

New Light on Loop Prominence Systems

Flare loops appear in the solar corona under a variety of descriptions, to which we now add a completely new one provided by HMI. Although not a coronagraph, this small optical telescope, part of the Solar Dynamics Observatory, clearly sees such structures and provides full polarization information. Historically the observation of loop prominence systems in H-alpha inspired the development of our current standard model of flare processes in the corona. In this talk I discuss the physics of the HMI observations in the context of observations at other wavelengths, and anticipate what they may tell us about the phenomenon of "coronal rain."