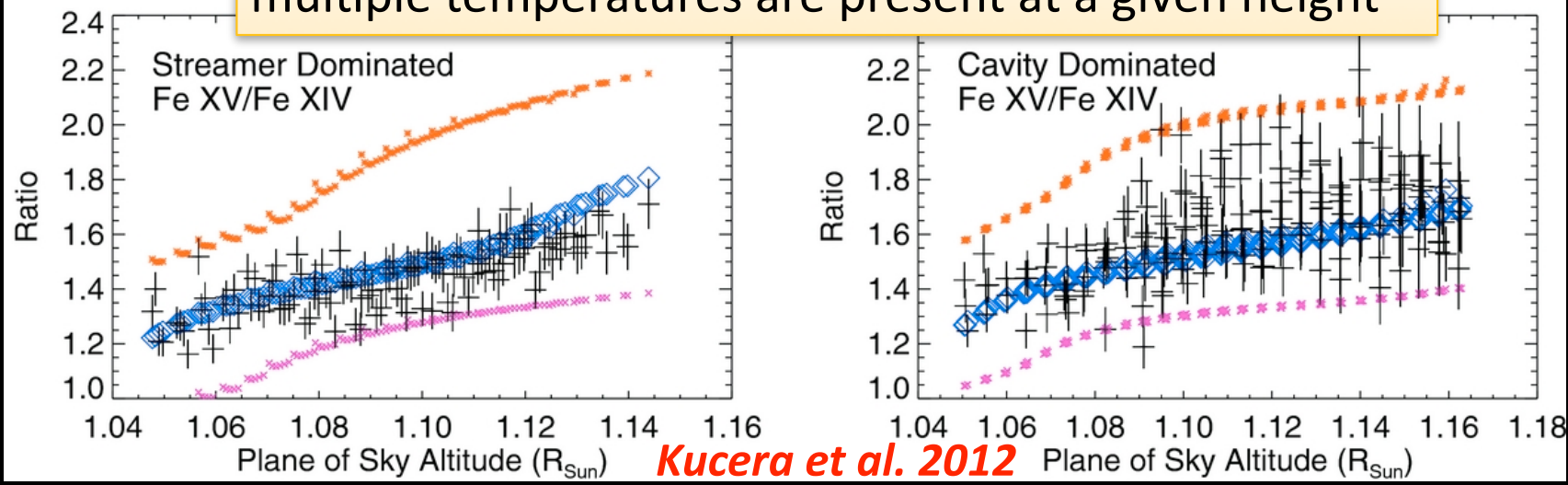
Variability in temperature-sensitive line ratio indicates multiple temperatures are present at a given height



Is cavity hotter or cooler than surrounding streamer?

Cavity properties: Temperature and Flows

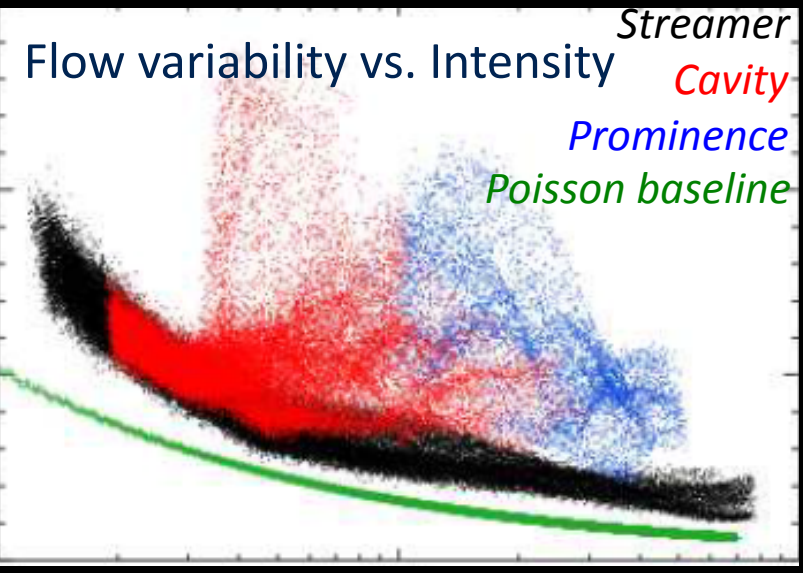
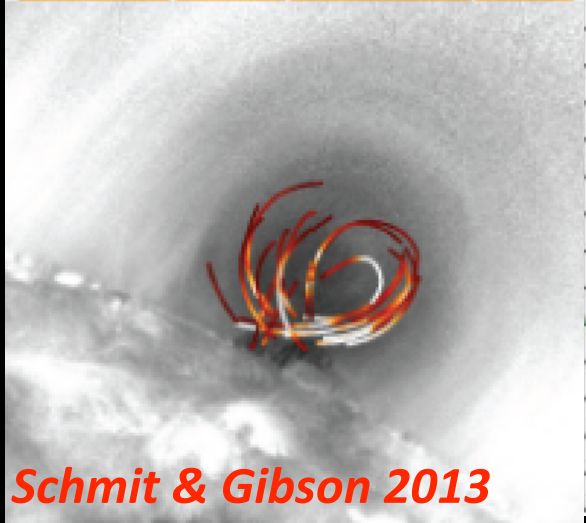
Variability in temperature-sensitive line ratio indicates multiple temperatures are present at a given height



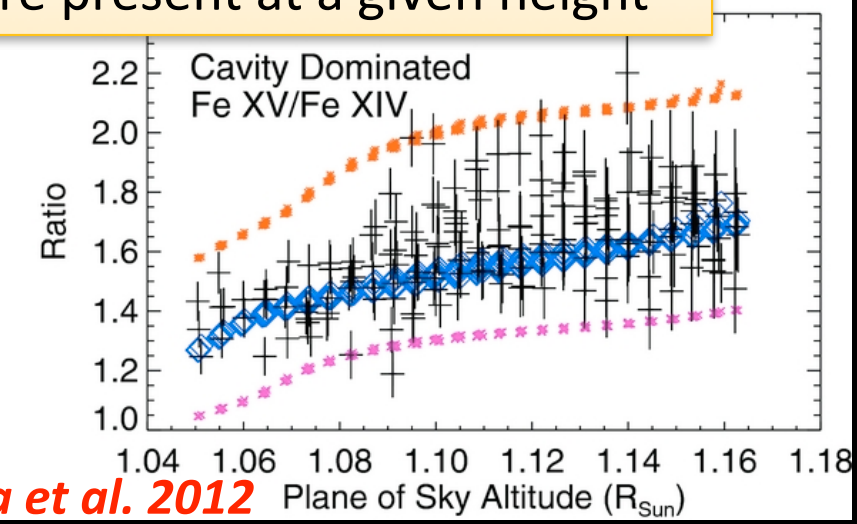
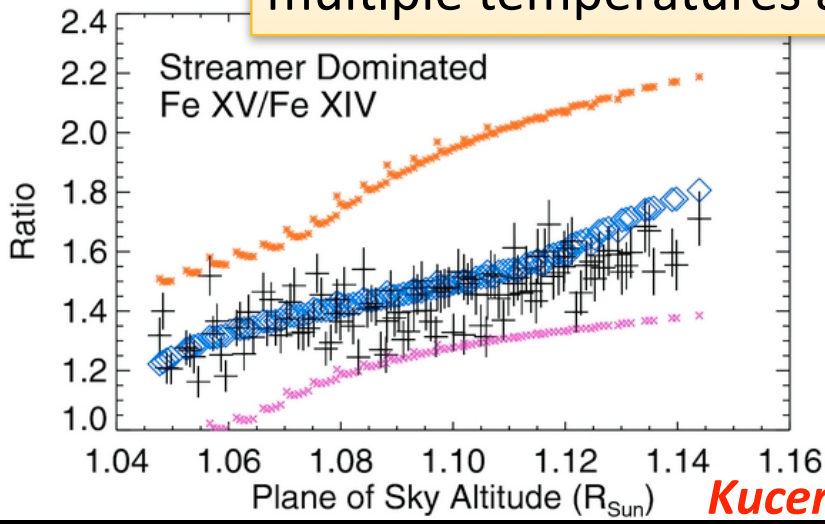
Is cavity hotter or cooler than surrounding streamer? **Yes**

Cavity properties: Temperature and Flows

EUV cavity with plane of sky flows



Variability in temperature-sensitive line ratio indicates multiple temperatures are present at a given height

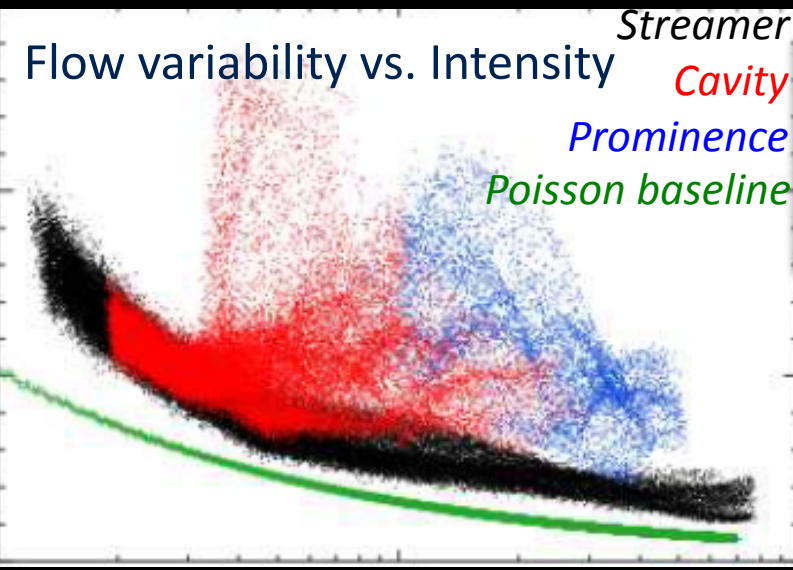
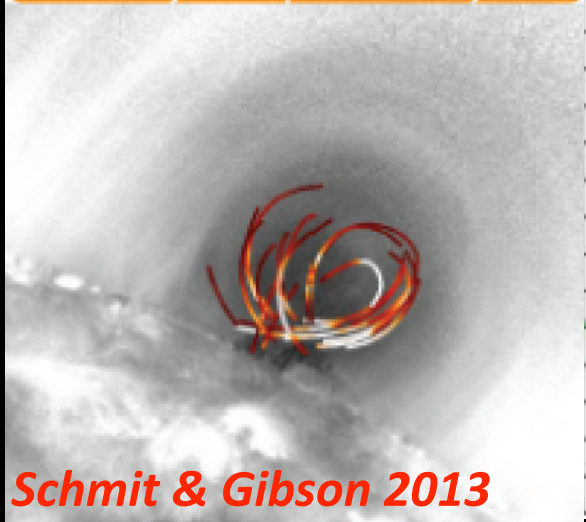


Kucera et al. 2012

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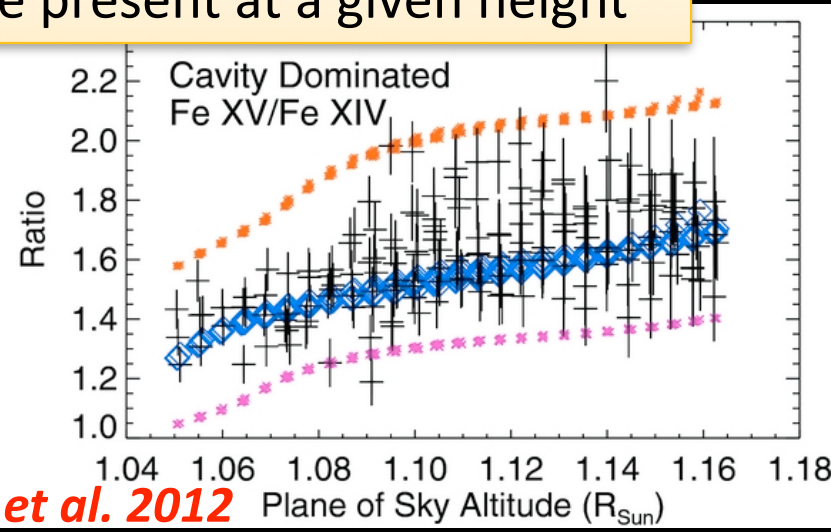
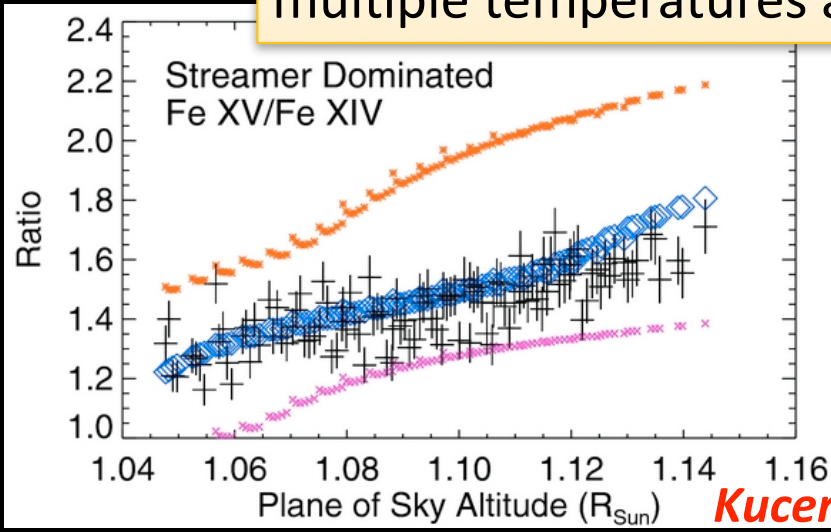
Cavity properties: Temperature and Flows

EUV cavity with plane of sky flows



Variability of plane-of-sky flows is likewise enhanced in cavity relative to streamer.

Variability in temperature-sensitive line ratio indicates multiple temperatures are present at a given height

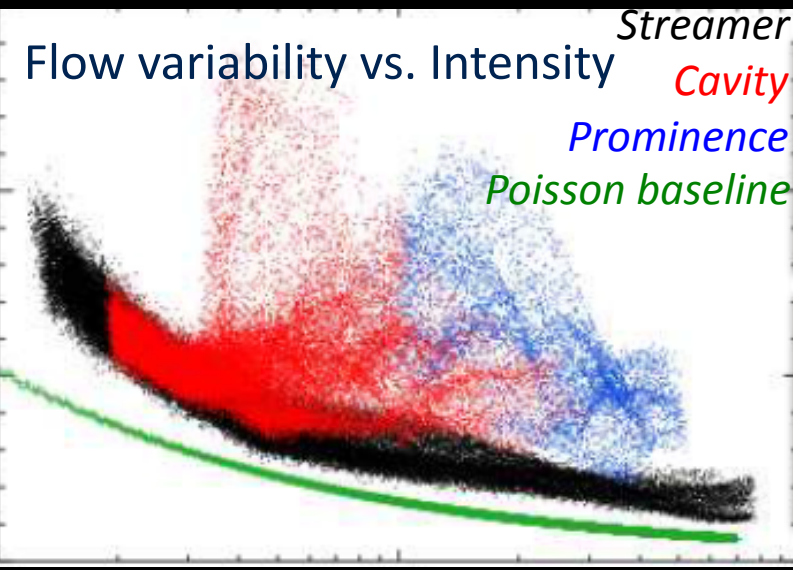
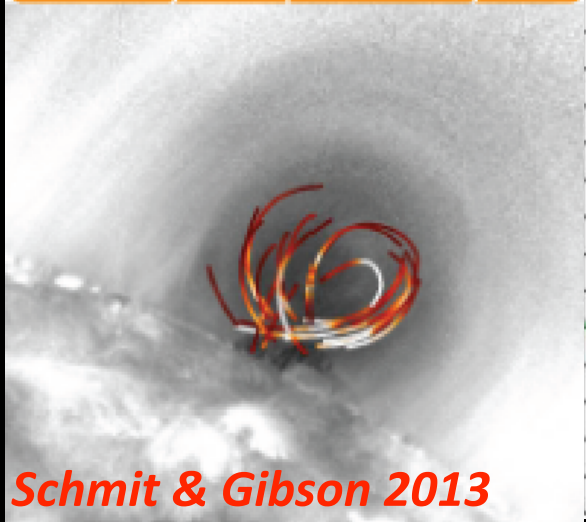


Kucera et al. 2012

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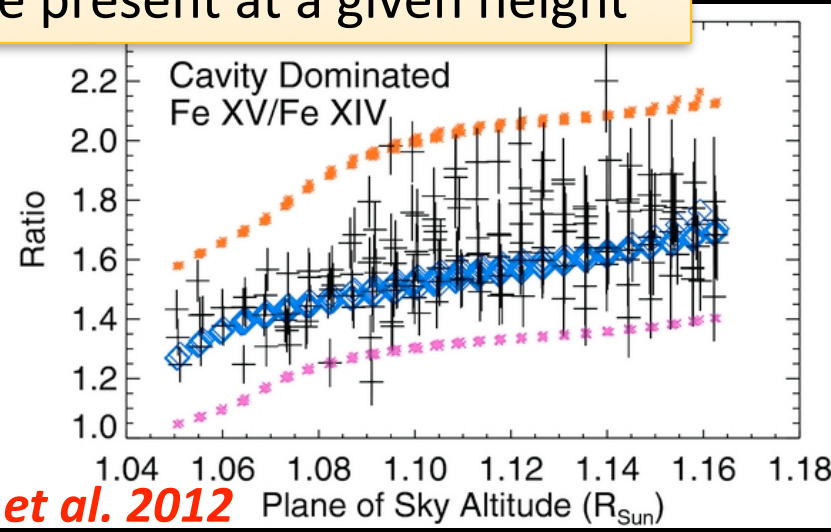
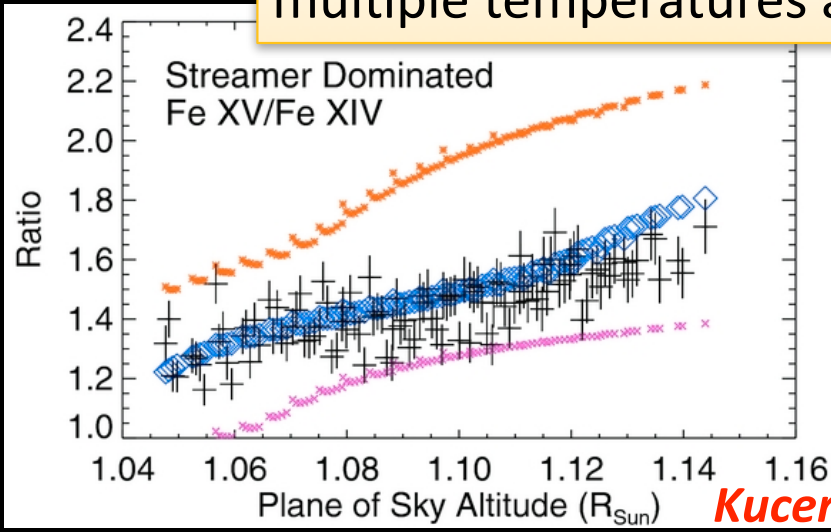
EUV cavity with plane of sky flows



Variability of plane-of-sky flows is likewise enhanced in cavity relative to streamer.

Cavity and prominence flows are spatially and temporally correlated.

Variability in temperature-sensitive line ratio indicates multiple temperatures are present at a given height

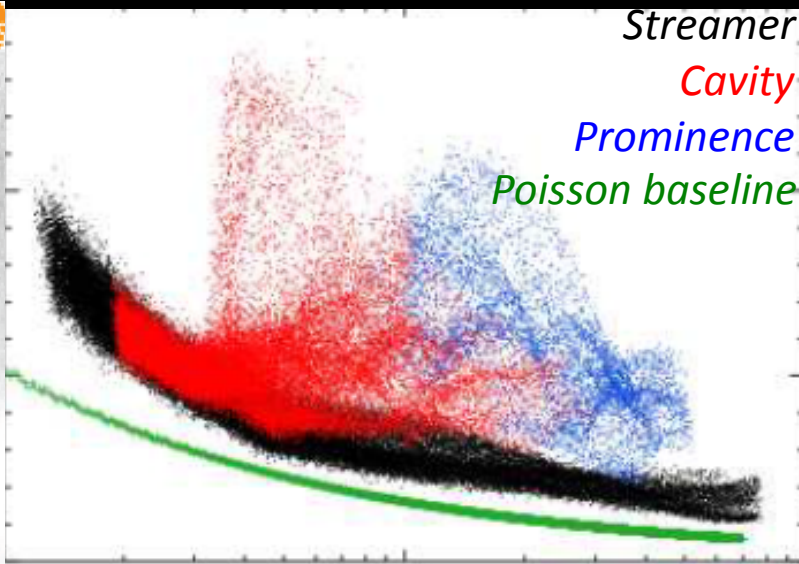
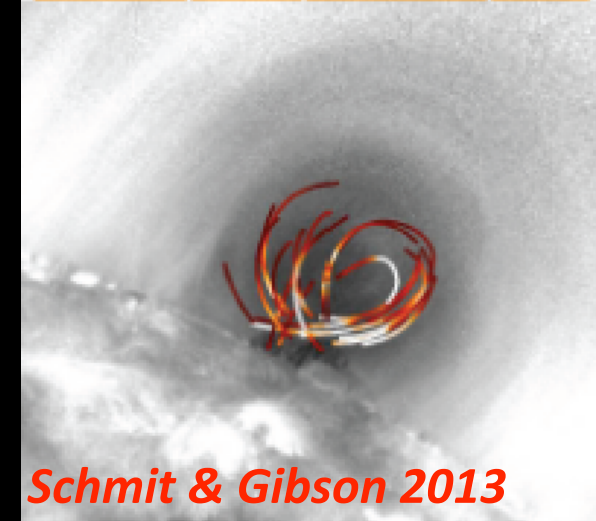


Kucera et al. 2012

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Cavity properties: Temperature and Flows

EUV cavity with plane of sky flows

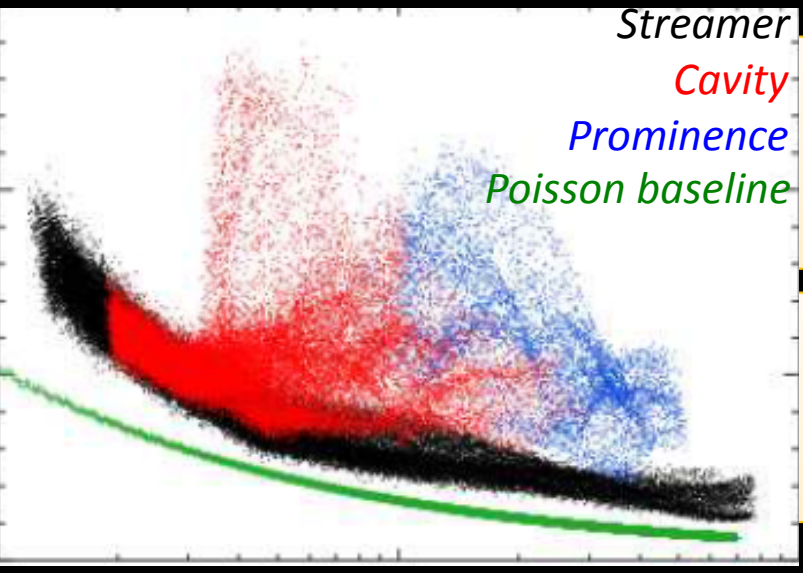
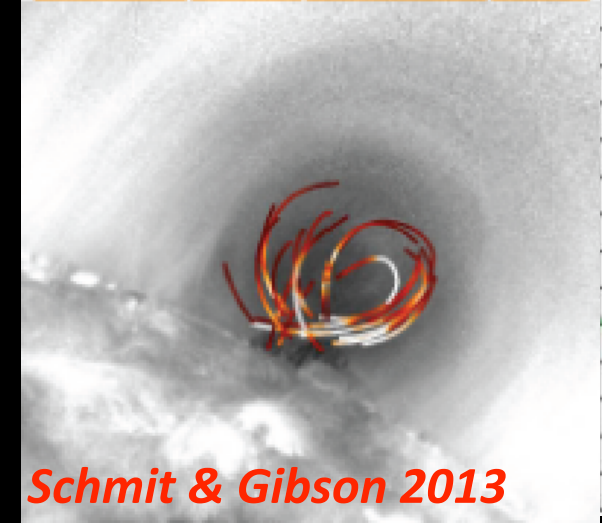


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Cavity properties: Temperature and Flows

EUV cavity with plane of sky flows



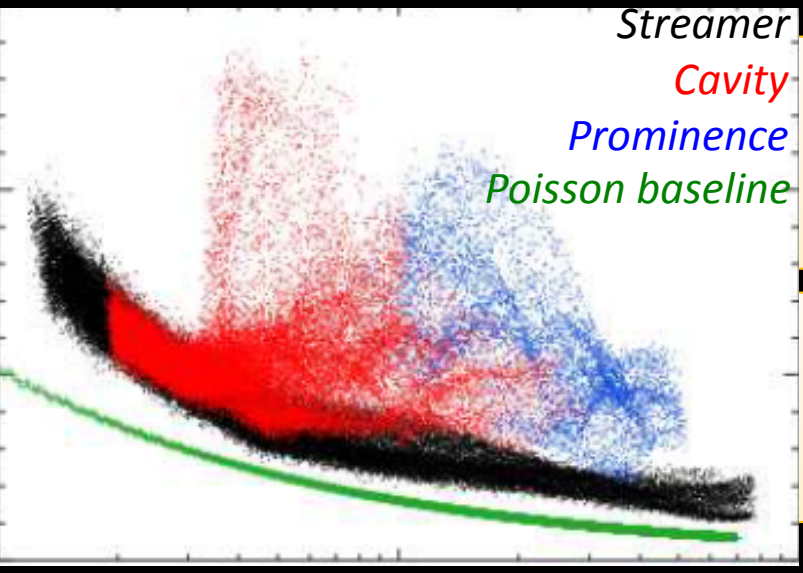
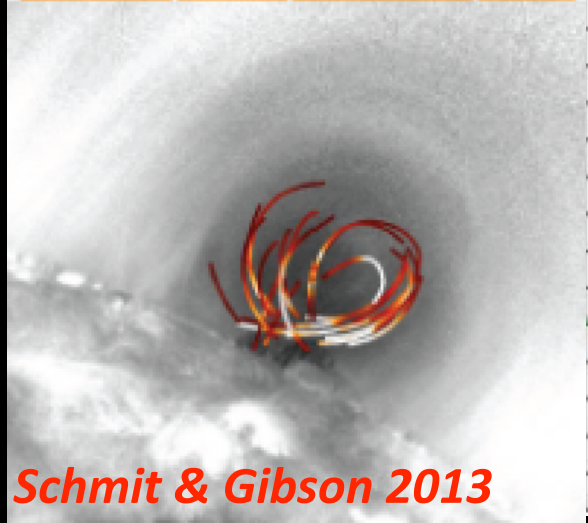
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Cavity and prominence flows are spatially and temporally correlated.

Interpretation: Thermal nonequilibrium.
Consistent with dynamic observations of EUV brightenings (horns) followed by formation of prominence. *Schmit et al 2013*

Cavity properties: Temperature and Flows

EUV cavity with plane of sky flows



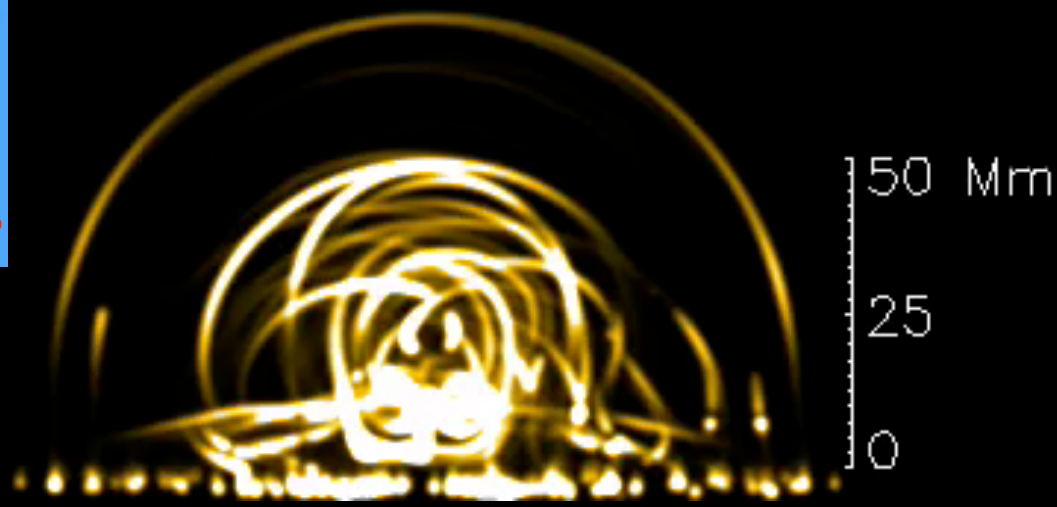
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Cavity and prominence flows are spatially and temporally correlated.

$t = 2.78$ hrs

171 \AA

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Consistent with dynamic observations of EUV brightenings (horns) followed by formation of prominence. *Schmit et al 2013*

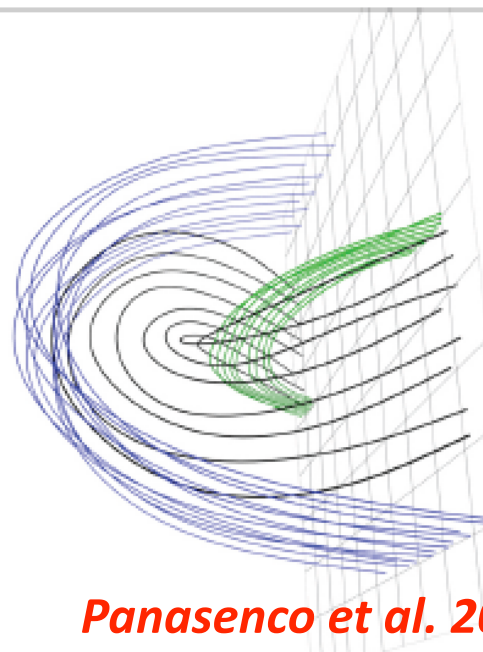
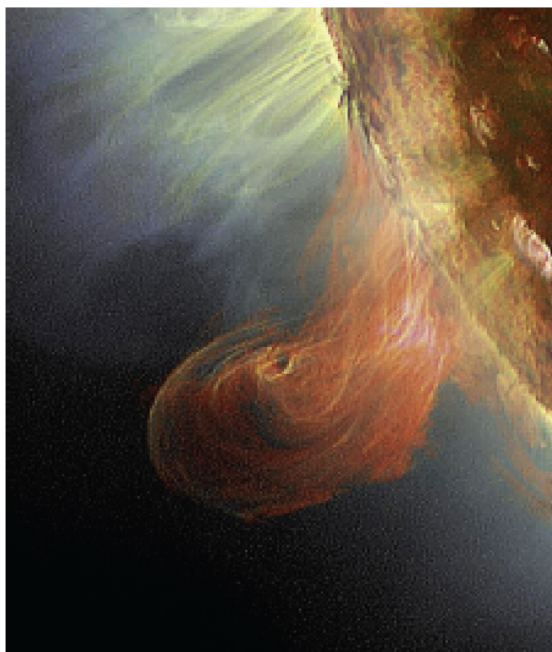


Luna et al., 2012

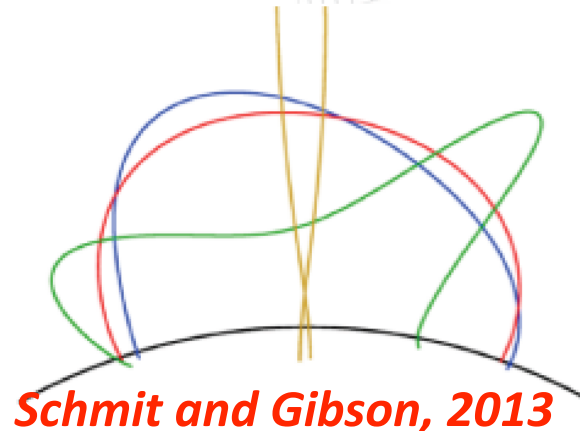
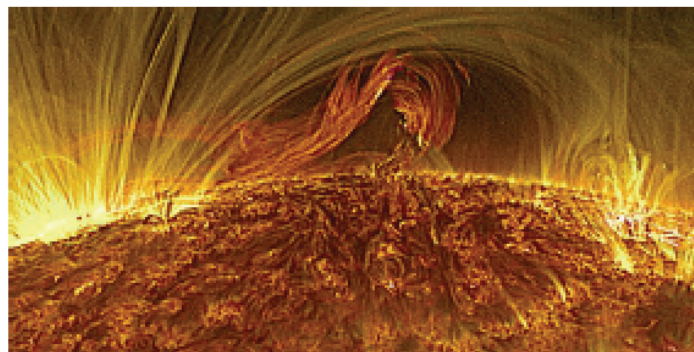
Cavity properties: Flows (swirling)



Cavity properties: Flows (swirling)

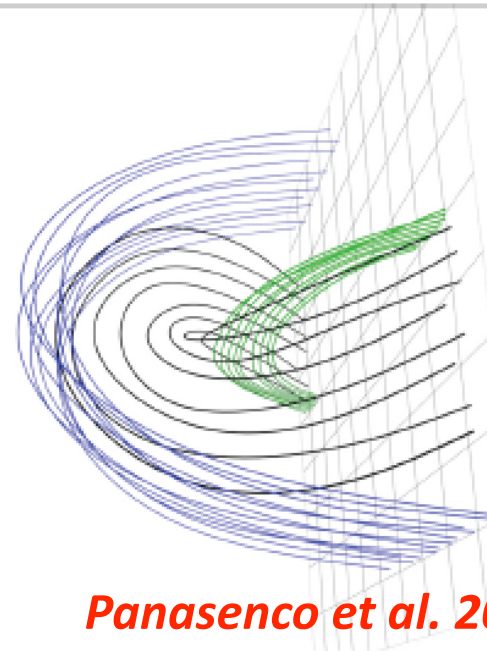
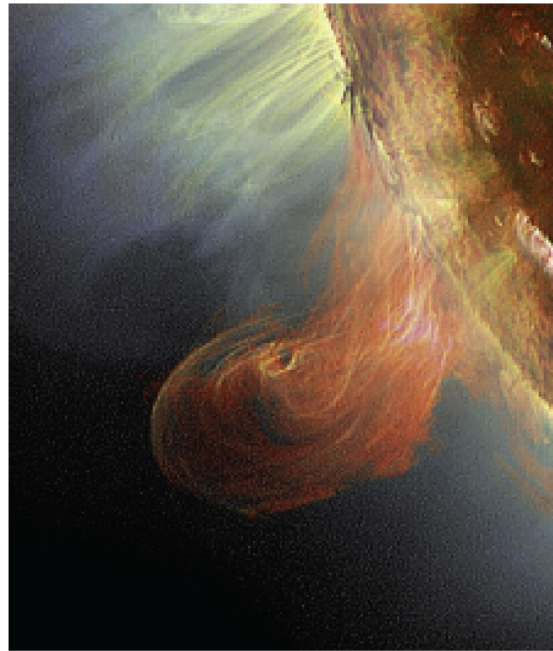


Panasenco et al. 2014

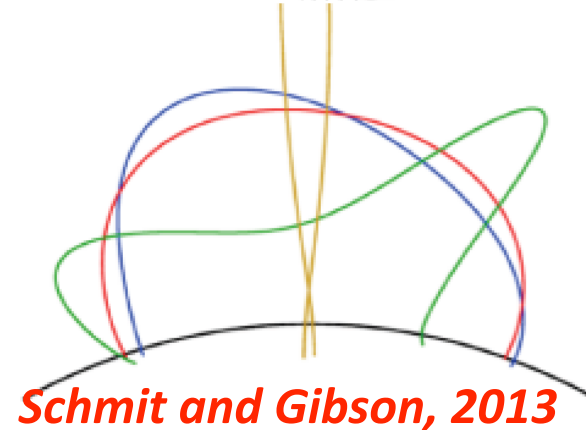
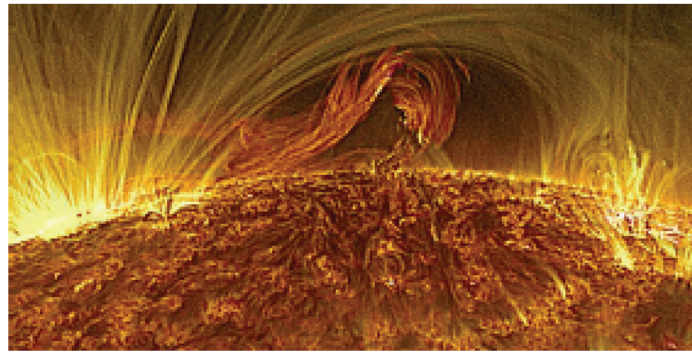


Schmit and Gibson, 2013

Cavity properties: Flows (swirling)



Panasenco et al. 2014



Schmit and Gibson, 2013

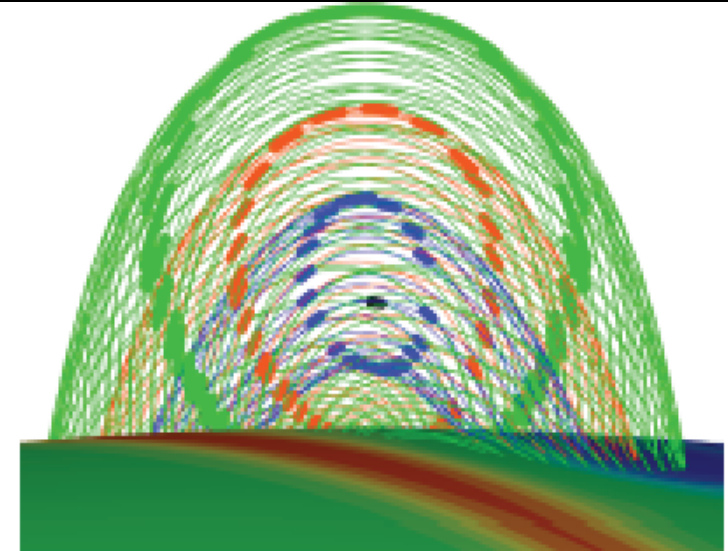
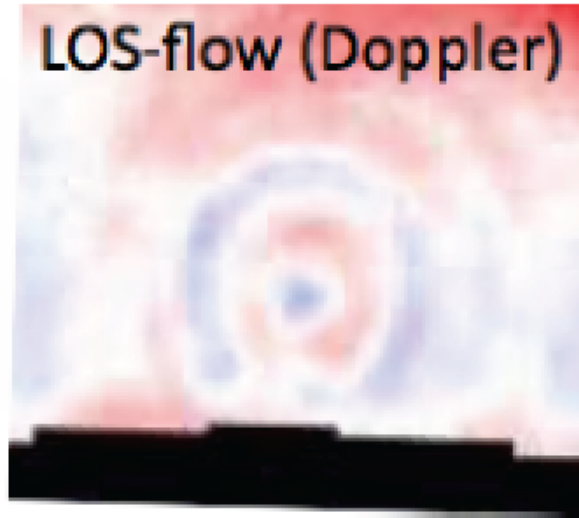
Interpretation: Flow along field lines. Both flux rope and sheared arcade model have field lines with writhe — can't distinguish without establishing whether writhed field line *wraps around axis*.

Cavity properties: Flows (Bulls-eye!)

POS-flow (AIA)



LOS-flow (Doppler)

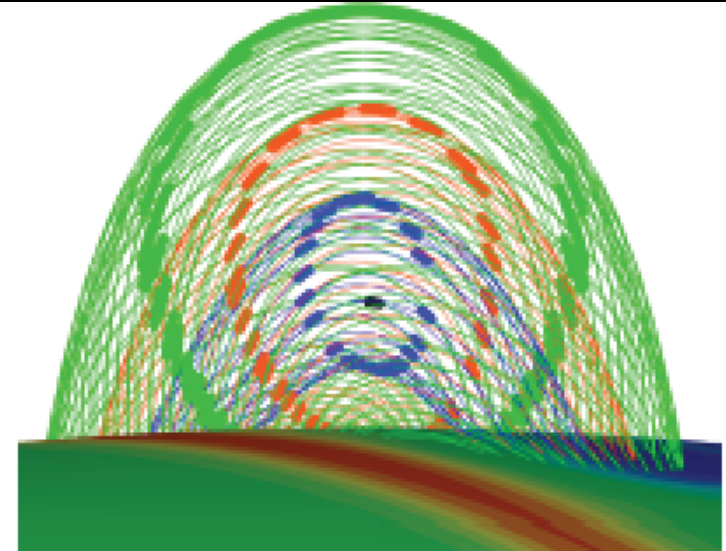


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POS-flow (AIA)



LOS-flow (Doppler)



Interpretion: Toroidal flux surfaces within a flux rope.
Field lines wrapping around axis.

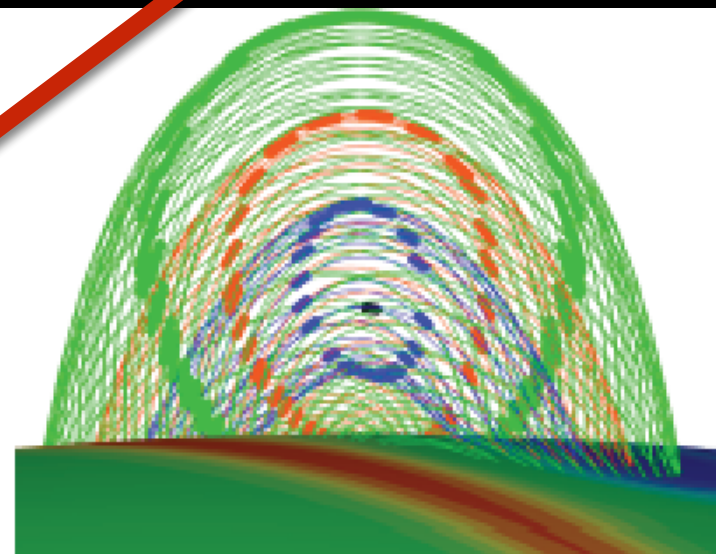
Cavity properties: Flows (Bulls-eye!)

First noted by D. Tripathi in Hinode data

POS-flow (AIA)



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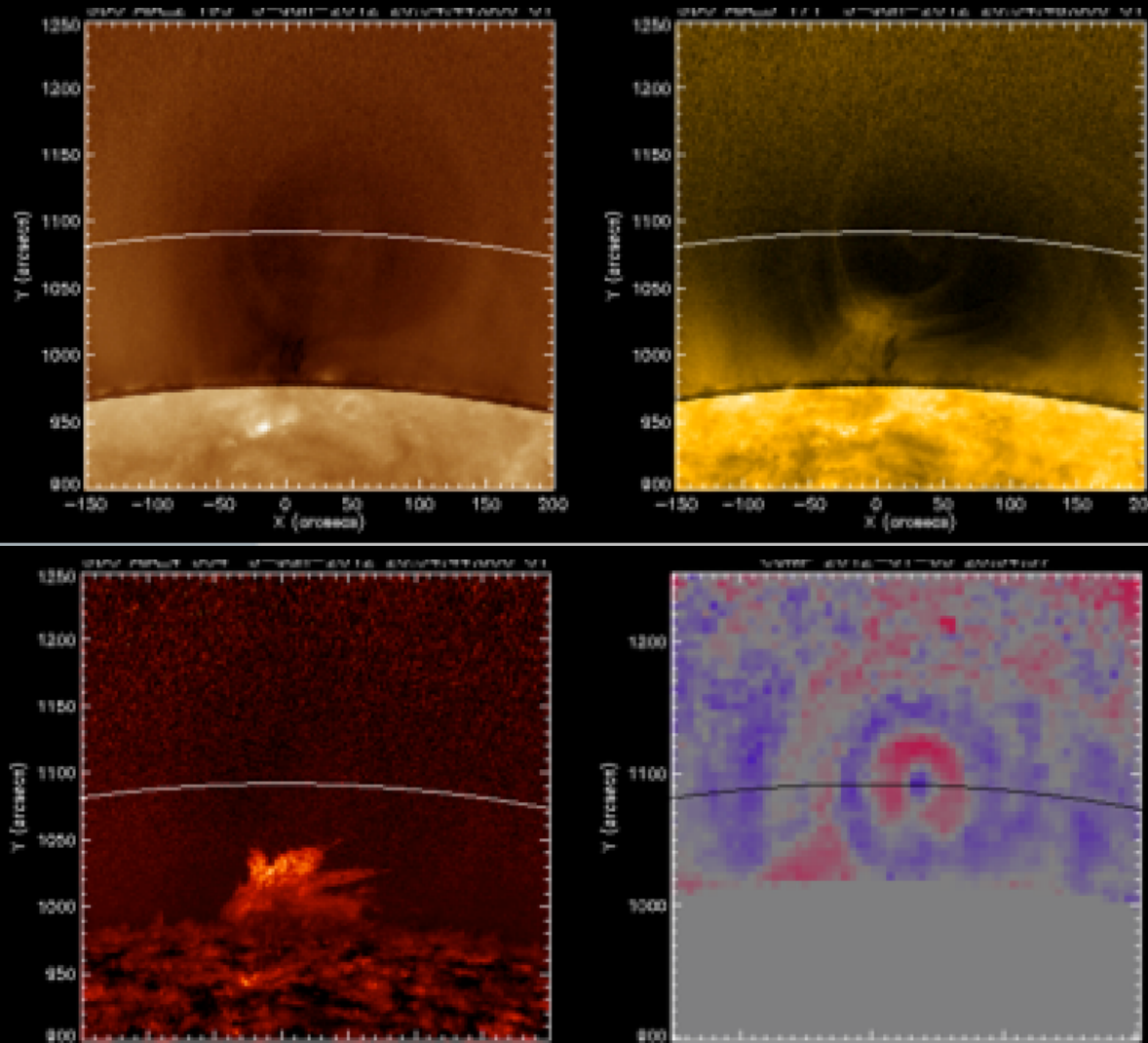


**Interpretion: Toroidal flux surfaces within a flux rope.
Field lines wrapping around axis.**

Lollypops (Cavity substructure)

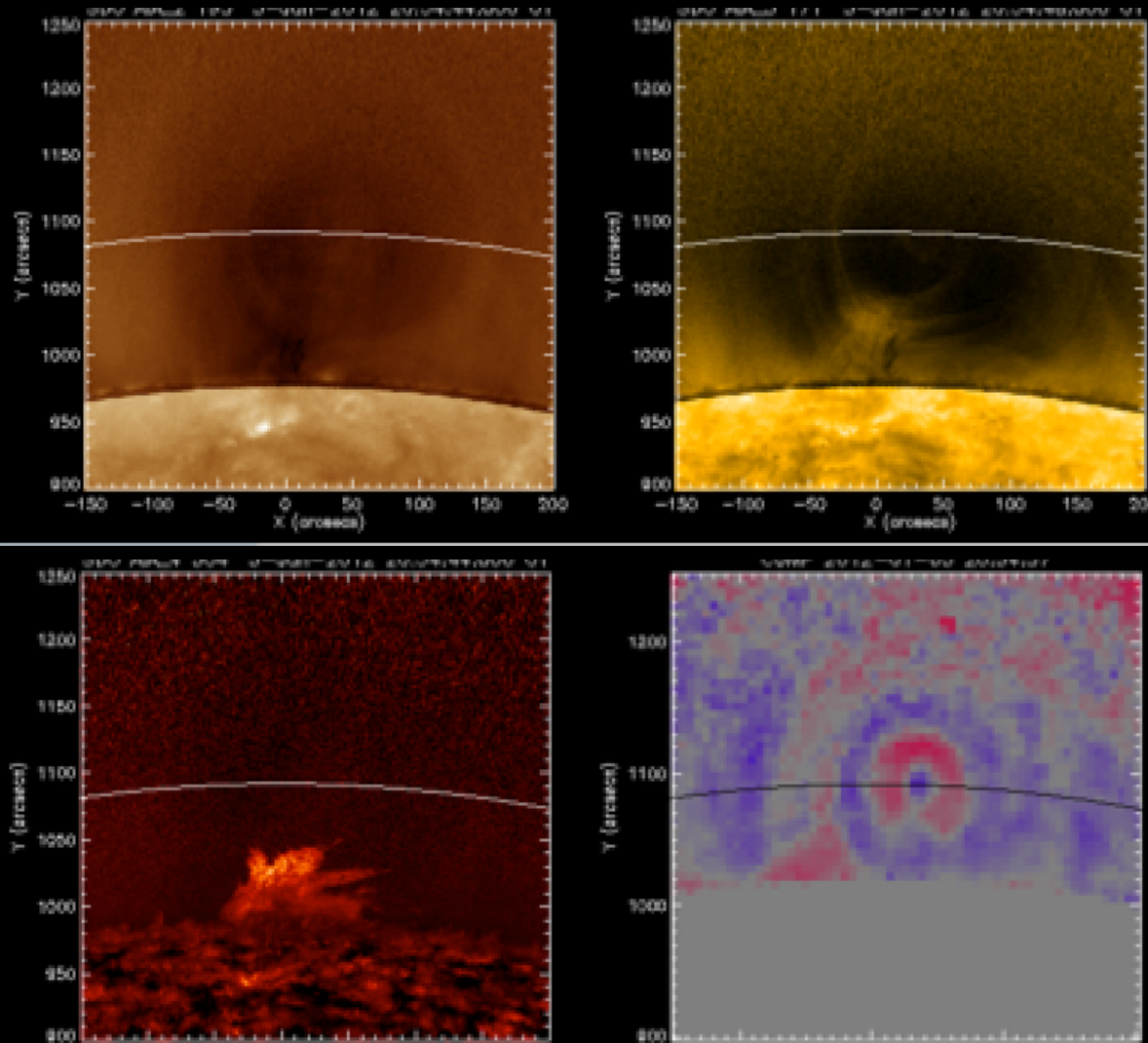


Lollypops (Cavity substructure)



Courtesy U. Bak-Steslicka

Lollypops (Cavity substructure)

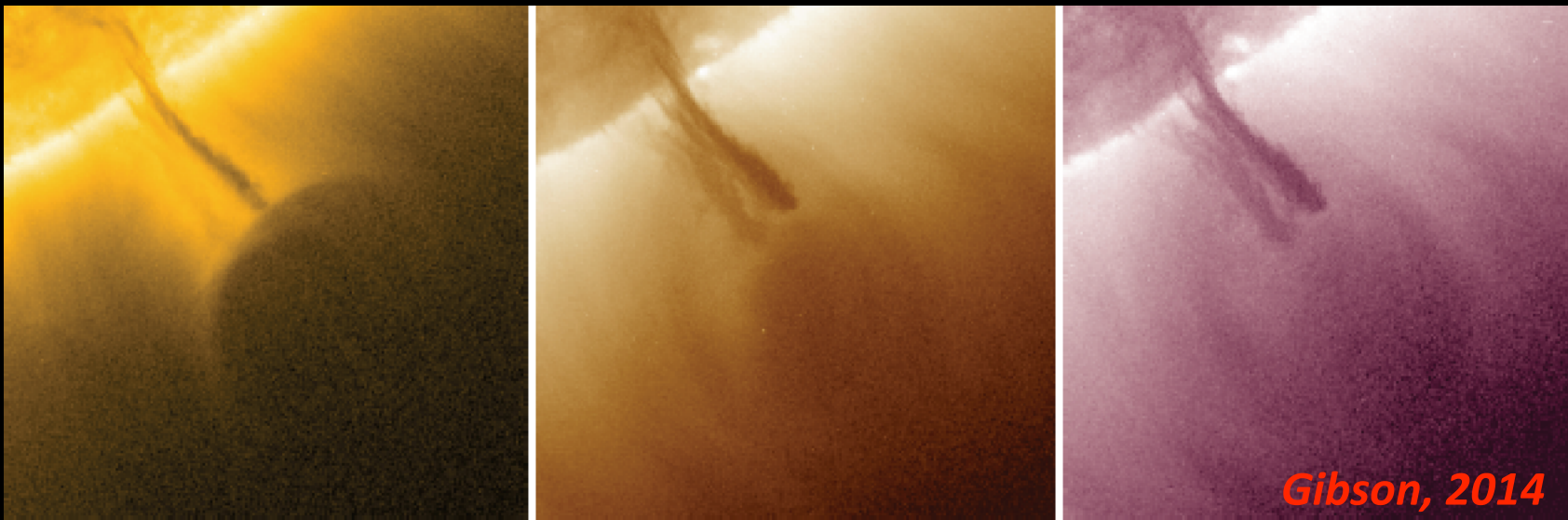


Courtesy U. Bak-Steslicka

LOS flows lie above prominence and within cavity

Lollypops (Cavity substructure)

Horn-like structures and central voids, above prominence and within cavity



Lollypops (Cavity substructure)

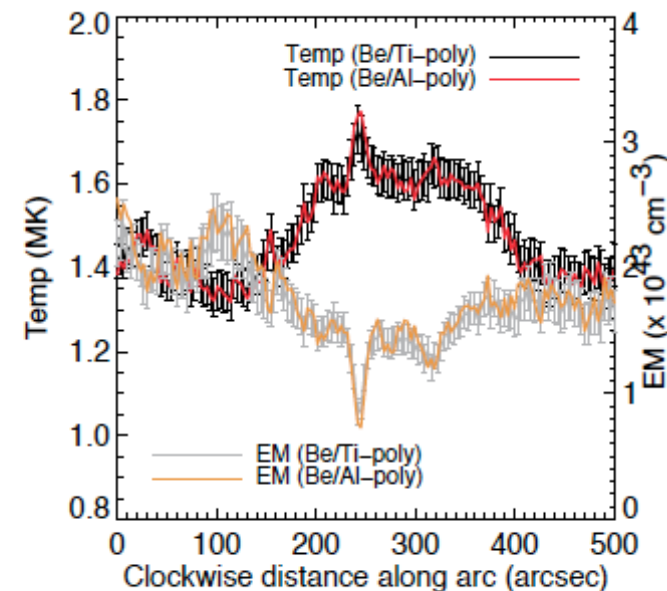
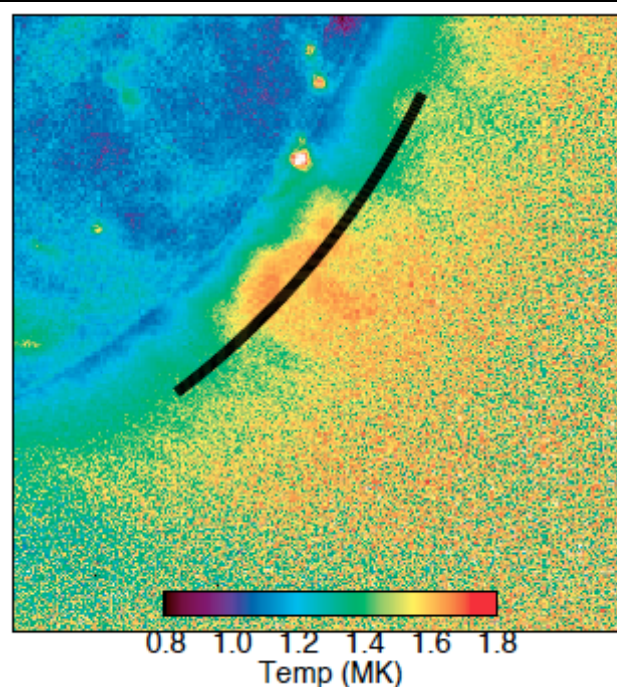
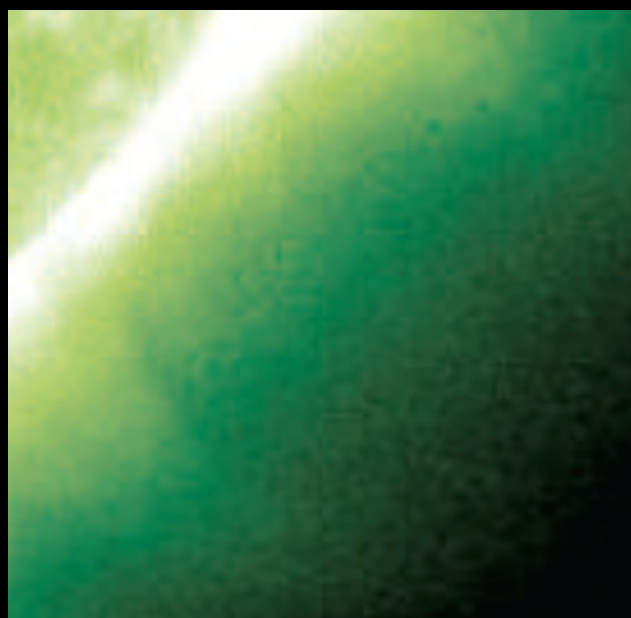


Lollypops (Cavity substructure)

High-temperature soft-X-ray cores

Lollypops (Cavity substructure)

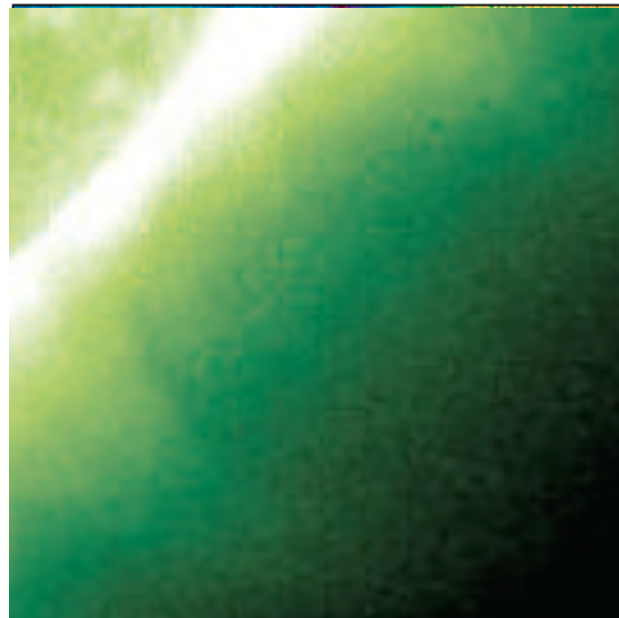
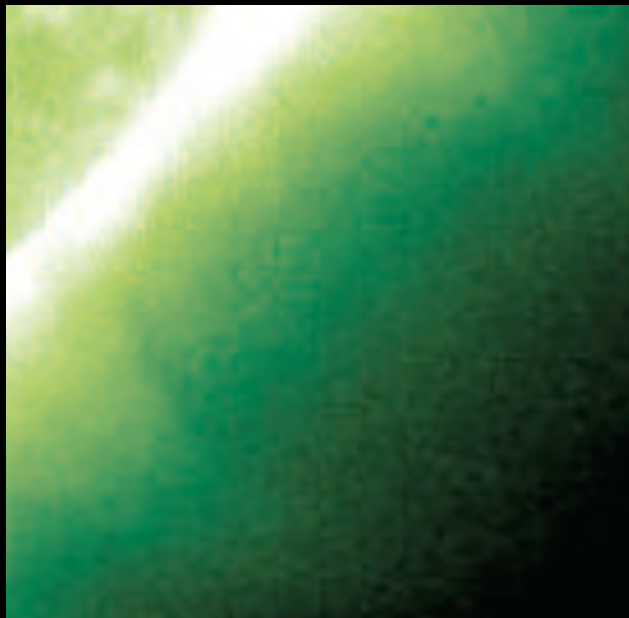
High-temperature soft-X-ray cores



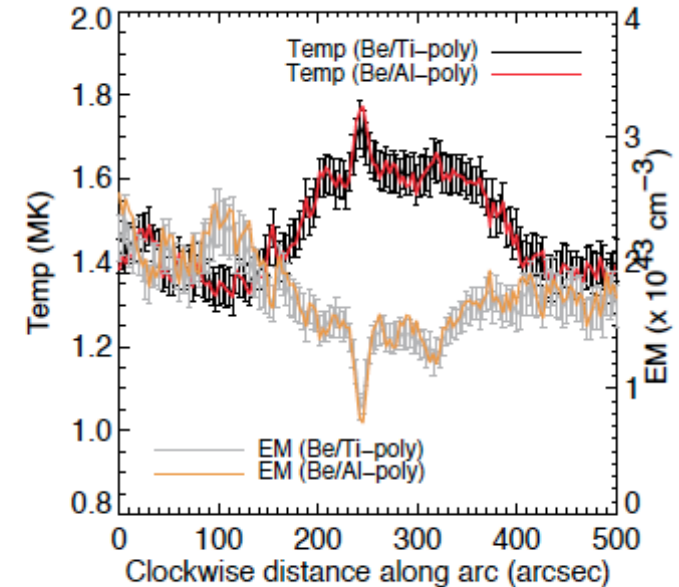
Reeves et al., 2012

Lollypops (Cavity substructure)

High-temperature soft-X-ray cores



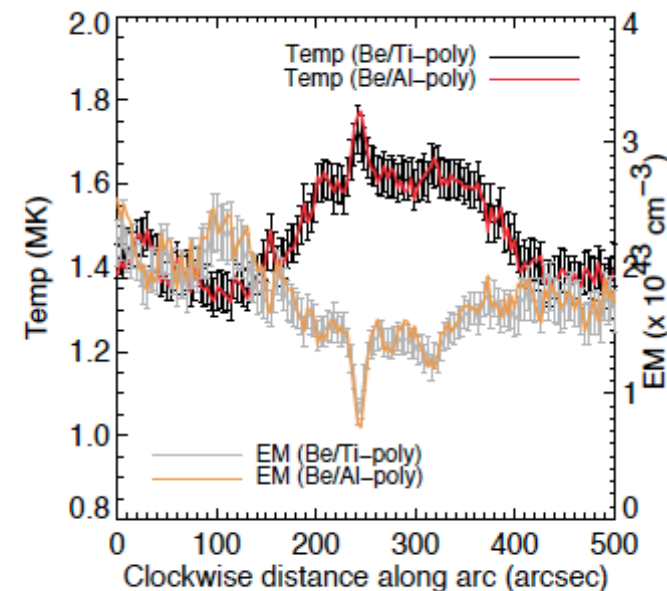
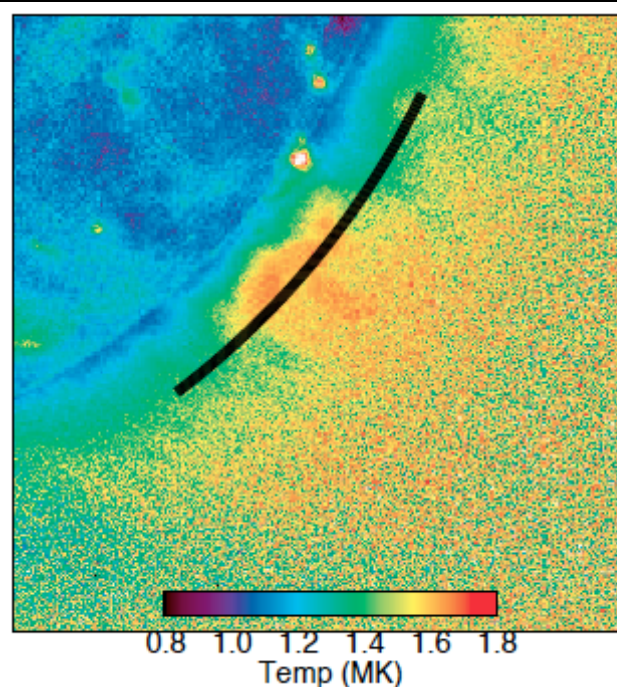
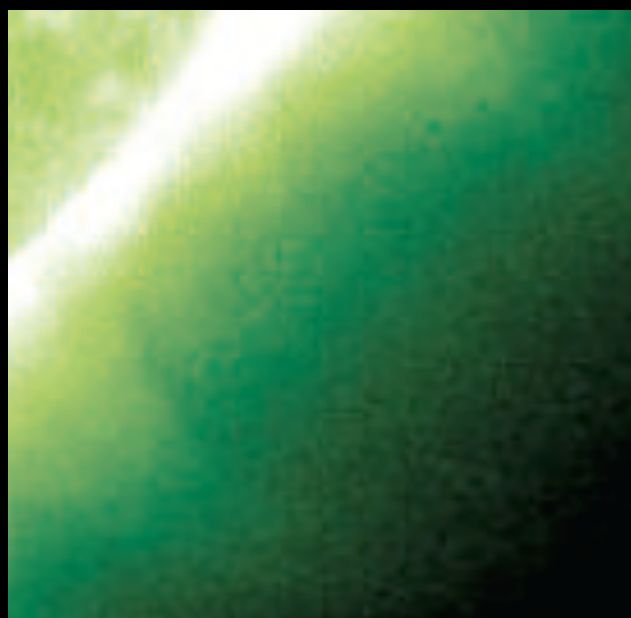
0.8 1.0 1.2 1.4 1.6 1.8
Temp (MK)



Reeves et al., 2012

Lollypops (Cavity substructure)

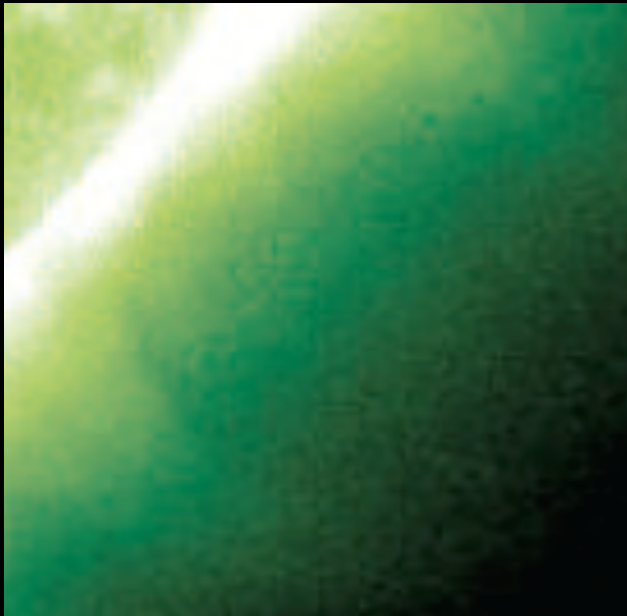
High-temperature soft-X-ray cores



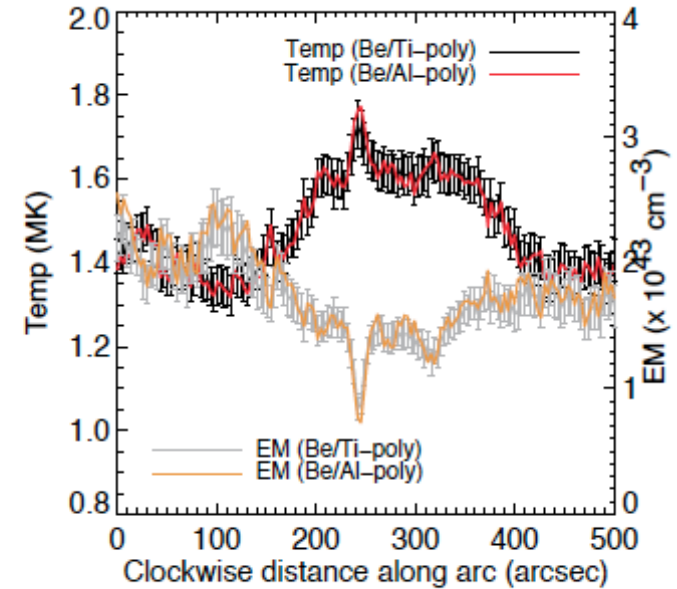
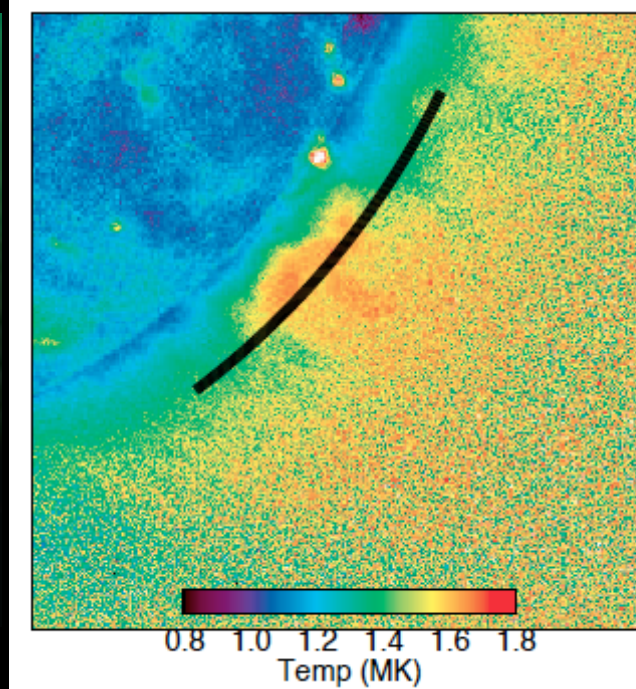
Reeves et al., 2012

Lollypops (Cavity substructure)

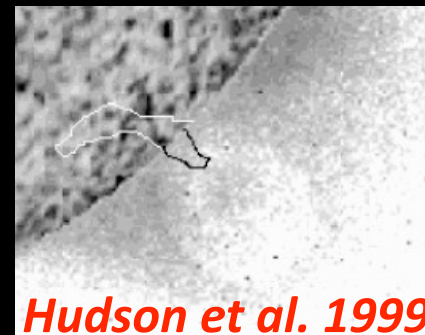
High-temperature soft-X-ray cores



see also Habbal et al 2007



Reeves et al., 2012



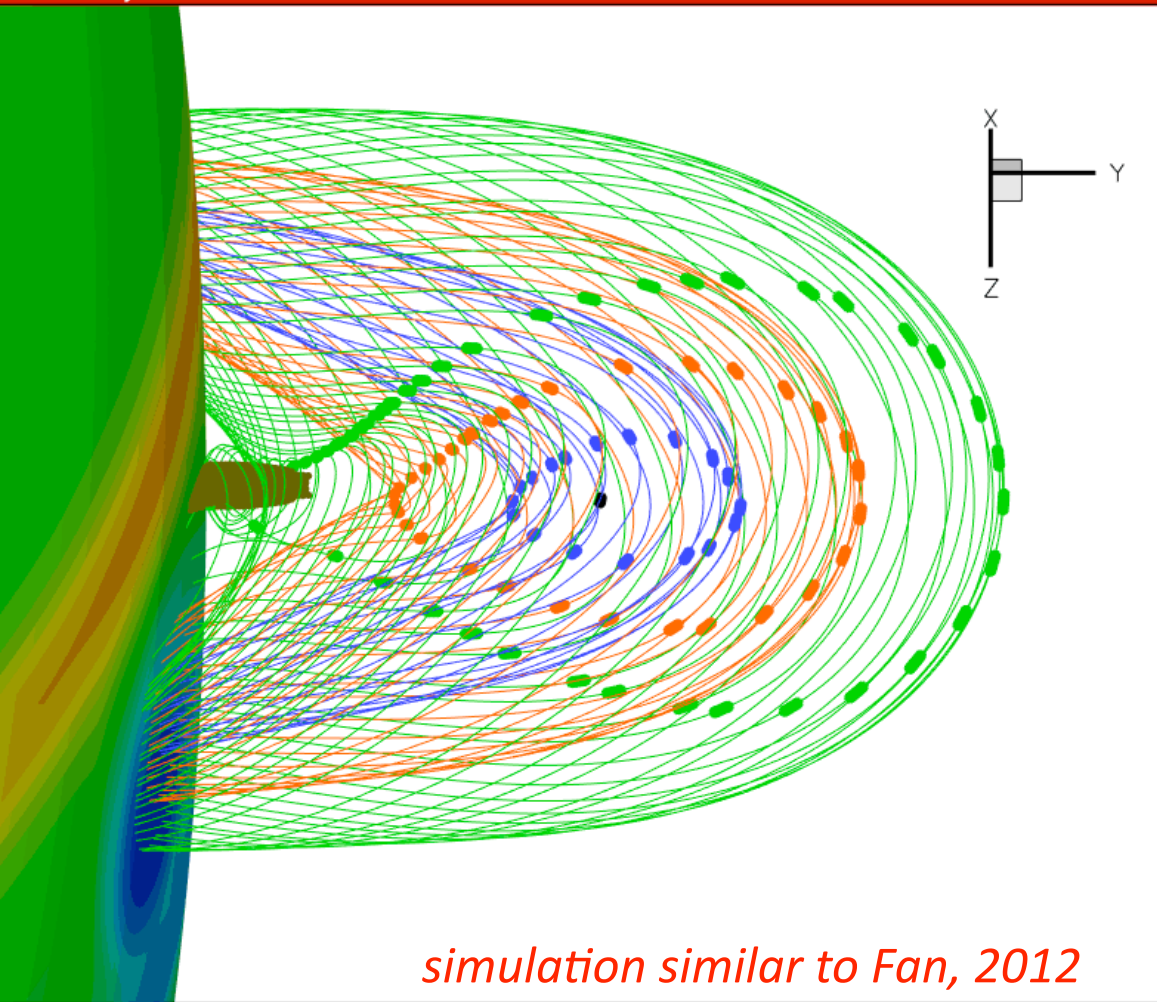
Hudson et al. 1999



Lollypops (Cavity substructure)

Interpretation: Dipped vs. non-dipped field lines

RUN E1, TIME 80

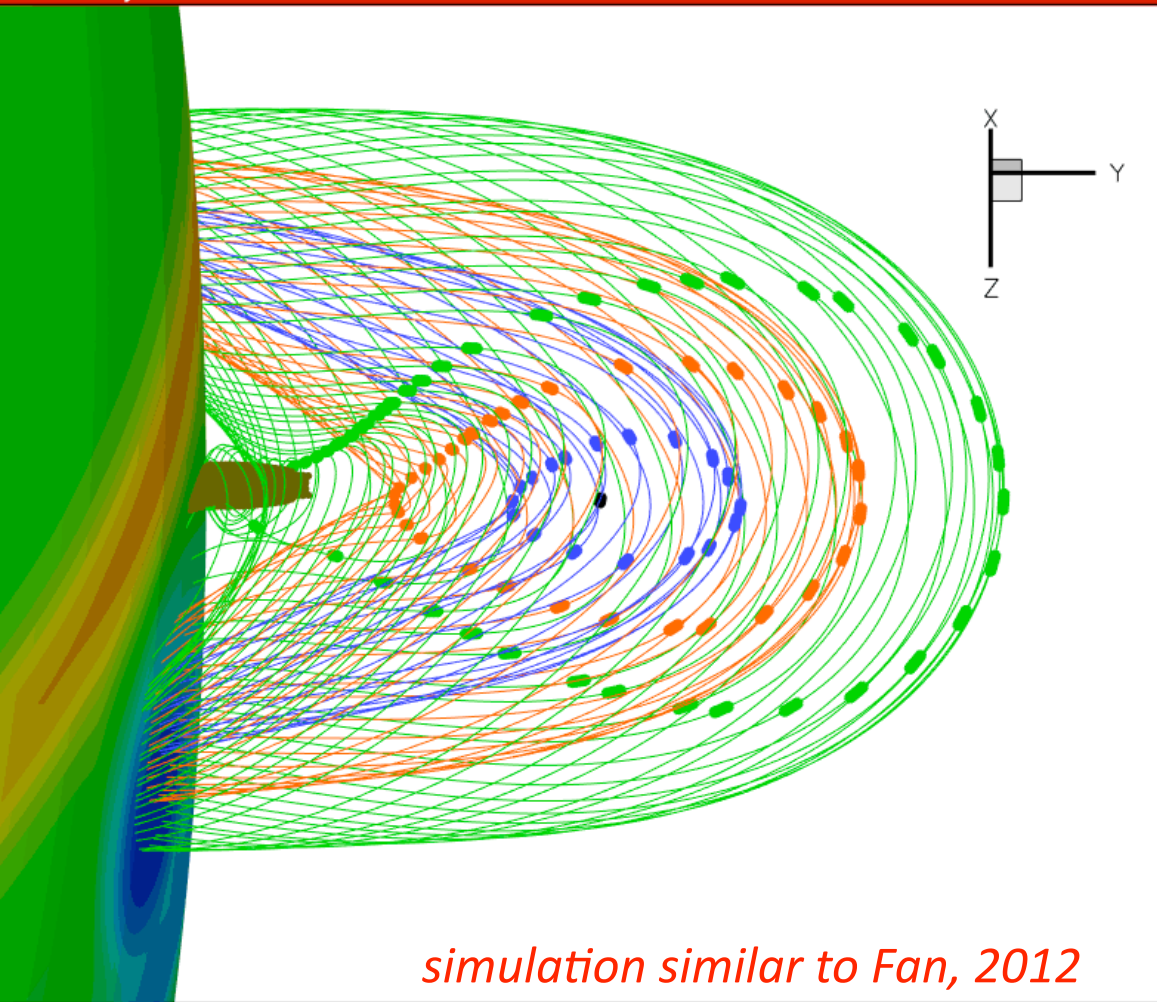


simulation similar to Fan, 2012

Lollypops (Cavity substructure)

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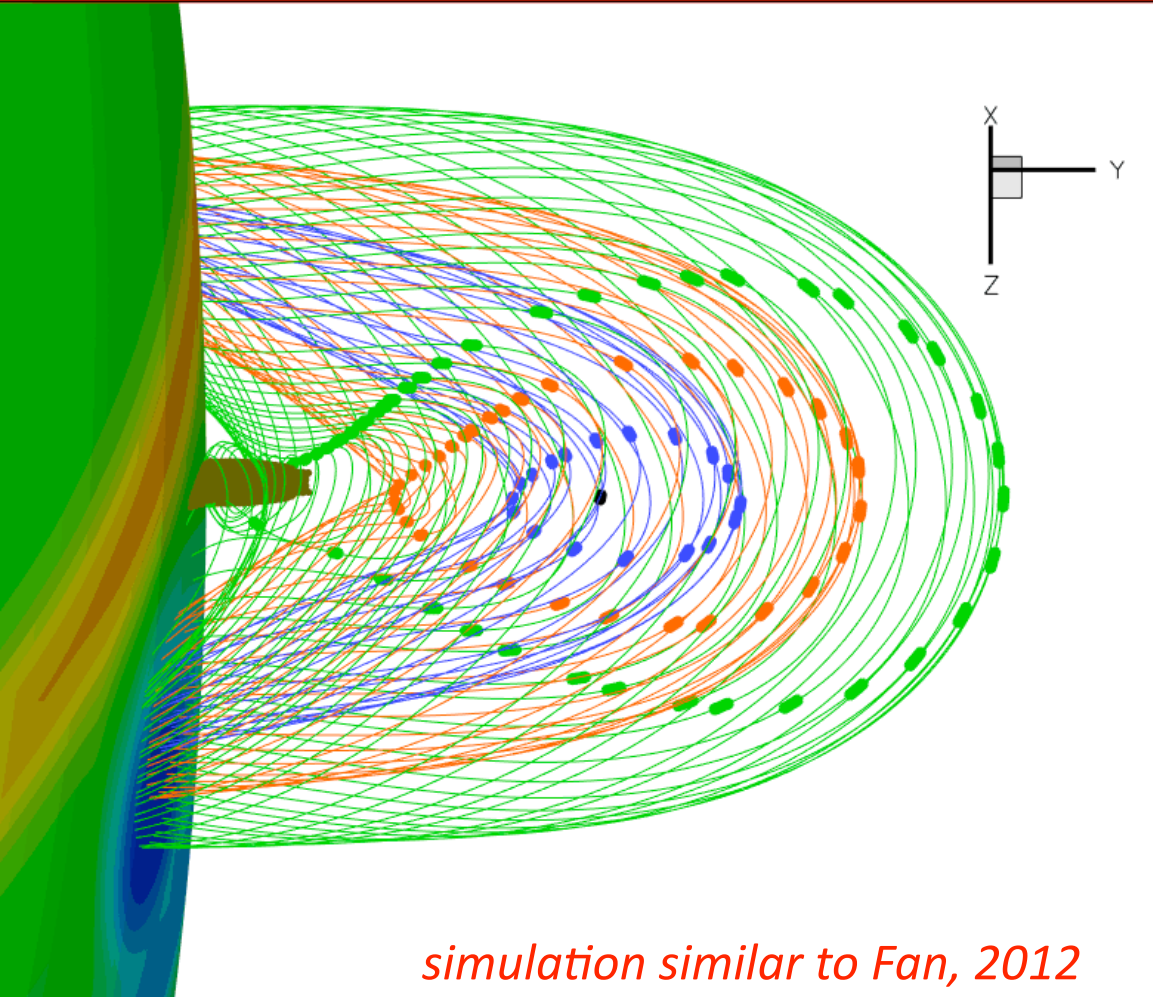


simulation similar to Fan, 2012

Lollypops (Cavity substructure)

Interpretation: Dipped vs. non-dipped field lines

RUN E1, TIME 80



simulation similar to Fan, 2012

Because it arches upwards, most of the field lines do not have dips that can support prominence mass against gravity

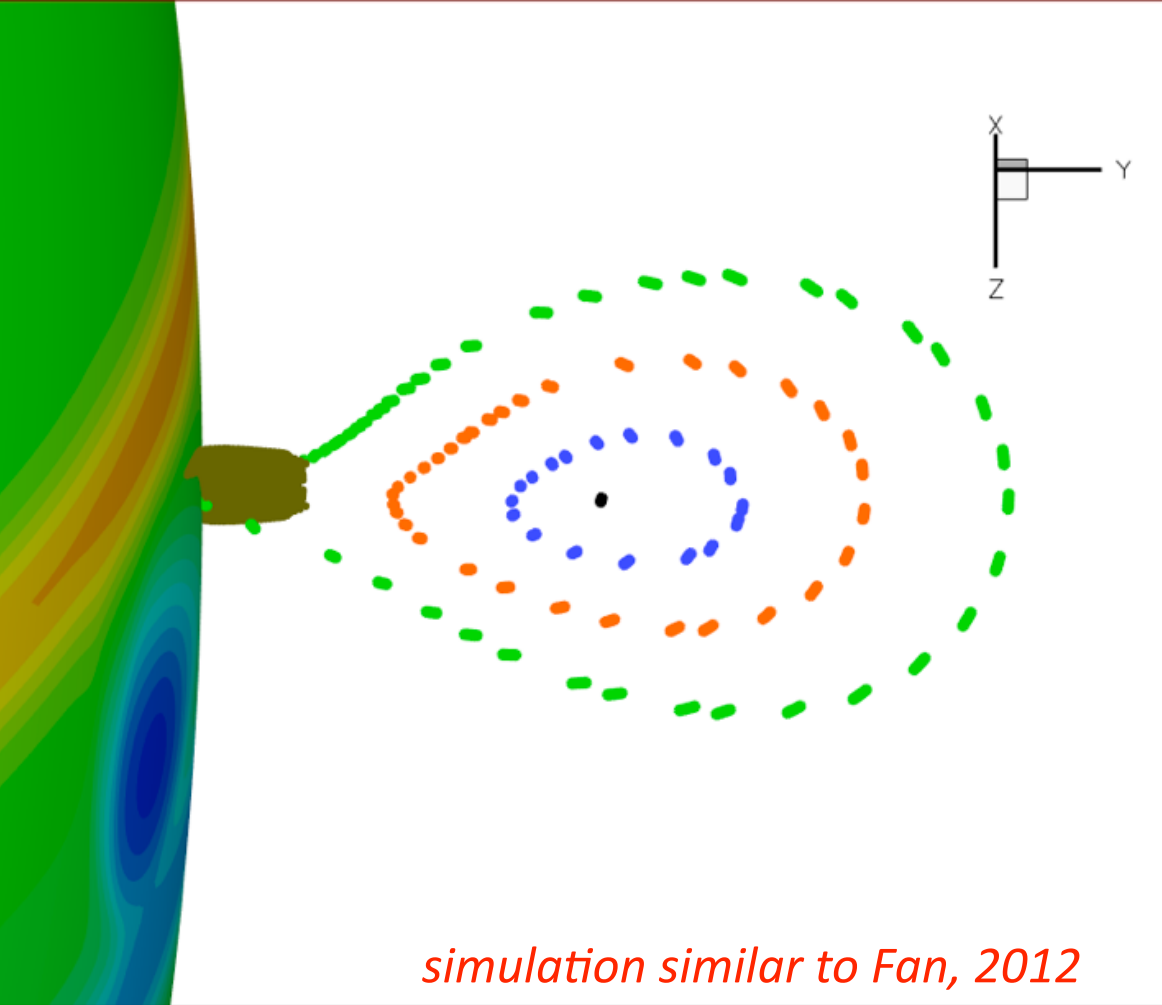
If we fill dips up to a prominence thermal scale height - would form a sheet-like prominence (brown)

Main part of cavity (nondipped field) above prominence (lollypop),

Lollypops (Cavity substructure)

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RUN E1, TIME 80



simulation similar to Fan, 2012

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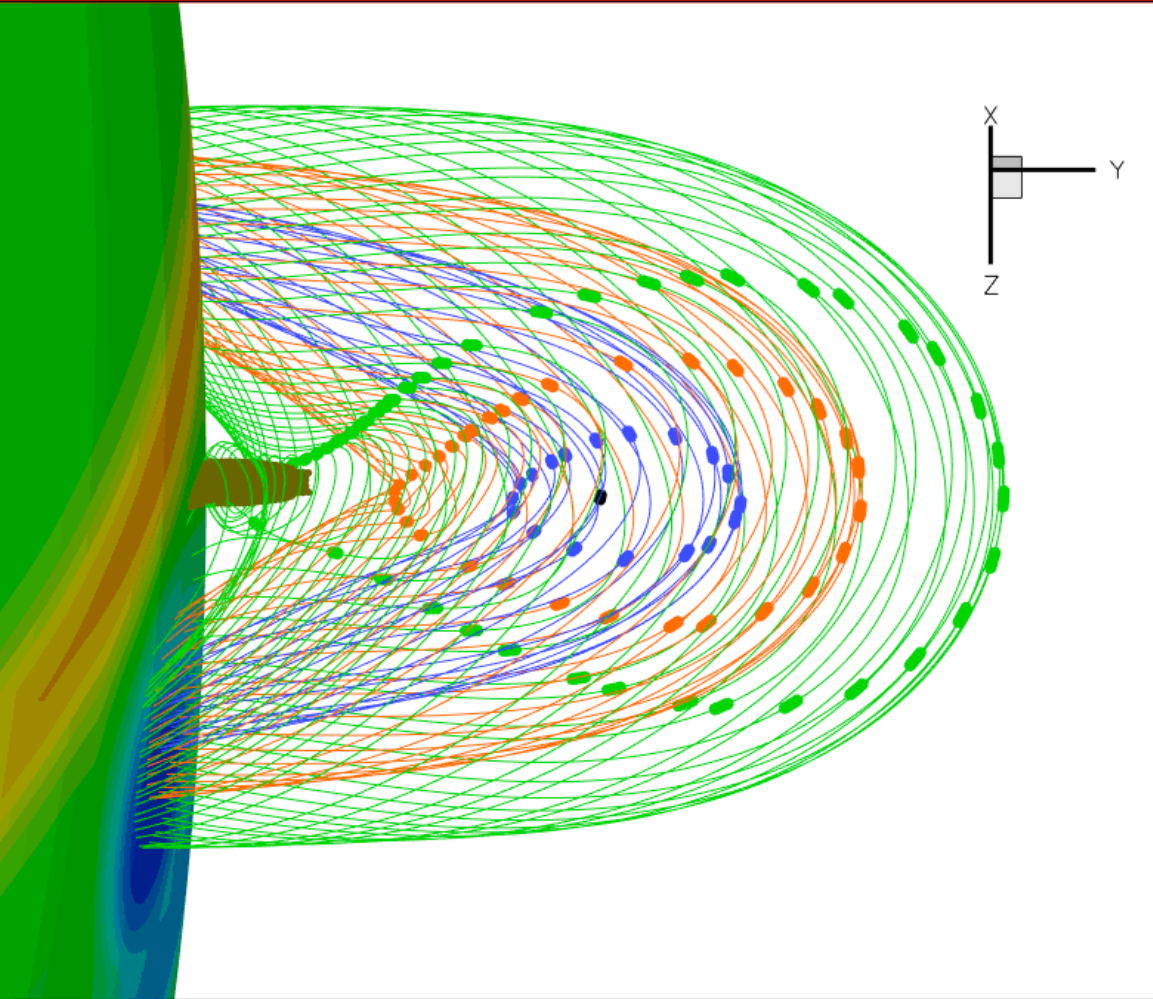
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Main part of cavity (nondipped field) above prominence (lollypop),

Lollypops (Cavity substructure)

Interpretation: Dipped vs. non-dipped field lines

RUN E1, TIME 80



Flux rope winds just over one full turn

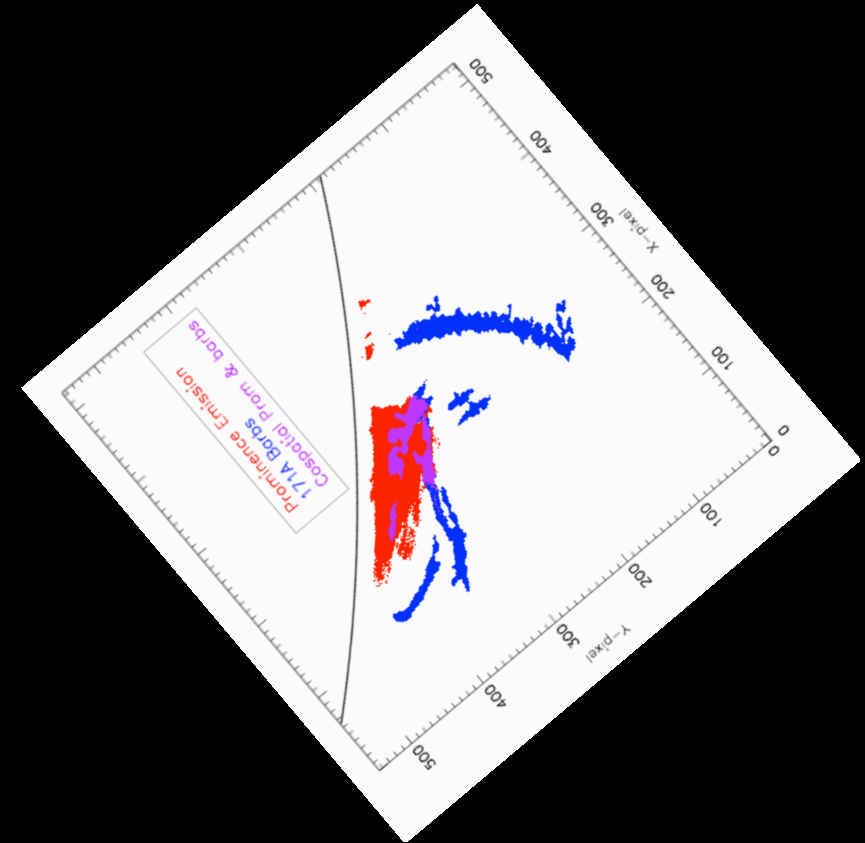
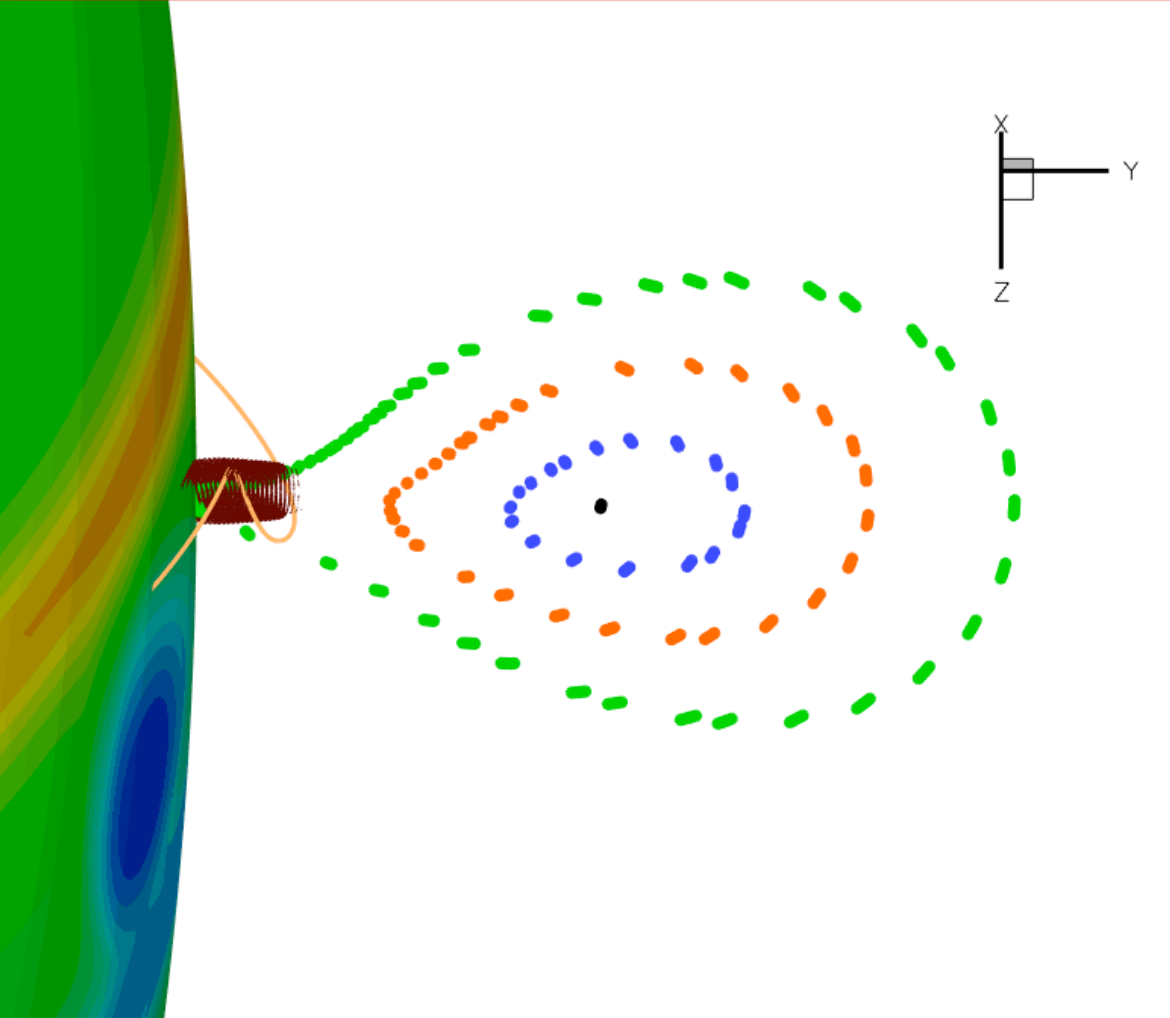
Outer field lines (green) are dipped, longer - location of TNE \rightarrow dense, variable

The inner field lines (orange/blue) are undipped, shorter, and fill most of the rope volume

Lollypops (Cavity substructure)

Interpretation: Dipped vs. non-dipped field lines

RUN E1, TIME 80



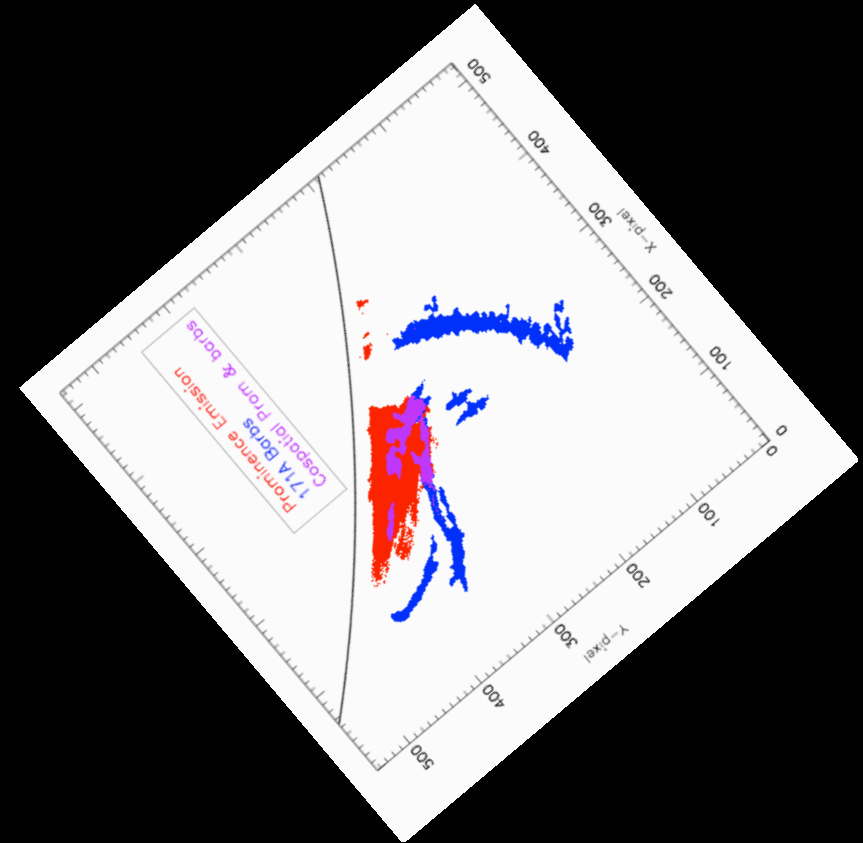
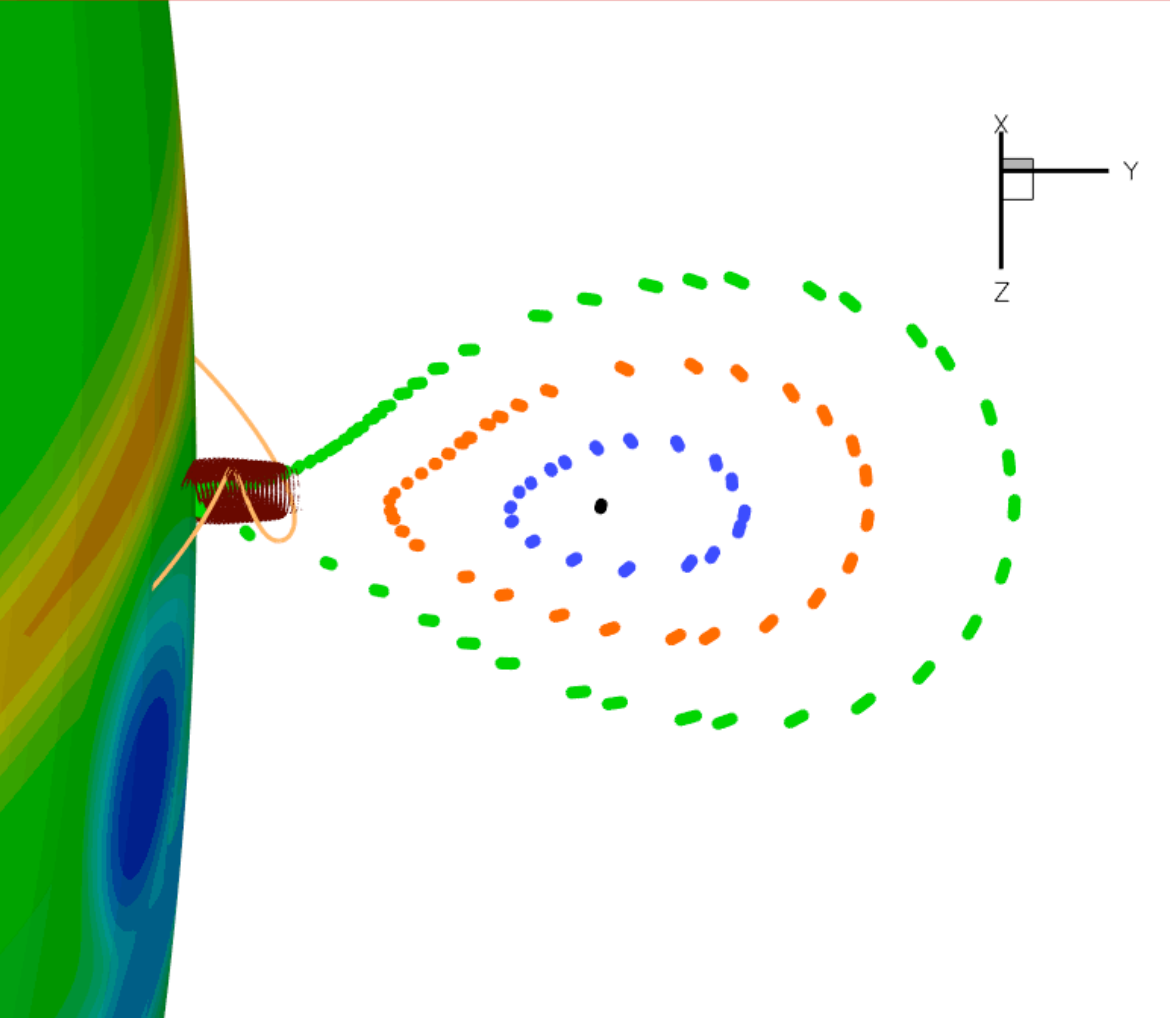
Variable flows and temperature would project into **but not fill** the flux-rope cavity volume

Schmit et al 2013

Lollypops (Cavity substructure)

Interpretation: Dipped vs. non-dipped field lines

RUN E1, TIME 80



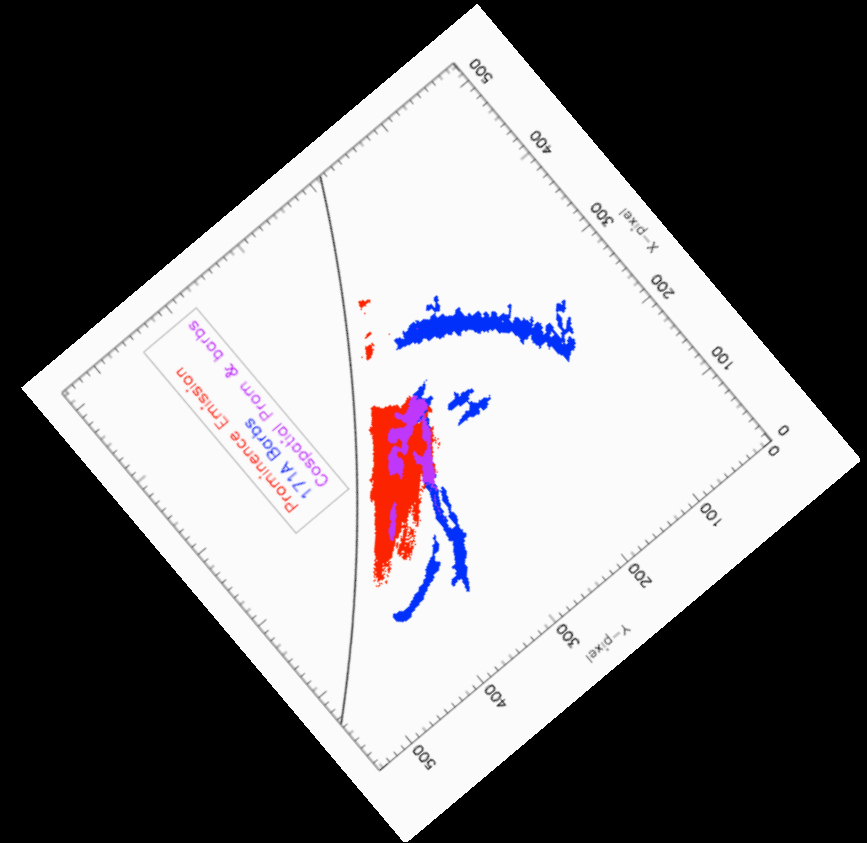
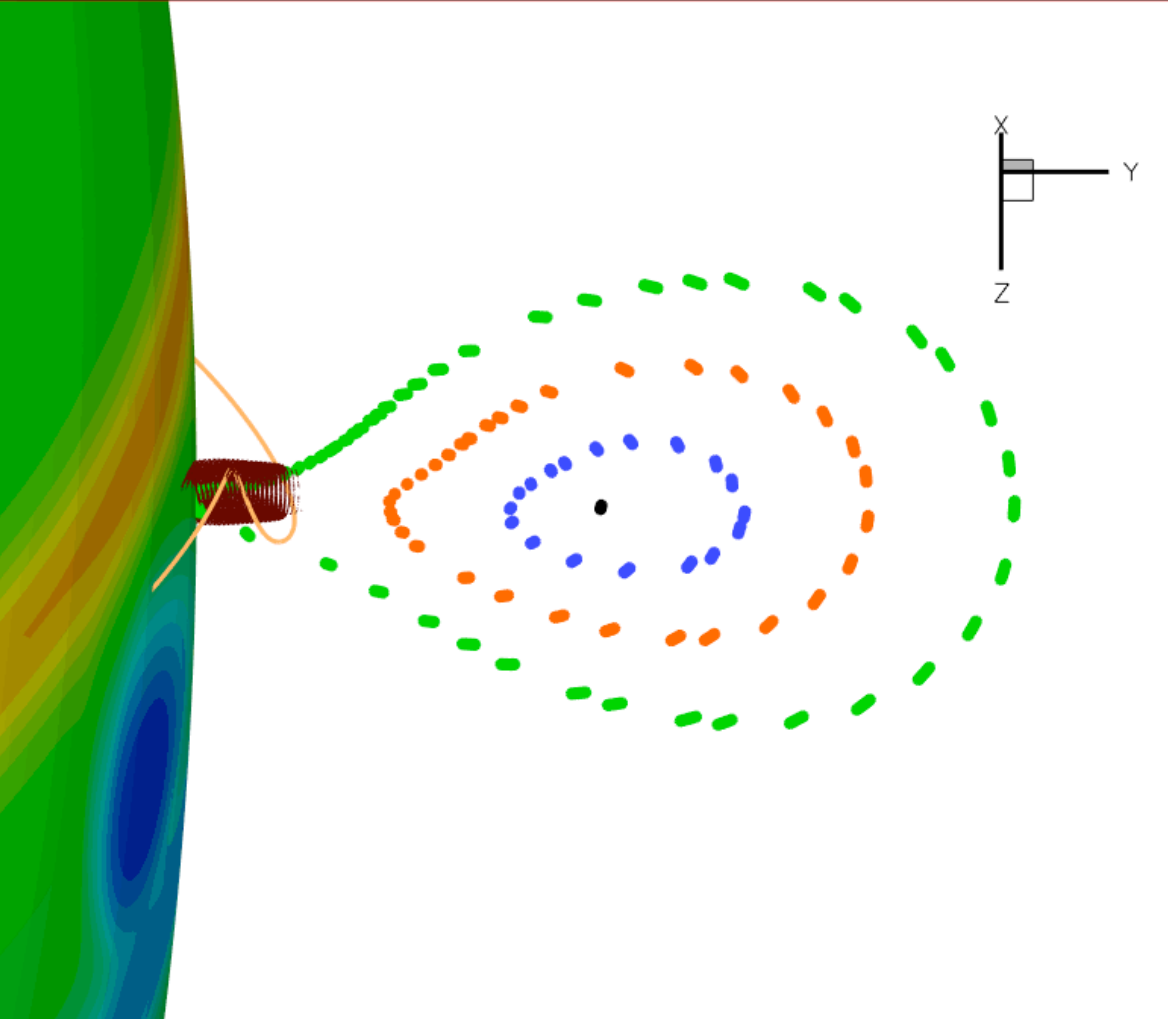
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Schmit et al 2013

Lollypops (Cavity substructure)

Interpretation: Dipped vs. non-dipped field lines

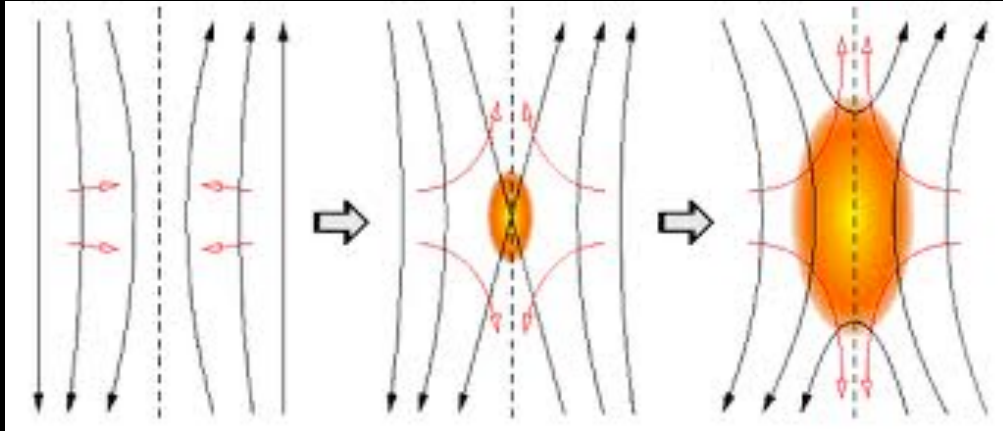
RUN E1, TIME 80



Variable flows and temperature would project into **but not fill** the flux-rope cavity volume

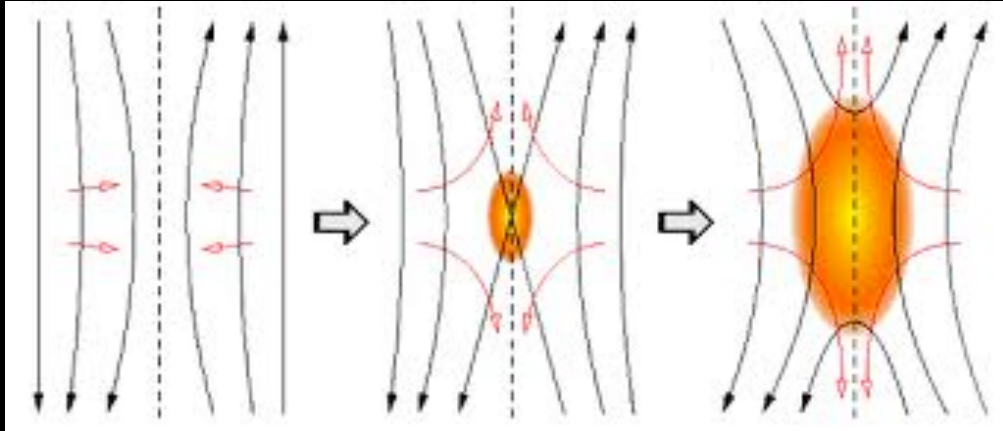
Schmit et al 2013

Lollypops (Cavity substructure)

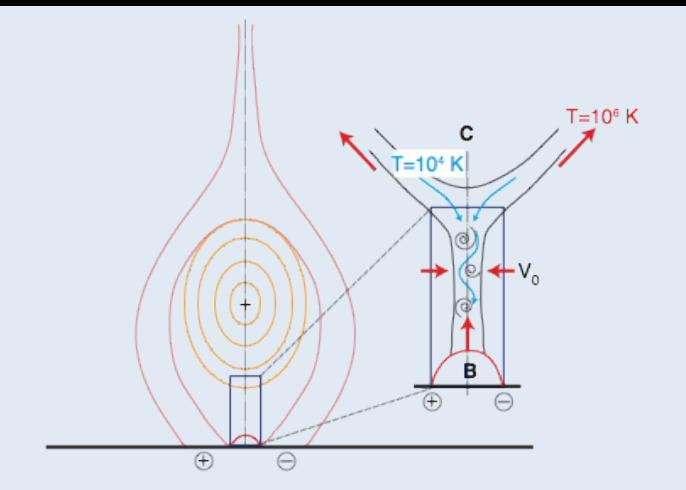


Sharply-defined sub-structure may also arise from magnetic X-line topology --> **reconnection**

Lollypops (Cavity substructure)



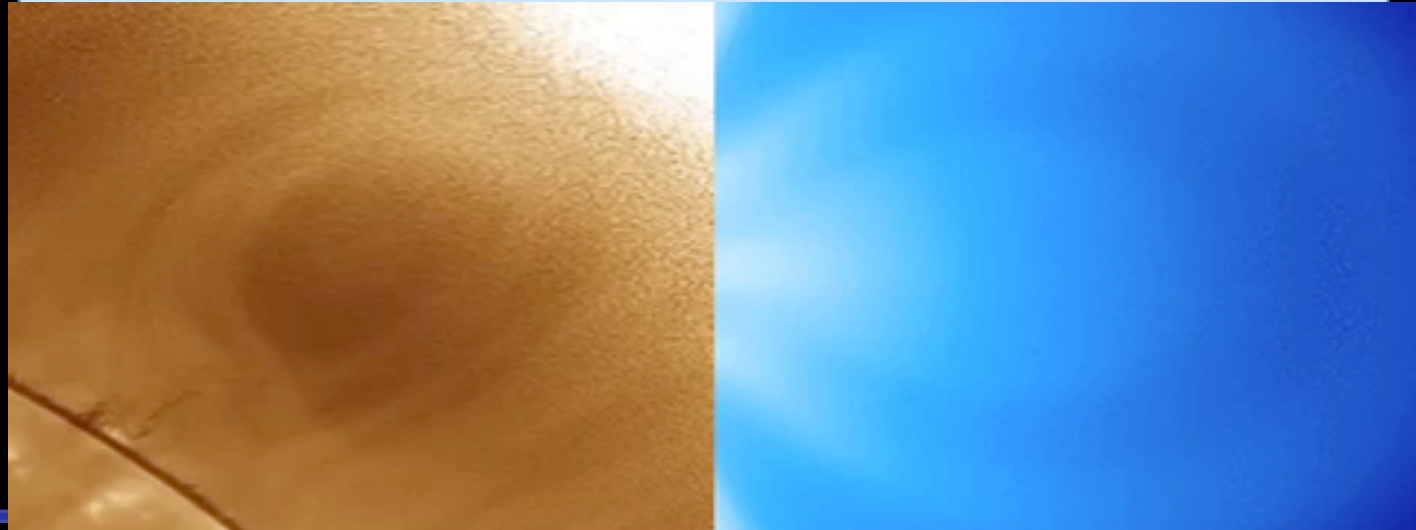
Sharply-defined sub-structure may also arise from magnetic X-line topology --> reconnection



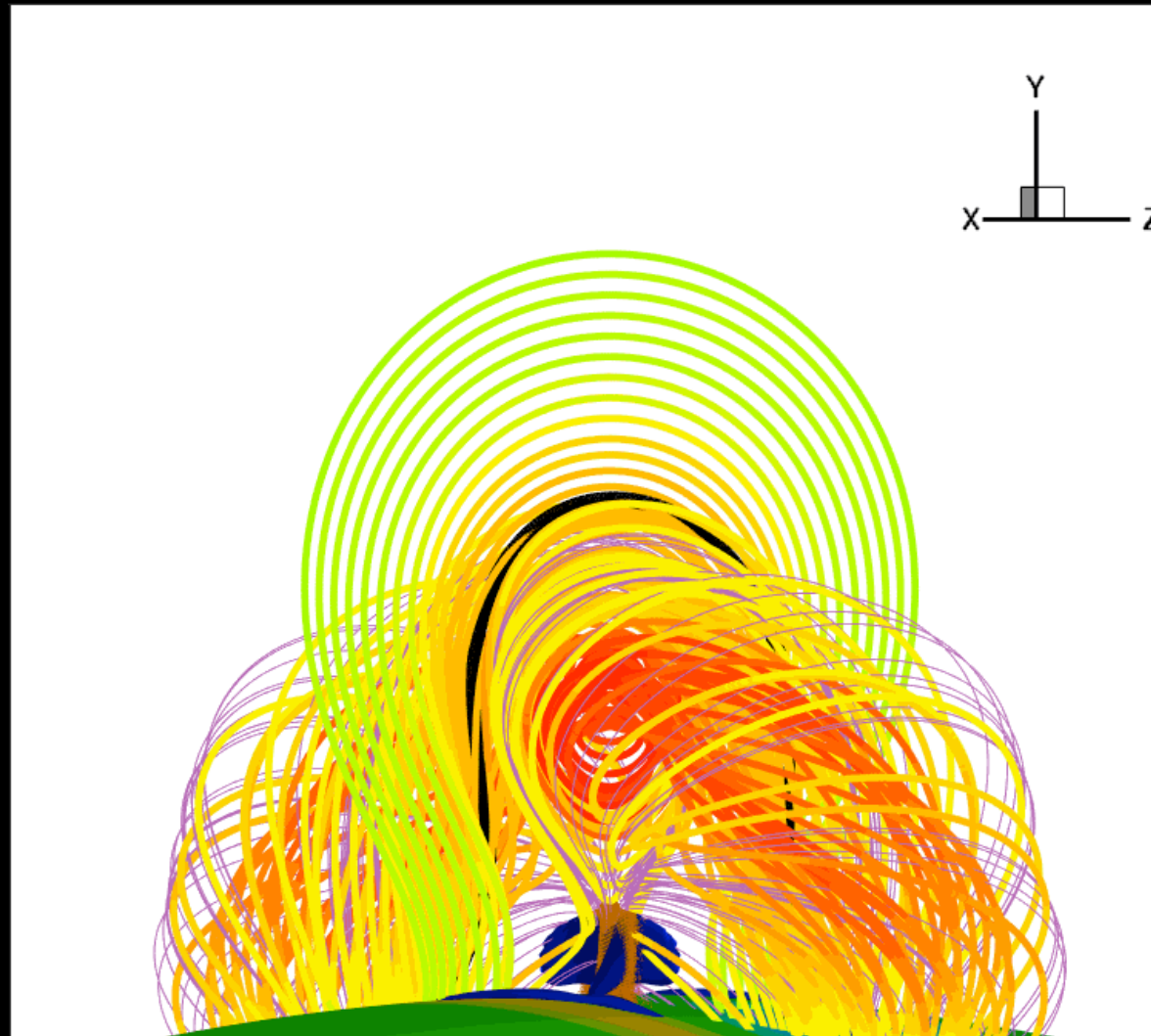
Current sheet forms below center of flux rope, with dense horn-like enhancement

Reconnections lead to flows and low-density/high-temperature center internal to cavity (lollypop-like) **Fan (2012)**

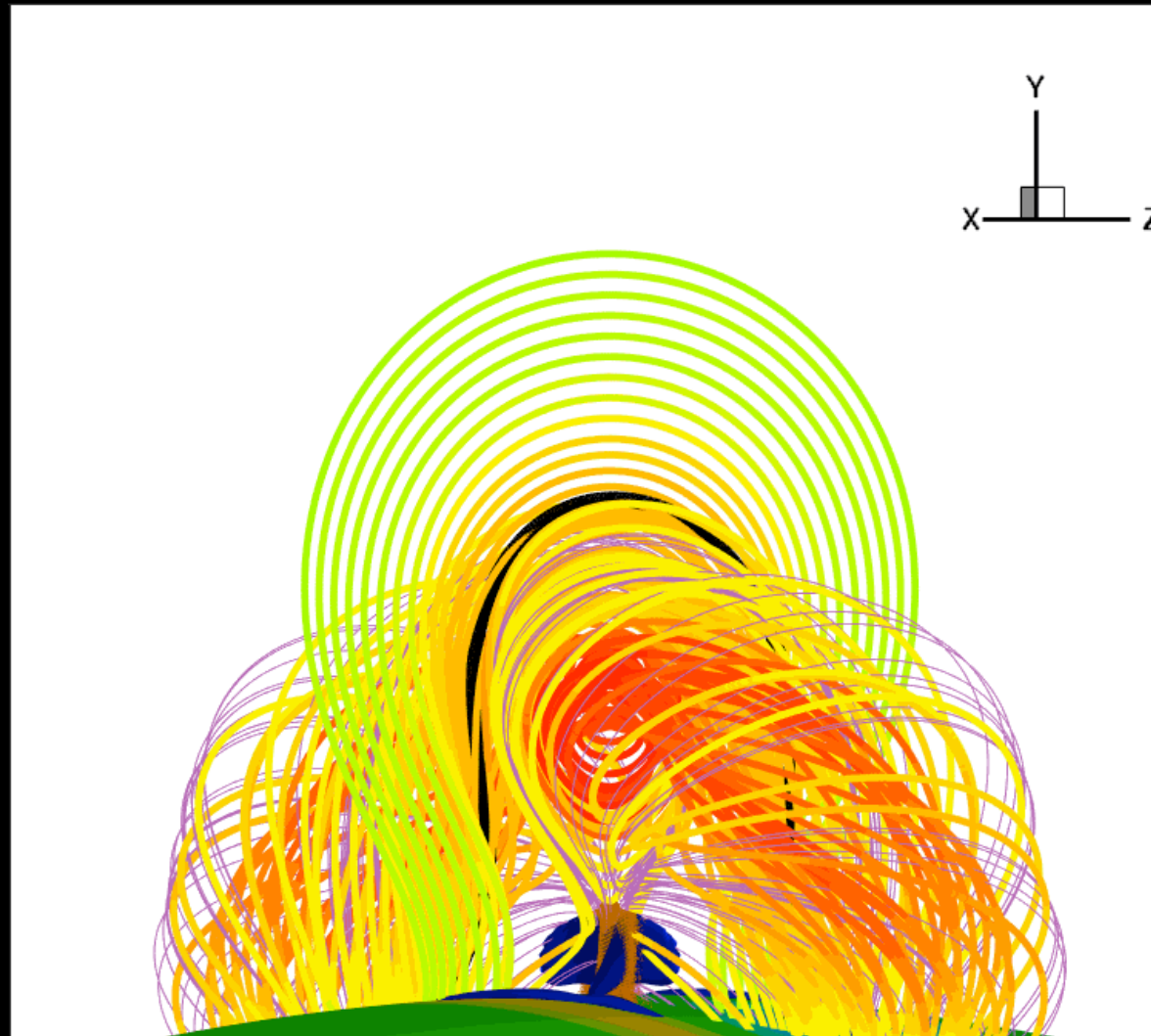
Berger (2012)



Lollypops (Cavity substructure)



Lollypops (Cavity substructure)

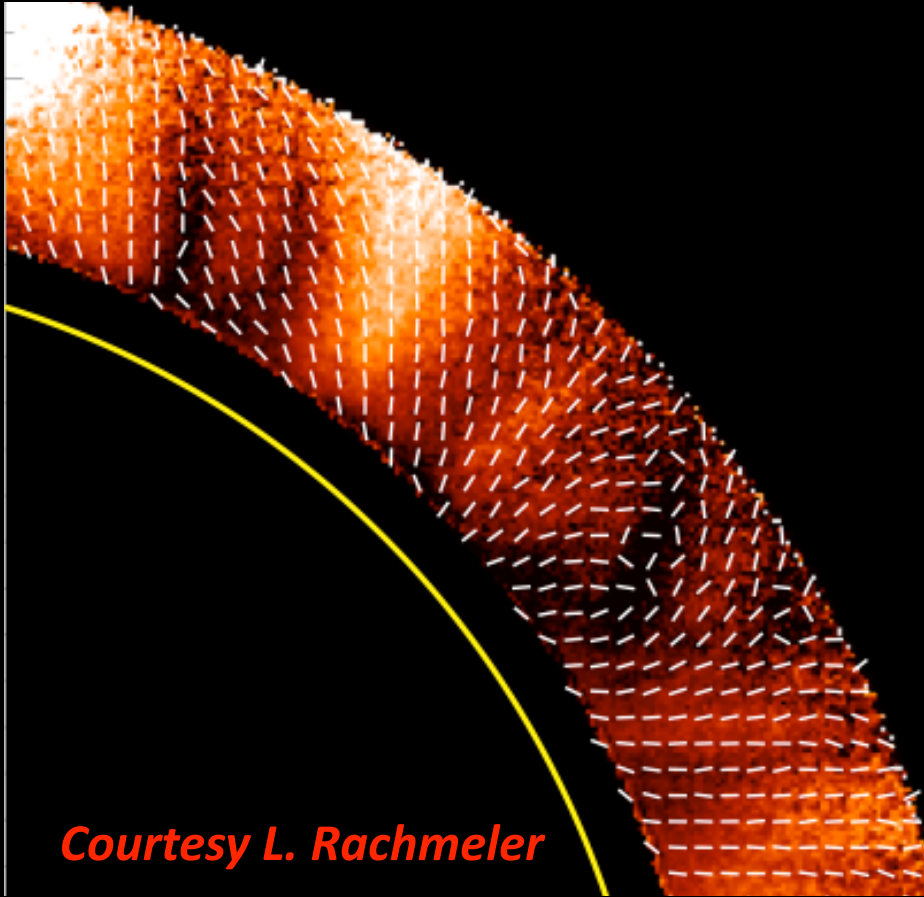


Interpretation: Hot core of reconnected field lines *Fan, 2012*

Lagomorphs (Linear Polarization)

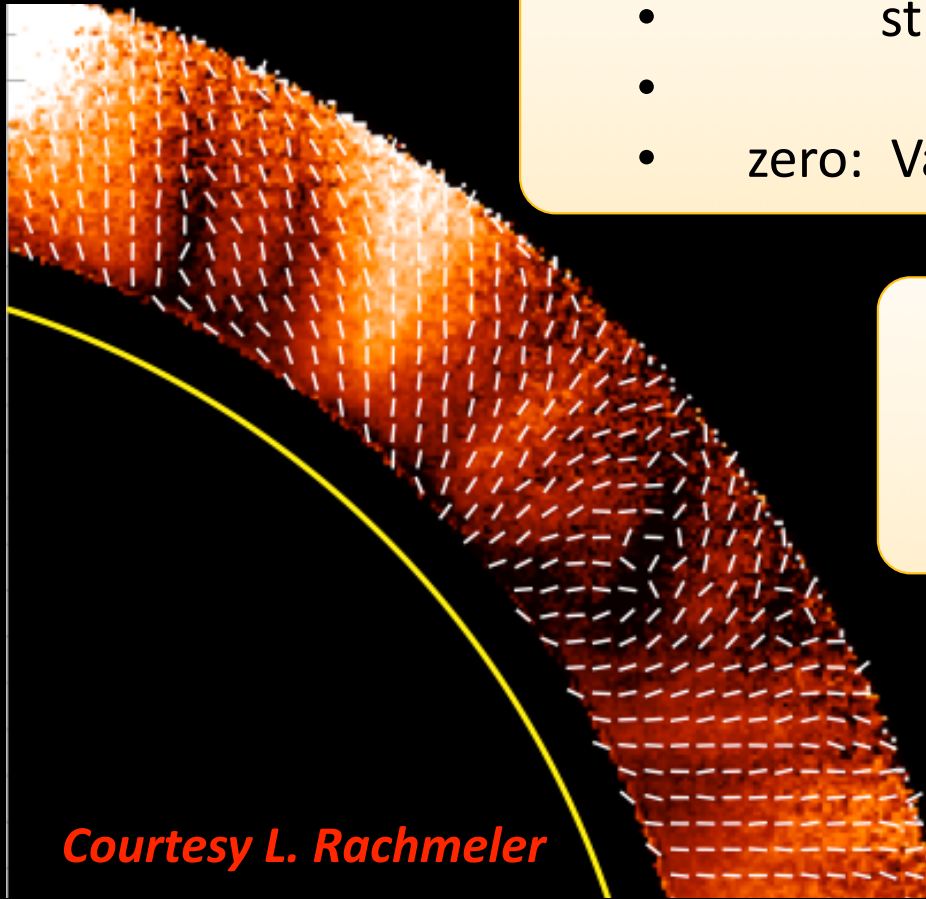


Lagomorphs (Linear Polarization)



Coronal Multichannel Polarimeter (CoMP): new coronagraph that measures the Stokes vectors and the velocities in optically thin coronal emission lines

Lagomorphs (Linear Polarization)



Courtesy L. Rachmeler

Primary observable: fraction of linearly-polarized light (L/I)

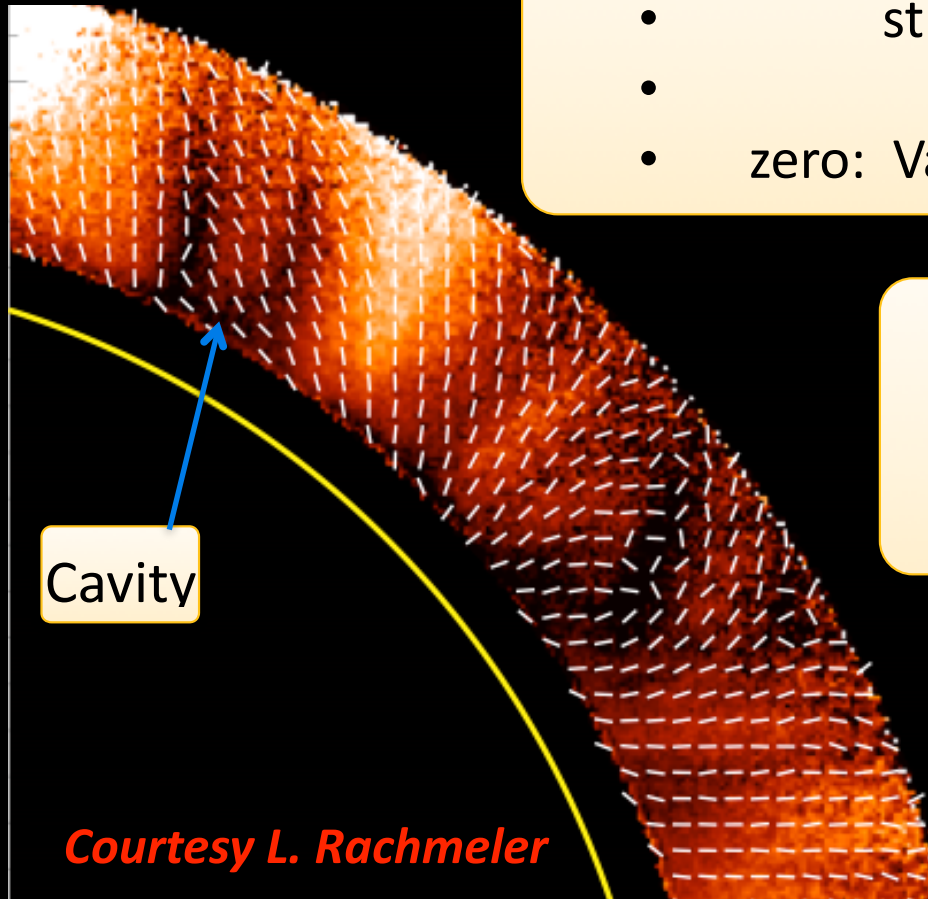
- strong signal: **B** in plane-of-sky (POS)
- zero: **B** along line-of-sight (LOS)
- zero: Van Vleck angle between **B** and radial $\sim 54^\circ$

L/I direction = POS component of **B**
(integrated along LOS!)

- flips by 90 degrees at Van Vleck angle

Coronal Multichannel Polarimeter (CoMP): new coronagraph that measures the Stokes vectors and the velocities in optically thin coronal emission lines

Lagomorphs (Linear Polarization)



Cavity

Courtesy L. Rachmeler

Primary observable: fraction of linearly-polarized light (L/I)

- strong signal: \mathbf{B} in plane-of-sky (POS)
- zero: \mathbf{B} along line-of-sight (LOS)
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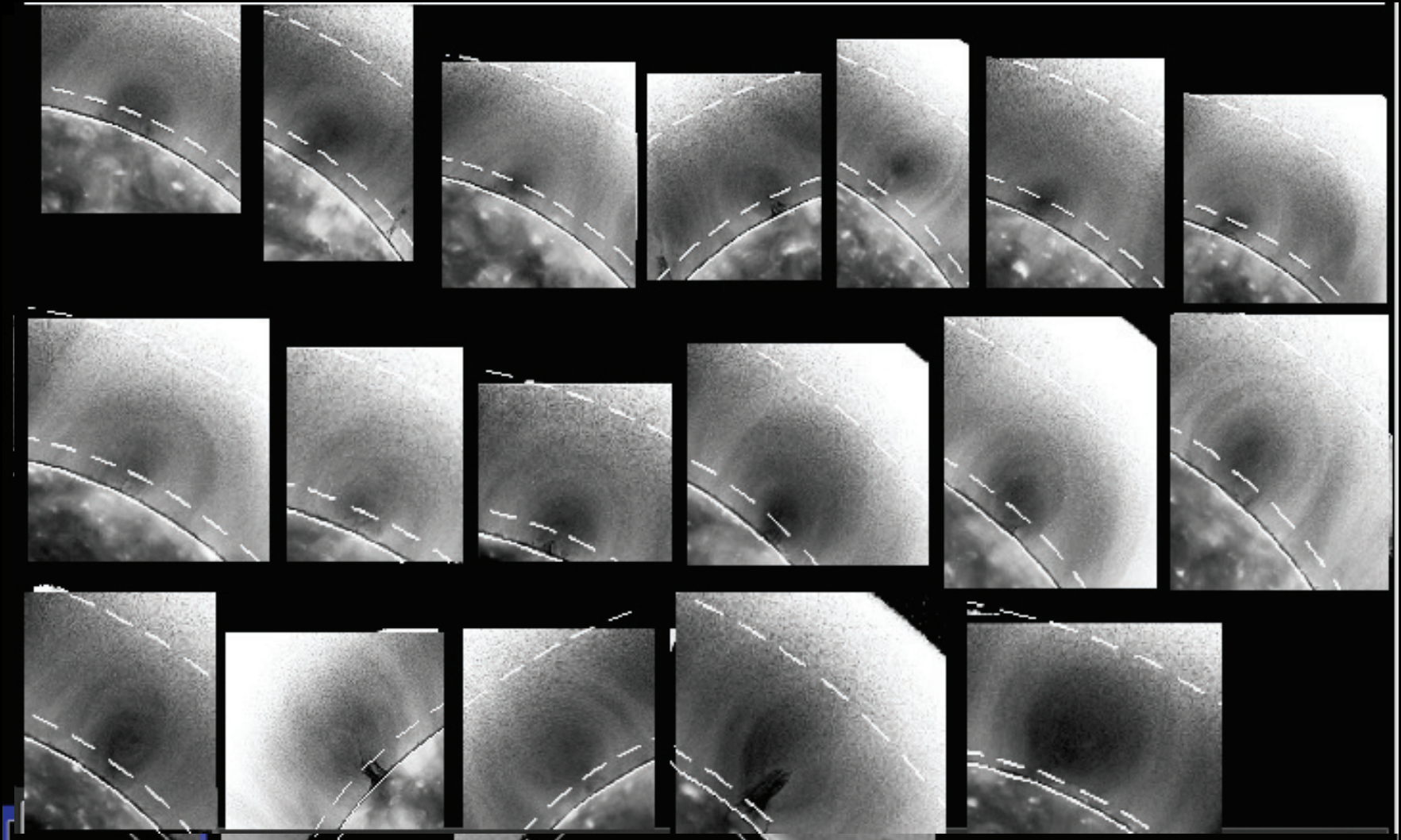
L/I direction = POS component of \mathbf{B}
(integrated along LOS!)

- flips by 90 degrees at Van Vleck angle

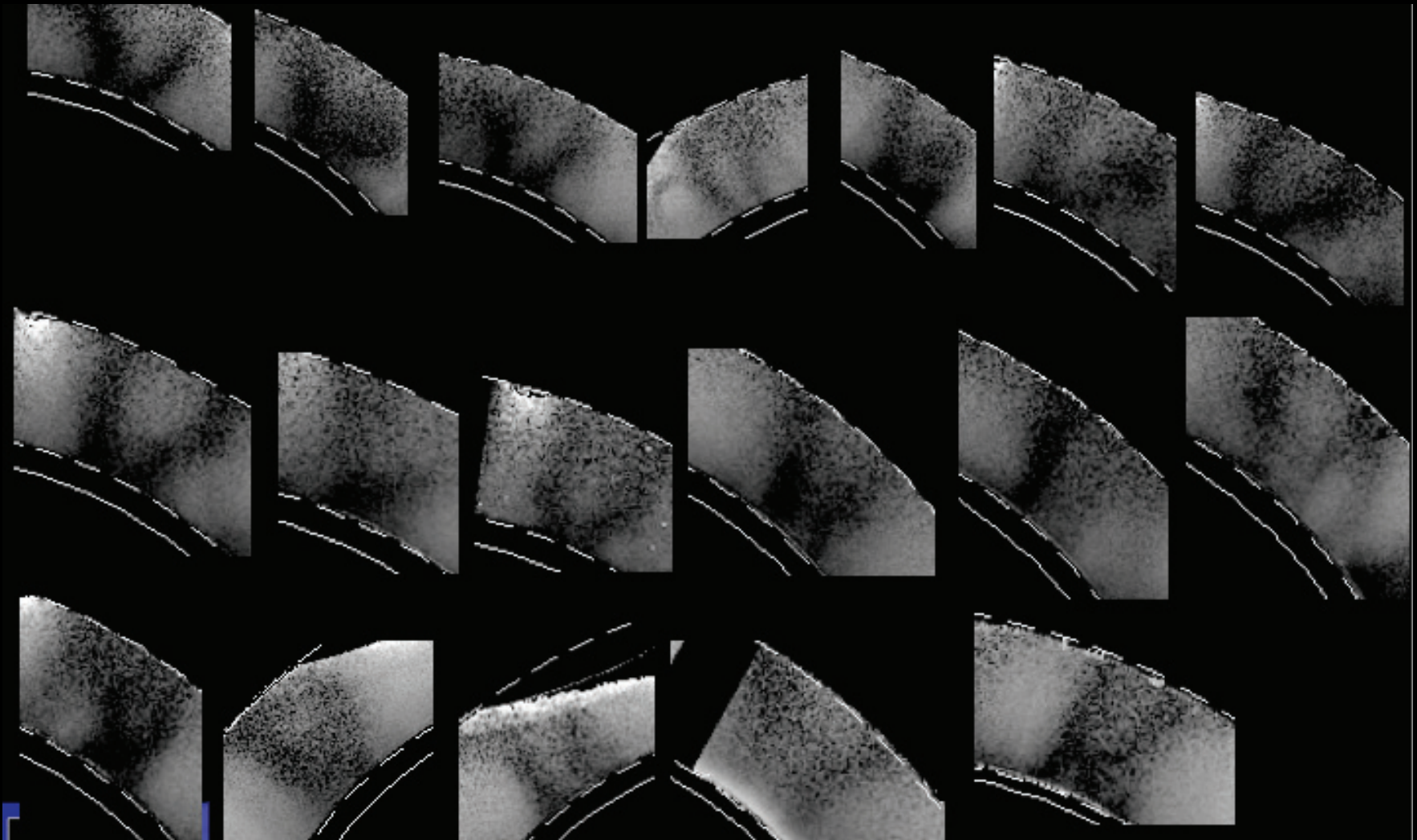
Sensitive to presence of coronal currents (Judge et al., 2006)

Coronal Multichannel Polarimeter (CoMP): new coronagraph that measures the Stokes vectors and the velocities in optically thin coronal emission lines

Lagomorphs (Linear Polarization)



Lagomorphs (Linear Polarization)



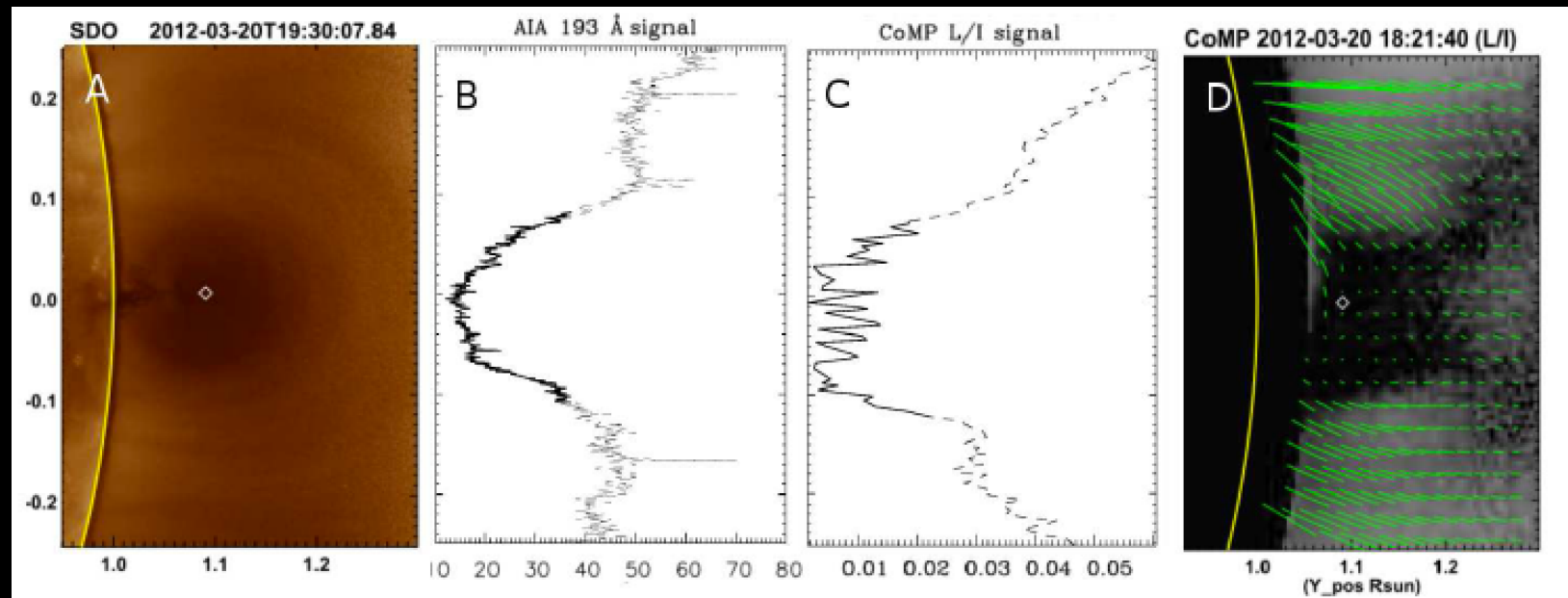
Lagomorphs (Linear Polarization)



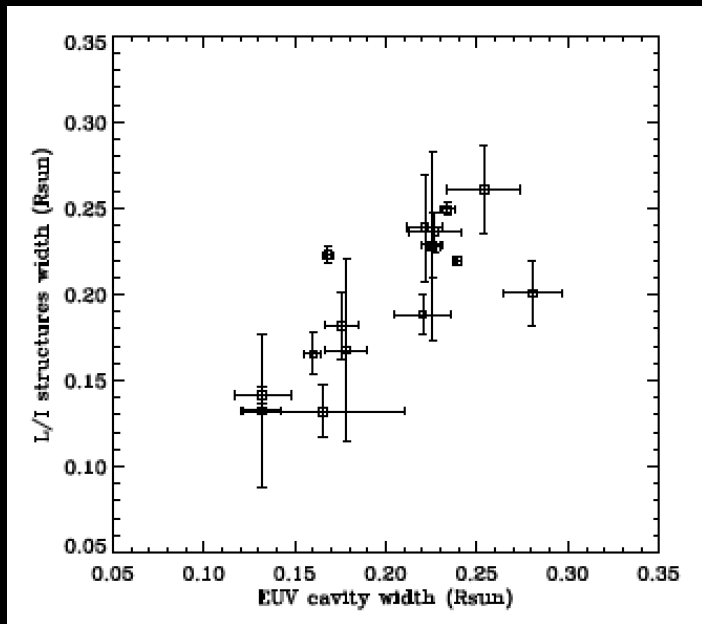
Lagomorphs (Linear Polarization)

Bak-Steslicka et al, 2014

Lagomorph “head” collocated with cavity



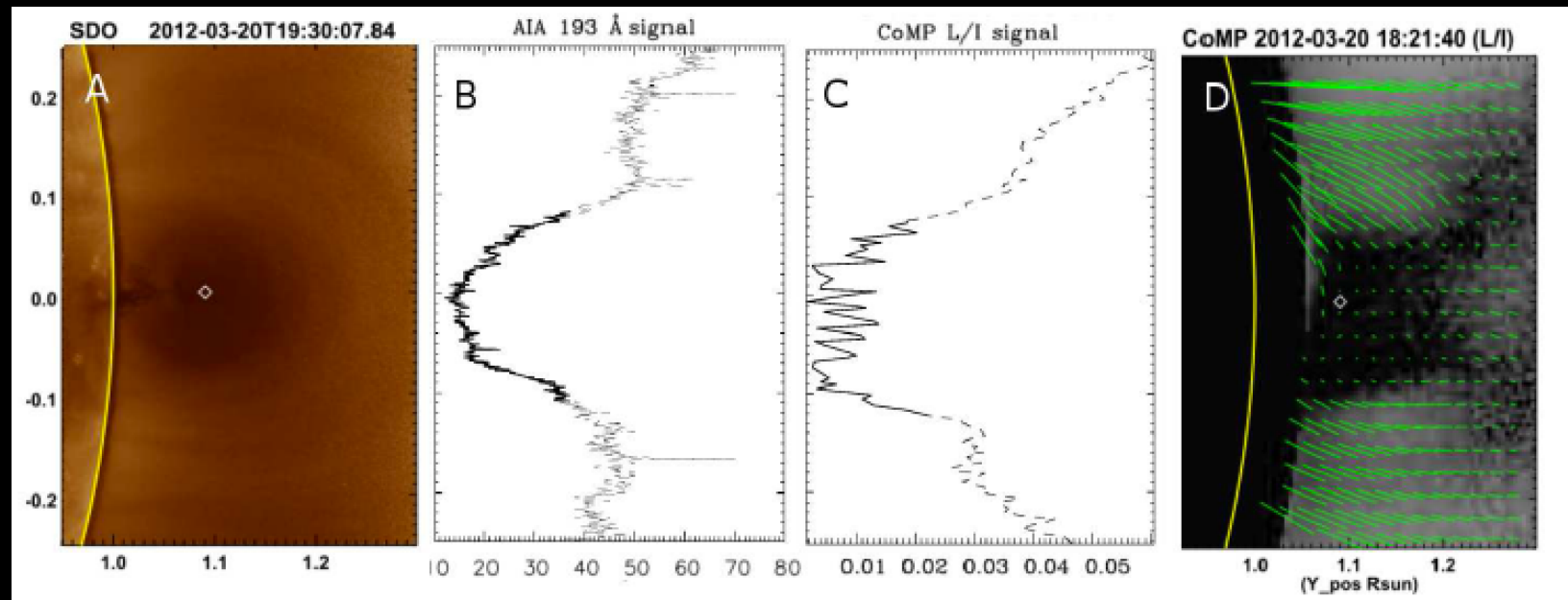
Lagomorphs (Linear Polarization)



Lagomorph and cavity sizes correlate

Bak-Steslicka et al, 2014

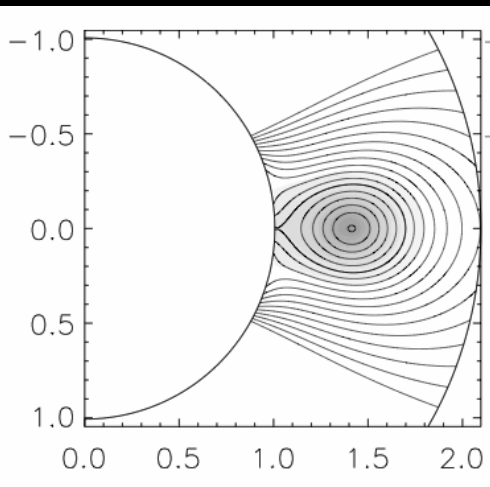
Lagomorph “head” collocated with cavity



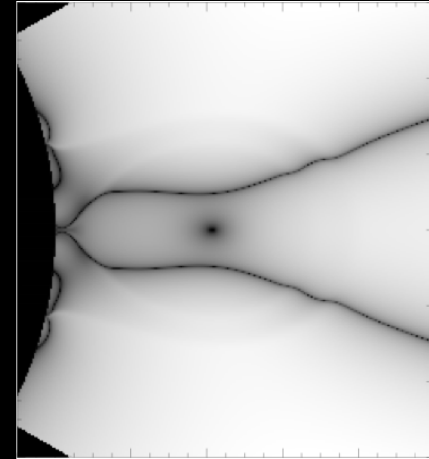
Lagomorphs (Linear Polarization)

Interpretation: flux rope

Model B (POS)



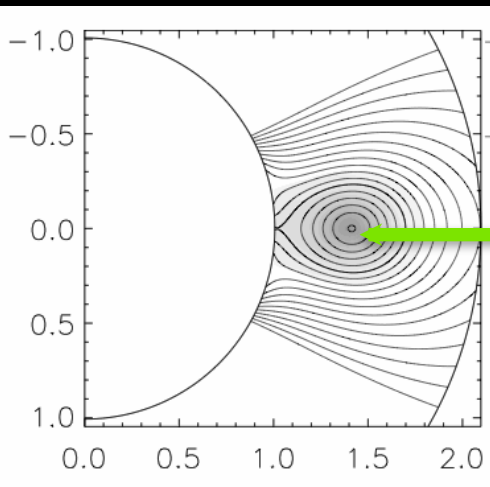
Model L/I (POS)



Lagomorphs (Linear Polarization)

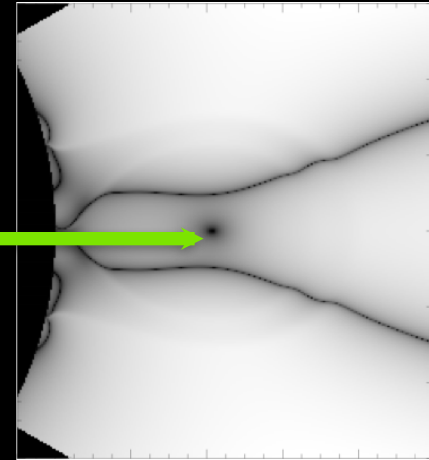
Interpretation: flux rope

Model B (POS)



Flux rope axis

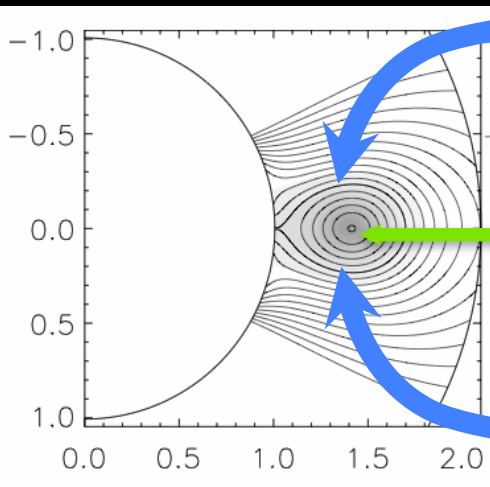
Model L/I (POS)



Lagomorphs (Linear Polarization)

Interpretation: flux rope

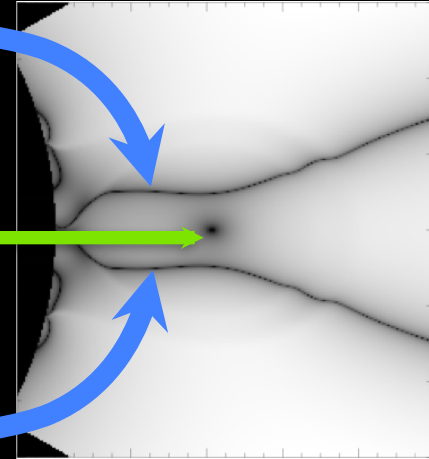
Model B (POS)



Van Vleck inversion in flux rope

Flux rope axis

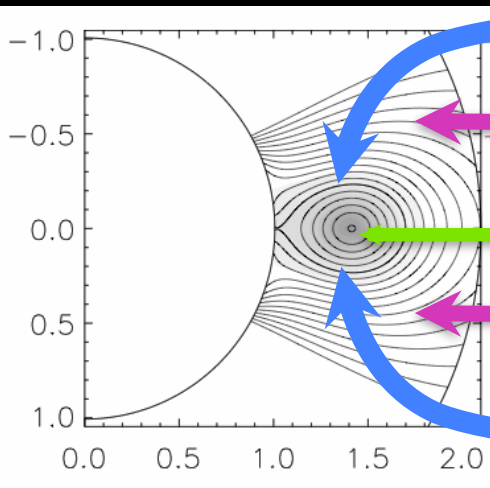
Model L/I (POS)



Lagomorphs (Linear Polarization)

Interpretation: flux rope

Model B (POS)

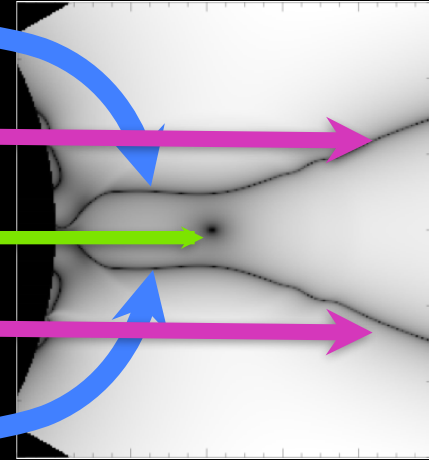


Van Vleck inversion in flux rope

Van Vleck inversion in arcade

Flux rope axis

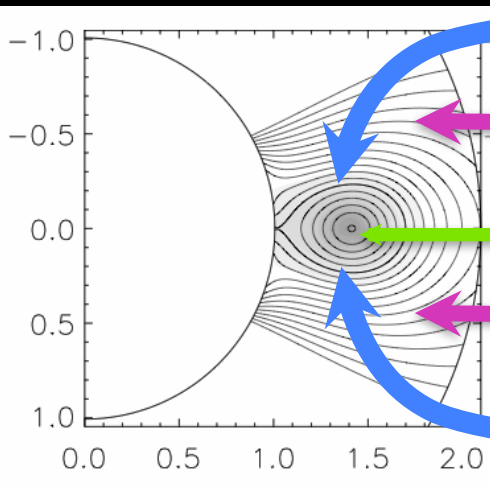
Model L/I (POS)



Lagomorphs (Linear Polarization)

Interpretation: flux rope

Model B (POS)

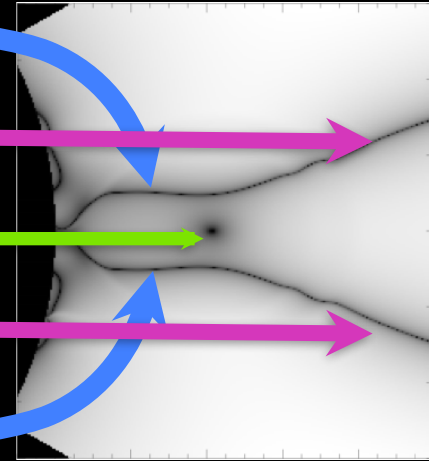


Van Vleck inversion in flux rope

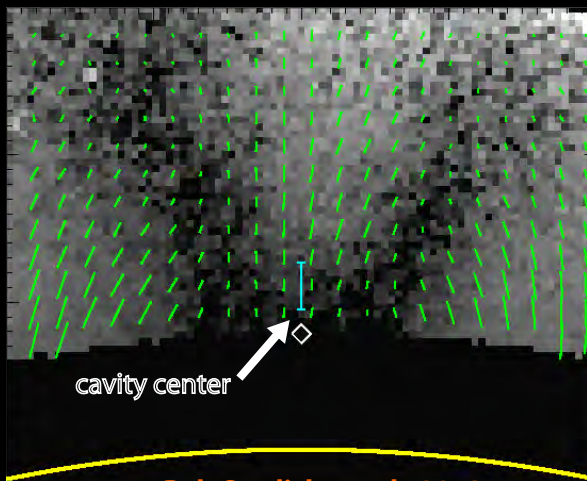
Van Vleck inversion in arcade

Flux rope axis

Model L/I (POS)

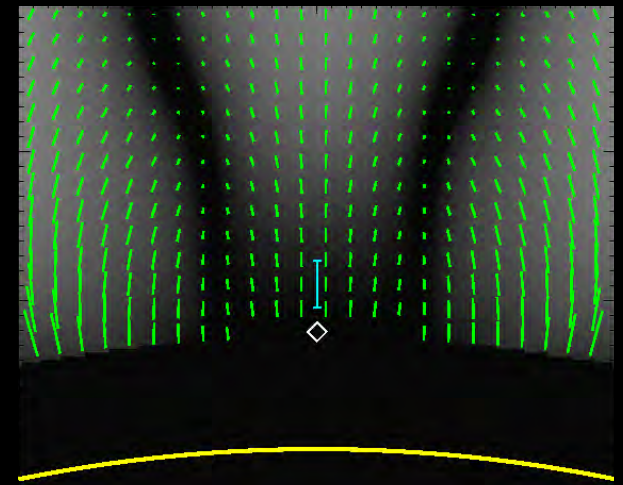
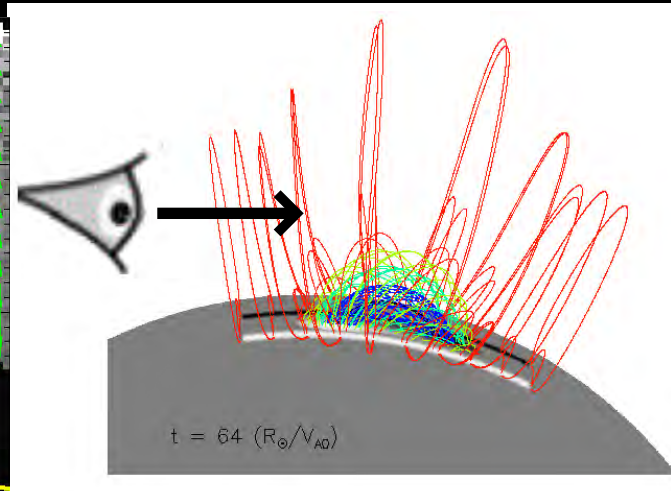


Linear polarization lagomorph in coronal cavity



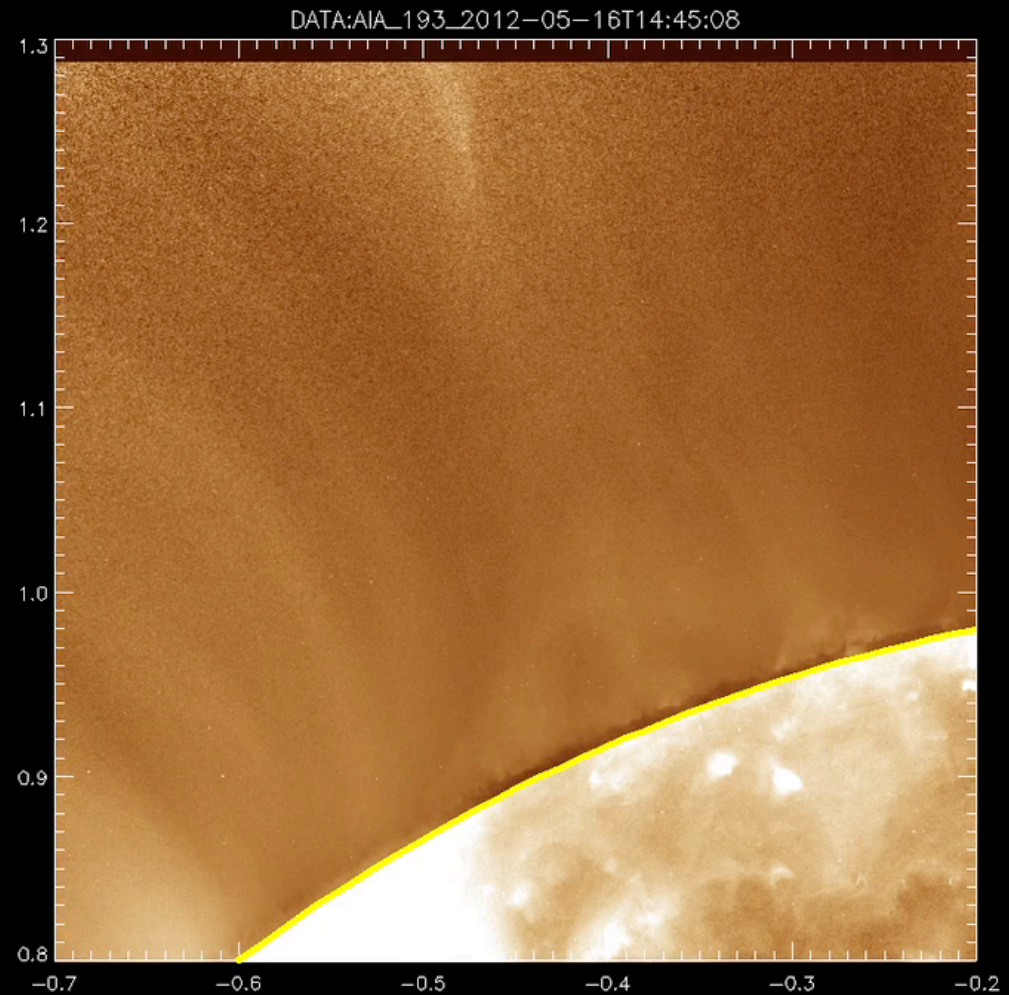
Bak-Steslicka et al., 2013

Flux rope model forward-integrated for linear polarization



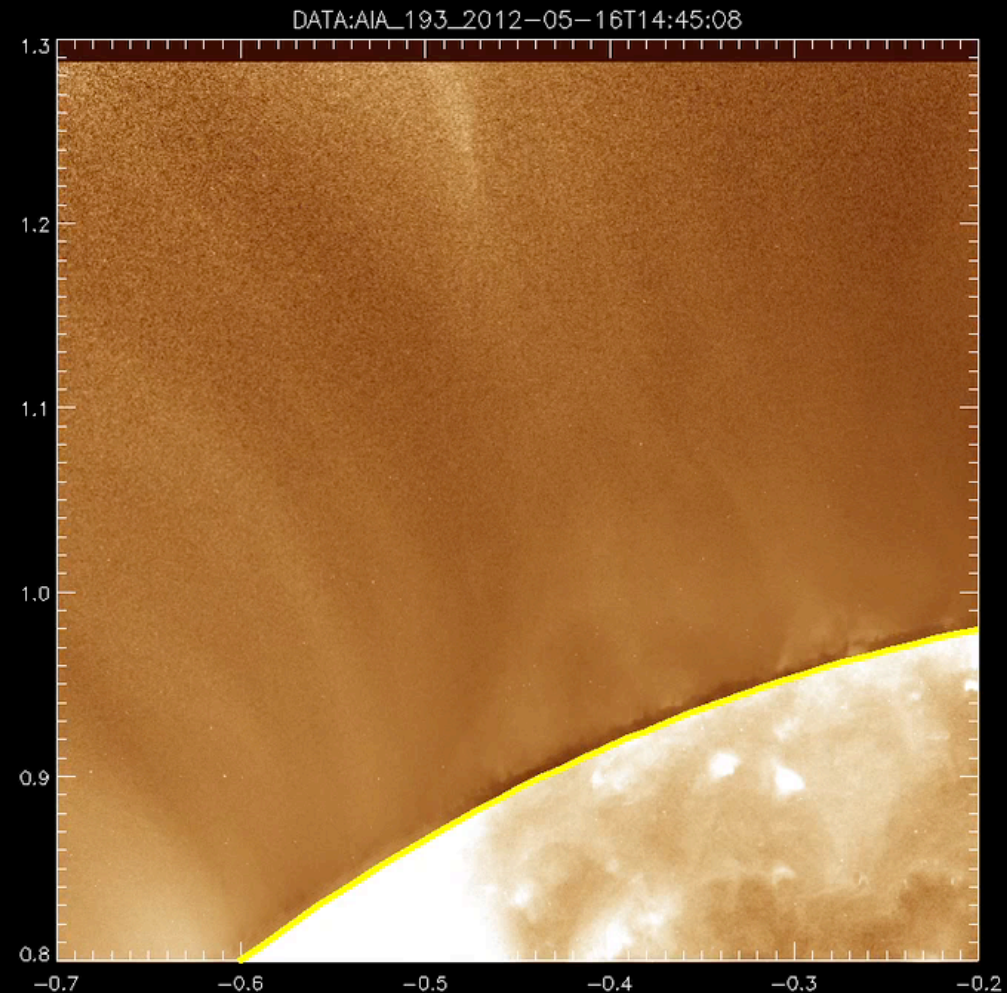
Liftoff! (Cavity clues to CMEs)

Cavities “bodily”
erupt as CMEs



Liftoff! (Cavity clues to CMEs)

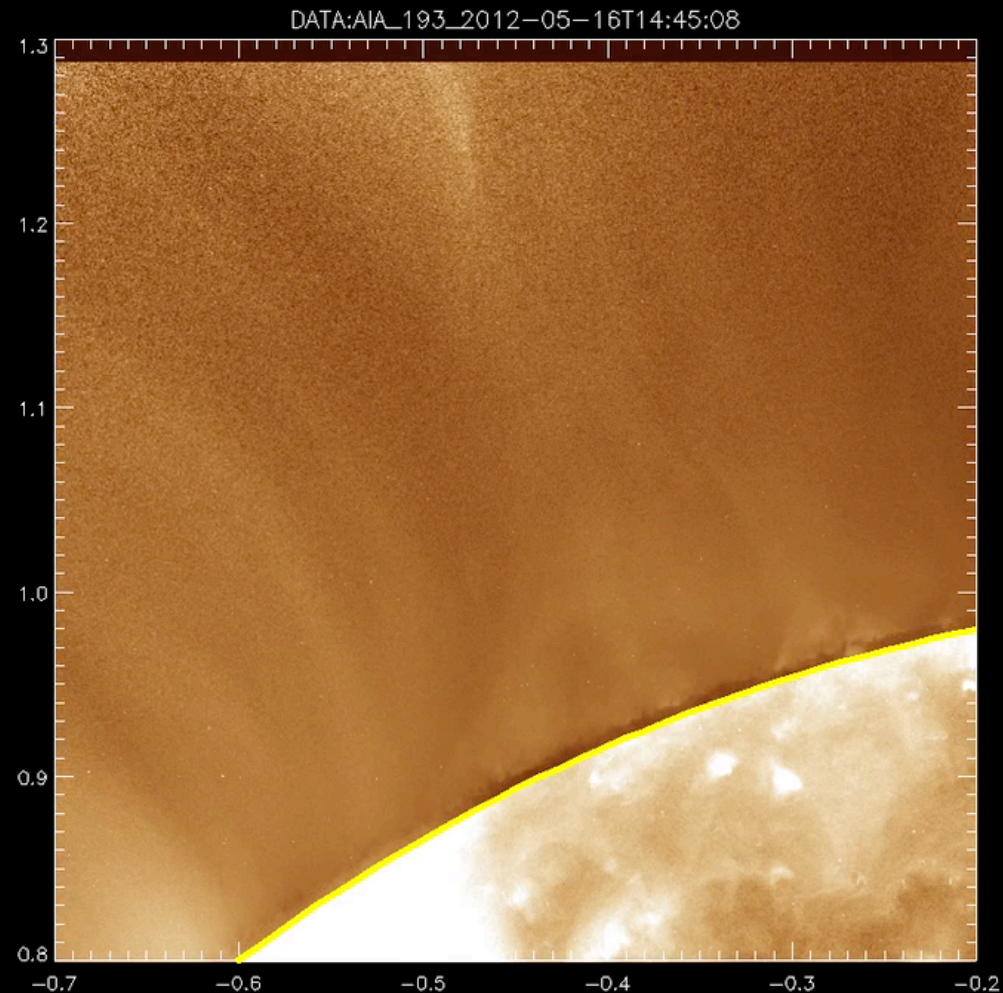
Cavities “bodily”
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Liftoff! (Cavity clues to CMEs)

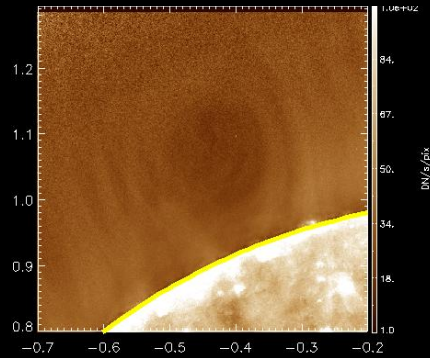
Cavities “bodily”
erupt as CMEs

Note the **shape**
(tear-drop)

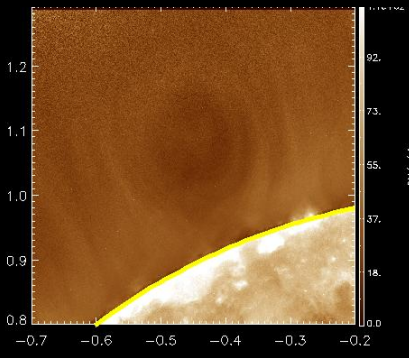


Liftoff! (Cavity clues to CMEs)

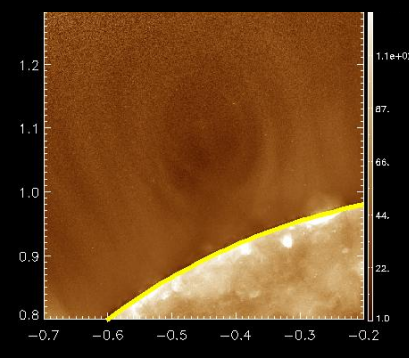
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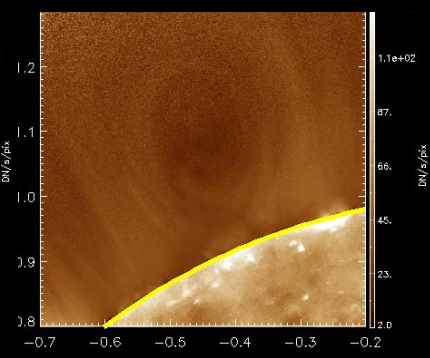
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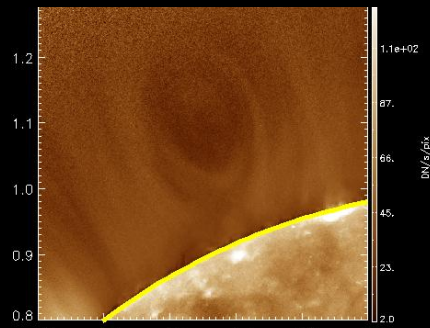
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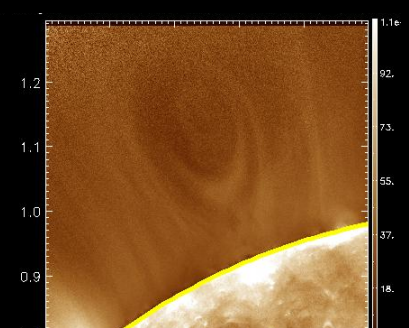
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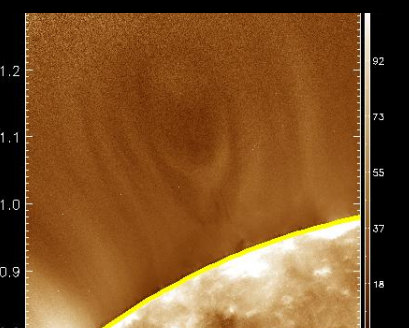
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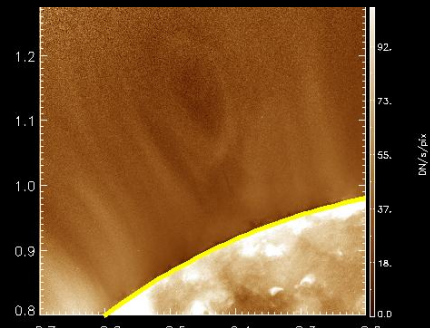
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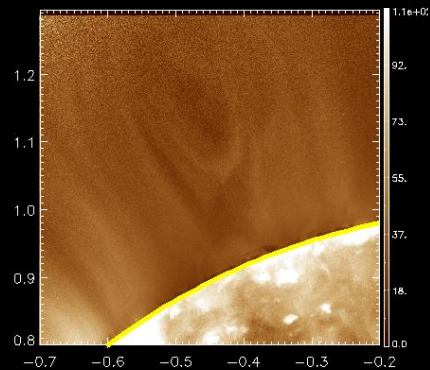
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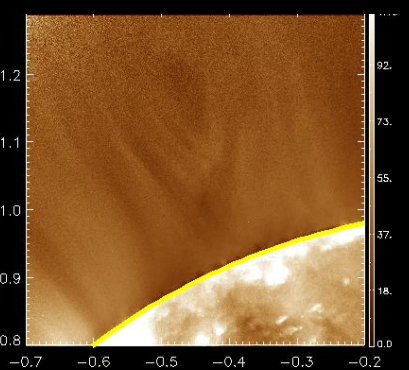
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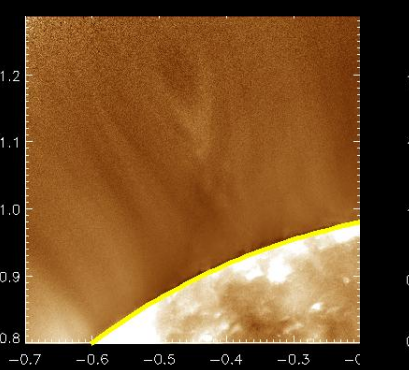
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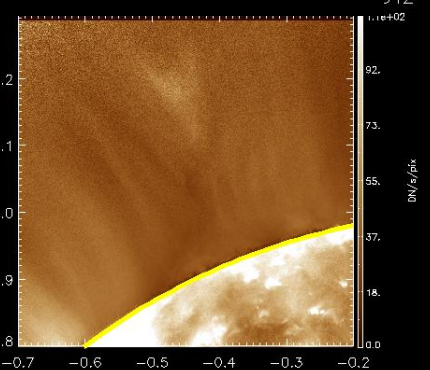
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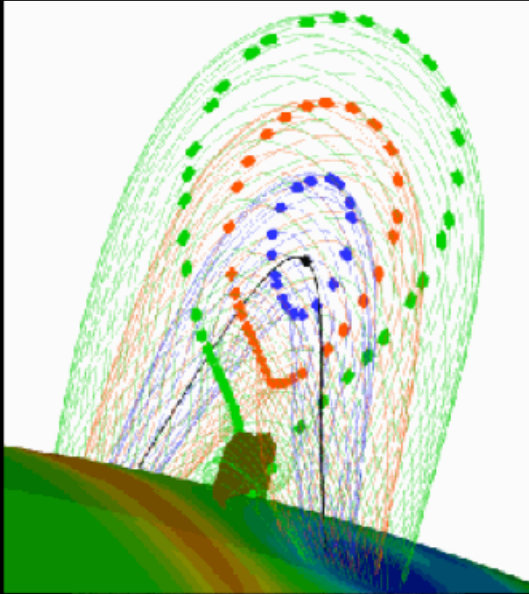
2012-05-16 06:00



2012-05-16 08:00

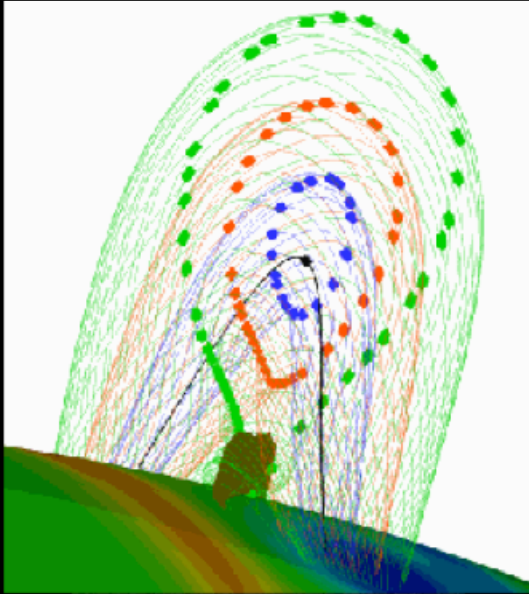


Liftoff! (Cavity clues to CMEs)



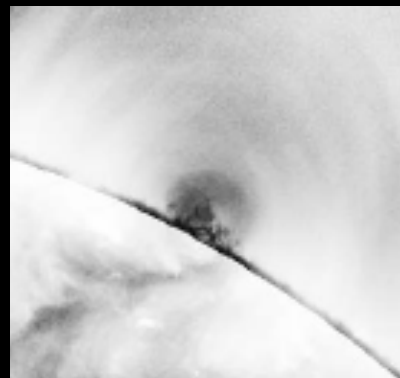
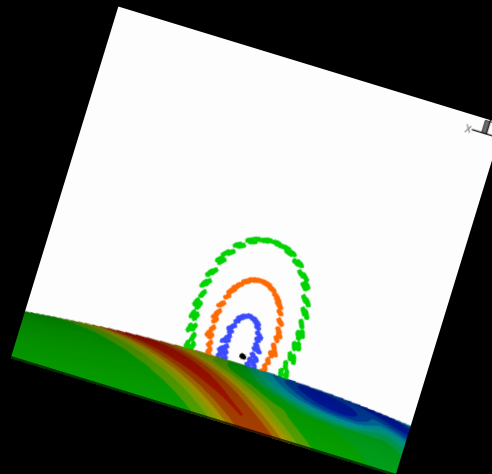
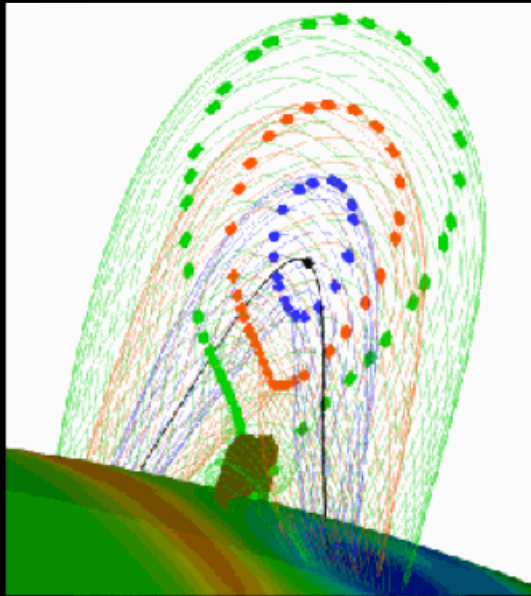
Liftoff! (Cavity clues to CMEs)

Shape predicts
eruption



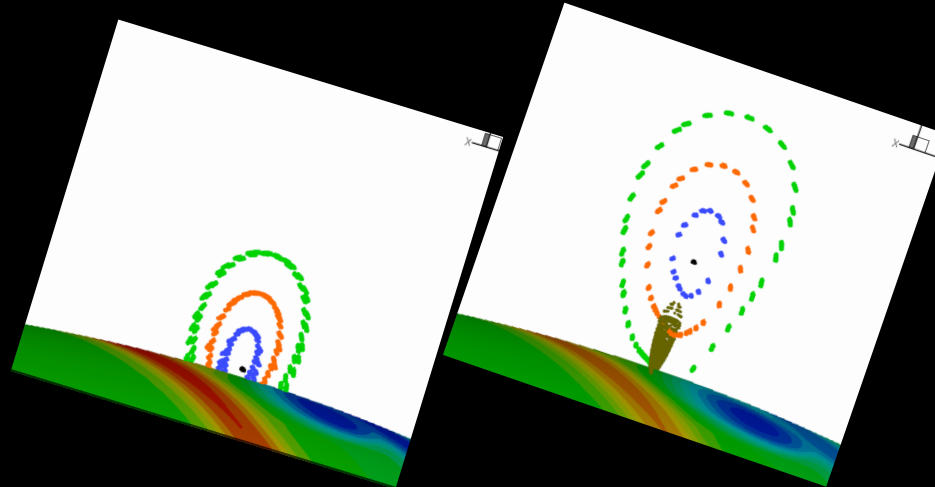
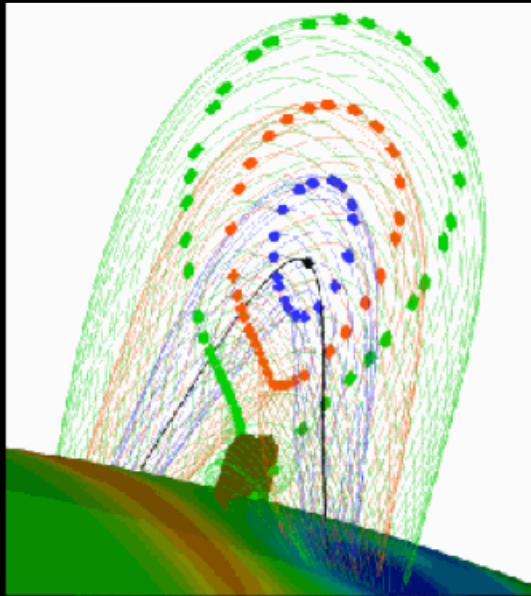
Liftoff! (Cavity clues to CMEs)

Shape predicts eruption



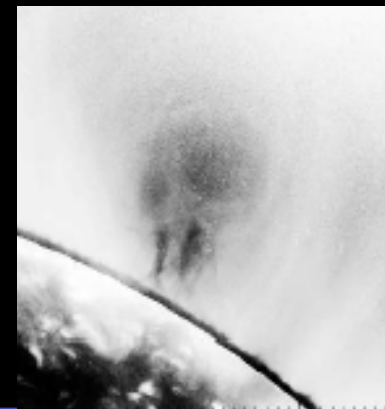
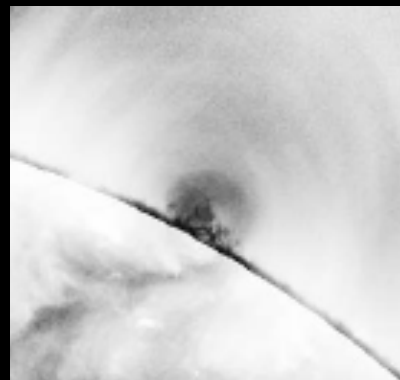
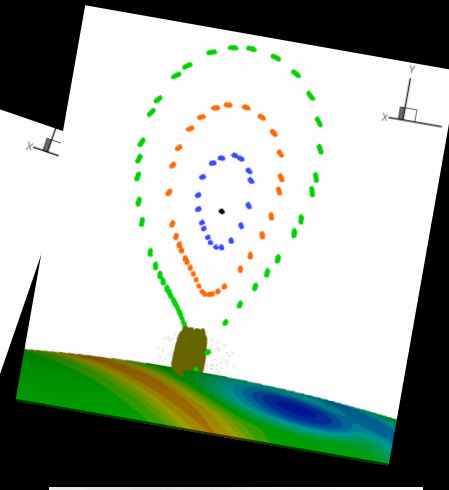
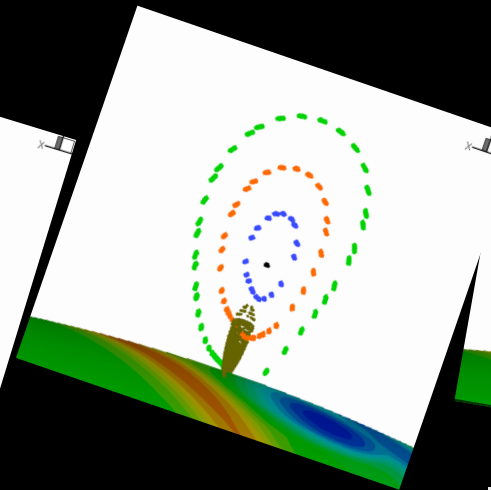
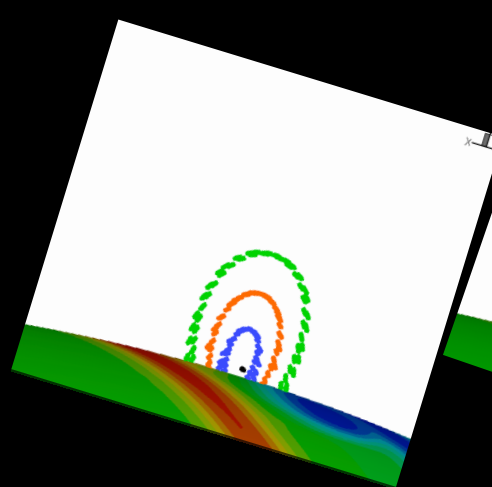
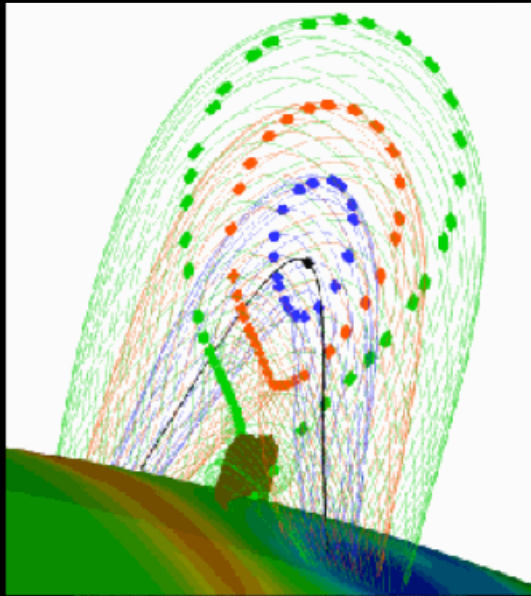
Liftoff! (Cavity clues to CMEs)

Shape predicts eruption



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Shape predicts eruption

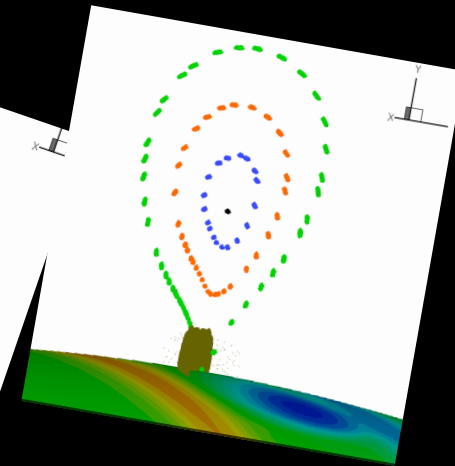
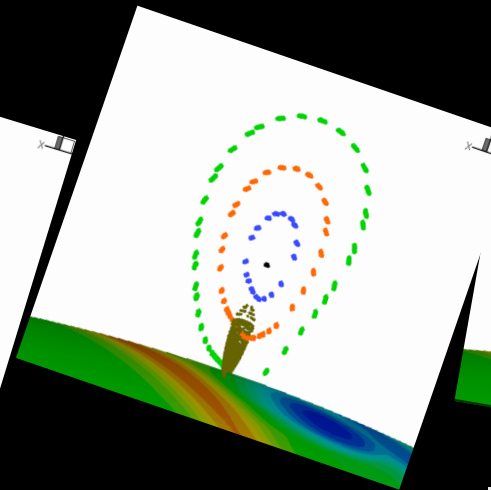
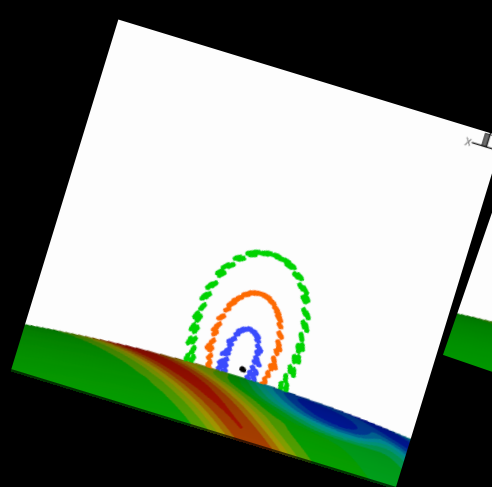
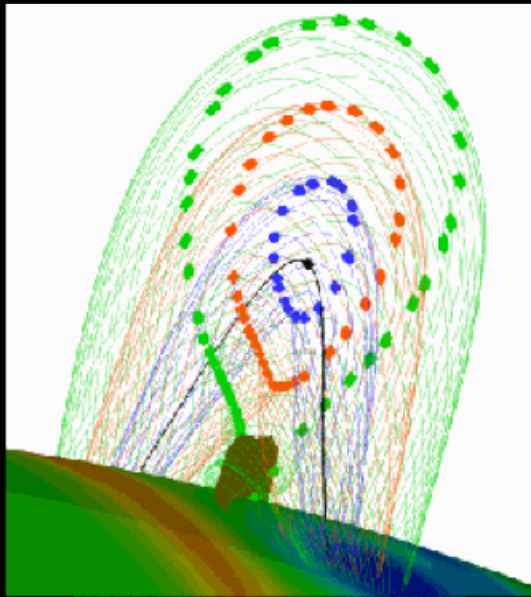


Liftoff! (Cavity clues to CMEs)

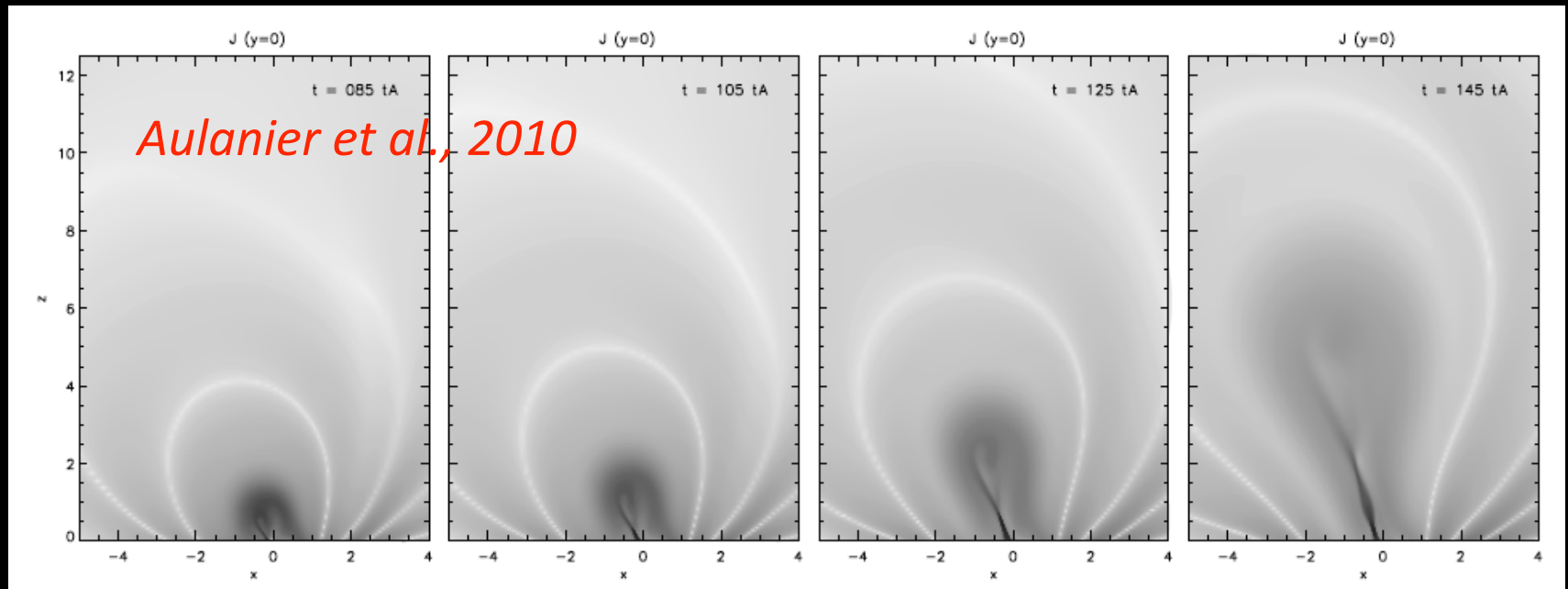
Shape predicts eruption

10% semicircular erupted
23% elliptical erupted
68% of tear-shaped erupted

Forland et al. 2013

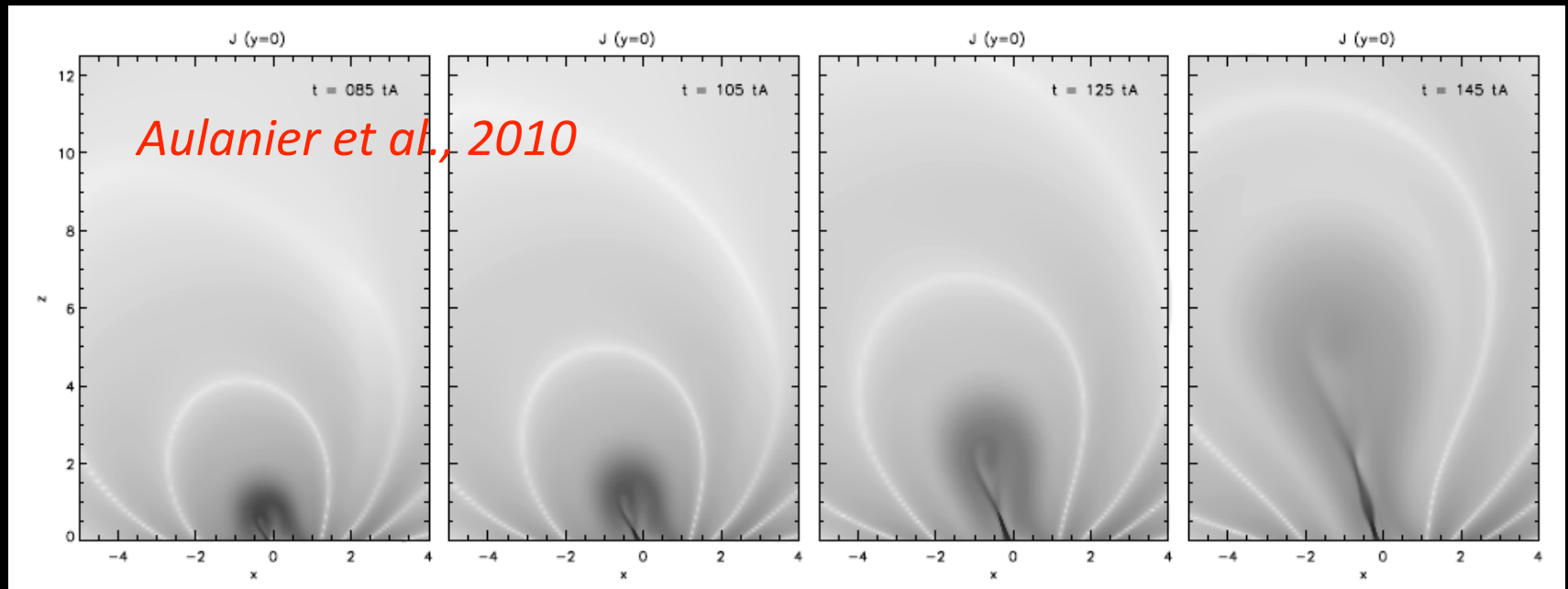


Liftoff! (Cavity clues to CMEs)



Also, Savcheva et al, 2012; Fan, 2012

Liftoff! (Cavity clues to CMEs)

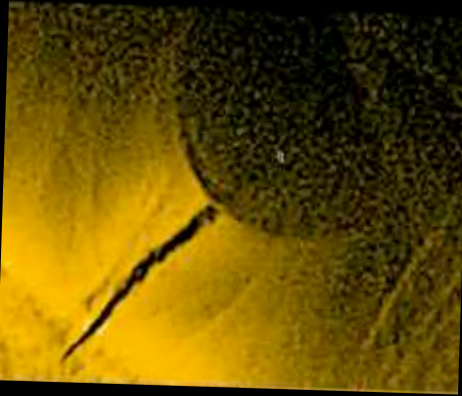
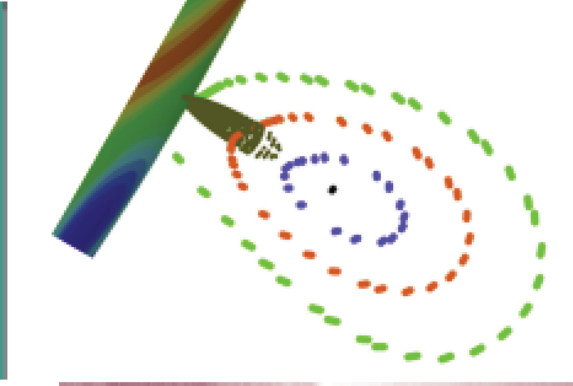
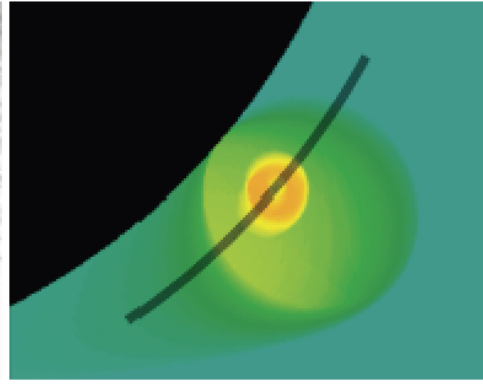
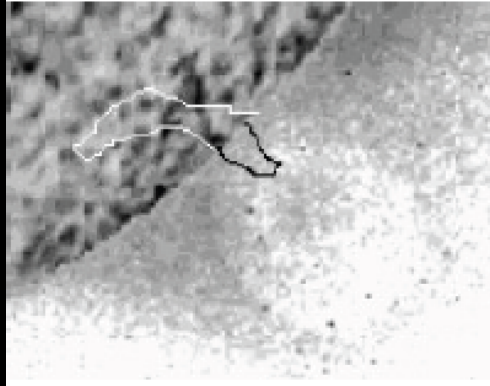
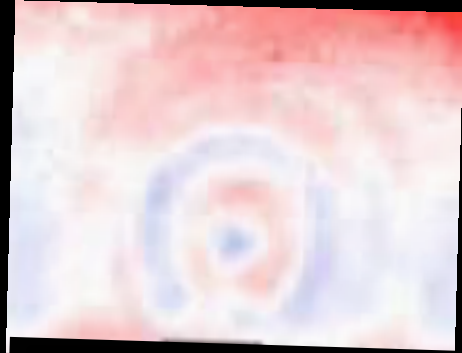


Also, Savcheva et al, 2012; Fan, 2012

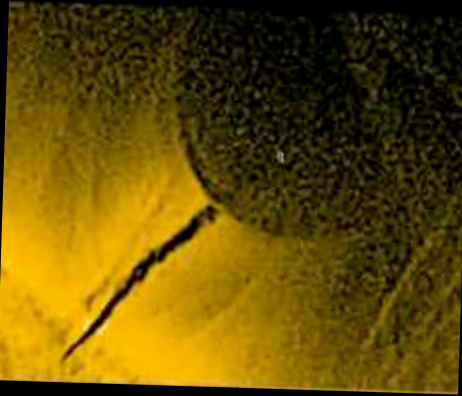
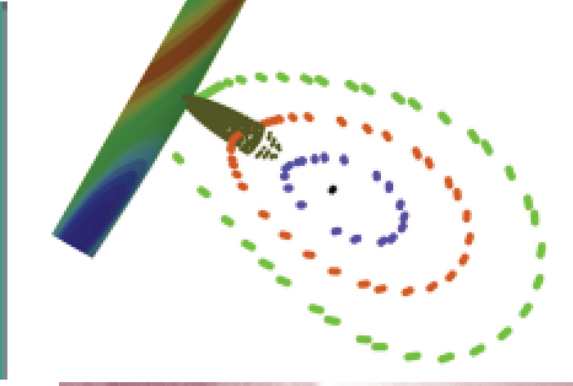
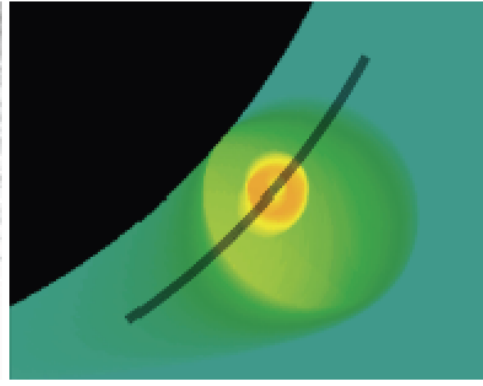
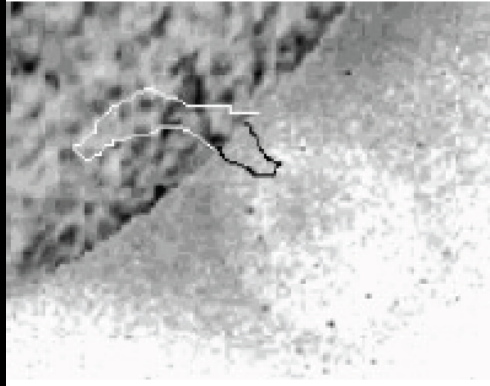
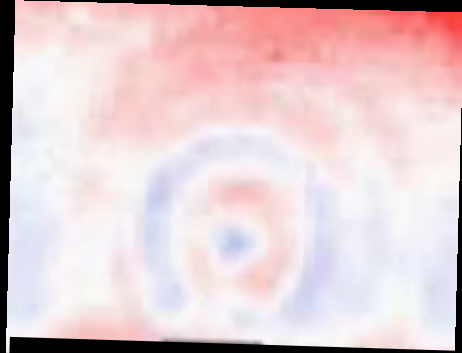
Interpretation:

- Current sheet forms below flux rope \rightarrow tether-cutting reconnections (hot core, central void)
- Drives slow rise of flux rope (tear-drop shape forms)
- Reaches height for torus instability \rightarrow CME

Conclusions: Lollypops

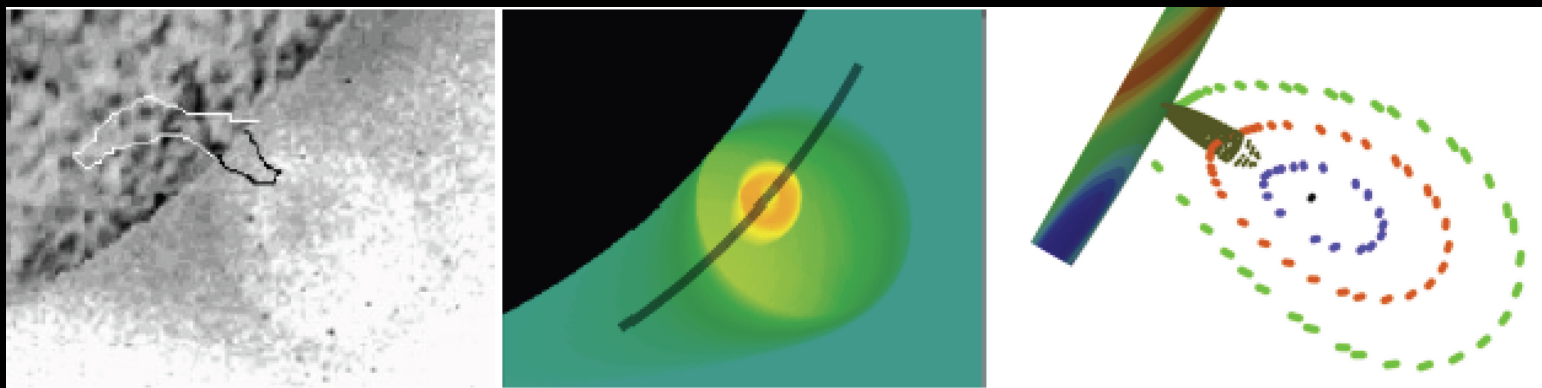
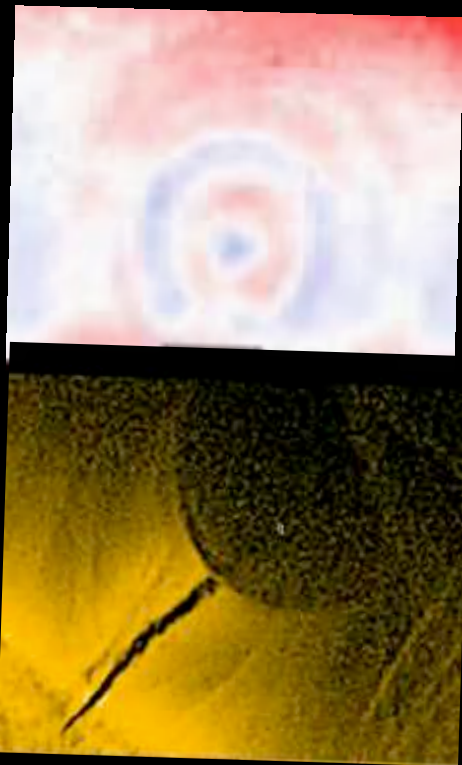


Conclusions: Lollypops



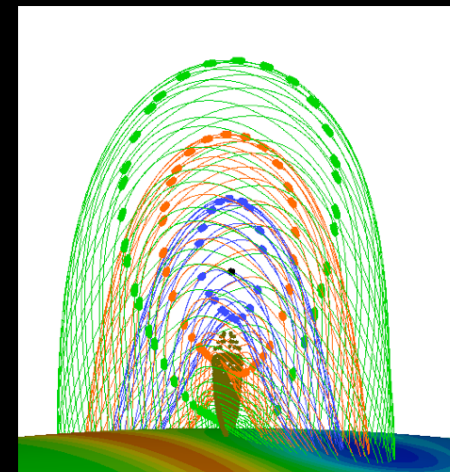
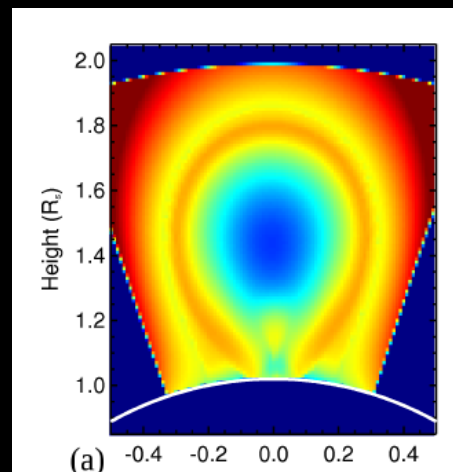
Thermodynamic and/or topological interfaces associated with nested toroidal flux surfaces

Conclusions: Lollypops

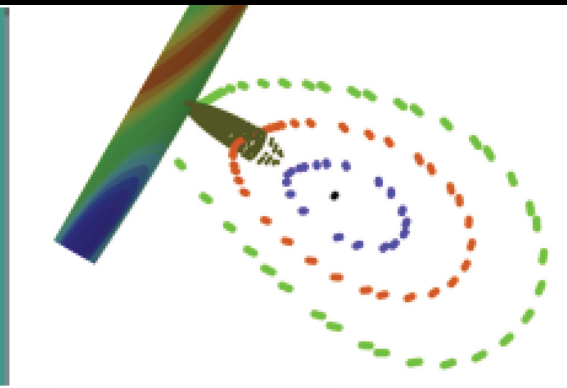
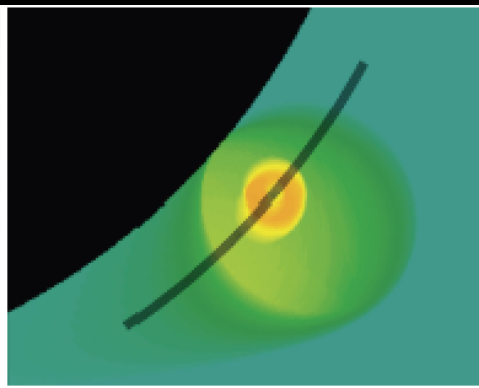
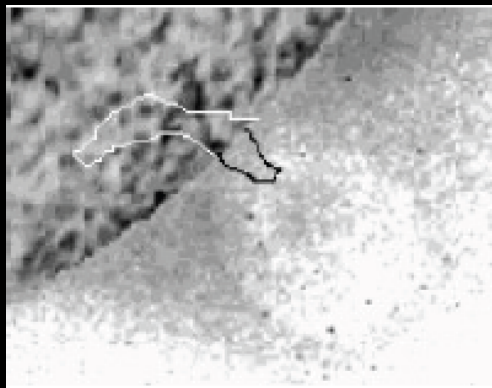
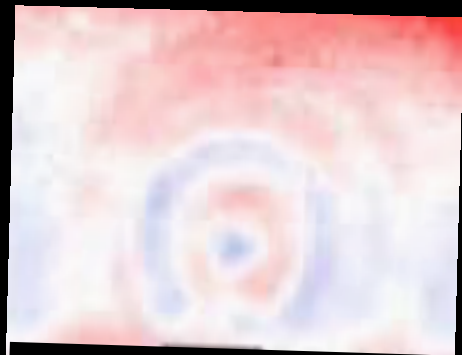


Thermodynamic and/or topological interfaces associated with nested toroidal flux surfaces

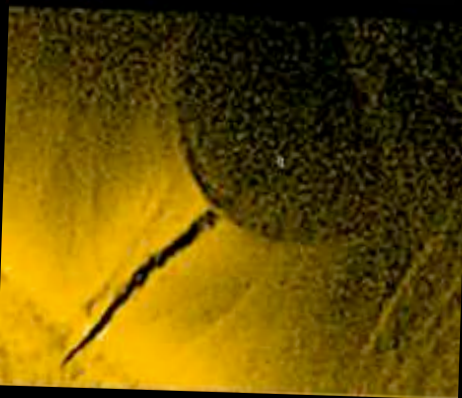
Field line length/geometry



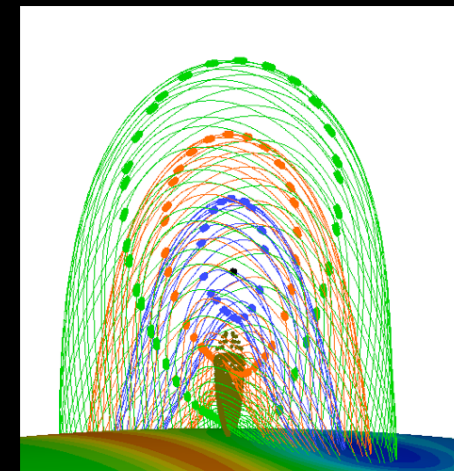
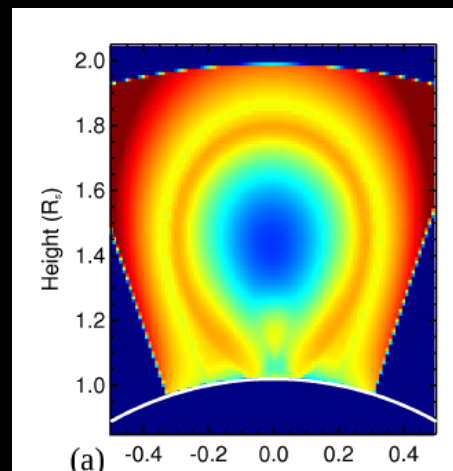
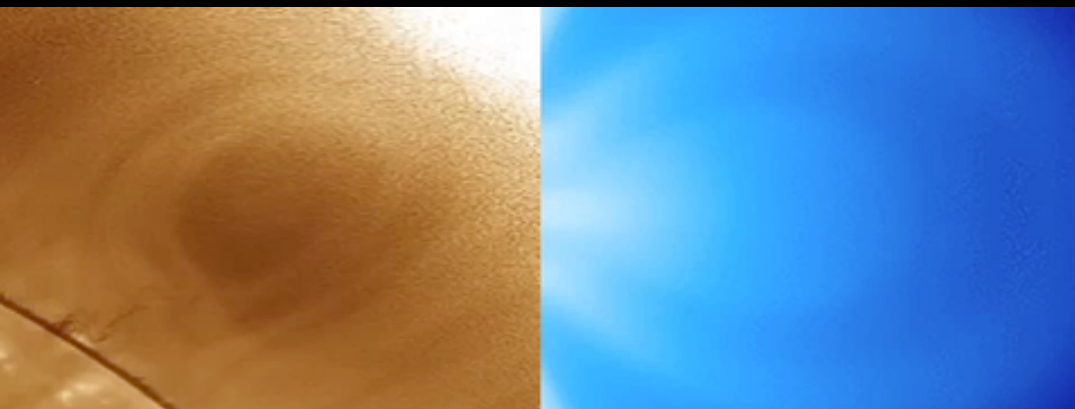
Conclusions: Lollypops



Thermodynamic and/or topological interfaces associated with nested toroidal flux surfaces

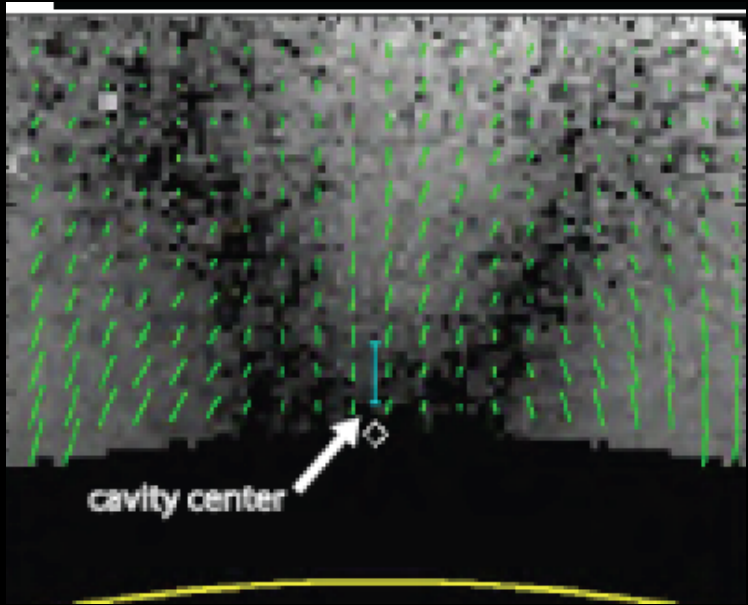


Field line length/geometry



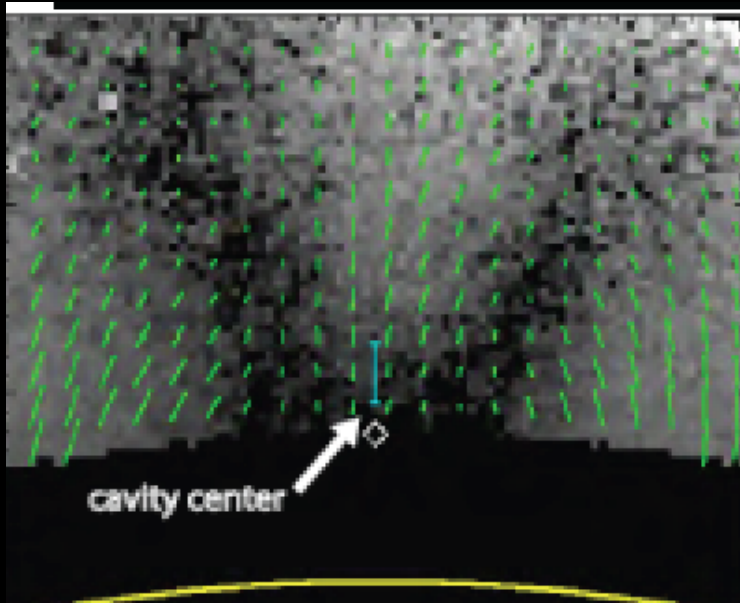
Tether-cutting reconnection (only for immediately pre-eruption?)

Conclusions: Lagomorphs



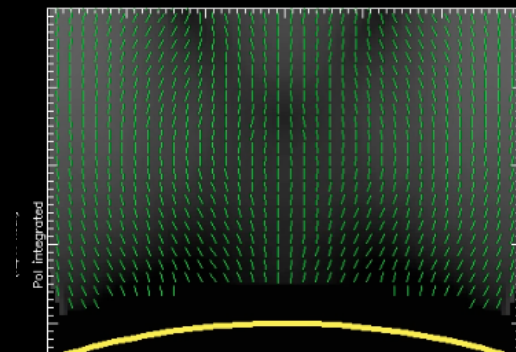
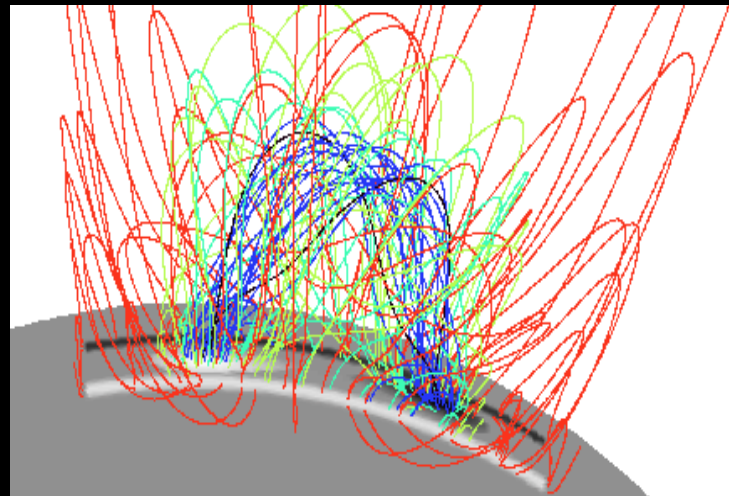
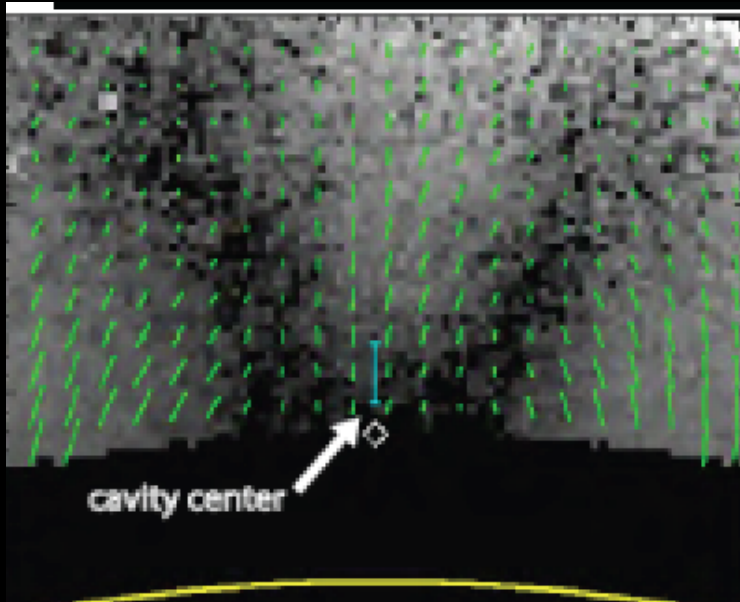
Conclusions: Lagomorphs

Axial field surrounded by poloidal field (flux rope)

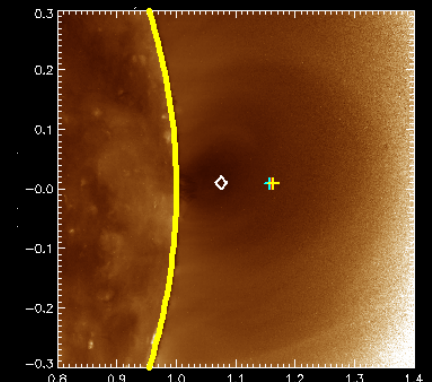
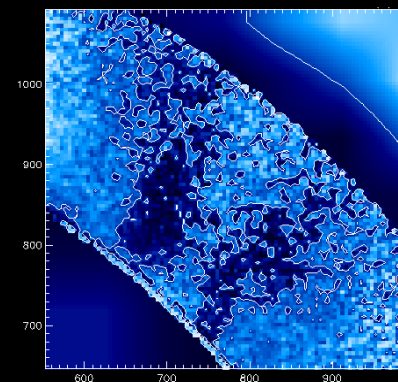


Conclusions: Lagomorphs

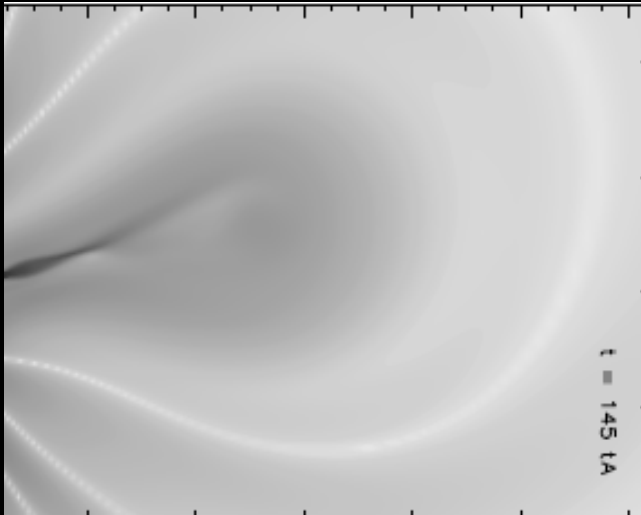
Axial field surrounded by poloidal field (flux rope)



Can we use such observations to monitor topological changes?

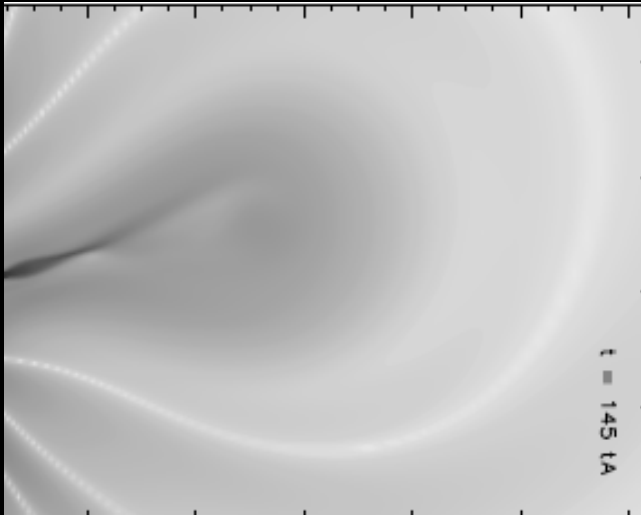


Conclusions: Liftoff



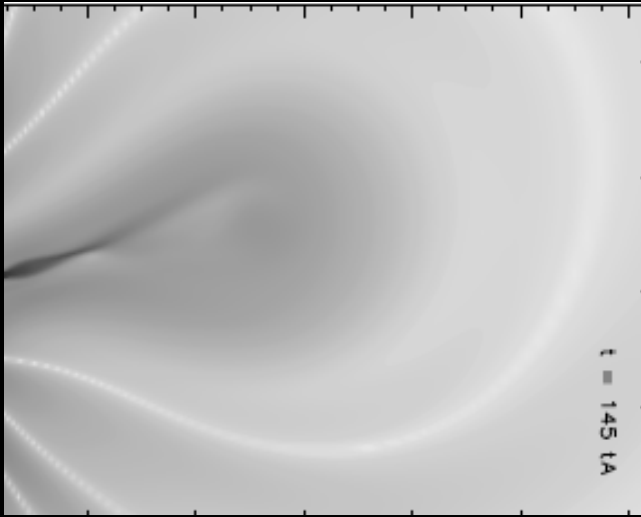
Conclusions: Liftoff

Topological changes leading up to ideal instability



Conclusions: Liftoff

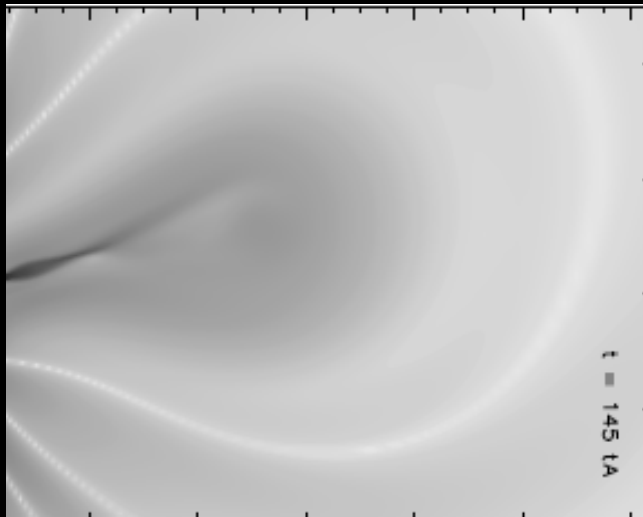
Topological changes leading up to ideal instability



Torus instability may be sufficient, but does not seem to be necessary for eruption.

Conclusions: Liftoff

Topological changes leading up to ideal instability

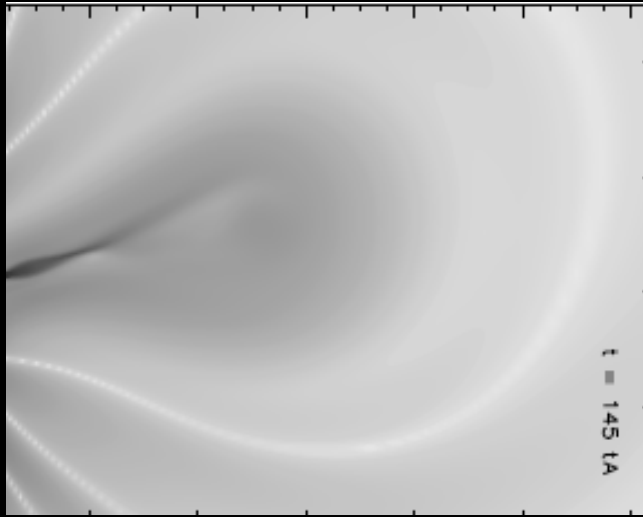


Torus instability may be sufficient, but does not seem to be necessary for eruption.

As we begin to measure the coronal fields themselves, is there a property: helicity, free energy, complexity, topology -- that we could measure to tell us that eruption is inevitable?

Conclusions: Liftoff

Topological changes leading up to ideal instability



Torus instability may be sufficient, but does not seem to be necessary for eruption.

As we begin to measure the coronal fields themselves, is there a property: helicity, free energy, complexity, topology -- that we could measure to tell us that eruption is inevitable?

Or do we have to wait till we can specify the full 3D coronal field and poke it to see what blows?